

Sri Lanka reopens to international tourists

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: Sri Lanka's Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga announced both Bandaranaike International Airport and Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in the country will reopen to tourists from January 21.

The reopening move comes as part of the government's plan to kick start the tourism industry in a bid to help the economy of the country impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Travellers will be allowed to visit 12 tourist sites whilst touring the country after the initial health and safety protocols are met. The tourist sites are as follows: Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic (Dalada Maligawa), Yala National Park, Minneriya National Park, Sigiriya Rock, Dambulla Cave Temple, Udawalawe, Horton Plains, Sinharaja Forest, Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, Whale Watching, and Salu Sala - the state-owned handloom enterprise. Many more will be added soon, said the ministry.

There is no minimum mandatory stay and the number of PCR tests depends on the duration of stay, the ministry added.

Currently, tourists from all countries are permitted to enter excluding the United Kingdom.

Moreover, until the [Tourism App](#) is incorporated into the immigration online application, the PCR test costs Rs 7500 per test agreed with the five Private Hospitals and Insurance cost of USD 12 for one month. COVID-19 premium with Peoples Insurance is to be paid to the hotel when making the booking.