

Sri Lankan Country Profile

<u>Population:</u>	19 million
<u>Capital:</u>	Colombo
<u>Languages:</u>	Sinhalese and Tamil. English is widely spoken.
<u>Religion:</u>	Buddhism 70% Hinduism 16%; Christianity 7% Islam 7%
<u>Life Expectancy:</u>	74 – female 64 - male
<u>Location:</u>	An island off the south-eastern coast of India.

Rice and Curry - boiled rice with curried vegetable, fish and/or meat topped with Sri Lankan spices is the typical Sri Lankan main meal, a gourmet's delight. It is served for both lunch and dinner and some do have it for breakfast too. Curries are usually made hot but can be mellowed to suit the pallet.

The Methodist Church in Sri Lanka

The Methodist Church of Sri Lanka came into being on 29 June 1814 when the first band of Methodist Missionaries from England landed in Galle, Sri Lanka, bringing the message of the Gospel and Methodism in particular, to this island. The Methodist Church at present has a total community of 30,000. The Church is engaged in an ambitious evangelistic programme, which is estimated to result in an increased Church membership of 5% - 10%. Part of the programme is also to train new converts in evangelism and mobilize them to engage in Mission through their Churches.

The Sri Lankan Civil War

The war in Sri Lanka began in 1983 between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam also known as the Tamil Tigers. They fought to create an independent Tamil state in the north east of the island. After a 30 month long campaign, the Sri Lankan military defeated the Tamil Tigers in May 2009.

For over 25 years, the war caused significant hardships for the population, the environment and the economy. There were officially 80,000 people listed as killed during its course. The Tamil Tigers were known as a terrorist organisation by many countries in Europe and America. After many years of fighting and many attempts at peace talks a ceasefire was agreed in 2002. This lasted until 2005 when fighting began again.

During 2009, the Sri Lankan army forced the Tamil Tigers into a much smaller area in the north before eventually overrunning their territory. The government claimed that the Tamil Tigers had forced thousands of civilians to stay in the war zone as human shields and prevented them from leaving. Repeated shelling and bombing of the area killed more than 7,000 people and injured at least another 13,000. It is still unclear how things will progress in the long-term.

King of the Jungle

Who's the King of the jungle,
Who's the King of the sea,
Who's the King of the universe
And who's the King of ME?

I tell you.....

J-E-S-U-S YES!!!

He is the King of me,
He is the King of the Universe
The jungle and the sea.

(Sound effects can be added)