



Sri Lanka

Joined the Commonwealth 1948 - visited by the Queen in 1981



Sri Lanka is an island nation in the Indian Ocean

Pop: (2013) 21,273,000 Capital: Colombo Area: 65,610 sq km

Sri Lanka is an island of outstanding natural beauty and, though small, has the highest biodiversity density in Asia. Its rich mix of ecology, race, religious cults and lively culture make it a haven for tourists worldwide.

Beyond the coastal plain, the central mountain massif of gneiss rock rises to 2,524m at Pidurutalagala. The climate is tropical and monsoonal and gives rise to many varieties of flowers, trees (particularly rubber, ebony, satinwood and banyan trees) creepers and flowering shrubs including orchids and rhododendrons. The variety of wildlife includes leopards in Wilpattu National Park and elephants in Yala National Park.

As well as tourism, Sri Lanka's economy is based on agricultural products such as tea (the second largest exporter in the world), rubber and coconuts. Manufacturing and the production of clothing and textiles plus financial services are becoming increasingly important.

The stilt fishermen of Weligama

