



# The Hill Country

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## Why Go?

Sri Lanka's Hill Country is the island at its most scenic, a mist-wrapped land of emerald peaks and stupendous views, of hillsides carpeted with tea plantations and graced by astonishing waterfalls. This is a place where you can wear a fleece in the daytime and cuddle up beside a log fire in the evening. Where you can enjoy a memorable meal in the eternal city of Kandy or at a roadside shack in lovely Ella. A region where you can walk to the end of the world, stand in the footsteps of the Buddha and be surrounded by a hundred wild elephants. Ride a train utterly bewitched by the vistas. Paddle a raft down a raging river. Enjoy the drumbeat of traditional dance and then savour the silence on a lonely mountaintop.

## Best Places to Eat

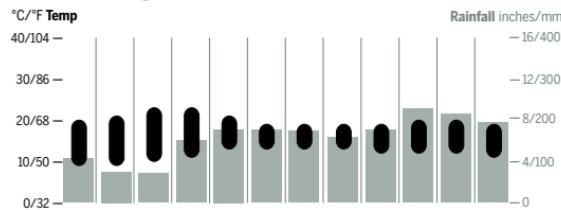
- ➔ Matey Hut (p190)
- ➔ Sharon Inn (p160)
- ➔ High Tea at the Grand (p180)
- ➔ Hill Club (p180)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Rainforest (p200)
- ➔ Chamodya Homestay (p193)
- ➔ Baramba House (p167)
- ➔ Tea Trails (p172)
- ➔ Waterfall Homestay (p193)
- ➔ Clock Inn Kandy (p157)

## When to Go

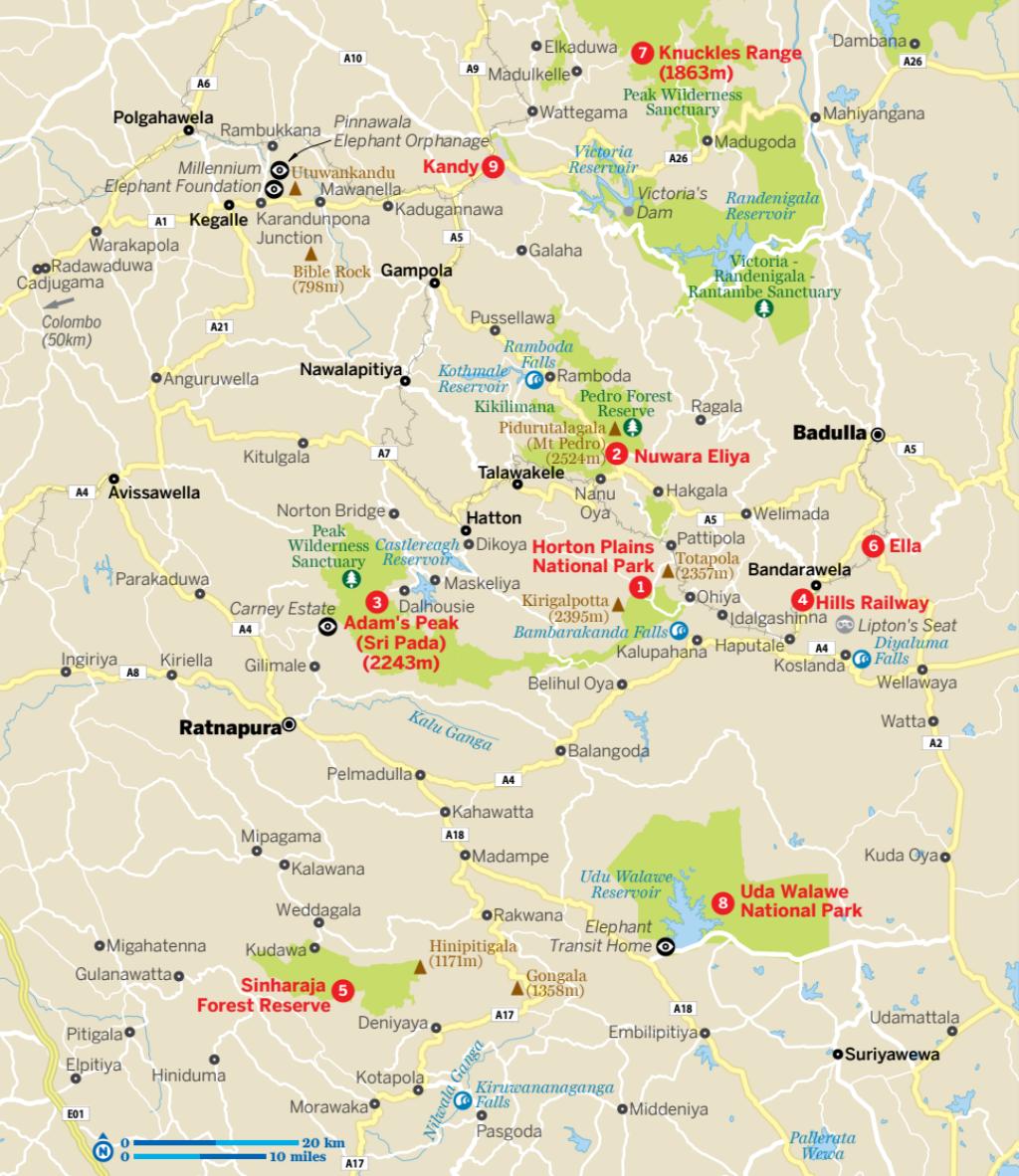
### Nuwara Eliya



**Jan** Perfect for clear days, crisp nights and the pilgrimage up Adam's Peak.

**Apr** The Sinhalese New Year means horse racing and a hectic social calendar in Nuwara Eliya.

**Jul–Aug** Rain showers do little to deter the crowds who gather for the Esala Perahera festival.



## The Hill Country Highlights

### 1 Horton Plains (p181)

Hiking across a high plateau to the viewpoint of World's End.

### 2 Nuwara Eliya (p173)

Taking high tea in an atmospheric colonial-era hotel.

### 3 Adam's Peak (p171)

Joining devout pilgrims and ascending the sacred mountain by flickering torchlight.

### 4 Hills Railways (p191)

Travelling on a scenic rail journey from Haputale to Ella.

### 5 Sinharaja Forest Reserve (p197)

Discovering your inner birdwatcher in this impressive rainforest reserve.

### 6 Ella (p188)

Savouring the vistas in this small town with big views.

### 7 Knuckles Range (p167)

Trekking through montane forests, well off the beaten path.

### 8 Uda Walawe National Park (p195)

Counting elephants in this wildlife-rich reserve.

### 9 Kandy (p151)

Explore the Sri Lankan centre of Buddhism and the country's main arts base.