



The South

Includes ➔

Galle	107
Unawatuna & Around	118
Thalpe & Koggala	123
Ahangama & Midigama	125
Weligama	126
Mirissa	127
Matara	132
Tangalla & Around	137
Tissamaharama	141
Yala National Park	145
Kataragama	147

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bedspace Kitchen (p122)
- ➔ Fort Printers (p116)
- ➔ Jinas Vegetarian and Vegan Restaurant (p121)
- ➔ Church St Social (p116)
- ➔ Mango Shade (p139)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Blue Turtle (p141)
- ➔ Fort Bazaar (p114)
- ➔ Mirissa Hills (p131)
- ➔ Chill (p138)
- ➔ Lonely Beach Resort (p138)
- ➔ Pilgrim's Hostel (p112)

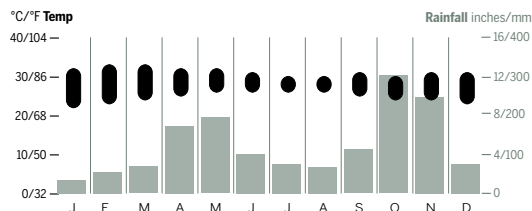
Why Go?

Prepare your senses for overload, for the South is Sri Lanka at its most sultry and enticing: a glorious shoreline of dazzling white curves of sand set against emerald forested hills. Yes, you'll find the region a delight to explore, with each bend in the coastal highway revealing yet another idyllic cove to investigate. Galle, an utterly captivating walled city replete with historic interest, is undoubtedly the South's cultural highlight, but there's also astonishing Buddhist-inspired art in lonely caves and the sacred precinct of Kataragama, an important pilgrimage town.

No matter what you're after you'll find it here. Surfers return year after year to pursue the perfect break. There's the chance to see blue whales surging through offshore swells and turtles crawling onto moonlit beaches. Meanwhile, in the national parks, leopards move like spirits in the night and elephants trumpet across the forest to acclaim the first light of day.

When to Go

Galle



Dec–Apr Whales roll through the sea, the beaches buzz and everything is open.

Jul–Aug Pilgrims perform acts of self-mortification at the unforgettable Kataragama festival.

Nov The monsoon rains die out, beach resorts wake up and crowds are yet to arrive.

