



Tourists pass by near President's official residence in Colombo Fort. Pic By Sudath Malaweera



In Galle the foreign visitors pose near the Canons at Galle Fort



Tourists strolling on the Galle Fort Ramparts. Pix. by Sulochana Gamage



Foreign visitors at the Galle Fort fascinated by the traditional Southern muppets and masks (Pic. By Sulochana Gamage)

TOURISM BOOM ISLAND-WIDE

Smile and the whole world smiles with you ! There are smiles everywhere, the foreign visitors are enjoying our sunny environs and the locals are enjoying the revenue that generate because of it. The foreign visitors to our country crossed the magic number for the 3rd consecutive month this year, thus setting a record number of arrivals that's created a boom in Tourism island-wide. The number recorded exceeds arrivals recorded the same time last year.

Our photographers Sudath Malaweera and Sulochana Gamage captured the happy visitors on our shores from near the President's office in Colombo Fort en-route to Unawatuna, Galle and Matara.

There has been a steady influx of the Tourist kind from the dawn of this year, and a massive campaign is afoot by Sri Lanka Tourism to ensure this will gather more momentum and the trend will continue to last the entire year.

The global accolades that flowed into the country last year continue unabated onto this year and have no doubt reaffirmed Sri Lanka's growing stature on the world travel map.

The Colombo to Badulla train journey was ranked among the world's best by Lonely Planet, while National Geography featured Sri Lanka's most scenic train ride. Sigiriya was declared the 'World's most welcoming city' by Booking.com and at the world's biggest tourism Fair ITB in Berlin recently concluded, our nation won The Green Destination Bronze Award for Sigiriya. Sigiriya is not just a rock, but a UNESCO World heritage site, celebrated for its' rich culture and archeological value. Meanwhile BBC Travel featured Sri Lanka in its' '25 Best places to Travel in the 2025' list.

The Pekoe Trail got slotted in as 'TIME's World's Greatest places of 2025' and National Geography featured Sri Lanka's most scenic train ride.

Luxury Travel publication Conde Nast Traveler and World Travel magazine spotlighted on the country, especially of the beachside resorts and experiences of the off-the-beaten paths in Sri Lanka.

These recognitions have affirmed the reputation of Sri Lanka as a family-friendly and culturally rich destination. This was further endorsed with the latest accolade Sri Lanka received this month from and Travel and Tour World (TTW) which recognized the country as a 'top destination for families with young children.

- (C.I.M.)



Families enjoying the sun and the beach in Hikkaduwa Pic by Sudath Malaweera



The smiles on the faces of a mother and son reflect the kind of happiness, the sand sea and the sun brings to them during holidays vacationing in Sri Lanka's deep South in Matara. (Pic by Sudath Malaweera in Matara)



Sri Lanka now gaining an image as a destination favoured by women travellers in Unawatuna (Pic by Sulochana Gamage)



Children enjoying the sea in Unawatuna. (Pic by Sulochana Gamage)



Be it couples, families, solo travellers, Sri Lanka has won many accolades for being ideal for long vacations. (Pix by Sulochana Gamage in Unawatuna)