

Assistance Provided to Individuals Stranded in Sri Lanka on Account of the Conflict in Ukraine

The Position of Sri Lanka

The Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka on the 25th of February, 2022 released a statement expressing its concern about the said conflict and called upon all parties to exercise maximum restraint while working towards peace through diplomacy and sincere dialogue.

In addition to this, Sri Lanka has taken steps to assist the citizens whose countries are involved in this conflict who are currently in Sri Lanka, primarily focusing on providing humanitarian assistance.

1. Ukraine-Colombo Coordination Office in Sri Lanka

On the 3rd of March, 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka released a statement that in order to provide a wide array of assistance to Ukrainian nationals in Sri Lanka including financial, humanitarian and legal help, the Ukraine-Colombo Coordination Office has been established.

This Coordination Office was established by Sri Lankan national:

Mr. Samsz Hackeem

Address: 113, Robert Gunewardena Mawatha, Colombo 06, P.O. Box 00600

Telephone: +94777510953.

2. Extension of Visas

On the 3rd of March, 2022, the Controller General of the Department of Immigration and Emigration informed the public by way of media release that Ukrainian tourists who had valid tourist visas as at 21. 02. 2022 will have their visas extended free of charge for up to two months from that date. This extension will also apply to Russian tourists in the same category.

Furthermore, it was assured that necessary facilities will be provided for these tourists to exit Sri Lankan airports without any hindrance on their return journey to their respective home countries.

3. Accommodation Provided by Private Individuals

In addition to the above efforts, many posts have appeared on social media of individuals offering their boutique hotels, guest houses and even individual rooms to tourists whose homes are in the midst of this conflict and have therefore, been left stranded in Sri Lanka.

3.1. Boutique Hotels and Guest Houses

Name: *Mutu Village Tree House, Habarana*

Contact Number: +94772694579

Website: www.mutuvillage.com

Name: *Ambasewana Resort, Habarana*

Contact Number: +94723076601

Website: www.ambasewana.godaddysites.com

Name: *Kala Yatra – House in Tangalle*

Contact Number: +94722501716

Website: www.kalayatra.org

Instagram: @kalayatrafestival

Name: *The Farm, Ambewella*

Contact Number: +94775882626

Name: *Bailsea Guest House, Kalutara*

Contact Number: +94777047541

Name: *Mount View Family Rest & Cottage, Haputale*

Contact Number: +94763033943

Name: *The Danish Villa, Arugambay*

Contact Number: +94776957936 or +66618571857

Name: *La Casa De Ceylon, Balangoda*

Contact Number: +94772220967

Name: *Organic Garden, Sigiriya (Ajith Duminda)*

Contact Number: +94772985612

Name: *Hungry Lion Resort, Sigiriya*

Contact Number: +94767396796

3.2. Individual Rooms

Further offers providing individual rooms made by private individuals can be found via the links and contact numbers below:

Name: Prasanna Senanayake

Contact No: +94773613005

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/371225021674334/permalink/373136204816549/>

Name: Mohan Perera

Contact Number: +94785583705

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/371225021674334/permalink/373134464816723/>

Name: Milan Bharatha

Contact Number: +94773049087

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/371225021674334/permalink/372824934847676/>

Name: Angela Loetta

Contact Number: +94714808860

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/371225021674334/permalink/371803761616460/>

Name: Sharan Sasanka Sepion, Avissawella

Contact Number: +94112503339

Name: Chinthaka Kumara, Anuradhapura

Contact Number: +94716113911

3.3. Facebook Group

Further, a Facebook group named "Stranded in Sri Lanka – help for the victims of the war in Ukraine" has been set up on behalf of such individuals, where posts offering free accommodation as aforesaid are shared and stranded tourists can find help, the link to which is provided below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/502139488190100/?ref=share>