

SRI LANKA TRANSPORT OFFLINE CHEAT SHEET

Kandy-Ella, train backups, airport, PickMe, tuk-tuks, cash & emergencies

Information checked 22 August 2026

BEFORE YOU LEAVE RELIABLE WI-FI

- [] Save every rail e-ticket and booking reference on the phone itself.
- [] Screenshot hotel addresses and your next station / pickup point.
- [] Download the map around Kandy, Ella and your next destination.
- [] Install PickMe and Uber before arrival; sign in while you still have data.
- [] Keep a cash reserve in Sri Lankan rupees for local transport and small payments.
- [] Save your passport/ETA details and first accommodation contact.
- [] Save medical emergency ambulance number 1990.

KANDY-ELLA SOLD OUT?

Situation	Best next move
Reserved seats unavailable	Check another train, class or travel date in the official Sri Lanka Railways reservation portal.
Still no reserved seat	Ask at a station with reservation facilities about current availability and alternatives. Kandy and Ella are both listed reservation stations.
You can travel unreserved	Check the official timetable and ask the station which train/classes allow non-reserved travel. Expect less certainty and comfort.
You need certainty	Use a bus/private transfer or change the day rather than building the itinerary around a seat you do not have.
Before boarding	Keep the e-ticket/reference, passport details and train number accessible offline.

Do not buy a social-media “guaranteed seat” from an unknown seller. Start with Sri Lanka Railways and official station counters.

SHOW THIS AT THE STATION

KANDY -> ELLA | 2 TICKETS | TOMORROW

Reserved if available. If not: what is the next practical option?

Keep the travel date visible. English is usually the simplest backup at major tourist stations.

TRAIN BOOKING QUICK CARD

OFFICIAL RESERVATION	Use seatreservation.railway.gov.lk . Current official FAQ lists Kandy-Ella among reservable routes and requires an account.
PASSENGERS	The official system currently allows 1-5 passengers in one reservation. Enter ID/passport details carefully.
SAVE OFFLINE	Keep the e-ticket and booking reference in Downloads or screenshots. Do not depend on email or mobile data at the platform.
CHECK SCHEDULE	Use the official Sri Lanka Railways schedule service before travel; schedules can change.

AIRPORT & LOCAL TRANSPORT

- Bandaranaike International Airport officially lists Uber, PickMe, airport taxi and public transport options.
- The airport lists the 187 Airport-Colombo Fort bus service. Re-check the current stop/timing after landing.
- For app rides, compare the plate/driver in the app before entering the vehicle.
- For tuk-tuks, agree on the meter/fare before the ride when there is no app booking.
- Keep small LKR notes for short rides, snacks, station purchases and card failures.

PHONE & DATA BACKUP

- Buy/activate your local SIM or eSIM before leaving a place with reliable Wi-Fi when possible.
- Screenshot the hotel address and driver pickup instructions.
- Save an offline map; mountain rail areas can have patchy data.
- Keep the PDF and the Sri Lanka Offline Pack saved locally.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

1990

Free island-wide ambulance: 1990



KANDY-ELLA GUIDE



FULL OFFLINE PACK

OFFICIAL SOURCES / UPDATE CHECK

- Sri Lanka Railways - seatreservation.railway.gov.lk: reservations, routes and station counters
- Sri Lanka Railways - railway.gov.lk / schedule service: current train information
- Bandaranaike International Airport - airport.lk: Uber, PickMe, taxi and 187 bus
- 1990 Suwa Seriya - 1990.lk: free island-wide emergency ambulance

Train schedules, seat availability, fares and transport procedures can change. Before travel, check the online version and official sources.