
(Soul &)

**Our
Surf
South
Sri Lanka
Guide**



Like so many before us we fell in love with Sri Lanka's surf, culture, food & climate on our regular jaunts to the island. So in 2013 we began hosting surf & yoga holidays here, offering our guests a glimpse into the tropical soulful surfing life that we cherish so much.

The big attraction of surfing this southern coast of Sri Lanka is the sheer variety of breaks within a 40 minute drive. It's consistent, the water's warm, and from November to April the wind often allows you at least two sessions a day.

We're not going to lie and lure you in with promises of no crowds. There are crowds. The main spots can get pretty busy at peak times, but we know this coastline pretty well and we work with local guides – so if you are happy to hunt and you're lucky, you will get great waves with just a few of you out.

The bottom line is we love the variety here, from mellow longboarding waves to rolling, crumbling beginners waves, to fat A-frames and hollow, shallow reefs – southern Sri Lanka has it all. It's great for learning, it's great for improving and there's enough to keep experts happy too.

The wind is either offshore or non-existent most mornings, and although there are many days when the onshores pick up at around 10 or 11am, the wind usually drops off at sunset. But if you take a gamble and the wind stays offshore you can score the best, emptiest waves in the middle of the day. Just wear a hat. And zinc.



Northern Breaks

(Well, north of us here in Ahangama, anyway.)

Dewata Beach

Fun beach break for most times of the year. Quite a strong local scene so you may get some looks on the beach, but most people who surf here are really nice. You can also pop into *The Shack* for a sunset drink after your surf.



Dewata Right

A long, peeling right, straight out in front of The Cloenberg hotel that works well on big swells, or during the quiet season when the waves get bigger and messier. Catch it on a less-windy day and you'll be in for a right treat.



Koggala Beach Break

A fairly new discovery for us. A shallow, often dumpy beach break that sometimes has perfect, hollow waves. Works best towards the off season months. It's not for the faint of heart. Godspeed.



South Beach

Huge open reef with a playground of peaks. A swell magnet on small days, it's a great improver wave. There are lefts and rights and it can be a bit shifty depending on where the sand has built up. With enough swell there can be a good long right hander from the back with a good wall section for maneuvers.





Local Breaks

(Ahangama)

Ahanagama is a growing community of surfers and creatives, with some great places to eat and drink (check out our Local Area Guide if that tickles your pickle). It's also where we call home.

The Rock

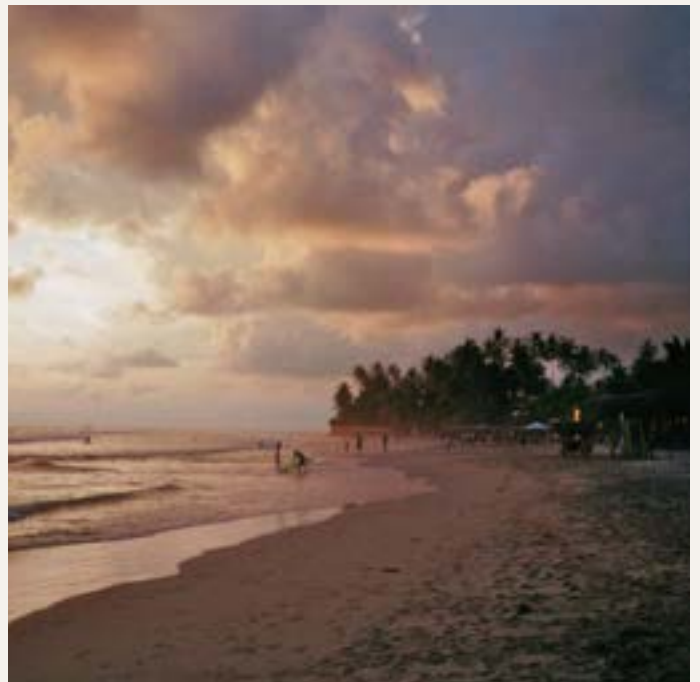
One of the best waves around, it's an A-frame slab that peels better on the left allowing a good long ride – the right can be more hollow and is usually shorter. There is also a second right-hand peak if you want to sit a bit wider and avoid the gnarly peak hogs. Gets very crowded during the season. Watch out for the clean-up sets. Bring a strong leash.

**Staff-member-speaking-from-experience-tip: If you are a contact lens wearer and you take a massive wipeout here (it'll happen) close your eyes. The ocean will take them away from you and you will have to paddle back to the beach blind. No fun.*



Kabalana

Perfect beginner waves, and where we love to take a lot of our beginner lessons - loads of rolling white water. It picks up a lot of swell, but on the smallest of days can be a fun, clean wave.



Sticks

Set amongst iconic fisherman sticks, this is an intermediate's playground. Holds most swells and the bottom is a mix of reef and sand. If you go left, be careful as it can be pretty shallow on the end section (especially at low tide). The way in and out can be tricky, but just be sure to use the designated entry and exit points or you may be told off by an angry local surfer. Good at any tide.



Marshmallows

A rolling mellow wave that holds both big and small swells quite well. We surf here a lot and think it's great for beginners moving towards catching green waves. The deep reef gives you the experience of surfing over a reef without the gnar consequences.



Kapila Point

Kapi's is not that consistent, but when it's on, with a good long left and shorter right. The way in and out can be tricky and it's best at high tide. Great place to check for when it is maxxed out in a lot of other spots. Hidden in the heart of Ahangama – but, shh, don't tell anyone about this place. We'll take you there one day, blindfolded.



Petrol Stations

A long-ish left and a short fast right hander. This wave doesn't look like much from the main road but can be a lot of fun when you paddle out. Be careful as it can get a bit shallow and there are a load of large rocks under the water that want to say hi to your board.



Illusion Cove

Left hand point break and can be accessed straight from the beach in front of the hotel. Holds a decent sized swell and is generally a quiet spot with rarely anyone out.





Slightly Less Local

(Midigama)

Probably the area with the most established and concentrated collection of waves on the south coast. It is full of surfing residents, locals and tourists alike – and the lineups reflect that. But, the waves can be so good that a lot of the time it is actually worth dealing with the crowds.

Devil's Rock

A mellow A-frame, brakes on reef but is not dangerous at all with a fatter right and more dumpy left. Works best at mid to high tide.



Lazy Left

Often the first reef that beginners and intermediates will surf in the area, Lazy Left is a deep reef, with long, lazy left handers (clue's in the title). Intermediate, goofy-footer's dream. Easy channel to paddle out and stays friendly even when the swell is big. Very, very crowded.



Lazy Right

Look to the right of Lazy Left and you'll see...Lazy Right. We'll let you guess which way this breaks. It's a mellow, less defined peeler that also breaks into deep water. Can be a bit trickier than LL at size (and actually if you are a bit braver you can sit on the left and get some fun, short waves into a shallower section).



Rams

Fast, steep and hollow right hander. Only for braver and more experienced surfers. It takes some time to learn the way in and out, the timing and positioning in the lineup - as well as navigating a bit of trust with the locals so they let you have a wave. Not everyone's cup of tea but when it's firing can be a good spot to watch some of the locals rip (from the safety of the beach).



Plantations

Possibly one of the most popular waves in the area among locals and tourists alike. There are a few peaks that peel right and another short left that goes towards a massive rock, good for intermediate to advanced surfers. There's only one way in and out over the reef. It can get very crowded during the season months...



Coconuts

A-frame breaking over a medium depth reef which holds big swells. There is also a long left hander that peels over towards Plantations. You can either jump off the reef or choose to paddle out from the beach. Don't jump off the reef half-heartedly and get your fins stuck in the moss (another staff-top-tip). Not a good look.



A person is silhouetted against the bright, golden light of a sunset over the ocean. The person is holding a surfboard and is positioned in the lower third of the frame. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds that are illuminated from behind by the sun, creating a dramatic, high-contrast scene. The water in the foreground is choppy and reflects the intense light of the sun, creating a shimmering effect. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Further South

Jungle Beach

Shifty left hander with a fairly critical take off if there is swell (don't hurtle right or straight as you will grind your board pretty quickly onto the reef). Nice, easy, reeling left after the take off, and on smaller days is a really fun and accessible reef.



Weligama Reef

Fun right hander over a friendly reef, perfect for longboards. Long paddle out around the reef - don't be tempted to cut across diagonally, it gets very shallow at points and the fishermen will look at you as if you are unhinged. Is very crowded during the season but also holds up during the low season months when it's quieter.



Weligama Beach

Huge stretch of sand with peaky waves...watch out for the locals, the 300 or so hired surfboards flying around, and other floaters. A fun beach break during the low season months when the reefs aren't working - just make sure you've been practicing your duck dives & turtle rolls.



Mirissa

Little right-hand point on a beautiful beach. Waves are a bit fickle but it has three or four different take-off spots which spreads people out a bit. It is quite shallow and is not wise to go there if you are a beginner. Be careful on the way in and out - there are urchins so unless you know where you're going it might be best to put reef boots on. Best from mid to high tide.





Even South-er

*These are quite a way from us, but well worth the trek. You're also likely to find some gems that we may not even know about... or maybe just haven't included here *wink wink**

Madihe Right

A super fun A-frame that breaks most of the time better to the right. Holds quite a lot of size and can deliver some barrels. A tricky way in and out, it's all reef to the shore with no keyhole.



Madihe Left

A shallower, hollower wave than the right, with barrels to be had from quite small waves. The same tricky way in and out as the right.



Polehna

Just down the reef from Madihe is Polehna. This gem is an A-frame that needs a big direct south swell to work. It's a bit of a sketchy paddle out - someone helpful has made a little handrail to help guide you through the reef. Polehna breaks over a big flat reef, with a lagoon on the high tide. To get out look for the two fisherman sticks that mark out the reef, paddle through the middle of them and head off to the right. The right reels into a deep channel, and turns quite fat at the end - the left ends on the shallow reef and turns into a bit of a closeout. Can have a mean current on it. Paddle back in the same way, through the two fishing sticks.



Hiriketiya

This was a very secret place a few years ago, but the secret is definitely out now so we don't feel bad for sharing. Stunning half-moon-shaped bay, with rolling, chilled longboard waves breaking left over the reef into sand, plus a beachie in the middle. Bit of a drive away from Soul & Surf, but well worth a day trip (or a couple of days in a guesthouse to make the most of the early morning surfs).

