

# Sri Lanka Asks All Flights To Carry Extra Fuel

OPSGROUP Team

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Sri Lanka, and Colombo's VCBI/Bandaranaike airport is a fairly key spot for aircraft requiring alternates for the likes of the Maldives, and an en-route and fuel stop option for aircraft routing to the Far East.

But there is growing political and economic instability, and this has already led to one European carrier cancelling flights to Sri Lanka, and to a Notam advising fuel availability issues.

Here is an overview of the current situation and the possible implications for international aviation.

## What's been happening?

Sri Lanka is undergoing its **worst economic crisis** since gaining independence in 1948 and also just got a new Prime Minister.

Tourism was a major part of the country's economy. On top of this, the country is unable to meet the rising global gas and oil prices. There is a shortage of cash and so a **shortage of basic necessities** in the country, and this has led to a lot of unrest.

Most major authorities **advise against all but essential travel** to Sri Lanka because of increasingly violent protests and riots. These have been building since March 2022, with many through May focused in Colombo.

The Government impose **local restrictions and curfews at short notice** and although the state of emergency has been lifted, there is still a heightened military presence.

**The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advises against all but essential travel to Sri Lanka, due to ongoing political and economic instability. This advice does not apply to airside transit through Sri Lanka's international airport.**

The UK FCDO travel warning.

There is a **general fuel shortage** across the country which means long queues at gas stations, and long waits for transport. If you plan on having crew layover this might be something to think about.



There were also several big protests through April and May that saw roads to Colombo's **VCBI/Bandaranaike and VCCC/Ratmalana airports** blocked, in an attempt to stop parliamentarians accessing the main airport.

There have been an **increasing number of power cuts**, and with that, loss of internet services, across parts of the country. Contact with agents and permit requests might be disrupted because of this.

### **The Aviation Situation**

One European carrier has cancelled operations into Sri Lanka because of security concerns. This is just because of security concerns though, not direct safety concerns.

There is however also a fuel shortage. Sri Lanka has issued notams under the VCCF code saying that **all flights to airports in the country should tanker fuel inbound**. Local agents report that some fuel may be available on a case-by-case basis, but don't count on it.

**A0476/22 -**

DUE TO LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF JET A-1 FUEL AT SRI LANKAN AIRPORTS, APPROVAL FOR NON SKED ACFT REQUESTING REFUELING STOPS WILL NOT BE GRANTED. HOWEVER TECHNICAL STOPS SUCH AS CREW CHANGE WILL BE APPROVED. 27 MAY 18:05 2022 UNTIL 30 JUN 18:29 2022 ESTIMATED. CREATED: 27 MAY 18:05 2022

**A0475/22 -**

DUE TO LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF JET A-1 FUEL, SKED ACFT OPERATING TO ALL AIRPORTS IN SRI LANKA ARE HEREBY INFORMED TO STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE REQUIREMENT OF CARRYING RETURN SECTOR FUEL. THIS REQUIREMENT DOES NOT INCLUDE DIPLOMATIC, HUMANITARIAN AND EMERG ACFT INTENDING TO OPR TO SRI LANKAN AIRPORTS. 27 MAY 18:03 2022 UNTIL 30 JUN 18:29 2022 ESTIMATED. CREATED: 27 MAY 18:03 2022

Emirates is reportedly now tankering fuel from Dubai, and Singapore Airlines is carrying extra fuel on its flights to the country. SriLankan Airlines has even made fuel stops in India to refuel some of its flights, with more stops planned here in the coming days.

### **Fuel Stop Options**

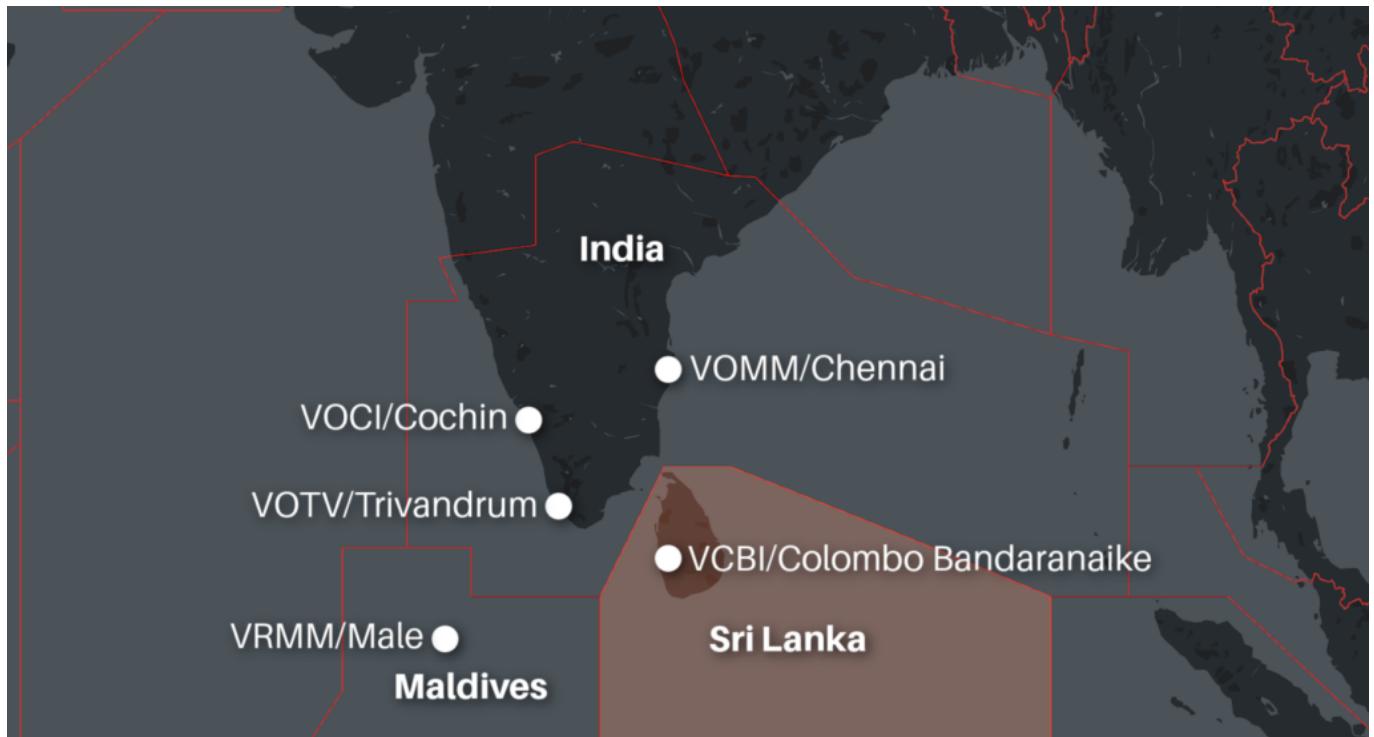
VCBI/Bandaranaike is a very handy airport for fuel stops, and as an en-route alternate, and alternate the Maldives. The monsoon season is starting soon, and the availability of this airport for possible fuel (tech) stops means it might be time to look at the other options in the area.

#### **So what have you got?**

The southern region India is as prone to bad weather during the monsoon season as anywhere else, but you do have VOMM/Chennai on the east coast, VOTV/Trivandrum in the southwest and VOCL/Cochin on the west coast. VABB/Mumbai lies further to the northwest.

**VOTV/Trivandrum** seems to be the big favourite for fuel stopping. You can get in touch with the airport directly on tm-d-tvm@aai.aero. VVIP Handlers are one of the main executive handling agents. Talk to them on +91 80106 86868 / ops@vvipflight.com or try Hindustan Petroleum Corp direct on mktghqo@hpcl.in (they're the main fuel supplier at the airport).

**VRMM/Male** is your main airport in the Maldives.



**What is the level of concern right now?**

**The current risk is primarily with fuel availability and security.** However, tensions are high within the country and the level of economic and political unrest does need to be watched.

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## Midweek Briefing 29JUN: Santa Maria Oceanic Strike, US Entry Requirements

Cynthia Claros  
1 June, 2022



**Santa Maria Strike: Four Routes** 29JUN Santa Maria Oceanic has published four special routes for use during the upcoming “**July Friday Strike Series**” ATC Industrial Action. Read the article and then Summer of Strikes.

**New US Entry Requirements** 29JUN The US has updated entry processing through ESTA (the online visa system for countries using the Visa Waiver Program). Read the article.

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**LTBA/Istanbul** has reopened to traffic after a terrorist attack on 28JUN. 40 people were killed in a series of explosions and gunfire at the International terminal on Tuesday evening.

**UMZZ/Belarus** will undergo a re-evaluation of its currency and banks will be closed to the public between 30JUN and 01JUL, if operating to Minsk you should ensure you have sufficient cash available for those days.

**EGZZ/UK** Much has been written about Britain’s departure from Europe this week (and we’re talking Brexit, not football), but if you’re having trouble figuring out how this will affect you as an operator, that might be because it won’t. Read the article.

**LGZZ/Greek Islands** Now that summer is here in Europe, the annual capacity challenge at Greek Islands is most acute on weekends, expect healthy slot delays if operating to LGIR (Iraklion) LGKP (Karpathos) LGMK (Mikonos) LGZA (Zakinthos) LGSR (Santorini) LGSK (Skiathos) or LGSA (Chania).

**VHHH/Hong Kong** The CAD issued a reminder to operators this week that the airport is under strain, and slots issued must be strictly adhered to. It would seem that the Slot Adherence procedure issued earlier in the year isn’t really working. Any local operators have feedback? Let us know.

**EFRO/Rovaniemi** has no Jet A1 available from until July.

**LPPS/Porto Santo** is also out of Jet A1 until 01JUL.

**DAAA/Algeria** New fax/phone number for the ACC (Area Control) in Algiers: **+213 (0)21 67 49 27** until 23JUL.

**AYZZ/Papua New Guinea** Reports of civil unrest, student demonstrations across Papua New Guinea started in May 2016 and are ongoing. There have been violent clashes between students, other groups and the police in Port Moresby, Lae and the Highlands.

**PWAK/Wake Island** has advised its High Loader is out of action until later in the year, so for large aircraft like B767 upwards, no offload capability exists for cargo.

**EGZZ/Scotland** (Will we need a new ICAO code soon?) Glasgow ATC - at both EGPK and EGPF - has sporadic closures overnight at present due to staffing issues. Keep an eye on Notams.

**WAAF/Ujung Pandang** has some radar outages affecting high-level overflights, optimum levels may not be available.

**LPPO/Santa Maria Oceanic** has published four special routes for use during the upcoming "July Friday Strike Series" ATC Industrial Action. The Strike Time Period is : 0700-0900Z, during which time only these four routes will be accepted. -ROUTE A- 45N020W 40N030W 37N040W -ROUTE B- DETOX 39N020W 36N030W 34N040W -ROUTE C- LUTAK 36N020W 33N030W 29N040W -ROUTE D- ULTEM 27N040W

**LIZZ/Italy** We have been notified of possible ATC industrial action on 23JUL which was previously scheduled on 05JUL. Details and participation of relevant ACCs are as follows: National strike (ACCs and airports) 0800-1600 UTC. Local strike at LIRA - Ciampino 0800-1600 UTC.

**VCBI/Colombo, Sri Lanka** There was industrial action yesterday, 28JUN, by Immigration Officials, which may continue. Flight delays possible.

**LEZZ/Spain** There was a strike threatened by Apron Controllers at LEMD/Madrid but that was cancelled on Monday.

**LPZZ/Portugal** The seven unions of NAV Portugal sent a pre-notice for an industrial action for ATC and non-ATC personnel, during two hours daily on: 30JUN and 8/15/22/29JUL.

**KATL/Atlanta** Upgrades on the airport have officially started, which will include a new runway, concourse and hotel.

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