

Take a Tuk-Tuk

The practical, pattering tuk-tuk is one of the classic mainstays of Sri Lankan life. Clogging the streets of every city on the island, and found bumping along even the most remote mountain roads, the motorized rickshaw is an unavoidable, and incredibly fun, method of transportation.



"Taxi? Taxi, sir? Taxi?!" Ah, the joyous chorus that follows us wherever we go! As we walk down the street, a clamorous line of tuk-tuks follows us, demanding our attention. "Taxi? Taxi, sir? Taxi?!" Regardless of how often we say "no", or how insistently we wave them off, they'll not be deterred. The idea that we might prefer walking is positively baffling! And it's not a reality the tuk-tuk driver is prepared to accept.

Half the time, we let them win. The truth is, there's no better way to get around in Sri Lanka. We've been here a week, and I've already lost count of how many tuk-tuk rides we've taken. And each one provides an exciting little memory we'll treasure for years to come. "Remember that time we almost died on Galle Road?" "Oh gosh, right! That bus almost smashed us to pieces, haha". Once, as we were speeding down a curvy hill in Kandy, our driver confidently remaining in the passing lane while turning around to chat with us, Jürgen observed that the ride was just like a rickety old roller coaster, but, you know, without any rails, seat-belts or safety considerations. This made the driver laugh.