



## Important information for visa applicants

### Increase of falsified documents/passports

The Embassy of Switzerland in Colombo has noticed an increase in the number of falsified documents/passports in visa applications. Applicants who submit falsified documents/passports risk being banned from entering the Schengen area for several years. Furthermore, this Embassy shares all counterfeit documents/passports with the local authorities in Sri Lanka and local authorities will initiate criminal proceedings against applicants.

### Visa facilitators/agents

The Embassy of Switzerland in Colombo is aware of several cases in which Sri Lankans have trusted “visa facilitators/agents”. These facilitators/agents demand a large sum of money from their victims and promise a visa in return, often with an assumed job in Switzerland. This Embassy of Switzerland does not have a direct working relation with visa facilitators or agencies and strongly warns against such scammers and recommends not to pay any money to persons who promise to facilitate/issue a visa in return.

### Travel agency Sun Travel

The Embassy of Switzerland in Colombo distances itself from the travel agency Sun Travel, 132 Brown Road in Jaffna, due to spreading incorrect information and misleading promises to applicants. The Embassy of Switzerland in Colombo has no ties to Sun Travel or any other travel agency.

### Schengen visa appointments

The Embassy of Switzerland in Colombo notes a high demand for visa appointments. It is recommended to book visa appointments well in advance of planned departure. This Embassy strongly recommends not to consider travel agencies which charge money for arranging visa appointments. The practice of selling visa appointments is illegal. This Embassy recommends applicants to book directly a visa appointment free of charge on the VFS website

<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/lka/en/che/> (Sri Lanka) or

[https://visa.vfsglobal.com/mdv/en/che](https://visa.vfsglobal.com/mdv/en/che/) (Maldives)

This way, only the usual service fees for VFS are charged, but no fee for scheduling the appointment.

### VFS Global

VFS is the sole service provider for visa service in Colombo, Jaffna and the Maldives for the Embassy of Switzerland. Their service is provided inside the VFS premises and by appointment. The employees wear an official VFS badge and uniform. Be aware of any other person pretending to act on behalf of VFS outside of VFS premises or on social medias as those persons are scammers.

Colombo, 19.03.2024