

Read the following text about Sri Lanka and complete it by writing the missing words from the following box.

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|-----------|------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| range of | retain | location | communities | surrounded by | lays claim |
| embracing | famous for | natural beauty | varies | the majority of | visible |

Sri Lanka officially the **Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka** is a country off the southern coast of the Indian subcontinent in South Asia. Known until 1972 as Ceylon Sri Lanka is an island 1) _____ the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Mannar, the Palk Strait, and lies in the vicinity of India and the Maldives. As a result of its 2) _____ in the path of major sea routes, Sri Lanka is a strategic naval link between West Asia and South East Asia. Sri Lanka has also been a center of the Buddhist religion and culture from ancient times, being the nation where the Buddhist teachings were first written down as well as the oldest continually Buddhist country. Sri Lanka boasts a diverse 3) _____ cultures, languages and religions. The Sinhalese community forms 4) _____ the population; Tamils, who are concentrated in the north and east of the island, form the largest ethnic minority. Other communities include Moors, Burghers, Kaffirs, Malays and the aboriginal Vedda people.



The country is 5) _____ the production and export of tea, coffee, gems, coconuts, rubber and cinnamon, the last of which is native to the country. The 6) _____ of Sri Lanka has led to the title The Pearl of the Indian Ocean. The island is laden with lush tropical forests, white beaches and diverse landscapes with rich biodiversity. The country 7) _____ to a long and colorful history of over three thousand years, having one of the longest documented histories in the world. Sri Lanka's rich culture can be attributed to the many different 8) _____ on the island.

The culture of Sri Lanka has been influenced by many things in the past, but has managed to 9) _____ much of its ancient, rich aspects. Mostly it has been influenced by its rich history, diversity, and religious beliefs. The country has a rich artistic tradition, 10) _____ the fine arts, including music, dance, and visual arts. Sri Lankan lifestyle is reflected in the cuisine, festivals, and sports. South Indian influences are 11) _____ in many aspects. There is also some influences from colonization by the Dutch, the Portuguese and the British. Sri Lankan culture is best known abroad for its cricket, food, and cultural exports, like tea. Sri Lankan culture is diverse, as it 12) _____ from region to region.

Sri Lanka is a founding member state of SAARC and a member United Nations, Commonwealth of Nations, G77 and Non-Aligned Movement. As of 2010, Sri Lanka was one of the fastest growing economies of the world. Its stock exchange was Asia's best performing stock market during 2009 and 2010.