

# Tourist VAT Refund Scheme

## 7.5 Tourist VAT Refund Scheme of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has introduced Tourist VAT Refund Scheme (TVRS) w.e.f 11th September 2018. As a tourist in Sri Lanka if a foreigner is charged above Rs. 50,000 (LKR) in VAT after making purchases at an authorized retailer that displays "tax Free" shopping logo, they are entitled to claim a VAT refund when leaves Sri Lanka.

### 7.5.1 Who is a tourist eligible for a refund under TVRS

1. A non-citizen and non-resident of Sri Lanka.
2. Stayed in Sri Lanka for less than ninety days, under a visitor Visa issued by the Controller General of Immigration and Emigration of Sri Lanka
3. Should not be less than 18 years of age as of the first day his visit Sri Lanka.

### 7.5.2 Conditions of TVRS

1. A tourist is required to have a minimum of LKR.50,000 worth of VAT liable purchases (Exclusive of VAT) from any of the authorized retailers,
  - Consisting of a maximum of 3 commercial invoices issued on the same day by the same retailer and
  - Need to obtain a VAT refund invoice (TVRI) from the same authorized retailer by providing commercial invoices along with your passport.
2. A tourist has to apply for VAT refund using a TVRS application form
3. Goods should be taken out of Sri Lanka either in baggage or hand luggage.  
  
(The goods declared in the above invoices should be available for physical verification of the Customs point)

### 7.5.3 Goods eligible to claim TVRS

All goods on which VAT is charged ("standard rated goods") are eligible for a refund except

1. Goods that are prohibited on aircrafts for safety reasons.
2. Goods that are prohibited and restricted under Sri Lanka Customs Ordinance.
3. VAT exempted goods (where VAT was not paid)
4. Goods that have been wholly/partly consumed in Sri Lanka (for example :foods, Beverages)
5. Services consumed (for example: hotel charges)
6. Goods purchased online and taking out of Sri Lanka.
7. Goods that are not presented for inspection with the required application form at the TVRS counter.

### 7.5.4 Where to claim TVRS refund

The TVRS Counters are located at the Bandaranayake International Air port ,Katunayake

### 7.5.5 How to claim TVRS refund

A tourist can claim a tax refund by visiting a TVRS Counter at the point of departure.

#### Step 01

Present the following documents to the TVRS Customs verification Counter with Goods entitled to claim refund

1. Completed tourist VAT refund claim application form.
2. Original tourist VAT refund invoices (TVRI) with specified commercial invoices.
3. Valid passport

#### Step 02

- Upon Customs verification, above documents should be submitted to TVRS -Inland Revenue Counter for a refund claim.

#### Step 03

- Submit the payment voucher for processing to the Bank of Ceylon Branch located inside the Departure Lounge.
- Tourist VAT refund will be paid in cash