

EXPLORE SRI LANKA



What's On

MARCH 2024

Marino Beach, Colombo

International Dinner Buffet. Tides Restaurant. Daily. 7pm–10.30pm Executive Lunch Buffet (Asian and International mixed). Daily (Contact +94 76 2454809)

International Weekend Lunch Buffet. Saturday, Sunday at Tides Restaurant. 12.30pm–3.30pm (with 10% discount)

Colombo Court Hotel and Spa

By Balinese therapists with 20% off on selected treatments at Amber Spa (Contact +94 777 227 211)

Hotel MaRadha Colombo

Happy Hour. Sky Yard. Daily. 5pm–7pm

Lords Restaurant Complex, Negombo

March 2, 9, 16

Tropic Candy Live Band. 7pm–11pm

Lunch – pizzas, sizzlers, burger stackers, and cricket platters; 12 noon onwards

Live music entertainment with delicious food, free fish spa, family restaurant, cocktail bar.

Tropic Candy Live Band. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday. 7pm–11pm

Solo Artist Ashan Sanjaya. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. 7pm–11pm

March 8

International Women's Day celebrations

Hilton Colombo

Exquisite high tea buffet with savory offerings, tempting sandwiches, and irresistible sweets at Graze Kitchen. 12 noon to 5pm

(Contact +94 112 492 492)

Ladies Lunch Hour. 12noon to

1.30pm, and 1.45pm to 3pm at Flow

(with 50% discount)

(Contact +94 115 344 644)

DoubleTree by Hilton Weerawila Rajawarna Resort

High Tea. 4pm–6pm at Turnstone.



At Lords Restaurant Complex, Negombo.

Exclusive lunch and dinner buffets with special cocktail/mocktail and specially crafted dessert at Spoonbill.

Hilton Yala Resort

Special cocktail-making session at Vanya

50% discount on cocktails, refreshing margaritas and pina colodas at Dhira

(Contact +94 47 2 555 555).

(Contact +94 112 451 975)

Radisson Hotel Colombo

High Tea with 2 mojitos/virgin mojitos at Dine.

Big Match Fever- Band Night

Featuring Link at ON14 - Rooftop Lounge & Bar

March 20

Acoustic Night with Minesh D at ON14 - Rooftop Lounge & Bar

March 31

Easter Brunch, High Tea at Dine

Brunch at ON14 - Rooftop Lounge & Bar

Lords Restaurant Complex, Negombo

March 23 and 30

Quick Sand Live Band; Saturday. 7pm–11pm

Colombo

Art galleries

Art Way Gallery

Kotte; +94 112 775 316; Opening hours: 8am–6pm Monday to Friday, 8am–1pm Saturday and Sunday. artwaygallery.org

Barefoot Gallery

Colombo 3; +94 11 258 9305; Opening hours: 10am–6pm Monday to Saturday. barefootceylon.com/collections/barefoot-gallery

Casa Serena Art Gallery

Colombo 8; +94 76 900 7874. Opening hours: 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and Weekends by appointments. nisansala.com/casa-serena/

Lionel Wendt

Colombo 7; +94 112 677 559/+94 112 695 794; lionelwendt.org

Paradise Road Gallery

Colombo 3; +94 112 582 162/+94 112 556 563; paradiseroad.lk

Sapumal Foundation

Colombo 7; +94 112 695 731; foundation.sapumal34@gmail.com

Saskia Fernando Gallery

Colombo 7; +94 117 429 010; saskiafernandogallery.com

Beaches

Galle Face

The Galle Face Green remains a popular destination for all ages, from children to vendors, teenagers, and merrymakers who want to indulge in their favorite pastimes next to the seas under the open sky. During the holiday season, Galle Face gets packed with day trippers,

picnickers, and families enjoying their time.

Mount Lavinia

The Mount Lavinia beach boasts a long and wide expanse of golden sand, dotted with swaying coconut palms along the shoreline. On weekends, the beach attracts families and friends who come to enjoy the scenic views of the waves and indulge in sea-bathing and strolls along the beach. The beach is surrounded by several restaurants, offering a delightful culinary experience after a day of fun in the sun.

Casinos and Nightlife

Bally's Casino

34, D R Wijewardana Mawatha, Colombo 10; +94 77 146 0460/+94 11 246 0460; info@ballyscolombo.com

Bellagio Casino

430, R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 3; +94 77 088 6688/+94 75 588 6688; marketing@bellagiocolombo.com

Casino Marina

30, Marine Drive, Colombo 3; +94 11 421 9988 casinomarina.com, marina888.com

Museums

Colombo National Museum

The Colombo Museum holds the key to Sri Lanka's rich history, offering a detailed display of artifacts that highlight the lifestyles, beliefs, and ideologies of its people. Colombo 7; +94 112 695 366. Opening Hours: 9am–7pm Daily.



Casino Marina, Colombo 3.

Independence Memorial Museum

The Independence Memorial Museum was established with the objective honouring national heroes who were instrumental in gaining independence from the British Rule. Colombo 7; +94 112 691 825. Opening Hours: 9am–4.30pm Tuesday to Sunday.

Religious sites

Gangaramaya Temple

The Gangaramaya Temple is a place of immense cultural and historical significance that has been attracting visitors from all over the world for over a century. The beautifully illuminated Seemamalakaya, adds to the cultural pageant and is a sight to behold during Navam Maha Perahera and Vesak. Colombo 2; +94 112 435 169. Opening hours: 6am–10pm Daily.

Kotte Raja Maha Vihara

Situated in Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, the history of Kotte Raja Maha Vihara dates back to the Kingdom

of Kotte. During the reign of King Parakumbha VI (1415-1467) the construction of the temple was begun and completed in all aspects with the royal patronage. Kotte; +94 112 852 759

Sambodhi Chaithya

Of all the sacred architecture in Colombo – Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim or Christian – the oldest, though brimming with tradition, cannot compare with the boldness of the skyward design of the stupa of the Sambodhi Chaitya. Colombo 1; +94 112 482 673.

Sri Ponnambala Vaneswarar Temple

A majestic religious site made entirely of stone blocks and columns, located near the Colombo Sea Port in Sri Lanka. Its solid and sculpted stateliness follows the Dravidian temple architecture, and the interior is equally impressive. Colombo 13; +94 112 431 252. Opening hours: 7am–11.30pm and 3.30pm–7pm Daily

Colombo

Kovils of Captain's Garden

Built during the latter part of the 1700s, the Kovils at Captain's Garden, Maradana are believed to be the oldest in Colombo. There are two kovils located here – Sri Bala Selva Vinayaga Moorthy Devasthanam and Sri Kailasanathar Swamy Devasthanam. Colombo 10.

Sri Kailasanathar Swamy Temple: +94 112 687 110. Opening hours: 6am–11am & 4.30pm–8pm Daily.

Sri Bala Selva Vinayagar Temple: +94 112 687 535. Opening hours: 5am–10.30am & 4.30pm–8pm Daily.

St Anthony's Church, Kochikade

Saint Anthony's Church in Kochikade is a place where hearts unite in reverence for a 12th-century saint who has been watching over people seeking relief for two centuries. The church has a remarkable history, having been transformed from a crucifix to a national shrine, with the stunning Colombo Harbor and sea as its backdrop. Kochchikade; +94 112 329 303. Opening hours: 5am–8pm Daily.

Red Mosque

Jamiul Alfar Masjid, also known as the Red Mosque, is an architectural masterpiece located in the heart of Pettah, Colombo's bustling commercial district. Its unique Indo-Saracenic style with pomegranate-shaped domes is a sight to behold. Colombo 11; +94 112 451 975. Opening hours: 10am–12noon, 1pm–3pm, 4.15pm–6pm. Daily.

Recreational Parks, Jogging and Cycling Tracks

Independence Square

Independence Square is a symbol of victory, commemorating the nation's independence from colonialism in 1948. Adjacent to the square is the Arcade Independence Square, a beautifully restored colonial building that houses an array of shops and restaurants.

Colombo Racecourse, once a hub for horse racing enthusiasts, has now transformed into a tranquil oasis for relaxation.

Viharamahadevi Park

A serene and picturesque location that was originally opened in honor of Queen Victoria of England. It is the perfect destination for families and children, providing a joyful atmosphere for holiday activities. The park is located in close proximity to the Town Hall, a well-known landmark, and in the evening, the park transforms into a magical place where visitors can enjoy the glowing edifice and lush gardens.

Diyawanna Oya

The place is always bustling with visitors trying to catch a glimpse of the iconic Parliament building in its full majestic view. The salubrious breeze blowing across the waters of Diyawanna Oya is an absolute

delight for an exhausted jogger. A boat ride along the waters of Diyawanna Oya is a must-try experience to explore the wetland wildlife. Enjoy a peaceful stroll at Diyatha Uyana built alongside the banks of the Diyawanna Oya.

Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanical Gardens

The 50-kilometer drive from Colombo towards Avissawella to reach the Seethawaka Botanical Gardens. +94 363 795 295. Opening hours: 7.30am–5pm. botanicgardens.gov.lk/service/wet-zone-botanic-gardens-awissawella

Shopping

Tea

Mlesna Tea Centre

Discover the world of tea with Mlesna, the pioneers of presenting Ceylon tea as exquisite gifts. Delight in their ornate packaging and embark on an exciting journey of overwhelming tea selections. Explore their range of regional and blended teas, specialty estate black teas, green and flavored teas.

mlesnateas.lk; mlesnateas.com

Mlesna Tea Centre; 29, Ground Floor, Liberty Plaza; Colombo 3;

+94 112 57 4545/+94 762 492 031

Mlesna Tea Kiosk; 43A, Ground Floor, Liberty Plaza; Colombo 3;

+94 112 575 101

Tea Centre; 1-08B, Majestic City, Colombo 4; 011 258 4492

Tea Centre; L-12, Crescat Boulevard, Colombo 3; 011 553 6654

Tea Centre, Hilton Colombo, Colombo 1; 011 249 2155

Tea Centre, Galadari, Lotus Road, Colombo 1; 011 254 4544 Ext. 483

WP4, 30, Arcade Independence Square, Colombo 7; 011 268 5828

Tea Centre; Airport Garden Hotel, Negombo Road, Katunayake; 011 225 2950 Ext. 720

Tea Centre; 218, Moragala, Beruwela; 034 567 9220

Tea Castle; Patana, Talawakelle; 051 222 2289

Tea Centre; 84, Welimada Road, Bandarawela; 057 223 1663

Fashion

Nolimit

Nolimit provides an immersive shopping experience to its customers by offering a vast and exciting range of clothing options for all genders and age groups. The store is committed to providing a high-quality shopping experience to all its patrons.

L-4, (20-21), One Galle Face Mall, Colombo 3; +94 112 334 345

L-5 (35-42), One Galle Face Mall, Colombo 3; +94 112 334 345

C137/1/15, Colombo City Centre, Colombo 2; +94 112 2083 212;

24, Hyde Park Corner, Colombo 2; +94 112 382 676

179, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia; +94 112 733 865

213, Hill Street, Dehiwela; +94 112 734 072



Gangaramaya Temple



St Anthony's Church, Kochikade

10, Kawdana Road, Dehiwela; +94 77 354 0816

40, D S Senanayake Mawatha, Borella; +94 112 672 689;

Gents' clothing – 1, Hill Street, Dehiwela; +94 112 732 492

Ladies' and children's clothing; 17, Hill Street; Dehiwela; +94 112 726 299

108 A, High Level Road, Maharagama; 011 274 5191

152, High Level Road, Nugegoda; 011 282 9955;

196, Galle Road, Wellawatte; 011 236 0260

NOLIMIT Image, 50, Galle Road, Wellawatte; 011 258 7812

266, Galle Road, Panadura; 038 224 1677

267, High Level Road, 7th Mile Post, Nugegoda; +94 112 812 021

143, Galle Road, Ratmalana; +94 112 731 090

36, Senanayake Mawatha, Ratnapura; +94 45 222 2987

331, Negombo Road, Wattala; +94 112 948 123

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331, Negombo Road, Wattala; +94 112 948 123

36, Senanayake Mawatha, Ratnapura; +94 45 222 2987

331, Negombo Road, Wattala; +94 112 948 123

Apple/Service and Support

BT Store

BT Store is a stylish Mac environment with a range of Apple products. It offers upbeat music and a display of handpicked books. BT Store provides various Apple products and technologies, including iMac, MacBook Air, MacBook Pro, iPhones, and iPads. In addition, the BT Store offers Mac accessories and Mac software designed and marketed by Apple Inc. They also provide after-sales services and repair. 20-2/1 R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 4; +94 715 136 136/+94 112 597 991; info@btoptions.com

Pettah

Pettah is an enchanting labyrinth of buzzing streets that's bound to

leave you mesmerized! It's a hub of activity where sellers showcase their magnificent wares, and customers haggle for the best price. You'll find heaps of goods in abundance, and the prices are unbeatable! In its vicinity are the iconic Red Fort, Khan Clock Tower, and Wolvendaal Church.

Transport

Public transport

Sri Lanka Railways

Fort Railway Station; +94 112 432 908/+94 112 434 215/1919; railway.gov.lk; Bookings can be done through Mobitel mTicketing (dial 365) & Dialog (dial 444).

Bus

Central Bus Stand, Pettah; +94 112 328 081
Online booking – sltb.esat.lk/home
Sri Lanka Transport Board; 200, Kirula Road, Colombo 5; Dial 1315/+94 117 706 000

Flights

Bandaranayake International Airport (BIA)

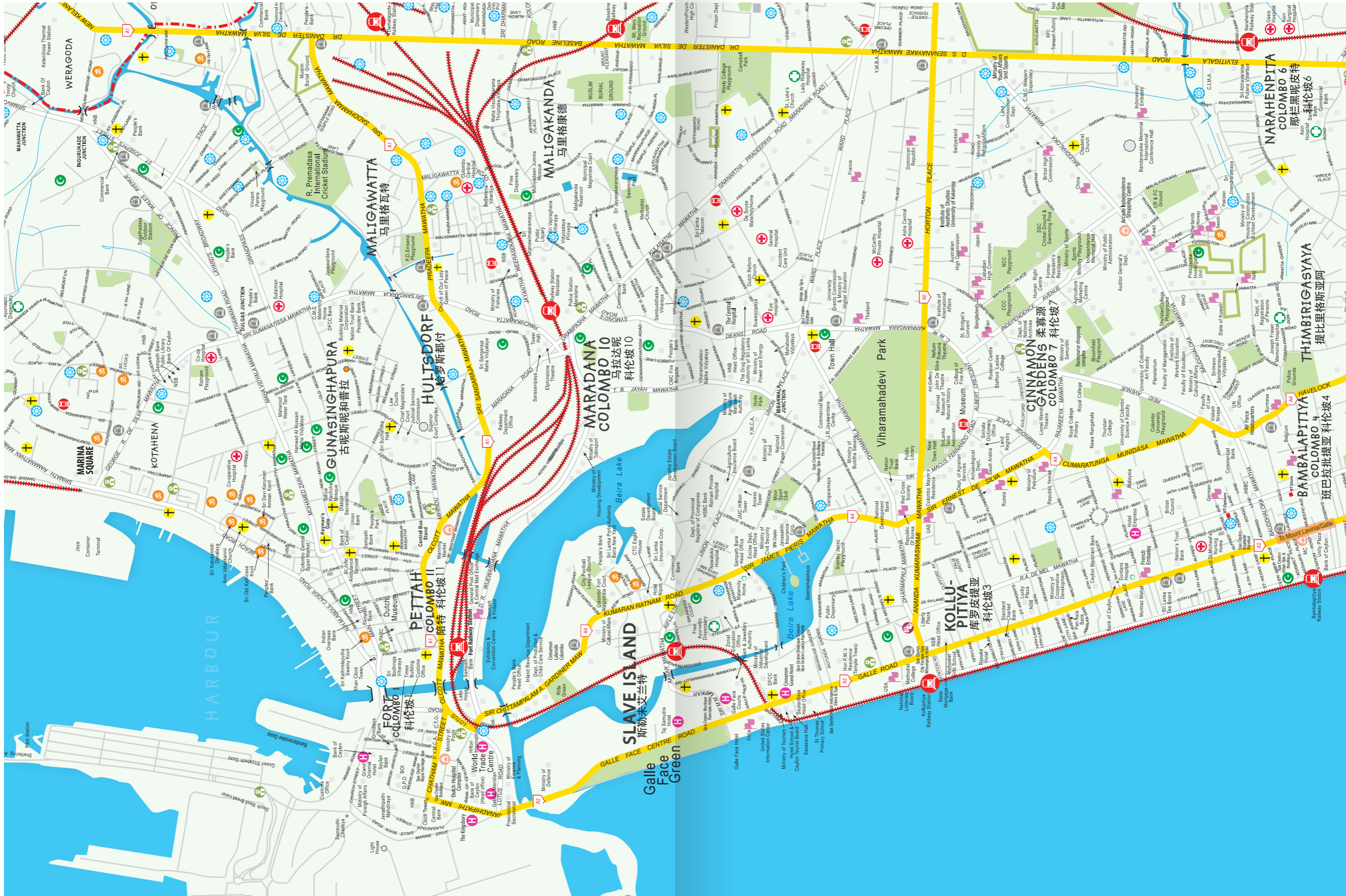
Airport and Aviation Services
Katunayake.
+94 112 259 435
airport.lk/main

Mattala Airport

Mahinda Rajapaksa International Airport
Hambantota
+94 472 031 116
airport.lk/mria/index

Colombo International Airport, Ratmalana

Ratmalana
+94 112 623 030
Jaffna International Airport
Palay
+94 112 263 380
airport.lk/jaf/index



East Coast

Arugambay

Arugambay offers unique experiences throughout the year, showcasing a vibrant culture, lifestyle, history, and wildlife. The region provides an opportunity to explore its untouched wilderness and witness herds of elephants, leopards, deer, and birdlife at the National Parks, Sanctuaries, and lagoons. It's not uncommon to catch sight of elephants strolling along the roadside, particularly at dawn and during the evening. Arugambay is a little paradise that has retained its inherent simplistic charm and beauty.

Beaches

Arugambay

Arugambay point has the reputation of being one of the best surf points in the world and has a buzzing nightlife. Enjoy the best of seafood and surf life when in Arugambay.

Kalkudah

The Kalkudah beach is ideal for surfing and wind surfing during the month of September, which is also considered the best month to visit the East Coast.

Passekudah

Turquoise waters shimmer and fringe the pale sands curving Passekudah bay. Located on the north eastern part of the island, approximately 35 kilometres from Batticaloa, Passekudah offers a serene getaway. The sunny shoreline is shaded by overlooking coconut palms.

Kuchchaveli

As you walk along the serene strip of soft golden sand, you will see sun loungers and umbrellas dotting the landscape with visitors relaxing under the bright sun while others explore their adventurous side with beach activities and water sports.

Nilaveli

Here's where turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean kiss the sands, where heart beats rise and fall to its timely harmony.

Uppuveli

The area consists of hamlets of the coastal community and fine honey hued sand. Uppuveli has its own distinctive charm that lures beckoning tourists to indulge in its serenity.

Whisky Point

Situated in Urani, Pottuvil about ten minutes away from the main town of Arugambay, Whisky Point is a peaceful stretch of beach that is far away from village life. It is not busy or crowded but is a laid-back area where visitors can enjoy the beauty of the ocean undisturbed.

Hotels

Paper Moon Kudils

Enjoy barefoot luxury at the oceanfront Paper Moon Kudils. With 20 spacious and fully AC Kudils located in two sections (pool/ restaurant side and garden side). This unique property has a swimming pool (Water Hole) and restaurant (Kusini) serving delicious cuisine. *Whisky Point, Arugambay.* +94 719 97 97 97; [papermoonkudils.lk](#)

Arugambay Roccas

A chic and modern cube-style hotel. The 22 Cubes (upper and lower) provide air-conditioning and offer either balconies or verandahs. The restaurant, The Square and The Space, upstairs, offer panoramic views of the Water Cube (swimming pool) and the Indian Ocean.

Main Street, Arugambay, Pottuvil; +94 718 10 99 99; [arugambayroccos.lk](#)

Arugambay PodBay

A novel concept that comprises compact convertainers (NapPods) in pastel hues, HomePods, and Bay rooms. The seaside hotel has a swimming pool (WaterPod), and a restaurant (PotPod).

Main Street, Arugambay, Pottuvil; +94 718 10 99 99; [arugambaypodbay.lk](#)

Attractions

Panama

Panama, located in close proximity to the Kumana National Park, is known to be the farthest village in this region. The Panama Wewa, where cattle graze on its green pastures, and the Panama Beach are some of the attractive sites in the area.

Kanniya Hot Springs

The legendary Kanniya hot springs, still miraculously brimming away, go back nearly 26 centuries, is something from the past that's refreshingly mind boggling. There are seven naturally heated water wells, each with a slight contrast in temperature.

Kattankudy

The bazaar strip with a dense population shows an Arabic influence with mosques, town structures, and date palms.

Trincomalee

Renowned for its pristine beaches, this town on the east coast has another appeal mostly for lovers of history and culture, as well as beach activities and even whale watching expeditions.

Batticalao

Batticaloa, known as the City of the Singing Fish, is a major city in the eastern coast of Sri Lanka. The Batticaloa lagoon is one of the largest in the Island partially enclosed from the coastal waters.



Arugambay is ideal for a surfing adventure.

Cultural sites

Magul Maha Viharaya

The Magul Maha Viharaya within the Lahugala sanctuary, is famed for the 'Magul Maduwa', the altar upon which the princess married King Kavantissa, thus becoming Queen Viharamaha Devi of Ruhuna.

Muhudu Maha Viharaya

The temple is found on the sand dunes of Pottuvil and the beautiful white stupa can be seen all the way from Arugam Bay beach. Muhudu Maha Vihara is said to be the ancient temple built by King Kavantissa in the second century BC.

Kudumbigala

Kudumbigala monastic complex in Panama, off the coastal district of Ampara in the East of Sri Lanka was built as far back as 246 BC during the reign of King Devanampiyatissa. It is the very first sanctuary built for Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka and therefore holds immense historical value.

National Park

Kumana National Park

Head out on a safari to Kumana National Park. The drive itself is a novel experience where you will travel through the village of Panama. It a destination known for its diverse wildlife and bird population, both migratory and indigenous. The wildlife can be observed around the numerous lagoons, while curious jackals wander around.

Lahugala Kitulana National Park

Located in the eastern region of Sri Lanka, the Park is a pristine wilderness area that exudes natural beauty under the bright sun. The Park is renowned for its diverse wildlife, especially the elephants. The three tanks, namely, Lahugala, Kitulana, and Senagamuwa, serve as vital watering holes for the animals inhabiting the area.

Maduru Oya

Established as a National Park of Sri Lanka under the Mahaweli Development project, the park provides a sanctuary to wildlife. One

of the most important features of Maduru Oya is the ancient earthen dam and sluice built during the reign of King Mahasena.

Lagoon Safari

Urani Lagoon

Urani Lagoon safari is a popular eco touristic activity to witness aquatic life, gentle giants and varieties of birds. The best time for safari along the Urani Lagoon is at 6am and 3pm.

Religious Sites

Seruvila Temple

An ancient temple sacred to Buddhists. *Trincomalee*

Okanda Kovil

Also called as Ukanthamalai Murugan Kovil, this temple is an important place of worship on the annual Pada Yatra that journeys from Jaffna to Kataragama via the Kumana National Park.

Surf Points

Arugambay point

'Main Point', this is one of the most popular surf breaks in Arugambay as well as one of the top surf points in the world. Easily accessible from the beach, the rolling waves reach up to six feet making this point an ideal destination for professional surfers.

Whisky Point

One of the most scenic surfing points in Sri Lanka, Whisky Point is loved by beginners and professionals alike. Surfers gather here even before dawn breaks to ride the whisking waves and enjoy the stunning atmosphere. The rock outcrop is a favourite spot for watching the sunrise and to feel the cool breeze of the East coast.

Pottuvil Point

Known for its big swells, Pottuvil Point is for the professionals. The waves depend on the season and weather.

Peanut Farm

Shaded by shrubby and palu trees and located near a lake, Peanut Farm is a playful surf point, ideal for beginners and intermediates.

East Coast

Okanda Point

Reached through an off-the-beaten-track path by the Kumana National Park and Kudumbigala Sanctuary, Okanda Point is for the daring surfers.

Lighthouse Point

Located along the Komari beach, the Lighthouse Point is a scenic surfing destination with beautiful waves against the backdrop of the blue sky. The point is marked by the preserved base of an ancient lighthouse.

Crocodile Rock/Elephant Point

The rock gains its name with a characteristic shape resembling a crocodile. The surf point can be accessed by passing through the bushes. Climb the rock to enjoy stunning views of the sunset.

Panama Point

Travel through the charming village of Panama to this right-break surf point where you can witness colourful fishing boats. Panama Point is a lesser known surfing spot

where its occasional left breaks are sure to please the goofy surfers.

Must try Food!

The famous lagoon crab and the fresh prawn of Batticaloa sea inspire authentically flavorful Sri Lankan dishes, with mouth-watering appeal and unforgettable savor.

Museum

Maritime and Naval History Museum

The museum located in the historical

Fort Frederick, provides a good perspective on the history of how the Dutch set foot into the island during the 16th century.

+94 262 227 053,
+94 262 227 054

Transport Services

Colombo to Arugambay

Semi-luxury buses; leaving from Maradana, Colombo from 7pm onwards daily . (prior bookings are essential). +94 767 980 024

Southern Coast

Galle

For culture and tradition with a bonus of sights, sea and sun, then Galle would be your hot spot for an intriguing time in the past, as well as enjoying time in the present. Other sites worthy of visiting due to their historical value include the Galapatha Temple, the Richmond castle, Nupe market and the Keechimalai mosque.

Attractions

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Pinnawala was set up in 1975 to care for orphaned elephants, and now has the largest herd of captive elephants in the world. *Rambukkana; +94 352 266 641*

Madu Ganga

Situated roughly 74 km from Colombo in the Southern coastal region near Balapitiya. A renowned aquatic sight, a wetland river safari in the Madu Ganga will be quite long roughly taking between 2-3 hours. You'll probably spot the Buddhist temple named Koth Doowa Rajamaha Viharaya. Another remarkable spot is the cinnamon-processing site.

Rumassala

Both the forest and the ocean around Rumassala are rich in biodiversity. The forest is home to many species of birds, reptiles and mammals including several endemic species, as well as rare medicinal plants.

Koggala Lagoon

The mysterious mangrove island that was the inspiration for Sri Lankan author Martin Wickramasinghe's famous novel 'Madol Doova' is located in the large freshwater lagoon in Koggala.

Turtle Watching

The season from February to July also signals the start of turtle nesting, and you can witness the beautiful spectacle at Kosgoda, Rekawa, Bundala and Ambalantota.

Cultural sites

Galle Fort

Overlooking the Indian Ocean, it is declared a World Heritage site, the Fort itself is a vibrant part of this city as is apparent as you walk through its inner streets, where houses have been converted into restaurants,

art galleries and antique and fashionable shops. The Lighthouse stands in the Fort waiting to be explored.

Matara Fort

The Matara Dutch Fort, built by the Dutch in 1645 and then handed over to the British in 1796, still stands strong and proud at the centre of the town.

Kalutara

The Kalutara Bodhi, bridge and Gangatilleke Viharaya are among other historical landmarks.

Ambalangoda

The cultural seat of the southern part of the country and is the renowned for the coveted devil masks. Ambalangoda is also the hub of Southern dances; The devil dances and Kolam Netum – a satirical theatre performance with elaborate head gears and costumes, are regular happenings.

Dondra

At the southernmost tip of the Island and situated 6km from Matara, Dondra is believed to be the abode of Upulvan Deviyo or God Vishnu.

Star Fort

The only fort in Sri Lanka, built in the form of a star has its own historical significance and stands in the town of Matara, close to the Matara Dutch Fort.

Beaches

Bentota

Known for the ideal seas for water sports, visitors find themselves enjoying a thrilling speed boat ride, jet ski ride, and surfing, water skiing or kite surfing. Venture inland for an artistic treat at the Lunuganga and the Brief Garden by Geoffrey Bawa and Bevis Bawa respectively.

Dickwella

Hummanaya Blow Hole

The name Hummanaya is attributed to the noise made when the water gushes up the narrow fissure. Watch the sea water spurt out to towering heights when it thrusts water against the narrow rocky cove and pushes it through a hole in the rock bed with a 'wheezing' sound.



Galle fort

Hikkaduwa

One of the most popular beaches and emerged as a surfing and backpacking hotspot in the 1970's. The town continues to maintain its laidback atmosphere, as well as a vibrant nightlife, which attracts large numbers of young travellers.

Unwatuna

A popular beach that is frequented by tourists. In addition to swimming, Unawatuna provides tourists the opportunity to snorkel amidst the marine life. As the sun sets down, the nightlife begins to come to life, and guests can enjoy delectable meals and cold drinks or dance the night away to lively beats.

Hiriketiya

A small cove on the southern coast, Hiriketiya is also known as the 'Blue Beach' by the international tourists who make their way to the beach, attracted by the splendid surfing opportunities.

Weligama

A beach break ensures that the waves are not too strong, making the waters safe for an amateur rider to learn surfing. As the night falls, the beach village comes alive, with lights flickering in many a restaurant and bar along the coastal highway, serving good food and music.

Koggala

Koggala is also the home of the famous Martin Wickramasinghe Folk Museum, and watch still fishermen - a popular sighting.

Kalutara

With the rare combination of seascapes, river views and a beautiful skyline with the stupa, Kalutara beach is perfect for a stopover. Soft sand gives way to crashing waves and if you wait for the sunset, it will be one of the most spectacular ones you have ever seen.

Mirissa

Whale watching is one of the many delights that Mirissa has in store. Famous for the sightings of the gigantic blue whale, it is also in close vicinity to several charming beaches like Dalawella and Polhena, and offers plenty of opportunities to go beach-hopping.

Tangalle

Tropical sunlight abounds in Tangalle, a coastal town 35 kilometres to the east of Matara. Reminders of 18th century Dutch days, old villas and a fort add historical presence along with a centuries' old rock temple, MulKirigala.

Museum

Galle National Museum

The Galle National Museum constructed in 1656 is dedicated to showcase ancient ornaments and artefacts. +94 912 232 051.

Galle and South

Maritime Museum

The museum featuring marine biological and anthropological aspects of the southern coastal area is located within the Galle Fort. *Galle Fort*; +94 912 242 261

Ratnapura National Museum

The museum in the city of gems displays historical artefacts, and other significant objects. +94 452 223 451

Religious sites

Sri Pada (Adam's Peak)

Sri Pada, Samanalakanda or Adam's Peak, is the 2,242m tall mountain with the pilgrimage season beginning from Unduvap Poya in December that runs till Vesak Poya in May.

Kalutara Bodhi

The Kalutara Bodhiya, which is a sapling of the Sri Maha Bodhiya of Anuradhapura, is revered by Buddhists who visit it year around. +94 342 226 483

Mulkirigala Raja Maha Vihara

Inland from Tangalle, this natural rock monolith was a cave retreat of Buddhist monks dating back to 130BC.

Tissamaharama Raja Maha Vihara

One of the four major Buddhist monasteries, to be established after the arrival of Arahant Mahinda Thero.

Kirinda

An ancient temple built by King Kavantissa, it attracts numerous pilgrims. With a historical stupa on the coast, this area is renowned for the legendary accounts of Princess Viharamaha Devi, to whom the temple is dedicated.

Gangatilake Viharaya

Passing the bridge of Kalutara, amidst the trees and above the waters of Kalu Ganga a strikingly beautiful white Dagaba can be seen. *Kalutara*

Ruhunu Maha Kataragama Devalaya

The Kataragama Devalaya has been a revered place of pilgrimage among Buddhists and Hindus for centuries. Pilgrims seek the divine intervention of God Katagama. +94 472 235 122. *Opening hours: 4.30am-11pm. rmkd.lk.*

Saparagamu Maha Saman Devalaya

The history of the Saparagamu

Maha Saman Devalaya could be traced back to the Kingdom of Dambadeniya, to the time of King Parakramabahu II (1236–70) whose rule is depicted in the annals of history as a golden era marked with much exuberance and opulence. *Ratnapura*; +94 452 221 411

Shrine of our Lady of Matara

Positioned across from Beach Park, where many find a welcome interlude among the waves, is the Shrine of our Lady of Matara, formerly known as St Mary's Church. *Matara*; +94 412 222 056

Ketchimale Mosque

Ketchimale in Beruwala is a mosque of miracles, the biggest of which is that all religions and races mingle there with the same devotion. *Beruwala*. +94 342 276 481

Wildlife

Sinharaja Rain Forest

Sinharaja has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Within the rainforest reserve, a visitor can experience an abundance of flora and fauna, which includes many endemic plant and animal life. +94 413 490 644

Bundala National Park

Sri Lanka's first site to receive Ramsar site status, it is home to multitudes of waterfowl species, both residential and migratory. +94 473 489 070

Birds Park Hambantota

Located in Nagarawewa area in Hambantota, the centre stretches over 50 acres. Home to about 200 bird species, the centre has for its aim the conservation of both fauna and flora. +94 47 493 7111. *Hambantota. Opening hours: 6am–6pm. birdspark.lk*

Udawalawe National Park

The Park is home to a population of over 400 elephants and the probability of seeing them while on safari is almost always guaranteed. +94 473 475 892.

Yala National Park

A wildlife sanctuary bordering the south-eastern coast of Sri Lanka, is home to the most enigmatic of creatures – the leopard, majestic elephants and elusive sloth bears. Wildlife enthusiasts and visitors can spot leopards around the year. +94 112 888 585

Hill Country

Ella

A vibrant holiday destination teeming with visitors, exuding the charm of a quaint European town. The town boasts of an array of elegant restaurants and rustic eateries, each wafting the air with tantalizing aromas. Among the many peaks to conquer are Little Adam's Peak and Ella Rock, trails that offer an immersive experience of the lush, wild emerald landscape of the area. A brisk walk to the iconic Nine Arches Bridge is another popular activity, with eager sightseers waiting to capture a train passing along the bridge. Close by is the ancient and picturesque Ravana Ella Cave Temple.

Nuwara Eliya

Commonly called the 'Little England' the verdant hills with a misty aura, colourful flower gardens, strawberry fields and little cosy English cottages, create the idyllic setting of Nuwara Eliya. As the season begins in April, flowers start blooming, and the climate is pleasantly chilly attracting vacationers to visit the many exciting places in town.

Attractions

Lake Gregory

Along the lake you will see groups either enjoying a family picnic, riding horses, on a paddle boat or taking a leisurely stroll.

Pidurutalagala

The impressive Pidurutalaga 2,524m

is Sri Lanka's highest mountain. The peak offers views of the Nuwara Eliya town, and Lake Gregory and well as that of Adam's Peak to the Southwest.

Moon Plains

The central plain located in Nuwara Eliya. It is a vast greenland complete with a surrounding forest reserve, tea estates, gardens and vegetable farmlands.

World's End

A sheer cliff, located in Horton Plains National Park in Nuwara Eliya, World's End is a deadly drop shrouded by cold white mist.

Haputale

Of the many places to discover in Haputale, the must see include Adisham bungalow, Lipton's Seat, Idalgashinna, Horton Plains, Thangamale Sanctuary and the beauty of the Bambarakanda as well as Diyaluma waterfalls.

Adisham Bungalow

A four-kilometre drive from Haputale will take you to the colonial Adisham bungalow. The stunning edifice lies amidst the verdant scenery and plush tea estates. +94 572 268 030

Lipton's Seat

The name Lipton's Seat was derived from Sir Thomas Lipton who had enjoyed views of the picturesque mountains and emerald hills.



Lake Gregory, Nuwara Eliya

Thangamale Sanctuary

Part of the Glenanore Tea Estate, it is a 131-hectare sanctuary and is a two-kilometre drive from Haputale town. +94 71 869 0837

Idalgashinna

Another ideal hiking destination. Trekking past the railway lines is the small hamlet that leads the adventure enthusiasts to explore the mountains.

Water falls

Bambarakanda and Diyaluma falls

The tallest waterfall in the island, the Bambarakanda falls pours continuously while the stunning Diyaluma falls takes the credit for being the third highest in the island. Picnic or enjoy a moment while

engaging in a memorable time with family or friends.

Devon Falls

Located along the Talawakele–Hatton Road in the Nuwara Eliya district it is a vision of striking green and foaming water down the falls.

Parks

Hakgala Botanical Gardens

Sits over 1,745m above sea level and extends about 28 hectares. Within the Glass house there are many varieties of flora. +94 812 388 088

Victoria Park

Named to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, the park has beautiful flower varieties. +94 522 222 275

Hill Country

Recreational Sports

Nuwara Golf Club

The Nuwara Eliya Golf Club was built in 1889. +94 522 222 835, +94 522 224 104. *nuwaraeliyagolfclub.com*

Royal Turf Club

Launched to promote horse racing in Sri Lanka. In adhering to International standards, the club plans events where both local and tourists can take part in the premier sports. +94 77 030 9090. *royalturfclub.com*

Religious Sites

Mahiyanganaya

A popular pilgrimage site for Buddhists. It is said to be the first place on the Island visited by the Buddha in 528 BC, and the Miyuguna Seya, Sri Lanka's first stupa, was built shortly afterwards.

Beaches

Casuarina Beach

Twenty kilometres from Jaffna will take you to the idyllic Casuarina Beach in Karainagar – named after the fuzzy-pine-like casuarina trees lining the long stretch of shore.

Kankesanthurai (KKS)

Long strolls in the windy surroundings, boat rides and picnicking on the beach are the most popular activities here. The area, is fast becoming a hub for beach lovers.

Kudiramalai beach

Accessed via the Wilpattu National Park, it is a serene expanse of scrub forests, coastal cliffs with a red hue, and wind-swept driftwood. To get there, one must traverse the coppery-colored sands of Thambapanni.

Pigeon Island

This beautiful island is one of the two marine national parks in Sri Lanka, ideal for diving and snorkelling. The coral reef, which is about 200m long and 100m wide has over 100 species of coral and 300 species of reef fish.

Attractions

Trincomalee

It is home to the Island's most beautiful beach Nilaveli. Bask in the privacy of the scenic Marble beach with crystal clear waters or enjoy the shore of Uppuveli. The waters are ideal for diving and scuba diving, be mesmerised by the colorful world under the sea. One can also enjoy whale watching.

Cultural Sites

Doric House

The resident of the first British Governor of Ceylon, Frederick North.

Seetha Amman Kovil

A remarkable religious and historic structure, the temple is located amidst the misty mountains and tall pine trees. A striking and sculptured temple, it is said to be the place where Sita was held captive by Ravana according to the Ramayana story. +94 522 222 038

Ramboda Shri Bhakta Hanuman Temple

The 16-foot statue of Shri Hanuman had been chiseled from rock in Mahabalipuram, India and brought to Sri Lanka and was first placed on this site in Ramboda and the temple had been built around it. +94 522 259 645. *Opening hours: 7am-1pm, 3.30pm-6.30pm.*

St Xavier's Church

An age old church in the midst of the

Nuwara Eliya town. With its pews that continue all the way to the altar and grand interior, the church is pervaded with the spiritual essence that seems to attract many who seek the blessings of the lord.

Wildlife

Horton Plains

As part of the UNESCO Central Highlands of Sri Lanka heritage site, the Park is regarded a super biodiversity hotspot.

Belihul Oya

A charming hillside village situated in the Ratnapura District. It is nature's marvel, a miracle of creation blessed with an abundance of waterfalls, streams, nature, cycling trails and numerous opportunities for bird watching and camping.

Castlereigh reservoir

The hauntingly beautiful Castlereigh

reservoir with its large collected water span is another breathtaking site in Hatton.

Transport Services

Train

Ella Odyssey
Colombo to Badulla
Thursdays and Saturdays; 5.30am and Badulla to Colombo; Fridays and Sundays; 9.50am seatreservation.railway.gov.lk/mtktwebslr
Mobile M Ticketing Service
Dial 365 hotline.

Seethawaka Odyssey

Saturday and Sunday, leaving Colombo at 7.15am.
Mobile M Ticketing Service Dial 365 hotline.
SLT – Dial 1265.
Sri Lanka Railways
+94 11 460 0111

Jaffna, Mannar and North

Jaffna Fort

Built by the Portuguese, this fort is standing evidence of the colonial past of Sri Lanka. The 400 year old edifice, designed in the shape of a pentagon, is a symbol of Dutch architecture.

Fort Hammenheil

The octagonal shaped fort is located between Kayts and Karaitivu on the Jaffna Peninsula.

Jaffna Library

The colossal building that is a landmark in Jaffna is a center of knowledge and intellectual gathering. +94 212 226 028

Kandarodai Temple

Also known as Kaduragoda Viharaya, is located within a residential area in Chunnakam. Stupas of various sizes are visible amongst the palmyrah trees. Quiet and peaceful, it is believed that this is the resting place of 60 Arahants and their sacred remains have been placed within each stupa.

Manthiri Manai

An ancient Royal Palace that was built in the 100AD passed through the hands of a number of dignitaries from Jaffna's ruling elite.

Museum

Sivapoomi Museum

Opened in 2020, the museum features antique artefacts, newspaper displays and the museum yard has statues of Tamil kings, who ruled the Jaffna Kingdom and there is a collection of vintage cars, too. *Kandy – Jaffna Highway, Navatkuli.* +94 212 052 585; *sivapoomimuseum.com*

Must Try Food in Jaffna!

The region of Jaffna in Sri Lanka is



Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil, Jaffna

known for its unique and indigenous seafood dishes, including the famous Jaffna Kool. Another must-try seafood delicacy is the Jaffna Crab Curry, which is prepared with authentic spices and is often paired with pittu. If you are looking for something to nibble on, the Point Pedro Vadai/ Paruthi Thurai Vadai, and spicy bites are all delightful options. For a refreshing beverage, try the Jaffna Nelli Crush, which is made from the Indian Gooseberry. This timeless drink is unique to Jaffna and is highly recommended for its goodness and taste.

Religious sites

Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil

With elaborate gopurams and interiors of detailed artistry is one of the most venerated religious sites in Sri Lanka. The month-long annual festival also known as Nallur Festival (Mahotsavam) during August is held in a grand manner with vibrant chariot processions. +94 21 222 2631. *Opening hours: 4am–5.30am, 7.30am–12.30noon, 3pm–6pm Monday to Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. 4am–12pm, 3pm–6pm Friday.*

Naguleswaram Kovil

The spiritual energy of the Naguleswaram Kovil in Keerimalai, is one of pure divinity, as it is one of the five Iswarams dedicated to Lord Shiva in the island. The water from the pond is believed to have healing and mystical powers and many who visit the Kovil, make sure that they have a bath in the pond.

Dambakolapatuna

A historically significant temple situated in the Jaffna district. It is said that King Devanampiyatissa received the Great Theri with the sacred Bo sapling at this port.

Nagadeepa Rajamaha Viharaya

One of the 16 Solosmasthanas, the Nagadeepa Rajamaha Viharaya is believed to have been visited by the Buddha. *Nainativu Island*

Nagapoosani Amman Kovil

Situated on the islet of Nainathivu and is a boat ride away from the Jaffna peninsula. Dedicated to Nagapooshani Amman, it is said that this temple has great divine power. *Nainativu.*

Jaffna, Mannar and North

Grand Mosque

The Grand Mosque was built by Muslim traders during the Dutch era in 1973. *Jaffna.*

Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu

With a miraculous Marian statue, situated amidst the jungles of Mannar; blessed by His Holiness Pope Francis. The annual feast takes place in August. *Mannar; +94 23 228 0001*

Thiruketheeswaram Temple

This Hindu temple is one of the five

Ishwarams of Lord Shiva in Sri Lanka. The temple has lay in ruins, been restored, renovated and enlarged by various royals and devotees throughout its history. The temple overlooks the ancient Tamil port towns of Manthai and Kudiramalai. *Mannar.*

Thirukoneswaram Temple

The majestic temple is one of the five Ishwarams of Lord. The kovil has a distinct location as it is situated atop the Swami Rock. A huge statue of Lord Shiva, rising to a height of 33 feet is found outside the kovil. *Trincomalee. +94 0263 267 588.*

Shopping

Jaffna Market

A famous spot for selling fresh produce, exotic spices local confections, juicy Karthakolomban mangoes (during May to August season), grapes, Kotta Kilangu (Odijal), crunchy peanut cookies, Kuddan (thal jaggery packed in palmyrah) and Jaffna Nelli Crush.

Wildlife

Chundikulam Sanctuary

Located along the thin strip that connects the northern peninsula

with the mainland of Sri Lanka, the Chundikulam Sanctuary is a haven for birds and other wildlife. Magical greater flamingoes can be sighted in flocks creating a picturesque sight during the migratory bird season from November till February.

Wilpattu National Park

Over 30 species of mammals can be seen in Wilpattu and includes leopards, sloth bears, elephants, buffaloes, spotted deer, barking deer, sambar deer, grey langurs, wild boars and jackals. *+94 112 888 585; dwc.gov.lk/wnp*

Kandy and Central

Kandy

Kandy, the last sentry of Sri Lanka's regal heritage radiates a sense of quiet dignity in the midst of frenzied movement. It is an epitome of modern urban living, but its rich history resounds in every corner.

Mall/Entertainment/Shopping

Kandy City Centre (KCC)

KCC Kandy's largest shopping mall, with over 100 shops selling everything under the sun, whether it's for clothes, shoes, bags, jewelry, wellness, flowers, souvenirs, handicrafts or phones. From eateries and goody booths, a supermarket, a vast offering of entertainment attractions and virtual reality experiences, including the three-cinema KCC Multiplex. World Spice Restaurant, Sri Lankan Restaurant at the Terrace, Café Walk, Gelateria, Bakes & Cakes, Fresh Juicery and Salad bar, Snax, World Play KCC Entertainment Zone, VR Game Zone, and KCC Multiplex are part of KCC. *5 Dalada Veediya, Kandy. +94 716 555 555/+94 812 202 846. Kandycitycentre.lk*

Attractions

Kandy Lake

The Kandy Lake is perfect for relaxing. A drive around the Lake provides more highlights of Kandy. The historic Malwathu and Asgiri Temples are situated along this route.

British Garrison Cemetery

Nestled against the hillside is the British Garrison Cemetery, imparting a sombre aura as tombstones and black headstones mark the final resting places of British and Europeans.

Kandy town

The Kandy town is ceaselessly abuzz with activity. The railway station and market are scenes of chaos mixed-up in human theatrics. Strings of shops crisscross the streets and by-roads, selling almost everything from garments, shoes, bags, phones, electrical items and home appliances to knick-knacks.

Sembuwatta Lake

A beautiful man-made reservoir located in Elkaduwa, Matale. The lake is bordered by Cambell's Land Forest reserve and situated at an elevation of 1,140m.

Nelum Wewa

The hot water springs found here are at a temperature of 62°C! The reason being that these hot water springs in fact connect to others in the island such as the hot water springs of Kanniya, Trincomalee and Maha Oya forming a network of springs through the earth's crust and thus to maintain a healthy source of water at other regions the three additional wells were closed off at Nelum Wewa.

Kitulgala

A famous hub for water based adventure programs including white-water rafting. Surrounding by spectacular scenery with forest-covered hills and kitul palm trees.

Cultural Sites

Anuradhapura

A city of immense historical and religious significance, revered as the holiest and oldest Buddhist city in Sri Lanka.

Polonnaruwa

A city renowned for its ancient ruins, Polonnaruwa's kingdom once reigned supreme over the island for a relatively short period, from the 11th to the 13th Century. Its archaeological square is a great place to experience age-old artefacts; tombs, stupas, structural remains of temples and statues.

Sigiriya

The eighth wonder of the world, the rock fortress of Sigiriya 'Lion Rock' – is a 500 foot monolith, rising magnificently out of the dry central plain. The ascent begins at an entrance way through a large carving of a lion; the remnant of its stone paws clearly noticeable. The frescoes are a highlight of the massive complex built by King Kashyapa.



Sri Dalada Maligawa, Kandy

Pidurangala

A large and unusual rock formation that sits alongside the Sigiriya Rock Fortress, the two icons dominate the landscape. Pidurangala like Sigiriya, has historical ties to King Kashyapa and is an ancient monastery complex.

Yapahuwa Rock Fortress

Yapahuwa is famed for the rock fortress and the stone lion. Drive past the quaint town of Kurunegala, ringed by a giant boulder shaped like a kneeling elephant, and then emerge into a peaceful country where history sleeps.

Aukana

The massive Buddha statue that had been carved out of a single rock stands peacefully amidst the temple precincts in the sacred city of Anuradhapura.

Kala Wewa

Believed to have been constructed by King Datusena (459-477AD), the tank formed part of an ancient irrigation system that was used for agriculture, helping to uplift the region. Elephants can be seen on the banks of this tank in the evening.

Nalanda Gedige

An ancient stone temple that was constructed during the eighth and tenth centuries with Dravidian architecture.

Museum

National Museum of Kandy

Built like a noble Kandyan manor, one-storied but large with polished wood roofs, doors and stone floors, the museum is a treasure trove and a gallery of priceless art. *+94 81 222 3867. Opening hours: 9am-5pm.*

The Ancient Technology Museum and Library

The museum focuses on the technology that was used in ancient Sri Lanka. Thus, each gallery displays objects, features, processes, and constructions belonging to the various historical periods in Sri Lanka by explaining the technology used. This is done through replicas, video displays, panels, and audio guides. *Polonnaruwa. +94 272 057 336. Opening hours: 9am-4.30pm Daily.*

Parks

Peradeniya Botanical Gardens

Covers a spanse of almost 150 acres, is a paradise where each tree is a part of a wild, majestic landscape. *+94 812 388 088. Opening hours: 7.30am-6pm Daily.*

A stop for a tea break!

Mlesna Tea Fortress

The Fortress abides by its tea theme in displaying chapters from Sri Lanka's colonial tea-growing days in black and white pictures, wooden tea

Kandy and Central

boxes, an antique tea weighing scale, and brass tea filters. *445, Kandy Road, Kiribathkumbura, Kandy. +94 81 238 4303. mlesnateas.com*

Mlesna Tea Center

The charming old building that nestles the Mlesna Tea Center and restaurant is dubbed calm and quiet. *Tea Centre; 15, Dalada Veediya, Kandy; 081 222 8626. Tea Centre; L2-18, Kandy City Centre, Kandy; 081 220 0255*

Shopping

Nolimit

13-26, Kandy City Centre, 5 Dalada Veediya, Kandy; +94 812 221 199 557, Peradeniya Road, Kandy; +94 812 200788. 121/22, Kandy Road, Kegalle; +94 352 221 445. 9, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Kurunegala; 037 222 1866 456.

Kandy Central Market

A treasure trove waiting to be discovered. It has shops that sell almost anything under the sun. A foodie's paradise for fresh vegetables and fruits, meats and fish, fresh bread, cakes, and sweet treats from foody stalls, spice stands, wellness, handicrafts, tea, tobacco, and pretty much anything else.

Religious Sites

Sri Dalada Maligawa

Also known as the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, the Temple is a fine display of Sri Lankan artistry, and venerated by Buddhists across the world. Within are awe-inspiring carvings and Kandyan era paintings. *+94 812 234 226. Kandy*

Bahirawakande Temple

A landmark with a massive pristine white Buddha statue. From its high vantage point, the gigantic Buddha statue surveys the whole town.

Lankatilaka Viharaya

Built with three storeys in a ornate design with bright frescoes and a seated Buddha, the Viharaya dates back to the 14th Century AD. *+94 76 664 1154*

Mihintale

Known as the cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. King Devanampiyatissa met Arahath Mahinda Thero here on Poson Poya Day, in 246BC when the Dhamma was brought to the country.

Anuradhapura

The city's spiritual prominence is exemplified by the presence of the sacred Bodhi tree, grown from a sapling brought by Bhikkuni Sanghamiththa to Sri Lanka. This tree, believed to be the oldest living tree in the world, thrives at the Maha Megha Vana Royal Park, a site of great historical importance in Anuradhapura.

Atamasthana

The eight great places of worship in Anuradhapura.

Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi

Venerated by hundreds of devotees, and on the Poya day, thousands more make pilgrimage to offer Pooja to the sacred Bodhi.

Thuparamaya

The first Chaitya that was built in Sri Lanka by King Devanampiyatissa. Thuparamaya is consecrated by the

Buddha's presence, when he visited the island for the third time.

Mirisawetiya

The first Chaitya built by King Dutugemunu, as an offering to the Sangha. It has been built on a site consecrated by the Buddha's presence and therefore it is venerated by countless devotees that piously worship the Dagoba.

Lovamahapaya

A structure that is said to have been of nine storeys, and was built by King Dutugemunu for the use of the Bhikkus who lived in the Maha Vihara.

Ruwanweli Maha Seya

Built by King Dutugemunu remains a site of great veneration, evoking spirituality in the hearts of visitors.

Abhayagiri Chaitya

Was built by King Walagamba and the premises has housed the sacred Tooth Relic during the Kingdom of Anuradhapura.

Lankaramaya

Situated away from the Maha Megha Vana Royal Park where many religious sites can be seen. Built by King Walagamba, the Dagoba is said to enshrine precious jewels within.

Jethawanaramaya

Jethawanaramaya by King Mahasen is hailed as the largest stupa in the ancient world.

Embekke Temple

Built in 1371 by King Wickrama Bahu III and is dedicated to god Kataragama.

Dambulla Cave Temple

Rangiri Dambullu Raja Maha Vihara, UNESCO heritage monastery is the country's largest cave temple complex, dating from the first century BC. *+94 662 283 605*

Alu Vihara

Known to be the repository of Buddhist wisdom, Aluvihare has a legacy that dates back millennia, recorded in its many caves as intricate murals, inscriptions and artefacts. *+94 662 222 533.*

Matale Sri Muthumariamman Kovil

The temple is an exuberantly decorated structure that can be easily seen from afar. The prominent towers, called Gopurams, boast hundreds of detailed sculptures, in a rich mosaic of colour. *+94 662 222 481. Opening hours: 4.30am-8pm.*

Wildlife

Udawatte Kele Sanctuary

The sanctuary lies proximate to the heart of the city. In fact, you see it just above the roof of the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic – an intriguing, green wilderness. *+94 812 232 873*

Minneriya National Park

Made of grasslands, thick scrub, and the wildlife that roam their particular territory, the Park is fed by its giant reservoir. A must see spectacle is 'The Minneriya Gathering' where countless herds of elephants congregate near the Minneriya reservoir. *+94 113 671 490*

Negombo and Gampaha

wetland habitat with an extensive flora and fauna.

Beaches

Chilaw

80km north of Colombo, Chilaw is a relatively undiscovered coastal town with a great beach and many other attractions.

Puttalam

This stretch of land boasts of some of the most picturesque locations of the island and is very popular for fishing, dolphin-watching and coconut production.

Cultural sites

Negombo Fort

Witness the imprints of the colonial era. To lay claim to this trading point for spices, the Portuguese built the Negombo Fort.

Kalpitiya Fort

Kalpitiya Fort built in 1666 was a key point in colonial times being involved in trading cinnamon.



Lellama, Negombo

Food & Entertainment

Lords Restaurant Complex

With a chic and modern ambiance, Lords Restaurant Complex Art Gallery and Cocktail Bar offers delicious seafood and refreshing beverages. *80B Poruthota Road, Ethukala, Negombo; +94 77 285 3190; martin@lordsrestaurant.net*

Marine Life

Kitesurfing in Kalpitiya

The beaches of Kalpitiya have been luring kite surfers from all corners of the world, its beautiful, rolling sandy stretches adding character to the excellent winds year-round.

Whale watching in Kalpitiya

Boats can be chartered from

Kalpitiya to cruise the Indian Ocean in the hope of spotting whales and dolphins, the most engaging of marine mammals.

Recreational Parks and Botanical Gardens
Henarathgoda Botanical Gardens
 A well-tended 15ha public garden, with a diverse selection of exotic plants. It is 32km inland from Colombo.
Gampaha. Opening hours: 7am–6pm. +94 33 222 2316. botanicgardens.gov.lk

Religious sites
Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara
 One of the most revered Buddhist temples of the Island; the temple was built in the fifth century BC and nestled on the banks of the Kelaniya River. The temple is the starting point of the annual procession "Duruthu Perahera" (Kelaniya Procession) which is held in the month of January.
+94 11 291 1505. kelaniyatemple.lk

Attanagalla Rajamaha Viharaya
 One of the most venerated Buddhist temples in western Sri Lanka.
Gampaha. +94 332 280 233

Sri Muneswaram Temple
 As one of the five 'pancheswarams', the five most hallowed shiva shrines,

the Munneswaram kovil is believed to have existed from prehistoric times and is the focus of many myths associated with the central characters of the Ramayana.
+94 322 224 833. Opening hours: 5.30am-8pm. munneswaram.com

Tewatta Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka
 The only Basilica in Sri Lanka, Tewatta Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka is a site revered by Catholics all around the island especially during the annual feast which falls in February.
Ragama.

St. Anne's Church
 Moving towards the Kalpitiya road is the famous church in Talawila, dedicated to St. Anne. The church, which is more than 250 years old, is one of the country's most popular Roman Catholic shrines and thousands of Catholics throng the hallowed grounds each year, especially during the feasts held in March and August.
Talawila. +94 322 261 000

St Jude's Church
 St Jude's Shrine was established in the 1950s, as a place of worship for those who had made the hamlet their home since the late 19th century. In October, the quiet hamlet of Indigolla in



Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara

Gampaha sees thousands of devotees from across the island attending the annual feast at St Jude's Shrine.
Indigolla. +94 332 222 357.

Our Lady of Good Voyage
 The Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage in Duwa, Negombo stands as a sentinel of protection for fishermen. Within its confines lies the statue of Jesus Christ that had been specially commissioned by the people of Duwa in the 19th Century from Cochin, India. This Church is especially famed for the yearly 'Pasku' (in Sinhala) or Passion Play on Good Friday, which

displays this magnificent statue of Jesus Christ.
Negombo. +94 312 223 336

St Mary's Church
 Built in Neoclassical style, the church dedicated to St Mary is a landmark edifice in the heart of Negombo.
Negombo. +94 312 222 128

Shopping
NOLIMIT
 424, Main Street, Negombo; +94 312 224 141
 456, Main Street, Negombo; +94 31 222 4144

Art, Culture and Music

Art

Till March 22
Masters of Ceylon

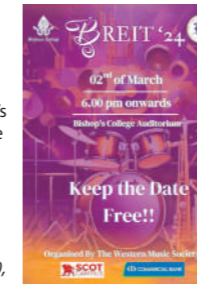


An original masterpieces by Sri Lankan legendary Masters Ivan Peries, Richard Gabriel, Neville Weeraratne, Stanley Kirinde and Laki Senanayake showcasing at Gallery FourLife curated by Chathuranga Biyagama.
Gallery FourLife, Colombo 5. +94 77 580 4504. Time: 10am–5pm.

Music

March 2
Breit '24

Musical concert organized by the Western Music Society of Bishop's College to showcase the musical talents of the youth.
Venue: Bishops College Auditorium, Colombo 3. 7; Time: 6pm onwards; Tickets: Rs.1,500, Rs.2,000, Rs.2,500



March 3
Tribute to Legends

Chandimal Fernando presents an evening of music by the popular Clarence, CT, Milton, Jothi, Wolly, MS and Sunil Shantha.
Venue: Bishops College Auditorium, Colombo 3. Time: 7pm onwards; Tickets: Rs.2,000, Rs.2,500, Rs.3,000, Rs. 4,000, Rs. 6,000.



March 16
The Heavenly Life

The program features Gustav Mahler's Fourth Symphony. This concert will mark the first time an entire Mahler symphony is performed in Sri Lanka. Rachel Halliday (Mezzo Soprano) will return to the stage as soloist and the Gustav Mahler Orchestra will be conducted by maestro Srimal Weerasinghe.
Venue: Lionel Wendt, Colombo 7; Time: 7pm; Tickets: Rs.12,000; Rs.8,000; Rs.5,000; Rs.3,000; Rs.2,000; Rs.1,000



Culture

March 1, 2 and 3
International Gita Mahotsav



Featuring Gita Yajna, Gita Chanting, exhibition and cultural performances, international Gita seminar, Gita Sadbhavna yatra and Gita Aarti.
Venue: Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre. For event schedule visit: internationalgitamahotsav.in/igm-sri-lanka-2024

March 17
Pem Diyawara Live in Concert



Musical evening with Visharad Nanda Ranaweera, Karunarathna Divulgane and Shashika Nisansala.
Venue: Bishops College Auditorium, Colombo 3. 7; Time: 6.30pm onwards; Tickets: Rs.2,000, Rs. 3,000, Rs.5,000.

March 23
Hanthanata Payana Handa

Amarasiri Peiris along with Janani and Umara Sinhawansa with music by Mahinda Bandara.
Venue: Nelum Pokuna, Colombo 7; Time: 6.30pm onwards; Tickets: Rs.2,000, Rs.3,000, Rs.4,000, Rs.5,000, Rs.7,500, Rs.10,000, Rs.15,000.



March 8
Maha Shivarathri

Maha Shivarathri is a significant religious observance for the devotees of Lord Shiva, where they participate in a night-long vigil of meditation and spiritual practices.

March 11 – April 9
Ramazan

The Islamic faith observes a holy month, during which Muslims undertake fasting, praying, and charitable acts.

March 29
Good Friday

It is traditionally observed as a day of sorrow, penance and fasting in the Christian faith.

March 23–24 and 30–31
Open House Colombo: Gardens and Green Spaces in Colombo



A global network fostering increased access to host cities' architectural and design-focused features. In keeping with the themes around 'To Lunuganga', this year's Open House edition will highlight spaces in Colombo that embrace urban greenery.
Venue: Colombo. 9am–6pm. Visit: lunuganga.garden/OHC-Gardens-Green-Spaces and geoffreybawa.com/open-house-colombo

March 17
Sing on Sweet Thrush

Colombo Philharmonic Choir presents an evening of choral music featuring the talented Harin Amirthanathan as the Conductor, Dilan Angunawela on the piano, and Tamara Holsinger on the cello. Be mesmerized by the works of Mendelssohn, Tin, Whitacre, Macmillan, and other renowned composers.
Venue: St. Andrew's Scots Kirk, Galle Road, Colombo 3. Time: 6pm. Tickets: Rs. 1,500 (at the entrance).



March 30
Colors of Friendship

A musical show by Harith Wijerathne, Sewwandi Ranathunga, and Dayan Witharana and music by Nihal Priyantha Perera.
Venue: Bishops College Auditorium, Colombo 7; Time: 6.30pm onwards; Tickets: Rs.2,500, Rs.5,000, Rs.10,000



Festivals

March 31
Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday holds immense significance in the Christian faith.

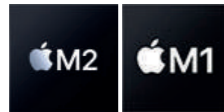
Till May

Pilgrimage to Adam's Peak
 Adam's Peak is a highly venerated pilgrimage site located at an elevation of approximately 2,423m.



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Drama and Theatre

March 1 and 6
Garu Katanayakathumani (Sinhala)
(Political satire)



March 1 – Venue: Wayamba University Auditorium. Ticket prices: Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm
March 6 – Venue: Monaragala Library Auditorium. Time: 2.30pm, 6.30pm

March 9
Charithe Horu Aran (Sinhala)
(Comedy)



Venue: Dharmaraja College Theater, Kandy. Time: 2.30pm, 5.30pm

March 10 and 30
Balloth Ekka Baa 2 (Sinhala)
(Political comedy)



March 10 – Venue: Bandaragama Central College Theater. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm
March 30 – Venue: College Theater, Webada North, Kadawatha. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm

March 17
Matikaraththaya (Sinhala)
(Sanskrit drama)



Venue: Dharmaraja College Theater, Kandy. Time: 10.30am, 3.30pm

Movies

Cinemas

Majestic Cineplex

Majestic City
+94 115 999 999
ceylontheatres.com/theatres

Regal Colombo

+94 11 243 2936
ceylontheatres.com/theatres

Regal Cinema Jaffna

+94 212 227 712
ceylontheatres.com/theatres

Regal Cinema Nuwara Eliya

+94 522 222 582
ceylontheatres.com/theatres

Regal Cinema Gampaha

+94 5999 999
ceylontheatres.com/theatres

Regal Cinema Dematagoda

+94 72 353 5430
ceylontheatres.com/theatres

Savoy 3D Cinema

Savoy Building, Colombo 6
+94 11 7444 466
eapmovies.com

Savoy Premiere

Roxy Cinema, Colombo 6
+94 11 744 6223
eapmovies.com

PVR Cinemas

Level 6 One Galle Face Mall
+94 76 644 7664
pvr cinemas.lk

Scope Cinemas

Colombo City Centre
+94 11 208 3064
scopecinemas.com

Liberty by Scope

+94 11 232 5266
scopecinemas.com

Eros Cinema

+94 112 365 030
KCC Multiplex
Kandy City Centre

5, Sri Dalada Veediya, Kandy
+91 812 208 077
kccmultiplex.lk

English

Till March 3

Royal Opera House in Cinema ballet Manon

The ballet's score is drawn from across Jules Massenet's collected works by renowned dance musician Leighton Lucas and his assistant Hilda Gaunt. The music of the Manon ballet includes his famous yearning Elégie as the theme for the lovers. Screening at: Scope Cinemas, Colombo City Centre, Colombo 2. Time: 4.30pm – Screen 5. scopecinemas.com



From March 1

Dune Part 2

Screening at: PVR Colombo/Liberty by Scope Cinema/Scope Cinema, CCC/ KCC Multiplex (Check timings)



From March 8

Kung Fu Panda

Screening at: Savoy/KCC Multiplex/ Liberty by Scope Cinema (Check timings)



From March 8

Creature

Screening at: Liberty by Scope Cinema (Check timings)



Sinhala

Upcoming

Visal Adare

KCC Multiplex (Check kccmultiplex.lk)



From March 22

Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire

Screening at: PVR Colombo/ KCC Multiplex (Check timings)



From March 29

Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire

Screening at: PVR Colombo (Check timings)



Hindi

From March 8

Shaitan

Screening at: PVR Colombo (Check timings)



Sports

Cricket

Big Match

Ananda College v Nalanda College

March 2 and 3 (Big Match)
March 17 (One Day match)

Royal College v St. Thomas' College, Mt Lavinia

March 7 – 9; SSC Grounds (Big Match)
March 16; SSC Grounds (One Day Match)

St Sebastian's College, Moratuwa v Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa

March 8 and 9; De Soysa Stadium (Big Match)
March 10; P Sara Oval Stadium (One Day Match)

March 17; De Soysa Stadium (T20 Match)

Thurstan College v Isipathana

March 9; Thurstan Grounds (T20)
March 24 and 25; SSC Stadium (Big Match)

March 17; P Sara Oval Stadium (One Day Match)

Trinity Kandy v St. Anthony's Kandy

March 15 and 16; Asgiriya Stadium (Big Match)
March 23; St. Anthony's Kandy Grounds (One Day Match)

Richmond College, Galle v Mahinda College, Galle

March 15 and 16; Galle Stadium (Big Match)

Dharmaraja College, Kandy v Kingswood College, Kandy

March 22 and 23; Pallekele International Cricket Stadium (Big Match)

St Servatius College, Matara v St. Thomas College, Matara

March 22 – 24; Uyanwatta Cricket Ground (Big Match)
March 30; Uyanwatta Cricket Ground (One Day Match)

St. Joseph's College v St. Peter's College

March 22 – 23; SCC Grounds (Big Match)
April 6; SCC Grounds (One Day Match)

Sri Devananda College, Ambalangoda v Dharmasoka College, Ambalangoda

March 30 and 31; Ambalangoda Urban Council (Big Match)

Golf



Nuwara Eliya Golf Club

March 8 and 9

Tusker Trophy 2024

March 16

Monthly Medal March 2024

March 29

Annual Gold Medal

Club Championship 2024 Day 1

March 30

Club Championship 2024 Day 2

Grand prix



Formula One

March 2

Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix; Sakhir Circuit

March 7 – 9

Saudi Arabian Grand Prix; Jeddah Circuit

March 21 – 24

Australian Grand Prix; Albert Park Grand Prix Circuit

Sri Lanka tour of Bangladesh

March 4

1st T20; Sylhet; 5.30pm

March 6

2nd T20; Sylhet; 5.30pm

March 9

3rd T20; Sylhet; 5.30pm

March 13

1st ODI; Chattogram; 2pm

March 15

2nd ODI; Chattogram; 2pm

March 18

3rd ODI; Chattogram; 2pm

March 21

1st Test; Sylhet; 9.30am

March 30

2nd Test; Chattogram; 9.30am

Indian Premier League

March 22

Chennai Super Kings v Royal Challengers Bangalore 8pm

March 23

Punjab Kings v Delhi Capitals 3.30pm

Kolkata Knight Riders v Sunrisers Hyderabad 7.30pm

March 24

Rajasthan Royals v Lucknow Super Giants 3.30pm

Gujarat Titans v Mumbai Indians 7.30pm

March 25

Royal Chalcrs Bangalore v Punjab Kings 7.30pm

March 26

Chennai Super Kings v Gujarat Titans 7.30pm

March 27

Sunrisers Hyderabad v Mumbai Indians 7.30pm

March 28

Rajasthan Royals v Delhi Capitals 7.30pm

March 29

Royal Challengers Bangalore v Kolkata Knight Riders 7.30pm

March 30

Lucknow Super Giants v Punjab Kings 7.30pm

March 31

Aston Villa v Spurs; 18.30

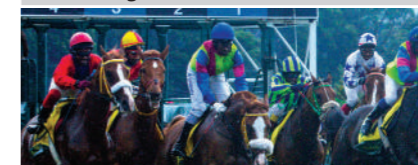
Brighton v Nottingham Forest; 19.30

West Ham v Burnley; 19.30

Liverpool v Man City; 21.15

Visit iplt20.com/matches/fixtures

Horse riding



Royal Turf Club, Nuwara Eliya

March 30

Nuwara Eliya Tourism Race Day

Venue: Race Course, Nuwara Eliya. Time: 10am

Motocross



Vijayabahu Motocross

March 31

Venue: Vijayabahu Motocross circuit, Boyagane. Time: 8.30am onwards. Tickets: Rs.1,000, Rs.2,000.

Football



Premier League

March 2

Brentford v Chelsea; 20.30

Everton v West Ham; 20.30

Fulham v Brighton; 20.30

Newcastle v Wolves; 20.30

Nottingham Forest v Liverpool; 20.30

Spurs v Crystal Palace; 20.30

Luton v Aston Villa; 23.00

March 3

Burnley v Bournemouth; 18.30

Man City v Man Utd; 21.00

March 5

Sheffield Utd v Arsenal; 01.30

March 9

Man Utd v Everton; 18.00

Bournemouth v Sheffield Utd; 18.00

Crystal Palace v Luton; 20.30

Wolves v Fulham; 20.30

Arsenal v Brentford; 23.00

March 10

Aston Villa v Spurs; 18.30

Brighton v Nottingham Forest; 19.30

West Ham v Burnley; 19.30

Liverpool v Man City; 21.15

March 12

Chelsea v Newcastle; 01.30

March 14

Bournemouth v Luton; 01.00

March 16

Arsenal v Chelsea; 18.00

Burnley v Brentford; 20.30

Crystal Palace v Newcastle; 20.30

Luton v Nottingham Forest; 20.30

Man Utd v Sheffield Utd; 20.30

Wolves v Bournemouth; 20.30

Fulham v Spurs; 23.00

March 17

Everton v Liverpool; 19.30

West Ham v Aston Villa; 19.30

Brighton v Man City; 22.00

March 30

Newcastle v West Ham; 18.00

Bournemouth v Everton; 20.30

Chelsea v Burnley; 20.30

Nottingham Forest v Crystal Palace; 20.30

Sheffield Utd v Fulham; 20.30

Spurs v Luton; 20.30

Aston Villa v Wolves; 23.00

March 31










Brentford v Man Utd; 01.30

Liverpool v Brighton; 18.30

Man City v Arsenal; 21.00

Visit: premierleague.com/fixtures

Sri Lanka Map

-  Place of special interest
-  Southern Expressway (E1)
-  Colombo-Katunayake Expressway (E3)
-  Airport
-  National Park
-  Surfing
-  Beach
-  Dolphins & Whales
-  Bird Sanctuary

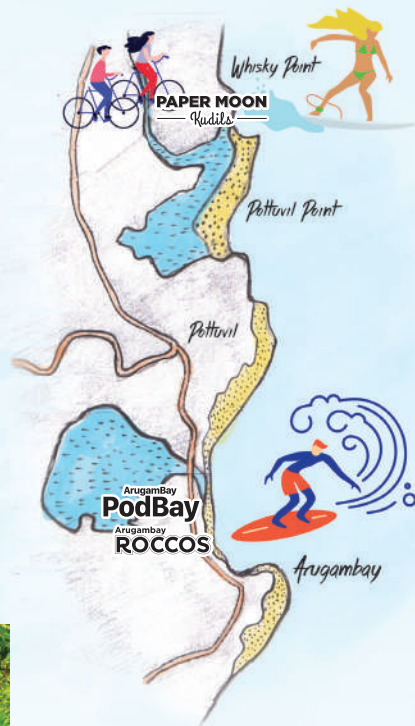


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(+94) 719 97 97 97
info@papermoonkudils.lk | papermoonkudils.lk



Arugambay **PodBay**



Arugambay PodBay is a novel concept that comprises compact convertainers (NapPods) in pastel hues, HomePods, and Bay rooms. The seaside hotel has one of the largest swimming pools in the area (WaterPod), and the restaurant PotPod serves a range of cuisine and beverages in an area ideal for relaxation.

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