

**EXPLORE**  
**SRI LANKA**

**What's On**



**'Elsewhere' by Artist Sandatharaka Abeysinghe at Saskia Fernando Gallery.**

# 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](http://artwaygallery.org)

### Art Gallery at Lords Restaurant Complex, Negombo

The gallery features TVS Menaka's abstract art, designs and sculptures. 12 noon to 11pm

### Barefoot Gallery

Colombo 3; +94 11 258 9305; *Opening hours: 10am–6pm Monday to Saturday.* [barefootceylon.com/collections/barefoot-gallery](http://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/](http://nisansala.com/casa-serena/)

### Lionel Wendt

Colombo 7; +94 112 695 794; [lionelwendt.org](http://lionelwendt.org)

### Paradise Road Gallery

Colombo 3; +94 112 582 162/+94 112 556 563; [paradiseroad.lk](http://paradiseroad.lk)

### Sapumal Foundation

Colombo 7; +94 112 695 731; [foundation.sapumal34@gmail.com](mailto:foundation.sapumal34@gmail.com)

### Saskia Fernando Gallery

Colombo 7; +94 117 429 010; [saskiafernandogallery.com](http://saskiafernandogallery.com)

## Beaches

### Galle Face

A widely sought-after destination for individuals of all ages, including children, vendors, teenagers, and pleasure-seekers, is the seaside, where they can engage in their preferred leisure activities under the open sky.

### Mount Lavinia

The 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.

### Uswetakeiyawa

A coastal town close to Wattala and just a short drive away from Colombo. The view from here is completely unique, a mix of unending seascapes and urban landscapes.

## Botanical Garden

### Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanical Gardens

The 50-kilometer drive from Colombo towards Avissawella to reach the Seethawaka Botanical Gardens. The 105 acres boasts tea plantation, plant collection, and floriculture area. *Opening hours: 7.30am–5pm.*

## Casinos and Nightlife

### Bally's Casino

34, D R Wijewardana Mawatha, Colombo 10;

+94 77 146 0460/+94 11 246 0460; [info@ballyscolombo.com](mailto:info@ballyscolombo.com)

### Bellagio Casino

430, R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 3; +94 77 088 6688/+94 75 588 6688; [marketing@bellagiocolombo.com](mailto:marketing@bellagiocolombo.com)

### Casino Marina

30, Marine Drive, Colombo 3; +94 11 421 9988, [casinomarina.com](http://casinomarina.com), [marina888.com](http://marina888.com)

## Historical Sites

### Colombo Lighthouse

A prominent landmark the lighthouse is an important watchtower in Sri Lanka located at Galbokkka Point, south of the Port of Colombo.

### Independence Square

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.

## Museums

### Colombo National Museum

The 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.*

### Independence Memorial Museum

The Museum was established with the objective honoring 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.*

### Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art

A public museum dedicated to the display, research, collection and conservation of modern and contemporary art for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, schools and tourists. *Ground floor, Crescat Boulevard mmca-srilanka.org*

## Meditation Center

### Manodaya Meditation Center Siriwardhanaramaya

By Ven Diyapattugama Revatha Thero (Expert Psychological Counselor and Meditation Instructor Siriwardhanarama Buddha Dhamma College). *Temple Lane, Kollupitiya siriwevathad@gmail.com dhammavedi.com; +94 112 081 418*

## Religious sites

### All Saints Church

A Roman Catholic church in Borella dedicated to all saints. *Borella. +94 112 693 051*

### Bellanwila Raja Maha Viharaya

The temple is situated in the suburbs of Colombo, in Bellanwila, nearly three kilometres from the city. *Bellanwila. +94 112 738 361; Opening Hours: 6am–9pm.*

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

### Colombo Grand Mosque

One of the oldest mosques in Sri Lanka. *Colombo 12. +94 112 432 110; Opening Hours: 8am–6pm.*

### Dewatagaha Mosque

Built in 1820 is the resting place of His Holiness Seyedina As-Sheikh Seyed Usman Siddique Ibn Abdurrahman. *Colombo 7. +94 112 683 906. Opening Hours: 6am–10pm.*

### Gangaramaya Temple

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: 5.30am–10pm.*

### Holy Rosary Church, The Golden Shrine of Infant Jesus Church

Popularly known as the 'Infant Jesus Church', this quaint and beautiful church is located in Slave Island at the convergence of six roads. *Colombo 2. +94 112 320 158; Opening Hours: 6am–8.30pm.*

### Jumma Masjid

Having started in 1792 as a small prayer room for Muslims in the area, the Kollupitiya Jumma Masjid has grown significantly to be a landmark place of worship. *St Michael's Road, Colpetty/Polwatte. +94 112 345 900.*

### Kotte Raja Maha Vihara

The history of the temple goes back to the Kingdom of Kotte. It was constructed during the reign of King Parakumbha VI (1415-1467) and was completed in all aspects with the royal patronage. *Kotte; +94 112 852 759. Opening Hours: 6am–9pm.*

### Red Mosque

Jamilul Alfaz Masjid, also known as the Red Mosque, is an architectural

masterpiece located in the heart of Pettah, Colombo's bustling commercial district. It has unique Indo-Saracenic style with pomegranate-shaped domes. *Colombo 11; +94 112 451 975. Opening hours: 10am–12noon, 1pm–3pm, 4.15pm–6pm.*

### 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. Opening Hours: 8am–6pm.*

### Shakthi Amman Kovil

Built in 1947 the kovil is dedicated to Shakthi Amman – Goddess Durga. *St Michael's Road, Colpetty/Polwatte. +94 112 394 481. Opening hours: 8am–1pm, 6pm–8pm.*

### 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.*

### Sri Dharmakirti Temple

This modest Temple was established around 1906 by Ven Induruwe Sri Wimalatissa. *St Michael's Road, Colpetty/Polwatte. +94 112 451 224*

### St Anthony's Church, Kochikade

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. *Kochikade; +94 112 329 303. Opening hours: 5am–8pm Daily.*

### St Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena

The magnificence of this Cathedral is a solemn declaration of the status of the Catholic Church, reflecting the supremacy that it retained throughout history.

### St Mary's Church, Tudella

One of the oldest, most majestic, and peaceful churches in the country. *Ja-ela. +94 112 223 6257.*

### St Michael and All Angels Church

Also known as the Gal Palliya in Sinhala, St Michael's Church Polwatte is an iconic place of worship. The magnificent stone structure has a great spiritual presence. *St Michael's Road, Colpetty/Polwatte. +94 112 343 471.*

### Walukarama Temple

Walukaramaya is older than many of today's more famous Colombo temples. It is among the first three



## Colombo

Buddhist temples established in Colombo.

Colombo 3. +94 112 575 004  
Opening Hours: 8am–6pm.

### Strolling around Colombo Recreational Parks, Jogging and Cycling Tracks

#### 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 allows to experience the wetland wildlife.

#### Independence Square Walking Tracks

The Walking Tracks meander around the Independence Arcade – one of the important cultural monuments of Colombo. As well as for exercising, the Independence Arcade also makes a lovely picnic spot with numerous shops and restaurants located there.

#### 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.

### Watersports

#### Bolgoda Lake

Located just a short distance away from the hustle and bustle of Colombo, Bolgoda lake is indeed a magical water hideaway for those who enjoy the serene life around a lake. Take a boat ride and explore the picturesque lake.

### Wetland Park

#### Beddagana Wetland Park

Throughout the Beddagana park criss-crosses a wooden platform, a few inches raised above the marsh. It's a magical route to experience the wetland. A birdwatching tower is nestled inside that offers a vast panorama.  
Kotte

#### Thalangama Tank

A man-made wetland of 50 acres and a so-called basin for storing water, Thalangama Tank originated during the time of King Parakramabahu VI (1551–1547 AD) of the Kotte Kingdom.

### Shopping

#### Tea

##### Mlesna Tea Centre

Discover the world of tea with Mlesna, the pioneers of presenting Ceylon tea as exquisite gifts. 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;  
+94 11258 4492  
Tea Centre; L-12, Crescat Boulevard, Colombo 3;  
+94 11 553 6654  
Tea Centre, Galadari, Lotus Road, Colombo 1;  
+94 112 54 4544 Ext. 483  
WP4, 30, Arcade Independence Square, Colombo 7; +94 112 68 5828  
Tea Centre;  
Airport Garden Hotel, Negombo Road, Katunayake; +94 11 225 2950 Ext. 720  
Tea Castle; Patana, Talawakelle; +94 51 224 4012  
Tea Centre; 84, Welimada Road, Bandarawela; +94 57 223 1663

### Eyewear

#### Vision Care

One of the largest eye care solutions providers. They offer a wide range of internationally acclaimed brands of spectacles, sunglasses, contact lens, other optical/ophthalmic products and hearing aids at prices to suit budget and lifestyle.

Ward Place, 505 Colombo 10, One Galle Face, Colombo City Center, Crescat, Racecourse, Ratnapura, Kandy KCC.  
+94 11 75 75 100; visioncare.lk

### Fashion

#### 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.

Kids – 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; +94 112 083 212;  
24, Hyde Park Corner, Colombo 2;  
+94 112 382 676  
179, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia; +94 112 733 865  
213, Hill Street, Dehiwala;  
+94 112 734 072  
10, Kawdana Road, Dehiwala;  
+94 77 354 0816  
40, D S Senanayake Mawatha, Borella;  
+94 112 672 689  
Gents' clothing – 1, Hill Street, Dehiwala; +94 112 732 492  
Ladies' and children's clothing; 17, Hill Street; Dehiwala; +94 112 726 299  
108 A, High Level Road, Maharagama;  
+94 112 745 191  
152, High Level Road, Nugegoda; +94 112 82 9955  
196, Galle Road, Wellawatte; +94 112 36 0260

NOLIMIT Image, 50, Galle Road, Wellawatte; +94 112 587 812  
266, Galle Road, Panadura;  
+94 38 224 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

### Thilakawardhana Textiles

Shop from the latest trends of quality clothing for men, women and kids.

They also have home appliances, footwear, perfumes, cosmetics, bags, toys and many more.

Kiribathgoda, Nittambuwa, Ja-ela, Kandy, +94 112 910 512.  
thilakawardhana.com

### Pettah

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.

### World Market

Located in Colombo Fort it is filled with great bargains in clothes, shoes, souvenirs and many other items.

### Spa

#### LeLily Spa

Discover the ultimate relaxation at LeLily Spa, where an expert team specializes in a range of Asian traditional massages, including Balinese, Vietnamese, and Tibetan warm stone massages, along with foot massages and various body treatments. Tailored wellness solutions are available for both individuals and organizations.  
Mount Lavinia Hotel in Colombo, Turyaa Hotel in Kalutara, Suriya Hotel in Waikala, Water Garden in Sigiya, Blue Water Hotel & Spa in Wadduwa, Amaranthe Bay and Resort & Spa in Trincomalee, Goldi Sands Hotel in Negombo, Camelot Beach Hotel in Negombo, Glenross Living in Mathugama, Bellwood Manor in Nuwara Eliya.  
+94 76 629 9007,  
+94 77 728 5398.  
info@lelilyspa.com  
lelilyspa.com

### Apple/Service and Support

#### BT Store

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

### Telecommunication Services

#### Dialog

Dialog provides sophisticated mobile telephony and high-speed mobile broadband services to a subscriber base comprising over 17 million individuals in Sri Lanka.

475, Union Place,  
Colombo 2. +94 77 7678700  
dialog.lk

#### SLT-Mobitel

Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) serves as the foremost provider of national Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions, as well as the primary supplier of broadband and backbone infrastructure services in Sri Lanka.  
Lotus Road, Colombo 1,  
+94 112 021 000/ 1212

Mobitel, a fully-owned subsidiary of SLT, is a leading provider of innovative mobile technology solutions in the local market. The company offers a wide range of ICT services, including mobile telephony services, high-speed broadband, enterprise solutions, IDD services, mobile money (mCash), and a variety of value-added services.

148/15, Lesley Ranagala Mawatha, Baseline Road, Colombo 8.  
24 Hour Customer Service Hotline +94 (0) 712755777 or dial 1717 from any network in Sri Lanka  
slt.lk/home

### Transport Services

#### Sri Lanka Railways

Fort Railway Station;  
+94 112 432 908/  
+94 112 434 215/1919;  
railway.gov.lk;  
seatreservation.railway.gov.lk Bookings can be done through Mobitel, Hutch, Airtel (dial 365) and Dialog (dial 444) & Telecom networks (dial 1265) and Sri Lanka

Reservation Mobile App.

#### Bus

Central Bus Stand, Pettah;  
+94 112 328 081  
Online booking  
slt.eseat.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

Palaly, +94 112 263 380  
airport.lk/jaf/index











# East Coast

## Arugambay

Arugambay, a charming southeast coastal town, is a year-round beach paradise that promises unique experiences for every traveler. It was ranked as the number 8 Best Place to Visit in Asia by Lonely Planet in 2018 and is considered the number one destination in the island. Visitors can witness herds of elephants, leopards, deer, and birdlife at the National Parks, Sanctuaries, and lagoons, providing an opportunity to explore its untouched wilderness. Arugambay is also known for its rich culture, lifestyle, history, and wildlife. Catching sight of elephants strolling along the roadside is a common sight, particularly at dawn and during the evening. The Main Road of Arugambay transforms from a quiet road to a bustling street as the sun sets. Arugambay also offers a gastronomical adventure to diners, featuring Sri Lankan dishes, BBQ, or a fusion of western and eastern cuisine. For an unforgettable adventure, take the Buttala-Sella Kataragama Road, where the gentle giants roam close to the road. Or hop on a Tuk Tuk and explore Arugambay, Pottuvil, Urani, and Panama. Arugambay is a little paradise that has retained its inherent simplistic charm and beauty.

## Kalkudah

The beach is ideal for surfing and wind surfing during the month of September.

## Kuchchaveli

A sandy stretch with calm and peaceful surroundings, perfect for a walk along the beach.

## Nilaveli

At the end of the 10km stretch of beach beginning at Uppuveli, this is the closest beach to Pigeon Island and is one of the most-popular tourist attractions.

## 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.

## Uppuveli

Located 5km from Trincomalee, a beach stretch with golden sand and a friendly community.

## 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.

## Surf the waves

Arugambay is a surfer's paradise. Whisky Point, Pottuvil Point, Arugambay Point, Crocodile Rock, Elephant Rock, Okanda Point, Light House/Green Beach, Panagala Point and Panama Point are best to visit from April to October.

## Arugambay 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Panama Point

Travel through the charming village of Panama to this right-break surf point where you can witness colorful fishing boats.

## Peanut Farm

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

## Pottuvil Point

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

## Whisky Point

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

## Where to stay

### 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



Muhudu Maha Vihara in Pottuvil is a Buddhist temple with over 2,000 years of history.

unique property has a swimming pool (Water Hole) and restaurant (Kusini) serving delicious cuisine.

*Whisky Point, Arugambay.*  
+94 719 97 97 97;  
[papermoonkudils.lk](http://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; arugambayroccas.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*

## Places to visit

### Batticaloa

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.

### Kanniya Hot Springs

The legendary Kanniya hot springs, dating back nearly 26 centuries, is something from the past that's refreshingly mind boggling.  
*Trincomalee*

### Oluvil Lighthouse

The Lighthouse is situated approximately 12km south of Kalmunai in the southern east coast of Sri Lanka.

### Kattankudy

Located along the eastern coast of Sri Lanka, just a few miles south of the city of Batticaloa is Kattankudy.

Adding to the Arabian flavor of Kattankudy is a special attraction of its own.

## Kallady Beach

The beach offers serene views of the Indian Ocean. The bridge was built in 1924 during British colonial rule. It crosses the Batticaloa Lagoon at Batticaloa.

## Marble Beach

To many the allure of Marble Beach is its untouched pristine beauty where a dip in the sea or stroll on the beach soothes your senses. Snorkelling is a popular activity.

## Maha Oya Hot Springs

This hot water well is located about 2km off Maha Oya.  
*Ampara*

## Panama

Located in close proximity to the Kumana National Park, it 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 attractions in the area.

## Sangaman Kanda

The most eastern point in Sri Lanka. The beaches here are still unspoiled and the Sangaman Kanda Lighthouse was built in 1947.

## 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, but mesmerised by the colorful world under the sea. One can also enjoy whale watching.

## Cultural sites

### Buddhangala Forest Monastery

The Monastery lies deep in the jungles about 7 kilometers off Ampara.  
*Ampara*



## East Coast

### Magul Maha Viharaya

Located within the Lahugala sanctuary, it is famed for the 'Magul Maduwa', the altar upon which the princess married King Kavantissa, thus becoming Queen Viharamaha Devi of Ruhuna.  
*Lahugala, Ampara*

### 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.  
*Pottuvil*

### Nuwaragala

An ancient fortress and monastery which is situated along the Mahiyangane-Dimbulagala-Dalukane Highway in Ampara.

### National Park

#### Flood Plains National Park

Situated along the Mahaweli River, the Flood Plains is an elephant corridor in Polonnaruwa.  
*Off Polonnaruwa-Batticaloa Road (Route A11), Habarana Road, Minneriya*

### Gal Oya National Park

A hidden treasure in Sri Lanka's collection of parks and protected environments. It's a place to immerse in nature and witness the untouched beauty of the wild.  
*Ampara*

### 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.

### 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.

### Wasgamuwa National Park

An untamed evergreen wilderness spanning 39,300 hectares, the national park is home to elephants, aquatic birds, mugger crocodiles, sloth bear and other wildlife.  
*+94 663 669 046*

### 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

#### Deegavapi Maha Stupa

'Deegawapiya' graced by the Lord Buddha is one of the sacred ancient religious sites among the sixteen places of worship of the Buddhist devotees.  
*Ampara*

### Galmaduwa Raja Maha Vihara

An ancient Buddhist temple believed to be constructed during the during the reign of king Saddha Tissa.  
*Ampara*

### Girihandu Seya

Situated at Thiriyaya, some 40km north of Trincomalee, this stupa, according to some accounts, is the first dagoba ever built in Sri Lanka.  
*Trincomalee*

### Grand Jumma Masjid, Kattankudy

Located in Kattankudy, this mosque is an important religious site with an impressive exterior, similar to that of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.  
*Katankudy. +94 77 727 0387. Opening hours: 4am-10pm.*

### 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.

### Lakshmi Narayana

#### Perumal Kovil

The Kovil in blue and gold hues is purely dedicated to the supreme deity Vishnu and his consort Lakshmi.  
*Nilaveli, Trincomalee. +94 262 051 333*

### 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.

### Okanda Kovil

Also called as Ukanthamalai Murugan Kovil, devotees journey throworship on the annual Pada Yatra that journeys from Jaffna to Kataragama via the Kumana National Park.  
*Okanda*

### Samangala Forest Hermitage

Samangala Cave Temple Complex is believed to be built by the King

Saddhatissa (137-119 BC). This cave complex consists of about 50 drip-ledge caves in the eastern slopes of the Samangala rocky hill. The ancient Buddhist monks have used these caves for meditation.  
*Ampara*

### Seruvila Temple

An ancient temple sacred to Buddhists.  
*Trincomalee*

### Shri Badrakali Amman Kovil

It is believed that the Kovil was built during the reign of the Chola ruler Rajendra Cholan (1012-1044 BC).  
*Trincomalee. +94 262 222 760.*

### Thirukoneswaram Temple

The majestic temple is one of the five Ishwarams. 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 ft is found outside the kovil.  
*Trincomalee. +94 263 267 588. Opening hours: 6.30am-1pm, 4pm-7pm daily.*

### Museum

#### Maritime and Naval

#### History Museum

Located in the historical Fort Frederick, it provides a good perspective on the history of how the Dutch set foot into the island during the 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Places to visit

#### 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.

### 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.

### Madu Ganga

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

### 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*

### Puppet Showrooms and Masks in Ambalangoda

Ambalangoda is famed for its traditional mask production. Generation upon generation of artisans create colorful masks that have become symbolic of traditional Sri Lanka. Traditional puppet showrooms and mask makers' halls showcase the crafts of Ambalangoda.

### Richmond castle

Built in 1896 by Don Arthur Siriwardena, the Mudaliyar of Kalutara district, it has a quixotic mix of eastern and western architecture.  
*Kalutara*

### 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.

### Serin River Park

The ecological park in Holuvagoda, features a lake, walking paths, iron bridges, children's park, market stalls, and ecosystems.  
*Galle*

### The Great Basses and Little Basses Reef, Kirinda

A 45-minute boat ride will take the adventurous diver and explorer to the Great Basses and Little Basses reefs from Kirinda. The Basses are considered one of the three best dive sites around the island, a must visit in March and April.



## Galle and South

### 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.

#### Kalutara

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

#### Madunagala hot water wells

The Madunagala hot spring is located in the Highland and Vijayan boundary. This hot spring is 11, 582ft deep with its water running at a speed of about 645ml per second, and is of varying temperatures.

#### 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.

#### 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.

### 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.

#### Beruwala

A stretch of golden sandy beach offering a tropical paradise.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Koggala

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

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Unwatuna

A popular beach that is ideal for swimming, and snorkelling. 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.

#### 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.

### Museum

#### Galle National Museum

The Museum constructed in 1656 is dedicated to showcase ancient ornaments and artefacts. +94 912 232 051. *Opening hours: 9am–4.45pm Tuesday to Sunday. Monday closed.*

#### 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. Opening hours: 8.30am–4.30pm Tuesday to Sunday. Monday closed.*

### Religious sites

#### Cavalry Shrine

During the Lenten Season, large crowds of devotees journey on pilgrimage. *Hiniduma. +94 913 912 285*



Weligama offers sandy beaches and picturesque views.

#### 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*

#### 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

#### Kande Viharaya

Built during colonial times, the temple has seen several modifications including the addition of a library, museum and new devalas, but the ancient grounds within remain untouched.

*Aluthgama.*

+94 342 274 453

#### Kasagala Raja Maha Viharaya

It is declared as an archeological site by the government. The pathway with 28 Buddha statues leads towards the heart of the temple with a museum. Kasagala Raja Maha Viharaya traces its origins back to the time of the Anuradhapura era during King Devanampiyatissa's reign. *Hambantota*

#### Ketchimale Mosque

A mosque of miracles, with its 1000-year history overlooks the Beruwala Harbor. *Beruwala. +94 342 276 481*

#### 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.

#### Meeran Jumma Mosque

Commonly called the Galle Fort Mosque, this mosque has a history of over 300 years. The design is an amalgamation of British Victorian and Islamic Architecture. *Galle. +94 76 866 5435. Opening hours: 5am–9pm.*

#### Mulkirigala Raja Maha Vihara

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

#### 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 Kataragama.

+94 472 235 122. *Opening hours: 4.30am–9pm. rmkd.lk.*

#### Sella Kataragama

A little town located a few kilometres from the city with a shrine dedicated to Lord Ganesh. It is also recognised as the place where god Kataragama met one of his partners, Valli Amma, under the tamarind trees.

#### 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*

#### Sri Meenachi Sundareshwarar Kovil

Located in the city center of Galle, the temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The gopurams are intricately decorated with structures and stone carvings. *Galle +94 912 234 186.*

#### Sri Kathirvelayutha Swami Kovil

Dedicated to several shrines with deities Lord Shiva, Murugan, and more, the temple's origin dates back to the fifth century. *Galle*

#### Tissamaharama Raja Maha Vihara

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

#### Yatagala Rajamaha Viharaya

It is believed to have been established during the reign of King Devanampiyatissa of the Anuradhapura period, when one of the first saplings from



## Galle and South

the revered Sri Maha Bodhi was planted here.  
*Unawatuna*

### Wildlife

#### 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.

#### Birds Park Hambantota

The park 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*

#### Kanneliya Forest Reserve

Kanneliya alone is responsible for 5,276 hectares of the Galle district. While much of the terrain is flat with mild inclination, there are a few summits ideal for trekking, of which the Kabbala Kanda is the most hiked due to the awe-inspiring view from the top.  
*Galle*

#### Kalameitiya Bird Sanctuary

A coastal wetland on the southern part of the island with marine, birdlife, coastal lagoons, mangrove swamps, scrub jungles and open grassy areas.

#### Kottawa Rainforest Reserve

The reserve is part of the Kottawa Kombala

Conservation Forest covering 1,800 hectares.  
*Galle*

#### Lunugamvehera

Situated between Udawalawe and Yala, Lunugamvehera provides a safe path for elephant migration. There are other flora and fauna.  
+94 47 348 9159

#### Mirijawila Botanical Gardens

The Botanical Gardens lies along the Hambantota–Sooriyawewa Road spanning an extent of 300 acres.  
*Hambantota*.

#### 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.

#### 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.

### Places to visit

#### 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

#### Bandarawela

Bandarawela has one of the most invigorating climates in the island. Several tea estates surround Bandarawela. Walking is the best option and you could walk through the beautiful trails, which pass through the tea estates.

#### Bogoda Bridge

The Bogoda wooden bridge rests proudly just as it had for over centuries making it one of the oldest wooden bridges of its kind in existence. At the end of the bridge is the Bogoda Raja Maha Viharaya.

### Castlereigh reservoir

The hauntingly beautiful Castlereigh reservoir with its large collected water span is another breathtaking site.

### 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.

### Idalgashinna

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

### 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.

### 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.

### Maskeliya

The town is an intriguing combination of ancient and modern tea country lifestyle. Places to visit are Gartmore falls, Maskeliya reservoir, Laxapana falls and the Warleigh Church, built in 1878 perched overlooking the hauntingly beautiful Castlereigh Reservoir.

### Madulsima

Surrounded by beautifully pruned tea estates, misty mountains, and a mini-World's End in Elemana.

### 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.

### Pidurutalagala

The impressive Pidurutalagala 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.

### Raxagala

Raxagala is popular among hikers owing to the stories of lore associated with it. Raxagala is supposedly the place where Ravana, the king of Sri Lanka had hidden Sita for a while.

### Thangamale Sanctuary

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

### 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.

### 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 and Botanical Gardens

#### 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. Opening hours: 7.30am–5pm. Daily

#### Victoria Park

Named to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria,

the park has beautiful flower varieties.  
+94 522 222 275

### Recreational Sports

#### Nuwara Golf Club

The Nuwara Eliya Golf Club located between lush green mountains with spectacular views 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

#### Holy Trinity Church

The church of the Holy Trinity was built in 1845 atop a hillock a little away from the flurry of Nuwara Eliya town.  
*Nuwara Eliya*.

#### Muthiyangana Raja Maha Viharaya

One of the 16 sacred places visited by Gautama Buddha.  
*Badulla*. +94 552 222 313.

#### 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.

#### Saparagamu Maha Saman Devalaya

The history of the temple could be traced back to the Kingdom of Dambadeniya, to the time of King Parakramabahu II.  
*Ratnapura*; +94 452 221 411



## Hill Country

### Seetha Amman Kovil

A remarkable religious and historic temple. It is said to be the place where Sita was held captive by Ravana according to the Ramayana. +94 522 222 038. *Opening hours: 7am–1pm, 4.30pm–7pm.*

### 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.

### 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. *Nuwara Eliya. +94 522 222 564*

### Wildlife

#### 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.

### Horton Plains

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

### Transport Services

#### Train

##### Ella Odyssey

Colombo to Badulla  
*Thursdays and Saturdays; 5.30am and Badulla to Colombo; Fridays and Sundays; 9.50am*  
[seatresevation.railway.gov.lk/](http://seatresevation.railway.gov.lk/)

[mktktwebslr](http://mktktwebslr)

Mobile M Ticketing Service  
Dial 365 hotline.

### Dunhinda Odyssey

*Weekdays; leaving Colombo Fort at 7.15am.*  
*Online booking: [seatresevation.railway.gov.lk/mktktwebslr](http://seatresevation.railway.gov.lk/mktktwebslr)*

### Seethawaka Odyssey

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

# Jaffna, Mannar and North

### 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.

### Places to visit

#### Doric House

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

#### Fort Hammenheil

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

#### Grand Mosque

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

#### 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.

#### 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, it 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.

#### Kudiramalai

The Aryan Prince Vijaya of North India landed on the shores of Thambapanni with 700 followers in 543 BC.

#### 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.

#### Pannai Bridge, Jaffna

One of the most ambient locations in the island to watch the sunset. The bridge connects the peninsula with the Kayts and Mandaitivu isles. Nearby is the Pannai Park where families, relax and joggers keep their fitness regime on the walking tracks.

### 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.  
*Navatkuli.*  
*+94 212 052 585;*  
*[sivapoomimuseum.com](http://sivapoomimuseum.com)*

### Religious sites

#### 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.

#### Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Kovil

The Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Kovil is nestled close to KKS. It is a shrine that is dedicated to Lord Skanda, god of war.  
*Tellippalai. +94 212 243 334*

#### 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.

#### 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.*

#### 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 during the months of July-August.  
*Mannar.*  
*+94 23 228 0001*

#### Sri Vallipura Alvar Swamy Kovil

Situated in Thunnalai, Vadamarachchi and considered as one of the oldest Hindu temples in Jaffna. It is a sanctuary dedicated to Lord Vishnu, the preserver and protector of the universe as believed by many.  
*Puloly.*  
*+94 21 226 3074.*  
*Opening hours: 6am–5pm Monday to Saturday, 5am–6pm Sunday.*

#### Thiruketeeswaram 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.*

### 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 (Odiyali), 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*



# 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](http://Kandycitycentre.lk)

### Shops at KCC

#### Level 1

##### Electronics

*Singer Mega (L1-15);*  
+94 812 205 507  
*A Pictures (L1-12);*  
+94 812 221 100

##### Retailers

*Keells (L1-14);*  
+94 812 235 931  
*Retailers (F&B)*

*Royal Cashew (L1-K12);*  
+94 814 954 052

*Baskin Robins (L1-K6);*  
+94 815 271 212;

*Birdylicious (L1-K11);*  
+94 812 071 071

*The Kithul Shop*  
*(Dumbara Natural Foods) (L1-K7);*  
+94 814 814 811

*CBL Revello Speciality*  
*(L1-8); +94 815 000 433*

##### Finance

*Sampath Bank (L1-6);*  
+94 812 205 825

*Pan Asia Bank (L1-5A);*  
+94 814 951 035

*DFCC Bank (L1-5B);*  
+94 812 221 552

*People's Bank (L1-4);*  
+94 812 205 482

*NDB Bank (L1-3);*  
+94 817 448 006

*Commercial Bank (L1-2);*  
+94 812 235 732

*NSB (L1-1); +94 812 205 506*

*BOC (L1-19);*  
+94 812 205 110

*NTB (L1-17); +94 814 501 051*

*HNB (L1-16); +94 812 205 841*

##### Services

*Thomas Cook Lanka*  
*(L1-K9); +94 812 205 811*

*BOC Travels (L1-K10);*  
+94 812 205 110

*Sri Lanka Post (L1-K3);*  
+94 812 222 294

#### Level 2

##### Electronics

*Sense Micro (L2-40);*  
+94 777 113 016/+94 706 211 946

*Softlogic Communication (L2-12);*  
+94 812 205 836

*Softlogic Max Showroom (L2-30);*  
+94 812 205 039

*Abans (L2-5); +94 812 220 888*  
*Futureworld (L2-2A);*  
+94 812 201 099

##### Entertainment

*Kandy Shooting Range*  
*(L2-37);*  
+94 776 999 373

##### Fashion

*Bata (L2-17);*  
+94 812 205 404

*Saweena Beauty Care (L2-16);*  
+94 812 061 299

*Mallika Hemachandra Jewellers*  
*(L2-15); +94 812 202 997*

*DSJ Premier (L2-14);*  
+94 812 220 701

*Luv Essence (L2-28);*  
+94 812 052 685

*Elegance Pearls & Diamonds (L2-K2);*  
+94 759 696 506

*The Parfumeria (L2-10);*  
+94 813 839 025

##### Lifestyle

*Nick Nack (L2-35);*  
+94 812 221 524

*Miniso (L2-2);*  
+94 812 205 655

##### Retailers

*Sarasavi Bookshop (L2-21);*  
+94 812 205 344

*Craft Emporium (L2-26,27,34);*  
+94 812 081 100

##### Retailers + Restaurant

*Mlesna Tea Centre (L2-18);*  
+94 812 200 255

*Bubble Tea (L2-18A);*  
+94 766 354 620

##### Services

*Dialog Axiata (L2-39);*  
+94 817 694 020

*Vision Care (L2-7); +94 812 221 900*

#### Level 3

##### Fashion

*Odel (L3-3); +94 812 205 383*

*Elegant Smockers (L3-10A);*  
+94 812 220 001

*Revlon Lanka (L3-K2);*  
+94 711 375 530

*AB 89 (L3-34);*  
+94 812 234 321

*The Body Shop; (L3-33B);*  
+94 812 233 008

*Waves (L3-33A);*  
+94 77 945 8110

*Aditi (L3-32);*



Kala Wewa is one of the oldest man-made tanks in Sri Lanka.

+94 812 234 707  
*W (L3-31);*

+94 812 220 705  
*US Polo (L3-31B);*

+94 812 220 706

*Chenara Dogde (Online) (L3-30A);*  
+94 11 770 1801

*Nolimit (L3-26);*  
+94 812 221 199

*Stone N String (L3-K4);*  
+94 812 224 466

*D-Blaq (L3-25A); +94 77 441 1924*  
*Saravanas Textile (L3-22);*  
+94 771 985 388

*Blink (L3-L -Bazaar);*  
+94 761 756 671

*Chamathka (L3-8A1);*  
+94 812 205 449

*International Watches & Sunglasses*  
*(L3-19); +94 812 223 876*

*W. A. De Silva & Co (L3-18);*  
+94 812 200 455

*Miika (L3-29); +94 752 190 701*  
*Adidas (L3-16); +94 812 205 362*

*Galleria (L3-15); +94 815 630 077*  
*Hameedia (L3-14);*

+94 815 630 077  
*Urban Trendz (Turret)*

*(L3-12); +94 812 222 722*  
*Cotton Collections (L3-11);*

+94 812 235 340  
*Exclusive Lines (L3-8B);*

+94 814 953 665  
*Dmaxx (L3-8A1);*

+94 812 232 268  
*Cherana Dodge (L3-8A2);*

+94 117 701 801  
*Amante (L3-6A);*

+94 814 955 956  
*Avirate (L3-6B);*

+94 814 951 513  
*Spa Ceylon (L3-10);*

+94 812 233 322

##### Retailers

*Helayu (L3-K3);*  
+94 769 672 329 / +94 759 668 795

#### Level 4

*Burger King (L4-4);*  
+94 815 101 101

#### Level 6

##### Office

*hSenid (L6-3);*  
+94 718 143 637

*Bitzify (L6-7);*  
+94 812 063 636

*ACH Education;*  
+94 776 037 728

## Places to visit

### Ambuluwawa

Surrounded by many mountains including Pidurutalagala from the East, Bible Rock (Bathalegala) from the West, Sri Pada (Adam's Peak) from the South and Knuckles Mountain Range from the North.

### 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.

#### Giritale

Giritale tank (lake) is truly a gem within Sri Lanka's intricate and extensive ancient irrigation system. Giritale holds that magnetic effect capable of drawing in and holding large flocks of diverse avian fauna.

### Hanthana Mountain Range

A charming mountain range which is a good trekking spot.

### 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.

### 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.

## Kandy and Central

### Kala Wewa

One of the largest reservoirs in Sri Lanka, built by King Datusena during the period of 459–479AD. One can witness the laid back nature of village life around. The Maha Kadawara Devalaya, dedicated to the divine protector of the Kala Wewa—the Kadawara Deity—was located facing the massive tank. The Dutugemunu Aranya Senasanaya is also within the premises.

### 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.

### Knuckles Mountain range

The mountain range is a paradise for those who like to hike and mountain bike as it offers numerous mountain trails that cross spectacular scenery such as clear crystal rivers, dense forests, flowing waterfalls and lush plantations.

### 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.

### National Ironwood Forest (Jathika Namal Uyana)

Namal Uyana (Pink Quartz Mountain Range) abounds with natural beauty and its tranquility and stillness encourage visitors to search for spiritual fulfilment. Sri Lanka's biggest concentration of ironwood trees are found here.

### Pussellawa

Many interesting places to visit including tea plantations, Chariot Path, Peacock Hill, and Kotmale Valley. Also here is the Sri Kathirvelayutha Swami Kovil Murugan Temple, originally built in the 1880s.

### Randenigala

The Victoria Randenigala Rantembe sanctuary is nestled between the Knuckles range and the Central mountains of Kandy.

### 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.

### Wiltshire Mountain Range

A less explored mountain range in Matale, with wildflowers and Caribbean pines. Ideal for trekking.

### Cultural Sites

#### Anuradhapura

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

#### 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.

#### Dambadeniya

Situated about 31 km from Kurunegala, it served as the capital of Sri Lanka in the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. Much of Dambadeniya still lies buried on a huge fortified rock.

#### Gal Viharaya

For centuries the four Buddha statues of the Gal Viharaya have stood in deep contemplation.  
*Polonnaruwa*

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

### 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.*

#### Sigiriya Museum

The Museum represents its cultural, technological and archaeological value.

*Sigiriya. +94 662 286 355.*

*Opening hours: 5am–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.  
*Polonnaruwa.*

*+94 272 057 336.*

*Opening hours: 9am–4.30pm Daily.*

### Parks

#### Peradeniya Botanical Gardens

Covers a span 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 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, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Kurunegala;*  
*+94 37 222 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

#### 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.*

#### 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.

#### Abhayagiri Chaitya

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

#### Bahirawakande Temple

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

#### Buduruwagala Raja Maha Viharaya

An ancient Buddhist temple with seven Buddha statues that date back to the 10th century.  
*Monaragala.*

#### 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*



### Embekke Temple

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

### Galmaduwa temple

The temple is believed to have been constructed by Meegastenne Maha Adikaram under the direction of the queen of King Kirti Sri Rajasingha [(1747-1782 A.D.) Rajapakse, 2016].  
*Kandy*

### Isurumuniya Raja Maha Viharaya

The temple was built by King Devanampiya Tissa in 250-210 BC following the arrival of Arahata Mahinda.  
*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.

### Jethawanaramaya

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

### Kadadora Viharaya

The temple was abandoned and ruined as the construction of Kotmale Dam in 1979 by Mahaweli Development program. The ruins of Vihara still can be seen when the water level of Kotmale Reservoir lowers.

### Lankatilaka Viharaya

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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

*Matale.*

*+94 662 222 481. Opening hours: 4.30am-8pm.*

### Mihintale

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

### 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.

### Mahamevna Uyana

Created by King Mutasiva, the naming of Mahamevna Uyana is steeped in legend. The Mahamevna Uyana has four heritage sites of importance – the Sacred Bodhi Tree, the Samadhi Buddha Statue, Ruwanweliseya and the Thuparama stupas.  
*Anuradhapura*

### Ridee Viharaya

Consists of several shrines built into the hollows of caves, or erected out of

stone and daub.  
*Kurunegala.*

### Ruwanweli Maha Seya

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

### Somawathie Temple

Situated within the Somawathie Wild Life Reserve and the road reaches a clearing where the temple and its precincts can be found. At a glance a clear white bubble of stupa sits strikingly with no other elements to detract from its presence.  
*Polonnaruwa.*

### 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*

### St Anthony's Church, Wahakotte

The church was completed in 1938, its Gothic revival style designed by the Italian monk Augustine, to replace a smaller church built in the 1920s.  
*Wahakotte.*  
*+94 662 289 210.*

### Thanthirimale

The ancient Thanthirimale Temple is spread across, closely located rock surfaces surrounded by dense jungle.  
*Anuradhapura.*

### 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.

### Recreational Sports

#### Victoria golf course, Digana

The golf club features a meticulously designed and well maintained 73 Par, 6933-yard championship, 18-hole course.

*Digana.*

*+94 71 737 6376. golfsrilanka.com*

### Wildlife

#### Kalawewa National Park

Surrounding the Kalawewa and Balalu Wewa tanks constructed by King Datusena in the fifth century, it is an ideal place to spot the gentle giants in herds.

#### 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*

#### Somawathie National Park

A huge (37,645ha) sanctuary stretching from central Sri Lanka to the Upper Lagoon near Vakarai on the East Coast with a large elephant population. The park is home to historic Somawathiya Chaitya, the stupa which was named after Princess Somawathi.  
*Polonnaruwa*

#### 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*

## Negombo and Gampaha

### Negombo

An ideal beach town for sun and sea lovers and about an hour's journey from Colombo, Negombo is also a short trip from the airport in Katunayake. With fabulous sunsets, strolls along the shore, little shops selling garments and souvenirs, live bands playing, restaurants peppering almost the entirety of the seaside strip, water sports at the beach park; fishing, kite surfing, snorkelling, scuba, are a part of the everyday sights, sounds and things to do, when in Negombo. The town is also home to historical sites, and also known as Little Rome for its churches.

### Places to visit

#### Kalpitiya Fort

Built in 1666 was a key point in colonial times being involved in trading cinnamon.

#### Lellama

'Lellama' is the famous fish market of Negombo. The hustle begins before the sun rises as the fishermen bring ashore their catch of the freshest fish, crabs, prawns, lobsters and cuttlefish.

#### Negombo Fort

Witness the imprints of the colonial era. To lay claim to this trading point

for spices, the Portuguese built the Negombo Fort.

### 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.

### Food & Entertainment

#### Lords Restaurant Complex

With a chic and modern ambience, 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

##### Attanagalla Rajamaha Viharaya

One of the most venerated Buddhist temples in western Sri Lanka.

*Gampaha. +94 332 280 233*

##### Grand Mosque

A beautiful and prominent place of worship among Muslims.

*Negombo.*

##### 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.

*Kelaniya +94 11 291 1505.*

*kelaniyatemple.lk*

##### Our Lady of Good Voyage

The Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage in Duwa, 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 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*

##### Pilikuththuwa Raja Maha Viharaya

A complex of 99 caves and a Raja Maha Viharaya. According to folklore it served as a refuge for the exiled King Valagamwba.

*Gampaha; +94 33 333 7982*

##### Potgul-len Raja Maha Viharaya

Composed of three caves, known as the Alavala Caves, the site is of historic as well as of prehistoric importance.

##### St. Anne’s Church

The famous church in Talawila is dedicated to St. Anne. More than 250 years old, it is one of the country’s most popular Roman Catholic shrines.

*Talawila. +94 322 261 000*

##### St Jude’s Church

Established in the 1950s, as a place of worship for those who had made the hamlet their home since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. *Indigolla.*

*+94 332 222 357.*

##### 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.

*Chilaw. +94 322 224 833. Opening*

*hours:*

*5.30am–8pm. munneswaram.com*

##### St Mary’s Church, Tudella

Dedicated to St Mary, the church is built in Neoclassical style.

*Ja-ela. +94 11 223 6257*

##### St Mary’s Cathedral, Negombo

A large cathedral with neo-classical style and a landmark edifice.

*Negombo.*

*+94 312 222 128.*

##### 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.*

#### Shopping

##### NOLIMIT

*424, Main Street,*

*Negombo; +94 312 224 141*

*456, Main Street,*

*Negombo;*

*+94 31 222 4144*

#### Wildlife

##### Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary

Declared a marine sanctuary in the 1990s, the Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary is one of the greatest coral reefs in terms of biodiversity in the Indian Ocean. It is two kilometers off the coast of Kalpitiya.

##### Horagolla National Park

A wildlife sanctuary declared in 1973 due to its rich biodiversity. It is 40km close to Colombo.

*Gampaha*

##### Muthurajawela

Home to over 194 species, it is a wetland habitat with an extensive flora and fauna.

## Festivals & Religious Observances



November 1

#### All Saint’s Day

All Saint’s Day is an annual tribute to all the Saints of the Church. On this special day, churches across the island hold special masses, while devotees gather with families to seek blessings and express their reverence.



November 2

#### All Souls’ Day

This day serves to honor the memory of those who have passed away through a prayer service, offering of flowers, and the lighting of candles. It is a time to pray for the departed and to seek the repose of souls in purgatory.



November 7

#### Kanda Shasti and Soorasamharam (Sooran Por)

The Kanda Shasti observed by devotees in reverence to lord Murugan, concludes with the significant event to defeat the demon Surapadman. Most temples dedicated to Lord Murugan host relevant rituals symbolizing the event.



# What's On

AUGUST 2024

## Best Western Elyon Colombo

**November 1 – 30**

Credit Card offer; *VU Roof Top Bar & Bristo Restaurant* (Reservation: +94 117 527 527)

Tuesdays with a Twist (BYOB for corporate employees); *Tuesday; VU Resto-Bar*

Business Lunch (Crispy mixed vegetable salad with balsamic vinegar/ Lamprais/ Rice & Curry/ Penne Chicken Carbonara with desserts)

Sizzlers (Chicken/Devised Pork) Cocktail Pitchers

Chill and Groove – Rooftop DJ Night with DJ Rapa; *Friday; VU Resto Bar* (Reservation: +94 117 527 527)

High Tea for two; *daily; 3pm to 6pm*

Save 20% on Sea Siren's Seafood bucket; (Reservation: +94 117 527 527, +94 768 224 566)

## Commons Coffee House

Commons Burger special promotion; *10am–11pm*

**Courtyard by Marriott Colombo**  
Seafood Feast - Savor a seafood dinner buffet featuring exciting action stations and live entertainment; *Friday; Beira Kitchen & Terrace; 6.30pm–10.30pm*

Corporate Groups – Enjoy special rates for corporate groups of 10 or more (with the option of unlimited local spirits and beer); *Beira Kitchen Terrace; Daily*

Lunch buffet promotion – with action stations and receive a 50% discount for groups of 6 or more;

*Beira Kitchen & Terrace; Daily*

Indulge in a romantic table for two dinner and enjoy a 50% discount on our dinner buffet. This offer is valid for groups up to 6 people; *Sunday to Thursday; 6.30pm–10.30pm*

Experience a Mediterranean dinner buffet with special beverage offers and live entertainment; *Saturday; Beira Kitchen & Terrace; 6.30pm–10.30pm*

Relax with a Sunday Sundowner on our terrace and enjoy breathtaking city, lake, and ocean views while listening to our resident flutist; *Beira Kitchen & Terrace; 3pm–7pm*



Sea Siren's Seafood bucket at Best Western Elyon Colombo.



Executive lunch buffet at Sofia Colombo City Hotel.

## Harpo's Colombo Fort Café

Happy Hour – special beer and pizza deals; *Monday to Friday; 5pm–7pm*

2 Large pizza and sangria – 25% off; *Saturday and Sunday*

## Harpo's Pizza and Pasta

Special deal on classic and signature range only; *Monday to Friday*

## Lords Restaurant Complex, Negombo

Live music entertainment; *daily Lunch; daily*

Chef cricket specials – pizzas, sizzlers, burger stackers, cricket platters

## Mandarina Colombo

Weekday dinner buffet (5<sup>th</sup> person dines free); *Monday to Thursday; 7pm–10pm* (Reservation +71 134 3313/+94 70 336 7122)

Weekend dinner buffet (5<sup>th</sup> person dines free); *Friday to Sunday; 7pm–10pm* (Reservation +71 134 3313/+94 70 336 7122)

## Shangri-La Colombo

Crab menu – immerse in a delectable selection of Asian-inspired crab dishes prepared in steamed, Cantonese, Sichuan styles; *Shang Palace*

## November 21 – 23

La Festa Italiana – delight in an extraordinary Italian culinary journey; *Capital*

## Bar and Grill

## Shoulders By Harpos

Daily lunch and dinner Cocktail bar with signature cocktails Entertainment; *Wednesday; 7pm onwards*

## Sofia Colombo City Hotel

Executive lunch buffet; *Weekdays; 12.30pm–2.30pm; Seascape Restaurant*

## The Thinnai

## November 1 – 30

Pre-November Fest – Buy 3 bottle get free bite platter

## November 16

Chinese Dinner Buffet; *7.30pm–9.30pm*

## November 30

Sri Lankan Street Food Carnival; *7.30pm–9.30pm*

## The Bayleaf

Authentic Italian Specials and Harpo's Pizza menu; *Monday to Thursday, 11am–11pm, Friday to Sunday, 11am–midnight*



Mouthwatering meat and seafood grills at The Bayleaf restaurant.

## November 30

Harpos Christmas Market; *10am–4pm*

## November 1 – 30

Specials – lamb, seafood, steaks, ravioli promotion special menu

Happy Hour with Tapas menu; *daily; 5pm–7pm*



Sundowner Sunday at Beira Kitchen and Terrace, Courtyard by Marriott.



Weekday Dinner buffet at Mandarina Colombo.

## Art, and Music

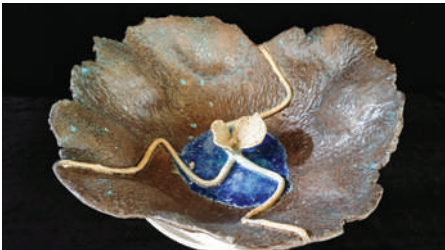
### Art

Till November 14  
Elsewhere



Elsewhere by Artist Sandatharaka Abeysinghe imagines a surreal realm submerged beneath water, where terrestrial flora has evolved into towering giants creating a haven for a forgotten civilization. *Saskia Fernando.*

November 1 – April 2025  
Remnants by Abeywardene



The artist uses ceramic clay influenced by Japanese aesthetic philosophy of Wabi-Sabi, which is rooted in Zen Buddhism. *Paradise Galle Fort Art Gallery.*

### Music

November 23  
The Greatest ABBA Show



An epic night of ABBA's timeless hits awaits with the 10–12-piece band, from Sweden.  
*Venue: The Paradise Beach, Mount Lavinia Hotel. Time: 8pm. Tickets: Rs.50,000, Rs.30,000, Rs.15,000, Rs.7,500*

## Drama and Theatre

November 3, 8 and 22 (Sinhala)  
Sudu Andagena Horu Avidin



The stage is graced by artistes Kumara Thirimadura, Roshan Pilapitiya, Saman Hemarathne, Rohan Wijethunga and many more. Assistant director is Ajith Mendis has done the script.  
*Nov 3 & 8 – Venue: Elphinstone Theater. Time: 3.30pm, 6.45pm.*  
*Nov 22 – Venue: New Theater, Colombo Campus. Time: 4pm, 6.30pm.*

November 6 (Sinhala)  
Sinhabahu



One of the great stage play written and directed by Prof Ediriweera Sarachchandra with a host of popular artistes.  
*Venue: Rukmani Devi Theater, Negombo. Time: 8.15am, 11am.*

November 7 (Sinhala)  
Lokka Ledawela (Political Comedy)



Gihan Fernando's political satire is back featuring Chamila Peiris, Sarath Karunarathne, Ajith Lokuge, Gihan Fernando, Aloka Sampath and other artistes.  
*Venue: Wayamba Campus. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm.*

November 22 – 24 and 28 – 30 (English)  
Grow up Nana! Part 2 (Comedy)



Grow Up Nana is a hilarious, serious and poignant look at life as a Sri Lankan Muslim. Written and performed by Feroze Kamardeen.  
*Venue: Lionel Wendt, Colombo 7. Time: 4pm, 6.30pm.*



November 23  
**Sonduru Sihinayaki Raa**



Featuring artistes Mahinda Prasad Masimbula, Raween Kanishka, Uresha Ravihari, Amandya Uthpali and Mahesh Nissanka under Kapila Kosala's musical direction.  
 Venue: Bishops College Auditorium. Time: 6.30pm.  
 Tickets: Rs.7,500, Rs.5,000, Rs.3,000, Rs.2,000, Rs.1,000

November 26  
**Christmas Concert**



Get ready to dive into an evening filled with warmth, music, and the spirit of the season with the De Lanerolle Brothers as they celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
 Venue: Hilton Colombo. Time: 7pm.  
 Tickets: Rs. 25,000

December 1  
**Chamber Music Society of Colombo Welcomes World-Class Violinist Midori**



The Chamber Music Society of Colombo is thrilled to announce a highly anticipated benefit recital featuring violinist Midori, accompanied by pianist Özgür Aydın.  
 Venue: Lionel Wendt, Colombo 7. Time: 7pm. Tickets: Rs.20,000, Rs.10,000, Rs.7,500, Rs.2,000.

## Sports

### Cricket



#### New Zealand tour of Sri Lanka

**November 9**  
 1st T20; Dambulla  
**November 10**  
 2nd T20; Dambulla  
**November 13**  
 1st ODI; Dambulla  
**November 17**  
 2nd ODI; Kandy  
**November 19**  
 3rd ODI; Kandy



ICC World Test Championship  
**November 27 – December 1, 2024**  
 South Africa v Sri Lanka; Durban  
**December 5 – 9**  
 South Africa v Sri Lanka; Gqeberha

### Formula One



**Sao Paulo Grand Prix**  
**November 3**  
 Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace  
**Las Vegas Grand Prix**  
**November 24**  
 Las Vegas Strip Circuit

**Qatar Grand Prix**  
**December 1**  
 Lusail International Circuit



### Football












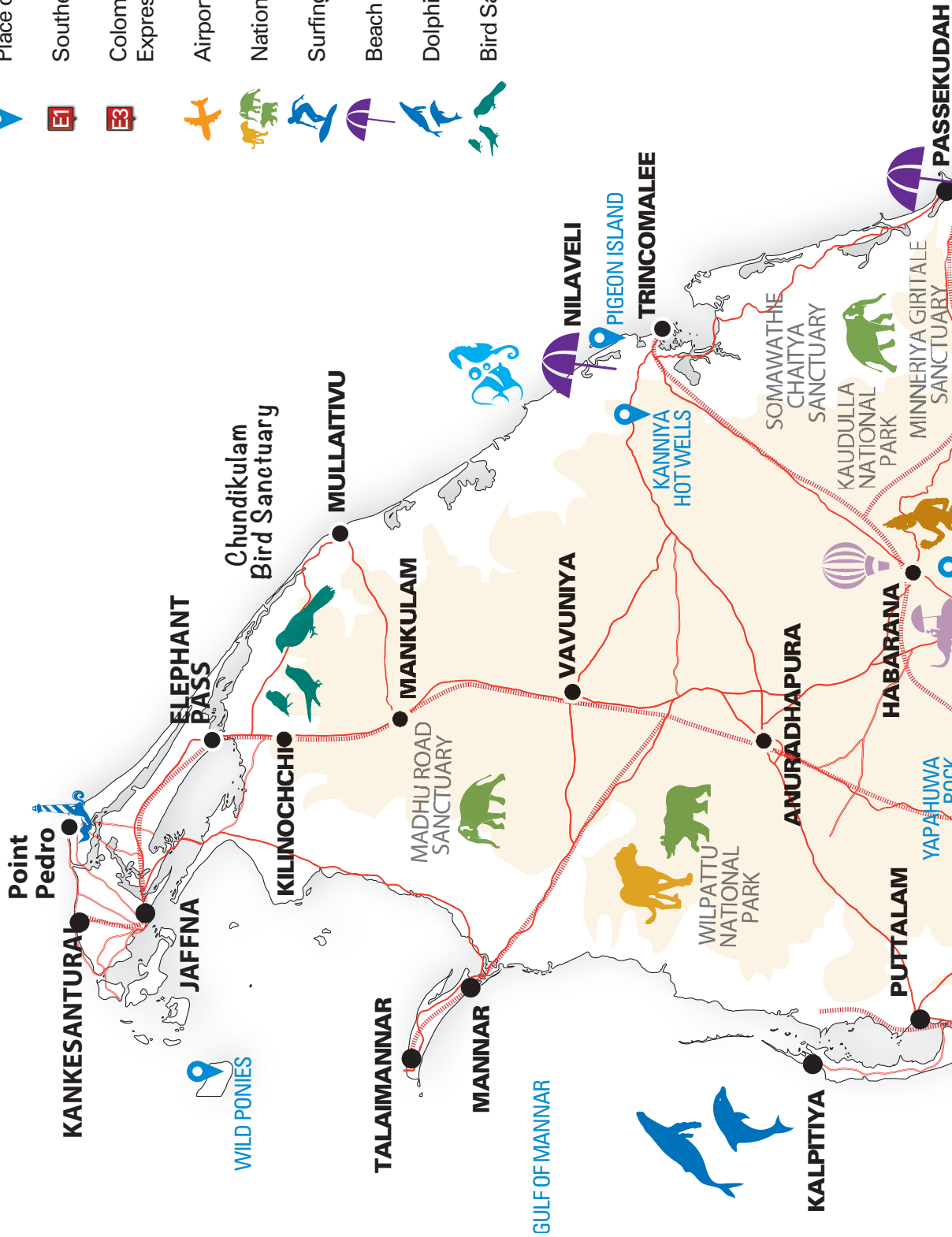
**Premier League**  
**November 2**  
 Newcastle v Arsenal; 18.00  
 Bournemouth v Man City; 20.30  
 Ipswich v Leicester; 20.30  
 Liverpool v Brighton; 20.30  
 Nott'm Forest v West Ham; 20.30  
 Southampton v Everton; 20.30  
 Wolves v Crystal Palace; 23.00  
**November 3**  
 Spurs v Aston Villa; 19.30  
 Man Utd v Chelsea; 22.00  
 November 5  
 Fulham v Brentford; 01.30  
**November 9**  
 Brentford v Bournemouth; 20.30  
 Crystal Palace v Fulham; 20.30  
 West Ham v Everton; 20.30  
 Wolves v Southampton; 20.30  
 Brighton v Man City; 23.00  
**November 10**  
 Liverpool v Aston Villa; 01.30  
 Man Utd v Leicester; 19.30

**Nott'm Forest v Newcastle; 19.30**  
 Spurs v Ipswich; 19.30  
 Chelsea v Arsenal; 22.00  
**November 23**  
 Leicester v Chelsea; 18.00  
 Arsenal v Nott'm Forest; 20.30  
 Aston Villa v Crystal Palace; 20.30  
 Bournemouth v Brighton; 20.30  
 Everton v Brentford; 20.30  
 Fulham v Wolves; 20.30  
 Man City v Spurs; 23.00  
**November 24**  
 Southampton v Liverpool; 19.30  
 Ipswich v Man Utd; 22.00  
**November 30**  
 Brighton v Southampton; 01.30  
 Brentford v Leicester; 20.30  
 Crystal Palace v Newcastle; 20.30  
 Nott'm Forest v Ipswich; 20.30  
 Wolves v Bournemouth; 20.30  
 West Ham v Arsenal; 23.00

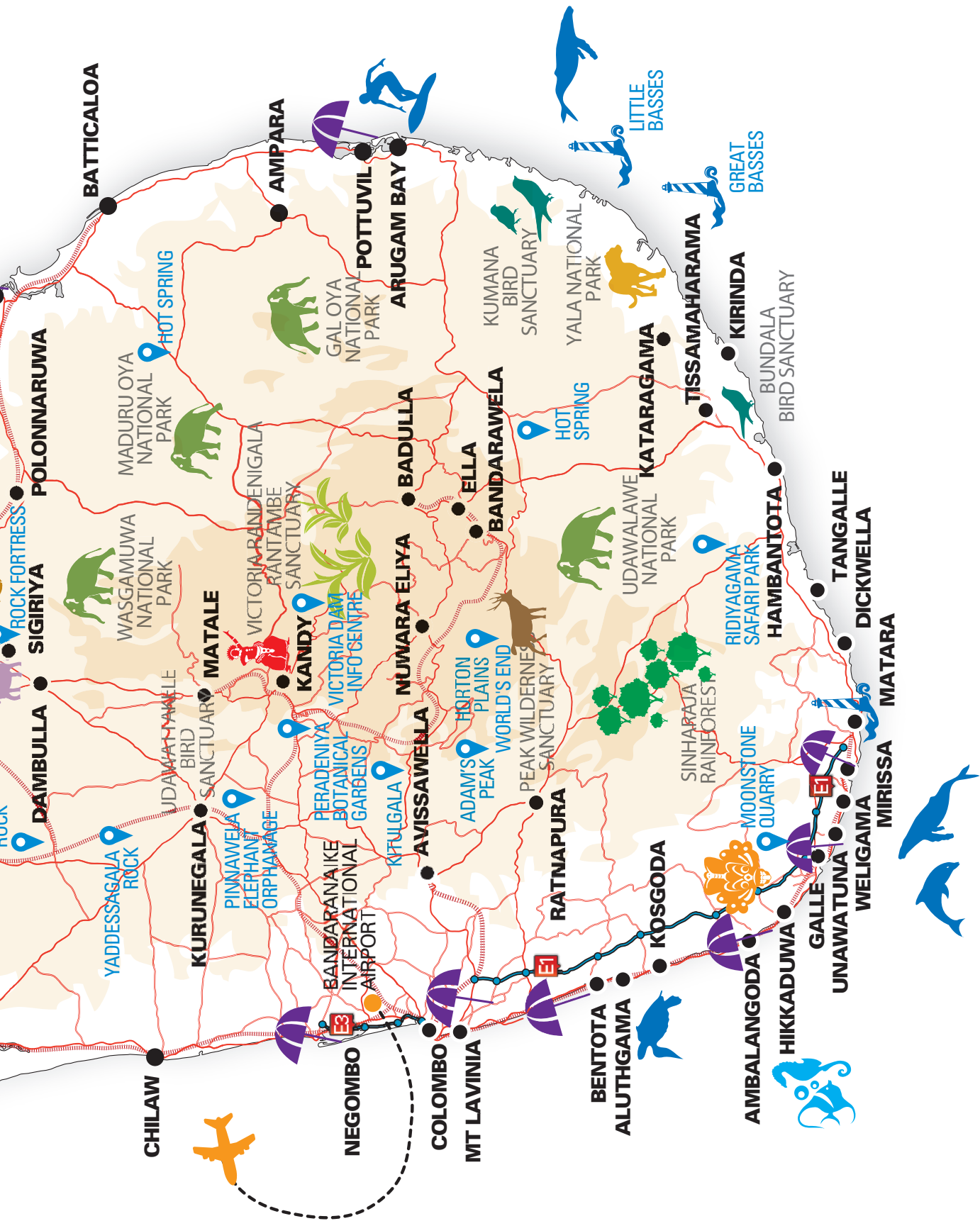
Visit: [premierleague.com/fixtures](https://premierleague.com/fixtures)

# Sri Lanka Map

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







**BATTICALOA**

**AMPARA**

**POTTUVIL**

**ARUGAM BAY**

**POLONNARUWA**

**MADURU OYA NATIONAL PARK**

**HOT SPRING**

**GAL OYA NATIONAL PARK**

**KUMANA BIRD SANCTUARY**

**YALA NATIONAL PARK**

**LITTLE BASSES**

**GREAT BASSES**

**TISSAMAHARAMA**

**KIRINDA**

**BUNDALA BIRD SANCTUARY**

**BADULLA**

**ELLA**

**BANDARAWELA**

**HOT SPRING**

**UDAWALAWE NATIONAL PARK**

**KATARAGAMA**

**SIGIRIYA**

**WASGAMUWA NATIONAL PARK**

**MATALE**

**VICTORIA RANDEENIGALA RANTAMBE SANCTUARY**

**KANDY**

**VICTORIA DAM BOTANICAL GARDENS INFO CENTRE**

**NUWARA ELIYA**

**AVISSAWELLA**

**HORTON PLAINS WORLD'S END**

**ADAM'S PEAK**

**PEAK WILDERNESS SANCTUARY**

**RATNAPURA**

**BENTOTA**

**ALUTHGAMA**

**KOSGODA**

**SINHARAJA RAINFOREST**

**MOONSTONE QUARRY**

**AMBALANGODA**

**HIKKADUWA**

**GALLE**

**UNAWATUNA**

**WELIGAMA**

**MIRISSA**

**MATARA**

**HAMBANTOTA**

**TANGALLE**

**DICKWELLA**

**DAMBULLA**

**YADDESSAGAJA ROCK**

**CHILAW**

**NEGOMBO**

**BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**COLOMBO**

**MT LAVINIA**

# Escape to Tranquility at Arugambay



## Discover the Hidden Gem of Sri Lanka

Looking for a peaceful retreat away from the crowds? While Arugambay is known for its waves, its true charm shines from October to March. This serene coastal paradise offers a quieter, more intimate experience, perfect for those seeking a blend of nature, culture, and adventure.

## Why Visit Arugambay?

**Stunning Sunrises and Sunsets:** Start your day with breathtaking sunrises over the Indian Ocean and unwind with the serene beauty of sunsets over the golden beaches.

**Wildlife Encounters:** Witness the majesty of wild elephants roaming freely and explore Kumana National Park, home to leopards and thousands of migratory birds.

**Cultural Exploration:** Discover the spiritual and historical treasures of Okanda Temple, a sacred pilgrimage site, and the ancient Kudumbigala Monastery, nestled in the jungle, offering breathtaking views and a glimpse into Sri Lanka's rich history.

**Lush Greenery:** Experience the beauty of endless paddy fields and coconut groves, perfect for peaceful walks or cycling tours through the countryside.

**Wellness and Rejuvenation:** Join yoga and

wellness retreats in the serene atmosphere of Arugambay's peaceful beaches and lush greenery.

## The Perfect Getaway

Escape the ordinary and immerse yourself in the untouched beauty of Arugambay. With low-rise buildings, traditional villages, and a serene landscape, you'll experience authentic Sri Lankan life far from the noise and stress of everyday life.

## Book Your Escape Today!

Experience Arugambay's off-season magic and create memories that last a lifetime.