1. Nilaweli Beach

Is a stretch of beach which is situated approximately 16 kilometres North of Trincomalle, passing a thriving lagoon on either side and lush coconut palm groves and hordes of cattle, note that the people in the area are predominantly Hindu and consider the cows sacred. Arriving at the hamlet of “Errakkandy”, a sharp right turn will take you down a gravel road to Nilaweli beach, almost a kilometre of in lenght, white sandy beach with gentle surf. Across the beach about two kilometres into the ocean you will see the famous pigeon island, named due to rock pigeons roosting on it by the hundreds and crystal clear water around it to snorkel on to the clear depths of a reef. Further up North you will see a cluster of reddish rocks which are referred to as the red rock beach.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[8°41′0″N 81°12′0″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Nilaveli&params=8_41_0_N_81_12_0_E_region:LK_type:city) | |
| [**Country**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries) | [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Eastern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Trincomalee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trincomalee_District) |
| [**DS Division**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divisional_Secretariats_of_Sri_Lanka) | Kuchchaveli |

2. Trincomalee

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[8°34′0″N 81°14′0″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Trincomalee&params=8_34_0_N_81_14_0_E_region:LK_type:city(99135)) | |
| [**Country**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states) | [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Eastern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Trincomalee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trincomalee_District) |
| [**DS Division**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divisional_Secretariats_of_Sri_Lanka) | Town & Gravets |
| **Government** | |
| **• Type** | [Urban Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trincomalee_Urban_Council) |
| **Area** | |
| **• Total** | 7.5 km2 (2.9 sq mi) |
| **Elevation** | 8 m (26 ft) |
| **Population**   (2012) | |
| **• Total** | 99,135 |
| **• Density** | 13,000/km2 (34,000/sq mi) |
| [**Demonym**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym) | Trincomalians |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [UTC+5:30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B5:30) ([Sri Lanka Standard Time Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone#UTC_.2B_6.2C_F)) |
| **• Summer (**[**DST**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)**)** | [UTC+6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B6) |

Trincomalee's strategic importance has shaped its recent history. The great European powers vied for mastery of the harbour. The Portuguese, the Dutch, the French, and the British, each held it in turn, and there have been many sea battles nearby.

The harbour, the fifth largest natural harbour in the world, is overlooked by terraced highlands, its entrance is guarded by two headlands, and there is a carriage road along its northern and eastern edges.

Trincomalee's location, in a less well developed and sparsely populated area, has in the past hampered its own development. Nevertheless, plans are under way to develop Trincomalee as a commercial seaport.

**Oil depot**

In 2015, India and Sri Lanka agreed to develop South Asia's largest oil depot at a port near Trincomalee. Indian Oil Corporation will work with the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to develop the Upper Tank Farm at the abandoned World War II port, known as China Bay.

**Beaches**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Trincomalee_Sea.jpg)

Trincomalee Beach

Trincomalee has some of the most picturesque and scenic beaches found in Sri Lanka, relatively unspoilt and clean. The area is famous for bathing and swimming, owing to the relative shallowness of the sea, allowing one to walk out over a hundred meters into the sea without the water reaching the chest. Whale watching is a common pastime in the seas off Trincomalee, and successful sightings are on the rise with the increase of tourism in the area. If the weather is fine you may observe the process of [fishing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing) right on the beach.[[85]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trincomalee#cite_note-85)

Marble Beach is located in 16 km (10 miles) from Trincomalee.

**Hot springs**

There are the seven [hot springs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanniya_Hot_water_spring) of Kanniya (Kan = stone; niya = land), on the road to Trincomalee. A high wall bounds the rectangular enclosure which includes all seven springs. Each is in turn enclosed by a dwarf wall to form a well. The water is warm, the temperature of each spring being slightly different.

3. Anuradhapura

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| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[8°20′6″N 80°24′39″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Anuradhapura&params=8_20_6_N_80_24_39_E_region:LK_type:city(50595))[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[8°20′6″N 80°24′39″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Anuradhapura&params=8_20_6_N_80_24_39_E_region:LK_type:city(50595)) | |
| **Country** | Sri Lanka |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [North Central Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Anuradhapura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anuradhapura_District) |
| **Established** | 5th century BC |
| **Government** | |
| **• Type** | [Municipal Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_Council) |
| **Area** | |
| **•**[**City**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City) | 7,179 km2 (2,772 sq mi) |
| **• Urban** | 36 km2 (14 sq mi) |
| **Elevation** | 81 m (266 ft) |
| **Population**   (2012) | |
| **•**[**City**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City) | 50,595 |
| **• Density** | 2,314/km2 (5,990/sq mi) |
| [**Demonym**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym) | Anuradhians |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [UTC+5:30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B5:30) ([Sri Lanka Standard Time Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone#UTC_.2B_6.2C_F)) |
| **Postal code** | 50000 |
|  | |
| [**UNESCO World Heritage Site**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) | |
| **Official name** | Sacred City of Anuradhapura |
| [**Criteria**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site#Selection_criteria) | Cultural: ii, iii, vi |
| **Reference** | [200](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/200) |
| **Inscription** | 1982 (6th [Session](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Committee)) |

## **Transportation**

Anuradhapura is served by railway and highways. The [Northern railway line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_railway_line,_Sri_Lanka) connects Anuradhapura with [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo_Fort_Station), [Jaffna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffna_Railway_Station), and [Kankesanthurai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kankesanthurai" \o "Kankesanthurai). [Anuradhapura railway station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anuradhapura_railway_station) is the city's rail gateway, with major services, such as the [Yal Devi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yal_Devi" \o "Yal Devi), [Uttara Devi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uttara_Devi" \o "Uttara Devi) stopping there.

There are a number of bus routes passing through Anuradhapura from [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo) to the northern province. Some of them are 04, 15, 57, 87 etc.

Anuradhapura is a central city in Sri Lanka. It is directly connected by road to a large number of major cities and towns on the island. By road, it is connected to [Vavuniya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vavuniya), [Dambulla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dambulla), [Matale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matale), [Puttalam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puttalam), [Trincomalee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trincomalee), [Jaffna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaffna), [Kurunegala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurunegala) and [Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy).

**Anuradhapura** ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): අනුරාධපුරය, romanized: *Anurādhapuraya*; [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): அனுராதபுரம், romanized: *Aṉurātapuram*) is a major city located in north central plain of [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). It is the capital city of [North Central Province, Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka) and the capital of [Anuradhapura District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anuradhapura_District). The city lies 205 km (127 mi) north of the current capital of [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo) in the [North Central Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka), on the banks of the historic [Malvathu River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malvathu_River" \o "Malvathu River). The city is now a [World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) famous for its well-preserved ruins of the ancient [Sinhalese civilization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_Kingdom).

### Early Historic Period

Details of city's development in this early historic period, spanning from 500 to 250 BCE can be found in Sinhalese Chronicles. According to these records, King Pandukabhaya formally planned the city with gates and quarters for traders. The city at the time covered an area of one square kilometer, making it one of the largest cities on the continent at the time.The city was largely deserted after the invasion by the Chola Tamil Hindu king [Rajaraja 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajaraja_I" \o "Rajaraja I) in 993 CE and his son [Rajendra 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajendra_Chola_I" \o "Rajendra Chola I) in 1014 CE. According to [Culavamsa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culavamsa" \o "Culavamsa) (6th century CE-18th century CE), Anuradhapura was "utterly destroyed in every way by the Chola army. Still, the place was continuously inhabited after this event as indicated by records of visitors to the island such as [Robert Knox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Knox_(sailor)) and others. Thus, the city was the longest-serving Sinhalese capital of Sri Lanka from the 5th century BCE (437 BCE) until the 11th century CE (1017 CE) flourishing for around 1,500 years.

### Buddhism and Anuradhapura

Anuradhapura was a major intellectual center for early Theravada Buddhism, home to revered Buddhist philosophers including [Buddhaghosa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhaghosa" \o "Buddhaghosa).

During the reign of Dhatusena (455-473) a redaction of the Theravada Buddhist canon took place while at the same time 18 new vihara (temple complexes) were built and a statue erected for Mahinda, the Indian prince-monk who introduced Buddhism to the island.

During the late Anuradhapura period, the royal family and nobility of Sri Lanka strongly supported Buddhism. As such, they frequently commissioned works of art and donated these items to Buddhist temples. In return, the temple and local Buddhist community supported the king's rule. Artworks featuring depictions of [Avalokitesvara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avalokite%C5%9Bvara" \o "Avalokiteśvara), the [Bodhisattva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodhisattva) of Mercy and Compassion, became increasingly popular.

4. Polonnaruwa

Polonnaruwa was the second capital of Sri Lanka after the destruction of Anuradhapura in 993. It comprises, besides the Brahmanic monuments built by the Cholas, the monumental ruins of the fabulous garden-city created by Parakramabahu I in the 12th century.

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| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[7°56′N 81°0′E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Polonnaruwa&params=7_56_N_81_0_E_region:LK_type:city)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[7°56′N 81°0′E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Polonnaruwa&params=7_56_N_81_0_E_region:LK_type:city) | |
| [**Country**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states) | [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| **Province** | [North Central Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| **Polonnaruwa** | Before 1070 AD |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [UTC+5:30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B5:30) ([Sri Lanka Standard Time Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone#UTC_.2B_6.2C_F)) |
| **Website** | [https://www.polonnaruwa.dist.gov.lk](https://www.polonnaruwa.dist.gov.lk/) |
|  | |
| [**UNESCO World Heritage Site**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) | |
| **Official name** | Ancient City of Polonnaruwa |
| [**Criteria**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site#Selection_criteria) | Cultural: i, iii, vi |
| **Reference** | [201](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/201) |
| **Inscription** | 1982 (6th [Session](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Committee)) |

**Poḷonnaruwa**, ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): පොළොන්නරුව, romanized: *Poḷonnaruva*; [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): பொலன்னறுவை, romanized: *Polaṉṉaṟuvai*) also referred as **Pulathisipura** and **Vijayarajapura** in [ancient times](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sri_Lanka), is the main town of [Polonnaruwa District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polonnaruwa_District" \o "Polonnaruwa District) in [North Central Province, Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka). The modern town of Polonnaruwa is also known as New Town, and the other part of Polonnaruwa remains as the royal ancient city of the [Kingdom of Polonnaruwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Polonnaruwa).

The second oldest of all [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka)'s kingdoms, Polonnaruwa was first established as a military post by the Sinhalese kingdom.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polonnaruwa#cite_note-:3-1) It was renamed Jananathamangalam by the [Chola dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chola_dynasty" \o "Chola dynasty) after their successful invasion of the country's then capital, Anuradhapura, in the 10th century. The *Ancient City of Polonnaruwa* has been declared a World Heritage Site.

Modern Polonnaruwa is undergoing a major development project known as the "Awakening of Polonnaruwa," championed by former President [Maithripala Sirisena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maithripala_Sirisena" \o "Maithripala Sirisena). It envisions the development of all sectors in Polonnaruwa including [roads](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Road), [electricity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric_power_transmission), [agriculture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture), [education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education), [health](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_care) and environment.

Today the ancient city of Polonnaruwa remains one of the best-planned archaeological relic cities in the country, standing testimony to the discipline and greatness of the Kingdom's first rulers. Its beauty was also used as a backdrop to film scenes for the [Duran Duran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duran_Duran) music video [*Save a Prayer*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Save_a_Prayer) in 1982. The ancient city of Polonnaruwa has been declared a [World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) by [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO).

Near the ancient city, there is a small town with several hotels and some glossy shops, and places to fulfil day-to-day needs. There are government institutions in a newly built area called “New Town,” about 6 km away from the town and the main road. The largest school in the district, [Polonnaruwa Royal Central College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polonnaruwa_Royal_Central_College" \o "Polonnaruwa Royal Central College) is situated in the new town.

Polonnaruwa is the second largest city in [North Central Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka), but it is known as one of the cleanest and more beautiful cities in the country. The green environment, amazing ancient constructions, [Parakrama Samudra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parakrama_Samudra" \o "Parakrama Samudra) (a huge lake built in 1200), and attractive tourist hotels and hospitable people, make it a tourism hotspot.

Another draw for tourists is the city's population of [toque macaques](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toque_macaque). The monkeys have been living in the ruins since the human occupation and continued to thrive there long after the humans left.

5.Sigiriya

**Sigiriya** or **Sinhagiri** (*Lion Rock* [Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): සීගිරිය, [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): சிகிரியா/சிங்ககிரி, pronounced see-gi-ri-yə) is an ancient rock [fortress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortress) located in the northern [Matale District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matale_District" \o "Matale District) near the town of [Dambulla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dambulla" \o "Dambulla) in the [Central Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka), [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). It is a site of historical and archaeological significance that is dominated by a massive column of [granite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite) rock approximately 180 m (590 ft) high.

According to the ancient Sri Lankan chronicle the *[Cūḷavaṃsa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C5%AB%E1%B8%B7ava%E1%B9%83sa" \o "Cūḷavaṃsa)*, this area was a large forest, then after storms and landslides it became a hill and was selected by King [Kashyapa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashyapa_I_of_Anuradhapura" \o "Kashyapa I of Anuradhapura) (AD 477–495) for his new capital. He built his palace on top of this rock and decorated its sides with colourful [frescoes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frescoes). On a small plateau about halfway up the side of this rock he built a gateway in the form of an enormous lion. The name of this place is derived from this structure; *Sīnhāgiri*, the Lion Rock (an [etymology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etymology) similar to *Sinhapura*, the Sanskrit name of [Singapore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singapore), the Lion City).

The capital and the royal palace were abandoned after the king's death. It was used as a Buddhist monastery until the 14th century. Sigiriya today is a UNESCO listed [World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site). It is one of the best preserved examples of ancient urban planning.

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| --- | --- |
| **Location** | [Central Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka), Sri Lanka |
| **Coordinates** | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[07°57′25″N 80°45′35″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Sigiriya&params=07_57_25_N_80_45_35_E_type:landmark)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[07°57′25″N 80°45′35″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Sigiriya&params=07_57_25_N_80_45_35_E_type:landmark) |
| **Elevation** | 349 m (1,145 ft)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigiriya#cite_note-1) |
| **Built for** | King Kashyapa of Sri Lanka |
| **Visitors** | 1 million |
| **Governing body** | Government of Sri Lanka |
| **Website** | [www.sigiriyafortress.com](https://www.sigiriyafortress.com/) |
|  | |
| [**UNESCO World Heritage Site**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) | |
| **Official name** | Ancient City of Sigiriya |
| **Type** | Cultural |
| **Criteria** | ii, iii, iv |
| **Designated** | 1982 (6th [session](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Committee)) |
| **Reference no.** | [202](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/202) |
| [**UNESCO Region**](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/?search=&search_by_country=&type=&media=&region=&order=region) | [Asia-Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Southern_Asia) |

6. Marawila

**Marawila** is a town in [Puttalam District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puttalam_District" \o "Puttalam District), [North Western Province, Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Western_Province,_Sri_Lanka).

It is located on the [A3 highway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A3_highway_(Sri_Lanka)), which connects [Negombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negombo" \o "Negombo) and [Chilaw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chilaw" \o "Chilaw). The town is located 27 km (17 mi) away from [Negombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negombo" \o "Negombo). Marawila is one of the tourist attractions on the west coast of Sri Lanka and known for its beaches.

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| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[7°24′34″N 79°49′56″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Marawila&params=7_24_34_N_79_49_56_E_region:LK_type:city) | |
| **Country** | Sri Lanka |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [North Western Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Western_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Puttalam District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puttalam_District) |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | +5.30 |
| **Postal code** | 61210 |

**Marawila** is a beach to the north of Negombo being located not far from [Sri Lanka](http://www.island-on-map.com/sri-lanka.html) International Airport. It is good for a short stopover, when traveling to the north of the island. This is a pleasant place with palms and breakwaters. However, most of time, swimming is not possible due to the strong waves in the ocean. The beach is dirty, as it brings a lot of garbage from the ocean. In addition, there is nothing interesting around, - no excursions, no shops, no ATMs, no any kind of attractions. Shore and seabed: sand, stones.

#### Hotels

In Marawila hotels, rooms' fares starts from US$20. However, if you want to get a good beachfront property, you should be ready to pay about US$50 per night.  
  
It is better not to try to save too much, since the coast is not very comfortable. So the choice of a hotel is the key feature, that can guarantee the quality of your vacation.

#### How to get there

Fly to [Colombo International Airport (CMB)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bandaranaike_International_Airport#Airlines_and_destinations). Next get by bus or by train a little to the north - to the stop of *Marawila*.

#### When to go

The best time for a holiday in Marawila beach is a dry season from January to March, as well as July and August.

7. Pinnawala

**Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage** ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): පින්නවල අලි අනාථාගාරය), is a [captive breeding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captive_breeding) and conservation institute for wild [Asian elephants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_elephant) located at [Pinnawala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinnawala" \o "Pinnawala) village, 13 km (8.1 mi) northeast of [Kegalle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kegalle" \o "Kegalle) town in [Sabaragamuwa Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabaragamuwa_Province" \o "Sabaragamuwa Province) of [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). Pinnawala has the largest herd of captive elephants in the world. In 2023, there were 71 elephants, including 30 males and 41 females from 3 generations, living in Pinnawala.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinnawala_Elephant_Orphanage#cite_note-G-1)

The orphanage was founded to care and protect the many orphaned unweaned wild [elephants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elephant) found wandering in and near the forests of Sri Lanka. It was established in 1975 by the [Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_of_Wildlife_Conservation_(Sri_Lanka)) (DWC).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinnawala_Elephant_Orphanage#cite_note-PEO-2)

On 31 August 2021, a 25 year old elephant named Surangi gave birth to twin male baby elephants at the orphanage.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinnawala_Elephant_Orphanage#cite_note-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinnawala_Elephant_Orphanage#cite_note-4) It also marked the first instance of the birth of twin elephants in Sri Lanka after a gap of 80 years since 1941.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinnawala_Elephant_Orphanage#cite_note-5)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinnawala_Elephant_Orphanage#cite_note-6)

8. Kandy

**Kandy** ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): මහනුවර *Mahanuwara*, [pronounced](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/37/Si-Mahanuwara.ogg) ([help](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Media_help)·[info](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Si-Mahanuwara.ogg)) [[mahanuʋərə]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA); [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): கண்டி Kandy,  [pronounced](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d0/Ta-%E0%AE%95%E0%AE%A3%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%9F%E0%AE%BF.ogg) ([help](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Media_help" \o "Wikipedia:Media help)·[info](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ta-%E0%AE%95%E0%AE%A3%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%9F%E0%AE%BF.ogg)) [[ˈkaɳɖi]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Tamil)) is a major city in [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) located in the [Central Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka). It was the last capital of the ancient kings' era of Sri Lanka. The city is situated in the midst of hills in the Kandy plateau, which crosses an area of tropical plantations, mainly tea. Kandy is both an administrative and religious city and is also the capital of the Central Province. Kandy is the home of the [Temple of the Tooth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth) Relic ([*Sri Dalada Maligawa*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Dalada_Maligawa)), one of the most sacred places of worship in the Buddhist world. It was declared a world heritage site by [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO) in 1988.Historically the local [Buddhist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist) rulers resisted Portuguese, [Dutch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands), and British colonial expansion and occupation.

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| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[7°17′47″N 80°38′6″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Kandy&params=7_17_47_N_80_38_6_E_type:city(125400)_region:LK)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[7°17′47″N 80°38′6″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Kandy&params=7_17_47_N_80_38_6_E_type:city(125400)_region:LK) | |
| [**Country**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states) | [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Central Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Kandy District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy_District) |
| [**Divisional Secretariat**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divisional_Secretariats_of_Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka) | [Kandy Four Gravets and Gangawata Korale Divisional Secretariat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy_Four_Gravets_and_Gangawata_Korale_Divisional_Secretariat) |
| **Senkadagalapura** | 14th century |
| [**Capital**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_of_Sri_Lanka)**of the**[**Kingdom of Kandy**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kandy) | 1469 |
| **Founded by** | [Senasammata Vikramabahu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senasammata_Vikramabahu) |
| **Government** | |
| **• Type** | [Municipal Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_councils_of_Sri_Lanka) |
| **• Body** | [Kandy Municipal Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy_Municipal_Council) |
| **•**[**Mayor**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor_of_Kandy) | [Kesera Senanayake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kesera_Senanayake) [(UNP)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_National_Party) |
| **Area** | |
| **• Total** | 28.53 km2 (11.02 sq mi) |
| **Elevation** | 500 m (1,600 ft) |
| **Population**   (2011) | |
| **• Total** | 125,400 |
| **• Density** | 4,591/km2 (11,890/sq mi) |
| [**Demonym**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym) | Kandyan |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [UTC+05:30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B05:30) ([Sri Lanka Time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_Time)) |
| [**Postal code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_codes_in_Sri_Lanka) | 20000 |
| [**Area code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbering_plan) | [081](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbers_in_Sri_Lanka) |
| **Website** | [kandy.mc.gov.lk](http://kandy.mc.gov.lk/) |

#### Temple of the Tooth

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:SL_Kandy_asv2020-01_img34_Sacred_Tooth_Temple.jpg)

Temple of the Tooth Relic, Kandy.

On the north shore of the lake, which is enclosed by a parapet of white stone dating to the beginning of the 19th century, are the city's official religious monuments, including the [Royal Palace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Palace_of_Kandy) and the [Temple of the Tooth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth), known as the Sri Dalada Maligawa (daḷadā māligāva). Reconstructed in the 18th century, the Sri Dalada Maligawa is built on a base of [granite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite) that was inspired by the [temples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple) of Sri Lanka's former capital city, [Anuradhapura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anuradhapura). An array of materials ([limestone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limestone), [marble](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marble), sculpted [wood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wood), [ivory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivory), etc.) contribute to the richness of this temple. Throughout this small *holy city*, a number of recent Buddhist [monasteries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monastery) can be found.

The monumental ensemble of Kandy is an example of construction that associates the Royal Palace and the Temple of the Tooth (*Palace of the tooth relic*) is the place that houses the [relic of the tooth of the Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relic_of_the_tooth_of_the_Buddha). Originally part of the Royal Palace complex of the Kandyan Kingdom, it is one of the holiest places of worship and pilgrimage for Buddhists around the world. It was the last of a series of temples built in the places where the relic, the actual palladium of the Sinhalese monarchy, was brought following the various relocations of the capital city.

The Palace of the Tooth relic, the palace complex and the holy city of Kandy are associated with the history of the dissemination of Buddhism. The temple is the product of the last peregrination of the relic of the tooth of Buddha and the testimony of a religion which continues to be practiced today.

The [International Buddhist Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Buddhist_Museum) nearby houses objects contributed by India, Gandhara, Bhutan, Nepal, Korea, Thailand, etc. A 16-foot statue of Gautama Buddha, a replica of the [Sarnath Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dharmachakra_Pravartana_Buddha_at_Sarnath" \o "Dharmachakra Pravartana Buddha at Sarnath) is installed in front of the museum, gifted by the Government of India.

#### Royal Palace

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:SL_Kandy_asv2020-01_img43_Royal_Palace.jpg)

The Royal Palace of Kandy

The [Royal Palace of Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Palace_of_Kandy) is the last Royal Palace built in the island. Although only part of the original palace complex remains. The Temple of the Tooth was part of this complex, due to the ancient tradition that stated that the monarch is the protector of the relic though which the ruler of the land. It today houses the [National Museum Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum_Kandy) which holds an extensive collection of artefacts from both the Kandy Kingdom and the British colonial rule.

#### Lankatilaka Temple

The [Lankatilaka Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lankatilaka_Vihara" \o "Lankatilaka Vihara) is considered to be one of the best-preserved examples of traditional Sinhalese temple architecture.Built on a rock, the temple is reached by a long series of rock-cut steps. An arched passage of the image house leads through a Mandapa (hall) into the inner sanctum which is decorated with floral designs. The two side walls and the ceiling are decorated with paintings. In the inner sanctum is a large seated image of the Buddha.

#### Gadaladeniya Temple

The [Gadaladeniya Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gadaladeniya_Vihara" \o "Gadaladeniya Vihara)'s design is of South Indian origin with a Devale attached to it, similar in character to the Natha Devale and the Gedige of Adahana Maluwa. The main shrine room has a seated Buddha statue and the remains of some paintings of the Gampola period.

Among other important temples around Kandy are [Dodanwala Devalaya](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dodanwala_Devalaya&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Dodanwala Devalaya (page does not exist)) (shrine), [Embekka Devalaya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embekka_Devalaya" \o "Embekka Devalaya) (shrine), [Galmaduwa Vihara](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Galmaduwa_Vihara&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Galmaduwa Vihara (page does not exist)) temple, Handagala Vihara temple, [Medawala Vihara](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Medawala_Vihara&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Medawala Vihara (page does not exist)) and [Nalanda Gedige](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nalanda_Gedige" \o "Nalanda Gedige).

### Parks and gardens

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Botanical_Garden_of_Peradeniya_03.jpg)

Peradeniya Botanical garden

The [Royal Botanical Garden, Peradeniya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botanical_Garden_of_Peradeniya) is situated about 5 km to the west of the city centre at [Peradeniya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peradeniya" \o "Peradeniya) and is visited by 2 million people per year.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy#cite_note-ReferenceA-26) It is the largest botanical garden on the island extending to 147 acres (59 ha) and containing over 4000 species of plants.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy#cite_note-ReferenceA-26) [Knuckles Mountain Range](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knuckles_Mountain_Range) in Kandy is a world heritage site of UNESCO. [Alagalla Mountain Range](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alagalla_Mountain_Range" \o "Alagalla Mountain Range) also named in English as Potato Range both famous for trekking in Sri Lanka. The [Udawatta Kele](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawatta_Kele_Sanctuary" \o "Udawatta Kele Sanctuary) (*Udawatta Forest*) is a protected sanctuary situated in the heart of the city, just north of the Temple of the Tooth. Known as "Uda Wasala Watta" in [Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language) meaning, "the garden situated above the royal palace", it was designated as a forest reserve in 1856, and it became a sanctuary in 1938.

The [Royal Palace Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wace_Park), known as *Wales Park* is a small park that overlooks [Kandy Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy_Lake) and most of the city. In the park is a Japanese [field gun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_gun) which was captured by the British [14th Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourteenth_Army_(United_Kingdom)) in [Burma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burma) during World War II and presented to the city of Kandy by [Lord Mountbatten](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Mountbatten,_1st_Earl_Mountbatten_of_Burma), Supreme Allied Commander [South East Asia Theatre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South-East_Asian_theatre_of_World_War_II).

9. Passikudah

**Pasikudah** or **Pasikuda** ([Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): பாசிக்குடா; [Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): පාසිකුඩා; (Pronounced *Paasikkudah* - historic Tamil translation "Green-Algae-Bay") is a [coastal resort town](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seaside_resort) located 35 kilometers northwest of [Batticaloa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batticaloa" \o "Batticaloa), [Batticaloa District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batticaloa_District" \o "Batticaloa District), [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). Historically a small Tamil hamlet alongside nearby [Kalkudah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalkudah" \o "Kalkudah), it used to be a popular tourist destination, however suffered huge devastation following the [2004 Indian Ocean tsunami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Indian_Ocean_earthquake_and_tsunami) and the [Sri Lankan Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_Civil_War).Foreign travel to Pasikudah has recently increased due to growth in investment and development. It is home to the Pasikudah Mariamman temple. Pasikudah is easily accessible from the cities of [Trincomalee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trincomalee" \o "Trincomalee) and [Batticaloa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batticaloa" \o "Batticaloa). The nearest airport to Pasikudah is [Batticaloa Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batticaloa_Airport" \o "Batticaloa Airport), which has scheduled flights operating from [Colombo Bandaranaike International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo_Bandaranaike_International_Airport).

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| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[7°55′42″N 81°33′42″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Pasikudah&params=7_55_42_N_81_33_42_E_region:LK_type:city) | |
| [**Country**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Country) | [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Eastern Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Batticaloa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batticaloa_District) |
| [**Divisional Secreatariat**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divisional_Secretariats_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Manmunai West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manmunai_West_Divisional_Secretariat) |

10. Nuwara Eliya

**Nuwara Eliya** ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): නුවර එළිය [[nuwərə ɛlijə]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA); [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): நுவரெலியா) is a city in the hill country of the [Central Province, Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka). Its name means "city on the plain (table land)" or "city of light". The city is the administrative capital of [Nuwara Eliya District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuwara_Eliya_District" \o "Nuwara Eliya District), with a picturesque landscape and temperate climate. It is at an altitude of 1,868 m (6,128 ft) and is considered to be the most important location for [tea production in Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tea_production_in_Sri_Lanka). The city is overlooked by [Pidurutalagala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pidurutalagala" \o "Pidurutalagala), the tallest mountain in Sri Lanka. Nuwara Eliya is known for its temperate, cool climate – the coolest area in Sri Lanka.

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| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°58′0″N 80°46′0″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Nuwara_Eliya&params=6_58_0_N_80_46_0_E_type:city(27500)_region:LK)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°58′0″N 80°46′0″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Nuwara_Eliya&params=6_58_0_N_80_46_0_E_type:city(27500)_region:LK) | |
| [**Country**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states) | Sri Lanka |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Central Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | Nuwara Eliya District |
| **Government** | |
| **• Type** | [Municipal Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_Council) |
| **Area** | |
| **• Urban** | 13 km2 (5 sq mi) |
| **Elevation** | 1,868 m (6,129 ft) |
| **Population**   (2011 census) | |
| **•**[**City**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City) | 27,500 |
| **• Density** | 3,197/km2 (8,280/sq mi) |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [UTC+5:30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B5:30) ([Sri Lanka Standard Time Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone#UTC_.2B_6.2C_F)) |
| **Postcode** | 22200 |
| [**Area code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbering_plan) | 052 |

## **Attractions**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:VictoriaPark.jpg)

Victoria Park.

The town's attractions include the golf course, trout streams, [Victoria Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Park,_Nuwara_Eliya), and boating or fishing on [Lake Gregory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Gregory_(Nuwara_Eliya)). Victoria Park is an attractive and well-used oasis. It is popular with [birdwatchers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birdwatcher) at quieter times because of the good opportunities for seeing species, particularly the [Indian blue robin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_blue_robin), [pied thrush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pied_thrush) or [scaly thrush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scaly_thrush) lurking in the denser undergrowth. The [Kashmir flycatcher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir_flycatcher) is another attractive [bird](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird) species in the park.

[Galway's Land Bird Sanctuary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galway%27s_Land_National_Park), close to Lake Gregory, is an area of [montane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montane" \o "Montane) forest a few kilometers east of the town. Covering an area of 0.6 km2 it is home to many bird and mammal species [endemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endemic) to Sri Lanka, including [wild boar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wild_boar) and [barking deer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barking_deer).

The city is a base for visits to [Horton Plains National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horton_Plains_National_Park). This is a key wildlife area of an open grassy woodland. Species found here include the [leopard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopard), [sambar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sambar_deer" \o "Sambar deer), and the endemic [purple-faced langur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purple-faced_langur). Endemic highland birds include the [dull-blue flycatcher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dull-blue_flycatcher), [Sri Lanka white-eye](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_white-eye), and [yellow-eared bulbul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow-eared_bulbul). The plains have a well-visited tourist attraction at [World's End](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World%27s_End,_Sri_Lanka) — a sheer precipice with a 1050 m drop. The return walk passes the scenic [Baker's Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baker%27s_Falls). Early morning visits are best, both to see the wildlife and to view World's End before mists close in during the later part of the morning.

One of the distinctive features of Nuwara Eliya's countryside is the widespread growing of vegetables, fruit and flowers usually associated with temperate Europe. This "Little England" is covered with terraces growing potatoes, carrots, leeks, and roses interspersed with [tea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tea) bushes on the steeper slopes.

The slow-growing tea bushes of this highland region produce some of the world's finest [orange pekoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_pekoe) tea. Several tea factories around Nuwara Eliya offer guided tours and the opportunity to sample or purchase their products.

'Lovers Leap' is a spectacular waterfall set among tea plantations a short walk from the town of Nuwara Eliya. It falls a height of 30m in a long cascading sheet of water. It is said that it is named after a young couple who decided to be bound together forever by jumping off the cliff to their demise.

11. Yala

**Yala (යාල) National Park** is the most visited and second largest [national park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_park) in [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka), bordering the [Indian Ocean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean). The park consists of five blocks, with three of which are now open to the public. There are also two adjoining parks, [Kumana National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kumana_National_Park" \o "Kumana National Park) or 'Yala East' and [Lunugamvehera National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunugamvehera_National_Park" \o "Lunugamvehera National Park). The blocks have individual names, such as Ruhuna National Park (Block 1). It is situated in the southeastern region of the country, in the [Southern Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Province,_Sri_Lanka) and [Uva Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uva_Province" \o "Uva Province). The park covers 979 square kilometres (378 sq mi) and is located about 300 kilometres (190 mi) from [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo). Yala was designated as a [wildlife sanctuary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife_refuge) in 1900, along with [Wilpattu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilpattu_National_Park" \o "Wilpattu National Park), designated in 1938 as one of the first two designated national parks in Sri Lanka. The park is best known for its variety of wildlife. It is important conservation of [Sri Lankan elephants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_elephant), [Sri Lankan leopards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_leopard) and aquatic birds.

There are six national parks and three wildlife sanctuaries in the vicinity of Yala. Among the largest is [Lunugamvehera National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunugamvehera_National_Park" \o "Lunugamvehera National Park). The park is situated in the [dry semi-arid climatic region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Sri_Lanka#Climate) and rain is received mainly during the [northeast monsoon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsoon). Yala hosts a variety of [ecosystems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecosystem) ranging from moist monsoon forests to freshwater and marine [wetlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wetland). It is one of the 70 [Important Bird Areas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Important_Bird_Area) (IBAs) in Sri Lanka. Yala harbors 215 bird species including six endemic species of Sri Lanka. The number of [mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal) that has been recorded from the park is 44, and it has one of the highest [leopard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopard) densities in the world.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location** | [Southern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Province,_Sri_Lanka) and [Uva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uva_Province" \o "Uva Province) Provinces, [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| **Nearest city** | [Hambantota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hambantota) |
| **Coordinates** | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°22′22″N 81°31′01″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Yala_National_Park&params=6_22_22_N_81_31_01_E_type:landmark_dim:31km)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°22′22″N 81°31′01″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Yala_National_Park&params=6_22_22_N_81_31_01_E_type:landmark_dim:31km) |
| **Area** | 978.807 km2 (377.919 sq mi) |
| **Established** | 1900 (Wildlife sanctuary) 1938 (National park) |
| **Governing body** | [Department of Wildlife Conservation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_of_Wildlife_Conservation_(Sri_Lanka)) |
| **Website** | [www.yalasrilanka.lk](http://www.yalasrilanka.lk/) |

12. Hortain plains

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location** | [Central province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka), [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| **Nearest city** | [Ohiya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohiya) and [Nuwara Eliya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuwara_Eliya" \o "Nuwara Eliya) |
| **Coordinates** | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°48′N 80°48′E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Horton_Plains_National_Park&params=6_48_N_80_48_E_type:landmark_dim:5km)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°48′N 80°48′E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Horton_Plains_National_Park&params=6_48_N_80_48_E_type:landmark_dim:5km) |
| **Area** | 3,160 ha (12.2 sq mi) |
| **Established** | 1969 (Nature reserve) 1988 (National park) |
| **Governing body** | [Department of Wildlife Conservation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_of_Wildlife_Conservation_(Sri_Lanka)) |
| **World Heritage site** | 2010 (within the site [Central Highlands of Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Highlands_of_Sri_Lanka)) |

**Horton Plains National Park** ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): හෝර්ටන් තැන්න ජාතික උද්‍යානය, romanized: *Hortan Thanna Jathika Udyanaya*) is a [national park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_park) in the central highlands of [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) that was designated in 1988. It is located at an elevation of 2,100–2,300 m (6,900–7,500 ft) and encompasses montane [grassland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grassland) and [cloud forest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_forest). It is rich in [biodiversity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity) and many species found here are [endemic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endemism) to the region. It is also a popular tourist destination and is situated 8 kilometres (5.0 mi) from [Ohiya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohiya" \o "Ohiya), 6 kilometres (3.7 mi) from the world-famous Ohiya Gap/Dondra Watch and 32 kilometres (20 mi) from [Nuwara Eliya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuwara_Eliya" \o "Nuwara Eliya).

The Horton Plains are the [headwaters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Source_(river_or_stream)) of three major Sri Lankan rivers, the [Mahaweli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahaweli_River" \o "Mahaweli River), [Kelani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kelani_River" \o "Kelani River), and [Walawe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walawe_river" \o "Walawe river). In [Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language) the plains are known as Maha Eliya Plains (මහ එළිය තැන්න). [Stone tools](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stone_tool) dating back to [Balangoda culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balangoda_Man" \o "Balangoda Man) have been found here. The plains' vegetation is grasslands interspersed with montane forest and includes many endemic [woody plants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woody_plant). Large herds of [Sri Lankan sambar deer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_sambar_deer) feature as typical mammals and the park is also an [Important Bird Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Important_Bird_Area) with many species not only endemic to Sri Lanka but restricted to the Horton Plains. [Forest dieback](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest_dieback) is one of the major threats to the park and some studies suggest that it is caused by a natural phenomenon.

The sheer precipice of [World's End](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World%27s_End,_Sri_Lanka) and [Baker's Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baker%27s_Falls) are among the tourist attractions of the park.

13. Adam’s Peak

**Adam's Peak** or **Śrī Pāda** is a 2,243 m (7,359 ft) tall conical sacred [mountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain) located in central [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-:0-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-:1-2) It is well known for the "Śrī Pāda" ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): ශ්‍රී පාද), i.e., "sacred footprint", a 1.8 m (5 ft 11 in) rock formation near the summit. In [Buddhist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist) tradition the print is held to be the [footprint of the Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Footprint_of_the_Buddha), in [Hindu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism) tradition that of [Hanuman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanuman) or [Shiva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiva) ([Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): சிவனொளிபாதமலை, [lit.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literal_translation) 'Sivanolipaathamalai'), i.e., "Mountain of [Shiva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiva)'s Light", and in some [Islamic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic) and [Christian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity) traditions that of [Adam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam), or that of [St. Thomas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_the_Apostle).

The mountain is also known as **Mount Malaya** in Buddhist sources, particularly the [Mahayana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahayana) *[Lankavatara Sutra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La%E1%B9%85k%C4%81vat%C4%81ra_S%C5%ABtra" \o "Laṅkāvatāra Sūtra)*, which states that the Buddha preached this sutra on top of the mountain. According to this sutra, the mountain was the abode of [Rāvanā](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ravana" \o "Ravana), overlord of the [Raskshasas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rakshasa" \o "Rakshasa) and ruler of Laṅkā. Other names in [Sanskrit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit) sources include Mount Lanka, Ratnagiri (Mountain of Gems), Malayagiri (Mount Malaya) or Mount Rohana.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-:0-1)

The mountain is also seen as the abode of the deity [Saman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saman_(deity)" \o "Saman (deity)) and also goes by various names associated with this, including Sumanakūta (Sumana's Mountain) and Samanalakanda (Saman's Mountain or Mountain of the Butteries).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Highest point** | |
| [**Elevation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summit) | 2,243 m (7,359 ft) |
| [**Coordinates**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system) | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°48′34″N 80°29′59″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Adam%27s_Peak&params=6_48_34_N_80_29_59_E_type:mountain)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°48′34″N 80°29′59″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Adam%27s_Peak&params=6_48_34_N_80_29_59_E_type:mountain) |
| **Naming** | |
| **Native name** | * ශ්‍රී පාදය (සමනළ කන්ද) ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language)) * சிவனொளிபாதமலை ([Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language)) |

14. Colombo

**Colombo** ([/kəˈlʌmboʊ/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English) [*kə-LUM-boh*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Pronunciation_respelling_key);[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo#cite_note-2) [Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): කොළඹ, romanized: *Koḷam̆ba*, IPA: [[ˈkoləᵐbə]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA); [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): கொழும்பு, romanized: *Koḻumpu*, IPA: [[koɻumbɯ]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Tamil)) is the executive and judicial [capital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_city) and largest city of [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) by population. According to the [Brookings Institution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brookings_Institution), the Colombo metropolitan area has a population of 5.6 million, and 752,993 in the [Municipality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipality). It is the financial centre of the island and a tourist destination.It is located on the west coast of the island and adjacent to the [Greater Colombo area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Region_Megapolis) which includes [Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Jayawardenepura_Kotte), the legislative capital of Sri Lanka, and [Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dehiwala-Mount_Lavinia" \o "Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia). Colombo is often referred to as the capital since Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte is itself within the urban/suburban area of Colombo. It is also the administrative capital of the [Western Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Province,_Sri_Lanka) and the district capital of [Colombo District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo_District). Colombo is a busy and vibrant city with a mixture of modern life, colonial buildings and monuments.

Due to its large [harbour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo_Harbour" \o "Colombo Harbour) and its strategic position along the East–West sea [trade routes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade_route), Colombo was known to ancient traders 2,000 years ago. It was made the capital of the island when Sri Lanka was ceded to the [British Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) in 1815, and its status as capital was retained when the nation became [independent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_Independence_Struggle) in 1948. In 1978, when administrative functions were moved to [Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Jayawardenepura_Kotte), Colombo was designated as the commercial capital of Sri Lanka.

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| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°56′04″N 79°50′34″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Colombo&params=6_56_04_N_79_50_34_E_region:LK_type:city(752993))[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°56′04″N 79°50′34″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Colombo&params=6_56_04_N_79_50_34_E_region:LK_type:city(752993)) | |
| **Country** | [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Western Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Colombo District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo_District) |
| **Government** | |
| **• Municipal Council** | [Colombo Municipal Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo_Municipal_Council) |
| **• Headquarters** | [Town Hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Town_Hall_(Colombo)) |
| **•**[**Mayor**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor_of_Colombo) | [Rosy Senanayake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosy_Senanayake) ([UNP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_National_Party)) |
| **Area** | |
| **•**[**Capital city**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_city)**(**[**executive**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_(government))**and**[**judicial**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary)**)** | 37.31 km2 (14.41 sq mi) |
| **• Land** | 699 km2 (270 sq mi) |
| **• Metro** | 3,684 km2 (1,422 sq mi) |
| **Elevation** | 1 m (3 ft) |
| **Population**   (2011[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo#cite_note-census2011-1)) | |
| **•**[**Capital city**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_city)**(**[**executive**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_(government))**and**[**judicial**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary)**)** | 752,993 |
| **• Density** | 20,182/km2 (52,270/sq mi) |
| **•**[**Urban**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_area) | 2,323,826 |
| **•**[**Metro**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolitan_area) | 5,648,000 |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [UTC+05:30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B05:30) ([SLST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_Standard_Time)) |
| [**Postal code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_codes_in_Sri_Lanka) | 0xxxx |
| [**Area code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbering_plan) | [011](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbers_in_Sri_Lanka) |
| **Website** | [colombo.mc.gov.lk](http://colombo.mc.gov.lk/) |

15. Hikkaduwa

**Hikkaduwa** is a coastal town in [Galle district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_District) of [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). Hikkaduwa is a major tourist attraction in Sri Lanka and is known for its beaches and corals. It is located in the [Southern Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Province_(Sri_Lanka)), about 17 km (11 mi) north-west of [Galle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle) and 98 km (61 mi) south of [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo). Despite significant development in the last decade it is still home to the endangered and endemic [purple-faced langur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purple-faced_langur), an usually shy monkey species that can only be found in Sri Lanka's forests. It is divided into three main areas that are (from north to south): the Sri Lankan village, the tourist area, and then [Thiranagama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thiranagama" \o "Thiranagama).

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| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°8′50″N 80°6′37″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Hikkaduwa&params=6_8_50_N_80_6_37_E_region:LK_type:city)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°8′50″N 80°6′37″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Hikkaduwa&params=6_8_50_N_80_6_37_E_region:LK_type:city) | |
| [**Country**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states) | [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Southern Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Galle District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_District) |
| **Population** | |
| **• Total** | 101,342 |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [UTC+5:30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B5:30) ([Sri Lanka Standard Time Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone#UTC_+_6,_F)) |
| [**Postal Code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_Code) | 80240 |

16. Galle

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| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[06°01′58″N 80°12′56″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Galle&params=06_01_58_N_80_12_56_E_region:LK_type:city(93118))[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[06°01′58″N 80°12′56″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Galle&params=06_01_58_N_80_12_56_E_region:LK_type:city(93118)) | |
| [**Country**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states) | Sri Lanka |
| **Province** | [Southern Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| **Government** | |
| **• Type** | [Galle Municipal Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Municipal_Council) |
| **•**[**Mayor**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor) | Priyantha G. Sahabandu |
| **• Headquarters** | Galle Town Hall |
| **Area** | |
| **• Total** | 16.52 km2 (6.38 sq mi) |
| **Elevation** | 0 m (0 ft) |
| **Population**   (2020) | |
| **• Total** | 93,118 |
| **• Density** | 5,712/km2 (14,790/sq mi) |
| [**Demonym**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym) | Galleans |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [UTC+5:30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B5:30) ([Sri Lanka Standard Time Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_in_Sri_Lanka)) |
| [**Area code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbering_plan) | 091 |
| **Website** | [galle.mc.gov.lk](http://galle.mc.gov.lk/) |

**Galle** ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): ගාල්ල, romanized: *Gālla*; [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): காலி, romanized: *Kāli*) (formerly [French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_language): *Point de Galle*) is a major city in [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka), situated on the southwestern tip, 119 km (74 mi) from [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo). Galle is the provincial capital and largest city of [Southern Province, Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Province,_Sri_Lanka) and is the capital of [Galle District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_District).

Galle was known as *Gimhathiththa* before the arrival of the [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal) in the 16th century, when it was the main port on the island. [Ibn Batuta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Batuta" \o "Ibn Batuta), a [Moroccan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morocco) [Berber Muslim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berber_Muslims) traveller in the 14th century, referred to it as *Qali*.Galle reached the height of its development in the 18th century, during the [Dutch colonial period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_period_in_Ceylon). Galle is the best example of a fortified city built by the [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal) in South and Southeast [Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia), showing the interaction between [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal) [architectural](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architectural) styles and native traditions. The city was extensively fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century from 1649 onwards. The [Galle fort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_fort) is a world heritage site and is the largest remaining [fortress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortress) in Asia built by European occupiers.

## **Transport**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Galle_Expressway.JPG)

Southern Expressway

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:GALLE_RAILWAY_STATION_SRI_LANKA_JAN_2013_(8553460957).jpg)

[Galle Railway Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Railway_Station)

Galle is served by [Sri Lanka Railways](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_Railways)' [Coastal Line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coastal_Line_(Sri_Lanka)) and is connected by rail to Colombo and [Matara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matara,_Sri_Lanka). [Galle Railway Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Railway_Station) is a major station on the line and serves as the meeting point of the west- and south-coast segments of the line.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle#cite_note-12) The [A2 highway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A2_highway_(Sri_Lanka)), which is commonly known as the Galle Road, runs through the city and connects Galle to Colombo by the west-coast portion, and to [Hambanthota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hambanthota" \o "Hambanthota) by the south-coast portion. The [Southern Expressway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Expressway_(Sri_Lanka)), Sri Lanka's first E Class highway, links the Sri Lankan capital Colombo with Galle and currently reduces the time spent for travel to one hour from the three hours taken by the regular A2 highway.

17. Kataragama

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| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°25′00″N 81°20′00″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Kataragama&params=6_25_00_N_81_20_00_E_region:LK_type:city) | |
| [**Country**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states) | [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Uva Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uva_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Monaragala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monaragala_District) |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | [UTC+5:30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B5:30) ([Sri Lanka Standard Time Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone#UTC_.2B_6.2C_F)) |
| **• Summer (**[**DST**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)**)** | [UTC+6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B6) (Summer time) |

**Kataragama** ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): කතරගම, romanized: *Kataragama* , [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): கதிர்காமம், romanized: *Katirkrāmam*) is a pilgrimage town sacred to [Hindu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu), [Buddhist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist) and indigenous [Vedda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vedda_people" \o "Vedda people) people of [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). People from [South India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_India) also go there to worship. The town has the [Kataragama temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kataragama_temple" \o "Kataragama temple), a shrine dedicated to [Skanda Kumara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skanda_Kumara" \o "Skanda Kumara) also known as [Kataragama deviyo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kataragama_deviyo" \o "Kataragama deviyo). Kataragama is located in the [Monaragala District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monaragala_District" \o "Monaragala District) of [Uva province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uva_province" \o "Uva province), Sri Lanka. It is 228 km (142 mi) southeast of [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo). Although Kataragama was a small village in medieval times, today it is a fast-developing township surrounded by jungle in the southeastern region of Sri Lanka.

The ancient [Kiri Vehera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiri_Vehera" \o "Kiri Vehera) Buddhist [stupa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stupa), which is believed to be built by the regional king Mahasena in the 3rd century BCE is also a major attraction in Kataragama area. The town has a venerable history dating back to the last centuries BCE. It was the seat of government of many [Sinhalese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhalese_people) kings during the days of [Rohana kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruhuna" \o "Ruhuna).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kataragama#cite_note-G-2) Since the 1950s the town has undergone many improvements with successive governments investing in public transportation, medical facilities, and business development and hotel services. It adjoins the popular [Yala National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yala_National_Park" \o "Yala National Park).

18. Hambantota

**Hambantota** ([Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_language): හම්බන්තොට, [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): அம்பாந்தோட்டை) is the main town in [Hambantota District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hambantota_District" \o "Hambantota District), [Southern Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Province,_Sri_Lanka), [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka)The prominent [Malays (මැලේ)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_Malays) most part of the population is to be partly descended from seafarers from the Malay Archipelago ([java](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java)) who travelled through the Magampura port, and over time settled down.

This underdeveloped area was hit hard by the [2004 Indian Ocean tsunami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Indian_Ocean_earthquake_and_tsunami) and is undergoing a number of major development projects including the construction of a new [sea port](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_of_Hambantota) and [international airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mattala_International_Airport) finished in 2013. These projects and others such as [Hambantota Cricket Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hambantota_Cricket_Stadium" \o "Hambantota Cricket Stadium) are said to form part of the government's plan to transform Hambantota into the second major urban hub of Sri Lanka, away from [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo).

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| --- | --- |
| Coordinates: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[06°07′28″N 81°07′21″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Hambantota&params=06_07_28_N_81_07_21_E_region:LK_type:city(8283))[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[06°07′28″N 81°07′21″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Hambantota&params=06_07_28_N_81_07_21_E_region:LK_type:city(8283)) | |
| **Country** | Sri Lanka |
| [**Province**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Southern Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Province,_Sri_Lanka) |
| [**District**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sri_Lanka) | [Hambantota District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hambantota_District) |
| **Elevation** | 1 m (3 ft) |
| **Population**   (2012) | |
| **• Total** | 8,283 |
| [**Time zone**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone) | +05:30 |
| [**Area codes**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbering_plan) | [047](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Sri_Lanka_telephone_codes) |

### Transportation

#### Air

[Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mattala_Rajapaksa_International_Airport) (MRIA) is located in the town of Mattala, 18 km (11 mi) north of Hambantota. Opened in March 2013, it is the second [international airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_airport) in Sri Lanka after [Bandaranaike International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bandaranaike_International_Airport) in [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo" \o "Colombo),.The [Weerawila Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weerawila_Airport) is also located nearby.

#### Road

[A2 highway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A2_highway_(Sri_Lanka)) connects Colombo with Hambantota town through [Galle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle) and [Matara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matara,_Sri_Lanka). The [Southern Expressway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E01_expressway_(Sri_Lanka)) from Kottawa to Matara will be connected to Hambantota via Beliatta

#### Rail

Construction work started in 2006 on the [Matara-Kataragama Railway Line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matara-Kataragama_Railway_Line) project, a [broad gauge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broad_gauge) railway being implemented at an estimated cost of $91 million.

### Energy

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:HambantotaWindFarm01.JPG)

NEG Micon M1500-600 wind turbines in Hambanthota Wind Farm

The [Hambantota Wind Farm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hambantota_Wind_Farm" \o "Hambantota Wind Farm) is the first [wind farm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_farm) in Sri Lanka (there are two more commercial wind farms). It's a pilot project to test wind power generation in the island nation. [Wind energy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_energy) development faces immense obstacles such as poor roads and an unstable [power grid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_grid). With the transmission network development plan of [CEB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceylon_Electricity_Board), first ever 220kV grid substation is under construction in Hambantota, it will be connected to the National Grid by 2022. [CHINT Electric](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=CHINT_Electric&action=edit&redlink=1) is the Main Contractor and [Minel Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Minel_Lanka&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Minel Lanka (page does not exist)) is the National Contractor that carried out design, civil construction and electrical installation works. This substation will be handling 500 MVA with 6 units of 220/132/33 kV 83.33 MVA power transformers from [Tirathai](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tirathai&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Tirathai (page does not exist)).

### Port

*Main article: [Magampura Mahinda Rajapaksa Port](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magampura_Mahinda_Rajapaksa_Port" \o "Magampura Mahinda Rajapaksa Port)*

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hambantota_Port.jpg)

Hambantota Port

Hambantota is the selected site for a new international port, the [Port of Hambantota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_of_Hambantota). It was scheduled to be built in three phases, with the first phase due to be completed by the end of 2010 at a cost of $360 million.As part of the port, a $550 million [tax-free port zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Economic_Zone) is being started, with companies in [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China), [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia) and [Dubai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubai) expressing interest in setting up [shipbuilding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shipbuilding), ship-repair and [warehousing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warehousing) facilities in the zone. The port officially opened on November 18, 2010, at the end of the first phase of construction.When all phases are fully complete, it will be able to berth 33 vessels, which would make it the biggest port in South Asia.

Bunkering facility: 14 tanks (8 for oil, 3 for aviation fuel and 3 for LP gas) with a total capacity of 80,000 m3 (2,800,000 cu ft). But in the whole of 2012 only 34 ships berthed at Hambantota, compared with 3,667 ships at the [port of Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_of_Colombo). Sri Lanka was still heavily in debt to China for the cost of the port and with so little traffic, was unable to service the debt. In 2017 China was given a 99-year lease for the port in exchange for $1.1 billion.

The involvement of Chinese companies in the development of Hambantota port have provoked claims by some analysts that it is part of China's [String of Pearls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/String_of_Pearls_(Indian_Ocean)) strategy. Other analysts have argued that it would not be in Sri Lanka's interests to allow the Chinese navy access to the port and in any event the exposed nature of the port would make it of dubious value to China in time of conflict.

In November 2019, [President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Sri_Lanka) [Gotabaya Rajapaksa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gotabaya_Rajapaksa" \o "Gotabaya Rajapaksa) indicated that the Sri Lankan government would try to undo the 99-year lease of the port and return to the original loan repayment schedule. As of August 2020 the 99-year lease was still in place.