

CLIMATE

The climate in the overall Sabaragamuwa region is commonly classified as a tropical rainforest climate, which is a part of the wet zone of Sri Lanka. When taken separately, Ratnapura, located so close to the southern province in the southwestern part of the country, consists of a tropical rainforest climate. The region is a part of the wet zone of Sri Lanka, as the region receives ample rainfall mainly from the southwestern monsoon from May to September. Unfortunately, due to the heavy rainfall and its location in the flood plain of the Kalu River, the region is frequently subjected to floods during the monsoonal period. Temperatures range from 24 degrees Celsius to higher temperatures. Similarly, Kegalle experiences significant rainfall throughout the year, with only brief dry periods. The average temperature in the city is about 25 degrees Celsius.



RATNAPURA



KEGALLE

RATNA PURA



SRI PADA (ADAM'S PEAK)



This 2,243 m tall conical mountain is everyone's favorite destination in Sri Lanka. Be lucky to climb this holy mountain well known and hailed by every local; regarded as the most precious place in Sri Lanka you must not miss. This is popular among locals as Sri Pada (the Sacred Foot Print of Lord Buddha) and most importantly this holy mountain is claimed by all four religions in Sri Lanka. It is foremost the best place for the hikers and adventures out there.

- The hike includes about 5,000 – 6,000 steps and trekking high up to the mountain.
- Spend a night in a hotel or a homestay and charge yourself before hiking the mountain as you might be exhausted while hiking.
- Snuggle up with warm thick clothes as it gets too cold when climbing during the nights.
- Enjoy the outdoor adventure while climbing the challenging steps.
- To experience the perfect weather for hiking, visit during December – May.
- Start your journey in the night to arrive at the top of the mountain at the perfect time to see the breathtaking sunrise which is everyone's bucket list.
- Take a rest from the endless steps on the way to admire the surrounding nature.
- Appreciate the beauty of nature from the top of the mountain.



02 RATNAPURA GEM MINES

Ratnapura; the City of Gems is the land famous for spectacular jewels and is blessed with gems. Gem mining and trading gems date back for several years as Sri Lanka was once called the 'Gem Island' (Ratna Deepa) in the earlier days as a result of the abundance of gems.

- See all the traditional mining areas located around Ratnapura.
- Witness how the gems are mined in the ancient traditional methods.
- See the world-famous gems in Ratnapura including Blue Sapphire which is the world's most valuable Sapphire.
- Visit the gem museum in Ratnapura.
- See the process of digging gem pits and washing gravel from the gems in real-time.

03 PEAK WILDNESS SANCTUARY

Peak Wilderness Sanctuary is the third-largest natural reserve in Sri Lanka. This is more than 22,379 hectares located in the wet zone which obviously is gifted with rich biodiversity and dense forests. The place is home to several endemic plants and animals as well. This also holds spiritual and cultural values as the holy mountain of Adam's Peak mostly known as Sri Pada is near the sanctuary.

- Hike the fascinating mountains to have breathtaking views of the surroundings as it is the best place to see the world around you.
- Have a journey to Sri pada and climb the mountain to see the beautiful view and the sunrise in the early mornings.
- Enjoy a quality time bird watching, take mesmerizing shots of various splendid locations.
- Be lucky to see the leopards and the big cats which are quite rarely seen by the people on the way.
- Walkthrough the emerald tea plantations into the limitless nature.



04 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF RATNAPURA

As in the other districts Ratnapura district has its own museum exhibiting various ancient and valuable exhibits safely protected from the past. The museum was once an 'Ehelapora Walawwa' (mansion) which displays ancient architecture.

- See the prehistoric archeological Sri Lankan inventions.
- Witness the natural heritage exhibits, geological, anthropological, zoological artifacts of the province that are protected from the ancient days.
- See the ancient Sri Lankan weaponry, machine guns used during the world wars, and ancient swords in the medieval eras.
- Check out the ancient traditional Kandyan jewelry and the precious gems found in Sri Lanka.



05 MAHA SAMAN DEWALAYA

This shrine is dedicated to the deity Saman who is the deity of Sri Pada Mountain and is also known as a guardian god of Sri Lanka. This ancient temple is the second largest ancient temple built in the 13th century. This temple is only second to the Temple of the Tooth Relic located in Kandy.

- Witness the ancient architecture on the buildings.
- Be lucky to witness the annual temple perahara festival held mostly in the months of late July to early August.



06

BELIHULOYA

This village is a paradise of mountains lush green vegetation and waterfalls. You are welcome here to enjoy the cool scenic beauty of the place.

- Stay a few nights and experience the view of nights in this beautiful village.
- Have mind-blowing views on top of the hills and mountains.
- Visit the Pahanthuduwa waterfall to have mesmerizing sights with crystal clear water and take incredible shots.
- Visit the Baker's Bend viewpoint which is 1530 m high to have an astonishing view of the surrounding.
- Enjoy hiking the 'Wangedigala' mountain with fascinating viewpoints to have a peaceful time on your own way from the workload.

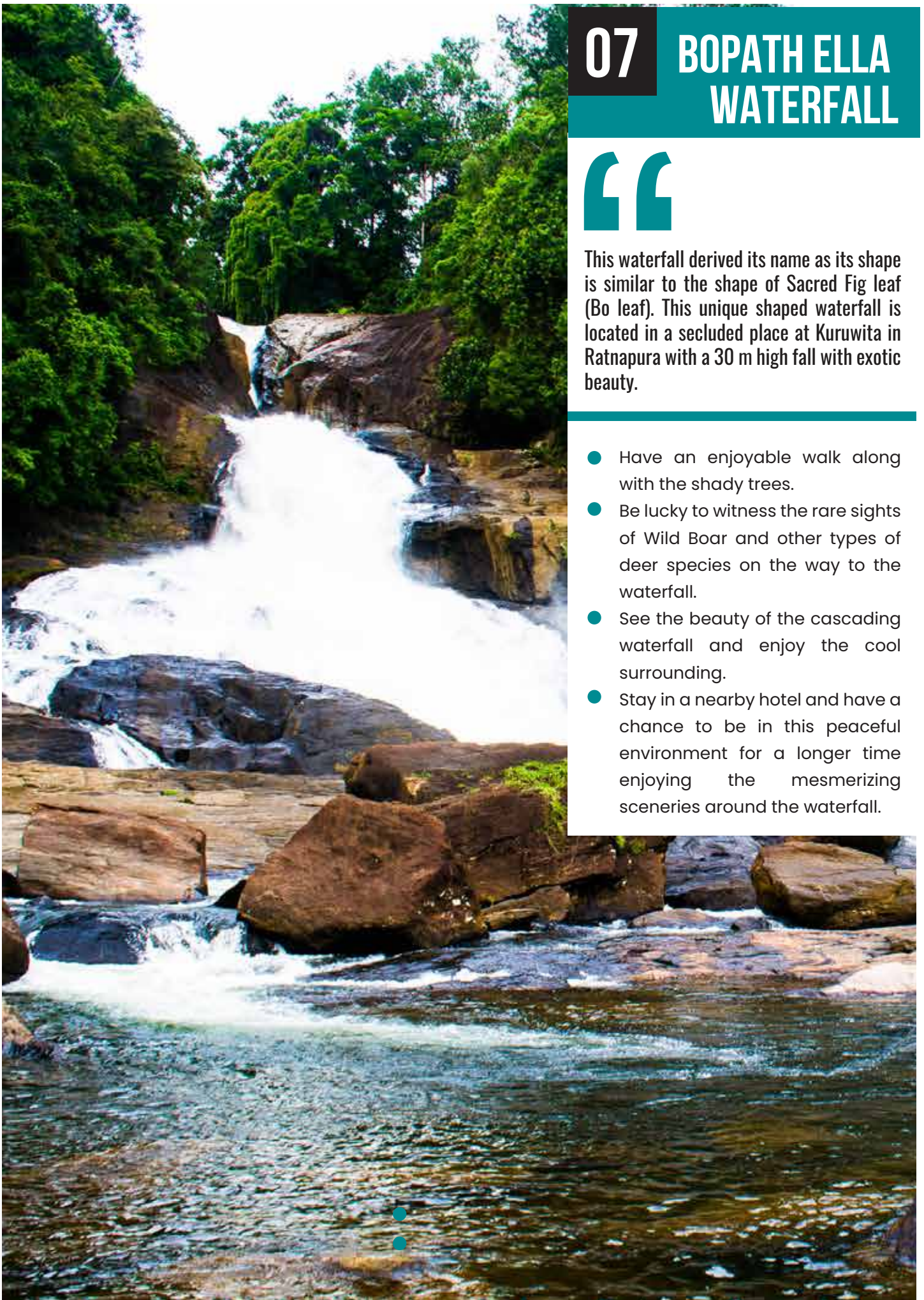
07

BOPATH ELLA WATERFALL



This waterfall derived its name as its shape is similar to the shape of Sacred Fig leaf (Bo leaf). This unique shaped waterfall is located in a secluded place at Kuruwita in Ratnapura with a 30 m high fall with exotic beauty.

- Have an enjoyable walk along with the shady trees.
- Be lucky to witness the rare sights of Wild Boar and other types of deer species on the way to the waterfall.
- See the beauty of the cascading waterfall and enjoy the cool surrounding.
- Stay in a nearby hotel and have a chance to be in this peaceful environment for a longer time enjoying the mesmerizing sceneries around the waterfall.



KEGAALLE



A large elephant and a baby elephant are in a river. The large elephant is on the left, and the baby elephant is in the foreground, partially submerged in the water. The background is a lush green forest.

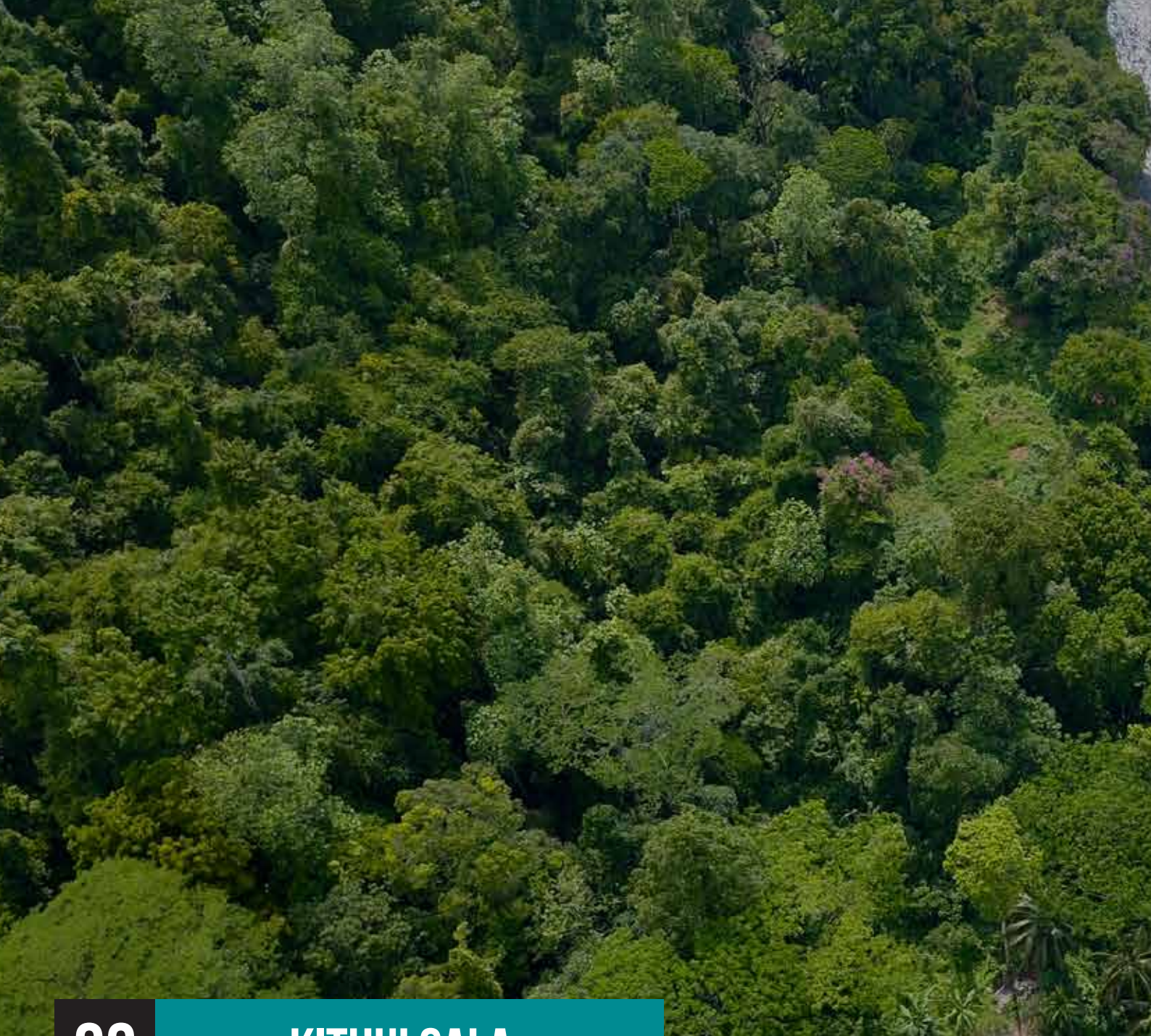
01

PINNAWALA ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE

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This world-famous elephant orphanage is functioning as a great shelter for the lost elephants in Sri Lankan forests. The place provides a home to approximately about 93 elephants from 1975 till today. The area is once covered with coconut plantations and now has become a massive shelter for these adorable giants.

- Watch the beautiful scenery of the river 'Ma Oya' running next to the orphanage where elephants take baths while baby elephants play around.
- See baby elephants being bottle-fed by the mahouts and volunteers.
- Watch elephants bathing which is a pretty pleasing sight that many visitors are waiting for.
- Film wildlife video graphs of the lives of elephants ranging from baby elephants to adult elephants.



02

KITHULGALA



This is without doubt the best place to be if you are an adventurous traveler. Kithulgala is famous as a tourist hotspot and as the island's number 1 adventurous site. The place is overloaded with dense forests, rivers waterfalls, mountains, and other scenic places anyone could wish to see.



- Witness the vegetation and the fascinating mountains in the distance while getting engulfed in the scenic beauty of nature.
- Enjoy White Water Rafting which is quite popular among the visitors.
- Go canoeing on the river or go trekking around the dense forests and mountains.
- Visit the world-famous Sinharaja rain forest down Kithulgala- trek.
- See the beauty of the Kelani River running down the area.
- Have a boat ride across the river.
- Explore through the secluded beauties of nature.
- Have quite an adventure sliding down or jumping from small waterfalls safely while rafting.
- Enjoy having a picnic with your family, friends, or your partner before the incredible view of the river or a waterfall in Kithulgala.
- Try other outdoor activities such as hiking mountains, bird watching, mountain biking, rubber raft tours in the river.
- You are also welcome to go on camping with friends in this terrific setting and have a chance to wake up to the sounds of nature.
- Gaze on the dense forest fully covered with trees and absorb all the freshness while riding a rubber raft boat through the jungles on either side of the river.
- Have fun enjoying swimming or take a fresh bath in a safe place recommended for swimming and bathing.



NORTHERN PROVINCE

NORTHERN PROVINCE



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE NORTHERN PROVINCE

The Northern Province, located in the north of Sri Lanka, is a region with a rich history and culture that is often overlooked by tourists. The province consists of five main districts, including Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, and Mulathivu. Jaffna is the capital of the province. The whole province spreads over an area of 8,890.07 sq. km., which accounts for 13% of the total land area of Sri Lanka. The region owns around 5% of the total Sri Lankan population, mostly Sri Lankan Tamils. The high density of Hindus makes the region religiously significant for the Hindu devotees who travel to the province to participate in festivals.

One of the most significant facts about the Northern Province is that most of the Sri Lankan civil war happened in this region, which attracts the attention of most visitors. This culturally rich region was once under the power of LTTE terrorists, who destroyed most of the charming beauties of the region. However, the region is safe and protected for travelers who are willing to experience exotic adventures through their journeys. The region captivates most foreigners for its unique experiences.

The province is blessed with a number of lagoons and splendid islands all over the province. The Jaffna Lagoon is the largest lagoon in Sri Lanka, and Mannar Island, the largest island in Sri Lanka, is also located in the Northern Province, making the province more significant among the other provinces. The panoramic landscapes, culturally and historically important monuments, quaint villages, and ancient Hindu temples enhance the importance of the region. Witness the mesmerizing sunsets on the warm, sandy beaches while enjoying the widespread paddy fields on the flat land surfaces in the area. Tourists who visit the region from all over the world enjoy getting drenched in the sun while discovering historically significant monuments.

A BIT OF HISTORY

The region has remnants of ancient kingdoms as well as traces from colonial times in such colonies as the Portuguese, Dutch, and British. The province was a part of the pre-colonial Jaffna Kingdom before it came under the control of the colonies. The region was a part of the Tamil administration during the times of British control and was unified thereafter with the Colebrooke-Cameron Commission and divided into five districts, namely: Jaffna, Mannar, Nuvarakalaviya, and Vanni, forming the new Northern Province. Later, Nuvarakalaviya (present-day Anuradhapura) was separated and merged to create North Central Province. Afterward, the province was established as a new provincial council by President Jayewardene to establish the new North-East province, which was created by merging the Northern and Eastern Provinces. This province was later declared illegal by the Supreme Court in 2006. With that, the North-Eastern Province separated into the Northern and Eastern Provinces once again. After colonial times, the province was under the control of LTTE terrorists for many years during the civil war, and the Sri Lankan military succeeded in spreading peace and unity over the region in 2009. In the recent past, the government has imposed travel restrictions on the former war zone areas in the province, but the restriction was lifted three months later, and is now considered a safe region to visit.

CLIMATE

The climate of the region is mainly hot and dry. The dry season is longer and is normally seen from February to September, while the wet seasons are shorter. The average temperature is about 28° to 30°. The temperature is higher in May, while in January it's mildly cool. However, most of the rainfall is received from the northeast monsoon, and rainfall is lower during the monsoon period because of the lack of water droplets in the northeast monsoon. The province receives less than 1,300 mm of rain per year, which is low in comparison to other regions. The climate, particularly in Jaffna, is tropically dry with little rainfall. Similarly, the climates are quite similar in Vavuniya, with less rainfall and high temperatures.



JAFFNA



KILINOCHCHI



VAVUNIYA



MANNAR



MULLAITIVU

JAFFNA





Visit this landmark of a huge number of devotees from all over the island. Originally found in 948 AD; the Nallur Kovil temple is a majestic temple of the God of love, beauty war, and peace.

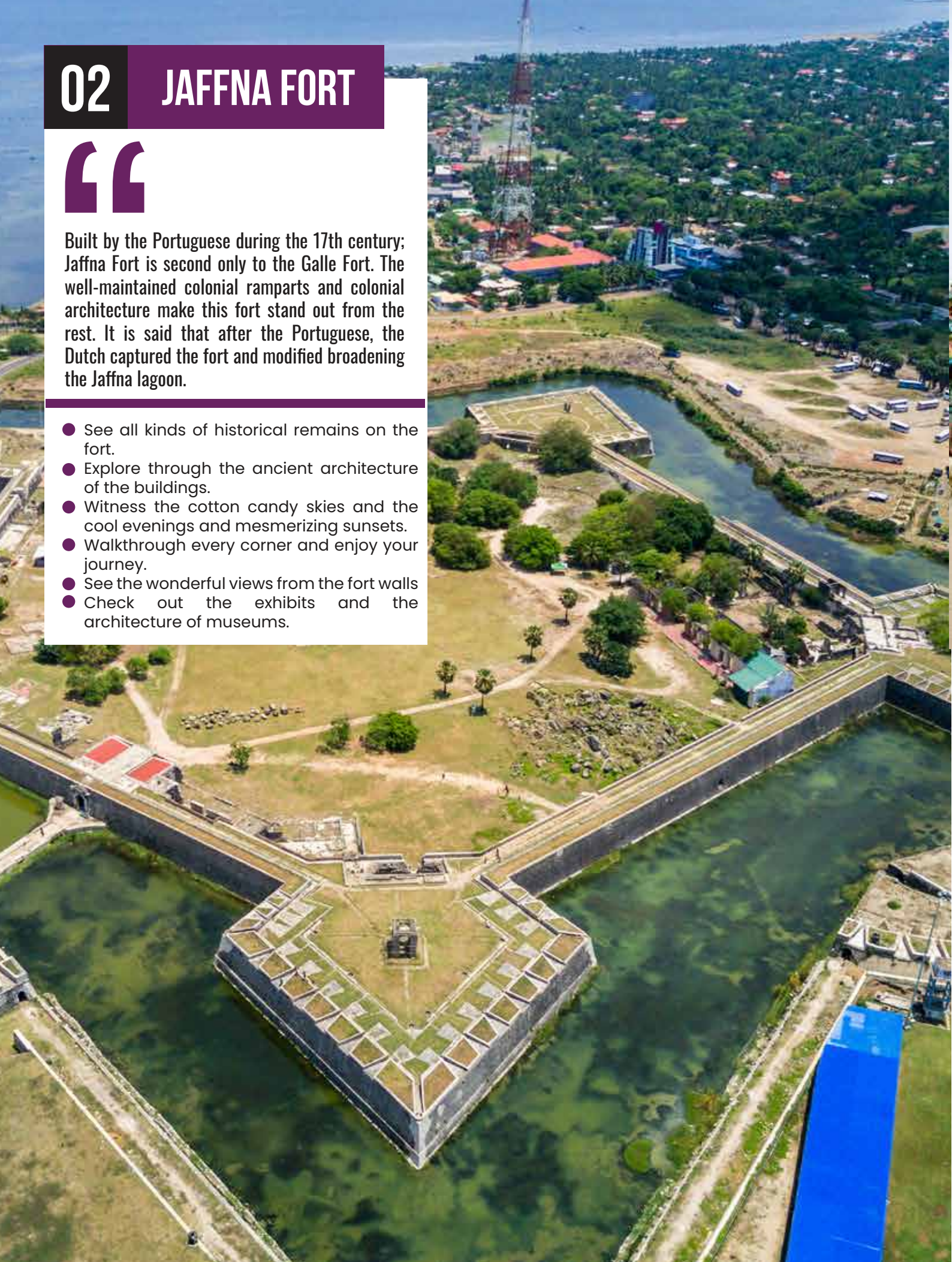
- Explore through all the massive golden buildings golden pillars with unique South Indian architecture.
- Visit all the shrine rooms and worship them.
- Be lucky enough to witness the all-time favorite festivals held during late August.





Built by the Portuguese during the 17th century; Jaffna Fort is second only to the Galle Fort. The well-maintained colonial ramparts and colonial architecture make this fort stand out from the rest. It is said that after the Portuguese, the Dutch captured the fort and modified broadening the Jaffna lagoon.

- See all kinds of historical remains on the fort.
- Explore through the ancient architecture of the buildings.
- Witness the cotton candy skies and the cool evenings and mesmerizing sunsets.
- Walkthrough every corner and enjoy your journey.
- See the wonderful views from the fort walls
- Check out the exhibits and the architecture of museums.



03

NAINATHEEVU



This important pilgrimage center is a small but visible island off the Jaffna peninsula on the Northern coast of Sri Lanka. This island is recorded as one of the most visited islets and has a long religious historic importance as well.

- Take a small boat trip to the island.
- Get in touch with the Sri Lankan cultural heritage and local people on your journey.
- Visit the Buddhist temple 'Nagadeepa Vihara' and the Hindu shrine 'Nagaposhani Amman temple'.
- Explore through all the impressive and quite contrasting architecture in both the monuments on the island.

04

DELF ISLAND

Delf Island is not just another island in Jaffna but a secluded landscape hidden in the Indian Ocean accompanied by magnificent landscape and vegetation. This is the island popular for wild ponies roaming freely those were left by the colonizers in the past days.

- Take a boat ride to the island from Jaffna to have a rare experience.
- Have a sunbath or wind down on the beach gazing at the fabulous sunset.
- Explore all the historical monuments and ancient remnants.
- Have a closer look at this remote yet magnificent environment surrounded by the ocean.
- Witness the native houses roofed by Palmyra leaves which are iconic on the island.
- See the wild horses roam around the island.
- Visit the sights of Baobab trees, wells, and old stupas on the island.
- Visit the island in nice weather mainly during July – August.
- Visit the lovely shallow beaches all over the island.



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This place is a place where over two thousand years of history are buried. A place ancient Indian emperor Asoka's daughter Arahath Sangamitta Therani landed in Sri Lanka and the place where the oldest surviving human planted Bo- tree landed.

- Visit the Sangamitta Viharaya situated on the coastline.

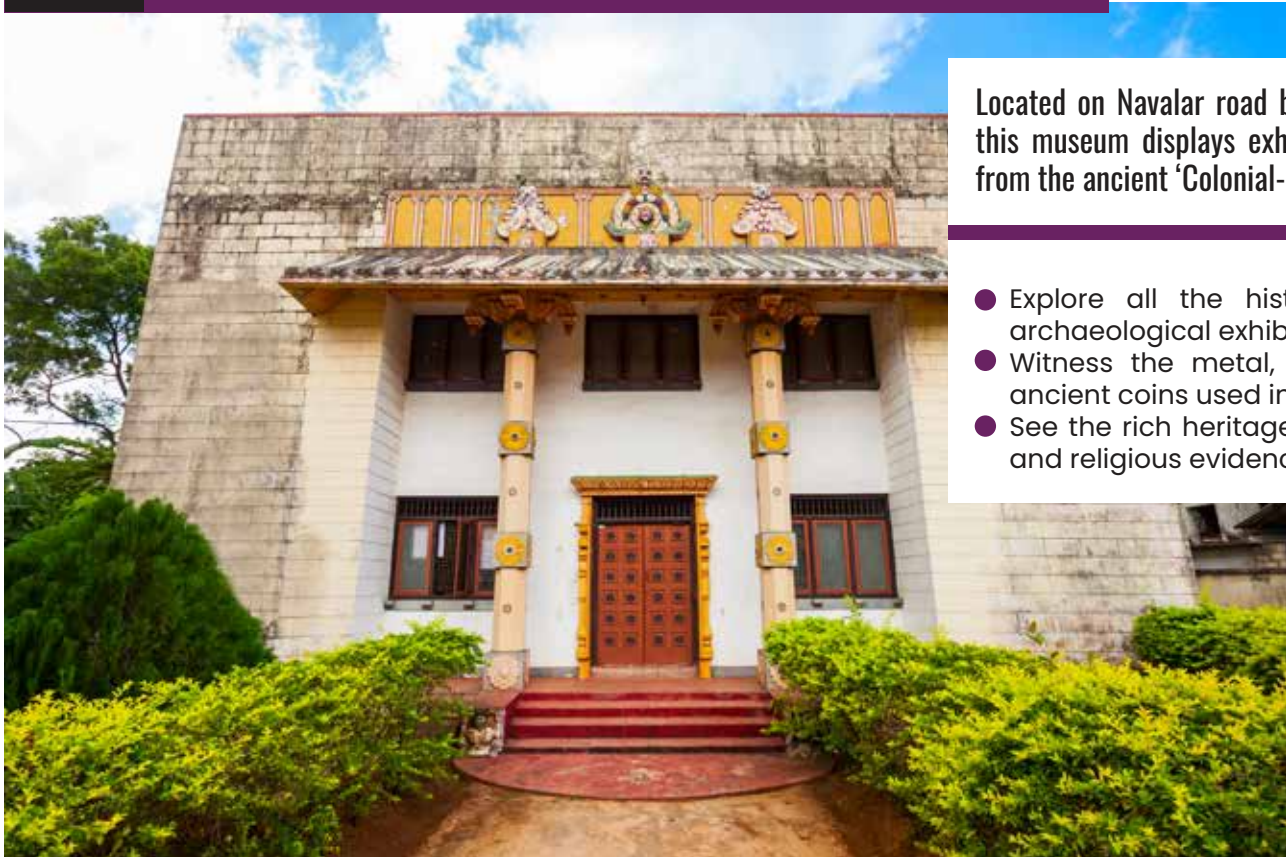


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DAMBAKOLAPATUNA

06

JAFFNA ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM



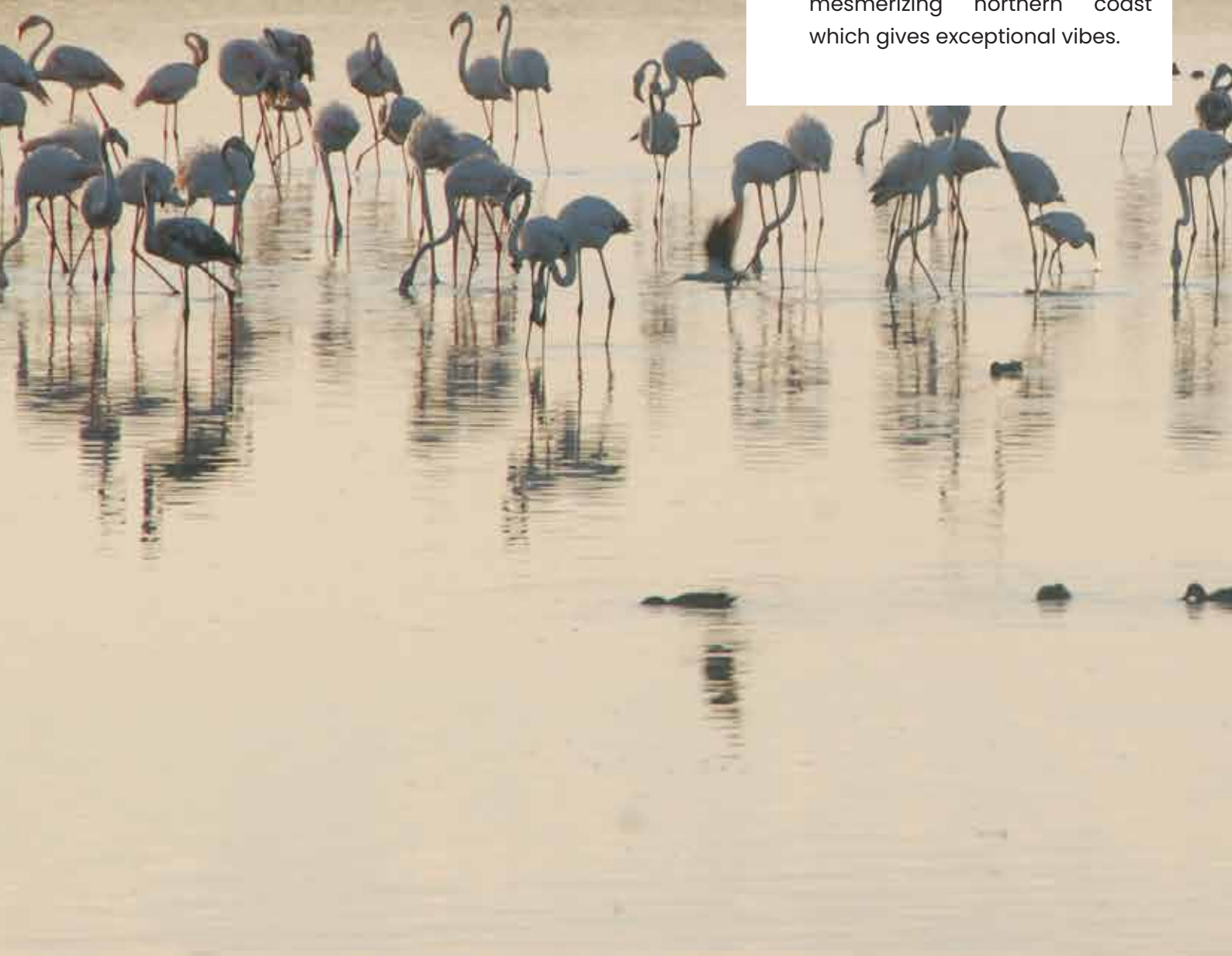
Located on Navalar road built in 1978, this museum displays exhibits ranging from the ancient 'Colonial-era.'

- Explore all the historical and archaeological exhibits.
- Witness the metal, wood, and ancient coins used in trading.
- See the rich heritage of cultural and religious evidence.

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This place ideal for bird watching has its own unique vibes accompanied by Palmyra palm, coconut plantations over this largest lagoon.

- Enjoy bird watching as the lagoon attracts a wide variety of water birds.
- See flamingos, ducks, and seagulls in the area.
- See the wetlands and the mesmerizing northern coast which gives exceptional vibes.





KILINOCHCHI

01

KILINOCHCHI WAR MEMORIAL

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This large monument in northern Sri Lanka is a memorial established in honor of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Sri Lankan civil war. This significant monument is maintained by the Sri Lankan army.

- See the sculpture of the monument.

02

IRANAMADU TANK

Iranamadu Tank is Sri Lanka's one of the largest artificial reservoirs and a popular tourist destination visited mostly on your way to Jaffna.

- Enjoy the environment and explore various kinds of fish.
- See the developments and the ancient irrigational technology of the irrigational network.

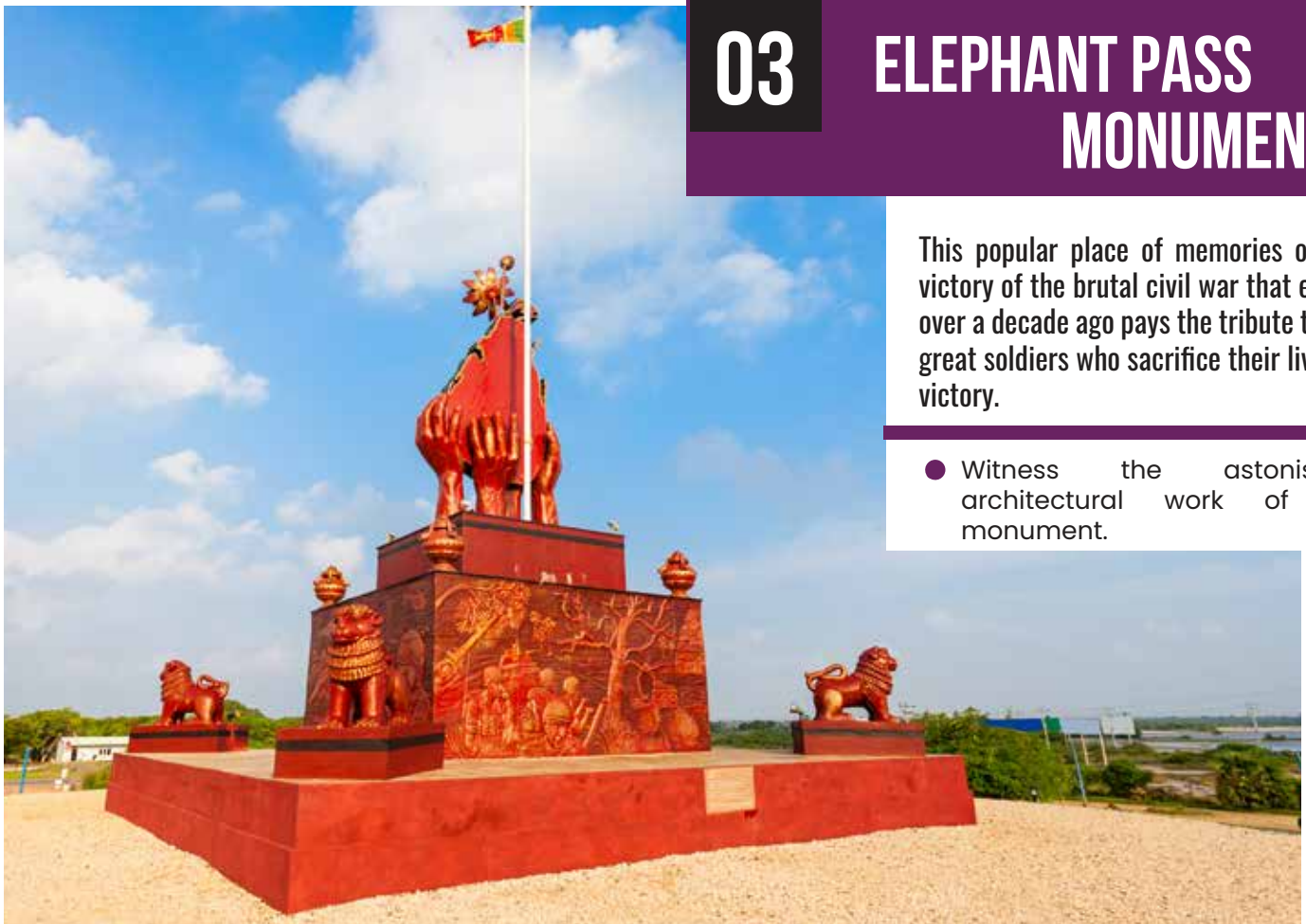


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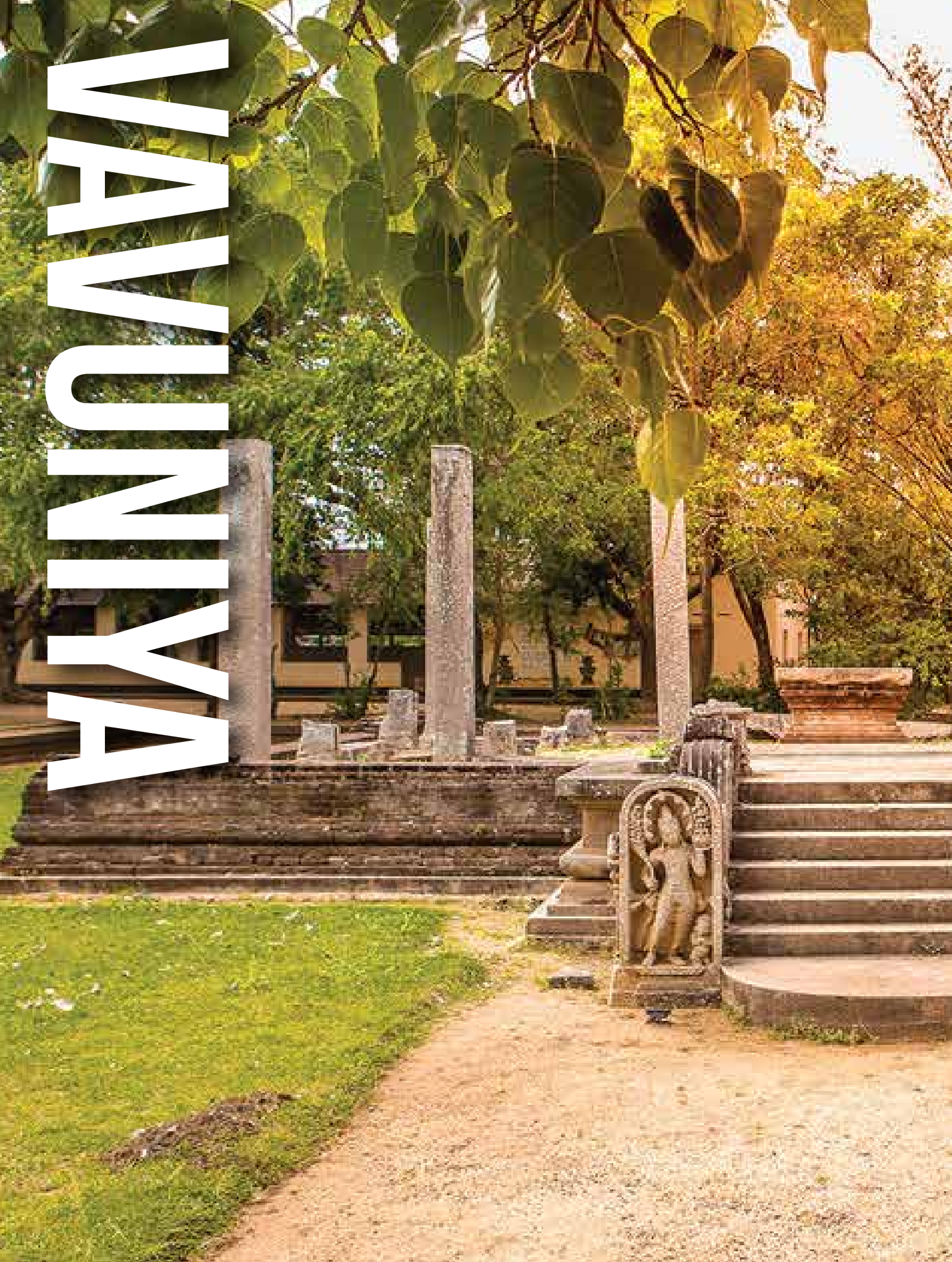
ELEPHANT PASS MONUMENT

This popular place of memories of the victory of the brutal civil war that ended over a decade ago pays the tribute to the great soldiers who sacrifice their lives in victory.

- Witness the astonishing architectural work of the monument.



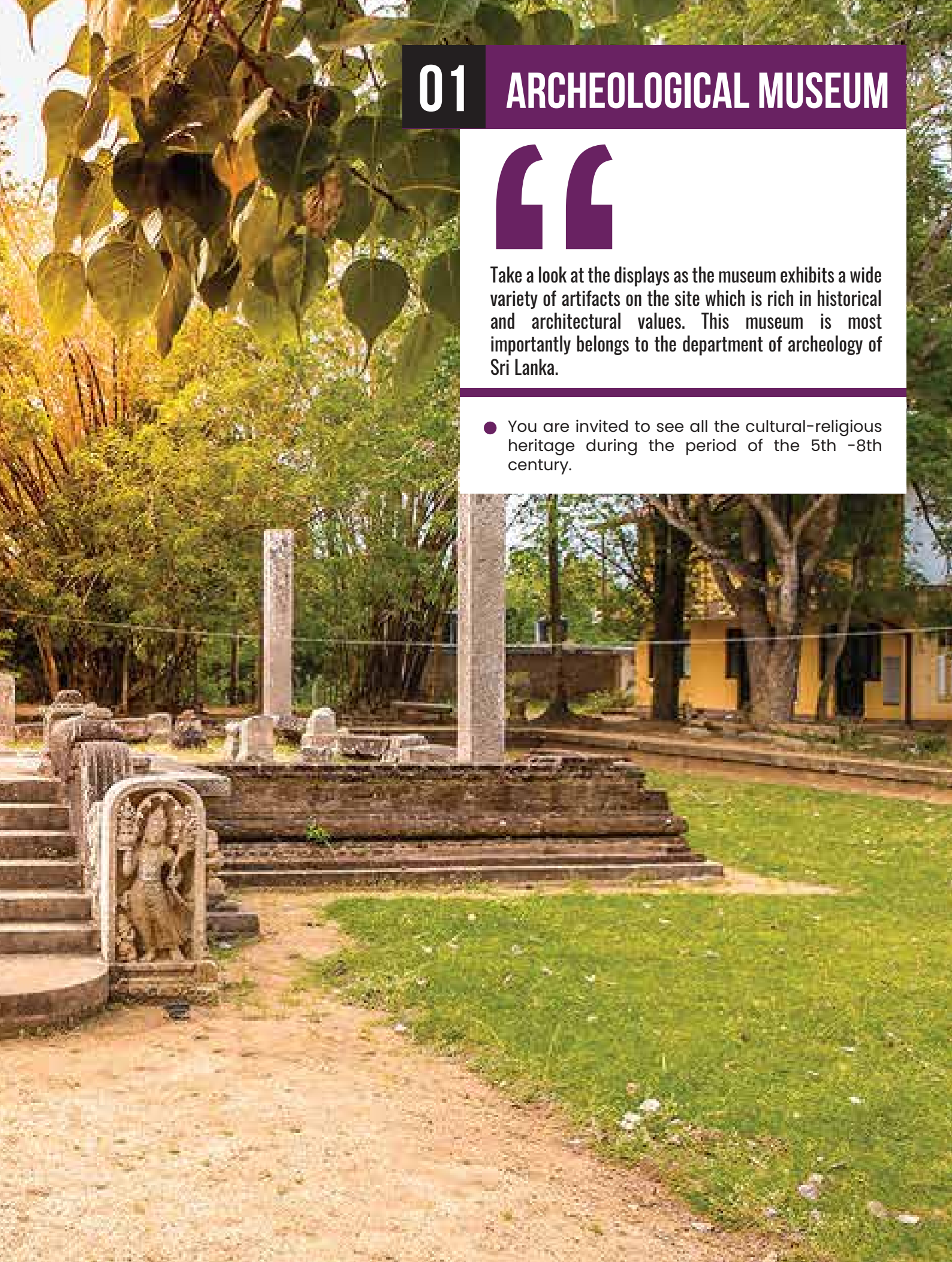
VAUNIA





Take a look at the displays as the museum exhibits a wide variety of artifacts on the site which is rich in historical and architectural values. This museum is most importantly belongs to the department of archeology of Sri Lanka.

- You are invited to see all the cultural-religious heritage during the period of the 5th -8th century.



MANNA



Mannar Island is the foremost the largest island in Sri Lanka, located off the coast of Mannar. This place is a must-visit if you are ready to explore the northern shores.

- Get in touch with the sandy beach and the tropical palm trees.
- Enjoy the sunny weather and visit the ancient Baobab trees which are planted by the Arab merchants who visited the island.
- Visit the beaches all over the island and enjoy the beautiful sunset in the evening.
- Visit the Mannar Fort and enjoy the surrounding.
- Enjoy bird watching as the sanctuary is the best spot to witness migratory birds.
- See scenery of fishermen fishing and other boating activities on the island.

02

THANTHIRIMALE

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Covered with the tick forest and secluded from the public eye; Thanthirimale is built in the 3rd BC. The place is ideal to spend a relaxing time in the woods.

- Witness the Samadhi and reclining Buddha statue carved from the large rocks.
- Spend a peaceful time in the place listening to nature.
- See all the stone pillars.
- Visit the meditation caves that are used in ancient times.
- Visit the archeological museum near this site for a change of scenery.



03

MANNAR FORT

This fort is built by the Portuguese and is located on Mannar Island. Visitors can reach this island by crossing the causeway which is built by the Portuguese.

- Witness the ruins and colonial architecture of the fort.
- See the amazingly standing architectural buildings in the fort.
- Check out the ancient inscriptions.
- Enjoy bird watching and enjoy the tropical environment of the island.

A photograph of the Thiruketheeswaram Kovil temple tower, a highly ornate and colorful structure with multiple tiers of carvings and sculptures, set against a clear blue sky. The tower is flanked by two smaller, similarly decorated structures.

04 THIRUKETHEESWARAM KOVIL

This temple is the main attraction and a major important Hindu temple in Sri Lanka that was once destroyed by the colonizers and was again reconstructed.

- Know all the legends about the temple and ancient gods.
- See the divine architecture and the ancient sculptures of the kovil premises.

A photograph of a large flock of flamingos standing in shallow water, their long necks and legs visible. The water is calm, and the background shows a hazy horizon.

05 MANNAR BIRD SANCTUARY

Mannar is home to a vast number of migrant birds as it is an ideal place for bird watching. The place is also a conserved wetland site under the Ramsar convention. The visitors are able to see the mangrove environments, lagoons, water holes, grasslands, etc.

- Watch the feeding and living habitats of the birds in the wetland.
- See the thriving biodiversity.
- Witness the pleasing sight of flamingoes.
- See the marine ecosystem such as turtles, crocodiles, fishes in the wetland.
- See all the local and migratory birds.
- Explore all the wildlife and get a good wildlife experience.

MULLIVAIVALU



01

WAR MUSEUM

- See all the landmarks of war and victory in this victory monument.
- See the hijacked ships on 'Mullivaikkal'.
- Visit the beach to witness the taste of the Northern coast.
- See all the important historical remnants destroyed by the LTTE.
- Explore through the destroyed ancient large submarines used in the civil war period.