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Apart from the above places, Polonnaruwa consists of other beautiful places as well such as Pabalu vehera which is the third-largest dagaba and is still standing in perfect condition.

- Visit the Rankoth vehera.
- Cycle around these ancient ruins in the evenings to enjoy your free time more fruitfully.



EASTERN PROVINCE



EASTERN PROVINCE



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE EASTERN PROVINCE

Stirred with well-known sightseeing tours, mesmerizing nature, and religious and historic sites mixed with unique architecture and landmarks, the Eastern Province is a must-visit region if you are a traveler in Sri Lanka. This bewitching region is home to 1,551,381 of the total population, ranking in the sixth place of the total population of the island.

Among the three main districts of the province, including Ampara, Trincomalee, and Batticaloa, Trincomalee is the region's capital, while Kalmunai, the region's largest city, consists of the highest concentration of people in the province. The capital of the province, Trincomalee, is famous for its natural deep-water harbor. This coastal province is monopolized by a large number of lagoons, especially in the Batticaloa region, namely the Batticaloa Lagoon, which is a massive estuarine lagoon in Batticaloa.

The province is commonly known as the "Granary of Sri Lanka" for its highly agriculture-based economy. The country's 25% of paddy production and massive maize cultivation contributed to 25% of the island's maize production, entirely impacting the agricultural sector of the region. Apart from the agricultural sector, the industrial sector contributes 34% of the region's GDP, and Trincomalee has been a huge contributor to expanding the industrial sector through exports in the Trincomalee Harbor.

The long coastal belt of the region, along with many well-known resorts, hotels, and villas situated near the coastal areas, mainly acts as a huge factor in attracting tourists to the province. The abundance of lagoons, fascinating and warm beaches such as Nilaveli and Pasikudha, historical and scenic sites such as Pigeon Island, vivid corals, and the availability of perfect surfing spots lure a large number of tourists to the province every year.

A BIT OF HISTORY

This province was briefly merged with the northern province, which combined to form the Northeastern province. The province was created on October 1st, 1833, with a total land area of 9,996 km². During British colonial times, the province was a part of the Tamil administration because of its high concentration of Tamil people. However, with the establishment of the Colebrook-Cameron Commission, these administrations based on ethnicities were put together into a single administration and divided into districts.

The province is bounded to the north by the Northern Province, to the south by the Southern Province, to the east by the Bay of Bengal, and to the west by the Uva, Central, and North Central Provinces. Later, during the civil war, the province was heavily subjected to destruction. The majority of the people were killed, while other Sri Lankan Tamils fled to the western and southern provinces and other countries for safety.

CLIMATE

This province is considered to be one of the warmest regions in Sri Lanka. The average temperature of the region is about 33 degrees Celsius, which is quite high. The constant sunlight and lack of rain throughout the year keep this region warm all year. If you are a traveler, February to August are perfect for traveling around the region, as most of the rain comes from October to January. The sunshine is the least in February, while it is the highest in March. November has the most rain, while June has the least amount of rain.



TRINCOMALEE



AMPARA



BATTICOLOA



TRINGOMALEE



This historical monument is a Hindu temple located on the east coast of Trincomalee which is famous all around the world for its marvels. Lying on a rock that is surrounded by the sea, accompanied by colorfully painted statues; this temple gives Indian vibes to all the visitors who visit.

- Visit the ancient shrines.
- Explore through the beautifully sculptured roofs and pillars inside the temple.
- Witness the three-dimensional ancient images nicely painted about 400 years ago.
- Worship all the religious statues.
- Have a chance to try out the delicious homemade traditional jaggery milk rice and fruits offered by the locals nearby the temple.
- Pass through the shady tunnels in the ancient temple.
- Visit the old stone caves with old paintings and sculptures of gods done in ancient times.
- Visit the Kanniya Hot water springs nearby.

02 FORT FREDERIC

Have a journey back in time visiting this old world charm which is also known as the Trincomalee Fort, built by the Portuguese during colonial times. Later this triangular fort was rebuilt by the Dutch in ancient times. This still has been known as a legendary fort for its boosting architecture.

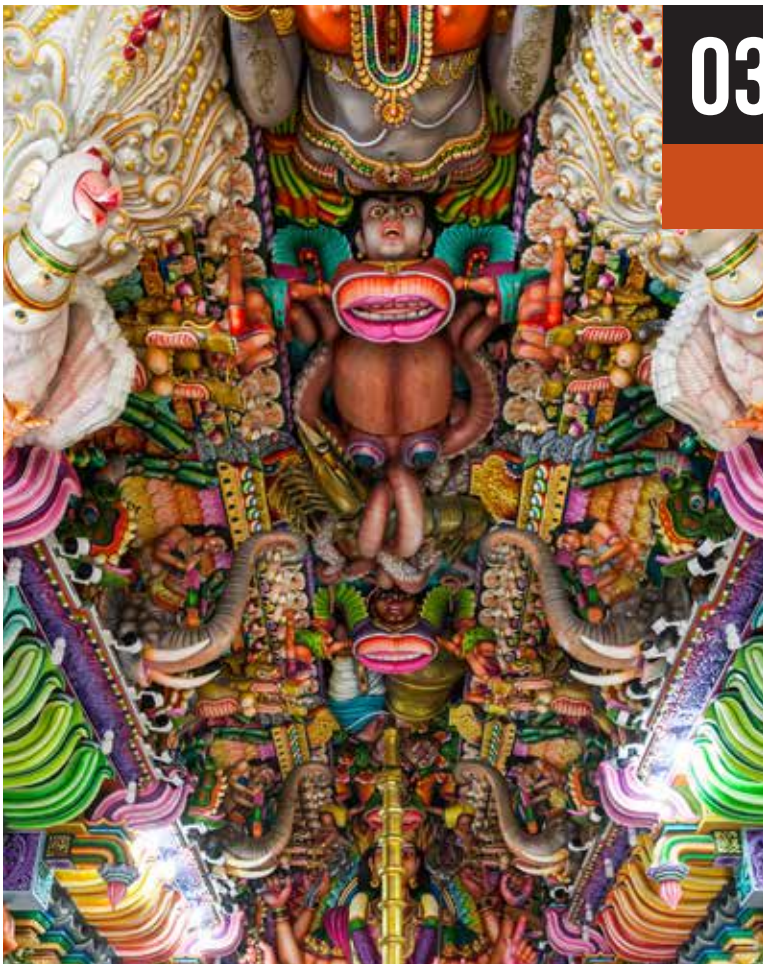
- Explore through the ancient shadows of colonial times.
- Have a walk in the fort and witness the legendary architecture.
- Enjoy the stunning sights of the warm beach.
- See all the military buildings and barracks of British colonies.
- Check out the large mansion, which is known as the 'Wellesley house'.
- Enjoy the time, spotting deer roaming around the fort.
- Visit the Swami rock next to the fort.
- See all the footprints left behind by the colonizers.
- Visit the Gokanna Temple.
- Explore the maritime museum and the Dutch bay.



03 PATHIRAKALI AMMAN TEMPLE

Have a chance to visit all the prints of classical South Indian architecture which dates back from the 11th century, located at the center of the Trincomalee town in the Pathirakali Amman Temple.

- See all the myriad sculptures, which are adored all around the world.
- Check out the attractive interior and design along with the sculptures.
- Be lucky to see the annual festivals held for about 10 days in March and be culturally inspired by them.
- Take a walk around the fascinating temple while enjoying the aroma of the incense sticks.
- Admire the ancient architecture of the temple.
- Get in touch with the spiritual and historical significance of the temple.



04

NILAVELI BEACH



Nilaveli is a perfect place for the ones who crave beach life and hot solar rays for a perfect tan. This beautiful east coastline gives you everything you ask for and is an ideal place for a relaxing evening.

- Dive in the crystal clear water or learn diving if you are a beginner diver.
- Take a walk on the golden sandy beach and enjoy the warm sand and sea breeze.
- Swim with the turtles on Pigeon Island near the Nilaveli beach.
- Go snorkeling or enjoy other water sports.
- Have a sunset drink by the water and enjoy the best view of the sunset.
- Go whale watching to find out about various species of whales in the deep ocean.
- Log into a hotel nearby the beach and admire nature a bit more than usual.
- Hop on a boat and have a ride on the ocean to enjoy the sea life.
- Have a sunbath in the evening and experience the high waves adored by all the visitors.
- Witness the impressive sights of the beach while spending a few more hours on the warm sand.

05

SWAMI ROCK

Famous for its impressive views and whale watching; Swami Rock is another ideal place to have a relaxing time to yourself.

- Have a great view of the fascinating beach on the top of the rock.
- Spot whales in the deep blue ocean.
- Enjoy diving while witnessing the stunning coral reefs and fascinating marine life.
- Visit during May–August for a better underwater experience.
- Visit the nearby Koneswaram Kovil situated on the top of the Swami Rock.





06

PIGEON ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Pigeon Island National Park is one of the two marine national parks of Sri Lanka which is a home to marine life. Located just 1 km off the coastal belt Nilaweli beach, this island is a major attraction in all the visitors' eyes.

- The best time to visit is in June.
- Explore the marine life on the beach by diving underwater.
- Witness the fascinating and colorful corals. Go snorkeling in this heavenly crystal clear water.
- Engage in other plenty of water activities such as speed boat rides, swimming, diving, and windsurfing.
- See loads of blue rock pigeons on the beach.



07

KANNIYA HOT WATER SPRINGS



If you are ready to experience a hot unique experience, the hot water springs in Kanniya are the perfect place for you. The average temperature of these wells is about 42 Celsius. The number of wells consists of slightly different temperatures.

- Have a hot/warm bath from the hot water wells.



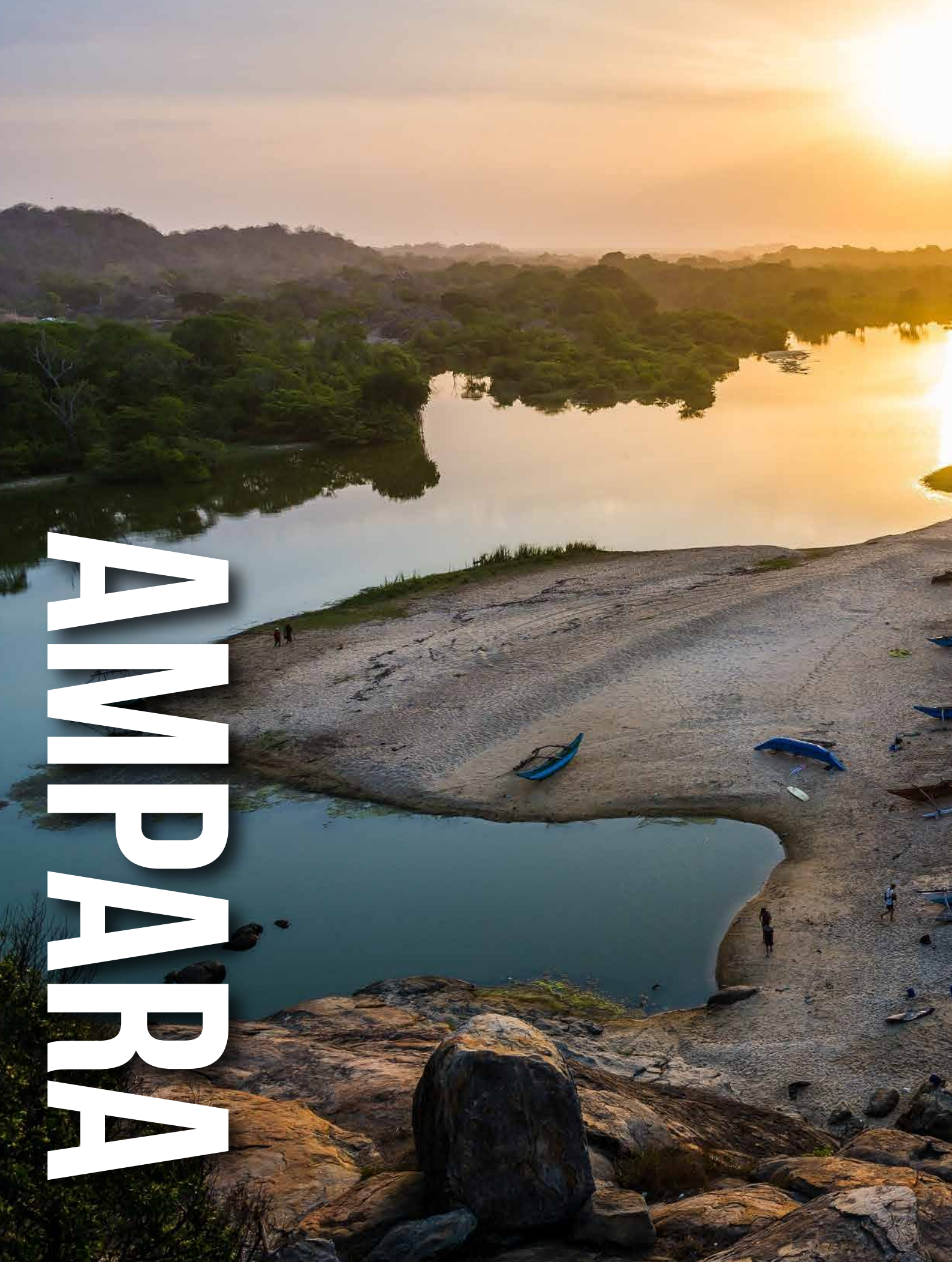


08

MARBLE BEACH

This secluded beach is the ideal place for the ones who are seeking peace and relaxation.

- Enjoy the emerald water in the tranquil environment.
- Treat yourself to a delicious meal for your cravings from the nearby restaurants.
- Have a drink with your partner/ friend by the beach and have a relaxing time.
- Enjoy the incredible view laying on the sandy beach next to a cocktail.
- Enjoy a cocktail, beer, or whiskey in a bar next to the beach.
- Have an opportunity to go diving, swimming, or snorkeling.
- See lots of wildlife near the beach.
- Have a romantic dinner out in a fancy restaurant with your partner facing the beach under the cotton candy sky.



AMPARA



Enjoy once in a lifetime experience on this crescent-shaped beach which is everyone's number one place for relaxation on the East coast of Sri Lanka.

WHAT YOU MUST KNOW

- Hire a surfboard and enjoy surfing in the sea with perfect waves.
- Explore the wildlife in the national park close by.
- Have a chilling evening on the warm beach.
- Sip on coconut water or a cocktail on your preference while watching the sunset.
- Hop onto some authentic local shops nearby and have some locally branded clothes.
- Visit the ancient 'Muhudu Maha Viharaya' located nearby.
- Visit the Kudumbigala monastery if you have enough time to spend.
- Take a boat safari around the lagoon.
- Visit the elephant rock located at Arugam bay.

Kumana National park is an ideal place for animals as the park itself provides homes for a large number of wetland species. Turtle species, reptile species that are largely threatened, and other animals like crocodiles are mostly seen among the wetland species. Apart from these animals, this national park is also famous for the bird population as well as it is a popular bird sanctuary.

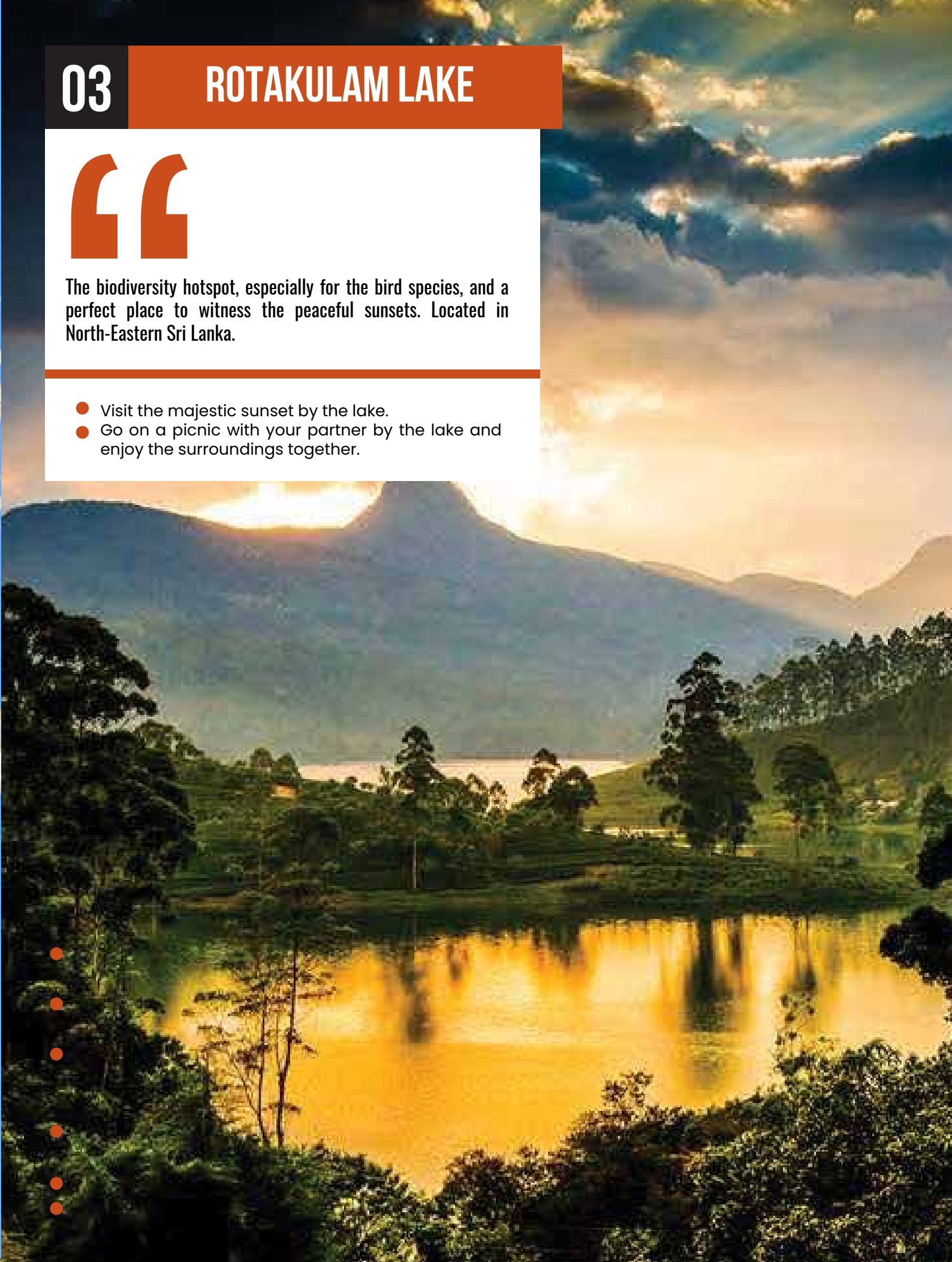
- Enjoy bird watching and explore the migrant and endemic bird species in Sri Lanka.
- See the lagoons, tanks and other swamps, and other wetland reservoirs in the national park.
- Hire a safari jeep and have a tour around the entire park with a guide to guide you on the way.





The biodiversity hotspot, especially for the bird species, and a perfect place to witness the peaceful sunsets. Located in North-Eastern Sri Lanka.

- Visit the majestic sunset by the lake.
- Go on a picnic with your partner by the lake and enjoy the surroundings together.



04

BUDDHANGALA MONASTRY

This secluded monastery is located deep inside a jungle and is a famous cultural and historical site built in the 4th century BC. This marvelous place was able to hold strong during the dark times of the thirty-year of conflict and also was attacked during those times.

- See all the ancient stone sculptures and the remains of the stone buildings that were attacked.
- Be patient to witness the freely roaming elephants in the jungle nearby.
- Have a peaceful time in the monastery away from the tiresome workload and refresh your mind by gazing endlessly into the jungle.



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05

MUHUDU MAHA VIHARA



Located in the sand dunes of Pottuvil, this beach has over 2000 years of history. The milky white stupa which is visible far over from the Arugam bay beach is originally built by the ancient king Kavantissa and then reconstructed at present. It is said that this marvelous temple was miraculously not destroyed by the 2004 tsunami even.

- See all the stone sculptures of Buddha around the stupa.
- Explore through all the ancient ruins of the ancient kingdoms that attract people all over the world.
- Perfect place for historical seekers.
- Enjoy the sea breeze and the pleasant weather in the temple.
- Visit Arugam bay for a change of scenery.
- Walk along the golden sandy beach after visiting the temple on a perfect evening.



06

POTTUVIL POINT



Pottuvil Point is foremost one of the main attractions in Arugam bay and a famous surf spot with perfect waves and plenty of other things to do.

- Have a sunbath in the evenings and relaxing the warm sandy beach while gazing into the limitless ocean.
- Watch the sunset, having a local drink or a cocktail by your side.
- Hop on a boat and have boat rides on the beach behind the Pottuvil lagoon.
- Shop around the streets and get in touch with the local traditional culture of the area.
- Find some fancy seafood restaurants to dig in and spend the night in a relaxing lodge or a hotel.
- Explore through all the street food vendors and taste all kinds of street food.
- Have an amazing time at this ideal place and enjoy the day out of tiresome work.
- Visit the Muhudu Maha viharaya visible from afar.
- Enjoy your holiday at a hotel and have some quality time for yourself or have fun with your friends.



07

DEEGAVAPI STUPA

This ancient stupa was built by the ancient king Saddatissa in the second century BC and it was said this was built to keep the relics of Lord Buddha during those times.

- Explore through the ancient footprints of the remains.
- Click beautiful pictures that are historically important.
- Explore through all the archeological remains and the ruined buildings of this place.
- Explore the cultural and religious monuments.



BATTIGOLLO

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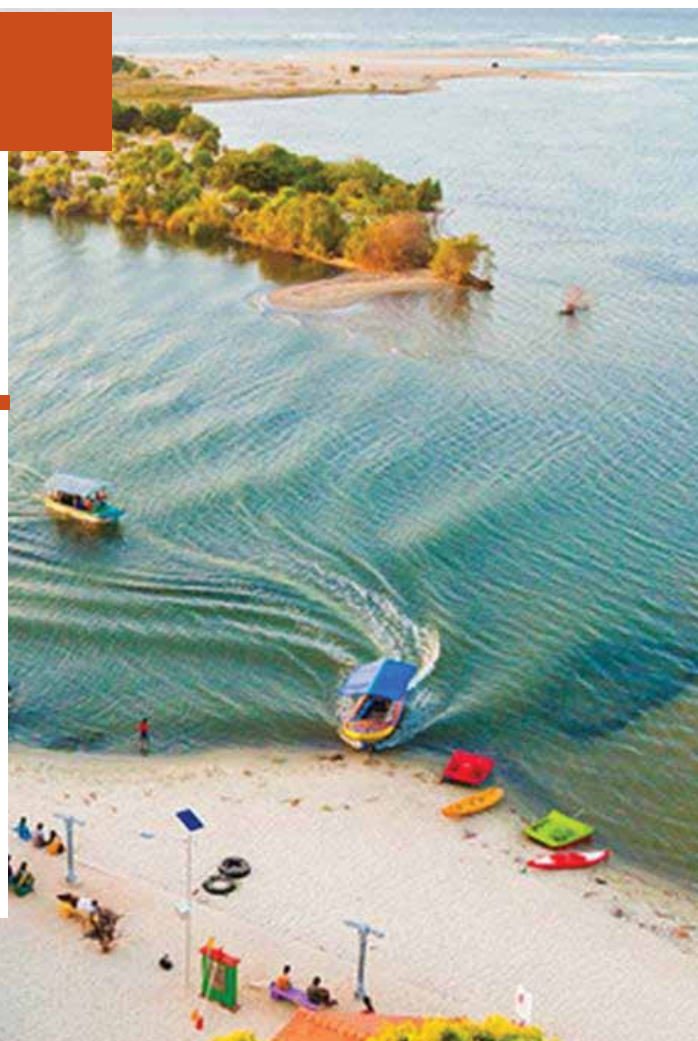
This smallest but iconic fortress is one of the few fortresses in Sri Lanka originally built by the Portuguese and then captured by the Dutch in 1638.

- See the cannons and the other remains of the colonial times.
- Walk around the fort and see all the architectural constructions.
- Have a look at the mesmerizing surrounding in the evenings.
- Witness all the artistic footprints and explore the ancient pride.
- Have a panoramic view of the Batticaloa Lagoon.
- Explore leisurely through all the stalls and shops around the fort in your free time to shop for some locally branded items.

02 BATTICOLOA LAGOON

Holding the place as the largest lagoons along the three lagoons in Batticaloa; Batticaloa Lagoon is a major eye-catching spot in Batticaloa stretching between the two main cities of Ampara and Batticaloa.

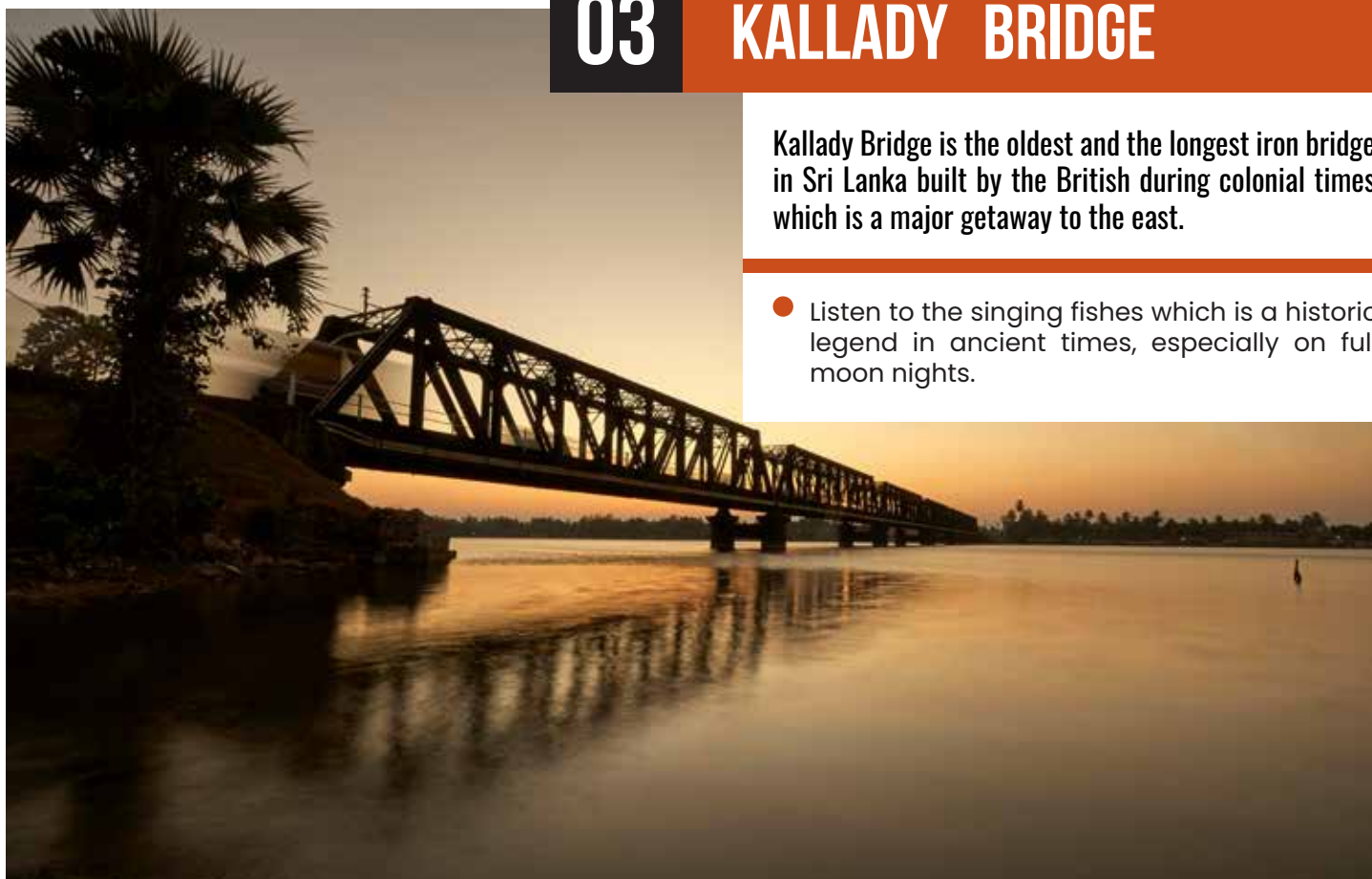
- Enjoy the stunning sunsets.
- Enjoy the scenic beauty and the panoramic landscape of the lagoon.
- Explore the wide biodiversity and the various species of flora and fauna.
- See all the scenic old bridges that were used to cross the lagoon.
- Relax in this tranquil environment as it is the perfect place to wind down and be disconnected from other stuff.
- Enjoy the unique vibe with the ranging wildlife and the bird population which is quite rare around the marine environment.



03 KALLADY BRIDGE

Kallady Bridge is the oldest and the longest iron bridge in Sri Lanka built by the British during colonial times which is a major getaway to the east.

- Listen to the singing fishes which is a historic legend in ancient times, especially on full moon nights.



04

PASIKUDAH AND KAUKUDAH BEACHES

This spectacular beach on the east coast is a must-visit beach you must visit if you are seeking the tropical vibe with palm trees and a golden limitless beach. The exotic vibe here is exceptionally accompanied by various water sports. This unique vibe is created with the blend of Tamil and Sinhala cultures in this area.

- Enjoy the warm and translucent water on the beach by having a bath or a swim.
- Engage in water sports like snorkeling, diving, sailing, swimming, and other activities.
- Witness the countryside pastoral environment around the beach area.
- Hire a bicycle and explore the seaside views from the streets.
- Visit the Batticaloa lagoon.
- Explore various Hindu temples nearby to get in touch with the diverse cultures in Sri Lanka.
- Walk along the beaches around this area which are exceptional.



05

KATTANKUDY HERITAGE MUSEUM



Kattankudy museum is dedicated to Muslim and Arab settlers in the 17th century. This heritage museum gives a glimpse into diverse multicultural communities on the island.

- Spend time inside the complex going through all the exhibits.
- See all the relics that date back to the earliest arrivals of Arab traders in Sri Lanka.
- Explore through all the old ceramic and other household items during Arab trading times.
- Learn the historic stories of the cultures through the exhibits and the artifacts displayed.



CENTRAL PROVINCE

CENTRAL PROVINCE



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CENTRAL PROVINCE

The central province is an outstanding region with mountains that are hidden from the cloudy skies and maintain a chilly atmosphere year-round. The province is a well-known exception that attracts many tourists, except for the fact that the country is a tropical island. As a result of the high elevation and abundance of mountains, the region is quite cold compared to the other regions. The cool atmosphere and the pleasant surroundings of the region make it even more exceptional.

The province is located at a higher elevation, specifically 600–6000 feet above sea level. The region consists of three main districts, mainly Kandy, Nuwara-Eliya, and Matale, of which Kandy is the capital. The province is blessed with the island's highest mountains and deepest valleys. The province has a total area of 5,674 km² and a total population of 2,421,148, ranking it as the 2nd most populous province.

Accompanying the most sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy, a UNESCO World Heritage site, botanical gardens with stunning greenery, dazzling waterfalls, and eye-catching train journeys on railroads, the extraordinary architecture of historically and culturally valuable places welcomes you to spice up your journey in the region. The province is well known among visitors, mainly among tourists from overseas, for its vivid cultural heritage sites, sanctuaries, and archeological and fascinating landmarks that are exceptional on the island. The lush mountain ranges are a must to admire when visiting the region, especially the Hanthana range, and the Knuckles range adds more beauty and liveliness for the visitors when connecting with nature. Additionally, you are also welcome to get the feeling of "home away from home" in Nuwara-Eliya, the "City of Light," which is often called "Little England" by most tourists for its cold climate and colonial architecture. The charming landscapes, chilly climate, and cascading waterfalls create the perfect atmosphere for visitors to relax in this region.

A BIT OF HISTORY

The Central Province succeeded in maintaining its peace and independence until the early 19th century, even during the times of colonial invasions by the Portuguese and the Dutch, when it was finally invaded by the British powers. Its geographic location and cold climate helped the last kingdom in Kandy retain its power and defeat colonial invasions in the past. However, British powers were eventually able to invade the kingdom and establish their power in the Highlands. The province is well-known for the production of Ceylon tea, which was planted by the British in the 1860s. The British took steps to export tea with the abundant tea plantations and brought Tamils from South India to work as laborers in those tea estates in the 19th century, which ultimately developed the country's tea industry. This development also made Sri Lanka the top exporter of tea in the world, as it was welcomed by most of the European countries in the world.

CLIMATE

The climate of this province is one of its many distinguishing features. The climate is often cool, and the temperature is normally low compared to other provinces. Due to the high altitudes and its geographical location, most of the region gets ample rainfall. Because of the southwest monsoon, the western part of the province is wetter than the eastern part. The western part of the region gets a higher rainfall of almost 7,000 mm per year, while the eastern slopes do not receive enough rain from the North-Eastern monsoon. The temperature is frequently outstanding because the region receives a low temperature. Among the districts, Nuwara-Eliya gets the lowest annual temperature of 16 degrees Celsius, which at times goes below the average of 3 degrees Celsius because of its high altitude above sea level. In Kandy, on the other hand, the average temperature ranges from 24 C to lower degrees.



KANDY

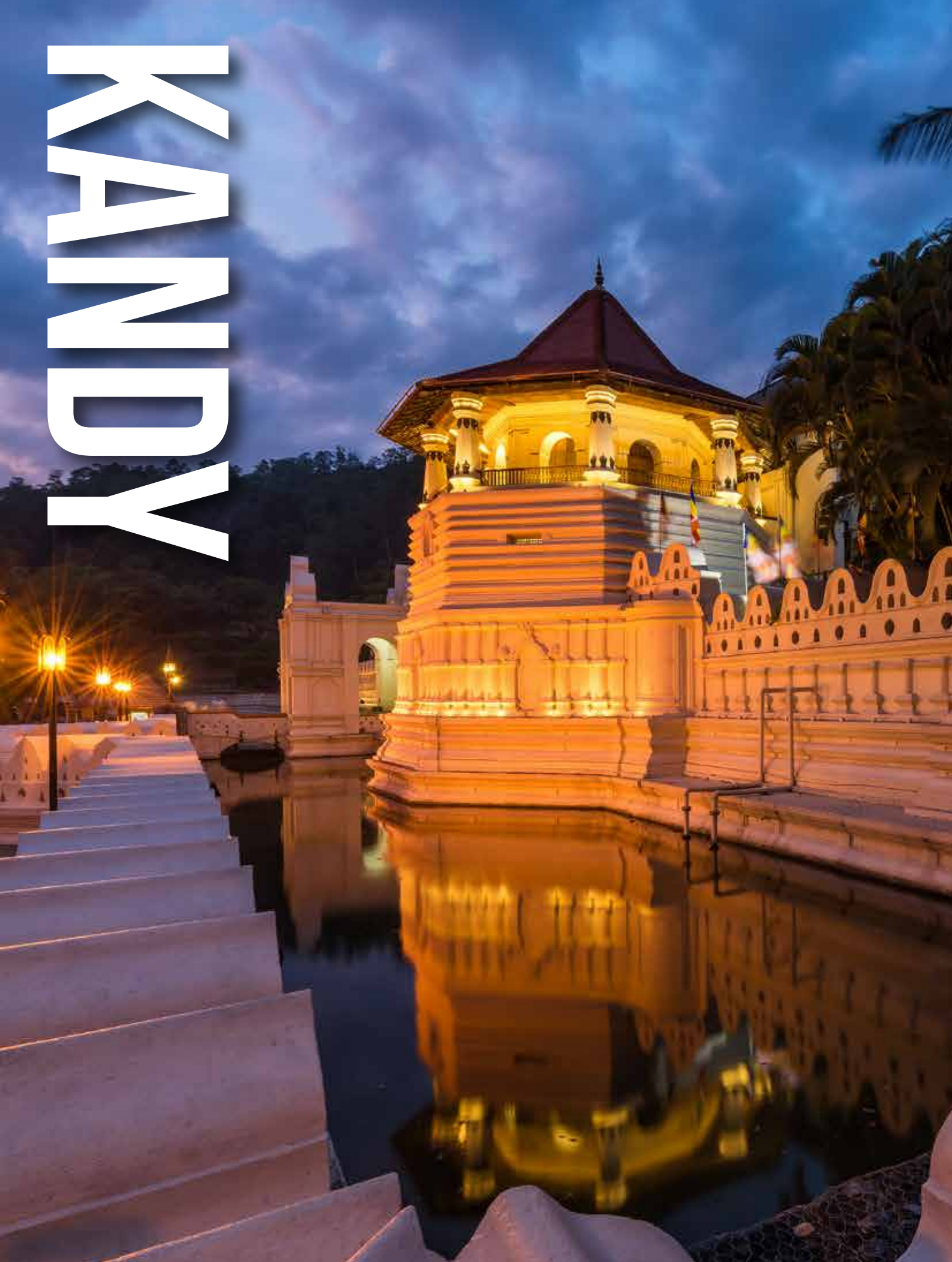


NUWARA ELIYA



MATHALE

KANDY

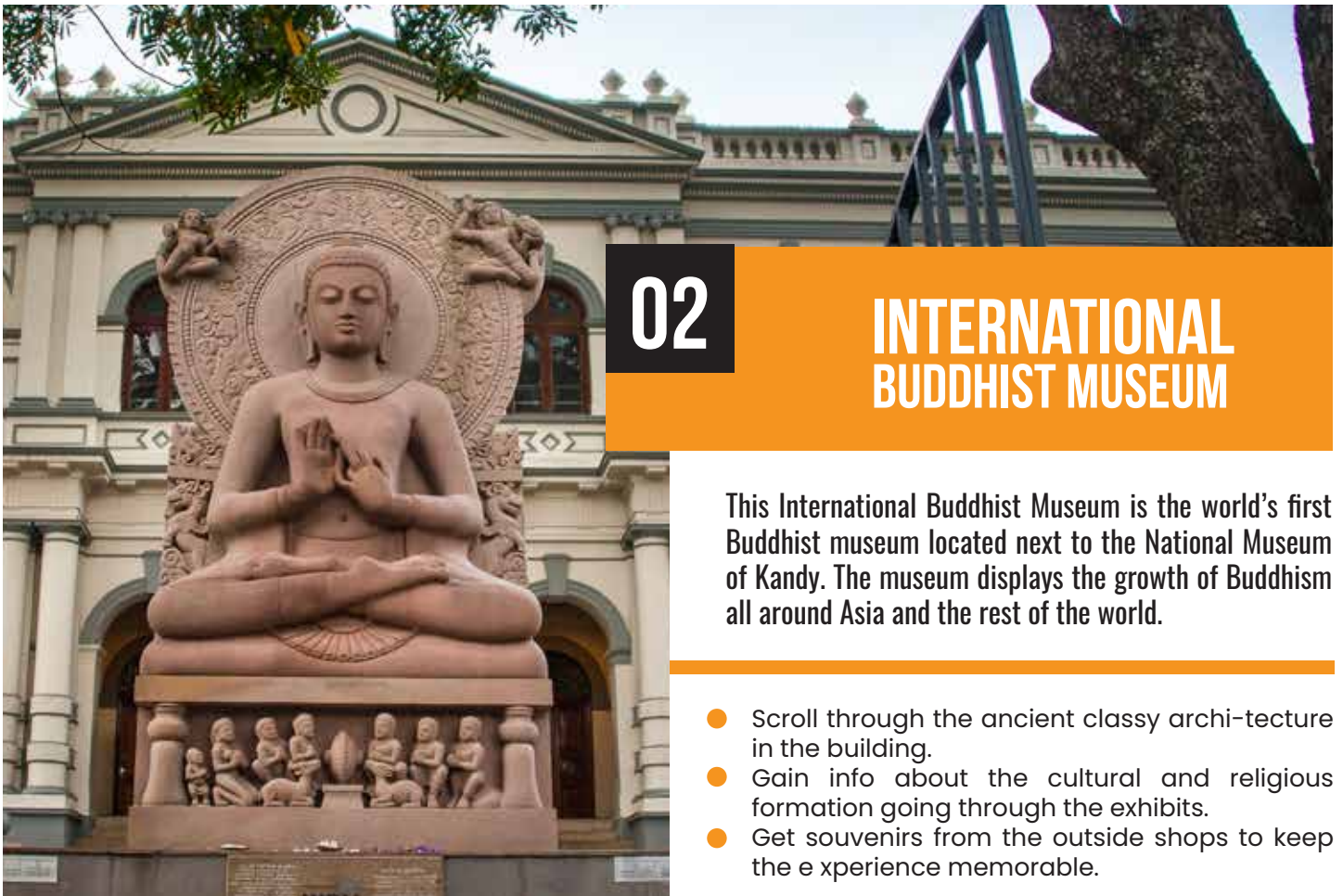


TEMPLE OF THE TOOTH RELIC



This temple is not just a normal temple, it is the most elegant and beautiful temple which is anyone's favorite blessed with stunning greenery and impressive architecture. The temple is in the former Kandyan royal palace which is known as the last royal palace in Sri Lanka. Its historical and religious importance make it a UNESCO World Heritage site.

- Have a chance to witness or even to participate in the daily rituals.
- Explore the precisely designed spectacular architecture.
- See the golden chamber in which the sacred tooth relic is nested.
- Look into the museum, Royal Gardens, and the Royal Palace.



02

INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST MUSEUM

This International Buddhist Museum is the world's first Buddhist museum located next to the National Museum of Kandy. The museum displays the growth of Buddhism all around Asia and the rest of the world.

- Scroll through the ancient classy architecture in the building.
- Gain info about the cultural and religious formation going through the exhibits.
- Get souvenirs from the outside shops to keep the experience memorable.

03

PERADENIYA BOTANICAL GARDEN



This botanical garden is also known as the Royal Botanical Garden as it is the largest botanical garden in Sri Lanka. It comes under the spotlight for its vast variety of Orchids and is not a place to miss in Kandy.

- Take a walk through the alluring garden.
- Sit back in a place of lush greens and relax in peace to have some photographs with friends or your loved ones.
- Admire the visit of butterflies and cute birds.
- Adore the colorful flowers nested in the cold weather.
- Explore through the orchid house, palm collection, spice garden, cacti display, and all the flowering plants in the garden.





Visit the world-famous Ceylon Tea museum that exhibits the pioneers of the tea trade. This museum was once an old tea factory that converted into a tea museum.

- Explore the old machinery and diverse types and stages of tea production.
- Get a decent knowledge of the history of tea.
- Visit the library and the auditorium.
- Have a nice cup of hot tea on the top floor.
- Visit the top floor with a fascinating view of the surroundings while having a free cup of tea.



If you are in to explore the traditional cuisine in Sri Lanka, the spice garden is a place you must visit. The place gives you an in-depth exploration of the ancient spices.

- Try out the awesome meals prepared with the spices in the spice garden.
- Discover the diverse herbal plants, their harvesting methods, and the required soil type.
- Enjoy the fragrance and the cool air of spices such as Cinnamon, nutmeg, etc.
- Have a relaxing ayurvedic massage with the herbal oils and the other indigenous ayurvedic plants which is an ideal treatment for tiredness.
- Discover all the diverse products made with spices and herbs such as herbal treatment oils, and cosmetics creams.

06

EMBEKKE DEVALAYA



A place that is under the limelight all around the world for excellent wood carvings; Embelle Devalaya has the finest wood carvings as announced by UNESCO. The place was once built in the ancient days by King Vikramabahu III.

- Check out the mind-blowing wood carving architecture.
- Closely explore the wooden designs done in every column, door, roof which solely done on wooden surfaces.
- Visit the ancient shrine.



07

LANKATHILAKA TEMPLE

This eye-catching temple is built in a large rock by King Buwanekabahu is gifted with a blended cultural architecture of Sinhalese, Indian and Indo-Chinese styles.

- Adore the great view of the surrounding hills and paddy fields.
- Admire the perfectly amazing carvings of the large rocks.
- Explore all the cultural places in the temple.
- Discover the ancient rock inscriptions done by ancient kings in the temple.
- Check out the unique architecture.
- Visit and worship the house of the Buddha image.