

Tour  
Gossips

# SRI LANKA

## TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

[www.tourgossips.com](http://www.tourgossips.com)



## COPYRIGHT NOTICE:

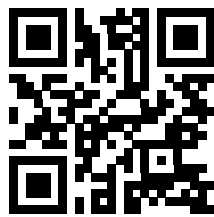
- All content and photos in this travel magazine are copyrighted by Romano Lanka Private Limited and may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the express written permission of **Romano Lanka Private Limited**.
- Permissions: If you want to use content or photos from this travel magazine, please contact **Romano Lanka Private Limited** for permission.
- The written content of the magazine has been entirely created according to the ideas & opinions of the author. The rest of the information has been extracted from the available credible resources.



# SRI LANKA

## TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

[www.tourgossips.com](http://www.tourgossips.com)



# CONTENT

## WESTERN PROVINCE

Introduction 08-09

### COLOMBO 10-11

01. Colombo Lotus tower 11
02. Colombo National Museum 12
03. Red mosque (Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque) 12
04. National Zoological garden 13
05. Gangarama Buddhist temple 14
06. Galle Face Green 14
07. Pettah Floating Market 15

### GAMPAHA 16-17

01. Water world Kelaniya 17
02. Negombo Lagoon 18
03. Gampaha Botanical Garden 19

### KALUTHARA 20-21

01. Kaluthara Calido Beach 20
02. Thudugala Ella waterfall 21

## UVA PROVINCE

Introduction 24-25

### BADULLA 26-27

01. Nine Arches Bridge 27
02. Diyaluma Falls 28
03. Little Adam's Peak 28
04. Adisham Bungalow 29
05. Namunukula Mountain 29
06. Mini World's End 30
07. Ella Rock 30
08. Lipton's Seat 31

### MONERAGALA 31-33

01. Ella Wala Waterfall 33



# SOUTHERN PROVINCE

Introduction 36-37

## GALLE 38-39

01. Galle Dutch Fort 39
02. Hikkaduwa 40
03. Galle National Museum 40
04. Jungle Beach 41
05. Sea Turtle Hatchery 41
06. Japanese Peace Pagoda 42
07. Koggala beach 43
08. Unawatuna beach 43
09. Mirissa beach 44
10. Sinharaja Forest 44
11. Underwater museum 45

## MATARA 46-47

01. Dondra Head Lighthouse 47
02. Polhena Beach 48
03. Star Fort 48
04. Weligama Beach 49
05. Paravi Duwa Temple 49

## HAMBANTHOTA 50-51

01. Yala National Park 51
02. Bundala National Park 52
03. Kataragama 53
04. Ridiyagama Safari park 53
05. Ussangoda National Park 54
06. Mirijjawila Botanical Garden 54
07. Birds Research Centre and Resort 55

# SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCE

Introduction 58-59

## RATNAPURA 60-61

01. Sri Pada (Adam's Peak) 61
02. Ratnapura Gem mines 62
03. Peak Wilderness Sanctuary 62
04. National Museum of Ratnapura 63
05. Maha Saman Dewalaya 63
06. Belihuloya 64
07. Bopath Ella waterfall 65

## KEGALLE 66-67

01. Pinnawala Elephant orphanage 67
02. Kithulgala 68-69

# NORTHERN PROVINCE

Introduction 72-73

## JAFFNA 74-75

01. Nallur Temple 75
02. Jaffna Fort 76
03. Nainatheevu 77
04. Delf Island 77
05. Dambakolapatuna 78
06. Jaffna Archeological Museum 78
07. Jaffna Lagoon 79

## KILINOCHCHI 80-81

01. Kilinochchi War Memorial 80
02. Iranamadu Tank 81
03. Elephant Pass Monument 81

## VAVUNIYA 82-83

01. Archeological Museum 83

## MANNAR 84-85

01. Mannar Island 85
02. Thanthirimale 86
03. Mannar Fort 86
04. Thiruketheeswaram Kovil 87
05. Mannar Bird Sanctuary 87

## MULLAITIVU 88-89

01. War Museum 88
02. Vellamullivaikkal 89
03. Lake View Point 89

# NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE

Introduction 92-93

## KURUNEGALA

94-95

01. Samadhi Buddha Statue 95
02. Ridi Viharaya 96
03. Yapahuwa 96
04. Panduwasnuwara ancient kingdom 97
05. Elephant rock temple 97
06. Kurunegala lake 98

## PUTTALAM

100-101

01. Wipplattu National Park 101
02. Munneswaram Temple 102
03. Kalpitiya Lagoon 103

# NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

Introduction 106-107

## ANURADHAPURA

108-109

01. Sri Maha Bodi 109
02. Ruwanweliseya 110
03. Anuradhapura Ruins 110
04. Thuparamaya 111
05. Lovamahapaya 111
06. Isurumuniya 112
07. Mihintale 112
08. Samadhi Buddha Statue 113

## POLONNARUWA

114-115

01. Royal Palace of King Parakramabahu 115
02. Minneriya National Park 116
03. Archeological Museum Polonnaruwa 117
04. Nissanka Latha Mandapaya 117
05. Parakrama Samudraya 118
06. Gal Viharaya 118
07. Other Ancient Ruins of Polonnaruwa 119

# EASTERN PROVINCE

Introduction 122-123

## TRINCOMALEE

124-125

01. Koneswaram Temple 125
02. Fort Frederic 126
03. Pathirakali Amman Temple 126
04. Nilaveli Beach 127
05. Swami Rock 127
06. Pigeon Island National Park 128
07. Kanniya Hot water Springs 128
08. Marble Beach 129

## AMPARA

130-131

01. Arugam Bay 131
02. Kumana National park 132
03. Rotakulam Lake 133
04. Buddhagala Monastery 134
05. Muhudu Maha Vihara 134
06. Pottuvil Point 135
07. Deegavapi Stupa 135

## BATTICOLOA

136-137

01. Batticaloa Fort 137
02. Batticaloa Lagoon 138
03. Kallady Bridge 138
04. Pasikudah and Kaukudah Beaches 139
05. Kattankudy Heritage Museum 139

## CENTRAL PROVINCE

Introduction	142-143
--------------	---------

### KANDY 144-145

01.	Temple of the tooth relic	145
02.	International Buddhist Museum	146
03.	Peradeniya Botanical Garden	146
04.	Ceylon Tea Museum	147
05.	Spice Garden	147
06.	Embekke Devalaya	148
07.	Lankathilaka Temple	148
08.	Kandy Lake	149
09.	Canbuy Gem Museum	149
10.	Esala Perahara	151

### NUWARA ELIYA 152-153

01.	Horton Plains Worlds End	153
02.	Moon Plains	154
03.	Ambewela Farm	154
04.	Gregory Lake	155
05.	Victoria Park	155
06.	Hakgala Botanical Garden	156
07.	St. Clair's Falls	156
08.	Strawberry Gardens	157
09.	Waterfalls like Ramboda falls, and Lover's Leap	157

### MATHALE 158-159

01.	Knuckles Mountain range	159
02.	Meemure	160
03.	Sembuwatta Lake	160
04.	Pitiwala Pathana	161
05.	Wasgamuwa national park	161
06.	Sigiriya	163





# WESTERN PROVINCE



# WESTERN PROVINCE



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE WESTERN PROVINCE

Western Province, home to the island's capital, is the most populated province in Sri Lanka, with sky-high buildings reaching for the clouds. It consists of a total land area of 3,684 km<sup>2</sup> and a total population of 5,821,710. The province mainly consists of three districts: Colombo, Gampaha, and Kalutara, and is considered the most urbanized province in Sri Lanka. The island's legislative capital, Sri Jayewardenepura, and the commercial hub, Colombo, give the province more importance. Among all the cities and towns in the province, Colombo has the highest population.

The country's economy is highly dependent on the high contribution of the region to the 41.2% GDP of the country. The province's economy is heavily reliant on the industrial sector, which generates the highest share of the country's income (34.6%) despite having the lowest agricultural income in the country. The insufficient land area resulting from the rapid urbanization of the region is one of the reasons for the lower agricultural input in this region. Not only is the province home to the largest amount of schools in the country, but it is also famous for having a large number of leading universities in the country, including the University of Colombo, Kelaniya, Sri Jayewardenepura, Moratuwa, and other universities.

The province is highly famous among most tourists, as most of their adventures start in this province. A smaller part of the west coast is owned by the province, providing the region with scenic, warm beaches. The region owns charming beaches with warm and clear water, historical landmarks from colonial and pre-colonial times, and cultural and other historical monuments that surprise most visitors. As a result of its highly urbanized and modern surroundings, the region also offers comfortable accommodations, as most of the top-level hotel buildings, resorts, villas, and main residential areas are owned by the province. The region guarantees a comfortable and relaxing visit for almost all visitors because of its high-end residences and attractions.

## A BIT OF HISTORY

During the pre-colonial era, the province was considered a kingdom of Kotte, and it eventually fell under the control of Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonies during colonial times. Later, the region was incorporated into the Sinhalese administration of the Low Country, as it was dubbed by the British. Then it was further divided into three districts: Colombo, Kaluthara, and Gampaha, forming the present-day Western Province. At present, the province consists of numerous ethnic groups such as Sinhalese, Sri Lankan Moors, Sri Lankan Tamils, and Indian Tamils, as well as religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and others. Colombo's natural harbor has a history dating back over 2,000 years for its port. It was stated that a traveler named Iban Battuta, who was an Arab, visited the country in the 14th century to start trade and settled in Colombo. This was done because the port was a great help in controlling trade and exports. The Sri Lankan Moor community is also thought to have started after Arab settlements.

# CLIMATE

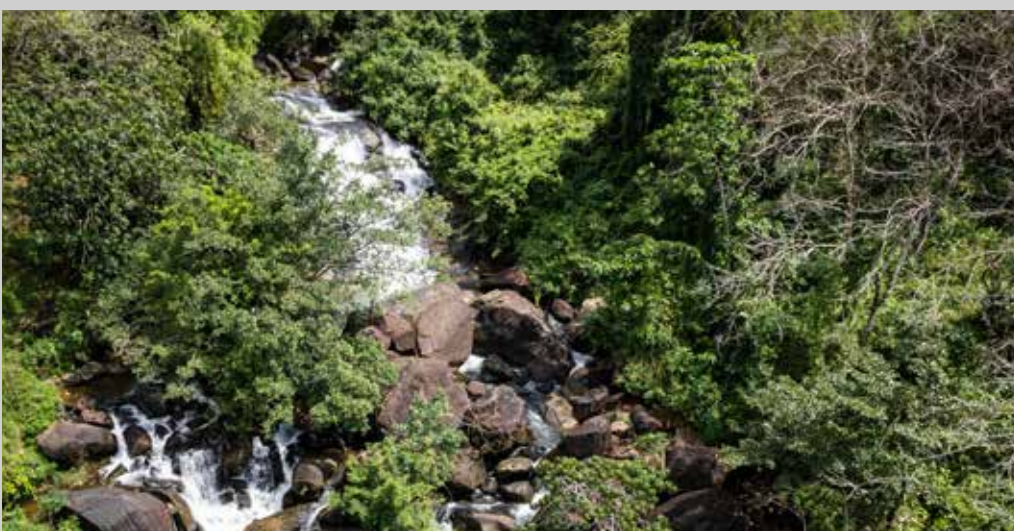
Located in the southwest of Sri Lanka, the Western Province gets heavy rainfall throughout the year through the southwest monsoon. However, the increased rainfall impacts the area, with floods affecting the infrastructure of the area. This is also a result of the poor drainage system and the high urbanization of the region compared to all the other regions. However, it consists of a favorable climate throughout the year, providing ample rains and sunshine while maintaining a favorable temperature as well.



**COLOMBO**



**GAMPAHA**



**KALUTHARA**



# COLOMBO







An obvious attraction place for its unique appearance; Lotus Tower in the city of Colombo is known to be the tallest tower in South Asia. You can stroll around the tower with your loved ones. The tower not only serves as a transmission center for telecommunication but also it dominates a lot of relaxation sites in it.

### THINGS YOU MUST NOT MISS-

- **You are invited to eat in a fancy restaurant**– it presents a variety of restaurants in which you are to eat and enjoy quality time especially the revolving restaurant at the top of the tower has the best view as it completes a revolution every 90 minutes.
- **Enjoy shopping**– the tower serves fancy shopping that matches your taste varying from clothes, fancy accessories, souvenirs, food, and so on.
- **Relax in a hotel in your leisure time**– you can always rest and enjoy the leisure time in a fancy hotel, enjoy a massage in a spa or spend your time away from distractions.
- **Have an exceptional view of the city**– Being the tallest tower in South Asia it serves an outstanding view of the country. The tower's observation deck is a must-visited place if you want to have an outstanding view of the city without distractions.



02

## COLOMBO NATIONAL MUSEUM

### THINGS YOU MUST KNOW BEFORE VISITING

If you are an aesthete who loves and admires art Colombo National Museum is one of the most popular museums you should visit in Sri Lanka. It is the largest museum in Sri Lanka established in January 1877 by Sir William Henry. The museum displays powerful shades of cultural, historical, and religious displays in ancient times since the times of ancient kingdoms of Sri Lanka.

- It displays ancient galleries, art, carvings, statues ancient swords, guns in colonial times.
- You will be able to witness the royal crown and the royal throne of the ancient Kandyan monarch of Sri Lanka.
- You can visit the museum at any time of the day as the museum is open throughout the year however, the best time to visit is January to March.



03

## RED MOSQUE (JAMI UL-ALFAR MOSQUE)



If you are around Pettah around the oldest part of Colombo city; the Red mosque is one of the picturesque buildings your eye will catch in a glimpse. Its mesmerizing architecture and the eye-catching colors with unique color patterns keep the building highlighted within the rest of the buildings will honestly take your breath away for a minute.

### BEFORE YOU GO

- Fridays and prayer times can be too busy to visit the mosque.
- It is open for visitors from 10 in the morning till noon.
- Should dress appropriately as it is a religious place and if you are willing to go inside the mosque.



The Dehiwala National zoo or the National Zoological garden is one of the oldest zoos in Asia which is blessed with exotic and endemic animal species in the world. It has at least 300 species of animals of any type and is divided into various sections of mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes, and other types of animals. Not only is the place is attracted by the variety of animals but also the landscape lush with greenery attracts a huge number of locals and travelers each year. The best time to visit the zoo is in the dry season between 9 am till 3 pm.

## WHAT YOU MUST NOT MISS

- The elephant dance show at 4.30 pm and say hello to the elephants in the elephant arena.
- Visit the aquarium.
- Visit the Butterfly Garden and witness the fairy butterflies get in touch with flowers in the lavishing landscape.
- Meet the Sea Lion "Chakku" in the aquarium at 4 pm.

## DEHIWALA ZOO NIGHT SAFARI

This is a newly announced activity done by the zoo to enhance your experience with night view especially to get rid of the crowds. The travelers can enjoy their time peacefully in the zoo as they get a chance to spend their night in the woods with their beloved. This is done every Friday to Sunday from 7 pm to 10 pm.





**05**

## GANGARAMA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

One of the most iconic temples located in Sri Lanka; the Gangaramaya temple is constructed in the 19th century. The temple has become a popular place among travelers due to the modern unique architectural and blended cultural spirits of Sri Lankan, Chinese, Tai, and Burmese.

### THINGS NOT TO MISS

- Explore the historic and religious lights of the temple museum.
- Worship the temple.
- Admire the exceptional beauty of Beira Lake.

**06**

## GALLE FACE GREEN

Galle Face Green has all the rights to be your favorite destination in Colombo with the magnificent coast running along the ocean. The place is most notable among the tourists and the locals as well for its unique activities and the views.

- Enjoy your best time just endlessly staring at the sunset while tasting a local drink or a fancy cocktail.
- Taste the delicious street food for minimal costs in the evenings.
- Have quality time for yourself in a nearby hotel.
- Go on a picnic with your loved ones and admire the calm atmosphere in the park in the evenings.
- Engage in any kind of activity like flying kites, playing beach volleyball, and other adventures as well.

### WHAT YOU SHOULDN'T MISS





## 07 PETTAH FLOATING MARKET



The blue water blended with the open blue sky keeps the Floating Market in a lovely mood. It is on the Bastian Mawatha on Beira Lake with items ranging from markets from local fruits and vegetables, clothes, accessories, souvenirs, and other electrical devices for an affordable price.

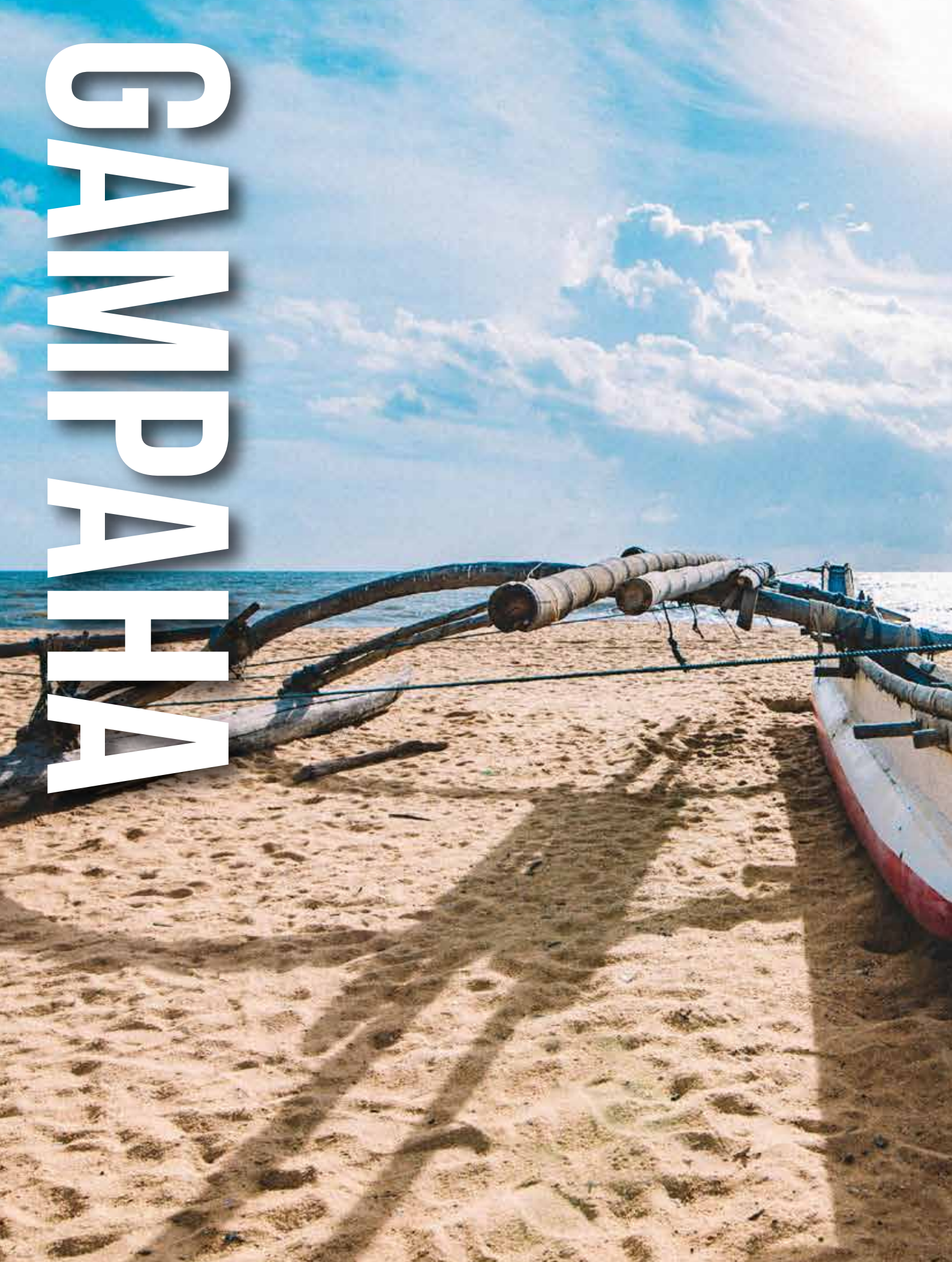
### THINGS NOT TO MISS

- Take a wooden boat ride on weekends.
- Hang around with your family, friends, or your significant other while enjoying delicious food at a restaurant.
- Witness the sunset over the lake in the evenings.
- Gaze into the mesmerizing night view of the floating market which is significantly breath-taking.





# ГАМПАНА







This lagoon is in South-west Sri Lanka accompanied by a large variety of mangrove communities. The lagoon is abundant with splendid biodiversity of flora and fauna mainly on the aquatic ecosystem.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT MISS

- Have a lovely boat ride and spend quality time along with nature while sipping fresh coconut water.
- Try some watersports like diving and watching coral reefs with the guidance.
- Enjoy the nightlife at Negombo lagoon trying the diverse cuisines.
- Enjoy the sunset in a restaurant dining fresh seafood.





02

## GAMPAHA BOTNICAL GARDEN

Gampaha Botanical garden or Henarathgoda Botanical Garden is one of the oldest botanical gardens in Sri Lanka. The rich plant diversity, the charming landscape, and the extensive varieties of butterflies, birds, and other animals make the garden a great place to have a relaxing time with your loved ones.

### THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT MISS

- The boat ride at the Attanagalu Oya waterpark which is recently added.
- The Orchid Garden.
- The Japanese Garden.





Immerse yourself with a mind-blowing experience of fishes in the water world. Witness the first underwater tunnel aquarium in South Asia and get in touch with the spectacular lives of various fishes, as it is the home to diverse collections of fish varieties all around the world. You can also observe the splendid sharks and magnificently large stingrays in your walk over the tunnel.

### WHAT NOT TO MISS

- The first underwater tunnel in South Asia.
- The first bird park in Sri Lanka which is home to a magnificent collection of colorful birds all around the world.





# KALUTHARA

01

## THUDUGALA ELLA WATERFALL



This place is best for a nature lover, you can get in touch with the fresh breeze of the waterfall and take great photos admiring nature's wonders.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT MISS

- Refresh your mood with a fresh bath or swim in the natural pool below the waterfall.
- Enjoy the tranquility of nature while listening to the sound of the silent water.
- Try some of the local food in the restaurants near the fall.



An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The beach is long and sandy, with waves breaking on the left side. The water is a vibrant blue, and the sand is a light tan color. In the background, there is a dense line of green palm trees and some buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

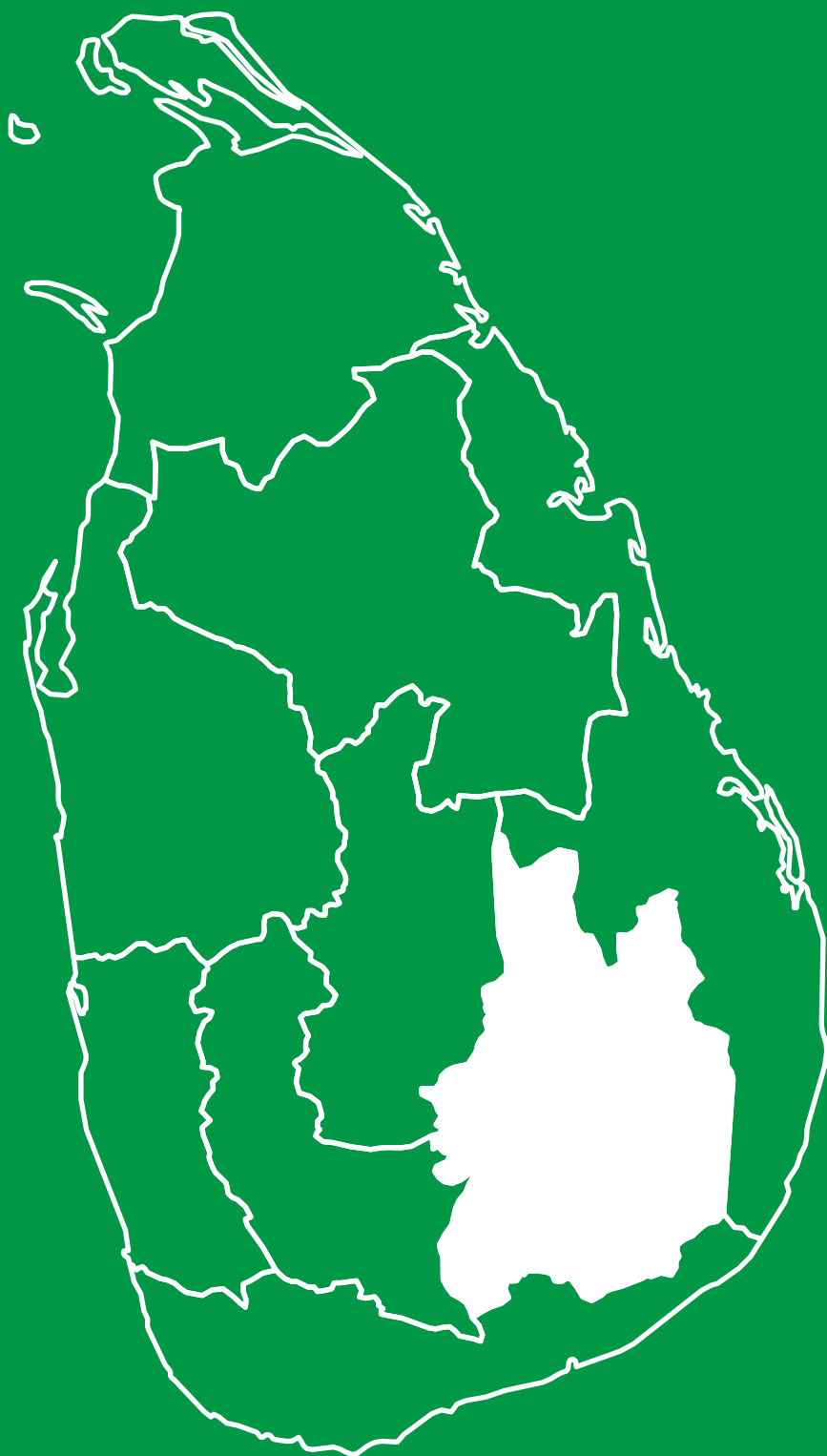
## 02 KALUTHARA CALIDO BEACH

“

This is a popular beach on the West Coast and is one of the unique beaches for outings. It is the perfect place for you to relax and forget about all the tiresome work.

### THINGS YOU MUST TRY

- Watch the splendid sunset while sipping a cocktail or some local coconut water.
- Take a relaxing walk on the beach.
- Have a sunbath in the warm water.
- Enjoy seafood or some fancy food at a nearby restaurant while watching the sunset.



# UVA PROVINCE

---

---

# UVA PROVINCE



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE UVA PROVINCE

Bordered by the southern province, Sabaragamuwa, the Central Province in the west, and the Eastern Province from the east, Uva Province has the second-least population in the country. The total population of the province is 1,259,800. The region consists of two main districts: Badulla and Monaragala, which have two different kinds of climatic conditions. The region spreads over a total land area of 8,500 km<sup>2</sup>, ranking it as the 4th largest province in the country.

The province is home to major towns rich in biodiversity, such as Ella-Wellawaya, Bandarawela, Haputale, Badulla, Monaragala, and Welimada. The natural beauty of these towns undoubtedly attracts tourists to the region.

The region has gained tourists' attention for its pristine nature and adventurous hikes. The relaxing waterfalls, rock carvings, mountainous regions that are perfect for hikes, and wildlife experiences in the sanctuaries are the leading spots that are in the limelight. The region is full of therapeutic waterfalls and misty mountains, including the famous Namunukula Mountain, enveloped by emerald tea plantations. Not only is the region blessed with most of the island's famous waterfalls, such as Diyaluma Falls and Ravana Falls, but it also provides captivating surroundings that never make you tired of exploring. Some of these places are Ella Rock, Mini World's End, Adisham Bungalow, and Nine Arches Bridge. These spots are able to be visited on the way and are never missed by visitors who are even visiting the central Highlands. If you're looking for relaxation or if you're looking for adventure, you name it, this region has it all.

## A BIT OF HISTORY

---

According to the old tales, the region gained its name from the sound "hoo," which is generated by the blowing wind that comes through the mountains. It is believed that the sound "hoo-wa" was later transformed into 'Uva.' The region first belonged to the central province during British colonial times and was established as a separate province in the 19th century by the Governor of Ceylon, Lord Hamilton-Gordon. The capital of the province, Badulla, was one of the oldest towns in the country, with traces of earlier settlements along the river banks of the Badulu Oya and Namunukula Mountains. It was also famous for its ancient legend, the "Rama-Rawana legend," and its hidden archeological caves.



# CLIMATE

Uva Province has a unique climate for its location. Baddulla district, which is situated in the northwestern part of the region, is located at an elevation of 148.92 meters above sea level, while Monaragala district, in the southeastern part, is at sea level. These different locations make the climate in the region quite peculiar as well. Most of the Badulla district gets an annual temperature of 23°C, which is generally lower than the country's average temperature. April is the warmest month in the region at 27°C, and the coldest month is February at 15°C. November has the highest rainfall, while the lowest amount of rainfall is recorded in July. As for Monaragala, the weather is quite hot compared to Badulla, and it is stated that the best time to visit there for warm-weather activities is from early January to late March. The average temperature is above 32°C, and the hot season lasts from March to February. The cool season lasts for two and a half months, from November to mid-January. November has the highest rainfall in Monaragala, with an average rainfall of 7.8 inches.



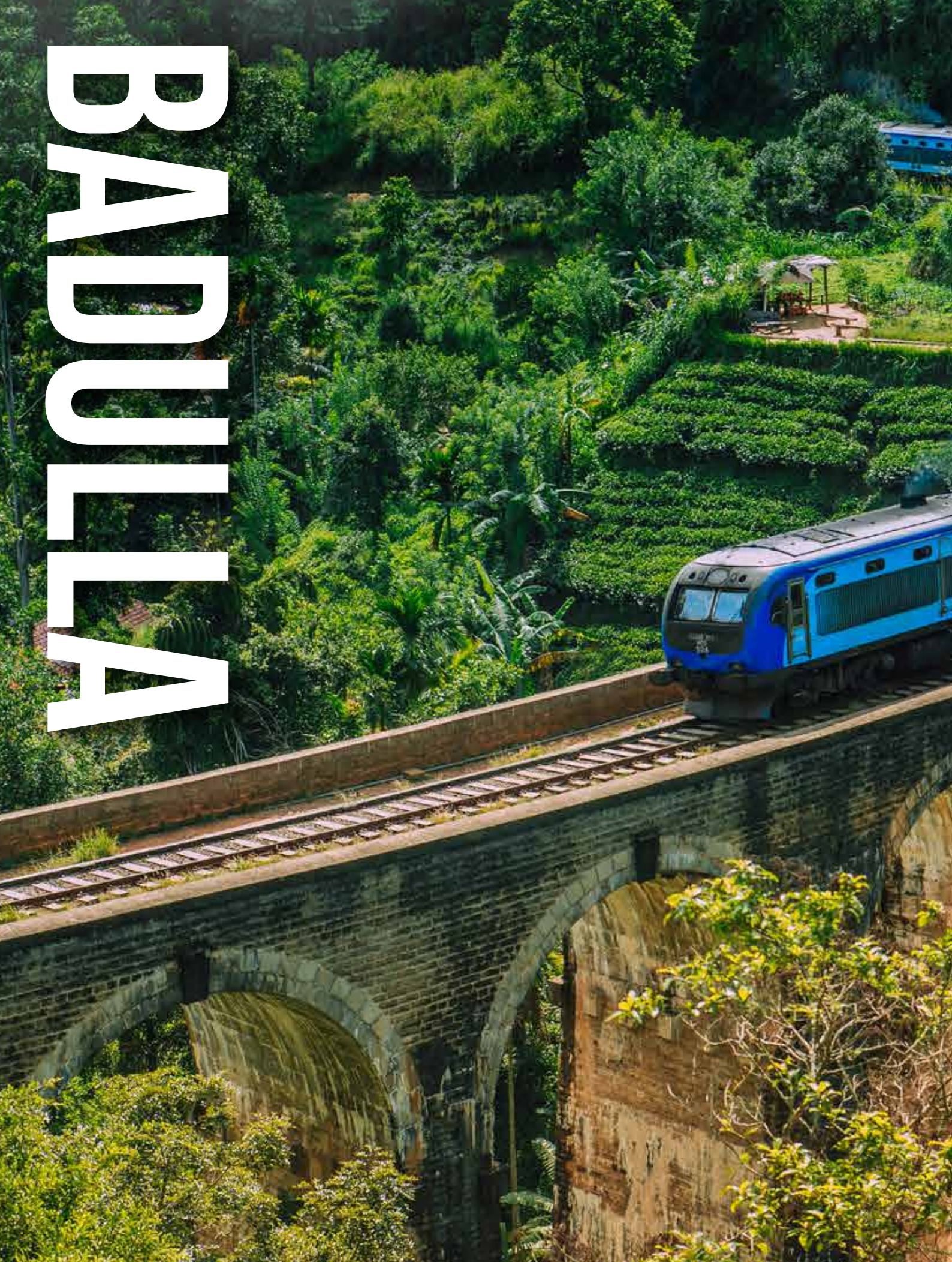
**BADULLA**



**MONERAGALA**



# BADULLA







01

## NINE ARCHES BRIDGE



One of the top attractions in Badulla; the Nine Arches Bridge gives shades of colonial-era railway constructions especially made of rocks and cement with no use of steel or metal. The bridge is a 10-15 minutes walk through the forest located between the Ella and Demodara stations. This bridge is vital evidence for the magnificent architecture in the colonial era and a paradise for photography.

### WHAT YOU MUST KNOW

- Get the best view and perfect photos early in the mornings and evenings when there are no crowds.
- Best place for videography and drone shooting.
- Grab a drink from the cafes below the hiking path to refresh and relax.





# 02

## DIYALUMA FALLS



Diyaluma waterfall is the second highest fall in Sri Lanka, located in Koslanda. You are invited to witness the misty water falling from the top of the fall and also get a mesmerizing view of the fall by traveling to the Upper Diyaluma waterfall. The natural pools in the Upper Diyaluma are an ideal place to go a swim.

### THINGS TO DO

- Go camping in the Upper Diyaluma and spend a night top of the fall.
- Witness the calming night and the dawn.
- Warm yourself up in the cold weather with a hot coffee enjoying nature.
- Watch the stunning view of mountains and lush greens at sunrise.

# 03

## LITTLE ADAM'S PEAK



This is one of the best places to observe the sunset. Get ready to go on a hike to the top of Little Adam's Peak and get pampered with the astonishing view of the rich biodiversity.

### ESSENTIALS YOU MUST KNOW

- Try not to miss the astonishing sunset.
- Apply lime or salt before you hike the mountain to get rid of leaches.

