**Adam's Peak**

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| [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/9/99/Question_book-new.svg/50px-Question_book-new.svg.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Question_book-new.svg) | This article **needs additional citations for** [**verification**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Verifiability). Please help [improve this article](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Adam%27s_Peak&action=edit) by [adding citations to reliable sources](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Introduction_to_referencing_with_Wiki_Markup/1). Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(December 2017)* *(*[*Learn how and when to remove this template message*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Maintenance_template_removal)*)* |

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| **Adam's Peak** | |
| *Sri Pada* (*සමනළ කන්ද*) | |
| [Sri Pada.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sri_Pada.JPG)  Adam's Peak from a distance | |
| **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[06°48′41″N 80°29′59″E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Adam%27s_Peak&params=06_48_41_N_80_29_59_E_type:mountain_region:LK_scale:100000)[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°48′41″N 80°29′59″E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Adam%27s_Peak&params=06_48_41_N_80_29_59_E_type:mountain_region:LK_scale:100000) |
| **Geography** | |
| [Adam's Peak is located in Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sri_Lanka_location_map.svg)  Adam's Peak  Adam's Peak  Sri Lanka | |
| **Location** | [Sabaragamuwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabaragamuwa_Province), [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| [**Parent range**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_range) | Samanala |

**Adam's Peak** (Sinhalese: **Sri Pada** or "Sri Paadaya" (ශ්‍රී පාදය) and *Samanalakanda*, සමනළ කන්ද; Lit. "Butterfly Mountain"; Tamil: சிவனொளி பாதமலை, *Sivanolipatha Malai*; Arabic: *Al-Rohun*) is a 2,243 m (7,359 ft) tall conical [mountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain) located in central [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). It is well known for the **Sri Pada**, i.e., "sacred footprint", a 1.8 m (5 ft 11 in) rock formation near the summit, which in [Buddhist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist) tradition 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 [Shiva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiva) and in [Islamic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic) and [Christian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian) tradition that of [Adam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam), or that of St. Thomas.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-Ricci-2)

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**Geography**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:UG-LK_Photowalk_-_2018-03-24_-_Maskeliya_Reservoir_%283%29.jpg)

Adam's Peak from Maskeliya, in March 2018.

The mountain is located in the southern reaches of the Central Highlands in the [Ratnapura District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ratnapura_District) and [Nuwara Eliya district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuwara_Eliya_district) of the [Sabaragamuwa Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabaragamuwa_Province) and [Central Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Province,_Sri_Lanka) —lying about 40 km northeast of the city of [Ratnapura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ratnapura) and 32 km southwest of the city of Hatton. The surrounding region is largely forested hills, with no mountain of comparable size nearby. The region along the mountain is a wildlife reserve, housing many species varying from elephants to leopards, and including many endemic species.

Adam's Peak is important as a watershed. The districts to the south and the east of Adam's Peak yield precious stones—emeralds, rubies and sapphires, for which the island has been famous, and which earned for its ancient name of Ratnadvipa.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-3)

**Trails**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sri_Pada_-_The_Holy_Mountain.jpg)

The Holy peak viewed at Adiyamalatenna Ambalama - Kuruwita-Erathna trail

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

Access to the mountain is possible by 6 trails: Ratnapura-Palabaddala, Hatton-Nallathanni, Kuruwita-Erathna, Murraywatte, Mookuwatte and Malimboda. The Nallathanni & Palabaddala routes are most favored by those undertaking the climb, while the Kuruwita-Erathna trail is used less often; these trails are linked to major cities or town by bus, accounting for their popular use. The Murraywatte, Mookuwatte and Malimboda routes are hardly used, but do intersect with the Palabaddala road midway through the ascent. The usual route taken by most pilgrims is ascent via Hatton and descent via Ratnapura; although the Hatton trail is the steepest, it is also shorter than any of the other trails by approximately five kilometers.

Once one of the starting 'nodes' of Palabadalla, Nallathanni or Erathna are reached, the rest of the ascent is done on foot through the forested mountainside on the steps built into it. The greater part of the track leading from the base to the summit consists of thousands of steps built in cement or rough stones. The trails are illuminated with electric light, making night-time ascent possible and safe to do even when accompanied by children. Rest stops and wayside shops along the trails serve refreshments and supplies.

Whilst there are many ancient monuments on the mountain, there is an important [Peace Pagoda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_Pagoda) located halfway up, built by [Nipponzan Myohoji](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nipponzan_Myohoji) in 1978.

**Nomenclature**

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

Mahagiri Dambaya

Due to its significance to the various people that inhabit the country, the mountain is referred to by a variety of names.

The often used *Sri Pada* is derived from [Sanskrit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit), used by the [Sinhalese people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhalese_people) in a religious context; this name also has meaning in [Pāli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pali), and may be translated roughly as "the sacred foot". It refers to the footprint-shaped mark at the summit, which is believed by [Buddhists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism) to be that of the [Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gautama_Buddha). Christian and Islamic traditions assert that it is the footprint of [Adam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam), left when first setting foot on Earth after having been cast out of paradise, giving it the name "Adam's Peak".[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] Hindu tradition refers to the footprint as that of the [Hindu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu) deity [Shiva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiva), and thus names the mountain *Shiva padam* (Shiva's foot) in [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language). Tamils may also use the name *Shivanolipatha Malai* to refer to the mountain.

Another [Sinhala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhalese_language) name for the mountain is *Samanalakanda*, which refers either to the deity [Saman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saman_%28deity%29), who is said to live upon the mountain, or to the butterflies (*samanalayā*) that frequent the mountain during their annual migrations to the region. The name Sri Paada, however, is the more commonly used.

Other local and historic names include *Ratnagiri* ("jewelled hill"), *Samantakuta* ("Peak of Saman"), *Svargarohanam* ("the climb to heaven"), *Mount Rohana* and other variations on the root *Rohana*.

**History**

Sri Pada is first mentioned (as `Samanthakuta') in the Deepawamsa,[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*] the earliest Pali chronicle, (4th century), and also in the 5th century chronicle [Mahawamsa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahawamsa), where it is stated that the Buddha visited the mountain peak. The chronicle *Rajavaliya* states that the King Valagamba (1st century BCE) had taken refuge in the forests of Adam's Peak against invaders from India, and later returned to Anuradhapura. The Mahawamsa again mentions the visit of [King Vijayabahu I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Vijayabahu_I) (1058–1114) to the mountain. The famous Chinese pilgrim and Buddhist traveler [Fa Hien](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fa_Hien) stayed in Sri Lanka in 411–12 CE and mentions Sri Pada although it is not made clear whether he actually visited it.

The Italian merchant [Marco Polo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marco_Polo) in his [*Travels*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Travels_of_Marco_Polo) of 1298 CE noted that Adam's Peak was an important place of pilgrimage but did not mention a footprint in the rock.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-4) The Arab traveler [Ibn Battuta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Battuta) climbed to the summit of the mountain which he called *Sarandīb* in 1344 CE. In his description he mentions a stairway and iron stanchions with chains to help the pilgrims.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-5)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-6)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-7) [John Davy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Davy_%28chemist%29) brother of the noted chemist Sir [Humphry Davy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humphry_Davy) visited the peak in 1817. He recorded observing an oversized foot print carved in stone and ornamented with a single margin of brass and studded with gems.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-8)

**The Sacred Mountain**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Maskeliya_01.jpg)

The village of Nallathanniya at the feet of the mountain, where the stairs begin

It is revered as a holy site by [Buddhists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism), [Hindus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism), some [Muslims](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) and [Christians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christians). It has specific qualities that cause it to stand out and be noticed; including its dominant and outstanding profile, and the boulder at the peak that contains an indentation resembling a footprint. As the 1910, [Encyclopædia Britannica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica) notes[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak" \l "cite_note-EB1911-9)

"For a long period Sri Pada was supposed to be the highest mountain in Ceylon, but actual survey makes it only 7353 ft. above sea-level. This elevation is chiefly remarkable as the resort of pilgrims from all parts of the East. The hollow in the lofty rock that crowns the summit is said by the [Buddhists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist) of [Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gautama_Buddha), by the [Hindus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism) to be the footstep of [Siva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiva), by some [Muslims](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) of [Adam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam), whilst the Portuguese Christians were divided between the conflicting claims of [St Thomas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_the_Apostle) and the [eunuch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eunuch) of [Candace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candace), queen of [Ethiopia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia). The footstep is covered by a handsome roof, and is guarded by the priests of a rich monastery half-way up the mountain, who maintain a shrine on the summit of the peak."

It is an important pilgrimage site, especially for Buddhists. Pilgrims walk up the mountain, following a variety of difficult routes up thousands of steps. The journey takes several hours at least.

The mountain is most often scaled from December to May. During other months it is hard to climb the mountain due to very heavy rain, extreme wind, and thick mist.The peak [pilgrimage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilgrimage) season is in April, and the goal is to be on top of the mountain at sunrise, when the distinctive shape of the mountain casts a triangular shadow on the surrounding plain and can be seen to move quickly downward as the sun rises.

**Legends**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sri_Paada1.JPG)

A view of Adam's peak from [Maskeliya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maskeliya) town

For Buddhists, the footprint mark is the left foot of the Buddha, left behind when Buddha visited Sri Lanka, as a symbol for worship at the invitation of Buddhist God Saman.

Tamil Hindus consider it as the footprint of Lord [Shiva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiva). It is also fabled that the mountain is the legendary mount [Trikuta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trikuta) the capital of [Ravana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ravana) during the [Ramayana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramayana) times from where he ruled Lanka.

Some Muslims and Christians in Sri Lanka ascribe it to where [Adam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam), the first Ancestor, set foot as he was exiled from the Garden of Eden[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*]. The legends of Adam are connected to the idea that Sri Lanka was the original [Eden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garden_of_Eden),[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak" \l "cite_note-10)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-11) and in the Muslim tradition that Adam was 30 ft tall.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam%27s_Peak#cite_note-12)[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

A shrine to Saman, a Buddhist "deity" (People who have spent spiritual life during their life on earth and done pacificism service to regions are deified by Sri Lankan Buddhists) charged with protecting the mountain top, can be found near the footprint.

**Temple of the Tooth**

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| **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic** | |
| * ශ්‍රී දළදා මාළිගාව * தலதா மாளிகை | |
| [Zahntempel Kandy.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Zahntempel_Kandy.jpg)  Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, a [World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) in [Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy) | |
| **Basic information** | |
| **Location** | [Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy) |
| [**Geographic 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′38″N 80°38′19″E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Temple_of_the_Tooth&params=7_17_38_N_80_38_19_E_region:LK_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[7°17′38″N 80°38′19″E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Temple_of_the_Tooth&params=7_17_38_N_80_38_19_E_region:LK_type:landmark) |
| [**Affiliation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_religions_and_spiritual_traditions) | [Buddhism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism) |
| **Country** | [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| **Website** | <http://www.sridaladamaligawa.lk> |
| **Architectural description** | |
| **Founder** | [Vimaladharmasuriya I of Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vimaladharmasuriya_I_of_Kandy) |
| **Completed** | 1595 |
| [UNESCO World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) | |
| **Type** | Cultural |
| **Criteria** | (iv)(vi) |
| **Designated** | 1988 |
| **Reference no.** | [450](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/450) |

**Sri Dalada Maligawa** or the **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic** is a [Buddhist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism) temple in the city of [Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy), [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). It is located in the royal palace complex of the former [Kingdom of Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kandy), which houses the [relic of the tooth of the Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relic_of_the_tooth_of_the_Buddha). Since ancient times, the relic has played an important role in local politics because it is believed that whoever holds the relic holds the governance of the country. Kandy was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings and is a [World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) mainly due to the temple.

[Bhikkhus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhikkhu) of the two chapters of [Malwatte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malwathu_Maha_Viharaya) and [Asgiriya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asgiri_Maha_Viharaya) conduct daily worship in the inner chamber of the temple. Rituals are performed three times daily: at dawn, at noon and in the evenings. On Wednesdays there is a symbolic bathing of the relic with an herbal preparation made from scented water and fragrant flowers called *Nanumura Mangallaya*. This holy water is believed to contain healing powers and is distributed among those present.

The temple sustained damage from bombings by the [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberation_Tigers_of_Tamil_Eelam) in 1998 but was fully restored each time.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-sundt1-1)

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  + [3.1 Royal Palace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#Royal_Palace)
  + [3.2 Audience hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#Audience_hall)
  + [3.3 Mahamaluwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#Mahamaluwa)
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**History**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Front_view_of_Temple_of_the_Tooth,_Kandy.jpg)

Front view of The Temple of the Tooth, Kandy, Sri Lanka

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

[Paththirippuwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paththirippuwa) at Sri Dalada Maligawa Kandy Sri Lanka

Main article: [Relic of the tooth of the Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relic_of_the_tooth_of_the_Buddha)

After the parinirvana of [Gautama Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gautama_Buddha), the [tooth relic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relic_of_the_tooth_of_the_Buddha) was preserved in [Kalinga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalinga_%28historical_kingdom%29) and smuggled to the island by Princess Hemamali and her husband, Prince Dantha on the instructions of her father King Guhasiva.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-abey_p._25-2) They landed in the island in Lankapattana during the reign of [Sirimeghavanna of Anuradhapura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirimeghavanna_of_Anuradhapura) (301-328) and handed over the tooth relic. The king enshrined it Meghagiri Vihara (present day [Isurumuniya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isurumuniya)) in [Anuradhapura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anuradhapura). Safeguard of the relic was a responsibility of the monarch, therefore over the years the custodianship of relic became to symbolize the right to rule. Therefore, reigning monarchs built the tooth relic temples quite close to their royal residences, as was the case during the times of the [Anuradhapura Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anuradhapura_Kingdom), [Kingdom of Polonnaruwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Polonnaruwa), and [Kingdom of Dambadeniya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Dambadeniya). During the era of the [Kingdom of Gampola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Gampola), the relic was housed in Niyamgampaya Vihara. It is reported in the messenger poems such as [Hamsa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamsa-Sandesha), Gira, and Selalihini that the temple of tooth relic was situated within the city of [Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Jayawardenepura_Kotte) when the [Kingdom of Kotte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kotte) was established there.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-abey_p._25-2)

During the reign of [Dharmapala of Kotte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dharmapala_of_Kotte), the relic was kept hidden in Delgamuwa Vihara, [Ratnapura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ratnapura), in a grinding stone.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-abey_p._25-2) It was brought to Kandy by Hiripitiye Diyawadana Rala and Devanagala Rathnalankara Thera. King [Vimaladharmasuriya I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vimaladharmasuriya_I_of_Kandy) built a two-storey building to deposit the tooth relic and the building is now gone.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-3) In 1603 when the [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Ceylon) invaded Kandy, it was carried to Meda Mahanuwara in Dumbara. It was recovered in the time of [Rajasinha II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajasinha_II_of_Kandy) and it has been reported that he reinstate the original building or has built a new temple.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-abey_p._25-2) The present day temple of the tooth was built by [Vira Narendra Sinha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vira_Narendra_Sinha_of_Kandy).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-Senevi_p._92-4) The octagonal [Paththirippuwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paththirippuwa) and [moat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moat) was added during the reign of [Sri Vikrama Rajasinha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Vikrama_Rajasinha_of_Kandy). The royal architect Devendra Moolacharya is credited with building the [Paththirippuwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paththirippuwa). Originally it was used by the king for recreational activities and later it was offered to the tooth relic, it now houses the temple's library.

The temple has been attacked on two occasions, in [1989](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1989_Temple_of_the_Tooth_attack) by the [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janatha_Vimukthi_Peramuna)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-leader2-5) and then in [1998](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1998_Temple_of_the_Tooth_attack) by the militant organization [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberation_Tigers_of_Tamil_Eelam).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-sundt1-1)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Princess_Hemamali_%26_Prince_Dantha.JPG)

Wall painting at [Kelaniya Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kelaniya_Raja_Maha_Vihara) of Princess Hemamali and her husband, Prince Dantha which she carried Gautama Buddha's tooth relic hidden in her hair to Sri Lanka. - Painting by [Solias Mendis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solias_Mendis)

**Architecture**

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

Inside the Temple of the Tooth

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

The golden canopy over main shrine

The brick wall which runs along the moat and Bogambara lake is known as water waves wall.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-Senevi_p._92-4) Holes in this wall are built to light coconut oil lamps. The main entrance gate which lies over the moat is called Mahawahalkada. At the foot of Mahawahalkada steps there is a [Sandakada pahana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandakada_pahana) (moonstone) which is carved in Kandyan architectural style. Mahawahalkada was totally destroyed in a 1998 bomb blast and rebuilt afterwards along with sandakada pahana other [stone carvings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stone_carving).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-ReferenceA-6) Elephants are depicted in stone on the either sides of the entrance. A [Makara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makara_%28Hindu_mythology%29) [Torana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torana) and two guardian stones are placed on top of the staircase.

Hewisi drummers' chamber is situated in front of the main shrine. The two storeys of the main shrine are known as "Palle malaya" (lower floor) and "Udu malaya" (upper floor) or "Weda hitina maligawa".[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-7) The doors of the Weda Hitana Maligawa are [carved in ivory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivory_carving). The actual chamber which the tooth relic is kept is known as the "Handun kunama".

The [golden canopy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Canopy_of_the_Temple_of_the_Tooth) over the main shrine, built in 1987 by [Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Sri_Lanka) [Ranasinghe Premadasa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranasinghe_Premadasa), and the golden fence which encircles the main shrine are other notable features.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-8) The tooth relic is encased in seven golden [caskets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casket) which engraved with precious [gemstones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gemstone).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-9) The caskets have a shape of a [stupa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stupa). The procession casket which is used during the [Kandy Esala Perahera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandy_Esala_Perahera) is also displayed in the same chamber.

**Associated buildings and structures**

**Royal Palace**

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

[Vimaladharmasuriya I of Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vimaladharmasuriya_I_of_Kandy) built the [Royal Palace of Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Palace_of_Kandy)

Main article: [Royal Palace of Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Palace_of_Kandy)

The royal palace is situated to the north of the temple.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-ReferenceB-10) John Pybus, who was on an embassy in 1762, gives a detailed description on the royal palace.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-11) [Vikramabahu III of Gampola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vikramabahu_III_of_Gampola) (r. 1356-1374) and [Sena Sammatha Wickramabahu of Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sena_Sammatha_Wickramabahu_of_Kandy) (r. 1469-1511) built royal palaces on this site. [Vimaladharmasuriya I of Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vimaladharmasuriya_I_of_Kandy) undertook various decorations to the palace. The Dutch orientalist [Philippus Baldaeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippus_Baldaeus) visited the palace with General [Gerard Pietersz Hulft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerard_Pietersz_Hulft) in 1656. The royal residence was known as "Maha Wasala" in [Sinhalese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhalese_language) starting in the Polonnaruwa period. The royal palace is also known as "Maligawa." There were three Wahalkadas and a 8 feet (2.4 m) high wall used as main entrances. The section of the palace facing the [Natha Devale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natha_Devale,_Kandy) is said to be the oldest. During the beginning of the British period, it was used by government agent [Sir John D'Oyly, 1st Baronet, of Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_John_D%27Oyly,_1st_Baronet,_of_Kandy).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-ReferenceB-10) Successors of D'Oyly have continued to use it as their official residence. Today it is preserved as an archeological museum. Ulpen Ge and Queens Palace are the associated buildings of the palace.

**Audience hall**

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

Audience hall seen partially here from northern facade of the temple

The audience hall or *magul maduwa* is where the Kandyan kings held their court.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-12) It was completed during the reign of Sri Vikrama Rajasinha.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-13) The carvings of the wooden pillars which support the wooden roof are an example of [wood carving](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wood_carving) of the Kandyan period. [Sri Rajadhi Rajasinha of Kandy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Rajadhi_Rajasinha_of_Kandy) built it in 1783. The hall was renovated for the reception of arrival of [Albert Edward, Prince of Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_VII) in 1872. Originally the hall was 58 by 35.6 feet (17.7 m × 10.9 m); after renovation, its length was extended by an additional 31.6 feet (9.6 m).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-14) Other nearby building to the halls believed to be demolished during the [British rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Ceylon). The audience hall was the venue where the [Kandyan Convention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandyan_Convention) was drawn up, it was where the convention was read out to the people and where the conference, about the convention was held on 2 March 1815.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-15)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-16) That space was later used to erect the Kandy Kachcheri and Kandy Supreme Court. Today it is used for state ceremonies and conserved under the department of archaeology.

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

Roof Paintings from Temple of Tooth Relic in Kandy

**Mahamaluwa**

Mahamaluwa is public who came to see the annual Esala perahera.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_the_Tooth#cite_note-ReferenceA-6) Today it contains a statue of [Madduma Bandara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madduma_Bandara). The memorial of which contains the skull of [Keppetipola Disawe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keppetipola_Disawe) is another attraction. The statue of Princess Hemamali and Prince Dantha are also located here.

**Galle Fort**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Galle Fort Dutch Fort** | |
| Part of [Galle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle) | |
| [Galle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle), [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) | |
| [Galle Fort.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Galle_Fort.JPG)  Galle Fort | |
| [Galle  FortDutch Fort is located in Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sri_Lanka_location_map.svg)  Galle  FortDutch Fort  Galle Fort Dutch Fort | |
| **Coordinates** | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6.025833°N 80.2175°E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Galle_Fort&params=6.025833_N_80.2175_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[6.025833°N 80.2175°E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Galle_Fort&params=6.025833_N_80.2175_E_type:landmark) |
| **Type** | Defence [fort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort) |
| **Site information** | |
| **Controlled by** | [Government of Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Sri_Lanka) |
| **Open to the public** | Yes |
| **Condition** | Good |
| **Site history** | |
| **Built** | 1584 and 1684 |
| **Built by** | [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal) and [Dutch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands) |
| **Materials** | [Granite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite) [Stones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_%28geology%29) and coral |
| **Battles/wars** | [Siege of Galle (1640)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Galle_%281640%29) Several other battles |
|  | |
| [**UNESCO World Heritage Site**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) | |
| **Official name** | Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications |
| **Type** | Cultural |
| **Criteria** | iv |
| **Designated** | 1988 (10th [session](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Committee)) |
| **Reference no.** | [451](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451) |
| **State Party** | Sri Lanka |
| **Region** | [Asia-Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Asia) |
|  | |

**Galle Fort** ([Sinhalese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhalese_language): ගාලු කොටුව *Galu Kotuwa*; [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): காலிக் கோட்டை, translit. *Kālik Kōṭṭai*), in the Bay of [Galle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle) on the southwest coast of [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka), was built first in 1588 by the [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal), then extensively fortified by the [Dutch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands) during the 17th century from 1649 onwards. It is a historical, archaeological and architectural heritage monument, which even after more than 423 years maintains a polished appearance, due to extensive reconstruction work done by Archaeological Department of Sri Lanka.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Elliott1996-1)

The fort has a colourful history, and today has a multi-ethnic and multi-religious population.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-List-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Advisory-4) The Sri Lankan government and many [Dutch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_people) people who still own some of the properties inside the fort are looking at making this one of the modern wonders of the world.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Advisory-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Atkinson2009-5) The heritage value of the fort has been recognized by the [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO) and the site has been inscribed as a cultural heritage [UNESCO World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Site) under criteria iv, for its unique exposition of "an urban ensemble which illustrates the interaction of European architecture and South Asian traditions from the 16th to the 19th centuries."[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-List-3)

The Galle Fort, also known as the Dutch Fort or the "Ramparts of [Galle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle)", withstood the [Boxing Day tsunami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Indian_Ocean_earthquake) which damaged part of coastal area [Galle town](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle). It has been since restored.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)

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* [2 History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#History)
* [3 Geography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#Geography)
* [4 Demographics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#Demographics)
* [5 Fort layout](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#Fort_layout)
  + [5.1 Other landmarks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#Other_landmarks)
* [6 Renovations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#Renovations)
* [7 See also](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#See_also)
* [8 References](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#References)
* [9 External links](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#External_links)

**Etymology**

There are many versions of the word ‘Galle’ that is suffixed to the fort. One version is that it is a derivative of ‘Gallus’ from the [Dutch language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_language), meaning "chicken". The other version is that it was a "galaa", in [Sinhalese language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhalese_language) meaning a "cattle herd" or place where cattle was herded.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)

**History**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Galle_Fort.png)

Map of the [ramparts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defensive_wall)

[Galle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle)’s earliest historical existence is traced to [Ptolemy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy)’s world map of 125–150 AD when it was a [busy port](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Port), trading with Greece, Arab countries, China and others. Its mention as a "port of call of the Levant" is made in the cosmography of [Cosmas Indicopleustes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmas_Indicopleustes). This is the harbour where the Portuguese, under the leadership of [Lourenço de Almeida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louren%C3%A7o_de_Almeida), made their first landing in 1505 on the island and caused a notable change in developments on the island with their close friendship with [Dharmaparakrama Bahu](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dharmaparakrama_Bahu&action=edit&redlink=1) (1484–1514), the then king of the country. Before the Portuguese arrived here, [Ibn Batuta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Batuta) had touched base at this port. This was the beginning of the fort’s history, which was built by the Portuguese, along with a Franciscan chapel (now mostly in ruins) inside the fort in 1541. The fort also, in later years, served as prison camp to incarcerate [Sinhalese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhalese_people) natives who opposed the Portuguese.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Advisory-4) The Portuguese had moved to [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo) from Galle as they preferred the latter. In 1588, however, they were attacked by the Sinhalese King [Raja Singha I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajasinha_I_of_Sitawaka) (1581–93) of [Sitawaka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sitawaka), which forced the Portuguese to return to Galle. At Galle, they initially built a small fort out of palm trees and mud. They called it the Santa Cruz, and later extended it with a watch tower and three bastions and a "fortalice" to guard the harbour.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-List-3)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Ellis2009-6)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Galle-fort-sea-wall.jpg)

Sea side wall of the Galle Fort

In 1640, the events took a turn with the Dutch entering the fray joining hands with King [Rajasinhe II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajasinghe_II_of_Kandy) to capture the Galle Fort. The Dutch, with a force of some 2,500 men under Koster, captured the fort from the Portuguese in 1640 itself. Although not an ideal situation for the Sinhalese, they were instrumental in building the fort as seen in its present form in the Dutch architectural style. Fortifications were added up to the early 18th century. The establishment consisted of public administration buildings, warehouses and business houses and residential quarters. A [Protestant church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant_church) (planned by Abraham Anthonisz) was also built in [baroque style](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baroque_architecture) in 1775 to cater to the colonists and the local people who were converted to [Christianity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity). The most prominent buildings in the fort complex were the Commandant's residence, the arsenal and the gun house. Other buildings erected in the fort catered to trade and defense requirements such as workshops for carpentry, [smithy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forge), rope making and so forth. They also built an elaborate system of sewers that were flooded at high tide, taking the sewage away to sea.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-List-3)

The British took over the fort on 23 February 1796, one week after Colombo was captured. Sri Lanka remained a British colony formally from 1815 till it became an independent island nation in 1948.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-List-3)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Council-7) The importance of Galle also declined after the British developed Colombo as their capital and main port in the mid nineteenth century.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Ellis2009-6)

**Geography**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pointe_de_Galle_sud_de_Ceylan_en_1754.jpeg)

View of the Galle Fort in [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) in 1754

Main article: [Galle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle)

Galle Fort is in [Galle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle), which is located at the extreme southwest corner of the island, in the southwest coast of Sri Lanka, where the shoreline turns east towards [Matara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matara,_Sri_Lanka) and [Tangalle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tangalle). The fort, like most of the forts in Sri Lanka, is built on a small rocky peninsula, belonging to the sea as much as to the land. As it exists today, it covers an area of 52 hectares (130 acres).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-List-3)

[Highway A2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A2_highway_%28Sri_Lanka%29) provides road links to Galle from Colombo (a distance of 113 kilometres (70 mi)) and the rest of the country along the west coast or from the east along the south coast. Since 2012 an [expressway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E01_expressway_%28Sri_Lanka%29) has linked Galle to Colombo. Rail links are also available to Colombo and Matara. Sea route is through the Galle Port at the Galle Harbour.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Ellis2009,p.247-8)

**Demographics**

The [Galle city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle) (population 112,252, over an area of 16.5 square kilometres (6.4 sq mi)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort" \l "cite_note-Council-7)) has developed around the Galle Fort area which covers around 52 hectares (130 acres). The story of the fort is well illustrated by many signages and plaques, which provide information about each monument.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-List-3)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Atkinson2009-5)[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-tour-9) More than half of the inhabitants inside the fort are [Moor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_Moors), with [Sinhalese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinhala_people), Dutch, English, Portuguese and [German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_people) settlers. More details regarding the history of the fort can be found at the visitor center and at the Dutch period museum inside the Fort.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Atkinson2009-5)

**Fort layout**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Old_Town_of_Galle_and_its_Fortifications-120573.jpg)

The Main Gate to the Galle Fort

The fort, originally built by the Portuguese in the 16th century to defend Galle, was an earthen structure with [pallisades](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pallisades) covering the northern inland side with a rampart and three bastions. They believed that the seaward side was impregnable and hence did not construct any fortifications on the sea side. The sea wall was an addition made in 1729 to make the city planning for defense purposes complete in all respects.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Advisory-4)

When the fort came under the control of the Dutch, they considered the old fortifications built by the Portuguese unsafe as they were made of earth and palisades. Hence, the Dutch decided to fully encircle the entire peninsula by building impregnable fortifications as defense against other colonial agencies in the region. They built some 14 bastions with coral and granite stones over an area of (52 hectares (130 acres)). Many of the fortification walls were built in 1663. The city built within the fort was well-planned with a grid layout and the peripheral roads aligned parallel to fort's ramparts.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Advisory-4)

The fort has two gates. The two towering gates to the fort are termed "Portcullised gates" and the first gate of entry from the port is inscribed "ANNO MDCL XIX" which has depiction of [Dutch Coat of Arms](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dutch_Coat_of_Arms&action=edit&redlink=1) with the ubiquitous emblem of [cock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rooster) and an inset "VOC" inscribed in the centre.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Elliott1996-1)

The Main Gate is along the northern stretch of the fort on the land side and is heavily fortified. The Portuguese had built a moat here which was widened during the Dutch rule by breaking the fort wall in 1667 and building the Star, Moon and Sun bastions. Its construction is also dated to the British period from 1897 to facilitate easy flow of traffic to the old town.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Atkinson2009-5) This gate was fortified with a draw bridge surrounded by a moat; inscriptions here indicate 1669 as the year of construction. Some of the other named bastions are: The Aurora Bastion, the Tremon Bastion, the Kleipenberg Bastion and the Emaloon Bastion, adding an element of grandeur to the fort as a whole.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Advisory-4)

Walking along the fort wall in a clockwise direction leads to the Old Gate where the British Coat of Arms is seen inscribed at the entrance at the top. In the inner part of the gate there is the 1668 dated inscription of the letters VOC, an abbreviation of Verenigde Oostindindische Compagnie, meaning [Dutch East India Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_East_India_Company) with the insignia of a cock flanked by two lions. Further along the fort wall is the Portuguese-built oldest bastion, known as Zwart Bastion, meaning Black Bastion. The eastern section of the fort terminates in the Point Utrecht Bastion; the powder house is also seen here. The 18 metres (59 ft) high [Galle Lighthouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Lighthouse) was erected here in 1938. The next stretch of the fort wall is the location of Flag Rock Bastion, which was used as a signaling station to warn ships entering the port of the hazardous rocky stretches of the bay. Ships were warned by firing musket shots from the Pigeon Island near the Flag Rock. Further along the fort walls is the Trion Bastion where a windmill drew water from the sea to sprinkle the dusty roads of the town; it is also a view point to watch sunsets. Many more bastions are seen along the fortifications from this location up to the Main Gate.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Atkinson2009-5)

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

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

Left: View across grass-clad walls to the sea. Right: A canon mounted on one of the ramparts of the Galle Fort.

The Fort really resembles a small laid out walled town, with a rectangular grid pattern of streets full of the low houses with gables and verandas in the Dutch colonial style. It has a well laid out road network. The fort area also has a number of historic churches, mosques, commercial and government buildings. Some of the locals stroll along the walls of the fort in the evenings.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Atkinson2009-5)

After the fort came under the control of the British in 1796, it remained their southern headquarters. They made many modifications to the fort such as closing of the moat, building of houses, a lighthouse on the Utrecht Bastion, a gate between the Moon Bastion and the Sun Bastion. A tower was particularly erected in 1883 to commemorate the jubilee of [Queen Victoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Victoria). The Second World War saw many more fortifications built to defend the fort. In spite of all the changes made over the years, since it was first built between the 16th and the 19th century, the Galle Fort still remains a unique monument complex said to be "the best example of a fortified city with a fusion of European architecture and South Asian traditions built by Europeans in South and [Southeast Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Asia)".[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Advisory-4)

In the fort area, many buildings are of Dutch vintage with street names also in Dutch. The sewerage system built in the fort area ensured that the city sewerage was flushed into the sea during the tidal cycle. The Dutch exploited the musk rats in the sewers by exporting them to extract musk oil.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Atkinson2009-5)

**Other landmarks**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mosquegalle0775.JPG)

Meera Mosque in Galle Fort

Some of the important heritage monuments in the fort are the [Dutch Reformed Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groote_Kerk,_Galle), with its historic [belfry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bell_tower) dated 1707 and cast in 1709, which rang every hour;[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-tour-9) the old Dutch government house; the residence of the Commander; Great Warehouse near the Old Gate, built around 1669 to store spices and ship equipment (which now houses the [National Maritime Museum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Maritime_Museum_%28Galle%29)); the [Old Dutch Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Dutch_Hospital,_Galle); the Meera Mosque built in 1904; the Buddhist temple built at the site of Portuguese Roman Catholic church; the [All Saints Anglican Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints%27_Church,_Galle) built in 1871; the 1882 [Clock Tower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Clock_Tower) and the 1939 [Galle Lighthouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Lighthouse).

[Groote Kerk (Dutch Reformed Church)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groote_Kerk,_Galle)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Galle_%28Sri_Lanka_2008%29_%282378928419%29.jpg)

[Dutch Reformed Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groote_Kerk,_Galle) in Galle Fort

The [Groote Kerk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groote_Kerk,_Galle) (Dutch Reformed Church) was built in 1640. However, it was remodeled between 1752 and 1755. The church is paved with grave stones from the old Dutch cemetery. There is an old organ of 1760 vintage in the church where services are held and a pulpit made of [calamander wood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calamander_wood) from [Malaysia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia) is used.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Atkinson2009-5)

[New Orient Hotel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amangalla)

The former New Orient Hotel was originally built in 1694 for the exclusive use of the Dutch Governor and his staff, it was converted into a hotel in 1865, the New Orient Hotel, which catered to the [European](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe) passengers traveling between Europe and Galle Port in the 19th century[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Atkinson2009-5) and in 2005 was modernised into a franchise of the [Aman Resorts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aman_Resorts), named the [Amangalla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amangalla).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Advisory-4)

Street names

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Galle-fort-street.jpg)

A street in Galle Fort area

Most of the street names are a legacy from the colonial period, including Pedlar Street or ‘Moorse Kramerstraat’, the Moorish pedlar (or peddler) street, named after the Muslim [moors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moors) who were retailers along with *chettis*; Lighthouse Street or ‘Zeeburgstraat’ or ‘Middelpuntstraat’ named after the lighthouse which was destroyed in a fire in 1936; Hospital Street, the location of the [Dutch Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Dutch_Hospital,_Galle), the house of the Surgeon and the Medical Garden; Leyn Baan Street or ‘Leyenbahnstraat’, the Old Rope-Walk Street, where coir rope was made; Church Street, named after a church which was demolished in the 17th century and also the location of the [Dutch Reformed Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groote_Kerk,_Galle) and [All Saints Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints%27_Church,_Galle); Parawa Street, named after the Parawa migrants from [South India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_India) who were fishermen and traders; and Chando Street named after the [toddy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_toddy) tappers and [Dutch Burghers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_Burghers) who owned coconut gardens and small [ark distilleries](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ark_distilleries&action=edit&redlink=1).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-tour-9)

Breadfruit Tree

The [breadfruit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breadfruit) (Artucarpus incisisus) tree was introduced in Galle first by the Dutch; reputedly the oldest breadfruit tree in Sri Lanka can be found at Akersloot Bastion in Galle Fort.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-10) It is believed that the Dutch introduced breadfruit which is of ‘heaty’ nature hoping that would either kill them or make them sick.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-11) However, the Sri Lankans found a neutralizer to this in the coconut tree. They mixed breadfruit with coconut and evolved a delicacy, which became popular, as it was found tasty and nourishing. This tree is now grown across Sri Lanka.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)

The fort area is occupied by mostly artists, writers, photographers, designers and poets of foreign origin and is now a mixed bag of boutiques, hotels and restaurants.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Atkinson2009-5)

**Renovations**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Galle-fort-church.jpg)

The refurbished [All Saints' Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints%27_Church,_Galle) in Galle Fort

Following the disaster caused by the [Tsunami of 2004](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsunami_of_2004) when many buildings were damaged, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs launched a project for renovation and reconstruction, but paying attention to the former architecture to retain a historical feel.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-Discover-2)

The Galle Fort has both Portuguese and Dutch era buildings, reflecting the bygone era of the colonial domination of the city. These buildings needed attention as many changes had taken place over the centuries. The Government of Sri Lanka, through its Galle Heritage Foundation under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and National Heritage has taken the initiative of restoring some of the heritage buildings to their old glory. The restoration work has been financially supported by the [Government of the Netherlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_the_Netherlands). The renovation work conforms to guidelines set by the Archeological Department of Sri Lanka. Technical guidance was provided by the Architectural Wing of the University of Moratuwa.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-face-12) Very many of the old town houses have been bought up by expatriates and rich Sri Lankans and Indians and renovated as holiday homes.

The National Maritime Museum in Galle Fort area, near the Old gate, was established in 1997 as an exclusive Maritime Archaeology Centre with active involvement of the Government of the Netherlands in the project in view of the findings that the Galle Harbour consisted of over 21 historical shipwreck sites and associated artifacts.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galle_Fort#cite_note-City-13) In 2014 the [Old Dutch Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Dutch_Hospital,_Galle) following extensive restoration was re-opened as a dining and shopping complex

**Sinharaja Forest Reserve**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b4/Ambox_important.svg/40px-Ambox_important.svg.png |  |
| **This article has multiple issues.** Please help [**improve it**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve&action=edit) or discuss these issues on the [**talk page**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve). *(*[*Learn how and when to remove these template messages*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Maintenance_template_removal)*)*   |  | | --- | | This article **may be in need of reorganization to comply with Wikipedia's** [**layout guidelines**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style/Layout). *(September 2016)* |  |  | | --- | | This article **is written like** [**a manual or guidebook**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:What_Wikipedia_is_not#GUIDE)**.** *(September 2016)* |  |  | | --- | | This article **does not** [**cite**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citing_sources) **any** [**sources**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Verifiability). *(September 2016)* | | | |

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| **Sinharaja Forest Reserve** | |
| [IUCN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IUCN) category II ([national park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_park)) | |
| [Sinharaja29.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sinharaja29.jpg)  View from the Blue Magpie Lodge | |
| **Location** | [Sabaragamuwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabaragamuwa_Province) and [Southern Provinces](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Province,_Sri_Lanka), [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| **Coordinates** | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°25′00″N 80°30′00″E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve&params=6_25_00_N_80_30_00_E_type:landmark_dim:9km)[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°25′00″N 80°30′00″E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve&params=6_25_00_N_80_30_00_E_type:landmark_dim:9km) |
| **Area** | 88.64 km2 (34.22 sq mi) |
| **Established** | April, 1978 |
| **Governing body** | [Department of Forest Conservation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_of_Forest_Conservation) |
|  | |
| [**UNESCO World Heritage Site**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) | |
| [**Criteria**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site#Selection_criteria) | Natural: ix, x |
| **Reference** | [405](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/405) |
| **Inscription** | 1988 (12th [Session](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Committee)) |

**Sinharaja Forest Reserve** is a [national park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_park) and a [biodiversity hotspot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity_hotspot) in [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). It is of international significance and has been designated a [Biosphere Reserve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biosphere_Reserve) and [World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) by [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO).

The hilly virgin rainforest, part of the [Sri Lanka lowland rain forests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_lowland_rain_forests) [ecoregion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecoregion), was saved from the worst of commercial logging by its inaccessibility, and was designated a World Biosphere Reserve in 1978 and a World Heritage Site in 1988. The reserve's name translates as *Lion Kingdom*.

The reserve is only 21 km (13 mi) from east to west, and a maximum of 7 km (4.3 mi) from north to south, but it is a treasure trove of [endemic species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endemic_species), including trees, insects, [amphibians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphibia), reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Because of the dense vegetation, wildlife is not as easily seen as at dry-zone national parks such as [Yala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yala_National_Park). There are about 3 [elephants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elephant), and 15 or so[*[vague](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Vagueness" \o "Wikipedia:Vagueness)*] [leopards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopard). The most common larger mammal is the endemic [purple-faced langur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purple-faced_langur).

Birds tend to move in [mixed feeding flocks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixed-species_feeding_flock), invariably led by the fearless [SriLanka Crested Drongo](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=SriLanka_Crested_Drongo&action=edit&redlink=1) and the noisy [orange-billed babbler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange-billed_babbler). Of Sri Lanka's 26 endemic birds, the 20 rainforest species all occur here, including the elusive [red-faced malkoha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red-faced_malkoha), [green-billed coucal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green-billed_coucal) and [Sri Lanka blue magpie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_blue_magpie).

Reptiles include the endemic [green pit viper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trimeresurus_trigonocephalus) and [hump-nosed vipers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hump-nosed_viper), and there are a large variety of amphibians, especially [tree frogs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_frog). Invertebrates include the endemic [common birdwing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_birdwing), [butterfly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfly) and leeches.

**Contents**

* [1 Social Integration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve#Social_Integration)
* [2 Gallery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve#Gallery)
* [3 See also](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve#See_also)
* [4 External links](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve#External_links)
  + [4.1 Sinharaja Forest Reserve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve#Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve)
  + [4.2 Sri Lanka and conservation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinharaja_Forest_Reserve#Sri_Lanka_and_conservation)

**Social Integration**

The reserve is well-integrated with the local population that are living in some dozens of villages dotted along the border. The villages are more in number along the southern border whilst the presence of some large estates along the northern border has resulted in only a few villages there. The locals collect herbal medicine, edible fruits, nuts, mushrooms, other non-timber forest products including bees honey and a sugary sap collected from a local palm species of the genus Caryota. The sap is converted into jaggery, a local brew and vinegar. Local people walk in the forest to collect above items when they are not busy with their other agricultural pursuits. In addition, the crystal-clear water coming from dozens of streams is the main water source for all people living around the reserve. For generations, local people trekked through the forest from south to north to make their annual pilgrimage to the Adams Peak.

**Udawalawe National Park**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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| **Udawalawe National Park** | |
| [IUCN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IUCN) category II ([national park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_park)) | |
| [Uda Walawe safari track.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Uda_Walawe_safari_track.jpg)  A typical habitat is open grassland | |
| [Map showing the location of Udawalawe National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sri_Lanka_location_map.svg)  Map showing the location of Udawalawe National Park  Udawalawe National Park | |
| **Location** | [Sabaragamuwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabaragamuwa_Province) and [Uva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uva_Province) Provinces, [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) |
| **Nearest city** | [Ambilipitiya](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ambilipitiya&action=edit&redlink=1) |
| **Coordinates** | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[6°26′18″N 80°53′18″E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Udawalawe_National_Park&params=6_26_18_N_80_53_18_E_type:landmark_dim:17km)[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°26′18″N 80°53′18″E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Udawalawe_National_Park&params=6_26_18_N_80_53_18_E_type:landmark_dim:17km) |
| **Area** | 308.21 km2 (119.00 sq mi) |
| **Established** | June 30, 1972 |
| **Visitors** | 452,000 (in 1994-2001) |
| **Governing body** | [Department of Wildlife Conservation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_of_Wildlife_Conservation_%28Sri_Lanka%29) |
| **Website** | [www.udawalawenationalpark.com](http://www.udawalawenationalpark.com) |

**Udawalawe National Park** lies on the boundary of [Sabaragamuwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabaragamuwa_Province) and [Uva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uva_Province) Provinces, in [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka). The [national park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_park) was created to provide a sanctuary for wild animals displaced by the construction of the [Udawalawe Reservoir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_Reservoir) on the [Walawe River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walawe_River), as well as to protect the [catchment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drainage_basin) of the reservoir. The reserve covers 30,821 hectares (119.00 sq mi) of land area and was established on 30 June 1972.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-Senarathna_2005-1) Before the designation of the national park, the area was used for [shifting cultivation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shifting_cultivation) ([chena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slash-and-burn" \o "Slash-and-burn) farming). The farmers were gradually removed once the national park was declared. The park is 165 kilometres (103 mi) from [Colombo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombo). Udawalawe is an important habitat for [water birds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatidae) and [Sri Lankan elephants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_elephant). It is a popular tourist destination and the third most visited park in the country.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-iwmi.org-2)

**Contents**

* [1 Physical features](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#Physical_features)
* [2 Ecology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#Ecology)
* [3 Flora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#Flora)
* [4 Fauna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#Fauna)
  + [4.1 Mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#Mammals)
  + [4.2 Birds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#Birds)
  + [4.3 Reptiles and fish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#Reptiles_and_fish)
* [5 Conservation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#Conservation)
* [6 Tourism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#Tourism)
* [7 See also](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#See_also)
* [8 References](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#References)

**Physical features**

Udawalawe lies on the boundary of Sri Lanka's [wet and dry zones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Sri_Lanka#Ecological_zones). Plains dominate the topography, though there are also some mountainous areas.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-Senarathna_2005-1) The Kalthota Range and Diyawini Falls are in the north of the park and the [outcrops](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outcrop) of Bambaragala and Reminikotha lie within it. The park has an annual rainfall of 1,500 millimetres (59 in),[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park" \l "cite_note-iwmi.org-2) most of which falls during the months of October to January and March to May. The average annual temperature is about 27–28 °C (81–82 °F), while [relative humidity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relative_humidity) varies from 70% to 82%. Well-drained reddish-brown soil is the predominant [soil type](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil_type), with poorly drained low [humic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humus) grey soils found in the valley bottoms. Mainly alluvial soils form the beds of the water cources

**Ecology**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Parc_national_de_Uda_Walawa_Sri-Lanka_%284%29.jpg)

Udawalawe National Park

The habitat surrounding at the reservoir includes [marshes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marsh), the Walawe river and its tributaries, [forests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest) and [grasslands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grassland).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-iwmi.org-2) Dead trees standing in the reservoir are visual reminders of the extent of forest cover before the construction of the [Udawalawe Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_Dam). [Green algae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_algae), including [*Pediastrum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pediastrum) and [*Scenedesmus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scenedesmus) spp., and [blue green algae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyanobacteria) species such as *Microsystis*, occur in the reservoir. Areas of open grassland are abundant as a result of former chena farming practices.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-Senarathna_2005-1) There is a plantation of [teak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teak) beyond the southern boundary, below the dam, which was planted before the declaration of the park. Species recorded from the park include 94 plants,[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park" \l "cite_note-iwmi.org-2) 21 fish, 12 amphibians, 33 reptiles, 184 birds (33 of which are migratory), and 43 mammals. Additionally 135 species of butterflies are among the [invertebrates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invertebrate) found in Udawalawe.

**Flora**

[*Hopea cordifolia*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hopea_cordifolia), [*Memecylon petiolatum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Memecylon_petiolatum&action=edit&redlink=1), [*Erythroxylon zeylanicum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Erythroxylon_zeylanicum&action=edit&redlink=1), and [*Jasminum angustifolium*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jasminum_angustifolium) are endemic floral species recorded from the park.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-iwmi.org-2) *Hopea cordifolia* is found along the river along with [*Terminalia arjuna*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terminalia_arjuna).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-Senarathna_2005-1) [*Panicum maximum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panicum_maximum) and [*Imperata cylindrica*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperata_cylindrica) are important food sources for the elephants. [*Chloroxylon swietenia*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chloroxylon), [*Berrya cordifolia*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berrya_cordifolia), [*Diospyros ebenum*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diospyros_ebenum), [*Adina cordifolia*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haldina), [*Vitex pinnata*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vitex_pinnata), [*Schleichera oleosa*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schleichera_oleosa), and [*Diospyros ovalifolia*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diospyros_ovalifolia) are the common taller trees. [*Terminalia bellirica*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terminalia_bellirica) and [*Phyllanthus emblica*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyllanthus_emblica) are plants of [medicinal value](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbalism) found in the forest. [*Cymbopogon confertiflorus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cymbopogon_confertiflorus&action=edit&redlink=1) grass species and [*Grewia tiliifolia*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Grewia_tiliifolia&action=edit&redlink=1) bushes are common in the grasslands.

**Fauna**

**Mammals**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Udawallawe36.jpg)

The park is capable of sustaining a large herd of Sri Lankan elephants

Udawalawe is an important habitat for [Sri Lankan elephants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_elephant), which are relatively hard to see in its open habitats. Many elephants are attracted to the park because of the Udawalawe reservoir,[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park" \l "cite_note-iwmi.org-2) with a herd of about 250 believed to be permanently resident.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-Senarathna_2005-1) The [Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_Elephant_Transit_Home) was established in 1995 for the purpose of looking after abandoned elephant calves within the park.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-The_Island-3) A total of nine calves, on two occasions in 1998 and 2000, with another eight calves in 2002, were released in the park when old enough to fend for themselves.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-The_Island-3)

The [rusty-spotted cat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rusty-spotted_cat), [fishing cat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishing_cat) and [Sri Lankan leopard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_leopard) are members of the family [Felidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felidae) present in Udawalawe. The [Sri Lankan sloth bear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_sloth_bear) is seldom seen because of its rarity. [Sri Lankan sambar deer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_sambar_deer), [Sri Lankan axis deer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_axis_deer), [Indian muntjac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_muntjac), [Sri Lankan spotted chevrotain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_spotted_chevrotain), [wild boar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wild_boar) and [water buffalo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_buffalo) are among other mammal species. [Golden jackal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_jackal), [Asian palm civet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_palm_civet), [toque macaque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toque_macaque), [tufted grey langur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tufted_grey_langur) and [Indian hare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_hare) also inhabit the park. A study conducted in 1989 found that considerable numbers of [golden palm civets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_palm_civet) inhabit the forests of Udawalawe.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-Senarathna_2005-1) Five species of [mice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mouse) also have been recorded from the park. The endemic [Ceylon spiny mouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceylon_spiny_mouse), known from [Yala National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yala_National_Park), was recorded in Udawalawe in 1989. [Indian bush rat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_bush_rat) and three species of [mongoose](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongoose) are also recorded in the national park.

**Birds**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Udawalawe39.jpg)

[Painted storks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Painted_stork) are among the many water birds that migrate to the park

Udawalawe is also a good [birdwatching](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birdwatching) site.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-Senarathna_2005-1) Endemics such as [Sri Lanka spurfowl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_spurfowl), [red-faced malkoha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red-faced_malkoha), [Sri Lanka grey hornbill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_grey_hornbill), [brown-capped babbler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown-capped_babbler), and [Sri Lanka junglefowl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka_junglefowl) are among of the breeding resident birds. [White wagtail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_wagtail) and [black-capped kingfisher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black-capped_kingfisher) are rare migrants. A variety of water birds visit the reservoir, including [cormorants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cormorant), the [spot-billed pelican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spot-billed_pelican), [Asian openbill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_openbill), [painted stork](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Painted_stork), [black-headed ibis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black-headed_ibis) and [Eurasian spoonbill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_spoonbill).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-iwmi.org-2)

The open parkland attracts [birds of prey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird_of_prey) such as [white-bellied sea eagle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White-bellied_sea_eagle), [crested serpent-eagle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crested_serpent-eagle), [grey-headed fish eagle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grey-headed_fish_eagle), [booted eagle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booted_eagle), and [changeable hawk-eagle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Changeable_hawk-eagle). Landbirds are in abundance, and include [Indian roller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_roller), [Indian peafowl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_peafowl), [Malabar pied hornbill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malabar_pied_hornbill) and [pied cuckoo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pied_cuckoo).

**Reptiles and fish**

[Oriental garden lizards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oriental_garden_lizard), [painted-lip lizards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calotes_ceylonensis), [mugger crocodiles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mugger_crocodile), [Asian water monitors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_water_monitor), [Bengal monitors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengal_monitor) and 30 species of [snake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake) are found in the park.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-Senarathna_2005-1) *Garra ceylonensis* is an endemic fish species recorded in park.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-iwmi.org-2) Introduced [*Oreochromis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oreochromis) spp., [giant gourami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giant_gourami), [catla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catla), and [rohu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohu) are important food fish species found in the reservoir.

**Conservation**

Clearing [natural forests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_forest) and planting monospecies cultures such as [pine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pine) and [eucalyptus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus) are causing reduced water levels in the Walawe river.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-iwmi.org-2) Encroachment by human settlements, [poaching](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poaching), [illegal logging](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_logging), gem mining, [overgrazing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overgrazing) and chena farming are major threats to the park. [*Lantana camara*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantana_camara) and *Phyllanthus polyphyllus* are invasive weeds affecting the food plants of the elephants. Occasions of elephants being shot with illegal [muzzleloader](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muzzleloader) guns has been reported.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-Hettiarachchi-4)

**Tourism**

In the six months ending in August 2009, the park earned revenue of Rs. 18.2 millions.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-Sriyananda_2009-5) From 1994 to 2001 some 423,000 people visited the park, 20% of them foreigners.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-iwmi.org-2) For the 1998-2001 period average annual revenue was US$280,000. Postage stamps bearing the images of four wild animals of Udawalawe were issued on 31 October 2007 in the series "National Parks of Sri Lanka",[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udawalawe_National_Park#cite_note-The_Sunday_Times-6) featuring water buffalo, Sri Lankan elephant, [ruddy mongoose](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruddy_mongoose) and tufted grey langur.