



WELCOME TO EAST



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SRI LANKA ARMY

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Introduction



We welcome you to our beautiful Island, Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is an Island situated in an advantageously strategic position in the Indian Ocean which is rich in natural beauty and resources augmented by a wonderfully resilient, kind hearted and hospitable people. Its proud history is filled with periods of glorious peace and prosperity and times of great strife.

Breathtaking diversity of flora and fauna, extraordinary experiences that reflect Sri Lanka's natural and cultural heritage will capture your heart and soul like no other destination. What may strike most about Sri Lanka is the amazing possibility to pass brilliant green paddy fields, Sun-bronzed beaches, ruined ancient cities, small lively villages, sanctuaries for wildlife in tropical jungles and hill country tea plantations literally within hours of each other.

May the time you spend in our island be filled with exiting experiences memories of which you will carry long after you leave our shore.

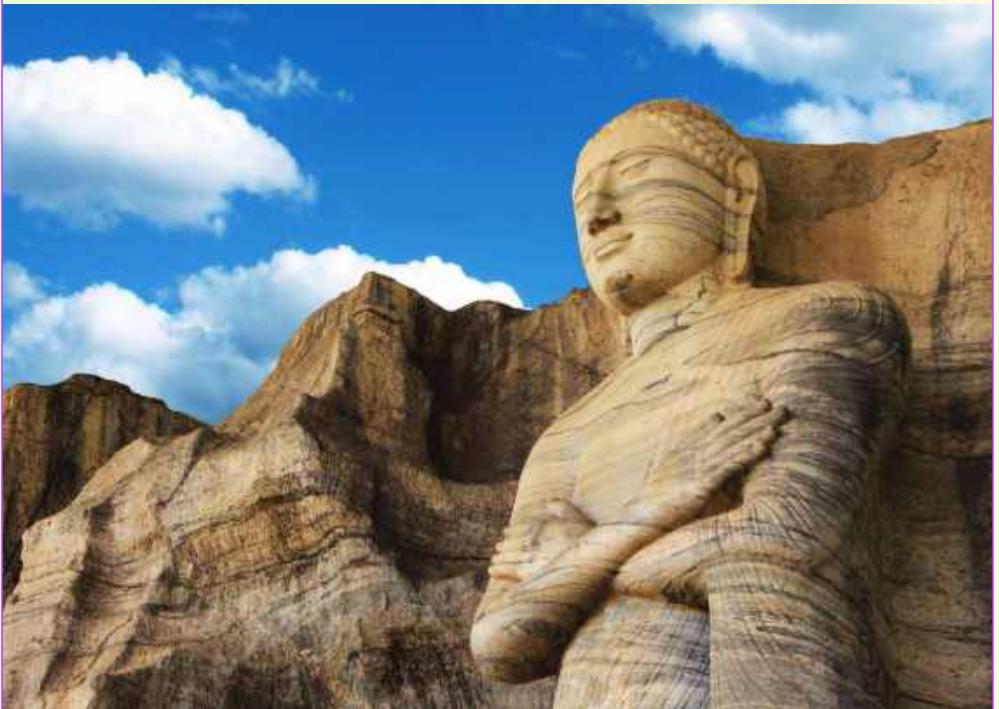
Polonnaruwa District



POLONNARUWA

Polonnaruwa was a great city in Sri Lanka which came into prominence during its' brief period of 2 centuries of Sri Lankan history, being second only to the ancient city of Anuradhapura in ancient cultural heritage. It is 216kms away from Colombo and 122 kms from Kurunegala. Most common way to reach Polonnaruwa is to come to Habarana and then turning off along A11 Road [Maradankadawala- Habarana-Thirukkondaiadimadu] and to proceed about 45 kms to come to Polonnaruwa.

Polonnaruwa today is a showcase of the great ancient Sri Lankan architecture dating back to 12th Century AD, which was interwoven with many Buddhist monasteries and monuments which were built by the King Parakramabahu I. Later, King Nissankamalla (1187-1196 AD) from Kalinga dynasty also had contributed to the development of many buildings and monuments in Polonnaruwa. During the Anuradhapura period around 1st to 6th Century AD, there has been agricultural developments with irrigation work and constructions such as Elahera canal, Minneriya tank, Kaudulla tank, Giritale tank etc. in Polonnaruwa area.



The Anuradhapura kingdom's ruling King's army units were also stationed at Polonnaruwa. It had not been a major city at that time. King Aggabodhi IV (667-685 AD) was the First King who lived in Polonnaruwa and ruled the Anuradhapura Kingdom. In the earlier times this city was called as Pulatthinagara, after a famous sage, Pulasti which gives an indication of the Hindu influence existed.

King Parakramabahu I, was the greatest King who ruled Polonnaruwa during the Polonnaruwa era for 33 years from 1153-86 AD and it had been a prosperous time for the entire island nation. It was a time with numerous architectural activities which one can still see even in the present time. He developed the city with architects and technicians brought down from India and the influence of the Indian architecture can be seen from many well preserved sites existing today.

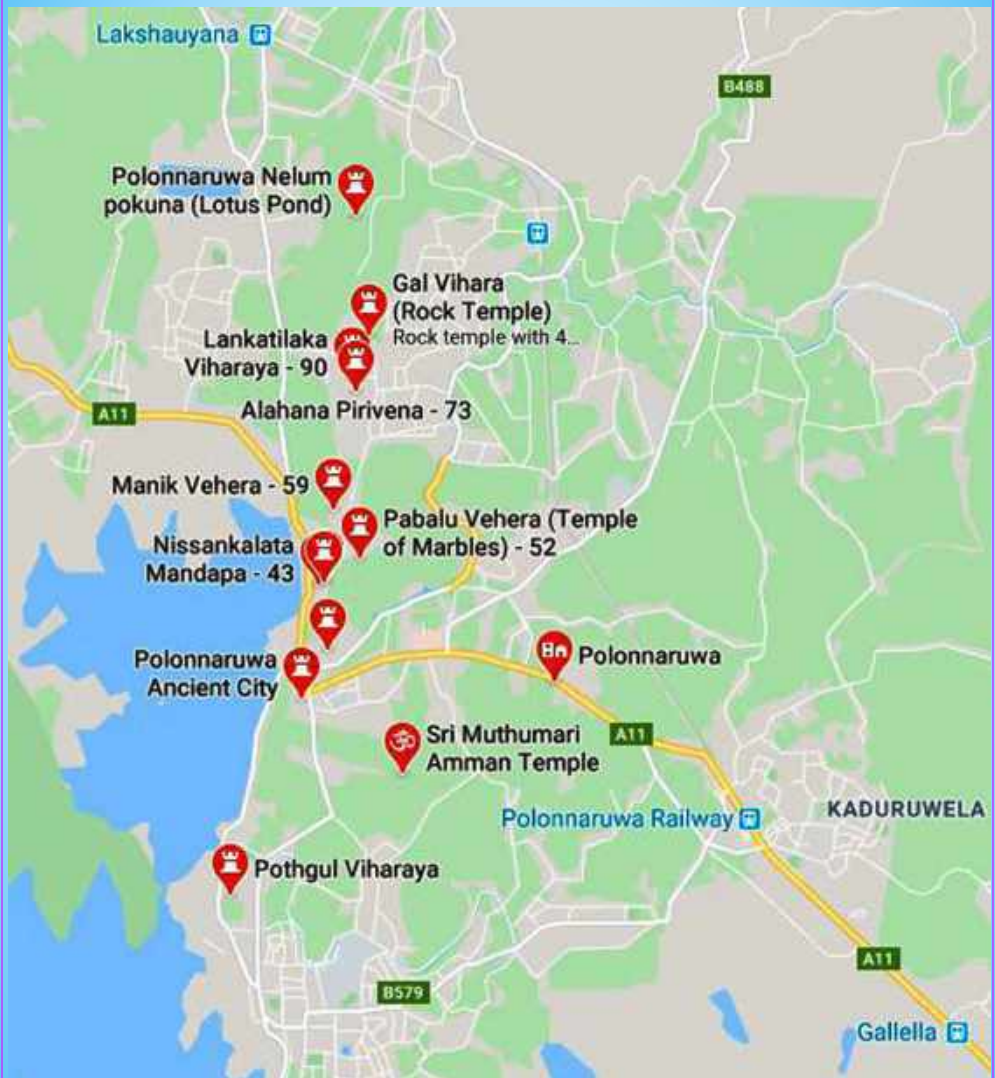
Polonnaruwa Architecture, Art and Sculpture are well displayed at Gal Viharaya, Thuparamaya and Lankathilaka Image House and many other sites scattered throughout Polonnaruwa ancient city. Due to invasions from the Cholas of South India, the Polonnaruwa kingdom was under the rule of Cholas for about 73 years. Polonnaruwa kingdom was abandoned by Sinhala kings in the latter part of the 12th century. Famous places like Medirigiriya, Somawathie, Dimbulagala and Buduruwayaya are not far away from Polonnaruwa so can be reached without much difficulty.



Places of Interest in Polonnaruwa

- Hatadage
- Nissanka Latha Mandapaya
- Council Chamber of King Parackramabahu
- Pabalu Maha Viharaya
- Gal Viharaya
- Statue of Parakramabahu
- Lankathilaka Viharaya
- Alahana Piriwena
- Pothgul Viharaya
- Inscription of Nissankamalla
- Sathmahal Prasada
- Tiwanka Pilimage
- Seetha Maligaya
- Shiva Kovil
- Manik Vehera
- Atadage
- Rankoth Vehera
- Nelum Pokuna
- Watadage
- Somawathi Viharaya
- Dimbulagala Raja Maha Vihara
- Namal Pokuna Temple
- Parakrama Samudraya
- Moragahakanda Dam
- Angammedilla National Park
- Wasgamuwa National Park
- Minneriya Tank
- Minneriya National Park
- Giritale Tank
- Maduru Oya Reservoir

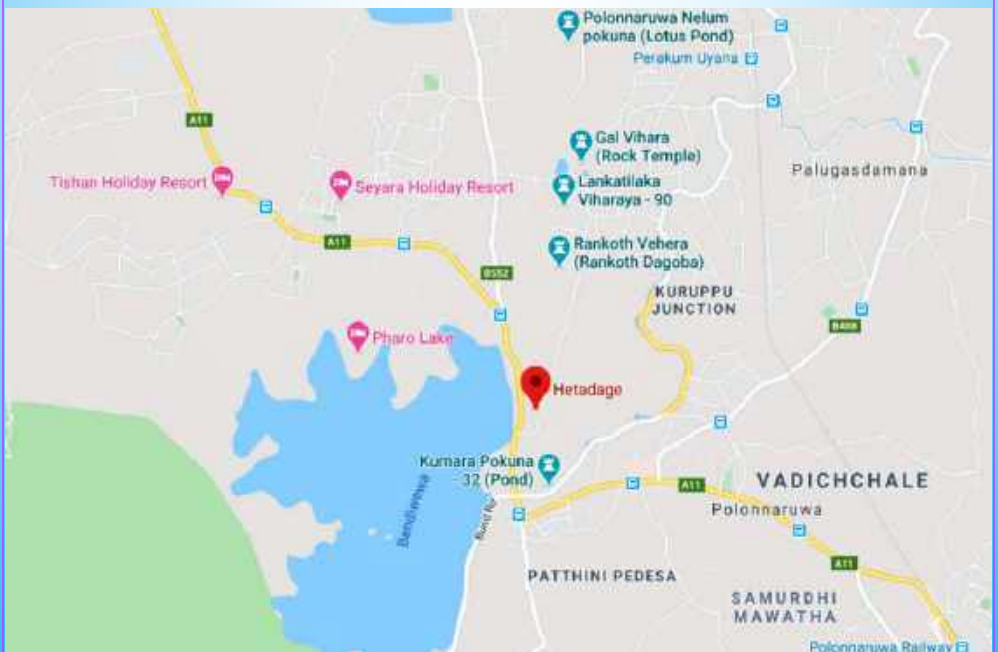
Places to Visit in Polonnaruwa



Hatadage

Hatadage is an ancient relic shrine in the city of Polonnaruwa. It was built by King Nissankamalla, and had been used to keep Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha.

The Hatadage had been built using stone, brick and wood, although only parts of the brick and stone walls now remain. It appears to have been a two storey structure, but the upper storey has now been destroyed. Three Buddha statues carved out of granite rock are located within a chamber of the shrine.

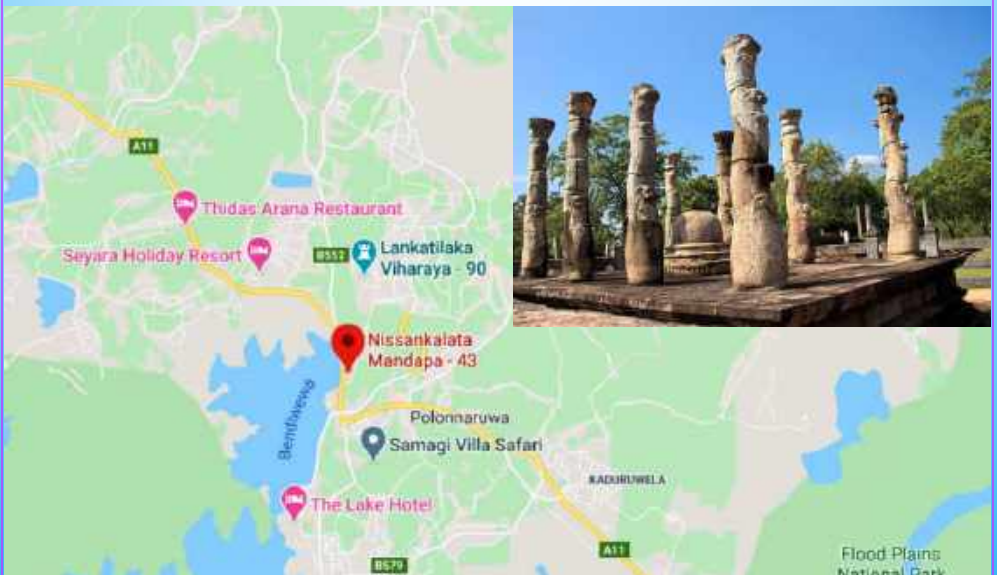




Nissankalatha Mandapaya

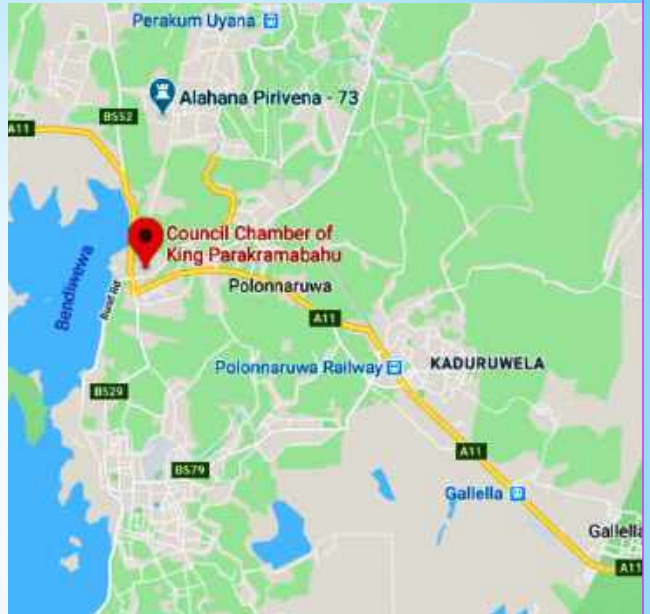
Nissankalatha Mandapaya is a unique structure in the ancient city of Polonnaruwa. A māṇḍapa is a pillared structure that is open on all sides and protects the person(s) inside from the sun with a roof. By definition, as of the 20th century, māṇḍapas, as temporary structures, are built inside a house or a building and serve as recitation platform during remembrance ceremonies for the dead.

Built by King Nissankamalla (1187-1196) and named after him, it is located near the western entrance of the Dalada Maluva, the area that contains the oldest and most sacred monuments in the city.



Council Chamber of King Parakramabahu

The Council Chamber of King Parakramabahu the Great is an ancient ruin situated in the sacred city of Polonnaruwa. It is believed to be the council chamber of King Parakramabahu the Great. The Council Chamber stands in front of the Royal Palace of the king. The staircase to the chamber consists of two finely carved moonstones, one at the beginning of the staircase and the other in the middle. Either side of the staircase are also decorated with stone carving as well as there are many elegantly carved stone pillars to be seen at the upper level of the building.



Pabalu Maha Viharaya



The origin of this unusually shaped Pabalu Vehera Stupa is unknown but it is believed to be built by one of the king Parakramabahu's (1153-1186 AD) consorts, queen Rupawathi. The original name of this stupa is not known. The current name "Pabalu" (meaning beads) was

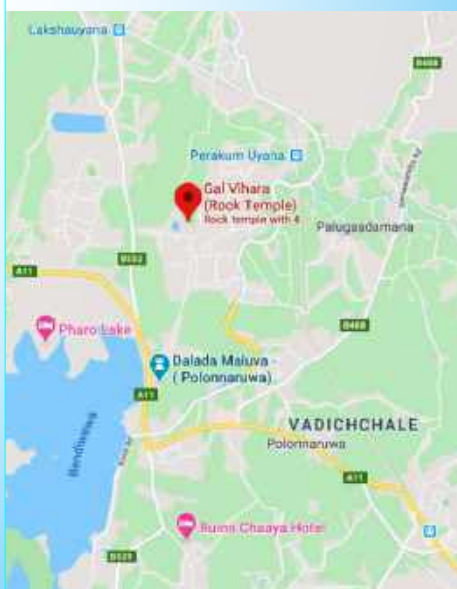
derived from the fact that a large number of small glass beads being found during the excavation of the area around the stupa. Top part of the stupa has been destroyed by invaders and centre of the stupa also has been destroyed probably by treasure hunters in the recent times.





Gal Viharaya

The Gal Vihara, is a rock temple of the Buddha situated in the ancient city of Polonnaruwa. It was constructed in the 12th century by Parakramabahu I. The central feature of the shrine are four images of the Buddha, which have been carved into the face of a large granite rock. The images consist of a large seated figure, another, smaller seated figure inside an artificial cavern, and standing figure and a reclining figure. These are considered to be some of the best examples of ancient Sinhalese sculpting and carving arts, and have made the Gal Vihara one of the most visited monuments in Polonnaruwa.





Statue of Parakramabahu

The statue near the Potgul Vehera in Polonnaruwa, commonly known as the statue of Parakramabahu I, is a stone sculpture dating back to the Polonnaruwa period of ancient Sri Lanka. Its identity is uncertain, although

the widely accepted theory is that it is a statue of Parakramabahu I. However, it has also been suggested as the statue of a sage. Carved on a large boulder, the statue depicts a majestic figure with a grave expression, holding a book or yoke in his hands.



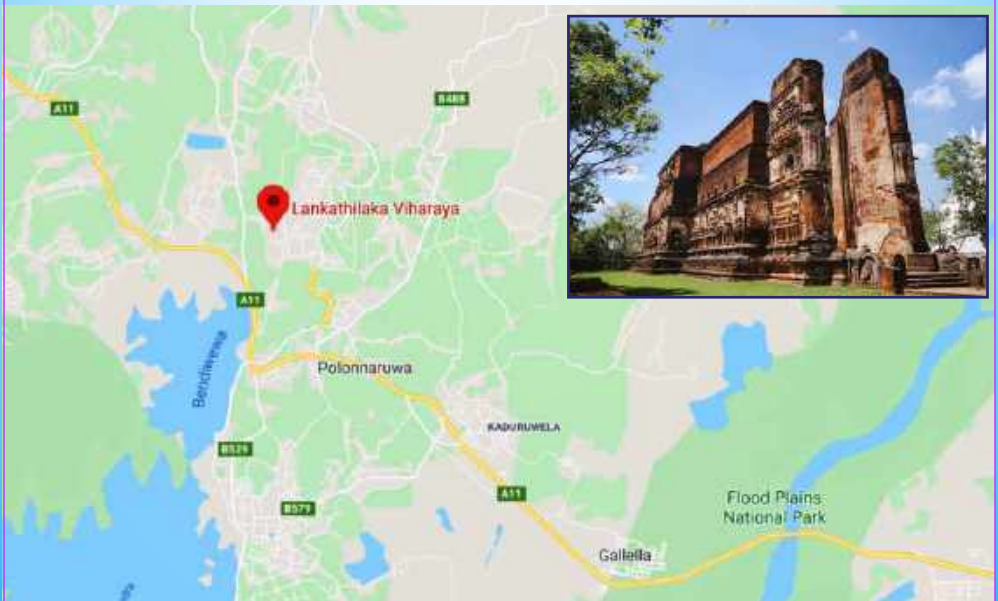
Lankathilaka Viharaya



Polonnaruwa Lankathilaka Image House is a monolithic Buddha image house built by king Parakramabahu (1153-1186) lying on the South of Kiri Vehera. The building is completely made out of bricks and the outer walls are covered with elaborate designs and carvings. The Buddha statue is also completely made out of clay bricks and it has been 41

feet in height. Specially made flat bricks have been used to build this statue and today the portion above the shoulder is destroyed.

At the entrance to the Lankathilaka building, there are two massive pillars made from bricks. The tallest one is 58 feet in height. It is thought that these pillars would have been at least twice as tall as before destruction. According to chronicles, this building has had five stories. This too is a part of the Ālahana Privena.





Alahana Pirivena

Alahana Pirivena is one of the largest and most popular ancient pirivena complexes in Sri Lanka, situated in the historic and ancient city of Polonnaruwa. It is unique that it was built on a series of rocky terraces believed to be a cremation ground which is why it has got such a name to it. Alahana Pirivena belongs to the reign of King Parakramabahu I. Although now in ruins, this monastery complex is believed to have been extended over an area of more than eighty hectares. Situated within the Alahana Pirivena, is the Baddha Seema Pasada which is the brick chapter house for monks.

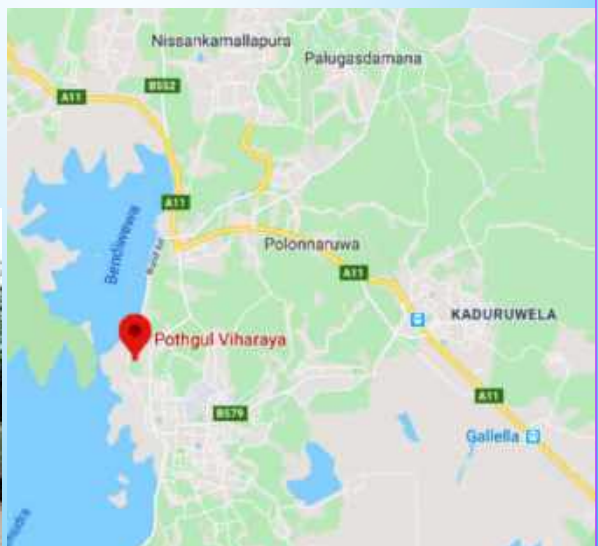




Pothgul Viharaya

Pothgul Viharaya is an old library and monastery in the Polonnaruwa. The ruins of this ancient library dates back to the 12th century AD. The name Pothgul itself means 'Bookstore'.

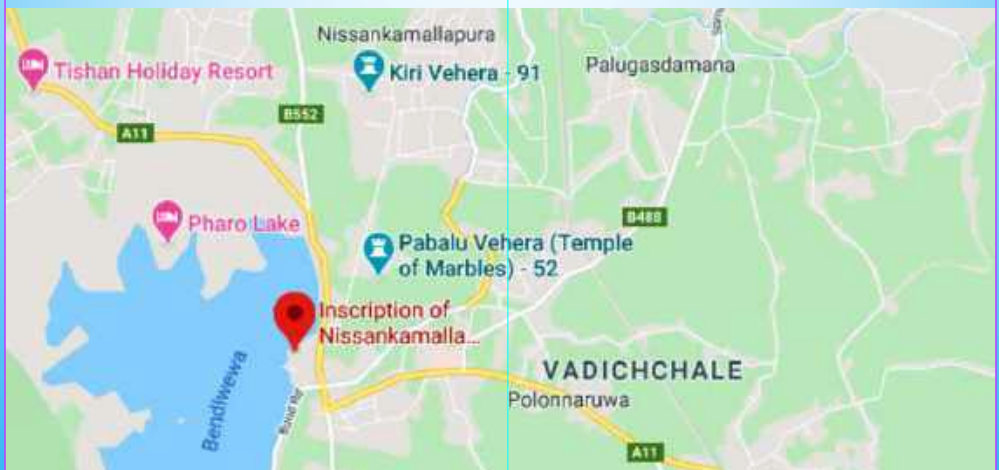
The library was as a place to store Buddhist books built with bricks, but now it is nothing but a demolished historic site. It was once part of a monastery and provide shelter to resident monks. It was thought to be a Buddhist library complex where Buddhist writings were studied. It is situated next to a beautiful lake.



Inscription of Nissankamalla

King Nissankamalla Palace is located within the premises of Polonnaruwa Ancient City. King Nissankamalla was not a local ruler. Instead, he was from Kalinga, in modern-day Orissa in Eastern India. He only ruled for nine years, from 1187 to 1196. Thus his position on the throne was always rather insecure. Due to his insecurity on the throne of Polonnaruwa, King Nissankamalla spent most of his time touring the country and installing a number of inscriptions wherever he went.

However, none of these inscriptions can actually be taken very seriously since we have a large number of embellishments and exaggerations in them. One of the most famous of them is the great Galpotha inscription which strangely enough, prevents the farming caste from claiming the throne. He also embarked on a very large building scheme. Among the beautiful monuments, he created the Nissanka Raja Sabha Mandapa.



Sathmahal Prasada



Sathmahal Prasada is a seven storied stepped pyramid located in an elevated area amongst the ancient city Polonnaruwa. The structure has entrances on all four sides and an additional staircase to reach the upper levels. It is believed to be built during the Polonnaruwa era,

somewhere between the 11th and 13th century AD. However, no record exists of this pyramid, its builder or purpose.

The Seven Storied Palace is believed to be a stupa by some, due to its proximity to notable Buddhist ruins such as stupas, monasteries and etc. However the architecture is completely different and does not resemble any other ancient architecture in Sri Lanka. It is the only stepped pyramid in Sri Lanka and one of only four other ancient buildings with square bases, the others all being damaged stupas or monastic ruins in Anuradhapura. It is interesting to note that none of the other three buildings show signs of having been pyramids and all seem to have been squat in structure.



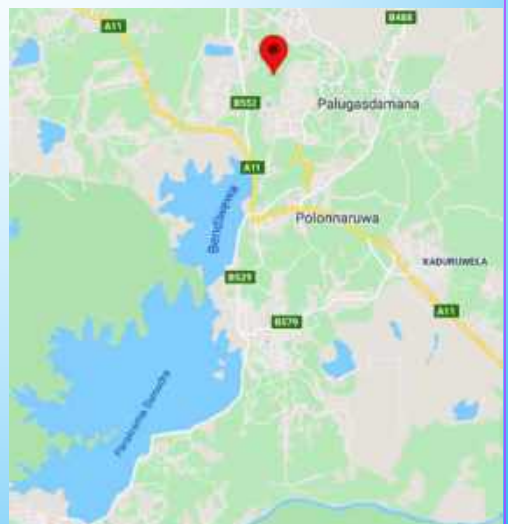


Thivanka Pilimage

Thivanka Pilimage had been built by King Parakramabahu (1153-1186) as part of the Jethavanarama Complex. Since the large image of Buddha has been curved in 3 places, this has been given the name “Thivanka” which literally means three curves. As most other structures of this era, this is too built with bricks including the statue.

The Buddha statue at the Thivanka Pilimage is about 8 meters in height but today the part of the statue above the head has been destroyed. The statue as at today is 6.6 metres tall. The building is 133 feet long and 67.6 feet wide. The walls are 7-12 feet thick making the internal size of the building much smaller.

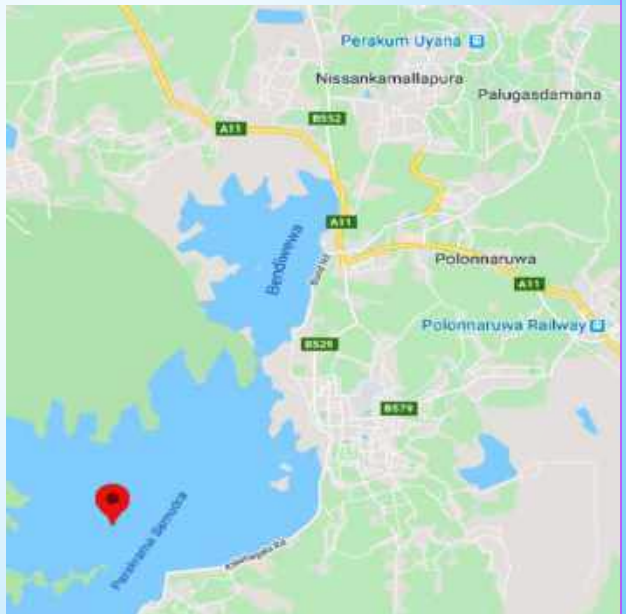
The inside walls of the buildings has been decorated with frescoes showing the Jataka Stories (prior births of Buddha before enlightenment) although most of the masonry has been destroyed, the colorful drawings can be still seen on the areas where masonry is intact. The entrance to the building consists of two guard stones and two “Korawak Gala”.





Seetha Maligaya

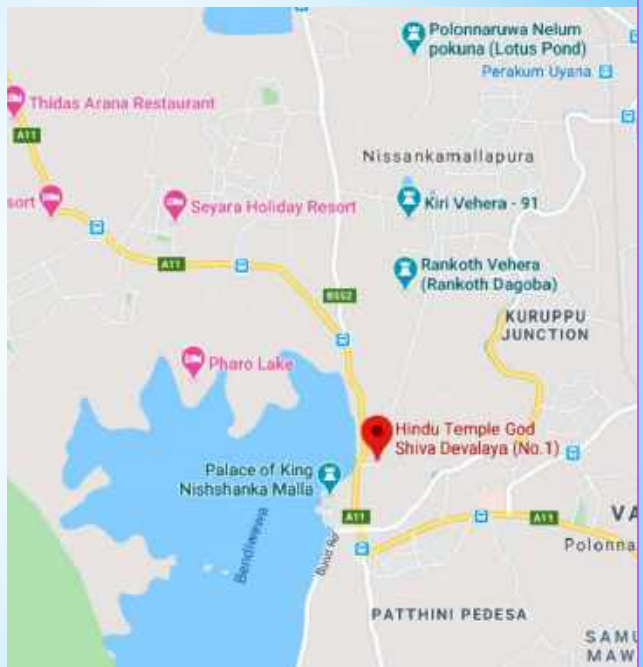
The 'Seetha Maligaya' (Cool Palace) which was constructed in the middle of Parakrama Samudraya and considered as the place where King Parakramabahu has lived during the Summer. It was burned and destroyed by a certain group. Due to the fire which burned for four hours, the ancient items of the palace were destroyed and the brick walls were flattened. As the walls of this palace were exploded and granite were shattered, all ancient symbols had been destroyed.





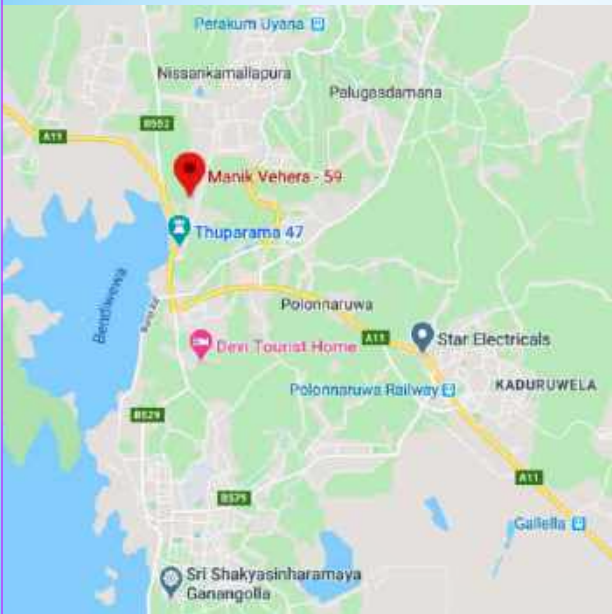
Shiva Kovil

Shiva Kovil (no. 1) is the first kovil you will come across after entering the ancient city of Polonnaruwa. The walls of this kovil are made out of a closely fitted stone blocks of a type which is not found anywhere near Polonnaruwa. The carvings of the Gods of this kovil are of Indian style and it is thought that these carved stones are probably brought from India or done by Indian Artists who came to Sri Lanka.





Manik Vehera



Manik Vehera is an ancient monastery complex situated in Polonnaruwa. It is believed to have been built in the 8th century AD during the Polonnaruwa period. Although its original name has been lost over time, Manik Vehera is believed to be the oldest stupa of the area. It is a relatively small stupa with a unique feature of an unusually high platform made with bricks, with stone steps leading to the top of the

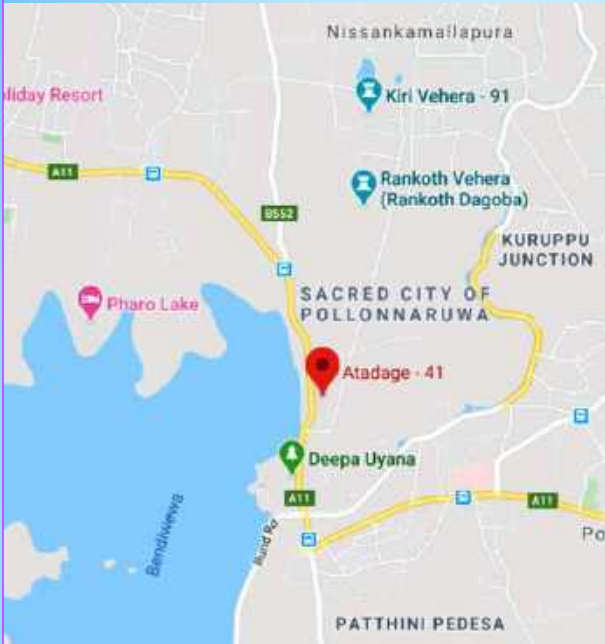
stupa. The monastery complex has two image houses within it.



Atadage

Atadage is the house of the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Lord Buddha which is situated in Polonnaruwa. This structure was built on 54 stone pillars by King Vijayabahu I. Atadage belongs to the Anuradhapura era and this is signified

by the moonstone which resembles the features of the moonstone belonging to the Anuradhapura period. "Ata" means eight and historians believe that the Atadage would have been built in eight days which could have been the reason for it to get this name. Today what remains of the Atadage are its foundations and the stone pillars.



Rankoth Vehera



Rankoth Vehera is a stupa located in the ancient city of Polonnaruwa. The stupa was built by King Nissankamalla of Polonnaruwa, who ruled the country from 1187 to 1196. The Rankoth Vehera has been built according to the tradition of the stupas of the Anuradhapura Maha Viharaya and bears a close resemblance to Ruwanwelisaya. In fact, a stone inscription situated close to the stupa even identifies it by the name “Ruwanweli”. However, it has later come to be known by the currently used name, Rankoth Vehera. In Sinhalese, ‘Ran’ means gold, ‘Kotha’ is the name given to the pinnacle of a stupa, and ‘Vehera’ means stupa or temple. Thus, the name Rankoth Vehera can be roughly translated

to English as “Gold Pinnaced Stupa” Along with the Kiri Vehera, it is one of the most revered stupas in Polonnaruwa

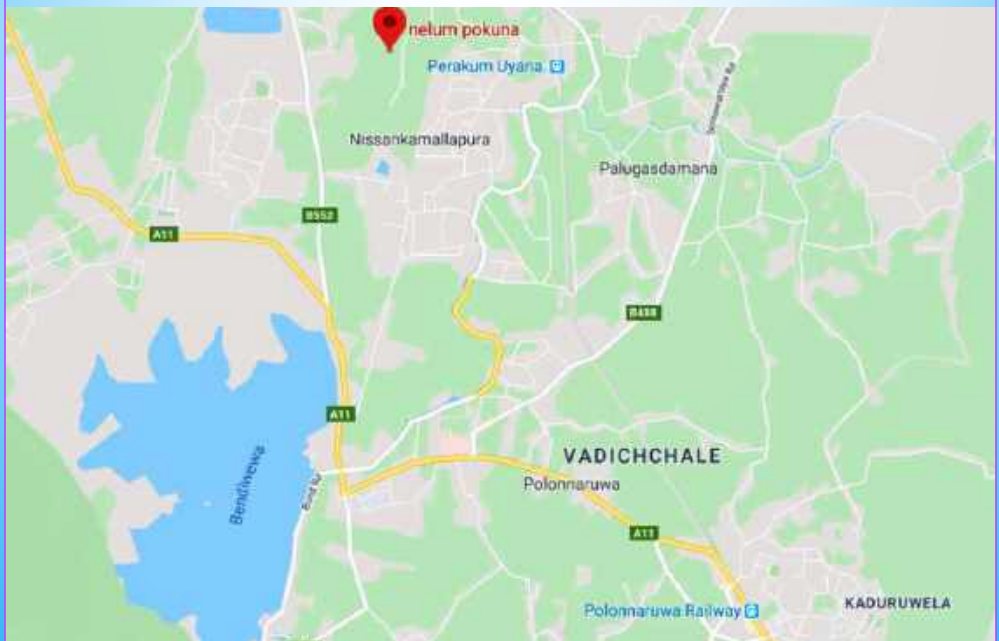


Nelum Pokuna

Nelum Pokuna (Lotus Pond) is an ancient pond with a unique design made by ancient Sri Lankan architects. It is located in the ancient city of Polonnaruwa. The pond got its name because of its design which looks like a bloomed lotus flower.



This pond is somewhat small compared to the other ponds found in the ancient city of Polonnaruwa and it is built with stones. The structural design of the Nelum Pokuna Theater also has been inspired by this Lotus Pond. This pond is unnoticed by many of the visitors since it is located somewhat away from the other famous ruins. The pond is located on the left side of the road to the Thiwanka Pilimage.



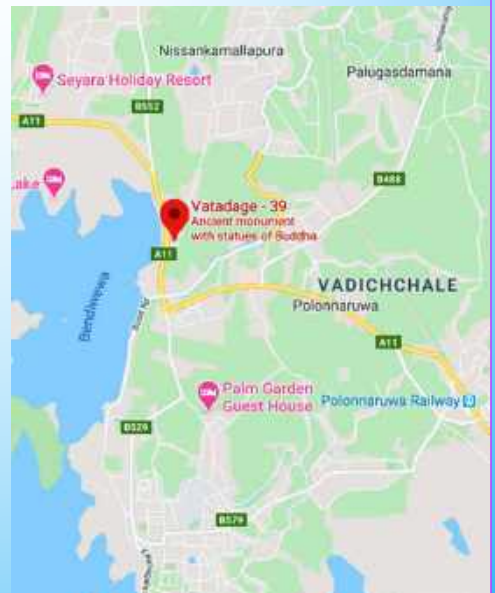


Vatadage

The Polonnaruwa Vatadage is an ancient structure dating back to the Kingdom of Polonnaruwa. It is believed to have been built during the reign of Parakramabahu I to hold the Relic of the tooth of the Buddha or during the reign of Nissanka Malla of Polonnaruwa to hold the alms bowl used by the Buddha. Both these venerated relics would have given the structure a great significance and importance at the time. Located within the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, it is the best preserved example of a vatadage in the country, and has been described as the “ultimate development” of this type of architecture. Abandoned for several centuries, excavation work at the Polonnaruwa Vatadage began in 1903.

Built for the protection of a small stupa, the structure has two stone platforms decorated with elaborate stone carvings. The lower platform is entered through a single entrance facing the north, while the second platform can be accessed through four doorways facing the four cardinal points. The upper platform, surrounded by a brick wall, contains the stupa. Four Buddha statues are seated around it, each facing one of the entrances. Three concentric rows of

stone columns had also been positioned here, presumably to support a wooden roof. The entire structure is decorated with stone carvings. Some of the carvings at the Polonnaruwa Vatadage, such as its sandakada pahanas, are considered to be the best examples of such architectural features. Although some archaeologists have suggested that it also had a wooden roof, this theory is disputed by others.

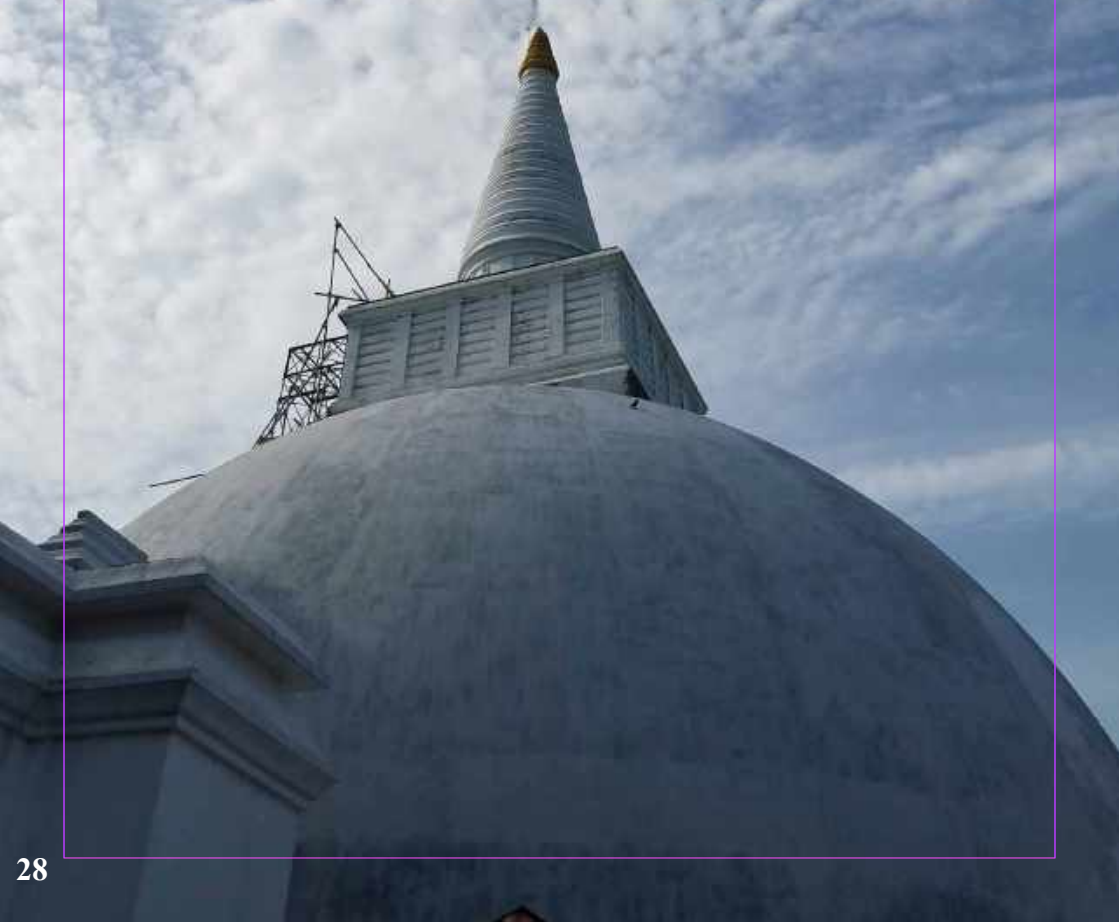


Somawathiya Chaitya

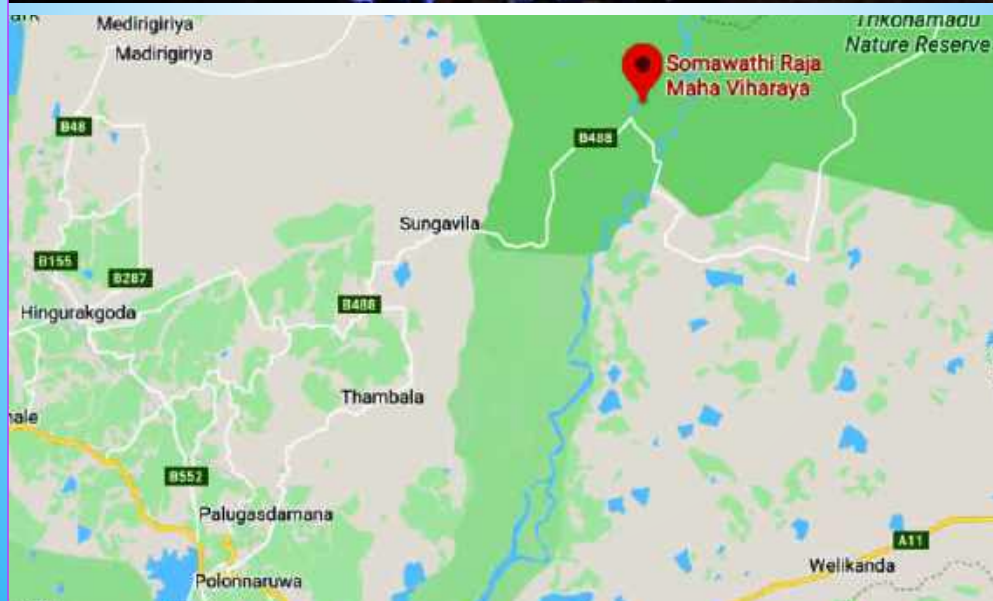
The Somawathiya Chaitya is a Buddhist Stupa situated in the ancient city of Polonnaruwa. Chaitya premises is called the Somawathiya Rajamaha Viharaya.

The Somawathiya Chaitya is located within the Somawathiya National Park on the left bank of the Mahaweli River, and is believed to have been built long before the time of Dutugamunu enshrining the right canine Relic of the tooth of the Buddha. It is attributed to the reign of King Kavan Tissa - Dutugemunu's father - who ruled Magama. Somawathiya is therefore much older than Ruwanwelisaya, Mirisawetiya Vihara or Jetavanaramaya.

The stupa is named after Princess Somawathi, the sister of King Kavantissa, and the wife of regional ruler Prince Abhaya.



The prince built the stupa to enshrine the right tooth relic of the Buddha, obtained from Arahat Mahinda, and named the stupa after the princess. Upon completion of the stupa and other constructions, the prince and princess handed over the temple to Arahat Mahinda and other monks.



Dimbulagala Raja Maha Viharaya



Dimbulagala Raja Maha Vihara is situated 16 kilometres south east of the ancient city of Polonnaruwa. The Dimbulagala range houses a number of caves cut into the rock with Brahmi inscriptions over their drip ledges. This forest hermitage of medieval times and holy abode since time immemorial, home to some of the most valued fragments of early frescoes was called the Gunners Quoin by the British.



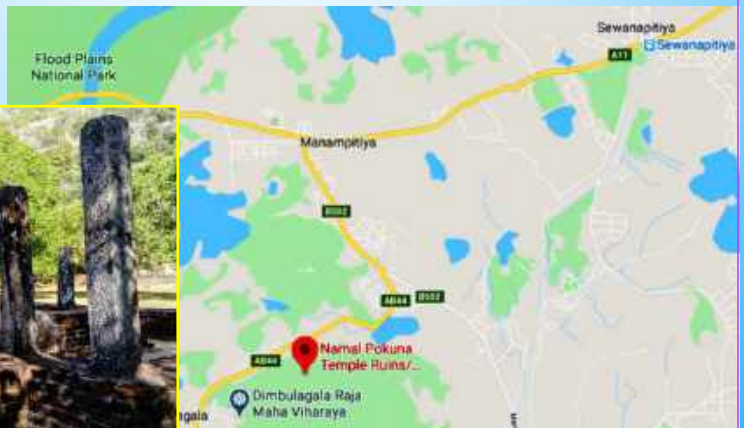
Namal Pokuna Temple



Namal Pokuna Aramic Complex at Dimbulagala is situated on same road leading to the famous Dimbulagala Raja Maha Viharaya from Pollonnaruwa but few kilometers before. This is also built on the same rocky mountain range which Dimbulagala stands but this place seems to be rarely visited. Therefore the unspoilt nature and the ancient monuments standing alone inside the forest makes this a very enjoyable trip.

At the entrance are newer buildings. From here you have to walk about $\frac{3}{4}$ kilometers towards the top of the mountain. There are few places you have to climb, but generally it's a pleasurable walk with a mild climb.

Namal Pokuna archaeological site is found on the northern side of the mountain, it includes a monastic complex comprising of an Image House, a Stupa, a Bo-tree shrine and an unidentified building surrounded by a granite parapet, and further south of these are found several caves scattered about the forest (with some containing inscriptions) and two ponds.



Parakrama Samudraya



The huge lake upon whose northeastern shore Polonnaruwa rests is an inland sea known as the Parakrama Samudra. The largest irrigation tank of Parakramabahu I. It was the life-blood of the ancient city in the same way that it is the blood life of the region today, providing water for the growth of thirsty rice crops and other foodstuffs. Its 5,600 acres of water irrigated an estimated 18,200 acres of paddy land.

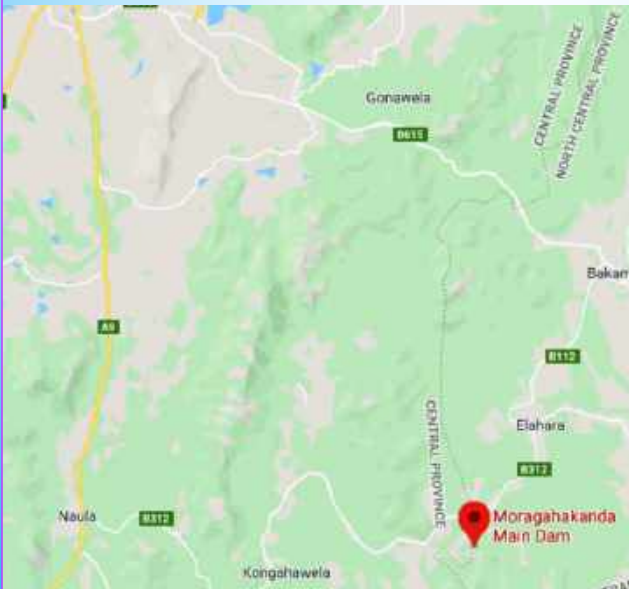
Five minor lakes were incorporated in the building of the Parakrama Samudra, whose 8 1/2- mile bund contains 4 1/2 million cubic yards of earth. One thousand men employed in the hand labor of the period, working 24 hours a day, could scarcely have completed the job in 12 years. The vast water reservoir was built by King Parakramabahu (1153-1186) and today what you see as the Parakrama Samudraya is only a portion of his original creation. Parakrama Samudraya originally consisted of five large reservoirs separated by smaller dams to reduce the pressure on the main dam. Many smaller tanks have been built around the main tank to feed these primary tanks and to take excess water. The main five reservoirs which consist of the Parakrama Samudraya are Thopa Vawa, Eramudu Vewa (Katu Vewa), Dumbuthulu Vewa, Kalahagala Vewa, Bhu Vewa.



Moragahakanda Dam



The Moragahakanda Dam officially known as Kulasinghe Reservoir, is a large gravity dam, and the main component of the larger and more complex Moragahakanda- Kalu Ganga Project, across the Amban River at Elahera, in the Matale District of Sri Lanka. Construction began on 25 January 2007 and was completed in 2018. The maiden waters of the dam was released in January 2017. Morgahakanda/ Kaluganga project is the last of the Great Mahaveli project.

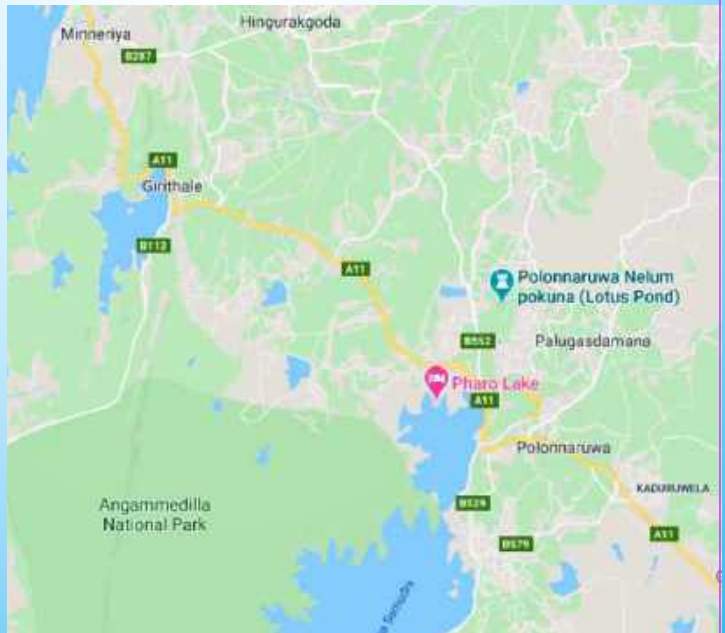


The larger combined project involves the construction of the Moragahakanda Dam and Reservoir, along with the separate Kalu Ganga Dam and Reservoir, for irrigation and power generation purposes. Both these sites would be located approximately 10 km (6.2 mi) apart.



Angammedilla National Park

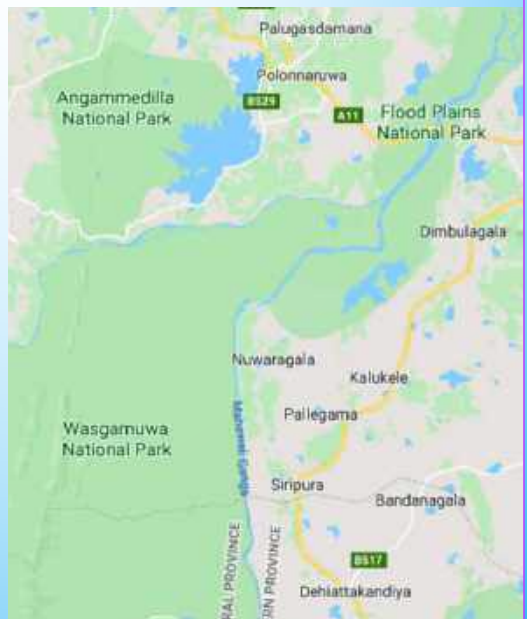
Angammedilla National Park is one of the new national parks in Sri Lanka. The region was designated national park on 6 June 2006. Originally Angammedilla was a forest reserve within the Minneriya-Girithale Sanctuary declared on 12 February 1988. The park is declared mainly to protect the drainage basin of Parakrama Samudra. Angammedilla also secures the drainage basins of Minneriya and Girithale irrigation tanks, water sources in Sudu Kanda (Sinhala for “White hill”) and habitats and wildlife of the adjacent forests.





Wasgamuwa National Park

Wasgamuwa National Park is a natural park in Sri Lanka situated in the Matale and Polonnaruwa Districts. It was declared to protect and to make a refuge for the displaced wild animals during the Mahaweli Development Project in 1984 and is one of the four National Parks designated under the Project. Originally it was designated as a nature reserve in 1938, and then in the early 1970s the area was regarded as a strict nature reserve. Wasgamuwa is one of protected areas where Sri Lankan Elephants can be seen in large herds. It is also one of the Important Bird Areas in Sri Lanka. The name of the Wasgamuwa has derived through the words “Walas Gamuwa”. “Walasa” is Sinhala for sloth bear and “Gamuwa” means a wood.



Minneriya Tank



The Minneriya Tank was built by the great tank builder, King Mahasen (276-303) who ruled in Anuradhapura. This tank occupied 4670 acres and its strong 13- meter-tall dam running along a distance of 2 km held over 20 billion gallons of water. The water arrived from Amban River, the main tributary of Mahaveli River, 48 km away, along the Elahara canal built by King Vasabha (65-109) before his time.





Minneriya National Park

Minneriya national park is located 3 kms away from Polonnaruwa, in the North Central Plains of Sri Lanka. The major city closest to Minneriya National Park is Polonnaruwa. The recently renovated, the ancient Minneriya Rainwater Reservoir irrigates a considerable area of the district of Polonnaruwa and is the focal point of the Minneriya National Park.

May to October is the best period to visit Minneriya National Park in view of the famous Gathering of the wild elephant herds. The gathering is documented as the largest known meeting place of Asian Elephants in the world. During the dry season of August to September each year, herds up to 300 elephants are seen within a few square kilometers of the vast Minneriya Reservoir. This Elephant Gathering is a thrilling spectacle that would be remembered for rest of the life of all those who were fortunate enough to witness it. 24 species of mammals and over 170 species of birds have been recorded here and out Of the 25 species of reptiles recorded in the park 8 are endemic.

The wildlife enthusiasts in Sri Lanka have been thrilled ever since they have received the news that an elephant who frequents in the Minneriya National Park has given birth to baby elephant twins. It is understood that this is a rare and special occasion, as this is the first time in the recorded history of Sri Lanka that twin baby elephants has been observed.

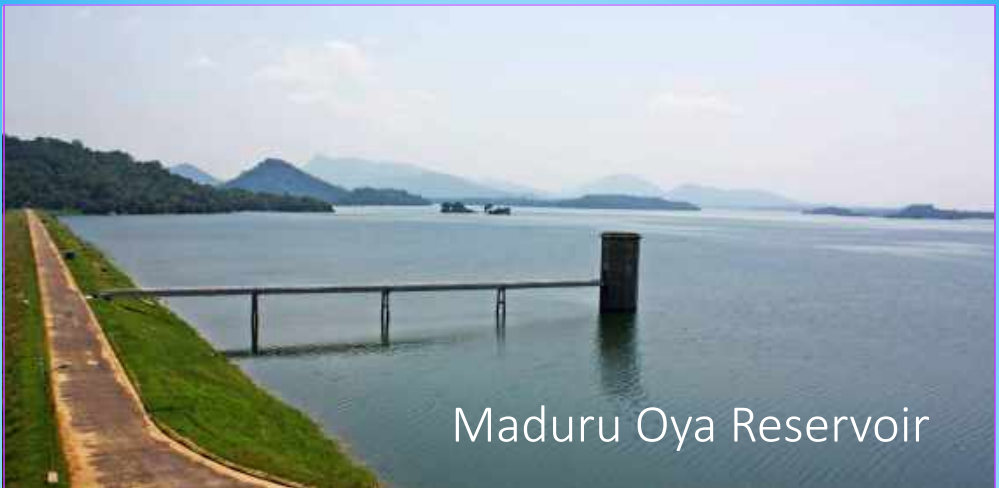




Giritale Tank

This beautiful tank is situated along Polonnaruwa Habrana Road. It is the work of King Agbo ii who reigned in the 7th century. A large area of paddy lands are fed by this tank.





Sri Lanka is well known for its ancient hydraulic civilization and major irrigation works constructed since 3rd century AD. Some of these structures are often quoted as technically parallel to the modern engineering designs and constructions. The ancient Maduru Oya sluice way is one such structure. As its coincidence with very same site designed for the modern sluice, under recently executed Accelerated Mahaweli Development Project.

Comparing with the remains of ancient sluices in Sri Lanka, the Maduru Oya ancient sluice possesses some salient features. One such feature is its twin inlet conduits, dressed with stone slabs enclosed in a massive corbelled arch shaped brickwork. Covering stone slabs with brickwork is a common construction pattern in ancient sluices, but this corbelled arch shaped brick enclosure is only limited to Maduru Oya sluice.



Batticaloa District





BATTICALOA

The Eastern Province stretches across 320km along the east coast from Yala National Park in the South to the Kokkilai lagoon in the North. In the middle lies the coastal town of Batticaloa (population 87,000), which is 313km from Colombo.

Batticaloa is situated on a narrow strip of land between the Indian Ocean and the estuarine lagoon named after the town. In fact, it is a Portuguese name derived from Tamil Mattakalappu famous for its specialty food, lagoon crabs and cashew nuts.

The Batticaloa lagoon with its handful of islands, mangroves, water birds and adjacent Dutch Fort is one of the area's major attractions and is associated with mysterious 'singing fish'. The Batticaloa Lighthouse provides a magnificent view. And those interested in the environment are served by a learning centre and an eco-park. There are three iconic east coast beaches in the Batticaloa district - Kallady, just outside the town, and Kalkudah and Pasikudah, 35km northwards.

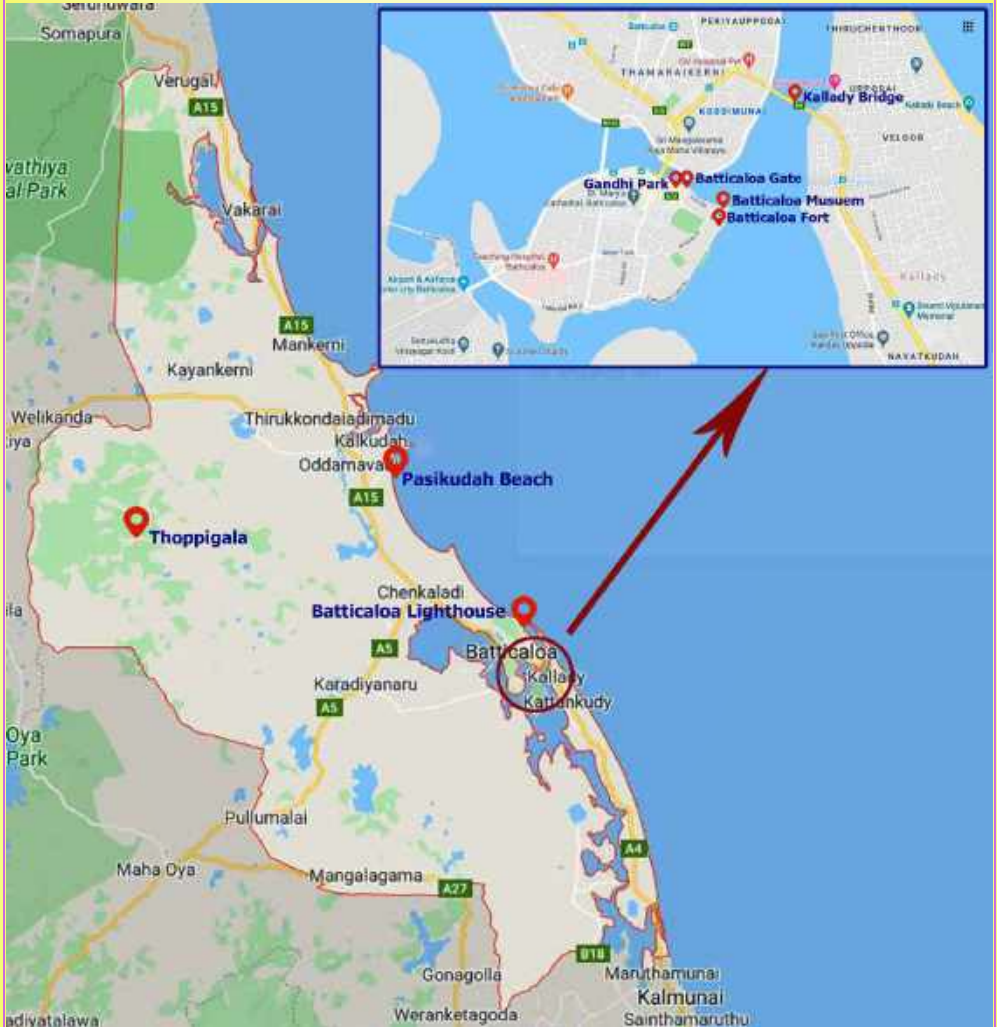


Places of Interest in Batticaloa

- Batticaloa Gate
- Batticaloa Lighthouse
- Fort of Batticaloa
- Batticaloa Museum
- Mahatma Gandhi Park
- Kallady Bridge
- Pasikudah Beach
- Thoppigala Heritage Park



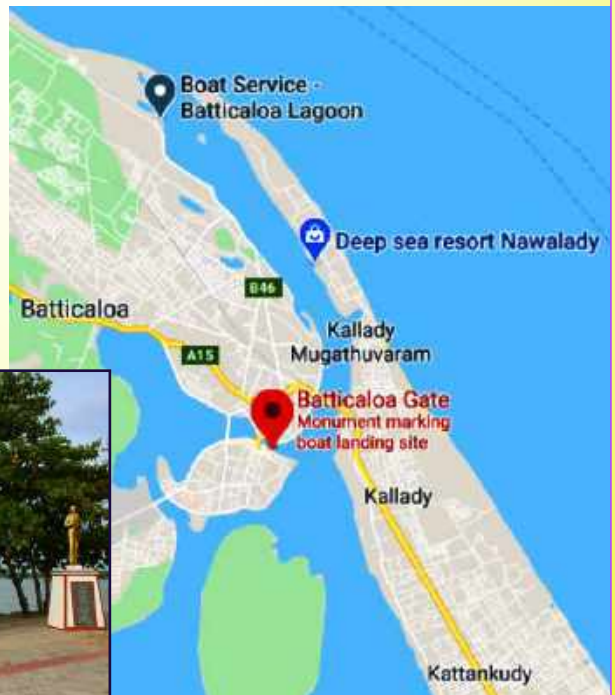
Places to Visit in Batticaloa



Batticaloa Gate

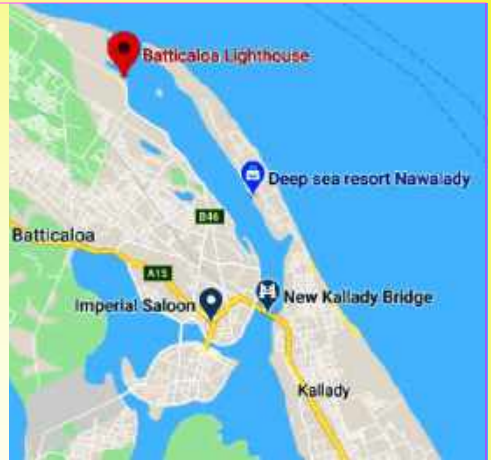


Batticaloa Gate is monument, which was used as port to connect Puliyanthivu (island) with the mainland of Batticaloa. The place believed as landing site of Rev. William Ault, who was the first Methodist missionary to Batticaloa, in 1814. His statue can be seen closer to the Batticaloa Gate.





Batticaloa Lighthouse



At the end of a sandbar, surrounded by lagoons and mangroves, this 28m-tall lighthouse dates from 1913. The sheltered coastline around here is a popular family excursion and there's a play area for kids. Swimming in the calm water, surrounded by islands and inlets, is the main draw.



Fort of Batticaloa

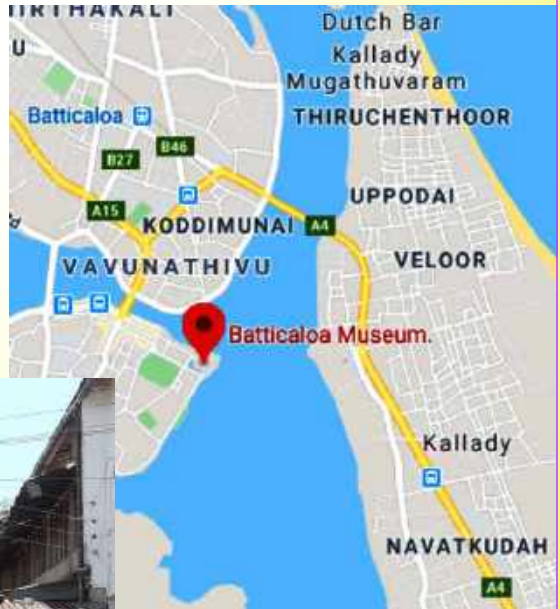


Originally a Portuguese settlement, the Fort of Batticaloa was first constructed in 1628 as a trading and administrative center. Set upon a small island, the fort protrudes into a swampy lagoon, surveying the brackish waters protected by the city's outer banks. The Dutch had arrived in 1602, drawn to the prospects of trade and the abundance of pepper and cinnamon grown by the local community. However, it was not until King Rajasinghe in Kandy urged Dutch intervention that the European colonial power took action, capturing the fort in 1638 and establishing sovereignty in the region.





Batticaloa Museum is a small museum, which is located inside of Batticaloa Fort, Batticaloa. It was founded in 1999. The museum has rare stuff such as Palm-leaf manuscripts, British era government items, tools and utensils.



Mahatma Gandhi Park



Mahatma Gandhi Park is a park situated on Bazaar Street in Batticaloa. It is a modern park located along the Batticaloa lagoon waterfront in the heart of Batticaloa which is a popular area for locals and tourists to take a stroll.

There is a golden statue of Mahatma Gandhi built to honor this great Indian leader. From Trinco take the Trincomalee Highway and go past Kinniya, Seruwawila, Kalkudah and Chenkaladi up until Batticaloa. At Batticaloa go down Bazaar Street to find the Mahatma Gandhi Park





Kallady Bridge

The bridge was built in 1924 during British colonial rule. The bridge was named Lady Manning Bridge in honour of the wife of William Manning, the British Governor of Ceylon. It was the oldest and longest iron bridge in Sri Lanka. On average 10,000 vehicles



crossed the narrow, single lane bridge daily. Batticaloa's singing fish legend is associated with the bridge. In 1954 two American priests from St. Michael's College, Batticaloa, Rev. Fr. Lang and Rev. Fr. Moran, recorded fishes singing under the bridge. The recording was broadcast on Radio Ceylon in the 1960s.

Pasikudah Beach

Pasikuda, meaning “green-algae-bay” is situated in Eastern seaboard of Sri Lanka between Kalkuda and the Indian Ocean, approximately 35 kilometers from Batticaloa Town. The turquoise blue waters of the bay attracts local and foreign tourist to this wide sandy place under the hot tropical sun to surf, swim or just frolic in the water. Many other activities are available from kite surfing, boogie boarding to surfing and sailing across in a canoe.

Coconut palms and palmyrah tree adorn the shores of this area, due to the semi-arid state, Sun screen and a large brimmed hat is recommended along with lots of liquid, to keep the heat under control.



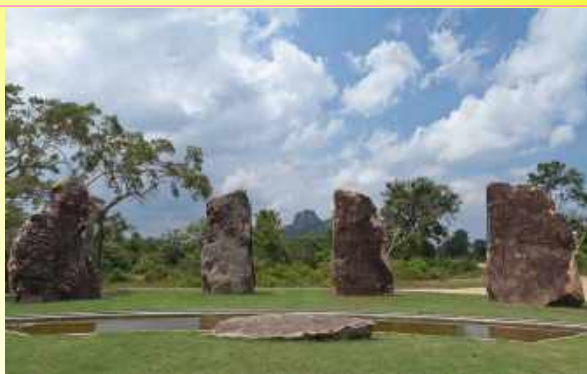
Thoppigala Heritage Park

"Thoppigala" which is also known as the "Baron's Cap", the Last Bastion of "LTTE" in the Eastern Theatre, was a well fortified defense complex, with heavily fortified bunker lines and Satellite Camps. The dominating feature in the ground area was this rocky hillock "Thoppigala". Security Forces who fought a Valiant Battle risking their lives, were able to repulse many waves of LTTE counter attacks causing attrition and heavy damages to their rank and file in the process of the "Liberation of Thoppigala" To Commemorate the "Liberation Of Thoppigala" Security Forces Headquarters (East) took the initiative to construct a Monument at Alioluwa junction, to pay tribute to War Heroes who sacrificed lives to foster a better tomorrow for all Sri Lankans. "Thoppigala Heritage Park" comprises with the monument, Exhibition Center and a Camping Site. The Monument has four Stones depicting Army, Navy, Air Force and Police/CDF to depict their service in

the eradication of separatist terrorism from the Motherland.

Exhibition Center comprises with two Exhibition outlets, One organized by the Army where How the Operations were conducted in the Eastern Theatre is depicted and the other is describing the history of Veddha and Nomads community in the Eastern Region of Sri Lanka along with an exhibition of fauna and flora of the region. A Canteen with modern facilities along with a Souvenir Shop is also functioning at the Monument site. The camping site is located 01km away from the Monument which comprises of Mud Huts sheltered with "Cadjans" retaining its original format. It is an Ideal location for "Leadership training" Exercises and outward bound training as several adventure games are organized at the camping site, which would no doubt is very popular amongst local and foreign Tourists.





Ampara District



AMPARA

Ampara is the centre of the Ampara district, one of the 25 administrative regions of Sri Lanka. The history of this region began in the second century BC when it became a prosperous agricultural centre.

Ampara developed under the Gal Oya scheme transforming Ampara into a town. Today, the Ampara district hosts a number of tourist destinations.

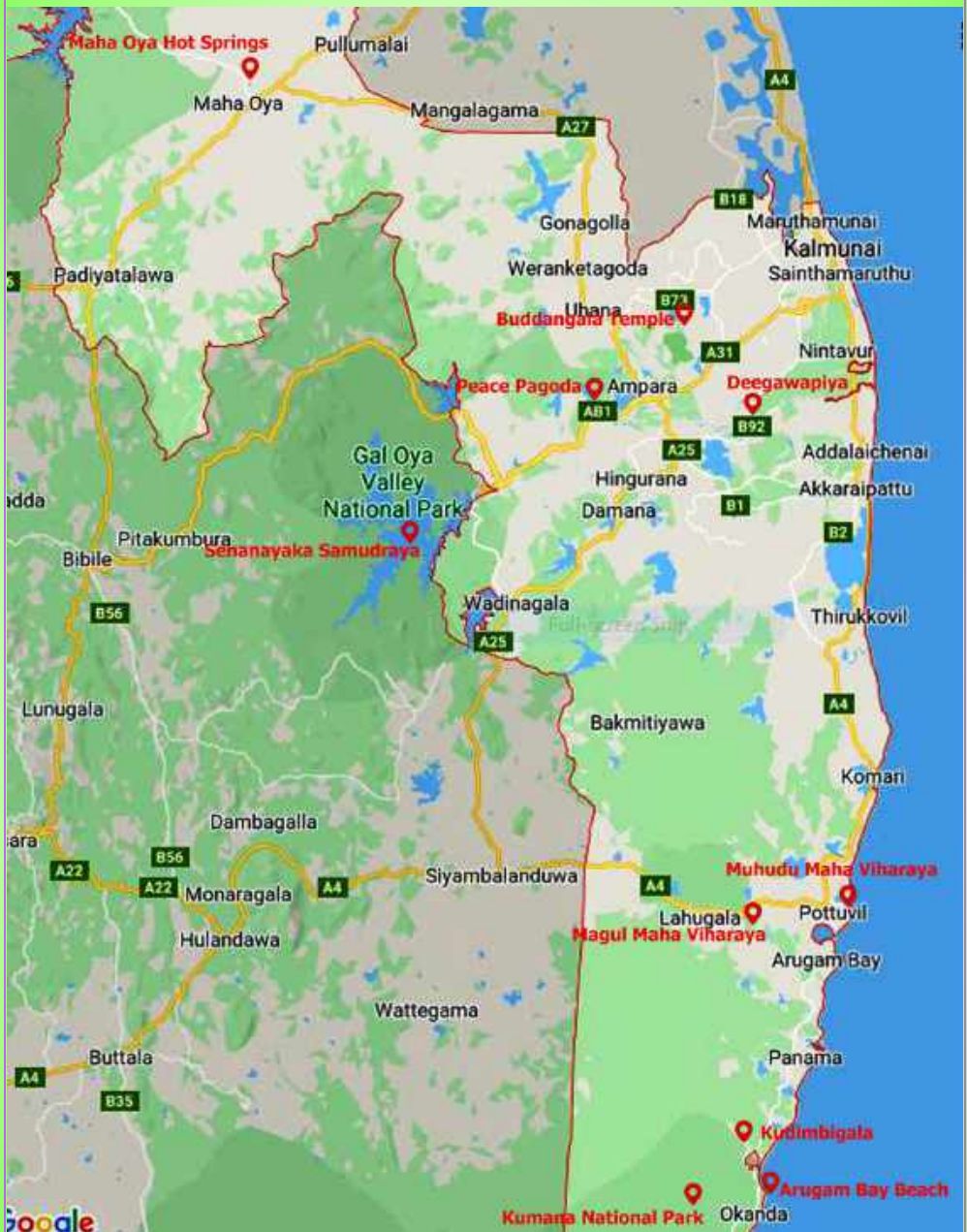
The premier beach of the district attraction is Arugam Bay, renowned as one of the world's finest surfing spots. There are national parks such as Gal Oya and Kumana inhabited by Sri Lanka's typical wildlife such as elephants and leopards with rich flora and fauna, including endemic and migratory species.



Places of Interest in Ampara

- Buddangala Raja Maha Viharaya
- Mahaoya Hot Springs
- Deegawapiya
- Magul Maha Viharaya
- Muhudu Maha Viharaya
- Kudumbigala Temple
- Rajagala
- Rambakan Oya Ancient Granite Canal
- Ampara Peace Pagoda
- Neelagiri Maha Seya
- Senanayake Samudraya
- Kumana National Park
- Arugam Bay

Places to Visit in Ampara



Buddhangala Raja Maha Viharaya



The Buddhist Temple Buddhangala Monastery lies deep in the jungles about 7 kilometers off Ampara. The Monastery covers 1280 acres covering 5 rocks where the remains of the ancient monastery can be seen. This area belonged to the Digamadulla Kingdom which was started by Prince Dighayu in the 4th century BC. Although the beginning of this monastery is not documented, Ven Ellawala Medhananda Thero states that the history of is monastery is as old as the Digamadulla Kingdom.



Maha Oya Hot Springs

Maha Oya Hot Springs is located about 2km off Mahaoya town. This is said to be the hottest spring of all the hot springs on Sri Lanka. Here you will find well maintained 7 wells with different temperatures. The temperature of the hottest well is about 56C (133F). Only two wells are of bathing temperature.



Deegawapiya Temple



Deegawapiya is one of bunches of 16 places which have been blessed with Lord Buddha's presence. Henceforward, it is another famous destination and one of the most attractive tourism destinations in Sri Lanka. Later, the Dagoba appeared like a thick jungle.

Due to the reconstructions carried out by the authorities, henceforth it has become a monastic complex. Eventually, with the termination of devastating war in Sri Lanka it became a great opportunity to explore Sri Lankan cultural and Religious monuments.

In order to reach Digawapiya, take Ampara- Akkaraipaththu Road first. Within 18 km off from Ampara city you will find the Dagoba. On the 8th year of seizing enlightenment, Lord Buddha decided to visit Sri Lanka for the 3rd time. On his journey, he waited for a while at Deegawapiya and spent time for meditating. It is said that Buddha visited Sri Lanka with 5000 arahants. ~Mahavamsa (substantial documentary about history of Sri Lanka, written in 5th century) reveals that, King Saddhathissa (137-119B.C) initiated to construct this Dagoba.





Magul Maha Viharaya

On the northern edge of the Lahugala National Park are the ruins of a substantial ancient temple now called Magul Maha Vihara. This temple is worth a visit not only because of its particularly attractive forest setting but also because the image shrine, the Bodhi Tree and the stupa are all in a good state of preservation. Magul Mahavihara is approached by a causeway across a beautiful lotus filled reservoir which surrounds the whole complex. As you enter the main gate through the solidly built wall that surrounds all the buildings you will see on the left the remains of a small shrine with an unusual moonstone at its entrance. The elephants on this moonstone all have riders on their backs, something unseen in all other Sri Lankan moonstones. The stupa is built on a high terrace with three staircases leading up to it. There are impressive lion guardians at the top of the stairs. These and all the other ruins at Lahugala are all surrounded by peaceful forest which makes a visit to the place a most enjoyable experience.





Muhudu Maha Viharaya

Muhudu Maha Vihara is a Buddhist temple situated at Pottuvil in Ampara District, Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. This temple which is situated near a wide beach, has been built over 2000 years ago by King Kavan Tissa of Ruhuna. Currently, the ruins and remains of ancient stupas, Seema Malaka, Avasa Geya and statues can be seen at the site. Important ruins at the temple premises include stone statues of Lord Buddha and two statues of old Kings or Gods.

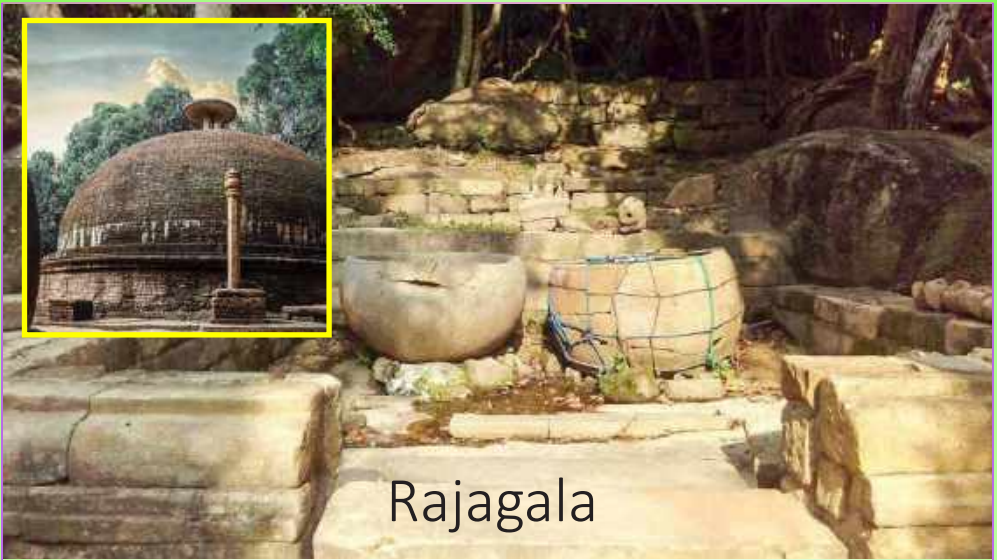


Kudumbigala Temple



Panam Pattuwa is one of the most neglected areas of the Eastern Province. Kudumbigala is located in the Panam Pattuwa. There is a thick jungle covering thousands of acres. No road worth its name runs through it. And in the middle, rising above the tree line is a rock. This is Kudumbigala. Resident in this vast area, almost totally devoid of human beings, are trees that would be unfamiliar to many. The trees and vines and the natural canopy their intertwining has produced, blots out the sky once you enter the jungle. There is a certain enchantment and coolness that accompanies anyone creeping through the thick foliage towards Kudumbigala. This is perhaps one reason why yogis of a bygone age chose this place to reflect on the eternal verities. Many of these blessed beings whose journey through sansara had seen them enter the irreversible process of liberation that comes with the securing of marga pala, we are told, reached the final stage of realisation in the monastic complex called Kudumbigala, made up of over 200 rock caves.





Rajagala

This sacred place is in the Rajagalatenna village in Uthana District Secretariat Division of the Ampara District in the Eastern Province. In the past Rajagala known as Rassahela was one of the premier monastic complexes in Sri Lanka that emerged since the advent of Arahant Mahinda.

The earliest inscription found at Rajagala names the place as “Dhana Tisa Pavata”. However an inscription scribed later, refers to it as “Ariya Araka Girikubilapi Tisa Pavata Maha Vahara” which when translated reads as the Ariyakara Girikumbhilavapi Tissa Pabbata Vihara. In another inscription of King Mahinda II found in the sacred area identifies the temple as Arittara Vehera. In the great chronicle Mahavamsa it is said that when Prince Lajjatissa was the ruler at Dighavapi, a temple by the name Girikumbhila had been built. The discovery of places where stone implements were made in and around Rajagala, illustrates that the area had been inhabited from the prehistoric

times. The mountain, particularly its western slopes and the rock face of northern side of the range are dotted with hundreds of caves with drip-ledges. This shows that the monastery which originated in the 3rd c B.C. had been in use for a number of centuries.



Rambakan Oya Ancient Granite Canal

Ruins of the ancient Rambakan Oya giant rock canal lies close to the new Rambakan Oya Reservoir project in Ampara. The canal has been built with massive interlocking granite slabs which kept the rocks in position even in the worst conditions. A nearby slab inscription (known as Rambakan Oya Slab Inscription) which has been identified as

belonging to 12th -13th centuries identifies that the granite canal was built by Liyana Nayakayan and Kanathkan Vahanse living in the Gal Weta area.



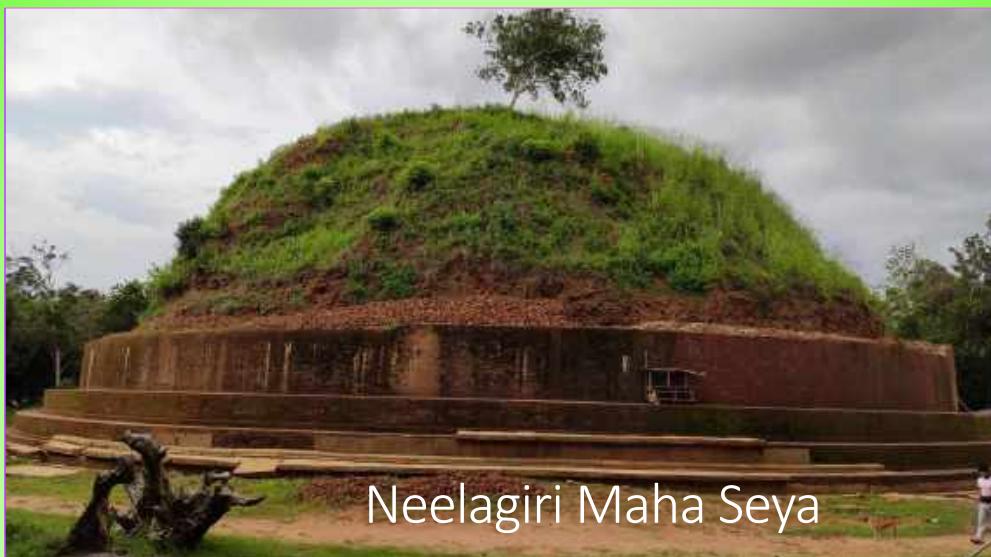


Peace Pagoda

Ampara Peace Pagoda (also known as Ampara Sama Ceitya) is one of a number of Peace Pagodas in the world, built since World War II and designed to promote the non-violence in the community and unite them in their search for world peace. It is located in

Ampara, a small town located in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka and is one of the Ampara's most prominent landmarks. There are another four Peace Pagodas constructed in various places around Sri Lanka. They are located at Unawatuna, Adam's Peak, Bandarawela and Walapane. The Ampara Peace Pagoda was constructed by Nipponzan monks under the patronage of Nichidatsu Fujii Maha thero (1885-1985) of Nipponzan-Myōhōji of Japan with the objective of commemorating his 99th birth day. The Pagoda was declared open by Junius Richard Jayewardene, President of Sri Lanka on 28 February 1988.





Neelagiri Maha Seya

Neelagiri Seya is the largest Buddhist Stupa in the Eastern Province. The stupa, located in the Lahugala Forest Reserve has been neglected for over 30 years due to the LTTE Terrorist activities in the area. The stupa is believed to be build by King Kawantissa (3rd Century BC) or King Bhatikabaya (20 BC-9 AC) and has been renovated on the 7th century. This massive stupa has a circumference of 600 feet (182 metres) and 72 feet (22 metres) high in the current status. This has been called “Uttara Seevali Pabbata Viharaya’ in the ancient times. Attempts have been made to restore the stupa during 1979 – 1984 period but due to the terrorist activity in the area it has been abandoned.



Senanayake Samudraya

Senanayake Samudraya is a source of water for irrigation, domestic use and fisheries activities. Under the Gal Oya Development Scheme, which began in 1949, the valley area around the park has been developed for agriculture. Paddy cultivation takes place both during the Yala and Maha seasons, and around 4,000 ha of the right bank is under sugarcane cultivation.





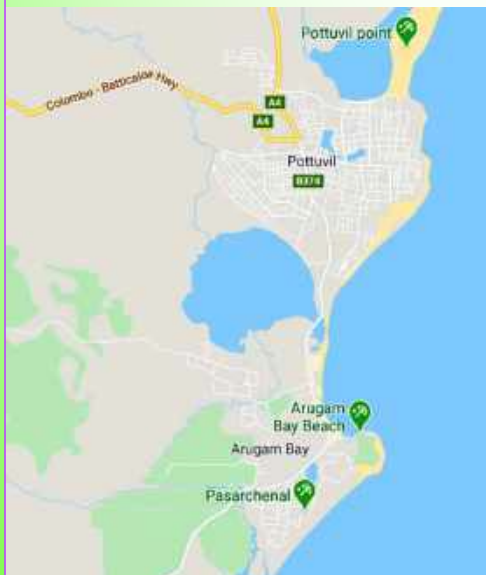
Kumana National Park

Kumana National Park located in the southeast corner of Sri Lanka, the 18,149 hectare KUMANA (YALA EAST) NATIONAL PARK is a well-known eco tourism attraction and bird sanctuary where a multitude of birds breed and roost. One of the most significant features of the park is the 'Kumana Villu' - a 200 hectare natural swamp lake, fed by the 'Kumbukkan Oya' through a half mile long narrow channel. It is at this mangrove swamp that many water birds nest in May and June. Regular sightings include such species of birds as pelicans, painted storks, spoonbills, white ibis, herons, egrets and little cormorants.



Arugam Bay

Arugam Bay, known locally as “Arugam Kudah”, is a bay situated on the Indian Ocean in the dry zone of Sri Lanka’s southeast coast, and a historic settlement of the ancient Batticaloa Territory. The bay is located 117 kilometres south of Batticaloa. While traditionally fishing has dominated the local economy, tourism has grown rapidly in the area in recent years. Arugam Kudah’s literal Tamil translation is “Bay of Cynodon dactylon”. Tourism in Arugam Bay is dominated by surf tourism.



Trincomalee District





Trincomalee

Near the northern end of the province is the historic port of Trincomalee with its expansive deep-water natural harbour, Dutch Fort and iconic Hindu Kovil. Trincomalee has a variety of attractions within easy reach. The beaches in Trincomalee offer swimming, surfing and diving. Diving on coral reefs and shipwrecks from March to May and August to December in Trincomalee and nearby Nilaveli is a great experience. Dolphin and whale-watching can be experienced from June to September.

The distance between Colombo and Trincomalee is 264 km. There are four routes to reach the Eastern Province passing Trincomalee. These routes not only traverse the province, but



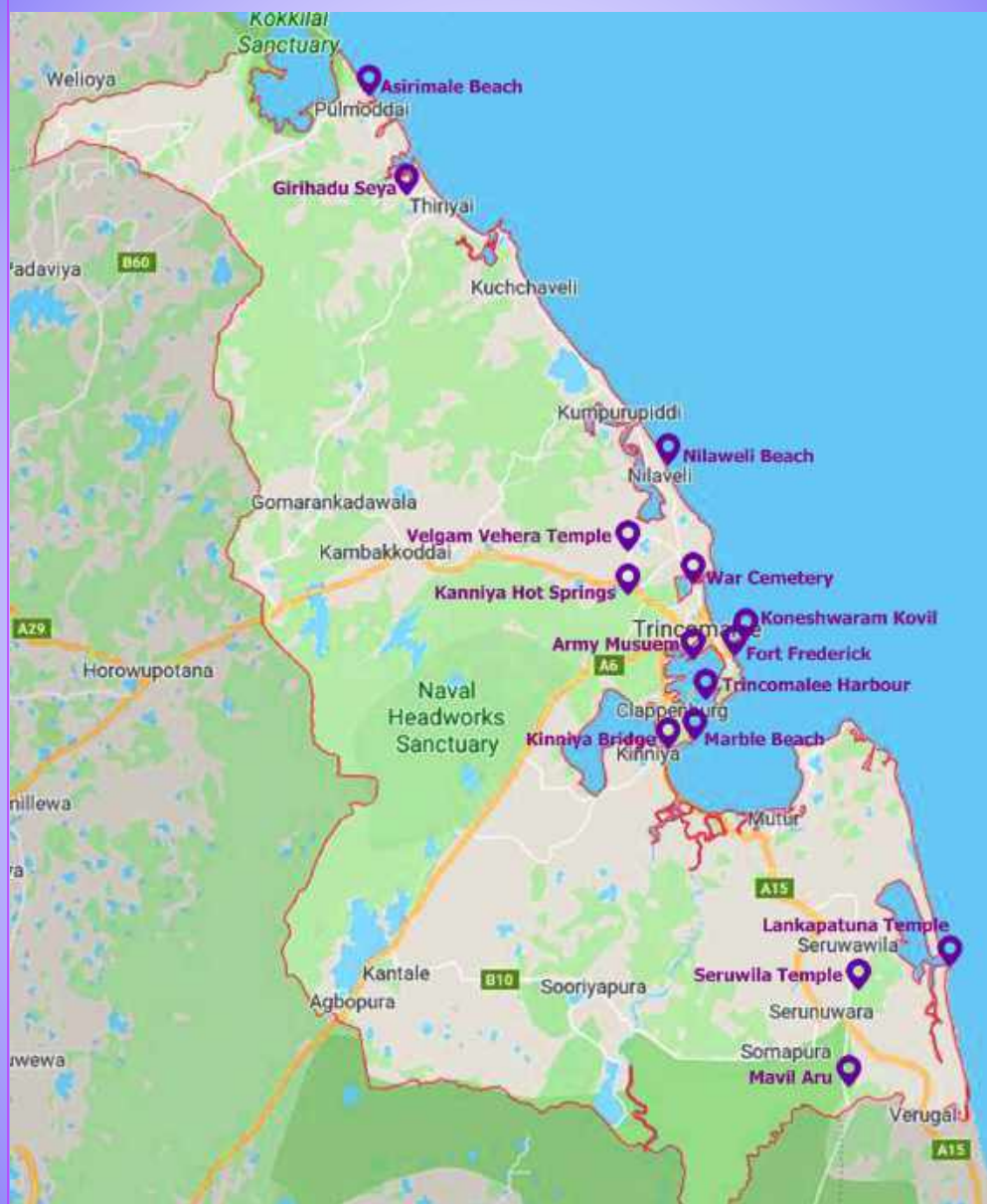
provide different return journeys to maximise the travellers' experience on the island. The journey can also be undertaken by train, bus, helicopter and plane. The historical tourist attractions in Trincomalee are the Natural Harbour, Fort Frederick, Koneswaram Kovil, Marble Beach, Kanniya hot water springs, Nilaveli Beach, Seruwila, Lanka Patuna and Velgam Vehara.



Places to Visit in Trincomalee

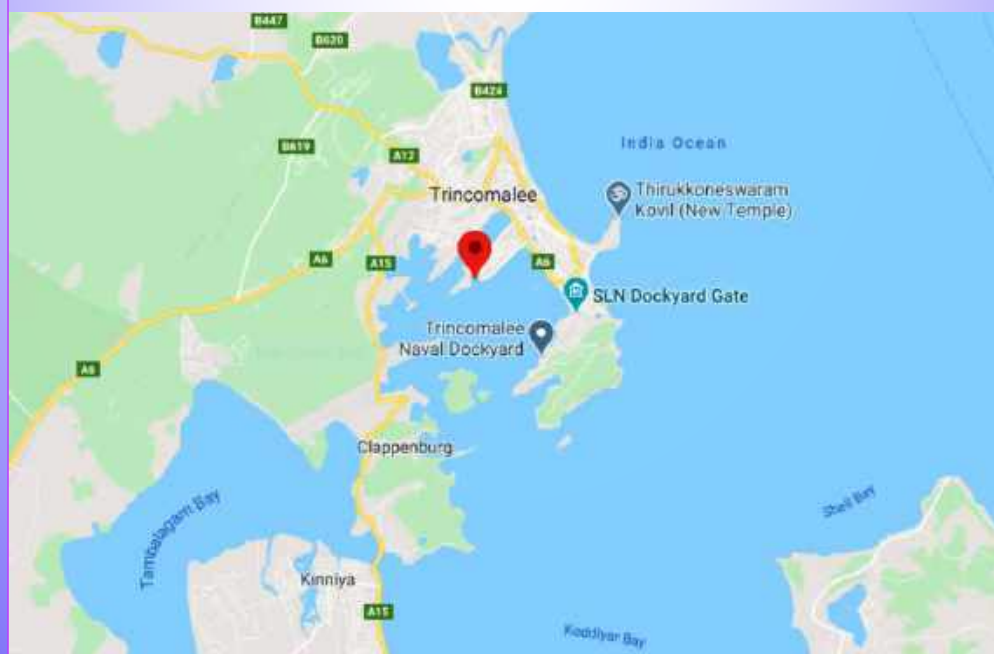
- Army Museum
- Naval Museum, Hood's Tower
- Maritime And Naval History Museum
- Fort Frederick- Trincomalee
- Koneswaram Temple
- War Cemetery
- Seruwila Mangala Viharaya
- Velgam Vehera Rajamaha Viharaya
- Kanniya Hot Springs
- Girihadu Seya
- Lankapatuna Temple
- Mavilaru
- Kinniya Bridge
- Trincomalee Harbour
- Nilaweli Beach
- Marble Beach
- Arisimale Beach
- Pulmoddai Mineral Sand Deposits

Places to Visit in Trincomalee



Army Museum

The Orr's Hill Army Museum is a military museum situated at Plantain Point, inside 22 Army Division Headquarters in Trincomalee. This military museum has a large collection of war memorials and related exhibits including tanks which were used during the war. Visitors to the museum can go inside some of these tanks and there is also a place to try rifle shooting.



Naval Museum, Hood's Tower

Named after Admiral Sir Samuel Hood who located a vantage lookout point from which enemy ships could be detected and subsequently bombarded. Within the old British gun site in Hoods Tower there is a small but well built fort with underground casements. It appears that this fort was repaired, modified and strengthened during different colonial times. Now it is home to the naval museum. It is open to public daily during weekends and holidays from 9am to 5pm and 2pm to 5pm on weekdays.





Maritime and Naval History Museum

Located in the 17th century Residence of the Dutch Naval Commissioner, in Trincomalee town in front of Dutch Bay. This two-storey historical building has been well renovated and was opened in 2013. The Museum is small but has many exhibition booths containing information on the history of Naval affairs, sea artifacts and marine life. Informative historical exhibits are housed on the ground floor including a video documentary. On the first floor are exhibition displays on corals, mangroves, sea grasses and marine mammals. Well worth a visit. Open to public. Closed on Tuesdays.





Fort Frederick- Trincomalee

Fort Fredrick is a fort built by Portuguese at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka in 1624. It was built from the debris of the ancient Hindu temple -Koneswaram temple (Temple of a Thousand Pillars) that was destroyed by the Portuguese. This was captured by a Dutch fleet under Admiral Westerwold in 1639. Not until 1665 was a new fort built here by the Dutch defend against the advancements of the British and the French. In 1672, the year when the Dutch Republic was attacked by France, Britain, and two German states, the French captured Trincomalee and later they occupied Batticaloa. However soon the French were forced to leave.

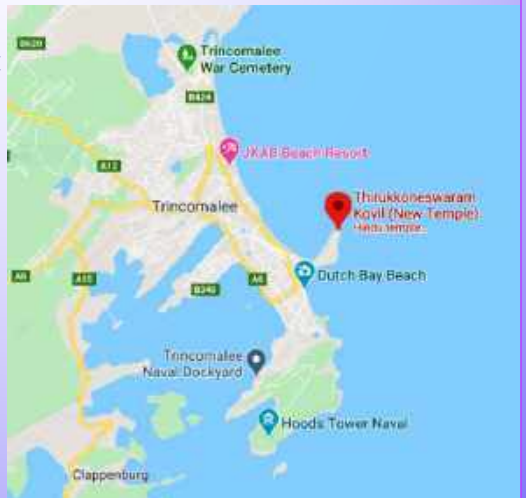
Trincomalee was important for its large all-season secure harbor. In late 18th century Trincomalee traded hands once more with the French capturing it again and later handing back to the Dutch East India Company (VOC) at the Peace of Paris in 1784. In 1795 it was taken over by the British, and remained a British garrison till 1948. Coastal artillery guns were added during the two World Wars. Today it remains garrisoned by a Battalion of the Sri Lanka Army accessible to visitors.



Koneshwaram Temple



Koneswaram temple is an important Hindu temple in Trincomalee, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka venerated by Saivites throughout the continent. The primary deity is the Hindu God Lord Shiva in the form Koneswar. At its zenith, Koneswaram was of considerable size and heralded as one of the richest and most visited temple complexes in Asia. Built atop Swami Rock, a rocky promontory overlooking the Trincomalee harbor, the temple has lay in ruins, been restored, renovated and enlarged by various royals and devotees throughout its history. Koneswaram is heralded as a grand seat of Shiva worship in the 6th-7th century CE Tamil hymn canon Tevaram. Its bronze idols from the 10th century CE reflect the high points of Chola art. The temple has been administered and frequented by Tamil Hindus and is located in Trincomalee, a classical period port town.





War Cemetery

The cemetery was originally the Combined Services Cemetery, but was taken over by the Admiralty from the military authorities in April 1948 for use as a permanent naval cemetery. On the withdrawal of United Kingdom Forces from Ceylon it became the property of the Ceylon Government who have granted the Commission security of tenure in perpetuity. Save for a few post-war and non-war graves it is purely a war cemetery, and service war graves were transferred to it from Trincomalee (St. Mary) Churchyard; Trincomalee (St. Stephen's) Cemetery, Kottadi Cemetery, Jaffna; and Vavuiyna



Combined Cemetery. A special memorial commemorates a naval man buried in Trincomalee (St. Stephen's) Cemetery whose grave could not be found. The non-war graves are those of men of the Merchant Navy whose death was not due to war service, and of civilians, of whom some were employees of the Admiralty; while the post-war graves were dependents of servicemen, civilian employees of the Admiralty and dependents of such employees.



Seruwila Temple

The Seruwila Mangala Viharaya in Trincomalee district is considered one of the most venerated ancient Buddhist temples to be found in the Eastern province where once Buddhism flourished at its peak. According to historical annals King Kavantissa who ruled the Ruhuna built this temple 2231 years back by enshrining the forehead relic of Gautama Buddha. It is believed that three viharas existed at this particular spot built during the periods of three former Buddhas named Kakusanda, Konagama and Kasyapa with their relics enshrined and Gautama Buddha who was the last Buddha in this eon had personally visited this place and offered eight handfuls of 'Sapu' flowers. Gautama Buddha has not only foreseen that a king by the name of Kavantissa will build a temple with his forehead relic enshrined in it but has wished that this temple should be named 'Mangala' viharaya.





Velgam Vehera Raja Maha Viharaya

Velgam Vehera is located around 15 km away from Trincomalee by the Trincomalee - Anuradapura Road. According to the historical facts, the Velgam Vehera Rajamaha Viharaya was done by King Devanampiyathissa. Later on some additions and renovations were done by first Bathiya, Second Agkbo, first Vijayabahu and Parakramabahu I. The most important point is this temple is worshiped by both Sinhala and Tamil Buddhists. That is one of the reasons that Velgam Vehera was not destroyed by south Indian Chola invasions in 10th century.

This temple was abandoned after Anuradapura and Polonnaruwa kingdoms, because people migrated to south part of the country. In the recent past, this area was under LTTE threats and very less people aware about this place. Some renovations happening nowadays and this is becoming popular among the devotees coming from the other parts of Sri Lanka.



Kinniya Hot Springs

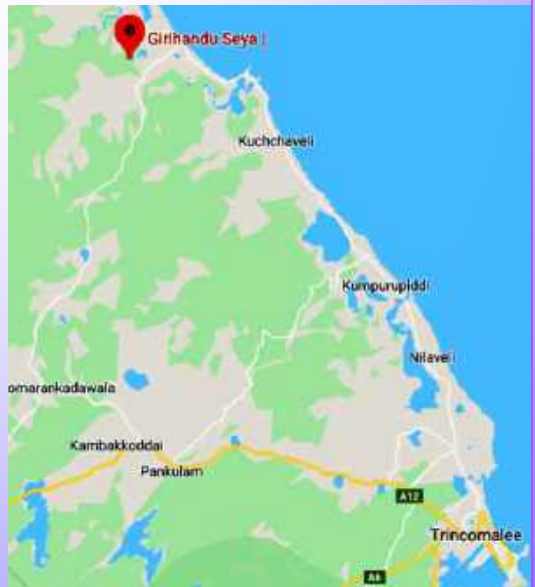
The region of Kanniya, Trincomalee, is popular among both local and foreign travelers alike for its seven hot springs. These hot water springs have been made into seven wells which are full of water during most parts of the year. These wells each vary in the level of water temperature and are popular due to their legendary origins. Legend has it that Vishnu, the Lord of the Past and the Present, wanted to trick Ravana in to thinking that his mother Kannya had passed away. Believing what Vishnu said, Ravana frantically searched for a source of water to cleanse his mother's body and prepare it for its last rites. Immediately Vishnu is said to have disappeared from the site and created the hot springs at the location where he stood.



Girihadu Seya



Girihadu Seya is considered as the first Dageba in Sri Lanka, done by Thapassue Balluka Merchants. This is located in Thiriyaya close to Trincomalee Pulmoddi road. Lord Buddha spent 7 weeks (Sath Sathiya) after his enlightenment (This is around 528 BC) and end of that period, the 50th day two brother merchants call “Thapassu Ballula” offered the first dana (alms giving). After the Dana, they requested something to worship and received “Sacred Keshu Datu”(Hair Relic). Those merchants used to travel different parts in the region and came to Sri Lanka also. One day they stayed in this area and kept this relic container on top of a rock and went to the suburb area for the business. On their arrival they found that the container cannot be moved and decided to build a pagoda enshrining the hair relic. Now this is called Girihadu Seya. This place was abandoned for several centuries and restoration of this Pagoda was done in 1950's.



Lankapatuna Viharaya

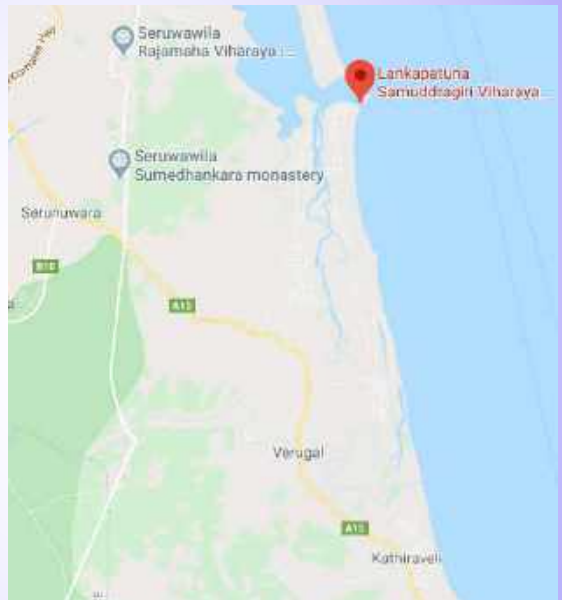


Dating back to the era of king Kirthi Sri Meghawanna (303-331), the Lanka Patuna Viharaya in Trincomalee is one of the oldest Buddhist temples in Sri Lanka. The ancient temple is said to be built in the style of Auradhapura era and the only remains of that original structure is a pond and a dilapidated stone stair case.

The current temple contains a Chatiya, a stutue of lord Buddha, a shrine, a larger than life image

of Prince Dhantha and Princess Hemamala being sculpted in the rock face and the remains of the ancient temple.

Other than being situated neighboring magnificent panorama of white beaches and miniature trees, the Lanka patuna temple is famous for being the port where the sacred tooth relic of lord Buddha first entered Sri Lankan soil.



Mavil Aru

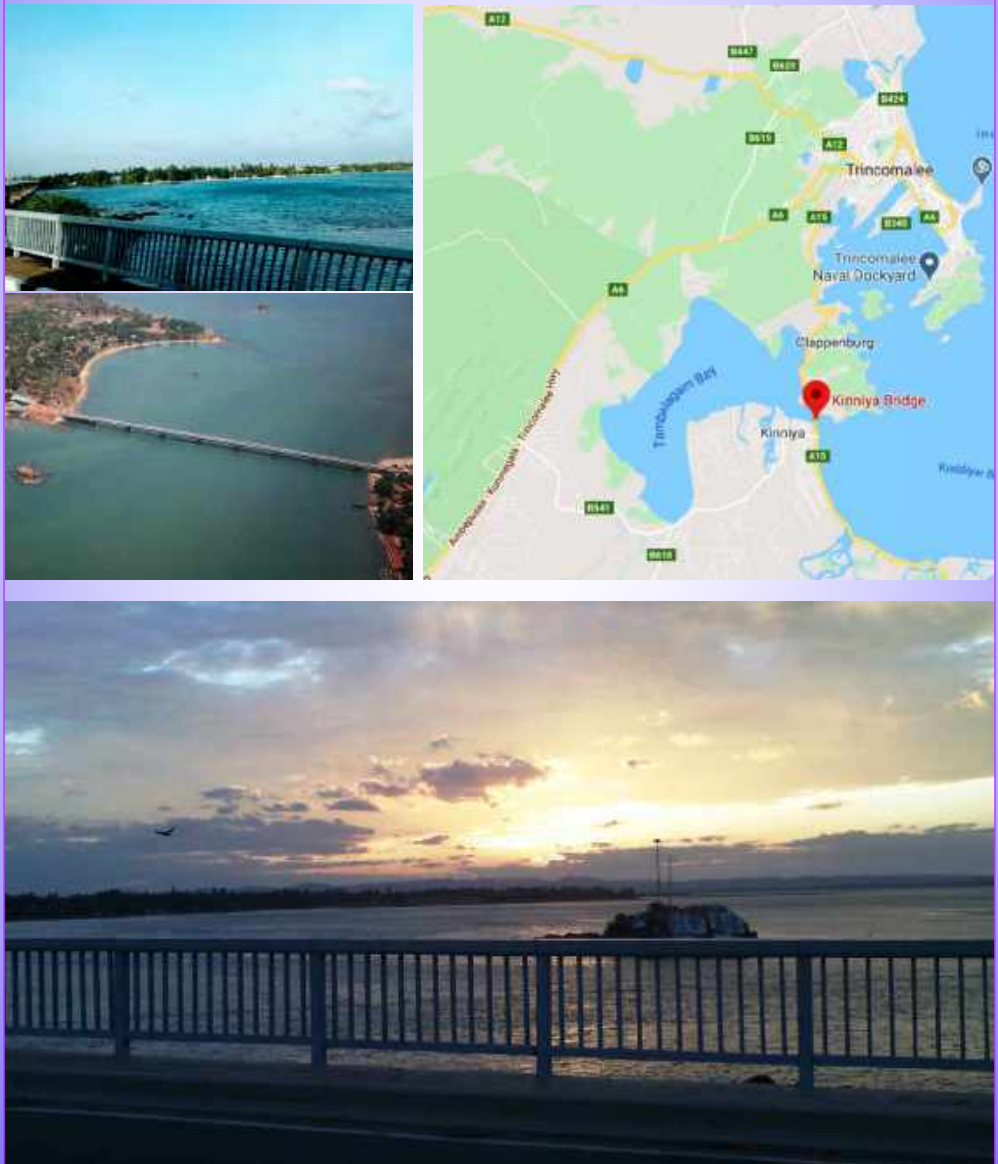


Mavil Aru is a waterway in Sri Lanka that supplies water to some regions of eastern Sri Lanka. The closure by the LTTE of the sluice-gates of Mavil Aru on July 26, 2006 was a crucial turning point in the Sri Lankan civil strife. With the initiation of 'Operation Watershed', the Sri Lankan Armed Forces undertook to wipe out the LTTE.



Kinniya Bridge

This new ferry bridge which spans 300 meters long will connect Kinniya to Trincomalee on the Batticaloa - Thirukkondiyadimadu Trincomalee Road. Dynamic Pile Testing was conducted on 1200mm diameter bored piles using a 5-ton drop hammer to test the load carrying capacity of the piles at off shore locations.



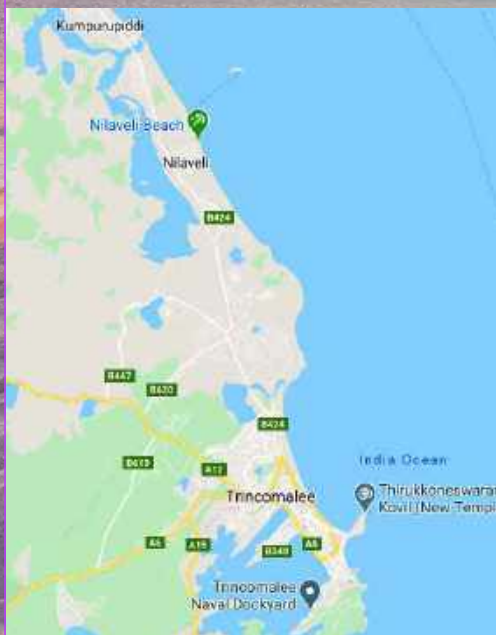
Trincomalee Harbour

The city of Trincomalee, rewarded for the 3rd largest natural harbor in the world was truly a legend since from the past. In the case of that more and more attention of both local and international community has drawn to Trincomalee. Further, so many regions tried to capture the fort. The harbor was a place where many of Portuguese, Dutch, French, and the English battled and shot each other to take it into their custody. Today the Trincomalee harbor is an important commercial seaport of Sri Lanka.



Nilaveli Beach

Soft sands and the gentle breeze caresses your cheek as you tread softly on the golden sands of Nilaveli beach under the sunny sky. Yonder you will see the great Pigeon Island where a big flock of rock pigeons soar high with their graceful grey wings doing a sort of air dance. The beauty of Nilaveli is definitely like no other and after a long journey from the city, the fresh air and the serenity of the place will make you feel like you've come to heaven.



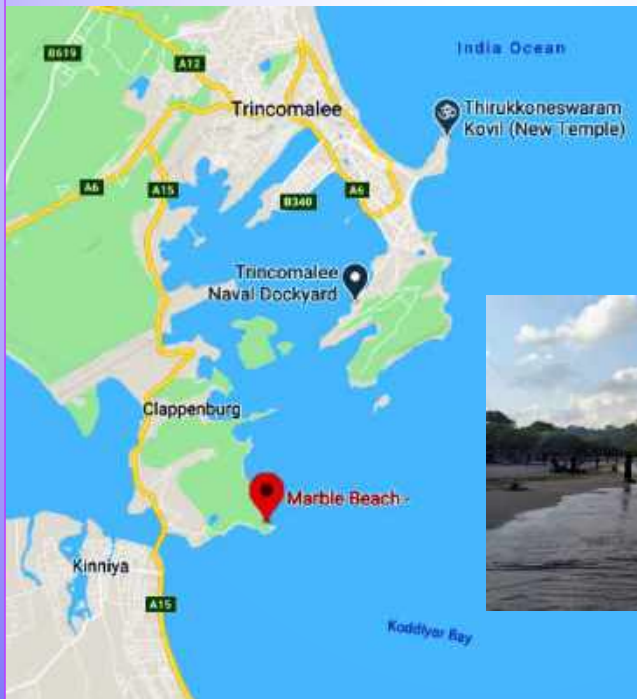
Marble Beach

Unspoiled by man, it is a place where one can enjoy the scenic beauty of the eastern coast of Sri Lanka while basking in the history of this strategic town, boasting of one of the largest natural



harbours in the world. Air Force Resort Marble Beach, located not very far from the newly built Kinniya Bridge, the longest bridge in Sri Lanka is built around Marble Beach, a virgin stretch of beach which has always been synonymous with Trincomalee. Marble Beach is a blend of natural surroundings, leaving its natural beauty and tranquility intact so that its guests will be able to enjoy nature at its best while also enjoying all the amenities they need for their comfort. It will give you sense of communing in harmony with nature. Life guards around the clock will ensure your safety while you enjoy boat rides, sea baths and even snorkeling along the lovely coral reefs while. Beach Volleyball

and Mountain Hiking will also be available for those who may be interested in drier pursuits.



Arisimale Beach

Arisimale Beach lies off the beaten track about 50 kms North of Trincomalee in the town of Pulmude. In Tamil 'Arisi' means rice and 'Malai' means mountain. Thus this is the 'Mountain of Rice' in Tamil. The reason for name is in the sand. This beach is made of extremely large particles of sand, the size of a rice seed. Due to the distance from Trincomalee, this beach is bare and void of shops and hotels. Beach is clean and the water is crystal clear but due to extreme heat in this region, the ideal time to visit the beach may be morning or evening.

This beach is deeply buried in the Sri Lankan history. Thapassu Balluka, the two merchants who received locks of hair from Buddha is said to have

landed at Arisimale Beach where they traveled up to Tiriyaya to deposit it in a shrine.

The Arisimale Raja Maha Viharaya lying close this beach along with a large number archaeological artifacts and a small farming community of Buddhists have been living this area who supported the temple.

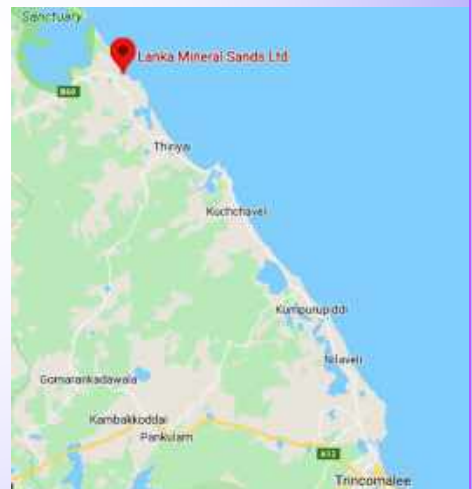




Pulmuddai Mineral Sand Deposits



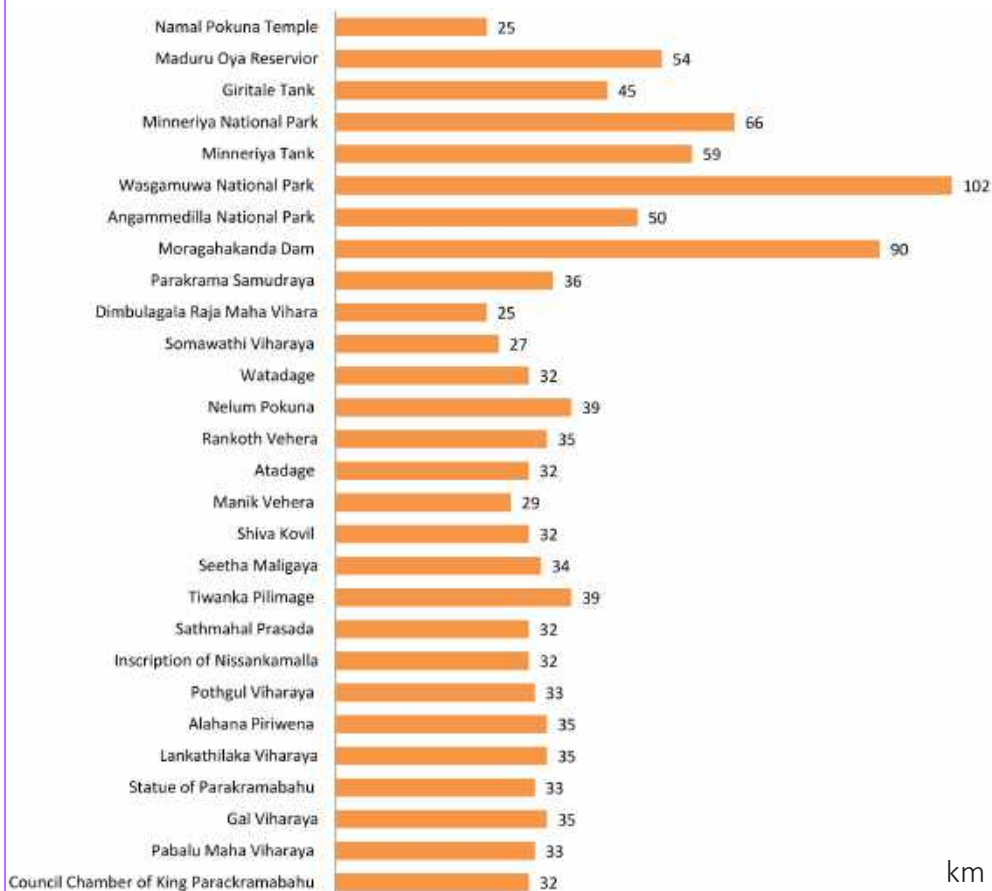
Pulmoddai is a town situated on the northeastern coast of Sri Lanka, close to Trincomalee. Pulmoddai lies between Trincomalee and Mullaitivu. It is famous for mineral sands that are mined at its beach. The Pulmoddai deposit is about 6 kilometers in length and about 100 meters in width. It is estimated to contain 6 million tonnes of heavy sand with an average composition of 70-72 percent Ilmenite, 8-10 percent zircon, 8 percent Rutile and 0.3 percent Monazite. The deposit is believed to be among the top 10 deposits of the world.



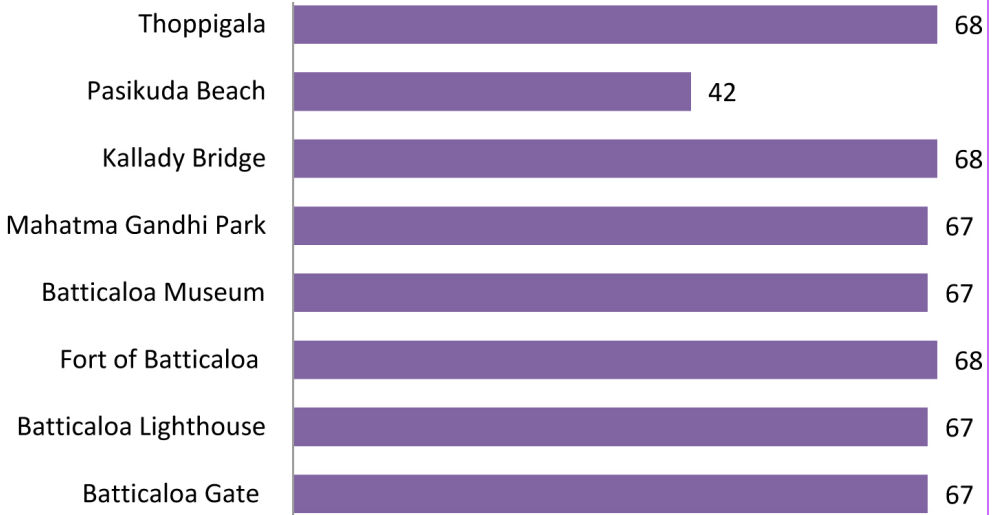
Distance Chart

(From Welikanda)

Polonnaruwa



Batticaloa

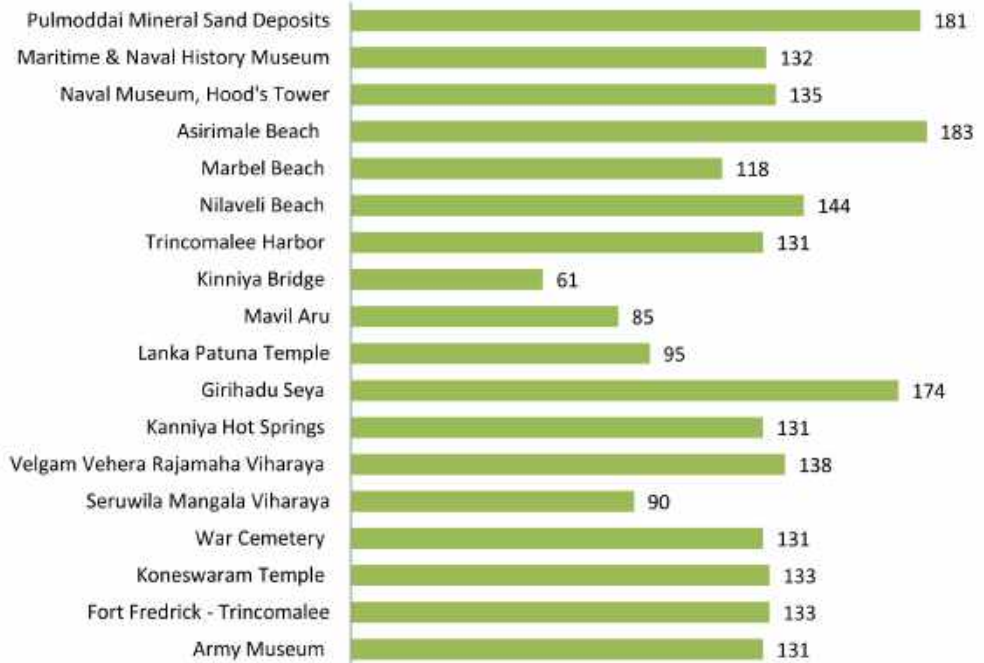


Ampara



km

Trincomalee



km

Places to Stay

“Coral Cove” Holiday Resort, Kayankerni

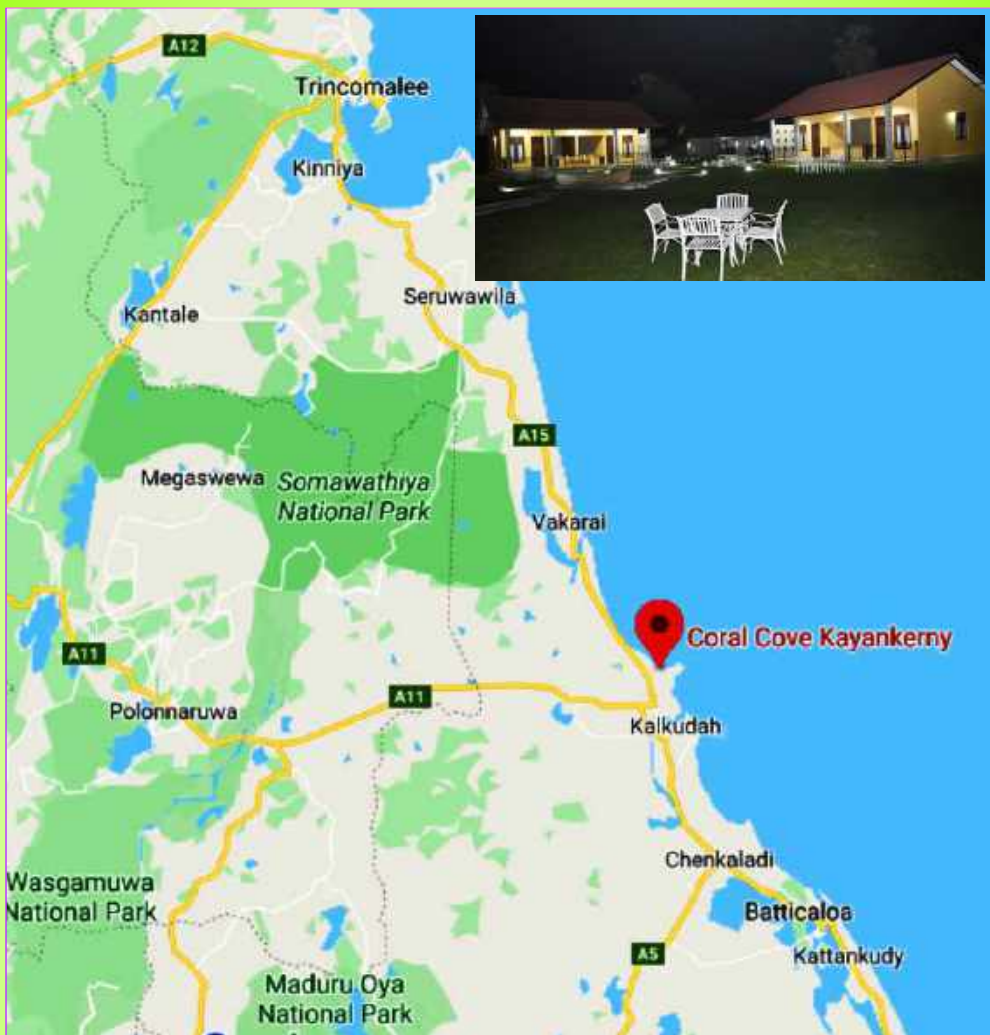


‘Coral Cove’ Holiday Resort Kayankerni, administered by the Security Force Headquarters (East) is located at a less populous setting in the East Coast of Sri Lanka which is highly popular among local and foreign visitors for its beautiful unspoiled natural beaches with shallow crystal clear water and exotic coral reefs.

‘Coral Cove’ is an ideal place tastefully designed with modern facilities to spend an authentic vacation together with your family and friends to make your stay a pleasant experience with the available facilities including the safe and ideal stretch for bathing with extremely shallow crystal clear water, enchanting coral reefs and a variety of colourful tropical fish together with opulent accommodation and services.

It is located at an Army held land in Kayankerni, 10 km away from Valachchanai town.





CONTACT DETAILS

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Email: coralcovekarankerni@gmail.com

Web: <https://alt.army.lk/sfhqeast/places>



Laya Waves Kalkudah

All seaside resorts may look the same until you encounter the cozy haven of LAYA WAVES a hotel run by the Sri Lankan Army. Just 5 hours away from Colombo and a stone's throw from the Kalkudah Railway Station, LAYA WAVES is the ultimate beach resort with aquamarine waves rolling into the pristine golden beach, framed by a bay that screens it from the bustle of Passikudah.

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