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*Bay*

# TRINCOMALEE

Awsome things to do in



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# TRINCOMALEE CITY TOUR



## Naval Museum

In the Second World War, after the fall of the “impregnable” naval base of Singapore to the Japanese in 1942, Trincomalee became the HQ of the retreating British Fleet. The Navy Base is home to a naval museum called The Hoods Tower Museum. The name of the museum refers to a watchtower built on a hill commanding a 360-degree view of the harbor and the bay. The Japanese staged an all-out air assault on the harbour on April 8 1942, unsuccessfully and Trincomalee was in the hands of the British until 1957.



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## Sober Island

A short distance away from the Trincomalee harbour is the beautiful Sober Island. Away from prying eyes for many decades, Sober Island is steeped in history and has been a well-kept secret. According to folk lore, Rajasinghe II, King of Kandy, built a fort of hewn stone in Trincomalee. It could be the fort that was built by French Admiral De La Haye in Sober Island in 1672, during an attempt by the French to gain a foothold in Trincomalee. King Rajasinghe, after signing an agreement with the French, sent a large body of men to work together with the French to build a fortified position in Sober Island. It is quite probable that local folklore refers only to the contribution made by the king, ignoring that of the French.

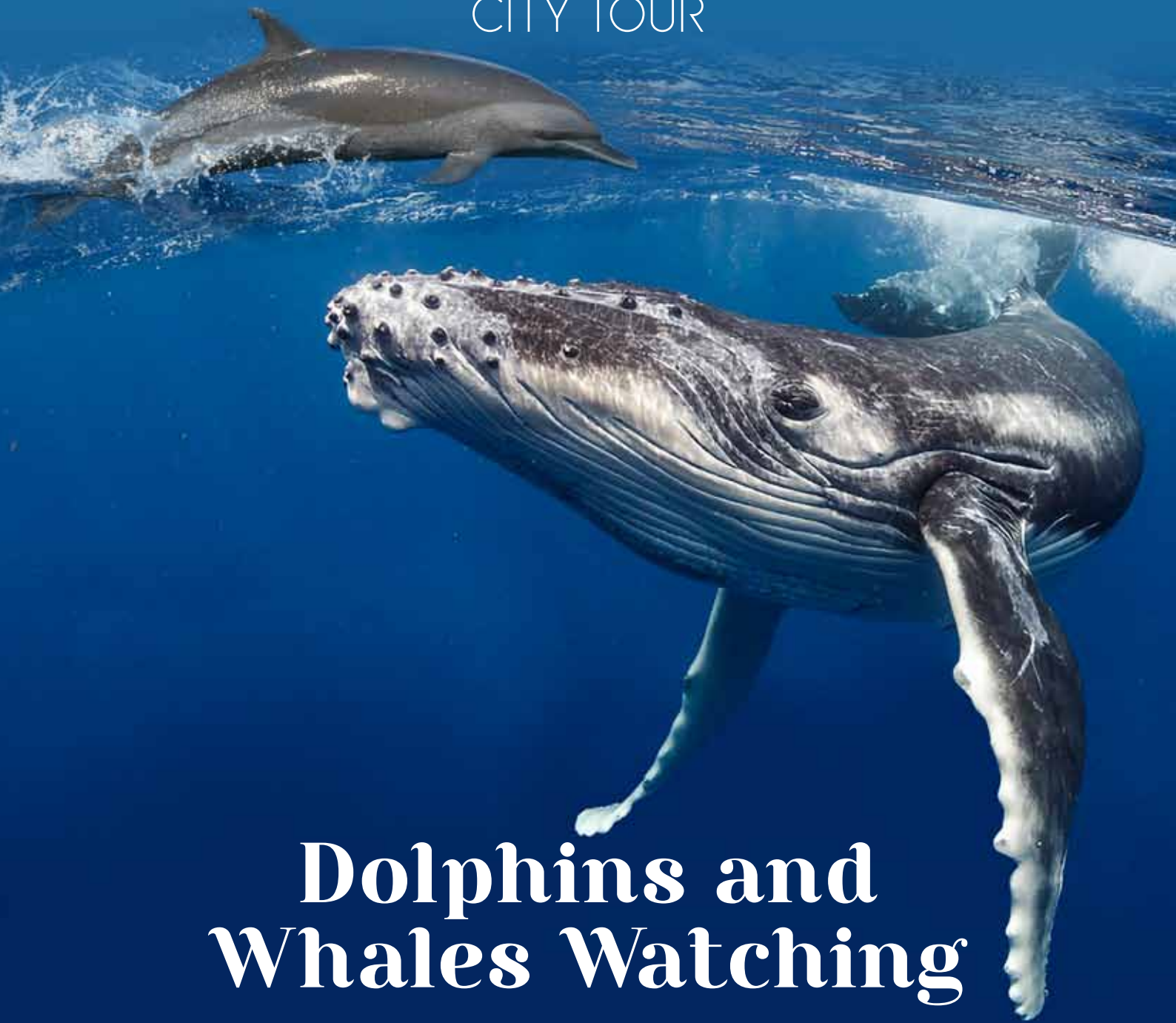
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## Trincomalee Harbour

Trincomalee Harbour, also known as Trincomalee Bay or Koddiiyar Bay, is one of the largest natural deep-water harbours in the world, situated on the north-east coast of Sri Lanka. The harbour changed hands from the Portuguese to the Dutch, the French and finally to the British in the 1795 AD. Established by the British as the Royal Naval Dockyard, Trincomalee, it was home to the East Indies Station of the British Royal Navy during World War II. Since the withdrawal of the Royal Navy in 1957, it has been in the hands of the Sri Lanka Navy.

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## Dolphins and Whales Watching

Trincomalee's dolphin and whale watching offer an unforgettable experience. The deep waters of the Bay of Bengal provide an ideal habitat for a variety of marine life, including blue whales, sperm whales, and several species of dolphins. This activity gives visitors the chance to witness these majestic creatures in their natural environment, adding to the thrill of spotting them amidst the serene coastal setting. It's a popular activity for tourists and nature enthusiasts alike.

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## Pigeon Island

Located off the coast of Trincomalee, is a small but stunning marine national park. Named for its rock pigeon population, the island is renowned for its vibrant coral reefs, crystal-clear waters, and abundant marine life, including reef sharks and colorful fish. The island offers excellent opportunities for snorkeling and diving, attracting nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. Its pristine beaches and rich biodiversity make Pigeon Island a popular destination for both relaxation and exploration.

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## Koneswaram Temple

Koneswaram temple or Thirukonamalai Konesar Temple – The Temple of the Thousand Pillars and Dakshina-Then Kailasam is a classical-medieval Hindu temple complex in Trincomalee. Koneswaram is one of the five Eswarms build in the island for worship of Lord Shiva. Origin of the temple goes back to 205 BC. The highly temple was destroyed by the Portuguese around 1622A.D. and the material salvaged were used to build the fort which stands to date.

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## British War Cemetery

Barely 2 k.m. from Amaranthé Bay is the British military cemetery in Trincomalee, for soldiers of the British Empire, who were killed or died during World War II.

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## The Dutch Beach

The Dutch Fort as seen from the Trincomalee Dutch beach. The Fort was originally build by thePortuguese and improved later by the Dutch, from whom the British wrested it over in 1795 and held till independence ofthen Ceylon in 1948.

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## Golden Temple

The Lakshmi Narayana Perumal Kovil nestled between the tourist resorts of Upuveli and Nelaveli, app. 8 k.m. north of Trincomalee Town is dedicated to the supreme deity Vishnu and his consort Lakshmi and has been constructed by R Radhakrishnan and his family as recent as 2011. The Kovil is an exact replica of a South Indian temple and has been constructed by craftsmen brought down from India. The main shrine or inner chamber of the temple called the garbhagriha or 'womb-chamber' housed the image or idol of the deity. Outside beautifully painted and sculptured were paintings of gods and goddesses.



# TRINCOMALEE CITY TOUR



## Marble Beach

Marble Beach is situated in China Bay, Trincomalee on the Trincomalee - Kinniya road in the Trincomalee deep-water, natural harbor, which is the second largest natural harbor in the world, after the Sydney Harbor. The beach is famous for clear sand and water, ideal for snorkeling and swimming. The water shines like marble and is crystal clean - thus, it was named the 'Marble' Beach.



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## Kanniya Hot Springs

The famous hot wells are located app. 10 kilometers from Trincomalee. There are seven square shaped wells, 3–4 feet deep with clear water so that one could see the bottom. The temperature of water is

considerably high and varies from one well to another. According to tradition, the hot wells date back to the era of King Rawana. When he stuck the ground with his sword in several locations, it is said that hot water fountains emerged from those places.



# TRINCOMALEE CITY TOUR



## City Center Including Deer Watching

Trincomalee is home to the age-old Fort Fredrick; built by the Portuguese reconstructed by the Dutch, claimed by the British and currently occupied by the Sri Lankan military – Visitors could witness small herds of spotted deer forging without being disturbed by pedestrian and motor traffic!

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# Light House Beach (Sampur)

The first lighthouse in Trincomalee was erected in 1845 on Flagstaff Point but was later replaced by Foul Point and The Round Island lighthouses. In 1849, Joseph Higgs recommended Foul Point as a more suitable location for a lighthouse, citing its better visibility and the risk of ships running aground near Flagstaff Point. He suggested additional lights to guide ships safely into the harbor and noted that an iron lighthouse would be more cost-effective compared to stone or brick.





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# Seruwila Temple

Seruwawila Mangala Raja Maha Vihara is an ancient Buddhist temple in Trincomalee district in Eastern Province, which is among the sixteen or seventeen holiest Buddhist shrines (Solosmasthanas) in Sri Lanka. It was built during the reign of King Kavantissa (2nd century BC) containing the Lalata Dathun Wahanse (sacred forehead bone) of Lord Buddha. It can be reached by land and sea. The sea route begins at Trincomalee to Muttur on boat and another 16 km by roads and the land route is via Kantale, to Allai which is approximately 45 km through dense fores.

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# NEAR TRINCOMALEE

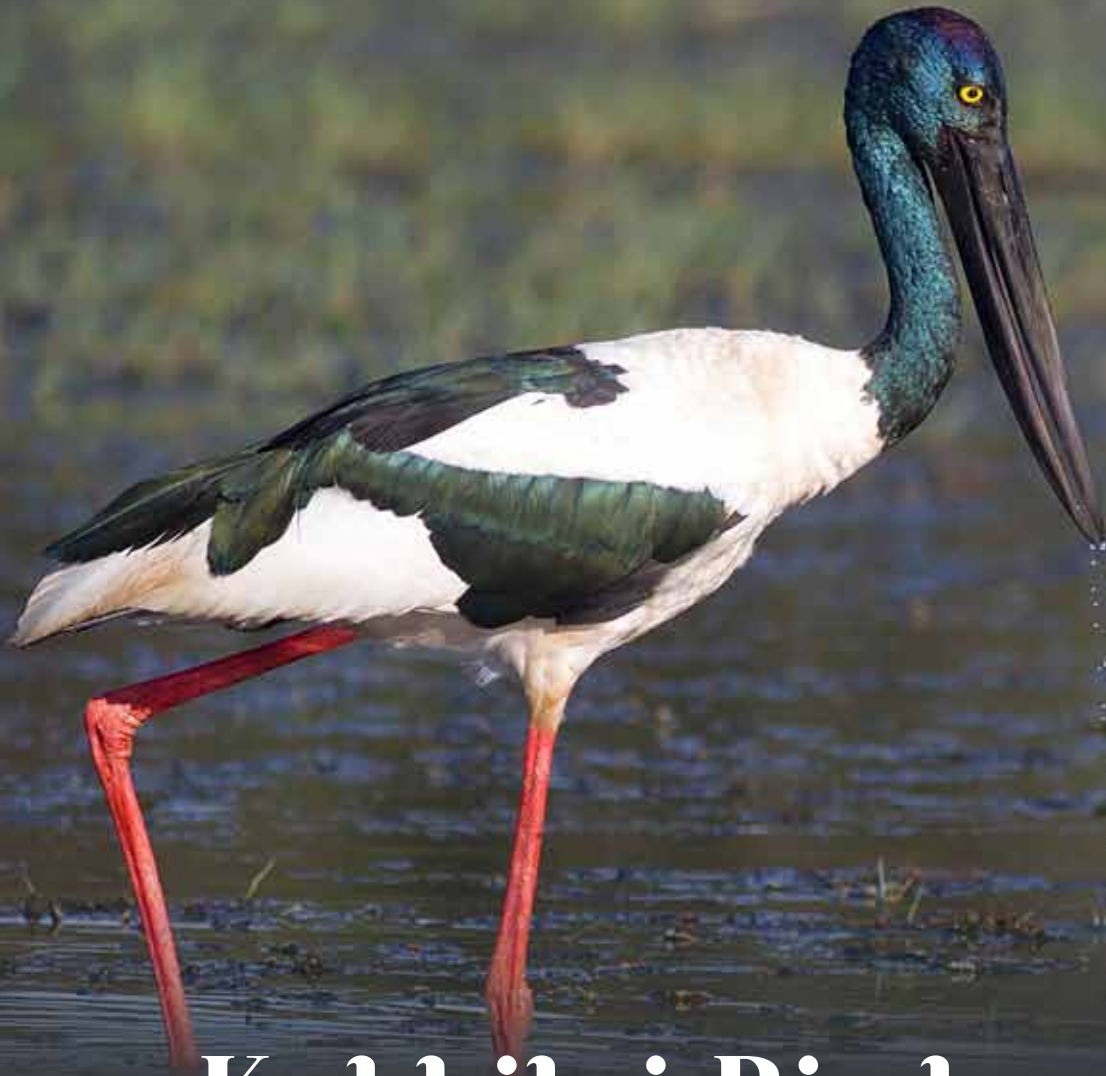


## ‘Madel’ Fishing in Kinniya

‘Madel’ fishing is said to be the oldest method of fishing in Sri Lanka. In this method of operation, a boat goes out to sea spreading the net in a systematic manner. The two ends of the net have a strong rope about forty feet long to enable two gangs of men to start dragging in the net. Whilst dragging the rope the last man coils the rope they have drawn so far and comes to the front of the line and the process of dragging the net goes on until the catch is brought ashore. Some fishermen encourage visitors to join the dragging of the net, which could be lot of fun as well as a laborious exercise.



OTHER ATTRACTIONS CLOSER TO  
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## Kokkilai Bird Watching

The tropical island of Sri Lanka holds many wonders in terms of natural beauty. Following a drawn-out civil war, the country is only now managing to truly discover the wonders that are contained in Sri Lanka's Northern section. Of recent times, various sections have been converted into National Parks and sanctuaries, and when it comes to the latter, one of the finest examples is the Kokkilai Bird Sanctuary.

## OTHER ATTRACTIONS CLOSER TO TRINCOMALEE

# Ritigala Forest Monastery (Habarana)

Ritigala is the partially excavated ruins of an extensive ancient Buddhist monastery, located on a hill standing out against the flat jungle. Found just off the Anuradhapura – Habarana road, an hour's drive from the Habarana junction, the ruins are reached by a jungle track. Unlike the better known world heritage sites of Sigiriya and Dambulla, Ritigala is invariably empty with just the gatekeeper and guide present. Its isolated location and emptiness in comparison with the other Cultural Triangle sites can be exceptionally rewarding for those seeking the less trodden but equally fascinating ancient sites of "Undiscovered Sri Lanka".

These are at least 70 caves at Ritigala. These were prepared for monks around the 1st century BC. Since an inscription in one of these caves mentions that King Lanjatissa, the brother of Duttagamani, gifted it, he probably founded the first monastery at Ritigala and interspersed with all signs of modern life in this bustling and thriving city



# OTHER ATTRACTIONS CLOSER TO TRINCOMALEE

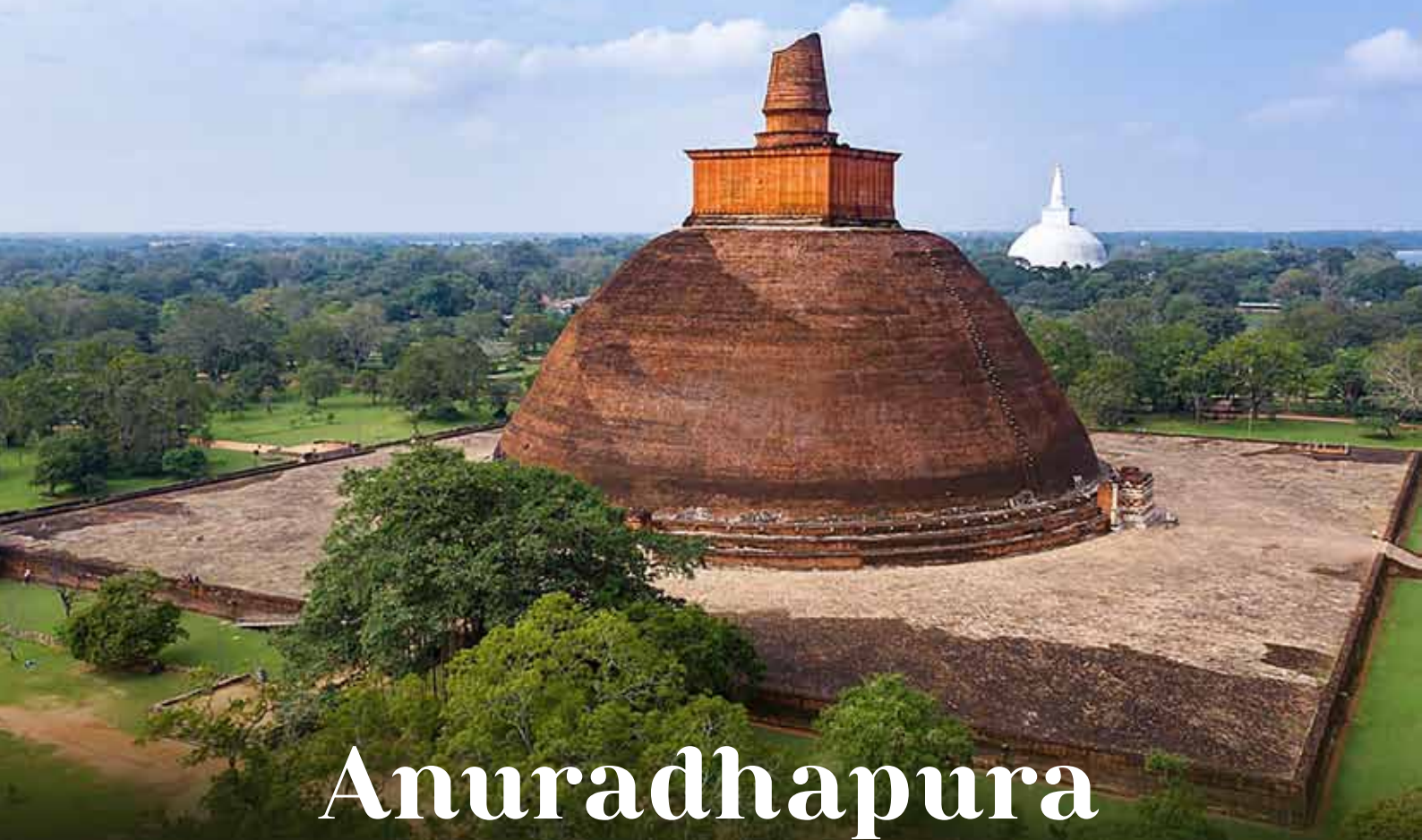


## Girihadu Seya at Thiriyaya

Around 528 BC two brother merchants called "Thapassu and Bhalluka" offered alms to Buddha in ancient India. After the offering, they requested for something to worship him and received a lock of hair from the Buddha. The two merchants plying their trade were shipwrecked in the eastern part of Sri Lanka, app. 50 k.m. north of Trincomalee at a location called Kallarawa. They stayed on a hillock at Thiriyaya until the ship was repaired and kept the locket containing the hair relic of Buddha in a rock crevice.

When they were about to leave, they found that the container could not be removed from the crevice. Thinking it was an omen; they built a small pagoda enshrining the hair relic and requested the local Chieftain to take care of the site. This place of worship is now called Girihadu Seya.

# OTHER ATTRACTIONS CLOSER TO TRINCOMALEE



## Anuradhapura

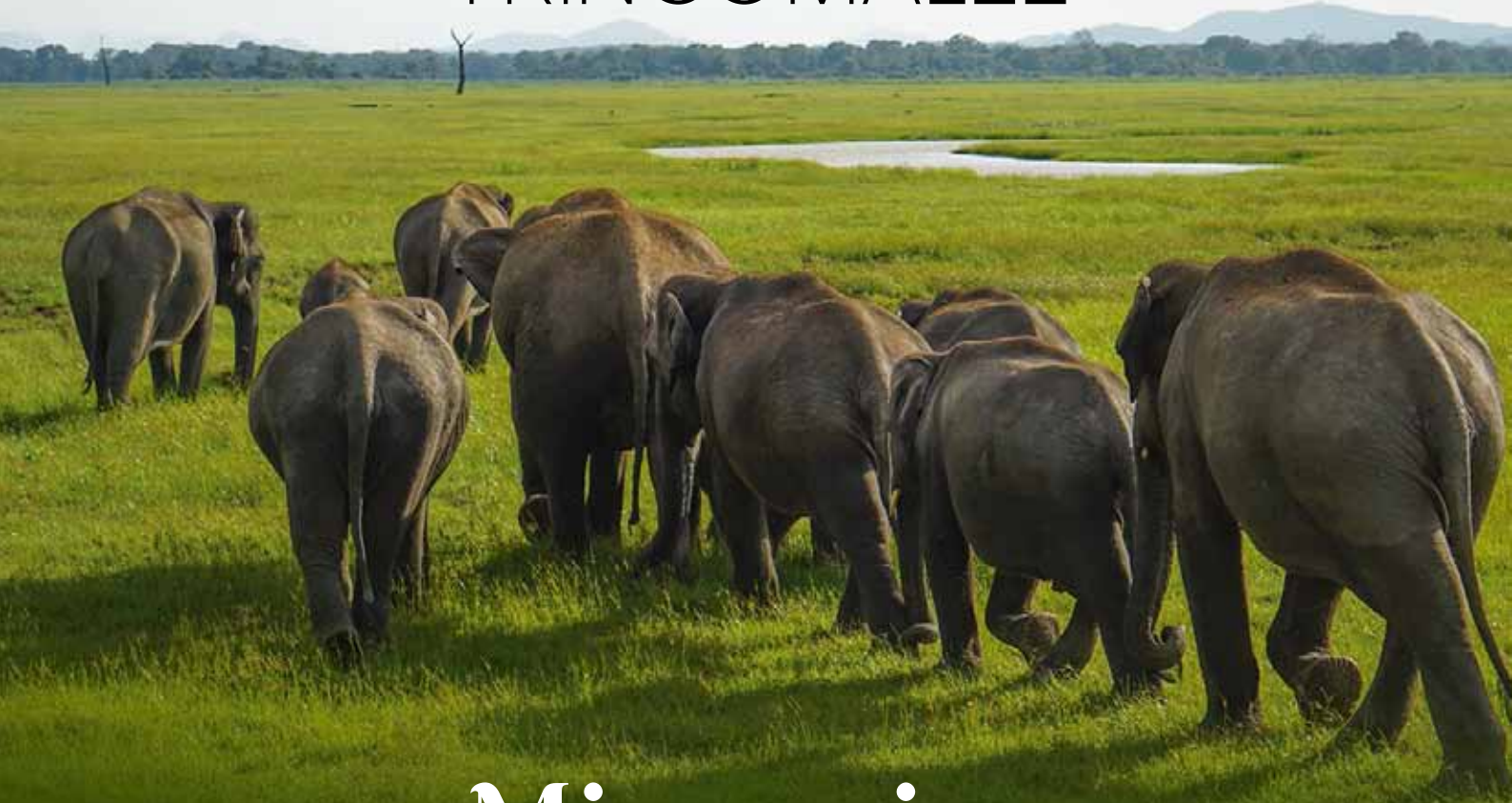
Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka's first capital, was established in the 4th century BC and served as the royal seat for 119 kings over 1,500 years. As one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities globally, it boasts numerous historic monuments and sacred sites, including a vast network of Buddhist temples and monasteries covering over 40 sq. km. Despite its ancient ruins, the city remains a vibrant hub of modern life, blending rich history with contemporary culture.

The historic city of Anuradhapura, is one of eight World Heritage Sites in Sri Lanka and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Its vast network of ancient Buddhist temples, monasteries and places of worship, which cover over 40 sq. k.m., has made it a sacred site to Buddhists around the world.

Located on the banks of a river, Anuradhapura is now a picturesque ruined city, filled with mystery and steeped in a rich Buddhist culture. The ancient city lies adjacent to the modern, and the ruined buildings, ancient temples, cobbled streets, and even crumbling fort walls are spread out and interspersed with all signs of modern life in this bustling and thriving city.



# OTHER ATTRACTIONS CLOSER TO TRINCOMALEE



## Minneriya National Park (Polonnaruwa)

Located between Habarana and Polonnaruwa, the 8890 hectares of MINNERIYANATIONAL PARK is an ideal eco-tourism location in Sri Lanka. The park consists of mixed evergreen forest and scrub jungle areas and is home to Sri Lanka's most popular animals, such as sambar deer, leopards and elephants.

The central feature of the park is the ancient Minneriya Tank (built in 3rd century A.D. by King Mahasena). During the dry season (June to September), a grand spectacle called 'the Gathering' takes place around the tank, where visitors could see groups of several hundred elephants, who come to bathe and graze on the grasses, as well as the huge flocks of birds (cormorants and painted storks to name a few) that come to fish in the shallow waters.

# OTHER ATTRACTIONS CLOSER TO TRINCOMALEE

## Sigiriya

Sigiriya (The Lion Rock), also known as the 'Palace and Fortress in the sky', was built by King Kassapa (477 – 495 AD). Sigiriya is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and located in the central district of Matale close to the town of Dambulla.

The Sigiriya complex is considered one of the best-preserved examples of ancient urban planning. The fortress is outlined with a web of gardens, tanks, water fountains and stone and brick structures. About halfway up the rock is a sheltered gallery of frescoes painted on the sheer rock face. The 'Heavenly Maidens' are similar in style to the paintings of Ajantha in India. Some of them are still in remarkably good condition. Only 22 out of an estimated 500 pictures now remain.



# OTHER ATTRACTIONS CLOSER TO TRINCOMALEE




## Wilpattu National Park

Wilpattu National Park is situated along the Northwest coast lowland dry zone of Sri Lanka. It comprises of a unique complex of lakes called Villus, which are natural basins that are filled up with rainwater and are surrounded by open grassy plains set within dense scrub jungle.

A multitude of sandy paths wind around the entire park and open up into these large natural lakes. The un-spoilt and beautiful Wilpattu National Park is one of the largest and oldest National Parks in Sri Lanka.

The biggest draws in Wilpattu are leopards and sloth bears. Alongside these, it is possible to see Asian elephants, spotted deer, barking deer, wild boar, Asiatic buffalo and mugger crocodiles. Endemic birds include the Ceylon jungle fowl, Brown-capped babbler, Ceylon woodshrike and Blackcapped bulbul in riverine habitats.

## OTHER ATTRACTIONS CLOSER TO TRINCOMALEE

A photograph showing a herd of elephants wading in the Mahaweli River. The elephants are partially submerged in the water, with their heads and backs visible. The water is a deep blue-grey color, and there are some rocks visible in the background.

# Elephant Watching at Mahaweli Bridge (If you are lucky)

Mahaweli is the longest river in the island, which begins its journey from the central hills. After its long journey, the river empties itself in to the Indian Ocean south of Trincomalee. Particularly during the dry months of the year, visitors could see families of wild elephants frolicking in the water to cool themselves.







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