



your ultimate travel and accommodation guide to Sri Lanka

Kalutara Sri Lanka Travel & Accommodation Guide

Kalutara on Sri Lanka's South-West Coast is not only known for its still uncrowded beaches and the convenient location but is also of historical and cultural importance.



In ancient days Kalutara was one of Sri Lanka's main export harbor for spices with Arab traders visiting regularly from across the Arabian Sea.



The ideal location close to the commercial capital Colombo and as gateway to the gem mining city of Ratnapura and the Sinharaja Rain Forest are making Kalutara the ideal destination for those travelers who are not only interested in the beautiful beaches.

Kalutara is still not as overdeveloped as some of the other main beach resort and offers the perfect blend between a relaxing holiday and the experience of a colorful market town.

[Kalutara Accommodation](#) >

[Kalutara Restaurants](#) >

[Kalutara Activities](#) >

[Kalutara Pictures](#) >

Due to it's past Kalutara is ethnically diverse with many temples and mosques of which the Gangatilaka Vihara Buddhist temple is attracting pilgrims from all over Sri Lanka.

To look for other **Sri Lanka hotels or guesthouses** [click here...](#)

For more travel and background information on Sri Lanka, read our [Sri Lanka guide](#) and the [travel tips](#), helping you to make the most out of your holiday in Sri Lanka.

Kalutara - Sri Lanka Activities

The ideal location close to the commercial capital Colombo and as gateway to the gem mining city of Ratnapura and the Sinharaja Rain Forest are making Kalutara the ideal destination for those travelers who are not only interested in the beautiful beaches.



Gangatilaka Vihara

The Gangatilaka Vihara, the world's only hollow Buddhist shrine. Outside, crowds make offerings of food, flowers and prayers. Tiptoe inside to gaze at the 74 brightly painted wall murals depicting Buddha's life story.



Water Sports

While Kalutara is great swimming, body-surfing or diving in the sea, the nearby Bentota offers all possibilities like jet-ski, windsurf, parasail or just enjoy a romantic river safari on the river and lagoon.

Excursions

Ratnapura is the center of Sri Lanka's gem mining industry. The mines are worked in the dry season and the gems found are the ruby and sapphire (plain and star varieties), cat's eyes, alexandrite, topaz, amethyst, aquamarine, tourmaline, garnet, zircon and a host of others.



Sinharaja Forest is the home of more than 60% of Sri Lanka's endemic plant species and is multi-layered, which is a characteristic of a rainforest.