



your ultimate travel and accommodation guide to Sri Lanka

Matara - Sri Lanka Travel & Accommodation Guide

Matara is situated in the very South of Sri Lanka, about 160 km from [Colombo](#). The sea frontage to Matara city gives a glamorous look with a beach which extends to about half a kilometer in distance. When compared to other beaches this beach is full of various kinds of trees as shades.



Polhena, Matara's beach area is 2 km away from the city center. There anybody can swim safely for it is naturally fenced with coral. The river Nilwala which runs through the city falls into the sea at Totamuna, which is also a part of the city. The Crow Island is a small island facing the beach and it is a spectacular sight with its greenery filled with trees.



Matara, as commercial center of Sri Lanka's South, consists of high buildings with a lot of business activities where many reputed companies from [Colombo](#) having their branches in the city. The bus terminal facing the sea beach provides a lot of facilities for the passengers who come in and out of the city with state as well as private transport.

The popular mode of transport in the city is by "Three Wheeler". Hotels of all standards are available within the city. Cyber cafes with e-mail and internet facilities are plenty. The city is full of shopping outlets for any necessary requirements.

- [Matara Accommodation](#) >
- [Matara Restaurants](#) >
- [Matara Activities](#) >
- [Matara Pictures](#) >

Traveling from [Colombo](#) to Matara can be made either by train or air conditioned buses. While there are only a limited number of trains, buses are available every half and hour. Both the journeys take about four hours. Matara is the last railway station where the railway lines end in the South.

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.

Matara - Sri Lanka

Activities

The coast to the South of **Unawatuna**, especially between **Weligama**, **Mirissa** and **Tissahamarana**, is still untouched by mass tourism and offers beside laid back villages and secluded beaches some of the best surf spots on the island. In this area the famous (original) stilt fishing men still can be found.



Polhena Reef

Polhena is a sea bathing spot situated in the city limits of Matara. The reef, which encircles this spot, provides protection, because the water level within this area is shallow. There is a natural reef with lots of corals. Right in front of this spot there are Hotels, which cater to the local as well as the foreign tourist providing facilities for beach vacation. The sea is inviting, and the beaches extensive, wide and unpolluted. Plenty of scope for fishing, diving, and sea and sun sport.



Dondra Point

The Dondra Point is situated in the southern most point of Sri Lanka facing the Indian Ocean which is the main sea route between west and east. And the Northern most point is Point Pedro situated in Northern Province. The Dondra Point is important for its sea route

River Nilwala

River Nilwala is the third longest river in Sri Lanka. It starts from the hill country in Deniyaya and Rakwana. It runs through Deniyaya town, Morawaka, Akuressa and reaches the city of Matara where it joins the Indian Ocean at Thotamuna.



Devinwara (city of gods)

Devinwara, the city of gods in Sinhala language is important for many reasons. First for its historical importance, and second for its religious importance, and third for its geographical importance. While some of the ruins in this area gives evidence to prove its historical importance, Devalaya or the Temple stands as a monument to prove its religious importance, and the Light House which stands about a quarter kilometer by the sea coast shows its geographical importance.