



your ultimate travel and accommodation guide to Sri Lanka

Trincomalee - Sri Lanka Travel & Accommodation Guide

Due to problems in the East Coast it is difficult to visit Trincomalee. The traveling comprises of going through repeated military checkpoints, and foreigners may well be forbidden authorization to travel at the caprice of the Sri Lankan defense forces. **Travelers should take advice from the embassy before planning a visit to this part of the country.**



Trincomalee is a natural deep-water harbor, which is rated as one of the finest of its kind in the world and attracted great sea farers like Marco Polo, Ptolemy and Sea Traders China and East Asia from the ancient times.



The long and wide beaches here offer surfing, scuba diving and fishing and whale watching. This sea town is home to the Thirukonesvaram Kovil, which is one of the oldest Hindu temples in Sri Lanka.

There are many things to do and see in town and the views across the three main bays are very pretty.

In the close vicinity of Trincomalee are some of the finest beaches of Sri Lanka - Uppuveli and Nilaveli with a variety of hotels, guesthouses and cabanas.

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Trincomalee - Sri Lanka Activities

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The Thirukonesvaram Temple attracted pilgrims from all parts of India. This celebrated shrine was demolished in 1622 by the Portuguese (who called it the Temple of a Thousand Columns), who fortified the heights with the materials derived from its destruction. It was next held by the Dutch, and subsequently by them and the French alternately, till the capture of Sri Lanka by the British in 1795.



The Hoods Tower Museum at the Trincomalee Navy Base is one of Sri Lanka's most fascinating naval museums. You require permission from the Navy to enter the base. The name of the museum refers to a watchtower built on a hill, which commands a 360-degree view of the harbor and the bay. Three massive canons with a five-kilometer range, installed during the British period, keep a silent vigil over the harbor. Used for defense, the canons now form the centerpiece of an impressive array of antiquated military hardware.

The Hot Springs are about two kilometers outside Trincomalee center and well worth a visit. A high wall assembles all the seven springs in a rectangular enclosure. Each is enclosed in a dwarf wall and forms a well of its own. The water is mildly hot; the temperature varies but slightly in each. In effect, a public bathing resort, the use of the springs is controlled by the neighboring Mari Amman Kovil.



Diving in Trincomalee is always associated with whales. This large diving resort on the east coast has become famous in Sri Lanka for the blue, sperm and Bryde's whales and dolphins that are regularly spotted close to shore here. Trincomalee also has some of the best all-round diving in the country. Trinco's coastline is made up of dozens of bays, inlets, reefs, rocky peninsulas, cliffs and islands, and the result is a great variety of undersea terrain and aquatic life. Apart from marine mammals, on some of the walls here divers can encounter schools of barracuda, giant trevally and the occasional shark.