

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's bustling capital delivers spice-scented bazaars, gilded Buddhist temples, and a breezy seafront promenade — all within a tuk-tuk ride of the cruise terminal, with colonial Galle Fort and the sacred Temple of the Tooth a day-trip away.

Docked (Colombo Cruise Terminal)

Typical call: 8–10 hrs

Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)

Sinhala · Tamil · English

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Colombo Cruise Terminal (city port)
Best For: Temples · Markets · Colonial history

Walk to center: Shuttle/transfer to gate, then ~10 min by tuk-tuk
Don't Miss: Gangaramaya Temple & Pettah Market

Getting around: Taxi \$5–\$10 USD · Rideshare Uber, PickMe

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Gangaramaya Temple & Seema Malaka** — Colombo's most atmospheric temple complex — an eclectic mix of Sri Lankan, Thai, Indian, and Chinese architecture stuffed with Buddha statues...
- Pettah Bazaar & Red Mosque** — Colombo's oldest market district is a sensory overload of spice stalls, fabric sellers, and street food.
- Galle Fort day trip** — A UNESCO-listed Dutch colonial fort town on the southwest coast — cobblestone streets, whitewashed ramparts over the Indian Ocean, boutique cafés...
- Kandy & Temple of the Tooth** — Sri Lanka's cultural capital, set in the highland interior and home to the sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha.
- Galle Face Green & Old Dutch Hospital** — Stroll the long seafront esplanade of Galle Face Green for Indian Ocean breezes and street snacks (try *isso wade* — prawn fritters).

BEST WALKS

- Beira Lake & Galle Face seafront** ~3 km · 1.5 hrs · easy — From Gangaramaya Temple walk past Beira Lake to the Seema Malaka floating pavilion, then south along Galle Face Green for ocean breezes and street snacks, finishing at...
- Pettah Market & Red Mosque** ~1.5 km · 1 hr · easy — Wander the lanes of Pettah — Sri Lanka's busiest bazaar — past spice sellers, gem shops, and the vivid red-and-white striped Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		88°	77°	25d
Jun		84°	78°	29d
Aug		83°	77°	28d
Sep		83°	76°	28d
Oct		83°	76°	29d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:02AM–6:18PM · Jun 5:55AM–6:26PM · Aug 6:04AM–6:25PM · Sep 6:01AM–6:10PM · Oct 5:57AM–5:55PM

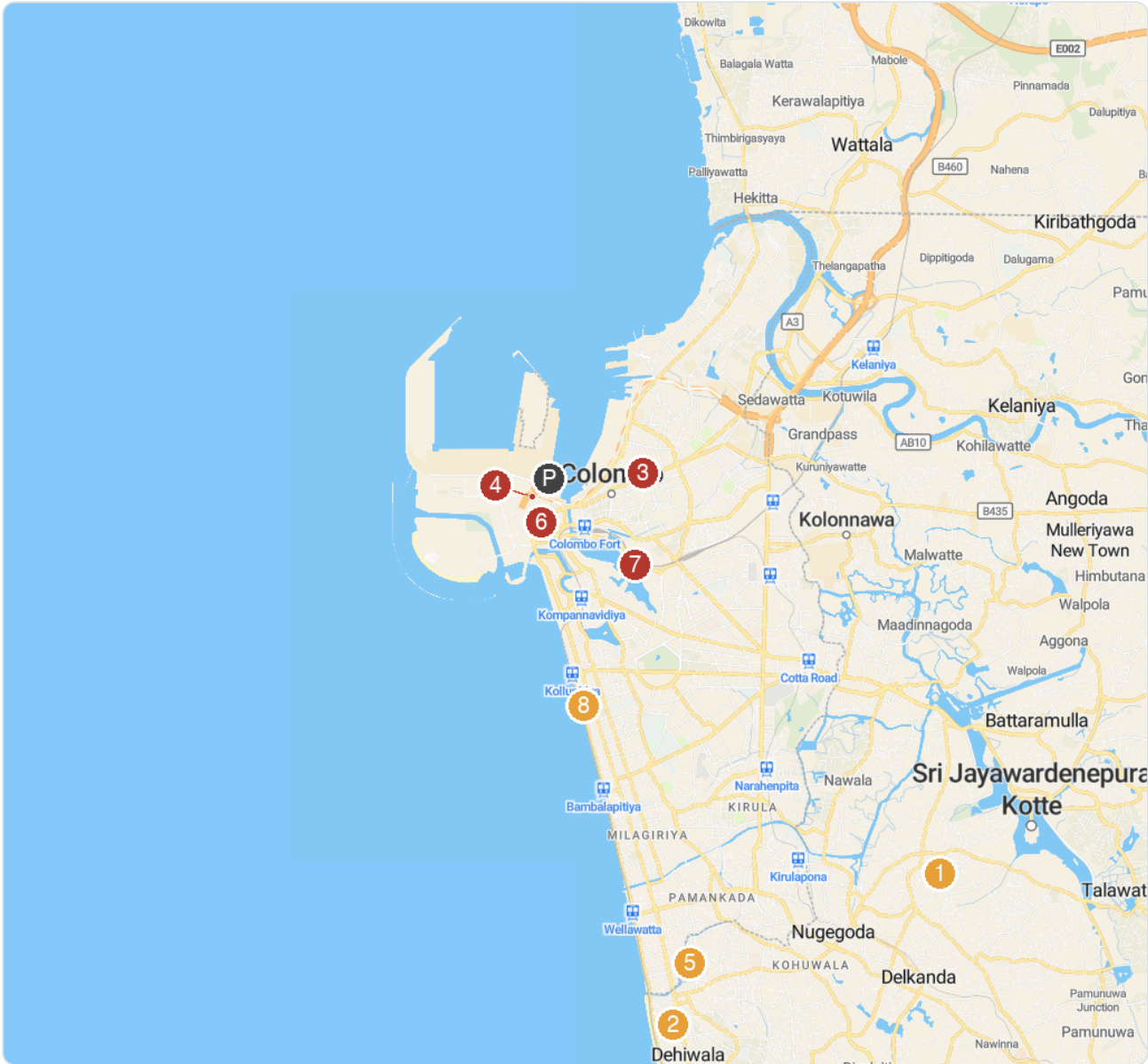
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Tuk-tuks are your best friend. Three-wheelers are cheap, fun, and ubiquitous. Use the PickMe app for metered fares or negotiate upfront — short hops around the city should cost under 500 LKR.
- Carry some rupees. Markets, temples, and street food vendors are cash-only. ATMs are available in Fort and Pettah; exchange desks operate inside the cruise terminal.
- Dress for temples. Shoulders and knees must be covered at Gangaramaya and other religious sites. Carry a light scarf or sarong — vendors sell them at the temple entrance.
- It's hot and humid. Colombo sits near the equator; expect 30 °C+ most of the year. Start early, stay hydrated, and duck into air-conditioned cafés and the Old Dutch Hospital during midday.
- Eat a rice-and-curry lunch. Sri Lankan rice and curry — a spread of dhal, coconut sambol, and vegetable curries — is cheap and delicious at local restaurants in Pettah or around Viharamahadevi Park.
- Kandy needs a very early start. The Temple of the Tooth is 3 hours from Colombo by road. If it's on your list, book a ship excursion or arrange a pre-dawn private car — don't attempt it independently on a standard port call.

Colombo, Sri Lanka — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Kotte Rajamaha Vihara | Ancient Buddhist temple with a sacred Bo tree and relics. | 2 | JourneyScapes Travel | A local travel agency for tours and excursions. |
| 3 | Christian Reformed Church of Sri Lanka | Historic Christian church with Dutch colonial architecture. | 4 | Sambodhi Pagoda Temple | Iconic white Buddhist pagoda offering panoramic city views. |
| 5 | Sri Aanjaneyar Temple | Vibrant Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Hanuman. | 6 | The Central Point - Economic History Museum | Museum showcasing Sri Lanka's economic history and currency. |
| 7 | Sri Lanka Philatelic Bureau | Official bureau for Sri Lankan stamps and philatelic items. | 8 | Casino Marina Colombo | Modern casino offering gaming, entertainment, and dining. |
| P | Cruise port / terminal | | | | |