

Hambantota, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's deep-water southern gateway — not much at the dock, but everything inland: leopards in Yala, elephant herds in Udawalawe, flamingos in Bundala, and ancient stupas rising from the jungle.

Docked (Magampura / Hambantota International Port) Typical call: 8–10 hrs Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR) Sinhala / Tamil

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Hambantota International Port (deep-water)

Walk to center: Transfer needed — industrial port

Best For: Safari · Wildlife · Ancient sites

Don't Miss: Yala National Park (leopards)

Getting around: Taxi LKR 800–1,500 (~\$2–5 USD) · Rideshare PickMe

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Yala National Park Safari** — Sri Lanka's most famous park and one of the world's highest densities of leopards.
- **Udawalawe National Park** — The best place in Sri Lanka to see large herds of wild elephants — hundreds live in the park year-round.
- **Bundala National Park & Flamingos** — A Ramsar wetland reserve on the coast east of Hambantota, famous for migratory flamingos, painted storks, and other water birds.
- **Tissamaharama & Ancient Tanks** — The ancient royal capital of southern Sri Lanka, with a great white dagoba (stupa), sacred elephant rides, and the vast Tissa Wewa reservoir.
- **Kataragama Sacred Town** — One of Sri Lanka's holiest pilgrimage sites, revered by Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims alike.

BEST WALKS

- **Hambantota Town & Blowhole** ~2 km · 1 hr · easy (transfer to town required) — If you have time between safaris, Hambantota town is a quiet fishing community.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 5:58AM–6:13PM · Jun 5:51AM–6:20PM · Aug 6:00AM–6:19PM · Sep 5:56AM–6:05PM · Oct 5:51AM–5:50PM	
Apr	89°	78°	20d		
Jun	89°	79°	11d		
Aug	89°	78°	12d		
Sep	87°	77°	18d		
Oct	87°	77°	21d		

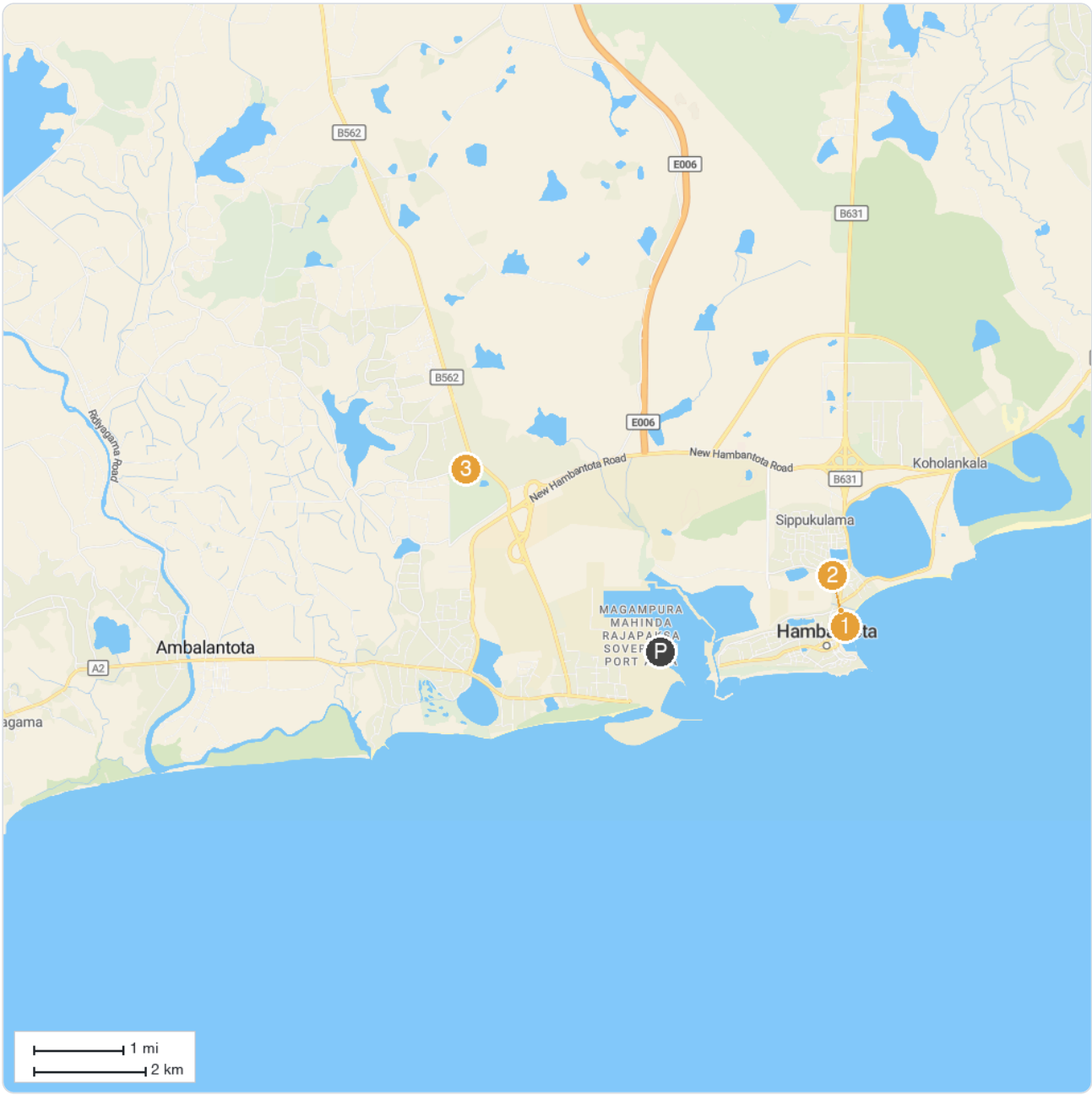
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book Yala early. Yala's leopard-rich Block 1 has daily vehicle quotas — book your safari jeep well in advance, especially for peak season (Dec–Apr). Ships' excursions often sell out.
- Morning is everything. Game drives at Yala and Udawalawe start at dawn — the best wildlife activity is in the first 2 hours after sunrise. A 6 AM start means far better sightings than an 8 AM one.
- Bring LKR cash. Park entrance fees, jeep hires, and roadside food stalls run on Sri Lankan Rupees. USD is sometimes accepted but at poor rates. No ATMs at the port — change money on the ship or at the port gate if a bureau is operating.
- It's hot. The south coast hits 30–35°C year-round with high humidity. Light, breathable clothing, a hat, sunscreen, and plenty of water are non-negotiable — especially for open-top safari jeeps.
- Private drivers are flexible. A local driver-guide for the day (negotiated at the port gate or pre-booked) gives you flexibility to combine Bundala, Tissamaharama, and a blowhole stop in one efficient loop — often better value than a fixed group tour.
- Pack insect repellent. The national parks are in low jungle and wetland areas — mosquitoes are active, especially at dusk. DEET-based repellent is strongly recommended.

Hambantota, Sri Lanka — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

Hambantota Beach
Relax on this scenic sandy beach by the Indian Ocean.
- 2

New Jummah Masjid
නව ජුමා මසජිඩ්
Visit this beautiful, modern mosque, a significant place of worship.
- 3

Dry Zone Botanic Gardens, Hambantota
Explore diverse dry zone plants and unique Sri Lankan flora here.
- P

Cruise port / terminal