

Kirinda, Southern Province, Sri Lanka

A sleepy fishing hamlet on Sri Lanka's southeastern coast, Kirinda is best known as the gateway to Yala National Park — home to one of the world's highest concentrations of leopards — and to an ancient rock temple wrapped in royal legend.

- Tender (expedition ships) or transfer from Hambantota
- Typical call: 7–9 hrs
- Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR); USD accepted by tour operators
- Sinhala; limited English in village
- Wildlife & Safari

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Large ships dock at Hambantota Port (~68 km / ~1.2 hr by road); expedition ships may tender to Kirinda Fishery Harbour

Best For: Yala National Park leopard safari, ancient Buddhist temple, Arthur C. Clarke reef history

Walk to center: Tender arrivals: ~800 m (10–15 min) to temple & village; Hambantota arrivals need transport

Don't Miss: Kirinda Vihara Maha Devi Temple perched on ocean-facing boulders, and a half-day Yala jeep safari

Getting around: **Taxi** LKR 3,000–5,000 to Tissamaharama; LKR 5,000–8,000 to Yala gate

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Yala National Park Jeep Safari** — Sri Lanka's most famous wildlife reserve hosts the world's highest density of wild leopards alongside Asian elephants, sloth bears, mugger...
- Kirinda Vihara Maha Devi Temple** — Perched on massive ocean-facing boulders, this 2,200-year-old Buddhist temple commemorates the legendary Queen Viharamahadevi, who landed here after...
- Bundala National Park Birding** — An internationally recognised Ramsar wetland 40 minutes from Kirinda, Bundala is a birdwatcher's paradise with flamingos, painted storks, pelicans...
- Tissamaharama & Ancient Stupa** — The ancient royal city of Tissamaharama, 20 minutes from Kirinda, is home to a massive 2nd-century BC Buddhist stupa surrounded by lotus-filled tanks.
- Great Basses Reef Snorkel or Dive** — Ten kilometres offshore, the Great and Little Basses Reefs hide British colonial-era lighthouses and shipwrecks — including the legendary Mughal...

BEST WALKS

- Harbour to Kirinda Temple Walk** 0.8 km · 15 min · Easy (flat path to rocky climb) — From the fishery harbour, follow the coastal path south past fishing boats and boulder-strewn beach to the base of the temple rock.
- Village & Beach Stroll** 1.5 km · 25 min · Easy — Wander through the fishing village to watch colourful outrigger boats being repaired, then walk along Nidangala Beach for dramatic boulder scenery and Indian Ocean views.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 5:59AM–6:15PM · Jun 5:52AM–6:24PM · Aug 6:01AM–6:22PM · Sep 5:58AM–6:07PM · Oct 5:54AM–5:52PM	
Apr	85°	70°	23d	Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR); USD accepted by tour operators	
Jun	80°	71°	24d		
Aug	79°	70°	24d		
Sep	80°	70°	25d		
Oct	80°	69°	27d		

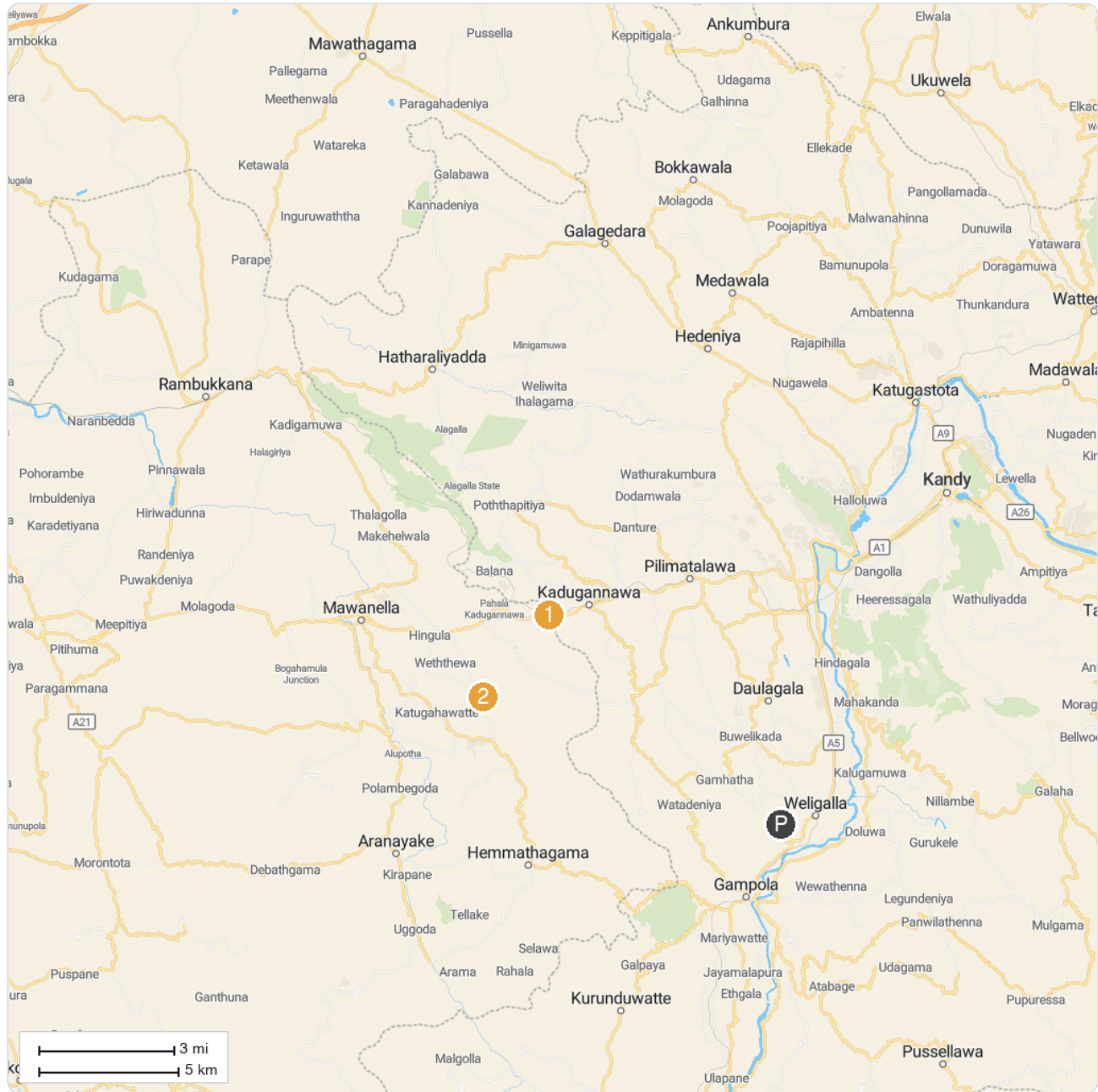
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book Yala early. Jeep quotas fill up fast — especially on cruise call days. Reserve your safari in advance through your ship or a vetted operator.
- Cover up for the temple. Shoulders and knees must be covered at Kirinda Vihara. The rocks get scorching hot — bring thick socks, as shoes come off at the entrance.
- Bring Sri Lankan Rupees. No ATMs in Kirinda village — the nearest are in Tissamaharama (20 min). USD and EUR are accepted by tour operators but not small local vendors or tuk-tuks.
- Kirinda is hot and sunny. This is Sri Lanka's dry zone. High-SPF sunscreen, a wide-brim hat, and at least 1.5 litres of water per person are non-negotiable.
- Try a thambili (king coconut). Orange coconuts sold by roadside vendors are sweet, cold, and the best natural rehydration option. About 50–80 LKR each.
- Kirinda Beach is not for swimming. Strong rip currents and underwater rocks make even wading dangerous. Enjoy it for the scenery and photography only.

Kirinda, Southern Province, 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** **Lion's Mouth Rock** Unique rock formation resembling a lion's mouth near Kadugannawa.
- 2** **Aluthnuwara Rajamaha Viharaya , Aluthnuwara** Ancient Buddhist temple with significant historical and religious importance.
- P** **Cruise port / terminal**