

COLOMBO CITY GUIDE

Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka is a vibrant, compact and interesting city, rich in culture, history and heritage.

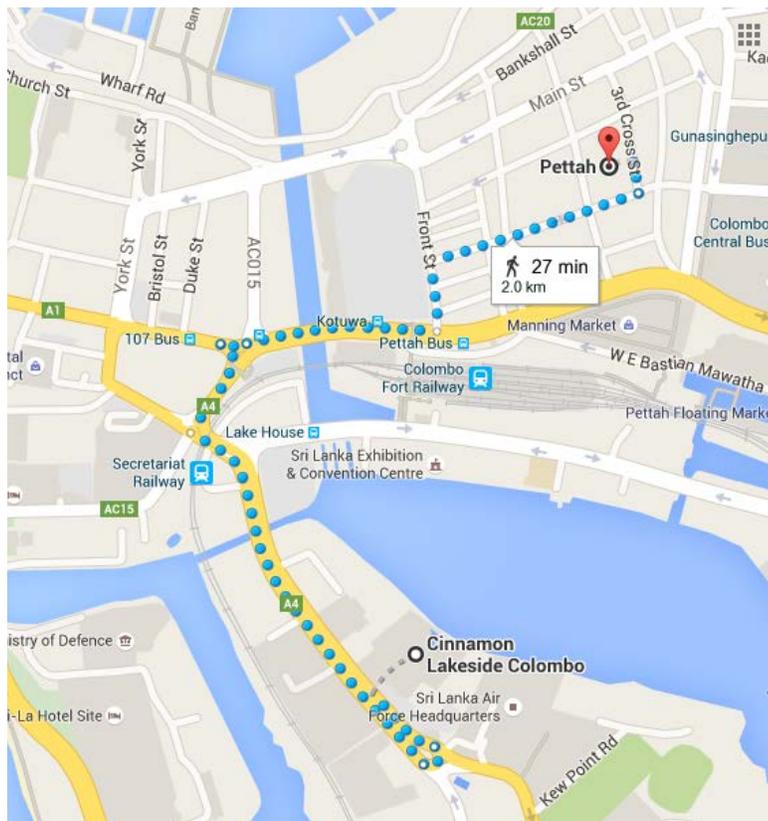
It has a long history as a port on ancient east-west trade routes, ruled successively by the Portuguese, Dutch and British. That heritage is reflected in its spicy cuisine as well as its architecture, mixing colonial buildings with high-rises and shopping malls. The city traffic, however, is a little unruly sometimes, and the best way to get around the chaos, is by taking a tuk tuk.

The three-wheeled taxis, fondly known by locals as 'tuk-tuk' for the sound of their sputtering little engines, are notoriously fast, easy to park, and can manoeuvre through the tiny streets of this compact city with ease, making it a great way to experience Colombo's disorderly charm. There is so much to see and do!

ATTRACTIONS AROUND CINNAMON LAKESIDE HOTEL, COLOMBO

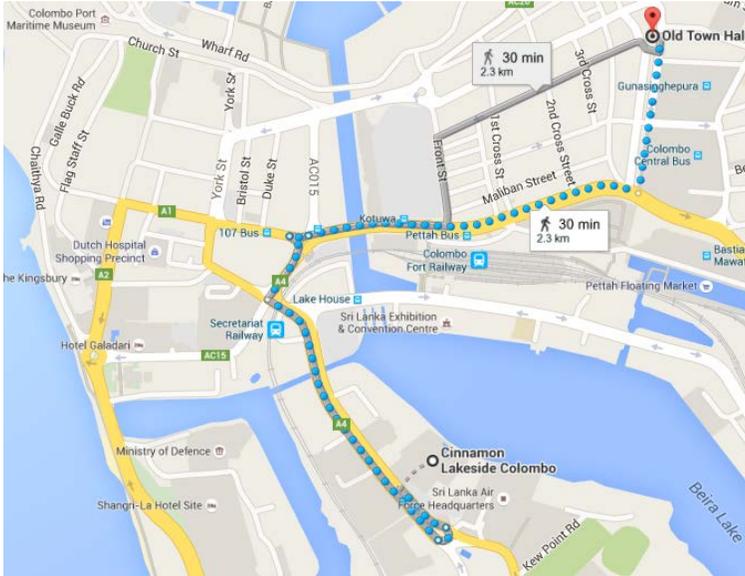
PETTAH BAZZAR

Pettah Bazaar is a treasure cove with everything you could imagine from clothes, shoes, electronics, and stationery to glassware; it is a one-stop-shop where everything goes cheap by the bulk price. A trip to Colombo will be incomplete without the Pettah experience but walking down the jam-packed streets in the sweltering heat can take the fun out of this delightful place.



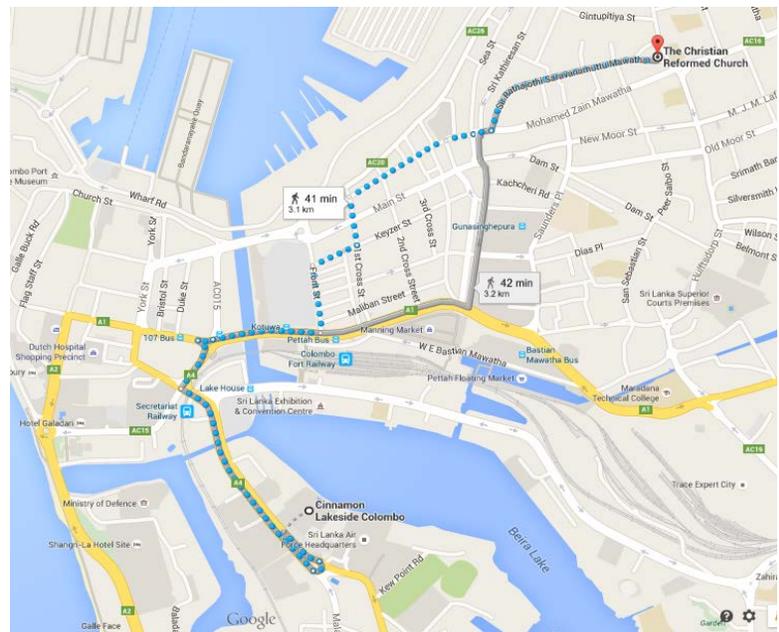
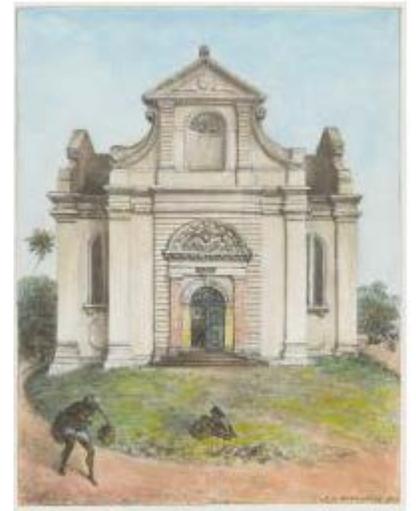
THE OLD TOWN HALL MUSEUM:

The Old Town Hall Museum which sits at the end of the Main street in Pettah is home to some rather quirky pieces of heavy machinery and better still, creepily disintegrating wax figures of the old town council members. The museum itself isn't a large one – it displays a model of the new town hall which is a replica of the White House in Washington DC (for some odd reason.



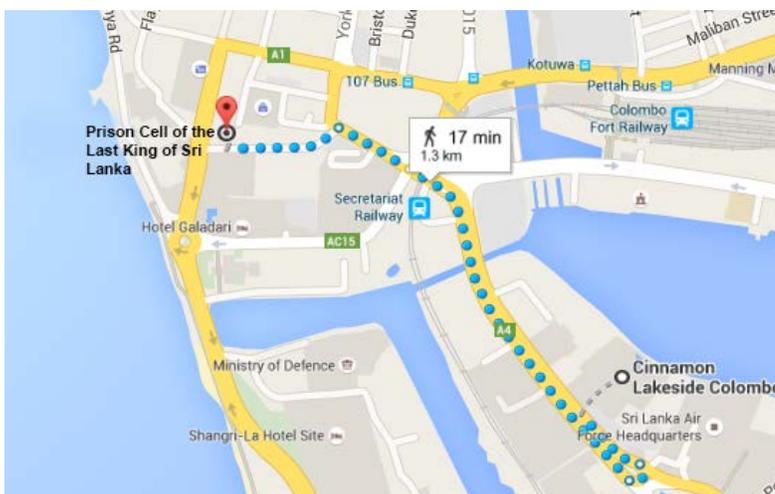
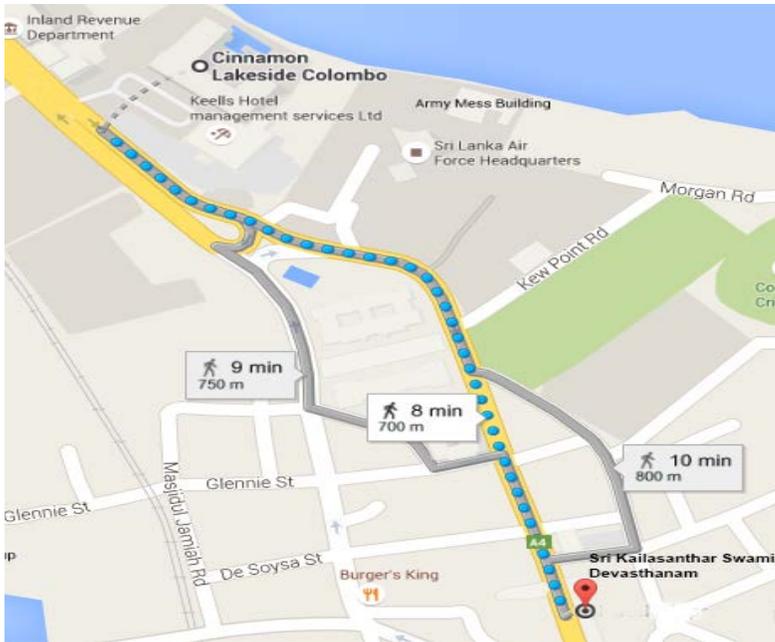
WOLVENDAAL CHURCH

Wolvendaal Church—the oldest Protestant church in Sri Lanka - is also considered to be among the most important Dutch constructions in Sri Lanka. The church was beyond city limits when originally built and the Dutch, who mistook jackals in the area for wolves, called the street, 'Wolf's dale'. Hence the term Wolvendaal in Dutch. The Church, which lies in the form of a Greek cross, has walls that are 1.5m thick, and still retains all its authentic furnishings, from ebony chairs, a wooden pulpit, a stunning lectern, to a pipe organ in all its gothic glory.



SRI KAILASANTHAR SWAMI DEVASTHANAM

The Sri Kailasanathar Swami Devasthanam is a Hindu temple commonly referred to as 'Swami Kovil'. This Kovil, although just off the main streets, feels like it could be miles away from the city owing to its blatantly archaic appearance. It is beautiful and majestic, and is considered to be Colombo's oldest Hindu Temple. The main building is filled with vibrant images of the gods and goddesses and a constant stream of devotees pleading for health, riches and sometimes even revenge, provide some of the most interesting people-watching in town.



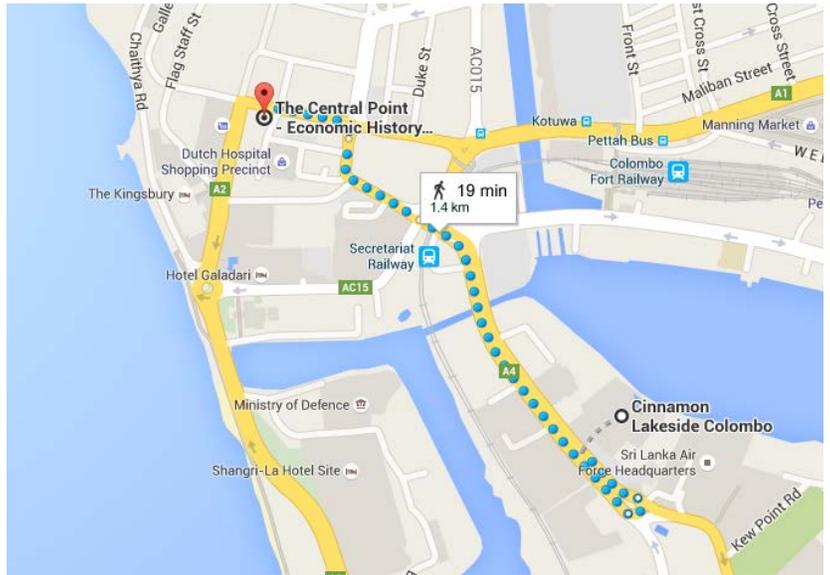
THE PRISON CELL OF THE LAST KING OF SRI LANKA

The prison of the last king— King Sri Vikrama Rajasingha, the last king of Sri Lanka - was last held captive by the British in this 10x10 cell, before being sent to India where he lived as a prisoner of war until he took the island's major lineage to the grave. The portraits of the King and his Queen, hanging on the walls of this royal prison, are sad marks of the beginning of Sri Lanka's mostly grim imperial rule that followed.



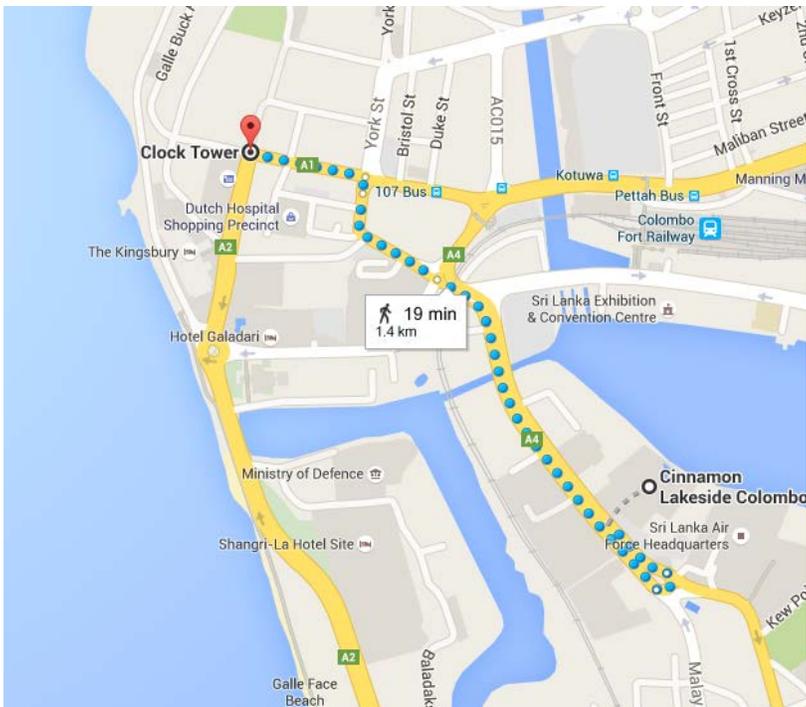
THE CENTRE POINT

Central Bank Currency Museum 'The Centre Point', located on Chatham Street, traces the history of coins and notes in Sri Lanka from 3 BC to date and displays a large number of ancient currency. It is a great short stop for a quick obscure delight.



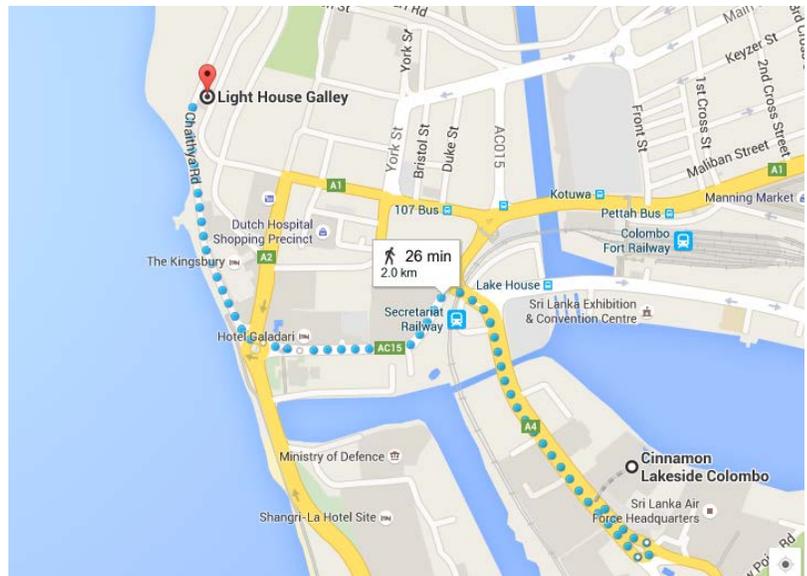
THE COLOMBO FORT CLOCK TOWER LIGHT HOUSE

The Colombo Fort Clock Tower, built in 1857, functioned as a light house back in the day when the two kilometers between itself and the ocean was a field of clean view. Currently, it has its good days when it actually tells Colombo what time it is, while at other times it remains pitifully stationary.



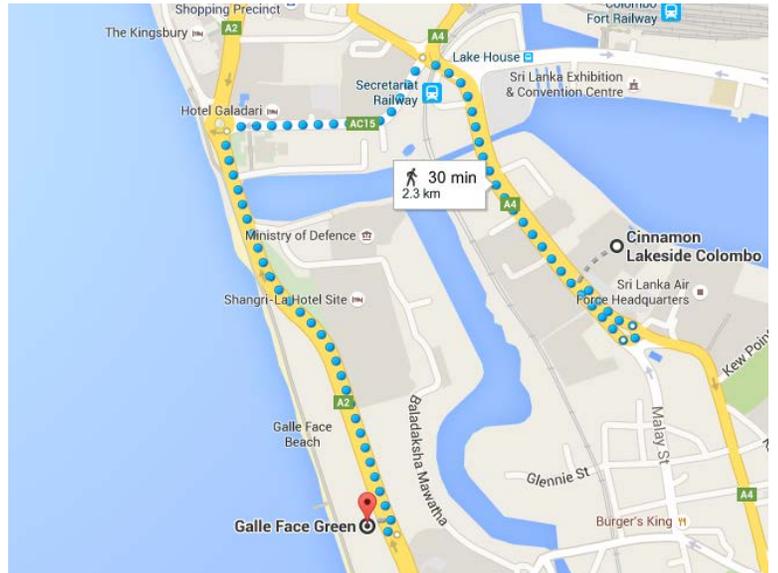
THE GALLE BUCK LIGHTHOUSE

The Galle Buck Lighthouse, just beyond Galle Face Green, is 29 meters tall and flanked by 4 lions at its four corners. It was first opened in 1952 and is one of Colombo's most picturesque locations guaranteeing spectacular sunset backgrounds for many selfies.



GALLFACE GREEN

The Galle Face is a promenade which stretches for half kilometer along the coast in the heart of financial and business district of Colombo, Sri Lanka. The promenade was initially laid out in 1859 by the British Governor of Ceylon, Sir Henry Ward, and was also used for horse racing and as a golf course, although the original Galle Face Green extended over a much larger area than is seen today. It was known as the Colpitty Race Course.



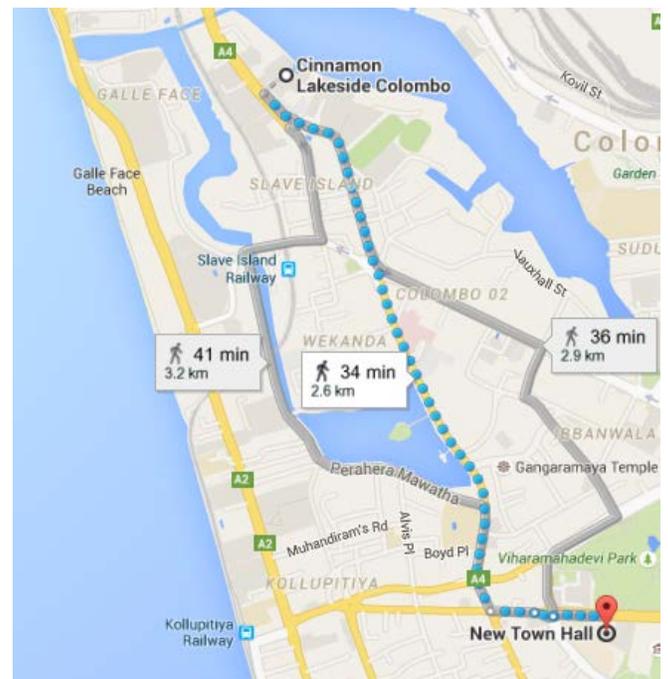
OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

The Old Parliament Building is the building that houses the Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka. Situated in the Colombo fort facing the sea, it is in close proximity to the President's House, Colombo. The building houses the island's legislature for 53 years until the New Parliament Complex was opened at Sri Jayewardenepura in 1983. It is next to the General Treasury Building.



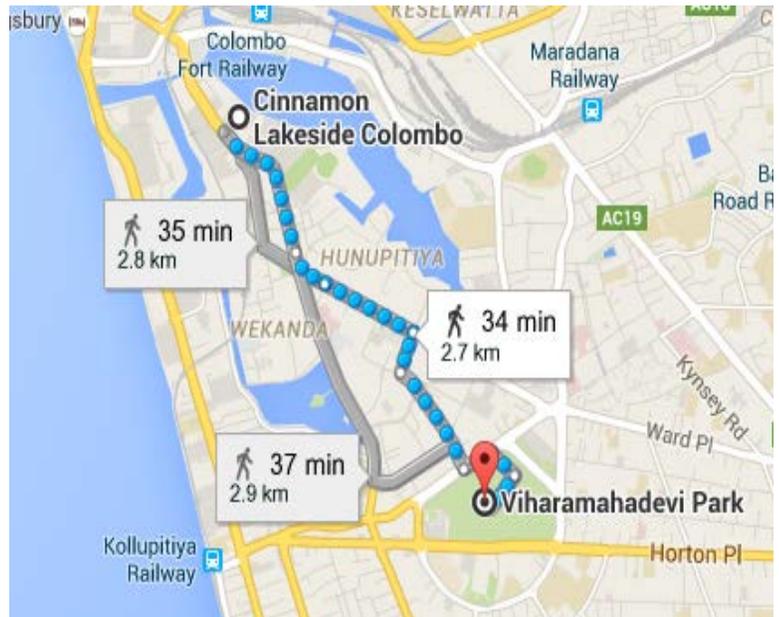
NEW TOWN HALL BUILDING

The Town Hall of Colombo is the headquarters of the Colombo Municipal Council and the office of the Mayor of Colombo. Built in front of the Viharamahadevi Park, it is the meeting place for the elected municipal council.



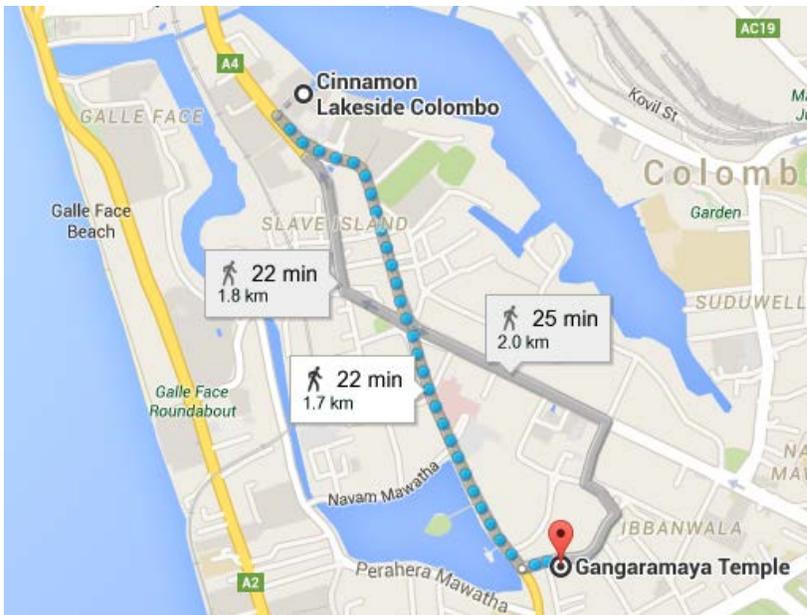
VIHARAMAHADEVI PARK

Viharamahadevi Park is Colombo's only major public park. As such it's a rather important place, providing the sole significant green space and lung for the city's 1 million + inhabitants. Like any major park it features trees, lawns, ponds and paths so those confined to a city's concrete sprawl can have a taste of the great outdoors. In addition to all the standard features of a city park it also has a host of extra amenities; a giant golden Buddha statue, a neglected aquarium, a kids playground, a toy train, a suspension bridge, an ancient fighter jet, Colombo's only amusement park, horses and, on a good day,



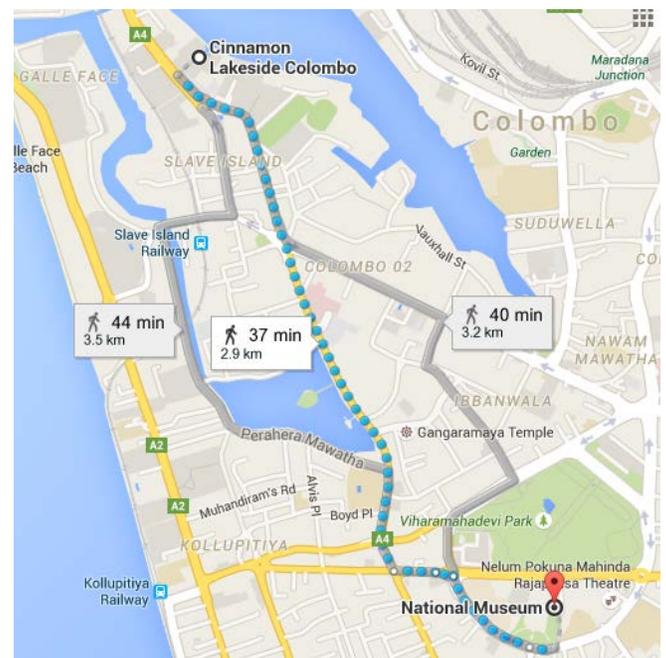
GANGARAMA TEMPLE

Gangaramaya, originally a small hermitage on a piece of marshy land was transformed into a nationally and internationally famous Vihara by Ven. Dewundara Sri Jinaratana Nayaka Thero. Winning the hearts of the Buddhists as well as the non - Buddhists of the area and with their support in a short time he transformed the little hermitage to the famous Gangaramaya of today, as a memento to his revered Guru teacher Ven. Hikkaduwa Sri Sumangala Nayaka Thero.



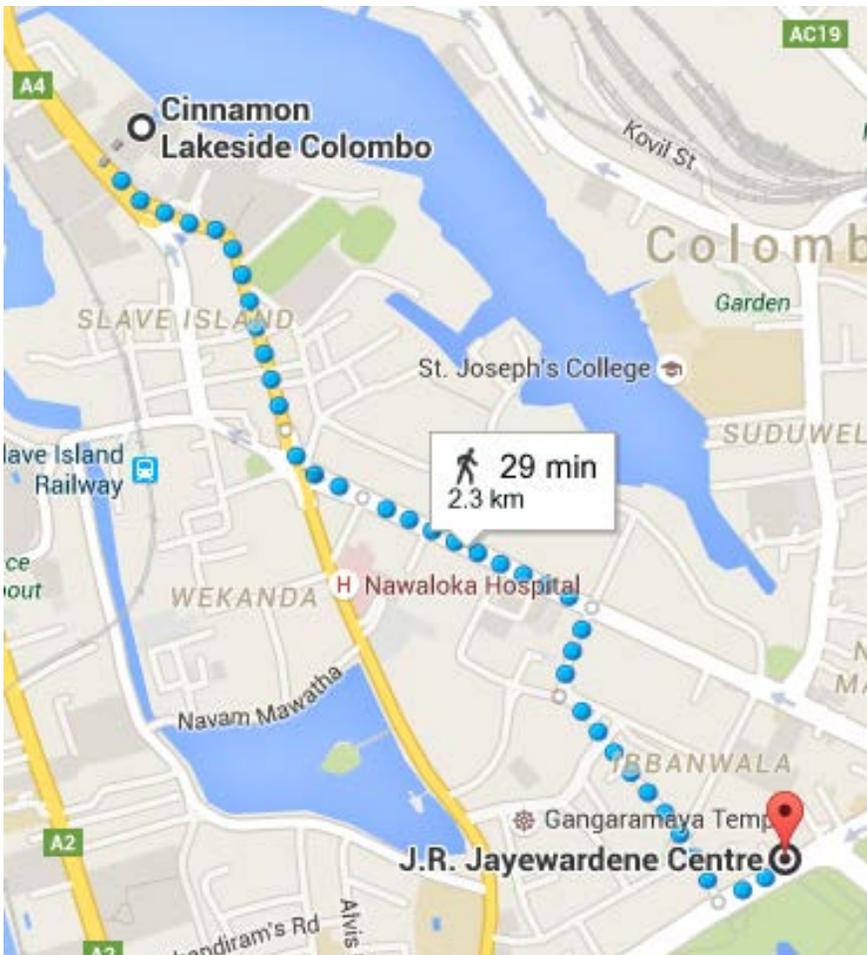
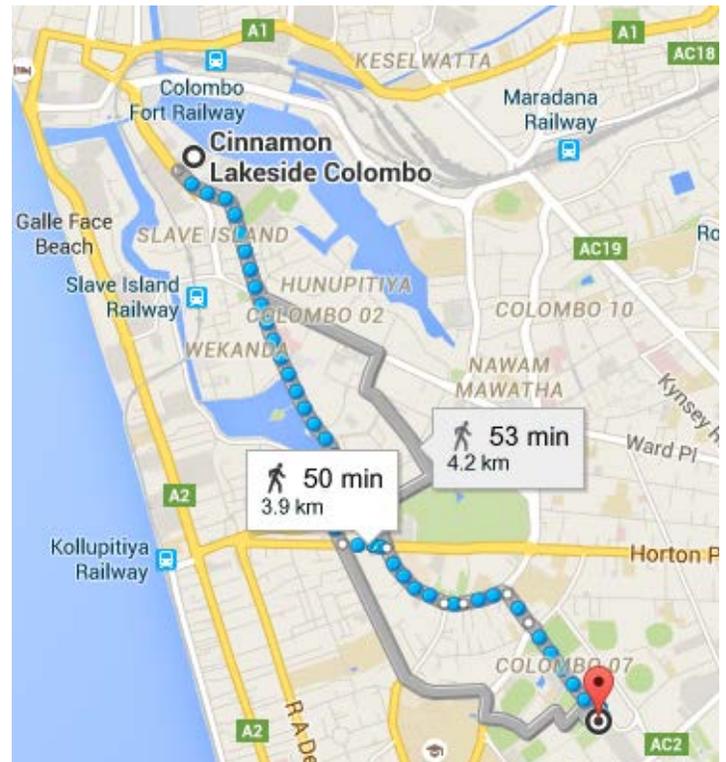
COLOMBO NATIONAL MUSEUM

National Museum of Colombo, also known as the Sri Lanka National Museum is one of two museums in Colombo. It is the largest museum in Sri Lanka. It is maintained by the Department of National Museum of the central government. The museum holds contains a collections of much importance to Sri Lanka such as the regalia of the country, including the throne and crown of the Kandyan monarchs as well as many other exhibits telling the story of ancient Sri Lanka



INDEPENDENCE SQUARE

Independence Memorial Hall (also Independence Commemoration Hall) is a national monument in Sri Lanka built for commemoration of the independence of Sri Lanka from the British rule with the establishment of Dominion of Ceylon on February 4, 1948. It is located at the Independence Square (formally Torrington Square) in the Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo. It also houses the Independence



J. R. JAYEWARDENA CENTRE

The Centre was established by act of Parliament titled J.R Jayewardene Centre Act No. 77 of 1988. It was an apt depository for the treasure for it was the house where President Jayewardene spent a part of his childhood and later till 1938 the year he shifted to his own house 'Braemar'. Address by J R Jayewardene Leader of the delegation of the Government of CEYLON (SRI LANKA) at the conference for the conclusion and signature of the Treaty of Peace with Japan - San Francisco, USA 6th September 195

On 6th September, 1951, Sri Lanka displayed immense courage and scintillating eloquence in standing up for Japan at the international conference held in San Francisco to finalize the Peace Treaty with that country. By doing so. Sri Lanka underscored the age old ties of deep affection and respect that existed between the two countries. This was indeed an unforgettable and shining moment in our diplomatic history and the story must be told for the benefit of the younger generation.