

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

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

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

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...
- **Kirinda Vihara Maha Devi Temple** — Perched on massive ocean-facing boulders, this 2,200-year-old Buddhist temple commemorates the legendary Queen...
- **Bundala National Park Birding** — An internationally recognised Ramsar wetland 40 minutes from Kirinda, Bundala is a birdwatcher's paradise with...
- **Tissamaharama & Ancient Stupa** — The ancient royal city of Tissamaharama, 20 minutes from Kirinda, is home to a massive 2nd-century BC Buddhist stupa...
- **Great Basses Reef Snorkel or Dive** — Ten kilometres offshore, the Great and Little Basses Reefs hide British colonial-era lighthouses and shipwrecks...

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...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

🌦️ CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	85°	70°	23d
Jun	80°	71°	24d
Aug	79°	70°	24d
Sep	80°	70°	25d
Oct	80°	69°	27d

🇸🇰 DAYLIGHT & 💰 MONEY

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

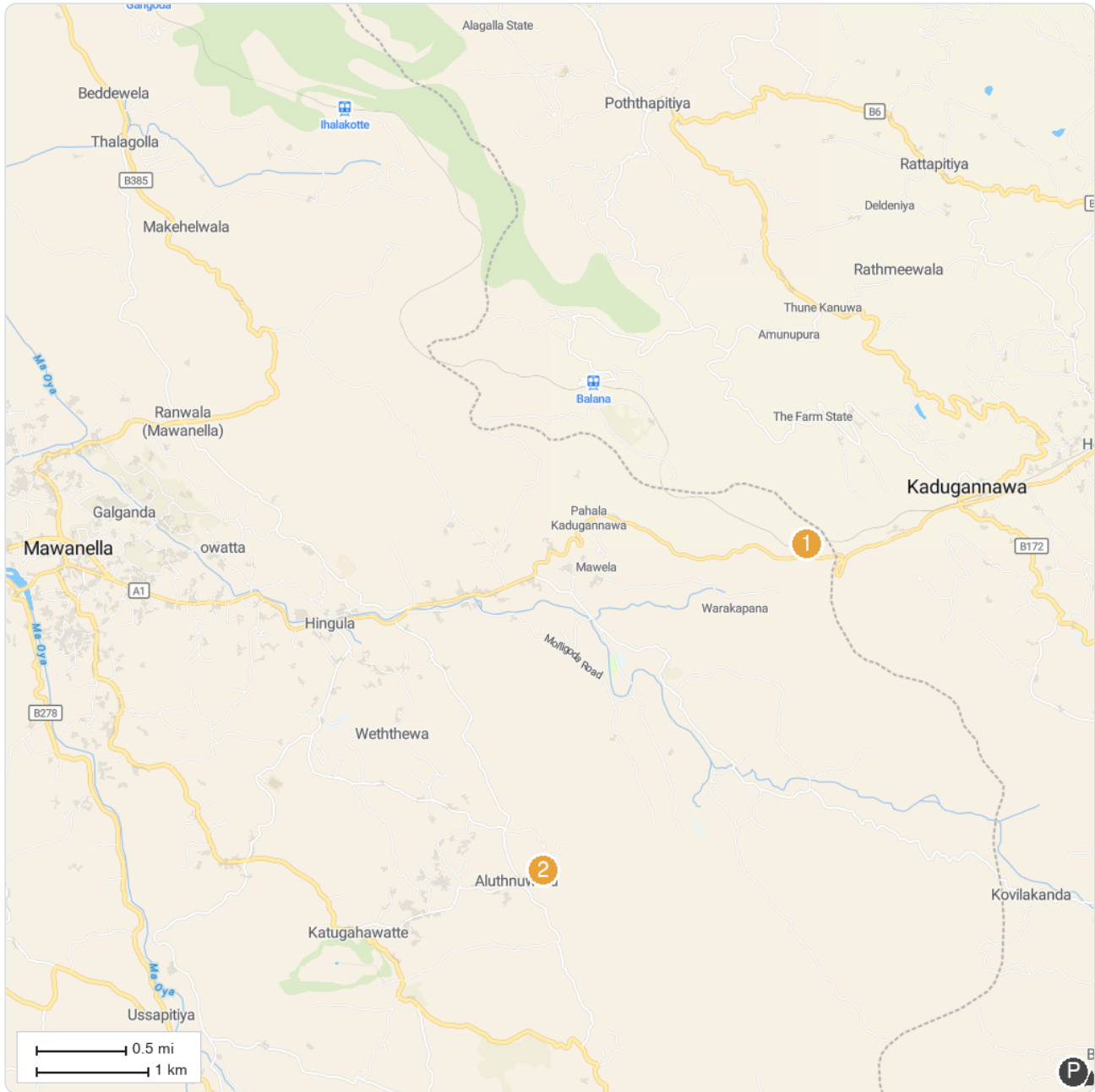
🏠 Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR); USD accepted by tour operators

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

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
Kadugannawa

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