



# PAKISTAN SRI LANKA

## FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE

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The High Commission of Sri Lanka in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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### First Sri Lankan Expressway Ready to open for public soon !

The First Sri Lanka Highway also known as the Southern Sri Lanka Express Highway scheduled to open within next few months to the public. It is

approx. 126 km (78.2 mile) long highway will link the Sri Lankan Capital Colombo with Matara, a major city in the South of the Island. Construction on the highway began in 2006 and it is expected to be completed in Au-

gust 2011 at the cost of \$600 million however public opening is scheduled within the next few months after completing infrastructure facility such as fuel stations, telecommunication links etc.



The second phase of the construction will be from Kurundugahahetekma to Kottawa. There are also plans to further extend the Highway to Weerawila and beyond as far as Batticaloa. This would extend the high-

way by approximately 100 km (62 miles). Some 1300 families have been moved because of this project. Of these, 550 families have been provided with new land to build their houses. The construction of other highways from Colombo to Airport and Colombo to Kandy are underway.

### Sri Lanka - Pakistan explore mutual duty concessions

Talks on reviewing the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Sri Lanka and Pakistan concluded in Colombo in August 2011 with the two sides focusing on the possibility

of mutual tariff concessions on selected items. The agreed minutes of the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA) and related matters were signed during the bilateral meeting.

Pakistan's Commerce Ministry Secretary Zafar Mahmood and Sri Lanka's Industry and Commerce Ministry Secretary Tilak Collure, signed the agreement on behalf of their two countries.



### Pakistan celebrates 65th Independence Day in Colombo

The 65th Independence Day of Pakistan was celebrated by Pakistan High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Seema Ilaahi Baloch and the Pakistani community in Sri Lanka at the Pakistan High Commission on 14 August 2011.

High Commissioner Baloch hoisted the Pakistan national flag at the ceremony to mark the occasion and read out messages of Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani.

In addition to High Commission staff, the Pakistan community who are living in Colombo also participated at the event.



## Pak Navy ships Shamsheer, Nasr visit Sri Lanka

Pakistan Navy Task Group comprising PNS Sword Class Frigate PN Ship Shamsheer and Combat Support Fleet Tanker PN Ship Nasr reached Co-



lombo on a three-day visit as part of a cruise to enhance defense relations and goodwill between two countries. On arrival at Colombo, the Ship's band, dressed up in traditional naval uniform, presented melodious tunes as it sailed into Colombo Harbour. The crew will participate in various events planned during the stay in Colombo in August 2011.

PNS Shamsheer is a 3000 tones frontline frigate of Pakistan Navy which has state of the art weapons and surveillance system.

Whereas PNS Nasr is a Combat Support ship which supports extended operations of Pakistan Navy.

The ship has also visited Colombo earlier in January 2010 on a goodwill visit. The visit will open new avenues of bilateral cooperation between the two friendly navies and garner the existing strong bonds of friendship between the two countries.

## Sharjah to host Pakistan v Sri Lanka Test in November 2011

The Sharjah Cricket Stadium is scheduled to host Test cricket after a gap of nine years as Pakistan and Sri Lanka lock horns to play the final of the their three Test series in November 2011.

SCC Administrator Mazhar Khan said: "The renovation work is in full swing and we hope to be ready by November 3. Sharjah was keen to host a match during the series in the UAE and we are happy to be awarded one. It will be a good thing since Sharjah has many Asian followers who will have the privilege of watching two top teams in action."

The Pakistan-Sri Lanka tour of the UAE begins from October 18 and will comprise three Tests, five ODIs and one T20.

## Sri Lanka returns on path of 8% growth rate

Not only did the Sri Lankan Military Forces comprehensively defeat the LTTE insurgency - the first such victory in the 21 century, but it also returned the country to a high growth rate path of 8%.



That's the judgment Central Bank of Ceylon governor Ajith Cabraal made during the international conference last month at Colombo. He considers the Sri Lankan military very productive, winning the war on the cheap: for \$5.5 billion between 2006 and 2009, which is 4% of the GDP. By contrast, the US has spent nearly \$1 trillion on its unfinished wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. That government message is not going out loudly enough.

## Sri Lanka allocates to import 6,000 tons Pakistan basmati rice annually

Under the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, the Govt. of Sri Lanka agreed to import 6000 tons of Pakistan Basmati rice on an annual basis from 2011.



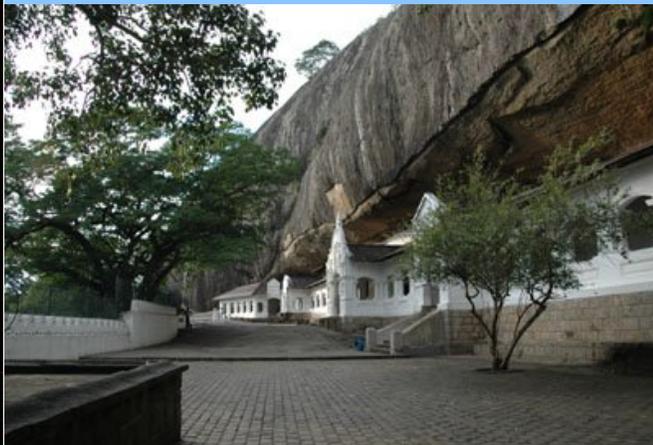
These important decisions were taken during secretarial level meeting and talks between Pakistan and Sri Lanka on the bilateral Free Trade Agreement in Colombo that concluded on August 18, 2011.

Pakistan will consider granting concessionary market access for electrical items while Sri Lanka will consider categorizing any products imported from Pakistan under the category of handicrafts and its related products.



## Dambulla; An Attractive Ancient City in Sri Lanka

**W**elcome to Dambulla a new resource for information on Dambulla, Sri Lanka and updated information on Dambulla Attractions. Home to the famous Dambulla Cave Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Iron Wood Forest, and the Rose Quartz Mountain Range, Dambulla provides historical adventures and breathtaking sights in a region UNESCO has designated the Cultural Triangle.



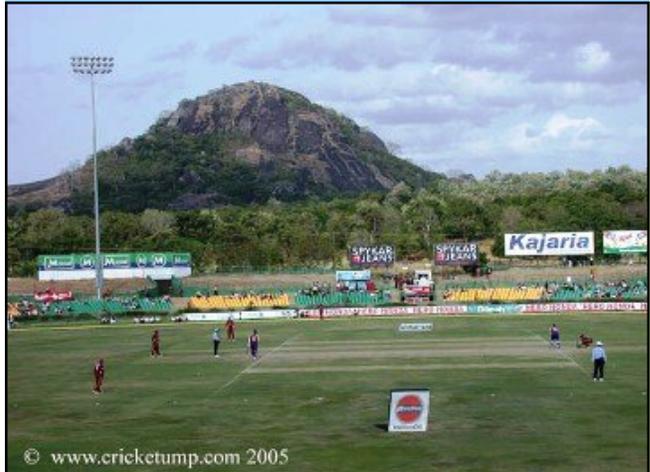
The city of Dambulla lies approximately 148 kilometers (roughly 91 miles) to the Northeast of the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo.

At the top of the list of things to do in Dambulla is the Dambulla Cave Temple, also known as the Golden Temple of Dambulla. Comprised of 5 caves and a picturesque facade carved into the side of a steep rock face, the Dambulla Cave Temple houses ancient statues and paintings depicting the Buddha and his life. Other Dambulla, Sri Lanka attractions include:

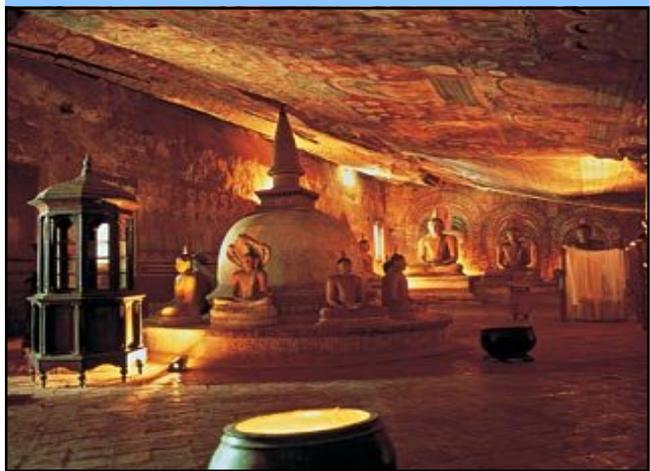
**Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium:** a 30,000 seat cricket stadium constructed in a mere 167 days and overlooking the Dambulla Tank (reservoir) and the Dambulla Rock. Rose Quartz Mountain Range.

**Getting to Dambulla:** Since Dambulla is relatively close to Colombo, Sri Lanka, you are best advised to hire a private car in Colombo for safe travel to Dambulla.

There are ample drivers available for hire in Colombo and most are very knowledgeable of the



cultural sites and local history of Sri Lanka, making for an informative, guided tour on the road from Colombo to Dambulla. Once you arrive in



Dambulla, you will have an ample selection of accommodation options, including everything from private Guesthouses to several world-class accommodation facilities. Amaya Lake Resort features 92 Sri Lankan villas situated on Kandalama Lake, with amenities including an Ayurvedic Spa, Boating, Swimming Pool, Yoga Center, Fine Dining, and much more. The Resort also provides easy access to the Dambulla Cave Temple and other sites within Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle.



## The Kandalama Hotel Where the Green Meets Green

**H**eritage Kandalama Hotel, previously known as Kandalama hotel, is no doubt one of the finest hotels that Sri Lanka proudly presents to the



world traveler. Built with incredibly environmental sensitive architecture of Jeffrey Bawa, the hotel nestles against the rocky plains, molding itself to the picturesque environment than tarnishing it with a typical concrete structure. Built with a concern for environment, the hotel is among the most recognized of eco friendly tourist destinations in the entire Asian region. It is also the first hotel in Asian to be certified as a Green Globe 21 hotel.

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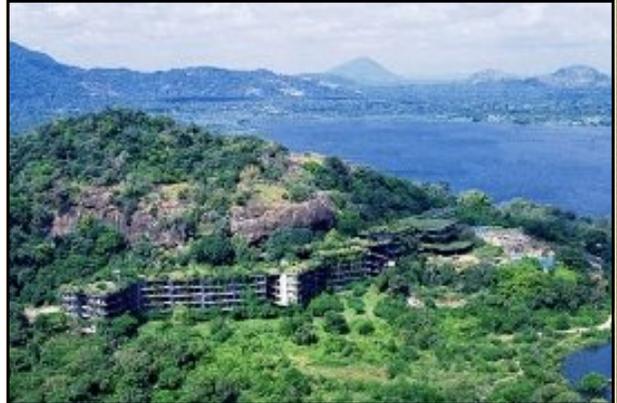
From the breath taking view surrounding the hotel to the amazing architecture, the pampering staff and the legendary Kandalama cuisine, the experience that awaits a discerning traveler is a one of delightful surprise.

### The Hotel and its Surroundings

Kandalama hotel is located in Dambulla, approximately 160km from the capital city of Colombo and

is in the cultural triangle of the country. The area is home to the famous world heritage site, Sigiriya rock fortress, built by ancient king Kashyapa in 477 CE.

With a stunning panoramic view of the Sigiriya citadel and the Kandalama tank the hotel create a sense of adventure and affinity with



the wild. The surrounding forestry and the structure of the hotel merges with each other, with lush foliage, green roof top lawns, and swaying indigenous trees and plants which are individually tagged for informative knowledge of the visitors. The serenity of the land-



scape mingles with the occasional howl of the monkeys, sights of the shy wart hogs and the majestic march of the wild elephant herd. The visitors are often enthralled by the chance of a life time to sight wild life and birds in their own sanctuaries from the vantage points of their own room balconies.