



48 Hours in Jaffna



Includes: Overnight accommodation at Fox Resorts Jaffna on HB basis, Local hosts, refreshment, traditional dinner & ice cream at Rio, souvenir

Starting times: Day 01 at 3.45 pm | Day 02 at 8.30 am

Wear/bring: Comfortable clothing

Highlights & Features

- Domestic flight transfer from Ratmalana Airport (Colombo) to Palali (Jaffna)
- Visit the iconic Nallur temple like a local
- Immerse yourself in the colourful culture of Jaffna and explore the city from your local host
- Explore Jaffna's key places of interest
- Discover a bustling local market
- Learn about the history of this town and how it integrates with the rest of the island.
- Visit a lesser-known temple and a communal bathing pond
- Settle down for a delicious seafood dinner at a local resident's home
- Overnight stay at a historic house that once belonged to an illustrious Northern family

The Full Experience

Day 01

Head to Ratmalana airport for the 8.30am domestic (scheduled) flight to Jaffna.

The 50 minute flight will take you across the lovely landscapes of the Northern parts of Sri Lanka and give you a magnificent birds-eye view of the region. Upon landing in Jaffna, transfer to your hotel, Fox Resorts, to freshen up and a little rest.

This afternoon, dress up in Tamil ethnic wear to add a sense of tradition to visit the iconic Nallur Kovil. Females may drape up a saree and a *vaisti*, which is similar to a sarong, is provided for men. Dressed in traditional wear, head for the Kovil with your host.

Later, take a tour around the vibrant city of Jaffna where the lull of village life and emerging traces of urbanisation create a unique and complex identity. Your host will introduce you to Jaffna's distinct landmarks and share stories of its' fascinating history.

First, visit the once majestic Manthri Manai (Minister's Palace), which thought to have belonged

to a minister of the kingdom of Jaffna. The building shows a blend of Dravidian architecture with Dutch as well as British influences.

Your next stop is the famed Jaffna Library. Today, restored after the civil war destruction, the library stands tall as a significant symbol of Jaffna. The initial collection included archival material on Sri Lankan history written in palm leaf manuscripts. The library is closed on Mondays.

Finally, visit the ancient Jaffna Fort, one of the famous landmarks in Jaffna. The fort had housed a Governor's place, armouries and barracks, Queen's House of Jaffna and several other structures.

Return to your hotel and settle down for dinner by the lovely garden.

Day 02

Start your second day in Jaffna by visiting the Chunnakam market. This bustling market is a one-stop shop for local produce. Most noticeable are the handicraft items made from different parts of the palmyra and coconut trees.

Next, explore the ancient Naguleswaram Temple in Keerimalai. Believed to have been built in the 7th century, this is one of the five ancient Shiva temples in the country. The Keerimalai pool of spring water is also located on the premises of the temple. Wrap up your temple exploration by witnessing this natural pond, which is believed to contain medicinal properties in its water.

Dinner will be arranged at a traditional Jaffna home with the opportunity to exchange cultural values along with understanding the lifestyle of an ordinary family. Your local Tamil guide, Prasanna will be there to translate and explain many stories together with the locals. Later, drop by the famous Rio Ice Cream parlour and enjoy a scoop or two of Jaffna's finest.

Day 03

After breakfast, continue to your next destination...

Rate: Available on Request



Tips...

Don't forget to try Amachi restaurant (vegetarian) for some amazing cuisine, unique to Jaffna. We recommend the milk hoppers and the vadai.

If you are feeling a little adventurous, there's something a little stronger - the one and only Palmyrah toddy, only available in Jaffna.

Did you know...

- Jaffna is home to 10 different types of mangos and the most famous is "Karthakolumban". If you happen to travel during the mango season, don't forget to try these!
- Although not well known, Jaffna is also a haven for birdlife. There are 50 - 60 types of birds in season from December to March including flamingos.
- There are approximately 2500 kovils in Jaffna

Where to next...

- Beach stay: Jaffna to Trincomalee – Approx.. 4.5 hours
- Culture and History: Jaffna to Anuradhapura – Approx. 4 – 4.5 hours
- Wildlife/National Parks: Jaffna to Wilpattu – Approx. 3.5 hours
- Heritage and birdlife: Jaffna to Mannar – Approx. 2.5 hours

