

## Roman Catholic places in Sri Lanka

Here's a detailed itinerary focusing on Roman Catholic places in Sri Lanka:

### **Day 1: Arrival in Colombo**

- **Morning:**
  - Arrive at Bandaranaike International Airport, Colombo.
  - Transfer to your hotel in Colombo.
- **Afternoon:**
  - Visit St. Lucia's Cathedral, the seat of the Archbishop of Colombo and one of the largest churches in Sri Lanka.
  - Explore the St. Anthony's Shrine, a popular pilgrimage site dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua.

### **Day 2: Colombo to Negombo**

- **Morning:**
  - Travel to Negombo (approximately 1 hour from Colombo).
  - Visit St. Mary's Church, a large and beautiful church in Negombo with impressive paintings on the ceiling.
- **Afternoon:**
  - Explore the Dutch Fort and Negombo Lagoon.
  - Visit the St. Sebastian's Church in Sea Street, known for its gothic architecture.

### **Day 3: Negombo to Mannar**

- **Morning:**
  - Drive to Mannar (approximately 6 hours).
  - Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, one of the most important Catholic shrines in Sri Lanka, known for its annual festival in August.
- **Afternoon:**
  - Explore the Mannar Fort and nearby attractions.

- Visit the ancient Baobab tree and Thiruketheeswaram Hindu Temple to appreciate the diverse religious history of the area.

#### **Day 4: Mannar to Jaffna**

- **Morning:**
  - Travel to Jaffna (approximately 3-4 hours).
  - Visit St. Mary's Cathedral, the seat of the Bishop of Jaffna.
- **Afternoon:**
  - Explore the Jaffna Fort and other historical sites.
  - Visit St. James' Church, an old and significant Catholic church in Jaffna.

#### **Day 5: Jaffna to Anuradhapura**

- **Morning:**
  - Drive to Anuradhapura (approximately 4-5 hours).
  - Visit the Church of Our Lady of Lanka, a prominent Catholic church in Anuradhapura.
- **Afternoon:**
  - Explore the ancient ruins of Anuradhapura, including the sacred Bodhi Tree and the ancient dagobas.

#### **Day 6: Anuradhapura to Kandy**

- **Morning:**
  - Travel to Kandy (approximately 3-4 hours).
  - Visit St. Anthony's Cathedral in Kandy, one of the main Catholic churches in the hill country.
- **Afternoon:**
  - Explore the Temple of the Tooth Relic and Kandy Lake.
  - Visit the Kandy Botanical Gardens if time permits.

#### **Day 7: Kandy to Colombo**

- **Morning:**
  - Drive back to Colombo (approximately 3-4 hours).

- Visit St. Michael's Church in Colombo, known for its historical significance.
- **Afternoon:**
  - Spend the afternoon at leisure in Colombo, exploring more of the city's attractions or shopping for souvenirs.
- **Evening:**
  - Head to Bandaranaike International Airport for your departure.

#### **Additional Tips**

- **Local Guides:** Consider hiring local guides at major sites to enhance your understanding of their historical and religious significance.
- **Respectful Behavior:** Ensure respectful attire and behavior when visiting religious sites.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Be mindful of cultural and religious practices, especially during services or festivals.

This itinerary provides a comprehensive tour of significant Roman Catholic sites in Sri Lanka, along with a mix of historical and cultural experiences. Enjoy your spiritual journey through this beautiful country!