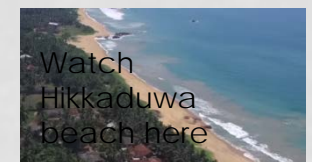


# WEST COAST- NEGOMBO TO HIKKADUWA

- Sri Lanka's west coast shows the island at its most developed, its most Westernised, and its most tourist-oriented. A string of fine beaches, backed by hundreds of hotels and guesthouses, peppers the coast from Negombo in the north to Hikkaduwa in the south. Despite increasing development in other parts of the island, the large resort hotels in Negombo, Kalutara, Beruwala and Bentota – all within easy reach from the capital, Colombo.
- Small towns such as Beruwela, Bentota, Ambalangoda, Ahungalla and Hikkaduwa offer many traditional holiday activities – and a few surprises. The west coast is a great spot for watersports between December and April when the seas are calm. These include snorkelling, jet-skiing, scuba-diving, surfing and kite-surfing. Whale and dolphin watching boat excursions are also available.
- Experience one of the finest country homes in Sri Lanka with a visit to Lunuganga once owned by Geoffrey Bawa, Sri Lanka's most influential architect. More Bawa influences are seen at Brief Garden, 10kms inland from Bentota.
- Looking for jewellery? The semi-precious gemstone known as 'moonstone' which has a milky bluish glow similar to that of the moon, is found only in the village of Meetiya Goda, inland from Ambalangoda. You can watch the stones being cut and polished.
- Turtle hatchery, is a great place to observe collected and rescued eggs hatch being born, and swimming back to sea.



Watch  
Hikkaduwa  
beach here