

# Sri Lanka: Ceylon Tea Museum

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The Ceylon Tea Museum, located at Hantane, approximately 5 km (3 miles) from Kandy, is a must for visitors to Sri Lanka who are interested in Ceylon tea. There are several ways to get there including vehicle, tourist excursion, rail, or seaplane depending on your budget and sense of adventure.

The Ceylon Tea Museum consists of four floors. Today, the ground floor remains much as it was when the factory was operational, demonstrating the process of manufacture. It is a typical example of its kind, large, light and airy, with most factory machinery housed on the ground floor and the three upper floors originally used to wither the freshly plucked tea-leaves.



The museum also houses an impressive library and auditorium with facilities for audio visual presentations. The library of Ceylon Tea Museum houses a collection of books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, CDs, videotapes and DVDs which provide the visitor a deep insight into the History of Ceylon Tea Industry which ranges from latter part of 1800 to the modern day. Old photographs of tea factories, plantations & planters such as James Taylor, Thomas J Lipton etc. showcase the proud heritage of the Ceylon tea industry. Directories of planter's information and books such as "100 years of Ceylon tea" make sense of the tea industry in Sri Lanka.



A selection of Sri Lanka's fine Ceylon tea is available for purchase and the entire top floor is a tea cafe. Visitors are able to enjoy the pure pleasure of enjoying a cup of Ceylon tea and feel the fine art of the Tea Tasting Session arranged at the tea cafe. A documentary of the Ceylon tea industry (history, working factory, & health benefits of tea) runs as well.

A panoramic view of the Kandy town surrounded by the beautiful Hunasgiriya, Knuckles Range and the Matale range of hills can be viewed through a telescope mounted on the fourth floor. The grounds surrounding the Tea Museum are landscaped with tea.

Kandy is a mandatory stop virtually on every tourist's itinerary and the location of the Ceylon Tea Museum at Hantane enhances the attraction of the hill country to visitors. Additionally, its proximity to the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens and Loolcondera estate, where tea was first grown commercially in Sri Lanka makes Hantane the perfect location.



James Taylor, the pioneer of tea industry in Ceylon was born in Scotland in 1835 (two years before Queen Victoria ascended the throne). Setting out from London on October 22, 1851 as a youth of 17 he arrived in Ceylon in 1852 and on arrival was sent to Loolcondera estate in Hewaheta a few miles distance from Kandy. Taylor first started commercial planting of tea in 19 acres at Loolcondera Estate in 1867. James Taylor put his heart & soul into cultivating tea and died 02nd May 1892 at the age of 57 years. Remains of the equipment used by James Taylor have been shifted to Ceylon Tea Museum and are on display in the "James Taylor Section."

## **CEYLON TEA MUSEUM – MORE INFORMATION:**

**Ceylon Tea Museum website:**

<http://www.ceylonteamuseum.com>

**History Timeline:**

<http://www.ceylonteamuseum.com/timeline-of-the-history.html>



Open Hours and Ticket information:

<http://www.ceylonteamuseum.com/the-museum.html>

*Another Nearby Attraction of interest that we actually visited (and it was incredible!) was Sri Dalada Maligawa / the Temple of the Sacred Tooth*

Relic: <http://www.sridaladamaligawa.lk/> - - Sri Dalada Maligawa or the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a

Buddhist temple in the city of Kandy, Sri Lanka. It is located in the royal palace complex of the former Kingdom of Kandy, which houses the relic of the tooth of the Buddha. Since ancient times, the relic has played an important role in local politics because it is believed that whoever holds the relic holds the governance of the country. Kandy was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings and is a World Heritage Site mainly due to the temple.

*Transport:*

We must not forget about Cinnamon Air!  
This is the seaplane we took to Kandy!!

We had other transportation arranged and waiting for us once off the plane. It was Fabulous!!

Find more information at

<http://www.cinnamonair.com>



**Keep watching this blog for more about Ceylon tea.**

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