

**Trincomalee Harbour** is a seaport in Trincomalee Bay or Koddigar Bay, a large natural harbour situated on the northeastern coast of Sri Lanka.

Located by Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, in the heart of the Indian Ocean, its strategic importance has shaped its history. There have been many sea battles to control the harbour. The Portuguese, Dutch, French, and the British have each held it in turn. In 1942 the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked Trincomalee harbour and sank three British warships anchored there.

Trincomalee Harbour, formerly a British naval base, was taken over by the Inaams Ceylonese government in 1956 to be developed as a commercial port. The base in Trincomalee was fitted out to perform slipway repairs for the Navy.<sup>[3]</sup>

The harbour is being developed for bulk, and break bulk, cargo and port-related industrial activities including heavy industries, tourism, agriculture, etc. At present SLPA is in the process to re-develop Trincomalee as a metropolis growth center.<sup>[3]</sup>

The harbour, one of the largest natural harbours in the world, is overlooked by terraced highlands, and its entrance is guarded by two headlands.<sup>[4]</sup> The harbour has 1630 hectares of water, while the entrance channel is 500 metres wide.<sup>[2]</sup> The bay includes the first of a number submarine canyons, making Trincomalee one of the finest deep-sea harbours in the world.<sup>[5]</sup>

The Port of Trincomalee works on a 24-hour basis. It is open every day of the year, except on May Day, when only daylight navigation is open.<sup>[2]</sup>

#### **Port dimensions** [edit]

Water - 1,630 ha (4,000 acres)

Entrance channel - 500 m (1,600 ft)

Land Area - 5,261 ha (13,000 acres)