



## LUX ETOILES HOTEL SERVES UP AUTHENTIC TREATS TO VISITORS

# JAFFNA DELIGHTS

By WASANTHA SURIWARDENA

Now that the guns have fallen silent and peace is in sight, domestic tourism in the long forgotten northern retreat of Jaffna is gradually catching up.

After almost 30 years, southern travellers are now beginning to reach this war torn city.

Jaffna has it all, friendly people, a rich culture, healthy climate and a picturesque environment go to make it a real traveller's paradise.

To accommodate the large influx of visitors, a handful of hotels are available with basic facilities in the entire Jaffna peninsula.

'Lux Etoiles' (Luxury Stars) is one of the few fully air-conditioned hotels in Jaffna.

It is a comfortable place to have a happy stay in Jaffna which is located in a peaceful environment off Chetty Street, close to the town and a few minutes walk from the Nallur Kandaswamy Temple.



Wettevelu Yajanthiran

The proud owner of the hotel Wettevelu Yajanthiran is a chef by profession qualified in France and has many years of experience behind him as a master in trade.

"There's no other hotel in the Jaffna peninsula which serves authentic traditional Jaffna dishes to their guests like we do. We prepare food only on request by our guests. Guests can order any type of food they want. Even the western dishes are available in our menu. Jaffna sea food like crabs and prawns take a big part of our menu," he said explaining the dining styles of the hotel.

"We are equipped with elegant dining and sitting areas and eight air-conditioned family rooms. A mini bar, cable TV, attached bathrooms with shower cubicles with 24 hour hot water supply are some of the room facilities. We offer 24 hour service reception and security, private car parking, laundry service, and transport facilities to places of interest in Jaffna with our experienced guides," he added.

Yajanthiran said that currently the hotel is in the process



The sitting area on the ground floor

of expanding with a new 16-room wing which will be ready by March next year and this will offer guests with sports facilities such as badminton, basketball and other indoor sports.

"We are also planning to build a 40-roomed motel with basic facilities. Hopefully the project will start early next year," he added.

Lux Etoiles Hotel has its sister hotel in Nuwara Eliya. "It's a new hotel with all

the modern facilities and situated in a scenic location near Gregory's Lake. We are geared up for the upcoming Nuwara Eliya season now," he enthused.

Hotel manager Bernard, who has many years of experience behind him in the hospitality industry, leads the team of well trained and experienced staff who provide a disciplined and perfect service for the guests.

According to him, most of their guests

### Luxury Stars

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Traditional Jaffna breakfast

make their reservations over the phone (021 2223966) and fax.

"You can also log on to our website [www.lux-etoiles.com](http://www.lux-etoiles.com)," he said.

Lux Etoiles Hotel is situated at No. 34, Chetty Street Lane, Nallur, Jaffna.

"Transport facilities are also provided by us from Colombo at special rates with latest Japanese cars and passenger vans with or without A/C. We can assure you a safe journey as our drivers are well experienced ones," he added.

(Pic by Pushpakumara Matugama)



Bernard The Manager



One of the luxury rooms



The team of Lux Etoiles

### The Jaffna Fort



Built in 1680 by the Dutch, is star shaped and surrounded by a moat. Destroyed during the conflict, it is now in the restoration process.

### Nallur Kovil



Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil is a largely Hindu area and many temples are characterised by vertical red and white stripes on the outer walls. The

## Places of interest in Jaffna

beautiful large and airy complex has shrines to several deities. Men should note that shirts and shoes should be removed before entering.

### Keerimalai



The Keerimalai Hindu temple, which is north of the main town of Jaffna, is close to the port city of Kankesanthurai. It is dedicated to Lord Siva and is one of the five ancient Sivan temples around the island. The temple is situated close to a mineral water spring called Keerimalai Springs reputed for its curative properties.

### Maviddapuram



The holy city where the horse face of the Chola princess Maruthapuraveegavalli changed to a human face when she prayed to Lord Naguleswara of Keerimalai and took a bath in the holy water of the temple. The old name of the place is Kovil Kadavai which was changed into Maviddapuram after the above event.

### Dambakola Patuna



The place where Ararah Sanghamitta landed on an Unduwap Full Moon Poya Day with a sapling of the southern branch of India's Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi.

### Nagapooshani Temple



Sri Nagapooshani Amman Temple is a very ancient Hindu temple which was originally erected in Nainativu and dedicated to the worship of the Serpent God called 'Nayinar' by the Nagas.

### Nagadeepa



Nagadeepa Purana Vihara, located in the Nainativu Island, was constructed by the two warring Naga kings, Mahodara and his nephew Chulodara at the site where Lord Buddha, during his second visit to Sri Lanka intervened and mediated in settling a dispute.

### Casuarina Beach



The best beach in the Jaffna Peninsula. You can walk a long way in the deep blue water with gentle waves moving towards the land. The beach lies about 20 km off Jaffna in Karainagar island and may take about 45 minutes to travel by vehicle.

### Kadungoda Temple



An ancient buddhist historical place called 'Kandarodei' situated in the midst of palm trees beyond Manipay about 10km away from the city. There are small dagabas constructed with ash-coloured stone scattered over about 1/2 acres of land. A Buddha statue, Bodhisattva statue, a stone scripture and some coins believed to be in the first and second centuries were found in this area.