

Kabbale Mountain and Anagimale Falls Circular Trail – Kanneliya Rain Forest

Trail Difficulty: Easy | Moderate | Strenuous | Tough

Trail Head: Kanneliya Conservation Centre, Koralegama, Panangala, Galle

Nearest Town: Udugama

Nearest City: Galle

Access to Trail head:

Route to Kanneliya Conservation Centre

Route1:

Colombo -> Galle[116km on A2] -> Udugama -> Panangala [40km on Galle - Neluwa Road] -> Koralegama -> Kanneliya Conservation Centre [2km](approximately 158km)

Route 2:

Reach Neluwa via Mathugama -> Palewatta -> Meegahathenna, drive 30km towards Galle from Neluwa via Thawalama to reach Panangala and Drive 2km from Panagala to reach Koralegama & Kanneliya Conservation Centre. (Approximately 75km from Matugama)

Roads are paved all the way up to the Kanneliya Conservation Centre

Trail End: Circular Trail, ends at the trail head (including 300m detour to visit Anagimale Falls) **Total Length:** 6.3km

Elevation Gain: 450m (Elevation at Trail Head: 22m | Elevation at highest point: 472m)

Approximate time: 4 - 5 hours

Hiking Season: December to March & July, August.

Permit Required: Yes. Permits can be obtained from the Kanneliya Conservation Centre

Kanneliya Forest Reserve located in the Galle district is the largest of the KDN, or Kanneliya-Dediyagala-Nakiyadeniya, forest complex. Kanneliya supposed to be the most biologically diverse forest in the country which even surpasses the Sinharaja Rain Forest in terms of bio-diversity.

The Kanneiliya Conservation Centre is the only designated entry point of this complex. The trail to Kabbale Mountain and Anagimale Falls is the longest and the most adventurous walk you can do in Kanneliya Reserve.

This trail starts off from the Kanneliya Conservation Centre. It first climbs up to the Kabbale Mountain Peak where a panoramic view of the KDN complex can be seen. The trail completes the circle climbing down to the "Anagimale" water fall and winding through the forest along an abandoned logging trail back to the conservation centre.

0 to 1.15km: As you start off from the Kanneliya Conservation Centre (**Waypoint: KB01**) you will have to walk towards the forest department nursery. Between the nursery and the forest, locate the broad foot path climbing up (fairly steep climb) along the edge of the forest. As you climb up for about 300m, the trail will make a 90 degree left hand turn in to the forest (**Waypoint: KB02**) and you will notice that the intensity of the climb eases off a bit.

As you climb up another 400m along the trail, the trail starts to climb down (**Waypoint: KB03**). In an approximately a 100m gradual descend, you will reach an abandoned logging trail (**Waypoint: KB04**). Cross the logging trail and continue to walk along the broad footpath. After crossing the logging trail, the next 300m is a relatively easy walk. There are no intense climbing ups or downs. In 300m from the point of crossing the logging trail, you will see a wooden hut and a small cave on the left hand side. The trail makes another 90 degree left turn here and start climbing up to the summer hut (**Waypoint: KB05**).

1.15km to 2.15km: Passing the hut in the cave, the trail then approaches a fairly steep climb. After about 150m, the climb will become extremely difficult as the trail start climbing through large boulders. You can see very large boulders surrounding you as the trail makes it way through those. After climbing another 150m through the boulders, you will cross a stream called "Galleli Dola" (Means slab rock stream) (**Waypoint: KB07**). During dry months the stream can go completely dry with only the exposed boulders. Crossing the stream you will continue to climb up along the side of the slab rock. In less than 100m from the point you crossed the stream, you will reach an upper point of the stream which drop about 10m over a rock creating a mini water fall (**Waypoint: KB08**). Again this can go completely dry.

Passing the waterfall, you have to tackle the most difficult climb of the trail through the boulders for 100m. After this you will still have to tackle a steam climb but with much better under foot conditions with no rocks to climb on the trail. 150m from the waterfall, the trail reaches an edge of the mountain where you get the first panoramic view. This is called "Punchi Kabbale" or "Mini Kabbale" (**Waypoint: KB10**).

Leaving "punchi Kabbale" the trail then move along the edge of the mountain without any significant ascend or descent. After a 100m walk along the edge, the trail them makes a slight left turn, briefly climbing up, and move in to the forest (**Waypoint: KB11**). After the brief climb, the trail will be again flat for the next 130m until you reach the "punchi kabbale" observation point with a small wooden observation deck (**Waypoint: KB12**).

Passing the observation deck, the next 130m is again a flat section with just one steep ascend at around 50m from the observation deck. This section of the trail is called "Meda Kabbale" or the "middle section of the mountain". After the flat walk, you will come to a point where you have to tackle a steep climb down of about 30m (**Waypoint: KB14**). After you climb down, you have to tackle the final step, 100m

climb to the summit of the mountain called "Maha Kabbale" (**Waypoint: KB16**), 2.15km from the conservation centre.

2.15km to 6.3km: As you start walking back from the peak, rather than climbing down along the same trail, chose the trail on the right side of the original trail to climb down. As you leave the summit and get on to the new trail, you will have to tackle a steep descend for 500m. The first 250m is steep but the second 250m is steeper. You will end this steep section of continuous descends at a small stream (which dries up when there is no rain) (**Waypoint: KB18**). After crossing the stream, the descend eases off considerably for about 100m and then intensifies again for another 250m until you reach a wooden hut constructed along a large rock surface (**Waypoint: KB20**).

Passing the hut, walk about 25m to reach another small stream (which also dries up when there is no rain). After crossing the stream, the trail will become easy and descend become quite insignificant. 300m from the hut (**KB20**) you will reach the first reliable water source which is again a small stream but something which does not easily go dry (**Waypoint: KB22**).

Passing the stream, continue to walk down. This section of the trail is some what irregular with frequent but small ups and downs. 300m from the stream (**KB22**), you will reach another wooden hut and a stream about 25m apart from each other (**Waypoint: KB23**). This stream is also a reliable water source. Crossing the stream continue to walk along the narrow nature trail for 300m more until you get on to a broad abandoned logging trail (**Waypoint: KB24**). 200m descend on the logging trail will take you to an abandoned, paved road (**Waypoint: KB25**).

This paved road had been used as the main access road during the period where selective logging was done in Kanneliya many decades ago. This main road connects the Kanneliya Conservation Centre and a government circuit bungalow inside the forest. This bungalow is not there anymore.

As you cross the paved road, you will see a wooden hut and a trail climbing down through the forest. A 300m climb down along this nature trail will take you to the "Angimale Falls" (**Waypoint: KB26**) one of the two largest waterfalls found in Kanneliya.

From the water fall you have to return to the paved road and walk 1.75km to right hand side to complete the trail at the origin, the Kanneliya Conservation Centre (**Waypoint: KB01**).

Tips, Notes & special remarks:

- The probability of rain is quite high through out the year. Be prepared with a rain coat and water proofing for electronics such as cameras.
- Unless the trail is very dry, be prepared for leaches.
- Always Carry a adequate amount of water (at least 1 ltr per person)

Way Points

	N: dd° mm.mmm'	E: dd° mm.mmm'	Elevation (m)
KB01 (Conservation Centre)	6° 15.049'	80° 20.263'	22
KB02	6° 14.934'	80° 20.362'	39
KB03	6° 14.918'	80° 20.549'	183
KB04	6° 14.909'	80° 20.606'	171
KB05	6° 14.827'	80° 20.742'	207
KB06	6° 14.869'	80° 20.781'	248
KB07	6° 14.834'	80° 20.847'	309
KB08	6° 14.837'	80° 20.867'	334
KB09	6° 14.798'	80° 20.880'	377
KB10	6° 14.779'	80° 20.878'	389
KB11	6° 14.750'	80° 20.911'	407
KB12 (Punchi Kabbale deck)	6° 14.732'	80° 20.974'	420
KB13	6° 14.731'	80° 21.001'	420
KB14	6° 14.712'	80° 21.026'	445
KB15	6° 14.710'	80° 21.049'	439
KB16 (Kabbale Mountain Peak)	6° 14.680'	80° 21.063'	472
KB17	6° 14.700'	80° 21.152'	433
KB18	6° 14.770'	80° 21.212'	370
KB19	6° 14.786'	80° 21.257'	345
KB20	6° 14.859'	80° 21.304'	249
KB21	6° 14.925'	80° 21.299'	234
KB22	6° 14.982'	80° 21.245'	230
KB23	6° 15.050'	80° 21.122'	226
KB24	6° 15.134'	80° 20.994'	185
KB25 (Paved Road)	6° 15.166'	80° 20.918'	157
KB26 (Anagimale Falls)	6° 15.284'	80° 20.899'	92
KB27	6° 15.086'	80° 20.817'	109
KB28	6° 15.110'	80° 20.753'	83
KB29 (Conservation Centre)	6° 15.058'	80° 20.286'	22