

## Hindu Monuments of the Eastern Province

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Hindu archaeological monuments dated to the Chola period have been excavated in *Trincomalee, Kantalai, Padavikkulam, Kokkattichocolai, Padaviya, Manankeni, Tiriyai and Natbtanaar Koyil*. Between 1017 – 1070 A.D., the Chola administrators, mercantile communities and Brahmins made their settlements in the Eastern Province and constructed Hindu temples and sculptures. Koneeswaram is the most valuable Hindu monument of Eastern Sri Lanka. This temple known as the Southern Kailasam is another ancient Hindu temple that the Portuguese blasted into the sea. Ruins of the temple are still lying on the sea bed. At Kantalai, another temple was named Vijayaraja Iswaram, after Vijayabahu, and Brahmin settlement in the area was known as Vijayaraja-catur-vedi-mangalam.

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