An underwater photograph showing a shipwreck site. The scene is dimly lit, with a blueish-green hue. In the foreground, there are large, tangled pieces of debris, possibly wooden planks or parts of a ship's structure. In the background, a large, rusted metal structure, likely part of a ship's hull, is visible. The water is dark and murky, with some small fish or marine life scattered throughout.

# Ship Wrecks in Colombo Area

# Black Coral



**Location – Unknown**  
**Depth – 40 M**  
**Sunk Date – Unknown**

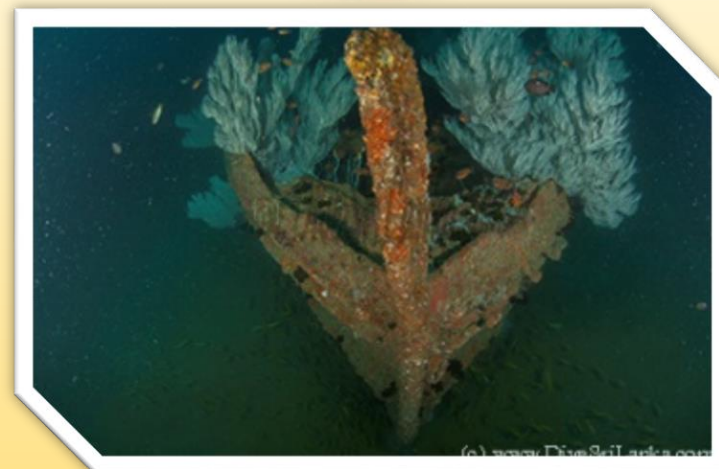
**Note :**  
A medium sized wreck  
with a single boiler  
covered with beautiful  
black coral.  
Recommended for  
technical divers.

# Toilet Barge

Location – 14 km from Dehiwala

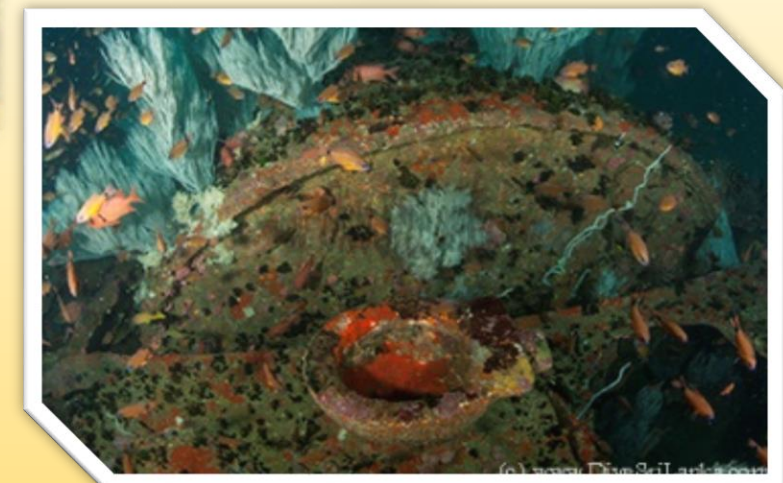
Depth – 32 M

Sunk Date – Unknown



## **Note :**

An age of steam ship off the shores of Colombo.  
A small dive site but a ship with great marine life and an unusual feature that gives it its name - a toilet!



# Lotus Barge

**Location – Colombo**  
**Depth – 40 M**  
**Sunk Date – Unknown**

**Note :**  
A small barge resplendent  
with marine life. Similar to the  
Toilet Barge



# Cardinal Barge



**Location – Mount Lavinia**  
**Depth – 29 M**  
**Sunk Date – Unknown**

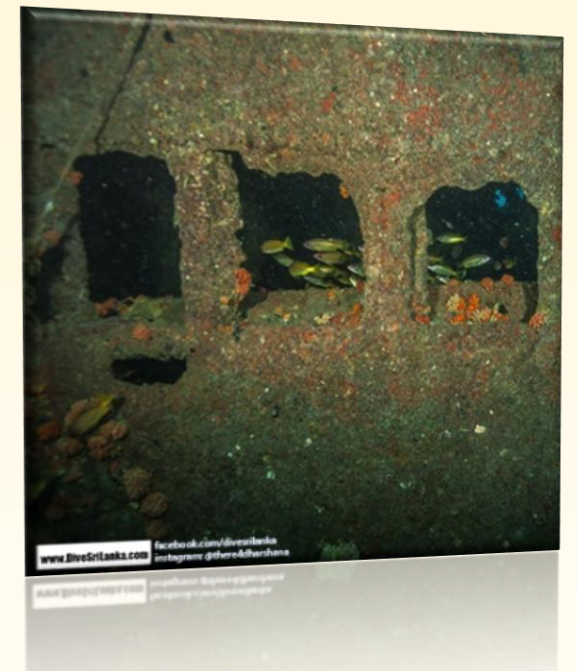
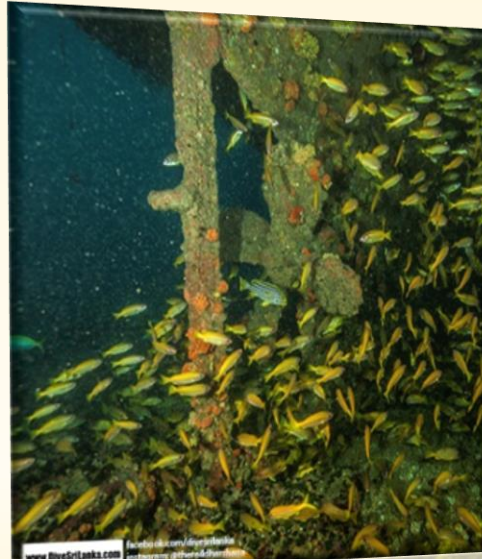


## **Note :**

A small wreck, in a bad state but with reasonably good marine life, namely Cardinal fish and Snappers. Not really worth diving if you are diving off Mount Lavinia, South of Colombo



# Clarke Wreck



**Location – Mount Lavinia**  
**Depth – 29 M**  
**Sunk Date – Unknown**



**Note :**  
The wreck on which world famous Science Fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke conducted his last SCUBA dive at the age of 74 in March 1992.

# Thermopylae Sierra

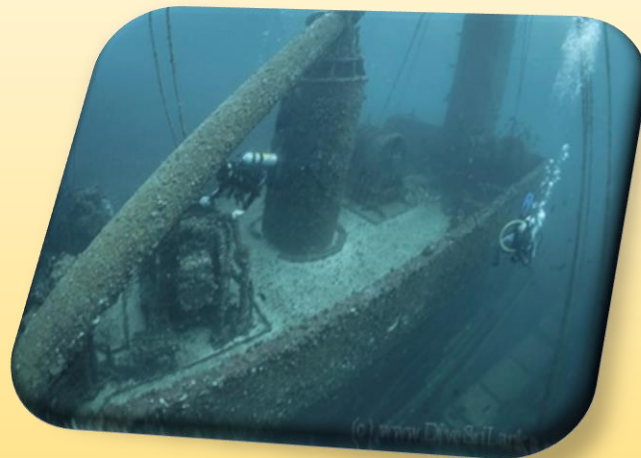
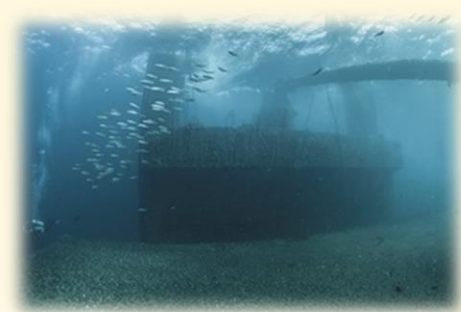
Location – 3.5km from Angulana

Depth – 23 M

Sunk Date – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012

## Note :

The Cypriot owned Wreck Thermopylae Sierra was parked at the Colombo outer anchorage for more than 3 years as a result of a wage dispute between the owners, workers and the Sri Lankan Ports. Neglect took its toll and finally, on the 23rd of August 2012 it sank before our very eyes. One and a half years later we return to the ship and enjoy a fantastic dive to a unique ship wreck that is trapped between two worlds...



# Taprobane North Wreck

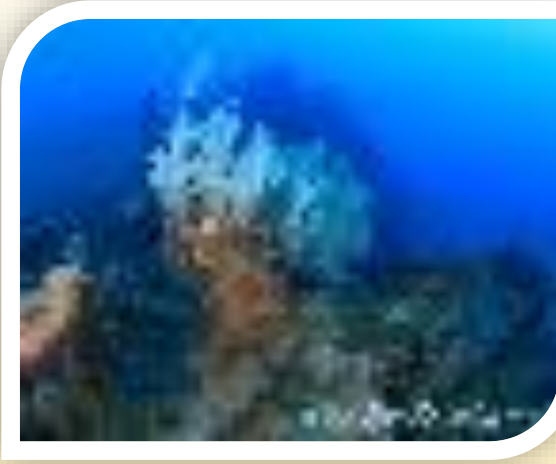
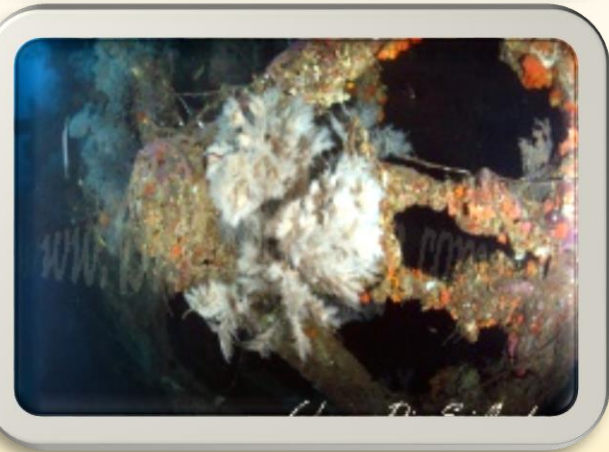
**Location – Colombo**

**Depth – 40M**

**Sunk Date – 1917**

**Note :**

A massive ship, intact and lying on pristine sand. A haven for shoals of fish and a place of pristine wilderness and 30M+ Visibility! We suspect this to be the British Armed Merchant Perseus sunk off Colombo in 1917 by a German Mine Layer. Investigations underway to ascertain this ships identity.





# Taprobane North Barge

Location – Colombo  
Depth – 40M  
Sunk Date – Unknown



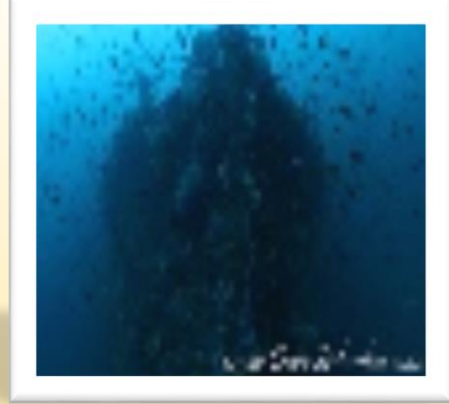
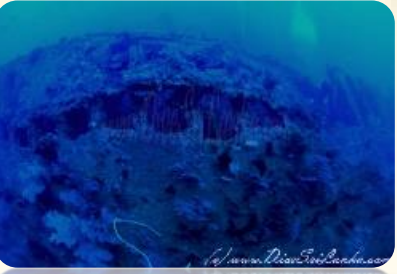
**Note :** A smaller wreck located not far from the Taprobane North Wreck. Similarly pristine conditions and covered with colorful soft coral



# SS Worcestershire

**Location – 15 km from Dehiwala**  
**Depth – 57M**  
**Sunk Date – 16<sup>th</sup> February 1917**

**Note :**  
Technical  
Decompression Dive.  
The ship is badly  
broken but marine life  
is simply amazing.  
DiveSriLanka.com  
has now identified  
this to be the World  
War I sea mine  
casualty the British  
Armed Merchant Ship  
SS Worcestershire  
sunk in 1917!

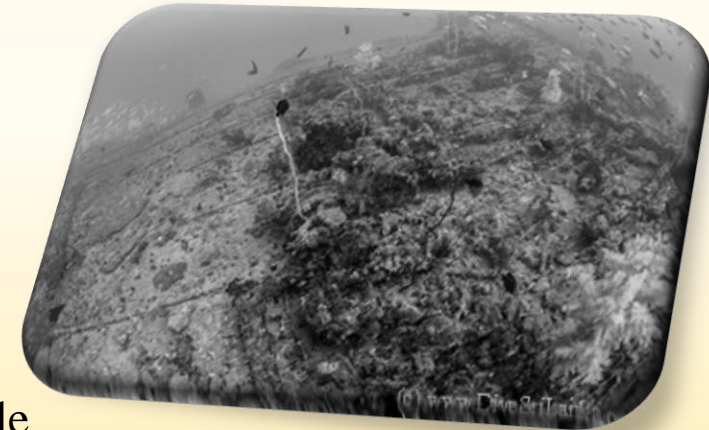


# Chief Dragon - The Colombo Car Wreck

Location – 17 km from Dehiwala

Depth – 34.5M

Sunk Date – 18<sup>th</sup> March 1983



**Note :** The Colombo Car Wreck is now in diveable again! Just 4 KM off the city of Colombo this is a superb wreck to dive and explore. A very large area of wreckage provides a haven for shoaling fish and big Groupers. The caves of sorts at stern is a place to be! DiveSrilanka.com has now identified this to be the Honda Heavy Industries built vehicle carrier MV Chief Dragon.



# Taprobane East Wreck

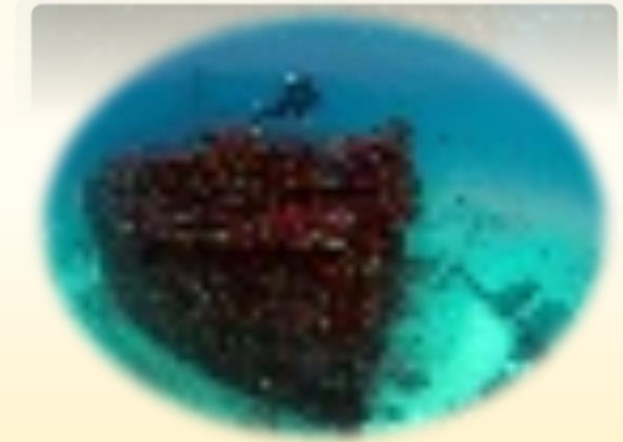
**Location – Colombo**

**Depth – 32M**

**Sunk Date – Unknown**

**Note :**

In the pristine far off shore reefs of Taprobane the visibility is over 20M on average. Here in an Caribbean like setting we have our Heaven on Earth. A picturesque ship wreck that is a must dive.



# Battery barge



**Location – Colombo**  
**Depth – 32M**  
**Sunk Date – Unknown**

## **Note :**

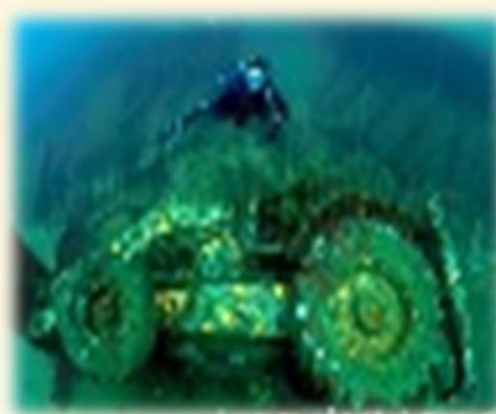
A deep oasis full of fish life and colorful corals. its generally too deep for a proper single tank dive so is a favorite for Technical Divers.



# Medhufaru



**Location – Colombo**  
**Depth – 30M**  
**Sunk Date – Unknown**



**Note :**  
This ship was made accessible for divers in 2011. Surprisingly good marine life for a ship that just sunk. Proves a invaluable point that shipwrecks can soon turn to reefs even few years after sinking. Highlight of the dive is to explore the earth moving Backhoe on the deck. Another can be found under the decks. Excellent place for Lionfish.



# Pecheur Breton Cargo Wreck

Location – Colombo  
Depth – 33M  
Sunk Date – 1993



## Note :

A huge intact cargo ship which was sunk recently. Identity yet to be discovered but supposedly an Indian steel carrier that sunk in 1993. The ship lies on its starboard side and provides a huge area for exploration.

DiveSriLanka.com has now identified this to be the Pecheur Breton.



# Nilgiri Trug



**Location – 7.5 km from Mount Lavinia**  
**Depth – 33M**  
**Sunk Date – 1997**



## Note :

A huge sunken barge that rests up side down. All the action is at 30M and the site is full of Lion Fish who are easy to approach. In addition various other marine life such as small Groupers, Puffer-fish, Trevally and Stingrays can be seen





# Delhi Coal Wreck

Location – 9 km from Mount Lavinia

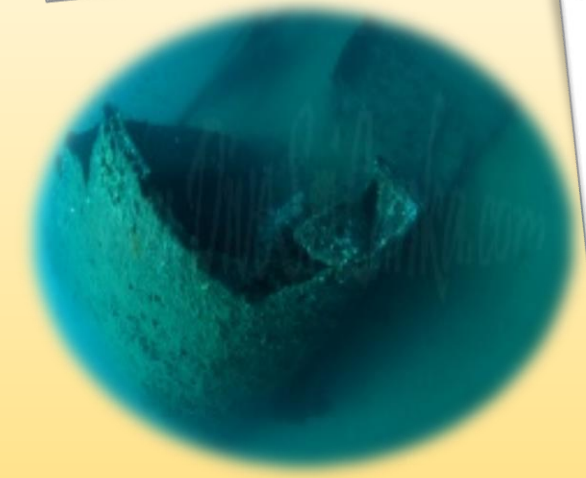
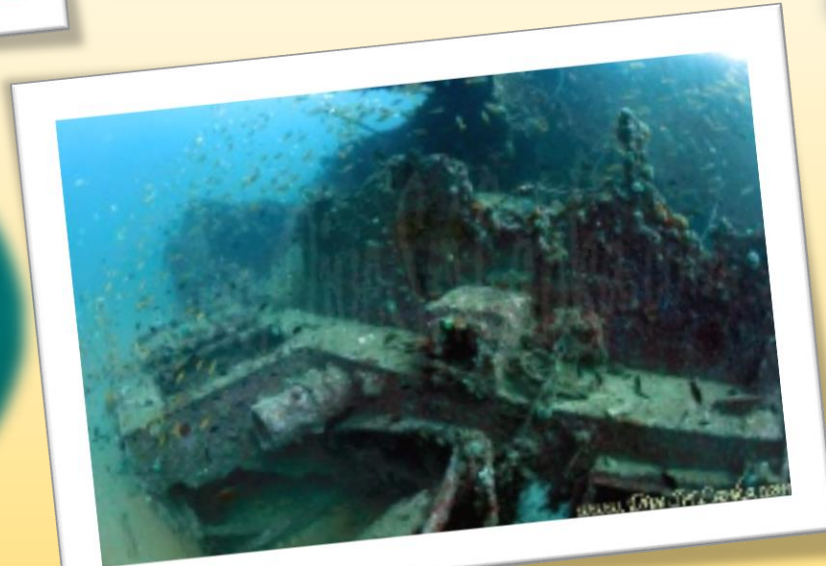
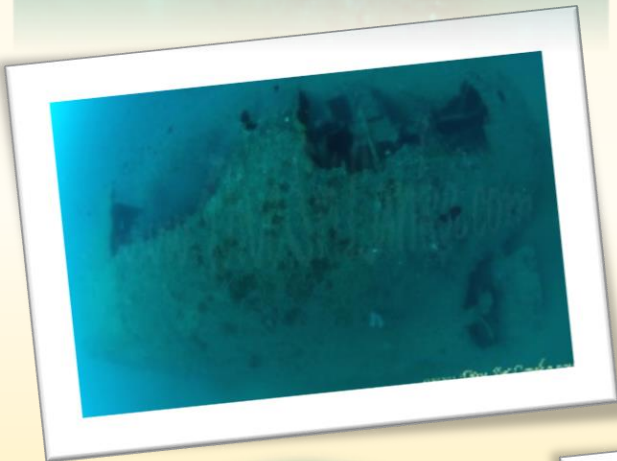
Depth – 26M

Sunk Date – Unknown



## Note :

The ship is broken into two parts and lie about 20m/30m to each other. Can find schools of Snappers and Blue Spotted Stingrays in the sand. A bunch of over enthusiastic Cleaner Wrasses can be quite annoying sometimes specially if you hadn't had a bath for a while.





# MV Astoria

Location – 12 km from Dehiwala

Depth – 24 M

Sunk Date – 25<sup>th</sup> September 1997



**Note :**  
Special permission is needed to dive this wreck which sank off very close to the Colombo Harbor in 1997



# Gun Boat - bridge

**Location – Moratuwa**

**Depth – 14 M**

**Sunk Date – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016**



**Note :** A brief sonar scan reveals a strong signature in surprisingly shallow depths. The water is so clear that I snorkel over the point and am surprised to see a small but fully intact wreck. Diving in we are surprised to find a beautiful dive site. Along a rocky reef rests, what appears to be a, navy gun boat / patrol craft. At 14 m depth this is a great dive site for divers all levels.

## Wrecks Sunk in Colombo area

	Name of the Wreck	Year of Sunked	Location	Depth	Commercial Dive Center Access	Worth mentioning
19	Pandora	Unknown	Panadura	18M	Yes	A vast rock complex not far from Panadura Wreck. Not a Bar Reef unlike other reefs off Colombo. Pandora can be dived in conjunction with Panadura Wreck on a trip to
20	Panadura Nilkete Wrecks	Unknown	Panadura		Yes	A shallow ship wreck graveyard off Panadura. A great wreck dive for beginners or a great dive as the second dive for experienced divers! 22/11/2014 - In 2010 a brief survey of this location led us to believe that there was only one ship. Further exploration recently reveals that the site off the coast of Panadura actually has 2 ore more ships that has run foul over a huge rock known as the Nilkete rock. Dive Sri Lanka has recently found that one of the ships here was a steam ship known as Justitia Click here for more information.
21	Hardingham	Unknown	Colombo (Harbor)	21M	Special permission required	The Hardingham blew up after being towed out of the Colombo Harbor where she caught fire.
22	MV Pecheur Breton	01.07.1994	6 km from Mount Lavinia	16m - 32m	Unknown	
23	MV Medhufaru	05.06.2009	4.2 km from Mount Lavinia	29m	Unknown	
24	Thaproban East	Unknown	15 km from Dehiwala	31m	Unknown	
25	SS Perseus	Unknown	25km from Colombo	40m	Unknown	
26	Panadura Boiler Wreck	Unknown	2 km from Panadura	12m	Unknown	

# Thank You

**Reference : 1. Dive Sri Lanka / <http://www.divesrilanka.com>**

**2. Marine Assets Sub Committee Report / Team Leader: Dr. N.P. Wijayananda.**

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**05<sup>th</sup> April 2017**