

## A9 Highway Road from Kandy with Jaffna

The **A9 Highway** is a 321-kilometer-long (199 mi)<sup>[1]</sup> highway in [Sri Lanka](#), which connects the central city of [Kandy](#) with [Jaffna](#), a city on the northern tip of the island.

The A9 highway north-bound begins at Kandy, in the central hills. The highway begins at the heart of the city, next to the Kandy Lake. Within Kandy, it meets the [A1](#), [A10](#), and [A26](#) highways.

It moves north through the hills to [Matale](#). It passes Dombawela and Naula, before reaching [Dambulla](#). At Dambulla, the A9 crosses the [A6 highway](#). The A6 provides connection to [Sigiriya](#), [Habarana](#), and [Trincomalee](#). Traffic between Jaffna and [Colombo](#) transfer between the A6 and A9 highways at this point.

The A9 passes Kekirawa and Maradankadawala, before reaching the [Anuradhapura](#)-area. The [A13 highway](#) at Galkulama and the [A20 highway](#) provide access to Anuradhapura. The A9 meets the [A12 highway](#) at [Mihintale](#). The town of [Medawachchiya](#) provides connection to Mannar and the historic ferry to India, via the A14 highway. Passing Iratperiyakulam, the A9 reaches the city of [Vavuniya](#). The highway runs through the heart of the city. At Vavuniya, the [A29](#) and [A30](#) highways run to the east and west of the A9.

Passing [Omanthai](#), [Puliyankulam](#), [Mankulam](#), and Murikandy, the A9 meets the [A34](#), before reaching [Kilinochchi](#). After passing the [A35 highway](#), it crosses [Elephant Pass](#), into the [Jaffna Peninsula](#). The highway goes past [Mirusuvil](#) and [Chavakachcheri](#) on its final run up to Jaffna, the cultural centre of the north. In Jaffna, it meets many other roads, including the [A32 highway](#). The A9 passes through the city centre and terminates at the Jaffna Fort.

The A-9 was the site of military operations by both government forces and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE); its opening and closing was often an indicator of the state of the war.

The road and the surrounding areas were heavily mined during the last battle of the war, which ended in May 2009. By July, after demining, A-9 had re-opened for civilian use.

Today, the A-9 is a lifeline for the people of northern Sri Lanka.

The highway still requires reconstruction at many points, and many returnees from displacement camps have found work as road labourers. Others try to cultivate their own land or work at nearby farms; their produce is transported along the A-9 to southern consumers. The highway also offers a route southwards for those seeking employment.

