

VAYU on-the-spot report

Visit to the Sri Lankan Air Force Museum

The Sri Lanka Air Force Museum, located in Ratmalana, Colombo, is a testament to the rich aviation history and achievements of the Sri Lanka Air Force and the preceding Royal Ceylon Air Force as well. Established to preserve the country's aviation heritage, the museum offers visitors a glimpse into the past, showcasing a diverse collection of aircraft, weaponry, vehicles and historical artifacts, which were once proudly serving to guard the frontiers of the island country.

The museum's primary aim is to educate and inspire visitors about the development and contributions of the Sri Lankan Air Force to the nation's defence and security. It serves as a valuable resource for aviation enthusiasts, history buffs, and the general public, offering a unique opportunity to learn about the evolution of the Sri Lanka Air Force from its inception to its modern-day capabilities. There are more than 50 airframes and 36 aircraft types within the boundaries, which are maintained precisely well.

The primary highlight of the museum is the display of various aircraft used by Colombo over the years. From early propeller-driven planes to more contemporary jet aircraft, visitors can see how aviation technology has evolved in Sri Lanka. Some notable examples include de Havilland DH.82A, IAI Kfir C.2, Mikoyan Gurevich MiG-17F, Douglas C-47B, Mil Mi-24V and more. The exhibited airframes are retired warplanes that once played a crucial role in the country's defence during

times of conflict and unrest. In addition to aircraft, the museum houses a wide range of artifacts and memorabilia that tell the story of the Sri Lanka Air Force's development and its personnel's dedication and bravery. Uniforms, medals, photographs and other historical items offer insight into the lives of the men and women who have served in the Sri Lanka Air Force. One of the significant items on display in this context is the collection of medals and the sword belonging to Air Vice Marshal E. R. Amarasekara, who served as the first Ceylonese Commander of the Air Force.

The museum's exhibits are thoughtfully curated and often include informative displays that explain the historical context and significance of the showcased items. Knowledgeable guides are usually available to provide guided tours and enrich visitors' experiences with

