

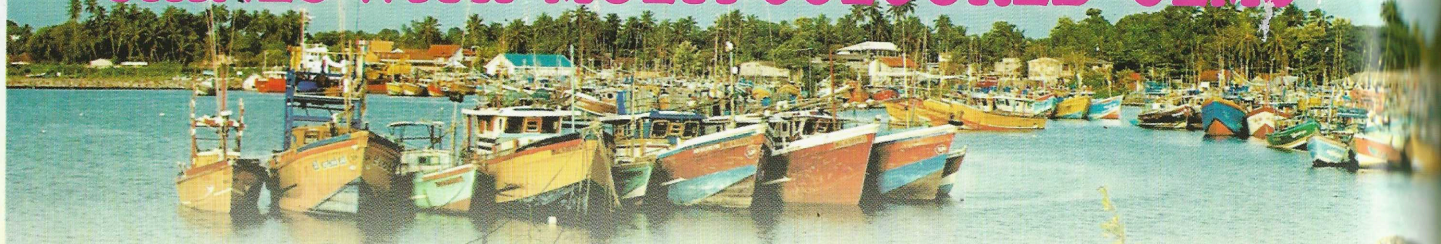


**China Fort is a region located on the West-coast off the Galle Road, in Beruwala, in the Western Province, 55 kilo meters away from the Capital City of Colombo, and the distance to Katunayake International Airport is about 80 kilo meters. Trading in gem is the main occupation of the settlers in that locality.**

# **CHINA FORT**

## **INTERNATIONAL GEM MARKET**

### **SHINES WITH MULTI-COLOURED GEMS**



China Fort a famous commercial hub for centuries earned its name and fame owing to the eye catching natural scenic endowment. The sandy beach, the cool breeze, tall coconut trees, antiques and the old and very significant time tested mosque standing tall add beauty teasing, alluding, boggling the craving the passionate mind of the tourists.

The name China Fort has no connection whatsoever either to China or Fort. But two words have etched in minds of many who had visited from the times immemorial.

China Fort is a world famous gem market in Beruwala, in the district of Kalutara. Market becomes hive of activity daily from 10.00 am and reaches its peak hour with liveliness and then wanes its activities by around 3.00 pm. The gem market at the very attractive and prosperous, is hive of activities with the busy bodies of gem cutters, polishers and sellers covering about 3000 heads on daily basis.

Collection of rough gem-stones from far and wide of Sri Lanka and countries and regions overseas India, Myanmar, Madagascar, Malaasi, Mozambique and Tanzania find in stock at the China Fort gem market. At the China Fort, in addition to the local gem purchasers, there are the international buyers from India, China, Indonesia, Japan,

Thailand France, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America flock to purchase the very quality gems from here.

Thus the China Fort has gain a name and admiration in the international arena, as one of the most trustworthy and reliable gem markets in this part of the world. It is a location sure to provide gems brought from any part or any region of the world.

#### **HISTORY OF GEM TRADE**

The legend of China Fort reveals how with the passage of time it become the cynosure – the centre of attraction dealing in gem trade. The reliable historical sources say that Arabs have landed in the Sri Lankan soil long before the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D. This mythical land has held the merchants spell-bound as they came in search of gems, spices and herbs.

Beruwala according to etymologists is result of coining two Sinhala words “Be” means ‘lowered’ and “Ruwala” giving the meaning to say ‘sail’ . , Thus the name Beruwala denotes, a place where the sails of the merchants from Arab, were been lowered. Arabs called this place ‘Berberyn,’ which connotes to the link it has to Arabic language “Berr” and Borr”.