



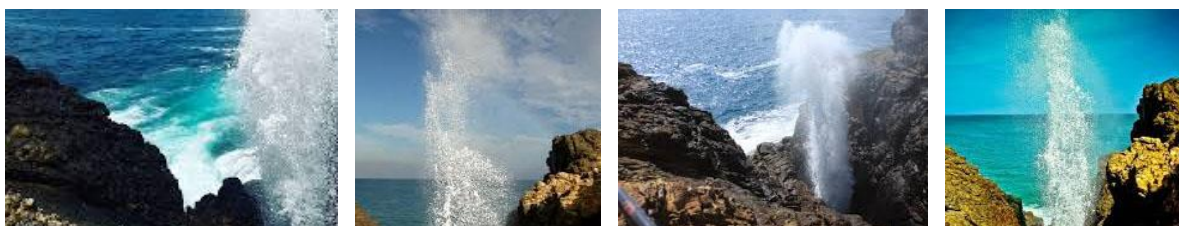
Hummanaya Blowhole



Hummanaya Blowhole is the only known blowhole in Sri Lanka and it is considered to be the second largest blowhole in the world. Hummanaya refers to the noise, "hoo", that can be heard a distance away when the blowhole is active.



Hummanaya is a natural blowhole and caused when sea water rushes through a submerged cavern and is pushed upwards. The sea water flows underneath the shore and then comes out of this hole due to pressure. The water fountain created by the geological feature shoots up every couple of minutes depending on the nature of the sea, with the spray often reaching as high as 25 m (82 ft) to 30 m (98 ft).



It's an easy walk through a fishing village to the blowhole area. Part of the fun is trying to predict when it would blow the highest. You can sometimes tell by the roar as the water swells at the base of the hole before the water shoots out.

There is a rock boulder in the middle of the rocky cliffs with a split in the middle. When the sea waves hit the rock the water is forced out through the hole at the bottom of the rock and shoots meters high into the air.

It needs two powerful sea waves from two different directions crashing into each other to create the water fountain. During high winds the added sea spray adds to the effect of this natural phenomenon.