



Kurunegala, Sri Lanka



Whanganui, New Zealand

WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES



Kong, Iran

AFRICA

Accra / Alexandria / Algiers / Fez / Giza / Luxor / Tunis

ASIA

Andong / Buyeo / Chengdu / Chiang Mai / Dujiangyan / Gonju / Gyeongju / Hanoi / Hue / Kaesong / Kamakura / Kanazawa / Kathmandu / Kurunegala / Kyoto / Lahore / Naha / Nanjing / Nara / Suwon / Taichung / Tainan / Ulan Bator / Varanasi / Vigan / Wuxi / Xian / Yangon / Yangzhou / Yogyakarta / Zhengzhou

EUROPE

Alba Iulia / Amsterdam / Athens / Bad Ischl / Barcelona / Bordeaux / Bratislava / Brussels / Budapest / Chernivtsi / Cologne / Constanta / Cordoba / Cracow / Dijon / Dublin / Edinburgh / Florence / Geneva / The Hague / Helsingborg / Iasi / Kazan / Kiev / Klaipeda / Kutaisi / Lisbon / Ljubljana / Lutsk / Lviv / Minsk / Montpellier / Mtskheta / Nicosia / Nis / Norwich / Odessa / Paris / Prague / Riga / Rome / Santiago de Compostela / Sarajevo / Sheki / South East Region of Malta / Strasbourg / Tashkent / Termez / Veliko Tarnovo / Venice / Vienna / Zagreb

LATIN AMERICA

Cartagena / Cuenca / Cusco / Guadrajara / Mexico City

MIDDLE EAST

Ankara / Baghdad / Bursa / Hebron / Isfahan / Istanbul / Jerusalem / Kashan / Kong / Konya / Nayshabur / Osmangazi / Sanliurfa / Semnan / Shiraz / Tabriz / Yazd

NORTH AMERICA

Boston / Montreal / Quebec City

PACIFIC

Ballarat / Melbourne / Norwood
Payneham and St. Peters / Whanganui

(119 Member Cities)

CONTENTS

- **COVID-19: The New Normal Initiatives of the LHC member cities**
- **Introduction of the New Member Cities in 2019**

Since the new coronavirus, COVID-19 started largely affected the whole world, each member city of the League of Historical Cities has taken all possible measures to beat the virus. The League consists of cities with diverse backgrounds, including large cities of over 10 million residents and small cities of a few thousand people. The economic situation in each city varies depending on the size and the revenue of the city so that there is a difference in compensation programs and economic measures among cities. When a country or a city is in crisis, solidarity in local communities is mostly required and so is our culture to enrich our mind.

Under these challenging circumstances, people tend to prioritize economic measures over support measures for art and culture. However, art, culture and traditional crafts are important assets of each region and part of important industry to support the local economy of historical cities. The League will remain responsible in preserving the traditional culture of each region and maintaining it for future generations, in the middle of the crisis and in the post-coronavirus era.

In these difficult times, some people think out various ways to entertain citizens and children, while others search new ways of showcasing arts, cultures and traditions. Now is the time for each city to make full use of its wisdom and its creativity.

The LHC Secretariat calls for examples of current or post-coronavirus initiatives implemented by our member cities.

Vienna (Austria)

- At the end of March, the City of Vienna has set up work scholarships for freelance artists and freelance scientists as a provisional assistance for the time of the corona crisis. Two weeks later, the interest in them remains strong. Due to this strong demand, the funds for these work scholarships are increased.

- The public funding for all theatres, concert halls and other cultural institutions will continue despite the closure of all event places. Individual artists are offered online stage acts in one of our theatres, Rabenhof, in the municipal housing block of the same name.

- Wien Museum started historical corona collection: How will future generations know what the Corona crisis has meant for Vienna? Wien Museum is asking for the help of citizens and invite them to send photos of object that explain the new private or professional life in the times of corona.

<https://www.wienmuseum.at/en/corona-collection-project>



Cracow (Poland)

The Museum of Krakow is carrying out the project “Talk Krakow”, which aims to collect and make available various aspects of intangible cultural heritage from the area of the Krakow agglomeration. The residents together with experts create a base of all phenomena present in Krakow, to enrich the knowledge about the city and its traditions, folklore, customs, exceptional people or regionalisms. It is also a way of activating the inhabitants, encouraging the younger generation to talk to their older relatives about their family history and traditions, about outstanding Krakow’s individuals or celebrities, typical Krakow or local names. The idea is to reach for a common history. Together we will explore our current celebrations and customs and consider what is important to us because of the memory of our ancestors and places inscribed in the history of our own family. Each district has its own stories and colorful characters.

The stories of the inhabitants, but also sound files, photos and lyrics of literary works of songs connected with our city, thanks to a special portal, are saved and collected by the Museum of Krakow. It is also easy to access these resources – thanks to the map and a simple search engine, one can easily add or find interesting stories and get to know the curiosities of the area.

http://www.krakow.pl/krakow_open_city

Andong (South Korea)

Restaurant industry was hit as badly as cultural arts, leaving the food service industry completely stagnated with many restaurants struggling for survival. The restaurant industry at risk collaborated with the artists who lost their places of activities to start the “Ama-do Artist” project. This project used 8 cafes in Andong downtown area to hold art exhibitions for 15 local artists including those invited Andong-born artists. The project aimed to develop and expand the local cultural art in the future by ensuring the cultural life and emotional stability for the community, generating income opportunities for business owners impacted financially by the COVID-19, providing places for art exhibition and livelihood supports, and further collaborating with diverse local artists. With full cooperation from the participating cafes, tight quarantine measures, such as an offering of infection prevention supplies and a mandated wearing of mask upon entering, were put into place to create a safe environment for cafe visitors so that people could appreciate art works in proximity while drinking coffee.

Also, invited and amateur artists joined the exhibited work presentation and small-scale live concerts under the theme of “Meet artists, Their Life, and Art” during the weekend afternoon. The presentations and concerts also proceeded with thorough prevention measures against infection such as advanced reservations by SNS to limit 20 people per event, check for fever, hand disinfection, mask-wearing, and 2 meters distance between seats, while the audiences cooperated to finish these events safely.

These efforts endeared the above events to the community without causing a single case of infection. The success can be attributed to the rigorous measures taken to prevent infection from planning to ending stages, which helped keep the audiences and performers safe and protect the artists and their spirits in pursuit of the cultural life for the community and the cultural arts. All events prioritized the health of all participants, taking the measures of disinfecting of event venues and vicinity areas, fever check and hand disinfection, health monitoring, mandated mask wearing as well as distancing between performers in live broadcasting, and plastic dividers to contain droplets.



Kyoto (Japan)

- The traditional industries of Kyoto are the origin of its culture and extremely important to support the local economy in Kyoto. In order for craftsmen not to leave their jobs or for businesses not to close down, the city has established a subsidy scheme for individuals, groups and organizations. To support those engaged in the industry, the city supports the development of new products and technologies in 74 items of traditional crafts such as the Nishijin-ori textiles and the Kyoyuzen dyeing through a program to support creators. The City of Kyoto also purchased kimonos and obi belts for schools to provide students with opportunities to put them on themselves and learn more about kimonos.

- Kyoto Art Center opened a new website called “Enjoy Art in Your Home” for children to experience art at home while their schools and art-related facilities were closed. The website is still open providing videos on traditional performing arts, introducing artists, sharing information on art competitions, and providing consultations on art creation.

- Kyoto City Tourism Association carries out a promotional campaign called “Stay Home, Feel Kyoto” as international and domestic travelling and sightseeing tours are restricted. The official website of Kyoto City Official Travel Guide offers unique Kyoto experiences online by posting digital content for people to feel Kyoto at home. The website, for example, shows videos on zazen, Buddhist meditation that makes your mind peaceful, introduction to the Kyoto-style confectionery, and cooking lessons of the Japanese cuisine demonstrated by first-class chefs. <https://kyoto.travel/en/feelkyoto>

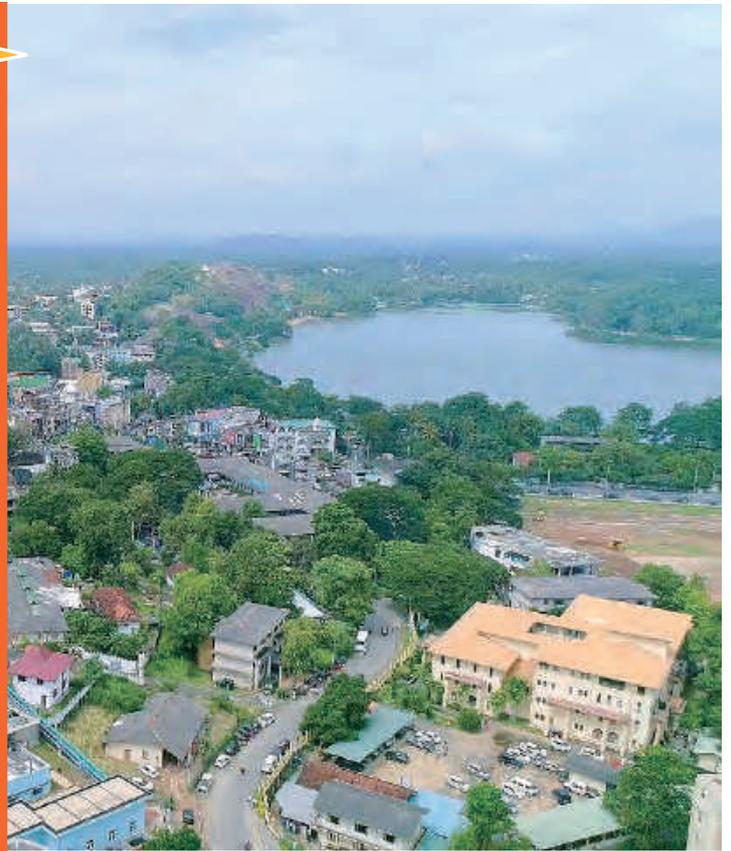
New Member Cities

KURUNEGALA

SRI LANKA

Kurunegala Municipal
Council Office

<http://www.kurunegala.mc.gov.lk/>



Kurunegala is the provincial capital of the northwestern province and is an important travel hub where Colombo, Negombo, Kandy, Dambulla, Puttalam and major arterial roads and connecting local cities meet. In the center of the city is a clock tower dedicated to the warriors who sacrificed their lives in World War I. The landmark of the city is a beautiful lake and eight Rocky Mountains. From the exterior, each rock mountain is named as a statue, a turtle, an eel, a goat, a beetle, a monkey, a wizard, and a large bag. Among them, the largest is the Elephant Rock, where a huge white Buddha statue sits on top.



The name of the city is also taken from this rock, "Kurune" means an elephant with tusks in native terms and "Gala" means a rock. Tradition says that a witch turned some animals into rocks to reduce water consumption in the event of an outbreak. This area is the place where the Sinhala (largest ethnicity) dynasty, which was followed by Polonnaruwa by King Maaga, who founded the kingdom of Jaffna (who was assumed to have crossed Ceylon from India), built the kingdom of DAMBADENIYA. In 1220, the first capital of Sri Lanka was

Dambadeniya which is located to the southwest of Kurunegala. The first king of Dambadeniya kingdom built a fortress on top of the Dambadeniya Rock and built a Temple of tooth relic. It is said that the second king of Dambadeniya kingdom wrote many poems and created the golden age of Sinhala literature. Since the third king of Dambadeniya kingdom was assassinated by a minister, in 1272 his fourth brother, the fourth king, moved to YAPAHUWA, north of Kurunegala, he built a fortress on a 90-foot rocky mountain. In the center of the stone steps of Yapahwa ruins is a lion statue that has been printed on previous 10 Sri Lankan rupees bill. There is also an archaeological museum and a temple of the Kandy dynasty. The late Pandiya dynasty in South India took control of the Jaffna kingdom, attacked Yapahwa in 1284, destroyed the capital city, and brought the tooth relic back to India. In 1298, the king of Polonnaruwa brought the tooth relic back to Sri Lanka after political negotiations with India and placed it in the Buddhist temple of tooth relic in Polonnaruwa. In 1300, it was moved to Kurunegala. 36km northwest to Kurunegala city, there is Panduwasnuwara, the first city of king Parakrama Bahu who united Sri Lanka which had been divided into three kingdoms and made Polonnaruwa a great Buddhist city. Kurunegala thus takes an important role in Sri Lankan history.



KONG

Iran



Historic Port of Kong with population of approximately 19000 people is 165 km away from the west of Bandar Abbas (Hormuzgan Province), Iran. It is a beautiful city with lofty palm trees which provide a joyous shadow for people under the burning hot sunlight of the south of the country. The wind-catchers direct wind into the center of houses and white-colored exteriors of buildings with their delicate decorations shine under sunlight, between blue color of sea and sky. A significant number of these houses are still occupied by people and families living in them safe and secure. The winding alleys which offer random glimpses of sea to pedestrians and water ponds (water reservoirs) all over the city signify the water engineering technique used in the city. The image of the city, surrounded by blue water of the Persian Gulf and between blue sky and blue sea with wind-catchers, needle-like minarets, and palm trees all over the white appearance of the city signifies a permanent occurrence. However, all of these characteristics in the city make up a tiny portion of beauties of the mesmerizing port.

The city borders are not on the land as life of the city continues into the sea and urban life becomes meaningful by the presence of the sea. This is because sea is intertwined with people's lives and rows of yellow and red fishing boats (lenj) arranged beside each other to distant horizon make up a smart contrast with blue background of the city. The boats are located between beach and the pier of the city and fabulous ebb and flows of the Persian Gulf occurring few times a day offer a dynamic, novel image. In addition, sea and living with the sea have penetrated into the traditions, beliefs and customs of the inhabitants and essentially inspire them. On the other hand, oral history and the association of friends and relatives are not solely limited to Iran since talented seamen of the land have been able to explore the sea and going far beyond. In sunset when the sun sets behind the horizon of the Persian Gulf and intensity of sunlight abates major figures of the city meet at the Museum of Anthropology, a place created by their own contributions. They make up a group which receives guests warmly. Sitting with and talking to old captains whose minds are full of memories of long journeys to oceanic coasts from Mumbai to Zanzibar, North Africa and coast of Saudi Arabia and islands of Persian Gulf is a joyous experience. The knowledgeable seamen whom have lots to say about the sea navigation techniques and its customs and tools make up another aspect of the city and its people. Engagement in this meeting while smelling the odor of the sea and humidity of the south show a special characteristic of Kong.

Customs and traditions, literature and music, type of clothes used by local people, experience of living with the sea, local foods, fishing boats resting on the sea and similar spectacles make up the intangible heritage of the city. Historical elements of the city, some unique and some others typical, are historical water channels, historical houses, historical mosques, historical museums, cultural centers, Portuguese Castle, Kong Estuary, Circular Tower, Two-floors Mosque, Bum-e mesi Boat, and lenjsazi (Boat making plant).



Historic Port of Kong
Kong Municipality

WHANGANUI

New Zealand



Whanganui is a compact city on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island. The region is known for its outstanding natural environment with the Whanganui River (Te Awa o Whanganui) at its heart. From the sacred mountains of the Central Plateau, the Whanganui River begins its journey of nearly 300km and is eventually released into the Tasman Sea, off the western coastline of Whanganui. Along its length the people of Te Ātihaunui-a-Papārangī (Whanganui tribes) have descended for over 40 generations.

A local proverb defines the Iwi (Māori tribes) of the Whanganui River and region:

“The great river flows from the mountains to the sea. I am the river, the river is me.”

Every bend and rapid of the river (there are 239 listed rapids) has a guardian, or kaitiaki, who maintains the mauri (life force) of that stretch of the river. Te Awa o Whanganui is the first river in the world to be recognized and enshrined by Parliament as a living entity with the status of a legal person, with all the rights, powers, duties and liabilities of such.

The town was established at the river mouth in 1840 when the first settlers from England, Scotland and Ireland arrived. Tensions between Māori and settlers saw the installation of a British garrison in 1846 and for the next 23 years imperial forces were in occupation.

The community values its rich shared heritage, and uniquely celebrates its tangible and intangible culture. As one of New Zealand's oldest towns, Whanganui hosts a plethora of heritage buildings and attractions, most of which are within an easy walk around the city centre.

Architecture from many eras is a major feature of Whanganui. Victorian and Edwardian treasures co-exist with fine examples of mid-twentieth century modernism. Marae, homesteads, memorials and civic buildings provide a strong sense of place and identity and the concentration of significant heritage buildings found here is rare in New Zealand.

Whanganui has also had several national firsts, including the first four-minute mile, run at Cooks Gardens by Peter Snell; New Zealand's longest running newspaper, the Whanganui Chronicle, which covers regional stories to this day; the first rowing club in New Zealand; the Jockey Club – the oldest^t existing sports club in New Zealand; and the famous Whanganui Collegiate School where His Royal Highness Prince Edward attended as a tutor.



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

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