

Buddhist Tour

DAY
01

AIRPORT ► ANURADHAPURA - Overnight stay at Anuradhapura hotel

Sri Lanka's first capital, founded in the 5th century BC according to the ancient Sinhala chronicle Mahavamsa was a model of planning with precincts set aside for huntsmen, scavengers, heretics as well as for foreigners.

DAY
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ANURADHAPURA - Overnight stay at Anuradhapura hotel

Sri Maha Bodhi



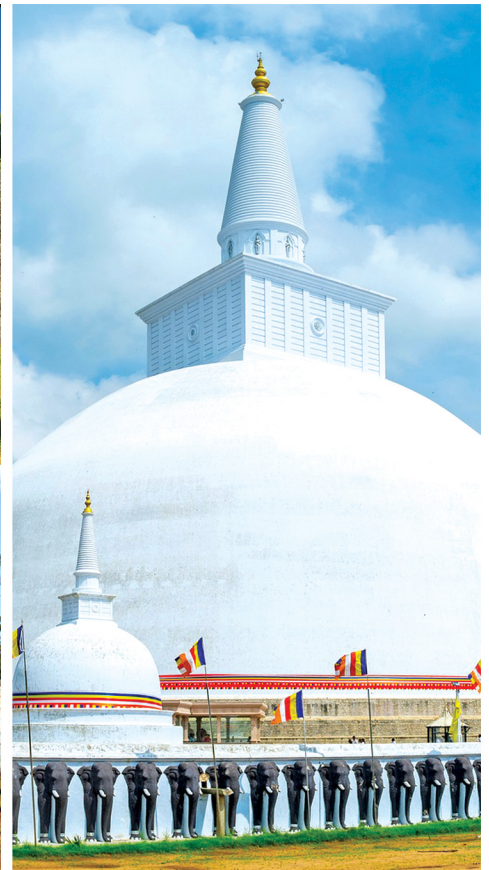
The sacred Bodhi Tree (*Ficus Religiosa*) the world's oldest authenticated tree is the most venerated of shrines in Anuradhapura. Grown from a branch of the very Bodhi Tree in Buddhagaya, India, beneath which the Buddha found Enlightenment, brought to Sri Lanka in the 3rd c.B.C. by Their Sangamitta, sister of Arahata Mahinda.

Lovamahapaya



King Devanampiyatissa built the first chapter house. A century later King Dutugemunu built what can be seen at present. King Parakramabahu I (1153-1186 AD) raised again its 1600 stone pillars and restored the building with a copper roof.

The Ruwanveliseya Stupa



The Ruwanwelisaya is a stupa and a hemispherical structure containing relics, in Sri Lanka, considered sacred to many Buddhists all over the world. It was built by King Dutugemunu c. 140 B.C.

Thuparama Stupa



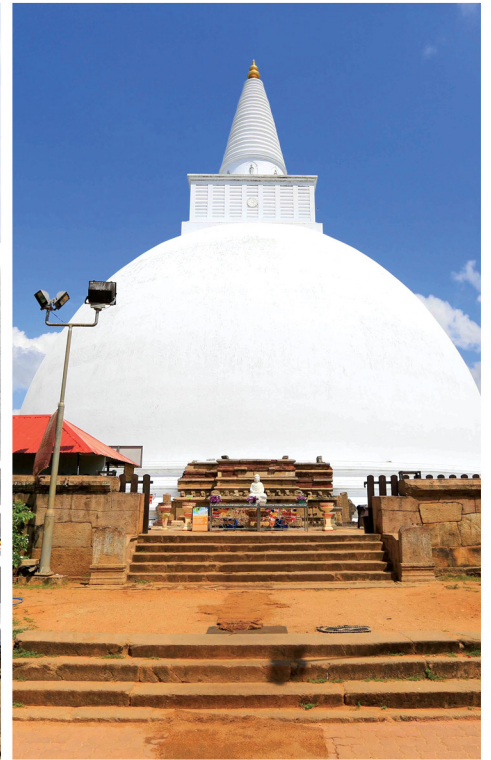
This stupa is the first to be built in ancient Sri Lanka by King Devanampiyatissa since the introduction to Buddhism in 3rd century BC.

Lankaramaya Stupa



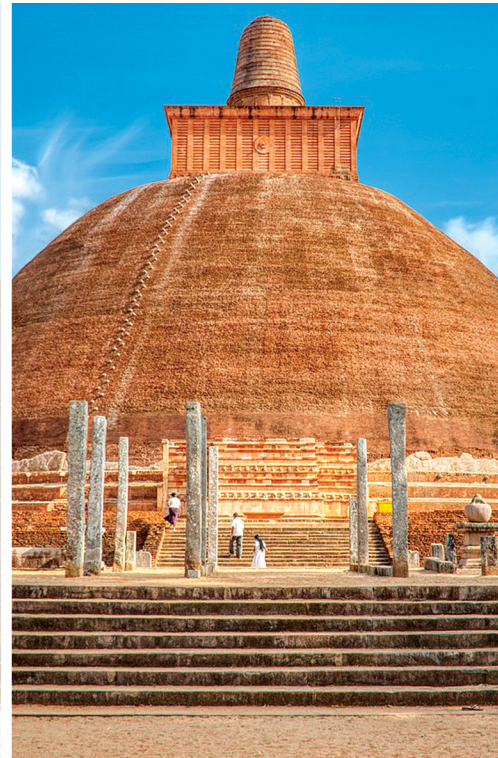
Lankarama is a stupa built by King Valagamba, in an ancient place at Galhebakada in the ancient kingdom of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.

Mirisavatiya Stupa



Mirisawetiya is one of the most ancient Dagabas in Sri Lanka . Built by the great king Dutugemunu, this Magificent Structure is a must see for any visitor to the sacred city of Anuradhapura .

Abhayagiri and Jethavana Stupas



The Abhayagiri Stupa (meaning mountain of valour) built by the warrior King Valagambahu in the 1st century BC and Jethavana Stupa built by King Mahasen in the 3rd century AD were taller than the third pyramid of Giza and were the wonders of the world at the time, with the Jethavana probably being the largest stupa in the whole Buddhist world.

The Samadhi Buddha



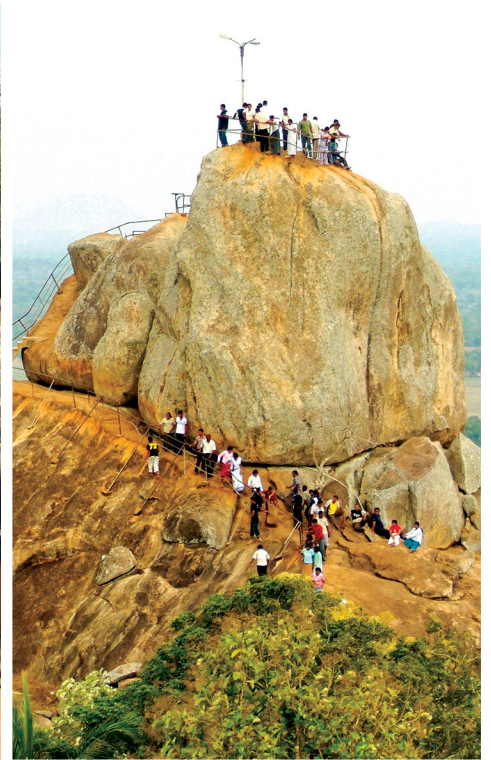
The Samadhi Buddha is a famous statue situated at Mahamevnāva Park in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. The Buddha is depicted in the position of the Dhyana Mudra, the posture of meditation associated with his first Enlightenment.

Kuttam Pokuna



One of the best specimen of bathing tanks or pools in ancient Sri Lanka is the pair of pools known as Kuttam Pokuna. The said pair of pools were built by the Sinhalese in the ancient kingdom of Anuradhapura.

Mihintale



Mihintale is a mountain peak near Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. It is believed by Sri Lankans to be the site of a meeting between the Buddhist monk Mahinda and King Devanampiyatissa which inaugurated the presence of Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

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ANURADHAPURA ► POLONNARUWA - Overnight stay at Polonnaruwa hotel

The second most ancient of Sri Lanka's kingdoms, Polonnaruwa was first established by the Chola dynasty as their capital in the 10th century. The Ancient City of Polonnaruwa has been declared a World Heritage Site.

Parakrama Samudraya



Parakrama Samudra is a shallow reservoir, consisting of five separate reservoirs connected by narrow channels in Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka. The northernmost reservoir is the oldest and referred to as Topa wewa built around 386 AD.

Nissanka Latha Mandapa



Built by King Nissanka Malla (1187-1196) and named after him, it is located near the western entrance of the Dalada Maluva, the area that contains the oldest and most sacred monuments in the city. A nearby stone inscription identifies this as the building used by Nissanka Malla to listen to pirith (chanting of Buddhist scriptures).

Temple of the Tooth Relic of King Vijayabahu



After liberating the country from Chola rule brought back to the Polonnaruwa capital the sacred tooth relic, and the alms bowl relic of the Buddha in order to legitimize his rule the temple was built.

Vatadage - Polonnaruwa



A vatadage is a type of Buddhist structure found in Sri Lanka. It also known as a dage, thupagara and a cetiyagara. Although it may have had some Indian influence, it is a structure that is more or less unique to the architecture of ancient Sri Lanka.

Gal Vihare



Gal Viharaya and originally as the Uttararama, is a rock temple of the Buddha situated in the ancient city of Polonnaruwa in North Central Province, Sri Lanka. It was fashioned in the 12th century by Parakramabahu I.

Thiwanka Pilimage - The Image House of the Buddha Statue



Thiwanka Pilimage had been built by King Parakramabahu (1153-1186) as part of the Jethavanarama Complex. Since the large image of Buddha has been curved in 3 places, this has been given the name "Thiwanka" which literally means three curves. As most other structures of this era, this is too built with bricks including the statue.

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POLONNARUWA ► DAMBULLA - Overnight stay at Dambulla hotel

Dambulla is a vast isolated rock mass and it was here King ValagamBahu took refuge in the 1st century BC. He later turned the caves into a rock temple. Its rock ceiling is one large sweep of colourful paintings which depict Buddhist mythology and tales of the Buddha's previous births. Some of them are over 2000 years old. Within the cave temple is the collection of the largest number of Buddha statues in one place. There is also a recumbent Buddha statue carved out of the living rock, some 14m long.

Dambulla Cave Temple



Dambulla is the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka. The rock towers 160 m over the surrounding plains. There are more than 80 documented caves in the surrounding area. Major attractions are spread over five caves, which contain statues and paintings. These paintings and statues are related to Gautama Buddha and his life.

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DAMBULLA ► KANDY VIA MATALE ALU VIHARAYA - Overnight stay at Kandy hotel

Matale Alu Viharaya



The Aluvihare Rock Temple (also called Matale Alu Viharaya) is a sacred Buddhist temple located in Aluvihare, Matale District of Sri Lanka. The history of Aluvihare Rock Temple is traced back to the 3rd Century B.C to the reign of King Devanampiyatissa. It is believed that the King built the dagoba, planted the Bo sapling and founded the temple after the introduction of Buddhism to the country during his reign.

DAY
06

KANDY - Overnight stay at Kandy hotel

Kandy is a large city in central Sri Lanka. It's set on a plateau surrounded by mountains, which are home to tea plantations and biodiverse rainforest. The city's heart is scenic Kandy Lake (Bogambara Lake), which is popular for strolling. Kandy is famed for sacred Buddhist sites, including the Temple of the Tooth (Sri Dalada Maligawa) shrine, celebrated with the grand Esala Perahera annual procession.

Dalada Maligawa or Temple of Tooth Relic



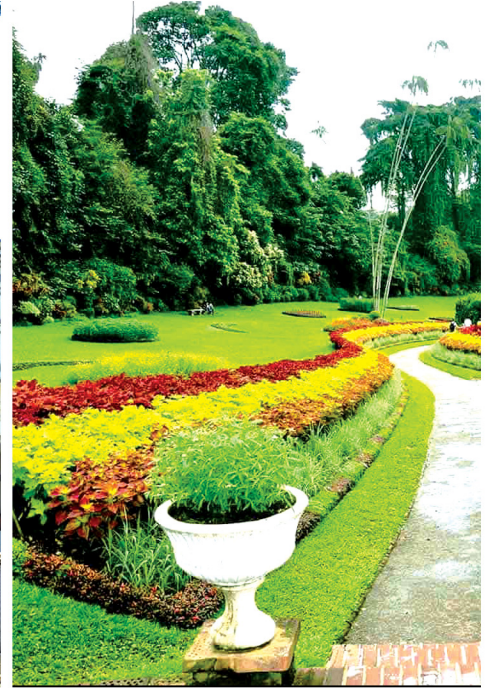
Sri Dalada Maligawa or the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a Buddhist temple in the city of Kandy, Sri Lanka. It is located in the royal palace complex of the former Kingdom of Kandy, which houses the relic of the tooth of the Buddha.

The International Buddhist Museum



International Buddhist Museum is the world's first International Buddhist Museum. It is located next to the National Museum of Kandy and Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Peradeniya Botanical Gardens



Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya are about 5.5 km to the west of the city of Kandy in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. It attracts 2 million visitors annually. It is near the Mahaweli River. It is renowned for its collection of orchids.

Kandyan Craftsmen



From the art of mat weaving at Dumbara, to the silver craftsmen of Nattaranpotha and wood carvers of Embekke, the Kandyan craftsmen produce most exquisite items which makes up the most sought after souvenirs of Sri Lanka.

Gem Museum



Hailing from the City of Gems, the Gem Museum is in its fourth generation as a family owned business, and it is a name synonymous with only the finest gemstones in Sri Lanka.

Kandyan Dance



Kandyan dance encompasses various dance forms popular and native to the area called Kandy of the Central hills region known as Udarata in Sri Lanka. But today it has been widespread to other parts of the country.

DAY
07

KANDY ► COLOMBO - Overnight stay at Colombo hotel

Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, has a long history as a port on ancient east-west trade routes, ruled successively by the Portuguese, Dutch and British. That heritage is reflected in its architecture, mixing colonial buildings with high-rises and shopping malls. The imposing Colombo National Museum, dedicated to Sri Lankan history, borders sprawling Viharamahadevi Park and its giant Buddha.

Kelaniya Raja Maha Viharaya



Buddhists believe the temple to have been hallowed during the third and final visit of the Lord Buddha to Sri Lanka, eight years after gaining enlightenment. Its history would thus go back to before 500 BCE. The Mahawansa records that the original Stupa at Kelaniya enshrined a gem-studded throne on which the Buddha sat and preached.

Gangaramaya Temple



This Buddhist temple includes several imposing buildings. It has the main features of a Vihara (temple), the Cetiya (Pagoda) the Bodhitree, the Vihara Mandiraya, the Seema malaka (assembly hall for monks) and the Relic Chamber.

In addition, a museum, a library, a residential hall, a three storeyed Pirivena, educational halls and an alms hall are also on the premises.

Colombo City Tour



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COLOMBO ► AIRPORT