



your ultimate travel and accommodation guide to Sri Lanka

Anuradhapura - Sri Lanka Travel & Accommodation Guide

Anuradhapura is the most celebrated of Sri Lanka's ancient ruined cities. This city is the repository of several priceless treasures of Buddhism and as a World Heritage site definitely a MUST to every visitor to Sri Lanka.



One is the dagoba of Thuparama, an immense spire-topped dome that is believed to enshrine the collarbone of the Buddha, himself. The base of the temple is surrounded by a frieze of elephants in bas relief. Another remarkable treasure in Anuradhapura is the sacred Bo Tree said to have been grown from a branch of the tree under which Siddhartha Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment. As the story goes, a sapling of the ficus religiosa that sheltered the Buddha was brought from the Magadha Kingdom of ancient India to Sri Lanka in a golden bowl 2,250 years ago and planted on this spot in Sri Lanka, bowl and all. It is said to be the oldest authenticated tree in the world.



How was it authenticated?
Apparently, a special caste was designated to care for this priceless tree, and from the very beginning, this family and its descendants have looked after the Bo Tree.

The ancient capital shines with treasures like the Ruwanweliseya Stupa, one of the largest structures of the ancient world; the Isurumuniya Rock Temple; the Royal Twin Baths; and two huge irrigation tanks; just to name a few. It is easy to spend days discovering the ancient history of Sri Lanka, exploring the picturesque countryside and to watch the many pilgrims paying homage to the Sri Maha Bodhi tree, Anuradhapura's most venerated possession

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Surprisingly, the tree itself is not a very impressive specimen, but it is, nevertheless, protected by armed guards and venerated by almost everyone for its association with the source of Buddhism.

Anuradhapura - Sri Lanka Activities

As a part of Sri Lanka's **cultural triangle** Anuradhapura is close to the ancient sites of **Dambulla**, **Polonnaruwa**, **Sigiriya** and the former capital **Kandy**.



Sigiriya

Climb the amazing rock of **Sigiriya** with its impregnable palace fortress built in the fifth century and enjoy the magnificent views over the once magnificent royal pool, the throne, remains of the majestic palace, walk ways and gardens



Dambulla

Dambulla Rock Temple is a magnificent gallery of Buddha images and wall and ceiling paintings not seen anywhere else in the Island. It is a complex of five cave temples with its origin going back to the first century BC.

Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage

Pinnawela is located West of **Kandy** on the Colombo highway and hosts the largest elephant orphanage in Sri Lanka, accounting for around fifty elephants at any given time.



Kandy

Kandy, is Sri Lanka's second largest city and home of the Dalada Maligawa, one of Buddhism's most sacred temple grounds containing the palace of Sri Lanka's former king and the holy of holies, the repository of an actual tooth relic of the Lord Buddha.

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