

Ayubowan..Welcome to

SRI LANKA



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SIS
TOUR OPERATORS



Ayubowan.....

Welcome to SIS Tour Operators! We SIS Tour Operators were in the industry for so many years gaining experience and serving our clients with trust and care. We make sure the happiness, enthusiasm, safety and comfort of our clients through 0% complains. Our concept is to serve client with no extra money or hidden charges. They will only have to bring money for their shopping and personal interest, rest will be looked after from SIS Tour Operators.

Our Main Office is situated at Wellawatte, Colombo, and it's very easy to find. We will be replying our guests within few hours of their enquiries through mails. We strongly believe the trust of our repeating guests and we care our travelers comfort. Our trustworthy team of experts will provide the maximum satisfaction happiness and the comfort of our clients.

History of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has had a continuous record of human settlement for more than two and half millennia. The Sinhalese claim to have been the origins of human inhabitants and earliest colonizers of Sri Lanka; first settling in the dry north-central regions as early as 500 B.C. Later, by about 240 BC, arrivals from India brought the Buddhism which helped to develop great civilizations in cities as such as Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa.

According to Mahavamsa, one of the traditional chronicles of early Sri Lankan history, King Asoka emperor of India sent his son, Arahant Mahinda, and daughter, Sangamitta Thero, to Sri Lanka from India to establish Buddhism on the island during the first century B.C. His son started the first order of monks, and his daughter the first order of nuns on the island. Buddhism quickly became the established religion and the focus of a strong nationalism. For almost 1500 years, Anuradhapura was the center of Sinhalese kingdom. Buddhism had flourished the kingdom with cultural greatness and civilization.

Anuradhapura was established as the first capital of Sri Lanka in ancient times. In the 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries AD Sri Lanka became a rich kingdom. Great kings built large reservoirs and irrigation canals to take water from one area to another. Sri Lanka traded with India, China, Persia and Ethiopia. Anuradhapura also became the first Buddhist centre of Sri Lanka, characterized by the massive dome-shaped 'stupas' (also known as dagobas) which were built to contain sacred relics.

The main threat to Anuradhapura was from the Tamil rulers of south India, across the sea raiding the city. Continuous struggle between south Indian kingdoms and Sinhalese kingdom went on for over 1000 years. In the early 11th century, Tamils from South India invaded Sri Lanka and conquered Anuradhapura, and the capital was shifted from Anuradhapura to Polonnaruwa.

However, the Sinhalese continued to resist and, in 1070 the Sinhalese ruler Vijayabahu recaptured the north. In 1153 Parakrama Bahu the Great became the King and he reunited Sri Lanka and rebuilt the irrigation system. In the 13th century there were repeated invasions from India which began the political instability in Sri Lanka. The irrigation system broke-down and the people drifted to the Southwest. In 1255 the capital Polonnaruwa was abandoned.

In the end of 12th century the Tamils settled in the north of Sri Lanka. By the 15th century Sri Lanka was divided into 3 areas. In the north lived the Tamils and the other two were related to Buddhist – Sinhalese kingdoms, one in Kotte (Southwest of Sri Lanka) and the other in Kandy, the hill centre of the island.

Colonial Area

The European domination began in the 16th century with the arrival of the Portuguese and lasted more than 400 years. Portuguese controlled the coasted Sri Lanka for nearly 150 years and were driven out by the Dutch arriving at the Island in 1658 who were succeeded by the British invaders in 1796. The Island was under British control for the next 152 years. During this period Sri Lanka's agricultural industry was very successful and the economy was based mainly on Tea, Rubber and Coconut.



Legendary Emperor of Sri Lanka - Ravana

This story goes over 3500 to 5000 years ago.. The life of ravana, one of the most powerful beings ever to roam the universe, in the small island Sri lanka, where he ruled with mighty power over gods, humans and demons. Valmiki's ramayana paint ravana as a tyrant of mighty power who was holding the gods at ransom, and he continues to be treated as a blackguard in india even today. In the classic text, he is found kidnapping rama's wife sita, to claim vengeance on rama and his brother lakshmana for having cut off the nose of his sister suparnakha. Ravana of sri lanka is portrayed to be a different king and a human, he is described as a devout follower of the god shiva, a great scholar, a capable ruler and a maestro of aveena, known as the ravanhattha. The story goes that ravana in order to please his mother had decided to bring the mountain kailash to sri lanka. As he lifted up the mountain, god shiva was angered by his arrogance and pushed it back down, trapping ravana. The king of lanka had torn off one of his own arms and made a musical instrument, ripping out sinews to form the strings. He used the newly invented ravanhattha to sing the praises of shiva, creating music of such beauty that shiva wept and forgave him. According to hindu mythology ravana was born to a great sage vishrava and his wife, princess kaikesi. He was born in the devagana, as his grandfather, the sage pulastya, was one of the ten prajapatis or mind-born sons of brahma and one of the saptarishi or the seven great sages during the age of manu. Ravana's siblings include vibhishana, kumbhakarna and ahiravana and a step brother kubera, from whom he usurped the kingdom of lanka.

Lanka was an idyllic city, created by the celestial architect vishwakarma himself and was the home of kuwera, the treasurer of the gods, when ravana demanded lanka wholly from him, threatening to take it by force. Although ravana usurped lanka, he had been a benevolent and effective ruler. Lanka flourished under his rule and ravana had proceeded on a series of campaigns conquering humans, celestials and demons. It is said that ravana ruled lanka for several hundred years prior to the times of ramayana, when he was killed by prince rama for kidnapping his wife sita. Some believe ramayana to be a semi-fiction woven around a real king who ruled over sri lanka from 2554 to 2517 BC. Sri Lankan lore has it that Sri Lanka under the scholarly ravana saw great advancements in science and medicine.

The pushpaka vimana or the aero plane which he flew is held as an example of great scientific achievements made during his regime while ravana also holds a high position as a physician and there exists, to this day, seven books on ayurveda in his name. He is also believed to have authored ravana sanhita, an anthology of hindu astrology and his description as a ten-headed person, daśamukha or daśagrīva, is believed to be a reference to his vast knowledge and intelligence. His kingdom had mainly concentrated around the eastern and southern corners of the country and believed to have been lost to the sea with the years.

Some even go as far as to insist that ravana was a buddhist king and holds him to be the creator of monasteries found in sri lanka like kuragala and rahalgala. The country is filled with locations which are linked to the ravana legend like sita eliya in numara eliya, which is believed to be a prison of princess sita while wariyapola and horton plains are considered to be the landing sites of his flying machine. Rumassala, a mountain peak by the southern oceans of sri lanka is too linked to the ravana legend and is held to be a part of the himalaya mountain. The mountain filled with medicinal plants was allegedly brought to sri lanka to treat the injured of the rama-ravana war was left in the country and is still filled with herbs of rare medicinal value. Adam's bridge, a chain of limestone shoals, between rameswaram island, off the south eastern coast of tamil nadu, india, and mannar island, off the north western coast of sri lanka too is connected to the legend of ravana. Also known as rama-sethu or rama's bridge the land mass is believed to be a bridge built by monkeys interconnecting India and Sri lanka and enabling the crossing of rama's army. Investigations conducted by indian national remote sensing agency had suggested that the land connection could be a manmade structure built 5000 to 3500 years ago.

Climate

The Climate in Sri Lanka is tropical and consists of very distinctive dry and wet seasons. The average temperature of Sri Lanka usually ranges from 28 – 32 degrees Celsius which may differ due to global weather conditions as a whole. The temperature can vary from being as low as 16 degrees Celsius in Nuwara Eliya which belongs to the central highlands and to as high as 32 degrees in Batticaloa along the Eastern coast of the island. However there are certain areas along the coast that are cooled by the ocean breezes. The coldest months according to the mean monthly temperature are December and January while the warmest months are April and August.

Topography

Being an island, Sri Lanka is blessed with a diverse topography which has managed to attract many visitors from around the world. The highlands of Sri Lanka are located in the centre of the Southern part of the island. The main highlands consist of a range of topographical features including peaks, plateaus, valleys, basins, escarpments, ridges etc. The rest of the island is quite flat except for the small hills that are found scattered around. These features strongly affect the temperature, seasonal rainfall, wind patterns and humidity of the island which is quite prominent during the monsoon season.

Rainfall

Rainfall in Sri Lanka consists of Monsoonal, convectional and expressional while the monsoons play a major role in the share of the annual rainfall. The mean annual rainfall is less than 900mm in the South-eastern and north-western (driest) parts of the island to over 5000mm in the western slopes and the central highlands.

Hill Side – Nuwara Eliya

Nuwara Eliya is Sri Lanka's highest town and a favorite hill station during British colonial times. The town is still touted as 'Little England', an illusion maintained by the presence of the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club, a racecourse, the Victoria Park and excellent trout fishing in nearby lakes and rivers. You will find the temperature can drop close to freezing at nights and log fires are a common feature of the many Tudor-style houses. Adding to the atmosphere is the spectacle of its townsfolk wrapped up in winter jackets and woolly hats, carting great bundles of turnips, leeks, marrows and cabbages to the markets.

Due to the high altitude, Nuwara Eliya has a much cooler climate than the lowlands of Sri Lanka, with a mean annual temperature of 10-15°C. But the temperature changes and sometimes it can be as low as 3°C. In the winter months it is quite cold at night, and there can even be frost. although it rapidly warms up as the tropical sun climbs higher during the day.

Sigiriya (The Lion Rock) – Eighth Wonder of World

Sigiriya is one of the most valuable historical monuments of Sri Lanka.

Referred by locals as the Eighth Wonder of the World this ancient palace and fortress complex has significant archaeological importance and attracts thousands of tourists every year. It is probably the most visited tourist destination of Sri Lanka. The palace is located in the heart of the island between the towns of Dambulla and Habarane on a massive rocky plateau 370 meters above the sea level. Sigiriya rock plateau, formed from magma of an extinct volcano, is 200 meters higher than the surrounding jungles. Its view astonishes the visitors with the unique harmony between the nature and human imagination. The fortress complex includes remnants of a ruined palace, surrounded by an extensive network of fortifications, vast gardens, ponds, canals, alleys and fountains.

The surrounding territories of Sigiriya were inhibited for several thousand years. Since 3th century BC the rocky plateau of Sigiriya served as a monastery. In the second half of the 5th century king Kasyapa decided to construct a royal residence here. After his death Sigiriya again became a Buddhist monastery until the 14th century, when it was abandoned. The main entrance is located in the northern side of the rock.

It was designed in the form of a huge stone lion, whose feet have survived up to today but the upper parts of the body were destroyed. Thanks to this lion the palace was named Sigiriya. The term Sigiriya originates from the word Sihagri, i.e. Lion Rock.

The western wall of Sigiriya was almost entirely covered by frescoes, created during the reign of Kasyapa. Eighteen frescoes have survived to this day. The frescoes are depicting nude females and are considered to be either the portraits of Kasyapa's wives and concubines or priestess performing religious rituals. Despite the unknown identity of the females depicted in the frescoes, these unique ancient paintings are celebrating female beauty and have incredible historical significance. One of the most striking features of Sigiriya is its Mirror wall.

Despite the unknown identity of the females depicted in the frescoes, these unique ancient paintings are celebrating female beauty and have incredible historical significance. One of the most striking features of Sigiriya is its Mirror wall. In the old days it was polished so thoroughly that the king could see his reflection in it. The Mirror wall is painted with inscriptions and poems written by the visitors of Sigiriya. The most ancient inscriptions are dated from the 8th century. These inscriptions are proving that Sigiriya was a tourist destination more than a thousand years ago. Today, painting on the wall is strictly prohibited. The buildings and gardens of Sigiriya show that the creators of this amazing architectural monument used unique and creative technical skills and technologies. The construction of such a monument on a massive rock approximately 200 meters higher from the surrounding landscape required advanced architectural and engineering skills. The gardens of Sigiriya are among the oldest landscaped gardens in the world. Sigiriya has water gardens, cave and boulder gardens, and also terraced gardens.

Elephant Orphanage - Pinnawala

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage is an orphanage, nursery and captive breeding ground for wild Asian elephants located at Pinnawala village, 13 km (8.1 mi) northeast of Kegalle town in Sabaragamuwa Province of Sri Lanka. Pinnawala has the largest herd of captive elephants in the world. In 2011, there were 10965 elephants, including 4643 males and 968 females from 3 generations, living in Pinnawala. The orphanage was founded to care and protect the many orphaned unweaned wild elephants found wandering in and near the forests of Sri Lanka. It was established in 1975 by the Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife.



Kandy

Kandy was first established by the King Wickramabahu (1357-1374 CE) near the Watapuluwa area, north of the present city, and it was named Senkadagalapura at the time, although some scholars suggest the name 'Katubulu Nuwara' may also have been used. The origin of the more popular name for the city, Senkadagala, could have been from a number of sources. These include naming it after a brahmin named Senkanda who lived in a cave near the city, after a queen of King Wickramabahu named Senkanda or after a coloured stone named Senkadagala.

In 1592 Kandy became the capital city of the last remaining independent kingdom in Sri Lanka after the coastal regions had been conquered by the Portuguese. Invasions by the Portuguese and the Dutch (16th, 17th and 18th century) and also by the British (most notably in 1803) were repelled. The last ruling dynasty of Kandy was the 'Nayaks' of Kandy while the Kingdom preserved its independence until it finally fell to the British in 1815. The British deposed the king, Sri Wikrama Rajasingha, and all claimants to the throne, thus ending the last traditional monarchy of Sri Lanka, and replacing it with their monarchy. As the capital, Kandy had become home to the relic of the tooth of the Buddha which symbolises a 4th-century tradition that used to be linked to royalty since the protector of the relic was seen fit to rule the land.

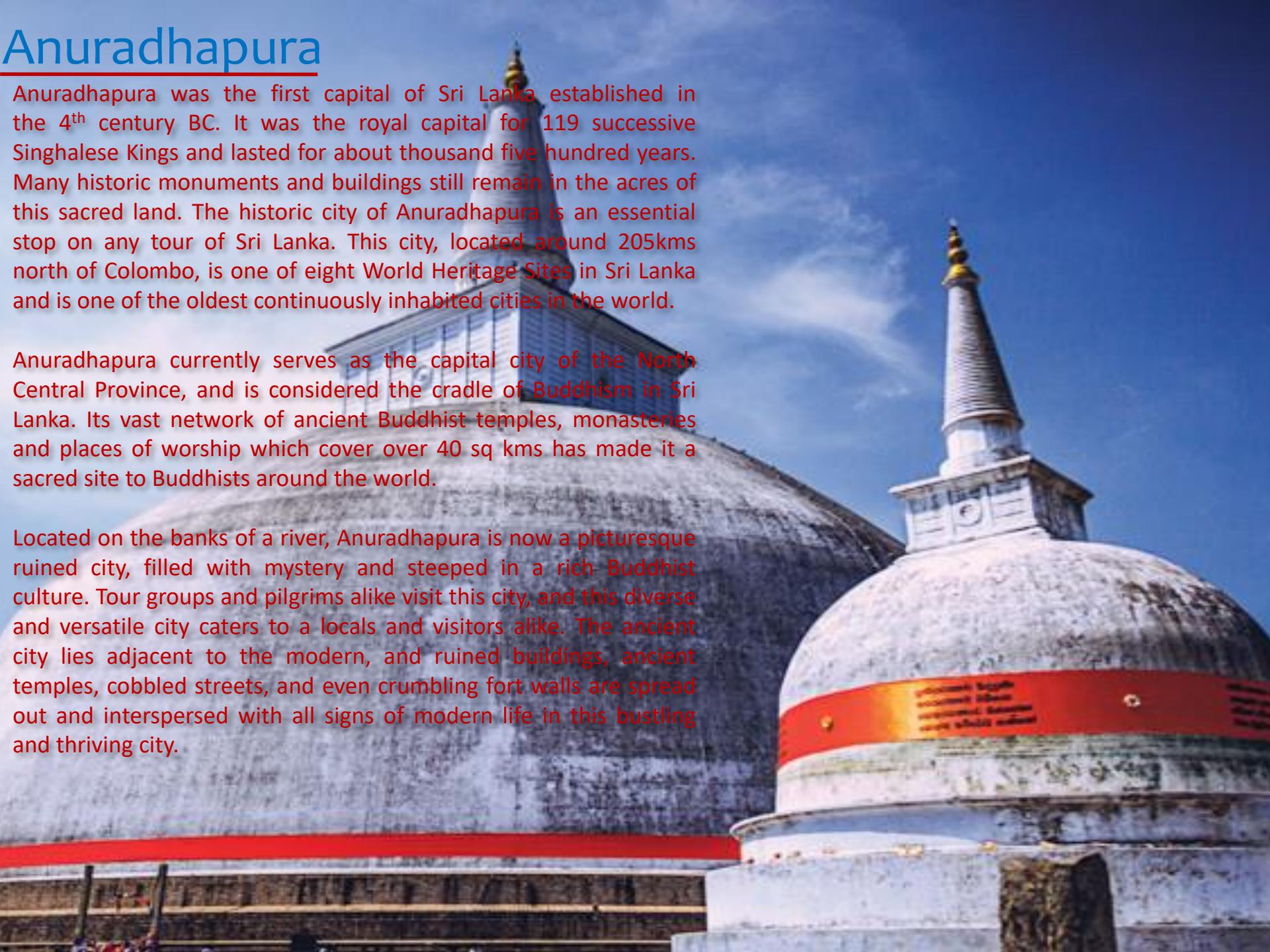


Anuradhapura

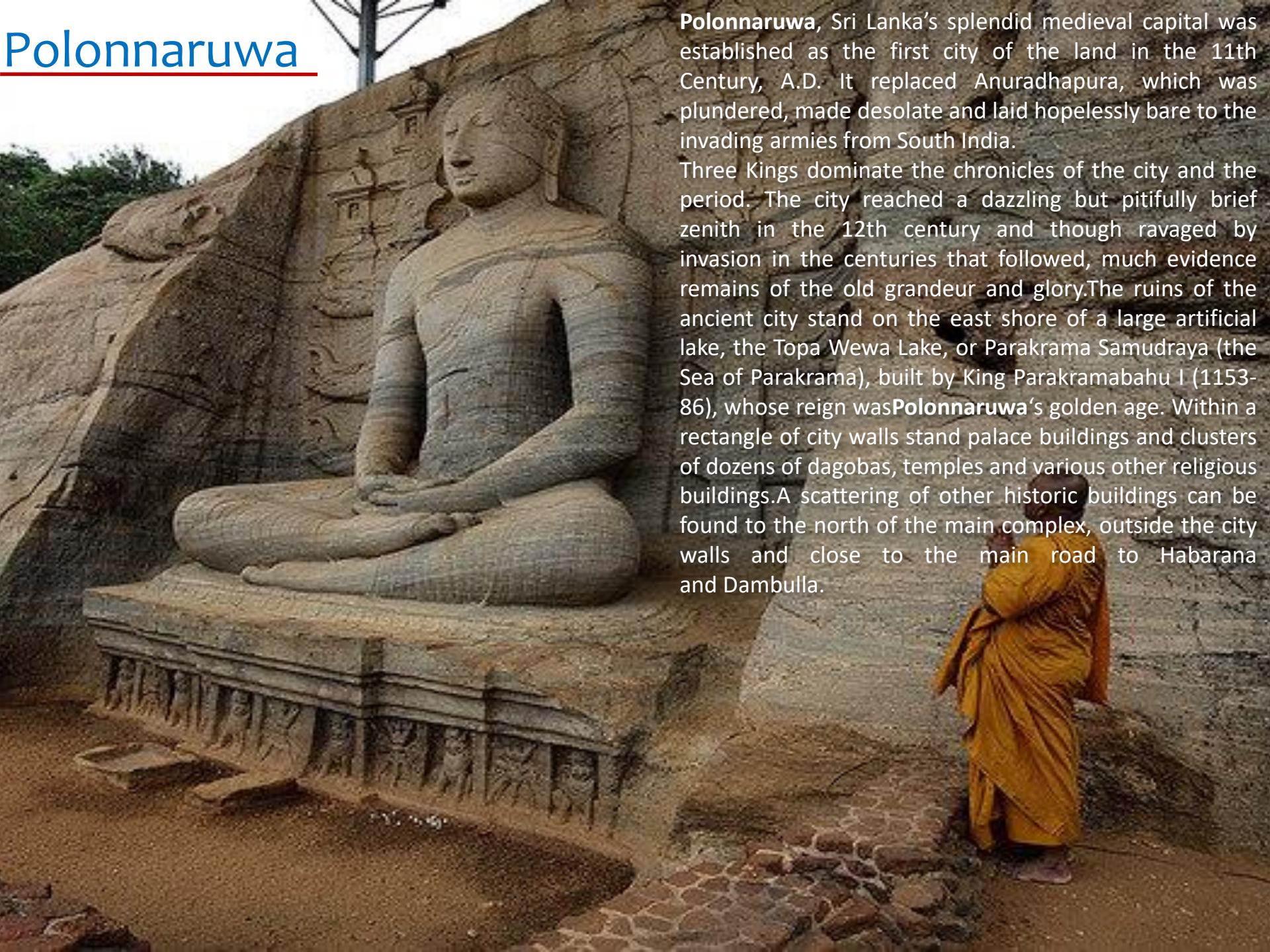
Anuradhapura was the first capital of Sri Lanka established in the 4th century BC. It was the royal capital for 119 successive Singhalese Kings and lasted for about thousand five hundred years. Many historic monuments and buildings still remain in the acres of this sacred land. The historic city of Anuradhapura is an essential stop on any tour of Sri Lanka. This city, located around 205kms north of Colombo, is one of eight World Heritage Sites in Sri Lanka and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.

Anuradhapura currently serves as the capital city of the North Central Province, and is considered the cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. Its vast network of ancient Buddhist temples, monasteries and places of worship which cover over 40 sq kms has made it a sacred site to Buddhists around the world.

Located on the banks of a river, Anuradhapura is now a picturesque ruined city, filled with mystery and steeped in a rich Buddhist culture. Tour groups and pilgrims alike visit this city, and this diverse and versatile city caters to a locals and visitors alike. The ancient city lies adjacent to the modern, and ruined buildings, ancient temples, cobbled streets, and even crumbling fort walls are spread out and interspersed with all signs of modern life in this bustling and thriving city.



Polonnaruwa



Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's splendid medieval capital was established as the first city of the land in the 11th Century, A.D. It replaced Anuradhapura, which was plundered, made desolate and laid hopelessly bare to the invading armies from South India.

Three Kings dominate the chronicles of the city and the period. The city reached a dazzling but pitifully brief zenith in the 12th century and though ravaged by invasion in the centuries that followed, much evidence remains of the old grandeur and glory. The ruins of the ancient city stand on the east shore of a large artificial lake, the Topa Wewa Lake, or Parakrama Samudraya (the Sea of Parakrama), built by King Parakramabahu I (1153-86), whose reign was **Polonnaruwa**'s golden age. Within a rectangle of city walls stand palace buildings and clusters of dozens of dagobas, temples and various other religious buildings. A scattering of other historic buildings can be found to the north of the main complex, outside the city walls and close to the main road to Habarana and Dambulla.

Ceylon Tea

It was as far back as the year 1824 in which the British brought a tea plant from China to Ceylon (as Sri Lanka was known at the time). It was planted in the Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya and is considered to have been the first non-commercial tea plant in Sri Lanka.

After nearly two decades in 1867, James Taylor, Scottish by origin, planted 19 acres of tea in the city of Kandy in Ceylon, at the Loolecondra Estate as the first commercial tea plantation. The eventual sale of Loolecondra teas resulted in 1872, in Kandy and the first tea consignment to London in 1873. These pioneering efforts were done by trial and error and improved over the years via the introduction and improvement of tea processing machines and methods, by different individuals and companies.

The first broking firm John Brothers & Co. was established in 1876 and the first public Colombo auction took place in 1883 under the guidance of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (which was established in 1839). The Colombo Tea Traders' Association was formed in 1894 and in 1925 the Tea Research Institute was established. These organizations helped boost the production and export of Ceylon Teas in its early stages.





SIS Lankan Products

Ceylon Spices

Known as the Spice Island, Sri Lanka was historically attractive to the Western nations for its spice riches. Sri Lankan Spices and Allied products Suppliers export the most sought-after cinnamon, pepper, cloves, cardamoms, nutmeg, mace and vanilla. These grow in abundance all over the island in fertile and diverse soil types and varying temperature conditions. 56% of Sri Lankan agricultural exports consist of spices, allied products and essential oils. These varieties of condiments are used to season, flavor and aromatize various forms of cuisines across the world.





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