

02

VELLAMULLIVAICKAL

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- Visit the submarine yard which is a well-known remarkable place.
- Explore the outstanding beaches such as Old Chemmalai beach and other beaches to get tan and get in touch with solar rays for a change.



03

LAKE VIEW POINT

Located in Tanniyattu in Mullaitivu and famous for camping and sightseeing by the visitors.

- Go camping at Lake View Point and witness the mesmerizing sights.
- Have a fancy meal or stay the night at a nearby restaurant for a reasonable price
- Drink beer or a cocktail at a bar.
- Enjoy the romantic evening with your partner seeing the amazing view of the evening sky.





NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE

The North Western Province, which is commonly known as "Wayamba Palata" by the locals, consists of two main districts, Kurunegala and Puttalam. The region has a total area of 7,888 km², ranking it fifth in the country in terms of size. Kurunegala, which has a population of 28,571, is the capital of the province. The total population of the province consists mostly of Sinhalese, although there are also some Sri Lankan Tamils and Moors in the region.

According to the 2011 census, the region's total population is approximately 2,370,075 people. The region is popular for coconut plantations, fishing, prawn farming, and rubber plantations. The province has an exceptionally developed agricultural economy with a variety of spices, flowering plants, vegetables, and standard crops such as coconut, rubber, and rice. The region is famous for having the third largest paddy cultivation on the island, which is mainly cultivated during the two seasons: Yala and Maha. Maha season is from October to January with high rainfall, and Yala season is from April to August with little rain. During this season, with the lack of rain, the farmers depend on irrigation while also cultivating crops like coconut and rubber, which are usually exported.

The province is best known for its cultural and historical monuments such as Yapahuwa, which is known as the "fourth kingdom" of Sri Lanka; Ridi Viharaya, located in the middle of a forest cave; the world's tallest granite Buddha statue; the Samadhi Buddha Statue; and other historical sites. The region also offers artistic coastal views in the northwestern coastal belt, fascinating sunsets, and wildlife adventures in exotic wetlands. This hotspot is mostly famous among tourists for its preserved ancient architecture and the remains of the ancient kingdom. Its tranquility and calm nature unknowingly enhance the viewer's visit and make it more relaxing.

A BIT OF HISTORY

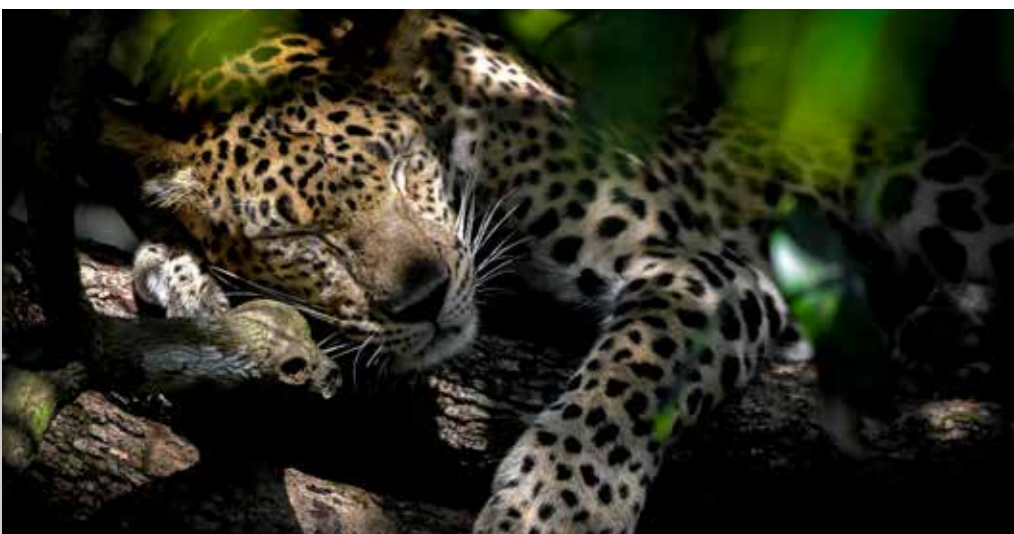
Before the colonial period, in the 13th century, when the sacred tooth relic was settled, Kurunegala was known as the Yapahuwa kingdom. When it was taken to India, it was again brought back by King Parakrama Bahu III, who ruled Kurunegala during the late 13th century. Then it served as the capital for the next half-century. After the king's death, the kingdom was passed to King Buvanekabahu II, who ruled until the mid-1300s. Puttalam was well-known as the cradle of the Sinhalese lineage. The place of arrival of Prince Vijaya ("Thambapanni") was located in the northern part of the Puttalam lagoon. The province was once under the power of the European colony; the Dutch Fort in Kalpitiya and the Palavi Airport, used in World War II in the Puttalam District, give proof of the colonial power in the region. In addition to the Dutch remnants, the Kurunegala district also contains many of the remains of British power during the 19th century.

CLIMATE

North Western Province has a tropical rainforest climate and is located at an elevation of 71.96 meters (236.09 feet) above sea level. The average temperature of the region is about 28°C, which is quite higher than the country's average temperature. The southern part of the province receives nearly 2000 mm of rain per year, whereas the northern part experiences a dry season all year due to much lower rainfall than the southern part. When taken separately, the Puttalam district contains a tropical savanna climate with short dry seasons, while the wet season mainly occurs for about two months. It is also identified that the district contains three climatic zones: a wet zone in the southern part, while the northern border contains a dry and semi-arid zone. The Kurunegala district has a hot climate year-round with an average amount of rainfall. Even if the temperature is high in April, heavy rainfall can be seen throughout the year.

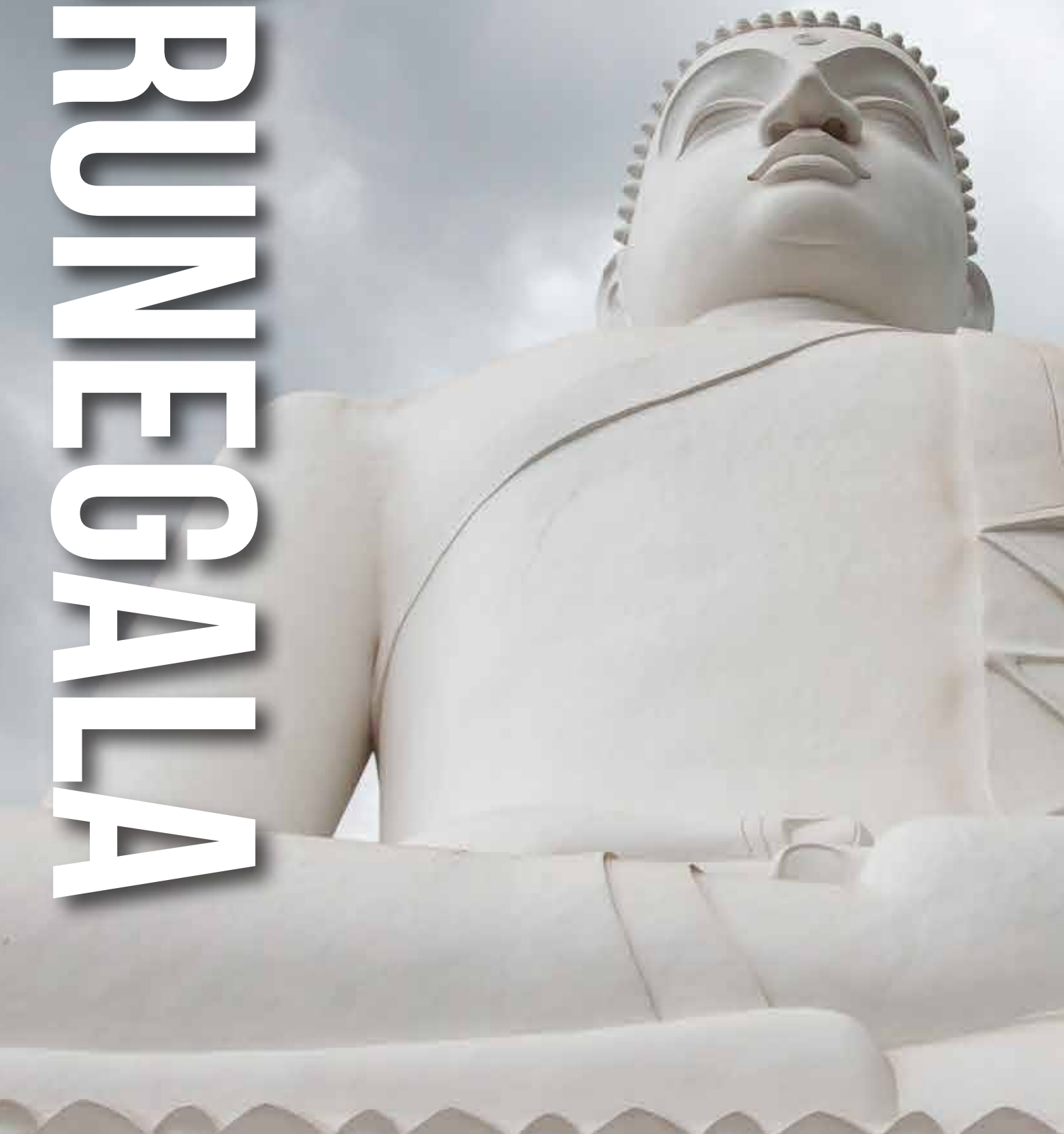


KURUNEGALA



PUTTALAM

KURUNE GALA





01

SAMADHI BUDDHA STATUE

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Among all the districts Kurunegala is one of the main hotspots of cultural heritage. The Rambadagala Samadhi Buddha Statue is known to be the world tallest granite Samadhi Buddha Statue. Its artistic work touched by the South Indian artist makes the statue highlighted among the others. More importantly this statue is also known to be carved out of a huge rock in Rambadagala.



02

RIDI VIHARAYA

This treasure of art sculpture is located in the middle of a forest cave of small Ridiyagama village. This was built in the 2nd century BC by King Dutugemunu and was regarded as one of the largest stupas in Sri Lanka. This was also known as the place where silver ore was found when building the Ruwanvelisaya.

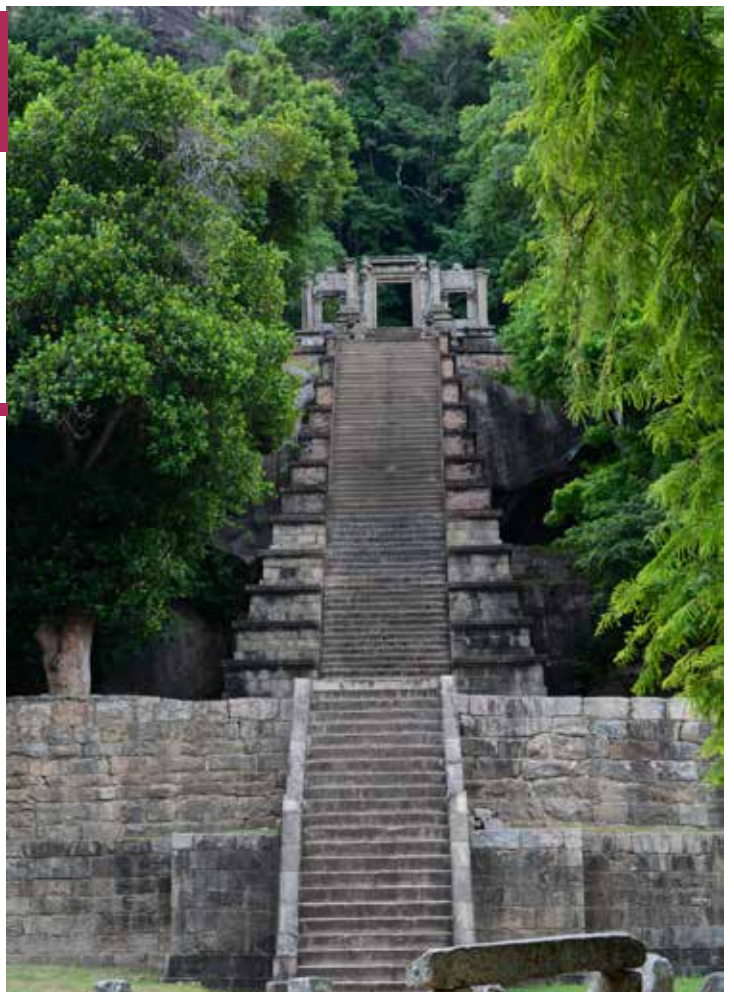
- Head to the Maha Viharaya built by King Dutugemunu and the Uda Viharaya built by King Kirthi Sri Rajasinghe.
- Witness the gold plated Buddha image.
- Explore through the patterns and the carvings in the roof and in the walls.
- See all the historic carvings and the artifacts inside the caves and ancient shrines.

03

YAPAHUWA

Yapahuwa is known as the fourth Kingdom in Sri Lanka which mirrors the Sigiriya Rock Fortress. It is one of the most unique and exotic site of historical value, as it is blessed with ancient traces and remnants of King Buvenekabahu's Kingdom in 1273-1284 AD.

- See all the exceptional work of art and the breathtaking sceneries with sun kissed rocks and massive forests.
- Explore through all the ancient archeological work sites and head to the ancient place of Tooth Relic.
- Visit the caves on the top of the rock and other inscriptions on the cave.
- Take time and climb the steep staircase of exotic designs of stone carvings.
- Hike o the summit of the Yapapura rock for an extra view on the city.
- See all the ruins of the former palace in Yapahuwa.
- Checkout the Yapahuwa museum and go through all the stone sculptures and ancient trade coins.





04

PANDUWASNUWARA ANCIENT KINGDOM



The site outstretched for about 20 hectares, Panduwasnuwara was an ancient kingdom founded by King Parakramabahu for a short period of time.

- Visit the first even man-made reservoir in the world 'Panda Wewa Reservoir'.
- Visit the ruins of the ancient kingdom of Panduwasnuwara.
- Explore all the ancient architectural artifacts in the ruins of kingdom.
- Head to the ancient building known as the Dalada maligawa (Temple of Tooth Relic in Panduwasnuwara ancient kingdom).
- Observe all the pillar inscriptions around the kingdom dome by ancient kings.
- Scroll through the ruins and witness the tower known as 'Ektamgeya' where Unmada Chithra was kept imprisoned while listening to all the ancient tales.
- Visit the palace and the throne of King Nishankamalla.
- Head to the temple of Panduwasnuwara Rajamaha Viharaya in the corner of the old ruins.

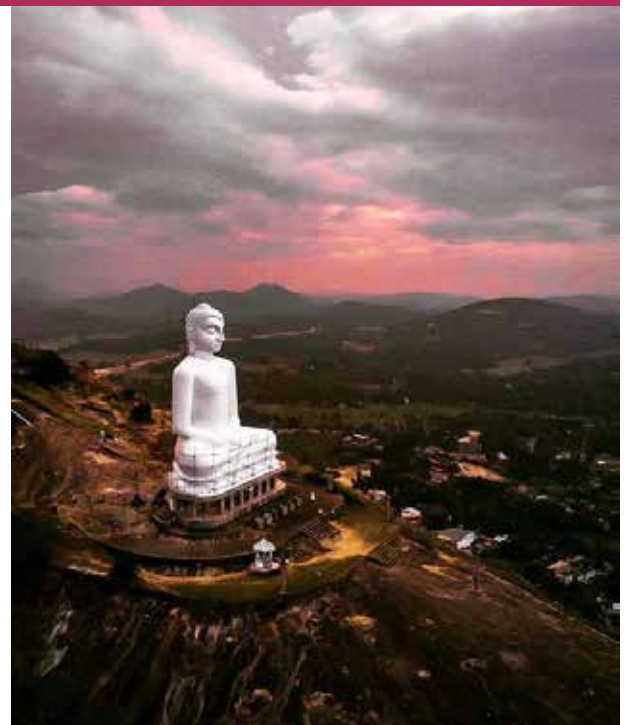


05

ELEPHANT ROCK TEMPLE

By far it is not a secret that the city of Kurunegala is blessed with massive Buddha statues, likewise Elephant rock (Athugala temple) is a prominent milestone in Kurunegala. The rock obtained its name as 'Athugala' as it is in the shape of an elephant and the ancient myths tell that the animals such as elephant turn into rocks with the severe drought periods with no life or water.

- Visit the massive and supreme Samadhi Buddha statue that dominates the Kurunegala city.
- Enjoy the adventurous hike to the top of the mountain and see the divine milky white statue.
- Have a panoramic view from the top of the mountain rock.
- Gaze into the cotton candy sky and the milky white stature in the evening from the top of the rock.
- Stay on the top of the mountain until it gets dark and have an amazing night view.



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This magnificent water body is located far away from the busy main city and gives a peaceful vice to all the visitors. The lake is considered to be made by ancient kings and it also contribute in creating a terrific sight over the city with its water reflecting the warm lights on streets.

- Have a relaxing walk around the lake with an empty head and get a free therapy of the tranquil environment.
- Sit near the lake and gaze into the water reflecting the evening sunrays.
- Head to a bar and enjoy a beer or a cocktail or have a fancy meal in a restaurant with the lovely view of the lake.



PUTTALAM



WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK



The oldest and the largest national park, Wilpattu National park is a declared wildlife sanctuary in Sri Lanka. This national park is famous for its exotic wetlands called as 'villu' and for its other unique topographical features. Its large percentage of Leopards, Sloth bears and Asian elephants make it a favorite destination for the visitors. The dense forests and grasslands provide a safer place for numerous animal species, birds and butterfly species

- Rent a safari jeep and explore through the national park and have a closer look on the wild life.
- Have a peaceful safari experience with an empty head in this secluded park.
- Go camping with your friends in the camping sites and spend your vacation being adventurous.
- Not only the wildlife but also explore through the archeological and historical exhibits of the national park.
- Capture rare wildlife photography on your own of the exotic wildlife.



02

MUNNESWARAM TEMPLE

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The Hindu temple complex existence since 1000CE in Chillaw, Munneswaram temple is known as one of the five ancient Hindu temples of God Shiva.

- Checkout the exotic architecture amalgamated with Indian and Si Lankan architecture.
- Listen to the ancient epics of Indian famous 'Ramayanaya' while going through the temple.
- Witness all the religious statues of gods and goddess and see all the ancient colorful paintings on the walls of either sides of the temple.

A best place away from the hectic life; Kalpitiya beach area is the best lagoon loaded with fun activities. Most of the travelers are interested in this place for its unique entertainment activities the place provides. The beach and the peninsular is best known for its fascinating sunsets in the evenings.

- A perfect place to enjoy kitesurfing and windsurfing with a perfect weather.
- Enjoy kayaking through the lagoon boarded by mangrove forests.
- Go on a terrific paddleboat across the lagoon.
- Have a boat ride.
- Go whale watching and watch dolphins in the deep blue oceans.
- Explore the historical sites around the lagoon and visit some of the small islands in the blue ocean.
- Have a cozy comfortable evening on the warm sandy beach gazing limitlessly on the ocean and the sky.
- Spend your vacation in a resort near the beach
- Engage in water sport activities such as snorkeling, diving or even learn diving from the diving centers for an affordable price.
- Enjoy fishing with your family on a corner of the lagoon to have some extra fun.



NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

Led by the oldest kingdoms in Sri Lanka, the North Central Province is the largest province by size and has the second-lowest population in the country. The province includes two main districts, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa; Anuradhapura is the capital of the province. The two main districts were important milestones in the history of Sri Lanka because they were ancient kingdoms. The total land area of the area is approximately 10,714 km², covering 16% of the island's total land area, with a population of 1,259,567. The UNESCO World Heritage sites, archeological sites, wildlife sanctuaries, and nature hikes brighten up the province for tourists. The province is rich in cultural sites, such as massive Buddha statues carved in solid rock and ancient kingdom ruins. The region is rich with rivers, and manmade tanks to store water that was built by the ancient kings who ruled the country. One of the reasons for building tanks was a lack of rain in the region and a scarcity of water, which was insufficient for agricultural activities. When focusing on this province, knowing the historical milestones is great for understanding the real importance of the region.

A BIT OF HISTORY

During the colonial invasion, the North Central Province belonged to Rajarata (the Land of the King). The region consisted of Anuradhapura, Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, Tambapanni, and Upathissa. The region was collectively created by the British administration in 1873. With the creation of the region, the units of Sigiriya and Tambapanni were neglected. Anuradhapura was first initiated by the minister Anuradha, who built a village close to the Malwathu River. Later, King Pandukabhaya, who was the first king of Sri Lanka, was able to rule the country in Anuradhapura. Starting from him, the city has been the capital of Sri Lanka for about 1400 years and has been ruled by more than 120 kings. Afterward, the capital shifted to Polonnaruwa with the invasion of the South Indian Chola king, who captured the Anuradhapura Kingdom. The province still has the ruins of the South Indian tastes that were brought to the region by the Chola invasions. Anuradhapura is also considered a main center of cultural importance, as it was the first place where Buddhism was introduced during the time of King Dewanampiyatissa. The region not only contains the right south branch of the fig tree where the Lord Buddha attained enlightenment, which was later brought by the Sangamitta nun, but it was also the home of Buddha's tooth relic in the 4th century AD, which is now kept in Kandy.

CLIMATE

The region consists of a semi-arid to dry climate with dry evergreen forests. The rainfall is low, as the average annual rainfall in the recent past has been 99–485 mm, according to the 2011 Sri Lankan Central Bank. Rainfall occurs mostly in October and January. The abundance of artificial tanks built by ancient kings continues to assist people in dealing with a lack of rainfall. Most of the agricultural activities are conducted by these, making the most of the rainwater stored in the lakes. The temperature is relatively high compared with the wet zone areas, and it gets low during the months from December to February. Most of the tourists visit this province during the months of November to March when the climate is more comfortable and the temperature is relatively low.



ANURADHAPURA



POLONNARUWA



AMURBADOHAPURA

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Sri Maha Bodi is the most significant and hailed tree in Sri Lanka that lays the honor of being the oldest surviving human-planted tree in the world. This 2,300 year-old UNESCO world heritage site is a religious and culturally significant place in Sri Lanka. It is brought by Arahath Sangamitta Maha Theaniya from India during the time of King Devanampiyatissa in the 3rd century BC.

- Enjoy the greenery gardens in the Royal Garden premises.
- See the huge and most valuable Sri Maha Bodi which is also known as the sacred Fig tree.
- Enjoy the peaceful environment and have a chance to engage in meditation under the peaceful shades.



02

RUWANWELISEYA

One of the hidden gems of Sri Lanka is Ruwanweliseya which has the largest collection of Buddha relics inside the stupa. This stupa was built by King Dutugemunu in 140 BC. This is the second biggest stupa in the city. This is a perfect place to be inspired by the Buddhist religion and culture.

- Explore the huge architectural beauty of this milky white pagoda.
- Visit this most calming place to relax and to have a peaceful time out of chaos.
- Make sure to visit early in the morning or late in the evening to have a peaceful time and to avoid the crowd and heated solar waves.



03

ANURADHAPURA RUINS

Anuradhapura is founded in the 5th century BC and it was the first ancient capital. This reason makes it obvious to have a variety of ruins. The ruins give a unique touch to the historical beauty of the city. Thus, Anuradhapura is rich in temple ruins, Royal Palace Gardens, ancient lakes, monasteries, and other culturally valuable sites that are worth visiting.



- Visit the archeological museum and witness the historical ruins.
- Visit the Abayagiriya Dagaba which is one of the biggest pagodas in the ancient world.
- Visit the Samadhi Buddha statue carved in granite during the 4th century.
- See the ancient water reservoirs that were built by the kings to store rainwater that is still in use.
- Witness the stone bridge ruins from the 9th century.
- See the artistic Jethawanarama stupa in the Anuradhapura ruins.
- Visit Mihinthale Rock and climb the rock to witness the beautiful scenery from atop.
- Stay at a resort or a cottage, hotel to witness the remnants of the historic atmosphere.

04

THUPARAMAYA

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This bell-shaped stupa was the first Buddhist temple that was constructed in Sri Lanka. This was built after the arrival of Arahath Mahinda Thero during King Devanampiya Tissa reign.

- Witness the aesthetically beautiful interior structure and the ancient designs of the stupa.
- See all the ruins around the stupa that are destroyed by the invaders.
- Witness the first medical text and surgical instruments and also the medicinal baths that were used in the ancient times of Sri Lanka.



05

LOVAMAHAPAYA



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Lovamahapaya is situated between Ruwanwelisaya and Sri Maha Bodiya in Anuradhapura. This is also known as the Brazen Palace as the roofs of this building are of bronze tiles from ancient times.

- Witness the corals and precious stones and the unique architecture of the impressive building with bronze roofing.
- Explore all the 400 foot long slides supported by the 40 rows of 40 stone pillars which are still holding straight at the present.

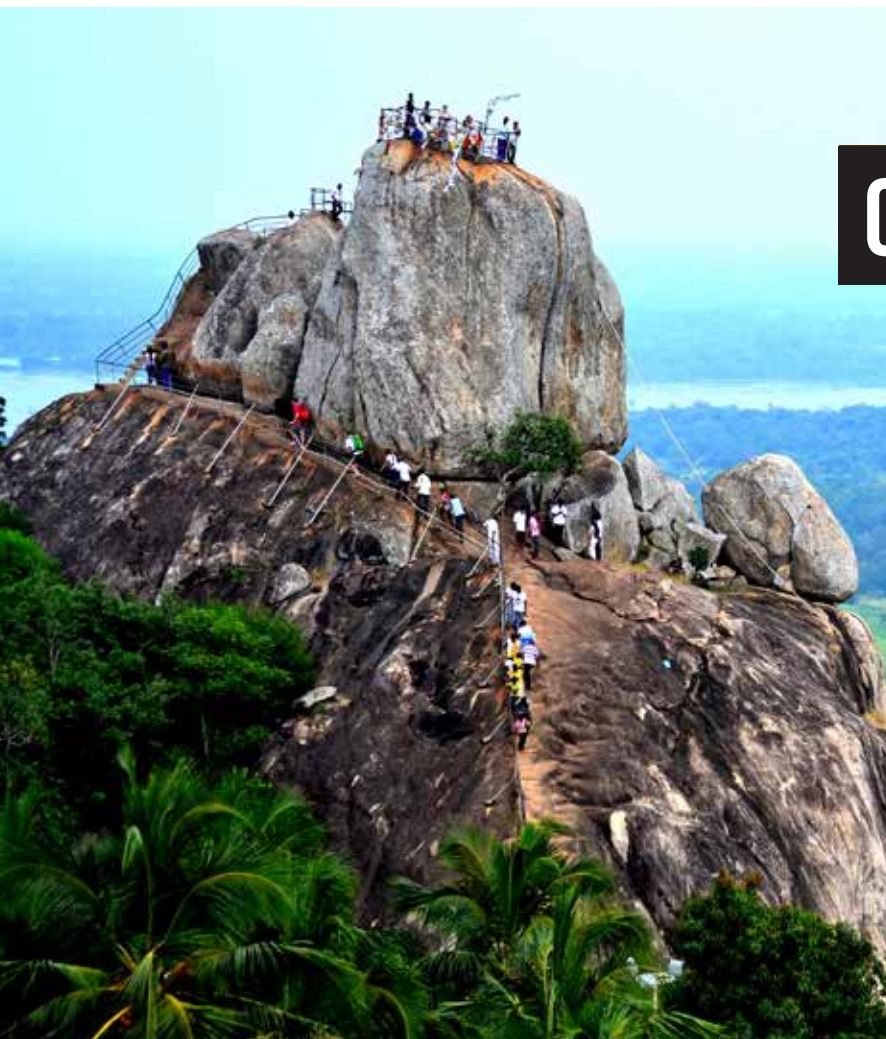


06

ISURUMUNIYA

Isurumuniya is the iconic Buddhist temple located near Tissa wewa in Anuradhapura which has famous stone carvings most importantly the world-famous 'Isurumuniya Lovers'. This temple is built by King Devanampiyatissa in the third century BC.

- Explore all the ancient stone architecture of the temple which is unique to the temple itself.
- See the world-famous stone carving of Isurumuniya Lovers and all the other carvings such as the Horseman, Elephant pond, and the royal family.



07

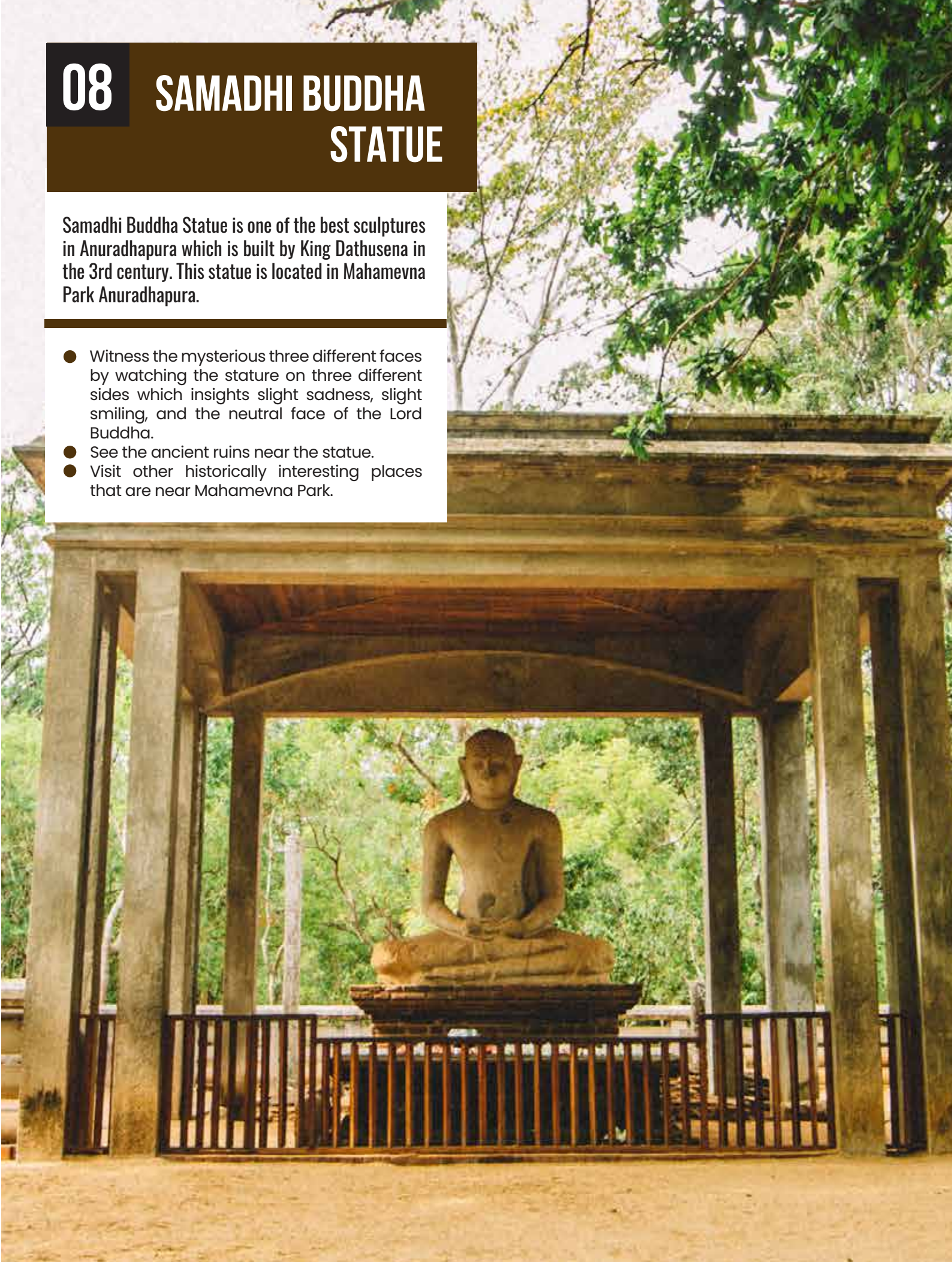
MIHINTALE

Mihintale Rock is foremost known as the birthplace of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. This is the mountain where Arahath Mahinda Tero came to introduce Buddhism to Sri Lanka. It takes about 15-20 minutes to climb this rock.

- Visit the Kantaku Cetiya and decorated shrines. The best time to visit is in the early morning and late evening to avoid heated solar rays.
- See the most fabulous sunsets from the top.
- Visit the "Kaludiya Pokuna" which is located at the entrance.
- See the stone architecture of stupa, stone stairways.
- Witness the 'Sinha Pokuna' (Lion Pond) near the assembly hall.

Samadhi Buddha Statue is one of the best sculptures in Anuradhapura which is built by King Dathusena in the 3rd century. This statue is located in Mahamevna Park Anuradhapura.

- Witness the mysterious three different faces by watching the stature on three different sides which insights slight sadness, slight smiling, and the neutral face of the Lord Buddha.
- See the ancient ruins near the statue.
- Visit other historically interesting places that are near Mahamevna Park.



POLONMARRUA



01 ROYAL PALACE OF KING PARAKRAMABAHU

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This magnificent palace is a perfect example of the ancient architectural technology of Sri Lanka. This was built by King Parakramabahu during the 12th century. You are able to witness the parts of strongly standing brick walls in the building structure as unfortunately it was destroyed by the Chola invaders during those times. The grand palace building consists of 7 stories.

- Take time and explore the complex.
- Enjoy the rich kingdom culture and art and the marvelous ancient engineering.
- Witness the other historical important sights at your arm's length and check out the ancient historical stories.





02

MINNERIYA NATIONAL PARK

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Minneriya National park is a well-known site for its elephant population. This park is also a UNESCO world heritage site. The national park is an alternative to Yala national park and other national parks as well as it is the best place to witness the wildlife, especially elephants.

- See the largest Asian elephant gathering in the world.
- Hire a private safari jeep and a professional driver to guide you and enjoy the best sights in the national park.
- Spot other wildlife such as leopards, bears, and monkeys.
- Enjoy bird watching to refresh your mind.
- Explore through the endemic reptiles which is also a highlight in the park.
- Stay the night in a nearby accommodation area with a great view of the wildlife and sunset sights.

03

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM POLONNARUWA



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The remnants from the medieval city of Polonnaruwa are seen in this beautiful archeological museum. You are invited to see all the sights of the great ancient kingdom, as the artifacts are excavated by the archeological department which date back to over 100 years.

- Get an understanding of the Polonnaruwa world heritages.
- Explore the sculptures and galleries that are displayed.
- Get souvenirs and related historical books from the bookshops and souvenir shops.

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04

NISSANKA LATHA MANDAPAYA

Nissanka Latha Mandapaya is one example to prove the influence of Buddhism as this building is built for listening to pirith chanting. This is a perfect place for the ones who are inspired by ancient cultural artifacts.

- See the unique-looking pillars that are nicely carved.
- Explore through the stone columns that are still strongly standing after back-to-back attacks in the past.
- Wonder through the ancient architecture.
- See the lotus stem and the lotus flower-shaped pillars and other stone carvings.



05

PARAKRAMA SAMUDRAYA

This is known as the Sea of King Parakramabahu for its huge water capacity. This was one of the best solutions for people in the dry zone areas who were dependent on agriculture and a solution for the scarcity of water. This 'sea' is 14km long and 25 feet deep and contains a large capacity of water even at present.

- Enjoy bird watching as the place attracts numerous birds.
- Stay the night by a side of the great reservoir.
- Enjoy a peaceful sunset next to the reservoir.
- Engage in cycling around the lake and enjoy fishing with your family in the evening.
- Have a boat ride and witness the scenic beauty with your own eyes.



06

GAL VIHARAYA

Gal vihara is a stone temple that is declared a world heritage site by UNESCO. The perfect specimen of Buddha statues perfectly carved out of solid rock plate during the reign of King Parakramabahu is seen on this site. The site consists of four cave shrines with sculptures of granite rock.

- Witness the massively magnificent stone sculptures standing lively.