

Anuradhapura



Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi Tree

The Sri Maha Bodhi tree is a sacred tree (*Ficus religiosa*) and one of the oldest dated trees in the world, believed to have been grown from a sapling of the original fig tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment. It has been continuously revered for over 2,300 years, making it a significant pilgrimage site for Buddhists.



Ruwanwelisaya

This massive stupa, standing at 103 meters in height, was constructed by King Dutugemunu in 140 BC. It's an architectural masterpiece and one of the holiest sites in Anuradhapura. The stupa is encased in a brilliant white coat of paint, making it visible from afar.



Thuparamaya

Regarded as the first stupa in Sri Lanka, Thuparamaya is believed to enshrine the right collarbone relic of Buddha. Its architectural design, with a circular terrace and bell-shaped dome, represents a pivotal era in Buddhist architecture.



Jetavanaramaya

This colossal stupa is the largest in Sri Lanka and one of the largest in the world, standing at 122 meters. It was constructed by King Mahasena in the 3rd century and served as a prominent monastic complex.



Abhayagiri Vihara

Abhayagiri Vihara was a prominent monastic center during ancient times, with thousands of monks residing here. The complex includes a stupa, monastic buildings, and intricately designed moonstones at the entrances.



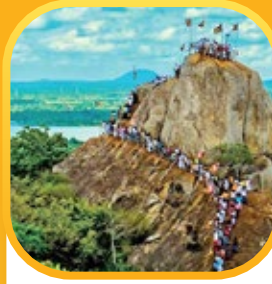
Isurumuniya

This rock temple is renowned for its rock carvings, most notably the "Isurumuni Lovers," a captivating sculpture depicting a couple in a loving embrace. The temple provides a tranquil atmosphere for meditation and reflection.



Kuttam Pokuna (Twin Ponds)

The twin ponds are a remarkable feat of ancient Sri Lankan engineering. These symmetrical ponds were part of a royal bathing complex, reflecting the architectural prowess of the era.



Mihintale

Located near Anuradhapura, Mihintale is regarded as the birthplace of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It is where the Indian Buddhist monk Mahinda, son of Emperor Ashoka, introduced Buddhism to the island. The site features ancient monasteries, stupas, and caves.



Lankaramaya

Another impressive stupa in Anuradhapura, Lankaramaya is celebrated for its intricate carvings and historical significance. It was built by King Valagamba during the 1st century BC.



Archaeological Museum

The Archaeological Museum in Anuradhapura is a treasure trove of historical artifacts and sculptures, offering visitors a comprehensive view of the city's history and its role in the evolution of Buddhism.



Jetavanarama Museum

Situated in proximity to the Jetavanaramaya stupa, this museum showcases a diverse collection of artifacts and items from the ancient monastery.



The Royal Palace

The site of the ancient royal palace is an intriguing historical location. The foundations of the palace, including the impressive stone pillars and pools, provide insight into the lifestyle of ancient royalty.