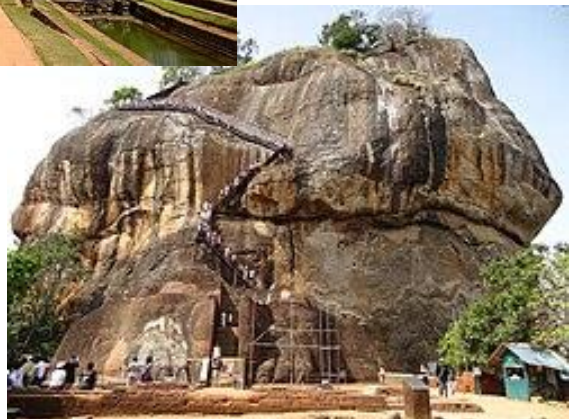
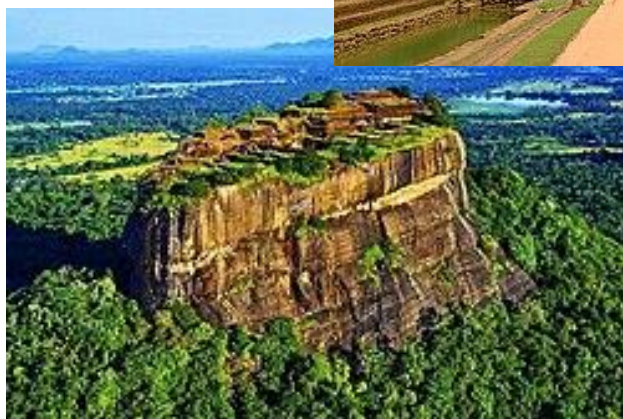
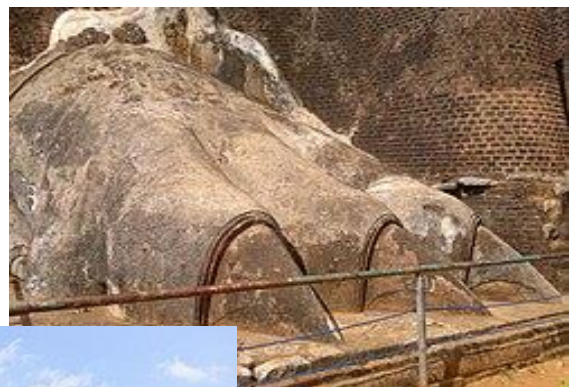


Sigiriya

Sigiriya or **Sinhagiri** (*Lion Rock* [Sinhala](#): සීගිරිය, [Tamil](#): சிகிரியா/சிங்ககிரி, [/ˈsiːɡɪrɪə/](#)) is an ancient rock [fortress](#) located in the northern [Matale District](#) near the town of [Dambulla](#) in the [Central Province](#), [Sri Lanka](#). It is a site of historical and archaeological significance that is dominated by a massive column of granite approximately 180 m (590 ft) high.^[2]

According to the ancient Sri Lankan chronicle the [Cūlavamsa](#), this area was a large forest, then after storms and landslides it became a hill and was selected by King [Kashyapa](#) (CE 477–495) for his new capital. He built his palace on top of this rock and decorated its sides with colourful [frescoes](#). On a small plateau about halfway up the side of this rock he built a gateway in the form of an enormous lion. The name of this place is derived from this structure; *Sinhagiri*, the Lion Rock.

The capital and the royal palace were abandoned after the king's death. It was used as a Buddhist monastery until the 14th century.^[3] Sigiriya today is a [UNESCO](#) listed [World Heritage Site](#). It is one of the best preserved examples of ancient urban planning.^[4]



Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage ([Sinhala](#): පින්තවිල අලි අනාථාගාරය), is a [captive breeding](#) and conservation institute 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 2023, there were 71 elephants, including 30 males and 41 females from 3 generations, living in Pinnawala.^[1]

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 Conservation](#) (DWC).^[2]

On 31 August 2021, a 25 year old elephant named Surangi gave birth to twin male baby elephants at the orphanage.^{[3][4]} It also marked the first instance of the birth of twin elephants in Sri Lanka after a gap of 80 years since 1941.^[5]



Wilpattu National Park

Wilpattu National Park ([Sinhala](#): විල්පත්තු ජාතික වනෝද්‍යානය) is one of the oldest [national parks](#) in [Sri Lanka](#). The unique feature of this park is the existence of "Willus" (natural lakes) – natural, sand-rimmed water basins or depressions that fill with rainwater. Located on the northwest coast lowland dry zone of Sri Lanka, the park is 30 km (19 mi) west of [Anuradhapura](#) and 26 km (16 mi) north of [Puttalam](#) (approximately 180 km (110 mi) north of [Colombo](#)). The park is 1,317 km² (508 sq mi) (131,693 hectares) in area and ranges from 0–152 m (0–499 ft) [above sea level](#). Nearly one hundred and six lakes (Willu) and tanks are found spread throughout Wilpattu.

History

The [Mahavamsa](#) records that in 543 BC [Prince Vijaya](#) landed at [Tambapanni](#) now known as Kudrimalai Point (Horse Point), established the Sinhalese kingdom in Tambapanni and founded the Sinhala nation. In 1905 the area was designated a sanctuary and in 1938 it was upgraded to the National Park status.'

Kudrimalai, or Horse Point, was visited by a subject of [Emperor Claudius](#) in 47 AD, who was blown off course by the monsoon. The local king later sent his own envoys to Rome during the time of Pliny.^[2]

From December 1988 to 16 March 2003, the park was closed due to security concerns surrounding the [Sri Lankan Civil War](#), before being reopened to visitors sixteen years later. Visitor access is currently limited to approximately 25% of the park, the remainder of which is dense forest or scrub. Popular visiting periods span between the months of February and October, although there are a number of private [ecotourism](#) groups that conduct [safaris](#) year-round.



Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic

Sri Dalada Maligawa,^[a] commonly known in English as the **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic**, is a [Buddhist](#) temple in [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](#). Since ancient times, the relic has played an important role in local politics because it is believed that whoever holds the relic holds the governance of the country. The relic was historically held by [Sinhalese kings](#). The Temple of the Tooth is a [World Heritage Site](#) mainly due to the temple and the relic.

[Bhikkhus](#) of two particular chapters, the [Malwathu chapter](#) and the [Asgiri chapter](#), conduct daily worship in the inner chamber of the temple. Rituals are performed three times daily: at dawn, at noon and in the evenings. On Wednesdays, there is a symbolic bathing of the relic with a herbal preparation made from scented water and fragrant flowers called *Nanumura Mangallaya*; this holy water is believed to contain healing powers and is distributed among those present. The [Kandy Esala Perahera](#) is conducted annually to pay homage to the Sacred Tooth Relic.



VILLAGE TOUR



History of St. Paul's Church Kandy - Inaugurated 1843

St. Paul's Church, Kandy - A Brief History

The idea of a Church is born in 1825 - When the second Bishop of Calcutta, the Rt. Rev. Reginald Heber visited Kandy in 1825 for a Confirmation Service, he noted that Sunday worship and church festivals were being held in the ancient Audience Hall of the late Kings of Kandy, which served as a church to the British garrison in Kandy and a smaller number of Ceylonese. The Bishop observed the great need for a church of their own, more appropriately sited and more suitably designed.

It was to this church that His Majesty King George III presented a silver-gilt communion set, which was sent from the Royal establishment to this church, as it served the spiritual needs of the British military garrison. This gift continues in use at St. Paul's, especially at the Services for Easter and Christmas.

Although it took many years since, the then British government gave a block of Crown land, by a deed dated 1843, for building a church. It was granted outright to the Trustees of the church and their successors. Being adjacent to the Temple of the Tooth, it serves as a very remarkable example of religious harmony and tolerance between the Buddhists and Christians, in this predominantly Buddhist country. Indeed, St. Paul's Church, Kandy, stands, not only as a monument of historical significance, but also maintains the need for closer relationship with people of other faiths.



OTHERS

