

Temple of Sri Lanka

Mihintale

Mihintale is one of the oldest Buddhism complexes of Sri Lanka. The monk Mahinda was sent by the Indian King Ashoka to announce the Buddhism in Sri Lanka.

Anuradhapura

Anuradhapura was founded in the 4th century B.C. and was the first capital of Sri Lanka. For more than 1.000 years Anuradhapura was the political and religious centre of various royal dynasties. After the excavations revealed palaces, monasteries and monuments Anuradhapura once again became an important centre. The Sri Mahabodhi-Tree (poplar fig) has a great importance. It's said to have originated from a branch of the tree under which Buddha Siddharta Gautama attained enlightenment. Very impressive are the large dagobas like Ruvanvelisaya, Jethawana and Thuparama. Since 1982 Anuradhapura is named as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Polonnaruwa

Polonnaruwa was the capital of the second oldest kingdom of Sri Lanka. Its heyday reached the kingdom under Parakrama Bahu (1153-1186 AD), during this time the tooth relic of Buddha was also kept here. Now its kept in the Tooth Temple of Kandy. The park of Polonnaruwa is one of tourist attractions with numerous Buddha statues, huge dagobas and temple complexes. Particularly impressive are four Buddha statues carved into the rock, called the Buddha statues of Gal Vihara.

Matale

Sri Muthumariamman Thevasthanam

This Hindu Temple has five ornate chariots on which statues of Hindu deities are driven around the city on the day of the ceremony. Ganesha, Shiva, Mahadevi, Murugan and Chandeshvara Nayanar are the deities carried by the devotees on the chariot festival.

Cave Temple of Aluvihara

This temple is one of the most important Buddhist sites of Sri Lanka. In the 1st Century BC Buddha's teachings were recorded here for the first time.

The monastery complex is located in caves which are ornated with paintings and statues.

Tooth Temple (Sri Dalada Maligawa)

In the Tooth Temple the upper left canine tooth of Buddha Siddharta Gautama is kept here as a relic. The tooth keeps the spiritual power of Buddha.

It symbolises good harvest and protects the land from drought. The tooth temple is considered to one of the most pilgrimage sites for Buddhists.

In the early morning, late morning and in the evening the shrine with the tooth is opened in a ceremony and the pilgrims are allowed to take brief look at it.

Ambuluwawa Complex

This fascinating tower with its striking form can be seen already from afar. It is located on a mountain that can be easily reach by Tuk Tuk. The entire complex represents all four world religions: Hinduism (Hindu Temple), Buddhism (Buddhist Temple), Christianity (church) and Islam (mosque).

Kataragama

Kataragama is a pilgrimage town for Buddhists, Hindus and indigenous Vedda. The temple is dedicated to the patron deity Skanda Kumara also popular under the name Kataragama Deviyo. The Bodhi tree is said to be one than 2,200 years old.

Kiri Vehara

This large dagoba dates from the 3rd century BC. Before the pilgrims visit Maha Devale, flowers and coconuts are offered here.

Maha Devale

This is the most sacred place of Kataragama and was built in a park-like area. The wall is ornated with peacocks and elephants. During daily prayers the pilgrims assemble in front of the shrine of the Principal deity.