



your ultimate travel and accommodation guide to Sri Lanka

## Sigiriya - Sri Lanka Travel & Accommodation Guide

Sigiriya alone is worth a trip to Sri Lanka. Climb the amazing rock of Sigiriya with its impregnable palace fortress built in the fifth century and enjoy the magnificent views over the once magnificent royal pool, the throne, remains of the majestic palace, walk ways and garden.



Sigiriya is a sixth century fortress perched on a 200 metre high rock and one the most dramatic of Sri Lanka's historic sites. On the western and northern sides of the steep rock face runs a gallery or pathway which provides access to the seemingly inaccessible nearly three acre wide summit. Shielding this pathway is a 9½ft plaster wall so highly polished that even today after fifteen centuries of exposure to the sun and rain one can see one's reflection in it!



To the North is the Pidurangala Rock, where a Buddhist monastery and cave temples are found and near the summit one of the largest reclining Buddha statues made out of brick and mortar. The to South East is what remains of Sigiri Maha Weva, and in the South the Mapagala Rock, which was a fortress long before Sigiriya was built.

Don't rush through all this magnificence. Be prepared to spend at least one whole day, walking around the Sigiriya gardens, the newly laid out herbal garden. Walk to the northern corner of the western moat and look to the south down the moat, and see how it had been made in line with the summit of a far away hill.

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## Sigiriya - Sri Lanka Activities

As a part of Sri Lanka's **cultural triangle** Sigiriya is close to the ancient sites of **Polonnaruwa**, **Anuradhapura**, **Dambulla** and the former capital **Kandy**.



### Dambulla

**Dambulla** Rock Temple is a magnificent gallery of Buddha images and wall and ceiling paintings not seen anywhere else in the Island. It is a complex of five cave temples with its origin going back to the first 1st century BC.



### Polonnaruwa

**Polonnaruwa** is the ancient capital of Sri Lanka from the eleventh to thirteenth centuries and the repository of outstanding ruins, frescoes and enormous statues of reclining Buddhas. The ruins of the old city are on the shores of Lake Topawewa, man-made during the reign of a twelfth century king—a huge task, when one considers it was accomplished with nothing but manual labor.

### Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage

**Pinnawela** is located West of **Kandy** on the Colombo highway and hosts the largest elephant orphanage in Sri Lanka, accounting for around fifty elephants at any given time.



### Kandy

**Kandy**, is Sri Lanka's second largest city and home of the Dalada Maligawa, one of Buddhism's most sacred temple grounds containing the palace of Sri Lanka's former king and the holy of holies, the repository of an actual tooth relic of the Lord Buddha.