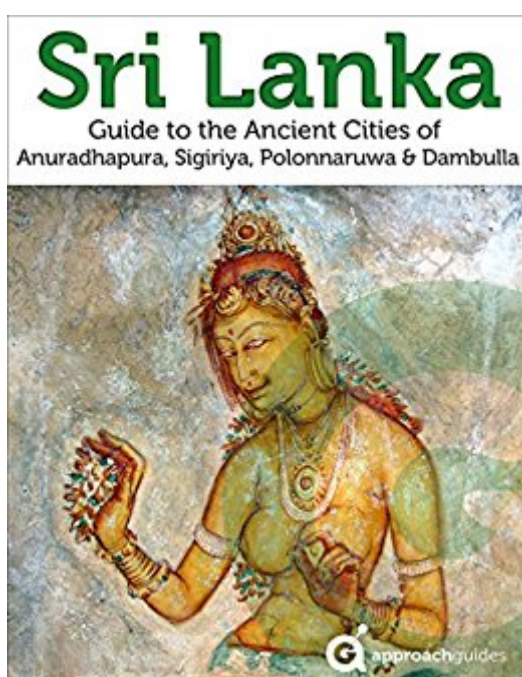


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# Sri Lanka: Guide To The Ancient Cities Of Anuradhapura, Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, Dambulla : (2017 Travel Guide)



## Synopsis

RECENTLY UPDATED FOR 2017! With more than 140 high-resolution images, videos and a detailed tour itinerary, this is the definitive travel guide to Sri Lanka's premier cultural sites. Home to the world's premier Buddhist art and architecture, Sri Lanka's cultural triangle • Anuradhapura, Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa and Dambulla Caves • offers travelers an experience available nowhere else. On our tour itinerary, we explore the Sinhalese civilization's brilliant 2000-year legacy that features the world's largest brick-built structures, ancient bodhi tree shrines, painted cave temples and colossal standing Buddhas. Still infused with its historical magic, it is yours to discover.

**WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDEBOOK\*** Art and architecture review. We provide an overview of Sri Lanka's Buddhist art and architecture, isolating trademark features that you will see again and again while touring the island's cultural triangle. To make things come alive, we have packed our review with high-resolution images.\* Tour of the highlights. Following our tradition of being the most valuable resource for culture-focused travelers, we offer a tour of Sri Lanka's greatest monuments (itinerary below). For each, we reveal its most important architectural and decorative features and provide a discussion that ties it all together.\* Advice for getting the best cultural experience. To help you plan your visit, this guidebook supplies logistical advice, maps and links to online resources. Plus, we give our personal tips for getting the most from your experience while on location.\* Information the way you like it. As with all of our guides, this book is optimized for intuitive, quick navigation; information is organized into bullet points to make absorption easy; and images are marked up with text that explains important features.\* **NEW!** Customers can now print this guidebook with our new PDF-on-Demand service. See the final chapter in the book for details.

**TOUR ITINERARY** Our cultural triangle tour focuses on Sri Lanka's premier sites for art and architecture. It follows a chronological order so you can see how the Sri Lankan aesthetic evolved over time.\* Anuradhapura (3rd century BCE - 10th century CE): Abhayagiri monastery (Abhayagiri stupa, Mahasena's Palace & moonstone, Ratna Prasada & guardstone, Samadhi Buddha shrine); Jetavana monastery (Buddhist railing shrine, image house, Jetavana stupa); Mahavihara monastery (Ruwanwelisaya stupa, Sri Maha Bodhi tree shrine, Thuparama vatadage); Mirisaveti monastery (Mirisaveti stupa).\* Sigiriya (5th century): Apsara paintings, lion platform, royal gardens and rock summit.\* Polonnaruwa (11th-13th centuries): Alahana Parivena monastery (chapter house, Kiri Vehera stupa, Lankatilanka image house); Citadel (council chamber, Kumara Pokuna, Parakramabahu's palace); Gal Vihara monastery reliefs (samadhi Buddha, cave samadhi Buddha, standing Buddha and reclining Buddha); Hindu Shiva temple;

Potgul Vihara monastery (statue, shrine-library); Quadrangle (Atadage tooth shrine, Hatadage tooth shrine, Thuparama image house, Vatadage tooth shrine); Tivanka image house.\* Dambulla Caves (18th century): Caves 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. ABOUT APPROACH GUIDES Travel guidebooks for the ultra curious, Approach Guides reveal a destination's essence by exploring a compelling aspect of its cultural heritage: art, architecture, history, food, or wine. PRAISE FOR APPROACH GUIDES Compulsive (and compulsively informed) travelers, the Raezers are the masterminds behind the downloadable Approach Guides, which are filled with a university course-worth of history and insights for 62 destinations worldwide. WHY WE LOVE IT: The Raezers share our desire for deep, well-researched information on the wonders of the world. - Travel + Leisure

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## Customer Reviews

I visited the Cultural Triangle in August 2016 with this invaluable guidebook in hand. As with the other wonderful Approach Guides from these authors, they provide outstanding detailed, yet concise, description of the key points of interest. Packed with maps, diagrams, and especially highlight photographs of the most important things to see, I was able to efficiently see these

UNESCO World Heritage sites with far greater understanding and appreciation. \*Don't leave home without it!\*

Here at Anuradhapura and came across the Si Lanka Cultural Triangle Guide by chance. A perfect companion for site seeing. Substantial but not overloaded with information. Beautifully and simply laid out, lots of white space, intelligent, economical commentary with equally well designed explanatory graphics. Sections on Dambulla and Sigiriya also excellent. Wish I had found this guide a few days ago! Nevertheless, I have it for Polonnaruwa. Congratulations. I will be purchasing your other guides in the future. Just perfect.

This book enabled me to more deeply understand and then appreciate the sights in the Cultural Triangle of Sri Lanka. Anyone who might desire a deeper historical and contextual understanding of their experience in Sri Lanka ought to read this book before their travels there. It is an indispensable tool for any serious traveler who wishes to appreciate his/her travel experiences to this amazing destination.

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