

# ANURADHAPURA



Anuradhapura was the cradle of glorious Sinhalese Buddhist civilization. The pride of place in Anuradhapura was taken by the ancient stupas and ancient reservoirs. This was the first capital of Sri Lanka was founded in 380 B.C. by King Pandukabhaya and remained as the capital till 1017 AD. But it was under King Devanampiya Tissa (247–207 BC), during whose reign Buddhism reached Sri Lanka, that it first rose to great importance. Sacred city was established around a cutting from the 'tree of enlightenment', the Buddha's fig tree Sri Maha Bodhi Tree, brought there in the 3rd century B.C. by Sanghamitta. The construction of Ruwanwelisaya, Abhayagiri Stupa built over a footprint of Buddha, Jetavana Dagaba, Isurumuni Rock Temple, The great rain water reservoirs, Twin Ponds all display rich history and culture behind this historic city. Other tourist attractions are magnificent rock carvings of monumental richness and remarkable grace; colossal stone pillars that stand proud amidst the ruins of royal palaces, Buddhist monasteries and temples; magnificent stone cut swimming pools of sophisticated hydrology. Anuradhapura is a must-visit ancient city, as every single place in this city keeps a great historical story interconnected with them.

