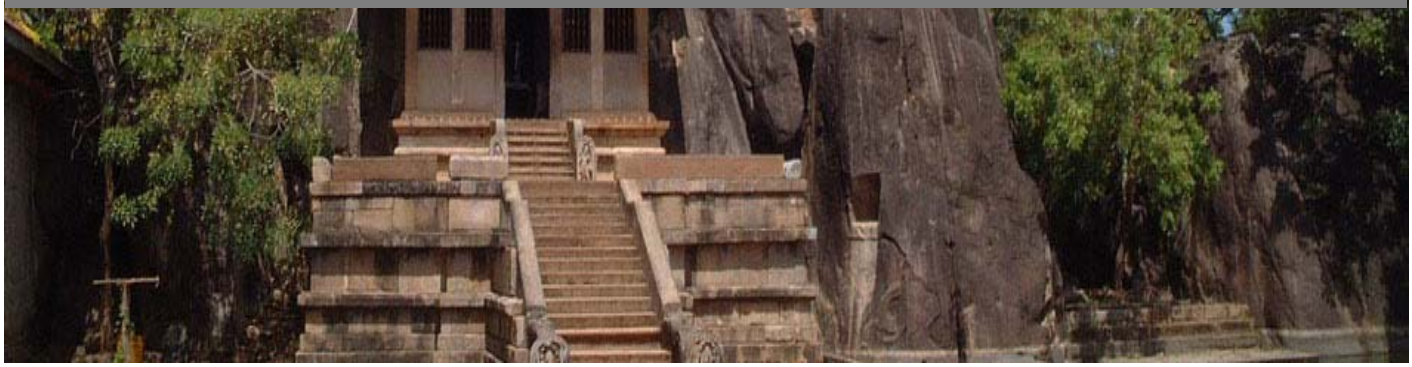
# VIHARE'S DAGOBAS AND BUDDHISM



**DAY 1**

On arrival in Sri Lanka you will be escorted to the car park for your transfer to Habarana En route visit the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage.Afterwards continue on your journey to Habarana On arrival in Habarana check into your hotel Rest of the day at leisure Afternoon optional elephant back safari into the surrounding scrub jungles Dinner and overnight at The Chaaya Village Hotel Habarana 4*

**DAY 2**

After breakfast this morning visit Anuradhapura which was the 1st chronicled capital of ancient Ceylon. En route visiting Mihintale, which is considered to be the cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka Dinner and overnight at The Chaaya Village Hotel Habarana 4*

**DAY 3**

After an early breakfast you will be driven to Polonnaruwa the ruined city which displays the influences of both Indian and Sinhalese cultures. Return to the hotel to spend the rest of the day at leisure Afternoon optional safari into Minneriya Wild Life Sanctuary, where you can see herds of elephants in their natural habitat at sunset...
Return to the hotel Dinner and overnight at The Chaaya Village Hotel Habarana 4*

**DAY 4**

Breakfast at the hotel Leave for Ritigala. Ritigala nestles deep inside the Ritigala Strict Nature Reserve, found just off the Anuradhapura-Habarana road, and is the partially excavated ruins of an extensive Buddhist Monastery. It was abandoned following invasions in 10th and 11th centuries and was rediscovered by the British in the 19th century. Leave Ritigala and drive to Aukana Buddhu Pilimaya (Buddha Statue) Avukana Buddha Statue another architectural marvel of the ancient Sinhalese. The rock cut statue which stands 39 feet above its decorated lotus plinth and 10 feet across the shoulders, belongs to the period of King Dhatusena (459-477 AD) Next visit Namal Uyana to view the beautiful Rose Quartz Mountain 1005 hectares of Na (ironwood) forest and 72 other healing plants; massive pink quartz mountain, well known for its healing properties; largest plant fossil deposits in Sri Lanka; archaeological reserve with ruins of ancient monastery and palace; diverse wild life.

The national Namal Uyana in Galkiriyagama which has the largest Rose Quartz mountain in South Asia consists of 972 hectares or more. Has now been declared a National Forest Reserve.

Next visit Kaluduya Pokuna (translated 'black water pond') Lunch on route and arrive at Kaludiya Pokuna, situated in the vicinity of Kandalama On arrival at the site trek in the jungle to Aligala (Elephant Rock) cave. See the 1st century B.C. cave inscription, frescoes, and pillars. See the large trees and plants, rich and varied bird life. From Aligala trek through the jungle to Kaludiya Pokuna ruins, which is actually a natural pool of water, rich in minerals... See the ruins of the monastery complex of the 8 - 9th centuries A.D., caves with Pre-Christian period inscriptions, several ponds, and remains of paintings in the caves. See also the birds, butterflies and animals in the jungle.

Evening at leisure upon your return to the hotel
Dinner and overnight at The Chaaya Village Habarana 4*

**DAY 5**

After an early breakfast this morning visit the famous Sigiriya Rock fortress. Considered the 8th wonder of the world, Sigiriya was built in 5 AD by patricide King Kasyappa and boasts the world famous frescoes of women carved on sheer rock face. This morning after visiting Sigiriya, proceed to the areas which surround Kandy.

En route you will leave to Dambulla cave temples. Dambulla, considered by most to be the center point of SriLanka, Dambulla is a town built around a vast isolated rock mass 500 ft and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue on your journey to Kandy. En route visit a wood carving factory spice garden & a Batik factory.
The drive will take approximately 2 1/2 hours and the road to Kandy is a beautiful one, as you eventually begin the climb up to the delightful hill station.. Girdled by hills, Kandy is a peaceful haven to retire to and enjoy the cool of the climate.
Kandy, at an altitude of 500m is the cultural center of Sri Lanka and was the capital of the last Singhalese kingdom. It is a particularly relaxed hill station, once captured by the British. It is dominated by its lake and the nearby Temple of the Tooth which houses Sri Lanka's most sacred relic. Visit the famous Dalada Maligawa. Kandy's main attraction is the Dalada Maligawa, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. After visiting Kandy proceed to your beach hotel/Colombo hotel.

* Recommendations of Wadduwa or Negombo for a beach stay or Colombo for a city stay with sightseeing and time for shopping

Tour ends!!