



your ultimate travel and accommodation guide to Sri Lanka

Kandy - Sri Lanka Travel & Accommodation Guide

Kandy, Sri Lanka's second largest city and cultural capital is the gateway to the higher hills and tea plantations.

The clarity of the air and its verdant, hilly outlook around the sacred lake make it a pleasant escape from the heat of the coasts.



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. It is said that in all the world there are three of the Buddha's teeth - one in India, one in Thailand and this one in Sri Lanka.



All are Buddhism's most sacred relics. The Dalada Maligawa houses the tooth in a carefully guarded shrine, behind a gilded altar and inside a series of nesting golden and bejeweled caskets. The caskets are brought out once a year for the crowds that gather at that time, but the tooth itself is never displayed.

Kandy is a laid-back place, and most visitors choose to base themselves at one of the hotels here for a few days and to explore the surrounding Kandyan countryside, before heading into the highlands or setting off for the **cultural triangle** and the ancient cities of **Anuradhapura**, **Polonnaruwa**, **Dambulla** and **Sigiriya**.

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Kandy - Sri Lanka Activities

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Esala Maha Perahera

Kandy is popular because of the annual festival known as the "Esala Maha Perahera" in which the tooth relic of Buddha is taken in a grand procession through the streets of the city. The tooth relic is taken on a royal tusker. The procession includes traditional dancers and drummers, flag bearers of the provinces of the old Kandyan kingdom, the Nilames (temple custodians) wearing their traditional dresses, torch bearers and also the grandly attired elephant. This ceremony which is annually held in the month of July, attracts large crowds from all parts of the country and also many foreign tourists.



Nightlife

For its size Kandy offers a reasonable nightlife. Most nightclubs are still mainly found in Hotels, but there are numerous Bars and Pubs in the city that bring out its real atmosphere.

Shopping

For a city with a population of only 110,000 Kandy offers a variety of shopping possibilities. From colorful and vibrant markets, to exquisite boutiques, and the Kandy City Center - Sri Lanka's largest Commercial Shopping Complex, which will offer 6 floors of shopping, cinemas, entertainment zones, food courts, tourist floor and day and night bus and taxi service for visitors. The complex is also the island's largest horizontal commercial building.



Excursions

Kandy is a good starting point for 1/2 or one day trips to the [Royal Botanical Garden](#), [Dambulla](#), [Sigiriya](#), [Anuradhapura](#), [Polonnaruwa](#), [Nuwara Eliya](#) or [World's End](#).