UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN SRI LANKA

K. M. G. JINAKA
ARCHEOGICAL RESEARCH OFFICER
(MEMBER OF SRI LANKA COUNCIL OF ARCHAEOLOGIST)
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY
SRI LANKA
jinakakariyawasm@gmail.com
+94 071 4400215
World heritage sites in Sri Lanka

- Cultural Heritages
- Natural Heritages
Ancient city of Polonnaruwa in 1982

The sacred city of Anuradhapura in 1982

The Golden Temple of Dambulla in 1991

Ancient city of Sigiriya in 1982

The old town of Galle and its fortification in 1988

The sacred city of Kandy in 1988

Cultural Heritage sites
The sacred city of Anuradhapura
The sacred city of Anuradhapura

- Anuradhapura is one of the earliest urban sites in Sri Lanka dating from before the 5th century BC.

- The three colossal stupas of the Maha vihara, Jethawana and Abayagiri monasteries are of the same order of magnitude as the pyramids of Egypt.
World famous carvings of Anuradapura
The ancient city of Polonnaruwa
The ancient city of Polonnaruwa

- The second city listed in Sri Lanka’s long line of kingdoms, Polonnaruwa became the kingdom in 1070 AD after the fall of Anuradhapura.

- Polonnaruwa ancient capital consist of a walled inner and outer city surrounded by monasteries and temples, with palaces, gardens, a hospital complex and man made lakes.
The ancient city of Sigiriya
Sigiriya the “Lion Mountain” Is one of Asia’s most important archaeological sites, dating from prehistoric times to the 18th century.

It is a 5th century city complex, with ramparts, moats, gateways, a palace on top of a 200 meter rock, ancient royal gardens, well-known paintings, Lion Staircase and graffiti containing poetry written by visitors to the site in early times.
The main entrance

Fortress on the upper mountain

A moat

A seat which is made from rock
Sigiriya Frescoes
The Golden Temple of Dambulla
The ancient monastery at Dambulla is best known for its rock temples and well-preserved 18th century paintings.

It is one of the largest cave temple complex in South Asia.

Because of the history, archaeological and artistic implications, the premises were declared as one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1991.
The sacred city of Kandy

The temple of the sacred Tooth – Relic
The historic city of Kandy was the capital of last Sri Lankan kingdom.

It was urban and royal center from the 15th to the 19th century. Today the city contains the famous temple of the sacred Tooth – Relic of the Buddha.

The Kandy procession held annually in August, is a traditional ritual festival dating back to 5th century AD.
Inside of the temple of the sacred Tooth – Relic of the Buddha.
Decorated elephants of The Kandy procession
Some special occasions of Kandy procession
The old town of Galle and its fortification
The old town of Galle and its fortification

- Galle Fort was first built by the Portuguese, then extensively fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century.

- The port city of Galle was very famous as the pure watering point among the person who travels along the *Silk Road* from China to Persia.
As a result of that Great Chinese admiral Zheng He commemorated his visit to Galle in 1411 AD by leaving a trilingual inscription in Chinese, Tamil and Persian implying a cosmopolitan trading community.
The national museum of Galle
“Sri Lanka – China Friendship gallery”
The final gallery of Galle national museum’s collection “Sri Lanka China Friendship Gallery” was declared opened 10th of September 2013 by Mr. H. E Liu Yunshan. The collection is dedicated to the historical and archaeo logical evidence of trade relations between China and Sri Lanka.
Chinese collection of the national museum of Galle
Evidence of Daliwela Stupa remains
Evidence of Daliwela Stupa remains

The ancient archaeological textile in Sri Lanka was reported from Daliwala Stupa in Sri Lanka. Daliwala Stupa is one of the earliest stupas in Sri Lanka. The excavation of Daliwala in 2000 discovered these of silk textile in association with Bronze stupa reliquary. It was dated to 2\textsuperscript{nd} century B.C by radio carbon dating. The piece of silk appeared to have been from China.

This is the oldest evidence of Chinese fabric from the Silk Road in Sri Lanka.
Department of Archaeology
Sri Lanka

GIS And Its' Applications

Software

- ArcMap - 10.4.1
- OziExplorer

Satellite Images

- Quick Bird
- Google
• Creating Maps
• Creating Geo-Data Base
• Creating Site Maps
Department of Archaeology Sri Lanka has launched a website on the Archaeology day this year. Archaeological Day has named in July 7th of each year.

Details of all protected monuments and main archaeological sites are available in this website.
https://archaeologysl.maps.arcgis.com