

THE LION ROCK OF SIGIRIYA

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Rising 600 feet above the jungles of central

Ceylon (Sri Lanka) is a gigantic rock column revered for millennia as Sigiriya – Lion Rock from Sanskrit. It's flat on top, used over centuries as a Buddhist monastery and a fortress by kings. In 480, King Kashyapa had the image of a lion carved into the rock as the entrance gate to his fortress-palace on top. All that's left are the lion's paws that you see.

It was a risky climb via stone stairs carved into the rock getting to the top. Today there's a much safer wooden staircase. It's a pilgrimage site for Sri Lankans where they get to celebrate their history and enjoy the gorgeous view on top. It's a marvelous experience for you to participate in. (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #158* photo ©Jack Wheeler)

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