

Tourist Map of Sigiriya Rock and its Surrounding Area

Pahala Talkote Vava

Located 3 km north-west of Sigiriya Rock, Pahala Talkote Vava provides you with a magnificent view of both Sigiriya and Pidurangala. It is definitely worth a visit. [A,B-1]



There are a lot of tanks (man-made lakes; vava in Sinhala) around Sigiriya Rock. Since ancient times, tanks supported life and livelihood in the Dry Zone. Tanks are still used for agriculture, as well as for washing and bathing by the locals. When you go to Talkote, please respect the customs and dignity of the bathers.



Halmilla Vava

Halmilla Vava is a tiny tank near Pidurangala Rock. A part of the tank is now swamp, and various species of birds converge in the mornings and evenings. Trees and tree-trunks still standing in the tank provide you with lots of opportunities to take good photos of birds.

From the banks of the tank, you can see Sigiriya and Pidurangala side by side. The sight of two rocks reflected on the surface of the water is truly memorable. [B-3]

Sigiriya Herbal Garden and Forest Arboretum (SHG)

Sigiriya Herbal Garden was built and opened in 1994 as an additional attraction at the Sigiriya World Heritage Site. Although small, all common medicinal plants indigenous to the Dry Zone are represented, and endangered and rare trees and plants can be seen. In addition to the Herbal Garden is an arboretum-park of major Dry Zone trees. At its back is an undisturbed forest with nature trails, connected to forests outside the park.

Benches of all types are available along the walking trail. They are not well maintained, but if you are exhausted after climbing up Sigiriya Rock, this is an ideal place to refresh yourself. [B-4]



Sigiriya Museum

The newly opened Sigiriya Museum is an archaeological museum, visitor information centre, and research facility in one. Managed by the Central Cultural Fund (CCF), the museum showcases the results of nearly three decades of archaeological research at Sigiriya and surrounding area.

The museum offers you a concise understanding of the history of Sigiriya from prehistory to present. Films and special activities are planned for the future. A stop by the museum before your site visit is recommended. [B-4]



Other archaeological sites

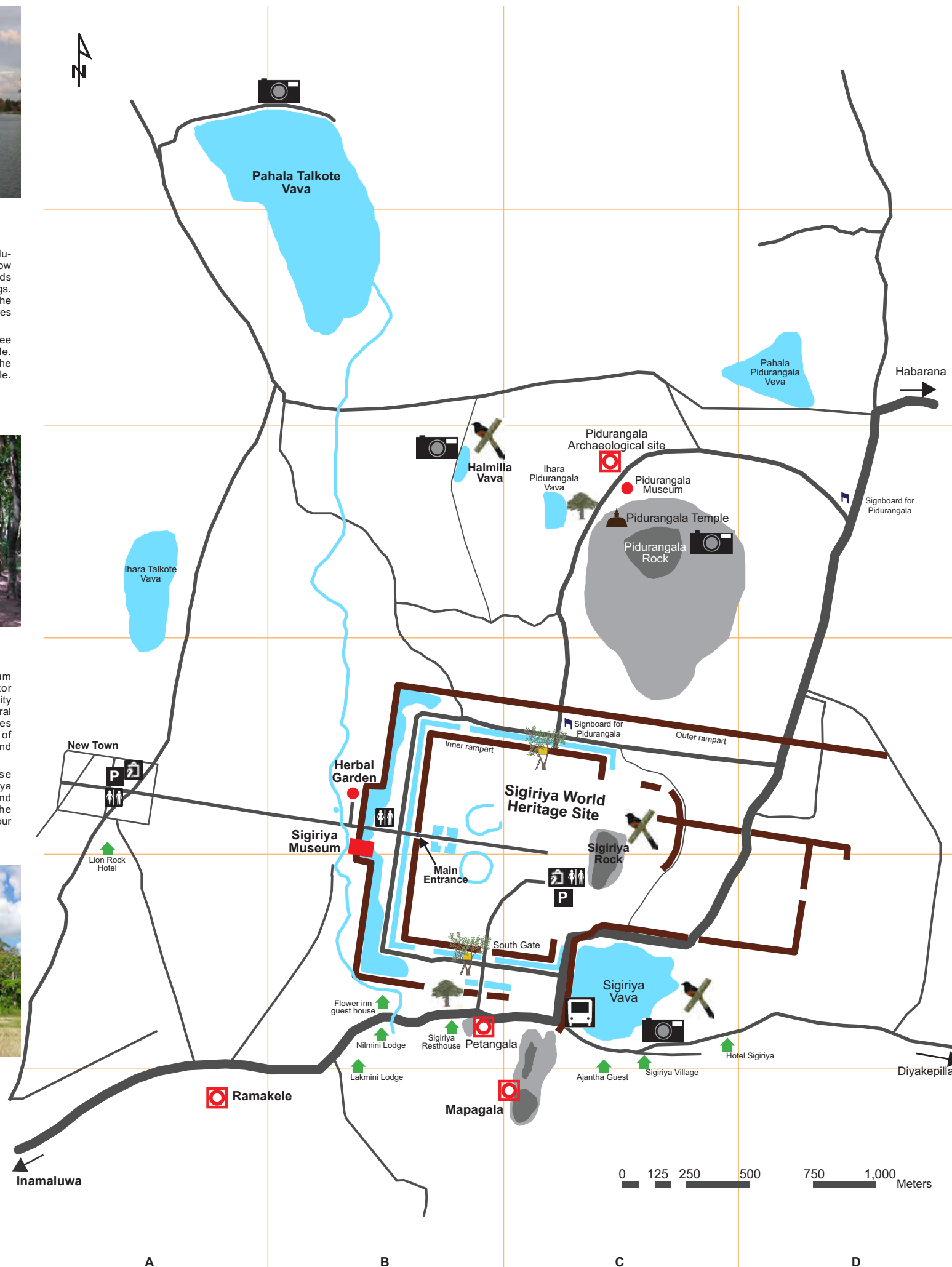
You will see several archaeological sites when you travel on the Dambulla-Sigiriya Road.

Ramakele (Mahanaga Pabbata Vihara) was a monastery, one of several monastery sites in the area including Sigiriya itself. You can see its partly conserved stupa on the right side of the road when coming to Sigiriya from Dambulla.

Near Sigiriya Vava are two other rocks which are, like Sigiriya, associated with archaeological sites. The larger one, 'Mapagala' ('Rock of the Viceroy'), is a fortress with massive stone walls. Nearby is smaller 'Petangala', associated with the remains of a monastery. [A-6, B-4, C-4]



Supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency



Pidurangala Rock and Temple

Like Sigiriya Rock, Pidurangala Rock dominates the landscape with its distinct silhouette.

Pidurangala was one of several rock shelter monasteries established in the area around 3rd century BC, before Sigiriya's brief transformation into a royal capital in 5th century AC. The Temple has remained belonging to several periods. At the base of the rock is the contemporary temple, whose image-house is actually an ancient rock shelter. The image-house is shared by a locally famous Vishnu shrine, which is open for worship on Wednesdays and Saturdays. [C-3]

Located just north of Sigiriya, the view of Sigiriya Rock from Pidurangala's summit is breathtaking. One of the lesser-known places to take photos of Sigiriya Rock, it is well worth a visit.

The route to the summit of Pidurangala Rock is not well marked out for tourists. The trail starts inside the Temple grounds. On the way up is a large recumbent Buddha image, damaged by treasure-seekers but now restored, dating back to 5th century AC.

Near the end of the trail to the summit, you will have to climb large boulders, so go dressed for casual hiking, and ask someone at the temple below to accompany you or give directions. A small donation or a purchase of a donation-ticket is recommended.



Archaeology Museum and Pidurangala Archaeological Site

Across the road from Pidurangala Rock and Temple are the remains of a monastic complex, whose earliest phase dates to around 5th century AC. It is rather compactly built, but all five major monastic elements are visible: the Bodhighara, image house, chapter house, stupa, and the central mandapa or shrine.

If you go to Pidurangala, visit this monastic complex for some quiet and peace. You do not need a ticket. There is also a small site museum run by the Archaeology Department nearby. [C-3]

A major problem in this area is the conflict between wild elephants and local people. During the harvest season, farmers spend the night in tree houses, to watch out for elephants. You can spot various kinds of tree houses around paddies and on roadsides.

Inside Sigiriya Site itself, there are at least two tree houses used by night watchmen. Try to spot them yourself!

Wild elephants move out from forests to villages and tanks at dusk, and stay around until dawn. We strongly recommend you **not** to walk around, even in villages, at these hours.



Sigiriya Vava

During the reign of King Kasyapa, the Sigiriya vava used to be a huge tank, spreading out to the south.

The current Sigiriya Vava is cut from another tank in the south and became much smaller. This is now a heaven for water buffaloes, but it still a nice place to take photos of the Sigiriya rock.

The tank is also a good place to enjoy bird watching. You can see both water and mountain birds here. [C-5]

	Monastic Complex (Archaeological site)		Toilet
	Temple		Bus Stop
	Other Sightseeing Spot		Shop
	Hotel & Guest House		Big Tree
	Bird Watching Site		Tree House
	Photo Spot		