

The Kandy Esala Perahera



The **Kandy Esala Perahera** (the Perahera elephant festival) is a grand festival celebrated with elegant costumes and is held in July and August in Kandy, Sri Lanka.



This historical procession is held **annually** to pay respect to the **Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha**, which is housed at the Sri Dalada Maligawa temple in Kandy.



The Sacred Relic



According to Sri Lankan legends, when the Buddha died, his body was cremated and his **left canine tooth** was saved from the ashes by his disciple. It became a **royal possession**.

The belief began that whoever owned the tooth would be ruler of that land.



The elephant procession consists of elephants, covered with lavish decorations and lights along with dancers drummers and swordsmen.

The different dances performed include...

fire dances



whip dances



Kasakaruwo (Whip Crackers)

and various other cultural dances
including Kandyan
dances



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shykwXng5fY&safe=active>

Kandy Procession (25mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-8xhowhpXg&safe=active>

Arrival of the sacred tooth (3 mins)