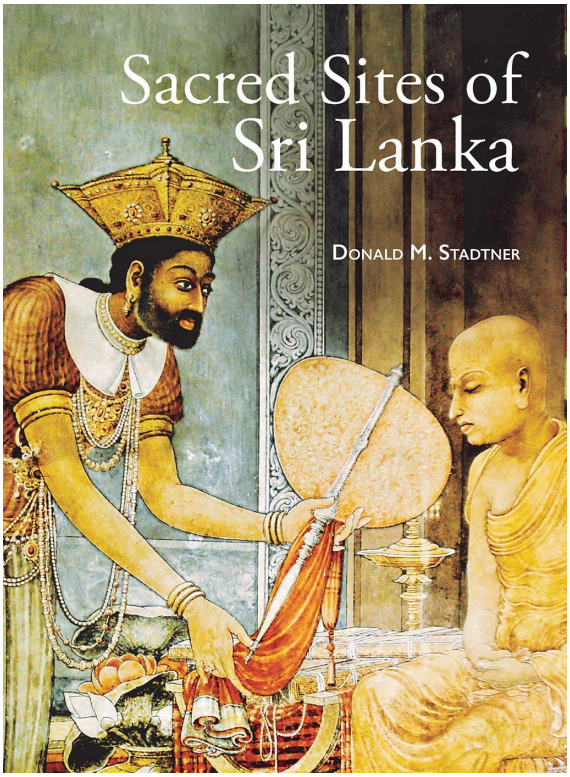
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Sacred Sites of Sri Lanka

Donald M. Stadtner

ISBN	9786164510227
Publisher	River Books
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	6.69 in x 9.13 in
Pages	324 Pages
Illustrations	400 color
Price	$30.00

- Lavishly illustrated - covers all the main sacred sites in Sri Lanka and many that are less visited but often equally fascinating and rewarding

No country, apart from India, is as closely allied with the Buddha's travels as Sri Lanka, which was visited thrice by the Buddha and received corporal relics and a branch of the bodhi tree after his death. Today the Buddha's eye-tooth is venerated daily by thousands in Kandy and regarded as a priceless relic.

Buddhism is not the only religion to have influence the island, as another major pilgrimage spot is Kataragama, a site devoted to a Hindu God, while Christianity and Islam are also part of the mix. From Europe, the Portuguese, Dutch, and English added new spiritual layers in a colonial period that stretched nearly three centuries. As a result, understanding the country, through the lens of sacred sites provides a special glimpse into this unique civilisation.

Donald M. Stadtner was for many years an Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Texas, Austin, after receiving his Ph.D in Indian art at the University of California, Berkeley. He was first in Burma in 1979, followed by visits in the 1980's sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. His numerous publications deal with both Indian and Burmese art, with his 2005 book*Ancient Pagan* focusing exclusively on Burma's ancient capital city. His other publications include*Buddhist Art of Myanmar* (Asia Society - Elgar Dissertation Companions) and *Sacred Sites of Burma* (River Books). He also presented a podcast on Burmese Art. In 2005, his expertise helped to abort the purchase of a stolen statue of a Seated Buddha from India by the Royal Ontario Museum. Donald Stadtner divides his time between the San Francisco Bay area, India and Southeast Asia.







Published 27th Jan 2026