

## Rock Art of Sri Lanka

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It has been noted that the international scholarship is not well aware of Sri Lanka's rock art heritage. The aim of this paper, therefore, is to introduce Sri Lankan material to the international community of rock art specialists and thus to place Sri Lanka on the world map of rock art.

Sri Lanka is a large independent island in the Indian Ocean, lying about 42.3 km off the southeast coast of Peninsular India. The pear-shaped island has a maximum length of about 435 km and a maximum breadth of about 225 km. The climate is tropical monsoon. The annual average rainfall figures range from 65 cm to over 225 cm. The annual average temperature ranges from 26°C in the lowland coastal region to 18°C in the interior highland areas. The natural vegetation is dominated by tropical rain forests with regional variants according to locality. The eco-zones of the island are as follows:

*Dry zone:* arid lowlands; semi-arid lowlands; dry lowlands lower than 900 m; intermediate lowlands and uplands (900-1500 m), an area of transition from wet zone, but predominantly dry zone in character.

*Wet zone:* lowlands (lower than 900 m); uplands (900-1500 m); highlands (1500-2500 m).