

Quarterly Tours



Jayatissa Herath

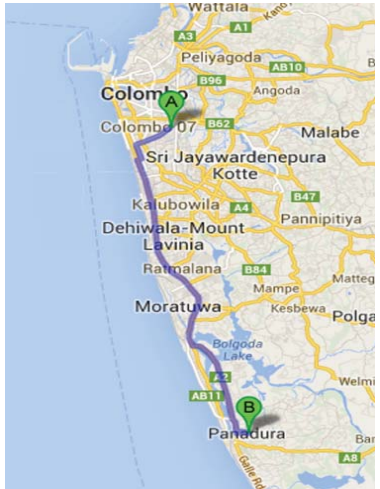
National Trust – Sri Lanka

30 th November 2013

Trip starting from PGIAR, No. 407, Bauddhloka Mawatha,
Colombo - 7

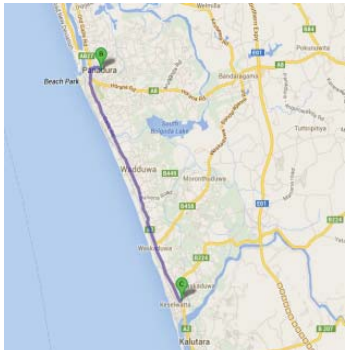
- (A). PGIAR to
- (B). Panadura Rankoth Vihare

(distance 25 km) - [time 0:45]



- (B). Panadura Rankoth Vihare
- (C). Asokarama Maha Vihare

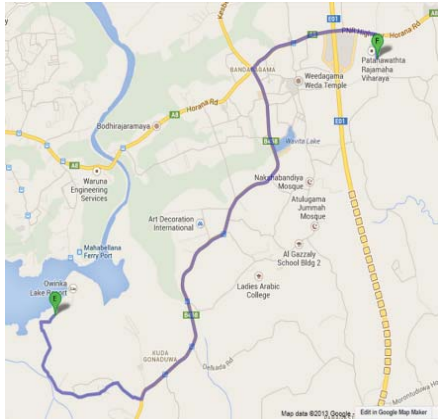
(distance 15 km) - [time 0:25]



(E). Lunch Stop - Waskaduwa

(F). Pathahawatta Pushpikarama Vihare

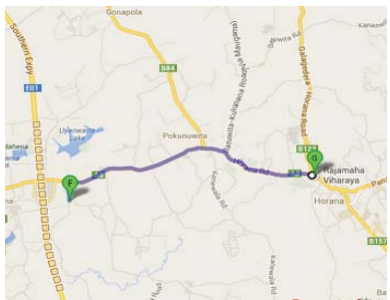
(distance 11 km) - [time 0:25]



(F). Pathahawatta Pushpikarama Vihare

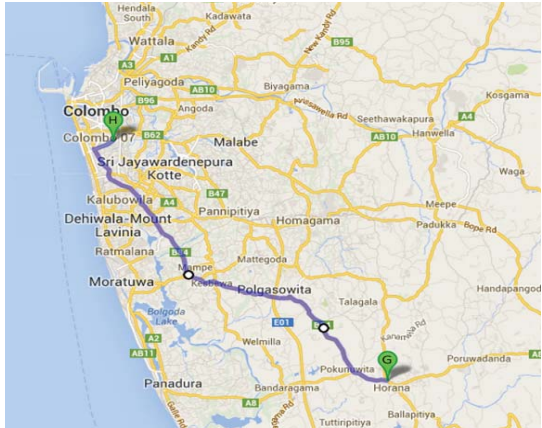
(G). Horana Raja Maha Vihare

(distance 7 km) - [time 0:10]



(G). Horana Raja Maha Vihare
(A/H) PGIAR (back to origin)

(distance 40 km) - [time 1:00]



Visit to Historic Sites

Present tour is to cover some of the historic places of artistic and archaeological interest in southern part of the western province

RANKOTH VIHARE – PANADURA

This is a Buddhist temple situated in the city centre of Panadura. The legend is that this particular location was once recognized as ground for victory of a weaker party and as a result it was selected for erection of a temple. It was called as “Galwala Pansala” or “Galkande Vihare” during old days. The history of the place runs back to 1810 AD and the present name was acquainted soon after the painting of the pinnacle of the stupa in gold in the year 1879 AD.

It is further believed that the preliminary discussions before commencing the debate on Buddhism known as “*Panadura-vadaya*” was held at this particular temple.

The temple today is fully fledged religious entity comprised with a Stupa, an Image House, a Bo-Tree shrine, a Bell tower and a Library at the upper terrace while priest residence and other ancillary features located at the lower terrace.

The image house contains an inner chamber and a walled circumambulatory area with windows and doors depicting colonial characteristics.

The image house is enriched with colonial features with highly elaborate plaster mouldings and decorations. The walls and timber ceilings of the outer circumambulator of the image



house was full of paintings depicting previous and life stories of Buddha including defeat of Mara, cremation ceremony with decorative pandols, distribution of relics, and the hell and so many.

The strip paintings in walls expressed three dimensional attributes in figures keeping the bottom line as the base; like in Kandyan style temple wall paintings. The painting depicting the "Anotaphawila" is more informative with all features and their names and is more significant on the slanting ceiling of the image house.

Features of traditional art elements have been used in a different way to match the same language of paintings. The Buddha statues are located in the inner chamber and they were painted in gold.



ASOKARAMA MAHA VIHARE

This temple complex is also unique in its setting. The history of the place runs back to 1873 AD and gradually developed to present status with the contributions made by the devotees and the well to do contributors of the area.

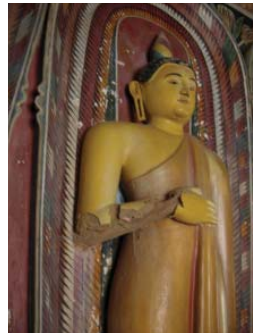
The features of buildings are more related to colonial. The giant pandol through which the stupa is accessible, is the most significant in the complex. It is highly decorative and unique in design.

The present image house is built in 1867 AD (ie. 2411 Buddhist years). The image house consists with timber colonnaded wide open verandah and a walled circumambulatory area and an inner chamber. The timber columns and the verandah are well proportionate in giving spacious quality and shows high degree of artistic skills of the designers and builders of the periods. The Windows, doors, mouldings and decorative features depicts more colonial influences in the design of the temple while retaining the relationship of the form in general to indigenous and Kandyan styles of Buddhist temples.

One side of the walls of circumambulatory area was enriched with a series of mud Buddha statues while the other side was decorated with elaborate strip paintings. These paintings seems to be more related to Kandy and Kotte period paintings with high decorative



elements and fine detailing with simple colour application yet attributing an uniqueness in style. These paintings depict life stories of the Buddha and the Ceiling paintings shows “Lagan” and “Thithi” divisions of the astrology.



PATHAHAWATTA PUSHKARAMA VIHARE

This particular site is believed to be the location of the palace of King Raigam Bandara. The site is surrounded by an 8 feet high 6 feet wide *Kabok* (Laterite) wall which is believed to be the rampart of the palace complex. In the site there is a large pond of 80 ft. by 60 ft. in size with dilapidated *Kabok* wall known to by the villagers as "*Pathaha*" which was said to be the bathing pond of the king during the ancient time. Because of this pond the site became "*Pathahawatta*" among the people.

On the decline of the Kingdom of Raigama, this place was gradually developed into a Buddhist temple. Lots of antiquities were believed to be scattered in the location and broken elephant heads, trunks, simply decorated toilet pedestal slabs, pedestals and pieces of columns and pieces of moonstones are significant among them.

The large crystal deposited in the inner chamber of the temple was one of the significant features of the temple complex.

The complex today comprised with all the components, like a stupa, a Bo-tree shrine, an Image house, a Preaching hall, a Bell tower and a Priest Residence, that required for a Buddhist temple.

The legend is that the coronation ceremony of the king Sri

Parakramabahu, who ruled from Kotte during 1410 AD was held in this particular location prior to the establishment of the Kotte kingdom.

HORANA RAJAMAHA VIHARE

This temple is one of the significant religious complexes located in the ancient Kingdom of Raigama. It is believed that there had been a university for monks in this location during 13 – 15 century AD, which was known as “*Pathiraja Parivena*”. *Pathiraja* was said to be a minister of Dambadeniya Period and was responsible for the establishment of the university.

This temple was developed by Alagakkonara who enjoyed a great political power during the 14th century AD. But most of the ruins we see today are believed to be belongs to the period of King Parakramabahu –VI, during 15th century AD.

Among them, some moonstones, a Buddha statue, ancient railing of the Bo-tree shrine could be identified as earlier creations.



RICHMOND CASTLE - KALUTARA

This is a mansion built by a son of a wealthy and influential planter who schooled in Britain and was made a mudaliyar on his return to Sri Lanka by the King of England during early decades of 1900 AD. He was said to be inspired by the palace of Maharaja of Ramnad in India.

The mansion is a symbol of splendor and power with every icon boasting of luxury. Almost all the material to build the mansion was brought from abroad beginning from floor to tile for the roof, including all sanitary wares.

The young mudaliar is said to be moved to the mansion upon his marriage and lived like a ruler of the locality. The park was said to be full of fruits and flowers. In the mansion they hosted banquets frequently for both foreign and local dignitaries.

But the end of the life of the mudaliar was a tragic one and had to bequeath all his wealth to Public Trustee.

The mansion is an example of architectural fusion blending the styles of the design on a trail from the East to the West. It depicts the local courtyard tradition, the Maharaja and Roman-Dutch styles.

Richmond Castle has accomplished some very interesting design components and features. The banquet hall, as a performance arena for the entertainment has an



underground ventilation system, which harbours the cool air of the Kalu Ganga directing it into the hall through an ingenious underground pathway that runs right through the foundation providing natural air conditioning. The hall also showcases intricate Embekke style carvings pillars connecting six massive decorated arches that hold up its roof. The giant staircase greeting any guest by the front entrance set upon checkered marble floor is another very unique work of art with a fusion of western and local carving patterns embedded in it. The bedrooms on the upper floor have been ingeniously designed to be soundproof, and the techniques used are directly visible with certain parts of the lime putted walls now peeling off in its ripe old age. However, the purpose of using this system was to maintain a comfortable temperature within the room interiors.

The present Richmond Castle is a monumental historic site made open to the public by the Public Trustee Department, who also maintain a children's home within.



Tentative Programme

National Trust – Sri Lanka

Quarterly Tours –

Saturday 30 th November 2013.

Programme

0700 hrs.	Leave PGIAR
0745 - 0900 hrs.	Rankoth Vehera Panadura
0920 - 1030 hrs.	Asokaramaya
1040 - 1200 hrs.	Richmond Castle Kalutara
1230 - 1400 hrs.	Lunch Stop
1430 - 1600 hrs.	Pathahawatta Maha Vihare
1615 - 1745 hrs.	Horana Raja Maha Vihare
1845 hrs.	Arrive at the PGIAR