

KARLSRUHE (Germany) – MATARA (Sri Lanka) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Nawimana South Rural Development Foundation

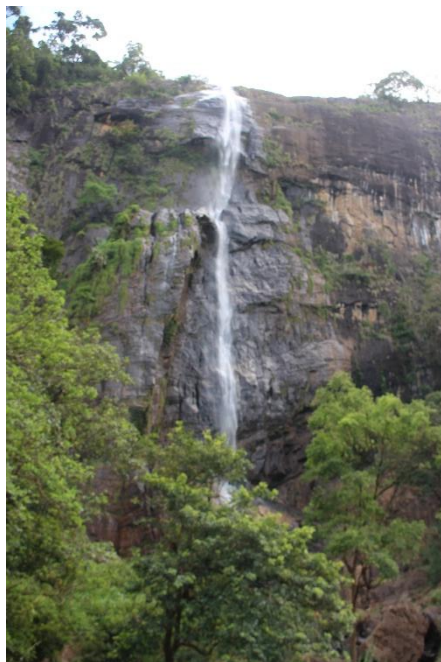
Annual Educational Tour 2025



As planned, we began the trip on August 11th with a group of 110 people. We started our journey at around 3.30 in the morning and went to Thelulla temple for breakfast at around 6.30 a.m.



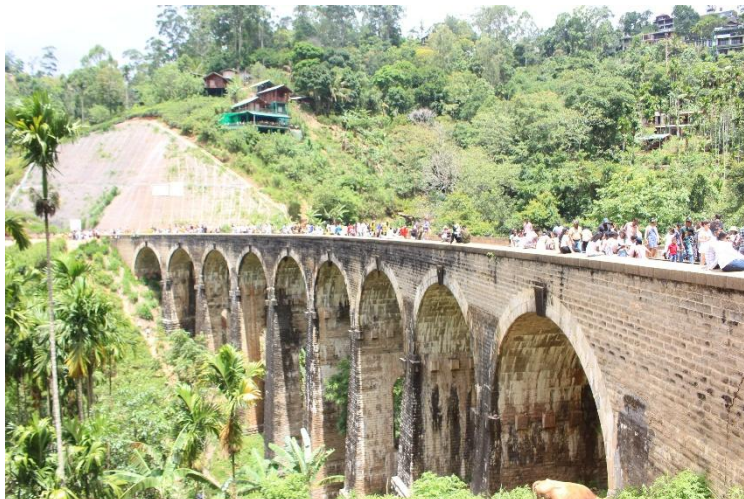
Among the places we listed, first we visited to see Diyaluma waterfall. It didn't seem so scary like other days because the rain was a little less at this time. But it created very wonderful scene in front of our eyes.



After that we went to Addison bungalow the famous. We feel the cold in a heavily foggy environment and we all admired its beauty. We learned the history of Addison bungalow and we saw ancient foreign coins and Sri Lankan coins.



Next, we went to visit Nine arch bridge. Although, the road to there was quite difficult, everyone enjoyed the journey with joy and fun.



This bridge was designed to accommodate a challenging nine-degree curve and steep gradient. It is located in Demodara, between Ella and Demodara railway station. This bridge was built by stones, bricks and cement but without steel. Since there are several ways to reach Nine arches, we returned via another beautiful jungle road. By the time Nine arch bridge finished watching it was lunch time.

After the lunch we continued our journey. Next, we visited a most sacred place among Buddhist, Muthiyanganaya Raja Maha Viharaya.



It is a sacred place that was made sacred by the touch of Lord Buddha's feet during his third visit to Sri Lanka. It is located in the middle of Badulla town in Uva province.

During the Lord Buddha's 3rd visit to Kelaniya, a local chieftain named Indaka invited Buddha to visit his place in Badulla. At the end of the sermons, Indaka had wanted something to worship in memory of Lord Buddha's visit. So, the Lord Buddha has given him few of his hairs and a few drops of sweat that turned in to pearls. This is believed to be the stupa built by Indaka to house these treasures.

At the end of visiting Muthiyanganaya it was getting evening. Since everyone was quite tired, we went to the reserve place to spend the night. After everyone has washed the parent made tea for the students. While the parents were cooking dinner, we went to Mahiyanganaya Raja Maha Viharaya with students. It is so closed to the place we stayed.



Mahiyanganaya Raja Maha Viharaya is in Mahiyanganya in Badulla in Uva province. It is an ancient buddhist temple. It is believed to be the site of Lord Buddha's 1st visit to the country. The Mahiyanganaya stupa was built by a Yakka chieftain named Saman. (Later became a god.) He enshrined the handful of hairs of Lord Buddha in it. This was the 1st stupa to be built in Sri Lanka.



We worshipped and spend some time there. After we returned students get ready for the evaluation. After dinner the 1st day of the trip came to an end.



The next morning at 6 a.m. we start the 2nd day of the trip. After breakfast reverent Thero addressed the students.



Next, we went to see the Sorabora tank, an ancient irrigation work, in Mahiyanganaya. It is thought to have been constructed during the reign of King Dutugamunu by a giant named Bulatha.





Students and teachers are walked on the rocks and observed the surrounding of the tank.

Next, we visited the famous place in Ampara District. It was Maha Oya Hot water Springs. It is located about 2km from Mahaoya town. This is said to be the hottest spring of all the hot springs in Sri Lanka. There are seven out flowing hot water wells.



After lunch, we went to visit the Japan Peace Pagoda. It is one of a number of peace pagodas in the world, built since World War II and designed to promote the non-violence in the community and unite them. The temple consists of a pagoda, a Mahayana style vihara geya and a small bodhi tree.





We visited famous Buddhist religious place called Buddangala. It is a beautiful monastery.



It was getting evening and we went to the place where we spend the night. This time we stayed in Deegawapiya. After the usual cleaning procedure, we were ready to the evaluation. End of the evaluation was the end of the 2nd day of the trip.



Third day morning we all attend quickly for the morning sacrifice at Deegawapiya. After the sermons we walked around Deegawapi Stupa. Deegawapiya is a stupa that is still under renovation. It is Buddhist sacred shrine and an archeological site in the Ampara district. It is also one of a place where Lord Buddha had visit.





Next, we passed considerable time in bus because we had a journey to Trincomalee. So, after few hours we reached to Pasikuda beach. Pasikuda beach is a serene coastal resort on Sri Lanka's east coast. It is located in Batticaloa protected by an offshore reef, the bay's warm, turquoise water extends far out, creating a beautiful, pool like environment. Our students enjoyed very much by playing in sea water.



We had lunch from there also. Next, we visited Lanka Patuna. Lanka Patuna Samudragiri Viharaya is a Buddhist temple situated in the Trincomalee District. This temple which is situated near the ocean near the historic port of Lankapatuna where Prince Dantha and Princess Hemamala set foot in Sri Lanka bringing the sacred Tooth Relic of the Lord Buddha.



Next, we went to the Seruwawila Mangala Maha Viharaya, the famous Buddhist religious place. This sacred site was constructed by King Kavanthissa. And it enshrines two revered relics of Lord Buddha, the forehead relic (Lalata Dhatu) and the hair relic (Kesha Dhatu).

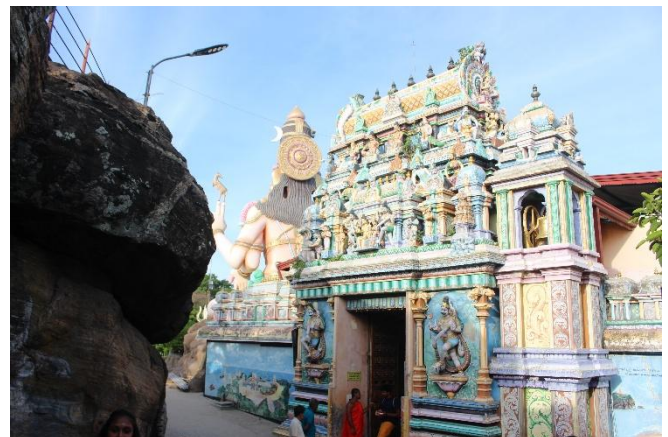




Next, we headed straight to Trincomalee, because it was getting dark. We reached to the place we stayed. After the usual activities we started evaluation programme.



It was the last day of the trip. We started our day, by visiting Koneswaram Kovil. It is a classical -medieval hindu temple complex in Trincomalee. The monument contains its main shrine to shiva in the form Kona-Ishwara, shortened to Konesar.





After that we went to Trincomalee harbor. Trincomalee harbor is a seaport in Trincomalee bay, fourth largest natural harbor in the world and situated in northeastern coast of Sri Lanka.

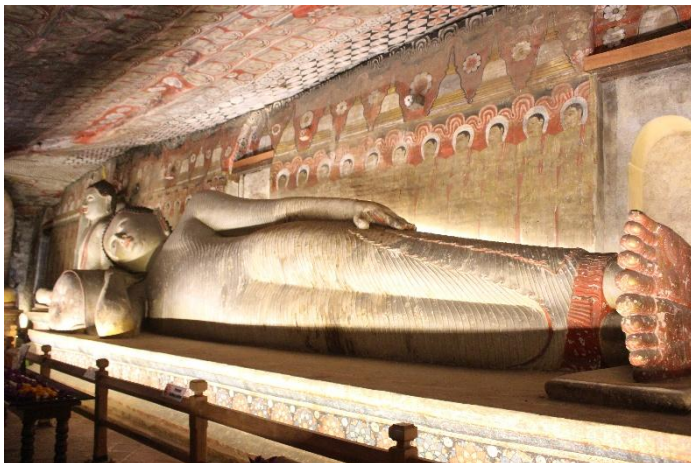


At the time we reached there we saw huge ship. And in the sea, we saw few jelly fish also.

Next, we visited Dambulla Cave Temple, the last place we visited on the trip. We had our lunch on there. We had to climb lot of stone stairs to visit the temple.

Dambulla Cave Temple is also known as the Golden Temple of Dambulla. It is a world heritage site in Sri Lanka situated in the central part of the country.

Dambulla is the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka.



It was very late when we left there. So, we set out to return. But on the way, the buses stopped for a few hours to allow the students to sing and have fun.

After the joyful moment we set out straight to matara. The students always reminded the organization and they gave their kind thank to the chairman and for all the god parents regarding providing assistance for their educational activities.

- Tesheema Chammi –