



St. Thomas' Preparatory School 1976 Magazine

The Isle Of Beauty

Sri Lanka, Known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean, is one of the world's most beautiful tropical islands. Sri Lanka was famous for its natural beauty throughout the ancient era. The Pearl of the East was also so named because of the islands natural resources such as gems and spices.

Though Sri Lanka has been under the rule of many European countries, it has become poor country scenery. Sri Lanka has invaders, and one of the main ways of earning foreign exchange for development purposes is through tourism. Tourism can be also developed as Sri Lanka has many beautiful surroundings. Some of the world's loveliest beaches are found in Sri Lanka. The golden sunny beaches are broadly spread around the island. Many foreigners bathe in the sun which they love very much. One can notices the changes of weather in various places. The ideal climatic condition in our country is something that Europeans love very much.

The jungles are found mostly in the Dry Zone. Some of the rarest animals such as the elephant and the leopard dwell in our thick jungles. The wild life of Sri Lanka has fascinated many a foreigner. The two world-famed game sanctuaries are Yala and Wilpattu, where one can find a variety of wild life.

The low country is full of attractions. World renowned gems are found in the Ratnapuram area. One notices many people hard at work in the gem-pits. Several are lucky. Some of the valuable Jewels, such as the blue sapphire and the cat's eyes, are found in Sri Lanka. The main occupation in Sri Lanka is farming. Lovely green paddy fields can be seen throughout the island. Chena cultivation and other farming activities are found all over the island.

The hill country is known mainly for its healthy climate. Nuwara Eliya, Bandarawela and Diyatalawa are popular holiday resorts. The beautiful tea estates in the up-country are a pleasing sight to the onlookers. Kandy, which is the capital of the hill country, is a historic town. The Dalada Maligawa where the sacred relic is kept draws the Buddhists from all over the island. The Kandy Esala Perahera is not missed by any tourist. Thousands of tourists gather to see this long and beautiful procession.

The streams which start from the hill-country flow out in all directions and flow into the shallow seas which offer excellent facilities to the tourists for swimming and diving. The coral reefs at Trincomalee and Hikkaduwa attract the foreigners. Holiday villages are situated along the coasts of our country.

Sri Lanka is rich in its natural beauties though small in extent. No wonder Anton Chekov has quoted "Sri Lanka is a paradise."

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