

A Selection of Archaeological Sites in the East: A Photographic resentation

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Spear-headed by Nihal Fernando, Studio Times Ltd spent the last forty years photographing the Island's history and the various elements that shaped art, architecture and culture. Its coverage includes the archeological sites of the East. Spanning several periods, the archeological history of the East can be traced as far back as three hundred thousand years to Minihagalkanda where pre-historic man lived. Stone tools have also been recovered from Minihagalkanda.

The presentation will include images of:

Minihagalkanda (Block II, Yala National Park site, fossils and stone tools), Kudimbigala (Yala East National Park), Andagala (similar to Ritigala in the deep jungle close to Gal Oya. Information about this site was obtained from a vaddah. We have been unable to trace any records of this site as yet.), Budupatuna (Wil Oya basin), Gonagolla (mural), Ovagiriya (Buddha statue similar in style to the statue of Rajagala and very different from the statues found elsewhere in the Island), Saman Pichcha Vihara (Kucciveli- rock sculpture), Mailla cave (Kotiyagala cave and murals), Sasthraveli (Pottuvil), Mudu Maha Vihara (Pottuvil), Magul Maha Vihara (Lahugala guardstones, images houses, dagoba, bodhigara, moonstone, unique sculpture, balustrade details etc.), Nagathambarani (north Tiriyaya cobra stone), Padaviya (stone bridge), Rajagala Kanda (Bakiella hill, cave dwellings, murals, Buddha statue, stone bowls, water spout, balustrades, stone roadways, bridges), Somavatiya, Tiriyaya, Velgam Vihara and Hulan Nuge cave (ancient cave art).

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The photographs will give an idea of the lay of the land, the archaeological artifacts therein and focus on a few special elements and also highlight the destruction that is taking place today.

Keywords: Sri Lanka's history in photographs, archaeological destruction