

## Cave of Al-SABIK

or: Sebik, Sibak

Unexplored and not mapped natural or man-made troglodyte cave, rock shelter (temple cave) or rock-cut chamber ('cave' temple hermitage).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

POSITION: Not known.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri, ca. 1355 for 1325-1354 (edited by Defrémery, C. & Sanguinetti, B.R. 1874-1879; edited by Gibb, Hamilton A.R. 1929 reproduced 1988; edited by Gibb, Hamilton A.R. and Beckingham, Charles F. 1994; edited by Lee, Samuel 1829); Skeen, William 1870 reprinted 1997.

An unspecified »cave« (note 1) associated with one »al- Sabik« (note 2) is said to be situated (note 3) beyond »a place called "The Old Woman's Hut", which is the end of the inhabited part« on the way (note 4) from a place called »Kunakar« (see: Cave of →Ustad Mahmud the Lur) and the »Lake of Monkeys« on a route to the »Mountain of Sarandip« (Adam's Peak, Sri Pada, Pidurutulagula N 06°48'30": E 080°29'53": 2242.3 m asl).

NOTE 1: A natural rock shelter? or man-made rock chamber? Ibn BATTUTA (edited by GIBB 1929 reproduced 1998: 258) simply notes »a number of grottoes.« GIBB & BECKINGHAM (in Ibn BATTUTA 1994: 258 note 15): »... that place... [was] identified by SKEEN 1870: 176.«

NOTE 2: Ibn BATTUTA (edited by LEE 1829: 188) records »... the cave of Sibak, [who was] an infidel king, who retired to this place for the purposes of devotion.« GIBB & BECKINGHAM (in Ibn BATTUTA 1994: 852 note 15): »This al-Sabik was a Sultan of the infidels, who became an anchorite in that place.« Identified by SKEEN (1870: 176); Skeen, relying on Samuel Lee's translation, calls the king »Sibak.«

NOTE 3: SKEEN (1870: 176, 227-228 reprinted 1997) needs to be checked..

NOTE 4: Ibn BATTUTA (edited by GIBB & BECKINGHAM 1994: 852 note 15): »... we continued our journey to a place called 'The Old Woman's Hut', which is the end of the inhabited part, and went to the cave of Baba Tahir, who was a devotee, and then to the cave of al- Sabik.«

## SAFFRAGAM NITRE CAVERNS

→Nitrate Cave (Saffragam, Tennent 1860)

An area of natural caves.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: ex- Saffragam area.

MAPS: Survey of India sheet: Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Tennent, James Emerson 1860, 1: 31; Urugoda, C.G. 1973: 39.

## SASSERUWA 'CAVES'

or: Saessaeruwa, Sesseruwa

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped modified natural or man-made, troglodyte cave, rock shelter or rock-cut chamber.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern Central province: Anuradhapura district: Sasseruwa (Saessaeruwa, Sesseruwa) village.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 07°59': E 080°25' /

N 7.98333334°: E 80.41666667° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NC44-14.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983; Parker, H. 1909.

A »cave dwelling« (note 1) with over 100 "caves" of dubious nature and character at Sasseruwa, Saessaeruwa, or Sesseruwa (note 2) represent troglodyte hermitage retreats but »today only a few monks inhabit its caves« (CEYLON TRAVELLER (1983: 116, 251)

SITUATION (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1983: 116): Sasseruwa, nearly "seven weary miles" (11 km or so) as the crow flies west of the colossal statue at Aukana (N 08°01': E 080°31' WGS84), is reached by fair-weather roads either via Kalawewa, Hammillewa, and Negampaha or via Galgamuwa, Ehetuwewa, and Kuda Katnoruwa. In the 1980ies, the first route had the better surface save for the last few kilometres.

CULTURAL HISTORY - rock art: »Many of the caves, there are over 100 of them, have 'bow' inscriptions dating as far back as the second century before the birth of Christ« (CEYLON TRAVELLER (1983: 116, 251).

NOTE 1: CEYLON TRAVELLER (1974: 249; 1983: 251): »Caves dwellings are scattered throughout Sri Lanka ... but the richest areas for caves of this sort are the North-Western and North-Central Provinces, with the Sabaragamuwa and Central Province borders not far distant second. These caves include those at ... Sasseruwa in Anuradhapura District ...«.

NOTE 2: Sesseruwa N 07°59': E 080°25' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003) or Sasseruwa (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 249; 1983: 116, 251) and Saessaeruwa (PARKER 1909).

Cave in

#### SCARBOROUGH ESTATE

Archaeologically investigated but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Maskeliya: Scarborough Estate.

POSITION: Representative WGS84 coordinates (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 06°47': E 080°36' / N 6.78333333°: E 80.6° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Parker, H. 1909; Pole, John 1909.03.05.

An unspecified »cave« (PARKER 1909 after John Pole 1909.03.05) or a rock shelter yielded ancient stone tools (flint implements, cores, one arrowhead).

SITUATION: Somewhere within the Scarborough Estate (N 06°47': E 080°36') at Maskeliya (N 06°50'09": E 080°34'13" WGS84).

CULTURAL HISTORY - archaeology: PARKER (1909: 64 footnote 1, 65 figures 20-34): »I am indebted to Dr. Seligmann for a cutting from the Ceylon Observer (weekly edition) for March 5, 1909, in which Mr. Pole gave an account of the discovery of numerous flint implements and cores in a cave on Scarborough Estate, in Maskeliya. Among them was one 'beautiful example<sup>3</sup> of an arrow-head, but of what type is not stated. Through the kindness of Mr. Pole and Mr. Gardner I am able to supply illustrations (Figs. 20-34) of & typical series of these articles which will indicate their shapes and character better than attempts at description. Mr. Pole was good enough to send me tracings of many of his finds.«

Grotte des  
SCHAIM

see: Cave of →Shaim

A natural or man-made troglodyte cave or rock-cut chamber ('cave temple').

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri (circa 1355 for 1325-1354), edited by Leicht, Hans 1999: 202.

Grotte des

SEBIK

see: Cave of al →Sabik

A natural or man-made troglodyte cave, rock shelter (temple cave) or rock-cut chamber ('cave' temple hermitage).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri (circa 1355 for 1325-1354), edited by Leicht, Hans 1974a, 1974b, 1975, 1982, 1999: 200.

SERENDIP MOUNTAIN CAVERNS

A group of natural caves.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Abu Zeid al Hasan i Sharif 893 edited 1819; Kerr, Robert 1811; Renaudot, Eusebius 1718, 1733.

Unspecified »caves« (no names mentioned), which are occasionally flushed by torrents, reported the Arab traveller ABU ZEID AL HASAN - i - SHARIF in 829 A.D. (edited 1819: 545): »In the mountain of Serendip they find precious stones of various colours, red, green, and yellow, most of which are at certain times forced out of caverns, and other recesses, by waters and torrents« (note 1). Compare →Menik Lena.

NOTE 1: The commentary of Abu Zeid al Hasan of Siraff (in: KERR 1811, part 1, section 4) on the »Account of India and China, by a Mahomedan Traveller of the Ninth Century« (edited 1718 in French by Eusebius RENAUDOT and 1733 (London) in English translated from Renaudot): »In the mountains of Serendib, precious stones are found of various colours, red, green, and yellow, most of which are washed from caverns or crevices, by rains and torrents.«

SERUWAWILA "CAVE"

or: Wilgam Vihara Lena

Unexplored and not mapped modified natural or man-made caves, rock shelters or rock-cut chambers, possibly in limestone.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: North Western province: Trincomalee district: Seruvila Allai Sanctuary area: Seruwawila (Seruvila, Seruvilla): Wilgam Vihara.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 08°22': E 081°19' / N 8.36666667°: E 81.31666667° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Trincomalee; AMS sheet: NC44-15.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

Unspecified »caves« are just about mentioned (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974, 1983: 123).

SITUATION: At one Wilgam Vihara (not to be confused with Velgam Vihara) at Seruwawila, Seruvila, or Seruvilla N 08°22': E 081°19'). APPROACH (after CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974, 1983: 123): In the 1980ies accessible along a sandy track from Trincomalee (N 08°34': E 081°14') approximately south to south-east along the A15 but at Palattadichchenai (N 08°23': E 081°17') off to the east (left-hand side) and the north-east side of the Allai Tank in the Seruvila Allai Sanctuary N 08°22': E 081°18' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003).

NOTE 1: Seruwawila (Seruvila, Seruvilla) N 08°22': E 081°19' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003).

"SEVEN CAVES"

or: Sieben Grotten

A group of unexplored and not mapped natural or man-made caves, rock shelters (temple caves) or rock-cut chambers ('cave temples').

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

POSITION: Not known.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri, ca. 1355 for 1325-1354 (edited by Defrémery, C. & Sanguinetti, B.R. 1874-1879; edited by Gibb, Hamilton A.R. 1929 reproduced 1988; edited by Gibb, Hamilton A.R. and Beckingham, Charles F. 1994; edited by Lee, Samuel 1829; edited by Leicht, Hans 1974a, 1974b, 1975, 1982, 1999); Skeen, William 1870 reprinted 1997.

A group of (literally seven?) unspecified "caves" (note 1) is said to be situated (note 2) beyond »a place called "The Old Woman's Hut" which is the end of the inhabited part« on a route from a place called »Kunakar« (see: Cave of →Ustad Mahmud the Lur) via the »Lake of Monkeys« and across a certain »Pass of Iskandar« on the way to the »Mountain of Sarandip« (Adam's Peak, Sri Pada, Pidurutulagula N 06°48'30": E 080°29'53": 2242.3 m asl).

NOTE 1: Ibn BATTUTA (edited by GIBB 1929 reproduced 1998: 258): »A number of grottoes.« SKEEN (1870: 176, 227 reprinted 1997) needs to be checked.

NOTE 2: Ibn BATTUTA (edited by GIBB & BECKINGHAM 1994: 853): »[From the Cave of →Baba Khuzi] ... we continued our journey to the seven caves, then to the pass of Iskandar...« Ibn BATTUTA (edited by LEE 1829: 189): »We next came to a place called the seven caves, and after this to the ridge of Alexander ...« Ibn BATTUTA (edited by LEICHT 1999: 200): »Nach den Sieben Grotten kamen wir zum Alexanderhügel, dann zur Grotte des el- Isfahani ...«

Cave of the

SEVEN VIRGINS

Unexplored and not mapped natural cave or rock shelter in crystalline Precambrian (Khondalite series) limestone.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Central province: Kandy district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area: Norton's Bridge: Maskeliya Oya valley.

POSITION: Representative WGS84 or Everest 1830 coordinates (approximate

horizontal precision error  $\pm 25000$  m) N 06°45': E 080°30' / N 6.75°: E 80.5° (mere guesswork).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983; Cooray, P. Gerald 1967.

An unspecified »cave called by the intriguing name of 'Cave of the Seven Virgins'« (COORAY 1967: 97; quoted in: CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 244; 1983: 246) »can be seen from the road [probably from Ratnapura] to Maskeliya [N 06°50'09": E 080°34'13" WGS84] occupying a small cliff face overlooking the valley of the Maskeliya Oya« (N 06°45': E 080°26').

Cave of  
SHAIM

or: Scheim /Shisham, Shaith / Sheth

Unexplored and not mapped natural or man-made troglodyte cave or rock-cut chamber ('cave temple').

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

POSITION: Not known.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri, ca. 1355 for 1325-1354 (edited by Defrémery, C. & Sanguinetti, B.R. 1874-1879; edited by Gibb, Hamilton A.R. and Beckingham, Charles F. 1994; edited by Lee, Samuel 1829).

An unspecified "grotto" (natural cave or rock shelter? or man-made rock chamber?) on a certain »Mama track« (see: Cave of →Khidr) on the north-western flank of the »Mountain of Sarandip« (Adam's Peak, Sri Pada, Pidurutulagula, N 06°48'30": E 080°29'53": 2242.3 m asl). Ibn BATTUTA (edited by GIBB & BECKINGHAM 1994, page 855, note 24): »... we halted at the cave of Shaim, that is Shaith, son of Adam (I.B. confuses Shem, the son of Noah, with Seth, the son of Adam).« Ibn BATTUTA (edited by LEE 1829, page 190): »... we came down to the cave of Shisham, who is Sheth, the son of Adam.«

Cave of  
SHAITH

see: Cave of →Shaim

A natural or man-made troglodyte cave or rock-cut chamber ('cave temple').

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri (circa 1355 for 1325-1354), edited by Gibb, Hamilton A.R. and Beckingham, Charles F. 1994: 855.

Cave of  
SHETH

see: Cave of →Shaim

A natural or man-made troglodyte cave or rock-cut chamber ('cave temple').

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri (circa 1355 for 1325-1354), edited by Lee, Samuel 1829: 190, edited by Leicht, Hans 1999: 202.

Cave of  
SHISHAM

see: Cave of →Shaim

A natural or man-made troglodyte cave or rock-cut chamber ('cave temple').

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri (circa 1355 for 1325-1354), edited by Lee, Samuel 1829: 190.

Cave of Al-  
SIBAK

see: Cave of al →Sabik

A natural or man-made troglodyte cave, rock shelter (temple cave) or rock-cut chamber ('cave' temple hermitage).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri (circa 1355 for 1325-1354), edited by Lee, Samuel 1829: 188; Skeen, William 1870: 196 reprinted 1997.

SIBERIYA MANDAPAM

→Periya Mandapam, →Sinna Mandapam

A natural cave and fabulous tunnel.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: Kerudavil: Kankesanturai village.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Mitter, Pavol 1979a: 154-155, 1978: 147.

SIBIYERIA MANDAPAN

→Periya Mandapam, →Sinna Mandapam

A natural cave and fabulous tunnel.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: Kerudavil: Kankesanturai village.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Mitter, Pavol 1979a: 154-155.

SIEBEN GROTTE

→Seven Caves

A natural or man-made caves, rock shelters (temple caves) or rock-cut chambers ('cave temples').

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri,

ca. 1355 for 1325-1354, edited by Leicht, Hans 1999: 200.

#### SIGHIRI FELSENHÖHLEN

A painted rock shelters.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern Central province: Matale district: Sigiriya (Sighiri, Sigiri) Rock.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Polonnaruwa; AMS sheet: NC44-14.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Drinneberg, Erwin 1926: 32-33.

#### SIGIRIYA "CAVES"

A group of painted rock shelters.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern Central province: Matale district: Sigiriya (Sighiri, Sigiri) Rock.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Polonnaruwa; AMS sheet: NC44-14.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Bellew, Peter 1957 reprinted 1964a; Ceylan 1957; Ceylon 1957; Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1984; Drinneberg, Erwin 1926; Goetz, H. 1959a, 1959b; Irani, Gustap 2004; Kusch, Heinrich 1973; Reichenbach, Kurt & Kiedrowski, Rainer 1995; Trimmel, Hubert 1998; Wilson, Jane M. 1988.

Shallow painted rock shelters (note 1) with spectacular frescoes (rock art) attracting tourists (note 2) are situated halfway up Sigiriya Rock (note 3), an isolated hillock (note 4) close to the geographical centre of Sri Lanka, about 92 km along the road north of Kandy (N 07°17'47": E 080°38'6" WGS84) or 169 km along the road north-west from Colombo (N 06°55'55": E 079°50'52" WGS84). KUSCH (1973) gives a detailed description and reviews their cultural and art history. The site is just about mentioned by CEYLON TRAVELLER (1974: 249; 1983: 251) and WILSON (1988: 22) but much advertised in cheap tourist goss, e.g. IRANI (2004).

CULTURAL HISTORY - rock art: REICHENBACH et al. (1995: 71, photograph on page 66): »... die 17 Mädchenfresken (von ursprünglich etwa 500) in einer Art Höhle auf halber Höhe. ... Schönheit und Grazie der 1500 Jahre alten "Wolkenmädchen" [ohne Unterleib] haben schon vor vor Jahrhunderten die Besucher entzückt. Ihre poetischen Jubelverse aus dem 7. bis 11. Jahrhundert sind in einer sogenannten Spiegelgalerie unterhalb der Fresken zu bewundern: Auf 20 x 3 m poliertem Kalkstein stehen Elogen wie "Du mit den Mandelaugen, alle hast Du verzaubert ..." Wer zu den Ruinen auf das Bergplateau in 200 m Höhe steigen will, muß trittsicher und schwindelfrei sein.«

NOTE 1: »Sigiriya Cave« and »Sigiriya Caves« is also met to designate not only the man-made rock chambers →Piduragala "Caves" but also to the "shelter" (?)

→Aligala Galge.

NOTE 2: Don't take a single word of DRINNEBERG (1926: 32) granted: »In Sighiri [sic!], welches in südwestlicher Richtung von Anuradhapura liegt, sehen wir die monumentalen Reste einer gewaltigen Felsenfeste. Ihr Anblick ist düster und drohend, und wie eine Insel ragen die gigantischen Felsblöcke über den Urwald, der sich wie ein grünes Meer rings um den Fuss dieser Felsen zieht. In seinem harten Schoß sind buddhistische Sakralien aus der ältesten Zeit versenkt. Tief in dem kühlen Gestein liegen riesige Aushöhlungen begraben, in denen Heiligtümer und Gemächer mit reichem Bildschmuck verborgen sind. [...] Durch ausgehöhlte Gänge und Treppen führt der Weg in düstere Felsenhöhlen hinab. Es sind katakombenähnliche Verliese mit unendlich feinen und reichen Verzierungen, die unter großer Mühe dort aus dem Stein herausgemeißelt oder in bunten Fresken auf die Oberfläche der Felswände gemalt sind. [...] Über unseren Köpfen wölbt sich

die Felsenwand zu einer niederen Decke, die mit ihrer gewaltigen Last die dumpfe Enge dieser unterirdischen Höhle zur Unerträglichkeit steigert.«

NOTE 3: Sigiriya Rock (also: Sigiri) is roughly positioned in the approximate vicinity of N 07°57': E 080°45' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003).

NOTE 4: Confusingly misnamed »structure« by IRANI (2004).

#### SINNA MANDAPAM

or: Siberiya Mandapam / Mandapan

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural cave and fabulous tunnel in upper Lower Miocene (Burdigalian) Jaffna limestone.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: Kerudavil: Kankesanturai village.

POSITION: (If at Kankesanturai itself), WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 09°49': E 080°02' / N 09.81666667°: E 80.03333333°

<[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983; Liska, Milan 1980; Mitter, Pavol 1978; Sasvari, Tibor 1978.

Either a shallow pothole or collapse doline (closed depression). Compare →Periya Mandapam.

ETYMOLOGY: The Tamil "Chinna Mandapam" or "Sinna Mandapam" translates into »lower / small shelter« (for pilgrims, travellers). corresponds to the »krasové kaverny Siberiya Mandapam pri Kerudavil« (MITTER 1978: 147) and the Hungarian »Sinna és Parya Mandapan« (SASVARI 1978: 49-50).

SITUATION: Not far from the village of Kankesanturai (N 09°49': E 080°02'), well over 400 m (note 1) or almost 800 m (note 2) in an unspecified direction from →Periya Mandapam, and in a prominent ridge of rock near Kerudavil (note 3).

ACCESS: Until recently it was possible to pass by subterranean passages all the way from one to the other. In 1974 and at least before 1983 the entrance to Sinna Mandapam was in private property and entry discouraged (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 249; 1983: 131, 250).

NOTE 1: CEYLON TRAVELLER (1974, 1983: 250): »The cavern locally called Sinna and Periya Mandapam ... not far from Kankesaanturay ... are well over a quarter of a mile [402 m] apart, but until recently it was possible to pass by subterranean passages [a fabulous tunnel?] all the way from one to the other.«

NOTE 2: CEYLON TRAVELLER (1974, 1983: 131): »The limestone caverns at Sinna and Periya Mandapam [are] exceeding for close on a half mile, showing glimpses of the limestone shelf on which Jaffna stands.«

NOTE 3: Kerudavil N 09°49': E 080°09' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003) is reached by a 1.2 km long minor road turning inland off the Kankesanturai - Point Pedro main road by a temple near milepost 5 3/4 = 9.3 km (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 249-250; 1983: 250-251).

#### SITA GALGE (Avisawella)

or: Sitavaka

A man-made rock-cut chamber ('cave temple').

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Western province: Colombo district: Avisawella (Avisawella) town: Rest House.

POSITION: (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 06°57'11": E 080°13'06" / N 6.95305556°: E 80.21833333° (unspecified coordinate source).

MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NB44-02.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.



Sita Galge or Sitavaka (note 1) is an »... interesting cave with a fine view from its opening« (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 249; 1983: 251).

SITUATION: »Within a few hundred yards of the Avissawella Resthouse« (note 2).

APPROACH: »Walk down [south-east] the railway line towards Ratnapura, and the cave is on a hillock to your right.«

NOTE 1: »Sita Galge« (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 249; 1983: 251) seems to be the »Sitavaka« marked as »ancient site« (three red dots) on the Nelles (München) map & APA (Singapur) map "Sri Lanka" (circa 1984 undated, scale 1: 450,000).

NOTE 2: Avissawella (Avisawella) N 06°57'11": E 080°13'06" (WGS84 <www.nima.mil/geonames> accessed 16.11.2003) lies about 40 km in a direct line east from Colombo city (Fort Railroad Station N 06°56'01": E 079°51'01" WGS84 <www.nima.mil/geonames> accessed 16.11.2003) on the road and railway line to Ratnapura (N 06°40'58": E 080°23'57" WGS84).

Cave at

#### SITA KOTUWA

Unexplored and not mapped natural cave in limestone.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Central province: Kandy district: Hasalaka: Gurulupota bazar: Sita Kotuwa.

POSITION: (If at the village of Gurulpota itself), WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 07°20': E 080°55' / N 7.33333333°: E 80.91666667° <www.nima.mil/geonames> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hanguranketa; AMS sheet: NB44-02.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

»A little but perfect cave in miniature –stalactites and stalagmites [speleothems] and all« reported CEYLON TRAVELLER (1974: 241; 1983: 243) from a place »overhanging the quite famous ruin of Sita Kotuwa at the foot of the eastern escarpment of the Kandyan table-land. Find a guide to this cave at Gurulupota [N 07°20': E 080°56'] bazar (just below the series of [eighteen] hairpin bends on the Kandy - Mahiyangana road).«

#### SITAVAKA

→Sita Galge ( Avissawella )

A modified natural or man-made cave, rock shelter or rock-cut chamber.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Western province: Colombo district: Avissawella Rest House.

MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NB44-02.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Sri Lanka 1: 450'000 APA map (Nelles).

#### SNAKE CAVE ( Kirimalai )

→Keerimalai Snake Cave

A natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: Keerimalai (Kerimalai).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Mitter, Pavol 1978: 147.

#### STRIPURA CAVE

→Batatota Lena

A natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area: Kuruvita / Kuruwita: Batadomba village: Batatota mountain.

POSITION: Not known.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Aellen, Villy; Sket, Boris & Strinati, Pierre 2001: 1977, 1978; Kukla, Jiri 1958; Silhavy, Vladimir 1974: 25; Szymczakowski, Wacław.

Cave of the

SULTAN

or: Alexander, Iskandar Cave, Sultansgrotte

Unexplored and not mapped natural or man-made troglodyte cave, rock shelter (temple cave) or rock-cut chamber ('cave' temple hermitage).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

POSITION: Not known.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri, ca. 1355 for 1325-1354 (edited by Defrémery, C. & Sanguinetti, B.R. 1874-1879; edited by Gibb, Hamilton A.R. 1929 reproduced 1988; edited by Gibb, Hamilton A.R. and Beckingham, Charles F. 1994; edited by Lee, Samuel 1829; edited by Leicht, Hans 1974a, 1974b, 1975, 1982, 1999); Skeen, William 1870 reprinted 1997.

There is (note 1) an unspecified »grotto« (natural cave or rock shelter if not a man-made rock chamber?) ascribed to some Sultan and also to Iskandar (Alexander the Great / the Macedonian).

SITUATION: Near the Grotto of al →Isfahani, which lies beyond the »pass of Iskandar« on a route from a place called »Kunakar« (see: Cave of →Ustad Mahmud the Lur) via the »Lake of Monkeys« and across a certain »Pass of Iskandar« on the way to the »Mountain of Sarandip« (Adam's Peak, Sri Pada, Pidurutulagula N 06°48'30": E 080°29'53": 2242.3 m asl).

SITUATION 1 (Ibn BATTUTA 1829 edited by LEE: 189): »... and after this [→Seven Caves] to the ridge of Alexander, in which there is a cave and a well of water. At this place is the entrance to the mountain.«

SITUATION 2 (Ibn BATTUTA 1994 edited by GIBB & BECKINGHAM: 853): »At the same place [as the Grotto of al →Isfahani] is the Cave of the Bitter Orange and the Cave of the Sultan and close by is the darwaza [Persian for: gate] of the mountain, that is the place of access to it. [The cave is] ... ascribed also to Iskandar.«

SITUATION 3 (Ibn BATTUTA 1999 edited by LEICHT: 200, 201): »... oberhalb des Teiches "Taufplatz der Heiligen" liegt ... auch die Orangengrotte und die Sultansgrotte, die den Zugang zum Berg darstellt. [...] ... am Fuß des Serendip, wo sich die Sultansgrotte befindet.«

CAVE DESCRIPTION (Ibn BATTUTA 1929 edited by GIBB reproduced 1998: 258): »A number of grottoes.«

NOTE 1: SKEEN (1870: 176, 227-228 reprinted 1997) needs to be checked.

SULTANSGROTTE

see: Cave of the →Sultan

A natural or man-made troglodyte cave, rock shelter (temple cave) or rock-cut chamber ('cave' temple).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district or Ratnapura district: Adam's Peak / Sri Pada / Pidurutulagula area.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hatton or Ratnapura; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri, ca. 1355 for 1325-1354, edited by Leicht, Hans 1999: 200, 201.

## TALAGURUHELA ROCK CAVES

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural or man-made cave, rock shelter or rock-cut chamber.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central province: Monaragala district: Yala National Park area: Kumbukkan Oya: Talaguruhela.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 06°34': E 081°29' / N 6.56666667°: E 81.48333333° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Yala; AMS sheet: NB44-07.

WEBSITE:S: <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003; <[www.wayhoo.com](http://www.wayhoo.com)> accessed 25.05.2004).

One of the eight Sri Lanka "CAVE" (note 1) entries (note 2) listed on <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003) and <[www.wayhoo.com](http://www.wayhoo.com)> (accessed 25.05.2004).

SITUATION: Within →Yala National Park (ROAD MAP OF SRI LANKA 1977) on the ridge dividing the basins of the Manik Ganga and Kumbukkan Oya.

NOTE 1: <[ftp://ftp.nga.mil/pub/gns\\_data/Designations.html](ftp://ftp.nga.mil/pub/gns_data/Designations.html)> (accessed 28.05.2004):

»cave(s): An underground passageway or chamber, or cavity on the side of a cliff.«

NOTE 2: <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003) lists the »CAVE« entries Dagaba Caves N 06°36': E 081°23' NB44-07 Henanegala Cave N 07°35': E 081°17' NB44-03 Itikala Caves N 06°34': E 081°44' NB44-07 Lunuatugalge Cave N 06°31': E 081°30' NB44-07 Lunuhinda Cave N 07°40': E 080°39' NB44-02 Mulagama Cave N 07°15': E 081°29' NB44-03 Talaguruhela Rock Caves N 06°34': E 081°29' NB44-07 Viharegala Rock Cave N 06°39': E 081°39' NB44-07 .

NOTE 3: <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003) positions (WGS84) on AMS sheet NB44-07 the »PRK« (park: an area, often of forested land, maintained as a place of beauty, or for recreation) Yala National Park not only at N 06°25': E 081°30' and at N 06°32': E 081°41' but also at N 06°35': E 081°33' and the »RFS« (forest reserve: A forested area set aside for preservation or controlled use of species or products) Yala National Park N 06°37': E 081°23' (WGS84).

## TEULLA LENA

Archaeologically investigated but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural cave or rock shelter.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central province: Monaragala district: Telulla village.

POSITION: WGS84 (approximate horizontal precision error ±5 km) N 06°36': E 081°08' / N 6.6°: E 81.13333333° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NB44-07.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Deraniyagala, S.U. 1980.

MANUSCRIPT REFERENCE: Brooks, S.J. 1995.

A small cave or rock shelter near Telulla (N 06°36': E 081°08') is believed to be the first site archaeologically excavated in Sri Lanka (S.U. DERANIYAGALA 1980: 155; Brooks 1995 Mss item no. 6).

## TIDAL WELL ( Keerimalai )

Unexplored and not mapped natural pothole cave and well / spring in upper Lower Miocene (Burdigalian) Jaffna limestone.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: Keerimalai (Kirimalai) village.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 09°49': E 080°00' / N 09.81666667°: E 80.° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Cooray, P. Gerald 1967.

The fresh-water spring at Keerimalai (note 2) is part of a subterranean drainage system in the karst of the Jaffna peninsula (COORAY 1967: 71, 263 fig. 93).

NOTE 1: Keerimalai, Kirimalai N 09°49': E 080°00' (WGS84

<[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003) on AMS sheet NC44-10.

TIDAL WELL ( Navakeery )

→Tidal Well ( Navakiri, Navakkeeri )

A natural pothole cave and well / spring.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: »Walligamme district« (PRIDHAM 1849) area: Navakiri / Navakkeeri (Navakeery, Navokeiry near Majlittie) village.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Pridham, John 1849, 2: 515.

TIDAL WELL ( Navakiri, Navakkeeri )

or: Navakeery Well (Majlittie, Keerimale), Navokeiry

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural pothole cave and well / spring in upper Lower Miocene (Burdigalian) Jaffna limestone.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: »Walligamme district« (PRIDHAM 1849) area: Navakiri / Navakkeeri (Navakeery, Navokeiry near Majlittie) village.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 09°48'00":

E 080°01'40" / N 09.8°: E 80.02777778° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Cooray, P. Gerald 1967; Kubassek, Janos 1981; Kukla, Jiri 1958; Kusch, Heinrich 1973c; Pridham, John 1849; Tennent, James Emerson 1859, 1860.

One of the Jaffna wells (drowned pothole caves) whose water table rises and falls in accordance with the tides.

ETYMOLOGY: The village of Navakiri or Navakkeeri (note 1) is also spelled

Navakeery (PRIDHAM 1849, 2: 515) and Navokeiry (TENNENT

1860,1.1.1).SITUATION 1 (PRIDHAM 1849, 2: 515) places »Navakeery« near

»Majlittie« (unidentified) in one »Walligamme district« (obsolete) of »Jaffnapatam« (Jaffna Town).

SITUATION 2 (TENNENT 1860,1.1.1): At that village of »Navokeiry« which lies »a short distance« from the »well of Potoor« (→Tidal Weel, Puttur N 09°44': E 080°06').

CAVE DESCRIPTION 1 (PRIDHAM 1849, 2: 515): »24 fathoms [44 m] deep, and 165 [30 m] in circumference. Of the 24 fathoms, fourteen [25.5 m] are quite fresh, but at sixteen [29.3 m], the water is salt with a nauseous sulphury smell. It is thought to have some subterraneous communication with the sea at Keerimale, and the rise and fall of the tide in the well is about six inches [15 cm] in twentyfour hours.«

CAVE DESCRIPTION 2 (TENNENT 1860,1.1.1): »The well of Potoor [→Tidal Weel, Puttur], the phenomena of which indicate its direct connection with the sea, by means of a fissure or a channel beneath the arch of magnesian limestone, rises and falls a few inches in the course of every twelve hours. Another well at Navokeiry, a short distance from it, does the same, whilst the well at Tillipalli [also: Tellipallai, Tellipalai, Tellippalai] is entirely unaffected as to its level by any rains, and exhibits no alteration of its depths on either monsoon.«

CAVE DESCRIPTION 3 (COORAY 1967: 71, 263 fig. 93): The fresh-water spring at

Keerimalai (note 2) is part of a subterranean drainage system in the karst of the Jaffna peninsula.

NOTE 1: Navakiri, Navakkeeri N 09°46': E 080°05' <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003) on AMS sheet NC44-10.

NOTE 2: Keerimalai, Kirimalai N 09°49': E 080°00' <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003) on AMS sheet NC44-10.

TIDAL WELL ( Navokeiry )

→Tidal Well ( Navakiri, Navakkeeri )

A natural pothole cave and well / spring.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: »Walligamme district« (PRIDHAM 1849) area: Navakiri / Navakkeeri (Navakeery, Navokeiry near Majlittle) village.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Tennent, James Emerson 1859, 1860, 1.1.1.

TIDAL WELL ( Nilaverey )

→Tidal Well ( Puttur ); →Tidal Well ( Keerimalai )

A natural pothole cave and well / spring.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: Puttur (Putur, Putturu, Potoor, Potur) village area.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Mitter, Pavol 1978: 147.

TIDAL WELL ( Potur )

→Tidal Well ( Puttur )

A natural pothole cave with sink and spring.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: Puttur (Putur, Putturu, Potoor, Potur) village area.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Balfour, Edward 1885 reprinted 1968, 3: 274.

TIDAL WELL ( Puttur )

or: Bezodnej studne pri Puttur, Bezodnej studne (Tidal Well) pri Putur, Bottomless Well, Potoor, Potur Well, Puttur Well

Explored and mapped natural pothole cave with sink and spring in upper Lower Miocene (Burdigalian) Jaffna limestone.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: Puttur (Putur, Putturu, Potoor, Potur) village area.

POSITION: Estimated WGS84 coordinates (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 09°43'40": E 080°06'35" / N 09.72777778°: E 80.10972222° (unspecified coordinate source).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

SPELEOMETRY: Length: Approximately 60 m. Vertical range: Allegedly ±60 m (+0m / -60m).

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Balfour, Edward 1885 reprinted 1968; Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983; Cooray, P. Gerald 1967; Kukla, Jiri 1958; Liska, Milan 1980; Mitter, Pavol 1979a, 1979b; Sasvari, Tibor 1978; Sasvari, Tibor & Terek, Jozef 1984; Tennent, James Emerson 1859, 1860.

The »bottomless Well« (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1983: 131) at Puttur (note 1) is characterised by two distinct layers of water: fresh water near the surface and salt water deeper down (note 2). It was interpreted to represent a submerged, water filled collapse sinkhole (note 3) which forms part of a submerged karst system communicating with the sea (note 4).

ETYMOLOGY: The »Well at Potoor« (TENNENT 1860) or »Potur« (BALFOUR 1885 reprinted 1968, 3: 274) corresponds to the »Tidal Well at Puttur« (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 249; 1983: 131, 250) or »Bottomless Well at Puttur« (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1983: 131). Foreigners referred to it as »Bezodnej studne (Tidal Well) pri Puttur« (MITTER 1979a: 155), »Bezodnej studne (Tidal Well) pri Putur« (MITTER 1979b: 178) and »Prilivova studna pri Putturu« (SASVARI & TEREK 1984).

CAVE DESCRIPTION 1860 (TENNENT 1860, 1.1.1): »Wells in the Coral Rock. These phenomena occur at Jaffna, in consequence of the rocks being magnesian limestone and coral, overlying a bed of sand, and in some places, where the soil is light, the surface of the ground is a hollow arch, so that it resounds as if a horse's weight were sufficient to crush it inwards. This is strikingly perceptible in the vicinity of the remarkable well at Potoor, on the west side of the road leading from Jaffna [N 09°40': E 080°00'] to Point Pedro [N 09°49': E 080°14'], where the surface of the surrounding country is only about fifteen feet above the sea-level. The well, however, is upwards of 140 feet [42.7 m] in depth; the water fresh at the surface, brackish lower down, and intensely salt below. According to the universal belief of the inhabitants, it is an underground pool, which communicates with the sea by a subterranean channel bubbling out on the shore near Kangesentorre [note 5], about seven miles [11 km] to the north-west. ... It is remarkable that ... a steam-engine erected at Potoor, with the intention of irrigating the surrounding lands, failed to lower it in any perceptible degree« TENNENT (1860, 2.9.6: 536) is said to give »particulars of this singular well.«

CAVE DESCRIPTION 1885 (BALFOUR 1885 edited 1968, 3: 274): »Potur, a well at Jafna in Ceylon, about 30 feet [9.1 m] in diameter, and sunk to a depth of 144 feet« (43.9 m).

CAVE DESCRIPTION 1958 (KUKLA 1958): »Propast Tidal Well u Putturu / Chasm Titadl Well near Puttur« (168 cave plan) is »... sinkhole type of cave ... 60 m deep, filled with saltish water at the bottom and with fresh water in the upper part of the cave. Two drilling holes, one 38 m, the next 27 m deep, were sunk close to the well. The second broke into the water-filled cave, the bottom of which has not been possible to reach. The water level in the natural well is only 0.5 m above the sea level, although the distance from the sea is more than 6 km. A pumping station is now built at the well, using its water for irrigation« (169 summary).

CAVE DESCRIPTION 1974 (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 131): »The so-called bottomless well near Puttur is some 145 feet [44 m] deep.«

CAVE DESCRIPTION 1978, in Hungarian by SASVARI (1978), with cave plan and cross section): 11 by 14 m, 65 m deep.

CAVE DESCRIPTION 1979, in Slovenian by MITTER (1979a: 155-156): 15 by 13 m wide, 52 m deep.

CAVE DESCRIPTION 1984, in Czech by SASVARI & TEREK (1984, with cave plan and cross section) dived to a depth of 53 m. SPELEOLOGY - KARSTOLOGY: The 'bottomless' well at Puttur is part of a subterranean drainage system in the karst of the Jaffna peninsula (TENNENT 1861, 1.1; COORAY 1967: 71, 263 fig. 93).

CULTURAL HISTORY - cave legend: Rama, the hero of the Ramayana, stopped here and plunged his arrow into the soil whence water came spuring out and he quenched his thirst from this spring that neverdries (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1983: 131).

SPELEOMETRY: The reported depth of the Tidal Well at Puttur ranges between 42.7 m (TENNENT 1860, 1.1.1): »upwards of 140 feet.« 43.9 m (BALFOUR 1885 edited 1968, 3: 274): »... sunk to a depth of 144 feet« 44.2 m (CEYLON

TRAVELLER 1974: 131): »... some 145 feet deep« 52 m (MITTER 1979a: 155-156), 53 m (SASVARI & TEREK 1984), 60 m (KUKLA 1958: 169), and 65 m (SASVARI 1978).

CAVE LIFE: SASVARI & TEREK (1984: 114) list »Plumatella sp. (Gemmules), Ranatra sp., Ostracoda g. sp., Keratella tropica, Anuraeopsis sp., Brachionus plicatilis, Alona juv. copepodit.«

EXPLORATION HISTORY: 1859 (TENNENT 1960,1.1.1): »According to the universal belief of the inhabitants, it [i.e. the remarkable well at Potoor] is an underground pool, which communicates with the sea by a subterranean channel bubbling out on the shore near Kangesentorre, about seven miles to the north-west.« 1885: BALFOUR (1885 reprinted 1968, 3: 274): »The natives believe that the well communicates with the sea at Kieremalie near Kangesentorre, a distance of 7 miles, from which they affirm that a subterranean stream flows inwards.« 1977: The 2nd Slovak Speleological Diving Expedition to India dived 'Tidal Well' to -53 m and estimated a depth of 65 m (LISKA 1980; MITTER 1979a; SASVARI 1978; SAVARI & TEREK 1984).

NOTE 1: Puttur (Chiruppiddi, Chiruppiddy) N 09°44': E 080°06' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003) falls on AMS sheet NC44-10.

NOTE 2: »Its surface is of fresh water; but deeper, it is brackish and salt; and on plunging a bottle to the extreme depth, the water it brings up is highly fetid, and gives off bubbles of sulphuretted hydrogen gas« (BALFOUR 1885 reprinted 1968, 3: 274).

NOTE 3: The 2nd Slovak Speleological Diving expedition to India in 1977 dived to a depth of 65 m and found it to be a subsided aven, which indicates a palaeo karst which is nowadays flooded with freshwater on top of brackish and salt water (LISKA 1980; SASVARI 1978; SASVARI & TEREK 1984).

NOTE 4: TENNENT (1860,1.1.1): »These phenomena occur at Jaffna, in consequence of the rocks being magnesian limestone and coral, overlying a bed of sand, and in some places, where the soil is light, the surface of the ground is a hollow arch, so that it resounds as if a horse's weight were sufficient to crush it inwards. This is strikingly perceptible in the vicinity of the remarkable well at Potoor.« BALFOUR (1885 reprinted 1968, 3: 274): »Its level rises and falls a few inches once in every twelve hours, but it overflows its banks, and is never reduced below a certain level, however much water is abstracted. The natives believe that the well communicates with the sea at Kieremalie near Kangesentorre, a distance of 7 miles, from which they affirm that a subterranean stream flows inwards.« COORAY (1967, pages 71, 263 fig. 93) agrees just like CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 249; 1983: 250), SASVARI (1978), LISKA (1980), SASVARI & TEREK (1984), and MITTER (1979a, 1979b).

NOTE 5: »Kangesentorre« (TENNENT 1860) appears to correspond to the village of Kankesanturai (Survey of Ceylon, "Jaffna" one inch sheet 1959 reprinted 1971) or Kankesanthurai N 09°49': E 080°02' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003).

#### TILLIPALLI WELL

or: Tellipallai, Tellipalai, Tellippalai

Unexplored and not mapped natural cave and perennial spring in upper Lower Miocene (Burdigalian) Jaffna limestone.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern province: Jaffna district: Tellipallai (Tellipalai, Tellippalai, Tillipalli) village.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 09°47': E 080°02' / N 09.78333333°: E 80.03333333° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed

16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Jaffna; AMS sheet: NC44-10.

SPELEOMETRY: Length: Not known. Vertical range:  $\pm 14.3$  m (+0m / -14m).

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Tennent, James Emerson 1859 reprinted 1860, 1: 21, 1860, 2: 536.

A subterranean stream, which is similar to the one of →Tidal Well at Puttur (note 1) but emerging from an about 5 m large tunnel, reports TENNENT (1860,1: 21) to be »said to conduct to the sea from another singular well near Tillipalli« (note 2).

CAVE DESCRIPTION (TENNENT 1860,1: 21): Workers sinking a wall shaft came at a depth of fourteen feet [4.3 m] »... to the ubiquitous coral, the crust of which gave way, and showed a cavern below containing the water they were in search of, with a depth of more than thirty-three feet [10 m]. It is remarkable that the well at Tillipalli preserves its depth at all seasons alike, uninfluenced by rains or drought. ... the well at Tillipalli is entirely unaffected as to its level by any rains, and exhibits no alteration of its depths on either monsoon.« CAVE POTENTIAL - prospects: Perhaps a diving spot worth checking out.

NOTE 1: The subterranean stream connecting the Tidal Well (Puttur) with the sea is said to flow from the well to to Kangesentorre (TENNENT 1860,1: 21) or the other way round from »Kieremalie near Kangesentorre« (BALFOUR (1885 reprinted 1968, 3: 274).

NOTE 2: »Tillipalli« (TENNENT 1860, 1: 21) or Tellipalai, Tellipallai and Tellippalai East N 09°47': E 080°02' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003).

TIRIYAI 'CAVE'

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped modified natural or man-made cave, rock shelter or rock-cut chamber.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: North Western province: Trincomalee district: Tiriya.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 08°52': E 081°01' / N 8.86666667°: E 81.01666667° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Nilaveli, Padawiya, or Kokkilai; AMS sheet: NC44-15.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

An unspecified »cave« (or rock shelter) somewhere at the village of Tiriya (N 08°52': E 081°01' WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003) contains rock art, a »pre-Christian« (B.C., before current) inscription (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1983: 119). Compare the "cave" at the →Pinnacle Rock (Tiriya), the Vilattie Malai, Nachchiya Malai.

TOPARE ROCK TEMPLE ( Pollanaruwa )

→Gal Vihara ( Polonnaruwa )

A modified natural sacred cave (temple cave) or rock-cut chamber ('cave' temple).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern Central province: Polonnaruwa (Polonnaruwa) district: Polonnaruwa (Pollanaruwa, Pollanaruwa, Toparé) ruins.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Polonnaruwa; AMS sheet: NC44-15.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Baker, Samuel White 1855, chapter iv.

UDAWELA " CAVE TEMPLE "

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped modified natural sacred cave, rock shelter (temple cave) or rock-cut chamber ('cave' temple).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Central province: Nuwara Eliya district: Teldeniya -



Mahiyangana road: Hunnasgiriya area: Daladagama: Maliga Vihara.

POSITION: (If at Talagune itself), Estimated WGS84 or Everest 1830 coordinates (approximate horizontal precision error  $\pm 10$  km) N 07°18': E 080°51' / N 7.3°: E 80.85° (unspecified coordinate source).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hanguranketa; AMS sheet: NB44-02.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

A Kandy period »cave temple« (note 1) containing a recumbent Buddha statue, several other standing statues and rock art (paintings).

SITUATION: (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974, 1984: 39-40) at Udawela (note 2), which lies on the Talagune road (N 07°20': E 080°53') off (towards north?) the road from Teldeniya (N 07°17'49": E 080°46'07" WGS84) to Mahiyangana (N 07°19': E 080°58'58" WGS84).

CULTURAL HISTORY - rock art: The paintings in the cave been re-done, but the ancient paintings still be seen (CEYLON TRAVELLER (1974, 1984: 40).

NOTE 1: This »cave temple« (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974, 1984: 39) may represent a man-made rock temple (cave temple; rock chamber used for religious purposes) or a (modified?) natural sacred cave (temple cave).

NOTE 2: <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003) lists 37 different "Udawela" entries from Sri Lanka, of which only eighteen fall on the relevant AMS sheet NB44-02.

#### UDUPIYAN GALGE

or: Cave of Chiefs Chula and Kasaba, sons of Chief Utaba

Archaeologically investigated but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural rock shelter.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Balangoda: Diyavinna - Uggalkaltota / Ukgal Kaltota escarpment / ridge area.

POSITION: Unspecified map datum probably Everest 1830 coordinates (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 06°31': E 080°50' / N 6.51666667°: E 80.83333334° (DERANIYAGALA, P.E.P. 1953).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Haputale; AMS sheet: NB44-07.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Deraniyagala, P.E.P. 1943, 1953; Deraniyagala, S.U. 1980.

MANUSCRIPT REFERENCE: Brooks, Simon J. 1995.

The small rock shelter is the type location (note 1) of the Balangoda culture (DERANIYAGALA 1943: 99 1953: 125, 126; Brooks 1995 Mss, item no. 19).

SITUATION: Along the escarpment between the villages Diyavinna and Ukgal Kaltota (map: Uggalkaltota) which lies some 20 to 25 km east-south-east of Balangoda, and some 10 or 15 km south-south-west of Haputale. DERANIYAGALA, P.E.P. (1943: 99, fig. 2): »The shelter is reached by ascending halfway up the Balangoda escarpment from the village Diyavinna and is in the fork of two tributaries to the stream Piyan äle [Piyan Ella]. As the observer faces the rock, the tributary on the left is fordable but the one on the right forms a steep waterfall dropping sheer for about 300 m.« The archaeological site is one of a series in the Balangoda area: →Bambaragala Shelter, →Budugala Caves, →Diyavinna Cave, →Kurugala Cave and →Lunu Galge. POSITIONS: N 06°35': E 080°50' = Udupiyan Galge (DERANIYAGALA, P.E.P. 1943: 99). N 06°31': E 080°50' = Udupiyan Galge (DERANIYAGALA, S.U. 1980: 172).

CULTURAL HISTORY - Archaeology: DERANIYAGALA, P.E.P. (1943: 99-101) gives a summary of archaeological excavation results. DERANIYAGALA, P.E.P.

(1953: 126) reports pebbles usually pitted on two surfaces, and pitted anvil - cum - grindstones from "Udupiyan galgé rock shelter (type station)". Listed by DERANIYAGALA, S.U. (1980: 172).

EXPLORATION HISTORY: -0400: The 3rd century BC Brahmi inscription "Cave of Chiefs Chula and Kasaba, sons of Chief Utaba" shows that Sinhala chiefs had utilized this rock shelter (DERANIYAGALA 1943: 99). 1940.09.23: Designated as the 'type cave' of the Balangoda culture (DERANIYAGALA 1943: 99).

NOTE 1: A »type location« is the location or collection point of a specimen from which a plant, animal or rock type was first described.

#### ULWALA GALGE

Unexplored and not mapped natural cave, rock shelter (temple cave) or rock-cut chamber ('cave' temple hermitage).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central province: Monaragala district: Tellula - Kirindi Oya area: Radgamawewa lake.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 06°30': E 081°00' / N 6.5°: E 81° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NB44-07.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

»... unmarked in most maps [and located] due east of Huratgamuwa [N 06°33': E 081°08'] on the main road between Tanamalvila [also: Tanamalwila N 06°26': E 081°08'] and Wellawaya [N 06°39'43": E 081°06'03" WGS84]. The →Demaliya Galge and the Ulwala Galge [note 1] may be reached along a gravel road that takes off to the right of the main road at Huratgamuwa [N 06°33': E 081°08'], and beyond along a track« (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 253; 1983: 255).

NOTE 1: There is another village of Ulwala N 07°04': E 080°17' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003) on AMS sheet NB44-02.

Cave at

#### URUMUTTA

Archaeologically investigated but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural painted rock shelter, probably in gravitationally dislocated boulders.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Southern province: Matara district: Gangoboda pattu: Urumutta.

POSITION: (If at Urumutta village and Estate itself), WGS84 (approximate horizontal precision error ±5 km) N 06°10': E 080°31' / N 6.16666667°: E 80.51666667° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Timbolketiya; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Lewis, Frederick 1912.

An unspecified cave in a precipitous mass of rocks situated below the trigonometrical station in the village of Urumutta (N 06°10': E 080°31') in the Gangoboda pattu of Matara district is reached after some very difficult climbing.

Frederick LEWIS (1912), accompanied by one Lieutenant »Lindstroom« (Lindstrøm?), copied an old inscription (rock art), observed an apparently artificially flat floor, and collected quartz pieces (arrowheads?), pottery and bones.

EXPLORATION HISTORY: 1911 ±1: Frederick LEWIS (1912) and Lieut. Lindstroom visited and explored.

#### URUWELA "CAVE DWELLING"

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped modified natural or man-made, troglodyte cave, rock shelter or rock-cut chamber.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Western province: Colombo district: Uruwela village.

POSITION: WGS84 (approximate horizontal precision error  $\pm 5$  km) N 06°54': E 080°09' / N 6.9°: E 80.15° <www.nima.mil/geonames> (accessed 16.11.2003).  
MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NB44-02.  
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

A »cave dwelling« (CEYLON TRAVELLER (1974: 249; 1983: 251) at Uruwela (note 1).

NOTE 1: Uruwela (N 06°54': E 080°09') lies at linear distances of about 33 km approximately east from Colombo city (Fort Railroad Station at N 06°56'01": E 079°51'01" WGS84) and some 9 or 10 km about south-west from Avissawella (N 06°57'11": E 080°13'06" WGS84) in Colombo district.

Cave of

USTA MAHMUD THE LURI

or: Ista Mahmud the Lur

Unexplored, lost and not mapped modified natural or man-made, troglodyte cave, rock shelter or rock-cut chamber.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: North Western province: Kurunegala (Kurunaegala) district.

POSITION: Not known.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: unidentified; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: [Ibn] Battuta, Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri, ca. 1355 for 1325-1354 (edited by Defrémery, C. & Sanguinetti, B.R. 1874-1879; edited by Gibb, Hamilton A.R. 1929 reproduced 1988; edited by Gibb, Hamilton A.R. and Beckingham, Charles F. 1994; edited by Lee, Samuel 1829; edited by Leicht, Hans 1974a, 1974b, 1975, 1982, 1999).

A troglodyte hermit's »cave« (or so) of unspecified nature, dimensions or character is associated with the Muslim hermit »Usta Mahmud the Luri« (GIBB 1929 reprinted 1988: 257; LEICHT 1999: 198) or »Ista Mahmud the Lur« (LEE 1829: 187), a »pious man who dug out this cave« (GIBB & BECKINGHAM 1994: 851 after Ibn BATTUTA 1355).

SITUATION: The medieval Arab traveller Ibn Battuta (note 1) reported this hermitage from a difficult to reconstruct location at the »foot of a hill beside a small lake« (no names mentioned), which lies somewhere on a route from a place called »Kunakar« (GIBB & BECKINGHAM 1994) or »Kankar« (LEE 1829: 186) via a certain »Lake of Monkeys« (note 2) to »the mountain of Sarandip« (Adam's Peak, Siri Pada, Sri Pada, Pidurutulagala, N 06°48'30": E 080°29'53"). GIBB (1929 reproduced 1998: 365 note 6) had decided that »Kunakar is certainly Kornegalle (Kurunagala ).« LEE (1829: 186) refers to a certain »Knox« (R. KNOX 1681: An historical relation of the island of Ceylon in the East Indies.- London) who assumes »Kankar« (Kunakar) is a corruption of Tattanour »... in which stands the royal and chief city Candi« (Kandy N 07°17'47": E 080°38'06"), and adds: »The district of Canducarre (which approaches nearer in sound to our word), might, indeed, have been the seat of royalty in his times.« GIBB & BECKINGHAM (1994: 850 note 8) confirms that »the location of Kunakar is disputed. It is often identified with Kurunāgala [note 3], as by Gibb (Selections, p. 365, note 6) but I.B.'s [Ibn Battutta's] description requires somewhere closer to Adams Peak; The reference to rubies suggests Ratnapura, but the archaeologist Mr. Roland Silva objects that there was no route from Puttala [Puttalam N 08°2': E 079°49' WGS84] to Ratnapura« (N 06°40'58": E 080°23'57" WGS84).

NOTE 1: Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah Awamiri Ibn Battuta, a merchant born in Tanger (Marocco), undertook between 1325 and 1354 CE several journeys to various parts of the world between northern Africa and the East Indies.

NOTE 2: This lake (or man-made water reservoir, tank?) of the Monkey's is, as far as I know, not identified but the monkeys are said by somebody (sorry, lost) to be Wanderoo monkeys, *Macacus silenus*. TENNENT (1861, II. Quadrumania, 1. Monkeys): »To a stranger in the tropics, among the most attractive creatures in the forests are the troops of monkeys that career in ceaseless chase among the loftiest trees. In Ceylon there are five species, four of which belong to one group, the Wanderoos, and the other is the little graceful grimacing 'rilawa' (*Macacus pileatus*, Shaw and Desmarest). ... Of the four species found in Ceylon, the most numerous in the island, and the one best known in Europe, is the Wanderoo of the low country, the P. [Presbytes] cephalopterus of Zimmerman (*Leucoprymnus Nestor*, Bennett). Although common in the southern and western provinces, it is never found at a higher elevation than 1300 feet« or 396 m asl.

NOTE 3: Kurunägala (GIBB & BECKINGHAM 1994) or Kornegalle (DAVY 1821) is the modern Kurunegala town at N 07°29'12": E 080°21'53" (WGS84).

#### VAVA PANE

→Wavulpane

A natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Rakwana range - Halwinne dola / Halwinna river area: Rakwana: Pallabeda, Wavulpane & Werawatta villages.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Brooks, Simon James, Gebauer, Herbert Daniel & Waltham, Anthony "Tony" 2002: 19.

VAVUL LENA ( Kosgama Dodampe )

Unexplored and not mapped natural cave or rock shelter.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Kosgama Dodampe.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 06°44': E 080°20' / N 6.73333333°: E 80.33333333° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Timbolketiya; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Deraniyagala, P.E.P. 1965a.

is a natural but otherwise unspecified »cave« that might repay archaeological investigation (P.E.P. DERANIYAGALA 1965a: 143).

ETYMOLOGY: The Singhala "Vavul-lena" means bat cave.

SITUATION (DERANIYAGALA 1965a: 144, location map): Somewhere in the vicinity of a village of Kosgama Dodampe (N 06°44': E 080°20'), which lies about 10 km in a direct line approximately north-west of Ratnapura (N 06°40'58": E 080°23'57" WGS84).

CAVE LIFE: The name hints to bats (Chiroptera), bat guano, etc.

#### VAVUL PENA

→Wavulpane

A natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Rakwana range - Halwinne dola / Halwinna river area: Rakwana: Pallabeda, Wavulpane & Werawatta villages.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Wilson, Jane M. 1988: 23.

#### VAVULPANE

→Wavulpane

A natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Rakwana range - Halwinne dola / Halwinna river area: Rakwana: Pallabeda, Wavulpane & Werawatta villages.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Fernando, Dimitri s.a. circa 2000.

'Cave' at

#### VEVAGAMA BAMBARAGALA

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped modified natural or man-made sacred cave, rock shelter (temple cave) or rock-cut chamber ('cave' temple).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Central province: Kandy district: Teldeniya: Wewagama (Vevagama).

POSITION: (If at Teldeniya itself), Representative WGS84 coordinates (assumed horizontal precision error  $\pm 5$  km) N 07°17'49": E 080°46'07" / N 7.29694445°: E 80.76861111° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Hanguranketa; AMS sheet: NB44-02.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

A so-called »large« (unidentified dimensions), Kandy period »cave temple« (note 1) of disputable nature contains a so-called »large« recumbent Buddha statue, a sedent statue, two other statues, and paintings (rock art) on cave walls.

SITUATION (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974, 1984: 40) on a mountain crag, perhaps one Bambaragala (note 2), at one of the places called »Vevagama« or Wewagama (note 3), which itself lies somehow »near« (unspecified) Teldeniya (N 07°17'49": E 080°46'07" WGS84).

NOTE 1: This »cave temple« of CEYLON TRAVELLER (1974, 1984: 39) may represent a man-made rock temple (cave temple; rock chamber used for religious purposes) or a (modified?) natural sacred cave (temple cave).

NOTE 2: This »mountain crag« is not identified unless it corresponds to one of the Bambaragala items at N 07°42': E 080°28' (WGS84) about 54 km NW of Teldeniya, N 07°29': E 081°24' (WGS84) about 67 km ENE of Teldeniya, N 07°17': E 080°06' (WGS84) about 67 km W of Teldeniya, N 07°08': E 080°18' (WGS84) about 61 km WSW of Teldeniya, N 06°32': E 080°59' (WGS84) about 88 km SSE of Teldeniya, N 06°27': E 081°01' (WGS84) about 98 km SSE of Teldeniya, .

NOTE 3: <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003) lists no »Vevagama« but two places Wewagama N 07°25': E 080°06' (WGS84) about 69 km in a direct line north by west of Teldeniya and at Wewagama N 07°01': E 080°56' (WGS84) about 35 km in a direct line SSE of Teldeniya.

#### VIHAREGALA ROCK CAVE

→Ranagiri Caves; including →Dagoba Galge; →Gale Deviya Galge

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped modified natural troglodyte rock shelter in gneiss (DAVY 1821: 419).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern province: Amparai district: Yala National Park area: Kataragama - Buttala - Wellawaya road: Nirammulla: Galge (Gallegay, Gallege) village: Ranagiri (Manikpaya Kanda, Maenikpaya Kanda, Manikpayakanda, Ranagiriya, Devagiriya) hill: Viharegala.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 06°39': E 081°39' / N 6.65°: E 81.65° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of India sheet: Buttala; AMS sheet: NB44-07.

WEBSITE:S: <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003;

<[www.wayhoo.com](http://www.wayhoo.com)> accessed 25.05.2004.

One of the eight Sri Lanka "CAVE" (note 1) entries (note 2) listed on <www.nima.mil/geonames> (accessed 16.11.2003) and <www.wayhoo.com> (accessed 25.05.2004).

SITUATION: Near the eastern corner of →Yala National Park (ROAD MAP OF SRI LANKA 1977).

NOTE 1: <ftp://ftp.nga.mil/pub/gns\_data/Designations.html> (accessed 28.05.2004):

»cave(s): An underground passageway or chamber, or cavity on the side of a cliff.«

NOTE 2: <www.nima.mil/geonames> (accessed 16.11.2003) lists the »CAVE« entries Dagaba Caves N 06°36': E 081°23' NB44-07 Henanegala Cave N 07°35': E 081°17' NB44-03 Itikala Caves N 06°34': E 081°44' NB44-07 Lunuatugalge Cave N 06°31': E 081°30' NB44-07 Lunuhinda Cave N 07°40': E 080°39' NB44-02 Mulagama Cave N 07°15': E 081°29' NB44-03 Talaguruhela Rock Caves N 06°34': E 081°29' NB44-07 Viharegala Rock Cave N 06°39': E 081°39' NB44-07 .

NOTE 3: <www.nima.mil/geonames> (accessed 16.11.2003) positions (WGS84) on AMS sheet NB44-07 the »PRK« (park: an area, often of forested land, maintained as a place of beauty, or for recreation) Yala National Park not only at N 06°25': E 081°30' and N 06°32': E 081°41' but also at N 06°35': E 081°33' and the »RFS« (forest reserve: A forested area set aside for preservation or controlled use of species or products) Yala National Park N 06°37': E 081°23' (WGS84).

WALUPANA

→Wavulpane

A natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Rakwana range - Halwinne dola / Halwinna river area: Rakwana: Pallabeda, Wavulpane & Werawatta villages.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Wilson, Jane M. 1988: 23.

WARANA "CAVE DWELLING"

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped modified natural or man-made, troglodyte cave, rock shelter or rock-cut chamber.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Western province: Colombo district: Warana village.

POSITION: Not known.

MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NB44-02.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

A »cave dwelling« (CEYLON TRAVELLER (1974: 249; 1983: 251) at Warana (note 1).

NOTE 1: »Warana« (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 249; 1983: 251) is not identified unless it corresponds to A) Warahena N 06°24': E 080°00' about 62 km in a direct line SSE from Colombo city (\*); B) Wiharahena N 06°22': E 080°35' about 100 km in a direct line ESE from Colombo city (\*); C) Wirahena N 07°24': E 079°51' about 52 km in a direct line due north of Colombo city (\*). \* Colombo city (Fort Railroad Station at N 06°56'01": E 079°51'01" WGS84).

WAULPANE

→Wavulpane

A natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Rakwana range - Halwinne dola / Halwinna river area: Rakwana: Pallabeda, Wavulpane & Werawatta villages.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Siffre, Michel 1975: 22-26, 39-42.

WEBSITE: <www.srilankaecotourism.com/caving> accessed 2009.06.27

**WAUPANE RIVER CAVE**

→Wavulpane (Halwinne Dola)

A natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Rakwana range - Halwinne dola / Halwinna river area: Rakwana: Pallabeda, Wavulpane & Werawatta villages.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Middleton, John & Waltham, Tony 1986: 182.

»Close to Ratnapura is a 200m-long cave formed in conglomerate, the Waupane River Cave«

(MIDDLETON & WALTHAM 1986: 182).

**WAUWUWELA GALGE**

Unexplored and not mapped natural rock shelter.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern province: Batticaloa district: Maha Oya: Nuwaragala area: Pollebadda / Pollebedda: Wauwuwela.

POSITION: Representative WGS84 or Everest 1830 coordinates (estimated horizontal precision error  $\pm 5$  km) N 07°30': E 081°25' / N 7.5°: E 81.41666667° (mere guesswork).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Maha Oya; AMS sheet: NB44-03.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Sarasin, Fritz & Sarasin, Paul 1908.

A rock shelter (SARASIN & SARASIN 1908) somewhere approximately south-east of Maha Oya (N 07°32': E 081°21'). Compare the →Nuwaragala Caves (N 07°29': E 081°26').

**WAVUL GALGE ( Gampaha )**

Unexplored and not mapped natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central province: Monaragala district or Ratnapura district: Bintenne area: Wellawaya: Gampaha village.

POSITION: Representative WGS84 coordinates (assumed horizontal precision error  $\pm 5$  km) N 06°40': E 081°00' / N 6.66666667°: E 81° (mere guesswork).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Happutale; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

This "bat cave" is obviously rather a good cave inhabited by bats (CEYLON

TRAVELLER (1974: 247; 1983: 249).

ETYMOLOGY: The Singhala "Wavul Galge" means »Bat Cave.«

SITUATION: At an unspecified location somewhere in a wilderness at a (travelling) distance of 8 km approximately south-west of the village of Gampaha (N 06°43': E 081°02'), which lies 9 km along the road A4 west of Wellawaya (N 06°44': E 081°06') on the road via Koslanda (N 06°44': E 081°01') to Beragala, Berragalla, Berragalle (note 1).

CULTURAL HISTORY - Human use: »The cave was, at one time, so rich in deposits of [bat] guano that the British stationed a regiment of troops there during the Uva rebellion, to prevent the rebels from collecting nitrate for the production of explosives.« Compare →Nitre Cave.

NOTE 1: »Beragala« (Survey Department 1977: Sri Lanka Road map) is Berragalla, Berragalle N 06°46': E 080°55' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003).

**WAVULAGALA LENA**

→Lunugala Lena

A natural cave.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Central province: Kandy district: Rangala range / Knuckles - Heen Ganga valley area: Looloowatte: Mimure (obsolete: Corbett's Gap, Memora, Memoora).

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Uragoda, C.G. 1973: 39.

**WAVULPANE ( Halwinne Dola )**

or: Oldest Cave, Walupana, Waulpane, Wavulpane, Vava Pena, Vavul Pena,

## Vavulpane

Partly explored and allegedly "surveyed" (measured lengthwise) but not actually surveyed (not mapped) natural cave in metamorphosed, crystalline Precambrian marble or Miocene limestones.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Sabaragamuwa province: Ratnapura district: Kolonne Korale: Rakwana range - Halwinne dola / Halwinna river area: Rakwana: Pallabeda, Wavulpane & Werawatta villages.

POSITION: WGS84 (without recorded EPE) N06°25'30.0": E080°43'50.0" / N6,425° : E80,73055556° (<www.nima.mil/geonames> accessed 16.11.2003): 278 m asl (Or 192 feet, FERNANDO 2000).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon sheet: Timbolketiya; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

SPELEOMETRY: Length: Estimated 200 or 400 m. Vertical range: Allegedly ±40 m (+0m / -40m).

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983; Fernando, Dimitri s.a. circa 2000; Middleton, John & Waltham, Tony 1986; Oldest Cave Found 1968a, 1968b, 1969; Siffre, Michel 1975; Wilson, Jane M. 1988.

WEBSITE: <www.lankalibrary.com/heritage/vavulpane.htm> accessed 15.11.2003.

MANUSCRIPT REFERENCES: Brooks, Simon, J. 1995, personal correspondence.

Two streams, arriving from two different catchment areas, join underground at the contact of metamorphosed, crystalline Precambrian marble and allegedly »*Miocene limestones*« (up here ?) to shape 457 m of magnificently (speleothem) decorated stream cave. Of the three entrances, two (7.8 m and 5.6 m wide and 7.5 m and 4.2 m high) are connected by a more or less horizontal tunnel cave which drains a small stream, the Halwini Oya (26 ltr/sec mean annual flow). The second stream enters the cave from high above and by a third entrance to falls 40 m in three steps before joining the main drag. Lateral passages, not suitable for casual visitors, are said to house snakes (FERNANDO s.a., circa 2000 on <www.lankalibrary.com/heritage/vavulpane.htm> accessed 15.11.2003).

ETYMOLOGY: Wavulpane (N06°26': E080°44' WGS84 <www.nima.mil/geonames> accessed 16.11.2003) is said to translate into Cave of Bats. It is marked »*Limestone Cave*« on the one the Survey of Ceylon sheet "Timbolketiya" (One Inch series). Additionally, I saw it spelled / transcribed / edited as

Vava Pane (?),

Vavulpane (FERNANDO 2000),

Waulpane (SIFFRE 1975),

Waulpena <www.nima.mil/geonames> (accessed 16.11.2003),

Waupane River Cave (MIDDLETON & WALTHAM 1986: 182), and

Wavulpane <www.nima.mil/geonames> (accessed 16.11.2003).

SITUATION 1: CEYLON TRAVELLER (1974: 245-246; 1983: 247-248) places the cave in a limestone formation on the eastern slope of the Rakwana range (**note 2**) and above the right bank of the Halwinne Dola which is a tributary to the Andolu Ganga. The entrance lies north-west of the trigonometrical station of the same name and between the villages of Wavulpane and Werawatta and may be reached by four different approaches:

APPROACH 1: Take the Ratnapura - Pelmadulla - Embilipitiya - Nonagama road. Turn off on a gravel track just past the village of Colombageganga. Keep trekking along the right bank of the river. The path carries on to the village of Katukumbura, past the confluence of a little stream, the Halwinne dola, with the Andolu Ganga. The path crosses the stream twice. The cave lies to the left of, and a few hundred metres beyond, the point where the path emerges to the left of the stream. This route is just about 8 km on foot.

APPROACH 2: Palebadda - Halwinna route: Turn off near the 18th mile-post (very close to kilometre 29) on the Pelmadulla - Embilipitiya road just beyond the Palledbedde police station (map: Palledbedda N06°27': E080°44'). Proceed through the villages Halwinna [N06°26': E080°43'] and south to Welenawatta [N06°26': E080°43']. The cave lies a little more than 1.5 km beyond. The distance from the main road is about 8 km; this route involves a tedious climb to an elevation of about 300 m.

APPROACH 3: Palamcottia [N06°27': E080°40'] route: Near the commencement of the hairpin bends at the Bulutota Pass [N06°28': E080°38'] turn off to the left into the road that leads to the Palamcottia and El Chico estates. The road ends at El Chico [N06°27': E080°41'] and is succeeded by a track and path that winds through the hills at elevations between 300 and 600 m. The footpath eventually reaches the village of Halwinna [N06°26': E080°43'], from where the route is as stated in (2): Turn right at Halwinna and proceed south. A good section of this route is jeepable but a 5 km walk cannot be avoided.

APPROACH 4: The cave lies about 6.5 km from Kolonne [N06°24': E080°41'] on the Embilipitiya - Panamure - Suriyakande - Rakwana road, along a footpath via the villages of Kitalabokka [N06°25': E080°42'] and Dambemada [N06°25': E080°43'].

SITUATION 2: OLDEST CAVE FOUND (1968a reprinted 1968b, 1969): »... *in the rich rubber growing district about 12 miles [19.3 km] from the Uda Walawe River, in the south-central Ceylon, about 60 miles [97 km] south-east of Colombo.*«



**SITUATION 3:** WILSON (1988: 23) places »Vavul Pena ... just over 2 miles [3.3 km] as the crow flies SWS [south-west-south] of Pallabeda [Pallebedda N06°27': E080°44'] on the Embilipitiya - Pelmadulla road, but driving there along the very poor circuitous road takes about half an hour. A jeepable unmetalled track from the Pelamdulla - Kolonne road (the Walupana —also spelled Wavulpane— Development Road) goes within a kilometre of the cave. From the end of the road a pleasant track along the Halwinna River (a tributary of the Andolu Ganga) goes to the attractive upstream entrance where the river plunges into the cave. The local geology comprises mainly metamorphics but the cave seems to be in a thin band of calcareous sandstone and limestone. Ochre deposits are evident at the nearest washing place to the cave.«

**SITUATION 4:** FERNANDO (2002) locates »Vavulpane« in the Ratnapura District and »in the Kolonne Korale, about 278 m (912 feet) above sea level... On reaching Ratnapura town, proceed on the Embilipitiya road upto Pallebadde junction. Turn off there and proceed along the Bulutota road about 10 km and you will reach the Vavulpane Sanwardhana Mawatha. It is approximately 2 km on foot from there to the Vavulpane school. [...] We parked our van at the top of the road and had a 2.5 km walk downhill as the route was not negotiable for a light van such as ours. If you wish to avoid this long hike, the only suitable vehicle is a jeep or similar four-wheel drive vehicle. We came to Vavulpane Vidyalyaya [school], where we met the Principal Michael Pathirana who took us along the 500 m footpath to the caves.«

**CAVE DESCRIPTION 1: OLDEST CAVE FOUND** (1968a reprinted 1968b, 1969): »A cave millions of years old with giant 50 ft [15.24 m] stalactites has been discovered in central Ceylon. Its discoverers believe the large natural underground palace may be the oldest cave known to man. It is about a quarter of a mile [400 m] long, reaching a height of more than 70 ft [21.3 m] within, and contains a 70 ft [21.3 m] waterfall. With its great natural beauty, the cave could become a major tourist attraction.«

**CAVE DESCRIPTION 2: CEYLON TRAVELLER** (1974: 246; 1983: 248): »The interior of the cave presents a veritable cathedral carved out by nature. Suspended from the high domed roof of the cavern is an enormous stalactitic formation that resembles a chandelier. ... fantastic limestone draperies strewn about in sweet disorder. Pillars and columns of precipitated calcareous substances are everywhere while high up, at the left side of the cave, balconies carved out of the stone disappear into the earth. The cave also contains an unusual geological phenomenon —that of trans-basin diversion. This consists of a stream that flows on the hillside by the cave diving through a hole in the hillside— and the hole is in the roof of the cave. The result is a subterranean waterfall as well as a lake in the cavern.«

**CAVE DESCRIPTION 3: SIFFRE** (1975: 22-26, 39-42) narrates a visit to the underground river of »Waulpane.«

**CAVE DESCRIPTION 4** (WILSON 1988: 23) »... large, by Sri Lankan standards. The upstream entrance chamber is at least 100 m long, 20 m wide and 30 m high. ... [Bat] guano coats walls and floor ... The river resurges from the cave after less than 300 m and a through trip (swimming in deep and quite turbulent water) is possible if an immersion in dilute bat guano appeals.«

**CAVE DESCRIPTION 5** (FERNANDO s.a., circa 2000;

[www.lankalibrary.com/heritage/vavulpane.htm](http://www.lankalibrary.com/heritage/vavulpane.htm)> accessed 15.11.2003) reports a spring (26 ltr/sec) rich in calcium carbonate and iron hydroxide which gives the water a rust orange coloured pallor. At a distance of about 100 m from the spring, and 50 vertical metres lower, enters the stream a penetrable sinkhole (insurgence) and falls 40 m in a series of three steps. »Pathirana told us that once, he had gone down into the hole using ropes and had seen an exquisite cave, through which one could crawl, within which could be seen, pure white stalactites and stalagmites.«

Avoiding this topmost entrance via a steep descend in the open air »along natural steps, slippery and green, overgrown with rock moss« for the main entrance that takes a small stream, the Halwini Oya.

»We cautiously felt our way along the rock face, to avoid falling into the stream which flowed several feet below us ... We had only one torch and a firebrand lit from a coconut husk ... Rising in a dome-like shape, the main cave has a hole through which the water falls, in a soft cool curtain ...«

**CAVE DESCRIPTION 6:** Among many others, the Internet website

<[www.srilankaecotourism.com/caving](http://www.srilankaecotourism.com/caving)> (accessed 2009.06.27) considers »Waulpane Cave« to be »... an isolated cavern set against the eastern slopes of the Rakwana Range. It contains a large number of stalactites and stalagmites ... You will enter and walk through this 100 feet [30.5 m] high cave ... The stream, which runs through the cave, occupies half the ground space inside it and at the centre meets an eighty foot waterfall that falls on to it from close to the top of the cave ... You may encounter a few water monitors, Amphibians and thousands of Bats in this fully dark cave.«

**SPELEOMETRY:**

**OLDEST CAVE FOUND** (1968a reprinted 1968b, 1969): »It is about a quarter of a mile [400 m] long, reaching a height of more than 70 ft [21.3 m] within.«

MIDDLETON & WALTHAM (1986: 182): »... a 200m-long cave formed in conglomerate, the Waupane [sic!] River Cave.«

WILSON (1988: 23) »... large, by Sri Lankan standards. The upstream entrance chamber is at least 100 m long, 20 m wide and 30 m high.«

CAVE LIFE: WILSON (1988: 23) notes at least three Chiroptera species, including a Horseshoe bat, possibly *Rhinolophus luctus*, and two Vespertilionids, probably *Pipistrellus coromandra* and *Hesperoptenus tickelly*. The bats produce large quantities of guano which supports an abundance of cockroaches (Dictyoptera) and other guanophiles. Toads and a few tree frogs find the threshold zones of the cave good hunting grounds.

FERNANDO (2000) reported »millions and millions of cockroaches of innumerable varieties« in addition to an estimated number of 250'000 bats [Chiroptera, five Microchiroptera, one Macrochiroptera species] and was »told that in the stream dwell unique species of fish that are similar to eels, and can be seen even with the total absence of light.«

EXPLORATION HISTORY: 2000, circa: Principal Michael Pathirana of the Vavulpane Vidyalaya (Vavulpane school) guided Dimitri FERNANDO (s.a. circa 2000), accompanied by at least one light vehicle load of unrecognised partners, though the cave, using »only one torch and a firebrand lit from a coconut husk« for illumination.

NOTE 1: »Halwini Oya« (FERNANDO s.a., circa 2000) appears to correspond to the Halwinna Dola N06°24': E080°43' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003).

NOTE 2: Positions (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003) falling on sheet NB44-06:

Andolu Ganga N06°24': E080°48'

Dambemada N06°25': E080°43'

Halwinna.1 N06°26': E080°43' (not Halwinna N06°41': E080°43')

Halwinna Dola N06°24': E080°43'

Katukumbura N06°24': E080°44'

Kitalabokka N06°25': E080°42'

Kolonne N06°24': E080°41'

Pallebedda N06°27': E080°44' (not Pallebedda N06°18': E080°50')

Rakwana N06°28'18": E080°36'42"

Wavulpane N06°26': E080°44'

Welenewatta N06°26': E080°43'

Werawatta N06°40': E080°05'.

### WEHERAHENA "CAVE"

A man-made sacred structure regarded as a sacred cave (temple cave).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Southern province: Matara district: Gangoboda pattu: Matara town: Weherahena Kovil.

POSITION: (If at Urumutta village and Estate itself), WGS84 (approximate horizontal precision error  $\pm 5$  km) N 06°10': E 080°31' / N 6.16666667°: E 80.51666667° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Timbolketiya; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Lonely Planet, Sri Lanka 2003.

A sacred »cave« (temple cave) »decorated with about 200 comic-book-like scenes from the Buddha's life« is situated at the Weherahena Temple (admission by donation) and represents a »superb example of what one visitor labelled

'neo-Buddhist kitsch' « (note 1). APPROACH: This collector's item is reached by leaving the outskirts of Matara (N 05°56'55": E 080°32'34" WGS84) and turning inland: »You can get here from Matara on bus No. 349, or a three-wheeler will charge Rs 200 from Matara's bus stand« (LONELY PLANET, Sri Lanka 2003: 151).

CULTURAL HISTORY - human use: The artificial structure is exploited as a religious show cave promoted with regular sacred entertainment events: »At the time of the late November / early December poya, a perahera (procession) is held at the temple to celebrate the anniversary of its founding. During the evening there's a big procession of dancers and elephants. Foreigners at the 2002 perahera were charged Rs 1000 for tickets« (LONELY PLANET, Sri Lanka 2003: 151).

EXPLORATION HISTORY: 1911  $\pm$ 1: Frederick LEWIS (1912) and Lieut. Lindstrom

visited and explored.

NOTE 1: LONELY PLANET, Sri Lanka (2003: 151): Marvel Comics meets Lord Buddha.

Cave at

WELLAWAYA

or: Nitre Cave (Wellaway)

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural cave in crystalline Precambrian (Khondalite series) limestone.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central province: Monaragala district: Wellawaya (Wellaway, Weleway) village.

POSITION: (If at Wellawaya town itself), WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 06°40': E 081°06' / N 6.66666667°: E 81.1° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Haputale; AMS sheet: NB44-07.

SPELEOMETRY: Length: Estimated 50 m. Vertical range: Not known.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Cooray, P. Gerald 1967; Daniel, Joseph A. 1908; Davy, John 1821; Pridham, Charles 1849; Sarasin, Fritz & Sarasin, Paul 1939.

Is this allegedly anonymous cave near Wellawaya actually two distinct caves? The three cave descriptions do not coincide much. An irregularly arched entrance (3.5 m wide and 1.6 m high) leads to a »narrow« (or, perhaps, shallow) and slippery passage descending some 10 m to a very irregularly shaped cave chamber, which DANIEL (1908) estimated (read: over-estimated) to be about 200 m long and up to 150 m broad, and extending into daylight avens (DAVY 1821: roof too high to be visible). SARASIN & SARASIN (1939: 104) entered by a comparatively »wide« (or: wider than high?) entrance to an estimated 50 m of walking passage with walls covered by calcite formation (speleothems) and leading to a narrow rift emitting such a strong air draught (air current) that both their candles and »fire brands« (torches) extinguished.

SITUATION 1821 (DAVY 1821: 429) places the cave in a thick jungle, in the side of a hill, about half way between »Weleway« (Wellawaya N 06°44': E 081°06') and »Boulatwellegodde« (Bulatwelgoda N 06°43': E 081°02'), from both of which it is about »five miles« (8 km) distant.

SITUATION 1908 (DANIEL 1908: 107) puts the cave in the heart of the forest and about 4 km from the Koslanda - Wellawaya road. It is formed in a band of limestone running across the hill in a SW and NE direction (south-west / north-east) and dipping by about 45° to the west. The limestone collected from the sides of the cave is made up of fairly pure good-sized crystals of limestone. It is very probable that this cave was formed before the surface features of the surrounding district were fully developed.

CAVE DESCRIPTION 1: DAVY (1821: 429; repeated literally by PRIDHAM 1849, 2: 579-580): »Its mouth is comparatively small —hardly twelve feet wide, and, where highest, hardly high enough for a man to stand erect. The entrance is irregularly arched, and has the appearance of having been cut through the solid rock by which it is surrounded and overhung. Looking down into the cave, nothing can be more gloomy and dismal; the eye can penetrate but a little way into its dark recesses, from which a loathsome smell issues, and a dull, confused noise [of exited bats], like that of a subterranean torrent. ...we commenced the descent, each of us bearing a candle, and our people carrying either candles or torches. Having descended, through a steep, narrow, and slippery passage, about thirty feet, we found ourselves in a cave of vast size, and of such a very irregular form, that it is impossible to retain

any accurate notion of it. The rugged bottom, which descends about 50 feet [15 m] is covered with fragments of decomposing rock and a thick stratum of black earth. The roof in general is too high to be visible. The walls consist either of dolomitic rock or of granitic varieties, most of them in a state of decomposition, particularly those containing a portion of calcspar ... Like the nitre cave in Doombera [->Lunugala Lena], its excavation is perhaps more artificial than natural.«

CAVE DESCRIPTION 2: DANIEL (1908: 107-108): »The entrance into the cave was steep, and a loathsome smell emanated from it owing to, as we later found out, damp excreta of bats ... we heard a sound like that of gushing water, and I thought there was a stream flowing through the cave. But this was a delusion ... The gushing sound was caused by the fluttering of thousands of bats. After descending about 30 feet [9 m] we found ourselves at the entrance of a huge hall. The sides were rugged, but the roof at this place had apparently a smooth surface. Where the bats had settled on the roof from time to time little white patches were left, which gave one the impression of a curiously patterned ceiling. There were similar patches on the sides of the cave. The roof dipped towards west, evidently along a certain weak foliation, or maybe along the junction plane of limestone and gneiss, which I could not ascertain. Huge blocks of rock had fallen down and were scattered on the floor. At other places the roof was irregular and rugged, but covered with white patches. Fine blackish dust and bats' dung lay evenly over the blocks lying on the floor, and so we had to move very cautiously. The dust in several places I found more than 5 feet thick and lying so loose that one might have sunk through it if one had walked unwarily. In some places it was thicker than 5 feet. It was easily disturbed, and our walking had raised quite a large amount; but it was stifling when we started digging. The number of bats here was enormous. Like a whirlwind they hovered around us. They constantly dashed against us, settling on us, one even clinging to the mouth of a cooly. Very high in the roof of some parts of the cave were funnel shaped openings communicating with the surface. Light streamed in and dimly lit up the rugged sides of these openings and the part of the cave immediately below. It gave one an impression of a deep dark dungeon only lit up from a side window from a tower high above. This, with the bats flitting aimlessly in the sombre light, made a most melancholy and gloomy impression. We crossed the hall, which I believe is more than 200 yards [183 m] long and more than 150 yards [137 m] broad, for the further end. Here we had to climb on all fours about 20 feet [18 m], when we found ourselves at the entrance of small tunnels which opened into chambers. These appear to have been worked by man. Here the stench was overpowering. We worked up a small tunnel. It was very low and narrow, so that only one person can pass at a time in a stooping posture. The bats having perhaps no other egress from the passage dashed against us in a continuous stream. We dug in one of the chambers. By this time we finishes it was simply stifling, also the heat was tremendous. So we returned to the entrance of the cave.«

CAVE DESCRIPTION 3: SARASIN & SARASIN (1939: 104) regard the cave near Wellawaya not suitable for archaeological excavation. They had reached the entrance by following a slightly ascending path through forest and high grass to a wide entrance. After walking erect for about 50 paces between calcite covered walls, a crack was reached which just wide enough to allow access but it was not possible to set the torches on fire because of the »emitting gas« (rather a strong air current than bad air). The guide reported of having heard that the passages widens up again to lead after a long distance to a door behind which seven kings are buried (note 1).  
CULTURAL HISTORY - Human use: The cave sediment was exploited for "nitre"

(saltpetre,  $\text{NaNO}_3$ ). DAVY (1821: 33) and PRIDHAM (1849, 2: 709) give a chemical composition of the »nitre-earth from the great cave in Lower Ouva, near Wellaway: 3.3 nitrat of potash with traces of common salt and sulphat of lime, 3.5 nitrat of lime, 15.3 water, 25.7 animal matter of difficult solubility, 1.0 animal matter easily soluble in water, 51.2 carbonat of lime and earthy matter.« DAVY (1821: 430) suspects the cave is perhaps more artificially than naturally excavated because »... it has been worked for many years by the natives, a party of whom come annually from the neighbourhood of Passera for the purpose« of obtaining saltpetre.

LITERARY SOURCES: DAVY (1821: 31, footnote) lists a Nitre Cave no. 17 at »Wellaway, Ouva district« and COORAY (1967: 97) mentions a cave in crystalline limestone near Wellaway.

EXPLORATION HISTORY: 1819, March or April: John Davy visited and explored a »Nitre cave« at a place called either »Weleway« (DAVY 1821: 429-430) or »Wellaway« (DAVY 1821: 31, footnote, no. 17). 1885: The Sarasin brothers Fritz and Paul visited and explored »Wellaway Cave« (SARASIN & SARASIN 1939: 104, 151). 1907.09.12: Joseph A. DANIEL (1908) visited and explored »Wellaway Cave.«

NOTE 1: SARASIN & SARASIN (1939: 104): »Der uns angegebene Pfad führte zunächst durch Wald, in dem von den Bäumen herabhängende, wie Hyazinthen duftende Blütenähren einer Orchidee erfreuten. ... leicht ansteigend durch Wald und Hochgras zu einem weiten Höhleneingang in einem Felsen. Etwa 50 Schritte weit konnte man aufrecht hineingehen zwischen den mit Kalksinter überkrusteten Felswänden; am Ende dieses Ganges führte eine Spalte, gerade noch weit genug, um einem Menschen den Durchgang zu gestatten, in die Tiefe. Allein hier erloschen trotz mehrfachen Versuchen unsere Feuerbrände infolge eines ausströmenden Gases, so dass wir nicht weiter konnten. Der Führer erzählte, er habe gehört, dass die Höhle weiterhin wieder geräumig werde und man zu einer verschlossenen Türe komme, dahinter sieben Könige begraben seien. Ihre Geister seien es, die die Lichter der Eindringenden auslöschten. Wir konnten das Geheimnis nicht ergründen.«

Caves in the

#### WESTMINSTER ABBEY RIDGE

→Govinda Hela Cave; →Govinda Hela Cave 2

A natural cave or rock shelter.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central province: Monaragala district: Govinda Hela / Westminster Abbey ridge area: Siyambalanduwa: Pallewela.

MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NB44-03.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Ceylon Traveller 1974: 252; 1983: 254.

#### YAKGIRI LENA

or: Yak Giri Rockshelter

Archaeologically investigated but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural rock shelter.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Western province: Kalutara district: Matugama area.

POSITION: Unspecified map datum probably Everest 1830 coordinates (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 06°32': E 080°08' / N 6.53333333°: E 80.13333333° (DERANIYAGALA S.U. 1992).

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Deraniyagala, P.E.P. 1953; Deraniyagala, S.U. 1980, 1992.

A rock shelter, which is approximately ( $\pm 3$  km) near N 06°32': E 080°08' (S.U. DERANIYAGALA), is this way very easy to retrace (isn't it?) in the vicinity of

Matugama (note 1). DERANIYAGALA, P.E.P. (1953: 127) reports from the »Yak giri lena rock shelter« in the Matugama area (Western Province) pebbles (stone tools), which are usually larger than elsewhere and pitted on one side only. BROOKS (1995 Mss, no. 23) had learned about a cave or rock shelter of unspecified size which was excavated for archaeological remains and yielded the first stone celt and / or adze of Sri Lanka.

NOTE 1: Falling on sheet NB44-06, <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003) positions (WGS84) Matugama N 06°31': E 080°07' (rubber plantation), Matugama N 06°25': E 080°08' (populated place), Matugama N 06°31'20": E 080°06'52" (populated place).

YAKKAS 'CAVE'

→Ritigala "Caves"

A group of man-made rock-cut chambers.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Northern Central province: Anuradhapura district: Ritigala range.

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: unidentified; AMS sheet: NC44-14.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Pridham, Charles 1849: 536.

YAKUNNEHELA GALGE

or: Cave of Yakunne Hela

Archaeologically investigated but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural rock shelter in gravitationally dislocated gneiss boulders.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central province: Badulla district: Nilgala range area: Yakunnehela mountain.

POSITION: Representative WGS84 coordinates (assumed horizontal precision error ±10 km) N 07°15': E 081°15' / N 7.25°: E 81.25° (mere guesswork).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Nilgala; AMS sheet: NB44-07.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Deraniyagala, S.U. 1980; Sarasin, Fritz 1931; Sarasin, Fritz & Sarasin, Paul 1939.

MANUSCRIPT REFERENCE: Brooks, Simon J. 1995, personal correspondence.

A rock shelter in gravitationally dislocated gneiss boulders (Brooks 1995 Mss, no. 10 after DERANIYAGALA, S.U. 1980: 155).

ETYMOLOGY: "Yakunnehela" or "Yakunne Hela" means »Demon's Mountain« (SARASIN 1931: 47; SARASIN & SARASIN 1939: 163).

SITUATION: At an unspecified location somewhere in the vicinity of

→Gangodedeniya Galge on Yakunnehela / Yakunne Hela near one of the villages called Nilgala.

CULTURAL HISTORY - archaeology: SARASIN (1931: 47) and SARASIN & SARASIN (1939: 163) report to have found the 0.3 m deep cave sediment archaeologically barren.

CAVE LIFE: So-called »sleeping nests« (Brooks 1995 Mss, no. 10) indicate the periodical presence of bears (Lippenbären?).

YAN LENA

or: Yanlena

Unexplored and not mapped natural cave or rock shelter.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: North Western province: Kurunegala (Kurunaegala) district: Galagedera village.

POSITION: WGS84 (approximate horizontal precision error ±5 km) N 07°32': E 080°08' / N 7.53333333°: E 80.13333333° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NB44-02.  
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

An unspecified cave or rock shelter called »Yanlena« (Yan Lena) is situated somewhere near Galagedera (N 07°32': E 080°08') in Kurunegala district (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 254; 1983: 256).

#### YAPAHUWA FORT 'CAVE TEMPLE'

Frequently visited but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural or man-made sacred rock shelter (temple cave) or rock chamber (cave temple).

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: North Western province: Kurunegala (Kurunaegala) district: Maho town: Yapahuwa Fort (Subha's Rock, Subhapabbata).

POSITION: (At the village of Yapahuwa), WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 07°49': E 080°19' / N 7.81666667°: E 80.31666667°

<[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: unidentified; AMS sheet: NB44-02.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1984.

An unspecified »cave temple« containing statues of the Buddha and rock art (paintings of the Kandy period).

SITUATION (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1983: 151): Within the fortifications of Yapahuwa Fort, which is also known as Subhapabbata (Subha's Rock).

APPROACH: The turn off to the village of Yapahuwa (N 07°49': E 080°19'), from which the fortress is 1.5 miles (2.5 km) is only »two miles« (about 3 km) by bus from Maho (note 1).

NOTE 1: Maho N 07°49'22": E 080°16'40" (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil](http://www.nima.mil)> 16.11.2003) is said to lie at a distance of 82 miles (132 km, probably along the road) from Colombo (N 06°55'55": E 079°50'52" WGS84) and 29 miles (47 km) from Kurunegala (N 07°29'12": E 080°21'53" WGS84<[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003).

#### YATAGALA RAJA MAHA VIHARAYA

A man-made sacred rock-cut chamber ('cave temple').

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Southern province: Galle district: Unawatuna area: Kottawa: Yatagala.

POSITION: (If at Unawatuna itself), Estimated WGS84 or Everest 1830 coordinates (approximate horizontal precision error ±5 km) N 06°01': E 080°15' / N 6.01666667°: E 80.25° (unspecified coordinate source).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: Timbolketiya; AMS sheet: NB44-06.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Lonely Planet, Sri Lanka 2003.

A quiet »rock temple« (man-made rock chamber excavated for religious purposes).

SITUATION (LONELY PLANET, Sri Lanka 2003: 141): Yatagala (note 1) lies »just 4 km« without orientation (north?) »from Unawatuna« (N 06°01': E 080°15'), which itself is said (LONELY PLANET, Sri Lanka 2003: 141) to lie about 5 km along the road south-east of Galle (N 06°3'13": E 080°12'42" WGS84).

CULTURAL HISTORY - rock art: The "Great Monastery [of the] King [at the] Yata Rock" (in Sinhala: Yatagala Raja Maha Viharaya) contains not only air and dust but also a 9 m long statue of the reclining (recumbent) Buddha and Kandyan period mural paintings.

NOTE 1: There is one Yatagala N 06°20': E 080°06' (WGS84 <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003) almost 40 km in a direct line north-west from Unawatuna (N 06°01': E 080°15').

#### YATAHA LENA

or: Yatahalena

Unexplored and not mapped natural cave or rock shelter.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Central or Sabaragamuwa province: Kegalle (Kegalla) district.

POSITION: WGS84 (unspecified horizontal precision error) N 07°15': E 080°21' / N 7.25°: E 80.35° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Unidentified Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet; AMS sheet: NB44-02.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983.

An unspecified cave or rock shelter (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 254; 1983: 256) is situated somewhere near Kegalla (N 07°15'11": E 080°21'02"

WGS84<[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> accessed 16.11.2003).

Cave at

YUDAGANAWA

or: Buttala Cave; or: Meminnahela Galge

Archaeologically investigated but speleologically unexplored and not mapped natural troglodyte rock shelter or cave in gravitationally dislocated gneiss boulders.

LOCATION: Sri Lanka: Eastern Central province: Monaragala district: Buttala village: Meminnahela ridge: Yudaganawa.

POSITION: WGS84 (approximate horizontal precision error  $\pm 2500$  m) N 06°46': E 081°14' / N 6.76666667°: E 81.23333333° <[www.nima.mil/geonames](http://www.nima.mil/geonames)> (accessed 16.11.2003).

MAPS: Survey of Ceylon (One Inch series) sheet: unidentified; AMS sheet: NB44-07.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Ceylon Traveller 1974, 1983; Deraniyagala, S.U. 1980; Sarasin, Fritz & Sarasin, Paul 1939.

MANUSCRIPT REFERENCE: Simon J. Brooks 1995.

An unspecified sacred cave or rock shelter of historical interest (note 1). Most likely identical with →Meminnahela Galge or Meminnahela Galge 2.

SITUATION (CEYLON TRAVELLER 1974: 242; 1983: 244): Near the ancient site of Yudaganawa (N 06°46': E 081°14' WGS84), about a mile (one or two kilometres) along a minor road from Buttala (N 06°45': E 081°14'), which itself lies some 15 to 18 km from Monaragala (N 06°52': E 081°21') on the road approximately NNE to Ratnapura (N 06°40'58": E 080°23'57" WGS84).

EXPLORATION HISTORY: 1908: Fritz and Paul Sarasin excavated (SARASIN & SARASIN 1939; S.U. DERANIYAGALA 1980: 155).

NOTE 1: SARASIN & SARSIN (1939: 160-161); DERANIYAGALA, S.U. (1980: 155).#