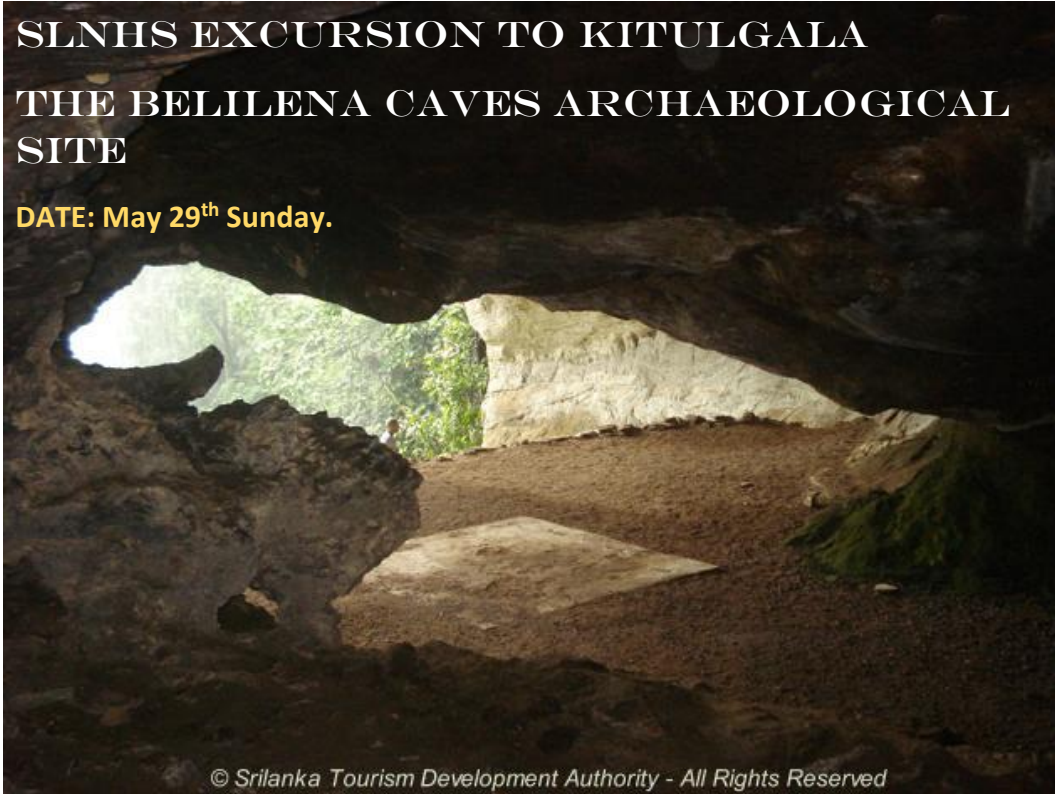


SLNHS EXCURSION TO KITULGALA THE BELILENA CAVES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

DATE: May 29th Sunday.



The excursion was planned to include the Belilena caves as well as the forest across the river. However, in view of the physical demands of the hike up to the caves the forest was not visited. Two members opted to admire the scenery while the rest of the party gamely tackled the undulating terrain and reached the caves after a hike of over two hours.

The trek was through vegetation comprising rubber, teak and cocoa plantations.



Numerous feeding flocks of birds were seen on the way — such as black bulbuls, minivets, white eyes, chloropsis and rufous babblers, among others.





The cave, with cascading water flowing across its entrance, was a brilliant sight to behold.

Many varieties of butterflies were observed out of which the chocolate soldier (left) and the blue bottle (right) were outstanding.





Participants: Dr Asoka Thenabadu, Aruni Gunawardena, Cheryl Silva, Geetha Gunatilaka, Harshini de Silva, Kumar Perumal, Nihal Ferdinando, Rohan Samarasundera, S. Srikumar, Wasantha Dias and W. P. Somasunderam. (8 members and 3 guests)

After having rested at the site, getting our breath back and drinking in the landscape we proceeded to "Kitul Villas" located on the Kitulgala-Ginigathena Road, where we had a sumptuous buffet lunch with fresh Durian as dessert.

Thereafter we proceeded to the Kitulgala Rest House and after a brief sojourn to relieve us of our fatigue, we returned to our starting location — the Hyde Park Residencies in Colombo — at 5pm. Our thanks to all those who made this trip a success.

Kumar Perumal
Text and photography

Malik Fernando
Editing & layout
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