

# Grandeur , garbage and the City of Galle



**GALLE:** The city of Galle is one of the World Heritage sites of Southern Sri Lanka. It has the only Dutch Fort that is still in good condition. This Fort was built in the 17th century. The beauty of this Dutch Fort as a tourist attraction at Galle has led many tourists to visit this place, but this will all vanish soon due to the problem of garbage, and shortsighted actions taken by the Galle Municipal Council and public health authorities.

The historical Galle beach has become the disposal ground for garbage. They burn the garbage with the mangrove trees such as 'Wetakeyya' and 'Kadolana'. Another tsunami would create a lot of devastation as it would directly hit the Galle town as these trees will no longer protect it.

The entire garbage disposed on the beach floats in to the beautiful sea and debris from buildings gets stuck on the rocks. The sea turtles, are the most affected by this as they lay their eggs along these beaches. There is another problem as these sea turtles tend to eat the food in left over polythene bags and this has become disastrous for them as they die when the polythene gets stuck in their throats.

The garbage problem in Galle is not only a threat to nature but also to human life.

If the Galle Municipal Council, and Public Health Authorities do not act immediately and stop the dumping of garbage on the sea beach and clean up the area around the Galle Fort, it would be the end of one of the World Heritage sites in Sri Lanka.

*Text & Pictures  
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