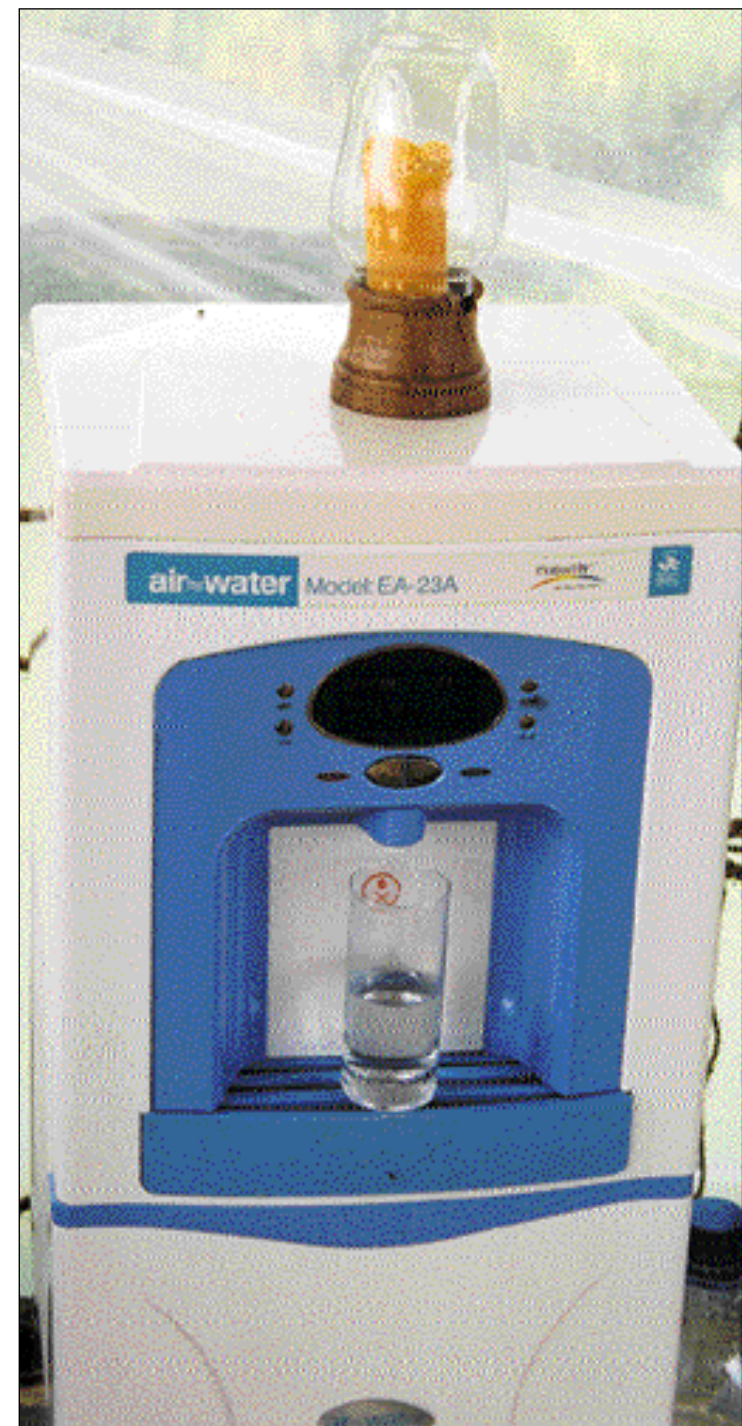


Holiday in 'Little England'



NUWARA ELIYA: The highest town in Sri Lanka is Nuwara Eliya, (City Of Lights also known as 'Little England', - altitude. 6,194 ft / 1,889 m), situated South East of Kandy. Known for its British heritage of Hereford Castle, strawberries and golf course, all of which thrive in its eternal Spring-like climate. Nuwara Eliya is only 180 Kms away from Colombo.

Nuwara Eliya's temperatures are 14-21 Centigrade (Jan - April) 16-18 Centigrade (May-Aug) 15- 18 Centigrade (Sept-Dec).

Nuwara Eliya was discovered by a hunting party led by Dr. John Davy in 1818 and was established as a summer retreat in 1828 by Sir Edward Barnes, the Governor of Ceylon. The climate was very similar to Durham in England and they built cottages to remind them of England. They imported a Black Smith, Durham cows, bulls, horses, foxes; and fish to make it look more like there towns. The post office even today looks like an ancient post office of London. They also had a cemetery for

their dead and visitors still arrive to pay homage to their kith and kin who had died during the colonial period.

The British first settled here in 1827. According to legend, Sita, the wife of Rama, hero of the Sanskrit epic Ramayana, was imprisoned near Nuwara Eliya.

Lake Gregory named after British Governor Sir William was built in 1873. Fish was imported from England to breed in this lake.

The boat yard now allows visitors to go boating and rowing. Sea planes and floating hotels (Paaru) take Sri Lankan tourist hospitality to a different level in Lake Gregory now in Nuwara Eliya.

The unique, eco friendly floating hotel rooms (Paaru) concept is new to Sri Lanka and it is a tourist attraction to the Island. The "PAARU" restaurant serves hot or cold water extracted from an air water system and hotel rooms are fitted with modern aircraft toilets and hot water too.

Text & Pictures by Sriyantha Walpola

