

# KANDY

## *The City of Romance*

1/21



**Ceylon Regional Series 4**

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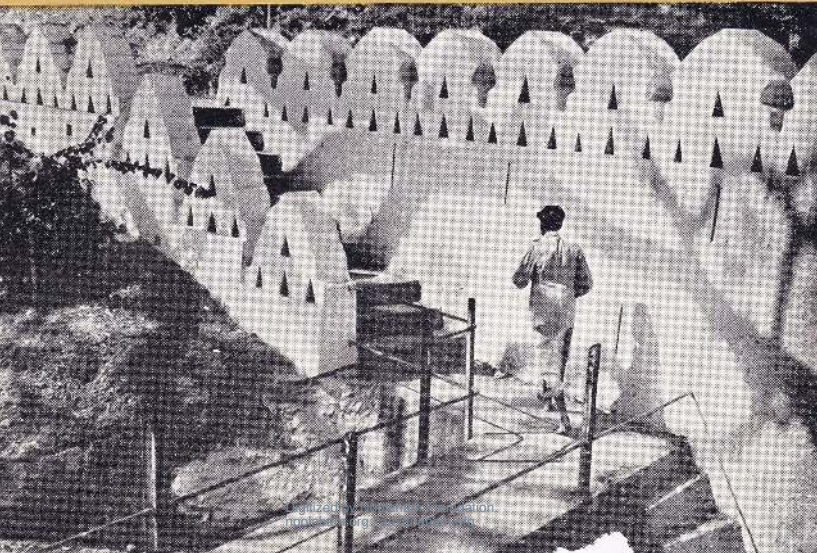




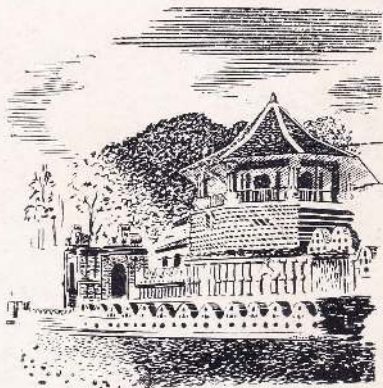
(Front Cover) **NITTAWELA GUNEYA—DOYEN OF KANDYAN DANCERS**

(Top) **KANDY LAKE**

(Bottom) **BUND ROUND KANDY LAKE**



1689



# Kandy

DROWSY, flower-fragrant, a gem of rare splendour set amidst the picturesque hills, Kandy sleeps dreamily, reflecting her delicate beauty in the still waters of her limpid lake. Tourists from all parts of the world come here to see the home of the later Sinhalese kings; the famous and beautiful mountain stronghold that was the last part of Ceylon to fall into the hands of the foreigner; the Temple of the Sacred Tooth; the quaint customs of a people whose ancient dynasty endured for twenty-four centuries; the interesting Buddhist temples and ceremonies; the perfection of tropical luxuriance; and last, but not least, the great Perahera which is held in August on the night of the full moon.





## THE DUMBARA VALLEY

Gaze across far-reaching valleys where the river Mahaweli courses over channels strewn with massive rocks ; see Hunasgiriya Peak towering above stretches of green slopes where palms, paddy fields and foliage make checker-board patterns of green and gold. Walk along the winding, wide and well graded drives—"Lady Horton's", for instance, where you may obtain magnificent views of the tea-growing district known as "Hantane"—or climb the hills of Mattenapotana—an arduous climb—from whose heights the valley of Dumbara bursts into view in a blaze of glory. In the dim distance is the outline of the noble mountain known as "Knuckles".

In town, one of the chief objects of interest is the Dalada Maligawa or Temple of the Tooth. This is the heart of Kandy, and the Tooth of the Buddha is the heart of it.

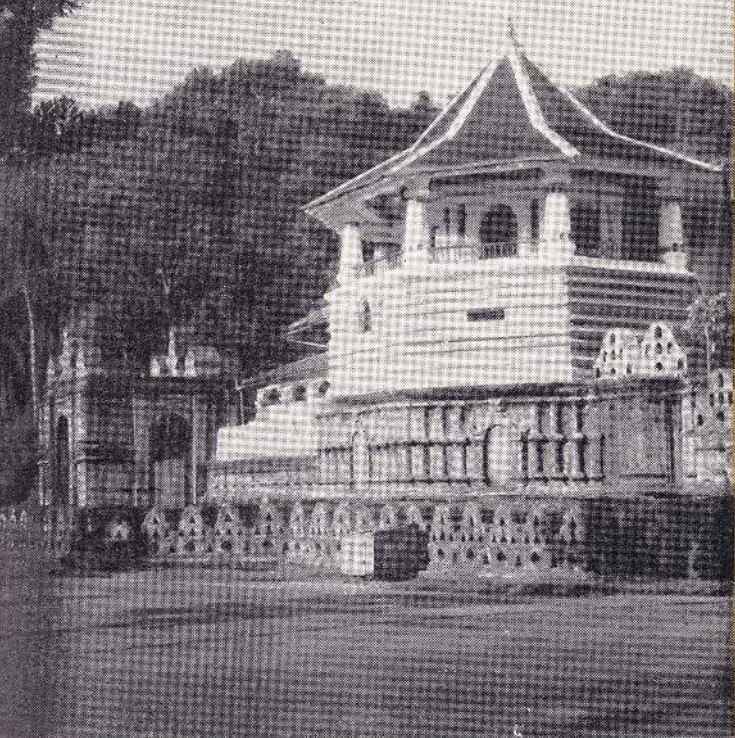
The relic came from India sixteen centuries ago, and moved from capital to capital always with the king. It is rarely shown and never leaves the temple. The temple and the Pattirippuwa, which is the octagonal building on the right of the main entrance, are enclosed by an ornamental stone wall and a moat. Upon entering, you pass through a small quadrangle and turn to the right, up a flight of stone steps, to the temple. The most striking features that attract one's attention are the unusual carvings, brightly coloured frescoes representing torments for various classes of sinners, and many images of the Buddha. The flower-sellers are ranged on either side and the atmosphere is heavy with the perfume of the white blossoms. Yellow-robed priests flit here and there, whilst the music of the temple bells and the rhythmic beat of the tom-tom fill the air with strange melodies that harmonize with the nature of the city. At the entrance to the sanctuary which contains the Sacred Tooth is an elaborate door, inlaid with silver and ivory, with two pairs of elephants' tusks on either side. Within this chamber is the huge silver-gilt, bell-shaped shrine that protects the Tooth. Inside this shrine are six inner shrines ornamented with precious stones of rare value.

The Octagon, or Pattirippuwa, was built shortly before the Kandyan Convention of 1815, by which Kandy was ceded to the British. After being a British military prison, it is now a library, mainly for ancient "olas"—manuscripts on palm-leaves—many of which are magnificently bound and are held in due reverence by pilgrims as containing the teachings of the Buddha. The finest thing artistically is in the small shrine beside the stairway of the Octagon—a crystal statue of the Buddha in a most attractive shrine-case.

Next door to the Tooth Temple is the Audience Hall where the Kandyan kings held court with all pomp and ceremony. The rich carvings on the







### THE OCTAGON, TEMPLE OF THE TOOTH

pillars and the wall plates are excellent examples of Kandyan architecture. It was in this Audience Hall that the last king of Kandy used to receive British ambassadors; it was also here that the submission to Britain was signed and Ceylon's independence in 1948 celebrated.

At the back of the Tooth Temple is the Museum which is closed on Fridays. It contains some excellent carvings rescued from outlying temples, and also the golden crown of a 17th century king of Kandy.

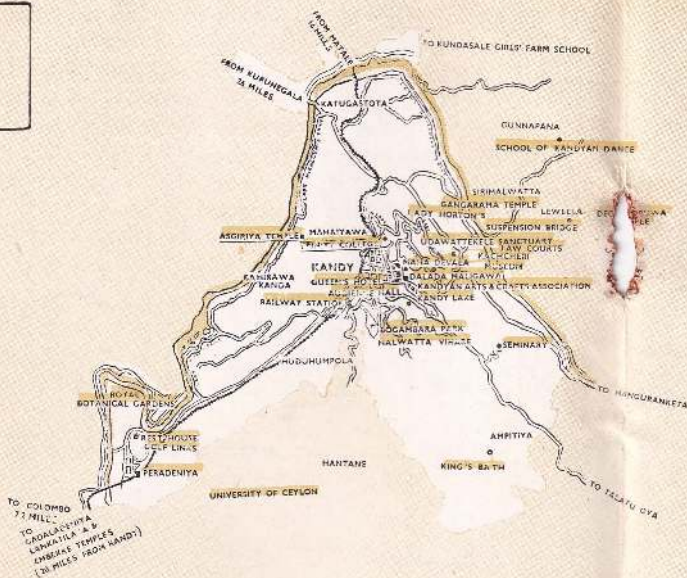
Near the Museum," along the Lake side, is the Kandyan Art Association. This is sponsored by the Government and the prices of articles are fixed. Embossed brass-and silver-work can be bought here and attractive woven materials, mats and lacquer-ware, while weaving can be seen in progress. To see lacquer-work being done, the Practical School at Idamagama should be visited. The Lake is Kandy's chief glory. It is said to have been made by Sri Wickrama Raja Sinha, the last king of Kandy. There is an interesting story that the king banished refractory wives to the small island with its picturesque arch that is so conspicuous a feature of the Lake.

In the outskirts of Kandy are places of interest well worth a visit. No visitor to Kandy ever fails to visit the famous Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya. One hundred and fifty acres in extent, they contain a marvellous collection of specimens of the flora of the whole tropical world, as well as a herbarium of Ceylon plants.

#### KANDYAN CHIEF AND HIS RETINUE







## AREA MAP OF KANDY



## KANDY TOWN

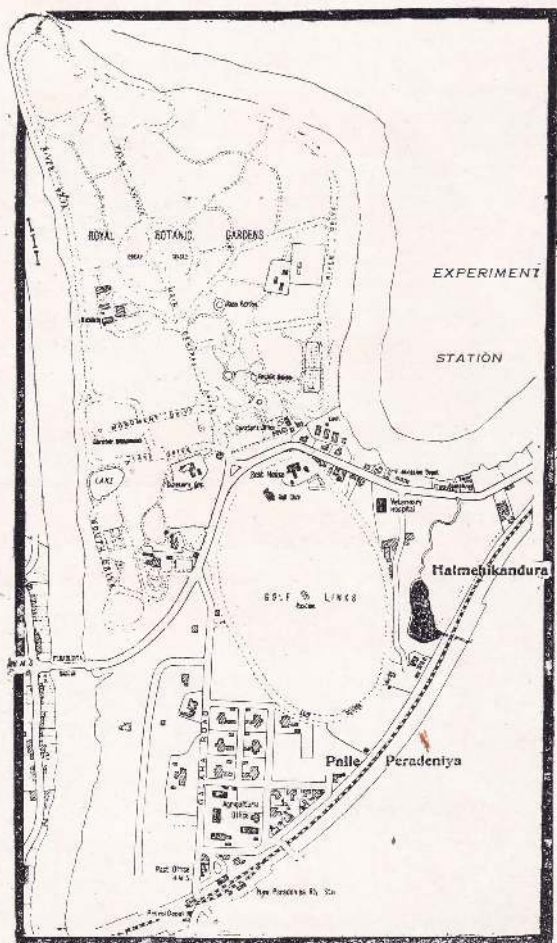




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AP OF KANDY



PERADENIYA TOWN



(Top) **LANKATILAKA TEMPLE**

(Bottom) **ELEPHANTS BATHING AT KATUGASTOTA**





Situated at an elevation of 1,570 feet in a most equable climate, these Gardens possess an unequalled luxuriance of exotic vegetation. There are four-and-a-half miles of drives open to cars, and one-and-a-half miles of intersecting paths, dotted with mysterious bowers wherein cluster masses of flowers and orchids of loveliness unsurpassed.

A striking feature is their vast sweeping lawns bordered by memorial trees planted in commemoration of royal visits. The Gardens are surrounded on three sides by the Mahaweli-ganga, the longest river in Ceylon. Tall and feathery bamboos line the water's edge. The Palm Avenue contains one of the finest collection of



palms in the tropics. Most interesting of this group are the Areca, the toddy-yielding Kitul, the handsome Royal, the Cabbage and the giant Talipot palms.

The most modern feature of the Gardens is the floricultural section, including the Octagon House, the Orchid House, the flower garden (begun in 1896), the Pergola and espaliers for climbers, the collection of hibiscus, crotons and cannas. An attractive collection of bougainvillaeas occupies the top bank of this section. The spice collection adjoins the flower garden, and includes fine old nutmeg trees dating from 1846, cinnamon, cloves, cardamom, cassia bark

and aromatic herbs. There are also delightful glades through which the filtered sunlight penetrates through canopies of leaves to trace lace-like patterns on the cool earth.

Here nature asserts herself almost uncontrolled. She gives us grandeur of form, wealth of foliage, exuberance of growth and splendour of colour—unfading beauties, but of a quite different kind from those of the sweet summer gardens of England.

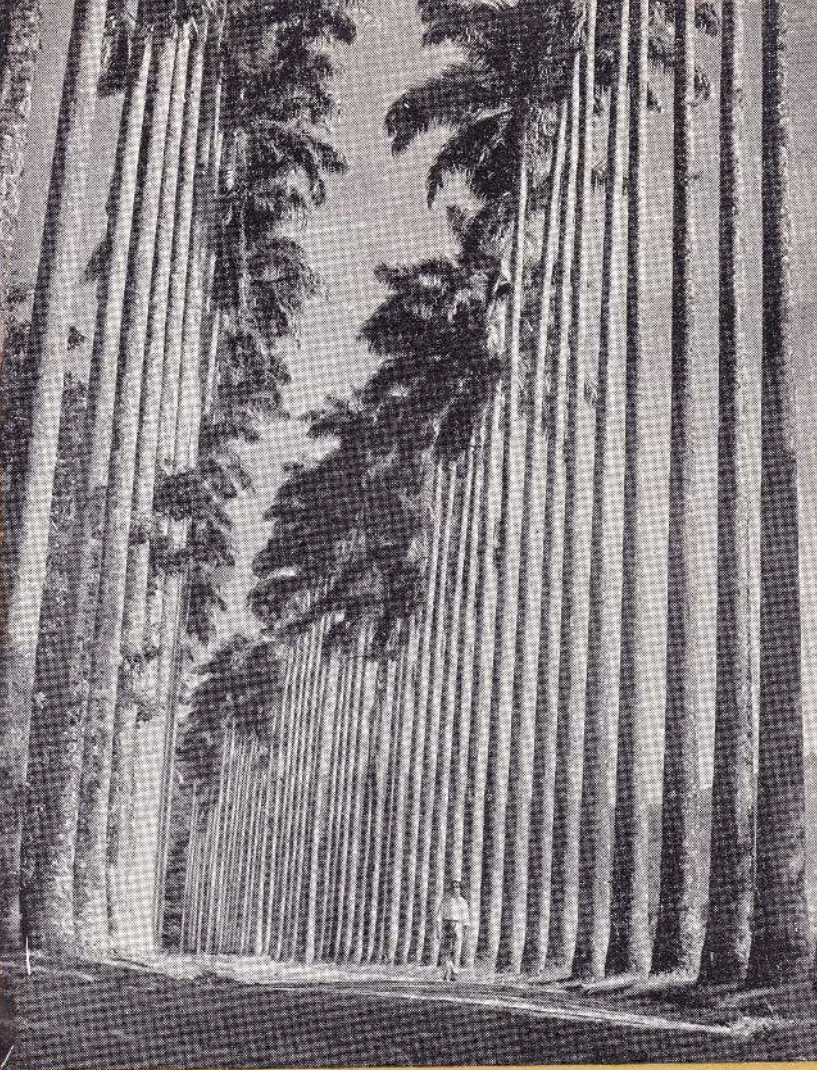
The new buildings of the University of Ceylon may also be seen under construction at Peradeniya. They have been planned in the national tradition by Sir Patrick Abercrombie, the famous architect and designer of Greater London, and will, when completed, hold first rank of their kind in aesthetic magnificence. The site has been splendidly conceived on an eminence by the broad sweep of the Mahaweli.

Seven miles east of Kandy on the Teldeniya Road is Kundasale, the site of the first Girls' Farm School in the Island. Here girls go through an intensive course in scientific farming.

The famous Kandy Perahera, perhaps the most glamorous pageant in the East, is held in August, and lasts as a rule for twelve days of which the last ones are the most interesting. It is then that all roads lead to Kandy. Richly caparisoned elephants, tom-tom beaters, Kandyan dancers, and chieftains in jewelled costumes walking in stately procession, all combine to make this the most spectacular pageant that can be seen anywhere.

It has been said that Kandy is a town of temples and monasteries. It could not be otherwise in the home of the most venerated shrine to millions of Buddhists the world over. These monasteries and temples are objects of interest not merely to Buddhists but even to students of art, who will find in them examples of exquisite carving and elaborate architecture. Embekke Devala in Kandy and the Lankatillake Temple on the outskirts of Kandy are well worth a visit. The former is dedicated to Kataragam, the Forest God of War, whilst the latter has the reputation of being the most beautiful of all Kandyan Temples.





**CABBAGE PALM AVENUE—PERADENIYA GARDENS**

**ENTRANCE—LANKATILAKA  
TEMPLE**



**MODERN CARVING ON  
KANDYAN TEMPLE**



# *Kandyan*

## **Natha Devale**

Opposite the Tooth Temple. The stone sanctuary is the oldest building in Kandy, built five centuries ago when Kandy was founded ; it is dedicated to the next Buddha to come to the world. The gateway from it to the north is old, with good sculpture. The compound may be entered without removing one's shoes ; it has a dagoba and a bo-tree, sapling of that at Anuradhapura.

## **Mahavishnu Devale**

Opposite that gateway, dedicated to Vishnu as the Protector of Ceylon (but it is a Buddhist Temple, not Hindu). There are two other devales in Kandy, less interesting.

## **Gangarama Temple**

One-and-a-half miles from the Tooth Temple by bus or car on the Lewella Road ; it is a good example of a rock temple, with a Buddha figure cut from the mother-rock.



# Temples

## Gadaladeniya Temple

This and the next two make one trip, about twenty miles in all by bus or car, but with about three miles on foot in addition. They are of the same date as the Natha Devale. The stone carving is good: the triple monolithic pillars in the porch are curious. The upper storey has a fine view.

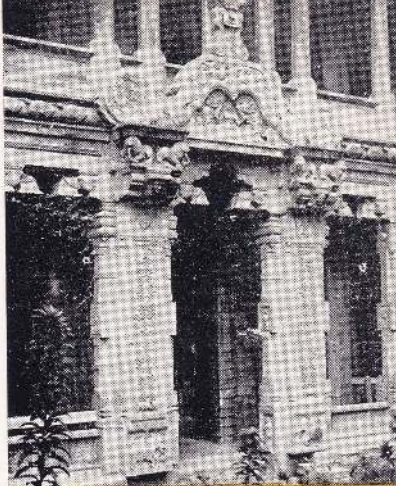
## Lankatillake Temple

To reach this you cross rice-terraces from the road, typical of the hill country. The architecture is very attractive; there are some good paintings, especially near the Buddha statue.

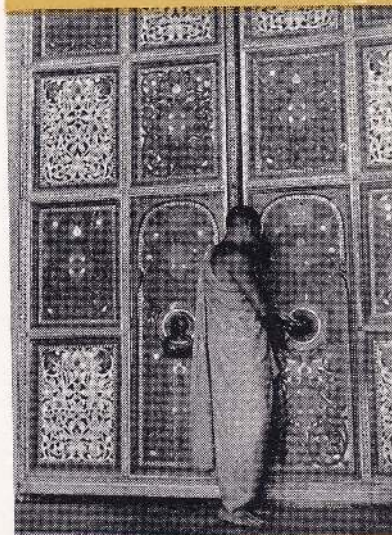
## Embekke Devale

This is a mile from the road, but well worth the walk. It is a devale dedicated to Kataram, the Forest God of War. Exquisite wood carvings are a feature of Embekke Devale. The Kandy Audience Hall was copied from its vestibule; every face of every pillar has different carvings, most of them excellent. Metal work is done here.

(Text by Annesley de Silva, Director, Government Tourist Bureau. Issued by the Government Tourist Bureau. Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo, 1953.)



ENTRANCE TO NEW WING  
OF DALADA MALIGAWA



DOORWAY—LANKATILAKA  
TEMPLE

(Back Cover) TALIPOT PALMS—  
PERADENIYA GARDENS

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