

## Focus and Scope : Sri Lanka - Galle District

### Focus: Karapitiya Teaching Hospital

The Karapitiya Teaching Hospital (KTH) is the hospital serving the Galle district which occupies an area of 1,652 Km<sup>2</sup> with an estimated population of 1,147,000 for 2021 giving it a population density of 694.3/Km<sup>2</sup>. The district consists of 19 Divisional Secretariat Divisions (DSDs) and 895 Grama Niladhari Divisions (GNDs). Every DSD, except for three DSDs, has at least one health facility (private or government). However, 44.7% of GNDs are 5 or more km from a health facility.

The Karapitiya hospital, was built as a General hospital in 1981 and thereafter it was affiliated as a Teaching Hospital to the medical faculty of the Ruhuna University. There are four orthopaedic surgeons/units at the KTH that take part in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and training in allied health services.

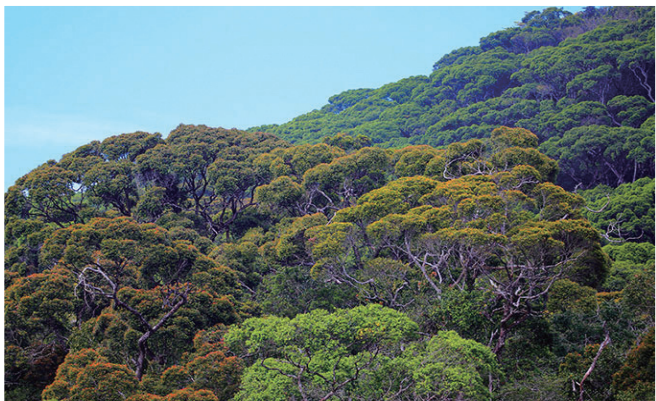
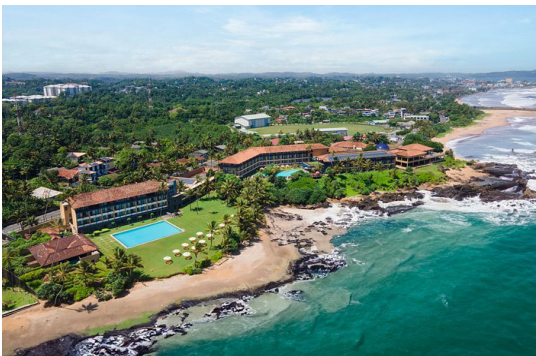
KTH covers the full spectrum of emergency and elective orthopaedic surgery. The total bed strength of the orthopaedic units is ninety, of which 70 beds are in orthopaedic wards and 20 are in general surgical casualty wards. There is an Accident Service Unit, which comprises an intensive care unit, theatre complex and two short stay wards. On average there are about 15 casualty admissions daily and about 30 orthopaedic admissions weekly.

The KTH has one dedicated theatre for orthopaedics which runs, 07 theater lists for a week from 8 am to 7 pm with an average of 6 six cases being done per day. There is a daily post causality list from 8am to 1pm and an average of three cases are done each day. There are four orthopaedic clinics per week treating approximately 150 patients per clinic day.

### Scope: Land and the people...

The district takes the rough shape of a triangle. Its base starts South of the Benthara river on the Southwestern coast line and extends approximately 75 km to Ahangama. Its tip extends almost a similar distance inland to end in the Sinharaja Forrest Reserve, a world heritage UNESCO site.

The city of Galle came into prominence during the period of the Portuguese rule (1505 onwards) and remains pretty much as a commercial city. It became the main city under the Dutch occupation, till, the advent of the British in the 18th century. The KTH is about 5km inland from the Galle Fort, which was built under the Portuguese and was occupied by the Dutch and then the British. It is considered a UNESCO world heritage site and is now a worldwide tourist destination with Boutique and Villa occupation offered in the 'original/renovated' buildings inside the Fort itself. The Martin Wickramasinghe (one of the foremost novelists of Sri Lanka) Folk Museum, situated in Koggala is about 20 km West from the KTH; houses an impressive collection of native folk art and gives a glimpse as to how life would have been in the past. Moving back to modern times is the Lighthouse Hotel, one of the last major projects under taken by Geoffrey Bawa- a world renowned architect-who was instrumental in influencing the architectural landscape of South East-Asia. The entry into the hotel features a spiral staircase with intricate bronze and copper sculpture depicting the 'Battle of Randeniwela', between the Sinhalese and the Portuguese in 1630, designed by Laki Senanayake, a sculptor and artist who did a lot of collaborative work with Geoffrey Bawa.





Main Photo - Galle Fort ramparts. Starting clockwise from bottom right: Outer gate entrance to the Fort, Singharaja Forest scenery and trekking, Koggala lake, Birth house of Martin Wickramasinghe at the Martin Wickramasinghe Folk Museum, Lighthouse Hotel, spiral stairway - entrance Light-house Hotel.

