

Tee in Paradise

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From the fourth hole the scenery grew alongside the rippling waters of the Victoria Reservoir that held reflections of the banking hills. The eighth hole opened the golf course's view of the Knuckles mountain range. In Nuwara Eliya, the atmosphere danced with the on and off drizzles, its golf course was lush even through the ages and we could sense the enthusiasm on hearing the swipe of club against ball echo through hollow spaces. And then there was the Royal Colombo, a golf course in the midst of the city; yet, who would remember that rush hour ever existed just beyond this peaceful vicinity?

Words Sonali Kadurugamuwa Photographs Menaka Aravinda | Mahesh Prasantha

Inspiring the Tee

500 plus acres of green blanketed landscapes that inspire and challenge even the most discerning of golfers, Victoria Golf course in Digana is a combination of luxury, adventure and revelation.

Breathtaking panoramic views from every tee position themselves, it seems, to captivate and indulge each strike, on hand, as "fore!" is bellowed into the mountains cresting the fairways. The sixth hole, that feels the most challenging of all tees towers a 100ft above both the front and back nine and appears to top the thrill of any player's experience.

The clubhouse, restaurant and tranquil chalets are set just past the first tee that even non-golfers use as a restful Country Resort to while away their vacations. Whether golfing beside the assistance of obliging caddies, choosing the right equipment at the Pro shop, horse riding amidst picturesque terrain, mountain biking amongst trails that stretch into curiosity-bitten discovery or even bird watching, the possibilities are part and parcel of Victoria's escapade that never ceases to please.

A par 73 course and set to USGA standards, Victoria is as plush as the name itself and was voted 'one of the 100 most beautiful golf courses in the world' by Golf Digest Magazine and 'number one in the Asian subcontinent' - Asian Golf Monthly.

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