Mount Lavinia

In this week’s Trip, we headed to Mount Lavinia, a beach strip that has been accessible all our lives and a place that never fails to offer the best of island life. On a weekend, this beach strip is easily as crowded and as happening as those in Hikkaduwa and Unawatuna but on a week day, it is much more and an ideal place to take a walk or just chill out after a long day at work.

Walking along the beach you are bound to encounter small stalls selling a variety of things, including treats such as spicy achcharu, beach shorts and even toys.

La Voile Blanche

This white themed restaurant on Mount beach cannot be missed. With white picket fences, white roof and white furniture to complete its picture, La Voile Blanche is a unique restaurant.

Hamburgers and the American cuisine which includes homemade burgers and various seafood dishes which range from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1200.

The three signature drinks served at La Voile Blanche are: the Tamarind martini, Framboise, and the Espresso martini. Tamarind martini is one of the best cocktails offered here.

The prices on the extensive drinks menu range from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1200.

La Voile Blanche is open from 9 a.m. and serves Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.

S. Thomas’ College

A thought not part of the sandy shores of Mount Lavinia, S. Thomas’ College plays an important role in the history of this area. Started by Bishop Capon in 1817, the college was first located next to the Christ Church in Mount Lavinia. In 1941, the school was moved to its present location located College Avenue in Mount Lavinia.

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Our guide for this trip was Prin. Sherwani Synon, the Principal of the college, who took us on a tour of the campus and shared some of the interesting stories associated with the college.

The college was established in 1851 by the British government and the governor was sent to Malta, where he was restored to health. In 1900, the college was opened to the public and the name was changed to “S. Thomas’ College.”

The college has a long history and has produced many notable alumni, including Sir Robert Brownrigg, Sir Edmond Banerjee and Sir Edward Barnes, among many others.

Mount Lavinia Hotel

We started off our walk from the Mount Lavinia Hotel, the grand old dame on the beach strip. Positioned on a rocky promontory, the hotel has been sculpted to the shape of an elephant.

In 1946, the premises was vacated and handed back to the school. In 1950, the premises was again handed over to the school, where it has been used as a military hospital. In 1994, the premises was again handed back to the school.

The attic space had cruised through the war within the school premises.

The plane had been shot in Galle Face but had fallen in the big club grounds. It was later moved to the Mount Lavinia Grand Hotel and even served as a military base and hospital during the Second World War.

The hotel houses a special museum where they store items used by the British government, pictures and various other items.

The Terrace offers a spectacular view of the Mount Lavinia beach and the coastline and is a dreamy haven of many who like to spend a half back day watching the sea. The scenic views on the menu is quite good, check it out when you next visit the hotel.

Lavinia Beach Resort

As we continued to walk down the beach strip in the hope of finding a place we stumbled upon Lavinia Beach Resort. What attracted us first was the name of the restaurant and the massive sign like object placed in front of it. The unique structure sent the tone for the place.

According to the proprietor of the restaurant, Harendra de Mel, the Lavinia Beach Resort started operation in 2009 and is a seafood restaurant that serves Sri Lankan cuisine and is perhaps the only one of its kind on Mount beach, as most restaurants tend to focus on international cuisine.

In the midst of the two places that serve breakfast on the beach and their elusive and hidden location, Lavinia Beach Resort stands out.

He added that at present they have a Mangalica food promotion during the month of August and is the only one in the city.

As a part of entertainment, a reggae band performs on the venue on Saturday nights.

Lavinia Beach Resort is open from 7 a.m. till 11 p.m.