



THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA
THURSDAY 29TH JULY 2021

“The Lost Forts of the VOC”

By H. M. Chryshane Mendis

The 136TH Session of the Monthly Lecture Series of the National Trust will be delivered online on Thursday 29th July 2021 at 6.30 pm. by Mr. H M Chryshane Mendis.

Link to lecture: <https://bit.ly/3e15bHE>

The period of the VOC or the Dutch East India Company in Sri Lanka, begins from around the mid-17th century till the end of the 18th century, and during their long presence in the littoral, they established numerous fortifications. Of these forts, there are about 20 remaining at present, several of which are very prominent heritage sites and tourist destinations. However, there were many more, as the numerous maps and archival documents attest. But where were they, and what was their fate? Using various sources of reference such as archival maps and official record of the VOC, in this lecture Chryshane Mendis, will explore these ‘lost’ forts of the VOC revealing their physical characteristics, histories, locations and role in the military landscape of Sri Lanka.



Chryshane Mendis is an old boy of St. Joseph’s College Colombo 10 having recently completed his MA Archaeology in Landscape and Heritage from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands with a thesis on a GIS inventorying and mapping of Dutch and Kandyan fortifications. He has conducted a comprehensive survey on the archaeological remains of the Fort of Colombo and has since been invited to deliver lectures to numerous organizations including The National Trust and the Sri Lanka Navy. He is also the author of an upcoming book documenting the history of Colombo’s fortifications. His academic interests are on ancient urbanism & fortifications, military architecture & landscape heritage and plans to pursue doctoral studies in Conflict Archaeology. He was also researcher and coordinator of Archaeology.lk through which he has published numerous articles. A member of ICOMOS (Sri Lanka), Chryshane is also the Secretary of its National Scientific Committee on Fortifications and Military Heritage.

The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures on the last Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the public. The HNB Sustainability Foundation is the principal sponsor of the events of the National Trust – Sri Lanka.

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel 2682730 / 0777397403