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## **Dutch Fort Gate- A Symbol Of Dutch Occupation In Sri Lanka**

Although several decades of war kept the globetrotters away from the island paradise of Sri Lanka, it seems that peace has finally graced the country, bringing relief to those who love this little island in the Indian Ocean. Famous for its graciously hospitable culture and friendly local population, Sri Lanka is also home to some of Asia's most fascinating tourist attractions such as the Sinharaja Rain Forest, Adams Peak and the pristine beaches of Unawatuna.

Although Negombo does not compare well in its offerings to some of the top destinations in the country such as Hikkaduwa, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura and Kandy, the city has its very own distinct character which attracts thousands of visitors. Being a small coastal town located minutes away from the Bandaranayke International Airport, Negombo is famous for its golden sandy beaches and mouthwatering seafood which is the most distinctive feature of local cuisine.

Constructed in 1644, the Old Dutch Fort Gate is an iconic tourist attraction and one of the most recognizable landmarks in Negombo. After the Dutch completely destroyed the Portuguese Fort which was on the same location, they began



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building their own fort which was to be better than the Portuguese version as it was designed in the shape of a pentagon. Located close to a lagoon, the Dutch Fort Gate stands proudly as a memorial of the Dutch occupation and the influence it had on the country.

After Governor Rumpf visited the fort upon his arrival to the island, it was his wish that the decaying structure be renovated and given a new lease of life. Upon his orders several key modifications were made to the fort to make it much more effective. After the height of the walls was increased, new watchtowers were also added to the fort. After the final modifications were made and the fort was ready in the eyes of Governor Rumpf, A painting was created in 1720 to capture the beauty of the structure.

Today, however, only ruins of this fort can be seen as the British invaders destroyed the structure with the remains of which they built a prison.

Jetwing Blue Oceanic is an ideal Negombo hotel offering comfortable accommodation to the travelers of today. This hotel Negombo Sri Lanka is also famous for its outstanding service and proximity to the beach.

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