



## ST. BENEDICTS MONASTERY ADISHAM, HAPUTHALE, SRI LANKA

Adisham is a stately stone mansion build in 1931 by Sir Thomas Lister Villiers, an English planter. Beautifully situated, in tranquil surroundings, Adisham is certainly a “must see” for those holiday makers or chance visitors, who haunt the hills from time to time in search of a peaceful resort, far from the madding crowds and the heat of the city.

The sturdy rock like fortress, surrounding by undulating hills, far as the eye can see, contains many items that normal visitors are unfamiliar with, which accounts for the large number of guest who seek admissions whenever the gates are open.

Carefully cultivated flower garden, Burma teak shingles that cover the roof, antique furniture and a well planted-out construction are a few of the attractions that Adisham offers to sight seers.

The mansion was purchased by the SYLVESTRO BENEDICTINE monks in 1961 to serve as their novitiate, where those who seek to enter the monastic life are trained. The motto of St. Benedict, highlighted in his rule for monks, is what the community seeks to follow at Adisham; “Ora et Labora” .

Maintenance of the monastery and those who reside here has to be met with funds that are earned by the monks themselves. Hence the jam products and the produce from the farm.

Maintenance of the Monastery garden which retains its old English charm, with well preserved lawns, beautiful flower beds, evergreens, and majestic trees, is also a costly affair, and is managed by funds collected at the gate, and is therefore not a mere commercial venture.

Visitors are welcome to visit the monastery from 9.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m only the Weekends (Saturday, Sunday and Poya Days and public holidays) (except Good Friday & Christmas day) what is accessible to visitors is only a limited area, with a video show that gives our guest and idea of the interior of the building.

Visitors will be obliged to obtain a handout at the gate to help defray the cost of maintenance of the monastery and its environs.

**Noblesse Oblige**