

Ramayana Package

07 Nights & 08 Days



Day 01

Arrive at Airport. (BIA)

Arrive at Colombo International Airport. Here, you will be met by an airport representative. After the formalities at the airport, you will be escorted to your air-conditioned vehicle and then proceed to check in to your hotel.

Optional - Visit Galle face green – at leisure.

Overnight stay at your hotel in Colombo.

Day 02

Colombo – Chilaw – Anuradhapura

After early breakfast proceed to Chilaw.

En route visit Chilaw Munishwaram Temple & Manavari Temple

Visit Muneshwaram Temple.



Visit Muneshwaram Legend: Lord Rama after his victorious battle left for Ayodhya in one of King Ravana's Vimanas. He felt he was being followed by Bramahathi Dosham as he killed King Ravana who was a Brahmin. He stopped the Vimana at this juncture because he felt at this place the "Bramahathi Dosham" was not following him. He descended from the Vimana and asked God Shiva for a remedy. God Shiva blessed Lord Rama and advised him to install and pray four lingams in Manavari, Thirukoneshwaram, Thiruketheeswaram and Rameshwaram in India, as the only remedy to get rid of the Dosham.

Manavari Temple

When the Vimana was passing over Munishwaram, he felt the Vimana vibrating, and realized the Brahmaasti Dosham was not following him at this particular point. He stopped the Vimana at this juncture and asked god Lord Shiva for advice. Lord Shiva blessed Lord Rama and advised installing and praying at four lingams located at Manavari, Thiru Koneshwaram, Thiru Ketheshwaram and Rameshwaram in India as the only remedy to get rid of the dosham.

The first lingam was installed at Manavari about 5km from here, near the banks of the Deduru Oya. At the Manavari Temple Chilaw Manavari is the first lingam installed and prayed by Rama and till date this lingam is called as Ramalinga Shivan. Rameshwaram is the only other lingam in world named after Lord Rama.

Check in to the hotel and relax.

Overnight stay at your hotel in Anuradhapura.

Day 03

Anuradhapura – Mannar – Jaffna

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel. Today you will visit Jaffna.

Visit Baobab Tree Pallimunai, Mannar

This tree is said to have been brought to Sri Lanka by Arab traders several centuries ago. In a study conducted in 2003, the tree was found to be more than 700 years old. It is one of around 40 surviving baobab trees in the country, all of which are protected because of the species' rarity.

Visit the Ketheeswaram Temple



The Ketheeswaram temple (alternatively called Thiruketheeswaram) is an ancient Hindu kovil located in Man nar, in Sri Lanka's Northern Province. It is one of the island's Pancha Ishwarams (a group of five ancient coastal kovils that were built around the perimeter of Sri Lanka) that were dedicated to the Hindu supreme being Ishawara in the form of the god Shiva. The temple overlooks the ancient Tamil port towns of Manthai and Kudiramalai.

After that proceed to Jaffna.

Visit Nallur Temple



Nallur Temple, In 948 A.D. Bhuvanekabhahu, the chief minister to Chola Kulangai Arya, built the Nallur Temple in Kurukkal Valavu in the town of Nallur for the first time to worship Lord Kumaran. However, in 1450, the General of Parakramabahu, Senbaha Perumal conquered Jaffna and demolished the temple. To make amends for his action he rebuilt the temple in 1457 in Muthirai Chanthai. When Jaffna was invaded by the

Portuguese the temple underwent demolition. Later it was built for the third time in Muthirai Chanthai. When Jaffna was under the rule of the Dutch, the Nallur Temple, and Jaffna was built in the original site that is in Kurukkal Valavu by Krishna Subbiah and Ragunatha Mapana Muthaliyar.

Visit Maviddapuram Murugan Temple.



According to legend Maviddapuram has had a Hindu shrine for 5,000 years. According to another legend, an 8th-century Chola princess Mathurapuraveeravalli, daughter of Tissai Ughra Cholan, the King of Madurai, was afflicted with a persistent intestinal disorder as well as facial disfigurement which made her face look like a horse. She was advised by a priest/sage to bathe in the freshwater spring at Keerimalai. After bathing in the spring Mathurapuraveeravalli's illness and disfigurement vanished. In gratitude she renovated a Hindu shrine, located in Kovil Kadavai about two kilometers south east of the spring, into a full temple honouring the Hindu god Murugan (Skanda). The King of Madurai sent sculptors, artists, building material, granite, statues, gold, silver etc. to assist with the renovation. The temple's statue of Kankesan (Murugan) was brought via the port of Gayathurai which was later renamed Kankesanthurai.

Visit Keerimalai Naguleswaram Temple.



Keerimalai Naguleswaram Temple which is also known as Keerimalai Naguleswaram Kovil is dedicated to main deity in Shaivism namely Lord Siva. This temple is one of the five ancient Sivan temples in Sri Lankais situated close to the well-known mineral water spring called Keerimalai springs which believed to have healing power. This temple has a bitter history of Portuguese occupation in Sri Lanka. Transfer to Hotel.

Check in to the hotel and relax.

Overnight stay at your hotel in Jaffna.

Day 04

Jaffna

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel.

Visit Nagapoosani Temple.



Nagapoosani Temple (Nainatheevu), Jaffna: The Nagapoosani Temple (Nainatheevu) is a must visit while Sightseeing in Jaffna. This ancient temple is resided by a 5 headed cobra. This shrine was constructed by the Nagas. The Nagapoosani Temple (Nainatheevu) in Jaffna was built to worship the Serpent God.

En-route visit Illathu Chidambaram Temple.

Visit Maruthanamadam Anjaneyar Temple



Maruthanamadam Anjaneyar Temple is a sacred Hindu temple in the town of Uduvil. The temple attracts many devotees for its religious significance, peaceful ambiance and vivid sculptures of mythical creatures. An imposing 72-foot statue of God Hanuman, a warrior monkey, stands high within the vibrant temple. The statue was transported from India, and established in the year 2013

Visit Selvasannithy Murugan Temple



Selvasannithy is revered as Sella Katirkāmam of the North. This temple of Śrī Murugan at Thondaimannaru is about 20 miles north of Jaffna Town. Here too, as at Kathirkamam, a free atmosphere for worship pervades. Persons of various walks of life congregate here for tarisanam of the youthful Muruga Vel, installed at this blessed Sannittanam (Selva Sannitti).

The origin of this sthalam, which is not so very ancient, is known history. The waters of Thondaimannaru (teertham where fresh water outflows into the sea) flowing past the site, elevates the location to a sthalam blessed with the triple adjuncts of tīrtham, sthalam and mūrti. This is a water way that is said to have been excavated under the supervision of Karunagaran Thondaiman. He was sent here for procurement of salt supplies by Kulathunga Cholan, who reigned in Chola Nadu. The temple by the side of the newly cut waterway was the place of worship of the settlement that will founded in the locality. The temple however suffered the fate of devastation like all other Hindu temples, in the hands of the forgiveness in the 16th century, Later, during the era of revival of Hinduism in Jaffna, a temple was erected at the site, but differences among the management hindered its proper function.

Return to the hotel and relax.

Overnight stay at your hotel in Jaffna.

Day 05

Jaffna – Trincomalee

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel. Today you will visit Trincomalee.

Trincomalee is a port city on the northeast coast of Sri Lanka. Set on a peninsula, Fort Frederick was built by the Portuguese in the 17th century. Within its grounds, the grand Koneswaram Temple stands on Swami Rock cliff, a popular vantage point for blue whale watching. The holy complex contains ornate shrines and a massive statue of Shiva. Nearby Gokanna Temple has panoramic views over the city and the coastline.

On arrival visit Koneswaram Temple.



Koneswaram temple of Trincomalee (also historically known as the Thirukonamamalai Konesar Kovil, the Temple of the Thousand Pillars and Thiru-Konamamalai Maccakeswaram Kovil) is a Hindu temple in Trincomalee, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka venerated by Saivites throughout the continent. It is built atop Swami Rock, a rocky promontory cape overlooking Trincomalee, a classical period harbour port town. Visit Shankari

Temple The famed SHANKARI Temple, in Sri Lanka, is one of the 18 Devi Temples (Ashta Dasha Shakti Peethas). Many have heard the Ashtadasha Shakti Peetha Shloka starting with LANKAAYAAM SHAANKARI DEVI, composed by Sri Adi Shankara which means Shankari in Lanka. This Shloka enumerates the list of places of Devi temples which are considered.

About Shankari Devi Temple

The famed SHANKARI Temple, in Sri Lanka, is one of the 18 Devi Temples (Ashta Dasha Shakti Peethas). Many have heard the Ashtadasha Shakti Peetha Shloka starting with LANKAAYAAM SHAANKARI DEVI..... - composed by Sri Adi Shankara which means Shankari in Lanka. This Shloka enumerates the list of places of Devi temples which are considered to be part of the 18 Devi Peethas.

But almost nobody in Sri Lanka knew of any famous Devi Temple in the country. Even on Internet, not much authentic information was available. The temple is said to be in the famed town of Trincomalee on the eastern coast.

The Temple of Sri Shankari Devi according to the priest's in Trincomalee, say that the Portuguese who invaded the island in the 17th century completely cannon balled from their ship and demolished the cliff top Devi temple. In its site stands alone pillar, as a mute spectator. The present Shiva temple which is quite well known locally than the Shankari Temple was a recent construction.

The Shiva is called as TRIKONESHVARA (Probably because it is in Trincomalee which is truly TRI CONA MALAI- meaning triangle shaped hill). There is a small Devi Shrine built adjacent the Shiva temple. The famed Bilva tree which is perched right on the edge of the hill some hundred meters above the Indian Ocean. It is an exhilarating and spectacular sight to behold. All round, silence reflects which is needed most in this war torn nation rightfully called as a paradise. There is also a more famous Kali temple in the heart of the town to which devotees can make a visit en route from the Shankari Temple.

Visit Kanniya Hot Springs



The Kanniya Hot Springs is a site with hot wells located in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. There are seven wells in a square shape. Wells are only 3–4 feet deep and you can clearly see the bottom. The temperature is considerably high but vary slightly from one spring to another. Wells run out of water, when 10-15 buckets of water are taken out.

Check in to the hotel and relax

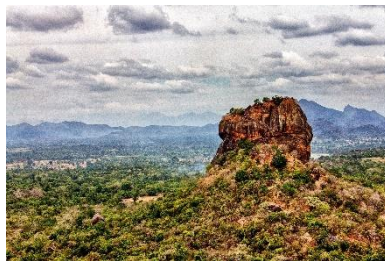
Overnight stay at your hotel in Trincomalee.

Day 06

Trincomalee – Dambulla – Kandy

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel. Today you will visit Kandy

Sigiriya Rock Fortress (Photo Stop 20 Mins)



Sigiriya Rock Fortress: Called by many names including “The Lion Rock” for its initial name of “Sinhagiri”, Sigiriya is near the town of Dambulla and is a colossal column of rock nearly 200m high. It was a royal citadel for 18 years (477-495) when it was fortified by King Kasyapa. The architectural and irrigational technologies of Sigiriya, such as the Water Gardens, still baffle engineers. The climb up steep steps of metal with railings passes a wall decorated with frescoes of bare-breasted women. Art experts consider them unique.

Apart from the history books, many noted historians believe Sigiriya to have a connection with Ramayana's Ravana. It is believed that the plateau top was the site of Ravana's majestic palace, made of solid gold and crafted by Kubera, the God of Wealth, around 50 centuries ago. One look at the site, and you would know how big an architectural feat this place must have been. With around 1000 stairs to the top, it used to have a lift for Ravana and his visitors to get to the top. Imagine this place with a lift that worked some 50 centuries ago! Would have surely given Tesla a run for money back then. If you look closely towards the bottom of this rock plateau, you will find a number of caves. As believed, one of these caves is where Ravana imprisoned Sita, after abducting her. This story can very well be true for the cave walls have (still) brightly-coloured paintings, depicting scenes from the age of Ramayana. Other than that, you will spot a number of women portraits, believed to be portraits of the many wives of Ravana.

Visit the Spice Garden in Matale



Spice Garden: See why Sri Lanka became a globally popular country for its herbs and spices. The environment possesses excellent conditions for growing cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg, peppercorn, and other flavorful delights. Learn about the process of growing these natural products using ecologically friendly methods. At the end of your visit, stop in the souvenir shop to purchase some exotic spices from the source. The attraction offers

free transport wherever needed between the city and the estate. Note that the law strictly forbids harming cinnamon trees.

Visit Sri Muthumariamman Temple.



Near to the main road through Matale, the Muthumariamman Hindu temple is a tall, exuberantly decorated structure that can be easily seen from afar. The prominent towers, called Gopurams, boast hundreds of detailed sculptures, in a rich mosaic of colour. These Gopurams structures can be seen in other Hindu temples across the island, as well as in Southern India. Dedicated to the Hindu goddess of Mariamman, the 'muthu' prefix translates as 'pearl' and indicates the goddess's original association with fertility, but today Mariamman is the deity celebrated as the protector of diseases such as smallpox and the bringer of rains.

Kandy

Lying amidst the hills, Kandy is the last capital of the ancient kings of Sri Lanka. While being the second-largest city in Sri Lanka it is also famous for its immense beauty and is named as one of the seven UNESCO-declared World Heritage sites in the country. With its luxuriant prairie, picturesque lake, longest river of the country and misty mountains, Kandy successfully mesmerizes every visitor unsurprisingly.

Experience the Kandy Cultural Show. – **Optional – Subject to availability & Timing.**



The Kandy Cultural Show gives an opportunity to experience some of the traditions of Sri Lanka. Enjoy this hour-long extravaganza as some of the most popular art forms of the island take to the stage. Be wowed by fire dancers and sword dancers. Watch the colorful Kandyan dancers take to the air to the thrumming primal beat of the drums.

Visit The Temple of the Sacred Tooth



The Temple of the Sacred Tooth (Sri Dalada Maligawa) was originally built by the Kandyan Kings in 1595, to house and honor the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha. Attracting crowds of white-clad pilgrims bearing lotus flowers for means of worship, the Maligawa features a myriad of intricate carvings that speak volumes of the architectural values of Kandy. Today the City of Kandy is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in part because of the Temple of the tooth relic.

Check in to the hotel and relax.

Overnight stay at your hotel in Kandy.

Day 07

Kandy – Nuwara Eliya

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel. Today you will visit Nuwara Eliya.

Explore the City of Kandy

Sightseeing in *Kandy, including Upper Lake Drive, Market Crafts Centre, and Gem Museum. Kandy the hill capital, venue of the annual Perahera The last stronghold of the Sinhala Kings was finally ceded to the British in 1815.

Visit Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya



This majestic botanical garden is 147 acres in extent and was started in 1374 as a pleasure garden of the Kings of Gampola and Kandy. There are more than 5,000 species of trees, plants and creepers. Some which are rare and endemic, as well as flora from the tropical world, are found in the gardens. The Spice Garden and Orchid House are popular with tourists. There are 5 Palm Avenues beautifying the gardens, the earliest and tallest, Royal Palm Avenue, was

planted in 1905 and the Double Coconuts from the Seashells Island, with the largest seed of all plants in the world, is one such avenue

Visit Sri Bhaktha Hanuman Temple



Sri Bhaktha Hanuman Temple: According to the legend, this is where Hanuman searched for Sita in the jungles above and behind the temple. There is also said to be a pond - the 'Sita Tear Pond' - here, which was formed from Sita's tears. The temple itself is one of the more enterprising establishments devoted to this legend and contains a granite statue of Lord Hanuman that is said to be over 40 feet tall. It is believed that Lord Hanuman was

searching for Sitadevi from these hills of Ramboda. The Ramboda area is believed to be an area where Rama's forces were gathered against Ravana.

Learn about Tea Production.



The production of tea involves a tedious procedure of plucking, withering, rolling, oxidizing and drying – a process that requires heavy machines and plenty of manpower. Once in the tea factory, you would generally start out in the plantation itself to learn about how tea is cultivated, then visit the factory where ancient machines pre-dating the industrial revolution wither, roll and dry the tea. There is normally a little time at the end of the tour

for a tea tasting, either of one specific type of tea or occasionally of the various specialties' of that factory.

En route visit Seetha Amman Temple



Seetha Amman temple the stream that runs from the hill, catered to the needs of Sitadevi during her stay at Ashok Vatika. She is said to have bathed in this stream. About a century ago of three idols was discovered in the stream, one of which was that of Sita. It is believed that the idols have been worshipped at this spot for centuries. Now there is temple for Lord Rama, Sitadevi, Luxshmana, and Hanuman by the side of this stream. It is interesting

to note that footprints akin to Lord Hanuman's are found by this river and some are of small size and some are of large size, which tells us of the immense powers of hanuman transforming himself into any size.

Overnight stay at your hotel in Nuwara Eliya.

Day 08

Nuwara Eliya – Kataragama

Optional – Yala National Park



Yala is Sri Lanka's most famous national park. Forming a total area of 1268 sq. km of scrub, light forest, grassy plains and brackish lagoons, it's very rich in wildlife and you're virtually certain to encounter elephants, crocodiles, buffaloes and monkeys. The highlight of a successful safari in Yala is the sight of the Sri Lankan Leopard: very elusive yet such a majestic sight. Morning safari goers have a better chance in getting a glimpse of the leopards as they come out to go in search of water and food.

On arrival in Kataragama, Visit Murugan Temple, Kataragama



Kataragama a popular pilgrimage destination frequented by adherents of all religions in Sri Lanka. The main shrine devoted to Skanda popularly described in eulogies as God having six faces and twelve arms whose assistance is sought for worldly gain. The history of the shrine dates to 2 century BC. The annual procession held in July or August is the main event of the shrine with fire walkers and Kawadi dancers.

Check into the hotel and relax

Overnight stay at your hotel in Kataragama.

Day 09

Kataragama – Airport

After early breakfast Proceed to the Airport for your departure flight back home with all the memories you had on this beautiful island.

End of Tour.

.Leave Sri Lanka with wonderful memories!

Hotels

Location	Hotels
01N Colombo	Hilton Colombo/Similar
01N - Anuradhapura	Rajarata Hotel/Similar
02N – Jaffna	North Gate/Similar
01N - Trinco	Trinco Blu/Similar
01N - Kandy	Topaz/Similar
01N – Nuwara Eliya	Araliya Red/Similar
01N - Kataragama	Magampura Eco village/Similar

Value additions

- Complimentary 500ml X 02 Mineral Water Bottle – per person per day throughout the tour.
- An airport rep will be available for your assistance 24 hours / 7 days.

Tour Includes

- Meeting and Assistance at the Airport.
- Above-mentioned hotels / similar on HB Basis. (08 Breakfasts + 08 Dinners)
- Transport in an A/C Mini Coach with the service of an English speaking Ramayana Tour Expert Guide..
 - Sightseeing as mentioned above.
 - Sigiriya Lion Rock
 - Dambulla Cave Temple
 - Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage
 - Kandy Temple
 - Peradeniya Botanical Garden
 - Cultural Show
 - Haggala Garden
 - Gregory Lake
 - Victoria Park
 - Turtle Hatchery
 - Madhu River Boat Ride
 - One Ride of Jet Ski / One Banana Boat Ride / One Tube Ride
 - Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo
 - National Museum Colombo
 - Lotus Tower

Tour Excludes

- Early check-in & late checkout.
- Lunches during the tour
- Camera & video permits
- Any expenses of personal nature.
- Any other expenses not mentioned above.
- Tips & Portages.

Important Notes

- Visa must be applied online www.eta.gov.lk - The Reference number is to be given to the Travel Agent / DMC to approve the Visa for Confirmation.

General Terms & Conditions