

## **RAMAYANA TRAIL**

**09 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS**



### **DAY 01 [AIRPORT – CHILAW – APPROX 02DRIVE ]**

Arrival to Sri Lanka, Tours Representative will meet you at the airport, and drive you to Chilaw , check in Hotel and relax

#### **Overnight stay at Chilaw**

### **DAY 02 [CHILLAW - HABARANA – APPROX 05 HRS DRIVE ]**

After Breakfast transfer Habaranna via Chilaw visiting Munishwaram Temple & Manavari Temple in Chilaw

**Munishwaram Temple :** It is believed that Munishwaram predates the Ramayana and a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva was located here. Munishwaram means the first temple for Shiva (Munnu + Easwaran).

**Manavari Temple :** 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.

**Overnight stay at Dambulla / Habaranna / Sigiriya**

**DAY 03 [SIGIRIYA - TRINCOMALEE]**

After Breakfast Set off to discover the 8<sup>th</sup> wonder of the world – the Sigiriya Rock Fortress. Dating back to the 5<sup>th</sup> Century A.D, this astounding 'city' on the summit of a high outcrop was the royal citadel of King Kassapa for over 18 years. A miraculous feat of artistry and engineering, its unique features and exquisite frescoes continue to amaze all who visit it, even today.

Therefore proceed to Trincomalee . Overnight stay at Trincomalee

**DAY 04 [TRINCOMALEE]**

After breakfast leave to visit Koneshwaram temple and Shankari Devi temple in Trincomalee.

**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 an 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.

**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 to be part of the 18 Devi Peethas

**Overnight stay at Trincomalee**

**DAY 05 [TRINCOMALEE – KANDY – APPROX 04 HRS DRIVE]**

Afternoon Breakfast transfer to Kandy, En route visit Dambulla cave temple & a spice Garden.

Evening city tour of Kandy – the last kingdom of the Sinhalese, taking in the sights of Upper Lake Drive and the Market Square on the way to pay homage to one of the most sacred religious sites in Sri Lanka. The Temple of the Tooth or Dalada Maligawa is believed to house the 'tooth relic' of the Lord Buddha. A walk around the town will let you indulge in some souvenir hunting with intricate treasures in wood, copper, silver, brass, ebony, bronze, ceramics, lacquer work, handlooms, batiks, jewelry and reed-ware to choose from.

Evening: Round off your day with a cultural show, where the vibrant costumes and pulsating rhythms of traditional dance forms from centuries old rituals will enthrall you.

## Overnight stay at Kandy

### **DAY 06 [KANDY - NUWARA ELIYA – APPROX 03 HRS DRIVE]**

Morning: After breakfast, head 'up country' and the city of Nuwara Eliya, stopping by at the Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens en route. 147 acres of lushness with over 5000 species of trees and plants many of which are rare or endemic; a spice garden and an Orchid house are yours to explore.

Continue to Nuwara Eliya, En route visit Sir Bhakta Hanuman temple & Ramboda waterfalls and a tea factory along the way.

**Sri Bhakta Hanuman Temple:** In the hills of Ramboda where Hanuman was searching for Sita, the Chinmaya Mission of Sri Lanka built the Sri Bhakta Hanuman Temple which is visited by thousands of devotees every year.

Evening Nuwara Eliya city tour including Sitha amman temple, Divurumpola and Hakgala garden.

**Sita Amman Temple :** The prominent temple architecture will not fail to attract your attention. Ancient statues of Rama and Sita can be seen on one side of the temple. The temple today is a modern building with its paintings, statues and pillars decorated with sculptures; all depicting the tale of Rama and Sita.

Overnight stay at Nuwaraeliya

### **DAY 07 [NUWARA ELIYA]**

After breakfast leave to visit Hakgala Garden.

**Hakgala Botanical Gardens :** This is the exotic pleasure garden where King Ravana kept the depressed Sita, insisting that she marries him. It was here where the heartwarming meeting took place between her and Hanuman, who brought her Rama's ring with the news that Rama was looking for her. He offered to carry her back but she refused saying it would be an insult to Rama's honor if she did so. Part of this majestic garden still exists. It is also said that Hanuman nearly destroyed it in order to prove to Ravana of the forces against him.

**Divurumpola Temple :** This is the place where Seetha Devi underwent "Agni Pariksha" (test). It is a popular place of worship among locals in this area. Divurumpola means place of oath in Sinhala. The legal system permits and accepts the swearing done at this temple while settling disputes between parties.

## Overnight stay in Nuwara Eliya

### **DAY 08 [NUWARA ELIYA – ELLA – KATHARAGAMA – APPROX 04 HRS DRIVE]**

After Breakfast transfer to Yala via Ella.

Ella is a quiet hill country town that draws visitors to its cool climate and its picturesque setting deep in the heart of the 'up country'. Steeped in the ancient legend of Rama and Sita from the Indian epic -the Ramayana, most significant natural landmarks are named after King Ravana – the local god who kidnapped the princess. The myriad locations connected to the legend are well worth visiting and the cascading torrent of Ravana Ella waterfall too is a breath-taking sight. The towering mass of Ella Rock presides regally over the area and the mountain pass known as Ella Gap offers spectacular views right across the distant valleys all the way to the South Coast. The little town of Ella is far from a scenic stopover, but a truly charming and beautiful haven to spend a few relaxing days of fresh mountain air and unforgettable vistas.

Evening visit Kataragama Temple

**Kataragamam temple** : Kataragamam temple in Kataragama, Sri Lanka, is a Hindu and Buddhist temple complex dedicated to Skanda-Murukan also known as Kataragama deviyo.

## Overnight stay at Katharagama

### **DAY 09 [KATHARAGAMA – BEACH– APPROX 05 HRS DRIVE]**

After Breakfast transfer to Bentota, En route visit Ussangoda

**Ussangoda** : After meeting Seetha Devi Lord Hanuman decided to test the strength of the mighty King Ravana and his army of Rakshasas. In the event that unfolded Lord Hanuman's tail was set on fire by the Rakshasas, who in turn went on to torch some parts of King Ravana's empire. Ussangoda is one of the torched areas, which is said to have been an airport used by King Ravana.

Also you could visit Heritage city of Galle.

**Galle** :For centuries Galle has stood strong against invasions - from colonial powers and nature's volatile outbursts. The famous Dutch Fort was first built by the Portuguese, fortified by the Dutch and preserved by the British. Battered daily for over 400 years by the ocean it even survived the onslaught of a tsunami and is enjoyed today by residents and visitors alike. The colonial architecture of the walled city too has resisted the advance of modernity and holds tightly to its past glory

**Overnight stay at Beach**

**DAY 10 [BEACH – COLOMBO – AIRPORT – APPROX 01 ½ HRS DRIVE]**

After Breakfast transfer to Colombo for Colombo city tour

**Colombo** - a drive through the city taking you to the busy commercial areas as well as the tree-lined residential, Cinnamon Gardens. Visit Fort, the former British administrative center and military garrison, Sea Street - the Goldsmith's quarters in the heart of Pettah, the Bazaar area, where is also a Hindu Temple with elaborate stone carvings and the Dutch Church of Wolfendhal dating back to 1749. The historic Dawatagaha Mosque and the former Eye Hospital are two buildings in Cinnamon Gardens worth looking at. Also visit the BMICH, see the replica of Avukana Buddha and the Independence Square.

Also visit Anjaneyar Temple & Kalaniya Temple

**Anjaneyar Temple** : This is the first Anjaneyar Temple in Sri Lanka and also the only Panchamuga (five faced) Anjaneyar Temple in Sri Lanka. Its the only temple in the world to have a chariot for Ajanyear.

**Kelaniya Temple** : After King Ravana's death, Vibeeshana was coroneted as King of Lanka by Lakshmana at Kelaniya. There are murals enshrined outside the Buddhist temple depicting the crowning of Vibeeshana. The Kelani River is mentioned in the Valmiki Ramayana and Vibeeshana palace was said to be on the banks of this river

Evening transfer to Airport to connect departure flight

**~ End of Tour ~**