

## RAMAYANA PACKAGE

05 Nights & 06 Days

### Day 01 Airport – Chilaw - Dambulla

Arrive at Colombo International Airport. Here, you will be met by an airport representative and designated guide from Esna Holidays. After the formalities at the airport, you will be escorted to your air-conditioned vehicle and then proceed to Dambulla.

En-route visit **chilaw Munishwaram Temple & Manavari Temple**

#### Visit Muneshwaram Temple.



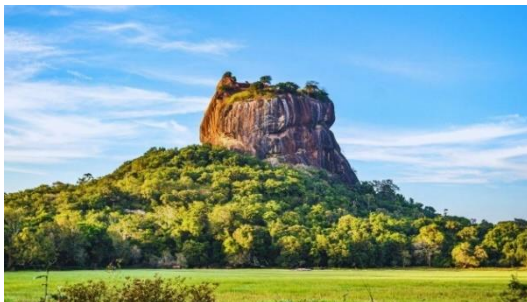
Visit **Muneshwaram Legend:** Lord Rama after his victorious battle left for Ayodhya in one of King Ravana's Vimanas. He felt he was being followed by Bramahathi Dosham as he killed King Ravana who was a Brahmin. He stopped the Vimana at this juncture because he felt at this place the "Bramahathi Dosham" 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.

#### Sigiriya Rock Fortress



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.

Check in to the hotel and relax. Overnight stay at your hotel in Dambulla.

### Day 02 Dambulla – Trincomalee - Dambulla

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel.



**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 Thirukonamamalai 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

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### 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.

Return to the hotel and relax.  
Overnight stay at your hotel in Dambulla.



### Day 03 Dambulla – Nuwara Eliya

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel.

#### 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.

#### 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 Sita 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 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 specialities of that factory.

### Nuwara Eliya



Nuwara Eliya (City of Lights), blessed with salubrious climate, breathtaking views of valleys, meadows, mountains and greenery; the year. It is also known as “Little England” , which was the favorite hill station of the British who tried to create Nuwara Eliya into a typical English Village.

The old brick Post office, country house like hill club with its hunting pictures, trophies and strict formal dinner attire; the 18-hole golf course, horse race course, etc., all remind you of “England”.

Check in to the hotel and relax.

Overnight stay at your hotel in Nuwara Eliya.

### Day 04 Nuwara Eliya – Ella – Nuwara Eliya

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel.

### Gayathri Pedam

It is believed to be the place from where King Ravana’s son Meghanath propitiated Lord Shiva with penance and poojas and in turn was granted super natural powers by lord Shiva.



### Visit Seetha Amman Temple & Ashoka Vatika.



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.



## Divurumpola Temple



Still revered by thousands, this holy haven was the place where Sita performed her Agni Pariksha (proving her chastity) to her husband Rama. Continuing the practice for thousands of years, villagers still pledge their fidelity or take oaths there and even in certain courts, this agreement was binding. This place has been respected and worshipped by people down the ages.

## Transfer to Ella



Ella is a small mountain village near Bandarawela and boasts three locations linked to the Ramayana where local legend claims Ravana was hiding Sita. First there is the Ravana Ella Cave, located at the massive Ella Falls; a breathtaking 1080 feet high waterfall that cascades into several falls. The rock is made of hard gneiss or granite. This has resulted in many caves being formed near the falls. King Ravana is said to have lived in one of

the caves above the waterfall. A nearby pool bored out of the rock by the gushing waters is where Sita is said to have bathed Ravana.

## Visit Ravana Cave.



The well-known Ravana Cave is where Ravana imprisoned Sita after stealing her. It was formerly hidden by dense forest, but now it is covered by the 82-foot Ravana waterfalls, with a lake at the base where Sita is said to have bathed. An old temple, waterfalls, and 6 kilometres from Ella railway station and 11 kilometres from Bandarwela. The cave is positioned 1370 meters above sea level on a rock.

Surprisingly, there is a tunnel leading to Ravana Eliya in the rear of the cave.

Archaeological research has also proven human occupancy, which dates back 25000 years.

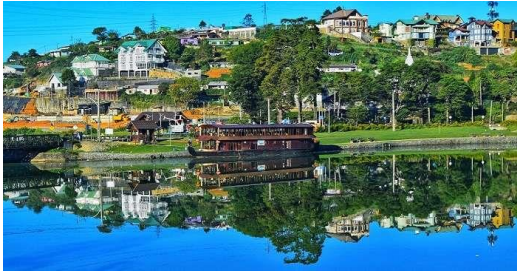
## Visit the Ravana Waterfall



The Ravana waterfall measures approximately 25 m (82 ft) in height and cascades from an oval-shaped concave rock outcrop. During the local wet season, the waterfall turns into what is said to resemble an areca flower with withering petals. But this is not the case in the dry season, where the flow of water reduces dramatically. The falls form part of the Ravana Ella Wildlife Sanctuary and is located 6 km (3.7

mi) away from the local railway station at Ella.

Later explore the **City of Nuwara Eliya**.



Visit the highland city that was the premium holiday resort town of the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Enjoy walking through the streets with their pretty little cottages, quaint villas and beautiful mansions. Make a memory in the old red- bricked post office as you purchase a postcard to take home or send to your friends.

Relax at Queen Victoria Park and on the shores of Lake Gregory.

Return to the hotel and relax

Overnight stay at your hotel in Nuwara Eliya.

### **Day 05 Nuwara Eliya - Colombo**

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel.

#### **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.

#### **Explore the City of Colombo**



The city tour of 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 centre and military garrison, Sea Street - the Goldsmiths 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. Also visit the

BMICH, see the replica of Avukana Buddha & the Independence Square.

#### **Visit Panchamuga Anjaneyar Temple.**



Panchamuga Anjaneyar Temple is the only Temple in the world to have a chariot for Anjaneyar. Hanuman's mother is Anjan. Hanuman is known as Anjan + Aiyar = Anjaneyar in South India (Hanuman in North India).

### Evening Start Shopping in Colombo



The 5-hectare ribbon of beach stripe, the Galle face green is now the largest open space in Colombo that attracts hundreds of tourists and locals alike. Cotton Collection, House of Fashion and Odel, the largest departmental store in the island offers you stylish clothes to cute souvenirs with elegant Sri Lankan touch, also Beverly Street, visit bargain market in Colombo Pettah, Visit Noritake Showroom, Barefoot, Laksala, One Galle Face & Colombo City Center.

Check into the hotel and relax Overnight stay at your hotel in Colombo.

### Day 06 Colombo – Airport

Breakfast at the hotel.

Proceed to the Airport for your departure flight back home with all the memories you had on this beautiful island. [Travelling Time: 1 Hour Approx.]

End of Tour....

Winter 2024

### HOTELS

Location	Hotel – 04 Star
02N Dambulla	Camellia Resort
02N – Nuwara Eliya	Araliya Red
01N - Colombo	Fairway Colombo

### RATE - TRAVEL PERIOD – 01ST November 2024 – 30th April 2024

- Please take note that the rates provided below are based on the current market exchange rate. However, it is important to be aware that if there are significant fluctuations in the currency or if any government taxes are imposed in the future, there is a possibility of changes in the quoted rate.

### Package Price:Rate per person (minimum 2 pax travelling together)

#### 4\* PACKAGE

	PERIOD	2 PAX (Per person)	3-5 PAX (Per person)	6-8 PAX (Per person)	SS	TR
Cost	01st November 2024 to 30th April 2025	462	442	359	209	29





- Peak Period Supplement – 20th December 2024 – 10th January 2025 – USD 20 PP
- Christmas Eve Supplement – USD 70 PP
- New Year's Eve Supplement – USD 70 PP

<b>Supplement cost for Entrance Fees (Per person) – (Indian passport holders only)</b>	<b><u>Rate Adults</u></b>
Mannawari Temple	US\$ 2
Kenniya Hot Wells	US\$ 2
Thirukoneshwaram Temple Tuk Charge	US\$ 2
Sigiriya Rock	US\$ 15
Temple Of Tooth	US\$ 5
Victoria Park	US\$ 2
Gregory Lake	US\$ 2
Hakgala Botanical Garden	US\$ 10
Divirumpola Temple	US\$ 2
Flying Ravana Maga Zip Line	US\$ 25
Ravana Cave	US\$ 25
Gangarama Temple	US\$ 3

#### **Value additions**

- Complimentary 500ml X 02 Mineral Water Bottle – per person daily throughout the tour.
- Complimentary King Coconut refreshment from Colombo to Kandy.
- Complimentary head & shoulder massage on the way to Kandy.
- Complimentary discount vouchers for shopping in Colombo & Duty-free.
- 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.
- Transport in an A/C Vehicle with the service of an English-speaking chauffeur Guide.
- Sightseeing as mentioned above. (Without entrance fees)
- All Taxes.

#### **Tour Excludes**

- All Entrance Fees
- Lunch on tour
- Early check-in & late checkout.
- Camera & video permits
- Any expenses of a personal nature.
- Any other expenses not mentioned above.
- Tips & Portages.