

# Ramayana Trail

**Destinations: Colombo / Sigiriya / Dambulla / Trincomalee / Polonnaruwa / Kandy / Gurupotha / SitaKotuwa / Weragantota / Pinnawala / Hanuman Kovil / Ramboda / Nuwara Eliya / Gawagala / Divrumpola / Ella / Negombo**

## Detail Itinerary

**Duration: 10 nights / 11 days**

**Day 01 - Destination: Colombo  
Drive: Approximately 1 Hour (31 km)**



On arrival in Sri Lanka you will be met and assisted by our Airport Representative, who will direct you to your very own Chauffeur who will transfer you to Colombo, the commercial capital of the country.

Once you check in at your hotel relax and recover from any jet lag. In the Evening Visit the Panchamuga Anjaneyar Temple which is a temple dedicated to Lord Anjaneyar(Hanuman), the only temple in the world to have a chariot for Anjaneyar. This Chariot festival is held annually end December /beginning of January. After completing sightseeing and worship at the temple, head back to your hotel.

**Day 02 - Destination: Sigiriya Drive:  
Approximately 4 ½ Hours (173 km)**



After breakfast leave for Sigiriya. Begin the morning by climbing the rock fortress of Sigiriya - a 5th Century "Fortress in the Sky". Built by King Kassapa the fortress was a Royal Citadel for more than 18 years. The lion rock (A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SIGHT) is a citadel of unusual beauty, rising 200 metres from the scrub jungle. The base of the rock is ringed by a moat and rampart and extensive gardens including the renowned water gardens. The majestic Lion's Paw picturesquely guards the stairway of the palace on the summit. See the famous frescoes of the "Heavenly maidens" of Sigiriya in a sheltered pocket of the rock and the 10 foot high Mirror Wall.

**Destination: Dambulla Drive:  
Approximately ½ an Hour (25 km)**

Dambulla and explore the famous Golden Rock cave temple which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A sacred pilgrimage site for 22 centuries, this cave monastery, a vast isolated rock mass with its five caverns is the largest best preserved cave-temple complex in Sri Lanka.

The Buddhist mural paintings (covering an area of 2,100 sq. meters) are of particular importance as are the 157 statues including a 47 foot long statue of the recumbent Buddha.

**Day 03 - Destination: Trincomalee**  
**Drive: Approximately 3 hours (110 km)**



After an early breakfast at hotel leave for Trincomalee. located on the East Coast of the Island. The city of Trincomalee is built on a peninsula, which divides the inner and outer harbor. With clear and inviting aquamarine waters and beautiful white beaches it is an ideal location for Swimming, Wind Surfing, Scuba Diving, Fishing and Whale watching. In Trincomalee visit and worship the Thirukoneswaram temple. Thirukoneswaram is one of the five Eswaram-Sivan temples in Sri Lanka. This temple is situated on the topmost pinnacle of the Swami Rock and is known as the Southern Kailasam. It was built by sage Agastyar as per the instructions of Lord Shiva who was impressed by the devotion of King Rawana. This place has the uniqueness of the Lord building a temple for his devotee as a reward for his devotion. Lord Rama also offered his prayers on his return to rid himself of the BrahmaasthiDosham.

**Day 04 - Destination: Polonnaruwa**  
**Drive: Approximately 1 ½ Hours (67 km)**



After breakfast Leave for one of the ruins of ancient Ceylon - the UNESCO World Heritage City of Polonnaruwa, which was the Capital of Sri Lanka from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century. A well-planned medieval city defended by enclosing walls (around 5 km. which still remain), graced by palaces, shrines, monasteries, pavilions, parks, ponds and irrigation lakes. Polonnaruwa is strewn with ruins in a resplendent state of preservation.

The 'Gal Vihara' which consists of statues of the recumbent, standing and seated Buddha have been cut from a single granite wall and rank among the true masterpieces of Sri Lankan Art.

**Destination: Kandy Drive:**  
**Approximately 3 Hours (140 km)**

Afterward head for Kandy and En route you will visit a spice garden in Matale. You will check in at your hotel on arrival and once you are rested, continue on to your tour of Kandy!

Kandy, the bustling hill country capital is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is famous for the pink painted Temple of the Tooth which houses the most sacred religious relic, the tooth of the Buddha, the Kandy Lake built in 1807 which is an attractive centerpiece to the town and the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens.

place where Sitadevi was first brought into Sri Lanka in King Ravana's Vimana.

In the Evening you will visit the sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic. Thereafter enjoy the Kandyan Cultural show at the Kandyan Arts & Cultural Centre. The show features the graceful and rhythmic dancers and drummers culminating in an impressive fire walking display.

**Day 05 - Destination: Gurulupotha**  
**Drive: Approximately 2 Hours (80km)**



After breakfast leave for Gurulupotha. This was an aircraft repair center in the capital city. In Valmiki's depiction King Ravana's Vimana resembled a huge peacock. The Vimana in Sinhala language means Dhandu Monara which is known as a 'flying peacock', and hence the name Gurulupotha, which means 'parts of birds'. Next visit the SitaKotuwa the jungles in which once stood the the city of Lankapura. The city had a beautiful palace for Queen Mandothari, surrounded by waterfalls, streams and many varieties of flora and fauna. Sitadevi was kept in this palace until she was moved to AshokaVatika. SitaKotuwa which means Sita's Fort derives its name from Sita Devi's presence here.

**Destination: Weragantota**                      **Drive:**  
**Approximately 15min (6km)**

Continue on to Weragantota close to Mahiyangana town. In the Sinhalese language, Weragantota means a place for an aircraft to land. It is believed to be the

**Day 06 - Destination: Pinnawala**  
**Elephant Orphanage**  
**Drive: Approximately 1 ½ Hours (50km)**



After breakfast Visit the Elephant orphanage. This orphanage was set up by the government to take care of baby elephants lost or abandoned in the wild. Witness the feeding of the elephants. Thereafter observe them as they take their daily bath in the river nearby, which affords marvelous photo opportunities. Bath time is enjoyed by all elephants, young and old alike and it is a good time to closely observe their tightly knit family structure. Daily feeding times - 9.15 am, 1.15 pm, and 5.00 pm. bathing times - 10.00 am, 2.00 pm, and 4.00 pm.

**Destination: Ramboda**                      **Drive:**  
**Approximately 3 Hours (100 km)**

Afterward leave for Ramboda village. Visit the Sri Baktha Hanuman temple. On these hills of Ramboda where Hanuman was searching for Sitadevi, Chinmaya Mission of Sri Lanka built a temple with Hanuman as the presiding deity. On every full moon day special poojas are conducted and witnessed by thousands of devotees. The image of Lord Hanuman here is 16 feet.

**Day 07 -Destination: Ramboda Drive: N/A**



After an early breakfast, walk through the Ramboda Hill tea estate and climb up to where Sita's tear pond is located, believed to have been formed by the tears of Sitadevi and has not dried up since, even during severe droughts when the adjoining rivers dry up. The barren land here in this jungle on the top of Ramboda Hill between King Ravana's capital city and Ashoka Vatika is believed to be the route taken by King Ravana when he took Sitadevi from his capital city Lankapura to Ashoka Vatika, which was the paradise on earth. To date no vegetation grows on this path except grass. King Ravana is believed to have taken this path on top of these hills to show Sitadevi the beauty of his kingdom.

**Destination: Nuwara Eliya  
Drive: Approximately 30mins (20km)**

On completion head the heart of Tea Country Nuwara Eliya. Visit the Labokelle Estate and enjoy a tour of the Tea estate and the Tea factory. Also visit the Manikattutheru, which is a rock in the Labokelle estate. Lord Hanuman met Sitadevi and on his way to announce this happy information to Lord Rama, rested on this hill top. The hilltop where Lord Hanuman is believed to have rested after meeting Sitadevi is known as Manikattutheru. Today an open temple with statues of Lord Rama, Sitadevi, Lakshmana and Lord Hanuman stands on top of it. Locals visit the temple often.

**Day 08 - Destination: Gavagala  
Drive: Approximately 1 Hour (20km)**



After an early breakfast leave for Gavagala (Ghoshala). King Ravana had his dairy farm here. Milk was air lifted to the capital Lankapura from here using Vimana's (Mythical flying chariot). The stone pillars here have the worn out marks cast by constant use of tying ropes on them.

**Destination: Seeta Amman Kovil Drive:  
Approximately 1 Hour (27km)**

Thereafter leave for Seeta Amman Kovil "A Temple for Lord Rama, Sita Devi, Luxshmana, and Hanuman. There is a stream by the side of the temple where Sitadevi is said to have bathed. It is interesting to note that foot prints akin to Lord Hanuman's are found by this river, some of which are of small size and some large size. This demonstrates the immense power of Hanuman who was able to transforming himself to any size.

**Destination: Divrumpola Temple Drive:  
Approximately ½ an Hour (48km)**

On completion leave for the Divrumpola Temple. Although this temple is said to be established in the 6th A.D. (Polonnaruwa period) it is thought that it has been started during the time of Rama, Ravana and Sita. Still revered by thousands, this holy haven was the place where Sita performed her 'Agni Parishka' (proving her chastity) to her husband Rama. It is said that this place was given the name Divurumpola which means a

place for making a vow. This name is seen inscribed in the moonstone guarding the Devale (Temple).

**Destination: Istripura Temple**  
**Drive: Approximately ½ an Hour (30km)**

Later proceed to Istripura which in the Sinhalese language means, an area of women. This was one of the locations to which King Ravana shifted Sitadevi. This was a precautionary measure which he was forced to take due to the advent of Lord Hanuman. Head for Ella on completion.

**Day 09 - Destination: Ella Drive: N/A**



After breakfast at the hotel visit the Ravana cave in Ella. Ella is a small mountain near Bandarawela, and boasts three locations linked to the Ramayana where, local legend dictates, Ravana hid Sita. First there is the Ravana Ella Cave situated in the massive Ella Rock. Then there is Ravana Ella Falls and a nearby pool bored out of the rock by the gushing waters where Sita is said to have bathed. The tunnels in the Ravana cave prove beyond doubt the architectural brilliance of King Ravana. These tunnels served as a quick means of transport through the hills and also as a secret passage. These tunnels networked all the important cities, airports and dairy farms. A close look at these tunnels indicates that they are man-made and not natural formations.

**Overnight Stay: Hotel in Colombo Drive: Approximately 6 Hours (225km)**

**Day 10 - Destination: Munneswaram**  
**Drive: Approximately 3 Hours (100km)**



After breakfast leave for Munneswaram. It is believed that Munneswaram predates the Ramayana and a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva was located here. Munneswaram means the first temple for Shiva (Munnu + Easwaran). A Shiva Lingam was already here when lord Rama visited the place. Lord Rama after his victorious battle left for Ayodya with Sita in one of King Ravana's Vimana's, He felt he was being followed by "BramhaasthiDosham" (a malevolent black shadow) as he had killed King Ravana who was a Brahmin. When the Viand was passing over Munneswaram he felt the Vimana vibrating and realized that the Dosham was not following him at this particular point. He stopped the Vimana at this juncture asked God Shiva for a remedy. God Shiva blessed Lord Rama and advised installing and praying for four lingams at Manawari, Thirukoneswaran, Thiruketheswaram and Rameshwaram in India as the only remedy to get rid of the dosham.

**Destination: Manawari Drive: Approximately ½ an Hour (20km)**

Thereafter leave for Manawari Temple. Manawari is the first lingam installed and prayed by Lord Rama and to date this lingam is called Ramalinga Shivan. Head for Negombo on completion.

***Day 11 - Destination: Airport Drive:  
Approximately 15min (10km)***

*Now that you are at the end of your journey with us, after breakfast your chauffeur will comfortably take you to the international airport in time for your departure flight.*