

07 Nights / 08 Days RAMAYANA TOUR



RAMAYANA SIGHTS COVERED IN THE TOUR

- KELANIYA RAJA MAHA VIHARAYA
- MANAVARI TEMPLE
- KANNIAYI HOT WATER SPRINGS
- GAYATHRI PEEDAM
- DIVURUMPOLA
- MADUNAGALA HOT SPRINGS
- DONDRA GALGE
- SEENIGAMA TEMPLE
- MUNNESWARAM TEMPLE
- THIRUKONESWARAM TEMPLE
- VILUNDI
- SITAAMMAN TEMPLE
- KATARAGAMA TEMPLE
- USSANGODA
- RUMASSALA SANJIWANI DROPS

DAY 01 - AIRPORT / COLOMBO – 35 KM – 01 HOUR

Our representative will meet and assist you at the Airport. Thereafter proceed to Colombo. Upon arrival at the hotel check-in to the hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 02 COLOMBO / KELANIYA / CHILAW / HABARANA / TRINCO - KM 300 – 06 HOURS

After breakfast drive to Kelaniya. Visit the Kelaniya Raja Maha Viharaya & on completion drive to Chilaw. En route lunch from an Indian restaurant.

After lunch continue your journey to Chilaw. You will visit the Manavari temple & the Munneswaram temple. On completion drive to Trincomalee via Habarana where you will see Ritigala, another stops of the Ramayana trail which is the same as the Rumassala Sanjeevani drops. On arrival check-in to the hotel and relax. Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel.

KELANIYA RAJA MAHA VIHARAYA

It's believed Buddha visited the site of this temple on his third visit to Sri Lanka. Suitably grand and labyrinthine, it has a dramatic past. The original temple was destroyed by Indian invaders, restored, and then destroyed again by the Portuguese in the 16th century. The Dutch restored it again in the 18th century in order to curry favor locally.



MANAVARI TEMPLE

When the Vimana was passing over Munishwaram, he felt the Vimana vibrating, and realized the BrahmaastiDosham 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 ChilawManavari 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.

MUNNESWARAM TEMPLE

in existence since at least 1000 C.E. holds much significance to the Hindus of the country. Although many myths surrounding it associate it with the famous Indian epic Ramayana, and its legendary hero-King Rama, the temple is one of the five most ancient temples (Ishwarams) dedicated to Lord Shiva in the region. The temple complex is a compilation of five temples, including a Buddhist temple. The central temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, is the most prestigious amongst the Hindus, with the remaining temples being dedicated to the Gods Ganesha, Ayyanayake and Kali.

In addition to the two main Hindu festivals Navarathri and Sivarathri, the temple has a festival of its own, named the Munneswaram festival, a four-week long event, attended by a mix of Hindu, Buddhist, Catholic, and Muslim devotees.

RITIGALA

Ritigala is the highest range of the hills in Sri Lanka's so called Cultural Triangle, which was the core region of the ancient and medieval Sinhalese civilization. In Ritigala there was one of the most important monasteries of austere forest monks. It also served as a pilgrim's place and had a hospital for Ayurvedic treatment, because the Ritigala hills are famous for their abundance of medical plants. Legend has it that the reason for this is that Ritigala is a part of Mount Dronagiri. When Lakhshmana was severely injured by Indrajit during the battle on Lanka, Hanuman was sent to fetch the life-restoring Sanjivani plant from the Himalayas. But when Hanuman realized that he was unable to find this herb in time, he lifted the whole Dronagiri and flew with it to Lanka, but on the way, he lost some parts of it. Ritigala being one of them.

Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 03 : TRINCOMALEE / KANDY – 200 KM - 05 HOURS

After breakfast, sightseeing tour of Trincomalee.

Visit Thiru Koneshvaram Temple Vilundri. In the afternoon after lunch you can visit Kanniyai hot water springs. Also don't forget to relax yourself at the Trincomalee beach. On completion continue your journey to Kandy.



THIRU KONESWARAM:

Thiru Koneswaram is a wonderful temple located on a rock promontory of Trincomalee. It was built by Rishi Agastya on the instructions of Lord Shiva who was impressed by the devotion of King Ravana. This place is unique in this respect because the Lord built a temple for his devotee as a reward for his devotion. Lord Rama is believed to have offered his prayers here, too, in order to get rid of the malediction of killing Ravana who was a Brahmin, meaning BrahmahasthiDosham.

VILUNDRI:

Vil means bow, and Undri means resting. This is why the Tamil name of this place, Vilundri, is believed to have been a spot where Lord Rama, returning home with Sita to Ayodhya, stopped on his way to Thiru Koneswaram and rested with his bow on the ground.

KANNIYAI HOT WATER SPRINGS:

The hot wells of Kanniyai or Kanniya are close to the main road to Anuradhapura only about 10 kms from Trincomalee town. Pilgrims believe in their healing power. There are many different versions of the myth on how these curative hot water wells came into existence; most of them are connected to Ravana. One legend about Kanniya's origin has it, that this is the place where King Ravana carried out the last rites for his mother. When he was unable to find water to duly perform the rites, he in anger pierced his Trishula into the ground seven times. Water started gushing out immediately. The very hot water cooled down to the present degree when Ravana's anger calmed down. The temperature of the water is different in all the seven wells.

Kandy

This lovely city was the last Capital of the Kingdom of Sri Lanka before it became a colony of the British Empire. During the last two centuries of the Kingdom, Nanayakhar princes of India exerted substantial influence among the rulers of this country. Encircled by hills, with a tranquil lake in its center, it is the site of the renowned "Temple of the Tooth". Places of interest are the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens and the Mahaweli Diversion Project in their impressive settings. Spice Gardens dot the outskirts of Kandy along with handicraft centers and the market-place is a hub of activity. Kandy retains an aura of grandeur which time has not effaced

Overnight stay at the hotel.

04 : KANDY / NUWARA ELIYA - 100 KM – 03 ½ HOURS

Morning after breakfast spend some leisure time in the hotel. Leave for Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka's "Little England" where time seems to have stood still since the days of the British occupation. There after Your w visit Gayathri Peedam& then the Seeta Amman Temple.

GAYATHRI PEEDAM: Gayathri Peedam is believed to be the place from where King Ravana's son Meghanath propitiated Lord Shiva with penance and Pooja's and in turn was granted super natural powers by Lord Shiva.

DAY 05: NUWARA ELIYA



SEETA AMMAN TEMPLE: The Sita Amman Temple can be seen en route to the Hakgala Botanical Gardens. 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.

DIVURUMPOLA: 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.

Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 06 : NUWARA ELIYA / KATARAGAMA – 200 KM 05 HOURS

After Breakfast continue sightseeing and on completion continue your journey to Kataragama. En route visit Divurumpola another main attraction in the Ramayana trail. On completion drive to Kataragama for the night's stay

Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 07 : KATARAGAMA / MADUNAGALA / BENTOTA – 250 KM – 04

Morning after breakfast visits the Kataragama temple and indulge in the ceremonial rituals. On completion visit the Madunagala Hot water wells and then

Proceed to Ussangoda, yet another milestone in Ramayana Trail.

On completion continue your journey to down south through the beach coast. Visit the Galle Fort. Then visit the Rumassala Sanjeevani drops.

Also enjoy a nice bath in the jungle beach. After finishing you can go to the Galle Fort and spend some leisure time there before leaving to visit the Seenigama temple in Seenigama Hikkaduwa.



USSANGODA: According to Ramayana, 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.

GAL GE, DONDRA: Situated in the Galgane Road, near the Galgane Purana Raja Maha Viharaya, Gale Ge is believed to have close links to the Hindu epic, Ramayana. Some believers claim that the fight between King Ravana and Rama took place at Gal Ge, built to mark the place where King Ravana had died. However, yet others say that the Gal Ge represents a shrine built to worship the Sun God as the entrance to the structure is constructed facing east. A few stone steps lead to a higher plain where the Gal Ge stands amidst a sizable green field. This structure that remains now is said to be assembled from ancient stones to represent how the shrine would have looked been long ago. On the door panels and at certain points, faint etchings serve as testaments to its age that clearly runs many centuries back



RUMASSALA SANJEEWANI DROPS: Rumassala hill 3 kms east of Galle is the landmark of Unuwatuna beach because of the picturesque white Buddhist dagoba on top of it. Rumassala rock is one of the five Sri Lankan spots believed to originate from parts of Mount Dronagiri. They fell down when Hanuman carried the Dronagiri on his flight back to Lanka in order to use its Sanjiwani herb to rescue Lakhshmana and Rama who were in need of this medical plant to be reanimated after suffering severe injuries. Rumassala is also said to be an abode of Sita during her stay in Lanka.

SEENIGAMA: Seenigama is a small village on the south-west coast close to Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka's most popular beach resort for coral reef snorkeling. The Seenigama temple is situated on a very small island. This Devale is dedicated to the local God Devol Deviyo, who protects fishermen and their boats. The Ramayana trail legend has it that Seenigama was the landing place from where Sugriva, King of the Varanas and their monkey army, launched his onslaught on Ravana's demon army.

DAY 8 : TO DAY 13: BEACH STAY IN BENTOTA

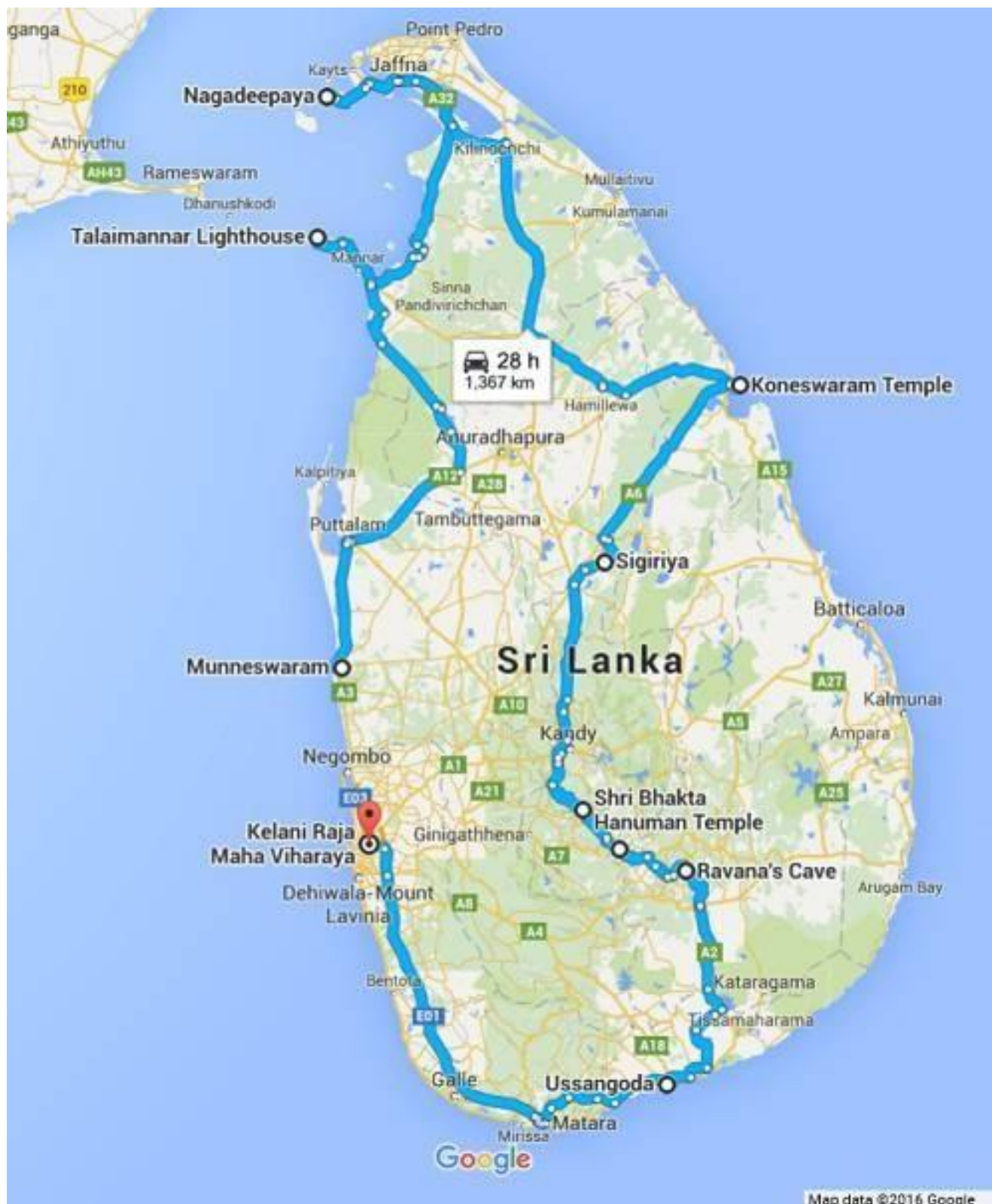
After breakfast day is free at leisure

DAY 14 : BENTOTA COLOMBO AIRPORT

Morning after breakfast leave for Colombo en- route, doing COLOMBO city and shopping tour. On completion you will be accompanied to the airport in time to board your flight back home

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 carving 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 Independence Square, Archade, Dutch Hospital etc.

******* End of Service *******







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