

Day 01 – Airport / Anuradhapura

Meeting and Greeting at the airport

Breakfast at outside Indian restaurant

Transfer from airport to Anuradhapura Via Chilaw

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). A Shiva Lingam was already here when Lord Rama visited this place. Lord Rama after his victorious battle left for Ayodhya with Sita in one of King Ravana's Vimanas. He felt he was being followed by a Bramhaasthi Dosham (a malevolent black shadow) as he had killed King Ravana who was a Brahmin.



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.



Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel in Anuradhapura

Day 02 – Anuradhapura / Jaffna

Breakfast at the Hotel

Anuradhapura

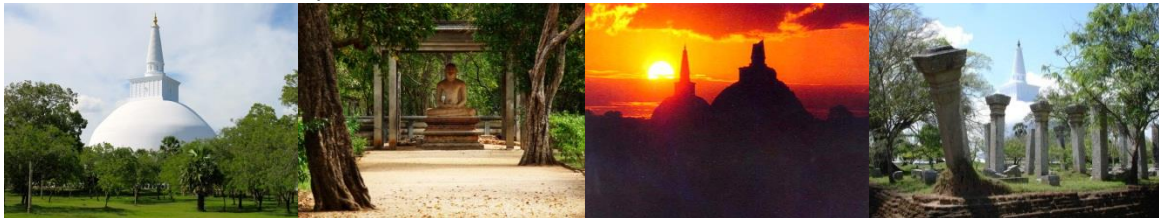
Anuradhapura is one of the ancient capitals of [Sri Lanka](#), famous for its well-preserved ruins of ancient Sri Lankan civilization. It was 3rd capital of the [Kingdom of Rajarata](#) after [Tambapanni](#) and [Upatissa Nuwara](#).

The city, now a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#), lies 205 km north of the current capital [Colombo](#) in Sri Lanka's [North Central Province](#), on the banks of the historic [Malvathu Oya](#). It is one of the [oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world](#) and one of the eight [World Heritage Sites of Sri Lanka](#). From the 4th century BC, it was the capital of Sri Lanka until the beginning of the 11th century AD. During this period it remained one of the most stable and durable centers of political power and urban life in South Asia. The ancient city, considered sacred to the Buddhist world, is today surrounded by monasteries covering an area of over sixteen square miles (40 km²).

Although according to historical records the city was founded in the 5th century BC, the archaeological data put the date as far back as the 10th century BC. Very little evidence was available about the period before the 5th century BC (i.e. the protohistoric period), though excavations have revealed information about the earlier inhabitants of the city.

Place to visit at Anuradhapura

- The Sri Mahabodhi Tree ,
- Loha Prasada - The Brazen Palace
- The Mahathupa - Ruwanweli Dagaba
- The Thuparama Dagaba
- The Jetavana Dagaba
- The Abhayagiri Monastery & Dagaba
- The Samadhi Buddha
- The Kuttam Pokuna - The Twin Ponds
- Mihinthale Viharaya



Transfer from Anuradhapura to Jaffna via Mannar

Ketheeshwaram Temple - Mannar

Evidences relating to Ramayana recount that Mandodari, the Queen of King Rawana was from Mannar and that Asura Mayan, the father of Mandodari built this ancient Temple of Thirukethiswaram to worship Shiva. According to one Hindu legend, Bhrgu Muni worshipped Shiva at this shrine. Another tradition holds that the Hindu planetary god Kethu worshipped Shiva at the shrine, thus creating the shrine's name "Ketheeswaram". Another legend is found in the Skanda Purana, an ancient work in Sanskrit of which the antiquity is unknown. It consists of 2500 verses.



Evening leisure at Hotel

Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel in Jaffna

Day 03 – Jaffna / Trincomalee

Breakfast at the Hotel

Jaffna

Jaffna is the capital city of the Northern Province, Sri Lanka. It is located in the most northern region of the island of Sri Lanka. The Jaffna peninsula is almost an island itself connected to the main island over a causeway at a Place called “Ali Mankada” or Elephant Pass in English. This was so named since this was indeed the route used by elephants to travel between the peninsula and the main island in the ancient past. The peninsula itself is a number of islands connected though causeways.

During the city tour you will visit the Jaffna Fort, the famous Library and the many temples of the peninsula. You can also take a driving tour around places which reminds people of the tumultous past of Jaffna.

Nallur Temple

Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil is one of the most significant Hindu temples in the Jaffna District of Northern Province, Sri Lanka. It stands in the town of Nallur. The presiding deity is Lord Murugan in the form of the holy 'Vel' in the Sanctum, the primary shrine, and in other forms, namely, Shanmugar, Muthukumaraswami, Valli Kaanthar with consorts Valli and Deivayanai, and Thendayuthapani, sans consorts in secondary shrines in the temple.



Jaffna Library

Jaffna Public Library in Jaffna, Sri Lanka One of Jaffna's most notable landmarks, it is run by the Jaffna. The library was built in 1933 and burnt in 1981. During the early 1980s, it was one of the biggest libraries in Asia, containing over 97,000 books and manuscripts. In 2001, rehabilitation of the library was completed, with new structure being built and new books received, although its old books and manuscripts were not replaced



Jaffna Fort

Jaffna Fort is a fort built by the Portuguese at Jaffna, Sri Lanka in 1618 under Philip De Olivera following the Portuguese invasion of Jaffna. The fort is located near [Karaiyur](#). Due to numerous miracles attributed to the statue of Virgin Mary in the church inside the fort, Jaffna Fort was named as Fortress of Our Lady of Miracles of Jafanapatão (Fortaleza de Nossa Senhora dos Milagres de Jafanapatão). It was captured by the Dutch under [Rijcklof van Goens](#) in 1658 who expanded it. In 1795, it was taken over by the British, and remained under the control of a British garrison till 1948.

As the only large military fort in the country, due to the presence of only government and military buildings within its ramparts, it was garrisoned by a detachment of the Ceylon Army.



Keerimalai Naguleshwaram Temple

Keerimalai Naguleswaram temple, historically known also as the Thirutambaleswaram Kovil of Keerimalai, is a famous Hindu temple in [Keerimalai](#), located north of [Jaffna](#), Northern Province, [Sri Lanka](#) near the ancient port of [Kankesanthurai](#). One of the oldest shrines of the region, it is the northernmost shrine on the island of the ancient [Pancha Ishwarams](#) of Lord [Siva](#), venerated by Hindus across the world from classical antiquity. Its adjacent water tank, the Keerimalai Springs, is believed to have curative properties.

Keerimalai is 50 feet above sea level, and situated west of [Palaly](#). The fresh water comes from an underground spring source. Hindus flock in large numbers on “Aadi Amaavaasai” day which falls during the Tamil month of “Aadi”, to carry out rituals for their forefathers and take a divine dip in the natural springs. These rituals are usually carried out by men. “Keerimalai” is particularly famous for this festival.



Transfer from Jaffna to Trincomalee
Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel in Trincomalee

Day 04 – Trincomalee

Breakfast at the Hotel

Transfer from Jaffna to Trincomalee

Visit Trincomalee – Koneshwaram Kovil

Thiru Koneshwaram Temple This temple is situated in the [Trincomalee](#) town.

Thiru Koneshwaram was built by sage Agasthyar as per the instructions of Lord Shiva who was impressed by the devotion of King Ravana. This place has the uniqueness of the lord



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.



Visit Other Hindu Temples – Sri Luxmi Narana Perumal Temple



Visit Sri Badrakali Hindu Temple



Evening leisure at the Hotel

Dinner and Overnight stay at Hotel in Trincomalee

Day 05 – Trincomalee / Kandy

Breakfast at the Hotel

Transfer from Trincomalee to Kandy

Sigiriya

Sigiriya is an amazing geological formation in Sri Lanka that encompasses an important archaeological site. Sigiriya lies 22 km north-east of Dambulla in the North central province of Sri Lanka. The tourist site of Sigiriya has been declared as a UNESCO world heritage site since 1982 and is part of the seven world heritage sites of Sri Lanka. Sigiriya is located in the middle of the tourism cultural triangle formed by connecting the world heritage sites of Anuradhapura, Kandy and Polonnaruwa in Sri Lanka.



Dambulla Cave temple

The area is thought to be inhabited from as early as the 7th to 3rd century BC. Statues and paintings in these caves date back to the 1st century BC. But the paintings and statues were repaired and repainted in 11th, 12th, and 18th century AD. The caves in the city provided refuge to [King Valagamba](#) (also called Vattagamini Abhaya) in his 14 year long exile from the [Anuradapura](#) kingdom. [Buddhist monks](#) meditating in the caves of Dambulla at that time provided the exiled king protection from his enemies. When King Valagamba returned to the throne at Anuradapura kingdom in the 1st century BC, he had a magnificent rock temple built at Dambulla as a gratitude to the monks in Dambulla.



Mathalai muthu mariamman Temple – Mathale

Sri Muthumariamman Thevasthanam is a Hindu temple located in Matale city that is known of the colorful chariots located here. Its history goes back to the early 1800's. The location of the present temple was used by the south Indian immigrants, who came to the island looking for employments. Today, it is one of the biggest Hindu temples in the island.



En-Route Visit Spice Garden

Spicy Garden at Mathale

Sri Lanka is world renowned for its valued spices and healing herbs. Our lush spice and herbal gardens feature many important herbs such as Sandalwood, Margosa, Cocoa, Citronella, Almond, Jasmine and Coconut. When visiting us, make the most of the chance to experience first-hand how cloves, pepper, ginger, nutmeg, cinnamon and saffron are grown in their natural surroundings. At Regent Spice and Herbal Garden you can learn of their medicinal healing properties and how to use them in your day to day needs. Used worldwide in many medicines, the healing powers of spices have been respected from the time of the Pharaohs and Chinese Dynasties, while our herbs are used in Ayurvedic concoctions.



Visit Hindu Temple at Kandy (Kadiragaman Temple)



Kandy Cultural Show

Sri Lanka, a country rich with culture & tradition offers a very vibrant and unique show of Sri Lankan traditional dances, in the form of Kandy cultural show. As many as 12 different folk and traditional dances are performed during the show.

Kandyan Dance was originated from the hill country capital of Kandy. But today it has been widespread to other parts of the country.



Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel in Kandy

Day 06 – Kandy / Nuwara Eliya

Breakfast at the Hotel

Kandy

Located in the foothills of the central highlands, Kandy, Sri Lanka's renowned second city is a beautiful city, surrounded by hills and valleys, rivers, lakes and cascading waterfalls. 129 Km away from Colombo Kandy, the charming hill capital, is the centre of Sri Lanka's rich culture and a World Heritage City or it may be said that Kandy is a perfect place to explore the unique history and the beautiful culture simultaneously. Popularly known as Maha Nuwara (means "The Great City") among most of Sri Lankans, Kandy is full of magnificent architecture displaying Indian and Sinhalese designs. It is a most sacred city for Buddhists with numerous temples and shrines, based on Buddhist architecture. Kandy was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988.



Dalada Maligawa – Temple of Tooth

Located in Kandy, long a center of the Buddhist faith, the stunning 17th-century **Temple of the Tooth** (*Śrī Dalada Maligawa*) is believed to house the left upper canine tooth of the Lord Buddha himself. This precious relic attracts white-clad pilgrims, bearing lotus blossoms and frangipani, every day.

According to legend, the tooth was taken from the Buddha as he lay on his funeral pyre. It was smuggled to Sri Lanka in 313 AD, hidden in the hair of Princess Hemamali who fled the Hindu armies besieging her father's kingdom in India.

It immediately became an object of great reverence and was enshrined in a series of nested jeweled reliquaries. The tooth was brought out for special occasions and paraded on the backs of elephants, which are sacred to the Buddha. Where it survived numerous attempts to capture and destroy it. When the capital was moved to Kandy, the tooth was taken to the new city and placed in temples built to honor it. The temple was originally built under Kandyan kings between 1687 and 1707



Royal Botanical Garden

[Peradeniya](#) is situated about 5.5 km to the west from the city of [Kandy](#) in the Central Province of [Sri Lanka](#) and attracts 1.2 million visitors annually. It is renowned for its collection of a variety of [orchids](#). It includes more than 300 varieties of orchids, spices, medicinal plants and palm trees. Attached to it is the National [Herbarium](#). The total area of the botanical garden is 147 acres (0.59 km²), at 460 meters above sea level, and with a 200-day annual rainfall. It is managed by the Division of National Botanic Gardens of the Department of Agriculture. The origins of the Botanic Gardens date as far back as 1371 when King Wickramabahu III ascended the throne and kept court at Peradeniya near Mahaweli river. This was followed by King Kirti Sri and King Rajadhi Rajasinghe. A temple was built on this location by King Wimala Dharma, but it was destroyed by the British when they were given control over the [Kingdom of Kandy](#). Thereafter, the groundwork for a botanical garden was formed by Alexandar Moon in 1821. The Botanical Garden at Peradeniya was formally established in 1843 with plants brought from Kew Garden, Slave Island, [Colombo](#), and the Kalutara Garden in [Kalutara](#). The Royal Botanic Garden, Peradeniya was made more independent and expanded under [George Gardner](#) as superintendent in 1844. On his death in 1849 [George Henry Kendrick Thwaites](#) became superintendent. The Garden came under the administration of the Department of Agriculture when it was established in 1912.



Transfer from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya

En-Route visit Hanuman Temple

Visit Sri Baktha Hanuman Temple, Ramboda. The Ramboda area is believed to be an area where Rama's forces were gathered against Ravana. RamPadai means Rama's Force. The hills of Ramboda is also believed where Hanuman was searching for Sitadevi. The Chinmaya mission of Sri Lanka has built an Anjaneyar temple with Hanuman as the presiding deity. This temple is called Sri Baktha Hanuman temple and the image of lord Hanuman here is 16 Feet tall..

The service times at the Sri Baktha Hanuman Temple is between 7:00 am to 12:00 noon and again 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.



Visit Ramboda Falls



Tea Factory



Dinner & overnight stay at hotel in Nuwara Eliya

Day 07 – Nuwara Eliya

Breakfast at the Hotel

Nuwara Eliya

Nuwara Eliya, the "city of lights," is the highest town in Sri Lanka and that means a break from the oppressive heat and humidity that surrounds the rest of the country. Situated at around 2000m above sea level and surrounded by lush tea plantations. Nuwara Eliya is the main hill resort of Sri Lanka and the heart of the tea industry. This city with an elevation of 6200 meters is the highest in Sri Lanka. Once a pleasure retreats of the European planters the town is still very much an English town with many English style bungalows and buildings.

Nuwara Eliya is a good escape for those who miss cool breeze in tropical Sri Lanka at any time of the year. Local tourists flock to this town in their 'season' from March to May when it is the hottest duration for the town, April being the busiest. Nuwara Eliya offers many activities for tourists including visits to tea plantations, golfing, horse riding, boating, hiking and of course exploring the beauty of the landscaped gardens, waterfalls and plateaus. Hemmed in by three of the highest mountains in the country; Piduruthalagala, the Great Western and Haggala, the city looks very isolated. Yet it's just a four hour drive from Colombo. Excellent walks and drives, exceptionally good golf on the 18 Hole Course, one of the best in Asia. Trout hatchery, market, gardens of flowers, fruits and vegetables, not commonly associated with Sri Lanka, Haggala Botanical Garden famous for its collection of roses and the rare fernery. Thanks to the cool climates this is one city where you can never work up a sweat.



Sitha Amman Temple

The Sitha 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 Sitha 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 Sitha.



Visit Gayatri Peedam



Evening leisure at the Hotel

Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel in Nuwara Eliya

Day 08 – Nuwara Eliya / Katharagama

Breakfast at the Hotel

Transfer from Nuwara Eliya to Katharagama

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.



Ella Gap

Ella is blessed with some of the most beautiful views, you could find in Sri Lanka. The views through Ella Gap are stunning, and on a clear night you can even spy the subtle glow of the Great Bassetts

lighthouse on Sri Lanka's south coast. Ella is a beautiful small backpacker-hub on the southern edge of Sri Lanka's Hill Country which is famous for tracking.

It is approximately 200 kilometres (120 mi) east of Colombo and is situated at an elevation of 1,041 metres (3,415 ft) above the sea level. The area has a rich bio-diversity dense with numerous varieties of flora and fauna. Ella is surrounded by hills covered with cloud forests and tea plantations. The town has a cooler climate than its surroundings, due to its elevation.



Yala National Park

YALA is among the oldest and best known of Sri Lanka's National Parks. Yala covers about 1297 sqkm or 129,700 ha. And it is the largest agglomeration of protected areas in the country. The multifarious ecosystems ranging from Moist Monsoon Forest, to Dry Monsoon Forests, Semi Deciduous Forests, Thorn forests, Grasslands, fresh water & marine wetlands, and sandy beaches, possesses a large number of important plant species and smaller animals.

Block one is the most visited area since it contains the highest density of leopards. It is possible to take full day jeep safaris or to split your day into morning and afternoon drives. Your best chance to see a leopard is generally early in the morning and then again at dusk. There is also a substantial elephant population along with Spotted deer, Sambar, Wild buffalo, Sloth bear, Jackal, Mongoose, Pangolins and Crocodiles. The bird life comprises over 120 species, and ranges from Lesser Flamingos to Paradise Flycatchers, Crested Hawk Eagles, and Black Bitterns. Outside of the park are several other fascinating birding locations, including the ancient hermitage of Sithulpahuwa, Debarawewa wetland and Palatupana saltpans. The coastline forms a major nesting ground for marine turtles



Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel in Katharagama

Day 09 – Katharagama / Colombo

Breakfast at the Hotel

Visit Katharagama Temple

Katharagama a popular pilgrimage destination frequented by all three religious groups Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims 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 back 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. It is close to the beach areas of Hambantota and the jungles of Yala National Park.



Transfer from Katharagama to Colombo

Visit Galle

Basking on the southern coast of Sri Lanka in the bay of Galle, the Fort was first built by the Portuguese in 1588 before being extensively fortified by the Dutch in the mid 1600s. Recognized by UNESCO for its cultural heritage value, the Fort was declared a World Heritage Site in 1988 as a unique exposition of "an urban ensemble which illustrates the interaction of European architecture and South Asian traditions from the 16th to the 19th centuries.



Madu River Journey

Maadu Ganga flows across Balapitiya (approx 80kms down south of Colombo) and is one of the rarely visited, unspoiled attractions any nature lover can find in Sri Lanka. She boasts of having a cluster of 64 small islands scattered along her path and the most of which are covered with mangroves and uninhabited. The largest island is known as "Ma Doowa" is the largest inhabited island within the country where about 300 families live. The smallest islet of the lot is called "Satha Paha Doowa" where there is a tiny shrine with a statue built in respect of the gods of Kataragama.



Kosgoda Sea Turtle Conservation Project ("KSTCP")

Dudley Perera's project has been underway since 1988. The main aim of the project is to monitor local sea turtle activity and conserve the local nesting sites. We aim to make the public more aware of how endangered these beautiful creatures are and just how important it is to help protect them before it is too late.

One of the most important activities of the project is its hatchery. Within the sanctuary of the project, collected and rescued eggs can hatch safely away from predators before being released into the sea at night-time. In addition, a certain number from each hatching are kept back for a short period for 'headstarting' before release. The hatchery program is designed to maximize the number of hatchlings reaching the sea and surviving through the critical stages of their early life. Only a few hatchlings from each batch will ever make it to adulthood. Therefore every nest-ground, every egg,

every hatchling and every turtle is crucial to the survival of the species. Unfortunately, sea turtles face many [dangers](#).



Water Sports



Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel in Colombo

Day 10 – Colombo

Breakfast at the Hotel

Colombo

Colombo is the largest city of Sri Lanka and its commercial capital. The city is strategically located on the east west trade route and is a major business hub of the country. The city serves as a major port and the largest financial center of Sri Lanka. Colombo is a blend of old and the new. The city is bestowed with some of the most beautiful historic sites.

The city is also the most modernized city of Sri Lanka. The most famous architecture of the city includes the Dutch Era buildings, the British era buildings and the Colombo Fort. Colombo is a city of many festivals. The most important festival of Colombo is the celebration of Lord Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment and Death. The city of Colombo is decorated with lanterns during this festival. The festival takes place in the month of May. The other major festival that is celebrated in Colombo is Christmas. The city of Colombo is also the Media and the Fashion center of Sri Lanka.



Night Life

A few years ago, Colombo was lacking in a variety of nightlife. Recently however, a rash of nightspots has popped up in a short space of time giving everyone who likes to indulge in such activities, more options. Although there are several nightclubs and bars catering to young adults, those with live bands (mostly of excellent standard), are very popular with a more mature clientele



Day 11 – Colombo / Airport

Breakfast at the Hotel

Transfer from Colombo to airport for departure flight

End Tour