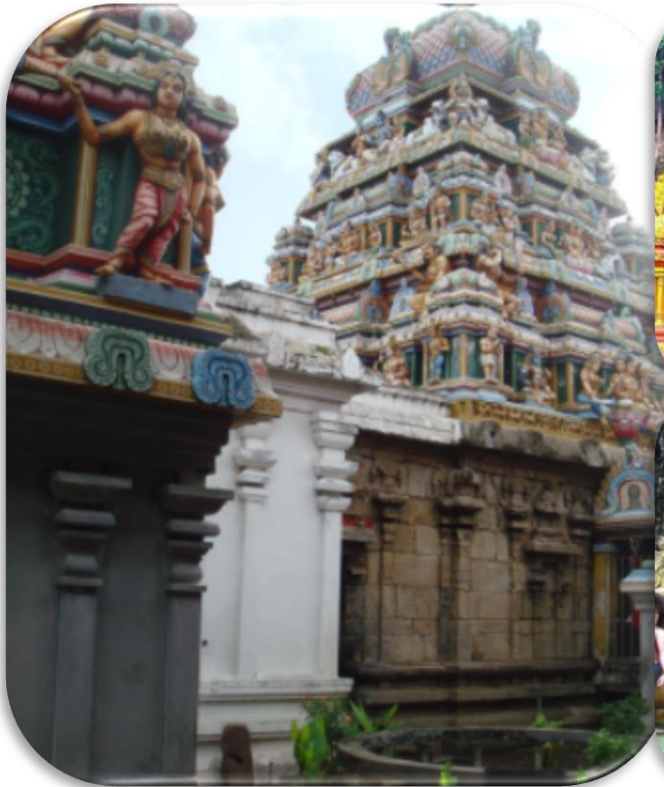




RAMAYANAYA TOUR OF SRI LANKA 07 DAYS / 06 NIGHTS



Valmiki is the author of the Ramayanaya Epic in Sanskrit language. Maahvamsa records the fact there were folk traditions pertaining to the Ramayanaya around the 12th Century.

This Tour program offers you to discover and enhance the knowledge about the sites related to Ramayanaya in Lanka.

DAY 01
AIRPORT – COLOMBO



Arrive in Sri Lanka. Clients will be met and welcomed by representative of Topical Asia Tours.

Depending on the flight arrival: Evening or on arrival visit Kelaniya Buddhist Temple.
(Airport to Kelaniya approximately 30 minutes)

KELANIYA RAJA MAHA VIHARA *(The excursion will take approx.1 hr)*



It is believed that Kelaniya is the place from where king Vibhishana ruled after being crowned by Lakshmana. As Rama was in exile for 14 Years, could not take part in any coronation ceremony, deputed his younger brother Prince Lakshmana to crown Vibeeshana. Today in this very place a shrine for king Vibhishana exists. There are murals enshrined outside the shrine depicting the crowing of King Vibhishana. Many temples for King Vibeeshana are found through Lanka and he is still

considered as line of 4 guardian deities of Sri Lanka. It is fact that there is no temple for King Ravana whereas many exist for King Vibeeshana. This goes on to prove that his stand towards dharma and justice made him a god in Sri Lanka.

After completion, proceed to **Colombo**.
(Kelaniya to Colombo approximately 30 minutes)

Check in at the hotel.

Dinner & Overnight stay in COLOMBO.

DAY 02
COLOMBO – CHILAW - KANDY

After breakfast proceed to **Muneshwaram Kovil, Chilaw**
(Colombo to Chilaw approximately 2 hrs.)

THE MUNNESHWARAM KOVIL *(The excursion will take approx.1 hr)*



This Temple is one of the holiest Hindu Temples in Sri Lanka, coming down from the period before Ravana. Even King Ravana used to pay homage to this Temple. The annual festival is held in July/August, where fire walking can also be witnessed. The Munneshwaram Kovil close to Chilaw, is one of the 5 major Shiva temples of Sri Lanka and Rameswaram islands. They are called Ishvarams.

After worship of the Munneswaram temple, **visit to Manaveri Temple**.
(Chilaw to Manaveri Temple approximately 30 minutes.)

MANNAVARI TEMPLE *(The excursion will take approx.1 hr)*



According to a Tamil legend, the temple is situated at a place where King Rama prayed to Shiva after committing the worst crime according to Hindu Dharma, namely Brahmahast the killing of a priest, because Ravana who had to be killed by Rama in order to liberate Sita, was of Brahmin caste. Rama stopped the Vimana vehicle at Munneswaram because of his feeling that the Dosha sin was not following him at this place. So he ascended from the vimana and prayed to God Shiva asking for a remedy. Shiva advised Rama to install four lingams at Manavari, Trinco, Mannar and Rameswaram for this purpose.

Thereafter proceed to **Kandy**.

(Manavari Temple to Kandy approximately 3 ½ hrs)

Evening Visit to the **Temple of the Tooth Relic**

KANDY *(The excursion will take approx. 2 hrs)*



The hill capital is another “World Heritage Site”. It was the last stronghold of the Sinhalese Kings during the Portuguese, Dutch and British rule and finally ceded to the British in 1815 after an agreement. To the Buddhists of Sri Lanka and the World, Kandy is one of the most sacred sites as it is the home of the “Dalada Maligawa” - Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha. Close by are the remains of the Royal Palace (“Maha Wasala”), “Palle Wasala”- where the Queens stayed-now used for the National Museum, “Meda Wasala” where other close relatives lived, Audience Hall, Natha Devala and Pathhini Devala are situated close by. The Bathing Pavilion (“Ulpenge”) is by the Lake and in the Center of the lake is the Island called “Kiri samudraya” (Milk white ocean) used by the kings as the summerhouse. Today it is the center of Buddhism, Arts, Crafts, Dancing, Music and Culture.

After completion check-in at the hotel.

Dinner & Overnight stay in Kandy.

DAY 03 KANDY - NUWARAELIYA

Early morning with packed breakfast proceed to **Nuwara Eliya**. En route visit the **Sri Baktha Hanuman Kovil in Ramboda**.

(Kandy to Sri Baktha Hanuman Kovil approximately 1 ½ hrs)

SRI BAKTHA HANUMAN KOVIL *(The excursion will take approx.1 hr)*



It is believed that Lord Hanuman was searching for Sitadevi from these hills of Ramboda. “Chinmaya” mission of Sri Lanka has built a Temple with Lord Hanuman as the presiding deity on this hill. On every full moon day special pujas are conducted and witnessed by thousands of devotees. The status of Lord Hanuman here is carved out of granite and is 16 feet in height.

Thereafter journey continue towards **Nuwara Eliya & enjoy the scenic beauty of hill country.**
(Sri Baktha Hanuman Kovil to Nuwara Eliya approximately 1 ½ hrs)

En route Visit to **Tea factory and purchase some Sri Lankan tea.**

TEA PRODUCTION IN SRI LANKA *(The excursion will take approx. 1 hr)*



The industry was introduced to the country in 1867 by James Taylor, the British planter who arrived in 1852. Since then, Sri Lanka is the world's fourth largest producer of Tea and the industry is one of the country's main sources of foreign exchange and a significant source of income for laborers, with tea accounting for 15% of the GDP, generating roughly \$ 700 million annually. In 1995, Sri Lanka was the world's leading exporter of Tea, (rather than producer) with 23% of the total

world export. The Tea sector employs, directly or indirectly over 1 million people in Sri Lanka and in 1995 directly employed 215,338 on Tea plantations and Estates. The humidity, cool temperatures, and rainfall in the country's central highlands provide a climate in favor to the production of high-quality Tea.

Arrive in Nuwara Eliya.

NUWARA ELIYA *(The city tour will take approx.: 1-2 hrs.)*



The ‘Little England’ of Sri Lanka, is set against beautiful backdrops of Mountains, Valleys, Waterfalls and Tea Plantations. It is supposed to be one of the coolest places in the Island, but it is really just like an English spring day, although the temperature does drop at night. All around Nuwara Eliya you will see evidence of the British influence, houses like country cottages or Queen Ann style mansions. The Victoria Park, in the middle of the town,

is a lovely place for a stroll or a picnic and is also good for Birding as you get some rare birds in this Park. Seasons may be absent elsewhere in Sri Lanka, but here you can read them by the flowers, which bloom in the spring (March to May) and the fall (August and September). These are the “seasons” when low-country folk flock to Nuwara Eliya to escape the sea level heat and humidity.

Check in at the hotel in Nuwara **Eliya.**

Thereafter in the Evening at 1600Hrs – Visit Gayathri Peedam
(Nuwara Eliya to Gayathri Peedam approximately 15 minutes)

GAYATHRI PEEDAM *(The excursion will take approx.1 hr)*



This is the place from where King Ravana's son Meghanath propitiated Lord Shiva with penance and pujas and in turn was granted supernatural powers by lord Shiva. It is considered as Nikumbini Homam place mentioned in Ramayana. Gayathri peedam is believed to be the place from where King Rawana's son Meghanath propitiated God Siva with penance and Pooja's and in turn was granted supernatural powers by God Shiva. This is the first temple built for Gayathri Amman in Sri Lanka, and the Siva Lingam in this temple was brought from the holyriver Narmada.

After completion of worship at the temple, evening return to the hotel.

Dinner & Overnight stay in Nuwara Eliya.

DAY 04 **NUWARAELIYA - ELLA**

After breakfast proceed to **Seetha Amman Temple.**
(Nuwara Eliya to Seetha Amman Temple approximately 15 minutes)

SEETHA AMMAN TEMPLE *(The excursion will take approx. 1 hr)*



The Sita Amman Temple, located halfway between the highland village Sita Eliya and the Hakgala Botanical Gardens, has become the most venerated of all Ramayana Trail sites in Sri Lanka, because it is believed to be the place where Sita lived most of the time of her captivity on the island of Lanka. After she refused to stay in Ravana's magnificent palace she was transferred to Ashok Vatika or Ashokavanam where she lived under Ashoka trees. It was here that Ravana's wife Mandodari visited her and that Hanuman met her for the first time, identifying himself with the finger ring of Rama. Sita is said to have bathed in the nearby stream. There are remarkable holes in the rocks at the river bank believed to be footprints of Lord Hamunan

After completion visit to **Hakgala Garden – Ashoka Vanam**
(Seetha Amman Temple to Hakgala Botanical Garden approximately 15 minutes)

HAKGALA BOTANICAL GARDENS *(The excursion will limit to 1hr)*



It is located in a setting of superb natural beauty. It is surrounded by hills covered with thick vegetation. Local traditional clams that Sita spent here last few days here. In valmiki this garden was described so beautifully with beautiful nature and green vegetation. (Ashoka Vanam)

Thereafter, Proceed to **Ella** and En route visit to **Divurumwela Temple.**
(Hakgala Botanical Garden to Divurumwela Temple approximately 30 minutes)

DIVURUMWELA TEMPLE *(The excursion will take approx.1 hr)*



Divurumwela is said to be the location where Sita underwent the famous fire ordeal Agni Pariksha, in order to prove her chastity. From the flames arose the fire god Agni who was invoked by Sita. He lifted her from the flames unharmed and presented her to Lord Rama who explained this test was only necessary to prove the truth of her purity and innocence to everybody. Divurumwela is said to have been the location of this episode, because the Sinhalese name means a marketplace of oath.

Today the temple is respected as a suitable place for oaths that can be helpful in settling disputes between parties.

Journey continue towards **Ella**.

(Divurumwela Temple to Ella approximately 1 ½ hrs)

Arrive in **Ella**.

In the Evening check in at the hotel and enjoy the beauty of nature in the up country.

Dinner & Overnight stay in ELLA.

DAY 05 ELLA - TISSAMAHARAMA

After breakfast , **Experience & feel the natural beauty of Ella Mountains.**

ELLA

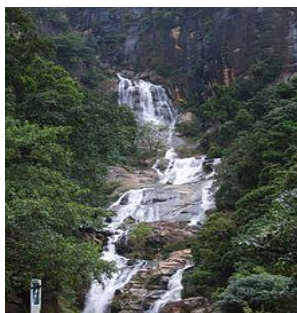


The view from Ella Gap is one of the most spectacular scenic sights in Sri Lanka - the landscape falls away in a dizzy drop of 3,000 ft to the Eastern plains. The Ella Rock is famous for the Cave of Ravana, a legendary king of Sri Lanka ruled during the pre-historic times. The 1,080-foot high waterfall is a few miles from the Ella Town which is one of the most beautiful falls in the country. The Mini Adam's Peak and the Nine Arch Bridge can be known as the other scenic locations that you can see in these beautiful plains.

Thereafter visit **Ravana Falls**.

(Ella to Ravana Falls approximately 15 minutes)

RAVANA FALLS *(The excursion will take approx.1 hr)*



The Ravana Ella Falls and the Rawana Ella Cave are located close to the Wellawaya mainroad in the famous valley called Ella gap, only about 6 kms away from the town of Ella well known for its splendid views to the Ella gap. The cascading waterfall measures about 25 metres. It is believed that Sita bathed in a pool that accumulated the water falling from this waterfall. The nearby Rawana Ella cave is quite small, only 50 metres long. As in the case of Ishtripura Cave in Welimada, legend has it that it was used by King Rawana to hide princess Sita. It is believed to belong to a network of tunnels also connecting it to the Dova temple and to all the palaces and airports and dairy

farms of King Ravana. Archaeological findings in the Rawana Cave include a human skull dating back to 20,000 BC.



On completion, visit **Ravana Caves**. **(People who can climb only advisable to climb the rock)**
(Ravana Falls to Ravana Caves approximately 15 minutes)

RAVANA CAVE (The excursion will take approx. 2 ½ hrs)



These tunnels 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, airport and dairy farms. A close look at these tunnels indicates that they are where a palace and a tunnel existed. Existing tunnels mouths are situated in Ishtripura at Welimada, Ravana cave at Bandarawela, Senapitiya at Halagala, Ramboda, Labookellie, Wariyapola, Matale and Sitakotuwa Hasalaka. In addition there are many more tunnels.

Thereafter, Proceed to **Tissamaharama**.
(Ravana Caves to Tissamaharamaya approximately 2 hrs)

By Evening check in at the hotel.

Dinner & Overnight stay in Tissamaharama.

DAY 06

TISSAMAHARAMA -KATARAGAMA - USSANGODA –KOSGODA

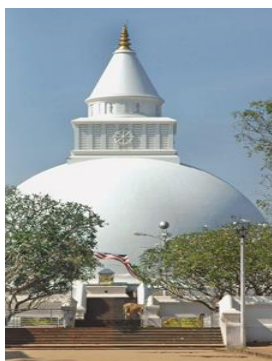
Clients will be picked from the hotel at 0600Hrs, visit to **Kattaragama temple and participate the 0630Hrs Pooja**. After the Pooja Ceremony **Visit Kiri Vehera in Katharagama**.
(Tissamaharamaya to Katharagama approximately 15 minutes)

KATHARAGAMA (The excursion will take approx.1 hr)



Th is temple is mentioned in many Hindu Literature and the therefore, Hindus living world at large knows this great religious value of it. Specially, the Hindus visiting from India are keen to visit this temple. Mount Kailas is the place where God Shiv lives with Goddess Parvati. Mount Kailas and Kataragama are in the same longitude. The annual festival of Kataragamatemple commences on the new moon day (Amavasai day) of the month “Addi” in Tamil (June/July). It ends on the full moon day of the same month with the water cutting ceremony at Maniganga. According to Hindu legends God Skanda got married to Valli amman at this place. The priests of the temple are known as Kapuralas and are believed to be descended from indigenous Vedda people. It does not have a statue of the deity; instead, it holds a yantra a spiritual drawing of the deity’s power. It is the belief of the Hindus that God Murugan visits from Sella Sannathi Temple in Jaffna to Kataragama for the annual festival. Puja takes place at Sela Sannidhi Murugan Temple in the North on the first day of the annual festival then another puja takes place on the last day of the annual festival where it is believed that the God Murugan returns from Kataragama to this temple. God Karthikeya was requested to go the battlefield by God Indra on the last day of war. This was done to protect Rama from the wrath of Brahmaasthrm shot by Kind Ravana which otherwise would have weakened

Rama. Brahmaasthram aimed at Rama for the second time was rendered unless by the presence of God Karthikeya.



Thereafter **Visit Kiri Vehera** *(The excursion will take approx.1 hr)*

After worship the temple, return to hotel for late breakfast.

Checkout from the hotel and proceed to **Kosgoda**, En route visit to **Madunagala Hot Water Spring in Hambantota & Ussangoda.**

(Katharagama to Hambantota approximately 1hr)

MADUNAGALA HOT WATER SPRING *(The excursion will take approx.1 hr)*



It's believed that King Ravana wanted to do the final rituals of her mother Kaikeshi, he needed the pure & hot water. Hence he had obtained the water through his arrow. Similar to Kanniya Hot spring wells in Trincomalee.

Thereafter Proceed to **Ussangoda.**

(Hambantota to Ussangoda approximately 1hr)

USSANGODA *(The excursion will take approx. 2 hrs)*



According to Ramayana, after meeting Sita 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 Rakskasas, who in turn went on to torch some parts of King Ravana's empire. It is believed that Ussangoda is one of the torched areas, which is said to have been an airport used by King Ravana.

Thereafter, journey continue towards **Kosgoda.**

(Ussangoda to Kosgoda approximately 2 ½ hrs)

Arrive in Kosgoda and check in at the hotel.

Dinner & Overnight stay in KOSGODA.

After breakfast proceed to Rumassala.
(Kosgoda to Rumassala approximately 1 hr)

RUMASSALA (The excursion will take approx. 2 hrs)



Thalladi in Mannar and Kachchathivu in the north.

During the war, both Lord Rama and Lukshmana were hit by powerful arrows and fell unconscious but bringing them back to life. Lord Hanuman was instructed to fetch the lifesaving herbs from Himalaya. Lord Hanuman went to Himalayas, lifted the whole hill and brought it. As he was not able to identify the lifesaving herbs alone, it is believed that part of the hill fell on five places in Sri Lanka, namely, Rumassala in Galle, Dolu Kanda in Hiripitiya, Ritigala on the Habarana Anuradhapura road,

Thereafter, proceed to **Colombo** and commence a city tour in **Colombo**, including **shopping**.
(Rumassala to Colombo approximately 2 hrs)

COLOMBO (The excursion will take approx. 3 hrs)



Colombo is the business and commercial center and the new capital is Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte, only a few miles away. Colombo was only a small seaport, which came into prominence in the 16th Century with the arrival of the Portuguese in 1505 and the development of it as a major Harbor took place during the British period. Colombo became the capital of Sri Lanka in 1815 after Kandyan Kingdom was ceded to the British. The remains of the buildings during the period of the Portuguese, Dutch and British rule are found in every area of the city. None of the Portuguese & Dutch fortifications are found today but some of their buildings and churches could be seen in the Fort & Pettah areas. 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 there is also a Hindu Temple with elaborate stone carvings, the Kayman's Gate with the Belfry at the original gate to enter the Fort, the Dutch Church of Wolfendhaal dating back to 1749, Colombo Museum (**There is an entrance fee for Per person for the Museum**) and the Natural History Museum are some of the sites which you can visit. Also visit the BMICH (Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall), the replica of Avukana Buddha and the Independence Square.

(Visiting Sites in Colombo will be changed / limited according to the time)

O DEL



Unlimited provides ample opportunity indulge, not only in shopping for designer wear apparel for the whole family, but also take taste buds on a voyage of discovery.

(Shopping will be dependent on time)

Thereafter proceed to Airport for departure
(Colombo to Airport approximately 1 hr.)

Note –The program will be changed Depending on the flight details (Arrival & Departure)

***** End of Program *****