

**DAY01**

**Chilaw - Anuradhapura–
Trincomalee[110km/2.5hrsone way]**

Morning

After breakfast at your hotel, proceed to Trincomalee, en route covering Anuradhapura. Anuradhapura

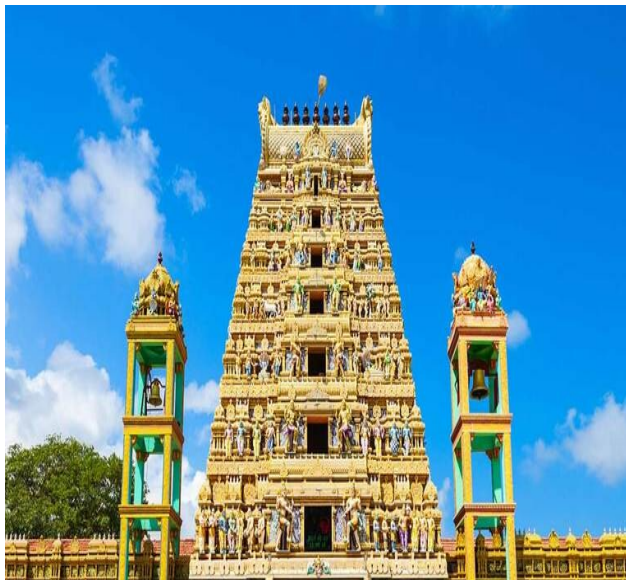
The ancient kingdom of Anuradhapura, where the foundation of Buddhism once thrived, remains after over 23 centuries a revered pilgrimage centre. The neighbouring areas of Anuradhapura were inhabited from 1000 BC, and by the 5th century BC the city developed at a rapid rate. Emperor Ashoka's son, Mahendra, instilled Buddhism in the 3rd century, and the city is known as the capital of Sri Lanka's Buddhist way

of life.

The sacred Bodhi tree is central to Anuradhapura in both a spiritual and physical sense. It was grown from a cutting brought from Bodhgaya in India and is said to be the oldest historically authenticated tree in the world, tended by an uninterrupted succession of guardians for over 2000 years.

Isurumuniya Temple

This charming rock temple, dating from the reign of Devanampiya Tissa (r. 307–267 BC), is set around a lovely lotus pond, the corner of which is carved with images of elephants playfully splashing water. The central temple has some particularly fine mural paintings. Climb around the back to the rock summit to see the bell-shaped stupa and a pair of Buddha footprints etched into the rock.

**Day 2**

Arrival at Colombo Airport – Transfer to Chilaw [60 kms / 1.5 hrs]

Arrival at Colombo International Airport, in the heart of the Pearl Island of the Indian Ocean. Please wait at the airport for other guests arriving from different parts of India who will be your co-travellers on this amazing cultural journey and holiday. We meet, greet and connect with “Jai Siya Ram” and “Ayubowan”, the Sri Lankan way of greeting.

At 1400 Hrs:

Our representative will meet and assist all guests with the transfer to Chilaw. Guests who require separate transfers (due to late arrival or those who do not wish to wait) may arrange this by paying an additional supplement for transfers.

After completing airport formalities, you will be escorted to your air-conditioned vehicle and proceed to Chilaw. En route, visit Chilaw Munishwaram Temple and Manavari Temple.

Munishwaram Temple

According to legend, after Lord Rama's victorious battle, he departed for Ayodhya in one of King Ravana's Vimanas. On the way, he felt he was being followed by *Brahmahathi Dosham* (the curse of killing Ravana, a Brahmin). He stopped the Vimana at this point, sensing that the dosham was not

following him here. Lord Rama descended and prayed to Lord Shiva for a remedy. Lord Shiva blessed him and advised him to install and worship four lingams—at Manavari, Thirukoneshwaram, Thirukettheswaram, and Rameshwaram (India)—as the only remedy to absolve the dosham.

Manavari Temple

When Lord Rama's Vimana was passing over Munishwaram, he realized the *Brahmahathi Dosham* was not following him at this location. Following Lord Shiva's guidance, the first lingam was installed at Manavari, about 5 km away near the banks of the Deduru Oya River.

At Manavari Temple in Chilaw, this lingam is known as Ramalinga Shivan, the only lingam apart from Rameshwaram in India named after Lord Rama.

Evening:

Check into the hotel in Chilaw and relax.

Overnight stay at your hotel in Chilaw.

Note: Guests must book their flights to arrive on or before 13:00 HRS on the day of arrival. Transfers are arranged at 14:00 HRS.



Day 3

Trincomalee – Kandy [220 km / 5 hrs]

Morning:

After breakfast at your hotel, proceed towards Kandy. En route, visit Koneshwaram Temple, Shankari Devi Temple, and the Kanniya Hot Springs.

Koneshwaram Temple

Koneshwaram Temple of Trincomalee (also historically known as Thirukonamamalai Konesar Kovil, the Temple of the Thousand Pillars, and Thiru-Konamamalai Maccakeswaram Kovil) is a revered Hindu temple in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. Venerated by Saivites across the continent, it is built atop Swami Rock, a rocky promontory overlooking Trincomalee, once a classical harbour town.

Shankari Devi Temple

The famed Shankari Temple in Trincomalee is considered one of the 18 Devi Temples (Ashta Dasha Shakti Peethas). The *Ashtadasha Shakti Peetha Shloka* by Sri Adi Shankara begins with "*Lankayam Shankari Devi*", confirming this shrine as one of the sacred Peethas.

According to local priests, the original cliff-top Shankari Temple was destroyed by Portuguese invaders in the 17th century. Today, a lone pillar remains as a silent witness to its existence. A Shiva temple, known as Trikoneshwarar, now stands nearby, with a small Devi shrine adjacent to it. The site is perched dramatically above the Indian Ocean, offering breathtaking views and an atmosphere of silence and serenity. Nearby, devotees may also visit a prominent Kali temple in the heart of Trincomalee.

[Pooja Times: 11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon & 4:00 PM onwards]

Kanniya Hot Springs

The Kanniya Hot Springs feature seven shallow wells arranged in a square pattern. Each well is 3–4 feet deep, and the water temperature is notably high, with slight variations between wells. When 10–15 buckets of water are drawn, the wells temporarily run dry before refilling.

Kandy

Lying amidst scenic hills, Kandy was the last royal capital of Sri Lanka. It is the country's second-largest city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its cultural significance, misty mountains, beautiful lake, and rich traditions.

Optional: Kandy Cultural Show

Experience the Kandy Cultural Show, an hour-long spectacle of Sri Lankan traditions. Be mesmerized by fire dancers, sword dancers, and the rhythmic beats of traditional drums, alongside the vibrant and energetic Kandyan dancers. *(Subject to availability and timing.)*

Temple of the Sacred Tooth (Sri Dalada Maligawa)

Built in 1595 by Kandyan kings, this sacred temple houses the revered tooth relic of the Buddha. Pilgrims dressed in white arrive with lotus flowers as offerings, while the temple's intricate carvings showcase the artistic heritage of Kandy.

Today, it is one of the most significant Buddhist shrines in the world and a central reason Kandy is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Evening:

Check in to your hotel in Kandy and relax.

Overnight stay at your hotel in Kandy.

**Day 4**

Kandy – Nuwara Eliya [80 km / 2 hrs]

Morning:

After breakfast at your hotel, proceed to explore the city of Kandy.

Kandy City Tour

Enjoy sightseeing in Kandy, including:

Upper Lake Drive – a scenic drive offering panoramic views of the city.

Market Crafts Centre – showcasing traditional Sri Lankan handicrafts.

Gem Museum – discover the island's famous gemstones and their history.

Kandy, the hill capital and venue of the annual Perahera, was the last stronghold of the Sinhala kings until it was ceded to the British in 1815.

Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya

Spread across 147 acres, these majestic gardens were first established in 1374 as a pleasure garden for the kings of Gampola and Kandy. Today, the gardens feature:

Over 5,000 species of trees, plants, and creepers (including rare and endemic varieties).

A Spice Garden and Orchid House, popular among visitors.

Five elegant palm-lined avenues, including the famous Royal Palm Avenue planted in 1905.

The unique Double Coconut palm from Seychelles, producing the largest seed in the plant kingdom.

Sri Bhaktha Hanuman Temple (Ramboda)

According to legend, this is the site where Lord Hanuman searched for Sita in the jungles above the temple. A small pond, known as the "Sita Tear Pond", is said to have formed from her tears.

The temple is dedicated to Lord Hanuman and houses a 40-foot granite statue. Ramboda is believed to have been one of the strategic locations where Lord Rama's forces gathered against Ravana.

Learn about Tea Production

Visit a tea plantation and factory to discover the intricate process of Sri Lanka's world-famous tea production, including:

Plucking the tea leaves.

Withering, rolling, oxidizing, and drying using traditional machinery.

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**A guided factory tour showcasing machines older than the industrial revolution.
Tea tasting at the end of the visit, offering a chance to sample unique varieties produced locally.**

Nuwara Eliya – “Little England”

Later, explore the picturesque highland city of Nuwara Eliya, once the premier holiday retreat of the British during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Highlights include:

Strolling through streets lined with quaint cottages, colonial villas, and elegant mansions.

Visiting the red-bricked post office, a charming landmark where you can purchase a postcard to take home or send to loved ones.

Relaxing at Queen Victoria Park and enjoying the serene beauty of Lake Gregory.

Evening:

Check into your hotel in Nuwara Eliya and relax.

Overnight stay at your hotel in Nuwara Eliya.



Day 5

Nuwara Eliya – Ella – Kataragama [150 km / 4 hrs]

Morning:

After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to Kataragama (Kathirgamam). En route, visit Gayathri Peedam, Sita Amman Temple (Ashoka Vatika), Divurumpola Temple, Ravana Waterfalls, and the Murugan Temple.

Gayathri Peedam

It is believed that this is the place where King Ravana's son, Meghanath, performed penance and poojas to Lord Shiva. Through his devotion, he was granted supernatural powers by Lord Shiva.

Sita Amman Temple (Ashoka Vatika)

The Sita Amman Temple is located near a

stream that once served Sita Devi during her captivity at Ashoka Vatika. She is said to have bathed in this very stream.

Over a century ago, three idols were discovered in the stream, one of which was identified as that of Sita Devi. Today, a temple dedicated to Lord Rama, Sita Devi, Lakshmana, and Hanuman stands beside the stream.

Interestingly, near the temple, there are footprints resembling those of Lord Hanuman — some small and some large — symbolizing his divine power to change size at will.

Divurumpola Temple

Still revered by thousands of devotees, Divurumpola Temple is believed to be the sacred site where Sita Devi performed her Agni Pariksha (trial by fire) to prove her chastity to Lord Rama.

For centuries, villagers have continued the tradition of pledging their fidelity and honesty at this holy site.

Ravana Waterfalls

A majestic natural attraction linked to the Ramayana legend. The falls are associated with King Ravana, who is said to have hidden Sita Devi in nearby caves. It is a popular stop for both its scenic beauty and mythological significance.

Murugan Temple (Kataragama)

On arrival in Kataragama, visit the famous Murugan Temple, a sacred pilgrimage site dedicated to Lord Murugan (Skanda). The temple is worshipped by Hindus, Buddhists, and devotees from across Sri Lanka and South India, symbolizing unity and devotion.

Evening:
Check in to your hotel in Kataragama and relax.
Overnight stay at your hotel in Kataragama.

- **For More Information**

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