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09 Days Sri Lanka Jaffna Special

Day 01: KUALA LUMPUR – COLOMBO

(L/D)

Upon arrival at Colombo airport, meet and greet by our local representative from **Clasic tours Sdn Bhd** & then Proceed to Anuradhapura. Lunch at Restaurant **Mannawari Temple** Rama is believed to have installed a shiva lingam, an icon of Lord Shiva, at Manawari Kovil in Chillaw, which is about 60km from capital Negombo. It was a remedy to get rid of & Isquo Brahmahathi Dosham & rsquo; for having killed Ravana who was a Brahmin. **Munneswaram Kovil** is one of the three celebrated ancient Isvarams of Lord Siva the other two being Thirukethiswaram near Mannar and Konneswaram in Trincomalee. It is situated about half a mile east of Chilaw. We first hear of this kovil in the Ramayana or the story of Rama and Sita, when Sri Rama Bhagavan is said to have found solace there of his heavily weighted conscience in respect of the many deaths that had been caused in the Ramayana episode. He stayed awhile, performed poojas and other ceremonies. We next hear of Munneswaram in the Kokila Sandesa in the time of Parakramabahu VI of Kotte, when the bird messenger travelling from Matara to Jaffna passed the kovil. Dinner & Overnight stay at **Anuradhapura**

Day 02: JAFFNA

(B/L/D)

After breakfast Proceed to **Jaffna** District, the northernmost region of the Island of Sri Lanka, is one of the oldest habitation sites in Lower South Asia, populated by Tamil speaking people. Jaffna is situated within ten degrees of latitude to the north of the equator. It is in close proximity to the sub-continent of India and separated from it by the Palk Strait and the Bay of Bengal. The peninsula is actually almost an island; only the narrow causeway known as Elephant Pass - for once elephants did wade across the shallow lagoon here connects Jaffna with the rest of Sri Lanka. Lunch at Restaurant **Nagapoosani Temple (Nainatheevu), Jaffna**: The Nagapoosani Temple (Nainatheevu) is a must visit while Sightseeing in Jaffna. Yearly festivals take place here and Hindu worshipers from the nearby areas flock to this place to pray. This ancient temple is resided by a 5 headed cobra. This shrine was constructed by the Nagas. The Nagapoosani Temple (Nainatheevu) in Jaffna was built to worship the Serpent God. Dinner & Overnight stay at **Jaffna**

Day 03: JAFFNA

(B/L/D)

After breakfast explore the city of Jaffna including both the below places **Nallur Temple**, In 948 A.D. Bhuvanekabhahu, the chief minister to Chola Kulangai Arya, built the Nallur Temple in Kurukkal Valavu in the town of Nallur for the first time to worship Lord Kumaran. However, in 1450, the General of Parakramabahu, Senbaha Perumal conquered Jaffna and demolished the temple. To make amends for his action he rebuilt the temple in 1457 in Muthirai Chanthai. When Jaffna was invaded by the Portuguese the temple underwent demolition. Later it was built for the third time in Muthirai Chanthai. When Jaffna was under the rule of the Dutch, the **Nallur Temple, and Jaffna** was built in the original site that is in Kurukkal Valavu by Krishna Subbiah and Ragunatha Mapana Muthaliyar. Lunch at Restaurant **Jaffna Fort** Situated on the south side of the Jaffna peninsula at the water's edge of the lagoon, the ancient fort in Jaffna is the second largest existing fort in the Island. Originally built by the Portuguese in 1619 and re-built and expanded by the Dutch during the second half of the 17th and the 18th centuries to facilitate trading activities of Sri Lanka's northern region indicate not only of Jaffna's strategic importance to Europeans but its significance throughout Sri Lanka's history. The five sided inner defense works consist of thick and high ramparts and bastions with a wide and deep moat around it. The layout resembles a geometrically regular pentagon which is defined by the ramparts with a bastion at each corner of the pentagon. Dinner & Overnight stay at **Jaffna**

Day 04: KANDY

(B/L/D)

After breakfast proceed to Kandy **Spice Garden in Matale** to see the different spices, which Sri Lanka is famous for. You will be introduced to different spices and shown how some of these spices are grown and processed **Kandy**, including Upper Lake Drive, Market Square, Arts & Crafts Centre, Gem Museum & Temple of Tooth Relic. Kandy the hill capital, venue of the annual Perahera The last stronghold of the Sinhala Kings was finally ceded to the British in 1815. Kandy is an example of the Buddhism's influence in Sri Lanka today. Temple's shrines and monasteries keeping alive Buddhist traditions are everywhere. Lunch at Restaurant **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic** - ever since 4th Century A.D, when the Buddha's Tooth was brought to Sri Lanka hidden from sacrilegious hands in an Orissan princess' hair, the Relic has grown in repute and holiness in Sri Lanka and throughout the Buddhist world. It is considered Sri Lanka's most prized possession. By the night experience a **colourful show** where you will be taken to mind blowing Sri Lankan culture extravaganza... Get ready for Heavy drumbeat and acrobatic act. Dinner & Overnight stay at **Kandy**

Day 05: NUWARA ELIYA**(B/L/D)**

After breakfast proceed to Nuwara Eliya **Sri Baktha Hanuman temple at Ramboda**. 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 pooja's are conducted and witnessed by thousands of devotees. This temple is called Sri Baktha Hanuman temple. The image of Lord Hanuman here is 16 feet. **Seetha Amman temple** The stream that runs from the hill, catered to the needs of Sitadevi during her stay at Ashok Vatika. She is said to have bathed in this stream. About a century ago of three idols was discovered in the stream, one of which was that of Sita. It is believed that the idols have been worshipped at this spot for centuries. Now there is temple for Lord Rama, Sitadevi, Luxshmana, and Hanuman by the side of this stream. It is interesting to note that foot prints akin to Lord Hanuman's are found by this river and some are of small size and some are of large size, which tells us of the immense powers of hanuman transforming himself into any size. Lunch at Restaurant Enjoy **"Tea experience"**, which involves a visit a plantation to observe firsthand the process, starting from the plucking field where it all begins with the picking of "two leaves and a bud" to the factory where the processing begins. Originally introduced to the island around 1850 by the British, Ceylon Tea is world famous for its high quality and has remained a major contributor to the island's economy for generations. Currently, Sri Lanka is one of largest exporter of tea worldwide. The high altitudes produce the best flavours, so Sri Lanka's hill-country is the ideal environment to grow the most flavorsome tea. A guided tour around a Tea Factory is an enlightening experience. **Nuwara Eliya** 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. Dinner & Overnight stay at **Nuwara Eliya**

Day 06: KATARAGAMA**(B/L/D)**

After breakfast proceed to Kataragama **Rawana Ella Cave** is in the huge Ella Rock. In addition, Hanuman is said to have climbed up Ella Rock, in order to find Seetha in the cave. Seetha lived in this Cave for some time. It is said that Shiran Deraniyagala excavated this cave and found some pre historic fossils. Lunch at Restaurant **Kataragama** a popular pilgrimage destination frequented by adherents of all religions 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. Offering to the got are made at 4.30am 10.30am and 6.30pm daily. Dinner & Overnight stay at **Kataragama**

Day 07: GALLE**(B/L/D)**

After breakfast proceed to Galle world heritage site One of the most iconic scenes you're bound to see in **Sri Lanka** is **stilt fishing**. An **old tradition around Sri Lanka, stilt fishing** had disappeared after the devastating tsunami that hit the country and other parts of the Indian Ocean, but soon the people returned to their customs, and now you can spot them sitting on their uncomfortable stilts, hoping to catch something. Though they may be beautiful to look at, **stilt fishermen** have it rough. They spend hours sitting on a thin plank, hoping to catch one or two fish about 5 cm-long, that they sell for about 2 cents each. The rough waves keep the big fish away, so they sometimes have to settle for the smallest catch. Lunch at Restaurant **Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**, originally built by the Portuguese and then further developed by the Dutch and the British, covers nearly four sq kms, and is protected by 12 bastions and connecting ramparts. During the early 18th century the Old Dutch Gate was the entrance point to the Fort. Subsequently the British built the Main Gate which is still used today. Buildings of interest include the Dutch Reformed Church, All Saints Church, Amangalla Hotel (formerly the New Oriental Hotel), and the lighthouse and bell tower. The Dutch also developed what was then an innovative tide-based sewage-system within the Fort. A maze of narrow roads lined with small houses and shops with Dutch names still remain. Dinner & Overnight stay at **Galle / Wadduwa**

Day 08: COLOMBO**(B/L/D)**

After breakfast proceed to Colombo Visit to **Panchamuga Anjaneyar Temple** in Dehiwala **the only Temple in the world to have a chariot for Anjaneyar**. Hanuman's mother is Anjan. Hanuman is known as Anjan + Ayar = Anjaneyar in South India (Hanuman in North India). Lunch at Restaurant **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 centre and military garrison, Sea Street - the Goldsmiths quarters in the heart of Pettah, the Bazaar area, where is also a Hindu Temple with elaborate stone carvings, and the Dutch Church of Wolfendhal dating back to 1749. Also visit the BMICH, see the replica of Avukana Buddha & the Independence Square. From buzzing bazaars to stylish boutique outlets, Colombo is increasingly becoming a popular shopping destination within Asia. Odel is Sri Lanka's most famous shop, a growing department store in the centre of town. Western-label clothes are sold at a fraction of overseas prices. Other attractions include home wear stores like Paradise Road, Suriya and Gandhara. Saffron Villas is popular for antique furniture. Barefoot is famous for its hand spun and vibrantly-coloured fabrics. There are several good quality jewellers. If you want to get a feel for the trading

heart of the city, spend a hectic morning wandering the narrow streets of Pettah Bazaar where you will find anything from steel pots to the latest mobile phones. Dinner & Overnight stay at **Colombo**

Day 09: COLOMBO – KUALA LUMPUR

(B)

After breakfast transferred to the Airport for the flight back