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Dambulla – Kandy – Nuwara Eliya – Yala – Galle (9 Days)

Day 1 – Negombo

Upon your arrival at Colombo International Airport, you will be warmly welcomed by Arcadhia representative and your private chauffeur guide in the arrivals lobby. From there, enjoy a leisurely drive to Negombo, a charming coastal town where your journey begins. Check in to your hotel and take some time to unwind, recover from any jet lag, and enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

Day 2 & 3 - Dambulla

Enjoy an early breakfast before setting off towards Dambulla. En route, make a memorable stop at the **Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage**, where you can observe orphaned elephants in a semi-natural environment. More than just an orphanage, it also serves as a sanctuary, nursery, and breeding center for elephants in need of care. Witness the heartwarming milk feeding session — a truly unforgettable experience.

Continue your journey to **Dambulla**, where you'll spend the next few days immersed in Sri Lanka's rich cultural heritage. Highlights of your stay include:

- **Climbing Sigiriya Rock Fortress** – a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of South Asia's most iconic archaeological marvels. Admire the ancient frescoes, landscaped gardens, and stunning panoramic views from the summit.
- **Exploring Polonnaruwa**, the medieval capital of Sri Lanka. Walk among remarkably preserved ruins, temples, and scale models of royal buildings that date back to the 5th century.
- **Safari at Minneriya National Park** – Embark on a thrilling wildlife safari to witness the world-famous elephant gathering, where herds of majestic elephants congregate around the ancient Minneriya reservoir.

Day 4 – Dambulla to Kandy

After a hearty breakfast at your hotel, set off for **Kandy**, the cultural heart of Sri Lanka. Along the way, stop at the magnificent **Dambulla Cave Temple**, renowned for its spectacular interiors filled with over 150 Buddha statues and vibrant murals. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is considered the best-preserved cave temple complex in the country.

Continue your journey with a visit to a **spice garden**, where you'll gain fascinating insight into Sri Lanka's centuries-old spice industry. Discover how aromatic spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, and cardamom are grown, harvested, and used for both culinary and medicinal purposes.

Upon arrival in **Kandy**, check in and later visit the **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic**, which houses the only surviving relic of the Buddha. Attend the serene **evening prayer ceremony**, where chants and offerings create a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

In the evening, enjoy a **traditional Kandyan cultural show**, featuring energetic drumming and dance performances by artists in elaborate costumes. This vibrant display of local heritage and rhythm offers a memorable end to your day in Kandy.

Day 5 – Nuwara Eliya

After a peaceful stay in Kandy, journey into the heart of Sri Lanka's **tea country** – **Nuwara Eliya**, fondly known as “**Little England**.” As you ascend into the hills, be captivated by the landscape of **emerald-green tea plantations, cascading waterfalls, and charming colonial-era buildings** scattered throughout the area – a scene reminiscent of a quaint English town.

During your stay, immerse yourself in the **art of Ceylon tea production** with a visit to a working tea estate and factory. Witness the entire process, from withering the tea leaves to sorting and bulk packing – and of course, enjoy a freshly brewed cup of world-renowned **Ceylon tea**.

Other highlights of Nuwara Eliya include **stunning scenery, crisp mountain air**, and a **leisurely evening stroll around Gregory Lake**, where you can soak in the peaceful atmosphere and beauty of the highlands.

Day 6 – Yala Safari

Following a mouthwatering breakfast at the hotel, journey from hills to islands' wild – Yala. Along the route, witness Ravana waterfall and do not forget to take a selfie with the plunging falls in the background.

Later, gather for an evening safari through Yala National Park with an expert naturalist. Keep your eyes peeled for the endangered Sri Lankan leopard as well as on other wildlife such as elephants, wild boards and birdlife. In the late evening, expect a BBQ dinner by a beautiful roaring campfire.

Day 7 & 8 – Galle

After a restful night immersed in nature, travel south to the coastal city of **Galle**, home to the iconic **Dutch Fort**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Widely regarded as the finest example of a fortified city built by Europeans in Asia, Galle Fort showcases a remarkable blend of **Dutch colonial architecture and South Asian cultural influences**.

Upon arrival, check in and spend the evening exploring the cobbled streets of this **historic fort city**, dotted with charming cafés, art galleries, and boutiques. As the sun begins to set, make your way to the **fort ramparts** – the perfect vantage point to watch the sky come alive in brilliant hues over the Indian Ocean. It's a **picture-perfect way to end the day** in one of Sri Lanka's most enchanting coastal towns.

Day 9 – Transfer to Airport

After all good things come to an end, you will be safely driven to the Colombo international airport for a safe journey home with cherishable memories of Sri Lanka Classic Holiday! This itinerary barely scratch the surface of the accommodation settings and experiences we offer. Be inspired and let us know what you're looking for!