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Southern Beach - Yala Safari - Ella – Kandy (7 Days)

Day 1 – Colombo to Galle

Your adventure begins as you land in **Colombo**, the vibrant capital city pulsing with energy and tradition. After settling in, you head straight to the **National Museum of Colombo**, where centuries of Sri Lanka's heritage unfold before your eyes. Marvel at **ancient paintings, intricate sculptures, and sketches dating back to the 4th century B.C.**, each piece echoing stories of kings, kingdoms, and cultures long past.

Journey to Galle

Ready for a change of pace, you board a **train along the southern coastline**—a journey famed for its sweeping ocean views—or choose a scenic ride in a vehicle for a more private escape. Your destination: **Galle**, a coastal gem steeped in colonial history and tropical beauty.

Exploring Galle Fort

Stepping into **Galle Fort** feels like walking into a living museum. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is lined with **cobblestone streets, Dutch colonial buildings, and colorful cafes** tucked inside old merchant houses. Wander through the narrow lanes, stopping to admire the detailed architecture and small boutiques.

Galle Lighthouse & Coastal Serenity

Make your way to the **Galle Lighthouse**, where **panoramic views of the Indian Ocean** unfold. It's the perfect spot to take in the salty breeze and watch waves crash along the ramparts. Not far away, discover **Lighthouse Beach**, a quiet haven ideal for a peaceful stroll or a splash in the warm sea.

History & Heritage

Galle's **museums** offer deep insight into the region's layered past—from colonial trade to maritime traditions. Each exhibit adds context to the city's evolving identity.

Sunset & Stay

As the sun dips below the horizon, casting golden light across the sea and fort walls, find a cozy corner to watch the spectacle unfold. Then retreat to one of **Galle's boutique hotels**, where historic charm meets modern comfort, offering a restful night before the next leg of your Sri Lankan journey.

Day II - Galle to Mirissa

Soak in more of **Galle's seaside allure**. Begin your morning with a visit to the **Mahamodara Sea Turtle Hatchery**, where you can witness firsthand the island's conservation efforts. Learn about the different species of sea turtles' native to Sri Lanka and, if you're lucky, even get up close to these gentle creatures.

Afterward, take time to explore some of **Galle Fort's hidden corners** and discover **secret beaches** along the coast — perfect for a quiet stroll or a peaceful moment by the waves.

In the afternoon, travel south to the **beach town of Mirissa**, known for its golden sands and laidback charm. Settle in for a **leisurely meal right on the beach** and let the relaxed rhythm of Mirissa wash over you as the sun begins to dip into the Indian Ocean.

Day III - Mirissa to Tissamaharama

If you're visiting between November and April, don't miss the chance to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime whale-watching tour in Mirissa's azure waters. Witness majestic blue whales and playful dolphins as they glide through the Indian Ocean.

Outside of whale season, Mirissa still brims with excitement—enjoy a variety of water sports, from snorkelling and surfing to the thrill of jet skiing. After a sun-soaked day by the sea, journey inland to Tissamaharama for a taste of Sri Lanka's untamed jungle wilderness.

Day IV - Yala National Park

Wake up early for the drive to Yala National Park, Sri Lanka's most famous wildlife sanctuary and a must-visit destination for nature lovers. Embark on an exhilarating safari through its rich and varied landscapes, where you'll have the chance to spot elephants, sloth bears, and—with a bit of luck—the elusive leopard.

Beyond the park's wildlife, the surrounding area offers cultural treasures worth exploring. Discover centuries-old rock paintings and the ancient Buddhist monastery of **Sithulpawwa**, nestled in serene natural surroundings.

After a day filled with adventure and awe, return to **Tissamaharama** to relax. As night falls, unwind under the stars and reflect on your unforgettable journey.

Day V - Onwards to Ella

Get ready for a jungle adventure as you head to the scenic mountain town of Ella.

Along the way, pause at the stunning Ravana Falls, one of the widest waterfalls in Sri Lanka — a perfect photo op surrounded by lush greenery.

Once in Ella, don't miss the iconic Nine Arch Bridge, also known as the Bridge in the Sky. This colonial-era railway bridge, nestled between emerald hills, is a marvel of architecture and a favorite spot for travelers and photographers alike.

Wrap up your day with a visit to a nearby tea plantation and factory, where you can immerse yourself in the fascinating journey of Ceylon tea — from leaf to cup.

Day VI - Ella to Kandy

Start your day with a scenic walk up Little Adam's Peak, a relatively easy hike that rewards you with sweeping views of lush valleys and rolling hills. For a burst of adrenaline, take the thrilling zipline ride back down — a unique way to cap off the experience.

If you're up for more of a challenge, Ella Rock offers a longer, more demanding trek through picturesque countryside, with panoramic vistas that make every step worthwhile.

When it's time to say goodbye to Ella, hop aboard the train to Kandy — often hailed as one of the most beautiful rail journeys in the world. Wind through misty mountains, dense jungle, and endless tea plantations as you make your way toward Sri Lanka's cultural capital.

Day VII - Kandy to Colombo

Your final day begins in **Kandy**, the cultural heart of Sri Lanka, rich in spiritual and historical significance. Visit the revered **Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that houses one of Buddhism's most sacred artifacts — a tooth believed to belong to the Buddha himself.

Take a leisurely **stroll around Kandy Lake**, a tranquil spot in the city center, and explore the town's **colonial-era buildings** and iconic attractions like the **Royal Botanical Gardens** in Peradeniya, home to thousands of plant species.

After soaking in the wonders of Kandy, begin your return journey to **Colombo**, a scenic drive of about three hours, marking the end of your unforgettable Sri Lanka adventure.