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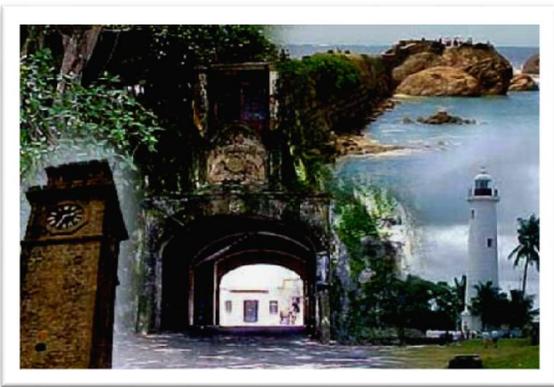
*Pick up from hotel after breakfast (7.00am) & transfer to Galle.*

## ***Day Excursion to ‘GALLE’***

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### ***The Dutch Fortress of 17th Century***

*Galle, city (1995 est. pop. 87,000), capital of Southern prov., extreme Sri Lanka, on the Indian Ocean. An agricultural market center, it exports tea, rubber, coconut oil, cloves, and other products of the surrounding region. The city has a*



*cement factory as well. Famous as a trade center for Chinese and Arabs by 100 BC, Galle rose to prominence under Portuguese rule (1507-1640), when it became Sri Lanka's chief port. It was the capital of Sri Lanka under the Dutch (1640-56), whose original fort, built to guard the harbor, still stands. The city passed to the British in 1796. Its commercial importance continued until the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and the construction (1885) by the British of a modern harbor at Colombo. Since the 1960s congestion and labor problems at the port of Colombo*

*have diverted some shipping to Galle.*

*Where the shoreline turns east towards Matara and Tangalle. The Fort, like most of the forts in Sri Lanka, is built on a small peninsula, belonging to the sea as much as to the land. There are treacherous rocks in the water near the fort, and a treacherous current, so a pilot was needed to approach it. The seafloor here is littered with shipwrecks. The only way to attempt a conquest was to attack it from the landside.*

## VISITS

### Bentota Beach

*Bentota is a tourist attraction well known for its beautiful beach. It is a destination for watersports. Bentota also delivers an ancient art of healing called Ayurveda. Bentota is famous for its toddy production, an alcoholic beverage made out of coconut nectar.*



### Turtle Hatchery in Kosgoda

*Kosgoda is famous for its sea turtle conservation project operated by the Wild Life Protection Society of Sri Lanka. It was established in 1988 to protect Sri Lanka's turtles from extinction. Since then it has released about 3.5 million baby turtles into the wild.*

*The hatchery pays fishermen for eggs that they collect at night along the long sandy beach. Although October to April is the main laying season, some eggs (mostly green turtles) can be found at Kosgoda throughout the year.*

*The hatchery buries the eggs in sand, and when they hatch around 50 days later the baby turtles are released into the sea at night. Only about one in 1,000 turtles survives to maturity.*

*Kosgoda turtle hatchery also has tanks for injured or disabled turtles, including albino turtles that would not survive in the wild.*



## **Galle Fort**

*Galle fort was built first by the Portuguese, and then modified by the Dutch during the 17th century. Even today, after 400 years of existence, it looks new and polished with reconstruction work done by Archaeological Department of Sri Lanka. Today Sri Lankan government and many Dutch people who still own some of the properties inside the fort are looking at making this one of the modern wonders of the world.*

*The Dutch fort also known as Ramparts of Galle withstood the Boxing Day tsunami which destroyed the Galle town. There are many Moor families who live inside this fort along with Sinhalese, Dutch, English, Portuguese and Germans. More details regarding the history of the fort can be found at the visitors centre and at the Dutch period museum inside the Fort.*



## **Museums**

*There is a museum inside the Dutch fort which is in a Dutch Colonial building in Church Street is the Cultural Museum adjoining the Amangalla Hotel. The artifacts reflect the art and culture of the Southern Province. The National Maritime Museum is also situated inside the Galle fort. It is situated in a renovated Dutch building.*



## ***Galle Harbour area / Fish Market***

*Galle Harbour* is a natural harbour, located in Galle, south-western coast of Sri Lanka. Currently Galle port serves as one of the most active regional ports in the country and it is also the only Sri Lankan port that provides facilities for pleasure yachts. International yacht societies have recognized Galle harbour as one of the world's best attractions for yachting.

Located in the center of Galle town, the new fish market provides the fisher communities and the vendors, a modern facility for trading their produce. The new facility incorporates proper hygienic standards and food security features. The old colonial style market built by the British in 1890's was destroyed in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. There were fourteen fish stalls, trading in the traditional style.



## ***Unawatuna Beach***

This magnificent stretch of beach is located about 5 km southeast of Galle. Swimming is very safe thanks to the reef that protects the beach. Unawatuna also has a local surfing scene & is a good place to learn surfing. Snorkeling is also very famous here, as you can hire snorkeling equipment from many beachfronts around the area to explore the reef which harbors a vast variety of reef fishes. The description of the beach paradises in Valmiki's epic Ramayana sounds like Unawatuna.



***Return back to Colombo***

***TOTAL COST PER PERSON (GALLE EXCURSION) – US\$ 55 (minimum 2 Pax)***

***PRICE INCLUDES:***

- *Pick up from Colombo hotel, visit the places as per the itinerary & return back to Colombo hotel in an air conditioned vehicle (transport only)*
- *Entrance fees to Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery & Galle Museum*
- *Bottled Drinking Water*

***PRICE EXCLUDES:***

- *Lunch / Snacks & all items not mentioned under inclusions above.*