

Itinerary – 06 – Birding, wildlife and Cultural tour in Sri Lanka - 11 Days 10 Nights

Day 01 – Arrival and proceed directly to Mirissa via Galle. Lunch at Galle. After lunch visit Galle Dutch fortress.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Mirissa.

Day 02 – Morning whale watching tour. Lunch at hotel. Afternoon drive to Singharaja Rain Forest.

Overnight stay at the forest lodge in Singharaja.

Species often encountered: Bryde's Whale (*Balanoptera edeni*), Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), and Long-snouted Spinner Dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*).

Occasionally observed species: Short-finned Pilot Whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*), False Killer Whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*), Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), Pantropical Spotted Dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*), and Striped Dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*).

Day 03 – Morning a short jeep drive to the Sinharaja rainforest and birding in the forest till evening. In the forest looking for rainforest birds including endemics; and also butterflies, forest mammals and other wildlife.

Overnight stay at the forest lodge in Sinharaja.

Possible highlights of birds: Ceylon Spurfowl, Serendib Scops Owl, Ceylon Junglefowl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Ceylon Frogmouth, Green-billed Coucal, Red-faced Malkoha, Layard's Parakeet, Ceylon Hanging- parrot, Malarbar Trogon, Crimson-backed Flameback, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Black-capped Bulbul, Spot-winged Thrush, Ceylon Scally Thrush, Rufous (Orange-billed) Babbler, Ashy-headed Laughing-thrush, Legge's Flowerpecker, White-faced Starling, Ceylon Crested Drongo, Ceylon Hill Myna, Ceylon Blue Magpie

Possible highlights of mammals: Toque Macaque E (wet zone race), Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (wet zone race), Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (wet zone race), Sri Lanka Red Slender Loris E, Sri Lanka Flameback squirrel E, Dusky-striped Jungle Squirrel E, Sri Lanka Yellow Spotted Chevrotain E, Sambar, Wholly Horse-shoe Bat, False Vampire Bat, Rainbow Bat.

Day 04 – Morning a short jeep drive to the Sinharaja rainforest and birding in the forest till evening. In the forest looking for rainforest birds including endemics; and also butterflies, forest mammals and other wildlife.

Overnight stay at the forest lodge in Sinharaja.

Possible highlights of birds: Ceylon Spurrow, Serendib Scops Owl, Ceylon Junglefowl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Ceylon Frogmouth, Green-billed Coucal, Red-faced Malkoha, Layard's Parakeet, Ceylon Hanging-parrot, Malarbar Trogon, Crimson-backed Flameback, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Black-capped Bulbul, Spot-winged Thrush, Ceylon Scaly Thrush, Rufous (Orange-billed) Babbler, Ashy-headed Laughing-thrush, Legge's Flowerpecker, White-faced Starling, Ceylon Crested Drongo, Ceylon Hill Myna, Ceylon Blue Magpie

Possible highlights of mammals: Toque Macaque E (wet zone race), Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (wet zone race), Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (wet zone race), Sri Lanka Red Slender Loris E, Sri Lanka Flameback squirrel E, Dusky-striped Jungle Squirrel E, Sri Lanka Yellow Spotted Chevrotain E, Sambar, Wholly Horse-shoe Bat, False Vampire Bat, Rainbow Bat.

Day 05 - Morning leave for Nuwara Eliya in the high hills. Lunch at Kitulgala. Check in at a hotel in Nuwara Eliya by afternoon, for two nights. Evening visit Victoria Park in town looking for Indian Pitta, Pied Thrush, Kashmir Flycatcher and some highland endemic birds.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Nuwara Eliya

Possible highlights of birds: Yellow-eared Bulbul, Ceylon Whistling Thrush, Ceylon Wood Pigeon, Dusky (Dull) Blue Flycatcher, Kashmir Flycatcher, Indian Blackbird (endemic race *kinnissi* a possible future split from the Indian Blackbird), Ceylon Hill white-eye, Ceylon Bush Warbler, Black-throated Munia (endemic nominate race, the Ceylon Hill Munia, a possible future split from the Indian races), Himalayan Buzzard, Pied Bush Chat.

Possible highlights of mammals: Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (highland race), Sambar, Toque Macaque E (highland race), Dusky-striped Jungle Squirrel E, Striped-necked Mongoose e, Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (highland race), Golden Palm Civet E.

Day 06 - Early morning proceed to Horton Plains National Park (Hotel to park entrance - one hour drive) on further higher up in the hills, the park consists of grasslands and cloud forest in higher cool climatic conditions, looking for highland open country and forest birds including endemics, and also butterflies, highland forest mammals and other wildlife.

Return to hotel for late lunch. Late afternoon visit Victoria park in the town or a forest near town.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Nuwara Eliya

Possible highlights of birds: Yellow-eared Bulbul, Ceylon Whistling Thrush, Ceylon Wood Pigeon, Dusky (Dull) Blue Flycatcher, Kashmir Flycatcher, Indian Blackbird (endemic race *kinnissi* a possible future split from the Indian Blackbird), Ceylon Hill white-eye, Ceylon Bush Warbler, Black-throated Munia (endemic nominate race, the Ceylon Hill Munia, a possible future split from the Indian races), Himalayan Buzzard, Pied Bush Chat.

Possible highlights of mammals: Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (highland race), Sambar, Toque Macaque E (highland race), Dusky-striped Jungle Squirrel E, Striped-necked Mongoose e, Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (highland race), Golden Palm Civet E.

Day 07 - Morning leave for Kandy, on route stopping at a tea factory. Check in at a hotel in Kandy by lunch time, for one night. Afternoon visit Botanic gardens in Peradeniya near Kandy,

the garden is good for some common birds in the area including endemic Ceylon Small (Crimson-fronted) Barbet and Lesser Hill-Myna. Late evening visits the Kandy Temple.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Kandy.

Possible highlights of birds: Layard's Parakeet, Ceylon Hanging- parrot, Ceylon Junglefowl, Malarbar Trogon, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Crimson-backed Flameback, Black-capped Bulbul, Spot-winged Thrush, Rufous (Orange-billed) Babbler, Lesser Hill Myna

Possible highlights of mammals: Toque Macaque E (wet zone race), Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (wet zone race), Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (wet zone race), Indian Giant Flying Squirrel, White-striped Chevrotain E, Brown Palm Civet E.

Day 08 - After breakfast drive to Sigiriya. Afternoon visit Minneriya N/P.

Overnight at Hotel in Sigiriya.

Possible highlights of birds: Forest Eagle Owl, Oriental Scops Owl, Brown Fish Owl, Indian Nightjar, Jerdon's Nightjar, Ceylon Grey Hornbill, Blue-faced Malkoha, Indian Pitta, Jerdon's Bushlark, Ceylon Woodshrike, White-browed Bulbul, Indian Blue Robin, Orange-headed Thrush, White-rumped Shama, Jungle Prinia, Green Warbler, Large-billed Warbler, Brown-capped Babbler, Streaked Weaver.

Possible highlights of mammals: Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (dry zone race), Tufted Grey Langur e, Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (dry zone race), Grey Slender Loris e, White-striped Chevrotain E, Brown Palm Civet E, Rusty-Spotted Cat e, Jungle Cat.

Day 09 - After breakfast visit Sigiriya Fortress, and afternoon birding at forest near Sigiriya rock for looking for forest birds and other wildlife (i.e. reptiles, butterflies, dragonflies, etc).

Overnight stay at the hotel in Sigiriya.

Possible highlights of birds: Forest Eagle Owl, Oriental Scops Owl, Brown Fish Owl, Indian Nightjar, Jerdon's Nightjar, Ceylon Grey Hornbill, Blue-faced Malkoha, Indian Pitta, Jerdon's Bushlark, Ceylon Woodshrike, White-browed Bulbul, Indian Blue Robin, Orange-headed Thrush, White-rumped Shama, Jungle Prinia, Green Warbler, Large-billed Warbler, Brown-capped Babbler, Streaked Weaver.

Possible highlights of mammals: Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (dry zone race), Tufted Grey Langur e, Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (dry zone race), Grey Slender Loris e, White-striped Chevrotain E, Brown Palm Civet E, Rusty-Spotted Cat e, Jungle Cat,

Day 10 - Morning drive to Anuradhapura. Afternoon visit Anuradhapura ancient city.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Anuradhapura.

Day 11 - Morning visit Anuradhapura ancient city. After lunch drive to Airport for departure.