

Itinerary – 08 – Birding, Mammals and other wildlife tour in Sri Lanka - 14 Days 13 Nights

Day 01 - Arrival and transfer to Hotel near Airport.

Overnight at Hotel near Airport

Possible highlights of birds: Brown hawk Owl, Indian Scope Owl, Red backed Flameback, Sri Lanka Swallow, Lesser Hill Mayna.

Possible highlights of mammals: Brown Mongos, Ruddy Mongos, Indian Flying Fox.

Day 02 – After breakfast drive to Kitulgala. Check in at hotel in Kitulgala by lunch time, for two nights. Afternoon crossing the river by the rest house on dugout canoe to visit Kitulgala rainforest. In the forest looking for rainforest birds including endemics and some nocturnal birds; and also butterflies, forest mammals and other wildlife.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Kitulgala.

Possible highlights of birds: Ceylon Spurfowl, Serendib Scops Owl, Ceylon Junglefowl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Ceylon Frogmouth, Layard's Parakeet, Green-billed Coucal, Ceylon Hanging- parrot, Malarbar Trogon, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Crimson-backed Flameback, Black-capped Bulbul, Spot-winged Thrush, Rufous (Orange-billed) Babbler, Legge's Flowerpecker, 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 Red Slender Loris E, Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (wet zone race), 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 03 - Full day birding in Kitulgala.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Kitulgala.

Possible highlights of birds: Ceylon Spurfowl, Serendib Scops Owl, Ceylon Junglefowl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Ceylon Frogmouth, Layard's Parakeet, Green-billed Coucal, Ceylon Hanging- parrot, Malarbar Trogon, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Crimson-backed Flameback, Black-capped Bulbul, Spot-winged Thrush, Rufous (Orange-billed) Babbler, Legge's Flowerpecker, 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 Red Slender Loris E, Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (wet zone race), 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 leave for Sinharaja rainforest. Check in to hotel or lodge near Sinharaja by lunch time, for three nights. Evening birding in Sinharaja forest.

Overnight stay at Hotel or 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 05 - 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 Hotel or 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 06 - Morning final visit to the Sinharaja rainforest and birding in the forest till evening. In the forest looking for rainforest birds including endemics those missed on previous day; and also butterflies, forest mammals and other wildlife.

Overnight stay at Hotel or 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 Lorises 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 07 - Morning leave for Udawalawa. Check in to hotel in Udawalawa by lunch time, for one night. Afternoon visit Udawalawa National Park on jeeps, the park consists of dry grassland, scrub and forest, looking for open country and grassland birds including some endemics; and also butterflies, Asian Elephant and other forest mammals, and other wildlife.

Overnight stay at hotel in Udawalawa.

Possible highlights of birds: Crested Hawk-Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Indian Peafowl, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Sirkeer Malkoha, Blue-faced Malkoha, Indian Scops Owl, Alexandrine Parakeet, Plum-headed parakeet, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Marshall's Iora, Crested Treeswift, Coppersmith Barbet, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Jerdon's Bushlark, Blyth's Pipit, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Lesser Adjutant, Ceylon Woodshrike, Indian Black Robin, White-browed Bulbul, Jungle Prinia, Ashy Prinia, Plain Prinia, Grey-breasted Prinia, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Black-headed Munia, Rosy Starling.

Possible highlights of mammals: Ruddy Mongoose, Asian Elephant, Golden Jackal, Jungle Cat, Indian Flying Fox, Lesser Tube-nosed Bat.

Day 08 - Morning leave for Thissamaharama. Check in at the hotel by lunch time, for two nights. Afternoon visit Yala National Park by jeeps, the park consists of wetlands, and dry grasslands, scrublands and forest, looking for waterbirds, shorebirds, forest and nocturnal birds including some endemics, and also butterflies, Asian Elephant, Leopard, Sloth Bear and other forest mammals, and other wildlife.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Thissamaharama.

Possible highlights of birds: Black-necked Stork, Spot-billed Pelican, Lesser Adjutant, Ceylon Junglefowl, Indian Nightjar, Jerdon's Nightjar, Jerdon's Bushlark, Ceylon Woodshrike, White-browed Bulbul, Marshall's Iora, Brahminy Starling, Rosy Starling.

Possible highlights of mammals: Chital, Sambar, Asian Elephant, Tufted Grey Langur e, Eurasian Wild Boar, Golden Jackal, Sloth Bear e, Leopard, Rusty-Spotted Cat e, Jungle Cat, Striped-necked Mongoose e, Ruddy Mongoose e, Indian Grey Mongoose, Indian Gerbil, Wild Water Buffalo, Indian Hare e.

Day 09 - Morning visit Bundala National park by jeeps, the park consists of wetlands, and dry grasslands, scrublands and forest, looking for waterbirds, shorebirds, forest birds including some endemics, and also butterflies, some mammals, and other wildlife.

Afternoon visit wetlands around Tissa looking for waterbirds.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Thissamaharama.

Possible highlights of birds: Great Thick-knee, Black and Yellow Bitterns, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Small Pratincole, Watercock, Brown Fish Owl, Indian Scops Owl, Blue-faced Malkoha, Ceylon Woodshrike, Marshall's Iora, Tawny-bellied Babbler, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Jungle Prinia, Rosy starling.

Possible highlights of mammals: Chital, Sambar, Asian Elephant, Tufted Grey Langur e, Eurasian Wild Boar, Golden Jackal, Striped-necked Mongoose e, Ruddy Mongoose e, Indian Grey Mongoose, Indian Gerbil, Wild Water Buffalo, Indian Hare e.

Day 10 - Morning leave for Nuwara Eliya in the high hills. Check in at a hotel in Nuwara Eliya by lunch time, 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 11 - Early morning proceed to Horton Plains National Park 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), Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (highland race), Dusky-striped Jungle Squirrel E, Striped-necked Mongoose e.

Day 12 - 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 visit 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 13 - Morning birding in hotel garden looking for forest birds including Ceylon Small (Crimson-fronted) Barbet, Crimson-backed Flameback, Brown-capped Babbler, Lesser Hill Myna.

After lunch leave for hotel near Airport for final night. Check in at a hotel in late evening.

Overnight stay at Hotel near Airport.

Possible highlights of birds: Brown hawk Owl, Indian Scope Owl, Red backed Flameback, Sri Lanka Swallow, Lesser Hill Mayna.

Possible highlights of mammals: Brown Mongos, Ruddy Mongos, Indian Flying Fox.

Day 14 - Departure