

Itinerary – 13 – Birding, Mammals, Whale watching, other wildlife and cultural tour in Sri Lanka - 21 Days 20 Nights

Day 01 - Arrive at Colombo Airport and transfer to hotel near airport.

Overnight at Hotel near Airport.

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

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

Day 02 - Drive to Anuradhapura, afternoon birding in hotel garden.

Overnight at Hotel in Anuradhapura

Target birds: Oriental Scops Owl, Forest Eagle Owl, Brown Fish Owl, Indian Nightjar, Jerdon's Nightjar, Blue-faced Malkoha, Ceylon Grey Hornbill, 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: Tufted Grey Langur e, Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (dry zone race), Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (dry zone race), Grey Slender Loris e, White-striped Chevrotain E, Brown Palm Civet E.

Day 03 – Morning visit Wilpattu National park. Afternoon visit Anuradhapura ancient city.

Overnight at Hotel in Anuradhapura

Possible highlights of birds: Oriental Scops Owl, Forest Eagle Owl, Brown Fish Owl, Indian Nightjar, Jerdon's Nightjar, Blue-faced Malkoha, Ceylon Grey Hornbill, 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: Tufted Grey Langur e, Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (dry zone race), Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (dry zone race), Grey Slender Loris e, White-striped Chevrotain E, Brown Palm Civet E.

Day 04 - After breakfast drive to Sigiriya, 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 05 - 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 06 - Morning drive to Nilgala, afternoon birding in Nilgala forest.

Overnight at hotel in Nilgala

Possible highlights of birds: Yellow footed Green pigeon, Jungle Owlet, Painted Francolin, Streak troughed Woodpecker, Jungle bush Qual, Forest Eagle 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: Gray Mongos, Ruddy Mongos, Striped necked Mongos, Tufted Grey Langur e, Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (dry zone race), Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (dry zone race), Grey Slender Loris e, White-striped Chevrotain E, Brown Palm Civet E.

Day 07 - Full day birding at Nilgala forest.

Overnight at hotel in Nilgala

Possible highlights of birds: Yellow footed Green pigeon, Jungle Owlet, Painted Francolin, Streak troughed Woodpecker, Jungle bush Qual, Forest Eagle 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: Gray Mongos, Ruddy Mongos, Striped-necked Mongos, Tufted Grey Langur e, Purple-faced Leaf Monkey E (dry zone race), Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel e (dry zone race), Grey Slender Loris e, White-striped Chevrotain E, Brown Palm Civet E.

Day 08 - Morning leave for Kandy, check in at a hotel in Kandy by lunch time, for one night. Afternoon birding at hotel garden, the garden is good for some common birds in the area including endemic Ceylon Small (Crimson-fronted) Barbet and Lesser Hill-Myna.

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 09 - 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 10 - 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 Hakgala Botanical Garden.

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 11 – After breakfast drive to Kitulgala. Check in at rest house 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 rest house 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 12 - Full day birding at Kitulgala Forest.

Overnight at Rest House 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 13 - Morning leave for Sinharaja rainforest. Check in to Hotel near Sinharaja by lunch time, for three nights. Evening birding in Sinharaja forest.

Overnight stay at Hotel 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 14 – 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 15 – 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 16 - Morning leave for Udawalawa. Check in to hotel in Udawalawa by lunch time, for one night. Subsequently an afternoon visit to Udawalawa National Park (Hotel to park entrance - 10 minutes drive) 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 17 - Morning leave for Thissamaharama for two nights. Check in at the hotel by lunch time. 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, Eurasian Wild Boar, Golden Jackal, Sloth Bear, Leopard, Rusty-Spotted Cat, Jungle Cat, Striped-necked Mongoose, Ruddy Mongoose, Indian Grey Mongoose, Indian Gerbil, Wild Water Buffalo, Indian Hare.

Day 18 - Morning visit Bundala National park (Hotel to park entrance - 30 minutes drive) by jeeps, the Bundala National 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 Thissamaharama 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 19 - Morning drive to Mirissa. Afternoon leisure at beach.

Overnight at hotel in Weligama

Day 20 - Morning First Whale watching trip. Afternoon leisure at beach.

Overnight at hotel in Weligama

Species often encountered: Bryde's Whale (*Balaenoptera 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 21 - Morning Second Whale watching trip. after lunch drive to hotel near airport for departure.