



Sri Lanka (Ceylon) is a tropical island situated close to the southern tip of India and known as a birder's paradise. The birdlife of this tropical island is very rich for its size and 521 species have been recorded. In addition to the many resident birds, a considerable number of migratory species winter in the country to escape their northern breeding grounds. 34 species are confirmed as endemic. The other resident species are also found in the nearby Indian mainland, but over 80 have developed distinct Sri Lankan races. Some of these races are very different in their plumage characteristics from the related forms in India. 26 species are globally threatened. The Bird distribution in Sri Lanka is largely determined by its climatic zones.

Tour Of Birds(10 days)

Day 02- Habarana

Route: Negombo- Anawilundawa- Habarana

The uniqueness of Anawilundawa is its immediate proximity to three vastly different ecosystems; the coast, the mangroves, and the freshwater tanks making it one of the six RAMSAR Wetlands in Sri Lanka. This unique ecological setting has made it a favorable nesting and breeding ground for hundreds of species of birds. This sanctuary acts as a natural habitat and refuge for 150 species of water birds in addition to a few species of threatened Fish, Amphibians, Mammals, and Reptiles. Some of the Bird species found here are a large breeding colony of Herons, the Open-bill, the Great cormorant, the White ibis, the Egret, Stalk, Pheasant-tailed jacana, and the Purple swamp hen. A total of 20 species of mammals have been recorded here, this includes the Rusty-spotted cat, the Fishing cat, the Indian otter, the Slender Loris, the Toque monkey, and 74 species of butterflies. Most endemic and resident birds can be observed right through the year while the migrants are best seen between the months of October and April.

Hotel: Sigiriya Village

Meal plan: Breakfast and Dinner



Day-03- Habarana-Sigiriya-Minneriya-Habarana

Sigiriya is celebrated among travel enthusiasts as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an ancient rock fortress with awe-inspiring architecture and ancient landscaping. It is however seldom known as home to a significant number of bird species. The forest at the foot of the Sigiriya rock is a preferred habitat of over 65 endemic, resident, and migratory bird species. As a result, an area of 5,099 hectares consisting of forests, water bodies, and roads surrounding Sigiriya and leading towards Pidurangala was recently declared a Bird Sanctuary. A number of raptors such as the Shaheen Falcon, White Bellied Sea Eagles, Grey Headed Fish Eagles, Crested Serpent Eagles, and Crested Hawk Eagles can be seen gliding over the area. In addition, a variety of both common and rare species including the Little Scoop Owl, Indian Long-tailed Night-Jar, Forest Eagle Owl, Open bill, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Green Imperial Pigeon, Emerald Dove, Ceylon Jungle Fowl, Orange-headed Ground Thrush, Indian Blue Chat, Brown-capped Babbler, White-Rumped Shama, Black-capped Bulbul, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Brown Flycatcher, Layard's Flycatcher, Orange Minivet, Small Minivet, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Ceylon Grey Hornbill and the Blue-faced Malkoha is frequently sighted in the area.

Day 03, Continues to next page.



Minneriya National Park

The Minneriya National Park is famed for its “Elephant Gathering”, a spectacular phenomenon during the long dry seasons, when hundreds of Elephants, both adults and young along with a few tuskless. Sometimes herd of close to 200 elephants can be seen feeding on the grasslands bordering the tank, with others cooling off in the giant tank. In addition to the Elephant attraction, it also has an abundance of wildlife. This includes 24 species of mammals, such as endemic monkeys; purple-faced langur and toque macaque, sambar and axis deer, the grey slender Loris, and the less frequently seen Sri Lankan leopard and Sloth bear. The Minneriya Reservoir has been a welcome refuge for large water birds such as lesser adjutant, Painted stork, and Spot-billed pelican in addition to resident and migratory bird species totaling 160. Amongst the endemic birds are Sri Lanka Jungle fowl, Sri Lanka hanging parrot, Brown-capped babbler, Sri Lanka grey hornbill, Black-crested bulbul, and Crimson-fronted barbell.

Also, this park has recorded a large number of reptiles, freshwater fish, and butterflies.

Hotel: Habarana Village

Meal plan: Breakfast and Dinner



Day 04- Kandy

Visit Sigiriya Rock early in the morning to avoid the heat.

Proceeds to Kandy after breakfast. Enroute visit Royal Botanic Gardens of Peradeniya.

Peradeniya Botanic Gardens. The garden is famous for its rich and varied collections of tropical woody plants. Occupying 59 hectares (146 acres), it has about 4,000 species of plants. The most important specimens of the garden include palms, some of which are planted in impressive avenues. Significant, too, are the collections of orchids, gymnosperms, and flowering trees.

Hotel: Kandy Mahaweli Reach Hotel and relax.

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Dinner included.



Day 05 - Kandy

After breakfast visit Udawatta Kele Sanctuary for bird watching. This sanctuary is also known as a birder's paradise with its many bird species and easy accessibility. Here, you will notice species including the Layard's Parakeet, Yellow-fronted Barbet, or even the Crimson-backed Golden back. The forest has a host of nocturnal birds as well including the Brown Fish Owl. Brown-capped Babbler, Layard's Parakeet, and Yellow-fronted Barbet are some of the endemic bird species that can be observed here often. Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher which is very rarely seen in Sri Lanka, as well as many other places where it recorded great numbers earlier, can also be observed.

Tip: The Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher is also known as the Three-Toed Kingfisher and Black-Backed Kingfisher in many parts of the world.

Afternoon optional visit to Gem factory, wood carving factory or visit city and interact with locals.

Evening visit Cultural dance show and famous sacred tooth relic temple.

Dinner and overnight stay at Mahaweli Reach Hotel.



Proceeds to Kithulgala from Kandy

Kithulgala is a small town in the western part of Sri Lanka. The famous award-winning movie “The Bridge on the River Kwai” in 1957 was mostly filmed here. One of the longest rivers in Sri Lanka “Kelani” is wide in Kithulgala. Hence, very popular for white-water rafting. The rainforest of Kithulgala has a rich ecosystem and has most of the rainforest bird species that are found at the World Biosphere Reserve at Sinharaja, although in lower numbers. However, the secondary forest and cultivation at Kithulgala are more open than the pristine woodlands of Sinharaja, and elusive endemic species like Sri Lanka Spurfowl, Green-billed Coucal, and Spot-winged Thrush may be easier to see. So Kithulgala is a primary spot for bird-watching enthusiasts. You can see a variety of birds such as Black Eagle, Rufous-Bellied Eagle, Ceylon Spurfowl, Ceylon Jungle Fowl, Ceylon Green-Pigeon, Ceylon Hanging-Parrot, Layard’s Parakeet, Green-Billed Coucal, Serendib Scops-Owl, Chestnut-Backed Owlet, Brown Hawk-Owl, Ceylon Frogmouth, Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher, Ceylon Swallow, Ceylon Grey Hornbill, Yellow-Fronted Barbet, Black-capped Bulbul, Gold-Fronted Leaf Bird, Spot-winged Ground-Thrush, Legge’s Flowerpecker, Brown-Capped Babbler, Ceylon Rufous Babbler, Ceylon Hill-Myna, Ceylon Crested Drongo in Kithulgala

Afternoon on bird watching tour.

Hotel: Overnight stay at Paradise Eco Garden

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Dinner



Day 07 - Kithulgala

Take another bird-watching tour in the morning and explore nature.

Afternoon optional to visit well know Belilena cave which is evidence of prehistoric human presence as early as 32000 years ago.

Optional activities

1. Whitewater rafting
2. Hiking
3. Waterfall abseiling

Hotel: Overnight stay at Paradise Eco Garden

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Dinner.



Day 08- Proceeds to Sinharaja Rain Forest

After a leisurely morning, transfer to Sinharaja, the largest rainforest in the country.

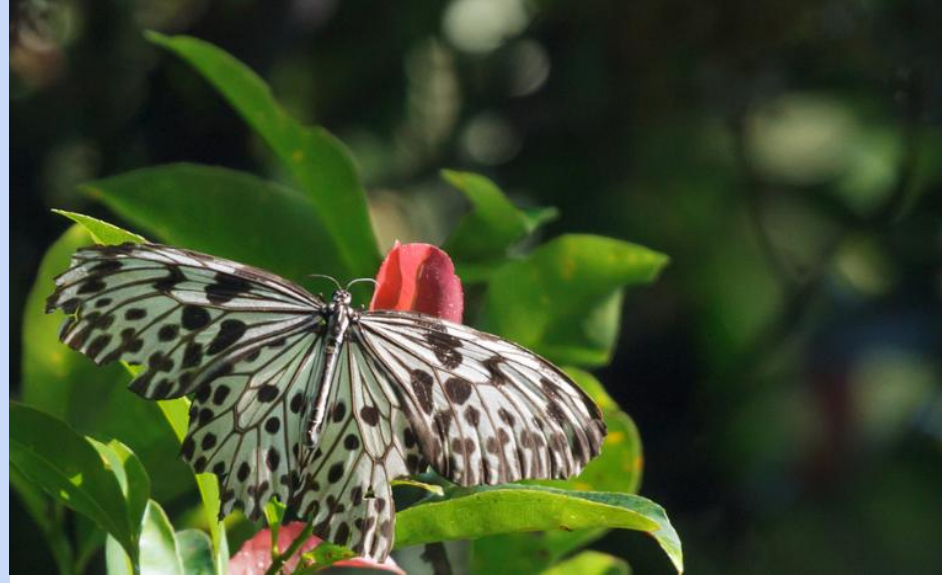
Sinharaja is the largest rainforest in the country and the last viable area of primary tropical rainforest. Here, more than 60% of trees are endemic and many of them are considered rare and endangered. There is much endemic wildlife, especially birds, but the reserve is also home to endemic and rare species of mammals, butterflies, dragonflies, insects, reptiles, and amphibians.

The Sinharaja rainforest is home to 21 endemic bird species. The rare endemic birds to be seen in the Sinharaja Rainforest are Red-faced Malkoha, Sri Lanka Blue Maggie, Ashly-headed Babbler, White-headed Starling, Jungle Fowl, Spurfowl, Red-faced Malkoha, Brown-capped babbler, Blue Maggie, Ceylon gray hornbill, Ashly-headed laughingthrush etc.

Go on an afternoon bird-watching tour with your naturalist birding guide.

Hotel: Overnight stay at Eco Friendly Hotel.

Meal plan: Breakfast and Dinner



Day 09 & 10- Activities at Sinharaja Rain Forest

These two days, Morning and afternoon bird-watching tour with naturalists in Sinharaja World Heritage Wilderness Area.

Possible noteworthy species: Crested Goshawk, Besra Sparrowhawk, Rufous-Bellied Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Black Eagle, Mountain Hawk-Eagle, Ceylon Spurfowl, Ceylon Jungle Fowl, Ceylon Wood Pigeon, Red-Faced Malkoha, Green-Billed Coucal, Chestnut-Winged Cuckoo, Serendib Scops-Owl, Chestnut-Backed Owlet, Ceylon Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, Yellow-Browed Bulbul, Himalayan Black Bulbul, Spot-Winged Ground Thrush, Ceylon Scaly Thrush, Ceylon Rufous Babbler, Ashy-Headed Laughingthrush, Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Ceylon Blue Magpie, White-Faced Starling And Ceylon Hill-Myna.

Also, During this stay explore and observe waterfalls, wildflowers, tropical fish , and way of life in that area.

Hotel: Overnight stay at Eco Friendly Hotel.

Meal plan: Breakfast and Dinner

Days 11- end of the tours and proceeds to Colombo Airport with memories. Have a safe flight.

