

Wild Sri Lanka in Style- Tour Report January 2015



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Day 01 Sunday 13th January 2015

The group arrived at 2.10pm and we left the Airport at 3.10pm and head out to Sigiriya for the first days stay. On our way we see the Woolly-necked Stork and the Indian Pond Heron. The roads were under construction and slowed our journey down. We reached the hotel at 8.20pm and had dinner on arrival. After dinner the group met for the next day's briefing and went to bed early as it was a long drive.

Day 02 Monday 14th January 2015

We started the day early and after breakfast we left the hotel at 8.35 am for the Sigiriya sanctuary and on our way we see the Scaly-breasted Munia, Green Bee-eater, Spotted Dove, Red-vented Bulbul, Indian Robin, Common Tailor Bird and Plain Prinia. We also encounter a Toque Monkey, Asian Wild Elephant and an unfortunate site of a dead Ring-tailed Civet run over by a vehicle. We climb the Sigiriya rock at 9.05am and after enjoying the frescos and the ruins of the ancient royal complex we descended the rock at 11.40am and proceeded for lunch at a nearby restaurant. During lunch we see the Black-hooded Oriole, Purple-rumped Sunbird, Yellow-billed Babbler, Paradise Fly-catcher and Brown-headed Barbet. After lunch we visited the Pollonnaruwa ancient ruins and visited the Vatadage which was a circular structure that housed a statue of Lord Buddha and many other iconic ancient structures. The Gal Viharaya or Stone Temple housed 3 different statues of Lord Buddha in different poses. We left the site at 4.30pm and reached the hotel at 6.30pm. On the way to the hotel we were lucky to see two Jackals crossing the road just ahead of us. After dinner we had a briefing of the next day's program and went to bed.

Day 03 Tuesday 15th January 2015

We started the day at 5.00am and started birding around the hotel complex until 7.30 am. We saw the Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Rock Pigeon, Black Bittern, Jungle Fowl, Peafowl, White-throated Kingfisher, Greater Coucal, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Common Kingfisher, Common Myna, Tawny-bellied Babbler, Common Iora, Large-billed Crow, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, Green Imperial Pigeon, White-breasted Water Hen, Brahminy Kite, Asian Open-bill, Indian Pond Heron and Great Egret. After breakfast we checked out of the hotel and visited the Dambulla Cave temple complex which once was a refuge for a Sri Lankan King who evaded Indian invaders somewhere in the 1st Century BC. After the cave temple we stopped at a restaurant for lunch and after lunch we proceeded to Kandy and visited the Temple of the Tooth which is the last ancient Kingdom of Sri Lanka which houses the tooth of the Lord Buddha and is a sacred symbol to all Buddhists the world over. We reached our hotel at 5.30pm and had our dinner at 7.30pm and finished the day's activity with the briefing for the next day's program.

Day 04 Wednesday 16th January 2015

Today we started the day with birding at Udawattakele where we see the Hanging Parrot, Copper Smith Barbet, Brown-breasted Fly-catcher, Asian Paradise Fly-catcher along with other birds we saw before. We also see a Water Monitor in a nearby lake. We left the site at 12.20pm and reached the hotel at 12.40pm for lunch. At 3.30pm we left for the Royal Botanical gardens in Peradeniya and enjoyed the flora and the memorial plants planted by various leaders who visited the country. After the gardens we left for a cultural dance program which shows different types of dances which are practiced in the island from ancient times onward.

We reached the hotel at 7.00pm and after dinner and the next day's briefing we went to our rooms for the night.

Day 05 Thursday 17th January 2015

We checked out of the hotel at 9.00am and proceed to Nuwara Eliya hill country for the next hotel. On our way we stopped at a working tea factory and had a tour on how tea is made in Sri Lanka. We had lunch at a scenic location overlooking the Ramboda water falls and after lunch reached the hotel at 5.00pm. We had our dinner at 8.00pm and after the next day's briefing we went to our rooms for the night.

Day 06 Friday 18th January 2015

We left the hotel at 7.00am and proceeded to the Horton Plains for a half day excursion. We see the Black-shouldered Kite, Barn Swallow, Hill Swallow, Sri Lanka White-eye, Yellow-eared Bulbul, Dull-blue Fly-catcher, Purple Sunbird and Pied Bush-chat. We also see a flock of Sambar Deer and a Black-lipped Lizard. We stop at a hotel for lunch and after lunch en-route to our hotel we see Great Tit, Serpent Eagle, Crested Hawk Eagle, Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler, Grey-headed Canary Fly-catcher and Grey Wag-tail.

After reaching our hotel we did our check list for the day at 7.30 and had dinner after the briefing for the next day program.

Day 07 Saturday 19th January 2015

We left the hotel after breakfast and proceeded towards Yala and on the way we stop at a Hindu Kovil and observed certain religious rituals been performed by the Poosari who is the priest of the Hindu Kovil. For lunch we stopped at Ella and observed a Rufous-bellied Eagle flying above us. After lunch we saw a group of Grey Langurs and later proceeded to see the Rawana Ella water falls. Once again en-route we see the Oriental Honey Buzzard and a Black Eagle, and later at a tank we see Black-headed Ibis, Black-winged Stilt, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Yellow Bittern, Black-rumped Flameback Woodpecker, Scaly-breasted Munia, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Little Cormorant, Darter, Whistling Duck, Purple Swamp Hen, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Whiskered Tern, Asian Koel, Small Minivet, White-bellied Drongo, House Crow and Common Myna.

After reaching our hotel we did our check list for the day at 7.30pm and had dinner after the briefing for the next day program.

Day 08 Sunday 20th January 2015

We left the hotel at 5.30 am and reached the Yala national park entrance at 6.00am. Our first encounter at the park was a Spot-billed Pelican and there after the Pacific Golden Plover, Common Ring Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Grey Heron, Painted Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, Changeable Hawk Eagle, White-breasted Water Hen, Great Thick-knee, Yellow Wattled Lapwing, Common Sand Piper, Common Green Shank, Marsh Sand Piper, Common red Shank, Little Stint, Gull-billed Tern, Grey-bellied Cuckoo, Crested Tree Swift, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Malabar-pied Hornbill, Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Jerdon's Bushlark, Paddy-field Pippit, Sri Lanka Wood-shrike, Brown Shrike, House Sparrow, Baya Weaver and Indian Silver bill. We also encounter a Ruddy Mongoose, Wild Boar, Wild Asian Elephants, Spotted Deer, Sambar Deer, Wild Buffalo, Palm Squirrel and Indian Hare. We also were able to see the elusive Leopard hiding amongst tall grass.

After reaching our hotel we did our check list for the day at 7.30pm and had dinner after the briefing for the next day program.

Day 09 Monday 21st January 2015

We were very lucky today to spot the Leopard just as we left the hotel. The female Leopard was perched on a rock at close proximity to our jeep and we managed to take a good look at it before it left. We reached the Yala national park entrance at 6.00am and after a half day safari we came back to the hotel for lunch. We leave the hotel once again at 2.30pm were lucky to spot another elusive animal the Sloth Bear. We encounter the Pin-tailed Snipe, Jacobin Cuckoo, Pied Kingfisher, Common Cuckoo, Yellow-crowned Wood Pecker, Blyth's Pipit, Large Cuckoo Strike, White-browed Bulbul, White-browed Fang-tail, Yellow-eyed Babbler and Brahminy Starling before we head back to the hotel.

After reaching our hotel we did our check list for the day at 7.30pm and had dinner after the briefing of next day program.

Day 10 Tuesday 22nd January 2015

We left the hotel at 9.00am after breakfast and proceeded to the southern coastal city of Galle. En-route we encounter a Common Kestrel along with many other birds. We stopped for lunch at the Galle fort and after lunch explored the ramparts of the old fort before checking in to the hotel.

After reaching our hotel we did our check list for the day at 7.30pm and had dinner after the briefing for the next day program.

Day 11 Wednesday 23rd January 2015

We left the hotel at 6.00am and proceeded to the small coastal city of Mirissa for our Whale watching excursion. We left the Mirissa port at 7.00am head out to the ocean where we first encounter a Bryd's Whale very close to our boat. After a little while we see a Blue Whale also quite close to our boat. We also encounter a few flying fish dashing out of the water to avoid our approaching boats. We reach the port at 10.15 am since we were lucky to spot the Whales early and then head out to a nearby restaurant for lunch. After lunch we explored the Galle Fort city further and head back to the hotel at 3.30pm. The rest of the day we were at leisure enjoying the hotel scenery.

We did our check list for the day at 7.30pm and had dinner after the briefing for the next day program.

Day 12 Thursday 24th January 2015

Once again we left the hotel at 6.15am and reached the Mirissa port by 7.00am in time to board our Whale watching boat. We see a Blue Whale in less than 15 minutes in to the ocean and also spot Bottle-nosed Dolphins and a Green Turtle. We get back to the port at 11.15am and reached the hotel at 12.15pm for lunch. After lunch we left the hotel at 2.40pm and proceeded to Katunayake for our last night's stay.

We reach the hotel at 6.30pm and meet for the checklist at 7.30pm and had our dinner afterwards before heading to our rooms.

Day 13 Friday 25th January 2015

After breakfast we left for the Airport in time to catch our flight back.

Bird List

	Common name	Scientific name
1	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>
2	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
3	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
4	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
5	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
6	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
7	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
8	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
10	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
11	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>
12	Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>
13	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
14	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
15	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
16	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
17	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
18	Lesser Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
19	Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
20	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
21	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
22	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
23	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
24	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
25	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>
26	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus kienerii</i>
27	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatu</i>
28	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
29	Sri Lanka Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>
30	Sri Lanka Junglefowl	<i>Gallus lafayetii</i>
31	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
32	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
33	Purple Swampfen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
34	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
35	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
36	Great Thick-Knee	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>
37	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>
38	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
39	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
40	Little Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
41	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
42	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
43	Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>
44	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>

45	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
46	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
47	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
48	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
49	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
50	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
51	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
52	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
53	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
54	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
55	Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba torringtoni</i>
56	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
57	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
58	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>
59	Sri Lanka Green Pigeon	<i>Treron pompadora</i>
60	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>
61	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
62	Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>
63	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
64	Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>
65	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>
66	Red-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus</i>
67	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
68	Green-billed Coucal	<i>Centropus chlororhynchus</i>
69	Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>
70	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
71	Malabar Trogon	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>
72	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
73	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
74	Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erithaca</i>
75	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
76	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
77	Green Bee-Eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
78	Blue-tailed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
79	Chestnut-headed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
80	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
81	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>
82	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>
83	Yellow-fronted Barbet	<i>Megalaima flavifrons</i>
84	Crimson-fronted Barbet	<i>Megalaima rubricapillus</i>
85	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
86	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos moluccensis</i>
87	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>
88	Lesser Goldenback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
89	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
90	Jerdon's Bushlark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i>
91	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
92	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>

93	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>
94	Large Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>
95	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
96	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>
97	Sri Lanka Wood-Shrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
98	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
99	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
100	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
101	Jerdon's Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>
102	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
103	Spot-winged Thrush	<i>Zoothera spiloptera</i>
104	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>
105	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
106	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulvicatus</i>
107	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>
108	Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>
109	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
110	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
111	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
112	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
113	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
114	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>
115	Dark-fronted Babbler	<i>Rhopocichla atriceps</i>
116	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>
117	Sri Lankan Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i>
118	Orange-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides rufescens</i>
119	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>
120	Ashy-headed Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax cinereifrons</i>
121	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
122	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>
123	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>
124	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
125	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
126	Sri Lanka Crested-Drongo	<i>Dicrurus(paradiseus) lophorinus</i>
127	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
128	Sri Lanka Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa ornata</i>
129	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
130	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
131	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>
132	White-faced Starling	<i>Sturnornis albofrontatus</i>
133	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
134	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
135	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
136	Indian Silverbill	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>
137	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>

Mammals List

	Common name	Scientific name
1	Toque Macaque	<i>Macaca sinica</i>
2	Grey Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>
3	Purple-faced Leaf Monkey	<i>Presbytis vetulus</i>
4	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
5	Sloth Bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>
6	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>
7	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
8	Indian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
9	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
10	Spotted Deer (Chital)	<i>Cervus axis</i>
11	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>
12	Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>
13	Indian Pangolin	<i>Manis crassicaudata</i>
14	Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
15	Dusky Squirrel	
16	Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
17	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus gigantea</i>
18	Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>
19	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>
20	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>