

# Tailor-made Tour Report- 20<sup>th</sup> August – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016

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**Tour Leader:**            **Niran Coonghe**

## **Day 01 Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

The group met at the Airport and boarded their flight to Sri Lanka for a 21 day Tailor-made tour.

## **Day 02 Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

The clients arrived at the Airport and were transferred to the Airport Garden Hotel for their first night stay.



## Day 03 - 06 Monday - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016

After breakfast on the 22<sup>nd</sup> we proceeded to Habarana and reached the hotel at noon. After lunch we went on our first jeep safari to Minneriya National Park and encountered many herds of Asian Elephants in what is known as the gathering along with Grey Mongoose, Ruddy Mongoose, Torque Macaque, Grey Langur, Golden Jackal, Wild Boar, Spotted Deer, Water Buffalo, Indian Palm Squirrel and Grizzled Palm Squirrel. We also encountered Mugger Crocodile, Oriental Garden Lizard, Sri Lanka Jungle Fowl, Indian Peafowl, Painted Stork, Asian Openbill, Woolly-necked Stork, Lesser Adjutant, Black-headed Ibis, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Little Egret, Spot-billed Pelican, Little Cormorant, Indian Cormorant, Oriental Darter, Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, White-breasted Waterhen, Black-winged Stilt, Red-wattled Lapwing, Whiskered Tern, Spotted Dove, Indian Roller, White-throated Kingfisher, Common Kingfisher, Green Bee-eater, Red-vented Bulbul and many more. The next few days we visited the Minneriya National Park in the mornings and returned to the hotel for lunch and once again visiting the park in the afternoon. We saw many of the mammals and birds seen before and on one day we were lucky with sightings of Elephants bathing in the Minneriya tank. We also visited the Kaudulla national park on one evening.

## Day 07 Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016

After breakfast we checked out of the hotel and proceeded to Wilpattu for another 10 nights stay to explore the Wilpattu National Park. We reached the hotel in afternoon and after lunch visited the Anuradhapura ancient city. After exploring the ruins we returned to the hotel at 6.30pm



## Day 08- 16 Sunday- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

We had 10 visits to the Wilpattu National Park starting early in the morning with picnic breakfast and encountered many birds and mammals during our time in the park. The highlights of the visits were the sightings of 14 Leopards, both male and female, with cubs, drinking water, and scent marking, sleeping on branches and stalking prey. Sighting of a large Sloth Bear drinking at a water hole was also a bonus. Lesser Whistling Duck, Crested Serpent Eagle, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Shikra, Pacific Golden Plover, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Emerald Dove, Blue-faced Malkoha, Brown Fish Owl, Indian Nightjar, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Crimson-fronted Barbet, Oriental Skylark and Yellow-billed Babbler were some of the birds we encountered here. Most of the days were hot and sunny with clear visibility.



## Day 17 Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016

We had another full day safari in Wilpattu National park and checked out of the hotel in the afternoon and proceeded to Sigiriya for our next 3 night stay at the Sigiriya Hotel.

## Day 18 Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016

After breakfast we visited the Polonnaruwa ancient city and spent the whole day exploring the ruins of the once glorious kingdom of Sri Lanka. Our visit included the Palace compound, Kings Council Chambers, The Gal Vihara, Parakrama Samudra Tank, Pothgul Vihara and many other ruins. There was plenty of wildlife along the ramparts of the ancient city with many troops of Macaque and Langurs beside Spotted Deer and Palm Squirrels. We returned to the hotel late in the evening and called it a night.

## Day 19 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016

After having our breakfast we climbed the Sigiriya rock and visited the various compounds with the Frescos, audience halls, council hall and the palace compound and the summit. The surrounding views of the land made it an ideal look out for King Kassapa who ruled from this palace.

After lunch we did a little birding around the Sigiriya sanctuary and encountered many of the Birds seen before.

## Day 20 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

After breakfast at 7.00am we checked out of the hotel and proceeded to Colombo en-route visiting the Dambulla rock cave temple. This temple was famous for its Buddha statues that was once covered in Gold and was a refuge for a king who escaped from his enemies. There are 5 caves which hold various statues of the Buddha and the roofs and walls of these caves are ornately decorated with thousands of paintings and inscriptions.

We reached our hotel in Katunayake at 3.30pm and relaxed until dinner.

## Day 21 Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016

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

### Mammal List

	Common name	Scientific name
1	Toque Macaque	<i>Macaca sinica</i>
2	Grey Langur	<i>Semnopithecus (Presbytis) entellus</i>
3	Purple-faced Leaf Monkey	<i>Trachypithecus (Presbytis) vetulus</i>
4	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
5	Sloth Bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>
6	Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>
7	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>
8	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus kotiya</i>
9	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
10	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
11	Mouse Deer	<i>Tragulus meminna</i>

12	Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjac</i>
13	Spotted Deer	<i>Cervus axis</i>
14	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>
15	Water Buffalo	<i>Bubalus Bubalis</i>
16	Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
17	Grizzled Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>
18	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus gigantea</i>

## Birds List

	Common name	Scientific name
1	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
2	<b>Sri Lanka Junglefowl</b>	<i>Gallus lafayettii</i>
3	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
4	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
5	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
6	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
7	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
8	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
9	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
10	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
11	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
12	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
13	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
14	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
15	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>
16	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
17	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
18	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
19	Oriental Darter - <a href="#">Darter</a>	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
20	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
21	<a href="#">Changeable Hawk Eagle</a>	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
22	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
23	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
24	White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
25	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>
26	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
27	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
28	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>
29	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
30	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
31	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
32	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
33	Common Emerald Dove - <a href="#">Emeral Dove</a>	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
34	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>
35	<b>Sri Lanka Green Pigeon</b>	<i>Treron pompadora</i>
36	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>

37	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
38	Blue-faced Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>
39	Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
40	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>
41	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
42	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
43	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
44	Green Bee-eater, Little Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
45	Malabar Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>
46	<b>Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill</b>	<i>Ocyrceros gingalensis</i>
47	<b>Yellow-fronted Barbet</b>	<i>Psilopogon flavifrons</i>
48	<b>Crimson-fronted Barbet</b>	<i>Psilopogon rubricapillus</i>
49	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
50	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
51	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
52	Indian Paradise Flycatcher - <a href="#">Asian Paradise Flycatcher</a>	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
53	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
54	Indian Jungle Crow (Large-billed)- <a href="#">Large-billed Crow</a>	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>
55	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
56	<b>Black-capped Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>
57	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
58	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
59	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
60	Sand Martin, Pale Martin	<i>Riparia riparia (diluta?)</i>
61	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
62	<b>Sri Lanka Swallow</b>	<i>Cecropis hyperythra</i>
63	Yellow-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>
64	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
65	Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>
66	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
67	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
68	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>
69	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>