

# BIRD WATCHING GETAWAY

12 Nights/13 Days



Sri Lanka is a birder's paradise, boasting of diverse and favorable climatic conditions and natural habitats such as forests, scrublands, grasslands, wetlands, seas and agricultural lands.

The country is home to 439 species of birds of which 236 are breeding residents, 203 migrants and the rest vagrants. For a country as small as Sri Lanka having 33 endemic species and 68 endemic subspecies of birds with a species endemism of 11% goes to demonstrate why Sri Lanka is one of the finest birding destinations in the world. In addition there are close to 200 seasonal migratory birds both terrestrial and aquatic. Since Sri Lanka is situated at the farthest southern point away from the south of India with no other landmass until the South Pole, the migrating birds end their long journey in Sri Lanka, making it a regular wintering ground. You will be covering bird watching sessions at Kitulgala picturesque wetland, Sinharaja Rain forest, [Udawalawe](#) /[Yala](#)/[Bundala](#) National Parks & Horton plains grassland plateau.

This tour includes 12 nights/13 days accommodation, 12 meals including daily buffet breakfast, transport in air-conditioned vehicles, English-speaking Tour guides and more.

## **DAY 01 | AIRPORT – NEGOMBO**

On Arrival at Colombo International airport you will be welcomed by our representative/chauffer guide/national guide. Upon completion of arrival formalities check into the hotel in Negombo.

### **Overnight Stay at Negombo**

## **DAY 02 | NEGOMBO - KITHULGALA**

After breakfast, leave for your chosen hotel at **Kithulgala** for a full day bird watching safari.

The adventure sports capital of Sri Lanka, Kitulgala – a small village on the Kelani River in the Western hills, offers the thrills of **white-water rafting**, jungle trekking, bird watching and cave explorations to travellers looking for an action packed holiday. It is also a popular destination for outbound training programmes. This is an area of rolling hills, tropical rain forests and winding rivers, snug in the wet zone with two monsoons each year. For white water enthusiasts, the river offers enough spills for experienced paddlers and novices alike. However, it is imperative that you do so through a reputed and certified operator with qualified guides. Kitulgala offers rafting on Grade 3 and 4 rapids down the Kelani River swishing down through jungle, tea and rubber plantations. Just off the river, a small primeval forest, home to about 54 rare species of birds offers exciting explorations for the nature lover.

### **Overnight stay in Kalpitiya**

## **DAY 03 | KITHULGALA – SINGHARAJA**

After breakfast, proceed to **Sinharaja for a birding session** in Sinharaja periphery.

### **Overnight Stay in Sinharaja**

## **DAY 04 | SINGHARAJA**

After breakfast, full day birding at Sinharaja Rain Forest.

The ancient city of **Polonnaruwa** 216 km northeast of Colombo is a cornerstone of Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle. One of the most significant kingdoms in Sri Lankan history this medieval capital (11th - 12th Century AD) remains a well-preserved city of ancient stupas, moonstones, beautiful parks, massive buildings and imposing statues. The ruins of this ancient city stay scattered over an extensive area of woodland and can be explored within a day. The city was enclosed by three concentric protecting the royal palace complex at its centre, the

religious buildings - called Quadrangle, lie to the North and are very well preserved to this day. The largest monuments are found here including the buildings of the Menik Vihara, Rankot Vihara, Alahana Pirivena and Jetavana monasteries, the incredible Buddha statues of the Gal Vihara, the soaring Lankatilaka shrine, the majestic King's Council Chamber, the Lotus Bath are must see sights. And of course, the giant statue of Polonnaruwa's greatest king - Parakramabahu, and the vast 'Sea of Parakrama' – a 12th century man-made reservoir which dominates the city are not to be missed either.

### **Overnight Stay in Sinharaja**

## **DAY 05 | SINGHARAJA – UDAWALAWE**

After breakfast, spend the time at leisure. In the evening, proceed to [Udawalawe National Park](#).

For Asian Elephants in the wild, Udawalawe National Park is the ideal place. Lying on the boundaries of the Sabaragamuwa and Uva provinces, the Udawalawe National Park is home to large herds of Sri Lanka's largest land mammal, the majestic Asian Elephant. Sightings of elephants are very common here, so much so that you are likely to be treated to a few chance encounters just driving past the boundaries of the park. The park gets its name from the Walawe Reservoir which was built using the waters of the Walawe River, one of Sri Lanka's major rivers. The park landscape is a mixture of abandoned teak plantations, grasslands and scrub jungle and is also an ideal location for bird enthusiasts as well. Other animals to be seen include the water buffalo, sambar, monkeys and if you are lucky, maybe even an elusive leopard.

### **Overnight Stay in Udawalawe**

## **DAY 06 | UDAWALAWA – TISSAMAHARAMA**

With a picnic breakfast, proceed on a morning [jeep safari In Udawalawe National Park](#).

### **Overnight Stay in Tissamaharama**

## **DAY 07 | TISSAMAHARAMA - YALA – TISSAMAHARAMA**

After breakfast, proceed to [Yala National Park](#) (Morning or evening jeep safari).

Situated in the arid South East region of Sri Lanka, Yala National Park is home to the greatest variety of the nation's wildlife and therefore, its most popular wildlife destination. Declared a Game Reserve in 1938, Yala comprises five blocks covering an area of 151,778 hectares. The park comprises several major habitat types - dunes, scrub forest, riverine forests, rocky outcrops, secondary forests and coastal lagoons with mangrove forests which are home to a wide variety of wildlife. The 44 mammal species found here includes the endangered leopard sub-species Panthera Pardus Kotiya, which is found only in Sri Lanka.

Yala is also known to contain the highest Leopard concentration in the world. Other 'big game' such as sloth bear, herds of elephants, buffalo, sambar, spotted deer and crocodiles are also found in great numbers. The dry months from May to September are the best times for viewing them. With over 200 species of birds, Yala is a hotspot for birders too. From October to April during the Northern Hemisphere winters, Yala becomes home to many species of migrants and the salt pans at Palatupana are a popular location for bird watching. Yala's historical significance dates back to 500 B.C and evidence shows that the park was inhabited in the past. There are many archaeological sites within the park and the ancient monastery of Sithulpahuwa standing sedately on an isolated rocky platform is a popular pilgrimage site.

### **Overnight Stay in Tissamaharama**

## **DAY 08 | TISSAMAHARAMA - BUNDALA –TISSAMAHARAMAYA**

After breakfast, proceed to [Bundala National Park](#).

One of the hill country's most appealing destinations best known for some of the finest views in Sri Lanka, Ella is a small town of a pleasantly temperate climate surrounded by idyllic green hills. The main attraction of Ella is the breath-taking view from the 'Ella Gap' – looking out between the towering bulk of Ella Rock on the right and through a gap in the hills to the plains far, far below. While the village itself may not offer much in the way of attractions the locality certainly makes up for it. The majestic Ella rock looming over the village provides an arduous but rewarding hike – and the views from the top are well worth the effort. The beautiful Ravana Ella waterfall is an impressive cascade – the widest in Sri Lanka, is also a sight not to miss. The nearby caves are steeped in legend according to which, the ancient king Ravana held the Indian princess Sita captive in them.

### **Overnight Stay in Tissamaharama**

## **DAY 09 | TISSAMAHARAMA - NUWARA ELIYA**

After breakfast, proceed to [Nuwara Eliya](#).

Hidden away high in the central mountains at an altitude of over 6000 feet, Nuwara Eliya is the resort capital of the hills – and a world away from the hot tropical beach atmosphere of the coast, not just in climate but in its character too. The British planters who flocked to the region to grow tea in the mid-19th century developed Nuwara Eliya as their summer retreat. Created as an exact replica of an English town it is often called 'Little England'; and with its primarily colonial architecture, the stately Victoria Park, golf course, racing track, boating lake and grand period style hotels – and the cold, frequent showers of rain adding to the illusion, you could well be in an old English country town. This is the heart of the tea country, and is also a good base for excursions to discover other attractions of the hills. Sri Lanka's tallest mountain range 'Pidurutalagala' looms over the landscape, the surrounding forest is

a treasure for nature lovers and the Hakgala Botanical Gardens close by is known for its roses and rare ferns.

### **Overnight Stay in Nuwaraeliya**

## **DAY 10 | NUWARA ELIYA - HORTON PLAINS - NUWARA ELIYA**

With a picnic breakfast, proceed to [Horton Plains National Park](#).

A truly unique natural wonder, Horton Plains National Park is a protected reserve of montane grassland and cloud forest in the central highlands at an altitude of 2,100– 2,300 metres (6,900–7,500 ft), located around 28km from Nuwara Eliya in the central hills. The highest plateau in Sri Lanka it ends dramatically with a sheer drop of 870 m (2,854 ft) called World's End, which offers most spectacular views on a clear day. The reserve is a biodiversity hotspot with many endemics; myriad bird species, herds of sambur deer, bear monkeys and the elusive leopard. While the plains can be explored by jeep, it should ideally be seen on foot – and best visited early morning as the mist tends to fall by lunchtime. Sri Lanka's second and third highest peaks, Kirigalpotha (2,395m) and Thotupola Kanda (2,357m) are also found here and three major rivers of Sri Lanka – Mahaweli, Kelani and Walawe also begin their journey here, and cascading waterfalls, especially Baker's Falls is a must see.

### **Overnight Stay in Nuwaraeliya**

## **DAY 11 | NUWARA ELIYA - KANDY**

After breakfast, proceed to [Kandy](#).

The cultural epicentre and the hill capital of the island, Kandy is Sri Lanka's second city and home to the Temple of the Tooth - the country's most important religious shrine, and the traditional pageant the Esala Perahera. Although modernity and urban sprawl has changed the face of this once quaint hill station, it still carries a regal atmosphere with graceful Kandyan style architecture mingling with colonial buildings set around a tranquil lake surrounded by green hills. The kingdom of Kandy was the last stronghold of the Sinhalese, clinging to its sovereignty long after the island had fallen to the Portuguese and Dutch and the English, preserving its own unique customs and culture until the very last. These traditions live on today in the city's unique music, dance and architecture. For cultural attractions Kandy is overloaded with historic sites and there is much to explore. For the nature lover the Udawattekelle forest reserve is right at the heart of the city. One can literally walk from the hectic city centre to the quiet stillness of thick jungle in minutes.

### **Overnight Stay in Kandy**

## DAY 12 | KANDY - COLOMBO

After breakfast, proceed to **Udawattekele Sanctuary** and then you will be transferred to Colombo.

### Overnight Stay in Colombo

## DAY 13 | COLOMBO – AIRPORT

After breakfast, proceed to airport.

**\*\*\*\*\* End of Services\*\*\*\*\***

## TOUR COST

**PERIOD - 01.05.2019-31.10.2019**

NO OF PAX	PER PERSON (DBL SHARING) AUS \$
<b>02 PAX</b>	<b>1810.00</b>

### PRICE INCLUSIVE OF:

- ❖ Accommodation 04 star hotels on Bed & Breakfast Basis starting with breakfast on Day 02 and ending with Breakfast on Day 13. Cost may change.
- ❖ Arrival, departure transfers and the tour as per the itinerary in an air conditioned Car accompanied with an English speaking licensed Chauffer guide.
- ❖ Passenger Insurance (Vehicle)
- ❖ Fuel, Parking & highway fees
- ❖ Complimentary SIM Card on arrival
- ❖ Garlands on arrival
- ❖ All currently applicable government taxes and service charges

**PRICE EXCLUSIONS:**

- ❖ Cost of Entrance Tickets & Jeep hire charges to the sites visited in the itinerary.
- ❖ Lunch & Dinner cost
- ❖ Peak period supplements
- ❖ International air-fare, airport tax or any kind of insurance cover other than what is stated.
- ❖ Items of personal nature like drinks, laundry, telephone calls, tips, etc.
- ❖ Any other Sites not mentioned in the itinerary.
- ❖ Any other item not specifically mentioned above in 'PRICE INCLUSIONS'.
- ❖ Visa fees to Sri Lanka.