TOUR REFERENCE
LKZFVH65DB

Wildlife Tour Covering Birds and Mammals (7 Days)

7 days · 6 nights | Private tour with chauffeur guide

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About this experience

This seven-day tour is built for birders and mammal-watchers, moving through four of Sri Lanka's most productive wildlife habitats: the Sinharaja rainforest, Udawalawe's open grassland, Yala's dry scrub and forest, and the cool highlands around Nuwara Eliya and Horton Plains. Rather than ticking off parks quickly, the itinerary gives two full days to Sinharaja alone, so that slow-moving rainforest species have time to show themselves, before heading south and east to the drier parks and finally up into the hills.



Travellers can expect a long list of possible sightings rather than guarantees: Sinharaja's endemic birds such as the Serendib Scops Owl and Ceylon Blue Magpie, mammals including the Red Slender Loris and Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel, elephants and leopards in Udawalawe and Yala, and highland specialities such as the Kashmir Flycatcher and Yellow-eared Bulbul around Nuwara Eliya and Horton Plains. The route is designed to cover both wet-zone and dry-zone species, plus the highland endemics found only above the plains, giving a broad cross-section of the island's birdlife and mammals in one trip.

The tour runs as a private arrangement with a dedicated chauffeur guide and vehicle throughout, covering fuel, parking and highway tolls, with prevailing taxes and service charges included. Hotel accommodation, airfares, park entrance fees and personal expenses are arranged and paid separately. With no fixed group departures, the pace through each park and reserve is set to suit the travellers on board.

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Colombo → Sinharaja

After a morning arrival, the drive continues to the Sinharaja rainforest, where the afternoon is spent exploring the forest with an overnight stay at a forest lodge.



Sinharaja Rainforest

An afternoon visit focused on the rainforest's endemic birdlife, with possible sightings including the Ceylon Spurfowl, Serendib Scops Owl, Ceylon Junglefowl, Ceylon Frogmouth, Red-faced Malkoha, Malabar Trogon and Ceylon Blue Magpie, among many others. Mammals to watch for include the wet-zone races of the Toque Macaque and Purple-faced Leaf Monkey, the Sri Lanka Red Slender Loris, Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel, Yellow Spotted Chevrotain and several bat species including the Wholly Horseshoe Bat and False Vampire Bat.

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Day 2 Sinharaja

A full day is spent in the Sinharaja rainforest, with an overnight stay again at the forest lodge.



Sinharaja Rainforest

Further time in the rainforest looking for the same range of endemic and specialist species noted the previous day, including the Chestnut-backed Owlet, Green-billed Coucal, Layard's Parakeet, Crimson-backed Flameback, Ashy-headed Laughing-thrush and Ceylon Hill Myna among the birds, and the Dusky-striped Jungle Squirrel, Sambar and Rainbow Bat among the mammals.

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Day 3 Sinharaja → Udawalawe

A final morning in Sinharaja is followed by lunch and a drive to Udawalawe, with an overnight stay at a hotel there.



Sinharaja Rainforest

A last morning visit to the rainforest before departure.

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Udawalawe Drive

The drive to Udawalawe crosses into drier habitat, where possible bird sightings shift to species such as the Crested Hawk-Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Lesser Adjutant and several prinia and babbler species, alongside mammals including the Asian Elephant, Ruddy Mongoose, Golden Jackal and Jungle Cat.

Day 4 Udawalawe → Yala

The morning is spent in Udawalawe National Park before continuing to Thissamaharama, where a hotel check-in at lunchtime is followed by an afternoon visit to Yala National Park.



Udawalawe National Park

A morning safari before leaving the park.

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Yala National Park

An afternoon visit to Yala's dry grassland, scrub and forest, with possible bird sightings including the Great Thick-knee, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Small Pratincole and Brown Fish Owl, and mammals including the Chital, Sloth Bear, Leopard, Tufted Grey Langur, Wild Water Buffalo and several mongoose species.

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Day 5 Yala → Nuwara Eliya

The morning drive leads up into the hills to Nuwara Eliya, with a hotel check-in by lunchtime for a two-night stay, followed by an evening visit to Victoria Park.



Victoria Park

An evening visit in town looking for the Indian Pitta, Pied Thrush and Kashmir Flycatcher alongside other highland endemic birds.

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Nuwara Eliya Highlands

The surrounding highland habitat holds species such as the Yellow-eared Bulbul, Ceylon Whistling Thrush, Ceylon Wood Pigeon, Dusky Blue Flycatcher and the endemic race of the Indian Blackbird among birds, and mammals including the highland races of the Purple-faced Leaf Monkey, Toque Macaque and Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel, along with the Golden Palm Civet.

Day 6 Nuwara Eliya

An early morning excursion heads further up into the hills to Horton Plains National Park, with the afternoon given over to the drive to a hotel near the airport.



Horton Plains National Park

The park's grasslands and cloud forest, set in cooler highland conditions, are explored for open-country and forest birds, including highland endemics, along with butterflies and other highland wildlife.

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Day 7 Nuwara Eliya → BIA

After breakfast, check-out is followed by the transfer to the airport for departure.

What's included

INCLUDED

- Transport in a Private Vehicle, inclusive of, cost of fuel, parking & highway tolls.
- Service of an English-Speaking Chauffer Guide throughout the tour.
- All prevailing taxes and service charges (Except for Credit Card Charges).

NOT INCLUDED

- Hotel Accommodation.
- International / Domestic Airfare.
- Any expenses of personal nature.
- Entrance fees to the respective sites.
