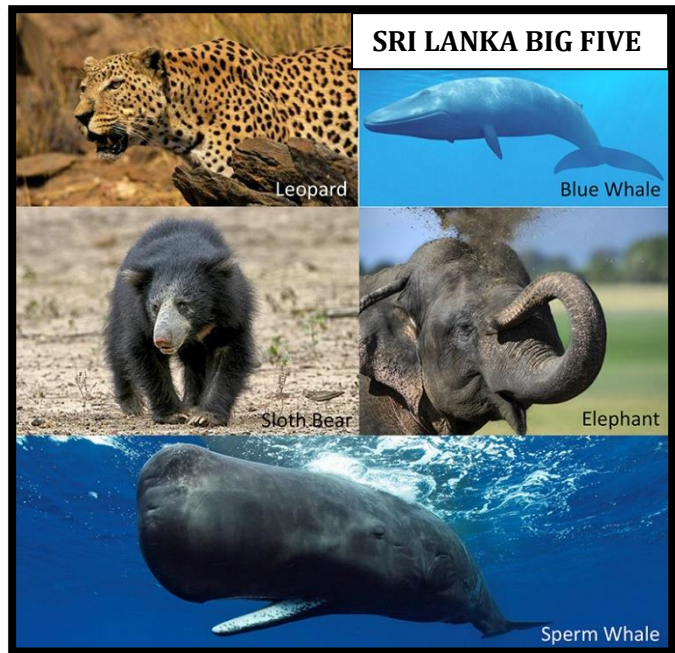


Safaris in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka despite being famous for its pristine beaches, beautiful hill country and ancient ruins of early civilizations is considered one of the top five biodiversity hot spots in the world whether in plants or animals. This tiny island in the Indian Ocean offers is the best safari destination outside of Africa and while in Lanka ensure you do not miss the Sri Lanka Big Five which are the blue whale, sperm whale, leopard, Asian elephant and sloth bear.

The most spectacular wildlife among the 91 different species found in Sri Lanka are the Asian elephants, leopards, sloth bears, sambars and wild buffaloes that attract eyes of the wild enthusiast. The rarest mammals in Sri Lanka to spot are the Toque Macaque, red slender Loris and Purple faced Langur declared endangered by the IUCN due to habitat loss.

Sri Lanka is also known for its ocean excursions of cetaceans such as blue whales, sperm whales and dolphins. Almost all the 26 species of cetaceans inhabit in the Indian Ocean surrounding Sri Lanka making it one of the best locations for whale and dolphin watching.



Along with the mighty Asian elephants, leopards and rare amphibians in the country, Sri Lanka also is home for 433 different species of birds of which 233 are resident in Sri Lanka. The Sinharaja bird wave is a must to watch if you are in Sri Lanka as it is the most spectacular thing your eyes might ever see.

Sri Lanka, the pearl of Indian Ocean is home to 106 species of amphibians of which 90 are endemic to the country. Hence, the country has the highest biodiversity of amphibians in the world with most being concentrated at Sinharaja Rain forest.

We offer camping at majority of National Parks for the wild enthusiasts to experience the wild by spending the day on wildlife excursions and return to the relaxation of the night to the camp while enjoying a BBQ set by us at late evenings with soft music. This is the ultimate experience for you if you are the person seeking to embrace the adventure Sri Lankan wildlife offers!



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Wildlife safaris

1. Yala National Park

Highlight: Highest density of leopards in the world

Yala is a splendid destination with its varied wild life, fine coastline with coral reefs and cultural ruins that explicate the tale of early civilizations that came before. The excursions could be arranged for a short duration such as to half a day to lengthy stay of 2 nights with the luxury of camping on site with meals provided.



Yala is home to the Sri Lankan Leopard and has the highest density of leopards living in the world. These magnificent carnivores are the most interesting species in this island. The best time to witness the leopards are early morning or late evenings. The male leopards are confident and will be seen walking tracks while the young males have no fear of vehicles and hence let you capture excellent photographs. If you are lucky, you would be able to spot mothers and cubs walking in pairs.

Other wildlife that inhabit Yala are sambar, sloth bear, and sea spotted deer, wild boar, mongoose, wild buffaloes and jackal. You will also be mesmerized by the bird life of Yala which consist of Rosy starlings, crested hawk eagles, common loras, paradise flycatchers and blue tailed bee eaters. We recommend a 4WD open top safari if you are in for this challenge and we believe you would enjoy every second of it to experience the wildlife of Sri Lanka.

2. Udawalawe National Park

Highlight: Elephant transit home, prepares orphaned baby elephants for re-introduction to wild

The Udawalawe national park is a haven for large herds of elephants, sambar, deer, water buffalo, wild boar, jackal and the endemic Toque Macaque. The excursions are available all year around and camping at the park can be arranged to suit your wishes and needs. Udawalawe national park is a nature lover's paradise with 30281 hectares of lush grasslands, shrubs and rare trees.

The highlight of this park is the Elephant transit home which prepares the orphaned baby elephants to be re-introduced to the wild. You would be awe-struck by witnessing elephants being prepared for life in the wild. During the excursion you would visit this transit home at feeding time. Elephants are the largest mammals in the island and the most enriching species of this world which are endangered due to human activities. Of the 5800 elephants in Sri Lanka, you would find 600-700 of them in Udawalawe. Being only 170km from capital of Sri Lanka, this national park offers you the adventure of a life time. Come, book and experience the wonder of Sri Lanka with us!



3. Gal Oya National Park

Highlight: Elephant safaris on boats to watch elephants snorkelling

Would you believe us if we say elephant safaris can be done in a boat ride? Yes, you can at Gal Oya national park. The park borders a reservoir and is holds many little islands. Elephants swim from one island to another with their trunks out of water as they snorkel. This is an intriguing sight not to miss if you are in the amazing island.

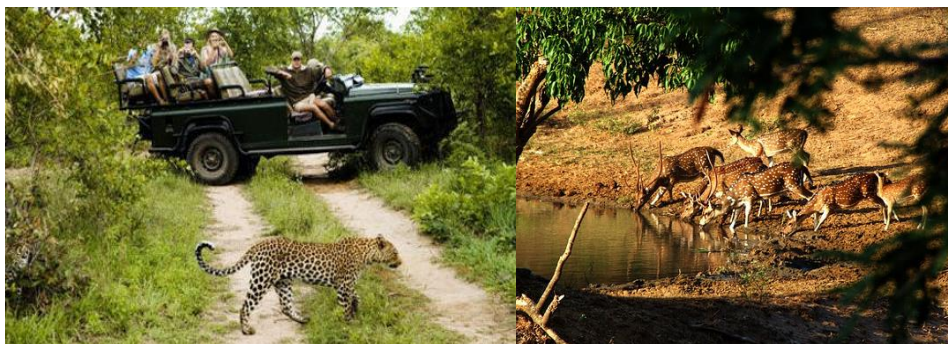


4. Wilpattu National Park

Highlight: Oldest and largest National park in Sri Lanka

Wilpattu holds the title of being largest and oldest national park in Sri Lanka. The excursions are available all year around and camping at this national park would be a life time experience for you. You will be able to catch the Sri Lankan Leopard and sloth bear in its natural habitat.

Wilpattu is also home to 30 different mammals such as Sri Lankan elephant, sloth bear, leopard, spotted deer, mongoose, water buffalo, shrew and spotted deer. The sloth bear is endangered due to habitat loss and less than 1000 are surviving in the world. The many ponds and lakes are topographical features of Wilpattu and it vital to resident and migratory water birds. This national park should be on your check off list if you are an adventure freak with insights to v of that place.



5. Minneriya National park

Highlight: 'The Gathering', where 300-400 elephants gather around the reservoir

Minneriya national park is a must visit place in Sri Lanka as it is home to the most spectacular wildlife event, 'The gathering'. It occurs between July to September when the water supplies diminish and more and more



animals congregate around Minneriya reservoir for its rich fertile grass. Throughout the drought, different herds of elephants gather at the reservoir as 300-400 elephants come from beyond Minneriya. They do not migrate but gather to socialize, bathe, feed and mate. This enthralling scene can only be witnessed at Minneriya national park. It is ranked as number 6 in Lonely Planet's guide to natural wildlife spectacles of world. It is also home to elephants, sloth bears and is an important bird area.

The wildlife excursions ranging all year around but it is recommended from July to September to witness the remarkable gathering. We can arrange camping at the national park to suit your pleasure and needs. If you are in the country during the season, and is an elephant lover, make sure you do not miss this event at any cost!

6. Wasgamuwa National Park

Highlight: The large elephant herd sighting

Wasgamuwa National Park, located in in the Matale and Polonnaruwa districts are significant for the large elephant herd sighting between the months of November to May. During the rest of the year, elephants migrate to nearby Minneriya and Kaudulla national parks so if you're in for the challenge, make sure you visit the park during the season.



Other wildlife you will be able to spot are purple faced langur monkey, wild boar, spotted deer, sloth bear, sambar and rarely spotted reptiles. It is home to distinctive water monitor, estuarine crocodile, mugger crocodile and python. Come travel with us and enjoy the comfort of travelling at your leisure while making the best memories of your life!

7. Bundala National Park

Highlight: Arrival of Greater Flamingos in flocks of thousands



Bundala National Park located 85km from Tangalle is internationally important winter ground for migratory water birds. It is an established biosphere reserve of UNESCO. The highlight of Bundala is the Greater Flamingo that arrives in flocks of thousands of birds at a time. The cacophony noise and their covering entire area of main Bundala lagoon is a sight not to be missed.

The park also consists of five brackish water lagoons and best known, best place to creep watch elephant flocking at dusk in nearby tank 'kokara'. You need to be cautious when watching elephant in Bundala as they are aggressive due to human-elephants conflict in area. Bundala is also known for its other plant species, mammals and reptiles.

If you are an ornithologist or simply a nature lover, make sure this is on your check list when you are travelling in Sri Lanka. The spectacular event of Greater Flamingos migrate will unquestionably be divine to your eyes.

Birding safaris

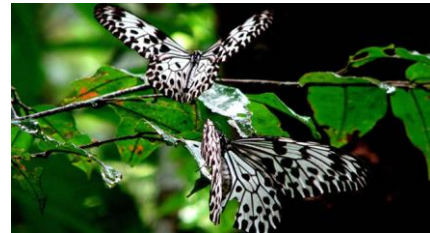
Sri Lanka is a unique destination for birds despite its small size, range of varied climates is home to 420 different recorded bird species. Birding in Sri Lanka is a popular past time for Ornithologists and photographers to capture spectrum of the most colourful species on earth. Out of the 420 species recorded, 250 are resident species whereas 33 are endemic to this island. The birding locations in Sri Lanka range from wet to dry zone, forest to jungle and hill to low country.

1. Sinharaja Rainforest

Highlight: 'The largest bird wave in the world', where flocks of different birds fly together

Sinharaja is a birder's paradise and is declared a UNESCO world heritage site and UNESCO biosphere reserve. It is one of the few virgin rainforests left in the world. It is home to the 95% of endemic birds in Sri Lanka along with mixed foraging species. The rarest birds to spot such as red faced malkoha, Sri Lankan blue magpie and Green billed cloacal inhabit Sinharaja. You will also be able to spot varied butterflies, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals.

The most spectacular phenomenon 'bird wave' that takes place in Sinharaja is the largest and longest studied. It is an intriguing sight to watch when various species of birds flock as one in a big wave. Ensure you do not miss this phenomenal sight by touring with us!



2. Kumana National Park

Highlight: Thousands of migratory birds that fly to Kumana between May and June

Kumana National Park is the proud habitat of 255 different bird species and with the highlight being the waterfowl and wading birds. The 'Kumana Villu' which hosts 200 hectares of natural swamp lake entices many water birds in May and June especially. It is in close proximity to Yala National Park. Hence, you can leisurely visit Yala to witness the mighty Leopard and also spot different migratory birds at Kumana with us through an overnight camp and barbeque. Between the months of April to July, thousands of birds migrate to Kumana. You will be able to spot Black-necked Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, Lesser Adjutant and Great Thick in action as it is an important breeding ground in this tiny island surrounded by the Indian Ocean.



Whale watching safaris

Sri Lanka's most renowned attraction, whale watching offers you the ultimate experience of sighting the beautiful blue and sperm whales, 2 out of 5 Sri Lanka big five. Primary destinations would be Galle and Mirissa at the south end of the island and Trincomalee at the east end. These magnificent mammals will be on migratory route during breeding season to Bay of Bengal and Horn of Africa. The best months to witness this spectacular phenomenon will be between November and July.

1. Deep waters of Mirissa

Highlight: Whale and dolphin watching: Blue and Sperm whales

Dondra Point of down south is the location to experience the best whaling moments between December and April. The ocean sets up the best Cetacean display during early hours of the day. Sri Lanka lies within the International Whaling Commission protected zone hence from the 80 species identified in the Indian Ocean, you will be able to witness 26 different species in action. No harm or discomfort will be caused to the whales by us.



2. Trincomalee

Highlight: Whale and dolphin watching, snorkelling and wind surfing

Trincomalee at the east end of this beautiful island is another pristine location for whale watching. You will see the blue whale and Sperm whale in action. Its fine white sandy beaches lets you take a break from everyday busy life styles while enjoying adventurous water activities like snorkelling and wind surfing. It is a hot spot for travellers.

It is also the perfect destination for Dolphin watching. The Dolphins travel in pods with and without whales during May to October. The world's first underwater filming of whales in 1982 for the documentary film 'Whales weep not' happened in Trincomalee.

