

Sri Lanka
NATIONAL PARKS & RESERVES



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Text and Images
Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne

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Sri Lanka is truly a wondrous place, a subcontinent's diversity packed into one tiny island. There aren't many places in the world where one can be snorkeling in the morning in warm seas with rich coral reefs and be in the mist draped coolness of a cloud forest by evening, listening to the alarm calls of sambar warning against a hunting leopard.

In the lowlands on the south-west, rainforests are a cathedral of bio-diversity. These are amongst the richest rainforests of South Asia. In the dry lowlands, the largest terrestrial mammal, the elephant roams. The largest concentration of Asian Elephants in the world occurs seasonally in Sri Lanka during 'The Gathering'. The island is also the best chance in Asia for seeing leopard and sloth bear. No less than thirty three species of birds are found only in Sri Lanka. In Sinharaja, the 'Sinharaja Bird Waves' can be seen, the mixed species feeding flocks, which are the largest of its kind in the world.

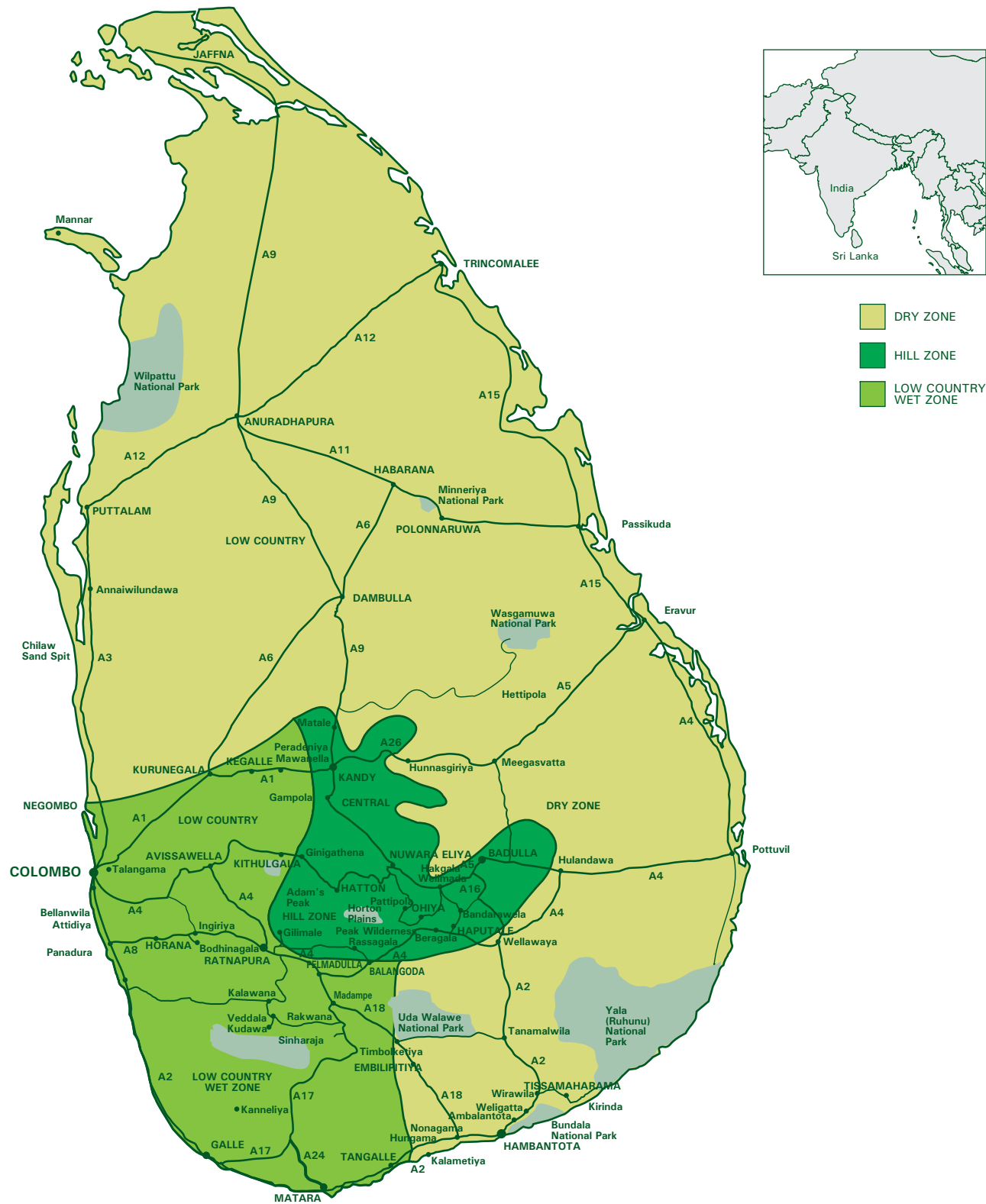
Sri Lanka is one of the most bio-diverse places in the world. It has a phenomenally high number of species of plant and animals in terms of density of species and their endemism. This together with the relative ease of access and the availability of good facilities for travellers make it an excellent destination for eco-tourists. The Sri Lanka Tourist Board hopes that this book will give an useful introduction to this magical island's national parks and reserves.





SRI LANKA

KEY ROADS AND NATIONAL PARKS & RESERVES



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INTRODUCTION



How many destinations in the world will allow a visitor to snorkel off golden sand beaches and by nightfall, be searching for leopard in the highlands? Probably, not many. Sri Lanka is one of those few places in the world with a breathtaking array of landscapes and wildlife packed into a relatively compact area.

The island, of just under 66,000 square kilometres, is unusual. Contrary to expectations of island bio-geographic theory, it has large mammals. It is the best place in Asia to see the Asian Elephant, the largest terrestrial mammal on the Asian continent. Visit, Uda Walawe National Park and one is virtually guaranteed to see elephants. During September and October, the 'Gathering' takes place. An annual migration of elephants to the receding shores of the Minneriya National Park. At times, up to three hundred elephants may be present on the exposed lake bed, by now a verdant meadow of lush grass.

Sri Lanka also has another eco-tourism trump card, the Leopard. Yala National Park has one of the highest densities of leopard anywhere in the world. The leopard is also the top predator on the island. This lends it an air of confidence, which together with the open nature of the park's terrain, allows for some fine Leopard watching.

Tree Frogs are an image most associated with Costa Rica. However, Sri Lanka



may challenge that perception. Ongoing research shows that Sri Lanka may emerge as the frog capital of the world, as a result of a unique species radiation which has been recently discovered by researchers. Many other species of animals await discovery in the biodiversity rich rainforests in the south west of the island.

The island's mountainous core, is topped with cloud forests. This harbours unique animals such as the Dwarf Lizard, which has a prehensile tail and an adaptation to give birth to live young.

The island has one of the highest species densities for some faunal groups (including reptiles and birds) per 10,000 square kilometres. However, its claim to be a top destination for eco-tourism lies in a blend of attributes; rich biodiversity, compactness, a good infrastructure of hotels and roads and wide understanding of English.

A complementary attraction in Sri Lanka is that the cultural sites are also good for eco-tourists. Many of the archaeological reserves double up as nature reserves, attracting birdwatchers and naturalists. The medieval capital of Polonnaruwa is worth a visit for seeing its ancient stupas and sublime stone sculpture. Birders may also see over a hundred species of birds, in a day, and mammal enthusiasts will find one of the richest densities of primates



(monkeys) in the world. Other key cultural sites such as Anuradhapura and Sigiriya also have good forest cover around them. This fantastic combination of culture, nature, relatively good logistics and a friendly people, endow Sri Lanka with all the ingredients to be one of Asia's and indeed one of the world's top eco-tourism destinations.







TALANGAMA



This wetland, on the outskirts of Colombo, is bordered by motorable roads, which makes access easy for wildlife enthusiasts. The complex of ponds, canals and paddy fields, make it a rich and varied wetland site.

Wildlife Over a hundred species of birds have been recorded. Highlights are the Water Cock, migrant Black and Yellow Bitterns, as well as Purple-faced Leaf Monkeys (the latter, an endangered endemic species). Talangama is also good for the commoner butterflies and dragonflies.

Getting there Get to Wewa Para (Lake Road) via Akuregoda Road or Sri Wickramasinghapura Road, both of which are off the Pannipitiya Road, a few kilometers from the Parliament. Free access on public roads.



Accommodation Villa Talangama overlooks one of the best stretches of wetland. City hotels in Colombo are only 30 - 45 minutes away.



BODHINAGALA

Bodhinagala is a relatively small tract of secondary lowland rainforest, with a Buddhist hermitage located centrally. It is surprisingly rich floristically and holds a number of endemic fauna within relatively easy reach of the commercial capital of Colombo.

Wildlife Bodhinagala's claim to fame with birders is as a reliable site for the endemic Green-billed Coucal. A number of other endemics such as Ceylon Spurfowl, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Ceylon Small Barbet, Black-capped Bulbul, Spot-winged Thrush and sub-continental endemics such as Ceylon Frogmouth and Malabar Trogon are present. Butterflies include the Tawny Rajah. The endemic Purple-faced Leaf and Toque Monkeys and Grizzled Indian Squirrel are the more visible of the mammals.



Getting there The turn-off to Bodhinagala is just before the 29 km post on the A8 (Ratnapura Road).

Accommodation The Citizens Rest at Ingiriya is used by serious birders. Colombo with a wide choice of accommodation is within an hour and a half to two hours drive.



ANNAIWILUNDAWA



Annaiwilundawa refers to a cluster of freshwater tanks (including the Annaiwilundawa Wewa) that was declared a sanctuary in 1997. The second Ramsar site in Sri Lanka, it is one of the finest wetlands in the island for waterbirds.

Wildlife Waterfowl include Little Grebe, Lesser Whistling-duck and Cotton Teal. Migrant birds include Pintail, Garganey Common and Pintail Snipe. Large numbers of Asian Openbill and Little Cormorants nest here. Endemics include Ceylon Woodshrike and Ceylon Swallow. Mammals include the Grey Mongoose. After the North-east Monsoon, the herbaceous edges are good for butterflies. Common and Plain Tigers, Lemon Pansy, The Joker, Crimson Rose, Common Sailor, Chocolate Soldier etc. can be seen.



Getting there At the 91 km post on the A3, 5 km past Arachchikattuwa town, is a turn-off to the left. Approximately 1.2 km down this road is Suruwila tank on your left and to your right is the main Annaiwilundawa tank.

Accommodation Negombo near the 31 km post on the A3 has a wide choice of accommodation.

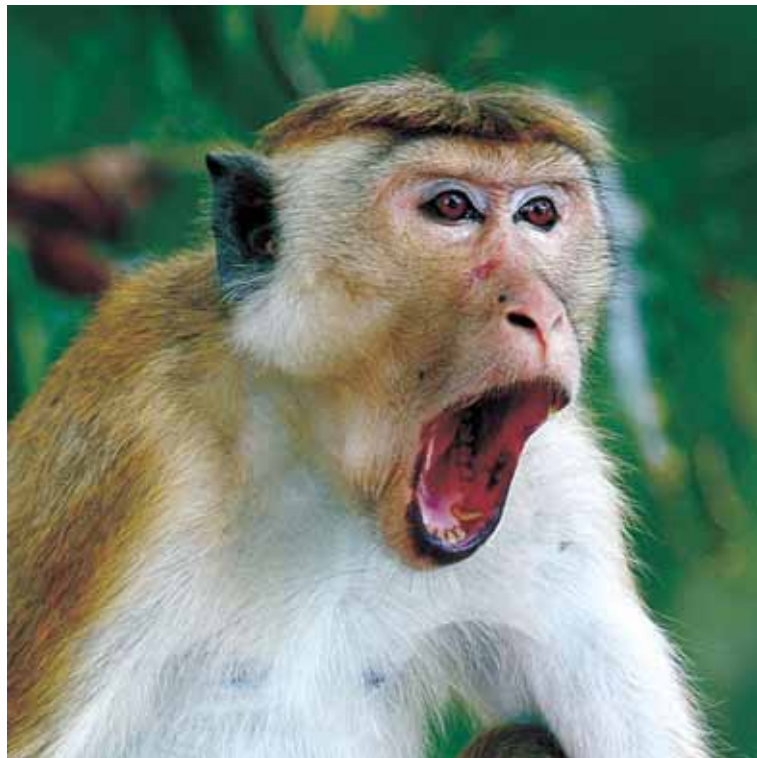


WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK

Wilpattu National Park comprises of a complex of lakes called *villus* surrounded by grassy plains, set within scrub jungle. The biggest draw here are Leopards.

Wildlife Endemic birds include the Ceylon Junglefowl, Brown-capped Babbler, Ceylon Woodshrike and Black-capped Bulbul in riverine habitats. Muntjac or Barking Deer are more easily seen in Wilpattu than any other national park. Butterflies recorded include the Great Eggfly, Great Orange Tip, Glad-eye Bushbrown, Blue Mormon, Common Mormon, Common Rose and Crimson Rose.

Getting there The turn off to the Wilpattu National Park is near the 45 km post of the A12. From here, follow the B028, for about 8 kilometers.



Accommodation Near the turn off to Wilpattu off the A12 (Puttalam to Anuradhapura road) is the simple, Preshamel Safari Hotel. The nearest, for a choice of accommodation is

Anuradhapura which includes the comfortable Palm Garden Village. Wilpattu is also accessible from hotels in Negombo.









Mannar Island and the strip on the mainland from around Giant's Tank has become a magnet for birders, in search of species who are not found regularly in the southern half of the island. These include Deccan avi-faunal species such as the Long-tailed Shrike (Rufous-rumped Shrike), Black Drongo, Crab Plover, Indian Courser, etc. A few key sites in this area are described below.

Thalladi Pond Past the 80 km post, on the A14, a few hundred meters before the Mannar Causeway, on the right is a large freshwater pond. Star birds in Mannar, such as the Spot-billed Ducks often chose to occupy this pond, which is unfortunately besides a high security zone.



Periyar Kalapuwa (lagoon) A finger of this lagoon crosses the A14, about 4 km before the Mannar Causeway, near the 78 km post. Look for Garganey, Common Teal and Ringed Plover.

The seasonal wetland holds thousands of Wigeon and a few hundred Shoveller. The plains are also good for Harriers.

Mannar Causeway The star birds here are Oystercatcher, Pallas's Gull and Heuglin's Gull. All three species are rare in the south. The causeway also allows close views of Whimbrel, Eurasian Curlew and at times Avocet and Crab Plover.

Talaimannar About a kilometer from the now defunct Talaimannar customs post, is a 'fishing port'. Large flocks of gulls gather here.

Sand Banks (Adam's Bridge) A series of islands, form what is known as Adam's Bridge, connecting Talaimannar to Rameswaran in the south west of India. During the breeding season, take care not to disturb the hundreds of nesting Terns.

Accommodation Manjula Inn run by Sam and Sinnatamby's Restaurant offer simple accommodation. Further afield is the Medawachchiya Rest House.



WASGOMUWA NATIONAL PARK



Wasgomuwa National Park is located south of Polonnaruwa and north of the Knuckles Range and the Matale foothills. The habitat consists of riverine gallery forest along the Mahaveli and dry monsoon forest in the low foothills.

Wildlife Birds include the Ceylon Junglefowl, Ceylon Grey Hornbill, Brown-capped Babbler, Blue-faced Malkoha, Lesser Adjutant, Grey-headed Fish-eagle and Brown Fish Owl. Mammals found include Elephants, Leopards, Sloth Bears, Jackals, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Mongooses and Civets as well as the Slender Loris and Hanuman Langur.

Getting there From Kurunegala to Habarana. Turn off beyond Galewela, onto the Naula road, towards Hettipola. Or from Kandy via Hadawaka. From Hasalaka take a minor road north through Handungamuwa.



Accommodation Dunvila Cottage, Willy's Safari Hotel and Wasgomuwa Safari Village are the best known properties.





MINNERIYA NATIONAL PARK

The 'Gathering' takes place every year between August and September. The largest concentration of Elephants in Asia, happens when over 300 gather on the grassland that sprouts on the receding shores of Minneriya Lake. It is one of the greatest wildlife spectacles in the world.

Wildlife In the scrub jungle around the lake, endemic birds found include the Ceylon Junglefowl, Brown-capped Babbler, Ceylon Grey Hornbill and Black-capped Bulbul. The open areas around the lake are good for raptors including



Brahminy Kite, Grey-headed Fish Eagle and the majestic White-bellied Sea Eagle. Mammals include the endemic Toque Monkey, Hanuman Langur, Grizzled Indian Squirrel, Jackal and Spotted Deer.

Getting There The National Park entrance is near the 35-kilometer post on the A11 running between Habarana and Polonnaruwa.

Accommodation Good hotels at Habarana and Giritale and further afield at Sigiriya and Kandalama.







HORTON PLAINS NATIONAL PARK

Sri Lanka's second and third highest peaks, Kirigalpotta (2,395 m) and Thotupola Kanda (2,357 m) are found here. Three important rivers, the Mahaveli, Kelani and the Walawe originate from Horton Plains. The highlight for walkers, is visiting World's End or Baker's Falls.

Wildlife Endemic birds include the Ceylon Whistling Thrush, Ceylon White-eye, Ceylon Wood Pigeon and Dusky-blue Flycatcher. The trees are dominated by *Keena*, *Syzygium rotundifolium* and *Syzygium sclerophyllum* and species from the Lauraceae family. Tree Ferns are a conspicuous feature. Butterflies include the Indian Red Admiral, Common, Tamil and Ceylon Treebrowns. Numbers of Sambar, the island's largest deer, have soared in the last decade, with a corresponding increase in their main predator, the Leopard. Other mammals include Wild Boar, Dusky Squirrel and the highland races of Grizzled Indian Squirrel, Toque Monkey and Purple-faced Leaf Monkey.



Getting there From Nuwara Eliya, about 6 km from town on the A7 is a left turn towards Ambewala and Pattipola. This continues to the park. From Haputale, take the road via Ohiya.

Accommodation Nuwara Eliya has a wide choice of accommodation.



UDA WALAWE NATIONAL PARK

Uda Walawe is a popular national park because of its Elephants and its proximity to Colombo. The park is a mixture of abandoned Teak plantations, grassland, scrub jungle and riverine 'gallery forest' along the Walawe Ganga and Mau Ara. Uda Walawe is probably the best place to see wild herds of Elephants, consisting of tightly-knit family groups of up to four generations of related adult and sub-adult females and young.

Wildlife Satinwood, Ebony and Trincomalee Wood trees are present and the river margins are characterised by water loving Kumbuk trees. Endemic birds include the Ceylon Junglefowl, Ceylon Spurfowl, Ceylon Grey Hornbill, Ceylon Woodshrike and Ceylon Swallow. In forested areas, Sirkeer and Blue-faced Malkohas are found. Toque Monkey, Hanuman Langur, Spotted Deer, Wild Pig, Black-naped Hare, Ruddy Mongoose and Sambar are likely to be seen. Leopards are present but rarely seen.



Getting there The park entrance is on the B 427 between Timbolketiya and Tanamanwila, near the 11 km post. From Colombo take the A8 to Ratnapura, A4 to Pelmadulla and A18 to Timbolketiya. It takes around three and a half hours to drive the 180 km.

Accommodation Safari Village at Timbolketiya and Centauria Tourist Hotel at Embilipitiya.







YALA (RUHUNA) NATIONAL PARK



Yala is undoubtedly Sri Lanka's most visited national park and the best in Sri Lanka for viewing a wide diversity of animals. It is a wonderful place with a spectrum of habitats from scrub jungle, lakes, brackish lagoons to riverine habitat. Ruhuna National Park is divided into five blocks of which Block 1 (Yala West) is open to the public. Yala may be closed between 1 September and 15 October.

Wildlife The flora is typical of dry monsoon forest vegetation in the southern belt. Plains are interspersed with pockets of forest containing species such as *Palu*, Satinwood, *Weera*, *Maila*, Mustard Tree, Neem and Woodapple. Endemics birds include the Ceylon Junglefowl, Brown-capped Babbler, Ceylon Woodshrike and Ceylon Swallow. The park is also good for dry zone specialties like Indian and Great Thick-knees, Sirkeer and Blue-faced Malkohas and Malabar Pied Hornbill. The park is probably the best place to see the rare



Black-necked Stork. A day's birding in the park, during the northern winter, can yield a 100 species.

The biggest draws in Yala are Elephants, Leopards and Sloth Bears. A recent study has shown that Yala has one the highest densities of Leopards in the world. A game drive could yield Black-naped Hare, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Hanuman Langur, Toque Monkey, Stripe-necked and Ruddy Mongooses, Wild Boar, Jackal, Land and Water Monitor and Marsh Crocodile. At

the end of the North-east Monsoon (February), the park is also very good for butterflies.

Getting there About 40 km beyond Hambantota on the A2.

Accommodation Tissamaharama has a broad range of accommodation. Near the park is the Yala Village Hotel and Elephant Reach. At Weerawila is Villa Safari Hotel.







BUNDALA NATIONAL PARK

Bundala National Park is a mix of scrub jungle and sand dunes bordering the sea. Its beaches are important nesting sites for turtles. The lagoons hold good numbers of birds and Crocodiles.

Wildlife Endemic birds include the Brown-capped Babbler, Ceylon Woodshrike and Ceylon Junglefowl. During the northern winter large numbers of migrants arrive such as Golden and Kentish Plover, Large and Lesser Sandpipers, Marsh and Curlew Sandpiper, Curlew and Greenshank. Rarities include the Broad-billed Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope. The flora consists of dry Acacia scrub comprising *Andara*, *Kukurumana*, *Eraminiya* and *Karamba*. The scrub forest trees includes *Maila*, Mustard Tree, *Weera*, *Palu* and *Neem*. Mammals likely to be seen include Elephant, Spotted Deer, Hanuman Langur, Jackal, Black-naped Hare and Wild Pig. Olive Ridley and Leatherback Turtles and more rarely, Hawksbill and Green Turtles visit the beaches to lay eggs.



Getting there From the A2, at the Weligatta Junction, near the 251 km post, take the turn to Bundala Village. The park office and entrance is on this road.

Accommodation Tissamaharama has a range of accommodation. The accommodation near Yala National Park is within an hour's drive.



KALAMETIYA

Kalametiya is an extensive area of wetland with brackish lagoons, mangrove swamps, open grassy areas and pockets of scrub jungle. It is an important site for migrant waders and provides an important refuge (one of the few remaining on the southern coastal strip) for the smaller mammals of Sri Lanka.

Wildlife Almost all of the common wetland birds can be seen here. Sought after species include Slaty-breasted Crane, Watercock, Black Bittern. During the northern winter, Glossy Ibis may be present with thousands of waders. Grey Mongoose and Hanuman Langur are the mammals most likely to be seen.

Getting there There are turn-offs to the sanctuary near the 214 and 218 km posts on the A2 near Hungama.



Accommodation In Tangalle is Tangalle Bay Hotel, Eva Lanka Hotel and Palm Paradise Cabanas and a few small guest houses. A stone's throw from the Kalametiya sanctuary is The Hide, a boutique hotel managed by the local community.



SINHARAJA

The Sinharaja Man and Biosphere Reserve was declared a World Heritage Site in 1988. It is arguably the most important biodiversity site in Sri Lanka and is also internationally important for tropical biodiversity.

Wildlife Sinharaja comprises of lowland and sub-montane wet evergreen forests with sub-montane Patana grasslands in the east. A staggering 64% of the tree species are endemic to Sri Lanka. The lower slopes and valleys have remnant Dipterocarpus forest with the middle and higher slopes characterised by trees of the genus Mesua. Orchids and pitcher plants are common in nutrient poor soils.

Endemic birds include the Ceylon Spurfowl, Ceylon Junglefowl, Ceylon Wood Pigeon, Ceylon Hanging Parrot, Layard's Parakeet, Red-faced Malkoha, Green-



billed Coucal, Serendib Scops Owl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Ceylon Grey Hornbill, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Ceylon Small Barbet, Crimson-backed Flameback, Black-capped Bulbul, Spot-winged Thrush, Ceylon Rufous and Brown-capped Babblers, Ashy-headed Laughingthrush, Ceylon Blue Magpie, White-faced Starling, Ceylon Hill- Myna, Ceylon Scaly Thrush, Ceylon Scimitar Babbler and Ceylon Crested Drongo. Indian sub-continental endemics include Malabar Trogon and Ceylon Frogmouth.

Half of Sri Lanka's endemic mammals and butterflies are found here. Visitors are more likely to see Purple-faced Leaf Monkey and Grizzled Indian Squirrel. Endemic lizards include the endangered Whistling Lizard and Rough-nosed Horned Lizard.



Getting there Access is possible from Pitadeniya, but not practical for most visitors. Motorable access is to Kudawa via Ratnapura or via Buluthota Pass from Yala or via Katukurunda Junction, Agalawatta & Kalawana from the coast.

Accommodation Boulder Garden at Kalawana is the nearest star quality accommodation. Serious birders can look at Martin's and Blue Magpie Lodge, near the reserve.







KITHULGALA

Kithulgala (Kelani Valley Forest Reserve) was established to protect the watershed of the Kelani River. It is home to many of Sri Lanka's endemic fauna and flora. Kithulgala is more widely known as the location for the filming of 'The Bridge on the River Kawai'.

Wildlife A good number of endemic birds including the Spot-winged Thrush, Green-billed Coucal, Red-faced Malkoha, Ceylon Grey Hornbill, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Ceylon Spurfowl, Ceylon Rufous Babbler, Ceylon Scimitar Babbler and Ceylon Frogmouth. Mammals include Grizzled Indian Squirrel and Layard's Striped Squirrel. The streams hold endemic fish and amphibians and the Earless Lizard is frequently seen.

Getting there The Kithulgala Rest House is just after the 37 km post on the A7. Take the ferry across the river and access the forest using the village trails.



Accommodation The Kithulgala Rest House and Plantation Hotel have hot water showers, etc. Rafter's Retreat and Sisira's River Lounge are more rustic.



KANNELIYA

Kanneliya is one of the last remaining large tracts of lowland rainforest in Sri Lanka. Its importance is on par with Sinharaja, with similar fauna and flora. It is a mix of logged secondary and virgin forest.

Wildlife Oddly lowland endemic birds such as Ceylon Rufous Babbler are missing, although other scarce endemic species such as the Serendib Scops Owl are present. Mammals likely to be seen are, Grizzled Indian and Layard's Striped Squirrel. The southern race of the endemic Purple-faced Leaf Monkey can also be seen. Endemic lizards seen, include the Rough-nosed Horned and Hump-nosed Lizard. Butterflies include Tree Nymphs and Commanders. The Gal Karandha (*Humboldtia laurifolia*) is common. It has hollow stems in which ants live, an example of a symbiotic relationship.



Getting there From Galle, take the Udugama Road (B129) to Udugama. Continue towards Hiniduma and the turn-off to Kanneliya is after the 3 km post on the B429.

Accommodation Hiniduma has a very basic Rest House and the simple and small Holiday Inn. Galle, between one and a half to two hours drive, has a wide choice of accommodation.



THE SOUTH COAST



The sea off the South coast from Dondra Head is one of the best places in the world to see Blue Whales and Sperm Whales. The continental shelf is at its narrowest near Dondra Head, the southernmost point of Sri Lanka. As a result both Sperm and Blue Whales can be seen relatively close to shore. December to April are good months in which to observe whales. There is a theory that the numbers may be higher in December and April because of a migration of whales passing by during those months.

Wildlife In April, sightings of Blue Whales are almost certain, for those setting out from Mirissa. Sperm Whales are seen in deep water. Other marine mammals to be seen include Long-snouted Spinner Dolphins. With the advent of the South-west Monsoon (May to September) large numbers of seabirds can be observed. These include Pomarine Skuas, Flesh-footed and Sooty



Shearwaters and various species of Petrels and Terns. For snorkelling, Unawatuna Beach is good. Hikkaduwa has a number of dive operators.

Getting there Hikkaduwa, Galle, Unawatuna and Mirissa are approximately 97, 115, 122, 148 kilometers south on the A12.

Accommodation The coastal strip from Galle to Mirissa has a very wide range of accommodation from simple guest houses to up-market boutique hotels and villas. The area around Galle has the greatest concentration of stylish boutique hotels and villas in Sri Lanka.









USEFUL CONTACTS

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

The Sri Lanka Natural History Society, E-mail: rdes33@yahoo.co.uk

Founded in 1912, the Sri Lanka Natural History Society (SLNHS) has remained an active, albeit small Society with a core membership of enthusiasts and professionals in nature conservation.

Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka (FOGSL), Department of Zoology, University of Colombo, Colombo 3. Tel: 5 342 609, Fax: 5 337 644, E-mail: fogsl@slt.lk

FOGSL is the Sri Lankan representative of Bird Life International, and is pursuing the goal of becoming a leading local organization for bird study, bird conservation and carrying the conservation message to the masses.

Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS), 86 Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla.

Tel: 2 887 390, Fax: 2 887 664, E-mail: wnps@sltnet.lk

The WNPS is a long established and prominent conservation lobby. It publishes a bi-annual journal, Loris (in English) and Warana (in Sinhalese).

The Young Zoologists' Association of Sri Lanka, National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala.

Tel: 4 204 566, Fax: 2 714 542

At present, the YZA has nearly one hundred school branches and has also set up branch associations. The bulk of its membership is composed of school children and undergraduates.

STATE AGENCIES AND INGOS

Department of National Botanic Gardens

Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Tel 081 238 8 238, E-mail: dirnbg@sltnet.lk

Central Environmental Authority

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Tel: 2 872 348, Fax: 2 872 347, E-mail: chaircea@cea.lk

Forest Department

'Sampathpaya', Battaramulla.

Tel: 2 866 616, Fax: 2 866 633, E-mail: forlib@sltnet.lk

IUCN The World Conservation Union

Sri Lanka Country Office, 53 Horton Place, Colombo 07.

Tel: 2 682 418, Fax: 2 682 470, Web: www.iucnsl.org.

Department of Wildlife Conservation

382 New Kandy Road, Malabe.

Tel: 2 560 371, Fax: 2 744 299, E-mail: director@dwlc.lk



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MAMMALS

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Phillips, W.W.A (1952, 1980). *Manual of the Mammals of Sri Lanka*. Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka: Colombo. Second Edition 1980, published in 4 volumes. 389 pages + xxxv.

PHOTOGRAPHER & AUTHOR

Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne



With frequent appearances in the press, Gehan is a local wildlife celebrity. He is also known to international

audiences through appearances on programs broadcast on National Geographic, Animal Planet, Discovery Channel and his photographs and articles which have appeared in books and magazines internationally. Gehan is the lead author of *A Birdwatchers Guide to Sri Lanka* (Oriental Bird Club, UK), *A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka*, *A Photographic Guide to the Mammals of Sri Lanka*, *Magic of Sri Lanka*, *Portrait of Sri Lanka* (New Holland, London) and *Sri Lankan Wildlife* (Bradt Travel Guides). He has had over fifteen books and over two hundred articles published, locally and internationally. He has trekked, birdwatched and photographed around the world from the Nepali Himalayas and Peruvian Andes to the rainforests of Borneo.

In the UK, he graduated in Civil Engineering from Imperial College, London. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu specializing in financial sector clients such as stockbrokers, banks and derivatives traders. He then worked in Financial Derivatives and Banking in the city with the London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFFE), Sumitomo Finance International & Abbey National in what was then the newly emerging discipline of financial risk management, especially from exposure to derivative instruments.

SPECIES ILLUSTRATED

Cover - Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Long-snouted Spinner Dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*) and Ceylon Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*)

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Sri Lanka has a wide network of national parks and reserves. This guide introduces the visitor to a selection of some of the better known national parks, reserves and other sites popular with wildlife enthusiasts.

Sri Lanka is one of the richest bio-diversity nations in the world. It is the best place in the world to see the Asian elephant, the best chance in Asia for leopards and a wonderful country for seeing a host of other tropical wildlife. A two week wildlife safari can take visitors from lush lowland rainforests to wind swept cloud forests in the highlands.

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