

ELEPHANTS, ENDEMIC BIRDS AND THE 'ESALA FESTIVAL' OF KANDY - 12 DAY TOUR

DAY 01

Arrival, welcome by a representative of Lanka Sportreizen and transfer to Chaaya Village in Habarana.

Take an afternoon jeep safari in **Minneriya National Park** to witness the famous 'Gathering' of wild elephants.

Overnight stay at the Chaaya Village, Habarana

DAY 02

After breakfast visit Sigiriya Sanctuary for a morning of delightful birdwatching. In addition to seeing the typical dry zone species the 'tanks' around Sigiriya host an array of birds associated with water.

The more interesting ones include [Spot-billed Pelican](#), [Oriental Darter](#), [White-bellied Sea-eagle](#), [Grey-headed Fish-eagle](#), [SHAHEEN](#) (the local race of the Peregrine), [Pheasant-tailed Jacana](#), [sri lanka Green-pigeon](#), 'Square-tailed' [Drongo-cuckoo](#), [sri lanka Grey Hornbill](#), [Malabar Pied Hornbill](#), [Black-rumped Flameback](#), [CRIMSON-BACKED FLAMEBACK](#), [sri lanka Swallow](#), [Large Cuckooshrike](#), [Black-headed Cuckooshrike](#), [sri lanka woodshrike](#), [Asian Paradise Flycatcher](#), [White-rumped Shama](#) and [Greater Racket-tailed Drongo](#)

Afternoon jeep safari at the **Minneriya National Park** for a second chance to witness the famous 'Gathering' of wild elephants

Overnight stay at the Chaaya Village, Habarana

DAY 03

An early breakfast is needed today in order to climb to the summit of the **Sigiriya Rock Fortress** ahead of the mid-day heat. View the ruins of the citadel of King Kashyapa (500 AD) and the breathtaking vista right around the rock from 200 m above the plateau.

In the afternoon either rest or visit Minneriya National Park once more to witness the assembly of elephants. The tank just outside your hotel and hotel's bird trails also present a relaxing birding session.

Overnight stay at the Chaaya Village, Habarana

DAY 04

After breakfast leave for the hill capital, Kandy where the Temple of the Tooth Relic stands. The Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha is the most important sacred relic in the island and is an object immensely venerated by all Buddhists.

After lunch, we relax for some hours to prepare ourselves for a grand evening. Today is our day of witnessing the world famous pageant 'Esala Perahera' of Kandy. We will have reserved seats for the parade and it will be well past midnight when we return to the hotel.

Overnight stay at the Cinnamon Citadel, Kandy

DAY 05

After breakfast leave for **Nuwara Eliya** visiting a Tea Factory en route

Afternoon – birding in **Hakgala Botanic Garden**.

Birding highlights include [sri lanka Woodpigeon](#), [Crimson-backed Flameback](#), [pied flycatcher shrike](#), [Yellow-eared Bulbul](#), [indian Blackbird](#), [sri lanka Whistling-thrush](#), [Dusky Blue Flycatcher](#), [gre-headed canary flycatcher](#), [sri lanka scimitar babbler](#), [sri lanka bush warbler](#), [great tit](#), [sri lanka White-eye](#) and [black-throated munia](#).

Overnight stay at the St. Andrew's Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

DAY 06

A predawn start with a packed breakfast to reach the Horton Plains at first light to see the elusive Whistling Thrush and for a morning of great birding

Species to lookout for: [Ceylon Woodpigeon](#), [Crimson-backed Flameback](#), [Hill Swallow](#), [Pied flycatcher shrike](#), [Yellow-eared Bulbul](#), [Indian Blackbird](#), [sri lanka Whistling-thrush](#), [Dusky Blue Flycatcher](#), [Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher](#), [Pied Bushchat](#), [sri lanka Scimitar-babbler](#), [Sri Lanka Bush-warbler](#), [sri lanka White-eye](#) and [Black-throated Munia](#).

Possible Mammals: [Purple-faced Leaf Monkey](#), [Sambar](#) and [Dusky Striped Squirrel](#).

Return to Nuwara Eliya for lunch and spend the afternoon birding around Nuwara Eliya.

Overnight stay at the St. Andrew's Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

DAY 07

After breakfast leave for Kitulgala.

In the afternoon birding in the Kitulgala village area

Species to look for are: [Sri Lanka Green-pigeon](#), [Sri Lanka Hanging-parrot](#), [Layard's Parakeet](#), [Green-billed Coucal](#), [Serendib Scops-owl](#), [Chestnut-backed Owlet](#), [Sri Lanka Frogmouth](#), [Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill](#), [Yellow-fronted Barbet](#), [Black-capped Bulbul](#), [Spot-winged Ground-thrush](#), [Sri Lanka Rufous Babbler](#), [Orange Minivet](#), [Legge's Flowerpecker](#) and [Black-throated Munia](#).

Overnight stay at the-Plantation Hotel, Kithulgala or similar

DAY 08

Full day birding in the Kelani Valley Forest Reserve

Birding highlights of Kitulgala will include [Sri Lanka Green-pigeon](#), [Sri Lanka Hanging-parrot](#), [Layard's Parakeet](#), [Green-billed Coucal](#), [Serendib Scops-owl](#), [Chestnut-backed Owlet](#), [Sri Lanka](#)

Frogmouth, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Black-capped Bulbul, Spot-winged Ground-thrush, Sri Lanka Rufous Babbler, Orange Minivet, Legge's Flowerpecker, Black-throated Munia and Sri Lanka Crested Drongo.

Overnight stay at the Plantation Hotel, Kithulgala or similar

DAY 09

After breakfast leave for Sinharaja Rainforest (a UNESCO World Heritage Wilderness Area). Have lunch at the Lodge and spend the afternoon birding in Sinharaja Forest.

Possible species: Sri Lanka Junglefowl, Sri Lanka Hanging-parrot, Layard's Parakeet, Green-billed Coucal, Red-faced Malkoha, Serendib Scops-owl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Lesser Yellownappe, Black-rumped Flameback, Crimson-backed Flameback, Yellow-browed Bulbul, Square-tailed Black Bulbul, Spot-winged Ground-thrush, Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush, Ashy-headed Laughingthrush, Brown-capped Babbler, Sri Lanka Scimitar-babbler, Dark-fronted Babbler, Sri Lanka Rufous Babbler, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Legge's Flowerpecker, Sri Lanka White-eye, Black-throated Munia, White-faced Starling, Sri Lanka Hill-myna, Sri Lanka Crested Drongo Sri Lanka Blue Magpie.

Overnight at The Blue Magpie Lodge, Sinharaja

(A Rustic and basic lodge with electricity, running hot and cold water in attached shower room cum toilet. Rooms have ceiling fans and mosquito nets. Excellent location and simple Sri Lankan food!)

DAY 10

Full day birding at Sinharaja Rainforest with picnic lunch. Sinharaja is Sri Lanka's last remaining rainforests and is home to most of the island's endemic birdlife.

Species to lookout for: Crested Goshawk, Shikra, Besra Sparrowhawk, Black Eagle, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Crested Hawk-eagle, Mountain Hawk-eagle, Sri Lanka Spurfowl, Sri Lanka Junglefowl, Sri Lanka Woodpigeon, Sri Lanka Hanging-parrot, Plum-headed Parakeet, Layard's Parakeet, Green-billed Coucal, Red-faced Malkoha, Serendib Scops-owl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Lesser Yellownappe, Black-rumped Flameback, Crimson-backed Flameback, Yellow-browed Bulbul, Square-tailed Black Bulbul, Spot-winged Ground-thrush, Sri Lanka Scaly Thrush, Ashy-headed Laughingthrush, Brown-capped Babbler, Sri Lanka Scimitar-babbler, Dark-fronted Babbler, Sri Lanka Rufous Babbler, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Legge's Flowerpecker, Sri Lanka White-eye, Black-throated Munia, White-faced Starling, Sri Lanka Hill-myna, Sri Lanka Crested Drongo and Sri Lanka Blue Magpie.

Overnight at The Blue Magpie Lodge, Sinharaja

DAY 11

After breakfast bird around the Lodge for some time and leave for a hotel near the Airport

Overnight stay at the Goldi Sands Hotel, Negombo

Day 12

Transfer to the Airport for departure

END OF SERVICES

(All passengers should be at the departure lobby of the Airport before 03 hours of their departure flight)

HOTELS

Chaaya Village or Similar – Habarana
 Hotel Suisse or Similar – Kandy
 St. Andrews or Similar – Nuwara Eliya
 Kitulgala Plantation Bungalow or Similar – Kitulgala
 Hotel Blue Magpie or Similar – Weddagala
 Goldi Sands Hotel or Similar – Negombo

01st November to 15th December 2015 & 21st January to 30th April 2016 (Off Peak)

01 Pax	Single Occupancy on BB basis	US\$ 3645.00
02 Pax	Double per-person sharing rate (BB basis)	US\$ 2025.00
03 – 06 Pax		US\$ 1720.00
07 – 12 Pax		US\$ 1380.00
13 – 19 Pax		US\$ 1310.00
20 – 35 Pax		US\$ 1225.00
	Single Supplement	US\$ 607.00
	Triple Reduction	US\$ 91.00

16th December 2015 to 20th January 2016 (Peak)

01 Pax	Single Occupancy on BB basis	US\$ 4165.00
02 Pax	Double per-person sharing rate (BB basis)	US\$ 2300.00
03 – 06 Pax		US\$ 1900.00
07 – 12 Pax		US\$ 1500.00
13 – 19 Pax		US\$ 1405.00
20 – 35 Pax		US\$ 1315.00
	Single Supplement	US\$ 651.00
	Triple Reduction	US\$ 91.00

THE ABOVE PRICES INCLUDE

1. Transport in an A/C Vehicle with an English Speaking Chauffeur Guide from/to Airport as per itinerary except free times.
2. Accommodation sharing Double / Twin basis with Breakfast in Hotels as specified above.
3. Entrance Fees to all the tourist sites that are included in the programme.
4. Services of a Bird Watching Guide.
5. Jeep Hire to National Parks (Wherever applicable)
6. Other local assistance

THE ABOVE PRICES EXCLUDE

1. Lunch & Dinner
2. All beverages, Tips and Portages.
3. Compulsory Supplements (Christmas & New Year' Eve Gala Dinners Supplement)
4. All expenses of personal nature such as Telephone Calls, Laundry and Tipping etc.
5. Any supplements that may incur due to events / matches / sports activities taking place in those localities
6. Additional transfers other than the itinerary will be charged locally. Mileage will be calculated from office to office

NOTE:

- ❖ Rates are nett and non commissionable.
- ❖ Change of hotels will be taken as a cancellation on the original booking/change of hotels while on tour will result 100% cancellation on the original booking.
- ❖ Check-in time 1400 hrs.
- ❖ Check-out time 1100 hrs.
- ❖ Hotels to be confirmed on availability basis.

Disclaimer: should the hotels come up with supplements due to events taking place in those localities the above rates will be subject to change

Cancellation: 21 Days 100% Cancellation / 01 Month 50% Cancellation

