

Birding Ecotours



SRI LANKA BIRDING TOUR: ISLAND ENDEMIC AND WINTERING JEWELS

21 JANUARY – 02 FEBRUARY 2027
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Serendib Scops Owl was discovered only in 2001 and is one of over 30 endemic target birds on this tour.

This exclusive small-group birdwatching tour of Sri Lanka explores the picturesque continental island situated at the southern tip of the Indian subcontinent where we go in search of the country's mouthwatering endemic birds and wintering specialties.

Sri Lanka is home to 35 currently recognized IOC endemic bird species, with some of the most impressive ones including the rare **Sri Lanka Spurfowl**, the gaudy **Sri Lanka Junglefowl**, **Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot**, **Layard's Parakeet**, the shy, thicket-dwelling **Red-faced Malkoha**, the tiny **Chestnut-backed Owlet**, the common **Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill**, **Yellow-fronted Barbet**, **Crimson-fronted Barbet**, and **Yellow-eared Bulbul**, the spectacular **Sri Lanka Blue Magpie**, the cute **Sri Lanka White-eye**, and the tricky, but worth-the-effort trio of **Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush**, **Sri Lanka Thrush**, and **Spot-winged Thrush**. We will also look for the relatively recently discovered (2001), Endangered (IUCN), range-restricted, and endemic **Serendib Scops Owl**, which we will hopefully find on its day roost, as we hope to do with the shy and secretive **Sri Lanka Bay Owl** too.



Sri Lanka Frogmouth can often be found during the daytime.

This tour is also timed to coincide with the presence of several overwintering species in the country that are difficult to find at their breeding grounds; these include the boldly patterned and highly skulking **Pied Thrush**, the pretty **Kashmir Flycatcher**, and the simply stunning **Indian Pitta**. There are also plenty of other exciting species possible, such as **Lesser Adjutant**, **Indian Blue Robin**, **Indian Peafowl**, **Legge's Hawk-Eagle**, **Orange Minivet**, **Indian Paradise Flycatcher**, **Forest Wagtail**, **Malabar Trogon**, and **Sri Lanka Frogmouth** (surprisingly not a Sri Lankan endemic, given its English name; it also occurs in southern India in the Western Ghats, as do a couple of the other birds listed above, such as the trogon). Furthermore, Sri Lanka is the

westernmost representative of Indo-Malayan flora, and its abundant birdlife also shows many such affinities.

This tour also offers plenty of wildlife-viewing opportunities with **Asian Elephant**, the Sri Lankan endemic subspecies of **Leopard** (*Panthera pardus kotiya*), and **Sloth Bear** all being possible, along with a range of monkeys, squirrels, and deer. This itinerary covers a variety of habitat types, including lowland, monsoon and cloud forests, grasslands, lagoons, coastal mudflats, fresh and brackish waterbodies, imposing riverine woodland, and forest, and uses comfortable accommodation throughout the tour.



*Found only in Sri Lanka and the Western Ghats (in India), **Malabar Trogon** is sure to delight.*

You could combine this tour with our exciting **Birding Tour India: Andaman Islands Endemics**, designed specially to follow this Sri Lanka tour. This extension will look for numerous endemic birds, including **Andaman Serpent Eagle**, **Andaman Masked Owl**, **Hume's Boobook**, **Andaman Boobook**, **Andaman Woodpecker**, and many more!

We have many other Indian tours following after this tour, details of which can be found [here](#).

Itinerary (13 days/12 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Katunayake and transfer to your hotel near the airport

Today you will arrive in Sri Lanka at the Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake and transfer to your nearby hotel, with the remainder of the day at leisure. Any early arrivals can start to enjoy the surprisingly productive birding from the wooded grounds of the hotel. Here the

endemic **Crimson-fronted Barbet** and **Red-backed Flameback** are commonly seen, alongside other specials such as **Forest Wagtail** and **Loten's Sunbird**. We will have a group dinner together in the evening, our first of many wonderful local meals; the food in Sri Lanka is great!

Overnight: Katunayake



*The endemic **Red-backed Flameback** is the most common woodpecker throughout much of Sri Lanka.*

Day 2. Drive to the endemic hotspot of Sinharaja Forest Reserve

We will leave the hotel after breakfast, heading southwest to our first birding base, the lush lowlands of Sinharaja Forest Reserve. Roadside birding in Sri Lanka is refreshingly good. **Blue-tailed Bee-eater**, **White-throated Kingfisher**, **White-bellied Drongo**, **Indian Roller**, **Sri Lanka Swallow**, **Scaly-breasted Munia**, **Brown Shrike**, **Indian Jungle Crow**, **Yellow-billed Babbler**, **Oriental Magpie-Robin**, and **Ashy Woodswallow** are often seen perched on wires. Though we will no doubt see them again and again, these roadside temptations will be hard to resist. The odd **Crested Serpent Eagle** and **Changeable** (Crested) **Hawk-Eagle**, sentinels on posts, will almost certainly bring our vehicle to a halt. The more common waterbirds such as **Red-wattled Lapwing**, **Indian Pond Heron**, **Eastern Cattle Egret**, **Intermediate Egret**, **Black-winged Stilt**, and **Asian Openbill** will certainly not be ignored either.

Sinharaja Forest Reserve is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which represents the largest expanse of lowland rainforest in Sri Lanka and is the premier site for Sri Lanka's avian endemics, with 28 of the 35 endemics possible here. On arrival we will check in to our beautiful eco lodge nestled within the heart of Sinharaja for a four-night stay. After enjoying our first of many rice-and-curry lunches we will commence our quest for the island's endemics in the surrounding forests.

The resonant call of **Yellow-fronted Barbet** is likely to demand our attention first, a common element in the soundscape of the wet Sri Lankan hinterland. The gregarious **Orange-billed Babbler**, with its constant chattering will be easier to locate. **Sri Lanka Green Pigeon** and the newly raised-to-endemic **Sri Lanka Swallow** are common overhead, though it may take more time to find one perched. A gem of a bird, **Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot**, whose scientific name *beryllinus* refers to beryl, a semi-precious stone found in Sri Lanka, may require scope views to fully appreciate its scarlet forehead and rump against its green body. Other interesting birds in this lively area include **Green Imperial Pigeon**, **Crested Treeswift**, **Lesser Yellownappe**, **Black-hooded Oriole**, **Common Iora**, and **Oriental White-eye**, to name a few.

Overnight: Sinharaja



The Yellow-fronted Barbet is a striking endemic and a familiar sight and sound in Sri Lanka's wet lowlands.

Days 3 - 5. Three days birding Sinharaja for lowland endemics and mixed-species flocks

We will have three full days in this birding hotspot, and we are sure to see many great birds. We will use a range of birding techniques to maximize our species list, using stakeouts for secretive targets, walking dense forest trails to find mixed flocks and the rarer endemics, and birding along roads and in home-gardens to enjoy excellent viewing of a high diversity of species along the forest edge.

Our first morning birding this diverse area should add a huge boost to our trip list. **Spot-winged Thrush** may greet the day with its rhythmic dawn chorus and could come hopping in at first light, in search of an easy meal. The “pretty-dear” call from the undergrowth may betray a flock

of **Brown-capped Babblers** moving low through the vegetation. As the light improves, the dawn chorus may build with additional songs from **Green Warbler**, **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**, and **Black-hooded Oriole**. The well-wooded, home-garden-type birding here, which combines a mix of habitats, should deliver a mouthwatering list of species including endemics such as **Sri Lanka Junglefowl**, **Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill**, **Sri Lanka Hill Myna**, **Black-capped Bulbul**, **Legge's Flowerpecker**, and perhaps **Layard's Parakeet**, named after E. L. Layard, a 19th century British civil servant, who added 136 species to Sri Lanka's avian inventory. More widespread species we expect to see include **Square-tailed**, **White-browed**, and **Yellow-browed Bultuls**, **Golden-fronted Leafbird**, **Black-headed Cuckooshrike**, **Indian Paradise Flycatcher**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Purple-rumped Sunbird**, **Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike**, **Forest Wagtail**, **Orange Minivet**, and **Brown-breasted** and **Asian Brown Flycatchers**.



*We will hope to get great views of the rare and secretive **Sri Lanka Spurfowl**.*

During our time at Sinharaja we will spend a morning at a stakeout for the ultra-secretive **Sri Lanka Spurfowl**, which is highly wary of people, along with other elusive species such as **Ashy-headed Laughingthrush**, **Indian Blue Robin**, and **Slaty-legged Crake**. Another shy species is the **Sri Lanka Thrush**, which we will search for during a jeep trip up into the mountains, checking ditches and ravines along forest trails. This habitat is also ideal for the sweet **Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher**. The iconic **Sri Lanka Blue Magpie** is much easier, as there are usually several pairs breeding in the area. **Crimson-backed Flameback** is also found in this forest and is a large, striking woodpecker, and we will be on constant alert for **Green-billed Coucal**, which is surprisingly stealthy for such a large bird. Our night bird list is likely to begin with the adorable **Chestnut-backed Owlet** at a stakeout, and we expect to find several **Sri Lanka Frogmouth** roosting during the day. This South India and Sri Lanka endemic is satisfyingly common here. Our main nocturnal target, however, is the **Serendib Scops Owl**, discovered in 2001 and with an

estimated population of only 200 to 250 birds in the wild. We will look for it at a daytime roost, and Sinharaja is the best place in the world to see it.

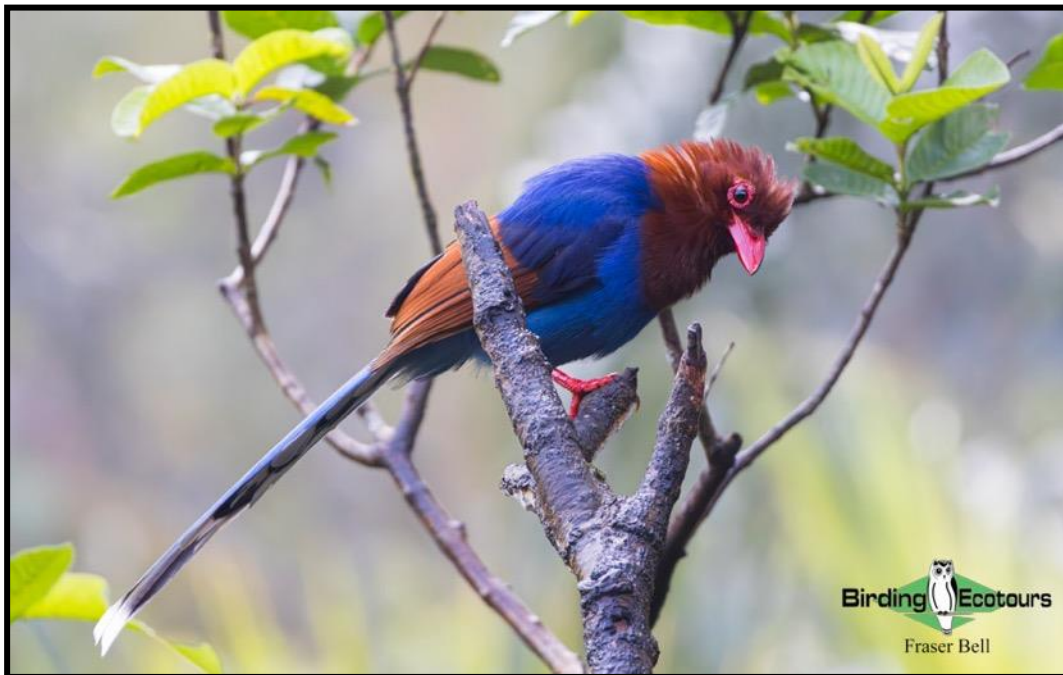


*No ordinary chicken! A regal **Sri Lanka Junglefowl** looking at our group.*

A highlight of birding in Sinharaja is seeing mixed-species bird flocks, which is a strategy adopted by birds in the tropics to maximize feeding efficiency and to reduce the risk of predation; these flocks are likely to be led by **Orange-billed Babbler** and **Sri Lanka Drongo**. The star of this coterie of flock-associated specials is the enigmatic **Red-faced Malkoha** – a canopy-dwelling endemic, found typically at heights of 80-120 feet (25-35 meters), with a remarkable ability to melt away into dense thickets. **White-faced Starling** too keeps to the canopy. **Ashy-headed Laughingthrush**, in comparison, is found in the lower levels of the flock, often scratching at the forest floor for insect prey. **Malabar Trogon** hawks insects in the subcanopy and remains largely silent, but boisterous pairs of **Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler** will often help us locate the flock. We will try to experience the magic of mixed-species bird flocks on several occasions.



*The secretive **Sri Lanka Thrush**, another highly sought endemic that skulks along the ground*



***Sri Lanka Blue Magpie** is gorgeous and can at times be quiet as it moves through dense vegetation, giving occasional great and close views.*

Finding an **Indian Paradise Flycatcher** sporting its white ribbon-like tail streamers that are nearly a foot in length may be a possibility, if we encounter a good flock. **Chestnut-winged Cuckoo**, another migrant that joins flocks, may, however, present a tougher challenge, as it is not as regular. We will also try for forest raptors like **Besra** and **Crested Goshawk**, which lurk behind flocks to catch birds. During the day we may perhaps hear the blood-curdling screams of **Sri Lanka (Grizzled) Giant Squirrel**, which would betray the presence of more formidable forest raptors such as **Legge's Hawk-Eagle** and **Black Eagle**, soaring high above the canopy.

Overnight: Sinharaja

Day 6. Sinharaja and travel to Tissamaharama

After a final morning birding in Sinharaja we will move east to the town of Tissamaharama, our base for three nights as we explore this excellent area for a wide range of birds. On arrival we will head out for our first wetland birding, focusing on the large Tissa lakes, which are fringed with dense vegetation. These are brilliant for a wide variety of waterbirds such as **Lesser Whistling Duck**, **Cotton Pygmy Goose**, **Grey-headed Swamphen**, **Pheasant-tailed Jacana**, **Oriental Darter**, **Indian and Little Cormorants**, **Black-headed Ibis**, **Yellow Bittern**, **Spot-billed Pelican**, and **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, among others. The mix of wooded home gardens, vegetated lakes, and flooded fields supports high diversity, and we are likely to add a large number of species to our trip list, with the likes of **Coppersmith Barbet**, **White-naped Woodpecker**, **Rose-ringed Parakeet**, **Small Minivet**, **Brown Shrike**, **Plain Prinia**, and **Jerdon's Leafbird** all abundant here.



Indian Scops Owl are one of four species of owl we will look for at day roosts around the Tissamaharama lakes.

This area is also brilliant for owling, and we will look for **Brown Boobook, Jungle Owlet, Indian Scops Owl, and Brown Fish Owl** at day roosts, as well as **Eastern Barn Owl** at dusk. A noisy colony of **Indian Flying Foxes** will be hard to ignore, and we could see them in their thousands in several large trees next to the lakes, with constant fights over landing rights.

Overnight: Tissamaharama

Day 7. Full day in Bundala National Park

We will spend the full day birding the fascinating habitats of Bundala National Park, Sri Lanka's first Ramsar site. This is the premier site for waterbirds, and you can often get close to the birds in the vehicles to get very good photographic opportunities. We will explore the extensive pools, flooded grasslands, dry thorny scrubland, sand dunes, brackish water lagoons, and salt pans for a large range of species. We will get there as early as possible to maximize our time in this wonderful set of habitats. Some of the species possible here are **Black, Yellow, and Cinnamon Bitterns, Watercock, Great and Indian Stone-curlews, Eurasian Curlew, Marsh Sandpiper, Tibetan and Greater Sand Plovers, Kentish Plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Small Pratincole, Black-headed and Glossy Ibises, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black-necked Stork, Little and Indian Cormorants, Oriental Darter, Spot-billed Pelican, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Garganey, Greater Flamingo, Caspian, White-winged, Whiskered, Common, Greater Crested, Lesser Crested, and Little Terns**. Other species possible in the area include **Clamorous (Indian) Reed Warbler, Eurasian Hoopoe, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Brown Fish Owl, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, and Ashy Drongo**.



Great Stone-curlews can be seen at Bundala National Park.

This is a truly amazing site to spend a full day at. The sheer abundance and diversity of birds is incredibly impressive and makes for very enjoyable birding from the comfort of the vehicles, which are elevated and offer excellent viewing. Further species we will look for include **Barred Buttonquail**, **Painted Stork**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**, **Greater Painted-snipe**, **Terek Sandpiper**, **Blue-faced Malkoha**, **Sirkeer Malkoha**, **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater**, **Indian Pitta**, **Forest Wagtail**, **Oriental Skylark**, **Yellow-eyed Babbler**, **Rosy Starling**, **Indian Silverbill**, and **Streaked** and **Baya Weavers**. There really is a huge list of potential species here, and we are bound to have a great time.

Overnight: Tissamaharama

Day 8. Full day of game drives in Yala National Park

We have an amazing opportunity to do a full day of game drives in the famous Yala National Park. This park covers a vast area of monsoon forest, dry grassland, and lush wetlands, all bordering the Indian Ocean. We have one major avian target in the park, the endemic **Sri Lanka Shama**, a surprisingly shy bird of the dry forests here. Once we have this species in the bag, we will turn our attention to the large mammals that give the park its fame. Our big targets will be the Sri Lankan endemic subspecies of **Leopard** and **Sloth Bear**, which, despite their rarity, we have seen both on previous tours. Yala is thought to hold the greatest density of Leopard in the world but if we see one we will consider ourselves lucky! Other mammalian targets include **Golden Jackal**, **Tufted Grey Langur**, **Wild Boar**, **Wild Water Buffalo**, **Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel**, **Sambar Deer**, and **Chital** (Spotted Deer), and there is also a good chance of finding **Asian Elephant**, which is always a treat.



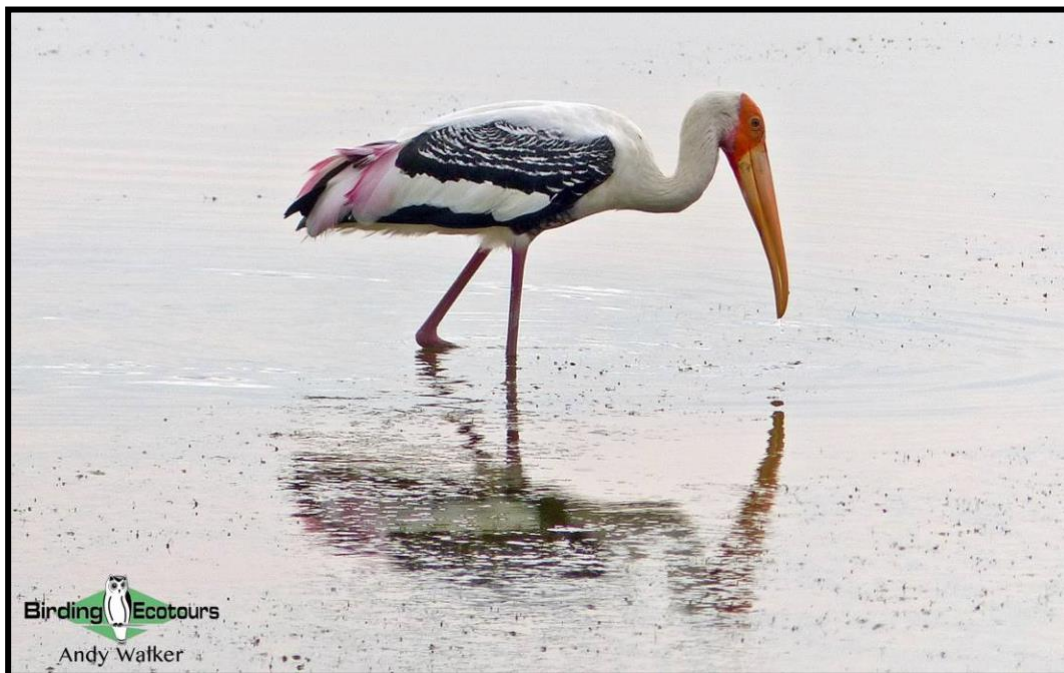
Asian Green Bee-eater is one of the species we hope to encounter in Yala National Park.

Aside from the mammals, Yala is particularly good for **Indian Peafowl, Knob-billed Duck, Grey-bellied Cuckoo, Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Barred Buttonquail, Painted, Asian Woolly-necked and Black-necked Storks, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Brown-capped Pygmy and Yellow-crowned Woodpeckers, Indian Pitta, Ashy Drongo, Jerdon's Bushlark, Indian Robin, and Purple Sunbird**. We will likely be escorted by many beautiful **Asian Green Bee-eaters**, gliding effortlessly around our vehicles catching the insects we disturb as we roll past. Aside from these major targets, we will come across many of the birds found in Bundala (listed above) and at Udawalawe (listed below).

Overnight: Tissamaharama

Day 9. Drive to Udawalawe National Park for dry-zone specialties

In the morning we drive to the dry lowlands of Udawalawe National Park. After checking in at the accommodation we will explore this fantastic park in search of dry-zone birds, which abound here. Our most important targets are the endemic **Sri Lanka Woodshrike**, and the near-endemic **Blue-faced Malkoha** and **Marshall's Iora**, both of which are patchily distributed in parts of India and Sri Lanka. Other birds on offer here include **Indian Peafowl, Sri Lanka Junglefowl, Little Swift, Jacobin** and **Grey-bellied Cuckoos, Indian Stone-curlew, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Painted** and **Asian Woolly-necked Storks, Asian Green Bee-eater, Coppersmith Barbet, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Jerdon's Bush Lark, Yellow-eyed Babbler, Rosy and Brahminy Starlings, Indian Robin, and Paddyfield, and Blyth's Pipits**. Migrant species like **Eastern Red-rumped Swallow, and Western Yellow, White, and Citrine Wagtails** may show up too.



Painted Stork can be seen in Udawalawe National Park.

Other dry-zone specials we will be on the lookout for at Udawalawe National Park include **Sirkeer Malkoha, Barred Buttonquail, Lesser Adjutant, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Indian Silverbill**, and, if we're lucky, **Brown Fish Owl**. With its vast open expanses, the park also harbors a rich diversity of exciting raptors, such as **Black-winged Kite, Crested Honey Buzzard, Crested Serpent Eagle, Changeable (Crested) Hawk-Eagle, Booted Eagle, Shikra, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Common Kestrel**, and the local resident subspecies of Shaheen **Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus peregrinator*). We may also encounter rare raptors in Sri Lanka, such as **Osprey, Pallid Harrier, or Montagu's Harrier**. In addition to excellent birds, a visit to Udawalawe also offers a good opportunity to observe **Asian Elephant** and **Wild Water Buffalo**, both of which are found in good numbers in the park.

As dusk approaches we will look for **Indian Nightjar** and **Jerdon's Nightjar** in the scrub near our accommodation, likely serenaded by a chorus of **Indian Pittas** as the sun sets.

Overnight: Udawalawe

Day 10. Transfer to Nuwara Eliya and high-elevation birding

After some more early-morning birding in the Udawalawe area, we will begin our ascent to reach the cooler interiors of Nuwara Eliya at 6,200 feet (1,890 meters). We will stop for any good birds along the way, and near Nuwara Eliya we will make a brief stop to look for **Brown Wood Owl** at a known nesting area. Birding in this area should produce our first high-elevation species, such as **Cinereous Tit** and **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher**. As we continue, we will keep an eye on the skies, as these forested mountain roads offer a great chance of spotting raptors, with **Rufous-bellied Eagle, Legge's Hawk-Eagle** and **Peregrine Falcon** high on our target list.

Nuwara Eliya is the most famous hill station in Sri Lanka, named by some "Little England", as it still bears evidence of its colonial past with its English-style holiday homes, an urban park, a few pubs, flower gardens, and a fine 18-hole golf course. As we ascend, vast stretches of tea gardens dominate the landscape, a cash crop introduced by the British, which is currently the country's third-highest revenue earner. A serious drop in temperature of around 50-59 degrees Fahrenheit (10-15 degrees Celsius) at Nuwara Eliya will necessitate sweaters!

Once we reach the town we will explore Victoria Park. Established in 1897 to commemorate the 60th coronation jubilee of Queen Victoria, this urban park is the prime location for Western Himalayan migrants, including **Kashmir Flycatcher** and **Pied Thrush**, which winter almost exclusively in Sri Lanka. **Indian Pitta, Indian Blue Robin, Forest Wagtail, Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler, Indian Blackbird**, and **Sykes's Warbler** are some of the other good birds to be found in this park. At the end of the day we will reach our cozy highland lodge, where we will stay for two nights.

Overnight: Nuwara Eliya



*The stunning **Indian Pitta** spends its non-breeding season in Sri Lanka.*



*We will look on the ground for the gorgeous **Indian Blue Robin**.*

Day 11. Nuwara Eliya, looking for montane endemics and other specials

We will have an early start with a picnic breakfast to get to the high-elevation Horton Plains National Park, where we will spend time in the forest looking for high-value montane targets including the final five Sri Lankan endemics. These include the secretive duo of **Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush**, and **Sri Lanka Bush Warbler**, alongside more abundant **Yellow-eared Bulbul**, **Dull-blue Flycatcher**, and **Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon**. **Indian Blackbird** and **Legge's Hawk-Eagle** are other major targets in Horton Plains, both of which are near endemics, being restricted to the Indian subcontinent. Mixed-species bird flocks are to be found in this forest, comprised of **Sri Lanka White-eye**, **Orange Minivet**, **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch**, **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher**, **Cinereous Tit**, **Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike** and **Large-billed Leaf Warbler**.

In the afternoon we will descend back to near Nuwara Eliya, where we will reach a patch of habitat close to our accommodation in time to anticipate the arrival of the ultra-secretive, montane, endemic **Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush**, which is one of two Endangered (IUCN) Sri Lankan endemics.

Overnight: Nuwara Eliya



*The endemic **Dull-blue Flycatcher** is found in the mountains of Sri Lanka.*

Day 12. Nuwara Eliya birding, transfer to Katunayake

In the morning we will be birding for any missing montane specials around Nuwara Eliya. Most of the day will be a transfer day, as we travel back to Katunayake. En route we will pause at a tea factory to see the recently split **Hill Swallow**, which nests inside the factory. After a cuppa we will reach our accommodation and check in for the final night of the tour.

Overnight: Katunayake



Green-billed Coucal is a secretive endemic and we will be constantly looking for one.

Day 13. Departure

We will finish the tour with some optional pre-breakfast birding around the wonderful gardens of the peaceful Katunayake hotel. After one final breakfast together the tour comes to an end with your international departure.

If you would like to add some further island endemic birds to your travels you might like to consider our **Birding Tour India: Andaman Islands Endemics** which runs straight after this tour, during which we will look for **Andaman Woodpecker, Andaman Serpent Eagle, Andaman Masked Owl, Andaman Scops Owl, Hume's Boobook, and Andaman Boobook**, among many others. Alternatively you may like to consider our **Southern India birding tour** where we visit the Western Ghats and Nilgiri which takes place immediately prior to this Sri Lanka birding tour. On this tour of southern India we hope to find an assortment of Western Ghats and Nilgiri endemics including such stunners as **Malabar Whistling Thrush, Nilgiri Laughingthrush, Nilgiri Blue Robin, Black-and-orange Flycatcher**, amongst many others.

Overnight: Not included

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides, and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling or other factors.

Duration: 13 days
Group Size: 4 - 8
Dates: 21 January – 02 February 2027
21 January – 02 February 2028
Start: Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake
End: Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake
Prices: US\$7,050 per person sharing – based on 4 - 8 participants (2027)
US\$7,825 per person sharing – based on 4 - 8 participants (2028)

Single Supplements: US\$900 (2027)
US\$995 (2028)

Price includes:

All accommodation (as described above)
Meals (from evening meal on day 1 until breakfast on day 13)
Drinking water – two bottles of mineral water per day per person from our tour vehicle, please bring a refillable water bottle (if taken from the hotel this will be at your own cost)
Expert tour leader
Local bird and wildlife guide fees
National park/birdwatching reserve entrance fees
Safari jeep services
All ground transport and tolls while on tour, including airport pick-up and drop-off

Price excludes:

Flights to/from Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake, Sri Lanka
Visa
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, internet access, phone calls, etc.
Airport transfers if you arrive before the tour starts or departs after the tour ends
Optional tours (e.g. monument entrance fees and associated additional travel expenses)
Any pre- or post-tour accommodation, meals, or birding/sightseeing/monument excursions
Soft/alcoholic drinks
Camera (still/video) permits
Personal travel insurance
Visits/entrance fees to cultural monuments
Gratuities, e.g. porters, waiters, park guides, jeep drivers, coach driver, guides, etc. (please see [our tipping guidelines blog](#))