



**SRI LANKA:
ISLAND ENDEMIC, WINTERING SPECIALTIES,
AND BLUE WHALE PELAGIC**

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sri Lanka Bay Owl is one of the target birds on our Sri Lanka birding tour although, despite its name, it is not a Sri Lankan endemic!

OUR SRI LANKA BIRDING TOUR

This small-group Sri Lanka birding tour focuses on the 35 currently recognized IOC (14.2) endemic birds, several near-endemic regional specialties that only also occur in a relatively small area of southern India, and several overwintering specialties. Some of the main targets on this birdwatching tour of Sri Lanka include **Serendib Scops Owl, Sri Lanka Bay Owl, Chestnut-backed Owlet, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Sri Lanka Spurfowl, Sri Lanka Junglefowl, Sri Lanka Hornbill, Indian Pitta, Malabar Trogon, Red-faced Malkoha, Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Sri Lanka Thrush, Sri Lanka Thrush, Pied Thrush, Indian Blue Robin, Kashmir Flycatcher**, and many more.

Our tour will take us around the south of the picturesque island nation, soaking in a wide range of habitats along the way. In addition to the high-quality birds, we will keep our eyes peeled for **Asian Elephant**, (Sri Lankan) **Leopard**, and, while on a pelagic trip, the massive **Blue Whale**.

This Sri Lanka birding tour starts and ends at Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake, near the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo.

ITINERARY AND SPECIES RECORDING (BIRD LISTS AND ANIMAL LISTS)

Ahead of our Sri Lanka birdwatching tour we will send you a detailed daily itinerary (along with arrival instructions). We will then provide you with a printed copy of the itinerary on the first day of the tour.

The printed copy of the itinerary will include a bird list and list of other animals possible on the tour and we will go through this each night (but it is totally optional whether you join or not – though it is considered extremely useful). We always use the latest version of the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) taxonomy for our bird list and for all other wildlife, we use the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) taxonomy. While birding during the tour we will create eBird checklists and these will be shared with any participants who wish to have a copy. Just provide us with your eBird user details at the beginning of the tour for us to do this.

Each evening, we will go through the itinerary to give you any specific information to be aware of for the following day (like what clothes and equipment will be needed, when we will be having breakfast, departure time from the hotel, and any important birds we will be looking for, etc.). This is a good time for you to ask us any questions you may have for the day ahead.

After the completion of the tour, we will email you a PDF copy of an illustrated trip report. This will include a complete IOC and IUCN checklist of all wildlife recorded during the tour. Any interesting bird, animal, or landscape photographs will be included in the trip report and will also be added to our tour-specific Flickr pages as a reminder, and you are able to download these for free and share with your friends and family.

DAILY ACTIVITIES, PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND TOUR PACE

This Sri Lanka birdwatching tour is not considered to be too physically demanding, though heat and humidity throughout the tour can increase tiredness and care should be taken to remain hydrated at all times.

There are a couple of long hikes during the trip, but we always take these slowly and go at

birdwatching pace. If you do want to sit out a birding session, there are opportunities to hang back at our accommodation for some more relaxed birding or photography at several locations. We will spend the majority of our time birding on easy to moderate trails and roadsides, at a range of elevations, and will experience warm/hot and humid conditions throughout.

This is a birding-focused tour that does offer some good incidental photo opportunities, though these are secondary to the actual birding element of the tour. Finding and seeing well the many endemic and near-endemic species and subspecies of Sri Lanka, as well as overwintering specialties, will be considered the priority. That said, some good photo opportunities are available at many of the sites we will be visiting, though conditions can be tough in the forested, more enclosed, areas we will visit.

Most of the drives between different sites are two to three hours, but there are also a couple that are around the four hour mark. Please note that on longer journeys our driver may need to take a short break for safety. This will generally be done at a place where there is some birding for us, or where we will have lunch. Everyone's safety is our concern on this and all our tours. There are a couple of long, rough, and potentially dusty jeep rides on this tour. We will also be taking a whale-watching pelagic boat trip during the tour. There are more details in the "Transportation" and "Pelagic" sections below.

At a couple of locations, we will be birding from within open-topped jeeps/vans due to site regulations, often for our own safety (e.g. in areas where there are elephants or leopards).

PASSPORT, VISA, LOCAL LAWS, AND CUSTOMS

In order to visit Sri Lanka, most visitors will require a visa which can usually be obtained on arrival in the country. The online visa (eVisa) application system is currently (August 2024) suspended, though this may change in the lead up to the tour, so worth checking. To enter the country your passport must have an expiry date at least six months after the day you arrive.

You are required to complete an [online arrival form](#) up to three days before you arrive in Sri Lanka. This is a free service (don't fall for online scams claiming you need to pay) and this can save time on arrival. Please refer to the department of Immigration and Emigration [website](#) for further up-to-date information, and also check the advice provided by your government. There are strict rules about goods you can take into or out of Sri Lanka, with details [here](#).

On arrival in Sri Lanka, you will likely have to show evidence of your ticket to leave the country after your bird holiday. Please make sure that you have all the required documents, and please [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

You must always carry your passport as an official form of identification. A copy is usually acceptable, but in some situations you may have to produce the original at a police station, within a specified time limit.

Do not fly drones near, use binoculars or telescopes, or take photographs of military bases, government buildings, or vehicles used by VIPs. Drones require a permit in Sri Lanka.

Disrespecting Buddhist images and artefacts, or making offensive remarks about religion, is a serious offence and can lead to arrest. If you have visible tattoos of Buddha, you can be refused entry to Sri Lanka or face deportation. Do not pose for photographs standing in front of a statue of Buddha (don't pose for photos with your back to Buddha). Avoid touching sacred objects or

relics. Always seek permission before photographing people, particularly monks or worshippers. Public displays of affection are frowned upon in Sri Lanka. It is best to avoid overt displays to respect local customs and traditions.

Please make sure that you bring a photocopy of your passport with you on the tour, this can be kept with other important documents like vaccination certificates, emergency contact details, and insurance documents.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

As detailed in our standard [Terms and Conditions](#), we strongly encourage you to have comprehensive trip cancellation insurance to protect against unexpected events that might cause delays and interruptions to travel. It is important that the insurance covers illness, medical issues, accidents, repatriation, loss of luggage or any valuable items that you might be bringing (e.g. optical and camera equipment) etc.

HEALTH AND PESTS

We recommend you consult your doctor or local travel clinic, regarding vaccine requirements, approximately two months prior to your bird tour to Sri Lanka, so that any required vaccine courses can be completed in time for your departure.

There is no risk of Yellow Fever in Sri Lanka, however there is a certificate requirement for travelers arriving from countries with a risk of Yellow Fever transmission (or have transited for more than 12 hours through one). The certificate for Yellow Fever is now valid for life, rather than 10 years, as was considered to apply pre-2016. Please refer to the World Health Organization's list of countries where Yellow Fever transmission is possible, [here](#).

Everyone visiting Sri Lanka should be up to date with standard vaccinations and boosters, like Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis, Chickenpox (Varicella), Flu, Covid-19, Polio, Shingles, and Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR). Other vaccinations that might be required (depending on your personal situation, and to be confirmed by your travel clinic/doctor), include Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Japanese Encephalitis, Cholera, Typhoid, and Rabies. Airborne and droplet transmitted diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB), Avian/Bird Flu, Seasonal Flu, and Hantavirus are present.

There is a risk of insect or tick-borne diseases in some areas of South Asia, including in Sri Lanka. This includes diseases such as Chikungunya, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, Leishmaniasis, Scrub Typhus (from Chiggers) and West Nile Virus. There is no risk of Malaria in Sri Lanka, however there is Zika Virus (from diurnal mosquitos). To prevent mosquito bites we recommend wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants, treat clothes with repellents like permethrin or use permethrin-treated clothing (such as Buzz Off), and use an EPA-registered mosquito repellent containing DEET.

If you are prone to seasickness you might want to consult a doctor to get medication to prevent this during the pelagic whale-watching trip.

Please refer to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) website [here](#), for further information on vaccines and how to stay healthy on the tour. Another great source of data is the

“[Travel Health Pro](#)” website, and information on Sri Lanka can be seen [here](#). All three linked webpages, and any others from your home government, are worth studying ahead of joining our tour.

Poor air quality is a significant public health problem in many parts of the world, and we can experience areas of poor air quality, usually when in (but not limited to) cities. Exposure to high levels of air pollution over short time periods (e.g. minutes/hours/days) is linked to many different acute and chronic health problems. These effects are mainly on the respiratory (lungs and airways) and cardiovascular (heart function and blood circulation) systems.

Tap water is not potable in Sri Lanka and you should not drink water from taps, as you can get ill (e.g. traveler’s diarrhea) and this will likely ruin a portion your bird tour. We will be providing two bottles of mineral water per day per person from our tour vehicle supply, please bring a refillable water bottle to maintain your own supply. Water taken from the hotel (excluding any free water provided) will be at your own cost (e.g. water from the restaurant, water from a mini bar etc.).

If you pick up any scratches from plants (see the “Dangerous Animals and Plants” section below) or receive any bites from insects, they should be cleaned, treated with antiseptic cream/wipes, and covered quickly to reduce the chance of any infection.

Sunscreen (rated SPF 30+) should be used frequently, and a sunhat should be worn to protect from the sun’s powerful rays, with sunglasses used to help prevent glare. A plentiful intake of water is essential to maintain hydration.

There is a risk of altitude sickness when travelling to elevations of 8,200 feet (2,500 meters), however we won’t be going above this elevation on our tour. The highest point we are likely to be birding at on our Sri Lanka bird tour is at Horton Plains (approximately 5,900 feet / 1,800 meters). The highest overnight elevation is approximately 5,250 feet / 1,600 meters).

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

It is very important that you are suitably covered with comprehensive medical insurance in the instance of any emergency situation while on our Sri Lanka bird tour. Medical facilities in Sri Lanka are likely to be of a lower quality than you are used to at home. Emergency medical treatment outside main cities is not readily available, and you may have to be brought to Colombo for treatment. Treatment in private hospitals can be expensive and the options for repatriation to your home or a neighboring country in an emergency are limited and very expensive. If you don’t have insurance, the cost for medical care is likely to be very high.

As detailed in our standard [Terms and Conditions](#), we require you to tell us when signing up for our Sri Lanka birdwatching tour of any medical conditions that we should be aware of. Please tell us if you have any walking/mobility (including stability) issues, diabetes, epilepsy, food and medicinal allergies, heart conditions, and long-term illnesses etc. This will make things easier for us, and you, in case an unexpected situation arises.

CRIME AND SAFETY

Sri Lanka is generally considered to be a relatively safe country to visit, with many friendly

people, but you should take at least the same precautions you would at home. Place valuables in a secure place, such as a hotel safe, when you can, and keep belongings in sight when travelling. Remain vigilant of your surroundings at all times.

Terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka cannot be ruled out, avoid crowded public places, large gatherings, and demonstrations. Possible targets could also include hotels, tourist sites, and places of worship. Protests and demonstrations linked to political and economic situations can happen anywhere across the island at short notice, and can become violent, so are to be avoided.

Violent crime against foreigners is rare, but there has been an increase in low-level opportunistic crime incidents, e.g. bag snatches off motorbikes. Wear a body belt for safe keeping of documents.

Bank card fraud is common. Fraudsters can steal your card details without you noticing. Use ATMs inside banks or hotels where possible, and check ATMs on the street for signs of tampering. Keep cards in sight when paying in shops and restaurants.

Many beaches in Sri Lanka have dangerous surf or rip tides at certain times of the year. Get advice from your hotel or lifeguards before going into the sea.

DANGEROUS ANIMALS AND PLANTS

Some Sri Lankan animals can be dangerous. If in doubt, follow advice from our local guides or the Birding Ecotours Sri Lanka tour leader. **Wild Asian Elephants** and **Mugger** (Crocodiles) will attack humans on occasion and (Sri Lankan) **Leopards** are present, though we will likely be in vehicles if we are lucky enough to find one of these shy apex predators. Venomous insects and snakes are found in many parts of the country and we are likely to come into contact with some these. Feral dogs are common and sometimes carry Rabies.

Special mention should be made of **Leeches**, which occur throughout Sri Lanka, where they are particularly abundant. Even though we will be visiting Sri Lanka in what should be the drier months, it is best to expect them to be present, and to be pleasantly surprised if we don't encounter many of them! They are an annoyance rather than being a real health issue, though we know no one likes them! Insect repellent (particularly citronella) sprayed on shoes and ankles can help to keep them at bay, as well as being great for reducing issues with other annoying creatures, such as ticks, mosquitoes, and chiggers. Saltwater spray can also deter leeches. We will provide you with a pair of "Leech socks" at the beginning of the tour. It is a good idea to have some salt sachets as well, as it can be an effective way to remove a leech if it attaches to your skin.

There are numerous poisonous and irritant plants in Sri Lanka, and some plants may be protected by fierce looking spikes, so we recommend being careful about where you put your hands if moving through vegetation (this is also a good way to reduce insect bites).

FOOD, DRINKS, AND MEALS

A variety of typical Sri Lankan food is the main type of food to be expected on this tour, with some western menu options likely in some places. Vegetarian food is commonly available, but please let us know of any dietary requirements ahead of the tour. Most meals are based around

chicken or fish with rice, breads, and vegetables, Fresh fruit will be available. Due to the lack of refrigeration, dairy products are not common.

Sri Lankan food can be quite spicy, so if you don't like spicy food, please let us know so we can inform our hosts in advance. We will have breakfasts at our hotels (possibly after an early morning birding session in some cases), lunches will either be taken in our hotel, restaurants as we travel, or occasionally as boxed/packed lunches in the field while birding. Evening meals will be taken at our hotels. We suggest you bring your favorite snacks or protein bars to supplement your diet. Street food is not recommended for travelers due to risk of getting sick.

Tap water is not potable in Sri Lanka, and you should not drink water from taps, since you can get sick. Tea and coffee are widely available, but if you have strong preferences about your tea/coffee you'd be advised to bring your own, though Sri Lanka is famous for its tea production. Alcoholic drinks are available in most places, though the sale of alcoholic drinks is banned (or at least not usually available) on religious holidays. Drinking alcoholic drinks in certain public areas is illegal.

CURRENCY, MONEY, AND TIPPING

The Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR) is the currency of Sri Lanka. It is subdivided into 100 cents (but these are rarely seen in circulation due to their low value). Banknotes can be found in the following denominations: LKR 20, 50, 100, 500, 1,000, and 5,000. The Sri Lankan Rupee is a closed currency, which means it is not available to buy or sell outside of Sri Lanka. It will likely be best to buy Sri Lankan Rupees at the airport or use an ATM at the airport. Some of the larger towns/cities we are likely to pass through/visit should have ATMs for withdrawing cash, though there is always a chance these are broken or won't accept your international card. Cash is useful for incidental purchases in rural areas, where cards may not be accepted. Some small denominations of US\$ can come in useful for tipping (e.g. US\$1, US\$5, US\$10 bills), or emergency cash if your bank card doesn't work. It is useful to get small Sri Lankan Rupee banknotes when possible. It is best to exchange currency at authorized dealers, banks, or hotels to avoid counterfeit notes. Always ask for a receipt after exchanging money.

Tipping is not mandatory in Sri Lanka but is customary and greatly appreciated. It is a good way to show gratitude for good service and to acknowledge those working in the service industry, such as waitstaff, hotel housekeepers, drivers etc. We will cover tips to hotel staff, restaurant staff, safari jeep drivers. You will be responsible for tipping tour vehicle drivers and local guides. We would suggest LKR500-1,000 (or US\$5) per person per day for drivers, and for local guides, a tip of LKR2,000 (or US\$10) per person per day. However, as stated, the above tipping is at your discretion.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation on this tour is generally of a good standard, with electricity throughout. Most of the accommodation has air conditioning (those in the mountains don't really need it). Accommodation without air conditioning, will likely have fans instead.

Located approximately ten minutes from Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake, we stay at a luxury resort at the beginning of the tour, set in twelve acres of stunning, lush gardens.

An ideal place to start our Sri Lankan birding tour, and a good location if you'd like to arrive ahead of the tour and relax a little and start your endemic bird quest early.

While we are on our birding circuit around Sri Lanka we will utilize a range of accommodations, from colonial style hotels (including one used in the renowned '50s Hollywood blockbuster "The Bridge on the River Kwai"), rustic bungalows and nature lodges set in pristine habitat and important bird areas, and boutique hotels. Some of this accommodation is more basic than others, but we try and use the best accommodation available in the chosen area near the key birding sites. Some of the areas we will be staying in may be hilly, and so walking between bedrooms and hotel common areas (e.g. the dining room) may involve some steps. If you have difficulty walking on steps, please let us know in advance and we will endeavor to get a room that will best suit your ability.

ELECTRICITY

In Sri Lanka the power plugs and sockets (outlets) are of Type D, Type M, and Type G. The standard voltage is 230 volts (V), and the standard frequency is 50 hertz (Hz). Further details and photos of these plugs and sockets, and information on the electricity supply in Sri Lanka can be found [here](#). This link also allows you to type in your home country and will tell you if you will need to bring a travel adaptor and / or a voltage converter, as well as tell you if you need to consider frequency differences. All places we stay on our tour should have electricity 24 hours a day, unless there is an unexpected power outage, such as the result of a storm or other unforeseen circumstance.

COMMUNICATIONS

The phone signal in Sri Lanka is reasonably good. Dialog is the largest and best performing local network across the country. It is possible to purchase a local SIM card on arrival in Sri Lanka, and most likely simply done at the airport. Most places we stay will have Wi-Fi, but the Wi-Fi infrastructure across the country is not great.

TRANSPORTATION

We will use an air-conditioned minibus/van on this tour for moving between our overnight destinations and some of our birding sites. We will also use open-top jeeps at some birding sites. The jeep drives can sometimes be rough and dusty. We will also take a boat trip, see "Whale-watching Pelagic Trip" section below.

WHALE-WATCHING PELAGIC TRIP

We will take a whale-watching boat trip from Mirissa, off the south coast of Sri Lanka. The trip provides an opportunity for seeing **Blue Whale** and other species. The company we use are experienced in running these trips safely, which is our primary concern. Boats have a lavatory and safety equipment, including life rafts, life rings, life jackets, fire extinguishers, and first aid kit etc. The trip will likely last 3-4 hours (07:00 hrs. – 11:00 hrs.), but may stretch a bit beyond this, depending on distances travelled. The boat usually travels about 10-15 nautical miles out to

sea, depending on the whales' whereabouts. If you are prone to seasickness, please consider taking medication. The crew will provide a safety briefing prior to departure, and your complete attention to this is required.

If you would prefer to not take part in the whale-watching boat trip, please let us know at your earliest convenience, so that we can put alternate plans in place for you. We can likely arrange for you to wait at a comfortable location nearby, such as the hotel or a designated waiting area. Alternatively, we might be able to arrange a short birding session with a local guide to a nearby site.

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

There are no domestic flights on this tour.

WEATHER/CLIMATE

January and February are considered the cooler months in Sri Lanka. The average daytime temperatures in the coastal lowlands of Sri Lanka at this time of year range from 73°F to 88°F (23°C to 31°C). Meanwhile, the average daytime temperatures in the central highlands of Sri Lanka at this time of year range from 50°F to 79°F (10°C to 26°C). Note that in the early mornings (particularly) it can be cool (cold for some), and we might be in open-top jeeps at this time of day, so suitable clothing will be required. See the “What to Bring: Clothes” section, below.

This is the least humid and driest time in Sri Lanka. There is a low chance of rain during the tour, although, given the possible effects of events like El Nino and La Nina, which may bring unseasonable rainfall, it is always worth being prepared for rainfall.

The sun is strong at this time of year, and care should be taken to remain hydrated, and use sun protection.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Tropical cyclones and monsoon rains can cause flooding in many places in Sri Lanka. Our tours are timed to run outside the tropical cyclone and monsoon seasons, to hopefully avoid these huge storm events which can cause widespread flooding and landslides.

LUGGAGE

Please pack as lightly as possible for this tour. A medium, soft-sided, and robust duffel bag is likely to work best for packing in the tour vehicles. We recommend a daypack be used to keep items that you wish to use daily when in the vehicle, or when birding in the field.

WHAT TO BRING: CLOTHING AND RELATED ITEMS

We recommend that you bring a selection of loose and lightweight field clothing with green, brown, or dark colors, as these work best for forest birding (which we will be doing for the

majority of our tours in the region). Please avoid bright/pale colors, for example no white, red, orange etc. outer clothing layers during birding time. Casual and informal dress is appropriate for the hotels/accommodation we use.

We highly recommend trousers/long pants and long-sleeved shirts (these can be rolled up should you get too hot) for all birding activities, given the potential leech and insect issues (and the strong tropical sun). A selection of clothes is useful, as you are likely to get hot and sweaty in some locations. You should also bring some warmer clothes, as we will spend some time birding at higher elevations, where nighttime temperatures could drop, and still be cool when we are birding or driving in open-top jeeps.

Although we will be birding during the dry season, rain is always a possibility, so light rain gear (including a small umbrella) is always worth having in your daypack. Leeches also enjoy damp conditions, and leech socks are advisable. We will provide these for you at the beginning of the tour.

There are some opportunities for swimming on the tour, so swimwear might be useful, should you wish to enjoy a swimming pool break. Sunglasses, sunhat, and sunscreen (rated SPF 30 or higher) are, however, considered essential.

Lightweight walking boots are recommended for the tour, as they give extra ankle support while walking (necessary given some of the trails we will be birding on) and added protection against animal stings/bites. A pair of sandals (flipflops) or sneakers/trainers (tennis shoes) can be useful for when in vehicles and when walking between your room and restaurant in the hotels.

Sri Lanka is a culturally diverse country, with a predominantly Buddhist population. It is respectful to dress modestly, especially when visiting temples or religious sites. Cover your shoulders and knees and remove your shoes and hats before entering religious places.

WHAT TO BRING: OTHER ITEMS

Do not forget: Binoculars, camera, field guide (see “Books” section below), flashlight (torch), spare batteries, power bank, converter plugs, plug adaptors, chargers, prescription drugs (please bring the generic names for these drugs with you, and take note of the information on what is and isn’t allowed to be brought into Sri Lanka), toiletries, prescription glasses (and a spare pair), insect repellent, sunscreen, sunglasses, alarm clock, money pouch, hiking poles/walking sticks, suggested medical kit (see [here](#)), water bottle, and daypack.

Our tour leader/local guide will have a communal telescope for use during the tour. A scope can be moderately useful on some parts of our Sri Lanka birding tour (we spend more time in forest than open areas). If you do have a scope it would be helpful to bring it along. The communal scope will allow everyone opportunities to look at birds briefly on a rotation basis. If you like to “digi-scope/phone-scope”, or you would like to take prolonged scope views of the birds, please bring your own scope for that, the communal scope will be for everyone to look at the birds, but not for photography.

Some additional items to remember include important travel documents, passport, cash (or ATM/credit cards to withdraw money), proof of vaccinations, and your travel or health insurance cards – photocopies of all can be carried by the tour leader in case of emergency.

We recommend bringing a couple of different colored pens, together with a 12-inch/30-

centimeter plastic ruler, these can make the checklist session easier to follow.

Face masks or face coverings are useful for when in open-topped vehicles, to keep dust out of your ears, nose, and mouth.

A hiking pole or walking stick is helpful on the tracks and trails. A walking stick is compulsory for anyone who is unsteady walking, we feel this is a safety issue; we don't want anyone slipping on the trails or anywhere else.

A dry bag will be useful for optics and important documentation, in case of rain, or while on the whale-watching pelagic trip to keep spray off items. A dry bag can also keep dust off items when in open-top jeeps. A rain guard for your camera equipment could come in handy for the boat trip.

LANGUAGE

Sri Lanka has two official languages, Sinhala and Tamil - with English as a link language. Most people have some knowledge of English.

BOOKS

Helm Field Guides: Birds of Sri Lanka – Deepal Warakadagoda, Carol Inskipp, Tim Inskipp, and Richard Grimmett (2012), Helm. We recommend this paperback for your Sri Lanka bird tour.

Please take a look at our recommended [field guide blog](#) for additional information on this region. Some of the other bird books relevant to Sri Lanka include:

Helm Wildlife Guides: Birds of Sri Lanka – Deepal Warakagoda, Uditha Hettige, and Himesha Warakagoda (2022). Helm.

Birds of Sri Lanka: An Illustrated Guide – Sarath Kotagama and Gamini Ratnavira (2017). Field Ornithology Group Sri Lanka.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka – Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne (2020). John Beaufoy Publishing.

A Photographic Field Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka - Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne (2019). John Beaufoy Publishing.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka [2nd Edition] – John Harrison and Tim Worfolk (2011). Oxford University Press.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of India: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka – Bikram Grewal and Garima Bhatia (2022). John Beaufoy Publishing.

Seabirds: The New Identification Guide – Peter Harrison, Martin Perrow and Hans Larsson (2021). Lynx Edicions.

Oceanic Birds of the World: A Photo Guide – Steve N.G. Howell and Kirk Zufelt (2019). Princeton University Press.

Helm Identification Guide Series: Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World – Derek Onley and Paul Scofield (2007). Helm

Gulls of the World: A Photographic Guide – Klaus Malling Olsen (2018). Bloomsbury Publishing.

Other specific-interest books, such as those covering reptiles, mammals, and other aspects of natural history, etc.:

A Photographic Guide to the Wildlife of Sri Lanka - Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne (2024). John Beaufoy Publishing.

Bradt Wildlife Guide: Sri Lankan Wildlife - Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne (2022). Bradt Travel Guides.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Mammals of Sri Lanka – Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne (2020). John Beaufoy Publishing.

Marine Mammals of Sri Lanka: Field Guide for Identification – Howard Martenstyn (2013). Howard Martenstyn.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Mammals of India: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka – Bikram Grewal and Rohit Chakravarty (2022). John Beaufoy Publishing.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Reptiles of Sri Lanka – Anslem de Silva and Kanishka Ukuwela (2020). John Beaufoy Publishing.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Reptiles of India: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka – Indraneil Das and Abhijit Das (2017). John Beaufoy Publishing.

Lizards of Sri Lanka: A Color Guide with Field Keys – N Somaweera and R Somaweera (2009). Edition Chimaira.

The Poisonous Terrestrial Snakes of Our British Indian Dominions (including Ceylon) and How to Recognize them: With Symptoms of Snake Poisoning Treatment – F Wall (1928). Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh.

Field Guide to the Butterflies of Sri Lanka – George Michael van der Poorten and Nancy E van der Poorten (2018). Lepodon Books.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Butterflies and Dragonflies of Sri Lanka – Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne (2018). John Beaufoy Publishing.

A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Sri Lanka – Amila Prasanna Sumanapala (2017). Dilmah Conservation.

Indian Ocean Reef Guide: Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, South Africa, Mauritius, Madagascar, East Africa, Seychelles – Helmut Debelius (2013). ConchBooks.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Trees of Sri Lanka – Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne (2019). John Beaufoy Publishing.

A Naturalist's Guide to the Flowers of Sri Lanka – Darshani Singhalage, Nadeera Weerasinghe, and Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne (2018). John Beaufoy Publishing.

Fascinating Lichens of Sri Lanka – Gothamie Weerakoon (2015). Dilmah Conservation.

SOUND RECORDINGS

You can listen to and download a range of bird calls and songs from Sri Lanka on the excellent [xeno-canto](#) bird sound library. Additional recordings may be found on [eBird](#) species accounts and some of the apps referenced below.

USEFUL WEBSITE RESOURCES AND APPS

[Aves Vox](#) – this app allows you to download a good selection of bird songs from the [xeno-canto](#) website onto your smartphone.

[eBird/Merlin](#) – loads of information that is easy to gather on your smartphone or other devices such as tablets and computers. Sound, photo, and video galleries exist for almost every species in Sri Lanka, via the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's [Macaulay Library](#).

[IOC World Bird List](#) – the website gives all the latest information on world bird taxonomy according to the scientific body that we use at Birding Ecotours. You can learn about species that have been newly described, any recent and past splits (creation of a new species) and lumps (deletion of a species) of existing species, and plenty of additional useful information on distribution and taxonomy.

[Lonely Planet](#) – contains lots of general travel information on Sri Lanka, though some of the places we will be going to are not likely to be mentioned. If you are interested in extending your stay in Sri Lanka before or after the tour, this will help you find some must-see places.



*The attractive **Indian Blue Robin** can be found in Sri Lanka.*