

Wild Sri Lanka in Style

Naturetrek Tour Report

5th – 21st January 2026



Leopard



Purple-rumped Sunbird



Spinner Dolphins



Spot-billed Pelicans

Tour report by Saman Kumara
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Tour participants: Saman Kumara and Dhanushka Perera (leaders) with ten Naturetrek clients

Summary

This journey through Sri Lanka was a captivating blend of wildlife, history, and culture. From the moment the group arrived, the itinerary balanced ancient heritage with vibrant natural landscapes. The tour took clients through UNESCO World Heritage sites such as Dambulla Cave Temple, Polonnaruwa Ancient City, Sigiriya Rock Fortress, and Galle Fort, each steeped in centuries of history and architectural marvels. Along the way, traditional experiences like visits to spice gardens and cultural dance performances in Kandy brought the island's rich traditions vividly to life, making every stop a story in itself.

The birding and wildlife experiences were extraordinary, offering encounters with endemic and/or rare species across diverse habitats. From pre-breakfast walks in the gardens of Kandy and Nuwara Eliya to highland treks in Horton Plains, the group recorded species like Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Malabar Trogon, Pied Kingfisher plunge-diving for fish, and Leopards and Elephants in Yala and Lunugamvehera National Parks. Along the southern coast, dolphin pods, Fin Whales and Olive Ridley turtles provided thrilling marine encounters, while Sinharaja Rainforest offered immersive walks among endemic birds, giant squirrels, reptiles and rich flora, highlighting the critical role of conservation in these fragile ecosystems.

The tour concluded with serene moments in the southern villages and home gardens, where local communities live in harmony with the forest. Visits to bat colonies, owl habitats and turtle hatcheries showcased conservation in action, leaving clients with a deep appreciation for Sri Lanka's biodiversity. Farewells in Colombo marked the end of a journey full of discovery, adventure, and connection with nature and culture alike. From ancient kingdoms to lush rainforests and vibrant coastlines, this journey offered a glimpse of Sri Lanka that is both unforgettable and inspiring.

Day 1

Monday 5th January

Clients departed for the long flights to Sri Lanka.

Day 2

Tuesday 6th January

Our tour commenced with the pick-up of the clients from the airport at 2.30pm. During the initial drive, we recorded several birds, including Indian Roller, Ashy Woodswallow, Purple Heron, Asian Openbill, Eastern Cattle Egret and Black-headed Ibis. A brief coffee stop was made to allow the clients to refresh and remain comfortable, and here we spotted a Stork-billed Kingfisher.

The journey continued towards Kandalama, located close to Dambulla, a region of historical importance within Sri Lanka's ancient Dry Zone civilization. This area is associated with early hydraulic engineering and lies near the Dambulla Cave Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back to the first century BCE.

We arrived at the Heritance Kandalama Hotel at approximately 6.30pm. After check-in and time to settle in, a briefing session was conducted at 7.15pm, during which the itinerary and details of the upcoming activities were discussed. Following the briefing, the clients proceeded to dinner and retired for the night.

Day 3**Wednesday 7th January**

After an early breakfast, we departed for the Polonnaruwa Ancient City at 8.30am. During the visit, the group explored a range of archaeological and historical monuments, gaining insight into Sri Lanka's ancient heritage. Polonnaruwa, which served as the second capital of Sri Lanka from the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its well-preserved royal palaces, monasteries and irrigation systems. While at the site, we also recorded several bird species, including Brahminy Kite, Sri Lanka Swallow, Asian Palm Swift, Asian Woolly-necked Stork, White-bellied Sea Eagle and Toque Macaque.

On the return journey, we stopped for lunch at a restaurant overlooking paddy fields. The location provided additional birding opportunities, and species observed included Indian Stone-curlew, Indian Robin and Red-wattled Lapwing.

In the afternoon, the group proceeded to Sigiriya Rock Fortress, one of Sri Lanka's most significant archaeological sites. Built in the fifth century CE by King Kashyapa, Sigiriya is a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its rock fortress, frescoes and water gardens. Four clients reached the summit, while the remaining members turned back at the midway point. During the climb, bird species included White-throated Kingfisher, Sri Lanka Woodshrike, Crimson-fronted and Brown-headed Barbets, Purple-rumped Sunbird, Blue Rock Thrush; we also saw Tufted Grey Langur.

Day 4**Thursday 8th January**

The day began with pre-breakfast birding around the hotel garden at 6.30am. During the walk, the group recorded several notable species including Greater Coucal, Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Sri Lanka Grey and Malabar Pied Hornbills, White-browed Bulbul, Great and Little Egret, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon and Sri Lankan Junglefowl, as well as Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel.

After breakfast, we departed the hotel for Kandy at 8.30am. En route, we visited the Dambulla Cave Temple, the largest and best-preserved cave complex in Sri Lanka. Dating back to the first century BCE, this UNESCO World Heritage Site contains a series of cave shrines with Buddhist murals and statues, reflecting the religious and artistic heritage of the region.

The journey continued with a stop for lunch at a spice garden, where the clients were introduced to a variety of Sri Lankan spices and their traditional uses. We arrived at the hotel in Kandy at approximately 4.00pm. Kandy served as the last royal capital of Sri Lanka from the sixteenth to the early nineteenth centuries, and remains an important cultural centre of the island. In the evening, some clients attended a traditional cultural dance performance, which they enjoyed.

Day 5**Friday 9th January**

The day began with an early breakfast, after which we departed for a birding session at Udawatta Kele Sanctuary. This forest reserve, once designated as a royal forest during the Kandyan Kingdom, now serves as an important urban refuge for wildlife. During the walk, the group recorded several notable forest species, including Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher, Sri Lanka Shama, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Brown-capped Babbler, Brown-breasted

Flycatcher, Dark-fronted Babbler, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Alexandrine Parakeet, Common Kingfisher and Malabar Red Muntjac.

Following the birding activity, we visited the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, one of the most important religious and cultural sites in Sri Lanka. Located in Kandy, the temple houses the tooth of the Buddha, which is enshrined within a golden casket (Karanduwa). The relic has historically symbolized royal authority and guardianship of the nation, and remains central to Buddhist worship in Sri Lanka. During the visit, clients were able to view the golden casket and observe devotees engaged in religious rituals, providing insight into the living traditions associated with the temple.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress



Purple-rumped Sunbird



Dambulla cave temple



Asian Green Bee-eaters

Lunch was taken at the hotel. At 2.30pm, the group proceeded to the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, established in the early nineteenth century and originally developed under British administration. The gardens are well known for their diverse plant collections and birdlife. Species observed included Asian Palm Swift, Yellow-billed Babbler, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Red-vented Bulbul, Black-hooded Oriole, Alexandrine Parakeet, Red-wattled Lapwing, White-bellied Sea Eagle, and a large roost of Indian Flying Foxes.

Day 6

Saturday 10th January

The day began with pre-breakfast birding in the gardens of Cinnamon Citadel Hotel. The hotel is located along the Mahaweli River and is known for its landscaped grounds, which attract a variety of bird species. During the walk, we recorded Scaly-breasted and White-rumped Munias, Black-hooded Oriole and Loten's Sunbird.

After breakfast, we checked out and proceeded to Nuwara Eliya. En route, we visited a tea factory; tea cultivation in Sri Lanka began in the mid-nineteenth century, and remains a key part of the country's economy and heritage.

We arrived in Nuwara Eliya at 1.30pm and checked in at the Grand Hotel. Originally built in 1891 as a residence for the Governor of Ceylon, the hotel is one of the town's historic landmarks. Lunch was followed by a free afternoon at leisure.

Day 7

Sunday 11th January

We departed the hotel at 6.30am with a picnic breakfast, and travelled to Horton Plains National Park. Located at an elevation of over 2000m, Horton Plains is a protected montane grassland and cloud forest, designated as a National Park in 1988 and later recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The area is known for its endemic wildlife and plays an important role in water catchment for major rivers in Sri Lanka.

During the morning walk, we recorded Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush, Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler, Dull-blue Flycatcher, Yellow-eared Bulbul, Sri Lanka White-eye, Black Eagle, Common Kestrel, Hill Swallow, Tricolored Munia, Pied Bush Chat, Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon, Cinereous Tit, Paddyfield Pipit and Zitting Cisticola, among others. Mammal and reptile sightings included Sambar, Purple-faced Langur, Dusky-striped Squirrel, Black-cheeked Lizard and the endemic Rhinoceros-horned Lizard.

We returned to the hotel for lunch at 1.30pm After lunch, we visited Victoria Park in Nuwara Eliya. Established in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the park is a well-known urban green space and an important site for migratory birds. Here, we observed Pied Thrush and Kashmir Flycatcher.

Day 8

Monday 12th January

We checked out at 8.30am and travelled towards Cinnamon Wild Yala. En route, we visited the Surrey Estate, a tea estate from the colonial period which reflects the history of plantation agriculture in Sri Lanka's hill country. During our stop, we recorded Brown Wood Owl and Loten's Sunbird. We continued the journey towards the south and stopped for lunch in Ella. Once a small railway settlement during the British era, Ella is now a popular hill town known for its scenic landscapes and surrounding forests. Along the way, we observed an Indian Grey Mongoose crossing the road, as well as Toque Macaque and Tufted Grey Langur.

We arrived at Cinnamon Wild Yala at 4.00pm The hotel is located on the edge of Yala National Park, Sri Lanka's most visited national park, established in 1938 and known for its dry zone wildlife and wetlands. During a stroll around the hotel premises, we recorded Pin-tailed Snipe, Black-winged Stilt, Little Heron, Common Redshank, Spot-billed Pelican and Mugger Crocodile.

Day 9

Tuesday 13th January

The day began at 6.00am with a picnic breakfast as we travelled to Lunugamvehera National Park for a full-day safari. Established in 1995, the park was created to protect the catchment areas of the Walawe River, and to serve as an important corridor linking Yala and Udawalawe National Parks. Its mix of reservoirs, scrub forest and grassland supports a wide range of birdlife and mammals.

During the safari, we recorded Blue-faced Malkoha, Jacobin Cuckoo, Great Stone-curlew, Painted Stork, Crested Treeswift, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, Red-backed Flameback, Brown-capped Pygmy

Woodpecker, Plum-headed Parakeet, Marshall's Iora, White-browed Fantail, Grey-breasted, Jungle, Ashy and Plain Prinias, Rosy Starling, Indian Cuckoo and Western Yellow Wagtail. A key highlight of the day was observing a Pied Kingfisher repeatedly diving into the water to catch fish. This fishing method, known as plunge-diving, requires precise timing and strong eyesight.

We heard the fighting growls of two Leopards, indicating a territorial or mating-related encounter. We waited for a long time in the hope of seeing both individuals, but were only able to catch a brief glimpse of one. Leopard sightings are rare due to their solitary behaviour, excellent camouflage, and preference for dense cover, which makes any encounter in the wild particularly special. Other mammal sightings included herds of Asian Elephants with calves, Ruddy Mongoose, Chital and Indian Hare.

Day 10

Wednesday 14th January

The day began at 6.00am with a picnic breakfast as we headed into Yala National Park. Established in 1938, Yala is Sri Lanka's oldest and most visited National Park and is known for its dry zone habitats, including scrub jungle, grasslands and lagoons. The park has long been protected for wildlife conservation and is especially significant for its diversity of birds and mammals. During the morning safari, we recorded Black-tailed Godwit, Common, Marsh and Wood Sandpipers, Common Greenshank, Eurasian Spoonbill, Shikra and Brahminy Starling, along with Golden Jackal, Sambar and Water Buffalo.

We returned to the hotel at 12.00 noon for lunch and a short rest. At 2.00pm, we reentered Yala National Park for the afternoon safari, which lasted until 6.00pm. The highlight of the day was an exceptional Leopard sighting, where we observed an individual resting and basking in the afternoon sun. Afternoon sightings are uncommon, as Leopards are generally elusive and spend much of the day concealed in dense cover, making this encounter particularly memorable. In addition to the Leopard, we recorded several bird and mammal species encountered earlier in the day.

Day 11

Thursday 15th January

We began the day with pre-breakfast birding from 6.30am to 7.30am along the Cinnamon Wild lake bund. The lake forms part of the wider Yala landscape and provides an important wetland habitat for resident and migratory waterbirds. During the walk, we recorded Tibetan Sand Plover, Kentish Plover, Little Stint, Little Tern, Jerdon's Leafbird, Tawny-bellied Babbler and Pin-tailed Snipe, and we also encountered a Water Buffalo.

After breakfast, we checked out at 9.00am and travelled towards Weligama. En route, we visited Tissamaharama, an ancient town with a history dating back over two thousand years. Once a major settlement of the Ruhuna Kingdom, the town is closely associated with Buddhist heritage.

Here, we visited the largest known bat colony in the region, where thousands of Indian Flying Foxes roost in large trees near the water, creating an impressive natural spectacle. In the surrounding area, we were also able to observe several owl species, including Brown Fish Owl, Brown Boobook, Jungle Owlet and Indian Scops Owl, making this a particularly rewarding stop.

We continued to Hambantota for lunch at the Shangri-La Resort. Hambantota has historically been an important coastal trading area and has developed in recent years as a major southern hub. We arrived in Weligama and checked in at the Marriott Hotel at 4.30pm. Weligama, meaning “sandy village,” has long been a coastal fishing community and is now well known for its bay and traditional stilt fishing along the southern coast.

Day 12

Friday 16th January

The day began at 6.15am with a picnic breakfast as we travelled to Mirissa for whale watching. Mirissa lies along one of the main migratory routes of large marine mammals in the Indian Ocean, making it one of Sri Lanka’s most important whale-watching locations. During the excursion, we were fortunate to observe a Fin Whale, along with a pod of Spinner Dolphins and an Olive Ridley Turtle.

We returned to the hotel at noon for lunch. At 2.00pm, we travelled towards Galle. En route, we stopped to visit a turtle hatchery along the southern coast. These hatcheries play a key role in marine conservation by protecting turtle eggs from predators, poaching and habitat loss, and by releasing hatchlings safely into the ocean. Sri Lanka’s coastline is an important nesting ground for several endangered sea turtle species, making conservation efforts such as these vital for their survival.

We then visited Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a history spanning over four centuries. Originally built by the Portuguese in the sixteenth century, and later refortified by the Dutch, the fort stands as a reminder of Sri Lanka’s colonial past and its role in Indian Ocean trade routes.

Day 13

Saturday 17th January

We returned to the ocean at 6.15am with a picnic breakfast for another whale watching excursion off the coast of Mirissa. While whales remained elusive, we were rewarded with excellent dolphin activity. We observed Risso’s, Spinner and Bottlenose Dolphins, along with an Olive Ridley turtle and a Masked Booby flying overhead. Dolphins are highly social and intelligent marine mammals, often travelling in pods and using coordinated movement and vocal communication. Spinner Dolphins are known for their acrobatic leaps and spinning behaviour above the water, while Bottlenose Dolphins are frequently seen closer to shore and are among the most adaptable species. Risso’s Dolphins, easily recognized by their blunt heads and scarred grey bodies, are less commonly encountered, making the sighting particularly noteworthy.

After returning to the hotel, we had lunch and checked out. As the main tour officially came to an end, the group said farewell and went their separate ways. Six clients travelled onward to Colombo, while four clients continued on the extension to Sinharaja Rainforest, bringing the primary journey to a warm and memorable close.

Sinharaja Extension

Day 14

Sunday 18th January

We arrived at Rainforest Edge Sinharaja at 5.00pm. The journey to the lodge was a memorable one, as the final stretch was completed by tuk-tuk, giving clients a lively introduction to village life on the edge of the rainforest.

Sinharaja, Sri Lanka's last remaining large tract of lowland rainforest and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is internationally recognized for its exceptional biodiversity and high number of endemic species. Located at its boundary, the lodge offered a close connection to this important conservation area. The evening was spent at leisure, allowing time to relax and enjoy the surrounding forest sounds.

Day 15

Monday 19th January

The morning began early with breakfast at 5.30am. Carrying a picnic lunch, we set out for a guided walk into the Sinharaja Rainforest. We visited Martin's Lodge, one of the earliest ecolodges established near the forest reserve, and long associated with nature-based tourism and research in Sinharaja. The lodge has served as a base for naturalists and birdwatchers for decades, and is located along forest trails that provide access to both primary and secondary rainforest habitats.

During the morning walk, we recorded Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Sri Lanka Spurfowl, Yellow-fronted Barbet, Square-tailed, Red-vented and Yellow-browed Bulbuls and Spot-winged Thrush. As we continued through the forest, we observed Malabar Trogon, Ashy-headed Laughingthrush and Oriental Dollarbird.

Reptile sightings were also notable, including Sri Lankan Kangaroo Lizard, Hump-nosed Lizard, Common Water Monitor and Green Forest Lizard. We recorded three snake species: Green Vine Snake, Common Bronzeback and Boulenger's Keelback.

We returned to the hotel at 2.00pm and spent the afternoon at leisure. At 5.00pm, we went on a short bird walk around the lodge grounds, where we recorded Sri Lankan Hill Myna, Crimson-fronted and Yellow-fronted Barbets and Green Imperial Pigeon. The highlight was a Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel eating fruit.

Day 16

Tuesday 20th January

The day began at 6.00am with a visit to the Kethelapathala home garden. Kethelapathala is a well-known, privately-maintained forest garden on the edge of the Sinharaja landscape, and has become an important refuge for birds due to decades of careful habitat protection. Such home gardens play a significant role in conservation by acting as buffer zones between protected rainforest and human settlements.

During the morning walk, we recorded Sri Lanka Crested Drongo building a nest, as well as a Purple-rumped Sunbird doing the same. Other sightings included Layard's Parakeet, Sri Lanka Hill Myna, Sri Lanka Green Pigeon, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Scarlet Minivet and Black-capped Bulbul.

We then returned to the hotel for breakfast and spent the remainder of the morning at leisure. Lunch was at 1.30pm. At 5.00pm, we met again for a bird walk around the area. While many of the species observed earlier were seen again, we also added Asian Brown Flycatcher, White-bellied Drongo and Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike to the list.

Day 17

Wednesday 21st January

The day began quietly with a cup of tea and an early morning bird walk through Sinharaja village at 6.30am. The village lies along the boundary of the Sinharaja Rainforest and has long coexisted with the forest, with local communities playing an important role in protecting this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walking through the village provided an insight into how traditional lifestyles and conservation efforts continue side by side.

During the walk, we recorded Banded Bay Cuckoo, Crimson-backed Woodpecker, Red-backed Flameback, Greater Coucal, Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler, Black-headed Cuckooshrike, Sri Lanka Swallow and Golden-fronted Leafbird.

We returned to the hotel at 9.00am for breakfast and spent the remainder of the morning at leisure. After lunch, we checked out and began the journey towards Colombo, marking the conclusion of the Sinharaja extension. On arrival in Colombo, two clients continued onward to Cinnamon Bay Beruwala, while the remaining two checked in at Airport Garden Hotel at 5.00pm.

This brought a memorable journey to a close. After sixteen days spent exploring Sri Lanka's national parks, rainforests and coastal habitats, the group parted ways with warm farewells and lasting memories of the island's rich wildlife and landscapes.

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Species lists

Birds

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Sri Lanka Spurfowl - E	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>
Sri Lanka Junglefowl - E	<i>Gallus lafayettii</i>
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
Blue-faced Malkoha - N	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>
Grey-bellied Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>
Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon - E	<i>Columba torringtoniae</i>
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>
Sri Lanka Green Pigeon - E	<i>Treron pompadoura</i>
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>
Great Stone-curlew	<i>Esacus recurvirostris</i>
Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
Tibetan Sand Plover	<i>Anarhynchus atrifrons</i>
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>
Asian Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Sri Lanka Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus moniliger</i>
Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Indian Swiftlet - N	<i>Aerodramus unicolor</i>
Brown Boobook	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>
Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>
Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Icthyophaga leucogaster</i>
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Icthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>
Malabar Trogan - N	<i>Harpactes fasciatus</i>
Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill - E	<i>Ocyceros gingalensis</i>
Malabar Pied Hornbill - N	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>
Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erithaca</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
Crimson-fronted Barbet - E	<i>Psilopogon rubricapillus</i>
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>
Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>
Yellow-fronted Barbet - E	<i>Psilopogon flavifrons</i>
Red-backed Flameback - E	<i>Dinopium psarodes</i>
Crimson-backed Flameback - E	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i>
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus nanus</i>
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
Layard's Parakeet - E	<i>Psittacula calthrapae</i>
Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot - E	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>
Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
Indian Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>
Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage melanoptera</i>
Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
Marshall's Iora	<i>Aegithina nigrolutea</i>
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
Sri Lanka Woodshrike - E	<i>Tephrodornis affinis</i>
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>
Sri Lanka Drongo - E	<i>Dicrurus lophorinus</i>
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
Indian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
Sri Lanka Blue Magpie - E	<i>Urocissa ornata</i>
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>
Jerdon's Bush Lark - N	<i>Plocealauda affinis</i>
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Hill Swallow - N	<i>Hirundo domicola</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Sri Lanka Swallow - E	<i>Cecropis hyperythra</i>
Black-capped Bulbul - E	<i>Rubigula melanictera</i>
White-browed Bulbul - N	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
Yellow-eared Bulbul - E	<i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Yellow-browed Bulbul - N	<i>Acritillas indica</i>
Square-tailed Bulbul - N	<i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i>
Sri Lanka White-eye - E	<i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i>
Indian White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>
Dark-fronted Babbler - N	<i>Dumetia atriceps</i>
Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler - E	<i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i>
Brown-capped Babbler - E	<i>Pellorneum fuscocapillus</i>
Ashy-headed Laughingthrush - E	<i>Argya cinereifrons</i>
Yellow-billed Babbler - N	<i>Argya affinis</i>
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
Sri Lanka Hill Myna - E	<i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Pied Thrush	<i>Geokichla wardii</i>
Spot-winged Thrush - E	<i>Geokichla spiloptera</i>
Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
Sri Lanka Shama - E	<i>Copsychus leggei</i>
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>
Brown-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa muttui</i>
Dull-blue Flycatcher - E	<i>Eumyias sordidus</i>
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus blighi</i>
Indian Blue Robin	<i>Larvivora brunnea</i>
Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subrubra</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
Legge's Flowerpecker - E	<i>Pachyglossa vincens</i>
Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>
Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>
Loten's Sunbird - N	<i>Cinnyris lotenius</i>
Jerdon's Leafbird - N	<i>Chloropsis jerdoni</i>
Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
Tricolored Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>

Mammals

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced	
Common name	Scientific name
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Indian Grey Mongoose	<i>Urva edwardsii</i>
Indian Brown Mongoose	<i>Urva fusca</i>
Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Urva smithii</i>
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>
Malabar Red Muntjac - N	<i>Muntiacus malabaricus</i>
Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
Water Buffalo - I	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>
Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>
Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced	
Common name	Scientific name
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus medius</i>
Toque Macaque - E	<i>Macaca sinica</i>
Tufted Gray Langur	<i>Semnopithecus priam</i>
Purple-faced Langur - E	<i>Semnopithecus vetulus</i>
Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
Layard's Palm Squirrel - E	<i>Funambulus layardi</i>
Dusky Striped Squirrel - E	<i>Funambulus obscurus</i>
Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>
Sri Lankan Giant Squirrel - E	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>

Reptiles

E=Endemic	
Common name	Scientific name
Indian Black Terrapin	<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>
Olive Ridley (Turtle)	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>
Oriental Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
Green Forest Lizard	<i>Calotes calotes</i>
Black-cheeked Lizard	<i>Calotes nigrilabris</i>
Sri Lankan Kangaroo Lizard - E	<i>Otocryptis wiegmanni</i>
Rhinoceros-horned Lizard - E	<i>Ceratophora stoddartii</i>
Hump-nosed Lizard	<i>Lyriocephalus scutatus</i>
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Bengal Monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>
Common Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>
Green Vine Snake	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>
Common Bronzeback	<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i>
Boulenger's Keelback - E	<i>Fowlea asperrima</i>
Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper - E	<i>Craspedocephalus trigonocephalus</i>
Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>