

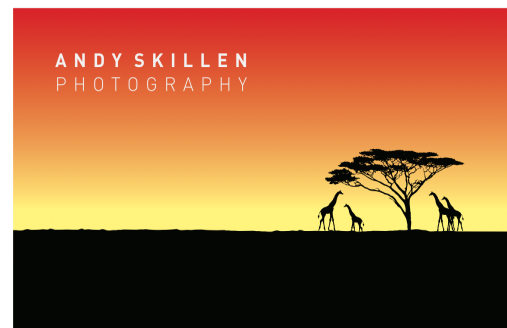
Sri Lanka: An Island Odyssey

Flexible dates from May to late September

14 days, 13 nights

Group size: 1-4; Cost GBP 5,995 per person*

*note a group size of 1 will incur a surcharge



So, Sri Lanka....what a place! For me it's one of the best locations in Asia to witness and photograph a wide variety of species, and retains an intimacy and sense of involvement that has been lost in many other destinations.

This trip has been specifically designed by me to (as near as damn it) replicate my most recent commission trip there in 2025. If you want to do the "full" trip (which includes a couple of other locations), then let me know, but otherwise this is the perfect mix of locations and opportunity, giving you the chance to capture some of the continent's most spectacular species.

Of course Sri Lanka is not just fantastic for wildlife, but also has a rich and varied culture and some of the most beautiful coastlines. Indeed, if you plan to go in the early part of our suggested time-frame, then witnessing Blue Whales and myriad dolphins is a real possibility from the country's eastern and southern coasts. Let me know if that's something you would like to add on.

Note, we don't include Yala National Park on this trip. Why? It is simply over-run and although everyone else you speak to will want to send you there, we avoid it. There are the same experiences to be had in beautiful parks elsewhere without the excessive crowds that Yala is now cursed with.

Cats, Bears and Big Stuff!

Leopards, elephants and **sloth bears** will doubtless be your prime targets, and you will have excellent opportunities to capture all in the camera. What is more, by working with some local researchers, we have the chance to take you out into the field in the evening (and run late!) to give you chances to photograph the incredibly rare **Rusty Spotted Cat** as well as the **Jungle Cat** and, one which everyone wants...the **Fishing Cat**.

The trip is designed to run for groups of up to four people, and will be accompanied by a naturalist throughout. If you are a solo traveller, let me know as we can match you up if need be (or we can arrange for you to go on your own). Please note that the rates we have managed to get organized are based on two people sharing, so a solo traveller will incur a slight surcharge.

Pick your dates, drop me a line and we'll go from there!

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **YOUR PREFERRED GROUP SIZE**
- **14 DAYS AND 13 NIGHTS IN PRIME TIMES FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING**
- **THREE NATIONAL PARK LOCATIONS**
- **PRIVATE TRANSFERS AND JEEP THROUGHOUT**
- **ACCOMPANIED BY A NATURALIST FOR THE ENTIRE TRIP**

- DEDICATED NIGHT DRIVES TO SEARCH FOR SMALL CATS
- FULL DAY SAFARIS AT SOME LOCATIONS
- FLEXIBLE DEPARTURES FROM MAY THROUGH TO END SEPTEMBER (WE ADVISE AGAINST LATE JULY BECAUSE OF PILGRIMAGES).

COSTS AND LOGISTICS

- **Group size:** 1,2,3 or 4. Please state your preferred group size
- **GBP 5,995** per person, based on twin-share accommodation throughout*
- **Start Point:** Colombo Airport, Sri Lanka
- **End Point:** Colombo Airport, Sri Lanka

Note: Single accommodation **WILL** require a supplement.

WHAT'S INCLUDED...

- 2 nights accommodation in Katunayake (arrival and departure days)
- 4 nights accommodation at Wilpattu National Park
- 2 nights accommodation Habarana
- 5 nights accommodation Kumana
- Access to a full-time naturalist
- All meals throughout the itinerary
- Private transfers to/from locations as per the itinerary
- Full day safaris in Wilpattu

WHAT'S NOT...

- International and/or any domestic flight to/from the itinerary start/end points
- Items of a personal nature
- Visa fees as appropriate
- Drinks at lodges (drinks on full day trips included with lunch)
- Gratuities

YOUR ITINERARY....

Day 1 Arrive Colombo, transfer to Katunayake (1 night)

After arrival in Sri Lanka, you will be met at the airport and taken to your hotel in the Katunayake district for dinner and a comfortable first night in the country, ready to take on the adventure the following morning.

Days 2-5 (incl.) Wilpattu (4 nights)

An early breakfast at your hotel, before the drive north to Wilpattu National Park (around 4 hours). On arrival

you will check into the lodge and have lunch, before heading off for your first game drive that afternoon in this most exciting of Sri Lanka's national parks. You will stay in the park 'til closing, before returning to the lodge for dinner. The following three days will consist of early starts (a coffee!), and heading into the park as it opens with a packed breakfast and a packed lunch. You will then stay in the park for the entire day, giving you fantastic photographic chances. Wilpattu is rich in leopards and has the highest density of anywhere globally. Indeed, I rate this park as equal to Zambia when it comes to leopard sightings. You will not just concentrate on the cats though. Elephants roam the entire region (and island – so you can see them on the road), monkeys abound (three species) and sloth bears are seen with comforting regularity. There are also a whole range of other species to admire and photograph here. Wilpattu is what you imagine Southern Asian jungles to be like; untouched, relatively recently back “on the map” (for years it was off limits to visitors), and magical in its settings.

Day 6: Wilpattu/Kaudulla (2 nights)

This morning you will squeeze in one last drive into Wilpattu with breakfast, before exiting the park late morning and making your way towards Habarana. On arrival, you will check into the hotel, have lunch, and then head towards Kaudulla National Park. This open plain (along with Minneriya National Park) is arguably the best place in Asia to see herds of elephants. We would advise that if seeing larger numbers grouped together is your goal, then August/September increases those chances, but elephants are here year-round in small groups, single bulls and sizeable herds (perhaps up to 40 or so). You will hear of “gatherings of 300” but this is tourist-company speak 😊 The reality is, yes, there could be that many in the vicinity but you will not see that many grouped together at any time. The afternoon will be spent photographing these gentle giants, before heading back to your hotel. **After dinner, we will take you on a night drive** in the surrounding countryside, where the focus will be on Fishing cats, Rusty Spotted cats and Jungle Cats – with excellent chances of seeing these normally elusive smaller felines, as well as a range of other nocturnal species.

Day 7: Polonnaruwa/Kaudulla

Up early and out with a packed breakfast to the beautiful, ancient ruined city of Polonnaruwa. Here, accompanied by an expert local primatologist, you will track down and photograph three species of monkey in this spectacular, unique setting in the morning light. Once the shoot is over, you will return to the hotel for lunch, before heading back into Kaudulla in the afternoon for another elephant session (as above). Following dinner, you will have another option to head out on a night drive too as per the previous night 😊

Day 8-12: Kumana National Park (5 nights)

With an early check-out and a packed breakfast, today you will head southeast towards Kumana National Park. On arrival you will, once again, check in, have lunch and head into the park for an afternoon photo session, returning to your lodge and dinner in the evening. The following four days will consist of morning and afternoon game drives in this splendid park which abuts the coast and the eastern part of Yala. Leopards, bears, elephants are all in abundance again here, as are large numbers of buffalo and some spectacular (and rare) birdlife. Kumana is like Yala was 20 years ago, so enjoy this beautiful location whilst you can.

Day 13: Katunayake (1 night)

Today, sadly, the adventure is at an end and you will check out of the lodge after breakfast and make your

way to Katunayake, just north of the Colombo city centre, where you will stay at the same hotel where you commenced your trip nearly two weeks before, to spend a relaxing evening going through all the images you have caught over your holiday.

Day 14: Transfer to the airport

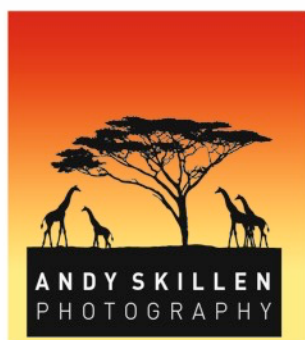
After breakfast, and check-out, you will be transferred to the airport for your departing flight. The exact details for this can be finalized according to your schedule of course.

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

To reserve your dates, send an email with your desired timings to

Andy@faunavista.com

and we will send you a booking form and secure your experience



**CHANGING THE IMAGE
OF WILDLIFE TRAVEL...**