

Sri Lanka Feb,2026

I've been thinking about going to visit Sri Lanka with Bird and Wildlife Team for many years. Finally I made it this year. I was with Dulan who has been recommended by many trip reports. I will say it again that everything that has been said about him is totally true. Very professional, always full of energy and looking neat.

I followed the typical mammal watching itinerary with 10 days in total visiting Wilpattu, Sigiriya, Nuwara Eliya, and Kitulgala. All the places are well described on the web sites, so I will keep it short.

Wilpattu: I had 3 nights and two full day drives. The park was flooded not long before my visit, therefore many roads have been destroyed which made the park look busier than it normally does. I saw one grey mongoose on the way to the lodge not in the park. For the day drives, I had a great encounter with a leopard, also saw two sloth bears, many rufous mongooses, elephants, a pair of jackals, one red muntjac, lots of toque macaques and many sambar deer. I didn't spend time looking for birds, but there were many colorful ones like the bee eaters, kingfishers and Sri Lanka jungle fowls that were incredibly chill. The drives were bumpy, and with very little break even in the heat of the day.

The night drives usually start around 9:30 and end around 11:30. The first night was the most exciting one. Two fabulous sightings of fishing cats, one jungle cat, many long tailed tree mice, a small Indian civet, a few white striped chevrotains. The two following nights were on the slow side, except grey slender loris, only saw Asian palm civet. I told Dulan that I really want a good photo of the slender loris, and we spent a lot of time checking the loris location. We found loads of them, but they all went into hiding as soon as the torch light shone.

Sigiriya: I had 3 days and nights here. The first day, we went to a temple for bats on the way. In the afternoon, went to the entrance of Sigiriya Lion Rock, saw macaques, Hanuman langurs and purple faced langur. The next two days we did a bit of birding in the afternoon as there is no other diurnal mammal to be seen.

The night drives were long, started around 10:30 after the town quiet down and ended around 4:30 to 5:00 am!! There were many sightings of brown or golden palm civets, slender lorises, black naped hares, white striped chevrotains, Asian palm civets, one jungle cat, a few gerbils, two crested porcupines and the best of all two pangolins. We tried for otters and forest eagle owl but failed. I believe that we saw like 30 or 40 grey slender lorises in total, but only until the last night, I was able to get my photo haha. I heard about the night drives with bird and wildlife team are long, but I didn't expect to get back to my room just before sunrise. At times, I was tired standing in the vehicle, Dulan kept going for the whole night.

Nuwara Eliya: I guess they picked this location for the mountain purple faced langur. And we saw many in the botanic garden. Also saw Toque Macaques on the road, a giant squirrel, and a Dusky-striped Palm Squirrel. If I knew that collared mongooses are only present in Horton Plains, I would have opted to go there instead.

Kitulgala: We arrived in the afternoon, and spent the afternoon looking for owls and frogmouth.

The first night, we had a short night walk for about one and a half hour. The first sighting was a mother red slender loris with a baby. I couldn't believe it. They were the cutest thing ever. And then we walked back to the hotel happily to have dinner. The second day, we went to look for brown mongoose and flame striped squirrel and birded a bit. The night Dulan suggested to do a full night walk and come back in the morning, but I already had my glorious loris sighting, I chose to go easy that night. We saw yellow striped chevrotain, red slender loris again, brown palm civet and a tavacore flying squirrel. The last morning before my flight, we went to a bat cave. This is my first trip to include bat caves on the itinerary, I'm still not familiar with them.

Overall, I was incredibly satisfied with my trip. The only notable miss is the rusty spotted cat but we certainly spent a lot of hours trying. We didn't see many jungle cats because the rice field were tall, they are much easier to see after harvest. Dulan and the drivers worked extremely hard to find the animals. On some trips, I think about if I could do the night walk/drive longer, will I have better results. This is not one of them. They work tirelessly to get your targets. If you want to go to Sri Lanka, go with him.

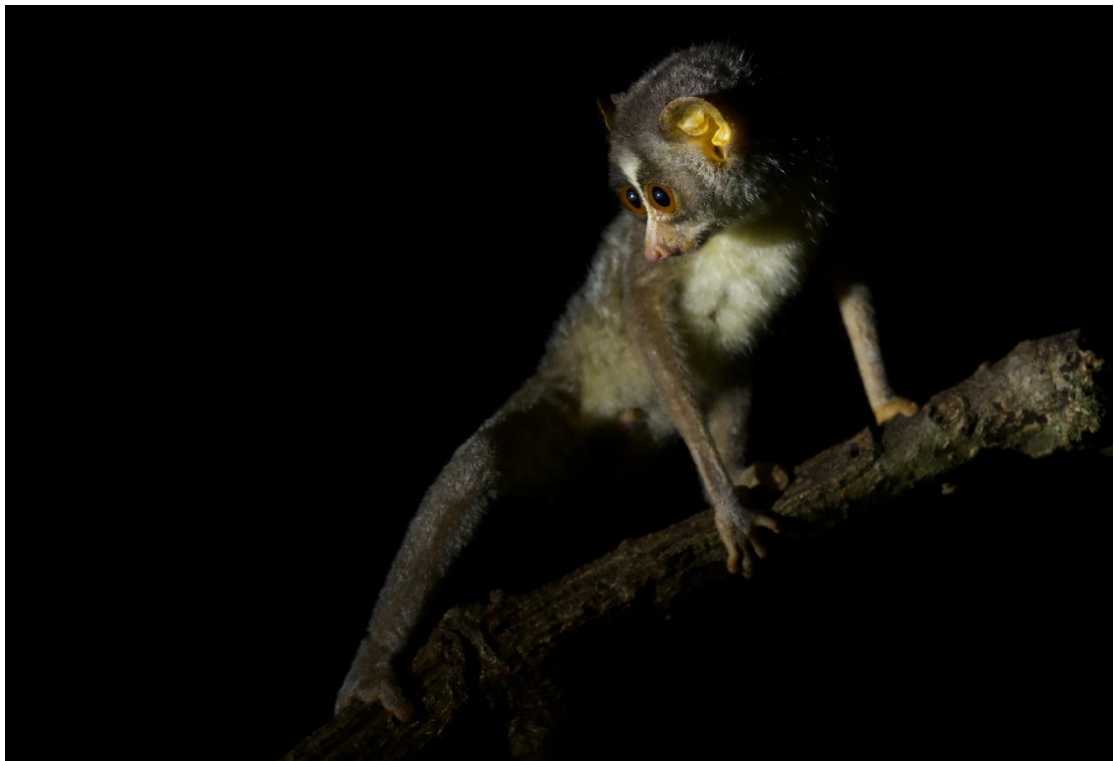
Some photos:



Brown mongoose



Red slender loris



Grey slender loris



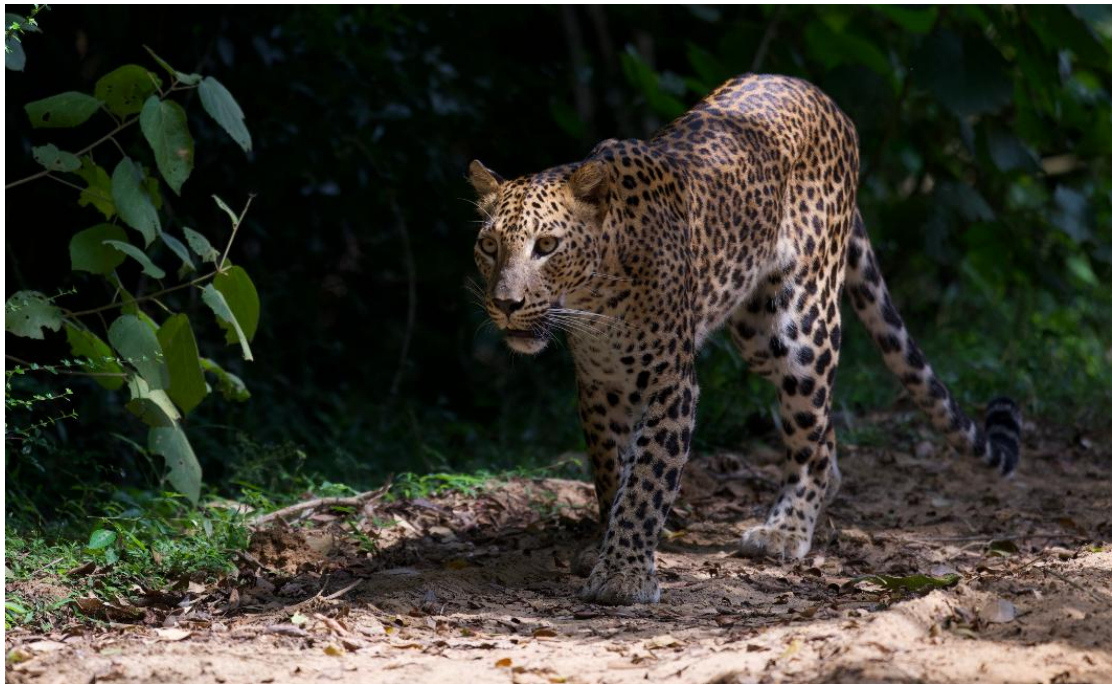
Brown palm civet



Thick tailed pangolin



Purple faced langur



Leopard



Fishing cat



Grey Mongoose



Golden Jackel



Small Indian Civet



Yellow Striped Chevrotain

Mammal list (From Dulan):

MAMMAL LIST – SRI LANKA

Order Chiroptera

FAMILY PTEROPIDAE (Fruit Bats)

Pteropus giganteus giganteus (Brunnich, 1782)

Cynopterus sphinx sphinx (Vahl, 1797)

Rousettus leschenaulti (Desmarset, 1820)

Indian Flying-fox

Indian Short-nosed Fruit Bat

Fulvous Fruit-bat

FAMILY RHINOLOPHIDAE (Horseshoe bats)

Rhinolophus rouxi rouxi Temminck, 1835

Rufous Horse-shoe Bat

FAMILY HIPPOSIDERIDAE (Leaf-nosed Bats)

Hipposideros speoris speoris (Schneider, 1800)

Schneider's Leaf-nosed Bat

FAMILY MAGADERMATIDAE (False Vampire Bats)

Megaderma spasma ceylonese Anderson, 1918

Sri Lanka False Vampire Bat

FAMILY VESPERTILLIONIDAE

Pipistrellus tenuis mimus (Temminck, 1840)

Indian Pigmy Pipistrel

Miniopterus phillipsi (Kusuminda, 2022)

Phillips' Long-fingered Bat

Myotis hasselti (Temminck, 1840)

Brown Bat

FAMILY EMBALLONURIDAE (Sheath-tailed Bats)

Taphozous longimanus Hardwicke, 1825

Long-armed Sheath-tailed Bat

Taphozous melanopogon Temminck, 1841

Black-bearded Sheath-tailed Bat

Order Primates

FAMILY LORISIDAE (Slender Loris)

Loris tardigradus tardigradus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Red Slender Loris

Loris lydekkerianus nordicus (Hill, 1933)

Northern Grey Slender Loris

FAMILY CERCOPITHECIDAE (Macaques and Langurs)

Semnopithecus vetulus nestor (Bennett, 1833)

Western Purple-faced Langur

Semnopithecus vetulus monticola (Kelaart, 1850)

Bear Monkey

Semnopithecus vetulus philbricki (Phillips, 1927)

Northern Purple-face Langur

Semnopithecus priam thersites (Blyth, 1844)

Hanuman or Grey Langur

Macaca sinica sinica (Linnaeus, 1771)

Dry-zone Toque Macaque

Macaca sinica aurifrons (Pocock, 1931)

Wet-zone Toque Macaque

Macaca sinica opisthomelas (Hill, 1942)

Montane Toque Macaque

Order Philodota

FAMILY MANIDAE (Pangolins)

Manis crassicaudata Gray, 1827

Thick Tailed Pangolin

Order Rodentia

FAMILY SCIURIDAE (Squirrels)

Petinomys fuscocapillus layardi (Kelaart, 1850)

Travancore Flying-Squirrel

<i>Ratufa macroura macroura</i> (Pennant, 1769)	Highland Sri Lanka Giant-Squirrel
<i>Ratufa macroura dandolena</i> Thomas and Wroughton, 1915	Common Sri Lanka Giant Squirrel
<i>Funambulus palmarum kelaarti</i> (Layard, 1851)	Southern Sri Lanka Palm Squirrel
<i>Funambulus palmarum olympius</i> Thomas and Wroughton, 1915	Highland Sri Lanka Palm Squirrel
<i>Funambulus layardi</i> (Blyth, 1849)	Flame-striped Jungle Squirrel
<i>Funambulus obscurus</i> (Pelzen and Kohl, 1886)	Dusky-striped Palm Squirrel
FAMILY HYSTRICIDAE (Porcupine)	
<i>Hystrix indica</i> (Kerr, 1792)	Crested Porcupine
FAMILY MURIDAE (Rats and Mice)	
<i>Tatera indica ceylonica</i> (Wroughton, 1906)	Sri Lanka Gerbil
<i>Rattus rattus kandianus</i> (Kelaart, 1850)	Common Sri Lanka House Rat
<i>Vandeleuria oleracea rubida</i> (Thomas, 1914)	Long-tailed Tree Mouse
Order Lagomorpha	
FAMILY LEPORIDAE (Hares)	
<i>Lepus nigricollis singhala</i> Wroughton, 1915	Sri Lanka Black-naped Hare
Order Carnivora	
FAMILY CANIDAE (Jackal)	
<i>Canis aureus lanka</i> (Wroughton, 1916)	Sri Lanka Jackal
FAMILY URSIDAE (Bear)	
<i>Melursus ursinus inornatus</i> (Pucheran, 1855)	Sri Lanka Sloth Bear
FAMILY VIVERRIDAE (Civets and Mongoose)	
<i>Viverricula indica mayori</i> Pocock, 1933	Sri Lanka Small Civet-cat
<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i> (Pallas, 1777)	Common Indian Palm Civet or Toddy Cat
<i>Paradoxurus aureus</i> Cuvier, 1822	Wet-zone Golden Palm Civet
<i>Paradoxurus montanus</i> Kelaart, 1853	Sri Lanka Brown Palm Civet
<i>Paradoxurus stenocephalus</i> Groves et al., 2009,	Dry-zone Golden Palm Civet
<i>Herpestes edwardsi lanka</i> (Wroughton, 1915)	Grey Mongoose
<i>Herpestes fuscus rubidior</i> (Pocock, 1937)	Western Sri Lanka Brown Mongoose
<i>Herpestes smithi zeylanicus</i> Thomas, 1921	Sri Lanka Ruddy Mongoose
FAMILY FELIDAE (Cats)	
<i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> (Bennett, 1833)	Fishing Cat
<i>Felis chaus affinis</i> (Gray, 1830)	Jungle Cat
<i>Panthera pardus kotiya</i> (Meyer, 1794)	Sri Lanka leopard
Order Proboscidea	
FAMILY ELEPHANTIDAE (Elephant)	
<i>Elephas maximus maximus</i> Linnaeus, 1758	Asian Elephant
Order Artiodactyla	
FAMILY SUIDAE (Pig)	

Sus scrofa cristatus (Wagner, 1839)

Wild Boar

FAMILY TRAGULIDAE (Chevrotain)

Moschiola meminna Erxleben, 1777

Sri Lanka Chevrotain (or Mouse-deer)

Moschiola kathygre Groves and Meijaard, 2004

Sri Lanka Pigmy Chevrotain (or Mouse-deer)

FAMILY CERVIDAE (Deer)

Muntiacus muntjak malabaricus Lydekker, 1915

Red Muntjac

Axis axis ceylonensis Fischer, 1829

Chital/ Spotted Deer

Rusa unicolor unicolor Kerr, 1792

Sambur