BIRD WATCHING
GUIDE
BIRDWATCHING AT MAHAWELE REACH HOTEL

Sri Lanka Is A Bird Paradise.

Kandy Is the Capital of The Central Hill Country of Sri Lanka, Which Is Famous for Its Extensive Avifauna. When You Are Staying at Mahaweli Reach Hotel, You Can Easily Spot 40 To 50 Bird Species (Endemic, Resident and Migrants) By Taking the Mahaweli River Cruise and Strolling Around the Garden. If You Are Ready to Spend Two to Three Days with Us, We Assure You Will See Nearly 100 Bird Species (Endemic, Resident and Migrants).

Please Speak to The Front Office Manager to Book the Magnificent River Cruise and Plan Your Bird Watching Tour.

You Can Enter Your Observations, Details of The Species to The Web-Based Database; www.worldbirds.org/srilanka
The Illustrations Below Show the Main Parts of a Bird Used in Descriptions of Plumage and Anatomy. A Knowledge of These Terms Will Be Useful for Identification Purposes.
Ardeidae (Heron and Egrets):

**Black Bittern** *(Ixobrychus Flavicollis)*

**Black-Crowned Night-Heron** *(Nycticorax)*

**Indian Pond-Heron** *(Ardeola Grayii)*

Size: 54 – 61 cm
Size: 58 – 65 cm
Size: 42 - 45 cm
**Ardeidae (Heron and Egrets):**

**Cattle Egret (Bubulcus Ibis):**

**Grey Heron (Ardea Cinerea):**

**Purple Heron (Ardea Purpurea):**

Size: 48 – 53 cm

Size: 90 – 98 cm

Size: 42 - 45 cm
Great Egret (Casmerodius Albus)
Size: 85 – 102 cm

Intermediate Egret (Mesophoyx Intermedia)
Size: 65 – 72 cm

Little Egret (Egretta Garzetta)
Black Bill All Seasons. Black Legs with Yellow Feet. In the Breeding Season, It Develops Nuptial Plumes on Head, Breast and Back.
Size: 55 – 65 cm
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**Ardeidae (Herons and Egrets):**

**Little Cormorant (Phalacrocorax Niger)**
Small, relatively short, deep based bill making an almost conical head. Long tail. Breeding adult has small crest on forehead and a few white filaments on the face.

**Size: 51 cm**

**Indian Cormorant (Phalacrocorax Fuscicollis)**
Medium size, long thin bill. Speckled throat and scaly pattern on wings. Larger size, heavier build.

**Size: 64 cm**

**Anhingidae (Anhingas):**

**Great Egret (Casmerodius Albus)**
Large with very thin, kinked neck. Sits very low in water. Black upper parts are streaked strongly with silvery filaments.

**Size: 85-97 cm**
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Accipitridae (Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles):

Brahminy Kite (Haliastur Indus)

Crested Serpent-Eagle (Spilornis Cheela)

Size: 44 – 52 cm

Rallidae (Rails, Crakes and Allies):

White-Breasted Waterhen (Amaurornis Phoenicurus)
White Face, Throat and Breast, Dark Grey Back. Chestnut Belly and Vent.

Size: 32 cm

Size: 56 – 74 cm
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Charadriidae (Plovers):

**Red-Wattled Lapwing (Vanellus Indicus)**

Size: 32 – 35 cm

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies):

**Common Sandpiper (Actitis Hypoleucos)**

Size: 18 – 20 cm

Laridae (Gulls and Terns):

**Whiskered Tern (Chlidonias Hybrida)**

Size: 23 – 26 cm
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Columbidae (Doves and Pigeons):

Rock Pigeon (Columba Livia)
Wild Relative of The Feral Pigeon. Two Black Bands on Inner Wing Show as Lines on Closed Wing.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos):

Greater Coucal (Centropus Sinensis)
Black Bill, Blue Sheen on Neck and Head. Bright Chestnut Wings. Striking Red Eyes.

Common Sandpiper (Actitis Hypoleucos)
Slender, Pink – Grey with White Spots And ‘Chess – Board’ Pattern on The Hind Neck. Long Wedge-Shaped Tail.

Size: 33 cm
Size: 30 cm
Size: 48 cm
**Psittacidae (Parrots):**

**Rose-Ringed Parakeet (Psittacula Krameri)**
Smaller Bill Than Alexandrine with Black Lower Mandible. No Red Shoulder Patches. Only the Male Has the Rose Collar and The Face Has A Powder Blue Tinge.

Size: 38 – 42 cm

**Plum-Headed Parakeet (Psittacula Cynocephala)**
Plum Coloured Head and Maroon Patches on Shoulders. Female with Blue – Grey Head, White – Tipped Tail and Yellow Collar.

Size: 34 – 36 cm

**Dicruridae (Drongos):**

**White-Bellied Drongo (Dicrurus Caerulescens)**
Glossy, Blue – Black with White on Ventral Area.

Size: 24 cm
Alcedinidae (Kingfishers):

- **Stork-Billed Kingfisher (Pelargopsis Capensis)**
  Large, Stocky with Huge Bill. Brown Head with Buff Collar. Largest of The Sri Lankan Kingfishers.
  
  **Size**: 38 – 41 cm

- **White-Throated Kingfisher (Halcyon Smyrnensis)**
  Chocolate Brown Head and Underparts, White Throat and Bib. Striking Blue on Upper Parts.
  
  **Size**: 28 – 30 cm

- **Common Kingfisher (Alcedo Atthis)**
  
  **Size**: 16 cm
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ramphastidae (Toucans and Barbets)</td>
<td>Brown-Headed Barbet (Megalaima Zeylanica)</td>
<td>Large, Pale-Streaked Brown Head and Breast. Reddish Bill and Bare Facial Skin.</td>
<td>25 – 27 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picidae (Woodpeckers)</td>
<td>Sri Lanka Lesser Flameback (Dinopium Benghalense)</td>
<td>Darker Bill. White – Speckled Black Throat and Eye – Stripe. White Spots on Shoulders. Female Has Black on Forecrown Rather Than Red.</td>
<td>26 – 29 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriolidae (Orioles and Figbirds)</td>
<td>Black-Hooded Oriole (Oriolus Xanthornus)</td>
<td>Brilliant Yellow with Black Hood.</td>
<td>24 – 25 cm</td>
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**Corvidae (Crows and Jays):**

- **House Crow (Corvus Splendens):**
  - Size: 40 – 42 cm
  - Dark Brown Nape and Neck, Shading to Black on Breast.

**Picidae (Woodpeckers):**

- **Jungle/ Large-Billed Crow (Corvus Levaillantii):**
  - Size: 46 – 48 cm
  - Larger Than House Crow, Jet Black, Bigger Beak.

**Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins):**

- **Barn Swallow (Hirundo Rustica):**
  - Size: 18 cm
  - Deeply Forked Tail with Long Streamers. Bright Chestnut Face, Blue – Black Breast Band.
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Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls):

Red-Vented Bulbul (Pycnonotus Cafer)
Black Head with Dark Crest, And Red Vent. White Rump Seen in Flight.
Size: 20 cm

Sylviidae (Old World Warblers):

Common Tailorbird (Orthotomus Sutorius)
The Chestnut Cap, Greenish Body and Upwardly Cocked Tail Make It Easy to Identify. Female Has Short Tail. Male Has Extended Central Tail Feathers.
Size: 12 – 14 cm

Timaliidae (Babblers and Parrotbills):

Yellow-Billed Babbler (Turdoides Affinis)
Size: 23 – 24 cm
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Sturnidae (Starlings):

Common Myna (Acridotheres Tristis)
Another Common Bird. Brown with Black Head and Yellow Bill. Triangle of Bare Yellow Skin Behind Eye. White Wing Patches and Tips on Tail.
Size: 24 cm

Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers):

Pale-Billed Flowerpecker (Dicaeum Erythrohynchos)
Size: 8 cm

Nectarinidae (Sunbirds):

Purple-Rumped Sunbird (Nectarinia Zeylonica)
Size: 10 – 11 cm
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**Estrildidae (Waxbills, Grass Finches, Munias And Allies):**

- **White-Throated Munia (Lonchura Malabarica):**

- **Pale-Billed Flowerpecker (Dicaeum Erythrorhynchos):**

**Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits):**

- **Grey Wagtail (Motacilla Cinerea):**

**Size:**
- White-Throated Munia: 10 – 11 cm
- Pale-Billed Flowerpecker: 8 cm
- Grey Wagtail: 19 cm
Muscicapidae (Chats and Old-World Flycatchers):

Oriental Magpie-Robin (Copsychus saularis)


Size: 19 - 21 cm
THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BIRDWATCHERS:

- Avoid Disturbing Birds and Their Habitats – The Birds’ Interests Should Always Come First.

- Do Not Disturb or Disrupt Any Habitants. Avoid Going Too Close to Birds or Disturbing Their Habitats – If A Bird Flies Away or Makes Repeated Alarm Calls, You Are Too Close.

- Respect the Customs and Rights of Residents and Landowners, And Do Not Enter Private Land Without Permission Unless It Is Open for Public Access on Foot.

- When Using Binoculars, Take Precautions Not to Point It at Houses and Places of Activity. Some People Do Not Like This.

- When Bird Watching, Use Only Your Eyes and Ears Not the Mouth. Silence Is Golden.

- Share Your Experience/ Observations with Other Bird Watchers.

- Repeatedly Playing A Recording of Birdsong or Calls To Encourage A Bird to Respond Can Divert A Territorial Bird from Other Important Duties, Such as Feeding Its Young. Never Use Playback to Attract A Species During Its Breeding Season.

- Leave Nests Alone, Do Not Try Touching or Watching Them Directly at Close Range.

- Animals Have the Same Rights as Humans, Please Let Them Enjoy Their Freedom.