

Butterflies of Sri Lanka

5th - 19th March 2023



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HIGHLIGHTS

We recorded 132 butterfly species and had very good views of some of the butterflies whilst settled and been able to photograph majority of the species. Close sighting of Five Bar Swordtail, Nawab, Great Orange Tip, Banded Peacock and many more butterflies were delightful. The scenic drive to Knuckles Mountain range was enjoyed immensely by everyone. The cultural visit to the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy to see the casket that enshrines the left canine tooth of the Lord Buddha was an interesting experience. Other than the butterflies, a few mammals including Ruddy Mongoose, Toque Macaque, Purple-faced leaf monkeys, Asian Elephants and Spotted Deer and also some bird species were a few highlights during the tour. Additionally, at some point endemic lizards, three snake species and carnivorous plants were also seen. Overall, the tour was thoroughly enjoyed with amazing sightings of most of the butterflies and with the walks we had through the forests and forested paths. On the final day we were greeted by a thousand of migrating Hill topping Butterflies and it was such a beautiful phenomenon to observe.

DAY 1 – 05 Mar 23

The clients departed from Denver US and fly through London UK

DAY 2 – 06 Mar 23 – SINHARAJA FOREST RESERVE

The flight arrived at 1.30 pm and after meeting the clients we left the airport at 2.30pm. En route to Sinharaja, we encountered Brahminy Kites and some common birds. We reached the Blue Magpie Lodge in Sinharaja at 5.00pm. After a briefing about the next day, we had dinner and called it a night.

DAY 3 – 07 Mar 23 – SINHARAJA RAINFOREST

We had breakfast at 7.00am and proceeded to the Sinharaja Rainforest ticket counter. Some of the birds encountered here were Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, Sri Lanka Drongo, Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill, Orange Minivet and Orange-billed Babbler.

Here we encountered our first butterfly, Sri Lanka Black Flat, to the much of our delight. Both inside and outside the rainforest we encountered lots of butterflies including Great Crow, Sri Lanka Birdwing, Ceylon Rose, Blue Mormon, Bluebottle, Lemon Emigrant, Sri Lanka Tree Nymph, Blue Glassy Tiger, Leopard, Common Sailor, Commander, Gladeye Bushbrown, Angled Pierrot, Tropic Dart, Red Helen. We also encountered more birds, mammals and reptiles that included Sri Lanka Junglefowl, Green Imperial Pigeon along with Purple-faced Leaf Monkey, Indian Palm Squirrels, Oriental and Green Garden Lizards, Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard. On our way back we were surprised by Sri Lankan Green Pit Viper and a Sri Lankan Green Vine Snake.

We returned to the hotel at 3.30pm, relaxed until 7pm and thereafter did the checklist, followed by dinner and the next day's briefing

DAY 4 – 08 Mar 23 – DRIVE TO KANDY

We started our day around 7.30am checked out from the hotel at 8.30am and started the drive to Kandy. The drive was long but it was enjoyable with the views and as we passed numerous villages, we were able to get an idea how Sri Lankan day to day life goes on which was again interesting. On the way we came across a huge colony of Indian Flying Foxes and it was a delight to observe. Later we stopped for a coffee and then for the lunch and we reached the Thilanka Hotel in Kandy around 3.30pm. At 4.30pm we went out to visit the temple of the tooth and had little walk along the lake front and after dinner at 7.30pm we called it a day.

DAY 5 – 09 Mar 23 – RIVERSTON

We had breakfast at 7am and then checked out of the hotel and proceeded to Matale. We reached the Grand Mountain Hotel at 8.30am and after picking up our picnic lunch we proceed to Riverston, which is the Knuckles mountain range. Before we reach the trail head, we decided to check on the road side, and we saw many species such as Common Sailor, Sri Lanka Tree Nymph, Common cerulean, Dark cerulean, Grass yellows, Rustic, Leopard, Chocolate soldier, Bush hopper, Common Grass Dart.

On starting the trail, we encountered huge Rat Snake by the side of the path. The path was overcrowded with Tamil Treebrowns and Dark Cerulians. Further we encountered a few Blue admirals, Red Helens, Leopard, Bluebottles, Common Jezebel, Club Beak, and Small Grass Yellow. We had our picnic lunch and then proceeded to Pitawala Pathana plains. It was a very scenic drive up the misty mountain range and we encountered Crested Serpent Eagle and Yellow Eared-bulbuls on the way. We reached the Pitawala Pathana plains and set off in search of butterflies. Our finds here included Common Rose, Common and Blue Mormons, Bluebottle, Psyche, Rustic, Tamil Yeoman, Blue Glassy Tiger, Common Sailor, Red Pierrot, and Lemon Pansy. Other than the butterflies we saw Pethiyagode's Crestless Lizard also. On our way back it was raining heavily, however it did not affect our butterfly session.

Around 5 pm we made our way back to Matale. We reached the hotel at 6.30pm and met for the checklist and dinner at 7.30pm.

DAY 6 – 10 Mar 23 – KNUCKLES MOUNTAIN RANGE

After an early breakfast at 7.30am, we once again went further deep in to the Knuckles Mountain Range. It was a gloomy day. Due to the bad road condition caused by the previous days' rain, we had to take a long route which took us about 2 hours to reach. On the way we stop near a reservoir inside the Knuckles, and we saw many butterflies including Common Crow, Brown King Crow, Sri Lanka Lacewing, Common Rose, Leopard, Chestnut Bob, Mime Butterfly, Plumbious Silverline, Blue Tiger, Dark Blue Tiger, Blue Glassy Tiger, Glassy Tiger, Rustic, White four ring, Indian Cupid, Dark Grass Blue and common and lesser albatrosses. The clients were enjoying a good session of photography also. Upon arriving, we took

a walk on the road through the forest looking for the butterflies. Here we encountered Common Snow Flat in good numbers along with many other butterflies including Crimson Rose, Sri Lanka Birdwing, Angles Pierrot, Banded Blue Pierrot, Common Bushbrown, Tamil Bushbrown, Ceylon Snow Flat, Wallace Swift, Restricted Demon.

Around 5.30 pm we made our way back to Matale. We and met for the checklist and dinner at 7.30pm and call it a day.

DAY 7 – 11 Mar 23 – KNUCKLES MOUNTAIN RANGE

After another early breakfast at 7am, we left to the knuckles Mountain Range once again. Another Gloomy day, however sun came up in intervals. We stopped near the road through the forest and first encountered many common and lesser Albatrosses. And also Chocolate Soldier, Crimson Rose, Common Jay, Tailed Jay, Jezebel, Common Gull, Great Orange Tip. Angled Castor, Common Castor. And further we were so pleased with excellent views of mud puddling Five Bar Swordtail and Nawab together with quacker, Hampson Hedge Blue, Purple Leaf Blue and also Common Jay. We saw many butterflies that we saw on previous days and clints were enjoying photographing almost all of them.

Around 2pm a storm was started to approach, and we call it a day and returned to the hotel around 4pm. It was a rainy day but we had very good sightings. Around 6.30pm we met for the checklist and discussion and called a very successful day.

DAY 8 – 12 Mar 23 – WASGOMUWA NP

After an early breakfast at 7.30am, we checked out from the hotel and left to Wasgomuwa National Park. Again, it was a rainy day and we came across torrential rain on the way. We arrived the hotel by 12noon and had our lunch. In the afternoon once the rain eased, we had a walk around the hotel, around paddy fields, and we were able to see a few new species including Peacock Pansy, Grass Dart, Smallest Swift, Tropic Dart and Grass Jewel amongst the other butterflies we already saw.

DAY 9 – 13 Mar 23 – WASGOMUWA NP, DRIVE TO SIGIRIYA

After early breakfast at 7am, we left to a Jeep safari in Wasgomuwa NP. In the park we encountered many butterflies in good numbers including Crimson Rose, Common Rose, Banded Peacock, Jezebel, Lesser Albatross, Blue Tiger, Pain Tiger, Common Tiger, Peacock Royal, Indian Sunbeam, Lime Blue, Gaudy Baron, Plains Cupid and many species we already saw. Also, we managed to see a herd of Elephants as well. And a few bird species like Jerdon's Bushlark, Green Bee Eater, Blue Tailed Bee Eater, many Peacocks, Serpent Eagle.

We returned to the hotel at 12noon and had our lunch and left to Sigiriya and arrived Sigiriya around 3.30pm.

DAY 10 – 14 Mar 23 – RITIGALA FOREST RESERVE

We had our early breakfast around 7am and with packed lunch, we left to Ritigala forest reserve. We reached there around 8.30am and we started looking for butterflies along the access road and were delighted to see Black Rajah. Further we managed to see Common Castor, Angled Castor, Lemon Pansy, Lime Butterfly, Great Egfly, Tawny Coaster, Monkey Puzzle, Common Silverline, Quaker, Malayan, Indian Skipper including the butterfly species we already saw on previous days. As per clients' request we also had a visit to the archeological site which consist of ruins of an ancient monastery, and this was a refreshing experience.

Around 5pm we returned to the hotel and met at 6.30pm to do the checklist and after dinner.

DAY 11 – 15 Mar 23 – KALUDIYA POKUNA FOREST RESERVE

After an early breakfast at 7am, we left to Kaludiya Pokuna Forest Reserve and reached there around 8am. On the path leading to the archeological site, we encountered many butterflies and the highlight was the sighting of a female Twany Rajah. It was quick however it was a delight. Further we saw Golden Angle, Common Hedge Blue, Tropic Dart amongst the many other species that we saw on the previous day. We returned for a quick lunch back to the hotel at 12noon and proceeded to the Sigiriya Rock Base around 1pm. There we saw many Crows, roses and Rustic, Common Castor, Indian Sunbeam, Glassy Tiger, Blue Glassy Tiger, Leopard and also Yellow Orange Tip.

We returned to the hotel around 4pm and met for the checklist followed by the dinner at 6.30pm. After briefing the tomorrow's plan we called it a day.

Day 12 – 16 Mar 23 – DRIVE TO BELIHULOYA

After an early breakfast, we checked the sanctuary area just next to the hotel for any new species for about an hour and came across Dark Grass Blue, Lesser Grass Blue, Tiny Grass Blue, Pea Blue, Common Cerulian, Common Pierrot and Rustic. We checked out at 9.30am and proceeded to Belihuloya which is about 6 hours drive. On the way we stopped at a restaurant in scenic city of Ella for our lunch and reached the hotel in Belihuloya around 4pm. After briefing the tomorrow's plan, we had dinner and called it a day.

Day 13 – 17 Mar 23 – SAMANALA WEWA RESEVOIR

We had our breakfast at 7am and left to a full day excursion around the Samanala wewa reservoir with packed lunch. Here we encountered Danaid Egfly, Baron, Rounded Six Lineblue, Pale Six Lineblue, Tailless Lineblue, Indian Palm Bob, Little Branded Swift, Small Branded Swift and many other butterfly species we already observed on this tour. It was a perfect opportunity for the clients to capture as many photographs as possible.

We returned to the hotel around 4pm and met for the checklist and dinner at 7pm.

Day 14 – 18 Mar 23 – BELIHULOYA SURROUNDINGS/ TRANSFER TO HOTEL NEAR AIRPORT

We started the final day of our tour with an early breakfast at 7.30am and then proceeded to a road through Adams Peak Sanctuary which is near by the hotel. On the road runs through the sanctuary we came across Wallace Swift, Common Bluebottle, Great Eggfly, Sri Lanka Birdwing, Chocolate Soldier and many more species we already saw. Towards the end of our walk, we encountered a thousand of migrating hill topping butterflies which was mostly consisting of Common Albatross, Sri Lanka Lesser Albatross and Lemon Emigrant. This was a beautiful sight to behold. We then returned to the hotel at 12.30pm and had lunch and left to the hotel near the Airport and we reached there around 5pm and said Goodbye to the clients and concluded a very successful Butterfly tour.

Species List:

Butterflies [(E) – Endemic]

<i>Troides darsius</i> Sri Lanka Birdwing (E)	<i>Parantica aglea</i> Glassy Tiger
<i>Pachliopta hector</i> Crimson Rose	<i>Parantica taprobana</i> Sri Lanka Tiger (E)
<i>Pachliopta jophon</i> Ceylon Rose (E)	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i> Plain Tiger
<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i> Common Rose	<i>Danaus genutia</i> Common Tiger
<i>Papilio crino</i> Banded Peacock	<i>Euploea core</i> Common Crow
<i>Papilio demoleus</i> Lime Butterfly	<i>Euploea sylvestre</i> Double Branded Crow
<i>Papilio helenus</i> Red Helen	<i>Euploea phaenareta</i> King Crow
<i>Papilio polytes</i> Common Mormon	<i>Euploea klugii</i> Brown King Crow
<i>Papilio polymnestor</i> Blue Mormon	<i>Ariadne ariadne</i> Angled Castor
<i>Papilio clytia</i> Mime	<i>Ariadne merione</i> Common Castor
<i>Graphium sarpedon</i> Bluebottle	<i>Cupha erymanthis</i> Rustic
<i>Graphium doson</i> Common Jay	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i> Leopard
<i>Graphium agamemnon</i> Tailed Jay	<i>Cirrochroa thais</i> Tamil Yeoman
<i>Graphium antiphates</i> Five bar Swordtail	<i>Cethosia nietneri</i> Ceylon Lace Wing
<i>Leptosia nina</i> Psyche	<i>Kaniska canace</i> Blue Admiral
<i>Delias eucharis</i> Jezebel	<i>Junonia lemonias</i> Lemon Pansy
<i>Cepora nerissa</i> Common Gull	<i>Junonia atlites</i> Grey Pansy
<i>Appias libythea</i> Striped Albatross	<i>Junonia iphita</i> Chocolate Soldier
<i>Appias albino</i> Common Albatross	<i>Junonia almana</i> Peacock Pansy
<i>Appias galene</i> Lesser Albatross (E)	<i>Hypolimnias bolina</i> Great Eggfly
<i>Ixias pyrene</i> Yellow Orange Tip	<i>Hypolimnias misippus</i> Danaid Eggfly
<i>Hebomoia glaucippe</i> Great Orange Tip	<i>Pantoporia hordonia</i> Common Lascar
<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i> Mottled Emigrant	<i>Neptis hylas</i> Common Sailor
<i>Catopsilia pomona</i> Lemon Emigrant	<i>Neptis jumbah</i> Chestnut Streaked Sailor
<i>Catopsilia scylla</i> Orange Migrant	<i>Moduza procris</i> Commander
<i>Pareronia ceylanica</i> Dark Wanderer	<i>Parthenos sylvia</i> Clipper
<i>Eurema brigitta</i> Small Grass Yellow	<i>Euthalia lubentina</i> Gaudy Baron
<i>Eurema laeta</i> Spotless Grass Yellow	<i>Euthalia aconthea</i> Baron
<i>Eurema hecabe</i> Common Grass Yellow	<i>Rohana parisatis</i> Black Prince
<i>Eurema blanda</i> Three Spot Grass Yellow	<i>Polyura athamas</i> Nawab
<i>Eurema ormistoni</i> One-Spot Grass Yellow (E)	<i>Charaxes solon</i> Black Rajah
<i>Idea iasonia</i> Sri Lanka Tree Nymph (E)	<i>Charaxes psaphon</i> Tawny Rajah
<i>Ideopsis similis</i> Blue Glassy Tiger	<i>Libythea myrrha</i> Club Beak
<i>Tirumala limniace</i> Blue Tiger	<i>Acraea violae</i> Tawny Coster

Tirumala septentrionis Dark Blue Tiger
Melanitis phedima Dark Evening Brown
Lethe drypetis Tamil Treebrown
Mycalesis mineus Dark-Brand Bushbrown
Mycalesis perseus Common Bushbrown
Mycalesis patnia Gladeye Bushbrown
Ypthima ceylonica White Four-ring
Elymnias hypermnestra Common Palmfly
Spalgis epeus Apefly
Curetis thetis Indian Sunbeam
Amblypodia anita Purple Leaf Blue
Rathinda amor Monkey-puzzle
Spindasis vulcanus Common Silverline
Spindasis schistacea Plumbeous Silverline
Tajuria cippus Peacock Royal
Nacaduba hermus Pale Four Lineblue
Nacaduba berenice Rounded Six Lineblue
Nacaduba sinhala Pale Ceylon Six Lineblue (E)
Prosotas nora Common Lineblue
Prosotas dubiosa Tailless Lineblue
Ionolyce helicon Pointed Lineblue
Jamides bochus Dark Cerulean
Jamides coruscans Sri Lanka Cerulean (E)
Jamides lacteata Milky Cerulean (E)
Jamides alecto Metallic Cerulean
Jamides celeno Common Cerulean
Catochrysops strabo Forget-me-not
Lampides boeticus Pea Blue
Castalius rosimon Common Pierrot
Discolampa ethion Banded Blue Pierrot
Caleta decidia Angled Pierrot
Chilades putli Grass Jewel
Zizeeria karsandra Dark Grass Blue

Melanitis leda Common Evening Brown
Zizina otis Lesser Grass Blue
Zizula hylax Tiny Grass Blue
Talicauda nyseus Red Pierrot
Everes lacturnus Indian Cupid
Acytolepis lilacea Hampson's Hedge Blue
Acytolepis puspa Common Hedge Blue
Neopithecops zalmora Quaker
Megisba malaya Malayan
Chilades pandava Plains Cupid
Chilades lajus Lime Blue
Celaenorrhinus spilothyrus Black Flat (E)
Sarangesa dasahara Common Small Flat
Tagiades japetus Ceylon Snow Flat
Caprona ransonnettii Golden Angle
Baracus vittatus Hedge Hopper
Ampittia dioscorides Bush Hopper
Suastus gremius Indian Palm Bob
Iambrix salsala Chestnut Bob
Notocrypta paralysos Common Banded Demon
Notocrypta curvifascia Restricted Demon
Spialia galba Indian Skipper
Taractrocerma maevius Common Grass Dart
Oriens goloides Common Dartlet
Potanthus pseudomaesa Common Dart
Potanthus confucius Tropic Dart
Borbo cinnara Wallace's Swift
Pelopidas agna Little Branded Swift
Pelopidas mathias Small Branded Swift
Pelopidas thrax Large Branded Swift
Parnara bada Smallest Swift

Mammals [(E) – Endemic]

Macaca sinica Toque Macaque (E)
Tachypithecus vetulus Purple-faced leaf
 Monkey(E)
Herpestus smithii Ruddy Mongoose
Elephas maximus maximus Asian Elephant
Babulus bubalis Water Buffalo
Ratufa marciorura Giant Squirrel

Semnopithecus entellus Grey Langur
Herpestus edwardsii Grey Mongoose
Herpestus fuscus Brown Mongoose
Cervus axis Spotted Deer
Funambulus palmarum Indian Palm Squirrel
Pteropus gigantea Indian Flying Fox

Reptiles [(E) – Endemic]

Ptyas mucosus maximus Common Rat Snake

Ahaetulla nasuta Green Vine Snake (E)

Calotes versicolor Oriental (Common) Garden Lizard

Calotes pethiyagodai Pethiyagoda Lizard (E)

Varanus salvator Asian Water Monitor

Trimeresurus trigonocephalus Sri Lanka Green Pit Viper (E)

Calotes calotes Green Garden Lizard

Otocryptis wiegmanni Sri Lanka Kangaroo Lizard (E)

Varanus bengalensis Bengal (Land) Monitor