

SRI LANKA *in* FOCUS LOS ANGELES - 2023

**APRIL
22 & 23**
FREE ENTRY

SRI LANKA *in* FOCUS
LOS ANGELES - 2023

UCLA
KH Art Gallery

FILM SCREENING
Award-Winning
Wildlife Documentary Film
**The Great Elephant
Gathering of Asia**
Minneriya National Park

BOOK LAUNCH
"YALA NATIONAL PARK"
**KINGDOM OF
RUHUNA**
HOME OF THE ABURUWU (YALA)
NATIONAL PARK
SRI LANKA

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
10 AM TO 6 PM
WESTWOOD PLAZA, LA, CA 90095
PARKING: PARKING LOT 8

BEAUTY OF SRI LANKA PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION - ART / CULTURE / WILDLIFE

**SRI LANKAN
TRADITIONAL DANCE**

EARTH DAY AWARD CEREMONY

WILDLIFE TALKS

SRI LANKA
SRI LANKA TOURISM PROMOTION BUREAU

SUPPORTED BY:
Consulate General of the
Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka
in Los Angeles

ORGANISED BY:
America Sri Lanka
Photographic Art Society
Los Angeles
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Consulate General
Of the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka
in Los Angeles



America Sri Lanka
Photographic Art Society
Los Angeles

SRI LANKA *in* FOCUS LOS ANGELES - 2023

BEAUTY OF SRI LANKA
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

@ UCLA

EARTH DAY AWARD CEREMONY

WILDLIFE TALKS

LIVE DISCUSSION
Tourism Attractions
of Sri Lanka

SRI LANKAN TRADITIONAL DANCE

BOOK LAUNCH
"YALA NATIONAL PARK"

FILM SCREENING

Award-Winning Documentary Film
"The Great Elephant
Gathering Of Asia"

PROMOTION CAMPAIGN FOR
AMERICAN NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Samy's Camera
Store

BIRD WALK

At Sepulveda
Wildlife Base

SPECIAL EVENT

Yosemite National Park

MEDIA CONFERENCE

AT SRI LANKAN CONSUL
GENERAL OFFICE
IN LOS ANGELES

“THE BEAUTY OF SRI LANKA” PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

“The Beauty of Sri Lanka” photographic exhibition organized by the America Sri Lanka Photographic Art Society (member of Photographic Society of American - PSA) in association with the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Los Angeles will be held at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) during 22 - 23 April 2023.

This annual photographic exhibition held for the first time in September 2019 at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) was attended by a large number of visitors.

However, it was not held in 2020 due the pandemic and therefore we have rescheduled it to be held in September 2023.

This exhibition will showcase over 80 rare photographs highlighting Sri Lanka's natural beauty and wildlife, cultural heritage and scenic beauty carefully chosen through a photo competition as well as created by few award winning nature photographers from Sri Lanka.

There is also a special category for school children in Sri Lanka to submit their photographs on Sri Lanka's natural beauty and the finalist will be invited to **The Beauty of Sri Lanka 2023** in Los Angeles.

Venue :

“The Beauty Of Sri Lanka” at The University Of California In Los Angeles (UCLA)

SRI LANKAN TRADITIONAL DANCE Performed by Sandani S Kahadugoda & Waruna

Venue :

“The Beauty Of Sri Lanka” at The University Of California In Los Angeles (UCLA)



Sandani S Kahadugoda

DIRECTOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS / ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

Sandani completed her 4 years degree from performing arts in 2013 University of Kelaniya Sri Lanka. She has completed her masters degree in 2020 University of Kelaniya Sri Lanka. She has studied Indian Kathak dance to expert level. She was a main dancer in Chithrasena dance company since 2014 - 2022. She was a teacher in charge of Dance in Ladies College Colombo 7. She has a dance Choreography diploma in Sri Lanka foundation institute. She also served as an external lecturer for Sabaragamuwa dance in University of Kelaniya.

Waruna has been learning traditional drumming and dancing in age of seven. He has studied about percussion and drumming in Visual and performing arts university in Colombo. He worked as a dancer and Drummer in national youth center in 2010-2011. Waruna is the founder and the artistic director of "Dinaadha" as it is one of the main percussion band in Colombo. He worked as a main Drummer and drum instructor in Chithrasena dance school since 2012.

EARTH DAY AWARD CEREMONY

Venue :

“The Beauty Of Sri Lanka” at The University Of California In Los Angeles (UCLA)

WILDLIFE TALK

“SRI LANKAN LEOPARD”

“WILDLIFE TOURISM IN SRI LANKA”

Venue :

“The Beauty Of Sri Lanka” at The University Of California In Los Angeles (UCLA)

BOOK LAUNCH

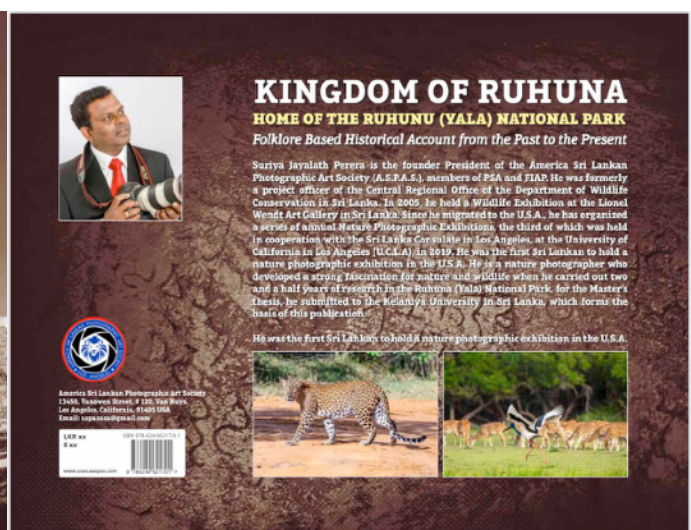
THE KINGDOM OF RUHUNA

YALA NATIONAL PARK IN SRI LANKA

A Folklore Based Historical Account from the Past to the Present.

Venue :

“The Beauty Of Sri Lanka” at The University Of California In Los Angeles (UCLA)



FILM SCREENING

Award-Winning Documentary Film “The Great Elephant Gathering Of Asia”

Director/Producer/Writer: Dilum Alagiyawanna

What is the great elephant gathering of Asia?

Each year from the month of April, herds of elephants begin to gather at the Minneriya National Park in north central province of Sri Lanka.

Week by week the numbers grow until 300 - 400 can be seen by the months of August/ September. Thus it reaches its peak, creating a unique natural spectacle. The shore of the ancient Minneriya reservoir is shadowed by the largest land mammals, Asian Elephants. This is the greatest wildlife spectacle, the Great Elephant Gathering of Asia.

Elephant Gathering at the Minneriya National Park is one of the most popular wildlife attractions in Sri Lanka and it is *listed by the Lonely Planet as one of the TOP 10 Wildlife Spectacle in the world.*

This film won the “Best Animal Behaviour Award” at the 13th Japan Wildlife Film Festival held in Tokyo during 2-3 April 2018, followed by a “Blue Green Era Presidential Award 2019” in recognition of its contribution for the environmental/wildlife conservation in Sri Lanka.

Venue :

“The Beauty Of Sri Lanka” At The University Of California In Los Angeles (UCLA)

LIVE DISCUSSION ON TOURISM ATTRACTIONS OF SRI LANKA

The Sri Lankan leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*)
The Sri Lankan elephant (*Elephas maximus maximus*)
Wildlife Tourism in Sri Lanka
UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Sri Lanka

Venue :

“The Beauty Of Sri Lanka” At The University Of California In Los Angeles (UCLA)

BIRD WALK

Conducted By The National Audubon Society

AT SEPULVEDA WILDLIFE BASE

Bird walk and photography workshop
for beginners will be conducted
at the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve
Los Angeles

SPECIAL EVENT
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

MEETING WITH PARK MANAGEMENT

Park management to brief on wildlife management, crowd handling, rescue operations and other useful information which might be useful and applicable for the Department of Wildlife Conservation and conservation initiatives in Sri Lanka

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM
FOR THE VISITING SCHOOL CATEGORY FINALIST

3 DAY EXCURSION FOR INVITEES

WILDLIFE TOURISM PROMOTION CAMPAIGN
FOR AMERICAN NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS
AT THE SAMY'S CAMERA STORE IN LOS ANGELES

SAMY'S CAMERA STORE

(Largest Camera Store in Los Angeles) will invite
Premier Members of Nature Photographers (30-50)

MINI EXHIBITION (SELECTED WILDLIFE PHOTOS)

FILM SCREENING

Award-Winning Documentary Film
"The Great Elephant Gathering Of Asia"

Director/Producer/Writer: Dilum Alagiyawanna

SHORT PRESENTATIONS

"SRI LANKAN LEOPARD"

"WILDLIFE TOURISM IN SRI LANKA"

**MEMORIES OF
“BEAUTY OF SRI LANKA”
EXHIBITION HELD IN 2019 AT UCLA**







Bird walk & Photography Workshop, Los Angeles. U.S.A



Supervisor Barger Unveils New Fleet Of Mental Health Transport Vans



Supervisor Barger and Dr. Sherin unveil the new fleet of Therapeutic Transport Vans

LOS ANGELES COUNTY. On Monday, September 9, L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and Dr. Jonathan Sherin from the L.A. County Department of Mental Health unveiled the new fleet of Therapeutic Transport Vans at the Hall of Adminis-

tration. The 10 brand new Ford vans will help reduce long waiting periods for the transport of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and will mitigate the risk of trauma caused by ambulance or law enforcement trans-

portation involving restraints. Each van will be staffed with a clinician and a peer support specialist, in addition to a 40-inch monitor with teleconferencing capabilities that can provide access to a psychiatrist while in transport.

5 Cool Ideas for Self-Improvement Month



There's no good reason to wait until the new year to focus on self-improvement. There's also no excuse. September is Self-Improvement Month, and a fine time to learn a new skill, take up an old hobby or set a goal.

Here are five cool ideas to try out over the course of the month:

- **Start coding:** Whether you want to switch careers and become a software or web developer or simply take up a new hobby, learning to code can open up a world of possibilities, while keeping your mind active and vital. And these days, free online tutorials available in dozens of

programming languages, can help you get started without any tools required but time and dedication.

- **Learn to play piano:** Learning a musical instrument can improve focus, enhance memory and reduce stress. For a fast-track to playing songs skillfully, check out the Casio CT-X700, which features a Step-Up Lesson system to easily learn songs from the keyboard's built-in library. The display shows proper fingering and notation, and a six-track recorder allows you to quickly capture your inspiration.

- **Set a reading goal:** You don't have to be a student to complete

a reading challenge. Whether it's to read 5 non-fiction books over the course of the month or get through that classic tome that's been sitting on your bookshelf for years, give yourself a reading goal to achieve this month.

- **Get outdoors:** Spending time exercising in nature has powerful physical and mental health benefits. Give yourself the motivation needed to get outdoors with a wearable device, such as the WSD-F30 Pro Trek Smart Outdoor Watch, which includes a built-in compass, altimeter and barometer, as well as a slew of fitness and nature apps designed to promote wellness and help you better appreciate your surroundings.

- **Start saving:** If you don't have a savings account, think about opening one during the month of September. Make it painless by having the fund draw automated monthly payments from your checking account. Then sit back and watch your savings grow.

Long before writing up resolutions, celebrate Self-Improvement Month, a perfect mid-year motivation for change and growth. (StatePoint)



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The Beauty of Sri Lanka on Display in Los Angeles



One of the many photographs of wildlife in Sri Lanka. This one of a herd of spotted deer was taken at the Yala National Park. Photo by Andy Samarasekera.

By Nandasiri Jasentuliyana

America Sri Lankan Photographic Art Society in association with the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Los Angeles will hold a photographic exhibition titled, "The Beauty of Sri Lanka", on 21 September 2019 at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), in Los Angeles.

The exhibition is being designed to depict the beauty of fauna and flora, highlighted by one of last remaining rainforests, Sinharaja forest, as well as, the 2500-year-old historical and the cultural heritage of Sri Lanka.

"The Beauty of Sri Lanka" beholds the Shady trees, green hills, valleys, streams, colorful fauna, and flora breezy air as well as the serenity of jungle life. These amazing creations of nature are not only the epitome of beauty but serve as a critical element in sustaining life. However, the effects of climate change driven by modern-day industrialization are ever-present threats to the serenity of the natural environment. Nature Photographers are in the vanguard of the army of Nature Saviors.

This exhibition is designed to

introduce viewers to a range of issues that currently impact the environment including forest fires, the critical importance of which is quite apparent from the fires burning in the Amazon in recent times threatening the lungs of the Earth. It also depicts the unsurpassed beauty of nature in Sri Lanka, its wildlife, and the rich cultural heritage, through the creative eyes of Suriya Jayalath Perera, an award-winning Nature Photographer. Mr. Perera is the president of America Sri Lankan Photographic Art Society and he has demonstrated a sensitivity to the animal and human life that surrounds the pristine environs he has captured through his expert lens.

He is joined by six leading Sri Lankan photographers who will bring their award-winning masterpieces all the way from Sri Lanka to Los Angeles for this unique exhibition. Members of the National Photographic Art Society of Sri Lanka (NPAS), they have earned recognition from the International Federation of Photographic Art (IFPA), France. Among them are Vickram Senanayake, Life member of the NPAS and Country Liaison Of-

ficer & Membership Director of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), and Andy Samarasekera, trained at the New York Institute of Photography, is a photojournalist specializing in landscapes and wildlife, for several publications across the United States.

The Exhibition consists of several rare photographs of National Parks of Sri Lanka (Yala, Wilpattu, Udawalawa, Horton Plains), and one of the last remaining rainforests in the world, Sinharaja Forest, in Sri Lanka. The ancient cities of Sri Lanka with architectural gems that are part of the cultural and religious heritage of the nation, and blend with the tropical fauna and flora being exhibited, also form an integral part of the exhibition.

The exhibition will be ceremonially opened on September 21st at 11:00 a.m. by Mrs. Swarna Gunaratne, the Consul General of Sri Lanka to the Western States of USA. Exhibition hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 21st, 2019. Admission is free and all are welcome. For further information contact: 818-645-5726.

Student's Report of Kidnapping Attempt was a Hoax

By George Ogden

WEST COVINA - Recent reports to police about attempted kidnapping on Wednesday were being investigated when a report came in on Thursday, Sept. 5th of a 12-year-old boy who reported to police that on that morning while walking to Trawick Middle School that he was accosted by two individuals. He said he was able to escape from the two men. One man was driving a black Mercedes who tried to lure him inside his car and at the same time a second man, who was riding a bike, road up and attempted to assist the first man by grabbing and trying to push the boy into

the car. The boy claimed he fought off the two suspects and got away.

After the incident was put out by the news media, police later said the boy admitted to investigators that he made the whole thing up. It was unclear as to why the boy lied about the incident which caused alarm for students and parents. This also caused a lot of police resources to be used as well.

On Wednesday, there were two reports of attempted kidnappings where officers responded. Just after 1:00 p.m., a 10-year-old girl said a man approached her and asked the girl if she wanted a ride as she was walking home from school. Around 3:00 p.m., a passerby said they were concerned when they saw a man driving a black

sedan following a young girl as she was walking on the sidewalk. This was in the area of Lark Ellen Avenue and Workman Avenue. Police responded to the area and they were not able to locate the reporting party or girl.

In both Wednesday and Thursday cases, investigators determined that no attempts were made to kidnap the children.

The West Covina Police Department put out information to let the public know that they have no evidence that they believe that there is anyone driving around attempting to get students into their vehicles. The police encourage the students to remain aware of their surroundings and if possible, to walk in pairs.



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"BEAUTY OF SRI LANKA" EXHIBITION HELD IN 2019 AT UCLA

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER



Welcome to "The Beauty of Sri Lanka" Photographic Exhibition at the world-renowned University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). We are delighted to have this exhibition for the first time in the United States in collaboration with six leading nature photographers who have come from Sri Lanka to display their award-winning photography at this exhibition. They are joined by four prominent Sri Lankan photographers in California to make it a truly unique event. It is a great pleasure that I welcome and thank them for their generous contribution to make this exhibit a memorable one.

America Sri Lankan Photographic Art Society has organized this exhibition in order to showcase our beautiful Island of Sri Lanka, its unique flora and fauna and its cultural heritage to the Western World. The exhibition consists of several unique photographs of National Parks, last remaining rainforest in the world Sinharaja forest in Sri Lanka, and the ancient cities of Sri Lanka that are part of the cultural and religious heritage of the nation as seen through the perceptive eyes of celebrated photographers.

Through this exhibition, we would hope to entice the American public, particularly those who love the magnificence of nature, and the grandeur of historical sites to visit and explore Sri Lanka.

One of the main aims of the America Sri Lankan Photographic Art Society is to educate and encourage the younger generation to value and preserve our natural environment and enjoy taking pictures of beautiful objects of nature. Towards that end, it is our goal to guide the parents to encourage their children to be interested in the environment around them. We have organized nature walks in cooperation with the Audubon Society to teach children about the fauna and flora in the nature parks. Those students will be awarded certificates at the opening ceremony of the 'Beauty of Sri Lanka' Photographic Exhibition to mark their participation.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Swarna Gunaratna, Consul General of Sri Lanka to the Western States of America, for kindly cosponsoring this event and sparing no effort to make it a success. The staff of the Consulate must also be recognized for their willing assistance. I also wish to thank everyone for their support for the work of our society and for participating at the exhibition.

**President And Founder
of America Sri Lankan Photographic Art Society, Los Angeles**