

SRI LANKA IN FOCUS USA

Beauty of Sri Lanka Photographic Exhibition
Art | Culture | Wildlife



UCLA Los Angeles 2024

April 20th | 21st 10.00AM to 5.00PM

at Grand Salon - Kerchoff Hall

University of California, Los Angeles 221 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095



Organised By:
America Sri Lanka
Photographic Art Society,
Los Angeles
www.usacaaspas.com



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Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau



BEAUTY OF SRI LANKA PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

@ UCLA

EARTH DAY 2024
Seminar & Award Ceremony

PRESENTATION OF SRI
LANKA WILDLIFE AND
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

FILM SCREENING
The Blue Planet IMAX Movie on Sri Lanka

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 "**The Beauty of Sri Lanka**" photographic exhibition, organized by the America Sri Lanka Photographic Art Society (Member of Photography Society of America - PSA) and the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Los Angeles, will take place at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) on April 20-21, 2024.

The annual photographic exhibition, held for the first time at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) in September 2019 and again in 2023, was well-attended. This exhibition will feature over 80 rare photographs of Sri Lanka's natural beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage, and scenic beauty, selected from a photo competition and created by award-winning nature photographers.

The Beauty of Sri Lanka 2024 competition invites schoolchildren in Sri Lanka to submit photographs of the country's natural beauty. The finalists will be invited to attend the event in Los Angeles.

Venue: "The Beauty of Sri Lanka" at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

“EARTH DAY 2024 SEMINAR.

Professor Glen MacDonald, (UCLA)

Prof. Glen MacDonald is an international expert on the environmental impact of climate change and drought. The Distinguished Professor at the Institute of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology holds a B.A. Hons. from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.Sc. from the University of Calgary, and a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto.

He previously served as Director of the UCLA Institute of Environment and Sustainability and the UCLA Institute of International Studies. He has written over 160 scientific and popular press pieces, including an award-winning book on biogeography.

He is a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Visiting Fellow at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford in the United Kingdom.

EARTH DAY AWARD CEREMONY

Venue :

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

SRI LANKA IN FOCUS USA

LOS ANGELES 2024

SRI LANKA WILDLIFE AND TOURIST ATTRACTIONS PRESENTATION BY

VIMUKTHI WEERATHUNGA

B.Sc., In Wildlife And Fisheries, Oregon State University, U.S.A.
Author, "Ant Trails to Whale Trails; Splendid Island Wildlife"
Manager, Nature Trails at Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts



**April 21st,
1.00pm to 2.00pm**
at The Beauty of
Sri Lanka Exhibition 2024,
The University Of California
In Los Angeles (UCLA)

April 27th, 3.00 pm
For the Southern California
**Business Community &
Tourist Industry Representatives**
at the Consulate General Office of
Sri Lanka, Los Angeles, California.



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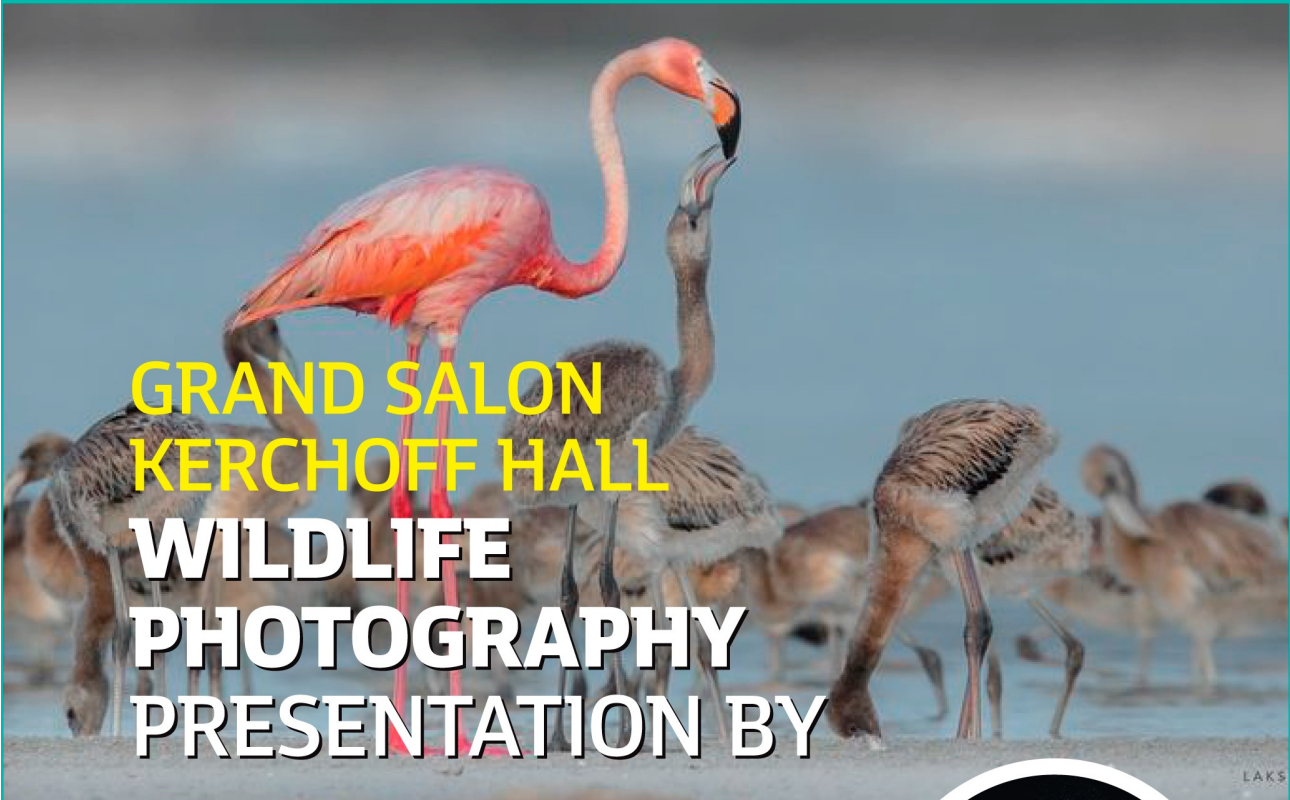
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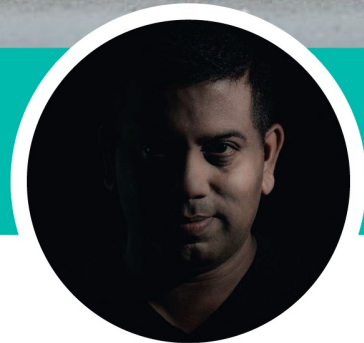
SRI LANKA IN FOCUS USA

LOS ANGELES 2024



**GRAND SALON
KERCHOFF HALL
WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHY
PRESENTATION BY**

**LAKSHITHA
KARUNARATHNA**



April 20th, 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm

at Grand Salon - Kerchoff Hall, University of California,
Los Angeles 221 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095



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SRI LANKA
in **FOCUS**
USA 2024

FILM SCREENING
APRIL 20TH, 2024 12.00 PM - 1.00 PM

The Blue
Planet IMAX
Movie
on
Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA in FOCUS USA 2024



Rashmi Perera
USA



Akira Alagiyawanna
Sri Lanka



Nihara Dumbukola
UK



Theruni Abeysinghe
Sri Lanka



Dhilena
Wickramasinghe
USA

VOICES OF YOUNG TO SAVE THE PLANET



EARTH DAY-2024

April 22, 2021

Our earth, Our future

April 21, 2024

UCLA

10.30 AM 11.30AM



USA (PST) 8.00 AM



Canada (PDT) 8.00 AM



UK TIME 3.00 PM



Sri Lanka 8.30 PM



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Mihiri Kamiss
Canada



Hasala Kalendra
Ranwella
Sri Lanka



Farah Shamini
UK



Alosha
Samaraarachchi
Sri Lanka



Akash Perera
Canada



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LOS ANGELES 2024



NASA JET PROPULSION LABORATORY TOUR BY

DR. SARATH GUNAPALA



April 18th, 10.00 am
at Jet Propulsion Laboratory JPL 4800, CA 91109



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NASA/JPL TOUR

JPL tours typically include a multimedia presentation titled "Journey to the Planets and Beyond," which overviews the Laboratory's activities and accomplishments. Guests can visit the von Karman Visitor Center, Space Flight Operations Facility, and Spacecraft Assembly Facility. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory occupies a unique position in the universe. JPL is a pioneer in robotic space exploration, sending rovers to Mars, probes to the outer reaches of the solar system, and satellites to learn more about our home planet. The success of JPL's first spacecraft, the Explorer 1 satellite, in 1958 propelled America into the Space Age.

Our spacecraft have flown to all planets in the solar system, the Sun, and interstellar space to better understand the universe and life's origins. JPL built and managed one of the four cameras on the James Webb Space Telescope.

JPL developed image sensors for modern digital cameras and smartphones.

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UCLA Los Angeles 2024

April 20th | 21st 10.00AM to 5.00PM

at Grand Salon - Kerchoff Hall

University of California, Los Angeles 221 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095



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LOS ANGELES 2024



DAVEY'S LOCKER CAPTURING OF OCEAN GIANTS WORKSHOP BY

VIMUKTHI
WEERATHUNGA



April 22nd, 9.30 am - 10.30 am

at Davey's Locker, 400 Main St, Newport Beach, CA 92661



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“ELEPHANT SEAL”
APRIL 22ND, 2024,
4.00 PM - 7.00 PM

Elephant seals or sea elephants are very large, oceangoing earless seals in the genus *Mirounga*. Both species, the northern elephant seal (*M. angustirostris*) and the southern elephant seal (*M. leonina*), were hunted to the brink of extinction for oil by the end of the 19th century, but their numbers have since recovered. They are the largest extant carnivorans, weighing up to 5,000 kilograms (11,000 lb). Despite their name, elephant seals are not closely related to elephants, and the large proboscis or trunk that males have was convergently evolved.

Plaza del Cavalier 250 San Simeon
Ave., San
Simeon, CA 93452-971

SRI LANKA IN FOCUS USA

LOS ANGELES 2024

MIRROR LAKE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK SLOW SHUTTER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP BY

ANDY SAMARASENA



April 24th, 10.00 am
at Yosemite National Park



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LOS ANGELES 2024

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP BY

K G KEERTHIRATHNA



April 24th, 4.00 pm
at Yosemite National Park



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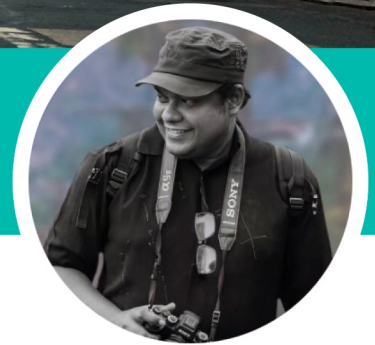
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NEW YORK 2024

MANHATTEN NEW YORK STREET PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP BY

RAVI RANASINGHE



April 26th, 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm
at Manhattan New York



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LOS ANGELES 2024



**SAMY'S CAMERA
PRINTING DEPARTMENT
PHOTO
PRINTING
WORKSHOP BY**

ROGER WON



April 27th, 10.00 am to 11.00 am
at Samy's Camera, 431 S Fairfax Ave, Los Angeles, CA



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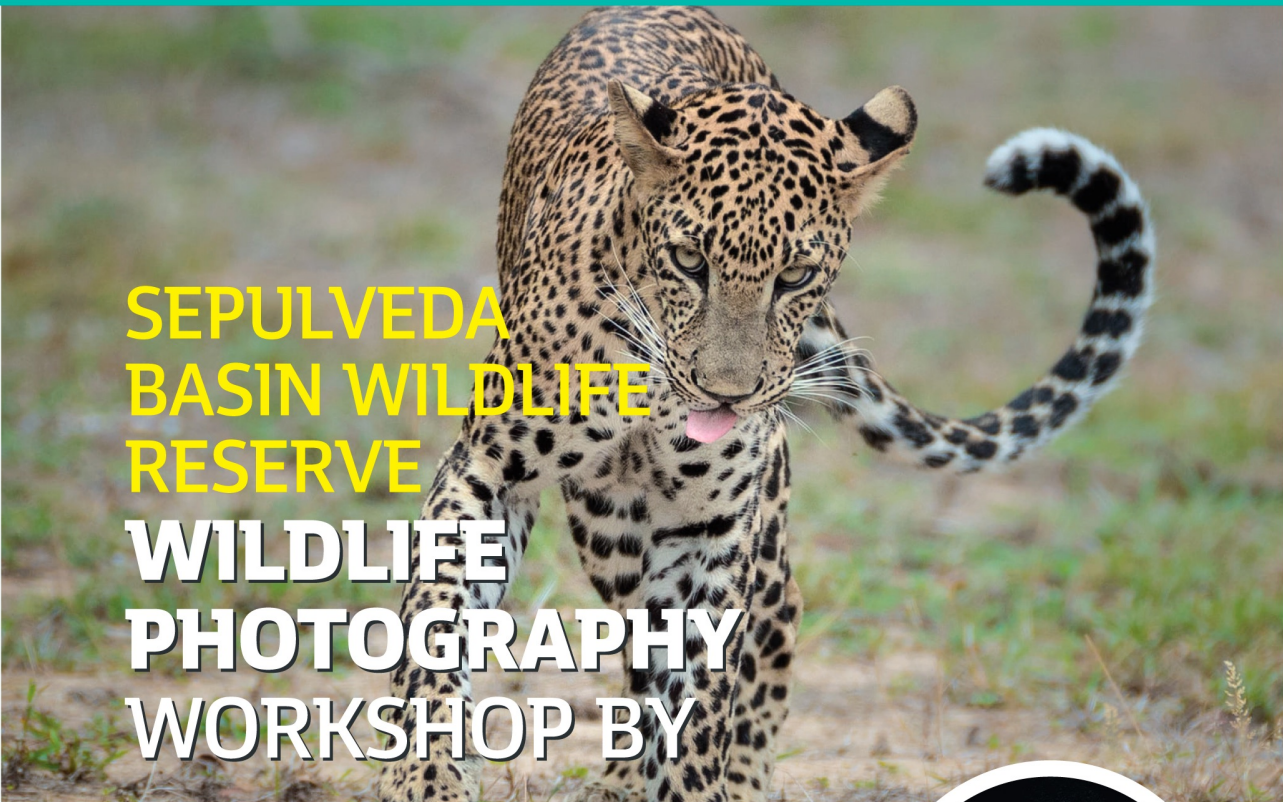
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LOS ANGELES 2024



SEPULVEDA
BASIN WILDLIFE
RESERVE
WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHY
WORKSHOP BY

LAKSHITHA
KARUNARATHNA



April 28th, 8.00 am to 12.00 pm

at Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve

6350, Woodley Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91436



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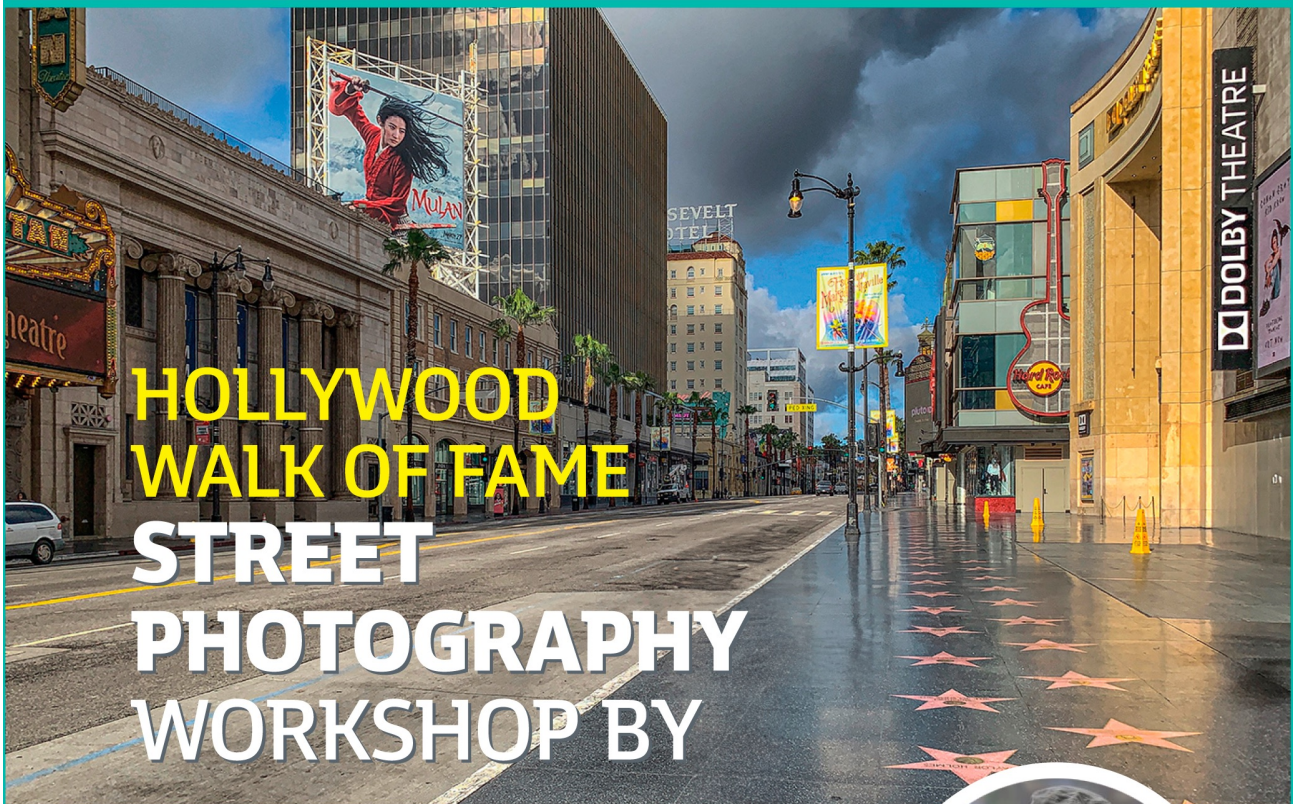
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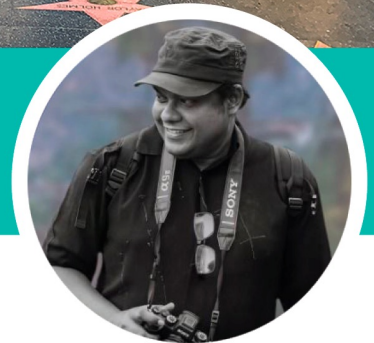
SRI LANKA IN FOCUS USA

LOS ANGELES 2024



HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME STREET PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP BY

RAVI RANASINGHE



April 28th, 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm
at Hollywood Walk of Fame



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Beauty of Sri Lanka Photographic Exhibition
Art | Culture | Wildlife



New York 2024

April 25th 6.30PM to 9.00PM | April 26th 10.00AM to 4.00PM

at Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations
820, Second Ave, FL 2 New York, NY10017, United States



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Beauty of Sri Lanka Photographic Exhibition
Art | Culture | Wildlife



Washington DC 2024

May 4th 9.00AM to 5.00PM

at the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington DC
3025 Whitehaven St NE Washington DC 20008



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ITINERARY

DATE	ACTIVITY (S)	LOCATION	ACCOMMODATION
April 16th, 2024	Arrival	LAX	12695 Terra Bella StPacoima, CA 91331 United States
April 18th, 2024 10.00 am - 3.00 pm	Visit to NASA	JPL Pasadena 4800 Oak Grove Dr, Pasadena, CA 91109	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
April 19th, 2024, 10.30 am - 12.00 noon	Media Conference	Wilshire Blvd STE 2180, Los Angeles	Consulate General Office
April 20th & 21th, 2024, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm	"The Beauty of Sri Lanka" Photography Exhibition	Art Gallery UCLA 221, Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90095	KH Grand Salon
April 20th, 2024 12.00 pm - 1.00 pm	"The Blue Planet" IMAX Movie & Discussion		
April 20th, 2024 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm	"Wildlife Photography" presentation by Lakshitha Karunarathna		
April 21st, 2024 10.30 pm – 11.30 pm	Celebrate Earth Day "The Voices of Young"		
April 21st, 2024 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	"Sri Lanka Wildlife and Tourist Attractions" Presentation by Vimukthi Weerathunga		
April 22nd, 2024, 9.00 am - 12.00 pm	Whale Watching & "Capturing of Ocean Giants" Workshop by Vimukthi Weerathunga	400 Main St, Newport Beach, CA 92661	Davey's Locker
April 22nd, 2024, 4.00 pm - 7.00 pm	"Elephant Seal"	Plaza del Cavalier 250 San Simeon Ave., San Simeon, CA 93452-9715	
April 23rd & 24th, 2024	Visit Yosemite	8308, Wawona Rd, Yosemite National Park CA 95389	Wawona
April 24th, 2024, 10.00 am - 11.00 am	Mirror lake Yosemite National Park "Slow Shutter Photography" Workshop by Andy Samarasena		
April 24th, 2024, 4.00 am - 5.00 am	Yosemite National Park "Landscape Photography" Workshop by K.G.Keerthirathna		
April 25th, 2024, 6.30 pm - 9.00 pm	"The Beauty of Sri Lanka" Photography Exhibition New York	Permanent Mission of to the United Nations Sri Lanka New York 820 Second Ave FL 2New York, NY 10017	
April 26th, 2024, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm			
April 26th, 2024 5.00 pm - 8.00 pm	"Street Photography" Workshop by Ravi Ranasinghe	Manhattan New York	

ITINERARY

DATE	ACTIVITY (S)	LOCATION	ACCOMMODATION
April 27th, 2024	Return to LAX	LAX	12695 Terra Bella StPacoima, CA 91331 United States
April 28th, 2024 8.00 am - 12.00 pm	Bird Walk Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve "Wildlife Photography" Workshop by Lakshitha Karunarathna	6350, Woodley Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91436	
April 28th, 2024, 5.00 am - 7.00 pm	Hollywood Walk of Fame "Street Photography" Workshop by Ravi Ranasinghe	Hollywood Walk of Fame	
April 29th, 2024	Relaxation Day		
April 30th, 2024 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm	Visit Griffith Observatory	2800 E Observatory Rd, Los Angeles, CA 90027	
May 1st, 2024 10.00 am – 11.00 am	Samy's Camera Printing Department "Photo Printing" Workshop by Roger Won	Samy's Camera 431 S Fairfax Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90036	
May 1st, 2024 11.00 am – 1.00 pm	Shopping for Cameras and Equipment		
May 2nd, 2024 11.00 am – 5.00 pm	Shopping at Citadel Outlets	100 Citadel Dr, Commerce, CA 90040	
May 3rd, 2024	LAX to Washington DC	The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington DC 3025 Whitehaven St NE Washington DC 20008	The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington
May 4th, 2024 10.00 am – 4.00 pm	"The Beauty of Sri Lanka" Photography Exhibition Washington DC		
May 4th, 2024 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Panel Discussion about Sri Lanka		
May 6th, 2024	Return to Sri Lanka		



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MEMORIES OF "BEAUTY OF SRI LANKA" EXHIBITION HELD IN 2023 AT UCLA







America Sri Lanka Photographic Art Society Los Angeles (ASPAS), in association with the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Los Angeles, will hold 'The Beauty of Sri Lanka' the third annual photography exhibition on 22 and 23 April 2023 at the Art Gallery of the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) in commemoration of the Earth Day 2023 and the 75th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and the United States.

The Exhibition under the theme of 'Sri Lanka in Focus' is designed to promote tourism in Sri Lanka. As such, it will depict the scenic beauty of the island as well as the 2600-year-old historical and cultural heritage of Sri Lanka. This exhibition is also designed to introduce viewers to a range of issues that currently impact the environment. Commemorating Earth Day 2023, the keynote speaker Prof. Glen MacDonald, a distinguished Professor of Ecology and Geography, will address such concerns.

A host of related events

The exhibition will include a series of related events, including a seminar, lectures, and a cultural performance led by the Director of Cultural Affairs of ASPAS Sandani S. Kahandapoda – an exponent of Sri Lankan traditional dance forms – and former lead dancer of famed Chitrasena dance Academy, along with Waruna Hemachandra – an exponent of former traditional drumming who toured several countries with the Chitrasena Dance Academy. Thath Jith Dance School students, directed by Prasanna Yamasighe, will also perform. There will also be a screening of the award-winning wildlife documentary, *The Great Elephant Gathering of Asia*, a film directed by Dilum Alagayawanna on the annual elephant gathering at the Minneriya National Park. As exhibitors and participants of the seminars and lectures, ASPAS has invited several specialists from Sri Lanka whose presence will enhance the exhibition programme attracting the American public to the event.

Having left Sri Lanka many years back and immigrated to the United States, several generations of Sri Lankan Americans are now living in the USA. Some of the youth and children have yet to have the opportunity even to visit Sri Lanka, and this photo exhibition allows them to be exposed to the aesthetic beauty and the cultural heritage of Sri Lanka and encourages them to learn

'THE BEAUTY OF SRI LANKA' IN LA

ASPAS to hold its third annual photography exhibition on 22 and 23 April



more about their motherland.

Award-winning photographs

The exhibition consists of several award-winning rare photographs of the National Parks of Sri Lanka (Yala, Wilpattu, Udawalawe, Horton Plains), and the last of the remaining rainforests in the world, Sinharaja Forest, in Sri Lanka. The ancient cities of Sri Lanka with architectural gems among the many ruins 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. There will also be an emphasis on the village life of Sri Lanka by way of depicting the farmers in the rice fields harvesting the crop, tea pickers, and rubber tappers. Also on display will be the festivals of various communities, such as the Kandy Perahera, and the rituals, such as mask and devil dancing and fire walking. Also on display are studies of people of every



community in their traditional clothing, including the Veddha community.

Launch of Kingdom of Ruhuna

The exhibition will feature such outstanding photographs of Sri Lanka's beauty and heritage as seen through the creative eyes of Suriya Jayalath Perera, an award-winning nature photographer, formerly a Project Officer in the Department of Wildlife Conservation in

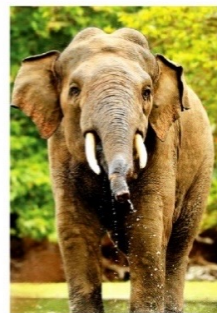
Sri Lanka. Perera is the president of the ASPAS and is credited with holding the first-ever Sri Lankan photographic exhibition in the United States. He has been commended by the Nature Conservancy of America for his contribution towards protecting the environment. He has demonstrated a sensitivity to the animal and human life surrounding the pristine environs he has captured through his expert lens. His painstaking research work over two and a half years of residence in the Yala area, originally carried out for his master's thesis, is recently published with a historical narration of the people and places of the region in an attractively published coffee table book titled *Kingdom of Ruhuna: Home of the Yala National Park*, that will also be launched at the Exhibition.

Exhibiting photographers

He will be 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. They are; Lakshitha Karunaratna who will make a presentation on wildlife photography, Chitral Jayatilake who will make a presentation on the tourist attractions of Sri Lanka, Hiranth De Silva, and K.G. Keerthirathne.

They will be accompanied by the Manager of ASPAS Sri Lanka Branch Shanika Jayalath as the Programme Coordinator, and Head of News Lanka, Department of Information Prabhath Rathnayaka as Media Director for the Exhibition.

During their visit, they will also participate in programmes organised by



the ASPAS, including a photography workshop, a media conference, and a visit to Yosemite National Park.

They will be joined by three outstanding Sri Lankan photographers; Andy Samaraseena, Sarjaya Warnasurana, and Shantha Weerasinghe.

In marking Earth Day 2023, Certificates will be awarded to the winners of a photo competition taken during a 'Sepulveda Wildlife Park Bird Walk' conducted by Samaraseena and organised by the ASPAS with the assistance of the National Audubon Society of America, Los Angeles. In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Sri Lanka, a section of the exhibition will be devoted to the display of historical photographs and media records.

The exhibition will be ceremonially opened to the public on 22 April at 11 a.m. and run through to Sunday 23 5 p.m. Many distinguished guests are expected to participate in the opening ceremony, led by the Chief Guest for the Exhibition, the Consul General of Sri Lanka, in Los Angeles Dr. Lalith Chandradasa, who will address the audience marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and the United States. The programme will be presented by Medini Rathnayake. The exhibition hours will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the entrance is free.

(By Nandasiri Jasentuliyana, former Deputy Director-General of United Nations)



Mahinda Samarasinghe

Ambassador
of Sri Lanka to
United States



Ambassador of Sri Lanka

**Message from H.E. Mahinda Samarasinghe
Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United States**

It is with pleasure that I send this message of congratulation for inclusion in the commemorative souvenir being published on the occasion of the photographic exhibition "*Sri Lanka in Focus*" at the Art Gallery of the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA). This event marks Earth Day 2023 and the 75th anniversary of the establishment diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and the United States.

Firstly, I would like to thank the American Sri Lankan Photographic Art Society (ASPAS), Los Angeles, in particular its President Suriya Jayalath Perera, for organizing this significant event and am pleased to note that the Consulate General of Sri Lanka has actively supported the initiative.

On this occasion, especially as we are also celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and the United States, leading to an important milestone in bilateral understanding and cooperation, it is appropriate to recall the many contributions made by Sri Lankan expatriates in organizing events such as this exhibition. Events such as these contribute to the strengthening of ties between Sri Lanka and the United States.

The exhibition's programme is indeed very comprehensive, one showcasing the beauty of Sri Lanka and the splendour of its historical monuments. It is presented by a team of award-winning photographers from Sri Lanka with their valuable imagery. We are grateful for their contributions and hope their efforts will convey the uniqueness of Sri Lanka - the pearl of the Indian Ocean - to the public in the United States.

I wish ASPAS and its dynamic team led by President Suriya Perera every success in staging a successful exhibition to promote awareness of, and greater tourist inflows from, the United States to Sri Lanka.

Mahinda Samarasinghe

March 14, 2023

3025 Whitehaven Street NW Washington D.C. 20008



Embassy of the United States of America

Colombo, Sri Lanka

March 30, 2023

Welcome, ආයුබෝවන්, நல்வரவு!

Sri Lanka is one of the most beautiful places on Earth. As the U.S. Ambassador, I try to notice and celebrate every part of it, from the smallest of fiery red dimiya ants to the lumbering elephants, the largest mammal on land.

This photo exhibition, conveniently timed with Earth Day, showcases the beauty of Sri Lanka and highlights the island's flora and fauna. As you revel in the beauty of this island, it is worth considering the looming threat of climate change and its impact on species, habitats, and ecosystems. The United States is active in helping Sri Lanka to advance solutions including support for green technology industry, climate-smart agriculture, climate finance, and climate change policy. Working together, we want to keep Sri Lanka's rich biodiversity thriving for generations to come.

That kind of partnership is nothing new. This year we are celebrating Sri Lanka's 75th anniversary of independence, as well as the 75th year of diplomatic relations between our countries. For 75 years, Americans and Sri Lankans have worked in partnership to embrace democracy, strengthen our economies, and support a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Our shared goals around people, progress and partnership underscore our combined efforts and friendship.

Speaking of supporting an economy, perhaps you will be inspired to come see for yourself: Yala National Park with its shaggy sloth bears and gracefully athletic leopards; miles and miles of glorious coastline, warm cerulean waters inviting you to swim; tea plantations and hill country open for exploring and fun. Sri Lanka also has ancient cities and diverse cultural relics celebrating life and history: the endless sky and sunset with Sigiriya in the foreground from the top of Pidurangula Rock; the gentle knowing smile of Buddha in various forms throughout the old city in Polonnaruwa; one of the longest inhabited cities in the world, Anuradhapura; the unmistakable red-and-white façade of the Jami Ul-Afar Mosque; the Holy flag waving over tallest point of the Nallur Kandaswamy temple and so many others.

I hope you will be tempted to come explore this resplendent island in person soon.

Sincerely,



Julie J. Chung
Ambassador



Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau

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Ministry of Tourism

04th May 2023

Suriya Jayalath Perera
President & CEO
America Sri Lanka Photographic Art Society
Los Angeles

Dear Mr.Perera,

SRI LANKA IN FOCUS IN 2023, LOS ANGELES

Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau would like to express our gratitude towards America Sri Lanka Photographic Art Society, for organizing the photographic exhibition which was titled with, "The Beauty of Sri Lanka" on 22nd and 23rd of April 2023 following the Earth Day, at the Art Gallery of University of California in Los Angeles, in association with the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Los Angeles.

Accordingly, it created a greater awareness about Sri Lanka as a tourist destination among USA travellers. As a result, SLTPB would like to extend our support in the future as well, in order to promote Sri Lanka in the American region.

Thank you

Chalaka Gajabahu
Chairman
Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau