SOUTHERN PROVINCE · SRI LANKA

Mirissa and the south coast

Whale-watching boats from Mirissa head out to deep water off Sri Lanka's southern tip, one of the most reliable places in the world to see a blue whale, with spinner dolphins and sea turtles closer in.

70 animals 21 mammals, 34 birds, 7 reptiles and 8 other sea life **Best time:** Dec to Apr

Seen _____ of 70

01 Whales 9

ANIMAL	DATE AND PLACE
☐ Blue Whale	
☐ Sperm Whale	
☐ Bryde's Whale	
☐ Short-finned Pilot Whale Rare	
☐ Orca Rare	
☐ False Killer Whale Rare	
☐ Melon-headed Whale Rare	
☐ Dwarf Sperm Whale Rare	
☐ Humpback Whale Rare	

02 Dolphins 8

ANIMAL	DATE AND PLACE
☐ Spinner Dolphin	
☐ Bottlenose Dolphin	
☐ Risso's Dolphin	
☐ Pantropical Spotted Dolphin	
☐ Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	
☐ Striped Dolphin Rare	
☐ Fraser's Dolphin Rare	
☐ Rough-toothed Dolphin Rare	

03 Sea turtles 5

ANIMAL	DATE AND PLACE
☐ Green Sea Turtle	
☐ Hawksbill Sea Turtle	
☐ Olive Ridley Sea Turtle	
☐ Leatherback Turtle Rare	
☐ Loggerhead Sea Turtle Rare	

04 Fish and reef life 8

ANIMAL	DATE AND PLACE
☐ Moorish Idol	
☐ Lagoon Triggerfish	
☐ Emperor Angelfish	
☐ Devil Firefish	
☐ Giant Moray	
☐ Blacktip Reef Shark	
☐ Whale Shark Rare	
☐ Manta Ray Rare	

05 Seabirds 17

ANIMAL	DATE AND PLACE
☐ Greater Crested Tern	
☐ Bridled Tern	
☐ Lesser Crested Tern	
☐ Common Tern	
☐ Roseate Tern	
☐ Little Tern	
☐ Wedge-tailed Shearwater	
☐ Persian Shearwater	
☐ Flesh-footed Shearwater Rare	
☐ Wilson's Storm Petrel	
☐ Skua (Pomarine)	
☐ Skua (Arctic)	
☐ Brown Noddy Rare	
☐ Sooty Tern Rare	

Tick them off in Wilder

	ANIMAL	DATE AND PLACE
05	**Seabirds** continued	
☐	Brown Booby Rare	
☐	Lesser Frigatebird Rare	
☐	White-tailed Tropicbird Rare	
06	**Shore birds** 17	
☐	Brahminy Kite	
☐	White-bellied Sea Eagle	
☐	Little Egret	
☐	Western Reef Heron	
☐	Striated Heron	
☐	Little Cormorant	
☐	Whimbrel	
☐	Ruddy Turnstone	
☐	Tibetan Sand Plover	
☐	White-throated Kingfisher	

	ANIMAL	DATE AND PLACE
06	**Shore birds** continued	
☐	Common Kingfisher	
☐	Osprey	
☐	Sanderling	
☐	Greater Sand Plover	
☐	Pacific Golden Plover	
☐	Kentish Plover	
☐	Stork-billed Kingfisher	
07	**Along the coast** 6	
☐	Asian Water Monitor	
☐	Saltwater Crocodile	
☐	Toque Macaque	
☐	Indian Flying Fox	
☐	Common Palm Squirrel	
☐	Purple-faced Langur	

My trip

FROM _____ TO _____

TRAVELLING WITH _____

STAYING AT _____ SEEN _____ OF 70

FIRST ANIMAL WE SAW _____

BEST MOMENT _____

FIELD NOTES AND SKETCHES

ALSO SEEN, NOT ON THIS LIST

KEEP IT IN WILDER

Tick them off in the app

Scan to open this checklist in Wilder. Add your photos, see your whole trip, earn badges and the Mirissa passport stamp, and watch your life list grow.

BEST TIME

Dec to Apr

The south coast has its calm season from about December to April, when the north-east monsoon blows on the other side of the island.

A guide, not a guarantee: what you see depends on season, luck and patience. Give wildlife space and never feed it. Follow the local rules on distance.