



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Rhinoceros Hornbill

Borneo's Sabah 14 Days: Kinabalu, Sepilok and the Danum Valley

13 Nights/14 Days

Borneo is one of the last true wild areas of the world and has some of the highest biodiversity on Earth. Borneo's rainforests are filled with life of the most unique kind. The forest's most popular local resident is the Orangutan, and on most areas of the island, there are at least 12 species of primates that inhabit the forests including Gibbons, Proboscis Monkeys, Langurs, and Macaques. Other spectacular wildlife consists of 5 species of Jungle Cat, Pygmy Elephants, Binturong (Bearcat), Sun Bears (critically endangered), and Crocodiles. The list of animals, reptiles, and amphibians is seemingly endless. There are almost 700 bird species in Borneo, including 8 different species of Hornbills! On Mt. Kinabalu, out of over 2000 flowering plant species, 850+ of them are orchids. For the majority of the Pleistocene period, the far north of the island was always a wet region, which probably explains the high diversity here compared to other regions. On this journey, we will focus on the northern state of Sabah, and visit all of the reserves that have the most prolific wildlife populations, and offer the best chances of seeing the incredible wildlife of Borneo.

Tour Overview

Day 1: Arrive Kota Kinabalu (BKI)
Day 2: Kinabalu National Park
Day 3: Kinabalu National Park
Day 4: Kinabalu to Sepilok
Day 5: Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center
Day 6: Sepilok to the Kinabatangan River
Day 7: Kinabatangan River
Day 8: Lahad Datu and the Tabin Wildlife Reserve
Day 9: Tabin Wildlife Reserve
Day 10: Lahad Datu and the Borneo Rainforest Lodge
Day 12: Borneo Rainforest Lodge
Day 12: Borneo Rainforest Lodge
Day 13: Lahad Datu to Kota Kinabalu
Day 14: Depart Kota Kinabalu (BKI)

13 Night/14 Day Itinerary:

Day 1, Arrival to Kota Kinabalu Airport:

Pickup from Kota Kinabalu airport upon arrival and transfer to the Marriott Hotel for overnight. Night free at our own leisure.

Meals: Dinner
Lodging at Marriott Hotel

Day 2, Kinabalu National Park:

After breakfast and check out, we'll make the overland journey to Kinabalu Park (2 hour drive).

We'll arrive for lunch, and check in to our lodge with comfortable



Whitehead's Trogon

rooms in the center of the national park. Birding and activities are right at our doorstep, and the forest surrounds the grounds. There are stunning views of Mt. Kinabalu just from the lodging. We'll spend the afternoon birding in the park and in the evening, head out for a night walk to search for reptiles and amphibians endemic to these mountains.

Birds of Kinabalu Park include Whitehead's Trogon, Whitehead's Broadbill, Whitehead's Spiderhunter, Red-headed Partridge, Red-breasted Hill Partridge, Golden-faced Barbet, Pale-faced Bulbul, Everett's Thrush, Fruithunter, Bornean Laughing Thrush, Mountain Blackeye, Kinabalu Serpent Eagle and many more.

Reptiles/amphibian of Kinabalu Park include Torrent Frogs, Kinabalu Pit Viper, Kinabalu Dragon, Bornean Brown Pit Viper, Kinabalu Horned Frog.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging in Liwagu Suites

Day 3, Kinabalu National Park:

Today will begin with some early morning birding at Kinabalu National Park Hq. We'll explore the various trails at the base with our guide - the park is a birdwatcher's paradise with about 326 species, which represents more than 50% of bird species in Borneo. After lunch we'll embark on some afternoon birding at the headquarters area exploring the various trails – Power Station Road (4.5km), Kiau View trail (2.5km), Liwagu River trail (5km), Silau-Silau trail (3km), Bukit Ular (1km) and Pandanus trail (0.5km).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging in Liwagu Suites

Day 4, Overland to Sepilok:

Depart Kinabalu National Park after breakfast. The drive takes 4-5 hours to reach our destination and we'll stop for lunch en-route. Upon arrival mid-afternoon, we check-in at our hotel, which is a beautiful resort positioned on the edge of Sepilok Forest Reserve. 22 wooden chalets surround a lake with forest in the background and rooms are modern, with air conditioning, coffee/tea, and refrigerator. In the afternoon we'll head for the Rainforest Discovery Centre with its wide, well managed trails and their impressive steel canopy walk that our group will visit for birds and other wildlife.

Birds of Sepilok include Diard's Trogon, Black-headed Pitta, Red-naped Trogon, Greater-racket tailed Drongo, hornbills, Black-and-yellow Broadbill, Black-and-red Broadbill, Hooded Pitta, Spiderhunters, Flowerpeckers, Sunbirds, Bornean Bristlehead, Rhinoceros Hornbill,

Bushy-crested Hornbill, and more.

Reptiles/amphibians of Sepilok include Bornean Keeled Pit Viper, Paradise Tree Snake, Grey-headed Racer, Brown-striped Bronzeback, Painted Bronzeback, Sumatran Cobra, and File-eared Tree Frog. Common mammals at Rainforest Discovery Centre include Orangutans, Pig-tailed Macaques, Pygmy Squirrel, Red Giant Flying squirrel. If our group wishes, there is also the option to go for a night walk this evening.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging in Sepilok Nature Resort*

Day 5, Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center:

We'll depart early this morning for a birding visit to Rainforest Discovery Centre.

Thereafter proceed to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre (SORC), exploring the boardwalk

through the forest and observing the Orangutan feeding at 10 am. After feeding we will visit the nursery where young orangutans play and learn behaviors vital for their rehabilitation. Next, visit the Borneo Sun Bear Conservation Centre (BSBCC) as well to see the World's smallest bear and learn about their threats and the conservation measures being taken to help the species. After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll proceed back to the Rainforest Discovery Center. Here, explore some more of the trails and visit the excellent canopy walkway for some wildlife and bird watching. At sundown, we transfer back to our hotel in time for a relaxed dinner at the lodge.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging in Sepilok Nature Resort*

Day 6, Sepilok to the Kinabatangan River:

After breakfast at our hotel, we'll checkout and transfer to the SYC Jetty in Sandakan. Our transfer from Sandakan will take around 2½ hours boat journey to the multi award winning Sukau Rainforest Lodge along Sabah's longest river, the Kinabatangan. Along the way, we'll follow the river from the coastal mangroves around Sandakan, through nipa lined river banks and eventually into the upper reaches of the Kinabatangan River. Once we reach the lodge, we can take a moment to refresh before embarking on an afternoon river cruise in search of the iconic wildlife along the Kinabatangan.

Orangutan



Common species include Proboscis Monkeys, Silver Langurs, Pygmy Elephants, Macaques, Orangutans, and more. Each boat is equipped with an electric motor in order to provide a more peaceful experience not just for people but for the wildlife also. We'll finish the day enjoying a candle light dinner overlooking the riverbank followed by a night walk to search for reptiles, amphibians, cats and more with our guide.

Birds of Kinabatangan include Storm Stork, various Hornbills, Black-headed pitta, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Blue-eared Kingfisher, Common Kingfisher, Bornean Falconet, Black-and-red Broadbill, Diard's Trogon, and more.

Reptiles of Kinabatangan include Reticulated Python, Mangrove Cat Snake, 7-lined Kukri Snake, Sumatran Cobra, Green Vine Snake, King Cobra, and Paradise Tree Snake.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging in *Sukau Rainforest Lodge*

*Sukau Rainforest Lodge is an award-winning lodge situated along the Kinabatangan River. With beautiful new villas, it is the perfect place to explore this region. There are Orangutans that move through the property, and Hornbills are common visitors. There are also boardwalks to explore when not on river cruises.



Short-tailed Green Magpie

Day 7, Kinabatangan River:

We start our first morning on the river with a 6:00am river cruise up the Kinabatangan to Kelenanap Oxbow Lake to experience the surrounding forest coming to life and search for more Wildlife. We return for breakfast, later proceeding to an educational tour along the lodge's Hornbill Boardwalk with our in-house naturalist to learn more about the Kinabatangan Ecosystem. In the afternoon we'll go in search of more birds and wildlife including Proboscis Monkeys, Orangutans, Elephants, Silver leaf Langurs, Pig-tailed Macaques, Long-tailed Macaques, Red Leaf Langurs, and to admire the stunning river landscape as the sun sets. We return to the lodge for dinner, and then head out on a nocturnal boat safari.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging in Sukau Rainforest Lodge*

Day 8, Overland to Lahad Datu and the Tabin Wildlife Reserve:

After breakfast, we proceed by boat to the Lepit Jetty for check out at 9:30am and then continue overland to Lahad Datu. We continue to drive from Lahad Datu town to Tabin Wildlife Reserve on a gravel road for about one and a half hours. We'll check into our lodge at Tabin Wildlife Resort, nestled within the rainforest and surrounded by a pleasing abundance of bird life. The lodge comes complete with private veranda, air conditioner, ceiling fan and hot water shower. The open-sided restaurant is surrounded by greenery and flowering plants which attract a number of brightly colored birds.

In the afternoon, we head out on a dusk drive to search for Pig-tailed macaques, Orangutans, Grey leaf Langurs, Bornean Bearded Pigs, and more. After dark, we'll embark on a night safari back



Pygmy Elephant

to the lodge spotlighting for wildlife. Common mammals include Civets, Leopard Cat, Flying Squirrels, and array of other animals.

Mammals of Tabin include Gibbons, Grey Leaf Langurs, Pig-tailed Macaques, Leopard Cat, Civets, Mousedeer, Orangutan, and more.

Common birds of Tabin Wildlife Reserve include Rhinoceros Hornbill, Buffy Fish Owl, Blythe's Hawk Eagle, Red-bearded Bee Eater, Bornean Falconet, Blue-headed pitta, Bornean Brown Wood Owl, Blythe's Frogmouth, and more.

Reptiles of Kinabatangan include Reticulated Python, Mangrove Cat Snake, 7-lined Kukri Snake, Sumatran Cobra, Green Vine Snake, King Cobra, and Paradise Tree Snake.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Tabin Wildlife Resort*

Day 9, Tabin Wildlife Reserve:

We'll begin with an early morning bird walk to discover some of Tabin's rich collection of almost 300 bird species. Tabin Wildlife Resort is the only lodging in the 1200sq km reserve of Tabin and is composed of individual chalets situated along a small jungle river. The lodge is built in the forest reserve, with beautiful forest surrounding the property. Wildlife such as Otters, Gibbons, Pig-tailed Macaques are common to see throughout the lodge's grounds.

After breakfast, a drive into the core area along a highly productive route will take us in search of birds and wildlife. In the afternoon, we head out on another game drive to search for more wildlife and birds and after dinner, our group can opt for an additional night safari.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging in Tabin Wildlife Resort*

Day 10, 11, 12, Return to Lahad Datu and the Borneo Rainforest Lodge:

After breakfast, we'll checkout and transfer to the town of Lahad Datu by 8:30am. Upon arrival, our group will register at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge Lahad Datu office and then continue another 2 hours overland journey to the lodge. Along the way we'll enjoy the transitioning landscape of regenerating forests to virgin

rainforests of millions of years old. We'll check into the lodge and settle in to meet our local guide and enjoy lunch. After a short rest, we'll head out on foot to search for Orangutans, Red leaf langurs, Gibbons, and the myriad bird species here.

Our days here will be composed of morning and afternoon with our guide following routes where wildlife is being seen, and focusing on areas of fruiting trees for birds and wildlife. Birdlife is diverse, and there are about 30 orangutans that live in the forest surrounding the lodge area.

After dinner, we'll take guided night safaris for spotting nocturnal creatures. Common species here include Civets, Flying Squirrels, Colugos, Cats (Leopard Cats common, Marbled Cat and Clouded Leopard (rare but seen on occasion) and a great variety of reptiles and amphibians.

Mammals of Danum Valley include Orangutans, Red Leaf Langurs, Gibbons, Civets, Binturong, Leopard Cat, Mousedeer, Pygmy Elephants, and Clouded Leopard (rare).

Birds of Danum Valley include Rhinoceros, Wrinkled, Wreathed, Black, Pied, Helmeted, White-crowned, and Bushy-crested Hornbills, Blue-headed Pitta, Banded Pitta, Scarlet-rumped, Red-naped, Cinnamon-rumped, and Diard's Trogons, Kingfishers, Great Argus, Crested Fireback Pheasant, Wren-babblers, Roul Roul, Bornean Bristlehead, and others.

Reptiles of Danum Valley include the Sumatran Pit Viper, Bornean Leaf-nosed Pit Viper, Red-sided Keelback, Reticulated Python, Elegant Bronzeback, Green Vine Snake, Sumatran Cobra, King Cobra, White-bellied Rat Snake, Slug-eating Snake, and Dusky Mock Viper.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Borneo Rainforest Lodge*

Day 13, Overland to Lahad Datu – Flight to Kota Kinabalu:

Today will offer an optional early morning wildlife walk before returning to the lodge for lunch and check out at 1:30am. We'll embark on our 2-hour land transfer to Lahad Datu where we'll board a local flight to Kota Kinabalu (MH 3019 ETD 17:20 ETA 18:15). Upon arrival, we transfer to Marriott Hotel for a final celebration dinner.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Marriott Hotel*

Day 14, Departure:

Breakfast at the hotel. We'll have the morning at leisure until our transfer to the airport for departure flights home.

Meals: Breakfast

Included in this itinerary:

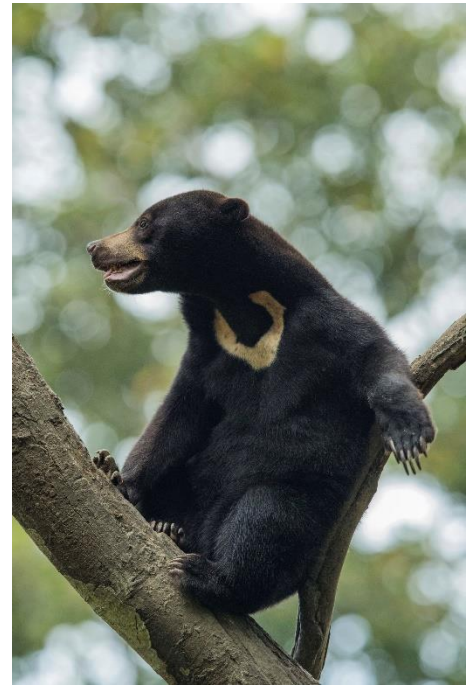
In-country accommodations, ground transportation, tours, boat tours, meals, local airfare (LDU-BKI) guide and entrance fees are included.

Not Included:

Personal items such as alcoholic beverages, gift shop, laundry, etc. are not included.

Travel insurance:

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. In the event that you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you.



Sun Bear



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