



## Natural Selections

**BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS**



Black and Yellow Broadbill

# **Birding Borneo's Sabah 12 Days: Kinabalu, Sepilok, Kinabatangan River, and the Danum Valley**

11 Nights/12 Days

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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 Cat, Pygmy Elephants, Binturong (Bearcat), Sun Bears (critically endangered), and Crocodiles. 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, birding reserves that offer the best chances of experiencing the incredible birds and wildlife of Borneo.

## 11 Nights/12 Days Itinerary

### 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 Rainforest  
Discovery walkway and Orangutan  
Rehabilitation Center  
Day 6: Sepilok to the Kinabatangan  
River  
Day 7: Kinabatangan River  
Day 8: Lahad Datu to Danum  
Valley  
Day 9: Borneo Rainforest Lodge  
Day 10: Borneo Rainforest Lodge  
Day 11: Lahad Datu to Kota  
Kinabalu  
Day 12: Departure.

### Day 1, Arrival to Kota Kinabalu airport:

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

*Meals: Dinner*  
*Lodging at Hyatt Centric*

### 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  
rooms at 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 birds and wildlife  
endemic to these mountains.

Birds of Kinabalu Park include  
Whitehead's Trogon, Whitehead's  
Broadbill, Whitehead's  
Spiderhunter, Bornean Treepie,  
Golden-naped Barbet, Everett's  
Thrush, Bornean Swiftlet, Bornean  
Green Magpie, Bornean Bald  
Laughing-thrush, Chestnut-hooded  
Laughing-Thrush, Fruithunter,  
Bornean Whistler, Temminck's  
Sunbird, Bornean Whistling-thrush,  
Mountain Wren Babbler, Red-  
breasted Hill Partridge, Crimson-  
headed Partridge, Indigo  
Flycatcher, Little Pied Flycatcher,  
Orange-headed Thrush, Sunda  
Hooded Laughing-thrush, Blyth's  
Shrike-babbler, Mountain Leaf-  
warbler, Snowy-browed Flycatcher,  
Pale-faced Bulbul, Grey-throated  
Babbler, Grey-Chinned Minivet,  
Black-capped White-eye, Wreathed  
Hornbill, and more.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*  
*Lodging at Mountain Valley Resort.*

### Day 3, Kinabalu National Park:

Today will begin with some early  
morning birding at Kinabalu  
National Park. 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).



**Black and Red Broadbill**

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*  
*Lodging at Mountain Valley Resort.*

### 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 -  
and very birdy- 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.

Bird of Sepilok include Bornean  
Bristlehead, Black-crowned Pitta,  
Red-naped Trogon, Diard's Trogon,  
White-crowned Shama, Black-and-  
red Broadbill, Black-and-yellow  
Broadbill, Wallace's Hawk Eagle,

Copper-throated Sunbird, Blue-eared Barbet, Rhinoceros Hornbill, Bornean Banded Kingfisher, Rufous-collared Kingfisher, Green Broadbill, Sabah Partridge, Asian Black Hornbill, Bushy-crested Hornbill, Crested Serpent Eagle, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, Black-capped Babbler, Sooty-capped Babbler, Ashy Tailorbird, Green Iora, Racquet-tailed Drongo, and many more. 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 many more.

Common mammals at Rainforest Discovery Centre include Orangutans, Pig-tailed Macaques, Pygmy Squirrel, Red Giant Flying squirrel, Tarsier, Slow Loris, Colugo and others. If our group wishes, there is also the option to go for a night walk this evening.

#### **Bornean Green Magpie**



*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Lodging at Sepilok Nature Resort.*

#### **Day 5, Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center:**

We'll depart early this morning for a birding visit to Rainforest Discovery Centre and its amazing canopy walkway for more of the aforementioned birds. 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 our lodge, we'll proceed back to the Rainforest Discovery Center. Here, we 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 at 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. 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 candlelight dinner overlooking the riverbank followed by a night walk to search for reptiles, amphibians, cats and more with our guide.

Birds of Kinabatangan Black-crowned Pitta, Black-and-red Broadbill, Black-and-yellow Broadbill, Wallace's Hawk Eagle, Rhinoceros Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Wrinkled Hornbill, Asian

Black Hornbill, White-crowned Hornbill, Pied Hornbill, Bushy-crested Hornbill, Malaysian Blue Flycatcher, Bornean Ground Cuckoo, Blue-eared Barbet, Rhinoceros Hornbill, Storm's Stork, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Blue-eared Kingfisher, Sabah Partridge, Crested Serpent Eagle, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, Red-naped Trogon, Diard's Trogon, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Purple Heron, Green Broadbill, Common Dollarbird, Common Kingfisher, Pink-necked Green Pigeon.

Mammals here include Proboscis Monkeys, Silver Leaf Monkeys, Pygmy Elephants, Orangutans, and many more.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Lodging at Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort.*

### **Day 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. 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 at Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort.*

### **Day 8, Overland to Lahad Datu and the Borneo Rainforest Lodge:**

After breakfast, we proceed by boat to the Lepit Jetty and then continue overland to Lahad Datu. 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 stop at Gomantong Caves to explore the largest limestone and bird nest caves in Sabah and home to millions of bats and swiftlets. Along the way, we'll enjoy the transitioning landscape of regenerating forests to virgin rainforests of millions of years old. Upon arrival 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 along the entrance road for the myriad bird species here.

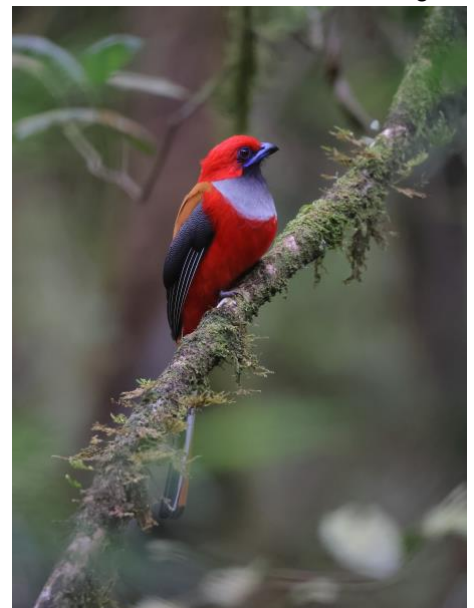
Birds of Danum Valley include Blue-headed Pitta, Bornean Banded Pitta, Giant Pitta, Blue-banded Pitta, Blythe's Paradise Flycatcher, Rhinoceros Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Wrinkled Hornbill, Asian Black Hornbill, White-crowned Hornbill, Pied Hornbill, Bushy-crested Hornbill, Bornean Blue Flycatcher, Spotted Fantail, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Large Frogmouth, Crested Fireback, Great Argus, Charlotte's Bulbul, Bornean Bristlehead, Black-throated Wren Babbler, Bornean Wren Babbler, Crested Serpent Eagle, Red-naped Trogon, Diard's Trogon, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Green Broadbill, Common Dollarbird, Common Kingfisher, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, Verditer Flycatcher, Emerald Dove, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha,

Raffle's Malkoha, Brown Fulvetta, Fairy Bluebird, Maroon Woodpecker, Buff-rumped Woodpecker, Great Slaty Woodpecker, Cinnamon-rumped Trogon, Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker, Bornean spiderhunter, Sabah Partridge, Black-capped Babbler, Bornean Falconet, Red-throated Barbet, Crested Jayshrike, Bornean Banded Kingfisher, Rufous-collared kingfisher, and many more.

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

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

**Whitehead's Trogon**





Red-bearded Bee-eater

### Day 9, 10 Borneo Rainforest Lodge:

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.

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

### Day 11, Overland to Lahad Datu – Flight to Kota Kinabalu:

Today will offer an optional early morning birding 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. Upon arrival, we transfer to Hyatt Centric for a final celebration dinner.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Lodging at Hyatt Centric.*

### Day 12, 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, soft drinks, 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.



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