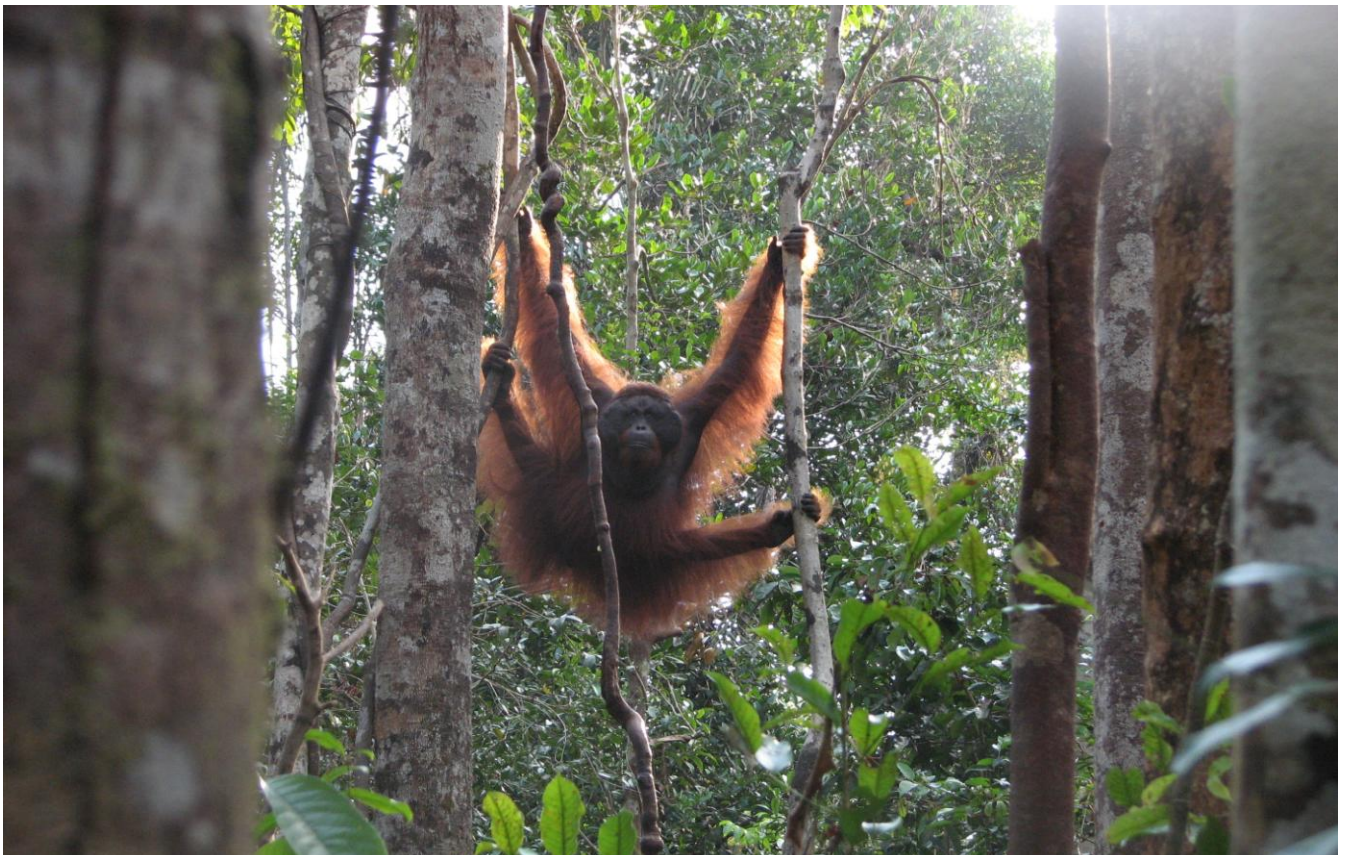


Indonesian Borneo

ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION TOUR

- Come face-to-face with orangutans in Tandjung Puting National Park, Indonesian Borneo
- Join experts from the Orangutan Foundation UK, offering privileged insight into orangutan conservation
- Experience wildlife river journeys, home to proboscis monkeys, monitor lizards and hornbills
- Staying at Rimba Lodge, you visit Camp Leakey and conservation projects which this trip supports



Summary

Steppes Discovery, in exclusive co-operation with the Orangutan Foundation UK, are offering you the opportunity to go behind the scenes of orangutan conservation in the lush rainforests of Indonesian Borneo. Based in a comfortable eco-lodge overlooking the Sekonyer River, travelling in a small group of only 10 people, this adventure will not only give you unique access to the Foundation's work but will also allow you to come face-to-face with the orangutans in their fragile natural environment. The Orangutan Foundation has been instrumental in fighting for habitat preservation, raising awareness and funds and rehabilitating ex-captive orphans, thereby ensuring the future of Asia's only great ape.

Through their expertise, you will also understand the vital role the forest takes in securing the orangutans future as well as the communities who live in the region. This tour also offers you the chance to visit areas in the region which are **ONLY** accessible for Steppes Discovery clients - you will have the orangutans all to yourself!

Overview



Comfortably based at Rimba Lodge in Tanjung Puting National Park, you will have the chance to explore this fascinating environment. You will be taken on guided walks through the rainforest, keeping a watchful eye in the trees for wild orangutans and if lucky enough to encounter them, will follow the Great Apes through the park. You will also spend time at the three feeding sites, including Camp Leakey, the historic research site established by Dr Galdikas. These are frequented by ex-captive orangutans living in the wild, which gives you the opportunity for some incredibly close encounters.



Although participants will not have direct physical contact with orangutans, you will meet and get to know some of the ex captive orangutans now living wild, that inhabit the area and watch them at feeding time. The tour will also visit areas of the forest that are not open to tourism on conventional tours. You will also have the chance to journey along the rivers, exploring the fascinating rainforest and spotting wildlife including proboscic monkeys, monitor lizards and kingfishers. You will have the chance to visit one of the mines in the region where you will see the issues and threats facing the orangutan and its forest habitat. In joining this tour not only will you have the privilege of seeing these gentle apes in the wild but you will also help in the fight against their extinction.

Your experts



Ashley Leiman OBE (Director Orangutan Foundation UK)

Ashley founded the Orangutan Foundation UK in 1990 and Ashley's involvement in conservation began over 20 years ago. One of the leading figures in orangutan conservation, Ashley has made numerous radio and television appearances and authored a number of scientific papers. Spending up to a third of the year in the field (most usually Indonesian Borneo) her in-depth knowledge and passion for this region will inspire you long after you return home - which is why many of our past clients are still active members of the Orangutan Foundation UK.



Kristina Maurice-Jones (Project Co-ordinator)

Having travelled extensively throughout South East Asia and after spending 6 years in the media, Kristina worked for 3 years for the Sepilok Orangutan Appeal UK, with the majority of her time spent in the field at Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. As Liaison Officer, Kristina promoted the work of the Sabah Wildlife Department to visitor's as well as leading tours around Sabah itself, before joining the Orangutan Foundation to build on her extensive knowledge of the issues surrounding the apes.



Cathy Smith (Assistant to the Director)

Cathy had her first encounter with orangutans in Tanjung Puting National Park, Borneo in 1996 before starting her zoology degree at Leeds University. Cathy has been involved with the Orangutan Foundation for 15 years and passionate about the environment, she has extensive knowledge about the wide-ranging issues concerning orangutan and tropical forest conservation.

Itinerary



Day 1

On arrival in Jakarta you will be met and taken to the hotel for the night to relax after the long flight. This evening you will enjoy a welcome dinner (included in the cost) as you get to your fellow travellers. Overnight on a bed and breakfast basis.

FM7 Hotel (BB)

Day 2

Take the morning flight to Pangkalan Bun, where you will be welcomed by a representative of the Orangutan Foundation and your local Indonesian guide. After lunch at a local restaurant, you are taken on a short drive to the port of Kumai where the adventure truly begins as you board two local boats (klotok) and continue along the Sekonyer River to the comfortable Rimba Lodge, a journey of about 2½ hours, through lush tropical rainforest, looking for wild orang-utans and proboscis monkeys en-route. On arrival at Rimba Lodge, you will have the rest of the day to unwind and take a well-earned rest.



Day 3

This morning is a relaxed walk to the nearby Tanjung Harapan feeding site, allowing you to acclimatise to the heat and high humidity. Your guide will gently ease you in to the programme with a forest walk allowing you to get a feel for your new surroundings. After lunch back at Rimba Lodge, you will return to Tanjung Harapan for the afternoon feeding before going back to Rimba to celebrate your first encounter with the orangutans!



Evenings are a surreal time as tiny fireflies emerge, lighting up the intense black of the tropical night with tiny flying lights and the night-time chorus of cicadas, birds and nocturnal animals echoing through the forest.

Day 4

This morning you visit Pondok Tanggui, one of the park's feeding sites and this will be followed by a walk to explore the surrounding forests. After lunch on the boat you will head upstream along the beautiful Sekonyer River to Camp Leakey, the research site established by Dr Birute Galdikas. On arrival along the wooden causeway, you may be greeted by a number of ex-captive and rehabilitated orang-utans and although facilities at Camp Leakey are basic, this is one of the best places in the world to see Asia's only great ape.



Day 5

This morning the tour takes the klotok back to Kumai and then onto Pangkalan Bun where you will meet the Orangutan Foundation's local partners, Yayorin. Their headquarters is an environmental education centre called Kampung Konservasi (meaning Conservation Village). After learning about Yayorin's work with local communities you return to Pangkalan Bun and spend the night in the Blue Kecubung Hotel for the night in preparation for your visit to the exclusive orangutan release sites the next day.



Day 6

This morning you are taken along the Arut River, to the Lamandau River Wildlife Reserve, stopping off en-route in Tanjung Putri village to see a sustainable livelihood programme. You then continue into the reserve to Camp Gemini - a release site for reintroduced orangutans. This site is not open to the public and as such we have exclusive access to the region through the Orangutan Foundation. In doing so it means that you can enjoy the orangutans and their environment in privacy and is a unique opportunity to appreciate these wonderful creatures and the beauty of the forest. You then return by boat to Rimba Lodge for the night.



Day 7

This morning you will head out along the river to the Aspai goldmine to see the damage the mine is causing to the surroundings, polluting the water and endangering river habitats. You will get to meet the communities working and living in these difficult conditions. This is a unique opportunity to understand the reasons behind such mines. In the afternoon you then return to Tanjung Harapan for the visit to the feeding site, before returning to Rimba Lodge for dinner.



Day 8

You will spend your last day in the rainforest at Camp Leakey with a forest walk searching for wild orangutans in the morning. After lunch on the boat, you then return to the feeding site in the afternoon for the chance to see the orangutans before heading back to the boat. You will then visit Pondok Ambung Tropical Forest Research Station which is run by the Orangutan Foundation in co-operation with the national park. After a farewell meal on the jetty you will be taken on a nightwalk through the forest.



Day 9

This morning you are transferred by boat back to Kumai, where you are met and driven to the airport at Pangkalan Bun to catch your flight back to Jakarta. Here you will be met and transferred to the FM7 Hotel to enjoy your last meal together (included in the cost) and a few home comforts before flying home tomorrow.

Day 10

Today is at leisure until you are transferred back to the airport to connect with your flight home.

This itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions.

Date

Dates 2012

16th to 25th June

26th August to 04th September

08th to 17th September

Dates 2013

09th to 18th June

15th to 24th September

Main tour

From £2,695.00 per person 2012 in twin share excluding international flights.

From £2,995.00 per person 2013 in twin share excluding international flights.

*Based on availability and a minimum 6 people (the trip runs at a maximum of 10 travelling.)

INCLUDES

All transfers and domestic flights, all accommodation, meals, noodle lunches, bottled water at Rimba Lodge, activities whilst with the Orangutan Foundation in Kalimantan, local guides and local boat transport. A substantial contribution and one year's membership to the Orangutan Foundation UK.

EXCLUDES

International flights (which we are happy to book), visas, vaccinations, travel insurance (mandatory), lunches in Jakarta, drinks, laundry, telephone calls, personal expenses and gratuities, meals other than those shown, any alcohol.

TRAVELLING FROM OUTSIDE THE UK

We are happy to quote you either in US dollars or Euros - with or without flights - to the destination city. Because of recent currency fluctuations we will quote you separately for this, but please contact us for more details.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

If you are happy to share accommodation with a fellow traveller of the same sex then you will not be charged a single supplement for your holiday. This is of course dependent on there being another same sex traveller on the trip who is also wanting to share. If we cannot find a partner with whom you can share then unfortunately we will be left with no choice but to pass on the single supplement, imposed by the properties we are using.

We will endeavour to keep this supplement to a minimum. Naturally should you wish to have a single room then this is possible by simply opting to pay the single supplement as per the itinerary.

The cost for a guaranteed single room is £495pp.

Important

Level Of Participation

Given the ongoing rehabilitation programme in the region, under **no** circumstances will you be allowed physical contact with the orangutans. Whilst we can understand people's desire to get close to the apes, please respect the wishes of our hosts and the welfare of the apes themselves by adhering to this rule. Saying this, given the area you are spending time in, you will still have the opportunity for some wonderful orangutan encounters.

Accommodation, Food & Alcohol

The Rimba Lodge is a simple but comfortable 35-room lodge, built on stilts on the Sekonyer River on the edge of Tanjung Puting National Park. All rooms are en suite with showers and toilets and all the rooms we use are air-conditioned, have mosquito nets, bedding and towels. It is important to bear in mind however, that you will be staying in an area of true wilderness and in keeping with Rimba Lodge's ethos of eco-tourism, solar power is used. With this in mind, hot water can be erratic so please use sparingly. Remember you are spending time in remote areas, so a flexible attitude and sense of humour are essential! Meals are plentiful but simple and typically Indonesian with lots of rice and an abundance of tropical fruits in season. Vegetarians are easily catered for. **The Rimba Lodge does NOT stock beer. If you wish to drink anything else please bring it with you prior to arrival.**

Vaccinations And Visa's

It is your responsibility to obtain a visa for Indonesia. At present, assuming you hold a UK or USA passport, a visa for 30 days is granted on arrival and costs around \$25. A full passport is required and it must be valid for up to six months after the return date of travel. If you are travelling on a passport of any other nationality, please refer to the website of your own Indonesian Embassy in your country of residence. We recommend the following inoculations: typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis A and polio, Rabies is present in Borneo (but not in the Pangkalan Bun region) and malaria is also present in Kalimantan. However, we strongly recommend you consult your local GP or ring MASTA on 09068 224100 (charged at 50p per minute) prior to travel.

Age Restrictions

Participants must be aged 18 and upwards for this particular group tour. Please also note that whilst age is no restriction, some of the longer forest walks can be challenging and is important that you feel comfortable walking for a full day in very high humidity.

Weather

We run our group tours during peak season, which runs from June through to September when there is less chance of rain. However, being a rainforest short storms can be expected at all times of year but are most prevalent from November through to May. Temperatures in the rainforest are warm and the humidity is high. You will need to get accustomed to the humidity and drinking plenty of water is necessary at all times of year.

Fitness And Health

In order to enjoy this trip at its best, a very good level of fitness is required. You will potentially be walking for long periods of time, through a challenging rainforest environment in very high humidity. We **STRONGLY** recommend all our clients undertake a regular exercise programme prior to departure if not already doing so to ensure you are not left behind and miss out on tracking the orangutans!

Our commitment



An unavoidable consequence of travel is the emission of carbon dioxide into the high atmosphere and while Steppes Discovery takes measures to reduce the carbon footprint of its holidays, regrettably it is not yet possible to make them carbon neutral. If you are able to, we suggest you consider offsetting the carbon emission of your long haul flight by using Rainforest Concern's Forest Credits scheme. Details can be found at www.forestcredits.org.uk

Rainforests have a central role to play in the slowing of climate change and yet we are removing forests from the planet at a faster rate than they can grow back. Rainforest Concern supports projects that look to preserve the forests that we have rather than replanting new ones, working to safeguard biodiversity and local communities and in so doing mitigate climate change.



We have raised significant funds in support of the world's leading wildlife and conservation agencies, researchers and experts, and increased awareness of travel and conservation through newsletters, lectures and consistent media coverage. Furthermore we have voluntarily spearheaded collective action campaigns such as Travel Operators for Tigers in South Asia.



The aim of the Orangutan Foundation is to support conservation work in Indonesia and Malaysia and to raise funds and awareness in the UK and overseas. In Indonesia, the Foundation actively protects orangutan habitat, runs an orangutan release programme and translocates wild orangutans, promotes scientific research as well as supporting local capacity building initiatives. Steppes Discovery's long running Orangutan Conservation Tours have funded this charity since 1997 to the tune of up to U\$30,000 per annum.

Our travel partners, accommodation, service providers and ground agents are all carefully chosen to ensure their commitment to the environment, most being quality, family owned businesses - reflecting the unique character of the places, the abiding hospitality of its people and the remarkable spirit of its wilderness.

Now come along and see for yourself. With us it won't cost the earth!

Want to discuss this



Please call Chris on (00 44) 1285 880 936 for more details or e-mail him on chris@steppesdiscovery.co.uk to make a booking.

Having travelled extensively through some of the world's rich primate habitats, including Borneo, Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Central African Republic and the DRC, Chris has developed a passion and understanding for these wild and captivating areas. Having come face to face with gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans on numerous occasions he will be more than happy to share his enthusiasm for the most intelligent and fascinating of all animals.
