Malaysia & Borneo

Rainforest Birds & Mammals II

22nd May to 9th June 2024 (19 days)



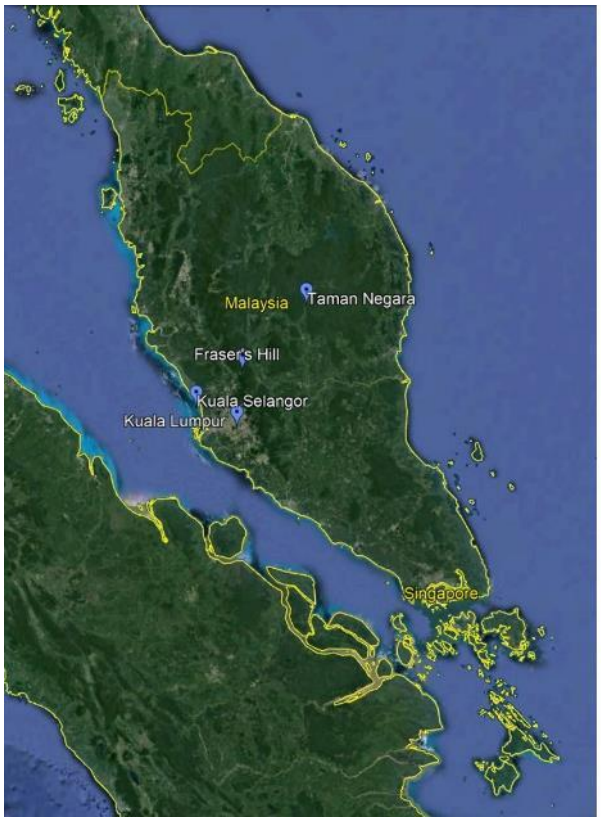
Bornean Bristlehead by Glen Valentine

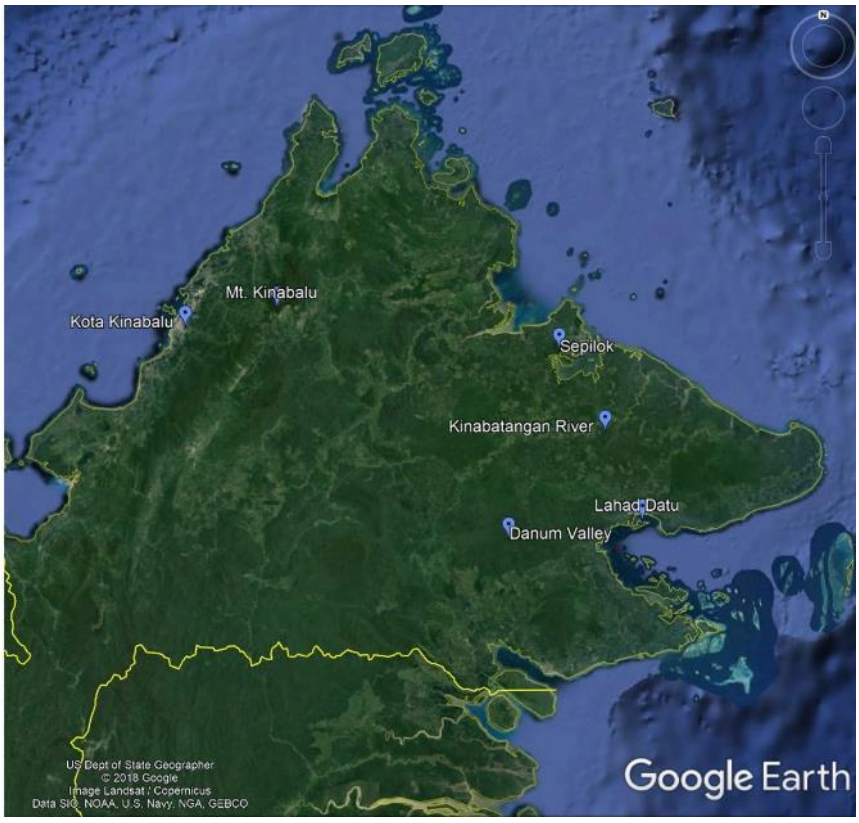
Malaysia is a developed Asian nation offering first-class facilities, an extensive range of well-serviced national parks and nature reserves and a bounty of quality birds and mammals; simply put, this is the perfect destination for a birding tour!

On this adventure, we will visit some of Asia's most famous birding sites, including Fraser's Hill, the grand Taman Negara National Park, Danum Valley - protecting the largest rainforest in Southeast Asia, the Kinabatangan River, the Crocker Range, Sepilok and the fabled Mount Kinabalu. Habitats range from lowland and montane rainforest to mangrove swamps and wetlands and these host a rich mix of typical south-east Asian birds as well as several rare species and Bornean endemics. As if this isn't enough, it is also one of the best countries in Asia to enjoy rainforest mammals and we can expect some incredible creatures, including Orangutan, several species of Gibbon, Mouse-Deers, nocturnal flying squirrels and if we are lucky, Bornean Pygmy Elephant or Leopard Cat! Join us for what is sure to be an awesome, exotic blend of fabulous birds, mammals and amazing scenery!

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Kuala Lumpur to Kuala Selangor via Bukit Tinggi**
Day 2	**Kuala Selangor to Fraser's Hill**
Days 3 & 4	**Fraser's Hill**
Day 5	**Fraser's Hill to Taman Negara National Park**
Days 6 to 8	**Taman Negara National Park**
Day 9	**Taman Negara to Kota Kinabalu**
Day 10	**Kota Kinabalu to Mount Kinabalu via Crocker Range**
Days 11 & 12	**Mount Kinabalu**
Day 13	**Mount Kinabalu to Sepilok via Poring Hotsprings**
Day 14	**Sepilok to Sukau**
Day 15	**Kinabatangan River**
Day 16	**Kinabatangan River to Danum Valley**
Days 17 & 18	**Danum Valley**
Day 19	**Danum Valley to Kota Kinabalu via Lahad Datu & depart**





Birding sites in detail



Mountain Peacock-Pheasant by Glen Valentine

Bukit Tinggi. The hill station of Bukit Tinggi is an excellent montane forest birding site. This locality is a relatively new and exciting addition to our regular route, and is most famous for being one of the only sites on Earth where one has a realistic chance of seeing the rare and until recently, mythical Mountain Peacock-Pheasant. This regal pheasant is endemic to the Malay Peninsula but due to its shy nature, rare status and difficult to access habitat it has been seen by very few visiting birders. Bukit Tinggi also provides a reasonable chance at seeing Ferruginous Partridge, another scarce and seldom-seen species. Both of these rare species are technically possible at Fraser's Hill, however, significant time and effort are usually required with little success. Bukit Tinggi is also excellent for a number of fabulous hill country species such as Silver-breasted Broadbill, Buff-rumped, Grey-and-buff and Crimson-winged Woodpeckers, Sultan Tit, Golden-whiskered, Yellow-crowned, Sooty and Blue-eared Barbets, the beautiful Orange-breasted Trogon, Black-crested and scarce Scaly-breasted Bulbuls, Rufous-fronted and Buff-breasted Babblers, White-bellied Erpornis, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Blue-winged Leafbird and White-rumped Shama, while occasionally the site even turns up rare species such as Rail-babbler and the highly nomadic Pin-tailed Parrotfinch. We may also encounter troops of Dusky and White-thighed Leaf Monkeys foraging in the mid-canopy while strolling slowly along the forested road.

Kuala Selangor and Taman Alam Nature Reserve. The monotonous calls of Coppersmith Barbets are usually heard echoing across the hotel grounds, while at the mangrove-edge we hope to obtain good views of the scarce Mangrove Whistler, as well as the superb Mangrove Blue Flycatcher and Golden-bellied Gerygone. Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker, Laced and Rufous Woodpeckers and Common Flameback are also present are we may also encounter Asian Koel, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Scaly-breasted, White-rumped and the scarce and nomadic White-headed Munias, Pied Triller, Lineated Barbet, Black-naped Oriole, Red Junglefowl (ancestor to the domestic chicken), the scarce and shy Ruddy Kingfisher, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, Common Iora, Abbott's Babbler, Yellow-bellied Prinia, Olive-winged Bulbul, Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, exquisite



Malayan Partridge by Nigel Redman



Fire-tufted Barbet by Glen Valentine

Brown-throated and Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds, lively Malaysian Pied Fantail, Rufous-tailed and Ashy Tailorbirds, Chinese Pond and Purple Herons, White-throated, Stork-billed and Collared Kingfishers, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Brahminy Kite, the rare and habitat-specific Chestnut-bellied Malkoha and occasionally the endangered Lesser Adjutant.

Some excellent night-birding can be enjoyed in the area and we'll venture out at dusk in search of Malaysian Eared and Large-tailed Nightjars, Barred and Dusky Eagle Owls, Spotted Wood Owl, Buffy Fish Owl and Eastern Barn Owl that are all possible and have all been seen on previous outings.

Fraser's Hill. The rather quaint highland town of Fraser's Hill is surrounded by excellent and rather extensive mid-altitude broad-leaved forest and is home to a host of fabulous birds.

We'll bird the network of forested back roads around the town, concentrating our efforts on finding the many special birds of the area, such as the outstanding Blue Nuthatch, Mountain Fulvetta, the rare, shy and endemic Malayan Whistling Thrush, attractive and localised Fire-tufted and Black-browed Barbets, exquisite Red-headed Trogon, Buff-breasted Babbler, delicate Rufous-browed Flycatcher, skulking Malayan Laughingthrush and the low-density and shy Large Scimitar Babbler. If we are very lucky, we may see two of the area's most secretive and elusive species: Malaysian Partridge and Rusty-naped Pitta. Other more widespread species that we also hope to encounter include the impressive Crested Serpent Eagle, dashing Long-tailed and Silver-breasted Broadbills, stunning Common Green Magpie, ground-dwelling Streaked Wren-Babbler, Long-tailed Sibia, Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush, Large Cuckooshrike, gorgeous Silver-eared Mesia, Blyth's Hawk-Eagle, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Speckled Piculet, retiring Lesser Shortwing, Mountain and Dark-necked Tailorbirds, the vivid-blue Large Niltava, Green-billed Malkoha, sensational Black-eared and Blyth's Shrike-Babblers, secretive Pygmy Wren-Babbler, the brilliant White-tailed Robin, Slaty-backed Forktail and the hyperactive Fire-breasted Flowerpecker.



Black-and-yellow Broadbill by Glen Valentine

Nocturnal excursions may turn up Malaysian Eared Nightjar, and if we get lucky - the scarce Brown Wood Owl and seldom-seen Mountain Scops Owl, a most elusive little owl that we are almost certain to hear but is notoriously difficult to see. Mammal species occurring in the area include the vociferous Siamang or Black Gibbon, White-thighed (Banded) Langur (Surili), Wild Boar and a variety of squirrels.



Sultan Tit by Keith Valentine

During our time here, we'll also venture downhill on at least one occasion to an area called the "Gap", which is a zone of beautiful, mixed broad-leaved forest and bamboo at the base of Fraser's Hill and covers the altitudes from 700 to 1200 meters (2,300 to 4,000 feet. This is a superb birding area that supports numerous exciting forest birds and is often one of the highlights on a tour to Peninsular Malaysia. Some of the delectable birds we may see here include the regal Rufous-bellied and Black Eagles, Orange-bellied and Blue-winged Leafbirds, Black-and-crimson Oriole, Scarlet and Grey-chinned Minivets, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, White-bellied Erpornis, Orange-breasted and Red-headed Trogons, White-crowned and Great Hornbills, Sunda Scimitar Babbler, Hill Blue Flycatcher, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Black-and-yellow, Long-tailed and Dusky Broadbills, the near-endemic Black Laughingthrush, immaculate Sultan Tit, Red-billed Malkoha, the truly spectacular Red-bearded Bee-eater and three bamboo specialists: the vocal Yellow-bellied Warbler, unobtrusive Collared Babbler and the shy and enigmatic Bamboo Woodpecker, or perhaps the very rare and secretive Marbled Wren-Babbler, rare and nomadic Pin-tailed Parrotfinch or the scarce and little-known Yellow-vented Green Pigeon if we are very fortunate.

Taman Negara National Park. This is Malaysia's largest remaining natural area (over 4,300 km^2) and protects a vast expanse of pristine lowland rainforest. It constitutes one of south-east Asia's largest remaining forest blocks and is home to some of the most exciting and impressive birds in all of Asia.

We are likely to start our birding here with a vigil from the nearby hide at the forest edge. Highlights could include the gigantic Great Slaty Woodpecker – the world's largest extant woodpecker – White-bellied and Banded Woodpeckers, the very scarce Large Green Pigeon, Thick-billed and Little Green Pigeons, Stripe-throated, Black-headed, Asian Red-eyed, Buff-vented, Spectacled, Cream-vented and Streaked Bulbuls, Grey-breasted, Long-billed and Thick-billed Spiderhunters, the diminutive Black-thighed Falconet, outstanding Asian Fairy-bluebird, Indochinese Blue Flycatcher and screeching flocks of Blue-rumped Parrots and Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots in flight overhead.



Great Slaty Woodpeckers by Nigel Redman

There is often at least one fruiting tree somewhere in the lodge grounds and if we are fortunate



Bornean Crested Fireback by Nigel Redman

enough to find one of these bird magnets then there is an excellent chance that we'll be able to obtain good, close views of a number of otherwise scarce forest interior or canopy species such as Golden-whiskered and Yellow-crowned Barbets, Greater and Lesser Green Leafbirds, Purple-naped Spiderhunter, Plain Sunbird, the dazzling Green Broadbill, Grey-bellied and Puff-backed Bulbuls, Asian Fairy-bluebird and Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker, as well as outside chances at the rare, nomadic and elusive Jambu Fruit Dove, Black-and-white Bulbul and Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker.

Exploring the park's fantastic network of trails, we can expect to find some of the mouth-watering species on offer, including the stunning Garnet, Malayan Banded or Hooded Pittas, the enigmatic and monotypic Rail-babbler and Crested Jayshrike, retiring Malayan Peacock-Pheasant, spectacular but elusive Great Argus, Black-and-yellow, Black-and-red, Banded and unbelievably vivid Green Broadbills, furtive Large Wren-Babbler, Striped Wren-Babbler, Malayan Black Magpie, Crimson-winged, Checker-throated, Buff-necked, Rufous, Orange-backed, Buff-rumped and extremely scarce Olive-backed Woodpeckers, miniscule Rufous Piculet, Rhinoceros, Bushy-crested and White-crowned Hornbills, Red-naped, Diard's, Scarlet-rumped and the very rare and shy Cinnamon-rumped Trogons, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, the shy Rusty-breasted Cuckoo, Black-bellied, Chestnut-breasted and Raffles's Malkohas, the elusive but stunning Rufous-collared and (Malayan) Banded Kingfishers, Red-throated, Yellow-crowned, Sooty and Golden-whiskered Barbets, Hairy-backed, Yellow-bellied and Grey-cheeked Bulbuls, the vociferous Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler and the richly-coloured Black-throated, Chestnut-winged and Malayan Black-capped Babblers.

In the late afternoons, the spectacular Malayan Crested Fireback can sometimes be seen strolling around between the cabins or along the adjacent forest trails. Nocturnal birding at Taman Negara is often extremely challenging but with perseverance we may be fortunate and find a few of the area's sought-after nocturnal species. These include the scarce Gould's, Javan and very rare Large Frogmouths, Brown Boobook (Hawk-Owl), Oriental Bay Owl and Reddish and Sunda Scops Owls. We would however have to put in a great deal of time and effort to encounter just a few of these difficult and extremely low-density night birds. While searching for these nocturnal species we may also get lucky with one or two rarely seen nocturnal mammals such as Slow Loris, Brush-tailed Porcupine, Malayan Colugo or Binturong.



Wrinkled Hornbill by Glen Valentine



Bornean Green Magpie by Glen Valentine

Crocker Range. The forested hills of this mountain range are home to an exciting array of localized endemic birds, many of which are extremely difficult to find on the nearby Mount Kinabalu, several of which are completely absent from the accessible section of Kinabalu. The highest easily accessible area of Gunung Alab at around 2000m asl will be our focal point for the early morning and here we hope to find Chestnut-hooded and Sunda Laughingthrushes, the vibrant Bornean Green Magpie, Bornean Treepie, Chestnut-crested Yuhina, Hair-crested (Bornean Spangled) Drongo, Mountain Tailorbird, Yellow-breasted and Mountain Leaf Warblers, Mountain Black-eye, White-throated Fantail, Aberrant Bush Warbler, Grey-throated Babbler, Bornean Swiftlet and Bornean Whistler all before breakfast! If we are fortunate we might also encounter coveys of Crimson-headed and Red-chested Partridges, both of which will almost certainly at least be heard in the area.

We'll then spend the remainder of the morning working mixed flocks along the road that winds through the mountains for specialties such as Mountain, Bornean and Golden-naped Barbets, brilliant Bornean Leafbird, scarce Pygmy White-eye that roam around in small flocks, the nomadic Fruithunter, gaudy Long-tailed Broadbill, Bornean, Penan and Cinereous Bulbuls, Black-sided (Bornean) Flowerpecker, Temminck's Sunbird, Sunda Cuckoo and the vociferous but shy Dark (Penan) Hawk-Cuckoo. Two of Borneo's most elusive and sought-after endemics, the spectacular Whitehead's Broadbill and Whitehead's Spiderhunter, are both found in these vast forests and we will try our best to see these great birds during our time here. As the day progresses, we should find several species of raptor soaring overhead and these may include Blyth's Hawk-Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle and Crested Honey Buzzard, while the rare, endemic White-fronted Falconet also inhabits the lower slopes of the Crocker Range.



Whitehead's Trogon (female) by Nigel Redman

Mount Kinabalu. The pristine, montane forest that cloaks the lower slopes of Moun Kinabalu - Borneo's highest mountain at 13,435 feet (4,095 m), is home to some of Borneo's most prized birds that includes a multitude of localised mountain endemics. Some of the many fine birds to be sought here include Sunda Cuckooshrike, Golden-naped Barbet, the sensational Bornean Green Magpie, noisy Bornean Treepie, resident Dark Hawk-Cuckoo, Sunda Cuckoo, Indigo Flycatcher, Chestnut-crested Yuhina, Bornean Whistler, Chestnut-hooded, Sunda and extremely scarce and shy Bare-headed Laughingthrushes, Bornean Whistling Thrush, the delightful Bornean Forktail, Black-sided Flowerpecker, Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher (Shade-dweller), Temminck's Babbler, the miniscule Bornean



Temminck's Sunbird by Glen Valentine

Stubtail, Mountain Wren-Babbler, the secretive Bornean Shortwing, the exquisite Temminck's Sunbird and Black-capped White-eye, as well as some really star birds such as the rare Fruithunter, an endemic, canopy-dwelling thrush, Crimson-headed (now considered to be a kind of pheasant called a Bloodhead) and Red-breasted Partridges, the rare and near-endemic Sunda Owlet, the very rare and furtive Everett's Thrush, extremely rare and seldom-seen Mountain (Kinabalu) Serpent Eagle and the nomadic and usually non-existent Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch. While walking the park's trails and access road, we may also encounter Blyth's Hawk-Eagle, Checker-throated and Maroon Woodpeckers, Blyth's Shrike-Babbler, Ashy and Hair-crested Drongos, Yellow-breasted and Mountain Leaf Warblers and Aberrant Bush Warbler.

A 19th-century naturalist called Whitehead spent many months on the mountain and three very special birds, restricted to Mount Kinabalu and the highlands further south in Sabah and Sarawak, are named after him: Whitehead's Broadbill, Spiderhunter and Trogon. We will put in much time and effort on the forest trails in an attempt to locate these rare beauties. However, one must be aware that all three of these species occur at extremely low densities on Mount Kinabalu and are usually very tricky to find. We will therefore require a fair amount of luck, coupled with hard work and good field craft to locate them! Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel, a tiny creature with ear tufts nearly as long as its body, is another endemic creature we hope to encounter during our time in the park.

Poring Hot Springs. The hot springs are surrounded by superb, mid-elevation forest that contain a range of different species more typically associated with lowland forest such as Black-and-yellow, Green and Banded Broadbills, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, the endemic White-crowned Shama, Golden-whiskered, Blue-eared, Red-throated and Brown Barbets, the brilliant Violet Cuckoo, Yellow-eared and Spectacled Spiderhunters, Dusky Munia, Scaly-breasted, Streaked and Spectacled Bulbuls, Orange-bellied Flowerpecker, the scarce and extremely local Grey-headed Babbler and Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher, a very rare and localised species on Borneo that is far easier to see in parts of Indonesia. If we are fortunate during our time here, we may hear about a flowering *Rafflesia* (news of these in flower spreads quickly), affording us the opportunity to see this floral wonder. Note though that



Bornean Treepie by Glen Valentine



Sunda Laughingthrush by Glen Valentine

we will only visit Poring if we've done exceptionally well on Mt. Kinabalu, otherwise we'll spend all of our available time on Mt.Kinabalu searching for the many rare and elusive Bornean endemics on offer there.

Sepilok/Rainforest Discovery Centre (RDC). Sepilok is home to one of the most impressive canopy walkways on Earth and we'll spend the early part of the morning on the walkway and surrounding lookout towers watching out for specialties such as Wallace's Hawk-Eagle, Pink-necked, Thick-billed and very rare Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeons, Long-tailed Parakeet, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, Silver-rumped Spinetail, Bushy-crested, Black, Wreathed and Rhinoceros Hornbills, Great Slaty and Crimson-winged Woodpeckers, Bornean Black Magpie, Black-and-yellow and Banded Broadbills, Cream-eyed, Cream-vented and Charlotte's Bulbuls, Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Yellow-eared Spiderhunter and the rare and elusive Bornean Bristlehead.

We'll also walk the network of trails in search of a number of lowland, forest interior species such as Diard's, Red-naped and Scarlet-rumped Trogons, Rufous-collared Kingfisher, Chestnut-rumped and Grey-hooded Babblers, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Black-crowned Pitta and Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher.

Kinabatangan River. Superb rainforest birding is to be had along the Kinabatangan River. The surrounding area has unfortunately been reduced to endless tracts of commercial Oil Palm plantations with the result that nearly all the region's wildlife has been forced into a narrow strip of forest along the river. The concentration of wildlife here is, however, phenomenal and we will spend most of our time birding on productive boat trips on the main Kinabatangan River and its adjacent tributaries. These boat trips are simply amazing, allowing one to approach both birds and mammals at close range. Some of the wildlife we are likely to encounter on these trips include the rare Storm's Stork, Lesser Adjutant, Grey-headed and Lesser Fish Eagles, Oriental Darter, Blue-eared and Stork-billed Kingfishers, Blue-throated Bee-eater, Wrinkled, Bushy-crested, Black, Long-tailed Parakeet, and Rhinoceros Hornbills, Silvered Leaf-monkey (Langur), Long-tailed Macaque and the bizarre Proboscis Monkey. If we are fortunate, we may encounter some of the Kinabatangan's rarer inhabitants such as Helmeted and White-crowned Hornbills, Wallace's Hawk-Eagle, Jerdon's Baza, Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo, the very rare and until recently mythical Bornean Ground Cuckoo, Orangutan, Maroon Langur (Red Leaf Monkey) and Pig-tailed Macaque.



Proboscis Monkey by Nigel Redman



Black-crowned Pitta (pair) by Glen Valentine

Birding around our lodge can also be rather productive and here we may very well find Hooded Pitta, Orange-bellied Flowerpecker, Brown-throated Sunbird, Plaintive Cuckoo, Black-and-red and Black-and-yellow Broadbills, Short-tailed and White-chested Babblers and Rufous Piculet. We'll also undertake some night-birding in the forest behind the lodge that could produce some rare nocturnal species like Large and Blyth's Frogmouths, Reddish Scops Owl, Oriental Bay Owl, Bornean Slow Loris and Malayan Flying Lemur (Colugo).

Danum Valley. The Danum Valley has lush and verdant lowland rainforest which we'll bird along the network of forest trails, the access road, lodge grounds and a canopy walkway. Some of the area's very special birds that we will search for during our time here include the unique Bornean Bristlehead (currently placed its own monotypic family), Dusky Broadbill, Bornean Black Magpie, Crested Jayshrike, scarce and unobtrusive Bornean, Black-throated and Striped Wren-Babblers, Rufous-tailed and White-crowned Shamas, Bornean and Sunda Blue Flycatchers, the scarce Finsch's, Cream-eyed and nomadic Black-and-white Bulbuls and the shy and elusive Chestnut-naped Forktail.

The lodge grounds themselves offer superb birding and here we may find noteworthy species such as Bold-striped Tit-Babbler, Long-billed, Yellow-eared, Bornean, Little, Thick-billed, Purple-naped and Spectacled Spiderhunters, Red-throated, Plain, Van Hasselt's and Crimson Sunbirds, Yellow-rumped and Yellow-breasted Flowerpeckers, the immaculate Whiskered Treeswift, Dusky Munia, Large Woodshrike, Lesser Cuckooshrike and very attractive Blue-throated Bee-eater. The Danum River that meanders lazily just below the lodge often harbours Lesser Fish Eagle, Great-billed Heron, the once common but now very rare Straw-headed Bulbul and in the evenings, Buffy Fish Owl. Other exciting species that we may very well see during our time in the valley include Blyth's Hawk-Eagle, Diard's, Red-naped and Scarlet-rumped Trogons, the inexplicably scarce and shy Cinnamon-rumped Trogon, Sabah Partridge, Green Imperial Pigeon, Common Hill Myna, Maroon-breasted and Rufous-winged Philentomas, Wreathed, Wrinkled, Rhinoceros, Bushy-crested, Black and the awesome Helmeted Hornbills, Bornean Black-capped, Short-tailed, Scaly-crowned, Sooty-capped, Ferruginous, Rufous-crowned, Grey-hooded and Horsfield's Babblers, Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Dark-throated Oriole, Spotted Fantail, Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher, the unimpressive Brown Fulvetta, striking White-crowned Forktail,



Storm's Stork by Nigel Redman



Buffy Fish Owl by Glen Valentine

Charlotte's Bulbul, Black-and-yellow Broadbill, Grey-rumped Treeswift, Pale Blue Flycatcher and Rufous-chested Flycatcher.

Danum is a pitta paradise with a staggering six species recorded here (including four spectacular species endemic to Borneo: Black-crowned, Blue-headed, Blue-banded and Bornean Banded Pittas)! The other two pittas include the widespread Hooded and the very rare Giant Pitta. We will endeavour to find as many of these as possible but, given their retiring and unpredictable nature and the dense habitat, we will need a large dose of patience and luck to see these shy avian jewels. Another of Danum Valley's great attractions is the amazing Great Argus, a huge, long-tailed pheasant; we are likely to hear the males bellowing their far-carrying calls but we'd need to be extremely lucky to encounter one along the forest trails. The lodge here also has its own canopy walkway and we will spend some of our time high in the trees, scanning for the aforementioned species amongst many others.

We will also undertake a night drive on one of our nights here and this provides a superb opportunity for seeing a range of secretive forest mammals. Species that are regularly seen include Sambar and Southern Red Muntjac, Greater and Lesser Mouse-Deer, Thomas's and Red Giant Flying-Squirrels, Malayan Colugo (Flying Lemur), Common and Masked Palm Civets and Malayan Civets. Rarer species that do occur include Asian Elephant (sometimes split as Bornean Pygmy Elephant), Leopard Cat, Bornean Clouded Leopard, the near-mythical Marbled and Bay Cats, Banded Palm Civet, Malay Badger, Thick-quilled Porcupine, Bornean Slow Loris, Western Tarsier and the strange Binturong (Bear Cat), although we would have to consider ourselves extremely fortunate if we were to encounter any of these rarer forest denizens during our limited time in this rainforest sanctuary.

One of Danum's prized mammals is the highly endangered Orangutan – fondly referred to as the "Old Man of the Forest". We usually succeed, with the help of the excellent local guides, in tracking down these regal primates and staring into the eyes of these magnificent creatures is sure to be one of the most memorable experiences of the entire trip.



Orangutan by Colin Valentine

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate. This tour has a lot of trail walking and early starts. Not suitable for anyone with mobility or health challenges.
Birding Ease		Bird density can be low but also quite high and rewarding at other times. Several difficult target species, many skulking understorey species that require sitting/standing for periods of time to observe.
Accommodation		Comfortable to very comfortable.
Walking / Trails		Mostly narrow forest trails, many trails will be muddy and slippery after rain but a fair amount of birding along roads and tracks. Terrain can be uneven with fallen logs, tree stumps or rocks under foot.
Vehicles / Roads		Two separate minibuses, some roads are quite windy and in moderate to poor condition on Borneo. Open air boat rides.
Photography		Challenging at times but mostly worthwhile and rewarding. Some dedicated blinds / hides / feeding stations.
Annoyances		Hot and very humid in the lowlands. Cool and temperate in the highlands. Rain must be expected on occasion. Potential for malaria and dengue, though infection is rare.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from breakfast on day 1 to lunch on day 19;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground & boat transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services;
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes made need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- Accommodation throughout the trip is of a generally high standard and the hotels and resorts that we make use of range from comfortable to rather luxurious. There is no camping on this trip.
- It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18kg) for hand luggage.
- Fitness: this tour does require a high level of fitness, and participants should be in good general health as most of the birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time. Some of these trails can be quite steep and slippery, especially after rain.
- For much of the tour you will be far away from modern medical facilities.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour departs Kuala Lumpur very early on day 1, do ensure that you arrive the day before the tour starts. The tour will conclude in the early evening at Kota Kinabalu on day 19.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Kuala Lumpur International Airport (IATA: KUL) is the main port of entry, and Kota Kinabalu International Airport (IATA: BKI) is the main point of departure for international flights to Malaysia.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements. The following website provides detailed information about visa eligibility and assistance with online applications options where viable: Visa HQ for Travel

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.