Malaysia & Borneo

Sarawak & Sabah Endemics

11th June to 22nd June 2023 (12 days)



Dulit Frogmouths by Yeo Siew Teck

This exciting tour takes us deep into the vast and remote ocean of forest that cloaks the Sarawak and Sabah provinces of Borneo. There, using recently made logging tracks to gain access to these forests, we will endeavour to find several of the island's seldom-seen endemics, including the mythical Bornean Peacock-Pheasant, Bulwer's Pheasant and Crested Partridge, as well as two of the most poorly known species on earth, namely Black Oriole and Dulit Frogmouth. Fortunately, many of the species we will search for live in relatively healthy numbers, and we have a very high chances of finding such desired specials as Whitehead's Trogon, Bornean and Mountain Barbets, Bornean Bulbul, Blue-banded Pitta, Whitehead's and Hose's Broadbills, Bornean Frogmouth, Whitehead's Spiderhunter, Pygmy White-eye, Mountain Serpent Eagle and Bornean Leafbird!

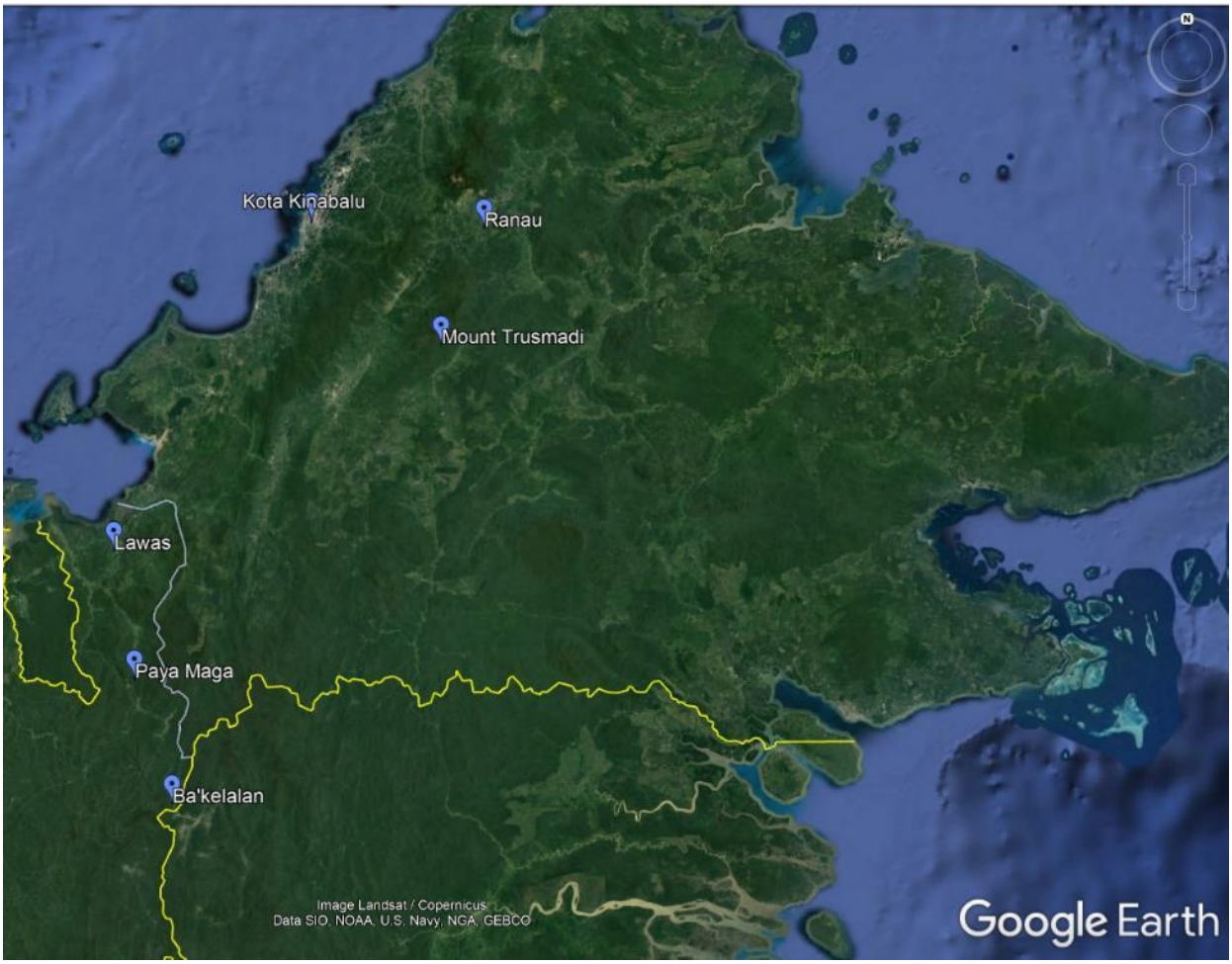
Whilst by no means guaranteed, we also have an excellent chance of finding both the oriole and the frogmouth, even though the former was only known from specimens until its recent discovery, while the latter has remained

almost as poorly known since 1891! In fact, our previous departures have enjoyed a 100% success rate with these two species!

On its own, this tour offers a chance at seeing around half of the island's endemics, while as an add-on to our Malaysia & Borneo – Rainforest Mammals and Birds tour, the combination could add nearly 95% of the island's endemics to your list!

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrive in Kota Kinabalu, transfer to Orang Ulu area via Klias Wetland Park**
Day 2	**Orang Ulu area to Ba'kelalan**
Days 3 & 4	**Ba'kelalan area**
Day 5	**Ba'kelalan to Paya Maga**
Day 6	**Paya Maga area**
Day 7	**Paya Maga to Kota Kinabalu via Lawas**
Day 8	**Kota Kinabalu to Trusmadi Mountain**
Day 9	**Trusmadi Mountain**
Day 10	**Trusmadi Mountain to Ranau**
Day 11	**Bornean Peacock-Pheasant quest**
Day 12	**Ranau to Kota Kinabalu and depart**



Birding sites in detail

Klias Wetland Park. This great little park, set up to protect a patch of the regionally vulnerable peat swamp, is serviced by an excellent network of boardwalks and even a couple of hides.

Although the hides aren't of much interest, a walk through the swamp along the boardwalks is a wonderful way to access this otherwise rather inhospitable environment, and provides us with the opportunity to see some species that can be very difficult to find outside of this habitat. Chief amongst these are Red-crowned Barbet, Hook-billed Bulbul and Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker, whilst other interesting sightings may include Ashy Tailorbird, Green Iora, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler and Long-tailed Parakeet are often seen flying over.



Black Oriole by Yeo Siew Teck

Pulong Tau National Park. The park is situated at about 950m in altitude, in a broad, fertile valley surrounded by forested hillsides. Our key target in this area will be the near-mythical Dulit Frogmouth. Other great species that we may find during our explorations here include the endemic and rarely encountered Mountain Serpent Eagle, Philippine Cuckoo-Dove (formerly Ruddy), Oriental Bay Owl, the seldom-seen Bornean Frogmouth, Hose's Broadbill, Black-and-crimson Oriole, Whitehead's Spiderhunter, Golden-naped Barbet and Back-throated Wren-Babbler, Plain and Yellow-vented Flowerpeckers to name just a handful.

Paya Maga. We start the hike up to our camp from the roadside at 800m above sea level, and once we reach +-1000m asl, our key target will be the rare Black Oriole, a species only rediscovered in 2010 and regularly sighted in this area. We will also have the opportunity to see a good number of other species that are often difficult or impossible to locate in the more-frequented Sabah province. Species included in this potential bounty are Whitehead's Trogon, Whitehead's and Hose's Broadbills, Rail-babbler, Bornean Leafbird, Bornean and Scaly-breasted Bulbuls, Bornean and Mountain Barbets, Helmeted and Bushy-crested Hornbills, Bare-headed Laughingthrush, Mountain Blackeye, Pygmy White-eye, Blue-banded and Bornean Banded Pittas, Black-and-white Bulbul and the rare Mountain Serpent Eagle.



Whitehead's Trogon by Nigel Redman

More widespread species that we may encounter include the attractive Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush, Blyth's Hawk-Eagle, Raffle's Malkoha, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Scarlet-rumped Trogon, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Red-throated and Golden-

whiskered Barbets, Buff-rumped Woodpecker, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, Checker-throated Woodpecker, Spectacled Spiderhunter and Temminck's Babbler.

While at the campsite we will also try for nocturnal birds such as Bornean and Sunda Frogmouth, Brown Wood Owl and Reddish Scops Owl.

Mount Trusmadi. We'll use 4x4 vehciles to drive up to a remote camp on Mount Trusmadi. Initially built for entomologists, the camp is now also used by birders and those intrepid mountaineers wishing to summit Mount Trusmadi. The camp has a season high record of 5000 different species of insects!

Our focus here will be on pheasants, specifically some of the most rarely observed, mythical species; Crested Partridge, Bulwer's Pheasant and Great Argus. We'll also time to search for other endemics such as Bornean Banded Pitta and Dayak Blue Flycatcher as well as the shy Chestnut-capped Thrush.



Raffle's Malkoha by Glen Valentine

A strong supporting cast of Chestnut-necklaced Partridge, Brown Fulvetta, Helmeted, Wreathed and Rhinoceros Hornbills, White-crowned Shama, Mountain, Bornean and Golden-whiskered Barbets, Hill Blue Flycatcher, Temminck's Sunbird, Bornean Bulbul Rufous-fronted Babbler, Chestnut-sided Scimitar-Babbler, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, Spotted Fantail, Bornean Leafbird, Orange-bellied and Yellow-rumped Flowerpeckers, Maroon-breasted Philentoma, Bornean Treepie, Sunda Bush Warbler and Penan Bulbul will keep us entertained.



'Bornean' Crested Fireback by Nigel Redman

In the evening we'll search for Barred Eagle-Owl, Malaysian Eared Nightjar and perhaps Sunda Owlet.

Bornean Peacock-Pheasant site. Most of our day will be dedciated to finding the mythical Bornean Peacock-Pheasant. From the trial head, we'll walk for around an hour on an easy trail to a purpose built hide from where we'll wait for our quarry to put in an appearance. We also have excellent chances for Crested Fireback, Bornean Banded Pitta, Raffle's Malkoha, Diard's Trogon, Rufous-winged Philentoma and Rufous-tailed Shama.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Difficult. This a Mega style tour designed for the dedicated lister and serious birder. Not suitable for dedicated or avid photographers; inexperienced birders; or anyone with mobility or health challenges.
Birding Ease		Demanding. Bird density is low, many visuals are high in the canopy. A number of difficult target species.
Accommodation		Basic facilities in some locations, good hotels in main centres.
Walking / Trails		Moderate, some narrow trails inside forest, can be very muddy after rain. Paya Maga trail is 5km each way on hilly terrain.
Vehicles / Roads		Moderate. Small coach for most of tour, 4x4 vehicles to reach Mount Trusmadi. Roads are good in Sabah, average to poor in Sarawak.
Photography		Worthwhile to average. Some dedicated blinds / hides.
Annoyances		Potential for land-leeches, malaria and dengue 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 12;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground 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
    - The Paya Maga lodge is a single hall with outside facilities. Large luggage cannot be taken to the lodge, and will be stored at our local homestay. Porters will be on hand to help carry small day packs, drinking water and food. An overnight bag, along with wellington rubber boots and rain gear are highly recommended as trails here are often muddy.
    - Basic homestay accommodation has shared bathrooms, which are basic, non-western style.
- 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. The hike to the Paya Maga camp is 5km each way in hilly country. Should you have any physical limitations, please notify us in advance of departure.
- For much of the tour you will be far away from modern medical facilities.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour departs from Kota Kinabalu before breakfast on day 1 and concludes here in the late afternoon of day 12.

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.

Kota Kinabalu International Airport (IATA: BKI) is the main port of entry and departure for international flights on this tour and is serviced by several international carriers.

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.