

Sumatra & Javan Mammal Tour September 2023 Trip Report

Indonesia is home to a huge number of islands and a biodiversity which is largely unrivalled globally. Many of the larger islands are home to endemic species of all kinds and this tour visited forests in Sumatra and Java to see as many of these endemic mammals and other species as possible. The trip was focused on the north of Sumatra (Gunung Leuser National Park), and then Western Java (Gunung Halimum National Park and its surroundings) as well as Central Java (Prambanan Temple, Borobudur Temple, Kemuning, Denasri Pekalongan and other nearby areas).

The trip was led by Indonesian Allin and we hired various local guides at the forest locations, including Jaka & Adjit who run a great guest house in Gunung Leuser and work tirelessly day and night for our clients, Imam & Handa in West Java and then Adan in Central Java. With the help of these local guides our group (consisting of Ewan Davies, Warren Gilson and Judy Parrish) find a fantastic total of 45 mammal species including 12 species of primates out of a possible 13 – the 13th being siamang which was heard (notable primates aside from orangutan included two species of gibbons and slow loris seen) and some very nice surprises such as marbled cat, Sunda leopard cat. We also had some nice bird sightings including wonderful great argus pheasants and various other endemic species.

Gunung Leuser National Park

The trip started in Jakarta and with everyone deciding to arrive the day before the start of the trip we were able to get to Medan in northern Sumatra early and gain an extra evening / night looking for wildlife. We then spent a further 3 full days here, totalling 4 nights in Gunung Leuser. The group explored the park, surrounding forests and plantations and had some fantastic sightings with a lot of effort and good luck. Because of the level of human activity around Gunung Lesuer it was necessary to stay out and spotlight until very late (often around 4-4:30am) as very little is seen until at least 10pm.

During the day in Gunung Leuser we had sightings of long-tailed macaque, Prevost's squirrel, plantain squirrel, lowland slender squirrel, black-striped squirrel, horse-tailed squirrel (Ewan only), southern pig-tailed macaque, Sundiac silvered langur, Sumatran orangutan, Thomas's langur, lar gibbon, long-tailed giant rat (seen feeding in the park during the day), Robinson's squirrel and pale giant squirrel. In a nearby bat cave we also had sightings of diadem leaf-nosed bat, very likely arcuate horseshoe bat, greater short-nose fruit bat and a couple of very likely oriental house rats.

During spotlighting there was also great luck with sightings of **Sunda palm civet**, three different **Sunda leopard cats, marbled cat, small-toothed palm civet** and the main target here, with two north Sumatra endemic **Hillier's slow lorises**. The local guides also saw a **Malay porcupine**.

Gunung Halimum National Park & Surrounding Areas

Following on from Gunung Lesuer National Park, the group headed back to Java and the west Javan areas around the great forested hills of Gunung Halimum. Once again we would spend the days looking in the forests (particularly in the morning) and then again after dark.

We were rewarded during the 3 nights here with sightings of west Javan ebony langur, Javan surili, black-striped squirrel, black-eared pygmy squirrel, groups of Javan gibbons, black giant squirrel, Javan treeshrew, three-striped ground squirrel and then at night we found red giant flying squirrel, Javan small-toothed palm civet (which seemed to be in courtship behaviour mode), diadem lead-nosed bat and common pencil-tailed tree mouse. We also found leopard tracks here as well as freshly killed Javan ferret-badger on the trail.

Central Java

From Gunung Halimum National Park the group headed east and into Central and Southern Java to find more mammals. The main focus in these areas would be the endemic Javan slow loris as we would spend time in places where many have been released back into the wild over the years and there are perhaps the best populations of them left in the wild.

During these 4 days we would visit various locations including Pramban Temple where we found **plantain squirrel** as well as several nice birds including endemic Javan mynah, Javan sparrow and Javan munia. Next was the world famous Borobudur Temple complex where we had sightings of more **plantain squirrels** and more birds, then in the nearby rice paddy-fields here we had a **Javan mongoose** sighting. At night we visited some of these forests where Javan slow loris have good populations (we will not disclose the name of these forests as the slow loris are still a target of poaching for the pet trade), over the course of the time here there were sightings of **Javan slow loris** (one with slow loris researchers working with them here and then in a second location 2 more individuals seen), **Sunda colugo** (3 seen) and **Javan flying squirrel** (6 of these amazing endemic mammals seen) as well as a good number of birds. Further locations we visited during the day included Petungkriyono where we saw **Javan gibbon**, **east Javan langur**, **Javan surili** (the southern/central subspecies *fredericae* which is a very rare sighting) and **long-tailed macaques** and then **large flying foxes** and **Eurasian wild boar** in Mendolo.

All in all, a very successful trip resulting in a great list of 45 mammal species and 78 bird species.

So below is a list of our sightings, it was mostly a mammal focused trip, so the bird list is lacking as no real time was spent on finding and ID'ing birds and next to no effort was made for reptiles and amphibians (hence their absence from the sightings table).

For anyone interesting in exploring Java, Sumatra or other islands in Indonesia for mammals specifically or other groups of wildlife (or just general species) please just contact us at info@royle-safaris.co.uk and we will happily provide information and answer any questions as well as preparing any tailored itineraries you may wish.

Species List

Mammals

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Javan Small-toothed Palm Civet	Arctogalidia trilineata
2	Small-toothed Palm Civet	Arctogalidia trivirgata
3	Black-striped Squrrel	Callosciurus nigrovittatus
4	Plantain Squirrel	Callosciurus notatus
5	Prevost's squirrel	Callosciurus prevostii
6	Pencil-tailed Tree Mouse	Chiropodomys gliroides
7	Greater Short-nosed Fruit Bat	Cynopterus sphinx
8	Sunda Colugo	Galeopterus variegatus
9	Fawn Roundleaf Bat	Hipposideros cervinus
10	Diademed Leaf-nosed Bat	Hipposideros diadema
11	Lar gibbon	Hylobates lar
12	Javan gibbon	Hylobates moloch
13	Malayan Porcupine	Hystrix brachyura
14	Javanese Flying Squirrel	lomys horsfieldii
15	Three-striped Ground Squirrel	Lariscus insignis
16	Long-tailed Giant Rat	Leopoldamys sabanus
17	Long-tailed Macaque	Macaca fascicularis
18	Southern Pig-tailed Macque	Macaca nemestrina

Gunung Leuser NP	Gunung Halimum NP	Central & South Java
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19	Javan ferret-badger	Melogale orientalis
20	Black-eared Pygmy Squirrel	Nannosciurus melanotis
21	Hiller's Slow Loris	Nycticebus hilleri
22	Javan Slow Loris	Nycticebus javanicus
23	Leopard	Panthera pardus
24	Southeast Asian Palm Civet	Paradoxurus musangus
25	Marbled Cat	Pardofelis marmorata
26	Red Giant Flying Squirrel	Petaurista petaurista
27	Sumatran Orangutan	Pongo abelii
28	Javan surili	Presbytis comata
29	Thomas Langur	Presbytis thomasi
30	Sunda Leopard Cat	Prionailurus javanensis
31	Large Flying Fox	Pteropus vampyrus
32	Malaysian Field Rat	Rattus tiomanicus
33	Pale Giant Squirrel	Ratufa affinis
34	Black Giant Squirrel	Ratufa bicolor
35	Arcuate Horseshoe Bat	Rhinolophus arcuatus
36	Horse-tailed Squirrel	Sundasciurus hippurus
37	Robinson's Squirrel	Sundasciurus robinsoni
38	Lowland Slender Squirrel	Sundasciurus tenuis
39	Eurasian Wild Pig	Sus scofra
40	Siamang	Symphalangus syndactylus
41	East Javan Langur	Trachypithecus auratus
42	Silvery Lutung	Trachypithecus cristatus
43	West Javan Langur	Trachypithecus mauritius
44	Javan treeshrew	Tupaia hypochrysa
45	Javan mongoose	Urva javanica

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Note: Some bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded as a sighting), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.

Birds

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Javan Myna	Acridotheres javanicus
2	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis

Gunung Leuser NP	Gunung Halimum NP	Central & South Java
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3	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos
4	Common lora	Aegithina tiphia
5	Cerulean Kingfisher	Alcedo coerulescens
6	Javan Blue-banded Kingfisher	Alcedo euryzona
7	Javan Plover	Anarhynchus javanicus
8	Brown-throated Sunbird	Anthreptes malacensis
9	Javan Trogon	Apalharpactes reinwardtii
10	House Swift	Apus nipalensis
11	Great Egret	Ardea alba
12	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
13	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea
14	Great-billed Heron	Ardea sumatrana
15	Javan Pond Heron	Ardeola speciosa
16	Great Argus	Argusianus argus
17	Javan Frogmouth	Batrachostomus javensis
18	Eastern Cattle Egret	Bubulcus coromandus
19	Olive-backed Sunbird	Cinnyris jugularis
20	Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis
21	Cave Swiflet	Collocalia linchi
22	Large-billed Crow	Corvus macrorhynchos
23	Freckle-breasted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos analis
24	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	Dicaeum trigonostigma
25	Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker	Dicaeum trochileum
26	Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus
27	Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus
28	Common Flameback	Dinopium javanense
29	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
30	Sunda Forktail	Enicurus velatus
31	Javan broadbill	Eurylaimus javanicus
32	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus
33	Zebra Dove	Geopelia striata
34	Javan Kingfisher	Halcyon cyanoventris
35	Gray-and-buff Woodpecker	Hemicircus sordidus
36	Grey-rumped Treeswift	Hemiprocne longipennis
37	Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike	Hemipus hirundinaceus
38	Pacific Swallow	Hirundo tahitica
39	Javan Bulbul	Ixos virescens
40	Banded Kingfisher	Lacedo pulchella
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41	Pied Triller	Lalage nigra
42	White-capped Munia	Lonchura ferruginosa
43	Javan Munia	Lonchura leucogastroides
44	White-headed Munia	Lonchura maja
45	Java sparrow	Lonchura oryzivora
46	Flame-fronted Barbet	Megalaima armillaris
47	Coppersmith Barbet	Megalaima haemacephala
48	Blue-throated Bee-eater	Merops viridis
49	Rufous Woodpecker	Micropternus brachyurus
50	Blue Whislting-thrush	Myophonus caeruleus
51	Eyebrowed Wren-babbler	Napothera epilepidota
52	Red-bearded Bee-eater	Nyctyornis amictus
53	Ashy Tailorbird	Orthotomus ruficeps
54	Javan Scops Owl	Otus angelinae
55	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus
56	Stork-billed Kingfisher	Pelargopsis capensis
57	Scarlet Minivet	Pericrocotus speciosus
58	Chestnut-breasted malkoha	Phaenicophaeus curvirostris
59	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus
60	White-browed Crake	Poliolimnas cinereus
61	Black-backed Swamphen	Porphyrio indicus
62	Yellow-crowned Barbet	Psilopogon henricii
63	Red-throated Barbet	Psilopogon mystacophanos
64	Sooty-headed Bulbul	Pycnonotus aurigaster
65	Orange-spotted Bulbul	Pycnonotus bimaculatus
66	Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	Pycnonotus brunneus
67	Yellow-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus goiavier
68	Cream-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus simplex
69	Raffles's malkoha	Rhinortha chlorophaea
70	Wreathed Hornbill	Rhyticeros undulatus
71	Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis
72	Crested Serpent-eagle	Spilornis cheela
73	Collared Kingfisher	Todiramphus chloris
74	Gray-cheeked Green Pigeon	Treron griseicauda
75	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	Treron vernans
76	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola
77	Common greenshank	Tringa nebularia
78	Red-breased Crake	Zapornia fusca

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Thomas's Langur



Thomas's Langur



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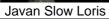
Javan Surili



Western Javan Lutung









Fawn Horseshoe Bat



Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat



Arcuate Horseshoe Bat







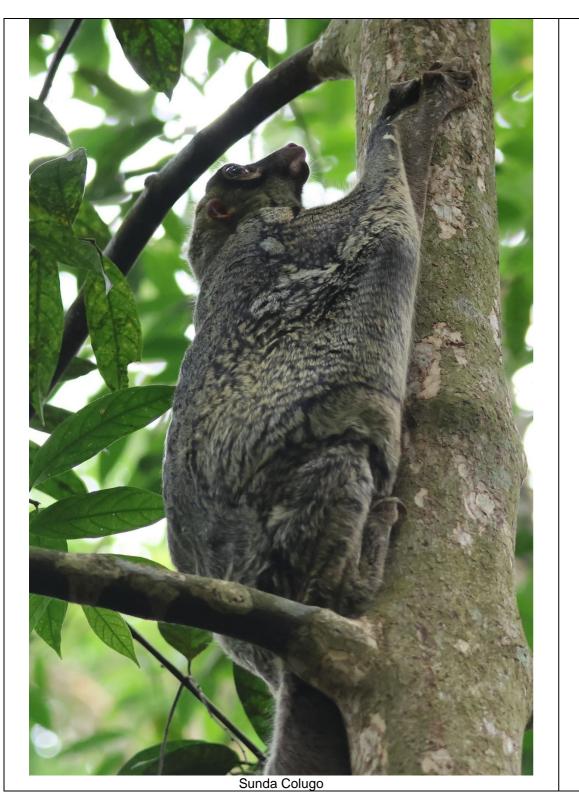
Javan Small-toothed Palm Civet



Javan Small-toothed Palm Civet



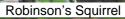
Sunda Colugo





Plantain Squirrel







Yellow-and-black Broadbill



Javan Plover



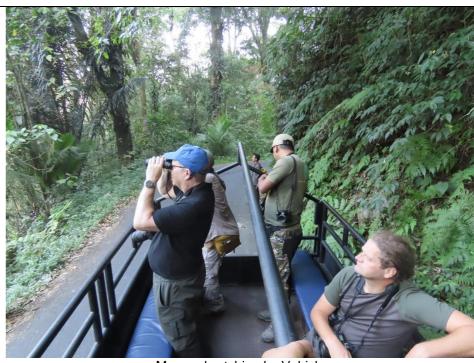
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Mammalwatching by Foot



Mammalwatching by Vehicle



Central Java – Javan Mongoose Searching