



Borneo Mammals At Night

Season: All Year

The Borneo Rainforest is a complex ecosystem that has significant seasonal, yearly and local variations in weather patterns across the island. Generally for the state of Sabah the wetter months are considered to be November to February but these can still be good viewing months especially for the likes of the rare Otter Civet. As is the case elsewhere the weather patterns have become increasingly unpredictable.

Run by Adventure Alternative Borneo

Focusing on diurnal and nocturnal rarities such as Clouded Leopard, Flat Headed Cat, Marbled Cat, Otter Civet, Tufted Ground Squirrel, Pangolin, Pen Tailed Tree Shrew, Tarsier, the list goes on...

Staying at three key locations:
Deramakot, Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley.

Group trip (min 3, max 6) per person:

3 GBP: 2,900

4 GBP: 2,500

5 GBP: 2,300

6 GBP: 2,300

2 person surcharge: GBP 300 per person

Single Supplement: GBP 400 (subject to availability)

Summary:

Day 1:

Accommodation: Deramakot Forest Reserve Meals Dinner

Days 2-7: Deramakot Full board

Days 8-9: Sukau Full board

Days 10-13: Danum Valley Full board

Day 14: Depart

Extra nights available before or after trip commencement at request including Mt Kinabalu and Tawau Hills National parks.

Introduction:

Home to more than 200 species of mammals, over 400 resident birds, 100's amphibians and fish and 15,000 plants, Borneo's forests are some of the most biodiverse on the planet.

This itinerary is very much night focussed with long drives looking for the elusive rarities at Deramakot and Danum Valley and on boats on the Kinabatangan. Days will be spent resting or taking short walks around the lodges. The hours spent out at night are flexible to suit local conditions and viewing opportunities.

Extra pre-arrival nights at Deramakot available upon request.

Trip itinerary:

Day 1: Deramakot

Meeting point is Telupid town in the centre of Sabah state at 1 p.m. We can assist with transfers from Sandakan/Sepilok or Kota Kinabalu.

Meet your guide for lunch and then transfer 2 hours in 4*4 to Deramakot Forest Reserve. First half is through oil palm plantation before reaching the adjacent Tangkulap Reserve and onwards to Deramakot HQ.

Deramakot at 55,00 hectares is the jewel in the Sabah Forestry Department's crown. The first logging concession in South East Asia to be sustainably certified, until recently it was virtually unvisited and unheard of. Now it is now proving to be the best location to see Borneo's rare and endemic wildlife.

About 75% of mammals in Sabah can be found in Deramakot. DFR is a key habitat for five globally threatened large mammals, namely *Orangutan*, *Bornean Pygmy Elephant*, *Tembadau (Banteng)*, *Proboscis Monkey* and *Clouded Leopard*.

The forest of Deramakot consists of lowland mixed dipterocarp forests dominated by the family Dipterocarpaceae. As a working logging forestry concession with adjacent forest reserves levels of hunting and poaching are low. This may partly explain the level of good wildlife sightings in Deramakot.

Rooms are simple but clean air con with en-suite hot water bathrooms. Provided for your stay at Deramakot are private guide, driver and 4*4 and cook for greater flexibility for safaris timings. Simple laundry facilities are available.

Deramakot consists of one major 30 km road that runs through the core area from HQ to the river with a number of side trails to explore. It is on this main road that most of the hours will be spent looking for the elusive mammal life. In addition there is abundant and diverse birding to see.

The 9 hours of 4*4 use included per 24 hours will be spent entirely during the nights as the target species are aimed for. The time out may begin after dinner or even later so as to finish around dawn. Extra hours can be requested whilst there depending on availability.

The hot daylight hours will be for resting or exploring on foot around the H.Q where gibbons and orangutans are sometimes seen and the calls of the hornbills and Argus Pheasant are a daily occurrence.

Days 2-7: Deramakot

Each of the evening's outings will depend on recent sightings, weather conditions and your guide's proposals. Whilst it is hoped the nights remain dry, rain is possible unexpectedly anytime so be prepared accordingly.

Apart from the main targets the sheer diversity of the mammal life in Deramakot will ensure there is always a unexpected surprise possible anytime:

Moon rat, Slow loris, Western tarsier, Red leaf monkey Silvered langur, Proboscis monkey, Long-tailed macaque, Pig-tailed macaque, Bornean gibbon, Orang-utan, Pangolin, Long-tailed porcupine, Common porcupine, Thick-spined porcupine Sun bear, Yellow-throated marten, Malay badger, Oriental small-clawed otter, Malay civet, Otter-civet, Binturong, Masked palm civet, Common palm civet, Banded palm civet, Short-tailed mongoose, Collared mongoose, Clouded leopard, Flat-headed cat, Leopard cat, Asian elephant,

Bearded pig, Lesser mouse-deer, Greater mouse-deer, Bornean yellow muntjac, Red muntjac, Sambar deer, Tembadau or Banteng.

Days 8-9: Sukau

After breakfast, depart back to Telupid and onto the village of Sukau on the mighty Kinabatangan River.

Whilst surrounded by vast tracts of oil palm plantation the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary still boasts an astonishing diversity of wildlife. It is one of only two places in the world inhabited by ten species of primate and over 200 species of birds.

The main focus for the two night stay will be the Flat Headed Cat. A very erratic creature, the best chances to view will be along the river banks at night and extended time will be spent in the boats searching for it, although the realistic chances are low.

There will be good chances to view the Pygmy Elephant, Orangutans, Maroon and Silver Langurs and the bizarre Proboscis Monkey. Also all 8 species of the hornbill can be found along the river.

Days 10-13: Danum Valley

The final destination will be the renowned Danum Valley Conservation Area. Consisting of 438,000 hectares of protected lowland forest, research has shown no evidence of permanent human settlement and since becoming a research centre very low levels of hunting and poaching.

Danum is home to an astonishing variety of plants and wildlife; including more than 340 species of birds, 124 species of mammals, 72 species of reptiles and 56 species of amphibians. The flora is as rich as the fauna with over 200 species of plants found per hectare. In 2019 researchers discovered the tallest tropical tree in the world when they found a giant reaching 100 metres.

Whilst most visitors stay at the Field Centre or more luxurious Rainforest Lodge for this trip the sleeping quarters are at the INFAPRO Field base. 30 minutes drive from the Field Centre gate, staying here allows for unrestricted time for night safaris which are otherwise restricted at the other locations.

Rooms at INFAPRO are basic and food simple Malay style. The days can be spent on the trails at the Field Centre but the main activity will again be in the evenings on the road where the Clouded Leopard has been spotted on a number of occasions.

Day 14: Depart

Departure day includes the transfer to Lahad Datu airport where the flights connect to Kota Kinabalu and onwards.

Alternatively continue to Tawau Hills Park with our expert resident guides. Here one of the world's rarest cats has been seen, the Borneo Bay Cat.

Tawau also offers consistent photo opportunities for Maroon Langurs and Gibbons and is a herpers dream. There are regular sightings of 7 out of the 8 Borneo Hornbills and opportunities to see the Irrawaddy Dolphin and Borneo Elephant are just an hour away, making the park an fascinating addition to any Borneo visit.