



Borneo

July & August 2019

37 days

Sophie & Manuel Baumgartner

General Informations

We visited Sabah for a total of 27 days in the protected areas of Kinabatangan, Tabin, Sepilok, Danum Valley and Kinabalu. We tried once again to travel independently and without any tour operator, which was a great challenge to organise from Switzerland. We still managed to do it with one exception. We will try to share the information that we gathered.

A note on *Deramakot*: When we started to organise our trip over one year in advance, we first contacted the highly recommended Adventure Alternative. After a long wait of some month they confirmed us two dates and then told us weeks later that they were already booked then: We were really disappointed and had a far better experience contacting Charlie from Sticky Rice: He took the time to exchanged countless e-mails with us and gave us many informations. We were really happy with this service. Mistakes can happen but what we want to describe here is that when we contacted Sticky Rice, they told us that there were still availabilities in Deramakot during the period we were here. We decided not to visit Deramakot in the end but if you really want to go and it would be already full, it might be a good idea to contact different tour operators or perhaps, if still possible, go on your own like Richard Webb described in his report.



We landed in Sandakan and started our travel in **Sepilok**, where we did 3 night walks in the Rainforest Discovery Center. We highly recommend a private night walk (60 ringgit per person instead of 30 for more than 2 hours of night walk). I think we were unlucky with the one group night walk we took but still: We were 9 pax in total with a very loud tour guide accompanying another group talking about everything other than wildlife. While trying to get a better look at a slow loris he flashed at us shouting "come on guys!" because his clients were starting to be impatient.

Anyway: **Giant Red Squirrels** are almost guaranteed as they build them a home where they seem to come out and climb the trees at almost the same time every day at dusk. We also spotted **Thomas's Flying Squirrel** in the area. **Slow Loris** are also often seen (we saw one once) and **Western Tarsier** about once a week. We were lucky enough to see one on our first walk and our guide spotted another on a second night. We had a glimpse of a **Malay Civet** entering the forest once and saw **Orangutans** at dusk before entering the forest.



During the night walks we saw **Large Flying Foxes** flying around every night. During the day we spotted a **Bornean Colugo** with a baby, several squirrels (**Prevost's Squirrel**, **Plantain Squirrel**, **Low's Squirrel**, **Ear-Spot Squirrel** and **Bornean Pygmy Squirrel**) and also a **Plain Treeshrew** nearby Palmoil Plantations early morning. We found **Horsfield's Fruit Bats** under the roof of the restaurant of the Sepilok Jungle Resort. Both **Pig-tailed** and **Long-tailed Macaques** were also around found around the town.

Kinabatangan River

7 nights



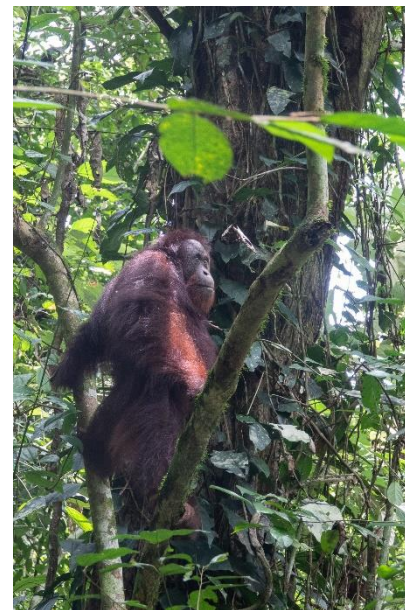
We decided to stay at *Osman's Homestay* at the Kinabatangan River. The easiest way to do the booking is to contact his wife Yanti via WhatsApp (+60 19-841 5259). His son picked us up from Sepilok and the way costs 200-250 ringgit depending on the car for 2h30 drive. We are not sure if this information is accurate but apparently it would be complicated to come via public transport. We know however that you could easily get to Lahad Datu via bus (2h30 again). Osman knows the river really well and was ready to do extended boat night drives with us every night. We were a maximum of 4 pax in his boat at a time. In other boats they would be 8-10 pax at a time. We payed 75 ringgit per day for room and food for 2 pax and 50 ringgit per boat drive (2 hours) per pax. But we also have to mention that he is building a second house right now and things might change a lot.

We stayed 7 nights at Osman's in total and did a night boat drive every night: We spotlighted on both the Menangul River and the Tenegang River each time. Sometimes we also went to a lake on the way from the Menangul to the Tenegang River on the right, I don't remember the exact name. We mainly rested during the day, but **Long-tailed Macaque**, **Pig-tailed Macaque**, **Silvered Langur** and **Proboscis Monkeys** can easily be seen on a morning boat drive. **Philippine Slow Loris**, **Bornean Striped Palm Civet**, **Island Palm Civet**, **Malay Civet** and both **Lesser** and **Greater Mousedeer** were our regular companions on the night drives. Osman usually also knows where the **Bornean Pygmy Elephants** are. We saw one one afternoon in the palm oil plantations next to his place as well as a **Sambar Deer** and many **Plaintain Squirrels**. We had a surprise second sighting during one night drive.



The highlight of our time at Kinabatangan was a very short but beautiful sighting of a **Banded Linsang** next to the Tenegang river: It jumped to successfully catch a bird (kingfisher) next to the river, fell into the water and ran off in the forest. Flat-headed cat sightings as well as python sightings become increasingly less according to Osman and we didn't see neither in 7 nights. We saw one **Leopard Cat**, two **Bornean Colugos** (red morph) and one **Banded Civet**.

We went to the Gomantong Caves on two occasions and saw three **Orangutans** and a **Lesser Mousedeer** the first time and a **Red Langur** the second time. The second time we were there we climbed up to see the bats come out of the cave at dusk. We saw **Dayak Roundleaf Bats**, **Wrinkle-lipped Bats** and **Large Flying Foxes** flying around while walking back. Doing a small night drive driving back we spotted again two Mousedeers and a **Red Giant Flying Squirrel**.





Tabin
3 nights

We booked our stay at Tabin Wildlife Resort directly with the lodge (alton@tabinwildlife.com.my). Everything worked perfectly, they picked us up at Lahad Datu and dropped us off there again. We were assigned with a very good guide for the whole trip and this is how they plan it for every group apparently.



We did an extended night drive on every night (3-4 hours) and had to pay 120 ringgit per pax extra for it. The bonus was that it was therefore always private. There are two roads on which they generally do drives: The one next to the palm oil plantation and another going towards the primary forest. They would always do the palm oil plantation road for night drives, we did one drive there on one night, one drive on the other road and both roads on the third night.

We arrived at Tabin and after a little rest, did an afternoon drive in order to put up our camera traps. We spotted a **Binturong** nearby the lodge in direction to the forest on a fig tree – how lucky we were for this sighting during the day! We observed a little bit and then a **Bearded Pig** emerged in front of our vehicle, what a start! We would usually see Bearded Pigs and **Pig-tailed Macaques** on the afternoon drives. We saw **Long-tailed Macaques** only once and spotted one old **Bornean Orangutan** male nearby the primary forest on a morning drive. We stopped





once on the road next to the Palm Oil and investigated the concrete tunnels built for a river passage under the road and found a group of **Lesser Woolly Horseshoe Bat**. One **Smooth Otter** and one **North Borneo Gibbon** family live next to the lodge: We spotted the Otters hunting on the first morning and the Gibbons on three occasions. One time there was a big Pig-tailed Macaque group catching fish in the river next to the lodge and they would jump around our cabin. We also spotted the Prevost's Squirrel twice around the lodge and smelled the Sunda Skunk when coming back from the night drives twice.

On the night drives we always spotted a lot of **Striped Palm Civets**, **Philippine Slow Loris**, **Red Giant Squirrels**, **Thomas's Flying Squirrels**, **Black Flying Squirrels**, **Malay Civets** and a couple of **Leopard Cats**. It seemed to us that the drive between the Palm Oil produced more individuals but less different species than the drive in direction of the primary forest. We spotted many **Large Flying Foxes** on the drive in direction to the primary forest as well as one **Bornean Colugo**, one **Rajah Maxomys** just after we turned to come back, one **Masked Palm Civet**, one **Banded Civet**, one **Greater Mousedeer** and two **Sambar Deers**. We spotted the **Lesser Mousedeer** twice around the lodge as well as the Malay Civet.





Kawag
3 nights



We booked our stay at Kawag directly with Ms Linda in the office in Lahad Datu (linda.neogia@gmail.com). We were again assigned with a guide who wasn't much of a mammal guide but at least we stayed with the same guide all the time. Kawag suffers from a bad reputation but to be honest we didn't quite find out why. We heard many different things and the lodge told us a different story than the others again. People would say that the forest is too young and there would be no animals, but we found trees that were much older than for example those around Tabin. We heard also that the management is changing all the time and that it might get better when one person will stay. We had, except from a horrible smell in the toilet, a pretty good stay there. We were able to do extended night drives again (3-4 hours) for 80 ringgit per pax per hour (one normal night drive is included in the price). As they had only one car we would usually start when other guests would finish their night drive (around 10pm). We did three night drives and saw poachers on one and a patrol on a second. They seem to have troubles with poachers but installed gates same as Danum Valley which, still seem to have poaching going on as well. In Kawag they said that they had less poaching complaints the more night drives they would do. We are convinced that mammal watching can be a good weapon against poaching giving the living animals more worth than dead ones.

On the way from Lahad Datu to the lodge (late afternoon) we spotted both a **Yellow-throated Marten** and a **Bearded Pig**. During the day we probably spotted **Lesser Woolly Horseshoe Bats** and **Sheath-tailed Bats** in the “bat caves” which are a couple of stones next to the lodge. We spotted **Prevost’s Squirrels**, a **Long-tailed Macaque** and heard Orangutan calls several times. Around diner time there was usually a **Malay Civet** around, and we spotted a **Smooth Otter** at the Kawag river next to the lodge at night! We spotted **Black Flying Squirrels**, **Philippine Slow Loris**, **Leopard Cats**, **Malay Civets** and **Bornean Palm Civets** on every night drive. We spotted also about three **Red Giant Flying Squirrel**, one **Thomas’s Flying Squirrel**, a **Bornean Colugo** and one **Short-nosed Fruit Bat**. Other than that, we had a surprise sighting of two **Bornean Porcupines** on one night drive and saw two **Western Tarsier** on another night drive.





We stayed in Infapro for 7 nights. This is the only part of our travel to Borneo that we did with a tour operator (Sticky Rice). Infapro is originally a tree nursery that is replanting trees and maintaining them since over 20 years. They started to do some tourism only a couple of month ago. They explained that they are still developing this tourism and are therefore only accepting guests that come with tour agencies for now. They would need guides ect. to be able to handle independent tourists. They already have a car though and a very good night drive driver (Along) with a good torch. We wrote down the e-mail of the manager (yscemd@gmail.com), if some of you are interested to go there, you might want to contact him to ask how things are at the moment. Anyway, the accommodation is very spacious and very good with fan, aircon, hot shower, toilet and fridge. We also had the best food of the whole trip there.

As you can see on the map on the next page, we basically had two options for the night drives: We would either go in direction to Taliwas or in direction to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge until the gate (5km before reaching the lodge). If you stay at the Danum Valley Field Center you would do the night drive to Infapro and back and in the Borneo Rainforest Lodge to the gate and back (or maybe you can arrange more I don't know about that).



A short overview of *Danum Valley*. I hope I am explaining this correctly but here is what I understood: Imbak Canyon, Maliau Basin and everything that is green on the map is part of Danum Valley but only the Danum Valley Field Centre and the Borneo Rainforest Lodge are inside the *Danum Valley Conservation Area*. Other places are part of other conservation areas. I tried to draw the gates (yellow) that are closed during the night and one always has to register in Taliwas.

We spotted **Bornean Pygmy Squirrels** on the tree next to the Restaurant of Infapro and would see one **Bearded Pig** around the nursery on almost every evening around 7pm.

We drove three times to the Danum Valley Field Center and found out that **Red Langurs** are pretty easy to spot, we also saw at least one **Pig-tailed Macaques** along the road each time. We would wait until it got dark and go back to Infapro: We spotted **Sambar Deers** around the Center on every evening and spot a couple of **Red Flying Squirrels** on the way every evening as well. On one late night (or rather early morning), they kept the gate open so we decided to have a look and had a glimpse of a **Sunda Pangolin** between Danum Valley Field Center and the Observation Tower.



Other than that we would start our night drives on about 11pm and drive around for 4 hours or more. On both roads (to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge and to Taliwas) we would spot **Large Flying Foxes**, **Philippine Slow Loris**, **Red Flying Squirrel**, **Bornean Striped Palm Civet**, **Malay Civet** and **Leopard Cat** on every night. To give you a number we saw a total of 26 Leopard Cats although some might have been the same individual. We saw three **Banded Civets** (and finally managed to get a picture thanks to the red filter) and one sighting was really close to Infapro. We would also see **Thomas's Flying Squirrel** and **Black Flying Squirrel** on some occasions on both roads but much rarer than the Red Flying Squirrel.

We had one single sighting of a **Bornean Colugo**, one **Binturong** and one **Lesser Mousedeer** on the road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Our highlight was one long sighting of a **Sunda Clouded Leopard** walking on the road at about 1am halfway to Taliwas. We followed him for 15 minutes and as we saw that the young male was looking for an entrance into the forest, we stopped the car stayed as quiet as possible and looked with one red light: He came closer and closer to the car until he was about 5 meters away and then disappeared into the forest. On the last morning we had a glimpse of an **Island Palm Civet** crossing the road close to Taliwas (and therefore closer to Palm Oil Plantations).





Sayap Substation
Kinabalu National Park
4 nights



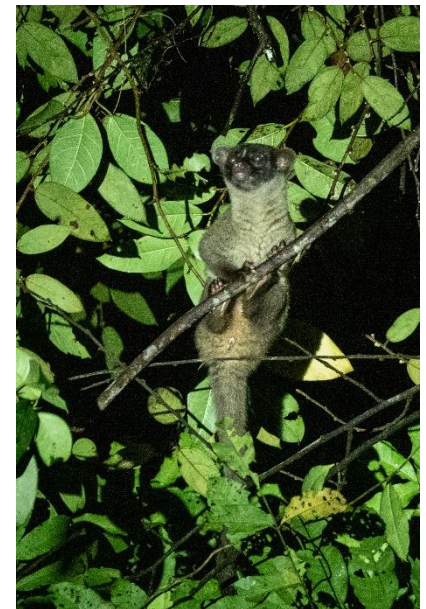
© Miki from Mikis Survival Camp

When we saw this picture that was taken with a phone on one of the trails in Sayap sub station, we immediately changed our plans so that we would visit this place before leaving Borneo: We had to give it a try!

We decided therefore to visit the Sayap Substation of the Kinabalu Nationalpark and it was a great place to stay. We stayed in a wonderful homestay where we felt very welcomed. It's Jelitah's House and it's easiest to contact her via Whats App (+60 14-284 9573). We had an own room with beds and fan, toilet but a cold shower which was great to cool down on the warm days. Her husband coordinates all the Homestays so that as many people as possible profit from tourism. They picked us up

from Kota Belud which is easy to reach from Kota Kinabalu and dropped us of there after our stay. We took a taxi for 60 ringgit to go to Kota Kinabalu. We payed 120 ringgit per pax per night with everything included (food, transport and activities (in our case looking for squirrels during the day)).

For the night walks we went with either with a ranger Ezara (+60 19-399 0376) and/or with Jelitah's son, Victor who wants to do a guide training in a month time. We payed 160 ringgit per night and walked for minimum 4 hours each night.





We did nightwalks on every night and saw a **Philippine Slow Loris** twice on the drive to the Substation and a **Striped Palm Civet** once. Once we spotted a **Bornean Shrew** next to the house before leaving. During the **Asian House Rat** in a bin next to a picnic place and next to it two Striped Palm Civets. We had a glimpse of a **Asian House Rat** in the last night walk.

Sayap has a couple of very nice night trails. We saw the Tufted Ground Squirrel on the yellow “road”, which is a forest aisle and would recommend either do the road or the Wariu trail during the night. The road is almost never used neither by cars nor by tourists (also gladly nearly never by leeches) and the Wariu Trail goes along a couple of rivers (what is perfect for night walks- even though we haven’t been very lucky on that trail).



Gunung Budda & Mulu
National Park
10 nights

We flew to Limbang for 100 ringgit per pax with a very small plane with propeller for 50 minutes. We wanted to go by bus but according to the website it would take about 13 hours and cost 50 ringgit per pax. Having made the experience that it takes longer than what they say, we decided to change our plan. Apparently, it takes about 8 hours though and only 13 hours if you are really unlucky with the waiting time on the border to Buthan. You must show your passport 9 times. There is also an option to go from Kota Kinabalu to Buthan by boat and then to take a grab or minibus to Limbang.

From Limbang we drove 2 hours to get to the Medalam Longhouse. We had a nice room with fan. We paid 50 ringgit per pax for the night and one meal. There is an option to do either night drives or night boat drives. We decided to do a night drive but apparently it takes about 2 hours to get nearby the forest of Gunung Budda. On the way we spotted 8 **Striped Palm Civets** and a cat (see "mystery cat"). On the way back we had a glimpse of a **Long-tailed Porcupine** crossing the road in the palm oil plantations. We saw a man who was apparently hunting flying foxes on the way back as well. Our plan was to stay a couple of nights and explore the new Gunung Budda National Park. Sadly, they asked for such a high price (they charged us 600 ringgit for the drive from Limbang and the night drive and wanted 1200 ringgit to bring us to Gunung Budda) that we decided to change our plans.





We left the Longhouse and drove to another Longhouse, called Malaban Longhouse, by boat for 170 ringgit. On the way we spotted a **Pig-tailed Macaque**. We decided to stay there for 2 nights and arranged a night drive each night with James. We paid 120 ringgit for 2 hours and were much closer to Gunung Budda than the other longhouse. You can contact James either via Facebook (James Baraun, Malaban) or via WhatsApp (+60 19-649 3979): He could pick you up from Limbang for 300 ringgit and you could stay at Bala and Sina's home for 55 ringgit per pax per night, meals included. Bala and Sina are a lovely 70-year-old couple and still incredibly strong. They cooked great food for us and we felt very welcome. Sadly, they speak very little English. The accommodation is very basic though (matt on the living room floor, water bucket as a shower ect.). We spotted a **Sunda Short-nosed Fruit Bat** in their garden. On the night drives we drove in direction to the national park and did a loop. We were mainly driving through logged forest and spotted a **Greater Mousedeer** in the primary forest part. Other than that, we spotted a **Malay Civet**, two **Leopard Cats**, eight Striped Palm Civets, two **Kayan Slow Loris** and one **Black Flying Squirrel**.

We left the longhouse the next morning and went in direction to Gunung Mulu.

We went upstream and it took us all morning because the water level was low and we had to push the boat a lot. Shortly before we arrived at the place where we would start walking, we were told that it would have been possible to go left instead of right and go to Gunung Budda. We paid 350 ringgit for the transport and walked another 12 km to Camp 5 in Gunung Mulu (which is a great place). We didn't stop on the way to look for bats to be honest as we were really tired and carrying a heavy backpack. We saw two **Prevost's Squirrel** on the way and two **Red Langurs** fighting on the floor. We walked part of the same way at night and spotted a Leopard Cat. There are three possible ways you could walk: One in direction of the river where we came from, one is the Summit trail and one in direction to another river to go to the Headquarter. You need a guide to walk the trails and you would need a to pay an entrance fee as soon as you enter the park, but this is only possible at the Headquarter. We were able to pay later on. We looked for bats the next morning and found both **Bornean Horseshoe Bats** and **Greater Sheath-tailed Bats**. We didn't see any other mammal neither on the dusk walk nor on the night walk.

We would suggest to do the whole thing the other way around (from Mulu to Budda) as many tourists do the trip this way and the guides are much more prepared for this.



We had leave Camp 5 the next day unfortunately because it was full the rest of the time we were in Gunung Mulu. We walked 8 km the next morning to the other river where we took the boat to the Headquarter. We had a beautiful but short sighting of a **Painted Treeshrew** next to the trail while walking. We paid 250 ringgit for the boat drive and quickly spotted at the Wind Caves to look for bats. We spotted a **Horsefield's Myotis** hunting during the day and a family of Sunda Short-nosed Fruit Bat at the entrance of the caves.

We spent our final days in Mulu in the Mulu River Lodge which is basically located next to the Headquarter. We had a nice room with balcony and fan (but only when there is electricity). There are toilets and cold showers next to the dormitory. One night per pax is 35 ringgit.

Walking trails: You are not supposed to walk all other trails than the Botany Loop and Night Walk Loop after 8pm but nobody is controlling it and we saw a herper at 1am once as well on the way to the Deer Cave. You can walk all of the trails on your own except for the way to Camp 1 after a while.

- Botany Loop (45min): This is the Loop most tourists do for the night walk. We would suggest to do this loop at night after 10pm.
- Night walk Loop (45min)
- Tree Top Tower (15min): This walk as well as the Deer Cave is closed at night with a gate.
- Paku Loop (3h)
- Kanyalong Loop (2h)
- Way to Camp 1 (3h)



When walking around during the day we spotted **Bornean Pygmy Squirrels**, **Plantain Squirrels**, Prevost's Squirrel and one **Giant Squirrel**. In the Deer Cave we found many **Lesser Bent-winged Bats** in the small holes on the roof, one **Philippine Horseshoe Bat** at the entrance of the Deer Cave and many **Wrinkle-lipped Bats**. We didn't find any Naked Bats unfortunately but apparently it's good to look for them at the end of the Deer Caves either high up in direction of the roof or nearby the handrails or under the stairs. During night walks we had one beautiful sighting of a **Binturong** right above us on the way to Camp 1 nearby the place where you cannot go further without a guide. We also spotted a Malay Civet as well as a **Mueller's Rat** and many snakes. When a Banded Crait crossed right in front of our feet we started to always stop while spotlighting around.



We also did night boat drives. It was not easy to find a driver as most of the driver wouldn't take the risk to drive at night because the water level was very low and they would need to know exactly where to go. We found Mr. Laing in the end and he took us to very promising places, we were unfortunately a bit unlucky, we had to go back early because of heavy rain the first time. Mr. Laing is only reachable by phone call: +60 19-874 8840. We would again suggest starting the night boat drive later on (from 10-11pm on) as the river is quite busy before that. We spotted a **Large Sunda Tree Mouse** as well as a couple of **Long-tailed Macaques** nearby Mulu and all the other mammals outside the village area. We also spotted several Striped Palm Civets, had one beautiful Malay Civet sighting as well as one **Philippine Slow Loris** sighting.

Mystery cat:

On our first night drive close to Gunung Budda we spotted a cat in a transition area between palm oil plantations and formerly logged forest. Our first impression looking through our binoculars was that it was much bigger (about twice as big) than a domestic cat. Compared with the domestic cats we saw in Borneo it was about three times bigger, was all brown with a very long tail. The head was quiet round and the ears didn't seem not to be very big. But from this distance and with the flashlight it seemed to be too bright for a bay cat, we didn't see any stripes in the face and there was an abandoned house nearby. On our whole Borneo trip we didn't see any domestic cat who looked similar like this one.

We will unfortunately probably never be able to tell if it was a domestic or a bay cat but we will definitively look closer at "most probably domestic cats" in the future.



	Sabah						Sarawak
	Kinabatangan	Sepilok	Tabin	Kawag	Infrapro	Sayap	Budda & Mulu
	7 nights	3 nights	3 nights	3 nights	7 nights	4 nights	10 nights
Large Flying Fox	X	X	X		X		
Short-nosed Fruit Bat		X		X			
Sunda Short-nosed Fruit Bat							X
Lesser Woolly Horseshoe Bat			X	X			
Philippine Horseshoe Bat							X
Bornean Horseshoe Bat							X
Dayak Roundleaf Bat	X						
Sheath-tailed Bat				X			
Greater Sheath-tailed Bat							X
Lesser Bent-Winged Bat							X
Horsefield's Myotis							X
Wrinkle-lipped Bat	X						X
Bornean Shrew						X	
Plain Treeshrew		X					
Painted Treeshrew							X
Sunda Pangolin					X		
Bornean Colugo	X	X	X	X	X		
Western Tarsier		X		X			
Philippine Slow Loris	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Kayan Slow Loris							X
Red Langur	X				X		X
Silvered Langur	X						
Proboscis Monkey	X						
Long-tailed Macaque	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pig-tailed Macaque	X	X	X				X
North Borneo Gibbon			X				
Bornean Orangutan	X	X	X				
Prevost's Squirrel		X	X	X		X	X
Jentink's Squirrel						X	

	Sabbah						Sarawak
	Kinabatangan	Sepilok	Tabin	Kawag	Infrapro	Sayap	Budda & Mulu
	<i>7 nights</i>	<i>3 nights</i>	<i>3 nights</i>	<i>3 nights</i>	<i>7 nights</i>	<i>4 nights</i>	<i>10 nights</i>
Low's Squirrel		X					
Plantain Squirrel	X	X				X	X
Ear-Spot Squirrel		X				X	
Bornean Black-Banded Squirrel						X	
Bornean Pygmy Squirrel		X			X	X	X
Tufted Pygmy Squirrel						X	
Giant Squirrel							X
Tufted Ground Squirrel						X	
Horsfield's Flying Squirrel					X		
Black Flying Squirrel			X	X	X		X
Thomas's Flying Squirrel		X	X	X	X		
Red Giant Squirrel	X	X	X	X	X		
Asian House Rat						X	
Tioman Rat	X						
Mueller's Rat							X
Rajah Maxomys			X				
Sabah Giant Rat	X						
Large Sunda Tree Mouse							X
Bornean Porcupine				X			
Long-tailed Porcupine					(X)	X	X
Yellow-Throated Marten				X			
Smooth Otter			X	X			
Small-Clawed Otter			(X)				
Banded Linsang	X						
Bornean Striped Palm Civet	X		X	X	X	X	X
Island Palm Civet	X		X		X		
Malay Civet	X	X	X	X	X		X
Masked Palm Civet			X				
Binturong			X		X		X

	Sabbah						Sarawak
	Kinabatangan	Sepilok	Tabin	Kawag	Infrapro	Sayap	Budda & Mulu
	<i>7 nights</i>	<i>3 nights</i>	<i>3 nights</i>	<i>3 nights</i>	<i>7 nights</i>	<i>4 nights</i>	<i>10 nights</i>
Banded Civet	X		X		X		
Sunda Clouded Leopard					X		
Leopard Cat	X		X	X	X		X
Bornean Pygmy Elephant	X						
Bearded Pig			X	X	X		
Lesser Mousedeer	X		X		X		
Greater Mousedeer	X		X				X
Sambar Deer	X		X	X	X		
Total	25	17	25	19	21	14	24

(X): Captured by our camera traps

Mammal watching and Conservation

We tried to consciously do some conservation while doing mammal watching for this trip and here are a couple of ideas for fellow mammal watchers who maybe also want to plan their travel a bit differently like we did from time to time.

- 1) We tried to go to places where not a lot of tourism was going on to give an opportunity also to other people. Only few tourists per year can already make a big difference in a village! Like this, it's possible that a legendary hunter becomes a guide that now only hunts bearded pig like Loveinsin in Sayap. It also gives the possibility for young people to get interested and to maybe become a guide or a ranger one day.
- 2) Never stop talking about mammals. We tried to go to places where there is not so much tourism and unfortunately still hunting, pet keeping and poaching going on. The younger generation seem to start thinking differently and we took the chance to tell them about their mammals teach them how to look for them and ideally show them a couple of their mammals. We told them for example that there are many different kinds of rats and squirrels but also shrews and mice. They were amazed to hear that people would come from far away to see for example the tufted pygmy squirrel and that it was "not found in Danum Valley". We showed that we were excited to see and ready to do a lot of effort to try to observe the animals they would eat to give them more value alive than dead. Also, we heard repeatedly that the more tourist activity such as night drives there were, the less poaching there was.
- 3) Tell the people what kind of animals are threatened and which ones not, which one are protected and which one not and why it's important to preserve every single species and to keep a good balance. You can also creatively try to find compromises: For example, we were talking with a young man that had 9 squirrels as pets. We freed 2 of them which were stressed, hurt and were caught not long ago. We told him that he could keep those who were already used to being encaged but also told him why we hope he will stop catching more. We gave him the idea of building a squirrel house and put it on a tree next to his house.
- 4) Maybe take a mammal field guide, a torch, a binocular or camera traps with you to offer. We met a biologist working in Gunung Mulu and she told us that many people do research in their parc but that they don't share the data with them. All they had were 4 very bad camera traps. They observed some very interesting behaviour of wild cats going into the caves at night or saw great sightings of animals on an unprotected corridor. With the 4 camera traps that we offered them they will now be able to maybe prove what they already know and get more funds for more research or more attention from the government.



Talking about mammals with kids