Terra Incognita Ecotours, Incorporated

# Borneo; Red Ape Encounter



10-day adventure to the island of Borneo 27<sup>th</sup> September - 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Well known as the Land Below the Wind and also Land of the Sacred Mountain, Sabah on the island of Borneo, is a land of varied landscapes and natural wonders. Borneo is also the home of many National Parks and an abundance of tropical wildlife and nature. This tour takes you on a journey covering local cultures, and includes a stay on the banks of the Kinabatangan River; one of Borneo's longest and most majestic rivers. The river and its surrounding rainforest wetlands make up one of the richest ecosystems on the planet.

Travel to the Kinabatangan River, in the north-eastern region of Malaysian Borneo. This trip will offer an opportunity to visit the Sepilok orangutan center where these primates are rehabilitated for future release programs, and from there on to the Kinabatangan River, home to wild orangutans and Bornean Pygmy elephants, as well as Proboscis monkeys, hornbills and many other wildlife species that utilize the river. You will also get a chance to see the work that Houston Zoo Conservation Department are doing in Borneo – protecting and promoting local conservation. End the adventure exploring the remarkable pristine rainforests of the Danum Valley.

This is an Ecotour that will make a difference to you, and to the areas we visit.

We will donate to the important wildlife saving efforts of the Houston Zoo Conservation Department. We will employ local people. We will use locally owned and operated lodges and outfitters. We will use local goods and services.

Cost per person is \$9,895

Single supplement is \$3,400

Reserve your space today - Call 1-855- ECO TOUR or visit www.ecotours.com

#### Day 1: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 – Arrival Sandakan

Plan to arrive into Sandakan (airport code SDK) where you are met on arrival and drive 20 minutes to your lodgings adjacent to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center, the comfortable Sepilok Nature Resort. Welcome Dinner with your Zoo hosts this evening.
Overnight at Sepilok Nature Resort
(D)

## Dav 2: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 - Sepilok

After breakfast you head for the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Center for a special behind-thescenes tour with the Center's founder to learn about Bornean sun bears. Thereafter visit the nearby orangutan sanctuary this is an initiative of the Sabah Wildlife Department to rehabilitate and train young orangutans to survive again in the wild. Visitors view these red apes during their feeding time from an observation platform followed by audio visual presentation of the rehabilitation initiatives. Observe the difference of rehabilitated orangutans and wild ones in the lower Kinabatangan forest we will see later in the trip.

In the afternoon there should be time to visit the rainforest Discovery Center, walk on the canopy walkway and perhaps even a night walk ins erach fo nocturnal species. **Overnight at Seplok Nature Resort**(B,L,D)



Scenes from Sepilok

#### Day 3: Sunday 29th September, 2024 - Sepilok to Kinabatangan River

Today embark on a 2 and ½ hour boat ride up the Kinabatangan River to the Sukau Rainforest Lodge. The lower Kinabatangan River is the last remaining large tract of wetlands in Malaysia which has enormous wildlife diversity including a number of species endemic to the island of Borneo such as the orangutan, Proboscis monkey and Bornean "Pygmy" elephant. During our stay here, we will be visiting the recently protected 26,000 hectare Lower Kinabatangan Conservation Area, a region where the Houston Zoo has been working since 2004 to protect orangutans, elephants, hornbills, small carnivores and work with local communities on reforestation and local village projects. Our program in Sukau will involve learning about the conservation and health initiatives in the area and becoming part of the conservation effort. We plan to go on boat cruises up and down the Kinabatangan River looking for wildlife including orangutans, Proboscis monkeys and much more. In the evening we will present a slideshow on the orangutan research, conservation, community involvement and overview of Kinabatangan ecology. This will be a unique educational opportunity to understand how the Zoo has worked closely with the Conservation organization HUTAN to protect orangutans and their habitat. This evening we can go on a night cruise to look for nocturnal animals and roosting diurnal birds.



#### Day 4: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 - Kinabatangan River

Take an early morning river cruise along the Menanggol River by a silent electric motor in search of wildlife to start your day. Enjoy your lunch riverside before embarking on a 27 km overland journey to the vicinity of Gomantong Cave. Gomantong Cave is ecologically important for the swifts and bats that occupy its cavern and economically important to local bird nest harvesters. Traverse deep into the forest along a trail in search of orangutans which are often seen feeding nearby. As dusk approaches witness the exodus of over two million bats as birds of prey eye off a meal. Return toSukau Rainforest Lodge for dinner.

**Overnight at Sukau Rainforest Lodge** 

(B,L,D)

#### Day 5: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2024 - Kinabatangan River - HUTAN

This morning we take an early morning boat cruise on the Kinabatangan River in search of orangutans, Proboscis Monkeys, langurs and Bornean elephants. We will continue up-stream to visit the remarkable Danau Girang Field Center / HUTAN research HQ funded in part by the Houston Zoo.

In the afternoon we cruise downstream on another game viewing cruise until sunset. After dinner, we can again choose to go on a night cruise to look for nocturnal animals, along the banks of the Kinabatangan River.

#### **Overnight at Sukau Rainforest Lodge**

Wildlife on banks of Kinabatangan River

## Day 6: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024 - Kinabatangan River – Lahad Datu – Danum Valley

Early wake up for a full breakfast, before departing for our next destination: Borneo Rainforest Lodge. A boat will send us upriver to meet with the vehicle to send us to Lahad Datu. Upon arrival 1.5 to 2 hours later, transfer to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge by road (approx.. 2 hours). Enjoy the changing landscapes of the regenerating forests to virgin rainforests millions of years old. Check into the lodge upon arrival and settle in. Meet your guide and enjoy lunch. After a short rest, your

(B,L,D)

guide will give you an introduction to the Borneo rainforest and the trails surrounding the lodge. After dinner, go on a guided night safari to spot nocturnal creatures.

## **Overnight at Borneo Rainforest Lodge**

(B,L,D)



## Day 7: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024 – Danum Valley

Wake up to the calls of Borneo Gibbons and start your day with a guided trek to the viewpoint and burial site - Coffin Cliff. Take a short break by the natural pool for a refreshing dip before returning for lunch at the lodge. In the afternoon, go on optional activities such as guided jungle trekking, or weather permitting, water tubing session down the Danum River. Guided night walk on the nature trail after dinner.

#### **Overnight at Borneo Rainforest Lodge**

## Day 8: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 – Danum Valley

Early wake up for a morning walk before breakfast. If you are feeling active, trek to Fairy Falls & Serpent Falls before returning to the lodge for lunch. After lunch, spend the rest of the day at leisure or go on a guided hike along the Segama River.

This evening Cocktails are served on the outdoor deck before dinner. **Overnight at Borneo Rainforest Lodge** 

Day 9: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 – Danum Valle – Lahad Datu – Kota Kinabalu Optional early morning walk and return to the lodge for lunch before checking out at 1.30 PM for the 2 hour transfer to Lahad Datu Airport for your return flight to Kota Kinabalu.

Upon arrival at Kota Kinabalu Airport, transfer to the luxurious Shangri - La's Tanjung Aru for overnight stay. Farewell Dinner at the resort this evening Overnight at Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort (B,L,D)

## Day 10: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 – Kota Kinabalu to Home

This morning you are transferred to the Kota Kinabalu airport to board your flights headed home and cross the International Dateline en route home. **(B)** 

## Cost per person is \$9,895

## Single supplement is \$3,400

(B = breakfast; L = lunch; D = dinner)

#### Terra Incognita Ecotours Inc. is registered with the State of Florida as a Seller of Travel. **Registration # ST36712**

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