

# Borneo's Orangutans

Naturetrek Tour Report

10th –22nd October 2022

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Danum Valley by Martin Webb



Leopard Cat by Martin Webb



Orangutan by Peter Gudgeon



Proboscis Monkey by Peter Gudgeon

Tour report by Hazwan Suban



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Tour participants: Hazwan Suban (Leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

## Summary

This was another fantastic exploration of some of Borneo's finest and most untouched habitats. As we travelled from Sepilok along the Kinabatangan River we ended up in the Danum Valley surrounded by primary untouched rainforest. Some of the group then continued to Tabin for a three-night extension. No fewer than 11 wild Orangutans were encountered with some fantastic close-up views and a total of 27 mammal species were enjoyed. Among the many star species were Banded Civet, Western Tarsier, Leopard Cat and Colugo along with all of the other primate species of the region! 79 species of bird were enjoyed including eight hornbill species and a few endemics such as Bornean Bristlehead, White-fronted Falconet and Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker. It was great to be running this tour once again after a two year break and we were very encouraged by the number of wild Orangutans we were able to record. All this, while enjoying everything we were lucky enough to encounter and having a lot of fun along the way.

The below is a brief daily summary from our excellent leader Hazwan Suban.

### Day 1

**Monday 10th October**

The group departed from Heathrow and flew to Kuala Lumpur and then on a connecting flight to Sandakan, from where we drove to the Sepilok Nature Resort.

### Day 2

**Tuesday 11th October**

On the first day when the group checked in at Sepilok Nature Resort, we were lucky to see Orangutan and Red Leaf Monkey (or Maroon Langur) nearby. In the evening we went for optional night walk at the Rainforest Discovery Centre and we were again extremely lucky to see Red Giant Flying Squirrel, Western Tarsier and Slow Loris! Such a great first night among other wildlife that we saw.

### Day 3

**Wednesday 12th October**

We had a full day at Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre and Borneo Sunbear Conservation Centre. We saw several Orangutan coming for morning feeding and beside that we also had great view of Bornean Bristlehead, one of the target endemic birds! At Borneo Sunbear Conservation Centre we also had several great views of Sunbear.

We headed back again for afternoon feeding at the Orangutan Centre and saw a big male Orangutan, a mother and a baby. Big smile from all the group! We are glad to have come back in the afternoon otherwise we may not have seen that big male Orangutan.

Some keen group members attended another optional night walk; Slow Loris, Kingfishers and snakes among other wildlife were observed.

**Day 4****Thursday 13th October**

We went out for a morning walk at the Rainforest Discovery Centre - it was such a lovely morning to see several species of birds and some wild Orangutan from the canopy walk. Great views and great photos! We then had lunch before departing to Sukau Rainforest Lodge. We saw wild Orangutan on the journey to the lodge.

**Day 5****Friday 14th October**

This morning we had a cruise and a walk at the hornbill boardwalk. At around 1400hrs we saw a mother Orangutan with her baby near the lodge and everyone was able to get views of them both. The afternoon was then spent on another cruise where we saw many Egrets, Oriental Darter and five kingfisher species.

**Day 6****Saturday 15th October**

In the morning we went on another cruise and saw Saltwater Crocodile, a selection of primates and more water birds. In the afternoon we then tried for Elephants but sadly we had no luck.

**Day 7****Sunday 16th October**

We had an early departure from Sukau Rainforest Lodge to Lahad Datu. Afterwards we continued our transfer to Borneo Rainforest Lodge and everyone enjoyed the journey and then we had a welcome briefing from lodge staff and met our local guides (Rudy and Nicholas).

Right after the briefing our guide spotted a male Orangutan near the restaurant. I couldn't believe that Orangutans were so near - we all had lunch while watching the wild Orangutan! This group is so lucky! In the afternoon we went for a walk, then after dinner we went for a night drive.

**Day 8****Monday 17th October**

We had a morning walk along the canopy walk and believe it or not we saw five Orangutans at eye level. In the afternoon the group went for a walk and then another night drive.

While we had dinner we also managed to spot a Banded Civet nearby, only my third sighting of this rare civet.

**Day 9****Tuesday 18th October**

We started bright and early with aim of getting to the view point at the end of the Point Trail. We split in to two groups, one group going ahead and reaching the view point where they were rewarded with a spectacular view across the misty forest. The second group later arrived at the view point, and then after we took in the view we all headed back down. We heard the Bornean Gibbon calling but we sadly couldn't to see them, Red Leaf Monkey was the highlight of that morning. During the afternoon walk we saw another different male Orangutan not far from the lodge.

The night produced lots of frogs and insects.

**Day 10****Wednesday 19th October**

Regrettably it was time to say goodbye to most of the group. Their last morning walk produced Bornean Gibbon and a few Orangutans. At 0830hrs myself, Anne, Peter and Patricia continued on the holiday to Tabin Wildlife Resort.

Tabin Extension

**Day 11****Thursday 20th October**

During our morning walk at Tabin we saw Bornean Gibbon and a big male Orangutan near the resort.

The night drive was very productive and enjoyable as we saw Civet and a Leopard Cat!

**Day 12****Friday 21st October**

Our dawn drive produced a total of three wild Orangutans!

We had a dusk drive which continued into a night drive. We saw another Banded Civet and also a Masked Palm Civet which was another target species!

**Day 13****Saturday 22nd October**

We went for our final morning walk of the holiday and had good sightings of Bornean Gibbon and a handful of birds. After packing we left Tabin at 10:30 and transferred to Lahad Datu airport for the onward flights to Kota Kinabalu, and then from Kuala Lumpur to Heathrow.

Overall highlights:

79 species of birds seen (plus one heard only), including eight Hornbills!

26 species of mammals.

All 10 species of primates. (Nine species up to Danum and 10 including Tabin).

11 wild Orangutans up to Danum and 17 wild Orangutans including Tabin.

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name (E = endemic species)	Scientific name	October 2022									
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Storm's Stork	<i>Ciconia stormi</i>					✓	✓				
Little (Striated) Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>			✓		✓	✓				
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				✓						
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>			✓							
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				✓	✓					
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓	✓	✓					
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>				✓	✓					
White-fronted (Bornean) Falconet E	<i>Microhierax latifrons</i>		✓								
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>			✓	✓						
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>			✓	✓						
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>					✓			✓		
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>				✓						
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>			✓		✓			✓		
Wallace's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nanus</i>		✓		✓	✓					
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>			✓	✓	✓					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓						
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>			✓		✓					
Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>				✓						
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>				✓						
Chestnut-bellied Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus sumatranus</i>		✓								
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>			H							

Common name (E = endemic species)	Scientific name	October 2022									
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Reddish Scops Owl	<i>Otus rufescens</i>	H	H								
Barred Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo sumatranus</i>		H	✓							
Buffy Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>			✓	✓	✓					
Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>					✓					
Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Silver-rumped Spinetail	<i>Rhaphidura leucopygialis</i>	✓									
Whiskered Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne comata</i>							✓			
Red-naped Trogon	<i>Harpactes kasumba</i>			✓							
Diard's Trogon	<i>Harpactes diardii</i>						✓				
Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>				✓						
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>				✓	✓					
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>				✓						
Rufous-backed (Oriental Dwarf) Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erithaca</i>		✓		✓						
Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>			✓	✓	✓					
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓						
Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>			✓	✓						
Bushy-crested Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i>				✓						
Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Black Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Rhinoceros Hornbill	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Helmeted Hornbill	<i>Rhinoplax vigil</i>							✓			
Wrinkled Hornbill	<i>Aceros corrugatus</i>			✓	✓		✓				
Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>			✓				✓			
White-Crowned Hornbill	<i>Berenicornis comatus</i>								✓		
Brown Barbet	<i>Caloramphus fuliginosus</i>					✓					
Rufous Piculet	<i>Sasia abnormis</i>							✓			

Common name (E = endemic species)	Scientific name	October 2022									
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
White-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus javensis</i>				✓						
Buff-necked Woodpecker	<i>Meiglyptes tukki</i>			✓							
Grey-and-buff Woodpecker	<i>Hemicircus concretus</i>					✓					
Dusky Broadbill	<i>Corydon sumatranus</i>							✓			
Black-and-red Broadbill	<i>Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos</i>					✓					
Black-and-yellow Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>				✓	✓					
Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina striata</i>					✓					
Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i>									✓	
Maroon-breasted Philentoma	<i>Philentoma velata</i>								✓		
Malaysian Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>		✓								
Slender-billed Crow	<i>Corvus enca</i>				✓	✓		✓			
Bornean Bristlehead E	<i>Pityriasis gymnocephala</i>		✓					✓			
Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>					✓					
Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>		✓				✓				
Spectacled Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera flavigaster</i>		✓								
Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker E	<i>Prionochilus xanthopygius</i>					✓	✓				
Greater Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>			✓				✓			
Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>				✓						
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>					✓					
Javan Myna I	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>				✓						
Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>				✓						
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>				✓						
White-crowned Shama E	<i>Copsychus stricklandii</i>				✓					✓	
Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>	✓									
Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>		✓								
Yellow-bellied Bulbul	<i>Alphoixus phaeocephalus</i>							✓			



Common name (E = endemic species)	Scientific name	October 2022									
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Grey-cheeked Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus bres</i>		✓								
House (Pacific) Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Horsfield's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla sepiaria</i>						✓				
Ashy (Red-headed) Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>		✓								
Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>					✓					

## Mammals and others

Common name	Scientific name	October 2022											
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>Mammals</b>													
Lesser Treeshrew	<i>Tupaia minor</i>		✓										
Malaysian Colugo	<i>Cyanocephalus variegatus</i>						✓	✓					
Bornean Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus menagensis (coucang)</i>	✓	✓										
Western Tarsier	<i>Cephalopachus bancanus</i>	✓											
Maroon Langur E	<i>Presbytis rubicunda</i>	✓							✓				
Silvered Langur	<i>Trachypithecus cristatus</i>			✓	✓	✓							
Proboscis Monkey E	<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓						
Long-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Sunda Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓							
East Bornean Grey Gibbon E	<i>Hylobates funereus</i>			H	H					✓	✓		✓
Bornean Orangutan E	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa affinis</i>			✓									
Prevost's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus prevostii pluto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Plantain Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>				✓	✓							
Low's Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus lowi</i>				✓								
Plain Pygmy Squirrel E	<i>Exilisciurus exilis</i>					✓			✓				

Common name	Scientific name	October 2022											
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Red Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>	✓	✓										
Thomas's Flying Squirrel E	<i>Aeromys thomasi</i>	✓							✓				
Long-tailed Porcupine	<i>Trichys fasciculata</i>								✓				
Sun Bear	<i>Helarctos malayanus</i>		C										
Malay Civet	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>									✓			
Common Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>				✓								
Banded Palm Civet	<i>Hemigalus derbyanus</i>							✓				✓	
Masked Palm Civet	<i>Paguma larvata</i>											✓	
Leopard Cat	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>										✓		
Lesser Mouse-Deer	<i>Tragulus kanchil</i>		✓										
<b>Reptiles</b>													
Saltwater Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>				✓	✓							
Crested Green Lizard	<i>Bronchocela cristatella</i>			✓									
Bornean Angle-headed Dragon	<i>Gonocephalus bornensis</i>		✓										
Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Striped Bornean Tree Skink	<i>Apterygodon vittatus</i>		✓										
Black-banded Skink	<i>Mabuya rudis</i>					✓							
Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>		✓						✓				
Striped Bronzeback	<i>Dendrelaphis caudolineatus</i>			✓				✓					
Bornean Keeled Green Pit Viper	<i>Tropidolaemus subannulatus</i>		✓										
Keeled Slug Eating Snake		✓											
Common Wolf Snake		✓											
<b>Amphibians</b>													
Yellow-bellied Puddle Frog	<i>Occidozyga laevis</i>	✓											
White-lipped Frog	<i>Rana chalconota</i>				✓								
File-eared Frog	<i>Polypedates otitophus</i>		✓										

		October 2022											
Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>Others</b>													
Hammerhead Worm		✓											
Centipede				✓									
C - Captivity													