

Borneo's Mammals - Deramakot Forest Reserve

Naturetrek Tour Report

19th September – 2nd October 2025



Sunda Leopard Cat



Bornean Orangutans



Asian Elephants



Proboscis Monkeys

Tour report kindly written by Thomas Maunders (client)
Photos by Thomas Maunders, Mike Lowings, Gordon Flower and Michelle and Jon Lockwood



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Tour participants: Henry Sapinggi (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Friday 19th September

Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur

We boarded the 11.00am Air Malaysia flight to Kuala Lumpur from London Heathrow. The flight took twelve and a half hours, and we reached Kuala Lumpur at 7.00am next day, local time.

Day 2

Saturday 20th September

Kuala Lumpur to Sepilok

During the layover, some of the tour participants recognised each other's Naturetrek baggage tags and started chatting. We had a good chat at the departure gates before boarding the three-hour flight to Sandakan. We were able to spot our first bird of the trip, a Slender-billed Crow. We arrived in Sandakan at 1.30pm. Once we had cleared immigration, we met Henry in the arrivals hall and also met the remaining tour participants. After some quick introductions and hellos, we boarded our minibus to our hotel, the Sepilok Nature Lodge. Albert, our driver, navigated the roads very well, and we arrived at the hotel at 2.30pm, where Henry gave us a quick briefing about how the trip would work, before we headed off to our rooms or to explore our surroundings. A number of Striated Herons were seen at the lake at the hotel.

We met Henry in reception at 5.30pm to place our food order for the evening, and we headed to the Rainforest Discovery Centre. Our aim was to see the Common Giant Flying Squirrels leaving their dreys. The evening did not disappoint, and we saw a number of them. While walking around the centre, we also saw spiders, lantern bugs, and some Prevost's Squirrels. However, the highlights of the evening included an extended viewing of a Bornean Slow Loris at head height, and a Western Tarsier. On our way out of the centre, we saw a Bornean Keeled Green Pit Viper. We headed back to the hotel to enjoy our dinner and for a good night's sleep.

Day 3

Sunday 21st September

Sepilok to Deramakot

Our first full day in Borneo started with breakfast in the hotel's restaurant between 7.00am and 8.30am. During this time, a Long-billed Spiderhunter and a Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker were seen.

However, the real fun started at 8.30am when a young, wild female Bornean Orangutan ran through the hotel, being chased by two dogs. This happened after the Orangutan was startled by one of our team, who was protecting some of our suitcases from her! Mike managed to win the standoff with the Orangutan but did fall off the boardwalk in the process.

After this excitement, we jumped into Albert's minibus to head to the Sepilok Orangutan Centre, where we saw two semi-wild female Orangutans with their wild offspring; we also saw a group of six juvenile Orangutans at the centre's nursery. We also saw plenty of Pig-tailed Macaques and three Prevost's Squirrels. After about an hour and

a half, we left the Orangutan centre and crossed the road to the Sun Bear sanctuary. All of us had some cold water, for which we were very grateful; we were not allowed to take any food or drink into the Orangutan Centre because it could have caused the Orangutans or macaques to approach us to try and steal them. We saw numerous Sun Bears and learned how they were rehabilitated so that they could be released back into the forests. Just after passing a sign saying "Beware of Snakes," we encountered a snake on the boardwalk's handrail. It was quickly identified as a non-venomous Paradise Tree Snake. After this wonderful encounter, we headed back to the bus for the two-hour journey to Telupid for lunch. While heading to Telupid, we saw a Little Egret flying by.



Horsfield's Tarsier



A very naughty Bornean Orangutan



Oriental Pied Hornbill



Buffy Fish Owl

After lunch, we changed vehicles into three 4x4s for the rest of the two-hour journey to Deramakot, along very bumpy logging roads. At a rest stop, we saw a Golden Birdwing butterfly feeding on flowers at the roadside. We arrived in Deramakot just after 5.00pm, and once settled into our rooms, we met Henry in the communal restaurant at 6.30pm, so that we could head out on our first night-drive after a quick dinner. This dinner was special because once finished, a chocolate cake arrived out of the kitchen, and we celebrated one of our number's 65th birthday! The cake was delicious and went down well with the entire group. As it was our first night-drive, it was going to be shorter than normal, heading out at 7.30pm and returning at 10.00pm.

The first night's drive did not disappoint. We saw a Buffy Fish Owl perched high in a tree, which was perfect for the photographers in the group. Not too long after this sighting, we found our first civet, a Bornean Palm Civet. We were then treated to some spectacular views of a Leopard Cat. On our return to base camp, we saw a Malay Civet, who was much shyer than the Bornean Palm Civet seen earlier in the evening. However, the real treat of the evening was much closer to base camp: a Bornean Flying Lemur (or Colugo) was feeding on leaves, and everyone was able to get some good views, pictures, and videos of the individual. The Colugo is rarely seen, so this viewing was particularly special. After this sighting, we headed back to our rooms, as we had a 6.00am start tomorrow.

Day 4

Monday 22nd September

Deramakot

Our first morning drive in Deramakot! The drive started at 6.30am and lasted for around three hours. Our first sighting was after about one minute: a Crested Serpent Eagle in a tree at the bottom of the hill at base camp. This sighting was quickly followed by Whiskered Treeswift, Blue-throated Bee-eater, and White-crowned Forktail.

After driving for around an hour, Henry spotted a female Orangutan feeding in a tree. We were able to get out of the open-topped truck to take photos, and this did not stop the female from eating. Not long after, we saw a Wreathed Hornbill and Wallace's Hawk-Eagle in flight. Sooty-capped Babbler, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, and Greater Coucal were also seen on this drive.

The star species of the morning made its appearance as we were heading back to our rooms after breakfast. We spotted a pair of the endemic White-fronted Falconets feeding on a grasshopper on a tree just outside the restaurant. Henry set up his scope so that all could get a great view; we knew this species was special when the kitchen staff came out to look at them too. A Plantain Squirrel was seen in a tree as we walked up to our rooms for a rest, before our first full night-drive this evening.

We met at 6.00pm to do our checklist and grab some dinner, before heading out on our night-drive at 7.30pm. After thirty minutes, we had some light drizzle, so ponchos were donned, mainly to protect our cameras. However, this light drizzle only lasted about ten minutes. This drive started much slower than the previous night's, and Henry had told us before leaving that he was only going to focus on new species this drive. However, after ninety minutes, we had only managed to see a Leopard Cat and a Malay Civet, neither of which stayed in the spotlight long enough for a photo. We stopped for ten minutes to stretch our legs and take a comfort break. Once we were back on the road, our luck began to change. We saw two Colugos in a large tree, which is unusual as they are normally solitary creatures. We also saw Bornean Palm Civet and Thomas's Flying Squirrel, neither of which we had seen before. We stopped again, this time for some hot drinks and snacks, and Henry entertained us with some of his incredible stories. Once we were back on the road, we saw a Small-toothed Palm Civet and the eyeshine of a Clouded Leopard; however, the individual never showed itself.

On our way back to the camp, we saw a Common Giant Flying Squirrel and a Sambar Deer feeding within the camp's grounds. Once back at the truck parking space, we could all smell an unusual odour. Henry told us this was a 'skunk' (actually Sunda Stink Badger). We were careful when climbing the hill to our rooms!

Day 5

Tuesday 23rd September

Deramakot

On our way to the truck at 6.30am, we checked our lucky tree where we had seen the falconets yesterday, and to our surprise, we saw a male Black Hornbill perching on the highest branch; we made sure to stop to photograph him. The morning drive started similarly to last night's drive, with not much being seen initially, although we did find some Black-nest and Edible-nest Swiftlets, as well as a pair of Blue-throated Bee-eaters. After stopping to

stretch our legs, we saw a Greater Green Leafbird, and both Little and Thick-billed Spiderhunters. We also saw some Sun Bear footprints on the road; Henry estimated that the individual was a ten-year-old subadult.

The drive back to the base camp brought us our first primates of the day: a group of four Northern Grey Gibbons. We also saw Wreathed Hornbills in flight and a pair of flying Rhinoceros Hornbills, which eventually landed in a dense tree. We were also treated to a number of birds of prey in flight, including Crested Serpent Eagle, Black Eagle, and Wallace's, and Changeable Hawk-Eagles. After breakfast, we went for a quick walk around the camp grounds, where we saw numerous butterflies, moths, dragonflies, and damselflies. Our lucky tree provided us with a single falconet, and we then headed back to our rooms for some rest.

Tonight was our third night-drive in Deramakot: would we make it a hat-trick of Colugo sightings? We started our drive on the other road (Road 1), and very quickly, it provided us with a new species: a Lesser Mousedeer! It stayed with us for around five minutes, allowing us all to photograph it. Not too much further down the road, we saw a Thomas's Flying Squirrel playing in a tree. After this sighting, we turned around and headed back to our normal road (Road 2). Not long after, we saw another couple of Thomas's Flying Squirrels. Around two minutes later, we saw our first Philippine Slow Loris; however, he was camera-shy, which made taking pictures difficult. To our surprise, only two minutes later, we saw our second Philippine Slow Loris, and this individual was much more obliging, allowing us to take photos and videos.



Philippine Slow loris



Bornean Flying Lemur (Colugo)



Marbled Cat



Binturong

After about thirty minutes with no sightings, we pulled over for some hot drinks and a biscuit to help keep us fuelled for the evening, but we were soon on our way again. After driving for about ten minutes, the truck came to an abrupt stop. It was clear Henry was excited about what he had seen. The excitement about this sighting was obvious in Henry's voice when he said, "Marbled Cat". It was clear to us that this species is not seen regularly. High up in a tree to our left lay the Marbled Cat, which stayed in view for a couple of minutes, allowing us to get

some photos and videos. Henry, who was clearly still buzzing from this find, told us that this was the first Marbled Cat he had seen for almost a year! The entire group was energised by this sighting.

It was almost an hour until we saw our next mammal; however, during that time, we saw a number of frogs. These included File-eared, and Four-lined and Dark-eared Tree Frogs, which we initially thought was called "Duck-eared," a nickname that would remain for that species for the rest of the trip. After the near-hour wait, our next mammal appeared, and we did indeed score a hat-trick, with our third sighting of a Colugo in as many nights.

As we were approaching base camp at the end of the night, Henry spotted a Bornean Palm Civet in a large tree. After about a minute, we noticed a second on the same branch. As a solitary species, it was unusual to see two individuals together; our question of why they were together was soon answered as the pair began mating, much to our amusement. If the mating was successful, the offspring would be born in just over two months' time. We arrived back at camp and returned to our rooms at around 12.30am, still discussing our sightings on the walk up the hill to our rooms.

Day 6

Wednesday 24th September

Deramakot

Today's plan was a little different from the other mornings at Deramakot. We were having a short morning drive, around halfway through which we would get out and walk for a short while, before having a picnic breakfast in the field. Not long after setting off, we saw both a Wreathed and a Rhinoceros Hornbill in flight, both of which landed on the wrong side of the tree for us to photograph. We also saw Blue-throated Bee-eaters and Greater Coucal. After these viewings, we decided this would be a good place to get out and start walking. While walking, we saw plenty of butterflies and birds, including Whiskered Treeswifts and a Red-naped Trogon. We also heard a group of gibbons in the distance. A few in the group saw a Slender Treeshrew dart across the road in front of us, and as we rounded the next corner, we were met by our breakfast. Our driver, Max, had set up foldable chairs and tables, with a good selection of breakfast items for us to enjoy.

After breakfast, we jumped into the truck and soon saw two Maroon Leaf Monkeys. Not long after, we turned around and headed back to base camp, as our evening drive was starting three hours earlier at 4.00pm, with dinner in the field too. When we arrived back, we checked our lucky tree, and saw the two falconets once again.

Our evening drive started at 4.00pm; we were hoping to see some Orangutans making their night nests. The first Orangutan we encountered was a male in his 20s, who had already made his nest for the evening, and despite Henry's and Max's best attempts, it only gave us brief glimpses of its limbs. However, five minutes down the road, we encountered a female which was feeding on some flowers, and the entire group were able to get some good photos and videos. On the other side of the road, we also saw two Pig-tailed Macaques with their babies. After watching the female Orangutan for around fifteen minutes, we headed off down the road to enjoy dinner in camping chairs, while watching the sun set.

We had a very busy evening drive, with lots of sightings. It started with a Common Giant Flying Squirrel leaving its drey. We also saw two Leopard Cats on the road during the evening; two Malay Civets were also seen, but neither of which were particularly easy to photograph. On the drive back to base camp, we saw a Great Thin Stick

Insect and a Tiger Earth Tarantula. The best sighting of the evening happened close to base camp: our third Leopard Cat, sitting on a log two metres away from us at the side of the road, and allowed almost all of us to get some wonderful pictures.

When we were within two kilometres of base camp, we saw a Sunda Tree Mouse on a piece of grass, and just around the corner, Henry spotted a Flat-headed Cat running along the riverbank. Only half us saw this individual, as it soon cleared off when the spotlight was shone near it. Another incredible sighting was a Binturong feeding in a tree; this was only the second one Henry had seen this year. There were no Colugos tonight, and no sighting of a Clouded Leopard yet, but we headed to our rooms very happy with what we *had* seen.

Day 7

Thursday 25th September

Deramakot

We had an earlier than normal start this morning; we were in the truck and on the road at 6.00am. This was because we wanted to catch the male Orangutan waking from his nest that he had made the previous night. When we arrived, we looked at the Orangutan's nest and noticed that there was no movement. However, a moment later, he was spotted in a new nest higher in the tree, which he must have made during the night! At the same time, we also saw two Maroon Leaf Monkeys heading out into the forest behind us. As the Orangutan showed no signs of leaving his nest, Max pulled out the camping chairs, and we began our stakeout. After fifteen minutes, the male descended, giving us plenty of chances for photos and videos. This viewing did not last long, as the Orangutan soon placed himself in his original nest! After another fifteen minutes, he left this nest too, and headed into the forest.

On the drive back to base camp, we saw a Giant Pill Millipede, a Wallace's Hawk-Eagle, and a Rhinoceros Hornbill in flight. As we would be leaving this evening at 6.30pm and not returning until around 2.00am, most of the group decided to forgo lunch, and instead try to get some rest. As we headed to our rooms, we checked our lucky tree, and again were treated to sights of a falconet.

After doing our checklist and having dinner, we headed out for the evening at 7.00pm. Henry had told us that we would be focusing on new species this evening, which would mean fewer stops. We headed down Road 1 for only the second time during our stay at Deramakot, and were almost instantly treated to a close encounter with a Three-striped Civet. Henry also showed us a pitcher plant and a shedding katydid, before we headed back to Road 2.

We did not have many sightings this evening, but did get good views of a Philippine Slow Loris and a Leopard Cat; we also saw two Buffy Fish Owls. However, the real treat was another viewing of a Marbled Cat; this sighting was not as good as our first, but was still exciting. Two viewings of Marbled Cats in only three days; this is unheard of for this secretive species. We still had no Clouded Leopards, but there were still two night-drives remaining, and we remained in high spirits and were hopeful of seeing this special feline. We headed back to camp, arriving back just after 1.30am. There was no morning drive in the morning, which meant we could have a lie-in until breakfast at 8.30am. This was welcome news to all!

Day 8

Friday 26th September

Deramakot

Our second-to-last full day in Deramakot started with a nice lie-in, so that we could recover and be ready for another long night, with hopes of finally seeing the elusive Clouded Leopard. We met for breakfast, after which Henry took us on a guided walking tour down Road 1 for around an hour and a half.

On the walk, we saw a few small species of birds, as well as hearing a number of hornbills. A multitude of butterflies was also seen on this walk; this was something that Deramakot had been particularly good for. We also saw a variety of other invertebrates, the star being a Golden Orb Weaver Spider, sitting in the middle of its fantastic web. This spider caught a grasshopper while we were watching, and we got to see it cocoon the grasshopper for consumption later. We all headed back to our rooms before lunch at 1.00pm. With checklists set to be updated at 5.30pm, we had the afternoon to ourselves. Some of us went on a walk around the grounds and saw a Cross Spider at the base of a tree; we also checked our lucky tree and somewhat to our surprise, saw nothing!

After leaving later than planned yesterday, we made sure we were ready fifteen minutes early today! When we got to the truck, we noticed that Max had spent some of the day changing the padded benches, which were causing some numb bottoms, to individual padded seats: a much-appreciated touch! Our plan was to head down Road 2 first, and then finish the evening along Road 1. Not long after leaving base camp, we had our first sighting: a Malay Civet. After this, a Colugo individual was spotted, our fifth of the trip. The species had fondly become known by the group as a "Tree Bogey."

We then saw a Palm Civet and a Small-toothed Palm Civet, plus a great sighting of another Malay Civet at the side of the road, having a good scratch. Just outside base camp, we were treated to a group of six Large Flying-foxes circling above us and landing in a tree nearby. We saw a File-eared Frog and Wallace's Flying Frog on our drive tonight. Road 1 did not have much activity, but we were in for a treat when we returned to base camp. A three- to four-metre long Reticulated Python was just at the side of the road. Three of us got out to take pictures while the rest of us stayed in the truck. This was the first python that Henry had seen at Deramakot this year. We got back to our rooms at around 1.00am; we were heading out for our final full day in Deramakot at 6.30am. No porcupines, Stink Badgers, or Clouded Leopards were seen tonight, but we still had one more chance tomorrow.

Day 9

Saturday 27th September

Deramakot

Our last full day in Deramakot started at 6.30am, and we headed down Road 2 to see what we could see. The morning drive was full of birds, with Asian Brown Flycatcher and Red-bearded Bee-eater among the first. A Crested Serpent Eagle perching in a tree along the roadside. We stopped at the roadside to watch groups of Thick-billed Green Pigeons and Green Imperial Pigeons hopping around in a large tree. This tree also held a female Orangutan, who was enjoying some breakfast. While at the side of the road, we also saw a new butterfly species, the Striped Blue Crow.

On our way back to base camp for breakfast, we saw a couple of soaring Crested Serpent Eagles, and when we returned to base camp, we checked our lucky tree, and our falconets had returned and brought a friend: there were three of them in the tree now. At breakfast, we learned that one of the two generators that power the site was not working, which would leave us without power and air conditioning for a few hours today. Our plan for the afternoon was to head out at 4.00pm and return at 10.00pm, with dinner in the field. We were planning on returning earlier than normal this evening, as we had an eight-hour journey to our new accommodation tomorrow and were planning on leaving at 6.00am.

On our last drive at Deramakot, we left at 4.00pm down Road 2, and after about thirty minutes, we came across two female Orangutans with their young, so we pulled over to take some pictures and videos. Just around the corner, we saw two more female Orangutans, but only one of these individuals was with their youngster. After taking more pictures, we carried on down the road. Not five minutes later, we saw our *eighth* Orangutan of this journey; this was an individual on their own making its night nest.

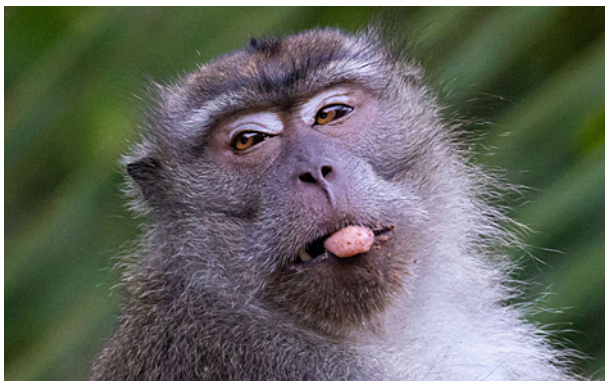
While eating dinner in the field, we had ten minutes of light drizzle, and we all commented on how well we had done with the weather, having had a total of thirty minutes of light drizzle over our time here in Borneo. After dinner, we went spotlighting and soon saw Thomas's Flying Squirrel and a Black Flying Squirrel. We also saw a Small-toothed Palm Civet and a Palm Civet, as well as two Leopard Cats, one of which stayed with us for over five minutes, which allowed for some great pictures and videos. Unfortunately, we did not see a Clouded Leopard, Porcupine, or Stink Badger. However, we still had an amazing time at Deramakot and saw some incredible species. We headed back at 10.00pm, as we were due to be up at 5.00am for breakfast.



Water Monitor



Green Paddy Frog



Long-tailed Macaque



Reticulated Python

Day 10

Sunday 28th September

Deramakot – Gomantong Caves – Kinabatangan Wetlands

We left Deramakot at 6.00am to head to our next accommodation in the Kinabatangan Wetlands, via the Gomantong Caves. The journey was going to take around seven to eight hours, and you might think that with at least seven hours of travel, you might not see much wildlife, but this could not have been further from the truth.

On the drive to the caves, we saw Pig-tailed Macaques, and the caves themselves were incredible. The bats' droppings created quite an odour, but luckily, your nose quickly adjusts. We saw Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bats, as well as Edible-nest and Black-nest Swiftlets. The caves were also full of insects, including cockroaches and whip scorpions, to name just a couple. We survived the cave fairly well, with the majority avoiding being hit by bat droppings.

After the caves, we had a ninety-minute boat ride to our new accommodation. We again had a ten-minute rain shower, which caused us to put on our ponchos to prevent our cameras from getting wet. After the rain, we were able to witness an incredible spectacle, as there were Asian Elephants crossing the river in front of us, using their trunks as snorkels. We stopped in the river for fifteen minutes to watch the elephants crossing, swimming, and playing in the river. At one point, we were surrounded on all sides by about thirty of them. After witnessing these scenes, we continued our journey, and were greeted at the Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort with cold towels and juice. Henry introduced us to our other guide, Max, and we sat down with them both for lunch.

After lunch, we headed to our rooms, which were incredible, and most of us agreed that this was the nicest hotel we had stayed in. During the walk to our rooms, we saw a Malayan Box Turtle. After settling in, we went on our first guided boat ride, and it did not disappoint. We saw a whole array of birds, including Common, Stork-billed and Blue-eared Kingfishers, Oriental Pied Hornbill, and Great Slaty, Banded and Pygmy Sunda Woodpeckers. The trip did not disappoint with mammals either, with a group of ten Proboscis Monkeys, Silvered Leaf Monkeys, and two Orangutans, one of which was making its nest for the night. Long-tailed Macaques, Water Monitors and Saltwater Crocodiles were also seen.

On our return to the hotel, we were greeted with warm towels and headed straight for dinner. After dinner, we went on a night walk around the hotel grounds, and saw our sixth Colugo of the trip, as well as a multitude of amphibians. These included Green Paddy Frogs and Rough-sided, Dark-eared and Harlequin Tree Frogs. After a long day, we returned to our rooms for a good night's sleep.

Day 11

Monday 29th September

Kinabatangan

Our morning started with a 6.30am boat drive, which lasted three hours; we visited a tributary and an oxbow lake. We saw a good selection of mammals on the ride, including Long-tailed Macaques, Silvered Leaf Monkeys, and Proboscis Monkeys. However, the bird life was incredible. We saw Stork-billed and Collared Kingfishers, as well as Wrinkled and Oriental Pied Hornbills, White-bellied Sea Eagles, Wallace's Hawk-Eagle, Black-bellied Malkohas, White-bellied Woodpeckers and Brahminy Kites. However, the highlight of the boat ride was seeing both Storm's

Stork and Lesser Adjutant. On the way back to breakfast, we stopped to view a four-metre Saltwater Crocodile basking on the river bank. The trip was enjoyed by all, and we were excited to see what our next trip at 4.30pm would bring.

Not long after leaving, we saw a group of four Proboscis Monkeys, and only a little further down the river, we saw another group of seven. We also saw Long-tailed Macaques throughout the journey. We had some great birds, including a Black-and-red Broadbill, a variety of kingfishers, an Oriental Pied Hornbill, Long-tailed Parakeets and a Buffy Fish Owl. On the way back to the hotel, we saw a Mangrove Snake in a palm tree, which was really interesting to see.

Day 12

Tuesday 30th September

Kinabatangan

After going almost the entire holiday with a total of thirty minutes of light drizzle, the heavens opened this morning. Unfortunately, this meant that this morning's boat ride was cancelled. After breakfast, we split up, some going to their rooms and others looking for birds on the hotel ground and boardwalks.

After lunch, we started our tour early at 4.00pm, and very quickly spotted a troop of Proboscis Monkeys. After us watching them watching us for about ten minutes, we headed further down the river, and came across another six troops of Proboscis Monkeys, and spent a little time with each of them. After seeing what seemed like an endless stream of Proboscis Monkeys, we saw a group of other primates: Sabah Grey Langurs. This group included a ginger morph, and they allowed us to photograph them, unlike the other groups we had seen previously on the tour.

We also saw a number of birds on the boat ride, including Storm's Stork, Brahminy Kites, Pied Hornbills, and various kingfishers. We returned to our hotel and enjoyed one final dinner together with Henry. Tomorrow, we would go our separate ways, some to Tabin, some to Kinabalu, and some home to the UK.

Day 13

Wednesday 1st October

Kinabatangan to Kuala Lumpur

Two of the group were on their way to Tabin by 7.30am. Everyone else boarded the 9.00am bus back to Sandakan, where we were met by Albert, who dropped three of us off at the airport and continued to Kinabalu with three others. We boarded our flight to Kuala Lumpur at 2.10pm, arriving at 5.30pm, where we had a six-hour wait to board our flight back to Heathrow. We boarded our flight at 11.30pm, but did not take off until just after midnight.

Day 14

Thursday 2nd October

Kuala Lumpur to Heathrow

Thirteen and a half hours later, we landed in Heathrow at 6.00am local time. After clearing immigration and collecting our bags, we said our goodbyes and headed on our own separate ways.

Conclusion

Overall, this was one of the best wildlife-watching trips that most of us had been on, and we would all recommend others to seriously consider doing this tour. The wildlife we saw was incredible, in quantity and quality, and being able to see elusive species such as the Marbled Cat and Binturong made up for us not being able to see the Clouded Leopard. There is never a guarantee when you take book wildlife trips; unfortunately, some of the wildlife that you want to see may not be visible. In the end, you need luck, and we as a group felt very lucky with what we saw.

The accommodation at Sepilok and Kinabatangan was great, with good showers, beds, food, and Wi-Fi, and there were no complaints about either of these hotels. The accommodation at Deramakot is described by Naturetrek as basic, which it is!

I cannot write this report without mentioning the staff. Everyone we met on this holiday could not have done enough for us. A special mention goes to Henry, who was an incredible guide and truly 'next level' in being able to spot wildlife at night. Max and Albert, our drivers, were also fantastic, and always ensured that we got where we needed to. The last praise goes to Max, our guide at Kinabatangan, who was also extremely good at spotting wildlife while travelling along the river; how he saw some of those kingfishers is beyond me.



Crested Serpent Eagle

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Species lists

Mammals

E=endemic, N=Near-endemic		September 2025											
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>										✓		
Marbled Cat	<i>Pardofelis marmorata</i>					✓		✓					
Sunda Leopard Cat	<i>Prionailurus javanensis</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			
Flat-headed Cat	<i>Prionailurus planiceps</i>						✓						
Binturong	<i>Arctictis binturong</i>						✓						
Bornean Small-toothed Palm Civet - N	<i>Arctogalidia stigmatica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Bornean Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus philippinensis</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓			
Malay Civet	<i>Viverra zangara</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Short-tailed Mongoose	<i>Urva brachyura</i>												
Collared Mongoose - N	<i>Urva semitorquata</i>				✓								
Lesser Mouse Deer	<i>Tragulus kanchil</i>					✓							
Sambar Deer	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>				✓								
Large Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus vampyrus</i>								✓				
Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bat	<i>Chaerephon plicatus</i>										✓		
Bornean Flying Lemur (Colugo)	<i>Galeopterus variegatus</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Philippine Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus menagensis</i>					✓	✓		✓				
Bornean Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus borneanus</i>		✓										
Horsfield's Tarsier - N	<i>Cephalopachus bancanus</i>		✓										
Crab-eating Macaque (Long-tailed)	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>			✓							✓	✓	✓
Southern Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>			✓							✓		
Proboscis Monkey - N	<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>										✓	✓	✓
Maroon Leaf Monkey (Red Langur) - N	<i>Presbytis rubicunda</i>						✓						
Sabah Grey Langur - E	<i>Presbytis sabana</i>												✓
Silvered Leaf Monkey (Silvered Langur)	<i>Trachypithecus cristatus</i>										✓	✓	✓
Northern Gray Gibbon - N	<i>Hylobates funereus</i>					✓							
Bornean Orangutan - N	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>			✓	✓					✓	✓		
Black Flying Squirrel	<i>Aeromys tephromelas</i>									✓			
Thomas's Flying Squirrel - N	<i>Aeromys thomasi</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Plantain Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>				✓		✓				✓	✓	✓

E=endemic, N=Near-endemic		September 2025											
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Bornean Black-banded Squirrel - N	<i>Callosciurus orestes</i>												
Prevost's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus prevostii</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Grey Bellied Sunda Tree Mouse	<i>Chiropodomys muroides</i>						✓						
Sunda Mouse	<i>Chiropodomys gliroides</i>								✓				

Birds

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		September 2025											
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Great Argus - N	<i>Argusianus argus</i>				H	H							
Grey-rumped Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Whiskered Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne comata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Black-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus maximus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Edible-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Silver-rumped Spinetail	<i>Rhaphidura leucopygialis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>										✓		
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>				✓		✓					✓	
Raffles's Malkoha	<i>Rhinortha chlorophaea</i>						✓						
Red-billed Malkoha	<i>Zanclostomus javanicus</i>											✓	
Black-bellied Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus diardi</i>											✓	
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>		✓										
Zebra Dove - I	<i>Geopelia striata</i>		✓										
Little Green Pigeon	<i>Treron olax</i>						✓		✓		✓	✓	
Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>								✓				
Thick-billed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron curvirostra</i>								✓	✓			
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>						✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>										✓		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>										✓	✓	
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>											✓	
Storm's Stork	<i>Ciconia stormi</i>											✓	✓
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>											✓	✓

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		September 2025												
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓							✓	✓	✓	
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>		✓											
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>												✓	
Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>										✓	✓	✓	
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>										✓	✓		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>											✓		
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Wallace's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nanus</i>				✓	✓						✓		
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>					✓	✓							
Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i>						✓	✓						
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>					✓	✓							
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>											✓	✓	
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga leucogaster</i>										✓	✓		
Buffy Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>			✓				✓	✓			✓		
Red-naped Trogon	<i>Harpactes kasumba</i>						✓							
Rhinoceros Hornbill	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>					✓	✓	✓						
Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>										✓	✓	✓	
Black Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>					✓	✓			✓				
Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓						
Wrinkled Hornbill	<i>Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus</i>											✓		
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>										✓	✓	✓	
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>											✓		
Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>		✓								✓			
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓					✓		✓	
Red-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis amictus</i>						✓			✓				
Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Red-crowned Barbet	<i>Psilopogon rafflesii</i>				✓									
Brown Barbet - E	<i>Caloramphus fuliginosus</i>											✓		
Rufous Piculet	<i>Sasia abnormis</i>						✓							
Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus moluccensis</i>										✓		✓	
White-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus javensis</i>										✓			
Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>										✓			

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Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>										✓		
White-fronted Falconet - E	<i>Microhierax latifrons</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>											✓	
Black-and-red Broadbill	<i>Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos</i>											✓	
Black-and-yellow Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>					✓							
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>					✓		✓					
Crow-billed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus annectens</i>												
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓			
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>									✓			
Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone affinis</i>						✓						
House Crow - I	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓					✓			✓			
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>						✓						
Hairy-backed Bulbul	<i>Tricholestes criniger</i>					✓							
Yellow-bellied Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus phaeocephalus</i>			✓		✓				✓			
Grey-cheeked Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus tephrogenys</i>					✓	✓						
Cream-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>					✓	✓						
Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>										✓		✓
Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>				✓								
Straw-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>												
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo javanica</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>						✓						
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>			✓									
Bold-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Mixornis bornensis</i>						✓						
Grey-hooded Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma bicolor</i>				✓								
Grey-headed Babbler	<i>Stachyris poliocephala</i>						✓						
Sooty-capped Babbler	<i>Malacopteron affine</i>				✓		✓						
Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>		✓										
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>								✓	✓			
White-crowned Shama - E	<i>Copsychus stricklandii</i>				✓		✓						
Grey-streaked Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa griseicticta</i>				✓		✓						
Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>				✓		✓	✓					
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		September 2025											
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Mangrove Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis rufigastra</i>											✓	✓
White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>				✓			✓					
Greater Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>					✓							
Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Prionochilus maculatus</i>					✓	✓						
Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum minullum</i>				✓		✓						
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Chalcoparia singalensis</i>				✓						✓		
Plain Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes simplex</i>				✓	✓	✓						
Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Thick-billed Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera crassirostris</i>					✓							
Spectacled Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera flavigaster</i>		✓										
Eurasian Tree Sparrow - I	<i>Passer montanus</i>					✓					✓		
Dusky Munia	<i>Lonchura fuscans</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			

Amphibians

		September 2025											
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Green Paddy Frog	<i>Hylarana erythraea</i>										✓		
Cricket Frog	<i>Hylarana nicobariensis</i>												✓
Rough-sided Frog	<i>Pulchrana glandulosa</i>					✓					✓		
Four-lined Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates leucomystax</i>					✓							
Dark-eared Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates macrotis</i>					✓					✓		
File-eared Frog	<i>Polypedates ottilophus</i>					✓				✓			
Friiled Tree Frog	<i>Rhacophorus appendiculatus</i>			✓									
Wallace's Flying Frog	<i>Rhacophorus nigropalmatus</i>									✓			
Harlequin Tree Frog	<i>Rhacophorus pardalis</i>										✓		

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025											
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Saltwater Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>										✓	✓	✓
Malayan Box Turtle	<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>								✓		✓		
a flying lizard	<i>Draco</i> sp.			✓		✓		✓					
Bornean Angle-headed Dragon	<i>Gonocephalus bornensis</i>		✓										
Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Striped Bornean Tree Skink	<i>Apterygodon vittatus</i>										✓		
Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>		✓								✓	✓	
Reticulated Python	<i>Broghammerus reticulatus</i>								✓				
Mangrove Snake	<i>Boiga dendrophila</i>										✓		
Paradise Tree Snake	<i>Chrysopelea paradisi</i>			✓									
Bornean Keeled Green Pit Viper	<i>Tropidolaemus subannulatus</i>		✓										

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025											
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Golden Birdwing	<i>Troides aeacus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Rajah Brooke's Birdwing	<i>Trogonoptera brookiana</i>					✓	✓						
Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithy</i>								✓	✓			
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Blue Clipper	<i>Parthenos sylvia</i>			✓									
Common Seargent	<i>Athyma perius</i>							✓	✓	✓			
Striped Blue Crow	<i>Euploea mulciber</i>					✓	✓		✓				

Other invertebrates

		September 2025											
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Tiger Earth Tarantula	<i>Omothymus</i> sp.						✓						
Pill Millipede	<i>Oniscomorpha</i> sp.							✓					
Great Thin Stick Insect	<i>Phasmatodea</i> sp.						✓						
Forest Crab	<i>Gecarcinidae</i> sp.												✓