

Borneo – Land of the Orangutan

With Rich Pagen and Mark Brazil

Malaysia | 16 Days | JULY 15 – 30, 2025

Start and end in Kuala Lumpur



TRAVEL@MIRUADVENTURES.COM

Travel with Mark and Rich



MARK BRAZIL

ORNITHOLOGIST & WILDLIFE AUTHOR

Mark, a UK-born wildlife enthusiast with degrees in biology, English literature, and psychology, has led expeditions across Africa, South America, South Asia, and East Asia. His diverse career spans conservation biology, TV expertise, university lecturing, and freelance wildlife leadership. Now residing in Hokkaidō, he contributes to the Akan-Mashū National Park as a consultant, expedition leader, guide, and lecturer, crafting travel itineraries between international assignments. With a prolific writing career since the 1970s, Mark has authored numerous articles and a dozen books, including titles like "The Whooper Swan" and "Wild Asia: Spirit of a Continent." In 2021, he added two more books: "Japan: The Natural History of an Asian Archipelago" and "Wild Hokkaidō: A Guide to the National Parks and other Wild Places of Eastern Hokkaidō."

NATURALIST

Captivated by New York's natural wonders, Rich pursued a career in nature education and conservation biology. From teaching science to Los Angeles teens to monitoring loon nests in Alaska, surveying carnivores in California, and tracking bird migration in Canada, he explored diverse ecosystems. His love for the sea led to marine science and island ecology teaching on Catalina Island, where he conducted shipboard surveys, tagged sea turtles, and guided nature tourism from 2004. Throughout, Rich's passion has centered on exploring and sharing the wonders of nature with others.



RICH PAGEN

Curated for the Curious

Uniquely curated expeditions, imagined by the very Field Leaders who will take you there.

MOMENTS THAT MATTER

With Mark and Rich, you won't just visit a new place; you'll become part of it – and it a part of you.

A LOVE FOR DETAIL

Be it a cultural festival, phase of the moon, or bearing witness to a mass migration, we time every detail of your adventure to give you the greatest experience possible.

REMOTE DESTINATIONS

We make it our mission to take curious travelers to the most unexpected places anywhere on the planet. The more off the beaten track, the better.

Borneo – Land of the Orangutan

July 15 – 30, 2025

With Rich Pagen and Mark Brazil

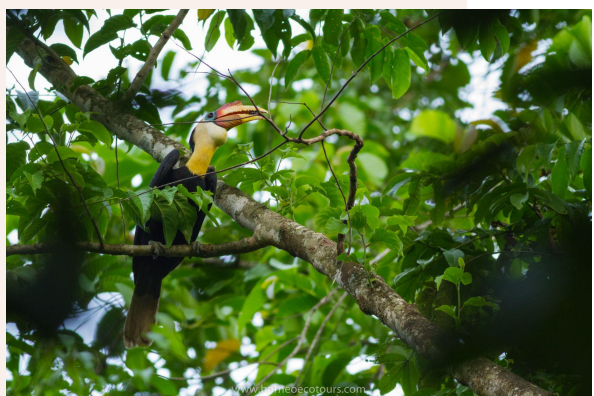
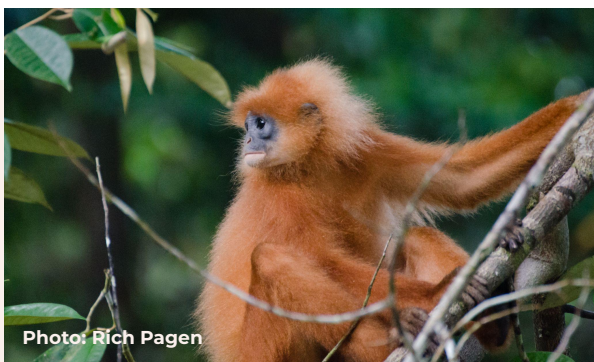
Borneo, the world's third-largest island, is a nature lover's paradise with primeval rainforests, dramatic coastlines, and diverse wildlife, including iconic species like orangutans and proboscis monkeys.

16 Days from \$13,990



Adventure Highlights

- Explore Borneo's vibrant landscape to discover charismatic species like orangutans, proboscis monkeys, great argus pheasants, eight hornbill species, and the unique Bornean bristlehead.
- Witness a captivating bat exodus at Mulu National Park, where bats gracefully emerge from caves in mesmerizing ring-shaped formations during an unforgettable evening.
- Experience the enchanting montane rainforest at Mount Kinabalu National Park, home to over 1,000 orchid species and renowned carnivorous pitcher plants.
- Embrace the "dawn serenade" at Danum, waking up to the laughter of helmeted hornbills and haunting songs of Bornean gibbons, creating a magical morning moment near our lodge.



Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Day 2	Kuala Lumpur / Mulu National Park
Day 3 - 4	Mulu National Park
Day 5	Mulu National Park / Mt. Kinabalu
Day 6	Mt. Kinabalu
Day 7	Mt. Kinabalu / Kinabatangan River
Day 8 - 9	Kinabatangan River
Day 10	Kinabatangan River / Tabin Wildlife Reserve
Day 11	Tabin Wildlife Reserve
Day 12	Tabin Wildlife Reserve / Danum Valley
Day 13 - 14	Danum Valley
Day 15	Danum Valley / Kuala Lumpur
Day 16	Kuala Lumpur / Homeward

The third-largest island in the world, Borneo is also one of the least explored areas on the planet. Renowned for its primeval rainforests, dramatic coastlines, and incredible biodiversity, this island is a nature lover's paradise. Spend your days trekking through lush rainforest and cruising along mysterious jungle rivers to discover a rich variety of colorful birds and wildlife, many of which are unique to this region. A highlight of this adventure includes close encounters with iconic species such as orangutans, proboscis monkeys, and a variety of hornbills.

Itinerary

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Arrive in Kuala Lumpur and transfer to the Sama Sama Airport Hotel. This evening, gather at the hotel with your leaders and fellow travelers for a welcome briefing and dinner.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Kuala Lumpur / Mulu National Park

This morning, transfer to the airport for our flight to Mulu National Park. Upon arrival, check in to the Mulu Marriott Resort & Spa. After lunch and a bit of down time, venture into the park for a scenic walk on raised planks to the Bat Observatory. Witness the awe-inspiring bat exodus in the evening, as bats gracefully fly out of the cave entrance in captivating ring-shaped formations. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

Mulu National Park

Spend two full days exploring Mulu National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Borneo's greatest natural attractions. After breakfast, return to park to explore the Deer & Lang caves, boasting one of the world's largest cave passages and housing over 3 million Wrinkled Lipped bats. Marvel at the sheer magnitude of this limestone passage, shaped by an ancient riverbed, and witness the sculpted walls revealing the powerful force of water. Explore Lang Cave, adorned with stunning stalagmites and stalactites before returning to the hotel for dinner.



Photo: Rich Pagen

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Mulu National Park

Set out on a scenic longboat journey along the Melinau River after breakfast, with a stop at a Penan settlement to immerse yourself in their tribal lifestyle and shop for unique handicrafts. Continue the adventure by longboat with a visit to Wind Cave and Clearwater Cave, part of Southeast Asia's longest underground cave systems. Ascend 200 stairs to explore Clearwater Cave and marvel at the exclusive *Monophyllaea Pendula*, a plant with a single leaf endemic to Sarawak. Enjoy a refreshing picnic lunch at Clearwater Hut, surrounded by the crystal-clear waters of Clearwater Spring. Return to the hotel for a leisurely afternoon, and join for dinner in the evening.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Mulu National Park / Kota Kinabalu / Mount Kinabalu

After a morning at leisure, transfer to the airport for our flight to Kota Kinabalu. After lunch, and a brief city tour, continue to Mount Kinabalu. If time permits, go on an introductory walk in the park's botanical gardens to learn about the incredible biodiversity of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Check in to the Sutera Sanctuary Lodges for dinner and overnight.



SUNDAY, JULY 20

Mount Kinabalu

Today, embark on a day of adventure as you stroll along diverse trails, immersing yourself in the wonders of the montane forest. Descend to the captivating Poring Hot Springs area, a haven for various flora and fauna. Take in the panoramic beauty from the canopy walk, offering a bird's eye view of this lush paradise, boasting over 1,000 orchid species and the world's richest collection of pitcher plants. Discover the vibrant wildlife that calls this area home, from Jentink's and Prevost's squirrels to tree shrews and a diverse avian population. Among the 250 bird species are minivets, babblers, and laughing-thrushes, with endemics like the Whitehead's broadbill and Bornean green magpie adding to the allure of this natural sanctuary.

MONDAY, JULY 21

Mount Kinabalu / Kinabatangan River

Start your day with an early breakfast before embarking on an overland journey to Sandakan jetty, with a delightful lunch stop at a local restaurant along the way. After lunch, board motored boats for a scenic voyage on the Kinabatangan River, renowned for its abundant Bornean wildlife. Enjoy the changing landscapes as the boat navigates through mangroves and enters the river mouth, providing a perfect opportunity to relax and spot wildlife. Upon reaching the Sukau Rainforest Lodge, settle into your room and, in the late afternoon, take a cruise to seek out orangutans, pygmy elephants, silvered langurs, hornbills, and proboscis monkeys. Enjoy dinner at the lodge, followed by an exciting night walk where you might encounter nocturnal fauna such as slow lorises, western tarsiers, civets, and more.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 & 23

Kinabatangan River

Experience two immersive days on the Kinabatangan River with enchanting sunrise safaris, wildlife exploration on the lodge's boardwalk, an insightful

Orangutan talk, and evening riverbank excursions. Additionally, venture to Gomantong Cave, a limestone marvel near Sukau, with a brief boat ride and half-hour overland transfer. Explore the surrounding jungle habitat, rich in diverse wildlife, including wild orangutans, langurs, hornbills, and macaques. Witness the mesmerizing spectacle of over a million bats leaving the cave at sundown.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Kinabatangan River / Lahad Datu / Tabin Wildlife Reserve

After breakfast, cruise to the jetty, then proceed by vehicle to Lahad Datu on the way to the Tabin Wildlife Reserve, a 45-square-mile sanctuary established in 1984. Home to all eight species of Borneo's hornbills, it offers a high chance of encountering three of them: white-crowned hornbills, rhinoceros hornbills, and wrinkled hornbills. After settling into the Tabin Wildlife Resort and lunch, explore the Lipad River area, discovering jungle herbs and trekking to the active Lipad Mud Volcano. Encounter diverse bird species, including Finsch's bulbuls and Malaysian blue flycatchers. Conclude the day with a night safari to witness the reserve's nocturnal wildlife.

FRIDAY, JULY 25

Tabin Wildlife Reserve

Embark on a morning journey to the Sabah Ficus Germplasm Center, home to Tabin's extensive fig tree collection, the world's largest with 85 different species. Led by an NGO BORA staff member, participate in a tree-planting effort to support reforestation. Continue with a safari drive and a trek to the captivating Lipad Waterfall, where you can enjoy a refreshing dip in the natural pool and a shower beneath the cascading water. In the afternoon, relax with the Tabin Rainforest Foot Soak, and end the day with an evening drive and night walk to observe sleeping birds and nocturnal wildlife in this biodiverse haven.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Tabin Wildlife Reserve / Lahad Datu / Danum Valley

After an early breakfast, depart overland to the Danum Valley via Lahad Datu. Upon arrival, check in to the award-winning Borneo Rainforest Lodge. The lodge is surrounded by pristine virgin rainforest, which is home to over 500 species of mammal, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. After lunch take a walk along nature trails to a canopy walkway. Weather permitting, enjoy a spotlighting excursion through the forest to discover some of Borneo's nocturnal inhabitants such as common palm civets, bearded pigs, the rare western tarsier, and the elusive leopard.

SUNDAY & MONDAY, JULY 27 & 28

Danum Valley

Awaken to the maniacal laughter of helmeted hornbills and the haunting songs of Bornean gibbons as they herald the dawn at Danum. With a bit of luck,

witness these charismatic creatures in the trees near the lodge. Immerse yourself in two full days of exploring the pristine surroundings, where treasures abound—a mouse deer navigating the leaf litter, a male great argus pheasant displaying his prowess, or a tiny pygmy squirrel darting up a tree trunk. Take in unparalleled views from the treetop canopy walkway, spotting colorful birds like the rhinoceros hornbill, crested fireback, and Bornean bristlehead.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

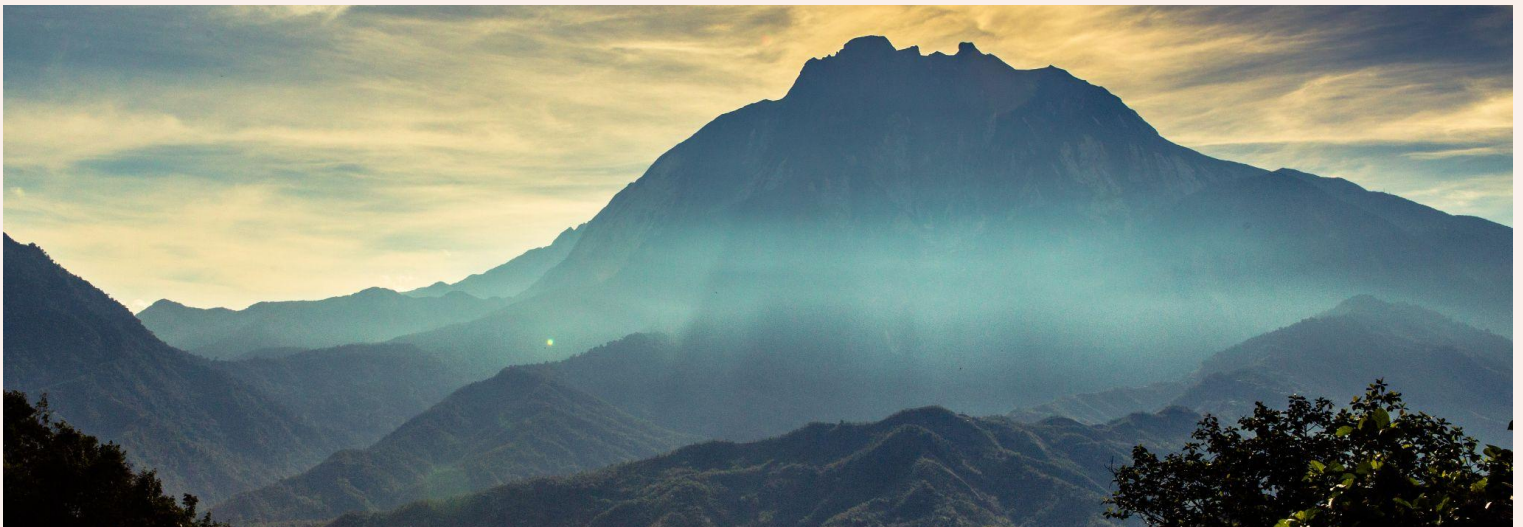
Danum Valley / Tawau / Kuala Lumpur

Enjoy a final walk around the lodge before heading to the airport to catch our flight to Kuala Lumpur. Check in to the Sama Sama Hotel for dinner and overnight.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Kuala Lumpur / Depart

Depart on your independent homeward flight.



Perched in the Pristine Rainforest

From nature resorts to rainforest lodges, our accommodations will have you finding luxury in the heart of the lush rainforest.

Marriott Mulu National Park

Located in the lush rainforest of Borneo, adjacent to Gunung Mulu National Park — a UNESCO World Heritage site, the 5-star Mulu Marriott Resort & Spa features stunning views and well-appointed rooms resting on raised wooden walkways. Every room features luxury bedding and a private balcony with picturesque views.



Sutera Sanctuary Lodges / Hill Lodge

Stay in cozy hillside bungalows within the World Heritage Site of Kinabalu Park. Enjoy easy access to scenic walking trails and nearby botanical gardens. The Hill Lodge is basic yet comfortable, equipped with a king bed or twin single beds and an en-suite bathroom with hot water.

Sukau Rainforest Lodge

Nestled on the Kinabatangan River, one of Borneo's vital waterways, Sukau Rainforest Lodge offers a rare blend of comfort and luxury within the Borneo Rainforest. Home to magnificent wildlife, the lodge allows you to immerse yourself in the rainforest's tranquility and experience its vibrant cacophony. Operating with an Eco-Lodge ethos, Sukau Rainforest Lodge maintains true sustainability, ensuring an unforgettable experience.



Tabin Wildlife Resort

Explore Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Malaysia's largest, in eastern Sabah on Borneo Island, covering about 300,000 acres in the Dent Peninsula. Tabin Wildlife Resort provides comfortable accommodations with various amenities, allowing you to immerse yourself in the tranquility of the reserve's untouched natural beauty. Enjoy a private balcony overlooking the Lipad River during your stay.

Borneo Rainforest Lodge

Perched in the Danum Valley Conservation Area, Borneo Rainforest Lodge showcases diverse wildlife and lush vegetation. The lodge, known for 5-star service, well-appointed rooms, and expert naturalists, prioritizes sustainability in its environmentally sensitive practices. Immerse yourself in the wonders of the rainforest with comfort and ecological responsibility.



Why we love this trip...



"Borneo is host to some of the world's most impressive rainforests, and on this expedition, we will set out to spot and observe many of its unique wildlife inhabitants. Come join Mark and me as we set out to discover the secrets of the Bornean jungle!"

Rich Pagen

"Ever since reading Alfred Russel Wallace's *The Malay Archipelago*, I've been captivated by the extraordinary biodiversity of the Old World tropics. Tropical forest birds, especially frugivorous barbets and hornbills, are my primary fascination, but the allure of primates, frogs, butterflies, bugs, and the incredible flora is equally compelling. Redmond O'Hanlon's humorous account of his expedition *Into the Heart of Borneo* sealed my fate, and now, I'm eagerly anticipating a trip filled with both wildlife and fun."

Mark Brazil

PRICE

\$13,990 per person
(add \$2,990 for a single room)

DEPOSIT

\$1,500

Group size: 14 travelers

INCLUSIONS

- 15 nights accommodations
- All meals including non-alcoholic drinks
- All excursions, transportation, and local guides
- Park fees
- Taxes and permits
- Gratuities
- Arrival and departure assistance
- Internal airfare:

Kuala Lumpur / Mulu NP / Kota Kinabalu & Tawau / Kuala Lumpur



BOOK NOW

+1 206 370 1732

travel@miruadventures.com | miruadventures.com