



OVAID Sumatra Fundraising Tour 2025

TRAVEL TYPE

Small group of up to 10 guests. Ages 14+ years

EXPEDITION GRADE

Moderate to difficult (some jungle trekking involved)

DURATION

10 Days
1st- 10th November 2025

ACCOMMODATION

Local hotels , lodges and tents



Expedition Overview

Come and see orangutans the only way they should be seen; in the jungles of Sumatra. Make a personal difference by contributing to a unique organisation helping to save the great red ape from extinction.

On this 10-day Orangutan Veterinary Aid (OVAID) fundraising tour, beginning and ending in Medan (North Sumatra), you will visit pristine rainforests, trek into the jungles of Gunung Leuser National Park in North Sumatra, where wild and released orangutans wander freely in their natural surroundings.

You will also have the unique opportunity to visit SOCP's orangutan rescue and rehabilitation centre, where veterinarians are delivering life-saving medical treatment to the red ape and where orangutans are prepared for reintroduction back into the forests. This is where you will see the real difference being made by OVAID.

There really is nothing like giving back and on this specially crafted expedition, you will visit the jungle habitat of the orangutan and help protect them for generations to come. If you are interested in adventure and giving back to the world at the same time, then you have got to be part of this expedition.

oin your hosts Nigel and Sara Hicks (OVAID co-founders) who will travel with you throughout the journey and give you their personal views about orangutans and how their organisation is helping to save them and enable them to be released back into the jungle.

MEET YOUR HOSTS

Vet, Dr Nigel Hicks and his wife Sara Fell Hicks, have been working with orangutans in Borneo and Sumatra since 2009. Together they have on the ground experience of rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing orangutans in both Malaysia and Indonesia.

Spending approximately five of the last fourteen years living and working in these countries and being an active part of the veterinary teams in four different orangutan rescue centres, Nigel and Sara can share in-depth knowledge of this critically endangered species.

Through their experiences, they recognised an urgent need for the provision of veterinary equipment, medicines and practical veterinary mentoring to orangutan rescue groups and rehabilitation centres in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Initially, through friends, they raised funds to enable them to buy equipment which they personally took out to Indonesia but it soon became obvious that a more formal structure was needed and in early 2014 they established Orangutan Veterinary Aid (OVAID) as a registered charity.



During this accompanied tour Nigel and Sara will share presentations on their work with orangutan over the last 14 years and there will be plenty of time for one to one conversations as well as group discussions.



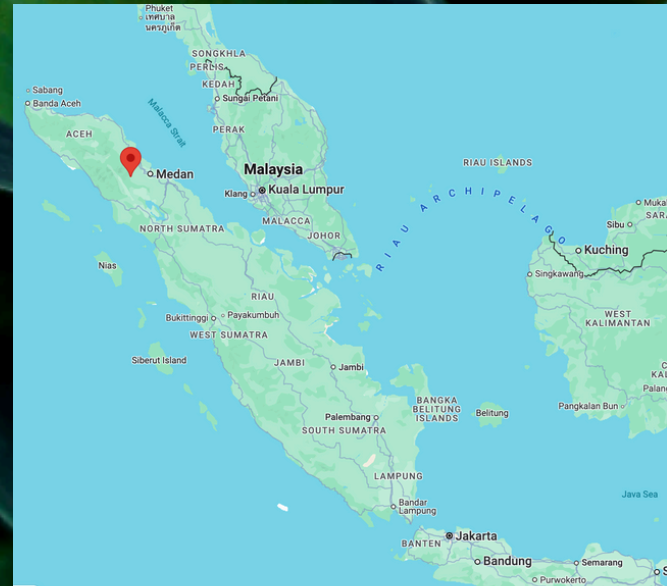
OVAID

OVAID is a registered U.K. charity which provides essential medicines, equipment and professional help for vets working at the front line of orangutan rescue whether this is from illegal pet homes, human orangutan conflict or the illegal wildlife trade. These vets and their teams are often working in extremely difficult, demanding and dangerous conditions with minimal equipment and the support of OVAID is vital. In addition, the charity seeks to educate and inform the public about deforestation issues, habitat loss and the plight of the orangutan.

Since its inception in 2014 OVAID has provided more than £450,000 in medicines, equipment and learning opportunities to orangutan vet teams. This has included funding a veterinary scholarship for young Indonesian orangutan vets from the rescue teams together with in-situ practical workshops. Currently the charity is developing a US\$75,000 3 year on-line learning programme in veterinary dentistry and dental anaesthesia for Indonesian & Malaysian primate vets, leading to further workshops during 2025 / 2027. By participating in this tour you will be part of this amazing effort and will be positively impacting orangutan welfare.

THE LEUSER ECOSYSTEM - THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH

At around 2.63 million hectares, the Leuser Ecosystem really is a world unto itself; a rich expanse of original tropical lowland rainforests, cloud-covered mountains and swampy peatlands. It is among the most biodiverse ecosystems ever recorded by science, and it is the last place on earth where Sumatran orangutans, elephants, tigers and rhinos still freely roam.



WHAT TO EXPECT

You are embarking on an adventure to places and amongst people whose lives are very different from your own. Many aspects of life in Indonesia will seem unusual. Remember that these are often the same aspects that make an area an exotic and attractive destination. While boat expeditions are considered easy, no trek is easy, even those rated "easy or moderate". In addition to the personal physical challenges you may face, travel conditions can present unexpected obstacles, such as rough and bumpy roads and changeable weather. To prepare for this "pack" a flexible and relaxed attitude. Bring a spirit of adventure and enquiry, a healthy sense of humour and a willingness to encounter the unexpected and you will find your trip to Indonesia the adventure of a lifetime!



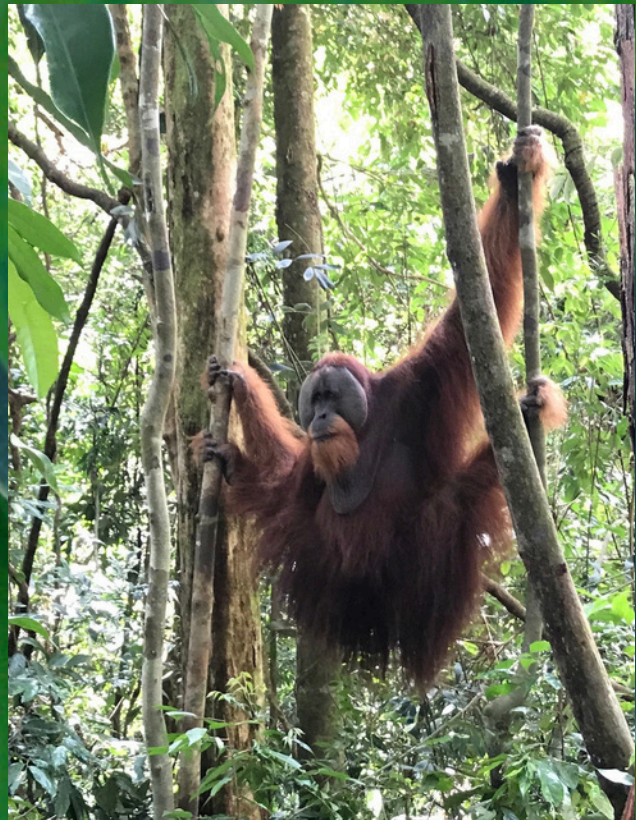
HIGHLIGHTS

Our goal is to provide our guests with a unique experience, to observe wild and semi-wild orangutans in their natural habitat. We will provide you with a safe platform to observe the other wildlife Sumatra has to offer including Thomas Leaf monkeys, gibbons and more. We will also provide you with comprehensive information about the destination you are in so that you are fully informed of your surroundings.

- Travel with OVAID co-founders Nigel and Sara Hicks and see first-hand how their work is helping save wildlife.
- See wild orangutans in their natural rainforest habitat
- Spend time searching for other amazing wildlife
- Meet the Orangutan Information Centre team (OIC)
- Trek through the forest of Gunung Leuser National Park and camp out overnight by a river.
- Sunrise climb of Mt. Sibayak volcano (optional)
- Exclusive visit the SOCP's rescue centre at Batu Mbelin (closed to the public)
- Exclusive guided tour of SOCP's new Orangutan Haven project
- Join for the presentation of OVAID donated veterinary supplies to SOCP & OIC
- Visit the Batak people of Lake Toba, learn about their unique culture and experience their way of life
- Help save the orangutan

TOUR EXTENSION

Why not think about seeing more amazing locations in Indonesia after your orangutan expedition? For more details about some of the exciting trip extensions on offer to other parts of Indonesia [click here](#).



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Orangutan Odysseys hold sustainable eco-tourism in high regard and ethical on all levels

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ITINERARY

1st to 10th November 2025

Day 1 - 1 Nov: Arrive in Medan.

Today you will arrive in Medan, North Sumatra where you will be met and picked up from the airport by an Orangutan Odysseys representative and transferred to your hotel in Medan city. Tonight over dinner we will meet our team and discuss the rest of the trip along with meeting your local guide. Overnight in a Medan hotel. Meals: Nil

Day 2 - 2 Nov: Medan - Orangutan Haven - SOCP Batu Mbelin - Berastagi

This morning we travel to Sibolangit for a stop at the Orangutan Haven centre, which acts as a home for unreleasable orangutans. Then we travel to Batu Mbelin to SOCP's rescue centre to see the work being done and hand over donations. Late afternoon we head to the mountain town of Berastagi town for an overnight stay at our hotel.

Day 3 - 3 Nov: Berastagi - Ketambe Lodge

An optional very early, 4.00 am wake up will see you hiking up Mt Sibayak for sunrise, an active volcano with panoramic views across the valleys. Then we board our bus to start the long drive (approx 7 hours) through to our jungle base camp in Ketambe (Aceh). Along the way, we will stop for lunch at a local warung (small restaurant) and we will pass through the scenic mountain areas and also see volcanoes and other places of interest. Late afternoon we will arrive in Ketambe and set up base camp at our jungle lodge. If time allows we can have a swim in the nearby river. Here we will also meet with our local guiding team and discuss our plans for jungle trekking tomorrow. Overnight in the lodge. Meals: B,L,D

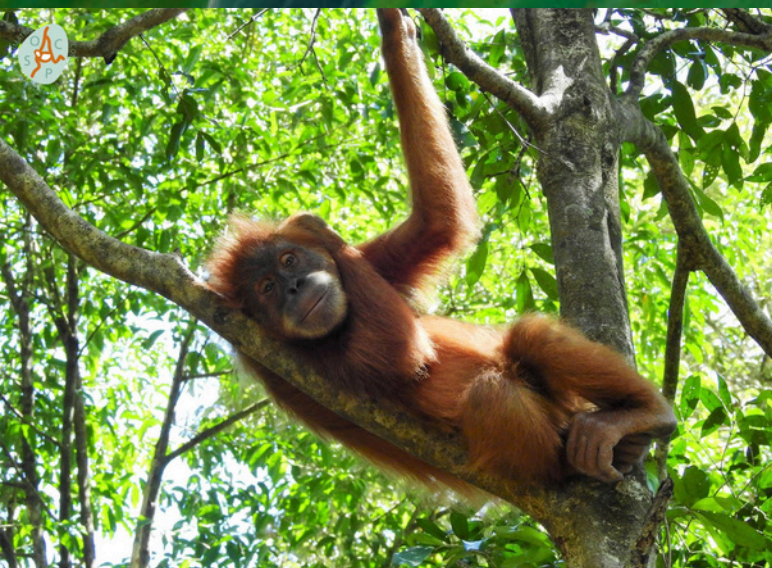
Orangutan Fact

Average weight:

The average weight of an adult male is 200 to 250+ lbs.

The average weight of an adult female is 100 – 150 lbs.

On average, females are 1/3 to 1/2 the size of males



Day 4 - 4 Nov: Ketambe - Start 2-day Jungle Trekking

Today after an early breakfast we start our 2-day adventure and head into the jungle looking for orangutans and other wildlife. This amazing Leuser ecosystem will provide us opportunities to view not only wild orangutans but also Thomas Leaf monkeys, gibbons, macaques, hornbills and more. We will have lunch in the jungle and later we arrive at our campsite by a crystal clear river and enjoy a refreshing swim and clean up before dinner. We will camp in tents overnight in the National Park - all camping equipment including tent, mattress, pillow and blanket are carried in by our support team.

Meals: B,L,D

Day 5 - 5 Nov: Ketambe Trekking - Lodge

This morning we wake to the sounds of the jungle at our riverside camp and head out again into the jungle looking for wildlife and more. After lunch along the way, we will trek to the hot springs area for a relaxing "river spa" before making our way back out of the jungle and returning to the lodge overnight.

Meals: B,L,D

Day 6 - 6 Nov: Research Station - Reforestation and Trekking - Ketambe Lodge

This morning we travel to meet with The Forum for the Conservation of Leuser (FKL), where we will be introduced to their important work. We will trek through the jungle in the morning and in the afternoon look for orangutans and other wildlife. Along the way, we will learn more about the vital work being done by FKL and return to the lodge for the night. Lunch at the centre and hand over any donations.

Meals: B,L,D

Some activities this day may include:

- Trekking, Phenology and bird watching
- Orangutan and Wildlife Observation
- FKL Presentation
- Informal discussions with the FKL Ketambe team

Day 7 - 7 Nov: Ketambe - Lake Toba

After an early breakfast we will start our long day's journey (9 to 10 hours) south all the way through to Lake Toba. Here you will spend the next 3 nights for some well-earned rest and relaxation along with opportunities to explore this unique location. Lake Toba is a very amazing natural wonder. This lake is thought to have been formed from the violent eruption of a volcano, Mount Toba, which occurred about 74.000 years ago. With an area of more than 1.145 square kilometres and a depth of 450 meters, Lake Toba is actually more like an ocean than a lake. Overnight in the wonderful Tabo Cottages.

Meals: B,L

Day 8 - 8 Nov: Lake Toba

Today you are free to relax and explore some of the areas by foot. Optionally we can organise a tour to visit some of the local traditional Batak tribes to learn about their culture and see more of the island.

Meals: B,L

Day 9 - 9 Nov: Lake Toba

Today you are free to relax and explore some of the areas by foot. Optionally we can organise a tour to visit some of the local traditional Batak tribes to learn about their culture and see more of the island. This afternoon we can relax by the pool and have a farewell dinner.

Meals: B

Day 10 - 10 Nov: Lake Toba - Airport - Tour ends

This morning we transfer to Medan Airport (option to Lake Toba airport) where your tour ends or you can continue with your onward travels.

Meals: B

DONATIONS, FEES AND COST

The purpose of this trip is to create awareness of the threat of extinction facing orangutans because of the destruction of their rainforest habitat and to raise funds to help orangutans. The trip hosts, Nigel and Sara are generously donating their time and expertise to help make this a most unique trip and a special experience for all our guests. Each participant of the trip has agreed to fundraise a minimum of GB£850 in donations specifically for OVAID. Your participation in this event WILL make a difference to help save orangutans lives.

How will your fundraising be spent? All of the money raised will be completely utilised by OVAID to supply much-needed equipment to the SOCP orangutan vet team in Sumatra, medicines and equipment for the Batu Mbelin rescue centre and its remote release stations and the Orangutan Haven, OIC & FKL veterinary teams and to support the further training of Indonesian vets. Nigel and Sara have advised that the following equipment supplies will be provided:-
For Sumatran Orangutan Rescue Centre (SOCP)

On this trip we anticipate fulfilling the wish lists of the veterinary teams of each of the centres which we will visit. These wish lists are provided just in advance of the tour date so we cannot be specific but currently we know that we will be supplying a replacement haematology analyser costing in excess of £12,000 for the SOCP centre together with a new LED surgical examination lamp.

HOW ELSE YOU CAN HELP

Please note OVAID have extensive supplies of consumables needing to be taken out to the centres and which you can help carry in your luggage to help enormously.

Some of our guests feel that in addition to their fundraising effort for OVAID, they would like to make a small personal contribution/presentation to the vet teams e.g. stethoscope or other veterinary item. This is completely optional but if this is the case please contact Nigel at info@ovaid.org prior to acquisition to identify the most suitable item(s) to take.



INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations throughout (twin-share basis)
- Meals as outlined in Itinerary. (B,L,D)
- All National park and entry fees
- All transfers in private AC vehicles (cars and bus)
- Experienced English-speaking local guides
- Orangutan Odysseys t-shirt
- OVAID "goodies" pack
- Ranger and local guide fees plus porters
- Tent and camping equipment

EXCLUSIONS

- International and Domestic airfares and any expenses due to flight delay or cancellations
- Travel Insurance (mandatory)
- Personal expenses; alcohol, laundry, phone calls
- Tipping (optional)

COST

From \$3695 (AUD)
UK £2000
ex Medan Indonesia plus £850
(AUD\$1,600) secured fundraising (twin-share basis).



Take nothing but memories,
leave nothing but footprints

“ We had the most amazing week thanks to Orangutan Odysseys. I highly recommend their adventures. Not only do you learn and see the work that is being done to help these amazing apes but you help the cause as well

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TRAVEL INFORMATION

WEATHER

Sumatra is a tropical climate with high humidity and hot temperatures throughout the year. Daytime temperature is generally 73F/23C to 86F/30C and nighttime is 73F/23C to 80F/27C

The Wet Season is Sep- Jan
The Dry Season is Feb-Aug



TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A valid passport with at least 6 months validity from your return travel date is required by all visitors. Visa On Arrival VOA is purchased on arrival to Indonesian Immigration for approx \$50AUD cash. We always suggest that you check visa requirements for your country prior to traveling.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is mandatory to take part in this trip and Emergency Medical Evacuation Insurance is required for all trekkers.

We strongly recommend that you also take out trip cancellation, baggage loss and accident insurance.

TIPPING

Tipping while not compulsory is encouraged to show your appreciation to our guides, drivers and assistants during your travel.



Thank you for
helping me and
my baby

HEALTH AND FIRST AID

No vaccinations are required for entry to Indonesia.

Please plan ahead and consult your doctor regarding personal health requirements as well as vaccinations and anti-malarial medication recommended for the area you are travelling to.

Orangutans share 97% human DNA making them susceptible to our diseases like the common cold and flu

MONEY

The currency in Indonesia is the Rupiah (Rp).

Money can be changed at the airport and some hotels.

ATM's are also available in some areas while on tour.

Credit cards such as Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted whereas American Express is limited in its acceptance.



CONTACT

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