



# Leif Cocks Sabah Orangutan Tour



## TRAVEL TYPE

Small group of interested people, age limit 13 years



## EXPEDITION GRADE

Easy to moderate (some jungle trekking involved)



## DURATION

9 Days  
11-19 Feb 2025



## ACCOMMODATION

Hotels and lodges



## Expedition Overview

Our mission is to discover the natural wonders of Malaysian Borneo along Sabah's east coast as you explore Malaysia's second-longest river, the mighty Kinabatangan Floodplain in search of Bornean orangutans, Bornean elephants and Proboscis monkeys, witness a bat exodus at a unique limestone formed cave and traverse throughout Danum Valley, a treasury of biological diversity amid a canopy of the tallest tropical trees in the world searching for the iconic tropical wildlife that calls this majestic part of the world home.

Your special host on this trip is the Founder of The Orangutan Project (TOP), and International Elephant Project, Leif Cocks. Leif is a world-renowned primatologist and has worked with orangutans and elephants for more than 30 years. Throughout the trip, he will share his unique knowledge of animal behaviours and will explain how the Projects are working to secure the survival of Critically Endangered orangutans and elephants in their natural habitat.

Discover the natural wonders of Malaysian Borneo along Sabah's east coast as you explore Malaysia's second-longest river, the mighty Kinabatangan Floodplain in search of Bornean elephants and monkeys, and traverse throughout Danum Valley, a treasury of biological diversity amid a canopy of the tallest tropical trees in the world searching for the iconic tropical wildlife that calls this majestic part of the world home.

You will commence your tour from Sandakan along the east coast of Sabah and travel straight to your nature resort to experience an introduction to the tropical rainforest of Borneo. The Rainforest Discovery Centre provides comfortable wildlife viewing opportunities along the treetop canopy walkway and trails surrounding the education centre.

From here we travel to the riverine forests of the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary where you will experience exploring the mangroves to keep an eye out for species who have adapted to this incredible landscape such as proboscis monkeys, silvered langurs and crocodiles etc. Short jungle treks will connect you with villages where you can experience local culture and purchase arts and crafts. From here, we travel south stopping along the way at Gomantong Cave to experience the bat exodus and hopefully encounter orangutans nearby the boardwalks.

Continuing your journey onto the Danum Valley Conservation Area where you will explore the largest protected area of tropical lowland rainforest in Borneo where all the megafauna on the island resides. Staying at a world-renowned research station, Danum Valley Field Centre, you will explore the extensive network of trails throughout the research plots in search of orangutans, red langurs, gibbons, Borneo pygmy elephants, cats, reptiles, civet and a plethora of bird species and not to mention the peculiar encounters during night walks! Following departure, you will travel north back to Sandakan for onward travels.

## **EXPEDITION GOALS**

Our goal is to provide our guests with a unique experience, to observe wild tropical biodiversity in their natural habitat. We will provide you with a safe platform to observe many endemic, rare and unique species of wildlife in Borneo. We will also provide you with comprehensive information about the destination you are in so that you are fully informed of your surroundings prior to, during and following your expedition.

The purpose of this trip is to create awareness of the threat of extinction facing orangutans due to the destruction of their rainforest habitat and to raise funds to help orangutans. The trip host, Leif is generously donating their time and expertise to help make this a unique trip and a special experience for all our guests.



Orangutan Odysseys has raised over AUD\$1,000,000 since 2009 to help support the orangutans survival. Each participant of the trip will adopt an orangutan (included in trip fare) and agree to raise a minimum of AUD\$1,000 in donations. Your participation in this event WILL make a difference. Furthermore, Orangutan Odysseys have partnered up with The Orangutan Project which supports conservation programs in Borneo - so by travelling with us you are directly supporting their orangutan conservation efforts and environmental programs. And finally by supporting ethical and eco-tourism you are helping support the locals and the environment.

## YOUR HOST LEIF COCKS

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"Hi, I have now completed many Leif Cocks Orangutan Odysseys Eco-tours. On each one, we all had a great time, learnt all about the orangutan's habitat, made new friends and most importantly raised awareness & much-needed funds to help save this endangered species. In the complex world of conservation and animal behaviour, it is difficult to fully grasp the realities of what we see on just a short tour. That is why I feel that the members on this tour, being able to discuss the deeper insights of conservation and behaviour, may have enjoyed the trip so much more. The more you know about something the more interesting it gets! With any holiday a lot of time is wasted through getting from one place to the other, however, time can fly when you have the opportunity to discuss what you have just seen and what you are about to see in a holistic and in-depth context. It would be great to have you on board!"



*"Want an enjoyable holiday, but want it to be something more?  
Why not, see what is really going on,  
connect with the most  
intelligent fellow beings  
on the planet, meet the people  
working at the coal face and become part  
of the solution" Leif*



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel with and be educated by TOP's Founder and orangutan expert Leif Cocks
- Visit the Sandakan War Memorial and Agnes Keith House
- Experience the incredible Rainforest Discovery Centre within the Kabili Forest Reserve
- Meet the HUTAN team and learn about the conservation works
- Cruise along the mangrove and riverine forests of Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary in search of species adapted to this unique waterworld
- Trek deep within the primary tropical rainforest of the Tabin Valley Wildlife Reserve where most Bornean biodiversity resides
- Visit a local village to experience the local culture, including traditional food, crafts and music

## ITINERARY

11-19 Feb 2025

\*Subject to change without notice due to local conditions

### **Day 1 - 11 Feb:** Arrive Sandakan.

Today you will arrive at Sandakan airport (in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo) and be transferred to our Sepilok hotel - Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Lodge. This evening over dinner we shall meet for a tour briefing. Meals: Nil

### **Day 2 - 12 Feb:** Sandakan Tour

Today we will spend some time looking around the town including a visit to the Sandakan war memorial, Agnes Keith House and the English tea house for lunch. In the afternoon and also after dinner we will take a walk at Rainforest Discovery centre before overnight at the Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Lodge . Meals: B,L

### **Day 3 - 13 Feb: Sepilok to Kinabatangan River via the Gomantong caves**

Pick up from your lodge in Sepilok at 8.30 am and transfer to the Kinabatangan river, stopping off at the Gomantong caves along the way for a chance to explore Simud Hitam via a wooden boardwalk. Keep an eye out as orangutans are often seen in the vicinity of the caves. Arrive at Hornbill Lodge (River Chalet) for lunch and check-in to your rooms. Afternoon river cruise (share-in basis), dinner at the lodge and optional night cruise (additional charge to be paid directly to the lodge). Meals: B,L,D

### **Day 4 - 14 Feb: Kinabatangan River**

Early morning river cruise then return to the lodge for breakfast. After breakfast, set off on a jungle walk with your guide to the nearby wildlife observation tower, the initial part of the trail is quite steep but once you reach the ridge overlooking the river it will be worth the effort! Return to the lodge to rest and have lunch. At 2:30pm embark on an extended river cruise in search of pygmy elephants and wildlife further afield (3-4 hours). Later, you return for dinner at the lodge. Optional night walk after dinner. Overnight Hornbill Lodge Meals: B,L,D

### **Day 5- 15 Feb:** Visit HUTAN (NGO)

Today we shall visit with HUTAN who are the local NGO group looking after orangutans and the rainforests. They are supported by TOP and we shall see and learn about their wonderful work. Afternoon return to overnight at the Hornbill Lodge. Meals: B, L, D

### **Day 6 - 16 Feb** Danum Valley

Kinabatangan River - Tabin Wildlife Reserve

Enjoy a final morning river cruise, have breakfast and then leave from Hornbill Lodge at 9.30am to Lahad Datu. After a stop for registration, continue on to Tabin Wildlife Reserve. In the afternoon, take the Elephant trail to the active Lipad mud volcano which provides a mineral salt lick for wildlife. After dinner join the 4X4 night safari drive looking for nocturnal animals. Overnight Tabin Wildlife Resort. Meals: B, L, D

### **Day 7 -17 Feb:** Tabin Wildlife Reserve

Start with an optional early morning bird walk to discover some of Tabin's rich collection of almost 300 bird species. After breakfast, trek to Lipad Waterfall. Take a dip in the natural pool and explore the surrounding area. Enjoy some free time at the lodge in the afternoon then, as the sun sets, go on a dusk drive to look for nocturnal wildlife coming before returning to the lodge for dinner and an after dinner night walk on the nature trail near the resort. Overnight at Resort. Meals: B, L, D

### **Day 8: 18 Feb :** Tabin to Kota Kinabalu

After breakfast, you can choose between 1) Free and easy around the lodge until check out. Or 2) You can take a dawn jungle walk to look out for wildlife that is active at this time of the day and then return for breakfast. Transfer out is at 1.30pm after lunch. You will be back in Lahad Datu by 3pm for your flight to Kota Kinabalu. We will touch down in Kota Kinabalu around 5pm where we will be met by our driver for transfer to the Mecure Hotel in the city. Meals: B, L

### **Day 9 - 19 Feb:** Kota Kinabalu - Tour ends (or continue Tour Extension)

This morning, enjoy a leisurely breakfast then continue your travels, join our tour extension or begin your journey home. Airport transfers included. Meals: B.

#### **TOUR EXTENSIONS**

We can offer some wonderful and exciting tour extension options to places like Kota Kinabalu, Kinabalu National Park and Mulu Caves + more. If you're interested in extending your stay please contact our office for more details.

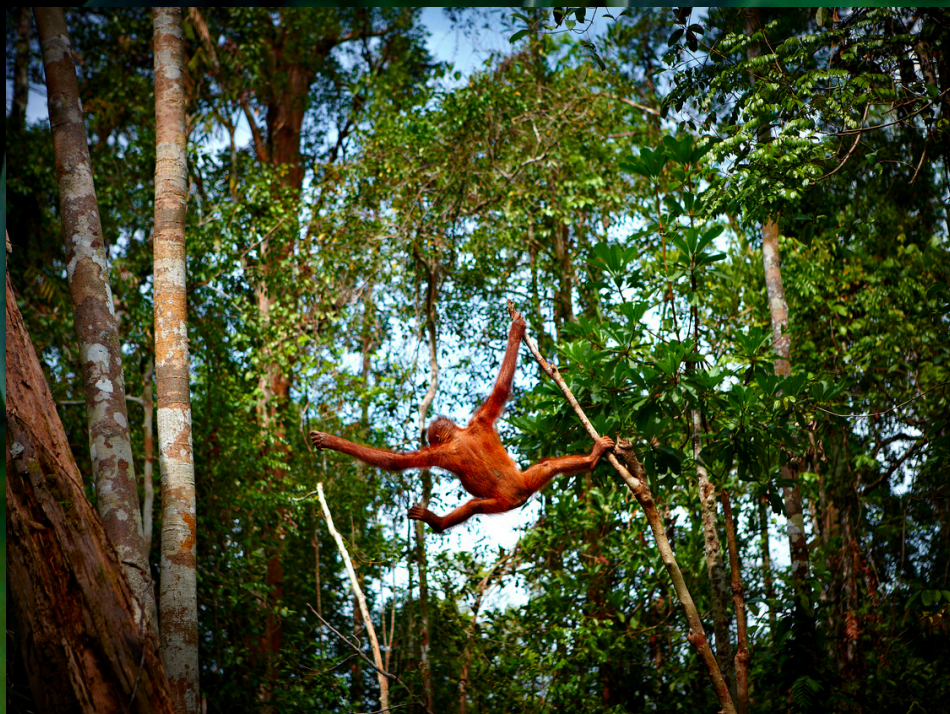


## INCLUSIONS

- All accommodations - Twin Share basis. Single supplement available.
- Domestic flight from Lahad Datu to Kota Kinabalu
- Experienced, local private guide for 7 days
- All land transfers
- River cruises and activities (as per itinerary)
- Entrance fees
- All meals (B,L,D) as stated in the itinerary
- Bottled water
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## EXCLUSIONS

- International/Domestic Airfares (to arrive in Sandakan and depart from Kota Kinabalu)
- Visas
- Travel Insurance (Mandatory)
- Transfers, accommodation and arrangements in KL outside Day 1 arrival.
- Soft drinks/alcoholic beverages
- Tips (optional)
- Meals and activities not mentioned



You will be supporting The Orangutan Project (TOP) in their work protecting orangutans and their environment as well as other vital environmental research. You will also be helping to support the work being done by HUTAN in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo



## COST

AUD \$4990pp  
Single Supplement \$1,100  
AUD\$1,250pp  
mandatory fundraising



## TRAVEL INFORMATION



### WEATHER

Malaysia is a tropical climate with high humidity and hot temperatures throughout the year.

Temperature ranges from  
20C/68F - 30C/86F

The Wet Season is Nov- Feb

The Dry Season is Apr-Oct



### TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A valid passport with at least 6 months validity from your return travel date is required by all visitors. Entry visas are NOT required for citizens of Australia, Germany and the United Kingdom, however 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. If you are an Australian resident, this can be obtained from our website by clicking on the Insurance menu tab or emailing our office at [hayley@orangutanodysseys.com](mailto:hayley@orangutanodysseys.com).

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





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

#### **MONEY**

The currency in Malaysia is the Malaysian Ringgit (MYR).

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.

#### **TIPPING**

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



#### **CONTACT**

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