



Leif Cocks Ultimate Sumatra



TRAVEL TYPE

Small group of up to 10 guests. Ages 14+



EXPEDITION GRADE

Moderate to difficult in parts (some hilly jungle trekking involved)



DURATION

9 Days
7-15 May 2024



ACCOMMODATION

Local hotels, jungle lodges & tents



Expedition Overview

Come and see orangutans the only way they should be seen, in the natural jungles of Sumatra and make a personal difference by contributing to organisations helping to save the great red ape from extinction.

Orangutan Odysseys are raising money for The Orangutan Project and supporting other Orangutan NGO's in their quest to save the orangutans and the rainforests. There really is nothing like giving back. On this specially crafted expedition, you will visit the jungle habitat of the orangutan and help protect their environment for generations to come.

Led by Leif Cocks, president of The Orangutan Project, you will be guided through jungles, on an exclusive expedition led by a man who knows orangutans and this location like few others in the world.

On this nine-day Orangutan Odysseys tour, beginning and ending in Medan (North Sumatra), you will visit pristine rainforests, trek into the jungles of the Leuser Ecosystem in Northern Sumatra and spend time viewing wild orangutans who wander freely in their natural surroundings along with a host of other wildlife.

You will firstly visit the recently opened Sumatran Rescue Alliance (SRA) center. Meet the rescue team and then plant a tree in a reforestation site. SRA is an alliance between The Orangutan Project, Center for Orangutan Protection and the Orangutan Information Center. Then later we will meet with the Forum for Conservation Of Leuser (FKL) team that leads communities in dismantling illegal palm oil plantations that are causing massive deforestation in northern Sumatra's Leuser Ecosystem, protecting the habitat of the Critically Endangered Sumatran rhino. He is also an expert researcher and tracker, leading rhino protection teams on field expeditions to track down poachers in the Leuser Ecosystem.

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.

MEET YOUR HOST LEIF COCKS

Hi, I have now completed several Leif Cocks Orangutan Odysseys Eco-tours. On each one, we have all had a great time, learnt all about the orangutans' habitat, made new friends and most importantly raised awareness and 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, that have been 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 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.

Leif says, "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 "

ABOUT LEIF

The Orangutan Project was established in 1998 by founder and world-renowned orangutan expert, Leif Cocks, as a result of his almost 30-year career working with orangutans. Leif is a passionate campaigner for orangutans and has been the President of The Orangutan Project since its inception. Leif's years in the field have earned him respect within the conservation field. He has been a key player in developing conservation plans for orangutans and influencing positive change for orangutan protection and survival. This includes the first-ever successful reintroduction of the zoo-born orangutan. This respect has given The Orangutan Project world standing in conservation.

A small population biologist and curator by trade; Leif has several academic qualifications, including a Masters of Science studying orangutans. He lectures at universities, is a seasoned public speaker and has published several papers on orangutans in peer-reviewed journals. Leif is also the author of the books *Orangutans and their Battle for Survival* (2002) and, Amazon bestseller, *Orangutans My Cousins, My Friends* (2016) - A journey to understand and save the person of the forest.

Amongst many roles, Leif is currently: a Technical Advisor for PT Alam Bukit Tigapuluh (a company leasing and protecting rainforest), Head of International Elephant Project, head of International Tiger Project, Vice President of Orang Utan Republik Foundation and on the Advisory Board for Forest, Nature and Environment of Aceh.

In respect to his professional, animal, human and financial management skills, Leif has been the longest standing member of the Australasian Species Management Program; a Quarantine-Approved Assessor; Zoo Husbandry Adviser; Zoo Accreditation Officer; UN GRASP in-country point of contact, an International Species Coordinator, International Studbook Keeper and the Chair of a World Aquarium and Zoo Association global conservation program.

Visit leifcocks.org for more information on Leif Cocks

With Leif along, you will garner a full and unusual understanding of what you are seeing, as this adventure of a lifetime takes you deep into the orangutans home.

EXPEDITION GOALS

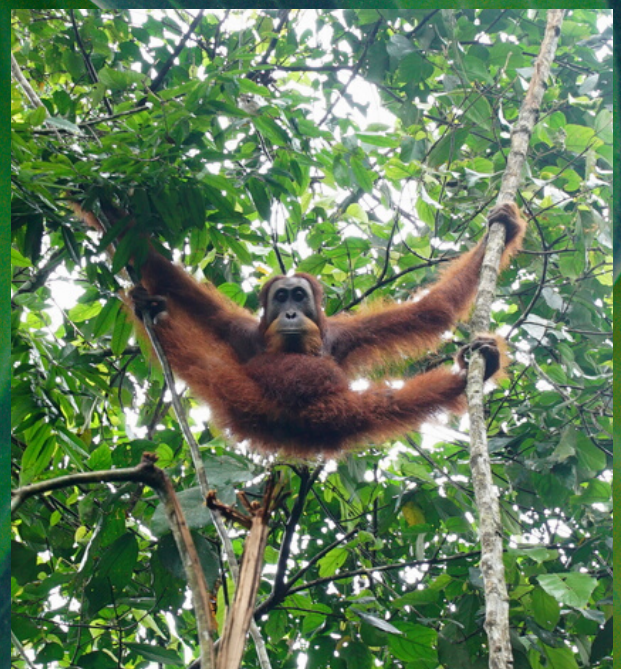
Our goal is to provide our guests with a unique experience, to observe wild and semi-wild orangutans in their natural habitat. We will provide you with a safe platform to observe other wildlife Sumatra has to offer. We will also provide you with comprehensive information about the destination you are in so that you are fully informed of your surrounds. Furthermore, Orangutan Odysseys has partnered with The Orangutan Project which supports conservation programs in and Sumatra and Borneo.

Tour Food - Vegetarian and Vegan based

All included meals provided during this tour will be vegetarian (with a vegan option). Guests will have the option of non-vegetarian meals during breakfast at hotels and for meals (some dinners) not included in the itinerary.

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 inquiry, 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!



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. However, the Leuser Ecosystem is now under threat. Despite being protected under Indonesian national law, massive industrial development is being planned for logging, palm oil, pulp and paper plantations and mining. This will threaten the entire ecosystem, as well as the continued wellbeing of the millions of Acehnese traditional landholders who depend on it for their food, water and livelihoods.



“

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.

”

PROJECT FUNDRAISING OBJECTIVES

Participants joining this expedition are required to raise funds (a minimum of \$1,000 AUD per participant) by networking with friends, family and colleagues to fundraise via your own customised fundraising page. Your fundraising page is created by Orangutan Odysseys and monies raised go straight to 'The Orangutan Project'. Details of how to achieve this goal and further information will be sent once you have booked. Participants in this expedition will also be contributing to the survival of the orangutans and their habitat by adopting an orphaned orangutan (included in your trip fare).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Educational talks by orangutan expert Leif Cocks
- Meet representatives
- See the orangutans in their natural rainforest habitat
- Trek through the magnificent Leuser Ecosystem
- Visit a real conservation project saving the orangutans habitat
- Travel into jungles to witness orangutan, siamangs, gibbons, leaf and macaque monkeys
- See the people of Sumatra and their way of life
- Help save the orangutans from extinction
-

ITINERARY

9 days 7-15th May 2024

* Subject to change due to local conditions.

Day 1 - 7 May: 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 our local guides. Overnight hotel.

Day 2 - 8 May: Medan - Ketembe Lodge

An early morning starts and we board our bus to start the long drive (approx 10 hours) through to our jungle base camp in Ketembe (Aceh). Along the way, Leif will give you some informative talks, 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 Ketembe 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. (B,L,D)

Day 3 - 9 May: Ketembe - 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. (B,L,D)



Day 4 - 10 May: Ketambe Trekking - Ketembe Lodge

This morning we wake to the sounds of the jungle at our riverside camp and head out again into the jungles 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. (B,L,D)

Day 5 - 11 May: Research Station - Reforestation and Trekking - Ketembe 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 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. (B,L,D)

Sumatran and Tapanuli orangutans are found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

With just over 13,000 Sumatran orangutans, and approximately 800 Tapanuli orangutans individuals left in the wild, both species are in critical danger of extinction.

Day 6 - 12 May: Reforestation - Gelombang - Local hotel

This morning after breakfast we will travel about eight hours. Leif will give you some informative talks and we will stop for lunch at a local warung (small restaurant) overnight at a hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 7 - 13 May: Gelombang - Soraya Research Station

Today we will travel through to Gelombang where we will meet our motorized canoe for a two-hour boat trip upriver to FKL's Soraya Station project in the jungle. We will stay overnight here and be introduced to their amazing work. Late afternoon, we will cool down in an amazing waterfall camp. We will spend time with the research team and do an afternoon trek into the jungle looking for wild orangutans and elephants. We will learn about what the researchers do and maybe help check the camera traps. Overnight Soraya Station. Tents and sleeping equipment are provided. (B,L,D)

Day 8 - 14 May: Soraya Research Station - Medan

This morning after an early morning trek and breakfast we will farewell the team and jump back into the boats for our ride to Gelombang where we will then be transferred by bus (approx 6-7 hours) to our Medan hotel (B,L)

Day 9 - 15 May: Medan - Airport - Tour ends

This morning you will drive to Medan Airport where your tour ends or you can continue with your onward travels. (B)



“

*OO organised one of the best experiences of our lives.
Cannot recommend Orangutan Odysseys enough.*

*If you visit the orangutans
with them you are also doing your bit to help
save these incredible creatures and their habitat*

”

TRIP EXTENSIONS

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 please contact us.

How do I get to Medan?

Medan is in northern Sumatra, with the major airport being Medan Kuala Namu International Airport (KNO). There are many daily direct flights to Medan from both Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Airlines that service these routes include: Singapore Airlines, Silk Air, Air Asia, Malaysian Airlines and Jetstar Asia. Please contact us if you would like a quote for your flight connection to Medan from either Singapore or Kuala Lumpur.

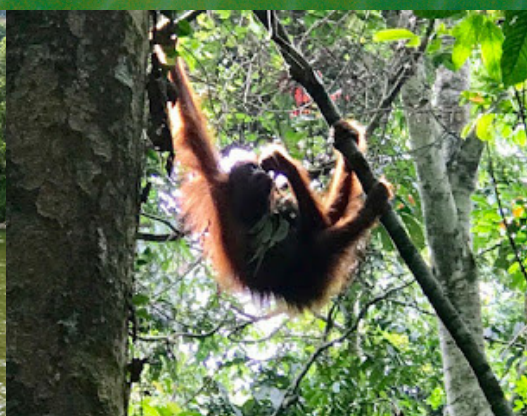


Please note: Additional accommodation can be arranged in Medan or like Toboa should you like to extend your stay in Sumatra. Please ensure that any flights departing Medan on day 9 should be booked for the early to late evening to allow enough connecting time from Lake Toba.

ACTIVITIES

- Orangutan viewing
- Professional conservation education
- Wildlife viewing
- Reforestation program
- Camping in the jungle
- Bird watching.....and more.

You will be supporting The Orangutan Project in their work protecting the Leuser Ecosystem; the last place on earth where orangutans, tigers, rhinos and elephants co-exist. Thank you for being part of the solution.



INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations throughout (twin-share basis). Single supplement available.
- Meals as outlined in Itinerary. (B,L,D)
- All National park and entry fees
- All transfers in private AC vehicles
- Experienced English-speaking local guides
- Donation included for a one-year orangutan adoption through The Orangutan Project
- 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)

“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

”



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. VOA- Visa On Arrival is available at Indonesian Immigration when you arrive for approx \$50 AUD cash.

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.

Be healthy for
you
and me



HEALTH AND FIRST AID

No vaccinations are required for entry to Indonesia. However, you should consider cholera, typhoid and hepatitis vaccinations and make sure your tetanus cover is up to date. 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.

TIPPING

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

COST

From \$3495.00 (AUD) ex Medan, North Sumatra (twin-share).

Participants in this expedition are required to fundraise a minimum of AUD\$1,000.

Single supplement available \$580

CONTACT

Orangutan Odysseys

(+61) 417 973 355

alice@orangutanodysseys.com

www.orangutanodysseys.com

