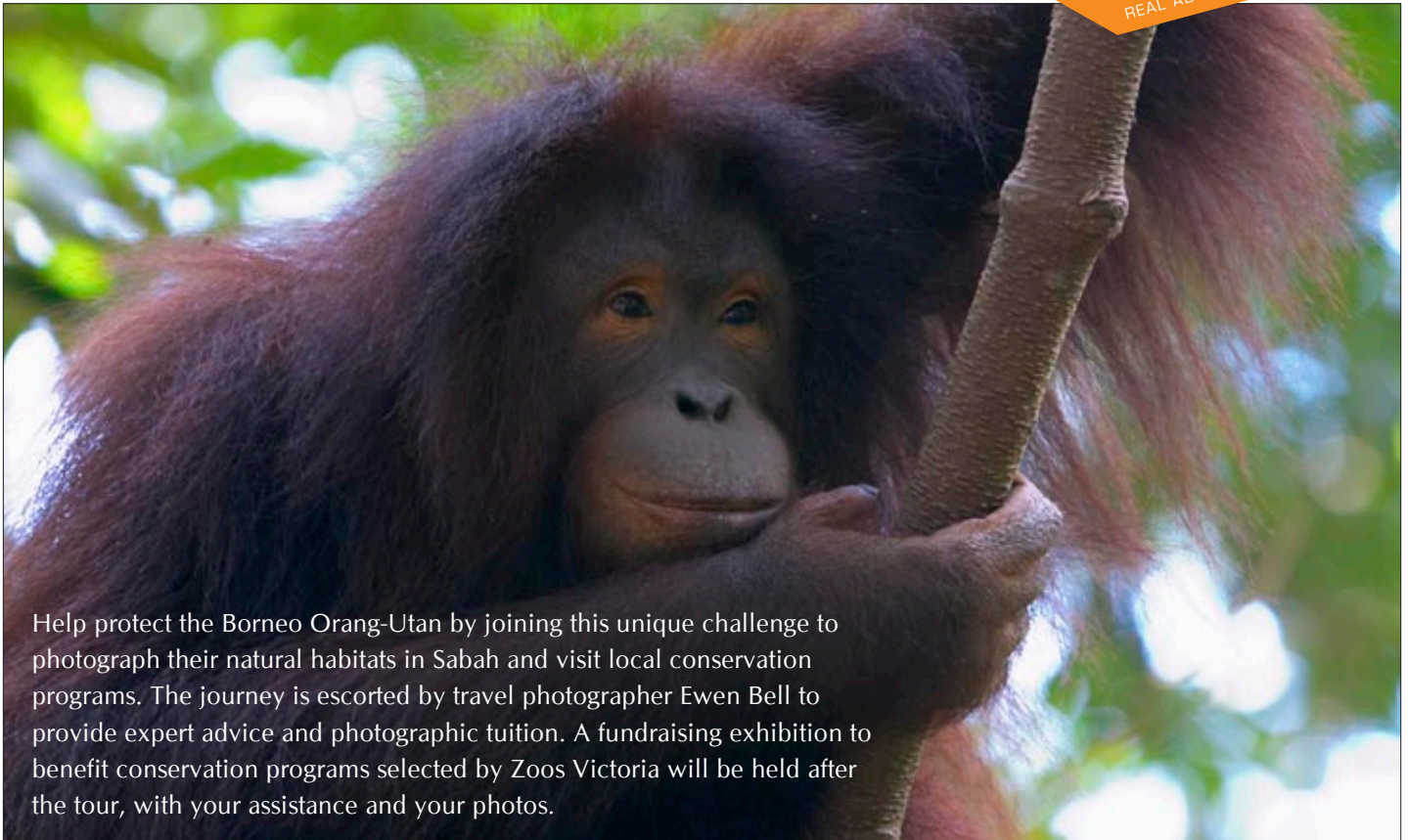


CHARITY PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

BORNEO



Help protect the Borneo Orang-Utan by joining this unique challenge to photograph their natural habitats in Sabah and visit local conservation programs. The journey is escorted by travel photographer Ewen Bell to provide expert advice and photographic tuition. A fundraising exhibition to benefit conservation programs selected by Zoos Victoria will be held after the tour, with your assistance and your photos.

Itinerary

12 Day tour starts and finishes in the capital of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, and offers a combination of four-star hotels and air-conditioned wilderness lodges. The weather in Borneo is always hot and steamy, but you will be comfortable and clean every night when you go to sleep. Best of all your presence on the tour will be helping the conservation programs supported by Zoos Victoria.

Days 1-3 Kota Kinabalu - Nature Reserve, Tambunan Forests, Rafflesia Walk

Days 4-6 Danum Valley - Jungle Lodge, Canopy Walk, Wilderness Habitats

Days 7-8 Tabin - Wildlife reserve for Pygmy Elephants and Sumatran Rhino

Day 9 Turtle Island - Marine park for Turtles

Days 10-11 Sandakan - Orang-Utans at Sepilok & Proboscis Monkeys at Labuk

Day 12 End of Tour - Return to KK and flights home

Photographic Themes

People of any skill level will benefit from the photographic guidance included with this journey. In addition to one-on-one tuition with the instructing photographer, you will receive specialised notes to follow through the journey with a series of photographic themes to apply and discuss at key destinations.

Tour Details

July 14-25, 2007

Maximum group size of 12

AU\$3,495 (excluding international flights)

Book with Raw Travel on (03) 9597 0799 or www.rawtravel.com

The Exhibition

Raising money for the Orang-Utans is what this is all about, and the generous individuals who make this journey to Borneo will be asked to help organise an exhibition of their photos after they return home. By donating your images and a little of your time a group of travellers can work together to raise much needed funds to help ensure the protection of this species.

Bringing the story home

A picture does more than tell a thousand words, it draws a tangible connection between the charitable work overseas and the importance of fundraising here at home. Donors can see for themselves the positive impact their generosity is making to the welfare of these animals.

Where does the money go

All money raised from the exhibiting of photos will be donated to support the work of two charities, Flora and Fauna International and The Australian Orangutan Project. Both charities have been selected in consultation with Zoos Victoria and their program to foster Wildlife Conservation & Science.

www.zoo.org.au/conservation

www.orangutan.org.au

www.fauna-flora.org



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BORNEO



Day 1 - Kota Kinabalu (Rasa Ria)

On arrival in Kota Kinabalu you will be transferred to the exclusive Shangri La Rasa Ria. The resort is a private paradise cradled between forested hills and a long sweep of a 3 km long, untouched, pristine beach, washed by the South China Sea. Enjoy the day at leisure on the beach or in the spa.

Day 2 - Kota Kinabalu (Rasa Ria)

Surrounding the resort is 400 acres of lush tropical vegetation including a unique nature reserve. This is the perfect place to begin our photographic journey as here you will meet Sabah's icon, the orang-utan, amidst a remarkable array of indigenous flora and fauna. Surprising encounters with hornbills gliding right overhead, peacocks displaying during breakfast, a bear cat greeting you from a tree or the occasional free-roaming rabbit, iguana or squirrel crossing your path are all part of the magic of this remarkable resort.

Day 3 - Kota Kinabalu (Rasa Ria)

A day trip takes us to the Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve which is dedicated to the world's largest flower. We will explore the trails leading out from the Visitors Centre and with luck one will be blooming when we are there are you will see why these amazing flowers receive so much attention.

Day 4 - Danum Valley

We start the morning with an early morning flight to Lahad Datu in the south of Sabah. From here we transfer into Danum Valley where we stay at the remote Borneo Rainforest Lodge. The Danum Valley, a primary rainforest jungle, is far removed from human habitation. Renowned for its rich variety of both plants and wildlife, Borneo's mammals include such extremely rare and endangered species as the Sumatran Rhino, Benteng Elephant, Clouded Leopard, Bornean Gibbon, and Leaf Monkey. Bird life is equally extensive and varied with over 275 individual species having been recorded, giving Danum Valley a reputation for being one of the best places for viewing Borneo's wildlife.

The Borneo Rainforest Lodge is a basic and rustic international-standard lodge built beside the Danum River. Unlike mass-market tourist destinations, the lodge accommodates a maximum of 60 people, ensuring each guest a unique and individual jungle experience. The fine facilities with basic comforts make it possible to explore the incredible diversity and complexity of the rainforest and offer a unique opportunity for guests to understand the primeval Borneo Rainforest in today's conservation realities.

In the evening we will start the exploration of the jungle with a slide presentation and night drive (weather permitting).

Day 5 - Danum Valley

Today's activities include walking the 'Canopy Walkway', a trek to the Kadazandusun burial site - "Coffin Cliff" then onto the "View Point" for a bird's eye view of the area. Descend to the "Jacuzzi Pool" for a refreshing dip. Don't forget to bring along your swimming gear! In the afternoon take on optional water tubing on the Danum River or relax before the night walk in search of nocturnal wildlife (weather permitting).

Day 6 - Danum Valley

Today's activities include a pre-breakfast walk to the "Nature Trail". In the morning we will trek to the Fairy Falls and Serpent Falls. In the afternoon trek to the Segama Trail or relax at your leisure. In the evening try another night walk in search of nocturnal wildlife (weather permitting) or relax at the lodge.

Day 7 - Tabin Wildlife Reserve

In the morning we will transfer back to Lahad Datu and then into another jungle region called the Tabin Wildlife Reserve. This is the largest wildlife reserve in Malaysia. Your accommodation for the night will be charming Bornean timber bungalows which come complete with private balcony, air-conditioning and hot water shower, a real luxury within the jungle.



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Enjoy the splendour of mother-nature and explore the vicinity of the resort. Built alongside the Lipad river and nestled within the rainforest, a variety of birds, insects and even small mammals can be sighted quite easily within the resort.

In the afternoon, visit the Lipad mud volcano which serves as a mineral salt lick for wildlife. After trekking through the jungle for twenty minutes, arrive at the elevated bare area of the mud volcano known to be frequented by deers, bearded pigs, elephants and birds. Try to identify the multitude of animal footprints here. Those adventurous can experiment the effect of the volcanic mud said to be responsible for fine complexion. Walk up the observation tower and admire the contrasting landscape of the bare mud volcano area and its surrounding thick forest where birds are commonly sighted.

After dinner, enjoy a slide presentation on Tabin's uniqueness, followed by a trip to look out for nocturnal wildlife and birds.

Day 8 - Sandakan

You may opt to join the early morning optional bird walk (not included) as Tabin has a rich collection of about 300 bird species. After breakfast, trek through the lush green jungle known for its rich diversity of plants and animal species to visit Lipad's Waterfall. Take a dip in the natural pool and enjoy the refreshing splash coming down from the waterfall. Alternatively explore the surrounding vegetation or just relax. Depart Tabin Wildlife Reserve in the afternoon for the drive to Sandakan.

Day 9 - Turtle Island

Departing Sandakan in the morning we take a 1-1.5 hour boat trip out to the Turtle Island National Park. The day will be yours to enjoy on the beach but in the evening you will witness an amazing site as huge turtle comes ashore to lay their eggs on the beach. The eggs are collected and transferred to the hatchery. Later witness an exciting moment when the tiny hatchlings are released and rush into the sea. Tonight we will stay on the island in simple houses.

Day 10 - Sandakan

After our return to Sandakan we make a trip to Labuk Bay to the Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary. These strange looking monkeys come daily to feed close to our observation point. These really are the most unusual of creatures!

Day 11 - Sandakan

Our final day is a real highlight as we visit the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre. Orphaned and injured orang utans are brought to the Centre to start their life again. Many return to jungle, others remain and raise their off spring in the jungle surrounding the Centre. Twice a day food is provided for those orang utans who are not yet ready to leave the safety of the Centre's care. It is during this time that we are about to view them up close and personal. We will remain at the Centre for both feeding session so that you can make the most of photographing the orang utans.

Day 12 - end

After a short flight back to Kota Kinabalu you will board your international flight home.



How to Book

This tour is a special fundraising challenge privately operated by RAW Travel. You can visit the website to book a place on the tour or telephone for more information.

RAW Travel

Australia: (03) 9597 0799

International: +61 3 9597 0799

Website: www.rawtravel.com

Instructing Photographer

Ewen Bell is a freelance travel journalist and specialist travel photographer. See his work online at www.ewenbell.com

Sponsors

This trip and the fundraising exhibition is generously assisted by the following sponsors...

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Grasshopper Adventures - www.grasshopperadventures.com

