

Get hands on in Sumatra on this
13 day conservation adventure
where you'll assist a range of
community-led projects and
have the opportunity to trek
in search of wild orangutans



Information Pack

CONSERVATION ADVENTURE: SUMATRA

15 – 27 March 2020

Photo by A Walmsley

lucy@orangutans-sos.org

01235 530825

www.orangutans-sos.org

This trip is operated by The Different Travel Company (ATOL 6706) for the Sumatran Orangutan Society (Registered Charity no.1158711).

SOS Conservation Adventure: Sumatra

15 – 27 March 2020



Sumatra

Sumatra is an Indonesian island located in the west of the Greater Sunda Islands within the Indonesian archipelago. It is the sixth largest island in the world covering an area of 473,481 sq. km. Sumatra has a vast biodiversity however due to deforestation many species are now critically endangered such as the Sumatran orang-utan, tiger, elephant and rhino.

Bukit Mas

Bukit Mas is a 100-hectare plot of land on the edge of the Leuser Ecosystem in North Sumatra. Once a lush, biodiverse jungle, a few years ago the area was cleared and replaced with rows and rows of oil palms – turning it into a biological desert. SOS are working hard to reclaim the site for wildlife. The majority of people living adjacent to the Bukit Mas site previously worked on the oil palm plantation.

Following a tried and tested model, they have now been offered employment on the restoration project, including the establishment of community-managed organic tree nurseries. Fifty hectares of the site is in the process of being developed as a permaculture demonstration site and social enterprise, offering further employment and training opportunities.

In addition, through training in agroforestry, permaculture and organic farming techniques, farmers can increase crop yields

and improve their profit, reducing their need to expand farmlands into the forest.

Described as '*a dream come true*' by Sabar, the Permaculture Manager, this project is bringing barren land back to life. Within 3-4 years we will see this land thriving, and the trees planted will be a haven for orangutans, elephants and countless other species.



Leuser Nature School

Sekolah Alam Leuser, or Leuser Nature School, is being built at Bukit Mas with the aim of incentivising local farmers to become guardians of the forest by providing free education for their children in exchange for their active involvement in forest restoration and protection efforts.

There are currently sixteen pupils of secondary school age enrolled at the school. There are no other secondary schools in the area, making it extremely expensive and challenging for families to send their children to school.

Sekolah Alam Leuser will therefore enable local children in the villages around Bukit Mas to remain in education for much longer than they might otherwise have done – before Sekolah Alam Leuser, they would have finished their schooling at age 11 or 12. At Bukit Mas, you will have the opportunity to assist with permaculture and restoration, and can also get the school children to test how many words of Indonesian you've picked up!

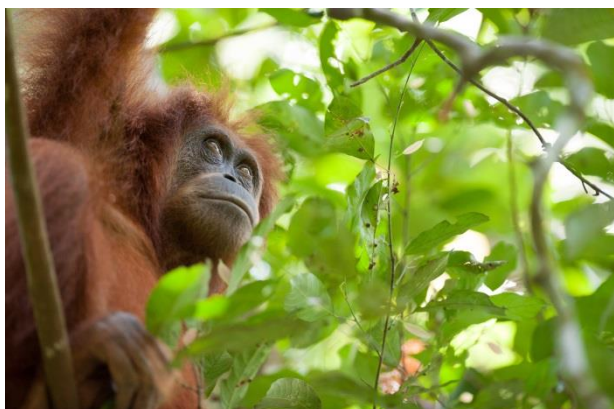


Cinta Raja

Near Tangkahan, there are two projects you may be assisting with. One, Cinta Raja III, is a forest restoration site that SOS has been supporting since early 2018. The oil palm trees were removed from the site in 2018 and it is already well on its way to looking and sounding more like a natural forest.

You will be able to see how the restoration staff nurture trees from seeds through to being large enough to plant and will see and hear how much wildlife is already returning to the site.

The second project in the area is an 890-acre plot of land which SOS raised money to buy, completing the fundraising in March 2019. This site is earlier in its development and you may be asked to help with anything from preparing tree nurseries to walking transects with the restoration team leader as he establishes what native species are growing around the site.



Who accompanies us?

You will be accompanied throughout the trip by local guides (English-speaking), driver, and a Different Travel UK tour manager. You will also benefit from the support and expertise of the local conservation staff.

Where will we stay?

You will stay in hotels in Medan, Tangkahan and Bukit Lawang on a twin or triple room basis (*a single occupancy room may be available subject to availability and payment of a single supplement*).

During your time at Bukit Mas you will stay in very basic dormitory style accommodation (no single rooms are available).

What about meals?

All your meals are included except for lunches and dinners on days 9-11, as specified on the itinerary.

Who can join this trip?

The minimum age is 18, although 16-17 year olds may register if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.



Health considerations

We require a medical form to be completed by everyone upon registering, and any pre-existing conditions, medications used and other medical issues **must** be noted and (if relevant) signed by your GP. Any conditions that develop must be declared and a new medical form completed and signed.

15 – 27 March 2020

Itinerary

Day 1 (Sunday 15 March 2020): Medan

Meet at the Deli River Hotel (*or similar*), located in a peaceful setting just outside the city where you can spend the rest of the day relaxing, before the team gathers for a welcome meeting and dinner this evening.

Meals: dinner

Day 2 (Monday 16 March 2020): Medan – Bukit Mas

This morning we set off by jeep for Bukit Mas where we will spend the next three days. We will stay at basic shared accommodation which is ideally located at the Permaculture Centre itself. Once we've settled in we will meet the local team and get stuck into the project this afternoon.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 3-4 (Tuesday 17 – Wednesday 18 March 2020): Bukit Mas

For the next two days we will get involved in a range of activities in the Bukit Mas area, including assisting with permaculture and restoration and even trying out some of your Indonesian language skills with the children Leuser Nature School!

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.



Day 5 (Thursday 19 March 2020): Bukit Mas - Tangkahan

After breakfast we transfer to the village of Tangkahan (approx. 4 hours' drive), a hidden paradise on the edge of Gunung Leuser National Park. On arrival we check into the Mega Inn (*or similar*), where we will stay for the three nights. This afternoon you may wish to explore the local area or simply relax in the grounds, before dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.



Days 6-8 (Friday 20 – Sunday 22 March 2020): Tangkahan

Spend 3 days visiting, and assisting at, projects in the local area, accompanied by your local guide. Activities could include anything from preparing tree nurseries to walking transects with the restoration team leader and more.

Meals: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner.

Day 9 (Monday 23 March 2020): Tangkahan – Bukit Lawang

After breakfast we set off for the scenic drive to Bukit Lawang, on the banks of the Bohorok River (approx. 4 hours). Check into the Bukit Lawang Cottage (*or similar*) where you will enjoy a relaxing end to your trip.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch.



15 – 27 March 2020

Days 10-11 (Tuesday 24 – Wednesday 25 March 2020): Bukit Lawang

On either Tuesday or Wednesday we will have an amazing opportunity to take part in a trek through the primary jungle of Gunung Leuser National Park during which we will hopefully spot wild orangutans (up to 6 hours walking). This may be the only opportunity you have to see these incredible primates during the trip so participation is highly recommended (*N.B. wildlife spotting can never be guaranteed*). There is also a range of other activities for you to take part in, bookable and payable locally, or simply relax and enjoy exploring this wonderful area.

Meals: Breakfast.



Day 12 (Thursday 26 March 2020): Bukit Lawang - Medan

We drive back to Medan this morning, stopping for lunch en route. We will enjoy a final night in Medan, staying overnight at the Deli River Hotel (*or similar*), and this evening we enjoy an authentic Indonesian farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Day 13 (Friday 27 March 2020): Medan

This morning you will check out of the hotel and the group will disperse for onward travel or flights home (booked yourself).

Meals: Breakfast.

What does it cost?

The total cost of the trip is £1950 per person. A £150 deposit is payable at the time of booking, then a final balance of £1800 is payable no later than 8 weeks before departure.

What is included?

A substantial donation to SOS, transfers and transport in Sumatra from day 2-12, orangutan jungle trek, accommodation throughout (twin or triple rooms at hotels, shared dormitories at Bukit Mas), most meals as specified, drinking water on project days and during transfers, local English-speaking guides, UK tour manager.

Trip Does Not Include:

International flights (approx. £750-800)*, airport transfers, Indonesia visa (if required), lunches and dinners on days 9-11, optional activities and drinking water on free days, personal expenses (drinks, snacks, laundry, souvenirs etc.), travel insurance, vaccinations, tips, single room supplement for hotels (£225), etc.

**Please do not book flights until the trip reaches minimum numbers and is guaranteed to operate; you will be advised when to book.*

N.B. This itinerary may be subject to change depending on factors outside of our control such as weather, the need of the project at the time, your flight schedules and daily circumstances. Any changes in the itinerary will be made in the interest of group safety and enjoyment. You will be informed each evening of the plans for the next day. Your guide and tour manager will have the final say in the interest of the health and safety of the group