



MALAYSIAN BORNEO

Oct. 23 – Nov. 8, 2017

\$8,450 double—\$9,220 single

** Featuring 2 U.S. guides plus expert local guide and a driver **

** Maximum of 8 birding guests**

Back in 2004, a friend—who is a global woodpecker expert—told me that some of the best woodpecker watching in the world could be found in Borneo. I knew nothing about this place, but I started my research. Seven years later, I was invited to speak at the Borneo Bird Festival in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. Despite my earlier homework, I headed to southeastern Asia with uncertain expectations. It would be my first big trip to the tropics; my first trip to Asia; and my longest trip away from home. I would be confronted with entirely unfamiliar bird families—like the frogmouths, hornbills, broadbills, and pittas. New songbirds would include whistlers, ioras, monarchs, and the endemic Bornean Bristlehead. The vegetation would be like nothing I had ever seen. I would be lost in the jungle without understanding the local ecology, and I would be dizzily surrounded by new wildlife sounds.

I made that trip to Borneo in 2011, and I experienced a world beyond my imagination. I tallied 179 life-birds, including 20 endemic species and 42 endemic subspecies. I saw 8 different primates, including the endemic Bornean orang-utan and proboscis monkey. And, I came home knowing that I had not finished exploring Borneo's amazing equatorial rainforest.

In 2016, I returned for our official scouting trip to Borneo. I was quickly reminded of the friendly culture, eclectic Asian cuisine, and a tourism infrastructure that outshines many popular birding destinations in the western world. I was also reminded about the nature of Borneo: the world's oldest rainforest; the world's largest flower; the world's largest stick-insect; and the world's tallest tropical angiosperm. Over 1,700 orchids grow on the island, along with 46 rhododendrons, and 39 Nepenthes pitcher-plants. The island boasts nearly 100 endemic reptiles (288 total); 63 endemic mammals (280 total), and 52 endemic birds (650 total). We marveled at Bornean pygmy elephants, giant flying squirrels, and the enigmatic Bornean colugo. We found 229 bird species, including 23 island endemics.

Reading about Borneo doesn't even come close the first-hand experiences that await, so we have to take you there. Join us for this incomparable wildlife safari on the world's third-largest island. The Whitehead's Trogon is calling your name!

Steve



Endemic Whitehead's
Trogon

INTRODUCTION

Few areas on Earth can match the amazing biological diversity found on the island of Borneo, and our adventure will take us through a wide range of habitats. We will start in Kota Kinabalu (KK), the coastal capital of the Malaysian state of Sabah. From KK, we will access the amazing Crocker Range and the dripping cloud-forests of Mount Kinabalu—at over 13,000 feet, the highest peak in southeastern Asia. We will then hop on a brief flight to Sandakan, where nearby Sepilok will host our first primates and our first taste of the lowland dipterocarp forest. A quick river shuttle will take us past the mouth of the Kinabatangan River. Based at luxurious lodges in Abai and Sukau, we will enjoy several casual boat rides into mangrove forest and secondary lowland rainforest. After a visit to Gomantong Caves, we will conclude our trip among the virgin tropical rainforest of the magnificent Danum Valley.

This brief summary of the tour includes our basic itinerary, introductions to your guides, and the cost details of the tour. A full trip packet will be sent to all participants upon receipt of pre-registration materials.

DAILY ITINERARY

The itinerary below outlines our basic plan for 16 nights in Borneo, which includes 15 full days plus our two travel days. We may shuffle the daily agendas depending on weather and our success at finding certain wildlife species. Note that we will stay at each location a minimum of 2 nights, a commitment we made to our guests back in 2015. This will allow us to relax at our lodges and spend extra time immersing ourselves in each region's wildness. Consecutive nights for the tour will be in this order: 2-3-3-2-3-3.

Oct 23—Guides meet participants at Kota Kinabalu airport (BKI); dinner and night in Kota Kinabalu (**KK**).

Oct 24—Short drive into Crocker Range; birding at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve and Kipandi Butterfly, Orchid, and Nepenthes Gardens; dinner and night in **KK**.

Oct 25—Morning drive to Kinabalu National Park (KNP); all day birding around KNP lodges and headquarters; dinner and night at **KNP**.

Oct 26—All day birding at KNP; dinner and night at **KNP**.

Oct 27—Morning birding at KNP HQ, afternoon birding at Poring Hot Springs; dinner and night at **KNP**.

Oct 28—Early morning drive back to KK, then short flight to Sandakan and drive to Sepilok; afternoon birding and exploring at Sepilok Orang-Utan Rehabilitation Center; dinner and night in **Sepilok**.

Oct 29—All day birding Sabah Forestry Department's Rainforest Discovery Center (RDC); dinner and night in **Sepilok**.

Oct 30—Morning birding at Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary, afternoon at Sun Bear Rehabilitation Center, evening at RDC; dinner and night in **Sepilok**.

Oct 31—Morning drive to dock at Sandakan, followed by short speedboat ride to Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort (KWR) at Abai; afternoon birding on resort trails and boardwalks, evening boat ride on the river; dinner and night at **KWR**.

Nov 1—Morning boat trip on the river, afternoon and evening birding on site; dinner and night at **KWR**.

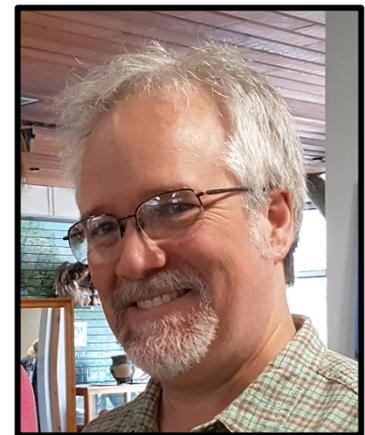
- Nov 2—Morning speedboat ride up the Kinabatangan River to Sukau Rainforest Lodge (SRL); afternoon at leisure, and evening boat ride on the river; night at **SRL**.
- Nov 3—Morning boat trip, afternoon at leisure, evening boat trip; night at **SRL**.
- Nov 4—Morning boat trip, afternoon and evening at Gomantong Caves; night at **SRL**.
- Nov 5—Morning drive from Sukau to Lahad Datu; transfer vehicles and drive to Borneo Rainforest Lodge (BRL), afternoon birding at Danum Valley; dinner and night at **BRL**.
- Nov 6—All day birding Danum Valley; dinner and night at **BRL**.
- Nov 7—All day birding Danum Valley; dinner and night at **BRL**.
- Nov 8—Morning birding at BRL and departing drive to Lahad Datu; internal flight to BKI for international departures. End of tour.

ABOUT YOUR GUIDES

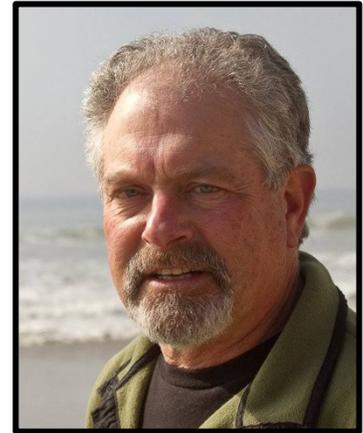
In 2015, we committed to several new initiatives for Paradise Birding, including: staying multiple nights in individual lodging locations; featuring international woodpecker conservation tours; and taking two U.S. guides on every tour. This tour includes all three of these (see above for lodging plan and below for woodpecker details).

Paradise Birding owner, Steve Shunk, accompanies most tours as our lead guide, and Steve hand-picks his co-leaders based on factors that ensure you the best possible travel and nature experience. We also feature the best guide-to-client ratios in the business, and Borneo takes this one step further. Joining Steve from the U.S. will be seasoned California naturalist David Wimpfheimer; from start to finish, we will be led by expert local guides; and ground-transport to all lodging and birding sites includes a skilled local driver. Meet your Borneo tour leaders:

Your lead guide, **Steve Shunk**, has operated [Paradise Birding](http://paradisebirding.com) for nearly 20 years, and he has been teaching adults about birds and nature since 1992. Steve is a seasoned tour guide, with over 150 trips under his belt, mostly in the western and southern US, but also in Alberta, Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica, Peru, the Caribbean, and Sicily. Steve is a patient, experienced educator with infectious passion and enthusiasm for nature, and he strongly incorporates ecology and conservation messages in all the regions where we travel. Steve has explored Sabah and designed our tour based on two prior trips, in 2011 and 2016. In 2011, Steve also delivered two presentations at the Borneo Bird Festival, discussing international birding tourism and Borneo woodpeckers. He also gave special lectures to the guides at Danum Valley's Borneo Rainforest Lodge, and, in 2016, to the Sandakan Borneo Bird Club.



We are joined in Borneo by one of Steve's early mentors, renowned California naturalist, David Wimpfheimer. Since the mid-1980s, David has been exploring the natural world and guiding birding and natural history tours, including dozens of trips along the Pacific Coast, from Baja California to Alaska. David's international guiding experience includes Costa Rica, England, Scotland, and Switzerland for such respected organizations as the Smithsonian Institution and California Academy of Sciences. From whale-watching expeditions to wildflower forays, his interpretive skills are top-notch. David has twice co-led Paradise Birding tours to Alberta, and he joined Steve for the 2016 Borneo scouting trip. His decades of birding experience and broad natural history knowledge will enhance the tour for all participants.



Our ground agent for Borneo is North Borneo Safari, led by esteemed birding guide and photographer, Cede Prudente. They handle all our reservations and logistics and they hire our local freelance guide, Mirwan.

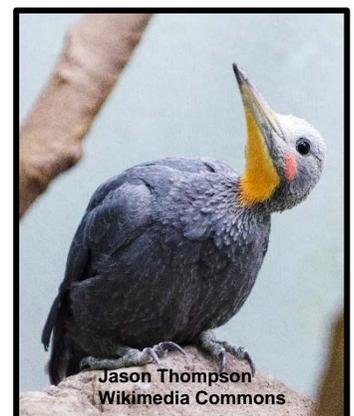


THREATENED WOODPECKERS OF BORNEO

This tour is part of our International Woodpecker Conservation series. These global adventures have 3 purposes: (1) Take our guests to see the most threatened woodpeckers in the world; (2) Meet conservationists, biologists, and land managers working toward habitat conservation that supports these species; and, (3) to contribute financially to these conservation efforts. We will donate \$100 USD per guest to conservation efforts in Borneo that support the following threatened species:

GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER, *Mulleripicus pulverulentis*

The largest extant woodpecker in the world, the Great Slaty is listed as "Vulnerable" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This magnificent bird looks like a military bomber when flying overhead; it is quite vocal and hence is often heard before it is seen. Population declines have been estimated at 30% to 49% in the last 20 years, due primarily to logging throughout its range. We could encounter the Great Slaty at several locations on our route, including the Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley Conservation Area. A magnificent bird to see!



BUFF-NECKED WOODPECKER, *Meiglyptes tukki*

The cryptically plumaged Buff-necked Woodpecker represents a genus of only three species worldwide (we should also see its cousin, the Buff-rumped Woodpecker, *M. tristis*), and it is listed as “Near Threatened” by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Including these 2 threatened species, we could see up to 15 woodpecker species in Sabah, representing an astounding 12 genera! This is just one example of the amazing wildlife diversity in Borneo.



A FEW PRELIMINARY TOUR DETAILS

Accommodations: We will be staying in very comfortable lodges along our route, including the Sukau Rainforest Lodge, a “National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World;” and the acclaimed Borneo Rainforest Lodge, a frequent winner of Sabah and Malaysia Tourism Awards.

Meals: Most of our meals will be taken at on-site lodge restaurants, serving a variety of fresh fruits, vegetarian dishes, Asian-style noodle dishes, meats and salads. All water, fruits, and vegetables are safe for consumption at these lodges, and bottled water will be provided on all excursions.

Flight Itineraries: The tour begins and ends at Kota Kinabalu Int’l Airport (BKI), which can be reached from several major Asian flight hubs. We recommend that you arrive at least one day early to rest after the long flights from home. You may also want to explore KK on your own for a day. If you do arrive early or stay beyond the tour, you will need to arrange your own transfer to the Jesselton Hotel in downtown KK.

TOUR FEE

Complete tour fee for 2017: \$8,450 double—\$9,220 single

Deposit, due with registration: \$500/person _____

Balance Due June 23: \$7,950 double—\$8,720 single

Your tour fee includes:

- 🌐 Airport transfers from Kota Kinabalu airport (BKI) to Jesselton Hotel in KK;
- 🌐 Internal flights within Borneo (KK to Sandakan, Lahad Datu to KK);
- 🌐 All ground transportation during the tour, including driver;
- 🌐 Lodging at single- or double-occupancy;
- 🌐 All meals and non-alcoholic beverages;
- 🌐 Snacks and beverages during travel days;
- 🌐 All taxes, permits, entry fees, and service-related gratuities;
- 🌐 A \$100 donation toward habitat conservation in Sabah (beneficiary to be announced during the tour);
- 🌐 The instruction and leadership of 2 U.S. guides and a dedicated local guide.

The fee does not include:

- Round-trip flights from home to Kota Kinabalu;
- Travel insurance (required for this trip; contact us with any questions);
- Alcoholic beverages;
- Souvenirs and other personal items (such as telephone, laundry, spa services, etc.);
- Guides' gratuities, which are never expected but always appreciated based on your satisfaction with our service (as a general guideline, the maximum collective gratuity for a tour such as this would be about 10%, and all would divide equally among the three guides).

NOTE: Our tour fees are structured to allow the best possible client-to-guide ratio for an optimal birding experience; this tour will operate with 2 US guides and a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 participants.

REFUND POLICY: \$100 of your \$500 deposit is non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation more than 120 days prior to the tour, you will be refunded any payments above your \$100 non-refundable deposit. If you cancel between 119 and 60 days prior to the tour, you will receive a 50% refund of fees paid above your \$100 non-refundable deposit. If you cancel less than 60 days prior, you forfeit your entire tour fee, unless you can fill your space with another birder. If you cancel at any time, your deposit is transferrable to any Paradise Birding tour at any time in the future. If we cancel the trip for any reason, all payments will be refunded.

TOUR REGISTRATION

To reserve your space for this tour, submit your \$500 deposit with the registration/release forms found attached. For more information on the tour, a photo gallery, and a bird list visit our website at:

<http://paradisebirding.com/birding-tours-malaysian-borneo.html>

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you in Sabah, Borneo!



Paradise Birding
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Sisters, OR 97759

steve@paradisebirding.com
541-408-1753



Paradise Birding Tour Confirmation and Registration

Greetings! This form will confirm your registration on the following tour:

TITLE: _____ **DATE(S):** _____

Please complete and return to the address below, along with either your \$500 deposit (includes nonrefundable \$100) or the complete tour fee. If you have already paid your deposit, your balance is due 90 days prior to the tour for domestic, 120 days for international tours. For your convenience, we happily accept VISA, Mastercard and American Express. Please also complete the Liability Waiver found on page two. THANK YOU!

Full Name: _____ Nickname (if any): _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Sex: _____ Birth date: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Paradise Birding T-shirt preference; please circle your size and color. We'll do our best to accommodate you!

Size: Small—Medium—Large—Extra Large—XX Large | **Color:** Unisex (Blue—Green) or Ladies (Lavender—Yellow)

Would you like to receive periodic emailed updates & birding tips from Paradise Birding? Yes_ No _

Please tell us how you first heard about this Paradise Birding tour: _____

Roommate preference: *(If you will travel with a birding partner and wish to share a room, or if you are willing to share a room with another birder of the same sex, please indicate this here. If we are unable to match you with another birder, or where only single rooms are available, you will responsible for the single tour fee.)*

Dietary Preferences: *(Drink & food preferences. Please be specific. Our tours are often in remote regions without a wide variety of food choices, so we do our shopping for snacks and picnic lunches in advance. Also list any food allergies or dietary restrictions.)*

Medical Information: *(Please alert us to any medical or physical conditions that may affect you or your group's activities on an outdoor tour in remote locations; include any history of heart trouble, asthma, diabetes or epilepsy, as well as environmental and medication allergies. Please also include current prescription medications being taken. Use the back of this page or another sheet if necessary. NOTE: Anyone with an existing or potentially serious medical condition should consult a physician before participating in any outdoor or travel adventure.*

Emergency Contact: *(Please include detailed contact information for the person or persons we should contact in case of an emergency.)*

Name(s) and relationship(s) to you: _____

Contact number(s): _____

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____ or Check #: _____

Signature: _____ Charge/Check Amount: \$ _____

Paradise Birding LLC | Stephen Shunk, Owner & Lead Guide

P.O. Box 547 | Sisters, OR 97759 | PH: 541-408-1753 | E-MAIL: steve@paradisebirding.com



HIKING AND BIRD WATCHING PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT and RELEASE and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

In consideration of the services of PARADISE BIRDING LLC, their officers, agents, employees, volunteers, advertisers, and stock holders, and all other persons or entities associated with this business (hereinafter collectively referred to as PARADISE BIRDING LLC) I agree as follows:

Although PARADISE BIRDING LLC has taken reasonable steps to provide you with appropriate equipment and skilled guides so you can enjoy an activity for which you may not be skilled, we wish to remind you this activity is not without risk. Certain risks cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of this activity. The same elements that contribute to the unique character of this activity can be causes of loss or damage to your equipment or accidental injury, illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma, paralysis, or death. We do not want to frighten you or reduce your enthusiasm for this activity, but we do think it is important for you to know in advance what to expect and that you be informed of the inherent risks. The following describes some, but not all, of those risks:

- 1.) Accidents can occur on land. You could slip or fall during a hike, causing damage to equipment, personal injury, or even death. You could also otherwise be injured while hiking or visiting other land-based phenomena.
- 2.) You could suffer injuries or trauma during the land and air transportation portions of the trip, in vehicles or aircraft.
- 3.) Exposure to the natural elements can be uncomfortable or harmful. You should be aware that this exposure could cause hypothermia, sunburn, illness from drinking water or food, and/or dehydration.
- 4.) You will be staying at accommodations not owned or operated by PARADISE BIRDING LLC. You could suffer injury, damage to equipment, trauma, or even death while staying at these places.
- 5.) Errors on the part of PARADISE BIRDING LLC and its employees, including insufficient instruction or assistance.

I am aware that this birding tour, including related transportation and activities, entails risks of injury or death to myself. I understand the description of these risks is not complete and that other unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury or death. I agree to assume responsibility for the risks identified herein and other risks inherent to a birding trip. My participation in this activity is purely voluntary and I elect to participate in spite of the risks.

I certify that I am fully capable of participating in this activity. Therefore, I assume full responsibility for myself, including my minor children, for bodily injury, death, and loss of personal property and expenses thereof as a result of those inherent risks and dangers and of my negligence in participating in this activity.

I agree that if any portion of this agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect. In the event that I file a lawsuit against PARADISE BIRDING LLC, I agree to do so solely in the state of Oregon, and I further agree that the substantive law of that state shall apply in that action without regard to the conflict of law rules of that state.

I have read, understood, and accepted the terms and conditions stated herein and acknowledge that this agreement shall be effective and binding upon myself, my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and estate for all members of my family including any minors accompanying me. I acknowledge I am not relying on any oral, written, or visual representations or statements made by PARADISE BIRDING LLC, including those made in its brochure and other promotional material, to induce me to go on the birding tour. I also acknowledge that in any and all promotional material the use of the word "safe," "safe as possible," or the like does not mean, imply or suggest that this trip is without risk. I have also read and agree to comply with the PARADISE BIRDING LLC cancellation policy.

Photographic Release: PARADISE BIRDING LLC reserves the right to take photographs or film records of any PARADISE BIRDING LLC tour, program, or activity, and each trip member hereby agrees that PARADISE BIRDING LLC may use such photographs or film records for promotional, commercial, or any other marketing purposes, including Internet use.

Name (please print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

If under 18, parent or guardian signature: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Cell/Primary Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Name of Trip: _____ Trip Date: _____

Paradise Birding LLC | Stephen Shunk, Owner & Lead Guide

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