



MALAYSIAN BORNEO

October 10–25, 2018

\$8,450 double—\$9,220 single

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

** Maximum of 8 birding guests**

Back in 2004, I learned that some of the world's greatest woodpecker concentrations could be found in Malaysian 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 the state of Sabah, Malaysia. 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 saw the world's largest flower—the bizarre *Rafflesia*—and I hiked through the world's oldest rainforest. I found over 200 bird species, 179 of which were new for me, including 20 endemic species and 42 endemic subspecies. I saw 8 different primates, including the endemic Bornean orang-utan and the proboscis monkey. And I came home with a mission to share Borneo with my fellow birders.

Since that first fateful trip in 2011, we have been back to Sabah twice more, most recently for our first formal tour in 2017. Each time we visit, we are reminded of the friendly culture, eclectic Asian cuisine, and a tourism infrastructure that outshines many tropical birding destinations in the western world. We also immerse ourselves in the nature of Borneo: over 1,700 orchids, 46 rhododendron species, 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 have marveled at Bornean pygmy elephants, giant flying squirrels, and the enigmatic Bornean colugo. We have tallied over 300 bird species in Sabah, including more than half of Borneo's 60 endemics.

Now, it's your turn. The experiences I describe above can be your very own. Come with us to Borneo this fall for an incomparable wildlife safari on the world's third-largest island. The Whitehead's Trogon is calling your name!



Endemic Whitehead's Trogon
Kinabalu National Park

Steve

*Steve Shunk
Owner & Lead Guide*

INTRODUCTION

Few areas on Earth can match the amazing biological diversity on the island of Borneo, and our adventure will take us through many fascinating landscapes. 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 (though we will stay below 6,000 ft.). After Kinabalu Park, we will venture into some of Sabah's most pristine lowland rainforests, in the magnificent Danum Valley. A couple subsequent days at Tabin Wildlife Reserve may bring us up close and personal with wild elephants. We will then explore the Gomantong Caves before reaching the Kinabatangan River. Based at luxurious lodges in Sukau and Abai, we will enjoy several casual boat rides into mangrove forest and secondary lowland rainforest, still finding new birds and mammals every day. A water-shuttle will take us downriver to Sandakan, followed a short drive to Sepilok, where we will visit rehab centers for the Bornean orang-utan and the sun bear. We will hike among giant dipterocarp trees at the Rainforest Discovery Center, and we will visit the Labuk Bay proboscis monkey sanctuary. We complete our loop around Sabah with a short flight back to KK.

We designed the tour summary below to help you prepare for the trip. Please read completely through the material, and if any questions remain, contact us at your convenience.

OUR DAILY ITINERARY

The itinerary includes 15 nights in Borneo, comprising 14 full days plus our start and finish days. We may shuffle the daily agendas depending on weather conditions, local wildlife reports, and our success at finding certain species. Note that we will stay in most locations 2 or 3 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: 1-3-3-2-1-2-3.

Oct 10—Guides meet participants at Kota Kinabalu airport (BKI); transfer to hotel, dinner in KK.

Oct 11—Short morning drive into Crocker Range; birding at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve and possible visit to Kipandi Butterfly Gardens; afternoon drive to Kinabalu National Park (KNP); evening birding around the lodges and headquarters; dinner and night at KNP.

Oct 12—All day birding between Timpohon Gate and KNP headquarters; dinner and night at KNP.

Oct 13—Morning birding on Silau Silau River; lunch, afternoon birding, and dinner at Poring Hot Springs; evening return drive and night at KNP.

Oct 14—Morning drive back to KK/BKI, then one-hour flight to Lahad Datu; meet contacts from Borneo Rainforest Lodge (BRL), and drive approx. 2.5 hrs (depending on wildlife sightings) to Danum Valley Conservation area; dinner and night at BRL.

Oct 15—All day birding Danum Valley; dinner and night at BRL.

Oct 16—All day birding Danum Valley; dinner and night at BRL.



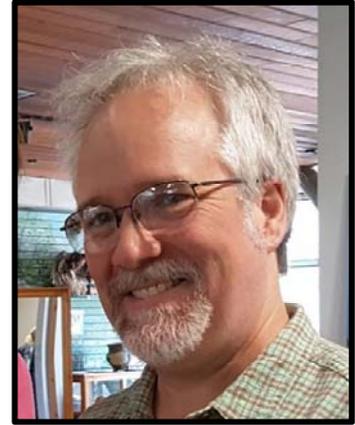
- Oct 17—Brief morning birding around BRL, followed by drive back to Lahad Datu, birding en route; meet folks from Tabin Wildlife Resort, then lunch in Lahad Datu, followed by 1.5-hour drive to Tabin Reserve; dinner and night at Tabin.
- Oct 18—All day birding at Tabin Wildlife Reserve; dinner and night at Tabin.
- Oct 19—Morning birding at Tabin, then drive back to Lahad Datu, transfer to new vehicle and make the 2-hour drive to Gomantong Caves. Birding and cave exploration followed by 30-minute drive to the village of Sukau, where we will take a brief ride up the Kinabatangan River to Sukau Rainforest Lodge. Dinner and night at Sukau.
- Oct 20—Morning boat trip from Sukau, lunch at the lodge; 2-hour boat ride downstream to Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort (KWR); evening boat ride, dinner and night at KWR.
- Oct 21—Morning boat trip; afternoon and evening birding on resort trails and boardwalks; dinner and night at KWR.
- Oct 22—Morning birding on resort trails and boardwalks; breakfast, then speed-boat ride to Sandakan and short drive to Sepilok; afternoon birding and exploring at Sepilok Orang-Utan Rehabilitation Center; dinner and night in Sepilok.
- Oct 23—All day birding Sabah Forestry Department’s Rainforest Discovery Center (RDC); dinner and night in Sepilok.
- Oct 24—Morning birding at Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary, afternoon at Sun Bear Rehabilitation Center, evening at RDC; dinner and night in Sepilok.
- Oct 25— Morning birding at RDC; drive to Sandakan and fly to BKI for international departures.
End of tour.

MEET YOUR GUIDES

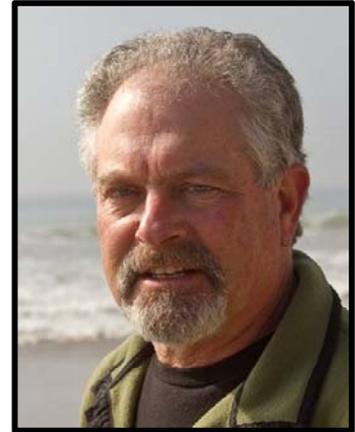
In 2015, we committed to several new initiatives for Paradise Birding, including taking two U.S. guides on every tour possible. Paradise Birding owner, Steve Shunk, accompanies most tours as our lead guide, and Steve hand-picks his co-leaders based on factors that ensure you the best possible travel and nature experience. We are proud to feature the best guide-to-client ratios in the business, and our Borneo trip includes up to 3 guides and only 6 to 8 clients. Joining Steve from the U.S. will be seasoned California naturalist—and one of Steve’s early mentors—David Wimpfheimer. From start to finish, we will also 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](#) for more than 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 an infectious passion and enthusiasm for nature and conservation. He designed our 2018 tour based on three prior trips to Sabah, over which he has tallied 15 woodpecker species of an amazing 11 different genera. Steve has delivered several presentations at the annual Borneo Bird Festival, as well as lectures for the Sandakan Borneo Bird Club and the guiding staff of Danum Valley's Borneo Rainforest Lodge.



We are joined in Borneo by one of Steve's early mentors, seasoned 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, David's interpretive skills are top-notch. He has twice co-lead Paradise Birding tours to Alberta, and he joined Steve for the 2016 Borneo scouting trip. David's decades of birding experience and broad natural history knowledge will enhance the tour for all participants.



Your expert local guide, R. Mirwan bin Mustapha, aka Mirwan or just "Wan," is a Sabah-born lad living in the northern part of Borneo. A licensed Tour Guide since year 2000, Mirwan shares his passion for nature and wildlife by leading tours to nature destinations across Sabah & Sarawak. In his free time, Mirwan conducts wildlife surveys off of Borneo's 'beaten path.' His passion for birds began in 2008, and he currently has sighted more than 400 of Borneo's 688 bird species. For the last eight consecutive years, Mirwan has played an active role as a Borneo Bird Race Marshall during the annual Borneo Bird Festival. As a member of the Borneo Bird Club, Mirwan has also represented this active group of birders at various other bird festivals and bird races (similar to big day competitions) across the region.



EXPLORING OUR DESTINATIONS

Our tour starts and ends in Kota Kinabalu (KK), the coastal capital city of the Malaysian state of Sabah. Even in the downtown areas, we should see House Swifts coursing overhead and Asian Glossy Starlings just about everywhere. Last fall, we even found a Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker downtown! A walk to the Jesselton Harbor could produce a couple different tern species at eye level or a Pacific Reef Egret on the docks. Kota Kinabalu is a lovely city with many charms, and you may want to spend more time here before or after the tour.

Crocker Range

On our first full day, we will head into the impressive Crocker Range National Park, which supports both secondary and primary hill forest. Our morning stop will take us to Tambunan Rafflesia Center, with its comprehensive museum focused on the unique biology of *Rafflesia*, the world's largest flower. Despite the name of the reserve, we will not likely see the blooming *Rafflesia* here. Instead, we will search for several mountain specialty birds and a few Borneo endemics, such as: Kinabalu Serpent Eagle, Bornean Treepie, Whitehead's Spiderhunter, Bornean Black Flowerpecker, Chestnut-crested Yuhina, and Bornean Bulbul. Other bird species here may include Orange-backed Woodpecker, Little Cuckoo-Dove, and Ashy Drongo.

Kinabalu National Park

Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its high biological diversity, few places on the planet match the botanical variety of Kinabalu Park. As the park centerpiece, Mount Kinabalu rises to 4,095 m (13,436 ft.) above sea level. It is one of the youngest non-volcanic mountains in the world, and it boasts the highest summit between the Himalayas and New Guinea. The 750-km² park is home to over 4,000 plant species, including 26 rhododendrons and 1,200 orchids. Over 300 species of birds have been recorded here, including a majority of Borneo's endemics. From the park entrance at 1,585 m (5,200 ft.) to a zone just above our lodge, a rich montane oak forest includes familiar laurels, myrtles and rhododendrons, but also tropical palms, ferns, orchids, bromeliads and bamboos. As we ascend 2,000 feet up the mountain we discover another cooler cloud forest zone dripping with lichens, ferns and bromeliads.

Three nights at Kinabalu Park will give us two full days of birding, one spent around park headquarters and the other at Poring Hot Springs. Around park HQ, we will often bird along the park road, which invites us into a network of excellent trails, allowing easy exploration of the varied forest habitats. At the park's botanical garden, not far from our lodge, we will marvel at the diversity of orchids and carnivorous *Nepenthes* pitcher plants. Several endemic species occur between park HQ and the Timpohon Gate (the entrance to the summit trail), including Crimson-headed Partridge, Whitehead's Trogon, Golden-naped Barbet, Chestnut-headed Laughingthrush, Bornean Green Magpie; Mountain Blackeye, Everett's Thrush, Bornean Stubtail, Bornean Whistler, and Bornean Whistling Thrush.

A short drive around the mountain will take us into sub-montane hill forest, where we will explore the grounds and trails at Poring Hot Springs. Poring maintains an exceptional canopy walkway, where we will watch forest canopy dwellers at eye level, including trogons, barbets, broadbills, and cuckoos. The route to Poring takes us by a private property that offers the perfect conditions for the world's largest flower, the rare *Rafflesia*, which can attain a diameter of 36 inches! Endemic birds at Poring may include White-crowned Shama and Dusky Munia, and we typically find some other fun species like the Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler, Crimson-winged Woodpecker, Diard's Trogon, and Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher.

Danum Valley Conservation Area

We will head from the mountains to the lowlands, leaving KNP and heading for the amazing Danum Valley Conservation Area. Danum's virgin lowland and hill forests exemplify a swath of land through the middle of the island called the "Heart of Borneo," and they offer perhaps the best bird and wildlife watching on the entire island.



The botanical diversity of Danum Valley's *Dipterocarp* forest rivals that of lowland South America. In fact, twenty-five acres of forest here contain more plant species than the U.S. and Canada combined. These stunning arboreal habitats support a mind-boggling variety of birds, with more than one-third of Borneo's entire bird list recorded here. From the elegant Great Argus to the stunning Asian Fairy-Bluebird, Danum never fails to impress.

Since we love woodpeckers so much, we will start there! Just a handful of the woodies we might encounter at Danum include Maroon, Rufous, Buff-rumped, and Gray-and-Buff Woodpeckers, just four among the Danum Valley list of 14 woodpecker species. All eight Bornean hornbill species live at Danum Valley, with a special stronghold for the massive Helmeted Hornbill. Black-bellied and Chestnut-breasted Malkohas may accompany us as we traverse Danum's canopy walkway, marveling at spectacular views of the multi-layer primary forest. Whiskered Treeswift elegantly flycatches from its sky-view perches, while up to seven Pitta species tease us with their haunting calls from deep within the impenetrable vegetation of forest floor.

Up to 17 different bulbuls and 24 babblers will keep us very busy while we enjoy the colorful pigeons, trogons, and barbets. We will be especially diligent in searching for our number-one target species for the trip: the Bornean Bristlehead, representing the Bornean-endemic monotypic family Pityriaseidae. While most of the birds at Danum Valley are sleeping, we will enjoy at least two night-drives in the valley, when we will search for Brown Wood-Owl and Malay Eared-nightjar. Our night excursions will also allow us to observe some of Danum's secretive nocturnal mammals, including greater mouse-deer, tarsier, and the impossibly cute slow loris. With some luck, we may also find a civet, leopard cat, or the magnificent clouded leopard.

Tabin Wildlife Reserve

After Danum Valley, we will head northeast to the private forest reserve at Tabin. The secondary lowland rainforest here is surrounded by oil-palm plantations, giving us a unique opportunity to observe wildlife along these edges. Tabin is best known for its robust population of Bornean pygmy-elephants, and we will have several chances to see these amazing creatures. Night drives could produce several rainforest mammals, including the leopard cat, Asian palm civet, and the red giant flying squirrel. Nocturnal birds include the Buffy Fish-Owl and Horsfield's Frogmouth.

The daytime wildlife scene around Tabin can be mindboggling, and the canopy is lower here than that at Danum Valley, making the birding easier on the neck. We will walk short distances along easy roads surrounded by Bornean endemics. Bornean gibbons can be calling overhead while a Black-crowned Pitta utters its haunting whistle from the understory. The Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker will be feeding in the gardens while the Bornean Blue Flycatcher calls from near the cabins. You will love Tabin, even before you see the Stork-billed Kingfisher on the river.

The Kinabatangan River: Sukau & Abai

From Tabin, we will head southwest toward the second longest river in Malaysia, the Kinabatangan (kih-nuh-bah-tongue-ahn, said quickly with barely noticeable inflections). The World Wildlife Fund calls the Kinabatangan the "Corridor of Life," describing the river as "arguably the last forested alluvial floodplain in Asia and an area of enormous importance for wildlife and the local community."



Whiskered
Treeswift
Danum Valley

En route to the river, we will make a stop at **Gomantong Caves**, birding in secondary forest on the entrance road. After a short boardwalk-hike to the cave entrance, we will be surrounded by millions of swiftlets—representing four different species. We'll learn about the fascinating ecology of the caves and the centuries-old practice of harvesting the edible nests of the White-nest Swiftlet, a practice now managed sustainably throughout the region.

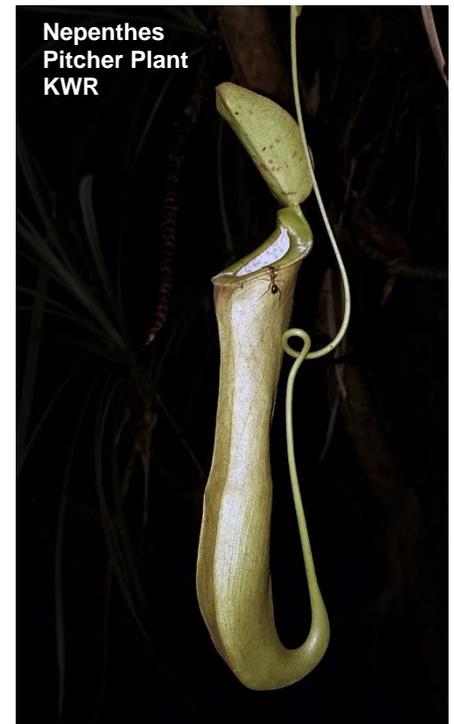
That evening will take us to the bank of the Kinabatangan at the village of Sukau (SOO-cow), where we will take a short boat ride upstream to the Sukau Rainforest Lodge (SRL), named as a “National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World.” After our transition night at Sukau, we will take a morning boat ride upstream from the lodge, followed by lunch at SRL and an afternoon boat trip downstream.

In the early afternoon, we will check in at the luxurious Kinabatangan Wetland Resort (KWR), near the remote village of Abai. The resort sits at the confluence of three important forest types: mature mangrove and nepah-palm forest; lush peat-swamp forest; and secondary lowland tropical rainforest. On casual boat rides from KWR, we will search the mangroves for Ruddy Kingfisher, Mangrove Whistler, Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, and the gorgeous Mangrove Snake. Beyond the mangroves, the lowland river forest will feature primates and birds galore, with orang-utans and proboscis monkeys distracting us from such gorgeous birds as the Wrinkled Hornbill, Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot, and Banded Woodpecker, plus herons, darters, and shorebirds. Besides our water excursions, we will also want to enjoy time around the resort, with its excellent boardwalk raised above the peat swamp forest. A night walk could produce the Bornean Crested Fireback, along with excellent looks at the bizarre colugo, several frog species, the gruffy bearded pig, Oriental Bay Owl and the Northern Boobook (also an owl). Daytime highlights around KWR may include Green Imperial Pigeon, Raffles's Malkoha, Buff-rumped Woodpecker, Blue-eared Barbet, Olive-winged Bulbul, and the loud Long-tailed Parakeets.

From both Sukau and Abai, cruising the Kinabatangan will make you feel like you are in a Nat-Geo special. The forests along the river's edge support 10 primate species, and we should easily see the endemic Bornean orang-utan and proboscis monkey. We will watch closely for the world's largest woodpecker, the Great Slaty, which lives in family groups along the river corridor. If we are lucky, we may encounter a herd of Bornean pygmy elephants, a rare subspecies of Asian elephant. When not watching these fantastic mammals, our attention will be focused on the rich birdlife of the area. The endangered Storm's Stork finds a stronghold here, along with Brahminy Kite, and White-bellied Sea Eagle. Kingfishers will be well-represented in the rich aquatic habitats, including Stork-billed Kingfisher and the migrant Common Kingfisher. We could have Oriental Pied Hornbill around the lodge, and river trips might produce the Wreathed, Wrinkled, Rhinoceros, or Asian Black Hornbills.

Sandakan to Sepilok

From Abai, we will take another boat ride out the mouth of the Kinabatangan and across the bay to Sandakan, on Borneo's northeastern coast. We will meet our van at the Sandakan Yacht Club and will head directly for the Sepilok area. The birding scene around Sepilok is decidedly laid-back, though still bringing us several new species for the trip. Our last few days here will have many highlights, but the impressive Rainforest Discovery Centre is the gem of the region. This oasis of primary forest boasts an amazing canopy walkway, giving you a bird's eye view of the giant dipterocarp trees.



On one evening, we will stay until dusk to experience the emergence of giant flying squirrels from their cavities high in the *Koompassia* trees.

At Sepilok, we'll also observe Bornean orang-utans and Bornean sunbears at their respective rehabilitation facilities. Sturdy elevated boardwalks at these sites allow for close viewing of these threatened mammals, while we are distracted by many new birds, just a few of which may include White-bellied Woodpecker, Scarlet-rumped Trogon, Black-and-red Broadbill, Bushy-crested Hornbill, and up to 6 different sunbirds. Just a short drive from Sepilok, we will visit the Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary, with close-up views of this bizarre primate, as well as practically tame Silver Langurs. We will also enjoy a short hike along the mature mangrove forest in search of woodpeckers like the Common and Greater Flamebacks.

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) Contribute financially to these conservation efforts. We will donate \$100 USD per guest to conservation efforts in Borneo that support habitat for 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!



Great Slaty Woodpeckers
Kinabatangan River

Buff-necked Woodpecker, *Meiglyptes tukki*

The cryptically plumaged yet handsome Buff-necked Woodpecker represents a genus of only three species worldwide (we should also see its cousin, the Buff-rumped Woodpecker, *M. grammithorax*), and it is listed as "Near Threatened" by the IUCN. Throughout most of its range in southeastern Asia's Sundaic lowlands, the Buff-necked Woodpecker has declined due to illegal logging and land conversion for urbanization and agriculture. We may enjoy regular encounters with the Buff-necked, which maintains a stronghold in Borneo, especially in the primary and secondary forests of Sabah.

Including these two threatened species, we could see up to 15 woodpecker species in Sabah, representing an astounding 12 genera, exemplifying Borneo's amazing wildlife diversity.



Buff-necked Woodpecker
RDC Sepilok

TOUR STYLE & PACE

Our Borneo safari will surprise you for its relatively casual tropical birding experience. Birds can be abundant at times, but you will not typically be overwhelmed by species numbers. In fact, we may ‘only’ tally 200+ species for the entire trip—although more than one-quarter of these will likely represent species and subspecies that are endemic to Borneo!

Many species will be quite common, giving you ample chance for repeated encounters, and we will also see plenty of large birds, such as raptors, hornbills, and waders. Daily outings will include hiking on trails and roadsides, strolling along well-maintained boardwalks, and slow cruising in comfortable boats. Birding time around some of our lodges will include leisurely strolls through manicured gardens and along entry roads.

Bird observation towers and canopy walkways offer wonderful viewing experiences, but they typically require climbing several flights of stairs. We will visit some mountainous and hilly terrain, especially at Mt. Kinabalu, where the trails may have moderately steep grades. On all of our outings, your guides will move at a rate suitable for the entire group, and having two U.S. guides allows us to easily divide the group for varying ability levels.

In general, our tours operate at a relaxed pace and appeal to birders with a wide range of skill and ability levels. As expected, those guests with more advanced skills will be able to find and identify more of the anticipated species, while less-experienced birders can still be guaranteed excellent looks at many new birds. Each evening, we will review the birds and other wildlife seen during the day, but we are not big ‘listers,’ so we will not let the prospect of a larger bird list drive our daily schedule.

We also rarely bird from dawn to dusk, and we spend plenty of time at each location enjoying the behaviors of birds and other wildlife in their native habitats. While the focus of our tours is birding, we always enjoy sharing the broader natural and cultural history of the regions we visit. Nowhere is this truer than in Borneo, where we will regularly stop to admire the wide variety of mammals, reptiles, insects and flowers, many of which live nowhere else on Earth!

FOOD & ACCOMMODATIONS

We believe in comfortable lodging and quality food, and especially local specialty foods for the regions where we travel. In Sabah, we will enjoy an eclectic mix of Asian foods, which reflects the diverse culture in this part of Malaysia. On-site lodge restaurants will serve a variety of fresh fruits, vegetarian dishes, Asian-style noodle and rice dishes, local meats, fresh seafood, and unique salads. All water, fruits, and vegetables are safe for consumption at these lodges, and bottled water will be provided on all excursions. The most readily available alcohol is refreshing Asian lager beer, though some of our lodges will have wine and spirits.

Our accommodations include some of the most renowned lodges in Borneo:

[Jesselton Hotel, Kota Kinabalu](#) (1 night)

[Hill Lodges, Kinabalu Park](#) (3 nights)

[Borneo Rainforest Lodge](#) (3 nights)

[Tabin Wildlife Resort](#) (2 nights)

[Sukau Rainforest Lodge](#) (1 night)

[Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort](#) (2 nights)

[MY Nature Resort, Sepilok](#) (3 nights)

**White-fronted (Bornean) Falconets
Kinabatangan River**



PERSONAL HEALTH

Some of our birding sites will take us several hours from traditional medical facilities, so we expect participants to be in good health and comfortable with moderate activity levels. The weather will be warm and humid (see below), although many of our birding sites will be under the rainforest canopy, which helps moderate the effects of the tropical sun. If you are taking prescription medications or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring ample supplies to get through the trip safely, plus extra days in case of delayed travel schedules. We recommend that you travel with all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging.

Please consult your physician regarding medicines required for traveling in this part of Malaysia. Before you visit your physician, you may want to review the general health information for travelers available online from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). You should be current on your routine vaccines before the trip, all of which you should discuss with your doctor.

If you have any health problems that you fear may limit your enjoyment of a tour or that you think may significantly restrict your activities—such as diabetes, asthma, heart troubles, difficulty walking, etc.—please contact us *and* talk with your doctor to discuss whether this tour will be suitable for you.

WEATHER & PACKING SUGGESTIONS

Straddling the equator, the daily weather in Borneo is generally sunny and warm with temperatures in the 80s-90s F, with occasional afternoon or evening showers. The high humidity of the tropics will make it seem hotter than the actual air temperature, especially for participants who live in arid climates. On some days, thunderstorms may require us to make a hasty retreat for cover, but most rainy situations can be managed with waterproof outerwear or a personal umbrella. You might even appreciate getting wet on some days!

Everyone's traveling needs are different, and you may download a detailed travel planning checklist from our web site. Here are a few items you definitely should not forget:

PASSPORT: For U.S. citizens, a passport valid for six months beyond departure date, with one blank page for entry & exit stamps. Non-U.S. citizens should check with their local consulate or embassy for instructions.

Medical Lists: List of medications you take regularly, including dosages; list of medical conditions and any special care requirements; list of emergency contacts. We request this information with your registration, but traveling with redundant info is a good practice.

Cash & Credit Cards: For personal essentials, and in case of emergency or other unplanned hindrances, you should have multiple ways to spend money. The unit of currency in Sabah is the Malaysian Ringgit (MYR); you can purchase MYR at home or in the airports, but don't expect easy access to cash exchange during the tour. Many shops in Sabah will accept U.S. dollars, but you will get a poor exchange rate on these purchases. Our lodges and most local shops typically accept major credit cards, and cash is the most efficient way to pay for alcoholic beverages.



Bornean Green Magpie
Kinabalu Nat'l Park

Clothing: Lightweight field clothing, preferably long-sleeved shirts and long pants for protection against bugs and sun. Ideal clothing incorporates synthetic fabrics that wick moisture, dry quickly, and resist wrinkles. Rainwear and/or a pocket umbrella are essential, and you may want a wide-brimmed hat and swimsuit. As of this writing, we do not have information on the availability of laundry services.

Footwear: We recommend light waterproof hiking boots (over the ankle) and something lighter still for casual walks. Athletic shoes will not keep your feet dry and may become quite soiled and wet in muddy conditions.

Misc. Equipment: Sunscreen, camera, sunglasses, light daypack or fanny pack, mosquito repellent, headlamp or flashlight, batteries, and binoculars (your guides will bring a couple of extra pairs and a spotting scope). Electricity is 220 volts and uses a British three-pin plug, so you'll need to bring a Type G adapter, BS-1363.

Baggage: We suggest one medium-size or large bag and a smaller bag/carry-on. Your carry-on should have all of your necessities in case your checked bags get delayed, including change of clothing, money, travel documents, toiletries, medicines, and optical equipment. Once we book the internal flights for our trip, we will contact you with the baggage weight restrictions for those airlines.

FLIGHT SCHEDULES

Our tour begins and ends at Kota Kinabalu Int'l Airport (BKI), which can be reached from several major Asian flight hubs, including Seoul (ICN), Kuala Lumpur (KUL), and Hong Kong (HKG), among others. 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 to experience the amazing markets, eclectic restaurants, and general hustle and bustle of this small but busy city. If you do arrive early or stay beyond the tour, you will need to make your own reservations and arrange your own transfer to the Jesselton Hotel in downtown KK.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance with your airline ticket! We have experience with medical emergencies in foreign countries, and travel insurance has always been of great benefit. Travel insurance covers costs associated with flight delays, trip cancellation, illness, medical expenses, lost baggage, and emergency transportation. If insurance is not offered when you purchase your flight, we recommend Travelex Insurance Services. Most US health insurance plans do not cover costs incurred outside the US, although many credit cards include travel insurance when used to purchase your flights and tour fee.

TOUR FEE

Complete tour fee for 2018: \$8,450 double—\$9,220 single

Deposit, due with registration: \$500/person

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



Tour fee includes:

- 🌐 Airport transfers from Kota Kinabalu airport (BKI) to Jesselton Hotel in KK;
- 🌐 Internal flights within Borneo (KK to Lahad Datu, Sandakan to KK);
- 🌐 All ground transportation during the tour, including drivers;
- 🌐 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 (*more information will follow*);
- 🌐 The instruction and leadership of 2 U.S. guides (w/5 or more clients), and a dedicated local guide.

The fee does not include:

- 🌐 Round-trip flights from home to Kota Kinabalu (BKI);
- 🌐 Travel insurance (strongly recommended for this trip; contact us with 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; note that tips for US guides will be pooled and divided equally.

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 6 and a maximum of 8 participants.

REFUND POLICY: Once we confirm the tour has reached the minimum registration, \$100 of your deposit becomes non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation more than 120 days prior to the tour, you will be refunded any payments above the \$100 from your deposit. If you cancel between 119 and 60 days prior to the tour, you will receive a 50% refund of all fees paid. 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 and a portion of any other retained fees are 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, including the \$100 from your deposit.

TOUR REGISTRATION

To reserve your space for this tour, submit your \$500 deposit (per person) with the registration forms that follow this tour summary. These are also available to download as a PDF file from our web site. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo!

Paradise Birding steve@paradisebirding.com
P.O. Box 547 541-408-1753
Sisters, OR 97759



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: _____