

Day to Day Description

10 Days

Palangkaraya River Cruise & Samboja Lodge

Day 01 : Arrival Balikpapan – Samboja

Upon arrival at the Balikpapan airport, our driver will be waiting for you to bring you to Samboja Lodge. Samboja is a small village 35 km north of Balikpapan. The area was once covered in lush forest. The forests disappeared due to logging and the landscape became barren fields of grasslands. In 2001 BOS (Borneo Orangutan Survival) started buying barren land and began an ambitious project, named Samboja Lestari, to bring the local forest back to this area. Reforestation is the core of the Samboja Lestari project. Samboja lodge is the accommodation on the Samboja Lestari reforestation estate.



The Samboja Lestari Forest Rehabilitation program is operating under the Borneo Orang Utan Survival foundation (BOS). The Orang Utan Reintroduction Project has been moved to Samboja Lestari, and several Forest schools have been established where the orangutan learn forest skills while roaming freely but supervised.

Accommodation : [Samboja Lodge](#)

Meals included : Lunch & Dinner

Travel time : Approximately 2 hours

Day 02 : Samboja – Visit Orangutan Island and Sun Bear Sanctuary

Orangutan Island:

Samboja Lestari established 6 Orangutan Island with feeding sites and extra enrichment for a chronically ill orangutans that ontherwise have to spend the rest of their lives in cages. The orangutans that cannot be returned to the wild can live here under almost natural conditions. At Samboja Lestari the Orang Utan are kept on six man-made islands (a nice walk from the Samboja Lodge). The Island that can be visited is the one with the orangutans that cannot be released in the wild, due to handicaps and behavior. There is a 2 meter wide canal around the island and visitors can view the Orang Utans from across the canal.



They can be viewed and photographed very well in a safe way as well for the Orang Utan as for the visitor. Orang Utan that are prepared for release in the wild are on islands away from contact with visitors. Every day workers bring over many kinds of fruits, vegetables and leafy branches. Though there is No direct Contact for Visitors permitted with any of the orangutans. The Samboja Lodge's guide will assist you to the island on the first visit and can explain about the project.

Sun Bear Sanctuary:

After the visit to the Orang Utan Island you will go to the Sun bear compound. The Sun bear sanctuary is fenced by electric wiring and divided into several compartments to accommodate bears of different ages and sex. There is a bridge over the enclosure from which you can observe the behavior of the Sun Bear. Activities at the sun bear compound will begin at 8am and end at 4pm. The Sanctuary is a short 15min walk from the Samboja Lodge. You must exercise extreme caution when around the bears.

Accommodation : [Samboja Lodge](#)

Meals included : Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Travel time : Fullday

Day 03 : Samboja, 6 hours Sunga Wain Trip

Less than one hour drive from Samboja Lestari lies the protected forest area of Sungai Wain. This was the first release site of BOS Foundation where 75 rehabilitated orangutans were released between 1992-1998. Several female orangutans with babies have been observed on previous visits. Since they are totally wild again, there is no 100% guarantee that you will see one of those released orangutans on this trip. But on this fairly challenging trip you will see much interesting wildlife.

Accommodation : [Samboja Lodge](#)

Meals included : Breakfast

Travel time : Half Day



Day 04 : Samboja – Balikpapan

Today is the end of activity, at appropriate time you will be transferred to Balikpapan for overnight.

Accommodation : [Swiss-Belhotel Balikpapan](#)

Meals included : Breakfast

Travel time : Approximately 2 hours

**Day 05 : Balikpapan – Flight to Palangkaraya**

Morning depart from your hotel in Balikpapan to Sepinggan Airport for flight to Palangkaraya for your next hotel. It is the capital of the Indonesian province of Central Kalimantan, also famously known as Central Borneo situated between the Kahayan and the Sabangau rivers.

Accommodation : [Swiss-Belhotel Palangkaraya](#)

Meals included : Breakfast

Travel time : Approximately 6 hours

**Day 06 : Palangkaraya – Start 4D/3N Cruise (starting every Saturday) or 3D/2N Cruise (starting every Tuesday)**

Kalimantan's rivers remain the best way to travel through the forested landscape, and to experience Borneo's Orangutan and the fascinating Dayak culture. The tour starts with the pickup in Palangkaraya, either in Palangkaraya or at Palangkaraya Airport (if arrival in the morning before 11:00 AM). Your river cruise starts by boarding the boat at Palangkaraya harbor. While relaxing on board the forested river landscape pass by. Stilted and floating houses are alongside the forested river.

In the early evening a canoe will bring you across the shimmering black water lake. You will make a short stop and stroll around the Kalaweit Island. Keep an eye out for proboscis monkeys, hornbills and Brahmini kites. Return to the main boat for a quiet dinner in the midst of the forest and a good night sleep.



Remark:

- We suggest to schedule the cruise in the wet season, which is from end October – July, as water levels are higher, better accessibility is available to certain areas. The best time is between the beginnings of December until end of July. However, the cruise runs year-round, with adjusted programs based on the tide (smaller boats used for some sight).
- The 4D/3N program is available on **Saturdays** only for the starting program. The 3D/2N program is available on **Tuesdays** only for the starting program. If you have other dates in mind, please contact us for charter availability and prices
- Different type of cabin is available by clicking the "select your hotel level" in the quotation sheet.

Accommodation : Boat
 Meals included : Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
 Travel time : Fullday

Day 07 : Bapallas Island – Kanarakan – Tahai

While you enjoy breakfast, the boat continues upstream along the Rungan River. On arrival at Bapallas Island, we will take the motorized canoe for your first sighting of the magnificent orangutan. The specially guided tours enable you to discover the orangutan in its natural habitat and make a difference to their survival as it supports the Borneo Orang Utan Survival foundation (BOSF). Learn about the BOSF pre-release program as you watch the orangutans.



Leisurely lunch onboard while cruising to Kanarakan, a tiny riverside village on the Rungan River. We pass Kaja pre-release orangutan island along the route. Arriving in the village in the afternoon, village elders from the Dayak Ngaju tribe perform a welcoming ceremony before we stroll around the village. Joined by a local host, we see the village home gardens, rubber field & rubber tapping demonstration, and other village livelihoods. Visit the elder's house and enjoy the traditional spices coffee or herbal tea while sharing stories. Back to the boat and cruise down to Lake Tahai. Overnight

Accommodation : Boat
 Meals included : Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
 Travel time : Fullday

Day 08 :**3D/2N: Tangkiling – Palangkaraya****4D/3N: Tahai – Sei Gohong – Bapallas & Muara Rungan****3D/2N: Tangkiling – Palangkaraya**

If you booked the 3D/2N Program, you will be transferred after breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport of Palangkaraya where you will spend one more night prior ending your tour.

Accommodation : [Swiss-Belhotel Palangkaraya](#)
Meals included : Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
Travel time : Fullday

**4D/3N: Tahai – Sei Gohong – Bapallas & Muara Rungan**

The day start with an (optional) dawn canoeing to the lake for bird watching. Leisurely breakfast on board. Visit the village of Sei Gohong to meet the traditional medicine expert followed by a short walk to the nearby forest to find several plants that are used as traditional medications by the Ngajus indigenous tribe. Back to the village and see a larger collection of the traditional medicines and discuss their functions with the locals. Back to the boat and cruise downstream to Muara Rungan passing Bapallas Island for more orangutan sightings. Overnight near Muara Rungan.

Accommodation : Boat
Meals included : Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
Travel time : Fullday

Day 09 :**3D/2N: Palangkaraya - Departure****4D/3N: Muara Rungan – Palangkaraya****3D/2N: Palangkaraya - Departure**

At appropriate time, depart from your hotel to Palangkaraya Airport for flight to your next destination.

Accommodation : N/A
Meals included : Breakfast
Travel time : Approximately 1 hours

**4D/3N: Tangkiling – Palangkaraya**

If you booked the 3D/2N Program, you will be transferred after breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport of Palangkaraya where you will spend one more night prior ending your tour.

Accommodation : [Swiss-Belhotel Palangkaraya](#)
Meals included : Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
Travel time : Fullday

Day 10 : 4D/3N: Palangkaraya – Departure

At appropriate time, depart from your hotel to Palangkaraya Airport for flight to your next destination.

Accommodation : N/A
Meals included : Breakfast
Travel time : Approximately 1 hours