



Wild Globe Travel Consultancy

Tailored Wildlife, Wilderness and Adventure Travel Across the Globe.

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SABAH, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE

Date - September 2019

Duration - 24 Days

Destinations

Kota Kinabalu - Tawau Hills Park - Danum Valley Conservation Area - Kinabatangan River - Deramakot Forest Reserve - Kinabalu Park - Singapore

Trip Overview

I very rarely participate in group tours, but for a while now I have wanted to return to Borneo and in particular Deramakot Forest Reserve, which I was the first person to visit in terms of assessing as a possible destination for specialist mammal tours. That initial foray took place in July 2014 and although my three-day stay was not sufficient in order to do the reserve any type of justice, especially as an entire day was lost to the type of torrential rain that this evocative island is at least partly famed for, it was immediately clear to me that Deramakot had enormous potential and could perhaps become the most reliable site for Sunda clouded leopard encounters across this elusive cat's entire range. This has since proved to be the case and I was hoping that the same might conceivably apply regarding the Borneo bay cat, an almost mythical creature that is practically impossible to observe in the wild. Indeed, excluding a few camera trap shots in the last two decades, there have only been a handful of substantiated sightings since the species was first described in the late 19th century and the animal is still only known from twelve recorded specimens. I actually first visited Deramakot on the strength of a bay cat camera trap photograph, but there have been very few sightings in recent times and it



may be that the surviving population has been considerably overestimated for this animal, as they occur in the same habitat as the clouded leopard, but are simply impossible to see in comparison. The tour had been organised almost exclusively to search for the easier of these two cats and although I was the only participant to have seen this type of clouded leopard previously, as opposed to the mainland variety, which I have not yet encountered, I was delighted that a full ten nights had been devoted to Deramakot. In addition, the proposed itinerary would include Tawau Hills Park, albeit for only three nights, which basically sealed my involvement, as I have intended to visit Tawau Hills for a number of years without ever reaching what is a relatively unexplored reserve, at least in terms of much of the largely undisturbed forest at its higher elevations. The other destinations I knew well and if you require further information for any, please refer to my 2014 Sabah trip report, particularly regarding Deramakot, which is considered to be one of the best examples of sustainable forestry management in all of Southeast Asia and which I consequently cover in detail. Although I do not usually visit significant wildlife destinations for less than three nights and our proposed itinerary was undeniably unbalanced, ranging as it did from the ten nights at Deramakot to just one or two at other renowned and generally highly productive reserves, it suited me reasonably well on this occasion and I was therefore also prepared to accept the group size of six, as I would not normally attempt to search for such elusive creatures with this many people. Three is generally my limit, excluding a guide, and this is particularly the case if I do not know the participants personally and cannot guarantee how they will act, or indeed react, in the field. On this occasion I had only travelled with one of the other five group members previously, the individual who had actually arranged the tour, but I was aware that most of our activities would take place in a vehicle and that there was consequently less chance of anything going wrong or of one person adversely impacting perhaps a momentous sighting. I intended to either largely walk on my own or with the only other team member I knew, who I was aware I could rely on in field conditions and who would also be utilising a thermal imaging scope during the course of the tour, which would provide us all with a massive advantage in Borneo's impenetrable rainforests. Indeed, he



dedicated hours at a time to scanning on behalf of us all, suffering a series of often spectacular falls in the process, and we unquestionably owed a number of our sightings to his considerable efforts each and every evening, including the only binturong of the expedition. That said, and despite an enormous amount of hard work and dedication from the entire team, some of whom had never previously experienced this type of intense programme, the tour itself was mixed, which is often the case when you are searching for such extraordinarily rare animals in an unyielding jungle environment and equally challenging climatic conditions. Whilst we ultimately produced a more than respectable mammal list and some memorable highlights, many of the encounters were either poor or brief and we sadly missed our main target, which I appreciate was particularly frustrating for two members of our team, both of whom have searched for clouded leopards for a number of years without success. I was frustrated as well of course, but having failed to see a Eurasian lynx on tour after tour for more than two decades, I was well used to this type of crushing disappointment and I would still prefer to try and fail in authentically wild conditions than to see habituated or fed animals. To some degree I actually found the photography more challenging than our relative lack of success, as I am so used to my son James providing exactly what I need with a spotlight, down to the very angles and distances that I like to shoot from, that I find it incredibly difficult to work with anyone else now. It is even worse when you are just one member of a fairly large group all trying to capture their own images, particularly as I



was one of the tallest members and was therefore always having to shoot from the back of our large open vehicle. At times it became so bad that I decided to not even try to take pictures and just enjoy the sighting and this was certainly one of my worst tours in terms of both the quality of photographs and the variety of animals that I was able to record. I have to admit, that this matters less and less to me as I get older and I am still hoping that one day I will be able to leave my camera at home, as I never travelled with one as a young man and I cannot say that I enjoyed myself any less. Again, as I did not organise the trip personally, we did not visit any conservation projects, but several of us did donate to a local initiative at Tawau Hills and I already support two important wildlife charities in

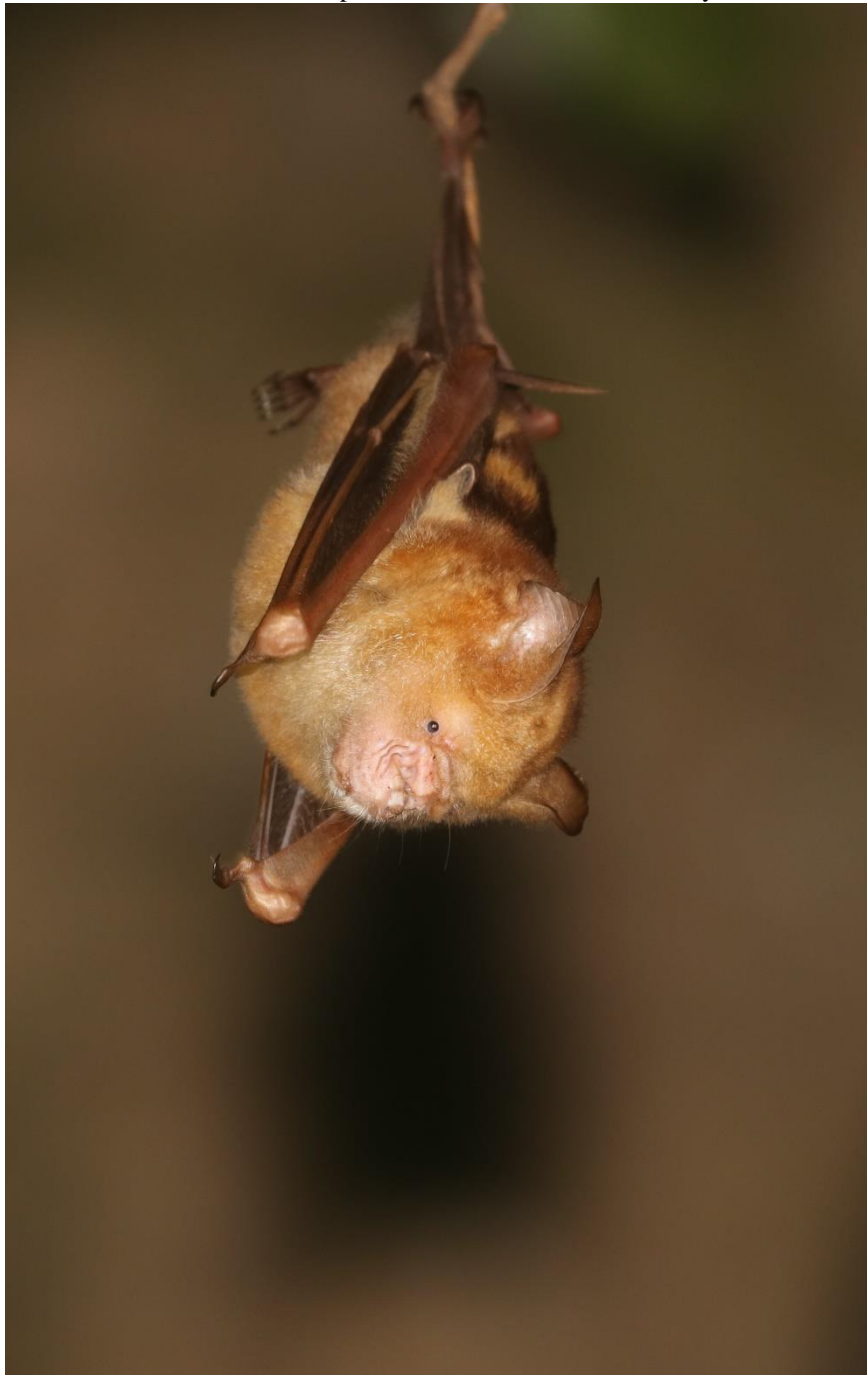


Borneo, the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, which share the same forest at Sepilok. Both charities do incredibly important work and are well worth your support, particularly given the catastrophic deforestation that Borneo has suffered. Their website details are as follows: www.orangutan-appeal.org.uk and www.bsbcc.org.my and I would not hesitate to recommend a tour of each if you are visiting what remains an amazing wildlife destination despite the extensive and predominantly unregulated destruction. For those who are not aware, the island of Borneo is shared between three different countries, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei, although the latter administers just 1% of the island and Indonesia owns by far the largest section with roughly 73%. The remainder is split between the two Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak and the vast majority of wildlife tours take place within the largely isolated forests of Sabah, where a vast array of species cling to an increasingly fragile existence. Our tour was no exception and would commence at Tawau Hills on Sabah's extreme southern coast. Some of the island's rarest inhabitants have been recorded here, including hose's civet, tufted ground squirrel, collared mongoose, clouded leopard and even bay cat, which, as you would no doubt anticipate given its highly elusive reputation, has again been photographed on camera traps, but not actually encountered. Most of these rare animals are observed at higher elevations towards the summit of Mount Magdalena, where relatively few visitors ever reach and where there has consequently been far less disturbance to both the habitat and resident wildlife.



As such, half of our group were even less likely to find anything rare or unusual at Tawau Hills, as the hike to our forest rest camp was ten kilometres in all, much of which was obviously uphill, and three of the party did not think that they would be able to manage this. Although by no means the most strenuous trek I have completed, it was still reasonably demanding and one stretch of about two kilometres just beyond the easy beginning was particularly steep and exacting. From then on it gradually became easier, but all of the trails around the accommodation involve climbs, some of which were considerably tougher than others. For all that, it was ultimately time that defeated us at Tawau Hills and not the challenging geographic conditions, as our stay here was far too brief for such an obviously promising destination. In addition to one night spotlighting the well trodden tourist trails at the bottom of the park, we had just two nights on the side of the mountain, which we already knew would be inadequate in terms of expecting to find the really difficult creatures that occur here. We still had an outside chance of course, but although we would eventually identify sixteen mammal species at Tawau, the rarest was probably a long-tailed porcupine, which was spotted with the assistance of the thermal scope on a nocturnal walk along the river. The same device provided us with what would probably have been the sighting of the tour, at least in scientific terms, as we may well have picked up a Bornean water shrew on that same walk. Certainly the animal that we watched briefly was genuinely aquatic and was diving and hunting in the water, as opposed to simply using it as a means of travel. This specific behaviour greatly limits the possible options in terms of an accurate identification and when you take its appearance and size into account, the most likely candidate would appear to be a water shrew. However, they are not thought to occur in this area, or indeed anywhere even remotely adjacent, and are more known from the Keningau and Mount Kinabalu regions in the northwest, the closest of which is 150 kilometres or so away as the crow flies. This does not mean that the water shrew could not occur here, as very little is actually known about this animal, but it is definitely present in three other mountain ranges and is known to live at elevations of up to 1,700 metres. The summit of Mount Magdalena is apparently 1,310 metres and the moist montane forests of Tawau Hills would represent ideal habitat for this semi-aquatic animal, particularly alongside the shallow river that we spent most of one night searching. We will never be sure of course and I have not included this sighting on my mammal list, but I would not be at all surprised if water shrews are eventually recorded here and one other rare species was positively identified during our stay, although sadly not by us. Instead, one of the colleagues of our excellent local guide was fortunate enough to glimpse a tufted ground squirrel as he made the long ascent to join us. Although they are notoriously difficult to observe, these strikingly distinctive squirrels are actually diurnal and he was able to enjoy an entirely unexpected view in decent light at around the four kilometre point. We searched the same general area on the way down, but these sightings are almost entirely a matter of chance and we were just as likely to bump into this animal elsewhere, which in fact was not likely at all. Instead, we had to be satisfied with a variety of slightly less exceptional encounters, including a banded palm civet that almost stepped on me as we sat in the dark and just listened for movement across the forest floor.

Gibbons were heard on more occasions than they were seen and it is always special to hear the redolent calls of these supremely agile primates. They remind me how thrilled I am to return to the wonderful areas in which they occur and it is difficult not to smile and feel more alive when the forest wakes to their exuberant song. We did see the gibbons nicely as well, particularly on the walk down, and our stay at Tawau Hills also produced several encounters with a foraging Malay civet around our accommodation and good views of maroon langur, long-tailed macaque and a single red muntjac, all in addition to the usual varied selection of squirrels and flying squirrels. Having made a mental note that I need to devote more time to Tawau if I do ever return, we moved on to one of my favourite destinations in this part of the world, Danum Valley Conservation Area, where I normally spend time at two highly



contrasting locations, the upmarket Borneo Rainforest Lodge and the more authentic Danum Valley Field Centre. We stayed at neither on this occasion, but I spent a full day trekking the field centre on my own and at night we had access to roads through much of the same relatively intact rainforest. Two nights were again insufficient to explore a reserve of this size and quality, but it was still wonderful to return to such a magnificent natural environment, particularly as my son was with me on my last visit in July 2014. Despite our all too brief stay, Danum Valley still produced some of the best sightings of the tour, including several leopard cats and small-toothed palm civets, a couple of typically enigmatic slow lorises, multiple greater oriental chevrotains, or mousedeer as many people know them, and a superb view of a long-tailed porcupine at the side of the road. On the transfer out to our Kinabatangan River base, a first yellow-throated marten was spotted by the occupants of our lead vehicle, which I was fortunately travelling in, but the journey itself was marred by the vast sea of palm oil plantations that threaten to overwhelm the entire island and the last remaining isolated pockets of forest. Almost every significant journey is the same to be honest and you can drive for hours and see more or less nothing other than row after row of palm trees, like sinister First Order forces from a Star Wars movie or polished Nazi troops in an old black and white newsreel. These crops, and the short-sighted and negligent politicians and businessmen behind their unsustainable use, have wreaked environmental devastation on an almost unimaginable scale, not only in Borneo, but across much of the region and well beyond. You have to try to look beyond it of course on tour and if two nights were insufficient at Danum Valley, then one was more or less impossible on the Kinabatangan, where some of the group were specifically hoping to see a flat-headed cat. We almost certainly should have despite the woeful brevity of our stay, as this stretch of the Kinabatangan probably represents the best chance of seeing this felid in all of Borneo and our guide thought that he had picked one up in his spotlight

on our only nocturnal boat safari of the trip. Unfortunately, the boat driver was very inexperienced and he approached the riverbank where the eyeshine had been seen at both the wrong speed and the wrong angle, which resulted in a heavy wash splashing against the shore and costing us any chance of identifying the animal that had been sheltering there. It did look as if it may well have been a flat-headed cat from distance, but it was impossible to say with any certainty and we had not given ourselves a second opportunity by only including one night here. Usually at least three nights are required at any major destination and although the driver's mistake may well have cost us a memorable encounter, it is equally true that we would have been extremely lucky to see what remains a relatively rare cat at just a single attempt. We did at least have two daylight boat tours, the first of which produced five different primates, long-tailed and pig-tailed macaques, maroon and silvered langurs and the rather incongruous proboscis monkey, which is known as the Dutchman or Dutch monkey in Indonesian, as their large bellies and bulbous red noses are said to be reminiscent of the early Dutch settlers. We were also hoping for a sixth primate, but our only Bornean orangutans would have to wait until Deramakot Forest Reserve, our main destination of the tour and where we were heading for the next ten nights. As I have already described, our main purpose in visiting Deramakot was to search for a clouded leopard and whilst we ultimately failed in this objective, we did devote a great deal of time and energy to the task and even arranged for additional morning drives, as none had been organised and I suggested that it would be a major mistake to waste what is generally an outstanding time for mammal viewing. This is particularly the case regarding cats, which spend a great deal of time patrolling territory and are routinely observed walking along the road in the morning. Even if they did not magically conjure a clouded leopard, I was supremely confident that our early starts, usually prior to first light, would guarantee at least one or two notable encounters. As it was, I do not think that I have ever devoted so much time to an activity with so little success



and although we persevered for the duration of our stay, in reality I probably just cost us all a great deal of sleep. It was still the right thing to do and I would not hesitate to suggest the same strategy again, but, for whatever reason, it simply did not work on this tour and our early morning drives produced very little beyond yellow muntjacs and bearded pigs. We actually used these morning excursions for most of our diurnal photography, coming back between ten and eleven and grabbing some food and occasionally some extra sleep before we went out again between 4pm and 5pm. We usually returned around two the next morning and this was the pattern for our entire stay, with us all walking the trails around the accommodation in our free time, sometimes collectively, but usually in smaller groups or alone. Unsurprisingly, given both my initial success and the exceptional mammal tours that have



followed, Deramakot was far busier than when I first visited in 2014 and although that did not mean there were dozens of vehicles all searching at the same time, there were certainly enough to make our task more difficult, especially as there is only one main road at Deramakot and each evening you have the choice of driving back towards the entrance or down to the Kinabatangan River. The river road is less active as there is currently no logging beyond the accommodation, which inevitably means that everyone wants to use it each evening. However, that is clearly not practical given that you are searching for such secretive creatures and the forest guides operate a system whereby everyone gets a turn on the less disturbed and far more productive river track. In a way this penalises extended expeditions such as ours, as general tourists visiting for just a couple of nights are usually given an opportunity on this more popular route and there are obviously far more of them than groups staying for ten nights or even longer. There are also a few fairly short side roads which we did utilise constantly, but one had not been well maintained and was not entirely accessible and the others are just not long enough to provide a viable alternative to the main route between the entrance and the river. When you take this lack of access into account, it is perhaps more surprising that clouded leopards are observed so regularly, at least in relative terms compared to other reserves, than the fact that bay cats are never observed at all. Both cats are able to utilise vast tracts of isolated and entirely inaccessible rainforest and you would think that neither species has any real need to use the one busy road where they can be disturbed, certainly not as often as clouded leopards are seen on it at night. Perhaps that last observation is the key difference between the two species, as bay cats are strictly diurnal and therefore may be far more cautious than their nocturnal cousins? Whatever the reason, clouded leopards are encountered with at least some regularity at Deramakot, whereas bay cats have only been seen on camera traps to date. The other factor that you have to take into account when arranging a wildlife tour in Borneo is the weather, as you will always lose time to the elements and there is no one distinct period during the year when you can avoid rain on this fertile island. This was certainly the case during our visit and several game drives were delayed or disrupted by torrential rain. That is just the nature of the beast here and you always have to make the most of the opportunities available to you. We certainly did and although I have already confirmed that we were sadly not to see a clouded leopard, our time at Deramakot was still productive and largely enjoyable. Very few reserves are likely to yield six different civet species, but that was the case here and three, Malay civet, common palm civet and small-toothed palm civet, were encountered I believe on pretty much every nocturnal drive. Of the others, we interestingly saw four banded palm civets across the first two nights, but never again and we had our thermal scope to thank for our only binturong of the tour, as well as the commendable efforts of the group member using it hour after hour and night after night. I have to say that the sixth and final civet was rather more special than all of the other five for me, as it is fairly rare that I am able to see a major new species these days and to do so having missed one just hours before was particularly gratifying. The animal in question was an otter civet, which has always eluded me and which I was distraught to miss one evening when I had the wrong angle in the back of the vehicle and could not see the creature that everyone else was watching, albeit for just a few brief seconds. I only saw movement and a glimpse of fur as it disappeared into the dense undergrowth and I would never have been able to even guess what animal it had been without being told. Technically I had seen it, as our guide and other group members had been able to identify it, but that counts for



very little as far as I am concerned and I have never considered that I have seen an animal unless I have either watched it clearly or am at least able to identify it personally. Having previously failed to see this animal at numerous locations across more than two decades, I had no right at all to expect to see it again on this tour, let alone just a couple of hours later when our guide almost miraculously illuminated a second otter civet drinking from a puddle at the side of the road in one of the most disturbed areas of the forest. I actually photographed it walking in front of a huge parked digger and I could barely contain my elation at being given this wondrous and thoroughly unexpected second chance. The relief was enormous and virtually indescribable and for me this one moment was the highlight of the trip, not only because I had never seen this rare and highly unusual mammal, but because I believed that my chance had gone and that I had missed something very special. Entire expeditions rest on these single transitory moments and I reflected towards the end of our stay how sorry I was that my fellow travellers had missed their one main target. Cats in general were at a premium of course and although leopard cats were routinely encountered at Deramakot, the only other felid observed here was a marble cat, which remains an extremely rare creature in its own right, despite the fact that I have been fortunate enough to see several over the years. Our guide, who I have to say was exceptional with a spotlight, picked this one up and we were able to watch it sitting on a branch and then climbing down a typically towering tree before pouncing off into the night. Our group member with the thermal scope had never seen one before, so that was some reward for his determined efforts and he was understandably delighted, as indeed



were we all on his behalf. We would see three more carnivores at Deramakot and of the thirteen discovered throughout the tour, an impressive eleven were observed here. The first of the remainder was a yellow-throated marten, that this time we thankfully all shared and in decent late afternoon light, as well as two Sunda stink-badgers on separate nights and a short-tailed mongoose, which only three of us saw and separately. The first sighting was in the vehicle one morning when two of the group were convinced they had spotted a mongoose by the side of the road and the other involved only me, when I disturbed a mongoose foraging among the leaf



litter on a forest trail and it practically ran over my feet as it panicked and vanished in alarm. This was one of several hikes that I took on my own, including a couple to look for banteng, as these hugely impressive and robust bovids have always been a favourite of mine and were one of the major species that I was hoping to encounter at Deramakot, as I mentioned at every possible opportunity. Sadly, I was only able to find some old tracks and dung and I also missed a tarsier, despite searching at night on several occasions with the considerable assistance of the group member with the thermal scope. However, for every disaster there were notable triumphs, including the only elephants and orangutans of the trip, as well as a Malay porcupine, which I was surprised took us until night eight to find. Indeed, if you add a clouded leopard to the list of wildlife that we saw here, including a spectacular variety of birds and reptiles that I have not even mentioned, then our stay would have been considered an unqualified success and although it was still by no means a failure, in truth we missed most of the charismatic and iconic mammals we were hoping to find, including sun bear,

Sunda pangolin, banded linsang and of course that bothersome leopard. It has to be said that the mood of the group reflected these failures to some extent as we drove away from Deramakot and it was not overly improved a few days later when we heard that a clouded leopard had been spotted shortly after our departure. Such is life, certainly where wildlife tours are concerned, and while Deramakot disappointed in some respects, our final destination was far more productive than I had anticipated. I have to admit that, based on previous experience, I did not arrive at Mount Kinabalu with high expectations and thought that our three nights here would be far better devoted to any of our earlier destinations, particularly Kinabatangan, where we only had one night or Deramakot, where

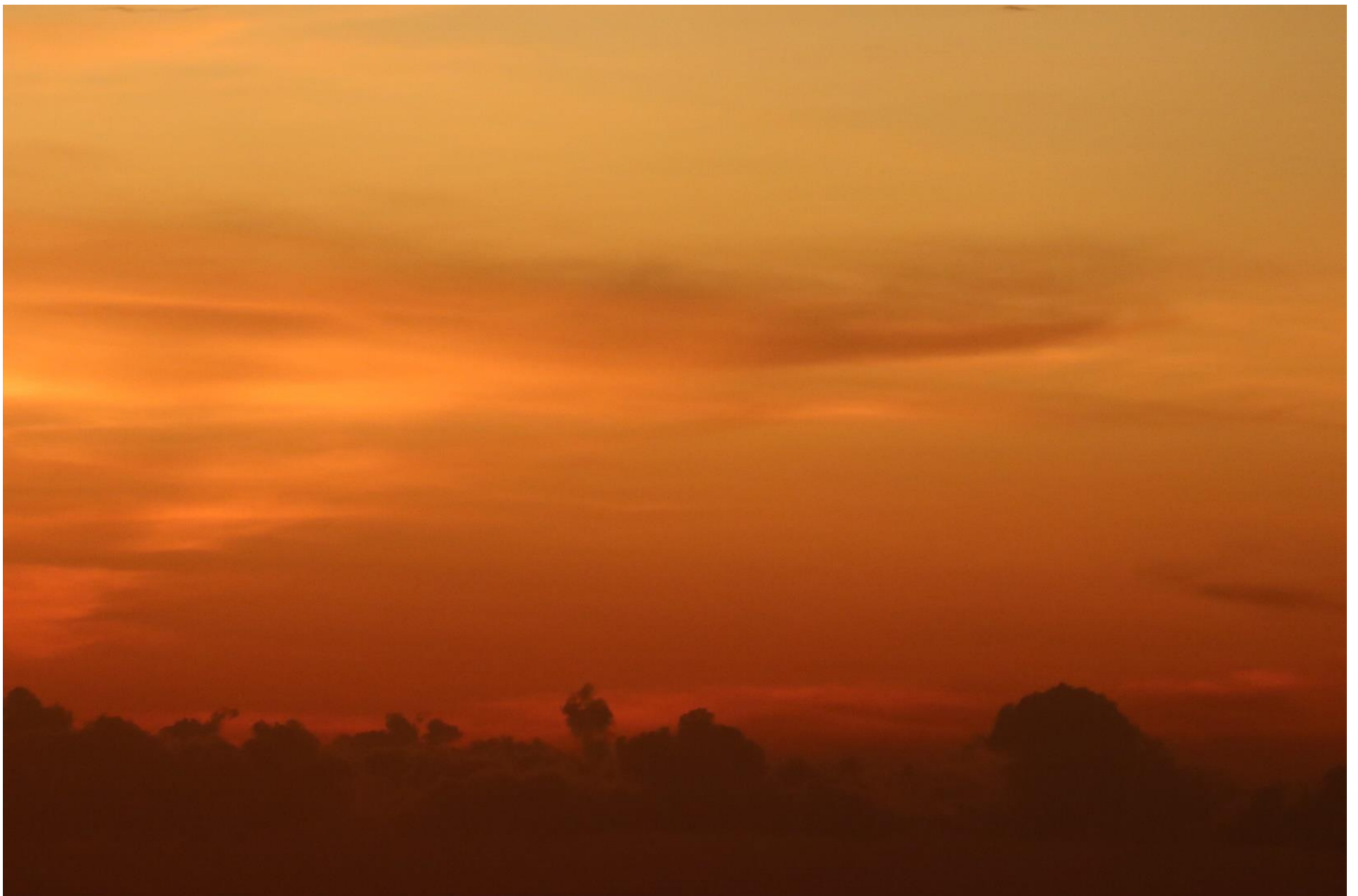


we really only had one target. However, October is not the main tourist season at Kinabalu, when it is generally fairly wet in the mountains and consequently there were far less visitors and vehicles in what is usually one of the busiest parks in Borneo. This undoubtedly assisted our cause and in all we would observe a dozen or so new species here and enjoyed far more success than I had hitherto considered possible. I would have actually been more than delighted with either a Malay weasel or a short-tailed gymnure, both of which are seen and photographed reasonably regularly at this popular mountain reserve, but the absolute top priority at Kinabalu remains a Bornean ferret badger, as they are thought to only occur here and in the immediate surrounding area. As it was, we saw none of the three and instead encountered two new civets for the tour, a masked palm civet and, somewhat unbelievably, a banded linsang on the very last night drive of the trip. These are strikingly beautiful and incredibly rare creatures and the only disappointment was that the sighting was so brief, a couple of our group missed it entirely as the linsang walked across the road in our headlights before leaping into the shelter of the forest. I spent a long time that evening attempting to find it again with the more committed of the two, sadly the individual who had worked so hard on our behalf with the thermal scope, but in our hearts we both knew that it was long gone and that it would take virtually a miracle to see it again, exactly as I had been thinking days before when I missed that first otter civet. I was acutely aware that I had been more fortunate than it is probably possible to convey, but lightning was not to strike twice and everyone would suffer some disappointment on a tour that always promised just slightly more than it ultimately delivered. In some respects this ill fortune followed me to Singapore, where I was hoping to establish at least a likely site for Sunda pangolin, as there had been several views of these critically endangered creatures at two different locations during the previous few months and I had put some time aside to check how reliable both might prove to be. The answer was sadly not that reliable, as I had no success at either destination and two local rangers informed me that poaching remains a significant problem in Singapore, as elsewhere of course, particularly where these globally threatened animals are concerned. Hundreds of thousands of pangolins are killed each year throughout both Asia and Africa, principally for their scales, which are used to absolutely no effect whatsoever in traditional Chinese medicine. Their slaughter is as senseless as it is abhorrent and I can only hope that I was just unlucky on this occasion and that these particular pangolins had not also been butchered to satisfy a

market that caters to both charlatans and simpletons in equal number. Although I did experience a few nice sightings during my brief stay in Singapore, most notably of lesser Oriental chevrotains and Sunda flying lemurs, or colugos as these bizarre creatures are commonly known, I also missed greater slow loris and smooth-coated otter and was a little sorry to end a generally exceptional year on a somewhat subdued note. My season began late this year, but in spectacular fashion with a superb tour of Morocco and Western Sahara in April. In Morocco majestic herds of scimitar-horned oryx and addax were the undoubted stars, despite the fact they have been introduced there, and further south the timeless Saharan sands revealed fennec and ruppell's fox, sand cat and, on our very last drive, an African golden wolf, once again proving that you should never, ever give up. The longest trip of the year was to the Congo



Basin in early July and featured both the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or DRC as it is usually abbreviated. This would be my final tour with James for a while and would include three great apes, western gorilla, chimpanzee and bonobo, as well as a first ever pangolin for James. Vienna was admittedly a more gentle affair, but the common hamsters were absurdly endearing and the nine mammals we saw in one of Europe's busiest cities, were all seen exceptionally well. In Jordan the Arabian oryx vied with the utterly compelling desert landscape as the main attraction, but in a way both were surpassed by our lone wolf, not least because it was so entirely unexpected. Here in Borneo my otter civet redemption clearly stands alone, again principally because it had been so unlikely, having missed this rare species just hours earlier, not to mention for the previous twenty five years or so. As you can no doubt imagine, it would normally be more or less impossible to choose one highlight from that extraordinary list, not to mention all of the other memorable encounters that I have not even touched upon, but for me one single moment did clearly stand out, sitting on the forest floor in the Congo with my son and an entire family of western gorillas. James had never seen a wild gorilla before and watching him rapt with absolute wonder, as these astonishingly gentle creatures foraged and played all around us, was probably as good as it gets for both a wildlife enthusiast and a father.





BORNEO MAMMAL LIST

No.	Species	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Marbled Cat	<i>Pardofelis marmorata</i>	Individual on a tree and then climbing down at Deramakot.
2	Sunda Leopard Cat	<i>Prionailurus javanensis</i>	Five sightings at Danum Valley and relatively common at Deramakot.
3	Yellow-throated Marten ¹	<i>Martes flavigula</i>	One during the day on the drive to our lodge on the Kinabatangan River and a second in a tree during the afternoon at Deramakot.
4	Malay Civet	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>	First observed at Tawau and regularly encountered at Danum Valley and Deramakot.
5	Otter Civet	<i>Cynogale bennettii</i>	Two sightings on the same night at Deramakot, one brief in vegetation and the second drinking in a puddle and walking at the side of the road.
6	Binturong	<i>Arctictis binturong</i>	Individual walking along a branch and then partially obscured in a tree on our final night at Deramakot.
7	Common Palm Civet+	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	First observed at night on the Kinabatangan River and routinely encountered at Deramakot.
8	Masked Palm Civet	<i>Paguma larvata</i>	Single sighting in a palm at the side of the road at Kinabalu.
9	Small-toothed Palm Civet*	<i>Arctogalidia trivirgata</i>	Observed at every destination from Danum Valley.
10	Banded Palm Civet	<i>Hemigalus derbyanus</i>	One on foot at Tawau and four more on the first two nights at Deramakot.
11	Banded Linsang ²	<i>Prionodon linsang</i>	One crossing the road and leaping into the forest on our final night drive at Kinabalu.
12	Short-tailed Mongoose ³	<i>Herpestes brachyurus</i>	One on a trail at Deramakot and almost certainly another observed on the road at the same destination.

13	Sunda Stink-badger	<i>Mydaus javanensis</i>	Two individuals on different nights at Deramakot.
14	Sambar Deer	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	An individual at Tawau and low numbers at Deramakot.
15	Bornean Yellow Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus atherodes</i>	Two pairs observed at Deramakot.
16	Southern Red Muntjac ⁴	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	A lone animal at Tawau which was almost certainly the larger of the two muntjac species based on our collective observations.
17	Lesser Oriental Chevrotain	<i>Tragulus kanchil</i>	First encountered on a morning drive at Deramakot and routinely thereafter.
18	Greater Oriental Chevrotain	<i>Tragulus napu</i>	Encountered on the Kinabatangan River and at Danum Valley and Deramakot.
19	Bearded Pig	<i>Sus barbatus</i>	Regularly observed at Deramakot, particularly on the early morning drives.
20	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	Initially a single male at Deramakot, followed by four feeding in the vegetation at the edge of the road.
21	Bornean Orangutan	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>	Just one sighting during the entire tour, a mother with young on a night drive at Deramakot.
22	Bornean Gibbon	<i>Hylobates muelleri</i>	One of the most regularly observed primates of the tour, only absent on the Kinabatangan River and at Kinabalu.
23	Maroon Langur	<i>Presbytis rubicunda</i>	Routinely encountered at every destination except Kinabalu.
24	Silvered Langur	<i>Trachypithecus cristatus</i>	Only observed from the boat on the Kinabatangan River.
25	Proboscis Monkey	<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>	Afternoon and morning sightings on the Kinabatangan River.
26	Long-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Observed at every destination excluding Kinabalu.
27	Southern Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	Initially observed on road transfers and then from the boat on the Kinabatangan River and at Deramakot.
28	Bornean Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus menagensis</i>	Initially encountered at Danum Valley and thereafter at every destination.
29	Sunda Flying Lemur	<i>Galeopterus variegatus</i>	Absent at Danum Valley and Kinabalu, but routinely encountered elsewhere.
30	Mountain Treeshrew	<i>Tupaia montana</i>	Several sightings at Kinabalu.
31	Malayan Porcupine	<i>Hystrix brachyura</i>	Single sighting at Deramakot as we returned from a night drive at around 2.20am.
32	Long-tailed Porcupine	<i>Trichys fasciculata</i>	One along the river at Tawau and another at the side of the road at Danum Valley.
33	Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel	<i>Dremomys everetti</i>	Common at Kinabalu.
34	Four-striped Ground Squirrel ⁵	<i>Lariscus hosei</i>	One individual observed at Deramakot.
35	Pale Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa affinis</i>	Encountered at Danum Valley, Deramakot and Kinabalu.
36	Ear-spot Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus adamsi</i>	First observed at Deramakot and also seen at Kinabalu.
37	Plaintain Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>	Observed at Deramakot and Kinabalu and probably elsewhere without being recorded.
38	Borneo Black-banded Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus orestes</i>	Routinely encountered at Kinabalu.
39	Prevost's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus prevostii</i>	First encountered at Tawau and seen regularly throughout the tour.
40	Brooke's Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus brookei</i>	Observed at Kinabalu.
41	Horse-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus hippurus</i>	Single sighting on a morning hike at Tawau.
42	Jentink's Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus jentinki</i>	Common at Kinabalu.
43	Least Pygmy Squirrel	<i>Exilisciurus exilis</i>	Two sightings at Danum Valley.
44	Tufted Pygmy Squirrel	<i>Exilisciurus whiteheadi</i>	Two sightings at Kinabalu.
45	Spotted Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista elegans</i>	Only encountered at the altitude of Kinabalu, where it replaces <i>Petaurista petaurista</i> .
46	Common Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>	Abundant throughout the tour and observed at every destination excluding Kinabalu.
47	Black Flying Squirrel	<i>Aeromys tephromelas</i>	Low numbers at Deramakot.
48	Thomas's Flying Squirrel	<i>Aeromys thomasi</i>	Commonly observed at every destination except Kinabalu.
49	Jentink's Flying Squirrel	<i>Hylopetes platyurus</i>	Observed on the final night drive at Kinabalu.
50	Javanese Flying Squirrel	<i>Iomys horsfieldii</i>	Solitary animal encountered at Kinabalu.

51	Temminck's Flying Squirrel	Petinomys setosus	Brief sighting moving along a tree and then an extended view of its face from its nest at Tawau Hills.
52	Hose's Pygmy Flying Squirrel	Petaurillus hosei	Single sighting at Deramakot.
53	Grey Tree Rat	Lenothrix canus	Observed around the large rubbish bin at Kinabalu.
54	Sabah Giant Rat	Leopoldamys sabanus	Common around the large rubbish bin at Kinabalu.
55	Dark-tailed Tree Rat	Niviventer cremoriventer	An adult and juvenile at Tawau Hills.
56	Long-tailed Mountain Rat	Niviventer rapit	Individual at Deramakot.
57	Polynesian Rat	Rattus exulans	Observed around the large rubbish bin at Kinabalu.
58	Malaysian Field Rat	Rattus tiomanicus	Observed around the large rubbish bin at Kinabalu.
59	Large Sunda Tree Mouse	Chiropodomys major	At least one sighting at Deramakot and identified by a photograph of its tufted tail.
60	Ranee Mouse	Haeromys margarettae	At least two encounters at Deramakot.
61	Large Flying Fox	Pteropus hypomelanus	Sightings at Danum Valley and Deramakot.

Several mammals were encountered at different times by various members of the group, but the vast majority of species were eventually seen by everyone with the exception of the specific animals listed below:

¹ *The first Yellow-throated Marten was only observed by three members of the team in the lead vehicle, including myself.*

² *Observed by four members of the team, including myself.*

³ *The individual on a trail was observed only by me and the likely other sighting was observed by two members of the group from the vehicle.*

⁴ *Observed by the three members of the group who hiked up to the accommodation at Tawau Hill, including myself.*

⁵ *Observed by me as just a flash of movement as the animal departed, but the same individual was seen well and photographed by two other members of the group.*

The two species below have been split by some sources since my last visit to Borneo in 2014, but I have chosen not to adopt these splits at this stage.

+ The Common Palm Civet (Paradoxurus hermaphrodites) that occurs on Borneo is now known as the Island Palm Civet (Paradoxurus philippinensis) in some sources.

** The Small-toothed Palm Civet (Arctogalidia trivirgata) that occurs on Borneo is now known as the Striped Palm Civet (Arctogalidia stigmatica) in some sources.*

A number of additional species were observed but not identified, including several treeshrews and rodents, a large variety of bats and a possible Bornean water shrew at Tawau Hills.

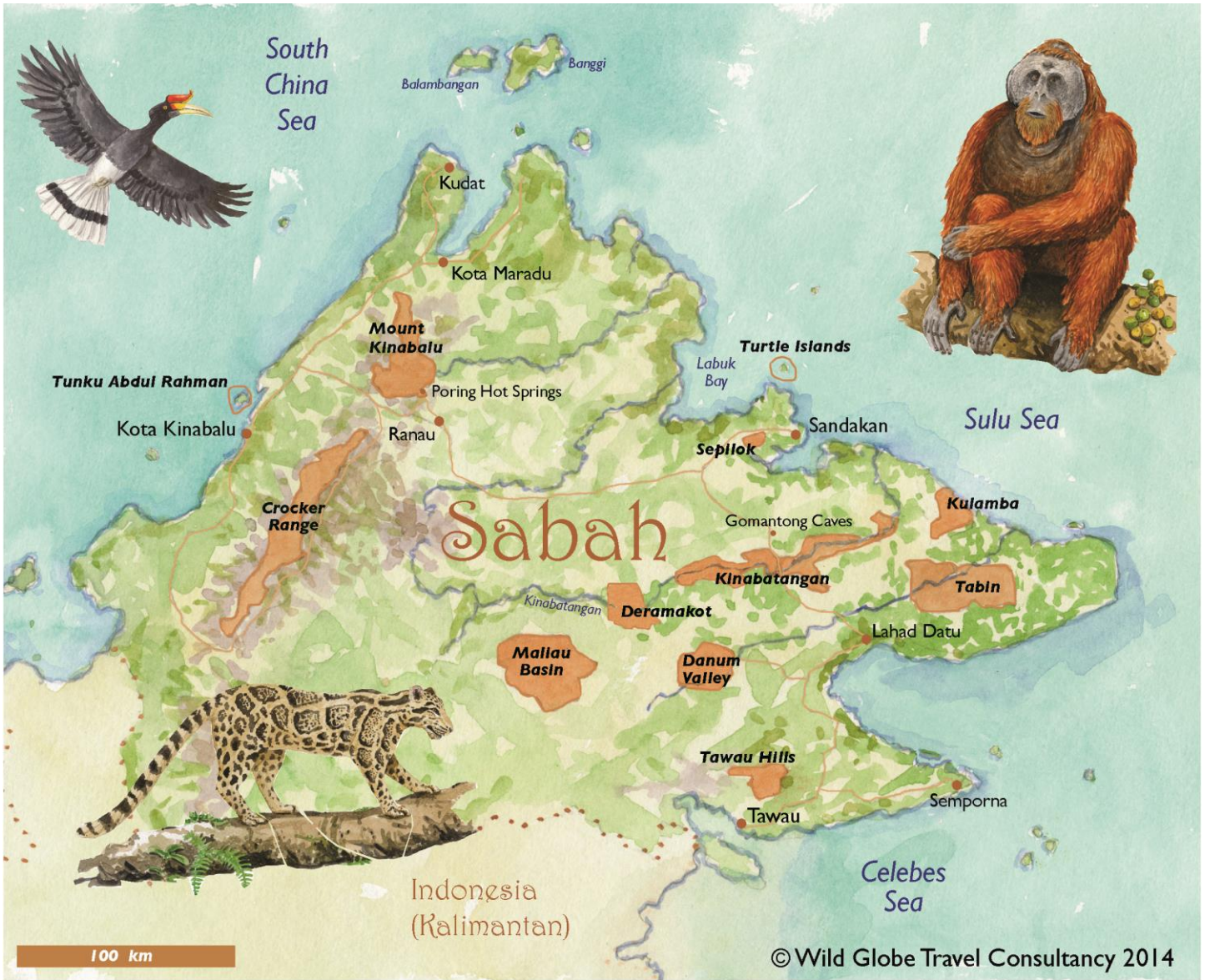


SINGAPORE MAMMAL LIST

No.	Species	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Sambar Deer	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	Individual on the third night walk.
2	Lesser Oriental Chevrotain	<i>Tragulus kanchil</i>	Almost twenty on the second and third night walks.
3	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	One small group on each of the first two night walks.
4	Long-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Commonly encountered at several of the Central Catchment reserves.
5	Sunda Flying Lemur	<i>Galeopterus variegatus</i>	Seven on the first night walk.
6	Common Treeshrew	<i>Tupaia glis</i>	A pair on the Lower Peirce Reservoir boardwalk.
7	Plaintain Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>	Abundant at the Botanic Gardens.
8	Slender Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus tenuis</i>	Observed in lower numbers at the Botanic Gardens and also on the Lower Peirce Reservoir boardwalk.







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