



Sumatra
Orangutan and Elephants

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



Itinerary

Wildlife Odyssey Sumatra • Indonesia

7 Days • 6 Nights

Bukit Lawang/Bahorok – Tangkahan – Berastagi

HIGHLIGHTS

- 🌿 Visit the incredible rainforest of Gunung Leuser.
- 🌿 Visit Orangutans at the feeding station and head out on an elephant trek.
- 🌿 Observe tropical plants and see wild animals.
- 🌿 Enjoy a river cruise.

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Wildlife Adventure
Tour Start	Bukit Lawang
Tour End	Berastagi
Accommodation	Lodges, Hotel
Included Meals	6 Breakfasts, One Lunch
Difficulty Level	Medium

Overview

A 7 day wildlife odyssey in the heart of the Sumatran rainforest. We spend a few days at an elephant sanctuary in Tangkahan before heading to Bukit Lawang and the orang-utan sanctuary and a spot of jungle camping.

A great short trip which can be tailored to suit, or simply added on as an extension to another Indonesian adventure.

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Itinerary

DAY 1: AIRPORT – MEDAN - BUKIT LAWANG/BAHOROK (-)

Upon arriving at the Airport, greet and proceed for a short Medan City Tour; the capital of the province, a commercial city visiting to the Great Mosque with its imposing tiled archway & royal burial ground and the Sultan's Palace; the ceremonial palace of the Sultans of Deli with its yellow trim and typical east coast Malay architecture with living quarters occupied by the Sultan's families. We drive to Bukit Lawang and pass through vast rubber and oil palm plantations. Bukit Lawang is one of the main access points to the incredible rainforest of Gunung Leuser; one of Indonesia's oldest national parks established in 1980 (covering an area of some 7,927 km² in northern Sumatra, straddling the border of North Sumatra & Aceh provinces) and which encompasses some of the most spectacular Montana and equatorial forest in Asia and well known as Orangutan Station or Orangutan Care Center.



It is one of Sumatera's last rainforest wildernesses and its wildlife includes most of Sumatera's

extensive range of mammals and hundreds of bird species. The area is wild and enchanting with raging rivers and stunning jungle scenery. Popular activities here include trekking, rafting and of course visiting the Orangutans at the feeding station, which was established in 1973 to assist captive Orangutan readjust to life in the wild and to preserve the decreasing number of orangutan population.

Upon arrival in Bukit Lawang, we cross the river on a hanging cable plank bridge to the hotel

Overnight in Eco Lodge Bahorok.

DAY 2: BUKIT LAWANG (B)

After breakfast at the lodge, we have a trek. (6 – 7 hours). We head to the surrounding rainforest that is located at the Eastern edge of Gunung Leuser National Park and we have the amazing opportunity to observe various tropical plants including a tangle of enormous trees, twisting lianas, palms, ferns, and weird & wonderful flowers and hopefully to see wild animals. Afterwards, leading to the feeding platform where the orangutans are fed their twice daily ratio of bananas and milk. Watch the orangutan at the feeding site. Then, following a quite steep trail through the forest down to the station of Orangutan viewing center to reach a bend in the river crossing by a cable and pulley driven dugout canoe. Then, proceed walking on a rocky path back to the hotel for accommodation. This journey optionally concludes floating on inner tube streaming down the river.

We head back to the lodge in the afternoon.

Overnight in Eco Lodge Bahorok.

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DAY 3: BUKIT LAWANG/BAHOROK – TANGKAHAN (B)

After breakfast at the lodge, by 4x4, we head to Tangkahan Rainforest (another entrance to Gunung Leuser National Park) crisscrossing the main road passing several small villages with some countryside, as well as rubber and oil palm plantations which line either side of the highway interrupted by low roofed local houses.

Upon arrival in Tangkahan by coring the river with a canoe, we will head out on a 1 hour Elephant Trek. Roughly it is a 20 minutes to a small elephant sanctuary just outside the national park and here we will meet the elephants and their mahouts that live there. The elephants come mainly from the Aceh province in the far north of Sumatra and have been rescued from illegal loggers or people who kept them as pets. As well as this eco-tourism venture that keeps local people employed and the elephant less worked, they are also used for patrols of the rainforest to help prevent illegal poaching and deforestation.

Afterwards we head back to the lodge.

Overnight at Tangkahan.

DAY 4: EXPLORE TANGKAHAN (B)

Dawn gives way to a new day as the sounds of a jungle symphony awakens you. Experience a life style that has little changed from past generations. After breakfast at the lodge, we head into the jungle of the Leuser National Park (on foot) for about 3 hours. It covers an area 9000 square kilometers heart of the Sumatran rainforests, home to many diverse and exotic species of flora and fauna. If we are lucky we can see Gibbons, Macaques, Orang Utans, Bears, etc. Then, following along the edge of a crystal clear mountain stream taking a refreshing swim to break the trek. Afterwards we have a river cruise and 'tubing' before heading back to the lodge.

Overnight in Tangkahan.

DAY 5: TANGKAHAN – BERASTAGI (B)

After breakfast at the lodge we head to Berastagi and pass through Medan, driving on the forested foothills of the Bukit Barisan where s-turns provide panoramic views to the delightfully cool and picturesque town of Berastagi through the Nature Reserve of Sibolangit (which lies on an escarpment overlooking the lowlands).

On arrival in Berastagi, proceed for accommodation.

Overnight in Berastagi

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DAY 6: BERASTAGI TOUR (B)

After breakfast at the hotel, we will tour Berastagi which offers magnificent views. We will travel back via a scenic back road across the Karo Plateau that skirts the northeastern edge of the Toba caldera to Berastagi.

Stops en-route include the Dokan village where we will see a glimpse of the way of life of the karo Batak tribe and their typical open plan housing in which eight related families live together .

We will continue, stopping at Tongging Hill located at the Northern rim of Toba basin with a nearby vantage point and enjoy a gazebo, which offers great vistas over the village at the Lake's edge & the fall known as Sipiso piso, which shoots out a cave at the edge of the plateau & plunges 120 m straight down to a small gushing stream below.

Afterwards drive up back to Berastagi, where, on arrival we visit the Fruit Market which sells a variety of fresh local fruits, flowers, vegetables & other goodies.

Then proceed to the hotel for. Free for leisure after this.

Overnight hotel.

DAY 7: BERASTAGI – AIRPORT (B)

After breakfast at the hotel at the appropriate time, we will proceed driving down the main road through to Medan. Arriving in Medan, transfer to the airport to catch the flight in the afternoon for onward destination.

Note: Berastagi – Airport : ± 3 – 3.5 hours drive

What our clients have said

A holiday to remember. We thank Pioneer and our guide! Our stay was amazing, it really is paradise island, and we would love to return one day. Would definitely recommend you to friends and family!

-Paul and Gemma

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Important Information

INCLUDED

- 🍽️ All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- 🏨 Hotels nightly accommodation with daily breakfast.
- 🏕️ Tent in the forest.
- 🗣️ English Speaking Local Guide
- 👮 Local ranger and permit for trekking to the rainforest.
- 🧳 Assistance and luggage handling at the airport.
- 🍹 Indonesian menu, mineral/plain water
- 🎫 Any available admission/entrance fees to sites of interests stated and others as disclosed in the tour programme.

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights
- Meals other than mentioned
- Airport taxes
- Donations, gratuities/tips
- Personal expenses
- Peak season surcharge (if available) and others not mentioned above.

Additional Information

ACTIVITY DURATION

7 days, some days more trekking than others – up to 6-7 hours but fairly easy level.

SEASON

May through November

BEST TIME TO GO

May through November (these are when we can arrange tailor made trips).

GROUP SIZE

2-8 pax

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium level' (roughly 2-5 hours of activities per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.