

# THE BEST OF BORNEO

JULY 23 – AUGUST 5, 2011

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*Borneo is quite rightly regarded as one of the great storehouses of our planet's incredible biological diversity. Charles Darwin called Borneo "one great, wild, untidy, luxuriant hothouse made by nature herself." What a fabulous summation of this remarkable place! It succinctly conjures an image of a Henri Rousseau jungle painting. In reality, much of the rich and verdant rainforest of Borneo has been lost forever, given up to our greed for fuel and comfort. This third largest island in the world is rapidly being taken over by oil palm plantations and timber companies. The Malaysian state of Sabah in the north harbors the largest remaining tracts of lowland and montane rainforest in Borneo. From here the towering spinal mountain range dominated by Mount Kinabalu emanates, and the teeming, complex rainforests still fan out below them to the lowlands and ultimately to the coast. The wildlife of this remarkable island is incomparable. With a host of enticing birds (including 48 endemics), a charismatic mammal fauna, many strange and unusual reptiles and the largest collection of carnivorous pitcher plants, it's not surprising that naturalists are irresistibly drawn to the island.*

*This shorter, condensed sojourn in Borneo is really a "Greatest Hits" tour. We visit the three major birding and wildlife sites—Mount Kinabalu, the Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley. Mount Kinabalu is one of those truly memorable mountains that seem to burst from the ground. It dominates the west coast and is pivotal to the identity of the local people. The cool montane forests on the slopes of Kinabalu and the surrounding Crocker Ranges are home to most of Borneo's endemic species. By contrast, the meandering passage of the lazy Kinabatangan River feeds the low-lying swamp forests that harbor rambunctious troops of the unlikely proboscis monkey, herds of gentle Bornean elephants and a vast array of wonderful birds, including eight species of hornbill and the strange Bornean Bristlehead. Our chances of seeing the amazing red ape, truly wild orangutan are high here. To complete the picture, we travel to the remote Danum Valley—one of the largest remaining stands of primary forest in Borneo, where luxuriant forests host a dazzling cast of pittas, babblers, trogons, barbets, broadbills and many, many other mouth-watering goodies!*

**July 23-24, Days 1-2: Arrive in Kota Kinabalu.** Most flights from the United States arrive into Kota Kinabalu late in the evening or in the very early morning hours. Please plan to arrive on July 24th as this will be your first night of hotel stay in Borneo. We recommend flying in a day early due to misconnects and weather related flight delays this time of year. Upon arrival at the airport, you will be met by a representative of our ground agent and escorted to our hotel. **The group will assemble at 7:00 p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> in the hotel lobby area for a get-acquainted dinner.**

NIGHT: Hyatt Regency Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu

**July 25, Day 3: Travel to Mount Kinabalu via Crocker Range National Park.** This morning we depart Sabah's capital city, usually known locally as "KK," and almost immediately find ourselves climbing in altitude as we head toward the Crocker Ranges and the impressive massif of Mount Kinabalu.

The area of the Crocker Range National Park we pass through is at a slightly lower altitude to Mount Kinabalu and a good area to locate a handful of endemics and other specialties that are difficult to find at Kinabalu. With a bit of luck we may encounter the diminutive Pygmy White-eye in addition to Mountain Barbet and the rather uncommon but attractive Bornean Barbet. If fortunate, we may also see the peculiar Whitehead's Spiderhunter and monotypic Mountain Blackeye. In addition, if we are very lucky we may also see a *Rafflesia* in flower. Some of the other birds we may encounter include Jerdon's Baza, Mountain Imperial-Pigeon, Ruddy and Little cuckoo-doves, Gold-whiskered Barbet, Bornean Leafbird, Pale-faced Bulbul, Orange-headed Thrush (uncommon), and the flaming Temminck's Sunbird.

NIGHT: The Cottage Hotel, Mount Kinabalu

**July 26-27, Days 4-5: Birding in Mount Kinabalu National Park.** Mount Kinabalu is so central to the identity of Sabahans that it is featured prominently on the state flag and is the subject of innumerable folkloric tales. It is also the key to Borneo's incredible biodiversity, for it's here in these mountain ranges that most of Borneo's endemics evolved. Birding in this cool climate and verdant forests is a real pleasure as we stroll the trails and road in search of a host of goodies including Bornean Whistling-Thrush; Bornean Whistler; Mountain Serpent-Eagle; the rather elusive Whitehead's Trogon; Golden-naped Barbet; Checker-throated and Maroon woodpeckers; the fabulous Whitehead's Broadbill; Sunda Cuckoo-shrike; Gray-throated Minivet; Ashy and Hair-crested drongos; Black-and-crimson Oriole; Short-tailed Green Magpie; Bornean Treepie; the delightful Mountain Wren-Babbler; Gray-throated Babbler; Sunda, Chestnut-capped and Bare-headed laughingthrushes; White-browed Shrike-Babbler; large flocks of Chestnut-crested Yuhina; Mountain Leaf and Yellow-breasted warblers; Mountain Tailorbird; Sunda Bush-Warbler; White-throated Fantail; the endemic Eye-browed Flycatcher; plus Indigo, Snowy-browed and Little Pied flycatchers; Bornean Whistler; Black-sided Flowerpecker; and Black-capped White-eye. There is always the possibility we could encounter some of Kinabalu's more elusive species such as Red-breasted and Crimson-headed partridges, Fruithunter, Everett's Thrush and Bornean Stubtail. If time permits, we will walk to higher elevations where we may find Island Thrush and Kinabalu Friendly-Warbler.

NIGHT: The Cottage Hotel, Mount Kinabalu

**July 28, Day 6: Return to Kota Kinabalu; Fly to Sandakan; Afternoon at the Rainforest Discovery Centre.** After some final early morning birding (we will not be done with the birding yet!) we take the fairly short drive back to KK from where we'll take our one hour flight over to Sandakan on the other side of the north coast. This afternoon and tomorrow morning we'll have time to explore the forests of Sepilok in search of some very special birds, including Rufous-collared Kingfisher and Bornean Bristlehead. The views of the forest and the birds from the canopy walkway are simply fantastic!

NIGHT: Sepilok Nature Resort, Sepilok

**July 29-30, Days 7-8: Morning at RDC; Travel to Sukau by Boat; Birding on the Kinabatangan River and Gomantong Cave.** We'll head down to the dock in Sandakan Bay and take a fast boat out of the bay and through mangroves and nipa palm forest up the Kinabatangan River, Sabah's longest, stopping to bird and look at the troops of endearing proboscis monkeys and, with a little bit of luck, an orangutan or two. There's a good chance of some excellent birds such as Gray-headed Fish-Eagle, Oriental Darter, Wallace's Hawk-Eagle, Rhinoceros Hornbill (always a big hit!), Stork-billed Kingfisher, and maybe even soaring Lesser Adjutants or, even better, Storm's Stork. We have two days to explore this fascinating area with its wide central river and many narrower, meandering tributaries. These forests are simply full of kingfishers, hornbills, broadbills, bulbuls and many others. Large troops of proboscis monkeys, maroon leaf-monkeys and long-tailed macaques conspire to keep us entertained. There are many, many birds to look for here, but of particular note are the special ones such as Lesser Fish-Eagle, White-fronted Falconet, Bornean Ground-Cuckoo, Scarlet-rumped

Trogon, Hooded Pitta, the bizarre and highly anticipated Bornean Bristlehead (which belongs to a monotypic family), and many species of kingfisher and woodpecker. This is one of the best places for Bornean pygmy elephant and with luck we might come across a large herd of 50 or more cavorting in the river. One afternoon we'll drive to nearby Gomantong Cave, a huge limestone cavern that is home to literally millions of swiftlets and bats. The nests have been collected sustainably for the food industry in China for hundreds of years and it's quite a spectacle to witness the emergence of staggering numbers of swiftlets at dusk, especially when they are being pursued by Bat Hawks and Peregrine Falcons!

NIGHT: Sukau Rainforest Lodge, Sukau

**July 31, Day 9: Travel Overland to Danum Valley.** After a final morning boat trip, we'll head back down the river to meet our vehicle waiting to transport us to the famed Danum Valley in Borneo's heartland. There is no doubt that Danum Valley represents one of the most important, not to mention, exciting nature reserves in Asia. It is simply brimming with luxuriant forest and amazing wildlife, although as with most lowland tropical rainforests, finding some of this elusive wildlife can be a challenge! En route to our lodge there is a chance of some good birding, too. We will spend the next four nights at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, located on a bend in the Segama River, where the nights are cool and there is a notable absence of biting insects! This is definitely one of the most delightful lodges in Asia or anywhere for that matter, and there is the added bonus of some great wildlife viewing opportunities right on our doorstep.

NIGHT: Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley

**August 1-3, Days 10-12: Birding in Danum Valley.** We will need every day here to find and enjoy the amazing array of birds in this wonderful area. We'll spend much of our time birding along the quiet entrance road to the lodge, as well as entering the rainforest on the well-maintained trails in search of more elusive ground dwellers.

The list of birds we'll be searching for is impressive and exciting. There is a chance of all sorts of exciting species including Bat Hawk; Jerdon's Baza; Crested Goshawk; White-fronted Falconet; Crested Wood-Partridge; Crested Fireback; Great Argus; Pink-necked, Thick-billed, Little, and Large green-pigeons; Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot; the rare Moustached and Malaysian hawk-cuckoos; Indian, Violet, Drongo, Rusty-breasted, and Banded Bay cuckoos; five species of malkoha; spectacular Diard's, Scarlet-rumped and Red-naped trogons; deep forest dwelling Black-backed Dwarf and Rufous-collared kingfishers; Red-bearded Bee-eater; White-crowned, Wrinkled, Wreathed, Malaysian Black, Rhinoceros and the totally bizarre Helmeted hornbills; Gold-whiskered, Red-throated, Blue-eared, and Brown barbets; Rufous Piculet; Banded, Crimson-winged, Olive-backed, White-bellied, Buff-rumped, Buff-necked, Maroon, and Orange-backed woodpeckers; Blue-headed and Black-and-crimson pittas – two of the most beautiful members of this notoriously difficult to see family; Banded, Green, Black-and-Yellow, and Dusky broadbills; Fiery and Scarlet minivets; Spectacled, Hairy-backed, Cream-vented, Buff-vented, Streaked, and perhaps Finsch's bulbuls; Greater Racket-tailed Drongo; Dark-throated Oriole; Black-capped, Short-tailed, White-chested, Ferruginous, Horsfield's, Moustached, Sooty-capped, Gray-headed, Black-throated, and Chestnut-winged babblers; Striped and the endemic Black-throated wren-babblers (Danum Valley is babbler-lover's heaven!); Asian Fairy-Bluebird; the shy Crested Jay; Black Magpie; Large-billed and Bornean blue-flycatchers; Gray-breasted Jungle-Flycatcher; Hill Myna; Red-throated, Purple-naped, and Crimson sunbirds; Little, Bornean, the nectarivorous (not arachnivorous) Streaky-breasted, Yellow-eared, and Long-billed spiderhunters; Scarlet-breasted, Scarlet-backed, Yellow-rumped, Yellow-breasted, and Orange-bellied flowerpeckers; and the endemic Dusky Munia.

We will also make a special effort to find some of Borneo's most elusive specialties such as Chestnut-necklaced Partridge, the spectacular endemic Bornean Ground-Cuckoo, Bay Owl, Large Frogmouth, Giant Pitta and Blue-banded Pitta (both rare and elusive), Bornean Wren-Babbler, and with a bit of luck, the incomparable Bornean Bristlehead.

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On at least one evening we will take an extended night safari from the lodge along the entrance road in search of mammals and nightbirds. We usually encounter Malay civet, sambar deer, giant red flying squirrel, mouse deer and Buffy Fish-Owl, but there is always of possibility of some scarcer critters such as the unlikely-looking Malay colugo, Bornean tarsier, banded linsang, Gould's and Large frogmouths, Brown Wood-Owl, and Bornean pygmy elephants are sometimes seen.

NIGHT: Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley

**August 4, Day 13: Morning Birding in Danum Valley; Afternoon Flight to Kota Kinabalu.** This morning we'll cap off our birding at Danum Valley with an early morning stroll along the road and hopefully something incredibly rare and exciting! We'll then drive back out through the forest and logging concession and eventually back to so-called civilization for our short flight back to KK. This evening we'll enjoy a farewell dinner together at a famous local restaurant, where we'll reflect on a fabulous trip to one of the world's greatest birding destinations!

NIGHT: Hyatt Regency Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu

**August 5, Day 14: Depart Kota Kinabalu.** Please schedule your flight home for any time today.

**EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS:** Should you wish to make arrangements to extend your stay or arrive early, please contact the VENT office at least **four months** prior to your departure date. These arrangements may range from an extra night at the initial hotel of the tour to a week or more extension including accommodations and transfers. We can very easily make hotel arrangements and often at our group rate, if we receive your request with enough advance time.

**TOUR LEADER:** David Bishop

**David Bishop** loves his vocation and cannot imagine anything better than exploring wild and beautiful places in Asia and the Pacific in the company of friends and clients. He has spent much of the past 35 years studying the birds and natural history of the Oriental region, in addition to New Guinea, the Southwest Pacific, and most recently Central Asia. David was once a police officer amid the streets of London's West End, but has emerged as an acknowledged authority on the birds of these exotic regions. His enthusiasm for these places and their birds is contagious. This, along with his skills in locating wildlife, sharing what he sees with others, and conversing with local people in their native language, ensures you the very finest quality tour. David has undertaken a number of expeditions to survey the birds and other wildlife of previously unexplored regions throughout New Guinea (largely together with Jared Diamond) and the Oriental Region. This has resulted in a number of exciting discoveries and rediscoveries including the incomparable Wallace's Standardwing, a bizarre bird-of-paradise. Some of the results of this work, together with observations gained during the VENT tours he leads, have been published in the scientific and semi-popular literature to which David is a regular contributor. In July 1997, David, together with Brian Coates, published *A Guide to the Birds of Wallacea (Sulawesi, the Moluccas, and Lesser Sundas)*, and David is currently working on other book projects. David lives with his wife and daughter (his son currently resides in England), a koala or two, and a mob of kangaroos on a lovely wooded property on the outskirts of the university town of Armidale, NSW, Australia. David is an avid photographer and his images can increasingly be seen in the pages of wildlife publications.

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour will be limited to 8 participants.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The fee for the tour is **\$6595** per person in double occupancy from Kota Kinabalu. This includes all meals beginning with dinner on Day 2 to dinner on Day 13, lodging during the tour, all internal transportation during the tour, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. The tour fee does not include round trip flights to Kota Kinabalu, airport departure taxes, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs. If the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small party supplement may have to be charged.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$630**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations or if you prefer to share, but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you. Please note that singles are limited at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge and you may be asked to share. If so, you will be credited appropriately. We will do our best to accommodate you, but singles are not guaranteed at this location.

**FUEL SURCHARGES:** In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of a tour departure. Prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While VENT will do everything possible to maintain the original price of the tour, if fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to implement a fuel surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In most cases, these additional fuel costs are being passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers who reserve the right, in their agreements to provide services for VENT, to raise their prices due to significant changes in fuel costs.

**EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES:** Again, in the uncertain, often volatile global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges are being passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$500** per person. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date: March 25, 2011.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellation penalties and refunds are based on the following schedule: if cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of **\$250** per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be **\$100** per person. If cancellation is made fewer than 120 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions. ***We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.***

<u>If you cancel:</u>	<u>Your refund will be:</u>
120 days or more before departure date	Your deposit minus \$250*
Fewer than 120 days before departure date	No refund available

\*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$100 per person.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE:** A brochure and application form for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. **We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance as soon as possible to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. VENT recommends Travel Insured International as our preferred insurance provider.** Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering.** Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as work-related cancellation, medical upgrade, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” clause among others. **Contact Travel Insured International prior to registration for details.** Not all insurance providers provide the same levels of coverage. If you purchase insurance through a company other than Travel Insured International, please be advised that rules and stipulations may be different.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Please read your itinerary carefully to see whether or not your tour/cruise requires MANDATORY Medical Insurance which covers you for emergency evacuation/repatriation during the trip.**

This coverage is included in the Worldwide Trip Protector plan offered by Travel Insured International. If you do not choose to purchase the insurance through Travel Insured International, you will need to do so through another insurance provider. A good website for information and acquisition of emergency evacuation/repatriation insurance is: [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com).

**Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.**

**AIR INFORMATION:** Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

**CLIMATE:** Most of our time will be spent in tropical lowland and montane forest. The lowlands are generally hot and humid except during the early morning and at night. However, much of the time we spend in the lowlands will be in the shade of the forest. On Mt. Kinabalu it can be quite cool, and night-time temperatures can fall below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. We will most certainly encounter some rain.

**CLOTHING:** Remember that dark-browns, dark-blues and dark-greens are less likely to startle birds and mammals. Please, try to avoid bright colors. Bring light-weight and predominantly cotton or new 'nylon' field clothing; a warm sweater; a hat with a good brim to keep the sun off while you are seated in a boat; a waterproof poncho, jacket or the like; a small collapsible umbrella (**essential**); and comfortable boots with rugged soles – tennis shoes are NOT sufficient for this trip AND some people may like to consider lugging rubber boots with them. The trails can be muddy sometimes and they do help to repel leeches. Even flat trails can become slippery when wet. You should also have relatively thick socks to cushion your feet during long walks. Smart casual dress is fine for bigger hotels at the Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan hotels. LEECH socks are very useful at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge and can be obtained there or from our ground-agents, Borneo Eco Tours.

**CURRENCY:** The Malaysian Ringgit (MYR) is often referred to as the Malaysian Dollar. Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club and American Express are widely accepted throughout Malaysia.

**DOCUMENTS:** A passport valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure is required for United States citizens to enter Malaysia. Visas are not required; a tourist visa will be issued upon arrival. Non-U.S. citizens should check with their consulate/embassy for instructions.

**EQUIPMENT:** You should pack a pair of binoculars (in your hand-luggage) that are in good repair along with a belt or day pack (good for carrying books, sunscreen, extra digital storage media, etc.). Your leader will have a LEICA spotting scope, but if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so (**we encourage you to do so**). Other items to bring should include a flashlight or headlamp, water bottle or small canteen, alarm clock, sunglasses and suntan lotion. It is wise to carry several copies of a list of your expensive equipment for customs inspectors. This list should include a description of the object, including the serial number if possible, the place of purchase and the price. Visitors to Malaysia are rarely challenged about such equipment unless there appears to be an inordinate amount of it.

**HEALTH:** Kota Kinabalu and other major Malaysian cities are generally free from most diseases associated with tropical areas. Tap water from the municipal water systems is considered safe. In smaller towns and rural areas, assume the water is unsafe and stick with bottled or boiled drinks. Bottled water is provided throughout the tour. Sanitation throughout Malaysia is very good compared to most tropical areas of the world. Most hot, freshly cooked food is quite safe; peeled fresh fruit and raw vegetables are washed in clean water and quite safe to eat in the

restaurants we use. Be sure to bring all necessary prescription drugs, as well as aspirin, antacids, and a supply of antihistamines should you develop a cold.

No vaccinations are required; however, cholera, typhoid and tetanus should be current. Gamma globulin may be taken to prevent hepatitis. Malaria is present but very rare, including the chloroquine-resistant strain. There are several options for malaria prophylaxis including Mefloquine (Lariam), Malarone, and Doxycycline. These medications are available by prescription only. Please consult your physician or local travel clinic for recommendations.

Insects such as mosquitoes, sand-flies and leeches can be a problem. This is best dealt with by wearing long-sleeved shirts of sufficient thickness and density of weave that the “bugs” cannot bite through, and long trousers tucked into long socks. We also recommend *CUTTER'S LOTION* in the squeeze bottle or pump-style *OFF*.

If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medications in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. Airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, so please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication. As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO. You can also check the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html) (click on travel health).

**LUGGAGE:** One or two small duffel bags can be extremely useful for short trips, and can be packed within your luggage when not in use. As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars (always), a change of clothing, toiletry items, medications, and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Electricity - 220 volts, 50 cycles

Language - Malaysian, English, and Chinese languages.

Time - 12½ to 13 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time

**SUGGESTED READING:** Our website at [www.ventbird.com](http://www.ventbird.com) offers an affiliated online store that carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from the store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You might also want to visit such other online stores as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com) or [www.buteobooks.com](http://www.buteobooks.com), which specializes in ornithology books. We also recommend Andrew Isles books for the Asia-Pacific region at <http://www.andrewisles.com/AndrewIsles/> for difficult to find and out of print books.

Alexander, J, Eliot, J. and D. Gardner. *Footprint Borneo*. Footprintbooks, Bristo, UK. 2006.

Beebe, W. *Pheasant Jungles*. New York, 1927. A wonderful account of this naturalist's travels collecting data for this fine book on the pheasants.

Cambon, M., Harper, D., Richmond, S. & R. Watkins. *Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei*. Lonely Planet, Melbourne, Australia. 2004. An excellent introductory guide to this fascinating region.

Caulfield, C. *In the Rainforest*. London: Heinemann, 1984. An exceptionally accurate and insightful account of who is doing what to our rainforests—and the repercussions.

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- Chapman, F.S. *The Jungle is Neutral*. London: Corgi books, 1949. The classic on jungle warfare during World War II in Malaysia.
- Earl of Cranbrook (editor). *Malaysia*. Key Environment Series. Oxford: Pergamon Press in collaboration with I.U.C.N., 1986.
- Fauconnier, H. *The Soul of Malaya*. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 1965. A powerful invocation of the seduction of Malaysia.
- Hoi-Sen, Y. *Malaysian Butterflies: An Introduction*. Kuala Lumpur: Tropical Press, 1987.
- Hoi-Sen, Y. *Magnificent Plants*. Malaysia: Tropical Press, 1981.
- Luping, D.M., Wen, C.L. and E.R. Dingley (editors). *Kinabalu Summit of Borneo*. Sabah Society Monograph. Kota Kinabalu: Sabah Society, 1978. A superb, detailed account of the Kinabalu National Park.
- MacKinnon, J. *Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. This field guide illustrates and describes all the species you will encounter on Borneo and 96% of those you will encounter on the Malay Peninsula.
- MacKinnon, J. *In Search of the Red Ape*. London: Collins, 1974.
- McNeely, J. and P. S. Wachtel. *Soul of the Tiger*, 1988. An exceptional book, quite unlike anything else written. Put together by two international conservationists who know the people and nature of the Orient as well as any.
- Myers, S. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo: Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei and Kalimantan*. 2009. New Holland Publishers: London. **This is, of course, the only choice!**
- Otsuka, K. *A Field Guide to Butterflies of Borneo and South-east Asia*. Hornbill Books. Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. 2001. A fine photographic guide to the 200 most commonly encountered butterflies in Borneo.
- Payne, J. et al. *The Mammals of Borneo*. Kuala Lumpur: The Sabah Society with the W.W.F., 1985. – **This is a superb field guide and one we heartily recommend, especially as we typically see 35-40 species of mammals on our Borneo tour.**
- Polunin, I. *Plants and Flowers of Malaysia*. Singapore: Times Editions, 1988.
- Richards, P.W. *The Tropical Rain Forest*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.
- Rubeli, K. *Tropical Rain Forest in South-East Asia: A Pictorial Journey*. Malaysia: Tropical Press, 1987.
- Ryan, N.J. *A History of Malaysia and Singapore*. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 1976.
- Smythies, B.E. and G.W.H. Davison *The Birds of Borneo*. Natural History Publications (Borneo). Kota Kinabalu. 1999. This superb new book is really too heavy to carry on tour; however, it is an essential read for anyone with an interest in Bornean birds. This majorly revised edition is a huge improvement over the previous edition and contains a great deal of new and interesting information.
- Wallace, A.R. *The Malay Archipelago*. Revised edition. New York: Dover Publications, 1962.
- Whitmore, T.C. *Tropical Rain Forests of the Far East*. London: Oxford University Press, 1984.

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**TIPPING:** Tipping (restaurants, porters, drivers, and local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are not expected and are entirely optional.

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