



BATU KAPAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM – VOLUNTEER OUTLINE

Join us on a 1 to 8 week jungle adventure to help protect the endangered wild Sumatran Orang-Utan and other animals occurring in this biodiversity hotspot in one of the oldest and most beautiful rainforests in the world!

We are a community based conservation program, run by a group of dedicated local people who are passionate about nature and the environment and who want to protect the animals and rain forest where they live. If you are looking for a hands on conservation project where you can monitor wild life, replant the rain forest, help with recycling and up-cycling plastics projects and community based environment educational projects to protect the jungle and really make a difference to the communities you will be working with, please come and join us!

You will find our conservation project site at the Batu Kapal Conservation Sanctuary in the heart of the jungle on the tranquil Landak River, overlooking the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Gunung Leuser National Park. The conservation project is 20 minutes by motor bike or a 1 hour walk from the Bukit Lawang village, ensuring you will feel a world away from the hustle and bustle of village life, as soon as you arrive in this hidden Sumatran jungle paradise. We are surrounded by nature and geological formations, with frequent visits from the local population of wild orangutans and sightings of porcupines and civet cats. We have resident wild populations of thomas leaf monkeys, silver monkeys, macaques, water monitors, geckos and slow loris on the property as well as many birds, butterflies, dragon flies, frogs and insects.

Program Highlights

- Immerse yourself in the jungle. Wake to the sounds of gibbons calling every morning!
- Be amazed by the abundance of wildlife in this rare and beautiful Biolink area adjoining the Gunung Leuser national park.
- Make memories and friendships that last a life time.
- Immerse yourself in the local culture. Meet the locals, they will make you will feel like one of their family!
- Explore the jungle, rivers, markets and surrounding villages in your free time.

Project Aim

The project aim is to protect and conserve the rare and endangered orangutan and the native fauna and flora that occurs in this Wildlife Biolink buffer zone on private lands that adjoins the Gunung Leuser NP in North Sumatra.

Batu Kapal Conservation Program goals are:

1. To survey, map and monitor the area, habitats and animals with GPS.
2. To identify existing private landholdings, their primary land use and the extant native vegetation.
3. To map orangutan habitation, large tree corridors and food forage areas. To map known orangutan and primate movement pathways with GPS.
4. To develop a full species list for fauna and flora. To identify the ecosystem service provided by each subject. With a view to developing a better understanding of what is missing. To establish recovery programmes for threatened and vulnerable species.
5. Create wildlife corridors to reconnect orangutan and animal habitats between the national park and the nature buffer zone on private lands as per the project plan
6. Develop best practice agriculture and ecotourism activities which have minimum impact on the surrounding environment

Specific conservation activities include:

- observe, map, monitor, survey, photograph and GPS record habitats, large corridor trees, flora and fauna in the Batu Kapal conservation project area, including orang-utans, slow loris, other animals and birds
- develop a species list of fauna and flora
- create wildlife corridors to reconnect orangutan & animal habitats to GLNP through tree and bamboo plantings and establishing rope bridge crossings
- locating and recording areas with wild orang-utans and populations of other animals
- identifying, GPS recording and monitoring orang-utans and other primates daily activity pattern, including migration paths and feeding, resting and travelling patterns
- dusk and dawn slow loris, civet cat and porcupine walks by spot light to gps, photograph and record sightings
- gps, record and map every ficus, trembesi and pakam tree in the area and record when fruiting, as these are important trees for orangutans and map them on google earth pro
- gps all orangutan nests in the area and map them on google earth pro
- identify individual orangutans, taking photos of individual orangutans for records
- identifying and GPS mapping new points of interest in the Batu Kapal Conservation area
- preparing, consolidating and analysing point of interest data sheets on excel spreadsheet data base
- assist with cleaning and rubbish removal on trails, in the conservation site and along the river once a week.
- maintaining work at the base
- volunteers are responsible for cleaning and maintaining their volunteer dormitory and bathroom, helping with the cooking for volunteer meals and washing dishes.

About the Project

Working at Batu Kapal Conservation Sanctuary, you will be contributing to the protection of the endangered Orang-utan and stunning rainforest ecosystem occurring in the national park buffer zone occurring on private landholdings.

Sumatra represent the last remaining natural habitat for Orang-utans in Indonesia. the Sumatran Orang-utan is now classified as critically endangered.

Forest cover in Sumatra was reduced by 61% from 1985-1997 due to logging, infrastructure development, internal migration, and plantation development. The Sumatran Orang-utan population has decreased by 86% over the past 100 years. The most recent estimate places the figure around 7,300 left in the wild, with steady losses occurring every year.

Your Itinerary

Day 1: Introduction Day!

You will fly into Medan (KNO) airport, Sumatra, to begin your jungle adventure at the Batu Kapal conservation project site! It is a 4 hour drive to the project site from the Medan Airport. You can either travel by public bus or we can arrange a private car transfer from the airport to the project site (\$60 US or 750.000 IDR one way car transfer)

On arrival at the project site you will be given an introduction and orientation to the programme and the intended daily schedule.

From Day 2 onwards - A typical day

A typical days volunteering activities is flexible and can be made up of a combination of our environmental and educational volunteer activities. A suggested itinerary which combines both is outlined below:

6.30 Optional early morning wildlife monitoring, gps, photograph and record sightings. This is often the time of the day the animals are most active!

8.00 am Help with the preparation of your breakfast

9.00 am Start morning activities with volunteer conservation wildlife monitoring and biolink project (See specific conservation activities listed above)

12.00 pm Help with preparation of Lunch

1 to 3pm – rest time or optional activities for you to choose from

- Data entry of monitoring sheets and orangutan profiles
- Plastics projects - litter pickup, making ecobricks, plastic craft projects
- Plant nursery activities, tending to plant nursery, seedling collection, planting trees, making bamboo tree guards
- Assist with social media for the conservation project
- Helping out in the garden and veggie patch
- Assist with English lesson plan for Selang Pangeran Jungle School English Lessons.
- Optional Jungle art. Get your inspiration from the jungle, drawing landscapes, mountains, river, animals, jungle scenery. Pencils and art paper provided.
- River stone sculptures. Stacking and making pebble towers along side the river.
- Learn some Indonesian language with our team
- Take time out to relax, explore or cool off in the Landak river

3pm to 5pm. Afternoon activities

Continue with conservation program environmental monitoring, surveying and establishing wildlife corridor activities (see detailed conservation program)

Optional afternoon programs for you to choose from

- Plastics projects - litter pickup, making ecobricks, plastic craft projects
- Plant nursery activities, seedling collection, planting trees, making bamboo tree guards
- Mondays to Wednesdays. Assist at Selang Pangeran Jungle School and Sunshine Class English Lessons. 1pm-3pm preparation of the days English lesson plans. 3.00 – 5.00 pm help teach English to our school children. (motor bike transfer to/from 75.000 IDR each way). Pack for a purpose school supplies donation appreciated.
- Fridays visit traditional rubber, fruit and vegetable market (you can walk or motor bike transfer is 50.000 IDR one way)

5.30 pm help with preparation of dinner.

6.30 Dinner

7.30-10.30 Optional night walk to spot Slow Loris, civet cat, leopard cat or porcupine, gps, photograph and record sightings on some evenings, once or twice a week.

Other optional evening activities can include relaxing and playing cards and games, guitar and campfire on some evenings and our Indonesian/English exchange with the team.

Each evening volunteers have an opportunity to share their experiences for that day and plan for the next days activities.

Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, Day 5, Day 6 etc

Orangutan Habitat Restoration

The base for your volunteering placement is the Batu Kapal Conservation Project site is in the wildlife buffer zone on private landholdings adjacent to the national park, just 20 minutes by motor bike into the jungle from Bukit Lawang, the closest village before entering the conservation sanctuary.

The Gunung Leuser area and surrounds has one of the most concentrated population of Orang-utan in the Southern hemisphere. However deforestation and encroachment of their habitat has destroyed their environment and displaced them from the natural forest to the private landholdings in this conservation project area bordering on the national park.

During your volunteer placement you will be monitoring and recording the rare animals and plants of Sumatra first hand! Activities include:

Wildlife Biolink Corridor Program

1. **Nursery Activities** – Establishing and maintaining a tree and plant nursery is an important component for the creation, restoration and maintenance of the Wildlife Biolink Corridor Project. You will be collecting seedlings, seeds and fruits for nursery, and also learn how to prepare and cultivate tree saplings or seeds in the nursery
2. **Planting and Establishing Wildlife Biolink Corridors** - Through this activity you will gain an understand as well as directly be involved in enrichment tree planting to create wildlife corridor needed by wildlife including critically endangered Sumatran orangutan and other primates and animals.
3. **Tree Maintenance** - Maintaining trees in the biolink and conservation area is a crucial part of wildlife corridor program, to ensure a higher survival rate of planted trees.
4. **Accelerated Natural Regeneration Methods** - Besides planting trees, we also encourage natural regeneration as a part of restoration method.

Batu Kapal Orangutan and Primate Program

Working in small groups within the project area, your activities will include monitoring the isolated population of wild Orangutans and other animals occurring in isolated rainforest fragments on private lands at Batu Kapal, abutted by palm oil, rubber plantations and farm land.

The longer term aim is to develop and conduct an environmental education program in schools and the community living adjacent to this wildlife biolink.

Please note we have a strict no human contact or feeding policy of wild animals. Our aim is to keep wild animals wild through the protection and reforestation of their habitat!

Animal Surveying, Monitoring and Data Collection Program

As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to monitor, survey, record and track movements of some of the forest's most elusive wildlife! Activities include:

Conducting animal and bird monitoring and surveys

- Locating, observing, identifying, monitoring, photographing and GPS recording areas with wild populations of orang-utans and the other animals and birds occurring in the Batu Kapal conservation project area and at specified GPS points of interest in the program
- Continuing with GPS mapping of the project site and identifying and GPS recording new points of interest in the Batu Kapal Conservation area
- Survey, GPS, photograph and collect data of sightings of Orang-Utan's Nests
- identifying, GPS recording and monitoring orang-utans and other primates daily activity pattern, including migration paths and feeding, resting and travelling patterns,
- taking samples of fruit trails to analyze the orangutan's and other primates food in the specific area

Biodiversity identification

- Learning to identify tree species
- Insect identification (eg butterflies, dragon flies etc).
- Keeping a photographic record of animal and bird sightings, as well as plants identified
- Compiling, identifying and analysing data collected

ROAR COMMUNITY PROJECT – (Recycle or Activity Reduce)

One of the biggest problems experienced by the local community is the use and disposal of single use plastics. The ROAR program was established to assist the community in tackling this issue. Activities on the ROAR project include:

- Helping with recycling project and sorting at the conservation site and at the local guesthouse
- Helping at the project site with composting to produce organic compost and fertiliser
- Helping plant and weed and harvest edible garden, fruits and vegetables
- Weekly cleanup along the river, in the conservation site and the jungle for any rubbish.
- Reducing plastic waste through the ROAR program. Stage one – zero plastic bottles project
- Leading by example – help set up demonstration areas on the project site to assist with the education of the community and local farmers (ie signage and information on projects)

Upcycling Plastics Projects.

- Assist with cleaning and rubbish removal on trails, in the conservation site and along the river once a week.
- Making Eco bricks from single use plastic bottles and plastic bags from litter pickups.
- Set up the eco brick bins with signage about the program in tourist areas to reduce littering
- Building rubbish collection bins, fences and buildings out of eco bricks.
- Learning to make bags, purses, baskets, mats etc from single use plastic bags and sachets, with weaving, knitting and crocheting techniques

Free-time activities - Choose from any of the optional activities below for you in your free time on weekends (cost extra)

1. Full day activity. Walking to the Selang Pangeran Waterfall (easy 1.5-2 hour walk one way. Fitness average), returning at 5pm by motor bike (price \$95 pp includes lunch) .
2. ½ day, 1 day, 2 and 3 day jungle treks to Adi Back camp and Batu Gajah camp in the Gunung Leuser National Park into the wilder parts of the park, straight from our project site! (POA, price depends on number of people on trek).
3. Rock scrambling open caving adventure at Batu Kapal Cave or Bat Cave (2-3 hours. \$45 pp with guide).
4. Hot springs day trip by 4wd including lunch (\$120pp min 2)
5. White water rafting full day trip on the Wampu River. 2 hour drive to Wampu River rafting start point in open air pick up truck (cost \$195 pp min persons 2. Lunch included)
6. Day trip to Batu Rongring by 4wd to hike to the 27m circumference tree including lunch (\$120pp min 2)
7. 3 hour motor bike tour of the villages and rice fields, visit cottage industries, rice hulling and drying, palm sugar, tofu, bamboo weaving (price \$55 pp).
8. Traditional massage (\$20 pp).
9. Traditional rice cooking in evening – prepare and cook rice in bamboo over fire (\$20 per person)
10. Donate and plant a tree as part of the Batu Kapal Reforestation Program (donation \$15 per tree with proceeds going back to the conservation program)

SKILLS

We are looking for volunteers that have a passion for wildlife conservation, an ability to work as a team with other volunteers and by yourself, have an upbeat, positive attitude and are committed to achieving the projects goals. Tasks are not particularly physically strenuous, however a fair level of fitness is advised as the climate is hot and humid.

While no specific skills or experience are required, being able to use a laptop, excel and word and a willingness to learn how to use the GPS to record wildlife sightings is desirable but not essential. Knowledge of how to use QGIS software would also be handy, but can also be learned while on site.

We are looking for volunteers that are highly motivated, have significant drive and able to work independently or as part of a small team of volunteers after the initial induction and orientation. Our team are here to assist and support you, but we expect our volunteers to be self directed and motivated in completing your daily volunteer activities.

To ensure you have a great volunteering experience with us, please take the opportunity every day to discuss the programmed activities with the volunteer coordinator, as well as any specific activities you might like to undertake during your stay. If you have any particular concerns or need further advice or support, please discuss this with the coordinator so it can be addressed and resolved.

A guide to maximising your volunteering experience with us. Volunteering programmes like ours operate on a basis of mutuality. That is to say, the more you put in and immerse yourself in the experience and take ownership of your volunteer tasks, the more you will get out of it. Our team is here to help guide you and motivate you, but your personal motivation and drive will be the key factor for your success both here and during your life.

If there is any thing you would like to talk to us about regarding the volunteer program, please let us know and we will be happy to discuss it with you.

VOLUNTEER FEES

Your contribution to our volunteer program includes your shared dormitory accommodation, three meals per day, tea, coffee and drinking water at the project site and the programmed volunteer activities. Your volunteer program fees are calculated as a daily rate (not per night) and included the day you arrive and the day you depart.

Please note subject to availability, volunteers (eg couples and families) maybe able to upgrade to a guesthouse room with ensuite, for an additional \$35US for a private room per night subject to availability. Please note this \$35 US a day room fee is on top of your daily volunteer fee.

All proceeds of the volunteer program are invested in the conservation program to fund the ongoing operation of the program to achieve our conservation goals. This includes operational costs such as the local staff salaries, food and maintenance, as well as the purchase of much needed conservation and nursery equipment, trees for our reforestation program, conservation resources and the strategic acquisition of private landholdings with high conservation value to create a private nature sanctuary to protect this critically endangered Wildlife Buffer zone.

Please note if you plans change your volunteer fees are non refundable, however we are more than happy to change your start date.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

You need to fly into Medan airport (KNO) on the project start date between 9am - 5pm to arrival at the project site on the same day. Please check with your doctor regarding the latest on the vaccinations required to travel to Sumatra

Prior to Arrival – Visa information

Your passport must be valid for a minimum period of six months from the date of entry into Indonesia. Entry to Indonesia will be refused and airlines may not carry passengers holding passports with less than six months validity. You are required to retain your arrival card for presentation to Immigration upon your departure.

Less than 30 day stays – 30 Day Visa Exemption on arrival

On entry to Indonesia you will receive a 30 day visa exemption at the airport on arrival for stays less than 30 days. Please note you may have to pay for this on arrival if your country is not part of this free visa exemption scheme, however it is now free for most countries. Please check with the Indonesian embassy website for visa passport information and whether your nationality is eligible for this visa exemption on arrival.

On entry into Indonesian, please say the purpose for your visit as a holiday to Bukit Lawang and you will be issued the 30 day visa exemption as you clear immigration. They may ask to see your return flight information.

Over 30 day stays – Apply for a 60 day social visa before your arrive.

For stays over 30 days you will need to apply for a 60 day social visa at your local Indonesian Embassy in your country 2 to 4 weeks prior to arrival in Indonesia. We will assist you with this process with the provision of sponsor letters for you to take to your local embassy.

AIRPORT PICKUP or drop back to Medan accommodation or KNO Airport can be arranged if required (\$60US per car one way) and we will arrange motor bike transfers for you into the volunteer

site as we are in the jungle (\$5US one way per motor bike). Just let us know how many motor bikes you will need for your self and your bags before you arrive.

Program Requirements

Minimum Age

In order to join the program you need to be at least 18 years old on the program start date. There might be exemptions if you can provide the permission of your legal guardian(s).

Language Skills

You need to speak English (intermediate level) to participate in our program.

Time Commitment

Your helping hand will be required on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Note Sunday is a free day for you to explore the local surrounds or go on a day activity at extra cost.

Suitable for

Singles Couples Groups Families
1 – 8 Weeks or longer

Nationality Restrictions

No restrictions. Helping hands from all over the world are welcome.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please ensure you have travel insurance to cover injury, accident, sickness, hospital and medical expenses, missed flights, cancellation and loss or damage to your personal belongings.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Please note if you plans change your volunteer fees are non refundable, however we are more than happy to change your start date. Please ensure you have travel insurance to cover cancellation.

SAFETY

Safety of our volunteers, guests and staff is our highest priority. Please respect each other and others property. Any person causing serious harm or putting others at risk will be asked to leave the site with forfeiture of your volunteer fees. This includes drunk and disorderly behaviour.

ZERO DRUGS POLICY.

Drug use in Indonesia is illegal and a jailable offence. For everyone's safety, we are a drug free site. Please note the use of drugs on site will result in the immediate termination of your volunteering placement and removal from the site with forfeiture of your volunteer fees.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

We are responsible for the safety of volunteers and staff in our care. Please respect local culture and staff. Relationships with staff and local people will not be tolerated during your volunteer placement, resulting in immediate termination of your volunteering placement and removal from your site with forfeiture of your volunteer fees.

VALUABLES

Volunteers are responsible for the safety of their valuables and personal items at all times. Management will not be held responsible for the safety of volunteers valuables. If you are concerned, please bring a money belt for your money, passport and important documents.

WIFI AND INTERNET ACCESS

Please note we do not have WiFi on site as we are in a remote area. There is limited patchy mobile phone coverage available on parts of the property with the local mobile phone service. Data for Indonesian sim cards can be purchased for your phone and very affordable rates. We recommend volunteers buy a local SIM card with data on it when they arrive. Telkomsel is one of the better choices.

Otherwise there is WiFi available in the village at some guest house cafes also. It is a 45 minute walk into the village, or a 20 minute motor bike ride (motor bike ride is 50.000 IDR one way)

ZERO WASTE SITE

Please help us achieve our goal to be the first zero waste guest house in our area!

We are doing a great job composting, recycling and upcycling all our plastics, food scraps, glass, paper, card board etc. However at this stage there is no way we can recycle some items, such as aerosol cans and batteries locally. If you decide to bring these items with you, we ask you help us achieve our Zero waste initiative, by taking out any items you bring with you that we are not able recycle.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation during your time will be shared hostel style dormitory accommodation with a shared bathroom, cold water shower and western-style toilet. Please don't worry about being too cold in the shower - as it is hot and humid here all year round, you will probably welcome the respite!

We provide a mattress for your stay. You will need to bring along a sleeping bag or sleeping bagliner/sleeping sheet, mosquito net and a pillow if you need one and your towel and toiletries. A head torch is also handy.

Please note if you do not have any sleeping gear with you, you can hire a sleeping bag, pillow and mosquito net from us for 125.000 IDR for your stay.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

You will have three meals per day provided for you whilst on this project. We eat together buffet style like a family. Breakfast is usually a choice of pancake, omelette, eggs and rice/noodle dishes or fresh fruit. Lunches and dinners are delicious and typically consist of traditional Indonesian food like noodles or rice, egg, vegetables, curries, tofu and soy bean dishes are also provided for vegetarians and vegans. Gluten free and dairy free meal options are also available on request. Please just let our friendly staff know if you have special dietary requirements and they will be happy to accommodate your needs.

Free tea and water available. Soft drink and alcohol is available at our conservation site at extra cost.

Please help out with cooking volunteer meals and the dishes each day. Our staff love to learn new recipes!

Please note there is no refrigeration on site or at any guest houses in the local area. All food is bought fresh daily and cooked fresh for you every day. This is normal practice in rural areas in Sumatra.

Water is boiled on site for your safety every day.