



INDONESIAN WILDLIFE PROTECTION UNIT VOLUNTEER RANGER PROGRAM

Join us on a 2 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 ranger 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 grass roots conservation project where you can join a monthly ranger patrol and really make a difference to protect the last place on earth where tiger, rhino, elephant and orangutan coexist, please come and join us! Please note places are limited to a maximum of 2 volunteer rangers per patrol each month and patrols will start on certain dates each month.

Our base site is located at 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. Our conservation base 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.

BACK GROUND

Indonesian Wildlife Protection Unit is based in North Sumatra in a critical wildlife buffer zone adjacent to the Gunung Leuser National Park, the patrol area covers Bukit Lawang, Batu Kapal, Selang Pangeran through to Simolap, an area of approximately 250 square kilometres.

PURPOSE

To ensure the long term survival of animals that live in this Wildlife Buffer Zone, by protecting the ecosystem needed for their survival, to be achieved through monthly ranger patrols, education and relationship building with local communities.

OBJECTIVES

- To protect and conserve the the rare and endangered native fauna and flora that occurs in this Wildlife Biolink buffer zone that borders the Gungung Leuser Ecosystem in North Sumatra, including key species, orangutan and tiger, found in the local area .
- To help ensure long-term protection of the buffer zones and forest edge communities.
- To help stop activities that damage the environment of buffer zones and pose a threat to wildlife and help identify alternative sustainable solutions for forest edge communities

VOLUNTEER RANGER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- **Patrols**
 - Patrol 10 days every month in the buffer zone patrol area.
 - Remove all snares in the buffer zone patrol areas
 - Patrol on foot at various times of the day *including* before sunrise and after sunset
 - Set up camera traps, download camera trap images and video, identify, analyse and record camera trap data when back at base
 - Take photos with date stamp and GPS coordinates. Record in SMART system
 - Surveying, mapping and monitoring the area, habitats and animals.
 - GPS and record all signs of wildlife including footprints, scratchings, nests, sightings, sound, faeces, conflict.
 - Map orangutan and fauna habitation, large tree corridors and food forage areas.
 - Map known orangutan and primate movement pathways and nests with GPS.
 - At the end of every patrol data to be compiled in SMART system
 - Assist with compiling a species list for fauna and flora in the buffer zone area.

- **Assist with Community Liaison and Education.** Rangers to meet with the head of each village and local community, to
 1. identify existing private landholdings, their primary land use and the extant native vegetation
 2. provide education on why snares are illegal and the consequences if caught by or reported to forest police.
 3. **assist with solutions for human-wildlife conflict situations** and establish points of contact in each community to call rangers when there is wildlife conflict.
 4. collect information from the community about any recent human-wildlife conflict, illegal activity, how often they are setting snares and why.
 5. Conduct socialization sessions with the head of each village and local community every month. Surveys should include information about any recent human-wildlife conflict, illegal activity, how often they are setting snares and why. Rangers to communicate why snares are illegal and the consequences if caught by or reported to forest police. Encourage communities to call rangers if there is any wildlife conflict

Other activities include:

- observe, map, monitor, survey, photograph and GPS record habitats, flora and fauna in the buffer zone area, including orang-utans, evidence of tiger and elephant and all other animals and birds
- develop a full species list of fauna and flora
- 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
- gps all orangutan nests in the area and map them on GIS and SMART
- identify individual orangutans, taking photos of individual orangutans for identification of population of orangutan in the area and range
- preparing, consolidating, mapping and analysing data sheets on GIS and SMART data base
- maintaining work at the base
- volunteers are responsible for cleaning and maintaining base camp and assisting with cooking and dishes while on patrol and at base camp.

About the Project

Working with the Indonesian Wildlife Protection Unit, you will be contributing to the protection of the endangered Orang-utan, Tiger, Elephant and flora and fauna in the fragile rainforest ecosystem occurring in the national park buffer zone. Please note places are limited to a maximum of 2 volunteer rangers per patrol each month.

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 base! 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 ranger programme and the intended schedule during your.

Day 2 and 3 - Practice Patrol

A high level of fitness is required for the volunteer ranger position, as ranger patrol conditions can be physically challenging. It involves trekking and camping out in dense jungle at times, in hot and humid conditions with steep inclines in some parts. If after a 2 day initial trial patrol you are assessed as not being physically fit enough to join a 10 day patrol, you will continue your volunteer placement as a valued member of our wildlife conservation volunteer program, assisting with activities at base camp.

Day 4 to 13 – 10 day ranger patrol. Daily activities include

- Removing all snares in the buffer zone patrol areas
- Patrolling on foot at various times of the day *including* before sunrise and after sunset
- Setting up camera traps, download camera trap images and video, identify, analyse and record camera trap data when back at base
- Taking photos with date stamp and GPS coordinates. Record in SMART system
- Surveying, mapping and monitoring the area, habitats and animals.
- GPS and recording all signs of wildlife including footprints, scratchings, nests, sightings, sound, faeces, conflict.
- Assisting with setting up camp, cooking and dishes when required while on patrol

Day 14 and 15 data analysis and entry back at the base

- preparing, consolidating, mapping and analysing data sheets on GIS and SMART data base
- assisting with Community Liaison and Education.
- assisting with solutions for human-wildlife conflict situations
- maintaining work at the base
- volunteers are responsible for cleaning, maintaining and assisting with cooking and dishes when staying at base camp.

Day 16 to 28 After you have finished your 2 week ranger patrol placement, you are welcome to join our wildlife conservation program for one or two weeks and if you like you can join another ranger patrol the following month.

Wildlife Conservation Volunteering activities at the base.

A typical days wildlife conservation volunteering activities at the project site 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 am Group 1 - 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 Group 2 - conservation wildlife monitoring .

Or start optional morning activities or reforestation project .

Optional morning activities include

Plastics projects - litter pickup, making ecobricks, plastic craft projects.

Plant nursery activities, tending to plant nursery, seedling collection, planting trees, making bamboo tree guards

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 go for a swim to cool off in the Landak river

3pm to 5pm. Group 3 Wildlife monitoring session. Afternoon activities – check volunteer board

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

Optional evening activities can include a night walk, 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.

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

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, adventurous, physically fit, have 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. A high level of fitness is advised as the climate is hot and humid and trekking conditions while on patrol in the jungle can be challenging.

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 patrol team after the initial induction and orientation. Our team are here to assist and support you, but we expect our volunteers to be motivated in completing daily ranger activities.

To ensure you have a great volunteering experience with us, please take the opportunity every day to discuss the programmed activities with the ranger patrol manager and team. If you have any particular concerns or need further advice or support, please discuss this with the ranger manager 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 daily 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 ranger 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 shared dormitory accommodation when staying at base, three meals per day, tea, coffee and drinking water at the project site and during ranger patrol. While on ranger patrol you may be sleeping out in the jungle at times, often under a simple tarp structure or in a small tent. Your meals while camping will be cooked over an open fire and drinking water is boiled daily

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 places are limited to a maximum of 2 volunteer rangers per patrol each month.

All proceeds from the volunteer program are invested in our conservation programs 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 yourself 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

The Ranger Patrol Unit operates 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

2 – 4 Weeks

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 program. Please note the use of drugs will result in the immediate termination of your volunteering placement and removal from the program 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 base 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 property 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 when staying at the base, with a shared bathroom, cold water shower and western-style toilet.

While on ranger patrol you may be camping away from the base at times under a basic tarp structure or in tent. You will be sleeping on a thin roll mat. Please don't worry about the water being too cold to wash in - it is hot and humid here all year round, you will probably welcome the respite!

We provide a mattress for your stay either at the base or while camping. 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 you are volunteering with us. We eat together buffet style as a family with the other volunteers and staff when staying at the base. Breakfast is usually either pancake, omelette, eggs, toast or rice/noodle dishes. 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 the conservation base at extra cost.

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

Please note there is no refrigeration on site, while at camp during patrol 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 for your safety every day.

Our **Respect Jungle Guidelines** are designed to help you understand and enjoy your time in the jungle in an environmentally sensitive and respectful way. We follow a strict no contact of wild animal policy. Let's help protect this fragile ecosystem so your children and grandchildren can enjoy this natural wonder for many years to come!

Respect Wildlife – Keep wild animals wild! Never feed wild animals or birds.

- Feeding wildlife damages their health alters natural behaviours, and exposes them to predators and other dangers. Store food and rubbish securely. Wild animals have adapted over time to the food found in nature. Human food can make animals sick.
- Feeding can also make animals reliant on humans for food, which may lead to aggressive behaviour.
- Keep your food and wastes in a secure container. Plastic bags are not secure, animals can easily rip these open

Observe wildlife from a distance.

- Do not follow or approach wild animals. Keep a respectable distance (5 metres) and if the animal shows signs of fear or aggressiveness, back off immediately and give the animal plenty of space to move on.
- Avoid chasing or following wildlife that is attempting to escape.
- Keep watching times to a reasonable length to avoid stressing the animals.
- Move slowly, quietly, and in full view to avoid scaring or stressing animals.

Avoid touching wilds animals.

- To minimise the spread of disease to wild animals, familiarisation with humans and for your own safety from injury and bites
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, and raising young. Touching nests or young animals may cause their parents to abandon them.
- Report any injured animals to the local land managers. Do not attempt to handle the animal.

Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

All native plants, animals, geological features, historical and cultural remains are protected by law in national parks. Ensure that they remain undisturbed.

Avoid activities with large groups

Large groups have a greater impact and affect the natural experience for both the groups and other park users

Stay on the track!

Tracks are carefully designed to allow people to visit natural environments while minimising the impact on the environment. Staying on track minimises erosion, limits spreading of diseases and weeds, and helps you from getting lost

Dispose of Waste Properly

- “Pack it in, Pack it out.” Inspect your campsite and rest areas for rubbish and spilled food.
- Pack and carry out all rubbish and leftover food including organics.
- Do not burn or bury rubbish. Rubbish that is half-burned or buried will attract animals and make a site unattractive to other visitors
- Be careful not to drop rubbish while walking on tracks.
- When available use established toilet facilities.
- In other situations, carry a trowel and deposit solid human waste in catholes dug in topsoil – usually 10-15cm deep and at least 100m from water, camp and tracks. Cover and disguise the hole when finished.
- Pack out all hygiene products in a suitable container.
- Be careful of improper cigarette butt disposal. Take all cigarette butts out with you.
- Plan meals to avoid generating messy, smelly rubbish. It is critical to wildlife that we pack out kitchen waste and leftover food. Don't count on a fire to dispose of it. Rubbish that is half-burned or buried will attract animals and make a site unattractive to other visitors. Overlooked rubbish is litter, and litter is not only ugly — it can also be deadly to the wildlife.
- Animals scavenging a meal from a tasty smelling morsel can ingest bits of dropped food packaging damaging their digestive system. Plastic six-pack holders and plastic bags kill birds, fish and animals. Fishing lines, lures and nets ensnare, kill, injure and maim wildlife, so be careful not to leave any behind in rivers or streams. Pack in plastic bags to carry your rubbish out (and maybe someone else's).
- Before moving on from a camp or resting place, search the area for “micro-rubbish” such as bits of food and rubbish, including cigarette butts and organic litter such as fruit peel, egg and nut shells.