



## HOW TO GET THERE

The area of BKNP can be reached from the city of Putussibau, the capital of the Kapuas Hulu Sub-Province. Putussibau is not only a logistics center for the Kapuas Hulu region, but also where the management center of the main park office for BKNP is located.

Putussibau can be reached by bus or by plane from Pontianak, the provincial capital city for West Kalimantan. Several bus lines run from Pontianak to Putussibau. Airplane flights are offered through DAS (Dirgantara Air Service) with a capacity of 20 passengers.

Visitors who travel by bus from Kuching, Malaysia to Pontianak, can stop at PLB Entikong/Balai Karangan, and then continue their trip onto Sanggau.

From Sanggau, public buses to Sintang are also available, then continue on to Putussibau city via different buses.

For further information about travel arrangements to Putussibau and other tourist destinations within the Betung Kerihun National Park area, see the following table.

Route	Transportation	Duration	Note
Pontianak - Putussibau	Bus	18 hours	Every day, from Pontianak at 14.00
	Plane	2 hours	5 times a week (Monday - Thursday, and Saturday), from Pontianak at 09.00
Putussibau - Pontianak	Bus	18 hours	Every day, from Putussibau at 14.00
	Plane	2 hours	5 times a week (Monday - Thursday, and Saturday), from Pontianak at 11.00
Putussibau - Sadap	Longboat	9 hours	Western Time Zone
	Bus	4 hours	
Putussibau - Ng. Potan	Long Boat	2 hours	Central Time Zone
	Ng. Potan - BKNP	Long Boat	2 hours
Putussibaau - Ng. Hovat	Long Boat	4 hours	Central Time Zone
	Ng. Hovat - BKNP	Long Boat	30 minutes
Putussibau - Ng. Bungan	Long Boat	7 hours	Eastern Time Zone
	Ng. Bungan - BKNP	Long Boat	1 hours

### Travel Tips

1. Make sure to obtain a permit from the Balai BKNP office in Putussibau before entering the national park area.
2. Contact the Tumenggung (customary village head) or local *Adat* Society to get further information regarding interesting cultural attractions, ceremonies and community activities.
3. Do not forget to be properly equipped with basic personal amenities such as a raincoat, jungle shoes, sun hat, flashlight, binoculars, compass, camera, and medical kit.
4. Ask for the assistance in locating an experienced tour guide from local officers of the national park staff.
5. Bring sufficient food or supplies according to your adventure plan.
6. Transportation into the park by way of Long boats can be supplied locally from experienced members of the local community.

For further information :

#### WWF Indonesia

#### Betung Kerihun National Park Project

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Kapuas Hulu - West Kalimantan - Indonesia

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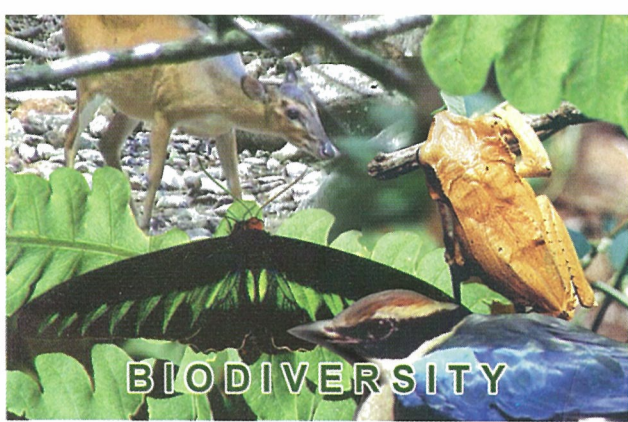
# BETUNG KERIHUN NATIONAL PARK

*The Heart of BORNEO*



ITTO





## BIODIVERSITY

### Observation of Fauna

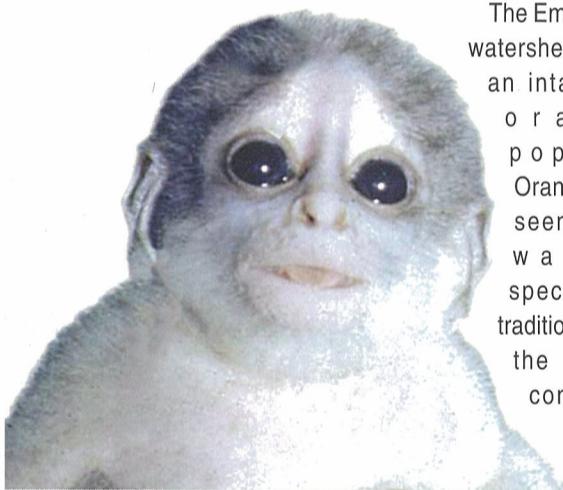
The results of the IBB Expedition of 1997, also found the fauna diversity to be very high in the BKNP area, many endemics of Borneo were found along with some new species. This fauna diversity is a valuable asset that can attract tourism and wildlife viewers. The fauna within the area of BKNP include 7 types of primates; Orang-Utan (*Pongo pygmaeus*), Kelampiau (*Hylobates muelleri*), Hout (*Presbytis frontata*), Kelasi (*Presbytis rubicunda*), Beruk (*Macaca nemestrina*), Monkey (*Macaca fascicularis*), and Tarsius (*Tarsius bancanus*). The so far identified groups of birds include; 301 pertained types, 15 migratory types, 63 protected under law and 24 types endemic to Borneo.

The groups of herpetofauna so far identified include; 51 amphibious types, 26 salamander types, 2 crocodile types, 3 tortoise types and 21 snake types. There are 112 groups of fish types so far identified, with 14 endemic to Borneo. Identified groups of insects in Betung Kerihun National Park include over 170 types.

Wildlife are a very attractive asset to tourism. Opportunities for wildlife viewing are enhanced by the occurrence of mineral water wells, termed *Sepan* locally, that attract a wide variety of wildlife to specific central locations.

These *Sepan* wells are spread throughout the national park, especially in the Mendalam and Embaloh watersheds and provide interesting places for wildlife viewing and photo opportunities. A variety of large mammals including; the forest pig (*Sus barbatus*), deer (*Cervus unicolor*), antelope (*Muntiacus muntjac*), mouse deer (*Tragulus nopus*) and bear (*Helarctus malayanus*) often visit the *sepan*s to drink the salty/mineral water. These locations of *sepan*s have been carefully mapped using digital system to facilitate those who come to visit.

The Embaloh and Sibau watersheds also provide an intact habitat for orangutan populations. Orangutans are often seen in the Sibau watershed, specifically in the traditional *adat* forest of the Nanga Potan community that borders BKNP.



## LEARNING FROM LOCAL CULTURE

Cultural aspects of the communities living in and around the BKNP area can offer a unique cultural experience for visitors. The present modern pace and cultural decline of communities in the cities too often place an emphasis towards more artificial and instant ways of life. Many of the communities around BKNP still retain cultural traditions unique and full of character that can provide visitors with a pleasant experience in peaceful wisdom. Promoting traditional cultural activities, especially their incorporation into a conservation strategy through tourism activity packages is considered a valuable step towards preserving and sustaining cultural richness along with promoting healthy local livelihoods full of wisdom and environmental awareness.

Some cultural aspects in the communities around BKNP that enhance and attract tourism are:

### Traditional Adat Ceremonies

The *Adat* harvest ceremony is celebrated in each dayak tribe around the area to give thanks to God for a successful rice harvest. The ceremonies are similar in content but the terms used to describe this *Adat* ceremony varies according to each dayak tribes custom.



In the Mendalam watershed, this *Adat* ceremony is celebrated by the sub-tribe Kayaan Dayak and called *Dange*. This ceremony is conducted on May of each year, along with the Catholic holiday of Easter. Another periodically celebrated *Adat* ceremony is Pamole Beo of the Tamambaloh Dayak community. Communities of this tribe are spread throughout the Apalin and Embaloh watershed. Pamole Beo is usually conducted between May and June. A ceremony called Naik Benih is conducted on 1<sup>st</sup> of June every year by the Iban Dayak living in the upstream reaches of the Embaloh watershed.

### Cultural Art and Traditions

Every *Adat* ceremony of the Kayaan Dayak in the Mendalam watershed is accompanied by a welcome ceremony for guests with various art shows and dances. Every *Adat* ceremony and activities of each community around this area is always accompanied by various artistic treasures of immeasurable oral art and dance. This includes the Tamambaloh Dayak and Iban Dayak in the Embaloh watershed and other tribes in and around the BKNP area.



### Fishing

The traditional customs associated with river and net fishing by local communities provides an interesting tourist attraction. Local communities possess an abundance of traditional knowledge about the potential of attractive places and fishing locations. While camping, visitors can also enjoy the rare satisfaction of fresh barbequed or grilled fish fresh from the river. Most people in the local communities that spread over these 5 large watersheds in the BKNP area are very skillful at fishing. In some village communities (*kampongs*) women are often as skillful as the men.



### Agriculture

Community activities associated with traditional agriculture in this area involves an elaborate process from clearing, planting to harvest time. This can also become an interesting attraction for tourists. Although it is unlikely that a visitor can follow every part of the process, specific times and points of interests can provide opportunities for visitors involvement in some activities along the process, of particular interest is at harvest time. Visitors involvement in these activities can include an overnight stay at the farmers watch house in the remote location of the traditional farm, and the enjoyment in traditional activities such as preparing the traditional beverage of fresh sugar cane (in DAS Apalin), fishing, and others.



### Handicrafts



The involvement of visitors in joining local artisans in the making of traditional handicrafts, from the choosing of materials to product finishing, provides an interesting experience and the rarity of mutual satisfaction. Ideal timing of opportunities for these handicraft making activities often coincide with the rice harvest between the months of February and May. Handicraft making among community members during these months is especially prolific as a way to fill spare time.

Ideal locations for these kinds of activities can be found in various watersheds around the BKNP area. The Iban Dayak community in the Embaloh watershed is especially famous for their elaborately weaved handicrafts, while the Tamambaloh Dayak community are known for their bead crafting. In the Mendalam watershed, the Kayaan Dayak community is famous for their traditional art carvings.

## ADVENTURES

Exploring the heart of Borneo provides a rare and unique experience to all adventurers. The lush tropical rain forest provides a beautifully exotic and exciting backdrop for each activity in this area.

### Exploring the Forest

On a journey through the jungles of Borneo, visitors will be surrounded with the sights and sounds of the natural tropical forest along the path. Monumental trees, tens of meters in height that reach over 2 meters in diameter, can easily be observed.

For jungle trekking, the BKNP offers an exciting journey to the top of Mount Lawit (1767 m above sea level). This spectacular mountain is situated on the National border that divides the countries of Indonesia and Sarawak, Malaysia. The journey to this mountain peak passes through the Sibau watershed, well known for its beautiful panorama. Located in the Embaloh watershed is the exciting jungle trekking location of Mount Condong (1,244 m above sea level). The east part of BKNP area in the Kapuas watershed is the famous Mount Kerihun (1790 m above sea level). This mountain peak is one of the nineteenth highest mounts in the world and is situated directly on the Equator.



In these locations, there is also the possibility of visitors seeing the various popular wildlife of the area such as; porcupine (*Hystrix brachyura*), owa (*Hylobatus muelleri*), tree fox (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), squirrel (*Callasiurus sp.*), ivory hornbill (*Rhinoceros vigil*).

### White Water Rafting and River Exploration

The Kapuas River with a length of ± 1,322 km is the longest river in Indonesia and the fifth longest in the world. The upstream tributaries of this river in the Muller Mountains of the BKNP area form some of the most spectacular white water rapids. The rapids of *Riam Lapan* span a length of more than 1 km, with a difficulty grade range from III to IV, and the challenging top of rapids drop at *Riam Matahari*. This is an ideal place for adventurous rafters to challenge their bravery and skill.

Besides the extreme sporting activities, visitors may also enjoy peaceful boating, with a pleasant drift through the tropical landscape. Along the river visitors may witness, examples of traditional community activities that still possess a harmonious interaction with the environment, such as traditional methods of gold-panning. There are various opportunities to do some fishing or exploration into the forest at various portages. Spare time can be spent relaxing or even

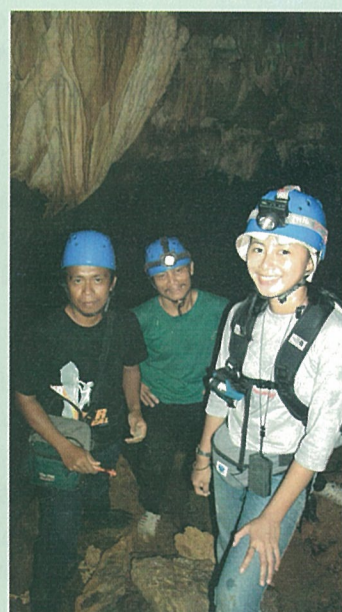


accompanying community members into the forest on traditional hunting expeditions.

### Cave Exploration

Limestone caves spread across the most eastern part of the BKNP area. For local communities these caves are a local treasure and possess a high economic value. These caves provide the primary habitat for the *wallet* bird (Javanese swallow). Sale of these bird's nest, known to have medicinal properties, is a very lucrative business.

Outside the economic value of the caves as habitat for the *wallet* bird, some caves also carry a high historical value such as the *Goa Diang Kaung* cave that contains ancient paintings, thought to be thousands of years old. *Goa Diang Arong* cave with its amazing active speleoterm, and *Goa Tolo* a vertical cave with depths reaching 120 m. A visit into these ancient caves offers a natural sketch or glimpse into the heart of the earth, formed thousands years ago.





## INTRODUCTION

The area of Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) is formed by a continuous chain of mountains and hills that constitute the Kapuas Hulu mountain region. Throughout these mountains and hills are beautiful landscapes of tropical rainforests, a rich diversity of flora and fauna, hundreds of limestone caves full of mystery, amazing roaring rapids and extravagant waterfalls. Furthermore, hundreds of rivers, big and small, form the unique Kapuas Watershed. BKNP encompasses 81% of all the major watersheds within this system. This further emphasizes the importance of this region as the Heart of Borneo.

Along with its important functions for sustainable life and ecological balance, The Heart of Borneo also provides rare sensations and total satisfaction for those who come to visit.

## THE MOST ADVENTUROUS ECO-TOURISM DESTINATION

The natural diversity contained within and around BKNP provides a variety of fascinations for educational activities and scientific research on tropical natural resources. This area is therefore a strategic region to be developed sustainably with the protection of natural diversity and ecosystem integrity.



BKNP also has great potential to further the development of nature tourism as an alternative way for local governments to generate income for community based development initiatives. This has led recently to the establishment of the BKNP area as a pledge site and example for further development of tourism destinations and objects of special interest in the Province of West Kalimantan.

Some of the tourism attractions and potentials available within this area are:

## BIODIVERSITY

### Observation of Flora

The ITTO Borneo Biodiversity Expedition (IBBE 1997) found the area of Betung Kerihun National Park rich in a variety of ecosystems, and diversity of flora and fauna. In it there are 8 (eight) ecosystem types, i.e. : Low Land Dipterocarp Forest, Alluvial Forest, Swamp Forest, Old Secondary Forest, Hill Dipterocarp Forest, Limestone Forest, Sub-Montane Forest, and Montane Forest.



These forests have a high biodiversity of flora that include some recently discovered species. Out of the 1,216 currently identified flora types, there are 418 *marga* and 110 *suku*. Of these 75 are also endemic to Borneo, and 14 are new types. This high diversity is a very attractive phenomenon for researchers interested in studying the flora of tropical rainforests.

The prime locations in BKNP recommended for exploring biodiversity are in the Menyulung River of the Mendalam Watershed (DAS Mendalam), this river is a tributary of the Mendalam River. This location became a plotted research area in year 2000 by the Science Institute of Indonesia (*Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia, LIPI*). Because this place is visited

many times by many researchers and those who love flora, a Research Station was established near this plotted area (funded by project of ITTO phase I) to assist the researchers and those who love flora to conduct their activities. This area can be reached in 4 hours by a 15 HP longboat from Puttussibau city, the regencies capital.

Other locations also recommended are the traditional *Adat* Forests of the Nanga Potan community in the Sibau watershed. This watershed is situated in the central part of BKNP and has a beautiful view along its riverbanks. In the Sibau River ecosystem two crocodile species can still be found i.e. the frog crocodile (*Crocodilus porosus*) and snout crocodile (*Tomystoma schagelii*).

