National Parks in SARAWAK

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Sarawak
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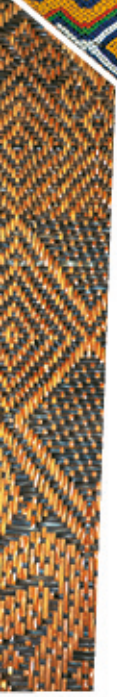


Sarawak

Located on the north-western shore of the Island of Borneo is Sarawak, the largest state of Malaysia. A beautiful land coloured in peace and tradition, Sarawak is a prime destination for travel nomads seeking untouched culture, exhilarating adventure and breath-taking nature.

Whether it is sharing in the lifestyle of one of the many indigenous communities' longhouses, exploring gigantic caves in the heart of the Bornean rainforest, or shooting the rapids on a swollen river, visitors will leave Sarawak having enjoyed a host of memorable experiences.
As a part of Malaysia, Sarawak is a peaceful and stable place for travel, suited for large groups or single travellers alike.

With thick jungles a few steps from luxurious resorts and modern amenities, it is the perfect location for a wide range of experiences. As these two worlds collide, the people of Sarawak meet in the middle, with a mixture of modern savvy and proudly-kept traditions, wild nature lining organised infrastructure and old-fashioned hospitality mixed with connectivity.

Revealing a side of Asia unlike anywhere else, Sarawak offers an alternative for those seeking humble authenticity far from the tourist-trap clichés, whether their visit to Sarawak is a complement to a trip to Peninsular Malaysia and neighbouring countries, or a journey of discovery all on its own.

National Parks of SARAWAK

NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE RESERVES OF SARAWAK

Scattered like so many jewels across the green velvet background of the rainforest, Sarawak's national parks are a showcase of the State's myriad wonders. They are centres of conservation where strict laws preserve the unique flora and fauna. Homes for Borneo's diverse wildlife, several are also home to some of the State's many ethnic groups, who follow, age-old life-styles and traditions.

Each park has its own distinctive attractions. Whether it is wild orangutans living in the trees, the comical proboscis monkeys, the world's largest flower, as big as a coffee table, the world's biggest cave system, the most bio-diverse area on earth, or signs of human habitations going back 40,000 years; it is all there in the parks of Sarawak.

Each park is nature in the raw but several are easily accessible from Sarawak's cities. You can watch wild orangutans feeding in the morning and be back in time for a delicious lunch at your hotel. You can walk the nature trails of Bako on a day's visit, observe the proboscis monkeys and return to savor Kuching's food and nightlife.

Or, you can really get away from it all. To get the best from the parks you should stay the night, or several nights. After a day's trekking through the world's oldest rainforest with its carnivorous plants and unique animals, you will be lulled to sleep in the comfortable chalets by the night symphony of the jungle.

The parks vary in size; some are big thus necessitating the more adventurous visitors to spend more days and nights in the parks to walk the jungle treks and to enjoy the natural features such as waterfalls, caves, lakes, mountains, islands, coral reefs and pristine beaches.

No matter how much time you have, and whatever your interest in nature, visiting the National Parks would be the ideal way to sample Sarawak's treasures of nature and biodiversity.

TANJUNG DATU NATIONAL PARK

On the western most tip of Sarawak's coastline lies Tanjung Datu, one of Sarawak's smallest National Parks. Tanjung Datu is beautiful and it has been called the 'Heaven of Borneo' by some visitors, but is only accessible by boat. It is the juxtaposition of rugged mountains sweeping down to a clear turquoise sea that makes the place so exquisite.

It's swift flowing mountain streams are crystal clear, like the sea into which they flow. This allows coral to grow close in shore, a rare feature in Sarawak and makes it an ideal dive and snorkeling site even though scuba divers have yet to explore the area's full potential. However, anyone can appreciate the park's beautiful beaches and translucent waters with their mountain backdrop.

Hornbills can be sighted at Tanjung Datu, and Rafflesia flowers, among the world's biggest flowers, grow along the hiking trails.

The mountains, which form the border between Sarawak and Indonesian Kalimantan, abound with beautiful plants and interesting animals. Equally fascinating is the life of the local people that is far more leisurely than modern city life. Experience it for yourself through the Telok Melano Homestay Programme, where you will live with a local family and really get to know their traditional lifestyle.

Tanjung Datu National Park has limited accommodation. Visitors can stay at the two-room hostel or pitch tents at the camp site. There is no cafeteria or catering service. A one-stop customer service centre provides information about the park and its attractions. To get to the park, visitors can use public transport from Kuching to Sematan and from Sematan arrange transfer to the park by boat.

Contact No : +6 082 248088
Locality : Kuching Division
Area : 1,379 ha
Year gazetted : 1994

TALANG SATANG NATIONAL PARK

Magnificent marine turtles are threatened species the world over. It was to protect these wonderful sea-going creatures that Sarawak created its first marine area National Park, Talang Satang National Park. The national park comprises four islands that have the largest concentration in Sarawak of nesting green and hawksbill turtles, which are both endangered species. The water bodies around the islands are also breeding, nursery and feeding grounds for thousands of other marine species.

Though its primary purpose is conservation, like all the other national parks, Talang Satang is open for limited and closely supervised nature tourism. Because of the sensitive nature of marine turtles and the small sizes of the four islands, visits to these islands are restricted. Visitors are only allowed to visit Satang Island for day trips. Land and water recreation activities are permitted in designated areas only. At Talang-Talang Kecil & Talang-Talang Besar islands, only those who have registered to join the specialized Turtle Volunteer Program are allowed.

Contact No: +6 082 248088
Locality : Kuching Division
Area : 19,414 ha (water bodies)
Year gazetted : 1999

GUNUNG GADING NATIONAL PARK

A blossom as big as a coffee table, that is, the world's largest flower - the Rafflesia. Measuring a metre across, this parasitic bloom is the main attraction at Gunung Gading National Park.

After 10 years as a Totally Protected Area to conserve these unusual plants, the park opened to visitors in 1994. Park planners have taken strict measures to allow the public to see the plants without damaging the park's delicate ecosystem and particularly the young Rafflesia buds springing up from the forest floor.

These measures include a carefully laid timber walkway so visitors can observe the flowers' habitat without walking on the ground. The Rafflesia flowers only bloom for a few days, but in order not to miss out on the blooms you can call the park or Visitor Information Centre before making your way to the park. The park rangers monitor the buds and know when one is about to open and bloom.

It is not only the giant flowers that make Gunung Gading worth visiting. The park covers a rugged mountain range near Lundu in southeast Sarawak. Jungle trails will take you to waterfalls and clear jungle streams that make excellent picnic and bathing spots.

Accommodation is available with cooking utensils provided. There is no cafeteria. The park is very near to the Lundu Town where eating places abound.

Contact No : +6 082 7357144 (Park), +6 082 248088
Locality : Kuching Division
Area : 4,196 ha
Year gazetted : 1983
Park Tel : +6 082 735714

WIND CAVE AND FAIRY CAVE NATURE RESERVE

Just half an hour's drive from Kuching, the Wind Cave at Bau meanders through a rocky outcrop on the bank of the Sarawak River. You can wander on a walkway from one side of the outcrop to the other and see the stalactites and stalagmites that have formed over thousands of years ago and the processes are ongoing. You will need a flashlight. After visiting the cave, you can take a cool dip in the river. A tar-sealed road allows visitors to drive right up to the cave entrance. There are ample parking spaces available.

Not far from Wind Cave is the Fairy Cave, located about 8 km away. A flight of concrete steps leads up to the cave entrance high up in a limestone massif. Like the Wind Cave, there are walkways to help visitors explore the passages. The cliff face also offers some outdoor adventures. The 'Batman Wall' managed by the local community is popular with rock climbers with overhangs and routes of varying degree of difficulty.

Contact No : +6 082 375490 (Park), +6 082 248088
Locality Kuching Division
Area : 6.16 ha (Wind Cave) : 56 ha (Fairy Cave)
Year gazetted : 1999 (Wind Cave) : 2013 (Fairy Cave)

SANTUBONG NATIONAL PARK

Santubong National Park is a great place for a day visit. Santubong is located on the Damai Peninsula, 35km north of Kuching. Seen from sea level, its irregular rainforest-covered peaks rise steeply to 810m, forming a catchment for a variety of flora and fauna. Gunung Santubong provides a spectacular backdrop to hotels, resorts, local fishing villages, and the Sarawak Cultural Village. The popular activities here are hiking to the Mt. Santubong summit and swimming at the waterfall.

The majestic Mt. Santubong is visible from Kuching on most days. During your visit, make sure you ask a local resident about the legend of the Santubong princess!

There is no accommodation or cafeteria provided in this park.

Contact No : +6 082 248088
Locality : Kuching Division
Area : 1,410 ha
Year gazetted : 2007

KUBAH NATIONAL PARK

The Matang Range that forms a scenic backdrop to Kuching is a prominent feature in Kubah National Park. Just 20 kilometres from the State capital, the park is a favourite destination for local day-trippers. The park also provides overnight accommodation for visitors wanting to stay longer.

Three sandstone mountains within the national park, Gunung Serapi, Gunung Selang and Gunung Sendok, can be seen from Kuching on clear days. Within the 2,230-hectare park, you can find not only rare ferns and orchids but also a multiplicity of palms, so many different varieties, that Kubah is known as the richest place in the world for palm species.

The dipterocarp forest, interspersed with patches of scrub and unusually rich area of kerangas forest, is home to bearded pigs, hornbills and other birds, squirrels, mouse deer and many species of reptiles and amphibians. Kubah National Park is also home to the second smallest frog in the world, i.e., Microhyla napenticoula. The rich avian fauna of the park attracts many bird watchers. The waterfalls and clear jungle streams offer visitors places to cool off especially after long trekking along well-marked trails.

An overnight stay is highly recommended if you want to get the best of the interesting diversity in the park. There is no cafeteria or catering service but basic cooking facilities are available in the accommodation.

Contact No : +6 082 370264 / 370422 (park), +6 082 248088
Locality : Kuching Division
Area : 2,230 ha
Year gazetted : 1988

THE MATANG WILDLIFE CENTRE

Orangutans are found only in Borneo and Sumatra. Sarawak has wild populations of these intelligent ginger apes. You are sure to see them at the Matang Wildlife Centre located on the western corner of the Kubah National Park.

The Centre's 180 hectares of lowland forest provides natural environment for orangutans and other local fauna.

But, Matang is not a zoo. It is a dedicated centre where endangered species, such as orangutans are rehabilitated and if suitable released into the forest. Most of the animals undergoing rehabilitation at Matang were confiscated from members of the public, who illegally kept them as pets. These animals, after being in captivity for a number of years had lost the ability to fend for themselves in the forest and therefore they have to be rehabilitated before releasing them back into the forest.

Matang actually offers more than just animals. The pebbly rivers are delightful for visitors who want to take cool dips or even swim. There are scenic trails which will take visitors to waterfalls. Picnic and camping sites are available and so are viewing platforms where visitors can observe the antics of animals in their enclosures.

There are various ecotourism programs being carried out at Matang Wildlife Centre, such as 'Heart to Heart with Orangutans' and the 'Orangutan Junior Program'. These programs basically enlighten participants on the activities that are carried in orangutan rehabilitation and conservation.

Matang is a 40-minute drive from Kuching , but there is no bus service to the Matang Wildlife Centre, so you will need a taxi or your own transport. You have a choice of overnight accommodation ranging from chalets, to dormitory-style lodges to camping sites where you can pitch your own tent. There is no cafeteria at Matang Wildlife Centre.

Contact No : +6 082 374869 (Centre), +6 082 248088
Locality : Kuching Division
Area : 180 ha
Year Established : 1998

BAKO NATIONAL PARK

The star of Bako National Park is undoubtedly the proboscis monkey, the big-nosed, pot-bellied comedian of the rainforest. But the star has a supporting cast of long-tailed macaque monkeys, silvered leaf monkeys, monitor lizards, squirrels and flying lemurs that are easily seen in the park.

They all perform against a lush backdrop made up of a bewildering diversity of plant and animal life. One of Southeast Asia's smallest national parks, Bako nevertheless contains almost all variety of Bornean vegetation. And, the beauty of it is that you can easily visit the park in a day. The journey to the park involves a 37-kilometre car ride from Kuching to Kampung Bako and from Kampung Bako, a 20-minute boat ride to the park.

But why hurry? If you want to be sure of seeing the full cast of animal characters, stay overnight in one of the park's comfortable chalets provided with electricity from the main grid and treated water. There is also a cafeteria serving a variety of food and beverages. An interpretation centre is available where visitors can browse through information on the park's resources. An education centre is dedicated for the use by school groups or other groups for the conduct of environmental or conservation education programs.

Have you ever seen a pig sporting a beard? You can see bearded pigs on the beach, near the accommodation facilities or during your walks on the Bako's trails. Being so used to human visitors, Bako's wildlife is less shy than their remote jungle cousins and therefore you have ample time to observe at close quarters and take good photographs. You stand a good chance of seeing more of Bako's biodiversity if you stay longer at the park to explore more and even join the night walks conducted by the park guides.

If birds interest you, Bako is endowed with more than 190 species, including some rare ones. The birds and animals are easy to find along the 18 colour-coded trails through the various terrain and vegetation types found in Bako. The circular Lintang Trail passes through all of Bako's vegetation types of beach forest, dipterocarp forest, scrub-like padang, peat swamp forest, mangroves and delicate cliff vegetation. The Telok Delima and Telok Paku Trails tale you to the best vantage points to observe proboscis monkeys foraging in the trees early in the morning and in the late afternoon.

Small bays, steep cliffs and sandy beaches make Bako's coastline a delight. Along the sandy footpaths, you will find the insect-eating pitcher plants that have been known also to devour small animals. From the beach at Teluk Pandan Kecil, you can see Bako's trademark, the rock formation called sea stack which had been carved by the waves for probably hundreds of years. For those who wish to enjoy serenity of nature, the Lakei Island is a great place to head to.

Contact No : +6 082 370434 (Terminal), +6 082 248088
Locality : Kuching Division
Area : 2,727 ha
Year gazetted : 1957

SAMA JAYA NATURE RESERVES

A patch of jungle right in Kuching City, Sama Jaya Nature Reserve gives urban dwellers a taste of the wilderness, while at the same time serving other functions as well. One of the few areas of virgin jungle within the Kuching urban area, this kerangas forest is popular with nature lovers such as birders, wildlife enthusiasts and students while the more active and health-conscious visitors appreciate the fitness trail and jogging tracks through the forest.

There are other things the park offers to those in pursuit of health. The Reflexology Path or 'Path of Good Life' is a pebble path on which visitors walk barefooted. The pebbles stimulate the reflexology points on the feet and promote well-being.

Nature conservation and education are the main objectives of the reserve, and, while the forest remains in its natural state, the park headquarters a number of educational and recreational facilities. Not to be missed is the ethno-botanical garden with its more than 80 species of plants and herbs from throughout Sarawak.

The wonderful panorama of Sarawak's forest can be found in the Timber Products, Bamboo and Forest Biology Museums that focus on the importance of forests to the State's ecology and economy. A viewing tower give visitors a panoramic vista of the area.

Visitors can also get a taste of Japan in the 'Hiroshima-Sarawak Friendship Garden'. Sarawak Forestry, the Forest Department of Hiroshima Prefecture and the Hiroshima Landscape Architecture Association collaborated in the establishment of this garden, complete with teahouse, to showcase the close friendship between Hiroshima and Sarawak.

Sama Jaya is just a 10-minute drive away from Kuching City centre and it has been a delight for the residents of the city who seek recreation, solace and tranquility in a forest setting.

Contact : +6 082 368528 / 368194, +6 082 248088
Locality : Kuching Division
Area : 37.9 ha
Year gazetted : 1999

SEMENGGOH NATURE RESERVE

Observe the antics of the wild orangutans and be back at your hotel in time for lunch. You can do that at Semenggoh, but why hurry? After the orangutan feeding time, there is so much more to see in the nature reserve.

Semenggoh's main attraction for visitors is its Wildlife Centre, where endangered species, once kept illegally as pets, underwent rehabilitation to prepare them for eventual release and life in the forest. Over the years, a number of orangutans have been successfully rehabilitated and released into the Semenggoh forest and now form a wild colony in there.

Although the orangutans are wild again, there is still need for supplementary feedings for reason that the food trees in the Semenggoh forest are

not able to cater for them to the required level for satisfactory well-being.

The orangutans at Semenggoh are so used to the keepers since their rehabilitation days and the daily visitors that they are not shy at all. But do not let their casualness deceive you, they are still wild animals and can still be unpredictable in nature. So, be aware, keep your distance and keep safe! The orangutans at Semenggoh have been conditioned to receive supplementary feeding twice a day. Thus every day they would be present at the feeding platforms to receive handouts from the keepers. The only time visitors would not be able to see the orangutans would be during fruiting season when there are abundant fruits in the trees. During the fruiting season the orangutan would not come back for three months on ends.

Semenggoh, just 20 kilometres south of Kuching is very accessible by road. The reserve has more to offer in terms of flora and fauna including the giant squirrel, pigmy squirrel and splendid variety of birds. In the morning, you can also hear the howling of the gibbons, which, like the orangutans, have been rehabilitated and released in the forest. The availability of trekking trails in Semenggoh make it an ideal place for wildlife photographers, birders, nature lovers and even joggers.

Contact No : +6 082 618324, +6 082 248088
Locality Area : Kuching Division
Year gazetted : 653 ha : 2000

BATANG AI NATIONAL PARK

The creation of Sarawak's largest man-made lake has provided quite an easy access to this fascinating national park. Created as part of a hydroelectric scheme, the 24-square-kilometre Batang Ai Lake boasts than longhouses and habitats of wild orangutans in the vicinity.

The Iban, Sarawak's largest ethnic group, and once renowned headhunters, still live in traditional longhouses around Batang Ai. Visitors to the park can reach the longhouses by boat travelling up on one of the rivers that flow into the lake or they trek the jungle trails which are also means for seeking out wildlife. They can stay at Iban longhouses and sample their age-old way of life.

Your hosts who are familiar with the area can guide you to where wild orangutans range in search of food, mates and build nests high up in the trees for the night.

Batang Ai is pretty much wilderness but you can experience it all in the lap of luxury while staying at a Aiman Batang Ai Resort & Retreat right on the lakeshore.

Contact No : +6 082 248088
Locality : Sri Aman Division
Area : 24,040 ha
Year gazetted : 1990

BUKIT LIMA NATURE RESERVE

Bukit Lima Nature Reserve is located at the heart of Sibu town, and is the favorite urban park for the Sibu community. The nature reserve is basically a peat swamp forest set aside and developed for enjoyment of the people indulging in forest recreation, bird-watching and physical activities such as jogging and walking.

Bukit Lima Nature Reserve is popular with the local residents for being very accessible by road. The board-walks covering some 6 km distance through the forest provide easy passages for visitors in going about their activities.

The park is home to 39 species of birds. The most common bird species recorded in the park include barbets, babblers, flowerpeckers, broadbills, sunbirds and bulbuls. Eight species of mammals also occur here including the Malayan weasel, Sambar deer, Giant squirrel, Plaintain squirrel, Treeshrews, pangolins, slow lorises and Long- tailed macaques.

Most visitors will drive to the park. Public transport is available from the Sibu town. The journey from the city centre to the park headquarters takes about 15 minutes. Alternatively, visitors can access the park by public transport:-

By Bus - Take Bus No. 10 operated by Lanang Transport Company which departs from the Bus Terminal in Sibu town.

By Taxi - One can flag a taxi down in town for the 15 minutes trip to the park.

Contact No : +6 084 228 108
Locality : Sibu Division
Area : 219.2 ha
Year gazetted : 2012

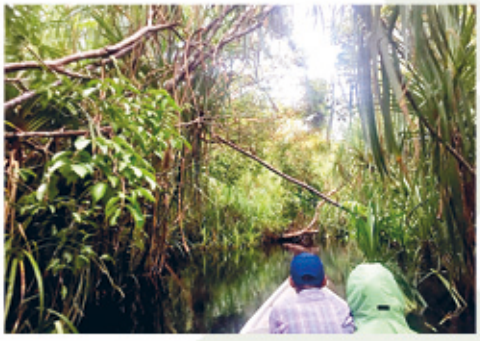
MALUDAM NATIONAL PARK

Maludam National Park is a special destination because of its peat swamp forest. Located 3 kilometers from Kampung Maludam in Betong Division, Maludam National Park can be accessed by boat and is only a short distance on foot from the nearest long house.

The park was established to protect the peat swamp habitat of the Red Banded Langur, the Proboscis monkey, Silvered Langur and Long-tailed macaque. Two species of hornbills, Black Hornbill and the Oriental Pied Hornbill are also found in this park.

You can go on a river safari in a boat of the local community's boat service along the Sungai Maludam up to Lubok Mangkuk. On the cruise, you will experience navigating through the peat swamp forest and have the opportunity to enjoy local scenery and observe wildlife.

Overnight visitors are advised to stay at Kampung Maludam Homestay as Maludam National Park does not have visitor accommodation.



Contact No : +6 084 337 444 (Sibu Regional Office)
Locality : Betong Division
Area : 47900 Ha
Year gazetted : 31 Mei 2000

SIMILAJAU NATIONAL PARK

Imagine 25 miles of golden-sand beaches fronting the South China Sea, fringed with whispering casuarinas trees and other beach vegetation. You do not have to imagine it; you can see the real thing at Similajau National Park with its long, seldom-visited sandy beaches, geological formations and rainforest treks.

Similajau National Park is just 30 kilometres northeast of Bintulu and offers far more than just wonderful beach. The well-marked jungle trails lead you to a view point to enjoy a panoramic view, Turtle beach where turtles come to lay their eggs and Golden Beach where the sand are coarse and golden in colour. The beaches at the mouths of the Likau and Similajau rivers are basking grounds for the world's largest reptiles, the estuarine or salt-water crocodiles.

The park is also home to 185 species of birds, among them hornbills and sea eagles. There are 24 species of mammals, including wild boars and macaques found in the park.

Cruising in a boat along the coast and rivers could add to the excitement of your visit to the park. The boat ride along the coast could reveal the exquisite marine life such as the dolphins and the turtles. The riverine cruise brings you closer to the interesting riparian vegetation and fauna.

Activities:

- Night cruise along Sungai Likau
- Dolphin watch (Cruise to Batu Mandi)
- Night Walk

Similajau National Park offers a range of accommodation comprising chalets, hostels and camping in tents. There is a One-stop Customer Service Centre that houses the park office, customer

reception and registration, interpretation centre and a cafeteria. The park is accessible by road from Bintulu. There is no bus service to the park.

Contact No : +6 019 861 0998
Locality : Bintulu Division
Area : 7,064 ha 1,932 ha (1st extension) & 13,124 ha (water bodies, 2nd extension)
Year gazetted : 1978

LAMBIR HILLS NATIONAL PARK

Life positively abounds in Sarawak and nowhere more than the Lambir Hills, which scientists recognize as one of the world's most ecologically diverse areas. When they sampled just 52 hectares of the park's 7,000 hectares, they found 1,050 different species of trees, each supporting 1,200 species of insects.

Visit the park and you may just find one of the many plant and insect species that ecologists had found in Lambir, but which have not yet been described. You may also spot some of the 157 species of birds that live in the park as you wander the trails of this fascinating forest. Other wild animals here include gibbons, tarsiers, and even the clouded leopards. However, due to their extreme shyness and sensitivity to humans, chances to spot them are higher if visitors to the park go out in small groups and be as quiet as possible.

A network of jungle trails ranging from the short and easy ones to the long and strenuous ones, gives visitors the opportunities to explore the pristine rainforest at varying experience levels. An easy 15-minute walk along a trail takes one to the famous Latak Waterfall to enjoy a cool and refreshing dip. For the more adventurous, a trail leading to the 465-metre high Lambir Hill (Bukit Lambir) awaits them. The view from Bukit Lambir is so spectacular that those who had labored up there never regretted it. Other waterfalls cascade from the Lambir Hills, forming pools that are pleasant places to dunk in after a hot trek.

Activities:

- Jungle Trekking
- Swimming
- Picnicking
- Nature education
- Research
- Bird watching
- Wildlife Observation
- Photography
- Night walk

With all its attractions, this ecological wonderland is easily accessible. Just a 30-minute drive from Miri, Sarawak's second largest city, it is one of the most accessible of Sarawak's national parks. This makes it ideal for a day visit but overnight accommodation at the park headquarters gives you time to explore more of the park leisurely. The park also provides facilities for formal activities such as conferences, meetings, and team-building activities. The in-house restaurant provides a variety of food and beverages.

Contact No : +6 085 471630 / 471 609
Locality Area : Miri Division
Year gazetted : 6,952 ha : 1975

LOAGAN BUNUT NATIONAL PARK

Loagan Bunut is the name the local Berawan people give to Sarawak's largest natural lake, covering 650 hectares and mainly surrounded by peat swamp. It is not the size that makes the lake remarkable; it is the fact that it disappears during the drought season.

The lake dries up in the dry months of February through June annually. During this time there are great expanses of dry mud flats where fishing boats once plied. Visitors can get glimpses of barking deer, bearded pigs, the tiny mousedeer, the Langur monkeys, Long-tailed macaques and flying foxes that inhabit the surrounding peat swamp forest.

The lake and its fluctuations determine the rhythm of life of the local Berawan people. They have developed their own, unique method of fishing called 'Selambau' into which they literally scoop up the migrating fish as the water levels change.

Another notable sight is the ancient Berawan burial platforms or 'lejeng', which rears out of the waters of the lake supported by two mighty 'belian' or ironwood columns.

While the lake appears and disappears, the fascinating scenery and the vibrant forest life remains constant. The calls of the gibbons in the morning are just part of the symphony composed by the rich animal life that inhabits the park. Bird watchers can see darters, egrets, herons, bitterns, hornbills, and kites as well as a host of smaller birds. The swampy terrain is generally difficult to walk on but several jungle trails have been established in the park to overcome this. A 2-kilometer Hidrology Trail passes directly through the peat swamp forest and provides a unique close-up view of this important

ecosystem. The traditional 'Selambau' scoop nets, one of Loagan Bunut most fastinating attractions can be visited by boat.

Activities:

- Boat rides
- Historical sites
- Traditional fishing method (Selambau)
- Jungle Trekking
- Nature education
- Bird watching
- Photography

For those interested in an overnight experience, accommodation is provided at the park headquarters. The park also provides facilities for formal activities such as conferences and meetings. A generator supplies electricity from 6:30am to 12:30pm and 6pm to 11pm. The in-house restaurant provides a variety of food and beverages. A 130-kilometer tar-sealed road makes Loagan Bunut easily accessible from Miri.

Contact No : +6 019 861 0994
Locality Area : Miri Division
Year gazetted : 10,736 ha : 1991

NIAH NATIONAL PARK

The Niah Great Cave is alive with 40,000 years of unwritten history, because it was inhabited by humans at least 40,000 years ago. The caves are the sites where some of the oldest human remains were discovered in Southeast Asia. You will not be the only visitor to this magnificent cave. It is the haunt of local Punan tribesmen, who make a living by collecting edible birds' nests high up on the cave walls. The birds' nests are those of the swiftlets and are prized items in Chinese gourmet food around the world.

After the Lubang Padang you enter a totally dark passage known as Moon Cave (Gan Kira). It is essential to bring a flashlight, not only to find the way but also to admire the remarkable rock formations and effects of weathering.

In the Painted Cave (Gua Kain Hitam), ancient human figures drawn on the wall by prehistoric inhabitants watch over gravesites where the dead were laid out in boat-shaped wooden coffins. The graves and artifacts of those ancient inhabitants have been carefully preserved for visitors to see. If you are lucky, you might see rare naked bats darting out from the cave into the gathering gloom, their passage heralded by their peculiar loud whooping wing beats.

Take your eyes from the sky and search the ground and you might find the Niah Cave gecko, a lizard found only in Borneo. In the evening you can take a romantic walk in the moonlight and be serenaded by the symphony of sounds from the rainforest. The park also has two well-marked walking trails, the Bukit Kasut trail and the Madu trail. To take in all of Niah's wonders will take more than a day trip. To appreciate all its attractions, stay a night or more in the park's chalet or hostel accommodation. At dusk, you will witness thousands of round-leaf bats flying around the cave ceilings before streaming into the forest canopy. At the same time, huge, swirling flocks of swiftlets return to the caves to roost.

Activities:

- Caving (Including Archaeological sites)
- Research
- Nature education
- Bird watching
- Wildlife Observation
- Photography
- River cruise

GETTING THERE - The park headquarters is a two-hour drive from Miri or Bintulu. From the park headquarters you need to cross the Niah River in a motorized boat and then take a one-hour walk on a walkway to reach the entrance of The Great Cave. The walkway also links to the longhouse homestay.

Contact No : +6 085 737454 / 737450
Locality Area : Miri Division
Year gazetted : 3,138 ha : 1975

GUNUNG MULU NATIONAL PARK

Gunung Mulu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site of Outstanding Natural Beauty, has everything to offer for both leisure and adventurous visitors. It has the world's most extensive cave system, jungle trekking, river rapids, and fascinating people, including Sarawak's last nomadic tribe, the Penans.

Its limestone mountain range is honeycombed with underground caverns and rivers giving rise to one of the world's most extensive cave system. This includes: the world's largest natural chamber, the Sarawak Chamber; the world's largest cave passage, Deer Cave, capable of holding London's St.Paul's Cathedral; and the Clearwater Cave System at 215 km as of 2015, the eighth longest cave in the world.

At dusk, on a fine day, visitors are thrilled as they watch a black river exodus of two million bats pouring out of the Deer Cave on their nightly forage for insects.

Above ground, the park is just as fascinating. Its 15 different types of forest contain a wealth of wildlife and thousands of species of ferns, fungi, mosses and flowering plants. There are 170 species of wild orchids and 10 species of the carnivorous pitcher plants with species still waiting to be discovered.

The best way to experience this amazing variety of life is on jungle and mountain treks that require overnight stays at jungle camps. These treks require guides and a certain level of fitness, especially the Pinnacles on Gunung Api, with its razor sharp limestone peaks soaring above the surrounding jungle.

Contact No : +6 085 792302
Locality : Miri Division
Area : 85,651 ha
Year gazetted : 1974

For more information, please contact us at :

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TRAVEL NOTE

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