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CAMP LEAKEY -WILD ENCOUNTERS BORNEO TO BALI

Discover a wild corner of the world and enjoy the rare chance to observe endangered orangutans up close. Snorkel the coral reefs off the pristine Natuna and Anambas archipelagos, and explore the protected forests of Sarawak. Venture into Tanjung Puting National Park by local boat to spot orangutans and, sure to be a highlight, visit Camp Leakey, an orangutan research center founded by National Geographic grantee Dr. Biruté Galdikas—one of the “Trimates,” along with Diane Fossey and Jane Goodall—who will join part of our expedition as a guest speaker. On this expedition you’ll: Have the rare experience of meeting with orangutans at Camp Leakey, a research station and conservation center established by National Geographic grantee Biruté Galdikas. Discover the incredible array of Borneo’s flora and fauna at Bako National Park, home to seven different ecosystems. Explore the jungles of Tanjung Puting National Park in search of wild orangutans and other rare wildlife. Swim and snorkel the coral reefs off the pristine, uninhabited isles of the Natuna and Anambas archipelagos. Search for rare wildlife: primates and birds of paradise Besides the incredible encounters with orangutans, we’ll likely see proboscis monkeys in abundance, the strange-looking monkeys with large noses and bellies, and we’ll search for seven other primate species. The region is also home to hundreds of species of birds including hornbills, deep forest birds, and many wetland species. In Tanjung Puting, explore the well-known bird lakes, which house seasonal rookeries and endangered water birds. Discover intriguing and varied cultures Explore Kuching, the capital and largest city on Borneo, with its delightful architecture including the palace of the White Rajah, plus temples, mosques,

and a bustling Chinatown, site of the Cat Monument. You’ll discover old Colonial Law Courts and cross the Satok on a suspension bridges dating to 1926. Or choose an optional outing to visit the Sarawak Cultural Village, a site with an authentic longhouse and some recreated buildings in regional indigenous styles. Walk among people who share their traditional ways of life and learn from their artifacts

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and examples.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Singapore/Embark

Explore Singapore's diverse neighborhoods before boarding National Geographic Orion. As we set sail on the South China Sea, hear talks by our experts and get acquainted with our ship

and its amenities. (D)

DAY 2: Anambas Archipelago

Our first stop is the remote Anambas Archipelago, where we'll snorkel the unspoiled reefs surrounding Pulau Bawah or Pulau Lintang, perhaps ending the day with a beach barbecue. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Natuna Archipelago

Scattered in the South China Sea between Borneo and the Malaysian peninsula, the 272 islands of the Natuna Archipelago are graced with white-sand beaches and volcanic peaks, and fringed with coral reefs. Depending on the weather, we will likely stop to snorkel at either Pulau Senua or Pulau Tiga, both pristine and uninhabited, and later enjoy a festive welcome ceremony in one of the fishing villages that dot the islands. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: Bako National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia

In Bako National Park, thick rain forests give way to secluded beaches, and the coast is carved with sea arches and colorful sea stacks. The park harbors seven distinct ecosystems and most of the plant species found in Borneo. Enjoy a full day to explore on a variety of walks and hikes, go birding, and track rare primates like the proboscis monkey. (B,L,D)

DAY 5-7: Kuching/At Sea

Continue to Kuching, the capital of the Malaysian state of Sarawak. Visit the Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, discuss ongoing research on orangutan behavior, and hear about a successful program that has reintroduced more than a thousand endangered animals into the wild. During free time this afternoon, discover the cultural treasures of Kuching. Spend two days relaxing at sea, tracing the western coast of Kalimantan, or Indonesian Borneo. (B,L,D)

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DAY 8-9: Tanjung Puting National Park, Kalimantan

Set on a peninsula jutting out from the southern edge of Kalimantan, Tanjung Puting National Park is a trove of rare species and diverse habitats. While the park is home to some 220 bird species and numerous monkey species, its most famous residents are the endangered orangutans. Board local boats for a full-day excursion into the forest, gliding on narrow channels on the lookout for hornbills, crocodiles, and perhaps the unusual proboscis monkey. Our destination is Camp Leakey, a research station established in 1971 by primatologist Dr. Biruté Galdikas, a protégé of legendary paleontologist Louis Leakey and the founder of Orangutan Foundation International (OFI). A many-time National Geographic grantee, Dr. Galdikas joins us to discuss her efforts to save the orangutan from extinction through rehabilitation and habitat preservation. Our boats bring us to feeding stations throughout the forest, where we can observe these gentle creatures at close range. The following day, visit the OFI's wildlife rehabilitation center to learn how captive and orphaned orangutans are rescued and rehabilitated. (B,L,D)

DAY 10-11: At Sea/Denpasar, Bali/ Disembark

Cross the Java Sea to the lovely Indonesian island of Bali. Disembark the following morning and transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

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