

Getting to Tanjung Puting National Park

Timetables and prices are likely to change so **DO NOT** rely solely on this information. Please consult guidebooks before making your travel arrangements.

Borneo

Borneo is the third largest island in the world – five times the area of England and Wales. The northern part of the island consists of the East Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah and the independent Sultanate of Brunei. Kalimantan, the Indonesian portion of Borneo, lies in the southern section of the island and is divided into four provinces- K. Timur (East), K. Selatan (South), K. Barat (West) and K. Tengah (Central).



Central Kalimantan

The province of Central Kalimantan (on the south coast of Borneo) is the least visited region on the island. Its swamps and forest are split by rivers, which flow south to the Java Sea. The coastal areas are thinly populated as swamp extends inland. The exceptions are the towns of Kumai, Pangkalan Bun, Sampit and Palangkaraya – the regional capital. The people are mainly Muslim although many of the indigenous population – the Dayaks – still follow their traditional animist Hindu Kaharingan faith. The weather is hot, humid and wet all year round, with more rain from October to March.

Tanjung Puting National Park



Tanjung Puting National Park is located in Central Kalimantan. It became a game reserve in 1935 and was upgraded to a National Park in 1982. The Park is very low and swampy, containing nipa mangrove swamps, tropical peat forest and tropical heath forest. All of these forest types are found within the study area of **Camp Leakey**, which lies within the park itself. Camp Leakey was established in 1971 by Dr Biruté Galdikas and is home to both wild and rehabilitated

orangutans. Camp Leakey is a remote place that can only be reached by boat (klotok) along the Sekonyer River from Kumai.

To reach Tanjung Puting National Park you will need to fly to the airport of Pangkalan Bun, Kalimantan. Pangkalan Bun =PKB

The easiest option is to fly to Soekarno Hatta International Airport in Jakarta (Java). All travel agents outside of Indonesia should be able to arrange this. On arrival at Jakarta airport you have several options, depending on your time and budget.

1. Fly from Jakarta to Semarang (in Java)

Journey time approx. 1 hr. One way cost approx. Rp.390,000 with Garuda or US\$69 with Kalpataru Adventure

There are 12 flights daily between Jakarta and Semarang. The last flight departs at 6.00pm. You will probably have to stay overnight in Semarang and then catch a flight to PKN the next day. There is one early morning flight from Jakarta that connects with the plane to PKN, but this is risky because you might be delayed and miss the connection. From Semarang you can take a flight to PKN with either Kalstar or Deraya Airlines next morning (one way cost approx. Rp. 577,000 / \$98 with Kalpataru Adventure). Remember these flights have a 10kg baggage limit. Kalpataru Adventure, an Indonesian travel agent, can arrange the flights for you from Jakarta via Semarang to PKN. You will pay around 50% extra for this.

Flight Schedules

Semarang (Java) to Pangkalan Bun (Borneo)

Deraya Airline (09.15 - 10.55) Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat

Kalstar Airline (12.45 - 14.10) Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun

Pangkalan Bun (Borneo) to Semarang (Java)

Deraya Airline (11.00 - 12.40) Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat

Kalstar Airline (10.45 - 12.10) Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun

2. Take a train from Jakarta Gambir railway station to Semarang

(Journey time approx. 5 ½ hrs – 9 hrs / cost Rp. 80,000 standard class to Rp.170,000 executive class. There are several trains daily).

First take the Damri (public) bus from the airport to Gambir station (Rp. 8,000). From there, take a bajaj (motorised rickshaw; Rp. 5,000) to Stasiun Senen and book your train ticket. **You will need to book your ticket at least 2 hrs in advance.** You can either take a long, scenic route by day and arrive at Semarang in the evening and stay there, or take an overnight train from Jakarta to arrive in Semarang early the next morning. There may be fast trains leaving late afternoon, whereby you could overnight in Semarang before catching a flight to PKN the next morning, but you will need to check this when you arrive in Jakarta.

3. Boat

It is possible to take a ferry from Semarang (Java) to the port of Kumai (on Borneo, a couple of kms from Pangkalan Bun). This is a cheap but very slow and less frequent option. The Pelni ferry is government run and popular with local people. Tickets can be bought at the local Pelni office in Semarang; avoid agencies with commission. Non-Pelni ferries are also recommended, as they are often cheaper, cleaner and faster. Generally, the journey takes approximately 19 hours (cost approx. Rp100,000). The boat schedule is available in Yogyakarta, Solo, Semarang and Jakarta about 2 weeks in advance so you will have to find out the boat times and book the tickets yourself on arrival. As a rule, boats tend to depart every 2/3 days. On arrival in Kumai, you can then arrange to take a local minibus (Rp 5,000) or private taxi (Rp. 50,000) to PKB. (½ hr). You will be able to find more information on www.pelni.com .

4. Fly from Jakarta to Pontianak (West Kalimantan) and then on to PKN.

(cost Rp496,000 on Kalstar (Mon-Sat))

These flights are cheaper but you will have to stay overnight in Pontianak before flying south to Pangkalan Bun, since the small plane to PKB leaves very early in the morning.

5. Fly from Jakarta to PKN via Palangkaraya (Rp.500,000 on Sriwijaya Air (Mon-Sat, before 1pm)) or via Banjarmasin.

You will have to spend a night there before flying into Pangkalan Bun. Flights out of Pangkalan Bun do connect with onward flights to Jakarta. There is also a bus service between Banjarmasin. Please contact an Indonesian travel agent if you are considering this route.

6. Fly from Jakarta to Pontianak (West Kalimantan) and then on to PKN.

(cost Rp496,000 on Kalstar (Mon-Sat) or Rp545,000 on Deraya (Mon-Sat)).

These flights are cheaper, but you will have to stay overnight in Pontianak, since the small plane to PKB leaves very early in the morning.

Other Options

Travel to PKN via Kuching (Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo) and Pontianak.

Having flown to Kuching, it is possible to catch a bus from Kuching to Pontianak. The journey takes approximately 9 hours if you catch the PB Bus (air-conditioned, Super Executive Class) which leaves around 10am. There are several other bus companies operating on the route. Overnight in Pontianak and take a morning flight to PKN via Ketapang. Kalstar fly daily at 8.50am (Rp. 575,000). Flights from Pontianak to PKN cannot be booked from the UK so you will need to book them on arrival. Allow extra time for this. You will need your Indonesian visa before arriving in Kuching.

Fly from Denpasar (Bali) to Semarang (via Surabaya, Java)

Served by Merpati (Rp500.000) Garuda, Silk Air and Wings Air

It is very easy to book advance flights to Denpasar International Airport (Bali) and then to book your flights to Semarang and PKN on arrival. Additionally you can fly from Denpasar to Surabaya and then from Surabaya to PKN (*Rp 969,425 on Kalstar*). The travel agents in Bali may not have heard of PKN before, but they certainly can book all the tickets. Make sure you tell them that Pangkalan Bun is in Central Kalimantan, Borneo. The link http://www.geocities.com/sakewathy/by_air.htm should show you all available flights.

Be aware that flights are more likely to be delayed than on time! Flights do get fully booked especially during religious holidays.

The Local Area

PKB is a small town and is approximately a 20 minute taxi ride from the airport. The Blue Kecubung Hotel (Tel: 0062 532 21211/532 21296; Fax: 0062 532 21513) is considered to be the best hotel, but is also the most expensive. Their restaurant is also open to the public and is a reliable place to eat. The nearby Hotel Tiara is cheaper and also very good, but has no restaurant. Close to the Blue Kecubung is a good internet and phone

service. There are plenty of shops and markets in PKB where you can buy most of the supplies you will need, including food, toiletries, ponchos, hats, sandals and camera film.

Kumai is an old seaport and which has now developed into a major port. Both modern and traditional vessels come from all parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Japan. Klotoks are small boats taken from Kumai up the Sekonyer River to Camp Leakey.

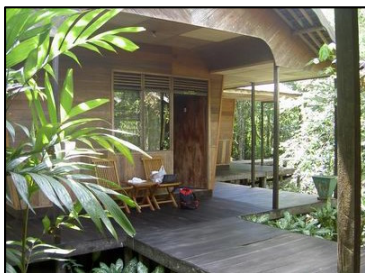
Arrival in PKB

On arrival in Pangkalan Bun you will first need to go to the police station to register (just a formality). This is just outside PKB so take a taxi. Take 4 passport size photos and 2 photocopies of your passport. Next stop is the PKA office in Pangkalan Bun for park permits.

You then need to make your way to Kumai (a 20 minute taxi ride from PKB). From here you can organise your klotok (boat) for the 2-hour journey up the Sekonyer River to the Rimba or Eco Lodge, your base whilst exploring the area. It is also possible to sleep and cook meals on the klotok. In order to travel in and out of the park it will be necessary to keep the klotok for the duration of your trip. Speedboats can also be hired. The Rimba and the Eco Lodge are approx. 2 hours from Kumai. Camp Leakey is a further 2 to 2 ½ hours up river.



Recommended Klotok owners are Mr Yatno (**Garuda Borneo Tours**) Tel (00 62) 532 61641 Fax. (00 62) 532 61223 or 61767 and Mr Yono (**Satria boats**) Tel. (00 62) 532 61240. These boat owners also act as guides. The daily rate for a Klotok is approx. \$25 to \$30.



The **Rimba Lodge** can arrange your transfer from PKB airport to the Lodge and also organise guides and transport within the Park. All rooms have Western showers and toilets, with air conditioning and hot water available in some rooms. Bookings can be made by e-mailing info@rimbalodge.com or Tel. (00 62) 532 670783. The Rimba also has a comprehensive website www.rimbalodge.com. For onward travel from Kalimantan, the owners of the Rimba also have

lodges in Bali and Flores. For more information visit www.ecolodgesindonesia.com

Other accommodation

Pangkalan Bun

- Hotel Blue Kecubung Tel. (00 62) 532 21211
- Hotel Tiara Tel. (00 62) 532 22717
- Hotel Mahkota Tel. (00 62) 532 21172
- Hotel Abadi Tel. (00 62) 532 21021

- Hotel Andika Tel. (00 62) 532 21218
- Hotel Avilla Tel. (00 62) 532 27709
- Hotel Novada Tel. (00 62) 532 27257

Kumai

- Hotel Garuda Tel. (00 62) 532 61145
- Hotel Melati Tel. (00 62) 532 61122

It is cheaper to book domestic flights in Jakarta and the following travel agent has been most helpful **Kalpataru Adventure**. They are agents for the Eco Lodge and can arrange both flights and accommodation. Contact Mr Rudi Tel: (00 62) 21 825 4120 Mobile: (00 62) 812 9483298 Fax: (00 62) 21 885 1914 Email: kalpaadv@idola.net.id

The above agent can also arrange to deliver the tickets to your hotel and you can pay them directly. They can't accept credit card bookings. The approx. cost of a return flight from Jakarta to Pangkalan Bun, is US\$325. Please note however that a surcharge (it can be up to 50%) will be made on all reservations made through their office.

Other recommended agents in Indonesia

PT Bayu Angkasa (PKB tour operator) bayuangkasa_tours@yahoo.com

For more detailed information on the Park and its wildlife, the Guidebook to Tanjung Puting National Park is highly recommended. (Currently out of print but photocopies can be provided at a cost of £3.00). Contact the Orangutan Foundation office on 020 7724 21912 or info@orangutan.org.uk