



**BORNEO:**  
HOME FOR THE  
**GUARDIANS**  
**OF THE FOREST**

Enrichment Volunteer Program

Information Pack

Samboja Lestari Orangutan Reintroduction Program  
A world class release program  
Experience the impact of your contribution



# BORNEO - SAMBOJA LESTARI



14  
DAY TRIP



## Snapshot

**Price:** \$2,200AUD (\$495 secures place at time of booking)

**Travel Price:** Approx \$1,500USD\*  
(Package starts in Borneo. Flights and travel to Balikpapan not included)

**Accommodation:** 13 nights at Samboja Lodge - twin share

**Minimum age:** 17 years\*\*

**Inclusions:** Three meals a day

\*subject to changes based on accommodation options chosen

\*\*Children between 17-18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

## Highlights

- See orangutans in their natural habitat
- Create enrichment items for orangutans to play with and enjoy
- Work and live amongst the forest, immersing yourself in the culture
- Spend time with sun bears
- Improve the life of orangutans who cannot be released back into the wild
- Meet the incredible people who care for the orangutans
- See the impact of your support

# THE TRIP AT A GLANCE

Samboja Lestari is an oasis just outside of the hustle and bustle of busy Balikpapan, set in a 2,000 hectare reserve of unique, regenerating rainforest. It is relatively unknown as the centre doesn't encourage tourists.

However, Samboja Lestari remains one of the best and most accessible places in the world to see orangutans whilst respecting the fact that they are wild animals.

It is the home of over 150 orangutans, most of whom are being prepared for release to the wild. The sanctuary also houses around 72 sun bears.

**As an Orangutan Volunteer, you'll participate in our enrichment and welfare program.**

Participants spend two weeks with a Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Australia representative and the local technicians working on the enrichment program. You will be creating food and play items for orangutans that are essential to their welfare.

Samboja Lestari hosts its own eco-lodge, where visitors are given a taste of the local food and you are also given the chance to visit some amazing local sights. There is nothing like seeing a Proboscis Monkey at twilight.

Most of the time during your stay, you will be making enrichment items for the keepers to feed out to the orangutans, which you get to observe. This may involve making larger items like hammocks. You will also get to spend time with the sunbears.

**Please note that there is strictly no hands on contact with the orangutans. There is time for other local activities included in the itinerary.**



# THE EXPERIENCE

**Spend two weeks in beautiful Borneo at Samboja Lestari, a sanctuary that cares for over 150 orangutans and 50 sun bears.**

A typical day begins at 7am with a wonderful Indonesian breakfast and work begins around 8am. Your day may include a morning trip to the local market for vegetables and then spending an afternoon with the resident botanist, collecting berries and fruit from the wild.

Working closely with the staff, you will develop new enrichment items for orangutans. You could spend a day hauling logs through the forest to build feeding platforms or cutting up bamboo to make food puzzles. It will be hands-on and hard work, but very satisfying.

**The highlight of each day will include watching the keepers distribute the new enrichment items - observing and noting how the orangutans interact with them.**

End the day, relaxing with a cold drink and watching the sun set over the jungle hills. You will enjoy an impressive dinner before an early bedtime in preparation for another busy day to come.



**This is truly an experience of a lifetime that you will not soon forget!**

During your stay you will also have the opportunity to participate in activities such as a Black River cruise to view Proboscis Monkeys in their natural habitat, a canopy walk in Bukit Bangkirai, a tour to the Sungai Wain Forest and a visit to the local night market where you can try some tasty street food.

# ACCOMMODATION DETAILS



**Samboja Lodge is very comfortable and the rooms are clean and neat. Rooms are air-conditioned, relaxing and homely.**

Estimated travel cost is based on the standard first floor rooms, with cold water. Each room has a lovely garden view. In the warm climate, the cold water is refreshing and cleansing to shower in after a hot, sweaty day.

We recommend bringing a reusable water bottle to fill up with drinking water at the fountain in the dining room. Mosquito nets on the beds are good quality and beds are comfortable with pillows and bolsters. It's Asia so there are mosquitos and bugs and the occasional gecko may appear in your room - but they're friendly!

**There are good communal areas for getting to know other guests. These include a pool table, lounge chairs to read and relax in and a viewing deck with breathtaking views.**

There is free Wi-Fi, however it is unreliable. WhatsApp works for messages, photos and intermittent phone calls. This is a great opportunity to disconnect!

The lodge has a generator which runs at least 12 hours a day. We recommend taking a 2 pin round with earth travel adapter. If you have multiple devices to charge, a small power board is useful.

## **What is the food like?**

Meals are good with a variety of local food, all contain steamed rice plus 3 choices of Indonesian dishes. There are snack options, which cost extra, but are great to fill an empty stomach in the late afternoon.

Dietary needs can in most cases be met, please advise on registration.

The lodge bar usually just has beer, juices and soft drinks as well as a few snacks. You cannot go out walking or jogging alone though there are stairs up to the tower if you want to exercise, however you will get plenty of exercise during the day.



## **Optional extension in Borneo**

**There are options to extend your trip. Please chat with us if you want to stay on for a month or explore the island of Borneo.**

# PROJECT DETAILS

## What Impact will I have?

By joining the Orangutan Volunteer Program, you are not only contributing your time on the ground in Borneo. With your fundraising efforts in the lead up to the trip, you are also helping to raise awareness of orangutans and the work of BOSA.

The money you raise will go towards providing care for the orangutans at our rehabilitation centres, as well as helping to fund specific programs such as our Baby Houses, Forest Schools and Reforestation Projects.



## Help us make enrichment items

While in Borneo, you will help to make enrichment items for the orangutans that are being cared for at Samboja Lestari.

These items really make a difference to the everyday lives of the orangutans, helping them to learn valuable skills that they will need when released into the wild. For those orangutans that unfortunately cannot be released, enrichment items help bring variety, diversion and enjoyment to their days.

## The Reintroduction Program

Samboja Lestari is the first orangutan reintroduction program established by the Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation in 1991, specifically to provide care and rehabilitation for displaced or orphaned orangutans rescued from areas of habitat loss.

Our main activities at Samboja Lestari include orangutan rescue, translocation of orangutans from areas of conflict to areas of secure and protected habitat, the provision of welfare and healthcare, rehabilitation, reintroduction and forest restoration activities.

## The Sunbear Sanctuary

In addition to orangutan rehabilitation and reintroduction, we manage a sun bear sanctuary at Samboja Lestari, with over 40 sunbears currently in our care.

**The BOS Foundation has rescued hundreds of orangutans in East Kalimantan and currently cares for and supports over 150 orangutans at Samboja Lestari.**



# MEET TWO OF OUR ORANGUTANS

You will be working with the Enrichment staff to develop and make enrichment items for our orphaned orangutans.



## FANI

Fani was kept in captivity at Gelanggang Samudra Jaya Ancol Amusement Park in Jakarta prior to coming to Samboja.

She doesn't have skills to be released because of the time she spent in captivity prior to the rescue. She lives freely on a manmade island with Romeo and Kikan under the careful supervision of our staff.

This 21-year-old female orangutan is well known for her lovely, long locks. Our technicians say that unlike other orangutans on the island, Fani rarely comes down to the ground. Instead, she moves from one tree branch to another, and in doing so avoids the mud and dirt on the forest floor.

Despite being female, she is the most dominant individual of Island #5.

## KOPRAL

At 4 years old, Koprak escaped from the cage where he was kept illegally, climbed an electricity pole and was electrocuted so severely, he was untreated, thought to be dying, for one whole week.

The accident brutally burned both his arms and legs – his right arm so horrifically scorched that there was no flesh, only bone remained. He was in such heartbreakingly poor condition, there was little hope for him.

Though he was significantly injured, Koprak consistently showed a colossal will to survive through his big appetite - for food and for life!

Now, he climbs trees and builds nests using his feet and mouth to hold and arrange twigs and leaves. He is ambitious, curious, active, extremely clever and refuses to be held back by the misfortune he suffered.

**It's our purpose to support the rehabilitation and reintroduction of as many orangutans as possible back into the wild. Sometimes, this is just not possible for a number of reasons.**

**Unfortunately, Fani and Koprak are two of those orangutans that will never be released. All non-releasable orangutans are well cared for and your time at Samboja Lestari will help provide them with enrichment so that they may carry on learning, staying active and lead a happy life.**

# FUNDRAISING

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia is a non-profit organisation that raises funds to support the work of Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) in Indonesia.

BOSF works under an official agreement with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry for the conservation of Bornean orangutans and their ecosystem that works by involving and educating the local people. They focus on orangutan rescue, reintroduction and habitat conservation both in East and Central Kalimantan.

Currently, BOSF, supported by BOSA and other sister organisations, manages the biggest orangutan reintroduction program in the world, and is caring for almost 600 orangutans. BOSF also manages a peatland conservation area which provides habitat for 3,000 wild orangutans in Central Kalimantan and manages an Ecosystem Restoration Concession in East Kalimantan that is dedicated as orangutan habitat.

## How You Can Fundraise For Your Trip

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Fundraising can seem daunting, but by using the same determination it takes to work and live within the deep forests of Borneo, you can achieve and even exceed in your fundraising.

Your fundraising efforts will directly support the orangutan rehabilitation projects with BOSA. I'm here to support you with all your fundraising for the incredible adventure you have ahead.

Jessie McGuire  
Donor Communications Manager



## The sky's the limit when it comes to fundraising! Here's a few ideas:

### DINNER PARTY

Do you enjoy cooking? Host a dinner party where your guests pay what they would for a night out e.g. \$50 (10 friends @ \$50 is \$500 and half of your entire fundraising target!)

### TRIVIA NIGHT

Host a trivia night at a local pub that will give you free room hire, ask local businesses for sponsored prizes and charge \$10 per head

### GARAGE SALE

Ask friends and family to donate unwanted household items and clothing and host a fundraising garage sale. Advertise your sale on Gumtree or local facebook groups to attract local buyers

**The options are endless! Remember, if you're struggling or unsure, get in touch and we can chat through your ideas.**

**Your first donation of \$495 is expected at the time of registration, which let's us know you're serious about coming. Total \$2,200 is due 30 days before departure.**

**If you're fundraising, don't leave it to the last minute!**



Register now

✉ [enrichment@orangutans.com.au](mailto:enrichment@orangutans.com.au)

🌐 [experienceborneo.org](http://experienceborneo.org)

# COUNTDOWN

## TO YOUR ENRICHMENT ADVENTURE

To Do	Date	Activity
■ Register	Immediately	Completed registration form and \$495 donation secures your spot on your desired travel date.
■ Fundraising Plan	After Registration	If you're fundraising, let us help you put together a fundraising plan so you're confident you can reach your goal and get to Borneo!
■ Connect with your team on facebook	After Registration	Get to know your fellow adventurers on Facebook.
■ Travel Arrangements & Travel Insurance	After Registration	Book your flights and advise us of your arrival and departure details. Comprehensive travel insurance is compulsory.
■ Medical Arrangements	After Registration	It is recommended to confirm with your GP if you require any vaccinations. You will also need to provide test results for TB, Hep B, Hep C and HIV.
■ Your donation	3 months to departure	The remainder of payment is due 30 days before departure. If you're fundraising, now is a great time for a final push!
■ Final Arrangements	1 month to departure	Ensure you've reached a total donation and sent all your travel information to the BOSA coordinator.
■ Pre-deaprture Team Conference Call	2 weeks to departure	Chat with your team and coordinator and ask any burning last minute questions
Depart for Borneo	DEPARTURE!	Enjoy the experience of a lifetime!



# FAQs

## What does it cost?

We ask you to make a \$2,200 payment to cover costs of your program and voluntary donation. This needs to be deposited to BOSA or on your fundraising page before departure. Alcoholic drinks are additional and payable at the lodge.

Return flights to Balikpapan from Australia are additional and are approximately AUD\$1,000–\$1,500, depending on the choice of airline, dates and departing airport. You will need to arrange your own flights and then advise us of the flight details including arrival and departure times to ensure airport transfers can be arranged.

**Private rooms are available from approx. 1,000,000 IDR (approx AUD\$100) per person per night.**

## Do I need to book my own flights?

Yes you need to book your own flights. Check with your travel agent or direct with the airlines. For example you can fly Australia-Singapore-Balikpapan with Singapore Airlines or Australia-Jakarta- Balikpapan with Garuda.

## Do I need a visa in Indonesia?

If you are coming to Indonesia as a tourist you can get your Visa on Arrival at the airport. Visa on Arrival allows you to stay in Indonesia for up to 30 days and can be extended for another 30 days at the nearest immigration office in Indonesia. The price is currently Rp.500,000 IDR.

## What safety precautions are taken?

When working around animals always be aware of your surroundings and belongings, do not step too close to a fence or barrier, or have items in your hands an animal may be able to grab.

Also be careful if you have long hair and restrict wearing jewellery that an animal may be able to grab, such as wristbands or necklaces. Do not wander off unaccompanied, you must be with a technician or facilitator at all times.

Please keep good hygiene practises, such as washing your hands numerous times throughout the day. Please only drink water from the water coolers provided.

Please remember Indonesia is a conservative society. During working hours, please ensure that dress includes clothing that covers the knees and shoulders.

Remember also, you may be cutting leaves and branches, and there are many mosquitos around, so you may prefer to wear light, full length pants and sleeves to protect yourself, or take something with you to cover yourself with for these activities.

Around the lodge, you may wear shorts and sleeveless clothing, however please be respectful and do not wear low-cut tops, or tight clothing. This dress code applies for day trips, or trips into the city. If you go to local village markets around Samboja Lestari, wear clothing that covers your knees and shoulders. Please wear comfortable, covered, protective footwear when working in the centre. At the lodge flip flops are allowed.



# FAQS continued

When on excursions it is your own choice, take note of the type of activity you may be undertaking.

## How do I fundraise?

There's some fundraising ideas on page 6 but if you're struggling just drop us an email and we can chat about different things you can do. It's easier than you think!

The most important step is to get your registration sorted as soon as possible so you don't lose your spot on your desired travel date and to give yourself plenty of time to fundraise.

## What's not included?

Accommodation, transfers, food and tours costs given are an estimate and is payable directly to Samboja Lodge on arrival. Your flights are payable by you directly to your travel agent or provider.

Any alcohol, additional food items, personal care, insurances, spending money and other items not explicitly stated as provided are not included in the packaged price.

## Can I raise funds to cover my travel costs?

Yes you can, once you've reached your fundraising target and as long as your donors are aware. Be sure to keep any extra funds raised for travel costs separate to your fundraising page, as they are not tax-deductible.

## Is my donation tax-deductable?

Yes, any donations over AUD \$2.00 deposited to BOSA or on your fundraising page are tax-deductible donation for Australian residents. When someone donates to your trip on the fundraising page, they'll get an automatic receipt via Give Easy (the payment portal).

## Do I need travel insurance?

Yes, comprehensive travel insurance is compulsory.

## Are the travel costs guaranteed?

The costs of flights fluctuate so until you secure your flights, they will change from our estimates.

## How fit do I need to be?

A moderate level of fitness and agility is required to manage the work which can be quite manual at times. Also, you will be working in a humid forest so be prepared to get dirty and sweaty. Think of it as a working holiday. While your fitness level and health is your responsibility we advise that you seek medical advice from your GP if you have any concerns about your health.

## What is the minimum age/general age range of participants?

Participants must be over 17 years of age. There is no maximum age, as long as you have a moderate level of fitness.

## Can I extend my stay?

You sure can! Just asked us about different options.

## Will I get a chance to meet other people before we go?

When you register, you'll be invited to connect with other travelers on our private Facebook group for volunteer trip participants. There you can meet those on your team, ask questions of alumni and share fundraising tips.

# Your packing list

## You are crossing borders, make sure that:

- Your passport is valid, with at least 6 months after your return date.
- You've got the appropriate visa, or know that you can fill out a visa-on-arrival card on the plane.
- You consulted with your travel clinic regarding all necessary vaccination.
- Your credit or debit card(s) will work at your destination (you might need to inform your bank before you go or get a prepaid travel card).
- You've learned how to say "hello" and "thank you" in Indonesian! This is so you feel more confident when you arrive.

**Good day:** Selamat pagi (in the morning), selamat siang (around lunchtime) selamat sore (in the afternoon) and selamat malam (at the evening).

**Thank you:** Terima kasih.

## Clothes to take:

**Trousers.** Your instinct might be to wear shorts in a warm environment like Borneo, but we advise light-weight field trousers instead. You'll be better protected from splashy mud and insects.

**Socks.** There's no need to don circa-1970s striped tube socks, but socks that are long enough to pull up over the cuffs of your pants will help prevent insects from nibbling your ankles.

**Tops.** Long sleeve shirts or blouses.

**Waterproofs.** A light, water-resistant jacket that will keep you warm on a cool evening or during a sudden downpour, yet can be stuffed away or worn loosely on a warm day.

**Bathing suit.**

**Hat and sunglasses for sun protection.**

**Easy-to-pack outfit for dinners.**

**Shoes.** Pack appropriate field hiking boots, covered walking shoes and sandals/flip flops.

**Toiletries and medications.** Toiletries and any medication you take should be on your packing list, alongside **a good bug spray and sun protection.** Think carefully about what to bring, and leave behind any products containing harsh chemicals. Opt for natural, eco-friendly products that won't do any harm if they end up in the earth, the sea, or a river.

## Personal items to pack:

Although we definitely recommend keeping your packing as minimal as you can, it's important to include a few personal items that will help you make the most of the experience.

**A daypack.**

**Working gloves to protect your hands.**

**Disposable gloves and face masks x 10**

**A plug socket adapter to charge your tech.** Most sockets in Indonesia, and in our lodge are for the European plugs.

**A camera and a waterproof case for it** – to make the most of unique photo opportunities.

**A water bottle.** It's important to stay hydrated on a yoga retreat, so bring a lightweight bottle that will keep your water fresh and cold.

**Snacks.** Protein bars, dried fruit and nuts are always good to have in your bag for those moments when you need a little boost.

**A book.** Because there will be quiet moments to catch up on your chapters.

**Cash.** There are no ATM's close by to the lodge, so we suggest getting some IDR in small notes for snacks and souvenirs. (approx. 1,000,000 IDR should be more than enough).

# Your list continue

You can withdraw from the airport ATM or when you take a trip into Balikpapan to pick up supplies for the orangutans.

Your tour leader will be in touch shortly to see if you have any spare room in your luggage and if so if you are able to bring some specific items to use for enrichment, such as herbal teas, fire hose, etc.

## **What NOT to pack:**

The key to enjoying your volunteer trip is to feel relaxed and comfortable. This goes for your surroundings, but also for your attire. Forgot super tight clothing and high heels, leave behind the hair straighteners, and brush aside any self-consciousness.

**Try to switch off from what's going on at home so you can make the most of your trip. This means the laptop should stay at home too!**

## **How do I register?**

Visit [experienceborneo.org](http://experienceborneo.org) and complete your registration form. We can process your fundraising deposit over the phone with a credit card or you can direct deposit the funds.

## **Have any more questions?**

Please contact us on email [enrichment@orangutans.com.au](mailto:enrichment@orangutans.com.au)