This exciting extension takes us deep into the vast and remote ocean of forest that cloaks the Sarawak province of Borneo. There, using recently-made logging tracks to gain access to these forests, we will endeavour to find several of the island's seldom-seen endemics, including two of the most poorly-known species on earth, namely Black Oriole and Dulit Frogmouth. Fortunately, many of the species we will search for live in healthy numbers in the area, and we have a very high chance of finding such desired specials as Bornean Peacock Pheasant, Bornean Ground Cuckoo, Bornean Barbet, Mountain Barbet, Bornean Bulbul, Blue-banded Pitta, Hose's Broadbill, Bornean Frogmouth, Whitehead's Spiderhunter,
Pygmy White-eye, Mountain Serpent Eagle and Bornean Leafbird! And while by no means guaranteed, we also have an excellent chance of finding both the oriole and the frogmouth, despite the fact that the former was only known from specimens until its recent discovery, while the latter has remained almost as poorly-known since 1891! In fact, our previous departures have enjoyed a 100% success rate with these two species, on top of recording all of the above-mentioned species. On its own, this tour offers a chance at seeing around half of the island's endemics, while as an add-on to our *Malaysia & Borneo – Rainforest Mammals and Birds* tour, the combination could add over 90% (all but three) of the island's endemics to your list!

**THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...**

**THE ITINERARY**

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THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

Day 1: Kota Kinabalu to Merarap, via Klias Wetland Park. This morning, after an early breakfast we will depart for Klias Wetland Park in western Sabah. This great little park, set up to protect a patch of the regionally very vulnerable peat swamp, is serviced by an excellent network of boardwalks and even a couple of hides. Although the hides aren't of much interest, a walk through swamp along the boardwalks is a wonderful way to access this otherwise rather inhospitable environment, and provides us with the opportunity to see some species that can be very difficult to find outside of this habitat. Chief among these are Red-crowned Barbet, Hook-billed Bulbul and Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker, whilst other interesting sightings may include Ashy Tailorbird, Green Iora, Ruby-cheeked Sunbird and Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler.

After departing from the reserve, we will continue on to the border between the two Malaysian states, where will need to complete a simple formality, before heading to Lawas to transfer to four-wheel drive vehicles. Thereafter, a couple of hour's drive will take us to Merarap, where we will enjoy a three-night stay.

Days 2 & 3: Birding in the Paya Maga area. We will enjoy a full two day's birding in the Paya Maga and Merarap areas, in search of some fabulous endemics. Our key target is obviously the very rare Black Oriole, but we will also have the opportunity to see a good number of other species that are often difficult or impossible to locate in the more-visited Sabah province of Borneo. Species included in this potential bounty include Bornean Leafbird, Bornean, Scaly-breasted and Straw-headed Bulbuls, Bornean and Mountain Barbets, Helmeted and Bushy-crested Hornbills, Bare-headed Laughingthrush, Pygmy White-eye, Blue-banded and Bornean Banded Pittas, Black-and-white Bulbul and the rare Mountain Serpent Eagle, to name but a few. More widespread species that we may encounter include the attractive Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush, Blyth's Hawk-Eagle, Raffle's Malkoha, Banded Bay Cuckoo, Scarlet-rumped Trogon, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Red-throated and Golden-whiskered Barbets, Buff-rumped Woodpecker, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, Checker-throated Woodpecker, Spectacled Spiderhunter and Temminck’s Babbler.
**Day 4: Merarap to Ba’kelalan.** This morning we depart on the drive to B’akelalan, gateway to the northern part of Pulong Tau National Park, and situated at about 950m in altitude, in a broad, fertile valley surrounded by forested hillsides. Our key target in this area will be the near-mythical Dulit Frogmouth and we’ll have our first opportunity to look for it this evening. We will spend two nights here at a basic lodge, affording us several opportunities to seek out this very rare and special species.

**Day 5: Full day birding in the Ba’kelalan area.** We have a full day to enjoy birding in this very seldom-visited area. Great species that we may find during our explorations here include the endemic and rarely encountered Mountain Serpent Eagle, Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove (which is probably easier to find here than anywhere else in its range), Oriental Bay Owl, the seldom-seen Bornean Frogmouth, Hose’s Broadbill, Black-and-crimson Oriole, Whitehead’s Spiderhunter, Golden-naped Barbet and Back-throated Wren-Babbler, to name just a handful.

**Day 6: Ba’kelalan to Kota Kinabalu.** This morning we will depart on the drive back to Kota Kinabalu, where we will spend one night, before embarking on the Indonesian leg of our journey.

**Day 7: Kota Kinabalu to Balikpapan, via Tarakan.** Today we will fly from Kota Kinabalu to Tarakan, and then onto Balikpapan in Kalimantan, where we are scheduled to arrive in the early evening. After our arrival, we will check into our hotel for a four-night stay.

**Day 8 to 10: Sungai Wain Protected Forest.** Sungai Wain Protected Forest harbors an incredible selection of Borneo's lowland specials, more importantly, none more-desired than Bornean Peacock Pheasant and Bornean Ground Cuckoo – both of which we have a good chance of sighting. What's more is, the reserve lies just a short distance from the town of Balikpapan, affording us the opportunity to make full-day trips from comfortable lodging!

Taking full advantage of this, we have set aside three full days to explore the forest there, searching for both the pheasant and the ground cuckoo, as well as a supporting cast that will hopefully include Grey-breasted Babbler, Bornean Wren-Babbler, Garnet Pitta, Malaysian Honeyguide, Great Argus,
Rufous-collared Kingfisher, Orange-backed Woodpecker, Grey-chested Jungle Flycatcher, Banded Broadbill, Rufous-tailed Shama and Large Frogmouth! We also stand a decent chance of bumping into Bornean Bristlehead – in itself, the major reason many birders visit Borneo! On the mammal front, a sighting of Orangutan is not unlikely, whilst White-fronted Langur will be our main mammal target.

Day 11: Balikpapan to Kuala Lumpur and final departure. We have another entire morning to bird around Sungai Wain for any species we may be missing before heading to Balikpapan airport for a flight to Tarakan. This evening we shall have a final celebratory dinner after this fantastic tour.

Day 12: Tarakan to Kuala Lumpur and final departure. After breakfast we shall head to Tarakan for a short flight to Kota Kinabalu where the tour will conclude.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:
Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:
• All meals from breakfast on day 1 to breakfast on day 12;
• Bottled drinking water;
• All lodgings;
• Ground transportation;
• Boat transfers as stated in the itinerary;
• Reserve entrance fees;
• Extra activities as mentioned in the itinerary; and
• All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services).

The tour fee does not include:
• Visa fees;
• ANY flights;
• All beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
• Special gratuities;
• Telephone calls; and
• Laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:
a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.
b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party
supplement will have to be charged.
c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have
to be adjusted as a result.
d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper
leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt
to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour.
However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If, therefore, you feel that he/she have given
you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

Please Note:
• It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to
20kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18kg) for hand luggage.
• Fitness: this tour does require a high level of fitness, and participants should be in good general
health as most of the birding will be done on foot, and may require walking for several hours at
a time. Some of these trails can be quite steep and slippery, especially after rain. Should you have
any physical limitations, please notify us in advance of departure. Please note that for much of
the tour you will be far away from modern medical facilities.
• Accommodation throughout the trip is of a basic, yet comfortable standard. There is no camping
on this trip.

Arrival and departure details:
This tour does not include any airfares. The tour will depart from Kota Kinabalu after breakfast on day
1, and conclude at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on day 12 in the early afternoon.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure
information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially
confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly
contact the Rockjumper office.

Flights:
Kota Kinabalu International Airport (IATA: BKI) is the main port of entry, and Kuala Lumpur is the
main port of departure for international flights on this tour. Both airport are well serviced by many of the
world’s major airlines. Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper
office for confirmation on the status of the tour.