

Malaysia & Borneo

Peninsula Malaysia Extension

20th to 27th August 2024 (8 days)

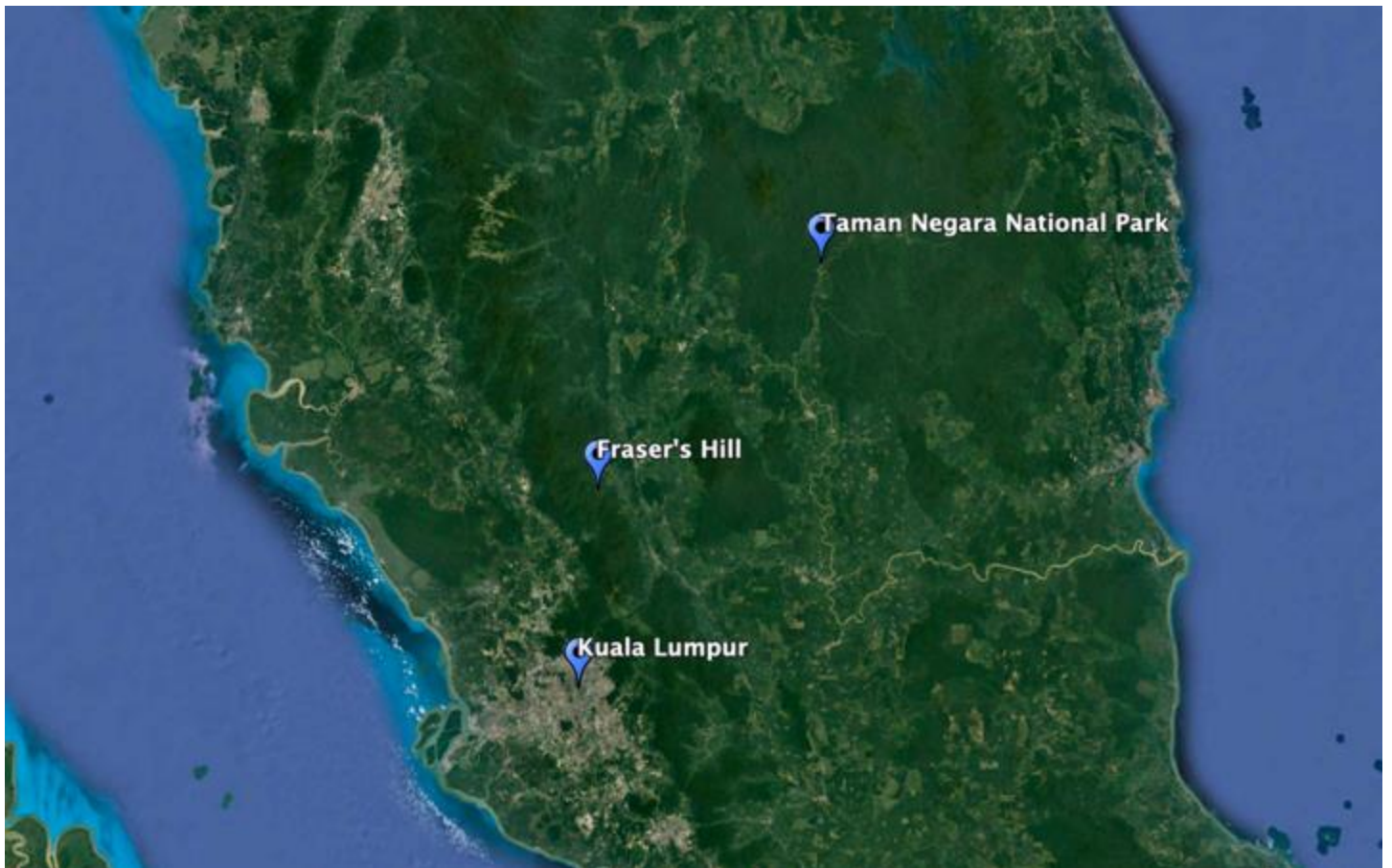


Ferruginous Partridge by Rich Lindie

Malaysia is a developed Asian nation offering first-class facilities, an extensive range of well-serviced national parks and nature reserves and a bounty of quality birds and mammals; simply put, this is the perfect destination for a birding tour! This week-long extension combines some of Peninsula Malaysia's most famous birding sites including Fraser's Hill, the immense Taman Negara National Park, and Bukit Tinggi. Habitats range from lowland and montane rainforests and these host a rich mix of typical south-east Asian birds as well as several rarely seen species. Join us for what is sure to be an awesome, exotic blend of fabulous birds, mammals, and amazing scenery!

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	Arrival in Kuala Lumpur and overnight
Day 2	Kuala Lumpur to Fraser's Hill via Kuala Selangor
Days 3 & 4	Fraser's Hill
Day 5	Fraser's Hill to Taman Negara National Park
Days 6	Taman Negara National Park
Day 7	Taman Negara and transfer to Bukit Tinggi
Day 8	Bukit Tinggi and return to Kuala Lumpur for flight to Kota Kinabalu



Birding sites in detail



Blue Nuthatch by Glen Valentine

Fraser's Hill. The rather quaint highland town of Fraser's Hill is surrounded by excellent and rather extensive mid-altitude broad-leaved forest and is home to a host of fabulous birds.

We'll bird the network of forested back roads and trails around the town, concentrating our efforts on finding the many special birds of the area, such as the outstanding Blue Nuthatch, Mountain Fulvetta, the rare, shy and endemic Malayan Whistling Thrush, attractive and localised Fire-tufted and Black-browed Barbets, exquisite Red-headed Trogon, Buff-breasted Babbler, delicate Rufous-browed Flycatcher, skulking Malayan Laughingthrush and the low-density and shy Large Scimitar Babbler. If we are very lucky, we may see two of the area's most secretive and elusive

species: Malaysian Partridge and Rusty-naped Pitta. Other more widespread species that we also hope to encounter include the impressive Crested Serpent Eagle, dashing Long-tailed Broadbill, stunning Common Green Magpie, ground-dwelling Streaked Wren-Babbler, Long-tailed Sibia, Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush, Javan Cuckooshrike, gorgeous Silver-eared Mesia (Leiothrix), Blyth's Hawk-Eagle, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Speckled Piculet, retiring Lesser Shortwing, Mountain and Dark-necked Tailorbirds, the vivid-blue Large Niltava, Green-billed Malkoha, sensational Black-eared and Blyth's Shrike-Babblers, secretive Pygmy Wren-Babbler, the brilliant White-tailed Robin, Slaty-backed Forktail and the hyperactive Fire-breasted Flowerpecker.

Nocturnal excursions may turn up Malaysian Eared Nightjar, and if we get lucky - the scarce Brown Wood Owl and seldom-seen Mountain Scops Owl, a most elusive little owl that we are almost certain to hear but is notoriously difficult to see.

Mammal species occurring in the area include the vociferous Siamang or Black Gibbon, White-thighed (Banded) Langur and Wild Boar.

During our time here, we'll also venture downhill on at least one occasion to an area called the "Gap", which is a zone of beautiful, mixed broad-leaved forest and bamboo at the base of Fraser's Hill and covers the altitudes from 700 to 1200 meters (2,300 to 4,000 feet). This is a superb birding area that supports numerous exciting forest birds and is often one of the highlights on a tour to Peninsular Malaysia. Some of the delectable birds we may see here include the regal Black Eagle, Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle, Orange-bellied and Blue-winged Leafbirds, Black-and-crimson Oriole, Grey-chinned Minivet, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, White-bellied Erpornis, Orange-breasted and Red-headed Trogons, White-crowned and Great Hornbills, Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler, Hill Blue Flycatcher, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Black-and-yellow, Long-tailed, Silver-



Fire-tufted Barbet by Adam Riley

breasted and Dusky Broadbills, the near-endemic Black Laughingthrush, immaculate Sultan Tit, Red-billed Malkoha, the truly spectacular Red-bearded Bee-eater and three bamboo specialists: the vocal Yellow-bellied Warbler, unobtrusive Collared Babbler and the shy and enigmatic Bamboo Woodpecker, as well as the very rare and secretive Marbled Wren-Babbler or scarce, highly nomadic and little-known Yellow-vented Green Pigeon if we are very fortunate.



'Malayan' Crested Fireback by Adam Riley

Taman Negara National Park. This is Malaysia's largest remaining natural area (over 4,300 km²) and protects a vast expanse of pristine lowland rainforest. It constitutes one of south-east Asia's largest remaining forest blocks and is home to some of the most exciting and impressive birds in all of Asia.

We are likely to start our birding here with a vigil from the nearby hide at the forest edge. Highlights could include the gigantic Great Slaty Woodpecker – the world's largest extant woodpecker – White-bellied and Banded Woodpeckers, the very scarce Large Green Pigeon, Thick-billed and Little Green Pigeons, Stripe-throated, Black-headed, Asian Red-eyed, Buff-vented, Spectacled, Cream-vented and Streaked Bulbuls, Grey-breasted, Long-billed and Thick-billed Spiderhunters, the diminutive Black-thighed Falconet, outstanding Asian Fairy-bluebird, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher and screeching flocks of Blue-rumped Parrots and Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots in flight overhead.

There is often at least one fruiting tree somewhere in the lodge grounds and if we are fortunate enough to find one of these bird magnets then there is an excellent chance that we'll be able to obtain good, close views of a number of otherwise scarce forest interior or canopy species such as Golden-whiskered and Yellow-crowned Barbets, Greater and Lesser Green Leafbirds, Purple-naped and Plain Sunbirds, the dazzling Green Broadbill, Grey-bellied Bulbul and Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker, as well as outside chances at the rare, nomadic and elusive Jambu Fruit Dove, Black-and-white Bulbul and Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker.



Malayan Peacock-Pheasant by Nigel Redman

Exploring the park's fantastic network of trails, we can expect to find some of the mouth-watering species on offer, including the stunning Garnet, Malayan Banded or Hooded Pittas, the enigmatic and monotypic Rail-babbler, retiring Malayan Peacock-Pheasant, very elusive Great Argus, Black-and-yellow, Black-and-red, Banded and unbelievably vivid Green Broadbills, furtive Large Wren-Babbler, Striped Wren-Babbler, the leucopterus race of Black Magpie, the shy and elusive Crested Jay (now placed in its own unique monotypic family!), Crimson-winged,

Checker-throated, Buff-necked, Rufous, Orange-backed, Buff-rumped and extremely scarce Olive-backed Woodpeckers, Rhinoceros, Bushy-crested and White-crowned Hornbills, Red-naped, Diard's, Scarlet-rumped and the very rare and shy Cinnamon-rumped Trogons, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo, the shy Rusty-breasted Cuckoo, Black-bellied, Chestnut-breasted and Raffles's Malkohas, the elusive but stunning Rufous-collared Kingfisher, Red-throated, Yellow-crowned, Sooty (recently split from Brown Barbet) and Golden-whiskered Barbets, Puff-backed, Hairy-backed, Yellow-bellied and Grey-cheeked Bulbuls, the vociferous Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler and the richly-coloured Black-throated Babbler.



Great Slaty Woodpeckers by Nigel Redman

In the late afternoons, the spectacular Crested Fireback can sometimes be seen strolling around between the cabins or along the adjacent forest trails. Nocturnal birding at Taman Negara is often extremely challenging but with perseverance we may be fortunate and find a few of the area's sought-after nocturnal species. These include the scarce Gould's, Javan and very rare Large Frogmouths, Brown Hawk-Owl, Brown Wood Owl, Barred Eagle-Owl, Oriental Bay Owl and Reddish and Sunda (recently split from Collared) Scops Owls. We would however have to put in a great deal of time and effort to encounter just a few of these difficult and extremely low-density night birds. While searching for these nocturnal species we may also get lucky with one or two rarely seen nocturnal mammals such as Slow Loris, Brush-tailed Porcupine, Malayan Colugo or Binturong.

Bukit Tinggi. The hill station of Bukit Tinggi is an excellent montane forest birding site. This locality is a relatively new and exciting addition to our regular route, and is most famous for being one of the only sites on Earth where one has a realistic chance of seeing the rare and until recently, mythical Mountain Peacock-Pheasant. This regal pheasant is endemic to the Malay Peninsula but due to its shy nature, rare status and difficult to



Mountain Peacock-Pheasant by Glen Valentine

access habitat it has been seen by very few visiting birders. Bukit Tinggi also provides a reasonable chance at finding Malayan Partridge, another scarce endemic, which is also irregularly recorded on birding trips to the country. Both of these species are technically possible at Fraser's Hill, however, significant time and effort are usually required with little success. The site is also excellent for a number of fabulous hill country species such as Silver-breasted Broadbill, Buff-rumped, Grey-and-buff and Crimson-winged Woodpeckers, Sultan Tit, Golden-whiskered, Sooty and Blue-eared Barbets, the beautiful Orange-

breasted Trogon, Black-crested and scarce Scaly-breasted Bulbuls, Rufous-fronted and Buff-breasted Babblers, White-bellied Erpornis, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Blue-winged Leafbird and White-rumped Shama, while occasionally the site even turns up rare species such as Rail-babbler, the highly nomadic Pin-tailed Parrotfinch and extremely shy Ferruginous Partridge. We may also encounter troops of Dusky Leaf Monkeys foraging in the mid-canopy while strolling slowly along the forested road.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate. This tour has a lot of trail walking and early starts. Not suitable for anyone with mobility or health challenges.
Birding Ease	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Bird density can be low. Several difficult target species, many skulking understorey species that require sitting/standing for periods of time to observe.
Accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comfortable to very comfortable.
Walking / Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Some narrow trails, many trails will be muddy and slippery after rain. Terrain can be uneven with fallen logs, tree stumps or rocks under foot.
Vehicles / Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Small coach for most of tour, some roads are in poor condition.
Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Average, but tough due to skulking nature of many species. Some dedicated blinds / hides.
Annoyances	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Hot and very humid in the lowlands. Potential for malaria and dengue, though infection is rare.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

The price for this 8-day birding tour of Peninsula Malaysia is **US\$2,950** per person on a twin/sharing basis based on a minimum of 6 guests.

Single supplement: US\$375

Internal flight cost (Kuala Lumpur to Kota Kinabalu): roughly **US\$121**. The cost of this flight is not included in the price of the tour. However, Rockjumper will gladly assist you with making this reservation and the final cost of the flight will be added to your invoice.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from breakfast on day 1 to lunch on day 8;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services;
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, 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.

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 you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is 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. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**
- Accommodation throughout the trip is of a generally high standard and the hotels and resorts that we make use of range from comfortable to rather luxurious. There is no camping on this trip.
- 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.
- For much of the tour you will be far away from modern medical facilities.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour begins in Kuala Lumpur on day 1. Please ensure that you arrive before 16h00 this day as the group will meet at the hotel for a welcome dinner. The tour will conclude after lunch in Kuala Lumpur on day 8 as we fly to Kota Kinabalu.

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.

Kuala Lumpur International Airport (IATA: KUL) is the main port of entry, and Kota Kinabalu International Airport (IATA: BKI) is the main point of departure for international flights to Malaysia.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important

that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements. The following website provides detailed information about visa eligibility and assistance with online applications options where viable: [Visa HQ for Travel](#)

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.