

Tangkahan: Protecting the Leuser Ecosystem

The Leuser Ecosystem covers some 2.6 million hectares: 80% in Aceh and the remaining 20% in the province of North Sumatra. Covering an area of 800,000 hectares, Gunung Leuser National Park harbours several relatively undisturbed ecosystem types: beach forest, lowland swamp forest, wetlands, lowland rainforest, alpine and mountain forest, with Mt. Leuser peak at 3119 meters above sea level. Almost 129 species of mammals have been recorded in



the, including the Sumatran orang utan (*Pongo abelii*), Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), elephant (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*), gibbon (*Hylobates lar*), leaf monkey (*Presbytis thomasi*) and many others. Despite the biodiversity richness, this conservation area is threatened by illegal logging, which has deforested almost 15% of the total area.

Nestled on the park, Tangkahan Village, with its beautiful pristine forest, clear river, hot spring, and caves, is ready to welcome ecotourists. The close proximity to Medan, the capital city of North Sumatra, has caused environmental pressure. Around 1997, many villagers around the park

were earning their livelihood from illegal logging. In order to reduce deforestation, Tangkahan was selected as a pilot project of community-based ecotourism. The park has delegated the authority to the community to manage the tourism project by setting up an entrance fee which is then used for the community and for conservation purposes. Local people were trained to become guides and manage the tourism activity, changing their source of living from illegal logging to ecotourism. The community has received a national award for the conservation category from the Indonesia's Department of Culture and Tourism.



For the comfort and safety, kindly advise on the practical hints of what to wear/bring :

- Comfortable trekking shoes
- Windbreaker/ jacket, sweater, gloves
- Cotton t-shirts
- Sandal/slippers
- Rain coat
- Flash light/head lamp
- Sun block lotion/ cream
- Insect repellent
- Cameras / video camera, binocular
- Personal toiletries
- Personal medicines for first aid

Contacts:

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Tropical Adventure and Cultural Heritage

Lyng in Malacca Straits in the east and deep blue borders of Indian Ocean in the west, North Sumatra is situated to the closest mainland Asia geographically and historically, just an hour flight from Singapore.

For nature lovers

the Gunung Leuser National Park is home to Sumatran tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, and the biggest flower in the world, the 1-m wide *Rafflesia arnoldi*.



Located in the border of the park, Tangkahan Village is the site of a successful community-based ecotourism project, where the former illegal loggers have radically transformed their source of livelihood into



the nature protector through ecotourism. On the outskirts of the huge park, the World Wild Life Fund (WWF) established Orang Utan Rehabilitation Center in 1973 in Bukit Lawang, along the Bahorok River.

The spectacular nature phenomena is Lake Toba, formed by massive prehistoric volcanic explosion, the biggest lake in South East Asia with gigantic size 1,265 km². While the Samosir Island surrounded by blue green waters at the average depth 450 meters becomes a magnet for local and foreign visitors due to the magnificent panoramas and breeze climate around the lake.



For culture lovers:

As the second largest population after Java, the island is known as a home of Batak tribe.

For sport lovers:

- North Sumatra has world class rafting sites, tubing, trekking
- Claiming as the second largest island in the Indonesian archipelago, this province features pristine tropical rain forest, spectacular panorama of the rugged terrain Bukit Barisan mountain range, lush paddy fields, colorful coral reefs.
- The island of Nias has some of the best surf spots in the world
- Dive sites





Day 01 : Medan - Tangkahan

Arrive at Medan airport, meeting service, then depart for



Tangkahan, near Gunung Leuser National Park, about 4 hours drive along rubber and palm plantations. Check in Eco Lodge. Relax and unwind in the clear water river of Tangkahan.

Enjoy a swim in the nearby Garut River waterfall. Overnight and simple dinner at the lodge. After dinner you may feel the peaceful surrounding of the jungle with lots of bird sound. Stay at eco lodge (D).

Day 02 : Tangkahan - Fullday trekking

Start trekking through the lush rainforest in the morning. There are 3 types of trek available depending on your physical strength and stamina. The first alternative is a 2.2 km interpretation trail (2.5 hours). Incredible tropical plants, including medicinal plants can be seen along the trail. You may also spot orangutan, leaf monkeys, long tailed macaques and great argus.

The second alternative is a challenging 2.6 km trail (2.5 hours), with steeper slopes and giant trees, and a stop at Lubuk Larangan where you can swim and fish in the river.

The third alternative is a more demanding, adventurous 6.8 km trail (6 hours). Crossing some hills and steep slopes, you can enjoy the rainforest and find the opportunity to explore caves with thousands of bats. The journey will be concluded



by riding a rubber tube down the rapid current of Batang Serangan River. Overnight at eco lodge (B,L,D).



Day 03 : Tangkahan - Medan / Departure (B)

Return to Medan in 4 hours drive (same route as day 1). Arrive in Medan, drop off hotel or transfer to airport for departure to your next destination. End of tour.

Includes :
AC coach, accommodation & meals as mentioned with English / German / Spanish / French Speaking Guide, entrance fees.

Excludes :
air ticket, travel insurance, porter, laundry, telephone, alcohol beverages and personal expenses.



Day 01 : Medan - Bohorok

Arrive at Medan airport, greeting service, then depart for Bohorok (Southern part of Leuser National Park) by A/C coach. Drive north to Bohorok approximately 3 hours to see the Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre at Bukit Lawang Village. The road passes through several small towns followed by vast views of rubber and palm oil plantations. Upon arrival, walk along the riverbank to the crossing point and cross the river by small canoe to the rehabilitation station. Check in at the hotel. Walk around the hill through the rainforest to see rehabilitation centre, young orang utans, once illegally captured, are trained to return to their natural habitat. Overnight stay at hotel (D)



Day 02 : Bohorok - Leuser NP Trekking

After breakfast, start trekking (HOW MANY HOURS?) with local rangers in the rainforest around the station, where you may spot Orang Utan, leaf monkeys, macaques, gibbons, siamang and abundant bird life. Afternoon, return to hotel for overnight. (B,D)

Day 3 : Bohorok - Tangkahan

After breakfast depart for Tangkahan Rainforest, in the buffer zone of Leuser National Park. The road is still bumpy in some parts (HOW MANY HOURS BY ROAD?). On arrival in Tangkahan, check in the eco-lodge. After lunch, trekking along the nature trail for 2.5 hours, accompanied by local rangers. Incredible tropical plants, including some medicinal plants can be seen along the trail. You may also view orangutan, leaf monkeys, long tailed macaques and great

argus. In the evening, enjoy the serenity and peaceful atmosphere of the jungle with the voices of birds. Overnight stay at the lodge. (B,D)



Day 04 : Tangkahan - Fullday Trekking

This morning you will start an adventurous 6.8 km trail (6 hours, good physical condition required). Crossing some hills and steep slopes, you can enjoy the rainforest and find the opportunity to explore a cave with thousands of bats. The journey will be concluded by riding on a rubber tube down the rapid current of Batang Serangan River. Overnight in the lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 05 : Tangkahan - Medan / Departure (B)

Return to Medan in 4 hours drive (same route as day 1). Arrive in Medan, drop off hotel or transfer to airport for departure to your next destination. End of tour.

Includes:
AC Coach, Accommodation & meals as mentioned with English / German / Spanish / French Speaking Guide, entrance fees

Excludes:
airfare, travel insurance, porter, laundry, telephone, alcohol beverages personal expenses

- Extended Tangkahan and Famous Lake Toba for 7 D/6D or other destinations in Sumatra hinterland can be arranged on request

