



**BORNEO: SARAWAK – PRE-TOUR TO THE
BORNEO (SABAH) TOUR**

**1 – 7 AUGUST 2019
14 – 20 AUGUST 2020
14 – 20 AUGUST 2021**



Blue-banded Pitta – one of the birds we will target on this trip.

The Malaysian province of Sarawak in Borneo is rougher than Sabah, so we start with the more difficult part (as a pre-tour) and end with the part with comfortable accommodation (Sabah). We do recommend not missing Sarawak, though, as it provides superior chances of seeing **Blue-banded Pitta**, **Bornean Banded Pitta**, **Hose's Broadbill**, **Bulwer's Pheasant**, **Rail-babbler**, and other absolute jewels that will burn your eyes. And we also will be looking for species we have no chance of seeing on our Sabah tour – e.g. **Dulit Frogmouth**, **Bornean Frogmouth**, and **Black Oriole**.



***Bornean Banded Pitta** (photo Liew Weng Keong) is a big target on our Sarawak pre-tour.*

This trip starts in Miri, Sarawak, and ends in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

This pre-tour to our **Birding Tour Borneo: Borneo Premium – Bristlehead, Pittas, Eight Hornbills, Endemics, Orangutans and More** can also be booked as a stand-alone tour. If combined with our main tour it could also be combined, after the main tour, with our **Birding Tour Malaysia: Peninsular Malaysia**.

Itinerary (7 days/6 nights)

Day 1. Arrival at Miri airport and transfer to your hotel

After a meet and greet at the Miri airport you will be transferred to your hotel for an overnight stay.

Overnight: transit hotel, Miri

Day 2. Miri to Ba'kelalan

We transfer to the Miri airport after breakfast and take a domestic flight to Ba'kelalan. Upon arrival we will check into Homestay Ba'kelalan. After lunch we proceed to a nearby forest for

some of Borneo's classic and famous endemics. These include the likes of **Whitehead's Spiderhunter**, **Whitehead's Broadbill**, **Fruithunter**, **Mountain Serpent Eagle**, **Black-throated Wren-Babbler**, **Bornean Stubtail**, **Bornean Spiderhunter**, **Bornean Barbet**, **Mountain Barbet**, **Golden-naped Barbet**, **Bare-headed Laughingthrush**, **Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush**, **Bornean Whistler**, and many others. We also hope to encounter **Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher**, **Ferruginous Partridge**, **Orange-breasted Trogon**, **Dark Hawk Cuckoo**, **Common Green Magpie**, etc. After dinner we will head to a nearby forest for **Dulit Frogmouth**.

Overnight: Homestay Ba'kelalan



Whitehead's Broadbill (photo Liew Weng Keong) will hopefully be found on this trip.

Day 3. Ba'kelalan

A full day of birding this magnificent area.

Overnight: Homestay Ba'kelalan

Day 4. Ba'kelalan to Paya Maga Highlands

After breakfast we drive overland for three hours to the Paya Maga Highlands. These highlands are covered in secondary forest with an abundance of *Macaranga*. We'll bird the logging road from where the road begins, then go beyond Gunung Doa (at 850 meters/2500 feet) to the base of the Paya Maga Camp Site (1050 meters/3100 feet). The habitat along the road consists of mixed dipterocarp and lower montane forest. Occasional patches of undisturbed forest (montane heath forest) remain, particularly on the steepest slopes. Targets are **Bulwer's Pheasant**, **Black Oriole**, **Bornean Banded Pitta**, **Blue-banded Pitta**, **Hose's Broadbill**, and others. After dinner tonight we can try for **Bornean Frogmouth**.

Overnight: wooden house, Paya Maga Camp Site



*We'll search for **Hose's Broadbill** (photo Liew Weng Keong) in the Paya Maga Highlands.*

Day 5. Paya Maga Highlands

After breakfast we continue birding this area, hoping to add species to our list that might include more endemics. Hopefully we'll find **Bornean Leafbird**, **Bornean Bulbul**, **Pygmy White-eye**, **Bornean Banded Kingfisher**, **Bornean Treepie**, **Chestnut-crested Yuhina**, and any of the goodies we missed the previous day. While not endemic, **Rail-babbler** is likely at the top of many people's wish-lists if they haven't seen it in southern Thailand or Peninsular Malaysia. We'll also be sure to search for **Collared Owlet**, **Hill Blue Flycatcher**, **Jambu Fruit Dove**, **White-necked Babbler**, **Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler**, **Temminck's Babbler**, the attractive **Scaly-breasted Bulbul**, **Finsch's Bulbul**, **Olive-backed Woodpecker**, **Rufous-collared Kingfisher**, **Diard's Trogon**, **Red-bearded Bee-eater**, etc.

Overnight: wooden house, Paya Maga Camp Site

Day 6. Paya Maga to Beaufort

After breakfast we continue birding until noon before trekking back to our vehicle and overlanding three to four hours by 4x4 to Beaufort.

Overnight: Beaufort

Day 7. Beaufort to Klias Wetland to Kota Kinabalu

In the morning we proceed to Klias Wetland for **Hook-billed Bulbul**, **Grey-breasted Babbler**, **Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker**, **Red-crowned Barbet**, **Chestnut-bellied Malkoha**, etc. After eating lunch en route we drive to Kota Kinabalu, from where you can fly home or where you can rest (or process photos!) until lunch time the next day if you're joining our Sabah tour.

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides, and other factors.

Duration: 7 days/6 nights

Limit: 4 - 6

Dates: 1 – 7 August 2019
14 - 20 August 2020
14 - 20 August 2021

Start: Miri

End: Kota Kinabalu

Prices: MYR11,120 per person sharing based on 4 - 6 participants 2019
MYR12,343 per person sharing based on 4 - 6 participants 2020
MYR13,700 per person sharing based on 4 - 6 participants 2021

Single supplements: Single rooms are often not available on this pre-tour.

Price includes:

1 night accommodation at Miri
2 nights accommodation at Homestay Ba'kelalan
2 nights accommodation at Paya Maga Camp Site wooden house (mosquito net, mattress, and sleeping bag provided)
1 night accommodation at Beaufort
Entrance fees
All meals (from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 7)
Transport as stated in the itinerary
Porters for carrying food, drinking water, and camping equipment
International tour leader
Experienced, English-speaking local birding guide
One-way domestic air-ticket (Miri to Ba'kelalan)

Price excludes:

Any flights not mentioned above
Airport tax
Drinks, meals, accommodation, and transfers before the tour officially starts or after it officially ends
Travel insurance
Items of a personal nature (laundry, gifts, etc.)
Tips

What to bring? Don't forget to bring yourselves 😊! We will send you a recommended packing list closer to the departure date.