

# Malaysia Tiger Conservation

*Experience life in the rainforest as you track the elusive tiger and other animals, contributing towards vital research helping to protect these iconic animals from poaching*

Malaysia is a paradise of lush forests, pristine beaches and tropical islands. World renowned for its diversity of wildlife and people, this incredible country offers visitors a wealth of activities and fascinating things to see and do. The result of this fantastic melting-pot of culture is a relaxed, open-minded way of life, and the Malaysian people are famous for their hospitality.

Based in the small rainforest town of Merapoh, this project makes a valuable contribution towards the protection of tigers, elephants, leopards and other indigenous species within the Taman Negara National Park, by reducing the once devastating poaching which occurred within the corridor between the two mountain ranges. Local guides will make it seem effortless to trek through the humid rainforest pointing out animal signs that you would never have noticed.

You will also have the chance to visit a local Batek village where you will learn about their culture and daily activities. In return you will teach them basic English skills which will allow locals to benefit from the local tourist industry. A day will also be spent exploring the impressive local limestone caves. This project is a once in a lifetime chance to get involved in vital conservation as you monitor wildlife and protect endangered animals from poaching, and all while enjoying a slice of rainforest life in Malaysia.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn to track tigers, leopards, elephants, tapirs and sun bears
- Contribute to anti-poaching efforts
- Experience remote rainforests, limestone caves and the local indigenous communities

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Medium level of fitness required as jungle walks can be up to 6 hours in very humid conditions
- Minimum age 18 years

## FAST FACTS

<b>Location</b>	Merapoh, Malaysia
<b>Activities</b>	Track tigers, leopards, elephants, tapirs and sun bears Explore remote rainforest Help with anti-poaching efforts Experience life with local indigenous communities Teach English for a day Use camera traps to track animals

	Half day limestone caving
<b>Transport</b>	Bus from KL for approximately £8
<b>Accommodation</b>	Dormitory-style rooms in volunteer house

## WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

This project aims to reduce human impact in the wildlife corridor between the Taman Negara National Park and the main mountain range in West Malaysia where poaching is at its peak. The corridor is used as a highway by wildlife to get between the two large forest reserves. Tigers, elephants, rhinos, leopards and sun bears all use the corridor to find the resources they need to survive and thrive.

Malaysia has the second highest tiger population in the world after India, and so the conservation of this mighty creature within its natural habitat is paramount. As you trek through the dense jungle you will collect vital data on the range and movement of this impressive species by finding and identifying animal tracks and vital signs. As you walk in the lush tropical rainforest you will also act as a deterrent to poachers, to ensure the animals have the environment they need to breed successfully.

This project is designed for you to get a real hands-on experience tracking wild animals and conserving their natural habitat. With a bit of luck you will be within viewing distance of some of the most beautiful animals on earth. Even if you don't always get to see the more elusive animals you will be tracking, you are guaranteed an adventure no matter what!

## WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

You will be part of a dedicated team who work to keep this corridor free from poachers by organising and running anti-poaching patrols. You will trek through the forest in walks lasting between 5 and 7 hours, searching for tracks and signs of wildlife presence. The local guides will point out amazing indigenous flora and fauna, and will identify signs of the wildlife that you may have never spotted on your own. The routes are chosen based on surveys which need to be completed for the local conservation partner. The walks are also meant to keep watch for poachers and snares. If snares are found then their GPS locations will be recorded and the snares destroyed. You will also help monitor camera traps, which capture the movements of elusive and camouflaged animals. You will definitely find some surprises as you check these!

We ask for you to have at least a medium level of fitness in order to keep up with and learn during these exciting jungle walks. Also, keep in mind that you will be working in a tropical rainforest environment where humidity can reach 90- 100%.

You will spend half a day exploring some of the 60 limestone caves in the Merapoh region. The caves reveal the history of the region, both human and natural, with some containing underground flowing rivers and waterfalls while others display drawings from indigenous tribes centuries passed. The caves are also home to a range of cave fauna such as swiftlets, bats, snakes and invertebrates. Who knows what you may discover in their dark depths!

You will find your day spent teaching conversational English to the people of the local village, Batek, particularly rewarding. You will give a 3 hour English teaching session focusing on environmental topics. Don't worry if you are not a teacher as you will have help preparing for this! The Batek people

enjoy these sessions but also take them seriously; helping them learn English is a fantastic way of making sure they can benefit from the local tourism industry. In return, they will teach you about their history, culture and how they live day- to- day on their fruit plantations.

## **SAMPLE ITINERARY**

### **Sunday**

Arrive at Merapoh, briefing and introduction to animal tracking.

### **Monday**

Six hour jungle trek.

### **Tuesday**

Six hour jungle trek.

### **Wednesday**

Morning - Prepare for conversational English lessons.

Afternoon - Visit to the local limestone caves.

### **Thursday**

Visit Batek Village to teach a 3 hour conversational English class and experience the Batek way of life.

### **Friday**

Six hour jungle trek

### **Saturday**

Jungle walk and checking on camera traps used the area.

### **Sunday**

Early morning departure.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?**

You will fly into Kuala Lumpur airport before making your own way by bus to Merapoh where you will be met by local staff. We will help you with details on how to get there yourself.

We recommend that you arrive into Kuala Lumpur the night before the project start date. Your Frontier Volunteer Coordinator can help you make any accommodation and transfer arrangements however these would be at your own cost.

## **WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?**

Throughout your project you will be staying in a dormitory style volunteer house. Rooms will be

single sex with 10 beds each and shared bathrooms. The rooms will be basic but clean, tidy and comfortable. There are also shops within walking distance of the hostel to satisfy any cravings you may have.

## WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

Each day you will receive a continental-style breakfast and a packed lunch to take out with you during the day. For dinner, you will be provided with a food allowance which you can spend at local restaurants, primarily Malay and Chinese. This flexibility allows you to decide exactly what you want to eat to satisfy any hunger you may have after your day's adventure. If you want to spend more than the budget, or buy treats such as milkshakes or chocolate bars then you are more than welcome, but you are responsible for covering any additional costs.

Lunch and dinner on your day of departure are not included, and so you will be responsible for finding your own food.

Malaysian food is heavily influenced from a variety of cultures from all over the world; the fusion of Malay, Chinese and Indian, Indonesian, Thai and Arabian flavors create a symphony of aromas and exotic tastes. Most of the food will be focused on rice and noodles mixed with vegetables or meat.

Eat like the locals by trying a tasty Nasi Dagang for breakfast, or join the cult following in Kuala Lumpur addicted to Hokkiem Mee noodles, and blow your taste buds away with the deliciously simple BBQ Satay stalls dotted on every street corner. The multicultural community of Malaysia has many cultural differences however they are all passionate about their cuisine creating a unique, delicious culinary style.

## COSTS

8 days	US\$ 795
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## DEPARTURE DATES

Participants are required to arrive by 9:00am on the following project start dates:

### 2019:

1	Sep 2019
15	Sep 2019
29	Sep 2019
13	Oct 2019
5	Jan 2020
2	Feb 2020
1	Mar 2020
5	Apr 2020

3	May 2020
7	Jun 2020
21	Jun 2020
5	July 2020
19	July 2020
2	Aug 2020
16	Aug 2020
6	Sep 2020
4	Oct 2020
1	Nov 2020
6	Dec 2020

### **Duration**

8 days / 7 nights

### **WHAT'S INCLUDED?**

#### **Before you go**

- Pre-departure support
- Travel & medical advice & documentation
- Equipment advice
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt

#### **In-country**

- Food
- Accommodation
- Project orientation
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ back-up

### **AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Nearest airport(s): Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL)

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on [info@frontier.ac.uk](mailto:info@frontier.ac.uk)

Check out our social media here:

*Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.*