



## Pre Departure Information

### About Katingan Regency

Katingan Regency (Indonesian: *Kabupaten Katingan*) is one of the thirteen regencies which comprise Central Kalimantan Province on the island of Kalimantan or Indonesian Borneo. The boat landing in Jahanjang on the Katingan River is reached in 3.5 hours by road from Palangka Raya. The population of Katingan Regency is estimated as 160,000. The Spirit of Kalimantan (SOK) operates on the Katingan River, the gateway to explore the Sebangau National Park, which is one of the largest remaining habitats of wild orangutans.

### People & Language & Local customs

Kalteng is home to a multi ethnic mix of Dayak tribes, the indigenous inhabitants of Borneo with their unique culture, languages and religion. Kalteng is also home to Melayu, Javanese, Balinese, and many more cultures, who have migrated here from across Indonesia. Villagers often speak 3 languages. Early Christian missionaries converted many Dayaks, but today the Muslim faith has a majority of adherents.

Bahasa Indonesia is widely spoken. English is little understood. Dress is modest, with shirts having sleeves, no mini skirts, short shorts or tank tops. When meeting people, it is normal to shake hands, and if a group, to shake hands with all the people. Drinking alcohol in public is not accepted and pork is not usually served in restaurants.

### Sebangau National Park

Sebangau National Park is located between Katingan and Sebangau Rivers, covering an area of ±568.700 hectares, in the heart of Central Kalimantan province. This park is a lowland peat swamp forest and home to many mammals, reptiles, insects, birds and amphibians. Remarkable species here include the orangutan, sun bear, gibbons, proboscis, red langurs and from the cat family, clouded leopards and forest cats.

Declared as Indonesia's 50th National Park in 2004, Sebangau had served as a source of valuable timber and was subject to rampant illegal logging. Currently, the Government is encouraging eco tourism as a source of alternative income for local people in river villages. Substantial palm oil concessions have been granted on the western bank of the Katingan River, also providing local employment. Bird nest farming has grown rapidly in the last few years, giving villagers potential alternative incomes.

### Climate

The rainy season is November to May, and the remainder of the year has less rainfall and may be dry. Rains are welcome, coming in sudden downpours, often late in the afternoon, cooling the temperature. Temperature is usually 32 – 35 deg C during the rains, normally hotter in the dry season, and dropping to 23 deg C in the early morning. Humidity is 70-80%. August, September and October are usually the driest months. As a result, the river

levels fall and we have an alternative route, visiting different villages. We see the Orangutan Islands and BOSF Education Centre with a combination of car and canoes. These months may also be affected by smoke.

## Money change

Indonesian currency is the Rupiah. As changing money is difficult in these remote destinations, we ask all guests to change currencies **before** arrival. Note that on the trip it will not be possible to access ATM's, so if you intend to make donations or purchases, please bring some rupiah cash along.

## Flights

Garuda Indonesia, Lion Air, Citilink, Wings Air and Batik Air operate daily flights to Palangka Raya (the starting point of the tour) originating in Jakarta, Surabaya, Solo, Pontianak, Pangkalan Bun and Balikpapan. These flights are direct and take approximately one hour to one and a half hours. There are no international services.

## Health

Bring along a basic medical kit which contains at least hydrating powder for drinks, such as Oralit or Hydralit, Norit charcoal tablets for upset stomach, Panadol, insect repellent, sunscreen, and antiseptic cream. Malaria rarely occurs here. We advise wearing long sleeve shirts and trousers in the evenings, and using mosquito repellent. Usually there are not many mosquitoes on the river, in the running water, but if we tie up near the forest, there can be mosquitoes. Treatment for malaria is now effective and fast acting. Check <http://www.traveldoctor.co.uk/malaria.htm> for information or talk to your doctor.

The sun is very strong here. We are only 1 deg off the equator. Sun stroke and dehydration are risks, so wearing a sun hat is advised, as is drinking plenty of water. All drinking water (and re-fill water) is supplied on the boat. Wow Borneo provides you with a re-fillable water bottle.

We recommend guests have their own travel insurance, with evacuation cover.

Please inform us of any dietary requirements or other special needs before the cruise begins.

## Shopping

There are no traditional markets in the cruise area. If time permits, we can stop in Palangka Raya where local handicrafts can be purchased. These include woven rattan bags and mats, wood carving, jewelry, rubber miniature boats, swords, blowpipes, beaded purses, some precious stones and simple woven hangings.

## Bring with you . . .

Throw in your sun hat, mosie repellent, long sleeve shirt, long trousers, walking shoes, trekking shoes and any specific drugs or cosmetics you need (the range is limited in Palangkaraya).

Alcohol other than beer cannot be obtained in Palangka Raya – our office holds a small selection of wine you are welcome to purchase before embarkation. Please ask for our list of what is available before arrival in Palangka Raya so that it may be on board for your arrival.

## Our Boats

WOW Borneo Orangutan Cruises are currently operating 3 boats on 3 river systems -

The **KM Rahai'i Pangun**, flag ship of the fleet, has 5 cabins: 1 Superior Large Double Bed Cabin with private terrace, ensuite and optional air conditioning, 2 Double Cabins with ensuite and optional air conditioning, 1 Family Cabin

with 4 beds (1 double bed and 2 bunks) air conditioning and share bathroom a step away across the corridor) and 1 Twin Cabin which is fan cooled and shares a bathroom. The upper deck is spacious and comfortable, where you can enjoy our fabulous food and enjoy the passing scenery from the sofas or deck chairs.

The **KM Spirit of Kalimantan** sails the Katingan River and is available for private charter, fitted with 3 air conditioned cabins, hot and cold water, comfortable enclosed seating area and steamer chairs on the front deck. There is also an upper sun deck.

The **KM Sekonyer**, our latest addition, operates in the Tanjung Puting National Park. With 3 air conditioned, ensuite cabins, our signature comfort and highly praised food, she began operations from 1 July 2017.

## *Get ready to leave the city behind . . .*

The Katingan Regency is reached by 3.5 hours driving from Palangka Raya city. Once on board, we leave the town of Jahanjang and pass occasional small villages along the river course. Generators and batteries power the boat 24 hours a day, which allows you to re-charge your phone, cameras and computers. Cabins are all fitted with mosquito wire and fans. Meals are all cooked freshly and served on deck.

## *Observing Orangutans*

On the Katingan River, WOW Borneo operates closely with the National Parks Authority and WWF-Indonesia to access the Visitor Centre and to accompany these adventurous walks in the forest. All Park permits and payments to local communities are covered by WOW Borneo. We will be walking with park rangers who take us into areas where orangutans have recently been spotted, however we cannot guarantee a sighting. An estimate of 70% of our guests have seen wild orangutans on these walks. Our guests must follow all instructions from the guides, and observe wild animals quietly and without disturbing them.

Trekking in this lowland peat swamp forest requires a medium level of fitness and proper footwear and clothing. We recommend you wear strong, light walking shoes, which will be immersed in water and mud during your trek. These forests have uneven and soft areas, as well as soaks and muddy patches. We recommend trousers and long sleeves, to minimize scratching and bites, and plenty of mosquito repellent. We will carry local products with us, but you may prefer to bring stronger repellents. There are no leeches in the park.

## *Relax and enjoy your cruise!*



[www.wowborneo.com](http://www.wowborneo.com) [info@wowborneo.com](mailto:info@wowborneo.com)

Jl Barito no. 11, Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan INDONESIA  
Tel : +62 811 20 648, +62 536 322 2099