



Pre Departure Information

About Pangkalan Bun

Pangkalan Bun is the capital of Kotawaringin Barat regency which is one of 12 regencies in Central Kalimantan. Iskandar airport connects Pangkalan Bun directly to Jakarta, Surabaya, and Semarang and is only 30 minutes drive to Kumai, the gateway to the Tanjung Puting National Park. The Tanjung Puting National Park was established in 1982 and became a famous conservation area for orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and proboscis monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*).

People & Language & Local customs

Central Kalimantan (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. Pangkalan Bun has predominantly Melayu people, and as a port town, has many other ethnic groups from Java and beyond. 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.

Climate

The rainy season is November to June, 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 23 – 32 deg C and the driest months are August to October. Humidity is 83-89%. 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

Nam Air and Trigana Air, operate daily flights to Pangkalan Bun originating in Jakarta, Surabaya and Semarang. These flights are direct and take approximately an hour and a half. 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. Wearing long sleeve shirts and trousers in the evenings, and using mosquito repellent, is advised.

The sun is very strong here, we are only 3 deg off the equator. Sun stroke is common, so wearing a sun hat is advised, as is drinking plenty of water. All drinking water supplied on the boat is bottled mineral water.

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.

Bring with you . . .

Throw in your sun hat, mossie repellent, long sleeve shirt, long trousers, walking shoes and any specific drugs or cosmetics you need (the range is limited in Pangkalan Bun). We recommend you bring your own raincoat and binoculars.

Alcohol other than beer cannot be obtained in Pangkalan Bun. Beer can be purchased at Kumai Port. Ask your tour guide for assistance.

Our Boats

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

The **KM Rahai'i Pangun II**, flag ship of the fleet, has 5 cabins, air conditioning or fan cooled and is famous for its wide, open viewing deck and fabulous food.

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 port of Kumai behind . . .

Once in board, we leave the port of Kumai and pass only one small village 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

The three main areas in the park for observing orangutans are Camp Leakey, Pondok Tanggui and Tanjung Harapan. At these sites, guests take an easy walk through the forest to feeding platforms to observe orangutans coming in to take advantage of supplementary food provided by authorities. We also may glimpse wild orangutans and proboscis monkeys along the river sides during the cruise. These are wild and we are advised not to approach them too closely and to follow the guide's instruction at all times in the forest.

To reach the feeding platforms we walk about 10-30 minutes through the forest from the port and the visit is for a maximum of 2 hours in each station. It is estimated that there are about 3000 orangutans in Tanjung Puting National Park area.

Camera usage is permitted. However, operating drone and filmmaking for commercial purposes need further permission from the Tanjung Puting National Park authority.

In Tanjung Puting, WOW works closely with the National Parks Authority to operate responsible cruises and to adhere to all guidelines. All Park permits are paid by WOW Borneo.

Relax and enjoy your cruise!



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