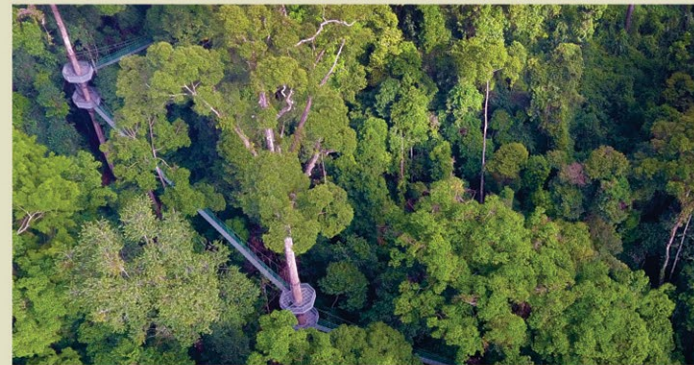


A birdwatcher's journey in Southeast Asia is not complete without a visit to the Danum Valley Conservation Area in the east Malaysian state of Sabah (North Borneo). This 438 square kilometres area is one of the few places in the region that is still teeming with birdlife. This preserved rainforest with its pristine environment is home to a myriad of birds of all shapes, sizes, colours and sounds. To date over 320 species have been recorded and the list is still growing. The lowland dipterocarp forest of Danum Valley is home to several species of birds that are endemic to Borneo. These includes the Bornean Bristlehead, Blue-Headed Pitta, Blue-Banded Pitta, Bulwer's Pheasant, Bornean Ground-Cuckoo, Bornean Wren-Babbler, Black-Throated Wren-Babbler, and Dusky Munia, just to name a few. It is also home to all eight species of the Bornean Hornbills and six species of Pitta, including the impressive Giant Pitta. Danum Valley is indeed a birdwatcher's paradise!

Danum Valley Conservation Area has been recognized by Malaysian Nature Society and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA Code : MY024 - Danum Valley Conservation Area). IBAs are sites of international importance for conserving birds and other biodiversity. All wildlife and plants are protected within this area.

The rainforest surrounding the Borneo Rainforest Lodge in Danum Valley offers birdwatchers, both average and avid, ample opportunities to observe and enjoy the abundant birdlife while staying at the comfortable lodge. To assist in searching and identifying birds in the area, specialist bird guides can be requested at the time of booking. This leaflet provides general reference for some of the most sought after birds sighted at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge (BRL).



## How to get there...

The nearest town to Danum Valley Conservation Area is Lahad Datu on the south east coast of Sabah. Daily flights from Kota Kinabalu to Lahad Datu are available by Malaysia Airlines (MASwings)

Borneo Nature Tours is the sole marketing agent for Borneo Rainforest Lodge in Danum Valley and handles the ground transfers for guests entering the Conservation Area. Guests are advised to make advance reservations for the full board package tours which include jungle activities, meals, accommodation, and ground transfers ex - Lahad Datu, Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu.

The 97 km drive from Lahad Datu to Borneo Rainforest Lodge takes about two hours. The first 15 km is on a sealed road along the main Lahad Datu to Tawau Highway. Upon reaching Silam we travel on gravel road approximately 82 km for two hours to the lodge.



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SCAN FOR INFO

# Birds

of Danum Valley Conservation Area  
at Borneo Rainforest Lodge  
Malaysian, Borneo



Pitta  
**Paradise**





### Blue Headed Pitta

( *Pitta Baudi* ) 18 cm

\*Endemic to Borneo

This Borneo endemic species have striking dimorphism between the sexes. Male foxy chestnut above; crown, tail and underpart bright blue, almost iridescent on the head; black mask through eye, the throat and two wingbars are white. Female rufous above and fawn below, with blue tail, pale throat and two whitish wingbars. Feeds mainly on small insects. Usually solitary. Sightings along trails and during early morning and late afternoon.

### Banded Pitta

( *Pitta Guajana* ) 24 cm

\*Endemic to Borneo

Medium sized pitta with distinctive yellow, black, blue and brown markings. Habitat primary and secondary lowland dipterocarp forest, possibly favouring drier ridgetop; recorded to 1,500 m but commonest between 600 - 1,200 m. Behaviour very elusive especially when not vocalising, rarely come into open; diet consists of insects, snails, earthworms. Sightings within trails and 4 km road at BRL.



### Blue Banded Pitta

( *Pitta Arquata* ) 17 cm

\*Endemic to Borneo

Monotypic. Strikingly red, small pitta with bright blue markings on head and breast. Habitat primary and secondary hill and lower montane forest, favouring bamboo stand, possibly a slope specialist recorded from 150 to 1,500 m but commonest at 600 - 1,200 m. Behaviour very poorly known, unobtrusive, keeps to dense undergrowth; calls from perches up to 3 m from ground. Feeds on variety of insects. Sightings within trails and 4 km road at BRL.

### Giant Pitta

( *Pitta Caerulea* ) 29 cm

Very large pitta with conspicuous eyestripe and solid blue (male) or reddish brown (female) upperpart. Habitat primary and secondary lowland dipterocarp and hill forest, to 900 m but commonest in lowlands. Behaviour shy and elusive; feeds in leaf-litter on snail, earthworms, spider and insect. Sightings within trails and 4 km road at BRL.



Pitta



### Bristlehead



### Bornean Bristlehead

( *Pityriasis Gymnocephala* ) 26 cm

\*Endemic to Borneo

Monotypic genus and family. Very unusual black bird with striking yellow and crimson head, very large hooked bill and short tail. Habitat primary and secondary lowland dipterocarp and hill forest.

Behaviour highly nomadic arboreal insectivore; favours forest canopy where usually seen in small noisy flocks of 6 - 10, sometimes in mixed feeding flocks. Sightings within trails and 4 km road at BRL.

### Trogon



### Cinnamon-Rumped Trogon

( *Harpactes Ornhophaeus* ) 28 cm

This brilliantly coloured bird is a common resident on lowland forest. Male call is a series of about twelve accelerating and descending notes. Habitat primary and secondary lowland dipterocarp to lower montane forest, to 1,550 m. Behaviour as for other trogons but relatively poorly known in Borneo. Feeds mostly insects and caterpillars. Sightings within trails and 4 km road at BRL.



### Great Argus Pheasant

( *Argusianus Argus* ) 75-190 cm

A spectacular bird in South East Asia, it is generally a solitary bird, except during the mating season when the female visits the male's dancing ground. Diet consists of fallen fruits, slugs and insects. Sightings within trails and during jungle trekking in the morning and evening.



### Crested Fireback Pheasant

( *Lophura Ignita* ) 60 cm

This bird is named after the fiery-red lower back and rump of the male. It forages through the forest floor in flocks of five or six. Generally with only one male in the group. Feeds on insect and grubs of all kinds. Sightings near the lodge and within trails.



Pheasant



### Hornbill



### Helmeted Hornbills

( *Rhinoplax Vigil* ) 125 cm

This is the only hornbill which have a solid casque ( known as hornbill ivory ). The remarkable male call starts with a series of mellow hoots, gradually rising in pitch and increasing speed, climaxing into broken series of shrill chuckles, and finally dying away with a mocking laugh. Territorial species and often seen in pairs. Feeds on

fig and also known to take small lizards, frogs and insects. Sightings within trails and 4 km road at BRL.

### Rhinoceros Hornbill

( *Buceros Rhinoceros* ) 90-110 cm

Most admired of all hornbills, this is the only hornbill in Borneo with a black bar across the tail, other than the Helmeted Hornbills. The loud roaring call is the one of the most distinctive of the rainforest. Usually seen single and pairs, it feeds on fig and it is also known to feed on small lizards, frogs and insects. Sightings within trails and along the 4 km road at BRL and during your treks in the mornings and evening.



### Owl



### Buffy Fish Owl

( *Ketupa Ketupa* ) 45 cm

This is the largest owl in Borneo, recognizable by its size, but colouration, big staring yellow eyes and large ear tufts. Frequents forested areas near water including forest-lined rivers and lakes, estuaries, paddy fields, parks and mangroves, essentially a lowland specialist to 400 m. Behaviour nocturnal, sometimes crepuscular; hunts from perch near water; feeds on crustaceans, aquatic insects, small fish, frogs, small birds and mammals. Sightings during night walk or night drive.



### Broad bills

### Black & Yellow Broadbill

( *Eurylaimus ochromalus* ) 15 cm

Monotypic. Small colourful broadbill with conspicuous white colour and pink underpart. Habitat primary and secondary lowland dipterocarp to lower montane forest, peat swamp forest, overgrown plantations, to 1,200 m. Behaviour similar to Banded Broadbill; takes smaller prey, sometimes in small group. Sighting within trails and along the 4 km road at BRL.

