

Borneo's Wild Pitcher Plants

10 – 23 October , 2011

Join us for an unforgettable journey to observe the splendor and beauty of *Nepenthes* pitcher plants in the rainforests and mountains of Borneo.

The island of Borneo harbors some of the richest ecosystems in the world, and it is also the famed home of some of the world's most incredible carnivorous plants, *Nepenthes*, with 36 recognized species. Among these include many rare endemics such as the famous giant pitcher plant, *N. rajah*, which has traps so enormous it occasionally feeds on prey as large as rats.

This guided trip has been custom tailored to provide an unparalleled opportunity to visit these *Nepenthes* pitcher plants in their natural habitats. The tour will take the adventurous on an exploration of some of Borneo's most outstanding wilderness areas in northern Borneo within the east Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah. Destinations include: **Bako National Park**, **Pulong Tau National Park**, and **Gunung Kinabalu National Park**.



Gunung Kinabalu National Park

Referred to as "The Summit of Borneo", this mountain is renowned not only for its spectacular height (at 4,100 meters is the highest peak in Southeast Asia), but also for its incredible biodiversity. It is a popular destination for both mountain trekkers and

biologists alike, and offers an unparalleled opportunity to study and observe tropical mountain habitats.

Pulong Tau National Park

This newly established park in the northeastern corner of the state is seldom visited but is a treasure trove of abundant wildlife and unique vegetation. Gunung Murud, Sarawak's highest mountain, is located within this park, and boasts an impressive abundance of *Nepenthes*.

The tour will be led by naturalist and wildlife photographer **Ch'ien Lee**, co-author of *A Pocket Guide to the Pitcher Plants of Sarawak* and *Pitcher Plants of Borneo, 2nd edition*. With over 13 years of experience in the jungles of Borneo and veteran of over 80 tropical mountain expeditions, he has extensive knowledge of Borneo's wild *Nepenthes*.

ITINERARY

Day 0: Monday, 10 October

Arrival and Orientation

We will meet at the hotel lobby at 6 PM and proceed for a welcoming dinner where we will discuss the details of the trip.

Lodging: Harbour View Hotel. Meals: D.

Day 1: Tuesday, 11 October

Bako National Park

Departing our hotel after breakfast, we will proceed by bus and then boat to the nearby Bako National Park, located on a rugged sandstone peninsula. This park is renowned for its abundant wildlife, including the endemic Proboscis Monkey, and unique floral habitats which abound in *Nepenthes* and other carnivorous plants. A day hike will take us through the park's various environs. We will return to Kuching in late afternoon.

Lodging: Harbour View Hotel. Meals: B, L (pack).
Dinner on own



Day 2: Wednesday, 12 October

Bau Limestone Hills

Our day's excursion by bus will take us to the town of Bau which is located amidst spectacular scenery of karst limestone hills which are riddled with caves. Here we will explore habitats for the endemic *Nepenthes northiana*, as well as other lowland pitcher plants, numerous natural hybrids, and plentiful orchids including the rare and endemic *Paphiopedilum stonei*.

Lodging: Harbour View Hotel. Meals: B, L, D.

Day 3: Thursday, 13 October

Lambir Hills National Park

After breakfast at our hotel we will proceed to Kuching International Airport and board a local flight for Miri, Sarawak's northernmost city. Upon arrival we will proceed by private bus to the nearby Lambir Hills National Park, en route stopping to investigate several roadside *Nepenthes* sites. Here we can see numerous lowland species including the bizarre *N. mirabilis* var. *echinostoma*. We will also enjoy a short hike through the primary forest to view some of Lambir's spectacular waterfalls and endemic palm species, and search for the elusive *N. hispida*.

Lodging: Borneo Tropical Rainforest Resort. Meals: B, L, D.

Day 4: Friday, 14 October

Bario

From Miri we will board a morning flight to the small town of Bario, located in the heart of the Kelabit Highlands in northeastern Sarawak. At 1000 m altitude, this area has a cool climate and is home to a number of highland *Nepenthes* species. An afternoon walk will take us through *kerangas* forest where we can observe several species.

Lodging: Labang Longhouse Homestay. Meals: B, L (pack), D.



Day 5: Saturday, 15 October

Bario

Our day will be spent exploring the *kerangas* forest and habitats along several trails leading out of Bario. Species observed will include *N. stenophylla*, *N. hirsuta*, *N. reinwardtiana*, and a unique form of the spectacular *N. veitchii*.

Lodging: Labang Longhouse Homestay. Meals: B, L (pack), D.

Day 6: Sunday, 16 October

Transit to Merarap

Today we will bid farewell to Bario, board a morning flight back to Miri, and then transfer to another plane to the northern town of Lawas. Our 3-hour journey will then take us by 4 wheel-drive vehicle up dirt roads to a small rainforest lodge located by a river and a natural hot spring.

Lodging: Merarap Hot Spring. Meals: B, L, D.

Day 7: Monday, 17 October

Gunung Murud

Our climb up Gunung Murud will be a fairly strenuous 3-hour hike, followed by a rather pleasant stroll along the summit ridge. Here we will pass through beautiful moss forest, offering excellent photo opportunities of many *Nepenthes* including *N. tentaculata*, *N. muluensis*, *N. lowii*, *N. hurrelliana*, and the endemic *N. murudensis*, as well as countless rhododendrons, gesneriads, and orchids (including such beauties as *Corybas muluensis*). We will take shelter at the Church Camp houses (2100 meters).

Lodging: Church Camp. Meals: B, L (pack), D.

Day 8: Tuesday, 18 October

Murud Summit

We will spend the entire day exploring the summit plateau (which is a short hike from camp) and investigating the amazing terrain of the 'rock garden' which, at 2400 meters in elevation, has some of the most spectacular and unique vegetation in Sarawak. Here in the open habitat, we can observe thousands of *Nepenthes* growing in pristine abundance along with numerous orchids and rhododendrons.

Lodging: Church Camp. Meals: B, L (pack), D.

Day 9: Wednesday, 19 October

Return to Merarap

We will depart camp early and begin our descent from Gunung Murud, returning to our lodge by 4 wheel-drive. En route we will visit newly discovered sites for various *Nepenthes* including *N. reinwardtiana*, *N. fusca*, *N. vogelii*, and *N. chaniana*. In the evening we will enjoy a soak in the wonderfully relaxing natural hot spring.

Lodging: Merarap Hot Spring.
Meals: B, L (pack), D.





Day 10: Thursday, 20 October

Transit to Mount Kinabalu

We will travel by 4 wheel-drive vehicle back to Lawas, cross the border into the state of Sabah, and then transfer via a shuttle to Mount Kinabalu. Our hotel is located near the high-elevation town of Kundasang on the southern slopes of the mountain, with a spectacular view of Kinabalu.

Lodging: Fairy Garden Resort. Meals: B, L, D.

Day 11: Friday, 21 October

Mount Kinabalu Summit Trail

Setting our goals of exploring the upper montane vegetation of this spectacular mountain, we will embark early in the morning for a long day hike, following the summit trail. Our climb will take us up nearly 1000 vertical meters of elevation (reaching over 3000 meters in altitude) and into unusual montane habitats rich with orchids, rhododendrons, and *Nepenthes*. Here we will find the beautiful endemic *Nepenthes villosa*.

Lodging: Fairy Garden Resort. Meals: B, L (pack), D.

Day 12: Saturday, 22 October

Mesilau Valley

We will take a morning field trip to the Mesilau Valley, high on the southeastern side of the mountain. Here we will take a short hike across the river to an outcrop of ultramafic soil upon which grows a large population of *Nepenthes*, including *N. burbidgeae* and the famous *Nepenthes rajah*. Many other spectacular plants grow in the surrounding montane forest including *Paphiopedilum javanicum*, a beautiful slipper orchid. After lunch we will return by shuttle to Kota Kinabalu where we will enjoy an evening farewell dinner by the waterfront.

Lodging: Kinabalu Daya Hotel. Meals: B, L, D.

Day 13: Sunday, 23 October

Departure

Participants may be interested to extend their visit in Sabah, which hosts an impressive assortment of parks and nature reserves for wildlife viewing and scuba diving. Multiple daily flights are available for return to Kuching, Sarawak.



WHAT TO PREPARE FOR

As the trip will involve several days of moderately strenuous hiking, participants are expected to be reasonably fit. For overnight treks, everyone will be responsible for carrying their own personal belongings, including lightweight sleeping gear and clothes. Group food and other supplies will be carried by porters.

People who have registered for the tour will receive a detailed list of suggested equipment to bring.

REGISTRATION

Cost for the trip is **RM 5,600.00 (approximately USD \$1840)** per participant. A non-refundable deposit of RM 1000.00 is required to secure registration, and full payment must be made by 10 September, 2011.

This fee is inclusive of all internal transportation, airfares, lodging, meals where listed (excluding beverages), park fees, porters, and guide fees.

Tour participants are required to arrange for their own airfare to Kuching, Sarawak and onwards from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Multiple daily flights are available for Kuching and Kota Kinabalu from both Kuala Lumpur and Singapore via local and low-cost airlines. Please inquire if you would like any travel suggestions.

Accommodation in Kuching, Miri, Bario, Kota Kinabalu, and Lawas, will consist of twin or double rooms. Please inquire if you would prefer a private room and you will be advised of additional cost .

Due to capacity constraints at several of the field sites, the tour will be limited to a small number of participants. To register please visit www.wildborneo.com.my/regnep10.php or send an email to mail@wildborneo.com.my

