

Wild Nepenthes of Sarawak

Post Conference Tour for the 2007 Sarawak Nepenthes Summit

23 August – 1 September, 2007

Join us for an unforgettable journey to observe the splendor and beauty of Sarawak's amazing pitcher plants.

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*. In Sarawak, located on the island's northwest coast, *Nepenthes* reach their pinnacle of diversity, with over 25 species so far recorded in the state, including numerous endemics.

This special guided trip has been arranged specifically for participants of the **2007 Sarawak Nepenthes Summit** to provide an unparalleled opportunity to visit these 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 Sarawak including **Mulu National Park**, a World Heritage Site, and the new **Pulong Tau National Park**.



Mulu National Park - World Heritage Site

With over 52,000 hectares, this is Sarawak's largest and arguably most famous national park. Mulu is renowned for its botanical and zoological diversity. It has been estimated that the park contains over 3,500 species of flowering plants alone. This is largely due to Mulu's diverse topography and range of

habitats, which include the massive sandstone Gunung Mulu, and the highest limestone peak in Southeast Asia, Gunung Api.

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* species.

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*. With over 11 years of experience in the jungles of Borneo and veteran of over 70 tropical mountain expeditions, he has extensive knowledge of the wild *Nepenthes* of Sarawak.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Thursday, 23 August

Lambir Hills National Park

After our rendezvous at Holiday Inn Kuching, we will be taken to Kuching International Airport where we will board our flight to Miri. 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*. We will enjoy a sumptuous seafood meal at the Miri waterfront.

Lodging: Parkcity Everly Hotel. Meals: L, D.



Day 2: Friday, 24 August

Mulu National Park

After breakfast at our hotel we will proceed to Miri airport for our short flight to Mulu National Park. Once we have checked in at the park headquarters and had lunch we will take a short afternoon hike through beautiful lowland rainforest to a nearby site where we can view the rare *Nepenthes campanulata* growing high on the limestone cliffs. Later we will visit the famous entrance to Deer Cave, where at dusk we will witness the enormous swarms of bats emerging for their nightly forays.

Lodging: Mulu Park HQ hostel and chalets. Meals: B, L, D.

Day 3: Saturday, 25 August

Trek to Melinau Gorge

We will begin our trek to Gunung Api by first heading up the Melanau river by canoe. An easy 2-hour hike will then take us to the rest house at Camp 5, our lodging for the next 2 days, located in a pristine river valley surrounded by towering limestone cliffs. In the afternoon we will hike to a nearby kerangas forest habitat where several lowland *Nepenthes* can be observed including the Bornean endemic *N. bicalcarata*.

Lodging: Camp 5. Meals: B, L (pack), D.

Day 4: Sunday, 26 August

The Pinnacles

After spending the night at Camp 5 our trek up Gunung Api will begin early in the morning. This is a steep and difficult trail, but most hikers are able to reach the Pinnacles in about 3-4 hours. En route we will observe numerous montane *Nepenthes* species including the Sarawak endemic *N. faizaliana* as well as abundant orchids and other fascinating plants. The Pinnacles are located at the top of the trail and we will have a short while to take in the superb view before beginning our descent back to camp.

Lodging: Camp 5. Meals: B, L (pack), D.

Day 5: Monday, 27 August

Return to Mulu Headquarters

After a leisurely morning around camp we will retrace our steps to the Melinau river and then board our canoes back to park headquarters. En route we will stop for a brief guided tour of the spectacular Clearwater and Wind Caves which are located along the river.

Lodging: Mulu Park HQ longhouse rooms and chalets. Meals: B, L, D.

Day 6: Tuesday, 28 August

Journey to Bakelalan

Today we will bid farewell to Mulu and board a morning flight back to Miri, and then transfer on another plane to Lawas. Our journey will then take us by 4 wheel-drive vehicle into the Kelabit Highlands, where we will stay at the pleasant remote village of Bakelalan, home of the Lun Bawang people. Lodging: Appel Lodge. Meals: B, L, D.



Day 7: Wednesday, 29 August

Gunung Murud Climb

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) where food and lodging will be provided.

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

Day 8: Thursday, 30 August

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: Friday, 31 August

Return to Lawas

We will depart camp early and begin our descent from Gunung Murud, returning to Lawas by 4 wheel-drive. En route we will visit newly discovered sites for various *Nepenthes* including *N. reinwardtiana*, *N. fusca*, and the recently described *N. vogelii*. We will reach Lawas by nightfall.

Lodging: Lawas Hotel. Meals: B, L (pack), D.

Day 10: Saturday, 1 September

Return to Kuching

Our morning flight will take us back to Miri, with a subsequent transfer to Kuching (arrival time 3:20 PM).

Lodging: not provided.

Meals: B.



WHAT TO PREPARE FOR

As the trip will involve several days of fairly 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.

Participants should be aware that accommodation will be shared at all times during the trip, as in many locations private rooms are not available. Please inquire if you need special accommodation arrangements.

COST

This tour has been specifically arranged for participants of the **2007 Sarawak Nepenthes Summit**, but is also open to non-participants on a first-come-first-serve basis. The cost for the trip is:

Sarawak Nepenthes Summit Participant	US \$ 980.00
Non-Participant	US \$ 1080.00

This fee is inclusive of all internal transportation, airfares, lodging, meals where listed (excluding alcoholic beverages), park fees, porters, and guide fees. Tour participants are required to arrange and pay for their own airfare to Sarawak and their lodging in Kuching for any days not detailed in the itinerary above.

REGISTRATION

Due to capacity constraints at a number of the field sites, the tour will be limited to a small number of participants. To register please visit:

<http://www.wildborneo.com.my/tours/regnepsar07.html>

Or send an email to mail@wildborneo.com.my.