

KALIMANTAN

Kalimantan, by far the largest section of Borneo, is the Indonesian part of the island and is typically divided into four sections.

EAST KALIMANTAN

This is the home of the original inhabitants of Borneo — the Orang Gunung, or hill people. Just as in Malaysian Borneo, these tribes are collectively referred to as the Dayaks, yet this is not a name embraced by the native people themselves. They prefer to be known by their separate tribal names such as Banjarese, Punans and Banuaqs. Today, East Kalimantan is the the most industrially advanced province on the island.

WEST KALIMANTAN

This province's major city, Pontianak, is one of the main ports and rubber-producers of Kalimantan and lies directly on the equator. In several dialects its name enigmatically translates as "vampire." Much of West Kalimantan's mountains, caves and swamps remain unexplored, making it an ideal refuge for both the Dayak tribes and a dazzling assortment of rare flora and fauna.

CENTRAL KALIMANTAN

Lush and largely impenetrable, Central Kalimantan's mountains and dense jungle stand guard over some of the most precious land in Borneo. And within the province, an installation known as Camp Leaky stands guard over one of the land's most valuable treasures — the orangutan. At this incredible facility, tame orangutans that had been originally stolen from their jungle homes are rehabilitated and released back into the arms of Mother Nature.

SOUTH KALIMANTAN

This area is often called the Province of a Thousand Rivers. It's an appropriate name for a part of Borneo lined with hundreds of waterways great and small. In South Kalimantan, the river is meeting place and market, highway and social hall. It is the artery that sustains life and then provides the current to carry it away in elaborately carved wooden coffins. But the river is not all that sparkles in this diverse province. South Kalimantan is also known for its trade in diamonds, sapphires, agates and beautifully made gold, silver and brass jewelry.

PETITE BUT PROSPEROUS

Nestled in between Sarawak and Sabah, lies the ancient Islamic nation of the Sultanate of Brunei—one of the oldest continuously ruling monarchies in the world.

The manufacturing of latex is just another of Borneo's thriving industries



In the early part of the sixteenth century — a time known as Brunei's Golden Age — the mighty Sultanate was so dominant in its rule of Borneo that the name of the country and the name of the island were used interchangeably. In fact, it is believed that the name "Borneo" itself is actually a corruption of "Brunei." Today, Brunei is just a fragment of its former self, a tiny landmass on Borneo's north coast lying between the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah. However, what it has lost in terms of land, it has gained in wealth.

BLACK GOLD

At the turn of the last century, oil was discovered in Brunei. Since then, it has been a sustaining force and provider of wealth unmatched in surrounding nations. In fact, the average per capita income is \$19,000.00 — a figure unheard of through much of Southeast Asia.

Oil money has permitted the nation to provide free healthcare and education, to help subsidize houses and cars, and to keep its populace free of any personal income tax liability. Fortunately, it has also allowed Brunei to avoid massive deforestation, as it does not need the money that comes from the very lucrative logging industry that is damaging so much of Borneo's virgin forests. As a result, much of Brunei's lowland rainforests, mangrove and peat swamps, and heath forests remain much as they have been for centuries.

THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

According to the Guinness Book of World Records and Fortune Magazine, the present Sultan of Brunei — Hassanal Bolkhiah — is the world's wealthiest individual. Worth approximately \$37 billion — this cache of cash has allowed him to collect 300 cars, a private fleet of aircraft, and over 200 horses!



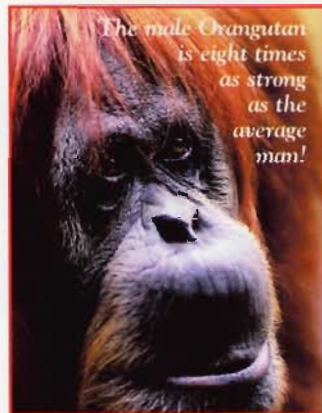
OUR NOT-SO-DISTANT COUSINS

The windy, winding canopy of Borneo's rainforest is home to hundreds of species that slink and slither, flit and flutter, claw and climb. For the Orangutan, these broad and ancient tree branches serve as private highways through a world that is both nursery and school, bedroom and dining hall, playground and proving ground.

TREE HUGGER

Of all the Great Apes — Orangutan, Chimpanzee, Bonobo and Gorillas — only the Orangutan is considered strictly arboreal, or tree-based. In fact it is the largest tree-living mammal in the world. It is believed that these gentle creatures carry a highly detailed map of the forest in their minds in order to efficiently travel between the sources of fruit, bark, and leaves they so love to eat.

Borneo's tightly woven treetops cradle a most precious and rare creature.



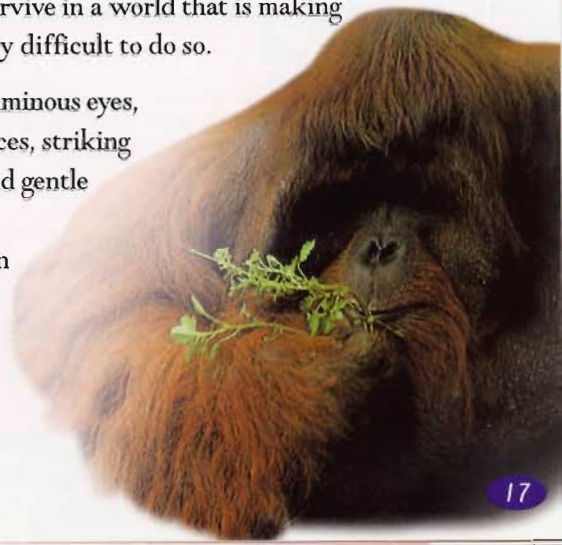
The male Orangutan is eight times as strong as the average man!

Orangutan babies learn how to open more than 350 varieties of fruit and discover clever methods of finding and catching insects. And they have good teachers! Baby and mother stay together for at least six years — one of the longest periods of parental dependence in the animal kingdom.

FOREST PEOPLE?

Orangutans and human beings share 97% of the same DNA. It's no surprise then, that the name for our tree-dwelling cousin means "person who lives in the forest." Because of their similarities to people, and because of their powerful minds, new legislation may soon grant these endangered animals some basic human rights. This will help them attempt to survive in a world that is making it increasingly difficult to do so.

With large luminous eyes, expressive faces, striking orange fur and gentle mannerisms, the orangutan truly is a treetop treasure!





THE MONSOON, A TALE OF TWO WINDS

In their never ending cycle of wet and dry, the monsoons are a vital part of Borneo's rich ecosystem.

The air is moist and heavy. The wind is laden with a sense of foreboding, power and portent. Green leaves shimmer against a bright charcoal sky. And then, suddenly, sheets of rain tear through the forest canopy and pound down into the earth. All living creatures — including humans — quickly seek shelter. The winter monsoon has arrived.

A WEATHER WONDER

Although most people only think of monsoons as a series of torrential rains, this powerful weather phenomenon is actually a bit more complicated.

The word “monsoon” comes from the Arabic word meaning season. What it refers to in modern day, is a major wind system that regularly reverses direction.

In Borneo, from November to March, the island cools, releasing its heat to the heavens. At this time, a cold wind blows in from the sea, bringing copious amounts of rain. This is called the Northeast Monsoon.

THE RAINFORESTS OF THE SEA

From late May to September however, the winds trade places, the Southwest Monsoon takes over, and conditions stay relatively dry. As you might imagine, the period of time between these two seasons is known as the intermonsoon period.

This constant wash of wind and water has kept Borneo an ever changing, ever growing and ever green paradise through the millennia.

BORNEO'S WEATHER

PRESSURE FROM MOTHER NATURE

The graceful and sometimes violent dance of winds over Borneo are a result of high and low pressure systems.

A cooler area, like the island in winter, is a high pressure system with winds that swirl opposite the earth's rotation. A warmer area is known as a low pressure system, or cyclone, and has winds that blow in the same direction the Earth rotates.