Eagle-Eye Tours

Malaysia Peninsula Itinerary

Link: Malaysia Peninsula

Tour Overview

Peninsular Malaysia is home to rich dipterocarp forests and a wealth of regional birding specialties. Our Malaysia Peninsula birding tour explores this diversity, from towering lowland rainforest to the cool forests of Fraser's Hill and the coastal mangroves of Kuala Selangor.

From babblers to bulbuls and broadbills to hornbills, we seek a fascinating variety of forest birds, along with colourful trogons, barbets and elusive flycatchers. At Fraser's Hill, mixed flocks enliven the cool montane surroundings, with possibilities including Blue Nuthatch, Fire-tufted Barbet and Sultan Tit. We explore forest trails and listen for the calls of Siamangs greeting the dawn.

The coastal lowlands and mangroves of Kuala Selangor offer a different array of specialties, including Mangrove Pitta, Mangrove Blue Flycatcher and Mangrove Whistler. Silvered Leaf Monkeys and Long-tailed Macaques add to the wildlife we may encounter. We also explore the forests of Hulu Langat and Lanchang, while at Bukit Tinggi we seek the elusive Mountain Peacock-Pheasant.

Our Eagle-Eye Tours guide and local guides help us discover the region's birds and wildlife, with delicious food, interesting cultures and friendly people adding to the experience.

This tour can be combined with our Borneo: Bristleheads & Orangutans tour.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Kuala Lumpur



Arrive in Kuala Lumpur, where we gather for a welcome dinner to meet our guides and fellow travellers and discuss the birding adventures ahead. Night in Kuala Lumpur.

Day 2: Hulu Langat and Kuala Selangor



We make an early start for Hulu Langat, where lowland forest and surrounding habitats introduce us to Peninsular Malaysia's rich birdlife. We look for Rufous-collared Kingfisher, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Malayan Brown Barbet, Green Iora and Crimson-winged Woodpecker. After lunch, we travel to Kuala Selangor to explore paddy fields and secondary forest. Our time in this coastal region also includes the mangroves and coastal forest of Kuala Selangor Nature Park. Mangrove specialties include Mangrove Pitta, Mangrove Blue Flycatcher and Mangrove Whistler. Other possibilities include Lesser Adjutant, Laced Woodpecker, Common and Greater Flamebacks, White-throated and Collared Kingfishers, and Oriental Dollarbird. Herons, egrets, bulbuls and other birds add to the variety, while Silvered Leaf Monkeys and Long-tailed Macaques may also be encountered. Night at De Palma Hotel or similar, Kuala Selangor.

Days 3 to 5: Kuala Selangor and Fraser's Hill



We spend the morning of Day 3 birding around Kuala Selangor before travelling to Fraser's Hill in the afternoon. Here we spend three nights exploring the mature mountain forests and enjoying surroundings that are considerably cooler than the lowlands. Fraser's Hill is an attractive former colonial hill station, with forest trails and quiet roads offering access to its distinctive montane birdlife. Mixed feeding flocks move quickly and noisily through the forest. We look for Malayan Laughingthrush, Silver-eared Mesia, Blue Nuthatch and Sultan Tit, along with Gray-throated and Golden Babblers, White-browed and Black-eared Shrike-Babblers, Blue-winged Minla, Mountain Fulvetta and Long-tailed Sibia. Black-and-crimson Oriole and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo may join the activity. Other targets include Malaysian Partridge, Malaysian Whistling-Thrush, Fire-tufted Barbet, Red-headed Trogon, Long-tailed and Silver-breasted Broadbills, and Streaked and Marbled Wren-Babblers. Flycatchers are well represented, with possibilities including Verditer, Little Pied and Rufous-browed Flycatchers, as well as Large Niltava. We also watch for Great Hornbill and listen for Bock's Hawk-Cuckoo. Depending on conditions, we may explore the Waterfall Trail and the area known as The Gap. An evening outing may offer opportunities to listen for owls. Mammals include a variety of squirrels and leaf monkeys, and we listen for the remarkable calls of Siamangs echoing through the hills. Nights at Wyndham Garden Shahzan Hotel or similar, Fraser's Hill.

Day 6: Fraser’s Hill to Bukit Tinggi via Lanchang



We spend the morning birding around Fraser’s Hill, giving us another opportunity to search for montane species we have not yet encountered. In the afternoon, we leave the highlands and travel to Lanchang, where we explore lowland habitats for a different selection of birds. We then continue to Bukit Tinggi for the night. Night at Colmar Tropicale or similar, Bukit Tinggi.

Day 7: Bukit Tinggi



We spend the morning and afternoon birding around Bukit Tinggi, seeking the elusive Mountain Peacock-Pheasant. Other possibilities include Ferruginous Partridge, Orange-breasted Trogon, Banded Kingfisher, Banded Broadbill and Bushy-crested Hornbill. The elusive Rail-babbler is another possibility. After our birding, we travel to our accommodation near Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Night near Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

Day 8: Departure

After breakfast, our Malaysia Peninsula birding tour concludes with departure for Kuala Lumpur International Airport for flights home or onward to Kota Kinabalu for those continuing to Borneo.

What to Expect

Overview

This is a fast-paced tour focused on finding a rich variety of birds across lowland forests, mangroves and montane habitats. Expect early starts, full days in the field and some birding before breakfast.

Food

Breakfasts will usually be at our accommodation, although occasionally we take a packed breakfast to allow an early start. Some lunches may be picnic style to maximize our time in the field. Evening meals are usually at our hotel or lodge, where we review the birds and other wildlife encountered and discuss the following day’s activities.

Accommodation

We stay in hotels throughout the tour, with three nights at Fraser’s Hill and single-night stays in Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Selangor, Bukit Tinggi and near Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

Walking

Walking is generally easy to moderate, combining forest trails with birding along roads and around our accommodation. Trails may be muddy following rain.

Driving

There is a moderate amount of driving, with transfers between birding areas and shorter journeys to local sites. Some mountain roads are narrow and winding, particularly on the approach to Fraser’s Hill. Transfer days include birding, with the longest travel day expected to be the journey from Fraser’s Hill to Bukit Tinggi via Lanchang.

Climate

Expect hot, humid conditions in the lowlands, with typical October temperatures around 23–32°C (73–90°F). Fraser’s Hill is cooler, with daytime temperatures generally around 20–25°C (68–77°F) and cooler mornings and evenings. Rain showers can occur throughout the tour, so bring a lightweight rain jacket or poncho, along with a light layer for the highlands.

A hat, sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended. Mosquitoes can be troublesome, particularly in humid lowland habitats, and leeches may be encountered on forest trails.

What's Included

Tour Price Includes

- Good to high-quality hotels and lodges
- 4 to 8 participants with an EET leader and a local guide
- All meals & soft drinks
- All accommodation
- Airport Transfers
- Ground transportation
- All park, conservation and entrance fees
- Gratuities to local drivers and guides

Tour Price Does Not Include

- Flights to and from Kuala Lumpur
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Alcoholic beverages
