



Kalimantan

POP 13,800,000

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Best Jungle River Journeys

- » Sungai Bungan (p618)
- » Sungai Mahakam (p596)
- » Sungai Sekonyer (p619)

Best Places to Stay

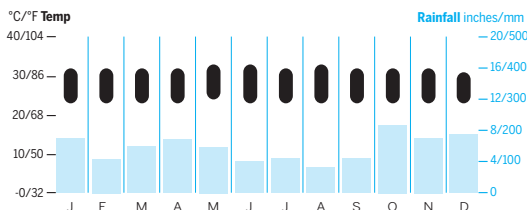
- » Nunukan Island Resort (p609)
- » Wisma Alya (p632)
- » Wehea Forest Lodge (p605)
- » Hotel Gran Senyur (p590)

Why Go?

If jungle rivers get your blood running, then be prepared for rapids. Occupying three-quarters of Borneo, the world's third-largest island Kalimantan harbours a vast and legendary jungle cut by countless rivers, including two around 1000km in length. Within this primordial puzzle something extraordinary always lies around the next bend. You'll encounter exotic wildlife, such as the unforgettable orangutan, mysterious Dayak villages with only one foot in the modern world, and pure boating thrills. Adventure travellers of all levels can participate, from novices enjoying the romantic *klotok* (canoes) of Tanjung Puting to hardened trekkers shooting rapids on the landmark Cross-Borneo Trek. Divers will revel in the Derawan Archipelago, a world-class underwater destination. Cities here are mostly transit points, and foreigners exceedingly rare, but locals everywhere will greet you with a cheerful 'Hey Mistah!', making travel a tropical breeze.

When to Go

Pontianak



Jan–Feb Rough weather limits diving trips in the Derawan Archipelago.

Feb–Apr Blooming fruit brings orangutans into view.

Aug–Sep Dry season makes roads better, skies clearer.

Kalimantan Highlights

- 1 Completing the landmark **Cross-Borneo Trek** (p587) – if you can
- 2 Meeting the orangutans of **Tanjung Puting National Park** (p619)
- 3 Travelling up **Sungai Mahakam** (p596) – and into the past
- 4 Living the (inexpensive) high life in **Balikpapan** (p588)
- 5 Exploring the **Derawan Archipelago** (p607), both under water and above
- 6 Settling into village life in lovely **Loksado** (p631)
- 7 Cruising **Sungai Kahayan** aboard the luxurious *Rahai'i Pangun* (p626)
- 8 Ascending the tower of the extraordinary **Islamic Centre of Samarinda** (p593)
- 9 Hiking unspoiled **Wehea Forest** (p605): the Earth as it used to be

