

## MAHAKAM DOLPHIN TRIP\*

\* all contact info referred to below you can find on the next page.

### Three-days dolphin trip with possible extension trips:

**Day 1.** Go by car or bus from Balikpapan (5-6 hrs) or Samarinda (3.5-4hrs) to Kota Bangun, where you can lunch in one of the river restaurants. Afterwards, take a motorized canoe (cess) and go to Sangkuliman village in Pela tributary. If you only want to be dropped off the price is Rp. 50.000. Before entering the tributary slow down or better stop at the confluence and check for any dolphins. If you plan to continue sightseeing on the water later that day better contact Pak Darwis (resident of Sangkuliman) to pick you up in Kota Bangun and after you have settled into a homestays you can go out for another trip to the lake and enjoy sunset and perhaps a swim!. In Sangkuliman there is an information raft about the dolphins, lakes, wildlife, fisheries and cultures of the area. Stay overnight.

**Day 2.** After breakfast go by cess to Muara Kaman and move into the tributary of Kedang Rantau and look for the dolphins and other interesting wildlife eg waterbirds, otters and infrequently proboscis monkeys. Make sure to stop and check out the confluence first as dolphins often occur here. Return after you reached the confluence of Sebintulung to Muara Kaman for late lunch at the nice restaurant that is overlooking the confluence with the Mahakam. After late lunch go back to Pela River or first visit the small museum on the oldest Hindu Kingdom in Indonesia, Kutai Martapura and King Mulawarman. Here you can also find several relics such as the *lesong* stone, to which magical powers are attributed by the local people, *yupa* and *batu kepala babi*. If you didn't get the chance to see any dolphins yet while moving upstream again in the direction of Pela River, first move into Kedang Kepala River until the village of Muara Siran (c. 10km from confluence). Lake Siran behind the village is a good bird-watching area too. Or if still no dolphins to be seen try the Belayan River until the village of Muhuran. Stay overnight again in Sangkuliman village.

**Day 3.** Leave by cess from Sangkuliman village through Semayang and Melintang Lakes to Muara Muntai via the narrow Rebaq Rinding River, where you can often spot leaf monkeys, macaques and birds. You have your lunch in Muara Muntai or buy and wrap it and eat it further on the way on a nice spot. From here there are two options: **1)** Continue your trip to Tempadung Lake just before entering the larger Jempang Lake, which is a heaven for bird watchers. Also, on the way to Tempadung along the Batu Bumbang River you can often see Proboscis monkeys. After bird spotting go back to Muara Muntai and the same way back through the Melintang and Semayang Lakes to Kota Bangun, from where you can take a taxi or bus back to Samarinda. **2)** If you want to extend your trip beyond 3 days from Tempadung you can go to Tanjung Isuy village via Jempang Lake. Check in losmenWisata at the longhouse. Possibility to buy handicraft souvenirs and to see the Dayak tribal dance ceremony (this can be arranged upon request or if you are lucky, there is already a dance scheduled)

**(Day 4).** After breakfast, transfer to motorized canoes (max. 3-4 persons per canoe) and first go to Macong village to see the old longhouse after which you can continue your trip to Muara Pahu via the Baroh tributary (2-3 hrs, only at medium-high waterlevels), or via Penyinggahan (3-4hrs) if water levels are not too extreme low) or via Muara Muntai (4-5hrs) if water levels are too low). Arrival in the afternoon in Muara Pahu where a trip can be made on the Bolowan River, where proboscis monkeys can be seen in high densities at late afternoon and many nice bird species or the blackwater river of Jintan (medium-high water levels). At high water levels there is the possibility to cross through peat swamp forest upstream of Bolowan River and join the Kedang Pahu River to make a nice roundtrip. Take the public boat back to Samarinda or further upstream to Melak in the evening (c. 3 hrs), where you will arrive around 23h00 or later. However there are still possibilities to check in one of the many losmens along the river.

**(Day 5 and more).** After breakfast you can go by jeep (quite expensive) or motorcycle (cheaper) through rural areas and villages and see the famous black orchids in Kersik Luway, refresh at the Gemuruh waterfall and have a picnic, visit the Dayak Longhouse in Eheng, where people still live communally and wear traditional clothes, here you will also have the opportunity for a short trip in the forest. If the guide has acquaintances in this area, maybe you can stay overnight in one of the villages. Otherwise return to Melak. If you like, you can go further upstream to Data Bilang (Dayak Kenyah) village or Long Bagun (mixed Dayak community) at the rapid streams (take public boat late at night (23h00 or later)\*. You may also decide to move downstream by taking the public boat to Samarinda at the end of the day and arrive in Samarinda the next morning. There are more jungle trips (2-3 days) starting from Long Bagun (you can ask Pak Usman, who runs a local losmen to arrange this.

For the price of the trip or trip extensions you may contact the travel or guide directly for more information (see below). Note that the suggested trip itinerary above uses motorized canoes with a maximum capacity of 4-6 tourists, but it is well possible to travel with a houseboat where you eat and sleep onboard. This type of boat that has a maximum capacity up to 8 or 12 people usually. Travels and guides may provide more information on trip itineraries using houseboats.



**Dolphin trip in cooperation with:** Yayasan Konservasi RASI. Komplek Pandan Harum Indah Blok C, 52 Samarinda, East Kalimantan, Tel: + 62.541.744874, E-mail: [yk-rasi@gmail.com](mailto:yk-rasi@gmail.com);  
Web: [www.yk-rasi.org](http://www.yk-rasi.org); Contact: Danielle Kreb (081346489515) or Budiono (081348072072).

- ❖ When more detailed scientific information and exchange on the area characteristics or wildlife is required during the trip, we can offer one guide from our organization to accompany you during your trip. Otherwise, please use the travel agency's guide.
- ❖ If you are traveling without guide it is better to contact RASI first when you arrive in East Kalimantan or beforehand by email so we can help to contact and arrange the boatman, homestay and itinerary.

**Accredited Pesut Mahakam Tour Guides/ Travels:**

- De'gigant Tours ( PT Gigantara) . City: Samarinda, East Kalimantan. E-mail: [info@borneotourgigant.com](mailto:info@borneotourgigant.com);  
Web: [www.borneotourgigant.com](http://www.borneotourgigant.com)
- Borneo Discovery Tours. City: Balikpapan. Web: [www.borneo-discoverytours.com](http://www.borneo-discoverytours.com)
- Kalimantan Tour Guide. City: Balikpapan. Guide: Kiswono. E-mail: [tour@indosat.net.id](mailto:tour@indosat.net.id);  
Web: [www.kalimantantourguide.com](http://www.kalimantantourguide.com)
- Pt Borneo Eco-adventure. City: Angkinang, South Kalimantan. E-mail: [info@borneo-ecotrekking.com](mailto:info@borneo-ecotrekking.com);  
Web: [www.borneoecoadventure.com](http://www.borneoecoadventure.com) & [www.borneo-ecotrekking.com](http://www.borneo-ecotrekking.com)
- Guide Rustam (08-125854915); E-mail: [rustam\\_kalimantan@yahoo.co.id](mailto:rustam_kalimantan@yahoo.co.id)
- Guide Indra (08-125859800); E-mail: [indrahadi91@yahoo.com](mailto:indrahadi91@yahoo.com).

**Boatman contacts:** Please use our trained boatmen: **From Kota Bangun/ Pela-** Pak Darwis (08-5250650961); Pak Idham (08-5250514529) ; **From Muara Muntai** -Pak Udin Kancil (08-1253111375), Udin Ban (08-1332412089); **From Muara Pahu-** Pak Aco (08-1346523132) . Boat prices generally vary between Rp. 450.000 and Rp. 750.000 for a full day depending on travel distance. For half a day or less it will be half the price or less.

**Floating Information Center:** Sangkuliman village in Pela tributary connecting the Mahakam with Semayang Lake.

**Overnights stays:**

**Sangkuliman village** (Pela tributary) - RASI is working together with the local community who allow tourists to stay in **homestays** allowing you to get closer to the local culture of this unique fishing village. Dolphins migrate through Pela tributary so it is a good base to start your day trips and forms an alternative to the losmen in **Kota Bangun "Mukjizat"**, which although is a clean and decent accomodation, Kota Bangun itself is a noisy little town, whereas in Sangkuliman you'll find the peace of village life. Currently in **Sangkuliman** there is the **homestay of Bu Imang** available, which is situated directly alongside the river and has up to four rooms available.

**Muara Kaman- Losmen Martadipura-** Muara Kaman is also one of the places to meet with pesut as they spent a great deal in the confluence of the Mahakam and tributary Kedang Rantau. The losmen is basic and beds are small but otherwise okay. They have a very good restaurant nearby the losmen named "**Ramohan**" that overlooks the confluence and it is a great spot to look for the dolphins..

**Muara Muntai-** There are several losmens to stay but recommended are: **Sri Muntai** and **Nita Wardana**. Staying overnight in Muara Muntai is unique due to its ironwood boardwalk streets.