



PENINSULAR MALAYSIA:

THE ASIA INTROTOUR

A Tropical Birding Set Departure

June 27-July 4, 2026
Guide: Ken Behrens

All photos by Ken Behrens

TOUR SUMMARY

Any birder who has browsed through a Southeast Asian bird book realizes that a huge set of lowland forest birds is found in the southern part of the peninsula, from southern Myanmar and Thailand south. Peninsular Malaysia is at the heart of this Sundaland biome, sharing a rich lowland avifauna with Sumatra, Java, and Borneo. Peninsular Malaysia also has tall mountains with a very different mix of birds – pseudo-Himalayan species, local endemics, and species shared with the mountains of the Greater Sunda islands. This tour is built around these two biomes. It is short and affordable, and provides a great introduction both to Asian birding in general, and more specifically to birding in the southern part of Southeast Asia. One of the great things about this trip is its simplicity; three nights are spent at two locations: Fraser's Hill (montane forest) and Taman Negara (lowland forest). The mangrove site of Kuala Selangor is also visited on the way to Fraser's Hill, adding a nice suite of mangrove and dry forest species to the trip tally. Malaysia has excellent infrastructure, including great roads and luxurious lodging. The people are friendly and hospitable, and the excellent food is enriched by a mix of Chinese, Indian, and Malay influences. For those who want a longer sojourn in Sundaland, this short tour can be combined with the longer Tropical Birding Borneo tour that immediately precedes or follows it.



In one week of birding, we recorded 262 species of birds. Just a few of the avian highlights were the endemic Malayan Partridge, Malayan Crested Fireback, Lesser Fish-Eagle, Wallace's and Blyth's Hawk-Eagles, several flocks of the scarce Large Green-Pigeon, Little Bronze-Cuckoo, Sunda Brush-Cuckoo, Malaysian (Eared) Nightjar, Ken's favorites the Gray-rumped and Whiskered Treeswifts, Rhinoceros and Black Hornbills, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Orange-backed and Great Slaty Woodpeckers, Fire-tufted Barbet, Black-thighed Falconet, Green, Long-tailed, Dusky, Banded, and Black-and-yellow Broadbills, Rusty-naped Pitta, Pied Triller, Crested Jayshrike, Malayan Black Magpie, the monotypic family that is Malaysian Rail-babbler, Sultan Tit, Scaly-breasted, Gray-bellied, and Finsch's Bulbuls, Velvet-fronted and Blue Nuthatches, Silver-eared Mesia, and the endemic Malayan Laughingthrush.

This tour is also excellent for mammals, something that is not the case for all Asian trips. We recorded 19 species of mammal, including White-thighed Surili, Dusky Leaf Monkey, Siamang, and an awesome Spotted Giant Flying Squirrel.

For an immersive experience of this trip's highlights, check out the 5-minute video trip report:

[VIDEO TRIP REPORT on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5KiW4w_ZCA) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5KiW4w_ZCA

ITINERARY

June 26	Arrival in Kuala Lumpur
June 27	Kuala Lumpur to Kuala Selangor to Fraser's Hill
June 28	Fraser's Hill
June 29	Fraser's Hill
June 30	Fraser's Hill to Taman Negara
July 1	Taman Negara
July 2	Taman Negara
July 3	Taman Negara to Kuala Lumpur. Departures

PHOTO GALLERY

A full [Flickr gallery](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kbehrens/albums/72177720334593390/) of photos from this trip is on Ken's Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kbehrens/albums/72177720334593390/>

BIRD LIST

The full list, including numbers and many other details, can be see as part of the [eBird trip report](https://ebird.org/tripreport/544599) for this trip: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/544599>

MAMMAL LIST

TREESHREWS: Tupaiidae		
Common Treeshrew	<i>Tupaia glis</i>	
MONKEYS: Cercopithecidae		
Selangor Silvered Langur/Leaf-Monkey	<i>Trachypithecus selangorensis</i>	
Dusky Langur/Leaf-Monkey	<i>Trachypithecus obscurus</i>	
White-thighed Langur/Surili	<i>Presbytis siamensis</i>	
Long-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	
Southern Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	
GIBBONS: Hylobatidae		
White-handed (Lar) Gibbon	<i>Hylobates lar</i>	H
Siamang	<i>Symphalangus syndactylus</i>	
SQUIRRELS: Sciuridae		
Black Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>	
Gray-bellied Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus caniceps</i>	
Pallas's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>	
Asian Red-cheeked Squirrel	<i>Dremomys rufigenis</i>	
Himalayan (Western) Striped Squirrel	<i>Tamiops maclellandii</i>	
Three-striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Lariscus insignis</i>	
(Lowland) Slender Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus tenuis</i>	
Spotted Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista elegans</i>	
DEER: Cervidae		
Max's Short-tailed Gymnure	<i>Hylomys maxi</i>	
PIGS: Suidae		
Southern Red Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	
Lesser Oriental Chevrotain (Mouse-Deer)	<i>Tragulus kanchil</i>	