

Kalimantan



Shrouded in mystery, Kalimantan on the island of Borneo shelters many of Indonesia's deepest secrets and richest treasures; home to ancient forests, fantastic creatures and people living as they did centuries ago. But Kalimantan requires meticulous examination to reveal its bounties.

Occupying two-thirds of Borneo's land mass, Kalimantan offers great rewards for visitors who make the often-substantial effort to lift its veils. Home to one of the world's last great rainforests, Kalimantan's slice of Mother Earth's lungs is sanctuary to most of the planet's remaining orangutans, Dayak tribes balancing ancient traditions with modern opportunities and pioneers from across the archipelago who seek profit from Kalimantan's treasures.

While forests capture headlines, Kalimantan's best attractions flow from its waters. The mighty Sungai Mahakam and Sungai Kapuas lead to longhouse communities in pristine settings, accessible by *kapal taxi* (river ferry) and *ces* (pronounced 'chess'; motorised canoe). Jungle rivers lead to orangutans and proboscis monkeys in Tanjung Puting National Park. Off the east coast, Pulau Derawan has great diving from a village where life floats at the pace of a bygone era.

Despite an emerging consensus supporting conservation, much of Kalimantan's natural heritage remains under extreme threat. For visitors, that means get to Kalimantan fast... then take it slow.

HIGHLIGHTS

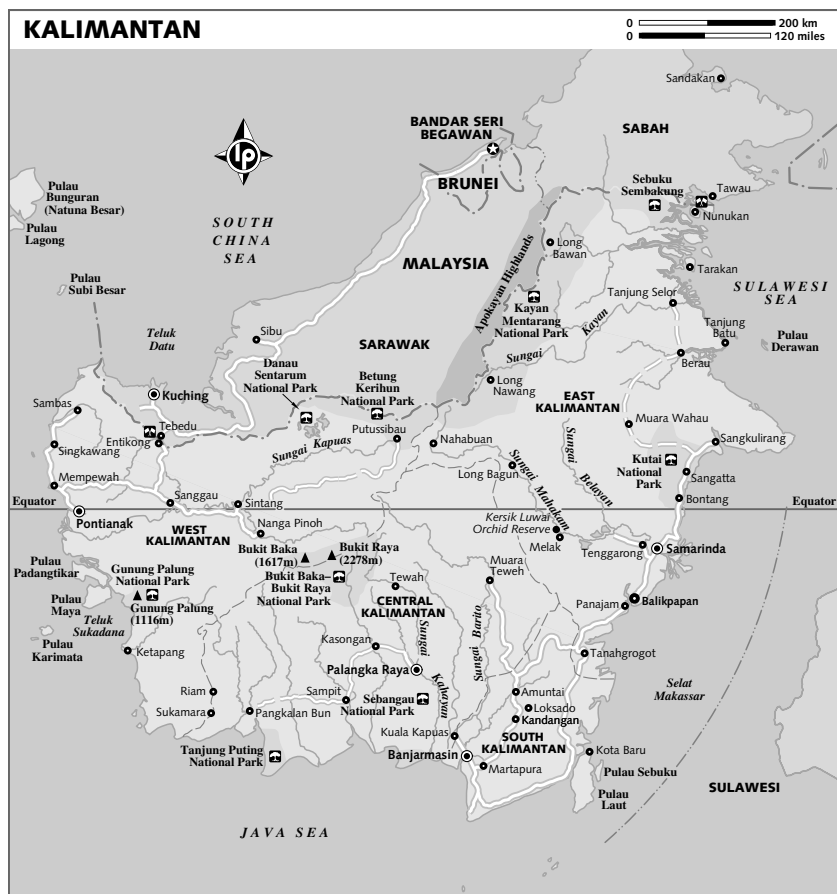
- Plotting *ces* moves on jungle rapids in **Sungai Mahakam** (p642) or **Kapuas Hulu** (p604) in search of Dayak longhouses, drive-through earlobes, evocative tattoos and other ancient traditions
- Charting manta rays' underwater flight paths off **Pulau Derawan** (p648), fishing for dinner and docking in time for sunset volleyball
- Trading high-fives at wash time and nailing breakfast at a floating market along **Banjarmasin's** waterways (p623)
- Reviving cinema's *African Queen* riding a *klotok* (houseboat with water-pump motor) chugging upriver to see orangutans in **Tanjung Puting National Park** (p614), lulled to sleep by cicadas, awakened by gibbons' morning whoops
- Getting into the jungle swing on bamboo bridges over river valleys in breathtaking **Pegunungan Meratus** (p631), finishing by river raft to hot springs



■ POPULATION: 13.7 MILLION

■ LAND AREA: 558,266 SQ KM

■ HIGHEST PEAK: BUKIT RAYA (2278M)



HISTORY

Separated from Southeast Asia's mainland 10,000 years ago by rising seas, Kalimantan drew traders along the India–China corridor from at least 300 BC for exotic delights such as birds' nests, black pepper and precious stones. Trading contacts brought Hinduism, and by AD 500 Chinese settlers in present-day West Kalimantan. The 15th-century Melaka empire brought Islam. After Portugal conquered Melaka in 1511, ports including Kutai (now Tenggarong) and Banjarmasin became independent sultanates, safe havens for Muslim traders fleeing Portuguese control.

Following Portugal's lead, Dutch trading monopoly Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie (VOC; United East India Company) began

mining diamonds at Sambas in 1610, while Britain's East India Company (EIC) grabbed Kalimantan's pepper trade. The Dutch evicted the British after a failed 1701 revolt that likely received British support. The 1824 Anglo-Dutch Treaty confirmed Dutch rule over present day Kalimantan, at least in European eyes. When English adventurer James Brooke became raja of neighbouring Sarawak in 1839, Dutch officials began expanding commerce and signing treaties with sultanates to solidify their hold on Kalimantan. Banjarmasin rebelled in 1859 and resistance wasn't snuffed until 1905.

By then, the Dutch had established rubber, pepper, copra, tin, coffee and other plantations plus coal mines. But the most significant

development was the start of oil drilling in East Kalimantan in late 1890s. In 1907, Britain's Shell Transport & Trading merged with the Royal Dutch Company for the Exploitation of Petroleum Sources in the Netherlands Indies to form Royal Dutch Shell. By 1930 Shell was producing 85% of Indonesia's oil.

Borneo's oil and other resources made it an early target for Japan in WWII. Imperial Japan's reputation for brutality was partly earned through its occupation of Kalimantan (see p598). Late in the war, Australian and Japanese troops fought bloody battles across East Kalimantan.

At war's end, Dutch intriguers tried unsuccessfully to dislodge Kalimantan from newly independent Indonesia, but the region remained on the sidelines of the independence struggle. In 1963, Kalimantan became the staging area for attacks on Malaysian Borneo in President Sukarno's *konfrontasi* campaign to claim the entire island. At the height of the conflict, 50,000 Commonwealth troops faced Indonesian forces. The campaign fizzled in 1966, a year after Sukarno's ouster.

Since colonial times, Kalimantan has been a destination for *transmigrasi*, relocation from more densely populated areas of the archipelago. The policy accelerated under Suharto, with East Kalimantan a major destination. Even though government has curtailed official transmigration, Kalimantan's population has doubled over the past two decades as more Indonesians seek economic opportunities there. Cultural and ethnic differences have flared violently, most recently from 1997 to 1998, and in 2001, with Dayaks and Madurese migrants principal combatants. Many Madurese have been re-relocated out of Kalimantan.

Migration is closely linked to the environmental issues that put Kalimantan in global headlines. Rising population has pushed Dayak shifting cultivators into peat lands unsuited for their traditional slash-and-burn farming techniques, contributing to annual fires and haze that blanket the island and beyond. Transmigrants also provide a labour pool for mining, logging and other environmentally degrading activities, legal or otherwise.

Local autonomy, accelerated under President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, is supposed to help Kalimantan meet these challenges. But greater local rule often means

creating two districts out of one, decreasing the influence of each and more bureaucrats from Jakarta staffing new government offices. It also means more pieces to knit together to administer national parks and other preservation areas, while giving businesses more leaders able to approve their schemes.

CULTURE

Kalimantan's main ethnic groups are *Melayu*, Malay Indonesians generally who follow Islam and live along the coasts and major rivers; Chinese, who've traded in Kalimantan for centuries; and Dayaks, a collective name for indigenous inhabitants of the island. Individual Dayak tribes use their distinct names, such as Kenyah, Kayan, Iban and Punan.

Anthropologists believe Dayaks' ancestors came to Borneo 3000 years ago, imbued with Indochina's Dongson culture including rice cultivation and buffalo sacrifice, and mingled with the island's original inhabitants. Dayak lifestyles, closely tied to their forest homelands, vary depending on those conditions. Groups, such as Punan, are nomadic hunters and gatherers. Other Dayaks specialise in dry rice cultivation adapted to local soil. Some are boat builders coursing river rapids, some are herders and most are skilled rattan weavers. Others mine gold and precious stones to trade.

Dayak culture and lifestyles have taken a beating in recent centuries due to increased exploitation of forests, as well as missionaries, government edicts and personal choices in the face of increased opportunities. Some elements of Dayak culture, such as women's tattooed calves and forearms, and earlobes stretched outlandishly by gold or brass rings, are difficult to find (and expensive to photograph). Men still get tattoos, but no longer earn them through headhunting. Dayak culture is now mainly expressed through birth, marriage and death rituals (see p622). Some Dayaks abandon traditional Kaharingan religion for Christianity (or Islam), others combine them.

Many Dayak tribes traditionally lived in longhouses (*rumah betang*, *rumah panjang*, *rumah adat Dayak* [fill in tribe name], *lamin* or *balai*). Details differ, but all share the basic blueprint of a carved log ladder to an elevated communal area with doors to individual family apartments. Totems in front signify buffalo sacrifices. The cemetery nearby includes

spirit houses and *sandung*, above-ground coffins, often vividly painted. Longhouses remain throughout Kalimantan, some solely for rituals (or tourism), many still communal homes.

Most longhouses welcome overnight guests; ask the *ketua rumah* (elder) for permission (see p604). You've come to sample Dayak culture but you'll see only as much as is normally practised. Don't expect anyone to turn off the TV and start a traditional dance or dump their instant noodles to hunt a boar because you showed up. At a Western home, you wouldn't expect Christmas carols in July.

Visitors can commission welcome ceremonies, usually around 500,000Rp. During traditional ceremonies, expect much singing, dancing and *tuak* (homemade fermented coconut drink) drinking. You'll likely receive an invitation to sing. Go with the cross-cultural flow and let it rip. The crowd will love you, even (especially?) if you make a fool of yourself.

WILDLIFE

Kalimantan is home to most of the world's orangutans, Asia's only great ape. Orangutans and humans share 97% of DNA, and family resemblance renders them extraordinarily endearing. This endangered species is most easily found in former rehabilitation centres at Tanjung Puting National Park, with large wild populations in Kutai, Gunung Palung and Sebangau National Parks. Like orangutans, long-nosed, potbellied proboscis monkeys (*bekantan*) unique to Borneo live along rivers and in marsh areas, along with crocodiles and macaques.

Forests also provide habitat for gibbons, clouded leopards, sun bears, giant butterflies, and stunning birdlife, including hornbills, a spiritual symbol for many Dayaks. Sungai Mahakam has a critically endangered population of freshwater dolphins. Rich fishing grounds off East Kalimantan are visited by migratory species, with Sangalaki archipelago renowned for diving, featuring sea turtles and manta rays.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Visa on arrival (see p839) is available at Balikpapan's Seppingan Airport, Pontianak's Supadio Airport, and West Kalimantan's Entikong land border crossing from Sarawak.

For all other entry points from outside Indonesia, obtain a visa first.

Air

Silk Air (www.silkair.net) flies between Balikpapan and Singapore. **Batavia Air** (www.batavia-air.co.id) flies between Pontianak and Kuching in Sarawak, plus Batam near Singapore. Most connections to/from other parts of Indonesia pass through Jakarta or Surabaya.

Boat

Ferries connect Tarakan and Nunukan in East Kalimantan with Tawau in Sabah daily except Sunday. Speedboats run daily between Nunukan and Tawau.

State shipping line **Pelni** (www.pelni.co.id) and other carriers link most coastal cities to Java and Sulawesi. Cargo ships offer rides in many ports.

Bus

Air-con buses connect downtown Pontianak with Kuching. Economy buses to the Entikong border crossing leave from Batu Layang outside Pontianak, and from Singkawang and Sintang. At the time of research, immigration officials allowed foreigners to exit at Entikong, immediately obtain a new visa, and re-enter Indonesia.

GETTING AROUND

Vast distances, dense jungle, and mountain ranges make travel difficult, especially by land. Where possible, boats are often more direct and comfortable, but pricier. For long distances, flights can spare days on the road, particularly during rainy season, at reasonable prices.

Air

Kalimantan's air schedules and carriers constantly change due to rapid growth and, following major accidents in 2007, heightened safety concerns. At the time of research, at least eight airlines had flights to Kalimantan destinations including otherwise isolated interior communities. Main air hubs are Pontianak, Balikpapan and Banjarmasin. Bookings often require cash payment for confirmation. Usually, travel agents provide the best information, service, and prices for flights. **KalStar** (☎ 021-5315 3456) gets high marks for variety of destinations and reliability.

KALIMANTAN'S TOP JUNGLE ADVENTURES

Kalimantan has spectacular jungle journeys for intrepid travellers. Treks require resilience, respect, Bahasa Indonesia and a keen sense of adventure.

Putussibau to Long Apari (p606)

The meek need not apply for this trip, crossing dense jungle with all the primal trimmings. It involves two days of river travel and six or seven of trekking, crossing from West to East Kalimantan.

Loksado & Around (p631)

This combo tour is easy to organise from Banjarmasin, but simple enough to do independently with some Bahasa Indonesia ability. Bus from Banjarmasin to Loksado, take a few days to trek around Tanuhi and then return by bamboo raft – the best fun ever on floating foliage.

The Apokayan Highlands (p650)

Ride the rapids on Sungai Pujungan, then take a five-day trek past ancient burial grounds and towering waterfalls, climbing into the Apokayan via the Apo Napu high pass to Data Dian, the last Dayak Kayan village in the highlands.

Krayan Hulu & Kayan Mentarang National Park (p650)

From Kalimantan's remote north along Sungai Krayan, travel by foot and motorised canoe into the 'Heart of Borneo', exploring some of the last pristine rainforest on this spectacular island. Forays into Kayan Mentarang National Park reveal stunning flora and perhaps clouded leopards.

What to Bring?

Jungles are steamy and wet. A waterproof jacket is essential and layers of clothing are recommended. For camping shelter, use strong, waterproof material. Tough footwear is mandatory, not just for the terrain, but to thwart leeches and fire ants. Basic medicines and iodine for drinking water are wise. Most importantly, keep the load light, since you'll probably carry your own gear.

Anything Else I Should Know?

These itineraries require trekking experience, and most require a guide. Guide fees vary depending on the length and remoteness of the trek, but bank on paying 200,000Rp to 500,000Rp per day. You'll also need to pay for food (around 50,000Rp per person per day) and transport costs.

Flight cancellations are frequent, so always check before going to the airport. It's also often worthwhile going to the airport even if a flight is supposedly full. Be polite, but firm, and you may get aboard. For some small planes, passengers are weighed along with their luggage and pay by the kilo.

Boat

Boat travel is disappearing as more roads are built. That's unfortunate, since river ferries (*kapal biasa* or *kapal taxi*) or *long bots* (narrow wooden boats with covered passenger cabins) are pleasant alternatives to buses and best for exploring the jungle. The journey up Sungai Mahakam to Dayak communities remains a Kalimantan highlight, and there's

no other way to the headwaters of Sungai Kapuas. There are few coastal boat routes within Kalimantan. Scheduled and chartered speedboats and *ces* reach small towns and tributaries.

Bus

Roads now connect most major towns, and where roads run, buses follow. Travel conditions vary dramatically by location and season; rainy season shifts durations from hours to days. Air-con, smoke-free buses remain rarities. Kijangs (a popular SUV brand) run scheduled routes between some cities and can be chartered everywhere, independently or through hotels and travel agencies. A car and driver cost 450,000Rp to 800,000Rp per

day, depending on location, circumstances and bargaining prowess. Where necessary and available, 4WD vehicles are far more expensive.

WEST KALIMANTAN

From Kalimantan's oldest longhouses to its most cosmopolitan city, West Kalimantan (Kalimantan Barat or KalBar) offers Indonesian Borneo's widest menu of attractions, spiced by a sizeable Chinese minority. Traditional villages, wild orangutans, antique palaces, virgin forests and idyllic beaches beckon. Many are defended by formidable natural barriers, including Sungai Kapuas,

Kalimantan's longest river at 1143km, coupled with underdeveloped tourist infrastructure that will test the most intrepid travellers' mettle. Successes are amply rewarded, and, unlike many parts of Kalimantan, can be toasted with widely available alcohol.

PONTIANAK

☎ 0561 / pop 520,000

Bang on the equator, Pontianak is a gateway to Dayak settlements in wild Kapuas Hulu (Upper Kapuas River) and South China Sea beaches. But KalBar's capital is also Kalimantan's most ardently urban destination with a vibrant, compact centre. Pontianak buzzes with commerce driven by produce from the interior, displayed at fruit



INFORMATION	Central Hotel.....	26 B4	Somay Bandung.....	54 B3
Antya Tour.....	1 B4	Grand Mahkota Hotel.....	27 B2	Warung Dim Sum.....
Aria Tour.....	2 C4	Hosanna Inn.....	(see 3)	Warung Lamongan Pak
Berjaya Tour & Travel.....	3 C5	Hotel Kapuas.....	28 C5	Ari.....
Borneo Access Adventure.....	4 C5	Hotel Kapuas Dharma.....	29 C5	
Centrine Online.....	5 C3	Hotel Kini.....	30 C3	SHOPPING
City Tourist Office.....	6 A3	Hotel Merpati.....	31 D5	Crafts Shops.....
Haji Tunrung Star.....	7 C4	Hotel Patrisia.....	32 B3	Matahari Mall.....
Immigration Office.....	8 C6	Hotel Queen.....	33 C4	
Kalimantan Barat Tourist Office.....	9 B6	Hotel Santika.....	34 C4	TRANSPORT
Karisma.....	(see 58)	Hotel Surya.....	35 B2	Batavia.....
Klinik Kharitas Bhakti.....	10 C4	Kartika Hotel.....	36 C2	Bintang Jaya.....
Main Post Office.....	11 A4	Mess Hijas.....	37 C4	Canoe Ferry to Istana
Mentari Tour.....	12 C4			Kadriyah.....
Mitra Tour & Travel.....	13 B4	EATING		Dharma Kencana.....
PT Safari.....	14 C4	Apollo.....	38 C4	Executive Buses to Kuching.....
RS Santo Antonius.....	15 A2	Bakso PSP.....	39 B3	Executive Buses to Kuching.....
Spectra Gaming & Internet.....	16 B3	Borneo Coffee Club.....	40 C4	Garuda.....
Toko Buku Populer.....	17 B3	Bubur Ikan Sudirman.....	41 B4	Hak Senghee Harbour.....
		Capcai.....	42 C4	Harbour Terminal for
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		Hypermarket.....	43 C6	Java.....
Dayak Longhouse.....	18 B6	Kabar Gembria.....	44 C4	IAT.....
Equator Monument.....	19 B1	Kaisar.....	45 C4	KalStar.....
Istana Kadriyah.....	20 D3	Ligo Mitra.....	46 C4	Kapuas Indah Opelet & Bus
Mesjid Abdurrahman.....	21 D3	Oukie.....	47 C3	Terminal.....
Museum Provinsi Kalimantan		Oukie II.....	48 C4	Mandala Air.....
Barat.....	22 C6	Putera Borneo.....	49 B3	Opelet Terminal Antasari.....
Taman Alun Kapuas.....	23 C3	Restoran Gaja Mada.....	50 C4	Pelni.....
Vihara Bodhisatva Karaniya		Restoran Hawaii.....	51 C5	Prima Vista.....
Metta.....	24 C3	Rumah Makan Borneo.....	52 C4	River Ferry to Siantan.....
		Rumah Makan Rumah		Siantan Bus & Ferry
SLEEPING		Betang.....	(see 18)	Terminal.....
Ateng House.....	25 C4	Sam Hak Heng.....	53 C4	Sriwijaya.....

stalls peddling whatever's come downriver this morning, and fabulous food in warungs and street stalls, mixing Dayak, Malay and Chinese cooking, washed down with coffee and conversation at kerbside tables.

Orientation

Pontianak's centre remains between Jl Tanjungpura, just west of the traditional Sungai Kapuas harbour area, and Jl Pattimura, which becomes Jl Gajah Mada south of Jl Diponegoro/H Agus Salim (Diponegoro on the north side, H Agus Salim on the south).

Information

BOOKSTORES

Plethful newsstands and bookstores stock city and regional maps.

Karisma (2nd fl, Matahari Mall, cnr Jl Jendral Urip & Jl Pattimura) Features children's books, ideal for longhouse gifts (see p604).

Toko Buku Populer (Jl Pattimura B3&4) Carries the English-language *Jakarta Post* newspaper.

IMMIGRATION OFFICES

Immigration office (☎ 765 576; Jl Sutoyo)

Malaysian Consulate (☎ 732 986, 736 061; www.imi.gov.my; Jl Sultan Syahrir 21; ✉ visa applications 9-11am)

INTERNET ACCESS

Smoking is not permitted in the following internet centres.

Centrine Online (off Jl Nusa Indah III; per hr 3500Rp; ☎ 7.30am-10pm) Signposted in a short alley.

Mitra Tour & Travel (☎ 733 544; Komplek Pontianak Mall, Jl Teuku Umar; per hr 4000Rp; ☎ 9.30am-10pm) Shares space with an excellent travel agency.

Spectra Gaming & Internet (Jl Jendral Urip; per hr 3000; ☎ 24 hr)

MEDICAL SERVICES

Klinik Kharitas Bhakti (☎ 734 373; Jl Siam 153; ☎ 7.30am-9pm)

RS Santo Antonius (☎ 732 101; Jl KH Wahid Hasyim 249) Hospital.

MONEY

ATMs abound, with major banks on and around the north half of Jl Tanjungpura. Moneychanging options:

Haji Tunrung Star (Jl Diponegoro 155)

PT Safari (Jl Tanjungpura 12)

POST

Main Post Office (Jl Sultan Abdur Rahman 49;

☎ 7.30am-9.30pm Mon-Sat, 8am-2pm Sun) Poste restante.

KALIMANTAN'S KILLING FIELDS

Mandor is a lush, sleepy settlement on the main road into West Kalimantan's interior. Diminutive in size, it's a place of overgrown jungle and rice fields. But its serenity is tainted by a tragic past; Mandor is burial ground for 21,037 victims murdered by Japanese troops during their three-year occupation, making Mandor Kalimantan's killing fields.

When the Japanese navy arrived in West Kalimantan in 1942, Indonesia was readying for independence. Dutch authorities had returned home, leaving a leadership vacuum. Japan quickly established troops from Sambas to Ketapang. Treatment of the local population was shocking. Despite ethnic and cultural differences, the desire to resist occupation prompted a secret summit of regional sultans, Dayak, Chinese and Malay leaders in Pontianak. With accurate information from an informant, the Japanese targeted leaders and brought them one by one to Mandor for execution. At first, victims were sultans and their families, intellectuals and ethnic leaders, but the Japanese soon targeted any potential threat, including most men above age 17 and influential women.

The massacre spanned three years and went unrecognised until 1971, when Mandor resident Pak Sambad, presented West Kalimantan's governor with a report appealing for commemoration. His efforts succeeded, prompting a road to the killing site and monument honouring victims.

Today Pak Sambad lives outside the gates of the memorial site and is happy to talk about the area's history (in Bahasa Indonesia). The site contains 10 mass graves, including a shrine to the family of Sultan Abdul Hamid II. A carved-stone storyboard depicts tragedies from Japan's invasion to withdrawal. It is an exquisitely peaceful and reverent place, the flourish of green and wildflowers a fitting tribute to victims. There's no admission fee but Pak Sambad maintains the site and donations are welcomed.

Buses to Mandor (18,000Rp, two hours) run daily from Pontianak's Batu Layang terminal. Buses to Ngabang will also stop at Mandor on request. The journey is beautiful, passing kilometres of rice fields, with forested hills and low-slung cloud hovering above.

TOURIST INFORMATION

City tourist office (☎ 732340; Jl Johar 1) Mixed bag of publications and information.

Kalimantan Barat tourist office (☎ 736172; fax 743104; Jl Sutoyo 17) English-speaking staff member Pak Iwan presses pamphlets and ambitious itineraries.

TOUR & TRAVEL AGENCIES

Antya Tour (☎ 733 688; Jl Teuku Umar 62) Kijang and car-rental specialist.

Aria Tour (☎ 577 868; fax 741 963; Jl Gaja Mada 3) Local jetsetters' pick for flights.

Berjaya Tour & Travel (☎ 737 325; www.berjayatour.com; Jl Pahlawan 224/2) All travel services (including rooms; see opposite).

Borneo Access (☎ 081 257 680 66; www.borneoaccessadventurer.com; Jl Tanjung Harapan Gang HD Usman 46) West Borneo Tour Guide Association chairman Alex Afdhal gets mixed reviews for his journeys into KalBar's wilds.

Mentari Tour (☎ 767196; mentari_tour_ptk@yahoo.com.sg; Jl Hijas 108) Responds to English emails.

Times Tours & Travel (☎ /fax 770 259; www.timestravelpnk.com) Delivers air tickets, organises tours to Kapuas Hulu and beyond.

Sights

TAMAN ALUN KAPUAS

This riverside **park** (Jl Rahadi Usman) includes the ferry crossing to Siantan and vistas of Kapuas activity. At night, it swells with families, kid-die rides, hawkers and food stalls.

ISTANA KADRIYAH & MESJID

ABDURRAHMAN

On the east bank of Sungai Kapuas, **Istana Kadriyah** (admission by donation; ☎ 8.30am-4pm) was completed in 1771 for Pontianak's first sultan, Abdurrahman Habib Hussein Al Kadrie. The ironwood palace is now a museum of royal relics.

Just north of the dock, the sultan's mosque, **Mesjid Abdurrahman** (also known as Mesjid Jami'), with its Sumatran-style square-tiered roof, holds a commanding spot on the Kapuas. Cross wobbly planks to village houses on stilts over the water, busiest at early- or late-day washing times.

Get there by canoe taxi (2000Rp) from the foot of Jl Mahakam or charter (10,000Rp) from nearby piers.

VIHARA BODHISATVA KARANIYA METTA

KalBar's oldest and biggest **Chinese temple** (Jl Sultan Muhammad) dates to 1679. Amid the sensory festival, note huge urns bookending the entrance and cement rock gardens.

MUSEUM PROVINSI KALIMANTAN BARAT & DAYAK LONGHOUSE

The **West Kalimantan Provincial Museum** (Jl A Yani; ☎ 8am-2pm Tue-Thu, 8-11am Fri, 8am-1pm Sat-Sun, closed Mon) features artefacts of the province's Dayak, Malay and Chinese inhabitants plus *tempayan*: Asian ceramics dating to the 16th century. Its garden has replicas of traditional houses, factories and Perahu Lancang Kuning, the sultan's golden yacht.

Around the corner, a replica *rumah betang* or **Dayak longhouse** (Jl Sutuyo) sports genuine totems and carved log steps. **Rumah Makan Rumah Betang** (☎ 792 9975; mains 8000-25,000Rp) serves Indonesian and Kenayan Dayak favourites, including *ular* (snake) and *asu* (dog), some cooked in bamboo tubes, and sells handicrafts.

Take a red or pink *opelet* (intracity minibus) south along Jl A Yani.

EQUATOR MONUMENT

Grown from a simple marker in 1928 into a collage of circles and arrows with a huge replica outside marking *its* spot, **Patung Khatulistiwa** (Equator Monument; Jl Khatulistiwa) makes much – too much – of Pontianak's geography. It draws crowds every equinox to experience shadowless sunlight.

Take a *bis kota* (intercity bus; 2500Rp) going south along Jl Tanjungpura across the bridge to the monument or the ferry to Siantan on a *opelet* heading northwest. Patung Khatulistiwa is alongside the highway. Believe us, you can't miss it.

SAHAM LONGHOUSE

Located in Pahauman, this **longhouse** is one of KalBar's oldest (more than 200 years) and longest (180m).

Visit by bus from Batu Layang to Ngabang (35,000Rp, 3½ hours, 114km) or take any downtown executive bus east. Get dropped at the Pahauman turn, then catch a local taxi or *ojek* (motorcycle taxi; 12km). Chartered Kijangs from Pontianak cost up to 500,000Rp.

Festivals & Events

Pontianak's geography inspires the **Equatorial Culture Festival** around the March and

September equinoxes with Dayak, Chinese and Malay traditional dancing, singing, and competitions.

Robok-Robok celebrates neighbouring Mempawah's kingdom with a royal yacht procession, dragon boat races and terrestrial events in Mempawah (15,000Rp, 1½ hours, 67km). Dates follow the Islamic calendar; falling mid-January in 2011, moving approximately two weeks earlier annually.

Gawai Dayak harvest festival in May centres on Pontianak's **longhouse** (Jl Sutuyo).

Sleeping BUDGET

Hotel Patrisia (☎ 736 063; Jl Cokroaminoto 497; r 50,000-85,000Rp; ☺☺) Clean, sparse rooms, all with private (some Western) bathrooms and two beds. Higher rate buys air-con and TV.

Mess Hijas (☎ /fax 744 068; 081 256 960 03; Jl Hijas 106; s 75,000Rp, d 110,000-135,000Rp; ☺☺) Every room at this business-traveller favourite includes air-con, TV and Western bathroom, many with hot water, plus a friendly, efficient vibe throughout.

Hotel Merpati (☎ 745 481; fax 762 662; Jl Imam Bonjol 111; r 84,000-156,000 plus 10% tax, ste 270,000Rp plus 10% tax; ☺☺☺) Budget rooms include air-con and private *mandi*. Good value are the main-building rooms from 126,000Rp with minibar, hot/cold shower and free wi-fi in the lobby.

Hotel Queen (☎ 767 232, 081 522 036 89; Jl Gajah Mada 141-143, entrance on Jl Hijas; r 90,000-150,000Rp; ☺☺) Simple rooms here all have air-con and TV. The cheapest rooms share spotless bathrooms with Western toilets.

Ateng House (☎ 732 683; atenghouse@yahoo.com; Jl Gajah Mada 201; s/d incl breakfast 110,000/125,000Rp plus 15% tax; ☺☺) Bright rooms include air-con, TV, private bathroom and homely frills like bedspread, water dispenser and curtains.

More budget options:

Hosanna Inn (☎ 735 052; www.hosannainn.com; Jl Pahlawan 224/2; s 80,000-98,000Rp, d 118,000-195,000Rp, all incl breakfast; ☺☺☺) Above Berjaya Tour, most rooms have shared bath and no windows. Smoking is restricted to the terrace.

Hotel Surya (☎ 734 337; fax 760 334; Jl Sidas 11A; r 120,000Rp; ☺☺) Reliable rooms with air-con, TV and private bathroom with shower.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Many hotels offer substantial discounts at airport hotels.

ourpick Central Hotel (☎ 737 444; fax 734 993; Jl Cokroaminoto 232; r incl breakfast 160,000-250,000Rp; 🚿) Ignore that ground-floor barber shop: Central's no clip joint. Weathered standard rooms include hot-water shower, air-con and extraordinarily helpful staff. Pricier renovated rooms add style.

Hotel Kapuas Dharma (☎ 766 669; fax 735 399; Jl Imam Bonjol 89; r incl breakfast 172,500-340,400Rp; 🚿) Midrange sibling of Hotel Kapuas offers comforts including hot-water shower, minibar and elevator at value rates.

Kartika Hotel (☎ 734 401; fax 738 457; Jl Rahadi Usman 2; r incl breakfast 200,000-320,000Rp plus 20% tax; 🚿 📺) Riverside terrace, bright yellow decor, modern furnishings, tennis court: advantage Kartika.

Hotel Kapuas (☎ 736122; www.hotelkapuas.com; Jl Gajah Mada 889; r incl breakfast 315,000-624,000Rp, ste 720,000-1,632,000Rp; 🚿 📺 📺 📺) Posh rooms in a resort setting with fitness centre, vast pool and bar.

Hotel Kini (☎ 732 223; fax 742 882; Jl Nusa Indah III; r incl breakfast 481,800-650,000Rp, ste 880,000-1,880,000Rp; 🚿 📺) A new wing opened in 2009 adding more large, comfortable rooms, often discounted by 25%. Suites shine.

Hotel Santika (☎ 733 777; pontianak@santika.com; Jl Diponegoro 46; r incl breakfast 601,000-640,500Rp; ste 677,700-1,322,000Rp plus 21% tax; 🚿 📺 📺) Angle for 30% discounts at this branch of a national chain offering relaxed elegance in swanky rooms. The 3rd-floor features a lounge with live music. Nonsmoking rooms available.

Grand Mahkota Hotel (☎ 736 022; fax 736 200; Jl Sidas 8; r incl breakfast 605,000-726,000Rp, ste 1,442,000-4,235,000Rp; 🚿 📺 📺) This contender for Pontianak's best puts luxury furnishings and original art in each room and offers steep weekend discounts. Swimming pool under construction during our visit. Nonsmoking rooms are available.

Eating

Fresh ingredients, Chinese influence, and street culture make Pontianak Kalimantan's best destination to travel your tastebuds. Warungs and stalls abound along major streets and surrounds, with Jl Diponegoro/H Agus Salim, Jl Pattimura, Jl Hijas and Jl Setia Budi (Pontianak's computer district) especially notable. At night, new stalls sprout, particularly along Jl Gajah Mada. Despite Pontianak's late-night soul, some restaurants close at 9pm. Most top hotel restaurants serve Western, Chinese and Indonesian food at reasonable prices.

Somay Bandung (Jl Zainuddin 15; mains 7000-14,000Rp) Mobbed at lunch for the national version of

siomay: steamed dough, potatoes, tofu, and cabbage drowned in rich peanut sauce.

Warung Dim Sum (☎ 706 4584; Jl Hijas 8; dishes 8000-12,000Rp; 🕒 6am-3pm) Sunday brunch Chinese style, all day, every day.

Kabar Gembria (Jl Siam 206; mains 10,000-14,000Rp; 🕒 7am-8pm) This is the most popular of many Chinese vegetarian options and has the latest closing time.

ourpick Oukie (Jl Nusah Indah I; mains 10,000-16,000Rp; 🕒 6am-5pm, closed Monday) Third-generation local institution serving noodles at the intersection of Indonesian and Chinese cooking. There is also a branch on Jl Tanjungpura.

Warung Lamongan Pak Ari (Jl Juanda; mains 10,000-18,000Rp; 🕒 4pm-midnight) Crowded nightly for deep-fried fish and chicken *lalapan* style, served with sambal and fragrant raw *kemangi* leaves, a taste like very strong basil.

Bakso PSP (Jl AR Hakim; mains 12,000Rp) Ationg and Yuli – he's Chinese, she's Bugis – blend Pontianak's best beef ball soup.

Restoran Hawaii (☎ 742 277; Jl Suprpto 16; per person 40,000-60,000Rp; 🕒 9.30am-9.30pm) Local Chinese-cuisine legend, recently relocated. Some contend newcomer **Restoran Gaja Mada** (☎ 766 580; Jl Gajah Mada 202; per person 60,000-70,000Rp; 🕒 10am-10pm) now dishes Pontianak's best Chinese chow.

LOCAL FARE

Get a Chinese street feed and cooking demonstration at **Sam Hak Heng** (cnr Jl Gajah Mada & Jl Darwis; mains 12,000-22,000Rp; 🕒 5-10.30pm), or **Capcai** (cnr Jl Gajah Mada & Jl Suprpto; mains 17,000-25,000Rp; 🕒 10am-9.30pm).

Discover *sotong pangkong* (roasted dried squid; per squid 25,000Rp to 40,000Rp) smashed by hammer, best with beer, in an alley off Jl Nusa Indah I late afternoons to the wee hours. Try *tauswan* (sweet greenbean soup; 5000Rp) and *kaloci* (or *moci*; glutinous rice coated with peanuts and sugar; 5000Rp) on Jl H Agus Salim, 25m east of Jl Gajah Mada, from mid-morning to night.

Other Pontianak specialties:

Apollo (Jl Pattimura; mains 13,000Rp) Founded in 1968, dishes up *mie tiau daging sapi* (fried noodles with beef aka beef *kway teow*).

Bubur Ikan Sirdirman (Jl Supratman 40; bowl 12,000Rp; 🕒 6.30-10.30am, 5-9.30pm) Front-yard warung serving Teochew-style fish porridge.

Rumah Makan Borneo (Jl Setia Budi; mains 8000-14,000Rp) Specialises in *fuyung hai* (deep-fried seafood omelette).

COFFEE SHOPS

Pontianak brims with coffee shops and stalls, open day and night, mainly patronised by men. Many *warung kopi* add simple food, a full drinks menu and TV sports to the brew.

Borneo Coffee Club (Jl Pattimura 71E; mains 11,000-16,000Rp; ☎ 10am-10pm; ☺) and **Putera Borneo** (Jl Cokroaminoto 475; mains 10,000-15,000Rp; ☺), a gender-neutral juice joint, get the blend right, including free wi-fi.

SELF CATERING

Top supermarkets:

Hypermarket (A Yani MegaMall, Jl A Yani)

Kaisar (Jl Pattimura) Also KalBar's biggest bakery chain.

Ligo Mitra (Jl Gajah Mada 77)

Shopping

Specialty items at **crafts shops** along Jl Pattimura include *songket* (handwoven cloth with gold or silver threads), *Dayak mandau* (daggers), beadwork and carvings, honey and other secondary forest products.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Batavia (☎ 734 488; fax 736 604; Jl Cokroaminoto 278A),

Garuda (☎ 734 986; Jl Tanjungpura), **Sriwijaya** (☎ 768

777; Jl Jendral Urip 19), **Lion** (☎ 706 6111) and **Mandala**

Air (☎ 766 447; Jl KH Ahmad Dahlan 6) all fly to

Jakarta. Batavia also flies to Kuching and to

Surabaya via Yogyakarta. **KalStar** (☎ 739 090; Jl

Tanjungpura 429) and **IAT** (Indonesia Air Transport; ☎ 762

247; Jl Juanda 40) fly to Ketapang and Pangkalan

Bun. KalStar also serves Banjarmasin. IAT

flies to Putussibau and Semarang in Central

Java.

BOAT

Boats to Java leave from the **main harbour** on Jl Pak Kasih, north of the Kartika Hotel.

Prima Vista (☎ 761 145; Jl Pak Kasih 90B), **Dharma**

Kencana (☎ 765 021; Jl Pak Kasih 42F) and **Pelni**

(☎ 748 124; fax 748 131; www.pelni.co.id; Jl Sultan

Abdur Rahman 12) serve Jakarta (250,000Rp, 36

hours), Semarang (225,000Rp, 34 hours) and

Surabaya (270,000Rp, 40 hours). Travel agents

sell tickets and know schedule details.

Scheduled passenger boats to Putussibau are extinct, but try finding passage by *bandung*, a combination freighter and general store that can take a month for the 800km journey.

Daily **jet boats** head south to Ketapang (140,000Rp to 180,000Rp, eight hours) from

Hak Senghee Harbour on Jl Barito; air-con class is worth the extra fare. Longboats to Sukadana (160,000Rp, six hours) leave from behind the Kapuas Indah Building.

BUS

Batu Layang terminal, northwest of town, has buses to Singkawang (25,000Rp, three hours), Sambas (40,000Rp, five hours), Sanggau (48,000Rp, six hours) and the Entikong border crossing (55,000Rp, nine hours), plus minibuses to Mempawah (15,000Rp, 1½ hours). To reach Batu Layang, take a cross-Kapuas ferry to Siantan and catch a white *opelet* north, or, direct but longer, take the orange-and-white *bis kota* (2500Rp) running south along Jl Tanjungpura.

Door-to-door service by shared Kijang is a popular option to Singkawang (70,000Rp, three hours). Book through hotels or travel agents.

Along Jl Sisingamangaraja, several companies run air-con **express buses to Kuching** (economy/executive 165,000/230,000Rp, 11 hours) through Entikong. **SJS** (☎ 734 626; Jl Sisingamangaraja 155) has the most choices. Bus clusters on Jl Pahlawan, and Jl Tanjungpura serve Kuching and other destinations, including Sintang (100,000Rp, 10 hours), Nanga Pinoh (115,000Rp, 11 hours), even Brunei (550,000Rp, 27 hours). **Damri** (☎ 744 859; Jl Pahlawan 226/3) has the broadest menu. **Bintang Jaya** (☎ 659 7402; Jl Tanjungpura 310A) has the newest Kuching fleet.

Buses to Putussibau (175,000Rp to 270,000Rp, 16 to 18 hours) via Sintang leave from the Kapuas Indah Building. **Perintis** (☎ 767 886; Komplek Kapuas Indah 1-2) has the most frequent service.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Travel agencies or hotels arrange cars (with-out/with driver per day 250,000/450,000Rp) for exploring KalBar at your pace. Shop around as terms can vary substantially. For experienced riders, motorcycles rent for 150,000Rp per day.

Getting Around

Airport taxis cost 70,000Rp to town (15km).

Opelet (2500Rp) routes converge around Jl Sisingamangaraja. Becaks are widely available. Taxis are unmetered and scarce. Some hotels have Kijangs standing by; fares for these 'hotel taxis' start at Rp20,000.

Cross-river ferries (1000Rp) to Siantan terminal leave from Taman Alun Kapuas. Canoe ferries to Istana Kadriyah (2000Rp) leave from the pier at end of Jl Mahakam. Motorised canoes for hire (cross-river 10,000Rp; per hour 100,000Rp) are plentiful along the riverfront.

SUNGAI KAPUAS

Indonesia's longest river, Sungai Kapuas remains a highway for goods from the interior to Pontianak. In its upper reaches, the 1143km river and its tributaries provide access to Dayak communities and fabulous forests, and begin cross-Borneo journeys.

Buses have replaced boats for long-distance travel along the lower Kapuas. Along Kapuas Hulu (upper Kapuas) tributaries and beyond Putussibau, travel is still primarily by boat. Where public boats run, they usually won't leave until full. Chartering is an expensive alternative.

Sintang

☎ 0565 / pop 40,000

Against the grey backdrop of Gunung Kelam, Sintang marks the start of Kapuas Hulu and its confluence with Sungai Melawi. The town branches out from the river banks.

International ATMs are scattered around town. For medical emergencies, consult **Rumah Sakit Ade Mohammad Djoen** (☎ 22805/07/09; Jl Pattimura).

Across the river, the sultan's palace is now **Dara Janti Museum**. The keeper will open it for a donation. Boats to cross (10,000Rp) congregate around riverfront warungs. Founded by missionaries to preserve local craft traditions, Kobus Centre (Jl Mohammad Saad; ☎ 9am-2pm), features renowned local ikat. Kobus and local government support ikat production at **Ensaid Panjang** (one hour), one of several *rumah betang* outside town. In the dry season, these longhouses can be reached by minibus, but require private transport in wet months.

Taman Baning (2km) is a 215-hectare tropical forest for watching birds and wild orchids. Take an *opelet* (3000Rp) or *ojek* (10,000Rp).

Gunung Kelam (18km) features butterflies, a waterfall (*air terjun*), panoramic views and a testing climb up its 900m peak with steel ladders on its toughest rock faces. Take an *opelet* to Pasar Impres (3000Rp) and then a Kelam *opelet* (7000Rp) to the gaudy park entrance.

Bukit Baka–Bukit Raya National Park (see right) is about eight hours south by road and river.

It's four hours by very rough road or seven hours by boat to **Danau Sentarum National Park** (see p605), but most visitors reach the park via Putussibau.

SLEEPING & EATING

Sakura Hotel (☎ 23418; Jl MT Haryono 58A; r 78,000-248,000Rp; 🍴) Beyond the rustic lobby, rooms feature modern comforts including refrigerator, air-con and Western bathroom with hot water. Economy rooms have *mandi* and fan.

Hotel Setia (☎ 23433; Jl Mahapahit 1-4; r 100,000-105,000Rp; 🍴) In central Sintang, Setia's identical rooms include private *mandi*, TV and air-con.

Sintang Permai Hotel (☎ 22725; Jl MT Haryono 117; r 155,000-185,000Rp; 🍴) Sintang's newest hotel, on a hill about 600m from Sintang's centre, has bright rooms with refrigerator, TV and hot-water shower. Friendly staff will arrange chartered cars, and a 24-hour canteen dishes Indonesian basics (mains 6000Rp to 14,000Rp).

Riverfront warungs on stilts offer cheap eats. Fruit vendors, more food stalls and restaurants line Jl Sugioso, one block inland. **Intar** (Jl Sugioso) sells groceries and other essentials.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

At the time of research there were no flights to Sintang; check in Pontianak for updates.

Buses to Putussibau (125,000Rp, seven hours), Semitau (60,000Rp, four hours), and Pontianak (100,000Rp, 10 hours) leave from Pasar Duri terminal on Jl Wisapati. Roads to Putussibau are good, roads to Pontianak dreadful.

For buses south to Nanga Pinoh (10,000Rp, one hour), take an *opelet* (10,000Rp) to Sungai Uko bus terminal, 10km southwest.

Bukit Baka–Bukit Raya National Park

Named for two of Kalimantan's highest peaks, **Bukit Baka–Bukit Raya National Park** offers extraordinary montane forest vistas, breathtaking waterfalls, meandering rivers, giant rafflesia blooming every March and barely any tourist facilities. The park is a southern option for cross-Borneo treks. Before visiting, contact the **park office** (☎/fax 0565-23521; Jl Dr Wahidin Sudirohusodo) in Sintang.

Reach the sprawling 181,000-hectare Schwaner Range reserve, about eight hours south of Sintang, by boat and 4WD via Nanga Pinoh and Nanga Popai. From Palangka Raya

in Central Kalimantan, the route combines road, river and trekking via Tumbang Jatuh, Tumbang Manggu and Tumbang Gagu.

Putussibau

☎ 0567 / pop 17,000

Last stop for airlines and long distance buses, Putussibau is launch point for excursions to Kapuas Hulu's traditional communities, national parks and untouched forests.

To develop sustainable ecotourism, local government, national park authorities, WWF and villagers created **Kompakh** (☎ 085 650 021 01; <http://www.kompakh.org>; Jl Pasar Impres, Gang D Salam 1). Kompakh offers touring options including Danau Sentarum National Park, longhouse visits, river cruising, whitewater adventures, mild to extreme jungle treks and even trans-Borneo journeys by foot and boat. Tours can be customised, and prices depend on group size and precise itinerary. Independent guide **Usman** (☎ 081 649 959 61; usman_tour@hotmail.com) also gets good recommendations.

Sandwiched between Sungai Kapuas and Sungai Sibau, Putussibau's main street is Jl Yos Sudarso. There's *angkot* (minibus; 3000Rp) service along this street that, north past the traffic light, becomes Jl Panjaitan – home to Putussibau's lone international ATM – and leads to **internet access** (Jl Gaja Mada; per hour 3500Rp; ☎ 8am-4pm). The name changes to Jl A Yani heading south, toward the bus and boat terminals, morning market and bridge across Sungai Kapuas to the airport. **Rumah Sakit Dr Achmad Diponegoro** (☎ 21129; Jl Yos Sudarso 42) offers medical services.

SLEEPING

Aman Sentosa Hotel (☎ 21691; fax 21357; Jl Diponegoro 14; r 50,000-120,000Rp; ☎) Once Putussibau's best hotel, Aman Sentosa's rooms are battered but clean. The cheapest digs have fans and shared *mandi*. Pricier rooms add TV, air-con, refrigerator and private *mandi*, plus a verandah overlooking its parking lot turned scrap yard.

Pernata Bunda Inn (☎ 22249; Jl Yos Sudarso 87; r 50,000-150,000Rp; ☎) Highest grade rooms here boast hot and cold water – for drinking, not bathing. All have private *mandi*.

Sanjaya Hotel (☎ 21653; fax 22366; Jl Yos Sudarso 129; r with breakfast 75,000-375,000Rp; ☎) Highest priced rooms include Putussibau's only hot/cold showers, but the real find are shared *mandi*, economy rooms with two beds in this clean, modern hotel.

Mess Pemda (☎ 21010; Jl Merdeka 11; r 125,000-150,000Rp; ☎) 'Wisma Uncuk Kapuas Terhitang' by its sign outside, this government hostel's spotless rooms, all with air-con, TV, Western toilet and *mandi*, offer great value. From Jl A Yani, turn left on Jl Dahar and make two rights to Jl Merdeka.

EATING

There are warungs and coffee joints aplenty along Jl Yos Sudarso, and more near the bridge serving noodles, juices and desserts. Try local specialty *krupuk basah*, ground fish steamed in banana leaf, sprinkled with shrimp crackers and spicy peanut sauce.

ourpick **Depot Cak Nur** (Jl Yos Sudarso; mains 4000-12,000Rp) Serve yourself fresh East Java specialties, including lots of vegetable choices. Busy at breakfast.

Pondok Fajar (Jl Yos Sudarso; mains 10,000-18,000Rp; ☎ 6am-1am) This Padang place packs 'em in for its buffet.

Pondok Meranti (☎ 21454; Jl Yos Sudarso; mains 12,000-15,000Rp) Serves up fried or barbecued chicken, soups and noodles on its sprawling veranda or hangar-like interior.

Pondok Flamboyan (Jl Yos Sudarso; mains 12,000-29,000Rp) Delicious, ambitious Chinese fish and seafood by the portion, plus crab and *udang galah* (giant river prawns) by the ounce.

Famili (☎ 21378; Jl KS Tubun; mains 15,000-20,000Rp; ☎ 10am-8pm) Putussibau's Chinese standby, 50m from the traffic light.

For self-catering, **Diamond** (Jl Amin) has the best grocery selection.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

IAT (Indonesia Air Transport; ☎ 22663; Jl Danau Sentarum 21A) flies to/from Pontianak (800,000Rp) three times weekly. Taxis from the airport (10km) cost 35,000Rp, if you can find one; *ojeks* cost 20,000Rp.

Several companies operate economy buses to Pontianak (175,000Rp, 16 hours) and Sintang (100,000Rp, 10 hours). **Perinitis** (☎ 21237, Jl Yos Sudarso 71) runs three trips daily, including two 'executive' buses (non air-con/air-con 210,000/270,000Rp). Pontianak service passes through Sintang for connections to the border at Entikong. The local bus, *angkot* and *ojek terminal* is on Jl Diponegoro, near the market.

River boats use the pier on Sungai Kapuas east of the bridge. From Jl Merdeka, take any street south to the waterfront.

Around Putussibau

Many of Kalimantan's most intriguing longhouses survive in **Kapuas Hulu**. Most accept overnight guests and welcome participation in community activities (see below).

Baligundi longhouse was purpose-built for tourism in a Taman Dayak farming community 12km north of Putussibau (*opelet* 8000Rp). You can stay overnight at basic homestays (per person 30,000Rp; meals per day 55,000Rp). Residents also can stage welcome ceremonies (500,000Rp).

On Sungai Mendalam, **Semangkok I** and much older **Semangkok II** are accessible by *ojek* (100,000Rp return, 30 minutes) or longboat (300,000Rp return, 30 minutes).

North on Sungai Sibau two hours by longboat (300,000Rp), **Nanga Potan** has Dayak Bukat, Kantuk and Taman inhabitants and a lodge (per person 25,000Rp; meals per day 50,000Rp). The community's ecotourism group organises dawn and dusk **wildlife cruises** (per boat 150,000Rp). Village activities include **slingshot fishing** using a primitive form of wire-guided missile. Ambitious travellers can track wild orangutans inside Betung Kerihun National Park (see opposite).

Sungkok Apalin (admission 10,000Rp) is the oldest longhouse in Borneo, according to experts. At nearly 8m off the ground, it's indisputably one of the highest. This Tamambaloh Dayak community welcomes overnight visitors (per person 25,000Rp; meals per day 40,000Rp). Reach the village by *opelet* from Putussibau (13,000Rp, one hour, 38km), running at 9am and 12 noon; visitors may want to stay overnight or take an *ojek* (75,000Rp)

back. Or continue by bus (40,000Rp) through Iban longhouses with their characteristic terraces toward Danau Sentarum National Park (see opposite).

ALONG SUNGAI KAPUAS

Upstream from Putussibau on Sungai Kapuas, there's a string of Taman longhouses, starting with Sauwe (or Sau), 3km east of the airport. Take a ferry across the river (10,000Rp) to **Melapi I**, a renovated longhouse that retains its original flavour, and **Melapi II**, in original condition, with five other new longhouses nearby. These areas have a twice-daily *opelet* service (15,000) with the option of return by *ojek* (50,000Rp).

Continuing east, **Unsa** (also called Lunsah) has two longhouses. Unsa I is among the region's oldest. In dry season, it's accessible by *ojek* (50,000Rp, one hour), but the water route by chartered longboat (350,000Rp return, 1½ hour) or speedboat (500,000Rp return, one hour) includes river vistas and views of other longhouses. For overnight stays, add 100,000Rp to transport charges.

Beyond Unsa, Riam Delapan (Eight Rapids) on Sungai Kapuas make travel more challenging and expensive. Kompakh organises whitewater longboating: it has safety equipment for challenging the rapids, but no rafts.

Bungan (3,500,000Rp to 4,000,000Rp return, eight hours) and **Tanjung Lokang** (6,000,000Rp return, 10½ to 14 hours) are traditional villages on the fringes of Betung Kerihun National Park accessible only by longboat. Don't expect longhouses; residents are Punan

LONGHOUSE GIFT TIPS

It's traditional to give gifts when you visit a longhouse. Some say the tradition began with guided tours. Standard suggestions for gifts – cigarettes and candy – appal many visitors. So we asked guides and Kalimantan Dayaks for alternatives.

First, ask your host (if you've been invited) or your tour guide what the longhouse needs. Practical items such as fishing line are hard to find in the jungle. Fruits or spices common in the city may be longhouse luxuries.

Communal gifts are presented to the longhouse leader, who then parcels them out as he (invariably, it's a man) sees fit. Individually packaged, pre-portioned items work best. A couple dozen envelopes of powdered milk may be welcome in some areas. Toothbrushes and/or toothpaste can help combat rampant tooth decay. Books for sharing or notebooks and pencils for school children seem ideal, but beware that logging for paper production is an issue in some Dayak communities.

If you've been invited by a family, give them an individual gift and benefit the community by hiring a guide or taking a canoe trip.

Dayaks, ancestral cave dwellers. In Bungan (also called Nanga Bungan), inhabitants remain principally hunters and gatherers, so everyone's usually in the forest except for old people and children. Villagers practice traditional rattan crafts and prospect in the river, with the modern twist of a compressor for underwater breathing. Bungan's **lodge** (per person 25,000Rp) has no facilities. Village homestays (per person 50,000Rp) are more comfortable for travellers without full gear.

In Tanjung Lokang, there's a more complete **community-run lodge** (☎ 086 812 114 807; per person 25,000Rp), though visitors must bring their food. The village is a starting point for trans-Borneo treks and base for exploring Betung Kerihun National Park. Local activities include gold mining, incense making, farming, and boat building.

Going west on Sugnai Kapuas, **Danau Empangau** is a protected lake habitat of prized fish species such as *arowana* and giant snakehead, seen in the lake (bring a torch) or village fish farms. The village runs a **lodge** (☎ 085 654 587 797; per person 25,000Rp), and **lake tours** (boat with guide per day 200,000Rp). From nearby Teluk Aur, take **orangutan cruises** (☎ 085 650 848 556) into the mangroves. Public boats to Empangau leave daily from Putussibau (150,000Rp, 2½ hours).

DANAU SENTARUM NATIONAL PARK

A seasonal lake that regulates water levels throughout Sungai Kapuas, **Danau Sentarum National Park** (admission per day 15,000Rp; camera 30,000Rp) is a 132,000-hectare wetland area with a variety of inhabitants.

The lake is famous for super red *arowana* (*Scleropages formosus*), a trophy aquarium fish frequently spotted leaping. During rainy season, lake depths reach 8m and flood surrounding forests. During dry season, fish huddle in isolated pools.

Wildlife in peat swamps and lowland rain-forest include orangutans, proboscis monkeys, crocodiles, stork and great argus pheasant. At least four Dayak groups – Iban, Sebaruk, Sontas and Punan – with several longhouses live in and around the park.

Most visitors enter through the ranger post at **Lanjuk**. Bring copies of your passport and Indonesian visa for registration. Bukit Lanjuk offers a panoramic view of the park. From Lanjuk travel by speedboat, longboat, or houseboat (*klotok* or *bandung*) that may

offer accommodation. Guides cost 50,000Rp to 250,000Rp per day. Prices for speedboats are fixed (quoted below); *klotok* prices are negotiable from 500,000Rp per day.

Pulau Tekenang (650,000Rp, one hour) has a Malay fishing village with floating houses and a basic research facility open to visitors; negotiate terms with villagers. Bukit Tekenang is a good vista point. **Pulau Melayu** (250,000Rp, 15 minutes) has a lodge with no facilities (bring food and bedding) and good views. **Sungai Pelaik** (750,000Rp, one hour) has an Iban longhouse. At the lake's south end, **Meliau** (950,000Rp, two hours) has access to marsh areas with orangutan, crocodiles, proboscis monkeys and abundant birdlife. Most times of year, motor canoe (per hour 100,000Rp; guide per day 50,000Rp) is the best way to spot wildlife.

Reach Danau Sentarum from Sintang by longboat (2,000,000Rp, five to seven hours) or bus (80,000Rp, four hours) to Semitau, then speedboat (1,500,000Rp, two hours). From Putussibau, take a minibus to Lanjuk (100,000Rp, 3½ hours) or a longboat to Empangau (150,000Rp, 2½ hours), then charter a speedboat (1,500,000Rp, 2½ hours).

For more information, contact the **park office** (☎ 0567-22242; Jl Oesiang Oeray 43), **WWF** (☎ 0567-22258; fax 0567-22787; Jl Yos Sudarso 97), or **Kompakh** (see p603), all in Putussibau.

BETUNG KERIHUN NATIONAL PARK

Tracing the border with Sarawak in Malaysia, mountainous **Betung Kerihun National Park** (admission per day 15,000Rp; camera 30,000Rp) shelters the headwaters of Sungai Kapuas amid diverse ecosystems. WWF's Heart of Borneo initiative aims to link Betung Kerihun with Malaysia's Lantjak Entimau Wildlife Reserve.

The 800,000-hectare park, named for two Muller Range peaks, has eight types of forest, from lowland to montane, and varied wildlife, including orangutan, gibbon, tarsier, leaf monkeys, sun bear, clouded leopard and 300-plus bird species. Spot wildlife at salt springs dotting the park.

A main attraction is Kahnung Cave (Liang Kaung in Dayak language) and Kuburan Tahapan, a cemetery, a three- to four-hour trek from Tanjung Lokang. Get permission to enter from the villagers. Other caves have swiftlets producing the key ingredient of bird's nest soup.

To track wild orangutans, enter the park from Nanga Potan on Sungai Sibau via longboat (500,000Rp, three hours), then trek 12km into their habitat. Guides (per day 150,000Rp to 250,000Rp) from the park or Kompakh are required, and it's rough camping in the jungle. A typical trip lasts two nights and can end with building a raft from *purang*, a fast growing hardwood, and riding it six hours back to Nanga Potan.

For details, contact the **park office** (☎ 0567-21773; fax 0567-21935; Jl Tendeau 49), **WWF** (☎ 0567-22258; fax 0567-22787; Jl Yos Sudarso 97), or Kompakh (p603), all in Putussibau.

TRANSBORNEO: PUTUSSIBAU TO LONG APARI

Trekking across the world's third-largest island is a challenge steeped in romance. For a reality check, meet George Muller. In 1825, Muller became the first European to cross from East to West Kalimantan over the mountain range that now carries his name. After his historic journey, Muller was beheaded. Reasonably fit and motivated travellers will likely have better results.

From Putussibau, trans-Kalimantan travel begins by boat to Tanjung Lokang. Then it's five to seven days walking across the Muller Range and pristine forests to the headwaters of Sungai Mahakam at Long Apari. From there, progressively larger boats bring travellers to Samarinda in three or four days.

Aside from drive and legs, the trip requires substantial dosh. Figure 4,000,000Rp for transport to Tanjung Lokang. A guide (per day 250,000Rp to 350,000Rp) is essential beyond there. Porters (per day 150,000Rp to 250,000Rp) are strongly recommended; negotiate in advance whether you'll pay for their return travel. Budget at least 3,000,000Rp for East Kalimantan travel. Food costs around 50,000Rp per person daily for all, including guides and porters.

Few guides in Tanjung Lokang speak English. Chances are somewhat better in Putussibau and much better in Pontianak (see p598). Kompakh (p603) can also provide information and arrange tours. Packages start from 25,000,000Rp per person for two.

Cross-Kalimantan treks can also begin in Samarinda (see p638) or Balikpapan (see p633).

Aside from where and how (and why), consider when to trek. In rainy season, cooler temperatures somewhat compensate for the

wet. July and August are dry but very hot, and annual forest fires follow. May and June seem ideal: honeybees agree, often plaguing trekkers during those months.

SINGKAWANG

☎ 0562 / pop110,000

Chinese-majority Singkawang attracts men from Taiwan seeking brides. Nearby beaches attract travellers and Pontianak weekenders seeking sun and surf.

Jl Diponegoro is Singkawang's north-south spine, with ATMs, banks and moneychanger **Tricoin** (Jl Diponegoro 39). Particularly to the east, classic shophouses abound: listen hard to hear a scratchy recording of a 1930s Shanghai chanteuse. The main Chinese temple is at the intersection of Jl Niaga and Jl K Mahmud. Check your email at **Cyber X** (Jl Diponegoro 126; per hr 3000Rp; ☎ 9am-11pm). For medical issues, consult **RS Santo Vincentius** (Jl Diponegoro 9).

The yearly **Cap Go Meh** festival, climaxing on the fifteenth day of the Chinese New Year, attracts visitors from across the region. Contact the **tourism office** (☎ 631 423) for schedules.

SLEEPING

Hotel Kalbar (☎ 631 460; Jl K Mahmud 1; r 70,000-210,000Rp; 🏨) From basic fan-cooling to hot/cold water VIP, every room has a private bathroom with Western toilet. Location is dead centre downtown.

Hotel Putera Kalbar III (☎ 631 551; Jl Diponegoro 7; r 85,000-100,000Rp; 🏨) Freshly painted rooms all include air-con, TV, shower and free drinking water.

Hotel Restu (☎ 636 904; fax 633 706; Jl Stasiun 77; r 145,000-398,000Rp; 🏨) Facing the bus station, Restu's extras include international TV stations and Combo Café (☎ 7pm to midnight) on the roof.

Hotel Prapatan (☎ 636 888; Jl Sejahtera 1; r incl breakfast 165,000-350,000Rp; 🏨) Business-class rooms, losmen-class service. Bargain for discounts.

Hotel Mahkota (☎ 631 244; fax 631 491; Jl Diponegoro 1; r incl breakfast 450,000-650,000Rp; ste 750,000-1,250,000Rp; 🏨 🍷 🍷) This graceful, venerable four-star hotel has welcoming rooms – angle for discounts up to 40% – classy furniture, tennis court and swimming pool (admission 5000Rp for nonguests). Free wi-fi in outdoor Café Teras and the 24-hour Restoran Saleras Putri (mains 11,000Rp to 45,000Rp plus 21% tax;) serving Western and Indonesian mains, pizza, burgers and sashimi.

With Cap Go Meh crowds thick and choices thin, try:

Century Hotel (☎ 632 047; Jl Diponegoro 59; r 60,000-250,000Rp; 🍷)

Hotel Khatulistiwa 2 (☎ 632 854; Jl Diponegoro 25; r 120,000-450,000Rp; 🍷)

Hotel Paseban (☎ 631 449; Jl Ismail Tahir 41; r incl breakfast 124,000-176,000Rp; 🍷)

Hotel Sankubana (☎ 631 990; Jl Gn Kerinci 9; r 120,000Rp; 🍷)

Hotel Sinar Khatulistiwa I (☎ 631 697; Jl Selamat Karman 17; r 60,000-145,000Rp; 🍷)

EATING

Warungs abound on Jl Niaga, called Jl Stasiun near the bus terminal.

Rumah Makan Vegetarian Maitreya (Jl Tsjaoedin 7; meals 10,000-15,000Rp; 🍷 6am-7.30pm) Popular Chinese vegetarian buffet.

ourpick Warung Hangku (Jl Sejahtera 76; mains 12,000-18,000Rp) The no-smoking, air-con section sets apart this Chinese warung specialising in fish and seafood.

Villa Bukit Mas (Jl Bukit Mas; mains 13,000-18,000Rp) South of downtown, this hilltop restaurant has Indonesian standards plus *shabu-shabu* (57,000Rp), panoramic views and a swimming pool (admission 10,000Rp).

Restoran 889 (☎ 631 411; Jl Tsjaoedin 29; per person 40,000-60,000Rp; 🍷 10am-9pm) Singkawang's top Chinese for group feeds.

Singkawang's after-dark place to be, **Pasar Hong Kong** (Hong Kong Market) runs from 5pm until dawn along Jl Setia Budi, concurrent with produce markets on Jl Hasan Said. Snack and coffee stalls (whose owners are happy to pour beers over ice) dominate, though some offer full meals.

Getting There & Away

Buses to Pontianak's Batu Layang (25,000Rp, 3½ hours) and Sambas (20,000Rp, three hours) leave frequently until late afternoon from the terminal on Jl Stasiun. Companies nearby run buses to Sintang (77,000Rp, 10 hours), Pontianak's centre (air-con 40,000Rp, four hours), and the Entikong border crossing (65,000Rp, eight hours). **Antya** (☎ 733 688; Jl Stasiun 8) and **Amanah Taxi** (☎ 330 5848) run Kijangs to Pontianak (70,000Rp, 3 hours) and charters to other destinations.

Opelet service from the terminal runs around town (3000Rp) and to nearby Gunung Poteng (5000Rp), Pasir Panjang (3000Rp) and Tanjung Gundul (7000Rp). See right.

AROUND SINGKAWANG

See the world's largest flower at **Gunung Poteng**, (5000Rp), 12km east of Singkawang – ask to get dropped at the foot of the hill. Each rafflesia plant only blooms once a year, but there are flowerings year-round. The 3km hike to the top requires two hours.

Ceramics factories 5km south of town produce huge, colourful Chinese urns. The Semanggat Baru factory, 100m from the main road, has an ancient kiln and ships purchases. Prices start from 250,000Rp. Sinar Terang, 400m further, is another cool kiln.

Beaches

Coastal forests around Singkawang shelter some of KalBar's best beaches.

Mobbed on weekends and holidays, **Taman Pasir Panjang** (Long Beach Park; admission 3000Rp), located 14km south of Singkawang, has a public pool, warungs and other facilities. **Palapa Beach Hotel** (☎ 633 402; fax 633 400; r 279,000-479,000Rp, cottages 449,000Rp; 🍷) features clean, casual rooms and odd cottages with carports. There is a 25% discount on weekdays. Its **Palapa Discotheque** (admission 50,000Rp; 🍷 Thu & Sat nights) crosses Cinderella's castle with a Chinese temple. The hotel runs boats (per person 150,000Rp, 40 minutes) to **Pulau Randayan** for snorkelling and pristine beaches. There is also a two-bedroom villa (rooms 350,000Rp). Take an *opelet* (3000Rp, 20 minutes) or *ojek* (15,000Rp) to the park gate and walk 500m to the beach.

Tanjung Gundul (20km) is more isolated and relaxed. **Kura Kura Resort** (☎ 085 822 181 173; Charlie@kurakurabeach.com; r incl meals per person 150,000Rp, villa incl breakfast 600,000Rp) owners Charlie Robertson and wife Siska strive to preserve this patch of white sand sheltered by unspoiled hills and an unpaved road 3km from Tanjung Gundul village. Comfortable, all wood accommodation includes homestay rooms and a villa sleeping up to seven. Snorkelling, trekking, sailing and fishing can be arranged, although a lie-about on the beach to drink in the vista and perhaps a cold beer (guests bringing beer and ice for Charlie are especially welcome) is the right agenda for most visitors. From Singkawang, take an *opelet* (7000Rp to village, 15,000Rp to resort).

The beach at Batu Payung (22km south) has been revived by **Batu Payung Village** (☎ 464 2888/2999; Pontianak office ☎ 0561-738 278, fax 0561-737 131; r US\$20-100; 🍷) opened in mid-2009.

Well hidden **Pantai Gosang** (44km) overlooks offshore islands including Pulau Pelaplis for day trips or camping. For transport, see Bapak Dendy, head of the local fisherman's association.

North of Singkawang, **Pemangkat Beach**, (25km) is another popular weekend destination. Stay at beachfront **Hotel Fortuna** (☎ 380 123; Jl Trikora; r 60,000-165,000Rp; 📶) or in-town **Grand Hotel** (☎ 242 558; fax 242553; Jl Nusantara 69; r 120,000-220,000Rp; 📶). Sambas-bound buses pass Pemangkat (15,000Rp; two hours); specify if you want to be dropped at the beach or in town.

Sambas

☎ 0562 / pop 56,000

Flashing diamonds and gold, Sambas had contact with 6th-century India and Sumatra's Sriwijaya kingdom. The Dutch VOC came in 1610 and 18th-century gold strikes brought Chinese settlers. Sambas is now best known for *songket*, but prices may be cheaper in Pontianak.

Keraton Sambas (4km from town), the former palace turned museum, has charming architecture and views along Sungai Sambas. Hire a canoe for 10,000Rp and paddle over. Or charter a motorised canoe to tour riverside **stilt homes**. It's similar to canal tours in Banjarmasin (see p626), but since Sambas receives fewer visitors, receptions are grander.

Sambas is usually a day-trip destination from Singkawang. For accommodation, try clean, comfortable **Hotel Pantura** (☎ 392 438; Jl Tabrani 62A; r 76,000-278,000Rp; 📶).

Beyond Sambas, long stretches of isolated beach, including Tanjung Datok (two hours) at Kalimantan's northwest tip, offer Robinson Crusoe-type holidays.

KETAPANG

☎ 0534 / pop 69,000

Isolated from most of KalBar, Ketapang connects with nature. The town is the gateway to **Gunung Palung National Park** (see p610) and KalBar's southwest coast. Government officials are trying to develop further ecotourism activities. But the first new attraction is **Rumah Melayu** (Jl Basuki Rachmad; 🕒 8-11am, 2-6.30pm), a traditional Indonesian-Malay house on steroids with giant furniture. It balances a ceremonial **longhouse** (Jl R Suprpto) north of town. The other local houses of note

are *rumah walet*, windowless dwellings for swiftlets producing the key ingredient for bird's nest soup.

Kendawangan (80km south) has unspoiled, largely undeveloped beaches with quaint fishing settlements and simple losmen. Reach it by bus (35,000Rp, three hours) or charter.

ORIENTATION & INFORMATION

Ketapang spreads along the east bank of Sungai Pawan. Travel around town by *opelet* (Rp3000). Silver shops, supplied by area mines and supported by local artisans, cluster around the Jl Suprpto circle. Many businesses close around 4pm and reopen from 7pm to 9pm.

Hypernet (Jl A Yani; per hr 5000Rp; 🕒 8am-1am) Pass the game room for air-con internet. No smoking.

Karya Tours (☎ /fax 303 6633; Jl A Yani 49) Flights and Gunung Palung National Park arrangements.

Mulia Tour (☎ 770 0907, 081 2562 0680; mulia.ketapang@yahoo.com; Jl MT Haryono 142) Formerly Berjaya Tour, still Ketapang's top information source, wife and husband team Mulia Lie and Rudy Salim advise on flights, ferries and local attractions.

Tourism office (☎ 32072; Jl Jend Sudirman 61)

Contact local tourism head Yudo Sudarto (☎ 081 2562 0342; yudo_sudarto@yahoo.co.uk) for new ecotourism initiatives.

SLEEPING

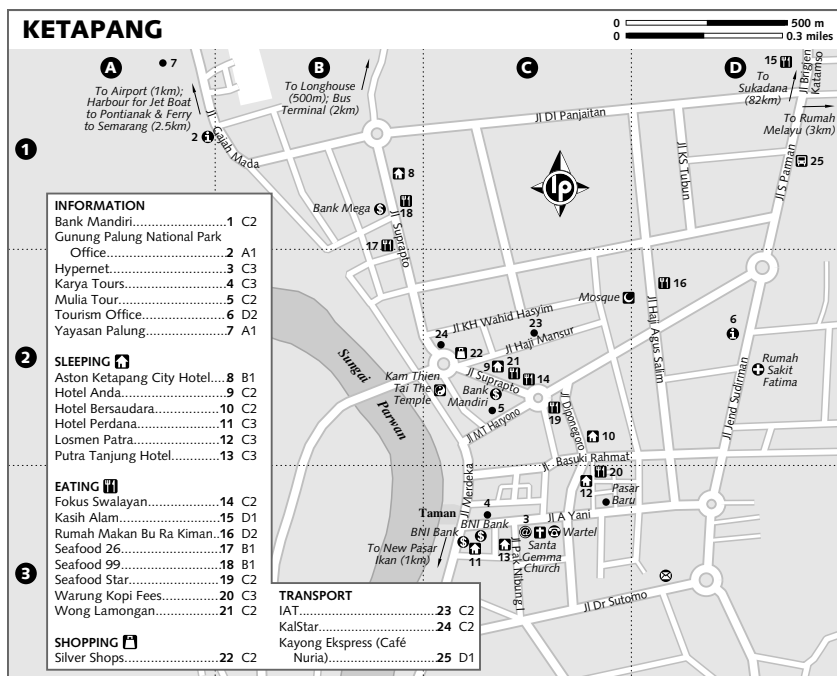
Hotel Bersaudara (☎ 32874; Jl Diponegoro 5; r 30,000-60,000Rp; 📶) Clean but tiring rooms in a pink house featuring a 2nd-floor balcony shaded by a huge tree. Economy class has shared *mandi* and ceiling fan; a little more money buys a lot more comfort.

Losmen Patra (☎ 32742; Jl Diponegoro 63; r 40,000-120,000Rp; 📶) On a quiet block, Losmen Patra has exceptionally bright rooms and friendly vibe to match.

Hotel Anda (☎ 32575; Jl R Suprpto; r 50,000-100,000Rp plus 10% tax; 📶) Simple, scrubbed rooms with very helpful staff.

Putra Tanjung Hotel (☎ 32574; Jl Pak Nibung I 12A; r 88,000-143,000Rp, ste 176,000Rp; 📶) Small, tidy rooms in the original wing, with an extension under construction when we visited.

ourpick Hotel Perdana (☎ 33333; fax 32740; Jl Merdeka 112; r 110,000-320,000Rp plus 10% tax; 📶) Once indisputably Ketapang's best hotel, Perdana is responding to competition with free wired internet in each rustic but comfortable room, 24-hour warnet (per hour



10,000Rp) in the lobby, and a daily 10,000Rp coupon for its restaurant (mains 15,000Rp to 22,000Rp) serving Indonesian food and cold beer.

Aston Ketapang City Hotel (☎ 303 777; www.astonketapang.com; Jl R Suprpto 68A; r incl breakfast 298,000-378,000Rp, ste 698,000-798,000Rp; 📶 📺 📶) This Southeast Asian chain's new three-star branch seems misplaced. Its minimalist rooms feature wraparound chairs straight out of *Austin Powers* and showers with floor-to-neck voyeur windows.

EATING & DRINKING

Find warungs, street stalls and fruit stands along Jl Diponegoro and Jl A Yani, and at Pasar Baru.

Warung Kopi Fees (☎ 34575; Jl Basuki Rahmat; drinks & snacks 3000-25,000Rp; 📶) Friendly indoor-outdoor cafe with free wi-fi from late afternoon.

Rumah Makan Bu Ra Kiman (☎ 34575; Jl Haji Agus Salim 139; mains 6000-8000Rp; 🕒 6-11am) Try *nasi kuning* (saffron rice) or *ketupat cholet* (stewed beef with steamed coconut rice) at this breakfast spot.

Wong Lamongan (Jl R Suprpto 22; mains 10,000-22,000Rp) Want fresh? Pick from fish swimming in the *mandi*. Open until at least 11 pm.

Kasih Alam (Jl Brijen Katatms; meals 10,000-15,000Rp) Visit early for the widest selection at this popular vegetarian buffet.

Seafood Star (Jl MT Haryono 89; mains 12,000-23,000Rp; 🕒 4pm-midnight) Quality and taste far exceed prices at this Chinese warung.

Seafood 99 (☎ 34222; Jl R Suprpto 162; mains 14,000-60,000Rp; 🕒 10am-10pm) Locally renowned Chinese seafood in air-con comfort. Budget per person 50,000Rp for a group feed. Nearby Seafood 26 (☎ 34575; Jl R Suprpto 139; mains 14,000Rp to 60,000Rp) is its open-air counterpoint.

Self-caterers should head to **Fokus Swalayan** (Jl R Suprpto).

Getting There & Away

AIR

IAT (☎ 603 6971; Jl K Haji Mansur) and **KalStar** (☎ 35588; fax 35599; Jl R Suprpto 44) fly to Pontianak several times daily. Both fly daily to Pangkalan Bun, KalStar continuing to Banjarmasin, IAT to Semarang. Taxis to/from Rahadi Osman Airport (6km) cost 50,000Rp, 25,000Rp by *ojek*.

BOAT

Jet boats leave daily 8am to Pontianak (140,000Rp to 180,000Rp, six to eight hours) from the **harbour** north of town (2.5km) on Jl Gajah Mada. Three operators share the route; seating layouts and fare categories vary, but for all air-con class is worth the price. Travel agents know who's running when.

Satia Kencana (☎ 303 6736) sails weekly to Semarang (205,000Rp, 30 hours).

BUS

Reach Ketapang's bus terminal north of town (2km) by *opelet*. Northbound buses to Sukadana (25,000Rp, 2½ hours) for Gunung Palung National Park run frequently from 7am. Buses south to Kendawangan (35,000Rp, three hours) depart twice daily, early morning and afternoon. **Kayong Ekspres** runs daily air-con buses to Sukadana (30,000Rp) and Teluk Melano (40,000Rp) from Café Nuria on Jl S Parman.

GUNUNG PALUNG NATIONAL PARK

Encompassing seashores and mountain peaks, **Gunung Palung National Park** (admission 10,000Rp, camera fee 25,000Rp) is a biodiversity treasure, attracting researchers from across the globe. The Massenerhebung effect compresses vegetation zones, creating several forest types within this compact 90,000-hectare park. The richness extends to wildlife, with an estimated 10% of the world's wild orangutans living here among three dozen species of mammals and nearly 200 types of birds, representing every avian family, if not every species, in Kalimantan. Gunung Palung has also been a top choice for illegal logging and poaching, but park management has taken effective countermeasures, including patrols by microlight aircraft, and encouraged tourism.

Yayasan Palung (Map p609; ☎ /fax 0534-303 6367; www.savegorangutans.org; yayasanalung@gmail.com; Jl Gajah Mada 97, Ketapang) supports tourism development in the park as part of its conservation and education mission

Orientation & Information

Obtain permits for Gunung Palung at the **park office** (Balai Taman Nasional Gunung Palung; Map p609; ☎ 0534-32720; btngp@yahoo.com; Jl Gajah Mada; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Fri) in Ketapang or at its **Sukadana office** (Jl Tangjungpura 41; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Fri) with BTNGP painted on the wall. Bring a pass-

port copy. The offices can suggest transport, itineraries, guides and supplies for visiting the park. Official prices (transport subject to negotiation) are listed on the park's website (<http://gunungpalungnationalpark.wordpress.com/prices/>).

Enter the park via Sukadana, 80km north of Ketapang. Get there from Ketapang by bus (25,000Rp, 2½ hours) or charter a Kijang (350,000Rp). It's also possible to reach Sukadana directly from Pontianak by longboat (160,000Rp, four to six hours). From Sukadana, access the park via Air Pauh (3km south) or Simpang Pelarang (17km north); buses pass unpaved roads to each. From there, visitors often take *ojeks* (20,000Rp to 30,000Rp) to the villages. To Air Pauh it's 3.5km then a six- to eight-hour walk to the park's Lubuk Baji camp. From Pelarang, it's 9km through several villages to Begasing. Both villages have simple homestays for cultural tourism. Begasing also has guides, necessary for travel inside the park. The trail from Begasing to Lubuk Baji is better maintained, though less interesting, and it's certainly shorter, one to three hours uphill through primary and secondary forest.

Lubuk Baji (per person 25,000Rp), opened in 2007 as a community-based ecotourism initiative by Yayasan Palung, has simple sleeping and cooking facilities (bring food and bedding), views of **Gunung Palung** (1116m) and **Gunung Panti** (1050m) plus the distinctive temples of Balinese *transmigrasi* villages below. Around the camp, find *keladi* leaves up to 2m tall, waterfalls including a 30m beauty just below camp, plus swimming holes, all with clear, potable mountain water year round. For orangutans, trek 30 minutes to an hour; about one in five treks encounter apes.

Batu Barat in lowland swamp forest has orangutans, proboscis monkeys, sun bears and freshwater crocodiles. Black orchids bloom February to April. Accommodation is rough camping or very basic homestays (per person 25,000Rp). For Batu Barat, continue north past Sukadana to Teluk Melano (32km), then take a speedboat (per person 250,000Rp) or along Sungai Matan.

Many Gunung Palung visits end with a splash in the sea at Sukadana's Pulau Datok beach.

Park officials plan to add facilities, but Cabang Panti research camp no longer welcomes tourists.

CENTRAL KALIMANTAN

Visitors to Central Kalimantan (Kalimantan Tengah, or KalTeng) overwhelmingly focus on Tanjung Puting National Park, renowned for close encounters with orangutans. Otherwise, Indonesia's third-largest province at 153,564 sq km, barely gets a look. That's partly because KalTeng is mainly flat, poorly drained and heavily logged. But it is Kalimantan's lone Dayak majority province, separated from South Kalimantan in 1957. Travellers willing to get beyond KalTeng's well-beaten path will find surviving swathes of forest and traditional life, including longhouses over a century old, and one of the world's largest wild orangutan populations.

PANGKALAN BUN

☎ 0532 / pop 40,000

Flight schedules may allow Tanjung Puting travellers to head directly from the airport to the park. But there's no reason to avoid Pangkalan Bun, a pleasant town along Sungai

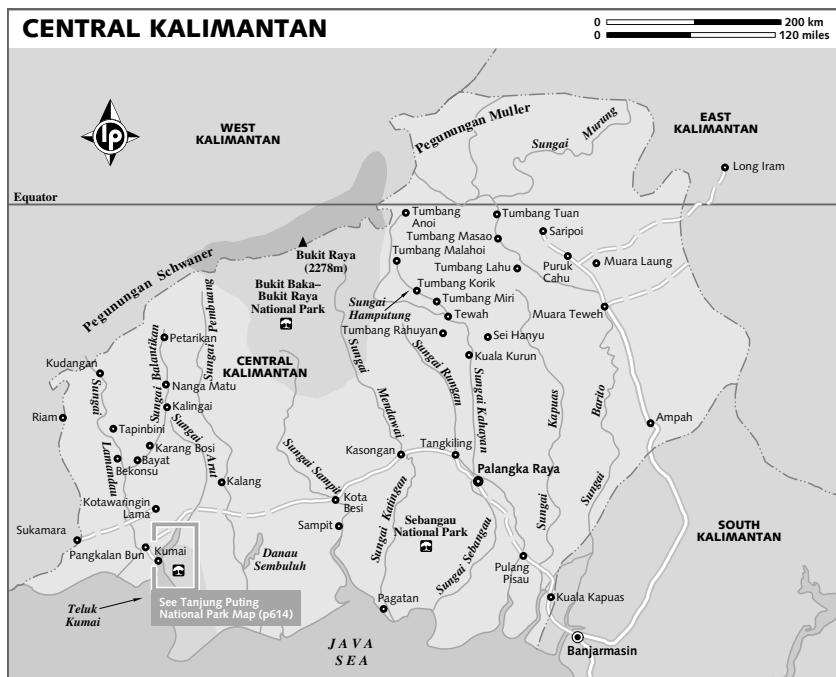
Arut. Riverside boardwalks present photo opportunities including stilt houses and diving schoolboys. Main street Jl P Antasari runs parallel to the river. Tour operators for Tanjung Puting often offer help getting around town.

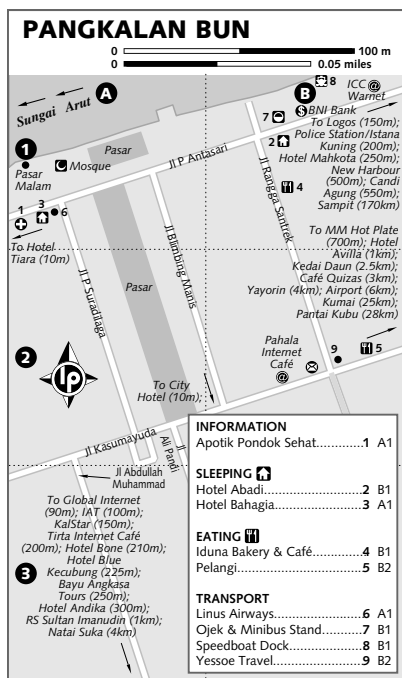
Local law prohibits sale of alcohol, so bring your own along.

Self-described 'orangutan group that works with people, not orangutans' **Yayorin** (Yayasan Orangutan Indonesia; ☎ 29057; www.yayorin.org; Jl Bhayangkara Km1) runs **Kampung Konservasi** (Conservation Village; ☎ 7am-5pm, closed Mon) a model farm educating local people on how to 'become protectors, not destroyers, of their own environment' (see p615). Ask to stop there on the way to/from Tanjung Puting. From Pangkalan Bun, take a taxi or *ojek*; tell the driver, 'Yayorin, near Perumahan Pinang Merah'.

Istana Kuning (Yellow Palace; ☎ 8am-2pm Mon-Thu, 8am-1pm Fri, 8-11am Sat, closed Sun), the sultan's hill-top fortress above the police station on Jl P Antasari, preserves royal relics.

Pantai Kubu is a white-sand beach 28km southeast of town; buses run via Kumai.





Information

Local semiprecious stones such as *kecubung* (sapphire) are the main shopping attraction; find them in the market and souvenir shops. Many businesses close around 4pm and reopen at 7pm. Banks along Jl P Antasari have international ATMs and exchange US dollars. Beware: Jl Kasumayuda is also called Jl PRA Kasumayuda or Jl Prakasumayuda. There's a new harbour and market area to the east, at the end of Jl Haji Udian Said.

Apotik Pondok Sehat (☎ 21167; Jl P Antasari 86)

Well-stocked pharmacy with doctors' offices.

Bayu Angkasa Tour & Travel (☎ 22374; Jl Hasanudin 11/75) Air bookings.

Borneo Holidays (☎ 29673, 081 2500 0508; harnovia@yahoo.com) Owner Harry Purwanto organises personalised tours of Tanjung Puting and KalTeng's rivers.

Global Internet (Jl Hasanudin; per hr 4000Rp; ☎ 24hr) Use your computer or connect your laptop.

RS Sultan Imanudin (Jl Sultan Syahrir) Hospital.

Tirta Internet Café (Jl Domba 23; per hr 4000Rp) BYO laptop; wartel, too.

The local branch of national tour and travel association **ASITA** (☎ 081 349 021 411; asitakobar@

gmail.com) provides info on tour operators for Tanjung Puting and beyond. The province's **guide association** (Himpunan Pramuwisata; ☎ 085 252 745 600; hpikobar07@gmail.com) lists qualified guides.

Sleeping

Hotel Bone (☎ 21213; Jl Domba 21; room r 40,000-100,000Rp; ☎) Pronounced Bo-nay, the hotel is on a quiet side street serviced by *opelet*. Fan-cooled economy rooms are bare 'Bone'; VIP rooms have air-con, TV and private *mandi*.

Hotel Andika (☎ 21218; Jl Hasanudin 20A; s incl breakfast 50,000Rp, d incl breakfast 70,000-85,000Rp; ☎) Simple rooms with charming porches. Hotel arranges cars, and its restaurant (mains 8,000Rp to 15,000Rp) dishes Indonesian favourites.

Hotel Tiara (☎ 22717; fax 25151; Jl P Antasari 150; r 55,000-135,000Rp plus 10% tax; ☎) Reliable, meticulously maintained place with private *mandi* and TV in every room. Some rooms have three beds.

Hotel Bahagia (☎ 21226; fax 24085; Jl P Antasari 100; r 60,000-220,000Rp; ☎) Clean rooms and central location are two reasons they named it 'Hotel Happiness'.

Hotel Abadi (☎ 21021; fax 22800; Jl P Antasari 150; r 85,000-130,000Rp plus 10% tax; ☎) Every room at this business-traveller favourite has air-con and 40-channel TV.

City Hotel (☎ 28569; Jl Kasumayuda; r 100,000Rp; ☎) Targeting foreigners, modern rooms include air-con, Western bathroom and international TV.

Hotel Mahkota (☎ 21172; Jl P Antasari; s 160,000-290,000Rp, d 200,000-330,000Rp, f 360,000Rp, all incl breakfast; ☎) Newly refurbished, with hot water, air-con and international TV in every spacious room.

Hotel Avilla (☎ 27710; avilla2182004@telkom.net; Jl Diponegoro 81; r incl breakfast 250,000-350,000Rp; ☎) Cushy rooms all have hot water, air-con and international TV, plus accommodating staff. Wi-fi with voucher.

Hotel Blue Kecubung (☎ 21211; fax 21513; Jl Domba 1; s 350,000-500,000Rp, d 420,000-570,000Rp, all incl breakfast; ☎) Rooms and service fall short of the luxurious lobby at this choice of overseas tour groups with four stories, basement restaurant and no elevator. Wi-fi with voucher.

Eating

Find warungs on Jl Kasumayuda and Jl P Antasari, supplemented by night stalls, including a clutch near the new harbour. Top super-market **Pelangi** (Jl Kasumayuda) also has ATMs.

Kedai Daun (☎ 29953; Jl Malijo; mains 10,000-25,000Rp; ☎ 5pm-1am; ☎) By day, the office of Friends of the National Parks (see p616), by night, a restaurant and coffee house with Indonesian and Western food plus free wi-fi where anyone's liable to pull out a guitar and start a sing-along.

Café Quizas (Jl Iskandar 63; mains 20,000-50,000Rp) Discover karaoke can be fun even when sober at this restaurant serving Indonesian favourites plus steaks.

Iduna Bakery & Café (☎ 24007; Jl Rangka Santrek 5; mains 15,000-32,000Rp; ☎ 9am-9pm) Get your burger fix at this cosmopolitan joint with hip coffees, juices and ice cream in smoke-free air-con. Adjacent bakery opens 7am to 4.30pm.

MM Hot Plate (☎ 25088; Jl Diponegoro 43; mains 17,500-35,000Rp) Rangy menu includes Indonesian, Japanese, Chinese and Western dishes, all good and fresh.

Getting There & Away

AIR

KalStar (☎ 21266; fax 27509; Jl Hasnuddin 39) and **IAT** (☎ 21224, 6708222; Jl Hasnuddin 20) fly daily to Pontianak via Ketapang. KalStar also flies to Banjarmasin. **Linus Airways** (☎ 22923; www.linusairways.com; Jl P Antasari 1) flies daily to Jakarta and Semarang, but frequently cancels flights or shuffles its schedule. IAT also flies to Semarang. At the time of research, service to Java was so erratic that we suggest flying via Pontianak, Ketapang or Banjarmasin, if feasible.

BOAT

Public speedboats leave behind the minibus terminal for Kotawaringin Lama (60,000Rp, two hours) and Nanga Bulik (70,000Rp, 2½ hours) on Sungai Lamandau.

Pelni (☎ 244305; Jl Diponegoro 71) and other boats to Java leave from Kumai. See p614.

BUS

Buses to Palangka Raya (economy/air-con 80,000/120,000Rp, 12 to 14 hours) are run by **Logos** (☎ 27275; Jl P Antasari), **Candi Agung** (☎ 27475; Jl Hahi Udan Said), and **Yessoe Travel** (☎ 21212; Jl Rangka Santrek), all connecting or continuing to Banjarmasin (125,000Rp, 17 to 19 hours). Ask about pick-up and drop options at both ends of the trip. For example, Yessoe's inbound Pangkalan Bun service ends at its remote terminal where *ojek* is

the only transport available. Other inbound buses drop passengers in town and yet others at the long distance bus station Natai Suka (4km), where there's *opelet* service into town, plus buses to Kotawaringin Lama and Tapinbini.

Getting Around

Taxis to/from Iskandar Airport (6km) cost 50,000Rp. *Opelet* rides around town cost 3000Rp. Minibuses to Kumai (10,000Rp) leave from the terminal near the market on Jl P Antasari.

SUNGGAI LAMANDAU & SUNGGAI BALANTIKAN

Visiting Sungai Lamandau and its tributaries that sustain Dayak villages with longhouses and traditional lifestyles requires patience with irregular, expensive transport. A guide is also recommended.

Located two hours from Pangkalan Bun by public speedboat (60,000Rp), **Kotawaringin Lama** has a longhouse and frail wooden sultan's palace. From there, travel by road to Sukamara (60,000Rp) for speedboats to **Manismata** and **Riam** in West Kalimantan. Hearty travellers can continue from Riam to Ketapang.

Continuing north from Kotawaringin Lama, villages pepper the river to **Bekonsu** with longhouses, traditional mausoleums, and homestays. Get there from Pangkalan Bun by irregular public speedboat (80,000Rp) or charter from Kotawaringin Lama (1,000,000Rp, three hours) or Nanga Bulik (600,000Rp, 1½ hours). From Bekonsu it's about an hour by speedboat (500,000Rp) to **Tapinbini**, where a handful of longhouses defy centuries of weathering and fire. There's daily minibus service between Tapinbini and Pangkalan Bun (125,000Rp, eight hours), a less expensive, less comfortable substitute to river travel.

Alternatively, veer off Sungai Lamandau onto more remote **Sungai Balantikan**, where villagers may invite visitors to share *tuak* – traditional rice wine, more potent than palm sugar *tuak* elsewhere in Indonesia. Hire a speedboat from Pangkalan Bun to **Bayat** (3,000,000Rp, five hours) and stay overnight with a family. From Bayat, rapids require travel by motorised canoe. A feisty rapid at **Nanga Matu** often requires hauling vessels on land for a kilometre or two. From Bayat, in two days, it's

possible to explore north by motorised canoe (2,000,000Rp) to **Petarikan**, staying in **Kalingai** or other villages along the way.

Though well beyond the beaten path, even by KalTeng standards, tour companies, including **Borneo Holidays** (☎ 0532-29673, 081 2500 0508; harmovia@yahoo.com), organise itineraries along both rivers.

KUMAI

☎ 0532 / pop 23,000

A lively harbour town, Kumai is homeport for the *klotok* (houseboat) fleet to Tanjung Puting National Park as well as passenger ships to Java, freighters, Bugis *pinisi* and Maduran schooners.

Main street Jl HM Idris follows Sungai Kumai. Hotels are within walking distance, either here or up Jl Gerliya. There are no money-changers or ATMs, and non-nautical travel is best arranged in Pangkalan Bun.

Sleeping & Eating

Losmen Aloha (☎ 61210; Jl HM Idris 465; s/d 35,000/45,000Rp) Above a travel agency and commendable warung of the same name, Aloha's basic rooms have fans and shared *mandis*.

Losmen Permata Hijau (☎ 61325; Jl HM Idris; r 60,000-100,000Rp; 🧻) Staff constantly wield a broom or mop at this immaculate guest house. Even shared *mandis* for fan-cooled budget rooms sparkle.

Hotel Mentari (☎ 61558; Jl Gerliya 98; r incl breakfast 100,000Rp; 🧻) Mentari is fresh and very clean. Rooms are bright and well furnished.

At warungs and food stalls along Jl HM Idris near the market, try fresh fish, caught a fly cast away.

Getting There & Away

Reach Kumai by minibus from Pangkalan Bun (10,000Rp, 35 minutes). Taxis from Pangkalan Bun airport to Kumai cost 150,000Rp, including all stops for visiting Tanjung Punting National Park (p616).

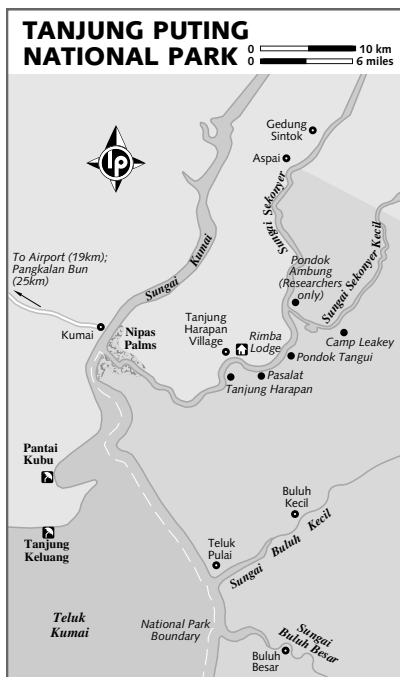
Pelni boats connect Kumai with Semarang (145,000Rp; 24 hours) and Surabaya (153,000Rp; 26 hours) three times weekly. The **Pelni office** (Jl HM Idris) is opposite the market. **Dharma Lautan Utama** (☎ 61205, 61250; Jl Bahari 561) runs more frequent boats to Semarang (160,000Rp, 19 to 22 hours), including a fast ferry (265,000Rp, 18 hours), and Surabaya (165,000Rp, 23 to 26 hours).

TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK

Our pick as the world's best place to see orangutans in their natural habitat, **Tanjung Puting National Park** may also be the world's easiest adventure travel. Unlike other jungle wildlife destinations, there's little physical exertion required, so anyone aged two to 92 can handle the trip. (Our almost-two-year-old daughter had the time of her life.) Purists may assail the merits of Tanjung Puting as a wildlife destination, but there's no disputing that seeing orangutans up close in the jungle is a thrilling experience.

Like other orangutan rehabilitation sites, Tanjung Puting guarantees plenty of these irresistible auburn primates. What sets Tanjung Puting apart is the journey straight out of *The Heart of Darkness* via *klotok*, your floating luxury losmen, put-putting up Sungai Sekonyer.

Cruising gently between walls of pandanus fringing the river like spiky-haired stick figures, sharp-eyed captains or guides may spot orangutans perched on riverside branches or macaques scurrying through the forest canopy shared among 200-plus bird species. Tanjung Puting is also home to sun bears, wild



AXING ILLEGAL LOGGING

Yayasan Orangutan Indonesia (Yayorin; Indonesia Orangutan Foundation; www.yayorin.org) aims to make the world safe for orangutans by teaching humans to preserve the species and its environment. Its projects include community education and sustainable farming projects that others can replicate. Arsyad is a 30-year-old who never got past elementary school, trying to support his wife and seven-year-old in Central Kalimantan. He was an illegal logger for more than a decade until Yayorin showed him an alternative. Arsyad talked to Lonely Planet about his transformation.

What have you learnt from Yayorin? There are many things that I have learnt from Yayorin, including the consequences human beings must pay for destroying nature. The most important thing that I learn from Yayorin is how sustainable agriculture can actually sustain my family's economic needs.

Why did you decide to become a farmer? I was looking for a more peaceful life compared to the time when I was a logger. Life as a logger was dangerous for me, my family and others. Moreover, the income I was making from it was not worth the amount of destruction I created, as well as the risk that I had to take.

What has changed in your life since you became a farmer? My family life has become much more comfortable, safer and free of fears. I no longer have to move from one place to another; I am happier and feel proud now that I own a rubber plantation and vegetable gardens, as well as a house on my own land.

Do you make more money now as a farmer? I have been making around 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 rupiah per month as a farmer. It is almost the same as I made before as a logger, but without the danger and high risk.

What message would you give to others who are illegal loggers? Stop being an illegal logger because it is very dangerous for yourself, destroying the environment and disadvantageous for others. Moreover, illegal logging is not a job that can sustain your life for a long time into the future.

boars, clouded leopards, spotted cats, pythons, gibbons, porcupines and Sambar deer, none likely to turn up along the riverbank.

Absolutely count on seeing proboscis monkeys (*bekantan*). Found only in Borneo, these odd creatures with their potbellies, awkward movements (by monkey standards), and white faces highlighted by a tubular nose (when colonists showed up, natives rechristened the proboscis *monyet belanda*, Dutch monkey) anxiously await *klotok* arrivals. A troop of 30 light-brown monkeys may plunge from branches 10m or higher into the dark river and cross directly in front of the boat, acting out Kalimantan's version of 'Why did the chicken cross the road?' Answer: because boat engines and propellers scare crocodiles, which find *bekantan* delicious.

Orangutans (see boxed text, p379), the only great apes outside Africa, face a very real extinction threat this century as their rainforest habitat is converted to palm-oil plantations and furniture from often-illegally cut timber. Canadian researcher Dr Biruté Galdikas began

research here in 1971. Least famous of three female ape experts mentored by legendary anthropologist Dr Louis Leakey, Dr Galdikas' discoveries include the orangutan's eight-year birth cycle, making the species highly vulnerable to extinction. Valuable studies continue at Tanjung Puting, mainly at Pondok Ambung, a research station closed to the public.

The 415,040-hectare park was Indonesia's first site for the now-controversial practice of orangutan rehabilitation: training orphaned or former captive orangutans to live in the wild (sometimes known as referralisation). But after prolonged, close contact with human rehabilitators, orangutans never lose their taste for it. Orangutans can also pick up human diseases and spread them to wild populations. Current practice specifies reintroduction into areas without native orangutan populations. Tanjung Puting's rehabilitation work is being phased out.

Part of the rehabilitation process that survives is daily feedings to released orangutans at jungle platforms. That's where visitors go

to see orangutans. Feedings take place at three camps: **Tanjung Harapan** at 3pm, **Pondok Tangui** at 9am, and **Camp Leakey** at 2pm (check for schedule changes). Reaching camp feeding stations requires a short walk through jungle from the dock. Trails can be slippery when wet and teem with leeches. Wear boots or closed shoes, bring sun/rain protection and vats of insect repellent. Camp Leakey and Tanjung Harapan have information centres. Tanjung Harapan also has a garden displaying dozens of native medicinal plants.

Pasalat is a reforestation camp where saplings of sandalwood, ironwood and other native trees are being reintroduced to combat logging, mining and fires. On Paslat's bulletin board:

Hutan...

Bukan hanya milik kita

Hutan...

Warisan bagi anak cucu kita

Lestarkan Hutan

(The Forest...

Not only ours

The Forest...

Our grandchildren's inheritance

Preserve the Forest)

Orientation & Information

Visiting Tanjung Puting begins with registration at Pangkalan Bun's police station. Bring photocopies of your passport and visa. (Airport taxi drivers know the steps.)

Next stop, the **PHKA office** (national parks office; ☎ 61500; Jl HM Idris, Kumai; 🕒 7am-2pm Mon-Thu, 7am-11am Fri). Park registration costs per day 65,000Rp per person, 35,000Rp for cameras, and 5000Rp per day for a *klotok* (15,000Rp for a speedboat). Call ahead for weekend arrivals. Provide a copy of your police letter from Pangkalan Bun and another photocopy of your passport. Then head to Kumai's docks to begin chugging upriver. When the park office is closed, it may be possible to register at the park's boundary checkpoint. Ask your boat captain or guide.

For additional information about Tanjung Puting's orangutans, conservation efforts and volunteer opportunities, contact **Friends of the National Parks Foundation** (☎ 29953; www.fnpf.org; Jl Malijo). Headquartered in Bali, FNPF runs Tanjung Harapan, Pasalat, plus community education and ecofriendly enterprise initiatives (see opposite). US-based **Orangutan**

Foundation International (OFI; ☎ 1-323-938 6046; www.orangutan.org) runs Camp Leakey and publishes *A Guidebook to Tanjung Puting National Park* by Dr Biruté Galdikas and Gary Shapiro.

Dry season falls from May to September. Reduced rainfall makes journeys more enjoyable and may increase the number of orangutans seeking feeding, since fewer jungle trees are fruiting. But higher water during the wet season expands boat access. Tanjung Puting's 200 varieties of wild orchids bloom mainly from January to March.

Guides

Guides are not required in the park, but are helpful for touring camps and essential for travel beyond them. *Klotok* captains are usually excellent wildlife spotters, but few speak much English. Camp rangers often don't speak English and focus on orangutans, not tourists.

Guide fees range from 150,000Rp to 250,000Rp per day. In Kumai, freelance guides abound and boat operators can provide suggestions. Tour operators may or may not include a guide in their packages; if not they'll have recommendations. PHKA staff can work as guides; some speak English and know the park. Camp rangers or residents of Tanjung Harapan village, across the river from that camp, are another option. The province's **guide association** (Himpunan Pramuwisata; ☎ 085 252 745 600; hpikobar07@gmail.com) lists qualified guides. For more on hiring guides, see p823.

Rules & Conduct

Follow park regulations to ensure the health of ecosystems and their inhabitants; don't disregard them for the sake of a photo. Never travel park trails without a ranger or guide. Many orangutans are ex-captives and unafraid of humans. No matter what boat crew or rangers do, don't feed orangutans or initiate contact with them. Young ones especially are very hard to resist, but they are highly susceptible to human diseases, so you can inflict great harm. Orangutans are also very strong and may grab your camera, bag or anything else they can reach. In a tug-of-war, they'll win.

Resist the temptation to swim in rivers. Crocodiles lurk; several years ago a British volunteer was killed swimming just off a dock. Water may also be polluted due to mining activities upstream. Wash safely at the river pool at Camp Leakey dock. Elsewhere, get advice before drawing river water.

Klotok Hire

Klotok travel is a windfall pleasure of visiting Tanjung Puting. These eight-to-10m houseboats serve as transportation, accommodation and restaurant, generally for up to four adults. At night, crews moor well away from settlements, so passengers can enjoy sunsets and wildlife peacefully. Sleep on deck on mattresses under mosquito nets, wake to the haunting cries of gibbons and lilting songs of sunbirds: 'It's like those tapes of the rainforest,' one visitor said.

Three days is a reasonable length of stay, though it's possible to see all three camps with just an overnight stay. Some travellers spend a week or more. Three days allows time to survey the rivers unhurriedly and explore around and beyond the camps. Plan river travel for dawn or dusk, when primates come to the banks.

Book a *klotok* through tour operators in Pangkajene Bun (see p612) or tour agencies across Kalimantan and Indonesia; Tanjung Puting is a premier tourist destination. Boat demand peaks in July and August and around local school holidays, but outside these times hiring a *klotok* independently in Kumai is a simple matter – operators will generally find you. Basic boat designs are similar, but there are differences in size, standard, deck configuration and furnishings, so shop around. The **Association of Tourist Boat (Klotok) Kumai** (☎ 081 2508 6105, 532-61319; kumaitouristboat@gmail.com), can provide a list of Kumai's *klotok* fleet. It numbered 26 at the time of research, with at least a dozen more boats under construction.

Daily rates run 400,000Rp to 450,000Rp for a boat and captain, including fuel. Cooks cost 75,000Rp daily. Food is generally per person 50,000Rp per day. It's optional to provide the crew's food (and poor form to decline).

Travellers have given particularly good reviews of trips on *Kingfisher*, the Majid family's *Satria* group and *Cahaya Purnama* with Captain Emeng. But there are few bad trips on any *klotok*.

Tanjung Harapan Village

Across the river from the orangutan camp of the same name, **Tanjung Harapan village** offers several community-based ecotourism activities through the Sungai Sekonyer villagers' association **Tegari Lestari** (☎ 081 251 647 27; tegari_lestari@yahoo.co.id). Tegari Lestari, named for a

type of jungle orchid and supported by FNPF, doesn't just talk the conservation talk.

Tanjung Harapan residents participate in reforestation projects, including Beguru, a 120-hectare predominantly ironwood area 3km from Tanjung Harapan hit hard by fires in 2006. Carvings from burnt trees are among local handicrafts featured at the **cooperative shop** at the village dock. Ask your captain to stop for a look.

Visitors can join villagers and walk the conservation walk on one- and two-night **jungle treks** (one/two nights per person 600,000Rp/1,000,000Rp) through areas Tegari Lestari protects from encroaching plantations and loggers. Covering about 10km per day, the treks fit well with other Tanjung Puting activities.

Batimu, a traditional steam bath and massage (200,000Rp) using local spices, is the perfect end to a trek, or just thinking about one.

Tanjung Harapan's **homestays** (d with meals 200,000Rp) are best enjoyed with participation in village activities.

Tegari Lestari also organises Sunday trips to Tanjung Puting. Intended to help school children and their parents appreciate their natural heritage at the bargain price of 7500Rp, anyone can tag along on a space-available basis for 75,000Rp. Bring food or buy simple meals on board. From Kumai, the *klotok* visits Tanjung Harapan, and the feeding at Camp Leakey. Get details from Tegari Lestari or FNPF.

Sleeping

Klotok camping is as much a part of the Tanjung Puting experience as primates. Only visitors that absolutely must sleep on terra firma should miss it. Some visitors alternate nights on *klotok* and land.

Rimba Lodge (☎ 0532-671 0589; www.rimbalodge.com; s US\$55-125, d US\$60-130, all incl breakfast; 📶) Rimba registers charmless and drab, even by ecolodge standards. Plus it's pricey at US\$95 or US\$100 for hot water and air-con, the main reasons to move here from a *klotok*. There's internet access via radio. Nonsmoking rooms are available. The restaurant (mains 25,000Rp to 55,000Rp, plus 21% tax) serves Chinese and Indonesian food.

Sekonyer Ecolodge, near Tanjung Harapan village, was closed and for sale at the time of research.

Getting There & Around

Access to Tanjung Puting is by boat only. From Kumai, it's 1½ hours by *klotok* to Tanjung Harapan, 2½ hours to Pondok Tanggui and 3½ hours to Camp Leakey.

Wooden canoes, a quiet alternative for exploring Sungai Sekonyer's shallow tributaries, rent at camps for 30,000Rp per day. Bring an umbrella or hat and lots of drinking water.

Speedboats from Kumai cost about 400,000Rp, but they're a last resort. It takes less than two hours to reach Camp Leakey but the trip is uncomfortable, motor noise chases away wildlife, and propellers wreak havoc on river dwellers.

PALANGKA RAYA

☎ 0536 / pop 207,000

Once a dusty village called Pahandut, Palangka Raya means 'great and holy place'. This capital city of KalTeng was mooted as a potential capital for all Kalimantan. It has a network of appropriately grand boulevards and handsome government buildings, plus cantilevered Kahayan Bridge, a striking sight, day or night. Stilt houses and plank walks near Rambang Pier on Sungai Kahayan recall the area's roots.

Action for inhabitants and much of the town's wealth reside in the suburbs. Activity nodes around the core include the market off Jl Ahmad Yani, and **Bundaran Besar** (Big Traffic Circle) with night stalls for eating, drinking, seeing and being seen along Jl Yos Sudarso. Also on the circle, **Palma** (Palangka Raya Mall) has the best supermarket in town, a bakery with Western-style bread, food court with wi-fi (voucher required), and Books City with maps and a good selection of children's books for longhouse gifts (see p604).

Information

Several banks along eastern Jl Ahmad Yani exchange dollars and have ATMs accepting international cards. Beer isn't widely available; ask where to find it. Newsagent **Fathir** (Jl Ahmad Yani 12) sells the English language *Jakarta Post*.

Aptik Sehat Bahagia (Jl Ahmad Yani 20) Well-stocked pharmacy with doctors' practices and lab on site.

Dinas Pariwisata (Regional Tourism Office, Jl Tjilik Riwut Km 5; ☎ 7am-2pm Mon-Thu, 7-10.30am Fri) Maps and tips for travel into interior. Some staff speak English. Look for 'Disparsenibud Propinsini Kalimantan Tengah' between Mitsubishi and Toyota signs on taxi route A.

Kalimantan Tour Destinations (☎ /fax 322 2099; www.wowborneo.com; kalimantanours@gmail.com; Jl

Milono Km 1) Unique itineraries to Dayak communities and wilderness along Sungai Kahayan and Sungai Rungan, including cruises aboard floating ecohotels *Raha'i Pangun* and *Spirit of Borneo*.

Kevin Maulana Tours (☎ 323 4735; newkevin_maulana@telkom.net; Jl Milono Km 1) Full service, full price tours. Also flights, Kijangs and charter cars.

Mulio Angkasa Raya Tour & Travel (☎ 322 1031; fax 322 3723; Jl Ahmad Yani 55) Best bet for all flights, plus tours, car rental and Kijangs.

Palangka Raya Guide Association (☎ 081 349 062 797; Dandang Tingang Hotel, Jl Yos Sudarso 13) Chairman Yusuf Kawaru provides information on guides for trips into the interior.

Warnet Patrick (Jl Batam 29; per hour 3500Rp;

☎ 8am-midnight) Best internet hub in town can connect your laptop, print and fax.

Central Kalimantan is renowned for rattan and bamboo crafts. **Souvenir shops** along Jl Batam sell 'export quality' Japanese-style mats, some with *kanji* labels.

Kalaweit Care Centre (☎ /fax 322 6388; www.kalaweit.org) accepts volunteers (not visitors) for rehabilitating ex-captive gibbons (see p840) and broadcasts 'Good morning, Kalimantan' ecoradio 99.1FM.

Sights & Activities

Longhouse-style **Mandala Wisata** (Jl Panjaitan) is an arts centre and venue for traditional performances. Check posted schedule for times.

Museum Balanga (Jl Tjilik Riwut Km 2.5; admission by donation; ☎ 8am-1.30pm Mon-Thu, 8-10.30am Fri, 8am-12.30pm Sat, 10am-1.30pm Sun), on taxi route A, has enlightening exhibits on Ngaju Dayak culture. Agau leads a staff of excellent guides whose limited English can't mask their enthusiasm.

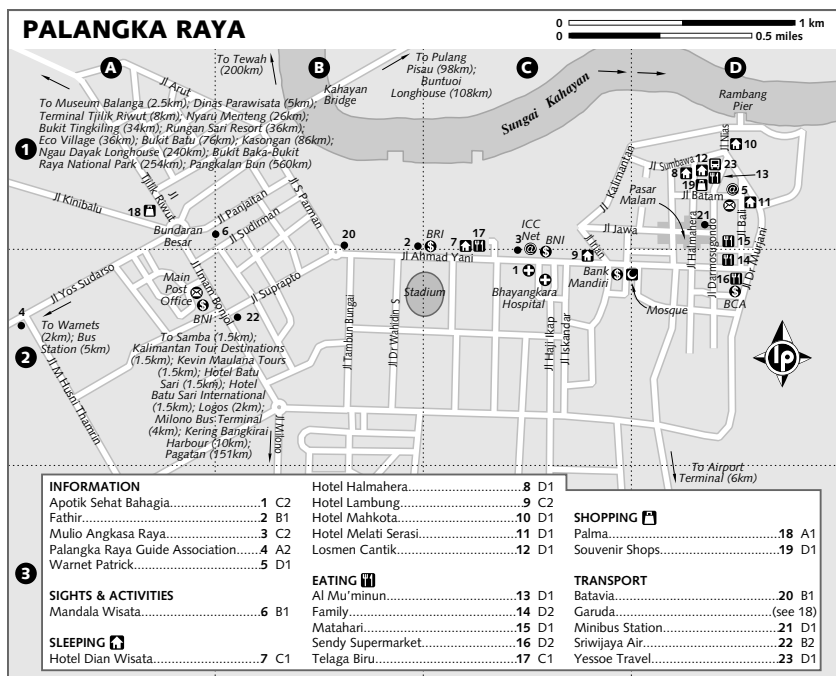
Ask hotels or tour agents about **river cruises** on Sungai Kahayan to admire Kahayan Bridge and see stilt houses. Or try your luck around Rambang Pier.

Sleeping

BUDGET

Hotel Melati Serasi (☎ 322 3682; Jl Dr Murjani 54; s 27,500-38,500Rp, d 38,500-110,000Rp, t 49,500-66,000Rp; 📶) Friendly, clean, quiet place with rooms ranging from shared *mandi* and fan to air-con and international TV off a charming courtyard.

Hotel Mahkota (☎ 322 1672; Jl Nias 5; r 44,000-250,000Rp; 📶) Breakfast is included for all except the fan-cooled economy rooms. Accessed via an ugly car park, rooms here are large with



refrigerator and TV. Staff pushes foreigners into huge, high-priced digs.

Losmen Cantik (☎ 322 2399; Jl Halmahera 22; s 75,000Rp, d 95,000-110,000Rp; 🍴) At this new entry, rooms, all with TV and shared bathrooms, are spotless. Shared air-con units mean arctic temperatures without neighbourly cooperation.

Hotel Dian Wisata (☎ 322 1241; Jl Ahmad Yani 32; r incl breakfast 100,000-170,000Rp; 🍴) Watch your head descending to economy rooms with shared *mandi* via the central atrium. Standard and 'VIP' rooms have air-con and private *mandi*; all are clean.

Hotel Halmahera (☎ 322 1222; fax 322 1993; Jl Halmahera 24; r incl breakfast 160,000-250,000Rp; 🍴) Great value with international TV, hot/cold shower and unlimited coffee, tea and water. Room quality varies, so pick a good one.

MIDRANGE

Hotel Lampanag (☎ 322 0003; Jl Irian 2; s incl breakfast from 228,000Rp, d incl breakfast 276,000-360,000Rp; 🍴) Stylishly refurbished with Western bathrooms and free wi-fi.

Hotel Batu Sari (☎ 322 6535; fax 323 8269; Jl Raden Saleh 1; r incl breakfast 240,000-384,000Rp, ste

600,000Rp; 🍴) Located near Hotel Batu Sari International, the precursor to Hotel Batu Sari International (see below) has a stronger longhouse motif and gives 25% discounts for one, 15% for two. Located off Jl Milono on taxi route E.

Hotel Batu Sari International (☎ 324 4765; fax 322 8549; Jl Raden Saleh 4; r incl breakfast 288,000-366,000Rp, ste 576,000Rp; 🍴) Plush rooms have refrigerator, international TV, hot-water shower and wired internet.

Rungan Sari Resort (☎ 333 3878; Jl Tjilik Riwet Km 36; www.kmc-rs.com; s & d incl breakfast 580,800-701,800Rp; 🍴) This a luxurious conference retreat north of town, near Bukit Tangkiling (see p620). It shares facilities with adjacent **Eco Village** (☎ 331 7777; Jl Tjilik Riwet Km 36.3; r incl breakfast 200,000-350,000Rp; 🍴).

Eating

Samba (☎ 322 4322; Jl Milono 15; mains 12,000-18,000Rp; 🍴 7am-3pm, closed Sun) Dayak warung featuring fried fish, savoury soups and unique sambal.

Al Mu'minun (☎ 322 4322; Jl Darmosugondo 5; mains 14,000-20,000Rp) Popular, friendly place for barbecued fish.

Matahari (☎ 322 5333; Jl Bawean 3A) and **Family** (☎ 322 9560; Jl Bawean 8), facing each other, are local favourites for Chinese food (and beer). Group feeds at either cost 40,000Rp to 60,000Rp per person. Matahari has an air-con, nonsmoking section.

Find warungs around the market; *pasar malam* food stalls on Jl Halmahera open around 4pm. For self-catering, **Sendy Supermarket** (cnr Jl Ahmad Yani & Jl Dr Murjani) which has a branch at Palma, and **Telaga Biru** (Jl Ahmad Yani), bracketed by bakeries, have the widest grocery selections.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Garuda (☎ 323 2900; Jl Kinibalu front, Palma), **Sriwijaya Air** (☎ 323 8124; fax 323 4095; Jl Imam Bonjol 19A) and **Batavia** (☎ 322 6777; fax 322 1275; Jl Ahmad Yani 11E) all fly to Jakarta. **Susi Air** (☎ 081 1211 3080/90; info@susair.com) flies daily to Muara Teweh, continuing to Banjarmasin. Charter operator **Aviastar** (☎ 320 4009; www.aviastarbiz) proposed connections with other Kalimantan destinations at the time of research. Airport taxis cost 60,000Rp (6km).

Banjarmasin offers more flight options. Kijangs go direct to/from the airport (90,000Rp, five hours).

BOAT

Boats south to Sebangau and Pagatan leave mornings from Kering Bangkirai, the terminus of taxi route E. Service is by speedboat and *klotok* on different days, so travel times vary. Call **Haji Polo** (☎ 085 249 541 999) for details.

BUS & KIJANG

Buses for Banjarmasin (50,000Rp, five hours), Buntok (90,000Rp to 125,000Rp, 12 hours), Muara Teweh (150,000Rp, 16 hours) and other points east leave from **Milono bus terminal** (Bundaran Burung, Jl Milono Km 4.5) on taxi route E.

Day and night buses to Pangkalan Bun (economy/air-con 80,000/120,000Rp, 14 hours) and Lamandau (150,000Rp to 200,000Rp, eight hours), as well as service to Sampit (60,000, four hours), leave from **Tjilik Riwayat Km 8** on taxi route A. Minibuses to west to Kasongan and beyond also depart from here.

Yessoe Travel (☎ 322 1436; Jl Banda 7) and **Logos** (☎ 338 6090; Jl Milono Km 2) run buses to Pangkalan Bun and other destinations from

their own terminals closer to town, but check on the drop points.

Kijangs wait around bus terminals. Scheduled Kijang service to Banjarmasin (75,000Rp, five hours) is well organised and comfortable, with pickup and drop at your designated location. **Gian Travel** (☎ 081 251 638 38) runs Kijangs to Tewah (100,000Rp, five hours) and Kuala Kurun (120,000Rp, seven hours).

Getting Around

Minibuses, called 'taxi' (3000Rp), ply major thoroughfares. The eastern terminus is along Jl Darmosugondo. *Ojek* and becaks are also common.

Around Palangka Raya

Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation's **Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Education Centre** (☎ 330 8414; Jl Tjilik Riwayat Km 29; admission by donation; ☎ 9am-3pm Sun) opens on Sunday for visitors. Orangutans readying for reintroduction to the wild are visible through floor-to-ceiling windows in this sophisticated facility simulating their rainforest habitat. The surrounding **arboretum** has boardwalks over black water streams through dense forest with monkeys, birds (best viewed early mornings), towering trees, butterflies and mosquitoes, leading to a lake with pedal boats.

Bukit Tangkiling, a series of hills, begins at Tjilik Riwayat Km 34, where the turnoff leads to a **convent**. Ask for permission to climb the hill here that has the Christian Stations of the Cross depicted at the top amid spectacular views of the extraordinarily flat KalTeng countryside. A branch of the road continues to **Taman Alam**, a zoo and botanical garden. Further north along Jl Tjilik Riwayat, Tangkiling town has a wharf and busy weekend market. Opposite the turnoff, Bukit Banama, is named for the boat that, in Dayak belief, carries spirits to the next world. Use taxi route A to Tjilik Riwayat Km 8 terminal and take a minibus.

After Tangkiling, the road bends west. National hero and KalTeng's first governor Tjilik Riwayat frequently meditated at **Bukit Batu** (Jl Tjilik Riwayat Km 76) in a stone seat overlooking the plain and slept between balanced rocks. **Kasongan**, 10km further west on Sungai Mendawai, is a centre for rattan processing and crafts. Many visitors pay respects at the *sandung* of Tjilik Riwayat's mother behind the market.

For **Buntuoi longhouse**, take taxi E to Milono terminal for a minibus to Pulang Pisau (20,000Rp, 2½ hours, 98km), or take a Kijang (40,000Rp), then a taxi to Mintin (10km) for a *klotok* to the riverside longhouse. Either return to Palangka Raya or continue east to Banjarmasin.

Sungai Sebangau's black waters lead to **Pagatan**, a picturesque port accessible only by water. Charter a *klotok* (300,000Rp) for a sunset cruise into the mangroves to see proboscis monkeys. The wharf showcases Indonesian cargo vessels, particularly the elegant Bugis *pini*. From Palangka Raya, take taxi E south to Kering Bangkirai for public boat service (☎ 085 249 541 999; *klotok*/speedboat 82,000/252,000Rp) with different boats sailing different days. Pagatan's clean losmen (r 70,000Rp) near the pier has private *mandi* and a balcony overlooking the river.

Reach **Bukit Baka–Bukit Raya National Park** by road, river and trekking from Palangka Raya via Tumbang Samba, Tumbang Manggu and Tumbang Gagu. In Tumbang Manggu, arrange welcoming ceremonies and treks into the national park through the village's new longhouse and **Ngau Dayak cultural centre** (☎ 081 335 296 5670, 0536-323 6621). Climbing Bukit Raya (2278m), the home of a spirit army, according to Dayak legend, requires three days, including ceremonies before and after the climb.

SEBANGAU NATIONAL PARK

A peat swamp forest between Sungai Katingan and Sungai Sebangau south of Palangka Raya, **Sebangau National Park** (admission 15,000Rp) is home to 9000 orangutans, among the world's largest wild populations. Sebangau's biodiversity includes more than 100 bird species, 35 mammal species and several forest types within its 568,700 hectares.

WWF Indonesia (www.wwf.or.id) campaigned to establish the park, gazetted in 2004, and remains at the forefront of involving nearby residents in low-impact logging, home industry, reforestation and ecotourism. The park area was home to 13 logging concessions, all expired by 1990. Yet in 2001 there were still 147 sawmills operating in the area, according to WWF. The area also experienced severe fire damage in 1997–98. Canals dug to transport illegally cut timber dried the underlying peat lands, making them more susceptible to burning. WWF works with villages neighbouring the park to fill in canals and replant trees.

Ecotourism is still in its infancy but WWF has established two camps for visitors, both with equally slim chances to spot orangutans. Stays include participation in local community activities along with jungle walks. On Sungai Sebangau, visitors can stay at the **SSI Canal field station**, named for a notorious logging concession. This area is a key reforestation site, and views from the station's 5m observation tower illustrate the contrast between burned and replanted areas. The camp has four basic rooms with mattresses and mosquito nets, shared *mandi* and cooking facilities – and no fixed price. Bring your own food, though fresh caught fish is available (per kilo 50,000Rp). Guides for treks to search for orangutans cost 85,000Rp per day. Get here by public boat from Kering Bangkirai in Palangka Raya or charter, from 200,000Rp, depending on boat size. By speedboat, the trip takes one hour.

Keuring village on Sungai Katingan is more remote, and accommodation at the field station on Lake Panggualas is less developed. Visitors need to bring bedding and, if they want a cook, recruit one from the village. Local guide Surakhmansyah (☎ 085 252 801 658) can assist. **Losmen Gikia** (☎ 085 248 510 195; r50,000-80,000Rp), about two hours away by *klotok*, may be more comfortable. Guides cost 85,000Rp per day, and canoe (per day 100,000Rp) is the best way to seek orangutans. From Palangka Raya, travel to Kasongan, then take a public *klotok*, last departure 10am, to Kuruung (150,000Rp, five hours). Alternatively, charter a *klotok* (1,500,000Rp to 2,000,000Rp) or speedboat (4,000,000Rp, two hours).

For more information about visiting the park, contact the **park office** (☎ 0536-332 7093; Jl Mahir Mahan Km 1.2) or **WWF office** (☎ 0536-323 6997; fax 0536-322 0993; Jl Pangrango 59), both in Palangka Raya.

SUNGAI KAHAYAN

Every route is an adventure following Sungai Kahayan to traditional Dayak communities and primary forests deep in KalTeng's interior. Isolation has limited modernisation in the Kahayan's headwaters. Independent travel here is often improvised, expensive and challenging, with Bahasa Indonesia essential. Prices may fluctuate wildly from quotes below.

From Palangka Raya, start by Kijang to **Tewah** (100,000Rp, five hours) for its exquisitely carved longhouse. Then take a *klotok*

DAYAK RITES OF CENTRAL KALIMANTAN

Tiwah, Ijambe & Wara Ceremonies

KalTeng is famous for *tiwah*: colourful ceremonies in which dozens of Ngaju Dayak families retrieve the remains of their dead from temporary graves and send them on their way to the next life, according to the traditions of Kaharingan (a religion practiced by many Dayaks). Groups of villages participate, dispatching up to 150 or more long-dead 'spirits' in a month of feasting and ceremonies. The peak of activity is when bones are taken from the graves and washed and purified to cleanse the spirit of sins. Water buffalo, pigs, chickens and everything else needed for the journey to the next life are tethered to a totem then slaughtered. After more feasting, dancing and ceremonies, the purified human remains are transferred to the family *sandung* (brightly painted coffin on stilts).

Most *tiwah* ceremonies occur along Sungai Kahayan once or twice a year, with a major one every four or five years. Everyone is welcome, even foreigners. Introduce yourself to the chief of the organising committee, explain why you are there, ask permission to take photos, then enjoy the hospitality. Nothing happens in a hurry, so don't be too surprised if organisers are a bit vague about the program.

The *ijambe* is a Ma'anyan and Lawangan Dayak variation on *tiwah*. In sending their dead relatives on the journey to the next life, the bones are cremated and the ashes are stored in small jars in family apartments.

Wara is the funeral ritual practiced by the Tewoyan, Bayan, Dusun and Bentian Dayak people of northern Sungai Barito. They are far less concerned about the physical remains; instead, they use a medium to tell spirits of the dead the way to Gunung Lumut, nirvana for this branch of Kaharingan.

Potong Pantan Ceremony

Potong Pantan is a welcoming ceremony. Important guests are met by the head of the village, offered a machete and invited to cut through *pantan* (lengths of wood placed at the village's entrance) to purge themselves of bad spirits. As they cut, guests introduce themselves and explain the purpose of their visit. *Tapung tawar* is an extension of Potong Pantan, in which guests have their faces dusted with rice flour and their heads sprinkled with water to protect them from bad spirits and illness.

up Sungai Hamputung to **Tumbang Miri** (200,000Rp, six hours; charter 3,000,000Rp one way, 5,000,000Rp return) via river rapids. Stay at **Losmen Berkat Karunia** (s/d 44,000/55,000Rp) or try the longhouse settlement at **Tumbang Korik**.

Next day, trek to the Dayak village of **Tumbang Malahoi** with its fabulous 150-year-old ironwood longhouse. From here, charter a *klotok* to the historic village of **Tumbang Anoi** (500,000Rp, three hours; speedboat 1,000,000Rp, two hours) with a traditional longhouse still in use. Spend the night with a family, and return to Tumbang Miri by *klotok*. Figure at least five days for this route.

A three-day option from Tumbang Miri heads southwest to **Tumbang Rahuyan** or the gold-mining area near **Sungai Antai** (three hours). Continue downriver to **Tumbang Baringei** (three hours), by road via Tumbang Malahoi to **Tumbang Jutuh**, then by *klotok* or

speedboat south to **Tangkiling** or by road to Tewah (2½ hours) and on to Palangka Raya. Boats from Tumbang Jutuh leave mornings only and don't run during dry season.

For a four- to five-day trip, take a Kijang from Palangka Raya to **Kuala Kurun** (120,000Rp, seven hours), the site of **Batu Suli**, a rock Dayaks consider sacred, and by *ojek* north to **Sei Hayu**. Take a *klotok* on Sungai Kapuas to **Sungai Mendaun** and on to **Jarak Masuparia**. Hike to **Masuparia**, a gold field in the jungle. Continue by *ojek* to **Tumbang Masao** then by *klotok* downstream to **Puruk Cahu** and **Muara Teweh**. Or continue from Tumbang Masao to Sungai Barito's headwaters, past several rapids north of **Tumbang Tuan**, then take a boat downstream.

Given the difficulty, expense and need to negotiate each step, even confirmed independent travellers may want professional help for this journey; see p618.

MUARA TEWEH

☎ 0519 / pop 37,500

In the heart of Sungai Barito logging country, Muara Teweuh is the last riverboat stop unless the water is high enough to reach **Puruk Cahu**. From Puruk Cahu you can go further north by boat and hire Dayak guides to trek into the northeastern mountains and forest featuring waterfalls, stone carvings and orchids. Climbing **Gunung Bondang**, a holy peak to some Dayaks, takes a day. Near Gunung Pacungapung, on the border between Central and East Kalimantan, a cement pillar marks the geographic **centre of Borneo**.

You can also trek overland to **Long Iram** in East Kalimantan for boats down Sungai Mahakam to Samarinda. Different routes are possible, via jungle or logging roads to try hitchhiking rides with passing vehicles, for this journey of up to two weeks.

Muara Teweuh's main settlement is on the north bank of Sungai Barito. Jl Panglima Batur, parallel to the river, is the main drag. Rooms at very comfortable **Wisma Pacifik** (☎ 21231; Jl Panglima Batur 87; s incl breakfast 157,000-194,000Rp, d incl breakfast 194,000-218,000Rp; 🍴) have TV, refrigerator and air-con, with hot water in larger 'VIP' rooms. **Permata Barito** (☎ 22882; Jl A Yani 176; s/d 77,000/143,000Rp; 🍴) and **Barito Hotel** (☎ 21080; Jl Panglima Batur 43; s/d 50,000/65,000Rp) are decent alternatives.

Find warungs along Jl Panglima Batur west of Barito Hotel, up the hill on Jl Surapati, and near the market.

In Puruk Cahu there are a couple of **losmen** (r around 35,000Rp), or try the longhouse at Konut (10km).

Muksin Hussein (☎ 22342), an English teacher in Muara Teweuh, assists tourists. In Puruk Cahu, ask for Mahrani, a Siang Dayak who speaks English.

Getting There & Away

Daily (and nightly) buses travel equally long and uncomfortable routes to Palangka Raya (150,000Rp, 16 hours) and Banjarmasin (125,000Rp, 12 hours) from the terminal across the bridge (3km). Minibuses to Puruk Cahu (50,000Rp, three hours) use the terminal on Jl Surapati.

Cargo ships plying Sungai Barito may take riders.

The airport is 5km north of town. **Susi Air** (☎ 081 1211 3080/90; info@susiair.com) flies daily to/from Banjarmasin (600,000Rp) and Palangka

Raya (450,000Rp). At the time of research, **Aviastar** (www.aviastarbiz) had proposed service to/from Palangka Raya.

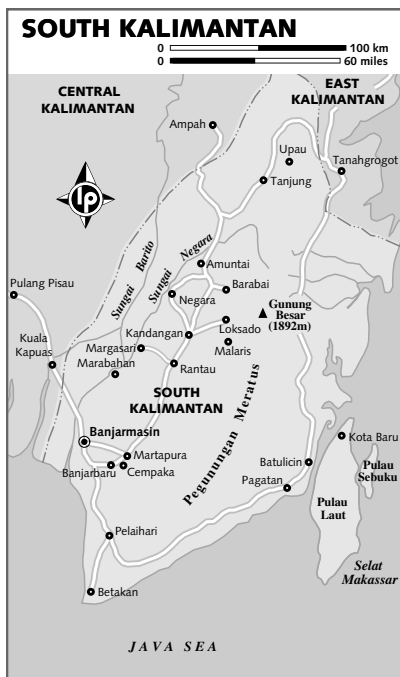
SOUTH KALIMANTAN

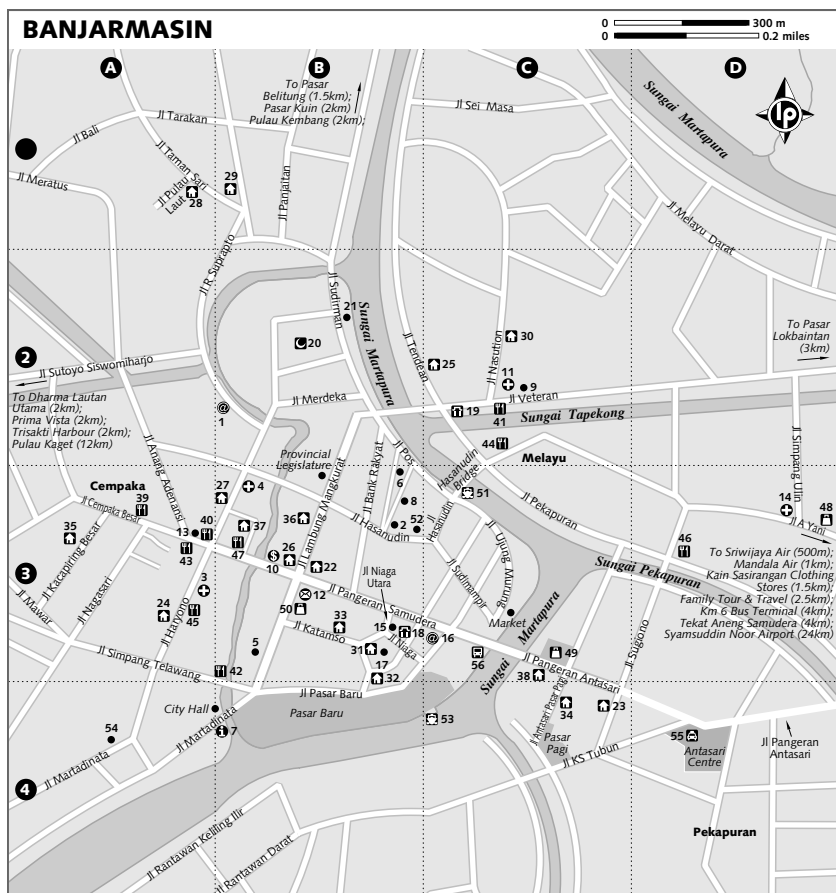
In just 37,660 sq km, South Kalimantan (Kalimantan Selatan, or KalSel) combines the region's largest and most beguiling city, scenic Pegunungan Meratus (Meratus Mountains), 10,000 sq km of wetlands and three million people. This seat of Banjar kings that once ruled much of Kalimantan is now Borneo's smallest province, so visitors can easily combine the urban and natural jungles.

BANJARMASIN

☎ 0511 / pop 607,000

Beyond its space-age mosque, office towers and extensive air links, Banjarmasin's back streets still teem with old-time charm. The city is known as the Venice of Asia for its network of canals featuring stilt houses teetering over the water. Banjar tall roof architecture is on display at **City Hall** (Jl Martadinata) and the **Provincial Legislature** (DPRD; Jl Lambung Mangkurat).





The city's waterways, royal heritage and cuisine give Banjarmasin a unique character worth exploring.

Orientation

Though suburbanisation has left some desolate patches, Banjarmasin is large and deeply rooted enough to remain vibrant at its traditional core around the bend of Sungai Martapura. *Angkot* routes run outward into the sprawl. Three bridges (with walkways) cross the Martapura, and the riverfront near the main mosque is a place for promenading (skateboard optional). **Pasar Baru**, a market and harbour area, is a hub of daytime activity, segueing from late afternoon into **Belauran** (Night Market; Jl Niaga Utara & Jl Katamsa), perfect for

sampling local food and culture. The harbour for boats to Java is west of town on Sungai Barito.

MAPS

Gramedia (Jl Veteran 55-61 & Duta Mall)

Usaha Jaya (Jl Niaga Utara 1)

Information




INTERNET ACCESS

1899 Exclusive (Jl R Suprpto 18; per hr 4000Rp;

☎ 10am-midnight) Remove your shoes before going to computers upstairs. Smoking is not permitted.

Warnet Kyagi (Jl Pangeran Samudera 94-96; per hr 3000Rp; ☎ 8am-midnight Sun-Fri, 8am-2am Sat)

At **Pos Indo Plaza** (cnr Jl Pangeran Samudera & Jl Lambung Mangkurat) shopping centre, **Starbright**

INFORMATION		SLEEPING 		Hero Supermarket.....(see 49)
1899 Exclusive.....	1 B2	Hotel Arum Kalimantan.....	22 B3	Hypermarket.....(see 48)
Adi Angkasa Travel.....	2 B3	Hotel Asia Baru.....	23 C4	Kaganangan.....
Apotek Piala.....	3 A3	Hotel Biuti.....	24 A3	Rumah Makan Abdullah.....
Apotek Sari Mulla.....	4 B3	Hotel Cahaya.....	25 C2	Rumah Makan Jayakarta.....
Arjuna Tours & Travel.....	5 B3	Hotel Grand Mentari.....	26 B3	Soto Banjar Haji Anang.....
Borneo Homestay.....	6 B3	Hotel Istana Barito.....	27 B3	Starbright.....(see 50)
City Information Kiosk.....	7 B4	Hotel Kartika.....	28 A1	Yasuka.....
Diamond Homestay.....	8 B3	Hotel Kartika Dua.....	29 B1	
Gramedia.....	9 C2	Hotel Midoo.....	30 C2	SHOPPING 
Haji La Tunrung Star Group.....	10 B3	Hotel Niaga.....	31 B3	Duta Mall.....
Kimia Farma.....	11 C2	Hotel Niagara.....	32 B3	Mitra Plaza.....
Main Post Office.....	12 B3	Hotel Perdana.....	33 B3	Pos Indo Plaza.....
NES Tour & Travel.....	13 A3	Hotel Roditha.....	34 C4	Souvenir Shops.....(see 38)
Rumah Sakit Ulin.....	14 D3	Hotel SAS.....	35 A3	
Usaha Jaya.....	15 B3	Kartika Antasari.....	36 B3	TRANSPORT
Warinet Kyagi.....	16 C3	Samudera Guest House.....	37 B3	Canal Boat Charters.....
		Swiss-Belhotel Borneo.....	38 C3	Garuda.....
				Pasar Lima Wharf.....
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		EATING 		Pelni.....
Belauran Niaga (Night Market).....	17 B3	Bright Café.....	(see 50)	Sudi Mampir Ojek & Becak
Chinese Temple.....	18 B3	Bubur Ayam Cempaka.....	39 A3	Stand.....
Chinese Temple.....	19 C2	Cendrawasih.....	40 A3	Sudi Mampir Wharf.....(see 55)
Mesjid Raya Sabilal Muhtadin.....	20 B2	Depot Kalimantan.....	41 C2	Taxi Kota Stop.....
Pasar Wadai (during Ramadan		Depot Soraya.....	42 B3	
only).....	21 B2			

(drinks & snacks 3000-18,000Rp; ☎ 8am-3am) and **Bright Café** (mains 20,000-30,000Rp; ☎ 10am-1am) have free wi-fi.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Apotek Piala (☎ 436 7500; Jl Haryono 3A) Top drug-gist.

Rumah Sakit Ulin (☎ 325 2180; www.rsudulin.com; Jl A Yani Km 2 No 43; ☎ 24hr) Hospital.

Pharmacies **Kimia Farma** (☎ 325 0682; Jl Veteran 61; ☎ 24hr) and **Apotek Sari Mulia** (☎ 335 4650; Jl Haryono 15) have multiple doctors' practices.

MONEY

Banks exchanging money abound along Jl Lambung Mangkurat. Major streets and malls have ATMs, with a cluster at **Hotel Istana Barito** (Jl Haryono 16-20). For non-US currency exchange, see **Haji La Tunrung Star Group** (Jl Pangeran Samudera 17C).

TOURIST INFORMATION

City Information Kiosk (Jl Martadinata; ☎ 9am-3pm Mon-Fri)

TRAVEL AGENCIES

See p626 for more guided tours.

Adi Angkasa Travel (☎ 436 6100; fax 436 6200; Jl Hasanudin 27) Flight bookings and contact for independent guide Tailah.

Arjuna Tours & Travel (☎ 335 8150; arjuna_travel@telkom.net; ground fl, Arjuna Plaza, Jl Lambung Mangkurat) Books domestic flights and regional tours. Operates Amandit River Lodge in Loksado (p630).

Family Tour & Travel (☎ 326 8923; www.bestborneotour.com; Komp Aspol Bina Brata 1E, Km 4.5 Jl A Yani) Flights and tours throughout Kalimantan, plus car rental and hotel bookings. Helpful owner Syamsuddinor speaks English.

NES Tour & Travel (☎ 336 1923; nes_travel@telkom.net; Jl Pangeran Samudera 25) Air and boat bookings with 24-hour phone service.

Tekak Aneng Samudera (☎ 327 2330; Jl Pramuka 21) At the Km 6 bus terminal, Ibu Yuni and her team sort air, sea and ground transport.

Sights & Activities

MESJID RAYA SABILAL MUHTADIN

In a park-like setting, this massive **mosque** (Jl Sudirman) resembles a landed spaceship. Wear long pants and, for women, long sleeves, to see its interior. During Ramadan, enjoy renowned **Pasar Wadai** cake market along the adjacent riverfront.

CHINESE TEMPLES

Central Banjarmasin has a pair of monumental Chinese temples, the older one at the corner of Jl Niaga and Jl Niaga Utara, and the newer one across Sungai Martapura at the start of Jl Veteran.

CANAL TRIPS

Cruising in filthy brown water through people's bathrooms during wash time hardly sounds appealing. But as water-villagers wash, scrub clothes on wooden-plank porches, paddle or swim alongside your boat, or just

lounge in the late afternoon breeze, their smiles light up these waterways where life dates back at least 350 years. Children star but everyone joins in, trading waves, splashes and high fives.

Enjoy the spectacle with a tour operator and guide or charter a boat (150,000Rp to 200,000Rp) from beneath Hasanudin Bridge.

FLOATING MARKETS

Brave the 5.30am boarding call to shop at the *pasar tarapung* (floating market) amid canoes laden with vivid produce manoeuvring intricately in tight quarters. For breakfast, supplement fruit purchases at the floating café, using a bamboo pole with a nail pushed through the end to spike cakes.

Pasar Kuin (30 minutes) is the best known floating market. **Pasar Lokbaintan** (45 minutes) is often busier.

PULAU KEMBANG

Pulau Kembang is home to long-tailed macaques that greet visitors noisily at the dock. Charter a boat (100,000Rp return) or elect the optional stop on Pasar Kuin tours. Caution: macaques can be aggressive.

PULAU KAGET

This set of islands in Sungai Barito has troupes of proboscis monkeys, a primate found only in Borneo. Charter a boat (200,000Rp return, four to five hours) from Triskati Harbour or take a tour. Monkeys are scarce enough and shorelines long enough that a guide really helps.

Tours

Many travel agencies and hotels offer city and Pegunungan Meratus touring with English-speaking guides. **South Kalimantan Tour Guide Association** (www.hpikalsel.com) lists registered guides. Agencies and guides can also assist with visiting Tanjung Puting National Park (see p614) and Sungai Mahakam (see p642). Shop around because prices vary drastically.

Tailah (☎ 327 1685; 085 821 035 791), based at **Diamond Homestay** (☎ 436 6100; Jl Hasanudin 58; s/d 30,000/40,000Rp), is our favourite independent guide; see opposite. Friendly, fluent in English and utterly genuine, he's adept at all itineraries and well connected. He lives his motto: 'Enjoy your trip as a family trip'.

Other guides with good reputations include **Mulyadi Yasin** (☎ 081 351 936 200; yadi_yasin@yahoo

.co.id), affiliated with **Borneo Homestay** (☎ 436 6545; borneo@banjarmasin.wasantara.net.id; Jl Hasanudin 33; s/d 45,000/50,000Rp) and independent guide **Sarkani Gambi** (Kani Dayak; ☎ 081 351 877 858; kani286@yahoo.com).

Rates per person run from 100,000Rp for floating markets and 75,000Rp for canal tours for groups of two or more, including guide and transport. Guide fees for forest trekking start from 250,000Rp per day, plus food, accommodation and transport. See p823 for more on choosing guides.

Sleeping BUDGET

Cheap sleeps are clustered around Belaruan Niaga or Pasar Pagi off Jl Pangeran Antasari.

Hotel Perdana (☎ 335 2376; perdanahotel@plasa.com; Jl Katamso 8; s incl breakfast 70,000Rp, d incl breakfast 80,000-325,000Rp; ♿) Best of the *belaruan* budget bunch, spotless Perdana is a sweet deal with free afternoon cake, TV and private bathroom for all; economy rooms have fan only. Listed prices include breakfast. Many will appreciate management's zero tolerance for prostitutes.

Hotel Asia Baru (☎ 325 3260; asiabaru_hotel@yahoo.co.id; Jl Sugiono 48; r 85,000-155,000Rp; ♿) Sleek new place near Pasar Pagi has a Western bathroom and 42 TV channels in every room. Choose economy with fan or air-con comfort.

Samudera Guest House (☎ 336 2250; fax 436 8817; Jl Pangeran Samudera 29; r incl breakfast 100,000-255,000Rp; ♿) In a *gang* (alley) 50m north of Jl Pangeran Samudera, every well-furnished room at this new entry has air-con and TV. There's an attractive 2nd-floor sitting area.

Hotel SAS (☎ 335 3054; fax 336 5967; Jl Kacapiring Besar 2; r incl breakfast 125,000-250,000Rp, ste/f 242,500/293,500Rp; ♿) This teakwood classic bridges budget to midrange with generous rooms and helpful staff. But, especially at midrange prices, many hotels now offer better value.

Other budget options:

Hotel Biuti (☎ /fax 335 4493; Jl Haryono 2; r 75,000-225,000Rp; ♿) Nicely renovated.

Hotel Niaga (☎ 335 2595; Jl Niaga 14; s 35,000-40,000Rp, d 60,000Rp, t 75,000Rp) Clean and basic.

Hotel Niagara (☎ 335 6355; Jl Katamso 1; s 35,000-60,000Rp, d 60,000-80,000Rp; ♿) This upmarket cousin of Hotel Niaga has some air-con rooms.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

There's a range of new and old choices along Jl Lambung Mangkurat from 250,000Rp to

TOWN & COUNTRY TOURING

'When I began, there were hardly any guides', M (for Muhammad) Tailah recalls. 'At first, I just did it as a hobby because I like making friends and practising my English. Back then, not many people in Banjarmasin could speak English.'

A fixture on South Kalimantan tour scene and in central Banjarmasin, independent guide Tailah (who goes by that one name) was born in Barabai, about 165km north of South Kalimantan's capital. He moved to the big city when he was 10 and began working as a guide at Borneo Homestay when it pioneered tourism for foreigners in the 1990s. Tailah's favourite tours reflect the two sides of his background.

'In Banjarmasin as a youngster, I used to swim in the rivers or play in a *jukung* (canoe). I like to show people the waterways around Banjarmasin, so they understand the city's connection with the water.' Those trips include canal tours of neighbourhoods on liquid backstreets and 5.30am visits to the floating markets. 'When people see these places, they can understand the culture.'

Tailah also enjoys showing visitors his Pengungungan Meratus roots, including visits to *balai*, the region's unique, rectangular longhouses. But most of all he's about trekking through the mountain forests and trains for it by running every morning.

'I love showing guests the natural richness of Meratus with its beautiful scenes of mountains, jungle trees, flowers and surprises like *kayu manis* (cinnamon)', Tailah says, noting that even here, there are connections to the water: 'clear mountain springs, waterfalls and bamboo rafting' at the end of many treks.

'I hope that when people see these natural and cultural treasures, they'll want to help preserve them.'

350,000Rp. At its airport kiosk, **Kaha Tours** (☎ 747 3102; fax 470 6161) deeply discounts many upmarket hotels. Also ask there about hotels near the airport in Banjarbaru if you have an early departure.

Hotel Midoo (☎ 325 8918; fax 325 0626; Jl Nasution 8; r 155,000-175,000Rp; 🏠 📶) Cross the bridge into Banjarmasin's Chinatown for large, boxy rooms with air-con, hot-water shower, international TV channels and lobby wi-fi (per hour 10,000Rp).

Hotel Cahaya (☎ 325 3508; fax 326 6748; Jl Tendeau 22/64; r incl breakfast 160,000-230,000Rp; 🏠) Just across Hasanudin bridge, newish Cahaya has the cheapest rooms in town with hot/cold shower and breakfast.

Hotel Mira (☎ 336 3955; fax 335 2465; Jl Haryono 49; r incl breakfast 175,000-200,000Rp; ste 275,000Rp; 🏠) Centrally located modern, spotless rooms with hot-water showers, some without windows.

Hotel Roditha (☎ 336 2345; rodithahotel@yahoo.com; Jl Antasari Pasar Pagi 41; r incl breakfast 250,000-375,000Rp, ste 400,000-495,000Rp plus 21% tax; 🏠 📶 📺) Newest and swishest near Pasar Pagi, business-friendly Roditha has free wi-fi in its bright rooms.

Hotel Grand Mentari (☎ 436 8944; hotelgrandmentari_bjm@yahoo.com; Jl Lambung Mangkurat 32; r incl breakfast 273,000-544,000Rp; 🏠 📶) Overshadowed by its 'Grand' addition, Mentari's original wing rooms are exceptional value.

Hotel Arum Kalimantan (☎ 436 6818; banjarmasin@arumhotel-banjarmasin.com; Jl Lambung Mangkurat; s 509,000-649,000Rp, d 536,000-676,000Rp, ste from 1,929,000Rp, all incl breakfast; 🏠 📶 📺 📺) Four-star 'Hotel Kalimantan' has classy, cushy rooms behind its cold concrete facade and a full line-up of facilities.

Kartikas and company:

Hotel Kartika (☎ /fax 335 5518; Jl Pulau Laut 1; r 150,000-180,000Rp; 🏠) Modern, all Western bathrooms with hot water.

Hotel Kartika Dua (☎ 436 5801; Jl Taman Sari 8; r incl breakfast 175,000Rp; 🏠) Homely feel, hot-water shower and 40-channel TV.

Kartika Antasari (☎ 336 3119; Jl Lambung Mangkurat 26; r incl breakfast 209,500-248,500Rp; 🏠) Small hotel, huge rooms.

Hotel Istana Barito (☎ 335 2240; fax 436 7300; Jl Haryono 16-20; r incl breakfast from 450,000Rp; 🏠 📶) As aging Barito teeters, try slipping into a still-comfortable room for 250,000Rp or less.

Swiss-Belhotel Borneo (☎ 327 1111; www.swiss-belhotel.com; Jl Pangeran Antasari 86A; s/d incl breakfast 890,000/940,000Rp; 🏠 📶 📺) Also known as 'Hotel Borneo', luxuries include frequent 25% discounts. Windows optional.

Eating

Banjar cooking is renowned; try it at Belauran Niaga stalls. For alcoholic drinks, try Chinese

restaurants and hotels. For ice cream, try **Yasuka** (☎ 335 8827; Jl Pangeran Samudera 21) which has homemade ice cream by the scoop (5000Rp) or half-litre (25,000Rp) featuring fruit flavours in season.

Depot Kalimantan (☎ 325 8286; Jl Veteran 19; mains 8000-15,000Rp) Bright, air-con, no-smoking refuge for Banjar and Chinese dishes plus fruit juices. Popular with families and couples.

Rumah Makan Abdullah (Jl A Yani Km 1; mains 13,000-18,000Rp) *Nasi kuning* (saffron rice with coconut milk), a breakfast food found elsewhere in Indonesia, is served all hours with fish, meat or vegetable toppings.

ourpick Soto Banjar Haji Anang (Jl Pekapurin; mains 15,000-20,000Rp; ☎ 6am-5.30pm Sat-Thu, closed Fri) Riverside warung renowned for *soto banjar* with a full chicken part, not a few shavings. Broth here is savoury, *lontong* (rice steamed in banana leaf) lush, homemade sambal scorching.

Rumah Makan Jayakarta (☎ 336 4301; Jl Haryono 7; mains 20,000-40,000Rp; ☎ 11am-2.30pm, 5-11pm) Javanese name, Chinese cooking dished with air-con and beer.

Cendrawasih (Jl Pangeran Samudera; mains 15,000-30,000Rp) Delve deeper into Banjar cuisine at this renowned spot. Pick fish, seafood or chicken for grilling, served with an array of Banjar sauces. Or just have a selection of dishes brought to your table and pay for ones you eat. Neighbouring **Kaganangan** (☎ 436 4203; Jl Pangeran Samudera 8; mains 9000-25,000Rp) has similar options, with smaller, cheaper portions and an occasional bad attitude toward foreigners.

BUBUR AYAM

Banjarmasin breakfasts on *bubur ayam* (chicken rice porridge).

Depot Soraya (Jl Simpang Telawang 51; bubur 8000Rp, mains 8000-17,000Rp; ☎ 6.30am-10pm) Serves *bubur* till noon and other Banjar specialities until 10pm.

Bubur Ayam Cempaka (Jl Cempaka Besar 4; bubur 20,000Rp; ☎ 6.30am-10pm) This place gets mobbed on Sunday.

SELF CATERING

Hero Supermarket (Mitra Plaza, Jl Pangeran Antasari)
Hypermarket (Duta Mall, Jl A Yani Km 2)

Shopping

Shops along Jl Pangeran Antasari sell Dayak and other traditional souvenirs, including Banjar specialty *kain sasirangan*, tie-dyed

batik. Stores at Jl A Yani Km 3.7 sell *kain sasirangan* clothing, but large sizes are hard to find.

Banjarmasin residents are fussy about *belauran* (night markets). Huge groups of night stalls around Antasari Centre and along Jl Anang Andenansi aren't *belauran*. On the north side of town, **Pasar Belitung** (Jl Belitung) is a 2km *belauran* also known as Pasar Tunting, Banjar for squat toilet, once its top-selling item. Visit during early evening to sample modernised, urbanised traditional life.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Garuda (☎ 335 9065; Jl Hasanudin 13), **Sriwijaya Air** (☎ 327 2377; Jl A Yani Km 2.5), **Lion Air** (☎ 470 5277) and **Batavia Air** (☎ 335 8996) fly to Jakarta. Lion and affiliate **Wings Air** (☎ 470 5277), Sriwijaya, **Citilink** (☎ 080 4108 0808; www.citilink.co.id), Batavia and **Mandala Air** (☎ 326 6737; Jl A Yani Km 3) serve Surabaya. **KalStar** (☎ /fax 436 4465) flies to Pangkalan Bun, Ketapang and Pontianak. Batavia flies to Balikpapan, as does **Trigana Air** (☎ 757 6249), which also serves Kota Baru. Mandala flies to Yogyakarta. **Susi Air** (☎ 081 1211 3080/90; info@susiair.com) flies daily to Muara Teweh, continuing to Palangka Raya.

Taxis to/from Syamsuddin Noor Airport (26km) cost 75,000Rp. Alternatively, take a Jl A Yani *angkot* to Km 6 terminal, then catch a Martapura-bound Colt (minibus; 10,000Rp). Get off at the airport approach road, and walk 1.5km to the terminal. From the airport, walk to the highway for a Colt to Km 6.

BOAT

Pelni (☎ 335 3077; Jl Martadinata 10) sails weekly to Semarang (333,000Rp, 24 hours) from **Trisakti Harbour** (3km) on Sungai Barito. **Dharma Lautan Utama** (☎ 442 0547; Jl Yos Sudarso 8) and **Prima Vista** (☎ 335 9487; Jl Sutoyo 1) ferries depart for Surabaya (235,000Rp, 18 hours) on alternate days.

Longboats from **Sudi Mampir wharf** leave to Marabahan (15,000Rp, six hours) Monday and Tuesday at 9am, and from **Pasar Lima wharf** to Negara (20,000Rp, 18 hours) Tuesday and Saturday at 1pm.

BUS

The main bus terminal is at Jl A Yani Km 6, southeast of downtown. Colts depart frequently for Banjarbaru (16,000Rp, 25 minutes), Martapura (16,000Rp, 35 minutes), Kandangan (30,000Rp, four hours), Negara

(35,000Rp, five hours) and other Pegunungan Meratus destinations.

Several companies run day and night buses to Balikpapan (economy/air-con 110,000/165,000Rp, 10 hours), Samarinda (economy/air-con 135,000/180,000Rp, 13 hours), Muara Teweh (economy/air-con 125,000/150,000Rp, 12 hours), Palangka Raya (economy/air-con 60,000/75,000Rp, five hours) and Pangkalan Bun (economy/air-con 125,000/165,000Rp, 17 hours).

One bus leaves daily from Km 6 to Marabahan, but it's easier to go to Kayu Tani Ujung by *angkot* (3000Rp) in northern Banjarmasin for a Colt (25,000Rp, three hours). There's a 1000Rp charge for the short ferry crossing.

Getting Around

Angkot routes (3000Rp) fan out from terminals in the city core at Jl Pangeran Samudera circle and Jl Hasanudin and from Antasari Centre to the east. Becak and *ojek* gather around market areas. Unmetered taxis wait on Jl Bank Rakyat Indonesia.

Charter boats near Jl Hasanudin bridge for canal cruising. Rates are by destination, not duration.

AROUND BANJARMASIN

Three towns southeast of Banjarmasin make interesting day trips, separately or combined.

Banjarbaru

Amid ancient banyan and lontar trees, **Museum Lambung Mangkurat** (Jl Ahmad Yani 36; admission 5000Rp; ☎ 9.30am–2.30pm Tue–Thu, Sat & Sun, 9.30–11am Fri, closed Mon) exhibits relics from pre-Islamic Hindu temples, Dayak artefacts and *halat*, Banjar carved-wood walls and doors. The museum is on the Banjarmasin–Martapura Colt route.

Martapura

Precious stones are the most notable regional produce at the colourful **market** in Martapura, just east of Banjarbaru. Purchasing uncut gems (many from local mines) silver jewellery and trading beads here requires hard bargaining – your knowledge and the seller's reputation are the only indicators of authenticity.

Area mines close Friday, so the market swells with workers and families. To avoid crowds, visit another day.

Cempaka

See the dirty business of pursuing prized pebbles at Cempaka's **diamond fields** (☎ closed Fri). Prospectors work up to their necks in water, hoisting silt to be washed in makeshift contraptions and sifted for gold specks, diamonds or agate.

Since 1846, multcarat diamonds have been found here – largest of all, the 167.5-carat Tri Sakti (Thrice Sacred) in August 1965. Most diamonds are tiny, but hope for a huge find keeps miners focused.

To reach Cempaka, take a Banjarmasin–Martapura Colt to the huge roundabout just past Banjarbaru. Switch to a green *angkot* to Alur (2000Rp) and walk 1km from the main road. Touts eagerly show the way in hopes of collecting the customary 2000Rp tip.

MARABAHAN & MARGASARI

To observe river life, cruise 65km up Sungai Barito from Banjarmasin to Marabahan, a small town with some traditional Banjar-style 'tall roof' wooden houses. Losmen on the river, such as **Hotel Bahtera** (r 30,000Rp), have adequate accommodation with shared *mandis*.

From Marabahan, charter a boat to Margasari, known for rattan and bamboo handicrafts. Colts run daily between Marabahan and Banjarmasin (25,000Rp, three hours). Boats run twice weekly from Banjarmasin's Sudi Mampir (15,000Rp, six hours).

KANDANGAN

☎ 0517

With its crumbling colonial-era market and minibus terminal as hubs, Kandangan is the place to stock supplies and begin Pegunungan Meratus explorations.

Losmen Loksado (☎ 21352; Jl Suprpto 8; r 50,000–150,000Rp; ☎), around the corner from the minibus terminal, has comfortable, fan-cooled rooms. Harder to find, **Wisma Duta** (☎ 21073; Jl Permuda 9; r incl breakfast 150,000–200,000Rp; ☎) in a converted family house, offers homely accommodation on a quiet street.

Kandangan's speciality food is *ketupat*, sticky rice triangles enjoyed across Indonesia, served with broiled *harawan*, a river fish, coconut sauce and a squeeze of lime. Try it at **Warung Ketupat Kandangan**, 1km northwest of the minibus terminal on the road to Barabai.

The government **tourism office** (☎ 21363; Jl Jend Sudirman 26), on the main road, 2km south of the town centre, has information on trekking and renting holiday cottages at Muara Tanuhi, see right.

Colts run frequently to/from Banjarmasin's Km 6 terminal (30,000Rp, four hours) until mid-afternoon. Night buses stop en route from Banjarmasin to Balikpapan at around 7pm at a terminal 2km east of town. Catch a Negara-bound minibus (5000Rp) there, or take an *ojek* (15,000Rp).

NEGARA

Home to some of the world's most spectacular swimmers, Negara, northwest of Kandangan, is a wetland during the rainy season and surrounded by water year-round. Negara's buildings are on stilts and the only land above water is the road, and even that can disappear – in floods of mosquitoes if not rain.

Negara's incredible aquatists are water-buffalo. Farmers rear buffalo on wooden platforms, releasing them daily for grazing and drinking. Buffalo swim up to 5km until 'canoe cowboys' herd them home.

Tour Negara by boat – it may cost 150,000Rp, depending on your bargaining skill. The wetlands are remarkable for prolific fish and bird life. The town is also known for forging swords, *mandau* and kris.

Surprisingly, Negara has no hotel. You might find a homestay, but Kandangan is a better bet.

Colts from Banjarmasin to Negara (35,000Rp, five hours) leave from Km 6 terminal. From Kandangan to Negara choose among public minibus (10,000Rp, one hour), shared sedan with four people (per person 20,000Rp, charter 80,000Rp), or *ojek* (40,000Rp). Twice-weekly boats leave from Pasar Lima in Banjarmasin (20,000Rp, 18 hours).

UPAU

One of the smallest Dayak groups, Deah Dayaks live at the remote northern edge of Pegunungan Meratus, isolated by centuries of aristocratic intrigue and refusal to embrace Islam. In Upau (meaning 'jackfruit', abundant locally) Deah traditional rites are still performed, including the *balian* (shaman) ceremony to drive evil spirits from the sick, and *aru* preparing warriors for head-hunting (although they now skip the head-hunting).

English is rare, and there's no formal accommodation, but some families accept guests. Bring food from Tanjung or Upau's Friday market, and offer a modest sum of money.

There's prime trekking in hills 2km away. Villagers Aman and Dudang know the mountains and act as guides. Take a moderate one-day trek into the foothills. For two- or three-day adventures over rough terrain, only experienced trekkers need apply.

To reach Upau, catch a minibus from Negara (45,000Rp, two hours) or Colt from Banjarmasin's Km 6 (70,000Rp, six hours) to Tanjung, then a red and yellow *angkot* to Upau (7,000Rp, 1½ hours).

LOKSADO

Largest of about 20 villages spread around Pegunungan Meratus, Loksado is at the end of the road 40km east of Kandangan. Road access makes Loksado an important market village and base for trekking in this 2500 sq km mountain range roughly bounded by Kandangan and Amuntai to the west and coastline to the east.

Amat (☎ 081 348 766 573), a personable Dayak who speaks good English, is Loksado's tourism coordinator. A visitor information kiosk lists standard prices for services.

After years of false rumours, comfortable **Hotel Wisma Loksado** (☎ 085 251 544 398; r 150,000Rp) finally opened across a bamboo bridge from the village centre.

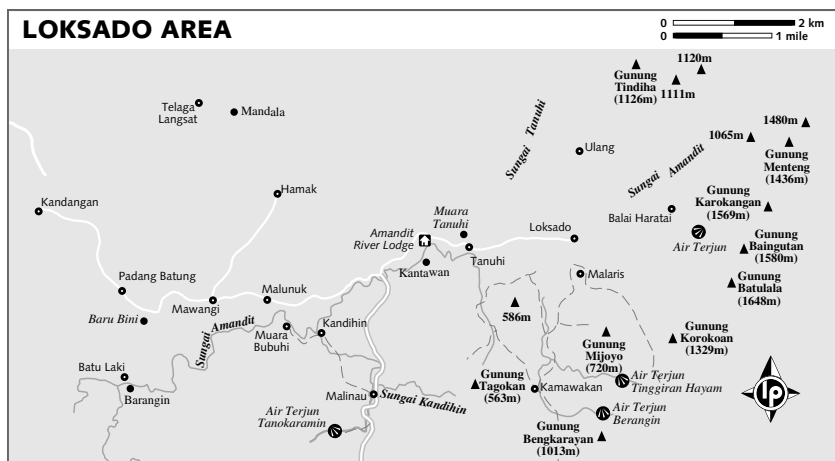
Amandit River Lodge (r 200,000Rp), 3km west of Loksado, has simple, charming rooms, and staff can organise meals. Amandit opens by appointment; give two days' notice to **Arjuna Tours & Travel** (p625) in Banjarmasin.

Muara Tanuhi's **hot springs** (admission adult/child 3000/2000Rp), 2km west of Loksado, have **holiday cottages** (☎ 21363; cottage 275,000Rp) with kitchens and sleeping for four. Grounds include two pools, tennis court and suburban aesthetic targeting Banjarmasin weekenders.

Getting There & Away

Pick-up trucks leave Kandangan terminal for Loksado (15,000Rp, 1½ hours) afternoons, and leave Loksado for Kandangan early mornings.

After treks, many travellers charter bamboo rafts down Sungai Amandit. The usual drop-off point is Muara Tanuhi, two hours downstream (125,000Rp for up to three passengers). Continuing downstream to Muara



Bubuhi crosses some exciting rapids when the river is high, takes another three hours and costs at least double. From the nearby road at Muara Bubuhi, take a minibus or *ojek* to Kandangan. Rafting Loksado to Kandangan takes a full day.

AROUND LOKSADO

From Loksado hundreds of paths lead through the hills, many crossing streams via suspension bridges of rope and bamboo. Residents negotiate the bridges easily, but visitors often set them rocking, amusing onlookers.

Malaris

A 30-minute walk (1.5km) or 10-minute *ojek* ride through bamboo forest southeast of Loksado leads to Malaris. Its aged *balai* (longhouse) once housed 32 families; modernisation means separate houses for families. Ask the *kepala balai* (village head) about **homestays** (30,000Rp).

Treks

Combining limestone mountainsides, dense tropical forests, rolling hills and river valleys, Pegunungan Meratus presents breathtaking vistas and opportunities to visit *balai*, rectangular longhouses built around a central temple. Treks vary from moderate to extreme. Guides are usually necessary to find the right paths and best vistas. Enlist one in Loksado, though if you require an English speaker, hire in Banjarmasin. Pegunungan Meratus treks are a specialty of **Tailah**: see p626. Guide rates

run from 250,000Rp per day, plus transport costs and other expenses.

To sample the hills, follow the path from Loksado upstream along Sungai Amandit for three hours (8km) to a series of **air terjun** (waterfalls) past Balai Haratai. Finding the first waterfall is easy, but the middle and top falls and a nearby cavern require assistance. Ask for help at Haratai.

Longer treks begin from Loksado or 2km west in **Tanuhi**. The combination of mountains and rivers means plenty of waterfalls and suspension bridges. The primary forest is a tranquil yet awe-inspiring spectacle. Accommodation is at *balai* along the way, including Haruyan, about four hours from Tanuhi; Kepyayang, one to two days; Niwak, two days; and Pangong, three days. Return downstream by bamboo raft.

Barabai, renowned for its scenic views, is another terminus for treks. **Fusfa Hotel** (☎ 0517-41136; Jl Hasan 144; s/d/tr incl breakfast from 150,000/200,000/250,000Rp; ♿) has pleasant rooms and a restaurant. From Barabai, minibuses go to Kandangan (8000Rp, one hour) and Banjarmasin (35,000Rp, five hours).

It's also possible to trek from Loksado to the coast. Reaching **Kota Baru** on Pulau Laut via Gunung Besar (1892m), KalSel's highest peak, takes three or four days by foot, minibus and boat. Kota Baru has traditional boat building and fishing. Return to Banjarmasin by bus (85,000Rp, nine hours including ferry) or take the coast road north to Balikpapan.

SOUTH COAST

The coast road is an alternative route between Banjarmasin and Balikpapan, via **Pagatan**, a beach area, and **Batulicin**, a port.

Bugis from South Sulawesi build elegant *pini* schooners here. Every April 17th, they perform **Mapan Retasi**, literally 'feeding the sea', culminating week-long celebrations.

From Banjarmasin's Km 6 terminal, Colts run to Pagatan (50,000Rp, six hours) and buses to Batulicin (50,000Rp, seven hours). Pelni sails from Batulicin to Surabaya and Makassar. Minibuses continue north toward Balikpapan.

EAST KALIMANTAN

Indonesia's second-largest province, East Kalimantan (Kalimantan Timur or KalTim) has Borneo's richest and most diverse natural and human resources. Previously famed for timber and oil, now coal is king. KalTim's environment, wildlife and traditional cultures have suffered from these extractive industries. But at 202,000 sq km, KalTim has room enough for effective preservation, including vast areas where distance and natural obstacles fend off chainsaws, bulldozers, and other 21st-century intruders. With enough time, patience and money, travellers can leap these barriers to see traditions surviving in longhouse villages amid ancient forests. Some of KalTim's best destinations are actually easy to reach, including the province's signature journey into Sungai Mahakam's Dayak communities. Plus there's direct access from abroad with visa on arrival at Balikpapan's Seppingan Airport and ferry service from Sabah in Malaysia.

BALIKPAPAN

☎ 0542 / pop 460,000

This gateway to Kalimantan usually gets the short shrift from travellers other than corporate executives. But oil and coal aren't the only energy flowing in Balikpapan. It's Indonesia's urban frontier, attracting ambitious people from across the archipelago seeking their fortunes. They add to the welcoming, cosmopolitan flavour, appropriate for Kalimantan's leading airline hub. Sungai Mahakam journeys can originate here via Loajanan, and many find Balikpapan more pleasant than Samarinda.

Oilfields made Balikpapan a target for Japanese forces in 1941 and for advancing Allies in 1944–45. A memorial near Pertamina Hospital honours 229 Australians who died here, with a Japanese memorial near the beach at Lamaru, east of the airport.

Orientation

Shopping mall **Balikipapan Plaza** (cnr Jl Sudirman & Jl Ahmad Yani) and new neighbour Balikpapan Trade Centre anchor central Balikpapan. Jl Ahmad Yani is the north–south spine. Jl Sudirman runs east–west, following the Makassar Strait coastline: east leads to produce market Pasar Baru, Terminal Damai and the airport; west to government offices, Pasar Klandasan mainly for clothing, plus old and new waterfront shop-houses sprinkled with restaurants, clubs, hotels and other traveller needs like internet access, photo shops and travel agencies.

MAPS

Gamedia (2nd fl, Balikpapan Plaza)

Information

IMMIGRATION

Immigration Office (☎ 421 175; Jl Sudirman 23)

INTERNET ACCESS

Cruise Jl Sudirman for abundant connections open until at least 10pm.

Global Net (RT2 No 35 Klandasan; per hr 6000Rp;

☎ 9am–11pm; ☎)

Java Net (Jl Pranoto; per hr 5000Rp; ☎ 24 hr)

Vagabond Cybernet (Jl KH Agus Salim 71; per hr 4000Rp; ☎ 9am–7am)

MONEY

Most banks along Jl Sudirman exchange currency and have ATMs accepting international cards.

Bank Mandiri (Jl Ahmad Yani 15) Extended hours, foreign-exchange counter.

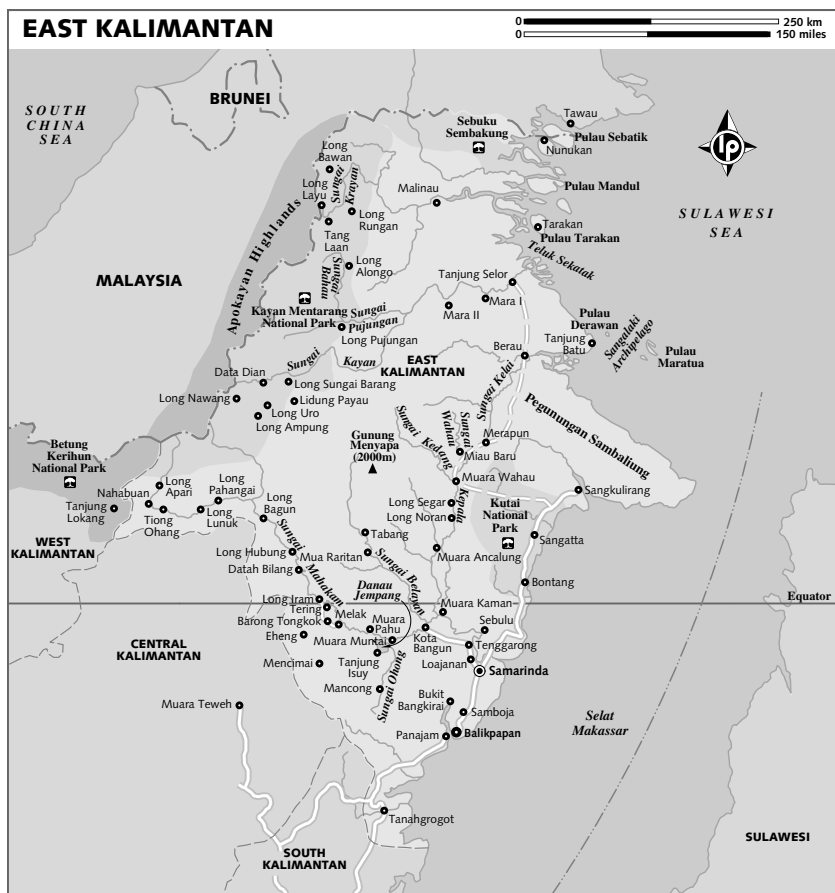
Haji La Tunrung Star Group (Jl Ahmad Yani 51) Money changer.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Pertamina Hospital (☎ 734 020; www.rspb.co.id; Jl Sudirman 1)

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Agung Sedayu (☎ 420 601; agung_sedayu_trv@yahoo.com.sg; Jl Sudirman 28; ☎ 7am–9pm) Tops for Pelni info and all boat bookings. Also handles domestic flights.



Gelora Equatorial Travel (GET; ☎ 423 251; getbpp@yahoo.com; Jl ARS Muhammad 7) Foreigner-friendly travel and tour agency. Fluent English, Dutch and more.

TX Travel (☎ 444 099; tg_slestari@hotmail.com; Jl Ahmad Yani 24) Aggressive newcomer offering all flights, hotel vouchers and free ticket delivery.

Tours

East Kalimantan Guide Association (☎ 8000 9549; guide_borneo@hotmail.com) Chaired by the owner of River Tours (below).

Puri Tours & Travel (☎ 749 540; puri_bpn@indo.net.id; Jl Sutoyo 88) Sungai Mahakam specialist.

River Tours (☎ 081 253 312 333; fax 422 211; www.borneokalimantan.com) Ecotourism pro with 1st-class itineraries throughout Kalfim and beyond.

Transborneo Adventure (☎ 762 671; tborneo@indo.net.id; Jl Sudirman 21) Established agency with broad menu.

Sleeping

Most hotels are clustered north and west of Balikpapan Plaza with a clutch of budget places in Gunung Kawi, 2km up Jl Ahmad Yani on *angkot* routes 3 or 5.

BUDGET

Hotel Murni (☎ 738 692; Jl P Antasari 2; s 60,000Rp, d 90,000-135,000Rp; 📶) Popular family-run losmen has immaculate rooms on three floors, all with private *mandi*, some with Western toilet. Enjoy free flow water, coffee, tea and conversation on the lobby's enormous red leather sofa.

BALIKPAPAN

INFORMATION		EATING 🍴	
Agung Sedayu.....	1 B4	24-hour Warungs.....	27 D4
Bank Mandiri.....	2 D4	Bondy's.....	28 D3
Gelora Equatoria Travel (GET).....	3 C4	De Café.....	29 C4
Global Net.....	4 C4	Hero Supermarket.....	(see 35)
Gramedia.....	(see 35)	Hypermarket.....	(see 35)
Haji La Tanrung Star Group.....	5 D4	Red Sea Café.....	30 D6
Immigration Office.....	6 C4	Restaurant Atomic.....	31 D4
Java Net.....	(see 27)	Restoran Shangrilla.....	32 D3
Pertamina Hospital.....	7 B4	Warung Mubarakah.....	33 C4
TX Travel.....	8 D4	Wisma Ikan Bakar.....	34 D4
Vagabond Cybernet.....	9 C4		

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		SHOPPING 🛍️	
Puri Tours & Travel.....	10 D2	Balikpapan Plaza.....	35 D4
		Balikpapan Trade Centre.....	36 D4

SLEEPING 🏠		TRANSPORT	
Adika Hotel Bahtera.....	11 D4	Garuda.....	(see 11)
Bintang Hotel.....	12 C4	Merpati.....	37 C4
City Hotel.....	13 C4	Pelni.....	38 A3
Hotel Aida.....	14 D1	Prima Vista.....	39 C4
Hotel Ayu.....	15 D1	Silk Air.....	(see 18)
Hotel Citra Nusantara.....	16 D4		
Hotel Gajah Mada.....	17 D4		
Hotel Gran Senyur.....	18 C4		
Hotel Grand Tiga Mustika.....	19 C4		
Hotel Mega Lestari.....	20 C4		
Hotel Menara Bahtera.....	21 D4		
Hotel Mitra Amanah.....	22 C4		
Hotel Murni.....	23 D2		
Hotel Sinar Lumaian.....	24 D2		
Mirama Hotel.....	25 D4		
Novotel Balikpapan.....	26 C4		

0 1 km
0 0.5 miles

Hotel Ayu (☎ 425 290; Jl P Antasari 18; r 120,000-180,000Rp; 🛏️) Cosy hidden gem with a variety of homely layouts, including triples.

Hotel Citra Nusantara (☎ 425 366; fax 410 311; Jl Gajah Mada 76; r incl breakfast 125,000-235,000Rp; 🛏️) Rule against unmarried couples sharing keeps this guest house extra clean. Higher priced options include hot water.

our pick Hotel Gajah Mada (☎ 734 634; fax 734 636; Jl Sudirman 328; s 125,000-275,000Rp, d 165,000-325,000Rp, all plus 10% tax; 🛏️) Comfortable, spotless rooms off breezy corridors leading to waterfront terraces, and prime location make Gajah Mada a favourite with Indonesian travellers. Reservations a must.

Hotel Mitra Amanah (☎ 422 857; mitraamanah@yahoo.com; Jl ARS Muhammad 31; s 150,000-345,000Rp, d

215,000-399,000Rp, all incl breakfast; 🛏️) Friendly place with free extras including lobby wi-fi and airport shuttle.

More choices:

Hotel Aida (☎ 421 006; fax 733 940; Jl Ahmad Yani 1/12; d 105,000-245,000Rp, tr 135,000-275,000Rp, all incl breakfast; 🛏️) Long red staircase leads to basic digs popular with students.

Hotel Sinar Lumaian (☎ 736 092; Jl Ahmad Yani 5/49; r 75,000-230,000Rp; 🛏️) Range of well-kept, mainly fan-cooled rooms.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

City Hotel (☎ 427 500; fax 419 789; Jl Sudirman 45; r incl breakfast 200,000-250,000Rp, ste 300,000Rp; 🛏️) Still a deal – but not at prices on some websites – with hot-water shower and TV. Huge family

suites include kitchen table, refrigerator and bathtub.

Bintang Hotel (☎ 735 908; bintangh@indosat.net.id; Komplek Pantai Mas Permai, Jl Sudirman; r incl breakfast 245,000-300,000Rp, f/ste 395,000-565,000Rp; 🏠 📺 📶) Reliable waterfront rooms with friendly staff, in-room wi-fi with voucher, and travel agent on site.

Hotel Nuansa Indah (☎ 418 555; fax 412 138; Jl Sudirman 1; r incl breakfast 312,200-445,300Rp, ste 481,600-530,000Rp plus 21% tax; 🏠 📺 📶 🍷) Opposite Damai Terminal, Nuansa Indah's new wing features a huge pool, fitness centre, plus free wi-fi in its swish lobby and 24-hour coffee shop. Simple to stylish rooms are good value and just a short walk to the beach. Nonsmoking rooms are available.

Hotel Grand Tiga Mustika (☎ 733 788; www.grandtiga.gamustika.com; Jl ARS Muhammad 51; r incl breakfast 430,000-620,000Rp, ste 680,000-1,880,000Rp plus 21% tax; 🏠 📺 📶) Rooms at this self-proclaimed 'three-star plus with four-star facilities' hotel include wired internet access, minibar, kettle, international TV and Chinese furnishings bordering on kitsch. For nonguests, pool packages (per person 30,000Rp weekdays, 40,000Rp weekends) include choice of meal or snack.

Adika Hotel Bahtera (☎ 738 000; www.bahterahotel.com; Jl Sudirman 2; r incl breakfast 445,000-495,000Rp; 🏠 📺 📶). This three-star predecessor of Hotel Menara Bahtera (below) features wi-fi in public areas and free cabled internet among in-room comforts. Shared facilities include swimming pool and business centre.

Hotel Menara Bahtera (☎ 758 7333; bahtera.bpn@bahterahotel.com; Jl Gajah Mada 2; r incl breakfast weekends 450,000-500,000Rp, weekdays 550,000-700,000Rp; 🏠 📺 📶) This sophisticated new four-star tower just behind Adika Hotel Bahtera (above) has wi-fi in the lobby and free cabled internet in the rooms.

Hotel Mega Lestari (☎ 411 811; www.hotelmegatlestari.com; Jl ARS Muhammad 31; r incl breakfast 487,000-600,000Rp, ste 734,000-1,400,000Rp; 🏠 📺 📶) Plush newbie has must-see staircase murals from Michelangelo to *Les Misérables*. Its richly furnished rooms, 20m pool, glass elevator with seaweave, free wi-fi in the lobby and 24-hour coffee shop, frequently come with 20% discounts. Nonsmoking rooms are available.

Le Grandeur (☎ 420 155; bppres@legrandeurhotels.com; Jl Sudirman; r incl breakfast 740,000-890,000Rp; ste 750,000-1,250,000Rp; 🏠 📺 📶) Luxury facilities

at beachfront Le Grandeur (formerly The Dusit) include swimming pool, fitness centre, tennis courts and lounge bar. Special rates on indulgent rooms add extras like in-room wi-fi and executive lounge access.

Hotel Gran Senyuir (☎ 820 211; gran@senyuirhotels.com; Jl ARS Muhammad 7; r incl breakfast US\$120-140, ste US\$180-1100; 🏠 📺 📶) Balikpapan's classiest choice mixes Kalimantan style – wood floors, Dayak *doyo* (bark beaten into cloth) on walls – with five-star luxury. Nonsmoking rooms are available.

More choices:

Mirama Hotel (☎ 412 442; www.hotel-mirama.com; Jl Pranoto 16; r incl breakfast 285,000-455,000Rp; 🏠 📺) Crisply renovated business-class rooms with 5% weekend discounts.

Novotel Balikpapan (☎ 820 820, 080 717 777 77; www.novotel.com/asia; Jl Brigjen Ery Suparjan 2; r 765,000-895,000Rp, ste 1,300,000Rp; 🏠 📺) Chic international sterility.

Eating & Drinking

Find cheap eats along the waterfront particularly around Pasar Klandasan plus a pair of all-night warungs on Jl Pranoto. Most large hotels have international-class restaurants serving Western and tame Indonesian cuisine, plus pubs with some mix of live music, karaoke, and dancing. There's a fluid cast of clubs and karaoke among waterfront shophouses.

our pick Warung Mubarakah (Jl ARS Muhammad; mains 10,000-15,000Rp) Versatile, friendly warung on a breezy ridge with precooked *nasi campur* (rice with a choice of side dishes), fresh grilled fish and chicken, and beef soup bubbling on the cooker.

Red Sea Café (☎ 720 3379; F03, Ruko Bandar, Jl Sudirman; mains 20,000-30,000Rp; ☎ 5pm-midnight) Looking for a hookah? This eclectic spot in the burgeoning waterfront area worth exploring feeds the local fad for *shisha* (44,000Rp), Middle Eastern water pipes with sweet tobacco blends.

Wisma Ikan Bakar (Jl Sudirman 16; mains 20,000-45,000Rp; ☎ 11am-9.30pm) At 'Grilled Fish Inn' pick fish or seafood from the cooler and enjoy it *lalapan* style with hot sambal and fragrant *kemangi* leaves.

Restoran Shangrilla (☎ 423 124; Jl Ahmad Yani 250; mains 25,000-50,000Rp; ☎ 11am-3pm, 6-10.30pm) Specialities at this popular, family-run Chinese restaurant include *ikan delapan rasa* (eight-flavour fish) and steamboat.

Restaurant Atomik (☎ 422 868; Jl Pranoeto 10; mains 20,000-50,000Rp; ☎ 10am-2pm, 6-10pm) Extensive Chinese menu features vegetarian options and 110,000Rp group packages.

De Café (☎ 739 267; Ruko Bandar Balikpapan, Jl Sudirman; mains 30,000-50,000Rp; ☎ 11am-2pm, 6-11pm; ☎) Expat-oriented spot to indulge cravings for Western (Chinese, Japanese or Indonesian) food, pizza, fancy coffees or treats from the bakery (open from 8am to 11pm), featuring free wi-fi and no-smoking section.

Bondy's (☎ 424285; Jl Ahmad Yani; mains 30,000-50,000Rp; ☎ 10am-10pm) Bondy's built its reputation as a beery garden oasis featuring fish on ice, imported steaks (80,000Rp to 110,000Rp), and Indonesian favourites. It's also a great place to enjoy bread, coffee and desserts from its bakery (open from 8am to 10pm) featuring homemade ice cream, and has an air-con, smokeless section.

Kepting Kenari (☎ 764 018; Jl Marsuma R Iswahyudi; crabs 110,000Rp; ☎ 11am-10pm) Black-pepper crabs here are so good that seafood joints all over Kalimantan claim to be Kenari's partners. Each portion, in five varieties, serves three to four people. There's also chicken, fish and prawns on the menu, but why bother? On *angkot* route 7 toward the airport.

SELF CATERING

These self-catering options have adjacent food courts:

Hero Supermarket (Balikpapan Plaza)

Hypermarket (Balikpapan Trade Centre)

Getting There & Away

Visa on arrival is available at Seppingan Airport, Kalimantan's main air hub.

AIR

Silk Air (☎ 730 800; Hotel Gran Senyur, Jl ARS Muhammad 7) flies daily to Singapore. Fly to Jakarta with **Garuda** (☎ 422 301; Adika Hotel Bahtera, Jl Sudirman 2), **Batavia Air** (☎ 760 655, 887 0808; Jl Haryono), **Lion Air** (☎ 707 3761), **Mandala Air** (☎ 410 708; Bk H1/04, Jl Sudirman), **Sriwijaya Air** (☎ 749 777; H2/4 Komplek Balikpapan Permai), or **Air Asia** (☎ 021-5050 5088). Batavia, **Citilink** (☎ 080 410 808 08), Lion, Mandala and Sriwijaya fly to Surabaya. **Merpati** (☎ 424 452; B3-2, Komplek Pantai Mas Permai, Jl Sudirman), Garuda and Sriwijaya fly to Makassar, Sriwijaya via Palu. Batavia serves Yogyakarta and Manado.

Within Kalimantan, Batavia and **Trigana Air** (☎ 762 298) fly to Banjarmasin, Trigana

via Kota Baru. **KalStar** (☎ 737 473; Jl Sudirman 86), Batavia, Mandala and Swijiaya fly to Tarakan. Batavia, KalStar and Trigana fly to Berau. KalStar also flies to Samarinda and Nunukan. **Bintang Sendawar** (☎ 765 594) and **Susi Air** (☎ /fax 764 416, 081 1211 3086; Jl Pupuk Raya 33) fly to Samarinda and Melak. Susi continues to Data Dawai twice weekly.

BOAT

Agung Sedayu (☎ 420 601) is the best source for all nautical transport information and tickets. See opposite.

Dharma Lautan (☎ 423 292; Ruko Tanah Citra Rapat, Jl Sukarno-Hatta) runs ferries twice weekly to Surabaya (275,000Rp, 36 hours) and weekly to Makassar (175,000Rp, 24 hours). **Prima Vista** (☎ 732 607; Jl Sudirman 138) serves Pare Pare (190,000Rp), Makassar and Surabaya. **Pelni** (☎ 424 171; Jl Yos Sudarso 76) sails to Makassar, Pare Pare (14 hours), Tarakan (195,000Rp, 24 hours), Pantoloan (115,000, 12 hours), Surabaya and beyond.

BUS

Buses to Samarinda (economy/air-con 22,000/27,000Rp, 2½ hours) leave from Batu Ampar bus terminal at the north end of town. Buses to Banjarmasin (economy/air-con 130,000/150,000Rp, 12 hours) leave from a terminal on Jl Sukarno-Hatta. Use *angkot* route 3 for both.

Getting Around

Taxis to/from Seppingan Airport cost 45,000Rp. Alternatively, route 7 *angkot* wait on the highway just outside the airport gate, bound for Damai Terminal. Transfer to route 1 or 3 for central Balikpapan.

Balikpapan Plaza is a focal point for *angkot* (3000Rp) routes in town, with *ojek* drivers along the fringes there and at other strategic spots.

AROUND BALIKPAPAN KWPLH Sun Bear Centre

Sheltering five rescued *beruang madu*, **KWPLH Sun Bear Centre** (Kawasan Wisata Pendidikan Lingkungan Hidup, Environmental Education & Recreation Centre; ☎ 0542-710 8304; www.beruangmadu.org; Jl Balikpapan-Samarinda Km 23; ☎ 9am-5pm) showcases Asia's only bear species in its natural habitat. The bears' 1.3-hectare enclosure includes their favourite fruit trees. Visitors can observe the bears and feedings at 9am and 3pm from an elevated

boardwalk. There are also educational exhibits, flower gardens and a playground, plus children's activities on weekends. Take minibus number 8 (10,000Rp, 30 minutes) from Batu Ampar.

Bukit Bangkirai

A 1500-hectare reserve noted for *bangkirai* trees, a hardwood favoured for roofing and shipbuilding, **Bukit Bangkirai** (☎ 0542-736 066; admission 15,000Rp; ☎ 8am-4pm) is best known for its rope **canopy bridge** (admission 50,000Rp), 30m above the jungle floor. From that perch, spot red monkeys, hornbills, macaques and gibbons. There's no public transport; charter a Kijang from Balikpapan (200,000Rp return, one hour, 50km) or Samarinda (300,000Rp return, two hours, 100km). The road can be impassable during rainy season.

Mangrove Cruising

Sungai Wain's inlet to Balikpapan Bay features extensive mangrove forest to observe proboscis monkeys and bird life. For a boat tour, contact **Pak Rudeng** (☎ 0542-722 4099; per day 500,000Rp) or ask a tour agency.

Samboja Lestari

This 1850-hectare reserve houses **Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation** (BOS; www.orangutan.or.id) projects including orangutan reintroduction, sun bear protection, reforestation and research. Samboja Lestari is open to visitors on Saturday morning by appointment – other times by special arrangement – for **day visits** (☎ 0542-707 0485; fax 0542-413 069; www.sambojalodge.com; Jl Balikpapan-Handil Km 44; admission donation US\$50 Saturday, US\$70 other times). Charter a Kijang from Balikpapan (200,000Rp return, 45 minutes). BOS also operates **Samboja Lodge** (☎ 0542-711 1484; www.sambojalodge.com; s/d with meals US\$110/160, ste US\$130-320; ☎ ☎) for overnight stays. All rooms are nonsmoking. Guests can participate in projects by observing animal behaviour, cleaning enclosures or planting trees. Samboja Lestari also accepts volunteers; see p840

SAMARINDA

☎ 0541 / pop 356,000

Usual launch point for journeys up spectacular Sungai Mahakam, Samarinda's reputation as a travellers' oasis is overdone. Suburban sprawl puts much of East Kalimantan's capital city beyond visitors' reach. Don't sweat what

you may be missing in this urban jungle and head straight upriver to the forest.

Orientation

Samarinda spreads from **Pasar Pagi** (Morning Market; Jl Sudirman) and **Mesra Indah Mall** (Jl Khalid) just opposite. *Angkot* (3000Rp) congregate here. Hotels cluster here, running north toward Tumendung Airport. The town centre extends east though **Citra Niaga** market, featuring souvenir and food vendors, to **Ramayana Mall** (or 'Samarinda Centre Plaza'; Jl Mulawarman) and west to Jl Awang Long. The striking central mosque, **Mesjid Raya Darussalam** (Jl Niaga Selatan), with its missile-like minarets, is between the markets. Riverboats leave from docks 3km west. En route, note the ornate **Islamic Centre**, opened in 2008, reputed to be the largest mosque in Southeast Asia. Long distance bus terminals are scattered around town.

MAPS

Karisma (2nd fl, Ramayana Mall)

Information

INTERNET ACCESS

Borneo Warnet (Jl Abul Hassan; per hr 5000Rp;

☎ 9am-midnight)

Samangkat Internet (Jl Haji Agus Salim 35; per hr 6000Rp; ☎ 8am-midnight) As well as internet, it offers a postal service and wartel.

MEDICAL SERVICES

RS Bhakti Ngurah (☎ 741 363; Jl Basuki Rahmat 150) Clinic.

RS Haji Darjad (☎ 732 698; Jl Dahlia) Large, modern hospital.

MONEY

Banks along Jl Sudirman, including several just west of Pasar Pagi, exchange currency.

TOURIST INFORMATION

East Kalimantan Tourism office (☎ 736 850; cnr Jl Sudirman & Jl Awang Long)

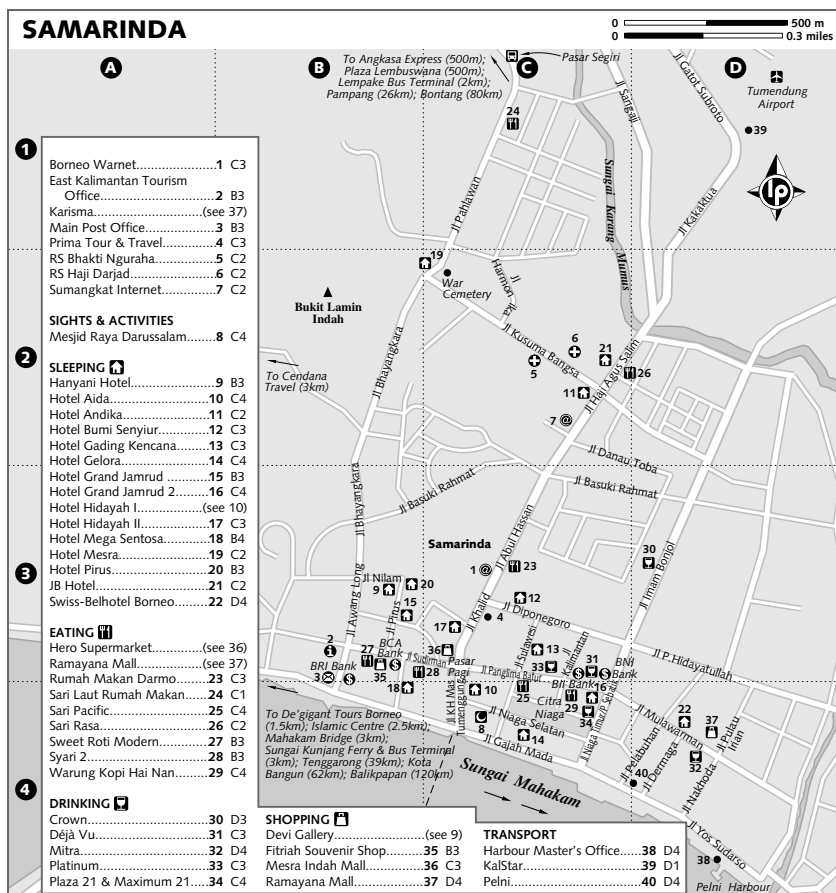
TRAVEL AGENCIES

Many Samarinda travel agencies offer Mahakam tours. For air tickets:

Angkasa Express (☎ 200 281; aexsri@telkom.net; Plaza Lembuswana, Jl S Parman)

Cendana Travel (☎ 739 791; Jl Cendana 7) Delivers tickets.

Prima Tour & Travel (☎ 737 777; www.travelprima.com; Hotel MJ, Jl Khalid 1)



Tours

Abundant independent guides help make Samarinda the preferred starting point for touring the mighty Mahakam and beyond. Guides with good reputations include **Junaid Nawawi** (☎ 081 253 630 0057; junaid.nawawi56@yahoo.com; Hotel Pirus; ☎ 2-5pm), **Rustam** (☎ 735 641, 081 258 549 15; rustam_kalimantan@yahoo.co.id) and **Suryadi** (☎ 081 645 982 63; Hotel Hadiyah I). **Jailani** (☎ 081 346 338 343; jailani.borneo_tours@yahoo.com; Hotel MI) is a veteran guide recently returned to the trade.

De'gigant Tours Borneo (☎ 081 258 465 78; fax 777 6848; www.borneotourigant; Jl Martadinata Rauda 1 No 21) is the new agency run by touring expert Lucas Zwaal. De'gigant is a Dayak word for clever.

For more information on Sungai Mahakam travel, see p642.

Sights

Samarinda-style sarongs and *songket* are woven in **Samarinda Seberang** on the south side of Sungai Mahakam. Take a yellow *angkot* from Pasar Pagi or the nearby cross-river ferry then an *angkot* to Jl Nuri or Jl Aminah Syukur.

Pampang (26km west) has Kenyah Dayak ceremonies at its longhouse Sunday at 2pm. These are not made-for-tourist performances, and rituals are relatively unadulterated. Offer a small donation for snapping photographs. Public minibuses to Pampang (15,000Rp, one hour) leave from Segiri terminal. Chartering a taxi or Kijang with other travellers for around 150,000Rp is an alternative.

Sleeping

BUDGET

Hotel Gelora (☎ 742 024; gelora@smd.mega.net.id; Jl Niaga Selatan 62; r incl breakfast 100,000-225,000Rp; ste 300,000Rp; 🏠) Samarinda's best budget choice, Gelora overlooks Citra Niaga market and is routinely overlooked by foreigners. Immaculate rooms include private *mandi*, with air-con from 150,000Rp. There's a canteen, travel agent and photocopy shop on premises.

Hotel Gading Kencana (☎ 731 512; fax 731 954; Jl Sulawesi 4; r incl breakfast 135,000-235,000Rp; 🏠) Even fan-cooled economy rooms are spacious and have private *mandi* or Western bathroom. The 2nd-floor restaurant has a bright, breezy terrace.

Hotel Aida (☎ 742 572; Jl KH Mas Tumenggung 12; r incl breakfast 135,000-260,000Rp; 🏠) Popular with domestic travellers, Aida's rooms all have private *mandi*, TV and telephone.

Hotel Andika (☎ 742 358; fax 747 389; Jl Haji Agus Salim 7; r incl breakfast 160,000-400,000Rp; 🏠 📺) Bridging budget and midrange, Andika rooms all include air-con, TV and telephone. Economy rooms have shared bathrooms, and older rooms have better furniture than renovated ones. Wi-fi with voucher.

More choices:

Hanyani Hotel (☎ 742 653; Jl Pirus 31; r 100,000-170,000Rp; 🏠) Large but neglected rooms merit discounts.

Hotel Hidayah I (☎ 731 210, 731 261; Jl KH Mas Tumenggung; r incl breakfast 125,000-225,000Rp; 🏠) Has seen better days.

Hotel Hidayah II (☎ 741 712; Jl Khalid 25; s 100,000Rp, d 175,000-200,000Rp, t 275,000Rp; 🏠) Clean but worn.

MIDRANGE

Hotel Pirus (☎ 741 873; fax 735 890; Jl Pirus 30; r from 195,000-350,000Rp; 🏠) Renovated up from budget class, Pirus rooms have homely furnishings.

JB Hotel (☎ 737 688; management@jbhotel.net; Jl Haji Agus Salim 16; r 196,000-299,000Rp; 🏠 📺 📺) JB takes care of business travellers with big, bright rooms, and free wi-fi. Optional buffet breakfast costs 35,000Rp for two.

Hotel Mega Sentosa (☎ 749 218; fax 787 489; Jl Veteran 88; r incl breakfast 200,000-312,000Rp, ste 375,000Rp; 🏠) Comfortable rooms (though most with tiny windows) and accommodating staff on a side street near Pasar Pagi. Extras include buffet breakfast, Western bathroom with hot/cold water, free-flow drinking water and 24-hour room service.

Hotel Grand Jamrud (☎ 743 828; fax 743 837; Jl Jamrud 34; r incl breakfast 200,000-385,000Rp; 🏠) Grand Jamrud has sparkling, cosy rooms in a quiet spot. Very popular for business and government meetings.

Hotel Grand Jamrud 2 (☎ 731 233; fax 736 096; Jl Panglima Batur 45; r incl breakfast 270,000-450,000Rp; 🏠) Squeaky clean rooms with classy touches, such as wood floors, and has friendly staff. Is situated in the nightclub district.

TOP END

Hotel Mesra (☎ 732 772; www.hotelmesra.com; Jl Pahlawan 1; r incl breakfast 400,000-750,000Rp, cottage 1,000,000Rp, ste 1,600,000Rp; 🏠 📺 📺) Mesra's sleek new, no-smoking, free wi-fi 'International' addition doesn't mesh with the rustic hilltop original. But its oversized cottages with Kalimantan decor still flawlessly combine extravagance and charm. Outsiders can use its two pools for 30,000Rp.

Hotel Bumi Senyuir (☎ 741 443; www.senyuirho.tels.com; Jl Diponegoro 17-19; r incl breakfast 720,000-980,000Rp, ste 1,700,000-2,700,000Rp; 🏠 📺 📺) Absolutely 1st-class luxury. Tastefully indulgent rooms feature hardwood floors and rattan or wooden furniture. Nonsmoking rooms are available.

Swiss-Belhotel Borneo (☎ 200 888; www.swiss-belhotel.com; Jl Mulawarman 6; r incl breakfast 1,000,000-1,490,000Rp, ste 1,490,000Rp; 🏠 📺 📺) International-style hotel with bright, attractive rooms – half with river views – and a full range of facilities. Ask for discounts and deals for free wi-fi and spa. Nonsmoking rooms are available.

Eating

For cheap Indonesian food and local specialties such as *udang galah*, try Jl Nilam, Jl Khalid or Citra Niaga. Mesra Indah Mall has a 4th-floor **food court** (mains 10,000-15,000Rp; 🕒 9am-9pm; 📺) for Indonesia mainstays and free wi-fi, but music there is ridiculously loud.

Syari 2 (Jl Sudirman; mains 10,000-15,000Rp) Busy, bright, family-run warung dishing home-cooked, Banjar-style grilled fish and chicken, vegetarian choices, *nasi campur* and soups. Breakfast menu features *nasi kuning*.

our pick Rumah Makan Darmo (☎ 737 287; Jl Abul Hassan 38; mains 15,000-30,000Rp; 🕒 11am-2.30pm, 6-10pm) Rare Chinese restaurant attuned to individual diners and couples specialises in fresh seafood, with smoke-free air-con upstairs.

Sari Laut Rumah Makan (☎ 735 848; Jl Pahlawan; mains 25,000-40,000Rp; ☎ 6-10pm) Local legend for *udang galah*, served fragrant, spicy or Padang style.

Outside major hotels and clubs (see below), it's tough finding restaurants that serve alcohol. For air-con dining with cold beer, try **Sari Rasa** (☎ 742 771; Jl Haji Agus Salim 26; mains 20,000-50,000Rp; ☎ 10.30am-10.30pm) specialising in Chinese food and imported steaks (90,000Rp to 95,000Rp). Affiliate **Sari Pacific** (☎ 743 289; Jl Pagima Batu A5-7; mains 30,000-50,000Rp; ☎ 11am-9.30pm) features Japanese food and steaks. Both also have Indonesian dishes, Western items and, for better or worse, karaoke.

Self-catering and snacks:

Warung Kopi Hai Nan (Jl Niaga Utara 50) A clean, well-lit Chinese-Indonesian-Western bakery and coffee shop.

Hero supermarket (Mesra Indah Mall)

Sweet Roti Modern (Jl Sudirman 8) Bakery.

Drinking

Samarinda's club scene has grown lately. Although karaoke and prostitution remain prominent, there's also live music, a friendly vibe and often interesting dining. Clubs open as early as 7pm, but nothing happens before 10.30pm. Closing times run 1am to 3am, cover charges 30,000Rp to 70,000Rp.

Crown (Jl Imam Bonjol 9) Focussed on music and booze.

Deja Vu (Jl Panglima Batur) Stylish club with sleek contemporary restaurant (mains 35,000Rp to 150,000Rp).

Mitra (☎ 741 335; Jl Mulawarman 17) Before live music, hostesses and karaoke in back, there's a relaxed cafe (mains 35,000Rp to 70,000Rp) serving eclectic international fare, plus free wi-fi.

Platinum (Jl Panglima Batur 61A) Hostess in high school uniform greets visitors.

Plaza 21 & Maximum 21 (Jl Niaga Timur 21) Old school discos.

Shopping

Citra Niaga shops sell Dayak rattan, *doyo*, carvings and other souvenirs. **Fitriah Souvenir Shop** (Jl Sudirman 10) offers high-quality items priced that way.

Get souvenirs of Bali, without visiting at **Devi Gallery** (☎ 081 346 533 888; Jl Nilam), a bright yellow shed with sarongs, bags, sandals, and other things Bali.

Mesra Indah Mall (Jl Khalid) has a mix of local and chain stores. **Ramayana Mall** (or 'Samarinda Centre Plaza'; Jl Mulawarman) is more upmarket, with more national and international chains, plus a four-screen cinema.

Getting There & Away

AIR

KalStar (☎ 742 110; Jl Gatot Subroto 80) and **Trigana** (☎ 746721) fly to Berau, Tarakan and Nunukan. Trigana also flies to Balikpapan. **Bintang Sendawar** (☎ 707 0045) flies to Balikpapan and Melak.

Susi Air (☎ 791 3282/3) flies to Balikpapan, Long Ampung four times weekly and Data Dawai three times weekly. Balikpapan has a bigger airport and better connections.

BOAT

Mahakam river boats (called *kapal biasa* or *kapal taxi*) leave by 7am (sometimes 6.30am) from Sungai Kunjang terminal (3km via *angkot* C) for Tenggarong (25,000Rp, two hours), Melak (124,000Rp, 16 hours), Long Iram (155,000Rp, 21 hours) and, sometimes, Long Bagun (250,000Rp, 36 hours).

Cross-Mahakam ferries to Samarinda Seberang (4000Rp) leave from the end of Jl KH Mas Tumenggung.

Pelni (☎ 741402; Jl Yos Sudarso 76) serves Pare Pare (170,000Rp, 24 hours), Surabaya (383,000Rp, three days) and Batu Licin (287,000Rp, two days) in South Kalimantan from the main harbour on Jl Yos Sudarso.

After an early 2009 sinking, private ferry service to/from Pare Pare was suspended. Ask the **harbour master** (☎ 741 046; Jl Yos Sudarso 2) for updates and for ships in port that may accept passengers.

BUS

Samarinda has multiple bus terminals. Sungai Kunjang terminal serves Tenggarong (12,000, one hour), Kota Bangun (23,000Rp, three hours), Melak (125,000Rp, eight hours) and Balikpapan (economy/air-con 25,000/27,000Rp, 2½ hours). Use Lempake terminal on *angkot* route B at the north end of town for Bontang (25,000Rp, three hours), Sangatta (30,000Rp, four hours) and Berau (135,000Rp, 20 hours, but days during rainy season). Buses leave as filled from 6am until early afternoon. Minibuses for Sunday afternoon Dayak rituals at Pampang (15,000Rp, one hour) leave from Segiri terminal at the north end of Jl Pahlawan.

Getting Around

Minibuses or taxis (3000Rp, be careful here you're not overcharged), converge at Pasar Pagei.

Taxis from **Tumending Airport** (3km) cost 50,000Rp. *Angkot* B passes the airport and drops passengers at the terminal for 10,000Rp. For an *angkot* from the airport, walk 100m to Jl Gatot Subroto and turn left.

KUTAI NATIONAL PARK

Favourite of wild orangutan buffs, **Kutai National Park** (admission 15,000Rp, camera 30,000Rp, video 125,000Rp) encompasses 200,000 hectares of diverse ecosystems, from mangrove swamps to highland hardwoods, including Indonesia's largest, relatively untouched ironwood (*ulin*) forest. Still recovering from fires in 1997–98 it faces new threats from illegal loggers and wildcat miners for its coal, oil and gas. Park authorities have enlisted legitimate timber and energy companies working nearby in preservation efforts.

Orangutans are concentrated in Kutai's coastal areas, along with other primate species, including slow loris, proboscis and leaf monkeys. Sun bear, deer, flat-headed cat and other mammals are found throughout the park. Bird species includes sea eagle, stork and myna. Treks feature encounters with golf ball-sized, tiger-striped beetles straight out of Alice's Wonderland, as well as jungle orchids. Cruising the park's numerous waterways is another option for spotting wildlife.

Visitors must register with the park's **Bontang headquarters** (PHKA; ☎ 0548-27218; Jl Mulawarman 236; ☎ 7.30am–4pm Mon–Thu, 8am–noon Fri) or **Sanggatta office** (PHKA; ☎ 0549-24651; Jl Suromo; ☎ 7.30am–4pm Mon–Thu, 8am–noon Fri); call ahead for weekend arrivals. Park personnel can help with transport and guides (per day 200,000Rp). Buses run from Samarinda's Lempake terminal to Bontang (25,000Rp, three hours) and Sangatta (30,000Rp, four hours).

Overnight accommodation is at basic **guest houses** (per person 100,000Rp) at Sangkimah near Bontang and Camp Kakap near Sangatta. Facilities are rudimentary; bring your own food and bedding, plus mosquito repellent. Visitors give higher marks to Camp Kakap, particularly if there's room at the University of Kyoto research facility with mattresses and a better equipped kitchen. Contact **Pak Willis** (☎ 081 347 423 297) for availability and details. The 30-minute boat ride from Sangatta costs 400,000Rp (return) for up to four people.

Orangutans are best seen early mornings and late afternoons. Wild orangutans can be hard to find, though sightings are reported most often around Camp Kakap.

Many guides and tour agencies in Balikpapan (p633) and Samarinda (p638) offer Kutai itineraries.

TENGGARONG

☎ 0541 / pop 78,000

Once capital of the mighty Kutai sultanate, Tenggarong is now visited for its Dayak festival and museum recalling those glory days, usually as a day trip from Samarinda or stop on Sungai Mahakam journeys.

In the former palace of sultans who ruled for 19 generations, **Mulawarman Museum** (Jl Diponegoro; admission 2500Rp, camera 5000Rp, video 10,000Rp; ☎ 9am–4pm, closed Mon & Fri) displays royal relics, ceramics and an (unintentionally) hilarious collection of traditional headwear from every Indonesian province. Behind the museum, the current **Kedaton Kertanegara** (Sultan's Palace) has elaborate wooden balconies and stained-glass windows.

Dayaks from throughout Kalimantan attend the annual **Erau Festival**. Though touristy, it's a chance to see traditional dances and rituals amid a vast intertribal party. The festival is usually held in late September for one to two weeks. Get upcoming dates from Tenggarong's **tourism office** (☎ 661 042; fax 661 093; Jl Ahmad Yani 12) or the Bahasa Indonesia website <http://erau.kutaiartanegara.com>.

For overnight stays, **Hotel Anda Dua** (☎ 661 817; Jl Sudirman 52; r incl breakfast 120,000–160,000Rp; 🍷) and **Hotel Karya Tapin** (☎ 661 258; Jl Maduningrat 29; r incl breakfast 175,000–200,000Rp; 🍷) are good budget options. **Hotel Lesong Batu** (☎ 663 499; www.kutaiartanegara.com/lesongbatu; Jl Panji 1; r incl breakfast 531,000–601,000Rp, ste 2, 108,000Rp; 🍷) is fit for a sultan.

Rumah Makan Tepian Pandan (Jl Diponegoro 23; mains 15,000–25,000Rp) has tasty Indonesian meals on the river opposite the museum. Cheerful **Rumah Makan Banjar** (☎ 661 782; Jl Sudirman 62; meals 18,000Rp–30,000Rp; ☎ 9am–9pm) features grilled fish and chicken.

Find buses to/from Samarinda (12,000Rp, one hour) and Kota Bangun (25,000Rp, two hours) at **Petugas terminal** on Tenggarong's southern riverfront. Get to town by *angkot* (3000Rp) or *ojek* (10,000Rp).

From Samarinda, you can take a morning bus or *kapal biasa* (25,000Rp, two hours), visit the museum and then continue upriver from Kota Bangun by *kapal biasa* that afternoon.

SUNGAI MAHAKAM

Combining cultural and natural wonders, 920km-long Sungai Mahakam is rightly renowned and richly rewarding. The river provides easy access – by Kalimantan standards – to traditional communities and stunning scenery. Along the river, there are signs of industrialisation, especially massive coal barges; on tributaries and small lakes, they're overwhelmed by jungle and communities that accept modernisation on their terms.

Double-deck passenger ferries (*kapal biasa* or *kapal taxi*) leave Samarinda daily by 7am. On the open lower deck, passengers use sarongs or newspapers to mark personal space. A canteen serves instant noodle variations. On the upper level, simple mattresses are laid across the floor for sleeping. If you are travelling overnight, head upstairs to claim one for 20,000Rp. Bedding is clean (usually), and the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. Better boat engines have worked to slash travel times.

Alternatively, combine bus or ferry travel with chartering your own *ces*. Rates start from 100,000Rp per hour and 500,000Rp per day. Most tour operators offer houseboats, some with air-con cabins, but expect to pay plenty for the luxury.

Much of the year, *kapal biasa* terminate at Long Iram (155,000Rp, 18 hours), 409km from Samarinda. When the river is right, boats continue to rapids at Long Bagun (250,000Rp, 36 hours, 523km).

To explore further, charter a *ces*. It's an 18-hour trip from Long Bagun to **Long Pahangai** through some of the Mahakam's most explosive waters. Only attempt this stretch with seasoned local boaters. Running with the current back to Long Bagun takes six or seven hours.

Boats continue upriver to Long Apari, focal point for cross-Borneo trips. From there it's a trek of at least three days to Sungai Kapuas' headwaters in West Kalimantan.

On the lower Mahakam, it's easy to travel independently. In its upper reaches, Bahasa Indonesia and/or guides are essential. Some travellers hire guides along the river, others begin the trip with them (see p633 and p638 for Mahakam guides and tour operators). Guide rates start at 150,000Rp per day (plus food, transport and accommodation). Even without a guide, Mahakam travel gets expensive beyond *kapal biasa*, with charter

MOWING DOWN THE MAHAKAM

The most common form of transport beyond Sungai Mahakam's beaten waterways is the *ces*, a motorised canoe with a long propeller shaft. This innovation was launched in 1990 when an enterprising boater attached a 2½HP engine to the back of his canoe. The name – pronounced *chess* – comes from the sound of the engine starting, and it stuck. Coursing the river with the power of a lawnmower must have been rough; most engines these days are 20HP or more.

rates from 100,000Rp per hour for a *ces* and 1,000,000Rp per hour for speedboats.

Along the river, ask about Dayak festivals and celebrations. As modernisation steams ahead, such events are the best opportunities to observe genuine traditional culture. Sometimes modernisation helps: West Kutai's provincial tourism website, www.wisata-kutai Barat.com, has information on festivals and other useful tips, albeit in Bahasa Indonesia.

Kota Bangun

A shipbuilding town and transport interchange, Kota Bangun is the gateway to Mahakam lake country. From Samarinda, travellers can take a bus here (23,000Rp, three hours, 105km) instead of eight hours via *kapal biasa*. From Kota Bangun, bargain for a *ces* along Mahakam 'backroads' via Muara Muntai (150,000Rp; 1½ hours), Tanjung Isuy (350,000Rp; three hours), and Mancong (500,000Rp; six hours). Boat operators set official prices for *ces* routes, but you'll need luck (or a good guide) to get those rates.

For an English-speaking guide, contact local schoolteacher **Maskur** (☎ 085 250 529 777). His wife runs **Warung Anneesha** (☎ 081 2553 2287; Jl Ahmad Yani; mains 10,000-15,000Rp), serving fresh grilled fish with mild, tomato-rich *sambal*, 10m from the bus station.

To try spotting the critically endangered Irrawaddy dolphin (*pesut* in Bahasa Indonesia; see opposite) take a *ces* – never a speedboat for dolphins – to Muara Muntai via Danau Semayang and Sungai Pela. But there's better dolphin watching at Muara Pahu (p644).

Alternatively, charter a *ces* to Muara Kaman, 1½ hours north, site of Kalimantan's first Hindu kingdom, with renowned fishing.

It's about 30 minutes further through Kedang Kepala to Danau Siran for abundant birdlife, monkeys and spectacular sunsets. Beware: the losmen in Muara Kaman is dismal.

In Kota Bangun, **Losmen Mukjizat** (Jl Mesjid Raya 46; r 50,000Rp), opposite the main mosque, has clean, basic rooms with shared *mandis*.

Muara Muntai

In the heart of Mahakam lake country, Muara Muntai's handsome ironwood buildings are connected by sturdy boardwalks over mud flats. At prayer times, this Banjar village may resemble a ghost town. It's a good spot for chartering *ces* to Tanjung Isuy (250,000, 1½ hours) or Mancong (350,000Rp, 3½ hours) through scenic Sungai Ohong.

The three losmen in town all offer shared bathrooms, fans and free-flowing coffee, tea and water. Left of the dock, **Penginapan Srimuntai** (per person 50,000Rp) is newest, with spotless rooms and a TV on its terrace overlooking the central boardwalk. Further along, behind a photocopy shop, **Penginapan Adi Guna** (☎ 0541-205 871, 081 545 146 578; per person 50,000Rp) has Western bathrooms and its own TV terrace. Around the bend, right of the dock, friendly **Penginapan Tiara** (☎ 081 347 376 794; s/d 30,000/50,000Rp) features a breezy bal-

cony with views of the river and will whip up meals with advance notice. Otherwise, try the handful of warungs along the boardwalk.

Reach Muara Muntai from Samarinda by *kapal biasa* (100,000Rp, 10 hours) or bus to Kota Bangun (50,000Rp, three hours) then *ces* (150,000Rp, 1½ hours).

Tanjung Isuy

A favourite with tour groups, Tanjung Isuy on the southwest shore of Danau Jempang is the Mahakam's first longhouse village, with Banuaq Dayak (and Banjar) residents. Don't expect traditional dress and tattoos, but mobile phones and motorcycles. Modernity remains largely skin deep, though. Village life is still about rising with the roosters, watching the river flow and chatting on the front porch while catching the evening breeze.

Welcome ceremonies greet tour groups at **Louu Taman Jamrout**, a longhouse vacated in the 1970s, refurbished by provincial authorities as a craft centre and losmen. Performances in Louu Taman Jamrout are certainly commercial, but they're also lively, rhythmic and fun for all. Social anthropologists may find the combination of Kenyah, Kayan and Banuaq dance disconcerting, but it's a real crowd

RASI TO SAVE DOLPHINS

The Irrawaddy dolphin (*Ocaella brevirostris*; *pesut* in Bahasa Indonesia) is a provincial symbol of KalTim, and into the 1980s, *pesut* were common all along Sungai Mahakam to Samarinda. A completely protected species since 1990, *pesut* suffer high mortality rates due to gillnet entanglement and, to a lesser extent, boat collisions. More subtly, their habitat is threatened by pollution from speedboats and coal barges, chemical waste from mining, depletion of prey through unsustainable fishing techniques and sedimentation in lakes.

Yayasan Konservasi RASI (Conservation Foundation for Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia; www.geocities.com/yayasan_konservasi_rasi) fights to save the *pesut*. It runs education, sustainable fisheries and reforestation programs to fight habitat destruction. These efforts have helped *pesut* population increase from 65 in 2003 to 91 in 2009. The foundation also works to move coal traffic off the river to create a 70km conservation area along the Mahakam and tributaries, centred at Muara Pahu, where YK-RASI has opened a **Mahakam Information Centre** with a riverside verandah for dolphin-watching.

The foundation has trained boatmen on the best techniques to spot dolphins. From Muara Pahu, **dolphin spotting trips** (☎ 081 253 729 933) run one hour to all day (150,000Rp to 500,000Rp) starting with Sungai Bolowan to Kedang Pahu, or to Jintan, a black-water river leading into peat swamp. For long trips, bring lunch and plenty of water. **De'gigant Tours Borneo** (☎ 081 258 465 78; fax 777 6848; www.borneotourgigant) arranges trips here direct from Balikpapan or Samarinda, donating a portion of the proceeds to YK-RASI.

Combine dolphin watching with *ces* transport to Maura Muntai or Tanjung Isuy (450,000Rp; via Mancong 600,000Rp) through Sungai Baroh, rich with birds and monkeys; to Melak (600,000Rp); or south to Dayak villages Damai or Lambing (750,000Rp).

pleaser. If there's no ceremony scheduled during your visit, arrange one for 500,000Rp.

Tanjung Isuy's two best losmen are next to each other, about 500m from the jetty. **Losmen Wisata** (Jl Indonesia Australia; per person 50,000Rp) has one- and two-bed rooms off a central dining area. The airy common space has wall-to-wall windows for superior views, and long, conversation-inducing tables. Neighbouring **Louu Taman Jamrout** (☎ 081 347 183 352; Jl Indonesia Australia; per person 50,000Rp), the dance venue, has a more rustic feel and one large bed per room. Both losmen have shared *mandis*, mosquito nets and fans, plus generators to cope with frequent power outages.

Doyo, weavings and *mandau* (machetes) with carved handles (as well as a lot of junk) are available at reasonable prices at Louu Taman Jamrout's shop. Some villagers also sell crafts.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Tanjung Isuy is not on the *kapal biasa* route. Chartering a *ces* from Muara Muntai (250,000Rp, 1½ hours) or Melak (650,000Rp, four hours) is the easiest way there. A public *ces* to Muara Muntai leaves daily in the early evening (from 60,000Rp, depending on the number of passengers). You can charter a *ces* direct to Kota Bangun (350,000Rp, three hours), then catch a bus and be in Samarinda or Balikpapan that night. In dry season, Tanjung Isuy is 30 minutes by Kijang (250,000Rp) or ojek (100,000Rp) from Mancong.

Muara Pahu

Critically endangered Irrawaddy dolphins (*pesut*; see box p643) are the reason to linger at Muara Pahu, Sungai Mahakam's confluence with Sungai Kedang Pahu. Less than 100 *pesut*, lacking the bottle nose of their saltwater cousins, remain, mainly in the small section of wetland from Danau Semayang through various tributaries to Muara Pahu.

Kapal biasa to/from Samarinda (100,000Rp, 12 hours) reach Muara Pahu in the early evening. **Pengingapan Anna** (per person 60,000Rp), left of the dock, has spotless rooms in a family home. Find warungs along the boardwalk.

Mancong

Cruising to Mancong along Sungai Ohong, its banks teeming with wildlife and flowering trees reaching into and across the waterway, is one of Kalimantan's scenic highlights.

Majestic hornbills soar above, dazzling kingfishers skim the water and proboscis monkeys paddle across while macaques skitter along branches above.

Mancong recalls life on the Mahakam before logging, oil and coal dominated. Forest still surrounds the village almost entirely. A two-storey **longhouse** (*lamin*) is the grandest structure with a dozen totems in front, rebuilt with government assistance in 1987 on the ruins of the 1930s original. The village's 32 families have separate houses, so the *lamin* is reserved for folk dances and ceremonies. Just one family lives in the longhouse, so it must be the cleanest, most orderly in Borneo. Overnight guests are welcome (per person 60,000Rp; no bedding, food or electricity). Ask for permission to stay from the family or at the crafts shop in front of the longhouse. Ceremonies can be arranged here; ask a guide or tour agency in Samarinda or Balikpapan for help.

To visit Mancong, charter a *ces* from Tanjung Isuy (250,000Rp return) early in the morning. Ask the boater to go slowly to enjoy the scenery, lengthening the trip to as much as three hours each way. Or visit en route to/from Melak (700,000Rp, four hours). In dry season, it's possible to go to/from Tanjung Isuy in 30 minutes by *ojek* (100,000Rp) or Kijang (250,000Rp) but travelling by land misses the riverside scenery.

UPPER MAHAKAM Melak & Around

Founded as a depot serving rubber plantations, Melak is now a coal centre, a far cry from local fishing villages. Busloads of miners in safety vests and rubber boots hit town at every shift change. For tourists, the quarry is Dayak communities and other attractions on the Barong Tongkok peninsula west of town, reaching as far as Tering by road. Amid modern trappings, traditional beliefs remain particularly strong in these areas, making ceremonies real treats. You can also find genuine crafts at the *Pasar Seni* (Art Market) to the left of the dock on Jl A Yani. To finance shopping, BRI bank's ATM on Jl Tendeau accepts international cards.

The famed black orchids of Kersik Luway **orchid reserve** (16km southwest) bloom mainly in December and January, but there are flower-galore year round. Fires in 1997–98 and since have cut orchid species from 72 to 53,

still plenty to please aficionados and amateurs alike. Bring water for the trails. Motorcycles handle the execrable road here better than cars.

The area also has several waterfalls, including 3m-high **Ambau Asa** (15km southwest), and across the Mahakam at **Gemuruh** (7km northeast), accessible by *ojek* or *ces* through riverside rice fields.

Mencimai (24km southwest) has an excellent **museum** (☎ 081 347 146 063; admission by donation; ☎ 8am-2pm Mon-Fri) with explanations in English and Bahasa Indonesia of Benuaq methods of shifting cultivation, collecting wild honey, trapping pigs (and monkeys) and producing *doyo* (bark beaten into cloth). It also displays antique *mandau*, rattan and other relics. Outside regular hours, call for a private opening.

Tiny **Eheng** (27km southwest) has a patched longhouse built in 1960 housing 30 Benuaq families, although they spend most of their time away, farming rice or collecting rattan, rubber and other forest products. Many return Monday night to gossip and gamble ahead of Tuesday's weekly market. Residents welcome visitors to join the fun, even stay overnight, but it helps to speak Bahasa Indonesia. You'll need to pay to stay – rates vary – provide your own bedding and food (there's a warung across the road), plus gifts (see p604). Crafts, mainly woven-rattan items, are specialities. There's another small modern Benuaq longhouse at **Pasek** (17km southwest).

The Benuaq longhouse at **Benung** (20km southwest) is older, larger and more tourist-friendly. It has seven families and an excellent group of totems outside. *Sandung*, the final resting place for Dayak bones, are richly decorated with carvings and lively colours. The longhouse has mattresses for guests and lets them cook up whatever they buy at the nearby warung.

Some guides offer treks between Eheng and Benung (two hours), continuing south to **Damai** and **Lambing** (one day) featuring rattan longhouses. It's possible to continue from there to Tanjung Isuy, sleeping in the jungle, with the option of joining a village hunting trip.

Sleeping & Eating

In Melak, look for accommodation along the two main streets, riverfront Jl A Yani and Jl Tendeau, which runs west, becoming Jl Dr Sutomo.

Penginapan Rahmat Abadi (☎ 0545-41007; Jl Tendeau; s 30,000Rp, d 55,000-65,000Rp) Clean guest house above a shop with fans, shared *mandi*, TV lounge and long tables to enjoy free-flow coffee, tea and water. Its lone room with private bathroom has enough electric outlets to recharge your phone, camera and MP3 player.

Hotel Flamboyant (☎ 081 253 231 994; Jl A Yani; r 80,000-130,000Rp; ☎) Friendly place with big rooms featuring choice of private or shared bathroom (all with *mandi* and Western toilet), fan or air-con and TV. Along the riverfront, 40m to the right of the dock, beware of flooding during rainy season.

Hotel Monita (☎ 0545-41798; Jl Dr Sutomo 76; r incl breakfast 110,000-300,000Rp plus 21% tax; ☎) About 2km uphill from the dock, thoroughly modern Monita has immaculate rooms, all with private bathrooms. Options include hot water shower and air-con.

Warung Ketapang (Jl A Yani; mains 10,000-15,000Rp) Serves barbecued river fish with a home-cooked veggie buffet. Find food stalls around the bus station, adjacent to *Pasar Seni*.

Getting Around & Away

The best way to visit sights around Melak is by *ojek* (per half-day/day 100,000-125,000/150,000Rp). You can rent a motorcycle without a driver for the same price, but you're inviting hassles. Kijangs cost 550,000Rp to 650,000Rp per day, depending on destinations. Ask your accommodation about transport or contact **Pak Aripin** (☎ 081 347 385 842), self-appointed local tourism coordinator.

Kapal taxi from Samarinda to Long Iram (35,000Rp, five hours) arrive between 9pm and 11pm and leave 30 minutes after docking. Boats to Samarinda (124,000Rp, 16 hours, 325km) depart between 11am and 2pm. To/ from Tanjung Isuy, charter a *ces* (700,000Rp, four hours).

Buses to Samarinda (125,000Rp, eight hours) over good roads leave several times daily beginning at 7am from the terminal left of the dock. Buses pass Muara Lawa (22,000Rp, two hours) near Damai and Lambing. Both villages have losmen. Paved roads now run northeast to Tering but the only land transport is by chartered car (150,000Rp, 1½ hours).

Bintang Sendawar (☎ 0545-41969) flies to Samarinda (680,000Rp) and Balikpapan (815,000Rp); at the time of research, Data Dawai service was suspended pending runway reconstruction there.

Tering & Long Iram

Often the last stop for *kapal taxi*, **Long Iram** (155,000Rp, 21 hours from Samarinda) is a pleasant village on a bend in Sungai Mahakam with a handful of colonial buildings. Beyond here rapids make the river impassable when water gets too high or too low.

From the village centre it's a stroll through market gardens or a short *ces* (60,000Rp, 40 minutes) to **Tering**, three settlements straddling the Mahakam. Walk north along Jl Soewondo, turn right at the path to the police station and cross scenic bridges to **Danu Gap** (3km). Some residents of **Tering Lama**, a Bahau Dayak village on the northern bank, still sport traditional tattoos and elongated earlobes. The village also has four wooden totems and a magnificent church at its eastern end. Ceremonies can be arranged here for 1,500,000Rp. **Losmen Susanti** (r per person 75,000Rp) has simple, decent accommodation.

To stay overnight in Long Iram, get dropped at the floating cafe on the east bank, climb to the main road, turn right and look for the tiny sign (opposite the two-storey shops) for **Penginapan Wahyu** (Jl Soewondo 57; r per person incl breakfast 40,000Rp).

Down the road, **Warung Lestari** (Jl Soewondo; mains 12,000-20,000Rp) still has the best food on the Mahakam. Order whatever's on the stove.

Datah Bilang

Site of several longhouses, Datah Bilang is a Protestant community of Kenyah and Bahau Dayaks, relocated from the Apokayan Highlands in the 1970s. Some older women have traditional elongated earlobes and charge from 25,000Rp for photographs. **Long Hubung** is another Bahau Dayak village with a basic **losmen** (r 50,000Rp).

Travellers with a thirst for back roads and good knowledge of Bahasa Indonesia can tackle Sungai Merah northeast into the highlands then cross to Tabang, a rare route that takes around four to five days, with a two day option to Maura Wahau before reaching Sungai Belayan. Or continue directly to Kota Bangun via Sungai Belayan (see opposite). Trekking experience, equipment, food and a Kenyah or Punan guide are essential; ask around in Datah Bilang and expect to pay at least 250,000Rp per day.

Long Bagun to Long Apari

Under favourable conditions, *kapal biasa* from Samarinda reach **Long Bagun** (250,000Rp, 36 hours), a small settlement with an aban-

doned longhouse, a decent shop for supplies, and basic accommodation at **Penginapan Artomorow** (r 50,000Rp) and **Losmen Polewali** (☎ 081 350 538 997; r 50,000Rp). Rapids and shallows that restrict access for large vessels also protect forests to the east and dampen the impact of modernisation.

From Long Bagun, travellers can charter boats or trek through primary and secondary forests. Losmen Polewali organises treks to **Batu Ayu**. A two-night trip costs about 1,000,000Rp for two; contact the losmen or **Ibu Sari** (☎ 081 253 117 493) in Samarinda. It's an exciting trip through treacherous rapids – sometimes too rough for boats – to the next major settlement, **Long Pahangai**, (650,000Rp, four hours), then another day to Long Apari. **Long Lunuk**, between Long Pahangai and Long Apari, is a base for visiting Kenyah villages, featuring tall houses rather than longhouses. Alternatively, stay at **Tiong Ohang**, a strongly traditional community two hours upstream from Long Lunuk (250,000Rp). **Long Apari**, the uppermost longhouse village on the Mahakam is spectacularly scenic. A boat from Long Lunuk takes five to six hours (1,000,000Rp). From here, cross-Borneo trekkers veer toward West Kalimantan. Or turn north toward the Apokayan Highlands; see p650 for more information.

It's possible to see Sungai Mahakam from the top by flying to Data Dawai, an airstrip near Long Lunuk. However, at the time of research, the airstrip was closed for reconstruction.

SUNGAI KEDANG KEPALA

Sungai Kedang Kepala branches north from the Mahakam near **Muara Kaman** and has regular boat service. The trip from Samarinda to **Muara Wahau** takes three days and two nights, via Kenyah and Bahau villages: **Tanjung Manis**, **Long Noran** and **Long Segar**. The main attraction is seeing what few tourists see. Villages are isolated and many inhabitants have moved to more convenient locations. Nearby caves held 5th-century Sanskrit finds, now in Tenggarong's museum. To explore independently, charter a motorised canoe for 250,000Rp daily or a speedboat for 1,500,000Rp.

An alternative route from Samarinda to Berau goes north by boat from Muara Wahau to **Miau Baru**. Then try finding a boat on Sungai Kelai, or continue by land, hitching rides or hiring a Kijang to Berau.

SUNGGAI BELAYAN

An adventurous yet cultural route follows Sungai Belayan, branching northwest from the Mahakam at Kota Bangun, to **Tabang**. Chartered longboats from Samarinda to Tabang (650,000Rp) take three days and two nights. A chartered *ces* from Kota Bangun to Tabang only takes a day, but the convenience costs more than 2,500,000Rp.

Tabang can also be reached from the upper Mahakam (see opposite). Find a guide at either end to trek through traditional rainforests of nomadic Punan Dayaks.

BERAU

☎ 0554 / pop 60,000

At the confluence of Sungai Kelai and Sungai Segah (forming Sungai Berau), Berau is also known as Tanjung Redep. Tourists visit primarily en route to Pulau Derawan.

Technically, Tanjung Redep is the spit of land between the rivers that's Berau's centre. Before dark, there aren't many surprises. At night, Jl A Yani comes alive with coffee and snack stalls lining the riverfront (and wi-fi with voucher until 10pm). Turning the corner onto Jl Antasari, fruit vendors and food stalls feature more substantial fare, leading to the night market on Jl Soetomo.

Information

Find ATMs and banks for currency exchange along Jl P Antasari/Jl Maulana.

HG Computer (Jl Mangga II; per hr 6000Rp; ☎ 24hr) HG has chairs or floor booths, plus air-con. Tell the *angkot* driver 'Jl Mangga Dua'.

MicroNet (Jl Anggur 379; per hr 6000Rp; ☎ 9am-midnight) Well-hidden internet for grown-ups take Jl Pemuda to the (asphalt) soccer field, turn left on Jl Mangga I, left again on Jl Anggur.

Rumah Sakit Abdul Rifai (Jl Pulau Panjang) Hospital.

Speedy (Jl Mangga II; per hr 6000Rp; ☎ 24hr) About 100m from HG Computer with comfy floor pillows and air-con.

THM Travel (☎ 21238; Jl Niaga II) Friendly agency for local advice and flight bookings.

Tourism office (☎ 21159; Jl Permai 35) Enthusiastically dispenses limited information.

Sights & Activities

Across Sungai Segah, **Museum Batiwakkal** (admission by donation; ☎ 8am-1pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 8-11am Fri) recounts the local sultanate's complex history with rival Sambaliung, across Sungai Kelai.

Across the bridge from the market, there's a big **Balinese Temple** built by islanders employed in the region.

Sleeping & Eating

At the time of research, budget favourite **Hotel Central Graha** (☎ 22580; Jl A Yani) was closed for renovation.

Penginapan Family (☎ 24334; Jl Panglima Batur 384; r 50,000-60,000Rp) Welcoming, clean, worn place to crash if you blew your budget diving.

Hotel Nirwana (☎ /fax 21893; Jl Aminuddin 715; r incl breakfast 77,000-209,000Rp; ☎) Choose between fan and shared *mandi* upstairs, and fan or air-con with private *mandi* downstairs, at what management calls 'the hotel with the Muslim atmosphere', despite its Buddhist name.

Sanggam Hotel (☎ 21353; Jl Sudirman; r incl breakfast 110,000-230,000Rp; ☎) New hotel in an old building, Sanggam's renovation preserves many enchanting details. Rooms range from fan-cooled with one bed to air-con with two queen-size beds, all including private Western bathroom and attentive staff.

Hotel Rahayu (☎ 21142; cnr Jl Panglima Batur & Jl Gajah Mada; r 120,000-160,000Rp; ☎) Blindingly efficient and absolutely spotless Rahayu's cosy rooms all feature private *mandi* or Western bathroom. Great value in a central spot.

Hotel Sederhana (☎ 21353; Jl P Antasari; r incl breakfast 235,000-325,000Rp; ☎ ☎) Sederhana has big, fully featured rooms, free evening wi-fi in the coffee shop, and a tasty breakfast buffet. But it needs a good scrubbing.

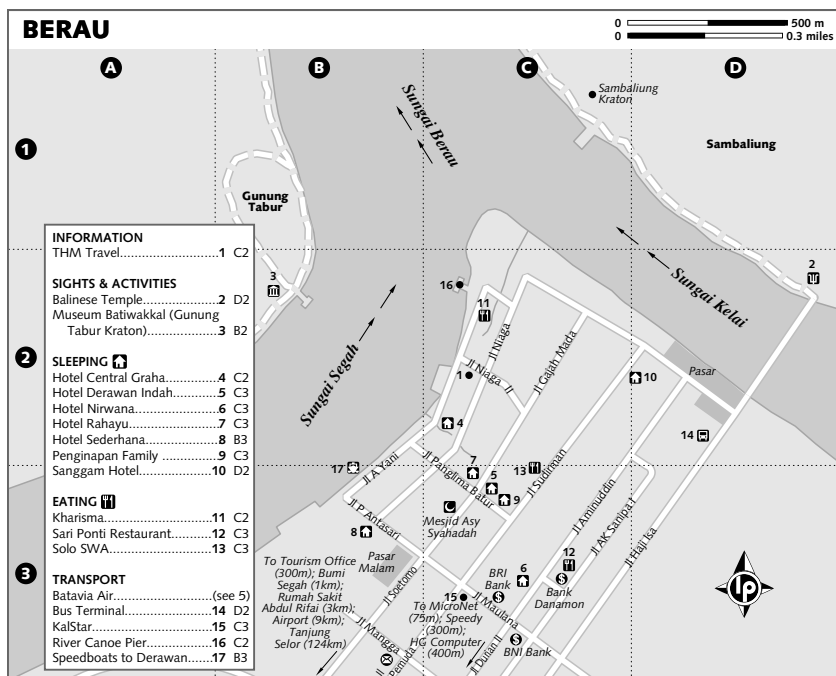
Hotel Derawan Indah (☎ 24255; fax 24252; Jl Panglima Batur 396; r incl breakfast 250,000-350,000Rp, ste 700,000Rp; ☎ ☎) Immaculate, generous rooms, swimming pool and lighted tennis court on the roof are a hit with families.

Bumi Segah (☎ 24041; fax 21534; Jl Pulau Sampit 747; r incl breakfast 300,000-375,000Rp; ☎ ☎) Favoured by travellers for Berau Coal and the Nature Conservancy, Bumi Segah's pampering rooms set a new milestone in carbon offsetting.

Sari Ponti Restaurant (☎ 23616; Jl AK Sanipa I; mains 15,000-25,000Rp; ☎ 11am-2.30pm, 5-9.30pm) This family-run place aims to please with Chinese seafood, chicken, pigeon, beef and vegetarian choices. Look for young coconuts outside.

Warungs along Jl A Yani and Jl Niaga serve Indonesian standards from early morning until late night. For a fish dinner, find a crowded food stall along Jl Antasari.

Self-caterers can use **Solo SWA** (Jl Sudirman) or **Kharisma** (Jl A Yani).



Getting There & Away

AIR

KalStar (☎ 21007; fax 20279; Jl Maulana 45) **Trigana Air** (☎ 202 7885) and **Batavia Air** (☎ 26777; Hotel Derawan Indah, Jl Panglima Batur 396) fly to Balikpapan. KalStar also flies daily (except Sunday) to Tarakan, Tanjung Selor and Samarinda. Trigana also serves Samarinda.

BOAT

Speedboats (*sepit*) to Pulau Derawan (three hours) wait off Jl A Yani. Negotiations start at 2,000,000Rp one way; anything under 1,000,000Rp is a bargain. Cheaper Derawan transport goes by Kijang to Tanjung Batu; see opposite for more information.

Canoe ferries cross Sungai Segah (3000Rp) to Museum Batiwakkal, or can be chartered for river cruises (per hour 50,000Rp to 100,000Rp).

BUS

The convenient **bus terminal** (Jl Haji Isa) is south of the market on *angkot* routes. Buses over good roads to Tanjung Selor (50,000Rp, 2½ hours) and Malinau (175,000Rp, six hours) are sched-

uled hourly from 8.30am to 11.30am but won't roll with fewer than 15 passengers. Buses to Samarinda (150,000Rp, 18 hours), via Sangatta and Bontang for Kutai National Park (see p641), are scheduled until 1pm. This route, over atrocious roads, can take days during rainy season. Kijangs for Tanjung Selor (50,000Rp, two hours) and Samarinda (200,000Rp, 15 hours) gather across from the terminal and demand a minimum of four passengers; buy multiple seats to leave faster. Kijangs for Tanjung Batu wait on Jl A Yani from 9am.

Getting Around

Taxis to the airport (9km) cost 40,000Rp. Berau *angkot* (3000Rp) drivers are Kalimantan's most common compliant, breaking routes to reach your destination. River crossings by fan-tail canoe cost 3000Rp; charters for river cruising cost 50,000Rp per hour.

PULAU DERAWAN & SANGALAKI ARCHIPELAGO

World renowned diving in the Sangalaki Archipelago is not the best reason to visit **Pulau Derawan**. Even if you never put on a mask

and fins, you'll plunge into village life of a bygone era.

This island is a 45-hectare teardrop-shaped oasis that can be circled on foot in an hour, with electricity supplied only from dusk to dawn. (Generators violate the island's spirit, as do motorcycles; both are blissfully rare.) News travels from front porch to front porch, scattered warungs sell traditional Bajau palm sugar sweets (and maybe beer out the backdoor), time is marked by the arrival of the daily vegetables from the 'mainland', and all are welcome to late afternoon volleyball matches, women first. There's always fresh fish on the menu, turtles and sea horses swimming between the pilings of the docks, and just beyond the village, stretches of white sand beach to call your own. In short, Derawan is the tropical island you came to Southeast Asia dreaming about.

Diving in this Sulawesi Sea chain of 30-odd island deserves its acclaim. Derawan has rich coral reefs, turtles and schooling fish. Off **Pulau Sangalaki**, majestic mantas wing through the water. The island is also home to green turtles, a **Turtle Foundation** (www.turtle-foundation.org) monitoring outpost, and, sporadically, a dive resort. **Kakaban** has an ecologically intriguing lake where jellyfish have lost their sting. **Nabucco** and **Maratua** also have accommodation, but staying there misses Derawan village life.

Activities

On Pulau Derawan, diving is organised at Derawan Dive Resort, Losmen Danakan, and, sometimes, Peningapan Lestari. The losmen charge 250,000Rp for dives, including tank and equipment hire. Snorkelling gear costs 50,000Rp per day. Village boats to other islands cost around 500,000Rp, including fishing for dinner on the trip back. At the resort, a la carte dives cost about US\$40, including tank and weight belt only.

Sleeping & Eating

At the time of writing, **Sangalaki Dive Resort** (www.sangalaki.net) on Pulau Sangalaki was closed.

Losmen Ilham (Pulau Derawan; r 40,000-45,000Rp) This small guest house has clean rooms with fans (when the electricity is on) and shared *mandi*. The attached warung serves Indonesian food (meals 8000Rp to 16,000Rp).

our pick **Losmen Danakan** (☎ 081 350 982 799, 081 347 733 701; Pulau Derawan; r per person incl meals 100,000-125,000Rp; ♿) If Ernest Hemingway came back as a sensitive new age guy, he'd check in to

fish, write and revel in the sunsets. This immaculate homestay on stilts over the water features comfortable all-wood rooms (choose fan or air-con), and shared *mandi*, some with Western toilets. Meals are simply lovely.

Derawan Dive Resort (☎ 0542-707 2615; www.divederawan.com; Pulau Derawan; r US\$45-120, 5-night package per person from US\$970; ♿) Timber cottages have rustic charm and air-con, and the generator is well hidden. Packages include transfer from Berau, meals, and three boat dives daily, plus unlimited shore diving. Walk-ins may bargain for a room at 350,000Rp.

More accommodation options:

Peningapan Derawan Lestari (Pulau Derawan; r 75,000Rp) Haji Ismail's simple losmen on a pier resembles Danakan but lacks its soul.

Peningapan Derawan Lestari II (☎ 081 347 615 894; Pulau Derawan; r 50,000-100,000Rp; ♿) Clean, family-home option with air-con nightly.

Maratua Paradise Resort (www.borneo.org; Pulau Maratua; 6-night package per person US\$1305-1395; ♿) Packages include beach chalet or stilt cottage accommodation, meals, scheduled island transfers and four dives daily.

Nabucco Island Resort (☎ /fax 0542-593635; www.nabuccoislandresort.com; Pulau Nabucco; s/d/t incl meals per person €102/74/67; ♿) The rate covers cottages over the surf (add €5 for air-con, deduct €10 for breakfast and dinner only) without dives (10-20-dive package €345/652) or transfers (scheduled per person/charter per boat €110/625) to this isolated, indulgent resort. Management professes a soft spot for backpackers, so request discounts.

A handful of warungs on Pulau Derawan offer simple meals and snacks. Bring fruit for variety, and alcoholic beverages. We don't recommend Derawan Beach Cafe & Cottage. When we visited, there was a noisy, smelly generator, and we experienced less than courteous treatment.

Tanjung Batu, a fishing village, has a couple of warungs and **Losmen Famili** (r 30,000Rp) for rooms with shared *mandi* (no fan), in case you're stuck waiting for a boat.

Getting There & Away

A direct speedboat from Berau to Derawan costs up to 2,000,000Rp (three hours). Save with a Kijang (50,000Rp, two hours) to Tanjung Batu and boat from there. Kijangs wait along the riverfront from 9am, but won't leave with fewer than five passengers, which often means departing mid-afternoon. At Tanjung Batu, hire a speedboat (200,000Rp, one hour) to Pulau Derawan or try to negotiate a ride with a fishing boat. Stay close to Indonesians arriving

with you and you may get lucky; at the very least, you can share boat costs.

From Derawan, losmen can arrange a local boat to Tanjung Batu (150,000Rp, 2½ hours). Leave early: Kijangs for Berau depart 8am sharp.

SUNGAI KAYAN & APOKAYAN HIGHLANDS

Elevation and rough water has kept away loggers, miners and most outsiders from the northwest quadrant of KalTim, preserving traditional lifestyles and pristine forests. **Kayan Mentarang National Park** follows the province's border with Malaysia from Sungai Kayan's headwaters northward. This 1.36-million-hectare park, the largest forest area in Southeast Asia, is a storehouse of global biodiversity – new plant and even animal species are discovered regularly – and centrepiece of WWF's Heart of Borneo initiative to protect contiguous forests in Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

Around the park, an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 Dayaks from the Kenyah, Punan, Lun Daye, Lun Bawang and other groups have lived for centuries by maintaining natural balances in the environment. In recent years, with help from WWF, villagers along Sungai Kayan to Apokayan and Sungai Pujungan have begun to welcome tourists.

Trading boats from **Tanjung Selor** at the mouth of Sungai Kayan travel to Long Bia or follow Sungai Pujungan branching west (as Sungai Kayan branches south) to **Long Pujungan** (400,000Rp, one to 1½ days). The boat ride through rapids is part of the adventure. From Long Pujungan, the local ecotourism committee can arrange boats upriver to Long Ketaman (one or two people 250,000Rp), Long Pua (one or two people 350,000Rp) and Long Jelet (one or two people 350,000Rp), and **village homestays** (per person incl meals 90,000Rp).

The ecotourism committee organises activities, including treks. In Long Ketaman, a village of about 100, visitors can observe production of rattan crafts and tools, plus traditional farming, hunting and gathering in the forest. There's a good trail from Long Jelat with lots of wildlife and birds along way, though hunting makes the animals wary of humans. Guides cost 90,000Rp per day and porters 70,000Rp. Destinations include day trips to Batu Ului and U'ung Melu'ung waterfall, a moderate two-day trek to 70m Sungai Bum waterfall and ancient burial caves, and a rugged five-day climb into

Apokayan through the Apo Napu high pass to Data Dian, the last Kayan village in Apokayan, returning via Sungai Kat.

To begin trekking from the other end, **Susi Air** (☎ 081 1211 3080/90; info@susaiir.com) flies to Long Ampung from Tarakan (1,200,000Rp) via Nunukan (800,000Rp). Destinations include a leisurely 2½-hour walk to the longhouse of **Long Uro**, or about an hour farther to **Lidung Payau** with boats back to Long Ampung. Hardy travellers may include treks north and west to longhouses and dry rice farms in Long Nawang and Data Dian via Sungai Anei and Long Metun or difficult five-hour jungle walk east from Lidung Payau to **Long Sungai Barang**.

Forking north, Sungai Bahau has more ecotourism areas. There's longboat transport from Long Pujungan to Long Alongo (one or two people 1,100,000Rp) with homestays (per person including meals 80,000Rp) and a lodge (per person including meals 100,000Rp). WWF's research station in the traditional protected forest area at Lalut Birai has deepened global understanding of tropical ecosystems since opening in 1991. Further upstream into Bahau Hulu, find a burial site in Long Pulung, cultural performances and traditional crafts in Long Berini and Apau Ping. The grasslands beyond Apau Ping offer good opportunities for seeing wildlife. It's also possible to trek from here into Krayan Hulu (see below).

For details on visiting, check www.borneo-ecotourism.com or contact the **WWF office** (☎ 0553-21523; km@indo.net.id) in Malinau. Reach Tanjung Selor from Berau by bus (50,000Rp, 2½ hours) or Tarakan by speedboat (80,000Rp, 1½ hours) or 20-minute **Trigana** (☎ 0551-31800; fax 0551-31890; 135,000Rp) flights. **KalStar** (☎ 0552-22205) flies to Tanjung Selor daily except Sunday from Balikpapan (924,000Rp) via Berau (197,000Rp). Contact **Missionary Air Fellowship** (MAF; ☎ 0551-34348) about its flights into Apokayan from Tarakan.

KRAYAN HULU

The highlands of upper Sungai Krayan (Krayan Hulu) in KalTim's northwest corner are more easily reached from Sarawak in Malaysia Kalimantan. Isolation helps safeguard the landscape and customs of several Dayak groups, including Sa'ban, Lengilu, Lun Dayeh and Punan. About 1000m above sea level, the climate is refreshingly cool.

The **Krayan Hulu Ecotourism Committee** (Tana Tam Krayan Hulu; tana_tam@yahoo.com; Tarakan office

☎ 551-34010; Jl Diponegoro 17) organises activities around Long Rungan (also called Tanjung Pasir), Long Layu, Tang Laan (also Pa' Upan), Binguang, Long Padi and Ba' Liku at the south end of Sungai Krayan. Tan Tam also manages the Kayan Mentarang National Park watershed between Krayan Hulu and Bahau Hulu, supported by WWF.

Ecotourism activities include **homestays** (per person incl meals 90,000Rp) featuring participation in village activities including wet and dry rice farming, buffalo raising, rattan weaving and tool production. **Treks** (packages per person 700,000-1,800,000Rp) cover heath forest with edible plants, fruits and flowers, including black orchids. Nearby destinations include springs around Long Layu where villagers produce mountain salt, ancient burial grounds with human images carved in stone, Batu Sichen (Honey Rock) where bees live under a scenic peak, and river rapids between Long Rungan and Tang Laan. Treks of up to five days cross into Sarawak's Kelabit or Bario Highlands or south to Apau Ping in Bahau Hulu through ancient forest, grassland with lots of wild-life, and abandoned village sites. Guides cost 90,000Rp per day and porters 70,000Rp.

The only practical way into Krayan Hulu is by air. **Missionary Air Fellowship** (MAF; ☎ 0551-34348) flies from Tarakan to/from Long Rungan; book as far in advance as possible. **Susi Air** (☎ 081 121 130 80/90; info@susair.com) flies Tarakan to/from Long Bawan direct (165,000Rp) four times weekly and twice weekly via Nunukan (500,000Rp). MAF also flies between Long Rungan and Long Bawan; check schedules and book as far ahead as possible. During dry season, you can get from Long Bawan to Long Layu by motorcycle, 4WD or a day's trek. In Long Bawan, **Penginapan Agung Raya** (☎ 081 350 170 517; r50,000-60,000Rp) is a small, clean losmen.

SEBUKU SEMBAKUNG

Kalimantan's only elephant habitat, Sebuku Sembakung is a 400,000-hectare mix of protected and production forest plus oil-palm plantations along KalTim's north border with Sabah, included in WWF's Heart of Borneo initiative. Sebuku Sembakung has six forest types, from tidal swamp to green hills with limestone outcrops. Elephants inhabit Sebuku Sembakung's central lowland forest plains, but they are extremely difficult to find. Elephants are more easily sought (and more often seen) across the border along Sabah's Sungai Kinabatangan.

Borneo Ecotourism (www.borneo-ecotourism.com) or the **WWF office in Malinau** (☎ 0553-21523; km@indo.net.id) can help arrange visits. Access is via Sungai Sembuku from Nunukan by *ces* (4,000,000Rp, one day). Speedboats run regularly between Nunukan and Tarakan (170,000Rp, 2½ hours). **KalStar** (☎ 0551-25840 in Tarakan, 0556-23013 in Nunukan), **Trigana** (☎ 0551-31800; fax 0551-31890) and **Susi Air** (☎ 081 121 130 80/90; info@susair.com) fly Tarakan to/from Nunukan (300,000Rp; 25 minutes).

TARAKAN

☎ 0551 / pop 103,000

Tarakan's leaders liken their city to Singapore. Both are clean island towns near Malaysia, but obvious similarities end there. This Celebes Sea port linked to Tawau in East Sabah by ferry is a pleasant way to greet Indonesia – though visa on arrival would help – or bid farewell.

THM Plaza, a mix of local shops, national chains and hawkers at the corner of Jl Yos Sudarso and Jl Sudirman, marks Tarakan's centre, flanked by newer **Grand Tarakan Mall**. Down Jl Gajah Mada, **Gusher Plaza** (pronounced 'guesser') has Tarakan's only department store amid more shops and a traditional market. Harbours are to the south, Tingkayu into KalTim's interior and Malundung for Tawau and Peln service.

Information

Banks changing dollars are along Jl Yos Sudarso with more ATMs along Jl Sudirman and at Gusher Plaza. **Karisma** at THM Plaza and **Granmedia** at Grand Tarakan Mall sell maps of Tarakan and beyond. Many businesses close Sunday.

Angkasa Express (☎ 30288; aex_trk@yahoo.com; Hotel Tarakan Plaza, Jl Yos Sudarso) Air and Peln tickets with free delivery.

Haji La Tunrung Star Group (☎ 21405; Jl Yos Sudarso 32) Moneychanger.

HappyCom (3rd fl; Grand Tarakan Mall; per hr 6000Rp; ☎ 10am-9.30pm) Internet.

Immigration office (☎ 21242; Jl Sumatra) Information on visas and crossings to/from Malaysia.

Melati Ekspres (☎ 25622, 081 357 514 971; Jl Sudirman 23) Striving travel agent offering 24-hour SMS service and free delivery.

Perta Medika Hospital (☎ 31403; Jl Mulawarman) **Post office** (Jl Sudirman)

StarCorp Internet (THM Plaza; per hour 6000Rp; ☎ 10am-10pm)

Tanjung Harapan Mulia (☎ 21572; tjharapanmulia@gmail.com; Jl Yos Sudarso 38) Travel agency for all domestic flights and Tawindo boat to Tawau.

Tourism office (☎ 32100; Jl Sudirman 76, 4th fl) Good maps.

Warnet Kopegetel (☎ 35000; kopegeteltravel@yahoo.com; Jl Sudirman 19; per hr 4000Rp; ☎ 8am-10.30pm; ☎) Internet access with wi-fi, attached to a travel agency.

Sights

The **mangrove forest** (Jl Gajah Mada; ☎ 8am-5pm) holds two Borneo exclusives, proboscis monkeys and *ikan tempankul*, a fish that walks out of the water. Spread over nine hectares with shaded boardwalks and benches, just 300m from the town centre, the mangroves also shelter macaques and many bird species.

Japanese and Australian forces clashed bloodily over Tarakan late in WWII. There's an **Australian memorial** (*kuburan Australia*; Jl Sumatra) at the Indonesian military barracks. A **Japanese gravesite** (*kuburan Jepang*) is in nearby hills, amid old bunkers.

Pantai Amal (11km) is a swimming beach that can be reached by minibus (3000Rp) or taxi (50,000Rp).

Sleeping

Hotel Bunga Muda (☎ 21349; Jl Yos Sudarso 7; r 66,000-150,000Rp; 🏠) Clean, friendly, basic accommodation between the harbours. Economy rooms have shared bathrooms. Only VIP rooms have air-con and sleep up to four.

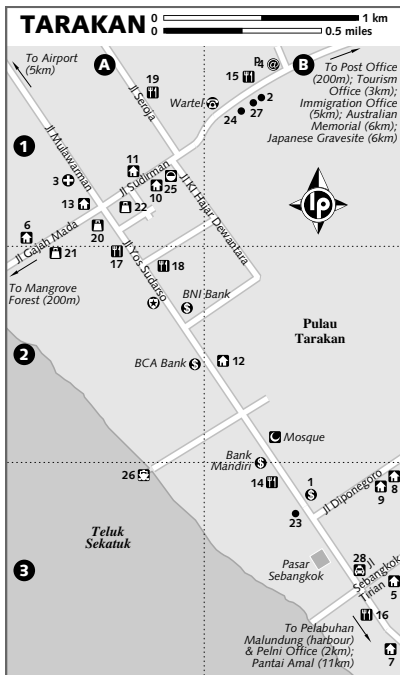
Hotel Bahagia (☎ 37141; fax 24778; Jl Gajah Mada; r incl breakfast 80,000-200,000Rp; 🏠) Big, bright economy digs at 'Hotel Happiness' opposite Gusher Plaza have shared Asian and Western bathrooms. Higher-priced rooms include private Western bathrooms and air-con, but some lack windows.

Hotel Gemilang (☎ 21521; fax 35588; Jl Diponegoro 4; r 90,000-160,000Rp; 🏠) Miles ahead of typical budget haunts, all rooms are meticulously kept and boast fabulous wood furniture.

Hotel Makmur (☎ 31988, 085 246 570 888; fax 23565; Jl Sudirman 18; s 160,000Rp, d 200,000-250,000Rp, all incl breakfast; 🏠) Snug, ultramodern standard rooms have hot-water shower, air-con, refrigerator, kettle, cable TV, but no window. Deluxe accommodations add windows and cushiony chairs.

Hotel Harmonis Classic (☎ 21783; fax 24503; Jl Diponegoro 5; r incl breakfast 215,000-320,000Rp; 🏠) Sleek, luxurious rooms with all the trimmings, plus free wi-fi in the lobby and restaurant.

Hotel Tarakan Plaza (☎ 21870; fax 21029; Jl Yos Sudarso 1; r incl breakfast 433,000-540,000Rp, ste 620,000-1,034,000Rp; 🏠) Reconstruction has catapulted this landmark straight over the top.



Rooms no longer represent value for money; even wi-fi costs extra.

Swiss-Belhotel Tarakan (☎ 21133; fax 36633; Jl Mualwarman 15; s 599,000-799,000Rp, d 699,000-859,000Rp, ste 1,379,000-2,299,000Rp plus 10% tax, all incl breakfast; 🏠) The former Garden City Hotel has received an elegant makeover. Ask for discounts and deals, especially on weekends. Nonsmoking rooms are available.




Other options:

Hotel Asia (☎ 36706; Jl Sebangkok Tirian 5; r incl breakfast 88,000-165,000Rp; 🏠) Decent rooms, cement jungle in the lobby, harbour views from upper floor terraces.

Hotel Sakura (☎ 22730; Jl Sudirman 20; r 120,000-160,000Rp; 🏠) Save money across from Hotel Makmur at its budget cousin.

Eating

In 2009, a new local administration took the Singapore fantasy too far, banning food stalls from most streets, without following the Lion City's model of building hawker centres for the displaced vendors. The move eliminated opportunities to sample fabulous local fish street cheap. **Turi Ikan Bakar** (☎ 21153; Jl Yos Sudarso 32; per person 50,000-70,000Rp; ☎ 10am-3pm,

INFORMATION	
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Granmedia.....	(see 20)
Haji La Tunrung Star Group.....	1 B3
Happy Com.....	(see 20)
Karisma.....	(see 22)
Melati Ekspres.....	2 B1
Perta Medika Hospital.....	3 A1
StarCorp Internet.....	(see 22)
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Hotel Bahagia.....	6 A1
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Trigana Air.....	(see 12)

6-10pm) and **Bagi Alam I** (☎ 22371; Jl Yos Sudarso 17; per person 40,000-60,000Rp; ☎ 10am-10pm) offer restaurant fish feasts. For economical eats, the best bets are THM and Jl Seroja off Jl Sudirman. Large hotels' restaurants serve local favourites, Western and/or Chinese food.

Warung Jember (Jl Seroja; mains 6,000-12,000Rp) Home-cooked, East Java *nasi campur*.

Nasi Lalap Niaga (☎ 36954; Jl Yos Sudarso 32; mains 9,000-12,000Rp; ☎ 9.30am-9.30pm) Busy hole-in-the-wall dishing the richest *capcay* in KalTim. Laden with chicken giblets, one portion serves two. Vegetarians request, '*Sayur saja*' ('Just vegetables').

Cahaya (☎ 21917; Jl Sudirman 105; mains 20,000-45,000Rp; ☎ 7am-1.30pm, 5-10pm) Popular Chinese restaurant featuring seafood and cold beer.

For self-catering, try **Makmur Supermarket** (Jl Sudirman 20), next to the Hotel Makmur entrance, or popular **Toko Setia Budi** (Jl Yos Sudarso 5).

Getting There & Away

AIR

Batavia Air (☎ 32262; Jl Yos Sudarso 11), **KalStar** (☎ 25840; Jl Sudirman 9), **Lion Air** (☎ 202 6009), **Mandala Airlines** (☎ 22929; fax 32656; Jl Yos Sudarso 10) and **Sriwijaya Air** (☎ 33777; Jl Sudirman 21) fly to Balikpapan, connecting to Jakarta, Surabaya and beyond. KalStar and **Trigana Air** (☎ 31800; fax 31890; Hotel Tarakan Plaza, Jl Yos Sudarso) serve Berau, and Samarinda. **Susi Air** (☎ 081 121 130 80/90; info@suaiar.com) flies to Malinau, Long Bawan and Long Apung. Trigana flies to Tanjung Selor, and along with KalStar to Nunukan. Check with **Mission Aviation Fellowship** (MAF; ☎ 34348) for scheduled and charter flights into the interior.

BOAT

Pelni (☎ 51169; Jl Yos Sudarso) ships steam weekly to Pantaloan (261,000Rp), Pare Pare (377,000Rp), Makassar (379,000Rp) and Surabaya (561,000Rp), and bi-weekly to Nunukan (75,000Rp), Maumere (409,000Rp), Kupang (587,000Rp), Jakarta (687,000Rp) and Kijang (841,000Rp), all from Pelabuhan Malundung, the main harbour at the south end of Jl Yos Sudarso. Travel agents are generally more helpful than Pelni's office.

Morning ferries to Tawau in Sabah (300,000Rp, 3½ hours) depart daily except Sunday from Pelabuhan Malundung. *Indomaya* and *Tawindo Express* run on alternate days and are very similar; choose the day, not the boat. Immigration formalities are at the ferry terminal. Officials take your passport and return it, stamped for Malaysian entry, upon arrival in Tawau.

Eight boats run daily to Tanjung Selor (80,000Rp, 1½ hours) from Pelabuhan Tenggayu, closer to Tarakan's centre off Jl Yos Sudarso. Speedboats from Tenggayu also serve Malinau (180,000Rp, three hours) and Nunukan (170,000Rp, 2½ hours), where boats to Tawau (90,000Rp, 1¼ hours) run daily.

Getting Around

Taxis to/from Juwata Airport (6km) cost 50,000Rp. Alternatively, walk 200m to the street for an *angkot* (3000Rp). *Angkot* routes follow Jl Yos Sudarso, Jl Sudirman and Jl Gajah Mada. *Ojek* drivers gather on Jl Sudirman above THM Plaza and across from Gusher.

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