

HISTORY OF SEPILOK ORANGUTAN REHABILITATION CENTRE

Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre (S.O.R.C) was originally proposed in 1961 by P.F. Burgess, the then Deputy Conservator of Forests. By 1964, thanks to the persistence of Barbara Harrison, it had become a reality.

The initial research into the need for S.O.R.C was funded by the W.W.F and conducted by Barbara Harrison. The Sabah Government funded the establishment of the centre. It has grown into one of the world's best-known rehabilitation centres. The aim of the centre has always been to return orphaned, injured or displace Orangutans back to the wild. Many orphans have successfully undergone the process of rehabilitation and have been released into the 4,294 hectare Kabili-Sepilok Forest, a virgin jungle reserve.

The reserve is named after the two rivers draining the area and flowing into Sandakan Bay. It is rich in tropical rainforest and mangrove swamp.

You are encouraged to visit some part of Kabili - Sepilok Forest Reserve, and experience the beauty of one of Sabah's most protected areas.

THE REHABILITATION OF ORANGUTANS

The rehabilitation process starts as soon as an Orangutan is admitted to the centre. All animals are given a thorough health examination on arrival, followed by a quarantine period to eliminate the possibility of any diseases being transmitted. Young Orangutans deprived of their mothers lack the ability to find food, build nests or even climb properly. They spend time in the 'Nursery' learning the skills essential to jungle life. Once ready, they move to the 'Outdoor Nursery' where their dependence on the food and emotional support is gradually decreased whilst their freedom is increased. Visitors can witness part of the process by visiting 'Platform A'. Here the Orangutans natural forest diet is supplemented with milk and fruit twice a day.

Eventually, most animals achieve total independence and become integrated into Sepilok wild Orangutan population.

The Kabili-Sepilok Forest Reserve is a wonderful place and we hope you enjoy your visit. When entering the reserve, kindly observe the rules and regulations. They are in place for your own safety as well as the safety and well-being of the reserve and its residents. If you follow them, we are sure your visit will be hassle free and something special to remember.

NATURE TRAIL

Various walks within the reserve, take you from tropical highland rainforest to lowland mangrove swamps, and offer the opportunity to view a multitude of wildlife, including wild Orangutan's.

These walks are open daily between 9 am -- 4.15 pm. You are required to register first at S.O.R.C reception

Phenology Trail (250 m)

Birder's Tower Trail (1.4 km)

A place in a prime location to view the abundant variety of birds that can be found in the Kabili -- Sepilok Forest Reserve.

Sepilok Water Hole (2 km)

This area has just been re-opened for public walking and the trip takes about 2 hours (To & From).

Mangrove Forest Walk (5 km)

This walk takes approximately 2 hours one way. You can stay overnight in one of the cabins at Sepilok Laut, or hire a boat back to Sandakan.

You will require a permit from the Forestry Department, which can be arranged in advance and will be faxed through to S.O.R.C.

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