



Please see the **NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.



SUMATRA: Orangutan & Conservation Expedition

Let the lure of adventure pull you in as you explore and support conservation projects in the heart of the rugged tropical jungles of Northern Sumatra - one of two places left on the planet where you can observe orangutans in the wild!

OVERVIEW

Support reforestation projects in the Gunung Leuser National Park buffer zone by assisting with tree planting projects to restore orangutan habitats that have been decimated by human activity. Learn about the fascinating Sumatran orangutans and trek through their habitat, potentially glimpsing these incredible creatures in one of the two remaining natural habitats for them on earth.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Trek to find orangutans in the wild in Gunung Leuser National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site
- ★ Plant trees to aid reforestation of the "buffer zone" for the orangutan habitat that was cleared for palm oil production
- ★ Go on a river tubing adventure known locally as a "jungle taxi"
- ★ Teach English to local children with a focus on conservation and sustainability
- ★ Assist a local NGO to collect and sort plastic and turn it into reusable items to keep waste off the streets and out of the rivers
- ★ Learn how eco-bricks are being used to build sustainable infrastructure in the jungle

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

14-Day Program

June 20 -July 3, 2024

Tuition: \$4,999

Service Hours: 24

Max Group Size: 24

Age Range: 14-18

Student-to-Staff Ratio: 6-to-1

Airport: Kualanamu (KNO)

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sumatra's native wildlife face danger to their habitats, and rainforests are shrinking due to palm oil plantation and human activity. Prepare to get your hands dirty as you plant trees to support the reforestation of the habitat of Sumatra's native animals, especially orangutans, monkeys and birds. Contribute to the success of Sumatran young people who will be future stewards of this island by providing local schoolchildren an opportunity to practice their English-language skills with native speakers in a fun and engaging setting. Support waste management initiatives to keep communities free of trash and to protect local waterways.

SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



MEDAN

DAY 1: WELCOME TO SUMATRA!

Fly into Medan (KNO), the main gateway to Northern Sumatra. GLA staff will be there waiting to greet you. Once you have your bag, there will be an arrivals area where GLA staff will greet and accompany you to our homebase in Medan where we'll meet fellow GLA students and get settled into our new home. Once everyone has arrived, we'll continue with orientation and your first Indonesian dinner. Rest early, because tomorrow we'll travel 4 hours to Bukit Lawang which will be our home for the program!

BUKIT LAWANG

DAY 2: TRAVEL TO BUKIT LAWANG & ORIENTATION

Today we'll travel 4 hours to our home for the program -- the small village of Bukit Lawang. After an orientation in the morning, we'll go on a short village walking tour with our service team and get to know our surroundings.



DAY 3- 4: SERVICE BEGINS & SHORT ORANGUTAN TREK!

Today we'll meet our service partners "Project Wings" and start the day by taking a traditional "bechak". After our village tour, we will head to the recycling village of Project Wings, where we'll have an orientation to their conservation projects, their recycling projects + all their education projects that they currently run in Bukit Lawang and start preparing for service.

The next day, we will have our first opportunity to spot Sumatran orangutans - our local ranger will help lead us to the spots where they were last seen. On this trek, our guide will teach us about rubber trees, show us some of the local flora and lead us to the "buffer zone" area of the national park. After a lunch in the jungle, we will start with our tree planting services to help restore Orangutan habitat.



DAY 5 - SERVICE & LANDAK RIVER WALK

Today we'll start the day with the Landak River Walk, where we may have an opportunity to see wild orangutans in their natural habitat, along with other local wildlife. We'll walk about an hour to the beautiful Landak River near the edge of Mount Leuser National Park. Here you'll have lunch by the river bank and the chance to cool off with a swim in the river. You can also admire the unique Tualang Tree - one of the world's tallest trees! Thomas leaf monkeys, silver tail macaques, camouflaged lizards, various birds and beautiful butterflies make up the local wildlife that you may encounter by the river.

After lunch, we'll continue on towards a different section of "buffer zone" to collect trash along the river and plant trees together with an ongoing project to restore Orangutan habitat along the border of the national park.



DAY 6: REST DAY & COOKING CLASS

Today we'll rest our jungle legs and spend the day taking in Northern Sumatran culture & cuisine! We'll start by going to the local market to buy some fresh ingredients for traditional meals that we are going to learn to cook. During the class, we'll learn traditional methods of cooking!



DAY 7: ORANGUTAN TREKKING & RIVER TUBING

Today is a full day out in the jungle! We're heading deeper into the jungle today to learn more about orangutans and potentially see more of them! After a light lunch, it's time for you to return to Bukit Lawang. This time you'll be traveling by "jungle taxi" - floating back down the Bohorok river on traditional tube-rafts rafts!



DAY 8-10 : SERVICE & CULTURAL WORKSHOPS

In the mornings, we will host an English camp for local children and work on Erna's eco farm & Plastic Recycling projects. Access to quality education is still a challenge in Indonesia due to a lack of adequately trained teachers, school-related fees that are prohibitive for some families, and physically getting to schools in some rural areas. The government curriculum for learning English also does not stress developing conversational skills, resulting in students who have studied English for years but are still too shy to speak very much. You'll offer an opportunity for children to practice their English-language skills with native speakers in a fun and engaging setting. As a bonus, you will add sustainability vocabulary into the mix, giving the children tools to speak about



the future of their local environment with visitors in the future. On the Eco Farm, we'll take the plastic we've collected from our treks and sort them into hard vs soft plastic and learn how we can create reusable objects from them!

In the afternoons, you'll have some more opportunities to experience local village life here in Timbang Lawan village, where you'll learn how they produce tofu and tempe (common food staples), as well as how they weave rumbia for a traditional roof.

DAY 11 & 12: ORANGUTAN TREKKING & ECO PRINTING

Today we go deeper into the jungle one final time to see if we can spot some more orangutans and see various other animals like gibbons and more as we will learn about biodiversity, ecosystem in the National Park with our local Ranger. On one of the afternoons, we'll have an opportunity to learn about natural dye techniques and make a motif of our own! During free time, we'll head out to the village one last time to say goodbye & buy any jungle souvenirs.

DAY 13: MAIMUM PALACE & KARAOKE CELEBRATION

Today we'll say goodbye to the jungle as we start our journey back to the city! After a delicious lunch, we'll tour the famous Maimun Palace of Medan- the *istana* (royal palace) of the Sultanate of Deli (a Malay state founded in 1630 which no longer has political authority today) and is a well-known landmark. Built in the late 1800s, the palace has become a popular destination in the city, not solely because of its historical heritage status, but also because of its unique interior design of the palace, combining elements of Malay cultural heritage, Islamic and Indian architecture, with Spanish and Italian furniture and fittings.

Tonight, we will celebrate our final night as a group by taking part in a popular Indonesian activity -- karaoke! Take turns singing your hearts out while we have our last dinner together and reminisce on our time in Sumatra.

DAY 14: DEPARTURE

"Goodbye" doesn't exist in Indonesian, so we'll say, "See you later!" as you prepare to depart. Enjoy your last Indonesian breakfast and head to the airport to begin your journey back. At the airport, GLA staff will help you check in for your flight and see you off on your trip home.



NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for 2024, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

TRAVELING TO SUMATRA

GLA HOME BASE | Home Base for your time in Sumatra is an ecolodge located in the small village of Bukit Lawang. The ecolodge is located on the banks of the Landak River just outside of Mount Leuser National Park. With trail entrances just opposite the lodge, you are only a few steps away from trekking into the rainforest to observe the local Orangutans. Students will share comfortable, gender-segregated rooms and bathrooms and will have sun terraces for enjoying your surroundings.

FOOD | Indonesian food consists of a lot of stews, noodle dishes and meat and rice. Students will have the opportunity to sample traditional Indonesian food, as well as more typical Western dishes on occasion.

CLIMATE | Indonesia has a tropical climate, so expect temperatures averaging 80°F (26°C) during the day and 72°F (22°C) in the evenings. We'll be in Sumatra for the dry season, so you can expect slightly lower humidity levels.

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times

 **USA TODAY**

 **NBC NEWS**

The Boston Globe

seventeen

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

No tolerance

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

Community-Led experiences

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

Mentorship

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Contact Us

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

Enroll Now

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.