

NATURE NOTES

Tabin Reserve in Borneo

By: Pat Clark-Gray

When I read in my Lonely Planet Borneo Tour Book the following paragraph: "The fact is, Borneo is one of the most important places on earth right now. It is a treasure trove of unbelievable biodiversity and almost all of this biodiversity hangs in the balance. The next two decades or so will determine the fate of hundreds of species unique to Borneo. What the world stands to gain in terms of a few pieces of nice furniture or a few million barrels of palm oil, it will lose in terms of unimaginable and irreplaceable living forms. One of the most important things we can do

protected area to live. We were fortunate to see the world's smallest elephant, the Borneo Pygmy Elephants.

We did two night tours of the reserve. On the night tours, we sat in the back of pickup trucks while our Guide used high powered spotlights shining them in the dark looking for the reflections of the nocturnal animal's eyes. We saw a leopard cat, white sea eagle, mouse deer, barking deer, and brown wood owl. On the second night, we got to see a red giant flying squirrel fly from the top of the tall



plantations.

But what we found out is that Sabahmas Plantations, which shares a 9-km boundary with the reserve, is a good example of a responsible oil palm producer. The company has been implementing conservation practices since the mid-1990s and is a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. They established a contiguous area of 530 hectares for conservation and thus forming a migratory corridor for wildlife. Their staff also helps in the fight against poaching and hunting.

Remember

the rhinos we did not get to see? Sabahmas has been working closely with SOS Rhino Borneo since its inception in 2003, assisting in the construction of its base camp along the Segama River and providing materials, vehicle maintenance and other assistance.

While we flew over large areas of Borneo we saw thousands of acres of Palm Plantations. I wish that all of the plantations are working to be more sustainable since Borneo is such an amazing place to see wildlife. I hope my future grandchildren, who will be part Malaysian, will have a chance to see the wildlife that Ken and I saw on our trip.



as travellers is to go to Borneo now and get out there on the front lines and see what this battle looks like up close - and to see what we all might lose."

When I read this I decided that we needed to go to Borneo. When I was looking for places to visit I read about the Tabin Wildlife Reserve because it was the largest conservation area in Borneo and decided to visit the reserve for three days. Two government bodies are responsible for habitat preservation and conservation. The Sabah Wildlife Department enforces the regulations protecting the wildlife while the Forestry Department ensures the protection

trees. It was one of my favorite moments of the trip.

Another amazing experience was to wait for the sun to go down and then sit in the dark in the middle of the rain forest and listen to the sounds of the forest. When we were sitting there I realized that we were extremely fortunate for this experience as this core area of almost 9,000 hectares is pristine rainforest.

The reason we were lucky is much of the Tabin's forest was selectively logged from the 1960s until the 1980s. Most of the Tabin is now secondary forest and the reserve is virtually surrounded by oil palm

of the forest habitat. The world's rarest and most endangered mammals, the Sumatran Rhinoceros lives in the reserve. We were not able to see the rhinos, but I am pleased they have a



COUPON

SPRING SPECIAL!



All storage units on sale!

Great sizes for students:

5 x 7 = \$54 month
5 x 15 = \$99 month

Clean, safe, gated facility with RV & Boat parking, too!

497 RESERVATION ROAD
MARINA, CA 93933
(831) 384-1111



COUPON

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District



Coming soon to your mailbox!

Return to the Great Outdoors and Explore your Wild Side!

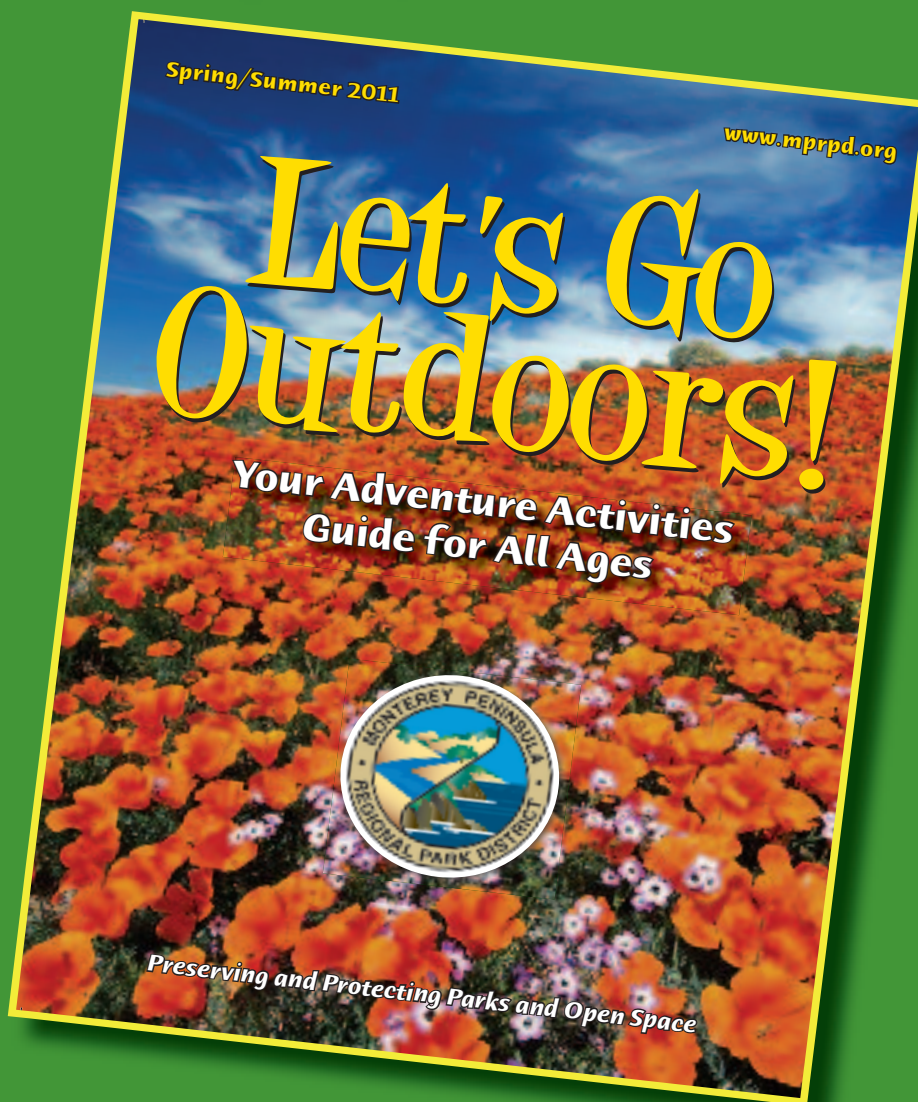


Photo: Doug Steakley

Choose from more than 50 outdoor activities OFFERED BY EXPERT INSTRUCTORS AND GUIDES

CLASSES, OUTINGS, WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR ALL AGES AND INTERESTS INCLUDING:

hiking • kayaking • geocaching • nature photography • art • birding horseback riding • summer camps • star gazing • and so much more

HERE'S SOME OF THE FEEDBACK WE'VE RECEIVED ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS:

"The instructors were great!"

"I just want to let you know how impressed I am with the range of activities and classes that the MPRPD provides."

"The Photoshop Workshop was outstanding and worth every penny."

Register online now!
It all starts in April!

www.mprpd.org

Or call 831-372-3196 x3

COMING SOON TO MARINA!



MONTEREY BAY URGENT CARE
MEDICAL CENTER, INC.

"The" Urgent Care Clinic for the Monterey Peninsula

372-CARE (2273)

245 Washington Street, Monterey

Soon to be in Monterey AND Marina



Join Us For the Fish Fry

Every Friday thru April 15th

4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Eat In or Carry Out

Call Ahead : (831) 578-2546

Epiphany Church • 425 Carmel Avenue