

# Giant *Nepenthes* Adventure

## *Malaysian Borneo and Philippines*

This 16 day expedition focuses on trekking up three key mountains to observe the largest and most spectacular species of carnivorous *Nepenthes* pitcher plants. *Nepenthes* produce highly evolved leaves that form cup-shaped traps to catch insects and other small animals. The very biggest *Nepenthes* are the largest of all carnivorous plants, and several are known to occasionally trap prey as big as rats. These are truly incredible plants.

In Malaysian Borneo, we will climb up **Mount Tambuyukon** to see *Nepenthes burbidgeae*, *N. edwardsiana*, *N. fusca*, *N. lowii*, *N. rajah*, *N. tentaculata*, *N. villosa* and *N. x kinabaluensis*. We then trek up **Mount Trus Madi**, and in the beautiful, mossy, orchid-festooned cloud forest of that mountain's summit, we will encounter *N. lowii*, *N. macrophylla*, *N. tentaculata* and *N. x trusmadiensis*.

Then, on the Philippine isle of Palawan, we will ascend **Mount Victoria** and pass impressive stands of *Nepenthes philippinensis* and the carnivorous sundew *Drosera ultramafica*, to reach populations of the recently discovered *Nepenthes attenboroughii*.

Although this adventure focuses on observing pitcher plants in the wild, the habitats of *Nepenthes* are filled with beautiful orchids, birdlife, mammals, orchids and some of the most spectacular scenery in Southeast Asia. Also, whilst travelling between Mount Tambuyukon and Mount Trus Madi, we have the chance to visit reserves of two species of the giant *Rafflesia* flowers, and we may see open blooms of these.

**COST:** US\$2,835 per person for 16 days / 15 nights (all-inclusive from start point to end point) (equivalent to approximately UK£2,100 or €2,500 at time of publication).

**START POINT:** Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysian Borneo.

**END POINT:** Palawan, Philippines.

**DATES:** For upcoming dates, please email us.

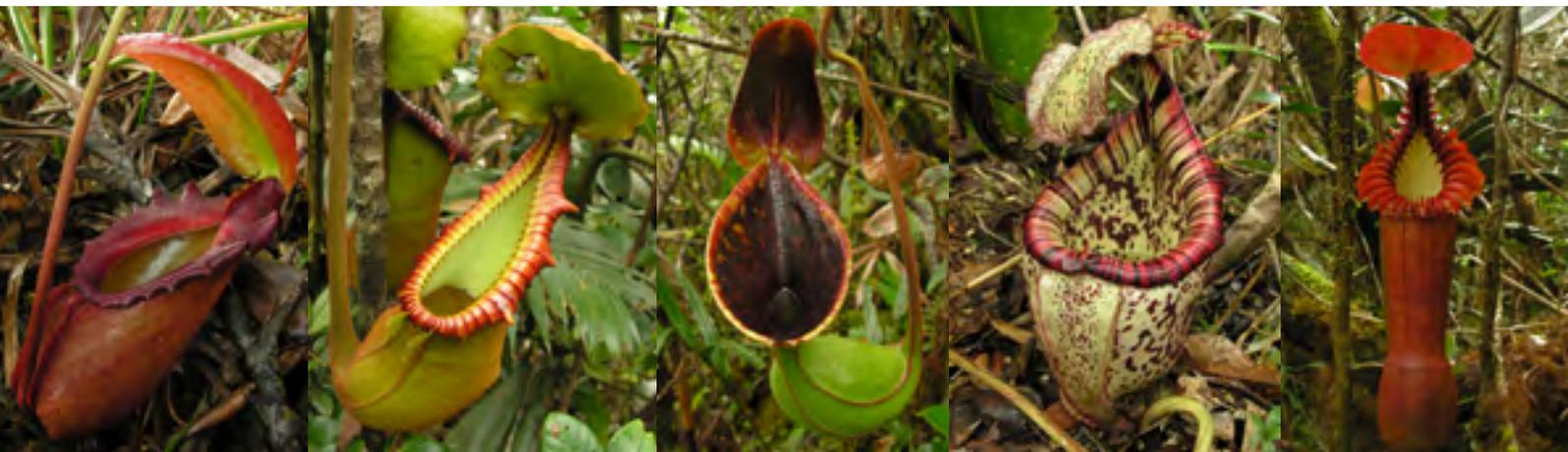
**GROUP SIZE:** 6–10

**BESPOKE TOUR:** If you do not wish to join a group tour, we can customise a private trip to suit your dates and interests. Please email us for details.

Email [sales@redfernadventures.com](mailto:sales@redfernadventures.com) for more information and to make bookings.

**Optional pre- or post-expedition extensions:** **Mount Kinabalu (3 days extra)**, Borneo's greatest mountain, to see *N. tentaculata*, *N. villosa* (Kinabalu form), *N. x kinabaluensis*, and/or **Mt. Murud (5 days extra)** to see *N. hurrelliana*, *N. murudensis*, *N. reinwardtiana* and *N. vogelii*. Plus many other *Nepenthes* mountains. To get a quote for any extensions, simply mention which extension(s) you are interested in when you apply to Join this Adventure!

**Getting there:** We recommend flying to Singapore or Kuala Lumpur, then catching a local airline (such as Air Asia or Malaysia Airlines) to Kota Kinabalu at the start of the expedition, and a similar low cost flight (such as Air Asia or Cebu Pacific) back from Palawan. Singapore and Kuala Lumpur are both hub airport cities, and are accessible via airlines from major airports across the world.



MAP USED WITH PERMISSION AND PROVIDED BY

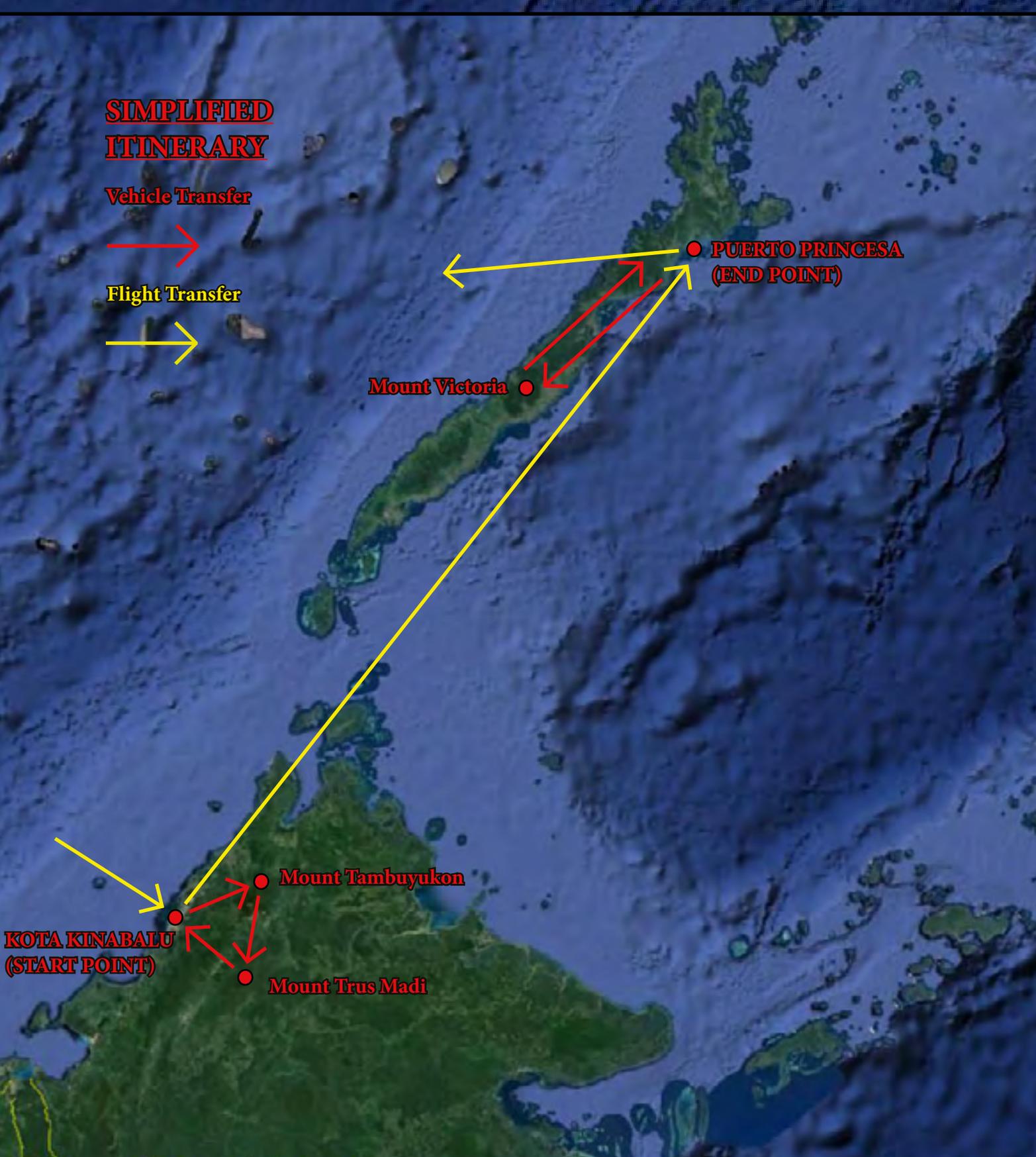
# Google Earth

## **SIMPLIFIED ITINERARY**

Vehicle Transfer



Flight Transfer



## ITINERARY

**Day 1:** Depart at 8am to transfer to Mamut Copper Mine, on the flanks of Mount Kinabalu, to see to see *Nepenthes stenophylla*, *N. macrovulgaris*, *N. reinwardtiana*, *N. burbidgeae* and *N. fusca* in a natural setting. We overnight in purpose built, on-site mountain huts where we prepare for the Mt. Tambuyukon climb. Overnight in a local hotel, dinner in a local restaurant.

**Day 2:** 4WD transport to Kampung Monggis, Kinabalu Park, ascend Mount Tambuyukon to Wuluh Camp (10.5 km). A long day of trekking in dense forest across steep terrain. Overnight in tents. Dinner is camp cooking.

**Day 3:** From Wuluh to Musang Camp. Early arrivals can put up their tents and may choose to visit the lower summit area if energy levels allow (*N. burbidgeae* occurs within 20 minutes of the camp, *N. edwardsiana* approximately 1 hour) while dinner is prepared. We may also see *N. fusca* and *N. reinwardtiana* today. Overnight in tents. Dinner is camp cooking.

**Day 4:** Pre-dawn departure under torchlight to explore summit of Mount Tambuyukon and main populations of *N. edwardsiana*, *N. lowii*, *N. rajah*, *N. villosa* (Tambuyukon form) and *N. x kinabaluensis*. Descend to Musang Camp in time for dinner. A long and strenuous day of hiking, but nowhere can so many spectacular carnivorous plant species be found in such close proximity. Overnight in tents. Dinner is camp cooking.

**Day 5:** Descend to the base of Mount Tambuyukon to Kampung Monggis, arriving in the afternoon. We transfer to Poring for dinner. Overnight at a Poring inn.

**Day 6:** If the giant flower *Rafflesia keithii* is in bloom and the group wishes to, we will visit a reserve. *Nepenthes mirabilis* and *N. gracilis* may be encountered in some roadside areas nearby. We then transfer to Gunung Alab in the Crocker Range where we can stretch our legs whilst exploring the local trails in search of *Nepenthes chaniana*, *N. fusca* and *N. tentaculata*, not to mention many orchids including *Corybas*, the helmet orchid.

**Day 7:** We transfer to Tambunan to begin an ascent of Mount Trus Madi. A relatively easy ascent along a boardwalk sees us pass *Nepenthes fusca* and *N. tentaculata* en route. Overnight in mountain bungalow where tree shrews frequently investigate our lodging for scraps. Dinner is camp cooking.

**Day 8:** Pre-dawn start to reach summit of Mount Trus Madi and explore populations of *N. tentaculata*, *N. macrophylla*, *N. lowii* and *N. x trusmadiensis*. By early afternoon, we turn around and begin our descent to the mountain bungalow. Dinner is camp cooking.

**Day 9:** We descend Mount Trus Madi and return to Tambunan. From there we return to Kota Kinabalu via a local butterfly and orchid garden. If any plants are in flower, we visit Tambunan *Rafflesia* centre. There, we hope to catch a glimpse of a different and arguably more beautiful *Rafflesia*, *R. pricei*, which has white blotched perigone lobes. Overnight in a local hotel, dinner in a local restaurant.

**Day 10:** A lunch time flight sees us transfer to Manila in the Philippines. In the afternoon, we catch a connecting flight to Palawan, a biologically rich island to the north of Borneo. Overnight in a local hotel, dinner in a local restaurant.

**Day 11:** Rest day in Puerto Princesa. There is an opportunity for laundry and, in the meantime, you can explore the city, go on a local snorkelling excursion or undertake a tour to Palawan's underground river (at extra cost). Preparation for Mt. Victoria climb. Overnight in a local hotel, dinner in a local restaurant.

**Day 12:** Early departure for Narra to meet guides and porters, organise equipment and start the ascent of Mount Victoria. We follow rivers and see large stands of *N. philippinensis*. We sleep in tents at the aptly named 'Nepenthes Camp' and dine on camp cooking.

**Day 13:** Attain pre-summit camp of Mount Victoria. Quite a long day of trekking, but we reach beautiful montane forest rich with ferns and orchids. Overnight in tents. Dinner is camp cooking.

**Day 14:** Early start to explore summit of Mount Victoria and populations of *N. attenboroughii* and *Drosera ultramafica* - both of which have only ever been seen by a handful of expeditions. Enjoy spectacular views from the summit, weather permitting, to the lowlands and across the summit of the little explored



## ITINERARY CONTINUED...

Victoria Massif. By noon, we quit the summit in order to descend back to 'Nepenthes Camp'. Overnight in tents. Dinner is camp cooking.

**Day 15:** Descend to the Mount Victoria jump-off point and, following a well deserved lunch, return to Puerto Princesa for late afternoon. Overnight in hotel and dinner in restaurant.

**Day 16:** After breakfast, we depart for flights back to Kuala Lumpur, arriving in the late afternoon for onward evening departures.



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or email [sales@redfernadventures.com](mailto:sales@redfernadventures.com) to register your interest.



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