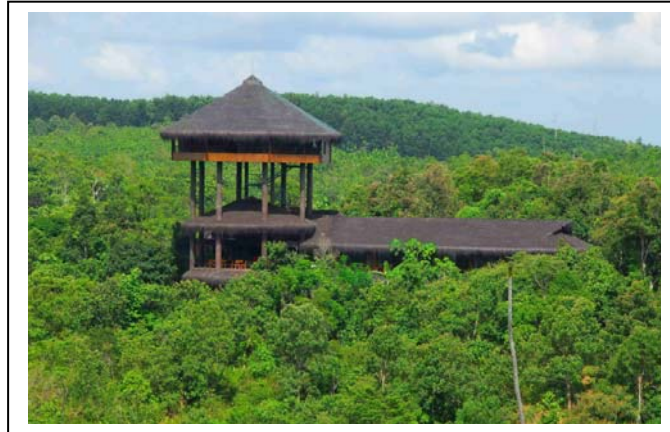


An Introduction to Samboja Lodge

The newest venture in the Samboja Lestari area is the building of **Samboja Lodge**. The lodge reflects local architecture, sits within the Samboja Lestari area and can accommodate over 50 guests. The lodge is located on a hillside surrounded by regenerating secondary forest. Not only will visitors be able to come share in the natural beauty of the area, but they will also be able to work along side our own people, learning, sharing and helping to transform a once degraded area into lush green forest.



The Lodge has 22 simple but attractive standard rooms each with its own balcony or patio. There are also 2 queen suites and 2 master suites available. The master suites are housed in a 25 meters high tree house, with spectacular views overlooking the entire orangutan and bear valley area below. All rooms have air conditioning and beds are equipped with their own mosquito netting.



The lodge has various quiet corners where people can sit in the garden, read on the maisonette, or make use of the Internet computers. On the lower floor is recreation area where people can play billiards, play cards, or just relax. High up in the tree house is an open deck ideal for viewing and taking afternoon tea. If people want to swim they can go to the small lake past the jungle trail. Finally as evening approaches nocturnal wild animals can be observed at a salt lick located next to the lodge.

We hope you will enjoy your stay at Samboja Lodge and respect our guidelines on keeping the place environmentally friendly. We already have a helophyte filter; we will use hydraulic rams to pump up water without using electricity; we recycle; and we produce compost. So please help us with recycling, saving water and electricity.

Our Visitors

Samboja Lodge accommodates various types of visitors:

Regular Visitors: will be able to stay at the Lodge, enjoy the surroundings and be guided within the Samboja Lestari area to learn first hand about the project. Guests receive an orientation on arrival giving them an overview of the Samboja Lestari Project.

On the second day they will participate in a half day guided walking tour visiting the "orangutan islands", sun bear sanctuary, composting facility, Bos offices and reforestation project. Regular visitors will be offered half day activities for each night they stay at the lodge. For those whom stay longer day trips are available to various interesting local places.



Helping hands Visitors: will be able to stay at the Lodge and will follow a program which will allow them to work along side our workers to experience first hand the hard work it takes to run such a large scale conservation project. Program activities are described below. You can work at your own pace and also enjoy being guided to local sights when you need a day away from the activities (at additional cost). Helping hands visitors usually stay about 3-7 nights at the lodge, but of course how long you stay is up to you!

Long Term Volunteers: will be able to stay at Samboja lodge in shared accommodation at a reduced price and really get a more hands on experience. They will work along side our animal technicians in what can be heavy but very rewarding work. These visitors must stay at least one month, undergo a 2 week quarantine period as well as provide a health certificate indicating that they are free of Hepatitis B and TB. This is needed because though contact with the animals is discouraged, minimal contact might occur in the course of the day's work.

Day Visitors: due to increasing interest in the Samboja project from people living/ staying in the local area of Balikpapan and Samarinda we are now offering a program for day visitors. Guests receive a welcome drink upon arrival at the lodge and an orientation from one of our staff giving them an overview of Samboja Lestari Project. Day visitors will then participate in a 2-3 hour guided walking tour of Samboja Lestari visiting the "orangutan islands", sun bear sanctuary, composting facility and reforestation project. A typical Indonesian lunch will be provided at the lodge. The actual order of the day program will depend upon arrival time at the lodge.

High School Groups: we are currently developing a hands on program for high school students, please contact lodge for latest details and prices. It's envisaged this will be a 3-5 day program, including similar activities to our "helping hands" program.

The activities and opportunities for our Program Visitors are ever changing and ever growing, but a list of current possibilities appears in the next section.

Examples of Activities for “Helping hands” and “volunteer” program
Note: actual program may vary

First Day:

The first day, will be a gentle start. Team leaders in each activity program (work opportunity-see below) will treat visitors to brief presentations, and then everyone will go for a walking tour of Samboja Lestari to acquaint themselves with the many facets of the Samboja Lestari project. This may include a visit to one of our Forest School (Sekolah Hutan) sites; though the orangutans will have already been brought out to the forest (as we want to keep even visual contact to many people to a minimum) we feel it is important for our visitors to understand a bit more about what we do here in helping the orangutan to one day be free. Our staff will supervise the visit and visitors are requested to follow their instructions. We will visit the various sites where the planned activities will occur so our guests will be familiar with the locations of activities and planning before the next day start.

2. Sun Bear Sanctuary

Activities at the sun bear compound will begin at 8am and end at 4pm. The bear compound is a short 15min walk from the Lodge. Visitors will return to the lodge for lunch.

Work can include:

Going via pick-up to collect enrichment materials

Cutting and preparing foods to be distributed to the bears

Bear behavioral observations (data sheet and clipboard will be provided)

Clean surrounding areas (including regularly cutting overhanging branches)

Check the electric fence and the condition of the feeding cages

Maintenance work to the facilities

You must exercise extreme caution when around the bears, and remember... **no Contact!**



3. Orangutan Islands

Activities at the Orangutan Islands will begin at 8am and continue until 4pm with a return to the Lodge for lunch. The islands are easily reached on foot from the Lodge. Visitors will help the technicians with the following:

Cut and prepare orangutan foods

Take behavioral observations (clipboard and data sheet will be provided)

Clean surrounding island area (rakes provided)

Remember please, there is **no contact** allowed with the orangutans.

4. Tree Planting and Maintenance

A pick-up will transport visitors to one of our many and very important planting areas at 8am until 4pm. Lunch will be delivered to visitors, or back at the lodge. The work can be tough in this hot climate, but very rewarding! Some activities are seasonal (dry or rainy season).

Prepare ground for planting and fertilizing (rainy season only)

Pruning trees (tools provided)

Laying down mulch

Manual clearing of area (machetes will be provided – work gloves as well)

5. Organic Farming

Our 'for consumption' organic garden patch is a short walk from the Lodge. Activities will begin at 8am and continue until 4pm. Lunch will be delivered to the visitors so they can enjoy eating together with the workers.

Activities include:

Preparing the ground for planting and actual planting

Fertilization

Watering

Harvesting

Weeding

Fencing (to prevent wild pigs from destroying the crops)

Observation of growth

(All tools and work gloves will be provided)

6. Plant Nursery

Visitors will be transported to the nursery (where our tree life begins) located on the outside road of Samboja Lestari from 8am until 4pm. Lunch will be delivered to the nursery.

Activities in the nursery include:

Prepare medium for seedlings

Weeding

Grading seedlings and planting prep

Watering

Prepare seedlings for transport

(All gloves and tools will be provided)



7. Composting

Visitors will walk to our compost area at 8am and returned at 4pm. Lunch will be delivered. Compost is a very important component to our forest regeneration program as the soil here is very sandy and lacks many of the nutrients necessary for growth.

Activities include:

Preparation and separation of compost materials

Chopping and mixing

Drying materials

Making fertilizer

(Work gloves, masks and materials will be provided)

8. Forest Research And Development

Developing a forest from 'scratch' may look impressive upon viewing, but we need hard data to back up our claims on the benefits of forested areas. Visitors can help us in our research to document the positive changes to this once depleted area. Visitors will be picked up at 8am and returned at 4pm. Lunch will be delivered to the site. Activities in Research and Forest Development include:

Measuring tree growth

Water volume and velocity of water flow (Hydrology)

Checking temperature, precipitation and humidity (Meteorology)

(All necessary equipment will be provided)

9. Island Building

The Orangutan Islands periodically need shoring up due to natural erosion. Visitors can really get into the spirit of hard work in muddy conditions helping us with this important task. Large stones need to be placed and anchored along the island shore. Resident orangutans are moved during this process as the lake is temporarily drained.

10. Forest School Sleeping Cages

The sleeping cages for the orangutans in our Forest School program are built of wood and wire. We are trying to come up with a modular design for easy construction and our building team could use some help! The more forest schools we build, the more time orangutans can spend out of cages!!!

11. Lake maintenance

There are several areas in Samboja Lestari where we have planned man-made lakes/reservoirs. These areas need to be dug out and all floras moved elsewhere (as the plants remain useful for other locations). Another tough muddy job, but well worth it for fresh water supplies. Lake building is part of a multi-reservoir project whereby Samboja Lestari will be supplying several local towns with their clean water supply.

12. Various Extras

There are so many things happening all the time in Samboja Lestari that it is hard to give a total list. Sometimes taking care of a wounded bird that is brought in, sometimes rushing out to fight a fire, helping pull a car out of the mud, releasing a mouse deer or civet cat, or helping us build a new additional facility... there is just too much going on (and most of it unpredictable) to mention everything here. Basically we want you to be part of what we are doing and have fun learning more about the complexity and effort needed in running a large scale nature conservation project.

Evenings

Each evening after dinner we will all gather at the Lodge to discuss the day and answer any questions visitors may have about the activities, the project, the orangutans, the bears, the forest, etc. On several evenings, resident experts will give informational lectures on various topics. Slide shows on local wildlife and terrain will also be shown. On the evening of the final day, we will have a closing dinner with the team leaders and technicians to review the collected data and to have a final sharing on the events of the visit. This is also a good time to give us any feedback on our program!



Days Off

Just in case you think we will work you too hard, even *we* sometimes rest. If you are following our **Helping Hands** or **Volunteer program**, Saturday afternoons and Sundays are our normal days off (except for essential personnel, after all the animals do like to eat and play every day). During these times you can either rest at the Lodge, visit Balikpapan or Samarinda, or some of the local sites. Though the main purpose of your visit is to help us with your presence and financial contribution for the orangutans, we do not want you to feel we are using you as forced labor - when you need a break just tell us and we can arrange something else for you (described in the coming paragraphs). Please note that these other activities will take up valuable staff time and sometimes extra cars need to be hired, so these activities will have to be charged separately.

Other Activities outside of Samboja (additional cost)

You will be living amongst animal and tree sanctuaries in the middle of our large 2000 hectare property where already so much wildlife has returned and where there is such a variety of plants and sights that you might want to spend all your time inside the Samboja Lestari area. However, there are also many interesting sights outside the area:

"Sungai Wain" protected area full day tour

Less than one hours drive from Samboja lodge lies the protected forest area of Sungai Wain. This was the first release site of Bos where 75 rehabilitated orangutans were released over 10 years ago. Several female orangutans with babies have been observed on previous visits.

"Sungai Hitam" (Black River) half day tour

Sungai Hitam is best visited in the early mornings and late afternoon. Following a 20 minute drive from the lodge you take a boat ride along the "Sungai Hitam" to see proboscis monkeys.

"Bukit Bangkirai" canopy high walk half day tour

45 minutes from Samboja is the forest park of Bukit Bangkirai. Visitors can take short forest walks and climbing into the forest canopy using connecting bridges to a height of 40 meters. Platforms provide a perfect vantage point for observing macaques, leaf monkeys, maroon langurs, gibbons and hornbills.

"Meratus" 3 days 2 night tour

A five hour drive from Samboja takes you to the Meratus camp, a Bos reintroduction/release camp. The unique forest camp is enclosed by meshed netting to prevent released orangutans from interacting with humans. Visitors can trek into the forest and observe reintroduced orangutans.

Note: We can not guarantee visits to Meratus before visitors arrive at Samboja lodge, as we must consult with the camp team first. Visits to Meratus are dependent upon forest conditions.

Other

There are also many colonial remains, including old oil pumps and towers, just outside our area. Natural oil springs, burning coal seams, a natural beach, mangrove forests, small lakes and a sugar palm forest where you can see traditional palm tapping and enjoy some fresh palm wine are all nearby! Also worthwhile are a city trip to Balikpapan (with its many modern shops and antique markets) and the interesting sights near the mighty Mahakam River. For more detailed information and prices on these local trips please see the bulletin board at the lodge or ask lodge staff.

The Samboja Lestari Team can also help you in arranging a visit to a lodge on the turtle islands of East-Kalimantan, or making a trip into the interior to see nature and/ or Dayak culture. We have reliable local travel agencies that can also assist you.

We also are affiliated with the network of animal rescue centers and the Indonesian Wildlife Travel Cooperative. We can help you (given enough notice and depending upon availability) arrange for a visit to up to 20 other nature conservation projects, each with their own special environment (varying from the very simple to the very luxurious). Some of these centers are on islands, at beaches, or higher in the cool mountains. For more information on these projects see our notice board at the Lodge.

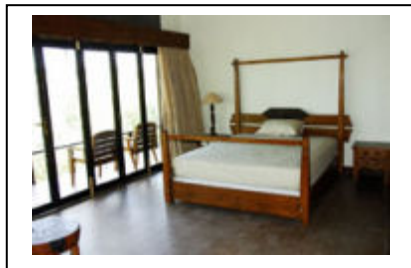
Samboja Lestari Visitor Guidelines

We apologize if the visitor guidelines seem lengthy and detailed, but we want to ensure that both visitors and residents (human and animal) have a positive experience at Samboja, as we are all trying for **life in harmony** with nature and each other.

Many of the guidelines are for your own safety.

Around the Lodge:

- Please do not wonder off on your own away from the lodge. We are developing a nature trail near the lodge where you can walk unguided but please stay on the trail and let us know where you are going. Remember it gets dark very quickly in tropical latitudes so it's wise to take a flashlight with you if walking in the late afternoon.
- Please advise the Hotel manger of any special medical conditions or dietary needs you may have. Such as diabetes, allergy to bee stings, nuts etc. So we can act accordingly if there is a medical emergency.
- Be considerate of others when smoking and try to refrain from smoking around non-smokers especially when they are eating. Smoking is only allowed in the immediate area of the Lodge and only where there is an ashtray present due to high fire threat.
- Please do not smoke in the rooms (balcony o.k.).
- As the lodge is located near to the Orangutan Islands and the Health Clinic, noise should be kept to a minimum, especially after sundown when the orangutans go to sleep for the night. If they are kept awake at night, they will be under considerable stress, which could trigger illness.
- Before retiring for bed, please close your doors to prevent any wild animals (and mosquito's) from coming into your rooms!
- Remember, we are a conservation project, conserve electricity and water whenever you can. Re use towels whenever possible. Place your used towels in the covered wicker basket in the bathroom and they will be replaced with clean ones.
- Please recycle bottles and cans in the bins provided at the Lodge.
- Please respect the local Indonesian culture. Guests need to be conservative in the way they dress particularly women, please cover up as much as possible (including shoulders, and stomach). I.e. do not wear revealing clothing. Even when swimming it is recommended women wrap themselves in a sarong. The wearing of bras is absolutely essential in public and around the office and working areas of Samboja Lestari. Most Indonesian women also do not smoke or drink at least publicly.
- Similarly excessive drinking of alcohol (drunkenness) can cause offense to others.
- When entering a private home in Indonesia, your Samboja Lodge room or the BOS Office, it is customary to **remove your shoes** before entering.



Around Samboja Lestari Areas:

- BOS adheres to a strict **NO CONTACT POLICY** regarding orangutans and sun bears. This is not negotiable!!! Please keep away from areas that are marked off limits.
- Please do not feed any of the wildlife, as it would interfere with their natural state. Macaques can also become very aggressive around people and food.
- Please do not wonder off when you are on a walking tour, stay with your guide and follow his/ her instructions for your own safety.
- Please wear appropriate clothing for working in the field, long sleeved shirts and long work trousers are best in keeping you safe from the sun, mosquitoes and thorny plants or leaves with sharp edges. Wear good strong work boots or rubber boots. If

wearing shorts, please make sure they are not too short and are best at the knee or below.

- **For your own safety** please do not wear headphones when working/ walking around the project. If there is a snake or an animal gets loose and someone calls you, you will not be aware of the danger.

Around The Village:

- When visiting small villages in the Samboja area remember that their has not been much exposure to westerners. Please show respect for the locals and their culture, since without their support, Samboja Lestari could not exist.
- We realize that when working in the field, we can all get fairly sweaty and dirty, but please remember to clean up before dinner or going into the village or to Balikpapan, as not only are you representing your country, but also our Project to the outside communities. Indonesians generally "dress up" in public places.
- Photography, within Samboja Lestari you are free to take photographs but please remember if you would like to take the photograph of a local person particularly villagers (but also Samboja staff) please ask for there permission first.
- Begging, we hope that you do not experience this during your visit to Indonesia. However if children do ask you for gula -gula (sweets) or money its better to give them a postcard from your home country or a pen or pencil. We do not want to encourage begging.
- **Stray Animals** - Never, under any circumstances, bring stray puppies/kittens into the project. The chance of them bringing in potentially fatal diseases is high, and puts all the animals (and people) at Samboja Lestari at great risk. Stray animals should never be given food in or near to the project's grounds.

Other Safety Tips

- Always use your common sense when working around local animals. Remember that no matter how tame some of them may appear they can be prone to unpredictable behaviour.
- Don't feel you have to do anything you feel incapable of doing.
- As you will be working in a hot and often-unfamiliar climate, please take sensible precautions; drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration and wear sunscreen and a sun hat when working in the direct sun. Also wear insect repellent to avoid mosquito bites.
- If you become sick we have an extensive first aid kit at the lodge. Minor cuts and scrapes should be well looked after as in tropical climates wounds heal very slowly and can be becomes easily infected. There is a doctor available in Samboja village for any minor ailments. We can also take you to a good hospital in Balikpapan. In very serious circumstances we can call a helicopter from Balikpapan to land at our official helipad. It is recommended that you have your own private travel/ health insurance in the event of such a medical emergency.
- If you see a snake, don't panic, and call one of the staff. There are very few dangerous species in the area, e.g. cobras, but it still cannot harm to keep an eye out when walking around, and stay on main paths and away from the forest and long grass unless you are escorted by staff. Also keep an eye out for scorpions and its better not to walk alone.
- **Fire Preparedness.** Please be aware during the dry season there could well be fire threats in our area. In the unlikely event a fire threatens part of Samboja Lestari, the technicians or hotel staff will advise you what to do.

Useful Information about East Kalimantan and Staying at Samboja Lodge

Getting Around

Air - There are regular flights between Singapore and Jakarta to Balikpapan as well as flights from other Indonesian cities like Banjarmasin, Pontianak and Denpasar (Bali) so it is comparatively easy and quick to move from one city to another. If you are coming directly to Samboja from Europe or beyond we recommend silk air's daily direct flight from Singapore to Balikpapan.

Taxis - Taxis are available from the airport and from the city of Balikpapan. We can also pick you up at the airport which is 40 minutes drive from Samboja lodge (additional cost).

Angkots - local mini-vans are available and used to transport local people for a small fee in and around the areas of Balikpapan and neighbouring villages.

Rental cars - The lodge can help you arrange special transport for short or longer trips to either Balikpapan or Samarinda, or just to do some sight seeing around our area.

Handicrafts - There are many traditional markets in Balikpapan and Samarinda (including Dayak handicrafts), as well as handicrafts made by local people in and around Samboja Lestari, which can be purchased at the Lodge.

Useful Facts

Visas - All visitors to Indonesia must be in possession of a valid passport (+6 months valid) and have proof of onward passage (return ticket). A visa is required and for tourists visiting Indonesia from many countries, the visa can be obtained at your point of entry airport (check Indonesia Embassy website for a complete list). Airport visas can be up to 1 month and are non extendable. If you are staying long term (visitor/volunteer), please consult your embassy for help in acquiring the proper visa before entering Indonesia.

International Health Certificates of valid smallpox, cholera and yellow fever vaccinations are required only from travellers coming from infected areas. It is however recommended to contact the local health authorities in your country for further information on vaccinations before entering certain areas in Indonesia. Malaria is common in the area, so medication is recommended and malaria prophylaxis is necessary. Your local health clinic often will advise malaria prophylaxis for the whole of continental Indonesia, so also for this project. We are sharing the space within Samboja Lestari with many animals and orangutans and humans are susceptible to the same diseases; however, as there will be no contact between visitors and animals in our care, we need no special medical information or clearance from our short term visitors. If you are participating in our longer term visitor/volunteer program, we will need Hep B and TBC clearance.

Know Your Limits

Some of the work can be strenuous and for several of the activities you may be working in the hot sun... know your own limits!! If an activity proves too difficult, please let us know so we can offer you a gentler one. We are not forcing anyone to work, but hope you will try to do some of the hands on work and learn what it takes to execute a huge conservation project like BOS.

Money - The Indonesian unit of currency is the Rupiah (IRP). Banks generally accept notes and traveller's cheques in major world currencies, but the process can be very time consuming. Everywhere in the cities you will find ATMs that accept almost any kind of debit and credit card. Leading international credit cards are accepted by most of the major hotels, airline offices and certain stores. All prices at the lodge are in USD. We will be able to change foreign currency into Rupiah in small amounts only and at the local rate.

Postal services - The airmail service between Balikpapan and overseas countries is fast and efficient. The charge depends on letter weight. There are also fax, telephone and Internet facilities in Balikpapan. The Samboja Lodge has a computer with Internet access available for guests and you can ask the reception to have your letters posted in Balikpapan.

Language - The national language is Bahasa Indonesia. English is understood in larger cities but not in smaller areas. Most of the key staff of the Samboja Lodge speaks good English.

Climate – Though the climate is mostly warm, it can get cool in the evenings. The dry season is approximately from mid-April to September (this is very variable) but we can still get rain. The wet season is wetter, but there are still clear, sunny skies with daily sudden, tropical showers. Bringing a rain jacket would be a good idea during the wet season! Due to the high humidity, it may also help to have waterproof bags with silica gel to protect your electronic equipment (cameras, computers, etc.).

Clothes - Informal summer attire – long sleeve shirts and long trousers might be best to help keep the mosquitoes under control and protect sensitive skin from the sun. It is useful to have a set of nicer clothes for visits to the City. Mosquito tip: tiger balm works well to alleviate itching from insect bites. Sun block and bug repellent are also useful additions to your travel kit along with sturdy but comfortable shoes.

Time - There are three time zones in Indonesia. West and Central Kalimantan observes Western Standard Time (GMT+7 hours), East and South Kalimantan observe Central Standard Time (GMT + 8 hours).

Electricity - In Indonesia, voltage is 220 Volt (AC), 50 Hertz. A special adaptor plug usually is necessary.

Operating Hours - Opening hours of Banks is 8am – 4pm (Mon-Fri) and most shops 9am – 9pm (Mon-Sun). Please note that in small villages, some shop opening and closing times may be quite erratic and unreliable, usually because the shop can also be the owner's home!



The BOS Foundation Address:
Jl. Balikpapan-Handil RT.01 Km.44 Margomulyo
Samboja 75273 East Kalimantan - Indonesia

Telephone of the Samboja Lodge is: +62 542 7111484 (for more information)

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