

Some fast facts about Gunung Mulu National Park

- It covers an area of 85,671 hectares.
- Height above sea level changes from 27m on the floodplains to 2,377m at Mulu Summit.
- The topography varies from the nearly flat but deeply cut floodplains to the steep mountain slopes and vertical cliffs of the limestone gorges.
- The annual average rainfall is 4,500mm. There is no real dry season, but rainfall is highest in April-May and October-November; lowest in July-September.
- Average temperatures in the lowlands range from 23-26°C and at the summit of Gunung Mulu between 14-18°C.

The biodiversity of the Park includes an estimated:

- 2,000 species of flowering plants
- 450 species of ferns
- 1,700 species of mosses and liverworts
- 4,000 species of fungi
- 122 mammal species
- 305 bird species
- 200 reptile and amphibian species
- 48 fish species
- more than 20,000 species of insects and other invertebrates

This is not a list of what is here - This is a dynamic list with continuous research adding to the list.

'Biodiversity' vs 'species abundance'

Many visitors to tropical rainforests expect to see huge numbers of birds, mammals and reptiles scurrying about on the forest floor and swinging through the trees – but that's just not the way tropical rainforests are!

Tropical rainforest have high biodiversity (different types of life) but in regards to animals, with a few exceptions, they have low species abundance (the size of the population of the various species which make up the biodiversity).

The animals are all here but they are generally very shy of us predatory humans and unfortunately most of us are not very clever when it comes to wildlife spotting in the rainforest.

We smoke, we wear insect repellent, antiperspirants and perfumes and we make noise! The animals know we are coming long before we are close enough to see them and those that don't run or fly away, simply hide until we have passed them by.

They're here, but they are just too smart for us to see them.

World Heritage is an international agreement which provides the highest possible protection for those places considered to be important to all the people of the world in this and all future generations.

Such importance may be for cultural or for natural values and for an area, to be placed on the list of natural World Heritage Areas it must meet at least one of four criteria.

- It provides an outstanding example of the major stages of the Earth's history,
- It is an outstanding example representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes.
- It provides the most important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.
- It contains superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Mulu meets all four of these!

The caves of Mulu are important for their classic features of underground geomorphology, notably the sediments and the layered sequences of wall notches that demonstrate an evolutionary history of more than 1.5 million years. The giant doline of the "Garden of Eden" offers one of the world's finest examples of the collapse process in karstic terrain.

They also provide outstanding opportunities to study the origins of cave faunas. The large-scale transfer of food energy from forest to caves by bats and swiftlets is an exceptional ecological process. Much of Mulu's invertebrate cave fauna belong to ancient groups which have largely disappeared from the modern land surface and are now represented by a few widely scattered species.

With its deeply-incised canyons, wild rivers, rainforest-covered mountains, spectacular limestone pinnacles, cave passages and decorations, Mulu has outstanding scenic values and the phenomenon of millions of bats and swiftlets leaving and entering the caves is truly a superlative wildlife spectacle.

Mulu also provides significant natural habitat for a wide range of plant and animal diversity both above and below ground. Its lowland and montane forests are botanically-rich in species and high in endemism and Mulu is one of the richest sites in the world for palm species. The park also hosts one of the highest number of bat species (54) and populations in the region as well as exceptionally diverse cave living species.

Enjoy your walk and play your part in protecting this wonderful piece of our World Heritage.

What is World Heritage?



Mulu is one of two natural World Heritage Areas in Malaysia.



The Walks in and around Mulu National Park

