

Citizen Action for Tigers (CAT) Walk Plus

Frequent Ask Question (FAQ) (ver.2022-09-08)



1. CAT Walk in brief

The CAT Walk offers an opportunity for the public to be involved in the protection of tigers (including other wildlife) and their habitat at the Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor in Merapoh, Pahang. The Corridor, which is the last remaining natural connection between the Titiwangsa Main Range and the Taman Negara in Peninsular Malaysia, is an area known for poaching, forest encroachment, and illegal mining to take place. CAT Walk volunteers report the finding of such crimes to the MYCAT Wildlife Crime Hotline (019-356 4194) who relays the information to authorities for enforcement action.

2. What to expect on a CAT Walk?

While trekking and enjoying the great outdoors, CAT Walk volunteers will look for signs of poaching (i.e. snares, traps) and encroachment (i.e. campsite, illegal logging, and mining) as well as animal signs (pugmarks, claw marks on trees, etc.). Some routes are also good for bird watching. Do expect to get: mosquito/insect/leech bites; wet in rain/river/sweat; or sunburnt (a hat and/or sunblock would come in handy).

Trek conditions: A CAT Walk route might be one or a combination of these situations: wet/muddy path, flat or hilly trail, gradual or steep climb/descent, walking along/across railway tracks, walking on animal trails, walking along/across rivers with waist-deep water. The trails are not on platform boardwalks.

Please take note that smoking or vaping is not recommended in the forest area.

3. Terms and Conditions

1. Volunteers must be above 18 years of age, in good health and physical condition, and confident that they can complete a day walk of about 6km with little assistance. Prior experience in hiking and trekking in the Malaysian rainforest is an advantage. MYCAT staff will be present throughout the programme period.
2. To confirm the spot in the programme, volunteers must register and pay the participation fees in full 30-days before Day 1 of the CAT Walk trip. To register and pay for 2022 CAT Walk Plus, click www.shorturl.at/dlHJT. Full-time students and repeat MYCAT volunteers enjoy a 25% discount off the full participation fee. The group fee is Rm6,000 for a weekend trip limited to 8 participants per trip based on a first-come-first-served basis, with a minimum of 6.
 - a. The fees include: forest entry permits, guide fees and accommodation as indicated in the itinerary (Appendix 1). The fees exclude all transportation, meals, travel insurance, cost of visas, vaccinations, medication, gratuities, personal items, and phone calls.



3. The following Cancellation and Refund Policy is observed:
 - a. MYCAT reserve the right to cancel this programme and MYCAT will provide notice of cancellation 5-days prior to the programme date. **UNDER THIS circumstance only**; MYCAT will fully refund the participation fees paid. MYCAT will not cover expenses incurred by the participant, such as transportation costs, insurance, etc., and we do not accept liability for any loss or damage arising out of any cancellation.
 - b. It is necessary for you to abide by the authority of the programme leader, who represents MYCAT. The decision of the programme leader as to the conduct, itinerary and objectives of the programme is final. If in the opinion of the programme leader, your behaviour or physical condition is detrimental to the safety, welfare, and well-being of the group as a whole (which is the paramount consideration), then you may be asked to leave the programme, without the right to any refund.
 - c. For cancellation by participants:
 1. All requests for cancellations and deferral must be sent through email to cat@malayantiger.net.
 2. Cancellation charges follow the schedule below, and applies without exception:

Cancellation notice deadline	Refund applicable
Before the payment deadline	Refund minus an administration fee
After payment deadline/failure to attend	No refund except for personal or family medical emergencies (medical certificate must be provided) or any other discernible reasons minus the administration fee. All other reasons will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Note: The payment deadline is 14-days before the Day-1 of the CAT Walk trip.

- d. A trip may be cancelled due to force majeure or caused by or results from causes beyond the reasonable control of the affected party (participants and MYCAT) or that of our service provider (e.g. accommodation owner) . Examples of force majeure include, but are not limited to war, threat of war, riots, civil disturbances, terrorist activity and its consequences, industrial disputes, natural and nuclear disasters, fire, floods, epidemics, health risks and pandemics, Government may retract entry permits, unavoidable and unforeseeable technical problems with transport for reasons beyond our control and acts of God or acts. MYCAT will refund the participation fees paid minus an administration fee.
4. The following Copyright & Confidentiality is observed:
 - a. Participants license MYCAT to use any information collected during the programme and submitted to MYCAT, including but not limited to photographs and reports to the MYCAT Wildlife Crime Hotline (019.356.4194/report@malayantiger.net), for any purposes deemed fit for its conservation objectives. Copyright of the materials belongs to the original owner.
 - b. Any tiger scats collected by the participants must be surrendered to MYCAT. All details of illegal activities and tiger/sambar/gaur/pangolin/serow detected by participants must remain confidential. The information, which includes photographs of animals or signs, locations, descriptions, etc., cannot be disseminated to the public via social media or any other channels as divulging these may jeopardize investigations and the safety of wildlife.

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- c. Apart from personal postings about the programme experience, any submissions to publications that reach a wider audience (e.g. newspapers, magazines, newsletters, online media, zoo weblogs, etc.) must be submitted to MYCAT for a quick fact check.
 - d. Participants may use other information collected during the trip (e.g. photographs of animal signs, scenic spots, etc.) for personal use. In cases where there is doubt, the participants should check with MYCAT at cat@malayantiger.net.
 5. The following Safety and Indemnity are observed.
 - a. All CAT Walk leaders went through forest safety training but safety is ultimately the responsibility of the individual participants.
 - b. We recommend that all volunteers have their own personal insurance. MYCAT only provides insurance for death and disablement for injuries incurred during the walks.
 - c. Volunteers are required to sign this [indemnity form](#) and email it to cat@malayantiger.net. You only have to sign this form once and no indemnity means no insurance.
 6. Accommodation
 - a. Accommodation in Merapoh is provided. Participants will stay together in a private guesthouse, with indoor bathrooms/toilets and a kitchen with basic cooking equipment, close to the Merapoh Town.
 - b. Participants will have to share a room with other participants. Hot showers and towels are not provided. Unless stated otherwise, the accommodation is usually at the [Merapoh Adventure Guesthouse](#).
 7. Transportation
 - a. Costs of transportation are not included in the participation fee. Participants are responsible for their own transportation.
 - b. The meeting point on Day 1 is at the accommodation. Search for “Merapoh Adventure Guesthouse” in the navigation applications. Traveling time from Kuala Lumpur to the guesthouse takes approximately 3.5 hours (non stop).
 8. Meals
 - a. Costs of meals are not included in the participation fee.
 - b. There are restaurants and provision shops in Merapoh Town. For those with specific preferences (e.g. vegetarian) or special dietary needs (allergy etc.), most restaurants here may not able to cater to your needs. It is advisable that you bring along food supplies for the duration of your stay.
 4. Preparing for the trip
 1. Communications and ATM
 - a. Bahasa Malaysia is the official language while English is also commonly used in the city. Interaction using basic English is also possible in areas outside the city.

- b. The mobile phone network signal is very strong in the city and so international participants are reachable on your home mobile phone network should you decide to activate the roaming function.
 - c. International participants can also buy a local SIM/data package from a local mobile phone operator. Celcom (www.celcom.com.my) offers nation-wide coverage and has the best connectivity in Merapoh Town/Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor compared to others. Xpax (<https://www.xpax.com.my>) is the prepaid mobile network service for Celcom. Other major telco operators are Maxis (www.maxis.com.my) (the prepaid package is known as Hotlink - www.hotlink.com.my) and Digi (<https://www.digi.com.my>). The mobile SIM cards can be purchased from the respective stores in KL Sentral or at KLIA.
 - d. There is only one ATM in the CALTEX petrol station in Merapoh but the service is variable.
2. Equipment for a day-walk
- a. Attire:
 1. Clothes suitable for walking in forests (e.g. long trousers and sleeves; leech socks or double layer of normal socks; football socks – no ankle socks!)
 2. Outdoor boots, hiking shoes that can get wet or *Adidas kampung*. Sneakers and running shoes are not suitable.
 - b. 2 Litre of water supply minimum in bottles or hydration bladder (essential)
 - c. Whistle and day pack (essential)
 - d. First Aid kit and/or personal medications (essential)
 - e. Torchlight or head torch with spare batteries (recommended)
 - f. A hat and hiking stick (recommended)
 - g. Reusable container to pack lunch, fork, and spoon (recommended)
 - h. Insect and/or leech repellent (recommended)
 - i. GPS, binoculars, camera (optional)
 - j. Poncho or rain jacket with hood (optional)
 - k. Swimming attire (optional)
 - l. Sunblock (optional)
- Note: All personal items are your own responsibility, do not bring unnecessary valuables.*
5. Important contacts in Malaysia
1. Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (240km ~3.5 hours from Merapoh Town)
Add.: T3-16-15, 3 Towers, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur
Tel.: +60 32715 6701, Fax.: +603 2715 6702
 2. Merapoh Police Station (1km ~2 mins from Merapoh Town)
Add.: Kampung Merapuh Lama, 27210 Kuala Lipis, Pahang, Malaysia
Tel.: +60 9 912 2222
 3. Merapoh Health Clinic (1km ~2 mins from Merapoh Town)
Add.: Kampung Merapoh Lama, 27210 Lipis, Pahang, Malaysia
Tel.: +60 9 912 2377
 4. Gua Musang Hospital (30km ~45 mins from Merapoh Town)
Add.: Bandar Baru Gua Musang, 18300 Gua Musang, Kelantan, Malaysia
Tel.: +60 9 912 1133
 5. Kuala Lipis Hospital (80km ~1 hour from Merapoh Town)
Add.: Bandar Kuala Lipis, 27200 Kuala Lipis, Pahang, Malaysia
Tel.: +60 9 312 3333

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Appendix 1:

A. Provisional Itinerary for 3-day 2-night CAT Walk Plus

Day	Time	Activity	Location
1	Afternoon	Arrival in Merapoh. Settle in accommodation	Guesthouse
	Evening	Dinner. Briefing on MYCAT and CAT Walk	Restaurant in Merapoh
		Free and easy. Rest	Guesthouse
2	0730	Breakfast. Pack for lunch.	Restaurant in Merapoh
		Leave for Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor	
	0900	Safety briefing. CAT Walk 1 (about 6km of trekking). Lunch in the forest. Check/Set up a camera-trap*.	Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor
	Afternoon	Exit the forest and return to accommodation	
	Evening	Dinner	Restaurant in Merapoh
3	0730	Breakfast. Pack for lunch.	Restaurant in Merapoh
		Leave for Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor	
	0900	Plant trees*	
		CAT Walk 2 (about 2km of trekking). Lunch in the forest.	Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor
	Noon	Exit the forest and return to accommodation	Guesthouse
		Debrief and review	
	1400	Check-out. Programme ends	
			<i>Time spent in the forest</i>

* This activity is subject to the weather condition.