

# Citizen Action for Tigers (CAT) Walk

Frequent Ask Question (FAQ) (ver.2023-03-07 by MN)



## 1. CAT Walk in brief

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

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, trekking, and camping in the Malaysian rainforest is an advantage.

## 2. What to expect on a CAT Walk?

While trekking and enjoying the great outdoors, CAT Walk volunteers will look for signs of poaching (e.g., snares, traps) and encroachment (e.g., campsite, illegal logging, and mining) as well as animal signs (e.g., pugmarks and claw marks on trees). 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 will come in handy).

Track 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 route/trails are not on a platform boardwalk.

Please take note that smoking and vaping is not allowed in the forest area.

## 3. Fees, payment schedule, and cancellation and refund policy

### a) Participation fee

The fee per participant is RM280 for Malaysian IC holders, red and blue and RM500 for non-Malaysians. The fee covers your accommodation for 2 nights, permits to enter protected forests (as required by law) and guides. Full-time students and repeat MYCAT volunteers enjoy a 25% discount on the full participation fee. MYCAT will arrange for the accommodation, guides and obtain the necessary permits and permissions.

### b) Payment schedule

The deadline for registration and payment of the full participation fee is stipulated in the registration form and may be extended until the number of participants reaches a minimum of 5 persons.

Registration and payment instructions are here: <https://forms.gle/712Jri8sq9AMoP9H8>.



- c) Cancellation and refund policy
- i. MYCAT reserves the right to cancel this programme; MYCAT will provide notice of cancellation a minimum of 5-days prior to the commencement of the programme. **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 do not accept liability for any loss or damage arising out of any cancellation.
  - ii. 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 (which is the paramount consideration), you may be asked to leave the programme without the right to any refund.
  - iii. For cancellation by participants:
    1. All requests for cancellations and deferrals must be sent through email to [cat@malayantiger.net](mailto: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 a 20% 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 a 20% administration fee. All other reasons will be reviewed on a case by case basis. |

*Note: The payment/registration deadline is stipulated in the registration form.*

- d) A trip may be cancelled due to force majeure or caused by or result 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, health risks and pandemics, the retraction of permits by government bodies, and other unavoidable and unforeseeable technical problems for reasons beyond our control. MYCAT will refund the participation fees paid minus a 20% administration fee.

#### 4. Provisional itinerary

CAT Walk is typically conducted as a day-walk. This means that participants enter and exit the forest, then return to your accommodation in town on the same day. Refer to Item 11 for the equipment checklist for a day-walk. Overnight camping trips can be organised and will be publicised as and when arranged. Refer to Item 12 for the camping checklist. Volunteers are recommended to arrive at Merapoh in the evening before the programme commences to get enough rest.

Day-walk trips usually run as follows:

### Friday – Day 0

- Evening – Arrival in Merapoh.  
Check-in to the accommodation. Free and easy.

### Saturday – Day 1

- Morning – Breakfast. Pack lunch. Leave for Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor.  
9am – Programme starts. Briefing.  
CAT Walk 1 (trekking up to ~ 6 hours). Lunch in the forest.
- Afternoon – Exit the forest and return to accommodation.
- Evening – Dinner. Free and easy.

### Sunday – Day 2

- Morning – Breakfast. Leave for Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor.  
9 am – CAT Walk 2 (trekking up to ~ 3 hours).
- Noon – Exit the forest, debrief, and return to accommodation. Programme ends.
- 2 pm – Check-out.

*Note: The cost of all meals and transportation is borne by volunteers.*

## 5. Meeting point on Day 0 is at the accommodation

Unless stated otherwise, the participant's accommodation is [Merapoh Adventure Guesthouse \(Map\)](#). Participants stay together in this guesthouse and share rooms with other same-gender participants. The guesthouse has 3 air-conditioned bedrooms (2 rooms with 2 bunk beds each and the third room with 2 single beds) and can accommodate a maximum of 10 persons. It has a kitchen with basic cooking equipment and 2 bathrooms (with toilet-shower facilities). Toiletries and towels are not provided.

## 6. How to get to the meeting point

Cost of transportation is not included in the participation fee. Participants are responsible for their own transportation.

- Drive** – Search for “Merapoh Adventure Guesthouse” in your preferred navigation application. Travel time from Kuala Lumpur to the guesthouse takes approximately 3.5 hours (non-stop). Carpool options with other participants can be arranged when participants are connected by a MYCAT administrated Whatsapp group.
- By Bus** – Participants from the central region can take a bus from Terminal Bersepadu Selatan to Gua Musang which costs about RM40 depends on the bus operator. As Merapoh is *en route* to Gua Musang, inform the bus driver that you wish to be dropped off at the bus stop opposite of the Merapoh Railway station close to the junction to Taman Negara in Merapoh. The accommodation is about 200m from the drop off point. If you buy a return ticket, inform the ticket counter that the bus driver needs to make a stop in Merapoh, at the same drop off point for pick up.
- By Train** – Inform the train attendant that you wish to disembark at Merapoh Railway station. The accommodation is about 200m from the train station across the railway line. Check out the details at <https://www.ktmb.com.my/>.

### 7. Meals

There are restaurants and provision shops in Merapoh. For participants with specific dietary preferences (e.g. vegetarian or allergies etc.), most restaurants here may not be able to cater to your needs. It is advisable that you bring along food supplies for the duration of your stay. Costs of meals are not included in the participation fee.

### 8. Communications and ATM

Bahasa Malaysia is the official language of Malaysia. English is commonly spoken in urban areas. Outside of major cities interaction is possible with basic English.

Mobile phone network signals are very strong in the city. If you're visiting Malaysia, you will be reachable on your home mobile phone network should you decide to activate the roaming function. You can also buy a local SIM/data package from a local mobile phone operator. Celcom ([www.celcom.com.my](http://www.celcom.com.my)) offers nationwide coverage and has the best connectivity in Merapoh/Sungai Yu Corridor compared to other providers. Xpax is the prepaid mobile network service for Celcom. Other major telco operators are Maxis (Postpaid: [www.maxis.com.my](http://www.maxis.com.my) / Prepaid: [www.hotlink.com.my](http://www.hotlink.com.my)) and Digi ([www.digi.com.my](http://www.digi.com.my)).

There is only one ATM machine in Merapoh. It is located at the CALTEX petrol station; service is variable. You are advised to bring sufficient cash. Few stalls or shops in Merapoh accept cash transfer or the use of debit cards.

### 9. MYCAT is subject to the terms and conditions of a Non-Disclosure Agreement signed with Pahang Biodiversity Council. The following Copyright & Confidentiality is observed:

- a) Any tiger scat collected by the participants must be surrendered to MYCAT. All details of illegal activities and tiger/sambar/gaur/pangolin/serow signs 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 channel (electronic media, print media, television, etc.) as divulging this may jeopardize the safety of wildlife and MYCAT's ability to conduct its work in the Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor.
- b) We request that volunteers disable any geo-tagging on your camera phone and other photographic devices prior to the commencement of CAT Walk.
- 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) must be submitted to MYCAT for approval.
- d) Participants may use other information collected during the trip for personal use. In cases where there is doubt, the participants should check with MYCAT at [cat@malayantiger.net](mailto:cat@malayantiger.net).
- e) Participants license MYCAT to use any information collected during the programme, including but not limited to photographs and reports to the MYCAT Wildlife Crime Hotline (+60 19 356 4194/[report@malayantiger.net](mailto:report@malayantiger.net)), for any purposes deemed fit for its conservation objectives. Copyright of the materials belongs to the original owner.

### 10. The following Safety and Indemnity are observed.

- a) All CAT Walk leaders have undergone forest safety training, but safety is ultimately the responsibility of the individual participant.
- b) We recommend that all volunteers have their own personal insurance. MYCAT only provides insurance for death and disablement for injuries incurred during CAT Walk.
- c) Volunteers are required to sign this [indemnity form](#) and email it to [cat@malayantiger.net](mailto:cat@malayantiger.net).
- d) As volunteers will share a common living space, volunteers who are not feeling well are requested to conduct a rapid self-test for COVID-19 before travelling to Merapoh.

### 11. Equipment for a day-hike (no camping)

- a) Attire:
  - i. Clothes suitable for walking in the forest (e.g. long trousers and sleeves; leech socks or double layer of normal socks; football socks recommended – no ankle socks!)
  - ii. Outdoor boots, hiking shoes that can get wet, trail shoes or *Adidas kampung*. Sneakers, running shoes, slippers and sandals are not suitable.
- b) 2 litres of water 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, umbrella, swimming attire (optional)
- k) Sunblock (recommended)

*Note: all personal items are your own responsibility, do not bring unnecessary valuables.*

### 12. Equipment for overnight camping (if applicable):

- a) All equipment in the day-walk list
- b) One change of clothes to sleep in and spare socks (essential)
- c) Mug, small pot/mess tin to cook food in and eat/drink from (highly recommended)
- d) Food (packet meals which just need hot water are recommended)
- e) 4 sturdy rubbish bags to carry your waste/rubbish out of the forest
- f) A hammock, tarp and mosquito net. Lots of cordage
- g) Lighter, candle, camp knife or Swiss Army-style foldable knife

*Note: All personal items are your own responsibility, please do not bring unnecessary valuables.*

### 13. Important contacts

- a) Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (240km ~3.5 hours from Merapoh)  
Add.: T3-16-15, 3 Towers, Jalan Ampang, 50450, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
Tel.: +6 03 2715 6701
- b) Merapoh Police Station (1km ~2 mins from Merapoh town square)  
Add.: Kampung Merapuh Lama, 27210 Kuala Lipis, Pahang, Malaysia. Tel.: +60 9 912 2222
- c) Merapoh Health Clinic (1km ~2 mins from Merapoh town square)  
Add.: Kampung Merapoh Lama, 27210 Kuala Lipis, Pahang, Malaysia. Tel.: +60 9 912 2377
- d) Gua Musang Hospital (30km ~45 mins from Merapoh)  
Add.: Bandar Baru Gua Musang, 18300 Gua Musang, Kelantan, Malaysia. Tel.: +60 9 912 1133
- e) Kuala Lipis Hospital (80km ~1 hour from Merapoh)  
Add.: Bandar Kuala Lipis, 27200 Kuala Lipis, Pahang, Malaysia. Tel.: +60 9 312 3333

### 14. Personal Data Protection

Pursuant to Malaysia's Personal Data Protection Act 2010, MYCAT requests the permission of CAT Walk participants to collect and retain certain items of personal information for use by MYCAT staff and volunteer CAT Walk leaders for the purposes of the CAT Walk programme. This information will not be shared with other third parties except on a strictly need-to-know basis for the purposes of permit applications and permissions, CAT Walk logistics and emergency situations.

Contact details of the CAT Walk leader will be shared with participants two weeks before the trip date and a MYCAT administrated Whatsapp group will be created to connect volunteers.

For further inquiries contact MYCAT at [cat@malayantiger.net](mailto:cat@malayantiger.net) or +60 3 2715 6701 during normal working hours.