

Naturally  
**LANGKAWI**

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**AVIAN LIFE**  
*in Langkawi*  
a guide to the Birds & Butterflies  
in Langkawi Geopark

[www.naturallylangkawi.my](http://www.naturallylangkawi.my)







Black-hooded Oriole



Yellow Glassy Tiger



# BIRDING AREA (LIBA)

## 1. GUNUNG MACHINCHANG FOREST RESERVE

- Rainforest birds
  - Great Hornbill • Banded Kingfisher
  - Ruby Cheeked Sunbird • Crimson Sunbird
  - Racket-tailed Drongo • Mountain Hawk-eagle
  - Wreathed Hornbill • Large Green Pigeon
  - Greater-flamebacked Woodpecker
- Mangrove birds
  - White-bellied Sea Eagle
  - Brown-winged Kingfisher
  - Common Flameback Woodpecker
  - Brahminy Kite

## 2. PANTAI CENANG AREA

- Wetlands birds • Mudflats & Shore birds
  - Collared Kingfisher • Purple Swamphen • White-bellied Sea Eagle
  - Ruddy-breasted Crake • Slaty-breasted Rail • Yellow Bittern
  - Brahminy Kite • Greater Painted-snipe • White-bellied Crake
  - Watercock • Plain-backed Sparrow

## 3. KILIM KARST AREA

- Mangrove birds • Scrublands birds
  - Collared Kingfisher • Black-hooded Oriole • Common Kingfisher
  - Brown-winged Kingfisher • Black-capped Kingfisher
  - Mangrove Pitta • Red-wattled Lapwing • White-bellied Sea Eagle
  - Grey-face Buzzard • Brahminy Kite • Oriental Pied-hornbill
  - Common Flameback Woodpecker

## 4. GUNUNG RAYA FOREST RESERVE

- Rainforest birds
  - Crimson Sunbird • Crested Serpent Eagle
  - Mountain Hawk-eagle • Changeable Hawk-eagle
  - Large Green Pigeon • White-bellied Sea Eagle
  - Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker • Collared Kingfisher
  - Wreathed Hornbill • Oriental Pied-hornbill
  - Great Slaty Woodpecker • Great Hornbill
  - Orange-breasted Trogon
  - Common Flameback Woodpecker

## 5. PULAU TUBA / DAYANG BUNTING AREA

- Mangrove birds • Mudflats birds
- Wetlands birds • Village birds
  - Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker • Collared Kingfisher
  - Yellow Bittern • Watercock • Black-capped Kingfisher
  - White-throated Kingfisher • Blue-winged Pitta
  - White-bellied Sea Eagle • Brown-winged Kingfisher
  - Ruddy Kingfisher • Little Egret • Brahminy Kite
  - Red-wattled Lapwing • Little Heron
  - Oriental Pied-hornbill



Wreathed Hornbill



Collared Kingfisher



Brahminy Kite



Red-wattled Lapwing



A blue and white bird perched on a branch.

Collared Kingfisher

A large bird of prey with a crest, wings spread.

Crested Serpent Eagle

A large bird of prey with brown and white plumage, wings spread.

Brahminy Kite

## BIRDS IN LANGKAWI

Langkawi boasts a wide variety of scenery and habitats, including wild open fields and hills, natural beaches, forests as well as woodlands that are amazing for birding. The island is home to approximately 200 species of birds including migrants.


Most of the coastal areas and beaches on the island are well developed and easily accessible. During winter, many migratory birds make the Langkawi islands their homes.

A small bird with a bright red throat and breast.

Crimson Sunbird

A blue and orange bird with a long beak.

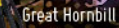
Common Kingfisher

A white bird with dark wings, flying.

White-bellied Sea Eagle

A brown bird with a long red beak.

Ruddy Kingfisher

A large bird with a prominent yellow and black hornbill.

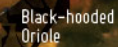
Great Hornbill

A small bird with a red and yellow back.

Greater-flame Backed Woodpecker

A small bird with a brown head and green body.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

A small bird with a black head and yellow body.

Black-hooded Oriole

A blue and orange bird with a black cap and long red beak.

Black-capped Kingfisher



Greater Slaty Woodpecker

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker

Ruby Cheeked Sunbird

Crimson Sunbird

Greater-flamebacked Woodpecker

Orange-breasted Trogon

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo

Banded Kingfisher

Scarlet Macaw

## RAINFOREST BIRDS

Tropical rainforests are home to many kinds of birds, including parrots, hornbills, toucans, and raptors like eagles, hawks, and vultures. Some migratory birds live in rainforests during the winter and return to cooler regions during the spring and summer.

Large Green Pigeon

Wreathed Hornbill

Mountain Hawk-eagle

White-bellied Sea Eagle

Crested Serpent Eagle

Great Hornbill







Black-hooded Oriole

Red-wattled Lapwing

Common Kingfisher

Black-capped Kingfisher

Blue-winged Pitta

Greater-flamebacked Woodpecker

Brown-winged Kingfisher

Oriental Pied-hornbill



White-bellied Sea Eagle

Common Flameback Woodpecker

Brahminy Kite

Rubby Kingfisher

## MANGROVE BIRDS

Mangrove forests colonise coastlines and river estuaries. Located between land and sea or river, they are an important barrier against erosion and salt intrusion. The vegetation is specially adapted to living in harsh conditions. Trees are characterized by adaptations including pneumatophores or breathing roots and thick waxy leaves to prevent moisture loss.



## PADDY FIELD BIRDS

The paddy fields in Langkawi provide a nice habitat for these birds. There is plenty of water, insects and aquatic creatures for food. Most of the birds are migratory in nature.



Peaceful Dove



Little Egret



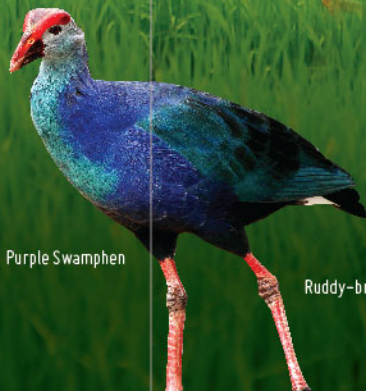
Plain-backed Sparrow



Paddyfield Pipit



White-breasted Waterhen



Purple Swamphen



Little Heron



Ruddy-breasted Crake



Greater Painted-snipe



Yellow Bittern



White-throated Kingfisher



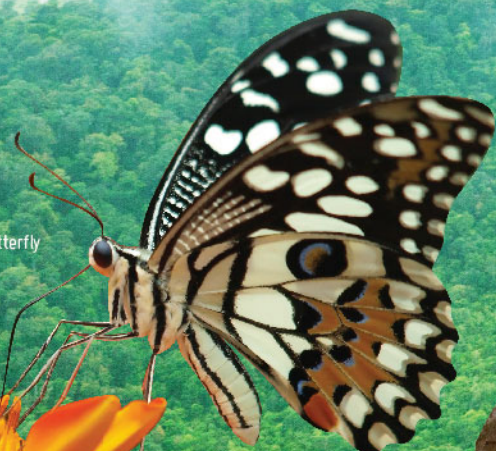
# Transforming with Beauty



Golden Birdwing



Striped Blue Crow



Lime Butterfly



Common Faun

## BUTTERFLIES IN LANGKAWI

Tree Yellow



Langkawi is home to over 500 species of butterflies. While development of the island has sadly seen the depletion of rainforests and other associated vegetation on the island for the last couple of years, it is very encouraging to note that there still remains rainforests from low to high elevation, coastal forests, mangroves, limestone outcrops and other habitats that continue to support the life cycle of these gorgeous creatures on Langkawi.

There remains many more butterflies to be discovered or rediscovered on the island and the butterfly enthusiast has many magical moments awaiting them in the field.



Danaid Eggfly



Chocolate Albatross





Vagrant

## Moving with Motifs



Commander



Common Rose



Malaya Lacewing



Plain Tiger



Semper  
Grass Yellow



Chestnut Bob

## RAINFOREST BUTTERFLY WALK

*Location: Lubuk Semilang / Book Village*

The walk on a tarred road which dissects the rainforest creates a flight path for many types of butterflies of which are usually denizens of the forest. It allows us to observe many lovely and rather uncommonly seen butterflies that are so rare on the Peninsular but relatively easier to spot in Langkawi. Many scientists or entomologists round the world who know about this butterfly would certainly envy you for having seen this butterfly in your lifetime as they may not have had the opportunity that you have unless they visit the Island.

These are really interesting butterflies to observe because you will notice the almost lazy flight motion that hides a sinister fact that the butterflies are deadly to birds and other creatures that dare consume it. The idea is, come expecting the unexpected because there is no way of telling what butterflies show up on the day of the walk!





Peacock Fanny



Banded Swallowtail



Great Orange Tip

# Colouring Natural Beauty



Banded Yeoman



Banded Peacock



Common Posy



Psyche



Dark Grass-brown



Common Pierrot



## HANDY TIPS

Common Awl



When going for bird and butterfly watching trips in Malaysia, it is useful to be equipped with suitable essentials and equipment. Below are handy tips:

- Engage bird and butterfly field guides, if you are not familiar with the bird and butterfly species in Malaysia.
- Binoculars are essential in all habitats and a spotting scope is useful near coastal areas.
- When visiting protected areas such as national parks, nature parks and wildlife sanctuaries, nothing is to be damaged or taken out.
- Always use a local guide when you are not familiar with any bird and butterfly watching areas.
- When trekking in the forest, find out and choose a trail that you can complete before dark.
- Always notify the authorities or someone especially if you are going on your own.
- Treat the forest with respect and humility.
- Bring plenty of water and some snacks when going on long bird watching trips.
- Wear light and loose fitting cotton clothing.
- Wear light but sturdy footwear with good traction for trekking on trails and hilly areas.
- Use a hat with wide brim when bird and butterfly watching along the coasts and beaches.
- When going camping, pack as light as possible.
- A sweater or jacket is useful when birding in the mountain areas as it can get chilly.
- A basic first aid kit is useful to treat wounds and bites.

Common Kingfisher



Great Hornbill



Bush Hopper

