

Borneo: the memory of the caves



Days:	18
Price:	5995 EUR International flight included
Comfort:	★★☆☆☆
Difficult:	★★★★☆

25th ANNIVERSARY OF AZIMUTH ADVENTURE TRAVEL LTD

“EPHEMERAL” CIRCUIT SUPERVISED BY LUC-HENRI FAGE

“If Europe has long been perceived as the cradle of art, with the spectacular sites of Chauvet, Lascaux or Altamira, it is in South-East Asia that the most ancient cave paintings have been dated. *ancient history of humanity**. And, in recent years, discoveries have multiplied! »*

This statement from **Luc-Henri Fage** which you can read in an article in **Dossiers de l'Archéologie** (published in January 2021) aroused our curiosity and motivated us to find out more.

If, like us, you are curious by nature and adventurers at heart, then join us on this **unique tour** which will allow you to explore **a little-known region of Borneo!**

Day 1. To Indonesia



- Rendez-vous à l'aéroport de Paris Charles-de-Gaulle et envol vers l'Indonésie.

Horaires indicatifs avec Turkish Airlines: Paris – Istanbul – Jakarta / 19h55-00h20 & 01h50-17h35

Day 2. Welcome to Jakarta



Jakarta 📍

- Welcome at Jakarta airport and transfer to your transit hotel.

🏠 Accommodation

Ibis Styles Jakarta Airport

Day 3. Welcome to Borneo



Jakarta 📍
✈️ - ⌚ 2h 25m
Balikpapan 📍
🚗 - ⌚ 6h
Sangatta 📍

- Transfer to the airport and flight to Balikpapan. (*Garuda Indonesia / Jakarta – Balikpapan / 8:35 a.m.-11:50 a.m.*)
- Reception at Balikpapan airport and transfer to Sangatta, a small mining town in North Kalimantan, and the last civilized town before the forest.

After settling into the hotel, first briefing with Luc-Henri and his team.

☕ Breakfast	Ibis Styles Jakarta Airport
🍴 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Hôtel 3-4*

Day 4. Mount Marang



Sangatta 📍
📍

- Transfer to the small village of Hambur Batu, where the Bengalon River crosses the road that crosses Kalimantan. You then get out of the vehicle to board motorized canoes which will go up the river towards the Marang Mountains. Optional first stop at Batu Adji, where you explore a large cave and upper galleries. Arrival at the end of the afternoon at the foot of Gua ("cave" in Indonesian) Tewet.

☕ Breakfast	Hôtel 3-4*
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍴 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Tent camping

Day 5. Tewet cave



📍

- At the start of the morning, exploration of the **Tewet cave**, discovered in 1999. You reach it by a short walk in the forest, followed by a climb of approximately 70 m between jungle and rock (you will be assured on certain passages and the last length to access the cave). Exploration of the cave, which is a 200 m² rock shelter with breathtaking views of the surrounding area. Discovery of cave paintings (the most beautiful, according to Luc-Henri Fage), including 240 negative hands, the tree of life, etc. Return to camp in the afternoon.
- **Option for the best climbers:** ascent of limestone peaks to Gua Pindi, which houses some paintings, but above all offers a nice view and a good overview of what a tropical peak karst is.

☕ Breakfast	Included
🍴 Lunch	Included
🍴 Dinner	Included
🏠 Accommodation	Tent camping

Day 6. Marang river



- In the morning, you head towards a valley (steep, clayey slope) near Gua Tewet, to explore **Liang Karim**, a cave discovered in May 2003, renowned for its fantastic “honey tree”. » and a “tapir” (a species which disappeared in the Pleistocene, that is to say at least 10,000 years ago!).
- At the beginning of the afternoon, you leave the camp. The canoes go up the Bengalon River and turn towards the pretty little *Marang River*. You thus progress to **Gua Keboboh**, where the camp will be set up.



Breakfast	Included
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Tent camping

Day 7. Keboboh Cave



- Exploration of the **Keboboh cave** in the morning, which offers multiple entrances, particular fauna (cave insects, snakes, amphibians, etc.), strange concretions and rocks with astonishing shapes, sculpted by water. You will also pass an old camp of swallows' nest hunters.

In the afternoon, opportunity to explore other caves in the surrounding area, along an impressive cliff of karst peaks.



Breakfast	Included
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Tent camping

Day 8. Sungai Cave



- Today, you continue your journey up the Marang, sometimes with acrobatic passages for the canoeists, to *Gua Sungai* (or “river cave”). Exploration of this pretty cavity crossed by a (small) underground river, full of pools, gourds, cave fish, etc. You then return to the canoes. The river narrows, dead trees hinder progress, rocks emerge. Depending on the flow, you will have to walk on a track (which does not always follow the river), or stay in the canoes. Majestic passages under the limestone peaks, omnipresent forest (in a cathedral), sometimes it is a canyon... At the end of the river, we see that it comes out of a cave. This is the bivouac location, **Gua Tebo**.



Breakfast	Included
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Tent camping

Day 9. Tebo Cave



- Incursion into **Gua Tebo**, swimming up the underground river (depending on the flow of the river). This river comes from the other side of the Marang Mountains. It is also possible to climb a karst peak.



Breakfast	Included
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Tent camping

Day 10. Shy orangutans



- Orangutans victims of deforestation have come to take refuge in the area you explored yesterday. With an excellent tracker, you set off to discover a vast depression located east of Tebo. Along the way, caves, swamps, tall grass... It is in the trees that the shy orangutans nest. The meeting is not guaranteed, but the ride is superb. You also tour a karst depression. The mountains that dominate it are impressive.

In the afternoon, return by canoe to **Gua Tangkorak**. Access to the cave by a short easy walk. It is a large gallery, decorated with numerous concretions. A side gallery descends towards a second entrance, which leads to a ceramic piece stuck high up in the clay. In the entrance, there are some prehistoric paintings (the cave was excavated by archaeologists in 2003).

Breakfast	Included
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Tent camping

Day 11. Return to civilization



- A large part of the day is devoted to returning, by canoe, to civilization. Arriving at Hambur Batu, you are happy to board vehicles, which take you to a Dayak village: Miau Baru. En route, visit the Kongbeng peak, which dominates an ocean of oil palm trees, and offers a surprising underground network. Climbing a peak, not easy to climb, offers an extraordinary panorama. Dayak music and dances in the evening. Night in the community house, decorated with polychrome wood paintings.

Breakfast	Included
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Community house

Day 12. Dayak civilisation



- **Miau Baru** is a traditional village populated by Dayak people from Apo Kayan. 40 years ago, these tribes decided to leave central Borneo to settle as close as possible to modern civilization. Many thought they had no future in Miau Baru, but the Dayaks knew how to preserve their traditions, which they present to you this morning during an immersion in their culture. Transfer to Merapun in the afternoon, where you board motorized canoes again towards the small Dayak village of Merabu.



Breakfast	Included
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Guest house

Day 13. Beloyot & Harto Cave



- At the start of the morning, you begin a walk of around 3 hours towards the **Beloyot caves** (formerly Harto), in the middle of one of the largest intact limestone forests in the world. Gua Beloyot is very interesting because it contains numerous cave paintings over 30,000 years old. If you have an eye, you will also discover some unknown sculptures and fossils.

Return to Merabu in the afternoon.



Breakfast	Included
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Guest house

Day 14. Nyadeng Peak



- Possibility to explore the village of Merabu (which has had an exemplary policy in refusing deforestation and oil palms) or to climb the peak of Nyadeng, which offers a beautiful view of the region.



Breakfast	Included
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included
Accommodation	Guest house

Day 15. Samarinda



- Return by canoe to Merapun, then transfer to Samarinda.

Samarinda

Breakfast	Included
Lunch	Included
Dinner	Included

Day 16. Buffer day



- If you have had no setbacks throughout your trip, the day is devoted to visiting the surroundings of Samarinda: the Dayak knife museum – the famous “mandaus”, which were used in the past to cut knives. heads (30 min drive); you also head to the traditional village of Pampang, where Kayan Dayaks introduce you to their vibrant culture. Dayak art, represented by tattooing and characterized by fluid geometry whose influence dates back to the Dong Son era, mainly depicts scenes of daily life. Women with long ears are also the last witnesses of a culture that tends to dissipate.



☕ Breakfast

Included

🍴 Lunch

Included

🍷 Dinner

Included

🏠 Accommodation

Hôtel 3-4*

Day 17. See you soon in Borneo



- Free time until transfer to the airport. Flight to Jakarta. Citilink / Samarinda – Jakarta / 3:40 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. *Connecting flight to France.*
Turkish Airlines / Jakarta – Istanbul – Paris / 9:00 p.m. – 4:00 a.m. & 7:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

☕ Breakfast

Hotel

🏠 Accommodation

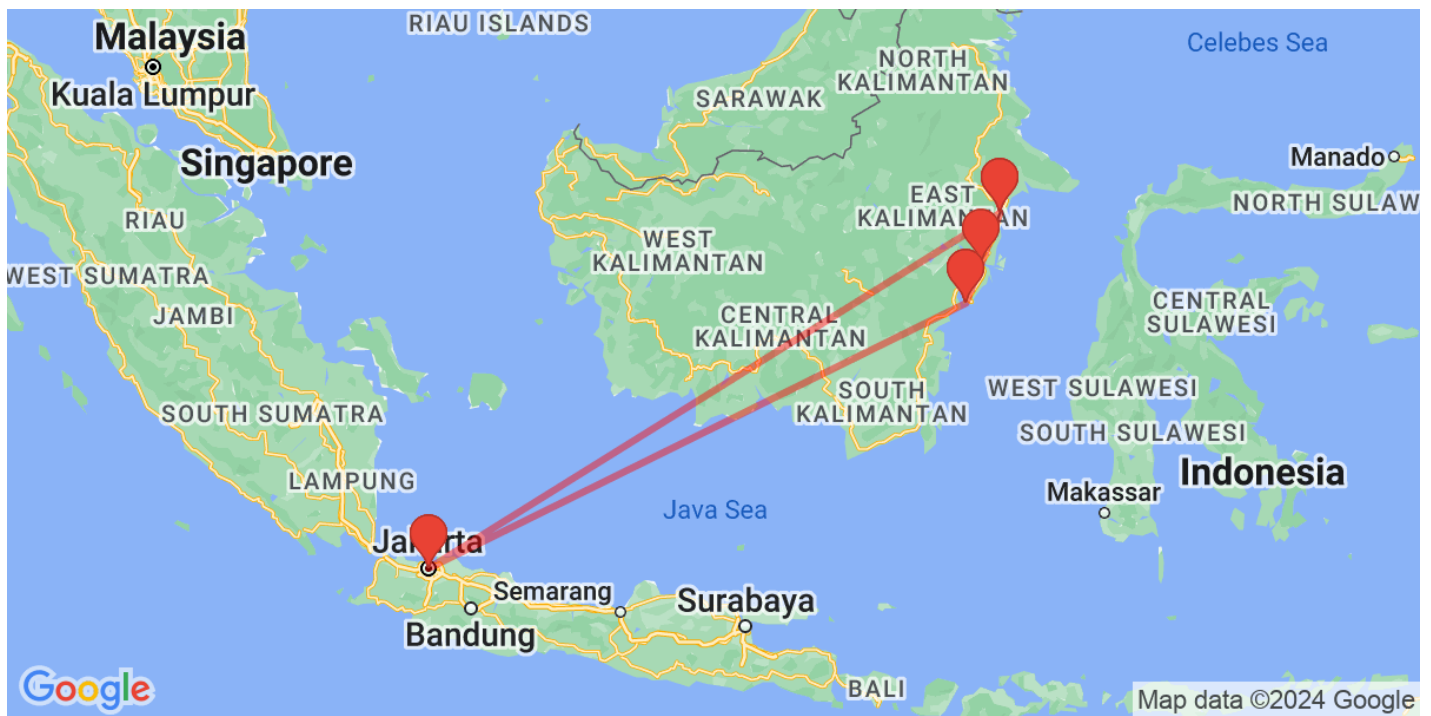
On board

Day 18. Arrived in France



- Arrival in Paris early in the morning.

Itinerary map



Individual price per person

5-10	SS
5995 EUR	495 EUR

Included

- International flight Paris-Jakarta return
- Domestic flights Jakarta-Balikpapan & Samarinda-Jakarta
- Supervision by **Luc-Henri Fage, French explorer**
- Porters and kitchen team
- Full board accommodation (in twin or double room) in Borneo
- B&B accommodation in Jakarta
- Ground transfers in private, air-conditioned vehicles
- River transfers in motorized canoes
- Site entrances, trek permits & donations
- Bivouac equipment (tents, mattresses, mosquito nets & sleeping bags)
- Mineral water and energy supplement

Not included

- Possible visas and airport taxes
- Insurance and travel assistance
- Alcoholic beverages, personal expenses & tips
- Anything not mentioned in "Inclusions"

Extra infos

ABOUT YOUR COMPANION

Luc-Henri Fage, is an author-director of documentary films, speaker, journalist, photographer, speleologist & explorer.

With the feeling of having arrived too late on a planet that was too well known, Luc-Henri Fage threw himself into caving with passion as a teenager. The exploration of the 7th continent, the underground world, is an adventure always full of surprises even in France, and even more so abroad such as in Algeria, in 1983, where he participated in the exploration of a chasm which would become the deepest in Africa (Anou Iffis).

The 1985 national expedition to Papua New Guinea jointly introduced him to the large primary forests, the giant chasms that pierce them and especially its inhabitants. Borrowing a 16mm camera from a friend, he made his first film there, "Minyé the end of the myth".

For this journalist, photographer, passionate about exploration, here is a possible career, a fantastic alibi for traveling the world and expeditions.

- Let us mention in 1986-1987, the raft descent of the Zaire River ("Inga, the challenge of Zaire", grand prize of the LaPlagne adventure film festival in 1986);
- In 1988, the crossing of Borneo ("The Impossible Crossing");
- In 1990, the reissue of the great Gaisseau-Delloye expedition, through Indonesian New Guinea ("La Mémoire des Brumes", special Jury prize, Dijon adventure film festival 1992). A true initiatory expedition in more than one way, they produced, with Arnoult Seveau, an eponymous book (Albin Michel).

It was in 1992, returning to the center of Borneo to see a cave decorated with archaic drawings in charcoal with the ethno-archaeologist Jean-Michel Chazine, that his great adventure in Borneo began.

During around fifteen expeditions, they revealed the prehistory of an island untouched by any prospecting, with unique rock art in the world, more than 40,000 years old, by bringing back two documentary films ("A la discovery of the decorated caves of Borneo" 1995, and "Bornéo, la Mémoire des Grottes" 2004), and a beautiful book under the same title (Fage éditions), then in 2014 a third film "Tewet, the Dayak with a thousand caves" dedicated to their best guide, Tewet and his strange profession of collecting swallows' nests.

At the same time, there are caving expeditions in Papua New Guinea, which made it possible to reach the depth of 1,000m for the first time in the southern hemisphere, and seven geography and caving expeditions in the limestone islands of the Chilean Patagonia archipelago (1997 to 2017) during which he directed three films: "The Ultima Patagonia Expedition" (2000), "The Mystery of the Whale" (2009) and recently, "The Island at the Marble Glaciers" 2014.

From 2015 to 2018, he followed the new study of the Bruniquel cave, in Tarn-et-Garonne, which led to the broadcast on ARTE of the film "Neanderthal, the mystery of the Bruniquel cave" Record audience on first broadcast : 1 million viewers! The film won 21 awards, including four Grand Prix and two Audience Awards... and attracted more than 4 million viewers with rebroadcasts and replays.

In 2020, motivated by a major exhibition of the paintings of his father Jean-Marie Fage, he put together a 26-minute film based on the interviews he was able to conduct in his studio from 2011 to 2019. The film Tracing the Light, visible on Vimeo , has been selected in numerous festivals.

He is currently working on three film projects, from Guyana to Borneo, while continuing to follow research at the Bruniquel cave.

Distinctions

- Winner of the Liotard Prize, awarded by the Society of French Explorers, for discoveries of rock art in Borneo
- Winner of the Rolex Awards for Enterprise in 2003

Membership

- Society of French Explorers
- Secretary of the association Le Kalimantanrope

Training

- Graduate of the Institute of Political Studies (Aix-en-Provence), 1980
- Studies at the University Center for Journalism Teaching in Strasbourg (1975-1978)
- Baccalaureate in scientific series, mention AB, 1975

Documentary films

He has directed several feature-length documentaries:

- Tracing the Light, Jean-Marie Fage portrait of his father (2021, Félis Production, Campredon Art Center)
- Neanderthal, the mystery of Bruniquel's cave (2019) - ARTE
- Marble Glacier Island (2015) - TF1, USHUAÏA TV
- Tewet, the Dayak with a thousand caves (2013) - FRANCE 3, PLANETE THALASSA
- All on horseback (2011)
- The Mystery of the Whale (2009) THALASSA, PLANETE THALASSA
- In the footsteps of Paul Du Chaillu, (2007)
- Through the Stone, (2005) FRANCE 3
- Borneo, the Memory of the Caves, (2004) ARTE
- Another world, (2002)
- The Ultima Patagonia expedition, (2001) FRANCE 2, FRANCE 5

- Discovering the decorated caves of Borneo, (1996) FRANCE 3
- A thousand meters under the jungle, (1995) FRANCE 3
- The lost abyss of Papua, (1993) TF1
- The Memory of the Mists, (1992) CANAL PLUS
- Chinese Turkestan, (1988)
- The Impossible Crossing, (1988) TF1
- Inga, the challenge of Zaire, (1987)
- Minyé, the end of the myth, (1985) FRANCE 3, RADIO CANADA

Books

He has produced, alone or in collaboration, several exploratory works.

- Bornéo, la Mémoire des Grottes, Fage éditions (2009), text, photos and records of the rock art of Borneo, with Jean-Michel Chazine
- The Invisible Continent, Glénat (2006) iconographer, author Georges Marbach
- Austère Australe, A l'aventure (2005) photos Luc-Henri Fage, texts Georges Marbach
- La Mémoire des Brumes, Albin-Michel (1992) co-written with Arnoult Seveau
- La Traversée impossible, Albin-Michel Guilde du Raid (1989) text inserted in a collective work.
- Sport caving in the Monts du Vaucluse, Édisud, (1981).

He has also written numerous articles in various journals and magazines, including the journal Spéléo which he created in 1990, or the quarterly bulletin Spelunca of the French Speleology Federation.

EXTRA INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about the work of Luc-Henri Fage in Borneo, do not hesitate to consult the website Le Kalimantanope, an association under the 1901 law, whose mission is to study the rock art and archaeological sites brought to light. day during prospecting missions in Indonesian Borneo or his personal website – www.fage.fr.