

Citizen Action for Tigers (CAT) Walk

Frequent Ask Question (FAQ) (ver.2022-10-26 by SMB)



1. CAT Walk in brief

The 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, and 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.

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 (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 route/trails are not on platform boardwalks.

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

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

a) Participation fee

The fee is RM250 (for Malaysian citizens) or RM 500 (for non-Malaysians) per person. 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 off the full participation fee. MYCAT will arrange for the accommodation, guides and obtain the necessary permits.

b) Payment schedule

The deadline for registration and payment of full participation fee is 14-days before Day 1 of the CAT Walk trip and the deadline can be extended until the number of participants reaches a minimum of 5 persons.

The registration and payment instructions can be found at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScU68E9UY3n58_MitVi7BMfgHFIZ5mZrnqpBfuEXHvoq6lQUw/viewform.

c) Cancellation and refund policy

i. 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.

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- 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 as a whole (which is the paramount consideration), then 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 deferral request 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. Provisional itinerary

The CAT Walks are day-walks which means that participants enter and exit the forest, then return to accommodation in town on the same day. Refer to Item 10 for the equipment checklist on day-walk trips. Overnight camping trips on CAT Walks can be organised and will be publicised as such. Refer to Item 11 for the camping checklist. Volunteers are recommended to arrive at Merapoh in the evening before the trip to get enough rest.

The day-walk trips usually run as follows:

Friday – Day 0

Evening – Arrival at Merapoh town.

Check-in to the accommodation. Settle in. Free and easy.

Saturday – Day 1

Morning – Breakfast. Pack for lunch. Leave for Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor.

9 am – Programme starts. Briefing.

CAT Walk 1 (trekking up to 10km, ~ 6 hours). Lunch in the forest.

Afternoon – Exit the forest and return to accommodation.

Evening – Dinner. Free and easy.

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Sunday – Day 2

Morning – Breakfast. Leave for Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor.

9 am – CAT Walk 2 (trekking up to 5km, ~ 3 hours).

Noon – Exit the forest, debrief and return to accommodation. Programme ends.

2 pm – Check-out. Depart for home.

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 accommodation is usually at the [Merapoh Adventure Guesthouse \(Map\)](#). Participants will stay together in this dormitory-style guesthouse and share the rooms with other same-gender participants. The guesthouse has 3 airconditioned bedrooms (two rooms with two bunk beds each and the third room with a double bed) altogether fit a maximum of 10 persons, a kitchen with basic cooking equipment and two toilet- shower rooms. Hot showers and towels are not provided.

6. How to get to the meeting point

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

- a) **Drive** – Search for “Merapoh Adventure Guesthouse” in the navigation applications. Traveling time from Kuala Lumpur to the guesthouse takes approximately 3.5 hours (non-stop). Carpool options with other participants might also be available.
- b) **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.
- c) **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 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. Costs of meals are not included in the participation fee.

8. Communications and ATM

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.

Mobile phone network signal is very strong in the city and if you’re visiting Malaysia, you are 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) offers nationwide coverage and has the best connectivity in Merapoh Town/Sungai Yu Corridor compared to others. Xpax is the prepaid mobile network service for Celcom. Other major telco operators are Maxis (Postpaid: www.maxis.com.my / Prepaid: www.hotlink.com.my) and Digi (www.digi.com.my).

There is only one ATM machine in the CALTEX petrol station in Merapoh but the service is variable.

9. 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.
- 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.

10. 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.

11. Equipment for a day walk (no camping)

- a) Attire:
 - i. 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!)
 - ii. Outdoor boots, hiking shoes that can get wet or *Adidas kampung*. Sneakers, sports and running shoes are not suitable.
- b) 2 litres 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, poncho or rain jacket, swimming attire, sunblock (optional)

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 cordages
- g) Lighter, candle, camp knife or Swiss army style folding 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 Town)
Add.: T3-16-15, 3 Towers, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel.: +603 2715 6701
- b) Merapoh Police Station (1km ~2 mins from Merapoh Town)
Add.: Kampung Merapuh Lama, 27210 Kuala Lipis, Pahang, Malaysia
Tel.: +60 9 912 2222
- c) Merapoh Health Clinic (1km ~2 mins from Merapoh Town)
Add.: Kampung Merapoh Lama, 27210 Lipis, Pahang, Malaysia. Tel.: +60 9 912 2377
- d) Gua Musang Hospital (30km ~45 mins from Merapoh Town)
Add.: Bandar Baru Gua Musang, 18300 Gua Musang, Kelantan, Malaysia
Tel.: +60 9 912 1133
- e) Kuala Lipis Hospital (80km ~1 hour from Merapoh Town)
Add.: Bandar Kuala Lipis, 27200 Kuala Lipis, Pahang, Malaysia. Tel.: +60 9 312 3333

Contact details of the CAT Walk leader will be shared with participants one week before the trip date. For further inquiries please contact MYCAT at cat@malayantiger.net or +603-2715 6701 during normal working hours.