

2013 *Nepenthes* Tours

By popular demand, **Redfern Natural History Productions** is organising three eco-tours to offer nature enthusiasts the opportunity to trek through steaming virgin rainforests and along pristine jungle streams to reach little explored mountain summits and observe spectacular *Nepenthes* (carnivorous pitcher plants) in the wild. Much more than just jungle treks, these adventures also entail incredible cultural experiences, observing a wide diversity of tropical animals, birds and insects, spectacular scenery and of course, many amazing plants besides the charismatic *Nepenthes*.



Three expeditions are planned for 2013. One to **Sulawesi** in Indonesia, one to the islands of **Mindanao and Palawan** in the Philippines, and one to **Papua** (the Indonesian half of the island of New Guinea, formerly called Irian Jaya).

All three tours are 16 days in length. They are planned specifically to start on a Saturday and end on a Sunday to maximise field time with a minimum of leave taken from work. We have planned the following preliminary dates, but as groups are finalised, the dates may be adjusted forwards or backwards to meet the needs of the majority as required.

Tour 1 Sulawesi: (Start date: Saturday June 22nd. End date: Sunday July 7th).

Tour 2 Philippines: (Start date: Saturday August 3rd. End date: Sun. Aug. 18th).

Tour 3 New Guinea: (Saturday November 30th. End date: Sunday Dec. 15th).

Tour Guide: All three tours will be guided by pitcher plant expert and experienced mountaineer, Dr. Alastair Robinson. As author and editor of several pitcher plant books, and having grown up in South East Asia, his knowledge of both the plants, and the localities is extensive.

Costs: Participation per person for each of the three tours is just **£2,000 (GB Pounds)**. This is inclusive of all domestic flights, local transport in vehicles, all permits, all guides and group porters, all hotel and camp accommodation, all meals (both on trek and during breaks), laundry where available, an expert *Nepenthes* tour guide, support staff and the provision of an expedition satellite phone as an emergency resource. Alcohol, souvenirs, personal porters, personal insurance, voluntary tips for guides and porters and flights to and from the start/end point are not included.



Required Fitness Level: The three expeditions involve climbing mountains, requiring a high level of fitness. No technical climbing skills are necessary, but participants need to be capable of lengthy uphill trekking for several hours over multiple days.

Equipment: You are required to bring trekking equipment for your personal use, namely trekking clothes, a tent or jungle hammock, sleeping bag, rucksack, and so on. A full list of all recommended equipment will be provided on enrollment.

Accommodation: Will consist of rooms for two with two separate, single beds. If you would prefer a private room, we can establish the additional costs charged by hotels for you.

Personal Porters: To increase your enjoyment of the tour, we can organise local porters to carry your personal equipment (tent, sleeping bag etc.). Hiring porters is also a very positive way of supporting local communities and gaining an insight into local people and customs. Without having to carry your personal equipment, climbing will be easier and you will be free to more easily take photos. Costs for porters can be established on request, and payment made directly to your personal porter.

Secure your place **NOW**

Each tour is limited in size to up to 10 participants. This group size is more manageable, allowing for a good group dynamic and greater familiarity between participants. If you would like to participate, please confirm interest **ASAP** by sending an e-mail to stewart@mcperson.net.

A non-refundable deposit is required to secure registration, and full payment is required 60 days before each tour begins so that all flights, accommodation and guides may be secured.



Tour 1 - Sulawesi

Exploring Sulawesi is rougher and tougher than the Philippines, with slower transport. Even so, it harbours many of the most incredible *Nepenthes* species, as well as breathtaking landscapes and indigenous cultures. This tour aims to take you to the very finest highlights possible over the course of 16 days.

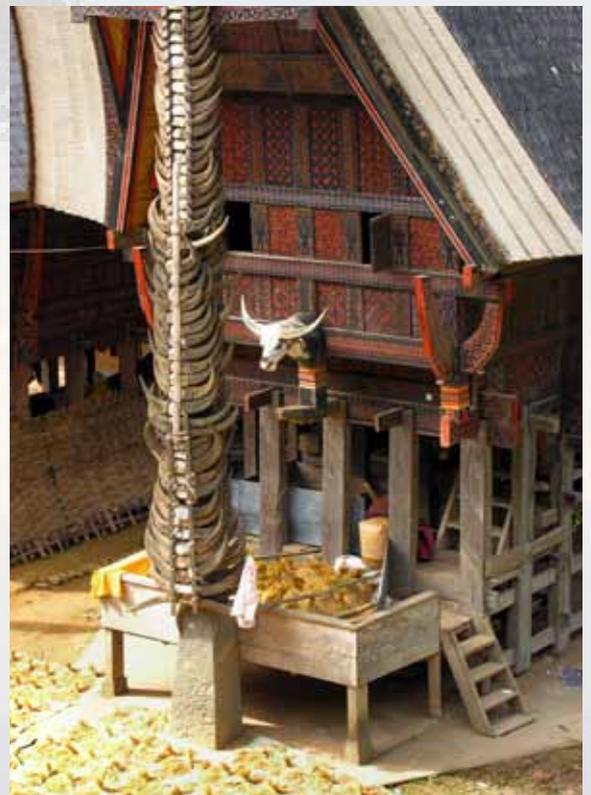
Day 1, we meet in Makassar (in the south of Sulawesi) and drive north to the base of Mount Sesean. Day 2 we climb Mount Sesean to find spectacular populations of *N. maxima* with amazing, wavy leaves. We descend the same day.

Day 3 we explore local Torajan culture, visit long houses and enjoy local cuisine. Day 4 we drive north, transferring by 4 x 4 vehicle on Day 5 to travel towards the village of Bomba, visiting populations of the rare *N. glabrata* and also seeing *N. tentaculata*, *N. nigra* and (if we are lucky) the hybrid *N. tentaculata* x *nigra*.

Day 7 we drive north through upland savannah country, passing populations of dwarf *N. maxima* with minute, reddish pitchers, and we encounter the carnivorous sundew *Drosera burmanii*, overnighting in a little hotel in the depths of Lore Lindu National Park. Day 8 we set out to explore populations of typical (large) *N. maxima*, *N. tentaculata*, *N. nigra* and (if we are lucky) *N. pitopangii* (which has only ever been seen by a few individuals).

Day 9 we explore roadside populations of *N. tomoriana*, and then fly north on Day 10, transferring to the base of Mount Lumut on Day 11. On Days 12 and 13 we ascend Mount Lumut, encountering spectacular populations of *N. hamata* and *N. eymae* on Day 14. We descend on Day 15, before returning on the morning of Day 16 to Makassar for onward travels.

Transport across Sulawesi is slow, but we pass through enormous tracts of largely pristine rainforest, giving perfect opportunities for spotting a wide range of bird and animal life.





Tour 2 - Philippines

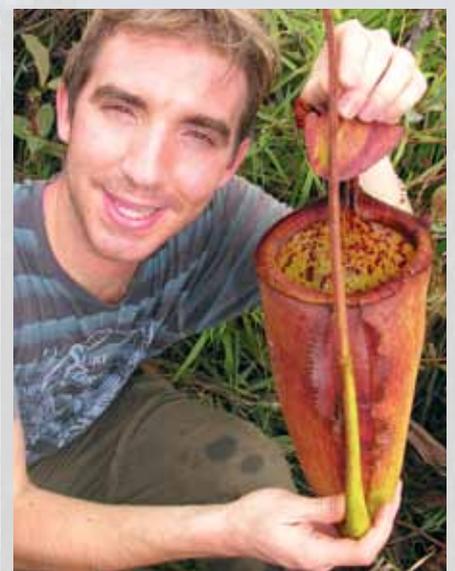
This 16 day tour explores several of the most spectacular mountain peaks in the Philippines, homes to the largest, smallest and most beautiful of all Filipino *Nepenthes*.

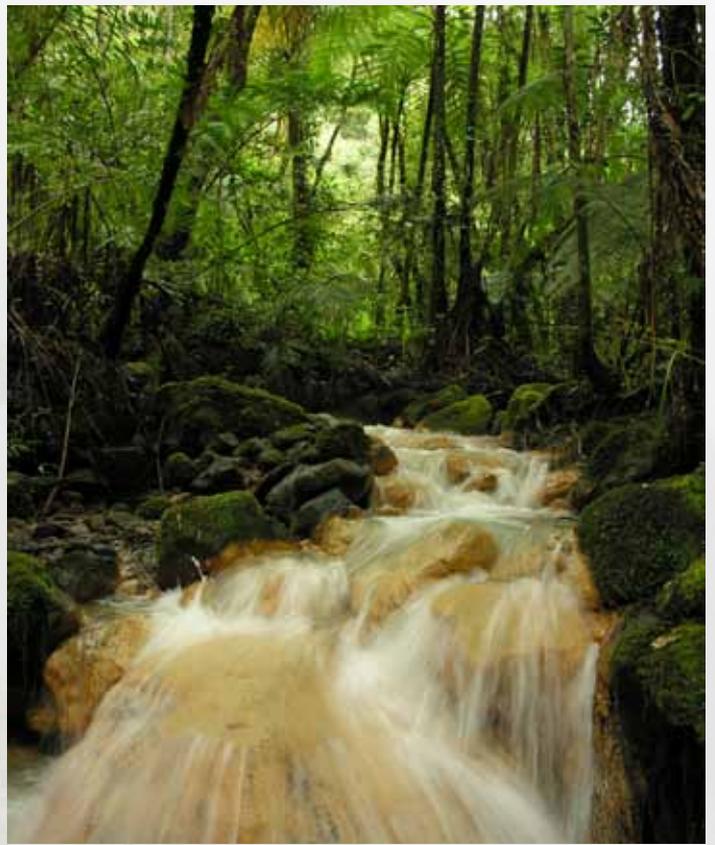
This tour starts in Manila. After meeting at the airport, the group travels to board an overnight ferry, arriving on the legendary island of Sibuyan on Day 2. The group relaxes in a hotel and enjoys local cuisine for the evening.

On Day 3, we begin to ascend Sibuyan's spectacular double-peaked mountain (consisting of Mt. Mayo and Mt. Guiting-Guiting). After several hours of climbing in intermediate forest, we encounter a *N. alata* type taxon that is undescribed and possibly a new species.

Day 4 we begin the ascent of the spectacular knife edge ridge between Mt. Mayo and Mt. Guiting-Guiting, home to the beautiful *N. sibuyanensis*. At the summit of the ridge, we find populations of *N. argentii*. Views are breathtaking. We descend on Day 5 and transit to Palawan on Day 6, arriving early on Day 7, relaxing in a hotel with beverages and local food. Clothes can be laundered and nearby roadside populations of *N. philippinensis* can be visited.

Day 8 we reach the town of Narra and begin an ascent of Sultan Peak, reaching the summit on Day 9 to find a population of *Nepenthes palawanensis*, possibly the largest of all pitcher plants and only ever seen previously by two groups. We also encounter a *N. philippinensis*-type potentially new species, then descend, reaching Narra on Day 10. On Day 11, we fly from Palawan to Mindanao, reaching the foot of Mount Apo on Day 12. On Day 13, we ascend the geothermal slopes of Mount Apo to find epiphytic populations of *N. copelandii*, returning the same day. We travel to the base of Mount Kiamo on Day 14, and on Day 15 ascend to the summit to see spectacular populations of *N. alata*, *N. pulchra*, *N. ceciliae*, and possibly *N. merrilliana* and *N. truncata*. We return the same day. On Day 16, we travel north, visiting roadside populations of *N. alata*, *N. mindanaoensis*, and possibly *N. merrilliana* and *N. truncata* before catching an evening flight to return to Manila.





Tour 3 - New Guinea

The Wild West of South East Asia is a land of unbroken rainforests and many of the most intact tribal cultures in the world. New Guinea is also home to several of the most interesting and little known of all *Nepenthes* species.

Day 1, we meet in Jayapura, the capital of Papua. On Day 2 we travel off road to explore spectacular *N. neoguineensis*, *N. maxima* and lowland *N. ampullaria* populations. All three species are exceptionally variable in New Guinea and appear in a rainbow of colour variants.

Day 3 we fly to the South West of New Guinea and, on Day 4, depart by canoe with local fishermen to explore coastal populations of *N. treubiana* growing over cliffs just a few feet above the salt water of the sea. The cliffs that are home to these trailing populations also harbour ancient petroglyphs which we can also explore by canoe. Day 5 we return and transfer by plane to the South of Papua. Day 6 we travel inland by 4 x 4 to explore populations of the giant *N. insignis*, and spectacular highland *N. ampullaria* plants with enormous pitchers. As we descend by vehicle, we visit lowland *N. ampullaria* and *N. mirabilis* stands.

Day 7 we transfer to the interior of New Guinea by plane, and on Days 8, 9 and 10 we drive by 4 x 4 vehicle past beautiful highland lakes to explore populations of the spectacular and very little known *N. klossii*, and explore the highlands to find spectacular diminutive highland *N. maxima* plants with tiny whitish and reddish pitchers.

On Day 11 we fly to Sorong, chartering a motor vessel to depart for the spectacular, pristine island of Misool. We arrive on Day 12 and, over Day 13, glide over beautiful coral reefs just below the surface as we explore populations of *N. sp.* Misool, growing over limestone cliffs just above the water level. We return back to civilisation on Day 14, fly back to Jayapura on Day 15, and finally depart early on Day 16. Depending upon interest, an extension can be organised to the famous Baliem Valley for five days trekking between seven villages to explore New Guinea's incredible cultural heritage.



