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Peninsular Malaysia

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Mountain Peacock Pheasant

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This day tour was to target some rare highland species of Peninsular Malaysia, particularly Mountain Peacock Pheasant, during a stopover following our Maluku tour. We had good weather for most of the day with heavy rains having fallen the night before making things a bit damp. We had great looks at most of the target species we saw along with some nice mammals and butterflies.

We began early driving up into the hills of the Titiwangsa mountain range where we ran into our first important target, a very obliging pair of Chestnut-naped Forktails. One perched on either side of the road gave great views in the early morning light before joining up and disappearing into the forest.

We arrived at the spot for our next target with the sun coming up and the birds starting to sing. One song that got our attention was from a Rail-Babbler that slowly began to move towards us, eventually crossing the clearing in front of us. We were revelling in the stunning views we'd just had when another moved slowly across in front of us joining her mate on the other side. A close female Yellow-rumped Flycatcher and Siberian Blue Robin clicked away in the nearby scrub as we waited for our next target which soon showed up in the form of a stunning male Mountain Peacock-Pheasant. Its bright blue and green ocelli showing well as it moved around in front of us. With our main target under our belts we took in a stunning Cream-colored Giant Squirrel before heading back picking up Sultan Tit and Gold-whiskered Barbet along the way.

We next visited Bukit Fraser where we spent the late morning walking up from the Gap. Several noisy Red-bearded Bee-eaters greeted us at the beginning of the road. We hiked up along the roadside checking bamboo patches eventually locating a Bamboo Woodpecker as well as a Banded Woodpecker which both showed. A nice party of Blue-winged Leafbirds moved past us while some Yellow-bellied Warblers moved furtively through the bamboo stalks. Another target showed up in the form of a noisy group of Black Laughingthrushes which gave us a great show with blue throat skin visible as they called to one another.

A Red-headed Trogon put in an appearance adding a splash of bright red to the greenery below us before we took a short break for lunch.

In the afternoon we birded Bishop's Trail and the beginning of the telecom loop. A nice bird party provided some great views of Grey-chinned Minivet, Silver-eared Mesia, Blue-winged Minla, Long-tailed Sibia, Black-browed Barbet, a cracking pair of Black-and-Crimson Orioles, Golden Babbler and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo. Nice mammal sightings of White-thighed Langur, Prevost's and Plantain Squirrel and several nice butterflies in the form of Rajah Brooke's Birdwing, Red Helen and Tree Nymph.

A stunning pair of Common Green Magpie appeared before we had to leave for the airport and the road side ditches provided us with a nice pair of Slaty-backed Forktails on the drive down. A nice finish to a great days birding from Kuala Lumpur.



Rail-Babbler

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