

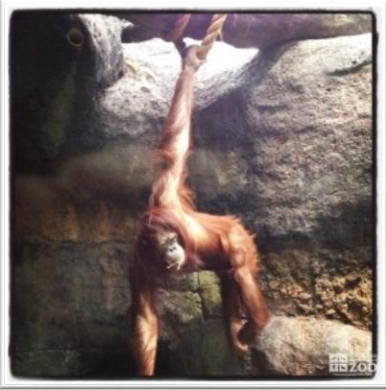
Bornean Orangutan

Scientific Name: *Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Primates

Family: Hominidae



A Bornean Orangutan has a head and body length of 4.5 to 5.5 ft. Arm-spread is approximately 8.25 ft. with females weighing up to 143 lb. and males weighing up to 317 lb. They are the largest tree-dwelling mammal, and the only great ape living in Asia. Orangutans are primarily diurnal and arboreal. While not as social as other apes, they may congregate when fruit is abundant. More than half of an orangutan's feeding time is spent eating fruit, with wild figs and durians being favorites. Tool use among fully wild orangutans does not compare with that of chimpanzees. Adult males spend over 90% of their time on their own. The interval between births is generally 3-4 years, though it can be as much as 8. Mothers look after their young for up to 8 years.

Range

Borneo

Habitat

Forest

Gestation

260-270 days

Litter

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Behavior

They construct nests high in the trees for sleeping, which are usually only used once. Smaller nests may be made for daytime rests. Orangutans use leafy branches held over their heads or large leaves draped over their head and shoulders as protection from both rain and sun. Orangutans have been known to untie complex knots on boats and rafts, using them to cross rivers.

Reproduction

Adults of opposite sexes only come together briefly during courtship. Males prefer mature females, and females prefer dominant males. The estrous cycle is 30 days. The young clings to the ventral surface of the mother for about a year and may still ride on the mother at 2.5 years. Weaning is usually complete at 3.5 years. The interval between births is generally 3-4 years, though it can be as much as 8. Mothers look after their young for up to 8 years. Males are not physically or socially mature until 13-15 years of age, hence do not breed earlier than this.

Wild Diet

Fruits (wild figs & durians are favorites), vegetation, insects and, perhaps, small vertebrates and birds' eggs