

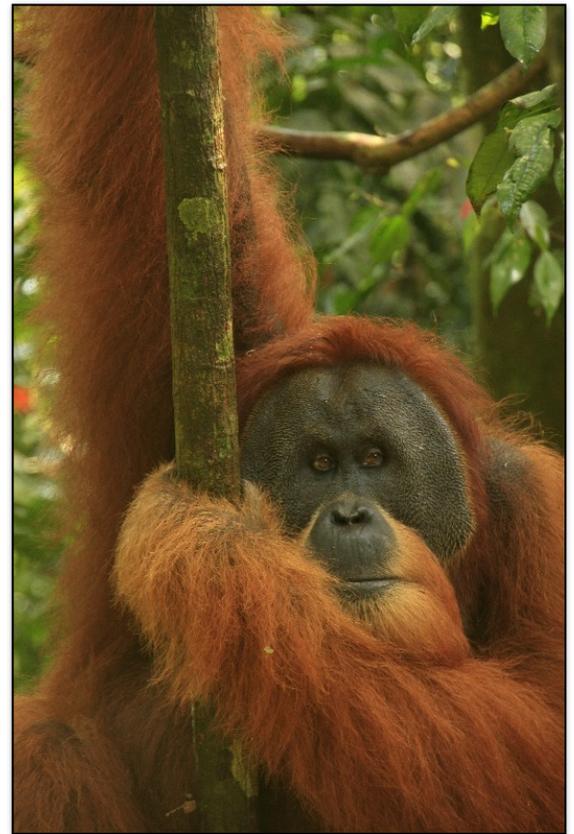
Pictures of the Week Series 2 - #24
Spectacular Nature of Sumatra, Indonesia



We've been on Sumatra - the world's sixth-largest island - for over a week now and we certainly know from past experience that you could spend a lifetime here (or anywhere) and never see or do everything, but the three photos here show a little bit of what Sumatra has to offer. We spent our first days diving and snorkeling the waters of Pulau Weh, a tropical paradise where all the locals welcomed us warmly, as if we were returning family members. The water was clear, pristine and warm as well. The underwater life was diverse and wonderful.



Each evening after spending all day in the water, Anya and I would sit on the balcony of our \$17/night bungalow built right over the crystal clear water and watch as storm clouds formed and then intensified on the eastern horizon. With a tripod and a long exposure I was able to capture this awesome nature moment (left).



Then we visited Gunung Leuser National Park...I know I've written about orang-utan encounters here before, but I just *have* to share one more experience from Sumatra. We were lucky enough to see and

photograph this dominant, wild, male orang-utan while trekking in the jungle. His mere presence was enough to cause my eyes to mist up, my heart to race, and my camera to shiver! His arm-span was easily 8 feet long and he was simply a spectacular beast! Being near this massive great ape was singularly the most amazing terrestrial wildlife encounter I've ever had. And so, we are traveling south through Sumatra expecting more from this stunning place - stay tuned. I hope you are happy and well.

-Don Mammoser