

Borneo Photo Safari: The Essential Guide & Checklist

1. Recommended Gear Checklist

Category	Item	Key Recommendation & Purpose
Optics	Binoculars	Essential for viewing animals at a distance. Look for a 7x or 8x magnification (e.g., 8x42) with high light-gathering ability for viewing in the dark rainforest shade or at night.
Lenses	Primary Telephoto	400mm or larger is needed for true "up close and personal" wildlife shots.
	Secondary Lenses	100-500mm / 70-200mm / 300mm for versatility.
	Specialty Lenses	Macro or wide angle for night walks, insects, amphibians, and close-ups.
Stability	Tripod / Monopod	Crucial for lenses 300mm or longer to prevent shake and motion blur. A gimbal head is recommended for large lenses.
Lighting	External Speedlite	A powerful automated flash with a flash diffuser is necessary for quality night photography.
Power	Batteries & Cards	Extra batteries and memory cards are non-negotiable. Bring a Power Bank for charging in the field.
Data	SSD Drive & Laptop	Essential for daily backing up and light processing of photos.
Controls	Remote Control	Useful for sharp shots and off-camera flash setups (especially for macro).
Field Kit	Headlamp / Flashlight	Vital for night safaris and early morning walks.
	Notebook & Pen	For jotting down species sightings and behavioral observations.
	Lens Cleaning Kit	To quickly clear fog or dirt that can ruin a shot.

2. Pro Tips for Essential Protection & Storage

Category	Item	Key Recommendation & Purpose
Rainforest Wet	Rain Cover / Drybag	Protect all expensive electronic equipment with a Camera Rain Cover, a waterproof backpack/poncho, and a Waterproof Drybag in case of sudden heavy rain.
Humidity / Fog	Silica Packs	Use them nightly to dry out your gear.

	Hotel Storage	To prevent severe morning fogging, store your camera gear in the bathroom at night with the door closed (keeps it out of the air-conditioning).
Moisture	Microfiber Towel	Use it to dry your hands and equipment while shooting in the hot, moist environment.

3. Pro-Tips for Photography Success

- Practice Ruthlessly: If your gear is new, practice at home in low light (early morning/late evening) until you can aim, focus, and adjust your camera quickly and instinctively. Animals won't wait.
- Override Auto-Focus: The camera's automatic focus often targets the nearest object (a leaf or vine). Set your camera to single point center focus to ensure the animal is sharp.
- Embrace the Darkness: Use a longer exposure and a larger aperture (lower f-stop) to compensate for the dark rainforest. This gives richer, deeper photos.
- Shoot Liberally: Pixels are free! Take lots of pictures using your rapid-fire action setting, especially for animals in motion, to ensure you capture the perfect focus and posture.
- Enjoy the Moment: We love capturing images, but don't forget to put your camera down sometimes and simply soak in the incredible rainforest experience!