

North Sumatra Fundraising Journey 2026

September & October 2026

Join us for an unforgettable fundraising journey through the heart of North Sumatra, supporting grassroots animal welfare, community programs and long-term projects connected to Mate's Gift.

Over approximately three weeks, guests will travel through some of Sumatra's most beautiful and remote regions including Medan, Bukit Lawang, Tangkahan and Lake Toba, experiencing a side of Indonesia that most travellers never see.

This experience has been carefully designed to combine meaningful hands-on support work with cultural immersion, wildlife experiences, community connection and adventure.

Throughout the journey, guests will spend time alongside local teams, villages and community programs while learning more about the challenges facing animals, wildlife and rural communities throughout the region.

Tangkahan

Often referred to as the hidden gem of North Sumatra, Tangkahan is where much of the Mate's Gift story began.

Surrounded by jungle and rivers within the Gunung Leuser ecosystem, guests will stay in simple jungle accommodation while experiencing village life and community-based conservation programs firsthand.

While in Tangkahan, guests may:

- Visit and support local sterilisation and parasite control programs
- Learn about the elephant feeding project supported by Mate's Gift
- Visit the Mate's Gift grassland project helping support local elephants and mahouts
- Spend time with local children and community initiatives
- Trek through jungle and river systems
- Swim in natural springs and waterfalls
- Experience traditional village life away from commercial tourism

The treks in Tangkahan can involve river crossings, uneven terrain, hills and humid conditions, however the pace is supportive and regular rest stops are always included.

For many guests, Tangkahan becomes one of the most emotional and life-changing parts of the journey.

Bukit Lawang & Batu Katak

Guests will also spend time in Bukit Lawang and Batu Katak, areas known for their incredible rainforest landscapes, orangutan conservation history and peaceful village atmosphere.

Here, guests may experience:

- Jungle trekking through the rainforest
- Opportunities to see semi-wild orangutans and other wildlife
- River tubing and swimming
- Visits to local villages and small community programs
- Community outreach and animal welfare initiatives
- Slower paced days connecting with nature and local life

Treks vary in difficulty and are designed to accommodate a range of fitness levels, however guests should expect stairs, hills, muddy terrain and tropical weather conditions at times.

These experiences are not zoo-style wildlife encounters. They are respectful, conservation-focused experiences within active rainforest ecosystems.

Lake Toba & Samosir Island

The final part of the journey takes guests to the breathtaking Lake Toba region and Samosir Island.

Surrounded by mountains, villages and one of the largest volcanic lakes in the world, this section of the journey allows time to slow down, reflect and connect more deeply with the local Batak culture and community.

Guests may experience:

- Boat travel across Lake Toba
- Visits to local villages and schools
- Community support programs
- Traditional cooking experiences
- Waterfalls, swimming and lakeside downtime
- Visits connected to local animal welfare initiatives
- Cultural experiences and local music

This part of the journey often becomes deeply personal for guests, offering time to process everything experienced throughout the previous weeks while still contributing to meaningful grassroots programs.

Meaningful & Hands-On Experiences

Throughout the journey, guests may have opportunities to support or witness:

- Community sterilisation clinics
- Parasite control programs
- Veterinary outreach
- Animal rescue and rehabilitation support
- Elephant feeding initiatives
- Community wellbeing projects
- Educational support for children
- Distribution of donated supplies into rural communities

No previous rescue or volunteer experience is required.

Some guests become heavily involved in clinic support and animal handling, while others prefer helping organise supplies, preparing donations, assisting with logistics or contributing in quieter ways.

There is always a role for everybody.

Accommodation & Travel Style

Accommodation throughout the journey is comfortable, locally owned and chosen for its atmosphere, location and connection to the communities we support.

Guests can expect a mixture of jungle lodges, eco accommodation and lakeside stays with private bathrooms, fans or air conditioning depending on location, and communal areas to relax together after busy days.

This is not a luxury holiday or commercial group package.

Roads in North Sumatra can be slow and unpredictable, power outages occasionally occur, internet can vary between locations and plans sometimes change depending on weather, animals or local circumstances.

Flexibility, patience and a sense of humour are all important parts of the experience.

In return, guests experience genuine connection, unforgettable landscapes, meaningful friendships and moments that many describe as genuinely life changing.

Inclusions

Depending on the option selected, pricing may include:

- Accommodation throughout the journey
- Airport and scheduled ground transfers
- Ferry transfers where applicable
- Most meals listed within the itinerary
- Private drivers and transport throughout the program
- Entry fees and activity costs
- Jungle trekking and village experiences
- Participation in community and animal welfare activities
- Support and coordination throughout the journey

Not Included

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Alcohol and personal spending
- Optional activities not listed in the itinerary
- Additional snacks or drinks outside included meals
- Visa costs if applicable

Fundraising Commitment

Guests joining the North Sumatra Fundraising Journey contribute through two separate components.

Journey Fee

The journey fee covers accommodation, transport, included meals, activities and operational costs associated with running the experience throughout North Sumatra.

This is a shared-cost fundraising journey, not a commercial holiday package, and pricing has been structured to directly reflect the genuine costs involved in coordinating accommodation, ferries, private transport, drivers, local guides, activities and community-based experiences across multiple regions of Sumatra.

Fundraising Commitment

Each guest commits to raising a minimum of \$1,000 AUD prior to departure.

These funds go directly towards supporting grassroots Mate's Gift programs throughout North Sumatra, including:

- Community sterilisation clinics

- Parasite control programs
- Veterinary treatment and rehabilitation
- Elephant feeding projects
- Animal welfare outreach programs
- Community education initiatives
- Support for local villages and families

Most guests choose to fundraise gradually over time with the support of friends, family, workplaces and their wider community.

In addition to fundraising, guests are also encouraged to assist by transporting donated supplies to Sumatra within their checked luggage allowance. Mate's Gift provides and organises these donations prior to departure, making it easy for guests to contribute practical support alongside their fundraising efforts.

Donated items may include:

- Reusable menstrual products
- Dog blankets and towels
- Disposable gloves
- Collars and leads
- Dog treats
- Reading glasses
- Bras
- Veterinary and medical supplies
- Unused medications donated by local clinics and supporters

Please note that while donated goods and luggage assistance are incredibly valuable to the programs we support, these contributions do not form part of the \$1,000 fundraising commitment itself.

The ability to transport practical supplies directly into remote communities is an enormous help to the local teams and programs supported by Mate's Gift.

A Special Ending To The Journey

Many guests joining the October journey will also have the opportunity to attend a very special celebration at the conclusion of the program.

Mate's Gift founder Christie and Mate's Gift treasurer Chris will be getting married in Lake Toba surrounded by friends, family, local community members and journey guests.

The wedding celebrations have intentionally been woven into the final section of the itinerary to allow guests who wish to continue with the group the opportunity to experience a unique cultural celebration in one of the most beautiful regions of North Sumatra.

Additional wedding package options include extra accommodation, group activities, transport and time to relax and celebrate together following the completion of the fundraising journey.

Pricing & Journey Options

To allow flexibility for guests joining different sections of the journey, several participation options are available depending on travel dates, time availability and interest in attending the Lake Toba wedding celebrations.

All pricing below is based on shared-cost travel and covers accommodation, transport, included meals, activities and operational costs associated with running the journey throughout North Sumatra.

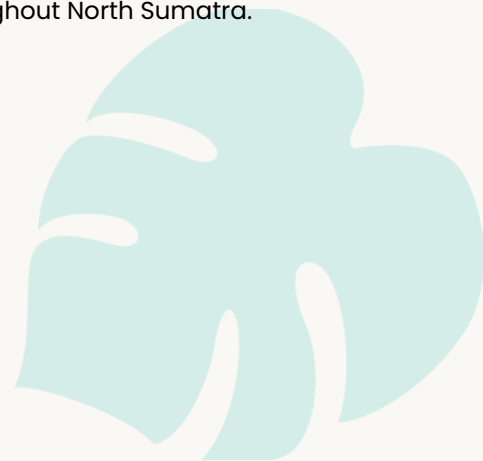
Full North Sumatra Journey

19 Nights – 28 September to 17 October 2026

Includes:

- 2 nights Medan
- 4 nights Bukit Lawang
- 8 nights Tangkahan
- 5 nights Lake Toba / Samosir

- Single Share – \$4,095 AUD pp
- Twin Share – \$3,620 AUD pp



Full Journey + Lake Toba Wedding Celebration

23 Nights – 28 September to 22 October 2026

Includes:

- 2 nights Medan
- 4 nights Bukit Lawang
- 8 nights Tangkahan
- 5 nights Lake Toba / Samosir
- Additional 5 nights for wedding celebrations and post-wedding activities

- Single Share – \$4,895 AUD pp
- Twin Share – \$4,020 AUD pp

Bukit Lawang Journey + Wedding

21 Nights – 30 September to 22 October 2026

Includes:

- 4 nights Bukit Lawang
- 8 nights Tangkahan
- 5 nights Lake Toba / Samosir
- 5 nights wedding celebrations

- Single Share – \$4,375 AUD pp
- Twin Share – \$3,595 AUD pp

Tangkahan Journey + Wedding – Option 1

14 Nights – 8 October to 22 October 2026

Includes:

- 4 nights Tangkahan
- 5 nights Lake Toba / Samosir
- 5 nights wedding celebrations



Single Share – \$2,905 AUD pp

Twin Share – \$2,655 AUD pp

Includes solo/private transport arrangements to connect guests into the group itinerary.

Tangkahan Journey + Wedding – Option 2 (Extended Tangkahan Experience)

17 Nights – 4 October to 22 October 2026

Includes:

8 nights Tangkahan

5 nights Lake Toba / Samosir

5 nights wedding celebrations

Single Share – \$3,410 AUD pp

Twin Share – \$3,245 AUD pp

Includes solo/private transport arrangements where required.

For many guests, this journey becomes far more than just travel. It is an opportunity to contribute to something meaningful, build lifelong friendships and experience a side of Sumatra that leaves a lasting impact long after returning home.

