

IPS TRAVEL: VIEW PALMS IN HABITAT

by Brad McCarson

Every two years members of the International Palm Society gather together to experience an exciting and wonderful event that's all about visiting palms that grow in exotic locations across the globe. As a group, they find palms naturally occurring in tropical or subtropical areas to better understand how they flourish in the wild. Exploring palms in their natural surroundings allows a beautiful and intimate experience to happen between people and plants. This a great way to educate yourself while soaking in the beauty of the world and the allure of the palm family. The experience of the IPS Biennial has a lot to offer, such as lectures at botanical gardens, travels to magnificent places, tasting new cuisine, meeting palm experts or biologists, and of course seeing palms in habitat. Not something you see or get to do everyday!

The upcoming June 12-19, 2016 Biennial will begin in Kuching, Malaysia and conclude in Singapore which boasts thousands of species of plants in one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet. You will get to see many exotic plants, including many indigenous palms and hundreds of orchids! Past Biennial adventures included Miami, Brazil, The Dominican Republic, and much more. Take a look at what people discovered:



Mountainside full of *Coccothrinax boschiana* in the Dominican Republic

Photo: Bo-Göran Lundkvist



A large natural grove of *Copernicia berteroana* Photo: Bo-Göran Lundkvist

Attending the International Palm Society's Biennial trip can be a life changing experience. The biennial meeting gives you an opportunity to meet other palm enthusiasts from around the world and create lifelong friendships with people who share the same passions as you do. Going directly where the palms grow will give you hands-on experience with them in their natural habitat. You can learn their exact growing requirements by analyzing their ecosystem. The amount of knowledge gained by attending and the level of fun and excitement are truly priceless. Once the trip is over and it's time to go home you can grow the palms you have learned about, cook the new cuisine you have tried, and share with others the incredible time you had.

Countless fond memories are created during the IPS Biennials. Just ask some of our fellow members who have attended:

"The connection between the people, the place and the palms was unforgettable."

Scott Zona
Miami, Florida

"Biennials provide a great opportunity to meet other palm enthusiasts and to learn something new in the world of palms."

Dr. John Dransfield
Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew, UK

"The level of enthusiasm for the palms was contagious."

Kimberley Cyr
San Diego, California

Some attendees answered a few questions to give insight of how great the Biennials can be: I asked, "What incentives does the Biennial have to offer someone who has never been?"

Continued...

"The incentives are and could be many. But I firmly believe that if you go, you get out of a biennial what you put into it. We are a large, diverse group from all over the world. And we grow many palms in our gardens, or on the patio maybe, that differ from one to the other. Ask lots of questions, listen to others as they talk and go to the many lectures that are offered. These are some of the best talks you will ever go to. And I have found that usually EVERYONE is genuinely very nice and helpful. Please consider going, life is short."

-Jeff Searle

You see, everyone who has attended will surely say that attending the IPS Biennial has changed their lives. Read more interview questions and answers here:

[IPS Biennial Commentary: Favorites!](#)

Registration for the IPS 2015 Biennial in Sarawak, Malaysia/Singapore is now open.

To learn more about the IPS Biennial trips and to BOOK your next adventure visit:

[The website of the International Palm Society](#)

You must be a current member of the International Palm Society to register.



IPS Members Mike and Mary Lock inspect palms during the IPS 2014 Miami Biennial *Photo: K. Cyr*

Drool-worthy palm photo for October: *Marojejya darianii* from Ed Lista of Hawaii. [Mardy Darian](#), for whom the palm was named, passed away in August 2015.



Do you have a fabulous drool-worthy palm photo? Submit photos to be considered for publication to: kimberley.b.cyr@gmail.com. Photos must be your own original work.

SHARE THE EXCITEMENT OF PALMS -- FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND!

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