

20th December - O Key of David-Orang-utan



Orang-utans spend almost all of their time in trees and rarely come down to the ground. This makes them different from the other great apes (chimpanzees/bonobos, gorillas and us!). It also makes it difficult for scientists to study and observe them in the wild; tragically, little is known about orang-utans in their natural habitat as so much of it as being destroyed and they are so critically endangered. Like other apes orang-utans are sophisticated and use tools; individuals in captivity are notorious for using their intelligence to escape; observing how humans open and close doors and hiding evidence where they have damaged locks, drilled holes or concealed sharpened objects. Animal charities working with injured or orphaned orang-utans have also noticed that they are inclined to steal and ate soap, apparently without feeling sick or uncomfortable afterwards. Some of the fruit which they eat in the wild is very strong smelling, so that might explain the attraction!