

= Survivor : Borneo =

Survivor : Borneo is the first season of the American CBS competitive reality television series Survivor . It was originally broadcast under the name Survivor but its official title was changed to Survivor : Pulau Tiga to distinguish it from subsequent installments of the series , and then changed again to Survivor : Borneo . The show filmed from March 13 , 2000 through April 20 , 2000 and premiered on May 31 , 2000 . Hosted by Jeff Probst , it consisted of 39 days of gameplay with 16 competitors . It was set in the South China Sea on the remote Malaysian island of Pulau Tiga in the state of Sabah , about 6 miles ( 9 @ . @ 7 km ) off the north coast of Borneo , Malaysia .

The sixteen contestants were initially separated into two tribes , named Tagi and Pagong , which represented the names of their beaches . When ten players remained , the contestants merged into one tribe , named Rattana . While Tagi and Pagong 's names and makeups were picked by the producers , Rattana was named by contestants Sean Kenniff and Jenna Lewis , because of the large amount of Rattan wood on the island . After 39 days of competition , corporate trainer Richard Hatch was named the Sole Survivor , defeating whitewater rafting guide Kelly Wiglesworth in a 4 ? 3 jury vote .

On August 23 , 2000 , the Survivor : Borneo finale received the highest ratings of any Survivor episode to date with an average of 51 @ . @ 7 million viewers . Nielsen reported that 125 million people watched at least some part of the finale . The season was released on DVD on May 11 , 2004 . In 2006 , it was revealed that Hatch failed to declare his winnings , among other earnings , in his tax return and was sentenced to 51 months imprisonment .

= = Production = =

In 1998 , CBS offered Mark Burnett the chance to present his idea of this reality show to producers . In October 1999 , CBS held a casting call for a new reality show concept . The idea was Survivor , in which sixteen people would be stuck on an island 20 miles ( 32 km ) away from the mainland of Borneo . Ten main cameras were set on the island that would film the castaways every day . Every three days , a Tribal Council would be held in which one castaway would be voted off the island . The last castaway to be on the island would win \$ 1 million .

Over 6 @ , @ 000 people applied for the show ; 800 were then interviewed in sixteen cities . 48 people were then chosen , and after background checks and psychological evaluations done by the producers , the final sixteen contestants and two alternates were picked .

As the survivors awaited the game 's start , Survivor crews prepared the island for reward and immunity challenges , removing any harmful items , checking for any harmful animals in specific locations , and building a Tribal Council set . Camera and other crews were sent to the island three weeks in advance for testing . On the opposite side of the island from the tribes , headquarters were set up for the producers , and crew to live in on the island . This facility included many traditional trailers with running water , televisions , and one phone line . The Tribal Council set was built two hundred yards from the crew 's facility . The Tribal Council set was 30 by 30 feet ( 9 @ . @ 1 by 9 @ . @ 1 m ) with no walls and only a platform . In the middle of the set was a fire lava pit providing fire for the torches , which represented the castaways ' life in the game .

On March 7 , 2000 , the contestants were flown to Los Angeles , then to the city of Kota Kinabalu in Malaysian Borneo . From there , they were taken by boat to their island . Contestants were not allowed to speak to one another until they got on the boat headed towards their beaches . The two tribes shared the island of Tiga , which was divided by over 20 miles ( 32 km ) of forest . The castaways were surrounded by wildlife such as pythons , kraits , adders , monkeys , monitor lizards , and white @ - @ bellied sea eagles . The show was set to air in the summer of 2000 .

= = Contestants = =

There were sixteen contestants overall , divided into two tribes , Pagong and Tagi . After six contestants were eliminated , the tribes were combined , or merged , to form one tribe , Rattana .

Seven contestants made up the jury , who ultimately decided who would win the game and the \$ 1 million grand prize .

= = = Future appearances = = =

Rudy Boesch , Richard Hatch , Susan Hawk and Jenna Lewis returned to Survivor for Survivor : All @-@ Stars , respectively placing 17th , 14th , 13th and 3rd . Gervase Peterson returned for Survivor : Blood vs. Water alongside his niece , Marissa , where he placed 3rd . Kelly Wiglesworth returned for Survivor : Cambodia , where she placed 11th .

Outside of Survivor , the Borneo cast have made many appearances on other TV programs and film . Notably , Colleen Haskell appeared in a lead role in 2001 film The Animal , opposite actor Rob Schneider . Hatch later competed in the eleventh season of The Apprentice ( known as the fourth season of The Celebrity Apprentice ) and was fired in week 5 , finished in 11th place . Hatch would later appear on the seventeenth season of The Biggest Loser , and finished in 13th place .

= = Season summary = =

The sixteen contestants were divided into two tribes of eight : Tagi and Pagong . Both tribes fared equally in challenges , but differed in organizational structure . Pagong was dominated by the younger , more carefree members , whereas four contestants on Tagi ? Kelly , Richard , Rudy , and Susan ? formed an alliance , choosing to vote as a voting bloc to ensure their safety . When ten players remained ? five from each tribe ? the tribes merged into one , named Rattana . The alliance strategy proved to be successful , and the four took advantage of the other contestants ' lack of voting strategy to gain dominance . There was dissension in the alliance as Kelly was deemed untrustworthy , however she won four consecutive immunity challenges and was ineligible for elimination .

When only the four alliance members remained , the vote initially ended in a draw ; close allies Richard and Rudy voted for Susan , and Susan and Kelly voted for Richard . On the revote , Kelly decided to switch her vote and Susan was eliminated . After winning the final immunity challenge , Kelly decided to eliminate Rudy because she believed she had a better chance against Richard . At the final Tribal Council , Susan lambasted Kelly for switching her vote and proclaimed her support for Richard . Richard 's strategic prowess and leadership was valued over Kelly 's impressive challenge performances , and the jury awarded him the title of Sole Survivor in a vote of 4 @-@ 3 .

In the case of multiple tribes or castaways who win reward or immunity , they are listed in order of finish , or alphabetically where it was a team effort ; where one castaway won and invited others , the invitees are in brackets .

= = = Episodes = = =

= = = Voting history = = =

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

By the second week , the show had already gained over 18 million viewers , beating out ABC 's show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire ? in ratings . After the season finale , Carter said that Survivor " built over a 13 @-@ week run to what was expected last night to be the biggest single television audience ever assembled for a summer television series , far eclipsed every expectation the network had when it acquired the rights to the show last year . " Leslie Moonves , the president of

CBS Television said that " it has beaten our expectations by about double . " The finale of Survivor was watched by 51 @. @ 7 million viewers , the second @-@ highest viewership of any American television episode during the first decade of the 21st century , exceeded only by the finale of Friends . The finale had higher ratings than the World Series , NBA finals , NCAA men 's basketball finals , and Grammy Awards of that year . CBS was able to make the cost of commercial advertisers up to \$ 600 @, @ 000 during the season finale .

Survivor was the surprise summer hit show of the season garnering an average of 28 @. @ 3 million viewers with a 12 @. @ 1 / 36 share in the 18 / 49 market over its 13 @-@ week run . Thus , it achieved the second @-@ highest ranking and the second @-@ highest amount of average viewers of the entire series , behind The Australian Outback . In addition to the highest amount of finale viewers , it also garnered the highest amount of reunion viewers ( 37 million ) .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Survivor : Borneo initially received mixed reactions in the media . Bill Carter , a writer for The New York Times stated that Survivor has " clearly begun to emerge as part of the wider culture , with news and discussion about the show widespread on television and radio talk shows and coverage increasing in newspapers . " On the Late Show with David Letterman , David Letterman began a segment titled , " Top 10 Things That 'll Get You Thrown Off the Survivor Island . " During the first season , USA Today held coverage of the show as if it were a sporting event , listing which participant was voted off . USA Today also held a poll to see who viewers would have voted off . With 26 percent , Susan Hawk won the poll , although it had no effect on the game , as Sue made it to 4th place . CBS 's The Early Show held an interview with each contestant the day after the episode in which they were voted off aired .

Survivor : Borneo was criticized by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals ( PETA ) in response to footage showing the contestants trapping rats on the island , initially for fish bait but later for human consumption .

Susan Hawk 's " snakes and rats " speech given during the final Tribal Council has been cited as one of the greatest and more memorable speeches in the show 's history ,

Despite the initially mixed reception at the time , Borneo has undergone significant critical reappraisal in later years , and is now considered one of the best seasons of the entire series . Host Jeff Probst consistently ranks it as his favorite , equating it to a " first girlfriend . " Entertainment Weekly columnist Dalton Ross ranks Borneo as tied for first with Survivor : Micronesia , saying " ... Borneo now seems dated and tame by comparison , but it 's the biggest game changer in the past 20 years of television ... If you ask me which is the most important season , well , obviously it 's Borneo . " Borneo is also ranked as the greatest season of the series by Examiner.com and Zap2it , and is ranked second behind Survivor : Heroes vs. Villains by The Wire . Survivor fan site " Survivor Oz " has consistently ranked Borneo in the top 10 in every one of its annual polls ranking all seasons of the series ; it was 5th in 2012 , 6th in 2013 , and 8th in 2014 . Another prominent Survivor fan site , " The Purple Rock Podcast , " ranked Borneo as the 10th best season in 2015 . Fifteen years later , in the CBS Watch official issue commemorating the 15th anniversary and 30th season of Survivor , Borneo was ranked as the 7th @-@ greatest season of the series by a viewer poll . In another poll in the same magazine , Hatch 's win at the end of the season was voted by viewers as the # 5 most memorable moment in the series . Noel Murray of the A.V. Club noted that the 5th episode , " Pulling Your Own Weight " , was one of the season 's most influential segments . In this episode , the Tagi alliance led by Hatch secretly worked together to vote Dirk off the island , surprising many of the remaining contestants who were shocked to discover there was an alliance . Murray noted that while this sentiment towards alliances at the time seemed controversial and against the spirit of the show , it formed the basis for most future Survivor series and reality television in general , and highlighted the lengths that players on reality television shows would go to form such collusions while deceiving others as to ultimately win the game .

= = DVD release = =

The DVD release of season one was released by CBS Home Entertainment in the U.S. on May 11 , 2004 , after it had completed broadcast on television . As well as every episode from the season , the DVD release features bonus material including commentary , interviews and behind @-@ the @-@ scenes featurettes .

= = Stacey Stillman controversy = =

In early 2001 , Borneo contestant Stacey Stillman sued CBS , claiming that executive producer Mark Burnett arranged her exit and orchestrated the show 's outcome . Her 14 @-@ page lawsuit alleged that two of her fellow tribemates , Dirk Been and Sean Kenniff , were persuaded to change their vote from 72 @-@ year @-@ old Rudy Boesch to her . Stillman sought restitution for lost prize money , plus \$ 75 @,@ 000 representing out @-@ of @-@ pocket expenses and punitive damages . While CBS and Burnett denied the allegations , Been supported them ; Kenniff admitted talking to Burnett , but told USA Today that the vote wasn 't influenced and Burnett said only to " vote your conscience . " Burnett counter @-@ sued Stillman for at least \$ 5 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 . Eventually the case was settled out of court .