

Naturally Sabah

8 Days | Kota Kinabalu to Sandakan



Mt Kinabalu, pygmy elephants, orangutans, rainforests and great food. There's sun and there's sand but this tour is not for those who long to lie on the beach reading a book, it's much more! Come to Sabah and soak it all in... naturally

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park and pristine Mamutik Island - Snorkelling and swimming
- Taun Gusi Village - Experience village life at a homestay, horseriding and swimming in the river
- Kundasang WWII Memorial Park - Learn about Sabah's WWII history
- Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary
- Sukau Rainforest - Home to an array of wildlife. River cruise in search of wildlife
- Kinabalu National Park - Tropical rainforest
- Kinabatangan River and Kelenanap Oxbow Lake - Enjoy a river cruise to view birds and wildlife
- Poring Treetop Canopy Walkway - Spectacular views of the rainforest below

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 3 dinners

- 4 nights STANDARD hotels, 2 nights rainforest lodge (private en suite) and 1 night homestay with shared facilities. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details
- Guided sightseeing and river cruises as per itinerary. Please note: Days 5 – 8 in Sepilok, Sukau and Kinabatangan are on a shared touring basis (not private)
- Canopy Walkway - Poring Treetop
- Village experience and homestay - Taun Gusi
- Local guides for all included sightseeing
- Entrance fees to all included sites
- An airport arrival transfer day 1 and a departure transfer day 8
- All relevant transfers and transportation in air-conditioned vehicles and river boats

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tipping - An entirely personal gesture
- Tourism tax - RM 10 per room, per night to be paid directly to hotel

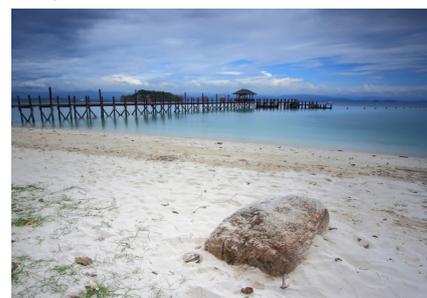
DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Kota Kinabalu

Welcome to Kota Kinabalu. Upon arrival, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight - Kota Kinabalu

Day 2 : Mamutik Island



Kota Kinabalu - Mamutik Island - Kota Kinabalu. Just a 20 minute boat ride and you'll arrive at the beautiful coral islands of the Tunku Abdul Rahman Park. Offering pristine white beaches, clear water and coral reefs, this is perfect place for a day of relaxation and swimming. Snorkel in crystal clear water among coral reef and tropical fish or explore jungle trails before returning to Kota Kinabalu.

Overnight - Kota Kinabalu (B)

Day 3 : Taun Gusi Homestay

Kota Kinabalu - Taun Gusi. Today travel north to Taun Gusi Village in Kota Belud, which is known as the rice bowl of Sabah. It's a scenic journey through paddy fields and rubber plantations, passing native houses with majestic Mount Kinabalu as the background. Upon arrival meet your host family and in the afternoon there's the opportunity to go horse riding, visit a place that makes swords (Bajau Parang Making) and bathe in the river. You spend the night at the home of your

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host family and gain a fascinating insight into village life. **Overnight - Taun Gusi Village Homestay (B, D)**

Day 4 : Kinabalu National Park



Taun Gusi - Kundasang. Wake up to the calls of roosters and enjoy the tranquility of the village. Start the day by visiting the "Valley of Paddy field" which is a vast low valley of lush paddy fields. Transfer to Kinabalu National Park where you visit the education centre and mountain garden, home to various species of the flowering Rhododendrons, carnivorous pitcher plants, orchids, ferns, and birds. If time and weather permits, take a guided trail walk. **Overnight - Kundasang (B)**

Day 5 : Kundasang Memorial Park

Kundasang – Sepilok. This morning visit the Kundasang memorial park and discover Sabah's WWII history, before heading to Poring, 1,500 ft above sea level, and east of Kinabalu Park HQ. Explore tropical lowland rainforest and the jungle trail leading up to the treetop canopy walkways, suspended 41 meters above the forest floor across giant Mengaris trees. Next proceed by road to Sepilok, where this evening we experience the Sepilok Jungle Nightwalk. **Overnight - Sepilok Nature Resort (B)**

Day 6 : Sepilok Orangutans



Sepilok - Sukau. Your first stop today is the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, where orphaned and injured orangutans are reintroduced into the wild. We take a walk through the Tropical Lowland Dipterocarp Forest and visit the outdoor nursery where around 25 young orphaned orangutans are housed.

Depart Sepilok and transfer to jetty in Sandakan for a scenic hour boat cruise up to the Lower Kinabatangan River Sanctuary to Sukau, through a magnificent scenery of the Mangrove Forest. After lunch it's time to relax and look out for nature from the boardwalk, make sure to bring along your binoculars. Look out for any moving tree branches, as you might have the chance to spot the wild orangutan, silver leaf monkeys, birds and other wildlife. Later in the afternoon, take another cruise in search of more wildlife until the sunsets and by night fall you'll see the twinkling fire flies. After dinner at the lodge, you can experience the jungle at night from the nature boardwalk, searching for birds, snakes, insects and other wildlife with your nature guide. **Overnight - Abai Jungle Lodge (B, L, D)**

Day 7 : Sukau Rainforest



Wake up to the calls of nature. Early this morning take a river cruise to the Pitas oxbow lake to observe wildlife before returning to the lodge for breakfast. Then there's the opportunity to take part in a tree planting project with the locals before enjoying a simple lunch arranged by the villagers at Abai village.

After lunch cruise up river to Sukau village in search of primates especially the endemic Proboscis Monkeys, birds and other wildlife. After check-in at Kinabatangan Riverside

Lodge and time to relax, you take another late afternoon cruise to Menanggal River, a small tributary of the Kinabatangan. **Overnight - Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge (B, L, D)**

Day 8 : Sandakan

Sukau - Sandakan. Early this morning after breakfast take a two hour boat cruise back to Sandakan with the opportunity to spot wildlife en route. Your tour ends with a transfer to Sandakan airport. Flights should be booked after 2pm.(B)

Accommodation ratings

On our Private trips, you can often choose your style of accommodation. The price quoted on our website is reflective of the included accommodation, please see the "included" section on the first page of this document for details. Should you opt for an alternative hotel category, this will be confirmed in writing with the respective price on your invoice.

For further details about the indicative hotels, please see the "hotels" tab on our website. Here we rank hotel's in their respective country (REGIONAL CATEGORY) - but we also tell you how it ranks by Western standards (OUR CATEGORY).

STANDARD - Equates to a Western 3-star standard, always featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant.

SUPERIOR - Equates to a Western 4-star standard, featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant and often a swimming pool and/or a fitness centre.

DELUXE - Equates to a Western 5-star standard, usually featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, excellent service and customer care.

LUXURY - Equates to a Western 5-star plus standard - the creme de la creme. Featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, this accommodation is a cut above the rest. Sheer opulence!

Accommodation

Whether it is a longhouse in Sarawak, a rainforest eco lodge on the Kinabatangan River or a homestay in a local village of

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the Dusun people, Sabah, our jungle lodges and homestay accommodations have been chosen primarily for the experience.

On day 4 of our 'Simply Sarawak' and 'Wild Borneo' tours we spend a night in a Longhouse. Longhouses located on the periphery of the Batang Ai Reservoir are approximately a 1½ hour longboat ride from boat-launch in a remote area of Borneo. Lodgings are very basic but clean with communal western-style toilets, showers and mosquito nets. You will sleep on mattresses in the 'Ruai' - the communal covered walkway of the longhouse. Freshly laundered bedding is provided. Facilities are shared and power is supplied by a generator. This is a very unique experience and a wonderful way to experience how the Iban people live, however it's important to be aware that accommodation at the longhouse is very basic.

On days 6 & 7 of 'Sabah...Naturally' and days 13 & 14 of our 'Wild Borneo' tour we stay at rainforest lodges on the banks of the Kinabatangan River. These lodges are nestled among lush primary and secondary jungle, which is home to a plethora of wildlife including Borneo's iconic Proboscis Monkey, orangutans in their natural habitat as well as herds of Borneo Pygmy Elephants.

On day 3 of 'Sabah...Naturally' and day 10 of our 'Wild Borneo' tour we spend a night in homestay accommodation located in Taun Gusi Village. The accommodation is clean and comfortable with shared facilities. This is not a hostel or pension, it's accommodation in specially accredited homes which have been specifically set-up to host guests and allow the local families to not only display their traditional way of life but a chance to retain it. You will be housed in a separate building from the main home but will share meals with your hosts and usually bathroom facilities.

What to pack

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your holiday.

- Lightweight cotton garments. Ladies may need to have their shoulders and legs (to

below the knee) covered when visiting certain sites, so please pack accordingly

- Comfortable walking shoes in addition to flip flogs/thongs
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- Electrical adaptors. A universal adaptor is best!
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/poncho/umbrella
- Your Travel Voucher and two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swimming costume and torch

Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD\$3-6 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Borneo Country Guide

Welcome to Borneo - Arrival transfer

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is provided. After collecting your luggage proceed to the arrival hall and go to the meeting point detailed on your Tour Voucher.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes) or your flight is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Visas & passports

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book your touring services.

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Borneo.

New Zealand, Canadian and South African passport holders can enter Malaysia without a visa for a visit not exceeding one month. British and Australian passport holders do not require a visa for stays of up to three months. National from the U.S.A do not require a visa. All other nationalities please check with your nearest Malaysian/Borneo Embassy or Consulate.

Foreign travellers visiting Malaysia are required to hold sufficient funds (at least US\$500) to cover their expenses while in the country, a return/onward tickets and the necessary travel documentation for their next destination. If travellers are not in possession of a return/onward ticket, they may be requested to purchase one.

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

As Rabies are an ever present problem in Malaysia, close animal contact should be avoided and if bitten, you should treat the matter seriously and seek medical attention immediately.

Leeches are present in the jungles and can be a nuisance after heavy rain on jungle walks. Leech socks can be purchased locally and are recommended.

Treated tap water is available in most built-up areas. In rural areas we recommend bottled water which is widely available and inexpensive.

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required to enter Malaysia, if arriving within six days of leaving or transiting through an infected area.

Currency

The Myanmar Kyat, often denoted by MMK, is the official currency of Myanmar. The official

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rate is far different from the market rate. Some exchange booths, especially at the airport offer a very poor rate so we recommend you wait until meeting our representative or your tour guide for advise on the best place to exchange.

Carry USD or Euros cash, larger denominations tend to get better exchange rate. USD bills should be of the new series ('big' heads rather of 'small' heads) and any notes that are old, torn or marked will not be accepted. Further USD bills with the CB series are not acceptable for exchange. ATMs are not available in Burma and Credit Card and Travellers Cheques are not accepted. We recommend you bring all your holiday money in cash (preferably USD notes).

Essential Packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your holiday.

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- Lightweight cotton garments
- Comfortable walking shoes in addition to flip flogs/ thongs
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- Bring a 2 flat prong (type A) and a 2 round pin (type C) electrical adaptors. A universal adaptor is best
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/poncho
- Ypur Tour Voucher, two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport

Malaysia Country Guide

Visas & passports

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book your touring services.

Nationals from New Zealand, Canada and South Africa are allowed to enter Malaysia without a visa for a visit not exceeding one month. British and Australian passport holders do not require a visa for stays of up to

three months. Nationals from the U.S.A do not require a visa.

All foreign nationals require at least a six month validity on their passports from the date of entry into Malaysia. Please note that visa requirements are subject to change and procurement remains the sole responsibility of the traveller and not On the Go.

Health requirements

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

As Rabies are an ever present problem in Malaysia, close animal contact should be avoided and if bitten, you should treat the matter seriously and seek medical attention immediately.

Leeches are present in the jungles and can be a nuisance after heavy rain on jungle walks. Leech socks can be purchased locally and are recommended.

Altitude Sickness can be an issue if climbing Mt Kinabalu – generally returning to a lower altitude will resolve the issue but if symptoms persist seek medical advice immediately. Symptoms include headaches, throwing-up, diarrhoea, disorientation and in severe cases temporary blindness.

Currency

Malaysia's currency – the Ringgit (RM) is equivalent to 100 sens (cents). Coins are issued in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50 sen and RM1. Notes come in RM1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100.

Foreign currency and traveller's cheques can be converted to Malaysian Ringgit at banks or authorized money changers throughout the country or you can purchase currency in advance. ATM's are common in larger cities however Malaysian pin numbers are 6-digits and some travellers have reported difficulty receiving cash from ATMs using 4-digit pins. We recommend a combination of cash (US, Euro, AUD, GBP) and credit/debit cards.

Essential packing

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