



The Best of Borneo



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Borneo

BROCHURE CODE: 4024
DURATION: 11 nights

In Brief

An epic adventure awaits you and your family on this trip, which showcases the very best of Borneo. On the islands of Kota Kinabalu, you will enjoy snorkelling and zip wires before heading into the tropical rainforest to seek out some of the world's most endangered species, all while enjoying a wealth of unforgettable experiences. The holiday price includes all activities.

Our Opinion

“ Borneo has always conjured up images of adventure, truly spectacular wildlife and landscapes. What amazed me is that you can experience all of this and more whilst participating in some amazing activities. The memories that I have of scuba diving in crystal waters, encountering orangutans at seriously close quarters and mountain biking in a jungle will always remain with me. ”

Amy Hope



What's included?

- **Transfers:** group airport and activity transfers (private airport transfers may incur a supplement)
- **Accommodation:** 11 nights in hotel or lodge accommodation: 7 nights in a 5* hotel in Kota Kinabalu, 3 nights at Sepilok Nature Resort and 1 night in Kinabatangan Nature Lodge
- **Meals:** 11 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 1 dinner
- **The following activities are included:** Island cruise by boat, island to island zip line, snorkelling, white-water rafting, jungle trekking and survival skills, Rainforest Discovery Centre, Orangutan Rehabilitation Sanctuary, Sun Bear Conservation Centre, Gomantong Caves, jungle night walk, rainforest boat trip, tree planting, Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary, scuba diving, mountain biking **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- All equipment, tuition and supervision from fully qualified instructors
- Services of our representatives or local guides

Please note: international flights and internal flights between Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan are not included in the holiday cost. Please contact us for a quotation. Please do not make any flight arrangements until your holiday has been confirmed.

Trip Overview

Few places can compete with Borneo when it comes to adventures, activities, and wildlife. The Malaysian Sabah region is the base for our Activities Abroad family holiday adventure and the itinerary has been designed to ensure you see the very best that Borneo has to offer. All activities are included in the holiday price.

Your family adventure starts in and around Kota Kinabalu. Here you will enjoy taking a boat ride past tropical islands, snorkelling along coral reefs, flying on an inter-island zip wire, white-water rafting and jungle trekking, and sampling some wonderful accommodation and delicious food.

Next, it's into the tropical rainforests for memorable encounters with some of the world's most endangered species which are indigenous to Borneo's rainforests. You'll have the chance to get close to proboscis monkeys, sun bears, and orangutans at their respective sanctuaries before searching for them in the wild. There will be rainforest boat trips where you are almost certain to encounter some of the abundant wildlife, as well as a visit to the spectacular Gomantong Caves, famous as a nesting

ground for swifts and some 27 species of bat.

Back in Kota Kinabalu, you'll have the chance to scuba dive with our local experts and then go mountain biking prior to travelling home with some wonderful memories of your family tropical adventure.

Image credits: Borneo Dream Travel & Tours, The Hubner Family (clients), Heinz Rickers, G Woolley, Tsen Lip Kai, Azahari Reyes and Sabah Tourism

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND TRANSFERS

Upon arrival at Kota Kinabalu International Airport, a guide will be waiting to transfer you to your wonderful waterfront accommodation, around a 60-minute drive away. You have this evening to yourselves so you can relax and settle into your new surroundings.

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

ISLAND CRUISING, SNORKELLING AND THE ISLAND TO ISLAND ZIP WIRE

There is no better way to become familiar with the tropical waters of Borneo than to spend the day exploring the stunning islands and coral reefs that sit just off Kota Kinabalu.

You will take a boat around the islands during the day with guided snorkelling tours during the morning and afternoon where you can get acquainted with some of the region's aquatic wildlife.

One of the highlights of today is the chance to try the famous Coral Flyer, an inter-island zip wire (the longest island to island zip wire in the world) and a serious thrill.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
3

JUNGLE RAFTING

The Kiulu River rapids are graded as level 1-2 and so it is ideal for families and perfect for a really fun day. After instruction you will take to the water for a very entertaining trip downstream, passing through stunning rainforest and passing small villages. After Lunch, you'll return to Kota Kinabalu in the late afternoon.

Included Meals: Breakfast, LunchDAY
4

JUNGLE TREKKING AND SURVIVAL SKILLS

Trek into the jungles of Borneo through rural villages, over hanging bridges, through streams and along narrow jungle trails. During your trek, you will learn about the use of local plants for medicinal and culinary use and be shown some traditional hunting and gathering techniques (such as catapults and rubber tapping). For lunch, you will try a jungle cooking challenge over an open fire.

In the afternoon, you will trek back out of the jungle and arrive back next to the Kiulu River. Here you will experience a zip-line ride across the river, which is a great way to end your jungle adventure experience! You will return to the hotel late afternoon and will have the chance to relax and enjoy the facilities.

Included Meals: Breakfast, LunchDAY
5

FLIGHT TO SANDAKAN

This morning you will wave goodbye to the coast and take the short flight to Sandakan (not included in the holiday cost, please speak to our travel experts for a quotation). If you are lucky enough to get a window seat on the left of the plane (and it is a clear day) you should see spectacular views of the imposing Mount Kinabalu as you fly past.

On arrival, you will be transferred to Sepilok and your delightful lodge accommodation on the edge of the world famous Orangutan Sanctuary. It is not uncommon for the orangutans to come swinging through the grounds here so settle in and enjoy your evening before the adventure continues once again tomorrow.

Included Meals: BreakfastDAY
6RAINFOREST DISCOVERY, ORANGUTAN REHABILITATION SANCTUARY
AND SUN BEAR CONSERVATION CENTRE

Today encapsulates the essence of Borneo in terms of nature and wildlife. You will first explore the Rainforest Discovery Centre with a guide. There are some exceptional sights in the reserve and many trails to explore as well as the thrilling canopy walkways, which allow you to get up close to some of the biggest trees you are ever likely to see. It's a fascinating place.

After lunch in a local restaurant, you will visit the Sun Bear Conservation Centre and the famous Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Sanctuary where you will watch a feeding session. The sanctuary is world renowned for its efforts to save this magnificent animal through rehabilitating orphaned orangutans. You will watch a video about the work that is done here before feeding time. The orangutans are able to come and go as they please so there is no guarantee of a sighting, but close encounters are frequent and you must listen to the instructions of the local guides at all times.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
7

GOMANTONG CAVES AND A NIGHT ON THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE

The Gomantong Caves are world famous as the home of the swifts whose nests are harvested annually to make bird's nest soup. They are also truly spectacular in their own right. The sight of the birds, bats and creepy crawlies that inhabit the caves is definitely something you won't forget and the scale of these caves is rather awe-inspiring.

From Gomantong, you'll travel to the Kampung Bilit secondary jungle before heading out on a late afternoon boat trip on the river. The boat trips are guided by specialists who seem to have an unfathomable ability for spotting wildlife. There is the potential to see the proboscis monkey, as well as macaques and leaf monkeys, gibbons, the occasional crocodile and possibly a wild orangutan. You may even be some of the lucky few who witness the delightful Borneo pygmy elephant. This evening your guide will accompany you for a night walk in the jungle when the forest takes on a very different appearance. You will also have the opportunity to join a traditional dance class this evening led by the villagers from nearby Kampung Bilit.

You will spend the night in a simple but clean, en-suite chalet at the rainforest lodge and will fall asleep listening to the sounds of the jungle.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

RAINFOREST BOAT TRIP, TREE PLANTING AND LABUK BAY

After early morning refreshments, you will head back out on the boat for another attempt to spot some of the rainforest's inhabitants. Upon your return to the lodge, you have the chance to take part in its environmental tree planting programme.

For lunch today, you will join a cooking class at the Kinabatangan Lodge, which is led by some of the local villagers working in the lodge. You will be shown how to prepare a local dish before having the chance to savour the results of your efforts.

It's now time to check out and head back to Sepilok. En route you will experience yet another wildlife encounter that is unique to Borneo; Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary which will allow you to experience these rather bizarre looking monkeys at close quarters.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
9

RETURN TO KOTA KINABALU

Following transfers to Sandakan Airport, you fly back to Kota Kinabalu, where you will check-in, once again, to your wonderful waterfront hotel.

Included Meals: BreakfastDAY
10

UNDERWATER EXPERIENCE

If you have never dived before, but fancy giving it a go, then today is your lucky day! You will enjoy a scuba diving discovery experience (amazing for a non-diver). This will be a truly memorable experience.

For those who are qualified divers, you can participate in a leisure dive with our expert team and for those who prefer to stay on the surface, there is snorkelling available. A spectacular array of coral and aquatic life, possibly even sea turtles and stingrays, await you. Both, the leisure dive and the snorkelling are subject to availability locally.

Included Meals: Breakfast, LunchDAY
11

MOUNTAIN BIKING

After breakfast, you will explore the villages and spectacular countryside that surrounds Kota Kinabalu by mountain bike. This trip will provide an insight into the daily lives of the local people as well as some stunning scenery. You will travel on front suspension mountain bikes, following a route that your guide will tailor to your group; this may include gravel tracks, quiet country roads and possibly even some jungle routes. Back at your hotel you can enjoy a final evening and reflect on all of the exceptional experiences you have had.

Included Meals: Breakfast, LunchDAY
12

DEPARTURE

Sadly it is time to wave goodbye to Borneo or we can arrange for you to extend your stay. We can arrange a relaxing island break, or a PADI diving adventure to expand on the basic skills you learnt earlier in the holiday. Borneo is one of the most popular areas in the world for diving and it's easy to see why. Alternatively, you can experience more about the culture of Sabah by staying in a traditional Longhouse, the options are varied and all offer something truly memorable for families to enjoy together. Please speak to one of our Travel Experts for further information.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



PADI Open Water Diver Course

Are you ready to become a qualified diver?" This morning, it's just a short five-minute walk from the hotel to the Dive Centre where your three days of underwater fun and adventure begin. Before you get to diving, some classroom preparation is in order in the diving shop, where there is an area complete with desks and chairs for your morning study session. Afterwards, you will have lunch in a nearby café and then have time for a relaxing afternoon and night at your hotel before an active day tomorrow.

The next day, you will wake up bright and early in order to leave at 8.45 and make your way to Jesselton Point Jetty (walking time approximately 5 minutes). You will meet the Dive Crew and board the boat ready to head out to the stunning Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine National Park and its clear, turquoise waters. As you already completed the first day of this course on day 10 of your trip, you will complete day two of the course today, which involves confined skills sessions, some small water stamina tests and ocean dives of up to 18m. You will enjoy a well-deserved lunch at a café, and during your lunch break, you will also complete quizzes and take your final exam. Then, it's time to put your new skills into practice during an afternoon of open water diving. You will return to the Jesselton Point Jetty at 4 pm, then return to your hotel for your overnight stay.

The final day of diving will begin at around 9.00 am at the Jesselton Point Jetty and onto Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park once again. The whole day will be filled with open water diving, as you practise your new skill and admire the underwater world and its incredible wildlife. Lunch will be enjoyed in a café. At 4 pm, you will return to your hotel in time for your final night of the trip.

You will have a last breakfast in the morning and take your transfer to Kota Kinabalu airport in time for your flight home. Please note: your flight needs to depart from 11 am onwards, so there is an 18-hour safety window after your last dive!

ACCOMMODATION

The hotel for your three nights will be the Grandis Hotel (subject to availability).

With its central location, you'll be in the heart of the city so you can get out and explore Kota Kinabalu. You'll be right by the water's edge and within walking distance of the many different restaurants so you can try the varied local food on offer.

If you'd rather relax in the hotel, there are plenty of facilities to enjoy. Make sure you go up to the Sky Blu Bar for excellent views of the cityscape and out to sea. For those who want even more time in the water, there's also an amazing rooftop swimming pool.

HOTEL FACILITIES

- Double, twin or family rooms with upgrades to deluxe rooms available
- All-day dining in the Rosea Café
- Sky Bar and Piano Lounge
- Swimming pool
- Gym

Please contact one of our Family Travel Experts for a quotation.

© Borneo Dream, Grandis Hotel

Included Accommodation

Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort & Spa (Nights: 1-4,9-11)



The lovely and luxurious Shangri-La Rasa Ria Resort is an excellent family hotel. Set amidst a beautiful Nature Reserve this 5-star hotel also resides on the doorstep of Pantai Dalit Beach, so guests can enjoy a spectacular beachfront view, with 400 acres of tropical forest in the background.

This is a wonderfully luxurious location that not only offers a huge range of comforts but also some idyllic scenery.

Hotel facilities

- The hotel offers a choice of five restaurants serving a variety of popular western cuisines, as well as Malaysian and Asian favourites so you can try something new each evening if you wish
- The hotel boasts a large outdoor swimming pool and a separate children's pool with slide - perfect for families
- The resort is home to an eco-friendly championship golf course and the magnificent Spa at Dalit Bay
- There is a small gift shop on-site where you can buy postcards and souvenirs
- 24 hour room service is available
- Free Wi-Fi is available throughout
- There is an orangutan rehabilitation centre on-site so families can enjoy meeting these fascinating and highly intelligent creatures

Double or twin rooms

The rooms are comfortably furnished and have air-conditioning, TV and minibar. There are a wide range of room types and upgrades are available. Please speak to our Travel Experts for further information.

Sepilok Nature Resort (Nights: 5-6,8)



This charming hotel with its delightful wooden chalets is situated amongst beautiful tropical plants, orchids and trees and is within easy walking distance of the world-famous Kabili-Sepilok Forest Reserve, home to some of the few remaining wild Orangutans of Northern Borneo.

The hotel has been designed to combine a traditional style with an element of escapism. It is also in a prime location to see some spectacular wildlife. Indeed when our staff visited they encountered Orangutans just outside the chalets!

Hotel facilities

- Meals are served in the central restaurant on a covered terrace and the food here is a popular combination of traditional Malaysian and international cuisine. The terrace overlooks the rainforest so you can enjoy beautiful views as you eat
- The chalets are located amongst beautiful gardens with over 100 species of orchid – perfect for you to explore and enjoy a leisurely walk on the raised walkways
- The lake at the front of the lodge creates a beautiful vista

Chalets

You will stay in very well equipped, air-conditioned chalet accommodation. Each chalet has twin beds with mosquito nets and either a jungle or lake view private veranda.

Kinabatangan Nature Lodge (Nights: 7)



Kinabatangan Nature Lodge is situated on the Kinabatangan River, a remote and beautiful region which is a real wildlife haven and sanctuary for many animals whose habitats have been lost through deforestation. Here visitors can sleep surrounded by the sounds of the jungle and the wildlife which it is home to. The lodge is on the edge of the tiny village of Kampung Bilit, a remote and traditional community who live within this area of rainforest.

This is a unique experience for your family to get up close to some of Borneo's most incredible animals and the guides at the lodge will endeavour to ensure you can enjoy as many wildlife encounters as possible.

The lodge is built in the style of traditional Orang Sungai architecture, allowing it to blend into the environment. It is a simple place but this is all about the experience of spending time in the unique surroundings.

Hotel facilities

- There is a small shop which is supported and run by local villagers where you can buy small snacks and bottled water
- Tea and coffee are available for guests free of charge. Drinking water is provided in the main lodge buildings for guests as the water from the taps should not be drunk
- The small on-site shop sells some basic essentials and all of the proceeds go to the local community. You can purchase additional insect repellent and items such as leech socks if you wish to use them during the hikes
- Families can enjoy home-cooked meals which are served buffet style in the central dining area which is open to the sounds of the rainforest
- The guides at this lodge are second to none and they will do all that they can to ensure that you experience as many wildlife encounters as possible
- The lodge have gum boots available to hire for the jungle hikes which are highly recommended

Double or twin chalets

The accommodation is in simple raised, wooden chalets with mosquito-mesh covered windows allowing you to feel truly close to the sights and sounds of the jungle. The chalets are en-suite with showers and are all clean and simply furnished with double or twin beds.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 4 person and maximum 20 person (approximately)

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our booking conditions.

Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Borneo Cancellation Terms

Cancellation terms:

Please note that the following cancellation terms supersede those mentioned in section 7 of our general booking terms and conditions.

- More than 63 days prior to departure - Loss of deposit (including the full cost of flights or other services where paid at the time of booking)
- 63 to 46 days prior to departure - 40%
- 45 or less days - 100%

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.activitiesabroad.com/booking-conditions>