

## Trip Dossier

### 14 Day Borneo Wildlife Adventure



#### Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers

Kuching - Kota Kinabalu 3 - 16 October 2023

#### Itinerary Highlights:

- Semenggoh Wildlife Centre and Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary - View rescued semi-wild orangutans as they eat at their feeding stations in the rainforest
- Bako National Park - Travel via boat to this unique area containing almost every type of vegetation found in Borneo; the plant life is beautiful, the wildlife abundant and there is a great chance of seeing the endemic and endangered Proboscis monkeys
- Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre - Home to over 30 rescued sun bears
- Rainforest Discovery Centre canopy walk; 28 metres above the forest floor and great for bird watching
- Kinabatangan River - A wildlife hotspot within Borneo and the only other place to spot Proboscis monkeys at close range other than from Bako National Park
- Boat cruises - Ideal for wildlife spotting and bird watching
- Abai village - Enjoy a local-style lunch and participate in a tree planting project
- Gomantong Cave - The largest birds nests cave in Sabah
- Lipad mud volcano - A large mineral salt lick used by wildlife
- Lipad Waterfall - Take a dip in the natural pool and enjoy a refreshing shower under the waterfall
- "Coffin Trail" - Jungle trek leading to an ancient Kadazan-Dusun burial site and lookout point

The Malay Archipelago's natural beauty and unique wildlife are so extraordinary that they inspired British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace's theories of natural selection in the 1800s.

On our jungle adventure, we travel to the Malay Archipelago in Southeast Asia to the world's third-largest island, Borneo, where jungles and rainforests dominate the landscape and life flourishes beneath the forest canopy.

With some of the world's oldest rainforests (second only to Australia's Daintree Rainforest), it is no surprise that this rugged island is extremely rich in biodiversity. Some 222 mammals, 420 birds, 150 reptiles, 100 amphibians and 394 species of fish call the island home.

We will also find Borneo's most iconic species, the Orangutan (meaning "man of the forest" in Malay). Orangutans are highly intelligent creatures, sharing 96.4% of their genes with humans. They are also the only great ape to be found in Asia. Today, wild populations only exist in Bornean and Sumatran rainforests, so getting a glimpse of these gentle giants in their natural setting is a rare and beautiful opportunity.

We also hope to find some more well-known species, including pygmy elephants, clouded leopards, rhinoceros hornbills, saltwater crocodiles and the rare proboscis monkeys.

Borneo is also home to 15,000 plants, including pitcher plants, orchids, conifers and rhododendrons. Bird watchers, botany enthusiasts and general wildlife viewers alike will be delighted by the sheer variety of fauna and flora and the significant parts of the rainforest that remain intact, despite pressures from deforestation in recent decades.



## Itinerary

### Day 1      3rd Oct      Arrive in Kuching

Upon arrival in Kuching, meet your Coates Tour Leader and fellow tour companions at the airport. You will then be transferred to your hotel. The afternoon is free for you to relax and recuperate from your flight, and tonight we will enjoy a welcome dinner as a group at the hotel restaurant. "Upon arrival in Kuching, transfer to the Kuching Hilton (earliest check-in 3 pm), in time to meet your Coates Trip Leader and fellow tour companions for 7:00 pm at the hotel restaurant for a welcome dinner."

Accommodation: Kuching Hilton

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### Day 2      4th Oct      Semenggoh

After breakfast, we travel to Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, located 24 kilometres from the centre of Kuching. This orangutan rehabilitation centre receives orphaned or rescued orangutans and trains them to survive in the wild, providing an excellent opportunity for us to view semi-wild orangutans in a natural setting. Over 20 orangutans live in the natural reserve forest and often return to the centre to receive supplemental feeding (feeding time is 9.00 am - 10.00 am). During this time, we hope to observe the orangutans coming down from the surrounding forest for the food provided. The rangers will also give a briefing on the purpose of the centre and the conservation objectives. After your orangutan encounter, you will return to the hotel. The rest of the day is for you to spend at your leisure; enjoy the Kuching Waterfront, explore the city or relax at the hotel.

Accommodation: Kuching Hilton

B

### Day 3      5th Oct      Bako National Park

Today, you travel to Bako National Park. After breakfast, you will be collected from the hotel (between 7.50 am - 8.10 am hours) and driven to Bako village, 35 minutes from Kuching. You will proceed by boat for approximately 25 minutes to the park headquarters. En route, there is a chance for you to see crocodiles, sea eagles and other shore birds. Upon arrival at the park HQ, we will begin exploring the trails and searching for wildlife. Mid-afternoon, we return to Kuching.

Accommodation: Kuching Hilton

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### Day 4   6th Oct      Kuching - Sandakan - Borneo Sun Bear - Rainforest Discovery Centre

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Kota Kinabalu and later to Sandakan. Upon arrival in Sandakan, you will be met and transferred to My Nature Resort. Depending on arrival time, you will check in to your chalet and have lunch at the resort's restaurant. After lunch, we will visit the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre (BSBCC). This centre rescues captured sun bears and is involved in sun bear conservation, welfare rehabilitation and education. Over 30 sun bears live at the centre in the bear house and outdoor enclosures.

At 4.00 pm, it is time to visit the Rainforest Discovery Centre (RDC), an education centre located within the Kabili Sepilok Forest Reserve. The focus of this excursion is to experience the rainforest from high. Upon arrival at the RDC, you can quickly look at the visitor information centre before walking to the centre's 147 metres long canopy walkway, up to 28 metres above the forest floor in places. The walkway and towers offer a unique way of seeing Sabah's rainforest and are excellent for bird-watching. Over 250 species of birds are found here. We expect to return to MY Nature Resort around 5.15 - 5.30 pm.

Red giant flying squirrels are residents within the resort grounds, and they come out almost every night, but sightings are not guaranteed. We will head to the platform near the restaurant, and resort staff will point out which trees the squirrels sleep in and let you know when they leave their hiding places. If you are lucky, you will see the giant squirrels emerge from their nests and glide across the sky.

Accommodation: MY Nature Resort

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**Day 5            7th Oct            Sepilok – Abai**

After breakfast, we visit the Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary, where captive orangutans are reintroduced into the wild. You will be able to observe them at their feeding stations in the rainforest (the feeding session is at 10.00 am) and at the nursery if it is open. At 11.15 am, you depart Sepilok and proceed to a boat jetty in Sandakan. You will then take an hour boat cruise up the Lower Kinabatangan River, passing pristine mangrove forests and searching for wildlife. This cruise will bring you to the Abai Jungle Lodge, our home for the night and where we will have lunch. The afternoon is free for you to relax or explore the surrounding area on the nature boardwalk. At 4.30 pm hours, we go on another cruise searching for probosci's monkeys, birds, reptiles and other wildlife. As night falls, you will witness fireflies glittering on the mangrove trees. We return to the lodge for dinner and go on a guided night walk around the Lodge's nature boardwalk in search of insects, birds and other wildlife.

Accommodation: Abai Jungle Lodge

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**Day 6            8th Oct            Pitas Lake – Abai Village – Sukau - Menanggul**

It is an early start today. At 6.30 am, you will embark on another bird-watching and wildlife-viewing boat trip at nearby Pitas Lake. We return to the lodge for breakfast. After breakfast, we visit the nearby Abai village and participate in a tree-planting project. You will enjoy a local-style lunch prepared and served by the villagers. Alternatively, you may return to the lodge for lunch. After lunch, you will cruise upriver to Sukau, searching for wildlife along the way. When we arrive in Sukau, we will check in to Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge. At 4.30 pm, take another cruise up the Kinabatangan River to Menanggul River in search of more probosci monkeys, birds and other wildlife. Dinner is at the lodge tonight.

Accommodation: Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge

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**Day 7            9th Oct            Oxbow Lake – Gomantong - Sukau - Menanggul River**

Another early start today as we leave for our 6.30 am bird watching and wildlife viewing boat trip at nearby Ox Bow Lake, after which we return to the lodge for breakfast. Later we visit Gomantong Cave, the largest bird nest cave in Sabah, famous for its swift lets and edible nests. At 4.30 pm, venture on another cruise down the Menanggul River in search of wildlife. We return to the lodge at dusk, and you have the evening to spend at your leisure.

Accommodation: Kinabatangan Riverside lodge

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**Day 8                            KOPEL/MASCOT – Lahad Datu – Tabin Wildlife Resort**

Today you have an early departure to KOPEL/MASCOT (approx. 1hr from Sukau). Upon arrival, we proceed to breakfast at the Cafeteria. It is then approximately 1.5hrs to Lahad Datu, after which we travel to Tabin Wildlife Reserve on a gravel road for about an hour and a half. Upon arrival, you will check into the charming timber bungalows at Tabin Wildlife Resort. Various birds, insects and even small mammals can easily be sighted in the vicinity. Discover the wide variety of jungle herbs, some endemic, used for generations by local folks to treat various ailments. In the afternoon, embark on a short trek through the jungle for twenty minutes arriving at an elevated bare area - the Lipad mud volcano. This feature also serves as a mineral salt lick for wildlife, as evidenced by many animal footprints here. After dinner, enjoy a slide presentation on Tabin's uniqueness, followed by a Night Safari to look out for nocturnal wildlife and birds.

Accommodation: Tabin Wildlife Resort

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**Day 9                            Lipad Waterfall**

Today you may opt to join the early morning bird walk to discover some of Tabin's rich collection of almost 300 bird species. After breakfast, embark on a trek through the lush green rainforest known for its rich diversity of plants and animal species to visit the Lipad Waterfall. Take a dip in the natural pool and enjoy a natural and refreshing shower under the waterfall.

You will then have time to relax or explore the surrounding vegetation. In the afternoon, you may wish to try out the Tabin Rainforest Foot Soak, made with a natural blend of herbs, to relax tired muscles after long jungle treks. In the evening, enjoy a dusk drive to look for nocturnal wildlife.

Accommodation: Tabin Wildlife Resort

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## Tour Costs

Cost: AUD \$9,675.00 Per Person Twin Share  
AUD \$1,395.00 Single Supplement

Departs: Kuching (Sarawak) - Malaysia 3 October 2023

Finishes: Kota Kinabalu (Sabah) - Malaysia 16 October 2023

**Prices have been based on all known costs and current rates of exchange.  
Any significant changes beyond our control will be passed on to passengers.**

## Tour Payment

Deposit: At the time of booking, \$2,000 per person

Final Payment: On or before 3 July 2023

Note: The \$2,000.00 deposit is non-refundable, and the final payment is non-refundable after 3 July 2023.

Travel insurance covering all payments is VERY strongly recommended. Prices are based on all known costs and current rates of exchange. Any significant changes beyond our control will be passed on to passengers.

## Included

- Breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D) as indicated on itinerary
- Welcome and farewell dinner
- Twin share accommodation in resorts, lodges and hotels
- Camera fees (lens less than 400MM)
- Internal domestic flights (Kuching - Kota Kinabalu - Sandakan & Lahad Datu - Kota Kinabalu)
- Australian Coates Wildlife Tours Escort
- Qualified and experienced local English-speaking naturalist guides (one per sector; Sarawak and Sabah)
- Entrance fees of activities indicated on the Itinerary
- All excursions and transfers set out in the itinerary
- All tourist taxes
- Tipping

## Not Included

- International airfares to and from Malaysia and any accompanying airport and airline taxes
- Camera fees (lens more than 400MM)
- Camera fees (for movie cameras)
- Travel insurance (**very strongly recommended**)
- Any meals not included in the itinerary
- Any required visas
- All other personal expenses
- Any pre and post tour accommodation
- Any transit accommodation between Australia and Malaysia
- Juices, alcoholic or carbonated drinks unless stated.

## Accommodation

### Hilton Kuching

This hotel is located in central Kuching next to the Sarawak River, 10km from Kuching International Airport. Nearby attractions include the Kuching Waterfront, Jalan Main Bazaar and Tua Pek Kong Temple, and Bako National Park is only 30 minutes away. Rooms have wifi, TV and air conditioning and the hotel also features a restaurant, fitness centre, sun terrace and outdoor pool.



### MY Nature Resort

MY Nature Resort is a 24-room lodge surrounded by tropical rainforest, located next to the Kabili-Sepilok Forest Reserve. The lodge is only 2km from the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, and only 0.5km from the Rainforest Discovery Centre. The rooms include en suite bathrooms, hot showers, air conditioning, fans, a safe, fridge, kettle, hairdryer and flat-screen TVs. The resort also offers a pool. There is wifi in the restaurant (it can be slow and unreliable), and mobile phone coverage is patchy.



### Abai Jungle Lodge

The Abai Jungle Lodge is located 47km from the river mouth of Kinabatangan River (1 hour or so from the Sandakan Jetty). The Secondary Forest Reserve surrounds the lodge itself. Rooms include an attached bathroom, toilet, hot shower, safety box, air-conditioning and netted windows.



### Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge

Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge is right alongside the Kinabatangan River, making it perfect for wildlife spotting. All rooms have an attached bathroom, hot shower, air-conditioning, and netted windows. The lodge also has a swimming pool, restaurant, library and TV room.



### Tabin Wildlife Resort

This resort lies along the banks of the Lipad River and is the only lodge within the Tabin Wildlife Reserve (the largest wildlife reserve in Malaysia). Each room has an en-suite bathroom, hot water shower, private balcony overlooking Lipad River and ceiling fan. The lodge's restaurant is open daily.



### Borneo Rainforest Lodge

Borneo Rainforest Lodge is set alongside the Danum River in Sabah's largest protected Lowland Rainforest, the Danum Valley Conservation Area. Rooms have ensuite bathrooms, an outdoor deck, a coffee machine, a mini bar, safe and air conditioning. A public phone and filtered/cooled drinking water is available at the main lodge.



### Grandis Hotel

Hotel Grandis Kota Kinabalu is located in the city's heart, only 30 minutes from Kota Kinabalu International Airport. The hotel is located next to shopping, dining and tourist attractions. Room amenities include wifi, LED TVs, a shower, safe and floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows. The hotel also has a swimming pool and gymnasium.





## Tour Information

**Coates Leader:** Tom Grove (Managing Director)

**Naturalist:** Local Naturalist TBA

### Flights:

The tour starts in Kuching - Malaysia and ends in Kota Kinabalu - Malaysia. The airfare is not included in the tour price. You can book your flights online, or your travel agent will be able to arrange this for you.

Please ensure you are in Kuching on or before 3 October 2023 to meet your guides and fellow passengers at 7.00 pm for dinner.

The group transfer to Kota Kinabalu Airport on 16 October 2023 will depart from the hotel after breakfast and check out at around 10.00 am. You should arrive at the airport at approximately 10.30 am. Once you have made your bookings, please send us a copy of your flight itinerary.

### Pre & Post Tour Accommodation:

The tour includes your accommodation in Kuching on arrival day, 3 October 2023. Please contact us if you would like to spend extra days before or after the tour.

### Passport and Visas:

Australian residents will require a valid passport with at least six-month validity. Australian passport holders do not need to apply for VISA before travelling to Malaysia.

If you do not hold an Australian Passport, please contact the office to advise your requirements. Tourists from Western countries are generally allowed in without a visa for a stay of 1-3 months. For more information, please visit <https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/category/31>.

### Travel Insurance:

We strongly recommend that travel insurance be taken out to cover the entire time you travel.

### Accommodation:

Twin/double or share rooms with ensuite in hotels and lodges. If you would prefer a single room, a single supplement will apply.

### Meals:

The tour itinerary includes Meals (B = breakfast, L = lunch & D = dinner). Special dietary requirements can usually be catered for where prior notice is given. Don't hesitate to contact the office if you have a special dietary requirement, as a surcharge may apply.

### Physical Requirements:

Most walks will be easy to moderate. Depending on the walk, they may take between 1 to 3 hours. Night walks tend to be roughly an hour long. Jungle and rainforest walks may naturally require some clambering over roots and fallen trees. N/B All walks are optional.

### Weather:

The weather in October is generally fair, with a maximum daytime temperature of 30 degrees centigrade and a minimum low of 23. There is the possibility of rain as Borneo moves into the wet season. However, there will also be a healthy amount of sun. October is an excellent time to travel due to the combination of great weather (relatively dry) and low visitor numbers.

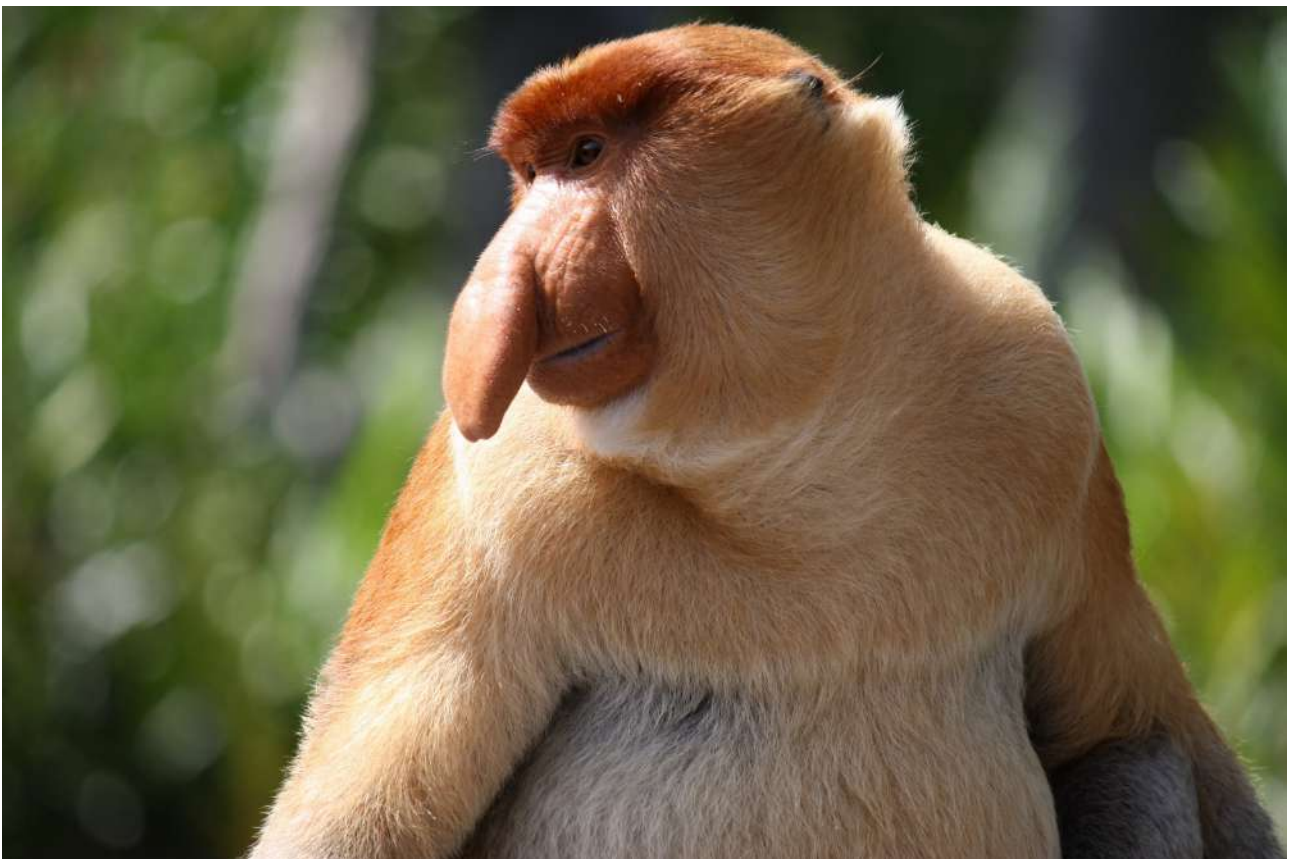
### Health:

Coates recommends speaking to your GP or travel doctor regarding travel to Malaysia. Food and waterborne diseases are a risk, and you should talk to your GP/travel doctor regarding your best options for protection. You should also seek advice on vaccinations that you may require.

### Clothing:

A suggested list of items to bring on the tour will be included in our pre-departure information, which will be sent to you on full payment of tour costs. However, comfortable casual clothing is recommended—light long sleeve shirts, long pants during the day, and a lightweight rain jacket. Long sleeves are recommended to protect against mosquitos.

For detailed **Terms and Conditions**, please visit the FAQ page on our website.



To make a booking or further information please contact:

Tom or Sylvia Grove at Coates Wildlife Tours

P.O. Box 1208

Booragoon, WA, 6954

Phone: 08 9330 6066 Free Call Country & Interstate: 1800 676 016

Email: [info@coateswildlifetours.com.au](mailto:info@coateswildlifetours.com.au)

Web: [www.coateswildlifetours.com.au](http://www.coateswildlifetours.com.au)