

Trip Dossier

14-Day Borneo Wildlife Adventure



Accommodated Small Group Tour - Max 12 passengers

Kuching - Kota Kinabalu 15 - 28 October 2024

Itinerary Highlights:

- 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 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
- "Jacuzzi / Coffin Trail" - Jungle trek leading to an ancient Kadazan-Dusun burial site and lookout point.
- Kinabalu National Park

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 fish species call the island home.

We will also encounter 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 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.



They come out almost every night, but sightings are not guaranteed. Resort staff will point out which trees the squirrels sleep in and let you know when they start to come out of their hiding places. You'll see the giant squirrels emerge from their nests and glide across the sky if lucky. Dinner tonight is at MY Nature Resort.

Accommodation: MY Nature Resort BLD

Day 6 20 Oct My Nature Resort

This morning, we visit the Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary, where rescued orangutans are reintroduced into the wild. You can 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. We return to My Nature Resort for lunch and the opportunity to spend the afternoon exploring the resort's surroundings and enjoying a swim in the resort's pool.

Accommodation: MY Nature Resort BLD

Day 7 21 Oct Sepilok – Abai

After breakfast, we will depart from Sepilok to a boat jetty in Sandakan. We will then take an hour boat cruise up the Lower Kinabatangan River, passing pristine mangrove forests and searching for wildlife. The cruise will bring us to the Abai Jungle Lodge, our home for the night. 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, we go on another cruise searching for proboscis 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 BLD

Day 8 22 Oct Pitas Lake – Abai Village – 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 will visit the nearby village of Abai 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, we will cruise upriver to Sukau, searching for wildlife. 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 proboscis monkeys, birds and other wildlife. Dinner is at the lodge tonight.

Accommodation: Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge BLD

Day 9 23 Oct Oxbow Lake – Gamantong Cave - 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 swiftlets 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 BLD

Day 10 24 Oct Sukau – Kopel/Mescot - Lahad Datu – Borneo Rainforest Lodge

We have an early departure from Sukau this morning. Leaving the river behind us, we head to Lahad Datu, where we will be met and transferred to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge. On the way, we visit Kopel /Mescott for breakfast. A village-based co-operative of local rural people, fishermen and farmers. It was primarily set up to promote sustainable development with efforts to protect the forest habitat, wildlife and biodiversity of the Lower Kinabatangan ecology while preserving the livelihood of the local population. After breakfast, there will be a presentation about the introduction of a village Cooperative and how Eco Tourism is improving the lives of the villagers. After the presentation, we will continue onto Lahad Datu, where there will be a brief orientation on Danum at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge's reception office.

You will be briefed on Danum Valley's activities and facilities. After this, we will depart for the scheduled transfer to the lodge, arriving at around 4.00 pm.
If time permits, enjoy a guided walk on a nature trail (400 m boardwalk circuit) and the 300m canopy walkway in the afternoon.

In the evening, we will have dinner at the lodge, and if the weather permits, you can go for a night drive in search of nocturnal animals after.

Accommodation: Borneo Rainforest Lodge BLD

Day 11 25 Oct Jacuzzi / Coffin Trail – Hornbill Trail

Following breakfast, depart for a trek along the "Coffin Trail" that leads to an ancient Kadazan-Dusun burial site. It's a 3km return trip involving a 40-minute climb to a magnificent lookout point (all walks are optional). We will then return to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, you can go on another jungle trek in search of wildlife, or you can opt for a relaxing tubing down the Danum River. After dinner, you can join a night walk in search of nocturnal creatures.

Accommodation: Borneo Rainforest Lodge BLD

Day 12 26 Oct Waterfall Trail – Wildlife Trek

In the morning, hike to a beautiful waterfall, searching for wildlife. We then return to the Lodge for lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy another walk in search of more wildlife. After dinner tonight, you can have a night walk or night drive (subject to space availability on the vehicles).

Accommodation: Borneo Rainforest Lodge BLD

Day 13 27 Oct Lahad Datu – Kota Kinabalu

Today, enjoy a leisurely breakfast. The morning is then for you to spend at your leisure. After lunch, you will check out of the Lodge and depart at 12.30 pm for the scheduled transfer to Lahad Datu airport (for a flight to Kota Kinabalu). Upon arrival in Kota Kinabalu, you will be transferred to the hotel. As our journey ends this evening, we will share a farewell dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Hotel Kinabalu BLD

Day 14 28 Oct Depart Kota Kinabalu

After breakfast, you will be collected and transferred to the airport for your flight as scheduled.

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NOTE 1: We recommend that you arrange your homeward flights from Kota Kinabalu on Day 14 of the tour. Flights booked on the evening of Day 13 may be missed if our flight into Kota Kinabalu is delayed.

NOTE 2: The above itinerary may be varied according to conditions and advice.

Tour Costs

Cost: AUD \$9,955.00 Per Person Twin Share
AUD \$1,545.00 Single Supplement

Departs: Kuching (Sarawak) - Malaysia 15 October 2024

Finishes: Kota Kinabalu (Sabah) - Malaysia 28 October 2024

**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 15 July 2024

Note: The \$2,000.00 deposit is non-refundable, and the final payment is non-refundable after 15 July 2024.

We strongly recommend you take out Travel Insurance when you pay your deposit.

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 region).
- Entrance fees for 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, Tua Pek Kong Temple, and Bako National Park, which are 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, a fridge, a kettle, a 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 needs to be updated.



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.



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.



Hyatt Regency Hotel Kinabalu

Located in downtown Kota Kinabalu Just a short walk to the coast.10km from Kota Kinabalu International Airport. Nearby attractions include the Kinabalu waterfront, handicraft and food night markets, plus easy access to local shopping malls. Rooms have free wifi and satellite TV. hair dryer, tea & coffee-making facilities plus air conditioning. The hotel also features a restaurant, fitness centre, sun terrace and outdoor pool.



Tour Information

Coates Leader: Tom Grove (Managing Director)

Naturalist: Regional Local Naturalists

Flights:

The tour starts in Kuching - Malaysia, and ends in Kota Kinabalu - Malaysia. The airfare to join the tour 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 15 October 2024 to meet your guides and fellow passengers at 7.00 pm for dinner.

The group transfer to Kota Kinabalu Airport on 28 October 2024 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 flight bookings, please send us a copy of your flight itinerary.

Pre & Post Tour Accommodation:

The tour includes your accommodation in Kuching on arrival day, 15 October 2024. Please get in touch with us if you want to spend extra days before or after the tour.

Passport and Visas:

Australian residents must have a valid passport with at least six months of validity. Australian passport holders do not need to apply for VISA before travelling to Malaysia.

If you do not have an Australian passport, please get in touch with the office so we can advise you on 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 very 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 are 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.

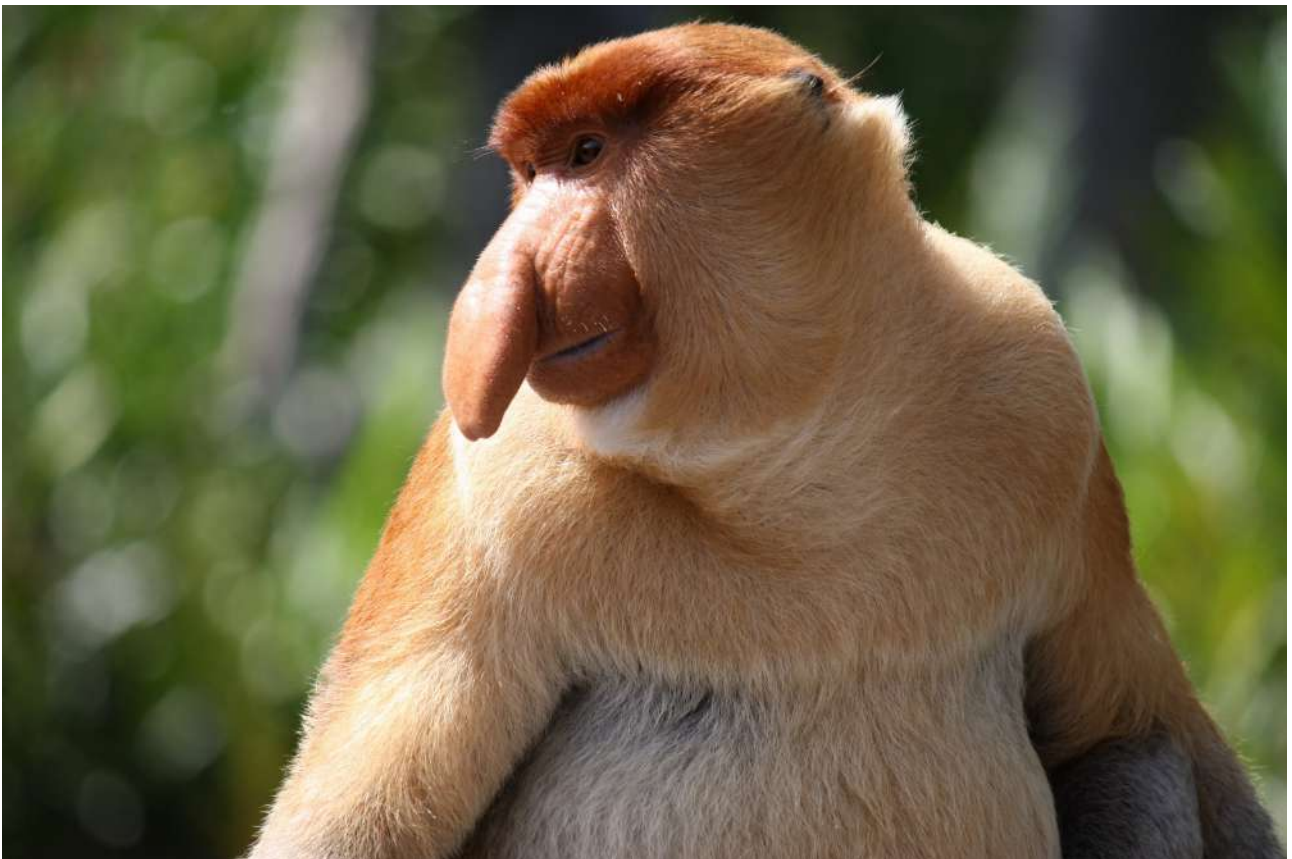
Health:

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-sleeved 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

Web: www.coateswildlifetours.com.au