

## **Singapore - Kuching, Malaysia – Bintulu, Malaysia – Miri, Malaysia – Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei – Pulau Tiga, Malaysia – Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia**

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours is given as an indication only as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and the group's pace. Time spent on site is also given on an indicative basis only. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities.

Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active. Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in, and above all enjoying, such activities.

Hiking tours in National Parks, please note : Jungle or Green guides are employed by the National Park Authority. They are specially trained to conduct park tours and chosen on the basis of their knowledge of local fauna and flora. They are usually local people and English is obviously not their mother tongue; they may be unable to engage in long conversations with guests.

A hiking tour or a visit to a NP means that you will necessarily be outdoors. The environment may be affected by heat, cold, rain, and sun. The river could be high or low depending upon recent rain fall. Paths may be muddy and slippery. The scheduled programme may have to be adapted to suit conditions on site. Most people don't use insect repellent when visiting a NP to respect the environment. However some people are more prone to insect bites than others, so bring an insect repellent that works for you.

Recommended equipment : sun protection, training or hiking shoes (that can get wet and dirty) with a good grip for walking over slippery ground, a sun hat (preferably with chin strap), plastic bags to waterproof your valuable items (e.g. camera) on the river trips, backpack to have your hands free, binoculars for spotting wildlife, torch lamps for frog searching at nightfall and a bottle of water

**Do not forget your sense of adventure!**

**Wildlife:** Animals roam free in their natural environment. This means that we can in no way guarantee wildlife sightings!!



Borneo has always conjured up all kinds of wild and mysterious imaginings-fascinating wildlife living in the deep rainforests and unexplored jungle. Not to mention the Ibans, ferocious headhunters living in the jungle of Sarawak. Traditionally head hunting was performed as a sacred ritual, but the practice has been illegal for more than a century so have no fear! The heads were hung like trophies around the longhouse, to show the Iban's strength and dominance. The tribespeople believed they would acquire the power and strength of the individual they had executed. Men who had a fierce reputation as headhunters were considered to be excellent husband material.

The tribesmen lived in a longhouse: a single line of houses built side by side. Nowadays the Iban still reside in traditional longhouses, but the dwellings have electricity, running water, telephone lines, and even internet access. These traditional houses can often be up to 500m long with 29 rooms in them, each room is a family home.

The Iban are often called "Guardians of the Rainforest" as this is what their role in the local community has morphed into. They act as local experts for any tourists who wish to learn more about their way of life, and they do this by welcoming people from all over the world into their homes and teaching them Iban history. Times are changing for the Iban tribe, but they are determined to keep their culture alive

Kuching, Sarawak

Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, is simply unique. Kuching has an unusual name – the word means "cat" in Malay. There are several stories as to how this name came about, but it is unlikely that it has anything to do with cats. The two more likely explanations are that it derives from the Chinese word kochin, meaning "harbour," or that it is named after the mata kuching or "cat's eye" fruit, a close relative of the lychee that grows widely here.

The city can be explored by foot. The historical Fort Margherita was built in 1879 to guard Kuching's river approaches from pirates. In the old days, a canon shot was fired from the fort every evening to mark the end of the government's working day. Named after Charles Brooke's wife, Ranee Margaret, it is an unmistakable landmark along Sarawak River.

#### Semenggoh Nature Reserve Park

Transfer by air-conditioned motor coach

Duration 4hrs

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 90

€ 60

For over 20 years the park wardens have taught young orangutans, orphaned or rescued from captivity, the skills they need to survive in the wild. Their work has been crowned by success and the forest reserve now has a thriving population of adolescent and young adult orangutans who are now breeding in the wild.

The programme has been transferred to Matang Wildlife Centre, but Semenggoh is still home to its successful graduates, semi-wild orang utans and their babies. They spend most of their time roaming the forest but frequently come back to the Centre for a free meal. If it is the fruiting season in the forest (October to March), some or even all of them may not come to feed. This is a good sign and another step on the way to full rehabilitation.

Upon return there will be a panoramic tour of Kuching, those guests who want to stay in the city will be dropped on the waterfront. Return on your own to Senari port.

Feeding takes place between 9.00-10.00am and between 3.00-3.30 pm.

1 hour drive to Semenggoh



**Bako National Park**

Transfer by air-conditioned motor coach & boat  
 Duration 4h15  
 Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30  
 € 99

Founded in 1957 Bako National Park, with its seven distinct rainforest ecosystems, gives visitors the opportunity of seeing almost all the vegetation to be found in Borneo as well as a remarkable variety of wildlife. Proboscis monkeys, Silvered leaf monkeys, long tailed macaques, wild boar, flying squirrels and monitor lizards as well as hundreds of different bird species. The fascinating plant life includes mangrove, strangler figs, carnivorous pitcher plants and symbiotic ant plants. The park has well marked trails leading to jungle covered hill tops and secluded beaches with remarkable rock formations.

This small peninsular, 1 ½ hours from Kuching by car and longboat, is home to seven distinct rainforest ecosystems, giving it a remarkable diversity of animal and plant life. Bako's most famous residents are the bizarre proboscis monkeys, and it is also home to silvered langurs (leaf monkeys), long-tailed macaque monkeys, wild boar, flying squirrels and monitor lizards as well as hundreds of different bird species. Fascinating plant life includes mangroves, strangling figs, carnivorous pitcher plants and symbiotic ant plants. Unique geological features mark the coastline, whilst well-marked trails lead to rugged jungle covered hilltops and secluded beaches.

Weather permitting you will cruise beside the Sea Stag rock formation before returning to Bako jetty

From the port you will drive to Bako village, then you will take a boat for a 30 minutes ride to the national Park  
 Be ready for a wet landing (depending on tide!)  
 After a short briefing you will follow your guide for a hike lasting approx. 1h30

**Morning bird watch in Kubah National Park**

Transfer by air conditioned motor coach  
 Duration 4hrs  
 Minimum 6 participants, maximum 15  
 €180

Kubah National Park is located 22 kilometers from the Kuching City. The park is mixed Dipterocarp forest with small acres of scrub forest and isolated patches of Kerangas forest. The park is famous for its palms with hundreds of different species growing over 22 square kilometres. There are also see orchids and pitcher plants as well as a wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Look out for : some endemic species like Blue-banded pitta, Bornean blue-flycatcher, Yellow-rumped flowerpecker, Bornean Blackmagpie, Chestnut-crested yuhina, Dusky munia & etc. As well as other birds such as the Redbearded bee-eater, Raffles's malkoha, Red-naped trogon, Diard's trogon, Scarlet-rumped trogon, Rufous-collared kingfisher, Rufous-backed kingfisher, Banded kingfisher, White-crowned hornbill, Red-crowned barbet, Redthroated barbet, Gold-whiskered barbet, Rufous piculet, Buff-necked woodpecker, Maroon woodpecker, Black-&yellow broadbill, Banded broadbill, Green broadbill, Scarlet minivet, Asian fairy bluebird, Blue-winged leafbird, Scaly-breasted bulbul, Grey-bellied bulbul, Chestnut-naped forktail, Rufous-crowned babbler, Scaly-crowned babbler, Grey-headed babbler, Brown fulvetta, Large-billed blue-flycatcher, Spotted fantail, Asian paradise flycatcher, Grey-breasted jungle-flycatcher, Mangrove whistle, Scarlet-breasted flowerpecker, Crimson sunbird, Grey-breasted spiderhunter, Bronzed drongo, Crested jay and many more.

45 minutes drive to Kubah national park



**Evening Frog search**

Transfer by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 20

Duration 4 hours

Departure late afternoon from the ship

€99

Kubah National Park is famed for its palms and amphibians. Nature lovers will delight in the rich biodiversity on offer.

More than 61 species of frogs have been recorded in the Kubah National Park, which is 1/3 of the total species of frog in Borneo Island. Upon arrival, aim to spot Lowland litter frog, Wallace's flying frog, Bornean horned frog, Matang Narrow-mouthed frog, Kuhl's creek frog, Gioant river frog, Peat swamp frog, Mahogany frog, Spotted stream frog, File-eared tree frog, Dark-eared tree frog, Harlequin tree frog & swamp frog, and many more.

Please bring along a torch (or head lamp), insect repellent and rain gear. Wear trekking shoes and be warned that you may get wet on this tour.

45 minutes' drive to Kubah NP (each way)

You will spend approx. 2 hours on site

**Bintulu, Sarawak**

Bintulu Port is located at the doorstep of one of the most dynamic industrial development zones in Borneo, handling oil & gas related industries, as well as timber based and palm oil products. Originally a sleepy Melanau fishing village, Bintulu is nowadays Sarawak's main industrial town and principal deep-water port. The town is located 18km away from the port, at the mouth of the Kemena River and has a population of approximately 180,000, made up primarily of Ibans, Chinese, Malays and Melanau, with a smattering of Bisayas, Kedayans, Bidayuhs, Orang Ulus and a large expatriate contingent.

Highlights include a visit to the Kuan Yin temple, a stroll down main street and the Pasar Utama market which sells fish, vegetables and fruit as well as local handicrafts.



**Similajau National park**

Transfer by air conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants maximum 90

Duration 4h00

€88

Situated in Bintulu Division (about 30km from Bintulu Town) the national park is a recreation ground for the inhabitants of the central region of Sarawak. It has one of the most beautiful coastal areas in Sarawak with miles of unspoiled sandy and rocky beaches facing the South China Sea. The territory consists of Beach, Kerangas forest and Mixed Dipterocarp Forest. Plants include Tongkat Ali (*Eurycoma longisolia*) known to be a powerful aphrodisiac and Bintangor trees (*Barringtonia Asiatica*). The park boasts 24 Recorded species of mammals, such as gibbons, banded langurs and longtailed macaque. There are 185 species of birds, hornbills and migratory water birds like Storm's Stork, among others.

Similajau became an officially designated national park in 1976, to provide a conservation zone for the unique geographical features of the coast and to protect the flora and fauna of the surrounding area. The park covers an area of 8,996 hectares, and the main trekking trail hugs the coast so that visitors are never far away from the main attractions of Similajau. Trail walks depends on the weather and trail conditions at time of visit.

Treks start from the park HQ; you first cross the Sungei Likau suspension bridge to reach the plank walk over the mangroves, and then you can either follow the plank walk to the start of the main trail, or join a secondary trail via a wooden ladder. The secondary trail joins the main trail near the junction for the Viewpoint Trail where scenic views await the visitor. Light refreshments will be served.

30 minutes drive to Similajau National Park

After registration, visit of exhibition centre, safety briefing and the a two hour trek

The ground is mostly red soil, with uphill/downhill trails. Guests will also have to negotiate a suspension bridge and a wooden plank walk during the trek.

Trek is classified as strenuous.



**Bintulu city tour, temple & Market**

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3h30

€69

(not operated on June 1st 2019 due to harvest festival)

After a 45-minute transfer, you will be dropped at Bintulu Town for a stroll down main street where you can do some shopping before visiting Bintulu Native Market for a visit and mingling with the locals. Tamu Bintulu offers items ranging from local fruit & vegetables to jungle produce such as sago worms and native home-made specialties such as Belacan (shrimp paste) and local tobacco.

The Market is near the river bank and pier which are bustling with activity at certain hours of the day. You will also see the Council State Monument which commemorates Malaysia's first legislative assembly which took place in 1867. It was erected to celebrate the centennial of the historical meeting between Charles Brooke, the second white Rajah of Sarawak, 5 British officers and 16 local community chiefs which marked a new era in state affairs.

Highlights include a visit to the Kuan Yin Temple with its elaborate architecture and fortune telling.

**Miri, Sarawak**

Miri is a dynamic resort city and the gateway to northern Sarawak. It is a melting pot of ethnic communities and boasts a cosmopolitan population attracted by the flourishing oil industry.

Places of interest include the Tua Pek Kong temple, built by donations from the Chinese immigrant community in 1913 to mark the end of a mysterious and deadly epidemic, a handicraft centre and the Tau Muhibbah market.

The Miri Marina is about 2km away from the city centre.

**Niah National Park**

Transfer by air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 90

Late Light Lunch included

Duration 8 hours

€108

Depart on a 1.5-hour journey to Niah National Park. Arrival at Park Headquarters will be followed by registration and a brief tour of the Park information centre. You will then take a short boat ride across the river to the start of the Plank walk. The plank walk is 3km long and leads to the main entrance of Niah Cave.

Niah Cave is famous for its edible swiftlet birds' nests which are to be found 300 ft from the ground. These birds' nests are regularly collected and are a highly prized delicacy amongst the Chinese. Niah Cave was once a trading cave, where traders from around the world came to trade their wares for the birds' nests harvested by locals. The British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace visited the caves in 1855 during his exploration of the Malay Archipelago. You will go through Traders' cave before arriving at the great caves. Here you will explore the nearby area before heading back.

You will have time to visit Niah Archeological Museum before taking the short boat trip back to Niah Park Headquarters.

Miri national park is located 110 km from Miri (1h30 scenic drive)

Safety briefing on the coach before arrival at the park

After registration at the park entrance of the park there will be a short boat ride across the river (15 minutes)

You will have to take your shoes off to visit the museum

The walk to the cave is on a wooden platform with handrails. (approx. 3km altogether)

Late light Chinese lunch served in Niah town before returning to the ship – one bottle water per person is included



**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI**

Brunei may be tiny, but it is one of the richest countries in the world. It is an Islamic Sultanate. Since gaining independence from the UK in 1984, Brunei has gone from strength to strength. The country's prosperity is displayed for all to see in its capital city Bandar Seri Begawan, where grandiose mosques and extravagant buildings dominate the townscape, and tributes to the country's mega-rich sultan lie around every corner. It is also a city of contrasts as despite its flashy architecture, half the population lives in a floating 'water village' where houses, schools and restaurants are still built on stilts. Bandar means "city" in the Malay language, while Seri Begawan is a royal title held by the sultan of Brunei's father. The ship will be alongside in the port of Muara, 33 km from Bandar Seri Begawan.

**Brunei Sultanate discovery tour**

By air conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration 8 hours

Lunch included

€115

Discover Brunei on this excursion through the capital of Bandar Seri Begawan located on the glistening Brunei river. After a 45-minute transfer from the port, the tour will start with a one hour cruise in a covered wooden boat down the Brunei river to the mangrove forest of Pulau Rangu island. The island is home to the elusive Proboscis monkey. On Brunei river, you will explore Kampong Ayer "water village", a series of colourful villages built on stilts and connected by wooden walkways. Here you will visit a local home for cakes and tea. Kampung Ayer is home to nearly half of the BSB population. As well as thousands of residential homes, Kampung Ayer also has schools, restaurants, police and fire stations, and mosques — all on stilts. People get around — very carefully — on a series of interconnected walkways. Refreshments, tea and cakes will be offered.

The drive through Bandar city features views of the beautiful Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque with its golden domed structure (photo stop) the building was completed in 1958 and named after the 28th Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin. Omar Ali is known as the architect of modern Brunei. Other sights include Istana Nural (His Majesty's official residence and also the world's largest private residence (photo stop) , the mausoleum of Sultan Bolkiah, as well as a legislative council building, the prime minister's office, and the diamond arch . . .

The tour includes a visit to the Jame Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque known as the Kiarong mosque. This imposing building was built to commemorate the 25th anniversary of His Majesty's reign. To enter Jame Asri Hassanil Bolkiah mosque shoes must be removed and conservative attire is mandatory; this means women must wear dresses that cover their knees, shoulders and arms, and men must wear shirts and long trousers.

The tour will continue with a visit to the Royal Regalia museum, dedicated entirely to the Sultan and home to Brunei's crown Jewels. It was built in 1992 to commemorate the silver Jubilee of his Majesty, the Sultan Haji Hassanil Bolkiah's ascension to the throne in 1967. The museum houses artifacts from the sultan's coronation, royal carriage, sceptres, ceremonial weapons, a replica of the Throne room as well as room after room of extravagant gifts bestowed on the Sultan by other world leaders.

Buffet lunch will be served in a local restaurant in the capital (Water, Coffee & Tea included)

Guests must negotiate steep steps entering and exiting water taxis

The wooden walkway at Kampong Ayer water village has uneven surfaces.

Guests must remove their shoes before entering the Royal Regalia museum, cameras are not permitted in the museum

Plastic shoes are available for guests who want to use the toilets inside the museum. Many of the exhibits are replicas and the crown jewels may be removed from the museum without notice.

Conservative dress is required for visiting mosques. women must wear skirts below the knee and cover their shoulders and arms – Men must wear a shirt and trousers. Shorts are not appropriate attire. Mosque are opened 8h/12- 14h-15h / 17h-18h, closed at prayers time.

If the mosque is closed when you visit, you will be taken to an open air market instead

If it rains the boat tour to the water village will be replaced with a visit to the Malay Technological museum which has displays showing boat making, metal works, cloth weaving, and the architectural styles favoured by different ethnic groups including the water village house



### Pulau Tiga, Malaysia

Pulau Tiga is the largest of the three islands which make up Pulau Tiga National Park. The outstanding natural beauty of the park, "untouched by human hand" made it the ideal back drop for the first episode of the famous TV programme « Survivor Island ».

The islands were formed on September 21st 1897 when an earthquake on Mindanao caused a volcanic eruption near Borneo. The last sign of volcanic activity was in 1941 but at the top of the island there are some little volcanoes spewing forth mineral rich mud.

The islands will stir the latent "Robinson Crusoe" that lies at the heart of all adventurers, with vistas of luxuriant jungle, white sandy beaches and crystal clear waters. It is an island paradise surrounded by coral reefs teeming with marine life.

### Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

The capital of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu (also referred to as 'KK' and formerly known as Jesselton), is a captivating blend of Asian and European culture, with huge mosques, Filipino markets, British colonial architecture, Chinese restaurants and indigenous culture – including the museum's collection of human skulls recalling Sabah's headhunting history ....

The nearby beaches are some of Sabah's best with powder white sand and aquamarine seas backed by wildlife-filled jungle.

#### City tour ending at the airport

(possibility to be dropped off in the city)

By minivan

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 6 per group

€47

Start your tour from the Port with a scenic drive through its capital, Kota Kinabalu City, formerly known as "Singgahmata" or the "the Place where the Eye Lingers". See places of interests in the city centre such as the Wisma Tun Mustapha (Sabah Foundation Building), City Mosque, Handicraft Bazaar, and the Sabah Museum which showcases the history and culture of the indigenous people. Enjoy a brief stop along Singal Hill for a awesome bird's eye view of the city skyline and nearby islands, and a chance to stop at a handicraft market if time permits. Drop off in the city or airport.

#### Ethnic Borneo Tour

(possibility to be dropped off in the city)

By minivan

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 6 per group

Lunch included

€97

Ethnic Borneo Experience takes you to a village where you will learn about the tribal culture of this part of Borneo. Visit traditionally constructed houses showing how their ancestors lived. Learn how vests are made from tree bark, sample a local remedy and see some cake making. If you like, you can have a henna tattoo done as a souvenir of your visit. Discover the real heart and soul of Borneo. The visit ends with a cultural performance and lunch before you are dropped off at the city or airport.

