



## Borneo Holiday Explorer

Malaysia



# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



## ITINERARY

## Borneo Holiday Explorer (Malaysia)

**13 DAYS • 12 NIGHTS**

Kuching – Bako National Park – Batang Ai National Park – Kota Kinabalu – Lahad Datu – Danum Valley – Sukau – Kinabatangan River – Sandakan – Gaya Island

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore pristine rainforests and rivers full of wildlife during the day and at night
- See the Iban - the famous tribes-people of Sarawak
- Visit an Orangutan orphanage and see how captive Orangutan are reintroduced to the wild
- Stay at Gaya island in the Maritime Reserve
- Visit remote villages

## TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Explorer Adventure
Tour Start	Kuching
Tour End	Kota Kinabalu
Accommodation	Hotel, Resort, Chalet, Lodge
Included Meals	11 Breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium



## SARAWAK & SABAH • WILDLIFE EXPLORER

Experiencing Bako National Park is not to be missed. There will be plenty of opportunities to see some fantastic wildlife and animals including the Proboscis Monkey, found only in Borneo. With jungle and water surrounding you, there is the fantastic chance to dine with local Iban families. There will be a guided safari night drive and time spent in the Danum Valley which boasts a natural Jacuzzi pool. Time will also be spent on Salignan Island and there will be plenty of Orangutans to see. Borneo really has so much to offer.



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# BORNEO *an overview*

Sarawak and Sabah make up the more popular Malaysian portion of the beautiful nature playground - Borneo. This magical Island is draped in the richest and one of the most ancient equatorial rainforests on the planet. It acts as shelter to some incredible native wildlife including Orangutans and proboscis monkeys in the canopy above, pygmy elephants roaming the riversides and clouded leopards wandering the depths of the jungle. Borneo's extraordinary wilderness is made up of endless Rivers, dramatic Mountains, dense steamy Jungle, as well as some spectacular beaches. Borneo serves up true remoteness, wildlife and adventure.

## WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

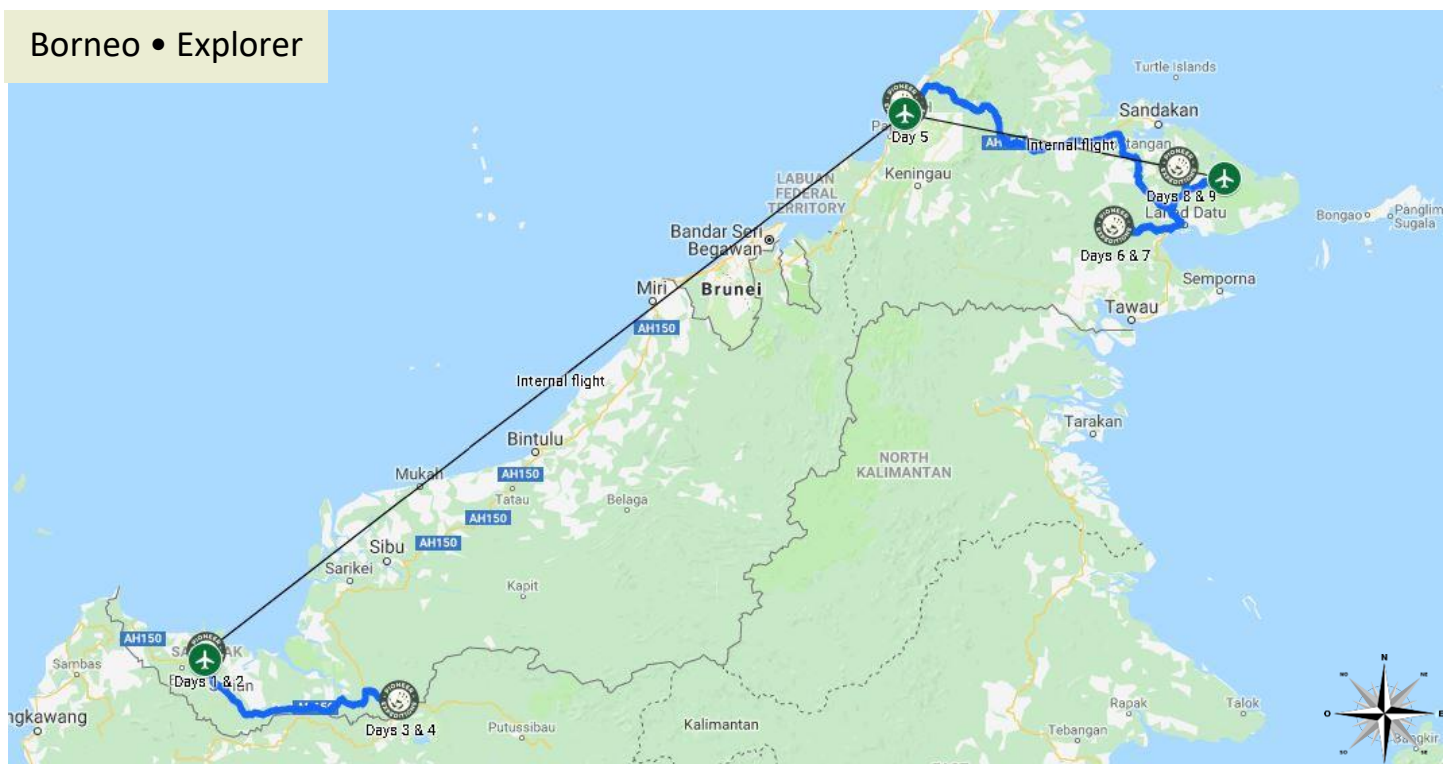
Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel. Alternatively, our small group tours have a maximum of 8 people, making it a much more personal experience.

## ITINERARY

### Borneo • Explorer





## DAY 1: ARRIVAL - KUCHING

Arrive in Kuching International Airport, meet & greet followed by a transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure and own activities.

Overnight: Kuching Hotel



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**Nil**



Distance:  
**N/A**



Activities:  
**Travel**

## DAY 2: KUCHING - BAKO NATIONAL PARK

Breakfast will be taken at the resort. This is the oldest National Park, which offers the perfect introduction to the Sarawak forest & wild life. The park is located at the northern tip of Muara Tebas Peninsula. It can be reached by a half hour drive by coach & another 30 minutes by boat. The park has an area of 16 sq. km. of primary forest with an abundance of botanical treasures made up of 25 types of vegetation.

Amongst this plant life is the carnivorous pitcher plant. Bako's mangrove forest is home to the Proboscis Monkey, found only in Borneo.



Other species found here are the Long Tailed Macaques, Silver Leaf Monkeys, Monitor Lizards and Bearded Pigs. There are a number of trails exploring the Park with several indented sandy bays providing excellent swimming grounds. We will have lunch at the park canteen. Return to Kuching in the afternoon. Rest of the day at leisure and own activities.

Overnight Kuching Hotel



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B & L**



Distance:  
**Approx. 1hr drive**



Activities:  
**Wildlife**

## DAY 3: KUCHING – BATANG AI

You will have breakfast at the resort restaurant then at 08h00 hrs, we will depart for an overland transfer to Batang Ai. Stop at the Semenggoh Orangutan Conservation Centre and at Serian city for a traditional open market. Visit a pepper farm, before a short stop at Lachau village. Time at disposal to buy some presents for the Iban and shop for handicraft.

Proceed to the Batang Ai jetty. Upon arrival at the jetty, transfer by boat to the resort. Spend the evening at leisure to enjoy the facilities at the resort. Upon arrival, check in and rest of the day at leisure and own activities. Dinner at the resort.



Overnight in Batang Ai Resort



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B & D**



Distance:  
**Approx. 4-5hr drive**



Activities:  
**Wildlife**

## DAY 4: BATANG AI

Breakfast will be at the resort

Depart for a visit of Batang Ai Longhouse – an authentic dwelling of the local Iban (who were head hunters in the past) tribe – with a traditional longboat (Perahu Panjai). Explore the longhouse and learn about the lifestyle of these friendly natives. Witness a traditional dance (ngajat), a friendly cockfight demonstration followed by demonstrations on the use

of a blowpipe – an ancient hunting weapon of the natives that spew poisonous darts with deadly accuracy. Lunch at the longhouse. Return to resort in the early afternoon and enjoy a nature walk with a Ranger to the canopy walk discovering different types of plants and enjoying a stunning view of the Lake. Free at leisure in the evening. Dinner at the resort.

#### Overnight in Batang Ai Resort



Overnight:  
**Resort**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activities:  
**Culture**

### DAY 5: BATANG AI - KUCHING - KOTA KINABALU

Breakfast at the resort

After breakfast transfer to the jetty by boat and overland journey to Kuching. Lunch (not included) en route. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Kota Kinabalu.

Upon arrival in Kota Kinabalu, meet & greet and then transfer to the hotel.

#### Overnight in Kota Kinabalu



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**4-5hr drive and Short flight**



Activities:  
**Travel**

### DAY 6: KOTA KINABALU - LAHAD DATU - DANUM VALLEY

Packed Breakfast at the hotel & check out

Depart for the Kota Kinabalu Airport for your flight to Lahad Datu. Pick up at Lahad Datu Airport for your 2 hours 30 mins overland journey to the Danum Valley Conservation Area. Enjoy the changing landscapes of the regenerating forests to the virgin rainforests which are over a million years old! Check-in to the lodge for trip of a lifetime to the Danum valley. The rest of the day is free time to explore the forest or go trekking on a guided trail to the nearest Fairy Waterfall and see the coffins on a cliff of an old burial site. In the evening, dinner at the lodge and if weather permits, we will go for a night drive to spot wild animals.

#### Overnight at Borneo Rainforest Lodge



Overnight:  
**Lodge**



Meals:  
**PB & D**



Distance:  
**Short flight and 2.5hr drive**



Activities:  
**Explore**

### DAY 7: DANUM VALLEY



Wake up to the calls of the Bornean gibbons and start your day with a guided trek to the view point at Kadazandusun burial site – Coffin cliff. Take a short break at the natural jacuzzi pool for a refreshing dip before lunch at the lodge. This afternoon is free leisure time where you have a number of optional activities: A Guided Jungle Trek or, if weather permits, water tubing session down the Danum River. This evening you can join a guided night walk on the nature trail after dinner.

#### Overnight at Borneo Rainforest Lodge



Overnight:  
**Lodge**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**No driving**



Activities:  
**Trek**



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## DAY 8: DANUM VALLEY – SUKAU – KINABATANGAN RIVER

Breakfast will be taken at the resort & at leisure until check out time.

This morning we depart overland to Sukau passing by local villages and palm oil plantations.

Arriving at the Lodge in time for lunch. Late afternoon cruise up to the Kinabatangan River to search for wildlife, including the proboscis monkeys. Fauna of the Lower Kinabatangan Reserve includes pygmy elephants, hornbills, gibbons, and many birds. In the late afternoon we will head back to the lodge for dinner.



*Overnight at Borneo Rainforest lodge*



*Overnight:*  
**Lodge**



*Meals:*  
**B, L, D**



*Distance:*  
**Approx. 2hr drive**



*Activities:*  
**Wildlife**

## DAY 9: KINABATANGAN RIVER

Take a 6am morning river cruise up the Kinabatangan River to Kelenanap oxbow lake to view more birds and wildlife. After breakfast, proceed for an educational tour along the lodge's Hornbill Boardwalk with our in-house naturalist. After lunch, join our in house Orangutan Talk activity.

In the afternoon, we proceed for another river cruise for more wildlife. Back to the Lodge and overnight

*Overnight at Borneo Rainforest Lodge*



*Overnight:*  
**Lodge**



*Meals:*  
**B, L, D**



*Distance:*  
**No driving**



*Activities:*  
**Wildlife**

## DAY 10: KINABATANGAN RIVER – SANDAKAN – KOTA KINABALU – GAYA ISLAND

Breakfast will be taken at the resort restaurant. We depart the lodge for a transfer to the airport where you will catch a flight to Kota Kinabalu. Meet and greet upon arrival at Kota Kinabalu International Airport, followed by transfer to Jesselton Point for the boat to the island. Check-in. Rest of the day at leisure and own activities.

*Overnight Gaya Island*



*Overnight:*  
**Resort**



*Meals:*  
**B**



*(Photo: Gaya Island Police Beach, Credit by David Kirkland)*  
*Distance:*  
**Short flight**



*Activities:*  
**Travel and leisure**

## DAY 11 & 12: GAYA ISLAND

Breakfast at the resort restaurant

Rest of the day at leisure and own activities. Relaxing, swim or snorkelling around the resort

*Overnight Gaya Island*







Overnight:  
**Resort**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**No driving**



Activities:  
**Leisure**

## DAY 13: GAYA ISLAND – DEPARTURE

After breakfast, check out from your room. Depart by boat to the mainland and transfer to the airport for your flight home. End of the tour.



Overnight:  
**N/A**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**N/A**



Activities:  
**Travel**

## ACCOMMODATION *at a glance*

	Location	Accommodation	Example
<i>Nights 1&amp;2</i>	Kuching	Hotel	?
<i>Night 3&amp;4</i>	Nr Lubok Antu	Resort	<i>Batang Ai Resort</i>
<i>Night 5</i>	Kota Kinabalu	Hotel	?
<i>Nights 6,7,8,&amp;9</i>	Danum Valley	Lodge	<i>Borneo Rainforest Lodge</i>
<i>Nights 10,11&amp;12</i>	Gaya Island	Resort	<i>Gaya Island Resort</i>



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## INCLUDED

- 12 nights' accommodation as per specified above
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, PB= Packed Breakfast L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Tours and transfers as mentioned above on sharing basis with English Speaking guide /Tours in Danum Valley on Sharing basis with English Speaking Guide
- All entrance fees in the places of visit
- Drinking bottle water
- All rates in MYR (Ringgit Malaysia) inclusive 6% GST Tax
- Quotation is valid for minimum 2 persons traveling
- Sharing boat tour in Kinabatangan River

## NOT INCLUDED

- Meals other than mentioned
- International and domestic flight tickets
- Expenditure of personal nature, such as drinks, souvenirs and laundry etc
- Other tours and meals other than those mentioned in the program
- Video & Camera Fees (approx. RM 10.00)
- Tips and gratuities to driver & guide
- Peak period surcharge
- Visa for Malaysia
- Travel insurance (must cover helicopter evacuation for Malaysia)

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITY DURATION	14 days, 13 nights
SEASON	March through November
BEST TIME TO GO	The best time of year to visit is March to October as these are usually the driest and most settled times of the year.
GROUP SIZE	We are able to arrange tailor made trips for 2 or more people (the price quoted is based on a minimum of 4 people, and a supplement may apply if less).
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	Tailor made departures through March through November
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2-5 hours per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**PASSPORT VALIDITY:** The granting of visit passes to visitors is determined by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at the point of entry. Visitors must satisfy the following basic entry requirements before they can be considered for entry into Malaysia: A passport with at least 06 MONTHS validity.





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# THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

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Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at [info@pioneerexpeditions.com](mailto:info@pioneerexpeditions.com) if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website [www.pioneerexpeditions.com](http://www.pioneerexpeditions.com) to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

**1. Contact us -**

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

**2. Leave everything to us -**

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

**3. Wait for your adventure to begin -**

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

