



Borneo
Birding Adventure

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



Do something extraordinary.....

ITINERARY	Borneo Birding Adventure • Malaysia
17 DAYS • 16 NIGHTS	Kota Kinabalu – Sandakan – Kinabatangan – Danum Valley – Kota Kinabalu

HIGHLIGHTS	TOUR ESSENTIALS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Visit where there is over 200 species of birds in Kinabalu Park. ■ Stroll along a canopy walkway will give you a bird's eye view of the tropical rainforest. ■ Go on an exhilarating night spotlighting tour. ■ Undertake an unforgettable river cruise to Kelenanap Oxbow Lake. 	<p>Tour Style</p> <p>Tour Start</p> <p>Tour End</p> <p>Accommodation</p> <p>Included Meals</p> <p>Difficulty Level</p>	<p>Bird seeing Adventure</p> <p>Kota Kinabalu</p> <p>Kota Kinabalu</p> <p>Hotels, Chalets & Lodges</p> <p>11 Breakfasts, 8 lunches, 9 Dinners</p> <p>Medium</p>

BORNEO BIRDING ADVENTURE



This birding adventure is a must for all bird and wildlife enthusiasts alike. With a myriad of chances to spot a vast array of special birds throughout this trip, will provide you with the optimal chances to witness your most desired bird to see in the area. There are so many locations to get a glimpse of over 200 species of birds in the area. Along with exciting and educational walks, river cruises, night tours as well as free time for you to enjoy doing what you love the best, you're in luck if that is birdwatching for you!



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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.

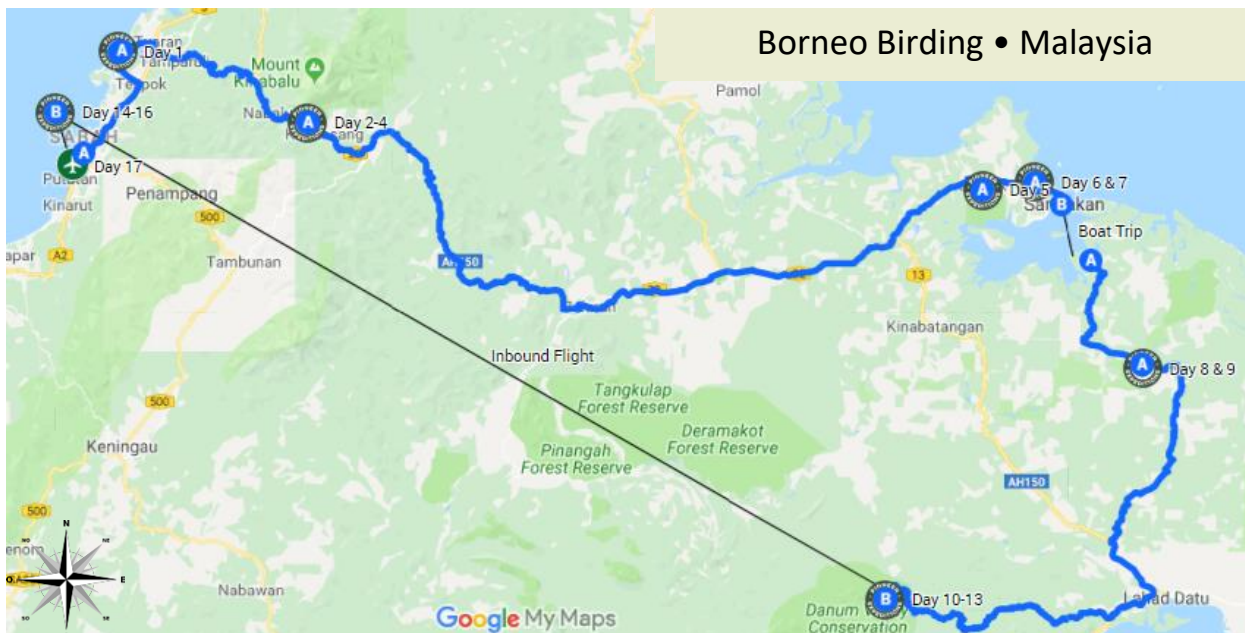
WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

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.

ITINERARY



DAY 1: ARRIVE KOTA KINABALU

Upon arrival to Kota Kinabalu International Airport, a guide and driver will transfer you to the hotel.

Overnight in Kota Kinabalu at Shangri La Rasa Ria.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
D



Distance:
Approx. 1hr drive



Activities:
Arriving

DAY 2: Kota Kinabalu – Kinabalu Park

Our driver and guide will be meeting to assist you at 8:30am for your transfer to the Kinabalu Park for a scenic journey into Borneo's rugged island interior. Travel along winding roads, passing paddy fields and local villages. There is over 200 species of birds in Kinabalu Park.

Kinabalu Park is one of the premier birding destinations in Borneo. The Park encompasses a range of habitats, with lowland rainforest found in the Poring Hot Springs region (around 550 meters above sea level), and lower montane forest around the Park Headquarters (1, 500 meters). Around Mesilau substation, on the eastern part of the park (2, 000 meters), the area is covered by montane forest. The richest bird community is found in the lowland rainforests of Borneo. Nevertheless, Kinabalu Park offers many birds which are only found in mountainous region, including 58 strictly montane birds - 17 of which are endemic Bornean species. In the words of one birding expert, Kinabalu Park offers "many local curiosities and specialties".

Overnight in Kota Kinabalu at Sutera Sanctuary Lodges.



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 2hrs drive

Activities:
Transfer

DAY 3: Kinabalu Park & Poring Hot Spring

Early in the morning, insect eating birds will be visible especially at the main entrance of the Liwagu restaurant, opposite the chalets. Other birds expected to be seen are the large Malaysian Treepie, the Ashy Drongo, the Laughing Thrush, Short-tailed Magpies, and flocks of birds such as the Mountain Leaf Warblers, Chestnut-crested Yuhina, the Temminck's sunbird, various flycatchers and babblers. Along the forest trails, it is possible to spot the velvet-fronted nuthatch, Bar-winged Cuckoo-shrike, the Sunda Whistling Thrush, and the iridescent green Whitehead's Broadbill. Other species that might be seen include the Black Laughing-thrush, Blue-winged Leaf bird, and various barbets, woodpeckers and bulbuls

This morning, walk to Mt Kinabalu National Park. An area known for its incredible biodiversity, guests will hike local trails at the base of the mighty granite monolith, Mt Kinabalu, while the guide offers insights about the immense variety of flora along the trail, including their medicinal properties and their importance to local communities or continues to the Poring Park the 41-metre-high canopy walk for a bird's eye view of the surrounding jungle.

Continue to Poring Hot Springs (45km – approx. 1hr) where a stroll along a canopy walkway will give you a



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bird's eye view of the tropical rainforest. The Canopy Walkway is suspended between trees at a height of 40m and offers an excellent opportunity to observe wildlife which shelter from predators on the ground. If time permits, you may also have a chance to soak in the hot sulphur pools, renowned for their therapeutic properties. Full day bird watching at Kinabalu Park & Poring for 8 hours with car & guide disposal.

Overnight in Kota Kinabalu at Sutera Sanctuary Lodges



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 2hr drive



Activities:
Walking

DAY 4: Kinabalu Park & Poring Hot Spring

Full day bird watching at Kinabalu Park & Poring for 8 hours with car & guide disposal.

Overnight in Kota Kinabalu at Sutera Sanctuary Lodges



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 2hr drive

Activities:
Bird Watching

DAY 5: Kinabalu Park – Sepilok

Early morning at 7:30am take a guided walk and learn from a local naturalist about the vast array of flora found in this lush park. Admire views of Mt Kinabalu, Southeast Asia's highest peak.

Check-out and drive to Sandakan, sightseeing and possibly birdwatching on the way to Sepilok.

Overnight in Sandakan at Sepilok Nature Resort



Overnight:
Chalet



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 4.5hrs



Activities:
Walking

DAY 6: Sepilok – Abai river

Breakfast at hotel restaurant. This morning at 7:30am we will go birdwatching at Sepilok. Then after at 10:30am we will, transfer to Sandakan Jetty to meet the boat (Private boat transfer at 11.30hrs) and transfer to the Kinabatangan River. This two-hour boat journey passes by local villages and lush rainforest and provides excellent wildlife-spotting opportunities for those looking to gander at some of Borneo's quirky inhabitants.

Arrive at the lodge, check in and enjoy lunch. The Local guide will conduct a briefing on the upcoming activities and advice on recommended gear. Time in the afternoon to relax.

Late in the afternoon, at 16:30 hop on a riverboat for a cruise up the Kinabatangan River in search for wildlife - most notably, the proboscis monkeys which is endemic to Borneo. Other fauna is likely to be spotted in the Lower Kinabatangan Reserve includes elephants, hornbills, gibbons, and many birds. Return to the lodge for dinner before mid-evening take a stroll along the boardwalk on a lookout for nocturnal animals and



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interesting insects.

Overnight in Kinabatangan at **Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort**



Overnight:
Chalet



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 5hrs

Activities:
Birdwatching

DAY 7: Kinabatangan

Rise early in the morning at **06:30 hrs** along with the birds and other animals of the jungle for an unforgettable river cruise to Kelenanap Oxbow Lake, a crescent shaped lake that formed when the river's meander became so wide that it cut itself off. The stillness of the lake and relative protection provides a haven for animals and plants making for an ecosystem that's completely distinct from that of the active river.

08:30 hrs - Continue with a visit the local fishing village, Kampung Abai. Interact with local Orang Sungai, a river people who have long inhabited the area, and observe daily activities in the fishing village.

10:00 hrs - Return to the resort for breakfast and spend the rest of the day is at leisure before heading out in the late afternoon to watch the river activities of many primate species that become active during this time. The afternoon is a particularly advantageous time to spot wildlife and the light is perfect for photography.

After a well-deserved and hearty dinner, head out again at **20:30 hrs** for an unforgettable night river safari to see some of the jungle's nocturnal inhabitants.

Overnight in Kinabatangan at Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort



Overnight:
Chalet



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 2hrs

Activities:
Explore

DAY 8: ABAI RIVER- SUKAU

After breakfast a chance to explore the nature board walk around the lodge area. Check-out from hotel at 10am and by boat ride from KWR to Sukau Rainforest Lodge for check in.

On arrival take a river cruise using electric motor in search of wildlife and birds. Enjoy candle light dinner overlooking the riverbank followed by slide presentation and interpretation by naturalist guide.

Overnight in Kinabatangan at Sukau Rainforest Lodge



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 4hrs



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 9: SUKAU

06:00 hrs - Rise early in the morning along with the birds and other animals of the river for a cruise to Kelenanap Oxbow Lake, a crescent shaped lake that formed when the river's meander became so wide that it cut itself off.

After breakfast, proceed for an educational tour along the lodge's Hornbill Boardwalk with our in-house naturalist. After lunch, join our in-house Orang Utan Talk activity. In the afternoon, proceed for another river cruise for more wildlife.



Overnight at Sukau Rainforest Lodge



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
2hrs



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 10: SUKAU - SUKAU JETTY – DANUM VALLEY

After breakfast, early boat transfers at **07.00 hrs** and drop off at Sukau Lepit Jetty.

From Sukau Lepit Jetty, depart for a 50-minute journey to the intricate limestone system of the Gomantong Caves. After walking about 10 minutes, guests will reach two main accessible caves – Black & White Caves. Within these caves the ancient tradition of collecting of solidified swift let saliva for 'Birds Nest Soup' is still carried out, although under strict licensing and on sustainable terms. The area surrounding the caves is thick rainforest, where, on occasions, guests might see wild orangutans. This area is also home to around two million bats and the lurking, opportunistic bat hawk.

After tour, continue overland to Lahad Datu. Meet & Greet at Lahad Datu and proceed for registration & briefing.

From Lahad Datu depart for A join in transfer by 4WD into the thick virgin rainforest area of Danum Valley – one of the world's most complex ecosystems. Around 30km of this 85km journey is on sealed roads, and the last two hours are along a gravel road – so expect a bumpy but interesting ride!

On arrival at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, check in late afternoon and take the option to relax or a walk along the trails and the 130-metre-tall, 300-metre-long canopy walk, high up in the 130-million-year-old rainforest which is literally humming with jungle sounds.

After dinner, board one of the open-top 4WD vehicles for an exhilarating night spotlighting tour. Accompanied by a local guide who shines a light into the jungle looking for nocturnal animals, spot a range of nocturnal animals that inhabit reserve, from samba deer to civet cats, leopards, and a stunning array of insects and frogs. Afterwards, return to the chalet.

Overnight in Danum Valley at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 6hrs



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 11: DANUM VALLEY

Wake up to the jungle's cacophony of sounds ranging from birds to primates, such as the gibbons. Taking a packed breakfast, travel to a 200-year-old Kadazandusun Burial Site, known as "Coffin Cliff", along the 2.6km Viewpoint Trail. At the end of the trail, be rewarded with spectacular views over an ocean-like million-year-old jungle – a truly spectacular sight. The return journey includes a trip to the waterfalls! Return to the resort for lunch.

The rest of the afternoon is at leisure; however, there is a range of optional activities available, such as private trekking, tubing on the Danum River and specialised guided tours. There is also a series of tracks leading around the Canopy Walk are free to discover at will.

This evening, venture into the jungle on foot with a local guide. Quietly entering the jungle reveals a stunning array of wildlife, not to mention the variety and size of the many insects that flourish in the evening hours.

Overnight in Danum Valley at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.



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Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 8hrs



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 12: DANUM VALLEY

This Morning at 09:00 enjoy another morning of trekking one of trail depending on wildlife sighting. Return to the lodge before an afternoon of relaxation or in search of more wildlife. Dinner and optional Night Drive or night walk in search of nocturnal animals.

Overnight in Danum Valley at Borneo Rainforest Lodge



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 13: DANUM VALLEY

This Morning at 09:00 enjoy another morning of trekking one of trail depending on wildlife sighting. Return to the lodge before an afternoon of relaxation or in search of more wildlife. Dinner and optional Night Drive or night walk in search of nocturnal animals.

Overnight in Danum Valley at Borneo Rainforest Lodge



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 14: DANUM VALLEY – LAHAD DATU – KOTA KINABALU

Have breakfast and spend the morning at leisure. At 7:30am check out and transfer to Lahad Datu Airport for onward flight to Kota Kinabalu. *Please Note: Activities are subject to weather condition/departure time, and may be re-organised to best meet operational situation*

Upon arrival in Kota Kinabalu, or KK as it is affectionately referred to, guests will meet our representative and be transferred to the jetty for boat schedule (Standard check-in 1400 hrs). *Boat schedule in: 13:30 / 15:30 / 18:00 hrs.* This afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the comfort of the luxury seaside resort.

Overnight in Kota Kinabalu at Bunga Raya Island Resort & Spa



Overnight:
Villa



Meals:
B



Distance:
Approx. 5 hrs



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 15-16: KOTA KINABALU

Free at leisure.

Overnight in Kota Kinabalu at Bunga Raya Island Resort & Spa.



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 6hrs



Activities:
Wildlife



DAY 17: KOTA KINABALU DEPARTURE

After breakfast, by boat schedule transfer to Jetty (Standard check-out 11:00am). Boat Schedule out: 09:00/ 11:00/ 13:00. Our driver will pick you up from your hotel transfer to Kota Kinabalu Airport.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Flight Home

ACCOMMODATION AT A GLANCE

Shangri La Rasa Ria

Kota Kinabalu

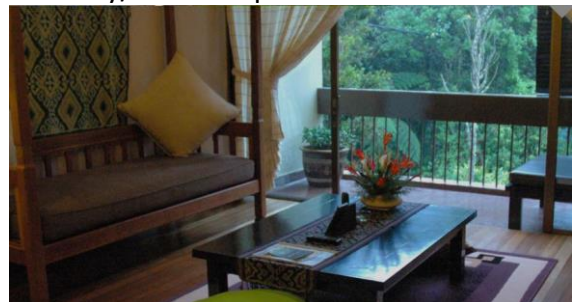
<https://www.shangri-la.com/>



Sutera Sanctuary Lodges

Kinabalu park

<https://www.suterasanctuarylodges.com.my/kinabalu-park>



Sepilok Nature Resort

Sandakan



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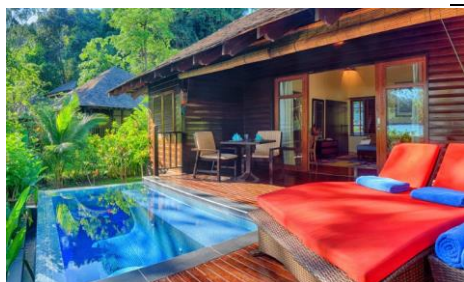
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Sukau Rainforest Lodge
Sandakan
<https://www.sukau.com/>



Bunga Raya Island Resort & Spa
<https://www.sukau.com/>



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED

- All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Accommodation as mentioned in a shared twin or shared double room
- Drinking water during the tour.
- Boat transfers mentioned
- Standard Vehicle - Transportation with driver in A/C vehicle

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned
- Services other than mentioned
- Personal expenses and gratuities
- Malaysia Tourism tax a charge of 10 MYR per room per night
- Travel insurance
- Optional tours/activities
- Tips for porters



- Entrance fees and activities where mentioned
- River cruises stated
- Airport transfers

- Early check in and late check out
- Mid-night 50% midnight surcharge apply for any transport/guide service provided between 10PM and 7AM

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITY DURATION	When trekking and climbing we will be active for 6 or more hours per day – other days are less active with 2 – 4 hours activities max
SEASON	March – December
BEST TIME TO GO	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).
ALTITUDE	0 - 3,272 meters
LANGUAGE	Bahasa Malaysia is the national language in Borneo, English is also spoken widely.
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 'very difficult level' (challenging activities for more than 7 hours per day). This means that you will need to be fit and training will be required.
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	We currently run this as a tailor-made itinerary so can schedule this to suit your dates.

THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at 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 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.

