



## Borneo

Family Rainforest Adventure

# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



**DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...**

## ITINERARY

## Malaysia • Borneo Explorer

**13 DAYS • 12 NIGHTS**

Kuching – Semenggoh– Bako National Park – Kampung Bengoh – Kuching - Kota Kinabalu -Kiulu– Sandakan – Kinabatangan River – Sandakan-Gaya Island-Kota Kinabalu

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit an Orangutan Conservation centre
- Explore pristine rainforests as well as city sights
- White water rafting- Kiulu
- Explore wildlife and trek – Kinabatangan River

## TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Family Adventure
Tour Start	Kuching
Tour End	Kota Kinabalu
Accommodation	Hotel/Lodge style
Included Meals	12 Breakfasts, 5 lunches, 2 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium

## FAMILY RAINFOREST ADVENTURE



Malaysia is a beautiful multicultural melting pot. Geographically, Malaysia is as diverse as it is culturally . On this spectacular family adventure, you'll be immersed in Malaysian culture with a tour of Sarawak including its colourful markets, and ornate temples. Visit the amazing Mount Santubong, an Orang utan conservation centre to witness these charismatic creatures in a rainforest habitat. Relax and go below sea level as we explore the coral islands and white sandy beaches and pristine water of the TAR Marine Park. In addition to the many opportunities for wildlife spotting and generally being wowed by wildlife and your surroundings there are opportunities for river rafting on the Kiulu River – this is something the whole family can an enjoy as the grading is not high. The Kinsbatangan River is another wonderful and unforgettable experience.

## 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.

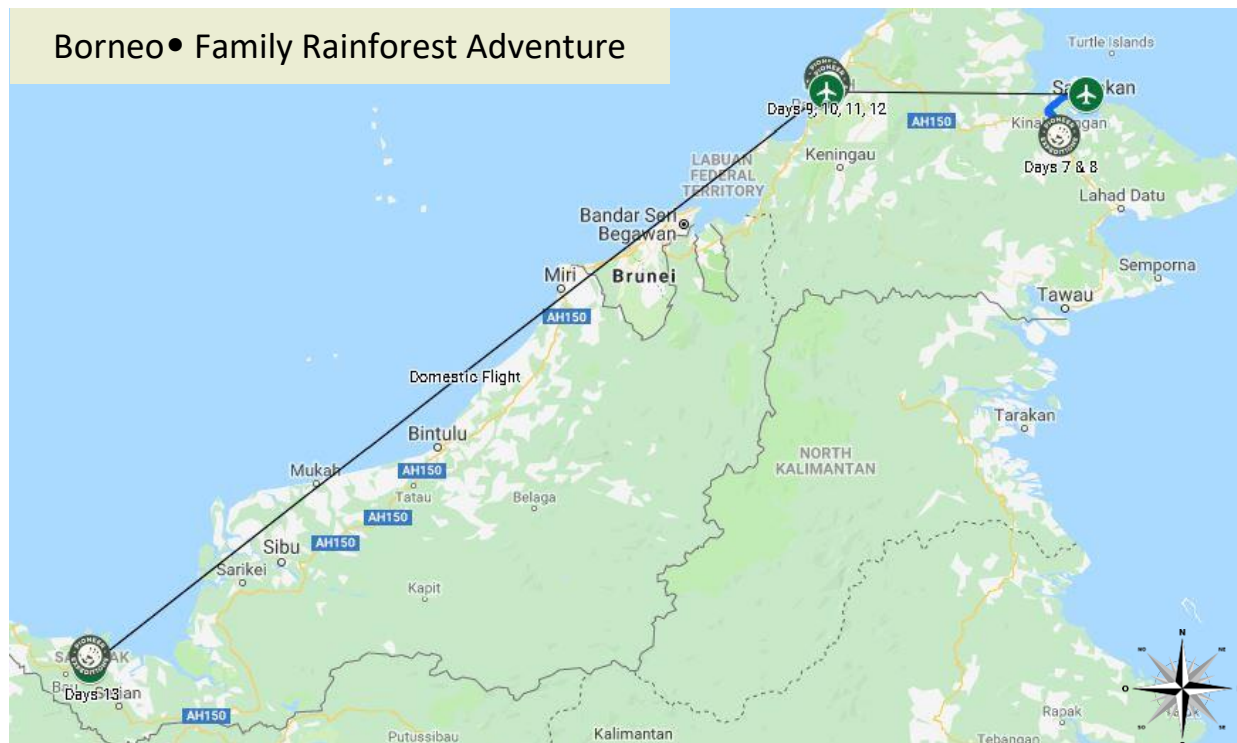
## WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

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



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## DAY 1: Arrive in KUCHING

Arrive at Kuching International Airport, where you will meet and greet before being transferred to your hotel, Pullman Hotel.

In the afternoon, depart for Kuching city tour. Visit the old White Rajah buildings, open markets, temples, mosques and finally visit the Sarawak Museum, with its ethnologic and fauna exhibits. After the tour you will be transfer back to the Pullman Hotel.

*Overnight – Pullman Hotel-Kuching*



*Overnight:*  
**Hotel**



*Meals:*  
**Nil**



*Distance:*  
**Long haul flight**



*Activity:*  
**In transit**

## DAY 2: Visit SARAWAK CULTURAL VILLAGE and SEMENGGOH ORANG UTAN CONSERVATION CENTRE

Breakfast will be at the hotel

Today discover the local antics in Sarawak. Located about 34km from the city, the award winning Sarawak Cultural Village (SCV) is a refreshing and unique “living museum” sitting on a sprawling 17 - acre site at the foothills of the legendary Mount Santubong. It has 7 representative ethnic houses - Bidayuh Longhouse, Iban Longhouse the Penan Hut, the Orang Ulu Longhouse, the Melanau House, the Malay House and Chinese Farm House. These houses are built according to authentic styles and well stocked with real, traditional artefacts. SCV is known as a “living museum” because natives live in its houses and make handicrafts.

This trip here will enable you to gain a rather comprehensive insight into the colourful traditional and cultures of the various races in Sarawak. Watch how the womenfolk make intricate bead-necklaces and baskets, observe their traditional cooking methods, admire the refined skills of their male counterpart in handling the deadly blowpipe, making the Parang ilang (ceremonial sword) or casting their fishing nets into the man-made lake. You'll head back to town for own lunch.

**At 2pm, depart for Semenggoh Orang Utan Conservation Centre, located about 30 minutes' drive south from Kuching. It is part of the larger Semenggoh Nature Reserve, Sarawak's oldest forest reserve which houses a botanical research centre, arboretum, gardens and trails. Unlike in a zoo, the Orangutans are free to roam in this 653 hectare forest reserve. Here, young and adolescent Orangutans used to be trained to survive in the wild. Spot their delicate nests; watch their skilful movements in the tree tops and their interesting behaviour during feeding time. The guide will also narrate to you the behaviour and characteristics of this special primate called Orang Utan or 'Man of the Forest' in the Malay language.**



Back to town and rest of the day free at leisure

*Overnight – Pullman Hotel-Kuching*



*Overnight:*  
**Hotel**



*Meals:*  
**B**



*Distance:*  
**Driving for 1 hour**



*Activity:*  
**Sarawak Cultural Village and  
Orangutan Sanctuary**



### DAY 3: Discover BAKO NATIONAL PARK

You will have breakfast at the hotel



After breakfast, you will depart Kuching for a 45 minute drive, which passes through mangrove forest with its unique nipah palms before arriving at the Bako Fishing Village, where you will board a motorized boat for a 30 minutes cruise along the coast facing the South China Sea which will take you to Bako National Park.

After visiting the park's information and exhibition centre, we will proceed to the park's western end to walk along the plank walk through the mangrove forest. During low tide, observe the mud skippers and blue-fiddler crabs coming out from their hideout for feeding. Proceed along Paku trail to look-out for Proboscis Monkey, climb to the plateau which is home to various botanical delights and several species of the carnivorous pitcher plants.



Notice the changes of the vegetation (mangrove, rainforest, Kerangas and padang forest). After lunch, proceed by trekking through the forest which boasts monstrous rainforest trees, indulge in bird watching and observe other wildlife. Return to the jetty, then by boat head to Bako Village and transfer by van to Kuching.

Rest of the day free at leisure

*Overnight – Pullman Hotel-Kuching*



*Overnight:*  
**Hotel**



*Meals:*  
**B/L**



*Distance:*  
**Varies**



*Activity:*  
**Bako National Park**

### DAY 4: Travel to KAMPUNG BENGOH and start your KAYAKING ADVENTURE

Breakfast at the hotel

In the morning you will depart for about 60 minutes' drive from Kuching to reach Kampung Bengoh. The journey passes through scenic countryside of rice fields, small, scale rubber, cocoa, pepper farms which intermingle with forest, rivers and mountain ranges. You will alight at Bengoh, a Bidayuh village and the staging point for your adventure. Here you'll be given paddling instructions and safety briefing before proceeding down some steps to a small stream to embark on the kayaking adventure. This shaded stream with overhanging jungle foliage, steep banks, a bridge, is the starting point for your kayaking which meanders for a short distance before entering the vista of Sg. Sarawak Kiri.

A quarter of the way paddling down-river, we alight at Kampung Canu, just after the pedestrian suspension bridge, and visit this delightful Bidayuh village with picnic-lunch being served. We will continue our relaxing journey paddling down-river and making a stop by a sandy bank beneath soaring limestone hills. We will also experience an exciting Class 1 to 2 (depending on the water level) rapid and passing beneath a huge rock outcrop. The trip ends at Kampung Semadang before returning to Kuching.

*Overnight – Pullman Hotel- Kuching*



*Overnight:*  
**Hotel**



*Meals:*  
**B/L**



*Distance:*  
**1 hour**



*Activity:*  
**Kayaking**



## DAY 5: Transfer from KUCHING to KOTA KINABALU

After having breakfast at the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport in time to catch your next flight to Kota Kinabalu.

Arrived in Kota Kinabalu, where you will meet and greet with our assistant and proceed to your hotel, Hyatt Regency Hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure, leaving you to discover the capital of Sabah and its markets, or just chill at the hotel.

Overnight – Hyatt Regency Hotel-Kota Kinabalu



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Short haul- less than 2 hours**



Activity:  
**Travelling and leisure**

## DAY 6: Transfer to KIULU RIVER to start your WHITE WATER RAFTING ADVENTURE

Breakfast at the hotel



In the morning, around 08.30am, you'll be picked up from the hotel in Kota Kinabalu, for Kiulu River in Tamparuli area. Kiulu White Water Rafting is an experience that all the family can enjoy. Kiulu River is graded as Class I / II River and provides an easier, and enjoyable, white water rafting trip. Journey will take approximately 1.5 hours. Arrive at Kiulu, receive the gear, and listen to a safety briefing from the guides. The adventure begins. The bamboo-fringed river provides for a pleasant respite from the tropical heat as the cool waters invigorate your senses. For the thrill seekers, try body rafting down the rapids before enjoying a relaxing swim along the calm stretches between rapids. Once arrived at the ending point, enjoy the BBQ lunch, not before a good shower and change of clothes. After lunch return to the hotel, around 4pm. Rest of the day free at leisure.

Overnight – Hyatt Regency Hotel -Kota Kinabalu



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B, L**



Distance:  
**1.5 hours**



Activity:  
**Travelling and leisure**

## DAY7: Fly from KOTA KINABALU to SANDAKAN and visit the World's Largest Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre

Today you will have a packed breakfast as you transfer to the airport for a flight to Sandakan. You will meet and greet at the airport before starting your tour.

The tour begins with a visit of the outstanding brand new Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre where you have the opportunity to observe these stunning animals rescued from poacher where they kept in cage. Proceed with a visit to the World's Largest Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, Sepilok. At the centre, witness the Orangutan feeding by the rangers. Walk along the plank wood in the realms of the tropical lowland jungle.

Followed by a visit to the outstanding brand new Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Centre, with its rich botanical garden and pristine jungle.



Depart for an estimated 2 hours overland journey to the multi awards winning Sukau Rainforest Lodge. 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: Sukau Rainforest Lodge- Kinabatangan River



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**1.5 hours**



Activity:  
**Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre**



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## DAY 8: KINABATANGAN RIVER CRUISE

Breakfast at the lodge

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

Overnight *Sukau Rainforest Lodge- Kinabatangan River*



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Birds and Wildlife River Cruise**

## DAY 9-12: Transfer back to KOTA KINABALU and catch a jetty to the beautiful GAYA ISLAND

After Breakfast overland back to Sandakan and transfer to airport for your onwards flight back to Kota Kinabalu (Airlines NOT included)

Arrive at Kota Kinabalu, followed by transfer to the jetty to catch your boat scheduled to the island for 4 night stay at the island

Overnight: *Bunga Raya Island Resort-Gaya Island*



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Varies-around 3 hours**



Activity:  
**Travelling then 4 days of leisure**

## DAY 13: Depart from KOTA KINABALU

Day of leisure until your boat schedule to the mainland and transfer to the airport for your onwards flight to next destination (Airlines NOT included)



No overnight  
stay



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Travelling**



# ACCOMMODATION, *at a glance*

	Location	Accommodation	Example
Nights 1, 2, 3, 4	Kuching	Hotel	Pullman Hotel
Nights 5 & 6	Kota Kinabalu	Hotel	Hyatt Regency Lodge
Nights 7 & 8	Sandakan	Hotel	Sukau Rainforest Lodge
Nights 9, 10, 11 & 12	Gaya Island	Hotel	Bunga Raya Island Resort



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Included

- Accommodation & breakfast include in the hotel rates
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, PB= Packed Breakfast L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- All private transfers by car/bus and boat and tours with English Speaking guide & driver as indicated in the program
- All entrance fees in the places of visit
- All rates in MYR (Ringgit Malaysia)
- Quotation is valid for minimum 2 persons traveling
- Drinking bottle water
- Sharing boat tour in Kanabatangan River

### Not Included

- Other meals than mentioned
- Other services than mentioned
- International and Domestic flights
- Laundry, telephone calls and expenditure of personal nature
- Travel Insurance (must include helicopter evacuation for Malaysia)
- Visa for Malaysia
- All international and domestic
- Camera/video entrance fees





## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Activity Duration	13 days, 12 nights
Season	This region is best explored between March through to 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 NOTES

- We strongly recommend the purchase of a travel insurance (covering emergency medical evacuation) for trips to Malaysia
- **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.

## THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

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.

