



TRAVELINDOCHINA

2009 BORNEO ORANGUTAN ADVENTURE 15 days/ 14 nights

Highlights: *Kota Kinabalu, traditional homestays, Poring Hot Springs and canopy walkway, Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Kinabatangan River, trekking to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre.*

BORNEO ORANGUTAN ADVENTURE

The Borneo Orangutan Adventure 2009 is an experience of a lifetime, spending two weeks in enchanting and stunning surroundings, much of which is off the beaten tourist track.

You will have the opportunity to meet the local people, immerse yourself and learn about their environment, culture and communities. At the same time you will be making a positive contribution to the diminishing rainforest and the endangered orangutans that live here. You will be staying in a variety of accommodation ranging from the luxurious five star Shangri-La Rasa Ria to standard lodges and very basic home stays.

In Sabah you will embark on a personal challenge, whether it is completing the mountain biking, crossing the canopy walkways or trekking through virgin rainforest and integrating with the local inhabitants. During your trip you will be travelling through "orangutan country" keeping a look out for these enigmatic creatures. The Borneo Orangutan Adventure culminates at the infamous Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, where you will see rehabilitated orangutans living free in the protected Kabili Sepilok forest reserve and visit their feeding platform.

The trip is escorted by both a western tour leader and local English-speaking guide. The Borneo Orangutan Adventure is run in association with the Orangutan Appeal UK. Groups are kept small and comprise no more than 12 people.

TOUR GRADING - ADVENTUROUS

This journey is graded 'adventurous', which means that it is suitable for travellers with above average levels of fitness and mobility and a keen sense of adventure. There are two overnight homestays in basic accommodation with outside bathroom facilities and a mattress on the floor, several road journeys of up to 4-5 hours in duration and walking through jungle environments. There are also long boat rides of up to several hours at any one time. You will need to be able to handle your own luggage boarding and disembarking planes and boats and going up and down stairs in hotels and other accommodation. While accommodation is generally of 2-3 star standard, this is not 'sanitised' travel. By day you may walk through markets, villages, and jungles, meet local people, and sample local food. English is sometimes not widely spoken and a degree of patience and appreciation is required for travel through developing countries and stays in Malaysian operated accommodation.

INCLUSIONS

- International flights with Malaysia Airlines to and from Kota Kinabalu.
- 12 nights accommodation, 2 nights on overnight flights.
- Breakfast daily, 8 lunches and 8 dinners.
- All transfers and transport in air-conditioned vehicles.
- 1 domestic flight.
- Sightseeing and entrance fees for all touring specified on the itinerary.
- Expert western tour leader and local guide throughout.

WEATHER

Borneo is an all year round destination although you will generally get fewer tropical showers during our Spring - Autumn months. The monsoon season is from early November to late February. The vast majority of the island is rainforest which means you are most likely to come across downpours whilst in the jungle but these tend to be in the late afternoon and early evening.

ABOUT US

Travel Indochina has been operating small group journeys to Asia since 1993. Based in Oxford and with operations offices in Asia, our idea is simple - escape the tourist traps to explore the essence of Asia's history, culture, natural beauty and most importantly, Asia's people. Another feature is the character and location of our accommodation. Our travellers enjoy the combination of well thought out itineraries, tasteful accommodation, insightful western and local leaders, value for money, and our experience and base in the region.

BORNEO ORANGUTAN ADVENTURE ITINERARY

Day 1 - London to Kota Kinabalu
Fly from the UK to Kuala Lumpur (departs approx 1050) and on to Kota Kinabalu with Malaysia Airlines.
Overnight on the aircraft

Day 2 - Arrive Kota Kinabalu
On arrival in Kota Kinabalu (arrives approx 1135) you will be met and transferred to your accommodation.
Accommodation: 2 Nights
SHANGRI LA RASA RIA HOTEL

Day 3 - Recovery day
Full day at leisure with your first introduction to the orangutans at the hotel's own sanctuary. In the afternoon you will have a short briefing with your tour leader.

Day 4 - Cycling and rafting
Today you will cycle to Tauran. After lunch you will go bamboo rafting down the Kiulu river. In the late afternoon you will head to your home stay for your overnight stay.
Accommodation: 1 Night
MITABANG HOMESTAY

Day 5 - Kiulu to Poring Hot Springs
You will be up early for bird watching after which you will be able to spend some time at the local village before departing to Poring. You will cycle part of the way and then travel by bus to Poring. After lunch you will have time to traverse the canopy walkway and relax in the hot springs.
Accommodation: 1 Night
CHALET AT PORING HOT SPRINGS

Day 6 - Poring to Tabin Reserve
After an early breakfast you will travel by bus to Lahad Datu for lunch. You will then continue by road to Tabin National Park. Your journey will take most of the day. In the evening you will have the opportunity to go on a night drive.
Accommodation: 2 Nights
TABIN WILDLIFE RESORT

Day 7 - Tabin Reserve
You will spend the day exploring Tabin forest on foot. You will trek to the stunning waterfall and visit the lipad mud volcano, where you can watch local wildlife from high in the observation tower. In the evening you will have the opportunity to go on another night drive.

Day 8 - Tabin to the Kinabatangan River
After breakfast you will leave Tabin and proceed to Sukau, stopping for a picnic lunch. After lunch you will trek 5 km to the Gomantong Caves. After exploring the caves you will travel by bus for your overnight stay in Sukau.
Accommodation: 2 Nights
KINABATANGAN RIVER LODGE

Visit www.travelindochina.co.uk

Day 9 - Kinabatangan River

Full day exploring the Kinabatangan River. You will have the opportunity to cruise along the ox-bow lakes and take a short jungle trek. After lunch at your lodge you will have time to relax before embarking on another cruise in the late afternoon.

Day 10 - Onwards to Abai Village

After breakfast you will travel by boat down river to Abai Village for your second home stay experience.

**Accommodation: 1 Night
ABAI HOMESTAY**

Day 11 - Abai to Sepilok

After an early breakfast you will proceed by boat to Sepilok Laut. From here you will start your 2-3 hour trek to the famous Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. Do note that the trek is entirely optional and you can proceed directly to your accommodation at Sepilok by boat and road. After lunch at you will visit the afternoon feeding session at the sanctuary. In the evening there will be a celebration BBQ at the resort with the opportunity to meet and chat to some of the rangers and staff from the centre.

**Accommodation: 2 Nights
SEPILOK NATURE RESORT**

Day 12 - Sepilok

Day at leisure to relax at Sepilok and visit the orangutans again at the morning and afternoon feeding sessions. Alternatively, you may wish to explore the town of Sandakan and the surrounding area.

Day 13 - Sepilok to Kota Kinabalu

After breakfast there will be an accompanied tour of Sepilok and a final chance to see the feeding. You will then be collected from the Nature Resort and taken to the English Tea House for lunch (not included), where there are spectacular views of the town and bay. After lunch you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Kota Kinabalu. On arrival you will be met and transferred to the Rasa Ria. In the evening you will enjoy a farewell dinner with the representatives of the Sepilok Orangutan Appeal.

**Accommodation: 1 Night
SHANGRI LA RASA RIA HOTEL**

Day 14 - Depart Borneo

You will spend the day at leisure enjoying the hotels facilities before being taken back to Kota Kinabalu airport for your return flight to London Heathrow (departs approx 1915).
Overnight on the aircraft

Day 15 - Arrive UK

Early morning (approx 0525) arrival into the UK.

HOTEL BRIEF

Kota Kinabalu

Shangri La's Rasa Ria Resort

Located on a deserted stretch of coastline 45 minutes from Kota Kinabalu town, the Rasa Ria is the perfect place to relax. Overlooking a long, sweeping beach, the resort has several fine restaurants, a large swimming pool and offers many activities such as horse-riding on the beach and water sports.

Mitabang Village

Homestay

At Mitabang Homestay you will be staying with the local families in their homes. This accommodation is very basic and you will stay in wooden huts. You will sleep on a double mattress on the floor and will need to bring your own mosquito net which your guide/family will help you hang up. There are no fans and no air-conditioning. The bathroom and squat style toilet is located outside the house and consists of a bucket full of water and a scoop! Please note there is limited privacy.

Poring Hot Springs

Park Chalet

The cabins are spacious and comfortable and made out of local wood. Each cabin has 3 bedrooms, air-conditioning and a communal lounge area with a television. The bathrooms have showers, running hot water and western style toilets.

Tabin Reserve

Tabin Wildlife Lodge

Tabin Wildlife Lodge is situated amongst the dipterocarp rainforest in eastern Sabah. The comfortable wooden bungalows where you will stay are located along the Lipad River. They have air-conditioning, an attached bathroom with a hot water shower and a private balcony overlooking the forest and river. The Lipad cafe serves both western and local cuisine and is open throughout the day.

Kinabatangan River Lodge

Kinabatangan River

The Kinabatangan River Lodge offers basic, clean and comfortable rooms. There are no fans or air-conditioning. Each room has an en-suite bathroom and a shower with hot water.

Abai Village

Homestay

The accommodation is located by the Kinabatangan River in the homes of the local villagers. You will sleep on a double mattress on the floor and will need to bring your own mosquito net which your guide/family will help you hang up. There are no fans and no air-conditioning. The bathroom and squat style toilet is located outside the house and consists of a bucket full of water and a scoop! Please note there is limited privacy.

Sepilok Nature Resort

Sepilok

This 3-4* resort surrounded by virgin tropical rainforest is only 5 minutes by foot from Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. The resort itself has impressive gardens and is the ideal place to unwind. The rooms have modern facilities including en suite bathroom, air-conditioning, a refrigerator, and kettle.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Rough Guide to Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei by Charles De Ledesma

The Natural History of Orang-utan by Elizabeth L Bennett (This is available to order online at www.orangutan-appeal.org.uk)

DATES AND PRICES

Remaining departure dates for 2009 are as follows and relate to Day 1 on the itinerary:

Thursday 9th April
Thursday 17th September

The price of the trip is £2,399 per person based on a twin share or willing to share basis. Single supplement is available on request. Included in this price is a £400 donation to the Orangutan Appeal UK.

HOW TO BOOK

To confirm your place on the tour, we require a deposit of £250 per person which can be paid by cheque, credit / debit card or bank transfer. Please call us on 01865 268950 if you have any questions about the Adventure or wish to book. Alternatively, you can make your booking online via the Travel Indochina web site:
www.travelindochina.co.uk