



Dee-luxe Journeys



DEE-LUXE BORNEO (15 DAY TOUR)

**Kuching - Batang Ai - Mulu - Kota Kinabalu - Sandakan -
Kinabatangan River - Mt Kinabalu - Brunei**



We begin this adventure in Sarawak, “Land of the Hornbills” where we first meet our distant relative, the orang utan. Travel through inland rainforests to visit the indigenous villages of the Iban headhunters. Explore caves and swim in crystal waters in Mulu National Park. Continue North to Sabah the “land below the wind”, and home to South East Asia’s highest mountain, Mt Kinabalu. Journey across to the east where we travel along Sukau Lodge on the Kinabatangan River, an area rich in wildlife. Return to Kota Kinabalu (KK) and visit the World Heritage National Park. This incredible tour ends with a day in rich Brunei.

Dee-Luxe Borneo Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival (D)

Welcome to Kuching, the capital of Sarawak. Upon your arrival in Kuching, you will be met and transferred to the impressive Pullman Hotel. Enjoy your afternoon relaxing before meeting your fellow travellers for an enjoyable evening cruising along the Sarawak River. Witness the unique architectural, religious influences that have impacted Sarawak's capital over the centuries. Enjoy a buffet dinner and traditional dancing on board.

Day 2: Kuching (B, L)

Our first stop will be to introduce ourselves to the city's most famous ambassador, the Cat Monument. We will then continue to stroll through the streets of old Kuching. Across the river, we visit the Brooke Gallery where we will learn the story of one of the most remarkable kingdoms in history: Sarawak and its 'White Rajahs'. James and Charles Brooke forged a unique bond with the people and together built the foundations of today's Sarawak.

After lunch, we venture out of the city to visit the Sarawak Cultural Village. Observe the authentic and contrasting designs of houses and structures built by Orang Ulu, Bidayauh, Iban and Melanau indigenous groups, as well as Malay and Chinese architecture. This living museum allows you to participate in everyday activities such as wood carving, sugar can crushing, weaving. Our visit will conclude in the villages amphitheatre witnessing a multicultural performance.

Day 3: Kuching - Batang Ai (B,L,D)

Today we leave the city limits of Kuching to visit our closest and favourite cousins, the Orang utan at the Semenggoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Learn about their techniques developed for the rescue, rehabilitation, retraining and relocation of the Orang utans by one of the dedicated rangers.

Continue our journey in air-conditioned comfort, visit a native market and a enjoy a local lunch before arriving at Batang Ai boat jetty, where we will be transferred to the resort.

Day 4: Iban Longhouse (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we board a native-style long boat and glide across the lake towards the beautiful Engkari River. Once at the longhouse, enjoy a glass of rice wine with the village Chief and immerse yourself in their daily lives and experience using a blow-pipe.

Upon returning to the resort, enjoy a late lunch where you can relive your morning experience with your fellow travellers. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at your leisure or perhaps join us on a nature walk.

Day 5: Batang Ai - Kuching (B, L)

This morning we venture back to the river city of Kuching. Ponder your experiences and share your thoughts with your fellow travellers as we retrace our path to the contrasting urban jungle of Kuching.

Back in Kuching, relax once again at the Pullman hotel, the enjoy a last evening stroll along the waterfront as the evening is yours.

Day 6: Kuching - Mulu National Park (B,L,D)

Today we fly to Mulu where we will be met and transferred to the wonderful Mulu Marriot Resort. After lunch, we will proceed to the World Heritage Mulu National Park. You have a choice to take a guided walk through the botanical gardens or the three-kilometre boardwalk through primary rainforest to the Deer and Lang Cave. Deer cave has the world's largest cave entrance and is the largest single cave passage in the world. So large it can fit St Paul's Cathedral underneath.

Finish at the 'Bat Observatory' to witness thousands of bats exiting the cave at twilight (*weather permitting, not guaranteed*). Return to the hotel for a quick refreshing swim before enjoying a buffet dinner.

Day 7: Gunung Mulu National Park (B,L,D)

After a sumptuous buffet breakfast, we board longboats to depart upriver to visit Batu Bungan Penan Settlement for a brief tour and a chance to purchase some local handicrafts. Reboard our water chariots to travel to the Wind and Clearwater Cave. The Wind cave has an impressive "King's Chamber". Here, stalactites and stalagmites with delicate lace-like patterns are found. A short walk along a plank walk suspended to the limestone cliff leads to Clearwater Cave. Like most caves in Mulu, Clearwater Cave is the habitat of unique species of plants. In particular the, one leafed plant, can only be found in Mulu. Rare species of orchid and pitcher plants can also be seen in many locations. Today's lunch will be a simple picnic at Clearwater summer huts where you can enjoy a relaxing and refreshing swim in the spring under giant rainforest trees, before returning to our hotel by longboat.

Day 8: Mulu - Kota Kinabalu (B,D)

Enjoy a relaxing breakfast and perhaps a swim, before returning to the airport for the flight to Kota Kinabalu, "the land below the wind", and the capital of Sabah. Upon arrival, we are transferred to our waterfront hotel. Today have the rest of the day at leisure to relax by the rooftop pool or enjoy some shopping.

Day 9: Kota Kinabalu (B)

Today we will enjoy a half day tour of KK. First visit the Heritage village and museum then proceed on our journey around the city visiting the state and city mosque, Tanjung Aru Beach and the city's highest building, the Tun Mustapha Tower. Visit a local handicraft market before experiencing a typical water village to capture the essence of Kota Kinabalu.

Day 10: Kota Kinabalu - Sandakan - Kinabatangan River (BB,L,D)

This morning we have an early morning flight to the eastern city of Sandakan. On arrival, we will spend the morning at the world famous Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre. Here we will witness young orang utans playing and exercising in the nursery before moving to the feeding platforms to observe them in their natural habitat. Afterwards, we will venture next door to the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre.

Afterwards we will transfer to the Jetty for our thrilling boat ride up the Kinabatangan River. Enroute we will stop for lunch at the Abai Jungle Restaurant before continuing on to Sukau and the Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge.

If today could not already be exciting enough we will transfer into boats for a sunset cruise in search of wildlife along the river.

Day 11: Kinabatangan River (B,L,D)

Before breakfast, we will enjoy an early morning boat cruise to Oxbow lake as this is a great time for bird watching.

After a well-deserved breakfast, we will drive to Gomontong Caves to explore Sabah's largest bird's nest caves home to millions of Bats and swiftlets. The local communities collect the swiftlets nest which are highly prized by the Chinese as a delicacy.

Day 12: Kinabatangan River - Sandakan - Kota Kinabalu (B,L)

This morning we travel back along the river to Sandakan and visit the Sandakan Memorial Park. Here we will learn about the Sandakan prisoner of war camp and learn about the Sandakan Death March. We will take an evening flight back to Kota Kinabalu.

Day 13: Kota Kinabalu - Mount Kinabalu(B,L)

Today we journey up South East Asia's highest mountain and into the Kinabalu Park World Heritage site. The jagged granite peaks of Mt. Kinabalu (4095m) towers above one of the most biologically diverse areas in the world. Nominated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, Kinabalu Park is a natural wonder that offers day visitors a glimpse into the fascinating and often unique world of flora within the park. Enroute visit some local fruit stalls and market. Afterwards, visit the Ranau Monument before proceeding onto Poring Hot Springs.

Walk through the rainforest and witness life in the treetops as you walk along the 100ft high Canopy Walkway (*If Canopy walkway is closed, it will be replaced with a visit to the Poring Garden*).

Day 14: Kota Kinabalu - Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei) - Kota Kinabalu (BB,L,HT,LD)

This morning we take an early flight to Brunei's capital Bandar Seri Begawan. Be blinded by the golden chariot in the Royal Regalia, visit the Sultan Ali Saifuddin Mosque, Jame'Asr Hassanil Bolkihah Mosque and Kampong Air (the largest water village in the world).

We finish this magnificent day with a high tea at the Empire Hotel & Country Club before transferring to the airport for our flight home to Kota Kinabalu. Upon returning the hotel join your fellow passengers for a special farewell party to celebrate our wonderful adventure.

Day 15: Depart (B)

After breakfast, we say our sad farewells as you will be transferred to the airport for your journey home.

Highlights

- Visit Semenggoh Orang utan Rehabilitation Centre
- Visit and Iban Longhouse
- Visit Gunung Mulu National Park
- Visit Sepilok Orang utan Rehabilitation Centre
- Visit the Sunbear Conservation Centre
- Search for wildlife on Kinabatangan River
- Pay respects at Sandakan War Memorial Park
- Visit Mt Kinabalu National Park
- High Tea at Empire Hotel and Country Club in Brunei

Inclusions

- 14 breakfasts (2 boxed), 11 lunches, 1 High Tea, 8 dinners & a farewell party
- Professional & experienced Tour Director, Danielle (Dee)
- Professional & experienced Local Guide and driver in Sarawak, Sabah & Brunei
- Entrance and Park fees (*as per itinerary*)
- All accommodation, meals and transport (*as per itinerary*)
- All economy flights as per the itinerary (*taxes included*)
- Return airport transfers (*arrival & departure*)
- All hotel & tourism taxes
- Tipping and gratuities to guides and drivers
- All touring in air-conditioned vehicles (*excluding water-based activities*)