



TRAVEL THE UNKNOWN

TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

HIDDEN BORNEO

17 days



Countries visited

Borneo (Malaysia)

Tour Highlights

- Sample local delicacies in Kuching
- Navigate the rainforests of Batang Ai National Park

- Take a boat on the Kinabatangan River
- Meet the endangered orangutan
- Travel to the capital of Kota Kinabalu
- Explore remote Sapulot
- Spot rare species in Danum Valley Field Centre

Places visited

Kuching • Bario • Kelabit Highlands • Pa'Lungan • Kota Kinabalu • Sapulot • Tawau • Danum Valley

What's included

- Arrival & departure transfers
- Ground transport with driver
- Domestic flights (if relevant - refer to itinerary)
- Accommodation
- Meals (refer to itinerary for meal plan)
- English-speaking guides
- Entrance fees to sites & parks

What's not included

- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Drinks
- Visa fees
- 10MYR tourist tax per room, per night at all hotels/guesthouses/lodges - see trip notes for information
- Tipping
- Camera / video camera fees
- Personal items (laundry, telephone, etc.)
- Medical expenses
- Any services not mentioned in itinerary

All accommodation subject to availability. Final accommodation choices will be confirmed after booking.

Your Itinerary Map



Your Itinerary Explained

Date	Place visited	Meals
	<p>The first part of the text in each day is the itinerary schedule and will explain what you will normally see/do during this day of your itinerary.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>The part of the day's text in italics (and comes after the three dashes "---") is background information on the places or sites on that day of your itinerary. It is not part of your itinerary and may mention places that will not be visited on your itinerary. If you have any questions please ask us. Travel times where noted are only meant as a guideline.</i></p>	<p>B: Breakfast</p> <p>L: Lunch</p> <p>D: Dinner</p>

Tour Itinerary

Day 1	Arrival into Kuching	Meals
 <p>Flight</p>	<p>Arrive into Kuching, where you will be met by your Travel the Unknown representative and then transferred to your hotel. You can spend the afternoon relaxing and exploring the city. In the evening, there will be an introductory dinner and briefing for the trip. Overnight stay in Kuching.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>The state capital of Sarawak, Kuching, is often described as one of the most attractive cities in Southeast Asia. It is one of the most multiracial cities in Malaysia - north of the Sarawak River being predominantly Malay in character, whilst the south is largely populated by Chinese. The city has become a major food destination, and market stalls sell many varieties of Asian cuisine. Kuching's attractions include a picturesque port, the Rainforest World Music Festival, the historic Fort Marherita and the ornate Sarawak State Museum.</i></p> <p><i>Overnight in Ranee Hotel, Kuching</i></p>	<p>D</p>
 <p>Batang Ai National Park</p>	<p>After breakfast, drive to Batang Ai reservoir, stopping off at Lachau Bazaar. Here, you will have the opportunity to wander around the shops, getting lost in the small native markets. Later, continue your journey on towards Batang Ai Lake where you will board a longboat to travel upstream to Nanga Sumpa. Settle in and spend the evening relaxing, staying overnight at Nanga Sumpa.</p> <p>---</p>	<p>B L D</p>

Located in Lubok Antu in southwest Sarawak by the border to Indonesia, **Batang Ai National Park** is one of the largest protected conservation areas in the region. Its reservoir and tropical rainforests cover the expanse of the national park, leaving boats as one of the most common methods of transport. Batang Ai is home to the **Iban** tribe - who live in longhouses within the national park - along with many rare and protected animals. Overnight in Nanga Sumpa Lodge, Batang Ai National Park

Day 3	Batang Ai National Park	Meals
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Kinabatangan
River

In the morning, hike the jungle trails that lie along the river. Travel upriver by longboat, stopping to visit the indigenous Jambu community, where you will have the opportunity to see their traditional longhouse. You will then continue your journey by boat, arriving at Enseluai Waterfall where you will have time to take a swim and relax. In the evening you will be able to taste local delicacies before staying overnight stay in a lodge at Nanga Sumpa.

B L D

Overnight in Nanga Sumpa Lodge, Batang Ai National Park

Day 4	Batang Ai - Kuching	Meals
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Kuching

After breakfast, you will have the rest of the morning free in Nanga Sumpa. Later, you will travel back to Kuching, where you will visit a private gallery of Borneo ethnic arts and crafts. The collection, predominantly from the 18th to 20th Century, contains some especially rare and unique pieces. In the evening you will sample some typical Sarawakian cuisine before staying overnight in Kuching.

B L D

Overnight in Ranee Hotel, Kuching

Day 5	Kubah - Kuching	Meals
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Kuching

In the morning you will visit the Semonggah Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre for feeding time. Following this, continue on to Kubah and Magang National Park for some light wildlife trekking, searching for native species including Hornbills and Gibbons. Later you will return to Kuching, where you will have a private viewing of an old Bornean tribal art collection before dinner. Overnight stay in Kuching.

B L D

*The **Semonggoh Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre** was established to care for wild animals that have either been found injured or orphaned in the forest. They currently care for over 1,000 endangered mammals, reptiles and birds, most famously the orangutan. The centre aims to rehabilitate these animals in the hope of releasing them back into the wild, whilst also educating visitors about conservation.*

***Kubah National Park** boasts beautiful natural scenery, with the rainforest canopy punctuated by clear waterfalls and streams. The park has several interesting jungle trails where you can look out for species such as the Bearded Pig and the Black Hornbill. These paths all lead to the summit of **Gunung Serapi** where you can enjoy unspoilt views of Matang and the Santubong peninsula.*

Overnight in Ranee Hotel, Kuching

Day 6	Kelabit Highlands	Meals
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Kelabit Highlands

In the morning, take a flight onwards to Bario - the gateway to the Kelabit Highlands. Spend the afternoon exploring the town and learning more about Kelabit culture. Overnight stay in Bario.

B L D

*The **Kelabit Highlands** are a remote mountain range situated in the northern most point of Sarawak bordering Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo). They are named after the native Kelabit community who have lived in the highlands for over 100 years. Today it is also home to many other ethnic groups, including the Penan and Lun Bawang. The region is renowned for its rich and diverse ecosystem that has made it a popular destination for hiking and wildlife walks and its rich culture.*

***Bario** is a remote village located in the centre of the **Kelabit Highlands** and is the main settlement for the **Kelabit tribe**. The Kelabit are renowned for their hospitality and for ceramic beads which, inherited from their ancestors, are used to make hats and necklaces worn by the tribe's women on special occasions.*

Overnight in Jungle Blues Dream Guesthouse, Bario

Day 7	Kelabit Highlands	Meals
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Kelabit Highlands

Following breakfast, you will trek through the forest to get to the village of Pa'Lungan. Following your arrival, spend some time learning about local Kelabit culture and customs. Have the opportunity to participate in a Kelabit cooking class, where you will be preparing your dinner in the evening. Overnight stay in Pa'Lungan.

B L D

*The remote village of **Pa'Lungan** is surrounded by rainforests and has a small population. At Pa'Lungan you can see **Batu Ritung** - a stone table, thought to be a symbol of remembrance - and the historic **Perupun** - a pile of stones assembled to bury the valuables of the dead. The village boasts beautiful views of the surrounding mountain ranges from Prayer Mountain.*

Overnight in Kelabit Homestay, Pa'Lungan

Day 8	Kelabit Highlands	Meals
 <p data-bbox="121 517 252 589">Kelabit Highlands</p>	<p data-bbox="312 300 1409 371">Following breakfast, make your return journey to Bario by foot. Once you have arrived, the rest of the day will be free for you to relax. Overnight stay in Bario.</p> <p data-bbox="312 409 927 443"><i>Overnight in Jungle Blues Dream Guesthouse, Bario</i></p>	B L D
Day 9	Kota Kinabalu	Meals
 <p data-bbox="97 1010 277 1043">Kota Kinabalu</p>	<p data-bbox="312 792 1409 904">Following breakfast, you will take a flight to Kota Kinabalu, transiting in Miri. Later in the afternoon, have a chance to explore the city's waterfront markets with your guide before dinner. Overnight stay in Kota Kinabalu.</p> <p data-bbox="312 943 1409 1088"><i>Kota Kinabalu, formerly known as Jesselton under British colonial rule, is now the capital of the state of Sabah. It is situated on the north-western coast of Borneo, lying between the Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park and Mount Kinabalu. Kota Kinabalu was only granted city status in 2000, but it is fast becoming one of the largest urban regions in Malaysia.</i></p> <p data-bbox="312 1167 831 1200"><i>Overnight in Jesselton Hotel, Kota Kinabalu</i></p>	B L D
Day 10	Sapulot	Meals
 <p data-bbox="137 1538 237 1572">Sapulot</p>	<p data-bbox="312 1321 1409 1503">In the morning you will travel to Sapulot, arriving in Ramol village. On arrival, continue your journey by boat to Pungiton Camp. In the afternoon, explore the nearby Tinahas Caves, discover underground streams, stalactites and stalagmites. Later, travel back for a relaxing evening before falling asleep to the sounds of the jungle at Pungiton Camp.</p> <p data-bbox="312 1541 1409 1722"><i>The lesser explored Sapulot, offers a perfect location to uncover Borneo. Trekking through the unspoilt rainforests you will find hidden waterfalls and caves, such as the Tinahas Caves. The Murut tribe are also indigenous to the Sapulot area, where you can see their communal longhouses. Traditionally the longhouses would be extended to accommodate any new Murut arrivals who wished to join the community.</i></p> <p data-bbox="312 1760 839 1794"><i>Overnight in Pungiton Jungle Camp, Sapulot</i></p>	B L D

Day 11	Sapulot	Meals
	<p>After breakfast, travel on to the Hidden Kabulongou waterfall. Spend a relaxed morning swimming at the multi leveled waterfalls. Spend the night here at the waterfall.</p> <p><i>Overnight in Ramol Longhouse, Sapulot</i></p>	<p>B L D</p>
<p>Sapulot</p>		
Day 12	Sapulot - Tawau	Meals
	<p>After breakfast, proceed overland to Tawau and transfer to your hotel. In the afternoon, explore the small town with guide before dinner. Overnight stay in Tawau.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Tawau, formerly known as Tawao, is the capital of the Tawau district in Sabah. It has seen a lot of conflict over the years, mainly from the British during World War 2. This has led to the town being less than photogenic, but still charming in its own right. The main exports of the town are palm oil and cocoa, and the locals regularly hold vibrant markets.</p>	<p>B L D</p>
<p>Sapulot</p>		
Day 13	Tawau Hills - Lahad Datu - Danum Valley	Meals
	<p>After breakfast, depart from your hotel to Tawau Hills Park. The park is home to numerous plant and animal species. Spend the afternoon exploring the many nature trails with your guide. In the evening take a guided night hike, where you will have the opportunity to see a different, nocturnal, side to the jungle. Overnight in Danum Valley.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Tawau Hills National Park was established in 1979. The park is home to various flora and fauna including the Elephant Ear orchid and boasts 2 hectares of lowland gardens. Hot springs and waterfalls pepper the volcanic landscape, which the locals believe hold medicinal properties.</p>	<p>B L D</p>
<p>Danum Valley</p>		

Day 14

Danum Valley

Meals



Danum Valley

Rise early to take a wildlife walk before breakfast. Spend the day exploring your surroundings and trekking through the jungle. Later, enjoy a night safari and search for native animals as they hunt in the cover of darkness. Overnight in Danum Valley.

B L D

Danum Valley is made up of 538 square kilometers of Class 1 Virgin Primary Rainforest, which boasts unbeatable conditions for viewing native wildlife due to the lack of human habitation, hunting and logging. The valley is renowned for its rich biodiversity and houses extremely rare species, including the Sumatran Rhino and the Pygmy Elephant but also wild orangutan, gibbon, mousedeer and clouded leopards as well as over 270 bird species. The Danum Valley Field Centre is a world-recognised tropical rainforest research station, located at the heart of this conservation area.

Overnight in Danum Valley Field Centre, Danum Valley

Day 15

Danum Valley

Meals



Danum Valley

Start the day early, travelling to the GAW tower to see the morning sunrise over Danum Valley - thought to be one of the greatest sunrises in Southeast Asia. Spend the rest of the morning relaxing before an afternoon of more exploring, searching for more unique wildlife. Overnight in Danum Valley.

B L D

Overnight in Danum Valley Field Centre, Danum Valley

Day 16

Danum Valley

Meals



Danum Valley

In the morning you will take a wildlife walk in the forest, spending the rest of the morning at your leisure before later flying back to Kota Kinabalu. Here, you will enjoy a final dinner with your guide and stay overnight.

B L D

Kota Kinabalu, formerly known as Jesselton under British colonial rule, is now the capital of the state of Sabah. It is situated on the north-western coast of Borneo, lying between the Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park and Mount Kinabalu. Kota Kinabalu was only granted city status in 2000, but it is fast becoming one of the largest urban regions in Malaysia.

Overnight in Danum Valley Field Centre, Danum Valley

Day 17

Departure from Kota Kinabalu

Meals



Flight

After breakfast, drive to the airport for your departure flight out of Sabah.

B

Accommodation

Kuching : Ranee Hotel (Hotel)

3 nights


The Ranee is an exclusive boutique hotel, formed of two traditional 19th century shophouses. It is situated in the heart of Kuching's picturesque old town and houses 24 spacious suites, all of which are custom-designed with their own unique style and name. They do, however, all feature wide windows and verandas with views onto the bustling bazaar and river below; complimentary WiFi, air conditioning and satellite television. The Ranee also boasts a café, restaurant – offering local and international cuisine – an in-house tour desk and library.

Phone : +60 822 588 33

Address : 7 Jalan Main Bazaar, Main Bazaar, 93000 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Website : www.theranee.com

Batang Ai National Park : Nanga Sumpa Lodge (Lodge)

2 nights


The Nanga Sumpa Lodge is situated on the banks of the Delok River and offers a rare insight into the lifestyle of some of the remote tribes of Borneo. The more basic facilities on offer reflect the remote location of the lodge. The beautiful surrounding rainforest, streams and waterfalls make this lodge the perfect setting for outdoor activities - including jungle trekking and spotting Orang Utan in their natural habitat.

Phone : +60-82-245175

Address : Lubok Antu, Sarawak, Malaysia

Website : www.borneoadventure.com/lodges/nanga-sumpa-ulu-ai/

Bario : Jungle Blues Dream Guesthouse (Guest house)

2 nights


Jungle Blues Dream Guesthouse is a combined art gallery and home-stay, which is located centrally in Bario. Situated on top of a hill, the traditional Malaysian longhouse offers unspoilt views of the surrounding paddy fields and mountains. The gallery exhibits artwork by Stephen Baya's (the owner of Jungle Blues), some of his paintings also feature in the bedrooms.

Phone : +60 198 849 892

Address : Ulung Palang Longhouse, Bario, Kelabit Highlands Sarawak, Borneo

Website : www.junglebluesdream.weebly.com

Pa'Lungan : Kelabit Homestay (Homestay)

1 night



A local homestay in Pa'Lungan provides visitors with an authentic Bornean experience in a traditional Kelabit village. Guests will stay in private rooms and have access to a shared bathroom.

Address : Pa Lungan, Bario, Malaysia

Kota Kinabalu : Jesselton Hotel (Hotel)

1 night



The Jesselton Hotel is situated in the heart of the city, making it a good base for exploring the local sights. The spacious rooms have a classic feel, offering a mix of colonial history with modern amenities, including an en-suite and internet access. The restaurant at Jesselton Hotel serves a mixture of western and local dishes.

Phone : +60 88 223 333

Address : The Jesselton Hotel, 69 Jalan Gaya, Pusat Bandar, Kota Kinabalu, 88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Website : www.jesseltonhotel.com

Sapulot : Pungiton Jungle Camp (Homestay)

1 night



Experience the hospitality of the northern Bornean Murut tribe at Pungiton Jungle Camp. The facilities and bedrooms are basic but sufficient, suiting the remote location. This camp serves as a community eco-tourism project, which aims to sustainably assist economic development whilst also preserving the tribes traditional culture and sacred land. The camp is perfectly located for many outdoor activities, such as rock climbing or exploring hidden waterfalls.

Phone :

Address : Romol Village Sapulot, Keningau 89957, Malaysia

Website : _

Sapulut : Ramol Longhouse (Homestay)

1 night



A stay at Ramol Longhouse provides an opportunity for guests to experience the authentic culture and lifestyle of the indigenous Iban community. This wooden structure stands on stilts within Romol eco-village, boasting beautiful views across its natural surroundings. The longhouse is traditionally elongated as and when another Iban native or family joins the community, hence the name - 'longhouse'.

Address : Romol Village Sapulut, Keningau 89957, Malaysia

Danum Valley : Danum Valley Field Centre (Hotel)

3 nights



The Danum Valley Field Centre is located in the Danum Valley conservation area - one of the largest and best-protected forests remaining in South East Asia. It is a leading rainforest research centre and a member of The South East Asia Rainforest Research Partnership (SEARRP). The site offers several types of accommodation, including chalets, a hostel and a campsite, which all provide an ideal base for exploring the surrounding wildlife. All meals served for guests at Danum Valley are prepared in traditional Malaysian style using fresh local ingredients.

Phone : +60 884 861 68

Address : Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia

Website : www.danumvalley.info

All accommodation subject to availability. Final accommodation choices will be confirmed after booking.