Abercrombie & Kent

BORNEO: WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS

Dive into some of the world’s most wildlife-rich rainforest, breathtaking landscapes and captivating traditional cultures on this 14-day Borneo discovery.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries

Asia, Malaysia & Borneo

14 days from AU$16,193 pp

Private

Journey Overview

Dive into some of the world's most wildlife-rich rainforest, breathtaking landscapes and captivating traditional cultures on this 14-day Borneo discovery. From the traditional city of Kuching to the depths of Danum Valley, each day brings with a new and exciting adventure. Meet local families and get a glimpse into remote tribal life, admire architectural wonders and learn about the region's diverse ethnicities and cultural history. A once-in-a-lifetime experience, witness the iconic orangutans in their natural habit as you embark on guided explorations of the undisturbed havens, home to a diverse range of captivating flora and fauna.

Journey Highlights

- Follow in the footsteps of the English adventurer James Brooke sailing up the Sarawak River
- Meet the local Bidayuh and immerse yourself in their culture over tea with a local family
- Encounter the iconic orangutans and learn of conservation efforts at Semenggoh Orangutan Wildlife Centre
- Explore the island landscapes and gardens in heritage-listed Kinabalu Park with your own naturalist guide
- Discover the ancient Danum Valley from the ground and up above, wandering the captivating canopy walkways
- Witness ancient tradition at the 200-year-old "Coffin Cliff with spectacular views over the million-year-old jungle

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Kuching

Arrive in Sarawak to a warm A&K welcome and start your Borneo adventure in Kuching, the region’s capital. No other city in Malaysia has such a romantic and unlikely history. Transfer privately to your luxury lodge, with your evening at leisure.

Cove 55 Ocean Villa

Day 2: Kuching

Start your day with a scenic drive through rice fields, rubber, cocoa and pepper plantations, lush tropical forests, rivers and mountain ranges, enroute to explore Annah Rais, a Bidayuh Longhouse Tribe home to over 80 families.

Located in an isolated valley guarded by four mountains discover the old bamboo longhouse with a local guide, immersing yourself in the Bidayuh culture and leisurely lifestyle. Admire interesting relics, such as the Cannon of Peace before enjoying a tea break with a local family, learning more about life here in this captivating region. This afternoon, follow in the footsteps of the English adventurer James Brooke sailing up the Sarawak River on a traditional boat cruise, savouring drinks and canapes as you admire the bustling local life.

After sunset, walk the streets and see traditional craftsmen ply their trade, stopping to admire colonial heritage buildings and houses of worship, learning about Kuching’s ethnic diversity and rich history.

Cove 55 Ocean Villa | Meals: B

Day 3: Kuching

Today you meet the iconic orangutans, travelling with your guide to Semenggoh Orangutan Wildlife Centre. Established in 1975, the wardens here used to train young orangutans who have been orphaned or rescued from captivity how to survive in the wild. Now it stands as a centre for research and conservation, focussing more on the biology and behaviour of these majestic animals. Arrive in time for the first feeding of the day and relish an incredible encounter with the orangutans. Enjoy some time at leisure before an afternoon of driving through the picturesque countryside, passing farms, fish ponds and orchards to reach the outskirts of Bau, a former gold mining hub. Admire the extraordinary landscape of limestone karsts, before a guided exploration of the otherworldly Wind Caves and Fairy Caves, two immense rocky monuments sure to leave you in awe.

Cove 55 Ocean Villa | Meals: B

Day 4: Kuching – Kota Kinabalu

After breakfast, transfer to Kuching Airport for your onward flight to Kota Kinabalu. Enjoy a delicious lunch before a scenic journey into Borneo's rugged island landscapes in Kinabalu Park, a heritage listed icon full to bursting with natural wonders. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure.

Kinabalu Park | Meals: B

Day 5: Kota Kinabalu – Sepilok

Today you'll explore the thriving botanical gardens located in the National Park alongside a local naturalist, who will share their knowledge about the vast array of over 2,000 plant species.

Continue to Poring Hot Spring in search of the largest flower in the world, the Rafflesia, measuring up to 95cm across. Alongside their rarity, size and unusual appearance, it is the strange lifecycle of Rafflesia that make them so fascinating. After your explorations, transfer to Sepilok and your indulgent lodge.

Sepilok Forest Edge Resort | Meals: B

Day 6: Sepilok

Explore the many wonders of the onsite Rainforest Discovery Center, from the Plant Discovery walk to the 347-meter-long 87-meter-high canopy walkway, nestled high in the rainforest tree line.

Leave to Sepilok in time for the afternoon feeding at Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, taking a stroll on the boardwalk through the lowland rainforest to witness these majestic animals up close for a second time.

Afterwards wander over to the Sun Bear Conservation Centre, where the team of researchers and conservationists work to increase awareness of this endearing, but little-known bear species – named after the crescent shaped patch of fur on their chests.

If you so choose, there is the opportunity to symbolically 'adopt' a sun bear or orangutan, with your donation aiding the research efforts that aim to conserve these endangered species. Included in your experience is a meeting with the founder of Sun Bear Conservation, Dr Wong Diew Te.

Later this afternoon return to the hotel to relax and enjoy your pool villa.

Sepilok Forest Edge Resort | Meals: B

Day 7: Sandakan – Kinabatangan

This morning is yours to enjoy as you like, before transferring to Sandakan Yacht Club for a river cruise in search of a colourful array of wildlife and birds. Be captivated by the riverine scenes as you enjoy a candlelit dinner overlooking the riverbank, and an engaging presentation by your own naturalist guide.

Sukau Rainforest Lodge | Meals: B

Day 8: Kinabatangan

Rise early for a cruise to spectacular Kelenanap Oxbow Lake, a naturally crescent-shaped lake that formed when the river's meander became so wide that it cut itself off. Return to your lodge for breakfast and then embark on a guided tour across your lodge's Hornbill Boardwalk with the in-house naturalist for an education into the resident flora and fauna. After lunch, learn some more about the iconic orangutans with an engaging activity before embarking on another river cruise, eyes peeled for resident wildlife.

Sukau Rainforest Lodge | Meals: B

Day 9: Kinabatangan – Lahad Datu – Danum Valley

An early start to immerse yourself in the wonders of Borneo's Danum Valley, one of the region's oldest rainforests. Discover the pristine rainforest on foot, bathe in its rivers, spend time bird spotting and learn about the 320 species of trees found in just one hectare of jungle. If you're lucky, catch a glimpse of the Bornean Orangutan from one of the most spectacular canopy walkways in Sabah.

Afterwards journey by 4WD into the thick undisturbed rainforest that surrounds your lodge, a rugged and authentic adventure. Arrive in the afternoon, with time to explore as you like, whether it be walking along the trails or the 130-metre-tall, 300-metre-long canopy walk, high up in the 130-million-year-old rainforest.

This evening, embark on an exhilarating night spotlighting tour. Accompanied by a local guide, spot a range of nocturnal endemic species from samba deer to civet cats, leopards, and a stunning array of insects and frogs.

Borneo Rainforest Lodge | Meals: B

Day 10: Danum Valley

Wake up to the jungle's cacophony of sounds, ready for a morning discovery of a 200-year-old Kadazandusun Burial Site, known as "Coffin Cliff". Part of the along the 2.6km Viewpoint Trail, be rewarded with spectacular views over the million-year-old jungle. On your return trip, stop to admire the spectacular waterfalls. Return to the lodge for lunch and an afternoon at your own pace.

This evening, venture into the jungle on foot with a local guide. Quietly entering the jungle reveals a stunning array of animals, a kaleidoscope of intriguing wildlife that flourish in the evening hours.

Borneo Rainforest Lodge | Meals: B

Day 11: Danum Valley

Enjoy breakfast with nature, dining in pristine rainforest along the riverbank before a morning trek to Fairy Pools and Merchant Pools for a refreshing swim and some relaxing time by the waterfalls.

This afternoon spend time at leisure relaxing amidst the rainforest backdrop at the lodge and enjoying the surrounding nature trails.

Please Note: Activities are subject to weather condition/departure time, and may be re-organised to best meet operational availability.

Borneo Rainforest Lodge | Meals: B

Day 12: Danum Valley – Kota Kinabalu

This morning is free to enjoy as you like, and you may choose to embark on an optional Maliau Basin exploration. Fly by helicopter to the Maliau Basin Conservation Area, admiring the hidden haven of wilderness and natural wonders from the air before a guided discovery on foot. Learn about the region with a visit to the Studies Centre, before embarking on the Canopy Walk, stretching 400 metres along the heights of the rainforest landscape. Then visit the Agatis Research Station on the bank of a 15-metre-wide stream the gateway to the pristine tropical rainforest about 500 metres above sea level (extra cost). Return for lunch before a 4WD transfer to Lahad Datu Airport to flight to Kota Kinabalu.

On arrival transfer to Jesselton Pier, travelling by boat to Pulau Gaya and the private beach of your island resort, with time to relax and unwind in the tropical idyll.

Bungaraya Island Resort | Meals: B

Day 13: Kota Kinabalu

Spend the day at leisure, enjoying the beach or swimming in the clear blue waters. Take a snorkel and enjoy the marine life or simply relax by the pool.

Late in the afternoon you can choose to enjoy an optional private catamaran for an evening sunset cruise. Be pampered by experienced crews while enjoying the breathtaking sunset over Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, toasting your last evening with a drink and local canapés (additional cost).

Savour your last evening with an indulgent dining experience, showcasing delicious local fare in a truly idyllic setting.

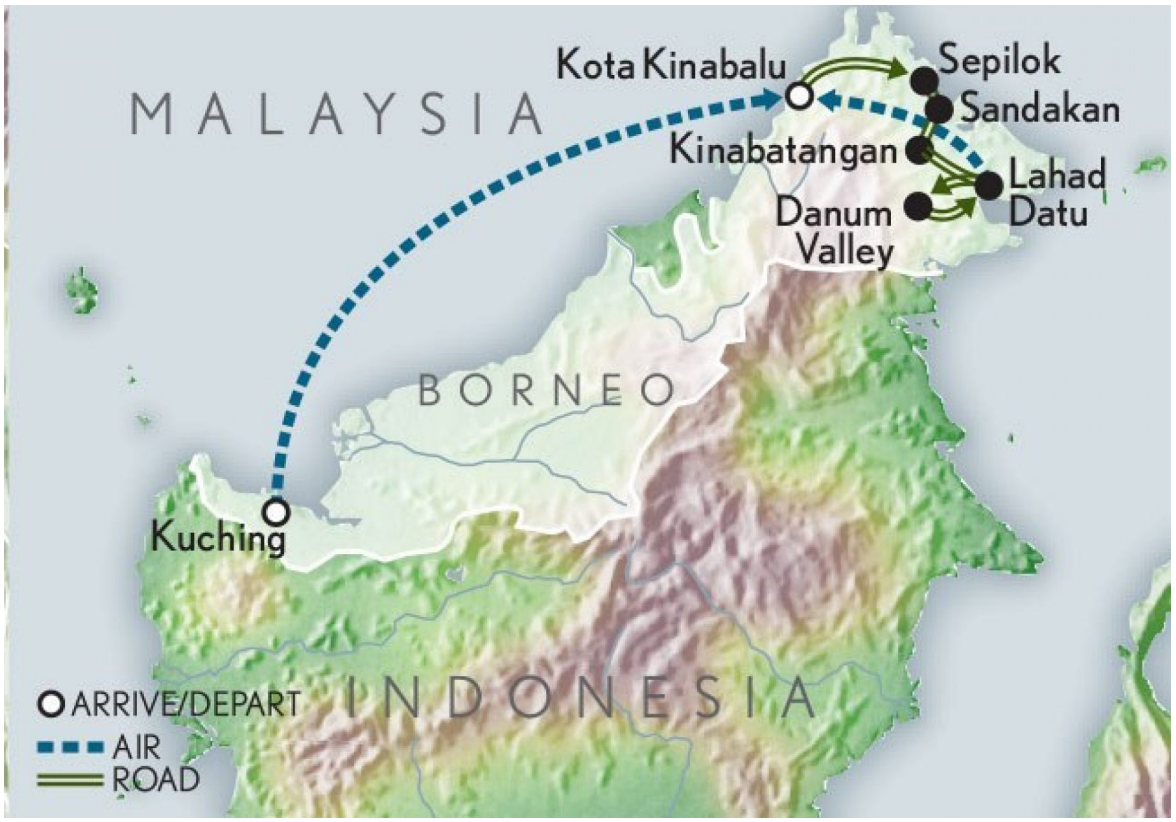
Bungaraya Island Resort | Meals: B

Day 14: Depart Kota Kinabalu

As your adventure comes to an end, depart Pulau Gaya by boat, transferring to Kota Kinabalu for your onward flight.

Meals: B

Map


Kota Kinabalu
Sepilok
Sandakan
MALAYSIA
Kinabatangan
Lahad
Datu
Danum
Valley
BORNEO
Kuching
ARRIVE/DEPART
INDONESIA
AIR
ROAD

Accommodation

Sukau Rainforest Lodge

The award-winning Sukau Rainforest Lodge nestles on the banks of one of Borneo's significant waterways, the Kinabatangan River, home to many of Borneo's iconic species. Immerse yourself in the tranquillity of the rainforest with a stay at this indulgent eco-lodge, dedicated to providing an unforgettable stay while championing conservation of the surrounding landscapes and its inhabitants. Each of the villas and private rooms are suffused with exotic Borneo style, offering lush comfort in the middle of this otherworldly wilderness.

Savour a sundowner at one of the two onsite bars, and indulge in a delicious local fare at the Melapi restaurant, with spectacular river views. Take a stroll on the Attenborough boardwalk, eyes peeled for a variety of endemic wildlife as you explore, and enjoy an orangutan education with the daily learning experiences on offer at the onsite Ape Gallery.

Bunga Raya Island Resort, Kota Kinabalu

Bunga Raya Island Resort is a luxurious jewel set on a coral reef island just off the coast of Borneo. The 47 timbered villas are located on a hidden bay framed by crescent shaped white sand beach on one side and the centuries old virgin jungle on the other. Each villa has been hand-crafted by local tradesmen and reflect the traditional simplicity of the Borneo architectural style.

Experience a voyage of discovery with one of the daily activities; kayak through emerald waters, explore the mangroves, catch a sight of Hornbills as you trek through thick jungles bursting with flora and fauna or dive into ocean treasures. In high season, the wind blows towards the south east leaving the bays waters incredibly calm, making them ideal for swimming, especially for children and snorkelers.

Why we like it

- A secluded hideaway on a tranquil and hidden bay off the coast of Borneo
- Private balconies offer beautiful vistas of the white sand beach below and the South China Sea
- Unwind at the dedicated hilltop spa or take in the views as you whizz along the resort's zipwire
- The surrounding jungle is virtually untouched and is home to around 40% of Malaysia's flora and fauna
- The expansive outdoor space of the Two and Three Bedroom Villas make them ideal for families

Abercrombie & Kent

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