

Borneo

Sunday 28 July - Wednesday 14th August 2024
16 Nights

TOUR OVERVIEW

Famed for its incredible natural bounty, Borneo accounts for just 1% of the world's land yet holds approximately 6% of global biodiversity in its rich tropical rainforests. Shrouded in mystery, the island is famous for towering peaks, impenetrable jungle and incredible natural beauty.

We explore an array of ecosystems including the jungle sanctuaries of Sepilok and Semeggoh, Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, limestone caves in Gunung Mulu National Park, Selingan Turtle Island and virgin rain forests in the Danum Valley. In these varied places, we will search for endangered orangutans, rare pygmy elephants, proboscis monkeys, monitor lizards, and numerous tropical birds.

Borneo also has a colourful history from the 'White Rajah' of Sarawak to the WWII history in Sandakan; a vibrant mix of Malay, Chinese and indigenous cultures; excellent infrastructure and delicious food. Join us on this tropical adventure in search of Borneo's abundant wildlife and more than 300 bird species. Plus explore the highlights of Brunei including the fascinating Malay water village on stilts.

This is an extensive tour of the best of Sarawak and Sabah staying in excellent accommodations.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The services of an experienced New Zealand based Calder & Lawson tour manager
- International economy airfare
- 16 nights accommodation in 4-5 star hotels and eco-lodges
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Local guides
- All group transfers
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- All tips for local guides and drivers
- Pre-tour material

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Airline taxes
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Hotel portage

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Observe orangutans as they live and move freely in their natural rain forest habitat at two different orangutan rehabilitation centres, Semenggoh and Sepilok.
- Explore the spectacular bat caves and limestone rock formations of Gunung Mulu National Park.
- Spend a night on Selingan Turtle Island, a protected habitat for endangered green sea turtles. Here we expect to see turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs then watch as tiny hatchlings scurry back to the sea.
- Travel to a Penan settlement where the traditionally nomadic inhabitants of the village are one of the world's most endangered indigenous ethnic groups.
- Spend two nights on the Kinabatangan River, home to one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in Southeast Asia.
- Experience the Danum Valley, a spectacular tract of ancient rain forest, where you will be surrounded by an astounding array of flora and fauna.
- Stay in several eco-lodges selected for their quality and remote locations including Sukau Rainforest Lodge, a National Geographic 'Unique Lodge of the World'.
- Check out the seldom visited Kingdom of Brunei.

IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

Much of this tour is a wildlife adventure and to fully appreciate all the experiences, you will need to be agile and reasonably fit. Many of the activities require a moderate amount of walking, some of it in caves with steep steps, on boardwalks and on canopy walks high above the ground. There are a number of occasions when you will travel in small river boats.

TOUR PRICE

Share twin per person	NZD \$12,890
Single supplement	NZD \$2,490

The tour price above includes economy international flights from Auckland.

Please contact Calder & Lawson Tours if you are interested in a single occupancy place.

GROUP SIZE Minimum 10, maximum 18

VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour, or book business class flights. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.



[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)

TOUR MANAGER: Kevin Palmer

Kevin Palmer will be your tour manager, Kevin is the owner of Calder & Lawson Tours. This is the fourth time he has travelled to Borneo and his third time leading a tour there and he is enthusiastic about getting back to some of his favourite places on this rich and varied itinerary and making sure you get the absolute most out of your tour. At last count Kevin has been to more than 80 countries.



DAILY ITINERARY

Sunday 28 July 2024

Auckland – Kuching

Meals: In flight/D

Overnight: Kuching

Driving times: Airport to hotel
30 minutes

Depart Auckland on a very early morning flight to Kuala Lumpur, with a connecting flight to Kuching arriving mid afternoon.

Stretch your legs with a walk exploring India Street, flanked by century colourful shop houses. Follow a narrow passageway and discover a hidden small Indian Mosque. Head to the site of the State Mosque - a Mughal-style pink mosque with striking gold minarets. At various points on your walk, take the opportunity to stop and sample some regional delicacies from the street and kopitiam (small cafes). Next stop is the Old Kuching Courthouse, the first Brooke era administrative building and The Pavillion, originally used as a medical headquarters. Take a photo at the Square Tower, which served as a maximum-security detention centre and later a dancing hall used by the Brooke's officers. A short walk will take you to the Main Bazaar, one of the oldest streets of Kuching and filled with antiques and handicrafts outlets.

Discover the health benefits of Chinese tea with a stop at the oldest tea shop in Kuching, visit a 175-year-old temple and walk streets that have remained virtually unchanged for 100 years where traditional craftsmen ply their trade.

Then cross the Sarawak River by traditional sampan to visit Fort Margherita for a stunning view across old Kuching. This fort was built in 1879 by the "White Rajah" of Sarawak, Charles Brookes, and is dedicated to his wife. It now houses an historical museum. Wander the lanes of the lively Malay Kampung next to the fort before returning across the river to mainland Kuching and to your hotel for check-in and welcome dinner.

Monday 29 July

**Semenggoh Orangutan
Sanctuary - Museum tour**

Meals: B

Overnight: Kuching

After breakfast, drive to Semenggoh Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre to observe the morning feeding. Established in 1975 as a sanctuary for injured and sick orangutans, it is now the largest orangutan centre in Sarawak.

Visiting this reserve is a great opportunity to learn about the plight of the orangutans, and allows guests to view these majestic creatures up-close. As the orangutans are semi-wild, sightings are not guaranteed, but they are common.

In the afternoon, you visit the brand new Borneo Cultures Museum to view exhibitions and interactive displays focusing on the natural environment, Sarawak culture and history with an impressive collection of artefacts. Some free time this evening to wander the lively riverfront, your tour manager will be available for dinner tonight should you wish to join him. A good option is an open air street food market.

DAILY ITINERARY

Tuesday 30 July

Mulu National Park

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Mulu

Transfer to the airport for a short flight to Mulu National Park. On arrival, you will transfer to the hotel and check-in. Your local guide will have suggestions for the afternoon, including a wander to the Tree Top Tower for views across the national park, a stroll along the boardwalk to Pukau Waterfall or a walk along the Nature Heritage Trail. Dinner will be at the resort restaurant.

After dinner, experience night trekking through the jungle to the park headquarters. From luminescent fungi to blinking fireflies, the jungle comes alive at night time and this is a fabulous opportunity to view creatures not visible in daylight.

Wednesday 31 July

Mulu

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Mulu

Headquarters to Lang & Cave:
walking, on boardwalk 3 km

After breakfast, which is accompanied by the sound of the jungle's morning chorus, take a 15 minute longboat ride up the Melanau River to experience two of Mulu's limestone caves: Wind Cave and Clearwater Cave. These form part of the Sarawak Chamber - the largest connected cave system in the world. Explore the 'King's Room' before proceeding to Clearwater Cave. Walk on boardwalks that were built on the sides of limestone cliffs leading to Clearwater Cave. Then, climb up steep steps that were carved into the side of the hill to get to the entrance of Clearwater Cave. Inside the cave, check out the limestone formations. Lunch will be at Mulu National Park.

After lunch, depart for Mulu National Park Headquarters and walk to Lang Cave -the longest cave passage in the world (2,161 metres long) – which adjoins Deer Cave. Explore Lang Cave with its magnificent stalactites and stalagmites before proceeding to Deer Cave, where the biggest attraction is a colony of thousands of free-tailed bats. At dusk, witness an amazing spectacle of nature as thousands of these bats emerge from the cave in formation to forage for insects in the rainforest. Return to the resort for dinner.



DAILY ITINERARY

Thursday 1 August Penan Settlement and Canopy Walk

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Mulu

Today, you take a tour down the Melinau River before entering the larger Tutoh River and travelling upstream to Long Iman, a Penan settlement where you will be greeted by a local guide. Here you have the opportunity to wander through the longhouse and purchase local handicrafts direct from the community. Return to Mulu by boat and this afternoon take to the treetops on a canopy walkway. Dinner is at the resort restaurant.

Friday 2 August Mulu to Brunei

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Bandar Seri
Begawan, Brunei

Leave behind Mulu and fly to the coastal city of Miri and drive overland to the capital of Brunei, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Start your Brunei discovery tour with a visit to the famed Water Village - the biggest Malay Water Village in the world. You will be taken on a local water taxi ride to the other side of the river where you will be taken on a walking tour of the village on stilts. Feel free to chat with the friendly local villagers and don't be surprised if you are invited for tea by some of the locals in their home. You will visit one of the local homes and have a brief experience of how it feels to live in a village built on stilts above the Brunei River and enjoy a light local refreshment. Then take another water taxi to return to the city for an evening at leisure and a group dinner.



DAILY ITINERARY

Saturday 3 August **Brunei**

Meals: B/L

Overnight: Kota Kinabalu

Drive to the morning local market in the capital city or locally known as "Tamu Kianggeh" located on the banks of Kianggeh River. The permanent market location was opened in the 1980's, prior to this, the traders would sell their products from their boats.

Most of the traders at this market are women and elders from the water village selling an array of traditional cooked food and raw cooking materials from local rice, fruits, vegetables and traditional herbs for medicinal use. Handicraft enthusiasts will find various local handicraft items on sale as well. Your local tour guide will brief you about the various local medicinal herbs and usage of various plants in the local ceremonial ceremony.

Continue your tour with a visit to Malay Technology Museum, Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddie Mosque, The Royal Regalia Exhibition Hall, Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque and pass by the entrance of the biggest residential palace of the world - Istana Nurul Iman; which is the official residence of the Sultan of Brunei. Following the city tour, you will take a short flight to Kota Kinabalu and have a free night for dinner. There is a lively local food market on the waterfront which is a great option for a casual dinner tonight.

Sunday 4 August **Kota Kinabalu**

Meals: B

Overnight: Kota Kinabalu

This morning enjoy a city tour including a viewpoint known as Signal Hill for a bird's eye view of the city, the offshore Islands of Tunku Abdul Rahman Park and Atkinson Clock Tower. Proceed to Tun Mustapha (formerly Sabah Foundation) building and the University of Malaysia Sabah. Make a short stop at the city Mosque. You will visit Sabah Museum and experience the local handicraft market, before heading back to your hotel for a free afternoon and evening.



DAILY ITINERARY

Monday 5 August

Meals: B/L

City Hotel to Kinabalu Park
(88km): 2 hours

Kinabalu Park to Sabah Tea
(44km): 1 hour

Sabah Tea to Sepilok (190km):
3 hours 30 minutes

Overnight: Sepilok

Today you have a long drive to Sandakan but the day has some interesting stops en route. Pass paddy fields and native villages all within sight of the majestic Mt Kinabalu - towering 4,095 metres above lush tropical jungles. You will have a short walk on one of the trails in Kinabalu Park before continuing your drive.

Your next stop is at Kundasang War Memorial. Established in 1962, this was one of the first memorials to commemorate the Australian and British Prisoners of War who died in Sandakan during the infamous death marches to Ranau during World War II. Have lunch at Sabah Tea Garden before heading to Sandakan and transferring to your hotel for two nights.

Tuesday 6 August

Sandakan and Sepilok

Meals: B/L

Overnight: Sepilok

This morning's visit is to the Central Market, where you see local produce and fresh seafood being sold. Morning markets are a fascinating display of colour, sights and sounds, as the locals bargain for their daily produce.

Then visit Sandakan Memorial Park, adjacent to the site of the original Sandakan Prisoner of War (POW) Camp. The park commemorates the sacrifice and suffering endured by both Australian and British soldiers who were held as prisoners by the Japanese between 1942 and 1945.

Continue to the Puu Jih Shih Buddhist Temple, located on a steep hilltop which affords magnificent views overlooking Sandakan Bay and the town center. Agnes Keith was the author of three semi-autobiographical accounts of her life in Borneo in the mid-20th century, when her husband Harry was the first conservator of the Forestry Department in Sabah and you will visit her house, now a museum.

An early lunch at the nearby English Tea House gives you plenty of time to spend at the world's largest orangutan rehabilitation centre at Sepilok. At the centre, guests can witness the orangutans being fed by the rangers as well as being entertained by the antics of young orangutans in the nursery. Stroll the jungle-flanked wooden walkways to the central platform where orangutans gather for feeding time. You will also visit the adjacent Sun Bear Rehabilitation Centre. Return to the hotel and have the evening free.

DAILY ITINERARY

Wednesday 7 August **Sandakan - Selingan Island**

Meals: B/L/D

Transfer hotel to jetty: 20 minutes

Boat: 1 hour

Overnight: Selingan Island

Start the day with a speedboat ride to Turtle Island. After lunch, you can enjoy a swim in the turquoise water and laze on the beautiful white-sand or snorkel on the reef. In the evening, you will experience a highlight of our tour. Green Turtles will crawl ashore to lay their eggs on the beaches of the island and hatchlings will be released to the open sea, a truly unforgettable sight.

Thursday 8 August **Selingan Island -** **Kinabatangan River**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Sakau

After breakfast you return to Sandakan and continue overland to Sukau to catch your boat to the lodge. Arriving at the lodge, check into your chalet in time for lunch. This evening, meander along the Kinabatangan River by boat with the local guide to spot the nocturnal activity. Returning to the resort, enjoy dinner before meeting the resort's naturalist for an informative talk and presentation about the river. You will stay at the resort for two nights.

Friday 9 August **Kinabatangan River**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Sakau

Rise early this morning along with the birds and other animals of the river for a cruise to Kelenanap oxbow lake, a crescent-shaped lake that was created by the meandering path of the main river. The stillness of the lake and its relative protection provides a haven for animals and plants. Return to the resort for breakfast before taking an informative tour along the Hornbill Boardwalk, with the resort's naturalist offering an insight into the medicinal and traditional uses of the jungle flora. The next part of the day is at leisure before heading out in the late afternoon to watch the river activities of the many species of primate. The afternoon is a particularly advantageous time to spot wildlife and the light is perfect for photography. Return to the resort for dinner with an evening at leisure.



DAILY ITINERARY

Saturday 10 August **Sakau - Lahad Datu - Danum Valley**

Meals: B/L/D

Sakau Lepit Jetty to Lahad Datu Office (130km): 2 hours 15 minutes

Lahad Datu Office to Danum Valley (97km): 2 hours on a gravel road

Overnight: Danum Valley

After breakfast, take a short boat crossing to Sukau Lepit Jetty. Continue overland from Lahad Datu and journey into the thick virgin rainforest area of Danum Valley – one of the world’s most complex ecosystems. Around 30km of this 85km journey is on sealed roads, and the last two hours is along a gravel road – it is bumpy but worth the effort! On arrival at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, check in and enjoy a late afternoon walk along the trails and canopy walk, high up in the 130 million year old rainforest which is humming with jungle sounds. After dinner, board one of the open-top 4WD vehicles for an exhilarating night spotlighting tour with a local guide who shines a light into the jungle looking for nocturnal animals. insects and frogs.

Sunday 11 August **Danum Valley**

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Danum Valley

Along with a private guide, rise early this morning to make the most of the jungle activity before the heat rises. Wander along trails spotting some of the many bird species recorded at Danum. The morning chorus of the jungle is a cacophony of sounds ranging from birds to primates, such as the gibbon. Taking a packed breakfast, travel to a 200 year old Kadazandusun Burial Site, known as “Coffin Cliff”, along the 2.6km View Point Trail. The end of this trail results in spectacular views over a million year old jungle – a truly spectacular sight. The return journey includes a trip to waterfalls where guests can enjoy a refreshing dip in the Jacuzzi Pool – with the added benefit of nibbling fish! Return to the resort for lunch. This afternoon is at leisure. There are a series of tracks leading around the Canopy Walk that you may wish to discover. This evening, venture into the jungle on foot with a local guide - quietly entering the jungle reveals a stunning array of wildlife, not to mention the variety of insects that flourish in the evening hours.

Monday 12 August **Danum Valley - Lahad Datu - Auckland**

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Kota Kinabalu

A free morning to explore the lodge and surrounding areas before a drive to Lahad Datu airport for your onwards flight to Kota Kinabalu and a farewell dinner this evening.

Tuesday 13 August **Kota Kinabalu - Auckland**

Meals: B/in flight

A day at leisure before heading to the airport in the afternoon for your onwards flight to Kuala Lumpur and then a connecting flight to Auckland. You'll arrive in the early afternoon on **Wednesday 14 August**.



HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure your place on the tour. When minimum numbers are reached, the tour will become a 'confirmed departure' and your deposit will be non-refundable.

Click below to complete the online registration form, pay the \$1,000 deposit and your place in this tour is secured. Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from our website www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/ or give us a call and we will email or post one to you.

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on our website www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/, on the back of the paper registration form or on the summary page when you complete an online registration. There is a 1.5% surcharge if you wish to pay by credit card.