

Borneo

Sunday 9 - Wednesday 26 August, 2026 | 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 Semenggoh, 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 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.

This is an extensive tour of the best of Sarawak and Sabah.

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TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The services of an experienced New Zealand-based Calder & Lawson tour manager
- International economy airfare
- 16 nights' accommodation in 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 portorage

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 eco-lodges selected for their quality and remote locations

TOUR MANAGER: PETER GIBBS

Peter describes himself as a 'restless' soul and this probably explains his life in travel, having visited over 60 countries. He eventually settled down when he met his wife Liz on his last overland trip, had three children and embarked on a career in the travel industry. He was originally an owner of the company Venturetreks and then eventually an owner of The AdventureTravel Company in Auckland. He sold his travel company some years ago and is now semiretired. Peter has led many successful tours for Calder & Lawson Tours all over the world.



TOUR PRICE

Twin share per person \$14,990

Single supplement \$2,990

The above prices are in NZ dollars and include international airfares from Auckland.

Please contact us if you are interested in a single room.

if you are a single traveller looking to share a room, please let us know and we may be able to find a suitable person willing to share.

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.

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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. You don't need to be an athlete, but being able to walk and stand for two hours at a time is vital. There are several occasions when you will travel in small riverboats. While we take care of the logistics, you'll need a good level of fitness, mobility and stamina to get the most out of the experience. This is important not just for your enjoyment of the tour, but so that you can keep up with the group.

As with any extended trip, travelling over multiple weeks requires a certain level of endurance. There may be early starts, long travel days, and varied weather conditions, including heat, which can sometimes make days more tiring. While there will be opportunities for downtime or opting out of activities, the pace of the tour will be steady and some days may be busy, as there is a lot to see!

You'll also need to manage your own luggage, such as through airports, hotels, and on and off buses.

Temperatures remain fairly constant year-round in Borneo, with averages of 27-32°C and relative humidity of around 80%. All your accommodations are air conditioned.



All the images and photos on this itinerary were taken on our previous tours.

DAILY ITINERARY

Sunday 9 August, 2026

Depart Auckland

Meals: In flight

Flight: 17 hours

Overnight: Kuala Lumpur

Depart from Auckland airport mid-afternoon and stay overnight at an airport hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

Monday 10 August

Kuching

Meals: B/D

Flight: 3 hours

Overnight: Kuching

Fly from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to the island of Borneo.

Stretch your legs with a walk exploring India Street, flanked by century old 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 kopitiams (small cafes). Next stop is the Old Kuching Courthouse, the first Brooke era administrative building and The Pavilion, 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 antique and handicraft 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.

Tuesday 11 August

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 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 them. A good option is an open air street food market.

DAILY ITINERARY

Wednesday 12 August

Bako National Park

Meals: B/L

Overnight: Kuching

Leave the city and drive 45 minutes, passing through mangrove forest with its unique nipah palms, before arriving at the Bako Fishing Village. Continue by a motorised boat for a 30-minute cruise along the coast facing the South China Sea to reach Bako National Park. After visiting the Park's information and exhibition centre, head to the park's western end to walk along the plank walk through the mangrove forest, be on the lookout for Proboscis Monkey and other wildlife. Continue trekking to Paku Beach, then continue by boat to view the Sea Stack before heading back to Telok Assam.

Take a break with a buffet lunch before embarking on a trek through the forest, which boasts massive rainforest trees. You will have the opportunity for some bird watching and more wildlife spotting before returning to the jetty for a return trip to Kuching, where your evening is free.

Thursday 13 August

Mulu National Park

Meals: B/D

Flight: 1.5 hours

Overnight: Mulu National Park

Transfer to the airport for a short flight to Mulu National Park. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel and check in. Your local guide will have suggestions for the afternoon, including a visit to the Tree Top Tower for panoramic 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, embark on a night trek through the jungle to the park headquarters. From luminescent fungi to blinking fireflies, the jungle comes alive at night, and this is a fabulous opportunity to view creatures not visible in daylight.

Friday 14 August

Mulu Caves

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Mulu National Park

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

Saturday 15 August **Penan Settlement and** **Canopy Walk**

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Mulu National Park

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.

Sunday 16 August **Kota Kinabalu**

Meals: B

Flight: 1 hours

Overnight: Kota Kinabalu

A morning at leisure before heading out to the airport for a flight to Kota Kinabalu. In the afternoon take a walking tour of Kota Kinabalu, formerly known as Jesselton, which is the capital city of Sabah. In the evening enjoy sunset cocktails from the rooftop bar of your hotel

Monday 17 August **Kota Kinabalu - Sepilok**

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

You have a long drive to Sepilok, near 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 Sepilok and transferring to your hotel for a two-night stay.

Tuesday 18 August **Orangutan, Sunbear and** **Proboscis monkey sanctuaries**

Meals: B/L

Overnight: Sepilok

Your first stop is the world's largest orangutan rehabilitation centre at Sepilok. At the centre, you 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.

After lunch head to Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary, one of the best places to encounter Borneo's Proboscis monkey. The remarkable males sport big dangling noses, reddish flat-top hairstyles, white tails and markings, and pot bellies. The females on the other hand, are much smaller and have up-turned noses. Other animals may also approach the feeding platform, such as squirrels, silver leaf monkeys, and oriental pied hornbills.



DAILY ITINERARY

Wednesday 19 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 Selingan (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 your 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.

Please note your accommodation for one night on the island will be in basic chalets. All chalets have en-suite bathrooms.

Thursday 20 August Kinabatangan River

Meals: B/L/D

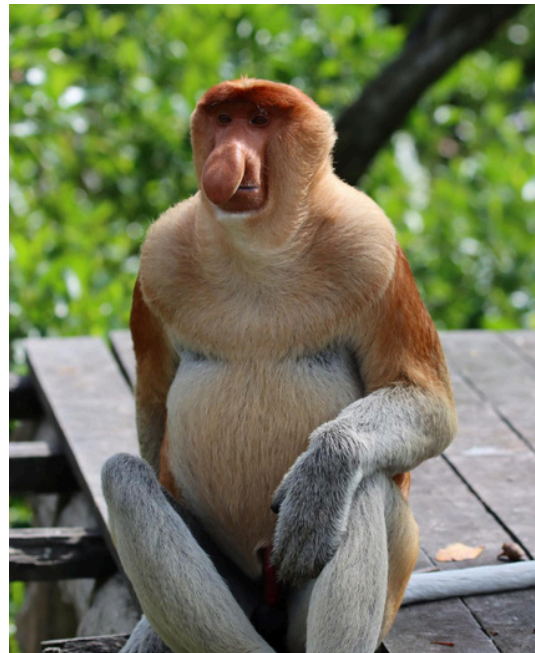
Overnight: Kinabatangan River

Wake up early and catch the sunrise, and hopefully you will see some turtles still laying eggs on the beach and returning to the ocean. After breakfast, you return to Sandakan and explore the local area. Visit the lively central market and then head to Sandakan Memorial Park. 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.

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. You will visit her house, now a museum.

Board a boat and travel 1.5 hours up the Kinabatangan River. Passing by local villages and lush rainforest. You may even have opportunities to spot wildlife as you travel along the river to your eco-lodge.

Late in the afternoon, hop on a riverboat for a cruise up the Kinabatangan River in search of wildlife, most notably the proboscis monkeys, which are endemic to Borneo. Other fauna that are likely to be spotted in the Lower Kinabatangan Reserve include pygmy elephants, hornbills, gibbons, and a variety of birds. Return to the lodge for dinner and finish the day with a stroll along the boardwalk, on the lookout for nocturnal animals and interesting insects.



DAILY ITINERARY

Friday 21 August

Kinabatangan River

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Kinabatangan River

Rise early with the sounds of the river's wildlife for a morning cruise to Kelenanap Oxbow Lake, a crescent-shaped body of water formed when the river's meander became cut off. The calm, sheltered environment supports a rich and distinct ecosystem, offering excellent wildlife viewing. Continue by boat for approximately 45 minutes to the Kulamba Field Centre, where you'll visit a village of the native Orang Sungai ("river people") and participate in a tree-planting project—an important initiative supporting both conservation and the local community.

Next, explore the Observation Tower area, keeping an eye out for orangutans, silver leaf monkeys, and a variety of bird species. Enjoy light refreshments at Tundun Bohangin Resthouse, hosted by the local Orang Sungai. Here, you'll have the chance to meet community members and observe daily river-based activities such as crab and prawn catching.

Return to the resort for lunch, then spend your free time at leisure. In the late afternoon, head out again to witness the increased activity of primates and other wildlife—this golden hour also provides ideal conditions for photography. After dinner, embark on a night river safari, keeping watch for nocturnal wildlife before returning to the lodge.

Saturday 22 August

Danum Valley

Meals: B/L/D

Sukau 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! Upon 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 alive with the sounds of the jungle. 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 in search of nocturnal animals, insects and frogs.



DAILY ITINERARY

Sunday 23 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 24 August

Danum Valley – Kota Kinabalu

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 25 August

Homebound

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 arriving Wednesday 26 August.



MAP



HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

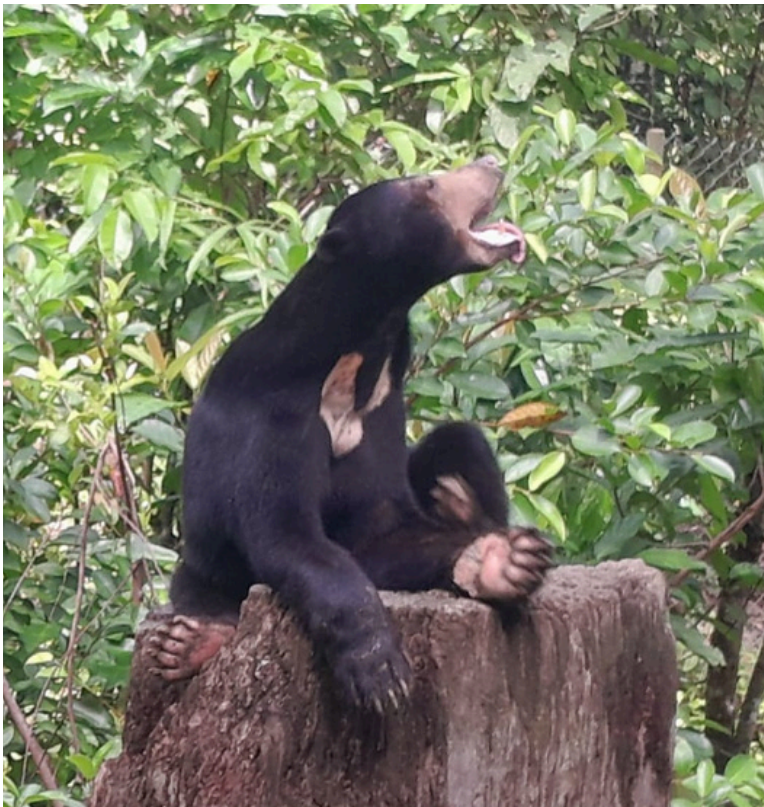
A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure your place on the tour. This deposit becomes non-refundable once the tour has reached minimum numbers and becomes a confirmed departure.

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

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on our website www.calderandlawsonstours.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 pay by Visa or MasterCard or 3% for American Express.

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