Itinerary

8 Day Borneo Cultural Discovery Small Group Tour

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Arrive Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

Arrive at Kota Kinabalu International Airport, where you'll be met and greeted by our local representative. From there, enjoy a comfortable transfer to your hotel. After check-in, settle in and freshen up before joining the group for a welcoming dinner in the evening.

MEALS: Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Grandis Hotel

Day 2: Kota Kinabalu - Mari Mari Cultural Village & City Tour

After breakfast, we begin the day with a visit to the Mari Mari Cultural Village, where you'll experience traditional Sabah customs and enjoy a local lunch.

In the afternoon, we continue with a city sightseeing tour of Kota Kinabalu. Highlights include a drive past the iconic Tun Mustapha Building (Yayasan Sabah), the city mosque, Atkinson Clock Tower, and a visit to the Sabah Museum.

Return to the hotel for some rest and relaxation. In the evening, enjoy a special dinner at Kampung Nelayan, accompanied by vibrant cultural performances.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Grandis Hotel

Day 3: Kota Kinabalu ~ Kinabalu Park ~ Kundasang

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and begin our journey to the cool highlands of Kinabalu Park.

Along the way, we stop at Tamparuli Bridge to enjoy a traditional Kadazan dance performance and take a walk across the iconic hanging bridge. Next, we visit the Nabalu Native Market — a great place to browse for local handicrafts, souvenirs, and tropical fruits.

Upon arrival at Kinabalu Park, enjoy a guided walk through the Botanical Garden, home to unique mountain flora. A late lunch is served en route.

In the afternoon, we visit the Kundasang War Memorial Park, followed by a stop at the Kundasang Vegetable Market to explore the local produce.

Check in to your hotel in Kundasang and enjoy dinner surrounded by mountain views.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Kundasang Mount Perkasa Hotel or Sabah Tea Resort

Day 4: Kundasang ~ Ranau ~ Bilit

After breakfast, we continue our journey to Ranau Town with a visit to a local WWII historical site. Then, enjoy a relaxing fish spa experience at Marakau.

Next, we head to the scenic Sabah Tea Garden for a guided tour of the tea factory, followed by a fun tea plucking activity while dressed in traditional costume. Enjoy lunch surrounded by the lush tea plantation.

After lunch, we travel overland to Bilit, located by the Kinabatangan River. We expect to arrive around 6:00pm. Upon arrival, transfer to and check in at Bilit Adventure Lodge.

Enjoy dinner at the lodge before setting out on a guided night walk to spot nocturnal wildlife in the surrounding rainforest. Then it's time for an early rest to prepare for the next day's adventures.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Bilit Adventure Lodge

Day 5: Bilit - River Cruise

Start the day early with a 6:00am morning river cruise along the Kinabatangan River. Keep an eye out for proboscis monkeys, hornbills, and other unique wildlife. After the one-hour cruise, return to Bilit Adventure Lodge for a hearty breakfast.

Later in the morning, take part in a hands-on batik painting activity, followed by a tree planting session in the nearby forest — a small but meaningful contribution to local conservation efforts.

Return to the lodge for lunch and enjoy some rest time. At 3:30pm, we gather for afternoon tea with a local treat — fried banana fritters.

At 4:00pm, we set out again on a second river cruise to explore another side of the Kinabatangan and spot more wildlife as the sun begins to set.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Bilit Adventure Lodge

Day 6: Bilit ~ Sandakan - Proboscis Monkeys & Fireflies Cruise

After breakfast, we check out of Bilit Adventure Lodge and begin our journey back to Sandakan. Along the way, we stop at Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary to witness the 11:30am feeding session — a great chance to see these unique monkeys up close in their natural habitat.

We then enjoy lunch at the charming English Tea House, set on a hilltop with lovely views of Sandakan town.

After lunch, transfer to your hotel for check-in and some time to relax.

By 4:00pm, we depart for a visit to a local fishing village. Enjoy a peaceful mangrove river cruise, followed by a magical firefly-watching experience as dusk falls.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Sabah Hotel or Ormond Hotel

Day 7: Sandakan - Wildlife Encounters

Today is a full-day excursion dedicated to Borneo's incredible wildlife and conservation efforts. After breakfast, we visit the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, where you'll witness both the morning and afternoon feeding sessions, offering a chance to observe these amazing primates in their natural environment.

We also visit the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, home to the world's smallest bear species, and the Rainforest Discovery Centre, where you can explore botanical gardens, canopy walkways, and learn more about Borneo's rich rainforest ecosystem.

Return to the hotel in the late afternoon to freshen up. This evening, we come together for a farewell dinner to celebrate an unforgettable journey through Borneo.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Sabah Hotel or Ormond Hotel

Day 8: End of Tour ~ Depart Sandakan

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and some free time to relax or explore at your leisure. When ready, transfer to Sandakan Airport (SDK) for your onward journey.

NOTE: ***If you select the 8th August departure, you will have an extra special visit to Sandakan War Memorial for the Sandakan Day Service. Sandakan Day, observed annually on August 15th, is a commemorative day that remembers the tragic deaths of over 2,400 Allied prisoners of war, including Australians and British soldiers, during the Sandakan Death Marches in Borneo. It also acknowledges the sacrifice of the local people of Sabah who risked their lives to help the prisoners. The service starts at 7:15 so you will have an early breakfast and be transferred to the memorial in time for the service. You will then return to the hotel for checkout and proceed with the rest of your journey.***

MEALS: Breakfast