

SABAH “The Land Below The Wind”

7D6N FEB 19 – 25 2022



IN Kota Kinabalu & OUT Tawau

With K.K. City Tour, Gaya Street Sunday Mkt., Kinabalu Park, Tamparuli, Kudasang Highlands, Poring Hot Springs, Sabah Tea, Sandakan Heritage Trail, Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary, Kinabatangan River Wildlife Sanctuary,

Gomantong Caves, Lahad Datu stopover and Tawau City Tour.

Day 1 FEB 19 SAT: Kota Kinabalu arrival

(L)



KOTA KINABALU



Tun Mustapha Gallery

9.25am departure from KLIA2. Arrival Kota Kinabalu airport 12.05pm. Kota Kinabalu, the state capital of Sabah, was until 1967, named Jesselton.

Before the arrival of the British, the place was called Api-Api. It attained city status in 2000.



City Mosque



Atkinson Clock Tower

Lunch at Tanjung Aru beach area. Then photostop at **State Mosque**, which was completed in 1975. Proceed to **Central**

Market and then photo stop at **Tun Mustapha Yayasan Sabah Tower**. Visit **City Mosque**, nicknamed “The Floating Mosque” because it is partially surrounded by a man-made lagoon.

Stop at **Gaya Street** (aka Chinatown); originally named Bond Street, Gaya Street has been the center of business for over a hundred years. Next, photo stop at **Atkinson Clock Tower** (built in 1902 in memory of Francis George Atkinson, the first district officer of Jesselton) and then enjoy **Sunset viewing** from **Signal Hill Observation Pavilion**.

Transfer to the **Night Market** and the **Filipino Market** for grilled seafood dinner on own budget (enjoy local style eating). Overnight in Kota Kinabalu.

Day 2 FEB 20 SUN: KK- Kinabalu Park – Poring - Kundasang (B/L/D)



After breakfast, visit the famous **Gaya Street Sunday Morning Market**. Then transfer to visit **Tamparuli Upside Down House** (the first

upside down house in South East Asia and in the Malaysia Guinness Book of Records) and **Tamparuli Hanging Bridge**, which became Sabah's most famous bridge after the release of popular KadazanDusun folk song "Jambatan Tamparuli" written by Justin Lusah in 1977.



Next is **Kinabalu National Park** including **Kinabalu Conservation Center, Mountain Garden** and a **walk along a trail** around Park HQ. The park is Malaysia's first **World Heritage Site** declared by **UNESCO** in December 2000. The park was gazetted in 1964 to protect Mount Kinabalu and its plant and animal life. **Mount Kinabalu**, at 4,095.2 metres tall, is the highest mountain on the island of Borneo, Malaysia's highest mountain and the 20th most prominent peak in the

world. In the national park is also Mount Tambuyukon of 2,579 metres height. Then transfer to **look for Rafflesia flower (only if flowers are blooming)**.



Transfer to **Kundasang** (lunch en-route), a town in the district of Ranau and is renowned for its vegetable market which is open seven days a week. It is the closest town to Mount Kinabalu and has a **panoramic view of the Mountain**. It is populated mainly by the native Dusun and a small population of Chinese people. At an elevation of almost 1,900 metres, it is the highest settlement in Malaysia.



Visit **Kundasang War Memorial**, built in 1962 to commemorate the 2,428 Australian and British prisoners who died during World War II at the Sandakan POW Camp, and the casualties of the three infamous forced death marches from Sandakan to Ranau. It also serves as a tribute to the many local people who risked their lives while aiding the prisoners of war. Only six Australians survived in this tragedy to tell their horror and there were no English survivors. The Memorial is made up of four beautiful gardens – the Australian Garden, the English Garden, the Borneo Garden and the Contemplation Garden and Pool – to represent the different nationalities.

Continue to **Culvert View Homestay Lodge viewpoint** for a **photo** of Kundasang area with Kinabalu Mountain in the background (local van transfer provided for laterite road section). Then to **Poring Hot Springs**. The word “Poring” means bamboo in KadazanDusun language and refers to the lush bamboo forest in the area.

Transfer for dinner and then to your resort in Kundasang to overnight.

Day 3 FEB 21 MON: Kundasang – Sabah Tea – Sandakan (B/L/D)



Early morning wake up to catch **sunrise over Kundasang Valley and Mount Kinabalu** in the background. After breakfast, check out and visit **Kundasang Farmers' Market**. Transfer to **Kampung Luanti Fish Spa Village**, where the villagers keep Ikan Pelian (Malaysian Mahseer fish) where the fish nibble off the dead skin from your feet. Continue to **Sabah Tea Plantation**, which was established in 1984. Located 2,272 feet above sea level, in the cool foothills of Mount Kinabalu, the harvests are 100% pesticide free as insects are drawn towards the rainforest surrounding the plantation (instead of swarming the tea bushes).



Arrival in **Sandakan**, formerly known as 'Elopura', is the second-largest city in Sabah. It was capital of British North Borneo from 1864 until Jesselton (now Kota Kinabalu) took over in 1946. During the immediate post-war period, it was also known as Sabah's very own 'Little Hong-Kong' due to a large number of Chinese migrants from Hong Kong.



After lunch, proceed for **Sandakan Heritage Trail Walking Tour** (approx. 2 hours), including tea break stop. The route covers:

- 1) **Masjid Jamek** Sheik Hasabollah At-Tohiri, established in 1890, is the oldest mosque in Sandakan. The present building is a rebuild at a new location.
- 2) **MPS Square**: William Pryer Monument (founder of modern Sandakan in 1879; he cleared the bay of pirates and took the first steps to eliminate slavery), the Chartered Company Monument, the Sandakan War Monument and the Sandakan Liberation Monument.
- 3) **Heritage Museum**, with some interesting old photos of Sandakan - entrance is FOC
- 4) The **100 Steps** up the hill to Jalan Istana
- 5) **Agnes Keith House**. Agnes Newton Keith (July 4, 1901 – March 30, 1982) was an American author best known for her three autobiographical accounts of life in North Borneo (now Sabah) before, during, and after World War II (“The Land Below The Wind”, “Three Came Home” and “White Man Returns”). Her husband, Henry George Keith (1899-1982), a British national, was at the time of their marriage (1934), the Director of Agriculture and Wildlife of the Government of North Borneo. The original house, destroyed during the war, was one of the first permanent timber structures. Rebuilt in 1947, it is now a museum.
- 6) Tea break stop at **English Tea House & Restaurant** to enjoy views overlooking the city and the sea (**drinks & food on own budget**). The menu includes tea-time sets sandwiches and scones, English favourites like fish & chips or shepherds' pie, or popular Asian dishes.
- 7) The remains of an **Old Staircase** that was part of the Chinese Consulate before the war.
- 8) **Goddess of Mercy Temple**, established 1868, is the oldest temple in Sandakan.
- 9) **St. Michael's and All Angels Church**, the oldest church in Sabah with construction beginning in 1893. Construction using granite stone took place for 32 years until its consecration in 1925. The church was blown up by the Japanese before surrender in 1945, leaving only the shell of the church building. It was soon rebuilt to its present appearance.
- 10) **Sam Sin Kung Temple**, built in 1887, is the third oldest temple in Sandakan, after Goddess of Mercy Temple and Tam Kung Temple. Worshipped here are Kwan Woon Cheung (Saint of Righteousness), Goddess of Tin Hou (worshipped by fishermen for protection) and Min Cheong Emperor (worshipped by students facing examinations).
- 11) **Malaysia Fountain**, built to celebrate the formation of Malaysia (16 Sept 1963).

NOTE: In case of unforeseen rain, places that are accessible by our tour bus will be visited.

Enjoy Seafood Dinner at a local seafront restaurant. Overnight in Sandakan.

Day 4 FEB 22 TUE: Sandakan - Sepilok – Kinabatangan (B/L/D)



Transfer to **Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary** established in 1964 to rehabilitate orphaned orangutans. Attend the **10am feeding session** (note, the number of orangutans emerging from the forest for the feeding varies daily). Then to the **Borneo Sun Bear Conservation Centre**, opened in 2014, to care for and rehabilitate rescued sun bears, while increasing public awareness about this species. Continue to **Rainforest Discovery Centre** to walk one of the trails, the 363m long canopy walkway and visit the Plant Discovery Garden.



Transfer to Kinabatangan River's Bilit area (lunch en-route). The **Kinabatangan River** is Malaysia's second-longest river with a length of 560km from its source in the Southwest Sabah to its outlet at the Sulu Sea, on the East Coast. A total of 26,000 ha was gazetted as the **Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary** under the State's Wildlife Conservation Enactment of 1997.

After lunch, we drive overland to Bilit, Kinabatangan River, home to the 10 species of primates namely Proboscis monkeys, langurs, macaques, orang utan, slow loris, western tarsier, 8 species of hornbills such as Rhinoceros Hornbill, Pied Hornbill, Black Hornbill, Helmeted Hornbill (50kg, 120cm), kingfishers, bubuls, trogons, flycatchers, sunbirds, broadbills, herons, mangrove snakes, vipers, estuarine crocodile, asian elephants and many more wildlife. Arrive at Bilit around 1430hrs, check into your accommodation.

By 1530hrs, have an **afternoon tea** with some local bites. After a short briefing by the nature guide, take an **afternoon cruise** (4.00pm) along the Kinabatangan River (Sabah's longest river at 560km) where you can observe wildlife on the boat itself. Diner and overnight in **riverside lodge accommodation in Bilit area**.

Day 5 FEB 23 WED: Kinabatangan & Gomantong Caves (B/L/D)



Wake up early in the morning to start the day with an **early river cruise** at about 6.00am. After the one hour boat cruise, proceed back to your lodge for breakfast. Late morning, depart for a **guided jungle walk** through the riverine forest for wildlife sighting. Trek back to your lodge, freshen up and have lunch. Then visit

Gomantong Cave, famous for their edible swiftlet nests. It consists of 2 caves; Simud Hitam (Black Cave) soaring up to 90 metres high and the more accessible of the two, and Simud Putih (White Cave), only for fit cavers. Late afternoon, get ready for another **afternoon river cruise** to a different part of the river to see more wildlife. Dinner and overnight in **riverside lodge accommodation in Bilit area**.

Day 6 FEB 24 THU: Kinabatangan – Lahad Datu – Tawau (B/L/D)



After breakfast, check-out and transfer to Lahad Datu, approx. 3 hours drive. Lahad Datu is a sea side town surrounded by inland of forests, palm oil and cocoa plantations. Visit **Lahad Datu Market**.



After lunch in Lahad Datu, transfer to Tawau (approx.. 2.5 hours) with en-route stop at **Menara Kayangan**. This observation tower 30m in height, is built on top of Mount Silam, 884 meters above sea level (the highest point in Lahad Datu district), giving a bird's eye view of Lahad Datu town and Darvel Bay islands.

Arrival in Tawau for **Seafood dinner**. Overnight in Tawau.

Day 7 FEB 25 FRI: Tawau – departure (B/L)



After breakfast, check out and proceed for tour of Tawau. Tawau is the 3rd largest city of Sabah and shares a border with Indonesia's Kalimantan Utara province. Visit **Teck Guan Cocoa Museum** for the 8.30am to 10am guided tour package. Then visit Tawau **Fish Market**, **Tawau Tanjung Market** and **Tawau Central Market (Pasar Gantung)** for **handicraft souvenirs**. After lunch, photo stop in front of **Tawau Mosque (Majid Al-Kauthar)**. Then, visit **Pu Zhao Temple** with a 7 storey pagoda.

Transfer to Tawau airport for 18.25pm flight to KLIA2, arriving 21.10pm.

RATES: per person, twin sharing basis, Malaysia passport holder:

12 paxs group: RM 4,490 /person twin sharing (inclusive guide & driver tipping)

Single Supplement: RM 660

If group size reaches 16 paxs or more, a discount of RM 400 /person applicable.

Rate & itinerary subject to change due to unforeseen charges, weather, local conditions, etc.

INCLUSIVE:

- a) Airport transfers and tour excursion using tour coach on private basis
- b) Hotel accommodation with daily breakfast:
 - Kota Kinabalu 1N: Promenade Hotel (4 star, Superior Room)
 - Kundasang 1N: Kinabalu Pine Resort (2 star, Standard Room)
 - Sandakan 1N: The Elopura Hotel (3 star, Standard Room)
 - Bilit Kinabatangan 2N: Bilit Adventure Lodge (Tourist Lodge, Standard Room)
 - Tawau 1N: Borneo Royale Hotel (3 star, Standard Room)
- c) Full Board Lunch and Dinners EXCEPT Dinner on Day 1 Feb 19 (on own budget)
- d) English speaking licensed guide
- e) Entrance fees for attractions as indicated per itinerary
- f) Boat for cruises in the Kinabatangan River
- g) Tipping for tour guide & driver included (RM15 x 7 Days = RM105 /pax)
- h) Daily 2 bottles of drinking water per person

EXCLUDING:

- a) Air Asia tickets, airport taxes and any taxes related to airports & flights:
 - FEB 19 AK5106 KUL 0925 - BKI (Kota Kinabalu) 1205 (one way)
 - FEB 25 AK5752 TWU (Tawau) 1825 - KUL 2110
- b) Fully vaccinated Malaysians can fly into Sabah without any pre-arrival RT-PCR test.
- c) Day 1 Feb 19 Dinner: own budget at Filipino Market, K.K. (famous for grilled seafood)
- d) Travel Insurance: can be arranged separately AXA Domestic Travel Insurance RM 35/pax
(Single Trip, coverage period Feb 19 – 25)
- e) Expenses of personal nature like drinks ordered during meals, hotel bellboy/porter tipping, laundry charges, optional activities not included in itinerary, room mini-bar charges, etc.