

SARAWAK “The Land of the Hornbills”

7D6N JULY 8 – 14 2022

IN Kuching & OUT Miri + flights to / out of Mulu



With Sarawak River Cruise, Kuching Heritage Walk, Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, Siniawan Town Night Bazaar, Dolphin Spotting Tour, Sarawak Cultural Village, **UNESCO World Heritage Mulu National Park** & Miri City Tour.

Day 1 JUL 8 FRI: Kuching arrival – City Tour – River Cruise (L/D)



9.10am departure from KLIA2. Arrival Kuching airport 11am. On arrival, transfer to local restaurant for lunch. After lunch, proceed to visit **Brookes Gallery** at the old colonial **Fort Margherita**. Fort Margherita was built in 1879 to guard Kuching's river approaches from pirates and was named after Charles Brooke's wife, Rane Margaret. The Brooke Gallery located within houses a wide range of memorabilia of the White Rajah Era.



Then go for a **drive through tour** of **Kuching city center** for an introduction to the city. Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, is a cosmopolitan city and this is reflected in the faces on the street. It's city centre is well preserved with ornate Chinese Temples, City Tower, many fine examples of colonial-style architecture a beautiful waterfront and a number of interesting museums, including the new landmark ~ Darul Hana Bridge (S-Shape

Bridge). Other places of interest include the famous landmark of the City, the Cat Monument, Market, Main Bazaar, China Town, Old State Mosque & etc.



Evening, proceed for **SARAWAK RIVER SUNSET CRUISE**, a relaxing way to enjoy the scenes of the city and retrace the trip James Brooke made when he first arrived in Sarawak. You will sail past the Waterfront, Brooke Dockyard, the 100 year old Malay Kampung, Fort Magherita, Astana, Square Tower and the Industrial Estate. As you sail toward the sea, colourful fishing boats will appear in abundance. While aboard, be entertained by some traditional welcome dances.

Transfer for dinner at a local restaurant. Then check in hotel to overnight in Kuching.

Day 2 JUL 9 SAT: Kuching - Heritage Walk - Semenggoh Wildlife Centre – Siniawan Night Bazaar - Kuching (B/L)



After breakfast, transfer by coach to **Old State Mosque** and start your **KUCHING HERITAGE WALK**. The walk starts from the mosque, passing by **Brooke's Dockyard**, **Old Railway Station** (viewed from opposite road), walking towards **Market Street** to experience the hustle and bustle of the city. Then cross the road and go into **India Street**, enter the **Indian Muslim Mosque** and coming out to **Gambier Street** and reach the **Old Courthouse**. Then walk across the road to view the **Square Tower**, the **Astana** and **DUN (Dewan Undangan Negeri)**. Continue walking along the **waterfront area** and then stop at **Chinese History Museum**. Opposite is the **Tua Pek Kong Temple**. Then transfer by coach to the **Giant White Cat Statue** of Jalan Padungan Roundabout (the first of a few Cat Statues in Kuching). Proceed for lunch at a local restaurant.



After lunch, transfer to visit **SEMENGGOH WILDLIFE CENTRE**. Unlike in a zoo, the Orang Utans are set free in a 653 hectare forest reserve. Here, young Orang Utans, who were either orphaned or rescued from captivity, are trained to survive in the wild. Semenggoh is not set up as a tourist attraction but visitors are most welcome. You will be able to catch a glimpse of the Orang Utans during their feeding time. Spot their delicate nests, watch their skilful movements at the tree tops and also their interesting behaviour during feeding time. The guide will also narrate to you the behaviour, emotion and characteristics of this special primate.



Then, transfer to a small town called **SINIAWAN** in Bau District, an old town more than 100 years old with a population of Bidayuh, Chinese and Malays. Enjoy a flash back to the past with the old town feel there, made even livelier and colourful with the Friday, Saturday & Sunday **Night Bazaar** (6.30pm to 10pm) set between two rows of wooden shops. You will find a line of stalls selling handicrafts and of course, food and cakes.

Besides Chinese food, you will get Bidayuh and Malay food too. There are local folks singing on stage and red lanterns are strung from one end of the street to the other. **Dinner on own budget here.** Recommended are the Lui Cha dish (rice & tea leaves dish) of the ethnic Hakka Chinese, the Pitcher Plant Rice and the Ngo Hiang here.

Transfer back to Kuching to overnight.

Day 3 JUL 10 SUN: Kuching - Dolphin Spotting Tour – Sarawak Cultural Village - Kuching (B/L/D)



After breakfast, proceed for **DOLPHIN SPOTTING TOUR**. This cruise criss-crosses the mouth of the **Santubong River** in search of the rare **Irrawaddy Dolphin**. The Irrawaddy, or snubfin dolphin, inhabits rivers, estuaries and shallow coastal areas. The Santubong area is one of the best places in Sarawak to view this unusual looking marine mammal. The dolphins are often seen swimming and diving around small fishing boats in the estuary. Occasionally they

are seen playing in the open water. Visitors will need a keen eye to spot the dolphins at first, but after a short wait they can often be seen surfacing all around the boat. Cruises along **Salak River** and have a view the **fishing village with houses on stilts**.

NOTE: these animals are wild; therefore, there is no guarantee that visitors will see them.



After that, proceed to proceed for **SARAWAK CULTURAL VILLAGE** for lunch and visit. Popularly known as the 'Living Museum', the Village is a showcase of a kaleidoscope of Sarawak's cultures and traditions. On arrival, you will explore the 7 authentic replicas of ethnic houses. Chinese Farm House, Malay Stilted House, Melanau Tall House, Penan Hut as well as the Longhouses of the Iban, Bidayuh and Orang Ulu. Displayed in each house are the many artifacts made by the individual dwellers. Demonstration of arts and crafts likes beadwork, wood and bamboo carvings, "Pua" weaving and straw weaving can be seen while touring the Village. You will also be entertained with 45 minutes of the traditional dances of the various ethnic tribes of Sarawak at the Village theatre.

After tour, transfer back to Kuching for dinner. Overnight in Kuching.

Day 4 JUL 11 MON: Kuching – flight – Mulu National Park (B)

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Kuching airport for 10.05am **flight to Mulu**, arriving at 11.40am. Transfer to **Gunung Mulu National Park**, a **UNESCO World Heritage** listed area covering 85,000 ha of some of the oldest pristine rainforests in the world. Check in at the National Park HQ's **Rainforest Lodge** accommodation. **Lunch on your own budget at the Park's Café (open from 7.30am to last-order by 7.30pm).**

ADVISORY by Mulu N.P.: Visitors with record of cardio respiratory conditions will be considered **NOT FIT** to visit Mulu National Park, due to lack of medical facilities for treatment of cardio respiratory emergencies in the immediate surroundings.



Afternoon, meet at Park HQ and proceed on **plank walk (private tour) for 3 km** to reach **DEER & LANG CAVE**. **Deer Cave** is home to more than 3 million **Wrinkle Lipped bats** and also a large number of **swiftlets**. Enjoy the sheer size of this limestone passage, an ancient riverbed, and see the force of water carving the scalloped walls. Once you reach the green oasis of **Garden of Eden** you have walked 800m inside Deer Cave. Returning back to Park HQ almost along the same route, you will visit **Lang Cave** with wonderful limestone shawls, stalagmites and stalactites. Bats are easier to see in this smaller cave and you will be very close to the shimmering webs of thread worm larvae, another miniscule wonder of Mulu caves.



The tour is timed to coincide with the bat exodus which could start any time from after 17:00. **Subject to fine weather**, you will **see bats flying out of caves entrance**. Then return back to Park HQ.

Dinner on your budget at the Park's Café (or cafes outside Park main entrance).

Overnight in Mulu National Park.

Day 5 JUL 12 TUE: Mulu National Park

(B/L)



After breakfast, at park canteen and transfer by longboat on the Melinau River to **Batu Bungan, a Penan Settlement**, to observe the tribe's lifestyle and to see their handicrafts available for sale (market closed on Sundays). Then continue by longboat to **Cave of the Winds** where you have to negotiate a long ramp and a few stairs. The final stop is **Clearwater Cave** where the subterranean river emerges from the cliff face. Take 200 stair-steps to enter the cave to marvel at the **Monophilia Pendula** (a plant that is just a leaf on a stalk) endemic to Mulu. Clearwater is one of the biggest cave systems in the world, measuring over 220km in length.

Swimming inside the cave is not permitted, however a cool down in the natural crystal-clear waters at the **picnic deck** is a must. Float with the fish and enjoy the rainforest around you. **Picnic lunch is provided** at the picnic deck. After lunch, return transfer by longboat to Mulu National Park HQ.

Rest of the afternoon at leisure at Park HQ grounds; you can drop by the Park's **Discovery Center** for background info on the Park, the **Gallery Shop** for souvenirs, or go for **short walks** around Park HQ. **Dinner on your budget at the Park's Café (or cafes outside Park main entrance)**. Overnight in Mulu National Park.

Day 6 JUL 13 WED: Mulu National Park – flight – Miri (B/L/D)



After breakfast, transfer to Mulu airport for 11.20am **flight to Miri**, arriving 11.55am. Upon arrival at Miri airport, proceed for **MIRI CITY TOUR**.

First stop is at the **Sea Horse Statue** for a photo (Like Kuching has the Cat as a symbol, Miri has the Sea Horse). Then to **Malaysia 1st Oil Well** nicknamed "**The Grand Old Lady**" located at Canada Hill. The well has an important place in Miri's history, as it was here that oil was first struck by Sarawak Shell in 1910. You can learn more at the site's **Petroleum Museum**. Here you have a scenic view overlooking Miri city and the sea.



After lunch, visit the largest Taoist Temple in South East Asia, the **San Ching Sian Temple**. Then to **Miri City Fan Park**, a 10.4-hectare park, shaped like a fan, which was recognised as Malaysia's best landscaped city park. Next is **Miri Heritage Centre** for handicraft & souvenir shopping. Evening, relax at **Miri Waterfront and enjoy sunset**.

Transfer to a **local restaurant for seafood dinner**. Check in hotel and overnight in Miri.

Day 7 JUL 14 THU: Miri – departure (B)



After breakfast, check out and visit **Tamu Muhibbah**, the local farmers market (open daily 7am to 1pm).

Then transfer to Miri airport. **Lunch on your own budget** there. Board the 1.45pm flight to KLIA2, arriving 4.05pm.

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

12 paxs group: RM 3,090 /person twin sharing (inclusive guide & driver tipping)

Single Supplement: RM 670

If group size reaches 16 paxs or more, a discount of RM 300 /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 for Kuching and Miri sectors.

Airport transfers from/to Mulu Airport handled by Mulu National Park and on Sit-In-Coach (shared with other tourists) basis. Guided tours at Mulu National Park on private basis (our package inclusive of private tour basis surcharge)

b) Hotel accommodation with daily breakfast:

Kuching 3N: Meritin Hotel or similar (3 star, Standard Room)

Mulu 2N: Mulu National Park HQ (Rainforest Lodge Room)

Miri 1N: Dynasty Hotel (3 star, Standard Room)

c) 5 Lunch and 3 Dinners (including seafood dinner at local seafood restaurant in Miri)

Some meals not included; refer to "Excluding" section below.

d) English speaking licensed guide for Kuching and Miri sector. In Mulu, National Park guide service engaged on private group tour basis.

e) Entrance fees for attractions as indicated per itinerary

f) Sarawak River Sunset Cruise in Kuching and Dolphin Watching Boat Trip in Santubong area. Mulu National Park Day 5 program (Winds Cave & Clearwater Cave) includes boat transfers on Melinau River.

g) Tipping for tour guides & drivers.

h) Daily 2 bottles of drinking water per person (1 bottle/pax on last day July 14)

EXCLUDING:

a) Air tickets, airport taxes and any taxes related to airports & flights:

JULY 8 FRI Air Asia AK5204 KUL 0910 KCH 1100

JULY 11 MON MAS Wings MH3752 KCH 1005 MZV 1140 (Kuching to Mulu)

JULY 13 WED MAS Wings MH3631 MZV 1120 MYY 1155 (Mulu to Miri)

JULY 14 THU Air Asia AK5652 MYY 1345 KUL 1605

For those from PENANG, flights to / return from Sarawak are:

JULY 8 FRI Air Asia AK5432 PEN 0700 KCH 0900

JULY 14 THU Air Asia AK5652 MYY 1345 KUL 1605

JULY 14 THU Air Asia AK6130 KUL 1740 PEN 1840

b) Some meals:
Day 2 JUL 9 Dinner on your own budget at Siniawan Night Bazaar
Day 4 JUL 11 Lunch and Dinner at Mulu Park's cafe on own budget
Day 5 JUL 12 Dinner at Mulu Park's cafe on own budget
Day 7 JUL 14 Lunch at Miri Airport on own budget

c) Travel Insurance: can be arranged separately AXA Domestic Travel Insurance RM 35/pax
(Single Trip, coverage period July 8 – 14)

d) Some personal essential items needed for Mulu National Park visit; list to be advised.

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.