

# EXPLORE!



## Family Borneo Wildlife Adventure

BORNEO, MALAYSIA - TRIP CODE FBN

FAMILY

### Why book this trip?

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An action packed adventure ideal for wildlife enthusiasts. The state of Sabah in Borneo boasts over 200 species of mammal, 450 species of bird and 8,000 plant species. Visit the world's largest Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre, a Sun Bear sanctuary and cruise jungle waterways in search of proboscis monkey with time to relax on the coast at the end of the trip.

- **Pulau Tiga Island** - Boat trip to this protected tropical island with excellent snorkelling opportunities
- **Kinabatangan** - Stay in a jungle lodge and cruise the river to see proboscis monkeys
- **Longhouse** - Experience rural Borneo. Sleep in a traditional style longhouse with local families
- For active families we offer the trek to summit Mt Kinabalu, planned on 5th and 19th July 2020 and 2nd August 2020. Due to the demanding nature of this trek these dates are open to children aged 11 and over.



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 10  
Lunch: 3  
Dinner: 5



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour Leader  
Boat Crew  
Driver(s)  
Local Guide(s)  
Trek Crew



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
Boat  
Ferry  
Flight



**ACCOMMODATION**  
1 nights comfortable chalet  
2 nights simple hostel  
4 nights comfortable hotel  
1 nights simple lodge  
2 nights comfortable lodge



**TRIP PACE:**  
Moderate



**GROUP SIZE:**  
12 - 18

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Kota Kinabalu

Arrive in Kota Kinabalu. Known locally as KK, Kota Kinabalu is a burgeoning city with a blend of Malays, Chinese and native Kadazan Dusun. The result is a unique mixture of architecture, culture, high technology and ancient traditions.

For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 6pm for the welcome meeting. There are no other activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Kota Kinabalu at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Kota Kinabalu International airport (airport code BKI) which is 12km around twenty minutes from the airport. Should you miss the welcome meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, perhaps you might choose to head out to sample Kota Kinabalu's fine food scene with fusion restaurants popping up all over town and street-food stalls serving up classics like Nasi Goreng (fried rice with spices) and satay alongside curries and kimchi.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
Accor Avangio Hotel (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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## **DAY 2 - Boat trip and snorkelling at Manukan Island; optional thrilling zipline between two tropical islands**

Off the coast from Kota Kinabalu is the Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park, Sabah's first national park, made up of 5 islands. Teeming with a magnificent range of marine life, the islands are fringed with coral reefs and have some of the best beaches in Borneo. Our day starts with a boat trip to Manukan Island, famed for its snorkelling.

For those that wish to take part in the optional zip wire activity, we take a short boat trip to neighbouring Sapi Island where we take a thrilling 250 meter zip line between two tropical islands, Sapi and Gaya Islands. This exhilarating ride provides fantastic views of the marine park as you glide over the crystal clear waters below you, a great adventure for all the family. Leaving Gaya Island behind we take the return boat trip to Manukan island.

The rest of the day is free to relax and enjoy the islands fine beaches. An idyllic way to spend our first day in Borneo. We return by boat to Kota Kinabalu late afternoon.



ACCOMMODATION:

Accor Avangio Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **DAY 3 - Fly to Sandakan; drive to Sepilok and visit orang-utan rehabilitation centre**

After a leisurely morning we drive to the airport, taking an afternoon domestic flight to Sandakan on Sabah's east coast from where we make the short drive to Sepilok.

Sepilok is home to the largest of the three orang-utan rehabilitation centres in the world. Covering over 4,000 hectares of forest, the centre was established in 1964 to rehabilitate captured, injured or abandoned apes with the animals being taught how to make nests and survive in their natural habitat. We plan to visit the centre in time for feeding when, along with the permanent members, pregnant mothers who otherwise live in the jungle often come to supplement their diet and return after the birth of their young. There is a small charge to bring your camera into the sanctuary area.



ACCOMMODATION:

Sepilok Jungle Resort (or similar)

Grade: Simple Lodge



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **DAY 4 - Rainforest Discovery Centre and Sun Bear Sanctuary; drive to Sukau on the Kinabatangan River**

This morning we visit the Sun Bear Sanctuary which looks after these threatened species with the aim of rehabilitating and releasing these creatures into their natural habitat. We then move on to the nearby Rainforest Discovery Centre. The centre gives the opportunity to learn about the conservation of the rainforest and the myriad of animals and plants that rely on this incredible habitat. From the canopy walkway you will see the beautiful rain forest of Sepilok from up to 28 m above the forest floor! You might even catch a glimpse of the Bornean bristlehead bird, one of the rarest birds in Sabah as well as the other 250 species of birds including hornbills, woodpeckers, pittas, kingfishers and broadbills.

Later we continue our journey to Bilit, on the Kinabatangan River and our jungle base in Sukau. Home to a rich network of hidden oxbow lakes and river tributaries the area has escaped much of the deforestation that has blighted other parts of Borneo, allowing us to see a diverse selection of reptiles, birds and mammals in their natural forest habitat.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Bilit Rainforest Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Lodge



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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#### **DAY 5 - In Sukau; wildlife cruise viewing, jungle walks, boat cruise**

Unlike other areas in Sabah, the Kinabatangan River has remained relatively unaffected by logging, mainly because the land is permanently waterlogged and there are few commercially valuable trees there. The river meanders through a flood plain and creates many ox-bow lakes making an ideal environment for wildlife viewing. On our early morning cruise we may see crocodile warming themselves in the morning sun and some of the other birdlife such as egret, storm's stork, oriental darter and oriole. This afternoon, optional jungle walks are available for those wishing to explore further. Later in the afternoon as the sun starts to go down, we take another boat cruise along the Kinabatangan River and Menungal tributary, hopefully to spot some more wildlife, including the long nosed proboscis monkeys which

converge on tree tops by the river banks to settle for the night.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Bilit Rainforest Lodge (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Lodge**



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### **DAY 6 - Drive to Kinabalu National Park via Poring Hot Springs**

On our way to the National Park we take the opportunity to visit the Poring Hot Springs, a popular spot with locals who enjoy the hot springs found here. At 450m we are in tropical lowland forest, dense with vegetation and thick bamboo, with a humid misty atmosphere. You can cross a tree top walkway 60m above the forest floor or perhaps you prefer to take a relaxing soak in a hot spring bath, looking out for hornbills, mynah birds and monkeys. After this we continue on by bus to Kinabalu National Park and our rest stop for the evening.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Kinabalu Park (or similar)



**Grade: Simple Hostel**



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 7 - In Kinabalu National Park; walk to Laban Rata (base camp)**

We hope to get a good view of the mountain towering over the jungle below, before driving to the park entrance and the starting point of the trail at about 1900m. From now on, leaving our main baggage behind at the hotel but carrying our daypacks, we walk or trek climbing upwards for 6 hours to reach a mountain hostel situated at 3272m and surrounded by magnificent scenery. The lower part of the trek is through dense tropical vegetation and mist shrouded rainforest with giant ferns and luxuriant mosses, a botanist's paradise with rare orchids and pitcher plants abound. The hostel at base camp has communal facilities and there is a cafe with huge panoramic windows where your evening meal is served.



**ACCOMMODATION:**

Laban Rata Hostel (or similar)

**Grade: Simple Hostel****MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER****DAY 8 - Optional summit ascent of Mount Kinabalu for sunrise**

For those wishing to climb Mount Kinabalu we make an early start this morning. Legends abound as to the origins of the name Kinabalu. The local Kadazan tribes believe it to be sacred and the last resting place of their ancestors, the name deriving from Aki Nabulu meaning "the revered place of the spirits". The trip to the summit is a hard trek and should only be attempted by those confident about their level of fitness. We rise at approx. 02.30 and trek to the summit for sunrise (about 05.45). We walk in the dark and it is necessary to wear warm clothes, gloves and to bring a torch. The view from the top of Mt Kinabalu (4,095m) is exceptional as we watch the sun rise over the misty jungle lowlands. We arrive back at the hostel around breakfast time and reunite with any group members who chose not to do the summit walk. The morning is then spent walking back down the mountain before boarding our vehicle and heading back to Kota Kinabalu for a welcome shower and an early night.

**ACCOMMODATION:**

Accor Avangio Hotel (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel****MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST****DAY 9 - Bus to Kuala Penyu; boat to Pulau Tiga**

This morning we make an early start and drive to Kuala Penyu from where we travel by boat to the small island of Pulau Tiga. Formed after a volcanic eruption just over one hundred years ago, the island, which has magnificent coral reefs and a wide variety of terrestrial flora and fauna, is now part of a state marine park. We aim to arrive on the island by 11.00, the rest of the day is free to relax and soak up the tranquil tropical surroundings after the exploits of the previous two days.

**ACCOMMODATION:**

Pulau Tiga Resort (or similar)



## Grade: Comfortable Chalet



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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### **DAY 10 - Morning on Pulau Tiga. Afternoon return to Kota Kinabalu**

This paradise island is the ideal place to relax at the end of your tour although there is also plenty on offer for the more active traveller. The snorkelling opportunities are excellent and other activities such as seakayaking and fishing are also on offer. A network of marked trails provide the chance to discover the island's wildlife from macaques and monitor lizards to rare birds such as the curious megapodes, hornbills and sea eagles. One trekking trail leads to the mud volcanoes on the island which are famed for their mineral enriched mud, said to have healing properties.

We return to Kota Kinabalu in the afternoon with time for some last minute shopping or further personal exploration. You may wish to visit the Masjid Sabah, one of the biggest mosques in Malaysia, or the Sabah Museum, shaped to resemble a Rungut Longhouse and containing a magnificent collection of ethnographic and historical artifacts.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Accor Avangio Hotel (or similar)

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## Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### **DAY 11 - Trip ends in Kota Kinabalu**

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Kota Kinabalu.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Kota Kinabalu at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Kota Kinabalu International airport (airport code BKI), which is which is 12km around twenty minutes from the airport.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## Trip information

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## Country information

### Borneo

#### Climate

Temperatures are high all year round, between 23°C at night to 32°C during the day. Borneo is tropical and only lies a few degrees north of the equator. Rainfall can be expected at any time of year though will be greater between November and January. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
+8	3 Pin Flat	Islam, Christian	Malaysian

### Malaysia

#### Climate

Temperatures are uniform throughout the year, with conditions on the coast more humid. Day-time temperatures reach around 31°C and then drop at night to about 23°C. There is no clearly defined wet and dry seasons, though the southwest monsoon (September to November) and the northeast monsoon (November to February) bring rather more rain. On the west coast rain tends to fall mainly in short lived thunderstorms, and the sky clears quite quickly.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
+8	3 Pin Flat	Islam	Malaysian

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## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your Family adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities or take time to relax, the choice is yours. At certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in; your Explore Leader will be able to give advice on which are the most suitable for your family.

Day 2: Manukan Island

Snorkelling equipment rental - MYR 20 per person

Zip wire between Gaya and Sapi islands - MYR 68 per person plus MYR 45 per person for the return boat



transfer to Gaya and Sapi islands.

Day 4: Sepilok

There's a small charge to use the swimming pool at our hotel of around MYR 6 per person

Camera Fees at the orang-utan rehabilitation centre in Sepilok MYR 10 per camera

Day 6: Poring hot springs

Camera Fees at the Poring hot springs MYR 5 per camera

Day 9 and 10: Pulau Tiga

Snorkelling equipment rental - MYR 20 to 30 per person

## **Clothing**

Pack for hot conditions. There is year round humidity in the lowlands but you will also need a warm sweater/fleece and jacket for cool nights in the Highlands, especially November to January. Lightweight rainwear/umbrella is essential all year. Plastic ponchos can be purchased locally. Don't forget your swimming costume.

## **Footwear**

Lightweight walking boots are the best for walking in jungle (though expect them to get wet and muddy), plus sandals or trainers.

## **Luggage**

15Kg

## **Luggage: On tour**

One main piece of baggage and a rucksack for the Kinabalu trek (we recommend at least 30 litres capacity). Please note: pack light. The international carrier will usually allow 44lbs/20kg or more and our preferred domestic airline in Borneo also allows 44lbs/20kg. However some domestic airlines allow a maximum of 33lbs/15kg for your checked in luggage and occasionally we may have to use these airlines so we recommend you stick to that limit to avoid excess charges. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourselves. Hard suitcases are not suitable.

## **Equipment**

Bring a torch, a water bottle, insect repellent and a towel. Binoculars are useful for wildlife spotting.

Personal First

## **Tipping**

### **Explore leader**

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. You may however, want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

### **Local crew**

In this region, tipping is a recognised part of life across the service industry. Local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

To assist with this your Explore Leader may organise a group tips kitty for included activities and meals, they will then account for kitty use throughout the tour.

For this we suggest £20 per family member.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

## Borneo

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£3.5	£6	£3	£0.25

### Foreign Exchange

Local currency	Recommended Currency For Exchange
Malaysian Ringgit.	It's easy to change British pounds and USD into Ringgit once in Borneo

Where To Exchange	ATM Availability
Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.	In all major towns.

**Credit Card Acceptance**  
In major restaurants and department stores.

**Travellers Cheques**  
Can be exchanged at international banks in Miri and Kota Kinabalu.

## Malaysia

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£4	£8	£2	£0.8

## Foreign Exchange

### Local currency

Malaysian Ringgit.

### Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP or USD.

### Where To Exchange

Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise on arrival.

### ATM Availability

Major towns and cities.

### Credit Card Acceptance

In major restaurants.

### Travellers Cheques

Major towns and cities.

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## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Ferry, Flight

### Family swimming

Enjoy a dip in the sea at Manukan Island

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## Essential Information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa and Passport Information

Borneo: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Malaysia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. All passports must have at least 6 months validity after departure from Malaysia. Other nationalities should consult their

local embassy or consular office.

You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you

intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Altitude information**

As this tour reaches altitudes of 4,095 meters, we strongly recommend that travellers with heart or lung conditions, anaemia, asthma, high blood pressure or on the pill should seek the advice of their GP.

You must have adequate travel insurance for your trip. Please ensure that your insurance policy covers you to the maximum altitude indicated above. If you have Explore insurance you will be covered to this altitude.

## **Ability to swim**

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

## **Borneo**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, infectious hepatitis and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be

confirmed by you before travelling.

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## Malaysia

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, tetanus, infectious hepatitis, typhoid, diphtheria and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against Malaria. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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### Family information



Borneo rainforest

The state of Sabah in Borneo boasts over 200 species of mammal, 450 species of bird and over 8,000 plant species making this an ideal family holiday destination for wildlife enthusiasts. Add in traditional tribes, beautiful beaches, an exhilarating canopy walk through the treetops and the chance to bathe in hot springs as well as down time at the end of the trip on Pulau Tiga and you get an all round action packed family adventure.

**Triple rooms:** This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on all night stops within the holiday. Please ask our Sales team for further information.

**Mt Kinabulu trekking version:** For active families that want to trek to the summit of Mt Kinabulu we offer a dedicated trekking version of this trip on 21st, 28th July and 11th August 2019. Due to the demanding nature of this trek these dates are open to children aged 11 and over.

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### Additional Information



## Why book this trip

The diversity of life on display on the island of Borneo is breath taking making this an ideal tour for families who are looking for a wildlife adventure. Get close to orang-utans, the gentle giants of the rainforest, visit a sun bear sanctuary and cruise the jungle waterways in search of proboscis monkeys. For those looking for a more active trip we offer selected departures with the option to trek to the summit of Mount Kinabalu.

## Reviews



AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS



PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE



AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS