

## Birds & Mammals of Borneo | 13 Days



Borneo is estimated to be home to around 222 mammals (including 44 endemic – meaning they are not found anywhere else in the world), 420 birds (37 endemic), 100 amphibians and 394 fish (19 endemic).

Just in the Heart of Borneo, a 220,000-km2 region in the mountainous centre of the island, there are 10 primate species, over 350 bird species, and 150 reptile and amphibian species.

Borneo's incredible biodiversity with tropical rainforests and climate provide the ideal conditions for a wide variety of species to thrive. Dipterocarp trees hold the greatest insect diversity on Borneo – as many as 1,000 species can be found in just 1 tree. They are also home to thousands of plants, lichens and fungi, which form the base of a food chain that nurtures a wide array of species. This web of life is at the heart of Borneo's tropical rainforests.

On this exclusive trip we will be exploring the primeval forests of Borneo where orangutans swing through the trees, Proboscis monkeys leap from branch to branch and colourful hornbills take flight in the early morning sun. Deep in the jungle are Asian Pygmy elephants silently walk through ancient trails. Rivers flow freely and Mt. Kinabalu towers over the island. Visiting both Sarawak and Sabah, we search for some of Borneo's most charismatic wildlife from its coast to the interior, meeting the island's inhabitants learning about their culture, both traditional and modern.

### Trip Highlights

- Immerse yourself in the lush rainforest as you discover the many species of Borneo's exotic & rare birds
- The opportunity to view the largest array of wildlife in Sarawak including proboscis monkeys, silver leaf

monkeys, long-tailed macaques and monitor lizards as well as diverse vegetation

- Semenggoh Wildlife Centre – see orphaned and rescued orangutans
- Lemanak River and Batang Ai – meet local Iban people in their natural surroundings and observe their traditional lifestyle, handicrafts, natural medicines and see virgin rainforest
- Semadang river kayaking, visiting mini waterfalls and caves en route and feeding river fish
- Excursion to Gaya Island
- Kundasang WWII Memorial Park – learn about Sabah's WWII history
- Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary
- Sukau Rainforest – home to an array of wildlife. River cruise in search of wildlife
- Kinabatangan River and Kelenanap oxbow lake – river cruise to view birds and wildlife
- Poring treetop canopy walkway – spectacular views of the rainforest below
- Kinabalu National Park – tropical rainforest

### Detailed Itinerary

#### Day 1: Arrive Kuching

Welcome to Borneo!! Upon arrival in Kuching a *travel-to-nature Asia* guide will be at the airport to greet and take us to our hotel. Please look out for your name-card once you exit out of arrival area.

The capital of Sarawak, Kuching, is a vibrant riverside city full of different ethnic groups who have migrated from the surrounding forests. With a great museum and a well preserved colonial centre there is much to do in this fascinating cultural hot spot.

**Accommodation:** The LimeTree Hotel



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### Day 2: Orangutans & Longhouses | Kuching - Batang Ai Jetty

Morning visit the Semenggoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. The centre consists of 740 hectare of virgin forest and it is home to orangutans. You will have an opportunity to observe how the orangutans are being rehabilitated and trained to fend for themselves before being released into the wild. Visitors are allowed to study and observe the orangutans at a distance. After Semenggoh, continue your overland journey to Batang Ai Jetty.

There will be three stopovers along the route: Serian, a predominantly Dayak trading town, Chinese farm house to see how pepper and cocoa are grown and Lachau bazaar for lunch. The journey passes through scenic countryside of rice fields, rubber, cocoa, pepper and oil palm plantations, which intermingle with luxuriant tropical rainforest, rivers and mountain ranges.

Upon arrival at the Batang Ai jetty, proceed by resort's scheduled boat to Aiman Batang Ai resort. Two Overnight in Batang Ai Jetty.

**Accommodation:** Aiman Batang Ai Resort  
**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 3: In Batang Ai | Longhouses & Iban Tribal Village

After breakfast, take a traditional longboat ride to the Iban longhouse from Aiman Resort. Arrive at Iban Longhouse, welcome by the natives, tour the longhouse, watch the natives at work such as making mats, baskets, handicrafts and mending fish nets. Observe the natives doing their daily chores, like feeding their livestock, washing clothes, swim in the river or just relax at the riverbank. Enjoy the cultural performance.

Lunch at longhouse and witness the blowpipe demonstration, followed by a jungle walk to learn more about the plants that are used by the locals for (handicraft, food, medicine etc.). After experiencing the tribal cultural highlights return by longboat back to Aiman Resort. Overnight in Batang Ai.

**Accommodation:** Aiman Batang Ai Resort  
**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 4: Return to Kuching

After breakfast take a ferry from the resort to the jetty, before driving back to Kuching, stopping for lunch en route. Overnight in Kuching.

**Accommodation:** The LimeTree Hotel  
**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch

### Day 5: Fly Kuching - Kota Kinabalu (1.42 hrs)

There should be time this morning to explore Kuching on your own. Afterwards Fly to Kota Kinabalu.

Known as KK to the locals, the capital of Sabah is a now a modern multi-cultural city. The evening is free to relax, explore the bustling Filipino markets or enjoy a sundowner on the waterfront. Overnight in Kota Kinabalu.

**Accommodation:** Kota Kinabalu Marriott Hotel  
**Meal:** Breakfast



### Day 6: Kota Kinabalu

Free day; optional snorkelling and island trip. Today you are free to enjoy some of the many activities in Kota Kinabalu has to offer. The most popular option is to visit one of the tropical islands is Gaya Island.

Kota Kinabalu - Gaya Island:

A 30 min speed-boat journey from the city and offering excellent snorkelling and diving opportunities. Here you can never be bored whether you are relaxing on the white sand, snorkelling or just swimming in the warm South China Sea. If you are interested in diving or arranging a snorkelling trip please speak to your leader. Trek to one of the trail and learn about the unique medicinal plants, tropical hardwood trees and tropical Dipterocarp rainforest. A great way to dispel the jet lag as you'll almost certainly be well relaxed and rested after this.

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**Accommodation:** Kota Kinabalu Marriott Hotel

**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch

Note: Do not forget to bring along hat, insect repellent, swimwear and sun block lotion.



### Day 7: Drive Kota Kinabalu - Kundasang (93 km | 2 hrs) | Kinabalu National Park

Today continue your overland journey to the foothills of Mt. Kinabalu, make a short stop at Pekan Nabal market to sample local fruits in season and to stretch our legs. Proceed to the Kinabalu Natural History Gallery and Mountain Garden in Kinabalu Park Headquarters.

If weather permits, take a guided walk on one of the trails to explore the cool montane forest. After that, we visit the Kundasang War Memorial Park to learn about Sabah's WWII history and for great photos with the majestic Mount Kinabalu (if weather permits). Overnight in Kundasang.

**Accommodation:** Zen Garden Resort

**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 8: Kundasang – Sepilok

After leisurely breakfast, continue your journey to Poring from Zen Garden, east of Kinabalu Park HQ to walk amidst tropical lowland rainforests leading up to the treetop canopy walkways suspended 41 meters above the forest floor across giant Mengaris trees.

Enjoy lunch, before visiting the Kipungit Waterfall, stopping for a soak here or in the rejuvenating hot sulphur public pools. If the weather permits, treat your foot to a delightful but very ticklish fish massage at the Moroli River in Luanti which will almost certainly leave you in giggles. Next proceed by road to Sepilok. Overnight in Sepilok.

**Accommodation:** Sepilok Nature Resort

**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 9: Drive Sepilok - Sukau (110 km | 2 hrs)

This morning visit the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. We proceed to watch a video show about the plight of the Orangutans and the rehabilitation efforts ongoing at the Centre. Walk ten minutes through the rainforest on wooden boardwalks to witness the feeding of the Orangutans, and then you continue to the newly completed enclosed nursery area for young orang utans. Thereafter visit the Borneo Sun Bear Conservation Centre to learn about conservation of the world's smallest bear.

After lunch, we will drive the short distance to Sandakan jetty to take a boat to the multi awards winning Sukau Rainforest Lodge on the Kinabatangan River. The floodplain of the Kinabatangan River is a low-lying wilderness covered by a patchwork of natural rainforest and ever-encroaching oil-palm plantations. The whole area is dotted with oxbow lakes, sandstone hills and limestone outcrops, and is home to a wealth of wildlife including our first truly wild Orang-utans and the remarkable Proboscis Monkey.



Each early morning and mid-afternoon we will take boat trips along the river and into tributaries and oxbow lakes. Once off the main river channel the boatman of each of our motorised canoes will turn off the noisy diesel engine and switch on the low-powered and silent electric motor, enabling us to really enjoy the sights and sounds of this rich wilderness. Here we hope to see wild Orangutans making their way slowly through the canopy of riverside trees or, in late afternoon, watch them making their night-time nests.

We can also watch troupes of the bizarre Proboscis Monkey crashing through the branches or swimming across the flooded channels. These comical creatures often sit in the trees and watch us float by, hands resting beside their huge pot bellies and the males with their extraordinary floppy nose. In addition we hope to see Long-tailed Macaques and



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the odd Silvered Langur, along with a wealth of spectacular birds, including Rhinoceros, Helmeted, Black, Oriental, Pied, Bushy-crested, Wreathed and Wrinkled Hornbills, Blue-eared and Stork-billed Kingfishers, Jerdon's Baza, Blyth's Hawk-Eagle, Black-and-Red and Black-and-Yellow Broadbills, and if we are very lucky perhaps a pair of the endangered Storm's Storks. Of course there are many smaller birds as well, though watching these from the boats is not too easy. There is also a chance of seeing Crocodile or Asian Pigmy Elephant from one of these boat trips. Weather permitting we may undertake a night cruise which could provide sightings of Buffy Fish Owl or one of the strange nocturnal inhabitants such as the enigmatic Colugo.

We will also take time to wander very gently along the short trails into the secondary forest just around our lodge where, with patience, a great variety of birds can be found. Black-headed Pitta can usually be seen, and others such as Raffle's Malkoha, Buff-necked, Banded and Crimson-winged Woodpeckers, Straw-headed Bulbul, Black-throated and Chestnut-winged Babblers, Black-and-Yellow Broadbill, Little Green Pigeon and perhaps even Malaysian Honeyguide. Many birds can also be seen from the lodge veranda, while we can relax with a cold drink, especially if one or two of the adjacent trees are fruiting. It is also a great place for photographing dragonflies and butterflies.

Our time at the Kinabatangan River will be spent at the secluded Sukau Rainforest Lodge. This modern lodge offers the best accommodation along the Kinabatangan River, and will be our base for the next two nights. Overnight in Sukau.

**Accommodation:** Sukau Rainforest Lodge

**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 10: Sakau Rainforest

Take an early morning river cruise up the Kinabatangan River to Kelenanap oxbow lake to view more birds and wildlife. After breakfast, proceed for an educational tour along the lodge's Hornbill Boardwalk with our in-house naturalist.

After lunch, join our in house Orangutan Talk activity. In the afternoon, we proceed for another river cruise for more wildlife observation. Sometime explore the forest on foot, and always it will be unpredictable the more often we go, the greater the chance of seeing something really exciting. As this spectacular show draws to a close we will retrace our steps back to Sukau Rainforest Lodge for a final night alongside the Kinabatangan River.

**Accommodation:** Sakau Rainforest Lodge

**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 11: Fly Sandakan - Kuala Lumpur (2.84 hrs)

After breakfast, return to Sandakan by boat. After lunch proceed to airport for our flight to Kota Kinabalu and then to Kuala Lumpur.

Upon arrival transfer to The Le Apple Boutique for overnight stay. The rest of the day is at leisure.

**Accommodation:** The Leapple Boutique Hotel

**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch

Kuala Lumpur is a vibrant metropolis, striking for its remarkable cultural diversity. Ethnic Malays, Chinese prospectors, Indian migrants and British colonials all helped carve the city out of the virgin jungle, and each group has left its indelible mark on the capital. Around the iconic Twin Towers you can spend hours in one of the numerous air-conditioned shopping malls of the Golden Triangle, or visit the colourful Chinatown, the hawker stalls at Jalan Alor, and discover the Indian culture near Brickfields or Masjid Jamek.



### Day 12: Kuala Lumpur Half day City Tour

For first-timers to the city, this tour introduces you to the beauty of old and modern Kuala Lumpur. The first stop will be at the breath taking Royal King Palace, which provides excellent photographic opportunities.

Next drive pass the National Mosque and the Railway Administrative building before coming to the Independence Square where the country first national flag was hoisted to mark the achievement of independent from the British in 1957. Here at this spot, you will be also able to photograph the scenic Sultan Abdul Samad building with its intricate Moorish architecture. Lastly The most photographed locale in Kuala Lumpur is undeniably, the iconic Petronas Twin

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Towers. Also known as KLCC, this 88-storey building stands at an imposing height of 452 metres and is hailed as the world's tallest twin structure. Complementing the Islamic-inspired architecture is the beautifully landscaped KLCC Park, complete with water fountains and spacious walking paths, which make for a great base for tourists to put their posing skills to the test.

The double-decked Skybridge, situated on the 41st and 42nd floors of the Petronas Twin Towers, is also one of its major draws, where guests can photograph the breathtaking city landscape from a jaw-dropping height.

Afternoon free for individual activities. \* Twin Tower Ticket Included.

**Accommodation:** The Leapple Boutique Hotel

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 13: Half-day tour | Depart Kuala Lumpur

Early breakfast at hotel. After Breakfast, meet our representative at the lobby, for your tour of Kuala Lumpur, but this time around the outskirts. Batu Caves is an iconic and popular tourist attraction in Selangor. Site of a Hindu temple and shrine, Batu Caves attracts thousands of worshippers and tourists, especially during the annual Hindu festival, Thaipusam. A limestone outcrop located just north of Kuala Lumpur, Batu Caves has three main caves featuring temples and Hindu shrines. Its main attraction is the large statue of the Hindu God at the entrance, besides a steep 272 climb up its steps to finally view the stunning skyline of the city centre. Monkeys frolic around the caves, and it is a popular spot for rock climbing enthusiasts. Paintings and scenes of Hindu Gods can also be seen in the Ramayana Cave.

**The Pewter Factory:** The discovery of tin in Malaya had lured him and thousands of other Chinese to the fledgling tin-mining town, where he joined his brothers who had established themselves as tinsmiths. Yong Koon enjoyed brisk business making simple household items of tin, operating from his shop at No. 23 Cross Street. He later made pewter incense burners, joss stick holders and candlestands for the altars of Chinese temples. Employing a few other craftsmen, he was among the first pewter smiths in Kuala Lumpur.

After the tour, check-out and transfer to Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) for your homeward-bound flight.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Includes

- Airport (pick up/drop off) transfers by private A/C vehicle
- Twin room sharing accommodation at all hotel/lodge/resort as mentioned
- Daily breakfast throughout the trip and other meals as mentioned in the itinerary
- A local tour leader/guide throughout the trip
- Transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles and river boats
- Internal flight tickets



- Guided Sightseeing, all activities and day excursions as per itinerary
- Entrance fees to all included sites (national parks/conservation areas/monuments etc.)
- Local nature guides at included sites
- Applicable government taxes

### Excludes

- International flight tickets
- Visa fee
- Travel insurance
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Tips for trip leader/guide, driver, hotel staff and porters
- Items of personal nature such as alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, and other unforeseen expenses
- Items/services not listed in "included"
- Extra expenses/payment for 'Optional'

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activities/programs if participated

### Accommodation

#### The LimeTree Hotel, Kuching

The LimeTree Hotel is a unique, mid-range boutique hotel with a passion for limes and a strong commitment for environmental sustainability. Centrally located in the area of Padungan, it is minutes away from New Chinatown, local eateries, shopping malls and just an 8 to 10-minute walk to Kuching Waterfront - making it an ideal base to explore the city.

#### Aiman Batang Ai Resort, Batang Ai

Aiman Batang Ai Resort offers the ideal getaway for serenity, mindfulness and relaxation. Located on the fringe of the Batang Ai National Park, this 100-room resort offers pristine nature surrounded by nearby tribal communities and wildlife who have made Batang Ai their home. Fashioned in the traditional longhouse design, the resort offers opportunities for invigorating activities or simply relaxation and peace.

#### Kota Kinabalu Marriott Hotel, Kota Kinabalu

Find your respite in stylishly appointed hotel accommodations with open floor concepts, modern amenities, 24-hour room service and balconies with panoramic sea views. From our dramatic lobby to our sleek, modern hotel rooms and suites, you'll experience a charming visit at Kota Kinabalu Marriott Hotel. Explore the nearby coral islands or just relax along the beach.

#### Zen Garden Resort, Kundasang

Established almost a decade ago, Zen Garden Resort has grown from a tiny business, consisting of just 6 rooms and 1 chalet, to the largest resort that Mount Kinabalu has to offer. Presently, it has 7 chalets and 120 individual rooms to accommodate your various needs. In addition, there is an open-air coffee house to enjoy a relaxing afternoon sipping coffee.



#### Sepilok Nature Resort, Sepilok

It all started in 1991, when John and Judy opened what was then known as Wildlife Lodge, with only 5 fan rooms. With passion and interest in nature, they slowly increase the number of rooms to 60 and now it is known as Sepilok Jungle Resort which now is set amidst in this magnificent landscape full of nature.

#### Sukau Rainforest Lodge, Kinabatangan

The award winning Sukau Rainforest Lodge nestles on the banks of one of Borneo's most important waterways, the Kinabatangan River, home to many of Borneo's magnificent wildlife. It offers the rare comfort and luxury in the midst of the Borneo Rainforest whilst retaining an Eco-Lodge ethos, the delicate balance of true sustainability.

#### The Leapple Boutique Hotel, Bukit Bintang

Centrally located in Bukit Bintang, Leapple Boutique Hotel sits between Lot 10 and Fahrenheit 88 Shopping Mall. Its modern non-smoking rooms have free Wi-Fi and a flat-screen TV. It is a 5-minute walk from Pavilion Shopping Centre. The Zen-themed rooms are equipped with air conditioning, a personal safe and a fridge. Private bathrooms have a hot-water showers and a hairdryer.

### Group/Individual

On this trip you will be traveling privately with your family & friends. Our representative/tour partner will look after your transfers to and from the airport and will be around to answer other questions you may have about your trip.

### Accommodation - Hotel, Resort

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a fine heritage hotel in another or a family-run guesthouse or lodges in a smaller town. Accommodation in remote areas tend to be basic and may

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not have western amenities.

### Single Accommodation

Single (room) supplement is provided on request (single supplement charge applies) and are subject to availability.

### Food & Transport

All breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners are included.

Malaysia is renowned for its culinary excellence; however, food can often be relatively unexciting and limited in the lodges and for hotel breakfasts. Meals will be more varied for everyone in cities and seafood is widely available on the coast.

Most meals will be basic based around rice and noodles although most accommodation does offer a western breakfast of beans, toast and eggs. In the bigger hotels and cities the full range of Western and local foods are available. You can generally avoid the spicier food if you wish. You should allow at least Euro 11-22 (USD 15-30) per day for lunch and dinner. You can eat out very cheaply in Borneo, but if you go to the more expensive restaurants most of the time, you will spend more than the suggested amount.

Vegetarians can be catered for but will find the food choice limited. Please inform us before departure of any special dietary requests.

Please note that in Borneo the availability of certain products is minimal or non-existent, for example wheat or dairy-free, please be prepared for this and you may need to bring such items from home.

For airport, sightseeing transfers, and for long drives we use a private air-con car, jeep, van depending upon group size. Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

### Weather

Borneo has an equatorial monsoon climate with the weather remaining similar throughout the year. It is hot and humid; temperatures range from 23-33°C during the day and rarely drop below 20°C at night. The rainy season starts from November and ends in January/February and the dry season is from May to September, but in reality it can rain at any time. A Borneo rain shower is quite an event!

### Baggage Allowance

At time of writing the standard weight limit is one checked baggage is 25kg (55lb) and hand baggage 7kg (15lbs). We recommend packing only one piece of checked baggage. Luggage allowances for both hand and checked luggage are subject to change, we suggest you check the airline's website for the latest information prior to your departure.

## ESSENTIAL/PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Passport & Visas

All nationalities require a passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information below is primarily for EU passport holders, and other nationalities should check with the relevant embassies. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Visitors (tourist) visa is not required for most of EU countries, UK and US nationals to enter Malaysia.

**Please note:** Visa regulations can change without notice and it is your responsibility to obtain any required visas for this trip. Therefore, we recommend that you check with the nearest embassy or consulate of your chosen destination(s), including any countries you may be transiting or transferring through.

### Vaccination & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

There are no mandatory vaccination requirements. Recommended vaccinations are: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, Japanese encephalitis, rabies, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia, and influenza. The risk of malaria is slight, but you may wish to consult your GP or travel health clinic for further advice.



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You will also need a yellow fever vaccination certificate if you're arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever transmission or transiting for more than 12 hours through a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. Please confirm your vaccine recommendations and requirements with your doctor or travel clinic.

Dengue and zika fevers, both spread by mosquitoes, are known risks in places visited. There are currently no vaccines or prophylaxes available; therefore, we recommend you take the usual precautions to avoid mosquito bites.

### Local Time

UTC/GMT + 8 hours.

### Electricity

Malaysia operates on 240V and 50 Hz. They use power plugs and sockets (outlets) of **type G**.



### Money

The Malaysian unit of currency is Ringgit and indicated as RM. One euro is roughly equivalent to RM 4.95 and 1 US\$ RM 4.20. Bank notes come in denominations of 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1.

### ATM | Credit Cards

ATM's are widespread throughout Malaysia and cash advances can be obtained, but these can incur a relatively large fee so it's best to check with your card issuer before travelling. Cirrus/Maestro are the most prevalent cards accepted, and you will also be able to use your Visa and Mastercard for cash advances. You may want to notify your bank before leaving home, as some will automatically cancel your card after withdrawals from exotic destinations as a fraud prevention method. The more remote areas have few or no ATM's so it is worth planning your expenditure to ensure you have enough money to survive in these areas.

You will find money changers all over Malaysia, and GBP Sterling and US dollars are the most useful foreign currencies to bring as they are the most widely accepted currencies (USD more so in non-touristy and more rural areas). There are plenty of ATM's and money changers at the airport on arrival. Foreign currency can be converted at banks and money changers throughout the country. Most major credit cards are accepted with Visa and MasterCard being the most widely so, but many shops and banks charge a transaction fee of between 2-4%. AmEx is also accepted in a few places in the major tourist areas, but will not be quite as useful.

### Extra Expenses & Spending Money

You will need to bring some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, souvenirs and any other personal expense, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Though it totally depends on individual but generally an approximate amount of US\$200 per person, per week should be sufficient (more if you enjoy a few beers); however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount. Or if you are the one frugal with money probably allocating less would also be suffice.

Optional Tours may be offered in some city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each optional tour/activity will be arranged locally by our local partner/guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

### Tipping

Tipping is of course entirely at your discretion and it is not expected and customary in Malaysia but a little extra is always appreciated as a thank you for excellent service. Tips should be given individually and at the end of their service.

As a general guideline we suggest as follows: **Luggage Attendants/bellboys:** RM 2–10 per bag is a thoughtful gesture. **Housekeeping:** RM 3–7 per night—leave it visibly with a note if possible. **Concierge or front desk:** Tipping is rare, but RM 5–10 for exceptional help is welcomed. **Private tour:** RM 20–30 per person for your **guide** would be about right for a good job, perhaps more for something special or if you are a larger group or family. **Drivers** usually receive two-thirds of what the accompanying guide gets. MYR15 per day is a suggestion; do note you don't



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have to tip for drivers doing pick-ups and drop offs at airports. In **restaurants** if a service charge is included, no additional tip is necessary. If no service charge included, leaving 5–10% of total bill is a good gauge. Locals often round up the bill or leave small change rather than tip as a cultural norm. **Taxis & Ride-Sharing:** Tipping isn't expected, but rounding up the fare is polite (e.g., to the nearest RM). On longer trips or when given extra help (e.g., handling luggage), adding RM 5–10 may be appreciated.

### Itinerary Change

In case of some unusual events/incidents the order of programs (sightseeing, excursions etc.) might have to change in order to accommodate the local situations. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements while maintaining the overall integrity of your trip.

The domestic airlines may change their schedule frequently and, in such cases, our local partner/guide will inform you about the changes.

### Travel Insurance

We highly recommend to choose/get an insurance plan/policy that covers your needs. And please make sure to keep/carry a hard-copy of your travel insurance documents on your person while on tour. It's prudent to check thoroughly the inclusions and procedure to file claims prior to purchasing insurance coverage. *travel-to-nature Asia* will not be responsible for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to purchase appropriate travel insurance from the date of booking.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** On all guided trips although our leaders/guides are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorize them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.

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