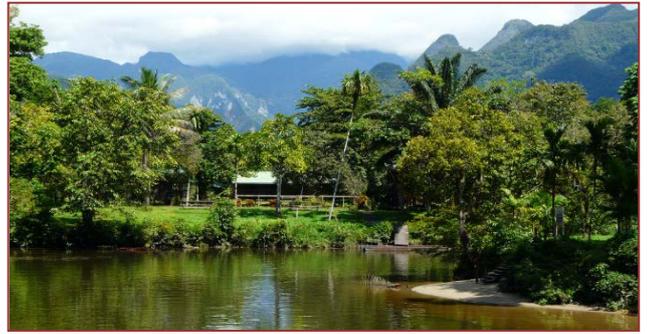


# Tour Dossier

## Borneo Discovery

Duration - 16 days

Tour grade - Active paced



*This document was designed to be read in conjunction with our other pre-departure information provided after you have made a booking with Wendy Wu Tours. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour. All passengers should read this dossier to confirm their ability to complete the tour. **This is not your Final Itinerary** and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.*

### Tour grade – Active Paced Tour

This is defined in our brochure as: *Refers to programmes where long periods of sightseeing on foot, climbing of stairs and in/out of boats and physical involvement is necessary. These tours are generally longer in duration and could involve long days of driving or overnight train journeys. Some programmes may also include easy hiking or a home stay. These tours may travel to remote areas and areas of high altitude, reaching up to 5,000m. Accommodation on these tours may be in basic hotels or camps. These programmes require a good level of fitness and mobility.*

Our Local Guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for passengers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. The more difficult aspects of this itinerary involve areas of high altitude, very long driving distances and basic accommodation. The section below also has estimates of driving times, distances and the altitude reached each day. Please refer to your [Travel Guide](#) for more information.

### Group Size

In most cases, the group size will operate with a minimum of 10 participants.

### Insurance

We strongly encourage all travellers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the originals.

### Vaccinations and Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au).

### Before You Leave

We highly recommend you check the Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination. Please visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

### Climate

Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found at [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com).

### Suggested Packing List

A complete list will be provided with deposit documentation.

### Luggage

All clients are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that local authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

### Tipping

Tipping is a firm and expected element in the tourism industry. A nominated tipping amount is included in all group tour pricing, however is not collected in your final payment received by Wendy Wu Tours. This is so that it can be paid directly to your National Escort who will then distribute the tips among your main service providers – guides and drivers – on your behalf. Any other tipping,

such as tips for bathroom attendants, hotel porters taking your luggage to your room or river guides is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

### **Personal Expenses**

You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AUD\$250 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain consider allocating a higher amount.

### **Your accommodation**

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In remote areas accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all Western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local 3 to 4- star standards, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and Vietnam.

All group tour hotels have private Western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

### **Development**

Although Borneo is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in Australia. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in Australia; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

### **Traffic in Borneo**

Roads in Borneo have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections below are approximations only.

### **Seatbelts**

Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in Borneo and therefore the local people largely choose not to wear them. For this reason some vehicles may not be fitted with seatbelts or they may be hidden underneath protective seat covers. It is recommended that where seat belts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times whilst the vehicle is moving. If you have any concerns, please notify your National Escort or Local Guide.

### **Meals**

All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Borneo.

### **Itinerary changes**

1. Our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

### **Trip Highlights**

- **Kota Kinabalu** – Capital of the East Malaysian state of Sabah and is the main gateway to Borneo
- **Selingan Turtle Island** – Home of endangered species of sea turtles; the green and hawksbill turtles
- **Sukau** – Important conservation area for primates, birds and other wildlife
- **Mount Kinabalu National Park** – Home to Borneo's highest mountain and best preserved forestry
- **Mulu** – National Park & gateway to Deer Cave and Wind Cave
- **Kuching** – Capital of East Malaysian state of Sarawak; gateway to the to the jungle and the sea
- **Batang Ai Reservoir** – Tropical rainforest and home to a number of protected animals such as orang-utans and gibbons. This nature reserve is also home to the 'Iban' ethnic group.

### **Trip Summary**

On this tour you will discover the treasures of the world's third largest island, Borneo.

Begin your journey in Kota Kinabalu, a bustling city popular for its stunning sunsets and the scenic beauty of Kinabalu national park. Travel to Selingan Turtle Island to witness these beautiful creatures and the conservation work at the turtle hatchery. Visit Sepilok Orang-Utan Rehabilitation Centre and Mulu national park, where you can discover the abundant flora and fauna unique to the island. In Kuching, also known as 'the gateway to the jungle and sea', explore the history of Borneo's ethnic groups and stroll along the riverfront esplanade.

Immerse yourself in culture when you visit Batang Ai Reservoir; interact with the locals and enjoy traditional Iban hospitality. Not only will you be rewarded with the sights and sounds of wildlife, but also the history of the Sultans and the traditional ethnic groups. You will be amazed by the cultural diversity of this magical island

### Joining Your Tour

The tour is 16 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Join the tour on Day 2 in Kota Kinabalu and end the tour on Day 15 in Kuching. Please refer to your Final Itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

### Flight Delays or Changes to Arrival Times

Due to unforeseen circumstances, flights can be delayed, and therefore connecting flights may be missed. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact our office in Kota Kinabalu on: **00-60-19 8810201 (24 hours)** to urgently advise your arrival details have changed. Please ensure you have your trip number, tour name (both included in your final documentation) and new arrival details (flight number and arrival time) handy to pass on to our local office in Borneo. This will ensure your National Escort/Local Guide can be informed of your most up to date information and ensure someone is at the airport to meet you on arrival.

If we are not advised of late changes and missed connections, Wendy Wu Tours cannot guarantee someone will be able to meet you upon arrival in Borneo as our local office will have no way of knowing which flight you will be arriving on. Wendy Wu Tours will not be responsible for providing reimbursement of transportation costs from the airport to your hotel in the event that our local office was not advised of changes to arrival times.



### Days 1-2: Australia/Kota Kinabalu

You will be met upon arrival in Kota Kinabalu in the arrivals hall of the airport by your Local Guide from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer (15 minute drive) to your hotel. This evening, when the whole group has arrived, a tour introduction will be held in the hotel. Food and drinks will not be served at this meeting. It is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in Borneo.

### Day 3: Kota Kinabalu/Selingan Turtle Island

You will rise early this morning and return to the airport (15 minute drive) for your flight to Sandakan (flight duration approximately 40 mins). After disembarking from the aircraft, you will be transferred to the jetty (30 minutes) to board a water taxi to reach Selingan Turtle Island (onboard water taxi for 1 hour). This journey is a little bumpy and everyone will be instructed to wear life jackets. At Selingan Turtle Island you will stay in chalets with about 6 rooms in each; they are basic but comfortable and have private facilities. The afternoon is free at your leisure until this evening where you will observe the turtles hatching their eggs. Flash photography is not allowed at night and it is prohibited to walk outside the accommodation area without a guide.

*[NB: As you will be away from the hotel for the next two nights; one night on Turtle Island and one night up the Kinabatangan River, we recommend you leave your main luggage in safe storage at the hotel in Kota Kinabalu, taking only a small, overnight bag with you for Days 3 and 4. Please ensure you take swimming suits for this afternoon and a torch to assist with walking at night.]*

### Day 4: Selingan Turtle Island/Sepilok & Sukau

There will be an early morning departure from the island to the jetty, where breakfast will be served. From the jetty you will board a bus for a 30 minute journey to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. There is easy sightseeing here of approximately 1 hour on foot.

Afterwards return to the jetty to board a boat up the Lower Kinabatangan River. The duration of the cruise will be about 1 hour and 10 minutes leading up to lunch; consisting of 20 minutes to the mouth of the river and 50 minutes to reach the designated lunch stop. Later there will be another hour of cruising before reaching Sukau. Be sure to assist the staff in spotting potential wildlife along the way!

At Sukau, you will board another smaller boat to look for animals along the side streams of the Kinabatangan River. There are lots of birds and monkeys to be seen, especially the Proboscis Monkey. If you are very lucky, you may spot an Orang-Utan in the wild or perhaps a Borneo Pygmy Elephant. Accommodation this evening will be at a riverside lodge, again in basic but comfortable chalets with private facilities.

### Day 5: Sukau/Sandakan/Kota Kinabalu

After breakfast you will cruise back to Sandakan where you will have more chances for wildlife sightings (2.5 hour cruise). You will enjoy city sightseeing in Sandakan, about 1-2 hours on foot. Later you will fly back to Kota Kinabalu (flight duration, 40 minutes) and be transferred back to your hotel (15 minute drive).

### Day 6: Kota Kinabalu

Early this morning you will depart for your day trip to Mount Kinabalu National Park (88 km from Kota Kinabalu), consisting of 2 hours driving distance there and back through spectacular scenery, as well as 1 hour of exploration on foot. It is important that you wear comfortable and sturdy walking shoes today as although the walking is not difficult, the tracks

can be quite slippery with fallen leaves and mud. After lunch you will return to Kota Kinabalu.

#### **Day 7: Kota Kinabalu**

Today you will enjoy sightseeing around the city and in the afternoon you will visit the 'Monsopiad Cultural Village'.

#### **Day 8: Kota Kinabalu/Miri/Mulu**

This morning you will transfer to the airport (15 minutes) for your flight to Mulu (via Miri). Flight duration to Miri is 55 minutes. You will be required to disembark the plane and clear immigration (because you are leaving Sabah and entering Sarawak), then take another flight to Mulu, which is another 30 minutes. Upon arrival into Mulu you will be transferred to your hotel (less than 10 minutes).

After lunch you will drive (less than 10 minutes) to the National Park Headquarters and take the boardwalk through the rainforest to the entrance of Deer Cave. This walk to the entrance consists of approximately 1 hour (3.4kms) along the path. Right alongside is Lang's Cave and after visiting both caves there is a viewing area to observe the bats exiting the cave in search of food at sunset. There is an 800m walk in between the two caves, followed by an additional 1 hours' walk (3.4kms) back to the park entrance. You will then return to the hotel for dinner. ***Please be aware that today is a very full and long day of sightseeing and therefore involves extensive walking and climbing of stairs.***

***[NB: It is advisable that you take a torch with you today as it is quite dark inside the caves and also for the return to the park entrance which is well after sunset. We also suggest taking some latex gloves to protect your hands against bat faeces which cover the caves and hand rails! Take care to stay within the designated paths within the caves at all times.]***

#### **Day 9: Mulu**

This morning you will take a longboat up the river to Wind Cave. There is a 100m walk up to the cave with some steps. Afterwards a short walk along a suspended plank will take you to Clearwater Cave. There are about 800 steps in total to get up and down this cave. Return to the hotel.

***[NB: Clearwater Cave has a good swimming area please ensure you bring your swimming suit if you would like to have a swim today.]***

#### **Day 10: Mulu/Miri/Kuching**

Spend the morning at your leisure until your transfer to the airport for your flight to Kuching (flight duration 1.5 hours). On your arrival into Kuching you will be met and transferred (30 minutes) to the hotel where you will stay for the next two nights.

#### **Day 11: Kuching**

This morning you will enjoy easy sightseeing throughout the city. Returning to your hotel after lunch where the rest of the afternoon will be at your leisure.

#### **Day 12: Kuching/Batang Ai Reservoir**

After breakfast you will be transferred 4.5 hours to Batang Ai Reservoir with several stops en route. After arriving at the reservoir you will board a boat for a short trip (30 minutes) to the resort where you will stay for two nights.

***[NB: As you will be away from the hotel for the next two nights, we recommend you leave your main luggage in safe storage at the hotel in Kuching, taking only a small, overnight bag with you for Days 12 and 13. Please ensure you take your swimming suits.]***

#### **Day 13: Batang Ai Reservoir**

Take a 40 minute boat ride and then walk for a further 30 minutes to reach a traditional Iban longhouse. We spend about 2-3 hours here including lunch. Return to the hotel by boat. It is important that you wear comfortable and sturdy walking shoes again today as although the walking is not difficult, the tracks can be quite slippery with fallen leaves and mud.

#### **Day 14: Batang Ai Reservoir/Kuching**

You will drive back to Kuching today (4.5 hours) stopping at Semengoh Wildlife Centre en route.

#### **Day 15: Depart Kuching**

Checkout time today is at 1200pm, you will have the day at leisure. Your transfer to the airport will be according to the departure time of your international flight.

#### **Day 16: Australia**

Arrive home.

**Updated: 30 January 2013**

### Travelling on an Active Paced Tour

We hope you are looking forward to what we are sure will be a trip of a lifetime. Before you embark on this adventure, we ask you to consider the points listed below that relate to our active paced tours. This will ensure you understand what is involved with an active paced tour and therefore help you decide if your chosen tour is right for you.

This is to ensure that your tour runs as smoothly as possible for you and your fellow tour members.

Please consider the following aspects of active paced tours prior to confirming your arrangements;

- While we believe that age is no barrier, please give special consideration to the fact that medical assistance and public infrastructure can be limited in these areas.
- There will be long periods of physical activity, including walking, climbing of stairs, in/out of boats.
- Only limited meal options will be available. People with special dietary requirements should expect difficulties on these tours. Please understand that depending on the trip you are taking, you may be given very little or no meat.
- Your tour may include basic accommodation facilities including home stays, guest houses, truck stops and tented accommodation. This may mean, no or limited hot water, and no private bathroom facilities.
- There will be long periods of driving on often unsealed, rural and bumpy roads in vehicles ranging from tour coaches to local jeeps and canter vehicles.
- Altitude affects people in many different ways and a certain level of fitness is required in order to limit the effects. Please discuss how to manage altitude sickness with a health care professional.
- Overnight trains only have basic bedding in 4 berth compartments with limited or no ladder facilities to climb to the top bunk. You may be sharing with other tour members or locals.
- Some tours may have sightseeing en route to the next destination. Therefore participation is required or you will need to remain with the coach until the rest of the group has finished touring.

Guides will endeavor to provide rest stops in your itinerary where possible. Please be advised that some days may have a more physical programme than others.

If you are comfortable with the above mentioned aspects of travelling on an active paced tour, we look forward to welcoming you on what is sure to be a unique and memorable experience.

However, if you have any hesitations please contact your valued travel agent or our reservations team to discuss the tour further or explore alternative options.