



Best of Borneo Dossier

Go Beyond Tour | 16 Days | Physical Level 2

Kuching – Bako – Semenggoh – Kota Kinabalu – Sandakan – Sepilok –
Kinabatangan River

An island of uncharted jungles and tribal culture, Borneo is a destination that exudes adventure! Discover 'headhunter' heritage, see a wealth of wildlife, delve deep into nature and meet the beautiful orangutans of Sabah and Sarawak on this incredible itinerary.

- Stroll through charming Kuching
- Explore Bako National Park
- Spot Orangutans in Semenggoh
- Immerse in Batang Ai nature
- Experience life in an Iban longhouse
- Stand in Mt Kinabalu's shadow
- Visit Sepilok Orangutans Centre
- Cruise the Kinabatangan River



Best of Borneo tour inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

Go Beyond Tours:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward you with the experiences of a lifetime. These tours include:

- Walking through classic sites
- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- More evenings at leisure for independent exploration

Physical Level 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

‘Best of Borneo’ is rated as a **physical level 2** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it’s more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You’ll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- On several days there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time.
- At some of the sights visited there are a large number of steps to climb
- You will be required to get on and off varying sizes of boats often without assistance.

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Country Profile: Borneo

Borneo is one of the world’s greatest natural wonders, with an all-encompassing biodiversity. It is a remarkable place where the great outdoors thrives with miracles and spectacles. Encounter a treasure trove of flora, wildlife, landscapes and indigenous customs. Borneo is also the home of the last orang-utans, sadly under threat from habitat destruction.

Joining Your Tour

The tour is 15 days in duration including international flights. Please note that depending on flight schedules passengers may arrive/depart on Day 2.

Travellers booked on ‘Land only’ arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Join the tour on Day 1 in Kuching and end the tour on Day 14 in Kota Kinabalu. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Itinerary Changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Itinerary – Best of Borneo

Days 1-2: Kuching

Fly to Kuching where you will be met at the airport in the arrival hall by your Local Guide and/ or National Escort. Together, with all other group members who may be arriving at the same time, you will transfer 20 minutes to your hotel and check into your room or store any luggage if your room is not ready yet. There is no sightseeing today.



Destination Information

Kuching – Kuching is the capital of the Malaysian state of Sarawak. Sarawak, in the north-western part of Borneo, has a very diverse ethnic mix including the native Iban people, Chinese and Malay as well as many other minority groups. Borneo's most stylish and sophisticated city brings together a multitude of cultures, crafts and cuisines. Wander down the waterfront promenade and soak up the individual culture by aimlessly ambling through the contrasting modern and colonial streets.

Day 3: Kuching

Spend the day enjoying the diverse culture of Sarawak with a walking tour, starting at the Chinese History Museum on Kuching's waterfront. Stroll past the traditional Chinese shop houses of Ewe Hai Street and pay a visit to a 'sinseh', a Chinese medicine man and see him practicing his art. Learn about the tin smithing trade at a 'Pak Tik' followed by a 'Hio Chek', a shop that sells ceremonial items, and a Chinese temple. Next you'll be introduced to Sarawak's delicious food, with a food tasting at a local coffee shop and a lesson on local spices on Gambier Street. Continue to the Sarawak Museum to view the natural history collection, before a relaxed sampan ride across Kuching's river to visit a Malay village. This evening, meet your guide in your hotel lobby and drive 5/10 minutes to Top-Spot Food Centre for your seafood welcome dinner.



Note: The Sarawak Museum is undergoing renovations. Should the Sarawak Museum be still closed for renovation during your stay in Kuching, the itinerary will include a visit of the Urang Sarawak Gallery instead.

Day 4: Bako National Park

Drive around 40 minutes out to the small Malay village of Bako before boarding a boat for 20 minutes to reach the national park. Explore the park on foot with a guide – one of Borneo’s most biodiverse areas, the diversity of flora and fauna here is incredible, and easily accessible. Following trails along streams, past caves and across plateaus, keeping an eye out for wild boar, macaques, monitor lizards and, if you’re lucky, a proboscis monkey! Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant. After dinner, you can take a leisurely stroll along the Kuching waterfront and make your way back to your hotel.



Please note: The trek’s around Bako National Park are of varying difficulty, with some being over boardwalk and others up and down more uneven surfaces. The longest trek is 1 and a half hours one way, and may require a walk back. If you wish, you may stay at the café area as all treks return to this point.

Destination Information

Bako National Park - Bako National Park one of the best places in Sarawak to see rainforest animals in their natural habitat. The park touches the ocean and is famous for its spectacular coastal scenery, only 37km away from downtown Kuching.

Day 5: Kuching – Sri Aman

This morning you have the opportunity to meet Borneo’s most famous native, the orangutan! Semenggoh is a centre dedicated to the rehabilitation of rescued or orphaned young orangutans – here they are taught how to survive in the wild. The area you are visiting is where the orangutans are released after their training, to leave freely in the nature reserve, so please bear in mind that even at the feeding time, it is not guaranteed that you will spot a resident. Drive for approximately 4 hours to Sri Aman, stopping at a local market, a pepper plantation and Chinese village of Lachau en route.



On arrival at Sri Aman, you will be checked into your hotel. You may wish to enjoy a guided stroll of the town of Sri Aman, taking in Fort Alice and the majestic Tze Yin Khor Chinese Temple. Dinner will be at a local restaurant.

Please note: it is recommended to pack a smaller bag for your 2-night stay in Sri Aman. Your main luggage will be kept in safe storage at the hotel in Kuching, and you will pick it up on your return.

Destination Information

Semenggoh Nature Reserve - The entire facility occupies an area of 740 acres and acts as a sanctuary for orangutans that have been rescued from captivity and young orphaned primates. Many have been returned into the surrounding area of the nature reserve. But there are few that will never re-learn their natural skills due to long association with and dependence on humans.

Day 6: Iban Longhouse

Today you will discover more about Borneo's native Iban people, renowned for their practice of headhunting. After breakfast, drive approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes to the jetty, where you will board a traditional Iban longboat for a 45-minute journey to a tribal longhouse. On arrival, enjoy a tour of the longhouse, meeting the Iban families. Witness a performance of a traditional war dance, in full regalia, and lunch on Iban cuisine. Return to the hotel, where the rest of the day is at leisure.



Destination Information

Iban People – Mostly located in Sarawak, the Iban people have long been considered a fearsome and strong tribe, notorious for their culture of headhunting (the practice of taking and preserving a person's head after killing them). Traditionally living in basic accommodation called longhouses, more recently these dwellings have progressed along with modern technology, with some even having access to electricity and internet!

Day 7: Sri Aman – Kuching

After breakfast, check-out and return to Kuching by air-conditioned vehicle with a stop en-route for lunch at a local cafe. Transfer to your hotel in Kuching for check-in. This evening meet your guide in the hotel lobby for your dinner transfer. After dinner, walk back to your hotel.

Day 8: Kuching – Kota Kinabalu

Transfer to the airport and fly over to Malaysian Borneo's other state, Sabah, and the vibrant city of Kota Kinabalu. On arrival, the rest of the day is at leisure.

Please note that today a light lunch will be provided on the flight only, due to the flight time.

Destination Information

Kota Kinabalu – Known as KK, the city lies to the west of Mt Kinabalu, its namesake. Due to its popularity with tourists, easy access by flight and being one of the major industrial and commercial centres of East Malaysia, Kota Kinabalu is one of the fastest growing cities in Malaysia.

Day 9: Kota Kinabalu



Today you will meet your guide in your hotel lobby and proceed on your walking city tour. Begin your explorations at the Sabah State Museum where you can learn about the state's diverse cultural and natural heritage, before exploring some of the city's beautiful architecture, including the Blue Mosque surrounded by reflecting pools and Chinese Temple with the largest statue of Kwan Yin the Goddess of Mercy in. Browse the piles of wares at the Handicraft Market and spice bazaar, before strolling through the oldest part of the city. Lunch will be at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure. Tonight, proceed on foot to the nearby restaurant to dine on traditional Malay cuisine.

Please note: Today you will be walking around the city so please ensure you are wearing comfortable footwear.

Destination Information

Sabah Museum – Centered on a modern 4-storey structure inspired by the Iban longhouses, the Sabah Museum is the perfect place to see collections of historical and tribal artefacts giving an insight into the extensive history of Borneo.

Day 10: Kinabalu National Park

Depart your hotel in Kota Kinabalu for a 2-hour drive along the ridges of the Crocker range, to arrive at the Kinabalu Park, at the foot of Mt Kinabalu, Borneo's highest mountain, where you will spend the day exploring Kinabalu Park, Malaysia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Join in the guided walk along one of the forest trails to get a first-hand impression of the Park and its unique flora before visiting the Mountain Garden



with its collection of orchids and plants that are unique to Kinabalu. Watch a slide show on the natural wonders of the park after lunch. In the afternoon, after the slideshow, explore more of the forest in the park.

Depart the park and return to the city and your hotel, where the rest of your day is at leisure.

Day 11: Kota Kinabalu – Sandakan

Early this morning, before breakfast, you will transfer approx. 15 minutes to the airport for your early flight to Sandakan. Visit the Sandakan Memorial Park, which commemorates British and Australian prisoners of war during World War II. Continue into Sandakan itself and tour the city, passing the William Pryer and Sandakan Liberation monuments, and browsing the displays of the Heritage Museum and the Agnes Keith Museum. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Please note: it is recommended to pack a smaller bag for your 3-night stay in Sandakan and the Kinabatangan River. Your main luggage will be kept in safe storage at the hotel in Kota Kinabalu, and you will pick it up on your return.

Collect your packed breakfast from reception upon check out. Please be aware due to your early flight you will have an early start this morning.

Destination Information

Sandakan Memorial Park – the Park is adjacent to the site of the original Sandakan Prisoner of War Camp. The park commemorates the sacrifice and suffering endured by both Australian and British soldiers who were held by the Japanese as Prisoners of War between 1942 and 1945.

Day 12: Sepilok and the Bornean Sun Bear Centre



This morning check out of your hotel and drive 40 minutes to Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, where you will experience a close encounter with the orangutans, undergoing a rehabilitation program to return to the wild. Pop over the road to the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre to visit the world's smallest bear and learn about the conservation efforts to protect them. Proceed on a 2-hour drive that journeys through palm oil plantations and villages to Bilit and enjoy lunch at your lodge. Later, board a cruise along the Kinabatangan River to spot some of the

abundant wildlife. The waterway sustains one of the world's richest ecosystems, including 10 species of primates.

Please note: Any boat transfer/river cruise will be on a shared basis and you will have other (not Wendy Wu) customers on the boat with you.

Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge/ Abai Jungle Lodge – please be aware the ecolodge is a simple facility, but is clean and comfortable, is the best option in the area for those who love to stay close to nature, and is in a position where it can be easy to spot local wildlife. Your room is equipped with a ceiling fan rather than air conditioning.

Destination Information

Sepilok Orangutan Centre – Sepilok offers another chance to see orangutans in their natural habitat – like Semenggoh, this is a centre for the rehabilitation of former captive and orphaned orangutans, teaching them the skills needed to survive in the wild. Around 60 to 80 orangutans live free within the centre's forest, and there may be young orangutans to visit in the nursery.

Day 13: Kinabatangan River

Embark on an early morning cruise to the Oxbow Lake, where you can spot wildlife and soak up the peaceful ambience. Returning to the lodge, the rest of the day is at leisure until the late afternoon, when you will head out for another cruise, searching for wildlife once more. You could spot anything from hornbills to pygmy elephants to orangutans!



Destination Information

Kinabatangan River - Sabah's longest river and Malaysia's second longest river, it is one of the most exciting and easily accessible places to explore the rich biodiversity of Sabah. From Kampung Abai near the river mouth of Kinabatangan River, on to the major village of Sukau and further up river, the lower Kinabatangan offers an incredible opportunity to see a large range of wildlife including Borneo's unique proboscis monkeys, the wild Orang Utan, Bornean Pygmy elephants, crocodiles, otters, bears, wild cats and countless rare and beautiful birds such as hornbills and the Oriental Darter where the Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge located.

Day 14: Sandakan – Kota Kinabalu

Return to Sandakan by boat for lunch at a local restaurant before transferring to the airport to fly back to Kota Kinabalu. In the evening proceed on foot to the nearby Shell Plaza and enjoy dinner at D'Place. This restaurant features an array of Sabah Indigenous Foods, such as Nasi Linopod (glutinous rice cooked in a leaf), Manok Bambangan (chicken cooked with a type of wild mango), Hinava (similar to ceviche), Ambuyat (a sticky pulp from sago starch) and many more.

During this evening's farewell dinner, there will be a cultural performance featuring different ethnic's traditional dances. Return to the hotel on foot.

Days 15-16: Depart Kota Kinabalu

Today enjoy breakfast at your hotel after which you will drive approximately 15 minutes to the airport for your departure flight, arriving in Australia the following day.

Late check-out is not included in our South East Asia group tours. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.

Best of Borneo Travel Information

Visas

Visas are not required for Australian passport holders for entry into Borneo; for stays of up to 90 days.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visas process' are changing on regular basis.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers 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 original.

Eating in Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Malaysian cuisine is influenced by various cultures from all around the world. Malaysia's population consists mostly of three ethnic groups: Malays, Chinese and Indians. As a result of historical migrations and Malaysia's geographical advantage, Malaysia's culinary style is a mixture of Malay, Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Portuguese, Thai and Arabian cuisines - to name a few. This results in a symphony of flavours, making Malaysian cuisine highly exotic.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from dinner on the day of your groups' arrival until breakfast on your day of departure.

Determining when it's appropriate to use chopsticks, forks or spoons can be challenging for some travellers, even other Asians, as each country has different customs. In Thailand and some other countries in Southeast Asia, fork and spoon are used for most dishes and chopsticks are typically provided to eat noodles. Usually chopsticks or other utensils are provided to scoop the food into your bowl to prevent your own chopsticks from touching the food that remains on the table. Dining in Southeast Asia is fairly casual with not too many rules. Leaving food on the plate is not considered rude.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness, and safety guidelines. All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals, or waiter-assisted buffets. Hand sanitiser will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.

Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in Southeast Asia. We recommend that when it comes to Asia food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

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 more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and Southeast Asia. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and 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 assure that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. Please note that double bed requests can be made at time of booking but can't be guaranteed.

Porterage

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Southeast Asia. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in Malaysia 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 itinerary are approximations only.

Seatbelts: Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in Indochina 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 seatbelts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times while the vehicle is moving. If you have any concerns, please notify your National Escort/Local Guides.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Pre-flight seat allocation is not available on international and internal flight sectors.

Boats: During the tour, you will undertake numerous boat trips in various forms of boats ranging from long-tail speed boats on the rivers to small ferryboats. The long boats used on the river cruises may or may not have canopies (so as to not obstruct the view), so make sure you bring sunscreen and a wide brimmed hat and insect repellent at the ready. They are generally conducted early in the day, mid-evening or night. Binoculars are also handy to view the wildlife.

Development in Southeast Asia

Although Southeast Asia 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 Escorts or Local Guides.

Malaysian Public Holidays

If you are travelling within the below Malaysian Public Holidays please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded. Good Friday is 2nd April 2021, International Labour Day is 1st May every year, Wesak Day is on 26th May 2021, Harvest Festival is held on the 30th and 31st May 2020, Awal Muharam is on the 10th August 2020, Malaysia Day is on the 16th September 2020 and Sabah Governor's Birthday (Sabah, Borneo only) is celebrated on the first Saturday of October (2nd October 2021) every year.

Souvenirs

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance

Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a National Escort. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

Tipping Policy

Local tipping is customary in Asia. However, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is

stated on each Group Tour page will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is in US Dollars and will be collected by your National Escort on arrival and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

Packing list and Climate

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com

Luggage

All travelers 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 five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

Exchanging Cash

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling outside major cities in Borneo. Australian Dollars are easily exchanged throughout Borneo and can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged.

We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

Personal Expense - 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 AU\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; 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.

Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour at an additional cost. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide.

Climbing Steps

Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defense against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails. Hindu and Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position

according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

Cultural Difference

Malaysia has many religions, cultures and histories. Please be considerate of the local beliefs, customs, and dress with consideration.

Appropriate Dress

When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and pants or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques.

Religious sites and homes throughout Southeast Asia – for Hindus, Muslims or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory, so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside.

We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off and carry a pair of thick socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces. The following itinerary will indicate when you need to consider this.

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

Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

After your booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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