

# Wild Borneo Expedition

## Malaysian Borneo

Proboscis monkeys, orangutans, a longhouse visit, ancient caves, Mt. Kinabalu and coral reefs

The expedition takes in the very best wildlife highlights that Borneo has to offer. Starting with a cultural introduction in the environs of Kuching, we soon embark on a boat journey to see the curious proboscis monkeys of Bako National Park and explore towering tropical rainforests in search of one of the world's largest flowers, with blooms up to 1 metre in diameter. We then travel upriver by canoe to stay at a remote longhouse, experiencing traditional life and customs, cruise down a river in search of elephants, and explore vast caves used by gatherers of bird nests for soup both in ancient times as today.

We then observe orangutans up close and visit a canopy walkway in search of flying squirrels before visiting a beautiful coral island that offers tranquil beaches and snorkelling in fish filled waters, not to mention the chance of seeing sea turtles laying their eggs during the night. This is followed by an ascent of Borneo's tallest and most spectacular mountain, Mt. Kinabalu, or the chance to wallow in geothermal pools. After seeing exquisite orchids and giant carnivorous pitcher plants, we return to the lowlands for an unforgettable river cruise in search of monkeys and fireflies near to our lovely beach side lodge.

Only 10 working days are required for this expedition. All dates for this expedition start on a Sunday, allowing participants to begin their travels to Borneo from the preceding Friday evening.

This expedition offers outstanding photographic opportunities for a very diverse range of Borneo's most spectacular animals, plants, scenery and traditional life.

**COST:** £2,150 per person for 15 days/14 nights (all inclusive from start point to end point).

**START POINT:** Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo.

**END POINT:** Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysian Borneo.

**EXPEDITION LEADER:** Stewart McPherson (experienced naturalist and Borneo expert).

**DATES:** Sunday June 11th – Sunday June 25th 2017.

Email [askus@activetravel.com.au](mailto:askus@activetravel.com.au) for more information and to make bookings.

## WILD BORNEO EXPEDITION ITINERARY

**Day 1:** We meet in Kuching, where the morning sees us visiting the beautiful Kuching orchid garden, stopping off en route at the historic Fort Margherita, named after the wife of Sarawak's last 'White Rajah'. After lunch we visit the Sarawak Cultural Centre to learn about how the different tribes found throughout Sarawak and Borneo live, before returning to the city for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

**Day 2:** A 25-minute morning boat ride to Bako National Park to see mangrove and heath forests, home to orchids, carnivorous pitcher plants, proboscis monkeys and macaques. Overnight in Bako lodges.

**Day 3:** Morning transfer to the Gunung Gading National Park in search of the giant flower of *Rafflesia tuan-mudae*. The orange bloom of this parasitic plant is one of the world's largest, measuring up to 1 metre in diameter. While a sighting cannot be guaranteed, the park offers beautiful jungle trails and spectacular rainforest filled with abundant wildlife. We transfer to Batang Ai where canoes take us to an Iban village. Dinner and overnight in Nanga Sumpa lodge.

**Day 4:** Visit traditional Iban longhouse, visit Ensulau Waterfall, enjoy a traditional Iban BBQ and return to Nanga Sumpa lodge. Dinner and overnight in Nanga Sumpa lodge.

**Day 5:** Return from Nanga Sumpa to Kuching. We visit a fanged pitcher plant (*N. bicalcarata*) site along the way. Overnight at Riverside Majestic Hotel with a local dinner.

**Day 6:** Early morning transfer to airport for a flight from Kuching to Sandakan. Dinner and overnight at Mynes Resort.

**Day 7:** A cruise on the Kinabatangan River, a wildlife mecca that offers chances of seeing the endemic pygmy elephant, as well as various primates and birds. Dinner and overnight at Mynes Resort.

**Day 8:** Transfer to visit Gomantong Cave to see the vast caves, many bats, swifts (whose nests are used to make Birds' Nest Soup) and, if we are lucky, red leaf monkeys. Transfer to Sepilok Jungle Resort for dinner and overnight.

**Day 9:** Early morning visit to Rainforest Discovery Centre to spot local bird life. At 11.00am we transfer to Sepilok Orangutan rehabilitation centre for feeding. In the afternoon, visit sun bears with an optional return to Rainforest Discovery Centre for sunset bird watching and a particular favourite, the flying squirrels! Dinner and overnight at Sepilok Jungle Resort.

**Day 10:** Early morning departure to beautiful coral island, Selingan, by boat. Information and video presentation followed by dinner. Late at night we hope to watch turtles laying eggs and perhaps even witness a release of hatchlings into the sea! Simple accommodation on the island.

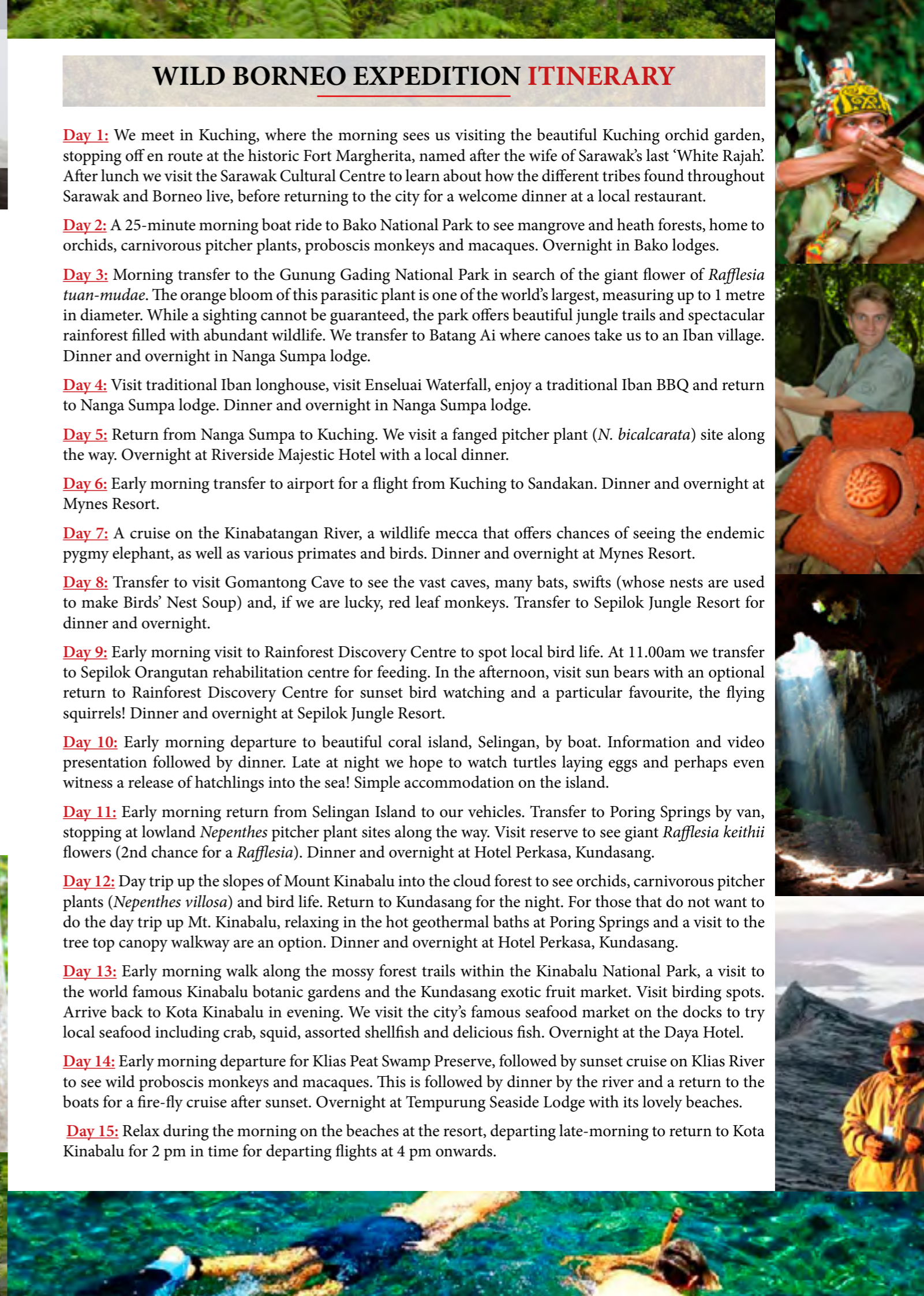
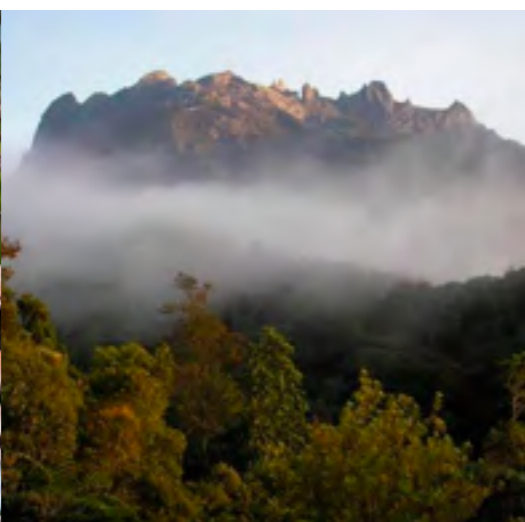
**Day 11:** Early morning return from Selingan Island to our vehicles. Transfer to Poring Springs by van, stopping at lowland *Nepenthes* pitcher plant sites along the way. Visit reserve to see giant *Rafflesia keithii* flowers (2nd chance for a *Rafflesia*). Dinner and overnight at Hotel Perkasa, Kundasang.

**Day 12:** Day trip up the slopes of Mount Kinabalu into the cloud forest to see orchids, carnivorous pitcher plants (*Nepenthes villosa*) and bird life. Return to Kundasang for the night. For those that do not want to do the day trip up Mt. Kinabalu, relaxing in the hot geothermal baths at Poring Springs and a visit to the tree top canopy walkway are an option. Dinner and overnight at Hotel Perkasa, Kundasang.

**Day 13:** Early morning walk along the mossy forest trails within the Kinabalu National Park, a visit to the world famous Kinabalu botanic gardens and the Kundasang exotic fruit market. Visit birding spots. Arrive back to Kota Kinabalu in evening. We visit the city's famous seafood market on the docks to try local seafood including crab, squid, assorted shellfish and delicious fish. Overnight at the Daya Hotel.

**Day 14:** Early morning departure for Klias Peat Swamp Preserve, followed by sunset cruise on Klias River to see wild proboscis monkeys and macaques. This is followed by dinner by the river and a return to the boats for a fire-fly cruise after sunset. Overnight at Tempurung Seaside Lodge with its lovely beaches.

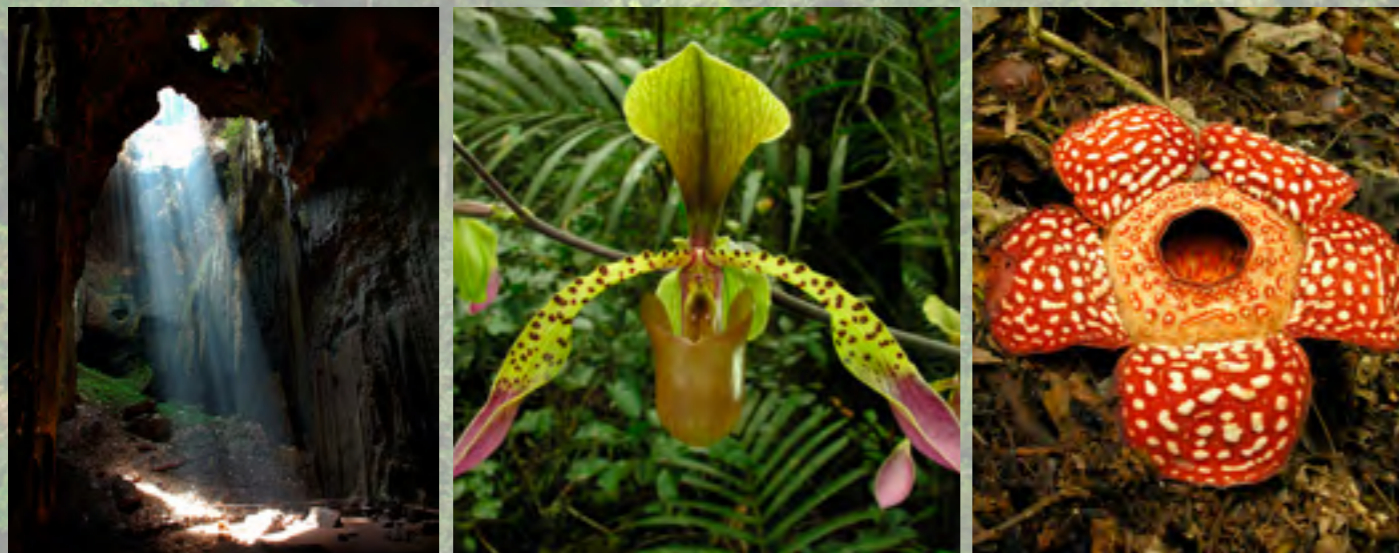
**Day 15:** Relax during the morning on the beaches at the resort, departing late-morning to return to Kota Kinabalu for 2 pm in time for departing flights at 4 pm onwards.





Highlights of the **Wild Borneo Expedition**

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