

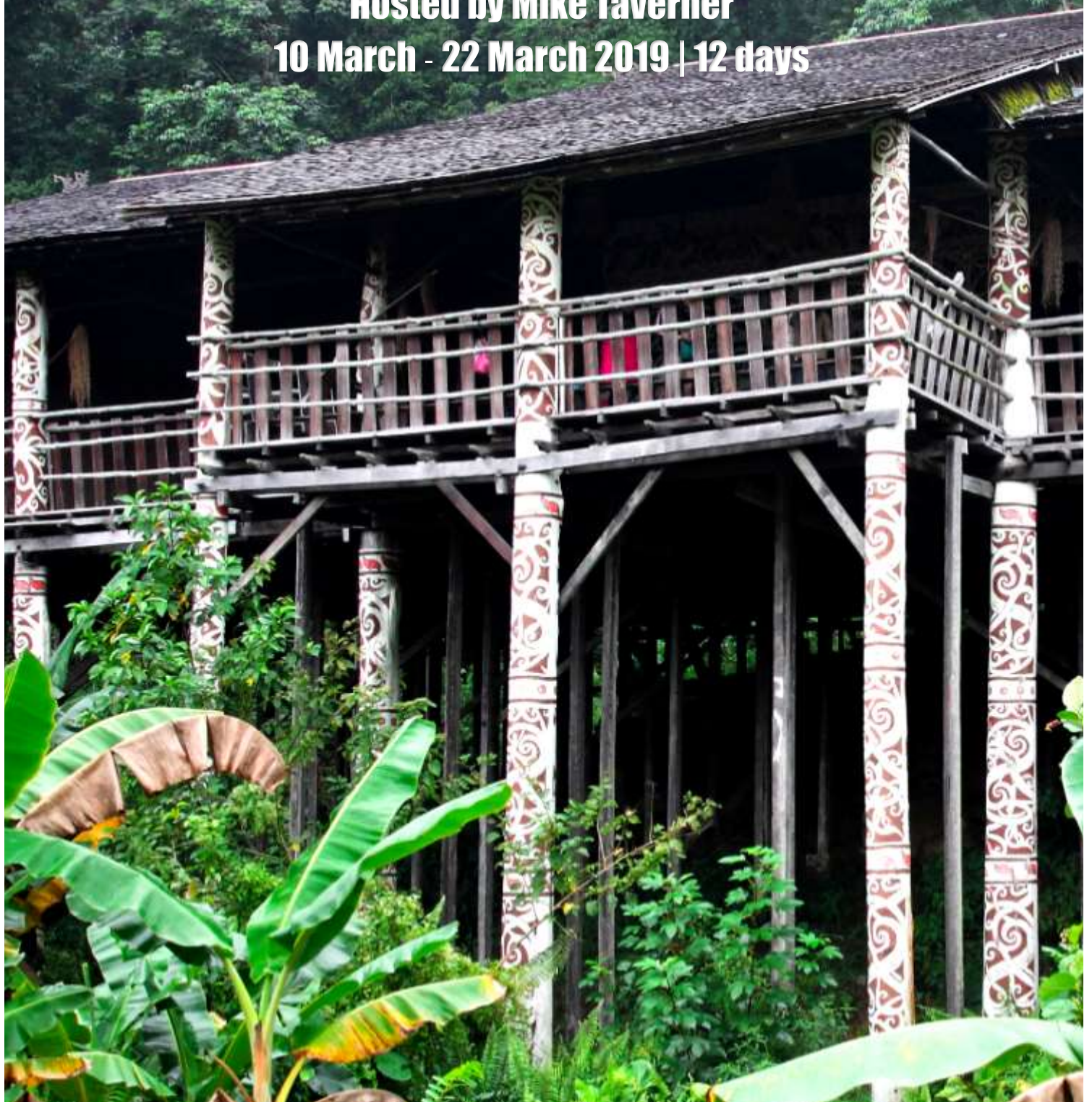


Malaysia

Trails of Borneo

Hosted by Mike Taverner

10 March - 22 March 2019 | 12 days



Highlights

See some of the worlds most unique animals in their natural environment

Stay overnight in a traditional longhouse

Learn the fascinating history of colonial Sarawak

Witness a cultural performance by local tribes' people

Explore the lively waterfront area of Kuching

Hike through rainforests and explore UNESCO world heritage sites

Taste local delicacies

Your tour host

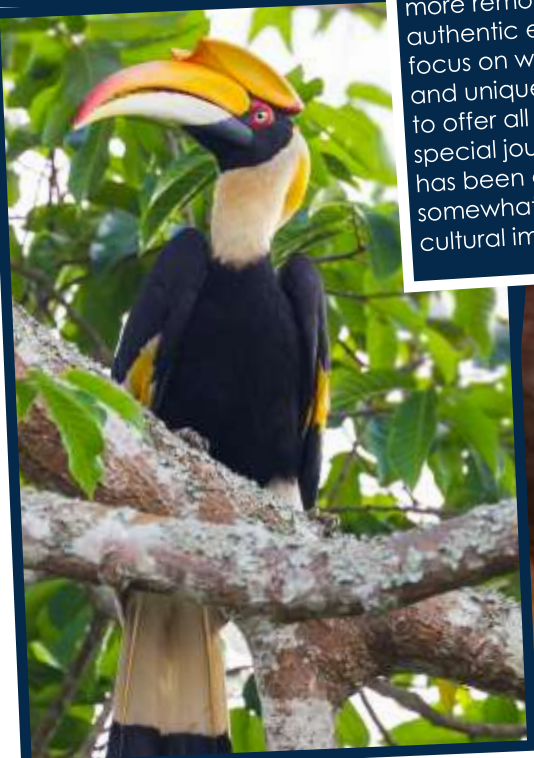
Your expert tour leader, Mike Taverner, is an experienced group leader and enthusiastic walker having completed many recreational and wilderness walks. He is not a frantic 'must get there quickly' walker but one who enjoys absorbing the sights, sounds and experiences of the surrounds.

Mike leads Active Travel groups on walking adventures in West Timor, Nagaland, Peru, Japan and Ethiopia. Having hosted so many tours over the years Mike is always well informed of the local conditions and full of enthusiasm for the amazing environment and its cultural and natural history.



What to expect

Our 12 day itinerary has been carefully designed to offer guests the very best of Sarawak. We have combined comfortable hotels in the cities with traditional lodges and longhouses in more remote areas to ensure an authentic experience. With a particular focus on wildlife, natural environment and unique cuisine this program is sure to offer all travellers a well rounded and special journey to remember. The tour has been created for those who are somewhat active and appreciate a cultural immersion in to a destination.



Your experience begins here...

Sunday 10 March 2019 | Kuching

Today is an arrival day, no activities have been planned.

Monday 11 March 2019 | Kuching | BL

Today is all about Sarawak's incredible wildlife. We begin at Bako village the Borneo endemic proboscis monkeys, silvered langurs (monkeys), long-tailed macaques, wild boar, monitor lizards and numerous species of birds are commonly spotted. In the evening we enjoy a wildlife and nature watching cruise around the rivers and mangroves of the Santubong Peninsular.

Tuesday 12 March 2019 | Kuching to the Borneo Highlands | B

After breakfast we travel to Semenggoh Wildlife Centre. This orangutan rehabilitation centre trains orphaned or rescued orangutans how to survive in the wild. We watch the orangutans come down from the trees to feed before we continue our journey to the Borneo Highlands

Wednesday 13 March 2019 | The Borneo Highlands to Kuching | B

This morning we tour the scenic highlands before an afternoon where you are free to explore downtown Kuching and its old colonial buildings, its waterfront with food vendors and shophouses and views of 19th-century landmarks along the esplanade.

Thursday 14 March 2019 | Kuching | BL

Sarawak's cultures and traditions are displayed at the Sarawak Cultural Village, popularly known as the 'Living Museum'. Traditional houses, arts and crafts and dances of the various ethnic tribes of Sarawak will engage us before a cultural lunch and return to Kuching.

Friday 15 March 2019 | Kuching to Ulu Sarikei via Sarikei | BD

An express boat from Kuching takes us to Sarikei where we savour local delicacies before continuing by land through farms of pepper, rubber and rice in the hilly Ulu Sarikei countryside. Here, in a village longhouse we learn and experience village culture and interact with locals around the village, assist in preparing our traditional dinner, taste the tuak (rice wine) and relax on the ruai (verandah) and share stories and legends with our hosts.

Saturday 16 March 2019 | Ulu Sarikei to Sibü | BL

We start early to experience local rubber tapping activity before our hosts lead us through the undisturbed forest to understand some traditional uses of plants and herbs. We'll enjoy lunch in the rainforest before returning to the village and continuing to Sibü and its mind-boggling night market.

Sunday 17 March 2019 | Sibü to Mukah | BD

A morning stroll alongside Malaysia's longest river – the mighty Rajang River with its "floating grocery stores" and panoramic views of Sibü's waterfront life. Through the winding streets of Old Sibü Town we will soak in the sights and smells of alley-ways filled with small businesses and onto the biggest central market in Malaysia. The Sibü Heritage Centre gives us a view of Sibü's history, cultures, lifestyles and traditions. In the afternoon we take a river journey towards Dalat and we pass Malay villages, shipyards, Iban longhouses and Melanau villages before exploring the highlights of Dalat. Our journey continues to Lamin Dana, an authentic Melanau village.

Monday 18 March 2019 | Mukah | BLD

Along the dark mysterious brackish waters of Tellian River and Misan River we visit to the local sago processing centre before landing at the Mukah market for its famous dishes such as siet (sago worm) and umai (fresh raw fish). After a late lunch we continue to Lamin Dana handicraft centre, to learn about Melanau handicraft and how important sago palm is to the Melanau people.

Tuesday 19 March 2019 | Mukah to Miri | B

In Tellian Village we experience Melanau lifestyle and cottage industry before heading cross-country back to Sibü. Along the way through Sarawak's rugged countryside we'll stop in roadside towns such as Selangau and other sites of interest.

Wednesday 20 March 2019 | Miri to Mulu | BLD

Today we will travel to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mulu (flight not included). A scenic 3 km plank-walk through primary rainforest takes us to the entrance the world's largest cave passage, Deer Cave. Its scale is awesome and the neighbouring Lang's Cave represents the very best limestone formations in the park. Most evenings at sundown, a spectacular exodus of about 2 million of bats can be observed as they leave the cave in search of food. We then trek back to the park headquarters by torchlight and return to our hotel.

Thursday 21 March 2019 | Mulu | BLD

A longboat to Batu Bungan includes an experience of the tribal lifestyle and handcrafts at Penan Settlement before continuing upriver to Wind Cave with its impressive 'King's Chamber' and a short plank-walk to Clearwater Cave where, like most caves in Mulu, there is a habitat for unique species of plants. Near Clearwater Cave there is a wonderful swimming area shaded by giant rainforest trees, here we can enjoy a swim before returning to our hotel.

Friday 22 March 2019 | Depart Mulu | BD

This morning we return to Miri (flight not included). On arrival we will be take on a city tour of Miri where Malaysia's first oil was struck by Sarawak Shell in 1910. Also in Miri is the largest Taoist Temple in South East Asia, Miri City Fan, Miri Heritage Centre (handicraft & souvenir) & the local farmers market. We then have time at leisure before having a farewell dinner together then being transferred to meet your flight home (flights not included).

\$3060pp twin share
Single room supplement: \$960* (subject to availability,
please note single rooms not offered at the Iban Longhouse)

Inclusions

12 nights accommodation

Meals as per itinerary:

10 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 6 Dinners

English speaking local guide.

Entrance fees as per itinerary

All the land and boat transport as per itinerary

Malaysia Tourism Tax.



Exclusions

All flights

Travel Insurance

Personal expenses

Beverages for all meals

Other meals not stated in the itinerary

Gratuities for tour guides & drivers

Booking information

Securing your place A minimum number of tour guests is required to confirm and guarantee this tour's departure. Spaces are limited; book early to avoid disappointment.

All deposits and interim payments are non-refundable and no exemptions can be made for any tour guest who has paid a deposit and can no longer attend the tour. Progressive payments will be required for this tour.

Deposit \$500.00 per person upon booking your place on the tour

Interim payment: \$1,000.00 per person due within one week of the tour becoming a confirmed departure

Final payment: Balance due 60 days prior to departure

TravelPay allows you to pay for your holiday by interest-free monthly instalments on your own credit/debit card.

You choose: you can pay over 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 10 months. Ask us for more details today.

*The tour price may change, subject to confirmation of all services. As the tour cost is based on the US dollar, a currency surcharge may be applicable if the US dollar exchange rate falls prior to final payment.

Travel insurance Travel insurance is required for all tour guests. We suggest taking out a comprehensive insurance policy on payment of your deposit to protect your non-refundable payments in the unlikely event of an unforeseen cancellation.

Disinclination to travel is not covered by travel insurance. It is the responsibility of each tour guest to ensure that their travel insurance covers their personal requirements and any pre-existing medical conditions.



MEMBER

ACCREDITED



For bookings please contact our experienced travel advisors

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