

Short Expedition (secondary schools)

Day 1 Arrive Sandakan

Arrive at Sandakan airport and meet Expedition Leader. You will then be transferred to the hostel in the heart of Sandakan.

Day 2 Sepilok and the Kinabatangan

You will then be transferred to Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary where you will watch the video on Orangutans and then witness the 10am feeding. After lunch, you will be transferred to Bilit Village which takes about 2.5 hrs. On arrival, you will check-in to the homestay. This afternoon there is a wildlife river cruise where you will get an opportunity to see the amazing array of wildlife along the mighty Kinabatangan River. This may include proboscis monkeys, macaques, lizards, and, if lucky, wild elephants and orangutans, many bird species, including the majestic hornbills. You will then have dinner with the host families and overnight in the simple homes of the *Orang Sungai* (river people) where sleeping facilities are quite basic.

Day 3 Water Tank Project

After breakfast, you will start on our water tank project. Your job is to build a water tank platform, raise the water tank onto the platform and connect it with pipes which you will plumb into the house. This water tank collects rain water to be used by the family for cooking and washing dishes. All your meals will be provided by the host families. There will be a night jungle trek where you may get an opportunity to see some nocturnal animals and birds.

Day 4, Water Tank Project

This morning, there is a dawn cruise where you can witness how the rainforest comes alive. After breakfast, you will continue and hopefully complete the water tank project. In the evening, there will be a cultural show - a good way to find out a little bit more about this amazingly friendly people.

Day 5 Mount Kinabalu

After breakfast, it is time to bid farewell to the host families and head for the world heritage site, Kinabalu National Park. It's a 5 to 6 hrs drive, with a lunch stop en-route. On arrival, you can check-in to the park hostel and explore the numerous trails on offer. At 1,500 meters above sea level, the temperature here can drop to about 15 deg C at night.

Day 6 Mount Kinabalu

After a hearty breakfast, you will start the trek for the summit of Mount Kinabalu. It will be a long difficult trek up from about 1,800 meters altitude all the way to Laban Rata at 3,272 meters. Along the way, the mountain guide will show you some of the amazing flora and fauna. The journey takes you through rainforest with pitcher plants and tangled vines, to montane forest where the trees are smaller and orchids are abundant. Finally you will reach the 'bonsai garden', where only small shrubs and trees grow in amongst the granite. The trail is well marked with resting stations every 500m. The accommodation is in a mountain hut with dormitories.

Day 7 Kota Kinabalu

After a 2am supper, you leave the hut at around 2.30am to start the trek towards the summit of South East Asia's highest mountain. Trekking by head-torch light, the path starts with a series of steps and gently sloping foot ladders before reaching granite slabs. Here rope hand-rails mark the path towards the summit. Steep at times, the path is easy underfoot as we follow the trail of lights to the summit. Climbers usually arrive at the top as the sun rises over Sabah. On a good day, it is possible to see all the way to the coast, with views of the surrounding countryside, forest and towns. We then return to the park HQ where we depart for the city of Kota Kinabalu

Day 8 Depart