



Borneo

Educational: Science and SCUBA

16 days

This truly incredible educational journey inspires us as we visit live jungle and marine research centres and work alongside conservationists to discover the importance of their work on the spectacular Bornean ecology. We are amazed by the diverse flora and fauna we come across and watch biology come to life before our eyes — not to mention trekking to the depths of the jungle to spend the night camped out in hammocks and the opportunity to gain the PADI Open Water SCUBA Diver certification. It truly is a science trip like no other.



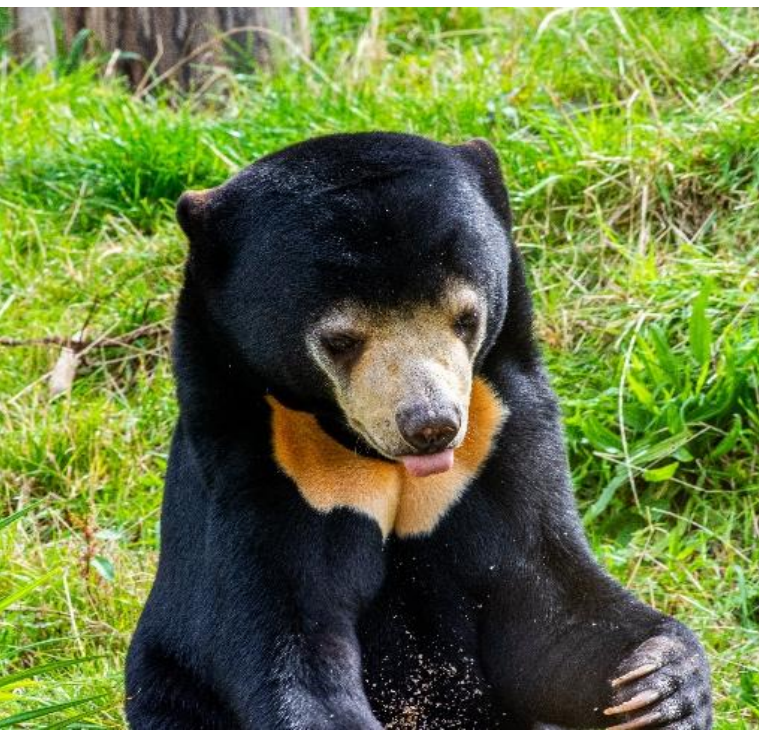
[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

Days 1 - 2	Fly from UK to Sandakan Fly from the UK to Sandakan where we meet our local STC Expedition Leader and transfer to our accommodation in Sepilok. We spend our first night in Borneo here; already immersed in the incredible wildlife and environment the island has to offer. After freshening up and a welcome briefing, we visit the Rainforest Discovery Centre for an evening walk before tucking into our first traditional meal.	LD
Day 3	Bornean Sun Bears and Orangutans We rise early to visit the Borneo Sun Bear Conservation Centre and the famous Orangutan Sanctuary where a video presentation introduces us to the centre, after which we walk down to the viewing platforms to watch the orangutans enjoy their dinner and gain an understanding of the work Sepilok does and the plight of these amazing creatures.	BLD
Day 4	Travel to Sukau Village This morning we have a two-hour drive to Sukau Village. Founded around 2015 by a local family of well-known conservationists, it is not just a place to sleep — it is designed as a community-based eco-tourism experience. We stay on site in dorm rooms and immerse ourselves in conservation activities during our stay.	BLD
Days 5 - 6	Sukau Village Conservation Activities Over the next two days we accompany local people to assist with conservation projects they are working on along the river. This is a great educational opportunity as we take part in sapling collection from the forest, tree-planting, building hornbill nests, making fish/prawn traps to be donated to the villagers, go on wildlife cruises/walks and orangutan surveys.	BLD
Day 7	Transfer to Kiau After breakfast we bid goodbye to our new friends in Sukau Village and drive to Kiau. From here we leave the vehicles and prepare to trek into the Bornean jungle. Kiau is a scenic rural village located in the Kota Belud district at the foothills of Mount Kinabalu. We are warmly welcomed by the local villagers and settle in for an early night ahead of the first day of our trek.	BLD
Day 8	Trek into the Jungle Today we have a four-hour trek into the jungle. During our trek our STC Leader will point out some of the incredible, local flora and fauna and we have the opportunity to learn about some of the survival techniques which indigenous people have developed to allow them to thrive in the jungle. As night falls we climb into our hammocks to be gently rocked to sleep whilst listening to the croaking frog orchestras and sounds of the nocturnal animals awakening.	BLD



- Day 9** **Trek Out of the Jungle and Return to Kota Kinabalu** BLD
After an incredible night in the jungle, we trek out to meet the vehicles. We board the buses and head to our accommodation in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah state.
- Days 10 - 12** **PADI Open Water Diving** BLD
We now move our focus from the biology and ecology of the jungle to that of the marine environment, spending the next three days completing our PADI Open Water Diver SCUBA course. This teaches us the fundamentals of SCUBA diving, including dive techniques and equipment, as well as a series of confined and open water dives. We can expect to see pristine coral, schools of fish, octopus, turtles, and if we are lucky, a majestic ray or two. Not only is SCUBA diving a fantastic opportunity to view marine wildlife up close, it also allows us to see first-hand examples of symbiotic relationships in the marine world.
- Day 13** **MERC: Marine Ecology Research Centre** BLD
We turn our attention to the sea and coral reefs of Kota Kinabalu and visit the Marine Ecology Research Centre (MERC) off the coast. We are met on arrival by MERC staff for a briefing and take a tour of the site. We learn about their research focuses, including successfully producing all seven species of giant clams found in Malaysian waters.
- Day 14** **Conservation Snorkelling and The Coral Flyer** BLD
Close to KK in the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, we join some guided conservation snorkelling. This helps us understand coral reef ecology, threats to the marine ecosystem, and how to assess reef health. Following our snorkelling session, we ride The Coral Flyer Zipline — one of the most unique adventure activities in Sabah — a 250-metre zipline that takes us from one tropical island to another over the sea.
- Days 15 - 16** **Kota Kinabalu and Depart Borneo** BL
This morning we have a final chance to explore Kota Kinabalu and purchase any last gifts or souvenirs — remembering of course not to purchase anything that could harm the delicate local marine ecosystem. We then transfer to the airport to say farewell to our expedition leader and beautiful Borneo, ready for our return flight to the UK, arriving on day 16.



Look what's included:

- International flights
- All accommodation, transportation and activities
- All food as described above
- Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel information sessions
- ATOL financial protection
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination on request

What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance



A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Many companies talk the talk, few truly walk the walk. We are far from perfect, but we are leading the way in sustainability in the school travel sector. In 2018 we were the first UK travel company to become **Travelife Certified** – a verified sustainability certificate formally recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

This is our passion, and we'd love to tell you more about it in due course. In the meantime, for more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit:

<https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/>

Trees for Life

Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include multiple consecutive days activity either walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) or paddling. With between five and seven hours of activity with occasional longer/harder days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling, rafting, remote camping which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness and resilience. Steady preparation and an increase in your underlying fitness levels will help you get the most from this grade trip.

Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 4



Students joining trips at this level will find the comforts of home are more of a rarity – or viewed another way, a welcome luxury. English is unlikely to be widely spoken and the food will be quite different to home, perhaps for extended sections of the trip. You should observe local customs so not to cause offence. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty and accommodation in some locations is likely to be basic. Whilst a challenge, destinations and trips at cultural level 4 are also a fantastic opportunity to see a very different part of the world.



Travel Safety & Other Expedition Training

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to your expedition. Topics covered will include:

Responsible Tourism workshop

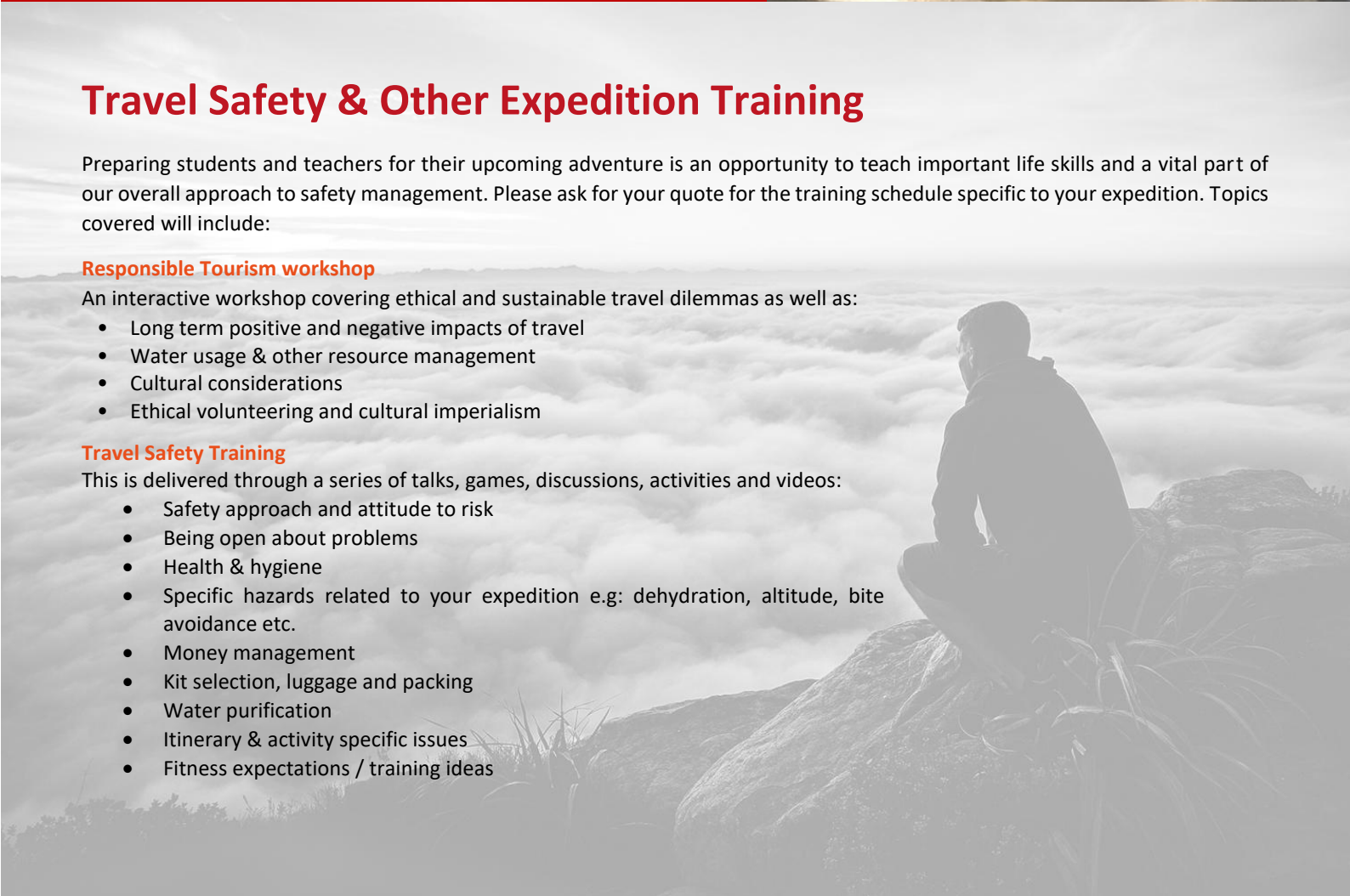
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

Travel Safety Training

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas





A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

3 Arrange an expedition launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening covering the itinerary, safety management, the build-up to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.

"I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the in-country staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest."

Teacher feedback, King's High Warwick

Contact Us:

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