



# Borneo

## Ecology and Adventure

16 Days

This expedition provides students with a thrilling journey into the depths of the rainforests of Borneo. It is a brilliant adventure offering a perfect balance of physical challenges, rainforest experience, wildlife spotting and beach relaxation. On this wonderful journey we hike deep into the rainforest and spend the night under the stars in hammocks. We'll spend time exploring the Kinabatangan river and have the chance to meet the famous orangutans at Sepilok. Bearing in mind our awards for responsible and ethical tourism we have found an exciting and worthwhile conservation project for us to work alongside the community and help protect the environment.



[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)

# Your Recommended Educational Journey

**Days 1 - 2**

## **Arrive Sandakan, transfer to Sepilok**

LD

Fly from the UK to Sandakan where we meet our local STC Expedition Leader and transfer to 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, our Leader will give us a briefing on what to expect from the next few days and finally we tuck into our first traditional meal.

**Day 3**

## **Sepilok Sanctuaries**

BLD

Today we rise early to visit the Borneo Sun Bear Conservation Centre. Next is the famous Orangutan Sanctuary where a video presentation introduces us to the center, after which we can 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. After a full day of marveling and learning about these majestic and endangered species, we return to Sepilok to overnight.

**Day 4**

## **Rainforest Discovery Centre**

BLD

Today we will visit the Rainforest Discovery Centre and assist with a biology conservation project. Working alongside dedicated conservationists, biologists and researchers, we can get involved in tasks such as wildlife observations, maintenance tasks in the jungle, repairing the sanctuary boardwalk, trails or botanical gardens before returning to our lodge for dinner. It is common for groups to spot wild orangutans and elephants in the area. We will also have time to walk along the tree-top canopy and spot nocturnal wildlife on a night walk this evening.

**Day 5**

## **Danau Tungog Eco-Camp**

BLD

After breakfast we transfer 2.5hrs by bus and boat to Danau Tungog Eco-Camp, our home for the next few days! The Kinabatangan River is the second longest river in Malaysia and the wildlife along its banks is acknowledged by experts to be the most varied and easily accessible wildlife in all of Southeast Asia. The area we are visiting contains some of Borneo's highest concentration of wildlife. Having checked into our A-Frames or Dorm accommodation, we enjoy our first of many afternoon river cruises and a night walk after dinner.

**Days 6 - 8**

## **Danau Tungog Eco-Camp: Wildlife & Conservation**

BLD

Over the next 3 days we continue to explore the jungle along the riverside. Each day we take daily dawn and afternoon wildlife cruises along the river and a second night walk. On the cruises we would hope to see the famous proboscis monkey, salt water crocodiles, Macaques, Maroon Langur, Bornean Gibbon and if we're really lucky wild Orangutans. You can also expect to see Crocodiles, Hawks, Eagles, Hornbills, Kingfishers and much more. If you are very lucky you may catch a glimpse of the newly discovered Bornean 'Pygmy' Elephant feeding on the edge of the Kinabatangan River. As well as the animals and bird life you can also spot many insects, reptiles and amphibians including snakes, frogs and stick insects. During our time at the Eco-Camp we will also volunteer with a conservation project. This can include tasks such as tree planting and removing water weeds. This is to support a local Community Eco-Tourism Co-Operative, representatives from which will give us a talk on sustainability and the important work they do.



<b>Day 9</b>	<p><b>Transfer to Kiau Village</b></p> <p>Today we travel to west Sabah, approx. 5hrs. This is an interesting journey passing through towns and some smaller villages where we will stop for lunch along the way. There is a noticeable difference in landscape as we drive across northern Sabah, from thick jungle to miles of deforestation. On arrival in Kiau Village we meet the Dusun families we are staying with. Tonight we enjoy a cultural show and have the chance to hear some stories from the locals about their life and how they live.</p>	BLD
<b>Day 10</b>	<p><b>Supermarket Trek &amp; Survival Skills</b></p> <p>Today we set off on a fantastic and informative trek into the rainforest. Don't be fooled by the name, we are not trekking to a supermarket as we know it! As we hike through the rain forest in small groups, the leaders will teach us about the jungle survival skills and local flora and fauna and its uses in food, medicine construction, utensils etc. This is a practical trek and we bring back all the items we have gathered and explain to each group what we have foraged for. As night falls we head out for some frog hunting. Tonight we sleep in hammocks and listen to the sound of the water as we fall asleep.</p>	BLD
<b>Day 11</b>	<p><b>Jungle Hike &amp; Transfer to Kota Kinabalu</b></p> <p>We rise early and hike 3 hours to Kiau Village. From here we transfer 2 hours to Kota Kinabalu. Having checked in to our hostel, we set off to explore the sights of Kota Kinabalu – the fish market is superb and a great place for dinner!</p>	BLD
<b>Day 12</b>	<p><b>White Water Rafting</b></p> <p>Today we enjoy a 15km long white water rafting experience! The Kiulu River runs through the Kiulu Valley and jungle and includes gentle rapids to test our skills. Afterwards, we will be welcomed by a much needed BBQ of local delights. In the afternoon, we return to Kota Kinabalu.</p>	BL
<b>Day 13</b>	<p><b>Tropical Island Day</b></p> <p>Today we have the chance to enjoy the beautiful sea and coral reefs of Kota Kinabalu. To get to our tropical island paradise we take a 15 minute boat ride from Jesselton Point jetty in KK to Pulau Gaya (Gaya island), the largest island of Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park.</p> <p>On Sapi island we have plenty of time to swim, relax and enjoy the sun and sand. We will also take part in an Environment Clean Up Project by cleaning a section of the beach and help the local community tackle marine pollution.</p>	BLD
<b>Day 14</b>	<p><b>Conservation Snorkelling</b></p> <p>Today we take to the water in Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park on a Coral Reef Conservation Day Tour! Our focus is the Coral Reef ecosystem and the aim, to appreciate the complexity of coral reef habitats and why coral reefs are important. We will learn about threats impacting the existence of coral reefs and what we can do as an individual to help protect them. Today is divided into three sections: Rainforests of the Sea, Fish Identification and Coral Reefs in Peril. Each section will begin with a lesson on land followed by snorkelling investigations.</p> <p>Rainforests of the Sea: Learn to identify hard corals, soft corals, certain fish species - to give us a glimpse of the vast range of life found on a coral reef and why they are referred to as the 'Rainforests of the Sea'.</p> <p>Fish Identification: One of the key ways of understanding the health of a reef over time is by performing fish or coral species surveys to collect data on the volume and variety of species found. This can help experts to understand if the reef is healthy (with a balanced mix of species, volume maintained) or not. Using a slate, we will spot and draw fish from some of the 12 main groups including Butterflyfish, snappers, barracuda, damselfish, parrotfish and puffers. During the lunch break at Padang Point, our snorkel guide will help us to determine their identities using fish identification slate / books.</p> <p>Coral Reefs in Peril: Understand how coral reefs are facing natural and human threats and search for positive and negative signs to determine if the local reefs are healthy or under stress.</p> <p>Tonight we enjoy our final dinner together in Kota Kinabalu.</p>	BLD

Days 15 - 16

**Depart Kota Kinabalu**

B

There should be time for last minute souvenir shopping before we catch our flight back to the UK. Depending on flight times we may arrive home 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 tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for school staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- 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

## 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 or Covid tests
- 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. While we are far from perfect, 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 some walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) and occasional longer/harder days may be involved, with between five and seven hours of walking on certain days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling or rafting which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness. Some steady preparation and an increase in your underlying fitness levels would 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 Pre-Travel 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 this educational journey. Topics covered will include:

### Responsible Tourism workshop

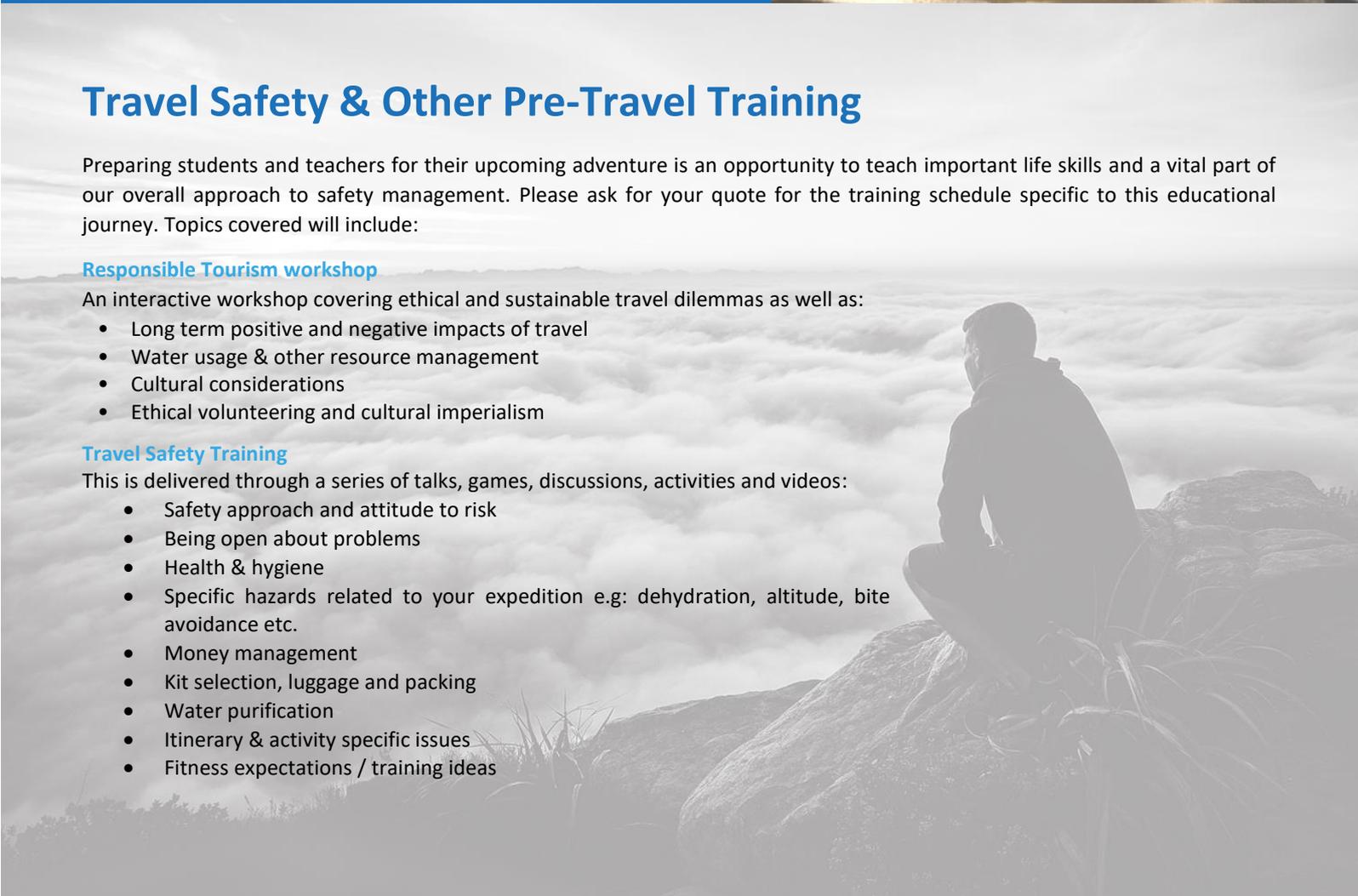
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- 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 educational journey

## 1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your adventure 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 trip approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

## 3 Arrange a trip launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with comprehensive information 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.



Our school trips and educational tours are all about maximising the learning opportunities of travel. It's all here, the humble school tour has just come of age.



Adventures, holidays and cultural journeys for teachers looking to 'Escape the Classroom' and discover more about our amazing world, its people and places.



*"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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