



Borneo

Volunteering & Jingle Jungle Living

18 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 project working with a Primary School at Nalapak.



[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

- Days 1 - 2** **Fly to Kota Kinabalu / Transfer to River Camp** D
- We fly out from London Heathrow on an early evening flight and arrive in Borneo the following morning. We'll catch a connecting flight to Kota Kinabalu where we meet our local tour leader who is with us for the whole journey. We have a bus journey of about 1 ½ hours to the camp at Rangalau where we spend our first night. We will be staying in a purpose built camp and sleeping on stretcher hammocks by the side of the river. This is an adventurous experience; we'll be able to enjoy a swim in the river and fall asleep to the sounds of the jungle.
- Day 3** **"Supermarket trek"/rice field visit/local Dusuns activities visit** BLD
- Such is the difference in environment, we acclimatise 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 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. In the afternoon we work in the local paddy learning about planting and harvesting. It is also possible to look at palm oil harvesting, pineapples and rubber planting. This day is important in acclimatisation but also learning about local life.
- Day 4** **Rafting, transfer 2 hours to Kiau, village stay, cultural show** BLD
- This morning we'll enjoy a brilliant rafting experience. The Kiulu River is gentle, safe and fun. The river runs through the stunning Kiulu Valley which is only one and half hours from Kota Kinabalu. After a safety briefing, we enjoy paddling through the jungle for about 9.5km, down gentle but fun rapids before reaching the end where we are welcomed to a BBQ of local delights. In the afternoon we'll drive for 2 hours to the Kiau village where we are staying with the Dusun families. We enjoy a cultural show and have the chance to hear some stories from the locals about their life and how they live.
- Day 5** **Jungle Hike / Rainforest Living / Frog hunting / Jungle Camp** BLD
- Today is all about learning to survive in the forests of Borneo. On our 4.5-hour walk, our guide will teach us survival techniques as well as point out the amazing array of flora and fauna of Borneo. As night falls, we will head out for some frog hunting and tonight, again, we will be sleeping in hammocks and listening to the sound of the water as we go to sleep.
- Day 6** **Morning Hike / Travel to Sepilok** BLD
- Today we walk for 2-3 hours out of the forest and are transferred to Sepilok Nature Reserve (5 hours drive).
- Day 7** **Orangutan visit, Batu Putih Kinabatangan & boat ride** BLD
- This morning we rise early to watch the orangutans enjoy their breakfast and gain an understanding of the work Sepilok does and the plight of these amazing creatures. In the afternoon we travel to our Eco-Camp nestled deep in the forest along the Kinabatangan river. The camp, Jungle Camp, is truly in the Jungle. We will sleep in triple A-frames. It is not uncommon to see bearded pig, monitor lizards, Malay palm, civet cat, squirrel and storm's stork near the camp site. At times Borneo Pygmy Elephants do make surprise visits



Days 8 - 9

Danau Tunog Eco-Camp; Wildlife cruises, treks & tree planting

BLD

The next 2 days we spend exploring the jungle along the riverside. 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. We will be taking 4 cruises at different times of the day, a night walk and taking part in a tree-planting activity. 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.

Day 10

Transfer (about 4 hrs) to Sabah Tea, Ranau

BLD

Today we say goodbye to the jungle and make the 4 hour bus journey to our community project at Kampung Nalapak, in the district of Ranau. Our accommodation at Sabah Tea Garden is a full-sized replica of a traditional Rungus (one of the ethnic natives of Sabah) longhouse, built from palm trunk, bamboo and rattan. We sleep in triple rooms where mattresses are on raised floors in the rooms, and bathrooms are shared (single gender). Our project site, Nalapak Primary School, is a 10-minute drive from our accommodation, so we are transported in vans.

Days 11 - 14

Construction and facility improvement project at Nalapak School

BLD

Your exact project will depend on what the local community need at the time of your visit. However, previous groups have worked on footpath restoration, water catchment solutions, installing new sanitation units and building playgrounds for the children.

Days 15 - 18

Tropical Island Day

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On our last day in this magical place we have the chance to relax and 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. On Sapi island we have plenty of time to swim and snorkel and enjoy the abundance of marine life, or simply relax and enjoy the sun sand. We will also get stuck in with an 'Environment Clean Up' and help to clear waste from the shoreline. We then take the flight back to London returning day 17.



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 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. 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 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 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

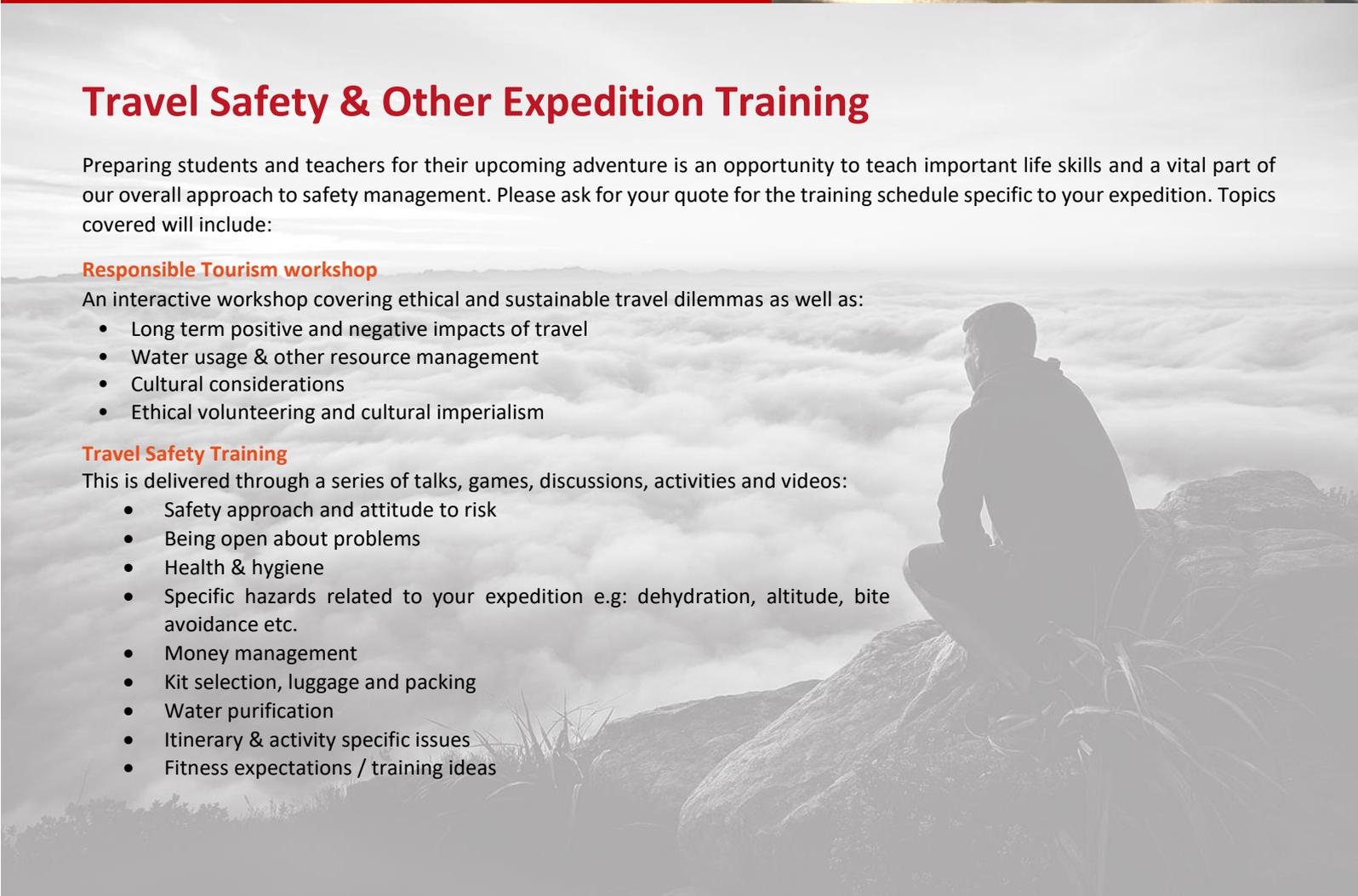
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- 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.



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

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