



Borneo

Volunteering and Jungle Living

12 days

This is a thrilling journey into the depths of the Borneo rainforests. It is a brilliant adventure offering a perfect balance of jungle experience, wildlife spotting and fun activities. We'll spend time exploring the Kinabatangan river and have the chance to meet the famous orangutans at Sepilok. Don't forget biking, rafting and a community project, this will be an adventure to remember!



[Learn more about our
Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

Days 1 - 2

Depart UK, fly overnight and arrive in Sandakan on day 2

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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.

Day 3

Sepilok Orangutan and Sun Bear Sanctuaries

BLD

Today 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 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 go to the Rainforest Discovery Centre for a nighttime walk where we will discover all sorts of different jungle creatures.

Days 4 - 6

Kinabatangan Project

BLD

Today we transfer 1hr to Bilit Kinabatangan, our home for the next 3 days. Here we will complete a sustainable and ethical community project and go on wildlife cruises along the river. Previous projects have involved constructing prawn and fish traps, helping with planting seedlings to reforest areas of local land and assisting with maintenance. We might also spend some time at the village school to allow the local students a chance to practice their English and to play sports together. During the project we will stay with a local family in a traditional homestay, where we will learn to cook traditional cuisine. This is an opportunity to get a true understanding of what day to day life is like in rural communities in Borneo. It will be basic but you will have a warm welcome.



Day 7	Gomantong Cave and Transfer to KK This morning we bid goodbye to the Bilit community and begin our journey to the capital of Borneo, Kota Kinabalu. We stop for lunch en-route and visit Gomantong Cave. We follow the boardwalk through dense jungle to the mouth of the cave and begin exploring. We continue along a wooden walkway, feeling the humid air and hearing bats overhead. We arrive in Kota Kinabalu around 6pm and have dinner. We have the rest of the evening to relax and get an early night before a busy day tomorrow.	BLD
Day 8	Tuaran Bike Ride & Beach Clean Following breakfast at our hotel, we take a 45-minute transfer out of Kota Kinabalu to the start of the day's biking adventure! Our ride takes us through the heartland of the Dusun people as we cycle through small villages and jungle plantations. We stop for lunch at Tuaran town, close to the Chinese Pagoda. We pass through beautiful villages on hanging bridges, single track trails, rubber and pineapple plantations and are greeted by friendly locals. It is a great way to see more of everyday life in Borneo. On arrival back in Kota Kinabalu, we get stuck in with our 'Environment Clean Up' project and help to collect waste from the shoreline. This is a huge problem in Borneo where hundreds of miles of coastline is polluted with waste from passing ships, littering and washed in from the South China Sea.	BLD
Day 9	White water rafting & Ziplining We swap our bikes for rafts today. After a safety briefing, we raft through the jungle for about 9.5km! The Kiulu River runs through the stunning Kiulu Valley and is gentle, safe and fun. For 2.5hrs we paddle down the river until reaching the end. We finish the day with another adrenaline activity as we zipline through the forest!	BLD
Day 10	MERC visit Today 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 full tour of the rehabilitation centre for marine life. Here we learn about the importance of their work for the local ecology. Activities can include helping with MERC's Seagrass Transplanting Project, cleaning the coral nursery (brushing algae and collecting snails!) and learning about the importance of phytoplankton as a live food source for many young sea animals.	BLD
Days 11 - 12	Depart Kota Kinabalu, arrive UK On our final day in Borneo, we make our way to the airport for our return flight back to the UK. Depending on flight schedules, we may have time to buy some last minute souvenirs.	B



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
- 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

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
- 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 2



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



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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Trees for Life



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