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## GEEO ITINERARY

Malaysian Borneo

### **Day 1: Kota Kinabalu Arrive in Kota Kinabalu at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.**

Arrive at any time in Kota Kinabalu, the state capital of Sabah in East Malaysia on Borneo. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in Southeast Asia at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference and overcome any jet lag. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Kota Kinabalu before and/or after the trip. Please note that hotel check-in usually opens around **2:00-3:00 p.m.**, so if your flight arrives early in the morning, you may wish to book a pre-trip hotel night so that you can rest when you arrive. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

### **Day 2: Kota Kinabalu/Kota Belud (B, L, D) Travel to Tambatuon Homestead in Kota Belud and meet the local community. Visit a local farm and gather fresh ingredients for an included cooking class. After lunch, trek to a nearby river. Enjoy a traditional dinner with your hosts.**

Travel to Tambatuon Homestead in Kota Belud and visit local farms to learn about their agricultural techniques while picking fresh vegetables, used later when you learn to cook local recipes with your community hosts. The first visit is to Kundasang Aquafarm, a community-led farm that uses fish waste instead of chemical fertilizer for a hydroponic system. The next farm is Onis, which practices more traditional farming. After lunch, walk to a nearby river and explore the landscape surrounding the village along the way. In the evening, enjoy a traditional dinner with your hosts. Approximate travel time: 2.5 hrs by private vehicle

### **Day 3: Kota Belud/Sungai Kinabatangan (B, L, D) Travel toward Sandakan and continue to the jungle lodge on the Kinabatangan River. After settling in, head out for a river safari. After dinner, opt for a guided night walk through the jungle.**

Travel toward Sandakan and continue to the jungle lodge on the Kinabatangan River, Sabah's longest. After taking a moment to get settled, head out on a river cruise to experience the serenity of evening river life. Cruise through the crocodile-infested waters with an expert boatman. While wildlife spotting can't be guaranteed, there's a good chance you will spot some monkeys, birds, and occasionally saltwater crocodiles. After dinner, opt for a guided night walk through the jungle (70 MYR, approx. \$16 USD), looking for unique nocturnal creatures. Approximate travel time: 5.5 hrs by private vehicle

### **Day 4: Sungai Kinabatangan (B, L, D) Enjoy early morning and late afternoon river safaris to search for wildlife. Visit a nearby oxbow lake.**

Start the day early with a river safari in search of more wildlife activity. After breakfast, visit a nearby oxbow lake with a professional guide and seek out proboscis monkeys, pygmy elephants, macaques, and gibbons. Later, we visit a nearby cave and, with some luck, spot a wild orangutan. Later, enjoy another boat cruise along the muddy river in the afternoon before returning to the lodge for dinner.

### **Day 5: Sungai Kinabatangan/Sepilok (B) Depart in the morning for Sepilok, a**

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**wildlife haven. Enjoy a visit to the Orangutan Rehabilitation Center and the adjacent Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Center.**

Depart in the morning for Sepilok, a wildlife haven. Enjoy a visit to the Orangutan Rehabilitation Center, where the orangutans were either rescued as orphans or from illegal domestication. Once rehabilitated, they are set free to live in the wild. Watch these creatures being fed or roaming the grounds along with other animals such as macaque monkeys. Next, visit the adjacent Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Center to see the world's smallest bear. Learn more about sun bears and the conservation efforts being made to protect them. Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 6: Sepilok/Pulau Libaran (B, L, D) Transfer to Sandakan and continue to Libaran Island by boat. Take a guided tour of the island's turtle hatchery and learn about the turtle conservation program. Opt to go snorkelling or kayaking with some free time.**

Drive to Sandakan and board a boat for Libaran Island. Once you disembark, take a guided tour of the island's turtle hatchery and learn about the turtle conservation program. Libaran Island is also known as Turtle Island, because thousands of sea turtles return here every year to nest. Accompany rangers who will teach you more about the amazing sea turtles and their existential threats. Observe turtles laying their eggs on the beach, follow the park rangers as they transfer the eggs to the hatchery, and stand on the shore to witness the release of baby turtles to the open sea. Later, head into town and experience local life on the island. View demonstrations by villagers who make flower souvenirs from plastic bottles, master Pandanus weaving, and meticulously knit fishing nets. See how local snacks are prepared and enjoy the delicacies. Opt to go snorkeling or kayaking during some free time. Approximate travel time: 45 mins by private vehicle; 1 hr by ferry

**Day 7: Pulau Libaran/Kota Kinabalu (B) Return to Kota Kinabalu by ferry and plane. Enjoy a free afternoon and evening in the state capital.**

After breakfast, depart Libaran Island and travel back to the Sandakan jetty. From the jetty, transfer to Sandakan airport for a flight to Kota Kinabalu. On arrival, enjoy a free afternoon to walk and shop at Jesselton Point, a waterfront district lined with shops and street food. Or opt to visit the famous Filipino market or get a panoramic sunset view of Kota Kinabalu at the Signal Hill observatory. Approximate travel time: 1 hr by ferry; 1 hr by plane

**Day 8: Kota Kinabalu (B) Depart at any time.**

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Kota Kinabalu at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Kota Kinabalu, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEE0 programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEE0 will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEE0 program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book.