
GEEO ITINERARY

Borneo 6/19/2026

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.

Arrival Arrive in Kota Kinabalu (state capital of Sabah in East Malaysia on Borneo) at any time. The nearest airport is **Kota Kinabalu International Airport (BKI)**.

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting

Hotel check-in is normally between 2-3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6-7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

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.

Joining Instructions

Taxi: Pre-paid taxi booth is directly outside the arrivals hall. Taxis are safe, reliable, and inexpensive—approximately RM 15-20 (\$3.50 USD).

Pre-booked Transfer: If you've arranged an airport transfer, wait at your arrival gate (International, Domestic Malaysia, or Domestic Sabah). Your G Adventures representative will meet you in the arrivals hall based on your flight details. If you can't locate your ride, call the emergency number (+60128330304 or +60128335739) or take a taxi to the hotel (save your receipt).

Day 2: Kota Kinabalu/Kota Belud 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

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 3: Kota Belud/Sungai Kinabatangan 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

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 4: Sungai Kinabatangan 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. In the afternoon, enjoy another boat cruise along the muddy river before returning to the lodge for dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 5: Sungai Kinabatangan/Sepilok Depart in the morning for Sepilok, a 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

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6: Sepilok/Pulau Libaran 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

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 7: Pulau Libaran/Kota Kinabalu 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

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8: Kota Kinabalu Depart Kota Kinabalu 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.

Meals included: Breakfast

Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive 10% off the lesser value program(s), up to 3 programs per year.

Interested in extending your time abroad? We can help you find a trip from our tour partner G Adventures' larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but by booking through GEEO we can offer you a discounted educator price, and you will be helping our non-profit.

Accommodations List

The hotels listed below reflect the properties *expected to be used* for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. **The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:**

Day 1 Kota Kinabalu (Jun 19): Howard Johnson by Wyndham Kota Kinabalu City Centre

Day 2 Kota Belud (Jun 20): D'Danau Homestay

Day 3 Kinabatangan (Jun 21): Borneo Natural Sukau Bilit Resort

Day 4 Kinabatangan (Jun 22): Borneo Natural Sukau Bilit Resort

Day 5 Sepilok (Jun 23): Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Resort

Day 6 Sandakan (Jun 24): Walai Penyu Resort

Day 7 Kota Kinabalu (Jun 25): Howard Johnson by Wyndham Kota Kinabalu City Centre

***Itinerary Disclaimer:** While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.