



# Borneo

## Science, Sea Life and SCUBA

16 Days

This truly incredible educational journey will inspire students in their studies as they visit live jungle and marine research centres and work alongside scientists to discover the importance of their work on the spectacular Bornean ecology. Prepare to be amazed by the diverse flora and fauna we come across and watch school work come to life before our eyes. Not to mention trekking to the depths of the jungle to spend the night camped out in hammocks and the opportunity to gain the PADI Open Water SCUBA Diver certification. It truly is a biology trip like no other.



[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)



# Your Recommended Educational Journey

## Days 1 - 2

### Fly from UK to Kota Kinabalu

LD

Upon our arrival on the beautiful island of Borneo, we will be met by our local Trip Leader, who will be our guide and friend throughout our journey. We will transfer to our hostel in Kota Kinabalu where we will have the chance to freshen up and relax after this journey.

## Day 3

### Trek into Jungle Camp

BLD

This morning we drive for roughly two hours to Kiau, where we leave the cars to trek into the Bornean jungle! During our trek our Trip Leader will point out some of the incredible, local flora and fauna - which are certainly more interesting than grey squirrels! After about 4 hours of trekking we reach our jungle camp. Here we have the opportunity to learn about some of the survival techniques which indigenous people have developed to allow them to thrive in the jungle. As night falls we climb into our hammocks to be gently rocked to sleep whilst listening to the croaking frog orchestras and sounds of the nocturnal animals awakening.

## Day 4

### Trek out and Kundasang War Memorial Visit

BLD

After an incredible night in the jungle, we trek for around four hours to meet our vehicles once more and head to our next hotel on the edge of Kinabalu Park, Malaysia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. This afternoon we visit the Kundasang War Memorial, a sobering memorial dedicated to the British and Australian soldiers who died in the Sandakan POW camp during their death marches to Ranau.

## Day 5

### Travel via Lahad Datu to Danum Valley Field Centre

BLD

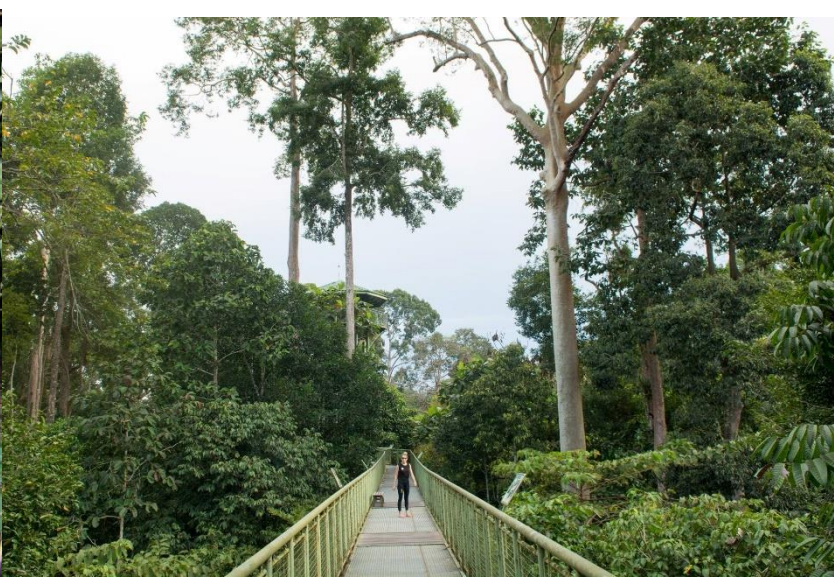
Today we have a long day's travel. Our first goal is Lahad Datu (approx. 5 hours drive). From here, we set off to the Danum Valley Field Centre, a live research centre and one of the foremost rainforest research establishments in South East Asia. It's usually a 2 hour drive from Lahad Datu. Once at the research station, we have an incredible opportunity to meet real scientists, biologists and researchers and learn about the importance of their work in the Bornean ecology. The forest is dominated by dipterocarp trees and countless local fauna call the place home, including orangutans, the Bornean Pygmy elephant, the Malayan sun bear and the clouded leopard. It is also one of the last refuges in Sabah for the endangered Sumatran rhino. We will be staying on site in dorm rooms.

## Days 6 - 7

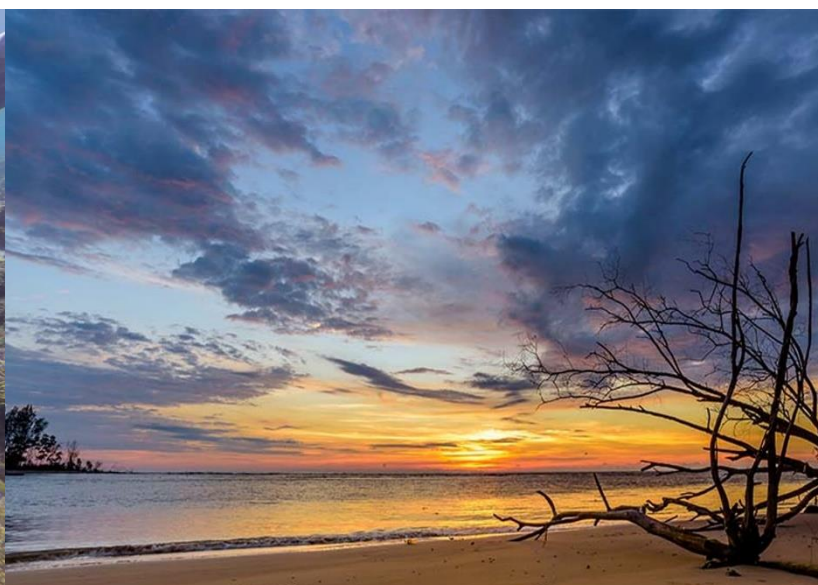
### Danum Valley Field Centre

BLD

Over the next two days we work alongside local scientists to see what they are doing at Danum Valley. This is an eye opening and inspirational opportunity and will certainly bring all of the things we have learnt about in biology lessons to life! These days could involve tasks such as sampling the nearby Segama River, night walks through the forest, bird watching and exploring the interpretive trails throughout the area. PLEASE NOTE – This is a live centre and research is ongoing, hence our involvement with scientists there depends entirely on who among them is available to organise some kind of research related activities for us.



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|---------------------|--|-----|
| <b>Day 8</b>        | <b>Return to Kota Kinabalu</b><br>Today we say goodbye to the jungle as we head back to Kota Kinabalu by land and air, first driving back to Lahad Datu before a short flight. We check in to our hostel which will become our home for the remainder of the trip.   | BLD |
| <b>Days 9 - 12</b>  | <b>PADI Open Water Diving</b><br>It is now time to move our focus from the biology and ecology of the jungle to that of the marine environment, no doubt it will seem like an alien world given our surroundings for the last few days! We will spend the next four days completing our PADI Open Water Diver SCUBA course. This will teach us the fundamentals of SCUBA diving, including dive techniques and equipment, as well as a series of confined and open water dives. Borneo is renowned as a world class diving area and over 3000 species were first found and classified in Malaysian waters. We can expect to see pristine coral, schools of fish, octopus, turtles and if we are lucky a majestic ray or two. Not only is SCUBA diving a fantastic opportunity to view marine wildlife up close, it will also allow us to see first hand examples of symbiotic relationships in the marine world. Those who already hold their PADI Open Water Diver Certificate may be able to complete a higher level course. These days will run from about 8:30 to 4 leaving us the late afternoons free to relax on the beach and discuss marine conservation issues in the area. We will also get stuck in with an 'Environment Clean Up' and help to clear waste from the beaches. | BLD |
| <b>Days 13 - 14</b> | <b>MERC: Marine Ecology Research Centre</b><br>Having proudly achieved our PADI Open Water diver certificates, we spend the next two days at the Marine Ecology Research Centre which also acts as a rehabilitation centre for marine life. Upon our arrival, we will meet with MERC staff for a briefing and full tour of the centre. We then spend our time working alongside biologists at MERC and learning about the importance of their work for the local ecology. This could include activities such as: coral and sea grass planting, collection of broken coral fragments from the sea bed, collection of sea grass from donor sites, 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 |
| <b>Days 15 - 16</b> | <b>Kota Kinabalu and Depart Borneo</b><br>This morning we will have the final chance to explore Kota Kinabalu and purchase any last gifts or souvenirs - remembering of course not to purchase anything which would have harmed the delicate local marine system. We are then transferred to the airport to wish farewell to our Trip Leader and beautiful Borneo, ready for our return flight to the UK, arriving on day 16.  | B   |





## 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.



Trees for Life

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/>



## 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

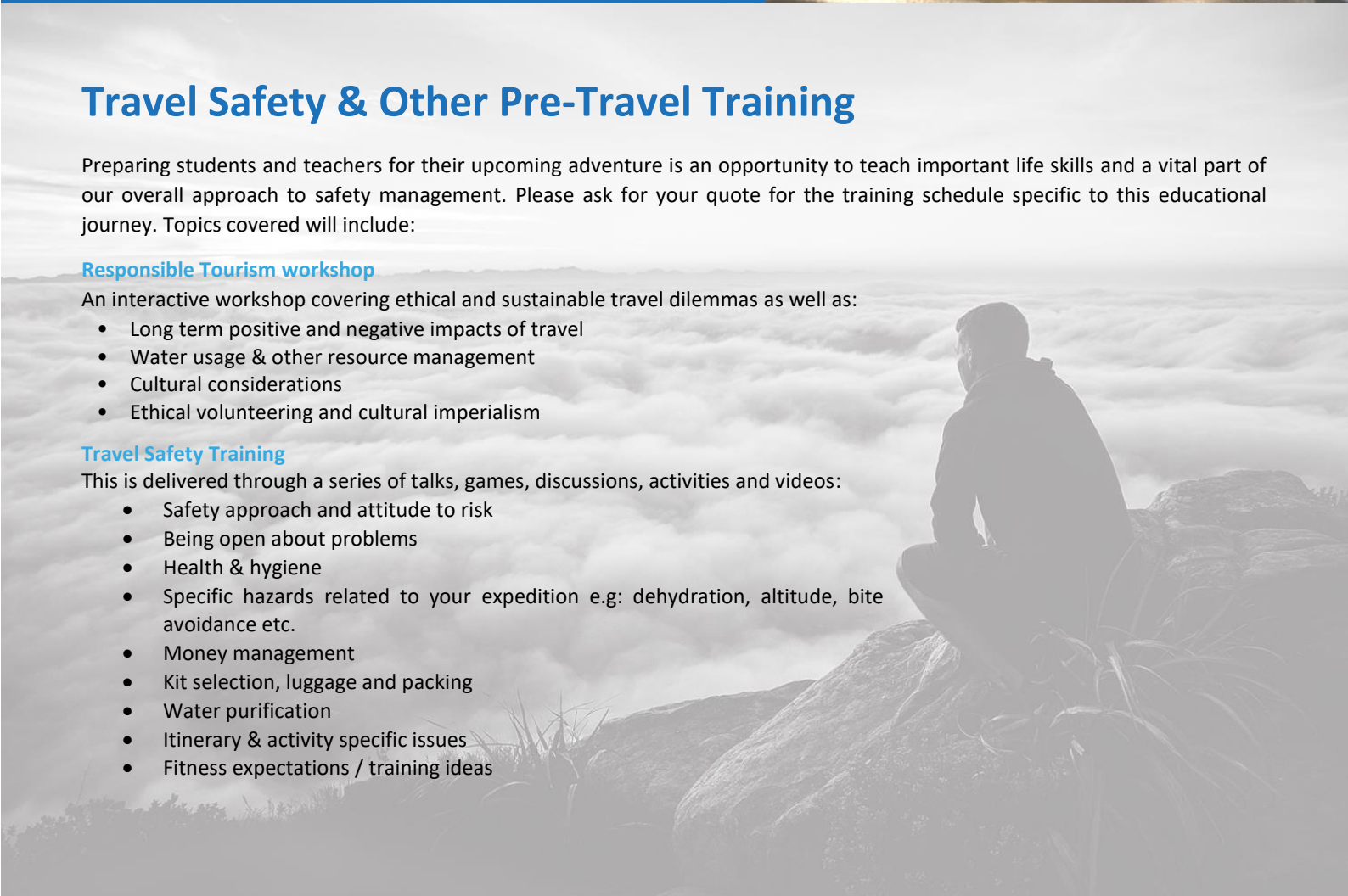
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- 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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