

# Journey Idea Family Diving Holiday in Borneo

16 Days



Prepared for  
Steppes Families

## QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly UK/ Kuala Lumpur
Day 2	Fly Kuala Lumpur/Sandakan
Day 3	Sandakan/ Lankayan Island
Day 4	Lankayan Island
Day 5	Lankayan Island
Day 6	Lankayan Island/Sukau
Day 7	Sukau
Day 8	Sukau/Danum Valley
Day 9	Danum Valley
Day 10	Danum Valley/Kapalai
Day 11	Kapalai
Day 12	Kapalai
Day 13	Kapalai
Day 14	Kapalai
Day 15	Kapalai/Semporna/Kuala Lumpur
Day 16	UK

# DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

## Day 1

### UK/Kuala Lumpur

Depart UK on a flight to Kuala Lumpur, a flight time of approximately 12 hours, flying overnight.

## Day 2

### Kuala Lumpur/Sandakan

On arrival in Kuala Lumpur you will connect with your onward flight to Sandakan. On arrival in Sandakan you will be met and transferred to Sepilok Nature Resort.



*Hidden amongst a veritable treasure trove of tropical plants and grasses, hug trees and spectacular orchids in bloom, the quaint bungalows of the Sepilok Nature Resort are within walking distance of the world-famous Kabili-Sepilok Forest Reserve, precious home of the last wild Orang-utans of Northern Borneo.*

*The resort offers all the comforts and amenities needed after a long wet day spent trekking in the forest: all the timber chalets-sitting by a beautiful natural lake - have attached bathrooms with hot and cold water, shower and bathtub, ceiling fan and air-conditioning. Meals are served in the central building under covered terraces, and it is not uncommon at all to wake up in the morning with an Orang-utan or a few pig-tail Macaques sitting on the verandah.*

*Overnight in a Sepilok Nature Resort on a bed and breakfast basis.*

## Day 3

### Sandakan/Lankayan Island



Early this morning you will be taken to the jetty for your boat ride to Lankayan Island.

Sandakan, Lankayan has been declared part of an immense Marine Protected Area. Unpopulated and covered by thick tropical island vegetation on its topside, this peaceful, untouched little bit of paradise is ringed by an endless pure white sandy beach, offering simply elegant and exquisite accommodation in a handful of wooden, roomy and perfectly appointed seafront double-occupancy chalets.

Meals are informally served at the central open building, which boasts an amazingly beautiful open-air wooden terrace, the ideal spot for after dinner relaxation and chatting, all the while admiring the dozens of juvenile blacktip sharks swimming leisurely a few feet beneath.



While the ideal destination for those who search tranquillity and relaxation in a virgin natural setting and for families with children, Lankayan Island is also one of the hottest diving destinations on the map today: its dive sites - all just a few minutes away - boast unbelievably colourful macro fauna, fascinating wrecks and, in season from March to May, regular sightings of gigantic and harmless whale sharks, the "dream date" of every diver in the world.

There is also a turtle hatchery on the island.

On arrival at the island you will have the opportunity of a few dives.

*Overnight in private chalets on a full board basis.*

#### **Day 4 & Day 5**

##### **Lankayan Island**

Over the next two days you will have the opportunity to do three dives a day.

*Overnight in private chalets on a full board basis.*

#### **Day 6**

##### **Lankayan Island/Sukau**

After breakfast you will be picked up and transferred by boat to Sandakan. On arrival in Sandakan you will be met and taken to the Orang Utan sanctuary in Sepilok.



Ten thousand years ago orang-utans - 'man of the forest', were found throughout Southeast Asia, ranging all the way into Southern China. Since then their range has shrunk dramatically, and the species is now only found in relic populations on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. The centre at Sepilok is the largest and one of only 4 sanctuaries in the world where you can view these fascinating animals at close proximity.

Orphaned and injured orang-utans are brought to Sepilok where the centre facilitates their return to the wild. Today around 25 young orphan orang-utans are housed in the nurseries, in addition to those free in the reserve. The Orang-utans are fed twice daily from platforms in the forest, which are reached along raised wooden walkways from the centre. This feeding is just to supplement what they can't find for themselves in the jungle.

This afternoon you will be transferred by boat to the village of Sukau, on arrival you will check into your accommodation.

*Set amidst the tropical rainforest of Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary the Lodge offers the rare luxury of perfect solitude and tranquillity.*

After some time at leisure on arrival, you will board a boat on the Kinabatangan River and cruise along the river to search for wildlife, especially the Proboscis monkey.

*Overnight at a River Lodge in a standard room on a full board basis.*

#### **Day 7**

##### **Sukau**

This morning you will be taken on a river trip to Ox-bow lake where you can view more wildlife.

You will then be taken by road to the Gomantong caves, which is home to millions of swifts and bats. These swifts make the famous edible nest used by the Chinese in making "bird's nest"

Soup". In the afternoon, cruise along the Kinabatangan River in search of more wildlife and birds.

*Overnight at a River Lodge in a standard room on a full board basis.*

## Day 8

### Sukau/Danum Valley



After breakfast you will be picked up from your lodge and transferred to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge in Danum Valley, on arrival you will check into your accommodation.

This afternoon you will trek through the rainforest.

The Danum Valley Conservation Area comprises 43 square kilometres of virgin forest. It is a vast reserve of lush tropical lowland forest, rich in Sabah's unique flora and fauna. The area has been recognised as one of the world's most complex ecosystems.

Animals that can be spotted here include 275 species of birds (all eight species of hornbills native to Borneo can be found) and 110 species of mammals, including Asian Elephants, Orang Utan, five species of deer and a full house of Borneo rarities ranging from the Sumatran rhinoceros to Bulwar's peasant. However, please note that this place is not the African savannah, nor the jungles of Nepal. The attractions of the Borneo rainforest are more subtle, and much harder to spot. Time and patience is needed.



In 1986 the Sabah Foundation, entrusted with the conservation of the Danum Valley established the Danum Valley Field Centre, a tropical rainforest research and environmental education station.

*Located another 35 km from the Danum Valley Field Centre is the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, established in 1994 to cater specially for visitors to Danum Valley and offering comfortable accommodation. Built with local timber and river stones, the chalets, or "sulap," are designed after the traditional Sabah Kadazandusun dwellings.*

This evening you will go on an orientation night drive in an open-air jeep on the quest for nocturnal animals.

*Overnight at Borneo Rainforest Lodge in a chalet on a full board basis.*

## Day 9

### Danum Valley



This morning chose to trek one of the trails or visit the falls. Or maybe you would prefer to do water tubing in the Danum River, one of the activities available at the lodge.

The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure. After dinner this evening you may go for the Night Drive or just sit back and relax

*Overnight at Borneo Rainforest Lodge in a chalet on a full board basis.*

**Day 10**

**Danum Valley/Kapalai**

This morning you will be collected and driven to Semporna. From here you will take a boat to Kapalai.

On arrival you will have the opportunity to dive.

*Overnight at Kapalai in a water cottage on a full board basis.*

**Day 11 - 13**

**Kapalai**

Over the next three days you will have the opportunity to do three dives a day. The dive sites will vary depending on permits, with the sites being Kapalai, Mabul or Sipadan.

*Overnight at Kapalai in a water cottage on a full board basis.*

**Days 14**

**Kapalai**

Free day at leisure with no diving.

*Overnight at Kapalai in a water cottage on a full board basis.*

**Day 15**

**Kapalai/Kuala Lumpur**

After a leisurely morning you will transfer to the airport for your flight to Kuala Lumpur and onwards to the UK. You will board your international flight later this evening to the UK.

**Day 16**

**UK**

Arrive home today.

## TRIP PRICE

In each location there is a variety of different category of hotels, lodges and guest houses, therefore the price below is a guide only.

**Price from £2,950 per person, based on two sharing**

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes internal flights, local transport, airport-hotel transfers and tours, accommodation (twin/double) and board. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, unless staying in a remote lodge when normally this will be on a full board basis.

The price excludes international flights, extra local excursions and guided tours, travel insurance, visas, single supplements (if applicable) and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc.

**Please note** that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

**Clothing and equipment** - Proper gear is important when visiting rainforest environments. We would advise that you bring insect repellent, long trousers and long-sleeved shirts, a raincoat and a sunhat, swimming gear, trekking boots or trainers, a torch, binoculars, camera and video and a water bottle. If you are planning to go trekking in the rainforest you may wish to take leech socks with you.

**Currency** - The local currency in Malaysia is the ringgit (RM).

Major credit cards, and Traveller's cheques (best to have American Express or Thomas Cook) are widely accepted at most banks and hotels and you can make cash withdrawals from ATM machines if you have your pin number. When travelling in more rural areas it is good to have some local currency and try to have some smaller denominations when outside of the larger cities.

**Tipping** - Tipping is not compulsory but is now accepted and expected. However, please do not feel obliged to tip guides or drivers if you feel the level of service has fallen below what you have expected. You may want to tip more for exceptional services. As a general rule I would suggest USD7 (or equivalent in local currency) per day for the guide and USD3 per day for the driver. It is not necessary to tip in the less expensive local restaurants but in the better local restaurants and hotels a service charge is sometimes included or if not you may want to round the bill up.

Please note that your internal flight schedules and itinerary may be subject to alteration due to unforeseen circumstances, local conditions or schedule changes. While Steppes Travel will make every effort to provide the itinerary as presented this is sometimes not possible and your patience and understanding are requested if the itinerary should change.

You will be met on arrival in each city by your guide. When arriving by air please claim your luggage and proceed to the exit where the guide will be waiting for you with a signboard with your name on it.

Luggage with wheels is useful since porters and trolleys are not always available.

If for any reason you are not met on arrival in any of the cities, you should wait for up to one hour in case the guide has been unavoidably delayed. If the guide fails to appear please take a taxi to the hotel listed in the itinerary. Please show the clerk at the reception desk your itinerary and check in. If they demand money please explain that your travel agent (see contacts sheet) will sort out the problem. If the hotel still demands some monetary guarantee please pay and try and contact our

ground (travel) agent as soon as possible. Please keep receipts (if possible) for all moneys demanded from you.

Please do not worry. This is a precautionary measure in the unlikely event that things do not work out as planned.

### **Why Travel with Steppes?**

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

#### **Financial Protection**

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

#### **Specialist Knowledge**

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

#### **A Tailor-made Journey**

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

#### **24 hour Emergency Service**

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

#### **Recognition**

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

**Please contact the Steppes East team on 01285 651010 or visit our website [www.steppestravel.co.uk](http://www.steppestravel.co.uk) for further information.**