

Borneo Explorer



a 14 day bike & boat in Malaysia

Explore on two wheels into the heartland of the legendary Dayaks, the once feared headhunters of Borneo. Navigate the remote interior riverways and ride the outback country lanes to travel among the Dayak people. Catch sight of indigenous tropical hornbills and elusive sea turtles; fall asleep to the unique sounds of jungle nature at night. Discover village life with a homestay in the traditional long houses of Borneo.

Day by Day Itinerary

DAY 1 - Your transfer awaits you at the arrival at the airport and bring you to your first hotel in Borneo. The newly open historical hotel is an old church building hotel situated in a in the heritage quarter of Kuching. Settle in and relax at the hotel poolside. After a casual dinner at the hotel, enjoy a good night's rest. (D)

DAY 2 - The next day morning you're completely free, so you can fully relax and explore at leisure the historical quarters of Kuching with it's unique and multi-cultural influence. Visit some of the best museums in Borneo and also try out many of the wonderful Sarawak street food (lunch at own expense). In the afternoon, pedal into history on this heritage tour of Kuching, the capital of Sarawak. Explore the Main Bazaar of the picturesque Old Town, and stop at the Square Tower, at the 'stone jetty'. In the early days of the Brooke Rajah, this Fort and a nearby Courthouse were the full extent of government buildings. Cross the River in the traditional fashion, in a 'sampan' ferry deftly steered with oars, to visit Fort Margherita, built by Charles Brooke in 1879 and named after his bride. The Fort's cannons were trained on the river, both a traffic route and possible source of an enemy attack. As it happens, the brick-built edifice has never been shot at in anger. After substantial renovations it is now a Museum of Brooke memorabilia. (B,D)

DAY 3 - We ride out from the city center avoiding the worst of traffic through kampong lanes. Enjoy your morning ride along a beautiful mangrove coastal way taking in great views of Mt Santubong, our final destination today. Along the way, visit the Malay fishing kampong of Buntal, a great place to spot many migratory birds along the spectacular coastline. After check in at the jungle resort by the beach, we cycle to a food center for lunch before heading to the Santubong

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National Park to hike the waterfall trail for a cooling dip. In the evening, we take a boat cruise through the spectacular mangroves tributary to sight more exotic birds and animals. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 - In the morning, we depart from Mount Santubong by boat heading towards the Bako National Park. This is a great opportunity to spot many migratory birds along the spectacular coastline. During stormy weather, this coastal boat trip maybe replaced with inland river way, but as a compensation, you might have the chance to spot crocodile instead. Before Bako National Park, we drop into Kampong Bako, a fishing village at the entrance of the national park. At the jetty, we shop at the local fishing market before carrying our bike onto a local ferry crossing into the fishing village of Kampong Bako. Visit some of the traditional craft and trade still in practice such as the making of wooden fishing boat, drying of shrimp paste or the harvesting of jellyfish. We then ride into the mangrove swamp to spot wild birds and collect wild fern for lunch. A seafood lunch is prepared and cooked at a local fisherman's stilt house. After lunch and a short rest, we take a boat trip to Bako National Park for an afternoon of free and ease. After dinner, we take a night walk on a jungle trail to catch sight of breathtaking night creatures. Enjoy your first serene and peaceful jungle night in the national park's cabin accommodation. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 - A day break from cycling in exchange for a fantastic for a full day of trekking and wildlife experience. Bako National Park is Sarawak's oldest national park with potential wildlife sightings of Proboscis Monkeys, Long-Tail Macaques, Bornean Beard Pigs, Snakes and Tropical Birds. Our expert park guide will bring you to the best places to see the wild animal. After dinner, we take another night walk on a different trail to try our luck to spot even more night creatures. Spend the last night in the national park's cabin accommodation. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 - We start off early with a transfer to visit Semenggoh Nature Reserve, a large enclosed area of rainforest which is home to endangered Orangutans rescued from captivity and kept for rehabilitation. During the scheduled feeding time, some orangutans may descend from the rainforest to the lower branches of trees near the feeding platform. Those who are in luck will be offered a wealth of facial expressions by mankind's closest relative. After a quick transfer to a quiet rural junction, it's time to start riding. Using winding back road, we pedal through a series of kampongs dotted with small scale pepper farms, rice fields and plantations. We arrive at an old Bidayuh Tribe's longhouse in Kampong Mongkos, a thriving rural community and home to one of the few remaining traditional Bidayuh longhouses in Sarawak. The Bidayuh or Land Dayak are the second largest Dayak tribe in Sarawak. Upon arrival, check into your room in the

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village guesthouse-cum-homestay building or room in one of the village houses. Take a visit to the 24-door traditional longhouse which is made of surrounding wood and bamboo in the jungle. The rest of the day is at your own leisure to relax, wander around the village to meet local villagers and learn about the Bidayuh way of life, visit their farm and have a swim in the river. At night, enjoy a Bidayuh-style dinner served in the homestay restaurant. Overnight in basic but clean Mongkos homestay accommodation. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 - After saying goodbye to your homestay host, we ride to the Malaysia - Indonesia border post of Tebedu (Sarawak, Malaysia) and Entikong (West Kalimantan, Indonesia). This is one of the most active international trade center between Kalimantan and Sarawak. After taking a souvenir picture at the border, we take a quick transfer on a 15km section of busy but scenic road before getting on the saddle again heading into the most challenging terrain of this trip. The last 10km of the climb is a 800m gain in elevation with maximum slope of 32% up the Borneo Highland Resort. While you struggle up the climb taking in cool mountain air, don't forget to look down on the unveiling of the spectacular landscape below. After reaching the summit, check into the comfortable resort before enjoy walks through the jungle trails, visit Kalimantan Viewpoint and bird watching (great chance to spot Borneo Hornbill) along the edge of the majestic Mountain Penrissen. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 - A full day of 3-in-1 (3 adventure activities of Kayaking, Caving and Cycling, all in one day) awaits us. The day started off with a thrilling free-fall ride down the steep hill of the Borneo Highland. Once we reach the start of your kayak adventure, we paddle through the rainforest on a meandering river shaded by overhanging canopies of trees with the sounds of rustling water and chirping of insects and birds (for those who don't fancy water sport, you can choose to cycle 4km to the kayak end point with your cycling guide). We make a quick transfer and hit the saddle again to cycle one of the most scenic stretch of riding on this trip to reach Bau, the oldest goldmine outpost in Sarawak. Along the way, we enter the majestic Fairy Cave chamber full of bats and swiftlet birds. We then continue our ride through a beautiful historical shophouse town before reaching our final destination of the day, a serene Buddhist sanctuary surrounded by pagodas and temples. For dinner, we take a short drive back to the century old-town for a merry evening of dining before an early peaceful night at the Buddhist village. (B,L,D)

DAY 9 - After an early morning breakfast, we get ready for a full day of fun riding looping around the sacred holy mountain of Mount Singai. Before reaching Mount Singai, we pass through Bukit Peninjau which the English naturalist Alfred Wallace famously collected hundreds of species of

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moths there most of which were new to science more than a century ago. We continue our ride along mostly countryside lanes lined with paddy fields and pristine jungle. For a capable rider, you can try a section of off-road mountain biking that includes riding in the rainforest, crossing a suspension bridge and even walk across a river with your bike. Mount Singai is the birthplace of Christianity among the Bidayuh community thanks largely to Roman Catholic missionary from Holland in 1800s. We hike 30 minutes up the 230m to the pilgrimage center to learn about its history and legacy. After a quick picnic lunch, we ride using shaded back roads under the mountain to reach Kubah National Park, famous for its stunning array of frogs and amphibians. For the adventurous, you can venture out into the night jungle with our park guide to experience the darkness of the rainforest and explore its unique creatures at night.

(B,L,D)

DAY 10 - We ride into a sleepy fishing kampong facing the South China Sea and start our boat ride to Talang-Satang National Park (in the event of stormy weather, the island trip might have to cancel for safety reason. We will instead visit by boat to a beautiful deserted village fronting the ocean). Visit the turtle hatchery on Satang Island to get an idea of conservation work being done to help the highly endangered sea creatures such as Green Turtles. Spend time on the island's white sandy beach or go snorkeling. After a pack lunch on the beach, we arrive back on the mainland and continue our cycling journey to reach Matang Wildlife Center for an encounter with the orangutans as well as other endemic Borneo wildlife such as the Sun Bears, Sambar Deer and Hornbills. For the adventurous, we will venture out into the night jungle to experience the darkness of the rainforest and explore its unique creatures at night. (B,L,D)

DAY 11 - Today we follow the long coastline dotted with isolated beaches and peat swamp forest. There are great chances to spot a large variety of wetland and coastal birds including many migratory birds temporarily residing in Borneo. Along the way, ride your bicycle up a unique car ferry to cross the Sampadi River. We continue our rides to explore local farms dotted along the coastal road. We also pay visit to some of the farms including papaya, coconut, oil palm and bee farms. With permission from the farmer, we will participate in the harvesting activities such as coconut de-hasking as well as plug & taste some of the fresh produces. Lunch is at the coastal town of Lundu. After lunch, we venture into Gunung Gading National Park for a chance to see any blooming Rafflesia before ending our ride at a lovely seaside resort for a well-deserve cooling off by the pool, and enjoy sunset by the beach. (B,L,D)

DAY 12 - After breakfast by the pool, saddle up for our final day of great riding. We follow the

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coastline and ride on mixture of dirt trail and village road towards the picturesque Sematan town. At Sematan, visit the local fish market with fresh catches from the sea before riding to a local waterfall for a picnic lunch. The final bike ride is along another beautiful stretch of isolated white sand beach, and during low tide, you can even ride your bike all the way to reach the seaside resort. Enjoy the cool sea breeze sunset dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 13 - Make the most of our last day by the beach. After lunch, we drive back to Kuching to check-in hotel before our farewell seafood dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 14 - Today the tour concludes. For those who are not in a hurry to leave, the interior of Borneo awaits. For information on these and other destinations to extend your holiday, please ask our team at the time of booking. (B)

Hotels:

The tour uses 3 & 4 star hotels in the cities, various levels in rural villages.

What's Included:

- 13 nights Accommodation in the area's better hotels (double occupancy)
- Most meals from Dinner on Day 1 until Breakfast on Day 14
- Water, sodas or beer included at dinner
- Bicycle use
- Service of bilingual Team Pedalers Guide(s)
- Sightseeing and cultural activities
- Airport pick up & drop off

Meeting & Flights:

Your guides will meet any flight during the day on your arrival day.

Fly into Kuching (KCH) before 4 pm on Day 1

Fly out of Kuching (KCH) after 10 am on Day 14

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Visas & Travel Documents:

Passports are required for all guests. Your passport should have at least 6 months validity past your intended travel dates. Visas are not required of US, Canadian, UK, Australian and EU citizens. Citizens of other countries should check with their nearest Malaysian Embassy or Consulate.