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19-28 JANUARY 2024 (10 days 9 nights accommodation) SABAH EXPRESS - SELF DRIVING EXPERIENCE
(Kota Kinabalu, Tenom, Tawau, Semporna, Sandakan, Kundasang, Kudat)

Cost per pax RM2100 (12pax)

This is a SELF-DRIVE trip. Preferable to have at least two persons who can drive in one car, to take turn driving throughout the journey. Rental cars (3 standard sedan cars with comprehensive insurance (e.g Bezza/Pesona) will be provided for 11 pax + 1 Yongo Guide)

EXCLUDE SUGGESTED FLIGHT BELOW

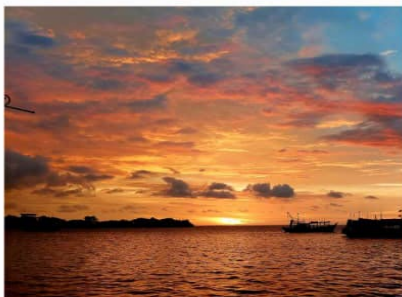
19JAN24 FRI MH KUL/BKI 0825 1110

28JAN24 SUN AA BKI/KUL 1655 1935

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK THE FLIGHT UNTIL ADVISED BY US

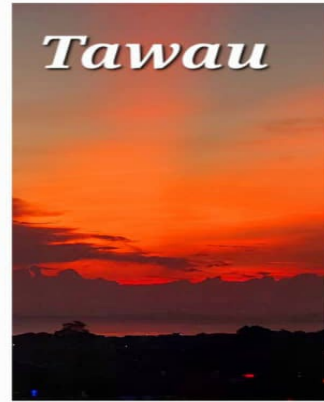
IMPORTANT NOTICE. This is meant to be a "free and easy" budget trip. Participants should be relatively fit, with a good sense of humour, and above all, have the right attitude for close travel with others through possibly some trying times. Most definitely, this is not a trip for prudes, whiners, fuss-pots, and other similiarly assorted types! Although every effort will be made to stick to the given itinerary, ground conditions may change and cause some disruption and/or deviation from the norm. Otherwise, have fun!

Our "Land Below the Wind" is more, much more, than just Mount Kinabalu and Sipadan. There are not many places in Malaysia where one moment you are splashing in clear sparkling seas, and within the next few hours can be walking through pristine lush jungle havens. Let us explore this deliciously diverse Sabah diorama in an approximately 1700km drive taking in all the major, and also many roads less travelled, in a circular loop drive. We may have to stop on the Maliau road to allow for elephants crossing! Bolih Bah!



Day 1 FRI KLIA T2 TO KKIA . Assemble at airport by 625AM, “get-to-know” your travel buddies time and fly **KUL (0825) – BKI (1110)**. On arrival, grab car rentals and drive 150km(~2.5hr) to Tenom via Kimanis Highway! Eta Tenom in time for few cold mugs at Yit Foh Coffee Cottage beer garden and frontier town dinner. **Overnight Tenom.**

Day 2 SAT TAWAU - TENOM Dont miss to experience train ride with locals from Tenom to Pangi station, which is scheduled at 730am. after that, we have breakfast local style or mid-morning coffee at Fatt Choy Coffee Hill for nice town views while sipping strong coffee. Visit Murut Cultural Center, a little visited gem of a stop. Drive 70km(~1hr) to Nabawan for a payau lunch. We drive another 280km(~4.5hrs) through the ‘underbelly’ of Sabah to arrive Tawau in time for sunset at LA Hotel skybar. Local dinner of likely the best satay and porridge in town, according to the almost 95% local patrons! **Overnight Tawau.**



DAY 3 SUN TAWAU-SEMPORNA. Back to nature as we take a short hike through lush virgin jungle just 30mins drive from Tawau. See why pristine Sabah jungles made Timber Taukes salivate! If all up to it, we do a full 1.5hr one way hike to a cosy waterfall, passing by to see the tallest tropical tree in the world, and a sulphur hot spring. Seafood noodle for lunch and perhaps to take away some frozen seafood next door, for dinner tonight. We will drive 107km(~1.5hr),to arrive Semporna mid-afternoon,if time permitted maybe short stop at Balung Cocos River, well known for their basalt columnar stone formation. Arrive hotel, check-in, and then catch a waterfront sunset over few cold ones followed by seafood dinner at the hotel restaurant or at the Semporna waterfront.

Overnight Semporna.

DAY 4 MON SEMPORNA Islands trip to Timba-Timba, Matangking, and Pom2. Good snorkeling at former two islands, and packed lunch at Matangking. We will be back mainland about 3pm, wash-up, coffee break and back to hotel for free and easy evening or if weather permitting, chilling by the waterfront and sunset watching. **Overnight Semporna.**



DAY 5 TUE SEMPORNA-SUKAU-SANDAKAN After breakfast, drive 133km(~2.5hr) to Menara Kayangan in Lahad Datu to see expansive views of Darvel Bay, and if lucky, to get a glimpse of the tiny little small orange-red crabs known as Silam Crab. If time permitting, recommended to have early lunch or brunch at local restaurant in Lahad Datu, famous for their "sayur manis" omelette and sea snails. If not, there is a nice soto/thick beef soup in Kinabatangan town en route to Sukau. 2 hours drive from Lahad Datu town to Sukau. Arrange to arrive at 1500 for coffee and chill before 4-6pm Kinabatangan River wildlife watch cruise. After cruise, 1 hour drive to Timach Cafe for dinner, before continue our journey to Sandakan. **Overnight Sandakan**

DAY 6 WED SUKAU-SANDAKAN Full day Sandakan sightseeing. Morning to Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre, Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre and Rainforest Discovery Centre. Lunch suggestion at Agnes Keith English Tea House before visiting her home next door. Free and easy evening with happy hours, massage and also seafood dinner walking distance from our hotel. This will give all a welcome break from driving and a chance to catch your breaths, do laundry etc.. **Overnight Sandakan**

DAY 7 THU SANDAKAN-KUNDASANG Morning drive 40km(~40mins), to Labuk Bay Proboscis Center to arrive 930am feeding time at Platform A, just in time to watch up close the proboscis and likely some dusky langurs as well. After monkeying around, we drive 215km to Kundasang,, with lunch stop along the way. With some luck if the rafflesia is blooming, we will divert to Adena Rafflesia Garden at Poring and arrive Kundasang in time for a quick visit to Desa Dairy Farm. Steamboat dinner will end the day. **Overnight Kundasang**



DAY 8 FRI KUNDASANG-KUDAT Back to nature again with an easy 1-2hr walk through Kinabalu National Park mossy forest, including the interesting but often overlooked Botanical Garden. Short 24km(~30min) drive brings you Nabalun town for lunch, where one can also pick up some red rice, Dusun crafts etc. Another 28km(~30min) drive will bring us to Melangkap Tagal Ikan, where we will immerse with “tame” mountain fishes, including Kelah and Empurau. Refreshed, we drive 110km(~2hr) to a Rungus Longhouse eta 6pm. Evening Rungus cultural show and local dinner of banana stem, pansoh chicken etc. Overnight at authentic almost 100% bamboo longhouse with shared baths. **Overnight Kudat (B,D)**

DAY 9 SAT KUDAT-KOTA KINABALU Bang gongs at Sumangkap gong making village, visit the stingless honey bee farm, and look out over the northernmost tip of Borneo and early lunch at cosy beachfront local eatery. After that, it's a 185km(~3hr) drive to Kota Kinabalu, in time to arrive at the waterfront for sunset, happy hours and easy eating. To return the rental car back to the airport today by **4PM** as we no longer need it to move around in KK town. **Overnight Kota Kinabalu**

DAY 10 SUN KOTA KINABALU-KUL Free and easy to explore Gaya Street Sunday Market in the morning, just a hop away from our hotel. After that freshen up, lunch and then Grab to airport to catch **BKI(1655)- KUL(1935)** flight, and end of Sabah Express trip with fast memories that last!



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Cost covers accommodation, self-driving rental standard sedan cars inclusive comprehensive insurances, Semporna boat for island hopping and snorkelling and Kinabatangan River cruise.
2. To upgrade car is based on agreement of all passengers and **EXTRA CHARGES APPLIES**
3. Accommodation will be in budget hotels and one night in a local 100% bamboo longhouse with shared bathrooms and common area and simple mattress in private bedrooms
4. Accommodations on **TWIN SHARING** basis. Single supplementary applies
5. **NOT COVERED** are flight tickets, fuel, meals unless stated B-breakfast, D-dinner in the itinerary, entrance fees and optional activities
6. A Non-refundable deposit of **RM800** is payable to confirm your place

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