



Community Based
Eco-Tourism Initiatives
of
BIMP-EAGA



BRUNEI INDONESIA MALAYSIA PHILIPINES
EAST ASIAN GROWTH AREA





BRUNEI DARUSSALAM INDONESIA MALAYSIA THE PHILIPPINES EAST ASEAN GROWTH (BIMP-EAGA)

BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

Equator Asia smacks right in the middle of earth, the center of the largest cluster of archipelagos, spanning an area of about 1.54 million square kilometers of land with more than 55 million people located in four countries.

It includes the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, the Indonesian Provinces of Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku, Irian Jaya and Gorontalo, the East Malaysian States of Sabah and Sarawak

and the Federal Territory of Labuan, and the Philippines islands of Mindanao and Palawan. Sharing many common geographical features, this area can best be described as the Heart of Biodiversity where the richest marine resources and the two of the four largest remaining tropical rainforests in the world can be found.

Equator Asia is also located at the core of the Coral Triangle where 76% of the world's coral species and the richest coral reef fish diversity can be found. It has six of the world's seven marine turtle species, including the leatherback. The Coral Triangle is frequented by the blue whale, the largest animal to ever live on Earth. Equator Asia is home to the Heart of Borneo which covers more than 20 million hectares of equatorial rainforest. It includes some of the most biologically diverse habitats on earth and is one of the

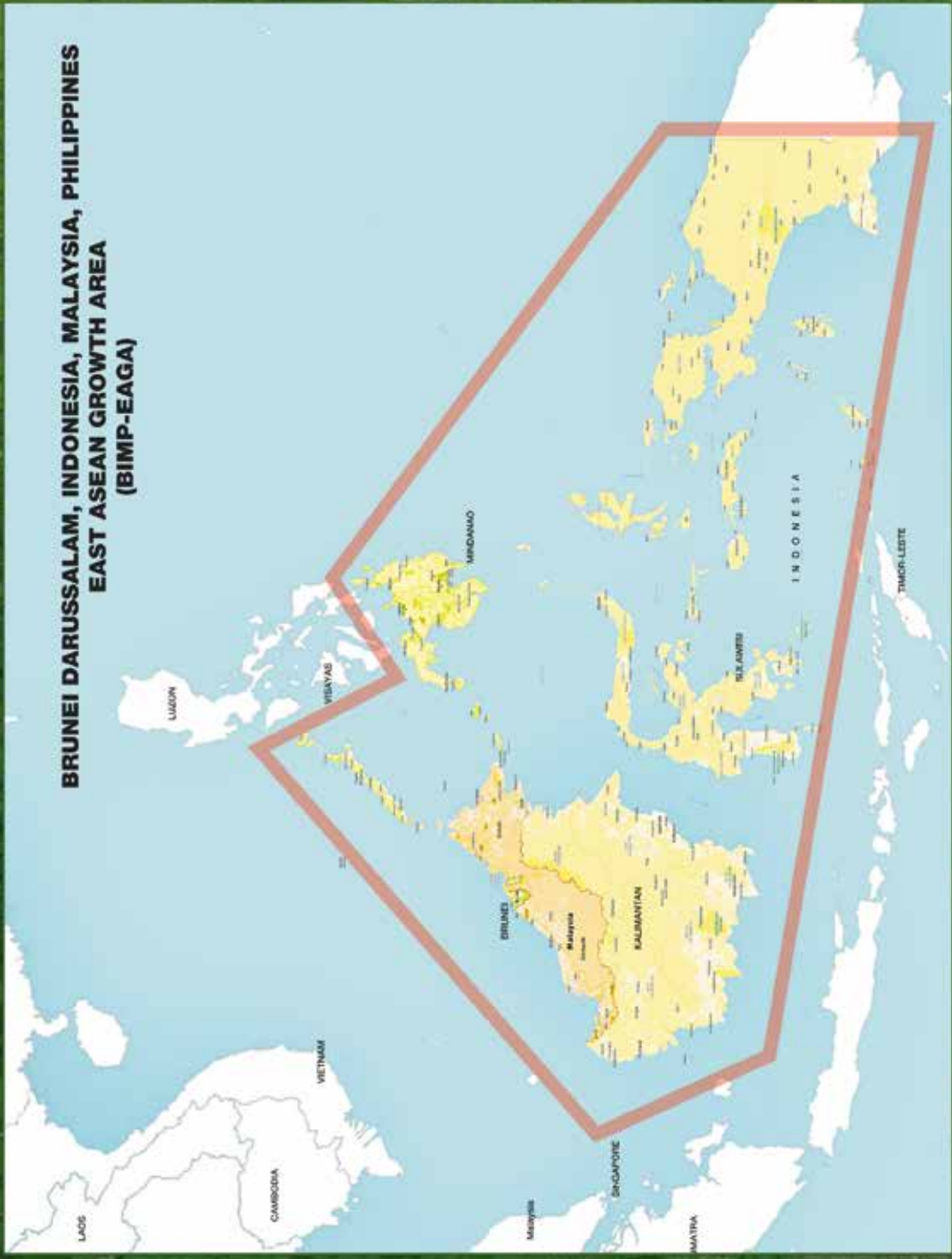
only two places on earth where elephants, orang utans, rhinoceros and clouded leopards share the same territory. It is also a mysterious place, with an outstanding average of three new species discovered every month from 1995-2005.

Politically, it is known as the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) which was formally inaugurated in 1994. It aims to become a premier sustainable tourism destination and a Food Basket of Asia.

The BIMP-EAGA sub-regional cooperation initiative was established as a key strategy of the participating governments to address the social and economic development of their less developed and more remote territories. Except for Brunei Darussalam, the sub-region is composed of select focus areas in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines - a unique feature of this economic aggruppation.

The vision of BIMP-EAGA is to realize socially acceptable and sustainable economic development and the full participation of the sub-region in the ASEAN development. The ultimate goal of BIMP-EAGA is to narrow the development gap across and within the EAGA member countries, as well as the ASEAN-6 countries. The immediate goal is to increase trade, investments and tourism within EAGA.

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, PHILIPPINES
EAST ASEAN GROWTH AREA
(BIMP-EAGA)**



BIMP EAGA TOURISM STRATEGY HOMESTAY & COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM



The tourism strategy being pursued for BIMP-EAGA is anchored on the adopted theme: "Equator Asia", which highlights ecotourism as the sub-region's competitive edge in tourism marketing and promotion. The sub-region is homed to the world's remaining rainforest areas as well as numerous UNESCO heritage sites.

Homestay is a form of Community Based Eco-Tourism that allows visitors to rent rooms local families. It is sometimes used by tourist who wishes to improve their language skills and become familiar with the local lifestyle. Tourist is encouraged to discover the soul of their destination with the help and knowledge of the host family.

BIMP-EAGA countries encourage homestay as a means of developing their tourism industry. Hosting a homestay participant allows the host family to earn an income, improve the economy status of the village folks.





Brunei Darussalam

INTRODUCTION

Brunei Darussalam (Brunei, the Abode of Peace) is small, prosperous, stable, safe, wholesome and peaceful oil rich Kingdom located on the northern shores of the Island of Borneo, which it shares with Malaysia and Indonesia.

Largely covered in luxuriant and pristine tropical rainforests rich in exotic flora and fauna, Brunei is a paradise for nature lovers and for nature tourism in general.

Because of its small size and excellent road and tourist infrastructure, the best preserved rainforests in Borneo can be easily and safely discovered in day long trips from the comfort of international standard hotels ranging from tourist class inns to the regally opulent Empire Hotel & Country Club, or in overnight trips staying at comfortable lodges or boutique rainforest resorts, making the enriching experience of nature tourism in the tropics a much more approachable proposition for those who appreciate comfort and safety.

A cherished cultural heritage, deep-seated Islamic values and the uniqueness of the ancient and revered Sultanate institution make Brunei a country with a strong identity, where tolerance is a cultural norm and hospitality is common courtesy.

With plenty of greenery, fresh and invigorating pollution free air, a healthy environment free of tropical diseases, no traffic jams and one of the lowest crime rates in the world, Brunei is a welcoming and rejuvenating experience.

Whether it is enjoying the bountiful nature, admiring the opulence of Brunei's ancient monarchy, discovering the fascinating Water Village – the largest in the world – and the thriving culture and traditions of the Malay people; or simply enjoying a world class round of golf, diving in coral rich waters, being pampered in luxury at the spa or having fun with the family in our safe and wholesome environment, Brunei will reveal itself as a true Kingdom of Unexpected Treasures.





KIUDANG VILLAGE

Kiudang is located in Brunei's Tutong District and is about 38 kilometers from Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital city. It takes about an hour journey from the city center. It has a population of about 1,200 comprising different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The name KIUDANG is taken from a tree, called KAYU DANG. According to the ancient legend there was a special tree which has shady leaves where villagers usually take shelter from rain and sunshine after returning from their usual activities of hunting and cultivations. MUNGKOM, another area of the village is derived from the ethnic word BAHASA BONG which is the name of an endemic fruit of the area. The people of these areas widely speak a Tutong dialect.

This village is a home to one of the oldest untouched tropical rainforest in Borneo, the Wasai Bedanu Recreational Park. The Park also provides thirty five kilometers of forest trails for jungle trekking. It is well known to the locals as one of the most challenging forest trails in Brunei.

Kiudang is known for its fertile soil and agriculture and has always been the main economic contributor with majority of the population own farms and plantations around the Tutong District. Apart from this, there are also numerous herbal species that can be found in the Kiudang forest.

ACTIVITIES

- Culture and Heritage
- Educational
- Jungle Trekking
- Paddy planting
- Camping
- Back To Nature and Ecotourism
- Religious and Community
- Herbal recreational park

HOW TO GET THERE

Transportation can be arranged as it is included in the packages offered by village consultative council. It takes less than one hour using vehicle from the city capital through Tutong road. Among villages nearby are Pengkalan Mau, Kebia , Birau and Pad Nunok .





Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world comprising 17,504 large and small tropical islands fringed with white sandy beaches, many still uninhabited and a number even still unnamed.

Because of her location, and geology, Indonesia is blessed with the most diverse landscape, from fertile rice fields on Java and Bali to the luxuriant rainforests of Sumatra, Kalimantan and Sulawesi, to the savannah grasslands of the Nusa Tenggara islands to snow-capped peaks of West Papua.

Her wildlife ranges from the prehistoric giant Komodo lizard to the Orang Utan and the Java rhino, to the Sulawesi Anoa dwarf buffalos, to birds with exquisite plumage like the cockatoo and the bird of paradise. This is also the habitat of the Rafflesia the world's largest flower, wild orchids, an amazing variety of spices, and aromatic hardwood and a large variety of fruit trees. Underwater, scientists have found in North Sulawesi the prehistoric coelacanth fish, a "living fossil" fish, predating the dinosaurs living some 400 million years ago, while whales migrate yearly through these waters from the South Pole. Here are hundreds of species of colorful coral and tropical fish to admire.

Culturally, Indonesia fascinates with her rich diversity of ancient temples, music, ranging from the traditional to modern pop, dances, rituals and ways of life, changing from island to island, from region to region. Yet everywhere the visitor feels welcomed with that warm, gracious innate friendliness of the Indonesian people that is not easily forgotten.

Indonesia line up four of its Community based Ecotourism projects which have been successful and have received visitors and tourists.



TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK

Tanjung Puting National Park covers territory the size of Bali, is home to an amazing array of wildlife including its world famous Orang Utans. It is located in Central Kalimantan and was originally declared as a game reserve in 1935 and became a national park in 1982.

The orang utans are undoubtedly the best known inhabitants of the park, made famous through the work of the Orangutan Research and Conservation Program based at the Camp Leakey research station, the site of the longest continuous study of any wild animal in the history of science. With around three quarters of the world's orang utan's population living on Borneo, this park is the ideal place to see these incredible creatures in the wild.



Because the vegetation of Tanjung Puting supports a large population of animals this park is one of the most important areas in Southeast Asia for the preservation of primates, birds, reptiles and fish.

What to See & Do

The Sekonyer river is famous for its natural beauty and wildlife. As you cruise down through the jungle, you'll be transported to another world, a world far beyond the hustle and bustle of city life.

Relax on board your boat and take in the sights of monkeys jumping from tree to tree.

spot wild orang utans swinging through the thick and lush vegetation. Remember to keep your eyes out for crocodiles too, they might be hard to spot but they're definitely there! As well as this, the park is also a haven for over 220 species of birds.

One of the main attractions of Tanjung Puting is Camp Leakey, the orang utan preserve. The camp was founded in 1971 as a haven for orang utans rescued from domestic capture.

The daily feedings of wild orang utans will be the highlight of your visit as you will most likely get to see wild orang utans up close in their natural habitat.

Pondok Tanguii is also a rehabilitation centre for ex-captive orang utans located in the park which has daily feedings of the apes.

How to get there

To reach the Tanjung Puting National Park take a flight to the Iskandar Airport at

Pangkalan Bun from Jakarta or other main Indonesian cities.

To explore the park, visitors must take a boat down the Sekonyer River from Pangkalan Bun. These boats will accommodate you for the duration of your stay in Tanjung Puting.

A number of tour operators run cruises from Pangkalan Bun down the river.

If you pre-arrange your tour, the tour operator will pick you up from the airport and transport you straight to the river.

MANADO TUA ISLAND

(Old Manado Island)

Manado Tua or Old Manado Island, together with the islands of Bunaken, Siladen, Mantehage and Nain, form the Bunaken-Manado Tua Marine National Park. The Park lies just off shore from the city of Manado, capital of the North Sulawesi. Covering a total of 89,065 hectares, the Bunaken-Manado Tua park is among the most spectacular dive sites in the world.

Only one hour by motor boat from Manado town, the island of Manado Tua is distinguished by the majestic perfect cone of the extinct volcano that formed the island, which is capped with a rainforest on its summit. Around the island are underwater plateaus sloping from 5 meters to 30 meters, fringed by vertical coral walls plunging 25 to 50 meters down, and large caves with hanging coral reefs: a truly amazing sea garden. Next to Manado Tua is the more well-known island of Bunaken.



On land and underwater, Manado Tua is photogenic. Here, you can find the bigger fish such as the napoleon wrasse, giant trevally, eaglerays, snappers, groupers, and-- occasionally--a hammerhead shark. But as currents here can be strong, only advanced divers should venture in these waters and best be accompanied by a diver experienced to these surroundings.



On the east coast of Manado Tua, at Tanjung Kopi, or Coffee Point on the reef underwater plateau there are blacktail barracuda and large schools of fish. Tanjung Kopi is also where hundreds of turtles lay their eggs at full moon.

For those who do not dive, one can go snorkeling or watch the underwater sea life from glass-bottom boats. There are also jogging tracks and facilities for mountain biking and camping.

The island has some 3,200 inhabitants forming a tight-knit community of farmers and fishermen from the Sangir region. This community has been actively restoring damaged reefs with the assistance of Seacology. Here Eco-Reef--snowflake-shaped ceramic modules--have been placed as shelter for fish and to build new reef.

The Ministry of the Environment informs that credit for the preservation of the Bunaken-Manado Tua reserve is due to the Nusantara Diving Club which in 1985 urged the government to protect these amazing waters from pollution and damage from shipping, and to move Manado's harbor to Bitung, on the east side of the peninsula.

Diving in the Park can be done year round, yet currents and waves can be rough between January to March. During the peak season in the months of July and

August dive operators are busy, therefore it is best to book way in advance. Best dives are in August and September when one has a better chance to watch whales and dolphins glide by.

How to get there

The Sam Ratulangi International Airport of Manado receives SilkAir flights 4 times weekly from Singapore.

Garuda Indonesia, Lion Air and Batavia Air and a number of other domestic airlines operate daily domestic flights from Jakarta and Makassar to Manado, and also from Surabaya and Bali.

From Manado there are cabin cruises available to the Park or motorboats for hire.

To enter the Park contact the Bunaken National Park Office at (T) 62-431-859022 E-mail: tnb@manado.wasantara.net.id

Lake Sentarum National Park



Lake Sentarum National Park is one of the world's most biodiverse lake-systems situated deep in the Heart of Borneo, in Indonesia's province of West Kalimantan. Located in the Kapuas Hulu Regency, the Park lies in the upper Kapuas River tectonic basin some 700 kilometers upstream from the delta. The basin is a vast floodplain, consisting of about 20 seasonal lakes, freshwater swamp forests and peat swamp forests which local people call Lebak lebung (floodplain). Home to a wide variety of wildlife, the national park is the best place to observe activities of the true inhabitants of the Borneo Jungle such as the orangutans, proboscis monkeys, long tailed macaques, and many others in the beautiful setting of a unique lake system.

The area was first gazetted as a Wildlife Reserve in 1982 when it extended over 80,000 hectares, with just under one-third consisting of open water. In 1994 it was enlarged to 132,000 hectares to include extensive tracts of peat swamp forest, and several hill ranges with dry lowland- and heath forest (a type of tropical moist forest found in areas with acidic, sandy soils that are extremely nutrient-poor). In April 1994, Lake Sentarum was declared Indonesia's second Ramsar Wetland of International Importance and on 4 February 1999, its status was upgraded to that of national park, however a National Park Authority was only established in 2006.

The lakes in Lake Sentarum Park are remarkable for their fish diversity with 240-266 fish species have been identified, including 12-26 new to science. As the lakes measure only 25,000 hectares, this diversity is remarkable where a total of only 195 primary freshwater fish and also the home for two highly popular aquarium fish: the rare and valuable red variety of the endangered Asian Arowana (*Scleropaged legendrei*) and the Clown Loach *Botia* or Tiger *Botia* (*Chromobotia macracanthus*).



The national park is known to have the largest remaining populations of orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and is also considered to have the largest inland population of proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) on the entire Borneo Island. The two families of apes are among 23 endemic fauna that make up 147 mammal species found in the Lake Sentarum Park. There are also 237 bird species recorded including the Storm Stork and Great Argus, and 26 reptile species including the False Gavia and Estuarine Crocodile. The mammal diversity in the national park contribute 29% to the 515 variety of mammals found in Indonesia which is regarded as the largest in the world.

It is also rich in flora diversity with a total of 675 species of flora in 97 families found in the national park. From that number, 33 are endemic to Lake Sentarum and 10 are newly discovered species.



What to Do

As a place with such a diverse wildlife collection and beautiful natural surroundings, there are a lot of things you can do in Lake Sentarum National Park, all bearing the same theme of: Be One with Nature. For those who enjoy bird watching, Lanjak Hill and Nanga Kenelang are known to have the best spots to observe some of the flying wonders of Lake Sentarum.

The vast and fascinating interconnecting lakes also makes a perfect place for canoeing and observing the natural wildlife at the same time. For those wishing to learn more about the national park, a research lab is available at Bukit Tekenang.

Within the vicinity of the national park, about 6Km from the county of Lanjak, you can also discover the traditional Rumah Betang or the traditional Dayak longhouse. If you wish to experience and learn more about the philosophy behind the harmony of life between nature and humans according to the Dayak way, you might want to try to spend time with them.

How to get there

From the capital of West Kalimantan, Pontianak, rented cars can be the alternative to get to Lake Sentarum National Park by taking the Pontianak-Sintang-Semtau route, which will take approximately 11 hours. For a more interesting experience you may want to take the river course, by taking a 7 hours Bandung boat ride from Sintang to Semi

tau. From Semitau, the only transportation option available to get to the national Park is by boat.

For a shorter trip, you can take about an hour and a half flight from Pontianak to the nearest town to Lake Sentarum Park, which is Putussibau. From Putussibau you can take the Bandung boat for about 7 hours before you reach the national park.

KAYAN MENTARANG NATIONAL PARK

The Kayan Mentarang National Park is the biggest uniformity of primary and secondary forest, which covers an area of 1,360,500 hectare. It is located in Bulungan, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Because of its geographical location, this national park is blessed with various biodiversity, ranging from tropical flatland area to heavy rainforest at mountain range, which becomes cocoon for many types of vegetation and endangered animals.



There are 100 species of mammals (15 species of them are endemic), 8 species of primates, over 310 species of birds, and 28 species among them are Kalimantan endemic and have been registered by ICBP (International Committee for Bird Protection) as the endangered species. A few endangered animals are as follows; clouded leopard, honey bar, White head lamur, buffalo

There are approximately more than 20,000 people from Dayak tribes, namely Dayak Kenyah, Punan, Lun Daye and Lun Bawang, live in the vicinity of this national park. The uniqueness is apparent in the way these local tribes preserve natural diversity. Many

kinds of archeological inheritance like burial places and ancient stone equipments could be found in this national park. It is estimated that Kayan Mentarang National Park is one of the major archeological sites in Kalimantan.



What to Do

Visit to Pulau Datok Beach and Lubang Tedong Hill;

cruising and swimming.

Mount Palung (1,116 meters above sea level) and Mount Panti (1,050 meters above sea level) are perfect choices for hiking, observing flora and fauna, savoring the waterfalls, and camping

How to get there

To access this national park, travelers might want to use available airlines from Samarinda - Long Ampung, and Tarakan - Long Bawan routes, for approximately one hour). Another alternative is by boat from Tarakan - Tanjung Selor - Long Pujungan routes. Cruising Mentarang River by speed boat will take around 6 hours, and smaller motor boat requires 1 day to get there.

Alternatively, to access the southern part of this park, travelers can fly from Samarinda (East Kalimantan) or Malinau to Long Ampung Airport. From Long Ampung, the trip continues heading for Data Dian (Kayan Hilir Village), taking about 5 hours journey by boat.



Sabah

Situated on the beautiful island of Borneo, Sabah is one of the thirteen states which Malaysia is made of. Sabah is the second largest state in Malaysia and shares the island of Borneo with Sarawak, Brunei, and Indonesian Kalimantan.

Sabah is richly blessed with nature diversity, unique cultures, fun adventure, beautiful beaches, and fantastic cuisines for the adventurous taste buds. We have it all, from the world's largest flower - the Rafflesia, one of the highest mountains in South East Asia - Mount Kinabalu, to one of the world's top dive sites - Sipadan Island. Sabah is also known for her great natural treasures which include the world-renowned Danum Valley Conservation Area and Tabin which is Sabah's largest wildlife reserve.

Not only will you be amazed by the places to see and things to do here, you will also be treated with unique Sabahan hospitality. Explore the unique culture and tradition of Sabah and get ready to experience sweet memories to last a lifetime!

Sarawak

Sarawak has been described as Asia's Best Kept Secret. Sarawak is the place for history, mystery, romance and exotic adventures. The land of the fabled White Rajahs, the hornbill and the orang utan, Sarawak is the largest State in Malaysia and by far the most exotic. Its rainforest, the size of Austria, houses the world's richest and most diverse ecosystem. It is also home to the world's largest flower, the Rafflesia, the size of a coffee table, squirrels and snakes that fly, deer the size of cats, plants that eat insects (and small mammals) and species of flora and insects still waiting to be discovered. More importantly, this ancient virgin rain forest is home to

27 ethnic groups; people each with their own distinct language, culture and lifestyle. Their ancient cultures may differ but they have one thing in common, their warmth and hospitality. You can experience this by spending a night in one of their longhouses listening to legends that go back to the Stone Age. Whether it's an Iban, Bidayuh, Melanau or one of the many Orang Ulu groups you stay with, the welcome will be just as warm.

In the towns you can mingle with Malays or the many different Chinese communities that have made Sarawak their home.

Arrive in Sarawak and you step into adventure. How much adventure is up to you. You can stroll for a morning in a national park near your hotel, or you can trek for days through pristine jungle, sleeping each night in a different longhouse. If walking is not your style try mountain biking the jungle trails. Want to get out of the sun? Spend days exploring the world's most extensive cave system, 310 kilometers of passages with more waiting to be found.

If history thrills you, visit caves that were inhabited 40,000 years ago, learn how Indian and Chinese merchants traded for Sarawak's exotic products centuries before the first Europeans came here. Hear stories of princes and pirates, of headhunters and explorers.

But, if that is more excitement than you need, relax on our beaches by the South China Sea, scuba dive off reefs where you will be alone with the sea, or just enjoy a round of golf on one of our excellent courses. Sarawak has something for everyone and a welcome for all.



KAMPUNG ANNAH RAIS

Kampung Annah Rais Homestay is located at Padawan District, approximately 65 kilometres from the Sarawak State capital city of Kuching. The area is believed to be the oldest Bidayuh settlement of which the longhouse showcases the rich cultural heritage of Sarawak. Kampung Annah Rais is recommended for those tourists and visitors who wish to experience the traditional culture of the locals. The 80-door longhouse was built to prevent the enemies from attacking the area during the tribal wars before the arrival of the White Rajah's in the early 1800.



Activities

- Jungle trekking in the Tropical Rainforest
- Hunting with blowgun
- Bamboo rafting
- Fishing
- Soaking in the natural hot spring – The Jungle Spa
- Swimming at the untouched natural 3-tier Waterfalls
- Rice Harvesting with the villagers
- Bamboo cooking
- Cultural activities: Dance, Musical Instruments
- Fruit and Rice Wine Tasting

How to get there

Kuching City, the State capital of Sarawak is linked with other major cities in Malaysia, as well as Singapore, Hong Kong and Brunei by air. Kuching International Airport has a number of daily flights connecting from Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Johore Bahru, Kota Kinabalu and so on via Air Asia, Jetstar, Tiger Airways and Malaysia Airlines. From the city of Kuching, it will take approximately of 1.5 hours to reach Kampung Annah Rais.

Since Annah Rais is a remote village there is no bus service or any other public transportation serving the route. The only available transportation is taxi which can be booked from the city center. The local taxi will charge RM100 to RM120 for one way transfer from Kuching to Annah Rais longhouse.

KAMPUNG BENUK



Kampung Benuk is a Bidayuh Village located in the Padawan District about 30 kilometres from the Sarawak's State Capital city of Kuching. Homestay Kampung Benuk was established in 2006 and it is the nearest homestay for visitors or tourists who wishes to experience life in a local Borneo native longhouse. It will also give them the opportunity to experience exotic culture, warmth and friendly hospitality along with nature at its best. Kampung Benuk Homestay longhouse is one of the very few surviving Bidayuh Longhouse in Sarawak.

There are approximately 2,500 people living in the area. Some of them are living in the traditional longhouses while the rest live in typical modern Bidayuh Village detached houses. Most of their activities are mainly traditional farming such as planting padi, pepper, rubber, cocoa, bananas and vegetables.



BORNEO KUALA PENYU HOMESTAY

The district of Kuala Penyu is situated on the south-west of the state of Sabah, one of the Malaysian states located on the northern part of the island of Borneo. The district is inhabited by 4 main ethnic groups with the ethnic Tatana forming the largest group followed by the Bisaya, Bajau and Brunei, and a small population of Chinese and others. The main socio-economic activities are agriculture and fisheries.



The Borneo Kuala Penyu Homestay, coordinated by the Kuala Penyu Tatana Cooperative Berhad, is situated within the district of Kuala Penyu. It is about 130 km from the city of Kota Kinabalu and takes about one and a half hours drive by road from the city.



The Borneo Kuala Penyu Homestay covers 6 villages namely Kg Kalanggan, Kg Bundu Batu 4, Kg Kiaru, Kg Tidung, Kg Kayul and Kg Gorowot. With the pristine natural environment, and diverse cultures and traditions found in the district, the Borneo Kuala Penyu Homestay programme offers much to those who wish to experience great adventure as well as to experience and learn new cultures and traditions.



Attraction/Activity/Product

- Bidayuh Traditional Longhouse.
- Baruk – traditional community hall where human skulls were kept
- Mini museum and Bidayuh Traditional Handicraft Shop
- Cool clear water stream with bamboo bridge crossing
- Beautiful mountainous scenery
- Jungle/Mountain Trekking
- Bamboo Bridge Walk
- Bamboo Rafting
- Traditional farming-Planting Paddy, Pepper, Rubber, Cocoa, Bananas and Vegetables



How to get there

Kampung Benuk is about 34 km away from Kuching City. With a travelling time of approximately one hour to reach Kampung Benuk and limited transportation services or any other public transportation serves the route. The only available transportation is taxi. The local taxi will charge RM100 for one way transfer from Kuching to kampung Benuk longhouse.

LABUAN HOMESTAY PROGRAM

When in Labuan, consider staying at a homestay as part of your experience with the local culture. Modest and laidback, these homestays are situated in the village or kampung, where you will feel like one of the locals as you participate in the village life.



Labuan homestay villages are essentially Muslim villages. There is no alcohol and it is preferred and appreciated to be respectful and to dress moderately.

HOMESTAY KAMPUNG SUNGAI LABU

"Clean, Alluring and Fun!"

Kampung Sungai Labu is a quiet and peaceful coastal village that lies on the west coast of Labuan Island. This picturesque village fringes pristine beach cove and white sandy beaches. It spreads across 872 acres of fertile lowlands and gentle hill locks. The quaint village houses with their distinctive architecture and beautiful curtain-laced windows sit spaciouly apart amidst tall coconut trees and facing the South China Sea.

This is the heartland of the Kedayan people who make up just about half of Labuan's Muslim population. A community steeped in tradition and local customs. The Kedayan are known for their intimate knowledge of local medicinal plants and they grow these plants which are used to treat a wide range of ailments and antidotes.

Activities

- Gotong-royong (collective labour help to tidy up village)
- Village "Beauty and Sparkle" competition
- Spiritual development activities
- Agricultural project
- Snacks production project
- Mini orchard-estate project
- Poultry farming project
- Business and trading
- Sunset view

How to get there

Kampung Sungai Labu is situated on the west coast of Labuan Island. It is 12 kilometre from Labuan's Town centre and 11 km from Labuan Airport. Public transport is available at any time of the day and takes 20 minutes to reach the village. It costs RM20.00 by taxi and RM3.00 by bus from town centre.

HOMESTAY KAMPUNG PATAU - PATAU 2

"Water Village in the City"

Kampung Patau-Patau 2 is one of the last remaining traditional water villages in Malaysia. The villagers are mostly Brunei Malays who make up about half of Labuan's Muslim population. Traditionally, they are fishermen, sailors and traders from neighboring Brunei and they continued their traditional lifestyle of living in stilts houses over the sea, speak a distinctive Brunei-Malay dialect and observe the elaborate Brunei adat-adat (traditions) as part of their daily lives.

Their houses are brightly colored and linked to each other by wooden boardwalk complete with water and power supplies and sewage systems. The amenities include streetlights, water taxi jetty, telephone, shops, handicraft shops, clinics, schools and surau (a place of worship for Muslims and it is smaller than a mosque).

How to get there

Kampung Patau-Patau 2 is located three kilometres from the town centre and can be reached by road or by water taxi. A single bus trip costs RM2.00 and RM8.00 by taxi from the town centre. Water-taxis (longboats) are available daily from 6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. at the market jetty. The crossing takes only five minutes and the fare is only RM1.00 per trip.

Activities

- Water village dinner bash
- Cultural performance
- Traditional games
- Making of "Ambuyat"
- Fishing from house veranda using net casting
- Night fishing and squid jigging

HOMESTAY KAMPUNG BUKIT KUDA

"Feels like coming home..."

Kampung Bukit Kuda sits next to Labuan's largest natural reservoir - the Bukit Kuda dam, which supplies the island with most of its fresh drinking water.

The village has excellent infrastructure and public amenities with tarred road. The surroundings are tranquil with beautiful landscaped houses. The local people are charming and friendly. It is a model village that had won the "Excellent Village" award at both Labuan and national level.



Life in the village is unhurried but certainly not dull. The villagers, mainly Kedayan Muslims, are modern farmers. The village produces the island's very own Lidi noodles and Virgin Coconut Oil. The Oyster - mushroom farming is a common activity among villagers here.

Attractions:

- Unique Kedayan village atmosphere
- Oyster mushroom farming
- Workshop to produce Lidi noodles
- Workshop to produce Virgin Coconut Oil
- Local fresh fruits farming
- Natural fresh water reservoir / Bukit Kuda dam
- Bird watching activities

How to get there

Kampung Bukit Kuda is situated in the middle of Labuan Island. It is 8 km from Labuan Town centre and 7 km from Labuan Airport. Public transport is available at any time of the day and takes only 15 minutes to reach the village. It costs RM15.00 by taxi and RM2.00 by bus from town centre.



Philippines

Philippines offers a thrilling experience for all visitors and travellers with its premiere Community Based Eco-Tourism (CBET) sites. Among its most popular sites are Lake Sebu, Puerto Princesa, and the Turtle Islands. Immerse yourself in the country's splendour and experience the wonderful beauty of nature at its best. Choose from a number of activities underground river tours, turtle watching, and a lot more. Visit the Philippines today and see true fun in action.



LAKE SEBU

Lake Sebu is a natural lake located in the municipality of Lake Sebu, South Cotabato and within the Alah Valley region. The Philippine government has recognized the lake as one of the country's most important watersheds. Lake Sebu supplies important irrigation to the provinces of Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato.

T'boli and Ubo tribes are the majority inhabitants of the lake. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources have recognized, through Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2, Series of 1993, the claim of these tribes that the lake and its surroundings are under their ancestral domain.

The Department of Tourism and the local government unit of Lake Sebu have promoted the lake as one of the prime ecotourism destinations in the municipality.

Activities

1. Ziplining at the 7 Waterfalls at Brgy. Lahit and Seloton
2. Bird Watching
3. Eco-trekking
4. Lake and Cultural Tour
5. Cultural Presentation
6. Demo (Brasscasting and T'nalak Weaving)

How to get there

General Santos City is the usual jump off point for those traveling via plane. The city is accessible by direct flight from major cities of Manila, Cebu and Iloilo via Cebu Pacific, Air Philippines and Philippine Airlines. In Bulaong Terminal, take an hour bus ride from Gensan to Marbel (Koronadal). From Marbel, it will take another 30 minutes going to Surallah by bus. Jeepneys bound for Lake Sebu are available in Surallah Terminal which will take you for about 45 minutes to get to the area.

TIOBOLO CULTURAL VILLAGE

Tibolo Cultural Village at Barangay Tibolo, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, best represents the genuine desire of the Bagobo tribe in unifying their people and preserving their culture. This desire has become so moving that it has built a growing tribal village with landscapes and "lifescapes" of the ancestral homeland of the indigenous people. Eight simple indigenous structures are built to accommodate visitors who wish to immerse in the community.

A long house, built for special activities of the lumads like assemblies, weddings, meetings has become a favorite convention area for corporate activities like seminars and workshops. Visitors flock to this village because of the welcoming tribal people who share with them their authentic traditions and practices. A common food

served to guests is "lyurot" or "lotlot", native food cooked in bamboo. Guests crave for more of the tasty chicken tenderized in its own juices and steamed inside a bamboo. Bagobos show craftsmanship with the way they make tribal accessories and clothing. One could easily think of discipline and patience with the intricacy of their designs. Vibrant colors chosen and used in their products reveal a passionate and fun-loving Bagobo.

Activities

- Cultural Immersion with the Indigenous People
- Forest trekking
- Vegetable picking
- Sunrise watching

How to get there

The Cultural Village is situated more than 50 kilometers from Davao City thus transport service is pre-arranged for the visitors. Visitor's stay in the village will include the Culture-Adventure trail which can be invigorating with the fun-combination of trekking, local bike, motor bike or horseback riding.



PUTERO PRINCESA UNDERGROUND RIVER

Puerto Princesa City is located in the western provincial island of Palawan. It is believed to be the Philippines' largest city with a total land area of 253, 982 hectares. The city had a population of 210, 508 as of 2007, making it the most densely populated city in the country. Most of the inhabitants are engaged in agriculture and fishing.



Puerto Princesa houses the premier ecotourism destination in the country, the Underground Subterranean River. It is one of the longest navigable underground rivers in the world which features cathedral-like caverns and domes. The stalactites and stalagmites formation resembles religious images, fruits and birds. The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park has been inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage lists for its outstanding universal value.

Activities

- Monkey Trail
- Jungle Trekking
- Scuba Diving & Snorkeling
- River Kayaking Safari/River Cruise
- Puerto Princesa Bay Cruise
- Firefly Watching

How to get there

Puerto Princesa is just one and half kilometres away from the Puerto Princesa International Airport. It is accessible by direct flights from major cities Manila, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Busuanga and El Nido via Air Philippines, Cebu Pacific and Philippine Airlines. The city is also served by domestic passenger ferries like Superferry, Negros Navigation and Montenegro Shipping to Manila, Coron and Iloilo at the Port of Puerto Princesa.

Tricycles, jeepneys and vans for hire are the main modes of transportation in the city.

TURTLES' ISLAND

Also known as Turtle Islets, it is a municipality located in the province of Tawi-Tawi. It is also known as the "Tawi-Tawi" Islands. The islands located within the Sulu Sea composed of seven islands namely: Sibaung, Boaan, Lihiman, Great Bakungaan, Langaan, Taganak and Baguan. The total land area of Turtle Islands is approximately 308 hectares and is inhabited by more than 3,700 people.



The Turtle Islands was declared as Turtle Islands Heritage Protected area in 1996 through a Memorandum of Agreement signed between the governments of the Philippines and Malaysia aiming for the conservation and protection of the area. In 1999, the Turtle Islands was declared as Wildlife Sanctuary under Proclamation No. 171 and recognized as Extremely High (EH) for biodiversity conservation. It is also believed that only the Turtle Islands are the only living areas of Green Sea Turtles found in Southeast Asia region.

In the Philippines, mud volcanoes are known to exist only in Turtle Islands. Presence of these geological formations is evident on the islands of Lihiman, Great Bakunggaan and Boaan. The hills on these islands are mostly mud volcanoes.

From the end of August to December, turtles come by the hundred from the surrounding of coastal waters to lay and dig their eggs into the sand.

Activities

- Fishing
- Sea turtles watching and collection of turtle eggs for hatching purposes.



How to get there

The Zamboanga International Airport caters direct flights from major cities Manila, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo via Air Philippines, Cebu Pacific and Philippine Airlines. The Sanga-sanga Airport or also known as Tawi-Tawi Aiport accommodates direct flights from Zamboanga City via Air Philippines, Cebu Pacific and Philippine Airlines.

a. Zamboanga City - Mapun Municipality – Taganak Route. It will take for about 25-30 hours of travel by sea to the Municipality of Mapun from Zamboanga City. Another 8-11 hours of travel by a motor boat from Mapun to reach the island.

b. Zamboanga City – Bongao, Tawi-Tawi Taganak Route. From Zamboanga, it will take an hour flight or about 18 hours by boat to Bongao, Tawi Tawi. Another 10 hours of travel by a motor boat from Bongao to Taganak.

c. Manila – Turtle Islands Route. One may take a ride on a fishing vessel from Navotas, Manila to the fishing grounds in Turtle Islands. From the fishing ground, a motor boat can be hired to get to Taganak Island. However, the availability of transportation depends on the fishing operations of the fishing company.

d. Zamboanga City – Sandakan, Sabah – Taganak Route. A scheduled ferry to Sandakan, Sabah is available in Zamboanga City. From Sandakan, a speedboat is available for hire to reach Taganak.



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