



A proboscis monkey, easily identified by its giant nose – Sarawak

SARAWAK SECRETS WITH SANTUBONG MANGROVE CRUISE

6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS

Day 01 – Kuching

Explore on your own, mouth watering local cuisine or shop for interesting handycrafts in the quaint city by foot or take a boat along the Sarawak River. Overnight at hotel.

Day 02 – Kuching

0900hrs meet in hotel lobby and proceed for Kuching city tour. This comprehensive tour highlights the main places of interest in Kuching - the historical city. Places of interest include the Kuching South Municipal Hall, the gigantic cat statue greeting visitors to Chinatown and the Tua Pek Kong Temple (the oldest Chinese Temple in Sarawak, built in 1876). From this temple, you can get a clear view of the imposing Fort Magherita (not open to the public) across the river. From there, proceed to visit the Sarawak Museum before heading for the Civic Centre Tower for a panoramic view of the city. Then drive through Malay villages with traditional houses built on stilts and get a view of the majestic former state mosque before stopping to take a walk along Gambier Street, where the markets are located.

Upon arriving at the Kuching Waterfront, you can see the Astana across the river, built by the second White Rajah, Charles Brooke in



1870 as a bridal gift to his wife. Today it is the official residence of the Governor of Sarawak. You will also see the old colonial Court House with the Clock Tower and a granite obelisk built in memory of the second White Rajah, before transfer back to the hotel. (Meals : Breakfast)

Day 03 – Kuching – Aiman Batang Resort & Retreat (279 km)

Early breakfast. At 0800hrs, visit the Semenggoh Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre. The entire facility occupies an area of 290 hectares, the only remaining green belt near the city which acts as a sanctuary for Orang Utans.

The main attraction is undeniably the

Rehabilitation Centre, a temporary home for displaced Orang Utans that have been rescued from captivity or young orphaned primates. These animals are trained or re-trained to survive in their natural habitat. They learn how to forage for natural food and built nests in the trees. Many have been returned into the surrounding forests. However there are few that will never re-learn their wild skills due to their long association with and resulting dependence on humans.

Take a walk on the trails and try to spot semi-wild Orang Utans. There are feeding times scheduled everyday at various feeding platforms. However always bear in



mind that the main aim of the centre is to return these animals back into their habitat. Do not be disappointed if you do not see any roaming the jungles or coming back to feed as this means they are able to forage on their own and do not need human assistance.

Depart for Batang Ai. The journey takes about 5 hours. Along the way, pass padi (rice) fields, pepper plantations, roadside kampungs (villages) and have lunch at the tiny little town of Lachau. On arrival at the Batang Ai Dam, you will be ferried across to the resort and then, at leisure to explore your surroundings. (Meals : Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 04 – Aiman Batang Ai Resort & Retreat – Kuching (279 km)

Breakfast. Return to the mainland for your transfer to the Lemanak River. Board native longboats to visit an Iban Longhouse. Along this river live the famous Ibans who were once the most fearsome pirates and headhunters. Today, they live harmoniously as farmers, fishing and hunting in the surrounding jungles. The highlight of the tour is the traditional welcome with maidens in ceremonial regalia and the Ngajat dance. Tuak, the local rice wine is served and you will have a chance to try your hand at handling the blowpipe. Also enjoy a cock-fight demonstration. Lunch at the longhouse before returning to the city arriving late evening. (Meals : Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 05 – Kuching – Half Day Santubong Mangrove Cruise

Breakfast. Depending on the tide (morning or afternoon), take a boat ride to the

estuaries of the Santubong River and Salak Rivers - a flourishing area controlled by the tides. The park comprises mainly saline mangroves including an extensive network of waterways and tidal creeks which form an important spawning ground for fish and prawn species. There is a diverse wildlife including Proboscis Monkeys, Long-tailed Macaques, Monitor Lizards, Estuarine Crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) and birds such as Kingfishers, White-bellied Eagles, various wading birds and the very rare Lesser Adjutant Stork. You may even catch a glimpse of the shy Irrawaddy Dolphins which are sometimes seen in the early morning hours and before sunset. Return to the city. (Meals : Breakfast)

* The evening cruise may get chilly, so do bring warm clothing and insect repellent for your personal comfort.

* The local guide will advise on the time for the pick up time for Santubong Mangrove Cruise.

Day 06 – Kuching – Bako Park Day Tour

Breakfast. At 0830hrs, depart for Bako National Park. This is the oldest national park in Sarawak, which offers the perfect introduction to Sarawak's forests and wildlife. The park is located at the northern tip of Muara Tebas Peninsula. It can be reached by a half-hour drive by coach and another 30-minute by boat. The park has an area of 16sq.km. of primary forest with an abundance of botanical treasures made up of 25 types of vegetation. Amongst this plant life is the carnivorous pitcher plant. Bako's mangrove forest is home to the Proboscis Monkey, found only in Borneo. Other species found here are the Long-tailed

Macaques, Silver-leafed Monkeys, Monitor Lizards and Bearded Pigs. There are a number of trails for exploring the park with several indented sandy bays providing excellent swimming grounds. Lunch at the park canteen. Return to Kuching in the afternoon or transfer to airport for your onward flight. In order not to miss your onward flight, we highly recommend that your onward flight be after 1700 hrs. (Meals : Breakfast, Lunch) ✕ *Tour ends* ✕

Note:

- Bako National Park tour between Nov – Feb is highly dependent on the weather conditions; otherwise it will be substituted with Gunung Gading National Park.
- Sightings of wildlife are not guaranteed.
- Santubong Mangrove Cruise is non-operational from November to March due to the rainy season. Cruise does not operate during rainy weather.

Friendly Note: Cockfighting is a traditional and friendly sport of the natives. It does not involve any dangerous tools that can endanger the lives of the birds. In fact, cocks are well loved pets, held in high regard and generally cherished by their native owners.

What to Bring :

Due to the basic conditions at the longhouse, you are advised to bring your own raincoat, torch, personal toiletries, light clothing (preferably cotton materials), towel, body soap, walking shoes with rubber base/slippers, anti-malaria tablets, insect repellent, sun protection lotion & first aid kit.

Due to the nature of the programme, it is not advisable to bring along your suitcase which is best left in Kuching. Should you like to bring gifts for the people at the longhouse, biscuits, medical first-aid kit, books, pencils, pens, educational toys and dolls are highly appreciated. We discourage giving sweets and cigarettes.

For bookings and inquiries, please contact:

ASIAN OVERLAND SERVICES TOURS & TRAVEL SDN BHD (Head Office)

No. 39 & 40, Jalan Mamanda 9, Ampang Point, 1020

68000 Ampang, Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

Tel: +60 3 4252-9100

Hotline : +60 16 232-3661

Fax: +60 3 4251-4001 / 4252-9800 / 4253-2177

Email: aos@asianoverland.com.my

Website: www.asianoverland.com.my