

SIPADAN

AN INTACT WORK OF ART



Lluís Masuet
EXPEDITIONS

Trip organized by Lluís Masuet Expeditions (Tax Digital 2004, S.L.) C.I.F. B-63300875, travel agency registered with the Generalitat de Catalunya.





A FREE DIVING TRIP: TECHNIQUE, POWER, RELAXATION, CONCENTRATION...

This is a freediving trip, but it can be combined with some diving, preferably the last days of the trip to be able to desaturate nitrogen, or change to diving at any time of the trip.

That is why this trip is suitable both for freedivers who want to improve their level in a paradise like Sipadan and enjoy interactions with all kinds of aquatic animals or for divers who are curious about freediving, improve their breathing to be more efficient in this wonderful sport, learn to fin efficiently against the current, learn to compensate correctly and control your mind and emotions in a life-threatening situation, from the hand of one of the best freedivers in the world.

Without a doubt we are going to prioritize encounters with animals and possible interactions, but also during the week we will have the professional freediver Miguel Lozano, who will give daily depth training classes. Thus, we will combine training in a paradise like Sipadan and advanced snorkeling outings for animal sightings.

Diving around the islands of Sipadan and Mabul is an incredible experience. While

Sipadan offers diving for pelagics, large marine species and turtles, Mabul presents a wonderful world of small and curious creatures. Away from typhoons and monsoons, the diving season in the islands is all year round. The waters, especially those of Sipadan, reach 60 m. visibility and are rarely below 30 m.

The island of Sipadan (Pulau Sipadan, which means Border Island) is without a doubt, due to its diversity and abundance of marine life, one of the great diving destinations on the entire planet and, in fact, is listed as one of the best ten places in the world to dive.





TRIP SCHEDULE

From February 13 to 22, 2023 (10 days)

Day 1 (February 14th, Tuesday).

Arrival in Tawau. Meet at Tawau airport and transfer by car to Semporna (ship departure time is anytime after 3:30pm). The transfer would depart for the Celebes Explorer 9 from the Semporna jetty. Check in on the ship. Deep Apnea theory and physiology session to finally carry out a breathing and relaxation session. Static apnea exercises. The Celebes stays in Semporna.

Days 3 - 7 (From February 15th - 19th).

We leave for Sipadan from Semporna early in the morning of the 15th. During these days we will do the following activities:

- Morning stretches before breakfast to improve lung, diaphragmatic and thoracic flexibility.
- Different theories of compensation plus exercises, biomechanics of finning, safety, rescue, mind control, increased depth times, exhalation diving, deep compensation in constant and sequential pressure, etc.
- 1 daily technical session of deep buoy training. Free immersion + constant weight and without fins.
- 3 daily sessions of recreational freediving with animals.

Day 8th (February 20th, Monday).

3 dives or freediving sessions in Sipadan (Breakfast / lunch / dinner / accommodation). Cruise CE9 departs back to Semporna after the last dive.

** The number of dives this day depends on the flight schedule of the following day.

Day 9 (February 21st, Tuesday).

Check out at 08:30 am and transfer by boat to Semporna. Transfer by car to Tawau airport.

*The itinerary could be modified in case the weather conditions do not allow it or the flights suffer schedule changes. Nor can the sighting of the expected species be guaranteed. They are wild animals and we cannot always predict exactly where to find them.



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TRIP?

Included:

- Freediving course with official certification (level 1, 2 or 3). Depending on your prior certification.
- Swimming cap and gift t-shirt.
- Round trip transfer by car from Tawau - Semporna airport. Round trip boat transfer Semporna - Celebes Explorer 9.
- 7 nights accommodation in shared double cabin with private bathroom and air conditioning.
- Freediving/diving program as specified before, every day (except the day of embarkation and disembarkation).
- Weights and weight belts.
- Full board: all meals and beverages (except alcoholic beverages, canned and bottled, which can be purchased on board).
- Semporna jetty fee and Sipadan diving permit.
- Travel and diving insurance.

Not included:

- Flights
- Alcoholic beverages, canned and bottled.
- Personal expenses and tips.
- Optional cancellation insurance (Consult prices).
- Any concept not mentioned in "Included in the price".

PRICES AND PAYMENTS

PRICE PER PERSON: 2350€

* The price of the combined trip has been calculated according to exchange rates, transportation rates, fuel costs, fees and taxes applicable at any time. Any substantial variation in the price of the aforementioned elements may give rise to the revision of the final price of the trip.

Calendars and payment methods:

- a) Initial deposit of 30% of the total amount at the time of booking.
- b) Second payment of 40% of the total amount 3 months before the start of the trip.
- c) Third payment. Rest, 40 days before the start of the trip (including air taxes)

(The amount provided as an "initial deposit" as reservation of the trip place WILL NOT BE REFUNDABLE in case of cancellation by the client for whatever reason. In case cancellation or cancellation insurance has been contracted, it will be the Travel Company Insurance is in charge of examining and processing the cancellation.)

By Bank transfer:

- Bank: BBVA
- Account cte.: IBAN ES09 0182 4091 63 0201588468
- Holder: Lluís Masuet Expeditions (Digital Tax 2004, S.L.)
- Concept: SI-0123 "NAME" "SURNAME"

General cancellation policy:

The cancellation conditions will be applied based on the date on which the cancellation is made with respect to the departure date.

- 12 months before departure. Expenses of 10% of the total price of the trip + penalty amount established by the airline of the plane ticket if it had been issued.
- From 12 to 6 months before departure. 50% of the total price of the trip + penalty amount established by the airline of the plane ticket if it had been issued.
- From 6 to 2 months before departure. 75% of the total price of the trip + penalty amount established by the airline of the plane ticket if it had been issued.
- Less than 60 days before departure. 100% of the total price of the trip.

Insurances:

Travel insurance, assistance, diving (including hyperbaric chamber) and watersports. The insurance policies are subscribed with Dive&Travel Solutions, S.L.U., agency of insurance of AXA Interpartner Assistance Spain. In no case will Lluís Masuet Expeditions (Tax Digital 2004, S.L.) be responsible for mediating with the insurer in the event of a claim.

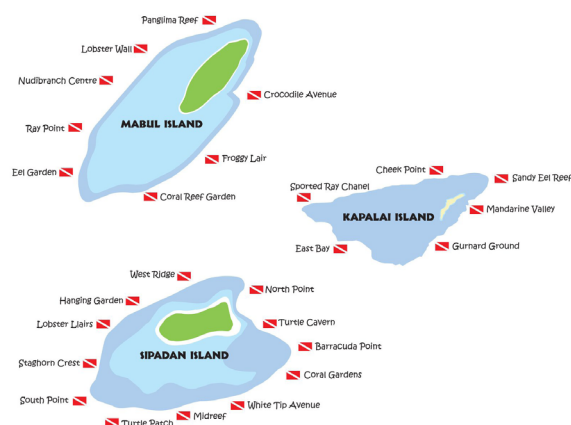


WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO BE DIVING IN THIS TRIP?

In the following pages you will discover some of the dive sites you will discover during the trip. Some of them are on the lists of the best dives in the world. During this trip we will dive in the islands of Sipadan, Mabul and Kapalai.

IN SIPADAN...

With more than 200 species of fish and 70 types of coral, the marine life in Pulau Sipadan rivals Australia's Great Barrier Reef in species diversity. Large areas of pristine rocky corals alternate with soft corals, anemones and sponges. The barriers are adorned with sponges, sea fans, black corals, nudibranchs and Dendrophyllia soft corals. Colored crinoids swim in the currents. The waters are teeming with turtles of various species, inquisitive schools of rifleman, schools of barracuda in circular formation, batfish, mullet and bumphead parrotfish while large pelagics such as hammerhead sharks, tuna, reef sharks, eagle rays and manta rays patrol the depths.





TURTLE CAVERN

The famous cave of the turtles has a romantic aura for being considered the place where the turtles go to die. In reality, they get lost in the dark interconnected corridors and drown. The caverns were formed as a result of erosion during the last ice age, when sea levels hovered around 100m. The main entrance, a large sand cavern at 18m, drops down to 21m. At the back of this cavern there is a tunnel that leads to a smaller one which, in turn, communicates with others that rise no less than 4 m. Of the surface. These dark caverns are also home to schools of lantern fish, as well as shrimp and crabs that have adapted to low light conditions. This advanced dive requires complete scuba mastery and a guide, as one can easily get lost.

CORAL GARDENS

This is a shallow dive (maximum 23m), above the crest of the north face of the seamount. Here huge fields of corals alternate with fish, including humphead parrotfish. It is possible to see manta rays, turtles and reef sharks. It is a paradise for underwater photographers.



BARRACUDA POINT

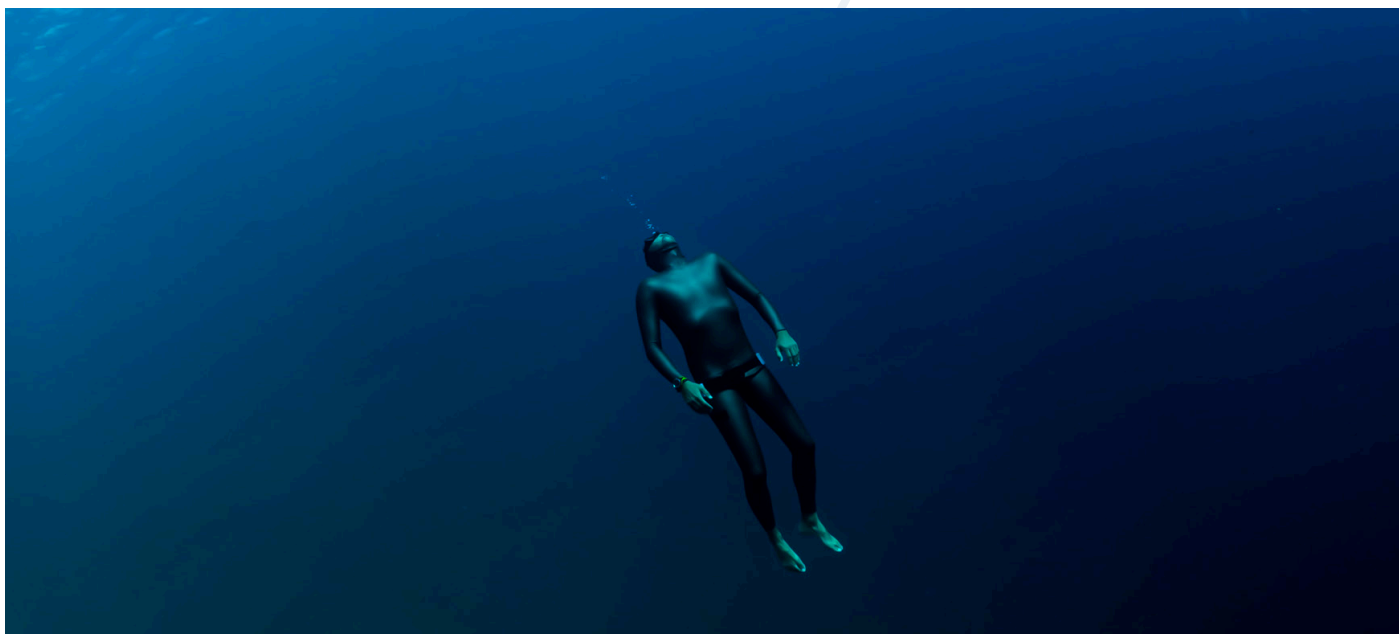
In the words of a famous diver: "Here is a world of beauty, far from the ordinary. Sometimes, the experience is superior to the dream and here is one of those moments. Floating in the middle of the universe and never wanting to leave it." Going down the wall gently up to 30 m. we find schools of small fish (butterfly, surgeonfish) and a large quantity of black coral. Turtles swim alongside divers looking for their company. In the upper part of the reef, groups of whitetip sharks rest on the sand. In the blue we spot gray reef sharks, schools of jacks, wrasse and giant tuna. The famous schools of barracuda will usually be seen near the surface. They number in the hundreds or thousands, quietly moving in perfect synchronism in a perfect spiral.



SOUTH POINT, STAGHORN CREST

The southern end of the reef is similar to Barracuda Point. Currents can be strong and change direction. It is common to see large schools of fish, manta rays, eagle rays, turtles and sharks. Lobsters hide in cracks. South Point is famous for its fantastic coral formations and pelagic sightings such as manta rays and hammerhead sharks at dawn. Staghorn Crest is a wonderful coral garden.





HANGING GARDENS, WEST RIDGE Y NORTH POINT

The west ridge, up to North Point, features a shallow crest covered with corals and anemones teeming with associated fish. Above the drop, the barrier features abundant ledges containing Tubastrea and Dendrophyllia corals, sea fans, black corals, and barrel sponges: hence the name “hanging gardens”, one of Sipadan’s most beautiful dives. Nudibranchs, flatworms and crinoids are also abundant.



WHITETIP AVENUE, MID REEF Y TURTLE PATCH

The center of the east side features a colorful reef crest, rich in rocky and soft corals and vibrantly colored reef fish, as well as giant tridacnas and turtles. Further down the barrier, in deeper water, there are huge sea fans, large barrel sponges, branching soft corals and black corals. Whitetip Avenue is characterized by the proliferation of sharks, manta rays and turtles. At Mid Reef we will find the best black coral formations in all of Sipadan. Turtles gather at Turtle Patch, further south.

MABUL

A short distance from Mabul Island, all dives are characterized by the fact that at every moment we will meet some strange sea creature that will not cease to amaze us.

The underwater world of Mabul is totally different from Sipadan. Mabul is recognized as one of the best muck diving sites in the world and one of the richest and most diverse destinations for exotic, unusual and small marine life. It has a shallow reef profile with sandy bottoms where all kinds of creatures for macro photography live due to its nutrient-rich waters: flamboyant cuttlefish, blue-ringed octopus, mime octopus, ghost pipefish, seahorses sea, gobies, frog fish, moray eels, eels, large numbers of nudibranchs, a variety of species of scorpion fish, etc. Hence, Mabul stands out for being a magical place for diving.

The most recognized dive spots are: Paradise 1 & 2, Eel Garden, Panglima Reef, Lobster Wall, Nudibranch Center, Crocodile Avenue, Froggy Lair and Coral Reef Garden.

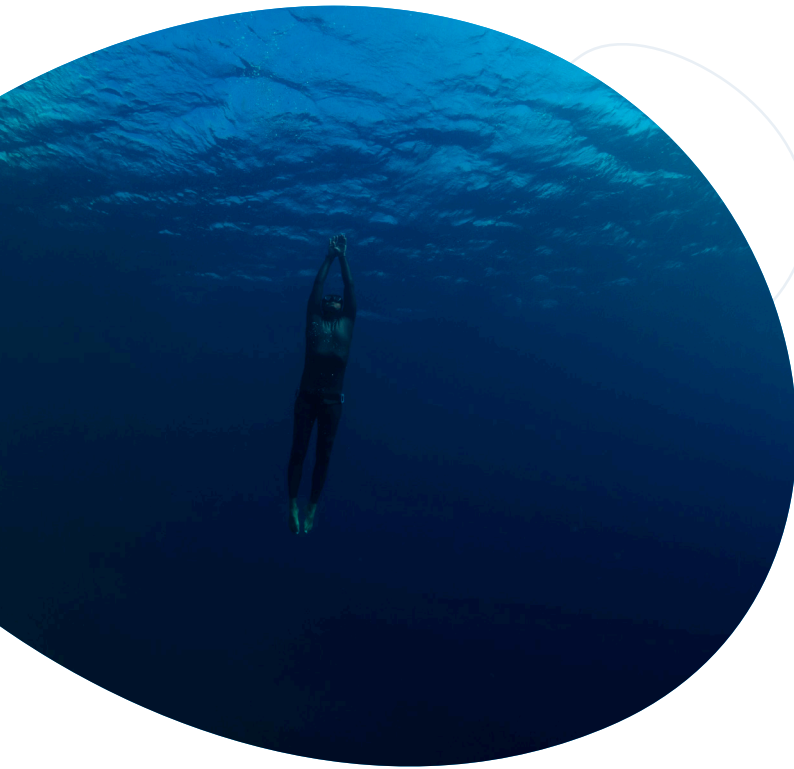


KAPALAI

Kapalai is located 10 minutes east of Mabul. Like Mabul, it's an excellent spot for macro photography and rare species, including mandarin fish, stonefish, leaffish, lionfish, pipefish, frogfish, cuttlefish and more.

MID REEF

Favorite dive spot for divemasters due to the profusion of creatures that can be seen and that they will show us in detail. Highlights include the conical spider crab (*Xenocarcinus conicus*) and a large number of bumblebee shrimp, small gobies, pearly bigmouths, nudibranchs of many species, clown fish... We will also be surprised by the many turtles that can be seen on this dive. In the sponges we will discover pink frog fish.





RECEPT 1

This is a classic Kapalai dive to see curious creatures on the sandy bottom: flatworms, ghost pipe fish, whip corals, nudibranchs of all kinds, leaf fish, blue ribbon moray eels, mantis shrimp, etc., etc. In the upper part of the small reef, orangutan crabs, small cuttlefish that hide in the corals and a multitude of turtles stand out.

KAPALAI JETTY & HOUSE REEF

The Kapalai jetty plunge opens at a right angle and gently slopes. This is perhaps the most famous dive in this area. We can go to the right or to the left and see in the background the remains of a sunken ship. It is an old wooden fishing boat whose hull contains very interesting species, such as frog fish, a large number of moray eels, mantis shrimp, etc. We also see hard and soft corals, sponges, tunicates and hydrozoans that serve as shelter for a multitude of creatures, such as the ghost pipe fish. Lobsters are also common in the crinoids, a large number of crabs of all shapes and sizes as well as shrimp. A series of exotic creatures like the flamboyant cuttlefish and the incredible

blue-ringed octopus also come together here. It is one of the most famous macro dive spots.

MANDARIN VALLEY

In the same jetty we find this small area where we can find many fascinating species: angel fish, ghost pipe fish, scorpion fish, carangids and turtles. There is also a colony of small mandarin fish that can be seen especially at night performing their courtship ritual.



MIGUEL LOZANO

“12 people have stepped on the Moon in the entire history of mankind, only 8 of us have descended to 120m.”

Miguel Lozano, is a professional freediver, specialized in deep modalities. He has been proclaimed Double World Vice-Champion in two of the three depth disciplines (Constant Weight without fins and Free Immersion) at the AIDA Depth World Championship in Cyprus in 2015.

On May 30, 2016, he dived to a depth of -122 meters in Free Immersion during the Caribbean Cup championship in Roatán (Honduras), an achievement that currently places him as the fourth deepest person in the world in this discipline, just 5 meters from the current World Record (-127m). He has also been the first Spaniard to reach the level of -100mts in the constant weight modality (flapping) and -83mts without fins.



THE BOAT M/V CELEBES EXPLORER 9

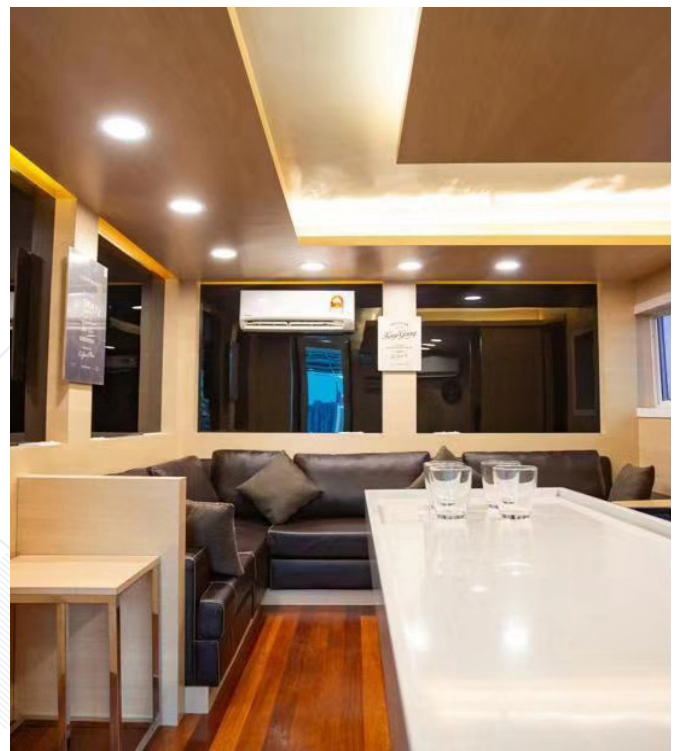
The M/V Celebes Explorer 9 is the only liveaboard operating on Sipadan Island. It has all the permits to take up to 10 divers to some of the most spectacular dive sites in this area. Despite having 8 double cabins and capacity for 16 divers, the boat only carries a maximum of 10 people on board, due to the limitations imposed by the Sipadán marine park. Which means that we have a lot of space on board. Please note that this cruise offers many more dives in Sipadan than the dive centers on the neighboring islands of Mabul, Kapalai and Matakong due to permit allocation.

She started sailing on October 26, 2019 replacing the previous Celebes Explorer that had been operating in Sipadan for many years. Compared to this, the M/V Celebes Explorer 9 has improved a lot in terms of space and accommodation in the cabins.

The M/V Celebes Explorer 9 is 35m. of length and a lot of space on board. It has a dining

room with air conditioning on the main deck. There is also a separate audiovisual room with TV and music system. A third relaxation room on the upper deck is used to rest or have a drink. Outdoor spaces include a shaded and furnished area aft of the main deck. Going up the spiral staircase you go up to another deck where you can sunbathe on the sun loungers or enjoy a drink.

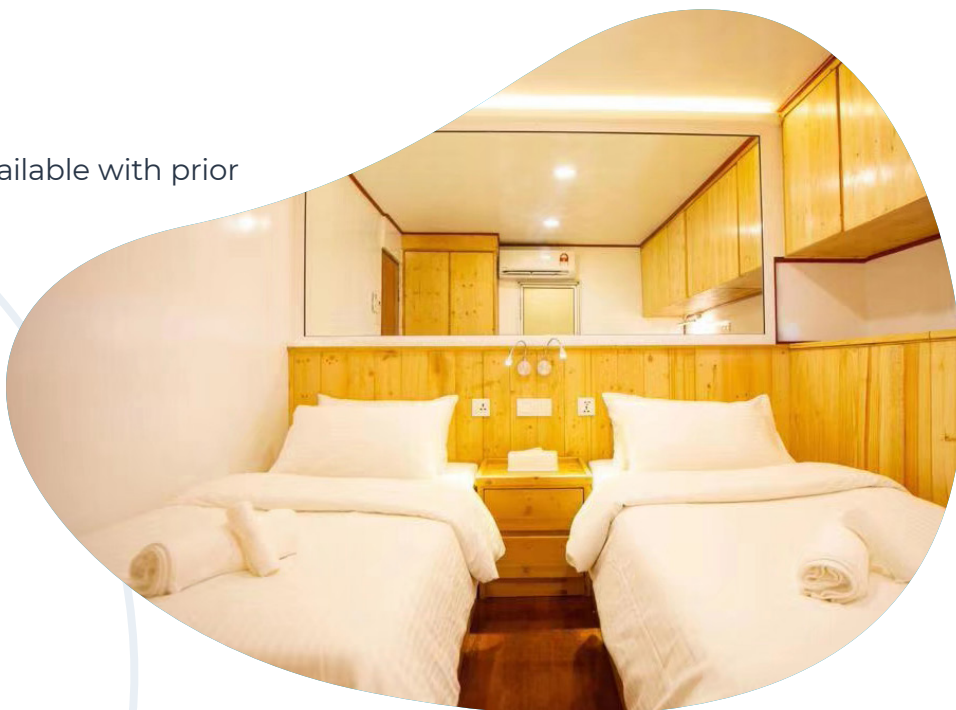
Staterooms. It has 2 cabins on the main deck with large windows overlooking the sea and 6 cabins with portholes on the lower deck. They all have a private bathroom, air conditioning and storage space.

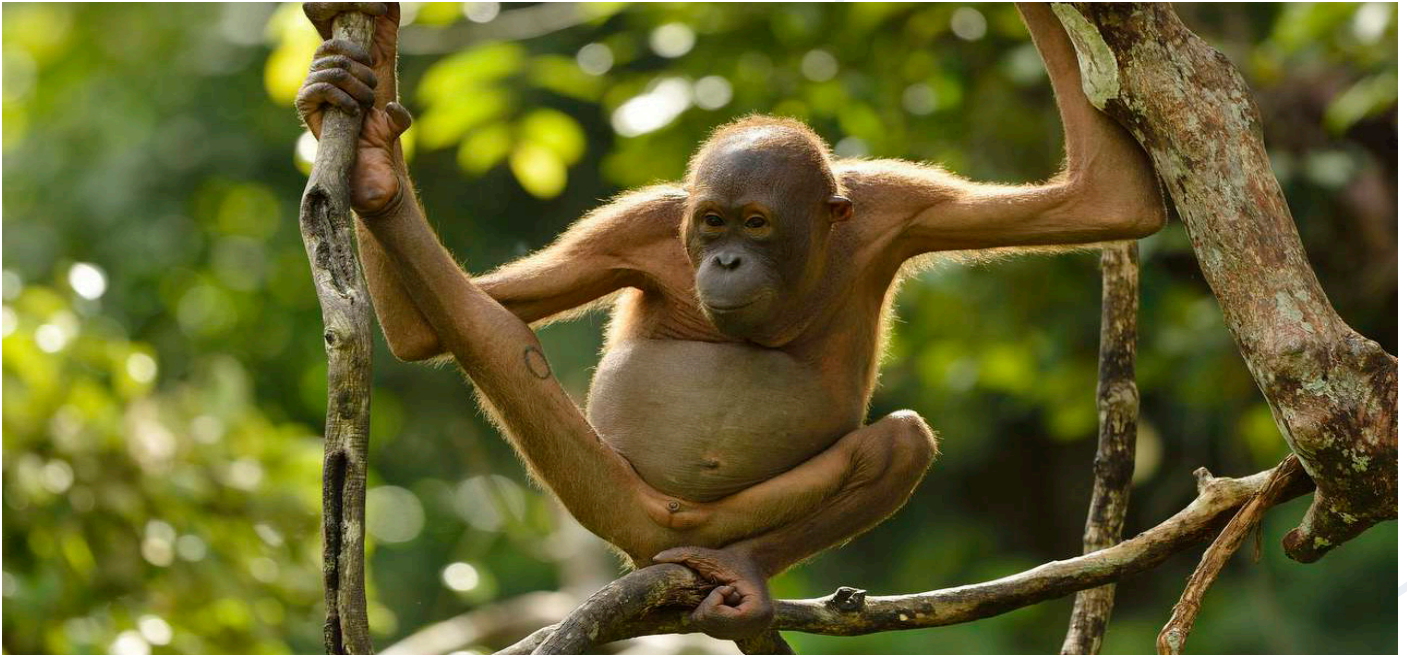




TECHINICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

- 8 cabins with private bathroom and adjustable air conditioning.
- Comfortable living room with sofa, TV, audio system and mini bar.
- Delicious buffet meals.
- Large terrace to relax.
- Dive center with convenience of hot and cold showers and equipment storage. Cruising speed of ... 8-10 knots.
- Total length of 29 meters.
- 7.2 meter beam.
- Draft of 2 meters.
- Diving equipment rental available with prior reservation.





AND BESIDES DIVING AND FREEDIVING?

Malaysia is one of those destinations that we cannot stop visiting on land for everything it has to offer. We propose an optional extension that will put the “icing on the cake” to your trip.

Dive into the jungle of Borneo and enjoy a unique experience surrounded by nature, the Borneo orangutans, countless exotic birds and much more! Discover in the following pages what this extension consists of.

BORNEO EXTENSION PROGRAM

Day 1:

Pick up from Sandakan airport. Transfer by car to Sepilok Nature Resort and check in. Overnight at Sepilok Nature Resort.

(all meals at Sepilok Nature Resort are at the guest's own expense)

Day 2:

Check out and pick up at Sepilok Nature Resort. Visit the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Center and the Sun Bear Conservation Center. We will drive to Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge in Sukau and Check in. River cruise in the afternoon. Overnight.

(Meals: Lunch / Dinner)

Day 3:

Morning OX Bow Lake Cruise / Visit Gomantong Cave / Afternoon River Cruise / Overnight.

(Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

Day 4:

Check out / ground transfer back to Sandakan airport. Return flight from 2 PM.

(Meals: Breakfast / Lunch)

*If you prefer to do the extension through Borneo, before the diving cruise, contact us.

SEPILOK NATURE RESORT

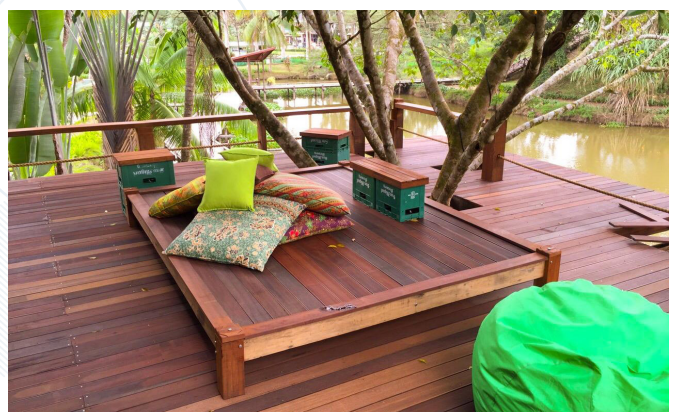
Hidden among a treasure garden of tropical plants, towering trees and spectacular blooming orchids, the quaint bungalows at the Sepilok Nature Resort are within walking distance of the world-famous Kabili-Sepilok Forest Reserve, home to the last wild orangutans in northern Australia. Borneo. Combining rich traditional style with contemporary luxury, Sepilok Nature Resort is the ideal launching point for most of the other wildlife destinations in Sabah, such as the wildlife-rich Kinabatangan River and the surrounding Sukau area. Sepilok Nature Resort also offers the perfect setting to relax after a long plane ride, or a diving holiday in Sipadán.

To fully enjoy the leisurely rhythms of the forest, the best thing to do is to stay at least a few days at Sepilok Nature Resort, a beautiful complex that borders the protected area (it is not uncommon to have orangutans or pythons wandering between the chalets), and perfectly integrated with the surrounding forest. Set in a spectacularly landscaped private area of manicured lawns and rolling hills, the fully air-conditioned (and very comfortable) chalets feature beautiful terraces with lake or jungle views and private bathrooms with hot water.

The surrounding garden, which would take half a day to explore, offers an incredible variety of tropical plants and grasses and a collection of more than one hundred and fifty different species of Asian orchids. The reception, tour desk and restaurant are integrated into the main building of the complex built with a charming traditional wooden interior, overlooking the bright green curtain of lowland tropical forest canopies with some formations that they reach almost 40 meters in height. A view of the beautiful natural lake in the heart of the complex is a sight not to be

missed. Guests can enjoy sumptuous meals featuring a fusion of local and western cuisine served in the central building under covered terraces in a serene setting overlooking the lake and pristine rainforest. The Orangutan Rehabilitation Center (where young captive or abandoned orangutans are being helped by highly trained and motivated staff to readapt to a life in the wild, and where a Sumatran rhino breeding program is underway) and the Sepilok Forest Reserve, are just a few minutes' walk away.

The biggest attraction one could do while visiting the Sepilok Lowland Rain Forest would be to watch the orangutans. Simply watching orangutans, that is: because this formidable expanse of wilderness wisely preserved and just a few miles from the modern hustle and bustle of Sandakan offers a unique opportunity to observe the complex mechanisms of nature at work in the tropics and in comfort. It is then, and only then, that one will be able to hear the hypnotic cicada call of the tree frogs, the thunderous cackling call of the great hornbill, the soft rustle of dead leaves on the forest floor in the passing of a bronze skink. . Only then will the metallic sheen of spider eyes become apparent, only then will the dead brown twig begin to walk with the hesitant steps of the stick insect, and only then will the bright green leaf buds on a low bush suddenly take the curled shape of the viper waiting in ambush. Having admired for as long as it took the delicate grace of the great red-headed apes with their extraordinary skill in climbing trees and hanging vines upside down, and having been duly moved to the depths of his heart by their touching look. (no primate looks at you the way an orangutan does), visitors should stay a little longer in the forest and take a leisurely walk along the well-marked trail in the company of a biologist and guide from the Rehabilitation Center.



BORNEAN SUN BEAR CONSERVATION CENTRE & SEPILOK ORANG UTAN REHAB CENTRE TOUR

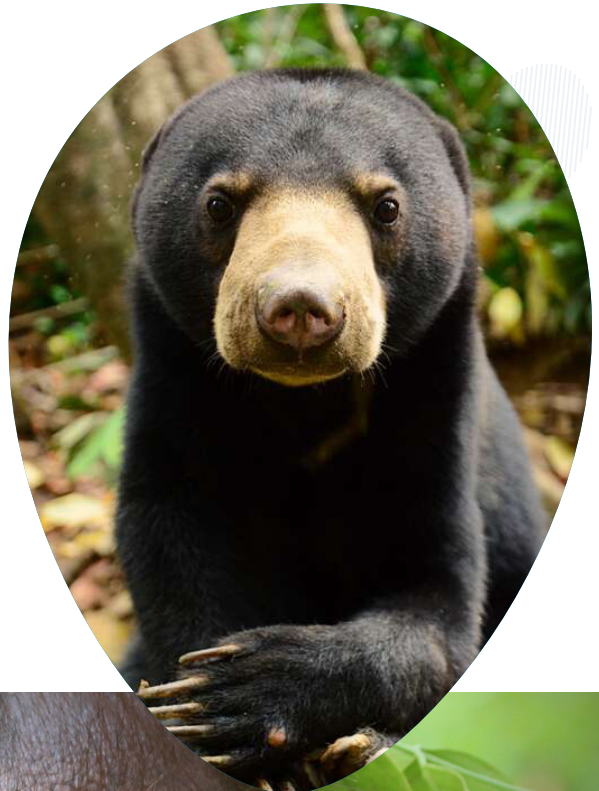
Meet the world's smallest sun bear at the Borneo Sun Bear Conservation Center in Sepilok, next to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center. The center opened in 2014 and aims to provide care and rehabilitation for rescued sun bears while raising public awareness of this species. To date, there are around 43 rescued ex-captive sun bears residing at the center with ongoing efforts to return them to the wild when they are ready. The center is equipped with key facilities including an observation deck, boardwalk, and visitor center. There is also the bear's educational talk for those visitors who want to know more.

A visit to the center is a must when in Sandakan, these bears are just too adorable to resist!

On the other hand, the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center (SOURC) was established in 1964 to rehabilitate orphaned orangutans. Since then, it has gone from just having an outdoor platform to having an outdoor viewing area for nurseries. It is also in the immediate vicinity of the Kabili Rain Forest, making the area suitable for hiking and bird watching.

Sepilok visitors can usually see orangutans during the scheduled feeding session at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm on the platform.

Alternatively, some orangutans can be viewed from the open-air vivarium. There have been times when no orangutans have come forward to feed, although this is not a frequent occurrence. The main reason orangutans may not show up during feeding time is because they managed to get food in the wild, especially during fruiting season. In fact, this is quite a feat, as the purpose is to ensure that these primates understand that their natural home is in nature and that they do not depend on a conditioned environment.



KINABATANGAN RIVERSIDE LODGE

A wonderful, relaxed base from which to explore the Kinabatangan River and surrounding nature trails, this hostel is welcoming with super friendly staff. Rustic and comfortable accommodations, located right on the edge of the Kinabatangan River, an area of magnificent wildlife and wonderful nature walks.

Bungalows at the Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge are semi-detached and simply but comfortably furnished with wooden details. They all have private bathrooms with ceiling fans, there is no air conditioning, but the breeze from the river helps with the heat. In the main common area you will find a Halal restaurant and a solarium facing the river. There is also a library and TV room where you can watch documentaries about wildlife in the Sabah region of Borneo. The food is prepared with fresh ingredients bought regularly from the local population for a good price. Tasty meals are served buffet-style in the dining room.

The main activity here is exploring the Kinabatangan River, through guided nature walks and gliding across the water in small boats. Proboscis monkeys can often be seen feeding from the river bank, wild orangutans, pygmy elephants, otters, crocodiles and an abundance of beautiful birds can also be seen.

EXCURSIÓN OX-BOW LAKE, GOMANTONG CAVE & AFTERNOON RIVER CRUISE

A walk through the calm waters of Ox-bow Lake will give us the chance to enjoy the tranquility of the area, and a lot of rare birds. Immediately after the visit to the lake, we will take a guided tour through the jungle that will reveal the intricate chamber system of Gomantong Cave, located within the Gomantong Forest Reserve. It is the largest bird's nest cave in Sabah, home to millions of bats and leaches.

Finally, in the afternoon, enjoy Sabah's longest river, Kinabatangan, with the chance to see wildlife and birds in their pristine rainforest habitat. Look for some of the primate species, including the endemic proboscis monkeys, as they move through the treetops. The Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the best places in Southeast Asia to observe the wildlife of the area.





EXTENSION PRICE

PER PERSON: 650€

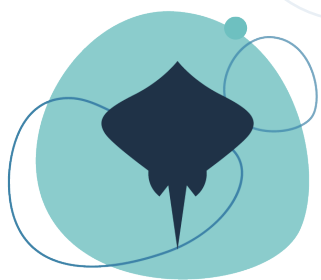
Included:

- Roundtrip transfer by car from Sandakan Airport.
- English speaking guide
- Meals as indicated in the program.
- All national park entrance fees
- 1 night accommodation at Sepilok Nature Resort, in shared double room
- 2 nights accommodation at Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge (Sukau), The River Lodge is a simple accommodation (double/triple shared) with private bathroom.

Not included:

- Internal flights Tawau - Sandakan
- Meals not indicated in the program
- All drinks.
- Personal expenses and tips.
- Any concept not mentioned in "Included in the price".

** For the land excursions we suggest you to bring: light clothing, long pants, trekking shoes, raincoat, toiletries, towel, light jacket, insect repellent and flashlight.*



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MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKING:



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