



Rickshaws outside mansion, George Town, Penang

Heritage Tour to Borneo and the Malay Peninsula

8 – 21 September 2019



Jon Baines
tours



The mighty Sarawak River

Explore Sarawak in Borneo and journey up the Malay Peninsula on this new tour examining the history, culture and wildlife of the region.

From the vast jungles of Borneo and the riverine city of Kuching, travel to the Malay Peninsula, the modern city of Kuala Lumpur and the colonial charm of Malacca. Travel by boat into the world's oldest rainforest in Taman Negara and onto the Cameron Highlands, with its colonial hill stations and tea estates. Take train and ferry to George Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site with striking architecture and a rich cultural legacy. Along the way enjoy the blend of European heritage with Malay, Chinese and Indian culture and cuisine. Wander through rainforest trails and street-food markets and take in the sights, sounds, smells and flavours of a truly diverse country.

Fly into Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, a relaxed city on the Sarawak River. Transfer to the riverfront Ranee Hotel.

Discover the charms of this riverine city, established by Sir James Brooke. Visit the excellent small ethnographic museum, which provides context and background on the peoples of Sarawak, their beliefs, medicine and

customs. Continue to the Brooke Gallery and learn of the life and legacy of the 'White Rajahs' of Sarawak. Hear the story of Margerite Brooke and more recent history, including WW2 and the Australian liberation. Later explore the local area with its interesting historical shops, cafés, art, restaurants and bars.

Drive to the Semenggoh Wildlife Centre to view semi-wild orangutans in a natural setting the next morning. Continue to Anah Rais, a



Orang utans, Semenggoh, Sarawak



Longhouse, Sarawak (top); Kuala Lumpur skyline (above)

longhouse Bidayuh village set beside a beautiful stream, and learn about the culture of the Land Dayaks. Take a short walk with a specialist guide to learn about traditional medicinal plants and village life today. Return to Kuching and enjoy a sunset cruise with drinks on the Kuching River. Hear about the Gurkhas in Borneo and of the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation.

The following day drive to Bako village and take a boat to Bako National Park, keeping watch for crocodiles, sea eagles and other shore birds. Explore the trails where nineteenth century naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace did much of his work on evolutionary biology, alongside a spectacular coastline dotted with small bays, coves and beaches. It is common to see the local proboscis monkeys, silvered langurs (monkeys), long-tailed macaques, wild boar, monitor lizards and many species of birds.

Fly to the gleaming metropolis of Kuala Lumpur and explore the history of the city, which reflects

its Malay, Chinese, Indian and British heritage. In the evening travel by monorail and explore the markets on a culinary tour of the old Malay District.

Malacca was a trading entrepot and its heritage is reflected in well-preserved Portuguese, Dutch and British architecture. Explore the city by rickshaw and on foot, including Chinatown, known for its antique shops. Enjoy a traditional Malacca lunch, a blend of Chinese, Malay and Portuguese flavours.

Depart Kuala Lumpur and travel into the interior. Take a traditional long wooden boat into Taman Negara National Park, the world's most ancient rainforest, and transfer to the rainforest lodge. In the afternoon take a boat up a tributary river with the option to swim in the fresh water. In the evening take part in a nocturnal jungle walk.

Over the next two days take part in a half-day jungle walk - which includes a 300 metre suspended canopy walkway through the jungle treetops – as well as optional early morning and late afternoon wildlife and birdwatching activities. There is also a trip to the Orang Asli village (the original inhabitants of the Malay Peninsula) to learn about their culture and approach to land preservation. After dinner hear a talk on the Malay Emergency.



Take the boat upriver in Taman Negara



Take a tour of the city and explore its origins, including Fort Cornwallis - the site of the original British settlement, built by the British East India Company - and the first Anglican church in east Asia. See the legacy of the city's boom period as you walk along Little India and onto the Khoo Kongsi, one of the most distinctive Chinese clan associations in Malaysia. Finish the tour with a gin and tonic at the Eastern and Oriental Hotel, a sister hotel to the Raffles in Singapore and the Strand in Yangon; all built by the Sarkie Brothers.

Penang Hill outside George Town was where the British retreated to play tennis, visit the botanical gardens or convalesce from tropical disease. Take the funicular railway up the hill, explore the gardens and hear some of their stories. The afternoon is at leisure before a farewell dinner of delicious local Penang cuisine.

The following morning depart for the airport or take the extension to Langkawi Island, known for its stunning tropical beaches.

Drive 1800 meters into the Cameron Highlands to a hill station which retains its English character with rolling green hills dotted with country cottages, farms and a golf course. Visit the Boh tea plantation and enjoy tea and locally grown strawberries at a café with a wonderful view. Arrive at the hotel and at leisure.

Drive to the small city of Ipoh, which grew wealthy on the exports of tin. Explore the city's grand buildings and visit 'God's Little Acre' - a small colonial cemetery - and walk down Concubine Lane to admire the street art. Take the train from Ipoh's grand railway station (luggage will travel by bus) to Butterworth and follow in the footsteps of many previous travellers through history to cross by ferry to Penang Island and George Town.

George Town was established in 1789 and grew wealthy on the Indochina trade and the export of tin and rubber, with merchants building large mansions. It was and still is a multicultural city with Malay, Chinese, Indian and British influences and connections. Today it is a UNESCO World Heritage city due to its well-preserved colonial architecture. It is also a dynamic, creative city known for its delicious cuisine and street art.



Tea plantation in the Cameron Highlands (top);
Colourful Georgetown, Penang (above)

Itinerary 8 – 21 September 2019

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

4 nights Kuching, Borneo – 2 nights Kuala Lumpur – 3 nights Taman Negara National Park
– 1 night Cameron Highlands – 3 nights Penang

8 Sept (Sun) Kuching, Sawawak **D**
Pm Arrive and transfer to the hotel. Take an orientation of Kuching, established by 'White Rajah' Sir James Brooke

9 Sept (Mon) Kuching **B D**
Am Visit Kuching's excellent ethnological museum. Visit Fort Margherita and hear about the 'White Rajahs' of Borneo
Pm Visit the old Court House and hear the story of Margerite Brooke
Eve Welcome dinner

10 Sept (Tue) Kuching **B L D**
Am Visit the Semenggoh Wildlife Centre to see semi-wild orang utans. Visit Anah Rais longhouse Bidayuh village and learn about the Land Dayaks. Short walk with a specialist guide to see medicinal plants
Pm Return to Kuching and at leisure
Eve Enjoy a sunset cruise with drinks

11 Sept (Wed) Kuching **B L D**
Am Drive and boat to Bako National Park with its many species of wildlife

12 Sept (Thur) Kuching / Kuala Lumpur **B D**
Am Fly to Kuala Lumpur
Pm Tour old Kuala Lumpur before taking the monorail to the Malay District for dinner

13 Sept (Fri) Kuala Lumpur / Malacca / Kuala Lumpur **B L**
Am Full day tour of historic Malacca. Walking tour to St. Paul's Hill for a panoramic view of Malacca, the straits and the old town. See the Portuguese Fort de Santiago, the ruins of St. Paul's Church and Dutch Square. Walk down Harmony Street to 'Antique Row'
Pm Traditional Peranakan lunch. Boat ride on the Malacca River

14 Sept (Sat) Kuala Lumpur / Taman Negara National Park **B D**
Am Drive to Kuala Tembeling and take a boat into Taman Negara National Park, the world's most ancient rainforest
Pm Short boat trip with the option to swim
Eve Nocturnal jungle walk

15 Sept (Sun) Taman Negara National Park **B L D**
Am Optional sunrise bird and wildlife viewing. Visit the Orang Asli village (Batek Tribe) and learn how the nomadic people live in the rainforest
Pm At leisure
Eve Barbecue dinner. Night sky watching

16 Sept (Mon) Taman Negara National Park **B L D**
Am Optional sunrise bird and wildlife viewing. Gentle jungle trek and suspended treetop walkway
Pm At leisure
Eve Dinner in a local floating restaurant

17 Sept (Tue) Taman Negara National Park / Cameron Highlands **B D**
Am Drive into Cameron Highlands
Pm Visit the Boh tea plantation for tea and strawberries with a wonderful view

18 Sept (Wed) Cameron Highlands / Penang **B D**
Am Drive to Ipoh and explore the old town, including the railway station, the town hall, 'God's Little Acre' cemetery and Concubine Lane
Pm Options for lunch in Concubine Lane. Take the train to Butterworth and the ferry into George Town. (Luggage goes via bus to Penang)

19 Sept (Thur) Penang **B D**
Am Heritage walking and trishaw tour of George Town. Visit Fort Cornwallis and St John's Church
Pm Walk along Little India and see the Khoo Kongsi
Eve G&T at the Eastern and Oriental Hotel

20 Sept (Fri) Penang **B D**
Am Visit Penang Hill, a British hill station
Pm At leisure
Eve Farewell dinner

21 Sept (Sat) Penang **B**
Am Depart for flight home or take extension in Langkawi

NB: All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions



Meritus Pelangi Beach Resort and Spa, Langkawi

Extension

Take the short flight from Penang to Langkawi and transfer to the Meritus Pelangi Beach Resort & Spa Langkawi for three nights. The resort is the perfect retreat for tropical tranquillity, located on a white sandy beach. The rooms are contained in clusters of wooden chalets with private balconies. The rooms allocated are garden view rooms, but beach views are available for a surcharge. There are two swimming pools, a spa, squash, tennis, archery, mini golf and bicycle rental. Nearby are a range of restaurants.

Hotels

The Raneer in Kuching is a boutique hotel with rooms and suites (contact us for upgrade details). The hotel has a great location between the Sarawak River and the old town and provides excellent service.

The Istana Palace is an upmarket hotel in the centre of Kuala Lumpur with large rooms, restaurants, a pub and outside swimming pool.

Mutiara Taman Negara Resort is a collection of wooden bungalows located within the ancient forest. There is a dining area with wifi access (not available in the rooms) and a bar.

The Smokehouse Hotel is a lovely old English house, surrounded by beautiful gardens in the

heart of the Cameron Highlands. The hotel is known for its friendly staff and high tea.

The Areca Hotel is a boutique hotel in a period building in George Town in Penang. The rooms are large with lovely tiled floors and the café serves excellent local cuisine.



The Smokehouse Hotel, Cameron Highlands (top);
Rainforest Lodge, Taman Negara National Park (above)



Proboscis monkey, Bako National Park, Sarawak

Tour Leaders

Professor John Richardson is Emeritus Defence Professor of Primary Care and General Practice. He has led study tours worldwide and was a medical escort to parties of veterans on journeys of remembrance for the Royal British Legion. He has also run many history of medicine battlefield tours. He has visited 80 countries and worked in 41 of them as a doctor. John has previously led tours for Jon Baines to China, Central Asia, India, Turkey, Central America, Ecuador and the Galapagos, Namibia, Ethiopia, Indo-China and Burma. He has also given lectures and led on cruises.

Susi Richardson has travelled widely across the world either as an expedition nurse, or as a nurse on war grave pilgrimages for the Royal British Legion, co-tour leader for Jon Baines Tours, or accompanying her husband on his British Army medical officer postings. Five generations of her Shakespear family served in India on her grandmother's side, and three generations of Cooke family on her grandfather's side, covering almost continuously two hundred years of the history of British India in a variety of roles and occupations. Susi has led a number of tours to India, in Vietnam and on cruises.

“John and Susi – tour leaders extraordinaire! ... Always wonderfully cheerful, well organised and helpful as always. Truly great leaders”

Jan and Gavin Fabinyi, Brahmaputra Cruise, March 2018

The cost of the tour is £2,560 per person (excluding international flights and transfers)

The cost includes:

- The services of an experienced tour leaders (John and Susi Richardson)
- 13 nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in medium grade and heritage hotels and a jungle lodge

Single supplement: £360

- Breakfast and lunch or dinner daily (all meals on 15 and 16 September)
- All admission fees
- Services of an English-speaking national guide
- All transport services and taxes
- Kuching – Kuala Lumpur flight
- All tips

The cost excludes:

- Meals not mentioned and drinks with meals
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance
- Visa (if required)

The cost of the extension per person sharing is £388 and includes:

- Three nights' accommodation in double / twin-bedded rooms with breakfast

Single supplement: £299

- Flight to Langkawi and transfers

The cost excludes:

- Meals not mentioned and drinks with meals
- All optional excursions, tours and visits

The streets of Malacca



About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.



Iban girl in Sarawak (top); Food market, Malay District, Kuala Lumpur; Concubine Lane, Ipoh; Gibbons in Bako National Park (above)

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Jon Baines Tours (London)
Hyde Park House, 5 Manfred Road,
London, SW15 2RS
Tel: +44 (0) 207 223 9485 / 5618
Email: info@jonbainestours.co.uk
www.jonbainestours.co.uk

Jon Baines Tours (Melbourne)
PO Box 68, South Brunswick,
Victoria 3055
Tel: +61 (0) 3 9343 6367
Fax: +61 (0) 3 9012 4228
Email: info@jonbainestours.com.au
www.jonbainestours.com

