

Borneo Tri X

Trek it, bike it, raft it



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Borneo Tri X Challenge

Conquer Borneo by Raft, Bike and Foot

Our journey takes us from the iconic Mount Kinabalu to the bike tracks of the jungle and ends by rafting the white water rapids of the Padas River.

Once a British Outpost, the states of Sarawak and Sabah on the Islands of Borneo now form what is known as eastern Malaysia. This lush tropical paradise is South-East Asia at its most exotic and untouched, with vast areas of virgin forest and unspoilt coastline awaiting discovery.



Our epic challenge starts with a tough, breath-taking trek, summiting the prominent Mount Kinabalu at 4102m this is followed by a two day biking challenge enjoying spectacular backdrops of the jungle and Mount Kinabalu. The challenge finishes by conquering 5km of the raging Padas River. When not screaming over whiplashes of white water, take the time to enjoy the beauty of unspoilt nature at its best.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart London to Kuala Lumpur

Day 2: Arrive Sabah, Borneo

Arrive in Kuala Lumpur early in the morning to connect with an onward flight to Borneo. After transferring to Le Meridian in Kota Kinabalu, we will have a free afternoon to explore the bustling cosmopolitan city and capital of Sabah and prepare for the trek. Dinner in the hotel where we meet our guides for a full briefing about the challenges ahead.

Day 3: Mount Kinabalu Climb

After an early breakfast we have a transfer to Kinabalu National Park HQ (1892m) where we will register for the mountain climb and start our ascent of the highest mountain in South East Asia. The trail leads through thick jungle, which changes into cloud forest and then to alpine vegetation. It will be a slow climb up steep steps and over rocky sections. We spend the night in dormitories in the Laban Rata rest house (3272m).

Day 4: Mount Kinabalu Climb

We depart the rest house early in the morning (approx. 2am) in time to reach the summit (4092m) for sunrise. The ascent is steep in places, with breath-taking panoramic views. There are ropes and ladders in places to assist us as we scramble up to the top of the granite rock. The views from the top are incredible and well worth the hard climb! Having reached the summit we return to the rest house for breakfast and then continue back down the mountain taking a scenic descent to Mesilau Gate where we then transfer to the Kinabalu Pine Resort.



Day 5: First day of biking challenge

We have a short transfer back to the Mount Kinabalu National Park where we will begin the ride. It's main road, downhill to our first turn off onto gravel. There is then 3km of gorgeous descent before reaching a sealed road which takes you into the Kiau Valley. We then cruise along the side of a river for 17km enjoying excellent views of the jungle-clad valley and Mount Kinabalu. When we get to the end of the trail, we put the bikes onto the truck and from here we follow the river on foot for 5kms. During the jungle trek, we make a few river crossings until we arrive at the padi fields of Kampung Tambatuan where we over night in the village community homestay. There are comfortable dorms and a huge veranda facing the granite walls of the western flanks of Mount Kinabalu. In the evening, there will be a sit-down dinner of pasta with wine and beer available to chat through the days thrills while the team service the bikes and get ready for the second days adventure.

Detailed itinerary

Day 6: Second day of biking challenge

This is a full day in the saddle. We head north on mostly gravel roads for 43km, stopping to swim in cool rivers and entertain the bemused locals. There are lots of cool drinks supplied by the support vehicle along the way. The ride finishes at the market town of Kota Belud, a bustling town where tourists are rarely seen. This quaint town, famously known as 'Land of the Cowboys of the East'; it is also one of the most scenic districts in Sabah, with its wonderful tapestry of cultures and customs; embracing those of the Bajau Muslim majority and smatterings of the Kadazan Dusun and Irranun traditions. For many centuries, Kota Belud has played an imperative role as the cultural hub of Northern Borneo. There will be an opportunity to dip in the river and wash away the days sweat before driving for 2 hours back to Kota Kinabalu and a well earned rest at Le Meridian.

Day 7: Padas River – white water rafting

After breakfast in the hotel, we will depart for the Padas River, for a days exhilarating white-water rafting. Your challenge to conquer the Padas begins as you flow downstream with your guides shouting instructions above the roar of the river for a distance of approximately 5 kilometres, down the confines of the Gorge. The more tranquil stretches of the river gives you the chance to take in the unspoilt rainforest around you. In the evening you will return for dinner and overnight stay at the Le Meridian and gala dinner to celebrate our achievements.

Day 8: Kota Kinabalu to Kuala Lumpur*

We have the day free to explore the city and take in some local culture before transferring to the airport for our flight home.



Day 9: Depart for London

Arrive London early morning

*NB: We can organise an optional tour to Poring Hot Springs. People can enjoy a canopy walkway through nature trails, observing the wildlife and tropical rainforest from a monkey's eye view with birds and butterflies. After a relaxing swim in the Hot Springs people will return to Kota Kinabalu to join the rest of the group to transfer to the airport for the onward flight home.

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change

Challenge grade

Tough

Best time of year

March to June