

## THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAN YOUR TRIP.

### Activities and Attractions:

- Guided tour of Kota Kinabalu
- Visit the Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary
- 2 day, 1 night trek around Penan Village, exploring the geography of the isolated land and people
  - Visit a cave only professionally surveyed once
- Participate in a multi-day community service project with locals in a remote Penan village
  - Launch a construction project building a wildlife viewing hide or guest facility
- Shop at the handicraft market in Kota Kinabalu
- Embark on an overnight trek to the summit of Mount Kinabalu, over 4,000 m above sea level!
- Enjoy time at the Tip of Borneo
  - Spend time at the turtle nesting project

### Accommodations:

- Lodge, homestay, or hotel accommodation to be provided every night
- Minimum 2 star accommodation
- Triple or quadruple occupancy available for students
- Double occupancy available for staff
- Evolve Tours only chooses accommodations it deems safe and acceptable for student groups

### Transportation:

- Return coach airfare from Toronto to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, stops en route
- Roundtrip airfare from Kota Kinabalu to Miri
- All ground transportation

### Meals:

- All Breakfasts, Lunches and Dinners included

## EVOLVE TOURS, HAND PICKED FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

### Additional Personnel

- 1 Evolve Tour Directors
- Local suppliers & support staff

### Exclusives

- Creative Trip programming and leadership activities
- Videography and Photography
- Forever Green by Evolve Tours- Carbon Offset this whole trip (ask for details)

### Package price is based on

Paying Students	20	15	15
Complimentary Chaperones	2	2	3
<b>Price per Paying Student</b>	<b>\$3,918</b>	<b>\$4,172</b>	<b>\$4,300</b>

- Prices may be subject to fuel surcharges and flight availability
- Total Package price may vary if number of paying customers changes
- Does not include vaccinations
- Approximate cost breakdown provided on last page<sup>i</sup>

### Insurance

- Add \$97 per person for medical, cancellation and lost baggage coverage.

### DAY 1 Friday February 28 Travel to Malaysia

We will meet at Toronto Pearson Airport, and board our group flight to Malaysia, stops en route.

### DAY 2 Saturday March 1 Arrive in Kota Kinabalu

Our Evolve guide will meet us at Kota Kinabalu airport upon arrival in the evening, excited to be with you for the upcoming trip! Your Evolve guide will Check in and enjoy a good night's sleep in a bed after a long few days of travel.

### DAY 3 Sunday March 2 Welcome to Kota Kinabalu, Continue on to Miri

After breakfast this morning, we will enjoy a tour of Kota Kinabalu (KK). A former British colony, KK is a growing and booming Malaysian city, with tourism particularly on the rise. The city is located on the west coast of the state of Sabah, along the ocean front of the South China Sea. Our tour this morning will serve as an introduction to Malaysia, focusing on the people (language, religion), the history (colonialism, independence, post-independence), and of course geography (biodiversity, landforms, flora and fauna to be encountered further in the trip). We will see the Atkinson Clock Tower, a famous site in KK; visit the Petagas War Memorial, and learn about World War II on this side of the world; and visit the Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre, a mangrove conservation area located just outside of the city. After lunch, we will grab our bags, hop on the bus and head back to the airport. We will take a short regional flight to Miri this afternoon. We will check into our Miri hostel on the outskirts of the city, and have a final evening to purchase supplies and prepare for the upcoming days' project.

### DAY 4 Monday March 3 Transfer to Penan Village

We will be making our way to our remote Penan Village today, to begin our cultural exchange and community service phase of the trip. We will take a 50 minute flight on a twin otter jet, followed by a 4x4 jeep ride and finally a trek on foot. There will be excitement in the village over our arrival; only 1 other international group has ever been here for their community project! We will check into our accommodations, and begin to introduce ourselves and learn about our new hosts and homes. Enjoy a home cooked local meal for dinner, free time to time mingle and reflect at night, then get a good night's sleep for the big work days ahead.

### DAY 5 - 7 Tuesday March 4 – Thursday March 6 Community Service

The purpose of these community service days will be to integrate ourselves with our local community. With the aid of money fundraised, we will launch a construction project that will greatly aid the local village. Depending on local needs and our wants, we will either build a hide for wildlife viewing, or a bathroom facility for guests. Both of these projects aim at attracting further tourists to the area—while it is great for us to visit an infrequently visited community, an influx in tourism would mean an influx of income and improved lives for our local friends. In addition, these projects would aid minimize potential environmental degradation from such groups.

When we are not working hand-in-hand with the locals on our construction project, we will be aiding in daily chores—these will include farm work using local tools and techniques, household work, etc. At nights we will have time for games, dance, music, and further interaction with our hosts.

### DAY 8 - 9 Friday March 7 – Saturday March 8 Trek

We will depart on a 2 day, 1 night trek to explore the flora, fauna and geography of this remote area. We will have the chance to explore some small local caves which have only ever been surveyed once back in the 70's. We will be

guided by local experts who will be able to share insights, secrets, history and common knowledge about their local neck of the woods. On Saturday, we will return to our village in the evening and enjoy a final feast and celebration. Enjoy our last night in the community.

#### **DAY 10 Sunday March 9 Back to Kota Kinabalu**

After breakfast, we will say goodbye to our new friends and make our way back to Kota Kinabalu—trek, 4x4, and then flight to Miri and on to KK. Check into our hostel in KK once again, and enjoy dinner as a group at a local restaurant back in the major city.

#### **DAY 11 Monday March 10 Kinabalu National Park**

We will get an early jump on our day and depart Kota Kinabalu bright and early. We will be heading overland to Kinabalu National Park, Malaysia's first UNESCO World Heritage site. The park covers 754 square kilometers, and its 4 distinct climate zones—ranging from rich lowlands to alpine meadows—offer an incredible varying array of ecologies and geographies. Upon arriving to the park, check into our hostel, begin acclimating to the altitude, and enjoy a guided walk of the beautiful park. Spend the night in a hostel in the park.

#### **DAY 12 Tuesday March 11 Begin Mount Kinabalu**

Today we will meet our guide and porters who will be aiding us in our summit. Begin trekking up the mountain, starting with passing a beautiful waterfall in the first kilometer. As we ascend, the lush rainforest of below transforms to a more barren alpine landscape—not to worry, it is equally beautiful in its unique nature. We will stop at rest huts along the way to catch our breath and fill our water bottles, and eventually make it to our destination for the evening-- Laban Rata, our guesthouse at an altitude of 3272 m. Rest and spend the night; prepare for our early wake-up.

#### **DAY 13 Wednesday March 12 Summit Mount Kinabalu**

Wake-up will be at roughly 2:30 am today—let the summit begin. We will ascend as a group through the darkness, arriving at the peak of 4,095 m in time to watch the sunrise. Take in the beauty of standing 'on top of the world' with our panoramic views, and feel good with yourself for completing the journey up. Now, the descent—we will make our way all the way down following our high at the top of the mountain. At the end of our long trek we will hop in a waiting vehicle for us and transfer overland to Kudat, Tip of Borneo. Enjoy dinner, check in at village accommodation and sleep sound for the night.

#### **DAY 14 Thursday March 13 Tip of Borneo**

We might not have been able to appreciate it given our late and tired arrival, but we are at the stunningly beautiful Tip of Borneo, the northernmost tip of the Malaysian island of Borneo. We will be staying at a village that has a turtle nesting project right on its beautiful beach, so this will be a neat opportunity for us. We will help with beach clean-ups at this ecologically important location. Other activities over the next two days will include learning about the local legends of pirates and village raiding that took place here; visiting the highest viewing point in the area, named after Tomanggong Kurantud, a renowned local warrior; visiting the Giant Bronze Globe with the Jalur Gemilang (Malaysian National Flag), marking the northernmost tip; and watching a dramatic sunset over the intersection of the South China Sea and the Sulu Sea. We will take the time to reflect and debrief our trip and experience as we enjoy our final days.

**DAY 15 Friday March 14 Return to Kota Kinabalu**

We will make our way back to Kota Kinabalu today. In the afternoon we will visit the Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary. We will make our way along the walkways, with the opportunity to see orangutans (and other animals) up close and person in this rehabilitation centre. Return to our KK hostel in the late afternoon to freshen up. Go out for a final group celebratory dinner at a local restaurant in the evening. We will return to the hotel at night to pack up and get ready for our next stop of the trip.

**DAY 16 Saturday March 15 Homeward Bound**

We will transfer to the airport and board our flights, homeward bound.

**DAY 17 Sunday March 16 Arrive Home**

Arrive in Toronto, excited to see our friends and families after a great trip to Malaysia together.