BORNEO

SABAH, SARAWAK AND ANZAC DAY IN SANDAKAN

22 April - 4 May 2020
with Bernadette Eichner

• KUALA LUMPUR • SANDAKAN • SEPILOK • KINABATANGAN • KINABALU PARK •
• KOTA KINABALU • LABUAN FEDERAL TERRITORY • KUCHING •
OVERVIEW

On this very special Asian adventure, we discover the extraordinary beauty and tragic history of North Borneo. Not only will we ride the rails in one of the world’s most intriguing locations, experience its abundant natural wonders, and explore fascinating cities and towns, but we’ll also have the opportunity to attend the special Anzac Day dawn ceremony in Sandakan. Here we’ll remember the Australian and British soldiers who tragically perished in the Death Marches of 1945.

We begin our journey in Malaysia’s modern, bustling capital, Kuala Lumpur, before flying to Sandakan in Borneo for the Anzac Day dawn service. Then it’s off to commune with the ‘Wild Men of Borneo’, the Orangutangs, and their friends the engaging Sun Bears at the internationally recognised rehabilitation and conservation centre at Sepilok. We’ll visit the historic island of Labuan and discover unique wildlife at the Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort before continuing to the stunning UNESCO World Heritage-listed Kinabalu National Park. We’ll then enjoy an extended stay in Sabah’s capital, Kota Kinabalu and join the North Borneo Railway, a reinvigorated remote colonial line. We cap off our adventure with a trip to Sarawak and the fascinating, historic city of Kuching. Join us on this special journey through vast unspoiled natural beauty, vibrant modern cities, friendly people, and a wealth of rich stories, including a poignant legacy for remembrance and reflection.

HIGHLIGHTS

• A full-day discovery of Kuala Lumpur with your specialist guide
• Attend the official Anzac Day dawn service in Sandakan
• Visit the Orangutan Rehabilitation centre and Sun Bear Conservation centre in Sepilok
• Explore the beautiful Kinabalu National Park, including the spectacular Mount Kinabalu and Kundasung war memorial gardens
• Ride the historic North Borneo Railway steam train from Kota Kinabalu to Papar and return
• Experience another section of the North Borneo Railway on a private chartered railcar, along the Pandas River to Tenom
• Stay in the unique and incredibly tranquil Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort, exploring the incredible flora and fauna via a remote jungle river safari
• Explore the historic main island of the Federal Territory of Labuan and visit the Commonwealth War Graves site
• Explore the historic city of Kuching, the capital of the state of Sarawak
• Visit history and culture museums in Kuala Lumpur, Kota Kinabalu, Kuching and Labuan
• Enjoy the knowledge and insights of expert English-speaking guides throughout

MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

BERNADETTE EICHNER

A skilled presenter, actor, psychologist and an emerging voice for the over-55’s, Bernadette owns and operates her own businesses, helping organisations to be the best they can be. Her travel experiences are many and varied, from the wilds of the Kimberley to the port caves of Portugal, from the treasures of Angkor Wat to the bright lights of Broadway, the magnificence of Scandinavia to the big skies of South Africa. Over the last two years, she has co-hosted many tours with Scott McGregor, including Scandinavia, Vietnam, Borneo, Japan, and Sri Lanka and started leading in her own right with our highly successful Borneo 2019 tour. Our client testimonials praise her for being well organised, fun, inclusive and empathetic.

“This was a brilliant tour. So glad it was timed to involve the ANZAC commemorations. There was something in this tour for everyone - history, wildlife, culture, foods. It was an amazing itinerary.”

RUSSELL HOPKINS, QLD
WHY TRAVEL WITH US

The joy of travel is not confined to the destination. How you travel is a large and rich part of the experience. Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world’s most spectacular holiday destinations, with the confidence that the journey will be just as magical and memorable as what you find at the end of the line.

WITH US, YOU CAN EXPECT:

- **Small group sizes** — a small number of passengers per trip guarantees an intimate experience with less time spent queuing, more time with your guide, and better access to sightseeing destinations.
- **Unique itineraries** — each itinerary has been meticulously developed by a team of expert travellers with many years’ experience, an intimate knowledge of the destination, and with great cultural awareness. You are guaranteed to experience the best that each destination has to offer.
- **Authentic local experiences** — whether it’s a little-known yet impressive steam railway, a small boutique hotel or an authentic restaurant, we know that you will experience something special on our tours.
- **Expert local guides and operators** — we employ local guides to share their passion and knowledge of the place they call home, while our partners on the ground provide the best possible support and backup all the way.
- **Customer satisfaction** — our testimonials speak for themselves. Thousands have travelled with us over the years and many come back year after year, often bringing friends along. Our customer satisfaction ratings show that over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.
- **Fully escorted** — our tour leaders are experienced and capable, entertaining and considerate and, together with our local guides have your needs well covered. They help with everything along the way, providing peace of mind, and enabling you to relax and enjoy the journey. And you’ll find them jolly good company, to boot!

TOUR MAP

![Tour Map](image)

SOME WAYS YOU WILL TRAVEL

The best train trips possible, private luxury coach for off-train travel, guided walking where suitable, and other appropriate and appealing options to make exploration easy.
DAY 1: Wed 22 April 2020 · ARRIVE KUALA LUMPUR
We arrive in Malaysia's bustling capital city of Kuala Lumpur and check in to our centrally-located hotel. Most flights will arrive in the evening. Take a little time to relax and freshen up before joining your fellow travellers for celebratory welcome drinks and supper at the rooftop bar in our hotel.
Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Kuala Lumpur (late evening drinks and supper)

DAY 2: Thu 23 April · KUALA LUMPUR
Today we’ll embark on a full day guided tour, exploring the many sights and attractions of Kuala Lumpur. From our hotel we’ll take a short walk to the station and board our train to Masiijd Jamek (Jamek Mosque), where we’ll pay a visit to Merdeka Square – the site of the nation’s historic Declaration of Independence. Close by is the impressive city centre and the iconic Petronas Twin Towers – the tallest twin towers in the world. We’ll also visit the National Monument, with its 15m bronze memorial dedicated to Malaysia’s national heroes. Following this we’ll enjoy lunch at a popular local restaurant.
We then continue on to the Royal Selangor Pewter Museum, featuring the largest and most modern pewter factory in the world. Our factory tour will demonstrate the different manufacturing processes, including casting, polishing as well as the intricate engraving. We’ll finish the day with a visit to the extensive National Museum before returning to our hotel, a short distance away by foot.
The rest of the evening will be free for you to spend at your leisure. You might want to continue exploring this vibrant city, or simply relax and enjoy the hotel facilities.
Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, (B, L)

DAY 3: Fri 24 April · KUALA LUMPUR - SANDAKAN
We farewell Kuala Lumpur after breakfast this morning and board our short flight to Sandakan in the state of Sabah. On arrival we’ll be taken to our hotel to check in for the next two nights. Enjoy some free time to freshen up before regrouping for dinner.
Overnight: Four Points by Sheraton, Sandakan (or similar), (B, D)

DAY 4: Sat 25 April · SANDAKAN - ANZAC DAY SERVICE
It’s an early start this morning to attend the Anzac Day dawn service at the Sandakan Memorial Park, once the site of the prisoner of war camp. Here, in our reserved seats, we will remember our fallen heroes – 2,345 allied prisoners of war who suffered and perished during the infamous death marches from Sandakan to Ranau in 1945. The mostly Australian and British soldiers were taken to Sandakan to build airstrips. After enduring horrific treatment and malnourishment, they were forced on a torturously long walk to Ranau, a distance of over 260km. Only six Australians survived.
The story of Sandakan is one of the most tragic of World War II. Every year, family members and friends of the POWs who perished during the death marches travel to Sandakan to reflect and remember. This event also remembers local residents who risked their lives to help the POWs during this tragic period. The service begins at dawn and is approximately one hour long, after which we’ll have a gunfire breakfast at the memorial park and then enjoy the rest of the morning at leisure, perhaps with a second breakfast back at the hotel (included in your room rate).
Later in the day we’ll take a short city tour, beginning at St Michael’s church – the oldest stone church in Sabah. We’ll then pay a visit to the historic Agnes Keith House and a nearby Chinese temple, offering beautiful views of the city. On the way back to our hotel we’ll experience how the locals live in a floating village. The rest of the evening is at leisure.
Overnight: Four Points by Sheraton, Sandakan, (or similar), (B)

DAY 5: Sun 26 April · SANDAKAN - KINABATANGAN
After breakfast this morning we’ll check out of our hotel and drive the short way to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre for a close encounter with the ‘wild man of Borneo.’ Here we’ll take a short walk in this primary forest reserve to the observation deck to witness the orangutan feeding by the rangers and learn about the centre’s conservation and rehabilitation efforts. We’ll also visit the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre next door.
From here we’ll travel to the Sandakan Yacht Club jetty and board our boat to the Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort in Abai, Kinabatangan. The one-and-a-half-hour boat ride will take us across Sandakan Bay, passing historical Berhala island and fishing villages. On arrival at our resort we’ll check in and enjoy a cup of coffee and local banana fritters while we’re briefed about the lodging and activities, after which we’ll have some time to relax, freshen up and explore. Later in the afternoon we’ll board another, smaller boat for a cruise along Kinabatangan River in search of wildlife. You’ll just love the stunning serene river setting from our boat as the sun sets over the landscape. If weather permits we’ll watch the fireflies shimmering as the evening falls before journeying back to our resort for dinner. After dinner, geared up with our headlamps and torchlights, we’ll take a stroll along the boardwalk to look for interesting insects and other unique wildlife that might turn up after dark.
Overnight: Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort (B, D)

DAY 6: Mon 27 April · KINABATANGAN - KINABALU PARK
We’ll farewell our resort after breakfast this morning, travelling back to Sandakan and arriving just in time for lunch at the renowned local English tea-house adjacent to Agnes Keith’s house and restaurant. We’ll then embark on a scenic journey by coach to Kinabalu National Park, arriving at approximately 8pm (depending on the road conditions). We’ll check in to our cozy lodge, freshen up and re-group for dinner at around 8pm at the Balsam Restaurant.
Overnight: Nepenthes Lodge, Kinabalu Park (or similar), (B, L, D)

DAY 7: Tue 28 April · KINABALU PARK - KOTA KINABALU
This morning, enjoy some free time to explore the stunning natural environment of the Kinabalu National Park. You can admire the rare flora of the area with a morning walk around the Botanical Gardens or simply relax in the lodge. You’ll also have the option of taking a side trip to the nearby Kundasang War Memorial. We’ll depart this tranquil scene at midday and drive to the bustling centre of Kota Kinabalu.
On the way into the city we’ll take note of various important sites such as the spectacular State Mosque with its gold motif domes and the waterfront area bustling with markets, restaurants and fleets of fishing boats. After checking in to our centrally-located hotel and having some time to explore and freshen up, we’ll enjoy a buffet dinner together at the hotel’s restaurant.
Overnight: Le Meridien, Kota Kinabalu (B, L D)

DAY 8: Wed 29 April · KOTA KINABALU - LABUAN
Enjoy a morning at leisure before checking out with our overnight packs and boarding our plane for the short hop to the Federal Territory of Labuan. On arrival we’ll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before embarking on a tour of the island with our expert local guide. We’ll begin with a visit to the interesting history and culture museum, giving us an overview of this unique island territory. Next is a stop at the Commonwealth War Cemetery; home to 3,908 graves of soldiers who either died at the POW camp sites, on the death marches or in battle. The remains of the Allied troops were gathered from all over Borneo to be interred at the cemetery, all bearing a plaque, some identified, but so many still listed as, ‘Known only to God.’ The peace and tranquility of the place takes hold as you seek to understand the tragedy of the deaths of so many brave young men. We’ll then make our way up to Surrender Point where plaques mark the spot where the 37th Japanese Southern Army surrendered to the 9th Division Australian Imperial Forces on the 9th September 1945, ending World War II in Borneo.
Later on we’ll settle into our accommodation for the night and enjoy dinner together.
Overnight: Grand Dorsett Hotel, Labuan (B, L, D)
DAY 9: Thu 30 April · LABUAN - BEAUFORT - TENOM - KOTA KINABALU

Today is devoted to a unique journey on a variety of transport, including the North Borneo Railway, on a route not usually explored. This railway was built in the late 1890s and was originally constructed for the tobacco trade. We’ll begin our morning with a ferry ride from Labuan to Menumbuk, before continuing by coach to the town of Beaufort. From here we’ll board our private chartered railcar and embark on our journey on the North Borneo Railway. We travel through lush forest, following the scenic Padas River, before arriving in the frontier town of Tenom in time for lunch at a local restaurant. Following lunch we’ll depart Tenom, boarding our railcar once again and travelling back to Beaufort where we’ll call into a memorial to the bravery of the Australian 9th division. This memorial includes details of the battles that defeated the Japanese and also the heroics of Tom Starcevich VC. We’ll travel by coach back to Kota Kinabalu, re-unite with our luggage and enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Le Meridien, Kota Kinabalu, (B, L)

Day 10: Fri 1 May · KOTA KINABALU - PAPAR - KOTA KINABALU

We travel a short distance this morning to Tanjung Aru Station for our journey on another section of the character-filled North Borneo Railway, this time travelling by steam. In the company of our guide we’ll settle in for the journey behind the old wood-burning steam loco, built by the Vulcan Foundry in 1954. The gentle run from Tanjung Aru to Papar takes us past paddy fields, rubber plantations, towns and villages to where the train will be turned. From Papar we’ll take our coach to the Mari Mari Cultural Village to learn about the different tribal groups, the types of housing, foods and warcraft, topping the visit off with a cultural performance. On our way back to our hotel in Kota Kinabalu we’ll call in for a short visit to the interesting museum of Sabah, which showcases much of the history and culture of the area, including a collection of rail-related rolling stock and artefacts. We’ll enjoy dinner at our hotel later this evening.

Overnight: Le Meridien, Kota Kinabalu, (B, L, D)

DAY 11: Sat 2 May · KOTA KINABALU - KUCHING

This morning we’ll transfer to the airport for the mid-morning flight to Kuching. On arrival we’ll check in to our centrally-located hotel and have lunch at the café in the Old Courthouse building. Enjoy some down time before regrouping for an early evening walking tour through old Kuching before boarding our boat for a sunset cruise on the Sarawak River. The rest of the evening is at leisure to explore and take advantage of the abundance of restaurants and shops in the vicinity of our hotel.

Overnight: The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching (B, L)

DAY 12: Sun 3 May · KUCHING

Following breakfast we’ll embark on a guided tour of Kuching, beginning with a visit to Batu Lintang, once a Japanese internment camp during WWII. The camp housed both Allied prisoners of war and civilian internees, up to 3,000 souls at its peak. Following this we’ll explore Fort Margherita, an unmistakable landmark along the Sarawak River, built by Raja Charles Brooke in 1879 to guard Kuching’s river approaches from pirates and rebels. Fort Margherita is also home to The Brooke Gallery, a museum that depicts the story of the work and influence of the White Rajas. We’ll then visit the State Museum which includes the extensive collection of the renowned botanist Alfred Russel Wallace. After lunch at a vibrant local restaurant, Café Café, we’ll continue our tour with a visit to the Chinese History Museum to learn about the enormous influence of the Chinese on the region. We’ll then return to our hotel and regroup for our celebratory farewell dinner on the waterfront, including a box seat for the amazing musical fountain light show that plays out on the river, against the backdrop of the extraordinary parliament building.

Overnight: The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching (B, L, D)

DAY 13: Mon 4 May · KUCHING - DEPART (B)

Our Borneo adventure comes to an end after breakfast this morning. You’ll be taken to the airport for your flight home or onward to more adventures.

“...It’s been a fantastic trip because there’s been so much variety, but also some very meaningful stuff for a lot of us, particularly the WWII and POW content. It’s been great fun - everyone seems to have a great sense of humour and we all got along really well. You couldn’t ask much more from a holiday.”

ROBIN WATTS, WA
WHAT’S INCLUDED

• 12 nights’ accommodation in the highest quality hotels available in each location, mostly 4-5 star
• Most meals included, daily breakfast, 8 lunches, 7 dinners
• Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
• Luxury chartered coach, with luggage transport throughout the tour
• Comprehensive sightseeing with an English-speaking guide and colleagues
• Airport transfers on arrival and departure
• All excursions and entrance fees to attractions, as listed in the itinerary
• Economy Class flights as specified in the itinerary - Kuala Lumpur to Sandakan, Kota Kinabalu to Labuan and Kota Kinabalu to Kuching (Note. 20kg luggage limit included)
• Tipping and gratuities

WHAT WE DON’T INCLUDE

• International flights
• Meals and services not mentioned in the itinerary
• All other personal expenses, such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services and camera fees where applicable
• Excursions listed as optional and extra in the itinerary

PRICE

Per person twin share.................................................. $6,985
Single supplement........................................................ $1,545
Deposit (per person)............................................... $1,000 at time of booking
Final payment due by ........................................... 20 February 2020
SUGGESTED FLIGHTS
We have suggested flights for this itinerary depending on your departure point from Australia, any preferred stopovers on route and/or your planned pre- and post-tour activities. We can also investigate your preferred airline and offer you a solution based on connection times and prices. Contact 1300 800 977 to discuss your options.

HOW TO BOOK
Download a booking form from our website and follow the easy steps to getting on board. Alternatively, contact us on 1300 800 977 or info@railwayadventures.com if you’d prefer a form be sent to you. Complete the form and submit it, along with your $1000 pp deposit to secure your place on the tour.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect the final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to: significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates, individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings; weather events forcing a change of itinerary; unexpected trackwork on rail lines, unexpected closure of site attractions and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality that you’ve paid for.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:
Our itineraries are designed to make the most of each destination, so a reasonable amount of activity is built into most days, which is why we call them adventures. Our philosophy is to offer you the best experience possible, while leaving you, our guest, the flexibility to pace yourself and choose how much or how little you want to do. Each Railway Adventures tour incorporates periods of free time for your own exploration and relaxation. While you don’t need to be a ‘gym junkie’, a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours. The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off all manner of trains and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS
In addition to assisting with flight suggestions and bookings, we can also give you some ideas of what you could do before and after your Railway Adventure. We can also organise your all-important Travel Insurance for you. Call our office on 1300 800 977 if you would like to discuss options.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions, which accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website.

SOME PLACES YOU WILL STAY
Hand-picked hotels and resorts based on location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere.
Here’s some of what you can expect on this tour:

Hilton Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
Le Meridien, Kota Kinabalu
The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching
Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort
THE RAILWAY ADVENTURES STORY

A passion for train travel can manifest itself in many ways. Founder and director of Railway Adventures, Scott McGregor, has made much of his obsession over the years. Scott says, “Travelling to boarding school on the Mudgee Mail gave me a sense of how an active social life and long-distance trains can be a good combination.”

Building a rural retreat out of a collection of vintage railway carriages in the early 1980s gave Scott a new perspective on rail heritage. During this time, he also operated his first tour—the Antipodean Renaissance Express—an experience he has never forgotten. Trading in vintage memorabilia and furniture sourced largely from the railways was also a source of great inspiration. Scott travelled far and wide, trading and collecting for his Sydney shop, Off The Rails.

Hosting a couple of TV documentary series about great train journeys paved the way for leading his own train journeys. Once just an enjoyable part-time hobby, “getting paid to do what I love” has, naturally enough, led to a more substantial commitment and ultimately the launch of Scott’s own dedicated train travel and touring company. 10 May 2019.

TRAVEL ACCREDITED LIC #A14416

1300 800 977 railwayadventures.com