



MALAYSIA: ORANG-UTAN REHABILITATION

COLOURFUL AND EXOTIC, MALAYSIA STRETCHES FROM THE PENINSULAR TO THE ISLAND OF BORNEO ... A WEALTH OF CHOICE!

Malaysia offers a wealth of choice and is an ideal starting point for a trip to South East Asia. From the gleaming sky scrapers of Kuala Lumpur to the rainforests and wildlife of Sabah and Sarawak - there is so much to see and do! Sabah itself is home to lush tropical rainforests, wonderful sandy beaches, the breathtaking Mount Kinabalu, and a biodiversity of Marine and Wildlife like no other.

This includes Borneo's Native and most famous resident – the Orang-Utan! Sabah is one of the last places on earth that you can see these remarkable creatures in their natural habitat.

WHAT DO YOU GET?

- The enormous satisfaction of helping Orang-utans knowing that you made a difference to them.
- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into South East Asia and Malaysian culture
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.
- Experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who'll meet you at the airport on your arrival - helps you **feel safe and never alone!**
- An in-depth Induction makes you **feel local straight away!**
- An opportunity to **make lifelong friends from all over the world.**
- And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**



► SUMMARY FACTFILE

Start Dates	Every two months, please ask us for dates
Duration	8 weeks. This is a fixed-length project and you cannot do shorter or longer periods on the project.
Requirements	No qualifications needed, just enthusiasm and a high fitness level
Price	For up-to-date prices, please check our website www.travellersworldwide.com
What's included	► Accommodation ► Food ► Meeting you at the Airport ► Transfer to your accommodation ► Transport to and from your project ► Full pre-departure support ► Local in-country team support and backup ► 24-hr emergency support.
What's not included	Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required, but we'll provide necessary documents and assistance),
Who can do this Project?	All our projects are open to all nationalities. Unless otherwise stated, you need to be aged between 17 and 70+ Please note that this project is extremely popular, so very early booking is strongly advised.

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

Orang-Utans are astonishingly gentle, highly intelligent and they gaze at you with almost disconcerting frankness! At Sepilok you will have the opportunity to work with these gentle and highly intelligent red apes in their natural environment. Interaction with these remarkable creatures, man's closest relative, will be an unforgettable experience!

The Orang-Utan is one of the most endangered of Malaysian wildlife species. Found only in Borneo and Sumatra, the Orang-Utans' survival is constantly threatened by forest fires, felling of trees, poaching and illegal hunting.

The Orang-Utan Programme

The Sepilok Orang-Utan Rehabilitation Centre is located near Sandakan, in Malaysian Borneo. This centre was set up as a means of housing injured or orphaned Orang-Utans, caring for them and nursing them back to health before they can be released into the forest. Many Orang-Utans that end up here have strayed into logging camps or been rescued from captivity. Many are orphaned babies that cannot survive in the forest alone. Orang-Utans (in Malay "man of the forest") are protected under the Fauna Conservation Ordinance which, among other things, prohibits hunting, trading or keeping them as pets.

The Orang-Utan Rehabilitation Centre is situated on the east coast of Sabah, 23 km from Sandakan. A twenty-minute drive from Sandakan brings you to Kabili-Sepilok Forest, an enormous area of virgin rainforest. The wealth of indigenous and rare plants, animals and birds that have found sanctuary here must be seen to be believed. The Wildlife Reserve contains the Orang-Utan rehabilitation centre.

Sepilok centre was established in 1964 to return orphaned apes back to the wild. The objectives of the project have expanded in recent years and while Orang-Utan rehabilitation is still the primary goal at Sepilok, present aims include public education on conservation with other endangered species such as Borneon Sun Bears. The centre now has more than 37 staff looking after the welfare of the Orang-Utans.



When the rescued Orang-Utans first arrive at the centre, they are often in a sorry state and riddled with diseases. They are put into cages while they're treated for their ailments and nursed back to health. The wardens then teach them how to forage for fruit, climb trees and generally fend for themselves. When they are mid-way through the rehabilitation process they are released into the surrounding forest reserve. The animals then spend most of their time in the forest but often return to one of the centre's five feeding platforms for a "free" meal. When the wardens feel that that an Orang-Utan is fully rehabilitated, it is caught and returned to the wild - usually deep in the forest or to one of the National Parks or Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Work Content.

Specific duties may vary depending on what is required at the time, so a degree of flexibility is required. During your placement it is likely that you will;

- Learn about managing juvenile Orang-Utans by working at the Outdoor Nursery.
- Learn about managing baby Orang-Utans by working at the Indoor Nursery / Clinic.
- Conduct a Field Survey on the Orang-Utan population and small mammals within Sepilok reserve.
- Assist in the care of rescued Borneon Sun Bears.

Work will be done on a rotational basis, with different groups of volunteers working within each of the different departments outlined above. The tasks that you are asked to do, no matter how small, will help to improve the day to day life for these Orang-Utans - you will gain great satisfaction knowing that you have contributed to this. This is a serious placement where you are doing meaningful conservation work. You will be required to work very hard and should have a high level of fitness in order to take part.

At times you will be supervised by staff at the centre, at other times you will be required to work independently.

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"We worked so hard there and tried to make such a difference and have an impact on all their lives, which we obviously achieved. We bought towels to make hammocks for the Orang-Utans in their cages as they had nothing. Just to go in each morning and see them curled up in them was rewarding!"

Indoor Nursery:

This area looks after the infants, from just a few months to around four years old. The babies stay in the sleeping area. Possible duties include:

- Transfer of the Infant Orang-Utan from the sleeping cages to the playing cages.
- Cleaning the sleeping area
- Preparation of food for the infants (peeling bananas, making formula milk)
- Feeding the babies bottled formula drink
- Distributing bananas to the infant Orang-Utans
- Caring for the sick infants
- Transferring Orang-Utans back to the sleeping cages
- Cleaning the Indoor nursery area



Outdoor Nursery:

This area is home to the juveniles, generally aged between five and eight years old. During the evening the Orang-Utans spend the night in the cages, but during the daytime they are left outdoors to fend for themselves. These Orang-Utans are fed twice daily, at five different platforms. Platform one is for new graduates, whilst platforms 2-5 are for the seniors of the class! The feeding platform varies daily, at the Rangers discretion, to teach the Orang-Utan to search for their own food. This ensures the Orang-Utan do not become reliant on food being at a particular platform each day. Possible duties include:

- Preparation of milk
- Assisting the rangers by carrying the milk and bananas to the platform
- Cleaning out the cages
- Observation of the juvenile Orang-Utans.



Field Survey within Sepilok Reserve:

With the assistance of a ranger, you will be required to undertake an observation of the Orang-Utan population within the 4500 Hectare reserve. You will receive a lecture on the methodology of observation and data recording prior to the commencement of the task. You will be required to count and record the number of individual Orang-Utan sightings as well as the number of nests throughout the Sepilok forest area. Similar duties will also be carried out for individual platforms, where you will be required to note the number of Orang-Utans, sex ratios and where possible, identify individual Orang-Utan from their ID number or name. This survey may also cover identification of small mammals in the reserve.

Sun Bear Conservation: You will also get the chance to be involved in Sepilok's Sun Bear conservation programme. Like the Orang-utan, Sun Bears are native to Borneo and have also been affected by large-scale deforestation and poaching, making them an endangered species. Sepilok are also now caring for an increasing number of Sun Bears. Possible duties include:

- Assisting with food collection (leaves, logs etc)
- Food preparation
- Cleaning of cages

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LOCATION:

All of our projects are based in Sabah, located in the north east of Malaysian Borneo and surrounded by both the South China and Sulu Sea. Sabah itself is home to lush tropical rainforests, wonderful sandy beaches, the breathtaking Mount Kinabalu and a biodiversity of Marine and Wildlife like no other.

This includes Borneo's Native and most famous resident – the Orang-Utan! Sabah is one of the last places on earth that you can see these remarkable creatures in their natural habitat.

Across the whole of Sabah, Filipinos, along with various ethnic groups and indigenous tribes (For example, Chinese, Bajau, Kadazan, Dusun and Murut) account for over half of the population. Malaysia is "Truly Asia" - a real multicultural society. The official language in Malaysia is Bahasa Malay, but due to the fusion of religious and ethnic groups found in Malaysia English is widely spoken.

This is a country where the sun shines, the sea is crystal clear and there are endless coconut, banana and palm trees!

Throughout the whole of Sabah you will find many local "Tamu", meaning market - the variety of fruit, vegetables, plants and handcrafted items on sale at cheap prices has to be seen to be believed! Some of the exotic fruits that you may come across include Rambutan, Mangosteen, Belimbing (or star fruit) and last but not least, the Durian. This green spiky fruit is famous throughout Asia due to its pungent smell - but don't be put off by this as it is actually something of a delicacy(!).



ACCOMMODATION & FOOD:

Accommodation at Sepilok will be in the nearby Sepilok Rest House. This is a privately run Bed and Breakfast which comprises basic but clean facilities. The Sepilok Rest House is located at the entrance to the Orang-Utan centre and just a few minutes walk from here takes you to the edge of the tropical virgin rainforest and a wide expanse of lush jungle.

Volunteers are required to share rooms (usually two or three to a room) and food will be provided at the Rest House. The owner (Mr Chong) and his staff are very friendly and will ensure that you are made to feel at home.

VISAS:

In countries where visas are needed, we'll send you all the necessary forms and information and make the process very easy for you.

FLIGHTS:

You have the option to arrange your own flights or we can assist you with your flight arrangements. If you would like us to do this for you, we will liaise with you regarding available flights and dates to suit you. All arrangements for your flight bookings/payments will be fulfilled by [Murray Rogers Travel Limited](#), ATOL No. 6856.

INDUCTION ON ARRIVAL:

When you arrive, you will be welcomed at the airport by our Malaysian Organiser, who will take you to your accommodation. During your first few days you will be given an induction so that you can learn about Malaysia and its culture, as well as useful information like how to use the transport system etc.

COSTS:

Please see the prices pages of our website [Full Price List](#). The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Meeting you at the airport
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Transport to and from your project

- ✓ Local in-country team support and backup
- ✓ 24hr emergency helpline
- ✓ Full pre-departure support
- ✓ UK administration
- ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs,
- advertising, website listings and presentations)
- ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection
- ✓ Staff Training/Equipment
- ✓ Donations to worthwhile projects

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

For every volunteer, a donation is made by Travellers on your behalf into the **Bridge The Gap Foundation**. This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

COUNTRY PROFILE:

All of our projects are based in Sabah, located in the north east of Malaysian Borneo and surrounded by both the South China and Sulu Sea. Sabah itself is home to lush tropical rainforests, wonderful sandy beaches, the breathtaking Mount Kinabalu, and a biodiversity of Marine and Wildlife like no other.

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Whilst the majority of tourists visit peninsular Malaysia, a trip to Malaysian Borneo will be an unforgettable experience and free from some of the hassles that can be encountered in other parts of Asia. Travelling around is easy and cheap and locals are helpful and friendly. Sabah has a laid back charm and elegant beauty that will make any stay in this remarkable country truly worthwhile.

Across the whole of Sabah, Filipinos, along with various ethnic groups and indigenous tribes (For example, Chinese, Bajau, Kadazan, Dusun and Murut) account for over half of the population. Malaysia is "Truly Asia" - a real multicultural society. The official language in Malaysia is Bahasa Malay, but due to the fusion of religious and ethnic groups found in Malaysia English is widely spoken. This is a country where the sun shines, the sea is crystal clear and there are endless coconut, banana and palm trees!

You will be briefed on Malaysian culture and customs soon after your arrival to help you prepare for your placement and dealings with locals. This will be a time to learn about the Do's and Dont's and to ensure you are aware of the possible impact of your behaviour.

Malaysia is a multicultural society, with Malays, Chinese and Indians living side by side. The Malays are the largest community. They are Muslims, speak Bahasa and are largely responsible for the political fortunes of the country. The Chinese comprise about a third of the population. They are Buddhists and Taoists, speak Hokkein, Hakka and Cantonese, and are dominant in the business community. The Indians account for about 10% of the population. They are mainly Hindu Tamils from southern India (they speak Tamil), Malayalam, and some Hindi, and live mainly in the larger towns on the west coast of the peninsular. There is also a sizeable Sikh community. Eurasians and indigenous tribes make up the remaining population. In Sabah there is an even greater proportion of indigenous tribes. Despite Bahasa Malaysia being the official language, when members of these different communities talk to each other, they generally speak English, which was recently reinstated as the language of instruction in higher education.



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THINGS TO DO IN: MALAYSIA

- **Kota Kinabalu** Kota Kinabalu or "KK" (as it is locally known) is the capital of Sabah. KK is home to the International airport and this will be your first point of arrival in Sabah – it's a great place to start your trip and get used to the Malaysian way of life. Although Kota Kinabalu is far less developed than Kuala Lumpur (its' counterpart on the Peninsular), the people are very friendly and the atmosphere here is more relaxed. KK also boasts impressive markets, restaurants and nightlife and is a fun introduction to the wide variety of attractions that Sabah has to offer.
- **Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park** Just off the coast it is possible to see an array of beautiful islands which make up the marine park. Exploring the coral reefs and marine life in this underwater world is fascinating and day trips here can be easily arranged - most islands are less than 45 minutes away by boat. Once you arrive you will be amazed at how clear the water is and just how many different fish you can see. There are also many wonderful beaches to be explored on the islands!
- **Semporna Islands Marine Park** There is excellent diving and snorkelling on a number of islands surrounding Sabah. This park, located towards the south of the island, is one of the best. Here you will find Sipadan Island, the most famous within the park and classified as one of the worlds top dive sites. Sipadan is an oceanic island shaped like a mushroom - it was formed by living corals growing on top of an extinct undersea volcano. Due to its geographic position it is at the centre of one of the richest marine environments in the world - both the diving and snorkelling here are outstanding!
- **Turtle Islands National Park** Another must-see trip during your stay in Sabah. The Turtle Islands National Park is a protected marine reserve reachable by boat from Sandakan harbour. Here you can watch up close as turtles come ashore to lay their eggs virtually every night of the year. There is an excellent visitor information centre and tourists even get the opportunity to release baby hatchlings into the sea. The main island with accommodation is Selingan - here you will find the endangered Green and Hawksbill turtles (some measuring one metre in length or more!) coming to lay their eggs
- **Sukau and the Lower Kinabatangan River** This region is unrivalled in terms of wildlife. It stretches for 560 km and is estimated to have the highest concentration of wildlife in all of Malaysia. Taking a river cruise gives you the opportunity to see a variety of animals in their natural environment; birds, reptiles and monkeys of which the most unusual is the proboscis monkey - famous for its long nose and round belly, the proboscis monkey is sociable and active, which means that you are sure to see many of them swinging through the trees along the river bank. If you are lucky, you may even see wild boar crossing the river. This unique environment is a fascinating place to visit.
- **Malaysia Borneo – Sarawak** Sarawak offers ever-shrinking areas of untouched jungle, the chance to visit longhouse-dwelling Dayak tribes and a good system of national parks. The area around the capital city, Kuching, has remote coastal villages, such as Pandan and Sematan, and unspoilt tropical rainforest, beaches and walking trails in the Bako National Park. Longhouses are found along the Rejang River and its tributaries - central and southern Sarawak's 'highway'.



The areas downriver from Kanowit and Song are generally less frequented. In the north-east, the Niah Caves, accessible only by longboat and a 3km (1.86mi) hike, are unforgettable for their rock paintings, forest wildlife, jungle trails and night walks to see the luminous mushrooms. Visitors to Sarawak cannot fail to notice the extent to which logging is affecting the environment and the habitat of the Dayak tribes. Acquainting yourself with the issues surrounding Malaysia's logging practices is recommended before visiting the province.

In Sarawak, Gunung Mulu National Park has a number of spectacular caves, including the 51km long Clearwater Cave, one of the longest in the world. Adventure-caving expeditions can be arranged. The park also has good trekking, especially the four-day hike to the summit of Gunung Mulu (2377m).

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- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

“Throughout my experience I gained so much knowledge about orang-utans especially working in the outdoor nursery with the orang-utans that were mainly 6+. It was amazing to see them getting more independent and learning about their daily behaviour patterns that cannot be experienced anywhere else. I was then able to use this knowledge when visitors to the centre asked me questions and I was surprised at how much I knew when they asked me. Working with the babies taught me how much they depend on their mothers for such a long time - which I hadn't realised before I started. I gained experience with getting on with a varied group of people and I managed to get on well with everyone for the whole placement. Overall the best thing was working in the clinic doing the medical checks with Dr Cecelia. Her knowledge about orang-utans amazed me. It was really interesting to see how similar orang-utan babies are to human babies as well. I also enjoyed staying in Tuaran while working at the Rasa Ria Resort. This gave me a real insight into living in Malaysia and has made me re-plan my travels this year and I am now going back to Malaysia to experience and see some more, which I may never have wanted to do if I hadn't done this placement. Everything was amazing especially the amount of trips we got to take part in (e.g. Sipadan and climbing Mount Kinabalu) which made the trip so much better!!

If you want to work with orang-utans it's really hands on but making sure that you get to see the rehabilitation process at the same time. I would say to anyone considering taking part: It may seem like a lot of money at the time of booking it but as soon as I first held a baby orang-utan I knew it was worth so much more... priceless!! We seemed to have a mixed type of person on our trip, going from me being the youngest and the oldest person who was in their 60's, and everyone enjoyed it as much as the other I think so I think most people can go. I think I got a lot out of it by having an open mind when I went and this is very important because then you can only be happy at what you get there. From a personal level having many allergies, I would advise anyone with dietary requirements to talk to Amy, the chef, as soon as they arrive. She speaks very good English and can basically cook any combination of things off the menu and will do her best to help... she was ace! Haven't got any improvements or a bad thing to say about the placement!!! Thank you so much Travellers for making a dream come true and I will definitely do another placement again”

Volunteer - Rebecca Dechant

HOW TO BOOK:

Please complete a [booking form](#) online or you can send a postal booking from our free brochure. When we receive this, we'll telephone you to discuss the details and then start the exciting process of planning your trip!

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