

DIVE TRIP – BORNEO

Dates: 3rd → 14th August 2010
Price: \$5570

Includes:

- Flights (ex Dunedin)
- Transfers in Borneo
- 7 nights accommodation at Kapalai Island Dive Resort
- Food/Beverages (non-alcoholic) while at Kapalai Island Dive Resort
- 18 boat dives (3 dives per day)
- Unlimited (unguided) shore dives (including night diving)
- Tanks and weights provided
- Flights to Sandakan
- 2 nights accommodation Sabah 4 Star Deluxe Class Modern Hotel (includes buffet breakfast only)
- Entrance/guide around Sepilok Orangutan centre
- Nil-excess comprehensive Travel Insurance

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE WE GOING



- **Location:** Sabah (formerly part of Borneo) is located on the northern tip
- **Population:** around 3,500,000.
- **Language:** Malay most common (also English, Mandarin and Cantonese)
- **Currency:** Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)
- **Power:** 220-volt electricity with standard UK 3-prong plugs (we will need adaptors)

THE DIVE LOCATIONS

Between Sipadan, Mabul and Kapalai Islands you name it and we will hopefully be able to see it. Wall dives, drift dives, reef dives, muck diving – this area has it all!!! Hopefully we will see everything from the big (sharks, turtles, barracuda etc) to the small and the weird and wonderful during muck dives.

SIPADAN

Sipadan is a small island (about eight football fields) topped with a dense green jungle and surrounded by white sandy beaches. Underwater its vertical walls of hard and soft corals which attract much in the way of reef fish and lots and lots of turtles.

Only a few years ago the island housed 6 dive resorts, after the Malaysian government realized the negative effects this was having on the island's ecosystem, including turtle nesting areas, they took drastic action. The resort operators were given 6 months to vacate the island.

Sipadan began to re-emerge as turtle and fish habitat extraordinaire, with spectacular schools of trevally and barracuda, plenty of white tip reef sharks and a supporting cast of smaller reef fish in addition to abundant turtle populations. The turn-around has been so successful that the island has been nominated for **UNESCO World Heritage Site** status, and in spite of limits on the number of divers allowed to visit each day, Sipadan remains the premier dive attraction for the region.



MABUL

Dives may also be conducted around the island of Mabul on the mini walls that ring the island, topping out in just 5-10 meters of water. Visibility is typically in the 15 to 30 meter range. The currents running along the walls allow for relaxed drift dives to check out what is hiding in the nooks and crannies of the reef.

For photographers who prefer to shoot macro, the resorts offer unlimited "muck diving" right off the beach. The "muck" is really pea-sized, white gravel interspersed with small branching corals, ideal habitat for finding colorful pygmy sea horses and those beautiful, but elusive, Mandarin fish.

Topside, Mabul isn't much bigger than Sipadan. You can walk around the entire island in about an hour. In addition to five resorts, there is a small village including a school and regional police barracks. The villagers, are extremely friendly and eager to share their island with guests.



KAPALAI

Kapalai is an island in Malaysia, known for its scuba resorts. The island of Kapalai, just 15 minutes off Sipadan, was a beautiful island two hundred years ago, but now it is only a sand bar. Erosion has reduced the island to sea level and the village now sits on the edge of the extensive Ligitan Reefs. All of the buildings are on stilts which go down into the water.

Don't let the description put you off. The sandy bottom and sparse coral heads is home to an amazing array of small, shamelessly colourful creatures and great for divers who are avid underwater

photographers. Often, many of these creatures have yet to be identified as a species. Who knows? Maybe one could be named after you.

Diving in Kapalai, you will likely encounter a lot of macro subjects such as banded pipefishes, blue ribbon and yellow ribbon morays, blue spotted stingrays, butterfly fish, cleaning shrimps, clown anemone fishes, crocodile fishes, groupers, humpback shrimps, lambis truncata seashells, mandarin dragonets, mantis shrimps, spotted boxfishes, squirrel and trumpet fishes, various species of nudibranchs, paperfishes, triggerfishes, crab eyed gobies, gold specs jawfish, razor fishes, porcupine fishes, and rarer subjects as blue ring octopus, frogfish and ghostpipe fish.



ACCOMODATION

Kapalai Island Dive Resort

Built on stilts over a sandbank, the Kapalai Resort is a unique water village which gives you the thrilling experience of watching reef fish swimming underneath your water chalets. There are 41 chalets, each includes

- Fan cooling
- Sea view, beachfront balcony with chairs
- Private hot water shower and bath
- Towels and toiletries
- Bedside lamps
- Seating area
- 220 volt power points
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Resort facilities include: restaurant and bar - pool table - board games - darts - table tennis - beach volleyball - sea canoes - international telephone and facsimile - internet access including personal laptop connectivity - baby sitting - sun deck - gift shop

All meals + snacks, whilst at the Dive resort are included in the trip price. Tea, coffee and juice will also be provided, other drinks (including alcoholic) will be at your own cost. Meals are informally served at the central open-plan building, which boasts an amazingly beautiful open-air wooden terrace, the ideal spot for after dinner, relaxation and chatting. Meals available:

- Buffet style dining
- Chinese and western cuisine
- Seafood
- Barbeques upon request
- Salads



Sabah Hotel – Sandakan

When we visit the orang utan centre we will be staying at a 4 Star hotel within walking distance of the city centre and many other attractions. The hotel has a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, steam room, tennis and squash courts, table tennis, nature trails and massage services. Complimentary breakfast is included in our two nights here. There are five different “restaurant options” for the other meals.



Sepilok Wildlife Park

The world-famous Kabili-Sepilok Forest Reserve in Sabah is home of some of the last wild Orang-utans of Borneo. The Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation centre was set up in 1964 to rehabilitate orphaned baby orang utan. You'll see orang-utans that have recently been released back into the wild, being fed as they progress from captive patients to healthy animals living in the wild. Feeding time in the park also attracts long-tailed macaques to the area.

