



Cruising

**Into the Heart of Borneo: A Journey on the
Mighty Rajang River with Pandaw Cruises.**

**15 days – Fully escorted tour
departing 28th July 2009**



Tour Itinerary

July 2009

Tues 28th Auckland to Kuala Lumpur

Check- in at Auckland airport for your flight to Kuala Lumpur with Malaysia Airlines and our over night accommodation at Pan Pacific Hotel or similar at KLIA Airport

Wed 29th Kuala Lumpur to Kuching

This morning continue on to Kuching, Sarawak in Borneo. Upon arrival at Kuching International airport, you will be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel for three nights. Kuching Hilton or similar including breakfast daily.

Thur 30th KUCHING

This afternoon explore Kuching by foot with your guide, reliving the History of White Rajah of Sarawak. Many people regard the Brooke Raj as a golden age where traditions were strong, the economy improved, and violence (Piracy & head-hunting) was under control. Kuching has literally dozens of historic buildings – the tourism complex, round tower, pavilion, square tower and post office are uniquely examples of colonial period architecture. The excellent museums include the historic Sarawak Museum, with one of the best ethnographies collections in Southeast Asia. Equally fascinating are the Islamic Museum and the Chinese History Museum.

Friday 31st BAKO NATIONAL PARK

We travel from Kuching city to the small Malay village of Bako, by car and then

on an 1/2 hour's boat ride to reach the national park. This is a day with plenty of opportunities to trek through the beautiful park and explore flora and fauna at its best. Get to see the Proboscis monkeys that can only be found on the island of Borneo. If you are lucky you might also spot various other animals. Among them are wild boars, silver leaf monkeys, macaques, monitor lizards and birds. A simple lunch in the Park canteen. Late afternoon, return the same way back to Kuching City by boat and car.

Recommended: Water bottle, flat shoes or trekking boots, insect repellent, sun block cream, a hat and swim wear.

01 August: SEMENGGOK ORANG UTAN CENTRE & TRANSFER OUT

This morning we visit the Orang Utan centre. About 22km South of Kuching City where the Semenggok Nature Reserve of Sarawak is located, here rangers take care the once captive Orang Utans stay on the trees (as they instinctively do in the wild), and do things like making nests on treetops for sleeping at night. The best time to observe the Orang Utans who are semi-wild is in the morning. Orang Utans are so similar to the humans, yet so different.

Our tip: Do not wear colourful clothing as this will attract the Orang Utans. This has a tendency to make them nervous and can make them more aggressive. Afterward return back to the hotel to freshen-up before transferring to Kuching airport for your flight to Sibiu.

Into the Heart of Borneo: A Journey on the Mighty Rajang River with Pandaw Cruises.

Following in the footsteps of the British explorer and travel writer Redmon O'Hanlon, the brand new **ORIENT PANDAW** will make an eight night cruise from Sibul to the Pelagus Rapids and beyond up the Baleh River.

The Rajang River is rarely visited by travellers on account of its inaccessibility and lack of tourist facilities. It is though, the longest river in Malaysia. Cruising in the extreme comfort of a Pandaw, passengers will be able to visit Iban longhouses, make boat trips up tributary rivers and see the vestiges of the colonial Brooke Raja.

But above all, passengers can view from the Pandaw's observation decks, the rich tropical rain forest. Jungle treks, for all levels of walker, are a must. This is after all one of the most diverse and exotic eco paradise's on the planet.

August, 2009:

Sat 01st Sibul

Upon arrival transfer to "Pandaw Orient". This bustling port is set close to the local markets and temples. Free time, to explore the town on foot. Its attractive streets of old Chinese shop houses redolent of Malacca or Penang but without the tourists.

Sun 02: Kanowit

Cast off at dawn and proceed up the mighty Rajang with a morning stop to visit rattan workshops. Here the river is still wide and full of shipping. At the river station of Kanowit we visit the Brooke Raj Fort Emma. Of wooden construction and amazingly surviving intact after 150 years. Explore deeper

inland by long boat up the Kanowit River and then take avoluntary jungle trek back to the Pandaw moored at Kanowit.

Mon 3rd Kapit

This upriver capital has an even more interesting Brooke Raj fort called Fort Sylvia. The adjacent tattoo museum shows traditional Iban designs and techniques. We explore further and visit an original Iban longhouse, a rare sight as most have been rebuilt in a modern style.

Tues 4th the Baleh River

Just above Kapit we turn up the main tributary of the Rajang, the Batang Baleh navigable by Pandaw for another day's sail. Along the river we see a number of logging camps and fine new long houses. Logging is strictly controlled by the Sarawak government, with a strict replanting programme. We will visit a logging camp and stop overnight at Nagamujong village with its long house, school, clinic and church. We will see loading points for coal, coming from mines deep in the jungle.

Wed 5th Pelagus Rapids

Return down the Baleh to rejoin the Rajang and journey another 40km towards the Pelagus Rapids. This section of the river is incredibly beautiful with thousands of islands, reefs and shoals. Navigation here can be difficult depending on water levels and it may be necessary to transfer to long boats to continue our journey. At Pelagus we make a short trek to the Pelagus Resort Hotel for afternoon tea and a stupendous views of the rapids.

Thurs 6th Pelagus and Beyond

A further opportunity to trek in and around the Pelagus Resort in this primary rain forest rich in fauna and flora. After lunch return downstream past Kapit.

Fri 7th Song

Song is a small river station between Kanowit and Kapit where we stop to make a boat trip up the Katibas river to visit long houses and there is an opportunity to trek part of the way back to Song. Continue downstream through evening.

Sat 8th Sarikei and Thanjung Manis

We enter the Rajang delta area with its rich agricultural life. At Sarikei we visit a deer farm and pepper plantations. On the coast, Thanjung Manis is the main seaport and gateway to the Rajang.

Though a modern city it is not without interest. A short drive away, village workshops specialise in songkat weaving. Return upstream stopping over night at Bintangor.

Sun 9th Sibu

Dock in Sibu early in the morning and disembark for onward flight from **Sibu to Kuala Lumpur with Malaysia Airlines**. We transfer on arrival to our overnight accommodation, free time in the afternoon to relax or shop.

Mon 10th Kuala Lumpur

We transfer to the airport for our return flight **Kuala Lumpur to Auckland with Malaysia Airlines**

Tues 11th Arrive in New Zealand

Welcome Home.

On board Pandaw

Each ship is hand finished in brass and teak and by traditional craftsmen and are in themselves objects of great beauty. On our ships, whilst the luxury and comfort are discreetly present, it is the colonial character and friendly atmosphere that predominates. All our Pandaw have ultra shallow drafts and can travel to remote areas, which would be unreachable by other vessels, let alone overland.



\$9499.00

Per person, share twin.
Upper Deck Cabin.

Inclusions:

Return economy class airfares flying Malaysia Airlines Auckland/Kuala Lumpur/ Kuching/ Sibul/ Kuala Lumpur/ Auckland. Airport taxes & fuel surcharges as at 18/11/08
1 night's accommodation at Kuala Lumpur airport,
return airport/ hotel transfers in Kuching, three nights accommodation pre- cruise in Kuching Pre – cruise sightseeing as specified in Kuching, return airport to ship transfers in Sibul
8 night cruise on board RV Orient Pandaw. All main meals, soft drinks, local beer and local spirits on the cruise, gratuities, Upper deck twin share cabin
Shore excursions as noted in itinerary with an English speaking guide.
1 nights accommodation in Kuala Lumpur. return airport/hotel transfers in Kuala Lumpur
Hotel & Ship portorage (1 bag per person)
Tour escort subject to a minimum of 20 persons travelling.

Business class upgrade;..... \$
Single surcharge; \$2799.00



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Conditions:

Prices quoted are per person share twin in NZD and valid as at 18/11/08 and are subject to currency fluctuations & or price increases, without notice until paid in full. To avoid currency fluctuations we advise paying in full at time of reservation. Airlines taxes, levies fees and fuel surcharges have been priced based on levels as at 18/11/08 and these are subject to change and will be re-costed on the final invoice. Tour price based on 20 paying passengers and if numbers fall below this level a surcharge will apply. Tour escort is subject to minimum number attending. Airline, cruise and land arrangement conditions apply. A limited number of airline seats, cabins and hotel rooms are being held and once this is sold out, space will be a on "a subject to availability" basis. Travel Agent service fees may apply. Prices based on cash or cheques. Special conditions apply. Payments: at the time of booking, a 20% deposit is due within 48 hours. A progress payment of 25% is due 180 days prior to departure. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure. **Cancellation Fees:** up to 180 days prior to departure – loss of deposit. 180 – 90 days prior to departure – loss of deposit and 25% progress payment. Inside 90 days – 100% cancellation fee. **Travel insurance** is mandatory and proof must be shown if not purchased through your United Travel booking agent.

This tour requires a reasonable level of fitness and mobility and you may be asked to sign a declaration testifying to this. For reasons of navigational safety, the captain and crew of the boat alone may decide to modify the cruise itinerary. All reservations subject to the terms and conditions of Pandaw cruises.