



Pandaw Cruises

EXPEDITION No 1

INTO THE TRUE HEART OF BORNEO

7 NIGHTS

Please note this is a new river expedition sailing into a remote region of Kalimantan. As such, the itineraries and schedules are very much subject to change due to uncertain local conditions.

The Kapuas River system is the largest in Borneo flowing over 700miles (1,100km) through Western Kalimantan which is in the Indonesian part of the island. The river basin is surrounded by mountain ranges and filled with rainforest.

The Borneo rainforest is 140 million years old, making it one of the oldest rainforests in the world. There are about 15,000 species of flowering plants with 3,000 species of 221 species of terrestrial mammals and 420 species of resident birds in Borneo. There are about 440 freshwater fish species in Borneo (about the same as Sumatra and Java combined). It is the centre of the evolution and distribution of many species of plants and animals.

The Borneo rainforest is one of the few remaining natural habitats for the endangered Bornean orangutan. It is an important refuge for many forest species, including the Borneo elephant, the eastern Sumatran rhinoceros, the Bornean clouded leopard, the Hose's palm civet and the dayak fruit bat.

Our one week expedition will cover the upper part of the Kapuas between Sanggau and Lanjak, a voyage of over 500km that includes traversing the Denau Sentarum system of lakes that connect to the river that are now a

national park. This will be a truly pioneering expedition into a rarely visited area where the main attraction will be the scenery, wildlife and tribal village life.

The Kalimantan authorities have embraced this project enthusiastically and have been very supportive during the planning stages. Likewise, the tribal communities we have met are very excited about our visit and are already planning elaborate welcome ceremonies.

Pontianak is actually situated on the equator. Temperatures are the same year round at between 30-32C. It also rains year round with October to December the wettest, averaging 350mm a month, and Jan to September drier with an average 250mm per month.

Passengers can fly in via Kuching in Sarawak (in Malaysian Borneo) which has excellent connections to Singapore and KL. Or via Pontianak, the capital of Western Kalimantan, with daily flights to Jakarta. Kuching is a highly recommended stop over with its Brooke Raj colonial buildings, amazing museum and colourful China town. There are a number of other extensions including the Mulu caves.

We operated on the Rajang River in Sarawak from 2009-2011 but withdrew due to shortcomings in the shore excursions and environmental issues. We have had many emails from passengers asking us to think about Borneo again and we believe that the Kapuas River offers a far more interesting experience with vastly more impressive scenery and a less spoilt human and natural environment. Needless to say there is no one else there!

Cruise Price Includes: Coach transfer from Kuching or Pontianak to Tayan and from Lanjak to Pontianak or Kuching (or vv), entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes.

Cruise Price Excludes: International flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except

local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides,
local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

UPSTREAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

TAYAN TO SANGGAU

Please note this is a new river expedition sailing into a remote region of Kalimantan. As such, the itineraries and schedules are very much subject to change due to uncertain local conditions.

Embark at Tayan on the Kapuas River for lunch and a walk about this attractive river town then lunch and sail to Sanggau for an evening walk in around this bustling river port.

DAY 2

SANGGAU TO SEKADAU

From Sanggau we make a long boat trip up the Sekayam river to see the waterfalls and hot springs in the jungle. Other waterfalls near Sanggau at Pancur Aljit can be reached by car. Sail on to Sekadau for a walk about this lively town with busy boat traffic coming into trade. Visit the Lawang Shrines by local perambang boat set on rock face and sacred to the Malays, Dyaks and Chinese.

DAY 3

SEKADAU TO SINTANG

Sail through the day and ashore again at Sintang. Here we see a kraton or old palace in the picturesque old town where the Mewali river joins the Kapuas.

DAY 4

SINTANG TO SELIMBAU

At Sintang we visit an orangutan rehabilitation centre run by the Jacobson Foundation set in a traditional house decorated with traditional handicrafts. In the afternoon we go for a 20km drive in local trucks to the rock monolith of Bukit Kelam, said to be the second largest rock in the world after Uluru, which the fit can scale by rope ladder. For the less adventurous there is a 100 year old long house at Ensaia Panjang which is a centre of Dayak weaving.

Cast off and we take the 'Japanese Short Cut', a canal dug by the Japanese in the war to connect the main river with the lakes and moor overnight at Selimbau, perhaps the most delightful of these pretty river towns, and completely built on stilts so there is not a car in sight.

DAY 5

SELIMBAU AND SENTARUM NATIONAL PARK

Morning walk around Selimbau and then we leave the Kapuas and connect to the lake by a tributary channel. We explore this little known water world lake and may go ashore for an evening walk. Possible visit an orang-utan rehab centre.

DAY 6**SENTARUM LAKES**

Traverse the lake system to spot wild life including proboscis monkeys and maybe orangutans not to mention crocodiles. There is the opportunity to go fishing or explore the extraordinarily diverse botany. Bird life is profuse.

DAY 7**SENTARUM ASHORE**

Further explorations of the lake system and a visit to Pulay Melayu island with its animist shrines. We will see honey farms along the shores and visit fishing villages with smokeries. Trekking is also available as an optional excursion.

DAY 8**LANJAK**

Disembark to transfer to Kuching by road.

STATEROOM

The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are very spacious at 168 square feet (15.6 sqm). Much loved by all our passengers we have ensured that with each ship we build the stateroom remains the same. Our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet or phones. Pandaw passengers usually want to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.

Many passengers describe life on board a Pandaw more like being a guest on a private motor yacht than a cruise ship. Where we go and what we see is intrepid in extreme. What you come back to is a floating base of discreet comfort, caring service and all the good things one looks for in life. All our cabins have the same size and Pandaw signature amenities. Choose from Main Deck, Upper Deck or Premium Upper Deck (Mekong only).

Special to Your Stateroom

- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL KUCHING

On arrival at Kuching International Airport, meet and transfer to Pullman Kuching for 2-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 2

KUCHING CITY

Morning city tour of Kuching. Discover the charms of this riverine city established by Sir James Brooke, the first White Rajah of Sarawak. See buildings dating back to the days of the White Rajahs, ancient Chinese temples and shops displaying the produce that first brought traders to Borneo. Also stop at the Sarawak Museum. Completed in 1891, the museum has an excellent collection of Bornean ethnological and archaeological artefacts and is reputed to be one of the best in South East Asia.

DAY 3

KUCHING TO PANDAW SHIP

Following breakfast, join the coach transfer to your Pandaw ship for your Borneo River Expedition.



DISCOVER

Kuching 2 Nights Pre Tour

Explore Kuching either before or after your river expedition.

Rates include:

Airport transfers, 2-night stay at the Pullman Kuching on a bed and breakfast basis, Kuching city tour as described.

Rates exclude:

Travel insurance, visas, all drinks, tips, and items of a personal nature.

PULLMAN HOTEL

1A Jalan Mathies

Sarawak

93100 KUCHING

MALAYSIA

Tel: +60 82 222888

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL KUCHING

Our representative will meet you at Kuching International Airport and transfer to Pullman Kuching for a one-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 2

KUCHING – MIRI – LAMBIR NATIONAL PARK

Early morning transfer to airport for departure flight to Miri. On arrival, meet and drive to Lambir National Park, an area of outstanding beauty covering 6,952 hectares. The park is rich in biodiversity and is visible from Miri as a chain of steep sandstone hills bound by rugged cliffs. The higher ridges and slopes are covered by heath forest while the lower slopes and valleys are dominated by mixed dipterocarp forest. The ground flora consists of an unusual variety of palm trees, which give an exotic feel to the park. Lambir is also home to more than 100 bird species. Due to its rugged terrain, the park has a number of small but beautiful waterfalls. Upon arrival at the park headquarters, enjoy an included lunch, register and obtain a permit. Then start trekking to a series of waterfalls. Enjoy a swim in the cool waters or go a short jungle hike. Walk back to the park HQ and return to Miri and check into the Miri Marriott Resort & Spa for a 1-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis.

DAY 3

MULU – DEER & LANG CAVES

Transfer to airport for flight to morning flight to Mulu, where we transfer to the Mulu Marriott Resort & Spa for a 1-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis. In the afternoon, visit the park and enjoy a scenic 3 km plank walk through primary rainforest to the entrance of Deer Cave. Deer Cave is the world's largest cave passage; its scale its awesome! The entrance of the cave is 150 m wide and 120 m high. The cave has a moon-like landscape and from one vantage point, a perfect profile of President Lincoln can be observed. Next to Deer Cave is Langs Cave. The stalactites and stalagmites inside this cave are representative of the very best limestone formations in the park. After viewing the two caves, proceed to the Bat Observatory outside Deer Cave. Most evenings at sundown, a spectacular exodus of about 2 million of bats can be observed as they leave the cave in search of food. Then trek back to the park HQ by torchlight and return to the resort.

DAY 4

WIND & CLEARWATER – KUCHING

In the morning, proceed by longboat upriver to Wind Cave with its impressive 'King's Chamber'. A short walk along a plank walk next to the limestone cliff followed by a climb up approximately 250 concrete steps and you arrive at the entrance to Clearwater Cave. Here, stalactites and stalagmites with delicate lace-like patterns are found. A short walk along a plank walk next to the limestone cliff leads to Clearwater Cave. Like most caves in Mulu, Clearwater Cave provides a habitat for unique species of plants. One of these, the one-leafed plant can only be found at Mulu. Photosensitive algae grow on certain rocks and produce needle-like formations that point towards the source of light. Near Clearwater cave there is a wonderful swimming area shaded by giant rainforest trees. Enjoy a picnic lunch, swim or relax before returning to the resort. Then drop off at the airport for departure flight to Kuching in the afternoon. Transfer to the Pullman Hotel for overnight stay on a bed and breakfast basis.

DAY 5

KUCHING TO KATHA PANDAW

After breakfast, join the coach to travel to the Katha Pandaw.



DISCOVER

Mulu Caves & Lambir National Park 4 nights Pre Tour

Discover the world's largest cave passage and explore beautiful national parks.

Rates include:

Transfers as described, all domestic flights as described (economy class), 2-night stay at the Pullman Kuching on a bed and breakfast basis, 1-night stay at the Marriott Resort & Spa, Miri and Mulu on a bed and breakfast basis, Miri city tour, Lambir National Park with lunch, Mulu caves tour, services of English speaking guides throughout.

Rates exclude:

Travel insurance, visas, all drinks, tips, and items of a personal nature.

Pullman Hotel

Pullman Kuching is centrally located in the Kuching Golden Triangle, enjoying pride of place on Jalan Mathies hill, with panoramic city and river views. The first Pullman hotel in this vibrant city, Pullman Kuching features 389 spacious, contemporary rooms and offers easy access to renowned Borneo national parks.

1A Jalan Mathies, Sarawak, 93100 KUCHING, MALAYSIA

Tel: +60 82 222888

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

5* Marriott Resort & Spa, Miri

Incredible sunsets, lush tropical gardens and soft breezes from the South China Sea await you at the Miri Marriott Resort & Spa, the award-winning 5-star Sarawak resort. Located near the city centre and airport, the resort features rooms with breathtaking views, broadband Internet (chargeable), luxury bedding and other amenities. There is a restaurant, bar, Spa, fitness centre, Sarawak's largest free-form pool, and resort activities for all ages.

Jalan Temenggong Datuk Oyong Lawai, Miri, 98000, Malaysia

Tel: +60 85 421121

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Marriott Resort & Spa, Mulu

Experience 5-star luxury in a lush tropical rainforest with Mulu Marriott Resort & Spa, just five minutes from Gunung Mulu National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Designed in the style of ethnic longhouses each luxurious room is suspended on a walkway set in the forest with private balcony. Public areas include a Balinese-style spa, outdoor pool, spacious lobby, banquet hall and riverside bar.

Sungai Melinau, PO Box 1145 Mulu 98008 Malaysia

Tel: +60 85 792388

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVE KUCHING

On arrival at Kuching International Airport, meet and transfer to Pullman Kuching for 1-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 2

KUCHING TO PANDAW SHIP

Following breakfast, join the coach transfer to the Pandaw vessel for your Borneo River Expedition.



DISCOVER

1 Night Pre Hotel & Transfer Kuching

Pullman Kuching is centrally located in the Kuching Golden Triangle, enjoying pride of place on Jalan Mathies hill, with panoramic city and river views. The first Pullman hotel in this vibrant city, Pullman Kuching features 389 spacious, contemporary rooms and offers easy access to

renowned Borneo national parks.

Rates include:

Airport transfer, 1-night stay at the Pullman Kuching or similar on a bed and breakfast basis.

Rates exclude:

Sightseeing, travel insurance, visas, all drinks, tips, and items of a personal nature.

PULLMAN HOTEL

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POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

KATHA PANDAW TO KUCHING

On arrival at Kuching from your Pandaw ship river expedition, transfer to Pullman Kuching for 2-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 2

KUCHING CITY

Morning city tour of Kuching. Discover the charms of this riverine city established by Sir James Brooke, the first White Rajah of Sarawak. See buildings dating back to the days of the White Rajahs, ancient Chinese temples and shops displaying the produce that first brought traders to Borneo. Also stop at the Sarawak Museum. Completed in 1891, the museum has an excellent collection of Bornean ethnological and archaeological artefacts and is reputed to be one of the best in South East Asia.

DAY 3

DEPARTURE

Following breakfast, transfer to Kuching Airport for your onward flight.



DISCOVER

Kuching 2 Nights Post Tour

Explore Kuching either before or after your river expedition.

Rates include:

Airport transfers, 2-night stay at the Pullman Kuching on a bed and breakfast basis, Kuching city tour as described.

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Travel insurance, visas, all drinks, tips, and items of a personal nature.

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POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL KUCHING

Arrive from the Katha Pandaw coach to the Pullman Kuching for a one-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 2

KUCHING – MIRI – LAMBIR NATIONAL PARK

Early morning transfer to airport for departure flight to Miri. On arrival, meet and drive to Lambir National Park, an area of outstanding beauty covering 6,952 hectares. The park is rich in biodiversity and is visible from Miri as a chain of steep sandstone hills bound by rugged cliffs. The higher ridges and slopes are covered by heath forest while the lower slopes and valleys are dominated by mixed dipterocarp forest. The ground flora consists of an unusual variety of palm trees, which give an exotic feel to the park. Lambir is also home to more than 100 bird species. Due to its rugged terrain, the park has a number of small but beautiful waterfalls. Upon arrival at the park headquarters, enjoy an included lunch, register and obtain a permit. Then start trekking to a series of waterfalls. Enjoy a swim in the cool waters or go a short jungle hike. Walk back to the park HQ and return to Miri and check into the Miri Marriott Resort & Spa for a 1-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis.

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DAY 5

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your onward flight.



DISCOVER

Mulu Caves & Lambir National Park 4 nights Post Tour

Discover the world's largest cave passage and explore beautiful national parks.

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Sungai Melinau, PO Box 1145 Mulu 98008 Malaysia

Tel: +60 85 792388

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

PANDAW SHIP TO KUCHING

Pandaw transfer and drop off at Pullman Kuching for 1-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 2

DEPART KUCHING

Following breakfast, transfer to Kuching International Airport .



DISCOVER

1 Night Post Hotel & Transfer Kuching

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Rates exclude:

Sightseeing, travel insurance, visas, all drinks, tips, and items of a personal nature.

PULLMAN HOTEL

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River Conditions Warning!

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop. Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience - not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

Useful Links

[**Terms & Conditions**](#)

[**General Information & Life on Board**](#)

[**Visa Information**](#)