

Back to the **WILD**

Project Summary

Location: Wildlife Sanctuary, Sarawak, Borneo

Duration: 5 days, 4 nights

About the Project

This residential program offers students a unique opportunity to partner in an on-going conservation programmes that contributes towards the rehabilitation and release of orangutans into National Parks of Sarawak. In this educational experience that is embedded in an on-going programme, students actually engage with people seriously committed to rehabilitation of rescued orangutans and sun bears.

They will learn and practise scientific skills of observing animal behaviour both at the centre and at an orangutan rehabilitation centre near Kuching. They will learn to do forest transects and quantitative and qualitative habitat checks.

As demonstration of serious student contribution to the project the students will be engaged in increasing the well-being of the rescued sun bears in the centre by designing and implementing enrichment that will help encourage natural behaviours. They will help plant and maintain a garden for herbs and natural foods to supplement the diet of the orangutans and sun bears.

Accommodation and Food

Longhouse style accommodation is provided onsite at the project site. The longhouse has eight rooms each with a bathroom and toilet. Each room has two bunk beds, accommodating 4 to a room. It is designed like a traditional longhouse with all the rooms facing a large communal area.

All meals are nutritious, freshly cooked local cuisine prepared by the members of the local community. Vegetarians meals can be catered to.

Transportation

All transfers are included in the package cost, and are by registered operators who are checked regularly to ensure they meet health and safety requirements.

Flights to and from programmes are not included. We recommend that you purchase your flights through a reputable travel agent. Arrival should be into Kuching International Airport.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of your students are our top priority. Many schools opt to bring their only qualified nurse/ first aiders along on the trip. Should you require the services of a fully qualified nurse to accompany the group for the duration of their time with us, please contact us for more information.

Given below is a generic itinerary for the Sarawak program. The actual program will depend on your arrival timings and departure date. The program includes a visit to the Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre

The key outcomes are built around animal welfare, orangutan rehabilitation and working with the local community, including a teaching – learning session with the village children

ITINERARY

DAY 1	Activity	Learning Outcomes
Morning	- Students arrive into Kuching Airport and transfer by bus to site.	
Afternoon	- Arrive at Project Site - Programme overview - Walk along trails - Introduction to observation techniques	- Gain an overview of what the next few days hold: programme activities, techniques and learning. - Students get an appreciation of the challenges of caring for animals in captivity and the greater challenge of the rehabilitation process
Evening	- Leisure activities and night walk	

DAY 2	Activity	Learning Outcomes
Morning	- Observation of semi-wild orangutans at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre followed by nature walks and nest spotting.	- Scientific skills of animal observation of feeding and social behaviour in rehabilitated orang-utans
Afternoon	- Personal impact activity (Students will help with planting, painting enclosures, boardwalk maintenance, husbandry etc)	- Students' individual, direct, physical involvement has wide ranging impacts on personal growth, empathy and impacts on animal welfare and conservation
Evening	- Dinner - Presentation followed by free time	

DAY 3	Activity	Learning Outcomes
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sun bear observation - Designing and making enrichment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practise observation skills and learn about sun bear physiology and behaviour.
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal impact –finish projects started the previous day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active learning from the experience of doing real tasks beyond the classroom.
Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Planning for school session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working in groups to develop a lesson plan

DAY 4	Activity	Learning Outcomes
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place designed enrichment in sun bear enclosure and observe behaviour - Analysis of behavioural data - Visitor questionnaires. Part of the social surveys done in this area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific skills of animal observation and observation of impact of enrichment - Skills of data collation and data analysis - Social skills of talking to visitors at the wildlife centre to gain insights into issues of management and indirectly to educate the general public through skilful design of the questionnaire
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students spend the whole day at village school - -The community project can either involve executing one major project or may alternatively be broken into a few smaller tasks based on the needs stated by the village community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating in Social welfare. - Learning from the local communities. - Sharing resources with the children of the community (book and toy donation) - Helping children of local communities learn English
Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidation Activity 	

DAY 5	Activity	Learning Outcomes
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application of knowledge. This is an intensive consolidation activity that serves to bring together the different strands – social, scientific, personal, ecological and species specific learnings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students articulate their individual and group learnings and discuss and debate. - Students extrapolate what they have learn and apply it to a different animal e.g. Binturong/ False Garial etc.
Afternoon	Depart from the Project Site	

Please note the above itinerary is a guideline only and activities and the locations may be subject to change as a result of weather, wildlife, community or logistical considerations. Learning outcomes will be met.

Terms and conditions apply.

Other Activities & Extension of Programme in Sarawak

Sarawak has an interesting range of activities that can be easily added to the existing Back to the WILD programme. These activities are not operated by WOX but are conducted by reputable travel and adventure agencies. While we can recommend partners, we also suggest you ask your travel agent for advice on a good itinerary.

Destinations	Activities	Duration	Distance from Kuching
Sungei Sarawak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rainforest Kayaking followed by a picnic lunch and visit to a local longhouse 	1 day	1.5 hours
Bako National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See Proboscis monkeys and other interesting wildlife 	1 day	0.5 hours
Mulu National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore the Deer, Wind, Clearwater & Lang Caves - Visit the Penan tribe in their longhouse and swim in a natural spring 	2 days	2 hours by flight
Sarawak Cultural Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Called the "Living Museum", learn the different ways of living of the many tribes in Sarawak. 	Half day	1 hours

Project Site

The project site for Back to the WILD is part of a forest reserve under the care of the Sarawak government. It is based about an hour from Kuching, the state capital of Sarawak.

Sarawak is the largest state of Malaysia and boasts of many indigenous tribes. The natural setting is breathtaking and warrants exploration.



Logistical Considerations

There are several international flights to the Kuching International Airport which is situated approximately 25 minutes from the city centre. If you plan to include other parts of Malaysia on your trip, Malaysia has many international airports that have direct flights to Kuching.

Airports with direct flights to Kuching (KCH):

International Airport	Airlines
Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL)	Malaysia Airlines
Low Cost Carrier Terminal (KUL)	Air Asia
Kota Kinabalu International Airport (BKI)	Malaysia Airlines
Penang International Airport (PEN)	Malaysia Airlines

There are other carriers that fly in and out of Kuching or Kuala Lumpur. Please check with your travel agency for the best flight to get from the nearest airport to your school to Malaysia and onwards to Kuching. Our team will meet you at the Kuching Airport to bring you to the project site.

PROGRAMME INCLUSIONS

Logistical Inclusions:

- Meet and Greet at Kuching Airport
- 4 breakfasts
- 4 lunches
- 4 dinners
- 4 nights shared accommodation
- Overland transfers indicated in programme
- All required entrance fees not including camera fees
- Drop off at Kuching Airport

Project Inclusions:

- Wild At Heart (WOX) file & stationery
- Factsheets and datasheets
- Personal Impact activity: eg. planting saplings; Painting enclosure walls & cages; Varnishing board walks & maintenance
- Enrichment activities for sun bears and orangutans
- Work with the village school
- Tools and equipment
- Entrance Fee to Matang Wildlife Centre
- Entrance Fee to OU Rehabilitation Centre
- WOX Facilitator
- Contribution to conservation