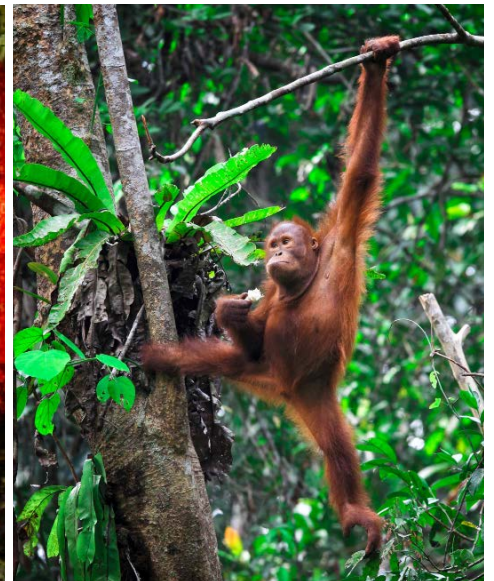


Borneo's Jungles & Orangutans



TRIP OVERVIEW

From the tops of towering Menggaris trees to the depths of its vibrant coral reefs, the island of Borneo is a hotbed of bio-diversity exploding with a multitude of wildlife. On this nine-day adventure, meet the hospitable Bornean Orangutans, explore the bat-filled Gomantong Caves, sail alongside majestic pygmy elephants and immerse yourself within the enchanting forest that surrounds the dramatic spectacle of Borneo's highest mountain.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Borneo. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Sandakan

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Sandakan Airport, via Kuala Lumpur.

DAY 2: Sandakan

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Sandakan to explore at leisure. Overlooking the majestic Sulu Sea, this bustling coastal town enjoys a wealth of seafood specialities to sample including delicious fish mee noodles. Explore the town's fascinating wartime history at the serene Memorial Park - a moving tribute to prisoners of war - and discover the house of author Agnes Keith, now a quaint museum displaying remnants of the Japanese occupation, followed by high tea at the neighbouring English Tea House.

DAY 3: Sandakan B/L

This morning meet Borneo's most famous residents at the Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, where these endangered creatures are rescued and returned to the ancient lowland forest. Wander wooden walkways to observe these cerebral primates glide between trees and feast on pungent durian fruits. Visit the Sun Bear Conservation Centre to meet the world's smallest bears, before reaching the Rainforest Discovery Centre; exhibiting native flora and fauna, its highlight is undoubtedly a spectacular 80ft canopy walkway allowing a unique perspective of Borneo's diverse avian inhabitants. *Please note the Orangutans are semi wild and sightings are not guaranteed

DAY 4: Sandakan to Sukau B/L/D

Begin today exploring the limestone Gomantong Caves, the fascinating domain of over a million wrinkle-lipped bats suspended from the 130ft limestone ceiling. Sharing this unique shelter are the swiftlets who dart overhead to construct the key ingredient for bird's nest soup, a valuable delicacy within China. Travel to your lodge in the remote village of Sukau before a relaxing late afternoon motorboat cruise to witness the long-nosed proboscis monkeys leaping from great heights into the Menanggul River with an amusing belly flop.

DAY 5: Sukau B/L/D

Awake to the atmospheric melody of the surrounding jungle for a

motorboat journey along Malaysia's second longest river and centrepiece for Bornean wildlife, the Kinabatangan. Spot prehistoric monitor lizards, wandering pygmy elephants and leopard-like civet cats before reaching the tranquil Kelenanap river bend to spot Rhinoceros Hornbill, extraordinary birds famed for their peculiar beaks. Explore the jungle by foot in search of enchanting wildlife under the watch of macaque colonies. Spend the afternoon at leisure within the sleepy village of Sukau before heading back out onto the river for another chance to observe Borneo's biodiversity.

DAY 6: Sakau to Kota Kinabalu B/L

Travel back to Sandakan and visit the spectacular Puu Jih Shih Temple, a Buddhist place of worship with a striking Oriental design. Situated within the town's mountainous surroundings, it boasts stunning panoramic views of Sandakan bay; illuminated by an explosion of red and gold, the temple's magnificent collection of opulent Buddha statues are surrounded by towering pillars and ornate Chinese dragons. After lunch fly to Kota Kinabalu, a bustling city whose Chinese, Kadazan and Malaysian influences are displayed through its architecture and tasted in its night markets.

DAY 7: Kota Kinabalu B/L

This morning, discover the home of five tribes at the Mari Mari Cultural Village to gain a fascinating insight into Borneo's indigenous people. Witness the sculpting of blowpipes, learn traditional bamboo cooking, sample the curiously shaped Jala 'net' cake and encounter the Murut people who were the last tribe to renounce headhunting. Following lunch, explore Kota Kinabalu at leisure; study the captivating exhibits of Sabah Museum, wander aromatic night markets to enjoy delicious street eats or head to the grand Imago Mall for a unique South East Asian shopping experience.

DAY 8: Kota Kinabalu B/L

Journey to Kinabalu National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia's highest mountain. Enjoy a guided nature trek to spot Borneo's dynamic bio-diversity including tiny mouse-deer, playful gibbon troops and the unusual Nepenthes rajah, a carnivorous plant that attracts birds and small mammals into its deadly urn-shaped trap. Continue to the nearby Poring Hot Springs to relax in the warm baths before traversing a 134ft Menggaris tree canopy walkway, which provides a breathtaking view across one of the oldest rainforests in the world. Return to Kota Kinabalu for your final evening in Borneo.

DAY 9/10: Kota Kinabalu to UK or Extension B

Transfer to Kota Kinabalu International Airport for your overnight flight back to the UK, via Kuala Lumpur, or continue on to your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to Lodges. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Borneo. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. If you are staying in a lodge during your tour, plumbing and electricity supplies can vary and, in some cases, infrequent, with electricity only being accessible during certain times of the day. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

Tourism tax

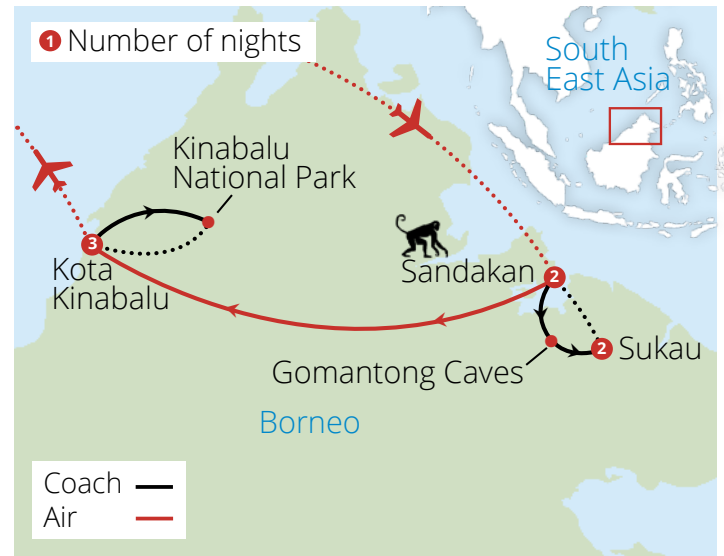
The government of Malaysia has introduced a compulsory tourism tax of MYR10 (approximately £2) per room per night which will need to be paid locally to your hotel upon checkout.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival into Borneo you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **PST**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any questions you may have, however if you need to contact them during your stay the details are:

Head office address

PST Travel Services Sdn Bhd
No. 231 & 233 (Level 3), Jalan Selingsing 7
Taman Niara Waris
51200 Kuala Lumpur ,



WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to Borneo. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. Our tour paces are marked with dots out of 3, with the differences being as follows:

- 1 Dot the tour is Easy-Going
- 2 Dots the tour is Intermediate

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for PST:

During Office Hours: 00 60 088 235900
00 603 26172148
After Office Hours: 060 013 850 3285
00 6012 2909917

3 Dots the tour is Advanced

Borneo's Jungles & Orangutans is rated as 2 Dots meaning that the tour pace is Intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour.

Our guides will always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 30. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tour Guides - Local Guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tipping

It is at your discretion to tip both your driver and guide. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Borneo is the Malaysian Ringgit (MYR). We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK, however cash machines are available in all the major cities to withdraw money in the local currency. We recommend that you exchange your currency before

you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £200- £300 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card and passport details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times or sailing conditions. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to the local conditions.

Passport Information

Your Passport Information is required for this tour. This information is required at least 90 days prior to your departure. Failure to provide this information on time may result in your booking being cancelled with loss of deposit.

WHAT TO PACK

- Insect repellent
- Suncream and a hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers
- Sunglasses
- Towel, swimsuit and plastic bags
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries and first aid kit
- Light rain coat

- Binoculars and leech socks optional
- Hat torchlight optional
- Long trousers and long sleeve top
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- The electricity supply is 220V-240V. A travel plug adapter is not required as plugs in Borneo are 3 square pin plugs

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to Sandakan Airport (via Kuala Lumpur) with Malaysia Airlines (MH), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 4.

IMPORTANT: Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

Each passenger is entitled to 30KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 7 kgs. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt.

Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-in should be at least 3 hours before departure. Each passenger is entitled

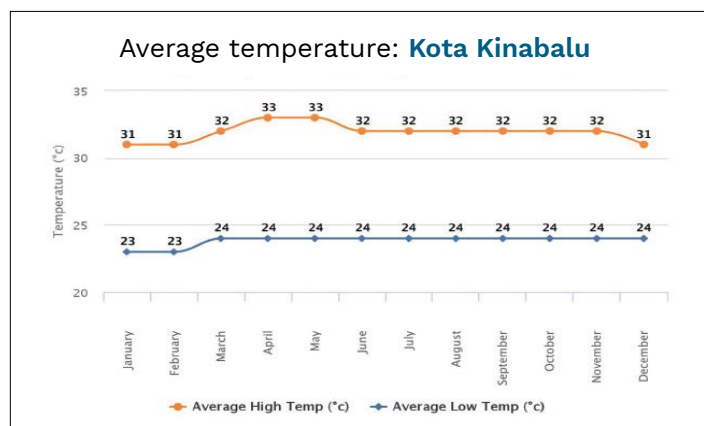
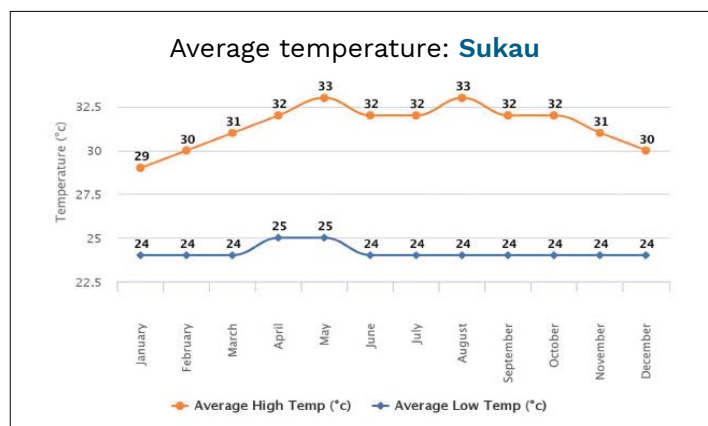
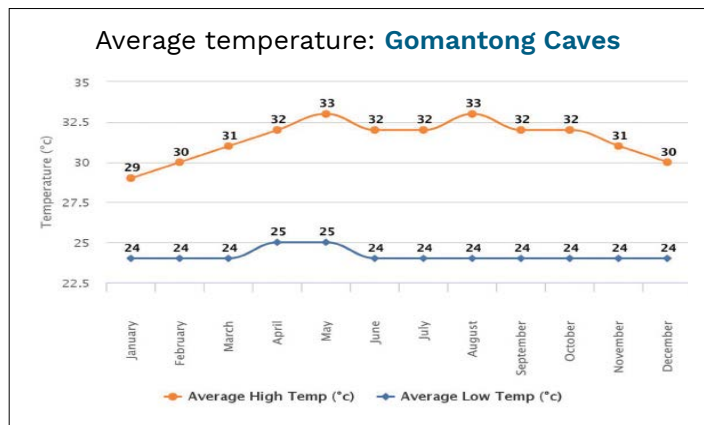
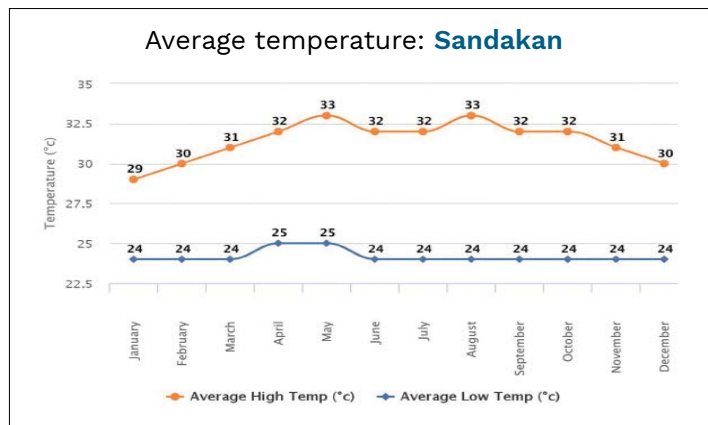
to a 20kg check-in luggage and 1 unit of hand carry luggage not more than 7kg for domestic flight in Malaysia

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Kota Kinabalu Beach Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

At the conclusion of your 9 day Bornean adventure, unwind for 3 nights on the exotic beaches of Borneo's capital city, Kota Kinabalu.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your beach extension to Kota Kinabalu.

Nestled between the spectacular Crocker range and the inviting waters of the South China Sea, the bustling metropolis and tranquil resorts which surround the city offer visitors a warm climate with a wealth of activities to suite your pace.

We have handpicked two hotels that are situated outside of the bustling city and take advantage of the picturesque natural surroundings, your stay will take place at one of the following hotels:

3½★ Beringgis Beach Resort & Spa tropical getaway or set upon the stunning Pantai Dalit Beach at the **5★ Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort**.

Hotel Information - Kota Kinabalu (3 nights Bed and Breakfast)

3½★ Beringgis Beach Resort & Spa – KM26, Jalan Papar, Kampung Beringgis, 89600 Papar, Sabah. Telephone number: 0060 88-752 333
 Nestled between local villages, this charming hotel hosts a coffee shop, restaurant, outdoor pool, spa and serene landscaped garden to relax within. Beringgis Beach Resort resides upon a soft sandy beachfront overlooking the waters of the South China Sea. Each room has free WiFi, air-conditioning, a safety deposit box and tea making facilities. Kota Kinabalu City Centre is approximately 16.2 miles away.

5★ Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort – Pantai Dalit Beach, Tuaran, 89208 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia Telephone number: 0060 88-797 888
 Located on the golden shores of Pantai Dalit Beach within a tropical setting, this luxurious 5★ hotel fuses a contemporary design with aspects in-keeping with the area. With beautifully decorated rooms, the vast array of amenities within the Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort include a full service spa, an inviting garden, sauna, free WiFi, health club, tennis court and five restaurants.

Your chosen hotel and board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure. Final confirmation will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

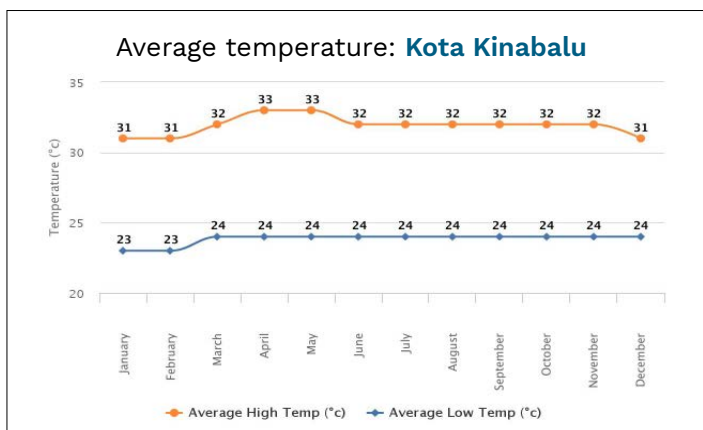
Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover meals not included plus any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional snacks or drinks you may wish to have. The government of Malaysia has introduced a compulsory tourism tax of MYR10 (approximately £2) per room per night which will need to be paid locally to your hotel upon checkout.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Kota Kinabalu is not escorted by a tour guide. Your time here will be free to do as you wish. Transfers are included.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



Shangri-La Rasa Ria Resort

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0843 224 0723**

Kuala Lumpur City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Your additional 3 nights in Kuala Lumpur allows you to explore this exciting city of skyscrapers and temples. Discover the charming buildings and urban agglomeration that make up this fantastic capital city.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Kuala Lumpur.

Situated within Malaysia's mainland, the vibrant capital of Kuala Lumpur's high-rise skyscrapers and Mogul domes overlook a canopy of banyan trees and aromatic food stalls, which infuse the air with the unmistakable scent of Malaysian spices. Explore this colourful city on a half-day tour; visit the opulent King's palace, the fascinating Independence Square and the iconic Petronas Towers with your remaining time in the seductive capital at leisure.

Hotel Information - Kuala Lumpur (3 nights Bed and Breakfast)

4★ Dorsett Hotel Kuala Lumpur (For 2020 departures)

Address: 172, Jalan Imbi, Bukit Bintang Pudu, Kuala Lumpur 55100 Malaysia. Telephone: 00603 2716 1000

Located along Bintang Walk, Dorsett Kuala Lumpur is a 5-minute walk to Pavilion Kuala Lumpur and a 10-minute walk to Berjaya Times Square and Sungei Wang Plaza. It offers FREE Wi-Fi, an outdoor pool with children's pool and guests can enjoy meals at 2 of the in-house dining options. Modern rooms are equipped with air-conditioning, a safe, minibar and tea/coffee maker.

4★ Swiss Garden Hotel Bukit Bintang Kuala Lumpur (For 2021 departures)

Address: 117, Jalan Pudu, Bukit Bintang, 50150 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Telephone: 00603 - 2141 3333.

Enjoying a central location within the capital, this contemporary property features a sophisticated design throughout. Amenities within the Swiss Garden Hotel include an attractive outdoor pool, sauna, terrace and a bar; each inviting room is spacious and offers tea making facilities, a safety deposit boxes and air-conditioning.

Your chosen hotel and board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure. Final confirmation will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

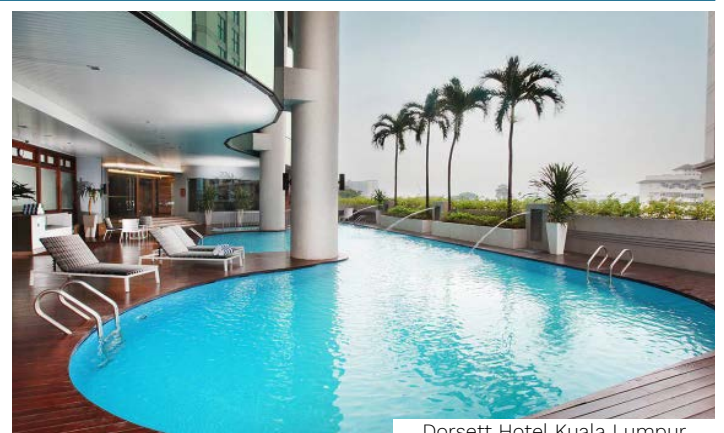
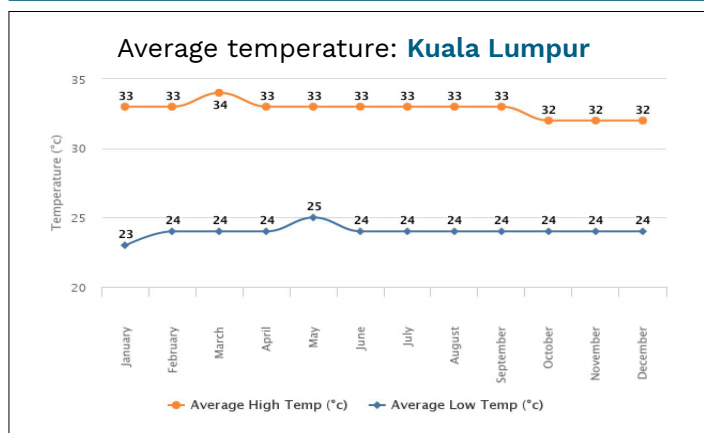
Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover meals not included plus any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional snacks or drinks you may wish to have. The government of Malaysia has introduced a compulsory tourism tax of MYR10 (approximately £2) per room per night which will need to be paid locally to your hotel upon checkout.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Kuala Lumpur is not escorted by a tour guide. Your time here will be free to do as you wish. Transfers are included.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



Dorsett Hotel Kuala Lumpur

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0843 224 0723**