



TRAVELLERS: TEACHING PROJECT ON BORNEO ISLAND MALAYSIA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COLOURFUL AND EXOTIC, MALAYSIA STRETCHES FROM THE PENINSULAR TO THE ISLAND OF BORNEO ... A WEALTH OF CHOICE!

Split between the Peninsular and the island of Borneo, Malaysia offers a wealth of choice and is an ideal starting point for a trip to South East Asia. From the gleaming sky scrapers of Kuala Lumpur to the rainforests and wildlife of Sabah and Sarawak - there is so much to see and do!

All of our projects are based in Sabah, located in the north east of Malaysian Borneo and surrounded by both the South China and Sulu Sea.



Sabah itself is home to lush tropical rainforests, wonderful sandy beaches, the breathtaking Mount Kinabalu, and a biodiversity of Marine and Wildlife like no other. This includes Borneo's Native and most famous resident – the Orang-Utan! Sabah is one of the last places on earth that you can see these remarkable creatures in their natural habitat.

*"I would advise anyone and everyone to go to Borneo, Malaysia!"
Elena Cook*

This teaching placement is based in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. The school we work with is located in a rural village environment in the northern part of the state, about 3 hours drive from the capital city, Kota Kinabalu. This is a country where the sun shines, the sea is crystal clear and there are endless coconut, banana and palm trees!

English is taught in all schools, but in rural areas the children have no need or opportunity to speak the language outside the classroom, so they get very little practice in pronunciation and speech. Thus having exposure to you as a native English speaker is very beneficial to them and helps them raise their grades, which is a big plus given that in the rural areas, the passing rate of English is only 60%.

The school that Travellers volunteers attend is from the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Christian group, and the school holds around 350 pupils. It comprise a Primary and Secondary School and teaching can be arranged within either of these areas. You will usually be expected to work about 10 – 15 lessons per week, and you will soon find that you are in demand wherever you go!

The children at the schools are not used to seeing Westerners and so you may find that people stare at you at first, but they will welcome you into their school and you will soon find that Malaysia feels like a second home. All of the children and teachers are incredibly welcoming and friendly!

Initially, you may act as an assistant to the English teacher, helping take small groups and practice conversational English. Once your confidence grows, you will be in charge of the class and asked to help within other areas, such as sport, drama and music, if you have an interest in these.



Both science and maths are taught in English, and as such assistance with these subjects at basic level would be appreciated. If you are confident with your teaching the teachers will be delighted for you to teach the whole class. You will teach around 10 – 15 hours per week.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS IN MALAYSIA:

Approximate dates for the school terms and holidays for 2011 are given below. Please note that individual school holidays may vary by a day or two.

Term 1: 3rd January to 11th March

Term 2: 21st March to 27th May

Term 3: 13th June to 26th August

Term 4: 5th September to 18th November

The academic year runs from January through to November. Teaching is not available during school holidays. Most volunteers use the school holidays as a time for independent travel.



YOUR QUALIFICATIONS:

Don't worry about not having special qualifications. The whole idea of *Travellers* is to provide any help possible, whether it is merely enabling children to hear English pronunciation by native English speakers, or any additional help with other academic subjects or how to use a computer - anything you can offer is very much appreciated and everyone knows you are not a qualified teacher. The emphasis is on much-needed language development, additional learning and cultural contact. It gives your pupils valuable experience while saving you large sums of money on TEFL diplomas.

SCHOOL DETAILS:

GASS - Goshen Adventist Secondary and Primary School (SDA school)

Location: Kota Marudu, Sabah, Malaysia

Staff details. Male and female from mid-twenties to middle age. English spoken from intermediate to advanced. **Student details:** Total 352, approx. 50 are boarders. English varies from poor to intermediate. Aged from 11 to 18 years. Forms 1-6 plus pre-university (sixth form).

Class size: On average 20 - 30

Subjects possible: All subjects are taught in Bahasa Malaysia except English, Science and Mathematics. The school has clubs, a 'Scouts' type association, and sports. Volunteer input into these, as well as music and drama would be welcomed. Classroom assistance is needed in class with explanations, reading, writing and composition. Some whole class teaching is possible and short talks/lectures would help improve listening and conversation skills. Speaking socially with the students and staff is also of great benefit.

Accommodation: With a host family near the school. Comprises bedrooms, shared living room and bathroom / toilet (Western style). Food will be provided at your accommodation.

Other information: The school is very keen to form a good working relationship with volunteers. They feel that volunteers are one of the best ways to increase the standard of their students English. They are also keen that the volunteers enjoy themselves and get to visit Sabah's attractions, and would be pleased to advise on this.

Please don't forget – You can write to us, telephone our office (01903 502595), or email us at info@travellersworldwide.com if you have any questions.

FEEDBACK ON THIS PLACEMENT FROM A VOLUNTEER:

Hi Travellers!

Everything's going fantastically on our placement. We're all getting on fine in the house, and the house is great. Monica, our cook and mum, is a star, she's so helpful about everything and is always arranging trips for us to go on and taking us to the shops when we need to and everything like that. The other teachers at the school are really friendly and are trying almost



too hard to arrange things for us to do - karaoke nights and eating out (buying us sweetcorn flavoured ice cream!).

The school is really keen for us to get involved with everything. I have 11 lessons a week. Six of them are with the sixth formers, and I'm teaching them English writing and speaking. It can be very difficult as there's such a range of abilities in the classes, and some of the kids are too shy to say anything without falling about in heaps of giggles, which can be really annoying. My other five lessons are teaching maths to form one, about 30 kids. This is usually okay, although sometimes the mental arithmetic catches me out and I just get the kids to do the questions on the board that I can't do myself! The lessons aren't quite as we expected as we're totally in charge of each class we teach rather than being assistants to the teachers, but its going okay so far. So long as they aren't expecting too much from us about the results the kids get at the end of our placement!

Out of the classroom, I'm involved in teaching English to the English teachers twice a week, and in return they have started to teach me Malay. Next week I'm also taking lessons for some of the day students, I think they are all my sixth formers wanting extra help. Me and Lily are also involved in the church choir and teaching one group of students and one group of teachers how to sing, we play badminton when its not too hot, and I think we're starting to play rounders with anyone who's up for it next week!



At the weekends we've been coming to KK and the nearby islands with other volunteers and have been clubbing with Albert (Travellers Manager) and to Poring Hot Springs. I'm currently in KK to get my visa extended (I was only given a short one because I came in from Thailand) and I think we're going hang-gliding and horse riding this weekend.

I'd definitely recommend this placement to other people, although I think you have to have a certain character to survive! The communication between here and home has been pretty easy so long as you don't expect to get in touch with people on a regular basis! The internet has a habit of switching itself off, power cuts kill the line anyway, and the phone line's been down a few times. I bought a sim card out here very cheaply, but my phone doesn't have much reception in the school.

I think you've also got to be pretty easy going to cope with the life style out here, plans tend to be made very loosely, for sometime in the future and then something might be sprung on you the day before hand, and it can be hard to explain if you already have made other plans. Finally, I think you have to be pretty hard to embarrass- we've been made to dance in front of the whole school, sing at weddings and give speeches - I think we're getting used to feeling pretty stupid in whatever we do!

Bye for now, Linz
(Lindsay Wilkinson, on her placement at Goshen Adventist School)

INDUCTION / INTRODUCTION TO THE COUNTRY

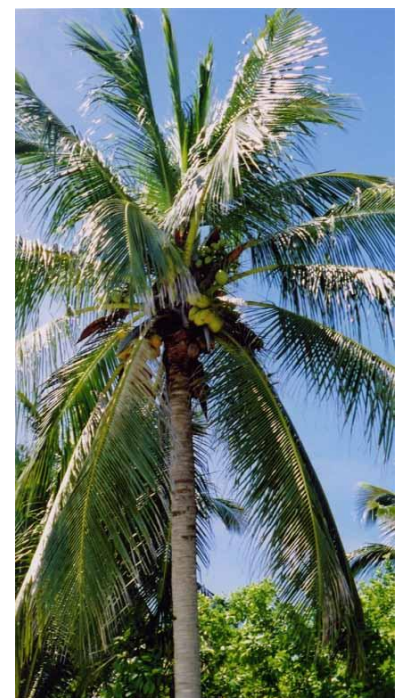
When you arrive you'll be welcomed at the airport by Albert, our Manager in Malaysia. You will spend several days in **Kota Kinabalu** prior to leaving for your placement. This time will be a familiarisation period so that you can learn about the country and its culture, as well as useful information like how to use the phones, transport system, etc.



BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO MALAYSIA

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Whilst the majority of tourists visit peninsular Malaysia, a trip to Malaysian Borneo will be an unforgettable experience and free from some of the hassles that can be encountered in other parts of Asia. Travelling around is easy and cheap and locals are helpful and friendly. Sabah has a laid back charm and elegant beauty that will make any stay in this remarkable country truly worthwhile.

Across the whole of Sabah, Filipinos, along with various ethnic groups and indigenous tribes (For example, Chinese, Bajau, Kadazan, Dusun and Murut) account for over half of the population. Malaysia is "Truly Asia" - a real multicultural society. The official language in Malaysia is Bahasa Malaysia, but due to the fusion of religious and ethnic groups found in Malaysia English is widely spoken.

MONEY - COST OF LIVING:

Currency: Malaysian Ringgit (dollar)

- Can of Coke – 20p
- Reasonably good Malaysian meal - £2- £4
- SUGGESTED POCKET MONEY - £160 per month

Malaysia's position in the tropics means that it is both hot and humid all year round. There is no bad time to visit – the monsoon season is between October and January, but at this time the short but heavy downpours can prove to be a welcome relief! The rest of the year sees endless days of sunshine with temperatures averaging 28 – 32 Degrees Celsius.



THE NEXT STEP

If you would like to join us on one of our exciting projects then please fill in either an online application form at our website (www.travellersworldwide.com) or one that is attached to our brochure. Once you have booked and confirmed your place we will send you detailed pack information regarding your placement and country.

I do hope you join us and please do call or email if you have any questions at all about this or any of our other projects – 01903 502595 or email info@travellersworldwide.com

If you would like to know more about Travellers in general, or about any of our other projects we run in over 18 countries worldwide, please visit our website at www.travellersworldwide.com



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