

Teach children in Borneo

GBP749/month



Be part of a humble organization and group of people to provide children, who would otherwise be denied, with free basic primary education. The BCAS learning centres in the remotest areas of Sabah, Borneo Malaysia, are providing basic education for over 8,000 stateless children who do not have access to government run education. With no primary education these children would most likely become child laborers, drug miss-users and outcasts of society at the Palm Oil plantations they live on. Volunteer with Ecoteer on the Borneo Teach English volunteer program and touch the lives of these wonderful children giving them a chance to realize their dreams.

Your Itinerary

Volunteering starts every month of the year except December when the children have their end of year break.

Start date : 2nd January

Day 1(Sunday)

Pickup at Sandakan airport before 3pm where a team member will meet you. (D)

Day 2 (Monday)

8am each volunteer will be taken to a different learning centre and introduced to the teachers and of course the school children. You will be expected to **lead 3, 1 hour English lessons for approximately 10-15 children per grade**. In the first session we always recommend you do an 'introduce yourself' session. The school day finishes at 12 noon. There are no scheduled afternoon activities for the school children. However the volunteers are initiating informal afternoon activities for the children. The children love to play sports (badminton, volleyball and football), sing, do arts and crafts etc. After dinner you will be given some Malay language lessons and all volunteers will be encouraged to discuss their lesson plans for the following day. (B, L, D)

Day 3 , 4 & 5 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)

Follow similar routine

7am	Breakfast;
8am	Go to school;
8.15-12noon	Lead 3-1 hour English lessons for grades 1-6 (ages 7-13);
12noon- 3pm	Lunch and preparations for afternoon activities and lessons for the following day;
3pm – 5pm	Volunteer-organised informal afternoon activities;
7pm	Dinner;
8pm	Malay language and final prep for following day; (B, L, D).

Day 5 (Friday)

Friday is sports day for the children so with the teacher you will organize sporting activities which is normally badminton. School finishes early today at 11am.

Weekend breaks

At midday on Friday you will have the option to leave the plantation for the weekend. Transportation will be arranged for you to the Sukau Junction where you can get cheap public transport to various natural wonders. Within 3 hours you can **watch wild pygmy elephants, orangutans and proboscis monkey`s** along the Kinabatangan River, **dive at Sipadan** one of the worlds top 10 diving sites, or quite simply relax in Sandakan and experience true traditional England at the English tea house.

Day 7 (Sunday)

You will need to be back at the Sukau Junction by 4pm where you will be picked up and taken back to your accommodation.

Day 8-28 (Monday)

Follow the same weekly routine but with no Malay language lessons in the evening;

Accommodation

The accommodation is **twin sharing** and has all amenities like TV, fridge, kettle, en-suite bathroom and even a balcony.

Please be warned **rooms will be single sexed** as unmarried couples are not allowed to stay in the same room together.

If we have a mixture of volunteers the male volunteers will stay with Mr Chee, the plantation`s regional manager`s house which is just 30 seconds away.



Meals

Your meals will be provided at Mr Chee`s house which is only a 30 second walk away from your accommodation. **Mr Chee personally cooks the meals for you and he is a great chef**. Most nights you will get rice with some local dishes and lots of fresh fruits. Please let us know if you do not like spicy food or have other dietary requirements.



Key Aspects

1. Teach English to primary aged children;
2. Run afternoon activities and games for the children;
3. Educate the children about the environment in a weekly club. **Spreading environmental awareness** to the children growing up on the outskirts of the Sukau/Kinabatangan reserve;
4. Live in some of the most remote areas of Sabah Borneo;
5. Be able to go on **weekend excursions** to see orangutans, turtles, pygmy elephants, proboscis monkey's or dive on coral reefs at Sipadan;
6. Know that your efforts are **reducing the chances of the children being illiterate and child labourers**, giving them an increased chance to realize their dreams.

Being Responsible

1. Clear aim - to provide basic primary education to the stateless children of Sabah, Borneo Malaysia;
2. Low tourist impact – max 1 volunteer per school;
3. Contribution to local community – RM1500 per volunteer per month is donated to the Melangkang estate schools;
4. Environmental and cultural conservation – during the first week you will be given Malaysian language lessons by our facilitator. Run weekly environmental awareness activities on a Thursday afternoon, teaching the children about recycling, species and conservation;



Volunteer Activities

Teaching English

The teachers at the Learning Centres are mostly from Indonesia or the Philippines and their understanding of English is not very high. The children follow text books and you will be expected to teach each group (ages 7-8, 9-10 11-13) of children for 1 hour depending on where they are in the text book. The best way to teach the children is to make the lessons as interactive as possible. Competitions and songs with actions are always a firm favourite with the children. You do have access to the internet and basic stationery to help you prepare for each of the sessions. The learning centres want to start small libraries so reading story books with the children is encouraged.

Informal Afternoon activities

The afternoon activities are being introduced in January 2011 as a result of the volunteer program. Each volunteer will be expected to lead these activities at their specific learning centre. The activities can change depending on the volunteer's skills and interests. The children love doing fun activities like sports, singing, arts and crafts and even reading. The afternoon sessions will passively help improve the children's confidence in using English.

Environmental club

The main area of focus for the volunteer program is in the Sukau region. Sukau is part of a large wildlife reserve. Increasing the environmental awareness amongst the children of the Palm Oil Plantations will help to reduce pressures on the wildlife living on the borders between the plantation and reserves. Our pioneer volunteers have already introduced recycling centres.

Possible weekend excursion

Borneo and in particular Sabah is blessed with several natural wonders which can only be seen on these shores. Three endemic species, the Borneo Orang utan, Pygmy Elephant and Proboscis Monkey can all be found in the Sukau reserve. You can stay in lodges at Sukau or go for nightly river cruises. However if you don't get to see an orangutan in the wild you can always go to the world famous Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre just a 30min drive away from the Sukau Junction. If you prefer to get wet, you may want to take the 1 hour journey to Sandakan to catch a boat to the Turtle Island Marine park or drive south to Semporna where you can scuba dive at one of the worlds top 10 dive sites Sipadan island. Sipadan is home to vibrant corals, schools of Barracuda, bumphead parrot fish and turtles and sharks abound.



Location / Dates / Transportation

Location	The schools are located on Melangking Estate, 15km from Sukau village. Sukau is a 2 hour drive from Sandakan Airport, Sabah, Malaysia
Pick up	Sandakan airport (internal flight from Kuala Lumpur International Airport)
Duration	Minimum of 4 weeks, you can stay for as long as you like;
Date	Starts on Sunday 2 nd January 2011 and then every fourth Sunday until 1 st December 2011

Cost

Malaysian

RM 2,000.00

Non Malaysian

GBP 749.00 per month

USD 1,149.00 per month

AUS 1,349.00 per month

Included

- Return transfers to/from Sandakan Airport;
- Food and accommodation;
- Twin share fan rooms;
- Transfer to Sukau junction midday on each Friday and from Sukau junction on Sunday;
- Donation of RM1500 to the schools at Melangking per volunteer/month

Not included

- Travel to Sandakan airport;
- Weekend excursions from Sukau Junction;
- Travel insurance

Who is Ecoteer Responsible Travel?

Ecoteer Responsible Travel prides itself on sustainable and responsible tourism. Ecoteer has 5 key aspects of sustainable tourism so how does this program keep to the criteria

1. Clear aim and objectives with an implemented plan to achieve them;

The aim of the project is to provide basic primary education for the stateless children of Sabah which is very clear and concise. The objectives follow a sensible approach and are helping our partner the Borneo Child Aid Society's work to open more learning centres and reach more children.

2. Low tourist numbers (reduces environmental damage and waste);

Only 1 volunteer works at each learning centre and focuses only on teaching English which means the current school teacher does not lose his or her job but is able to focus more on other key subjects such as science and maths.

3. Large proportion of tourist fees going to local community (jobs, products, sponsored infrastructure);

The Borneo Child Aid Society aspires to build a new learning centre which will combine all three learning centres on the estate and provide individual rooms for each grade of schooling. The volunteer fee includes a donation of RM1500 which is approximately GBP300 per month per volunteer which will contribute to developing current facilities and the new learning centre.

4. Guests can get involved with current projects;

Volunteers can join in many of activities that the plantation workers do.

5. Guests are told about the local environment and culture;

The volunteers are told about the local customs and culture of the people working on the plantation. They are also taught basic Malaysian phrases to allow simple communication between volunteers and the children. The volunteers run weekly environmental clubs at each school building environmental awareness among the children of the plantations - reducing conflicts between the people and the bordering nature reserves.



How to book

If you wish to volunteer please email daniel@ecoteer.com.

After initial queries, we will send you our application form and temporary book your place (max 3 volunteers). Your place will be held for 2 weeks.

A deposit of 25% of the full payment is required to confirm your place. Full payment must be made 1 month before departure.

