



WORK EXPERIENCE: “SURVIVOR” ISLAND DIVING PROJECT 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*

MALAYSIA'S “SURVIVOR” ISLAND DIVING EXPERIENCE

Just off the coast of northern Borneo lies the tiny island of **Pulau Tiga**, one of three islands that make up the Pulau Tiga National Park, a protected area in the South China Sea. Originally formed after a volcanic eruption, Pulau Tiga is a haven for wildlife and ringed by a 7km shallow, healthy coral reef with crystal clear water. Visibility ranges from 6 to 20 metres and schools of tropical fish can be seen from the surface, even without snorkel equipment.

The islands landscape is dramatic, set in the midst of lush rainforest, including mangroves, swamps and lowland forests for a total of eight square miles. Within this enticing habitat are more than fifty different species of trees, countless plant species and an array of fauna such as macaque monkeys, proboscis monkeys, monitor lizards and sea turtles as well as many other colourful species and birds. A rich variety of marine life can be seen including barracuda, bamboo sharks, cuttlefish and marbled stingray. There are around 132 species of fish representing 62 genera in 32 families.

Sipadan Dive Centre developed a resort on the island in 1998 to accommodate tourists in a variety of wooden cottages. This peaceful destination is home to many outdoor activities and Scuba diving in the marine park is heavenly. If you are not already qualified you will take a PADI Open Water Diver Certification course on your arrival with the resorts water sports centre. Novices can explore the many dive sites once completing the basic PADI qualification. Seasoned divers will find the reefs wonderful and a number of unexplored diving locations are available for day trips. Although the island doesn't generally attract many



international tourists, it has recently become famous for the American TV production of Survivor, a reality TV show where contestants battled it out to be the ultimate survivor, living on a tropical island and competing against each other for a prize of \$1 Million US dollars. On average, the dive school receives 4 to 5 students weekly and there are currently 5 staff working at the dive centre.

The Diving placement at the Resort's water sports centre gives diving enthusiasts the chance to gain experience in Malaysia's tropical waters.

The following courses can be taken during this project;

- PADI Open Water Course and Advanced OW Course,
- Emergency First Aid Response Course,
- Rescue Diver Course,
- Dive Master Course (optional and subject to certain criteria)



WORK RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBJECTIVES

During your stay on Pulau Tiga you will be involved in many aspects of running the resorts water sports centre. Your daily tasks could vary but the main objectives of this placement are for you to:

- 1) Have experience of running a dive centre and, if you are able to stay for a period of three months, have the opportunity to do a total of 60 dives as a prerequisite to the Dive Master Course.
- 2) Assist the Dive Master in the daily running of the centre. Responsibilities include: taking care of the dive centre, guiding and assisting new learners, handling customers inquiries, customer service and reporting to the Dive Instructor
- 3) Develop your diving skills by taking several courses – i.e. PADI Open Water, Advanced Open Water, Emergency First Aid Response, Rescue Diver etc.

Dry Activities: Job responsibilities include looking after the water sports centre, for example; general cleaning (of the centre and the beach), handling customers inquiries, manning the centre, guiding and assisting new learners, filling up oxygen tanks, cleaning diving equipment, assisting the movements of the boats or assignments set by the Resort Manager (guiding trail walks, assisting water department, assisting other departments), conducting English Classes. You will also assist with preparing the Kayaks or Jet Ski's to be ready for use by guests staying at the resort.

Wet activities: The main activity you will take part in is assisting the Diving Instructor, for example; helping the instructor while conducting diving lessons, supporting and guiding learners, preparing diving gear for lessons, interacting with new learners. You will also be responsible for cleaning and maintaining the diving equipment.

Although this is **not** a conservation project, some other activities that you may be involved in include:

- Monitoring and Surveying Artificial Reef (snorkelling) - replacing and/or repairing damaged coral, continuing the development of the reef, conducting an inventory of the marine life encountered (specifically fish), cleaning underwater rubbish, collecting and replanting coral fragments. Due to the location of Pulau Tiga, heavy winds are common resulting in beach debris.
- Monitoring and Surveying House Reef (snorkelling) - this will involve conducting an inventory of the marine life (fish, coral, giant clams, etc) encountered at the designated area, clearing underwater rubbish, feeding fish, reporting the quality of water (i.e. visibility, under water current, seaweeds, jellyfish, red-tide, etc), reporting any damaged corals.
- Developing an Artificial Reef – to form the foundation for planting corals, setting up coral nursery units etc (some of this work will be undertaken as a dry activity).



These activities are not guided by a marine biologist, so your input will not have any academic value. Instead, these activities provide you with the opportunity to be involved in useful work for the centre whilst practising your diving skills. Some of the activities are quite routine and in some respects similar to underwater gardening (for example, clearing underwater rubbish, collecting and replanting coral fragments, etc.) During each of the above activities you will dive with other volunteers who are on the placement at the same time as you and will not be supervised by a member of staff from the dive centre.

During your stay you might encounter days when the weather is not suitable for water activities and therefore dry activities will take place. The following courses will be taken during your placement:

FIRST MONTH

*Open Water Course

Advance Open Water Course

*Please note, if you already have a PADI open water qualification then you do not need to take this course but you must take with you your log book and PADI certificate. If you have another type of qualification that is not a recognised PADI then you may have to take a refresher course after your arrival.

SECOND MONTH

Emergency First Aid Response Course

Rescue Diver

THIRD MONTH

Dive Master Course. This is optional but must be confirmed before commencing the whole placement. In order to do the dive master course you must have completed at least 60 dives and reached a high level of fitness and a slow level of air consumption. During this course you will also learn, amongst other things, about customer service, fish and coral identification, reef structure and underwater current movement.

If you intend to take the Dive Master Course within a 3 month period then we recommend that you do not start as a complete beginner – it is advisable for you to have at least the Open Water PADI qualification.



WORK SCHEDULE

During the first week of your placement you will have most of the afternoons off. This is to enable you to acclimatise to the tropical weather and to be familiar with the surrounding environment – i.e. the resort and its facilities. During your six working days you will be expected to spend 3 days doing dry activities and 3 days doing wet activities. You must take your own fins, mask and wet suit (which can be bought locally, if needed) but diving equipment is provided (this includes BCD, regulator and Scuba tanks).

This is **not** a conservation project. You will be required to work 6 days per week. Your day off will not usually be over the weekend as this is when the dive centre is at its busiest. If there are several volunteers doing this placement at the same time then you may be able to arrange some of your days off together. Because of this schedule and the islands location, we recommend that you don't make plans to travel during your placement. There will be a minimum of 2 volunteers on this placement at any one time and each volunteer must spend a minimum of 2 months on this placement.

Diving is possible all year round although the weather tends to be stormy between June, July and August. All diving is weather dependant.

The resort can accommodate a maximum of 120 people at any one time – it's peak occupancy period tends to be from April/May to Sept/October when usually it will be at least 70% full. At other times of the year, occupancy can drop to around 20%. During the Low season, you'll find that the staff have more free time to give 1 to 1 instruction, where as during the high season, you'll have more exposure to customers but more diving will take place in a group.



ACCOMMODATION

Pulau Tiga Resort is privately run and has chalets for guests set in a beautiful and quite exotic environment, befitting this beautiful country! There are lovely walkways that run between the accommodation and the various facilities at the resort, surrounded by colourful local flora. The Resorts' range of facilities is good (see below), but focuses mainly on diving and water-sports, including a jetty set into the tropical beach.

Traditional Longhouse: While on your project, you'll stay in a Malaysian longhouse, where you'll get to experience a taste of living in a traditional style. The Longhouse is traditional in style only - it is a modern facility with a lovely wooden verandah giving beautiful views and is nestled under trees. The facilities are comfortable, clean and very tropical. You will share your accommodation with other Travellers volunteers with a maximum of three volunteers per room.

Food: Your meals will consist of local cuisine and are provided in the Resort's Restaurant.

Meals are taken in the form of a buffet, served daily and usually including two main courses (these are usually a choice or combination of chicken, meat or fish), with local vegetables and salads, followed by fruit. In the very quiet part of Low Season, there may occasionally be no guests at the Resort. At such times you'll take your meals in the staff canteen. Tea, Coffee and Juice is available all day.

Pulau Tiga Resort is fairly well equipped in terms of other facilities. There is a bar and restaurant area, volleyball and football court, and a games room and TV room.

During your placement you will have free access to non-motorised water sports equipment, such as Kayaks - a great way to explore some of the island! Jet Ski's are also available for hire. Local staff are friendly and live on the island - they will often get together for a game of volleyball or football in the evenings. Many of the staff speak good English.

There are also many trails through the undergrowth that you can explore easily and are well worth the effort. One of the features of the island are the several active mud volcanoes can be found around the island, especially at the summit. Here you can cover yourself in volcanic mud for a natural skin cleansing treatment! These are well worth visiting for the view as well as the volcanoes.



There is a 30 minute boat service from Kuala Penyu to Pulau Tiga which runs twice daily, so you can get on and off the island if needed. In Kuala Penyu there is a hospital, police station, coffee shop, post office, internet connection and some other small shops. There is no nightlife but this can be found in Kota Kinabalu, around 3 hours away by car.

This is a remote island - you can stay in touch with home via Satellite phone or local Sim card, however, there is no internet connection on the island and access to internet off the island can be intermittent. We suggest that you prepare yourself for a remote experience.

ABOUT MALAYSIA

The majority of tourists visit peninsular Malaysia, but a trip to Sabah on the island of Borneo is truly unforgettable. 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. Malaysian Borneo is free from some of the hassles that can be encountered in other parts of Asia. Its laid back charm and elegant beauty make any stay in this colourful and exotic country worthwhile.

Currency: Malaysian Ringgit (RM)

Big Mac costs about £1

Can of Coke – 20p

Reasonably good Malaysian meal - £2

SUGGESTED POCKET MONEY - £160 per month (approx)

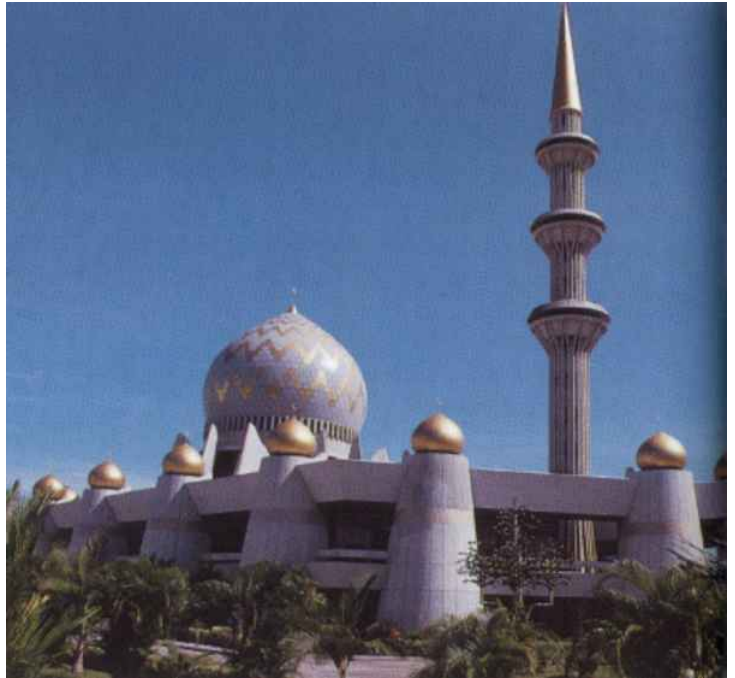
Malaysia's position in the tropics means that it is both hot and humid all year round. There is no bad time to visit – the monsoon season is between October and January, but at this time the short but heavy downpours can prove to be a welcome relief! The rest of the year sees endless days of sunshine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