



Borneo

East to West Crossing Adventure

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

ITINERARY

Borneo • East to West Crossing Adventure

20 DAYS • 19 NIGHTS

Jakarta – Pontianak – Putussibau – Kapuas River – Bungan River – Tanjung Lokang – Sei Bulit – Bungan River – Piang Lo'ong – Muller Range – Muara Kuting – Saite – Ting Ohang – Long Bagun – Samarinda - Balikpapan

HIGHLIGHTS

- 🌍 Cross one of the most rugged islands on earth from East to West using roads, rivers and feet
- 🌍 Traversing the jungle
- 🌍 Experience amazing rivers – Kapuas and Bungan Rivers
- 🌍 Sleep in a houseboat!

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Adventure Trekking
Tour Start	Jakarta
Tour End	Balikpapan
Accommodation	Hotels, Camping
Included Meals	16 Breakfasts, 15 lunches, 14 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Very Difficult

WEST TO EAST CROSSING ADVENTURE



The Cross Borneo East to West adventure is a real once in a lifetime adventure. Those who have undertaken this trip in the past have describe it as the most challenging and the most enjoyable trekking trip they had ever done. The ultimate challenge - crossing one of the most rugged islands on earth from East to West using roads, rivers and feet, we traverse the jungle of Kalimantan in Indonesian Borneo. To enjoy this trip, you need to be prepared to accept whatever the jungles and rivers serve up! A good fitness level, a strong sense of determination and a flexible attitude are essential.

BORNEO *an overview*

Sarawak and Sabah make up the more popular Malaysian portion of the beautiful nature playground - Borneo. This magical Island is draped in the richest and one of the most ancient equatorial rainforests on the planet. It acts as shelter to some incredible native wildlife including Orangutans and proboscis monkeys in the canopy above, pygmy elephants roaming the riversides and clouded leopards wandering the depths of the jungle. Borneo's extraordinary wilderness is made up of endless Rivers, dramatic Mountains, dense steamy Jungle, as well as some spectacular beaches. Borneo serves up true remoteness, wildlife and adventure.

WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive at JAKARTA

Upon arrival in Jakarta Soekarno Hatta International Airport, we will transfer you to hotel at down town in Jakarta. Free program all meals at your personal leisure.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
Nil



Distance:
N/A



Activities:
Travel

DAY 2: Fly from JAKARTA to PONTIANAK

Transfer to Cengkareng Airport to catch your flight to Pontianak. Upon arrival in Pontianak you will be transferred to your accommodation at Hotel Santika Pontianak. There are a lot of things to do while we are there. We can explore the riverbank area of Pontianak by the wooden boat, from where we can observe the old and the new Pontianak from the different perspective. Among the highlights of the sightseeing trip is Pontianak harbour, Beting Permai water village, and the huge Kapuas Bridge. We do this for about 2 or 3 hours.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
Nil



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Explore

DAY 3: Fly from PONTIANAK to PUTUSSIBAU

Departure by DAS (Dirgantara Air Service) at 09.00 and arrive into Putussibau at 11.00. This air service uses small planes with capacity of just 22 seats. The flight is a little bit noisy and ear plugs are recommended. They allow extra luggage of 10kg maximum so please bring only the essentials you need for this expedition. You will stay at simple hotel in Putussibau.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
Nil



Distance:
2hr flight



Activities:
Travel

DAY 4: PUTUSSIBAU - KAPUAS RIVER

We will start our adventure expedition after breakfast at hotel in Putussibau and head towards the headwaters of the Kapuas by long boat. The long boat is about 1 ½ - 2 meter wide and 6 - 8 meter long with capacity for 4 - 5 passengers. The long boat has no roof so it will be hot and also a little noisy. It is recommended to wear your water sport sandals (TeVa) or rubber shoes and bring ear plugs, hat, long sleeve, short pants, extra snacks & drinks and dry bags.



You will take this journey with our porters as well as our guide. On the way the boat will be stop for toilet, cleaning the propeller, refill gasoline or to fix the engine, if required! We will pass some Dayak Villages on the riverside and their unique daily river life as well as some birds such as Eagle, King Fisher, Long Tailed Parakeet. Lunch on the way. Dinner and overnight at the riverside at tents or local house.



Overnight:
Camping/ local house



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Long Boating

DAY 5: KAPUAS RIVER – BUNGAN RIVER

After breakfast, we continue our journey by long boats as far as up stream as possible. On the way we may stop at the Dayak village to see local communities and long houses. We will also pass some rapids, slash and burn agriculture (shifting cultivation) as well as the local people looking for gold, some by traditional methods and some by machine along the river side.

In certain places we have to push the boat as the level of the water in the dry season may be too shallow. Here you will experience how amazing the boatmen are and what we call "the Stone Men: the boat crew who know exactly where the rocks are and how to get away from the rapids. It's a great challenge of adventure that you will experience. If the rapids are too challenging we have to walk along the rocks on the river side and the boat will pick us up. It's tough here! We will have lunch on the way. Dinner and overnight at the river side with tents or temporary house or local house.



Overnight:
Camping/ local house



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Long boating



DAY 6: BUNGAN RIVER - TANJUNG LOKANG

Continue our journey after breakfast. It's more and more challenging here with the rapids. Go down some rapids with the boat, in other areas we push the boat, walk on the rocks but overall we "enjoy" the challenging experience of the rapids. On the way we will see the tropical rain forest of Kalimantan, shifting cultivation, traditional gold mining in the river, temporary huts, till we reach Tanjung Lokan. Tanjung Lokan is a small villages located inside Betung Kerihun National Park. If you are a handy craft collector you may find some nice baskets, "Mandau" traditional machete, "Sumpit" blow gun, or "Tangguy" traditional farmer hats etc. You will eat lunch on the way, and dinner and overnight will be at a local house.



Note: The duration of the long boat journey depends on what happens on the river. Normally the journey starts after breakfast and runs until in the mid-day for lunch. Then the long boat will start again but will stop before dark to set up the camp to prepare meals. Sometimes we have to continue the journey longer to catch the best places to stay overnight. Here we need your flexibility so you will make the most of your journey.



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Long Boating

DAY 7: TANJUNG LOKAN - BOBO/SEI BULIT (SUNGAI BULET)

After breakfast, we start the trek across up Land Ladang "slash and burn" along fellow dry rice field through the forest. The first 2 hours we will hike up the hill, then another about 2 ½ hours passing the jungle and dry small river. After lunch which we take close to a river our trek will be up and down, crossing the dry, small river and Nyinyit Cave (the local people collect the swallow nests that are expensive delicacies in the towns and support their life inside the cave). Before dark we set up the tents on the river side of Sei Bulit for dinner and overnight. The guide's team will cook for us.



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Trekking

DAY 8: SEI BULIT - BUNGAN RIVER

After breakfast, we cross the river, making our way through the jungle crossing small rivers and passing some caves as we go. We may see some exotic flora and fauna of Borneo. After lunch on the way on the river side, we pass temporary huts that the local people use for tending their shifting cultivation or hunting deer, wild pig, birds, and even sometimes clouded leopard. Before dark, we set up the tents close to Bungan River for dinner and overnight.



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Trekking



DAY 9: BUNGAN RIVER – BUNGAN LEA RIVER

We prepare for a challenging trek which is varied but tough. After breakfast we cross the big river which is about ½ - 1 meter deep. We have several challenges to deal with: lots of water, and rocks to negotiate. After lunch on the way by the river side, we continue the trek up and down the cliff of the river. Overnight and dinner on the river side of Bungan Lea River.



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Trekking

DAY 10: BUNGAN LEA RIVER - PIANG LO'ONG

This is the longest and the toughest trek of the trip. After breakfast, crossing up and down, negotiating rivers and cliffs. After lunch we continue the trek as before lunch. The trek will be very challenging and everybody needs an adventurous spirit and plenty of energy. We eventually set up a campsite close to the river for dinner and overnight.



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Trekking

DAY 11: PIANG LO'ONG - MULLER RANGE

Here we find a different typography during our West & East Kalimantan crossing! After breakfast, we walk for about two hours up and down river till reach the foot of Muller Range. It starts at an altitude of 500 meters (ASL) till we reach the border of West and East Kalimantan at 1000meters (ASL). The path is not so difficult only high up above the jungle. It takes about 1 - 1 ½ hours depending on our progress. No need to rush as the jungle view is fantastic. After reaching the "TUGU PERBATASAN" (Border monument), we need to put something from our belongings such as socks or clothes for offering to the spirits. After lunch on the way, the trek is easier going downhill until we reach the campsite in the river side. Dinner and overnight at the Muller Range



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Trekking

DAY 12: MULLER RANGE – MUARA CUTING

After breakfast the trek is almost the same before except on the way the Dayak will show us how to survive in the jungle, collecting the rotan, hunting, catching fish, setting traps etc. Lunch on the way, and overnight camping on the riverside of Muara Cutting



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Survival trips

DAY 13: MUARA CUTING - SAITE

This is the shortest trek. We will trek for about 3 hours to reach Saite so we will have lots of time for relaxing, swimming after several days of hard trekking. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be had on the riverside. Overnight at Saite



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Trekking



DAY 14: MUARA SAITE - TIONG OHANG

After breakfast we trek across the river and jungle to reach the Mahakam River after 3 hours walk. You will pass slash and burn agriculture before reaching the river side. Upon arrival, the long boat will take us to Tiong Ohang Village – a journey of about 6 - 7 hours. Lunch will be had on the way. We will pass some temporary huts as well as slash and burn agriculture and jungle. Dinner at a simple restaurant and overnight at a local (simple) house at Tiong Ohang. This is the first village we encounter after long days in the jungle. We may also find more handy craft from Kalimantan and of better quality.



Overnight:
Camping



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
6-7hrs on long boat



Activities:
Trekking and long boating

DAY 15: TIONG OHANG - LONG BAGUN

After breakfast at the local restaurant, we continue our journey by long boat for 8 - 10 hours. On the way we stop at a local restaurant for lunch. We will pass some big rapids, so we need to walk on the rocks but it's not so difficult and the boat will pick us up below the rapids. The views along the rivers are fantastic and we can walk around to see the long houses and their unique daily life. Dinner and overnight will be at a local house



Overnight:
Local House



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
8-10hrs on long boat



Activities:
Long Boating

DAY 16: LONG BAGUN FOR CULTURAL PERFORMANCES/BOARDING THE BOAT

As the Mahakam River has a unique characteristic river we have to be aware of the tide and height of the river. In the dry season the level of the water could be shallow so sometimes you have to leave the river at Long Bagun. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner at the boat or Long Bagun.



Overnight:
On boat or Long Bagun



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Long Boating

DAY 17: LONG BAGUN - SAIL ON THE HOUSE BOAT

The boat will start normally at 10.00 but could be change without prior notice. It may be best to leave earlier if the water is not reliable. The house boat is public traditional wooden boat with two decks, the first deck is for goods and economy class with capacity of more than 100 passengers and the second deck is first class, with a capacity of 75 passengers. The economy room is more open both sides and no mattress while the others have mattresses, luggage room below the bed but all is open as there are no private rooms or air conditioning. There is a traditional Indonesia style toilet and simple restaurant that provide Indonesian meals, tea, coffee, and snacks on the first deck. The boat will stop sometimes for passengers and loading/unloading goods. During the sailing trip you will explore and learn the local way of life "river side civilization" which is very different from what we have experienced in the jungle area. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and overnight will all be on the house boat.



Overnight:
House Boat



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Boat trip



DAY 18: HOUSEBOAT - SAMARINDA

We should arrive between 10.00 AM - 12.00 PM depending on the schedule of the houseboat. Upon arrival we transfer by car to our hotel in Samarinda which is about 20 - 30 minutes away. The rest of the day is free time and dinner will be served on your personal account.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B, L



Distance:
30min drive



Activities:
Leisure

DAY 19: ONE EXTRA DAY

This is an extra day. We shall use it during the trek where we may need it or just because we want to spend the time there. But it will be during the trek only.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
Depends



Distance:
No driving



Activities:
Extra day for trek if needed

DAY 20: SAMARINDA - BALIKPAPAN

Breakfast at hotel then transfer at the appropriate time to drive to Balikpapan Airport to catch our flight to the next destination. It takes about 3 hours from Samarinda to Balikpapan Airport (120 km) depending on the traffic. The West to East Crossing of Borneo ends here! Congratulations- you made it!



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Distance:
3hr drive



Activities:
Travel



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED

- All the programs describe in the day by day itinerary
- All land and river transportations during the expedition
- Board Meals as per above detail
- English Speaking Guide, Cooks and Local Guides (Villagers)
- Donation, Entrance Fees, Porters for our food provisions and camping and dining gear
- Snacks & mineral water (we will refill your water container with fresh boiled river water)
- Accommodation Based on Twin-sharing at the hotel in Putusibau, and Samarinda
- Accommodations at simple guest house with basic facilities at Tiong Ohang, local houses
- Public house boat in Mahakam
- Accommodation in bivouac during trekking and back to the small village.

NOT INCLUDED

- All tours/activities, services, transfers, meals which are not mentioned on above itinerary
- Airfares, Airport Taxes and extra baggage
- Laundry, telecommunication fee, extra meals and beverages at hotels/lodge
- Extra porter, personal expenses and all expenses incurred due to flight cancellations/delays or due to other causes beyond our control ("force majeure")

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITY DURATION	20 days, 19 nights
SEASON	March through November
BEST TIME TO GO	The best time of year to visit is March to October as these are usually the driest and most settled times of the year.
GROUP SIZE	We are able to arrange tailor made trips for 2 or more people (the price quoted is based on a minimum of 4 people, and a supplement may apply if less).
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	Tailor made departures through March through November
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Very Difficult' level (more than 7 hours per day). This means that you will need to be fit and training will be required.



THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

