



Travellers Worldwide is a leading International Provider of  
Volunteering Programmes, Work Experience Internships  
and Cultural Courses Abroad

# MALAYSIA



## ORANG-UTANS: CARE AND CONSERVATION AT SEPILOK ORANG-UTAN REHABILITATION CENTRE IN BORNEO

Travellers offers the only opportunity in the world to work at this remarkable, world-renowned Orang Utan Conservation Center at Sepilok, which conducts genuine, highly successful, conservation of Orang Utans. Orang-Utans are astonishingly gentle, very intelligent and they gaze at you with almost disconcerting frankness!

***Thank you for your interest in volunteering on this Project. Below is a description of what you can do and expect. You can volunteer whether you're taking a gap year, on a career break, retired, or on a holiday with a purpose. No matter what your age or experience, we look forward to welcoming you to the team!***

## WHAT DO YOU GET?

### SELF-DEVELOPMENT:

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- The enormous satisfaction of helping to improve the quality of life of orang-utans by working hands-on with them, and knowing that you made a difference to them.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Your safety is our top priority. We risk-assess all destination countries, projects, accommodation and more to ensure that they are stable and safe.
- We have experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who are there to assist you and look after you, starting with an in-depth induction on your arrival.

### AN ADVENTURE!

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Asia and the Thai culture! And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**

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**Prices: £2,995** excluding flights. See our [Full Price List Online](#)

**Duration:** 8 weeks, fixed length. Shorter/longer placements are not possible.

**Start Dates:** Every two months, please see [Project Start Dates](#) under "Work Content".

**This is a very popular project, so we advise you book very early.**

**Requirements:** No qualifications needed, just lots of enthusiasm.

You should be **physically fit** and able to trek up to 5 kilometres on uneven terrain in humid conditions.

Minimum age 17.

#### What's Included:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ▶ Arranging your Programme,          | ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance,           |
| ▶ Payment Protection insurance       | ▶ All Accommodation                                    |
| ▶ 2 Free T-Shirts                    | ▶ Transfer to the placement site                       |
| ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport | ▶ Local in-country team support and backup             |
| ▶ 24-hr emergency support.           | ▶ Certificate of Completion                            |
| ▶ Return transfer to the airport     | ▶ Sandakan Tour (subject to change)                    |
| ▶ Food                               | ▶ Wildlife viewing and overnight stay in a jungle camp |
| ▶ Adoption of an Orang Utan          |  |

**What Not Included:** Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas.

## SUMMARY

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### WORK CONTENT AT SEPILOK:

Specific duties may vary depending on what is required at the time, so a degree of flexibility is required. During your placement it is likely that you will;

- Learn about managing juvenile Orang-Utans by working at the Outdoor Nursery.
- Learn about managing baby Orang-Utans by working at the Indoor Nursery.
- Conduct a Field Survey on the Orang-Utan population and small mammals' within Sepilok reserve.

Work will be done on a rotational basis, with different groups of volunteers working within each of the different departments outlined above. The tasks that you are asked to do, no matter how small, will help to improve the day to day life for these Orang-Utans - you will gain great satisfaction knowing that you have contributed to this. This is a serious placement where you are doing meaningful conservation work. You will be required to work very hard and should have a high level of fitness in order to take part.

At times you will be supervised by staff at the centre, at other times you will be required to work independently

#### Indoor Nursery:

This area looks after the infants, from just a few months to around four years old. The babies stay in the sleeping area. Possible duties include:

- Transfer of the Infant Orang-Utan from the sleeping cages to the playing cages.
- Cleaning the sleeping area
- Preparation of food for the infants (peeling bananas, making formula milk)
- Feeding the babies bottled formula drink
- Distributing bananas to the infant Orang-Utans
- Caring for the sick infants
- Transferring Orang-Utans back to the sleeping cages
- Cleaning the Indoor nursery area



### Outdoor Nursery:

This area is home to the juveniles, generally aged between five and eight years old. During the evening the Orang-Utans spend the night in the cages, but during the daytime they are left outdoors to fend for themselves. The se Orang-Utans are fed twice daily, at five different platforms.

Platform one is for new graduates, whilst platforms 2-5 are for the seniors of the class! The feeding platform varies daily, at the Rangers discretion, to teach the Orang-Utan to search for their own food. This ensures the Orang-Utan do not become reliant on food being at a particular platform each day. Possible duties include:

- Preparation of milk
- Assisting the rangers by carrying the milk and bananas to the platform
- Cleaning out the cages
- Observation of the juvenile Orang-Utans.



### Field Survey within Sepilok Reserve:

With the assistance of a ranger, you will be required to undertake an observation of the Orang-Utan population within the 4500 Hectare reserve. You will receive a lecture on the methodology of observation and data recording prior to the commencement of the task. You will be required to count and record the number of individual Orang-Utan sightings as well as the number of nests throughout the Sepilok forest area.

Similar duties will also be carried out for individual platforms, where you will be required to note the number of Orang-Utans, sex ratios and where possible, identify individual Orang-Utan from their ID number or name.

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

In order to apply for a place on this project you should be able to meet the following criteria:

- You should be **physically fit** and able to trek up to 5 kilometres on uneven terrain. You'll be working as part of a team that will be conducting physical work in hot and humid conditions, so every member of the team needs to be equally fit.
- Be able to cope in a tropical environment where there are large insects, snakes, bugs and leeches. If you are squeamish about insects then this is NOT the placement for you.
- Have a genuine interest in Wildlife and the rehabilitation process and respect that Orang-Utans are an endangered species whose eventual release into the wild is the ultimate goal of the programme.
- Have the right attitude regarding wildlife conservation and foreign culture.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES ABOUT THE SEPILOK ORANG UTAN PROJECT:

- There are a maximum of twelve places per two month expedition.
- All volunteers must arrive in time for the Induction with Travellers Organiser (dates will be specified by Travellers). Unfortunately late arrivals cannot be accepted onto the project.
- Please be aware that you will not be allowed to take any photos of yourself with the Orang-utans behind the scenes at Sepilok. All cameras are banned behind the scenes - the photos on this page are merely to show the type of activities that you'll be doing.

The following are included in the cost of your placement at Sepilok, but are subject to confirmation and individual elements may change:

- Wildlife Habitat Reforestation trip (includes tree planting, lake cruise, wildlife viewing, dinner and overnight stay in a jungle camp).
- Sandakan Tour around places of local interest.
- 2 Travellers T-Shirts (to be worn as a work uniform).
- Adoption of one of the baby Orang-Utan's at Sepilok for one year. Details of the Orang-Utan that has been adopted for you will be sent to you prior to your departure.



## PROJECT START DATES

Please note, below are project dates and not availability dates, so please contact us regarding current availability. Spaces go quickly, so please enquire early!

### 2015 Project Dates:

5th January - 1st March 2015  
 2nd March - 26th April 2015  
 4th May - 28th June 2015  
 6th July - 30th August 2015  
 7th September - 1st November 2015  
 2nd November - 27th December 2015

### 2016 Project Dates:

4th January - 28th February 2016  
 7th March - 1st May 2016  
 2nd May - 26th June 2016  
 4th July - 28th August 2016  
 5th September - 30th October 2016  
 7th November 2016 - 1st January 2017

*“It's amazing how quickly you become accustomed to being surrounded by orang-utans! It is so magical, they are amazing creatures, so intelligent and such different characters. It quite takes my breath away when these little 'people' put their hand in yours and just study you intently.”*  
**Debbie Mayne**

*“This project has been worth every penny I spent, but at the same time, the experiences I have gained here cannot be bought with any amount of money. I have enjoyed every minute and am going to miss the orang-utans, staff, fellow volunteers and the centre so incredibly much!”*  
**Amy McDanell**

## ACCOMMODATION

### ACCOMMODATION:

Accommodation at Sepilok will be in the nearby **Sepilok Rest House**.

This is a privately run Bed and Breakfast which comprises basic but clean facilities. **The Sepilok Rest House** is located at the entrance to the Orang-Utan centre and just a few minutes' walk from here takes you to the edge of the tropical virgin rainforest and a wide expanse of lush jungle.

Volunteers share rooms (usually two or three to a room) and food will be provided at the Rest House.

The owner (Mr Chong) and his staff are very friendly and will ensure that you are made to feel at home!

### FOOD:

Food is provided on this project.



## WHY TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Over 20 years' experience of sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of flexible projects that are value for money!
- Accredited projects helps appeal to future employers
- Excellent support!
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions before, during and after your trip of a lifetime!
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.
- 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

## HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

Donations to **Bridge The Gap Foundation**. This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects. The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ✓ Accommodation and Food                   | ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations) |
| ✓ 2 Free T-Shirts                          | ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection  |
| ✓ Meeting you at the airport               | ✓ Staff Training/Equipment  |
| ✓ Transport to the placement site          | ✓ Donations to worthwhile project   |
| ✓ Local in-country team support and backup | ✓ Sandakan Tour (subject to change)   |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline                  | ✓ Wildlife viewing and overnight stay in a jungle camp  |
| ✓ Full pre-departure support               |   |
| ✓ UK administration                        |   |
| ✓ Adoption of an Orang-Utan                |   |

***“Thank you again for all your and the rest of the Travellers team have done in making a dream come true. I really did have an experience of a lifetime and if I could, I would go back tomorrow”***

**Sarah Batty**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Got any questions? Please email us: [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)

Once you have applied for a placement, we'll contact you and send you our Welcome Pack. You'll also receive Log-on details and password for our Volunteer Extranet where you'll have access to all the documentation and information which we've put together to facilitate preparations for your adventure! Your Project Co-ordinator for your country will liaise with you throughout the arrangements process, as well as while you're on your placement and on your return home.

The documents you'll have access to also include a Country Factfile, Safety Guide and any manuals that may assist you on your particular programme (for example, Teaching Guide, Sports Manuals, Enrichment Suggestions for Animal Care, etc.). We do all we can to make your stay one that you'll never forget. As with all our destinations, the culture and heritage is different to what you're used to ... which, although one of the most exciting aspects of travelling, should be borne in mind. Self-reliance and independence are highly appreciated in all our destinations and will help you to make the most of this wonderful opportunity! This is a truly awesome, elegant and beautiful country.

## ABOUT SEPILOK ORANG UTAN REHABILITATION CENTRE

Orang-Utans (in Malay "man of the forest") are protected under the Fauna Conservation Ordinance which, among other things, prohibits hunting, trading or keeping them as pets.

The Orang-Utan Rehabilitation Centre is situated on the east coast of Sabah, 23 km from Sandakan. A twenty-minute drive from Sandakan brings you to Kabili-Sepilok Forest, an enormous area of virgin rainforest. The wealth of indigenous and rare plants, animals and birds that have found sanctuary here must be seen to be believed. The Wildlife Reserve contains the Orang-Utan rehabilitation centre.

Sepilok centre was established in 1964 to return orphaned apes back to the wild. The objectives of the project have expanded in recent years and while Orang-Utan rehabilitation is still the primary goal at Sepilok, present aims include public education on conservation and research with other endangered species. The centre now has more than 37 staff looking after the welfare of the Orang-Utans.

When the rescued Orang-Utans first arrive at the centre, they are often in a sorry state and riddled with diseases. They are put into cages while they're treated for their ailments and nursed back to health. The wardens then teach them how to forage for fruit, climb trees and generally fend for themselves. When they are mid-way through the rehabilitation process they are released into the surrounding forest reserve. The animals then spend most of their time in the forest but often return to one of the centre's five feeding platforms for a "free" meal. When the wardens feel that an Orang-Utan is fully rehabilitated, it is caught and returned to the wild - usually deep in the forest or to one of the National Parks or Wildlife Sanctuaries.

**Mangrove Forest Trail** - This is the most famous trail in the Sepilok Centre and takes about 2-3 hours walking one way. Interesting features include a scenic stream, water-holes, transitional forest, pristine lowland rain forest, and boardwalks into the mangrove forest and wildlife tracks.

**We adopt an Orang-Utan for each volunteer** through the Orang-Utan Appeal, a charity dedicated to the rehabilitation and preservation of these wonderful animals.

Please note that this project is extremely popular, so very early booking is strongly advised.



## THINGS TO DO IN MALAYSIA

### LOCATION, EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

The nearest town to Sepilok is Sandakan where you can find internet cafes, banks, shops and markets. There are also many historical sights in Sandakan, some of which you will have the opportunity to visit during the first week of your placement. One of these is the Australian War Memorial, built in memory of those who sacrificed their lives during World War II.

Sukau and the region of the Lower Kinabatangan River is unrivalled in terms of wildlife. It stretches for 560 km and is estimated to have the highest concentration of wildlife in all of Malaysia. Taking a river cruise gives you the opportunity to see a variety of animals in their natural environment; birds, reptiles and monkeys of which the most unusual is the Proboscis Monkey. Famous for its long nose and round belly, the proboscis monkey is sociable and active, which means that you are sure to see many of them swinging through the trees along the river bank.

If you are lucky, you may even see a herd of pygmy elephants grazing and drinking water by the river bank. This unique environment is a fascinating place to visit and is only about 2 hours' drive from Sepilok.

If you are even luckier, you may see wild boar crossing the river. This unique environment is a fascinating place to visit and is not far away from Sandakan.

Other attractions are the Puh Jih Syh Temple, the biggest and most expensive temple in Sabah that overlooks Sandakan Bay, the Sim Sim Water Village and the Rotary Observation Pavilion which contains a birds-eye view of Sandakan town.

From the harbour area boat trips to Selingan (Turtle) island and Langakayan can be arranged, although most trips are not possible in a day and instead visitors usually stay overnight.



*"Just reporting in after a full week of work and it is absolutely fantastic! I was working in the outdoor nursery last week and fell in love with all of the orang-utans, especially Angkong! It was wonderful seeing them climbing. The highlight of my week was when a mum and baby came into the nursery and she took a bunch of bananas out of my hand - amazing."*

Karen Herring

## KOTA KINABALU

**Kota Kinabalu**, or "KK" (as it is locally known), is the capital of Sabah. KK is home to the International airport and this will be your first point of arrival in Sabah - it is a great place to start your trip and get used to the Malaysian way of life.

Although Kota Kinabalu is far less developed than **Kuala Lumpur** (its counterpart on the Peninsular), the people are very friendly and the atmosphere here is more relaxed. KK also boasts impressive markets, restaurants and nightlife and is a fun introduction to the wide variety of attractions that Sabah has to offer.

Just off the coast it is possible to see an array of beautiful islands which make up the **Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park**. Exploring the coral reefs and marine life in this underwater world is fascinating and day trips here can be easily arranged - most islands are less than 45 minutes away by boat. Once you arrive you will be amazed at how clear the water is and just how many different fish you can see. There are also many wonderful beaches to be explored on the islands!

Facing inland, it's possible to see the peaks of **Mount Kinabalu** in the distance. This is another of Sabah's main attractions and the views from the top at Sun rise more than make up for the two day climb. Afterwards you can soak your aching muscles at Poring where the sulphur hot springs provide a therapeutic bath.

Throughout the whole of Sabah you will find many local "**Tamu**", meaning market - the variety of fruit, vegetables, plants and handcrafted items on sale at cheap prices has to be seen to be believed!

## HOW TO BOOK

### TWO EASY WAYS ...

Complete a [booking form](#) online.

Telephone  
01903 502595 (UK)  
or  
1-603-574-4935 (USA)



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PROGRAMME!**

**We hope you'll join us!**

**Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.**

**We're happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!**

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