



Sabah

POP 3.39 MILLION / AREA 76,115 SQ KM

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Best Places to Eat

- » KK's Night Market (p306)
- » Alu-Alu Cafe (p314)
- » Moon Bell (p314)
- » Sim Sim Seafood Restaurant (p342)

Best Places to Stay

- » Mañana (p334)
- » Lupa Masa (p331)
- » Tampat Do Aman (p335)
- » Orou Sapulut (p371)

Why Go?

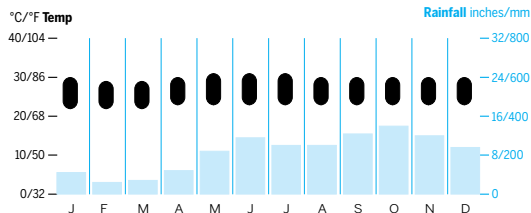
Sabah's beauty is quite simply gut-wrenching. This is one of the most physically stunning places on Earth, a land of deep green jungle, craggy mountains and shockingly blue ocean that all seems to collide into one moving, magnificent vista.

It's a land for adventure enthusiasts and yet, we must stress, not only adventure enthusiasts. Many treks around Mt Kinabalu, for example, really consist of vigorous hikes, jaunts you want to be fit to attempt, but don't need to be in Olympic shape to finish. Similarly, the diving in East Sabah – some of the best in the world – is easily accessible to beginners. And anyone can sit on a boat and appreciate the majesty of spotting clever lizards, prowling civets, doe-eyed loris and great ginger orang-utans in the wild.

In addition, there is a thriving yet laid-back culture here. Sabah's citizens are wonderful: cosmopolitan, friendly, famously relaxed folks who are quick to laugh and slow to rile. Their good-humoured presence is the perfect accompaniment to the awe-inspiring scenery of their home.

When to Go

Kota Kinabalu



Jan–Apr A dry, pleasant time, exploding with celebrations for Chinese New Year.

Mar–Jul The water calms; this is the best time for diving.

Jun–Sep Hot and often (but definitely not always) rainy.



Sabah Highlights

- 1 Admiring the sea turtles among the **Semporna Archipelago's** (p359) reefs
- 2 Hoofing it over pitcher plants and granite moonscapes for the ultimate Bornean sunrise atop **Mt Kinabalu** (p325)
- 3 Breathing in the air of an actual virgin rainforest in the

Maliu Basin Conservation Area (p367)

- 4 Watching orang-utans in **Sepilok** (p343)
- 5 Discovering the hidden beaches of northern Borneo near **Kudat** (p335)
- 6 Floating down a river through primary jungle to the

Batu Punggul rock formation in **Sapulut** (p371)

- 7 Enjoying the nightlife and eating opportunities of **Kota Kinabalu** (p314)
- 8 Staying in a home stay and spotting primates from a boat on the **Sungai Kinabatangan** (p352)