Beautiful, diverse and unexplored Borneo boasts a wealth of indigenous tribes, undiscovered jungles, rare unique and exotic species of flora and fauna and is home to what is said to be the oldest rainforest on the planet.

The world’s third largest island, Borneo is divided into 3 countries – Malaysia (the states of Sabah and Sarawak), Indonesia (Kalimantan) and the incredibly wealthy state of Brunei.

Home to the famous orangutan, incredible Mt Kinabalu as well as the world’s largest flower, the Rafflesia, Borneo also houses many critically endangered species. Elephants, leopards and rhinos which, alongside its marine biodiversity make Borneo a top destination for wildlife lovers around the world. Your volunteer project will be based in the state of Sabah which is rich in treasures and will allow chances to revel in the country’s beauty. Trek Mt Kinabalu, dive in the Sindapan Reefs, visit orangutans at the Sepilok Sanctuary, explore the forest of the Sungai Kinabatangan River, discover the remote Maliau Basin – there is so much to see and do that there is sure to be an adventure around every corner.

**Life outside of the project**

Borneo is such a wonderful location and there is a wide range of activities on land and water to choose from.

Your project choice will determine the area in which you stay and your accommodation. On one of the projects, you can stay in a home-stay with a local family in a rural area. Here you can head down to a small shopping area where you can snack on scrumptious Indian roti and dal and drink chai (Indian tea). Alternatively, you will live on a beautiful almost deserted island, stay in tents and share facilities. On Sundays, you will able to head over to town for a change of scenery and to sample some of the local delicacies. Both locations are very relaxed and you will have plenty of time to appreciate the local wildlife.

**Weather**

- **Average temperature:** 23°C to 32°C
- **Wet season:** November to February
- **Dry season:** March to October
Environmental Conservation and Community Empowerment

The project
Volunteer abroad on our environmental conservation and community empowerment project in Malaysian Borneo and support an eco-camp that provides income and livelihoods to a local community cooperative. This project is a unique initiative that is run for the community by the community. It employs 49 permanent and up to 120 seasonal staff from 4 local villages. It was set up to protect the forest habitat, wildlife and biodiversity of the local area while preserving the livelihoods of the local population by running tours and boat trips. The eco-project funds the conservation work as well as generates employment and educates tourists through its zero-waste, zero-chemicals and zero-energy. Local school participation and environmental education is also one of the project’s objectives. After two fires, it was discovered that almost zero natural regeneration occurred. To date, over 332,000 indigenous trees have been planted. In addition, the nearby lake that is a vital source of fish for the locals, also suffered in recent years through the presence of a toxic water weed, which, if left unchecked, will choke critical wetland habitats. The project runs monthly water quality monitoring activities. Join the project and help the eco-camp with its participation and environmental education is also one of the project's objective.

Project location
The project is situated in a small village, located on the banks of the beautiful Kinabatangan River. This massive river flows swiftly for an impressive 560km out of the rugged mountainous interior of Borneo to the north-east coast in the Malaysian State of Sabah. You can take in some bird-watching as there are over 200 species of birds, 10 types of primates, crocodiles, go on a boat trip to look for the proboscis monkey, cave visit, or explore forest trails. This truly is an opportunity for immersion in local habitats and wildlife. Bring a camera and capture some amazing scenery. Why not explore further afield after your placement and visit Kota Kinabalu, climb the challenging mountain or find out about the history of Sandakan.

Role of the volunteer
Volunteers may work with forest workers, trained guides and camp workers on a range of tasks:

- Reforestation and conservation activities
- Lake restoration work, mainly removing water-weed
- Building and construction of walkways, tree hides, eco-camp
- Support eco-tourism operations
- Introduce and develop environmental conservation workshops to local schools
- Monitoring water quality and logging data

The time spent on each activity will be determined by the project needs at the time of your placement.

Skills required
This fantastic project requires volunteers to be reasonably fit as the work is quite physical. Those with a background in environmental research are highly valued. Also, anyone with skills in carpentry or web design can join the project to assist the local professionals and provide a fresh perspective. Volunteers are asked to be flexible, willing to chip in and get to know the local people. Volunteers will be asked to submit a CV/resume to match the project needs to your background.

Why choose this project
- Participate in reforestation work and develop the environmental conservation programme for local schools.
- Benefit from this placement by experiencing first-hand eco approaches being used for water, chemical and waste management.
- Add something different to your CV/Resume as well as live a true “get-away-from-it-all” experience.

Project location
The project is situated in a small village, located on the banks of the beautiful Kinabatangan River. This massive river flows swiftly for an impressive 560km out of the rugged mountainous interior of Borneo to the north-east coast in the Malaysian State of Sabah. You can take in some bird-watching as there are over 200 species of birds, 10 types of primates, crocodiles, go on a boat trip to look for the proboscis monkey, cave visit, or explore forest trails. This truly is an opportunity for immersion in local habitats and wildlife. Bring a camera and capture some amazing scenery. Why not explore further afield after your placement and visit Kota Kinabalu, climb the challenging mountain or find out about the history of Sandakan.
Island Coral Reef Conservation and Diving Project

The project

Volunteer in Borneo with Kaya and work on an island coral conservation and diving project. Assist with the renovation of coral reefs that have been badly damaged through 45 years of fish bombing, a destructive fishing technique. Coral rubble is a common sight on the sea-bed. Indeed, the area is in a coral triangle known for the largest number of reef species in the world but more coral is needed to encourage these species to stay. The local team and volunteer divers utilise their skills to create and place sinkable crate structures to help catch rubble that may harm the coral as well as providing homes for larval fish. Efforts to increase the population of species that make up the shark's diet such as octopus and pelagic fish are needed so that sharks are attracted to, and more importantly, stay in the area.

The ultimate goal of the project is to rebuild fish and coral habitats so that the reef sharks are encouraged to remain resident within this sanctuary for sharks, rays, turtles and other marine life. Come and contribute to the sustainability of these marine habitats while acquiring your own PADI qualification, a skill that you can use wherever you travel in the future.

Role of the volunteer

As a volunteer, you will be working to help repair the reef by carrying out soft and hard coral planting. After some initial training, volunteers work in small groups on daily and weekly projects including creating their own masterpiece reef. Lots of the corals are initially planted in tanks on land so non-divers can also be kept busy. Your duties may include helping with a shark survey at the local market, coral planting, reef clean-up, underwater photography to record progress and species, biodiversity, marine life and coral surveys, and database maintenance.

Duties will depend on the needs of the project and the number of volunteers working on the project at the time of your placement.

Skills required

A dive qualification is not required for this project as we will provide you with your Open Water Qualification at the start of your visit. If you are already a qualified diver, there will be the opportunity for you to acquire further skills with additional courses, and you will be able to help with the deeper dives as well as have more dive hours underwater carrying out conservation activities. Cooking skills (or a willingness to try) will be useful as you are required to assist with mealtime duties during your stay.

Why choose this project

- Provide additional manpower desperately needed to collate data as well as repair the reefs by replanting coral and increase the settlement of reef fish juveniles.
- Participate in the work involved with the healthy development of the reefs.
- Gain international recognised qualifications and learn skills and knowledge that can be passed on to friends and colleagues about the importance of preserving and saving our seas.

Project location

You will be based on a beautiful island located in the Celebes Sea in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. You will be about 1 hour from the mainland and will be able to visit shores once a week. You can travel by boat through the beautiful turquoise waters to Semporna where you will be able to top up on your snacks and essential items and perhaps enjoy a Chinese, Malaysian or Indian meal in one of the local restaurants. The island has romantic white sandy beaches, calm waters and shallow reefs. With easy access to 10 other islands, it is a get away from it all destination and provides an amazing opportunity to become immersed in the world of marine conservation.

Project facts

Duration: 2+ weeks
Cost: £1605 / $2809 for 2 weeks
Check the drop-down menu for additional weeks. If additional dive course is required, please speak to your advisor about prices.
Requirements: Age 18+, or children with guardians; non-divers welcome
Location: Southern Borneo
Working hours: Monday-Saturday, 8 hours per day, Sunday is fun day!
Project availability: All year-round
Arrival day: Please speak to a Kaya Advisor as arrivals depend on your experience duration.

What’s included

Accommodation: Tents under shelter with access to kitchen and bathroom facilities on an almost deserted beach, or shared dorms. £70 pp per week extra to share a twin room.
Meals: 3 meals per day – breakfast, lunch and dinner
Airport pick up: -
Transport to the site from Semporna when you arrive and transport back at the end of your project
Training: Orientation and project induction provided, diving course depend on experience and length of stay
- 2 weeks for non-qualified divers includes PADI Open Water & scientific diver
- 4 weeks includes PADI open water, advanced & scientific diver
- 6 weeks includes PADI open water, advanced, scientific diver & EFR
- 8 weeks includes PADI open water, advanced, scientific diver & Rescue
Support: 24-hour support
Excursion Planning: Staff help organise extra dive courses and additional excursions
Other: Some dive equipment

What’s not

Flights
Insurance
Visas
Airport pick-up and drop-off from Tawau Airport (cost £5/$8 approx. per journey)
Return journey to Kota Kinabalu
Program Agreement, Terms and Conditions

Thank you for choosing to apply for placement on a Kaya programme. We are committed to providing you the best support as you prepare for the experience of a lifetime, which is why we have laid down the following terms and conditions. By checking the agreement of these terms and conditions you have accepted to abide by the rules laid down in this agreement. We suggest that you read the details carefully and speak to us if you require any further clarification. Please note there may be additional conditions that apply to individual placements.

Application Instructions
Apply online: http://www.kayavolunteer.com/projects/book. Upon receipt of the application and deposit, we will secure your position on the Program for successful applicants. Deposits will be refunded for all unsuccessful applicants. Kaya will contact all applicants within 2 weeks of receipt of the application. Applications will not be considered without a programme deposit.

Deadlines, Dates and Prices
Applications are accepted throughout the year and are subject to limited space availability. Placement deadlines are based on the dates of the desired programme. Some programmes and Early Application Application can be made up to 1 year in advance, however arrangement and communication of the programme specifics will commence 2-3 months prior to programme start.

Application Deadline
3 month prior to programme start. Last minute bookings will be considered on an individual basis. Last-minute bookings are advised that their placements arrangements may require more flexibility to accommodate.

Total Fee Due
8 weeks prior to programme start - unless specified for a particular project.

Late Payment
Payment deadlines are displayed on the invoices provided. It is important to meet these dates to secure your placement, and missing these deadlines may result in the cancellation of your placement.

Where a payment extension is requested, this will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will incur a late payment fee of £35/$60 basis and will incur a late payment fee of £35/$60 project placements fill up prior to their published application deadlines. Apply early to secure your placement. Important deadlines for the Kaya Programs are:

Date and Project Changes
Upon application you will receive an interview within which your programme and program dates will be confirmed. We encourage you to stick to these as the projects plan around your participation. If you request a change in programme or start dates, and it is prior to your final payment deadline (usually 8 weeks before departure, but earlier for some placements) we can generally accommodate for this at no extra charge, subject to availability (programmes moving to the following year may be subject to programme price increases). After 1 change has been accommodated for, any future changes made will be subject to an administration charge of £40/$70 - made payable at time of change.

If a programme or date change is requested after your final payment deadline, the original payment deadline will remain the same, and changes will be considered on an individual basis and any changes will be subject to the administration charge of £40/$70 - made payable at time of change. For project changes where your original project deposit was hitman £180, only £180 of your deposit will be transferable to your new project.

Program Start and Finish Dates, Current Prices and What’s Included
Each development project and work experience placement is unique and often cannot be implemented exactly as planned for a variety of reasons. Itineraries shown are a guide and the order of activities may be shifted in line with factors, including, but not limited to the weather, changing project needs and individual situations. Project activities shown cover most areas that you may be asked to get involved, but additional activities may arise that require your assistance and not all activities shown may be carried out in the period of your stay. Applicants are advised that these variables may require changes before or during a programme. Part of the challenge and growth opportunity is in adapting to changing conditions and overcoming the obstacles they may present.

Trip Cancellations
Kaya reserves the right to cancel any programme if there are insufficient registrants (where minimum numbers apply) or if Kaya determines it is in the best interest of the applicant's safety and quality of programming to cancel the programme. Kaya is not responsible for other costs incurred by applicants preparing for the trip. Should a programme be cancelled by Kaya, for any reason, applicants will be offered the option of positions in other Kaya Programs or a full refund on all fees paid.

Legal Jurisdiction, Release of Liability and Assumption of Risks
Participants booking their placements on kayavolunteer.com enter a contract with Kaya Responsible Travel Ltd of The Arches, North Campus, Sackville St, Manchester, a company registered in England and Wales (company number 6885700). This contract is governed by English law under the exclusive jurisdiction of English courts. In organising and managing volunteer projects, work experience placements, group programmes, and courses, Kaya, its agents, employees, and staff give notice that they act solely on behalf of and for the benefit of the participants, on the express agreement that Kaya shall not be liable, financially or otherwise, for non-performance or unsatisfactory service; for the injury to persons including death, for loss of or damage to property, for accident or delay, and/or for expenses arising from strikes, weather, quarantine, sickness, government regulation, civil unrest or war, or from any act or omission of Kaya agents or employees, and/or airline, mail service, rail, bus company, vehicle rental entity, hotel, restaurant, or other supplier of service.

Refund Policy
The standard programme deposit is £180 ($315) per person, per programme. Some Kaya programmes have an additional deposit amount due to additional programme booking requirement. All deposits paid will be applied towards the total programme fee. The programme deposit is non-refundable for Participants who have been accepted into the programme. The programme deposit will be fully refunded to unsuccessful Participants. If the Participant cancels for any reason, the Participant must notify Kaya in writing. The cancellation will be effective upon receipt of the written notification by Kaya to info@kayavolunteer.com. Careful planning goes into developing volunteer and work experience programmes for every individual applicant.

Kaya strives to ensure sustainable projects and quality programmes for Participants. The Refund Policy is defined in an effort to protect and accommodate. As a result, Kaya and our host communities and partners incur substantial administrative and planning costs, including accommodation reservation fees, prior to the start of each programme. Participants who cancel more than eight (8) weeks prior to the programme start will receive a refund on any programme fee paid, less the deposit. Individuals who cancel or shorten their programme, for any reason (including health, bereavement and visa issues) less than eight (8) weeks prior to the programme start or during the programme will not receive a refund, and we encourage you to approach your travel insurance to seek compensation in this instance. We are happy to provide proof of payment and cancellation if required.

Program Flexibility
Kaya programmes are different from travel or adventure programmes. Each development project and work experience placement is unique and often cannot be implemented exactly as planned for a variety of reasons. Itineraries shown are a guide and the order of activities may be shifted in line with factors, including, but not limited to the weather, changing project needs and individual situations. Project activities shown cover most areas that you may be asked to get involved, but additional activities may arise that require your assistance and not all activities shown may be carried out in the period of your stay. Applicants are advised that these variables may require changes before or during a programme. Part of the challenge and growth opportunity is in adapting to changing conditions and overcoming the obstacles they may present.

Visit www.kayavolunteer.com or telephone 0161 870 6212 (UK) 1.413.517.02.66 (US)
Program Agreement, Terms and Conditions

By submitting this application form the participant assumes all of these risks and agrees to indemnify Kaya, its officers, directors, and employees harmless for any and all liability that may arise in connection with participation in the Kaya Programs. Kaya reserves the right to refuse any applicant admission to any programme if he or she is deemed ill suited for the programme. Important programme information will be sent to the email address provided on the application. Photographs, videotapes, and/or statements of participants may be used in promoting Kaya. Kaya publishes programme and project photos on a monthly basis on the Kaya website. These photos and videos are available for participant, friends, family, and interested individuals to download, email, or print for personal use. Photography usage for distribution purposes will be considered on an individual basis on application to Kaya.

Participants accept that they will be subjected to various physical and emotional demands and accept that the standard of living, including food, hygiene and accommodation in the relevant country may be below the general standards of their own country. The Participant also understands that certain risks may arise, including, but not limited to, hazards of travelling in remote areas; travel by automobile, van, bus, airplane, boat, train or any other means of conveyance; the forces of nature; civil disturbances; national or international conflicts; terrorism; arbitrary itinerary changes made by foreign governments or vendors; dive related accidents, boat accidents; interacting with dangerous wildlife; personal injury or illness from the local environment; accident or illness in remote locations without immediate medical facilities; or negligent acts of third parties. The Participant asserts that they know, understands and appreciate these and other risks inherent in the programme, agrees that participation is completely voluntary and assumes all risk associated with the programme.

Kaya shall have no responsibility for any activities undertaken by the Participant outside the scope of those directly relating to the programme, including activities that may have been recommended by Kaya staff, or its partners, within the location. For all excursion activities Kaya acts as an agent, not a principle of the activity. Any information provided by Kaya, including but not limited to information about visas, vaccinations, healthcare, climate, group sizes and packing requirements is given in good faith for information and educational purposes only but without responsibility on the part of Kaya or its partners.

Travel Documents and Insurance
All participants must possess a valid passport for their Kaya trip. Participants are responsible for any costs associated with visas, airport taxes, obtaining the proper travel documents for their trip, and changes to flight itineraries. All participants must have valid, comprehensive health and travel insurance during the time of their programme covering risks associated with a 'Force Majeur' event, medical emergencies and repatriation. Details of insurance must be supplied to Kaya prior to commencement of any programme. Kaya reserves the right to refuse entry to programmes if insurance details are not supplied.

Behavioural Expectations
By joining a Kaya Program, the participant assumes certain obligations to Kaya, its community, and other programme participants. If on-site programme directors determine a participant fails to meet the behavioural expectations set out in this contract and within Kaya's Code of Conduct document, that participant will be asked to leave the programme.

Participants asked to leave under these circumstances will not receive a refund. In addition to other programme responsibilities, as a programme participant you are responsible for:

- Being in sufficient good health to undertake the programme.
- Acting in an appropriate and respectful manner towards the local people, fellow travellers, programme participants, and staff in accordance with the customs, laws, regulations, and ordinances of the country of placement.
- Communicating effectively your interests, skills, limitations, and needs to home community members and programme staff members.