

# Wild Earth Travel

*Small Ships, Big Adventures*

**wildearth-travel.com**

**info@wildearth-travel.com**

## AN EQUATORIAL ADVENTURE ACROSS NORTH BORNEO - CRUISE FROM MANILA TO SINGAPORE

Join us on our inaugural 16-night voyage aboard Coral Geographer as we traverse the northern coastlines and equatorial waters of Borneo from Manila to Singapore. Our journey begins in Manila and takes us through the Philippines, Malaysia, the Sultanate of Brunei, Malaysian Borneo, and into Singapore, exploring rich traditional culture, ancient rainforests, and unparalleled marine biodiversity. We'll dive and snorkel at Verde and Silonay Islands, immersing ourselves in the vibrant marine life at the heart of the Coral Triangle. On Marinduque Island, we'll uncover unique traditions, and at Culion Island, we'll visit the historical village and explore the UNESCO-inscribed leprosy archives. As we continue to Purao and Johnson Islands, you'll enjoy rarely seen aquatic and geographical wonders before connecting with conservation efforts in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. Our voyage leads us to Malaysian Borneo, where we'll savour a signature dinner in Kota Kinabalu, sampling local cuisine in a traditional longhouse set amongst exotic jungle surroundings. Discover the vibrant ecosystems and wildlife of Pulau Tiga Sabah and experience the cultural heritage of Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, where we'll visit Iban longhouses and observe the fusion of tradition and modernity. Exploring Miri, Sarawak, we'll delve into the ancient mysteries of Niah Caves, home to some of Southeast Asia's oldest human remains. Enjoy a day at sea before arriving in Kuching, where we'll meet orangutans at the Semenggoh Wildlife and Conservation Centre, learning about their habitat challenges. In Bako National Park, an expert birding guide will help us explore diverse ecosystems, spotting proboscis monkeys and abundant bird species in the wild.



### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Depart Manila, Philippines

Board Coral Geographer from 4:00pm and settle into your stateroom to relax as we set sail across the South China Sea. Join the Captain's welcome drinks and meet your crew and fellow guests as the sun sets.

#### Verde Island & Silonay Island, Philippines

Nestled in the Philippine archipelago that forms part of the Coral Triangle, this morning we arrive at the Verde Island, known as the 'Centre of Marine Biodiversity of the World' and 'the Amazon of the Oceans.' With the highest concentration of marine species in the world, here we will swim, snorkel and dive, exploring this underwater wonderland. There will also be an opportunity to explore the local village, home to a vibrant fishing community, markets, and friendly locals.

Enjoy lunch onboard before our afternoon expedition to Silonay Conservation Ecopark. The community here plant mangrove seedlings around the villages,

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knowing that these trees form a strong protective barrier between them and storm surges. Enjoy a short boardwalk stroll into the heart of the mangrove forest as we learn more about the importance of these mangroves and the direct impacts they have on the livelihoods of the local villagers.

## Boac, Marinduque Island, Philippines

The province of Marinduque is a heart-shaped island situated between Tayabas Bay and the Sibuyan Sea and is considered the geodetic centre of the Philippines. Marinduque boasts an intriguing and eclectic history as the site of the first American concentration camp during the Philippine-American War, and features an array of architecturally diverse heritage houses and places of worship.

As we arrive this morning be greeted with a local 'Putungan Welcome', a tradition in Marinduque where guests are serenaded with songs, pictures, flowers and coins.

In Marinduque, locals participate in a unique version of the crucifixion of Christ known as the Mariones Festival, where participants don heavy wooden masks and thick handmade armour. We will visit the master craftsmen who create these unique cultural artifacts and learn about the 'suffering' of Christ as perceived by the Marinduquians.

Following this, we will explore the cultural town, visiting the century-old Boac Cathedral, ancestral houses, the Marinduque National Museum, and the Boac Central Market.

## Culion Island, Philippines

Culion Island is surrounded by 41 minor islands, forming part of the Calamian group. It was a former leprosarium, starting in 1906 under American colonial rule and continuing through the American Commonwealth of the Philippines era. Although leprosy on the island was eradicated in the 1980s, it was officially declared a leprosy-free area by the World Health Organization in 2006. In 2017, the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO began preparing the dossier for Culion's Leprosy documentary heritage. By 2018, the Culion Leprosy Archives were officially inscribed on the Memory of the World Register.

Explore the heritage of Culion with a guided tour of the island, where architecture from the 1900s and earlier remains intact. We'll visit the Culion Museum, Archives, and Church, as well as the preserved structures built by the leper colony. Discover the rich history, ongoing research, and the enduring legacy of the people who live here.

After lunch onboard, spend the afternoon at Lusong Island where we will

snorkel and dive the Gunboat Wreck and Lusong Coral Garden.

## Purao & Johnson Island, Philippines

This is our last opportunity to enjoy the remote beaches of the Philippines before heading to Malaysia Borneo. Spend the morning swimming or snorkelling off the sandbar at Johnson Island, home to stingray, dugong, coral and seagrass meadows. Spend a relaxing afternoon onboard as we travel to Puerto Princesa.

## Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines

It's an early start this morning as we explore the UNESCO-listed Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park, a New Seven Wonder of Nature. Discover St. Paul's Underground River Cave, over 24km long, showcasing stunning limestone karst formations and an underground river. Traverse the peninsula via overland transfer for this unique experience.

## Kota Kinabalu, Malaysian Borneo – Signature Dinner

Today, we spend a day at sea as we travel to Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Malaysia's Sabah state on the northern part of the island of Borneo. Following our afternoon arrival at the Port of Kota Kinabalu, we will take a local transfer to the Mari Mari Cultural Village for tonight's cultural feast event. Set amidst the exotic jungle, we will dine in a traditional longhouse and experience the cultural traditions of five ethnic groups in Sabah: Rungus, Bajau, Murut, Dusun, and Lundayeh. Witness cultural performances, market-style interactions, and traditional dress, and engage with locals from each ethnic group as they showcase their traditions, including bamboo fire starting, rice wine making, tree bark clothing, blowpipe demonstrations, henna tribal tattoos, and tinkling (also known as bamboo dance).

## Kota Kinabalu & Pulau Tiga Sabah, Malaysian Borneo

Awake this morning and join our Chef for a waterfront market experience in Kota Kinabalu, at the Pasar Besar (Central Market). Spend your free time exploring the old-world charm of the narrow, quaint lanes filled with handicrafts, people, colours, food, and more.

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Return to Coral Geographer for a locally inspired lunch onboard as the ship repositions to our afternoon location at Pulau Tiga, which translates to 'three islands' in Malay. These islands were formed in 1897 when an earthquake on Mindanao caused a volcanic eruption near Borneo. Here, you can choose from a range of activities, including easy island walks, swimming, snorkelling from the beach, and volcanic mud bathing.

Depending on the tide, this evening we will transfer to nearby Kalampunian Island to enjoy the breathtaking Sabah sunset with sundowners and canapes.

## Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

Today we enter Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei. With the same family line ruling Brunei for over six centuries, the peak of the Sultanate of Brunei occurred between the 15th and 17th centuries when its control extended over coastal areas of northwest Borneo and the southern Philippines. In 1888, Brunei became a British protectorate. It was offered the opportunity to join Malaysia as a state in 1963, but opted out of the Federation due to a disagreement on the amount of its oil income that would have to be given to the central government in Kuala Lumpur. Brunei's independence was achieved in 1984.

Unlike Sabah and Sarawak, Brunei's oil wealth has spared its jungle ecosystems from the devastation caused by palm oil production. There are an estimated 14,000 Iban living in Brunei, primarily in the Belait and Temburong districts. They migrated from Sarawak just before World War II in search of new land and better opportunities. Although they are not officially recognized as one of the seven Indigenous ethnic groups by the state, they face challenges in being integrated into the sultanate.

Today, we will travel to an Iban Kampung to experience the Longhouses of Labi Forest Reserve. Here, we will witness traditional weaving and dances, learn about regional environmental knowledge through walks, and enjoy a lunch cooked in bamboo.

## Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

On our second day in Brunei, explore the city on a guided tour visiting Kampung Ayer, a floating coastal water village. Enjoy photo stops and visits at the following locations, the Royal Ceremonial Hall, Parliament House, tomb of the fifth Sultan of Brunei - Sultan Bolkiah (1485 -1524), the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque, Brunei Museum, Royal Regalia Museum, the Water Village, and the Sultan's Palace (Istana Nurul Iman).

## Miri, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo

Miri is a coastal city in north-western Sarawak, Malaysia, located near the border of Brunei, on the island of Borneo. Miri was founded in 1910 when the first oil well was drilled by Royal Dutch Shell and quickly flourished to become the administrative centre of the northern region of Sarawak by 1929. Miri was the first landing point of Japanese troops in Borneo and the subsequent Japanese occupation led Miri to become a target of allied air raids, leading to the destruction of the oil refinery facilities in Miri.

Today you will have the option of three expeditions:

**Lambir Hills National Park:** Located around 30km from Miri, Lambir Hills National Park is a chain of steep sandstone hills bound by rugged cliffs. Plant enthusiasts will be interested to know that Lambir Hills National Park is probably the world's most complex and diverse forest ecosystem. Wildlife such as the Borneo gibbon, bearded pig and barking deer can all be found at Lambir Hills. There are also more than a hundred bird species in the park. A 40-meter tree tower provides excellent viewing of the dipterocarp forest and bird watching.

**Niah Caves:** The Niah Caves were once home to the Penan tribe, the original inhabitants of the area and acknowledged to have ancestry going back to more than 60,000 years. The Niah Caves is also regarded as a sacred natural site by the surrounding Indigenous communities.

**Reef Diving at Miri-Sibuti Coral Reef National Park:** The Miri-Sibuti Coral Reefs National Park has on offer some interesting wreck dives. With minimal current and warm water temperatures, dive and explore a variety of corals and other marine life on the reefs, said to rival the best in the region and has been compared to those in Papua New Guinea and the Maldives. Over 800 species of hard and soft corals cover the reefs and Gorgonians, sea-whips, anemones, sponges, and crinoids are abundant.

**Reef Diving at Miri-Sibuti Coral Reef National Park:** The Miri-Sibuti Coral Reefs National Park has on offer some interesting wreck dives. With minimal current and warm water temperatures, snorkel, dive and explore a variety of corals and other marine life on the reefs, said to rival the best in the region and has been compared to those in Papua New Guinea and the Maldives. Over 800 species of hard and soft corals cover the reefs and Gorgonians, sea-whips, anemones, sponges, and crinoids are abundant.

## Day at Sea

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Today we spend a relaxing day at sea as we travel to Kuching. Join our guest lecturers for presentations on the ethnic cultures of Sarawak, palm oil and conservation, and how Northern Borneo became Malaysian.

## Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo

During World War II, Kuching was occupied by Japanese forces from 1942 to 1945. After the formation of Malaysia in 1963, Kuching retained its status as state capital and was granted city status in 1988. Kuching is now a major food destination and a member of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network under the field of gastronomy. Today we come alongside in Kuching, ready to explore this vibrant city. Join a morning expedition to Semenggoh Nature Reserve, keep a look out for orangutans. All the orangutans at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre have either been saved from the illegal pet industry, are orphaned here because their mothers were killed, or injured in the wild and they unable to survive on their own. We will enjoy an easy walk along forest paths (with slightly uneven ground) to meet rangers at feeding platforms and watch as the orangutans enjoy a variety of food including fruit, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, coconut, and hardboiled eggs.

Return to Coral Geographer for lunch, before free time to explore Kuching city this afternoon. Kuching is a culturally and architecturally rich city that is easily walkable and very atmospheric. Discover the waterfront shopping, where English is widely spoken and there are handicrafts readily available. Kuching also has some fantastic museums such as the Islamic Heritage Museum and the newly completed Borneo Cultures Museum.

## Bako National Park, Santubong, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo

Bako is Sarawak's oldest national park, covering an area of 2,742 hectares at the tip of the Muara Tebas peninsula and home to seven different ecosystems and a variety of wildlife such including 264 species of bird, wild boars, snakes, and monkeys. It is one of the smallest national parks in Sarawak, yet one of the most interesting, as it contains almost every type of vegetation found in Borneo. A well-maintained network of trails - from easy forest strolls to longer treks - allows for a range of fitness levels to get the most out of this unique environment. Our visit here is dependent on local tides.

## Kuching Wetlands, Santubong, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo

Spend our last morning in Malaysian Borneo with a cruise through the Kuching Wetlands. Located just 15km from Kuching, Malaysia designated the park as a RAMSAR site, a wetland of international importance. Most of the park is a saline mangrove system that includes an extensive network of marine waterways and tidal creeks interconnecting the two major rivers on its borders. We hope to spot a wide diversity of wildlife, including proboscis monkeys, long tailed macaque monkeys, silver-leaf monkeys, monitor lizards, estuarine crocodiles, and a range of birdlife, including kingfishers, white-bellied sea eagles and shore birds. After our morning expedition, Coral Geographer will steam towards our final destination of Singapore.

## Day at Sea

Relax and spend time reflecting on your epic voyage as we prepare to disembark in Singapore. Enjoy the hospitality onboard with Captain's Farewell Drinks.

## Day 17: Arrive Singapore, Singapore

Arrive in Singapore ready to disembark Coral Geographer at 8:00am. Bid farewell to new-found friends, the Master and crew.

## Please note:

This itinerary is an indication of the destinations we visit and activities on offer. Throughout the expedition we may make changes to the itinerary as necessary to maximise your expeditionary experience. Allowances may be made for seasonal variations, weather, tidal conditions, and any other event that may affect the operation of the vessel. Coral Expeditions suggests that you do not arrive on the day of embarkation or depart on the day of disembarkation due to any changes that may occur in scheduling.

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## YOUR SHIP: CORAL GEOGRAPHER

**YOUR SHIP:** Coral Geographer

**VESSEL TYPE:** Expedition

**LENGTH:**

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:** 120

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:** 2020

Coral Geographer is the newest and most advanced vessel in the Coral Expeditions fleet, launched in 2021 and designed to reach some of the world's most remote and untouched destinations. Purpose-built for expedition cruising, she carries a maximum of 120 guests and offers a refined yet relaxed onboard atmosphere. With a shallow draught and cutting-edge navigation systems, Coral Geographer can access secluded bays, island shores, and small coastal villages in destinations such as Australia's Kimberley, South and West Coasts, as well as international voyages to New Zealand, Japan, the Philippines, and beyond. Her twin Xplorer tenders and fleet of zodiacs enable seamless shore excursions, while open deck spaces and Indigenous Australian artwork throughout the ship enhance the connection to land and culture.

All staterooms are outward-facing with private ensuites, and most include balconies, including six spacious Bridge Deck Suites with outside-facing bathrooms and horizon baths. Life onboard centres around exploration, comfort, and connection -- from single-seating dining with fresh small-batch meals, to lectures and briefings in the lounge, to sunset drinks at the Explorer Bar. Guests enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi, a gym, library,

lift access between decks, and welcoming Australian hospitality. Coral Geographer is a modern expedition ship that combines world-class capabilities with the personal touch of small-ship cruising.



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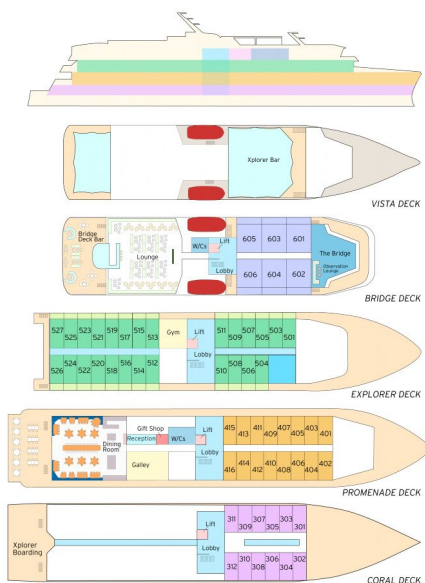
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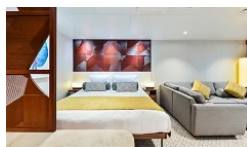
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Bridge Deck Balcony Suite



Coral Deck ■ Stateroom



Explorer Deck Balcony Stateroom



Promenade Deck Stateroom



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## PRICING

**19-Dec-2025 to 04-Jan-2026**

<b>Coral Deck Stateroom</b>	<b>14690 AUD pp</b>
<b>Promenade Deck Stateroom</b>	<b>17620 AUD pp</b>
<b>Explorer Deck Balcony Stateroom</b>	<b>23490 AUD pp</b>
<b>Bridge Deck Balcony Suite</b>	<b>31680 AUD pp</b>

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