



STEM STUDY TOURS

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

Tour: Malaysia Biology & Conservation
Destination: Kuala Lumpur, Cameron Highlands, Taiping & Penang, Malaysia
Itinerary: 12-days / 11-nights (inclusive of overnight travel)
Specialization: Biology, Ecology, Earth Sciences, History & Culture

Malaysia - Biology & Conservation				
Day	Morning	Afternoon		Evening
1	Outbound to Malaysia (1 to 2-nights outbound, dependent upon origination)			
2	Continued travel to Malaysia			
3	Arrive Kuala Lumpur	Transfer to hotel, check-in	Welcome, Safety & Orientation	Local Walk & Welcome Dinner
4	Forest Research Institute for Biological & Botanical Research & Development + Guided Rainforest Hike	Batu Caves + Limestone & Cave Biodiversity & Conservation Master Class		Hindu Lord Murugah Temple Dinner
5	Sunway Lagoon Water & Theme Park			Dinner
6	Travel to Cameron Highlands, 3.5-hours	Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary - Habitat Presentation & Feeding	Station of Cameron Highlands - Tea Fields	Check-in to Hotel - Rest, Relaxation & Dinner
7	Cameron Highlands - BOH Tea Plantation & Factory - Guided Tour of Agriculture & Processing Plant	Fruit & Vegetable Market, Honey Apiary & Butterfly Gardens, Strawberry & Cactus Farms		Time Tunnel Museum Dinner
8	Travel to Taiping - 3-hrs	Check into hotel and get settled	Lake Gardens Exploration	Dinner Zoo Taiping & Night Safari
9	Travel to Penang - 2-hrs	Kuala Sepetang - Matang Mangrove Ecosystem	Bukit Merah Lake Town Resort, Boat Ride, Orangutan Island Breeding Sanctuary, EcoPark & Animal Sanctuary	Penang Suspension Bridge crossing & Hotel check-in Dinner
10	"Pearl of the Orient" Penang Island Tour: Tropical Spice Garden, Fishing Village Exploration & Butterfly Farm		Penang Pewter Factory Tour & Workshop	Penang Batik Factory Tour Dinner
11	Penang Hill, Funicular Train Ride & Buggy Tour	Kek Lok Si Temple (Southeast Asia's largest Buddhist temple)	Escape Eco-Adventure Park	Dinner
12	Depart Penang International Airport for home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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NOTE: Dependent upon your origination, you may have a single outbound overnight flight or 2-nights outbound. Most USA and Canada schools will have 2-nights outbound, while UK & European schools will have a single night outbound.

Days 1 & 2

Overnight flights; meals in flight

Sample air hours from Los Angeles: 20-hours in flight.

Day 3

Meals in flight; dinner in destination

Welcome to Malaysia! Upon arrival in Kuala Lumpur and after immigration and customs formalities, our English-speaking guide will be there to welcome us to this fabulous country. After hotel check-in, we will take some time to get settled after our long flight and have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting. Once your flights have been booked and dependent upon your arrival time, you may wish to add an activity for the day. We purposefully leave this day's activities open just for this reason. You may wish to take it easy, take a dip in the pool or a walk on the beach. We will also be happy to set up a focused activity if you choose. Just let us know how we may best serve you!

Malaysia... Located just south of Thailand on the Malay Peninsula, Malaysia is a tropical paradise in the heart of southeast Asia. It's perhaps best known for its beaches, rainforests, and its wealth of natural beauty and impressive scenery. The capital, Kuala Lumpur houses the tallest twin towers in the world, while its islands are home to some of the most beautiful dive areas you can see. Natural beauty, history and a diverse and varied culture await students visiting Malaysia. Split over two tropical landmasses, Peninsula Malaysia and East Malaysia, this multicultural and biodiverse nation is the third largest economy in Southeast Asia. Malaysia continues to develop innovations that benefit a well-developed infrastructure within Asia, making it a fantastic experiential learning journey for our students.



Why should you take your school group to Malaysia?

Environmental & Developmental Initiatives – The strength of programs within Malaysia make this country very attractive to students interested in ecology, biology, the arts and human communities.

Cultural Studies – Malaysia has an ethnically diverse population with a unique mix of Malay, Chinese, Indian and European cultural influences along with the awesome UNESCO World Heritage Sites of architectural heritage in Malacca and Georgetown.

Economics – Malaysia is a medium-income country. Its developing economy is highly dependent on commodities, namely petroleum and agriculture products such as palm oil. In this, the dilemma facing the current government is the possible



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negative effects that the increased industrialization, pollution and deforestation may have on this important part of Malaysia's economy. Do you have a solution?

Ecosystems – Discover and learn about Malaysia's tropical environment from Taman Negara, one of the world's oldest tropical rainforests, to the sustainable Mangrove forests. An array of discovery awaits students in learning about the natural habitats for wildlife, flora and fauna.

Sample Hotel: Sunway Velocity Hotel – Sunway Velocity Hotel is located just 10 minutes from Kuala Lumpur city center. The 16-story hotel with striking façade forms part of the vibrant self-contained Sunway Velocity development, directly connecting the hotel to Sunway Velocity Mall and Sunway College. The hotel features a rooftop infinity swimming pool and fitness center. Room amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi, LED TV, walk-in shower, plus coffee and tea facilities. Rooms have 2 beds per room, sleeping 2 students or staff per room.



Day 4

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise and shine Kuala Lumpur! Today we will have an exciting and interesting day as we learn about the Malaysia forests in the morning. In the afternoon, we're off to trek the Batu Caves!

Forest Research Institute Malaysia – Founded in 1929, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) is one of the leading institutions in tropical forestry research in the world. This fabulous organization develops and enhances the utilization of forest resources and sustainable forestry, focusing on the preservation of the Malaysian rain forests. While visiting, we will trek through the jungle nature trails with a naturalist to learn all about Malaysia's forests. The main areas of research and goals for the foundation include:

- ✓ **Forestry and Environment** – Developing technologies solutions to support and ensure the sustainable management of resources and ecosystem services of the natural, urban and recreational forests.
- ✓ **Forestry Biotechnology** – Develop technologies and products based on biodiversity resources for forests and herbal plantations for related industries through biotechnological approaches.
- ✓ **Forest Biodiversity** – Developing and providing key scientific knowledge to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services in Malaysia for wise management and sustainable utilization.
- ✓ **Forest & Natural Products** – Development for improvement on durability, service life and utilization of wood resources and ligno-cellulosic materials available for producing various high quality/value-added products. Supporting the national bio-economy agenda via the empowerment of natural product-based industries through bioactive feedstock security.



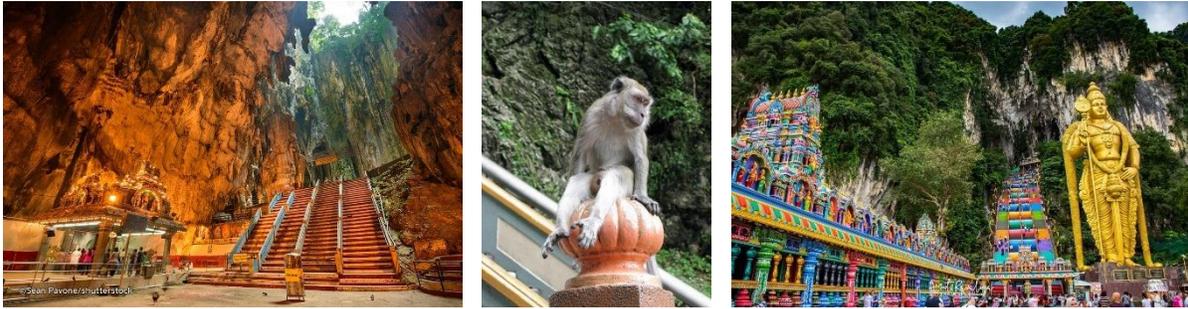
In the afternoon we will visit Batu Caves.



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Batu Caves – Batu Caves is a limestone hill that has a series of caves and cave temples in Gombak, Selangor, Malaysia. It takes its name from the Malay word batu, meaning 'rock'. The cave is one of the most popular Hindu shrines outside India, and is dedicated to Lord Murugan. Here we will climb a flight of 272 steps which lead up to the sacred Hindu temple cave and the shrine of the Hindu Lord Murugah. [VIDEO](#)



Dark Cave Exploration - Dark Cave is one of the main caves at Batu Caves. Students will be guided by an education officer through the cave as you learn about the magnificent limestone formations, the cave biodiversity and ecosystem and the conservation efforts underway to protect and preserve the Dark Cave for future generations.

After our thrilling day of learning about everything from forestry and cave geology to Hindu culture, we will head back to our hotel for dinner and then the night is ours for exploration.

Day 5

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning Malaysia! Today is a full day of fun and sunshine.

Sunway Lagoon Water & Theme Park – Grab your swimsuit because today we have a full day of adventure at Sunway Lagoon. Malaysia’s premier theme park has thrills and spills for everyone. Famous for its water rides and largest man-made sand surf beach, the park welcomes all thrill seekers and beach bums! Divided into three sections, the Wild-Wild West, World of Adventure and Waters of Africa, your day out is going to be prime!

After our amazing day, we’ll head back to the hotel for dinner and a great night’s sleep.



Day 6

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Hello Kuala Lumpur! This morning we will pack up and check out of our hotel, headed for the world-renown Cameron Highlands. En route though, our first stop will be pretty magical as we learn about Asian elephants!

Kuala Gandah Elephant Conservation Centre - The Conservation Centre is an elephant sanctuary within the Krau Wildlife Reserve. The Centre was established in 1989 by the Malaysian Department of Wildlife and National Parks, and forms a base for the Elephant Relocation Team, which since 1974 has been rescuing problem Asian elephants whose habitats are being lost to cultivation or development and relocating them to suitable habitats such as Taman Negara. The only one of its kind in Malaysia, the team is also dedicated to raise public awareness and support research. Students will view a national geographic video on issues surrounding wild elephants, diminishing habitat and translocation. Following this is a feeding session with the elephants under supervision, and possibly a chance to get wet in the river with the younger elephants. [VIDEO](#)



The Cameron Highlands - The Cameron Highlands span 71,000 hectares of land and is the name of a scenic hill station in the state of Pahang which dates from the 19th century. The highlands were founded by a British colonialist named Sir William Cameron and were named after him, modeled on a traditional English village. You will find English influences all over the region such as rose and lavender gardens, strawberry fields and English cream teas. The Highlands are known for its sweeping tea plantations. [VIDEO](#)



In the afternoon, we will have some time to explore the Cameron Highlands. After leaving the Elephant Sanctuary, we then reach the Hill Station of Cameron Highlands which was originally intended as a “sanatorium, health resort and open farmland”. At some 1500m above sea level, marked by a noticeable drop in temperature, we reach the plateau where the rolling hillsides are given way to vast plantations and we should spot gangs of workers picking the tender leaves of the flowering shrub *Camellia sinensis* – better known as tea. We then proceed to the hotel for check-in.

Sample Hotel: Strawberry Park Resort – Strawberry Park Resort is ideally located amidst a 7-acre hill between Tanah Rata and Brinchang. The cool temperature in Cameron Highlands makes it an ideal retreat. Studio rooms come with a private balcony overlooking the beautiful garden of the resort. The classic contemporary rooms are furnished with polished wooded flooring and teak furniture. Rooms have two individual beds to sleep 2 people per room. Amenities include LCD TV, in-room safe, hairdryer, coffee and tea makers, and wireless internet connections.



We will have dinner this evening and then the rest of the night is ours. Perhaps a fun quiz, game or a swim?

Day 7

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise and shine Cameron Highlands! Today we have a full day to explore the many parts of the amazing Cameron Highlands, packed full of local color and variety. We'll start with learning all about tea and then move on to strawberries!

BOH Tea Plantation - The BOH Tea Plantation in southeast Asia supplies gorgeous vistas, is loaded with a natural beauty, and is a massive spread of acres that supplies almost all of the tea for the surrounding countries. Founded in 1929 by British businessman J. A. Russel, the plantation expanded from a small tract of land in Habu to acres of tea-growing sites in Cameron Highlands. The cool climate and the rich soil of this province provide a fertile ground for cultivating a staggering amount of tea in response to the continuous demand from the countries in the region. At over 8,000 acres, the BOH tea plantation is the largest of its kind in Southeast Asia. To ensure freshness of its tea products, BOH also processes its harvest in its own factory. Groups will have a guided tour of the plantation to learn all about tea, plus a tour of the processing plant.



We will continue to a local **Fruit and Vegetable Market**, an **apiary** where delicious honey is produced, a **Butterfly Garden**, **Cactus and Flower Gardens** and finally, a **Strawberry Farm**.

Our final stop is to the **Time Tunnel Museum** showcasing historical memorabilia of the region. The Time Tunnel is Malaysia's first memorabilia museum and is recognized as one of the main attractions of the Cameron Highlands.

This evening we will have dinner and then the night is ours. Let us know what we can set up for your enjoyment.



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Day 8

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning Malaysia! Today we check-out of the hotel and travel to Taiping, about a 3-hour ride. On arrival, we will check into our hotel. Today will be an easy day as we prepare for an amazing adventure tonight!

Sample Hotel: Novotel Taiping Perak Hotel - Strategically located at the heart of Taiping Town, Novotel Taiping Perak is 15 minutes away by foot from the major attractions such as Taiping Night Safari, The Taiping Zoo, Taiping Lake Garden and Perak Museum. The hotel features a restaurant, conference space, business center, swimming pool, fitness center and Wi-fi access. Rooms feature modern decor, ergonomic comfort, work desk, minibar fridge, 41" LED TV, safe deposit box, high speed WiFi, hairdryer and bidet.



After getting settled, we will have the opportunity to walk to the Lake Gardens, the first public garden in Malaysia dating back to 1888. Other than that, we'll have time to kick back, perhaps get rested up, or something more adventurous! This evening, after dinner, it's time for a night safari at the zoo.

Taiping Zoo & Night Safari - Taiping Zoo is currently home to more than 180 species of animals totaling – 1,300 individuals. These include Malaysian Tigers, Lions, Elephants, Hippopotamus, Giraffes, Hornbills, Orangutans and others. In an effort to maintain the experience of a natural environment, the Taiping Night Safari attempts to display nocturnal animals in natural looking settings. To fully appreciate this experience visitors are required to minimize all sounds, even speech so that the sounds of the night creatures can be heard.



Day 9

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own



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Hello Taiping! This morning we will check-out of our hotel and travel to Penang, about a 2-hour ride. En route we will stop at Kuala Sepetang, a coastal town located in Perak, home to the Matang Mangrove Forest.

Matang Mangrove Forest - The 40,000-hectare Matang Mangrove Forest was created as a permanent forest reserve in 1906. Today, it is recognized as the best managed sustainable mangrove ecosystem in the world. This mangrove reserve contains rich and diverse wildlife that provide nature lovers to visit and explore its wetlands and resources. Wooden boardwalks weave among the protruding, twisted tree roots but the reserve is best known for its fireflies, which glow like fairy lights after sundown. Spellbinding by day, it is considered an outstanding example of environmental preservation in Malaysia where the forest brims with life, from otters, mud lobsters and fiddler crabs down below to macaques swinging between the branches.



Our next stop? It's amazing! We travel to the Bukit Merah Lake Town Resort and then a 10-minute boat ride to the island - Bukit Merah Orangutan Island – a breeding sanctuary as well as a conservation, research and education center.

Bukit Merah Orangutan Island – Since its inception in 2000, Orangutan Island has progressed from being a sanctuary, where visitors experienced first-hand awareness and education on the orangutan, to a recognized ex-situ conservation facility and referral center for the endangered **Bornean Orangutan**. As you alight onto the jetty, keep a look out high among the trees, you may spot an orangutan or two, swinging from tree to tree, maybe even taking a nap. Your steps on the boardwalk take you through a classroom of education in the life of an orangutan, where you learn amazing facts about this intelligent primate. Don't forget to stroll by the Herbal Garden for an education on herbal plants of Malaysia.



Scientists have come to study how Orangutan Island has managed to have a population of 24 orangutans today from only three in 2000 and they believe the endeavors at Orangutan Island will greatly assist in the conservation of the Bornean orangutan. Orangutan Island plays an important role in building local conservation capacity by exposing visitors to various aspects of primatology such as primate behavior and ecology, captive care, veterinary medicine and conservation biology. With assistance in expertise from regional primatologists and conservation biologists, Orangutan Island aims to strengthen its commitment towards scientific research in the Bornean orangutan.

Included in your experience is a visit to the Eco Park, a 3-acre eco-friendly sanctuary allowing students to experience close encounters with a variety of animal species in an environment as close to their natural habitat.

We then travel on to Penang via the fifth longest bridge in the world and transfer to the hotel for check in.

Sample Hotel: Flamingo Beach Resort – Conveniently located not too far away from the heart of Georgetown and the calmness of Batu Ferringhi, Flamingo brings you the true meaning of Malaysia. This blend of traditional and modern comfort promises groups a delightful rest. With 280 guestrooms, all rooms are designed with your comfort in mind. Guest amenities include complimentary internet access, fitness center, meeting facilities, hair dryers, in-room safes, coffee & tea facilities and more. Students share rooms sleeping in individual beds. Breakfast is served at the hotel.



After dinner, we will be able to rest, relax and talk about our amazing day!

Day 10

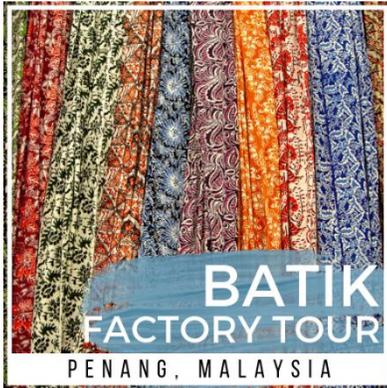
Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise and shine Penang! Today we will embark on a general tour of Penang to get to know this fantastic city. In the afternoon, we will try our hand at some amazing crafts that Malaysia is known for.

Penang Round Island Tour - Today we explore Penang Island which has always been known to sailors and traders from all around the world as the 'Pearl of the Orient'. We start our island tour of Penang with a visit to the colorful **Tropical Spice Garden**. Later visit a traditional **fishing village** before you head over to the **Butterfly Farm** - a sanctuary that houses over 120 species of rare and exotic tropical butterflies. The farm is complete with a hatchery and offers a live insect and reptile show. The day wraps up with a visit to a Pewter Factory – watch how this alloy is made into popular souvenirs – and a visit to the Batik Factory where you can see how this exquisite Malay textile is produced.

Royal Selangor Pewter Factory Tour & Workshop – We will visit the Royal Selangor which is the world's largest pewter company, renowned for its innovative design and craftsmanship to create objects of desire in precious pewter. At the visitor center, students will be given the chance to manipulate this malleable and versatile metal. Join the fun and interactive School of Hard Knocks to get well acquainted with pewter. **Students will be guided through the process of creating a pewter dish using traditional tools such as the hammer and wooden mold.**





Batik Factory Tour - Penang Batik Factory is one of the pioneers of batik manufacturing on the island. The complex is divided into three sections: an art gallery, boutique and workshop, offering a wide variety of quality batik, from block prints to hand-drawn pieces. Batik art, ranging in size from small portraits to huge tapestries, are first displayed in the Art Gallery. Available for sale, these pieces can cost up to several thousand ringgits each and are created by some of the country's most renowned batik artists. The Workshop is an open-air annex beside the Boutique where you can see artists drawing, coloring and stamping batik patterns on fabrics. It is quite a sight to see, with each artist specializing in a particular product, from sarongs to shirts: an artist can produce about ten meters of fabric a day.

After dinner, we will have free time for rest and relaxation.

Day 11

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning Malaysia! It's our last full day in Malaysia. This morning we'll take another look at the history of Malaysia, and then in the afternoon, we'll go to an amazing eco-resort that is sure to thrill everyone!

This morning, we will depart for **Penang Hill**, one of the oldest colonial hill stations established by the British during their time in Malaysia, dating back to the late 1700's. With an elevation greater than 2,000-feet above sea level, Penang Hill offers the best panorama of Penang Island.



Included is a **funicular train ride** to the top. Built in 1923, it is one of the world's oldest railway funicular systems with a track known as being the longest in Asia. At the top, grab your **buggy ride** to get around to explore the outskirts of Penang Hill and the various flora and fauna. After, we proceed to Kek Lok Si, Southeast Asia's largest Buddhist temple.

Kek Lok Si Buddhist Temple - The Kek Lok Si Temple is a Buddhist temple situated in Air Itam, Penang. It is the largest Buddhist temple in Malaysia and also an important pilgrimage center for Buddhists from Hong Kong, the Philippines, Singapore and other countries in Southeast Asia. With millions of magnificent images of Buddha and hundreds of beautiful meaningful carvings, sculptures and murals in the interior and exterior of the temple halls, pagodas and archways, Kek Lok Si Temple is not just a center for Chinese culture and Buddha teaching, but also a unique heritage treasure that has Mahayana Buddhism and traditional Chinese rituals blend into a harmonious whole, in temple architecture and daily activities of worshippers.



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After exploring the Temple, in the afternoon we will travel to the amazing Escape Adventure Park.

Escape Adventure Park - An adventure theme park with exciting and challenging activities in natural surroundings. The attractions enable participants to swing, climb, balance, leap, slide, and even to explore and pan for treasures. It's a **world class eco-theme park** which offers an enjoyable and refreshing experience where fun and learning co-exist.



When we've had our fill of climbing, swinging and leaping, we'll had back to the hotel for dinner and our final night. It's time to get packed and ready to travel home.

Day 12

Breakfast (dependent upon departure times)

Hello Malaysia! After breakfast, we are off to the airport. We're hoping that you are inspired and taking home wonderful memories that will last a lifetime! If you would like to add in any last-minute stops, simply enquire with your Ambassador who will make sure you are set up for success.



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Malaysia – Biology & Conservation

Minimum Booking Numbers: 20 students

What's Included:

- Round-trip international flights
- 9-nights' accommodation
- Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure (dependent upon departure time)
- Transportation to programmed activities & airport transfers
- Forest Institute for Biological & Botanical Research + Guided Rainforest Hike
- Batu Caves + Conservation Master Class
- Hindu Lord Murugah Temple
- Sunway Lagoon Water Theme Park
- Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary - Habitat Master Class and Feeding Experience
- BOH Tea Plantation & Factory – Guided Tour of Plantation & Processing Plant
- Cameron Highlands Exploration - Fruit & Vegetable Market, Honey Apiary, Butterfly Gardens, Strawberry & Cactus Farms
- Time Tunnel Museum
- Lake Garden Exploration
- Zoo Taiping & Night Safari
- Kuala Sepetang - Matang Mangrove Ecosystem Hike
- Orangutan Island – Breeding Sanctuary & EcoPark
- Penang Island Tour – Tropical Spice Garden, Fishing Village & Butterfly Farm
- Penang Pewter Factory Tour & Workshop
- Batik Factory Tour
- Penang Hill – Funicular Ride & Buggy Tour
- Kek Lok Si Temple
- Escape Eco-Adventure Park
- Personal Tour Ambassador
- Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest
- Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest
- 24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

- Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
- Transfers to/from home airport
- Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary
- Lunches and other meals/snacks not shown in itinerary
- Cost of visas, full or collective passports
- Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary
- Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc.
- Any gratuities – drivers, hotel services, dive instructors, boat captain and hand tips, ambassador

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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