

# East Malaysia



A longhouse in Sabah, Borneo.

Sandokan and his pirates live on an island in the South China Sea, near Labuan. Labuan is in East Malaysia. East Malaysia is in the north-west of the island of Borneo. The south and east of the island are part of the country of Indonesia.

There are two big areas in East Malaysia. There is Sabah in the north and Sarawak in the west. The language of Malaysia is 'Bahasa Malaysia' but many

people in Sabah and Sarawak speak the language of their town or region. A lot of people speak English, too.

The capital of Sabah is Kota Kinabalu and the capital of Sarawak is Kuching. In English 'kuching' means 'cat', but there are not many big cats in the forests now.

East Malaysia is a big area and there are a lot of natural resources<sup>1</sup> here. A lot of the area is thick forest and very few people live here. Most people live near the sea but some people live in 'longhouses'. A longhouse is a big, long wooden house and everyone in the village lives in the same house. There are separate areas and rooms for different families and a central cooking area. Longhouses are usually in the forest and it can be difficult to get there. Most people travel to them by river. There are a lot of places of interest and things to do in Sabah and Sarawak. Today many people in Borneo make their money from tourism.

1. **resources** : natural things that help us live, e.g. water, wood, oil.

## 1 TOURIST INFORMATION

Read the tourist information about East Malaysia. Match the places of interest with the photos.

### 1 The Gunung Mulu National Park

This is a very beautiful area in Sarawak. A lot of people come here to see the large caves, and you can walk inside them! You can see birds and bats and a lot of other animals in the park.



### 2 Mount Kinabalu

Mount Kinabalu is a very high mountain: it is 4,095 metres high. It is possible to climb Mount Kinabalu in about two or three days, but you must go with a guide.<sup>1</sup> Near Mount Kinabalu there are some hot springs.<sup>2</sup> You can relax here after your long climb up the mountain.



### 3 Sepilok Orangutan Reserve<sup>3</sup>

The Sepilok Orangutan Reserve is in the north-east of Sabah. Orangutans are large, red-coloured monkeys and they look a lot like humans. In fact orangutan means 'the old man of the forest'. Sometimes the reserve looks after baby orangutans.



1. **guide** : you pay this person to take you to a place and tell you about it.
2. **springs** : fresh water that comes from the ground.
3. **Reserve** : a safe area for animals.

**2 LISTENING**

**12** You are going on a journey to North Borneo in East Malaysia. Listen to the tour guide and complete the schedule.

**The Magic of North Borneo**  
Tour schedule

Monday	Visit the (1) ..... reserve in Sepilok.
Tuesday –	Stay the night by the (2) ..... in a longhouse.
Thursday	Go (3) ..... in the Damas Valley. Remember to bring good walking (4) ..... Return to Kota Kinabalu.
Friday	Free day to (5) ..... and (6) ..... Optional trip by (7) ..... to Beaufort market.
Saturday –	Two-day (8) ..... to the top of Mount Kinabalu.
Sunday	Rafting or (9) ..... in the Kinabalu National Park. Optional trip to Poring Hot Springs on (10) .....

**PROJECT ON THE WEB**

**Let's visit East Malaysia!**

Connect to the Internet and go to [www.blackcat-cideb.com](http://www.blackcat-cideb.com) or [www.cideb.it](http://www.cideb.it). Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *Sandokan*. Click on the Internet project link.

- ▶ Find three places of interest.  
What can you do there and when is a good time to visit?
- ▶ Describe two animals that live there. Where can you see them?
- ▶ Where can you stay in a longhouse and how do you get there?

In groups, make your own tourist poster about one area. You can draw pictures of the places of interest, animals and plants to decorate your poster.

