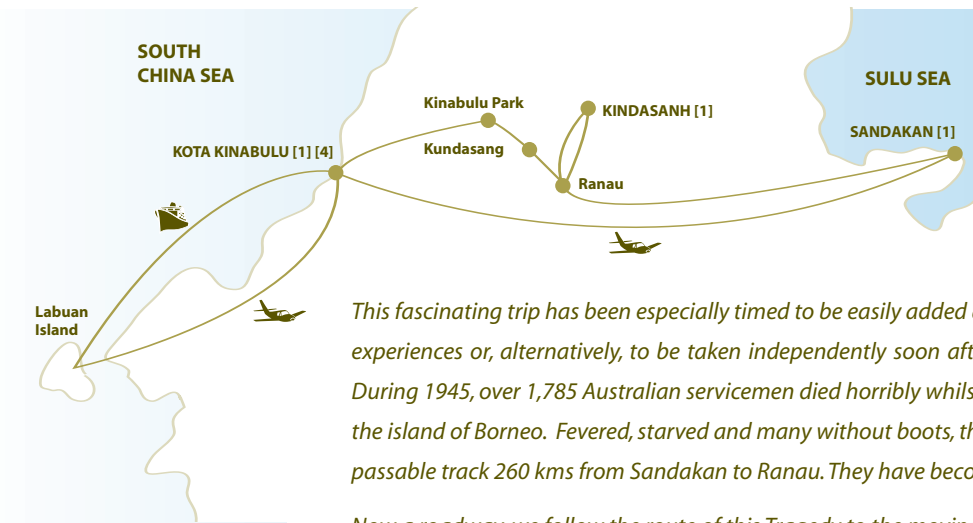


THE SANDAKAN TRAGEDY

7 DAYS/6 NIGHTS - 30 APRIL TO 6 MAY 2007 - ESCORTED GROUP TOUR

Additional Departure 14 August for Sandakan Day



This fascinating trip has been especially timed to be easily added as a 'bolt on' tour directly after your Gallipoli touring experiences or, alternatively, to be taken independently soon after the main ANZAC Commemorations in Australia. During 1945, over 1,785 Australian servicemen died horribly whilst in captivity, in the Malaysian Province of Sabah on the island of Borneo. Fevered, starved and many without boots, they were forced, in 3 marches, along a muddy, barely passable track 260 kms from Sandakan to Ranau. They have become known as the Sandakan 'Death' Marches.

Now a roadway, we follow the route of this Tragedy to the moving memorial at Kundasang and on to the POW's final resting place on Labuan Island. Sabah is a very safe destination with a high quality, extremely comfortable touring infrastructure. Many of the locals in Sabah also suffered terribly during the War and risked death to help the unfortunate Diggers. You'll be charmed by their local service. In addition to the commemorative theme of this tour, you'll find the local sights and attractions an extremely rewarding experience.

DAY 1 - 30 APRIL KOTA KINABALU

Arriving today into Kota Kinabalu? You'll be met at the airport and transferred to the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This evening enjoy a welcome drink before dinner in your hotel. This is an ideal chance to get to meet and know your Tour Manager and fellow travellers. (D) *Your Hotel in Kota Kinabalu Hotel: The Hyatt Regency Hotel.*

DAY 2 - 1 MAY SANDAKAN

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for the short flight to Sandakan. We'll spend the morning visiting the Sandakan Memorial Park on the site of the infamous Prisoner of War (POW) camp where 2,434 Australian and British servicemen were encamped during WW II. Taken prisoner with the fall of Singapore, these soldiers were brought to Sandakan to build a Japanese airfield. Conditions for the captives gradually worsened and a brutal regime of systematic punishment, deprivation and violence was instigated upon these men. By January 1945, 1787 Australian and 641 British servicemen were still held in this camp.

Fearing the impending Allied invasion, the Japanese decided to move the men into the mountains where they might act as supply carriers. Soldiers deemed 'fit' were sent on the 3 'Death Marches' and the balance remained in Sandakan Camp. Deplorably, by 15 August 1945, none of these POWs were left alive. Agnes Keith was an American writer and one of her books called "Three came home" was about her time during the occupation and in the POW camps of Sandakan and Kuching.

We visit Agnes Keith's House, which has been restored into a heritage property providing interesting insights into life in British North Borneo, and the nearby museum. Lunch has also been included in the elegant English Tea house with magnificent views across Sandakan and the bay. On a lighter note, this afternoon, we'll visit the Sepilok rehabilitation centre



to observe the feeding of the Orang Utans in the wild. After checking into your Sandakan Hotel we will transfer to a local seafood restaurant for dinner. (B,L,D) *Your Sandakan Hotel: Sandakan Hotel.*

DAY 3 - 2 MAY KINDASANH

The Death Marches! In 1945 a 260 km track was cut through the swamps and jungle covered foothills of Mt Kinabalu to the highland plateau at Ranau. Just over 1,000 soldiers were forced in 3 separate groups – later known as 'Death Marches' along this track towards Ranau. Many were without boots or adequate clothing and there was little food or provisions. To stop, meant being bayoneted or shot. Those that completed the march died or were systematically killed. Today the story is somewhat different as the road to Ranau takes about 6 hours. You will travel in air-conditioned comfort and a packed lunch has been provided. The roadway criss-crosses



Mt Kinabalu

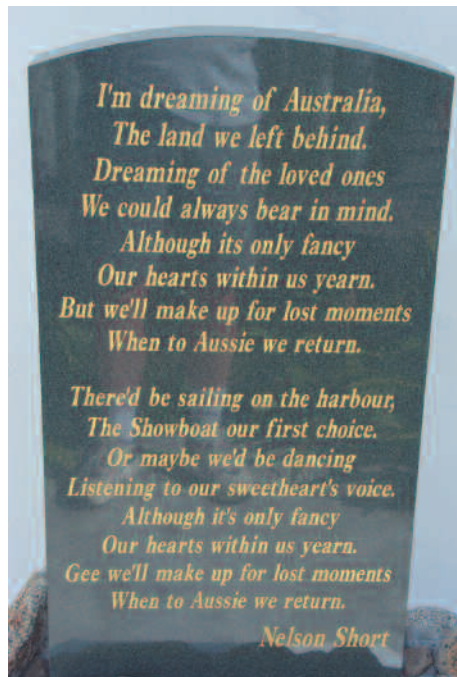
the route of the Death Marches and we'll make several stops on the way to gain an insight into the tragedy. On reaching Ranau, the ending point of the marches, we will be able to pay our respects at the small monument to the memory of the POWs. Continuing to nearby Poring, we'll visit the nature reserve and can cross the Canopy Walkway which is suspended 50 metres above the ground through the high tropical forest. Dinner will be in nearby Kindasanh where we stay the night. (B,L,D) *Your Kindasanh Hotel: The Perkasa.*

DAY 4 - 3 MAY KOTA KINABALU

After a leisurely start we travel to Kundasang and visit the moving War Memorial and gardens built in honour of the soldiers and civilians who lost their lives for freedom. Later we visit the Kinabalu Park where we take a fascinating guided walk through the jungle 'garden' to see and learn about the native orchids, pitcher plants and medicinal plants. After lunch in the park restaurant we drive down to have an orientation tour of Kota Kinabalu City before checking into your 5 star hotel where we will stay the next 3 nights. Dinner, this evening, is a buffet in your hotel. (B,L,D) *Your Kota Kinabalu Hotel: The Hyatt Regency Hotel.*

DAY 5 - 4 MAY KOTA KINABALU

After breakfast we catch the ferry to the Island



of Labuan, which is the last resting-place of many of the POW's. At the Labuan Commonwealth War Commission Cemetery 3,904 allied soldiers are buried. Included in this number are the remains of all the Sandakan POW's that could be recovered from the mainland. We drive past St Anne's school which served as the Australian service canteen during the war and Brown Beach where the Australian landing took place in 1945 and also visit the Japanese Surrender Point. Lunch will be at a local waterfront restaurant. Later we board our short flight back to

Kota Kinabalu. (B,L)

DAY 6 - 5 MAY KOTA KINABALU

A free day in Kinabalu to relax in your hotel, perhaps by the pool, or take advantage of the excellent shopping nearby. Make a point of visiting the nearby Chinese markets to barter for the Sabah pearls and wide range of souvenirs. This evening we have included a special treat as we transfer to Kamung Nelayan (Fisherman's village) to enjoy a seafood dinner in a traditional restaurant built on stilts over a lake. Through the evening you'll also be entertained with an array of colourful native dances. (B,D)

DAY 7 - 6 MAY KOTA KINABALU

Sadly your Sabah tour is now finished. We have included a transfer to the airport for your onward flight home. (B)

Features and Inclusions

- Arrival and departure airport transfers in Sabah on 30 April and 06 May
- 4 nights First Class accommodation in Kota Kinabalu at the 5star Hyatt Regency
- 1 nights Superior Tourist Class accommodation in Sandakan at the Sandakan Hotel
- 1 night Superior Tourist Class accommodation in Kindasanh at the Perkasa Hotel
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches
- 4 dinners plus a special Farewell Dinner
- Flights and air taxes Kota Kinabalu to Sandakan and Labuan to Kota Kinabalu
- 1st Class tickets Express boat Kota Kinabalu to Labuan
- Services of experienced Tour Guide
- Air-conditioned, comfortable coaches
- End of tour tips to guides and drivers
- Entrance fees as per itinerary, services, hotel portorage, tips, local taxes

AUD\$ **1,399** NZ\$ **1,679**
PP TWIN SHARE PP TWIN SHARE

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT AUD\$399 / NZ\$479
(land only prices)

Please note this tour has a guaranteed departure based on a minimum of only 10 passengers.