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## 4D3N Best of Kuching

### *Sarawak River Sunset Cruise/ Bako National Park/ Sarawak Cultural Village/Kuching City Tour + Kek Lapis*

#### Day 1 Arrive Kuching/ Afternoon Sarawak River Sunset Cruise

Meet on arrival at Kuching International Airport and transfer to hotel for check in. Late afternoon, pick up from your hotel for Sarawak River Sunset Cruise. The history of modern Sarawak began when an English adventurer James Brooke sailed up the Sarawak River in his schooner in 1839. Retrace this historic route with a river cruise down the same river and be enthralled by the fascinating sights of Kuching from a different perspective. See the skyline of Kuching - a fast developing city that has retained its historic and cultural charm through the years. The cruise passes by Fort Margherita - built in 1879 to guard Kuching River from pirates and is now a Police Museum, the Astana - former residence of the reigning Rajahs and is now the Governor's official residence, the iconic State Assembly Building which design was inspired by the ethnic Melanau tribal hat, the beautiful State Mosque, the 100 years old Brooke Dockyards, the Market Place, colourful tambang ferryboats, quaint Malay Villages and a Chinese fishing village. As evening approaches, watch the setting sun paints the sky with stunning array of colors (during good weather) before cruising back to Kuching and transfer back to your hotel.

#### Day 2 Full Day Bako National Park Tour (B/L)

Morning, depart for a 45 minute drive passing by mangrove forest with its unique Nipah palms to arrive at Bako Fishing Village. Continue by motorised boat for a 30 minute cruise along the coast facing the South China Sea to reach Bako National Park. Visit the Park's information & exhibition centre for insights into the park. Trek to the western end of the Park through mangrove forest. Observe mud skippers and blue – fiddler crabs as you trek along. Follow the Paku trail to look for the bizzare proboscis monkey. The distinctive nose of the proboscis monkey has endeared this monkey to many nature lovers. Climb up to the plateau - home to various botanical delights and several species of the carnivorous pitcher plants. Notice the changes of the vegetation (mangrove, rainforest, kerangan and padang forest). After lunch, trek through monstrous rainforest trees in search of birds and other wildlife. Trek back to the jetty, then by boat to Bako Village and return to Kuching.

*What to bring : Disposable raincoat, hat & insect repellent, drinking water, sub block, hand towel. Use good trekking shoes. Comfortable cotton T-shirt with long or short pant recommended. Bring a spare sandal and clothing in case of getting wet.*

#### Day 3 Sarawak Cultural Village & Kuching City / Kek Lapis (B/L)

Morning, transfer to Sarawak Cultural Village. Located about 34km from the city, the award winning Sarawak Cultural Village (SCV) is a refreshing and unique "living museum" on a sprawling 17-acre site at the foothills of the legendary Mount Santubong. It has seven representative ethnic houses - Bidayuh Longhouse, Iban Longhouse, the Penan Hut, the Orang Ulu Longhouse, the Melanau House, the Malay House and Chinese Farm House. These houses are built according to authentic styles and replete with real, traditional artifacts. SCV is known as a "living museum" because natives live in its houses and make handicrafts. A trip here will enable you to gain a comprehensive insight into colourful traditions and cultures of the various races in Sarawak. Watch how the womenfolk make intricate bead-necklaces and baskets and observe their traditional cooking methods. Admire the refined skills of their male counterpart in handling the deadly blowpipe, making the Parang ilang (ceremonial sword) or casting their fishing nets into the man-made lake. Watch daily live performances highlighting the many vibrant dances of the people of Sarawak from an air-conditioned theatre.

After lunch, depart for Kuching City tour to see the places of attraction around this historical city.

Drive to see the **gigantic cat statue**, the mascot of Kuching city at Padungan before cruising through **China Town**. The route passes through the superbly-designed **St. Joseph Cathedral**, the **Syariah Court**, **Satok Market** and traditional **Malay houses** built on stilts. Make a photostop at the magnificent looking **Mosque** built by the river bank.

Drive pass **Gambier Street** (famous for spices), look out for the **Old Colonial Law Court House** - complete with a **Clock Tower** and a **granite obelisk** built in memory of Rajah Charles Brooke. Across the river, is a good view of the majestic **Astana** (1870) – the former palace of the White Rajahs and the commanding **State Assembly Building**. Take a short walk at the **Waterfront** or **Main Bazaar** for shopping or drop-in at the **Chinese Museum**. Special visit to **Kampung Gersik**, famous for its **Sarawak layered cake (Kek Lapis)** cottage industry. After tour transfer to your hotel.

*Note 1 - Photostop -Gigantic Cat Status, Malay Village, Old Mosque, Clock Tower, Waterfront, Chinese Museum and Kg. Gersik*

#### Day 4 Departure (B)

Morning,