

## Iban Longhouse Experience

**DURATION:** 3 DAYS 2 NIGHTS

**CAPACITY:** 1 0 0 PAX ( BATANG AI LONGHOUSE RESORT, MANAGED BY HILTON )  
: 8 0 PAX ( IF STAYING AT TRADITIONAL LONGHOUSE )

### Day 1

#### Arrival

Get ready for a fantastic longhouse experience! The morning journey to the jetty takes about 4 hours, where guests will pass by some pleasant scenery that includes paddy fields, pepper plantations and traditional villages before hitting a tiny town called Lachau for lunch. There, guests will find Lachau Bazaar where they can purchase some local souvenirs for the longhouse community when they visit.



On arrival at the jetty, it's a 20-minute ferry ride across the lake before they check into the comfort of the Batang Ai Longhouse Resort, Managed by Hilton where welcome drinks and cold towels await their arrival.



#### Evening

Guests are invited to a Headhunter theme dinner, where guests will be clad in sarong and Nipah leaves complete with headgear and wristband, just like the natives. They will take a 5-minute walk from the resort to an open garden area dotted with tiki torches and hurricane lamps.

#### ENHANCEMENTS

- ☞ Along the way, warriors will “kidnap” a male member of the group (a VIP by default) and dress him with warrior garb and have him reappear at the dinner table. This VIP will then be “married” to a local Iban girl and the Iban Chief will be invited to do the traditional miring (wedding) ceremony.
- ☞ 30-minute local cultural performance by the Ibans and the Warriors. The menu for the evening will be an open grill with salads and desserts.

#### NOTE

*Guests can opt to stay at a traditional longhouse for the ultimate experience. Guests will board native longboats at the river that will take them to an Iban Longhouse village. This river is home to the famous Iban tribe, who were once fearsome warriors and pirates. Today, they cultivate their living by farming, fishing and hunting in the lush rainforest. Once guests reach the longhouse in the late afternoon, they will enjoy a simple dinner before an evening of traditional music and dance starts, accompanied by rounds and rounds of tuak, a native rice wine. Finally, they'll spend the night in the guesthouse.*

## Day 2

After a buffet breakfast at hotel, it's off for a day with the Ibans.

### Morning

Getting there is an approximately one-hour native longboat ride that takes guests upstream, under trees and against the shooting rapids before arriving at the destination. At the longhouse, the Iban Warrior and Iban Maiden will welcome guests along the riverbank with traditional drums and gongs and walk them through each room of the families that live in the longhouse. Guests will then be seated at the Chief's Quarters in the middle of the longhouse where welcome drinks are served, namely tuak, the locally brewed rice wine. The longhouse Chief will then perform a welcoming ceremony with gongs and drums and a hornbill dance.

Guests can mingle with the longhouse folks and witness their daily activities at the longhouse before a local lunch is served.

Gear up for an easy walk in the jungle. Guests will ride a boat across to the other side of riverbank, and begin the 45-minute walk into the forest. They will be guided by our local nature guide as they visit some old rubber and fruit tree gardens before walking to the Iban graveyard, where the guide will explain the Iban community's death and burial ceremony. After visiting the Iban graveyard, it's back to the longboat to return to the comfort of the hotel resort.



### Other activities after lunch include

☞ Blowpipe demonstration by the longhouse community

It's finally time to say goodbye to the longhouse folks and take a ferry ride back to the jetty where the group will be heading back to Kuching. At Kuching, guests will be dropped off at their hotel for lunch, or alternatively they can have it at the Kuching International Airport before their onward flight.

### NOTE

*The journey back takes approximately 4 – 4.5 hours. Please take this into consideration when booking your flights.*