



Reforestation with the Penan Tribe with Moving Mountains in Borneo

Information Guide

February 2016

Moving Mountains: Reforestation with the Penan Tribe in Borneo

Moving Mountains (MM) is an international development charity working in East Africa, Nepal and Borneo delivering development solutions to social, economic and environmental problems. MM works in partnership with local communities to identify solutions together and ensures that local ownership is at the forefront of all their programs.

MM is affiliated with Adventure Alternative (AA), an award winning responsible adventure travel company with an emphasis on sustainable tourism. AA directly supports the communities where they take their trips by ploughing the profits back into the communities through their work with MM. AA employs local staff and invests in their training and development to ensure they have the opportunity to create a long term career out of tourism.



Read more about Moving Mountains and their wonderful work here: <http://movingmountainstrust.org/>

Program Overview

- Learn about the devastating effects of deforestation and the impacts it is having on the environment and indigenous peoples livelihoods in Borneo
- Visit the reforestation program supported by MM and learn about the joint efforts being made to combat deforestation
- Assist the Penan people with seed planting, data collecting, tree planting and site preparation and experience first hand the challenges faced to address the issues of deforestation
- Learn about the Penan peoples indigenous culture and their incredible connection to the rainforest

Program Details

Deforestation is taking place at an unprecedented rate in Borneo, for timber, pulp, rubber, minerals and the massive international demand for palm oil. The Penan tribe of the Sarawak region of Borneo face a continued struggle against deforestation and the loss of their native culture and the importance of preserving and learning from the indigenous people across the globe has never been stronger.

This program provides a unique opportunity to live and work with the Penan people whose forest is gradually being cut from around them. In a partnership designed to support communities through sustainable tourism and education, Moving Mountains funds a forest enrichment program where they support the local Penan people to plant trees for money instead of cutting them down. The reforestation project plants up to 15,000 trees every year in logged areas and is used to build tree nurseries, provide vital training in ethnobotany and help develop the site for a long term future. You will assist the Penan People in the management of this program which includes collecting seeds, looking after the seedlings and then transplanting them into logged areas.



Living in the local community you will have the opportunity to spend time with the Penan Tribe to learn about the changes they have seen in recent years and how these changes are having a direct effect on their traditional livelihood and culture.



UTS:BUILD

The aim of this program is to educate the participants about the devastating effects of deforestation, the efforts being made to reduce it and what change you can make it in your daily life to help combat it. The program also aims to teach participants about responsible and sustainable tourism through learning about the Moving Mountains and Community partnership.

It is very important to note this is a very challenging program in the heart of the Sarawak jungle, and all participants need to be well prepared and understand the nature of the trip. Travel to reach the Penan tribe will require trekking through the jungle which will be hot and humid, sometimes on muddy and slippery paths, with a lot of hills. The terrain is tough going and the program will be very physical on a daily basis.

Food will be collected from the forest and will be simple, healthy and organic. Expect lots of rice and wonderful jungle vegetables such as jungle fern and wild ginger flower.

Accommodation will be in simple homes when staying with the Penan Tribe, and mid way through the program you will spend a few days in the jungle with the Penan learning survival skills from the experts. During these days you will sleep in hammocks.

At the end of the program you will have two days to explore the town of Kuching visiting museums and a river trip to see some wildlife. You will also visit the orangutan rehabilitation centre to learn about these incredible animals and the threat to their survival due to the rapid deforestation that is destroying their habitat.



Program Dates

3-18 February 2016

Program Cost

£995 (Approx. AUD \$2,140) Trip costs payable to Adventure Alternative

£300 (Approx. AUD \$645) Moving Mountains fundraising target.

Travel Grants

The travel grant available is \$1,500. Please note a minimum of 6 people are required for this program to go ahead.

OS-HELP loan

Extra financial support can be gained by applying for an [OS-Help](#) loan if applicable.

INCLUDED IN PROGRAM COST:

- Expedition guide and venture leader and AA/MM office backup and support
- Organisation and staffing from the AA office and the local Penan people, covering all of their costs for guiding, translating and hosting visitors in their homes
- All food and meals during the trip, which includes any food eaten in homes in the village
- All accommodation/activities as stated
- Longboats in the Penan area and all other river transport and 4x4's as needed
- Internal flights from Kota Kinabalu to the jungle airstrip by small light aircraft & return, as well as any airport transfers
- Jungle survival course and community interaction activities in the Penan Peace Park
- Travel and medical insurance through UTS Travel Insurance

NOT INCLUDED IN PROGRAM COST:

- International airfares from Sydney to Kota Kinabalu (Approx. \$800)
- Visa application costs
- Vaccinations required
- Personal expenses

Who can apply

This fantastic trip is open to UTS:BUiLD students with:

- A passion for and interest in the Environment and sustainable tourism
- Ideally studying a degree in a relevant area such as Environmental Science or Tourism Management
- Good fitness levels, as a lot of trekking in the jungle is involved and physical work is a large focus of this program. You must be willing to get your hands dirty.
- Ability to live in basic conditions in a very remote and challenging environment
- A desire to develop professional skills and knowledge in working with local community development organisations
- An easy going, flexible and independent character with a willingness to take initiative to learn
- A keenness to work hard and adapt to different surroundings and work environments
- Strong team working skills
- A current GPA of 1.5 or over

Requirements

If you are selected you must:

- Attend a pre departure session
- Represent UTS with distinction at all times during the program
- Submit at least two blog posts during the program to UTS to be used on the UTS:BUiLD Abroad Blog
- Submit a reflection piece to BUiLD on your return
- Complete a feedback survey on your return

Next steps

Complete a BUiLD application form online.

Applications close midnight 30 September 2015.

For more information please contact:

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