

## **Experiential Programme Know before you go guide**

We would like to thank you for your interest in joining Bubbles Turtle Conservation Experiential Program at the Perhentian Islands, Malaysia. Through the collaboration with Bubbles Dive Resort and of course our guests, interns and Facebook fans, we have become a community conservation project. The program aims to assist the recovery of sea turtle population through providing education, opportunity, and awareness.

### **Our Goals**

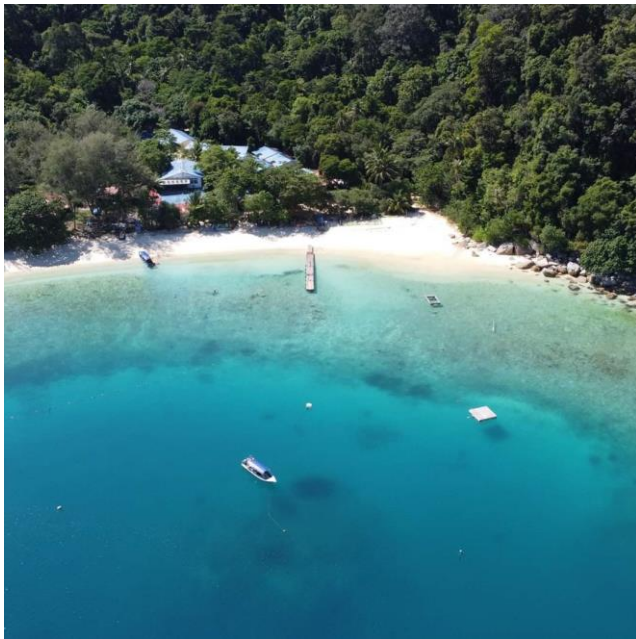
Turtle conservation

- Maintain hatch rate at or above 80%

Awareness

- To provide a look into the sea turtle's living environment through conducting workshops

### **Your destination**



The Perhentian Islands are renowned as being the most beautiful islands in Malaysia and welcome droves of tourists and backpackers each year. The waters are crystal clear whilst the forests are lush green and teeming with life. The islands are in the north east of Peninsular Malaysia in the state of Terengganu. The port to the island is a small village called Kuala Besut.

You will be based in the isolated bay of Tanjung Tukas. Working with us will be Bubbles Dive Resort which is an environmentally conscious tourist resort that is now rated as a 5 star dive shop.

The beauty and the isolation from the outside world is certainly the most attractive quality of the bay. Our main focus are the Green Turtles which can be seen nesting on the beaches from the months of March to October while the release of hatchlings usually start from the month of May.

### **The turtle season**

month nesting	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
nesting adults	Low	Med	Med	High	High	Low	Low	
hatchlings			Low	low	Med	High	High	Med

## How to get here

### **By Plane**

The nearest airport is Kota Bharu Airport (KBR) otherwise known as Sultan Ismail Petra Airport. Flights to Kota Bharu can be arranged through four different airlines. They are Air Asia, Malaysia Airlines, Malindo Air, and Firefly. Depending on the airline you will either fly in from Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 (KLIA2), Subang Airport (SZB).

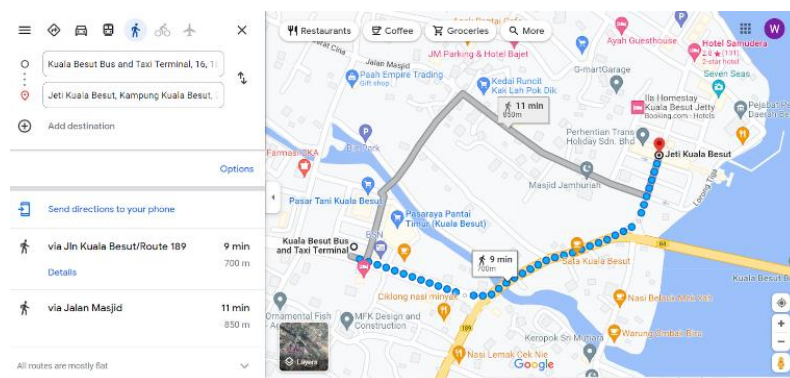
Please note that pickup from the airport can be arranged as long as the flight details are shared beforehand.

### **By Bus**

Some of the bus companies that stop at Kuala Besut from Kuala Lumpur are Perdana Ekspres, Sani Ekspres, and Queen Ekspres. The providers cost around RM45 one way. Buses normally travel overnight and from Kuala Lumpur take between 8 to 10 hours depending on the road conditions. There's a bus station in Kuala Lumpur called Terminal Bersepadu Selatan in which the busses will depart from. The busses usually have services at the same times departing – 2000, 2100, 2130 and 2200 daily.

### Once in Kuala Besut

Go to the Jetty and as you walk towards the jetty you will pass by some shops and restaurants. Our meeting point is at a shop with a sandwich board sign saying 'Bubbles Dive Resort'. Our representative will meet you from there. If our representative is not present due to unforeseen circumstances, there will be a person inside the store and all you have to do is mention that you are a 'Bubbles Project'. It is recommended to arrive at the shop before 10:00am so that the boat can depart for the island around 11:00am.



It will just be a quick walk from the bus stop to the jetty.



When you have arrived at the jetty, look for the store front as shown in the image. A number of the person greeting you will be sent through email before arrival in case you need to contact someone.

### **What to bring**

- T shirts (sport ones are the best).
- Shorts.
- 2 - 3 Light weight trousers, three quarter trousers or long shorts.
- Swim wear.
- Towels.
- Sun block – biodegradable is best.
- Sandals or flip-flops.
- Small back pack.
- Good walking shoes or trainers (this is for the jungle trek).
- Water bottle.
- A hat to keep off the sun.

### **Optional**

- Rash vest to wear in the sea.
- Poncho.
- Red bulb torch (head torches are very useful).
- Camcorder/Digital camera if possible to film turtles.
- Underwater camera.
- Mosquito net.
- Medicines – Anti-histamines, basic first aid kit, sunscreen, after sun, Diarrhoea medication and antibiotics and anti-inflammatory for ear, nose and throat problems. Peroxide and anti-bacterial Dettol can both be useful for cleaning out cuts as wounds can quickly become infected.
- CELCOM Malaysian Sim card – this network has the best coverage at the project site, we suggest you get RM30 of credit. (Recommended if you are coming in from overseas)
- Books

Feel free to ask if you are unsure about what to bring.

## Itinerary and Program

Day 1 Sunday	Day 2 Monday	Day 3 Tuesday	Day 4 Wednesday	Day 5 Thursday	Day 6 Friday
10:00am meetup at Jetty					10:00am check out and feedback
Speedboat transfer					Return boat transfer at 12:00pm
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
Orientation & Check in, Delivery	Hatchery maintenance	Hatchery maintenance	Hatchery maintenance	Clean up & recycling	
Free time	Workshop 1: water safety, snorkelling, skin diving basic	Workshop 2: Turtle nesting habitat	Workshop 3: Shore reef exploration	Online education video presentation	
Hatchery maintenance	Prepare online education video	Prepare online education video	Free time		
	Beach clean	Beach clean	Beach clean		
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	
Turtle talk	Turtle talk	Turtle talk	Turtle talk	Farewell party	
Night Patrol	Night Patrol	Night Patrol	Night Patrol		

Above is the rough schedule of activities that will be conducted for the duration of the experiential program. During orientation and check in, you will be shown around the location where you can get familiar with the picturesque surrounding of the area. As for delivery, since we are all living together on the island we all work together to bring in food and materials to keep the whole operation running.

### **Regular Program**

During the day, other activities are beach cleans, recycling, and hatchery maintenance. As a conservation program, we do our best to improve the environment for the wildlife in the area. We conduct beach cleans to reduce the hazards on the beach that could potentially trap and kill land or marine life in the area. Other than that, we also do our own recycling. Trash that is gathered on the beach is generally sorted before disposal. The sorting will help us tabulate data from the trash collected which can be sent to organizations like clean swell. There is also hatchery maintenance work. Building a hatchery is no easy work as there is constant wear and tear caused by the surrounding environment. We do constant maintenance work on the hatchery to keep the area safe for the incubation of turtle eggs.

During the night, we conduct our nightly turtle talks and turtle patrols. As part of the experiential program, you will get the chance to familiarise yourself with our presentation material and do our part together to spread awareness on marine conservation. You will also get the chance to join us on turtle patrols. This is where we head out to patrol the beach and look out for nesting mother turtles. You will be shown how the team looks for turtles, gather data, identify the mother turtles, move the eggs, and release baby turtles. If all goes well, you will have a chance to gain a little hands on experience working with them.

## **Developmental Workshop**

There are 3 developmental workshops included in this program in which participants can learn more about the coastal environment in the area. Each workshop will have a brief introduction that will run for 30-45 minutes. This will be followed by the practical where participants will be taken into the surrounding area to see real things and record it. This will tie in to the preparation of educational video where participants can select a topic from one of the 3 workshops and prepare a video to be shared on social media.

**Workshop 1** will be an introduction to the exploration of the reefs along with the techniques and safety precautions required. While you are here, this is the best chance there is to learn about the fish and animals that hand around the reef. However doing things safely will allow for a better enjoyment of the natural environment. This workshop focuses on things such as water safety, and buoyancy. You will get the chance to familiarise yourself with equipment such as the mask and snorkel. If everything goes well, there might even be the opportunity to explore more advance techniques such as skin diving to explore even further into the reef.

**Workshop 2** focuses more on the shoreline ecosystem. While seemingly plain, there is a vast interconnected web on this part of our surrounding. It is also the nesting location for sea turtles where they come up to dig their nest and deposit their eggs. Things such as the trees will affect the soil and sand in the area which indirectly affects the nesting turtles. The root network is also what partially keep the beach from being completely eroded by the waves. Among this habitat there many creatures that make it their home. This will range from the small such as shoreline crabs, ants, gobies to the large such as monitor lizards.

**Workshop 3** will build upon what is learnt from workshop 1. Once you are more familiar with the water it will be easier to spot the marine life that reside within our bay. You will be able to see and learn about the corals that make up the reef. Among the reef you will be able to see small creatures such as barnacles, anemone fish, sea stars to larger creatures such as trevallies, and sharks. All this marine life make their home in the coral reef in which we will explore to learn more about.

## **Whilst at the program**

Listen to, and follow, the instructions of your facilitators and the rules for the resort and dive centre. On many of the days you will be going to bed or waking up early – change over for duties is around 3am. It is vital to the other team members that you are always punctual. Remember you are working in the tropics. The temperature can exceed 40c so ensure you drink plenty of water and wear sun block. Dehydration and heat stroke is a serious risk and all precautions must be taken to prohibit them.

## **Program Information**

Currently the experiential program will be run for one week interval of 6Days 5Nights at set days. The program will start on Sunday and end on Friday the following week.

Listed below are some of the things included in this package per person:

- 1) A return speedboat transfer between Kuala Besut and Bubbles Turtle Conservation, Pulau Perhentian.
- 2) 5 Breakfast, 5 Lunch, 5 Dinner + Drinking water.
- 3) Bed in the quad share, fan room for 5 nights.
- 4) Participation in Bubbles Turtle Conservation Project
- 5) 3 specialised environmental education workshops
- 6) Participation on online conservation project
- 7) E-certificate of participation

The experiential program will cost RM1000 per week per person. There is a deposit of RM500 to lock in the dates that are selected (on the application form). The price mentioned does not include:

- 1) Marine Park Fee
- 2) Besut District Council Fee
- 3) SST 6%
- 4) Kota Bharu airport transfer
- 5) Other expenses not mentioned above

The refund and cancellation policy is as below

- 1) 1 month prior to booking date - 100% full refund of the amount paid
- 2) Less than 30 days – 50% cancellation fee from the amount paid
- 3) Within 14 days – 10% refund of the amount paid
- 4) Less than 7 days – Non-refundable

## **Intake dates for experiential program**

APRIL			
Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>

MAY			
Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday
30 <sup>th</sup> (APR) – 5 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>
Sunday-Friday			
28 <sup>th</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> (JUN)			

JUNE			
Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday
4 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>

JULY			
Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>

AUGUST			
Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday
30 <sup>th</sup> (JUL) – 5 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>
Sunday-Friday			
27 <sup>th</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup> (SEP)			

SEPTEMBER			
Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>

OCTOBER			
Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday	Sunday-Friday
1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	

### Disclaimer

At the end of the day, we are at the heart of it a turtle conservation program. Most of our work and efforts will be focus at night where turtles come up to nest. This is why we leave the mornings open as it is vital for us to get our rest to maintain a good level of health. Additionally we have to keep in mind that we live on an island and we are subject to whatever weather that may roll in. We can try to keep flexible with our schedule but it will be better to take precaution. The schedule and activity mentioned is subject to change.

