



BRUNEI INDONESIA MALAYSIA PHILIPPINES
EAST ASIAN GROWTH AREA

Equator Asia is right in the middle of earth,
at the center of the largest cluster of
archipelagos, spanning 1.54 million square
kilometers of land, with more than 55
million people, composed of four countries.

It includes the entire Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam,
the Indonesian Provinces of Kalimantan, Sulawesi,
Maluku, Irian Jaya and Gorontalo, the Malaysian
States of Sabah and Sarawak and the Federal
Territory of Labuan, and the Philippines islands of
Mindanao and Palawan. Sharing many common
features, this area can be best described as the Heart
of Biodiversity where the richest marine resources
and the two of the four largest remaining tropical
rainforests in the world can be found.



Equator Asia is at the core of the Coral Triangle where 76% of the world's coral species and where the richest coral reef fish diversity can be found. It has six of the world's seven marine turtle species, including the leatherback marine turtle. The Coral Triangle is frequented by the blue whale, the largest animal to ever live on Earth. Also, the Equator Asia is home to the Heart of Borneo which covers more than 20 million hectares of equatorial rain forest. It includes some of the most biologically diverse habitats on earth, and is one of only two places on earth where elephants, orang-utans, rhinoceros and clouded leopards share the same territory. It is also a mysterious place, with an astounding average of three new species discovered every month from 1995-2005.

Politically, it is known as the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia- Malaysia- Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) which was formally launched in 1994. It aims to become a premier sustainable tourism destination and a Food Basket of Asia.

EQUATOR ASIA



INDONESIA

Indonesians refer to their homeland as Tanah Air Kita, which means "Our Land and Water." This refers to its geographical makeup consisting of 18,108 islands with a total land mass of 1.91 million square kilometers connected by six seas covering more than 3 million square kilometers. About 6,000 islands are inhabited with Java accounting for more than half the nation's population.

The climate is mostly equatorial. The temperature ranges between 16-35 degrees Celsius (61-91 degrees F) with humidity ranging from 60-90 percent. There are two seasons, the rainy monsoon season which usually lasts from November through May, followed by the dry season which usually lasts from June through October.

Indonesia is divided into 30 provinces, which include 2 special regions and 1 special capital city district which are further sub-divided into smaller entities of districts, sub-districts, villages and neighborhoods.

Kalimantan



Minahasa Lagoon

Sulawesi



Riam Berasap Waterfalls



Kima Bajo



Bunaken



MALAYSIA

STATE OF SABAH – Land Below the Wind!
Situating on the beautiful island of Borneo, Sabah is one of the thirteen states which Malaysia is made of. Sabah is the second largest state in Malaysia and shares the island of Borneo with Sarawak, Brunei, and Indonesian Kalimantan. Ideal for backpackers, Sabah is richly blessed with nature diversity, unique cultures, fun adventure, beautiful beaches, and fantastic cuisines for the adventurous taste buds. We have it all, from the world's largest flower - the Rafflesia, one of the highest mountains in South East Asia - Mount Kinabalu, to one of the world's top dive sites - Sipadan Island. Not only will you be amazed by the places to see and things to do here, you will also be treated with unique Sabahan hospitality. Explore the unique culture and tradition of Sabah and get ready to experience sweet memories to last a lifetime!

STATE OF SARAWAK – Land of the Hornbills!
Sarawak is Malaysia's largest state and is endowed with the world's richest and most diverse ecosystem. Located on the exotic island of Borneo, Sarawak's ancient rainforest canopies the world's largest flower, countless species of flora and fauna, yet to be discovered inhabiting the rainforest. For those who enjoy it at its best, Sarawak's rainforest is one of the most diverse and protected ecosystem in the world. A former colony of Britain, Sarawak gained independence in 1963 and since then it has prospered into a vibrant state with interesting skyline that is made up of a mixture of colonial influence and modern architecture. In fact the intricate blend of modern design and colonial architecture has become an attraction for visitors to this state that has a population of 2.5 million.

Sabah

Sarawak

Labuan



FEDERAL TERRITORY OF LABUAN -
The island of Labuan Beckons!
Labuan is truly a tourism destination with a difference. There's something here for everyone from families to business people out to just get away for the weekend. From divers to history buffs. Come and let yourself be charmed by an island unlike any other... The name Labuan was derived from the Malay word 'pelabuhan' or 'labuhan' which means port or anchorage. On April 16, 1984, Labuan was proclaimed a Federal Territory of Malaysia. As a Federal Territory, Labuan comprises Labuan Island and the territories with 4.8 km of Labuan, including Pulau Rusukan Besar, Pulau Rusukan Kecil, Pulau Kuraman, Pulau Papan and Pulau Daat.

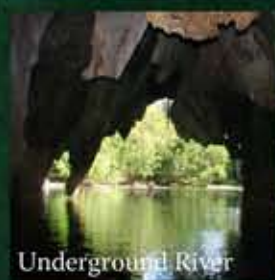


PHILIPPINES

With over 7,000 islands in the Philippines, it's never too hard to get a glimpse of the tropical sea. Hidden surf spots, uninhabited islands, reefs and wreck diving all make up a diverse water world. On land there's an equal variety: volcanic peaks, lush mountain rice terraces and tropical jungle. While development and tourism are changing the landscape, Palawan, Mindano and the Sulu Islands remain some of the least developed areas of the country, where land and water wildlife, though under threat, are being preserved. Mindanao and Palawan composes various ethno-linguistic tribes that will surely ignite the interest of visitors. Cultural diversity is being celebrated and festivals may be experienced throughout the year. Exploring these regions will reward visitors who are flexible, adventurous and informed. Connections between islands are made by sea and air. As with travel anywhere, be sensible and prepared and you'll enjoy a gleaming, sun-drenched, friendly place.



El Nido



Underground River



Dakak Beach Resort



Lakewood



Santa Cruz Island

Palawan

Mindanao



Mt. Apo



Philippine Eagle



Zipline, Lake Sebu



Lagbasan Cave, Sultan Kudarat



Enchanted River



Britania Group of Islets

