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Places of interest in Sabah are many and diverse. You can find them everywhere; from the top of the mountain to the bottom of the ocean. Literally.

Say Survivor Island and Pulau Tiga will come to mind. After all this island was the site of the television reality show series, broadcasted all over the world. This park is located off the South West Coast of Sabah and covers an area of 158 square kilometres. The island is under the Sabah Park Board of Trustees but an agreement was signed with a company to develop 20 acres there.

Because of this, a resort aptly called Pulau Tiga Resort is now located there. The beauty of nature here is absolutely breathtaking. There are the coral reefs, all seven kilometres of it to explore and then there are the sharks, barracudas and colourful coral fish to play tag with.

Pulau Tiga is an ideal getaway for those who love nature at its best. Come out of that island and travel inland into the interior for about five hours from Kota Kinabalu. One of the best places to enjoy nature in totality is the 560 kilometres-long Kinabatangan River.

There are homestays there for accommodations. The houses that are involved in this programme are by the river so just hop on a boat and cruise down the river or up... you will have a chance to spot interesting animals like the long tailed and pig-tailed macaques, gibbons and of course the much stared at Proboscis Monkey. If you are lucky, you will even be able to glimpse the occasional Oriental Pied Hornbill, the diving darters and egrets. And if you are very lucky, you will be able to see the Borneo Pygmy Elephant.

Other animals that you may be able to see are crocodiles, wild pigs, deer, civets, otters and the stinky badgers.

Get to the wetlands to see more of these animals. The mangrove swamps at the Weston wetlands can be an interesting place to look at. There you will be able to see the nipah palm and the mangroves. Besides that you may chance upon fishermen and villagers catching crabs and catching fish the traditional ways. As usual mangrove swamps are teeming with wildlife, you just have to look. Of course there are other mangrove swamps that are just as interesting, one being the Bird Sanctuary at Kota Kinabalu. you will be able to see birds, including the egrets there.

But then again, these birds can be seen anywhere.

Anyway, there are even a few families of monkeys just at the hills near Tanjung Lipat, or the harbour. Look up at the trees and you will see them just lounging around. There are other animals of course that just



loungue along with them such as squirrels. There are many other places you can visit to enjoy nature in Sabah.

From the rivers to cool waterfalls; to watch the wildlife that lives around them. There are several places you can go to. The Kionsom Waterfall in Inanam, about ten kilometres from Kota Kinabalu is one such place that should be visited. The waterfall is quite beautiful, although you will not be able to see much wildlife except for birds and the occasional squirrels. This is because it (waterfall) is well visited and to boot it all there is a village just nearby. Little boys with slings can put paid to visiting wildlife. The main waterfall is not the only nice features there though. The tributaries and the streams from this waterfall are quite interesting and pleasant too. In fact if you want to picnic, these places are better because its quieter.

Then there is the waterfall in Kibunut which is at the Babagon area of Penampang. This place is very beautiful, what with the thunders of falling water and the cool air. You really have to go off the road for this site, but it's worth it. Then there is the Mahua Waterfall in Tambunan. This thundering water falls to a natural pool. The natural pool is surrounded by rocks that have semi flat surfaces, so you can actually sit down and have a picnic on them. Ponder your next destination as you sit and enjoy the waterfalls...a trek in the jungle of Tabin Wildlife Sanctuary maybe or perhaps be more adventurous and set out for Trus Madi. The choice is yours.

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