



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CHINA KEI WAN PRIMARY SCHOOL (ALDRICH BAY)

July
2024

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Graduation Learning Tour 2023/2024 - Sabah

We used to have a graduation learning tour for Primary Six students every year before the pandemic. After four years, we finally got a chance to resume this meaningful learning trip this year, and it has also become a very special one that we brought our kids to Sabah for the very first time.

To make our first trip after these four years special, we thought about where we should go for a long time, and we decided to bring our kids to a city that our school had never been - Sabah. And it turned out to be an unforgettable trip for all the P6s and the teachers. We had never thought we would bring such a large group to a city that we had never been; we had never imagined that we could literally go into the water and plant corals; we had never experienced a night boat trip with our friends to see those beautiful fireflies. All these were new and memorable to all of us.

This trip has not only made a sweet memory in their primary school life, but also has inspired them to cherish what they have, love and protect nature.



Day 1 of Sabah Trip

by Aden Wong (6D)



After waiting for a few months, it was finally time to go to Sabah. I was very excited to enjoy this wonderful trip.

After a couple hours, we finally landed in Sabah. Although it was hotter than Hong Kong, I was still very excited to go to places in Sabah. It was already late at that moment, so we went to a restaurant for dinner. There were many tables in the restaurant, and even an outdoor area as well. It was the time that I tasted Malaysian food for the first time. It was a delicious experience. We could even enjoy the sunset in the restaurant. Then, we went shopping in a supermarket. There were a lot of sections, and there were many products to buy. We bought some valuable souvenirs too. We got very tired and went to the hotel at night. I was very excited about what would come the next day.



Day 2 of Sabah Trip

by Xavier Zhang (6D)



Today was a dirty day. In the morning, we took a speed boat to the Rainbow Island. It was mostly exciting but a bit scary. The view of the sea was nice, but we saw a lot of rubbish floating on it. The ride was surprisingly fast and we got there in less than 10 minutes.

As we walked on the bridge to the beach of the island, I could see the land beneath the sea. The water was as clear as crystal. After all of the groups gathered, we could finally start today's learning. First, a man told us about the importance of corals and coral planting. A coral grows into a coral reef after 6 months. After that, they grow one inch each year! He told us how to plant a coral into the sea. Although the coral was dead, it still demonstrated how the planting works. We first needed a rope to tie the corals on. Next we just made a hole on the rope and put the coral in it. After that, we tied the rope on a stick that was in the water.

A few minutes later, we could finally try it by ourselves. We tied the coral onto the rope and went to the beach. The two instructors Lulu and Marco taught us more about coral planting. Then, some student volunteers went into the water and tied the rope to the stick in the water. I was one of them. We just needed to tie a knot on the wooden stick!

After the planting, Marco showed us a living coral and its parts. We went to have free time and played on the beach. We all felt tired and hungry by then, so we had lunch. There were many local dishes for us to taste. The fried banana was surprisingly good.

Lunch was finished and we took the speed boat back to the hotel. This time the boat was different and the driver did fancy tricks. Our group was the first to get to the hotel, so we changed our clothes first. After that, we took the shuttle bus to Cocoa Kingdom.

At Cocoa Kingdom, we made a chocolate cookie and learned about the process of making chocolate. We bought different chocolate souvenirs as well of course. Everyone talked about how badly they'd made the chocolate cookie as we got them back.

The next stop was interesting. Before we enjoyed the sunset at the beach, we went to a Marine and Aqua Aquarium by the UMS (University Malaysia Sabah). We learnt about sea creatures. The biggest fish in Sabah is the Grouper! We were very shocked at the size! We saw the skeleton of a whale as well!

It was time to see the sunset! We waited for this all day! The perfect time of the sunset (if you want to take photos) was from 6:10 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. We took an opportunity to take as many beautiful photos as we could. The sun was about to fully set, and it was a perfect time to go for dinner.

It was time for local food again! This time was Bak Kut Teh! It had some body parts of a pig. It was amazing and delicious! There were 3 students that had their birthday during the trip! The teachers gave them each a cake. Happy Birthday!

Today was full of happiness. We tried a lot of new kinds of food and learnt many interesting things. I want to thank all the teachers who scheduled this trip for us. It was amazing!



Day 3 of Sabah Trip

by Loren Lee (6D)



It was the third day of our trip to Sabah. Today, we visited a place full of excitement and knowledge, the Kota Kinabalu Wetland.

We arrived at the wetland at about 11 a.m. When we took our first few steps towards the wetland, I was fascinated by the wildness of the place. A wooden sign and gate were located with so many varieties of trees and plants. After a few photos, we met the tour guides. We were split into seven groups and each group had its own tour guide. After a little information about the place, we headed into the countless trees.

When we walked into the woods, at first glance, what attracted my eyes was actually not the woods, it was the amount of trash floating and sticking in the trees. There was so much trash that was dumped and stuck in the gaps between the tree branches and roots. The view reminded me of what we have done mindlessly in our daily lives, buying plastic products and disposable products, some of us even dumped trash into the sea and rivers. I tried to ignore the trash and looked carefully into the mud as we walked through a bridge. So often I saw holes in the mud. Our tour guide explained to us that the holes were the homes of different crabs such as ghost crabs and hermit crabs. Just when I was looking at a giant hole, a ghost crab appeared and walked slowly to a tree and hid itself. I thought I was lucky to see that until we all spotted three or more crabs on the way. I hoped I would see something rare!



'Tree, tree and trees.' I mumbled as we sped pass the mangroves. In the past ten minutes, we only spotted trees and crabs. Our tour guide told us that not seeing birds was very normal. But I wanted to see birds! Just when we walked past the river, an elegant white bird stood in the river, it was a pelican! We took pictures of it and kept moving until our tour guide stopped and pulled an aerial root from one of the mangroves. Well, it turned out the aerial root was not an aerial root, it was a little sapling (of course it was already dead). Our tour guide explained to us that mangroves have different methods to survive in the salty wetlands. First, mangroves evolved to let saplings grow on the grown one's branches to keep them safe from the salty water that might kill them. When the sapling grew to the stage which it could survive on its own, it broke the branch and started growing on land. Second, the mangroves' roots were different from many other trees, its roots were visible above the water. Our tour guide explained that mangroves were in this kind of form because of its habitat. The salty water didn't contain enough oxygen for the mangroves' roots to breath, so the mangroves' roots evolved to be higher than the water level. Life is fascinating!

We ended our journey after 1 hour. It was an unforgettable experience which taught me to care for the environment and how amazing and beautiful nature could be!

Day 4 of Sabah Trip

by **Scarlett Chan (6D)**



It was our last day in Sabah! I would miss Sabah very much.

Today we went to Mari Mari Cultural Village. We divided into four groups and each group had a leader to explain the culture of Sabah.

Our leader led us to lots of houses. In each place, there were food and things for us to try.

I tried a kind of food that was fried, it was sweet and tasty. The people there gave me two to eat! We visited some other houses and took many photos. We learnt that in Sabah, girls got to sleep in a bed and boys had to sleep on the floor.

In the last house, we met the most dangerous group of Sabah humans. The group leader screamed when he saw us, he was so loud that he scared us. There was a wooden trampoline inside the house. We had to hold hands and jumped to try hitting something that was on the roof. It was fun and exciting.

Before we left the village, we watched a dance show. The villagers danced with music, they were awesome. They invited us to dance on stage too! Although I didn't go on stage, watching them dancing was also fun.

But happy time passed quickly, we had to go. At the airport, the teachers let us buy things that we wanted. I bought a chocolate drink and finished it before boarding.

I chatted and shared my memories of our journeys with my friends on the plane. It was truly a joyful trip! I will always remember this.

by **Bella Leung (6D)**



29th March was the last day we stayed in Sabah. We felt fully unwilling to leave and we also experienced a lot...

In the morning, we left the hotel with our luggage. We started to go to the most special spot in our trip, Mari Mari Cultural Village. We tried a lot of ethnic snacks there. One special thing was that most of their snacks were made with pandan. We also tried a new kind of snack, Kuih jala, which was a crispy, sweet tiny food. There was also a place that I thought was very creepy and unforgettable. The villages stored their rice in their homes, and it is named 'Tangkob'. It was huge, but also a trap for thieves. If the thieves sneaked in and tried to steal the rice, they were likely to get stuck in the trap which was placed in the 'Tangkob'. When the owner of the house discovered a thief, he would chop off their head and skin them. They also place them on the 'Tangkob' to scare other thieves. We also tried to have the 'bamboo dance'. That was challenging but interesting too!

After lunch, it was finally time to leave Sabah. We arrived at the airport, but I could feel how reluctant I was to leave this place that brought me so much joy every step of the way and every moment...Even with a cup of Starbucks, I could feel how friendly Sabah people were!

A few hours passed and we finally arrived at our home, Hong Kong. I took a step back and looked at the plane. I could feel that everyone who walked past me was so reluctant to leave Sabah. This place had brought us many precious moments and happy memories. Now we'll remember those times and let's hope we can have another chance to visit Sabah once again.

by **Mavis Man Hei Yan (6D)**



On the last day of this unforgettable journey, we continued to explore the raw nature of Sabah.

In the morning, we had an abundant breakfast buffet. It was tasty. After enjoying the dishes, we got on the coach to go to Mari Mari Cultural Village. It is situated amidst a remote forest setting in Kionsom. We were guided to visit the houses of each different tribe and learn about their lifestyle, culture and history.

First of all, we visited Kadazan-Dusun. It was the largest ethnic group in Sabah. They believed all objects have a spirit or soul. They had different celebrations, like the Harvest Festival. It's to give thanks to their god.

Next, we visited Bajau. It was the second largest ethnic group in Sabah. The people, originally from the Philippines-Sulawesi, landed on Sabah's shores 500 years ago. They ate many kinds of fish, sea urchins and octopi.

Finally, we visited Murut. Murut was the third largest ethnic group in Sabah. They were also known as 'Head Hunters'. They wore traditional clothes and jewelry.

In this visit, I tried Sabah's local food and drinks such as penjaram and pandan juice. Penjaram was a sweet and round cake with soft and chewy texture. It is crispy, but fluffy. Pandan juice was a bit like wheatgrass juice, but sweeter.

We also watched a show performed by the ethnic groups. They danced, sang and played musical instruments. It was a wonderful experience!

After that, we had lunch in the village. It had dessert, fruit and different courses. It tasted good. Next, we went to a souvenir shop. It sold a lot of things such as tea bags and necklaces. Finally, I bought a bracelet which had a flower on it. It was beautiful.

At last, we went to the airport. When we were waiting, we finished our logbook. We wanted to record our happy memories. I've learnt a lot on this trip and harvested different knowledge, like how to protect the ecological environment. It was an amazing journey.



Our Precious Moments (Group 1)

We have done a lot of things during our trip to Sabah. On the second day, we went to a beach. We played together and all of us chatted happily. The sunset in Sabah was truly breathtaking and it is worth it for all to witness. We think it is the most beautiful and colourful painting we've ever seen.

When the sun starts to dip down below the horizon, the sky in Sabah puts on a spectacular show. The colours kept changing and dancing, going from orange to red to purple to blue, until the whole sky got dark. It was as if the sun was putting on a special show just for us, before it said goodbye for the day. It was the perfect way to end the day, and it's something we will never forget. We took a lot of photos of the fabulous sunset and we had so much fun with our groupmates too.

On the third day, we rode a boat to the river to see the fireflies. These amazing little creatures live in the lush, green forests and rivers of Sabah. As the sun starts to set and the world gets dark, the fireflies spring to life, blinking their soft, glowing lights on and off. Some of us tried to catch the fireflies although it was very hard. The fireflies were very small and when the fireflies gently landed on our hands, it was such a special experience. The gentle tickle of their tiny legs as they crawled across our palms connected us to these remarkable creatures. That feeling of being so close to the fireflies was truly amazing and unforgettable.



What was even more amazing is that the fireflies all worked together to create an incredible light show. They flash their lights together, as if they are all part of one big team. As we watched the fireflies, you even saw them start to gather together in groups. We were just like the special guests in their little firefly party! The fireflies in Sabah are truly magical creatures, and seeing them in action is an experience we will never forget. It was like stepping into a real-life fairy tale, where the trees and the river came alive with dazzling lights.

Those special moments were very precious to us because those were once in a lifetime experiences. We have learnt to cherish the moments we had with our friends. We were really thankful for having this chance to have such an amazing experience with our groupmates and teachers.

Our Precious Moments (Group 2)

Although some of us have been away from Sabah for a long time now, the memories we made there are etched in our minds. Our team's most precious moments were when we acted together, took photos together, and learnt together. We also gained different kinds of knowledge. We were able to enjoy the moment and have fun while exploring new places because enjoying nature helped us let go of our usual stress. We learned about the different characteristics of the Mari Mari Cultural Village. During these precious moments, we learned to cherish the happy times in primary school and the good times with classmates and teachers. This is all the more poignant because, in two months, everyone will part ways and venture into different schools for the future.

One special moment that stands out is when our group was always quiet and orderly, so Miss Tai allowed us to go to the private room for lunch. It seemed that everyone in our group was very proud and excited. At that special moment, we learned that as long as we follow the rules, we will be appreciated. Although this special moment may not have been as happy for the other groups, we can be proud and content for a long time, and it's difficult for us to forget.

We also had an amazing time at the beach, where we learned about corals. The teachers gave us a rope and ten corals. We helped each other tie the corals to the rope. Our teammates were very helpful, and we felt just like a family! We ate Bak Kut Teh on the second night. We chatted happily and enjoyed our precious moments together. These moments helped us know more about our groupmates, and we learned that we should cherish the time spent together with friends.

The most unforgettable moment was when we saw the fireflies. We needed to sit on a boat and look for them. It was 8 o'clock in the evening, so the place was really dark. Some of us were scared. We each caught several fireflies in our hands. Although we could catch them, we couldn't take them home, as this is where they live. We saw many fireflies there. It reminded us of the world we are living in. Although fireflies only live for a week, they still treasure their lives and make the most of it. We also spotted the beautiful stars in the sky. It was amazing. This experience taught us that we have to treasure our lives and make them wonderful. We shouldn't waste any precious moments in our lives.

Through these experiences, we have learned valuable lessons about teamwork, appreciation, and the beauty of nature. We realized the importance of following rules and how it can lead to rewards and recognition. We discovered that working together brings us closer, making us more than just classmates but a family. We learned to appreciate the simple yet profound moments in life, like seeing fireflies or sharing a meal with friends. Most importantly, we understood that life is fleeting, just like the fireflies, and it's up to us to make the most of every moment. These lessons will stay with us as we move forward to new adventures and challenges in different schools.



OUR PRECIOUS MOMENTS (GROUP 3)

We had a lot of happy and unforgettable moments during this study tour. It was a great time to gather and have fun. Our precious moment was visiting Rainbow Island. Rainbow Island was famous for its soft sands and clear water. It was relaxing to stay at the beach. Our task was tying the corals to the rope. It sounded difficult but we worked hard and were very patient to complete the task. After that we planted them into the sea. It was fun. We followed the instructions step by step. We found that leadership and teamwork were very important.

Watching fireflies at night was another special moment during the trip. We rode on a boat to find the fireflies. We were very quiet because we wanted to attract the fireflies to come to us. The fireflies were just like the stars shining in the dark. After waiting for a long time, the tour guide used a torch to attract the fireflies we had a chance to hold some fireflies. When the fireflies started to appear in front of us, all of us shouted, 'Wow!' It was a wonderful experience. We have learnt to be patient so that good things would come. We cherished the moment of watching fireflies. All of us thought that moment was touching. The incredible number of stars and fireflies were just like us. We are all amazing and bright. We keep blinking and shining to make our life complete and meaningful.

In the whole study tour, the most precious moment was seeing the sunset at the beach with our friends. This is the last year we will study in this school and probably the last time we will go on a trip with our friends. The sunset was beautiful, but it ended very fast. I have learnt that time passes very fast, we need to good make use of time. We also have to cherish the time with our teachers and classmates.



Our Precious Moments (Group 4)

During our trip to Sabah, we had a lot of precious moments to share with all of you.

One of them was our visit to Rainbow Island. We took a speedboat to the island. Before we got on the boat, we felt extremely hot as each of us had to wear a life jacket. But when the speedboat started to move, it ran so fast that we needed to grab the pole tightly. All of our hair flew up into the air. After we arrived, we learned about the corals. We followed the coral planting instructions and started to tie the corals onto a rope. Then, we put the corals into the sea. It was such a meaningful experience.

Another special moment was when we saw fireflies together. We got on a boat in groups and went to Kawa Kawa River. Then, the boatman steered the ship into pitch-black darkness. After that, the boatman turned on a torch and made some movements. We saw swarms of fireflies flashing in the forest with green lights. They all flew towards us. We quietly enjoyed this spectacular moment while we were exploring the new place. It was so amazing as it was our first time watching them! We noticed that fireflies usually glow at the back of their bodies and they like to stay close to the lights. We shared what we had seen with our group mates and exchanged our thoughts after the boat ride.

We also enjoyed the last day of our Sabah trip when we visited a cultural village nestled in lush greenery and vibrant flowers. As we approached the village, we almost got our souls scared out of our bodies! There were primitive villagers hiding in the bushes near the entrance, dressed in traditional attire with painted faces. They roared at us very loudly. We were all shocked. However, after the initial shock wore off, we found out that they were actually friendly, and it was great to spend time in the village, learning about their culture and traditions.

We learned several things throughout the trip. We promise to protect the marine ecological environment and care for the Earth. We also need to cherish all the things we have as everything has its own value. We would also like to thank our teachers for taking care of us. We hope to go to Sabah again next time!



Our Precious Moments (Group 5)

During the study tour in Sabah, we cherished the moments we spent together. This experience was incredibly special, especially for those who had never had such an opportunity before. We learned, laughed, played, and shared unforgettable memories. We were grateful that our group not only learned but also had fun together.

There were a lot of precious moments in our group. Although the weather was so hot in Sabah, we found that the boat rides in Sabah were really amazing. The first one was called a speedboat because it was very fast. We had a feeling that we were riding on a roller coaster. That boat ride was very exciting and we all enjoyed it. The water splashed on us. Wow! We laughed and talked throughout the whole ride. It was very unforgettable and enjoyable. When we arrived at the Rainbow Island, we still couldn't stop talking about that amazing ride.

On the third day of the tour, we rode on another boat ride after lunch to see the proboscis monkeys. They were an endangered species in Sabah. They had large long noses which looked very cute. However, we could hardly see one. Towards the end of the ride, we were fortunate enough to spot one, and to our surprise, a beautiful rainbow appeared across the sky. We couldn't believe our luck!

After dinner, we went on the next boat ride to see the fireflies that night. We thought that they were rare and could only be seen in non-polluted areas. We were fortunate to see them twinkling in the forest. It was cool to see them blinking and coming towards us. Sometimes they were like signal lights. Other times they were just like tiny little bumps. The scene was so beautiful!



Another precious moment happened as we saw the stunning sunset at Kota Kinabalu Beach. The whole sea was full of colours. We really enjoyed the moment we spent with our classmates. We took photos of the sunset. When we were gazing at the sun, we noticed that the sky and the sun were changing colour – from blue to yellow, yellow to orange, orange to red. It was a meaningful experience for all of us, as it was the first time we had seen such a breathtaking sunset.

From this tour, we learnt that we need to be thankful and cherish what we have and look after each other when needed. Besides, we should protect our natural environment to make the world a better place.

Our Precious Moments (Group 6)

On 26th March, 2024, we went to a seafood restaurant to have a dinner together and it was our first time trying Sabah's food. We enjoyed the food because we could have dinner together with friends. In Sabah, we noticed that there were not many tall buildings, and the roads were wider than those in Hong Kong. We also talked to local people. It was really a cool experience. At night, we stayed in hotel rooms, and we were happy to share a room with our friends. We learnt to take care of ourselves and help each other on the first day.

One of our precious moments during our trip was going to Rainbow Island. We planted corals together in groups. When we first touched the corals, we found that they were rough and prickly. We took turns to tie a small piece of coral to the planting rope, and then our group leaders lowered the rope into the sea. Although other groupmates couldn't go into the sea, we constantly encouraged our group leaders to finish the task. After that, we had a lesson about the corals and the ocean. We have learnt that we needed to participate actively in protecting the ecology.



We thought the most special and unique moment was watching the fireflies at night. Our group boarded the boat with anticipation. The boat was officially launched. We were excited. At first, we couldn't see any fireflies. But gradually, we saw thousands of yellow dots that looked like stars and lighted up the dark sky. It was gorgeous and calming. The staff held torches and imitated the lights of fireflies, so more and more fireflies were attracted to come to our boat. We were very excited when the fireflies flew close to us. It was a great experience because it was the first time for most of us. We have learnt to protect nature otherwise a lot of species would soon be extinct.



Our Precious Moments (Group 7)

In this Sabah trip, we had a lot of precious moments. During the trip, our groupmates went to different places like mangroves, Kawa Kawa Village and the chocolate factory. We had a lot of experiences, but the most special moment was going to the Kota Kinabalu Wetland and visiting the mangroves. On that day, the weather was hot and we sweated a lot, but we still had a lot of fun while we were exploring this place. We also learnt about the mangroves and the animals living there. We enjoyed learning in the mangroves. After we walked for a while, we saw several mudskippers on the mud. We were curious about them. We also tried to taste the leaves there. They were very salty.

The other special moment for our group was seeing the sunset on the beach. We bought coconut drinks and sat on the beach. The view of the beach was super cool and fantastic. We were amazed by the wonderful view of the sunset on the beach. We took a lot of photos and shared them with our family. We talked together while we were enjoying the sunset. We have learnt to cherish the things that are made by God. Nature is very beautiful! We shouldn't destroy it.

On the last day of the trip, we went to Mari Mari Cultural Village. We visited the long houses and had a traditional dance there. We danced hand in hand together in a circle. We enjoyed this moment very much as we played happily. Also we tried a lot of local food in the village. It was special and delicious.



Sabah Highlights

