

# ADVENTURE SANDAKAN

A HISTORICAL immersion you'll never forget.

***The Sandakan March.. all Australians know the name. It resonates in our minds as one of the most emotionally-charged and important battlegrounds of World War II.***

Today, this important historical region in Borneo boasts one of the world's most tranquil and celebrated bushwalks.

***One that we challenge you to experience yourself.***

The Sandakan Trail is a trek that not only offers immeasurable beauty, moving experiences and humbling moments with gracious locals, but a major physical and mental challenge. Indeed, the Trail is regarded by many to be ***one of life's great experiences*** - it is to walkers what the marathon is to runners.

## THE HISTORY



The story of Sandakan and the death marches is one of the most tragic of World War Two. It is also one of the most heroic. Despite appalling conditions, the prisoners never gave up. Their heroism, their determination and their indomitable spirit are testimony to the strength of the human spirit and an inspiration to all. Of the 2434 prisoners incarcerated at Sandakan, 1787 were Australian. The remaining 641 were British. The six Australians who escaped were the sole survivors. Back at Sandakan, 200 prisoners unable undertake the second and third marches also died, bringing the death toll there to about 1400. Of the 1000-odd prisoners who left on the death marches, about half died in the attempt. The rest died at their destination.



## THE CHALLENGE

The track cut for the death marches soon became completely overgrown and for sixty years defied all efforts to locate it. However, in August 2005, Australian investigative writer and historian, Lynette Silver, identified the path taken by the prisoners of war. After sixty years, you too can now walk in the footsteps of the Death March heroes. As both sea and air were under the complete control of the Allies, a track had been cut through the mountains, linking existing bridle-trails. Unaware that it was to be used by POWs, the local headmen given the task of creating this track had deliberately routed it away from any habitation, across the most inhospitable and difficult terrain possible.



## THE PREPARATION

This Sandakan Challenge is different to others. We offer an 8 day trek, which is an exacting pace to move at. However, your adventure really begins 3 months earlier with a comprehensive individualised online training program by a qualified exercise physiologist. It includes internet support leading up to your departure. This preliminary preparation serves to increase your fitness, giving you an extra dimension to the trek. Having small groups creates team spirit and camaraderie leading to lifelong friendships.



## THE ADVENTURE

After your 3 month training, you're ready for Sandakan. All inclusive in your adventure are, transport between the airport and hotels in Borneo, domestic flight to Sandakan, 4 nights hotel accommodation in Borneo, 5 nights accommodation along the trek in village huts, camps or guesthouses, group camping costs, Trek Permits, all food during the trek, porter and trek guides, qualified Medic and transport from end back to Borneo on Day 9. A total of 10 days.

**Departure Dates; 14<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept– 2024**  
**Total Cost \$4500 AUD**

**THE NEXT STEP** The adventure begins as soon as you call us. address: [info@ourspirit.com.au](mailto:info@ourspirit.com.au)