

DISCOVER MALAYSIA BY SEA!

Sail Malaysia Passage to the East Yacht Rally 2026
Pre-Event Information Document



RALLY
SCHEDULE

WHAT YOU CAN
EXPECT

PLANNING YOUR
JOURNEY



an introduction

Malaysia is situated between 1 and 7 degrees north and has traditionally been the center of regional trade due to its strategic location. While the west coast of Peninsula Malaysia is well-traveled and documented, the Peninsula east coast and Malaysian Borneo offer a much quieter scene.

For circumnavigators, we understand the passion to continue west. If you just did that, you will really miss some of the most spectacular destinations the sailing world has to offer. Eastern Sabah, have some the most diverse marine ecology in the world and is known as the 'Manhattan' of the underwater world.

You will quickly discover long sandy beaches and idyllic islands, unspoiled and unhurried. Some of the best diving sites in the world are located here, and some are still waiting to be discovered.

Sail Malaysia welcomes you to the rally stops, where you will again be showered with a warm Malaysian-style welcome. Along the way, you will also discover the vast range of diversity in heritage, religion, and culture that is inherent in our country.

There is so much to look forward to. The journey is as much about self-discovery as it is about visiting our friendly hosts. This event is a continuation of our efforts, and on behalf of the many sponsors and supporters along the way, to promote nautical tourism in Malaysia.

We invite all sailors to join the Sail Malaysia Passage to the East and Discover Malaysia by Sea!

www.sailmalaysia.life





RALLY REGROUP

Rebak Island Resort &
Marina, Langkawi

1-2 APRIL

Pangkor, Perak

7-10 APRIL

Pinetree Marina Puteri Harbour

23-25 APRIL

*These are regroup points before we
all embark on our 5 month
adventure!*

This Pre-Entry Information Booklet is intended to provide interested 2026 participants a general overview of the event and what to expect.

This document also comes attached with the entry form.

The information contained in this document and the website www.sailmalaysia.life is the OFFICIAL information published by Sail Malaysia.

Regular updates about the event will be posted on our official website, www.sailmalaysia.life, via email and the official WhatsApp group chat to interested parties on the mailing list.

Organiser Contact Details

The Sail Malaysia Passage to the East is owned by the Cruise Marine Tourism Association of Malaysia and managed by SM Yachting Sdn. Bhd. (1184683-V), a private limited company registered in Malaysia. All correspondence to the organizers of Sail Malaysia should be directed via email to mail@sailmalaysia.life

For easy reference, please include the name of your yacht in the subject section of your emails.



SAIL MALAYSIA PASSAGE TO THE EAST YACHT RALLY 2026 SCHEDULE

1-2 April	Rebak Island Resort & Marina
7-10 April	Pangkor
13-14 April	Royal Selangor Yacht Club
17-20 April	Admiral Marina, Port Dickson
23-26 April	Pinetree Marina Puteri Harbour
29 Apr-2 May	Pulau Tioman
11-12 May	Pulau Kapas
14-18 May	Terengganu Northern Islands
19-22 May	Kuala Terengganu
28-31 May	Anambas Islands*
4-7 June	Natuna Islands*
12-15 June	Kuching / Santubong
21-23 June	Miri
25-29 June	Royal Brunei Yacht Club*
30 June-1 July	Sipitang, Sabah (new)
2-4 July	Labuan
6-7 July	Pulau Tiga
9-12 July	Sutera Harbour Marina, Kota Kinabalu
13-14 July	Univ. Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu (new)
15-17 July	Dalit Harbour, Kota Kinabalu
19-20 July	Usukan Bay
25-27 July	Kudat
28-29 July	Pitas (new)
31 July	Turtle Islands
1-4 Aug	Sandakan
5-10 Aug	Sungai Kinabatangan
13 Aug	Lahad Datu
14-17 Aug	W Bay Payang
18-20 Aug	Kunak
21-28 Aug	Tun Sakaran Marine Park
29-30 Aug	Semporna
31 Aug	Tawau (extension)

* Indonesian/Brunei program



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT PENINSULA MALAYSIA



Rebak Island Resort & Marina Langkawi

RALLY PARTNER. Official start,
1st regroup point. Cruisers' marina.
Welcoming reception.

Pangkor Marina, Perak

RALLY PARTNER. Berthing/haul out discounts available. Tour of Pangkor, dinner & dance, and many more. Technical briefing on sailing around Malaysia here.

Royal Selangor Yacht Club & Admiral Marina Port Dickson

Excellent base to visit Melaka or receiving crew from Kuala Lumpur Int'l Airport.

Pinetree Puteri Harbour Marina

RALLY PARTNER. Last port before sailing around Singapore to the east. Scheduled reception and activities with marina team planned.

Tioman Island

A very popular island among cruisers and a major rally stop. Games with the islanders known as 'Sukan Rakyat' is now a yearly anticipated event. Trekking to a waterfall the next day.



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT PENINSULA MALAYSIA



Kapas Island

Sheltered anchorage on sand, a favourite among cruisers. Private cove for you to enjoy friendly games (above) or do nothing.

Kuala Terengganu

Capital city for Terengganu. Main market and China town near the anchorage and Duyong marina. Will need to check in and out of Peninsula from here.



Redang Islands

The jewel in the crown for east coast Malaysia. Plenty of diving & snorkeling opportunities.

Other Islands

There will be time to explore other island destinations of the north such as Tenggol, Bidong and the Perhentians.

Anambas & Natuna

Our friends in Sail2Indonesia will be taking over briefly to introduce to you to their home & these magnificent islands.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT MALAYSIAN BORNEO

Kuching / Santubong

Entry point to Malaysian Borneo. Semenggoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, a town full of museums. Cruisers favourite.

Rajang River

Longest river in Malaysia. Self discovery. See www.sailmalaysia.life/article-blogs/rajang-river.

Miri

Alternative entry point for those coming from Natuna. Famous oil town. Miri Marina is a favourite stopping point for everyone.

Optional tour to Niah Caves planned.

Brunei

Royal Brunei Yacht Club is a very welcoming place for visiting yachts and a great stop to enjoy the magnificent country.

Sipitang, Sabah

Located on the Malaysian side of Brunei Bay, this will be the first time Sipitang is hosting Sail Malaysia.

Labuan

Duty-free island. Provisioning opportunities here.

Tiga Island

The original 'Survivor Island'. Self-discovery. Mud bath awaits.



Sutera Harbour Marina, Kota Kinabalu

A luxurious and the main marina in Sabah. Compulsory technical briefing will be held here for those planning to sail to Eastern Sabah.

Univ. Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu

A new anchorage stop which provides alternative entry facilities for those wishing to explore Kota Kinabalu. Welcoming and dinner plans here.

Dalit Harbour, Kota Kinabalu

RALLY PARTNER. PS Borneo.

A natural protected harbour north of Kota Kinabalu with a welcoming host. Future hub for yachting in Borneo. New boatyard recently opened here.



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT MALAYSIAN BORNEO



Turtle Islands

Weather permitting, we would be able to explore a very special site where 1,000-2,000 turtle hatchlings are released into the sea each day.

Sandakan

Largest city in eastern Sabah. We will be based at the very friendly Sandakan Yacht Club. Agnes Keith House, Sandakan Memorial Centre, Sepilok Wildlife Centre, Sun Bear Conservation, Rainforest Discovery among the many attractions here. Major provisioning stop.



Kinabatangan River

One of the main reason to join the rally is the opportunity to sail 50 nautical miles inland to see some of the best of nature and wildlife. Weather permitting.

Lahad Datu

Much needed provisioning stop and ESSCOM headquarters.

W Bay Payang

Natural anchorage and a most excellent host. An unforgettable rally and cultural experience in store here. Optional dive tours to the Blue Ring and Tabawan from W Bay.

Usukan Bay

A natural, swim-friendly bay en route to the tip of Borneo. Cruisers' favourite. Welcoming dinner planned.

Kudat

Start of convoy here. Visits to Misompuru homestay, the gong village and the tip of Borneo.

Pitas

A new location on the eastern side of Marudu Bay. The Pitas community have been inviting us for years and now here we are!

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT MALAYSIAN BORNEO



Sipadan

Optional excursion to one of the best dive sites in the world. To dive, you will need to have advanced open water certificate. Snorkeling is also an option here.

Semporna

Known as the 'Venice' of Malaysia, this bustling town will be the farewell gathering to your unforgettable journey.

Tawau (extension)

Last port of call for those proceeding south to Indonesia after the rally. Second largest city in eastern Sabah and a major provisioning stop.

Kunak

Small town with a big heart and now becoming one of the mainstays of the rally. Protected anchorage with some major festivities planned. Possible visit to palm oil plantation. Not to be missed.

Tun Sakaran Marine Park

Rally highlight. Courtesy of Sabah Parks, we have access to a cluster of islands inside a world renowned marine park where you can explore daily. One of the main reasons why you join us.



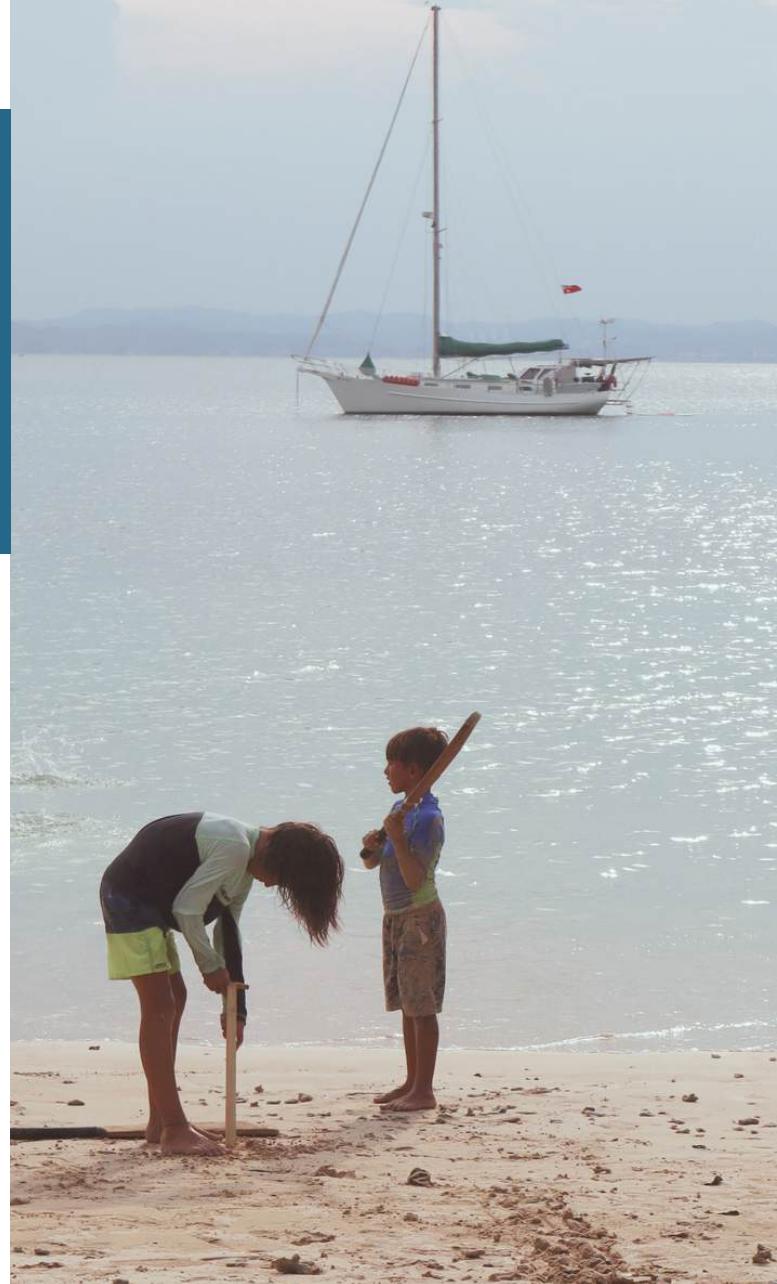
RALLY ENTRY

The registration form is attached with this document:

1. Once completed, send the form to mail@sailmalaysia.life in pdf or jpeg format.
2. Upon receiving your registration form, it is deemed that you have read and agreed to the details in this document.
3. We shall confirm your participation by replying to your email.

Benefits:

- Organised rally stops in Malaysia as listed in the Rally Schedule
- Entry permits to Sabah Marine Parks
- Two Sail Malaysia t-shirts and Sail Malaysia rally flag
- Other souvenir and goodies provided by the host destinations.



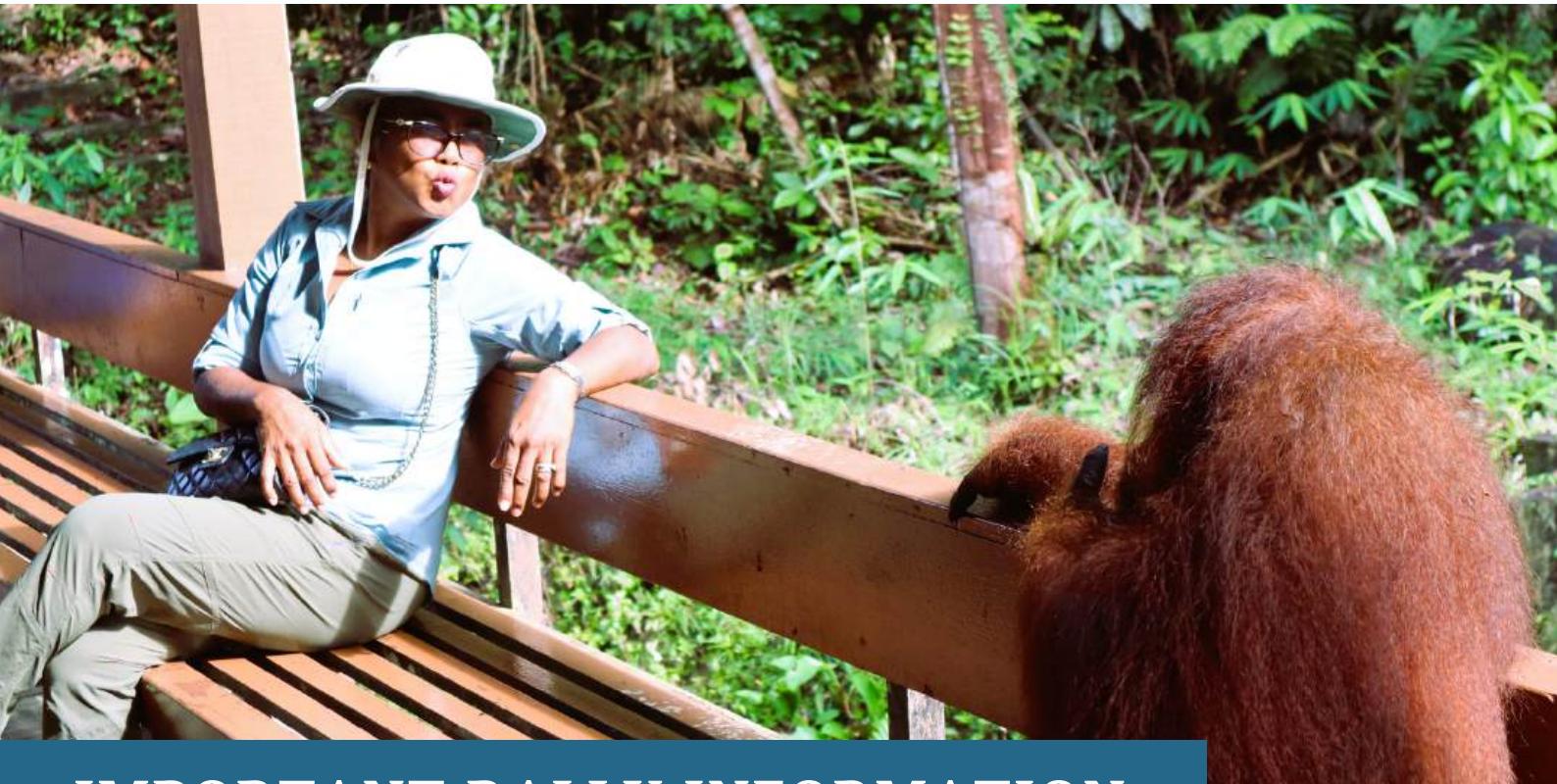
RALLY FEE

(per yacht, up to maximum of 4 pax. For additional pax add 10% per person from the listed price)

- Full rally - Peninsula Malaysia to Eastern Sabah
MYR 3,600 (Malaysian Ringgit)
- Peninsula Malaysia only
MYR 1,600
- Peninsula Malaysia to North Borneo up to Kudat or
- Malaysian Borneo only - Kuching/Miri/Labuan/Kota Kinabalu to eastern Sabah
MYR 2,400
- Sabah only
MYR 2,200

Items not included in the rally fee

- Marina costs
- Port clearance charges, if any.
- Items classified as 'Optional Tours'.
- Events outside of Malaysia such as in Anambas, Natuna and Brunei.



IMPORTANT RALLY INFORMATION

PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY

1. **Role of the organizer.** Sail Malaysia's role in the rally is to facilitate your passage. We also collaborate with local hosts and organise festivities for the benefit of everyone.
2. **Pre-Event Information Document.** This document represents the overall outlook on what to expect for the Sail Malaysia Passage to the East Yacht Rally 2026.
3. If you have further enquiries regarding the rally, please send us a message to our email, mail@sailmalaysia.life.
4. **Meet and greet visits.** We will be holding a few meet and greet visits for those interested in learning more about the rally. The schedule will be posted in the Sail Malaysia Facebook page and website.
5. **Briefings.** Technical briefings and discussions will be held regularly during the rally. 2 briefings are not to be missed:
 - a) Technical Briefing at Pangkor Marina rally stop in April 2024.
 - b) A compulsory technical briefing in Sutera Harbour Marina, Kota Kinabalu in July for those going to eastern Sabah.

6. Cruising Guide

a) A text-only version of the Sail Malaysia Cruising Guide is available for free download from our website www.sailmalaysia.life. This guide is a compilation of notes from past rally participants.

b) A copy of the 'Discover Malaysia by Sea!' cruising guide book will also be given to all registered yachts.

7. Communication

a) **Official statements.** All content on the Sail Malaysia website, www.sailmalaysia.life, and notices in the Sail Malaysia Facebook can be considered as official statement by Sail Malaysia.

b) During the rally, all information will be sent either via email, the official rally WhatsApp group, or by direct communication by our official representatives in the area.

c) If you need to contact us immediately, WhatsApp is the most effective tool.

d) During key areas of the rally, we will designate a Vhf channel for the rally team communication. This will be discussed at the technical briefings mentioned above.

e) **Cellphone providers.** We recommend MAXIS/Hotlink or Celcom for nationwide coverage.



IMPORTANT RALLY INFORMATION

PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY

8. Security and health protocols

a) All participants will need to adhere to all policies and instructions given out by the relevant security agencies such as the Coast Guard, Marine Department, Navy, and ESSCOM during the rally period.

b) All participants will also need to follow the policies and guidelines given out by the relevant health agencies at all times.

9. Marina bookings. All marinas and yacht clubs listed along the route are aware of the rally and welcome participants. However, none will provide us with a blanket booking for berths. Therefore, for those who wish to berth in the marinas, you will be required to communicate directly with them for confirmation.

10. Visa renewals. Those needing to renew their social visa can consider the following visa run strategies:

a) 1st visa run option - Singapore, end of April/early May
b) 2nd visa run option - Anambas/Natuna, June
c) 3rd visa run option - Brunei, early July
d) 4th visa extension - Sandakan/Lahad Datu, early August (with support from Sabah State Government)

11. The visa extension will most impact countries who are only given 30-day social visas. If you have any questions, please contact us via our email, mail@sailmalaysia.life

RALLY FORMAT

12. The rally format from Langkawi up to Kudat is largely free and easy. Although you may be tempted to miss one or two stops, we do recommend that you follow the full rally. The schedule is designed so that you do have some free time for yourselves to explore or just simply rest in these destinations.

13. For the eastern Sabah, the rally format is discussed in points 22-27 below.





IMPORTANT RALLY INFORMATION

EASTERN SABAH

Why do it?

14. For starters, eastern Sabah is located in the epicenter of the coral triangle. This region is known as the "Manhattan of the underwater world", given its diversity in marine life. The Coral Triangle is home to 76% of the world's known coral species and 37% of the world's coral reef fish.

15. The people of Eastern Sabah are also extremely welcoming. The major highlights of our rally visits will most likely be in Sandakan, Lahad Datu, W Bay Payang, Kunak, and Semporna - all concentrated in the last quarter portion of this rally.

16. When you add the wildlife reserves, Kinabatangan River and the marine parks surrounding the state of Sabah, you will have a full and unforgettable itinerary.

17. It's no wonder that sailors call this region as one of the best cruising grounds in the world.

18. Navigation through eastern Sabah also provides access to Toli Toli, Manado, Davao and Raja Ampat, to name a few. The route from the tip of Borneo up to Raja Ampat is an extremely exciting route that really should not be missed.

Assistance

19. It is also important to note that once you sail past the tip of Borneo (north), marine services, boatyards, and access to spare parts will not be the same as in western Sabah and Peninsula Malaysia.

20. It is not out of reach, but it just takes a little more logistical planning. And we do have people to assist in the unfortunate event that things do break down.

21. Typically, in the company of the rally fleet, you can also find people helping each other out in times of need.





IMPORTANT RALLY INFORMATION

EASTERN SABAH RALLY CONVOY

22. The area in eastern Sabah is known as the Eastern Sabah Security Zone, where the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) is the authoritative body that oversees the region. During your sail in this area, ESSCOM will take charge of your security, where the rally will be under multiple layers of coordinated protection.

23. ESSCOM's rules are easy to follow. As long as we adhere their instructions, we will be able to enjoy some of the best cruising grounds in the world.

24. The technical briefing by ESSCOM in Sutera Harbour in Kota Kinabalu during the rally period in July is compulsory for those sailing to Eastern Sabah. The exact time and date will be given at least 30 days before the briefing.

25. The expected cruising speed for each yacht should be between 5-8 knots. The format will depend on what ESSCOM advises at the time, which the rally fleet is required to follow.

26. If you think you are not able to be in a convoy or group for 4 weeks, then joining the rally in eastern Sabah is not for you.

27. Leaving the convoy in Eastern Sabah: For those who cannot continue due to technical, medical, or emergency issues, we will assist your security surveillance with ESSCOM. Those who depart from the convoy without any of the reasons stated above are deemed to have left the rally and will need to coordinate their passage plan with ESSCOM individually.





IMPORTANT RALLY INFORMATION

OTHER NOTES

1. **Anchor chain.** In Borneo and beyond, expect to anchor up to 20 m in some places. Therefore, preparing for adequate length and quality of your chain and anchor is absolutely necessary. In years past, those with 60 m or less and/or 8mm chain have found difficulty anchoring in some places. Also keep in mind that during the rally you will be on anchor with other boats too, cats and monos.

2. The period between mid-June to mid-July, ie between Miri and Kota Kinabalu is a good time rest & repair before heading around the tip of Borneo to the east. Based on feedback given, the schedule is flexible enough to help yachts prepare or give you time to see some of the sights inland, like Mount Kinabalu and the Mulu Caves.

3. **Marine Parks.** Details on how to approach marine parks in Malaysia will be discussed at the technical briefings in Pangkor in April and Kota Kinabalu in July.

4. **Kinabatangan River.** This is one of the most sought after destinations from past rally participants. The visit to this river will depend on the weather during that particular week. The river may not be suitable for us to visit if there is excessive rain, in which case the schedule will be modified slightly.

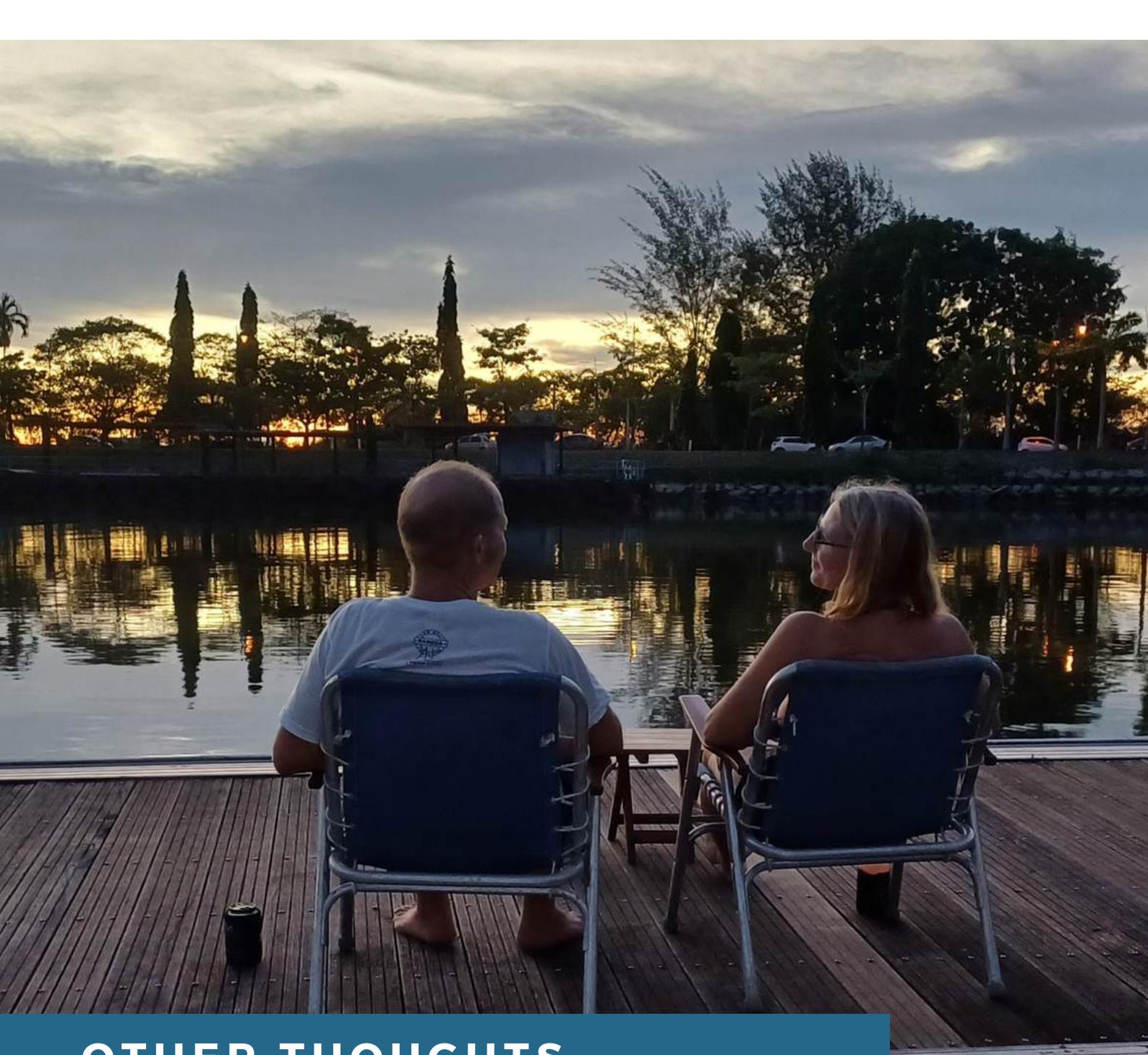
5. **Medical facilities.** Medical facilities are excellent throughout Malaysia, so there is nothing to worry about here.

6. **Receiving friends and family.** Each destination that we visit is easily accessible from a domestic or international airport. If you need more information, please send us a message.

7. **Optional tours/activities.** There are some really good places worth visiting that are not sponsored during the rally. These destinations or activities will be listed as 'optional' in our remarks. We will send you a list for your reference at a later date.

8. **Press conferences and boat visits.** This is an important part of organising the rally for us and it is inevitable that in some places there will be requests for media and boat visits. These activities are optional and it is perfectly understandable if you do not wish to take part. Please do not hesitate to inform us if you are hesitant and we will maintain strict privacy.





OTHER THOUGHTS...

CRUISING NOTES

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

In the homepage of our website www.sailmalaysia.life, you will see a Rally Pilot - Cruising Guide for sailing around Malaysia - which is available for free download. This is an invaluable collection of notes received by past rally participants.

Likewise, we value your input to this for the benefit of everyone.

Any comments on anchorages / marinas / boatyards / etc., that you wish to contribute please send your notes to our email, mail@sailmalaysia.life.

INDONESIA & BEYOND

Following the inaugural success in 2015, Anambas and Natuna are eagerly waiting to host you again this year.

At the end of the rally, our partner, Wonderful Sail2Indonesia will host a rally from Nunukan back to Australia / New Zealand.

Please note that a separate registration and fee is necessary for Indonesia.

For more information contact Pak Raymond Lesmana at raymondlesmana@ymail.com.

“On a day when the wind is perfect,
the sail just needs to open
and the world is full of beauty.
Today is such a day.”

RUMI



SAIL MALAYSIA PASSAGE TO THE EAST YACHT RALLY 2026

REGISTRATION FORM



DISCOVER MALAYSIA BY SEA!

Yacht Name

Country of Registration

Vessel design

Cat / Mono

Call sign

MMSI (if applicable)

Boat dimensions in metres

Length:

Width:

Draft

Skipper and crew details

Name

Nationality

Name

Nationality

Name

Nationality

Name

Nationality

email

mobile/whatsapp #

website/blogs if any

Participants' Waiver/Indemnity: I confirm that I have read, understood and agree to the terms and guidelines set by the organizer as mentioned in the **Pre-Entry Information Booklet**. I hereby agree to abide them and will not claim any damage from the organizer in the event of an accident, injury or death which may arise before, during or as a result of my participation in the above event. The registration is complete upon payment and confirmation of participation by the Sail Malaysia organizers.

Sectors (tick 1 or more)



Full
Rally



Peninsula
M'sia only



Peninsula M'sia
to North
Borneo



Malaysian
Borneo only



Sabah only

send this form back to
mail@sailmalaysia.life
attn: PTE 26 (yacht name)

Date

Signature