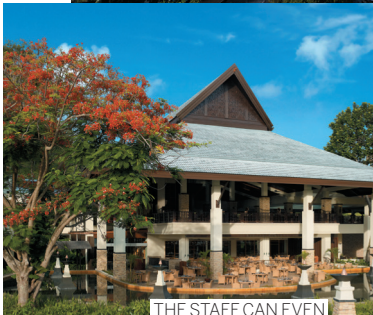
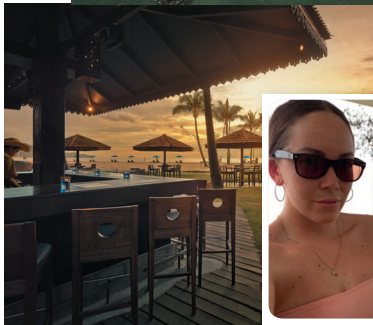


BEAUTIFUL BORNEO

PW's Colette enjoys a taste of paradise in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo



If you look up Shangri-La, it's described as a mystical, harmonious valley from the novel, *Lost Horizon*. The Shangri-La Rasa Ria Resort & Spa, hidden in the beautiful area of Sabah, matches

the description of its namesake.

This incredible five-star hotel is pretty much how I imagine paradise.

Luxury should begin at the very start of your

honeymoon and our flight with Royal Brunei was exactly that – we were literally left wanting for nothing. After a day of travelling, we arrived at the hotel feeling totally chilled out.

We were trying out the brand new 'Adventuremoon' package which gives couples the chance to try out some action-packed activities, while still enjoying the indulgence of a resort.

Our first exciting activity was the 'Breakfast with a view' jungle trek through the hotel's nature reserve – the aim of which is to enhance the conservation of the flora and fauna that are native to the area. Now, getting up at 5.30am on holiday is not something I'd usually be on-board with, but trust me, this is entirely worth it. Along with a guide, we climbed 90 metres above sea-level, where we were greeted with

breakfast to enjoy as the sun rose over the neighbouring Mount Kinabalu and lush Bornean coastline. It was a truly breathtaking and humbling moment.

Near the resort lies the beautiful Mengkabong River where we went for a sunset cruise to see the traditional fishing villages. Getting out of the resort and into the local surroundings

is an experience not to be missed.

Immersing ourselves in nature required some extra pampering – staying in the luxurious

Ocean Wing, this was a given. Our room had a spacious, private balcony, complete with outdoor bathtub boasting views over the South China Sea. After an afternoon in the on-site spa, enjoying a traditional 'Sabahan Experience' (an incredible scrub with rice powder), soaking in a rose-petal bath with a glass of wine at sunset was pure indulgence.

For couples looking for more than just a 'stop and flop' beach getaway, action-packed but without scrimping on luxury, this is hands-down the one for you. 



WATCHING THE TEPPANYAKI CHEFS PREPARE OUR FOOD WAS AMAZING



BOOK IT!

Adventuremoon packages cost £2,020 for two adults sharing and includes seven nights' in an Ocean Wing Premier Room. Visit shangri-la.com for more info. Royal Brunei Airlines offers passengers an authentic Bruneian experience, warm hospitality, and quiet, spacious cabins. Fares from Heathrow to Kota Kinabalu start at \$504 Economy and £2,399 Business return. For more details, visit flyroyalbrunei.com

