

# Mount Kinabalu Park (Malaysia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site)



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Standing majestically at a height of 4,095.2m, Mount Kinabalu is the highest peak in Southeast Asia. It is situated in Kinabalu Park, a wonderland of ecological treasures covering some 754sq km.

The diversity of plant life in Kinabalu Park ranges over four climatic zones. Over 5,000 types of flowering plants including 1,200 species of orchids, 26 species of rhododendrons, over 80 species of fig trees as well as 60 species of oak and chestnut trees are found here. About 100 species of mammals and 326 species of birds are also known to reside in the sprawling park.

Ascending and descending Mount Kinabalu's summit takes two to three days, depending on the weather and one's fitness level. Every year, participants from around the world gather here to take part in the Mount Kinabalu International Climbathon. It is dubbed as the 'World's Toughest Mountain Race'. Despite the challenging route and distance, mountain runners take less than four hours to reach the peak and return to the finish line.