

**Gayana Eco Resort**  
**Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia**

Gayana Eco Resort's 44 private villas, all built over water, are architecturally designed to enhance the soothing sounds of the surf below. The traditional simplicity of the Borneo architectural style blends seamlessly with the comforts and needs of the most sophisticated and discerning luxury traveler while the on-site Marine Ecology Research Center demonstrates that the least bit of movement and change is important to all nature.

The center is home to seven of the eight giant clams of the world. Instead of extinction, these endangered shell creatures are carefully regenerating thanks to the center's Restocking Program. Guests are invited to visit to the maternity tank where pregnant seahorses rest beside mothering bamboo sharks and a "touch" tank where starfish and other sea creatures can be held and examined closely. The Reef Regeneration Programme gives guests the honor of replanting replenished corals back into the reef, while in the laboratory, simulated habitats of eccentric fish species, coral and clam holding tanks and educational exhibits inspire visitors to reflect on their attitude toward the surrounding marine environment.



Guests who crave a variety of eco-friendly activities can take advantage of other opportunities such as island hopping, canoeing, snorkeling, underwater fish feeding, and fishing (catch and release).

Gayana Eco Resort fully adheres to policy set for the preservation and acute conservation of wildlife by Sabah Parks, a conservation-based statutory body established in 1962 for the purpose of conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the state of Sabah, Malaysia. In doing so, they significantly contribute in the environment in many ways:

- providing dive experiences that enhance visitor awareness, appreciation and understanding of the local aquatic environment.
- using recycled products whenever possible.
- participating in local conservation efforts and supporting established parks and reserves.
- not selling items made from endangered species, threatened species, corals or tropical hardwoods.
- respecting local people, culture and traditions while abiding by local laws and regulations.
- providing pre-dive briefings on responsible dive practices such as:
  - proper buoyancy control
  - securing equipment and streamlining body position
  - maintaining distance from sensitive environments
  - not touching or chasing animals
  - abiding by all fish and game regulations
- using mooring buoys or drift diving techniques whenever possible to avoid damage to underwater habitat.
- offering Project AWARE specialty courses that teach customers about ecology and conservation.
- practicing buoyancy control skills in a pool or sandy area before swimming near a coral reef or any sensitive environment by making sure equipment is secured, divers are weighted properly and being careful not to touch, stand on, or collect coral.
- displaying environmental public awareness materials and provide community involvement opportunities.
- using environmentally sound methods of rubbish disposal.

Striking the perfect balance of forward thinking ecology and indulgent luxury, Gayana Eco Resort pampers the body and enlightens the soul.

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