



The Gayana Eco Resort offers five star luxury and total immersion in the natural splendor of Malaysia's wildlife on the island of Gaya.

All of the villas are built over the crystalline water on stilts. The villas featuring direct water access from their balconies come highly recommended, making it all the easier to slip in for a quick swim with the roaming schools of fish. The bathrooms are spacious with over-sized luxury towels and well-designed lighting that aims to flatter.



The on-site Marine Ecology Research Centre (MERC) boasts the world's only complete collection of the 8 giant clams of the world and is a working laboratory. Ongoing clam rejuvenation programs aim to replenish giant clams in the wild, while coral regeneration programs use broken coral branches as bases for regrowth.

Next on the agenda is the seahorse program where efforts will be taken to bring back the declining population. Visitors can easily spend a half day at the Centre learning about its various initiatives and browsing the tanks which house sharks, turtles, and many other components of the coastal ecosystem.



There's much more to do on-site at Gayana Eco Resort, ranging from a Jungle Trail which plunges you deep into the living forest within minutes of leaving your villa, to a wreck dive that's just a few finned kicks of the diving centre. Grab a snorkel if diving is not your thing and explore the sandy shores with their clusters of giant clams, sea urchins, and anemones living among coral, along with clownfish, trevally, parrotfish and surgeonfish.

Breakfast is served from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Macac Restaurant, named for the scores of Macac monkeys that descend into the resort in the late afternoon for recreation. Ripe fruit and well-made entrees are delicious and well-presented. Alongside the Macac Restaurant is an infinity pool the resort is justifiably proud of, with a view towards the ocean and lounge chairs set around it.



The Solace Spa is a sanctuary staffed by soft-spoken staff with strong hands to knead those stubborn knots from tired shoulders and backs. There is a wide range of spa services available for your enjoyment - from traditional Borneo "Urut" massage to papaya-pineapple based skin treatments and a Sabah Green Coffee Body Wrap.



Lunch and dinner can be ordered either in the Macac Restaurant or The Alu Alu Seafood Restaurant perched over the water with a view back towards the resort and out towards the South China Sea. Live seafood, ranging from tiger garoupa and lobster to the mantis prawn and intensely patterned zebra snail are displayed in tanks to tempt the tastebuds.

Work off a good meal by paddling one of the resort's kayaks across the bay where the ancient mangrove trees proudly show their roots and make for a breathtaking sight.