

Everest team to scale world's highest *via ferratta*

KOTA KINABALU: The Phillipines Everest team arrives here today to experience the world's highest *via ferratta* on Mt Kinabalu.

Located at 3,400m above sea level, the *via ferratta* adventure will include climbing along the 500-metre multi-pitch route on the Panar Laban rock face.

A *via ferratta* ("iron road" in Italian), is a continuous protected mountain path.

It consists of a series of steel rungs, rails and cables embedded into the rock face, opening up routes to the average hiker that were previously only accessible to experienced

rock climbers and mountaineers with specialised equipment.

It will be the first time the team experiences *via ferratta* climbing and they will be accompanied by Sabahan guides with in-depth knowledge of Mt Kinabalu's unique terrain and characteristics.

Tomorrow morning they will trek from Timpohon Gate and arrive at Pendant hut at an altitude of 3,289m.

After acclimatising they will set off on Sunday for a full day's schedule to experience the world's highest *via ferratta*, Low's Peak Circuit and a 500-meter long multi-pitch climb on the Panar Laban rock face.

The team will depart Sabah on 12 January after a press conference at the Sabah Tourism Board office.

The visit is hosted by Mountain Torq Sdn Bhd which provides guiding and instructional service for sports and rock climbing customers ranging from beginners to expert levels on all the varied conditions found on Mt Kinabalu.

Founder of Mountain Torq, Wilfred Tok said they enable climbers and non-climbers alike to experience the thrill of mountain climbing in complete safety while taking in the spectacular mountain surroundings and summit views.

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