

By Anna Vivienne

**T**HERE are sites and sights of our beautiful State, Sabah-Land below the Wind that will stay in the memories of our visitors for a long time. These sites and sights entice them back as each of them (sights) promise glimpses of other experiences that refuses to be ignored.

A blazing sunset over the mangrove swamps of the Klias River is a sight that will never leave my mind. It stays there emblazoned, I believe, until the dust of time settles on the corridor of my memories.

A site to sight wonders may be off the beaten track, but worth the visit none the less, if sights is a person's prerogative in visits.

A recommended site is the Klias River, or course, sited in the Klias Peninsular.

It is a river that meanders through this district and is home to diverse creatures, including egrets, monitor lizards, monkeys and even the proboscis monkey. As night falls, the riverbanks light up as little fireflies begin to feed.

Of course the experience does not stop there. There is the people and their culture. One of the most prominent events here, where you can glimpse them (people and culture) is the Pesta Rumbia, held at the Sawangan Beach of Kuala Penyu.

The Pesta Rumbia commemorates the Sago Palm tree, a useful plant that is of great value to the people. It is a plant, of which every part is utilised.

The pith is scrapped and squeezed off its starch. The starch is used for food. Many types of food can be cooked from this gummy substance.

However, sago is used not only for food but for construction as well. The leaves are used as thatching, the bark for floorings and the stalks for walls.

Anyway, the other site in Sabah worth looking at is the Trus Madi Mountain. The Trus Madi is part of the Crocker Range, which ridges the western part of the State.

As you drive from the Kimanis-Keningau Road, you will go higher and higher up the mountain.

When you reach the highest peak and look towards the west you will be able to see the sea meet the shore far away in the horizon.

The ethereal will also creep up on you as the mists gather around and over the treetops down the valley and hillocks below you.

These sights never fail to amaze me.

Accommodations are available a few kilometres down towards the Keningau old road. There are some chalets there that can serve your purpose. The signboard to these establishments can be seen on the roadside.

Or you can drive on right down to Keningau Township. There is no dearth of accommodation in

this area, so you should have no problem.

For an insight of Keningau people and culture, it is best for you to visit this area during the Kalimaran Celebration.

The Kalimaran occurs during late April. This year it was held on April 26 and 27. This is where you can see the traditional costumes of the people, mainly the Dusuns and Muruts. Various types of folk games and handicrafts will also be on show.

The highlight of the festival is a beauty contest where a bevy of beauties will sashay on the catwalk in their traditional garments.

If smiles on pretty faces and dimples on ivory cheeks are your kind of sights, you will be clicking fast and furiously on your camera during this time.

The rising sun's first ray hitting the top of Mount Kinabalu is another sight that is awesome.

The sight of the craggy surface of the gigantic brooding monolith that faces towards the east slowly being lighted up by a blush every morning is simply breath taking.

To catch this sight, check into a motel or hotel that overlook the mountain. The Pine Resort and the Perkasa Hotels are good locations.

Get up at 5.30am and watch the unveiling of this beauty.

If you have never been there before, it is a two-hour drive from Kota Kinabalu our Capital City to Kundasang Ranau. The mountain is sited nearby, within the Kinabalu Parks.



# Sites and sights of Sabah

