



Walking over the trees

By Anna Vivienne

Canopy walkways, bridges in the canopy of a forest are always exciting to walk on.

From one linked up platform to the other, inside or around the trees, you can enjoy the views around you, which of course is usually the tree tops, over and above you or below you.

These contraptions, originally intended as access to the upper regions of ancient forests for scientist who conduct canopy research is available in Sabah, with one more famous one being at Poring Hot Spring, Kinabalu National Park.

The canopy walkways which was officiated by the Datuk Masidi Manjun, Sabah tourism minister, today serve as ecotourism attractions, with one recent addition being the Shangri-la Rasa Ria Resort's canopy walkway, some 10 minutes walk from the resort and 45 minutes drive from Kota Kinabalu, the State Capital.

This is Rasa Ria offer to guests, to enable them to experience the unique natural wonders and get a tantalising glimpse of Borneo tropical forests, as the canopy walkway will enable people to see a natural jungle where Orang Utans reside.

The walkway sited in their Nature Reserve where the Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre is, one of its kind, in the city, actually.

The hike up the hill towards the walkway is quite invigorating...it is a good walk that will not only make one sweat and maybe lose that extra

pound, but will also enable visitors to look at the trees around them, the birds and little jungle dwellers such as insects and crawlies like millipedes, centipedes and insects.

The establishments have also set up several real live replicas of traps used by the people in the past to trap games. The people are so ingenious when catching their food...with the traps; they can hope to dine well as they can catch mouse deer, deer, rats, civets, the occasional monkeys and even wild boars, among others.

In Rasa Ria, however they are just there for show, so no animals are ever going to be caught within the area.

The walk on up will bring locals like me a sense of déjà vu as it look like a trail that will lead to a village, in the 1960's. Paths like that, cool and well covered by leafy roofs, must have criss-crossed the mountains and hills in far flung villages and settlements in the past.

For nature lovers, a leisurely walk towards the canopy walkway is highly recommended, as this will enable them to look more closely at the nature around them, the leafy fronds of jungle palms, the sinuous vines that snake around trees and little mushrooms peeking out from leaf-covered moss, among others.

The incessant calls of birds serenade visitors too.

Reaching the walkway, visitors will have to up a few steps and onto the canopy walkway. It is

breath-taking, being on it, in more... For those who cannot stand height drop down to the slopes below is high. However, after getting your 'a' the walk is simply gorgeous.

The gigantic tree where the platform seems quite sturdy. There are two forms; a good place to do a bit of and Orang utan watching too.

I think it is also a good place to your picnic mat, if they allow it.

The view of the sea and long beach towards the west is breath-taking beautiful. A sunset caught on camera this angle is stupendously beautiful...could be award winning

The canopy walk ends 100 metres later and you will have a choice of either returning to the resort from the same path you came on or taking another trail under the canopy walkway.

Either way, the walk is enjoyable.

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A chef's

Chew Chai Hee never had an ambition to be anything else but an income earner. He just wanted to earn a livelihood and have a bit of money for himself and perhaps to support his family.

He did not excel in school either. When he was in primary school, he was doing fine but when he went to secondary school his performance plummeted, due mostly to the fact that he could not cope with the transition from a Chinese school to a public school.

"So I left school after form three and went to work with my parents at the dock. My father is a fisherman, so I was quite familiar with the dockyard," he shares.

Chew went on to work, painting boats and generally pulling his weight at the dock of a fishing village in Perak.

"I think my father wanted me to work in a better environment and get more pay. So he observed restaurants and eateries where he supplied his fish to, and found out that the cook get the most pay," he says.

Little Chew then agreed to go with his

father for an income... the major reason... 'pillioned-ride'...

Little did he know... on an adventure... forever.

Not that the... "I thought I... immediately... awoken from... wash woks... worked as a... years. And the... A chopper p... ents...choppin... portioning the...

"One day a... nity to work in... go very badly... as I did not sp... me that we we... interact with to...

"I then wo... became seco... confident with... but when the e... never looked l... "I have wor...