



curator in British North Borneo, and his American wife, Agnes, followed him to Sabah. Here, she wrote with much emotion and insight three books, the most famous being "The Land Below the Wind". The Keith's suffered imprisonment during WWII, and Agnes' second book "Three Came Home" details their and the Sabah's people war experience. The house is currently being renovated and will open as a museum soon. Adjacent to the Agnes Keith House, also located on Bukit Istana and with a wonderful view over Sandakan Town and Bay is the English Tea House. Visit this place for an authentic 'colonial' tea-time, or some elegant dining.

Sandakan has an important Chinese population, and there are several nice temples that can be visited, such as the century-old Tham Kung Temple on Mile 1½ Jalan Utara. The special feature about this temple is the 'preservation of a temple within a temple'. The original shrine was lifted and transferred to within the new temple in an effort to conserve it, a first in Malaysia. Then there is the Sam Sing Kung Temple, or the 'Three Saints' Temple' at the edge of the town padang. The three saints are Kwan Woon Cheung, the saint of righteousness; the goddess Tin Hou, worshipped by fishermen; and the Emperor Min Cheong, worshipped by those who seek success in examinations. Before school exams you will find hopeful students at this temple, which was built by four Chinese communities: the Hakka, Cantonese, Hainanese and Teochew.

A popular temple that is on the regular city tour is the Puh Jih Shih Buddha Temple, erected on a 100-meter high hilltop above Tanah Merah, and with a breathtaking view over Sandakan Bay. The interior is an extravaganza in red and gold, with writhing dragons and gilded Buddha's. The temple protects the Sandakan people and brings health and wealth.

Other places of worship include the Masjid Jamek, which belongs to the earliest buildings of Sandakan and was constructed in the 1890s by Indian fabric peddlers of Muslim faith. During WWII it served as a hiding place for Muslims, and occasionally European officials, and thus it came periodically under fire during that period of Sabah's history. The quaint Mosque is situated on Jalan Enam, next to the Hotel Sandakan. St Michaels & All Angels Church, one of Sabah's first and only granite churches can be found on Elton Hill. The beautiful building, reminiscent of an English countryside church, was completed in 1913, after twenty years of construction work. The stones for the church came from a granite quarry at Buli Sim-Sim.

Other places of interest in Sandakan town area are the Japanese Cemetery along Jalan Istana, with a monument to those Japanese soldiers who fought and died in Sabah

during WWII, and the Japanese women who worked here and died in Sandakan; the Crocodile Farm and the Forestry Headquarters at Labuk Road; the Labuk Bay Proboscis Sanctuary within the Yet Hing Oil Palm Plantation; the world renown Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre in Sepilok; and the Sandakan Golf.

If you stroll through Sandakan you will find it an intriguing town full of the colours and scents of Asia. It is a truly bustling town and at times you have to push your way through crowds and merchandise that spill over into the sidewalk from the many shops, especially along Pryer Street, the road opposite the Central Market. Here you find bargain clothing, cheap watches, jewellers, birds nests, Indonesian cigarettes, cobblers, preserved ducks and other exotic foods, and much what could be collected under the term 'colonial ware' in a happy profusion. The shops are intercepted with restaurants that serve all sorts of delicious foods, from 'coto Makassar' over Indian 'roti canai' to Chinese fried noodles. The Sandakan Central Market is where you find perhaps the most amazing and largest variety of seafood in Sabah, along with vegetables, spices and oils, cheap clothing and Indonesian sarongs. The busiest time is on Sunday, when it is tamu in Sandakan! In the harbour behind the market you find the wooden vessels of Suluk fishermen, and those of barter traders from the Philippines. In the large you can see Berhala Island, which has its history of its own: the now quiet and largely forested island with its characteristic, abrupt red cliffs once housed the leper colony of Sandakan, and during WWII the Japanese interned civilians and POW on the island before sending them off to camps in Kuching, Sarawak.

In the evening, Sandakan offers a variety of night markets and food stalls popping up everywhere and selling local charcoal grilled specialities, from freshly caught fish and squid to chicken wings and 'Western Burgers', all served with a hot chilly sauce. Local restaurants and coffee shops are open until late, serving Chinese and Malay cuisine at its best, in convivial and unpretentious company. But the town gets quiet rather early in the evening; people in Sandakan get up early in the morning!

**How to Get to Sandakan & Accommodation**

By air (several daily flights, 45 mins) or by car or overland bus (ca 5 hours, 230 km); there are plenty of simple but clean hotels in and around Sandakan, and also within walking distance from the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre. The Sandakan Hotel centrally located in the city is our preferred hotel and the Sabah Hotel, on a hill above Sandakan offers 4-star comfort inclusive of

**WHERE TO STAY**

Winner Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 243222  
Fax: 60 088 217345

Hotel Deleton  
Phone: 60 088 252222  
Fax: 60 088 267999

Best Western Kinabalu Daya Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 240000  
Fax: 60 088 263909

The Palace Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 211911  
Fax: 60 088 211600

Hotel Shangri-La  
Phone: 60 088 212800  
Fax: 60 088 212078

Likas Square Business Suites  
Phone: 60 088 252233  
Fax: 60 088 251122

Tang Dynasty Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 263389 / 251155  
Fax: 60 088 263989 / 265566

Beverly Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 258998  
Fax: 60 088 258778

Promenade Hotel  
Phone: 60 088 265555  
Fax: 60 088 246666 / 253980

Hyatt Regency Kinabalu  
Phone: 60 088 221234  
Fax: 60 088 225972

Le Meridien Kota Kinabalu  
Phone: 60 088 322222  
Fax: 60 088 322223

Nexus Resort Karambunai  
Phone: 6 088 411222 / 411030  
Fax: 6 088 411020 / 412028

Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort  
Phone: 60 088 327888  
Fax: 60 088 244871 / 327878

Sutera Harbour Resort - Magellan Sutera  
Phone: 6 088 318 888  
Fax: 6 088 317 777

Sutera Harbour Resort - Pacific Sutera  
Phone: 6 088 318888  
Fax: 6 088 317777

Gayana Eco Resort  
Phone: 6 088 380390  
Fax: 6 088 381390  
Email: www.gayana-eco-resort.com

Novotel Kota Kinabalu  
1BorneoTB-00-01, 1Borneo Hypermall,  
Jalan UMS,  
88450 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia  
Phone: 6 088 529888  
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No. 2, Jalan Kinabalu, Tanjung  
Aru Township, 88100 Kota Kinabalu,  
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Phone: 6 088 239666  
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