



Madai Caves



The Madai Caves are an important place for harvesting birds' nests. These nests are considered a delicacy and something of a medicine among the Chinese, and the export market is huge. The village at the entrance of the largest cave comes alive twice a year when the Idahan tribe comes to harvest the birds' nests from various parts of the caves. It is a special communal event, almost like a festival. The harvesting is a dramatic event with the men risking their lives to pry precious nests from the cave roof. Nowadays, the harvesters are hired. The Idahans have held their rights to the Madai Caves for over 20 generations.

To visit the caves, permission must be obtained from the Idahan elders. Visitors may visit the District Office in Lahad Datu town to make prior arrangements for entrance permission.

Key Tips

The most valuable - and rarest - nests are the white ones, which can fetch RM2,000 or more per kg.

How to get there

By Road

The caves are near the Lahad Datu-Tawau Highway. The turn-off is 69km from Lahad Datu. Watch out for the signpost that says 'Gua Madai'. From the turn-off, it is 3km to the caves.

By Bus

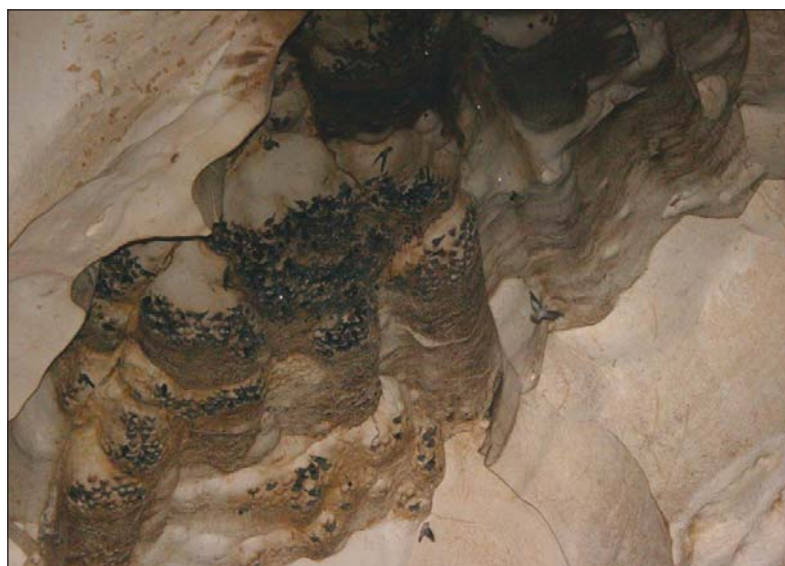
All buses between Lahad Datu and Semporna or Tawau will pass the turn-off to the caves. From here, you'll be able to find a minivan to take you to the caves. But you might have to walk back out to the highway to catch your ride back.

Who to contact

For more information, please contact Sabah Tourism Office Tel: +6088-248 698 / 211 732

Accommodation Overview

These caves are between the towns of Lahad Datu and Semporna. As such, you would be day-tripping from either place where the full range of accommodation is available.



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

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1BorneoTB-00-01, 1Borneo Hypermall,
Jalan UMS,
88450 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia
Phone: 6 088 529888
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Email: info@novotel1borneo.com

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Aru Township, 88100 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah
Phone: 6 088 239666
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