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Sabah Travel & Leisure Guide

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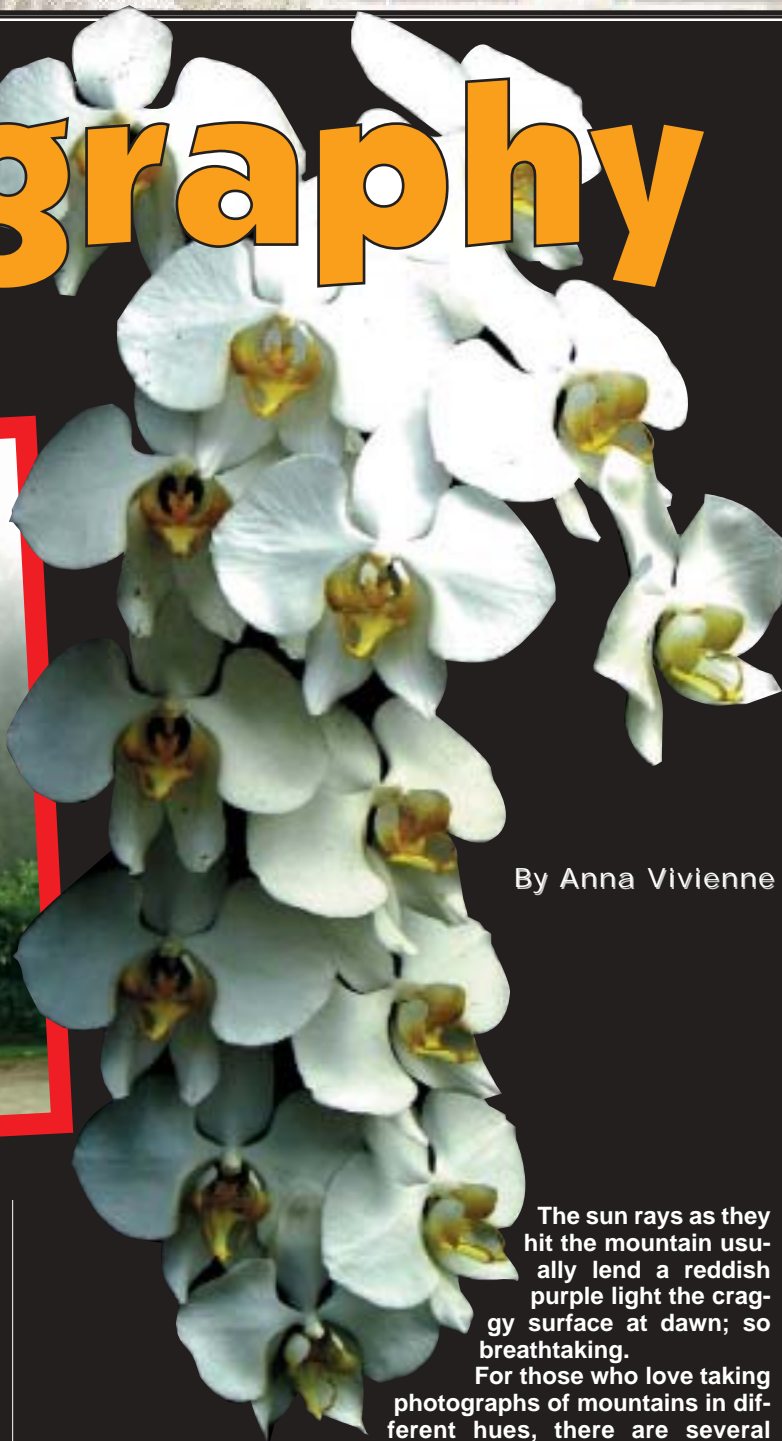
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Photography tourism



By Anna Vivienne

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Photography tourism is an interesting concept; even though it makes us think of tourists coming over here and snapping photographs of everything they see that are remotely interesting.

Rewording it 'Photographing Cultural Tourism' may be best but it will mean documenting another's lifestyle through photographs; which some will argue amounts to the same thing. Be that as it may, photographs are one of the integrals parts of tourism.

Some tourists wish to take photographs of the people's way of life in its rawness. They will visit the people's home during events like weddings and harvest festivals and take dozens of snapshots; which in this age of digital camera is very easy.

Birds are also some tourists' passion. They will stand still or lie still in some undergrowth and take snaps after snaps of birds. To most of us, the warblers will look common but to them each bird is a promise of a discovery of new species.

Panoramic scenes are another of interesting subject. Even locals love snapping away at blazing sunsets, sunrises and the blue beyond.

Tourists will love them too.

As hosts and tourists guides, we have great role to play to ensure that our tourists bring back the most beautiful photographs.

The best place to get nice and scenic photographs is in the highland areas. I personally recommend the Kundasang area in Ranau, at the Perkasa Hotel ground, if they want to take photographs of the Mount Kinabalu at dawn.

The sun rays as they hit the mountain usually lend a reddish purple light the craggy surface at dawn; so breathtaking.

For those who love taking photographs of mountains in different hues, there are several spots at the Penampang - Tambunan Road that are conducive for taking such snapshots. The trees usually have that otherworldly quality especially when the mists sets in.

The rivers in Tambunan are also good places to take photographs. The water just twinkles under the sun as it runs merrily along the river bed. The occasional fish that flashes under the surface is a photographer's dream.

For those who love to capture the blue sea meeting the azure sky, the islands off Kota Kinabalu are just the place to go. The Tunku Abdul Rahman Park which comprises five islands have abundant sites to take photographs at. The sights of the waves crashing against the rocks, framed by green trees with the blue sky as backdrop are breathtaking. The beaches are no less conducive or such photographs. Beaches are also good sights for getting spectacular sunsets.

Some people may be puzzled as to the importance of photographs to tourists. Just like any of us who goes to other people's place, we want something to remind us of our visit. It is also a plus for us as the tourists will relate their experience to their friends and show them the photographs they (tourists) took. It is publicity for us. Their friends may be so taken; they will visit us in their turn. So that is the whole reason why we should promote photography tourism and show our tourists the best photography site in our beautiful State. That is also one of the best reasons why we should always keep our eyes peeled for beautiful sites and sights.