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The Chinese house comprises three parts. The kitchen called 'tsung fong', the main room called the 'hak liang', and the bedroom or 'tsui fong'. The kitchen acts as a place for cooking as well as for dining. Food is cooked in a clay pot called 'sapau', placed on a stand called 'tsan'.

Chua says, when the Hakka House in the Museum ground was built, it was done according to the original specifications.

The ground is sprinkled with salt and pounded until it hardens. With enough and proper pounding, the ground will be packed and will not easily



turn dusty. The kitchen is also built in the old way. It is made of clay and built to accommodate utilisation using firewood.

The cutlery in the cupboard looks definitely used if not too old.

The bedroom is quite sparse. The mosquito net hangs over the canopy frame limply. Two wood pillows adorn the bed. On the floors are grass slippers.

In the living room are a table and a few wooden chairs.

It may not look 'lived' in and it does not exude that old-world charm. I mean, you don't see an old man half-squatting on a stool eating noodles with his chopstick, or an elderly lady with a wide rimmed hat with black curtains around it...but the architecture is there.

Frankly, when I entered the house, I felt like I wandered back in time to the late 1960s when I used to visit this old lady living in a similar house in a rubber plantation in Inanam. The packed earth floor and the barred windows are identical.

In the Museum, the smell of burning joss-sticks is missing, though.

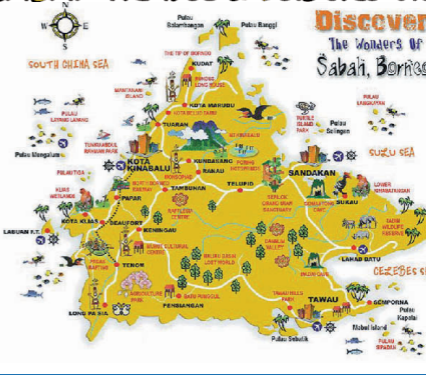
Be that as it may, the Hakka Chinese House at the Heritage Cultural Village should not be missed.

Those of us with Chinese blood in our veins should be proud to show the house to our foreign friends, and to be descendants of a resilient generation.

PLACES OF INTEREST IN SABAH

- Kota Kinabalu City - the international gateway to Sabah
- Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park - Malaysia's premier marine park comprises of five islands - Gaya, Sapi, Manukan, Mamuti and Sulug
- Menapiod Cultural Village - the house of skulls and legend of head hunter
- Kinabalu Park - Mt. Kinabalu World Heritage Site
- Poring Hot Springs - hot springs, rainforest canopy walk
- Sabah Tea - Visit to Sabah's only tea plantation of organic tea
- Klias Wetlands - mangrove wetlands, fire flies and proboscis monkeys
- Tigo Island - island where CBS series 'Survivor' was filmed
- Padas Water Rafting - adventure river rafting
- Labuan Island - the international garden of Borneo
- Kota Belud Ternu - traditional Bajau natives sunday market
- Kudat Rungus Village - visit traditional rungun cultural long houses
- Tenom - the centre of Murut culture and Sabah Agricultural Park
- Bate Punggul - jungle trekking and hiking destination
- Crocker Range Park - Rafflesia research centre and jungle trekking
- North Borneo Railway - take a journey back in time through steam train
- Sandakan - the gateway to Borneo's wildlife
- Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary - world famous conservation centre
- Sukau - lower kinabatangan wetlands, proboscis monkey and wildcats
- Turtle Islands Marine Park - turtle conservation area which comprises of three islands - Selینگan, Balikungan Kecil and Culaian
- Gomantong Caves - limestone cave, bird nest collection, culture
- Langkayan Island - a fabulous diving resort of Beluran
- Danau Valley - rainforest conservation centre
- Tobin Wildlife Reserve - Borneo's richest wildlife concentration
- Tawau Hills Park - a national park of Tawau with hot spring
- Sipadan Island - world famous diving destination
- Maliau Basin - Sabah's Last World
- Layang Layang Island - world famous diving destination
- Singsang Mangrove - tip of Borneo

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