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RETURN TO NEXUS

By ANNE VIVIANE



NEW **SABAH TIMES**
 Sabah's First Established Paper

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Make sure you grab a copy of **INSITES TRAVEL & LEISURE GUIDE** every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Karambunai, just 45 minutes drive from Kota Kinabalu, the State Capital, has always been known for its stretches of white sandy beaches and the cerulean sea. It is loved for its shady casuarinas trees that stand like sentinels against the harsher wind from the ocean.

Friends talk about sitting around bonfires, attending to barbecues and singing the 'auld lang syne' for several year ends there. Actually in those days (of yore!) my family and I visited that place for its abundance of clams and mollusc.

And then the Nexus Resort Karambunai's construction began...no more 'clamming'.

A few years afterwards Nexus Resort Karambunai came into being. Nexus means attachment, attraction or a bonding, and it has done just that; bond with the natural surroundings.

The resort is imposing; located on the green fields, seeming to look into the horizon, proudly but around it is the forests and the sea... nature surrounding the man-made formation.

Nexus is located on 3335 acres of land that is beautifully landscaped. Only one third of the land have been developed while the rest are broody hills covered with natural vegetation. And of course there is the white sandy beach and the blue sea. For die hard Sea, Sand and Sun lover, they can have six kilometres of beach to enjoy.

The accommodations in this resort are tastefully furnished, cosy and comfortable.

The 485 rooms with six bungalows offer you views of the sea and the golf course as well as the mountain. All rooms have their own balconies.

One of the most beautiful rooms I have ever seen is actually in Nexus.

During a recent visit, the Resort's Marketing Communications Manager Pamela Fletcher escorted me to a couple of the Resort's villas and I was quite impressed, to say the least.

The Royal Villa has three oh-so beautiful bedrooms with spacious bathrooms. The beds are divinely made and seem to invite slumbers of the 'Rip Van Winkle' kind.

The living room is quite spacious living as are the dining

rooms. There is a kitchen there as well.

The villa also has its own private garden that can function very well as a place to entertain a few guests for parties.

The other villas are called the Presidential Villas. These two-storey villas are so dreamy that I wish I can take it home one and look after it like my own.

The two beautiful bedrooms are so inviting, you want to stay there forever; maybe move an inch or two but not more than that. The bathrooms, two of them to be exact, are so nice and clean, you want to linger there after everything is done.

The dining area inspires banquets; well, a small one, and the balcony can inspire 'Romeos'. The balcony looks out towards the sea, too.

Magnificent.

Anyway, the Resorts other rooms are beautiful as well, so don't worry. The services are flawless here too.

As for where to get your food, you have four restaurants to choose from for your food. The Penyu is a coffee house where they offer you all day dining. They serve a large selection of international and local food. The breakfast that I had here was tremendously satisfying.

The other restaurant is the Kingfisher. Imagine dining with the sighs of the wind on the treetops, the crash of the waves on the beach and the sound of the night serenading you. That's Kingfisher for you. Then there is the 'Olives', which is a Mediterranean Restaurant. It serves continental food including from countries surrounding the Med.

The Chinese Restaurant, Noble House is also a good place to go. They also offer an array of classic Chinese cuisine. So if you are in the resort visit this eatery.

For those of you who like sports and recreation, there is the mangrove river cruise. The boat ride to the mangrove can be interesting. You can see wildlife among the mangroves if you are observant enough. The last time I visited, I saw a lone iguana, a couple of lizards, a snake, some birds and many insects.

Of course there are many other things you can do in Nexus, but this resort is especially for those who want to relax, smell the sea air and take long nature walks along the beach or the nature trail.

So if you want to have a beautiful resort to stay in and enjoy nature, check out Nexus.