

Hotel Holiday Park



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The Nexus Resort Karambunai held an Open House at the Lagoon Park recently where 43 students and four teachers of Sekolah Agama Islam Sabah Tambunan were treated to a day of outdoor fun and games.

As the weather was fine, the students were treated to banana boat rides, kayaking and a tumble on the trampoline. Peter Sprenger, General Manager of Nexus Resort, department heads and staff were on hand to welcome their guests and to participate in the activities.

Sponsorship from Wildlife Expedition and Tinggi Press helped make the occasion a success.

The banquet staffs were dressed in their most colourful baju melayu and baju kurung which gave a festive atmosphere during the buffet lunch of delicious Malay food. Staff from the various departments made sure the students had enough to eat.

It was Nexus Resort Karambunai contribution to community; extending a helping hand whenever possible to the less fortunate.

It was learnt that Sekolah Ugama Islam Sabah Tambunan has 134 students ranging from eight to 15 years old. They stay at the hostel provided for by Jabatan Hal Ehwal Agama Islam Sabah. Boarding and food are taken care of but they have to depend on public donation for other necessities.

According to the Headmistress and hostel warden, Ustazah Zubaidah, the school and hostel is always appreciative of any assistance that may be extended to them. The critical factor however is the shortage of teachers that they are experiencing. Currently, there are only three full-time teachers and several volunteer teachers at the school.

The event organised by Nexus hoped to accord the students some time to enjoy themselves, in conjunction with the Hari Raya celebration.



Nexus gives

RE GUIDE

COVER Wonders of i, Borneo

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THERE are many interesting places to go to in Sabah. This State known as 'Land Below the Wind' and 'Land of the Sacred Mountain' is known for its diversity in flora and fauna. And they abound in their natural habitat, the mountains, the hills and the valleys.

One of the best places to go is of course the Kinabalu Parks and of course Mount Kinabalu. The sights here are awesome, especially when you view the mountain during a clear morning.

Kinabalu Parks is two hours drive away from Kota Kinabalu the State Capital. It covers 754 sq. km. It is blessed with a wide variety of flora and fauna. I especially enjoy this place because I can walk leisurely along the trails and enjoy nature. The cool air here is also invigorating. But if you are an adventurous person who likes challenges, the mountain is there for you to climb all 13,455 metres of it. Simpang Mengayau in Kudat is next in fame to Mount Kinabalu. This place is beautiful in a very opposite way to Kinabalu Parks. The beach there is the most beautiful beach I have ever seen, and believe me I have been to a few beaches in my lifetime. The blueness of the sea seemed to reach right up to the white sandy beach.

The waves that crash on the sand are white, just like pieces of pristine soft cloth, then they gently draw back, just to return for another caress.

After the beach you will see the jutting mass of land, and that is Simpang Mengayau. Boulders and rocks surround this mass of land therefore creating a shallow area almost around it. The formations are interesting; with some looking like waffles while others akin to beehives.

Right on the tip, you will be able to see a commemoration of an event held there recently, when it was officially declared the Tip of Borneo. The globe stands proud under the Malaysian flag. The path down the hill towards the granite mass on the sea has been paved and now sports a stair. This is commendable, as people have been known to slip quite easily down when it was still just grass.

Onward to the East Coast of the State and you will go through Lahad Datu. Check out Tabin Wildlife Conservation

area. If you decide to take the plane, it will take you 45 minutes to the airport there and an hour drive into the reserve. If you opt to drive, which I usually do, it will take you six to seven hours from Kota Kinabalu, the State Capital.

If you want to stay there for a couple of days, you should check out the Tabin Wildlife Resort.

It is located about 30 kilometres from Lahad Datu town. The road towards it undulates through oil palm plantations. I enjoy the sights of oil palm trees standing like sentinels along the dirt road, and the buzz of humanity in small hamlets along the way, but I cannot help thinking that the palm trees are like intruders into the ancient habitats.

It must be mentioned here that the reserve, 120,500 hectares of it, was declared a wildlife reserve because of the large numbers of wildlife and birds inhabiting its jungle. Many of them are believed to be endemic to this area while others are endangered.

There are some signs along the way of animal crossings, like the pygmy elephants, the Sumatran rhino and Tembadau, but during my visit there, I did not see any, although I heard and saw various types of birds and insects.

Be that as it may, the resort is a beautiful place. It is located on a scenic spot, nestled gigantic trees and a bubbling stream, which is called the Lipad River. The trees give the place a cooling effect and the incessant bubbling sound from the stream soothes.

However, if you have limited time and can only visit within the Kota Kinabalu City area, then you should go to the Sabah State Museum. I believe that it is the best place to go if you want to know about the people's tradition, culture and history.



There is also an ethno-botanical garden and cultural village there. You will have to pay a small fee to enter the grounds.

The other place that you should really check out is Tanjung Aru Beach. If you like the blue sea, the sun and the sea, then this is the ideal place to go. The beach stretches out right towards the Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort (STAR).

There are many things to see and do in Kota Kinabalu and Sabah as a whole. Information can be acquired from Sabah Tourism Board (STB) at 088-212121.

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