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## Shop till you drop... in KK

By ANNA VIVIENNE

**S**abah is being promoted as a tourism destination for its wealth of cultural and natural heritage. This can be attributed to the fact that we have 40 ethnic groups in the State, all with different culture and traditions. The natural beauty of Sabah and its bio-diversity is also a great source of pride.

Shopping however has not been exploited fully, even though we have a lot to offer in this aspect.

Actually once in Kota Kinabalu, the State Capital of Sabah, shopping should be seriously considered. This is because there are a variety of goods to choose from, ranging from the most sophisticated equipment to avant-garde dresses in shopping complexes, right down to unique interesting items sold at stalls in the Sunday market.

The Centre Point shopping complex offers an array of goods that are mind boggling to say the least.

The ground floor seems to be dedicated to mobile telephones, reload cards, costume jewellery, cosmetics and electrical appliances, among many others. And so is the second floor. However, the Palm Square is a bit different, as they sell branded goods.

This place becomes very lively especially at nights and on weekends.

Since it is located in the central business district, it is also busy during lunch hour on working days, as office workers come for a brisk lunch trade or a quick shopping trip.

Fast food outlets like KFC, MacDonalds, Burger King and Sugarbun are located here. There are also several eateries in the complex basements.

The other shopping complex is the Wisma Merdeka. This shopping complex contains various shops that sell designer collections, elegant footwear, exclusive watches, optical items, and quality fabrics. A couple of bookstores are also available here.

A food court located on the second floor make it convenient for shoppers who wish to take a breather after surveying the place.

Then there is the Karamunsing Complex. The building is located about two kilometres from the city centre. There are three storeys of shopping arcade here. Besides the usual clothes and shoes, you will also be able to purchase furniture, electrical appliances, electronic equipment, computers, and cameras. A food court is available in the basements if you get a bit tired of the KFC and MacDonalds available on the ground floor.

Back to the city centre and visit the KK Plaza. The plaza is located at the Segama area. As in the other shopping complexes, they offer the same array of goods. Look out for shoes, and handbags being sold at bargain prices, though.



The Wawasan Plaza is another shopping complex that merits a visit. Besides the normal foot wear, clothes offering, there are also handicrafts being sold on the first and second floor. The handicrafts may not all be 'Made in Sabah' but they are attractive as souvenirs.

The Warisan Square is where you want to be if you simply love branded goods. There are several shops there offering you anything from socks, t-shirts to jeans. This place is relatively new, so you may just have fun exploring the area. There are also several eateries there that should really be checked out.

The UNCHR market, now known as the Handicraft Market, may well be an area most frequented by shoppers, especially those who wish to purchase souvenir items. It is filled with stalls and traders offering handicrafts from the Philippines. Handicrafts available include handbags, photo frames, mirror, purse and various kind of costume jewellery. They also offer mother of pearl pins, cultured pearls and wall decorations among many others.

Then of course, there is the Gaya Street Fair. The fair held every Sunday is held Gaya Street, formerly known as Bond Street. During the fair, the shops along the street carry on their business as usual.

The stalls that line up on the road, offer a variety of goods from plants and flowers, fresh vegetables, fruits, antiques, handicraft, jewellery, clothing, footwear, food, herbs and even pets and arts work.

The prices are quite reasonable but if you feel like exercising your bargaining skills, this can be an opportunity.. The Street Fair occurs from 8am to 12noon.

With the shopping complexes and facilities we have, we can offer 'shopping tourism' to our guests. We may not be a shopping haven yet, but we are moving into the right direction.



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