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BEAUFORT is located along a road that from Sindumin to Kota Kinabalu. It is a strategic place where travelers from Brunei and Sarawak can rest and have their meals after the long journey. This makes Beaufort a rather strategic place for entrepreneurs involved in the food industry.

There is nothing in the township to shout about however except for the shops on stilts, the mosque with its unique architecture and the various rather interesting products on sale at the market; if one likes to look at those. Other than that, Beaufort is a typical provincial town. There are accommodations there but they are just that; a place to sleep.

The district of Beaufort is another story all together. The district is a natural haven for diverse flora and fauna.

The most celebrated river may



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Visit Beaufort

well be the Gerama River where one can see the Proboscis monkey in its natural habitat. They can be sighted in groups on top of trees, looking for food or just idling. Tour operators now actively promote this river and the monkeys as major tourism attractions.

Kg Teratak at Padas Damit is also an interesting area to visit. This is a village where tour operators go to show the proboscis monkey and the fireflies. Various types of birds are also found there. To top that the locals are introducing local food to tourists and this in itself is fascinating

DO YOU KNOW

By Anna Vivienne

In Kota Klias, there is a bird sanctuary, where bird watchers can spend hours without getting bored, due to the diversity of birds there.

Not to mention other animals like silver langurs, various types of lizards including iguanas, squirrels and members of the Lepidoptera families as well as other insects.

We must also not forget the Padas White River Rafting. This adrenaline-pumping activity should be experienced by extreme sports lovers.

To value-add the natural aspect of the district, the people are also promoting their unique culture and traditions to tourists. This is carried out through the homestay programme that is being promoted actively in that district presently.

This is where tourists can have a deeper insight into the people's life. The people here are mostly Bisayas and Malay-Brunei but there are also Kadazandusuns living there.

The homestay offers tour packages to tourists with their own personal touch, and I believe tourists will come away richer in experience after their stay.

There are festivals to attract tourists into Beaufort such as the Pesta Kulintang and Cultural Carnival. The Kulintang is a set of musical instruments used by the people there for their festivities. The unique small gong like utensils produce beautiful tinkling sounds that accompany lithe dancers. Once every two years, Beaufort will celebrate this instrument to commemorate its uses to them.

As for the cultural carnival, it means just that; carnivals where the people of Beaufort come out and parade their colourful traditional costumes. There are of course activities like exhibitions of food and farm produce among others.

Government and the private sectors also join in the celebration by exhibiting their services and wares.

Beaufort is indeed on the way to the main tourism arena.