

Do you know?

By ANNA VIVIENNE

WHERE TO STAY

Snakebirds

During a visit to Danau Bilit, Kinabatangan, I was fascinated by a bird which dived into the lake and stayed submerged for a while. When it came up for air, it actually stayed in submerged with only its head above water. It looked like a snake because of its long neck.

My guide said the bird was called Oriental darter.

Commonly known as 'snake birds' because of their serpentine appearance when swimming with their bodies under the water surface, Oriental darters are one of four species that belong to the family Anhingidae.

This large, dimorphic bird has

porous plumage, and can often be seen spreading its wings out to dry after emerging from the water. Male birds have darker feathers than females.

The sharp, serrated bill of the darter enables them to spear their prey, (fish, frogs, snakes, shrimp, etc.) in water. They have short legs set far back in the body, and webbed feet.

These birds are migrants but in Kinabatangan they are found all the year round. This is quite convenient for bird watchers.

They can be found at the lakeside sunning themselves or diving in for the occasional snack.



Island in Sabah

Clear waters, sun-drenched beaches and unspoilt tranquility are the main attraction of Sabah's islands. Underwater and its marine life is absolutely stunning. Surrounded by one of the richest underwater ecosystems in the world along three of its borders, Sabah is one of the premier destinations to view marine life.

There are many rare and endangered sea creatures such as the green and hawksbill turtles, napoleon

wrasse, giant clams as well as countless species of sharks and schools of thousands of barracuda and jacks.

Sabah is not only known for its reef's larger inhabitants but and also as a "muck diving" paradise with such rarities as the mimic octopus, flamboyant cuttlefish, mandarin fish, harlequin ghost pipefish, seahorses, ribbon eels, plus many types of weird and wonderful frogfish and nudibranchs.

APRIL EVENTS

Traditional Costume Exhibition

Date : April 2006
 Organiser : Monsopiad Cultural Village
 Venue : Monsopiad Cultural Village
 Further Info : Agil Bajera
 Tel : 088 761336, Fax : 088 761680
 Email : info@monsopiad.com

This is a month-long exhibition, featuring colourful attires of different ethnicities in Sabah. With more than 32 different ethnic entities, Sabah has a rich variety of costumes, from the colourful costume of the coastal Islamic tribes to the unique bark-cloth outfits, decorated with shell and beads of the interior people.

Open Water Colour Paintings Exhibition

Date : 06 April - 08 May 2006
 Organiser : Sabah Art Gallery
 Venue : Sabah Art Gallery, KK
 Further Info : Datuk Yaman Mus
 Tel : 268875, Fax : 088 210040
 Email : gallery_9@msn.com

Local artists gather to exhibit their best works in the watercolour discipline. Smooth brush strokes demonstrate sceneries and people of Sabah. Take the opportunity to purchase these outstanding pieces.

Winner Hotel
 Phone: 60 088 243222
 Fax: 60 088 217345

Hotel Deleton
 Phone: 60 088 252222
 Fax: 60 088 267999

Kinabalu Daya Hotel
 Phone: 60 088 240000
 Fax: 60 088 263909

Berjaya Palace Hotel
 Phone: 60 088 211911
 Fax: 60 088 211600

Hotel Shangri-La
 Phone: 60 088 212800
 Fax: 60 088 212078

Likas Square Business Suites
 Phone: 60 088 252233
 Fax: 60 088 251122

Tang Dynasty Hotel
 Phone: 60 088 263389 / 251155
 Fax: 60 088 263989 / 265566

Beverly Hotel
 Phone: 60 088 258998
 Fax: 60 088 258778

Promenade Hotel
 Phone: 60 088 265555
 Fax: 60 088 246666 / 253980

Hyatt Regency Kinabalu
 Phone: 60 088 221234
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Le Meridien Kota Kinabalu
 Phone: 60 088 322222
 Fax: 60 088 322223

Nexus Resort Karambunai
 Phone: 6 088 411222 / 411030
 Fax: 6 088 411020 / 412028

Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort
 Phone: 60 088 225800 / 241800 / 293306 (Reserv)
 Fax: 60 088 244871 / 217155

Sutera Harbour Resort - Magellan Sutera
 Phone: 6 088 318 888
 Fax: 6 088 317 777

Sutera Harbour Resort - Pacific Sutera
 Phone: 60 088 318888
 Fax: 60 088 317777

Weekly TAMU (Open Market) in Sabah

■ Tamus are held in almost every town/district in Sabah. Most local traders gather to buy, sell or barter their farm produce, handicrafts, traditional ware, musical instruments, etc.

SUNDAY 6am - 2pm
 Kota Belud, Tuaran, Putatan, Papar, Babagon, Tambunan, Tenom, Membakut, Kota Marudu, Sikuati, Gaya Street Fair (Kota Kinabalu)

MONDAY 6am - 2pm
 Tandek

TUESDAY 6am - 2pm
 Kiulu

WEDNESDAY 6am - 2pm
 Pinggan-pinggan, Tamparuli & Kudat

THURSDAY 6am - 2pm
 Donggongan, Telipok, Tenghilan, Pekan Nabal, Sipitang, Tambunan, Keningau

FRIDAY 6am - 2pm
 Donggongan, Sunsuron, Weston, Mesapol, Kanibangan

SATURDAY 6am - 2pm
 Kinarut, Beaufort, Sindumin, Matunggong, Pekan Pitas

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