

Malaysian Borneo

Sabah

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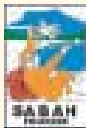
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Editorial

Kopivosian!

And so 12 months have passed as we close another chapter in our lives. It has been an exciting year with non-stop events, filled with explorations and journeys in the Land Below the Wind. From the sun-kissed islands of the East Coast to the mysterious rainforests of the interior districts, it has been a pleasure to bring you some of the best sights Sabah has to offer. This month, don't miss several happenings around town, namely the Sutura Harbour Amazing Carols by Candlelight (p.3) and the Gaya Christmas Celebration (p.5) – perfect events to spread the season's cheer while doing your bit for charity. Find out how the cinnamon industry has played a crucial role in the development of Keningau in the upcoming Pesta Keningau (Keningau Festival – p.5). Looking for ways to usher the New Year in with style? Check with your local resorts and hotels for great parties or visit @mosphere on New Year's Eve for their all-night long Retro Party (p.4). For some of the best bites in Kota Kinabalu, we recommend Benito's for their superb chocolate cupcake and Bella Italia for its warm ambience (p.8).

Christmas in Sabah is far from the visions

snow-capped mountains and sounds of sleigh bells ringing. Swaying coconut palms and sunny skies greet you on Christmas morning and in true Malaysian spirit, this holiday season is another opportunity to visit friends and family during the 'open house' – a time to indulge in good times and good food! As we welcome Visit Malaysia Year 2007, the tourism industry gears up to welcome the world. It's going to be one very exciting year! Season's greetings to all and have yourself a merry little Christmas. And a tropical one to boot!



Melissa Leong

Calendar of Events

Cuti Cuti Malaysia "Jom Pigi Taman" 2 - 3 December 2006

Various activities will be held at the Sabah Agriculture Park in conjunction with the Cuti Cuti Malaysia Promotions including a fishing competition, a mountain bike challenge and many more.

Organiser: Sabah Agriculture Park

For further info:

Muhiddin Hj. Ismail / Wan Masamah Wan Abedin

Tel: +60 87 737952, 088 258529

Fax: +60 87 737571, 088 258529

Email: agripark@sabah.net.my

National Choir Tour Concert 2 December 2006

An evening of perfect harmony will take place at the Yayasan Sabah Auditorium this month, at 8pm. The 30-member choir will be led by Malaysian artistes Syafinaz Selamat and Zainal Abidin. Join them as they perform folk song favourites such as 'Joget Tari Lenggang', 'Puteri Santubong', 'My Precious Beloved' and 'Jambatan Tamparuli'. Also accompanying the choir are cultural dance performances by local cultural troupes. Don't miss this one night only performance in Kota Kinabalu! Admission is free.

Organiser:

Ministry of Culture, Arts & Heritage (Sabah)

For further info: Amilizan Azman

Tel: +6088- 88-237051 / 237052 /

+6016-8310691

Fax: +6088-252052

Email: amilizan@heritage.gov.my

6th Sabah Open Dancesport Championship 2 December 2006

Ballroom dancing aficionados compete to be crowned the best in their league during the 6th Sabah Open Dancesport Championship, held at the Magellan Grand Ballroom, Kota Kinabalu. With participants from around Malaysia, Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Brunei, China, Singapore, Thailand, New Zealand and the Philippines, the championship promises to be an exciting one.

Organiser: Imperial Ballroom Dancing School

For further info: Anthony Keung

Tel: +60 88 253090, +6019 821332

Fax: +60 88 238785

Email: ymmc7388@tm.net.my

Gaya Christmas Celebration 2006 18-22 December 2006

Join the festivities this month at the historic Gaya Street, organised by the Sabah Council of Churches and Kota Kinabalu City Hall (DBKK). This year's theme is 'Peace, Love and Goodwill towards all People'. Expect an exciting atmosphere of festivities, beginning with the launch on 18 December and culminating with a Grand Finale on 22 December. Come and join the festivities!

Organiser: Sabah Council of Churches

Kota Kinabalu City Hall (DBKK)

For further info:

Kota Kinabalu City Hall (DBKK) / Neil Mah (Organising Chairman)

Tel: +6088-521800 / +6013879 8415 (Neil)

E-mail: gxc@eventmalaysia.net

Website: www.eventmalaysia.net/gxc

Drunk Before Dawn - The Musical 21 December 2006

SIB KL presents a groundbreaking musical performance, Drunk Before Dawn, right here in Kota Kinabalu. The drama is a fascinating tale of missionaries in Borneo some 76 years ago, interwoven with tales of romance, family ties and an insight into the cultures of Borneo. Don't miss this theatrical extravaganza which will be taking place at the Yayasan Sabah Auditorium, Kota Kinabalu.

Organiser: SIB KL / Borneo Revival Sdn. Bhd

For further info: Borneo Revival Sdn. Bhd.

Tel: +6088-264462 / 014 670 0635

Website: http://www.d-gap.org/dbd/

Christmas and Year-end Festivities 22 - 31 December 2006

Christmas joy lends an air of yuletide charm to the hotel as festive trimmings and decorations go up. Christmas decorations and music feature throughout the hotel, with special appearances by Santa Claus and a group of carolers.

Organiser: Hyatt Regency Kinabalu

For further info: Food & Beverage Department

Tel: +60 88 221234 Fax: +60 88 254315

Email: hyatt.kinabalu@hyattintl.com

Pesta Kubis 23-24 December 2005

The Cabbage Fest of Pesta Kubis celebrate the cabbage industry of Kundasang. Come and enjoy the crisp cool air of the highlands and visit the surrounding places of interests, such as the Kinabalu

National Park and Australian POW Memorial. Plenty of activities to enjoy for all!

For further info: Mr. Suatin Mayor (Organising Secretary) / Zachary Mobjohn (Sri Pelancongan Sabah Sdn. Bhd.)

Tel: +6 0198411435 / 232121

Fax: +0688 265540

Email: zachary@sabahtourism.com

Christmas Day 25 December 2005

Midnight services and prayers are held in churches, to celebrate the birth of Christ. The Christians decorate their homes with Christmas trees and receive carolers that visit from house to house. Malaysians of all creeds and races come together to celebrate the joyous occasion.

For further info: Sabah Tourism Board /

Sri Pelancongan Sabah Sdn Bhd

Tel: +60 88 212121, 232121

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Hari Raya Aidil Adha 31 December 2006

Muslims around the world celebrate this day in the Islamic calendar. This is a special and rare occasion where the Aidil Adha is celebrated twice within the same year. Muslims go for their Hajj Pilgrimage prior to the day of celebration.

For further info: Sabah Tourism Board / Sri Pelancongan Sabah Sdn. Bhd.

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@mosphere Going Retro Party 31 December 2006

@mosphere is throwing a New Year's Party not to be missed this month, with a funky retro theme. Enjoy a 4-course meal, fantastic lucky draw prizes and let a groovy DJ usher the New Year in with style. Show up in your best 70s retro gear that might even rival Austin Powers! Also to entertain you are international bands from England and Venezuela. Say hello to 2007 with style right here at @mosphere. Party begins at 7pm.

Organiser:

@mosphere Revolving Restaurant & Lounge

For further info: @mosphere Revolving Restaurant & Lounge / Touchdown Holidays

Tel: +6088-425100 / +6088-249276