

Malaysian Borneo

Sabah

ADVISOR YM Tengku (Dr.) Datuk Zainal Adlin

ASST. EDITOR Melissa Leong

DESIGNER Trevor Thomson | Lam C.W.

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Last month, I traveled east of Sabah to visit Tawau. Its claim to fame is none other than being the gateway to Sabah's diving havens –namely Sipadan, Matakang, Mabul and Kapalai. However, many have yet to explore Tawau's lush greenery and fascinating agro-tourism products. I had the opportunity to drop by the Balung Eco-Resort (p.10-11); a unique establishment which allows visitors to explore the vast plantation grounds whilst enjoying its natural pristine surroundings, away from the hectic city life. I also worked up some sweat 'conquering' Bukit Gemok (p.7) but every huff and puff was worth it when I reached the canopy walk. I was breathless (literally and figuratively speaking) when I saw the amazing view from the top. Meanwhile, the serenity and green canopies of Tawau Hills Park (p.9) make it an ideal place to spend the weekend, either for a picnic with the family or simply for an evening stroll.

Editorial

April is the perfect time to explore various parts of Sabah as exciting events are lined-up just about everywhere. Visit Tenom, approximately a two and a half hour drive from KK, to experience the Murut culture during the annual Pesta Kalimantan or head to Semporna in Tawau for the colourful 13th Regatta Lepa. Anzac Day is celebrated at various memorials throughout Sabah, namely Sandakan and the Federal Territory of Labuan. Refer to our Calendar of Events for more information on these events and more.

From cultural experiences to delightful dining moments, Sabah has it all. The great thing about the Land Below the Wind is that the discovery never ends. We hope the bulletin serves you well as you continue to unearth and explore Sabah's never-ending treasures.

Melissa Leong

Calendar of Events

Tenom Cultural Carnival 2006 – Pesta Kalimantan 1 – 2 April 2006

Held in conjunction with Pesta Kalimantan, the Murut community celebrates the 2-day event exhibiting their colourful culture through music, dance, food, crafts and traditional games.

Organiser: Sabah Cultural Board

For further info: Mackey Apison
Tel: 088 268884 Fax: 088 264235

Email: Rusman.Abdullah@sabah.gov.my

Panther Blacks 10's Rugby Tournament Sipitang 1 – 2 April 2006

Panthers Blacks 10's is an annual event of Panthers Rugby Club based in Sipitang, which began in 2002. Participation is open to schools within and outside the district. This year, the organizer will open the tournament to clubs with members aged below 21 years old.

Organiser: Panther Blacks, Sipitang

For further info:

Jamain Pahing
Tel: 087 821439 Fax: 087 821439

Email: ruggerman44@yahoo.com

Traditional Costume Exhibition 4-30 April 2006

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.

Organiser:

Monsopiad Cultural Village

For further info:

Agil Bajera
Tel: 088 774337 Fax: 088 761680

Email: info@monsopiad.com

Open Water Colour Paintings Exhibition 6 April – 8 May 2006

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.

Organiser:
Sabah Art Gallery

For further info:

Datuk Yaman Mus

Tel: 088 268875 Fax: 088 210040

Email: gallery_9@msn.com

"The Beauty of Sabah's Islamic Arts" Special Exhibition

10 April – 11 May 2006

This exhibition displays some of Sabah's finest and most beautiful locally produced Islamic arts and art forms featuring centuries old traditions and cultural items. Islamic influences from the old and new worlds have resulted in a very rich art form among the local Islamic and non-Islamic communities. This exhibition is a must see exposition.

Organiser:

Sabah Islamic Civilisation Museum

For further info:

Arif Abd. Hamid

Tel: 088 538227 Fax: 088 240230

Email: Arif.AbdH@sabah.gov.my

Maulidur Rasul

11 April 2006

Muslims all over the world celebrate the birthday of Prophet Muhammad.

For further info:

Email: info@sabahtourism.com

Good Friday

14 April 2006

A time when all Christians commemorate together, in mass services and prayer, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

For further info: Sabah Tourism Board

Sri Pelancongan Sabah Sdn Bhd

Tel: 088 212121 / 232121

Fax: 088 212075 / 265540

Email: info@sabahtourism.com

Vasakhi Day

14 April 2006

Vasakhi celebrates the New Year in the Northern Indian Calendar. During the celebration, all Gurdawars (Sikh Temple) conduct prayer services. Vegetarian food is

served to all who visit the Gurdawars.

For further info: Sabah Tourism Board

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13th Regatta Lepa Semporna – Water Festival 15 – 16 April 2006

Semporna comes to life with the Bajau seafarers' unique festival of Regatta Lepa where a competition of the most beautiful traditional sailboats is held. Watch out also for other out of the ordinary telematches like the boat tug-of-war and duck catching. The town of Semporna is also home to fresh seafood and gateway to the world's best dive sites.

Organisers:

District Office of Semporna

Sri Pelancongan Sabah Sdn Bhd

For further info: Balwant Singh Kler

Tel: 088 232121 Fax: 088 265540

Email: balwant@sabahtourism.com

Easter Sunday

16 April 2006

A meaningful celebration across the land as Christians commemorate the Resurrection of Christ.

For further info: Sabah Tourism Board

Sri Pelancongan Sabah Sdn Bhd

Tel: 088 212121 / 232121

Fax: 088 212075 / 265540

Email: info@sabahtourism.com

Anzac Day

25 April 2006

An annual event to commemorate the Australian and New Zealand Army servicemen who fought in the World War II in Sabah. Many retired servicemen and family members from Australia and New Zealand make a pilgrimage to Sabah during this time of the year to remember the fallen and the locals who risked their lives to help others.

Organiser: Destination Boreno Sdn Bhd

For further info: Willie Teo

Tel: 087 414611 / 414989

Fax: 087 413459 Email: wteo@tm.net.my