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SARAWAK TOURISM BOARD

Volume 3 | 2007 Complimentary copy

Happenings

in Sarawak

Miri Underwater Haven

Cruise In Style

Tee Off at Damai Golf & Country Club

Mongkos Homestay

Amorous Chap Goh Meh



LIFESTYLE | CULINARY DELIGHT | SHOPPING GALORE | ARTS



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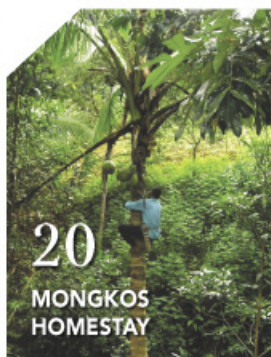
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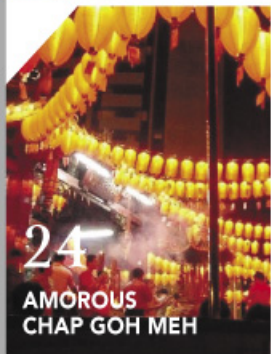
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Event listing must include the name of the event, venue, website, shop description, contact details, date, time and photographs. For enquiries, please contact the publisher.

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MIRI UNDERWATER HAVEN

Text & Photos Lily Lee

Miri in the northern part of Sarawak has always been famously associated with oil, national parks and majestic caves. But, in recent years Miri has attained city status and established a new attraction to the town. It has now become a diving haven for dive enthusiasts.

The calm waters off the shores near Miri is beautifully dotted with rich and colourful marine lives like corals, fishes and reefs, thriving in abundance in the pristine surroundings. After the discovery of Miri's underwater haven, the booming town is fast becoming a dive sanctuary. And, what is more interesting is this sanctuary is only 30 minutes away from Miri River mouth.

Several dive sites had been discovered and these sites include drop-offs, reefs and shipwrecks, varying in depths that range from seven to 30 metres. The dive sites also offer divers sights of colourful hard and soft coral, reefs, sponges and various fish species that include **butterflyfish**, **clownfish**, **snapper**, **jellyfish** and **barracuda**.

There are also crab, prawn, squid and lobster flourishing aplenty.

Among the dive sites are Grouper Patch, Tusan Reef, Azam's Place, Eve's Garden, Sea Fan Garden, Siwa Oil Rig, VHK Reef, Tukai Drop-Off, Sri Gadong Wreck, Batu Belais, Robert's Reef, Atago Maru Wreck, Barracuda Point, Sunday Reef, Kenyalang Wreck, Santak Point, Hatano Point, Anemone Reef, Gorgonian Paradise and Tukai Oil Rigs.

Anemone Garden which is between 10 to 16 metres deep, is the most popular and interesting spot with lots of flora and fauna composition. The reef site is also named so as there are many anemone fish or better known as clownfish and other fishes thriving in the area.

Other sites that are named after fishes are the Barracuda Point (25 metres deep) and Grouper Patch (18-22 metres deep). Apart from Barracuda, Batfishes are also found in big



“Underwater Haven in Miri is Fast Becoming a Dive Sanctuary”



numbers at Barracuda Point. The hard corals and bounders found at Grouper Patch provides an ideal spot for grouper to inhabit.

The Eve's Garden is the nearest to Miri. Located just about 15-minute boat ride from the jetty, this spot is also the shallowest reef. It is the best site for novice divers who are just starting to explore the underwater beauty.

The Gorgonian Paradise is an ideal spot to see the gorgonian fans as there plenty growing in this area. The gorgonian fans are in various shades of blue, yellow, white and red. With depth between 35 to 39 metres, this site is for advance divers.

The Kenyalang Wreck is another interesting site as it is a man-made reef created out of disused oil platform. Located 14 metres below the sea surface, this artificial reef is a safe haven for variety of reef fishes like **snappers, groupers, sweetlips** and many more.

Other wreck sites are the Atago Maru Wreck and Sri Gadong Wreck. Atago Maru Wreck (10-15 metres deep) was named after the Japanese vessel that sunk after being bombarded by the US air force aircraft during the World War II.

The wreckage is covered with corals and sea fans and this attracted schools of reef fishes like **barracuda, scorpionfish** and **stonefish**.

The Sri Gadong Wreck was named after a cargo vessel that was carrying timber and located about 18 metres underwater.

Of the many dive sites, Siwa Reef (8-18 metres deep) is the largest reef and is also the most popular dive spot. The many large boulders and huge and undamaged coral tables not only attract the divers but also schools of fishes like **Leopard sharks, clownfish** and **crab**.

The Tukai Drop-Off is as the name suggest. Described as the most challenging site, this spot begin at 20 metres deep and drastically **“drop”** to the depth of 40 metres.

The Sunday Reef (12-16 metres deep) is an ideal spot for underwater photographers as the diverse corals and marine lives provide a colourful and attractive subject for photography.

While most of the sites are named after ship wreck and fishes found in the area, the VHK Reef (17-22 metres deep) was actually named after

an ardent diver Voo Heng Kong. A familiar name among divers especially in Sarawak, Voo is a dive instructor who also operates a dive centre that provide diving packages.

This site is good for divers who enjoy the magnificent sight of many species of marine lives.

The popularity of the dive sites in Miri is increasing steadily and this is because most of the sites are comparable to the existing world-renowned dive sites. With more people coming to Miri to dive, diving will be the next big attraction to this oil town.

For those who are keen to explore Miri's dive site, Tropical Dives provide various packages to suit every divers need.

TROPICAL DIVES

Lot 273, Ground Floor, Brighton Centre, Jalan Temenggong Datuk Oyong Lawai, 98000 Miri, Sarawak.

Tel: 085-414 300 Fax: 085-416 066

Website: www.tropical-dives.com

November 7, 2006

The CITY TRAM is back on the road



KUCHING- The city tram is now back on the road, after being out of action for almost a year. The operation of the tram is now managed by a consortium formed by Sarawak Tourism Federation, and Matahari Tour Sdn Bhd has been entrusted to operate the tour routine.

Under the new management, the tram is operating three trips daily starting from Merdeka Palace Hotel and Suites. The trips are once in the morning, another in the afternoon and the last is in the evening.

The present route will take guests from Merdeka Palace Hotel and Suites to the city passing Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman to Padungan. In Padungan, the tram will pass Kuching Park Hotel before turning to Jalan Ban Hock to Grand Continental Hotel. From there it proceeded to Jalan Tabuan. The route also covers Jalan Kulas, Jalan Patinggan, Gambier Street and Kuching Waterfront before returning to its starting point.

The fare for the city tram ride is RM12 for an adult and RM6 for a child below 12 years old. The tickets can be purchased at Kuching Visitors Information Centre at Sarawak Tourism Complex, Sarawak Tourism Federation office at Kuching Waterfront, and Matahari Tours at Holiday Inn Kuching.

The city tram service was first introduced in 2003, then its operation was managed by Sarawak Tourism Board. However, the tram service was stopped in October last year due to technical problems after being in service for two years.

With its nicely refurbished coach, the city tram is fast becoming a popular mode of transport for tourists who wished to tour the city at their own leisure time. The ride is also comfortable.

Issued by:
Corporate Affairs
Sarawak Tourism Board
Tel: +6 082-423600

STB press release

Tickets for RAINFOREST WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL and MIRI INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL available online

The tickets for both of Sarawak's prestigious events - the Rainforest World Music Festival and Miri International Jazz Festival, are now available online starting December 8 last year.

Ticketcharge Sdn Bhd has been entrusted to do the online sales of the tickets for the two festivals. This collaboration was established after Ticketcharge signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) on November 30 last year in Kuala Lumpur.

STB Chief Executive Officer Mdm Gracie Geikie signed on behalf of the board while Ticketcharge is represented by its Executive Director Mr Hng Tien Yao. The MOU was signed at Ticketcharge office at Kuala Lumpur.

With the MOU, STB had given the task to provide the online sales for tickets to Rainforest World Music Festival and Miri International Jazz Festival to Ticketcharge. With Ticketcharge as service, guests especially those from outside Sarawak, will be able to purchase tickets online from anywhere around the world. For purchase via Ticketcharge, please log on to www.ticketcharge.com.my.

Ticketcharge will also install ticketing machine at STB office in Kuching soon to facilitate sales of the tickets in the city.

Both the internationally-acclaimed festivals are organized annually by STB.



The Rainforest World Music Festival will be held from July 13 to 15 at the Sarawak Cultural Village in Kuching while the 2nd Miri International Jazz Festival is from May 11 and 12 at the pavilion of Parkcity Everly Hotel in Miri.

STB has been organizing the Rainforest World Music Festival since 1998, and this year's event will be held on a grand scale as it commensurates with the festival's 10th anniversary.

And, this year the festival will showcase 20 groups from all corners of the world, and they are mostly those who had performed at the festival in previous years.



This year's event is also expected to be the "party of the year" with increased number of anticipated festival-goers. This is because Rainforest World Music Festival is privileged to be selected as one of the top 50 events in the Visit Malaysia Year 2007 Calendar of Events. Thus, it will get wider promotion overseas under Tourism Malaysia's promotional activity lined up for VMY 2007.

Rainforest World Music Festival had also won the PATA Gold Award in 2006 in the Heritage and Culture category.



Since the introduction of the festival nine years ago, Rainforest World Music Festival has garnered strong followers worldwide. An average of 20,000 festival-goers attended the festival each year.

The Miri International Jazz Festival made its debut last year and managed to attract more than 2,000 festival-goers during the two nights.

Jazz groups from Cuba, Morocco, Germany, India, France, New Orleans, Australia, England and Spain are included in this year's Miri International Jazz Festival performers' line-up.

STB is confident that the collaboration with Ticketcharge would further enhance the number of audiences especially from overseas, to the two festivals. For this year, STB is targeting 4,000 audiences for the two-day Miri International Jazz Festival and 24,000 audiences for the three-day Rainforest World Music Festival. Ends.

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Sri Shan offers some very exciting yet simple specialties such as **Puttumayam** or **Idilappam**, and **Appam**. These two dishes rekindle feelings of nostalgia especially to those older customers. They are a big hit during weekends and are served only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning.

Our innovative menu provides more than a dozen varieties of Roti Canai and Thosay. Some of the most popular dishes are **Tri-Mushroom Thosay**, **Vintage Roti Cheese**, **Roti Canai Pineapple Sarawak** and more.

The house specialty is the Curry Mutton Shank. It is cooked with herbs for about 4 hours and another couple of hours in our very own mixture of fresh spices and curry powder. The dish is simply a must for mutton lovers as it is not

chili hot and it melts in your mouth. It is a definite order from all our 'Mat Salleh' customers.

Next is the Curry Fishhead, cooked without coconut milk and served with big staring eyes and very edible lips. It is reasonably priced at **RM3.20** to **RM3.40** per 100 gm for Red Snapper or Garoupa, and **RM6.80** per 100 gm for Ikan Kurau. The current promotion comes with a free flow of Masala Tea for every order of Fishhead. For Ikan Kurau, it's best to call half hour before arriving.

Our meat dishes are either cooked in dry or wet curry. Some dishes are plain fried with light spices to maintain the original taste of the meat. To go along with the meals,

Sri Shan provides the best **Chatney**, **Rasam** and **Puppadum**. We do not use MSG, Coloring or Coconut milk in our cooking.

We would suggest that you savour the wide selection of Sri Shan's rice. Each day of the week features different fragrant rice such as Tamarind Rice, Coriander Rice, Tomato Rice, Lemon Rice, Saffron Rice, Yogurt Rice and Coconut Rice. These rice dishes are prepared with Basmati Rice and blended richly with herbs and spices. They exude fragrance and texture that will surely make your dining experience at Sri Shan a subject of conversation among your friends.

Besides this food outlet at Persiaran Ban Hock, Sri Shan provides Function Catering, Take-Away for Meetings and Parties.



Sri Shan Curry & Such

Authentic Rich Aromatic Southern Indian Cuisine

Lot 383, Persiaran Ban Hock
93000 Kuching
Tel: 6082-244 118 Fax: 6082-410 118
Email: sri_shan@streamyx.com.my

Opening hours -
Tuesday - Saturday: 7.00am - 10.00pm
Sunday and Monday: 7.00am - 3.00pm





Wind down at

Piccadilly's

Ground Floor, Section 47
Jalan Bukit Mata, Kuching.

Opening hours –
from 11am to 1am (weekdays) and
11am to 2am (Friday, Saturday,
and eve of public holidays)

The nightlife scene in laidback Kuching city has become quite a 'happening' lately.

So much so that eateries, pubs and clubs have been established within reach of one another enabling the "night-owls" to eat, drink and be merry all in the same place without having to travel from one place to another.

However, at Piccadilly's, one can eat, drink and be merry all under one roof.

Bistro by day and bar by nightfall, the newly-opened bistro bar has since garnered quite a steady number of customers who look forward to unwind themselves after a long hectic day.

Serving an array of local favourites from 11am onwards, customers can satisfy their hunger with Piccadilly's special '**Kachang Ma**', a well-known local dish of chicken cooked with herbs, ginger and white wine, or opt for the tantalising **Chicken Curry**.

As soon as Happy Hour hits, chill out to the sultry music of Jazz or R&B while enjoying your favourite concoction for the evening.

On the other hand, there's also a pool table readily available for those who're looking for a game of pool with their friends.

No foolin'

Fun is always in the air at De'Grill Bistro and Fun Café, but the cooks at De'Grill take their jobs seriously.

It's time to taste the delightful dishes at this De'Grill, where you won't be disappointed by the large servings, overall quality, a numerous choices, and reasonable prices. Perfect for a quick and delicious meal when shopping at Sarawak Plaza, a fuss-free business lunch or a night out without having to break the bank.

We begin with a starter of **Nacho Mexicana**, most locals favourite consisting tortilla chips with cheese, sour cream with mince beef salsa, great for a light lunch or starter.

Of the main courses, **House Special Jumbo Beef Burger** is a house specialty, it is value for the money. Mouth watering homemade beef patty with tomato, cucumber and lettuce and a generous portion of cheddar cheese, which is simply distinctly juicy. A choice of hash brown or french fries with coleslaw makes this a sizeable serving. **De'Grill Prawn Special** where the tiger prawn is grilled to perfection, yet another tempting morsel.



Do reserve some room for dessert, as the **Cheesy Brownies** is a must try's. This is made in-house, delectable with only the best ingredients, and worth every single calorie. De'Grill is unpretentious and cosy, and the food is down-to-earth fusion fare that allows a varied choice.



Present this coupon and get 5% off all prices on menu.

This coupon is not applicable for any form of promotional items & Happy Hours.

De'Grill
Bistro & Fun Cafe



De'Grill Bistro & Fun Cafe

Sarawak Plaza Shopping Complex
Lot 291, Section 48
Jalan Tunku Abdul-Rahman
Lorong Chan Chin Ann, Kuching

Opening hours –
operates daily from 9.00am - 12am



A taste of Vietnam

Little Saigon sits not far away from the Kuching International Airport. Whether you're arriving or departing, Little Saigon is a great dining stop-over for those looking to savour authentic Vietnamese cuisine within the city of Kuching.

The restaurant guarantees the use of fresh ingredients to bring the distinctive taste and aroma that makes Vietnamese cuisine so famous around the world. An American-Vietnamese food consultant has also recently joined the restaurant to ensure the utmost quality of food are served so patrons can rest assured that what you savour is just as good as in Vietnam.

Start the meal with spring rolls or **Cha Gio**, an essential appetiser in any Vietnamese meals. Little Saigon serves three types of spring rolls namely, Vietnamese Spring Roll, Net Spring Rolls, and Rice Paper Rolls of stripped pork, prawns, carrots, cabbage, bean sprouts and basil leaves in steamed rice paper wrapper. The rice paper wrappers or 'skins' are all imported from Vietnam. Cha Gio is served with two dipping sauces: vinegar and lime with chopped garlic, and soy sauce and vinegar with chopped chilli and garlic.

For the main course, opt for an order of Fresh Water Prawns in Lemongrass if you love the succulent tiger prawns. Considering that lemongrass is one of the common herbs in Vietnamese cooking, the menu at Little Saigon also includes several

other meat items prepared with this flavourful ingredient. An alternative on the main course menu is the Beef Ribs with Honey, which will definitely please the palate of beef lovers.

Vietnamese glass noodles are popular at Little Saigon. They are lightly fried with chopped ingredients and served in generous portions. A must-try is the **Mien Xao Luon** or Glass Noodles with Crabmeat and Bacon.

Bo Vien or Beef Noodle Soup is also a famous item at this restaurant. A hearty warm beef soup with a dash of herbs and beef and seafood ingredients make a great combination of a meal.

Never leave a Vietnamese restaurant without trying their well-known coffee. With coffee powder imported from Vietnam (Banh Thang), Little Saigon serves this coffee the way it is meant to be, where customers filter their own cup of java and savour it from there.

Little Saigon

Ground Floor, 113
Lot 9960, Block 16
Jalan Lapangan Terbang
RH Plaza, 93250 Kuching
Tel: 6082-461 967

Opening hours –
operates daily except Mondays
between 11am - 2.30pm for lunch
and 6pm - 10pm for dinner
The menu is non-halal.



The owners/managers of Cafe Miri, 'Phillip and Denise Ng' welcome you to their restaurant with the offer of a truly relax, clean, and casual atmosphere and superb western cuisine with a touch of Australian influence.

If you want value for money, Cafe Miri is definitely the place. The menu is extensive, reasonably priced and the portion of meal served is hearty and generous! Our aussie steak is very popular and our fish and chips is a big seller. Cafe Miri has a fine selection of good Australian wines to compliment your meal, as well as a well-stocked cocktail bar that offers a wide selection of liquor-coffee for discerning clientele after the dinner.

Cafe Miri is now into it's twelve years of operation and the owners Phillip and Denise would like to thank all their valuable clienteles, customers and friends for their continuous support. As we enter another year "2007", Cafe Miri would like to wish you all "**Gong Xi Fa Cai**"!!

Cafe Miri opens 6 nights a week, from **4.00pm** to **11.00pm**, **Wednesday** to **Monday**. We are closed on Tuesday for rest day.

- Bon Appetit -

Café Miri Bar & Bistro (Western Cuisine)

Lot 2121 & 2120 of
Taman Yakin Commercial Centre
Jalan Bulan Sabit, P.O.Box 868
98008 Miri Sarawak
Tel: 6085-425 122 Fax: 6085-422 273
H/P: 012-8785122
Email: cafemiri@yahoo.com





Korean cuisine at its best

Korean food enthusiasts will be pleased to know that Kuching has quite a number of restaurants that specialise in the exotic cuisine. One such outlet located amidst the bustling city centre is Koreana Restaurant at Taman Sri Sarawak Mall (opposite Hilton Kuching).

Known for serving gastronomy of authentic Korean cuisine, the restaurant's menu features an impressive list of palatable dishes that leaves foodies spoilt for choice.

One popular choice Korean food aficionados would definitely recommend never to pass up on is **Bulgogi** (RM25), which comprises of tender, juicy and flavourful beef slices in special Korean sauce. Grilled on a hot plate and immediately served, this particular dish is best eaten when dipped into its special sauce and accompanied with a piping hot bowl of rice.

Another dish from the BBQ meat department is **Galbi Gui** (RM30), which is simply beef ribs in special Korean sauce. The aromatic grilled meat dish is delightfully rich in flavour that's certainly to leave you craving for more.

For another alternative, do try the **Seawoo Gui** (RM30), a dish comprising of barbecued prawns in Korean sauce. Fresh and succulent, grilled to perfection, it's a definite must try for those who can't get enough of seafood.

Also appetising on the palate is the **Mul Naengmee** (RM20), a dish consisting of cold noodles in tangy broth. This dish is perfect for consumption on a hot sunny day.

Equally heart-warming is the **Kimchi Chigea** (RM15) which features the inevitable food item of Korean cuisine. The kimchi broth is cooked ala traditional Korean style and is delicious whether taken on its own or spooned over white rice.

Like every other Korean restaurants, every main course is complimented with an array of side dishes to go with your meal. At Koreana, each main course will be served with six side dishes that range from various types of kimchi and pickles to flavourful, spicy broths. For those who haven't the faintest idea what kimchi is, this light morsel is made of fermented cabbage or white radish seasoned with salt and chilli peppers.

Koreana Restaurant

Lot 5 & 6, Level One, Block 4
Taman Sri Sarawak Mall
Jalan Borneo, 93100 Kuching
Tel: 6082-255 072

Opening hours –
operates daily
from 10am to 2pm and 5pm to 10pm

Blue Lagoon
**BBQ STEAMBOAT
BUFFET DINNER**
RM38.00++ per person



Coca Restaurant
**THAI STEAMBOAT
BUFFET LUNCH
& DINNER**
Lunch: From RM30.00++
onwards per person
Dinner: From RM38.00++
onwards per person



Cafe Majestic
**JAPANESE BBQ
BUFFET DINNER**
RM60.00++ per person

Advanced reservations
recommended
1st Seating: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
2nd Seating: 8:30pm - 10:30pm

**WEDNESDAY
& SATURDAY**



FRIDAY

Cafe Majestic
**EURO FRIDAY
BUFFET DINNER**
RM60.00++ per person

Cafe Majestic
HIGH TEA
RM30.00++
per person



DAILY

River Palace
Cantonese Restaurant
**"SET MEAL
DEAL" DINNER**
RM35.00++ per person
(Minimum 4 adults)

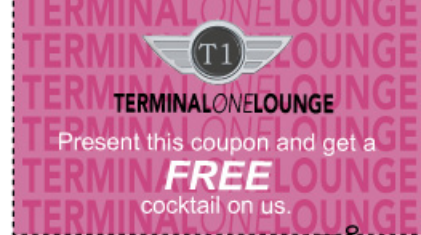


SATURDAY



For enquiries or reservations, please call Cafe Majestic at Tel: 082-247 777 extension 8842.
All prices subject to 10% service charge & 5% government tax.

talk of the town



- sweeping view of the Sarawak River
- patio garden seating
- stylish & comfortable
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- projector screen
- tv with all major sporting events
- pool table
- happy hour from 4pm to 9pm
rm25/jug (can beer)
- rm25/jug - sunday all night long
- open 7 days a week
sun to mon (4pm to 1am)
fri, sat & public holiday (3pm to 2am)
- music range of jazz, retro, R & B, oldies, house & dance



TERMINALONELOUNGE

Lot 348 & 349, KTLD 50, Jalan Padungan Utara, 93100 Kuching Tel: 6082-416 113

Tickle your taste buds at Minoru Japanese Restaurant

Minoru Japanese Restaurant is tucked at one corner of shophouses along the bustling streets of Rubber Road. Founded by Richard Loi, the 14-year-old restaurant showcases an array of premium authentic Japanese cuisine served within a warm and cosy ambience.

Just ask any Japanese food aficionados and they will certainly agree Loi and his team of chefs have certainly gone all out in bringing a slice of Japan to Kuching.

Having mastered their Japanese culinary skills in the country of origin, every dish has been specially prepared to embody the traits of Japanese cuisine. Furthermore, only imported ingredients from Japan and Singapore are used for all the delectable dishes served at the restaurant.

With plenty of choices to choose from, diners can start off with the restaurant's array of sushi and sashimi, all pack a punch in freshness and imbued with sweetness and intense colour.

For an alternative, there are also different types of maki (rolled sushi) such as **Canadian Maki** made of ingredients such as salmon skin and avocado, **"Rock and Roll" Maki**, which is made with **Nori** (seaweed), eel and avocado, and **Dragon Maki**, which comprises of tempura prawn, eel, avocado and ebiko (prawn roe).

On a hot day, nothing beats a good bowl of **Zaru Soba**, otherwise known as cold soba noodles, to cool you down. Simply dip a handful of the smooth texture noodles into the soy-based dashi broth and slurp away.

On the other hand, there are other noodle dishes one can try such as **Tempura Udon**, in which the thick wheat-based noodle is served hot in flavoured broth and topped with tempura fritters of prawns, or **Nabeyaki Udon**, in which the noodle broth is topped with fresh seafood such as tempura prawn, fish cake, vegetables and an egg.

Diners should also try the chef's **"Special of the Day"** dishes, which promise not to disappoint. One such dish is the salmon fish head cooked with black sauce. The fish is cooked till medium rare but does not leave the slightest hint of lingering fishy taste in your mouth.

To cap off the fulfilling meal, do request for Mrs Loi's home-made pineapple tarts that melts in your mouth, leaving a wonderful burst of flavour.

Minoru Japanese Restaurant

Lot 493-G, Section 10 Rubber Road, 93400 Kuching Tel: 6082-251 021

Opening hours – operates daily from 11.30am to 2.30pm and 6pm to 10.30pm



Visit Malaysia Year 2007 Buffet Lunch



Enjoy our lavish buffet featuring a variety of the best-loved specialities from the various States of Malaysia as we celebrate 50 years of Nationhood and invite the world to visit Malaysia this year.

Monday – Friday | 12.00pm – 2.00pm

RM32.00++

per person

ORCHID GARDEN COFFEE HOUSE

VMY OFFER

**Eat 10
Pay 8!**



Celebrating 50 Years of Nationhood

For enquiries or reservations, please call our F&B Department at Tel: 082-424 708 / 423 111 extension 1109 / 1196.



Price subject to 10% service charge & 5% government tax.

Welcome to the home of authentic Thai cooking!

At **Mango Tree** restaurant you can be sure of a truly authentic Thai dining experience from the moment you arrive. Relax in our elegant air conditioned dining room, or dine alfresco in our traditional Thai garden area, and choose from a menu that is simply bursting with the vibrant colours, flavours and aromas of the finest Thai cuisine.

Mango Tree invites you to enjoy the plentiful seafood of the region in creating sumptuous Thai cuisine by choosing your own seafood and vegetables from our fresh market display daily. You can also choose your favorite Thai style in which you would like your meal prepared by our experienced chefs like **Pia Kraa Pong Neung Ma Nao** freshly steamed fish sautéed with a blend of Thai chili, garlic and fresh herbs. We also have fresh crabs, prawns and squids which you can cook with our **Mango Tree's** special recipe like sweet and spicy sauce, yellow curry and etc.

Mango Tree's menu offers choices of hot & cold appetizers, our famous Tom Yum Soup, as well as selections of Thai Set Meals. We have a variety of a-la-carte food to choose from our extensive menu.



For those with a heartier appetite dishes including **Gai Yang** (BBQ Chicken in Thai Herbs), **Gaeng Kiew Wan Nua** (Green Curry with Beef) or one of our signatures dishes **Gaeng Phed Kae** (Slow Roasted Lamb Shank with Red Curry) that **Mango Tree** has become known for.

Mango Tree's innovative yet traditional approach, provide you with hospitality & service of an exceptional standard and most importantly, cuisine of the highest quality.

With the every growing popularity of Thai cuisine worldwide, and success of **Mango Tree** Bangkok for over 15 years, **Mango Tree** brand started franchising in 2002 with locations in London, Tokyo & Busan. Soon to follow are more **Mango Tree** restaurants at international destinations worldwide. **Mango Tree** has grabbed the world's attention as an international Thai restaurant brand.

We look forward to providing you "with a memorable dining experience" here in Kuching!

Mango Tree
Thai Cuisine...at its best!

Opening hours –
Monday - Saturday
11.30am to 2.30pm 6.00pm to 10.30pm
Sunday & Public Holiday
6.00pm to 10.30pm

* Lunch open when upon request



mango tree

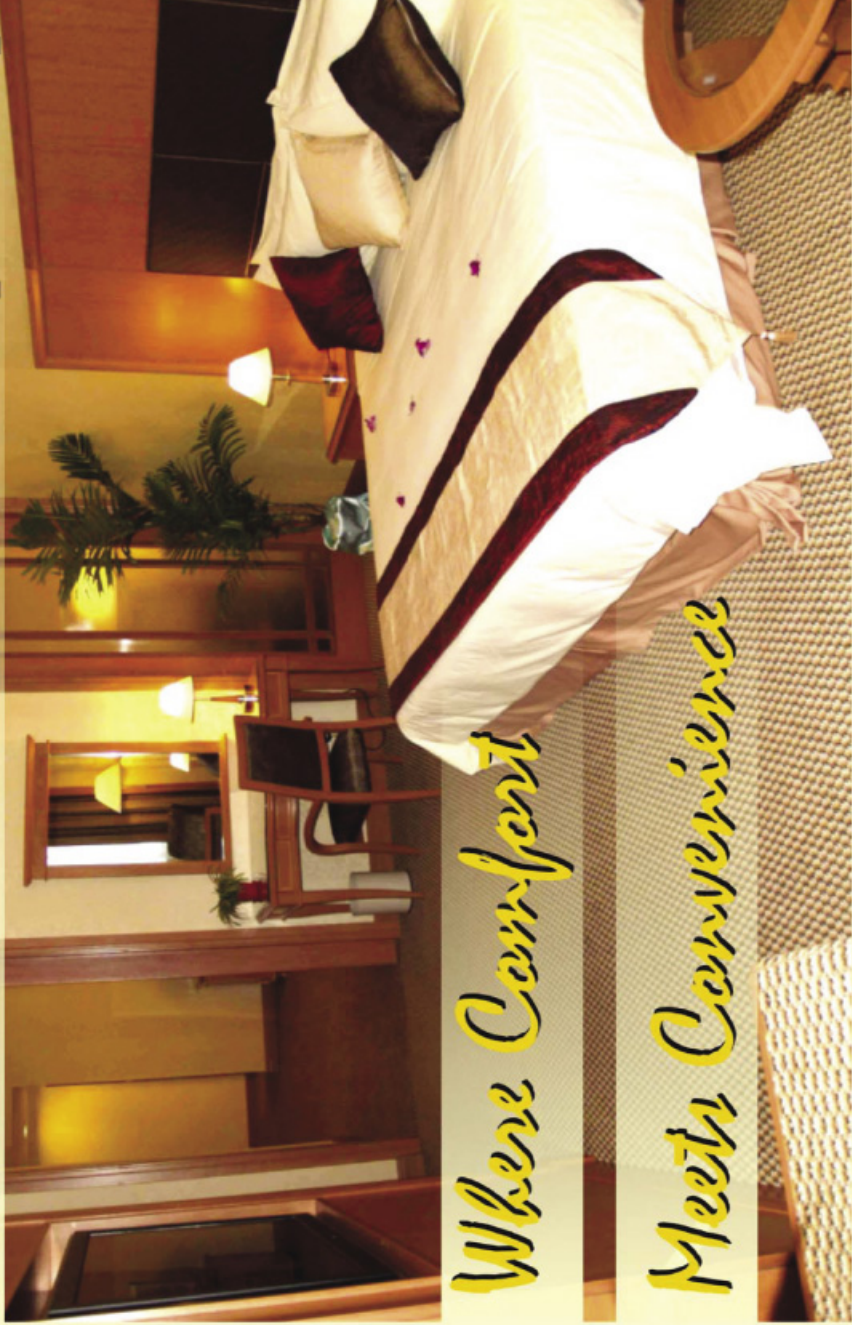
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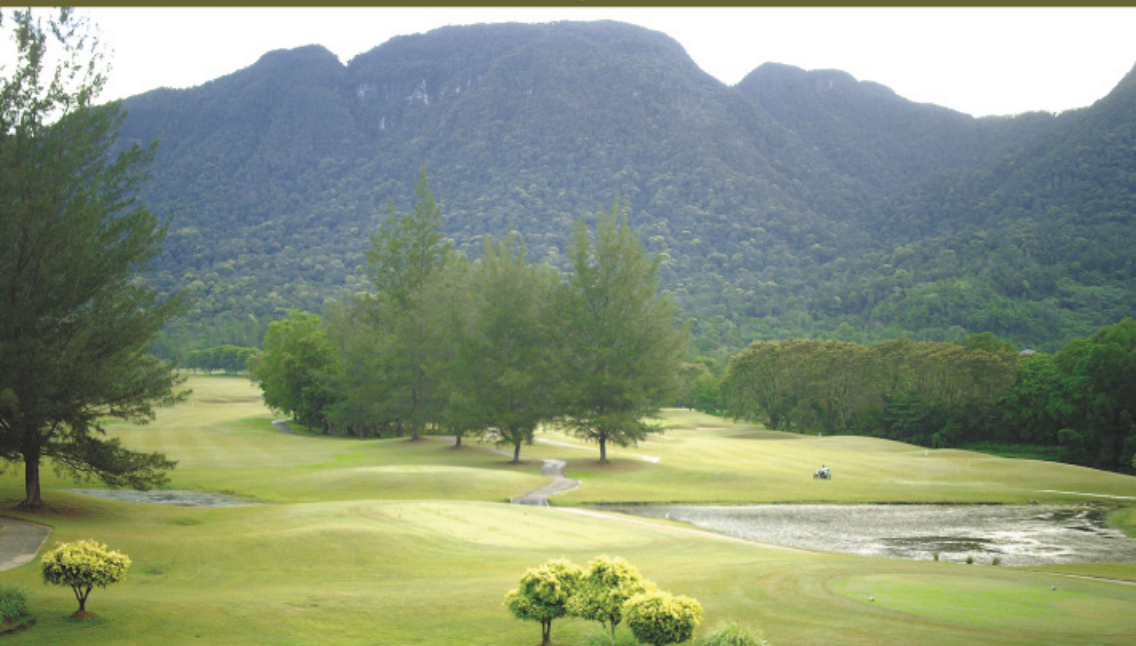
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Tee Off

AT DAMAI GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



"The Damai Golf Course is superb and may simply be the finest of all golf courses with the most dramatic setting in all of Malaysia. This is a 'must play' course for those who love golf," said Arnold Palmer, who designed the world qualified 18-hole golf course.

Golfers who ever had a game or two at the golf course would certainly agree with the legendary professional golfer.

Imagine yourself teeing-off at this majestic and impressive golf course accompanied by the captivating view of the luscious mountains and serene ocean. Wouldn't that be a memorable experience?

Since its establishment in April 1996, the Damai Golf & Country Club has continued to wow golfers from near and a far with its vast par 72 courses. Among the ardent and passionate golfers who frequent the golf course

include commercial business people, government officials/officers and families from both local states and international countries such as South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, America and Europe.

Most recently, Pargolf Magazine has selected the signature Hole 17 of this No. 1 golf course in East Malaysia as one of the 'Super 18 Malaysia 2006' - a fictional golf course made up of 18 of the best holes in Malaysia.

Damai Golf & Country Club also received recognition of sorts presented with awards for being the '6th Most Difficult Hole in Malaysia 2003/2004 for Hole 8', 3rd Most Scenic Hole in Malaysia in Malaysia 2005, 2006 for its Hole 16, and 'Best Golf Course' in Sabah and Sarawak last year.

With only a skeleton of very dedicated and committed staff, besides overseeing the to the

maintenance of the golf course right up to the food and beverage daily operations, the reputable club is also capable of handling major annual events such as the 'Damai Challenge (Local & International Open Tournaments)', 'Astro Masters Golf Challenge', 'Celcom Skin Golf Challenge', 'MAA Invitational Golf', 'SPDP 'TGA' Golf', 'BASF Invitational Golf', amongst others.

Two of Sarawak Golf's Association major tournaments at Damai Golf & Country Club this year include 'Sarawak Inter Club Tournament' in March as well as the 'Sarawak Senior Golfers' Open' in June .

Whether you're an ardent seasoned golfer or simply looking to take up this increasingly popular sport, Damai Golf & Country Club has all the equipment and facilities a golfer needs to tee off to a great start.



No. 1
Best Golf Course in Sabah & Sarawak

3rd
Most Scenic Hole in Malaysia

Hole 17
is a Malaysian Super 18 Hole



The facilities at the Club:

- Restaurant
- Swimming Pool
- Squash Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Practice Green
- Buggies
- 10 Bays Driving Range
- Changing & Locker Room
- A Pro Shop with Logo Itemized Sports Wear



SPECIAL GOLF PROMOTION

- > **WEEKDAYS:** RM150.00 (per pax)
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- One Round 18 Holes golf game
- Buggy Twin Sharing
- Set of Breakfast & Lunch
- Free use of Swimming Pool, Driving Range- 100 balls
- Advance Booking recommended
- Applicable for 4 ball group, additional charge of RM29.00 for 3 ball group
- Valid from 1st March until 31st July 2007



- > SPECIAL MONDAY PACKAGE**
- Special Monday Packages of RM80.00 for one round per person
 - (18 holes) of golf inclusive buggy usage plus breakfast. Tee off before 9.00am.
- Applicable for every Monday of the month except when Monday is Public Holiday.*



| Date | Events/Activities | Description | Organizer |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 31st March – 1st April 2007 | Sarawak Inter-Club Challenge Trophy | OPEN (2 days event) (Tan Sri Wong Soon Kai Trophy) | DGCC |
| 14th April 2007 | OSK Pro AM Golf Tournament | OPEN | MST GOLF |
| 23rd – 24th June 2007 | Senior Open Golf Tournament | Open (2 days event) (Sarawak Golf Association Tournament) | DGCC |
| 9th – 10th July 2007 | World Amateur Inter Team Golf Championship 2007 (WAITGC) | OPEN (2 days event) | Golf Club Managers Association of Malaysia (GCMAM) |



VALENTINE'S DAY

Couple's favorite celebration! A romantic night out with loves ones obviously must look glamorous. Despite a nice piece of outfits, a pair of matching shoes is definitely going to make one shines in the night.



FEBRUARY 2007

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Mon | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| Tue | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Wed | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Thu | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | |
| Fri | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | |
| Sat | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | |
| Sun | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |

Mark your Calendar with our Passion in Fashion

The Chinese calendar is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements. The lunar cycle is about 29.5 days. This is the same as adding an extra day on leap year. This is why, according to the solar calendar, the Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year.

Chinese New Year

FEBRUARY 2007

| | | | | |
|-----|---|----|----|----|
| Mon | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| Tue | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Wed | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Thu | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 |
| Fri | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 |
| Sat | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |
| Sun | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |

The pot of wealth represents a traditional Chinese New Year decoration that is believed to bring prosperity to one. For fashion conscious, pairs of elegant and glamorous shoes that match with their prettiest clothes for the new year is as important as a pot of wealth!





Miss Cheongsam 07

MARCH 2007

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Mon | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| Tue | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Wed | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Thu | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Fri | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Sat | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| Sun | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |

Holding the objectives to raise funds for local non-profit organizations and Chinese schools, Miss Cheongsam Malaysia 2007 will fall on the 3rd of March at Crown Plaza Kuching. With 18 gorgeous beauty coming from different states, the show is going to be prettiest event of the year. Lea Centre, is proud to become the official shoes sponsor of the event.

'ITF WORLD JUNIOR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP 07'

MARCH 2007

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Mon | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| Tue | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Wed | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Thu | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Fri | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Sat | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| Sun | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |

With the prestigious Sarawak Chief Minister's Challenge Trophy up for grabs, world class tennis player will gathered in Miri to present their best tennis skills and win themselves honorable prizes.

Organized by Sarawak Lawn Tennis Association (SLTA), Dunlop is sanctioned as the official ball for the tournament and together with Lea Sport Centre, sponsoring all the officials' and ball pickers' attire.



MISS SARAWAK MODEL OF THE WORLD 07'



Long legs striding and mile-wide smiles flashing, Miss Sarawak Model of the World 2007 beauty contestants were taught more just then parading and presenting in front of crowd. All contestants will be trained to be self confidences, conquer shyness, build character and understand their social responsibilities. Lea Centre, is proud to become the official shoes sponsor of the event.

APRIL 2007

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|---|----|----|----|
| Mon | 30 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 |
| Tue | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |
| Wed | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| Thu | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| Fri | | | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| Sat | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| Sun | 1 | | 15 | 22 | 29 |

- LEA CENTRE SDN. BHD. (218523-H)**
 [Kuching] Wisma Hopoh Shopping Complex... Sarawak Plaza Shopping Complex
 Riverside Shopping Complex . Electra House Shopping Complex . [Sibu] Wisma Sanyan Shopping Complex . Sarawak House Shopping Complex . [Miri] Imperial Mall . Boulevard Shopping Complex . Bintang Plaza Shopping Complex
- LEA SPORTS CENTRE SDN. BHD. (297065-W)**
 [Kuching] Wisma Hopoh Shopping Complex . Sarawak Plaza Shopping Complex
 Riverside Shopping Complex . [Sibu] Wisma Sanyan Shopping Complex . [Miri] Imperial Mall . Bintang Plaza Shopping Complex





Dotted Bib Shirt + Tailored Shorts
= CLASSY CASUAL



Filigree Embroidery Shirt + Stylish Drawstring Knee-length Pants
= LAIDBACK STUD

Spaghetti-strap Summer Dress + V Neck Beaded Necklace
= INNOCENTLY SWEET



Empire-cut Printed Dress + Tibetan Natural Stone Necklace
= EMPIRE PRINCESS

Floral Tube Bubble Dress + Beaded Tiered Necklace
= FLORAL TREASURE



COCOON (082-232 822) is located at Level 3, Tun Jugah, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman and operates daily from 10am to 9.30pm. Email cocooniv@yahoo.com

Fashion Updates



Red Polka Dot Summer Dress + Rosette Handbag + Open Toe Strappy Heels
= FASHIONABLY SWEET



Lace Tube Top + Velvet Cropped Jacket + Checkered City Shorts + Pearly Pink Necklace + Print and Ribbon Clutch
= DETAIL MIX



Silky Smooth White Top + Modern Edge Mini Skirt + Blossom-Inspired Handbag
= DESIRABLY CHARMING

COZZI BOUTIQUE (082-238 655) is located at 1st Floor, No. 35, Padungan Road and operates daily from 10am to 9pm.



Sleep Set, RM49.90 ▶
The set includes:
neck pillow +
padded eye mask
+ carry pouch for
easy storage. Neck
pillow supplied with
own pillowcase in
luxurious material for
maximum comfort.



▼ From top to bottom:
Swiss Polo carry on case, RM179 - RM349
Lifestyle luggage set for the young at heart.
Includes 20", 24" and 28" pieces.

Manchester United trolley case, RM619 - RM819
Recently launched on Dec '06 for the Manchester United die-hard fans. Comes in trendy bright colours and includes 20", 25" and 29" pieces.



◀ **Manchester United haversack 30", RM229.90**
An extra light touring backpack suitable for multi-day trips.



▲ **Travel blue mobile pod, RM37.90**
The ideal protection for mobile phone. Made of high quality, water resistant Neoprene. Convenient Velcro fastener.

Greek's Connection Marketing Co. (082-413 217) is located at R. 218, Level 2, Sarawak Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching.

Live the Adventure



▲ **Tent, 2 men- RM157, 3 men- RM175**
Large no-see-um mesh main bedroom promotes maximum ventilation and doubles as a mozzie dome in tropical climates.

Bladder, 1.5L- RM75, 2L- RM94, 3L- RM99 ▶
Wide mouth hydration reservoirs.



▲ **Air bed, Single-RM85, Double-RM135**
Box waffle construction for superior comfort and electronically welded seams ensure durability and reliability.



▶ **Sleeping bag, RM235**
Ideal for all back packing and hiking adventures or where space is a premium yet warmth and comfort of a night is still desired.

Dura-Lite Marketing Co. (082-235 205) is located at R. 205, Level 2, Sarawak Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching.

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This story happened at a Hong Kong International school in the 90's.

PORK CHOP, born on 1st July in Hong Kong. His character is positive, optimistic, self-confidence and keen on learning. He is the leader of his peers like Piggy, Junior Bee and Judie, his little honey if Piggy.

PIGGY, born on 15th August in UK. She is intelligent and good at all subjects. She always dreams of becoming a business lady.

BEE, born on 4th April in U.S.A. His character is naughty, sporty and loves kidding. He always plays with Judie & Piggy.

CHOP CHOP, born on 25th December, it is a little German dog with playful and courageous character. It is faithful to Bee.

JUDE, the little sister of Piggy, born on 14th February in U.K. She is cute, natty and emotional. She likes to play with Porky.

PORKY, Judie's favourite stuffed toy, it comes from Birmingham, U.K.

BIRDY, a little bird comes from nowhere. It is also talkative and curious.

Pork Chop, the cute, lovable and cuddly pig comes to you at our specialty store. We carry everything from plush toys to decorative items of this popular merchandise. If you are having trouble picking something out for a loveone then our store is the place for you. Our entire range of Pork Chop and gang is so wide that there is definitely something for you or anyone else for any type of occasion.



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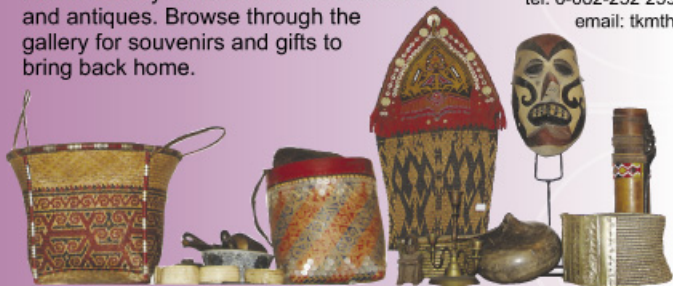
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For more information, please call **012-882 2888**

Situated along the stretch of old shophouses at Main Bazaar, drop by Kelvin Gallery for local native handicrafts and antiques. Browse through the gallery for souvenirs and gifts to bring back home.

KELVIN GALLERY

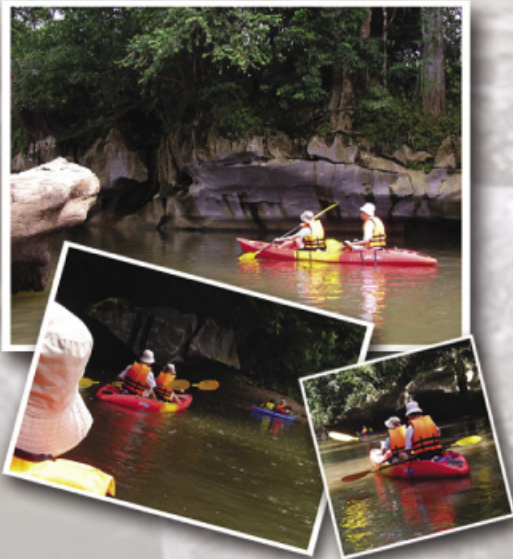
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Meander along a river run through the limestone hills amongst the tropical rain forest. Flat water punctuated with Class 1 to Class 2 rapids for a thrilling water ride. Breaks along the way to savor the beauty of the forest and to have a swim in the cold refreshing mountain water. End at Wind Cave, Bau for the return trip to Kuching. We highly recommend this; our MOST POPULAR trip.

DURATION: 6 HOURS
FITNESS LEVEL: EASY TO MODERATE
MINIMUM*: 2 PERSONS

R\$188/- per person



B. Borneo Highlands Kayaking & Orang Utans (SEMENGOH WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER) Adventure

Kayak through the rainforests between the foothills of soaring Limestone Mountains. Visit a friendly Bidayuh Village along the way, traverse rapids and take a swimming and lunch break on a sandy beach bank before reaching Kg Semadang. After the kayak trip we will proceed to the Semengoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to see the orangutans at feeding time. A full and exciting day of fun and adventure awaits you!

R\$218/- per person
(including Packed Lunch & Entrance Fee)

DURATION: 8 HOURS
FITNESS LEVEL: EASY TO MODERATE
MINIMUM*: 2 PERSONS



C. Dolphins Spotting Kayak Adventure

The Irrawaddy Dolphins are considered one of the most endangered amongst the dolphins and whales in the world and Sarawak is one of the best places in Southeast Asia to view them. These rare and unusual mammals are known locally as "pesut" and to be able to spot them in the wild in close proximity floating just inches above the waters is truly a rare and privileged experience of a lifetime.

*** ONLY OFFERED ON CERTAIN DAYS!
CHECK WITH US FOR DETAILS**

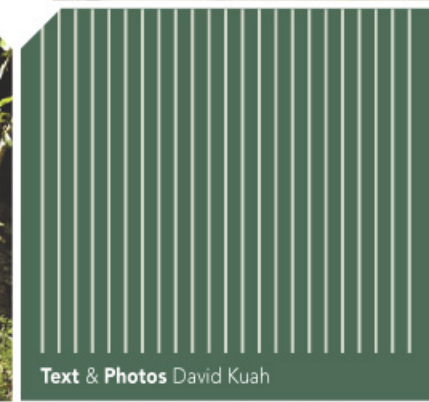


DURATION: 4 TO 5 HOURS
FITNESS LEVEL: EASY TO MODERATE
MINIMUM*: 2 PERSONS

R\$188/- per person

Our Trips are Suitable for
BEGINNERS & CHILDREN





Text & Photos David Kuah



Mongkos

In continuing the rich tradition of offering the Land of the Hornbills (Sarawak Borneo) as a great tourist destination, Great Leap Tours Sdn Bhd, the up and coming inbound operator and vacation consultant, had about 12 months ago organized a recci to Kampung Mongkos, both to have the first-hand actual experience as well as to unveil the true potential of this small, remote yet exciting homestay location.

About an hours' drive from the Serian, Mongkos is smacked between the Tebedu-Kalimantan border and the Serian township; in fact its the last in a string of villagers in Serian, and only a 10-minute bike ride to the Tebedu-Kalimantan border. Sitting assuringly amongst lush virgin jungles punctured by abundant fresh mountain air, its a frontier to behold.

A largely Catholic Christian community, the village comprises mainly old folks and children as virtually all the able-bodied young have left

for the big towns to earn a living or to find new challenges. With the 900-odd left from a community of about 200 families, a decision was reached to operate a homestay programme under the stewardship of the Ministry of Rural Development. 15 selected families were then given exposure and training related to homestay programme and the benefits of being involved in the tourism industry.

For tourists, a Mongkos stay is an ultimate experience. Upon arrival, guests are ushered to the guesthouse where they will be served with drinks such as tea or fresh coconut juice, traditional cakes such as **lemang**, and also fruits. Be prepared however, for the traditional fermented rice wine called "**tuak**".

Guests will find the dormitory-style beds at the guesthouse, or the guest-rooms found in their modern concrete houses, a welcome

experience. The guesthouse shares a building with a cafe and a sundry shop that offers Mongkos very own home-made souvenirs. These enterprises are owned and run by Koperasi Kampung Mongkos Berhad, founded in 1977. Nearby, a river of spring-clean and cool water awaits the eager to bathe and to sip the mountain freshness. The nature-rich scenery provides a backdrop for photo enthusiasts, with some of the village folks ever-willing to model in their traditional outfits.

Guests will also be privileged to observe the age-old barter tradings between the Sarawakians and the Indonesians; carried out under the watchful eyes of the border patrols, of course. **Selungkong Waterfalls**, another tourist attraction, is only a couple of hours' trek further down the village.

After dinner, guests will be led up a flight of stairs leading to the all-bamboo longhouse - the venue

features



for the entire village's welcoming ceremony. After a "miring" and "berlih" ceremonies, performed at the entrance to ward off any evil spirit, a form of cleansing process according to local beliefs, guests are warmly and graciously welcomed: you will have to shake the hands of every single one present. Expressions of greetings and beautifully-coloured attires permeate the atmosphere from one end of the longhouse to the other, to the accompaniment of traditional music and dance. As one settles and mingles, the locally-brewed rice wine "Tuak" or "Mongkos Rita" as it is famously known among the locals, will also make its rounds; you will soon forget you're among strangers if you drink one too many. Again, memories and images will be jealously-captured on films for those "unfortunate ones" at home. The feasts and merry-makings can last till the wee hours of the morning. That's the spirit of Gawai, an annual harvest festival of the Dayaks of Sarawak, if you happen to homestay during the month of June.

watching the women work their skillful-hands with shredded bamboo to produce the much talked-about Tikar Sarawak. Perhaps, a tale of the human-shaped stone called Batu Bugis, or the eerie story of Bukit Gendang - each time it drums, it will betray someone who has been up to no good. The listener may even be spurred or enticed to take the long, demanding hike to the very sites mentioned in the tales. The men are also keen to share their encounters and struggles during the confrontation between Malaysian and Indonesia in the 60's.

At the very least, guests can safely explore the colourful and rich cultural heritage of this wholly Bidayuh community.

A preliminary market research by Great Leap Tours Sdn Bhd as well as feedbacks from nature lovers and foreign travellers strongly indicated that Mongkos has the characteristic and ambiance of what eludes the foreigners best. The popularity is indeed growing among the 3 top tourist market: Chinese, Thais and Australians.

At other times however, guests can spend hours listening to the enthralling tales and fables from some wise old man of the community, while

“A Fun Game and Belief to Protect Oneself Against Evil”

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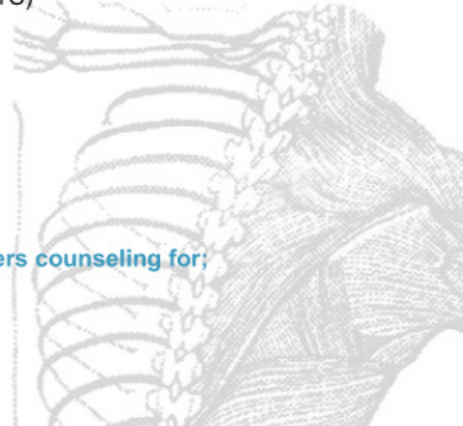
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What is chiropractic? Chiropractic is a safe, natural, drugless method of healing that is utilized by millions of people of all ages. Chiropractic utilizes the inborn healing powers of the body to allow an individual to function at their maximum potential. A chiropractic adjustment removes interference in the nervous system by correcting misalignments in the spine (called vertebral subluxations) in order to allow this complete expression of health. Everybody deserves a healthy spine that is free of nerve interference. At Miri Chiropractic Center, we recognize the body's own natural recuperative powers to heal and rejuvenate itself without the use of drugs or surgery.

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Our fleet of aircraft consists of an Executive Jet (Citation X), 2 units of passenger aeroplane (Dornier 228) and a range of helicopters (EC 135, Bell 430, Bell 206 L4 and Bell 206 B3).



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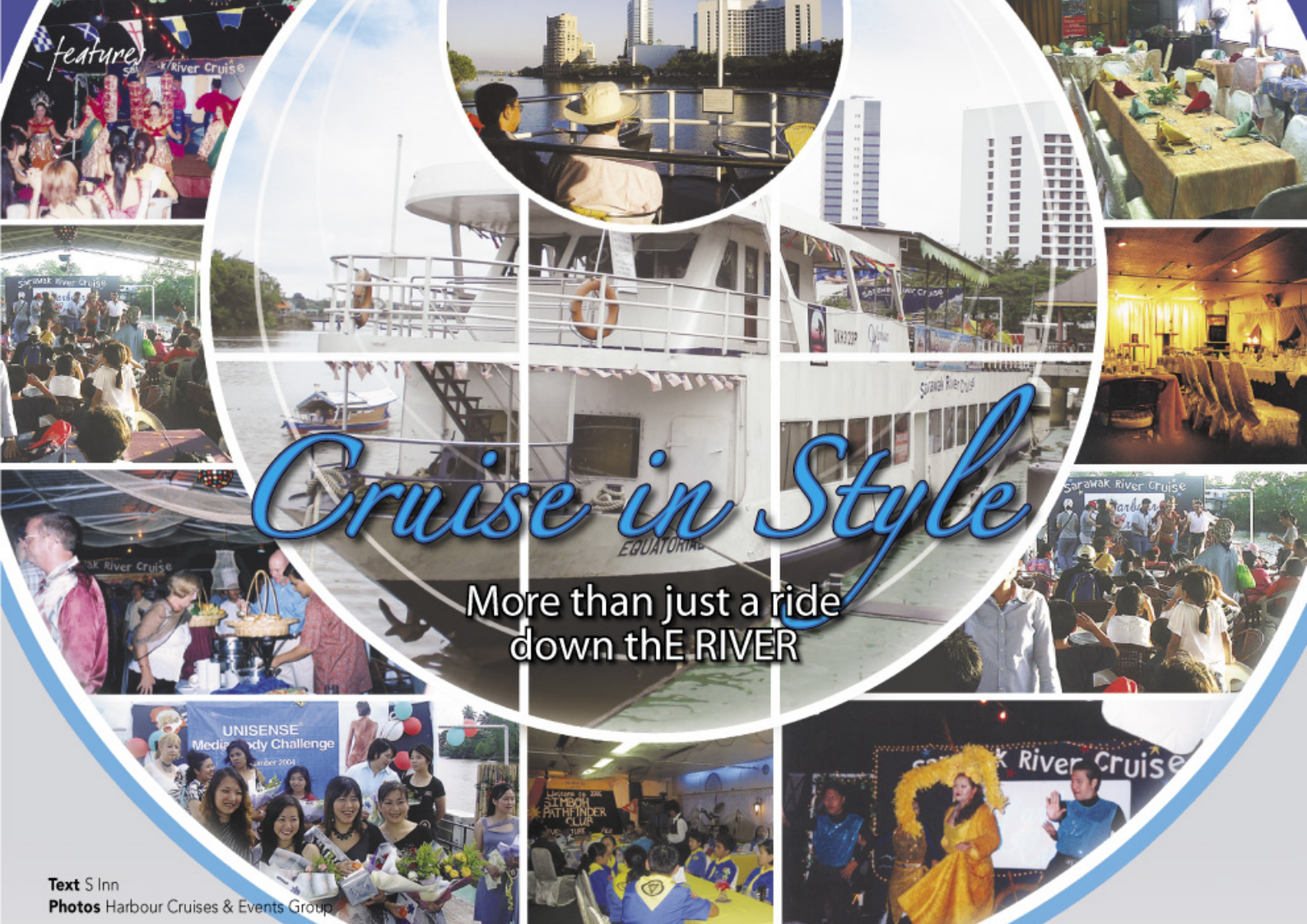
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Cruise in Style

More than just a ride
down the RIVER

Text S Inn
Photos Harbour Cruises & Events Group

Journey along the rivers of Kuching Waterfront and explore the beauty of Kuching City in the comfort of a river cruise. Since its establishment, the Sarawak River Cruise has long been recognised as one of the city's main attractions for its unique cruise experience, offering unparalleled panoramic views of the city skyline, the surrounding mountain range, and many of the city's most famous and historic landmarks, unravelling the captivating sights of Kuching City from a different perspective.

ROMANTIC SUNSET CRUISE

(Departs daily at 5:30pm)

Available daily, the leisurely Romantic Sunset Cruise takes 1hr 30min scenic tour (round trip) through the historic Sarawak River Cruise with a welcoming performance and refreshments being served onboard.

With a minimum of 2 persons onboard, the couple/tourists will be granted with great views of the city's most famous landmarks and experience an amorous evening watching the city light up for the evening.

THEME CRUISE PARTIES

Apart from the sightseeing cruise tours, various corporate functions and private parties have also been held on the cruise. The river cruise

“This is actually our first cruise and we like it very much. The view was good and we will never forget it. We also like the hospitality shown by the staff of this cruise. We hope we can be back to Kuching again and enjoy the sunset cruise. Bravo! **”**

- Endi Sustiyono & wife, Indonesia

can cater up to 130 passengers in its air-conditioned dining hall, which also doubles as a karaoke lounge.

Meanwhile, the Sarawak River Cruise has earned its reputation as the preferred venue for Business cum Leisure packages. In the past, various theme cruise parties have also been held onboard by some reputable organisations, such as Hawaiian Nights by Maybank Group, Miss Tourism International by SEDC, Product Launch by Blue Steel, Cruise in the 70s by SmartReader Worldwide, Charitable Cruise for Single Mothers (during Mother's Day), seminars and many other creative theme events, thus making the joyous occasions truly memorable for everyone onboard.

PROMOTIONAL PACKAGES 2007

(From RM38 per person)

With a minimum of 20 persons, the latest packages for 2007 provides dining, cruising and

entertainment on board, all at an affordable price. Package such as the Nautical Package includes eight items of food and drinks whereas the Captain's Package, Admiral's Package and Royal VIP Packages have over ten food items, featuring delectable Malaysian favourites dishes.

EXCLUSIVE CRUISE CHARTERS

For those who prefer privacy, you may wish to charter the cruise for your exclusive use without interruption by others. Be it a theme cruise party, birthday celebration, anniversary, or a corporate function (such as product launching, seminar, staff incentives, annual dinner and training workshop), you may charter the cruise and customise the event to your preference. Just state the date and time (subject to availability) and leave everything to the Sarawak River Cruise's dedicated team of events planners in making your exclusive charter a memorable event for the invited guests onboard.

For further enquiries, please contact:

HARBOUR CRUISES & EVENTS GROUP

(HQ) 4, Bishopgate Street,
93000 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Tel: +6 082 240 366, 240 368 Fax: +6 082 240 367
Website: www.cruises.com.my

AMOROUS Chap Goh Meh

Text S Inn
Photos Francis Goh Muk Hsiung & Kho G. A.

At the stroke of midnight come February 18, the blaring sounds of firecrackers would echo along the streets of the neighbourhood as boisterous sparklers and firecrackers are fired to usher in the Lunar New Year.

As the first day of the New Year unfolds, festivities traditionally begin with the worshipping of ancestors, followed by the customary visits to 'Open Houses' of family and friends while troupes of lion dances are the centre of attention as they arrived at homes of the Chinese community to usher in an abundance of good fortune.

This festive celebration continues until the fifteenth day, when the moon is at its brightest. Also known as Yuan Xiao or Chap Goh Meh, this auspicious occasion is celebrated with prayers and offerings to mark the end of Chinese New Year.

Though Chap Goh Meh is observed in several ways, one tradition that highlights the significance of this special occasion is the ceremony of throwing mandarin oranges into the river.

During the olden days, Chap Goh Meh was the only time when young and eligible maidens were allowed out of the confines of their homes. They would make their way to the nearest river at nightfall and throw oranges into the calm stream as a gesture, in hopes that they will soon find themselves good husbands.

This act is an indication for the troupes of young men who would gather to watch the beautiful fair maidens that they are available for marriage.

Till this day, this tradition has been kept alive with Chinese communities in Singapore and various

states around Malaysia practising this traditional belief.

In Kuching, the Chinese community, especially young and single ladies, would flock to the Kuching Waterfront, which is located along the serene riverbank of Sarawak River.

Armed with a handful of oranges, the ladies, dressed in their best attire, would then throw the fruits with gusto into the dark river and within a matter of minutes, numerous amounts of oranges would bobbed down the stream before disappearing into the shadows of the night.

Though traditionally practised by the women, young men would also take the opportunity to throw some oranges hoping that they too might be able to find their significant other in the New Year.

To catch a glimpse on this quaint tradition, make your way to the Kuching Waterfront on the evening of Chap Goh Meh which falls on March 4 this year.



WHAT'S HAPPENING...

KENYALANG Chinese New Year Festive Sale



The Chinese New Year 2007 is just few days away. In conjunction with this celebration, the Council of the City Kuching South has allocated spaces for sale of festive goods at the Kenyalang Park Mall from **2 - 17 Feb 2007** for a period of 16 days. The stalls will offer festive decorative items like lanterns, paintings and cards, and goods like mandarin oranges, pomelos, glutinous rice cakes, snacks, dried food, fresh flowers and vegetables.

PADUNGAN Chinese New Year Festive Sale



The Council of the City Kuching South has allocated spaces for sale of festive goods at Jalan Padungan (from the entrance of the catscity statue to zhunion pharmacy) from the **8 - 16 Feb 2007** for a period of 9 days.

For more information: Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan, Jalan Padungan, 93675 Kuching, Sarawak. tel: +6082-242 311 email: info@mbks.gov.my website: www.mbks.gov.my



Nanyang Wushu Golden Lion Dance' Festival 4 Feb

The perfect place to see Lion Dancing at its best, the annual Golden Lion Dance Festival is a dazzling display of combined Chinese culture, martial arts and mythology. A series of breath-taking Lion Dance performed by members of Nanyang Wushu will surely delight anyone. Featuring acrobats dressed as mystical lions that make gravity defying leaps and bounds, they climb on swaying poles to the hypnotic rhythmic beating of drums, cymbals and gong. Highlighting the event will be the traditional ritual of the Symbolic Lion's Eye-Dotting Ceremony on a new pairs of Lions by the Guests Of Honour.

Nanyang Wushu 'Chinese New Year Festival Show' 11 Feb

This Festival Show is to usher the coming new year "The Year Of Piggy" with traditional cultural arts and dances. The "God of Wealth & Prosperity" will be distributing goodies, sweets and ang-pow.

venue : Kuching
 organiser : Nanyang Wushu Federation
 tel : 019-886 6879 (Prof. Dr. Song Seww Hee)
 016-886 6879 (Ms. Yeo Liew Yian)
 fax : +6082-246 952 / 425 009
 email : nanyangwushu@yahoo.com
 website : www.visitsarawak.com/wushu/

During the celebration, Sarawak Cultural Village will extend special promotion entrance rates and the visitors will be served with traditional Chinese delicacies at the Chinese Farm House.

venue : Sarawak Cultural Village
 organiser : Sarawak Cultural Village
 tel : +6082-846 411
 fax : +6082-846 988
 email : info@scv.com.my



With the prestigious Sarawak Chief Minister's Challenge Trophy up for grabs, the 7-days world junior tennis event is expected to attract 200 talented players aged between 13 and 18 from over 25 countries worldwide. Organised by the Sarawak Lawn Tennis Association (SLTA) in collaboration with Resident Office Miri and Miri District Lawn Tennis Association, among the countries expected to compete in the Group 1-status event are from United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Switzerland, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Uzbekistan, New Zealand, China, Italy, Romania, France, Russia, South Africa, Belgium and host, Malaysia.

9th Chief Minister's Cup - ITF World Junior Tennis Tournament (Group 1) 19 - 25 March

venue : Tennis Centre, Miri
 organiser : Sarawak Lawn Tennis Association
 tel : +6085-431 780
 fax : +6085-431 780
 website : www.itfsarawak.org.my

Baju Kebaya Exhibition January till March

A 3-month exhibition featuring the Kebaya fashion as well as live Demo/Sharing session every Friday.

venue : Sarawak Pavilion ID Showroom
 organiser : Sarakraf Pavilion
 time : 8.30am till 4.30pm
 (Lunch time from 12.00 noon
 till 2.00pm)
 tel : +6082-258 771
 fax : +6082-232 771



Pasar Gong Xi Fa Cai 2007 12 - 17 Feb



Miri City Council (MCC) and Miri Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCCI) will jointly organize the "Pasar Gong Xi Fa Cai 2007" along High Street and Kingsway in celebration of the forthcoming Chinese New Year. It is one of the events in the Miri Calendar of Events for 2007. More than 200 stalls will locate here especially for the event sale. Many entertainment programmes will be held during the event. It not only benefits the residents in Miri but will also assist the Government in promoting Miri by attract tourists and raising its profile as a tourist destination and also boost the local economy.

venue : Miri
 organiser : MCC & MCCI
 time : 8.00am - 11.00pm (12 - 17 Feb 2007)
 8.00am - 12.00noon (17 Feb 2007)
 tel : +6085-432 570/ 439 832 (Mr. Liew Shaw Fah)
 fax : +6085-419 866
 email : mirimc@miricouncil.gov.my
 website : www.miricouncil.gov.my



happenings

3rd Sarawak Bridal fair

Bridal Fair
23 - 25 March

venue : Sarawak Tourism Complex (OLD COURT HOUSE)
organiser : Integrated FM Sdn Bhd
tel : +6082-242 808 / 012-889 2809
fax : +6082-242 809
email : integratedfm@yahoo.com
website : www.sarawakbridal.com.my

Ship Expo 2007

23 - 25 March

The primary focus of Ship Expo 2007 is to create business opportunities, expanding the business of ship construction and marine equipments. Ship Expo also provide the opportunity for the oversea and foreign manufacturers & traders to showcase and introduce new ideas, develop new customers base and collect feedbacks to improve the existing products & services. There are programs designed for the exhibitors such as the Video Presentation and Seminar Session which will assist the company in building interaction with the targeted audience. This event is also aiming to introduce Sibu shipping products and services with the hope of upgrading the central Sarawak as the new shipping commercial hub with its blooming shipbuilding industry in East Malaysia.

Shipexpo 2007



venue : Sibu Trade & Exhibition Centre
time : 11.00am - 9.00pm
organizer : Sun Tzun Holdings (M) Sdn Bhd
tel : +06084-324 888/ 324 999
email : suntzun@streamyx.com



Building Trade Show

22 - 25 March

The Building Trade Show, a one-stop building products exhibition has attracted a large number of building industry professionals such as architects, engineers, quantity surveyors, developers and contractors, as well as many members of the public.

It provides an excellent opportunity for suppliers, manufacturers and service providers to showcase their products. It is also a very effective platform for the launching of new products and services through the high publicity profile and media coverage.



venue : Level 5, Exhibition Hall, Taman Kereta Jalan Padungan, Kuching
organiser : Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC)
tel : +60 82-457 182
fax : +60 82-451 180
email : pamswk@streamyx.com
website : www.bts.com.my

event manager : IDA Exhibition Services Sdn Bhd
tel : +60 82-426 993 / 427 993
fax : +60 82-233100
website : info@ida.com.my

Religious Services at St. Joseph's Cathedral (Catholic Church)

5 - 8 April

Maunder Thursday

5 April

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

6 April

Celebration of the Lord's Passion
2.30pm (Mandarin)
5.00pm (English)

Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection

8 April

Easter Vigil:

Saturday, 7 April - 8.00pm (English)

Sunday Service:

6.30am (English)
8.00am (Mandarin)
9.30am (Bahasa Malaysia)
5.30pm (English)

venue : St. Joseph's Cathedral, Kuching
Jalan Tun Abang Haji Abang
Openg
tel : +6082-423 424



World Tribal Dance & Music Festival 2007

30 March - 1 April

Sarawak Cultural Village will organise the first ever "World Tribal Dance & Music Festival" (WTFDMF), an international cultural festival with the theme "Mau Cultures, One World" which will be held from March 30th to April 1st at Sarawak Cultural Village, Damai Beach Resort as well as Damai Golf & Country Club. Aimed to promote and preserving tribal culture, WTFDMF will be showcasing a kaleidoscope of arts, culture, music and traditions of tribes from various countries such as the Zulu Nations (Africa), Wakaido Poothai Nation (Thailand), and many more.

venue : Sarawak Cultural Village
organiser : Sarawak Cultural Village
tel : +6082-846 411
fax : +6082-846 988
email : info@scv.com.my
website : www.scv.com.my



happenings

The annual procession taking place in the evening on 22nd day of 2nd moon (9th April 2007) comprises over 100 contingents of floats, Lion and Dragon troupes. It has been the most colourful deity birthday procession in Kuching city attracting thousands of spectators of all races and tourists. There are 37 fortune predictions for devotees to request in front of Kong Teck Choon Ong. Devotees believe that the fortune predictions are accurate. Procession will take start from the temple at Wayang Street then passing through Jalan Tabuan, Jalan Ban

Hock, Jalan Padungan, Jalan Bukit Mata, Main Bazaar, Jalan Gambier, India Street (For worshippers), Jalan Court House, Jalan Pearl Street, Jalan Tun Haji Openg, Carpenter Street, Ewe Hai Street and return to temple.

venue : Kuching
time : 5.30pm to 12.00pm
organiser : Kuching Hockien Association
tel : +6082-242 748
fax : +6082-416 008
email : phkk@jaring.com



Hong San Si Parade
9 April



Miri International Deep Sea Fishing Tournament 2007
13 - 15 April (3 days 2 nights)



Miri Anglers Club (Kelab Pemancing Miri) is organizing an international Deep Sea Fishing Tournament for the first time in its ten years formation. This event is open to anglers around the world. The main objective is to promote Miri Resort City which has been very famous to fishing community for its rich and big fish settlement. Method of fishing is popping, jigging, trolling, casting and bottom fishing. Targeted fishes are Ruby Snapper, Amberjack, Dogtooth Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Giant Trevally, Giant Grouper, Wahoo, Spanish Mackerel etc. This is an Individual event.

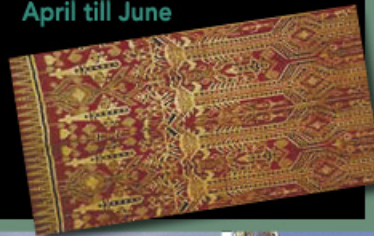
Prizes are very attractive. We are giving away 15 prizes, total RM22,500 in CASH and Fishing Tackles and Trophy. For 1st, 2nd, 3rd prize, the winner will receive RM10,000, RM5,000, RM2,500.00 Cash + Fishing Tackles + Trophy respectively.

organizer : Miri Anglers Club
venue : Off the coast of Miri
closing date : 31st March 2007 (5:00 pm)
entry Fee : RM800 Per Person inclusive of boat rental fee or RM300 without boat rental fee.
tel : +06085-413 550 / 013-8333550 (Mr. Nelson Ngu)
fax : +06085-414 358
email : nelson58@streamyx.com

A 3-month exhibition featuring Pua Kumbu in silk as well as cotton. Live Demo/Sharing session every Friday.

Pua Kumbu Exhibition April till June

organiser : Sarakraf Pavilion
venue : Sarawak Pavilion ID Showroom
time : 8.30am till 4.30pm
(Lunch time from 12.00 noon)
tel : +6082-258 771
fax : +6082-232 771



An annual event, it is celebrated throughout the world. EARTH DAY reminds the people of the world of the need for continuing care which is vital to Earth's rejuvenation. Miri will be the center for celebration for 2007. Join us with hundreds of volunteers for a beach and reefs cleaning campaigns.

World Earth Day Celebration 21 April

venue : Miri, Sarawak
organizer : Sarawak Tourism Board
tel : 082 42360
fax : 082 416700
email : stb@sarawaktourism.com

Pesta Kaul 21 - 29 April



venue : Pantai Kala Dana, Mukah (by the Kala Dana beach)
organiser : Mukah Resident Office
time : 8.00 am - 12.00 pm
tel : +6 084-872 596 / 084-872 088 (En. Bujang Rahman Bin Seli)
fax : +6 084-873 408
website : www.mukahro.sarawak.gov.my

The Melanau fishing communities celebrate the Kaul, which marks the beginning of the fishing season after the monsoon ends. Not to be missed is an amusing event called the 'tibau' where men and women compete to see how many can swing together at the end of a long rope swing.

Kaul is a traditional festival celebrated by the Melanau living along the coast of Sarawak. The festival is a ritual of purification and thanksgiving as well as one of the propitiation for good fortune. It is celebrated at the end of the northeast monsoon and it marks the beginning of the Melanau New Year.

Come and experience the living legend of the Coastal Melanau while savouring the uniqueness of the livelihood of these coastal dwellers of Sarawak.

Catscity.com.my:
Kuching Travel Information Site

Where can you find the latest happenings, news, events, photos and development of Kuching on the Internet? Try www.catscity.com.my, a website created in 2003 by the community for the community. Visitors will be able to find out all there is to know about Kuching from original articles and coverage on events posted at the website as well as browse through a huge collection of photographs taken of the city and its attractions. There is also an active forum discussion where locals as well as tourists will be able to participate and post their views and opinions.

The founder/web administrator of the website:
Kho G. A. contact no: +6012-883 8318 email: kho@catscity.com.my

Baleh-Kapit Raft Safari
28 - 29 April



The Baleh-Kapit Raft Safari is a two-day rafting competition held every April since 1996. Apart from the opportunity to win attractive prizes, participants will also have the chance to sample the warmth and hospitality of the people of Sarawak as they journey along the river. This competition is held in two consecutive days.

The organizer, Tourism Task Group of Kapit Division, will arrange for the participants to spend their nights at the selected Iban longhouses located along the Baleh and its tributaries where they can see and experience the rich and diverse cultural traditions of Iban community in their natural environment. Join us to experience the ultimate rafting adventure and the rich culture and nature of Sarawak's interior.

The rafting for the Men's Bamboo Raft Open Category will start from Rumah Minggat, Sungai Oyan, Mujong and stop for a night at Rumah Naong, Batu Bansu, Baleh on the first day. The participants will resume their rafting from Rumah Naong, Batu Bansu, Baleh and end at Kapit Wharf, Kapit on the second day. On the same day, all other rafts in the Men's Bamboo Raft Closed, Men's Freestyle Raft, Women and Tourists Categories will begin their journey from Rumah Naong, Batu Bansu, Baleh and end at Kapit Wharf, Kapit.

venue : Balleh, Kapit, Sarawak
organiser : Kapit Resident Office
tel : 084-796 963 / 796 425 / 796 242 (Mr. Yii)
fax : 084-796 932
email : yiisy@sarawaknet.gov.my
website : www.kapitro.sarawak.gov.my



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Email:megahot@po.jaring.my Website:www.megahotel.net

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