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Volume 6 | Jan - Mar 2008

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# Happenings

*in Sarawak*

PPK 1507(389)/07/2008(010127)

# 2008



**GETTING A GOOD TASTE OF  
LOCAL DELIGHTS**

**TANJUNG MANIS  
SARAWAK INDUSTRIAL HUB LIKE NO OTHER**

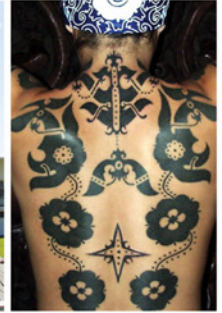
**MULTI-CULTURAL  
SIBU**

**SIBU'S UNFORGETTABLE  
HAWKER DELICACIES**

*Happy New Year!*



# Happenings [www.happeningsarawak.com](http://www.happeningsarawak.com)



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Designed & Published by  
**CONQUEROR'S VISION SDN. BHD.**  
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 w: www.happeningsarawak.com

Printed by  
**BAHAGIA PRESS SDN. BHD.**  
 Lot 225, Ground, 1st & 2nd Floor,  
 Section 49, Jalan Padungan Utara,  
 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.  
 t: 082-231 287 f: 082-231 939

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**SANGA JAPANESE FOOD STALL**

14, Level 3, Tun Jugah Centre,  
Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

**SANGA RESTAURANT**

Lot 151, Jalan Abdullah,  
84000 Muar, Johor.



# Getting a Good Taste of Local Delights

Sarawak has quite a reputation for its smorgasbord of gastronomic local fare. Just ask any locals around town and they'll be glad to point out to you the best places to grab a bite of must-have Sarawakian delicacies that truly distinguish the Malaysian State's multi-cultural culinary delights.

## Kolo Mee

This noodle dish comprised of dry egg noodles, which have been quickly blanched and tossed with seasoning such as shallot oil, pork oil and vinegar, before it's topped with generous servings of sliced *char-siew* (barbecued pork), minced pork or beef and some leafy greens. Other variants of toppings include prawns, cuttlefish, pork ball and even wanton dumplings.

A bowl of this hearty dish usually starts from RM2.50 and can be found practically everywhere in *kopi tiam* (coffee shops) and hawker centres.

A few of Kuching's popular *Kolo Mee* can be found at **KY Cafe** (Sekama Road), **#40 Teck Huat** (Open Air Market), **Ah Ping Mee Stall** (Siang Siang Food Court, Tabuan Jaya), **Min Kuan** (Carpenter Street), **Sin Lian Shin** (Green Road) and **Ah Pi Kolo Mee** (4<sup>th</sup> Mile Expert Food Court).

## Sarawak Laksa

Spicy coconut *belacan* (fermented prawn paste) – based broth is poured over ingredients comprising of *bee-hoon* (thin rice vermicelli), prawns, shredded chicken, omelette strips and *taugeh* (bean sprouts), the mouth-watering *Sarawak Laksa* is a must-have for first-time visitors of Kuching.

Once served, it is best to enjoy it while the dish is still piping hot. For those who would like an added zing or heat, squeeze some lime juice and add *belacan* to the your bowl of *laksa* which is readily available for breakfast, lunch and even dinner at most *kopi tiam* (coffee shops), hawker centres and even hotels.



The aromatic Sarawak Laksa is available at **Chong Choon Cafe** (Abell Road), **Foody Goody** (Stutong Road), **Chong Hui** (Ban Hock Road), **Spring Cafe** (Palm Road) and **Barett's Laksa** (Bormill Estate).

## Manok Pansoh

On the other hand, the State is also known for some traditional dishes made popular by the indigenous people of Sarawak. One of these dishes includes the ever-popular *Manok Pansoh* which has become a regular dish item at various social functions around town.

Originating from the *Ibans* – the largest ethnic group in the State, *Manok Pansoh* or *Ayam Pansuh* (which literally means Bamboo Chicken) is cooked whereby chunks of chicken pieces are stuffed into a bamboo along with other ingredients such as lemongrass, tapioca leaves, mushrooms and even the optional rice wine, and cooked over an open fire.

Through this method of cooking, the bamboo seals in the flavours and imparts a distinctive aromatic flavour to the tender chicken pieces.

To try this tantalising dish for yourselves, *Manok Pansoh* is available at **Aroma Cafe** (Tabuan Road), **The Cottage** (Bukit Mata Road), **Nori 10 Cafe**, **My Village Baruk** (Kampung Boyan) and various hotels in Kuching.



Text S Inn

## UNIQUE

The word 'gelato' is Italian for 'frozen', it now popularly refers to Italian ice cream. Scoops prides itself on its array of gelatos, which are freshly made everyday from whole milk, fresh fruits and premium Italian products, all without any artificial additives.



The basic differences between Scoops and other ice-cream are:

- gelato contains less air (referred to, in the industry, as 'overrun') than ordinary ice cream, and, therefore, it has a more dense structure and its flavour is more intense.
- gelato is freshly made everyday in 4-litre batches from whole milk, fresh fruits and premium Italian products in our production 'lab-on-site'.
- gelato is less firmly frozen and softer than ordinary ice cream.
- gelato is, for the health conscious, more wholesome than ordinary ice cream in that it contains lesser calories, fat and only contains fresh and natural ingredients.

## Did You Know?

Halal *Kolo Mee* and *Sarawak Laksa* are also available in most eatery outlets in town such as **Chilli Peppers** and **Garden Cafe & Restaurant**.

Everything Food



The Charm of

Magenta



At first glance, one may not realise that the wooden bungalow nestled along the busy street of Jalan Nanas, is actually the unassuming Magenta Restaurant, which has become one of Kuching's most reputable restaurants, when it comes to fine dining eateries.

Exuding an ambience of tranquillity and elegance, the restaurant is without a doubt the perfect place to have a romantic dinner with your loved ones or to celebrate a special occasion.

Since its opening a couple of years ago, guests continue to patron the idealistic restaurant for its aesthetic charm and where its cuisine is concerned.

While friendly waiters attend to your every need, in the kitchen, youthful chef, Sarah Chan, vigilantly prepares the restaurant's Asian-fused western cuisine, which are not only generously portioned but arrives to you, hot and artfully laid out.

Though one may have second thoughts at "destroying" Sarah's lovely presentation, however, upon the first bite, all is forgotten as every dish oozes rich, wholesome flavour that automatically makes you dig in for second helpings.

Available in the menu are a wide range of appetisers, main course ranging from tender, juicy steaks to al dente pastas, and of course, the beloved desserts, which is always a fine way to end dinner.

On the other hand, guests are also highly recommended to try the restaurant's many specials. Among those that have been served to guests include **Grilled Codfish with Linguine** and **Roast Pepper Coulis** and **Mozzarella Steak**.

Now that Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day is just around the corner, make a reservation today and celebrate the festive cheer with your family, friends or loved ones with delightfully tantalising food amidst the captivating atmosphere at Magenta Restaurant.

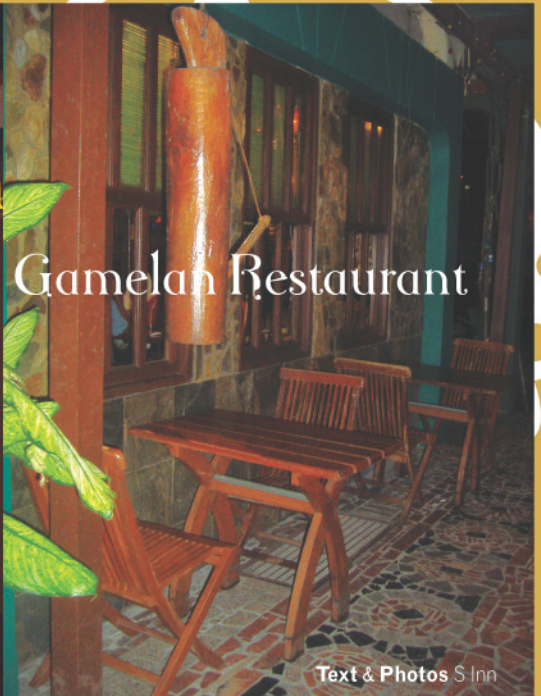
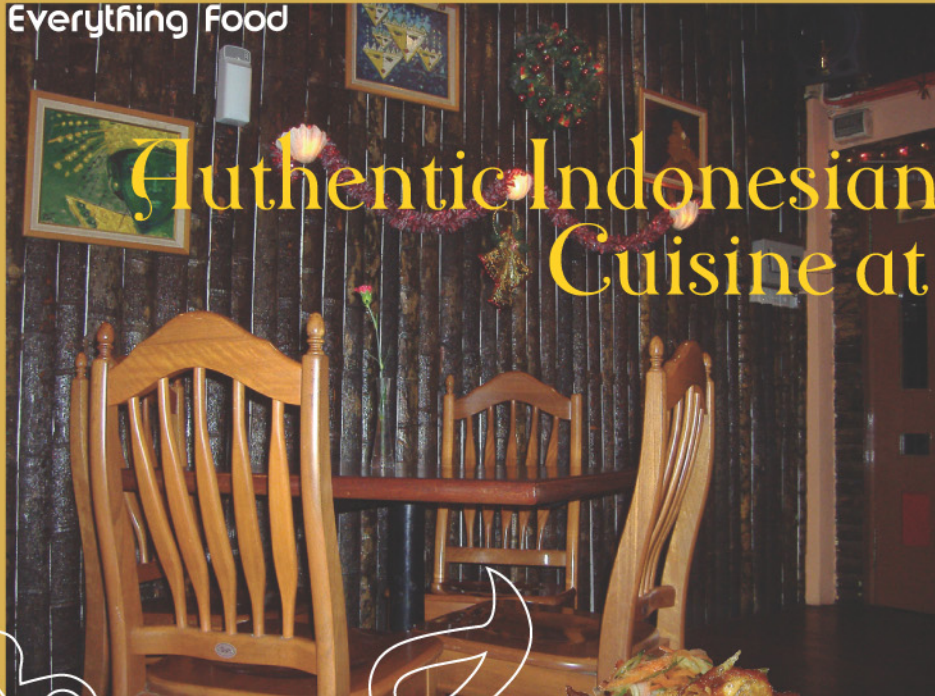
Whether you're a regular or first-timer of the restaurant, one thing's for sure: everyone goes home, full and satisfied.



Magenta  
RESTAURANT

For reservation, please call **6082-237 878**  
Operating Hours:  
6.30pm till late  
Off on Mondays

# Authentic Indonesian Cuisine at Gamelan Restaurant



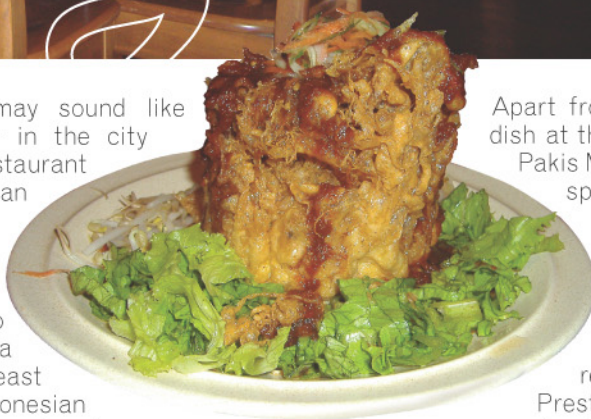
Text & Photos S Inn

**G**amelan Restaurant may sound like a relatively new eatery in the city of Kuching but the restaurant serving authentic Indonesian cuisine has in fact been operating for nine years and running.

Diners can expect to tickle their tastebuds in a spread of sumptuous feast that boasts delectable Indonesian specialty dishes from Sumatra, Jawa, Sulawesi and Sunda at the restaurant located at Wisma Gaya, Jalan Simpang Tiga here.

A great way to start off the meal at Gamelan is to indulge in their array of appetisers. Among them include Karedok, a fresh vegetable salad with peanut sauce, Gado-Gado which comprise of mix vegetables, bean curd and boiled eggs in a mild peanut sauce or Kroket, whereby a dish consist of five morsels of finely pound potato filled with vegetables and minced chicken, that have been rolled with bread crumbs and deep-fried.

The restaurant is situated within walking distance from Swinburne university. Favourite dishes amongst the public include the familiar Nasi Goreng Kampung cooked a la Indonesian style. This particular dish is also served with fried sunny-side up egg, acar, keropok and fried chicken.



Apart from Nasi Goreng Kampung, another popular dish at the restaurant is a Sulawesi dish called Tumis Pakis Manado comprising of a mix of wild fern, water spinach and fried melinjo leaves as well as Tauhu Telur. Deep-fried tofu coated with fried eggs and served with a generous portion of vegetables, the restaurant's special dish is a hit with many of its frequent customers.

On the other hand, those who're dining at the restaurant for the first time must try the Bandeng Presto, another specialty dish of Gamelan. This dish comprised of one whole smoked Bandeng fish, otherwise known as Milk Fish or Chanos Chanos, which has been cooked up to the point where the fine, sometimes harmful bones of the fish have completely softened. A delicious savoury dish from Jawa, Bandeng Presto is a popular dish in Indonesia as it is believed that Milk Fish prevents rheumatoid arthristis.

At Gamelan, customers can also opt for their set dinners consisting of white rice, vegetables (mix vegetables, tumis pakis, tumis kangkung, kailan) and a main course of either Ayam Rica-Rica, Ayam Goreng Lengkuas, Empal Daging, Daging Balado, Rendang Daging, Empal Daging or Oxtail Soup. All set dinner meals are served with side dish of fruits as well.

Finally, make room for desserts from the restaurant such as Pisang Keju (fried banana served with cheese and drizzled with chocolate condensed milk) another must-try dish here.



Lot 7407, Ground Floor, Wisma Gaya,  
Jalan Simpang Tiga, 93300 Kuching, Sarawak  
Operates from 9.30am to 10.30pm (Monday to Friday)  
and 3pm to 11pm on Sundays.  
Tel: **6082-410 026** Fax: **6082-245 423**



Text S Inn

# db-licious

When it comes to entertaining your guests at night, be it friends or clients, it's always a great idea to take them somewhere they can chill out whilst downing chilled mugs of beer as you catch up with them till the wee of the night.

Perhaps the hottest spot to kick-start the evening here in Kuching is none other than db, where the young and restless are often seen mingling at the bar amidst its contemporary coppice decor.

With its warm and sophisticated ambience, enjoy the bar's alcoholic beverages from around the world that also includes Carlsberg Draught Beer, which is currently having a promotion whereby every four mugs entitles one to a free mug of the fresh and cold draught beer. Soon to be included in the menu is Beamish Stout, the flagship Irish stout from Beamish and Crawford brewery.

The bar, which is usually packed to the brim, also houses the one and only **ice bar** in Kuching, which brings a whole new drinking experience to Kuching night birds. With temperatures at an **icy-cold zero degrees**, warm yourself up with shots of vodka and let your senses be touched in db's ice bar

that brings the term "chill-out" to a brand new light.

As the evening starts to wane, so does the selection of music. Early birds will find themselves entertained by easy listening music while late nighters can hit the dance floor and dance the night away with popular selection of R&B and dance music.

Those feeling a little peckish are welcome to order their grub from Patio Cafe, an eatery situated just next door. But if you're in luck, you may just be able to savour the bar manager's very own home cooking that also includes the ever popular Sarawak Laksa.

Operating daily from 10am till late, drop by db today to see and be seen.



288, Jalan Datuk Wee Kheng Chiang,  
93100 Kuching, Sarawak.  
hp: **016-8533 688** (Pam)

UNIQUELY FASHIONABLE



**E**mbellishment of beads, sequins, crystals and such on clothing is nothing new in the fashion world. In fact, it tends to bounce back into trend in various updated styles every year.

It was a natural progression when jewelry brand Elizabeth Kiing (EK) decided to expand their business with a women's clothing line of beaded couture this year. Last November, EK unveiled their forty-piece collection at a fashion show. The collection features one-of-a-kind pieces from casual wear to high fashion.

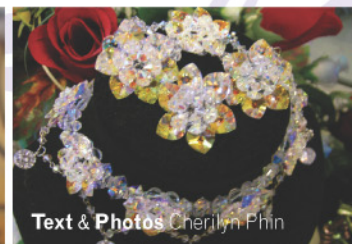
Each piece is clearly unique and eye-catching. The intricate beadwork is all sewn by hand onto skirts, tops, jackets and dresses of cotton, silk, chiffon and batik fabrics. The embellished pieces feature creative motifs of nature and modern graphics.

The collection also includes beaded t-shirts, where beadwork done adorned the prints on t-shirts. A beaded cotton t-shirt starts at RM70 onwards.

The other pieces range from RM60 to over RM550 each. Though one may be shocked by the prices, but you can understand why when you see the extensive and delicate workmanship carefully done on each piece.

Everything in the collection is on sale for those interested to own a one-of-a-kind piece. Otherwise, customers can also rent a particular piece (subject to availability) for special occasions.

EK also welcome customers who prefer to bring in their own clothing for customized beading, where they have the freedom to choose the type of beads used from EK's



Text & Photos Cherilyn Phin

large selection of beads from around the world. The brand also carries a range of embellished bags as well.

Along with the new exclusive clothing line, the designers and beaders behind EK continue to create more fashionable costume jewelry for its customers. By January, the new collection will be on sale.

This time around, EK is introducing a combination of antique beads with gemstones, crystals or pearls. The antique beads used are sourced from Sarawak and Indonesia. As antique beads are hard to find and expensive these days, EK manages to introduce them into their contemporary designs and continue to bring interest to such beautiful vintage beads.

The brand is known for its well-crafted products made from quality materials such as wood, crystals, freshwater pearls, acrylic, glass, polymerclay, stones and semi-precious gems sourced from countries like Russia, Austria, Venice, Brazil, China and of course, Sarawak. These are set together with 925 silver, rhodium, nickel, copper, bronze, 14K gold-plated and gold-coated wires, fabric cord and ribbons, depending on each individual design.

EK products are available on sale at its website, [www.ekiingbeads.com](http://www.ekiingbeads.com). As for customers who are in Kuching and want to get a closer look at the products can call **082-450 040** or **012-855 0703** to arrange for an appointment at the EK gallery and workshop. EK products are also available at Sheldon Haute Coiffure. Look for Michelle at **019-819 8948** or May at **016-808 0015**.

EK will also be offering beading and jewelry-making classes after the upcoming Chinese New Year celebration in February. Qualified instructors at the EK workshop in Kuching will conduct classes for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, which are open to both children and adults.

Strung with rare antique Venetian glass beads (from Borneo's Sarawak interior) that traces back to Venice, Italy in the 1400's, together with Swarovski crystals, quartz and lightest grey seed beads, this necklace was created with LOVE to represent HOPE for the future with its elaborate mix of opaque with bright translucent beads to give the appealing effect of the modern meeting the old, the contemporary combining with the past.



# Rainforest Kayaking

## Borneo Trek & Kayak Adventure

Hello! Welcome to Kuching! Treat yourself to a fun filled Kayaking Adventure in some of the most beautiful natural settings in Kuching! Paddle leisurely downstream from the upper reaches of Sungei Sarawak. Savor the sights of unique limestone formations and ancient looking trees while enjoying the peace and tranquility of the pristine rainforest. Visit a quaint friendly Bidayuh Village along the way. Take a cool dip and lunch on a sandy bank. After kayaking, proceed to Semengoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to see Orang Utans at feeding time OR visit the famous Wind Cave and Fairy Cave.

For booking contact:

### **BORNEO TREK & KAYAK ADVENTURE**

hp: **+6013-804 8338** (Ivy) **+013-8448609** (Jackson) office: **+6082-240 571**

email: **ivy2001@pd.jaring.my** **www.borneotrekandkayakadventure.com**



RM188 per person (with drinks/packed lunch)

RM218 per person (with drinks/packed lunch/ entrance fee to Semengoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Center)

- DURATION* : 6 - 8 hours
- FITNESS* : Easy to moderate suitable for beginners
- MINIMUM* : 2 persons
- WHAT TO WEAR* : T-shirt, shorts or tights over swimwear, old runners or sports sandals
- WHAT TO BRING* : Insect repellent, Sun block, Hat, Change of clothes



THIS IS A TRULY 'MUST SEE' AND 'MUST DO' FOR THE OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST AND NATURE LOVER!!



Text Cherilyn Phin

# idyllic getaway in SEMATAN



Situated on the western tip of Sarawak overlooking the South China Sea sits the sleepy fishing village of

Sematan, about one-and-a-half hours (120 km) drive from the city of Kuching. Here is where the locals and tourists alike can escape the city for some time out of sun, sea and sand at the idyllic getaway of Sematan Palm Beach Resort.

Opened three years ago, the resort is well known for its long stretch of clean sandy beach. The view alone is breathtaking. Once you've set foot on the resort, you'll know it's time to relax and put your worries behind.

There are plenty of activities to keep you occupied during your stay at the resort. Other than simply swim and sunbathe by the beach, be a little adventurous when you're there.

Rent a kayak and challenge yourself paddling on the waves of the South China Sea. Better yet, go snorkeling at the Talang-Talang Island.

This is also a great spot for diving enthusiasts. Visitors can make arrangements a day ahead for diving trips organized by the resort. Here's a chance to be at awe by the beautiful marine life that lies under the surface.

Can't dive? No worries. The resort also offers diving lessons from their PADI-certified dive instructors. All this can be arranged at the resort and will be carried out if weather permits.

Visitors who prefer in-land adventures can rent a bicycle and venture off to check out the local attractions. Sebat Waterfall is just a half-hour bicycle ride away from the resort. Along the way, enjoy the beautiful village scenery of paddy fields and pepper farms. Stop by the watermelon farm nearby and quench your thirst with this juicy fruit while you're there.

While in Sematan, don't miss the jellyfish factory. However, the factory only welcomes visitors during the jellyfish season in the months of April and May. This is where one can witness how freshly caught jellyfish are processed for the market.

For a taste of local culture, make a visit to the Selakau Longhouse nearby or perhaps take a look at the oldest Chinese wooden shop in Sematan that dates back to about 150 years old. Inquire the resort staff for more information on the village and its people here.

Nature lovers can hike at the nearby Gunung Gading National Park. If you're lucky, you'll be able to see the world's largest flower, Rafflesia, bloom in its glory. Alternatively, hop on a boat to Tanjung Datu National Park to discover the untouched flora and fauna of the Sarawak rainforest.

With so much to do here, it is best to spend several nights at the Sematan Palm Beach Resort. The two-acre resort houses thirty-nine comfortable accommodations (six Detached Chalets, sixteen Quadraplex Chalets, five Terrace Family and twelve Terrace Twin lodgings),

all fully air-conditioned and equipped with television and en-suite bathroom with heater.

The resort's restaurant prepares a menu of both local and Western cuisines. It opens daily from **7am to 10pm**. All food served is 'halal'.

Other facilities at the resort include usage of conference room for meetings, and rental of mahjong table for those who want to play a game or two.

The resort also caters for private functions or events like weddings, birthday parties, family day or corporate meetings. Prior arrangements can be made through the resort.

For a nice quiet break, either for the weekend or a week-long holiday, pack your bags and bring your friends and family to Sematan Palm Beach Resort.

## SEMATAN PALM BEACH RESORT SDN. BHD.

Lot 295, Kpg Sg. Kilong, Jalan Seacom 94100 Sematan, Kuching, Sarawak

Tel : **6082-712 388, 711 808**

Fax : **6082-711 788**

Email : **spbr295@streamyx.com**

Website : **www.sematanresort.com**





Text Cherilyn Phin



# A HOLIDAY SPOT FOR ALL

There are many beaches scattered along the coast that are easily accessible by road from the city centre of Kuching. One of the popular spots that always welcome visitors both near and far is Sematan, a sub-district of Lundu about 127 km from the city.

In just one-and-a-half-hour leisurely drive from Kuching, visitors will find themselves in the peaceful town of Sematan. It is best to stay a night or two – or even over the weekend – to explore this scenic rural area.

One place to stay is the Holiday Chalet Sematan (HCS), which sits at the picturesque beaches of Sematan. With Gunung Gading and the green countryside as its background, this vacation getaway would make a great destination for family and friends who enjoy being close to nature.

The accommodation here faces a sandy beach overlooking the South China Sea. All chalets are equipped with a TV and en-suite bathroom with heater and a kitchen with gas stove and cooking utensils. It is like a home-away-from-home with the comforts you need and a beautiful view to boot.

HCS provides four types of accommodation for its guests with affordable rates. A Detached Bungalow can fit six people at RM210 per night on weekdays and RM250 on weekends or the eve of a public holiday. The Sea-front Bungalow for five persons is charged at RM200 and RM220 each night during the weekdays and weekends respectively.

Four guests can book the Semi-D Chalet at RM150 on weekdays and RM180 for the weekend. A group of ten can stay in the VIP Bungalow for RM450 per night on the weekday. RM500 per night is the rates charged for weekends and eve of a public holiday.

Group rates are negotiable and catering services can also be arranged for group check-in.

HCS has several facilities for guests including a children's playground and a swimming pool. It also has a conference room for corporate guests organizing company activities or events there.

For dining, guests can head on to its cafeteria that serves delicious home-cook local food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Guests can also get the barbeque pits if they wish to bring along their own food to grill. Nothing beats enjoying the barbeque while watching the sunset by the beach.

Non-stay-in guests who just want to pop by at the beach for a day of relaxation and swimming in the sea can enter for a small fee of RM5 per adult while children below twelve years pay RM3 each.

Reservations of accommodation or inquiries about HCS and how to get there can be made through Automobili Sdn Bhd at **6082-232255** or fax to **6082-414969**. You can also email [mobili@streamyx.com](mailto:mobili@streamyx.com).

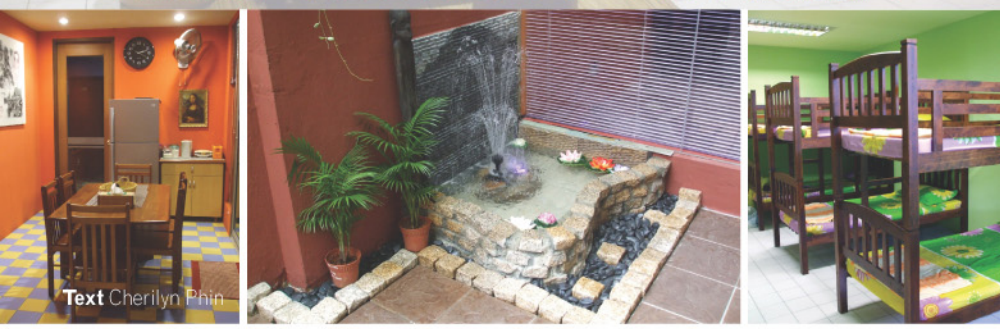


## HOLIDAY CHALET SEMATAN

Jalan Sungai Kilong, 94100 Sematan, Sarawak. Tel: **6082-712 477** Fax: **6082-712 306**



## Make YOURSELF At HOME



Text Cherilyn Phin

Opened in August 31, 2007, Nomad Borneo Bed & Breakfast promises to bring a little home away from home to any visitors coming to Kuching. Tucked in a quiet shophouse strategically located in the city centre, the laidback coziness appeal of this B&B is a sure draw for well-traveled visitors.

The B&B owners are travelers themselves and they understand the needs of fellow travelers, especially backpackers, when it comes to seeing the world on a budget. Though there are many B&B accommodations offered in Kuching, Nomad stands out for being homely and welcomes every visitor like a friend.

So far, many travelers from all over the world has made themselves happily at home here at the B&B. The Nomad owners and staff are locals, natives who can give first-hand travel information to their guests. The people-friendly and flexible give-and-take approach makes them a suitable place to stay for many.

Nomad takes up three floors of the shophouse. It currently offers three dormitories with a capacity of twenty boarders each at **RM26** per bed each night.

There are also three single rooms at **RM55** per night and one twin room at **RM65**. A communal shower and toilet facility is provided.

Travelers who preferred some privacy and attached bathroom facility can opt for one of the three double rooms. Two of these double rooms are priced at **RM75** per night while the other more spacious room is charged at **RM85** per night. Extra bed costs **RM20** per night.

Other facilities include laundry service, towels, lockers for boarders staying in dormitories, TV with Astro services, DVD player and even a Playstation for gamers. Free WiFi is also available and travelers without their own laptop can rent the B&B's for RM5 per hour.

Nomad also has a café that opens all day and offers its kitchen to any travelers who want to do their own cooking. There is also a bar on the ground floor of this B&B, which opens every night.

For information and reservation, call **6082-237831**, email **info@borneobnb.com** or visit its website at **www.borneobnb.com**. **NOMAD BORNEO BED & BREAKFAST** is situated at 1st Floor, No. 3, Green Hill Road, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

When it comes to traditional tribal tattoos in Sarawak, there is one name that is bound to come out from people's lips. It is no surprise that tattooist Ernesto is known by many in Sarawak - or even the world for that matter - for his efforts of promoting the Sarawak tribal tattoo art worldwide.

The self-taught tattooist began his journey into this ethnic art form since 1993, focusing on the preservation of the traditional Iban hand-tattooing technique and tribal designs. Since 1998, Ernesto has set up a studio specializing in traditional hand-tattooing which he highly recommends to his clients, where 80% of them are foreign visitors to Sarawak. His tattoo service grew popular, thanks to the word of mouth recommendation from satisfied customers. "Historically, Borneo has this tattoo culture. It was only natural that there is demand for the old-style designs," he said.

The duration of the tattooing process will depend on the size and intricacy of the chosen design. Ernesto does both traditional designs and custom work based on ethnic designs for those who preferred something unique. His studio also offers electric/machine tattooing and piercing services.

**BORNEO HEADHUNTERS TATTOO & PIERCING STUDIO** is located at 1st Floor, 47 Wayang Street, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak and opens for business daily from 11am to 7pm. However, Ernesto runs a "closed door system" business and his schedule is usually fully booked. Clients are advised to call Ernesto at **019-8566317** or email **info@borneoheadhunter.com** for appointments. Alternatively, visit **www.borneoheadhunter.com**.



### Did You Know?

For many centuries, the tradition and practice of tattooing has also been a way of life for the Iban. The practice of tattooing was a sacred activity that connected the people to the spiritual world. Tattooing was also linked to the men's success in headhunting and the coming of age amongst the womenfolk. Aside from symbolizing their social status, tattoos also enhanced the women's beauty. It is believed that the darker the color of the tattoo, the more beautiful the tattoo and the bearer is. Aside from these, the Ibans also bore tattoos for protective purposes as it is said to help ward off harm and disease.



Text & Photos S Inn

# A Mind, Body & Soul experience

**A** trip to Jana Wawasan may just be the trick to solve one's needs towards maintaining a relaxed mind, body and soul.

The relatively new wellness centre provides a variety of massage treatments such as Foot Massage, Chinese Style Body Massage, Oil Style Body Massage, Thai Style Body Massage, Japanese Style with Body Scrub and many more.

These treatments are available for both men and women, each provided with private rooms to ensure privacy for all clients who are catered to their every whim by the centre's highly-experienced therapists whose specialty are in the massage therapy of the origin country.

For instance, clients can indulge in the Thai Style Body Massage which helps to loosen joints and stimulate relaxation while relieving stress and eases tired muscles.

The Chinese Style Body Massage will be able to provide relief for those with body aches and thus provide a sense of well-being.

Those looking to pamper their tired feet should drop by Jana Wawasan (Golden Sense Spa & Massage), located along Jalan Simpang Tiga here, as the wellness centre is currently having a promotion on its Foot Massage treatment priced at only RM35. Besides that, clients who undergo any treatments above one-hour are also entitled to 10% discounts from the original price as well.



金沙休閒會所

## GOLDEN SENSE SPA & MASSAGE

**JANA WAWASAN SDN BHD**  
 Sub-Lot 11-12, Jalan Simpang Tiga,  
 Panovel Commercial Centre,  
 93300 Kuching, Sarawak.  
 Tel: **6082-231 555** Fax: **6082-230 555**  
 Operates daily from 10am to 2am

### SPECIAL PRICE – Foot & Body Massage Treatment

- Chinese Style Body Massage: RM55** (60min)
- Oil Style Body Massage: RM65** (60min)
- Thai Style Body Massage: RM75** (70min)
- Japanese Style Massage with Body Scrub (ladies only): RM85** (90min)

- Chinese Style Body Massage: RM88** (120min)
- Oil Style Body Massage: RM98** (120min)
- Thai Style Body Massage: RM108** (120min)
- Japanese Style Massage with Body Scrub (ladies only): RM118** (180min)



# Total Revitalisation & Relaxation

at THIENJING REFLEXOLOGY



## Text S Inn

Thienjing Reflexology is a name synonymous with reflexology health wellness therapies and is the perfect place for ultimate revitalisation and relaxation here in Kuching.

Set in a warm, cosy environment, clients will be able to unwind and re-energise themselves in special private rooms with the variety of specialised body treatments available at this wellness centre.

These include Traditional Chinese Tuina, Traditional Chinese Therapy, Traditional Thai Therapy, Essential Oil Massage and Body & Back Rub, all of which are assured given the best therapy by the experienced therapists at Thienjing.

For instance, the Traditional Chinese Therapy will provide relief for those who suffer from body aches while improving one's muscles.

Other treatments also available here are Traditional Cupping Therapy and Traditional Chinese 'Kua Sa' Technic treatment to relieve one off different ailments such as aching of joints, stiff neck and migraines as well as Ear Candling and massages for head, shoulder or back.

Those looking to pamper their tired feet can also indulge in the centre's variety of foot therapies such as Traditional Medicine Foot Therapy, Crystal Rose Foot Therapy, Crystal Milk Foot Therapy, Crystal Cool Mint Foot Therapy or Foot & Leg Scrub.

The centre's essence of success is in its dedication towards providing quality products and excellent services to all its clients at affordable prices.



### FACILITIES

- Exclusive Massage Rooms • Bar Counter
- Newspaper & Magazines • Light Refreshments • PlasmaTV

Thienjing have more than 28 standard massage rooms, which can serve 58 clients at one time.

### FACILITIES FOR MEN ONLY

- Sauna • Shower • Massage Room • Scrub Room

### FACILITIES FOR LADIES ONLY

- Steam Room • Shower Room • Scrub Room • Make-up Counter • Rest Area



## Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh

*Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Resource Management, who is also Director of Sarawak Forest Department and General Manager of STIDC.*



“PFEs will be forest forever, which means even if we harvest them, they will be replanted with trees. Under this category, it has two components, namely natural forest and the other under plantation. During transition period, some of the species have to be replaced with fast growing species such as Acacia mangium. By doing this we can strike a balance to meet the demand of all the stakeholders and minimise conflicts among them.”



The timber industry has been part and parcel of Sarawak's diverse economic growth over the years through a well-managed and well defined forest policy which has enable it to develop the industry.

The State has been able to manage its forest well through the Sustainable

Forest Management (SFM) policy that has been enforced after the establishment of the Forestry Department more than 80 years ago to meet the stringent requirements of the scientific communities as well as other reputable and respected international organisations such as the FAO, ITTO, to name a few.

Currently, Sarawak has designated six million hectares of its forest as Permanent Forest Estates (PFEs) and one million as Totally Protected Areas (TPAs). By creating such areas, the State will be assured of a steady supply of timber to keep the industry going while maintaining the biodiversity and ecology of the State through the requirements of the various stakeholders.

“As responsible world citizen, we do recognise the importance of ecobiological balance, biodiversity conservation, climatic change and global warming and the like but we also have to survive and progress”. So, in our context, we have to strike a balance by instituting diverse land-use policy to meet the demands of the other stakeholders.

The developed countries need to understand us on this matter because what we are doing is a necessity for our survival and progress which only we could do and exercise as custodians of our own resources. For some in the West, it is just a matter of intellectual curiosity based on limited and lack of understanding and appreciation of the situation that exist in the developing countries.

“But for us to survive and progress, we have to continue to manage our resources intelligently by harnessing our resources in the most diligent, intelligent and rational manner so that these resources will not be depleted in the years to come,” said Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Resource Management and the Director of Forestry.

He said to ensure optimum and efficient use of resources for the benefit of all the stakeholders, there is a need to synergise and properly co-ordinate roles of the various government agencies in Sarawak, which have become custodians of this forest resources.

“This is necessary so that they can complement each other effectively and to manage these resources and address illegal logging comprehensively. These stakeholders need to share information to become more effective as a team,” he said.

“For instance, We may not have the necessary arms and weapons to fight against illegal loggers, but we have other agencies such as the police and other enforcement agencies to provide the necessary support,” he said.

By the definition of the law, illegal logging encompasses the extraction of timber from national parks, nature reserves and wildlife sanctuaries. The encroachment into native customary rights land, communal forest or state land forest by licencees or their contractors and the atraction of timber from an area designated for the establishment of a forest plantation by individuals or groups without the permit or authorisation.

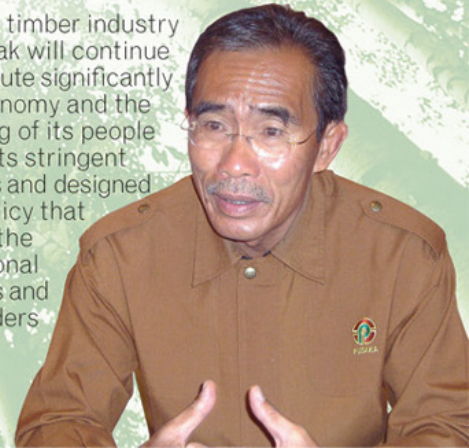
As the State continue to rid itself of illegal logging, clearly, the State wants to ensure that all logs and timber products produced in Sarawak come from a legal source, namely from licenced forest concession or areas covered by licence properly issued under the Forests Ordinance and exported in compliance with the relevant laws.

“PFEs will be forest forever, which means even if we harvest them, they will be replanted with trees. Under this category, it has two components, namely natural forest and the other under plantation. During transition period, some of the species have to be replaced with fast growing species such as Acacia mangium. By doing this we can strike a balance to meet the demand of all the stakeholders and minimise conflicts among them,” said Len.

Thus, SFM will remain part and parcel of the forest management since the establishment of the Forest Ordinance in 1958 which stipulates the State Government's long term commitment to maintain a harmonious balance across the broad spectrum of the biologically diverse environment and ecology.

Said Len, “The science of SFM in that part was manageable and well-defined scientifically but over the years by virtue of the stakeholders demanding that the SFM is more of an art of managing resources: biodiversity, economics and social. Some of which are easily quantifiable over time by virtue of SFM where all the stakeholders are becomingly demanding. Now almost everybody is a stakeholder. We have to meet all these requirements. We need to balance all these challenges”.

Thus, the timber industry in Sarawak will continue to contribute significantly to its economy and the well-being of its people through its stringent measures and designed forest policy that meet all the international standards and stakeholders alike.





# Tanjung Manis SARAWAK INDUSTRIAL HUB LIKE NO OTHER



Text S Inn

The Timber Processing Zone concept was first expounded in 1984 in the industrial Master Plan prepared by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in association with the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA).

Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), being the agency responsible for the development of the timber industry in Sarawak, identified Kuching, Bintulu, Kuala Baram, and Tanjung Manis as centres for such a zone.

The crystallisation of this concept was materialised in a groundbreaking ceremony by the Right Honorable Chief Minister of Sarawak, Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud on March 11, 1990.

Initially meant for timber industry, Tanjung Manis has since evolved into a new Township. Since then, it is now a hub for ship building, deep sea fishery port and palm oil cluster for central regions of the State.

## VISION

The Tanjung Manis Timber Processing Zone is the largest and most advanced Fully Integrated Timber Complex in Malaysia. The self contained township, with strong institutional support and facilities, will help to develop the area into a major manufacturing and business centre in Southeast Asia.

## CONCEPT

To develop integrated timber manufacturing facilities, strong institutional support and good infrastructure, all of which are geared towards achieving efficient utilisation of timber resources for a competitive edge in international markets.

## IMPLEMENTATION

With a total area of 3,000ha allocated for development, the township has the amenities, infrastructure and support services to become a leading investment centre for timber manufacturing.

All basic infrastructures required for investors are now in place, including an airport, port, roads, telecommunications, broadband, water and electricity.

## PUBLIC AMENITIES

The township has a first class tar-sealed all weather road, telecommunications, water, electricity, school, religious centre, recreational and sport facilities available to investors, residents and workers. With a deep water port sited on some 200ha, Tanjung Manis is poised to become a main export point for Sarawak.

Today, public support facilities such as Clinic, Post Office, Public Library, Police, Immigration, Custom, Forest Department, Port Authority, SESCO and other government departments and agencies such as Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (APMM), Sarawak Rivers Board (LSSS), District Office, Sarawak

## ABOUT STIDC

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) was established in June 1973 under the Perbadanan Perusahaan Kemajuan Kayu Sarawak Ordinance 1973. Its incorporation was initiated following the recommendation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, which conducted a comprehensive forest inventory in the state from 1968 to 1972.

Its functions among others is to stimulate by all possible means the planned expansion of wood-based industries throughout Sarawak at a rate consistent with the overall interest of the economy, the availability of capital and the technical expertise and effective management of the forest resources.

With the Corporate Vision to be the leader and catalyst of the timber industry, STIDC's Corporate Mission is to play its role in planning, coordinating and developing the timber industries of Sarawak towards optimum and efficient utilisation of the timber resources by encouraging downstream processing and product diversification.

In line with these objectives and the national Vision 2020, STIDC is responsible for the development of disciplined, skilled and capable human resources. STIDC is committed to the timber industry and human resources development, which aims to provide and conduct training to upgrade their knowledge and skills for the benefit of this sector. This is to ensure that the industry stays competitive in producing quality products in the global market.

The Training Calendar provides references and information on the various technical courses organised by STIDC in consonance with its role as the Timber Grading Authority of Sarawak.

These courses are essential for traders dealing with processing, sawmilling, sales and marketing of timber. The programmes aim to equip the participants with the necessary skills to meet the needs of the wood based industry.



Fishery Department and Malaysia Fishery Development Authority (LKIM) have transformed Tanjung Manis into a one stop investment centre.

In planning, some of the agencies and department from the State and Federal Government which will be set up in Tanjung Manis include financial institutions, fire department, hospital, secondary school, institute of higher education, local council, religious body and Marine Police.

Besides being known for its timber industry, Tanjung Manis is also hailed for its Deep Sea Fishery; which has been implemented (100 acres) by Federal Government.

STIDC is also developing industrial zone dedicated for fishery based downstream processing as well as shipbuilding and maintenance industry.

## CONNECTIVITY

There are three ways to reach Tanjung Manis. Through sea/ river (Express Terminal), road (Sibu; 40 min drive) and airport (Tanjung Manis airport is operated by Hornbill Skyways).

## RESIDENTIAL

STIDC has constructed more than 300 units of houses of various types for investors and workers. An additional 40ha has been earmarked for future development. The housing Corporation, a semi-government agency responsible for housing in the state, has constructed more than 100 units of houses. Additional units are in the pipeline with an area of 80ha has been allocated to the Corporation for this purpose.

## COMMERCIAL

The commercial centre, which is strategically located, consists of business offices, department stores, shops and supermarkets, hotels entertainment and recreation facilities. Four commercial centres are being planned to cater for future growth.

## EVENTS HAPPENING

Every March, Tanjung Manis comes alive with 'Tanjung Manis Day,' a day to commemorate the establishment since March 1990.

Activities like sports carnivals, culture programme, competitions and ever popular Tanjung Manis Fishing Safari, which is held in May annually and plan to organise the Tanjung Manis Regatta in future year.

## LOCALITY

The natural deep water inland port with container facilities is accessible to ocean going vessels plying to and from Europe, Middle East, Far East, Australia, ASEAN member countries and North America.

Lots from the four industries (timber, palm oil, fishery and ship building) are available at RM9 per square foot for river frontage development and RM7 per square foot (in-land development).

Investors who are interested in the township are welcome to contact STIDC at Tel: **6082-443477** or visit our website at **[www.pusaka.org.my](http://www.pusaka.org.my)**





The symbol of SibU, the Swan

# MULTI-CULTURAL

# Sibu

**Text & Photos** Roger JD

**A**s the promoter of SibU town, SibU Municipal Council (SMC) doubles as the guardian of the great peoples of SibU. Making up of the Malays, Chinese, Ibans, Melanaus, Orang Ulu and many other races, SibU takes pride in its diversity, identity and rich cultures.

Experience the harmonious living that has existed amongst them for centuries. Its charm has the world's attention and tourists like you are making their way to experience the people's great smiles and natural beauty. To symbolise its peoples' harmonious relationship, numerous community-parks around town have been built.

Or come and join us in our annual Borneo Cultural Festival besides other state-sanctioned festivals. Among the annual highlights is the 10-day long Borneo Cultural Festival that features all the 27 ethnic cultural performances. It begins from June 27 until July 5, 2008.

Home to about 250,000 people, the SibU is located at the confluence of the Igan River and Rejang River, Malaysia's longest river. Its birth in the mid-nineteen from foreign White Rajah saw heroes and warriors being created.

The SMC museum and several other privately run museums keep many of the stormy pasts.

Today you can discover other charms and attractions in the lifestyles of the people by having leisurely walks among quaint buildings in town.



Boat Taxis



Kutien Garden, is one of the community gardens found in Sibü



Borneo Cultural Festival



A tri-horse statue fronting the Sanyan Building, is symbol of good strength

If you are a great shopper, you will find Sibü's malls, shopping complexes and night market a great place for excellent bargains. Its great local foods, coffee shops and fine restaurants will complete your journey.

Among the cleanest towns in the State of Sarawak, a typical day in Sibü can be seen at the Sibü Waterfront, which wakes up to life as early as 5.00 o'clock in the morning. With taxis, buses, sampans, speedboats and express boats the waterfront is teeming with life.

With an airport that can accommodate medium-sized passenger jets, Sibü can be reached from any point in Malaysia.

Just with a few kilometers radius, be part of the communal living culture of the Ibans in the longhouses. You will indeed get a treat of your life for the great hospitality of this race. Natures, green forests and crisp air are abound in such places.

**SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
MAJLIS PERBANDARAN SIBU**

Tingkat 19 - 24, Wisma Sanyan,  
No. 1, Jalan Sanyan, Peti Surat 557,  
96007 Sibü, Sarawak.

Tel : **6084-333 411**  
Fax : **6084-320 240**  
Email : **smc@smc.gov.my**  
Website : **www.sibu.gov.my**  
**www.smc.gov.my**





# Sibu's unforgettable Hawker Delicacies

Sibu is known for its array of delicacies that are not only delicious but extremely affordable as well. The central region of Sarawak is renowned for the freshest seafood that includes river fish and prawns as well as local hawker dishes that are certainly must-haves when visiting the bustling town.

Text S Inn

## Kam Pua Mee

Similar to *Sarawak Kolo Mee*, this simple noodle dish comprise of thin noodles which are given a toss in some pork lard and topped with slices of *char siew* (barbecued pork) and fried shallots. But what sets Sibu's signature dish apart is in the texture of the noodles and it is served with chilli sauce instead of pickled sliced chilli.

*Kam Pua Mee* is available either plain or tossed with sweet soya sauce and can be found at **Sing Long Cafe** (behind Rejang Medical Centre) and **Choon Seng Cafe** (Sg. Merah).

## Mee Sua

*Mee Sua* is another popular dish of this town. The noodles, the primary ingredient of this dish, are made from rice flour and are first blanched in hot water before poured with hot chicken soup along with chunky pieces of tender chicken.

A piping-hot bowl of *Mee Sua* is a customary dish for the Chinese community especially during special occasions such as birthdays and Chinese New Year as the noodles signify longevity.

In Sibu, where the majority are Chinese of *Foochow* dialects, the *Foochow Mee Sua* is available at **Swan Forest** (Jalan Khoo Peng Loong) and **Stall #122** (Central Market food).

## Kompia

One of the most popular delicacies to buy by the dozens when in Sibu is none other than the palm-sized pastry known as *Kompia*. The small, round bun topped with sprinkles of sesame seed is similar to a bagel as it can be served in various ways.



Traditionally, *Kompia* is baked in a charcoal oven and can be eaten on its own. Today, many will find the bun sandwiched with some minced meat.

Originating from the *Foochows*, the bread roll with an indent in the center is commonly found in the legions of *kopi tiam* around town. But to grab a bite at the more popular *Kompia* stalls, head to **Nam Mee** (opposite the former Li Gong Theatre at Sungai Merah) or **Mr & Mrs Yeo's Stall** (Lorong Tiong Hua 26) 15 minutes walk from town centre or take a taxi) where the buns are serve in a rich pork broth with slices of stewed pork.

## Recipe



### Mee Sua Chicken Soup

- 1.2 - 1.5 kg of free range chicken/chai yuan chicken (washed and cut to small pieces)
- 8 pcs of dried shitake mushrooms (soaked in room temperature water till soft)
- small handful of thorn berries (goa zi)
- 10 pcs of red dates (hung zhao)
- 4 - 5 slices of ginger
- 2 tbsp of sesame oil
- 6 - 8 cups of water
- 1/2 cup of foochow red wine (special wine of sourish taste, fermentation of red rice and glutinous rice)

- 1) Heat wok with sesame oil. Add ginger and fry till fragrant. With high heat, add mushrooms and then chicken and fry, stirring for a 2-3 minutes. Add foochow red wine (get the best quality you can grab hold of - usually homemade). Cover and boil for 5 minutes or so.
- 2) Boil the water in a big pot, water should come approx only half of pot as we are adding chicken mixture to it. Add red dates and thorn berries and continue boiling.
- 3) Add chicken mixture. Let it boil. Once boiling turn the fire down to small and let it simmer for at least one hour for flavor to come out.

### The Sou Mien

About 30-40 gm per person. Good quality sou mien is characterized by lightness and thinness. Thick ones are usually not as good tasting. Mee sua must be cut into bunches of 15-20 cm long and twisted into circles, then sun dried well for at least a full day and kept in tupperware. Good quality sou mien are separated upon cooking. Lesser quality ones tend to stick into one big lump.

Boil a small pot water and add sou mien. Let the noodle boil for a minute or so or water boils until foamy. Strain and dish it out and place in individual bowls. Pour hot boiling chicken soup over noodles. Arrange chicken pieces and mushrooms on top. Serve with your favourite soy sauce and more red wine. This dish smells so good especially if the red wine is of good quality.



## Did You Know?

*Kompia* was originally known as **Guang Bing** after General Qi Zhii Kuan of the Ming Dynasty in the 16th century. In order to feed his tired and hungry troops during the Anti-Japanese occupation war in China, he made the pastry with a hole in the middle so that they could be strung together and hung around the necks of the soldiers. That way, they no longer needed to return to their base which required a gruelling journey through the perilous mountains.



Text & Photos Roger JD

# Greatown

The symbol of Sibuan town, the Swan, which also means good luck. It unifies the different races living here. Located on the town square, it is a must see for those wanting to know the unity behind it and the many community gardens built around the town.

Welcome to the world of varied cultures! Be mesmerized by the beauty of the people's natural friendliness in Sibuan as well as other towns and villages in the central region of Sarawak.

Celebrating their different cultures the Ibans, Chinese, Malays, Melanau and Orang Ulu communities extend their open arms to all visitors to experience their friendship and hospitality.

The town of Sibuan is a silent witness to the harmonious living that has existed since time immemorial. You will see community gardens built and donated by these different races living here. You will also get to experience its long house dwelling places – traditional as well as modern ones – in and around the town.

Home of the famed Iban tribe, you will also get to experience its long house dwelling places – traditional as well as modern ones – in and around the town.

In Mukah town, located some 160km from Sibuan, you will also get to experience the cultural attraction of the Melanau tribe, which makes up one of the twenty-seven races found in Sarawak.

To experience these culture and unique places, you may rely on Greatown Tours to get you there. Greatown has variety of packages that begins from half-day tours to several days' tour packages.

## Half Day Tour (3 - 4 Hours)

- Sibuan – Rajang Esplanade + Sibuan Cultural Exhibition
- Fuzhou Cultural Heritage Tour
- Iban Longhouse Authentic Experience
- Upper Rajang Valley Discovery
- Sibuan Country Side Tour
- Fruit Orchard (Honey Pomelo, Honey Orange & Dragon Fruit)
- Fuzhou Culinary Adventure Trail
- Glorious Sunset/Dinner by Malaysia's Longest River – The Might Rajang
- The Making of Longevity Noodles & Fuzhou Bagel (Kompia)

## Full Day Tour (6 - 8 Hours, Simple lunch with local delicacies)

- Rajang Adventure Cruise + Iban Longhouse Cultural Heritage Tour
- Upper Rajang Valley + Iban Longhouse Discovery
- Sarikei Country Side + Tropical Agro Tour
- Melanau Treasures Discovery

### FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN YEAR 2008

**Baleh – Kapit Raft Safari** (19 – 20 April 2008)  
Experience the excitement of bamboo rafting along the Rajang River, the longest river in Malaysia.

**Pesta Kaul, Mukah** (24 – 27 April 2008)  
Traditional Melanau Thanksgiving Fest.

**The Borneo Cultural Festival** (28 Jun – 05 Jul 2008)  
Explore & discover Borneo's culture, art, traditional music and dance performances.



A modern Iban long house, just about 50km from Sibuan town, welcomes visitors.



An Iban man, with traditional tattoos on his body, demonstrates a Ngajat dance, while the Iban maidens in the background watch.



The Melanau 'Lamin Dana' long house that is found in the District of Mukah. Here it keeps a wide variety of historical artifacts and the stories behind them.



A multi-cultural dance celebration is shown here, in which each dancer wears different costumes that depict the different races each comes from.

# Romancing Sarawak



**@ PARAMOUNT HOTEL** **Sibu**



**Y**ou have been married for many years and as you look back, the time has flown so fast. For you know that the kids have now grown up and you are indeed a proud parent.

But have you ever thought that through the lows and highs in your life, there's one person that you have taken for granted – your spouse! It is the loving dedication of your life partner that life has been a bit easier!

Now, it's time again for you to bring fire back in your relationship, creating those good old memories of romance that had brought the two of you together in the first place.

It is the time to appreciate your partner and reward the two of you by bringing romance, for the second time, in your life again.

Seek it through our Romancing Sarawak program, by coming to Sibú's rich culture, beauty and a host of activities that sure to bring the two of you closer and husband and wife.

For the past year, Paramount Hotel along with a Peninsular-based tour company, more than a thousand couples had participated in the program.

Make an arrangement today to come down to Sibú and bring back that romance in your life.

## THE PARAMOUNT HOTEL

3, Lorong 9A, Jalan Kampung Dato, 96000 Sibú, Sarawak  
Tel : **6084-331 122**  
Fax : **6084-337 111**  
Email : **paramount\_hotel@yahoo.com**  
Website : **www.paramountsibu.com**



**WARM CULTURE** at PREMIER

**P**remier Hotel is synonymous with the history of the friendly and progressive peoples of Sibú.

It is in fact one of the many symbols of progress and stability its inhabitants are proud about besides their amazing cultures.

Now as its great cultures, endless tropical adventures and green natures beacon, Premier Hotel extends its proverbial arms to receive visitors to experience these in comfort and luxury.

With standard facilities and amenities modern hotels would have you can be sure of memorable stay in Sibú...all at very reasonable prices.

Though located in the heart of financial, commercial and shopping districts, visitors can also experience the unique long house living culture of Sibú's Iban tribe just a few kilometers away.

Now the world is paying attention to the harmonious living that exists amongst its peoples, regardless of their cultural differences. It is no wonder why its peoples are so friendly to any visitors coming to the green paradise town - Sibú.

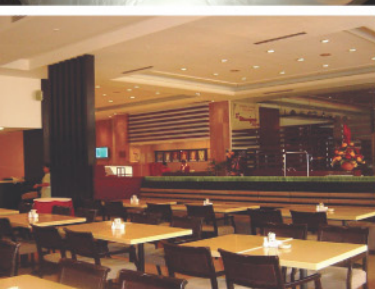


Sarawak House Complex, Jalan Kampung Nyabor  
P.O. Box 1064, 96008 Sibú, Sarawak, East Malaysia  
Tel : **6084-323 222**  
Fax : **6084-323 399**  
Email : **reservation@premierh.com.my/**  
**sales@premierh.com.my**  
Website : **www.premierh.com.my**



## Accommodation

# Sitting on GOLDEN SOIL



**T**anahmas literally translated means 'golden soil' and it can be applied to Tanahmas Hotel's strategic location - being at the best part of town.

Its cozy rooms, fitted with standard amenities, will make you feel at home the minute you walk in one of them. More so, its well-trained staff, who wear smiles synonymous with Sibü, will make you feel at home the moment you check-in.

Tanahmas Hotel is built just a stone's throw away from interesting places the town has to offer - the Sibü Gateway, Sibü Central Market and famed Night Market.

It is also a walking distance to the mighty Rejang River to the north and a hundreds yards away are the shopping complexes for which Sibü is famous for excellent bargains.

Whether you are travelling here on business or pleasure your stay here will be packed with fun-filled stay at Tanahmas Hotel, as you will be spoilt for choice of culture, nature and shopping.

The locals can be forgiven for not being aware of their location, generally envied by others. The good foods, clothing and almost any thing sold here are priced at a steal.

Walk anywhere in town you will find the friendly not only are greeted with smiles you will also get assistance from the people on the street.

In short, your stay at Tanahmas Hotel is the gateway to host interesting that make you feel at home.

## ACCOMMODATION

120 rooms of international standard. Our rooms and suites are specially designed to cater to the different needs of travelers and tourists. They are furnished with in-room features combined with the coziness of home to enhance your stay here at TANAHMAS.

All rooms are fully air-conditioned, private bath/shower, IDD, TV, El Safe, Astro Channel, mini bar and tea/coffee making facilities.

General Facilities 24 hour café and room service, Club Emas Karaoke Lounge, outdoor swimming pool and free wifi service. Business centre.

## LOCATION

Tanahmas Hotel is situated right in the heart of the hustling and bustling town of Sibü. Shopping complexes, cinema and central markets, night market are all a walking distance from the hotel.

Transportation in Sibü is not a big problem. The taxi service is available 24 hours. Besides that, the bus station and wharf are just about 200 meters away from the hotel and the Sibü Airport is about 25 minutes drive from here.

## CONTACT

### TANAHMAS HOTEL

Lot 277, Block 5, Jalan Kampung Nyabor  
P.O. Box 240, 96007 Sibü, Sarawak, Malaysia  
Tel : **6084-333 188**  
Fax : **6084-333 288**  
Email : [tanahmas@streamyx.com](mailto:tanahmas@streamyx.com)  
Website : [www.tanahmas.com.my](http://www.tanahmas.com.my)

## Sarawak Hornbill Tourism Awards 2003

Best Accommodation,  
Excellent Service (3 Stars)

Best Media Promotion (Electronic/Website)



**TANAHMAS**  
THE SIBÜ HOTEL

### Nanyang Wushu Festival Awards 2008 3 Jan

### Nanyang Wushu Dragon Dance Festival 6 Jan

The Symbolic 'Dragon Eye Dotting' Ceremony

### Nanyang Wushu "Golden Lion Dance" Festival

12 Jan

The Symbolic 'Lion's Eye Dotting' Ceremony

### Nanyang Wushu "Chinese New Year Festival Show I"

26 Jan (7:30pm)

### Nanyang Wushu "Chinese New Year Festival Show II"

2 Feb (7:30pm)

venue : Kuching, Sarawak  
organiser : Nanyang Wushu Federation of Sarawak  
tel : 019-8866 879  
fax : 6082-246 952



Nanyang Wushu  
Dragon Dance Festival



Sarawak Family Safari 2008

### 2nd ICACA 2008 International Conference of Applied and Creative Arts Conference Theme: "Creative Sense"

16 - 17 Jan

organiser : Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts, UNIMAS  
email : [icaca@faca.unimas.my](mailto:icaca@faca.unimas.my)  
tel : 6082-581 438  
fax : 6082-581 354



The 2nd International Conference on Applied and Creative Arts provides a forum for discussing issues on creative arts from a global perspective. The conference will emphasise on emerging creative paradigms in all disciplines and areas of expertise, in applied and creative arts. It is an opportunity for creative intellectuals and professionals, practitioners, artists, designers, inventors, performing artists, directors, and managers, to discuss and share valuable information on new techniques, methodologies, processes, technologies, applications and issues, related to creativity and globalization.

### Symposium on Zoonoses & Emerging Infectious Diseases Theme : Zoonoses, Environment and Wildlife Ecological Dynamics

21 - 22 Jan

IMPORTANT NOTES: Abstract of no more than 250 words by 20th November 2007 and Extended Abstracts by 20th December 2007

venue : Centre for Academic Information Services (CAIS) Auditorium, UNIMAS  
organiser : Faculty of Resource Sciences and Technology  
email : [abdullahmt@gmail.com](mailto:abdullahmt@gmail.com), [yeelingchong@gmail.com](mailto:yeelingchong@gmail.com),  
[khgandy@gmail.com](mailto:khgandy@gmail.com), [htratnawati@frst.unimas.my](mailto:htratnawati@frst.unimas.my)

Come and be dazzled!  
An evening of high fashion and live performances

### 2008 Spring CHARITY FASHION SHOW

24th January Thursday

venue : Kuching Civic Centre  
organiser : Stampin Tengah Unit, MJC Unit  
tel : 014-391 2683  
email : [scfashionshow@gmail.com](mailto:scfashionshow@gmail.com)  
website : [scfashionshow.iveanime.org](http://scfashionshow.iveanime.org)

### Pasar Gong Xi Fa Chai 2008

1 - 6 Feb

venue : High Street & Jalan Raja, Miri, Sarawak  
organiser : Miri City Council, Miri Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industries

### Chap Goh Mei (Last day of Chinese New Year)

21 Feb

venue : Bau Town, Sarawak  
organiser : Chinese Temple in Bau Town

### Padungan Chinese New Year Festive Sale

1 - 7 Feb

venue : Jalan Padungan (from the entrance of the catsy statue to zhunion pharmacy)  
organiser : Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan  
tel : 6082-242 311  
email : [infor@mbks.gov.my](mailto:infor@mbks.gov.my)  
website : [www.mbks.gov.my](http://www.mbks.gov.my)

### Sarawak Family Safari 2008

6 - 13 Feb (from Kuching 8D/7N)

contact : Mr. Malcolm Jitam  
tel : 012-888 6460  
email : [best@bikcloud.com](mailto:best@bikcloud.com)  
website : [borneo4x4.com](http://borneo4x4.com)

The gang at BORNEO 4X4 had always marked the long Chinese New Year holidays as a good time to go on a road tour. CNY holidays is a time when timber camps close and there are no trucks to bother you on the many logging road that link the villages and places in the far hilly and often scenic interior. We're planning a trip for the coming CNY Holidays and would be limiting the convoy to a maximum of 12 cars.

A safari through the northern parts of Sarawak covering **Bintulu-Lawas-Tawau**. This would be an expedition style safari where some nights will be spent camping and others at local resorts and accommodation. This is suitable to families as it would be a touring and a drive with stops at scenic places.

#### Please note that:

- We would be passing through Brunei and those in need of a visa to Brunei need to prepare before hand. Also change some Brunei Dollars for toll and fuel and food/ refreshments.
- We would be buying our own meals either in local eateries or supplies and cook them ourselves, especially on camping days.
- Only well prepared cars need to apply for this trip. You must have MUD TERRAIN tyres with 80% tread and the vehicle must be in very good reliable operating condition. A winch would be very advantageous. Suspension and body lift are optional.
- A tent is a must, we will never know where we will be sleeping as conditions will determine our journey and progress.

Happenings (Jan - Mar)  
visit [www.happeningsarawak.com](http://www.happeningsarawak.com)



Bario Food Festival



Miri International Deep Sea Fishing Tournament



Sarawak Chief Minister's Cup  
ITF World Junior Tennis  
Championship (Group 1)

## Malaysia Airlines Travel Fair

22 - 24 February 2008

venue : Level 5, Permata Carpark  
Building, Kuching  
time : 11am - 9pm

Free Admission. All Are Welcome.

## Miri International Motorcycle Sprint Challenge - Series 1

1 - 29 Mar

venue : Lutong Airstrip, Sarawak  
organiser : Kelab Bermotor Miri  
contact : En. Mohammad Abdullah  
tel : 016-887 4587  
fax : 6085-428 800  
email : [abdullah-jamin@yahoo.com](mailto:abdullah-jamin@yahoo.com)

## Bario Food Festival

8 - 16 Mar

venue : Bario, Miri, Sarawak  
organiser : Bario Local Community  
contact : Mr. Jason Gathone-Hardy  
(Lord Medway)  
email : [rivalde@btinternet.com](mailto:rivalde@btinternet.com)  
website : [www.ebario.com/](http://www.ebario.com/)  
[www.foodadventures.co.uk](http://www.foodadventures.co.uk)

The first weekend of the festival is a family homecoming + village rice harvest tithe giving. On **Monday** there will be a Welcome to the Highlands talk at the Bario Balai [community centre]. This will be about The Wild and Farmed Food Heritage of the Kelabit Highlands and Highland Forests. It will include a Wild Food and Bario Rice talk, lunch + Wild Food Walk. **Tuesday's** theme will be Bario Rice and Salt, with talks, walk and Lunch. **Wednesday's** theme will be The Cultural Heritage of the Highlands, with demonstrations, workshop and Lunch. **Thursday** will be a Highland Cafe Day, with visitors and guests free to explore the shops and local food cafes in Padang Pasir. **Friday** and **Saturday** will see the opening of the Kelabit Highlands Food Fayre - a 1 acre open air site with stalls manned by all the villages of the northern Kelabit Highlands. Bring hiking boots and a poncho in case the weather is a tad wet, but the Food Fayre is a remarkable event, blessed with many delicious and amazing foods from the farms and forests around the Highland Villages.

**Saturday** culminates with Kelabit Highland Games [blow pipe, jumping, tests of strength] and a the Festival's Community Feast and Awards Ceremony [also held in the Balai - last year's Feast or Community Irau sat 400 guests].

The Festival is a remarkable event in one of the most beautiful and ecologically fragile parts of the planet. It has grown from a small seed into one of Malaysia's most interesting and remote celebrations of traditional foods, farming, forests and the cultural arts - organised by the local villages, church and community elders in association with generous support from Sarawak Tourism Board, the state government, Rurum Kelabit Sarawak, Spring Web UK and The Alde Valley Food Adventures UK. It runs alongside a slowly growing fabric of food and cultural hotspots in Sarawak, including Kuching, Serian, Miri and Bekanu - and is a prelude to the Miri International Food Festival in August [Ref Vincent Nonis - Manager at the Grand Palace Hotel - host for this year].



Hong Sam Si Temple Parade



Ba'Kelalan Apple Fiesta

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.

## Sarawak Chief Minister's Cup ITF World Junior Tennis Championship (Group 1)

17 - 23 Mar

venue : Kuching, Sarawak  
organiser : Sarawak Lawn  
Tennis Association  
contact : Mr. Patrick C J Liew  
tel : 6085-245 191 / 019-887 1118  
email : [kuch@saratim.com.my](mailto:kuch@saratim.com.my) /  
[Patrick@saratim.com.my](mailto:Patrick@saratim.com.my)  
website : [www.itfsarawak.org.my](http://www.itfsarawak.org.my)

## Ba'Kelalan Apple Fiesta 27 - 29 Mar

venue : Ba'Kelalan, Lawas, Sarawak  
organiser : Borneo Jungle Safari Tours & Travel  
contact : Ms. Sandra Munga Tagal  
tel : 6085-419 737  
fax : 6085-418 737  
email : [sales@borneojunglesafari.com](mailto:sales@borneojunglesafari.com)  
website : [borneojunglesafari.com](http://borneojunglesafari.com)

## Hong Sam Si Temple Parade 29 Mar

venue : Kuching, Sarawak  
time : 5.30pm to 12.00pm  
organiser : Kuching Hokkien Association  
tel : 6082-242 748  
fax : 6082-416 008

## Miri International Deep Sea Fishing Tournament 30 Mar - 20 April

venue : Drop Off, Miri  
organiser : Miri Anglers Club  
contact : Mr. Nelson Ngu  
tel : 6085-413 550 / 013-8333 550  
fax : 6085-414 358  
email : [nelson58@streamyx.com](mailto:nelson58@streamyx.com)  
website : [geocities.com/Yosemite/cabin/9959](http://geocities.com/Yosemite/cabin/9959)

Celcom (Malaysia) Berhad lighted the first ever gigantic Christmas tree at Travilion last year. Measuring at 50-feet tall, the tree bore Xpax ornaments in which the general public were welcome to participate in the Celcom Guess the Number of Xpax Ornaments SMS Contest. It was recently revealed that the number of ornaments placed on the tree was 1,126. ▼



◀ Kebaya - The Fashion Show and Gala Dinner, organised by Society Atelier Sarawak, Yayasan Budi Penyayang and Sarawak Museum.

Fans of Malaysian actor Afdlin Shauki thronged Star Cineplex to catch the comedian and the cast of Sumolah in May 2007. ▼



▲ Sarawak Parti Pesaka Buiputera Bersatu (PBB) Sarawak Youth Chief, Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof and members of the party collecting more than 50,000 petitions from Sarawakians to show their support against Illegal Street rally organised by irresponsible groups of Malaysians.



World Harvest Festival 2007, the Orang Ulu theme play – 'Belawan Burieng' – Hercules of Keliman River.' The play centers around the mystical story of the legendary, half-man, half-God hero of the Kayans and was reenacted by talented Sarawak Cultural Village artistes. ▼



◀ One of Taiwan's hottest bands, Power Station was in Kuching for the Hotlink Borneo Music Festival held at Travilion.

# What Happenings 2007



▲ EK Fashion Extravaganza 2007, organized by I.V. Boutique, EK Beads & Accessories and St. Ann's Church on 16 November 2007 at Christian Ecumenical Worship Centre.

Insurance Society of Sarawak 28th Anniversary Fashion Show & Dinner on 1st December 2007. ▼



The annual 'Miss Fair & Lovely WHF 2007' held on 26 May 2007. Finalists are seen striking a pose in traditional Orang Ulu costumes. The coveted crown was awarded to Hazel Desmond of Sibul. ▼

▲ Finalists of Miss Tourism Pageant (1) 2007 participating in a traditional dance lead by Sarawak Cultural Village (SCV) dancers. Grand final was held in Sibul.



▲ Sarawak Family Safari 2007

◀ Minister of Planning and Resource Management Datuk Sri Awang Tengah Haji Ali Hassan igniting the bamboo canon otherwise popularly known by locals as 'bedil' to mark the opening of Hari Raya Open House for Muara Tuang, Kota Samarahan constituency level. Also present, Muara Tuang State Assemblyman and Chief Minister's younger brother, Datuk Sri Haji Muhamad Ali Mahmud.



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One can definitely put their mind at ease when shopping for a brand new mobile phone at Sheer Unique as the outlet is the only one in town that sells authentic branded mobile phones and accessories. The outlet also specialises in services such as repair, installing software (*games, anti-virus, programmes*) for mobile phones and other miscellaneous needs for tech-savvy customers and their gadgets.

The recent visit by the management of Nokia Malaysia further stamps Sheer Unique as a trusted mobile phone outlet and it is currently the only outlet in the State to receive this esteemed privilege. Sheer Unique offers the latest, original mobile phones from top brands such as Nokia, Sony Ericsson, Motorola, Samsung, LG, O2, HTC and Blackberry, all 100% original guaranteed and with a minimum of at least 12 months warranty.



The mobile phones available here are all authorised sets from distributors (e.g.: *Nokia authorised sets are from Zitron and AVAXX*), thus providing customers with full warranties should any mishap happen to the mobile phones they purchased.

Customers who purchase any mobile phones will receive a 20% discount on any accessories available at Sheer Unique, which allows customers to have a hands-on experience with the variety of mobile phones. This service will also be available at Sheer Unique's kiosk, due to open soon at the upcoming shopping mall, *The Spring*.

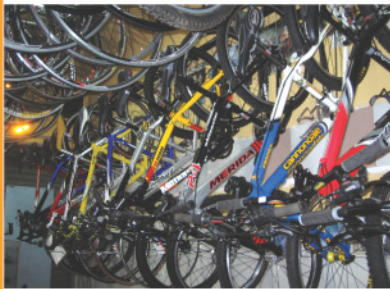


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Available in more than 100 flavours ranging from the conventional French Vanilla, Chocolate, Chocolate Mint to the unique Banana Cheese, Cempedak, and Kaya, the gelatos here consist of no more than 8% fat.

Scoops Elite Card RM10 (renewable every 2 years) RM5 (students)

- entitles 20% discount on all items on the menu
- one free single-flavour cone or cup for every purchase of two items on the menu

Monday to Thursday - 50% discount on selected flavours, all day.



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Corallium Cafe's cosy ambience is pleasantly inviting while food-wise, diners can choose from a variety of comforting food such as Grilled Chicken Chop or Grilled Pork Chop, which is served with either black pepper sauce, mushroom sauce or BBQ sauce as well as Fish & Chips, just to name a few.

A must-try dish is the Chicken Cordon Bleu, in which chicken breast is stuffed with cheese and ham, coated with bread crumbs and deep-fried till crispy and golden before finally drizzled with some BBQ sauce. The French-inspired poultry dish is also served with a generous serving of steamed vegetables and mash potatoes.



Pasta dishes are also available at the cafe and this include Spaghetti Bolognese, Spaghetti Carbonara- a creamy pasta dish tossed with bacon bits, mushrooms and black pepper - and Pan-fried Pasta.

On the other hand, the array of drinks available at Corallium are aplenty as diners are spoilt for choice with the cafe's smorgasbord of coffees, teas, mocktails, smoothies, french sodas, fresh juices and iced blended drinks.chocolate.

Among the popular beverages include Summer Night Indulgence, which is a concoction of coffee and some strawberry syrup, Tropical Smoothie and Iced Blended

Nutty Butterscotch, a comfortingly delightful beverage that's rich in flavour.

To cap off the evening, one must definitely indulge in the cafe's Chocolate Fondue, which is available in either fruits or combo (fruits and biscuits) sets.



**CORALLIUM CAFE** No. 7, Wayang Street, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak. Tel: **6082-428 185**  
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# CHINESE NEW YEAR



## Aurora Court

### FAMILY REUNION FEAST

Wednesday, 6th February 2008

6.30 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.

**RM68.00++** per adult

**RM28.00++** per child (5 - 12 years old)

Featuring a sumptuous buffet spread of delectable Chinese delicacies specially created by Chef Nam and his team for this auspicious lunar occasion.

Inclusive of the must-have Yee Sang for toasting.

### PROSPERITY BUFFET DINNER

Thursday, 7th to

Sunday, 10th February 2008

6.30 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.

**RM59.00++** per adult

**RM18.00++** per child (5 - 12 years old)

The ever popular "Fresh & Fabulous" theme buffet goes Oriental in conjunction with the lunar New Year Festival. Indulge in a wide selections of fresh meats, seafood, and vegetables cooked a la minute in your preferred cooking style with your choice of condiments and sauces.

### CHAP GOH MEI BUFFET DINNER

Thursday, 21st February 2008

6.30 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.

**RM59.00++** per adult

**RM18.00++** per child (5 - 12 years old)

Celebrate the closing of the lunar New Year in style and feast on a bountiful array of delightful Chinese New Year delicacies specially prepared for your enjoyment with family and friends.

# Festive Celebrations

at

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## Aurora Court

### LOVE IS IN THE AIR AT AURORA COURT

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## Ristorante Beccari

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7.00 p.m. onwards

**RM108.00++** per person

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- Free Chocolate Kisses and Rose for the lady
- Live entertainment by our Resident Pianist

## Victoria Arms

### LOVE AFFAIR AT VICTORIA ARMS

7.00 p.m. onwards

**RM88.00++** per person

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- Free Chocolate Kisses and Rose for the lady
- Live entertainment by our Resident Band and DJ



# VALENTINE'S DAY

14th February 2008



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Tel: 6082-258 000, Aurora Court ext. 8061, Ristorante Beccari ext. 8080, Victoria Arms ext. 8070 Fax: 6082-425 400 Email: [info@merdekapalace.com](mailto:info@merdekapalace.com)



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