



Kuching Included in the KL Tower International Jump Merdeka Circuit 2007

Once again Kuching was included in the Merdeka circuit of the KL Tower International Jump 2007. Held on August 8, the BASE jump was made from Menara Pelita in Petra Jaya.

A total of 19 jumpers took the plunge from the 22-storey office building. Menara Pelita is only 86 metre high and the jump from the building has been described as the shortest jump in all the Merdeka circuit.

Gary Cunningham and Captain Aziz Ahmad led the group of jumpers to take the leap from the office tower. Apart from one jumper suffering from fractured wrist due to bad landing, all the jumpers successfully made several jumps from Menara Pelita.

Both Cunningham and Captain Aziz had courageously jumped from Menara Pelita last year. They were the ones who dare to make the jump from Menara Pelita in their first attempt last year. Their successful encounter had convinced more BASE jumpers to take the plunge from the office building.

After Kuching, the Merdeka Circuit moved to Kota Kinabalu and the jump was held on August 11 and 12, Kedah (August 16-17), Penang (August 19) and Kuala Lumpur (August 24-26).

Apart from making the jump, Menara Kuala Lumpur Sdn Bhd had also arranged for charitable work during the circuit tour. In Kuching, the jumpers and staff of Menara Kuala Lumpur Sdn Bhd visited the children at the Cancer Ward at Sarawak General Hospital.

Led by Menara Kuala Lumpur Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer Dato Zulkifli Mohamad, they presented donation to Sarawak Children Cancer Society and gifts to the children at the ward.

The event was organised by Menara Kuala Lumpur Sdn Bhd and supported by Sarawak Tourism Board, Tourism Malaysia and the management of Menara Pelita.



Learn To Cook Sarawak's Delicacies at Bumbu

Lasting holiday memories are made of experiences related to taste and sight as well as sound. And, any gastronomical experience is further enhanced when one has the opportunity to learn how the local delicacies are prepared and cook.

This is the exactly the experience that Bumbu is offering any visitors to Kuching city.

Located at No.57 Carpenter Street, one of the oldest streets in the city, Bumbu is offering culinary experience to those who want to learn to prepare local dishes. The dishes include Sarawak laksa, curry chicken, chicken cooked in bamboo stem, midin (local fern) and local cakes and desserts.

A family-run business, Bumbu also include tours of the heritage trail and the wet market in its culinary class. The class begins with going to the market to obtain the ingredients required for the cooking lesson.

During the tour, visitors are given an insight on the heritage attractions along the way to the market. At the market, they are further exposed to what they see around them such as the origin of specific vegetables and their uses.

Back in Bumbu kitchen, visitors will be taught right from the beginning how a dish is prepared. The class also encourages active interaction and participation between the tutor and the participants.

And, the best things at each class - all the participants will savour what they had prepared!

Operated by an experience tour guide Joseph Jissin Daniel and his brother-in-law Benedict Kimsing Ahwa, Bumbu has been conducted several classes for foreign visitors since its commencement few months ago. Among those who had attended the classes at Bumbu included those from Australia, Sweden, Jamaica, Canada, USA, Britain, Japan, Laos, Thailand, Holland, Germany and Italy. The classes are conducted by Benedict's wife Bernadine Wee, who used to run a cake and pastry business.

Named after the local condiment of a mixture of grounded coconut, rice and tumeric, Bumbu also used coconut, rice and tumeric in most of its recipe.

It is also the only licensed cooking class around. Those interested please contact 016-8684537 or 019-8791050.

CENTRAL SARAWAK 4X4: A Challenging Event For The Outdoor Enthusiasts

The Central Sarawak 4X4 to be held from September 28 to 30 is expected to attract many outdoor enthusiasts.

Organised by Outdoor Treks Sdn Bhd in collaboration with Bintulu Resident Office and Bintulu 4X4 Skill, the event is expected to attract participants from Sarawak, Sabah, Brunei and Indonesia. The event is also supported by Sarawak Tourism Board and sanctioned by Motorsports Association of Malaysia.

The participants will be competing for cash prizes and vehicle accessories. A total of RM12,600 cash prizes are up for grab.

The race is divided in three categories of Group A unlimited; Group A for vehicles under 1,800 cc like jeep and Group B for semi modified 4X4 vehicles. There is also a tag team event where competitors are to run in pairs to help each other to complete the stage.

Extreme adventures await the participants as they are required to drive up walls and steep embankment as well as mud. It is definitely for those who love the challenge and appreciate the outdoor.

Events to look-out for September & October 2007

| Date | Event | Venue | Contact |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| August 31- Sept 2 | Sarawak Regatta | Kuching Waterfront | Kuching Resident Office Tel: +6 082 243301 Fax: +6 082 243304 www.sarawakregatta.com |
| Sept 28-30 | Central Sarawak 4X4 | Bintulu | Outdoor Treks Sdn Bhd Tel: +6 082 363344 Fax: +6 082 363344 |
| Sept 11-13 | Borneo Tourism Conference | Sarawak Tourism Complex | Sarawak Tourism Board Tel: +6 082 423600 Fax: +6 082 416700 www.sarawaktourism.com |
| Sept 19-25 | Inter-Cultural Mooncake Festival | Kuching | Festival Secretariat Tel: +6 082 244633 Fax: +6 082 253025 |

Design & Produced by Bumi Serasi, 242E, Lorong Green, No.3, Jalan Green, 93150 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

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Making Waves

RAINFOREST WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL 10th Anniversary - truly a time of celebration



Malaysia Airlines subsidiary MASWings will begin operating the rural air service (RAS) in Sarawak and Sabah on October 1.

This confirmation came from MAS' managing director Datuk Idris Jala, who also promised that MASWings would also bring back some of the old routes that had been operated by MAS before the RAS was taken by Fly Asian Xpress (FAX).

"So you see, we will bring back a lot of the routes and frequencies that we had been running before and I feel it will be very good for local travel in both Sarawak and Sabah," said Idris when met by reporters after a courtesy call on Sarawak's Chief Minister Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud in Kuching in August.

When it begins operation in October, MASWings will engage four Fokker 50 and four Twin Otter aircrafts and will serve 23 destinations in Sarawak, Sabah and Federal Territory of Labuan.

However, by December 1 MASWings will engage all eight Fokker 50 and five Twin Otter aircrafts to better facilitate its services.

Minister of Urban Development and Tourism Sarawak Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh had expressed confidence that MASWings would help to strengthen the growth of the tourism industry in the State particularly to places like Mulu, Bario and Ba Kelalan.

Meanwhile, MASWings pledged to be a truly commuter airline aimed at enhancing air connectivity between East Malaysia and the almost 50 million populations of the BIMPEAGA (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines East Asean Growth Area).

Bookings for MASWings flights is now open through MAS call centre at 1-300-88-3000 as well as airlines and travel agents linked to 10 Global Distribution Systems. Booking system would be similar to MAS to provide better interlining and connectivity purposes.

At the same time MAS will also realign its schedules with MASWings to provide better services from origin to final destinations check-in and baggage transfers.

After ten years, the magic of Rainforest World Music Festival (RWMF) is still very much alive. The just concluded annual festival held from July 13 to 15 attracted more than 21,000 revelers, a big comparison to the 16,000 crowd that came the previous year.

The 19 bands lined up for the anniversary celebration went very well with the crowd as calls for encore were heard at the end of every performance.

Indeed, RWMF 10th anniversary was truly a time of celebration as it also signified a big reunion for both the performers and the revelers alike. The revelers- young and old and coming from all corners of the world, were having a blast as they danced and sang during the workshops in the afternoon and continued with the dancing and singing during the concert at night.

Reluctant as they may be for the festival to end, the revelers' spirit were kept high with the organiser's announcement that RWMF 2008 will be held from July 11 to 13 next year.

All the performers, starting with the festival co-founder Randy Raine Reusch to Sarawak's very own musicians like Jerry Kamit, father and son band of Tabuh Pak Ainal, Anak Adi' Rurum and Kelapang Bamboo Band and the foreign acts like Aseana Percussion Unit, Black Umfolosi, Tarika Be, Shannon, Shoo Glenify, Tammora, Huun Huur Tu, Khac Chi, Mas Y Mas, Mah Meri, Inka Marka, Ensemble Kaboul, Foghorn Stringband, Doghouse Skiffle and Fady were giving their best presentation at both the workshops and the night concerts.

A limited edition book entitled "Music Without Borders- Rainforest World Music Festival in Sarawak" was also produced to commemorate the anniversary celebration. The 256-page book depicted the chronology of the festival since its inception in 1998. More than 500 pictures taken over the last nine years were also included in this full colour book which was published by Marshall Cavendish (M) Sdn Bhd.

Written in a very casual manner by local writer Heidi Munan, the books are available at all the Visitors' Information Centre in Kuching, Sibul and Miri. It is priced at RM125 each.

For next year, STB will likely inject new ideas to the festival as RWMF enters into a new decade.

Message from

The Minister for Urban Development and Tourism



Greetings

It is finally confirmed that MASWings will take over the Rural Air Services in Sarawak as from October 1, 2007 and indeed good news not only to us Sarawakians but also to visitors and tourists alike.

We are excited on the prospect to be able to position our crown jewel, Mulu National Park on the tourism map again and with visitors being able to use same booking system on Malaysia airlines. We are confident that MASWings will be able to revive interest and confidence in the traveling public particularly the tourists and bring back Mulu National Park into global connectivity again.

Whilst you are here in Sarawak, do enjoy the various festivities and activities that are planned for our 50th Anniversary Independence celebration such as the Sarawak Regatta, Food Festival and Inter-Cultural Mooncake Festival.

If you are game for adventure, Bintulu will hold its first FORCE 4X4 Expedition from September 20 to 30 while yachting enthusiasts may want to witness the Borneo International Yachting Challenge held in Miri from September 4.

Pleasant holidays!

Thank you.

Handwritten signature of Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh

Hon. Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh
Minister for Urban Development & Tourism



Last year 1.2 million Indonesians visited Malaysia and up till June this year, the figures were at 900,000 visitors.

Apart from flights, the ministry is also looking



Hornbill Trail

Updates

Miri International Mass Wedding: a showcase of COLOURFUL tradition



The Miri International Mass Wedding held in August, had not only attracted a total of 11 couples from various countries but had also provided the platform for Sarawak to showcase its colourful tradition and culture.

The couples who came from India, Australia, USA, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Peninsula Malaysia and Brunei, also wore their own traditional wedding attire for the ceremony as well as Sarawak traditional costumes.

Organised by the Women Entrepreneurs and Professional Association and supported by Sarawak Tourism Board, the Miri International Mass Wedding was held from August 9 to 12.

All the participants were accorded a colourful welcome the moment they arrived in Miri and treated to candlelight dinner at the lawn of Parkcity Everly Hotel.

Miri with its magnificent skyline offered a picturesque setting for the 11 couples to tie their nuptial knot. Borneo Tropical Rainforest Resort had also provided the venue for the photography session.

After the ceremony, the couples also participated in tree planting ceremony before they went on tour to the various places on interest in the resort city. Among the places included were Mulu National Park and Niah National Park.



Overwhelming Response Towards Sarawak Regatta 2007

Response towards the Sarawak Regatta 2007 has been overwhelming. The organizer, Kuching Resident Office, has received a total of 346 entries including from Brunei and Indonesia.

To be held at Kuching Waterfront from August 31 to September 2, the annual regatta has also been included as one of the 50 top events promoted under the Visit Malaysia Year 2007. It is one of the three events from Sarawak to be listed up in the VMY calendar of event. The other two are Rainforest World Music Festival and Gawai Dayak celebration.

A total of RM165,000 cash prize are up for grab. Apart from the traditional boat, the organizer has also introduced three new events - long boat, and kayak this year.

Started 135 years ago, as stated in the Sarawak Gazette, the regatta is one of the most popular water sports in the State. The gazette showed that the regatta was introduced in 1872 and was held to pacify the tribal factions among the local people then.



In present day, the regatta has become a premier event with a distinct historical and cultural significance. It has also become an event used to foster greater social integration and goodwill among the local people.

More than 50,000 spectators are expected to watch this year's regatta and various attractive side events will also be held to add more variety to the event.

Local tour operators have also designed special packages for this event.

New Entrance Fee Rate to Kampung Annah Rais from October

Effective October 1, the village safety, cleanliness and development committee of Kampung Annah Rais will introduce a sticker system and new entrance fee rate for visitors to the village.

This was made known by the village headman Dominic Yon anak Jaok in a letter issued to the Sarawak Tourism Board recently.

With the new entrance fee, an adult will have to pay RM8 per person while children and student (including those in colleges) are to pay RM4 each when entering the village.

After paying the entrance fee, visitors will be given a sticker which will allow them to see various attractions in the village like the traditional room, panggah (head house), handicraft gallery and tus (the traditional sugar cane crusher).

For an additional fee of RM20 each, visitors are also allowed to learn the Bidayuh traditional dance. Those who are keen to put on the traditional costume are also required to pay another RM10 each.

Kampung Annah Rais also provide homestay facilities to visitors who are keen to experience the livelihood of the Bidayuh community.

For enquiry, kindly contact the village's tourism coordinator Tusa Lo at +6 019 8891005.



Quality Entries Submitted For Sarawak Rainforest Painting

Entries submitted for Sarawak Rainforest Painting Competition 2007 were of quality beyond the students' age.

This was noted by judges who had a tough time selecting the finalists in the painting competition. Renowned artist Milton Kais described the quality of the students' work were beyond their age.

He was impressed that the students knew what they wanted to portray in their painting and their works were also very focus.

The painting competition, held for the second consecutive year, was organised by Sarawak Tourism Board and Galleria.

The winners will be announced at the prize presentation ceremony to be held by end of September.

Aimed at inculcating awareness and excitement among the youths to support the State's tourism industry, the competition was also targeting at creating a pool of young local artistic talents. It is also to create a collection of artistic material for tourism promotional use.

The first prize winner in category I will walk away with RM1,000; a three-day two-night stay at either Damai or Mulu; a trophy and an iPod while the second and third prize winners will receive RM500 and RM200 respectively. They also receive a trophy each.

In category II, the first prize winner will receive RM2,000; a full scholarship for a diploma studies at SEGI College Sarawak; a trophy; an iPod and three-day two-night stay in either Damai or Mulu.

The second prize winner in the same category will bag RM1,000; a 74 per cent scholarship from SEGI College Sarawak and a trophy while third prize winner will

receive RM500; a 50 per cent scholarship from SEGI College Sarawak and a trophy.

All the winning entries will be reproduced as postcards which STB will use in its marketing and promotional activities either locally or overseas. STB had produced as postcards all the seven winning entries from last year's competition.

Apart from postcards, both STB and Galleria will also exhibit all the entries submitted for the competition at a later date. All the exhibited paintings will also be auction and proceeds from the bidding will be given to selected charity bodies.

Last year more than RM2,000 were collected from the auction and the amount were distributed to Salvation Army Children Homes, Peryatim and Cheshire Home. And, some of those successfully bidders were foreign tourists.

from the Industry

VMY Eco Discovery Travel Race



State Tourism Action Council (MTPN) in collaboration with Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) had two teams to participate in the Visit Malaysia Year (VMY) 2007 Eco Discovery Travel Race which was held in three states in Peninsula Malaysia.

One team was made up of MTPN and STB staff while the other was of media members. Journalists from Sin Chew Daily, Borneo Post, Eastern Times and International Times made up the media team.

Led by MTPN's Sarawak General Manager Haji Mohd Tuah Jais, the teams left Kuching for Kuala Lumpur on August 2 for the travel race which was held from August 3 to 7.

The travel race which was fashioned akin to amazing race was organised by the VMY Secretariat.

A total of 25 teams took the challenge in the travel race that took them to various places in Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu. The other teams were made up of Kuala Lumpur-based

journalists from both the print and electronic media.

During the race the participants had to undergo various task to collect points besides the opportunity to experience the splendid hospitality of homestay hosts in Kuala Medang in Pahang and Ulu Kusial in Kelantan.

Among the routine participants endured include rafting, cycling and kayaking apart from performing task like opening durian, coconut and betel nut with a piece of wood, feeding a sun bear and deer and having a face-to-face encounter with a python. They were also asked to scrap coconut using the traditional tool and pushing a train coach with their bare hands.

Despite the arduous task which at times tested the participants' patience, the travel race was indeed fun and also a good way to discover the places along the way.

The media team made it to the finish line and earned the 16th placing.

To provide better services to the tourism industry in the central region of Sarawak, a local travel agent Metropolitan Travel Services Sdn Bhd has invested in a 38-seater coach.

Besides using the coach for its own tour, Metropolitan Travel Services is also renting out the coach to other travel agents who wished to utilize the vehicle.

Rental is at RM800 per day for tour outside Sibul while rental for tour within the town is RM600 per day. Those who wish to rent this coach are to contact Mr Michael Wong (tel: 084 313155 or fax: 084 345486). They can also email their enquiry to mtssbw8@streamyx.com.

With a population of more than 250,000, Sibul town is located along Malaysia's longest river Sungai Rejang.

Rich in culture and tradition, the diverse multi racial society living in Sibul offers a kaleiscope of attractions to the town which provide the gateway to the central region.



Tour Coach available for
tours in and around SIBU