



## *3 Days 2 Nights Sarawak Kuching Tour of the East*

### **Kuching**

It's amazing how few of us from Peninsula Malaysia ever make it a point to visit Sarawak. It used to be the cost. Before Air Asia began its low fare/ no frills operations to Borneo, it was indeed a price to pay for flights. Now that there are cheaper flights, then what's stopping us from a short hop away? Really? The cost. Yet again. Yup. With the low fares, it's occasionally more enticing to visit neighboring Indonesian islands than Borneo. Ahh... you see, there's Bali, Batam and Bintan but then there's Borneo. There really isn't a comparison. Not for those wanting to journey into the wild wonders of the exotic - those who have proudly graduated from a holidaymaker to a traveler. Am I babbling?

Indeed I am. Then there are those in Sarawak who lament that they don't receive as many visitors per annum as Sabah does because the former lacks many of the must-haves in selling this exotic island ~ beautiful diving, the Sepilok Orang Utan Centre and one plus point - Mount Kinabalu. Yes there are dive sites in Miri, yes there are hills and mountains to climb like Mount Santubong and Mount Api and the Semengoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre (Orang Utan) but there are also places unique to Sarawak. There's the Mulu and Niah caves, the limestone Pinnacles, there are the peoples of the land and the many festivals, the national parks like Bako and Batang Ai National Park, the Bario highlands. But all having said. you have to love what nature has to offer and have the time to travel. And if you have only a week. that's okay too as there's Kuching and its surroundings.

### **Kuching**

Kuching is the entry point into Sarawak for most. But of course, those flying in from Kuala Lumpur, there are other entry points such as Miri and Sibiu. Life in Kuching is of a good pace. It's South East Asia minus the rush and the traffic. Organized too. And clean. And lots of museums scattered about. There's the Cat Museum, Fort Margherita which now houses the Police Museum, the Timber Museum (?!), the Islamic Museum which is located across the bridge from the Sarawak Museum and a rather new venue included in this ever expanding list is the Textile Museum.

Listed are a few must see places in Kuching.

### **Sarawak Museum**

The Sarawak Museum has fine display of a variety stuffed and mounted animals in huge glass casings, some specimens dating back as far as during Wallace's expedition to the Malay Archipelago in 1850's. In fact, it was Edgar Wallace who persuaded Charles Brooke to construct a building to house the species and artifacts' found in Sarawak. The Sarawak Museum was regarded as one of the best in South East Asia, housed in a building which Charles Brooke commissioned in the style of a Normandy town hall. On the ground floor are displays of fauna and flora found in Sarawak. A number of crocodile skulls of great proportions can be found stuffed at the bottom of the display casings. During the reign of the White Rajahs, bounty was put up for nuisance crocs and rewards can be high.

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On the second floor, is an impressive mural painted by the Long Nawang Kenyahs who were invited by anthropologist Tom Harrison (the curator of the museum from 1947 - 1966). Artefacts and even a life-sized model of the interior of a longhouse has been added into the exhibition. The black and white photographs of the many tribes in Borneo are fascinating. The most intriguing items on display are the weapons and body piercing instruments.

### **Textile and Costume Museum**

This new museum is housed in the Pavilion, just opposite the General Post Office. The 3-storey rectangular building was built in 1907 as a medical centre and was later allocated to the Education Department as headquarters in 1947. The architecture is a mix of late English Renaissance and English Colonial design. This is an interesting museum for those wanting to know a bit more on the textiles of the indigenous people from bark cloth to the Pua Kumbu.

### **DAY 1:**

## **Arrival – Kuching City Tour (D)**

UPON ARRIVAL AT KUCHING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MEET AND GREET BY OUR FRIENDLY REPRESENTATIVE AND PROCEED FOR **KUCHING CITY TOUR**. KUCHING, THE CAPITAL OF SARAWAK, IS A COSMOPOLITAN CITY AND THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE FACES ON THE STREET. IT'S CITY CENTRE IS WELL PRESERVED WITH ORNATE CHINESE TEMPLES, THE ASTANA, CITY TOWER, MANY FINE EXAMPLES OF COLONIAL-STYLE ARCHITECTURE A BEAUTIFUL WATERFRONT AND A NUMBER OF INTERESTING MUSEUMS, INCLUDING THE FAMOUS SARAWAK MUSEUM & CAT MUSEUM. OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST INCLUDE THE FAMOUS LANDMARK OF THE CITY, THE CAT MONUMENT, MARKET, MAIN BAZAAR, CHINA TOWN, OLD STATE MOSQUE & ETC. DINNER IS PROVIDED. AFTER DINNER, TRANSFER TO CITY HOTEL OF YOUR CHOICE FOR CHECK IN AND OVERNIGHT.

### **DAY 2:**

## **Sarawak Cultural Village - Semenggoh Nature Reserve – Sarawak Pottery Factory – shopping Tour (B / L / D)**

BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL, MORNING PROCEED TO VISIT **SARAWAK CULTURAL VILLAGE**. POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE 'LIVING MUSEUM', THE VILLAGE IS A SHOWCASE OF A KALEIDOSCOPE OF SARAWAK'S CULTURES AND TRADITIONS. ON ARRIVAL, YOU WILL EXPLORE THE 7 AUTHENTIC REPLICAS OF ETHNIC HOUSES. CHINESE FARM HOUSE, MALAY'S STILTED HOUSE, MELANAU TALL HOUSE, PENAN HUT AS WELL AS LONGHOUSES OF THE IBAN, BIDAYUH AND ORANG ULU. DISPLAYED IN EACH HOUSE ARE THE MANY ARTIFACTS MADE BY THE INDIVIDUAL DWELLERS. DEMONSTRATION OF ARTS AND CRAFTS LIKE BEADWORK, WOOD AND BAMBOO CARVINGS, "PUA" WEAVING AND STRAW WEAVING CAN BE SEEN WHILE TOURING THE VILLAGE. YOU WILL ALSO BE ENTERTAINED BY THE TRADITIONAL DANCES OF THE VARIOUS ETHNIC TRIBES OF SARAWAK AT THE VILLAGE THEATRE. LUNCH IS PROVIDED. AFTER LUNCH, PROCEED TO VISIT SEMENGGOH **NATURE RESERVE**. UPON ARRIVAL AT THE RESERVE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE ORANG UTANS DURING THEIR FEEDING TIME. SPOT THEIR DELICATE NESTS WATCH THEIR SKILFUL MOVEMENTS AT THE TREETOPS AND ALSO THEIR INTERESTING BEHAVIOUR DURING FEEDING TIME. THE GUIDE WILL NARRATE TO YOU THE BEHAVIOR, EMOTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS SPECIAL PRIMATE CALLED ORANG UTAN, MEANING 'MAN OF THE FOREST'. CONTINUE JOURNEY TO VISIT **SARAWAK POTTERY FACTORY**. YOU WILL BE FASCINATED BY THE DELICATE AND CREATIVE WORK INVOLVES BY THE SKILLFUL ARTISTS. THIS IS A CHANCE FOR YOU TO GET A TYPICAL SARAWAK CERAMIC AND NATIVE HANDICRAFT OR "MUST BUY ITEMS" TO BRING BACK AS A SOUVENIR OR GIFTS FOR FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS OR PERSONAL COLLECTION. KUCHING IS A GOOD DESTINATION TO SHOP FOR SOUVENIR SUCH AS WOODCARVINGS, "PUA KUMBU" WITH NATIVE DESIGN AND PEPPER PRODUCTS AS WELL. SARAWAK BIRD'S NEST FACTORY AND LOCAL PRODUCT CENTRE ARE ALSO ONE OF THE FAMOUS SOUVENIRS WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN KUCHING. DINNER IS PROVIDED. AFTER DINNER, TRANSFER BACK TO THE HOTEL FOR OVERNIGHT.

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DAY 3:

## Departure - Kuching Airport (B)

BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL AND FREE AT LEISURE UNTIL CHECK OUT FROM THE HOTEL AND TRANSFER TO KUCHING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR YOUR DEPARTURE FLIGHT.

### Tour Description

 Destination Kuching ~ Sarawak, Borneo  Minimum no. of Persons 2 adults  Place of Departure for trip Kuching  Trip Availability Seat- in- Coach basis 



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