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NASKAH PEMULIHARAAN
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA

Cover: View of Mt Kinabalu from Kinabalu Park Headquarters.

Photo by: **Albert C. K. Teo**

SABAH

land of the sacred mountain

Albert C.K. Teo

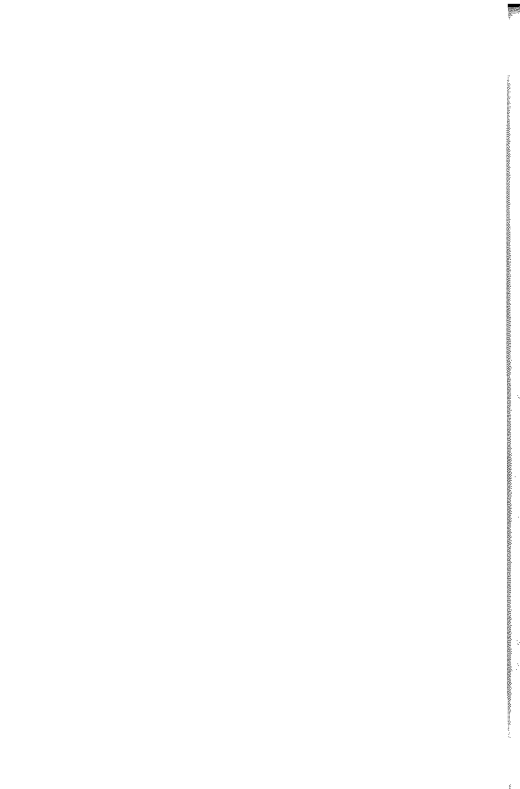
*Written by
A.G. Sullivan*

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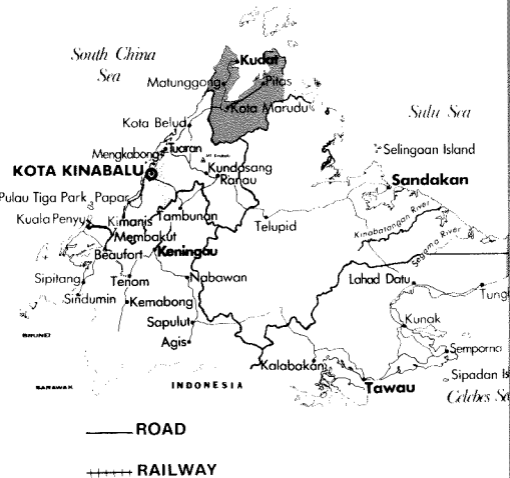
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MAP OF SABAH



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He was Executive Director of Hotel Shangri-la, Kota Kinabalu for 15 years (1977 - 91). In 1986 he set up Api Tours (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd. and worked for 5 years until it was sold in 1991. Thereafter he formed his own tour company, Borneo Eco Tours Sdn. Bhd. specializing on ecotourism.

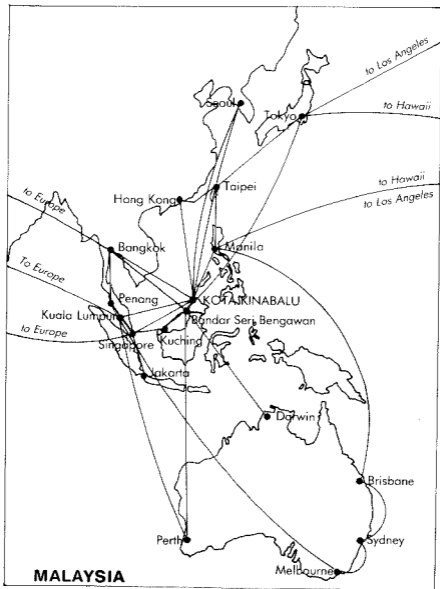
He is also a Member of Hotel Catering and Institutional Management Association of United Kingdom (MHCIMA), a Certified Hotel Administrator (CHA) of the American Hotel and Motel Association. He was a founder member and Honorary Secretary of Sabah Hotel Association (1979 - 85), Chairman of Sabah Tourist Association (1985/86), Chairman of Malaysian Association of Tours & Travel Agents Association Sabah Chapter (1991) and President of Kinabalu Photographic Club (1989/91).

He is married with three sons and resides in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. A keen Photographer, he has published four books namely **Sabah - land of the Sacred Mountain** (1988), **Exotic Islands of Tunku Abdul Rahman Park** (1989), **A guide to Sandakan** (1990) and **A guide to Brunei Darussalam** (1992). He has also produced a 45 - minute video on Sabah (1990) and over 100 post cards on Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei Darussalam.

A. G. Sullivan was born in Melbourne, Australia. He was raised and educated in England where he obtained a Diploma in Business Studies and a Bsc. in History and Sociology.

Mr. Sullivan came to Sabah in 1978 and became a Keeper of the State Archives in 1979. When the State Archives and Sabah Museum were merged in 1984 he was appointed the Director until 1988. He has published and co - authored several books on Sabah and in the course of his work, travelled extensively all over Sabah.

International Airlinks to Kota Kinabalu



INTRODUCTION

SABAH, THE LAND BELOW THE WIND, THE LAND OF THE SACRED MOUNTAIN, a lush green tropical paradise situated on the northern tip of the great mysterious Island of Borneo.



1. Mt. Kinabalu, 4,101m (13,455ft), the Summit of Borneo.

SABAH, the calm blue seas, the beautiful white sandy beaches, a myriad of undersea creatures abound within its clear waters.

SABAH, the diverse ethnic cultures, and the many and varied indigenous languages.

SABAH, sitting atop of the Island of Borneo lies between 5 and 7 degrees north of the equator.



2. Lush green tropical rainforest of the Borneo jungle.



3 Coral reefs off Guyana



4. Balikpapan beach on Pulau Likiep in Lingayen Island

SABAH, the second largest state in Malaysia, is bordered by Sarawak on its southwestern side, and Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) to the south. Sabah has a heavily indented coastline of approximately 800 to 900 miles and is washed by the South China Sea in the west and north, the Sulu Sea in the northeast and the Celebes Sea in the east. Sabah's 76,115 sq km (29,388 sq miles) is dominated by one grand feature, Mount Kinabalu, the resting place of the souls of the departed Kadazan/Dusun peoples. Kinabalu rises to 4,101 metres (13,455 ft) and is the highest mountain in South East Asia.

The capital of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, is conveniently situated at the heart of South East Asia. It is 1,961km from Hong Kong, 1,143km from Manila, 1,495km from Singapore, 1,678km from Kuala Lumpur and 2,291km from Taipei.



5. Kota Kinabalu (page 202/203), the capital of Sabah

Sabah is generally mountainous, with central mountain ranges from about 3,000 feet to about 9,000 feet in height, with lower ranges of hills near the coasts. These mountains and hills are dissected by an extensive network of river valleys with occasional plains. Over three quarters of the population inhabit the coastal plains. The climate of Sabah is of course tropical but on the whole equable. Temperatures rarely rise above 32°C (90°F) except on extremely hot days, and along the coastal areas rarely drop below 20°C (68°F) at night. However in the interior and at higher altitudes it can get quite cold at night.

The annual rainfall varies from about 150 cm (60 inches) to over 450 cm (180 inches) per year. In most parts of Sabah the wetter period occurs during the North-East Monsoon from October to February and the drier season during the South-West Monsoon from March to September but often there is no really sharp division between the two. It is enough to say that on the whole, sunny blue skies are the norm but when it rains, the heavens open.

Sabah lies just south of the typhoon belt and outside of the Pacific earthquake rim.

PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES

Possibly as long as 5000 years ago Sabah was settled by Mongoloid type peoples, and by the first millennium BC, Malayic and other related Mongoloid peoples were established throughout the archipelago, having migrated originally from the Asian mainland. Sabah's early settlers lived in the coastal areas but were slowly driven inland by later arrivals of other settlers. The descendants of these displaced groups are probably the broadly classified Murut and Dusun/Kadazan groups. Over the years, these displaced peoples remained isolated and primitive, cut off from outside influences. Later settlers, mainly mariners from Malaya and neighbouring islands, settled in the coastal and riverine areas. The remote tribes of the interior remained generally free from the influence of these later settlers, except for trading purposes. Sabah's geographical and physical characteristics also discouraged conquests suffered by neighbouring islands.



A Kadazan girl, from Papua at a Kadazan Festival

The largest indigenous group in Sabah is the Dusun/Kadazan group. They are actually a collection of ethnic groups speaking similar languages and dialects as well as having similarities in culture and traditional belief. Within this group there exist at least 10 distinct languages with possibly 30 or more dialects. There are some people of this Dusun/Kadazan group who prefer to call themselves Dusun, while others particularly in the Penampang/Papar areas prefer the term Kadazan. Many others however prefer to call themselves by tribal names such as Lotud, Rungus, Orang Sungai (River People), Kujiau, Tambanuo etc. The Dusun/Kadazan are mainly found on the west coast from Kudat to the Sarawak border and in the interior areas of Ranau, Tambunan and Keningau. They are traditionally farmers occupying the fertile plains of the west coast and the interior. The majority of the Dusun/Kadazan peoples are Christian while many also profess Islam. Some are still classed as pagans.



7. Lotud girl from Tuaran



8. Rungus girls in traditional costumes

The second largest indigenous group is the Bajau, a collective term for a predominantly Muslim people and their kindred groups. Originally seafarers, there are now two distinct groups, the East Coast Bajau and West Coast Bajau. The West Coast Bajau have now settled down around the Kota Kinabalu to Kota Belud areas and have learnt the art of farming and cattle rearing. They are the famous cowboys of Sabah. Their skills in horsemanship are well known locally and on festive occasions both horses and riders are dressed in colourful costumes. On the east coast however many of the Sea Bajaus still live in the traditional way. Fishing is the main activity. While many have settled on land or in water villages, some are still nomadic boat dwellers.



14. Boy and his mother, Kota Belud



15. Muruts from Tenom

Muruts are the third largest indigenous group in Sabah. The Muruts, literally meaning hill people, are found mainly in three areas of the Interior Division, Tenom, Keningau and Pensiangan. The Muruts are for the most part, shifting cultivators living in the more remote areas. They live in communal longhouses, usually near rivers, using the rivers as their highways. They plant hill padi and tapioca, hunt and fish for a living and were the last of Sabah's ethnic groups to renounce headhunting. The men are skillful hunters with blowpipe and spear and of course their hunting dogs. Mostly converted to Christianity or Islam the Muruts still practise a remarkable dowry system in which a man on marriage pays for his bride throughout his life. They are an extremely hospitable people and as in the Dusun/Kadazan group some still prefer to refer to themselves by old tribal names such as Timogun, Tegal, Nabas etc.



16. Murut woman from Kota Belud



17. Muruts during the Gawai



13. *Isakayas and women in traditional dress.*

Other indigenous groups include, Bisaya, Suluk, Malay, Brunei, Illanun, Lundayeh and Kedayan.

The second largest group numerically are the Chinese. The largest single Chinese group in Sabah is Hakka (Kek), although Cantonese, Hokkien, Teochew, Hainanese, Henghua and other groups are found. While the Chinese have been visiting the shores of Borneo for over 1000 years, basically for trade, and Chinese settlements are believed to have been established at a few places, namely on the Kinabatangan river and in the Brunei Bay area, mass Chinese migration to Sabah only started in 1880s after the formation of the British North Borneo Chartered Company.

The early Chinese migrants were mainly farmers brought in to open up the land, although artisans and miners also came. The early Chinese settlers in Sabah were mainly Hakka Christian farmers. Even today this is reflected in the census, and in 1980 over 50% of the Chinese in Sabah were classified as rural dwellers.



14 Lion and dragon dance troupes at a Chinese New Year gathering

The Chinese have intermixed with the local population, mainly the Dusun/Kadazan group, often creating a confusing ethnic whereby a person with a Chinese name may not be Chinese. This may only be an indication of some Chinese ancestry. He may be Kadazan in appearance, culture and language.

Centuries of migration, mixed marriages, pirate raids, isolation and trade have produced a profusion of ethnic groups that has defied simple classification. There are at least 30 distinct ethnic/linguistic indigenous groups in Sabah speaking different languages and close to 100 dialects. Sabah is a melting pot of many indigenous and immigrant groups. Some of the indigenous peoples identify themselves by reference to their religion, language or the place they live. Names given by others may often differ from how a particular group refers to itself.

PREHISTORY

Only about 15 million years ago did the island of Borneo really begin to push its way out of the sea, although some parts of what is now eastern Sabah may have appeared above the surface of the sea during the Cretaceous period (140 million to 65 million years ago). The large limestone massifs found mainly on the east coast of Sabah were formed during this period and may have emerged and submerged many times, most recently 2 million years ago when they re-emerged.

During the Pleistocene period about 2.5 million years ago, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Celebes and Peninsula Malaysia were all joined together, along with many smaller islands and they formed a continent known as Sundaland. At times when the sea level was low they were all connected to mainland Asia and it would have been possible to walk from here to Ireland without crossing sea. This ancient land bridge had the effect of enriching the flora and fauna of Borneo. The seas rose again separating Sundaland, leaving Borneo to evolve separately.

During the Miocene period, 10 to 15 million years ago, a large mass of molten rock intruded beneath the marine sediments that were eventually to form the Crocker Range of mountains. The rock cooled, hardened and formed granite. This granite pluton remained buried beneath the earth's surface until just over a million years ago, when it forced its way upwards at a geologically tremendous rate to form Mount Kinabalu.

The island of Borneo found its present coast line only about 10,000 years ago as the gigantic blocks of ice formed during the last ice age melted away and raised the sea level.

The prehistory of Sabah is most interesting, in fact unique in South East Asia. The oldest sites are found in Tingkayu area near Kunak, on the east coast of Sabah. These sites, around the shore of a prehistoric lake, formed by a lava flow blocking the Tingkayu river more than 30,000 years ago provide evidence of man's activities 31,000 years ago. The stone tools produced at this, what is believed to be a factory (manufacturing) site are some of the finest found in South East Asia. Similar stone tools found in other areas of South East Asia date back 17,000 to 20,000 years ago, meaning to say, man in Sabah was 10,000 years more advanced than any other man so far discovered in South East Asia. If this was a factory site, and all evidence points to this fact, then specialization of work already existed 30,000 years ago; specialization also means trade. But these early Sabahans were not the forbears of modern day Sabahans, they were probably more akin to the present day Australian Aborigines. The forbears of modern Sabahans, that is, the

Mongoloid Kadazan, Dusun, Murut, Orang Sungai etc. only arrived on these shores about 5,000 years ago.

Tingkeyu lake drained away about 15,000 years ago further exposing the limestone massif at its centre. In the cave shelters of this limestone massif, known as 'Baturong', evidence of man around the time of the lake's disappearance has been found. Man inhabited Baturong and the cave sites at Madai, a few miles away, from about 15,500 years ago until 6,500 years ago. But the skillfully made stone tools from Tingkeyu 15,000 years earlier had disappeared. The technology was lost. We are still not sure if the inhabitants of Madai and Baturong were the descendants of the Tingkeyu peoples. If they were, why were the skills lost? If not, what happened to those people? One possible answer is that they were defeated by a stronger more numerous people, the Madai-Baturong peoples and perhaps assimilated over generations. But why were the skills not passed on? Could they have been wiped out completely? We don't know.

From 6,000 years ago until 2,500 years ago we have found no evidence of man in the cave sites, but it was during this time that the first Mongoloid settlers arrived. Evidence of this is found in the stone tools and potteries discovered at Bukit Tengkorak near Semporna. Also the obsidian drill bits found here do not come from Sabah. The nearest source is a few South Sea Islands. This suggests long distance migration. About 2,500 years ago man moved back to Madai and Baturong. There is an abundance of potteries of the late neolithic but no early neolithic material. The materials of Bukit Tengkorak however seem to predate the Madai late neolithic and could possibly date back to 4,000 to 5,000 years before present. As yet carbon dating is not completed. But this site being on the coast, could be one of the early Mongoloid settlements. Two teeth found at the site have proved to be the teeth of Mongoloid peoples.

From 2,000 to 1,000 years ago finds from the caves are characterised by rich incised potteries, copper and bronze artifacts and iron (Madai iron spears).

From 1,000 to 500 years ago finds are characterised by burial coffins and also burial jars. Burial jars during this period are found all across Sabah, not only in caves but also beneath the ground.

About 500 years ago people ceased permanent habitation in the caves although they continued to be and still are seasonally occupied for the collection of bird nests, which are used for the Chinese delicacy, Bird's Nest Soup. The first mention of nest collection is in 1761, from Madai, in the annals of the Sultanate of Sulu, although they were probably collected before this as the Chinese had been trading along the coasts of Borneo since about 700 A.D.

HISTORY

It is known that as long ago as 700 A.D. trade and diplomatic links of some form existed between Borneo and China. In 1406 according to Chinese records the Rulers of Brunei sent an envoy to China with gifts for the Chinese Emperor. Also recorded in Chinese annals is the existence of a Chinese principality established somewhere along the Kinabatangan River. Exactly where has not yet been discovered. The Kinabatangan is a large river and would have been navigable by what were sea-going ships in those days for at least 50 to 60 miles. The settlement could have been on either bank. By now it will probably be covered with at least 10 to 20 feet of silt, if not more, as the river overflows its banks every year.

It is also known from the records that some time in the 15th Century a Chinese princess from the Kinabatangan married the first Sultan of Brunei, the term Sultan only being used after Brunei's conversion to Islam. Or, that a Chinese prince married the daughter of the Sultan of Brunei, converted to Islam and became the second Sultan.

But basically before the 16th century the area we now know as Sabah, Brunei and Sarawak centered around the Kingdom of Brunei, Brunei being the centre for trade with China. This region was in turn controlled by two great empires of that period; first the Sri Vijayan of Sumatra and then by Majapahit of Java. However in the early 15th century the Malacca empire spread its influence and took over the trade of Brunei. Through its traders Islam spread to Brunei and the leadership of the Islamic faith in South East Asia passed to the Brunei Sultans after the fall of Malacca to the Portuguese in 1511. Under Sultan Balkiah, Brunei extended its influence over the greater part of Borneo and as far north as Luzon and Sulu but internal quarreling in the Brunei Sultanate in the 1600s was one of the factors that led to the decline of the empire.

No other foreigners, who had dealings with Borneo, with the exception of the Europeans, left any written records of their activities.

Some Significant Historic Dates

- 1521 : Pigafetta, chronicler of Ferdinand Magellan arrived in Brunei and was received with great pomp and royalty.
- 1526 : The Portuguese under Menezes visited Brunei.
- 1577 : The Spanish conquered the Philippines; also attacked Brunei; the Sultanate of Sulu was brought under the nominal control of Spain.
- 1609 : The Dutch set up a trading post in Southern Borneo.
- 1619 : The Dutch set up a trading post in Batavia (Jakarta) in Java.
- 1662 : War of Succession in Brunei between Muhiidden and Abdul Mumin. Muhiidden invited Sulu assistance, promising to Sulu the area North East of Brunei if successful in defeating Abdul Mumin. On winning the war it appears that he never stuck to his promise and for the next two centuries Sabah became a bone of contention between the two powers.
- 1665 : The first Englishman, Captain Cowley, visited Borneo.
- 1761 : Alexander Dalrymple, an officer of the British East India Company at Madras, India made an agreement with the Sultan of Sulu which permitted him to begin a trading post. He chose the Island of Balembangan, about twenty miles to the north of Kudat.
- 1763 : Dalrymple hoisted the British flag on Balembangan and called the island 'Felicia'.
- 1764 : The treaty between the E.I.C. and the Sultan of Sulu was signed, whereby the Sultan ceded all of the northern part of Borneo, from Kimanis to Kinabatangan (Trusan Abai) and three islands – Banggi, Palawan and Labuan.
- 1773 : John Herbert arrived to begin building a settlement on Balembangan.
- 1775 : His maladministration led to the settlement being attacked by the Sulus and the Marudu pirates. The settlement was burnt to the ground.
- 1803 : An attempt was made to revive the station at Balembangan by the Governor-General of India, Lord Arthur Wellesley through his appointed officer, Robert J. Farquhar, Resident of Amboina. The attempt to turn the island into a military station failed and it was consequently abandoned in November, 1805.
- 1805 : British attention was then turned increasingly towards other regions of the Malay Archipelago.

The Colony of Labuan

- 1844 : James Brooke approached the Sultan of Brunei regarding the cession of Labuan to be used by the British as a coaling base, to act against piracy and to increase trade.
- 1846 : The Sultan ceded Labuan and its islets to the British Crown in perpetuity. The treaty was signed on the 18th December.
- 1847 : Sir James Brooke became the first Governor of Labuan and Her Majesty's Consul-General in Borneo. William Napier was the Lieutenant-governor (Deputy Governor), Hugh Low the Colonial Secretary and Spencer St. John, Brooke's private secretary.
- 1890 : Labuan came under the control of the British North Borneo Chartered Company.
- 1906 : Labuan ceased to be ruled by the BNBCC.
- 1907 : Labuan was placed under the government of the Straits Settlements.
- 1942 : Labuan was renamed 'Maida Island' by the Japanese during the Second World War in memory of the Japanese Supreme Commander, Marquis Maida.
- 1946 : Labuan became part of the Colony of North Borneo.
- 1963 : Labuan became part of Sabah and joined Malaysia.
- 1984 : Labuan became part of the Federal Territory of Malaysia on 16 April.

15 *Tombstone of T.B. Harris at Kanons in memory of Thomas Bradley Harris, Hon Chief Secretary of the Colony of Ambong and Maroodu. By Beth, a citizen of the USA. Died 22nd May 1866, aged 40 years. Erected by I.I.F. the Raga. A tribute of respect to the memory of an old faithful and esteemed friend. After Life * Never to Sleep*



Beginnings of the Chartered Company

- 1865 : USA Consul in Brunei, Claude Lee Moses obtained a 10-year lease from the Sultan of Brunei on North Borneo; then sold it to the American Trading Company owned by J.W. Torrey, I.B. Harris and some Chinese merchants. Torrey chose Kimanis as his base and began a settlement there, naming it 'Lilona'.
- 1866 : Attempts to raise funds for the settlement failed and the settlement was abandoned.
- 1867 : Moses was drowned on his way back to America.
- 1875 : With the imminent termination of the territorial lease at hand, Torrey managed to sell his rights to the Austrian Consul in Hong Kong, Baron Von Overbeck. Overbeck managed to get a renewal of the lease from the Temonggong of Brunei for 10 years. To finance his plans for North Borneo, Overbeck found financial backers in the Dent brothers of London.
- 1877 : Overbeck and Alfred Dent signed four new leases with the Sultan of Brunei. Some 28,000 square miles of territory and some 900 miles of North Bornean coastline were leased out to them. Another treaty with the Sultan of Sulu was also concluded ceding large portions of territory to Overbeck and Dent.
- 1880 : Overbeck together with the Count Montgelas of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy in London and A.B. Mitford, a politician (later Lord Redesdale) transferred their rights to Alfred Dent.
- 1881 : The British North Borneo Provisional Association Ltd was formed. The Association took over all of Dent's rights to North Borneo. On the 1st November, the British government officially granted a Royal Charter to the Association.
- 1882 : The British North Borneo Chartered Company was formed. It took over all rights of the Provisional Association. Sir Rutherford Alcock was its President and Alfred Dent the Managing Director.
- 1883 -
- 1885 : The Company bought more land in North Borneo.
- 1888 : North Borneo became a British protectorate; this meant that Britain would defend it if it were attacked, making North Borneo within the British sphere of influence.

Development of Major Towns:

Sandakan

- 1878 : William B. Pryer arrived and established a settlement at Kampung German in Sandakan Bay.
- 1879 : The settlement was burnt down and Pryer shifted to Buli Sim Sim and founded Sandakan. He named it Elopura meaning "The Beautiful City" but a few years later, it was superseded by the older Sulu name "Sandakan" meaning "the place that was pawned".
- 1884 : Sandakan became the capital of British North Borneo.
- 1946 : Devastated as result of the Second World War, the capital was transferred to Kota Kinabalu (then Jesselton).

Jesselton/Kota Kinabalu

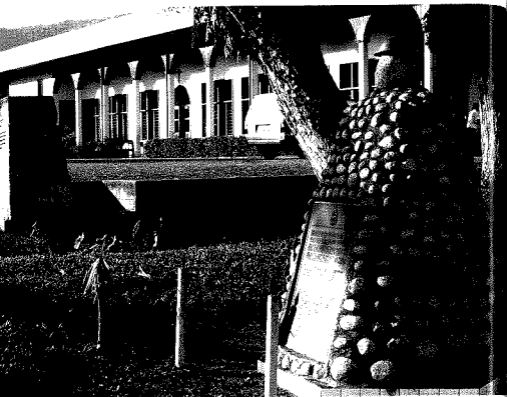
- 1881 : There were trading posts on Gaya Island which became the administrative centre for the west coast.
- 1897 : Mat Salleh looted and burnt the Gaya settlement to the ground. After this, the administrative centre shifted to the new town Jesselton, on the mainland opposite. Jesselton was named after Sir Charles Jessel, one of the Directors of the Chartered Company. A more popular local name for Jesselton in those days was Api-Api (meaning 'fire' in the Malay language) which is still referred to today. The growth of Jesselton began with the development of the Trans-Bornean railway in Sabah; when in 1899 a coastal strip of land between Tanjung Lipat and Tanjung Aru was chosen to link Sandakan to the west coast. However the Trans-Bornean was never completed.
- 1967 : Jesselton was renamed Kota Kinabalu on the 30th September.
- 1979 : Kota Kinabalu Town Board elevated to the status of Municipality on the 1st January.
- Note : From 1881 to 1883, Kudat was the first official capital of North Borneo.

Japanese Occupation

- 1942 : Japanese forces landed in Labuan, Sabah on January 1st and occupied Sabah until she was liberated by the Australian Ninth Division in 1945. During the war, the Kinabalu Guerillas under the leadership of Albert Kwok mobilised forces to fight the Japanese. Among the notable Guerillas were Jules Stephens, father of the late Tun Fuad Stephens, Mohd. Yassin Bin Hashim and many others. Albert Kwok was caught by the Japanese and executed with 175 others on 21st January 1944 at Petagas.
- 1945 : The Ranau death March - P.O.W.s were forced to march from Sandakan P.O.W Camp to Ranau, at the foothills of Mt. Kinabalu. Only six survived to see the end of the war out of 2,400 interned in the camp.



16 Petagas Memorial Garden



11. Arrival at War Memorial in Ranau

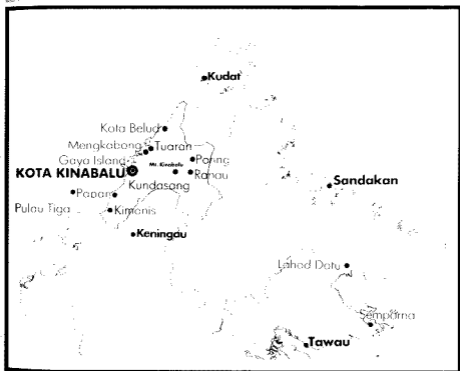
Crown Colony

- 1946 : In June, Sabah became a British Crown colony as the Chartered Company could not afford to restore and rebuild Sabah after the devastation of the war.

Independence

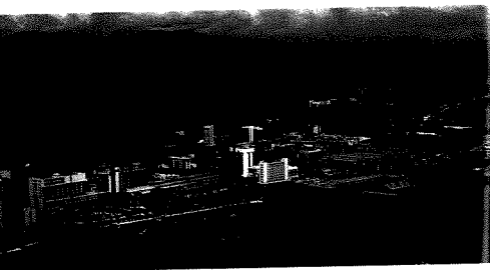
- 1963 : Sabah gained independence from Britain on 31st August.
1963 : Sabah joined Sarawak and Malaya to form Malaysia on 16th September.
1988 : Sabah celebrated 25 years of independence in Malaysia.

WEST COAST DIVISION

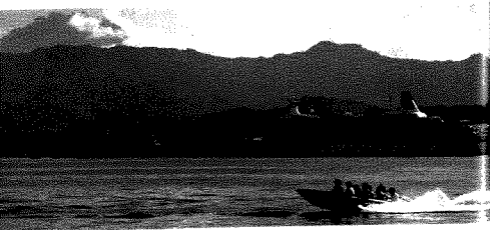


WEST COAST DIVISION

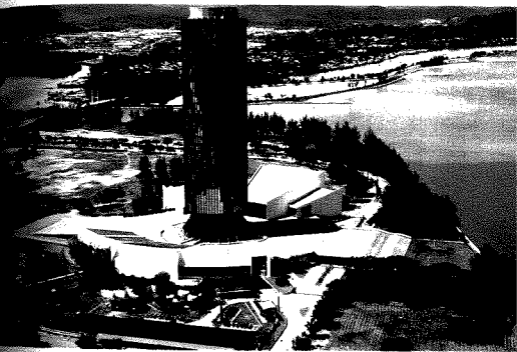
Kota Kinabalu, formerly known as Jesselton, is the nerve centre of the state. Destroyed almost totally during World War II, Kota Kinabalu has risen from the ashes to become a small but modern municipality. Kota Kinabalu, with a population of 200,000, is the gateway to East Malaysia with direct non-stop flights to and from Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Taipei, Manila, Brunei, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Kuching.



18. Kota Kinabalu was formerly known as Jesselton



There are many new and impressive buildings in K.K., as it is affectionately known. The Sabah Foundation building houses the head offices of the Foundation, plus at present, the Chief Minister's Office. The Sabah Museum is a fine example of locally designed architecture that reflects the 'Spirit of Sabah'.



20. The ultra modern 30 storey Sabah Foundation building.



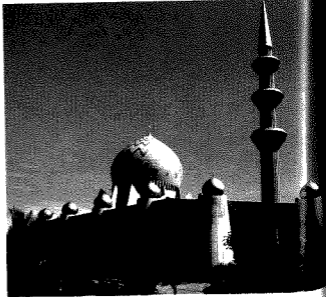
21. The annual diagan boat festival on Lake Bera.



17 Sarajevsko-Center Cathedral



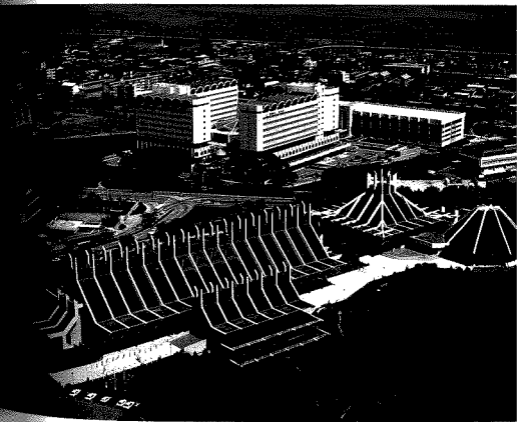
18 Vrhovnja Gospa i dete Isusovo



19 Sarajevsko-Center Mosque

The Museum houses some of the treasures of Sabah. Galleries on Ethnography, Ceramics, Natural History, Archaeology, History, Limestone caves, and others exist. Also there is an art gallery, a theatre, and the beginnings of a science and technology gallery with an exhibition on the oil and petroleum industry, the largest such exhibition in the world.

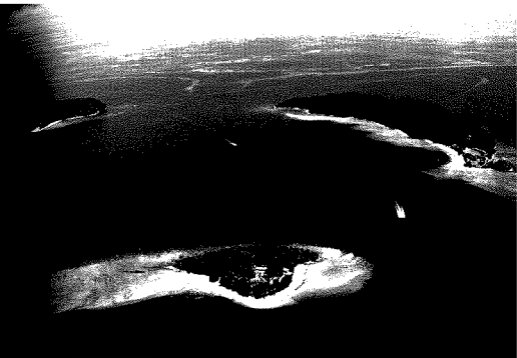
There are four international standard hotels, one of them a beach resort. At Tanjung Aru is one of the many beautiful West Coast beaches, and just off shore less than half an hour's boat ride lie the five islands of the Tunku Abdul Rahman Park. Beautiful white sandy beaches, coral reefs and myriads of underwater creatures abound. Back in town every Sunday morning is the Gaya Street Fair, where local delicacies, handicrafts and antiques, as well as clothes, furniture and a whole host of other goods can be bought. But you should be there by 8.00 am.



25. Sabah State Museum



26. Aerial view of Tanjung Aru Beach Hotel and Kota Kinabalu.



27. Aerial view of Tuvalu Atchafalafan Park



28 Mamutik Island



29. Siquilimud



30. *U. pinnatus* ex. *exhibitor* for *toet* of *Makassari* Island



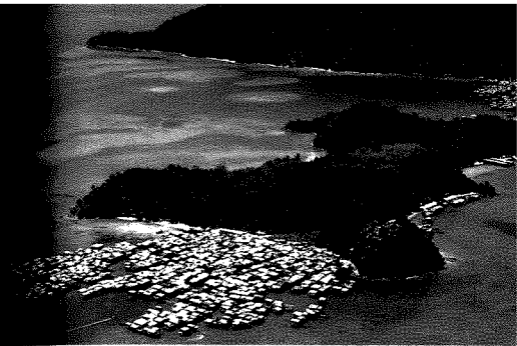
21 Looking towards Manukari Island from Mamutik



19. *Nakaj Island*



20. *Beachwalk through the mangrove swamps on Cayet Island*



34. *Water village on Ceyra Island*



35. *Sabah Golf and Country Club*



At night time the leading hotels offer entertainment and there are also some good discos around and a few nightclubs. For the sports enthusiasts there are of course the water sports – snorkelling, diving, sailing and windsurfing. Two fine golf clubs exist, one at Tanjung Aru (9 holes) and the other, the 18 holes Sabah Golf & Country Club at Bukit Padang. There is also a Yacht Club at Tanjung Aru and a large sports complex at Likas, with full facilities. You could also try the night market in town which starts about 7.00 pm. Not only are clothes, souvenirs and handicrafts available, the eating stalls can also be good.



37. Likas Sport Complex.

The rice-growing district around Kota Kinabalu that stretches south to Papar and north to Tuaran is also the centre of an ancient megalithic culture, signs of which can still be seen from the roads. Solitary stones up to 7ft. tall are not uncommon in the rice fields or on the mud bunds between them. No one knows how old the megaliths are but those that are left can only be a fraction of those erected in the past. Nor do we know why they were erected. The custom seems to have been largely restricted to the people of the west coast ricebowl however, and south of Papar or north of Tuaran there are few stones to be seen.

In more recent times it seems that the stones may have been associated with establishing property claims especially in cases where the owner died without direct heirs.

Wooden figures, known as 'sinningazanok' can also be seen in some areas. They are more widespread but often serve much the same purpose, though they may sometimes be erected for other reasons.

39. *Sinningazanok* in *Pemangayan*





40. Chinese temple at Tuaran

As you travel north from the capital by road to Tuaran you will pass a few local pottery factories, which are well worth a visit. Nearby Tuaran is the Bajau water village of Mengkabong. The road to Tuaran takes you past heavily wooded hills and rubber estates to the lowland padi fields of Tuaran itself. There you will see water buffaloes everywhere, and you must take care driving as they often tend to feel the road is for their use not yours. At Tuaran on Sundays you may also see your first 'Tamu', (open air market), at which almost everything is sold.



41. A Bajau water village at Mengkabong



42 *Buffaloes wading in mud pools at Iuvatan*



43 *Sunset at Iuvatan*



44. *Tuaran Sunday Market*

But Sabah's largest weekly *tamu* lies further north at Kota Belud, the home of the famed cowboys (Bajau Horsemen) of Sabah. There, buffaloes and horses are traded, fine handicrafts are on sale, and the variety of delicacies, vegetables and sea food form one of the most exotic scenes anywhere. The Bajau, Kadazan and Chinese traders together form a lavish spectacle. Be warned, you must be there before 8.00 am to see the *tamu* at its best.



45. *Ricefields of Tengkuluan, Kota Belud*

Also from Kota Bolud one can see one of the most spectacular views of Kinabalu, the sacred mountain, whose foothills reach out to touch the sea. And it is around these foothills that the Bajau rear their ponies and cattle.



46. Handicrafts at Kota Belud Sunday Market

47. Vendors at the bazaar.



48. Durians for sale at Kota Belud







54. Mt. Kinabalu, from Ranau Toban

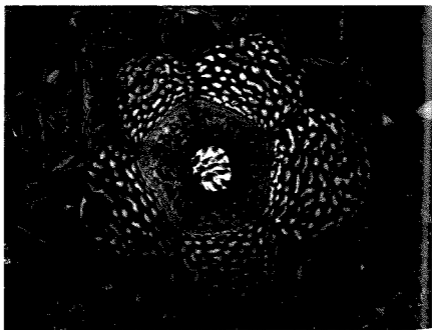
But of course the main feature of this area is the Kinabalu massif. Kinabalu, the sacred mountain, the resting place of the souls of the departed Kadazan/Dusun peoples. The granite massif of Kinabalu, now standing at 4,101 metres (13,455 feet) high is still growing at an estimated rate of half a centimetre a year. The mountain is split into two arms by a spectacular gully, Low's Gully, which is over 1.6 km [1 mile] deep.

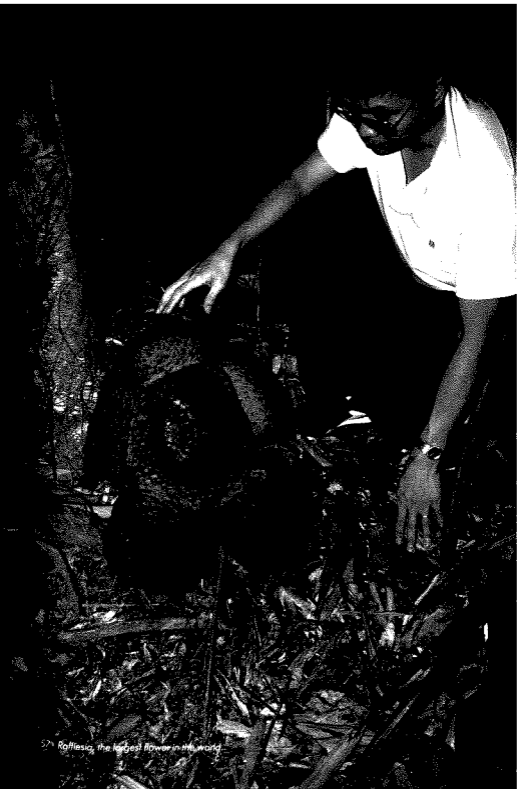


55. Low's Gully, Mt. Kinabalu

Very recently, in geological time, Kinabalu had its summit sculptured by the last ice age, with glaciation only disappearing about 10,000 years ago. Although the top of Kinabalu is classed as below the snowline, ice sometimes forms in the rock pool close to the summit and snow has fallen on the flanks of the summit.

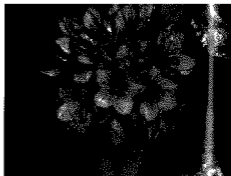
The area surrounding Mount Kinabalu is a 754 sq km state park and is world famous as a botanical paradise. It is the meeting place of the western plants of Himalayan and Chinese genera and of the eastern plants of Australian, New Zealand and even American affinity. It is believed to be one of the most remarkable assemblages of plants in the world. Many of the plants are found only in Borneo and many exist only on or around Kinabalu itself. The world's largest flower, *Rafflesia*, whose huge red blooms can grow up to a metre in diameter can be found within the park. Flowering plants such as orchids, of which there are about 1,200 species existing within the park, from some of the world's largest to the tiniest, Rhododendrons, some 26 species, and more than 60 species of oaks and chestnuts occur. Despite their abundance many are endemic only to this locality. Pitcher plants abound, with 9 species existing on the mountain. Some of the larger pitcher plants can be huge, they feed off live insects and small animals which they trap in their pitcher and digest. Spencer St. John in 1858 found one so huge its pitcher held 4 litres liquid and another that contained a dead rat. There are at least 80 species of fig trees, but the list is endless and many more species of plants still wait to be discovered.







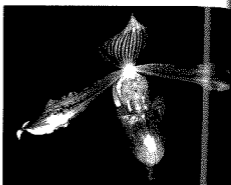
68. *Thalictrum flavum*



69. *Rhododendron polyanthum*



70. *Rhododendron arboreum*



71. *Fuchsia acuminata*



72. *Fuchsia sp.*



73. *Fuchsia sp.*



74. *Rhododendron sp.*



65. *Rhododendron nitidifolius*



66. *Nepenthes luykii*



67. *Nepenthes uliginosa*



68. *Nepenthes tentaculata*



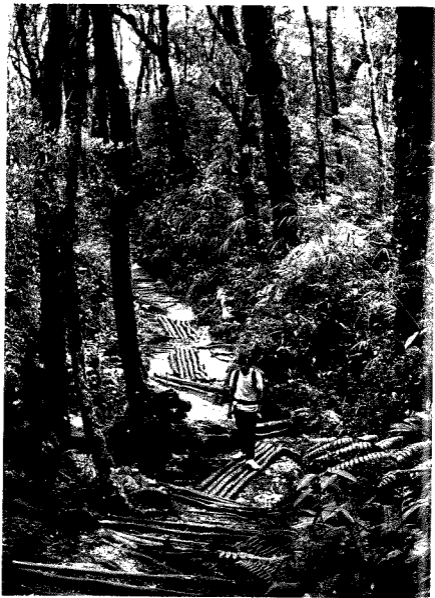
69. *Nepenthes linnaei*



70. *Nepenthes & Kuntzei*



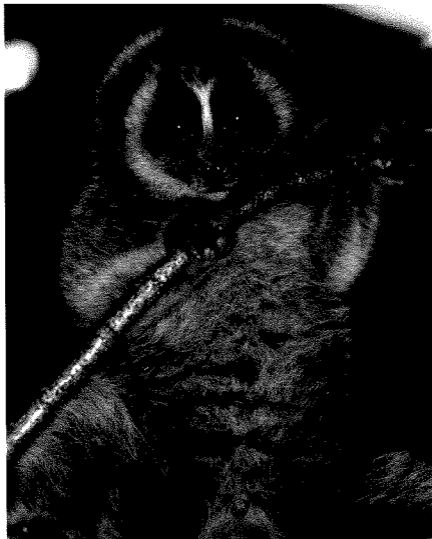
Mount Kinabalu is one of the few places in the world where you can walk 5 miles and pass from tropical lowland rain forest through montane-temperate forest to alpine meadows and every type of vegetation that exist in between.



73. A view from the forest on Mt. Kinabalu.



74 *Alpine forest on Mt. Kinabalu*



75. *Slowloris*

To a casual visitor who is not a trained naturalist the animal life is not so conspicuous, but it is no less important. Over 100 species of mammals live within the park area. The Orang Utan, 'Man of the Forest', is the best known of the primates. Gibbons, Leaf Monkeys, Tarsiers, Scaly Anteaters, Wild Pigs, Wild Deer, the rare Flying Squirrel, the even rarer Flying Lemur, Flying Snakes, Flying Lizards and the exceptionally rare Clouded Leopard and even possibly the almost extinct Sumatran Rhinoceros inhabit the Kinabalu area.

Of the birds over half of Borneo's 518 species have been recorded in the park, from the largest hornbills to the tiny scarlet sunbird. Many of the birds and butterflies are endemic only to Kinabalu. Stick insects, probably more species than in any other place on earth also abound.



76 *Bombus terrestris*



77 *Toucan*



78 *A. n. n.*



79 Kinabalu Park Headquarters

At the park headquarters at 5,000 ft, chalets and rooms are available and there is also a hostel. The living collection of plants in the Mountain Garden makes a worthwhile introduction to the Kinabalu flora. First-time visitors should not miss the guided nature walks conducted every morning, or the evening slide shows.



80 Two Bed Chalets

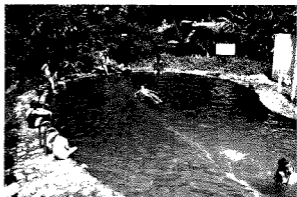


81 Chalets



65. *Hot Springs at Poring*

At the south-eastern part of the park at Poring, back in the tropical lowlands, are the Poring hot springs. Pools have been constructed where you can bathe in the refreshing hot pools. Chukets are also available for rent at Poring. There is also a trail leading to a canopy suspension bridge 100 ft above the ground.



66. *Hot Springs at Poring*

The origins of the name Kinabalu are also somewhat shrouded in mystery and myth. Some believe Kina-balu means Chinese widow. Kina being a corruption of China and Balu a widespread native dialectical term for widow. A story tells of a Chinese Prince seeking a huge pink pearl that exists at the very top of the mountain and guarded by a ferocious dragon. After a terrific battle he slays the dragon and takes the pearl, whereupon he marries a local Kadazan woman. Homesick himself he deserts his wife to return to China and the heartbroken wife wanders to the mountain and is turned to stone. But perhaps the most plausible explanation is that the name is derived from Aki Nabalú – meaning 'The revered place of the dead', in local Dusun language.

The first recorded climb of Kinabalu was made by Sir Hugh Low, who reached the summit plateau in 1851. There are no known records of any climbs before this. Superstition, dragons and the spirits of the dead would have surely deterred locals. The local Kadazan/Dusun peoples farmed the slopes of the mountain, but the last 5,000 feet or so was the domain of the spirits, dreaded in all Bornean societies. Sir Hugh Low on his first climb described how local porters and guides performed religious ceremonies on reaching the summit. Chickens were slaughtered to appease the spirits with prayers and incantations. Even to this day this ceremony is continued by the park's Kadazan/Dusun guides, although now on an annual basis.

The climb to the summit is very much easier now than it was for the early explorers. Well laid out trails with regular half mile interval resting points and mountain rest houses for overnight stays exist.





56 Another view of the Laban Rata Resthouse

The new Laban Rata resthouse at 10,700 feet boasts a restaurant, private rooms and central heating. To climb the mountain you need 2 days. Setting off early (9.00 am) on the first day from park headquarters you should reach Laban Rata resthouse at Panar Laban by 2.00 pm. You sleep early and arise about 3.00 am in the morning to begin the second and final day of the ascent. With luck and good weather you will reach the summit just in time to see sunrise over Borneo. On a clear day most of Sabah can be seen with Kota Kinabalu and the islands of Tunku Abdul Rahman Park shimmering in the distance. It is one of the most spectacular sights you will ever see.



67 The Laban Rata Resthouse



385 *Portrait of a young Italian in a boat* (1890)

386 *Portrait of a young Italian in a boat* (1890)

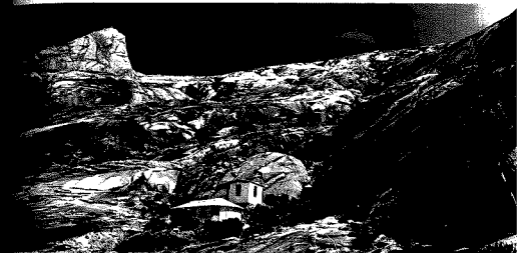




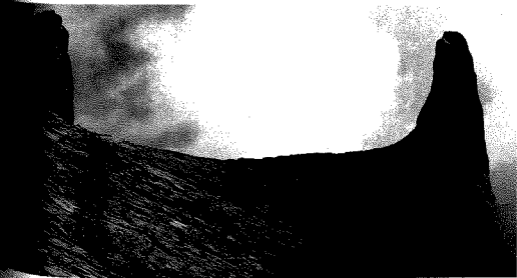
90. A loneliness on the rock face



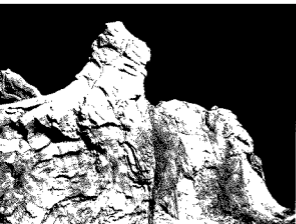
91. View from the rock ledge



92. Small house on a cliff



93. Scenic plateau in a valley between Eagle's Nest Peak (left), Lion's Peak (right) and Dragon's



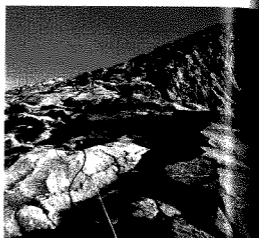
94. Lion Head. Low's gully



95. Sacrifice point



96. Low-lying leptosporium



97. Low's Peak at 4,101m (13,456ft).



98. Sunrise over Victoria Peak (left)



99 *East of the Peak*



100 *West of the Peak of the North Peak*



101 *Across the South Peak*



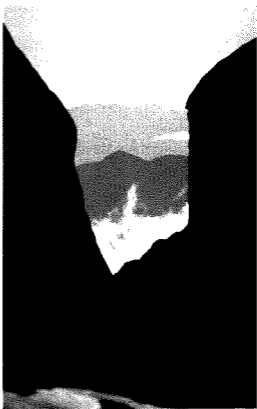
102. View of West Gurkha hut from Low's Peak.



103 *Donkey's Ears*



104 *Ascending of Low's Climb*



105 *View of Kofu Maruichi from the summit*



106 View of Annapurna West from Low's Peak



107 Sunset on Low's Peak

After resting you begin your descent and reach park headquarters about 3.00 in the afternoon with just a steady walk. And you can reach KK before night fall if you want. If you don't feel up to it, spend another night at the park, or at a nearby hotel to recover.



128 Perkasa Hotel at Kundasang

Travelling south from KK by road you come to Papar about 20 miles distance. Papar is a small neatly planned town surrounded by padi fields. Just outside of Papar is Pantai Manis (literally translated Sweet Beach). It is a long golden beach stretching more than 2 miles. A deep lagoon also exists.

Further South is Kimanis, a one-time American colony set up by American Trading Company in 1865 and owned by J.W Torrey, Thomas Bradley Harris and some chinese merchants. A tombstone of Harris dated 1866 in the middle of a rubber plantation on top of a hill is all that is left today.

Even further south at the tip of the Klias Peninsula lies the small fishing village of Kuala Penyu. This is the starting point for a half-hour boat ride to Pulau Tiga Park.

Pulau Tiga is built up from the flows of three mud volcanoes which can still be seen, bubbling gently. It is a haven for rare island plants, and birds such as the Pied Hornbill and the Megapode. Kalamunjion Damit island, a few minutes boat ride to the north, is a sanctuary for hundreds of striped sea-snakes. Advance permission is needed to visit Pulau Tiga, which is the site of a marine research centre run jointly by the Sabah Parks and the National University of Malaysia.



109 Pulau Tiga



110 Mud volcano at Pulau Tiga



INTERIOR DIVISION



INTERIOR DIVISION

One can also travel further south from Kota Kinabalu, passing through Papar, by train to Beaufort and then on to Tenom, both in the Interior Division. The Padas river at Beaufort regularly floods most of Beaufort town. The journey from Beaufort to Tenom by train is interesting and can be spectacular when the river is in spate. The railway passes through the Padas Gorge with the mighty Padas river on the one side and forest on the other. Tenom is an agricultural district and the centre of the Murut community, but there are not many who still live in the traditional longhouses or follow the life-style of old, hunting with dogs and blowpipes.



11.2. Rail, in passing a passenger train enroute to Tenom.



11.3. Traditional sleephouses built on stilts to avoid ground-level flooding.



114. White water rafting in the Park.



115. Ten on tower centre.



Kerubong, about 15 miles south of Tenom, boasts one of the few traditional lansaran dancing platforms in the area. The wooden platform built on bamboo springs is somewhat similar to a trampoline and is strong enough to support 20 to 40 people in the energetic dance.



117. Mouth on platform

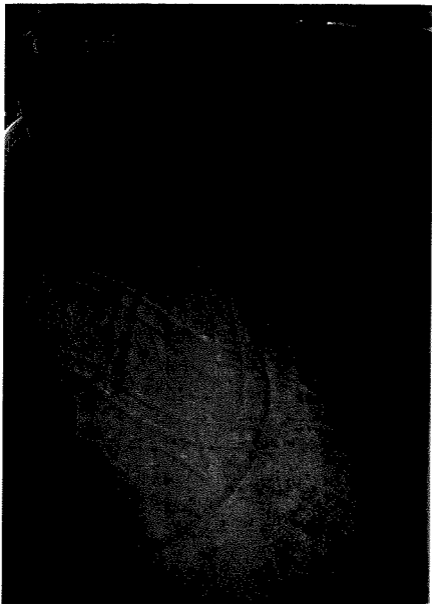


118. A cigarette first



119. Inlaid flutes

About 30 miles south of Tenom close to the village of Tomani are Sabah's only rock carvings. How old they are is anybody's guess, but certainly within the last 1,000 years. Huge distorted faces and figures are depicted on one huge boulder the size of a double storey house, while a few of the smaller surrounding rocks are also adorned with carving.



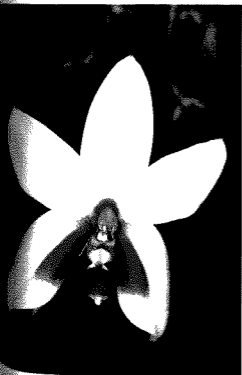
Also close to Tenom is the Agricultural Research Station and its splendid Orchid Centre. A small resthouse is sited at the station for those who wish to stay overnight, but bookings must be made in advance and a private vehicle is needed. The best hotel in Tenom itself is situated high on a hill overlooking the town and the whole Tenom Valley.



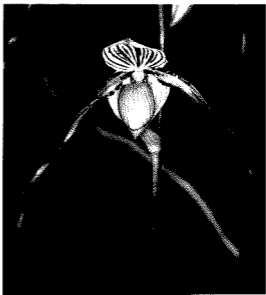
121 Tenom Orchid Centre



122 *Phalaenopsis amabilis* (Common Moth Orchid)



123 *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* (Sander's Orchid)



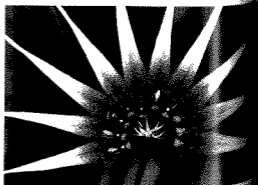
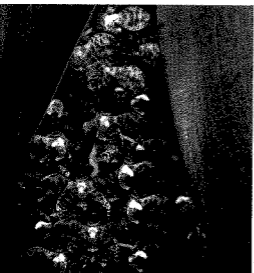
124 *Phalaenopsis fimbriata*



125 *Cissampelos* sp.



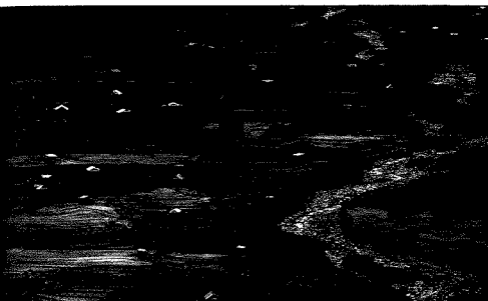
126 *Dichromena amurensis* (Kingbury) Ch. Hsiel



127 *Hedyotis polyanthus* (Sw.) C. C. Chang

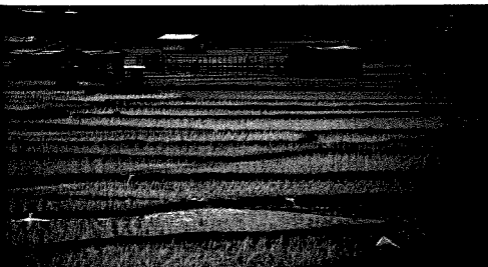
128 *Dichromena amurensis* (Kingbury) Ch. Hsiel

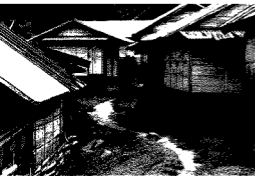
Travelling by road from KK to the Interior Division takes you across the Crocker Range and down into the Tambunan Valley. Sinsuron, a village at the head of the valley is well known for its padi terraces. Bamboo houses of the local Dusun peoples can be seen dotted along the valley floor and the hillsides. Tambunan itself is home to a traditional village where tourists can spend a few nights living in 'Kampong style'.



179 Rice fields at Tambunan (18.00)

180 Rice terraces at Tambunan





132. Beautiful houses of Susuwar



133. Susuwar valley



134. Susuwar village



135. A Choson woman carrying bamboo



136. Handicrafts of the weekly Jima

The road from Tambunan to Keningau climbs its way across the Crocker Range again before falling to the Keningau plain. Keningau is the meeting place of the Dusun and Murut peoples. To the south of Keningau is Murut Country. It is the centre of the interior timber industry. Sawmills abound, and log holding depots can be seen all around. Keningau boasts a fine hotel and a large sports complex. From Keningau you can also drive to Tenom.

Travelling south east from Keningau brings you to Nabawan, the outpost of government administration. Following the road from Nabawan you arrive at the settlement of Sapulut. From Sapulut there is one short stretch of road, suitable for 4 wheel drive vehicles only, to Agis. Otherwise from Sapulut the only means of travel is by native boat. From Agis it is the same. The ride up the Sapulut river from Sapulut itself takes you through the heart of Borneo, jungle, longhouses and rapids. The highest village on the Sapulut river is called Tetalu and this is just half an hour boat journey from Batu Punggul, a large limestone massif, standing up like a needle rising from the jungle floor, about 170 metres (500 ft high).



086 Batu Punggul river, Sabah



137. Tourists at the way to Baie Pangnial

138. Longboats at one of the longhouses



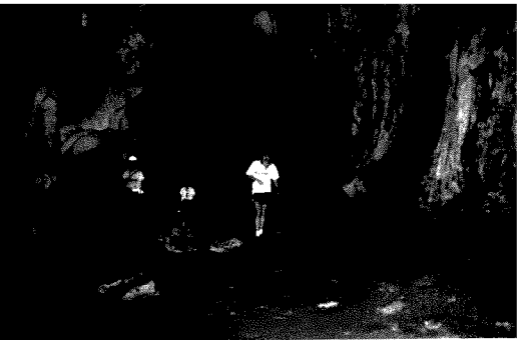


139. *Batu Punggul limestone massif.*

For the more adventurous, Batu Punggul can be climbed. It can be dangerous, but the view of the surrounding forest from the top is exhilarating. The rest can explore the forest and the caves. It will take you 1 or 2 days to reach Batu Punggul, depending on the river, but you can stay at any longhouse along the river, such is the hospitality of the Murut people. All along the river you will be invited to spend the night and drink the tapai. The men and women will don their traditional costumes, play the gongs, dance traditional dances and drink. Just a note, in any Bornean society if you are asked to drink but do not, remember just don't refuse, get up, walk over to the jar, touch it or touch the straw, or bottle and say no thank you. That way you do not break the 'adat'. When in Rome do as the Romans do.



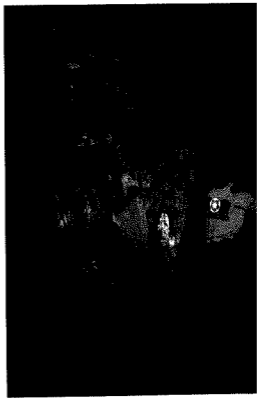
146 Batu Punggul cave



141 Batu Tengahan cave



142 Limestone karst formations at Batu Puncak.



143 Batu Tengkawang.

Less than half an hour's walk through the forest from Batu Punggul, only recently discovered by a Sabah Museum Team, lies another limestone outcrop, Batu Tinahas, obscured by the forest, and not as high as Batu Punggul. It cannot be seen as a limestone outcrop until you are almost on it. But its cave system is huge. Exactly how big is not yet known as it has yet to be surveyed. At least 3 levels of caves and tunnels exist.



144. A woman wearing the headdress

Following the river farther down from Agis, it flows more or less directly south to Kalimantan. The largest settlement you pass is Pegalungan, where there is an immigration checkpoint. At Pegalungan the Tagal River joins the Sapulut. Up the Tagal River lies Pensiangan, formerly the centre of district administration until it was transferred to Nabawan in the 1960, for easier access.

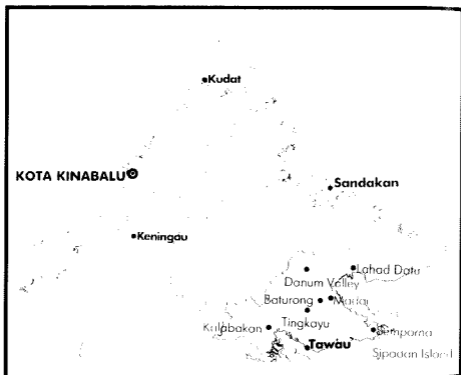
Pensiangan boasts a rest house (unmanned) a dispensary and 4 shops. Everything is very expensive, so if you venture this way it is better to bring your own food. But Pensiangan is beautiful, natural and the people although inquisitive are very friendly.

Back to Pegalungan, from here it is only 4 hours boat ride to Kalimantan. Longhouses abound on the river banks. One particular longhouse is Kampong Selungai only half an hour from Pegalungan. Here you can see traditional boat builders at work, weaving, mat making from ratan, and doing bead work. There are many more rivers and longhouses to explore along this whole river system, if you have the time and the money. It is a fascinating area, where traditional lifestyles have not been eroded. And the Muruts, although once renowned as the head hunters of Sabah, are the most hospitable of people.



145. *Recess, at a bend of the Tagal river*

TAWAU DIVISION



TAWAU DIVISION

There are frequent daily flights to Tawau from either Kota Kinabalu or Sandakan, but you can also drive via Sandakan and Lahad Datu. From Sapulut it is also possible to drive to Tawau following logging roads. However a 4 wheel drive vehicle is necessary, although for the great majority of the way the roads are excellent. But before leaving KK you should contact your tour operator to arrange for a pass.

The drive to Tawau takes you past many longhouses for the first 40 miles or so. You will also pass logging operation centres and a few check points. It should take about 5 hours to reach Tawau, which boasts a fine international standard hotel.

Tawau has taken over from Sandakan as the timber capital of Sabah, with timber from the interior being brought to Tawau for export.

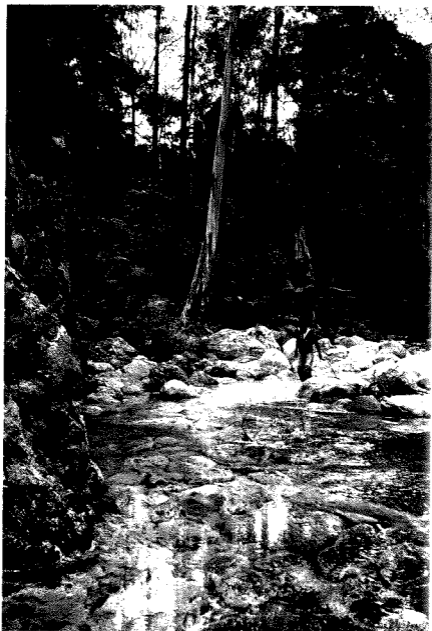
The Tawau area is also known for its rich volcanic soils and it is in these soils that cocoa has become Sabah's premier economic crop. Oil palm is also planted but cocoa is the more important in the Tawau Division, whereas palm oil is uppermost in Sandakan Division.

Kalabakan close to Tawau is also the home of a large scale re-forestation programme. About 30,000 hectares have been planted with fast growing timbers. One, 'Albizia falcataria' has been recorded as growing over 30 metres in 5 years, a record breaker in the Guinness Book of Records.



146 *Sabak is the largest exporter of cocoa at Malinao*

The Tawau Hills Park near Tawau is easily accessible by driving through the BAI cocoa and oilpalm plantations to the edge of the forest. There is a cool refreshing waterfall near the Park Headquarter and trails take you further into the forest, which is rich in wildlife.



Travelling by road from Tawau to Semporna takes you through more cocoa and oil palm plantations. The road is excellent, sealed all the way. Semporna is a small town made up mainly of Bajaus and Suluks with Chinese shopkeepers.

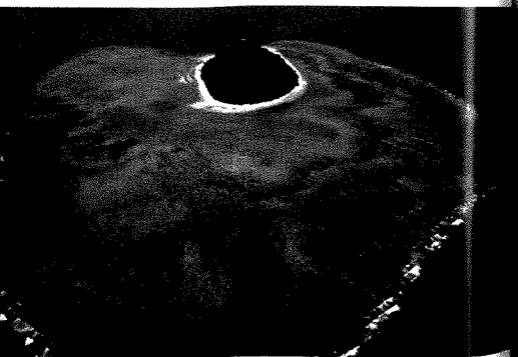


144 *Oil Palm plantation along the Tawau - Semporna road*

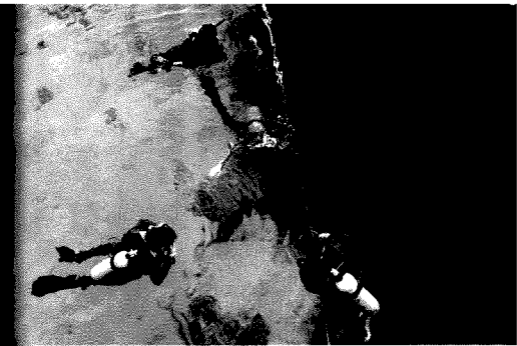
But what Semporna is really renowned for is its corals and islands. A World Wildlife Fund survey of the corals in 1978 stated that they are among the best in the world. Many of the nearer islands are reached quite easily by hiring a local boat. One particular island, Pulau Sipadan, deserves a special mention. It is Malaysia's only true oceanic island, rising from the depths of the sea 2,000 feet below. Thirty feet from shore the drop is sheer 2,000 feet down. The corals and marine life are second to none in the world. Regular excursions to Sipadan exist, with diving equipment and instruction provided. (contact your tour operator for details). Pulau Boheydulung close to Semporna houses a pearl farm. All the islands are fringed with beautiful beaches, many of which are uninhabited. You have literally scores of islands to choose from.



149. *Sempiterni waterfront, art*



150. *Aerial view of Siparhan (Siparhan) island*

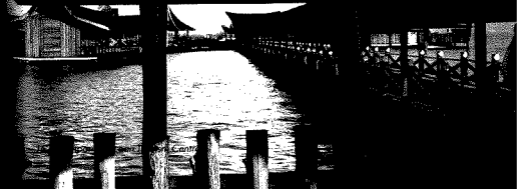


07 Scuba divers preparing for a dive at the reef off

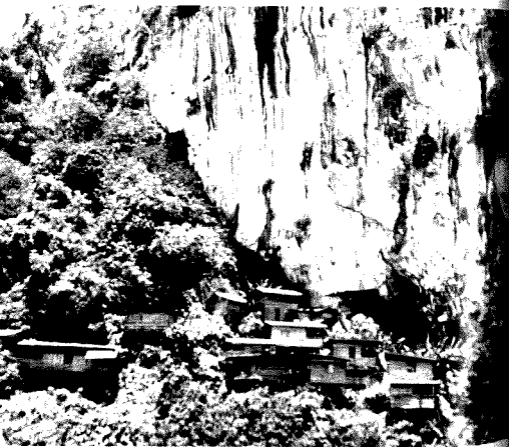
The rich coral reef around Semporna provide an abundant variety of marine life. The seafood in Semporna is particularly recommended. Fish, prawns and lobsters are fresh everyday, and if you want to buy for yourself, alive from the fish market or at the sea front, most restaurants will oblige by cooking for you, for a fee of course. Semporna also houses a new floating restaurant cum motel. The cuisine is superb and the rooms excellent.

PUSAT PELANCONGAN LAUTAN SEMPORNA

SEMPORNA OCEAN TOURISM CENTRE



About an hour's drive northwest of Semporna, you will come across a huge limestone outcrop on the left side of the road. This is Madai – the limestone cave which supplies birds nests for the Chinese delicacy birds nest soup. There are two types of edible nest, the white and the black. The white is by far the most expensive, let alone well over US\$1000 per kilo in Hong Kong markets. The caves can easily be visited, being about 1 mile from the main road. You can almost drive to the cave mouth. You will see the nest collectors' village just outside the caves. It is only occupied seasonally (during collecting times) with the exception of 2 or 3 people who guard against thieves. Remember to take a flash light with you for once inside the caves some areas are in total darkness. But where you come across daylight shining through some of the openings you see the most fantastic sculptures.



26 Madai cave





Madai is also one of Sabah's most important archeological sites. Man's existence can be traced back through the layers of guano to 15,500 years before present.

Just 10 miles west of Madai is Baturong, another huge limestone massif. Baturong is in the middle of what was once Tingkayu lake. Evidence of man dating from 16,000 years ago, after the lake drained away, can be found at the huge rock overhang. To get to Baturong involves about an hour's drive through oil palm and cocoa estates (where a mud volcano can be found) and then about an hour's walk through virgin jungle. We would suggest that should you wish to make the trip you should ask for a guide from either Lahad Datu or Kunak as it is very easy to get lost in the jungle. But it is certainly a beautiful place to camp for a few days.

146 Baturong limestone island



Lahad Datu, often referred to as Sabah's cowboy town, is no longer the timber centre it once was. The timber has been cleared and most of the land is now under cocoa or oil palm. There is a good road from Tawau and Semporna and Lahad Datu is also served by daily flights from KK, Sandakan and Tawau. Just south of Lahad Datu at Silam is the road leading to an area known as the Danum Valley, on the upper Segama River and its tributaries, the Bole and Danum Rivers. The Danum Valley is a 438 sq km forest reserve. This totally unlogged area has been set aside by the Sabah Foundation as a conservation and research area. Danum is pure unlogged lowland tropical rainforest. Its animal life includes all those mentioned earlier in this book. Trails have been built as well as observation spots within this sanctuary.

A centre for scientific research has been established and a hostel exists for overnight stay. However at present it is purely a research project although interested parties may visit. To visit Danum, permission should be obtained in advance. Contact your tour operator for details.



157 Danum Valley Field Centre

Travelling northwards to Sandakan the sealed road soon gives way to a very rough road indeed. About 15 miles out from town you arrive at the Segama River. This is where you have to manoeuvre and manipulate your vehicle onto the river ferry. This can be quite an experience. Sometimes, if the river is flooded or the ferry out of action, queues miles long build up. It is possible to be stranded for up to 3 or 4 days or more. But construction of the bridge has already begun.

Just over the Kinabatangan River is another limestone outcrop, Batu Tulug, also known as Batu Putih, literally translated – White Stone. Here 1000 years old intricately carved wooden coffins have been found. Some can still be seen in both the lower and upper caves, while some have been transferred to the Museum.



158. Batu Tulug near Batu Putih village



159. A close up view of a wooden coffin



160. Coffins scattered on the cave floor

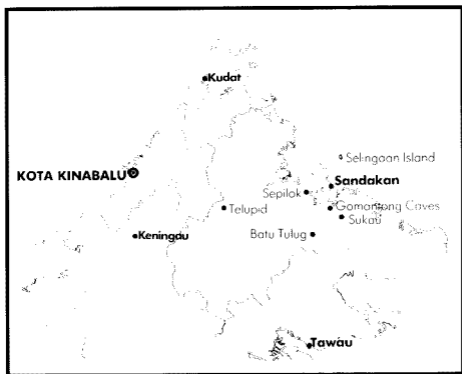
Along the Kinabatangan River can also be seen Proboscis monkey, along the river banks in the early morning and late afternoon. Most conspicuous with their long noses, they are only found in Borneo.



161 A male proboscis on a tree along the Kinabatangan River

162 A close-up of a proboscis monkey

SANDAKAN DIVISION



SANDAKAN DIVISION

Sandakan, a modern town built upon the ruins of World War II started life as a gun running settlement across the Spanish blockade to Sulu. These early gunrunners tended to be Germans and even to this day Europeans in Sandakan are often referred to as 'Orang German' not just Orang Putih (White man).

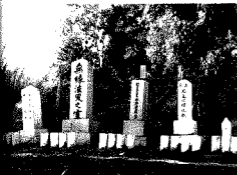


163. Sandakan was the former capital of British North Borneo from 1884 – 1946.

164. Log ponds at Sandakan waterfront.



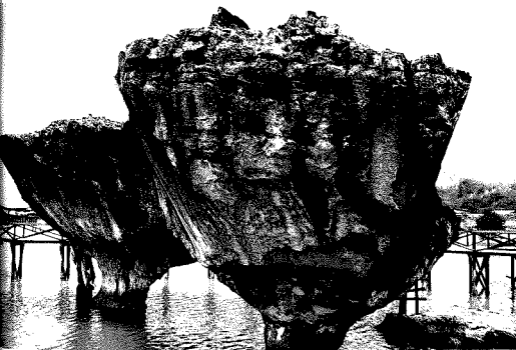
In its early trading days, Sandakan was a veritable hotch potch of all nationalities. From Europeans to Africans, from Arabs to Chinese, from Indians to Javanese and from Dusun to Japanese – with many others. One interesting point to note is that in the 1891 census, out of 90 Japanese registered 75 were classed as either prostitutes or brothel keepers.



165 Japanese cemetery.



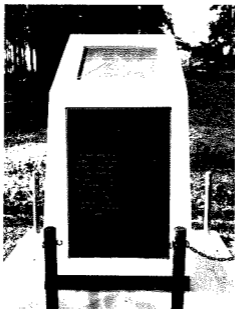
166 Parish St. Japanese temple.



167 Batu Sapi



168 Sandakan fish market



169 Australian War Memorial

Sandakan Bay is one of the finest harbours in the world. Little wonder that the Chartered Company chose Sandakan as their main settlement. Although Kudat was the capital from 1881 until the title was transferred to Sandakan in 1884, Sandakan was still the chief trading centre and the largest town.

Sandakan town, sitting on the waters edge is backed by sharply rising hills, while the harbour itself is a bustle of boats, small and large. It is an exciting town, and predominantly Chinese, being Sabah's only Cantonese Town. It was originally thought that Sandakan was going to become another Hong Kong.

Pulau Seligaan, the largest of 3 islands including Gulisaan and Bakungan Kecil forming the Turtle Islands Park can be easily reached in one hour by speed boat from Sandakan. Accommodation is available on Seligaan and should be arranged before travelling, consult your tour operator. A turtle hatchery was set up here in 1966 to help preserve the green and hawksbill turtles. Every night of the year turtles will climb the beach to lay their eggs and visitors can watch. You can also see the new hatchlings released into the sea.



170 *Albino green turtle*



172. Swimmers, Naha.



173. School at Naha.



174. Visitors with Daira (green) to the day camp at Saipan.



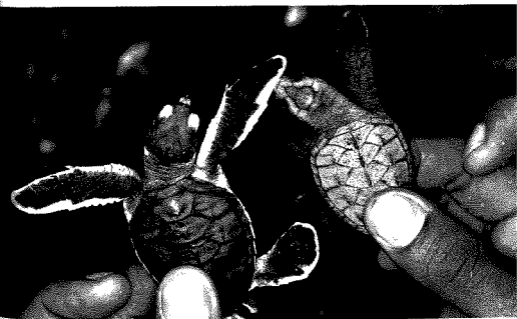
175. A gecko in Naha.



176. Light house at Naha.



176 The turtle hatchery on Seiryu Island.



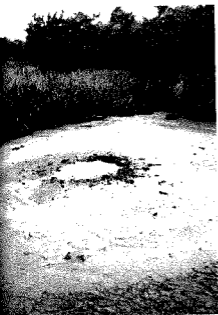
177 A baby green turtle and its mother's tooth.



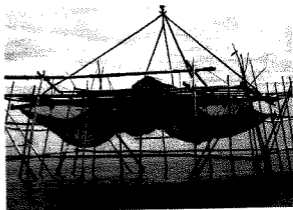
178. Turtle tracks on Seargeant Island.



170 *Laroon Island*

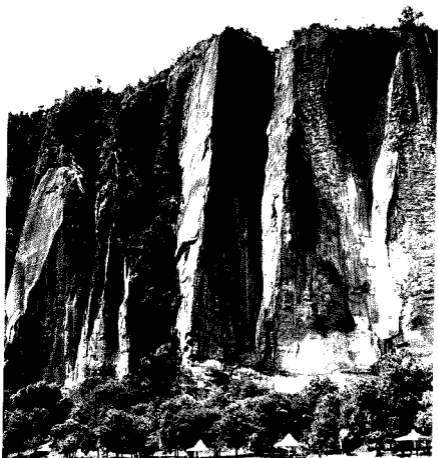


180 *Mud vak ara on Bakkonan Reef*



181 *A fish trap*

Berhala Island, very close to the town is a favourite get away for the town people, especially at weekends. Easily reached by boat, Berhala has a lovely beach with a huge sheer sandstone outcrop backdrop. Berhala was a former leper colony before World War II, and a prison camp during the war.



Back on the mainland just 16 miles from Sandakan is the Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary and Rehabilitation Centre, 4000 hectares of natural virgin rain forest, set aside in 1964 for the protection on the world's most intelligent primate – after man. The sanctuary was originally set up to help orphaned or captured orang utans, who had become too dependent on man through captivity, to return to the wild. They are encouraged to climb, build nests and gradually forage for themselves. The animals close to and at the Centre are still fed everyday, but are sent further and further away until they only return infrequently. Within Sepilok are many jungle trails to walk and a nature centre which has slide shows and exhibitions.



183 "Hein" eating his favourite food at Sepilok

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183 "Helen" eating his favourite food at Sepilok.

BANGUNAN PENDIDIKAN ALAM
DAN BILIK TAMANGAN



IKUT JALAN NO. 1 FOLLOW THIS WAY

NATURE EDUCATION BUILDING
AND MINI THEATER







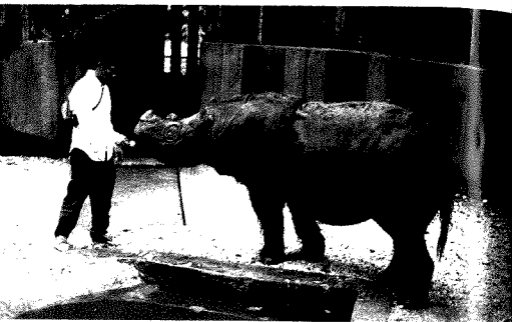
187 Red-tail Monkey



189 A monkey with baby

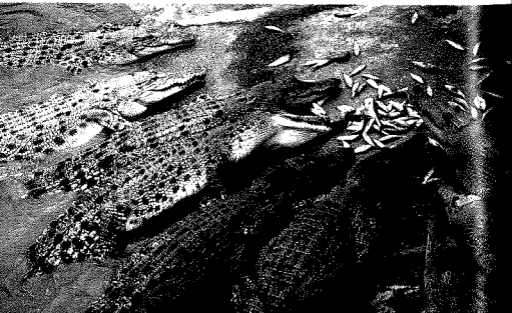
188 A baby monkey with

Just a few miles away from the centre of town is a crocodile farm. It is a privately owned farm but visitors can visit for a small fee.



190 A *Somateria thomasiensis* at Segolok.

191 Crocodile farm in Samaritan.



Across the harbour from town lies the Gomantong Caves, probably the largest cave system in Sabah. Again here, nests are collected for the Chinese delicacy. The cave complex is huge and spectacular. Again don't forget your flashlights, the more powerful the better. A resthouse will soon be ready for visitors who wish to stay overnight. Sandakan is also famous for its Cantonese cuisine. Good restaurants, especially seafood restaurants can be found all over Sandakan.

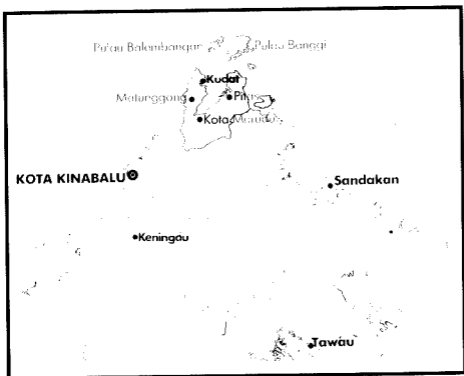


192 A swift building a nest



193. Bird net collecting at Gomantong Caves has been going on for hundreds of years.

KUDAT DIVISION



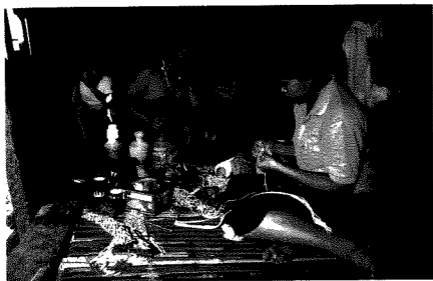
KUDAT DIVISION

The northern most part of Sabah is the Kudat Division. Kudat itself, the first capital of Sabah, once held high hopes of playing a major part in the China-Europe trade. On Balembangan Island just to the north of Kudat the East India Company in 1773 also realized the potential of the area and set up a trading post. The site proved to be a bad choice as water was in short supply and the surrounding seas were haunts for pirates, and traders refused to abandon their traditional trading posts. The company servants also swindled the company, and the Suluk Datu (lords), with whom agreements had been made, decided that the money paid them was not enough. Because of this, combined with insults from senior company officers, they attacked and razed the settlement in 1775. The site was again revived in 1802 but abandoned again in 1804.

But it is the people of the Kudat Peninsula that provide the most interesting aspect of this area – the Rungus people, a sub group of the Dusun/Kadazan family. Many still live in longhouses and hold on to their traditional spiritual/animistic beliefs. They have managed to retain more of the old ways than many of the other tribes. There are still thatched roofed longhouses only about 20 miles from Kudat. The architecture of their longhouse has a distinct outward leaning style and this is represented in the design of the State Museum.



The women folk in the not too distant past used to wear coils of brass around the neck, the forearms and the lower legs. Although it is not common to see the leg and neck coils now the forearm coils are still in use on a regular basis. The Rungus are also renowned for their fine bead work and weaving.



195 Rungus women still make the most elaborate beads necklaces in Sabah.



196 Rungus children in the kitchen



A couple in traditional costume.

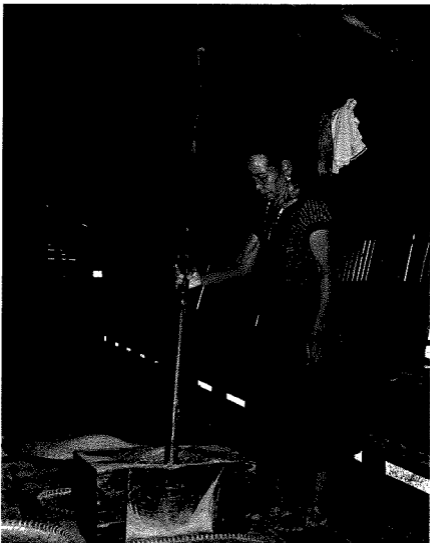


Kudat was the first centre for Chinese migration to North Borneo in the 1880s. Most of the migrants were Hakka (Kek) and Christians fleeing China. They were mainly farmers.

The Island of Banggi, next to Balembangan holds a group of people not that closely related to other Borneon peoples. Although they are often called the 'Banggi Dusun', the term Dusun is actually a misnomer. Their language is in fact not even in the same family as the Dusunic Languages and they are still quite primitive.

From Kudat it is less than 4 hours drive back to KK and the bright lights.

199 *A lady recording one*





200 Rungis ladies inside a longhouse.



201 Rungis dancers welcome a group of tourists.





203 A Cica grove plantation in Kudat



204 Mt. Kinabalu, the highest mountain in South East Asia

SABAH IS NOT JUST MULTIETHNIC, MULTIRELIGIOUS, MULTICULTURAL IT IS MULTIEVERYTHING, IT IS UNIQUE – IT IS THE MELTING POT OF EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, AND ALL UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE MIGHTY KINABALU.

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