

# MALAYSIA

SPLENDOUR & WONDERS



Beautiful Gema Island, Terengganu

# MALAYSIA: SPLENDOUR & WONDERS

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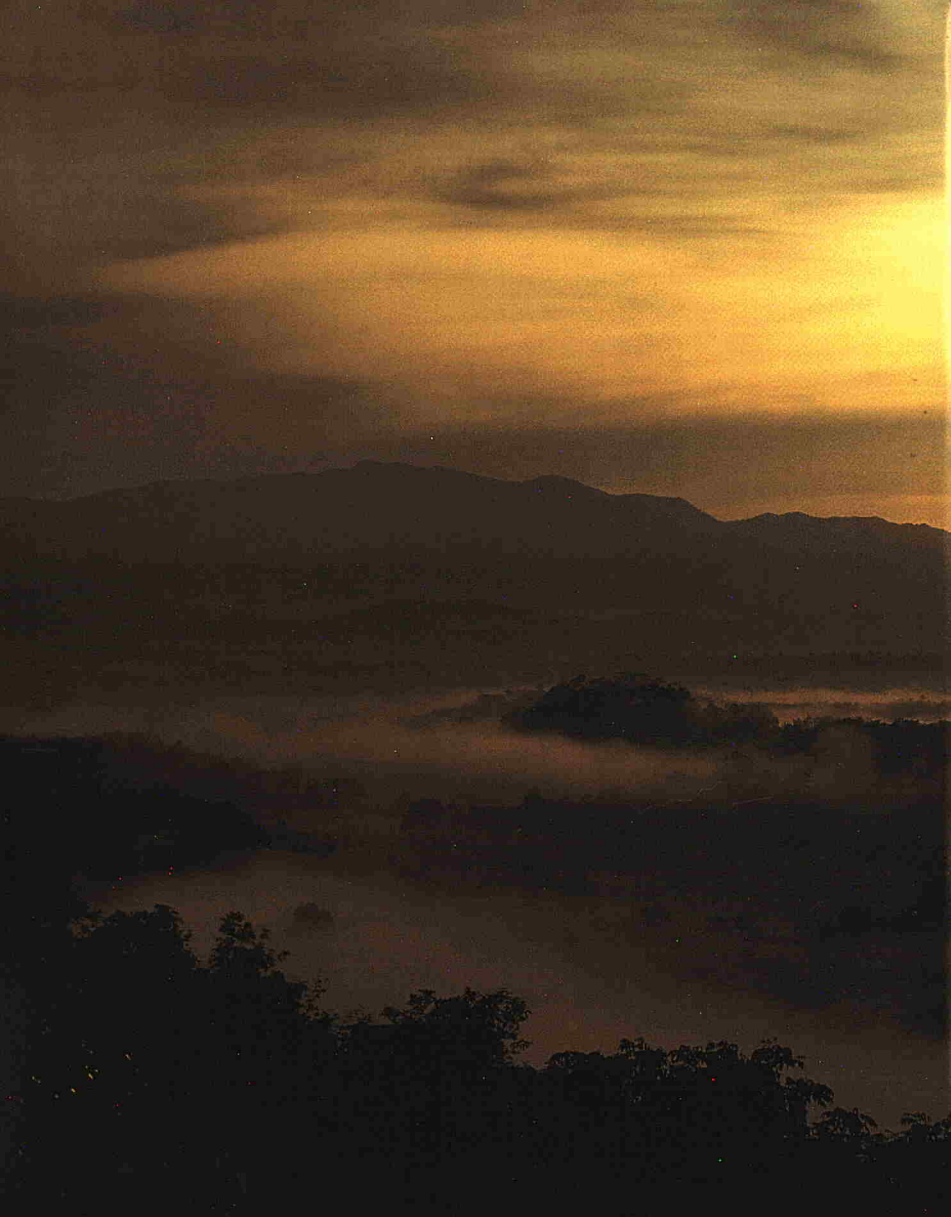


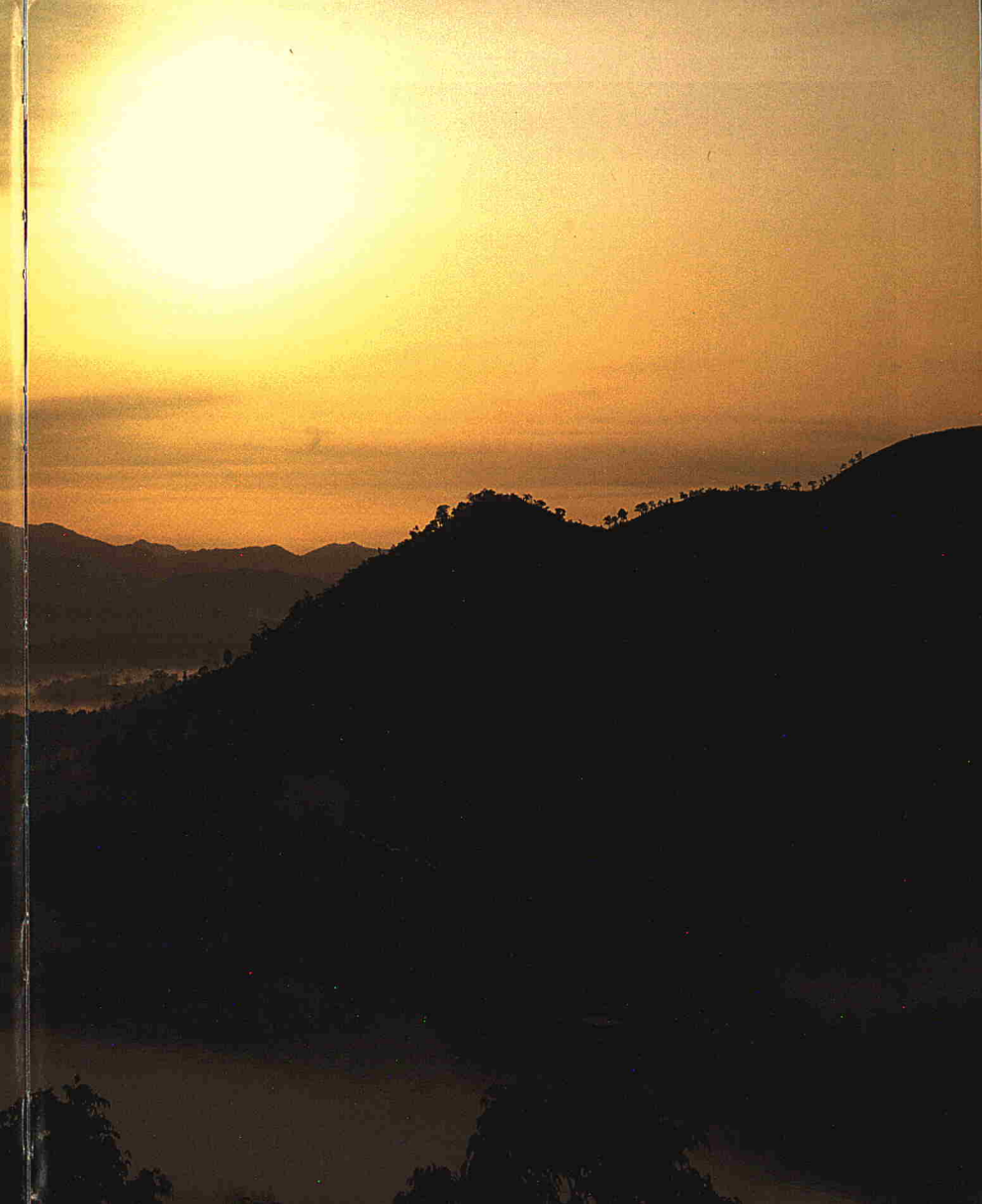
# MALAYSIA

SPLENDOUR & WONDERS

PHOTOGRAPHED, DESIGNED AND PRODUCED BY C.T. FONG

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& COUNTRY EDITIONS SDN BHD







PRECEDING PAGES Vast stretches of paddy - Kota Belud, Sabah.

ABOVE The Temurun Falls in Langkawi.

OVERLEAF Rainbow over the Camerons.



THIS BOOK WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE VISION,  
ENCOURAGEMENT AND GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:



**Baxter**



**JUSCO**

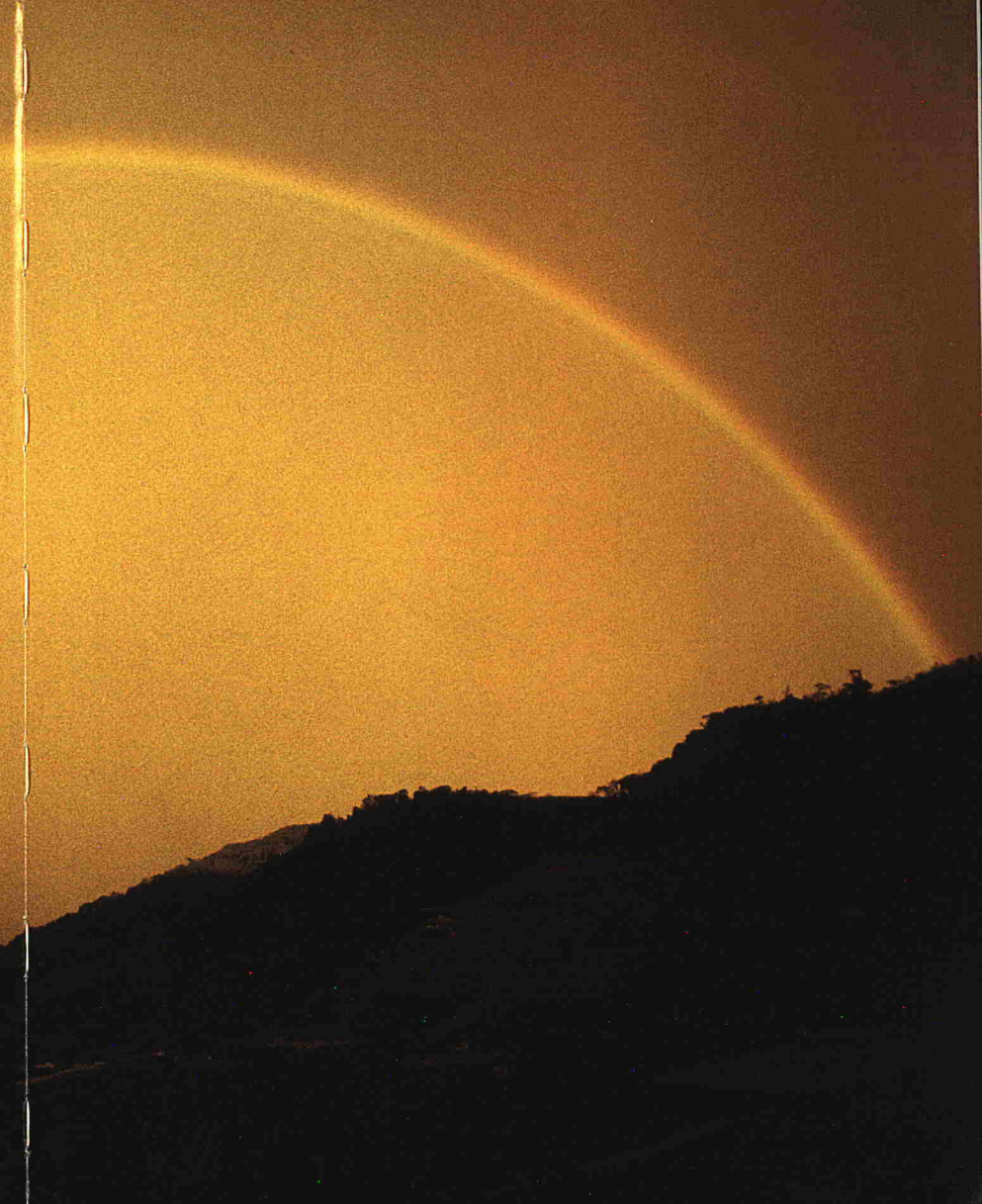


Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank





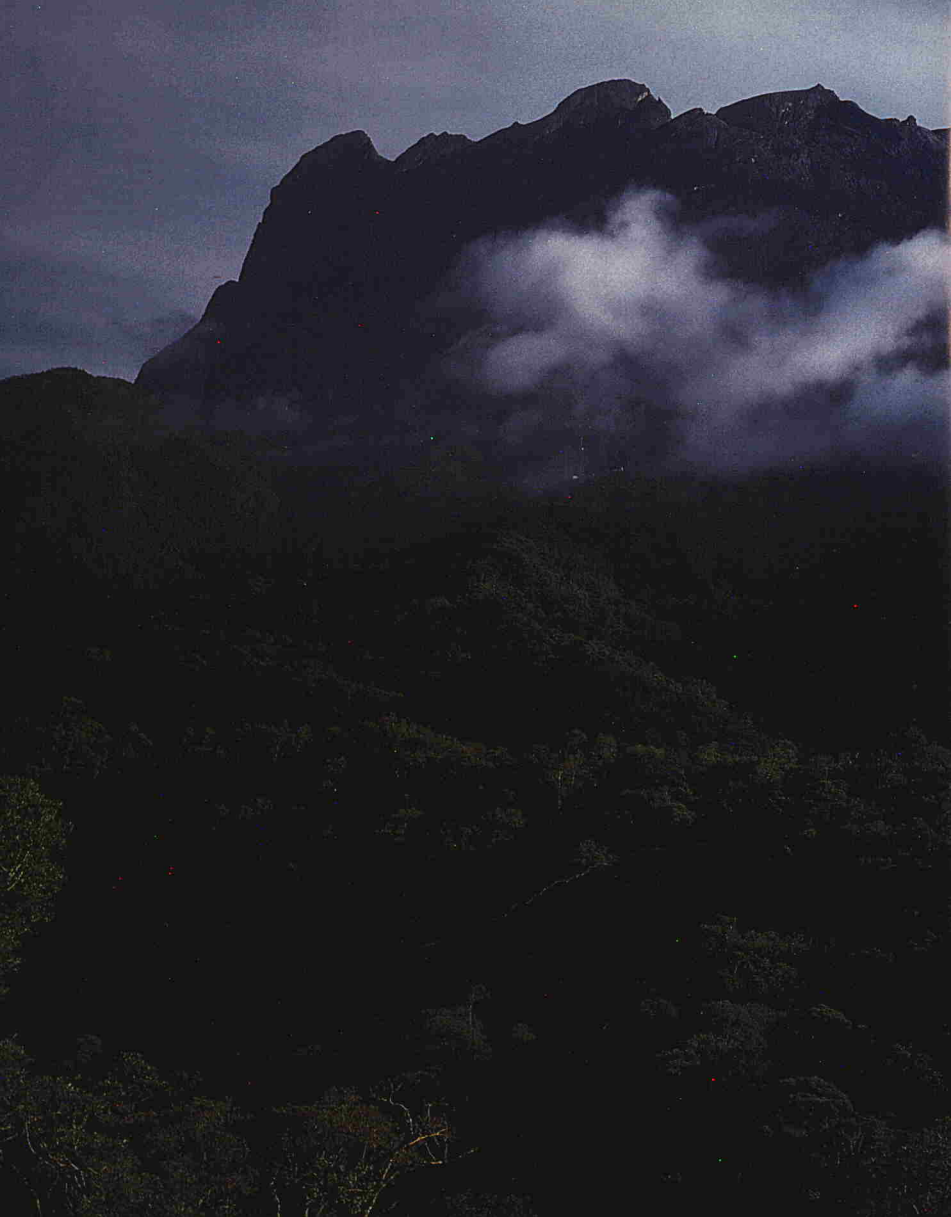


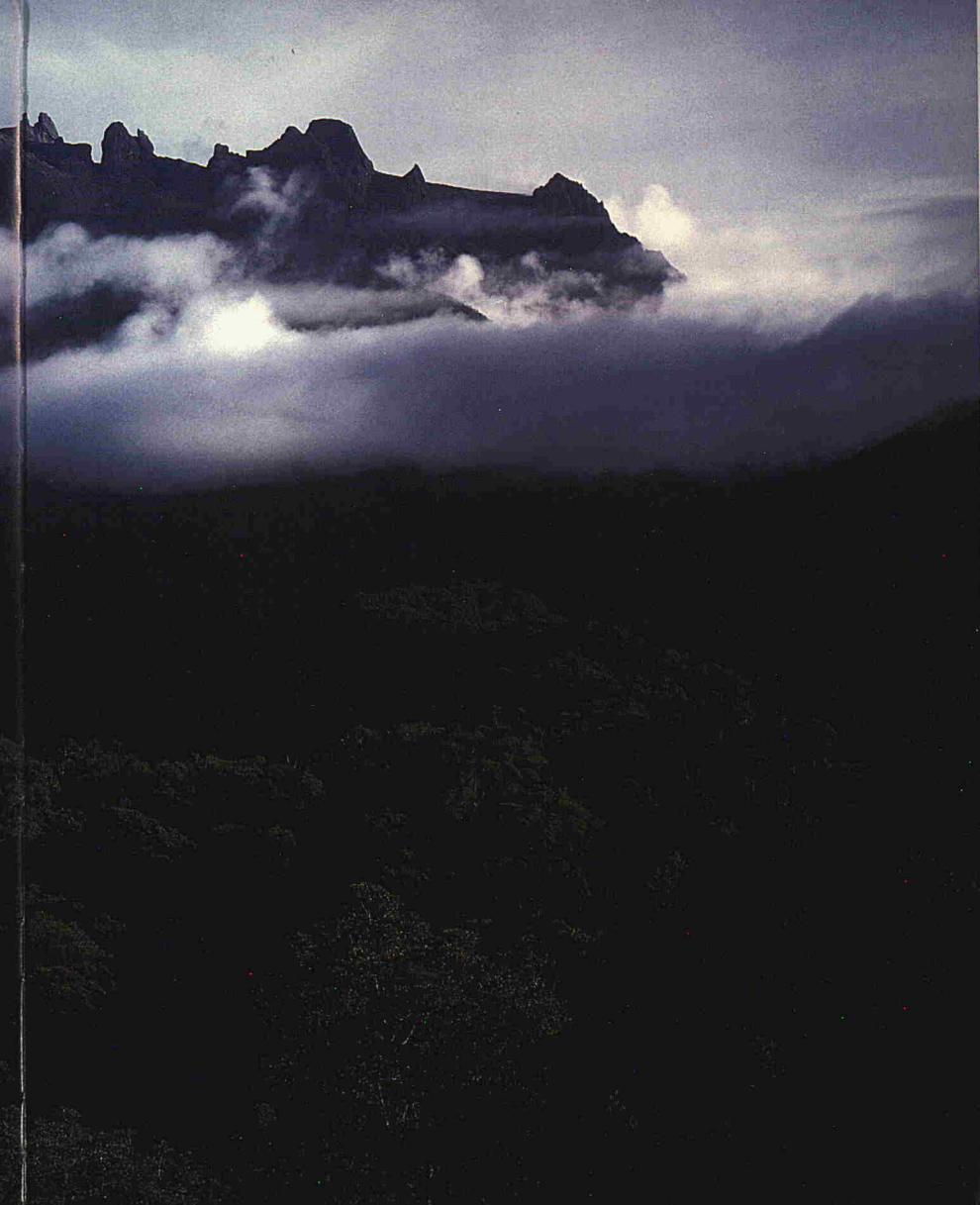




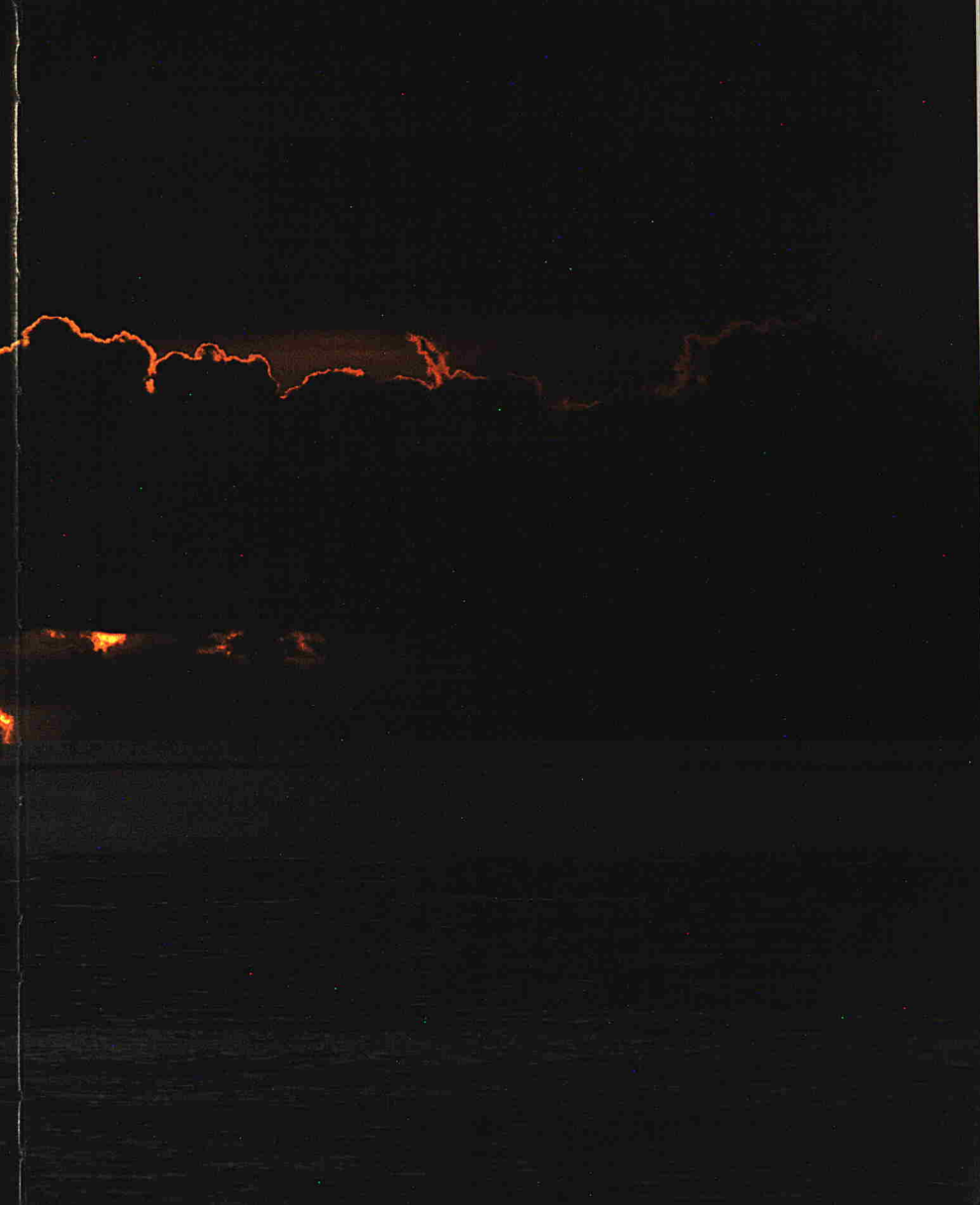










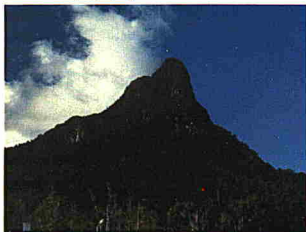




AN ANONYMOUS scribe, spellbound by a rock formation on Langkawi Island, described it thus: Nature overturns a can of paint. Indeed, in the Malay peninsula and the island of Borneo, Nature seems to have freed herself of all inhibitions — overturning paintpots of rainbow hues at her fancy, running wild in a profusion of shapes and colours. The images captured between the covers of *Malaysia: Splendour and Wonders* are a tribute to Nature's grand design in Malaysia, as well as to the country's varied peoples. This pictorial journey — traversing Malaysia's 13 states and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, the nation's bustling capital and Labuan — provide refreshing glimpses of natural and cultural riches.

### A LAND TAKING SHAPE

Peninsular Malaysia forms a giant hinge, upon which the world's greatest archipelago swings round mainland Asia. This region, comprising many islands in a shallow sea (about 15 fathoms deep on average), is made up of fragments of land which have been pressed together by continental drifts. The history of each block of land is very complex. Sumatra today, for example, is at the junction of two plates actively sliding together; hence the number of volcanoes and earth tremors there. Peninsular Malaysia, by contrast, is a gentle land with a much older history. Down the centre of the peninsula runs the Main Range (Banjaran Titiwangsa), largely granite mountains with the majority of peaks reaching 1,400 to 2,000 metres (4,600 to 6,560 feet). To the northeast and northwest, various smaller ranges reach almost as high. On the east, there is a block of sandstone mountains which today lie mainly within the national park of Taman Negara. Here is the highest mountain on the peninsula, Mount Tahan (Gunung Tahan), at 2,187 metres (7,175 ft), with its knife edge ridges and outcrops of shining white quartz. To the southeast there are various low hills of sandstone, in Terengganu, Pahang and Johor. These extensive sedimentary rocks were laid down in ancient river deltas where sand settled out of slow flowing waters, and they have close affinities with the sandstone areas of Korat in eastern Thailand. Skirting all of these hills and mountain ranges is the coastal plain, wider in the east than the west, where the majority of economic activities are carried out. Here is the great tin mining, rubber and oil palm area upon which Malaysia's economy has been built. The topography of Sarawak and Sabah in Borneo is not dissimilar: they are each centred round a core of mountains, and each is skirted by a broad coastal plain. Differences exist, however, in the much greater extent of peat swamps and mangroves, and in the height of the mountains. These reach up to 2,420 metres (7,946 ft) at Mount Murud (Gunung Murud) in Sarawak, and 4,101 metres (13,455 ft) at Mount Kinabalu (Gunung Kinabalu) in Sabah. This last is the tallest mountain anywhere between the eastern Himalayas and New Guinea.



Mt Santubong, Sarawak

(Preceding Pages) Towering Mt. Kinabalu, Sabah, is Southeast Asia's tallest mountain at 4,101 metres. The summit of the mountain was once covered by ice glaciers, 3,000 years ago.



## THE WAY OF THE RIVER

**D**raining these mountain ranges, the rivers begin as little trickles seeping from the moss of the elfin montane forests, and join into hill torrents that give rise to spectacular waterfalls before reaching the plains. At the lower altitudes they become winding and sometimes change their course to leave isolated oxbow lakes in the peaty subcoastal districts. These meanders add substantially to the rivers' length. Longest of all is the Rajang in Sarawak, at 563 km (350 miles), which is navigable to big steamers far inland. In the peninsula, the longest rivers are the Pahang (435 km, 272 miles) and the Perak (400 km, 250 miles).

## WONDERS BENEATH THE GROUND

Malaysian caves are world famous, especially those in Gunung Mulu Park in Sarawak. There, the limestone contains over 150 km of passages, making this the sixth largest cave system in the world. Mulu also holds a real world record: the biggest free dome anywhere underground, forming a cave capable of containing 32 Boeing 747s. Most Malaysian caves are in limestone, hollowed out by the action of water and the resulting caverns are used for all kinds of things. They form homes for animals, shelter for people and sites for worship. A unique creature to be found in the Mulu caves is the 'eyeless crab' a species of crab with undeveloped eyes, living beside subterranean rivers, their condition due to the fact that they never see daylight.

## NATURAL SHADES OF GREEN AND BROWN

Upon this land the natural vegetation is tropical evergreen rainforest, often cited as being the oldest forest in the world, 150 million years old. This misleading' statement does not mean that the forest has existed exactly as it is now for all that time. After all, fossil records show that pine trees grew in Peninsular Malaysia about 17,000 years ago, just as they do today on volcanic mountain slopes in Sumatra. Long before that, as the continents drifted, the lands which today form Malaysia even wandered outside the tropics. What the statement does mean is that some of the plants which can be found now in the Malaysian forest have existed almost unchanged for 100 to 150 million years, at a time when dinosaurs ruled the earth. One such plant is the King of Fruits, the durian; another is the primitive fern-like cycad. Within the forest, life is astonishingly diverse. Peninsular Malaysia has about 8,000 species of plants, amongst which are 2,500 trees, 800 orchids, and 100 figs. Sarawak and Sabah are still richer. There are certainly more than 3,300 tree species there, and a current study is expected to take more than ten years. Lambir Hills, near Miri in Sarawak, contain more than 850 tree species within 50 hectares (120 acres); this is the richest site for trees in the world. Most astonishing of all is the Kinabalu Park based around Mount Kinabalu, which contains more than 12,000 plant species, including over 1,200 orchids. Many of these are found nowhere else in the world, and some are known only



from a single specimen each. Amongst the smaller plants in particular, many species are confined only to a single mountain peak or watercourse. Out of 47 species of Begonia in the peninsula, 45 are endemic (found only there), and 29 are each confined to a single state. Similar examples could be given for many other types of flowering plants. Despite this diversity, the forest will seem dull to anyone who expects to find masses of exotic and colourful blooms. The predominant colours are natural shades of green and brown. Flowers are rare; either they are high up

in the forest canopy, or they appear briefly at long intervals. One herb, a species of *Didymocarpus*, known only from Genting Highlands, has only been seen in flower twice in the past 20 years. The flowers of most of the trees are small and inconspicuous. Some of the biggest trees, in the family *Dipterocarpaceae* (the most important and abundant of the valuable timber trees), flower all together at intervals of five to eight years. These mass flowering events are triggered by the El Nino climatic phenomenon which sweeps periodically across the Pacific. The greatest such event in living memory was in 1976, when the forest floor was carpeted for weeks in a lush aromatic layer of fallen blossoms. Famous flowers such as *Rafflesia*, a parasite on lianes, are seldom seen. Colonies of the cabbage shaped buds can be found occasionally — some places like Poring in Sabah are famous for them — but most of the buds fall before they open. Still, this makes it all the more rewarding when one does eventually find one of the leathery, stinking, magnificent flowers more than a foot across. Certain species of *Rafflesia* can extend to more than a metre across but these are mainly found in Sumatra, Indonesia.



## CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

**A**nimal groups are also diverse. There are 715 species of birds in Malaysia, slightly more in the peninsula than in Sabah and Sarawak, but some of the most interesting and unusual species are confined to the Bornean mountains. Bulwer's Pheasant, the Crimson-breasted Wood-partridge, the Kinabalu Serpent-eagle and Whitehead's Trogon, a brilliant red bird known in Malay as the *burung kasumba*, are spectacular examples. The total number of bird species is, perhaps, little more than could be recorded in a temperate country of similar size. The big difference is in the number of species which occur regularly, and which breed: more than 450. The lists of birds in temperate regions are often inflated by odd vagrants, seldom recorded. The number of birds which breed in Malaysia, and are therefore resident, is three to four times greater than in a typical temperate latitude country. Amongst mammals, with over 250 species recorded, particularly diverse groups are the bats (nearly 100 of them), rats and mice, and squirrels. Big mammals include the Asian elephant, Sumatran rhino, wild cattle, tapir, deer and wild boar. Tigers and leopards are both present in Peninsular Malaysia (not in Sabah or Sarawak), but are seldom heard, and still more rarely seen. It is highly unusual to hear of any life-threatening incidents involving these big predators. Other animal groups are less well known. There are over 150 frogs and toads, 1,030 butterflies, perhaps 10,000 moths, several hundred species of ants. The estimate of the total number of animal species, over 150,000, is really a guess. At any one place, however, diversity may not be so striking. Each plant and animal has its own niche within a range of different habitats. From the coast to the mountain tops this range includes mangrove forests, freshwater swamp and peat swamp forests, lowland forest, hill forest, lower montane and upper montane forests. Only on Mount Kinabalu do the mountains reach above the tree line to reveal bare rock. Perhaps in the mangroves it is easiest to see a range of interesting creatures, for there is always something happening. On the surface of the mud male fiddler crabs, each with one giant colourful claw, engage each other in delicate, wary ballets. In shallow water, pistol prawns pop to indicate how they got their name. Mud lobsters throw up mounds above their burrows between the tree roots. On the trunks of the trees a variety of snails cling, and mudskippers, fish with protruding eyes



and bulging cheeks, rest briefly amongst them after skittering across the water surface. Overhead, kites soar as they look for titbits along the shore, though their calls may be drowned out by the whine of a hundred mosquitos. If that is too daunting, then a trip to the mountains provides a refreshing alternative. In the cool green environment it is easy to find birds, flowers and butterflies. Mosquitos are few, and even the ubiquitous leeches seldom venture so high. Fraser's Hill and Kinabalu Park are two of only three known sites in the world where the Trig Oak grows, a tree halfway between the oaks of the northern hemisphere and the beeches of the south.

## FROM THE LAKES TO THE SEAS

**T**he one environment which is almost lacking in Malaysia is the freshwater lake. There are examples; at Lake Bera (Tasik Bera) and Lake Chini (Tasik Chini) in Peninsular Malaysia, at Loagan Bunut in the Fourth Division of Sarawak, and amongst the oxbow lakes of the larger Sarawak and Sabah rivers. But they are rare, they lack the spectacular wildlife which one might hope for, and they are under pressure from development. For this reason Loagan Bunut has recently been created a national park, and perhaps in time other lakes will be protected similarly. Two lesser lakes which merit a mention, both on Langkawi island, are Lake Dayang Bunting and Lake Langgun. Lake Dayang Bunting means Lake of the Pregnant Maiden and according to legend it got its name when a woman who had been childless for years became pregnant after drinking its water. There are also massive artificial lakes created by the building of dams and over time, these have merged with the natural environment and have their own attractions. The Kenyir lake in Terengganu, for instance, has hundreds of islands which were formerly summits of hills and is a haven for fishing enthusiasts. Then there is the spectacular Batang Ai lake in Sarawak bordering the Batang Ai National Park which is being developed for recreational and tourism activities. Malaysia's seas constitute a veritable marine haven and have provided the bounty for its many fisherfolk. In bountiful waters, anemones and sea slugs, turtles and sting rays move languidly in their beautiful glassy world. Rantau Abang in Terengganu is world renowned for being the nesting place of the giant leatherback turtle. The country's offshore islands are where some of the best reefs in the world can be found. This kaleidoscopic heritage, like many natural spots, are under threat but the Malaysian authorities realize their importance and are taking positive steps to maintain them, such as gazetting a number of them as marine parks. As the underwater shots of this book indicate, there are enough pristine stretches left to draw scuba divers from around the world for a glimpse of the breathtaking corals off the peninsula's shores, or around Sabah and Sarawak. On the west of the peninsula, islands such as Paya, Kaca and Segantang still beckon those who seek an underwater adventure. To the east, Redang, Tioman, Kapas and Perhentian are some of the islands that can match any spectacular island in the world. The waters off Borneo are no less spectacular. Sipadan off Sabah, for instance, Malaysia's only oceanic island, is the ultimate haunt for divers. With all these natural treasures, the greatest natural blessing for Malaysia is its clement weather. Unlike other countries in the region, there are no typhoons or volcanic eruptions to threaten this tropical paradise. This land, so Nature decrees, will remain home to a seemingly infinite number of creatures, a rich biodiversity which must be preserved — lest man, the final link in the chain of life, ceases to walk this earth.



## A WONDERFUL MELTING POT OF PEOPLE AND CULTURES

**E**ons ago, Nature's bounty made Malaysia one of the earliest homes to man. Proof of this has been excavated from sites like Lenggong in Perak and Sarawak's Niah Caves, the latter throwing up archaeological evidence of human activity dating back at least 40,000 years. Among present day inhabitants, the Orang Asli of the peninsula, the Penans of Sarawak and the Rungus of Sabah have the longest history and are direct descendants of those who walked this land 5,000 years ago. Some still roam the heart of the rainforests to this day. Malaysia today is home to a wonderful variety of indigenous people. In the peninsula, the Orang Asli groups include the Negritos, the Senoi and the Proto-Malays. In Sabah and Sarawak, the Kadazans and the Ibans form the majority respectively. The Malays, from which this country is named, are the biggest group of indigenous people, and are aptly called Bumiputeras, or Sons of the Soil. The first Malay settlers, it is believed, established themselves in this country some 3,000 years ago. Latter day Malays were to come from across the seas within the region. They were all indigenous to the region, linked as they were by a common language and the religion of Islam. The strategic location of the country also led many people from far away lands to its shores, drawn by reasons ranging from almost limitless economic opportunities to a thirst for power. Sea-farers from China and India came and went. They traded in great numbers in Malacca, which in the 15th Century was at its peak of influence. Under the Sultanate then, Malacca became the greatest trading centre in Southeast Asia. While most of the travellers just passed through, some stayed. The Baba Nyonya community, for instance, can trace its ancestry to cross-cultural assimilation and inter-marriage between the Chinese and Malays of 16th Century Malacca. Finally came the powers from the West. The first colonialists arrived in 1511, when Malacca fell to the Portuguese led by Alfonso d'Albuquerque. They drove the Sultan out and opened up trade with the West for the first time. In 1641, the Dutch ousted the Portuguese, then a power in decline. Britain gained a foothold in 1786 when the Sultan of Kedah allowed Captain Francis Light to take possession of Penang Island in return for protection, which was never given. In 1824, the Anglo-Dutch Treaty saw the Dutch move out of Malacca, giving the British free rein over the Malay peninsula. British control was interrupted by the pounding of guns in the Second World War. This led on to the Japanese Occupation from 1942 to 1945. After Japan's

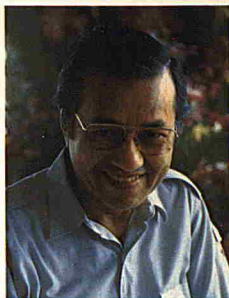


surrender, Britain resumed its rule. Malaysia's independence dawned on August 31, 1957. Six years later, on September 16, 1963, Malaysia — enlarged to include Sabah and Sarawak in Borneo, and Singapore — was born. Two years later, Singapore withdrew from the federation and proclaimed itself a republic. The colonialists were to leave many impressions on the land — architecture, languages, systems. But the British, although latecomers, left the most lasting consequences. They encouraged large-scale immigration of the Chinese to work the tin mines, while droves of Tamil Indians were brought in as rubber estate labourers. This was the beginning of present day multi-racial Malaysia, a melting pot of myriad races and cultures. In this country of 17.5 million people, the 1991 Census lists no less than 64 distinct ethnic groups.

## A SHARED DESTINY



he history of Malaysia is truly a fascinating tapestry of events and influences. But Malaysians today probably have only hazy notions of their ancestry. They are, in many ways, a distinct people with a common destiny — one shaped by countless lessons of living in harmony. The lessons were not easy ones; indeed, at times they were decidedly painful. Racial integration hopped, skipped and jumped along, only to take a big step backwards in the ethnic riots of 1969. But since then a far sturdier understanding has evolved. Malaysians today have reason to be proud of their country. This land of opportunity, its social fabric ever stronger, rests on a bedrock of political and economic stability. Malaysia, like the rest of the world, was affected by the global recession of the early 1980s but recovered splendidly. It bounced back in the mid-1980s, and has since been forging ahead with high growth, low inflation and practically full employment. The country also boasts an enviable standard of living and quality of life. Along with economic progress, Malaysia gained confidence in the international arena. In politics, social development and international relations, the country has become a voice that matters. Thus, it is no idle boast that Malaysia aspires to join the ranks of the developed nations by the year 2020. First enunciated by Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on February 28, 1991, Vision 2020 has served to move the populace forward together. 'Hopefully, the Malaysian who is born today and in the years to come will be the last generation of our citizens who will be living in a country that is called developing,' Dr Mahathir declared. 'The ultimate objective that we must aim for is a Malaysia that is fully developed by the year 2020.'

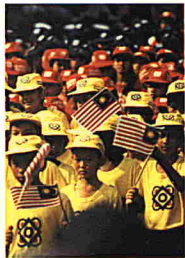


Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad

## MARCHING INTO TOMORROW

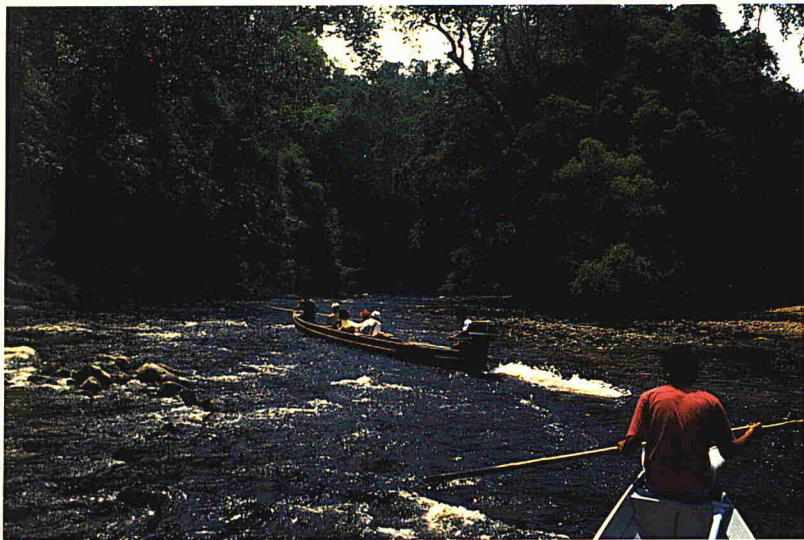


hat will Malaysia be like in 2020? Some soothsayers, gazing into cloudy crystal balls, express concern that it will eventually become a carbon copy of today's developed nations, creating a similar legacy of natural blunders for future generations. To be sure, there are times when the country does seem to be going that way, when long-term rewards are sacrificed for short-term gains. But the positive trends of the present should see Malaysians facing a brighter future together. Malaysia is a nation that refuses to be squeezed into a preconceived mould — just



as Nature trips along to the rhythm of its own drum. It is a country with a soul, often ruled with the heart rather than with the head. This respect for the human spirit, more than anything else, will drive the nation toward its goal. How will Nature, so resplendently displayed in this book, react to Vision 2020? Once upon a time, it seemed that progress had to be at the expense of the environment. No longer. Environmental concerns go alongside development plans. Malaysians can reach skyward for the stars, and still enjoy Nature's grandeur here on earth. The pictures in this book present a good cross-section of Malaysia's natural heritage as well as the lifestyle of its people. These images should be savoured not with a sense of nostalgia but rather one of hope — a hope that seeks to ensure Malaysia remains as beautiful as it is now.





#### TAMAN NEGARA - PAHANG

Across the rapids of Tembeling River, gateway into the heart of the world's oldest rainforest, the adventure begins. Dinosaurs once stalked this land. The National Park of Taman Negara is the world's oldest surviving rainforest and has remained basically unchanged for over 150 million years.

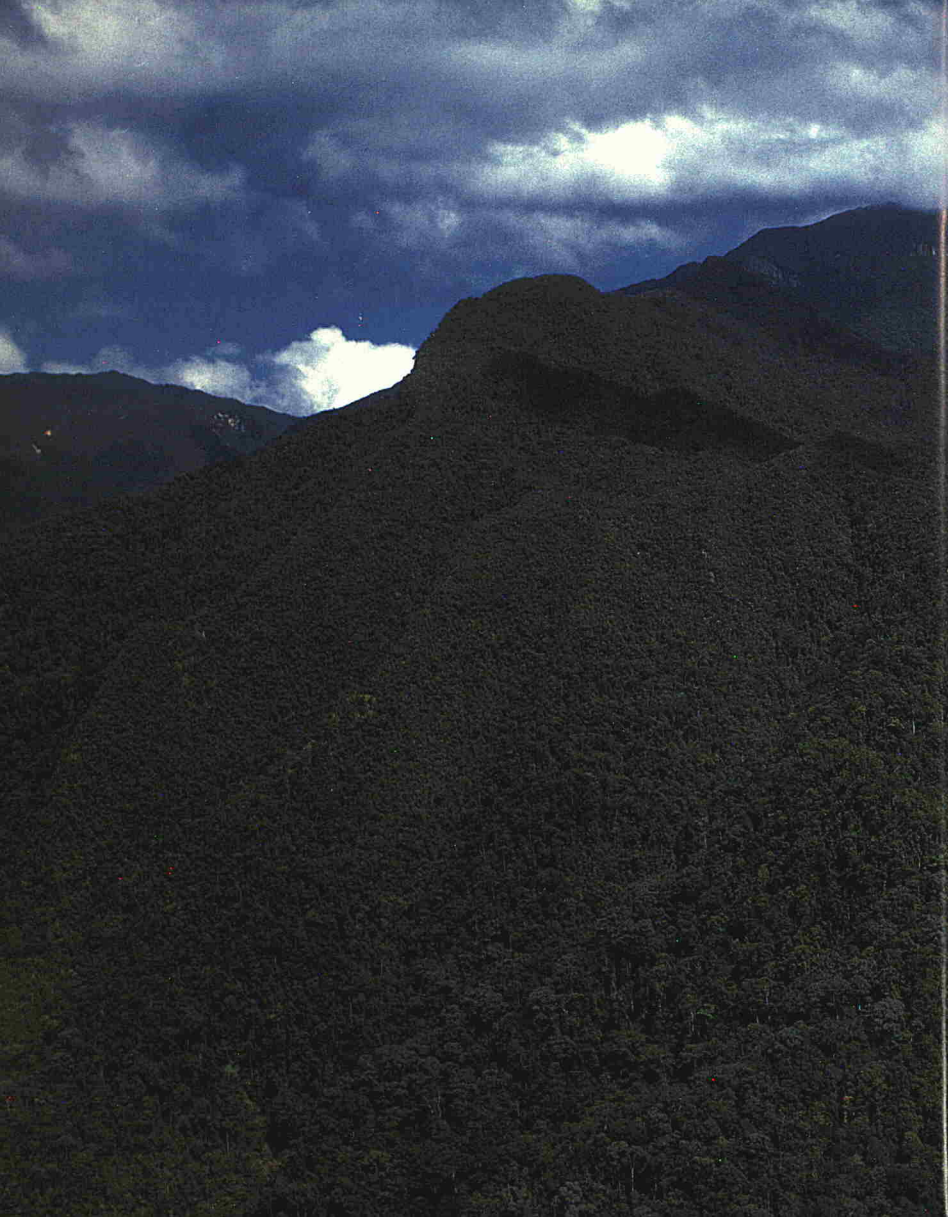
ABOVE AND RIGHT

#### MT TAHAN-PAHANG

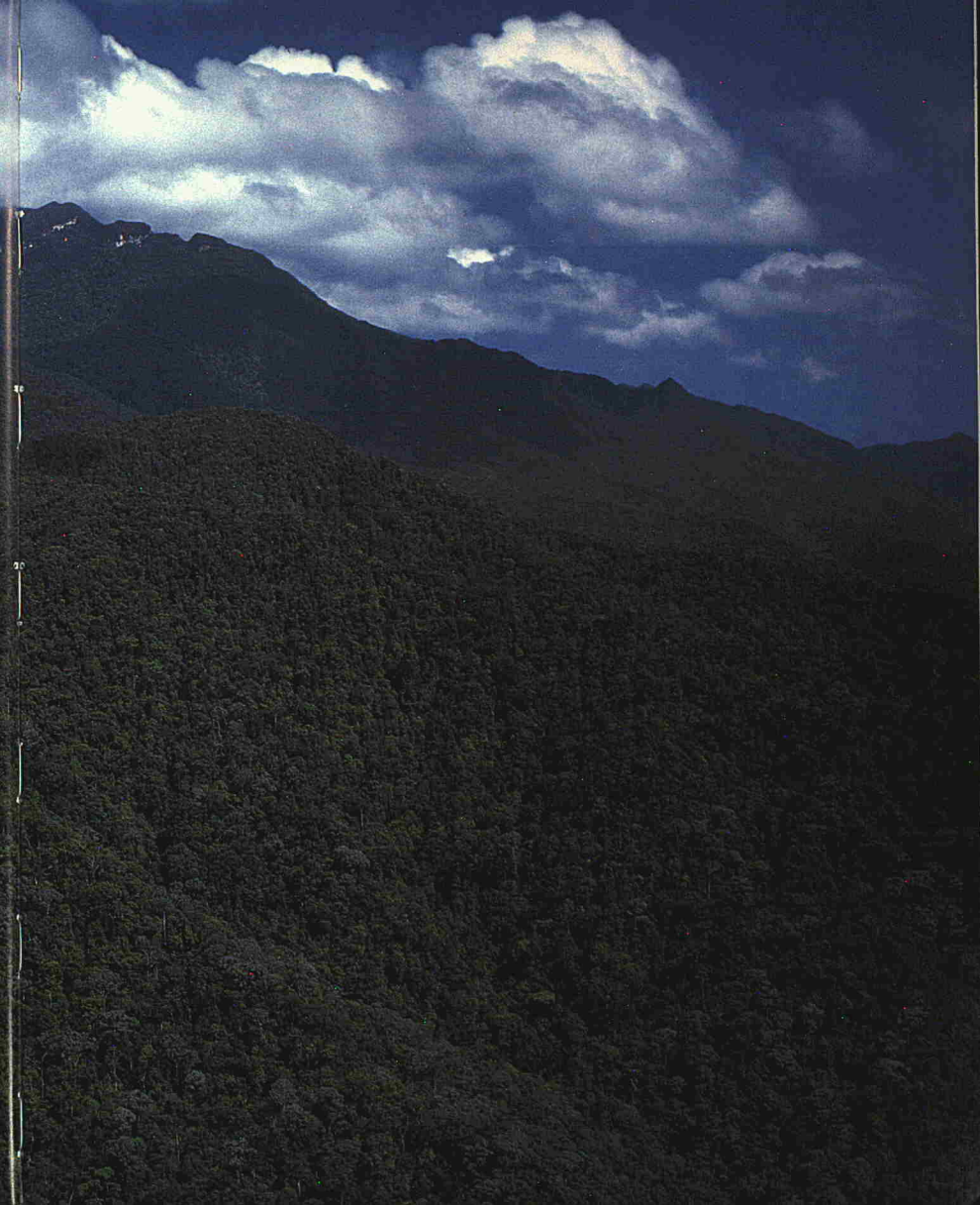
The lofty Main Range of Peninsular Malaysia. The peak of Mt. Tahan stands at 2,187 metres and is surrounded by low altitude primary jungle. A return journey from Kuala Tahan, through the jungle takes about 9 days.

OVERLEAF



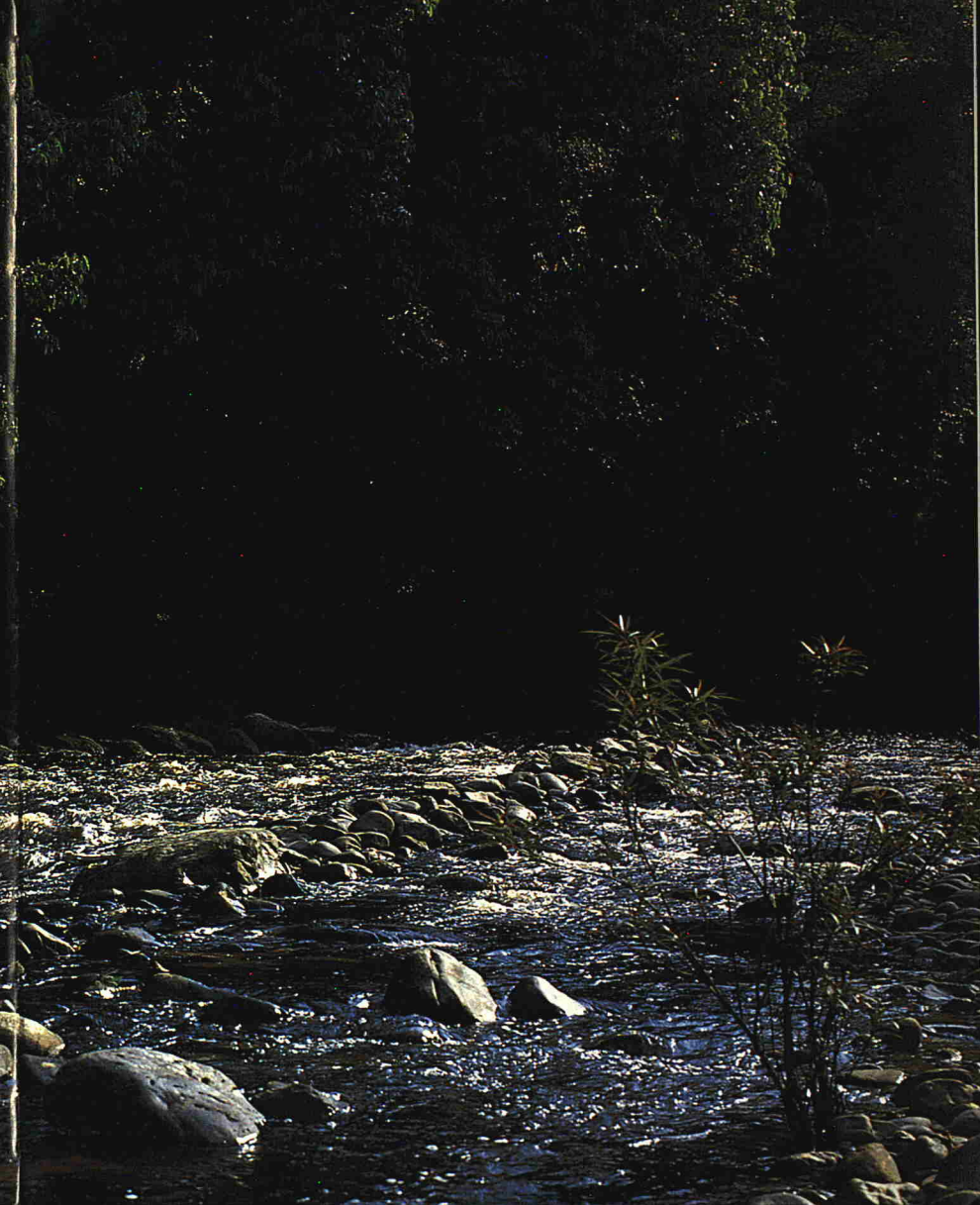


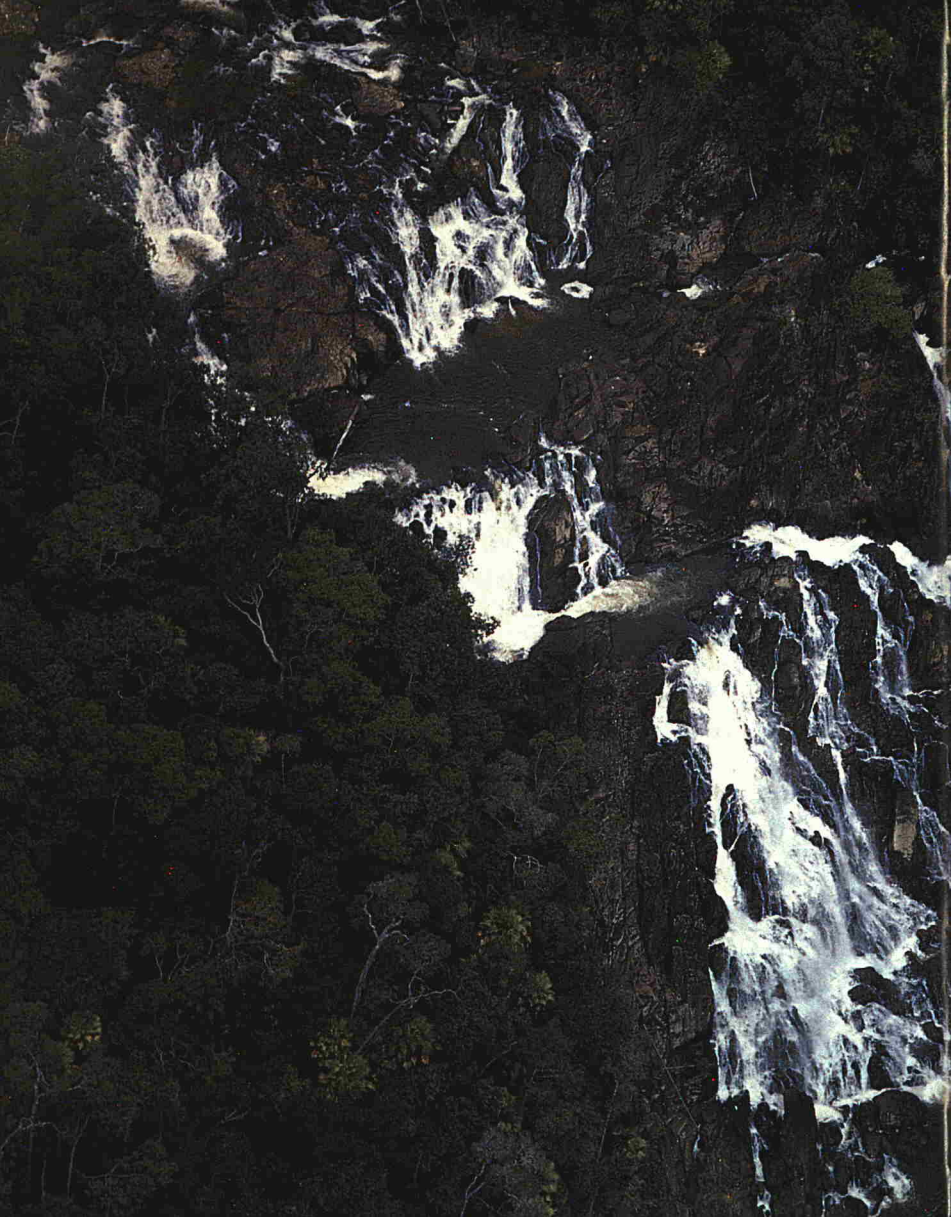














#### **BUAYA SANGKUT WATERFALL – JOHOR**

Of all the wonders of the Endau-Rompin Reserve, the Buaya Sangkut Waterfall is the most wondrous. Deservedly, it is considered the most impressive waterfall in the country. Measuring 40 metres wide and about the same in height, its expansive cascade is substantial in roar and volume. It flows into the Jasin River before joining the water of Endau. Much of the Endau-Rompin is still unexplored but a trip upriver yields many interesting sights, rare plant species, giant umbrella palm – *Livistona Endauensis* and ferns. Upeh Guling, a smaller but impressive waterfall is found east of Buaya Sangkut.

LEFT

#### **TAHAN RIVER – PAHANG**

Pristine waters of the Tahan River. This river in Taman Negara meanders through thick jungles with several rapids along its way. A journey upstream from Kuala Tahan, site of the Park's Headquarters leads to Berkoh Falls, a waterfall with many beautiful cascades and surrounded by green foliage.

PRECEDING PAGES





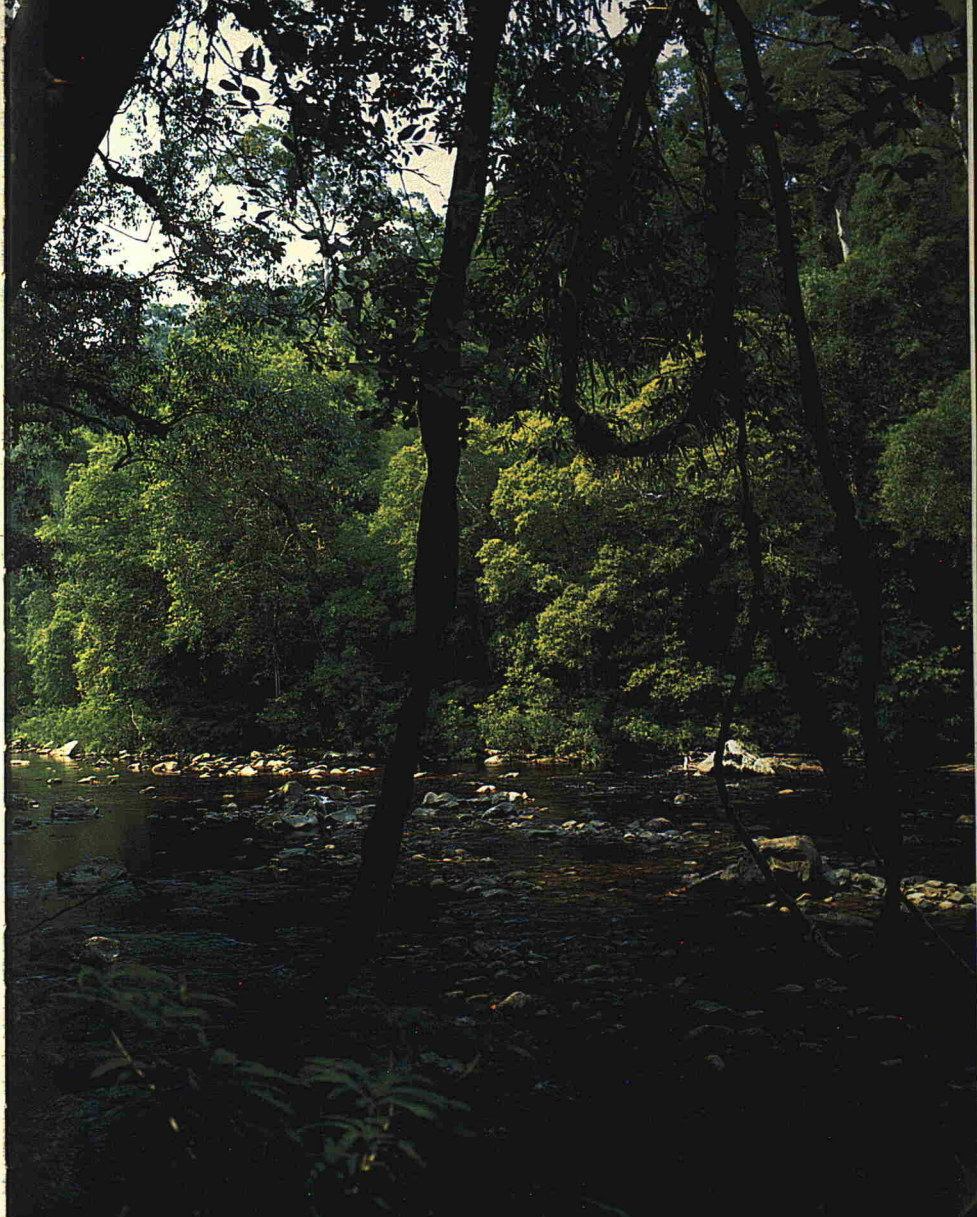
#### ENDAU ROMPIN – JOHOR

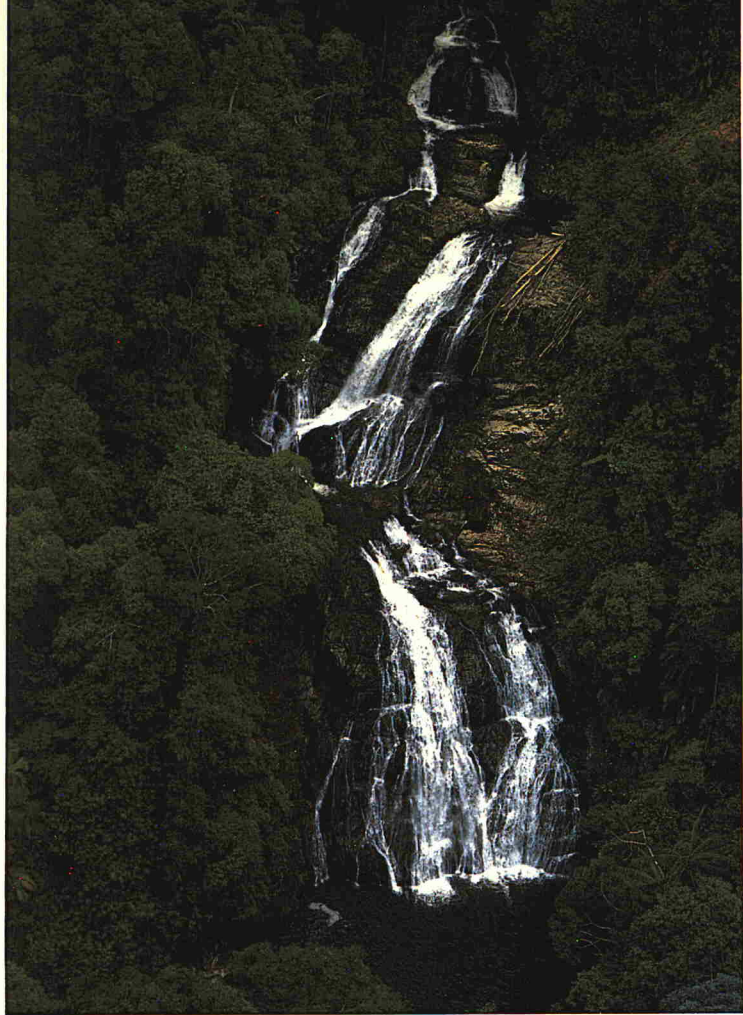
The Kinchin River is remarkable for the colour of its water which at parts is as brown as Chinese herbal tea. This river joins the Upper Endau River at Kuata Kinchin to form the larger Endau River, the main waterway in the reserve.

#### TAHAN RIVER – PAHANG

Vines and creepers overhanging from the trees form a dramatic silhouette against the green foliage of the jungle. This is during the dry season but the shallow waters of Tahan can rise substantially during the heavy rain fall period of November to January.

RIGHT





#### THE GREAT FALL – JOHOR

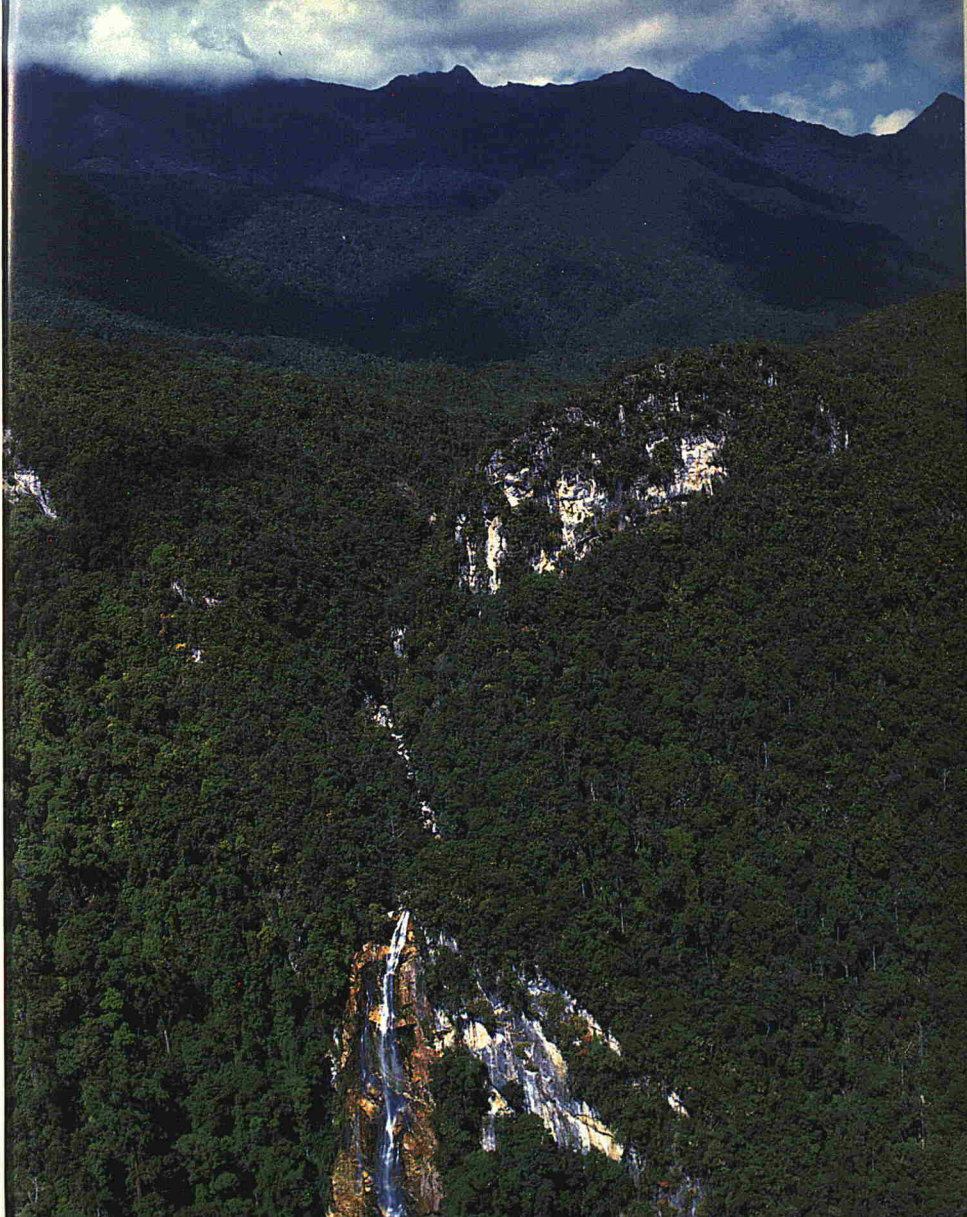
Nestled in the midst of the Endau-Rompin Forest Reserve, the Great Fall cascades from a height of 150 metres. Not many attempts are made to get close to it because of the almost impenetrable terrain. Even the Jakuns, an indigenous tribe living in the area, shy away from it, believing it to be a sacred place.

#### TEKU RIVER – TAMAN NEGARA

This is where the Teku River has its source, high up on the Tahan Range, where the absence of humans in the area has kept it pristine and precious. The view of the waterfall at this rarely seen point is magnificent. So, too, is Mount Tahan towering over everything, like a monarch of the realm.

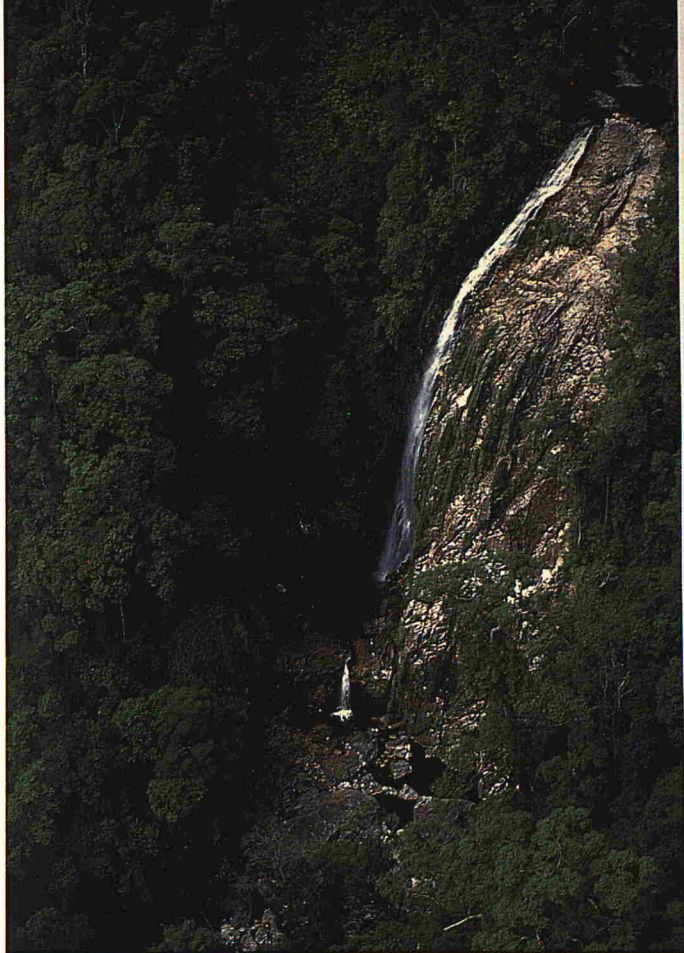
RIGHT











#### TAMAN NEGARA – PAHANG

This shot was taken at the end of the dry season. Otherwise the volume of water crashing down the perpendicular cliff would have made this waterfall in a rarely visited part of Taman Negara more spectacular. The fall is part of Tahan River, originating from Mount Tahan, the highest peak in Peninsular Malaysia at 2,187 metres. The surrounding rainforest is the oldest in the world, estimated to be at least 130 million years old. It is also the richest ecosystem on earth.

LEFT

#### WATERFALL – TAMAN NEGARA

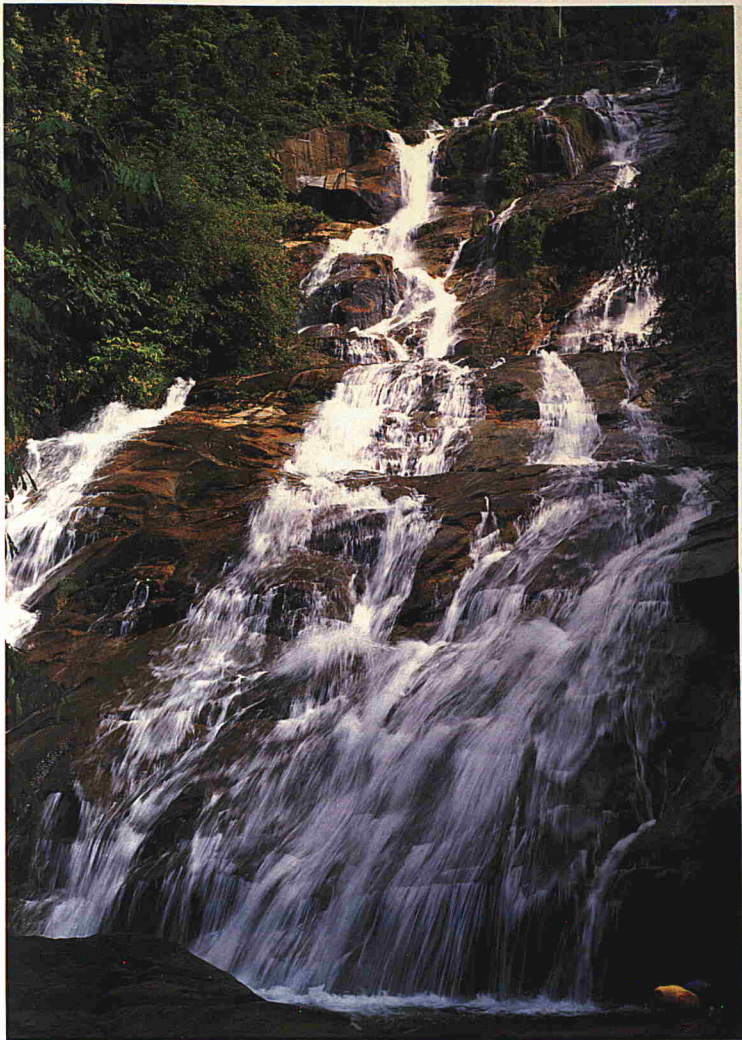
This waterfall along the Tahan River is like a giant slide. It is only one of the many splendours of Taman Negara, Malaysia's largest National Park which covers an area of 4,343 sq km. Other attractions are its diverse flora and fauna. There are at least 250 species of birds all over the park, and animals such as elephants, tigers, leopards, barking deer, and rhinoceroses can be spotted if you're extremely lucky.

ABOVE



**ISKANDAR WATERFALL – PERAK**

If you need to take a rest while driving along the winding 61-kilometre road between Tapah and Cameron Highlands, the most congenial spot would be the Iskandar Waterfall. There is nothing like kicking off your shoes and cooling your heels, literally, in its refreshing mountain water.



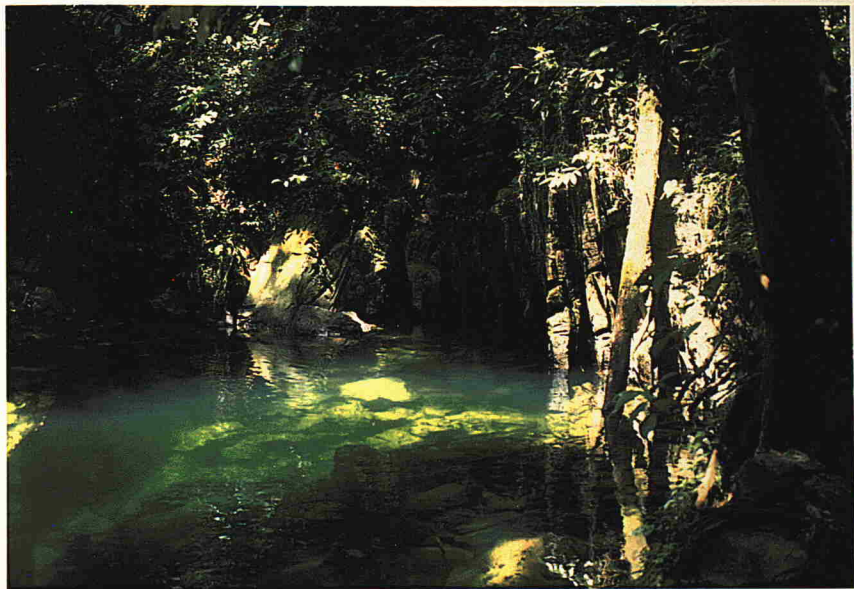
**KINJANG FALLS – CHENDERANG – PERAK**

Located only a kilometre from the North-South Highway, this waterfall can easily be seen from the road. The highway, which runs along the spine of Peninsular Malaysia, has not only made this region accessible but also brought modern facilities to the *orang asli* who live here.









#### TEMURUN FALLS – LANGKAWI ISLAND

A spectacular waterfall and rocks that are believed to be almost 400 million years old distinguish this spot located along the Datal Coast. It is part of the Datal Forest Reserve on the northwest of Langkawi where hills slope down into the sea, forming a rocky coastline.

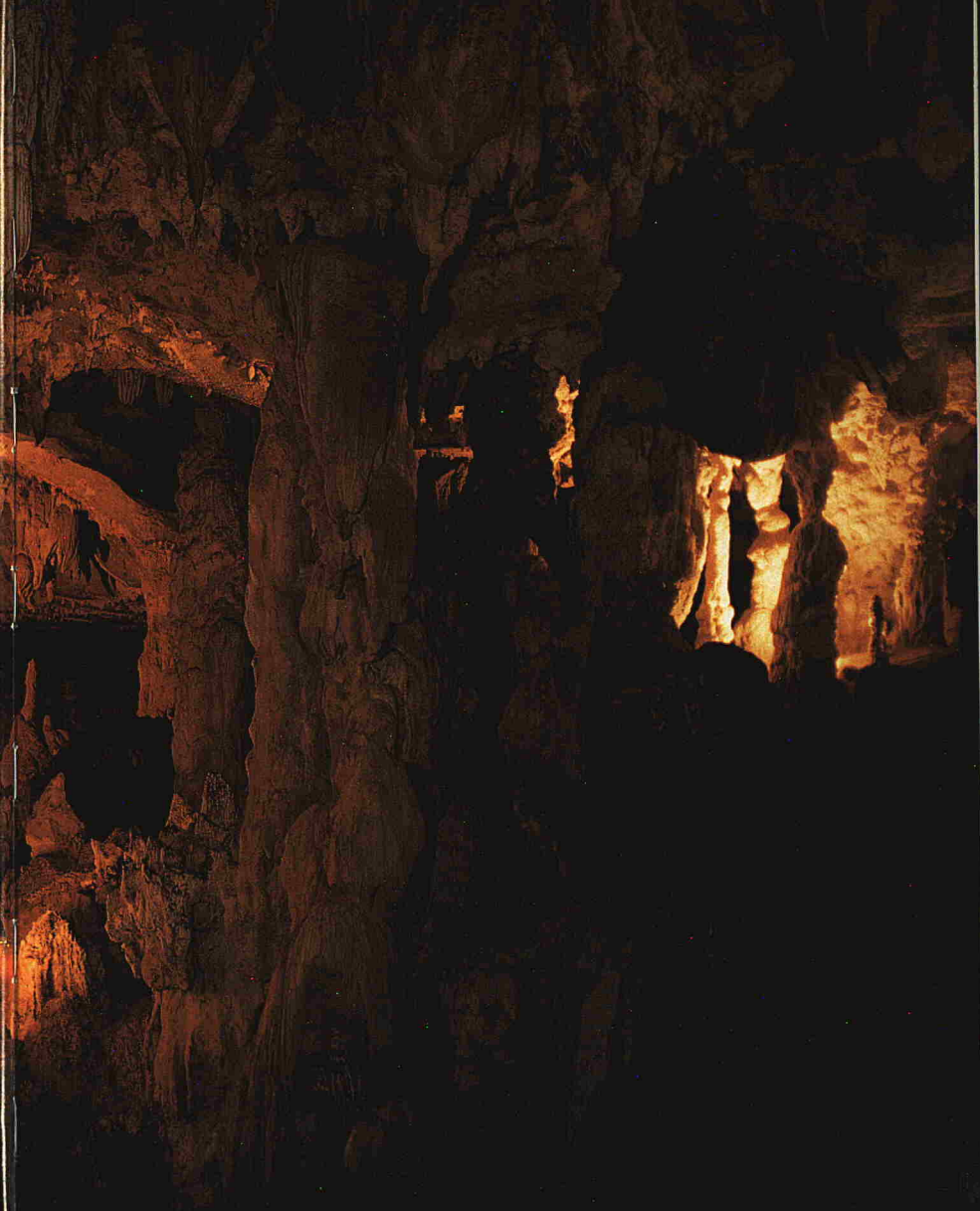
LEFT

#### CLEARWATER RIVER – MULU – SARAWAK

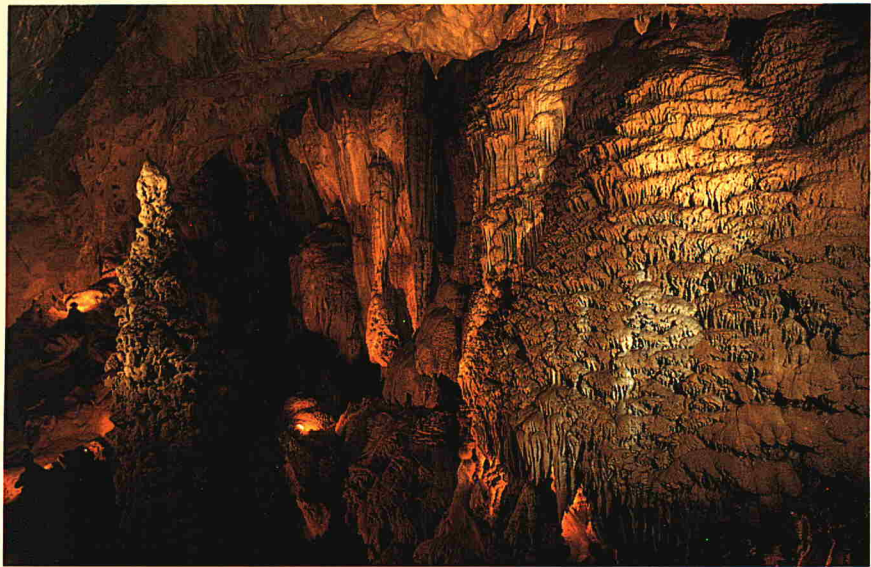
Clearwater River undoubtedly lives up to its name. Emerging from the mouth of this cave, its water is brilliant as emerald. It attains this clearness from having passed through the purifying layers of limestone of Mount Api and merging with subterranean brooks. This point in the photograph is where the water comes out of the underground for its first contact with the light of day.

ABOVE









#### KING'S CHAMBER – MULU – SARAWAK

With rock formations that are ruggedly regal and looking like the teeth of a gigantic dragon, this section of the bowel of Mount Api is nothing short of dramatic. But majestic as it is, it may be so only to a degree. Speleologists believe that only 5 per cent of the Mulu Caves has thus far been explored, which means there may be halls of greater majesty deep in the interior that are yet unknown to man. For now, the Sarawak Chamber, which measures 600 metres long, 450 metres wide, and 100 metres high, is considered the world's largest

underground cavity.  
PRECEDING PAGES

#### LANG'S CAVE – MULU – SARAWAK

This one is smaller than King's Chamber and somewhat different — its rock formations are more refined and subtler and multi-hued in appearance. To date, only 27 major (175 km long) and minor (12 km) caves of the Mulu

National Park have been discovered. The immense variety of their rock formations and the flora and fauna thriving within them make interesting study. Detached masses of exposed limestone, water-worn caverns and

natural tunnels are among the intriguing features.  
ABOVE

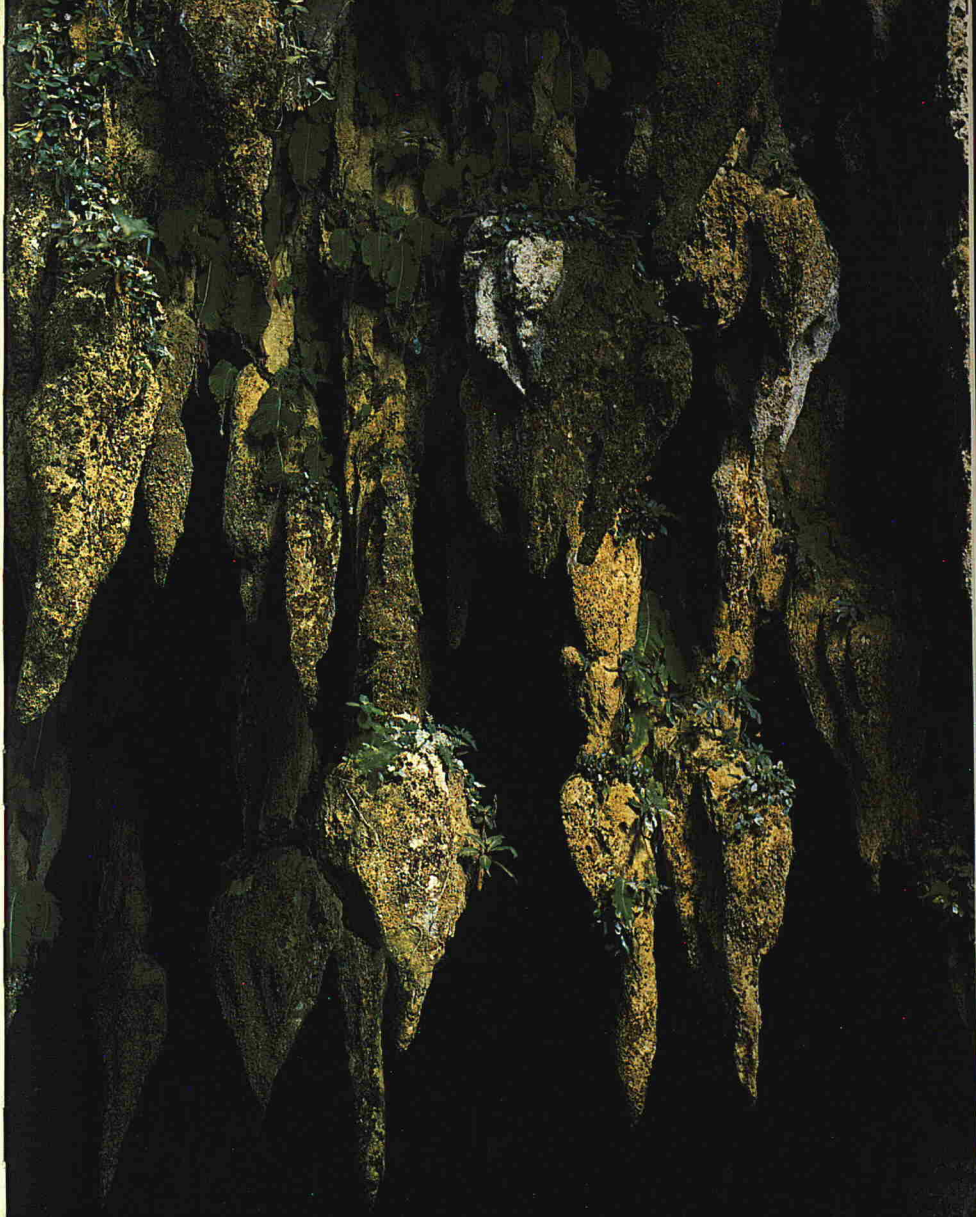
#### CLEARWATER CAVE – MULU – SARAWAK

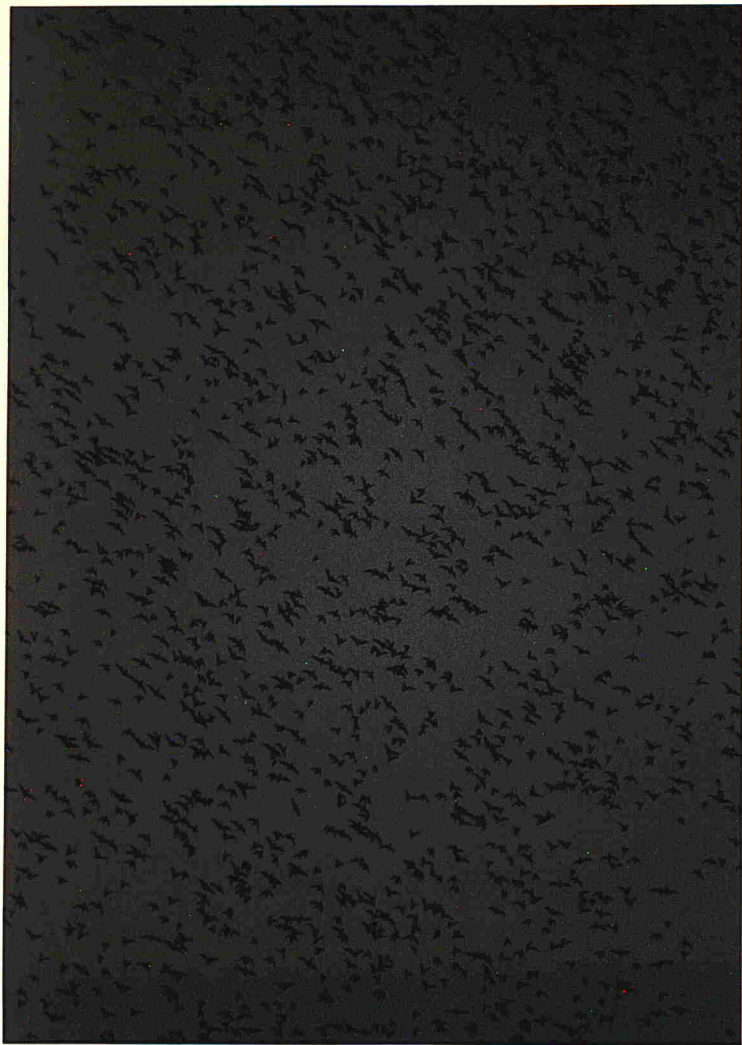
Clearwater Cave, part of the Mulu National Park, has the largest network of underground rivers in Southeast Asia. These stalactites at its entrance hang down like spear-shaped branches, which gives them an unusual appearance. What's also unique and eye-catching is the colony of *Monophyllaea Sp* sprouting on the columns — each plant of the species has only one leaf to it. The mysteries of nature abound in the Mulu Caves; much of the flora and fauna is still unclassified. Crabs with undeveloped eyes have been found deep inside some caves,

living beside subterranean rivers, their condition due to the fact that they never see daylight.

RIGHT









#### DEER CAVE - MULU - SARAWAK

No visit to the Mulu National Park would be complete without waiting till sunset to catch sight of swarm after swarm of bats emerging from Deer Cave and streaking off to some secret appointment. As if by some magical orchestration, each swarm appears about every 45 seconds. By the time the last batch has disappeared, at least 5 million bats would have gone out on their nocturnal excursion. Only at dawn will they return. Deer Cave is not only noted for this amazing spectacle; it is also reputed to be the world's largest cave passage.

LEFT

#### FAIRY CAVE - BAU - SARAWAK

Located in Bau, near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border, Fairy Cave has an entrance that is about 30 metres high. Steps cut out of the rock facilitate deeper exploration, which invariably yields interesting discoveries, like rare insects and plants. The one-leaf *Monophyllaea Sp* can also be found in abundance inside.

ABOVE

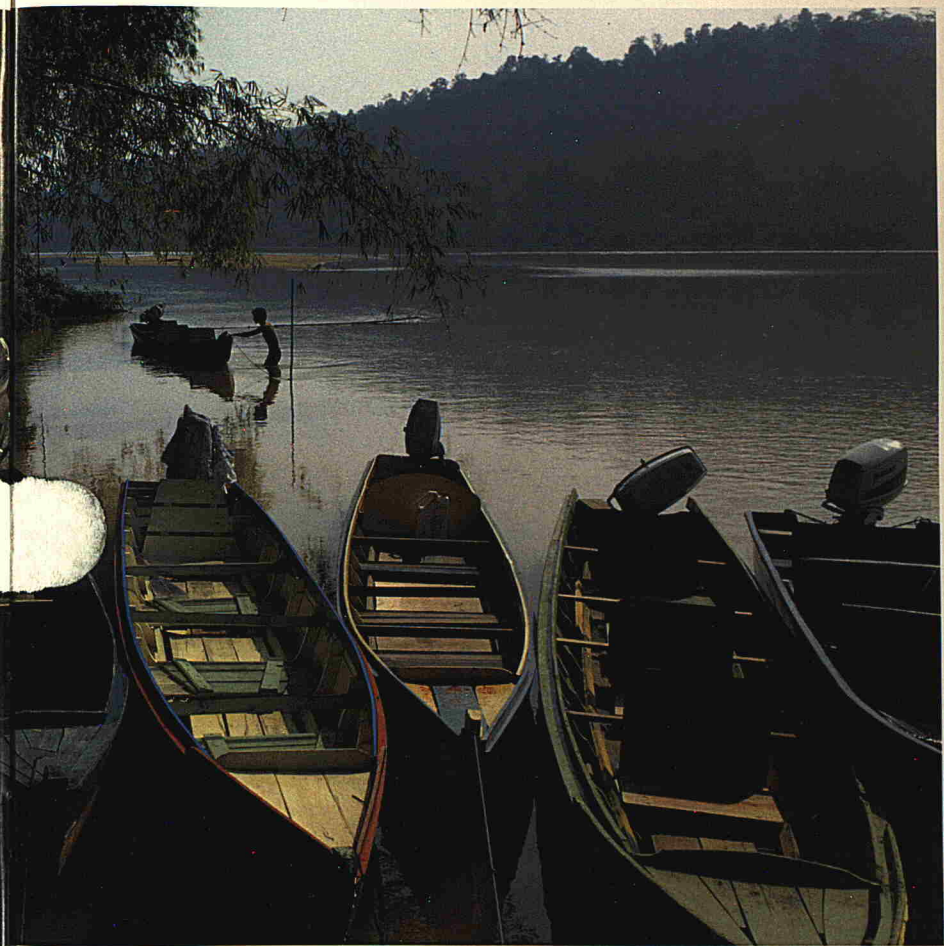
**PAHANG RIVER –  
PAHANG**

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Another day begins on the banks of Pahang River the longest river in Peninsular Malaysia. This jetty at Kampung Belimbing awaits the arrival of visitors for a cruise upstream to Lake Chini, a popular lake in the vicinity. Several villages are found along this mighty river. The Pahang River is about 435 km long and originates from Tahan Range, in the heart of the country.







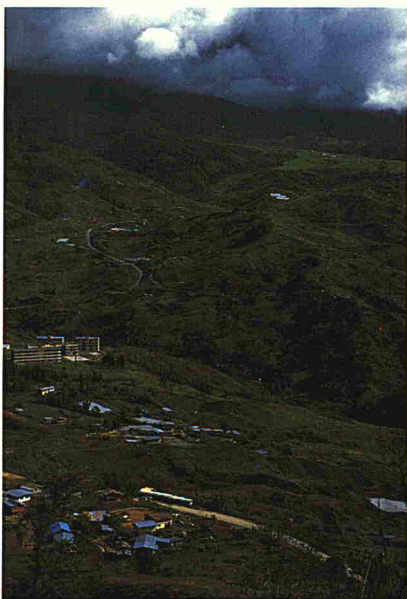


#### PITCHER PLANT – TAHAN PEAK – PAHANG

Thirsty after a long walk in Taman Negara? Need a drink?

Tempted to pluck a pitcher plant and gulp down its refreshing contents? Resist the temptation. This is a rare species called Macfarlane's Pitcher Plant and it grows only in the moss forest of mountain tops. So keep your hands in your pockets and just enjoy the sight.

ABOVE

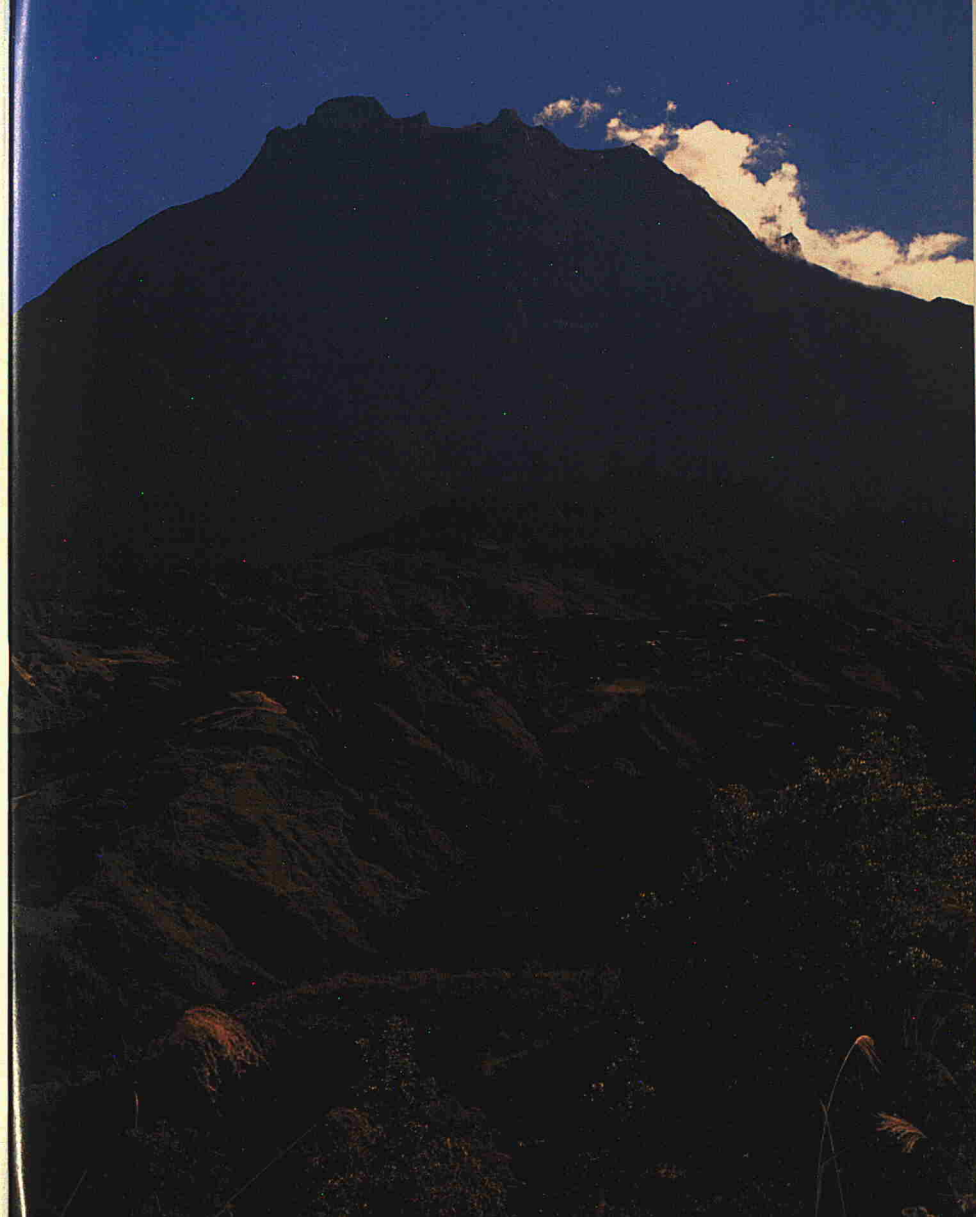


#### KUNDASANG VALLEY – SABAH

Kundasang in the Kinabalu Valley is for those who want to enjoy a close enough view of the mighty mountain without thinking of scaling it, or indulge in the other activities at Kinabalu Park like following graded trails or watching out for pitcher plants and Rafflesia, the world's largest flower.

Hotels and chalets provide ample accommodation for those want to stay over. On days when the clouds are thick and they sit on the brow of Kinabalu, the view from Kundasang can be quite dramatic.

ABOVE AND RIGHT







**MAXWELL HILL**  
— PERAK

A winding road up Maxwell Hill, the oldest hill station in the country. Nature has left a trail of blessings all along the way. You never know what's waiting at the turning of the road but the bend certainly brings in a view of the splendour of nature. Exuding peace and quiet, the restful greenery that surrounds this hill resort combined with the cool air have a therapeutic effect on visitors. On a clear day, one has a panoramic view of the coast and the fishing village of Kuala Sepetang (formerly called Port Weld) in Perak

LEFT AND RIGHT



**FRASER'S HILL**  
— PAHANG

This mountain resort is perched on a series of seven hills. Fraser's Hill offers some breathtaking views of the surrounding hilly landscapes. A narrow single lane road weaves its way through the dense tropical jungle. The summit of this hill resort stands at 1,524 meters. Found here are English-style cottages, elegant colonial stone and bricks bungalows, hotels and a public golf course. Bird life is prolific along the forest trails. The cool invigorating climate and leisurely paced atmosphere here is a perfect place for a quiet holiday.

RIGHT

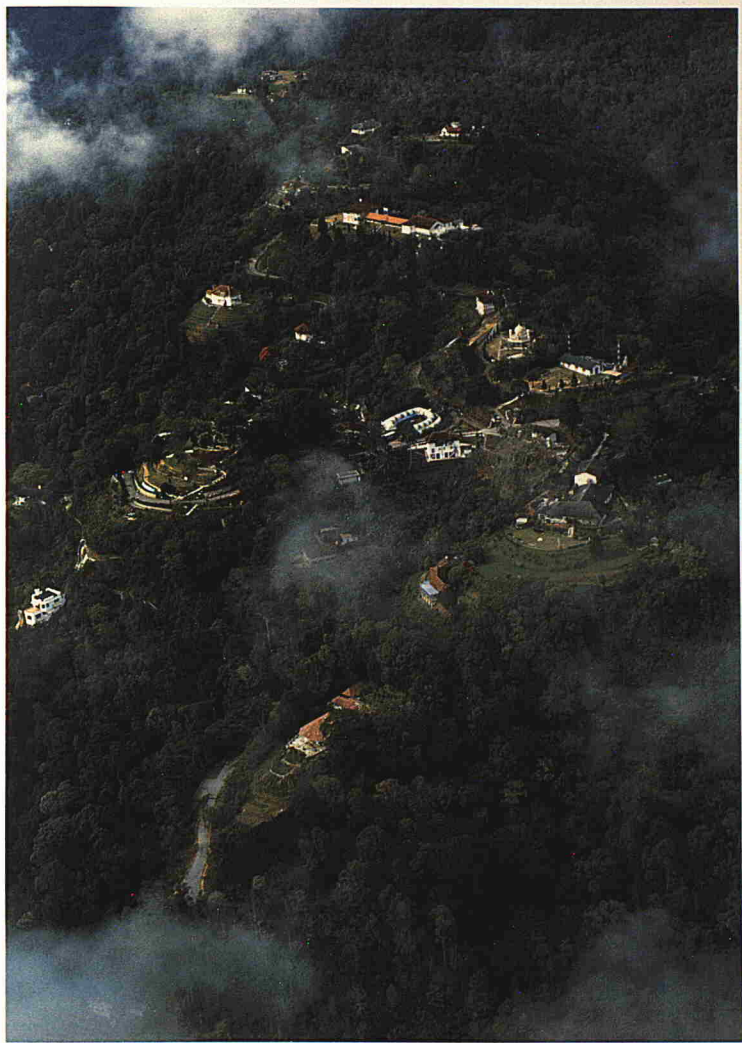


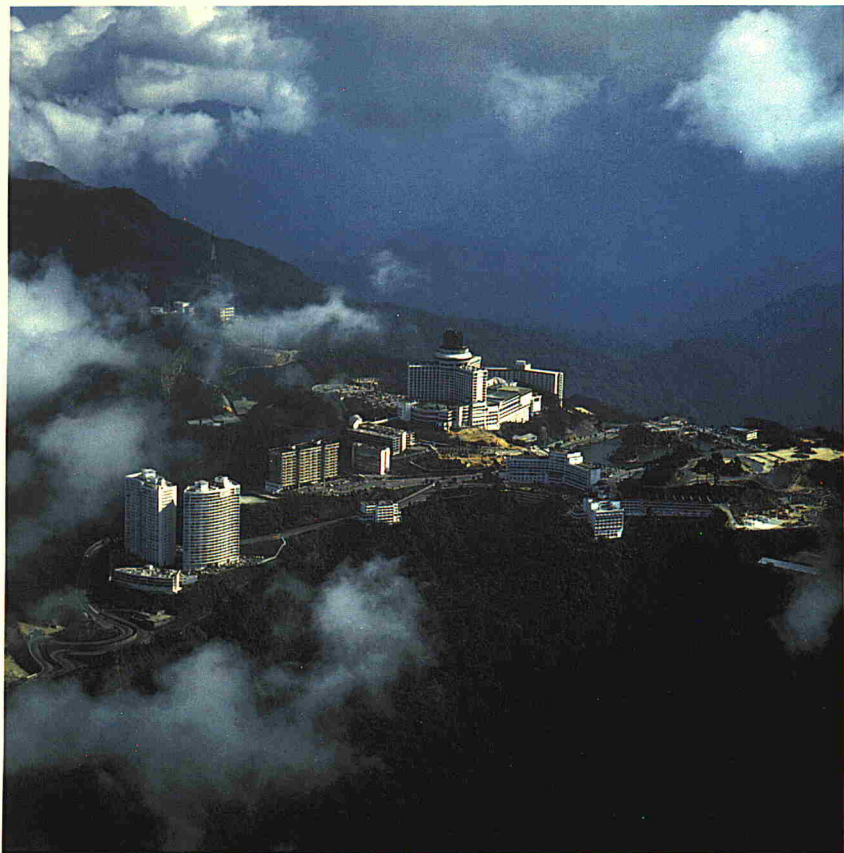


**PENANG HILL – PENANG**

The Craig Hotel perched on a ridge of Penang Hill offers a commanding view of the North Channel separating Penang Island from the mainland. The Jeral Peak in Kedah, rises majestically in the background. *(right)* Along the gradient of Penang Hill amidst lush tropical forest lies many holiday villas and colonial bungalows.

ABOVE





#### GENTING HIGHLANDS – PAHANG

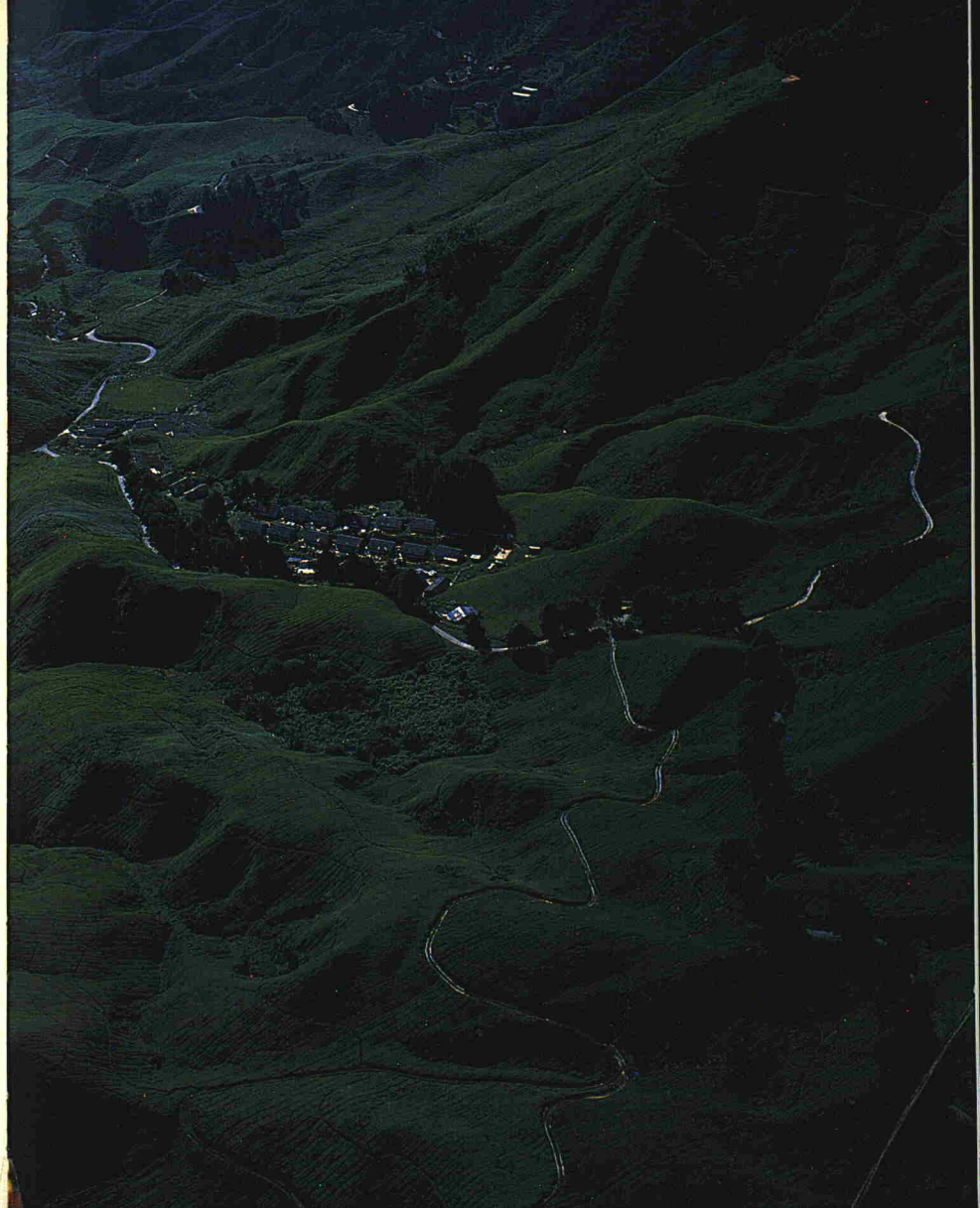
The search for a fast fortune often "ends up" at the casino of this mega hill resort. The cool atmosphere here is a perfect retreat for visitors and inspiration for others.

#### CAMERON HIGHLANDS – PAHANG

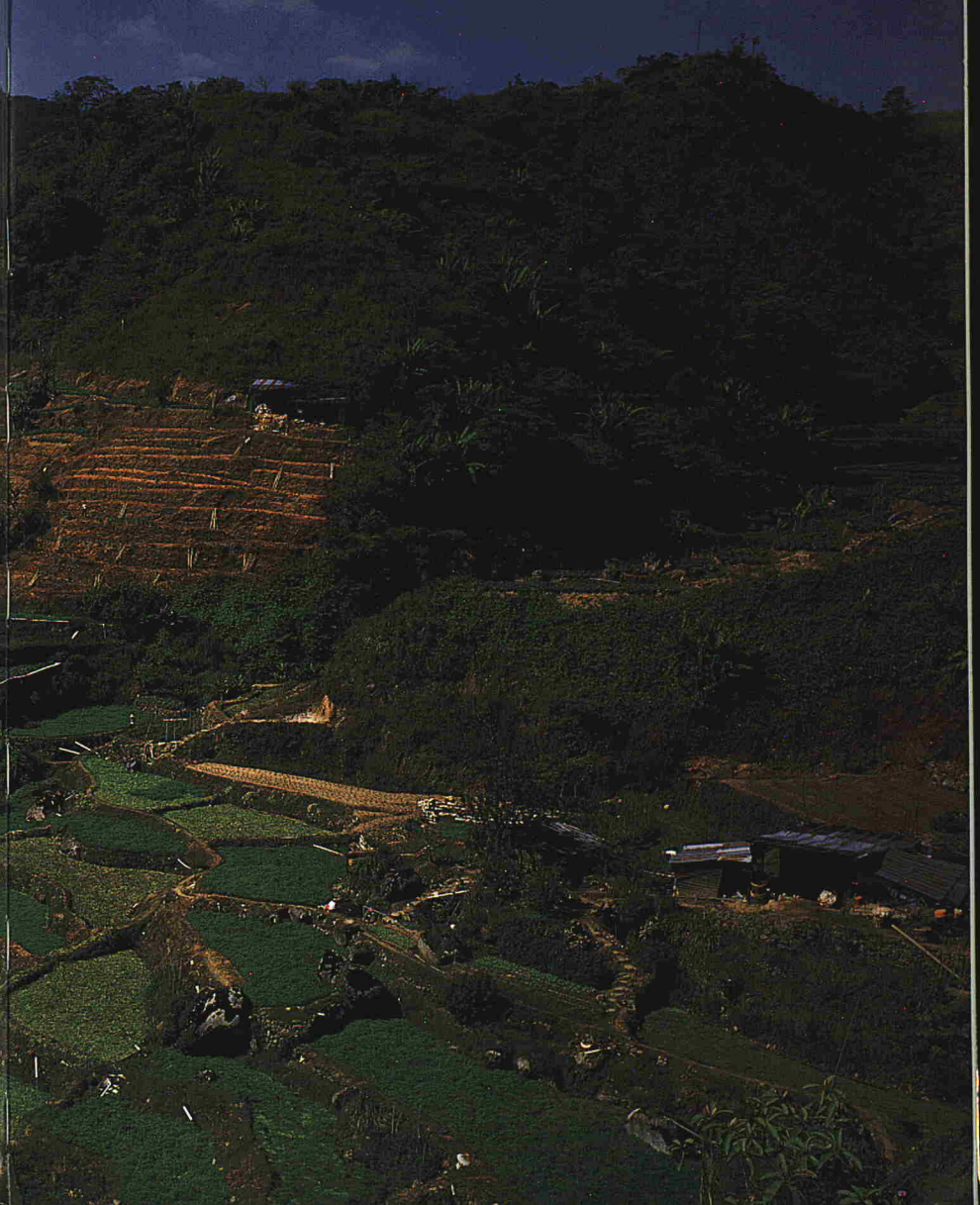
Boh Estate was carved out of virgin jungle, and all roads, felling and planting on the hilly slopes had to be done by labour with only the assistance of mules. The ideal climatic conditions for tea growing in this region have produced teas of exceptional quality.

RIGHT







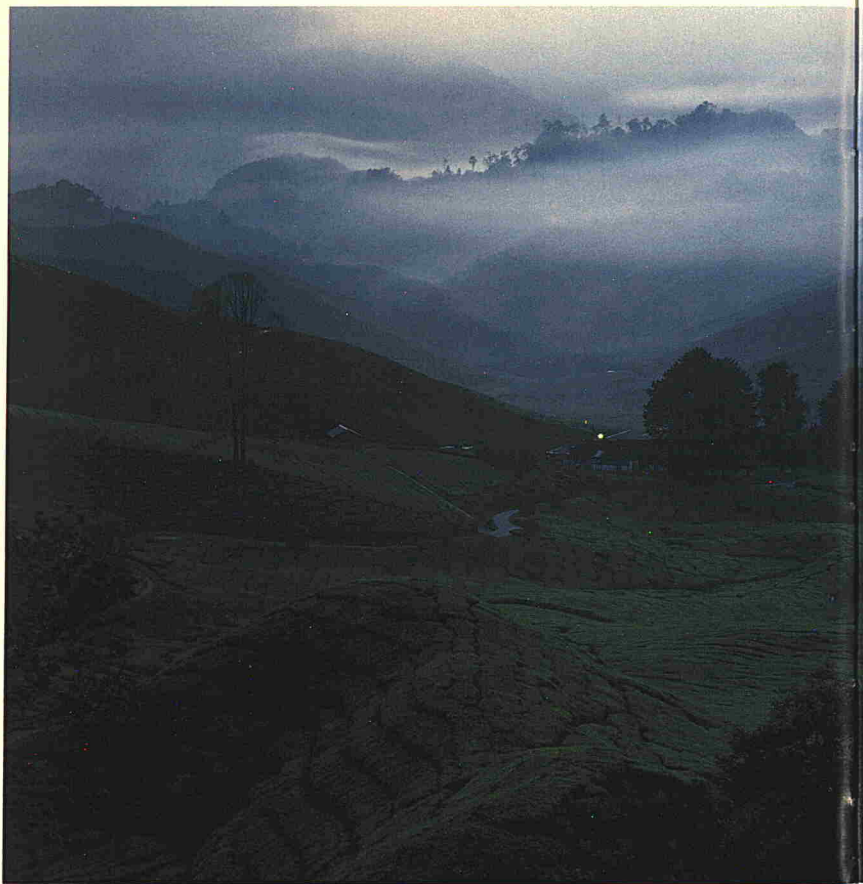










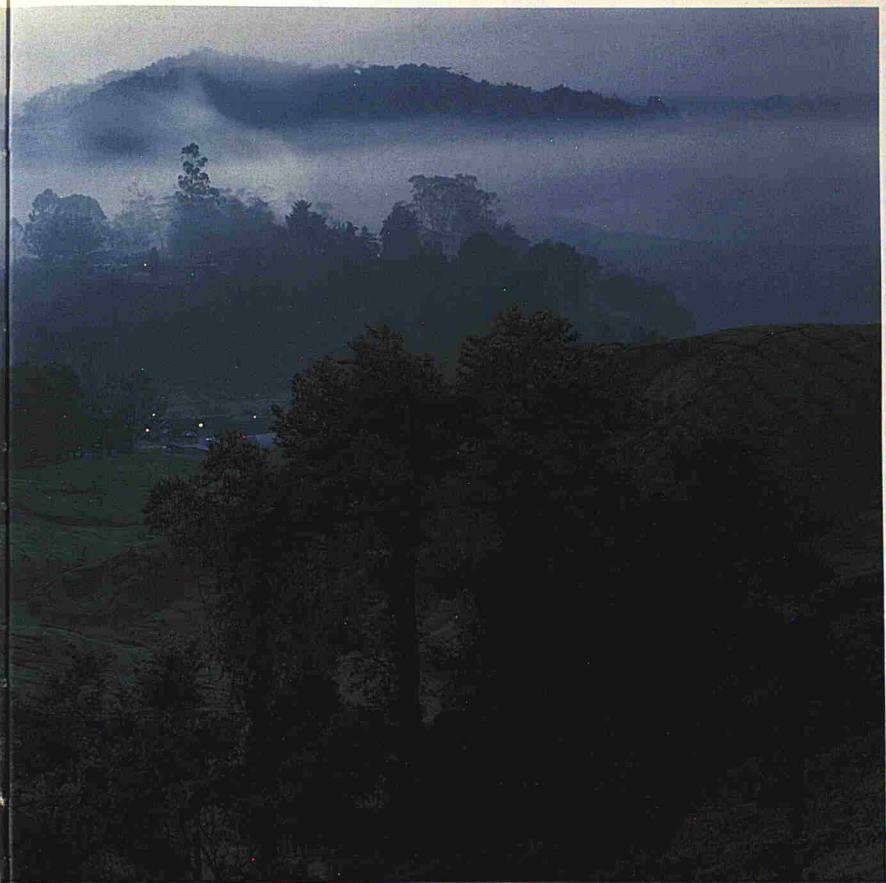


**CAMERON HIGHLANDS – PAHANG**

Lush farmlands in the form of terrace cultivation reach to the edge of valleys in this fertile region of the highlands. Vegetables of many types are cultivated by members of families who also own these farms. Gunung Brinchang at 2,032 metres is the highest peak in the Cameron Highlands.  
PRECEDING PAGES

**CAMERON HIGHLANDS – PAHANG**

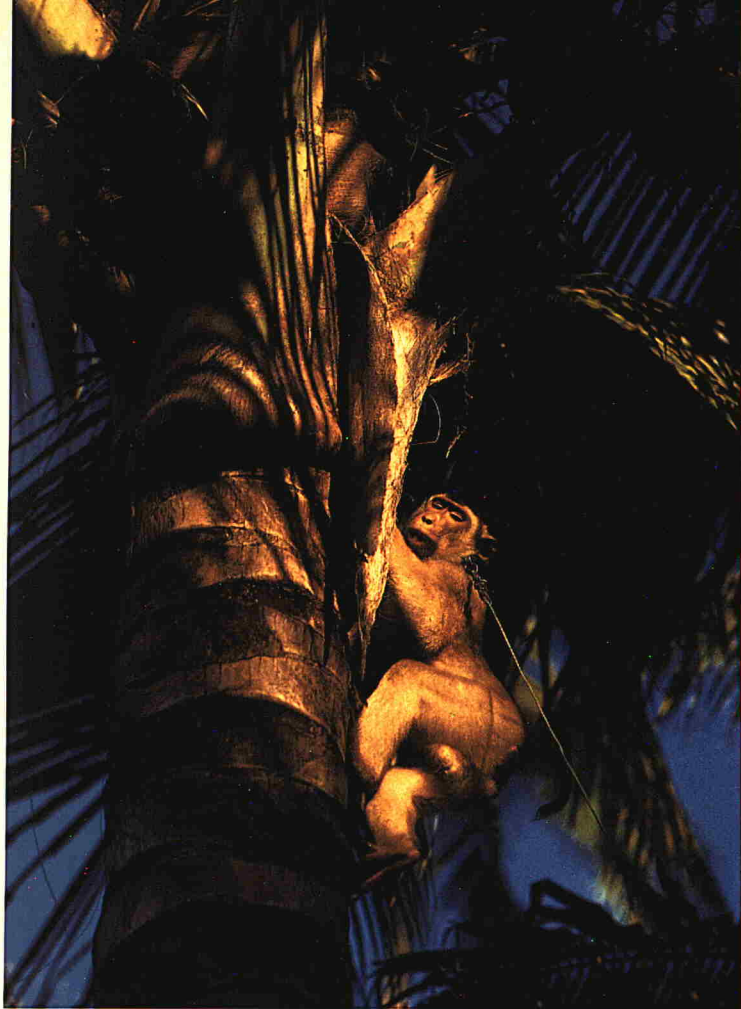
Flowering nurseries in Tringkap. The bloom blossoms in lovely tones of yellow, orange pink and red all year round and are constantly harvested to meet the heavy demand for festive seasons. Man plant and Mother Nature recreate up here in Cameron Highlands.  
PRECEDING PAGES



CAMERON HIGHLANDS – PAHANG

View of the most beautiful tea garden in the country, only lost to view when the clouds roll by. Sunrise over the mountains from this vantage point are often dramatic but the stars that shine above here on a cloudless night stand above all.

ABOVE



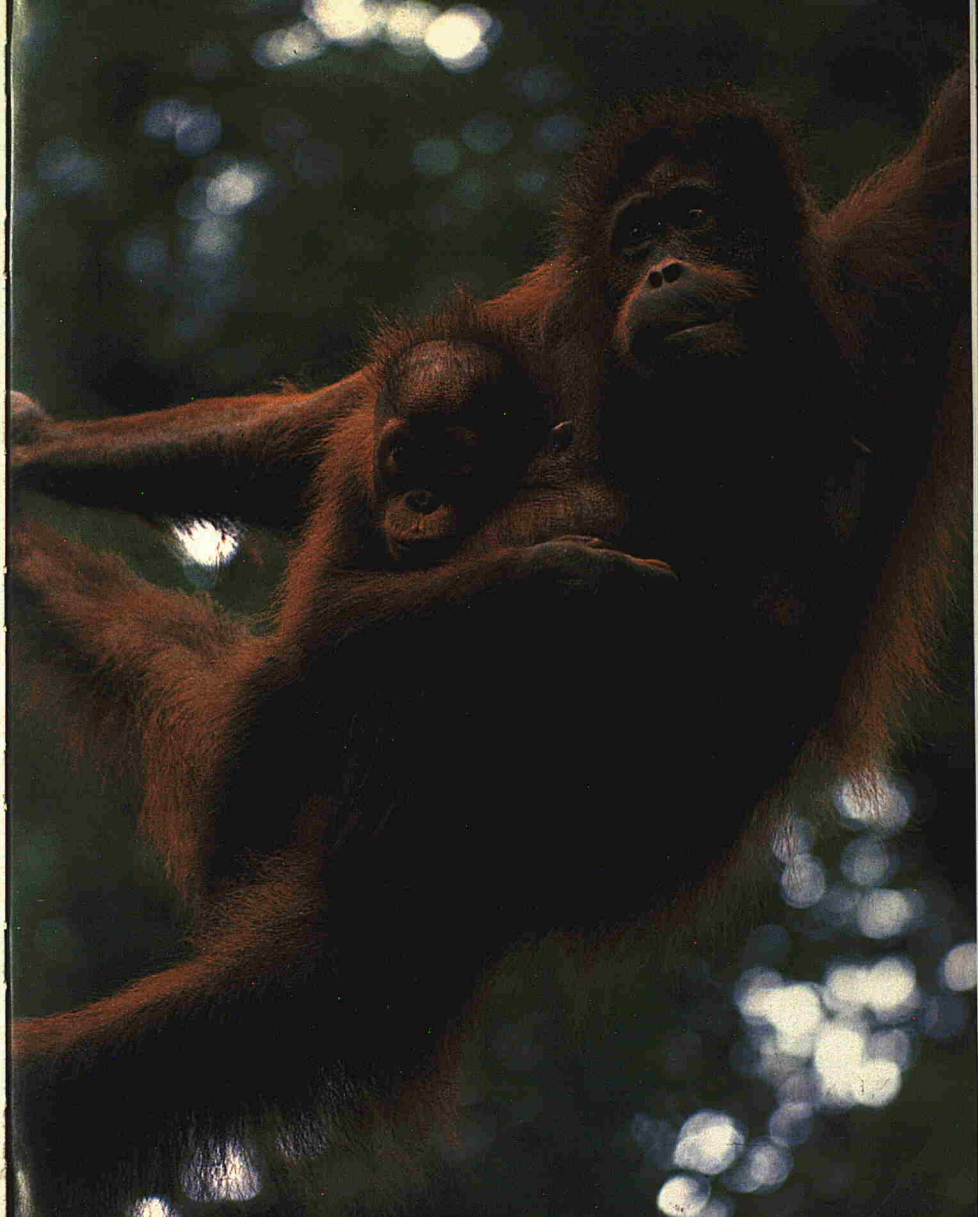
#### MALAYSIAN WILDLIFE

Specially trained macaques are used for harvesting ripe coconuts in the East Coast. These macaques only obey commands from their master and no one else. A meal of coconut fruit is normally the reward for the macaques after each harvesting session. Orang Utan (*Pongo Pygmaeus*) is an endangered animal found in the country.

The Sepilok Forest Reserve in Sabah is reserved for the conservation of young Orang Utans.

ABOVE AND RIGHT



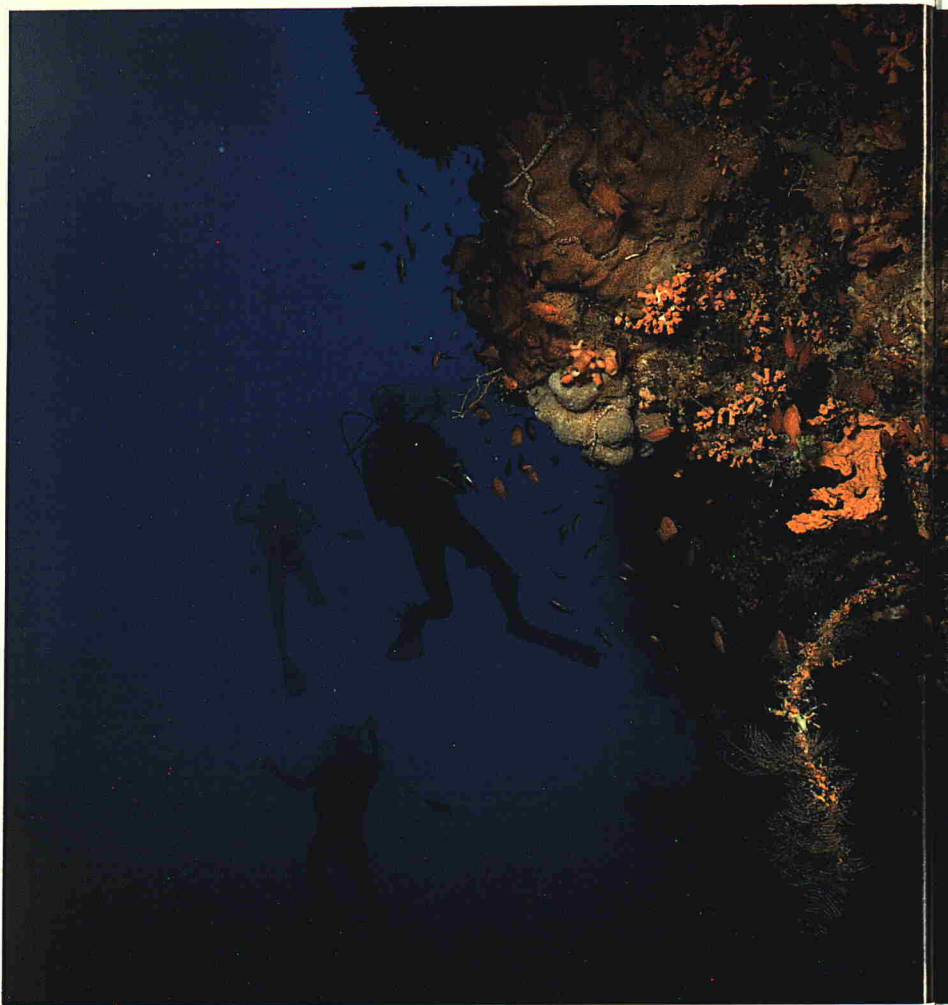




#### MALAYSIAN WILDLIFE

The Brahminy Kite (*above*) soars the sky in between the land and the sea looking for it's prey. Together with the much bigger Sea Eagles, these birds of prey are commonly found resting among tree tops. Butterfly fish (*top right*) and hawksbill turtle roam the ocean bed of Sipadan, Sabah.









#### SIPADAN ISLAND – SABAH

Mention Sipadan and scuba divers' eyes light up. They know what to expect in its clear violet-blue waters — an underwater wonderland of indescribable splendour. The colours of the rainbow are probably not as many as the colours of its corals and fishes. Here, too, one encounters creatures of the deep, like sharks, barracuda and moray eels. Located 30 km off Semporna on the east coast of Sabah, Sipadan is Malaysia's only oceanic island. Divers come from all over to immerse themselves in its magic. Some consider it one of the best diving sites in Southeast Asia, some say in the world. Whatever the verdict, the beauty of Sipadan has to be seen to be believed.

The Sipadan wall drops deep into the ocean (left). Yellow damselfish (top). Squirrelfish (above) and a school of Rainbow Runner (overleaf)

**Underwater Photography by Tommy Chang**



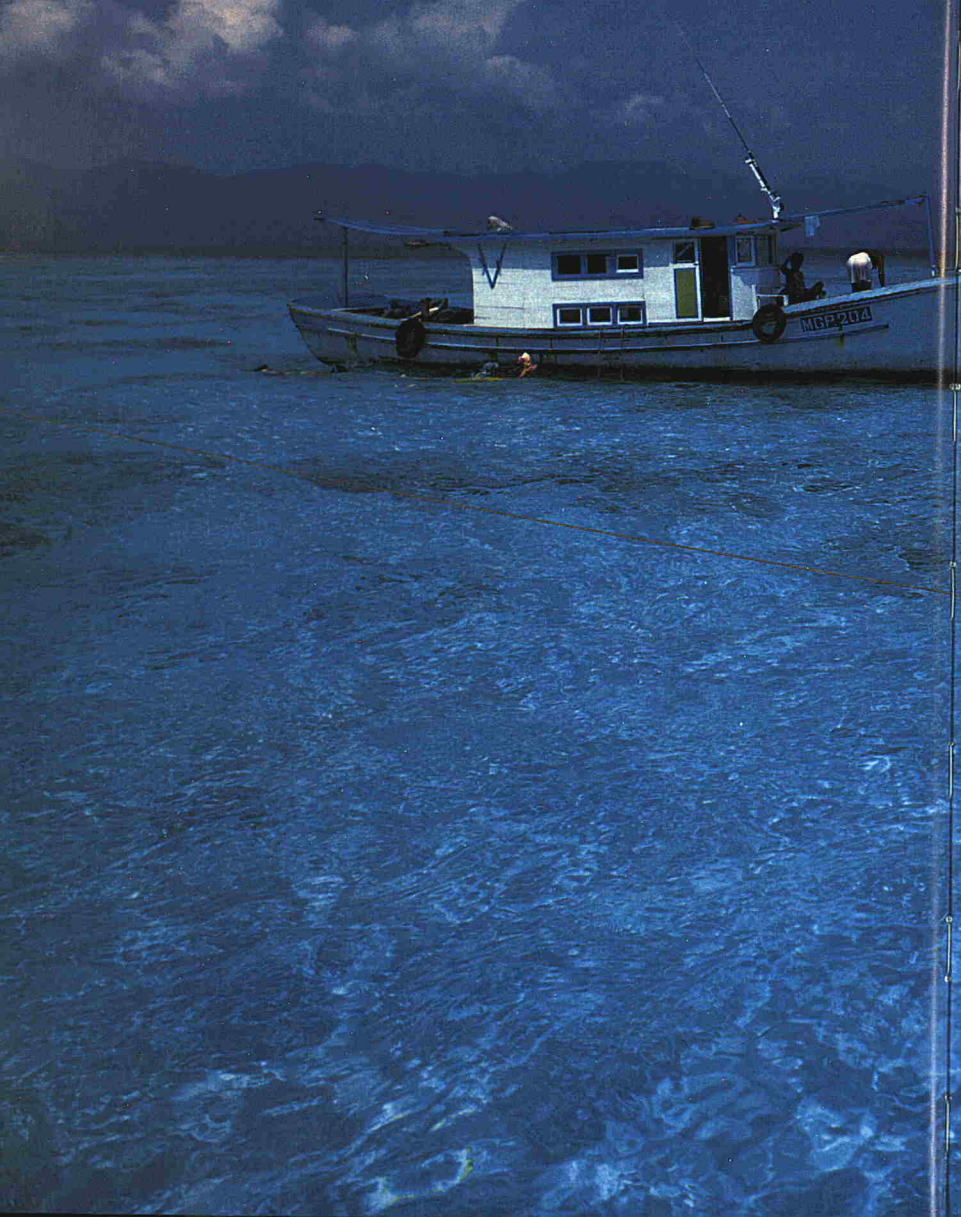


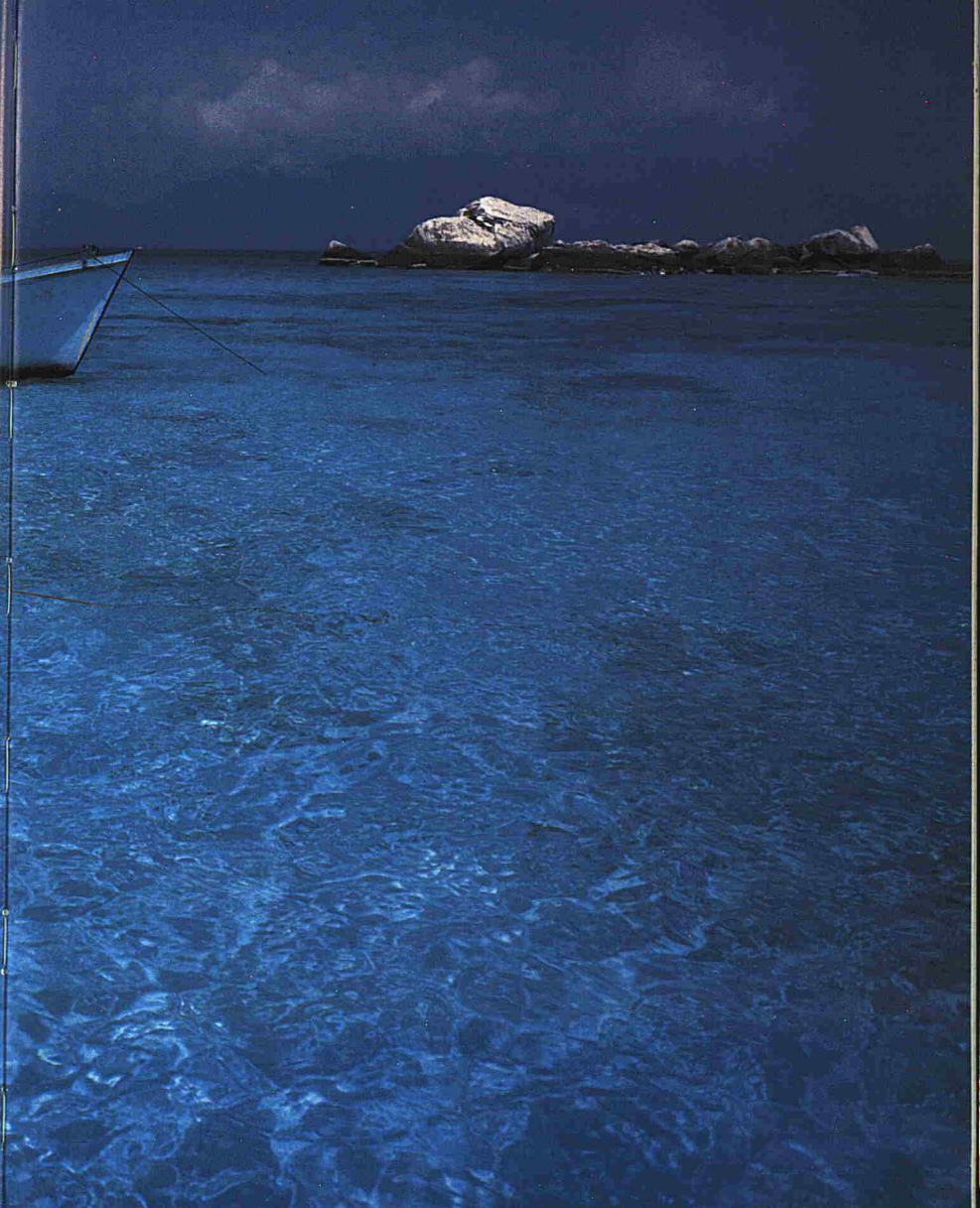




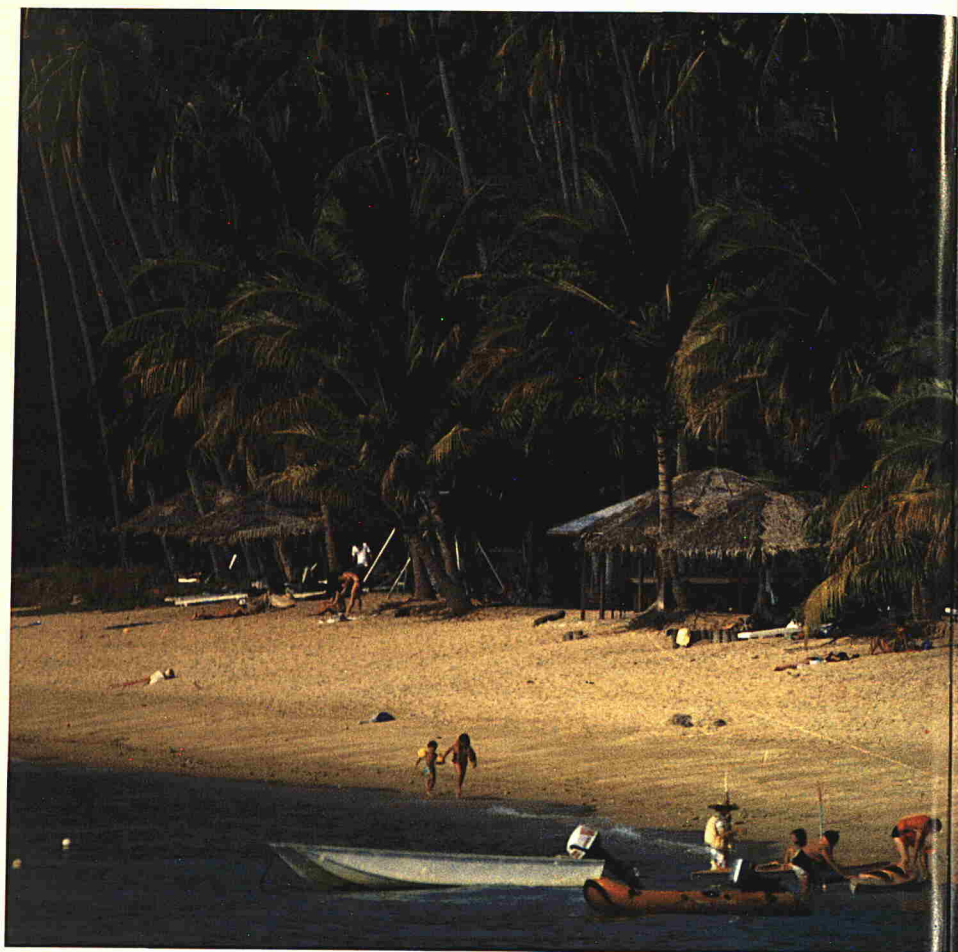




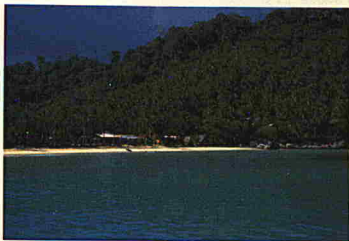
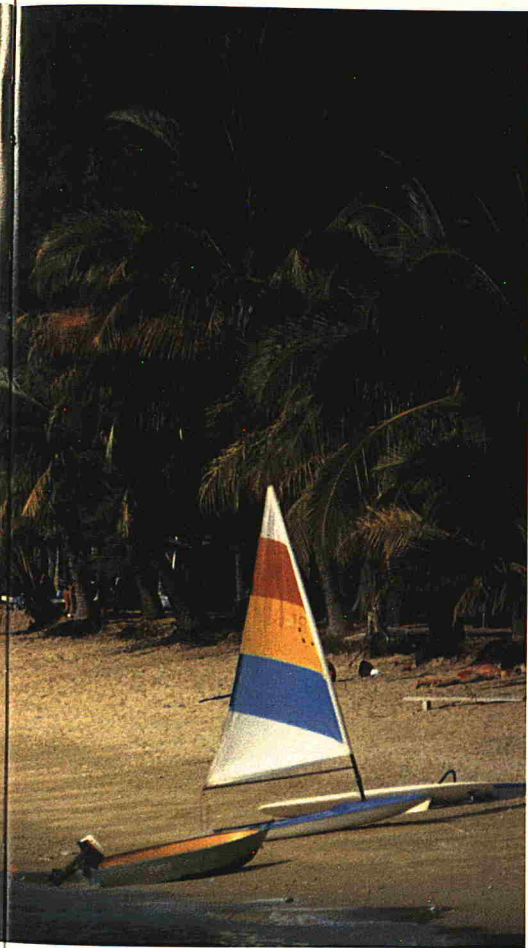












#### TIOMAN ISLAND - PAHANG

One of the 10 most beautiful islands in the world. "The last paradise on earth." The mythical Bali Hai from the movie *South Pacific*. What other epithets can one heap on Tioman Island? Approaching the island from Mersing, which can take 2 to 4 hours depending on the type of boat, one can see why it is so highly acclaimed. Its geographical profile is stunning, the sea is inviting, the atmosphere is tranquil, there is abundant resort accommodation, even a golf course for enthusiasts of the game. Lovely beaches are located at Salang and Juara, and time passes the way you want it to — swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving, or simply lazing on the beach. Legend has it that a visiting princess was so enamoured of the area she decided to turn herself into an island to provide shelter and comfort to travellers. Whether that is true or not, the fact remains that in Tioman one will not fail to find comfort and shelter — and a place in the sun. (above) Snug in a bay on the northwest of Tioman, Salang Village is homely and serene. Coconut palms cover the hill slopes from the hilltop to the beach, looking as if they were piled one on top of another.

LEFT AND ABOVE

#### TIOMAN - PAHANG

Birds of a feather flock together — how true for these terns on Tioman, Pahang. As many as 500 of them converge on this outcrop as if taking part in a conference of birds. Sometimes the waves splash over them but they are unperturbed. This is their home and breeding ground and nothing can displace them. PRECEDING PAGES

#### TULAI ISLAND - PAHANG

The boat seems to be floating on turquoise crystal. Are there seas this clear and blue or is this a camera trick? The camera is not lying — so clear is this part of the sea around Tulai Island, 5 km northwest of Tioman, that you can see the fish swimming underneath. The sand at the bottom is extremely fine, and even on a clear day, the water looks bluer than the sky. The environment is so peaceful you can't help but wonder if this isn't the best place on sea to be.

PRECEDING PAGES



#### PEMANGGIL ISLAND – JOHOR

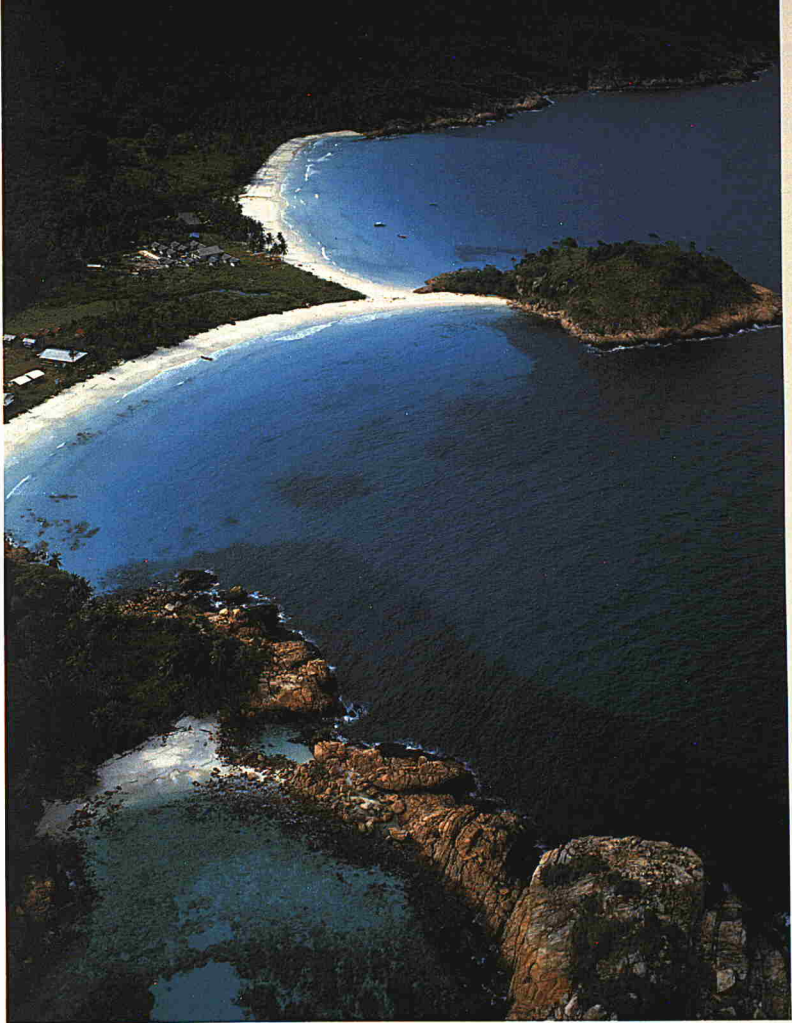
Popularly known as the Island of Alluring Beauty, Pemanggil is one of the two islands located farthest from the coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The other is Aur Island. Pemanggil's greatest asset is its virtually virgin state. Its waters are so clear that the reefs surrounding the coast are visible from the air. There are a few tiny settlements, the largest being Kampung Pontanak. A jetty there serves as the docking point for boats bringing visitors from Mersing, about a 4-hour ride away.

TOP

#### DAYANG ISLAND – JOHOR

Dayang is another isolated island blessed with turquoise waters and beautiful corals. A lone village exists on the beach at the edge of the boulder range. Opposite the island is Aur, also sparsely populated, with a rocky coastline that is a haven for lobsters. Indeed, the sea around Aur Island is a rich fishing ground. It is a nursery for the black and blue marlin, prized by avid anglers.

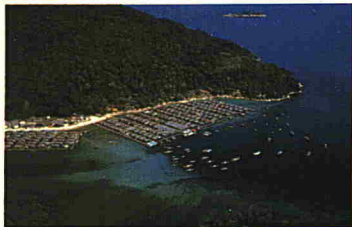
ABOVE



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REDANG ISLAND – TERENGGANU

Clear turquoise water washes against powdery beaches? Sound just too good to be true for Redang Island. The seascape here is truly inviting and some of the country's best underwater heritage lies beneath the alluring sea which surrounds the island.



**REDANG ISLAND  
- TERENGGANU**

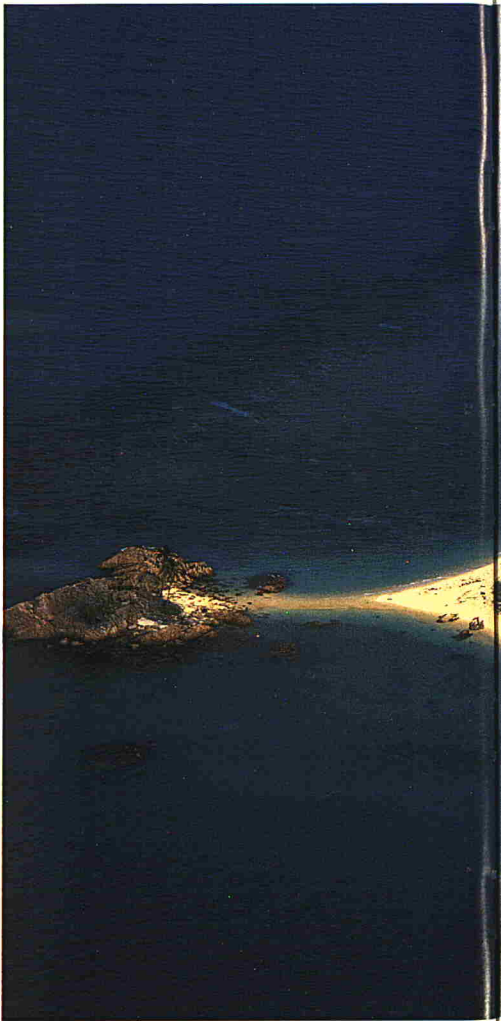
Redang and the little islands on its southern coast make up Terengganu's largest archipelago. Here one can find excellent corals and a marine ecosystem slightly superior to that of the nearby Perhentian Islands. The fishing community live in a well ordered floating village that is self-contained, with a school located at the village centre.

ABOVE

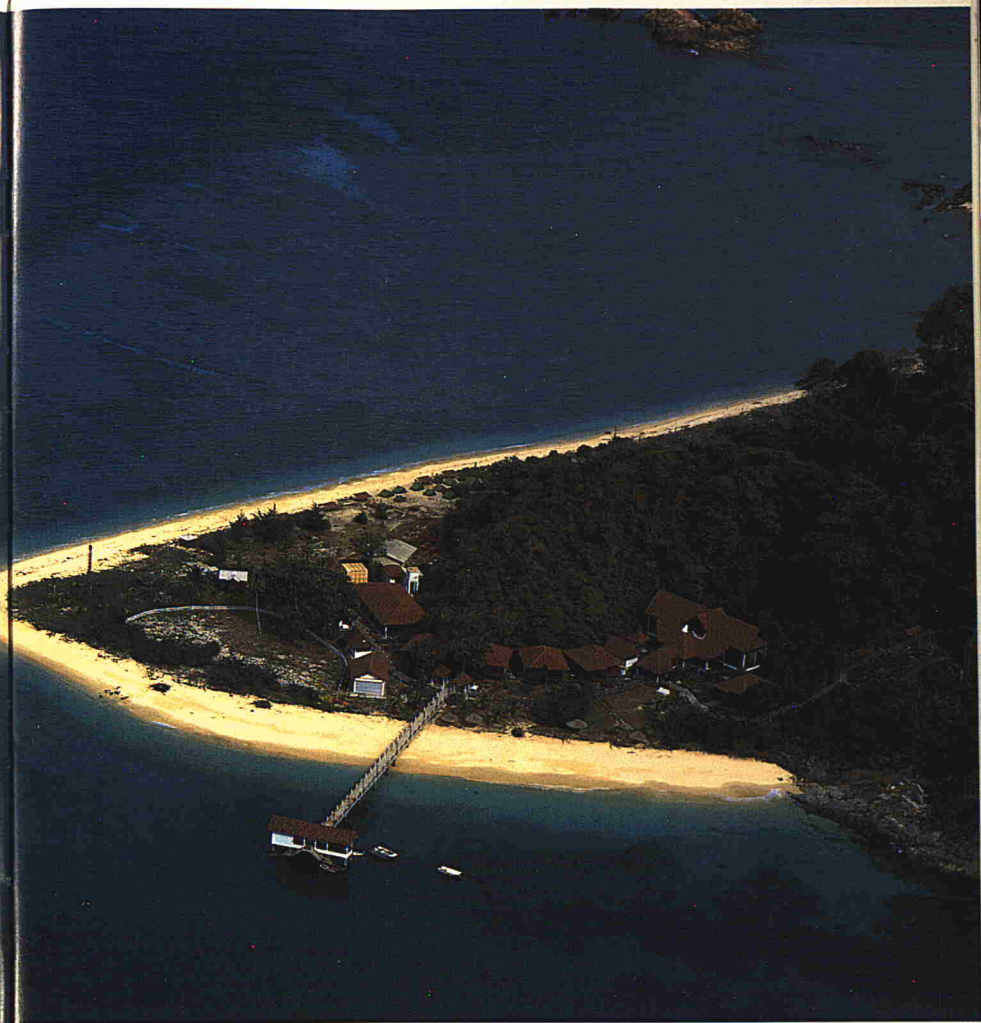
**PINANG ISLAND  
- REDANG -  
TERENGGANU**

Pinang Island, one of the smaller islands of Redang, is an extremely beautiful place. Development is confined only to the promontory facing the floating village of Redang. The rest of the island is covered with virgin forest.

RIGHT









**TENG GOL / KAPAS  
ISLANDS –  
TERENGGANU**

These are small islands off the coast of Terengganu with ominous-looking weather-beaten cliffs. The waters are clear and greenish-blue, the beaches white and narrow.

*Left* Tenggol Island is a haven for naturalists because of its many interesting plants and animals, especially reptiles.

*Far left & below* Kapas Island attracts many visitors who find its shimmering waters ideal for swimming and snorkelling. Chalets provide comfortable accommodation for those who wish to stay on.





**PAYAR ISLAND - LANGKAWI - KEDAH**

Payar Island is probably the most beautiful island on the West Coast of Malaysia. Located south of Langkawi Island, it is a great attraction for scuba divers because the coral garden located just a little offshore is said to support the largest number of coral species in the country. Divers have been known to compare it favourably with Redang and Perhentian on the East Coast, and the renowned Sipadan off Sabah. Access to Payar Island is by boat from Kuala Kedah, a journey which takes about an hour.







**KACA ISLAND – LANGKAWI – KEDAH**

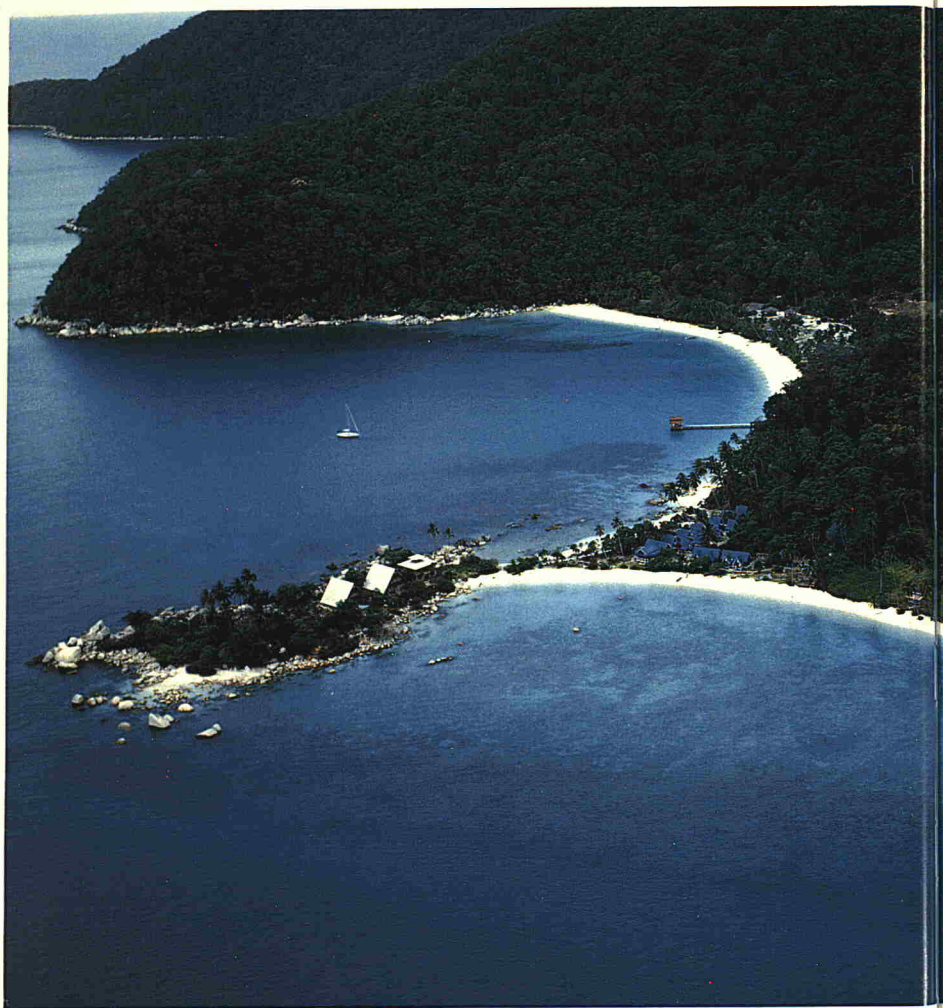
Adventure and mystery seem to be written all over this rugged island south of Langkawi. Known as Kaca Island, it consists of rocks and boulders and just a spare cluster of trees in its centre. Located a short distance from Payar Island, this island is famous for its beautiful corals. Might make a good location for the next James Bond movie!

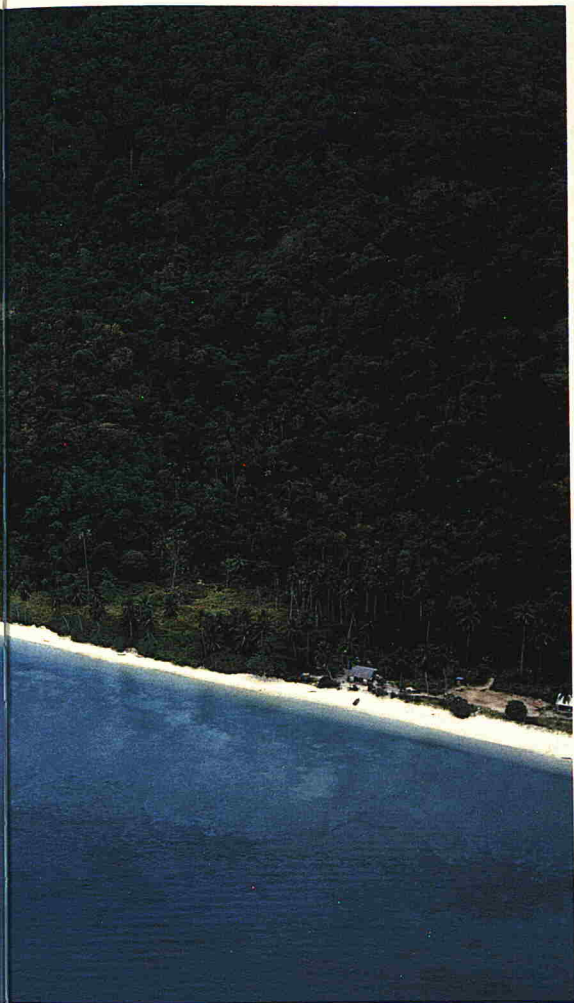
LEFT

**PERHENTIAN ISLAND – TERENGGANU**

North of Perhentian Kecil lies several isolated beaches with swaying palms that touches the water's edge. The blue South China Sea surrounding Perhentian Islands are excellent fishing ground.

ABOVE





**PERHENTIAN ISLANDS**  
**- TERENGGANU**

Perhentian consists of two islands, one larger than the other. Perhentian Besar, the larger, is a resort spot while Perhentian Kecil is inhabited by a small community of fisherfolk. Both islands are largely unspoilt, covered in most parts by thick vegetation. On lower land, coconut trees abound, adding scenic gaiety to sparkling white beaches and brilliant blue waters.

Snorkelling is a favourite among Perhentian Besar's visitors; underwater wonders are a sight for sore eyes just a short way out.



#### TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PARK - SABAH

About one million years ago, during the Ice Age, these islands were cut off from the Borneo mainland by changes in the sea level. Now they are grouped together as the Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, designated a national park in 1974. It conserves and protects some of the most diverse flora and fauna and marine species in the world. This National Park is a cluster of five Islands surrounded by the South China Sea.

Sapi Island (above) is tenuously linked to Gaya Island by a corridor of sand (above-right). During low tide, it is possible to walk across. Among the inhabitants of Sapi are the long-tailed macaque, bearded pig, anteater, and monitor lizard. Gaya safeguards the only remaining area of undisturbed coastal dipterocarp forest left in Sabah.



**TUNKU ABDUL  
RAHMAN PARK -  
SABAH**

Mamutik, (*right*) shaped like a whale, is the smallest of the islands. Ringed by corals, it is an excellent place for picnics. A 3-bedroom resthouse is the only accommodation available. The waters here are emerald green in colour with many coral fish.

The most developed island is Manukan, (*center*) also the second largest after Gaya. Its timber chalets blend nicely with the surrounding vegetation.

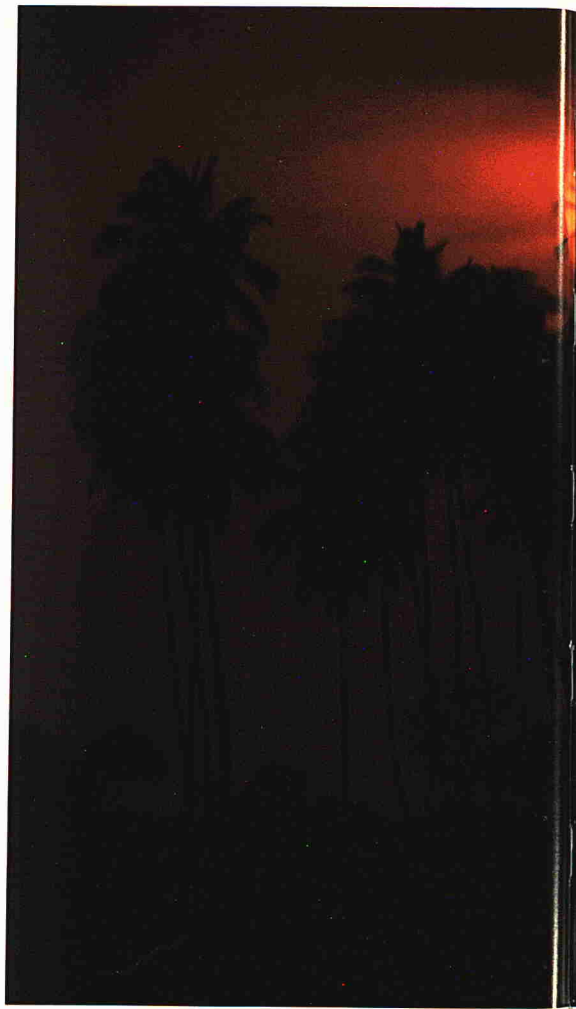
Facilities on the island include a swimming pool, tennis and squash courts, a restaurant, a football field. This island houses the park headquarters.

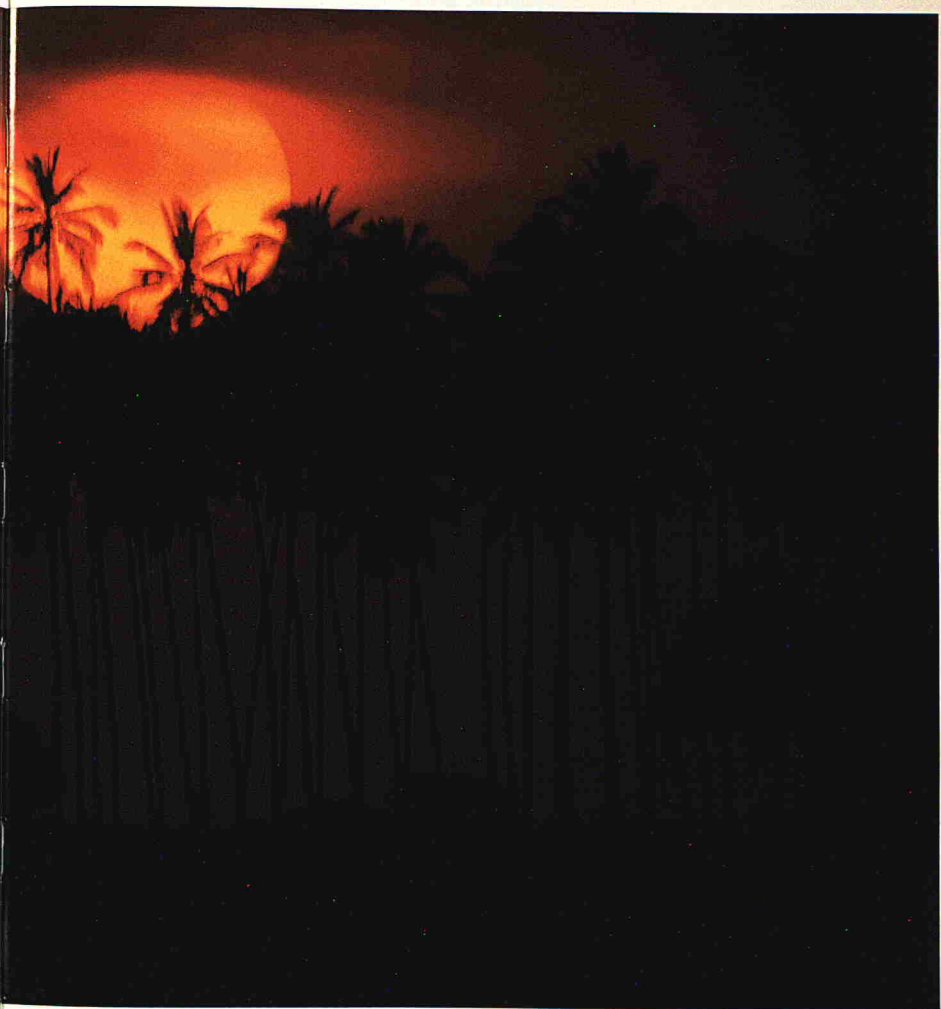
Sulug (*below*) is the remotest from the mainland, left undeveloped for back-to-nature purists. The shoreline is rocky and there is only a small beach on the eastern side but this island is ideal for those who want privacy. There are jungle trails for one to discover the flora and fauna of the island.



#### LANGKAWI SUNSET

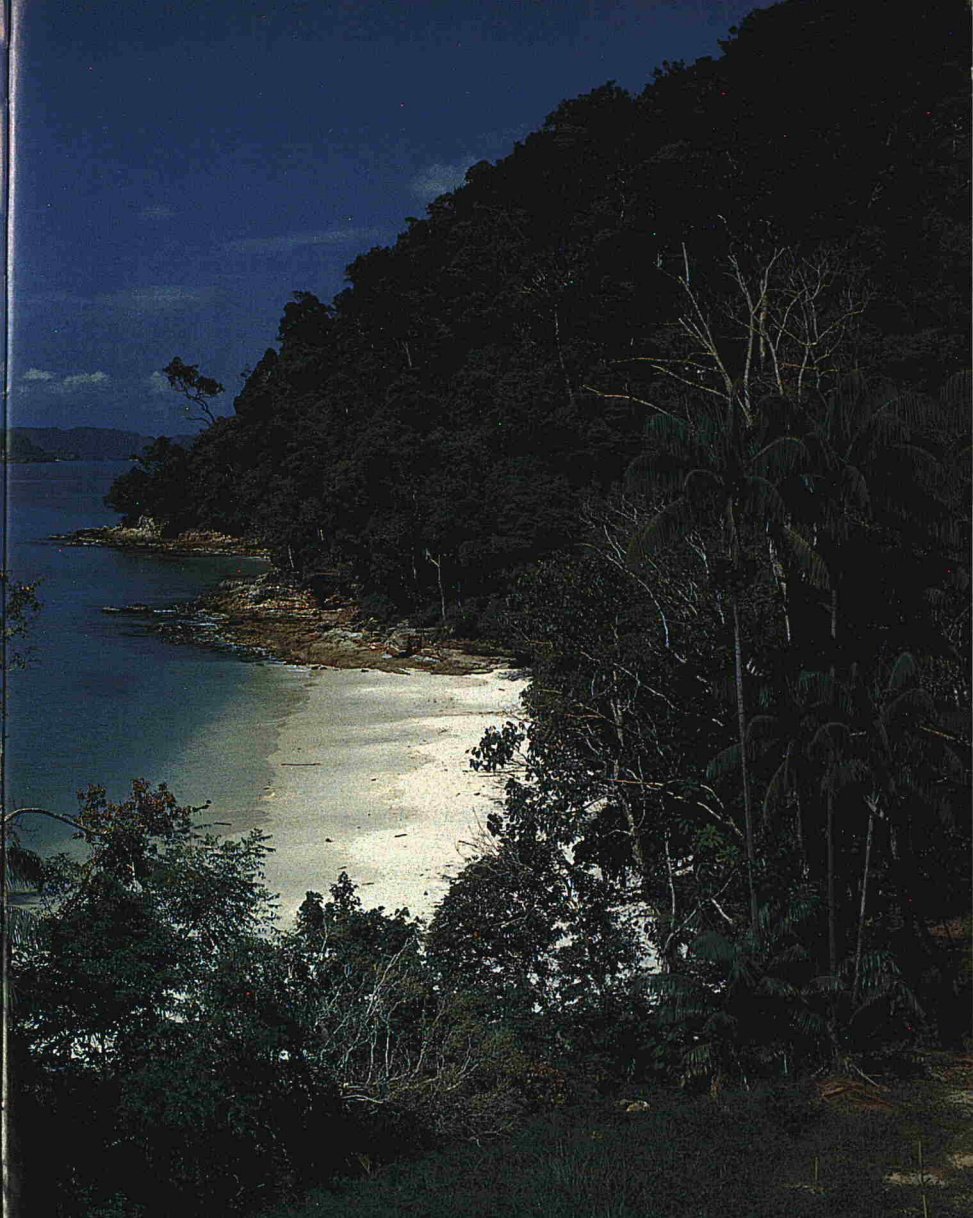
Coconut palms silhouetted against a great ball of fire amidst a darkening sky. The seductive sea breeze caressing one's face, the sound of the waves a regular placid rhythm, the temperature just right in the median between cool and warm. Nothing sums up a tropical sunset better. On the southwestern coast of Langkawi Island, this golden spectacle signalling day's end is something not to be missed. It's more than just a sight to behold — it's an experience. Langkawi has what it takes to be a classic tropical resort. Nature is generous with her splendours, and the numerous legends that have been told and retold reek of romance. There are at least 99 islands within its archipelago, many of them untouched and full of surprises. Given all these wonders, one may want to believe that the sun never sets on Langkawi.













#### EMERALD BAY – PANGKOR LAUT – PERAK

The best beach in the Pangkor archipelago is to be found in Emerald Bay on the southwest coast of Pangkor Laut Island. Secluded and private, it belongs to the Pansea Group which runs the pretty resort. Guests have the whole beach and calm waters to themselves as well as the facilities of the resort. What else can one ask for?

ABOVE

#### PUTERI DEWI BEACH – PANGKOR – PERAK

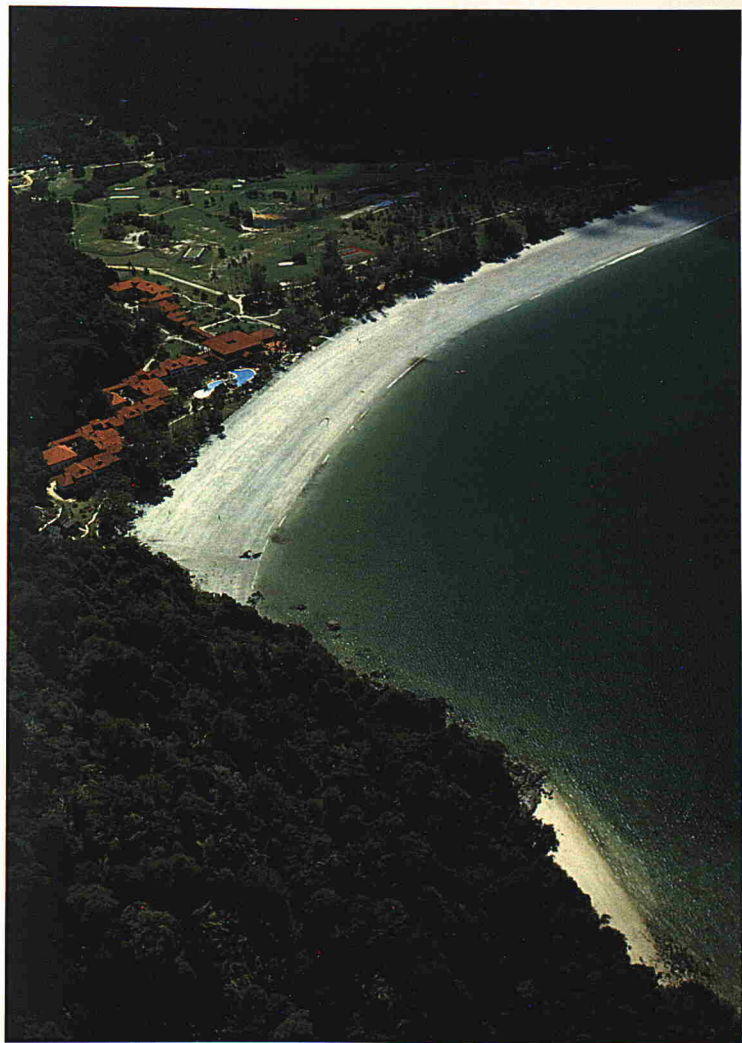
Puteri Dewi Beach, the exclusive domain of Pan Pacific Resort, is associated with a sad legend — that of a princess who killed herself by jumping off a cliff when she discovered her betrothed had died on Pangkor Island — but looking at its white sands and jade-green waters, one would not think of sadness. The most famous of Pangkor Island's beaches, it is also fondly known as Golden Sands. From here, watching the hornbills flying above the thick forest is a perfect start to the day, and watching the sun set, a perfect end.

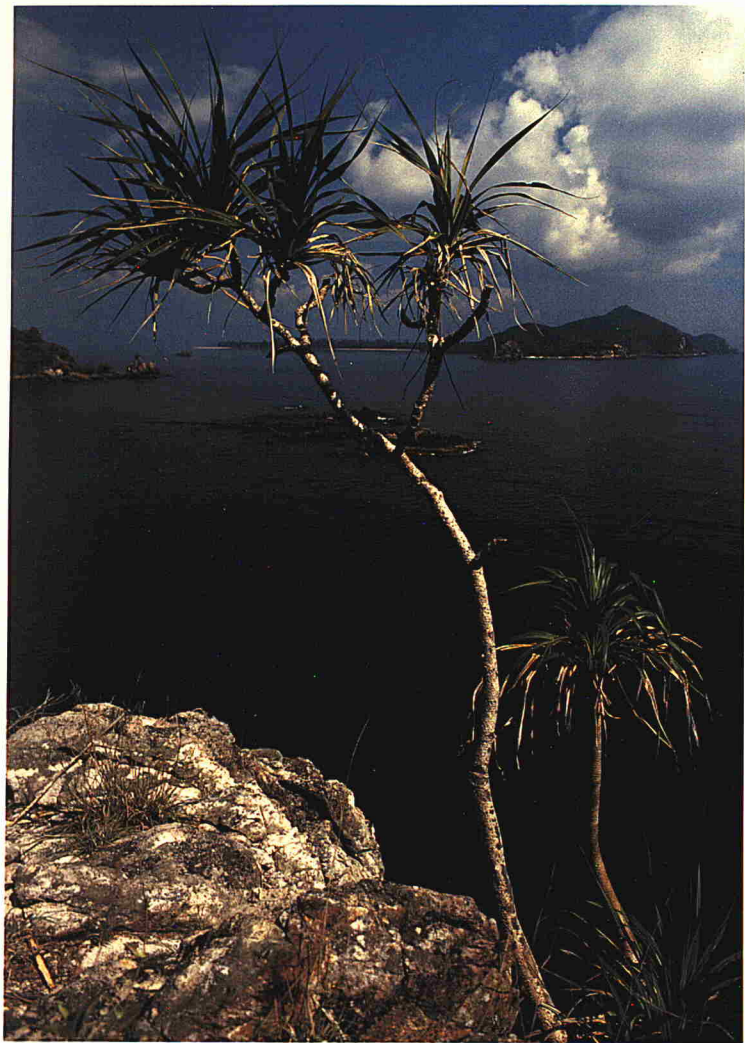
RIGHT

#### TENGKORAK BEACH – LANGKAWI

This secluded spot along the Datal Coast in northern Langkawi was once a pirate hideaway, hence the name Tengkorak Beach, or Beach of Skulls. Overlooking the Straits of Chinchin, which looks alluring but is treacherous during the monsoon months, it enjoys a clear view all the way to the island of Tarutao which belongs to Thailand. An arts complex is scheduled to be built here, its foundation stone already laid.

PRECEDING PAGES









#### SIBU TENGAH ISLAND – JOHOR

These Seashore Screwpine treelets are like a widow and her son looking out to sea, waiting for their loved one to return. From this vantage point on Sibu Tengah Island, one can see all the way to the islands of Lima and Sibu. Sometimes terns fly by in search of food, sometimes dolphins skim the surface. Developed by the Johor State

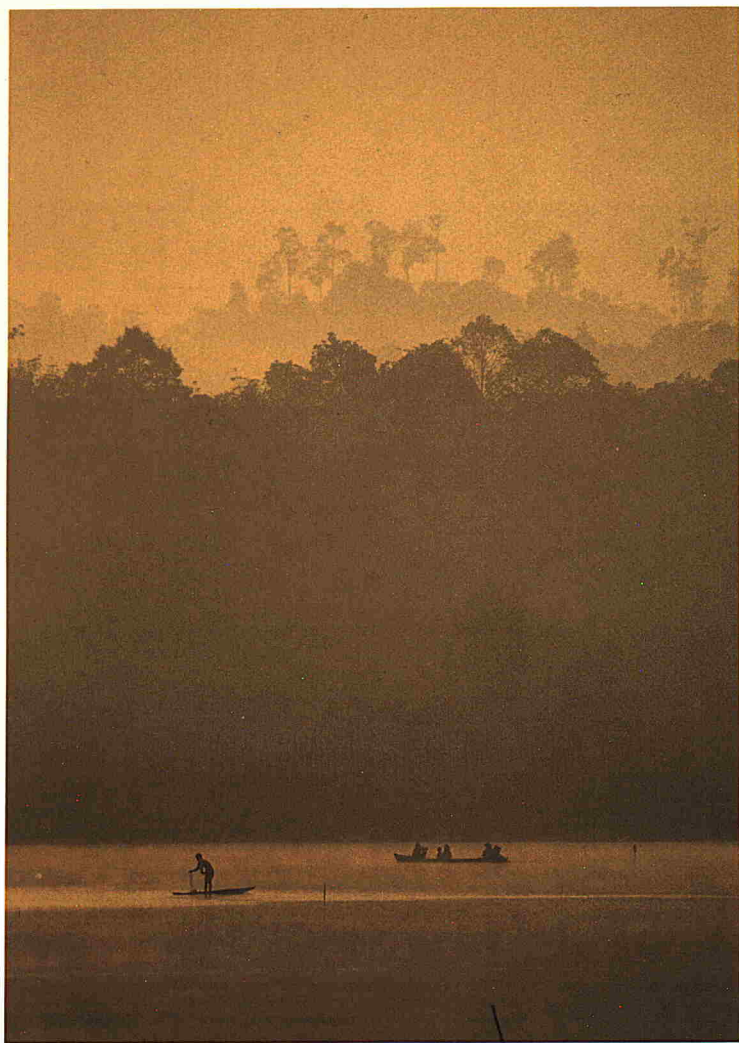
Economic Development Corporation, Sibu Tengah is the most exclusive island off the coast of Johor. An undersea kingdom of corals can clearly be seen off its eastern shore. On the west, greenback and Hawksbill turtles come to lay their eggs. Given these marvels of nature, those who come seeking romance and solitude will surely say to themselves, "If this isn't paradise, what is?"

LEFT

#### TAIPING LAKE GARDEN – PERAK

The bird's nest ferns perched on top of the raintree branch seem to have found a niche for themselves. All over the Lake Gardens in Taiping, raintrees festooned with such ferns are a solid, scenic feature. The trees themselves are about 100 years old, planted in colonial times and now magnificent in their maturity. Their long, thick branches spread outwards considerably, some arching over the road, providing welcome shade. Taiping Lake itself was created from a chain of abandoned mining pools. Landscaped and developed, it became the famous green lung of Peninsular Malaysia's wettest town. People are drawn to this placid environment which truly reinforces the meaning of Taiping's name — Town of Everlasting Peace.

ABOVE





**LAKE LANGGUN  
— LANGKAWI ISLAND**

This secret sanctum is strictly for the birds. Virtually undiscovered by humans, it is surrounded by thick jungle which makes accessibility difficult. The lake itself is 5.1 hectares of natural serenity.



**LAKE CHINI — PAHANG**

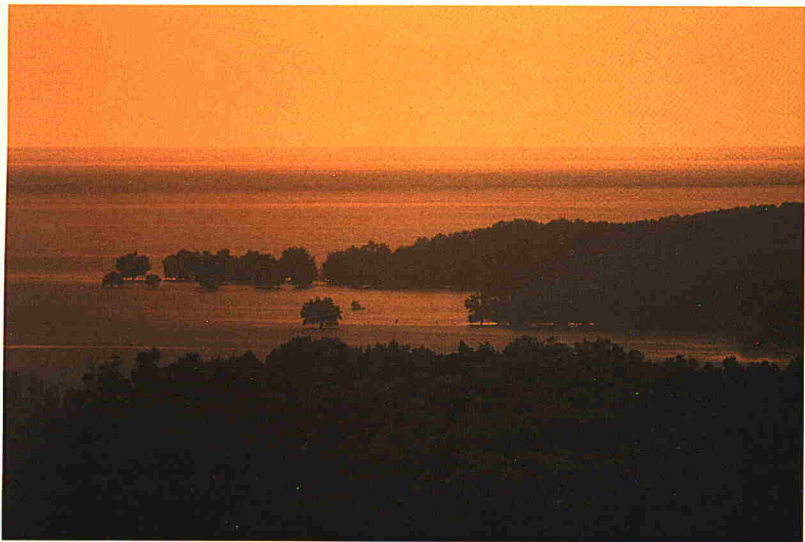
Lake Chini wrapped in mist as early sunlight filter through makes one wonder if there might be truth in the local folklore — that once upon a time, a city existed here before it sank mysteriously into the lake. Nowadays Jakuns ply the waters and plumb the depths for fish, the main source of food for this aboriginal tribe living in settlements on the fringe. In the months of July, August and September, 'giant' lotuses burst forth on the surface, like magic, forming a flotilla of floral magnificence.

LEFT

**LAKE DAYANG BUNTING — LANGKAWI ISLAND**

Langkawi's famous Lake of the Pregnant Maiden is separated from the sea at one point by only a few-metre-wide strip of land yet its freshwater content has remained untainted. Ringed by a protective phalanx of green-bedecked ridges, it is the perfect source of myth and mystery. Some people say the lake got its name when a woman who had been childless for years became pregnant after drinking its water. There are also people who believe that a white crocodile lords over the lake.

ABOVE



#### KUALA SELANGOR ESTUARY – SELANGOR

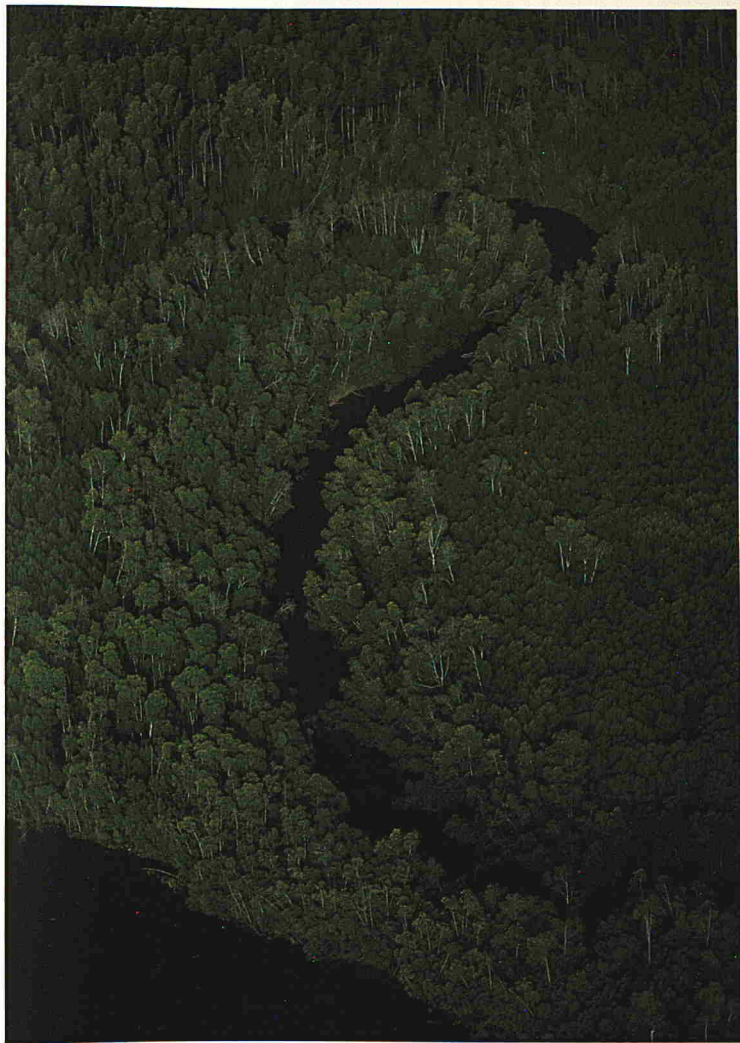
As sky and water seem to merge in the golden blaze of sunset, the silhouette of the mangrove forest at the estuary of Selangor River looks like a crocodile half-submerged. Here is where migratory birds like the greenshank, sandpiper, and egret rest their wings on their marathon flights from Europe to Australia. Apart from being a bird sanctuary, the mangrove is also important as a buffer against coastal erosion and as a spawning ground for shrimp, crabs and some species of fish. Some distance up the river, at Kampung Kuantan, thousands of fireflies make a wondrous sight glowing in the dark like Christmas lights.

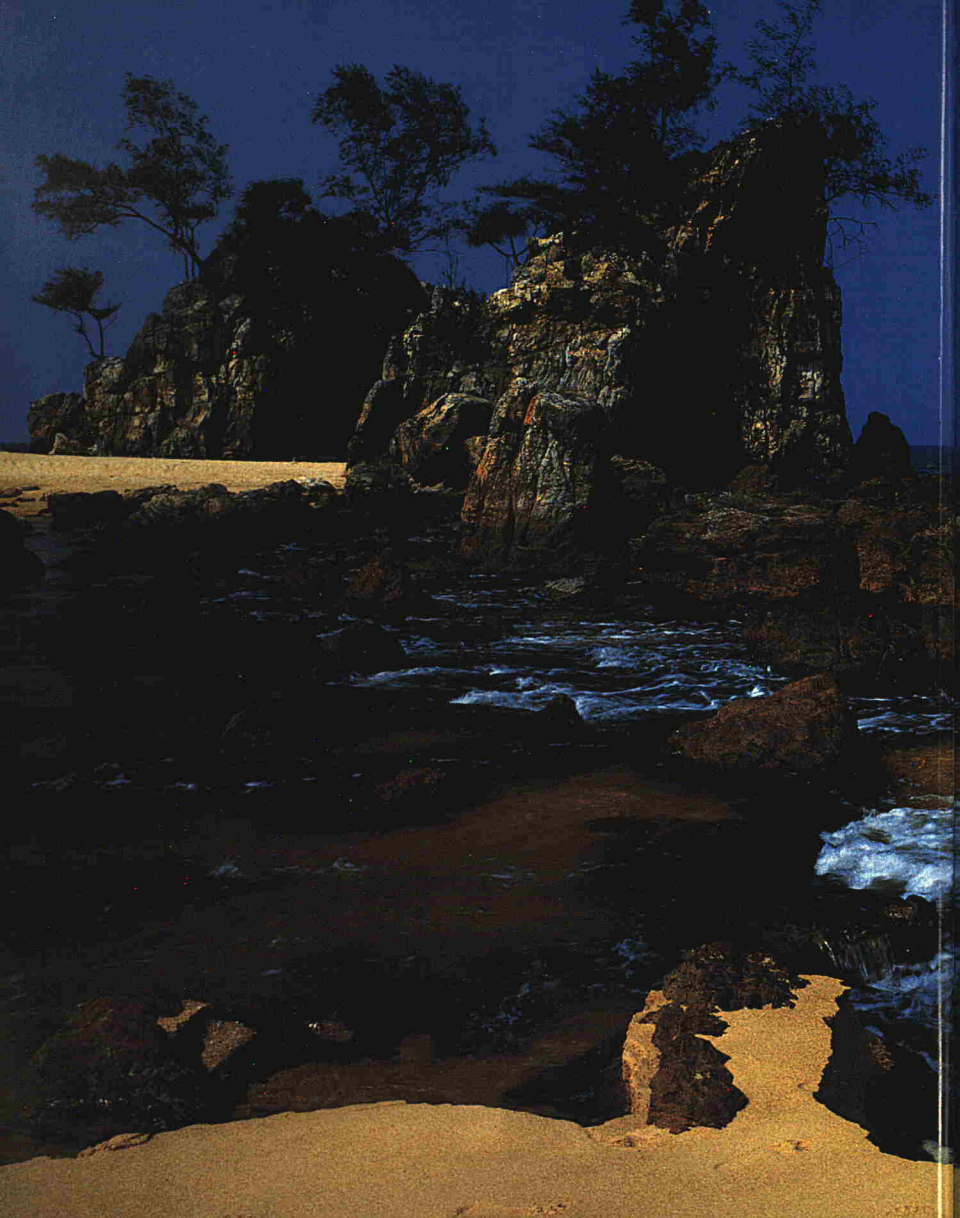
#### MANGROVE SWAMP – BUTTERWORTH – PENANG

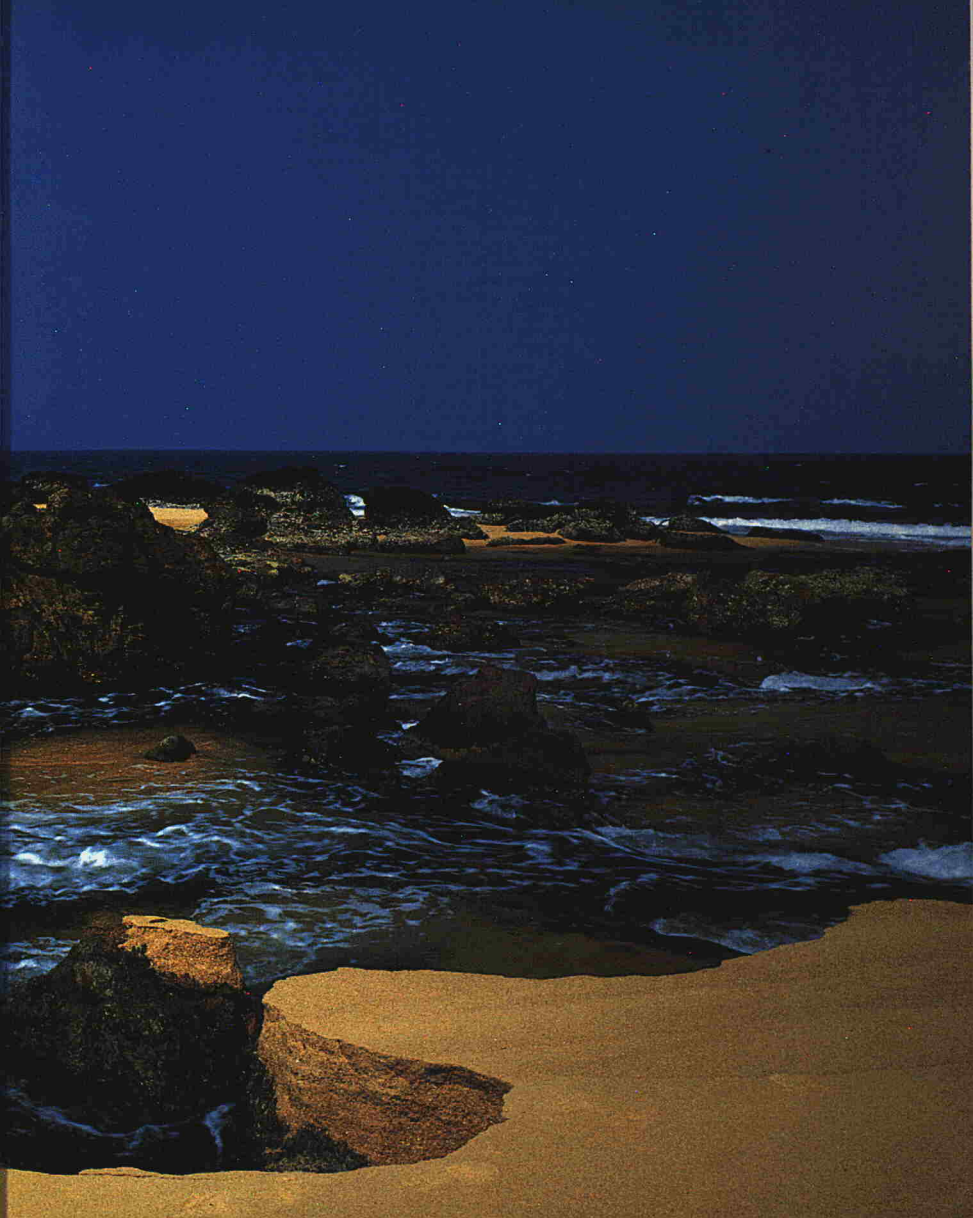
There is no trace whatsoever of man's presence in this mangrove swamp. It exists free and wild and appears to have been well-groomed by nature. From the air, most mangrove formations are evenly textured because the trees tend to be of uniform height, but here the trees seem to want to outgrow one another. Obviously, they observe the law of the jungle and the taller trees would seem to be the fitter. This merely enhances their appeal. As this area is close to the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Butterworth, the airspace above is restricted to authorised aircraft.

RIGHT

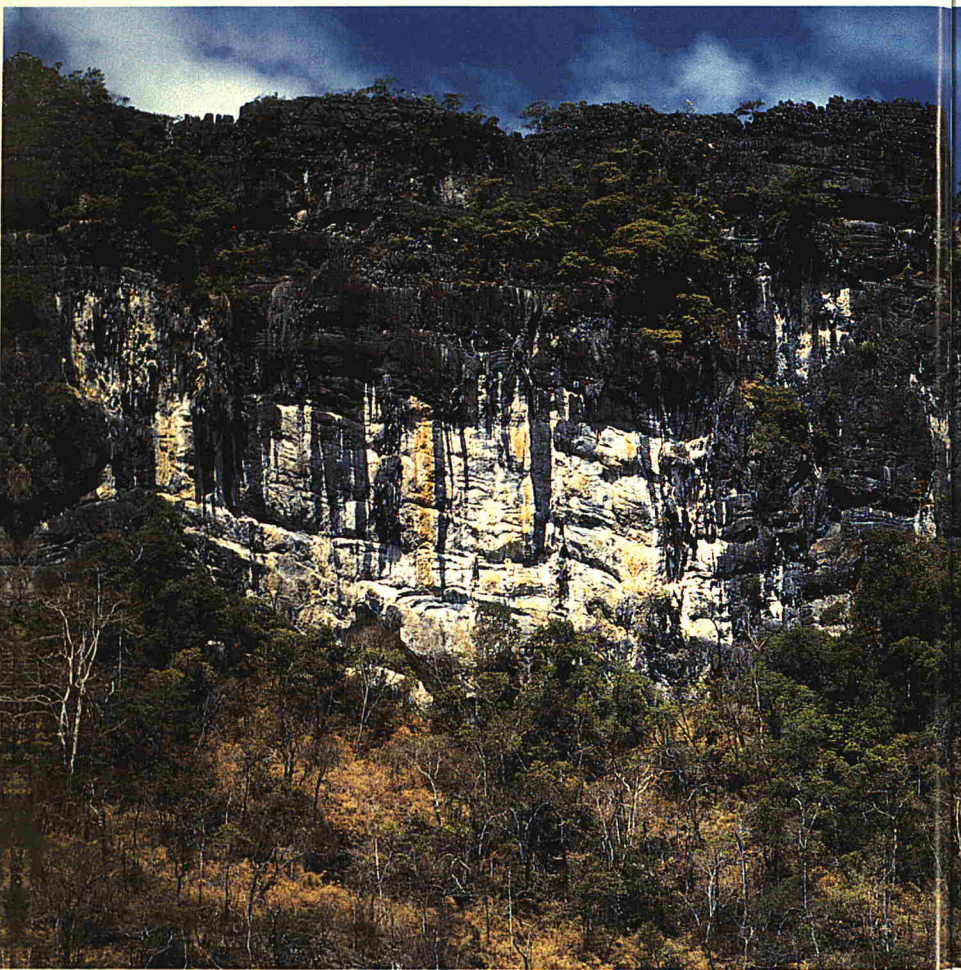
















#### **KEMAMAN BEACH - TERENGGANU**

Strong waves battering Kemaman Beach dig deep into the sand, and when the tide recedes water left behind in the carved-out hollow forms a lagoon, as seen in the picture. These manifestations of the cycles of nature are what makes

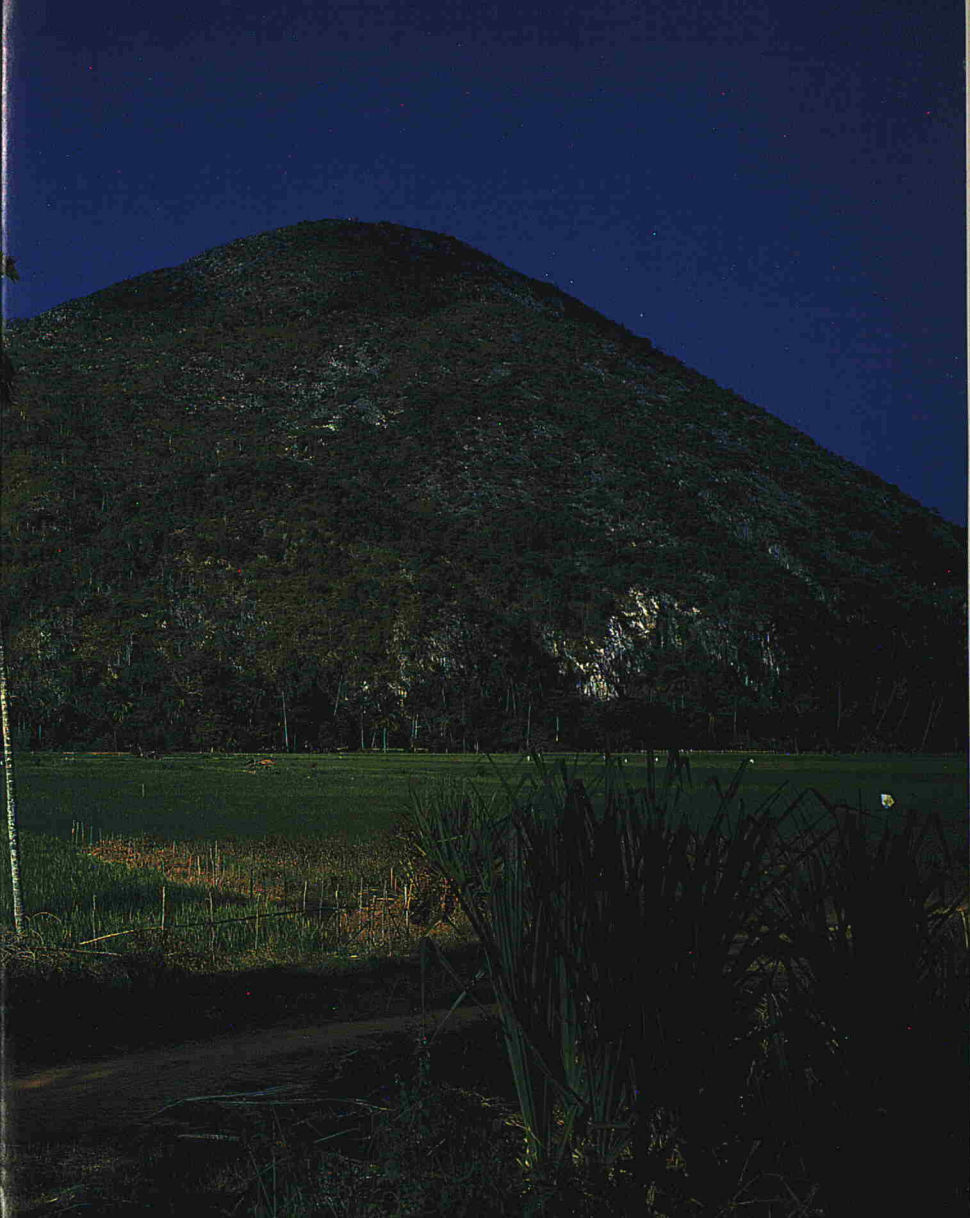
Kemaman Beach interesting, together with the tempestuous winds and heavy rains that occur between the months of November and February.  
PRECEDING PAGES

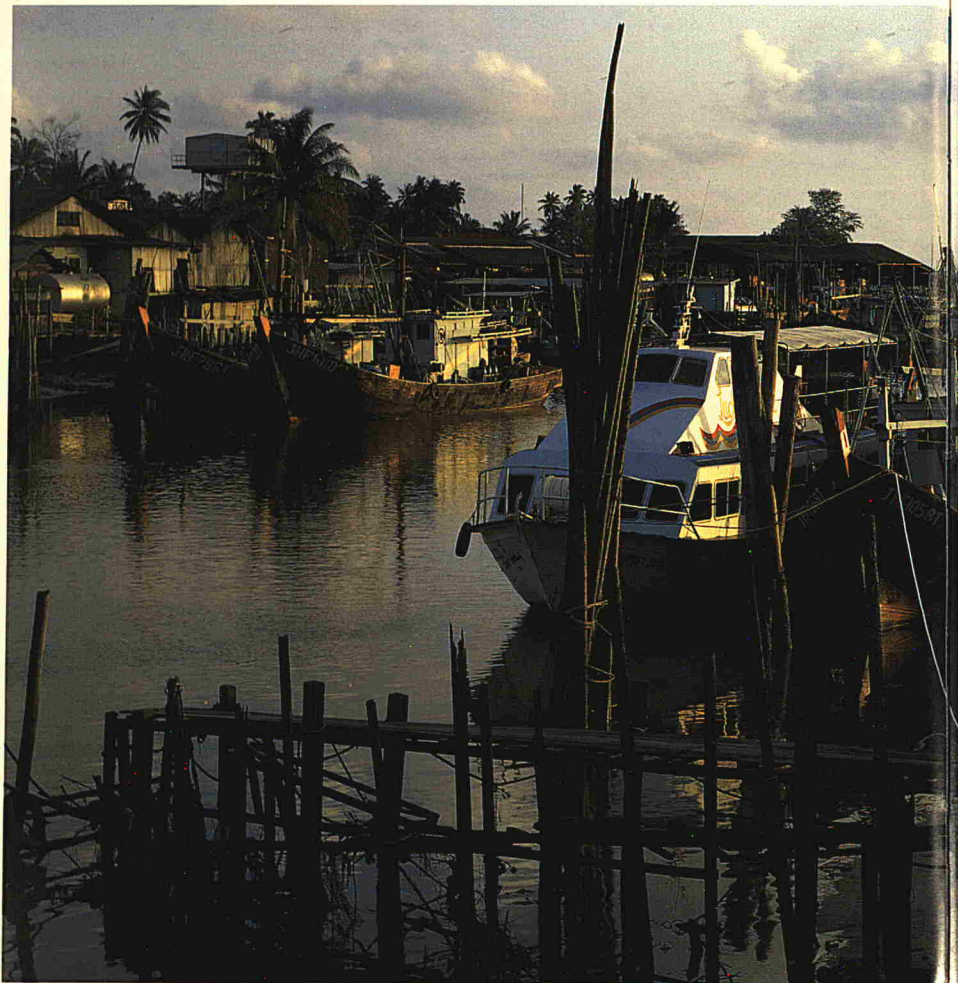
#### **KISAP RANGE - LANGKAWI ISLAND**

Limestone hills and islands are a distinctive feature of the landscape of northern Langkawi. Some of the rock formations are believed to be at least 350 million years old. This particular rock face appears to be daubed with paint sliding in streaks down its side. In actuality, the unevenness of the shades is the result of a fascinating process of metamorphosis — from limestone to marble, a material for which Langkawi has become world-renowned. It is one of nature's greatest gifts to this paradise island.

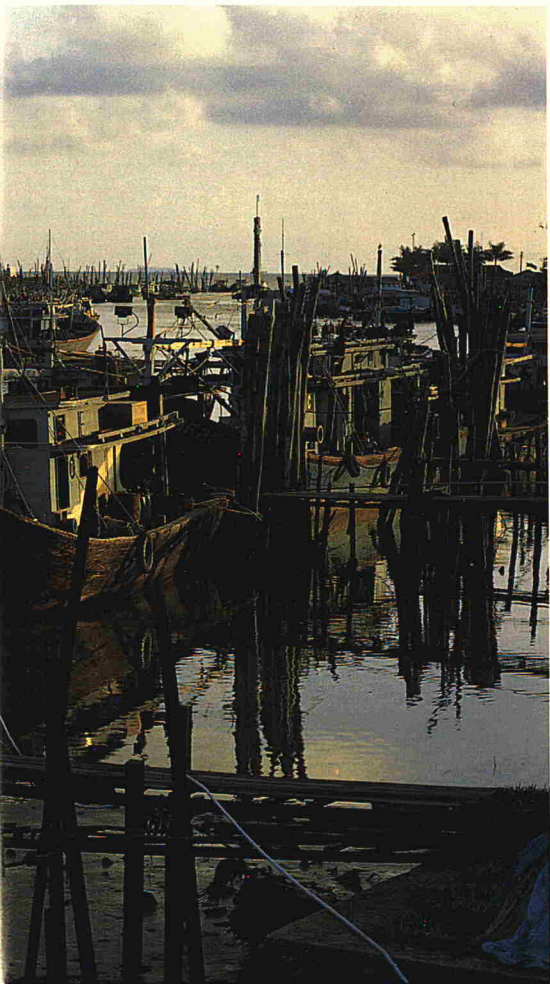
LEFT











#### **BALING HILL – KEDAH**

Baling Hill appears a handsome landmark on the way to the East-West Highway. Conical in shape and with gradual contours, it forms an idyllic backdrop to vast stretches of paddy swaying in the wind. Lofty pinang trees stand like proud sentinels watching over the vulnerable stalks that are highly susceptible to pests and sundry natural threats. Kedah is the largest paddy-growing state and for that it is widely known as "The Rice Bowl of Malaysia".

PRECEDING PAGES

#### **MERSING RIVER – JOHOR**

Morning breaks over Mersing, bringing potential of another day of bustle at one of the busiest ports on the eastern coast of Johor. Within hours, passengers would be lining the jetty to hop onto boats bound for the resort islands of Rawa, Tioman and Sibit Tengah. Providing such ferry services is the main livelihood of Mersingites apart from fishing. But all is not plain sailing for them — stiff competition now comes in the form of hydrofoils and hovercraft.

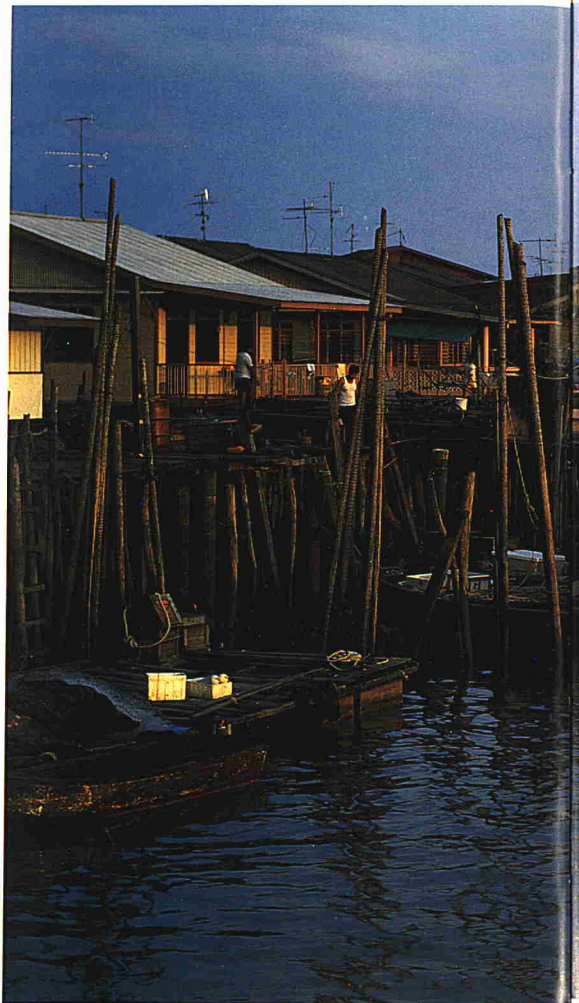
LEFT

**KUKUP VILLAGE**  
— JOHOR

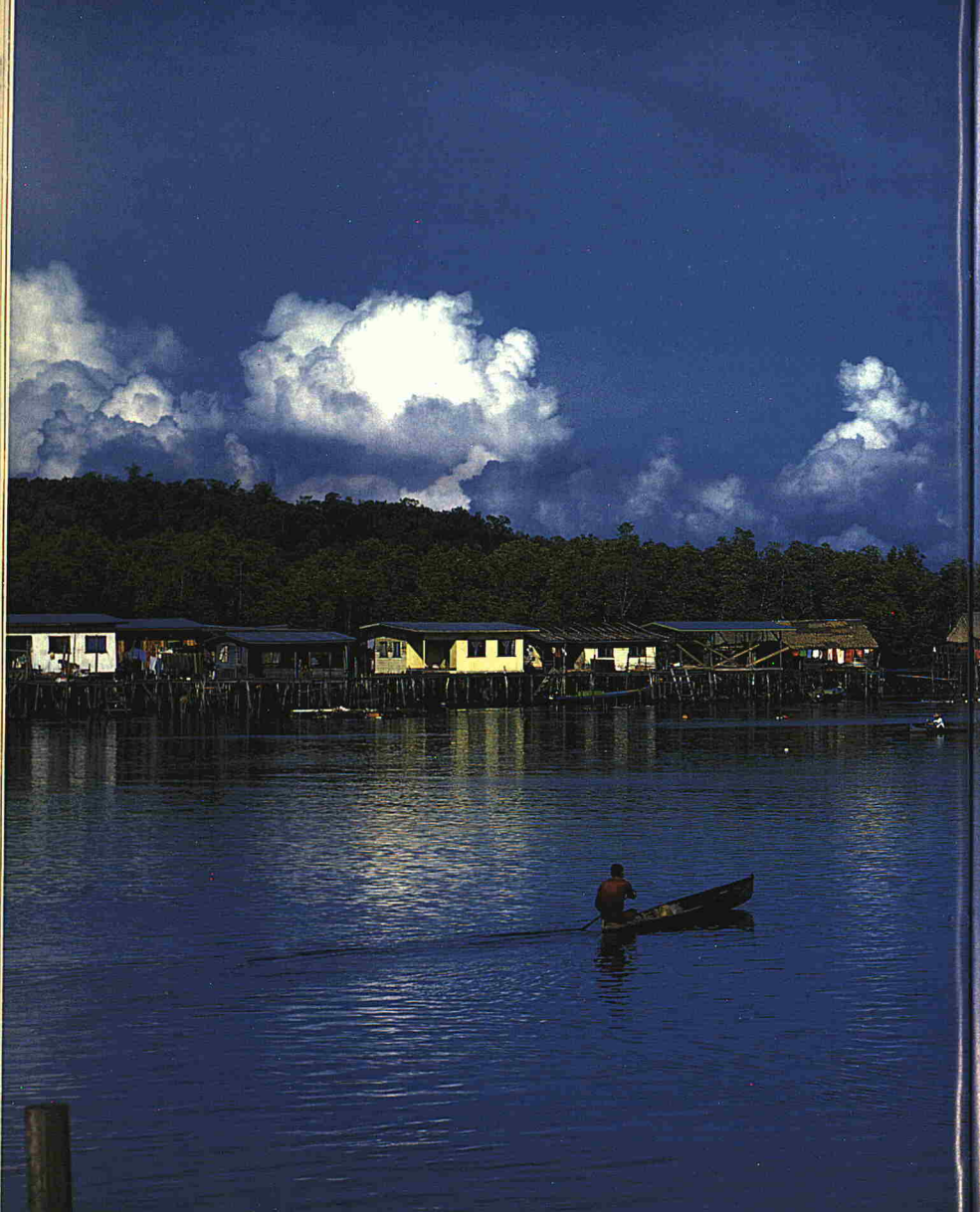
At the southernmost tip of Peninsular Malaysia, Kukup is the quintessential village by the sea. Standing on stilts, it is the haunt of seafood connoisseurs hungry for fresh fish, crabs, mussels and lobsters served in wooden restaurants at the water's edge. Kukup's residents live off the abundance of the deeps — the breeding of fish, prawns and *kupang* in uniquely designed floating *kelongs* make for a lucrative business. Across the waters is Kukup Island, consisting solely of mangrove vegetation. It is home to monkeys, wild boar, otters and squirrels as well as a sanctuary for birds. At twilight time, the air is abuzz with heron harmonies as the birds 'serenade' Kukup Village.  
RIGHT

**MENKABONG VILLAGE**  
— SABAH

A Bajau in his boat is like a hand in a glove, and Mengkabong Village is just the place where a Bajau can really feel at home. Here where the open sea beckons, a community of Bajaus live as fisherfolk, 30 kilometres north of Kota Kinabalu, capital of Sabah. The main thoroughfare of the village consists of a network of plankways linking the homes built over water. Bajaus are often called "sea gypsies" in acknowledgement of their maritime prowess, but they are equally adept at handling horses. On festive occasions, they can be seen in Kota Belud and Kota Kinabalu dressed in their colourful costumes and riding decorated ponies.  
OVERLEAF

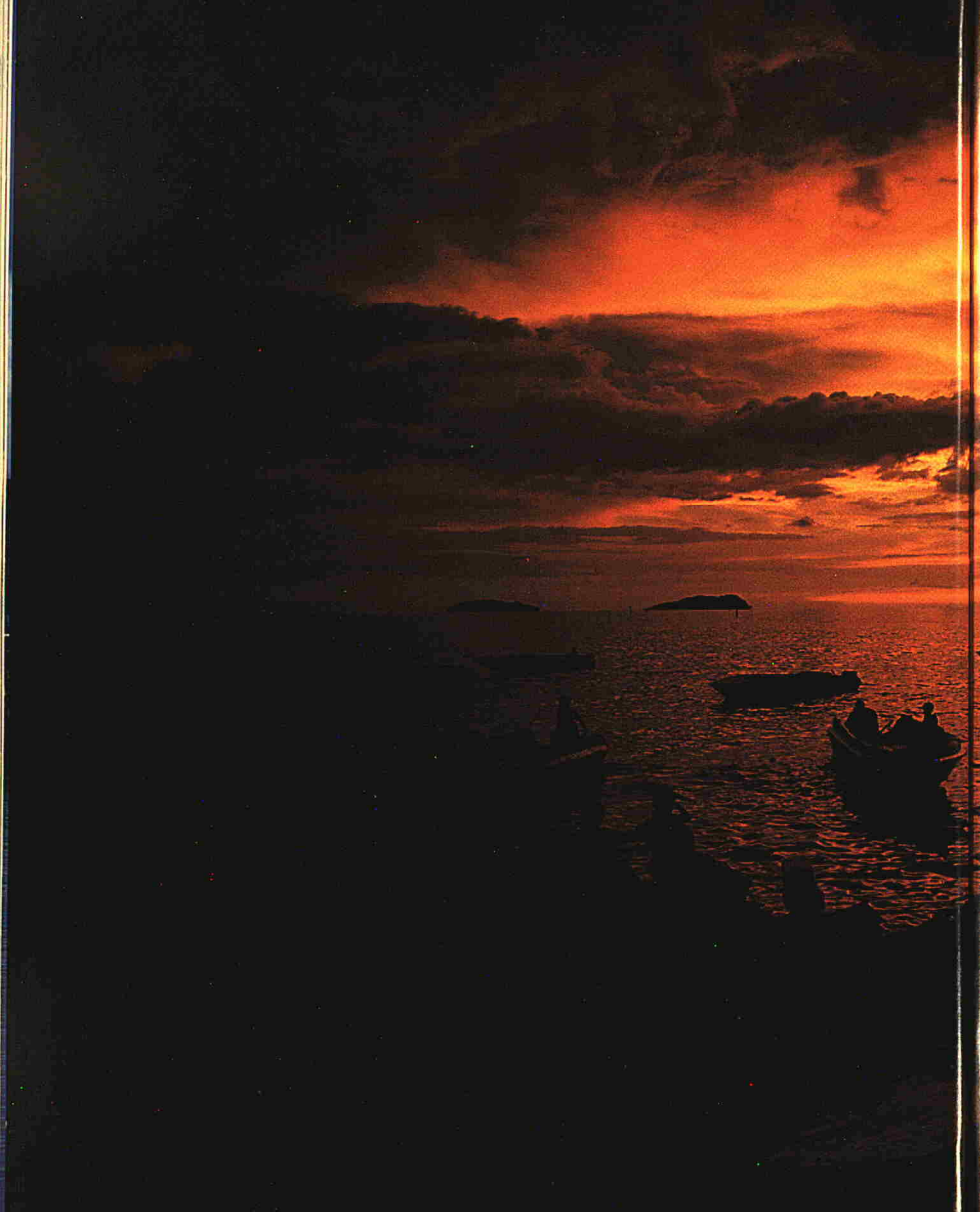


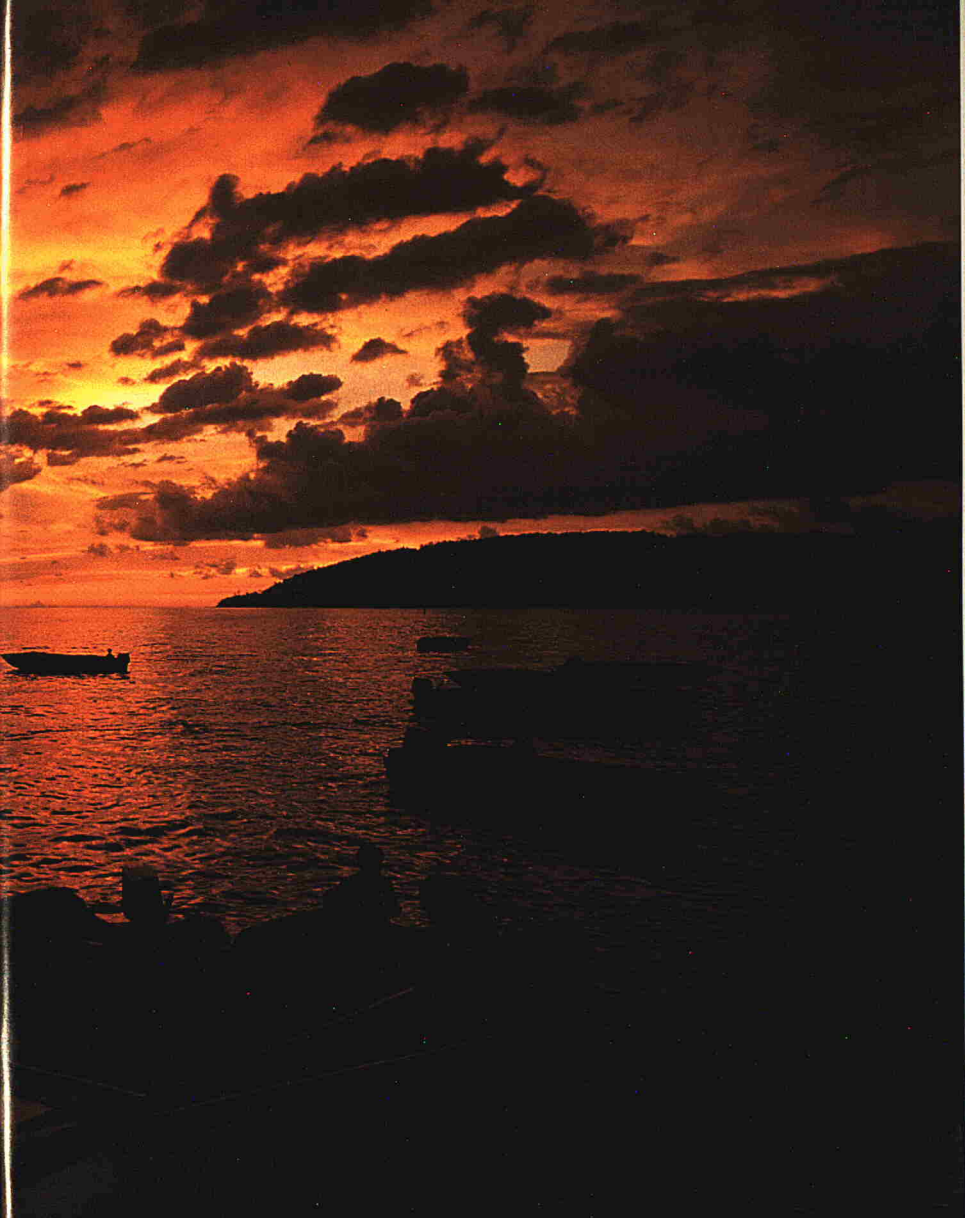


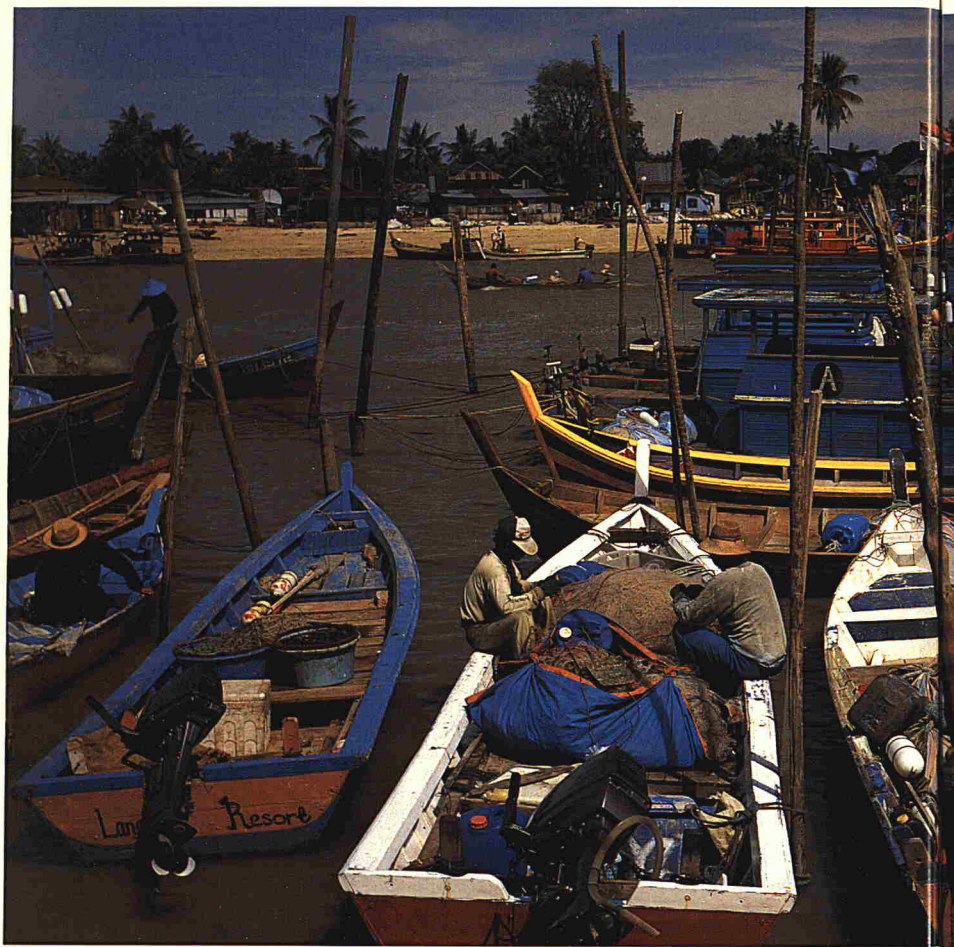
















#### KOTA KINABALU - SABAH

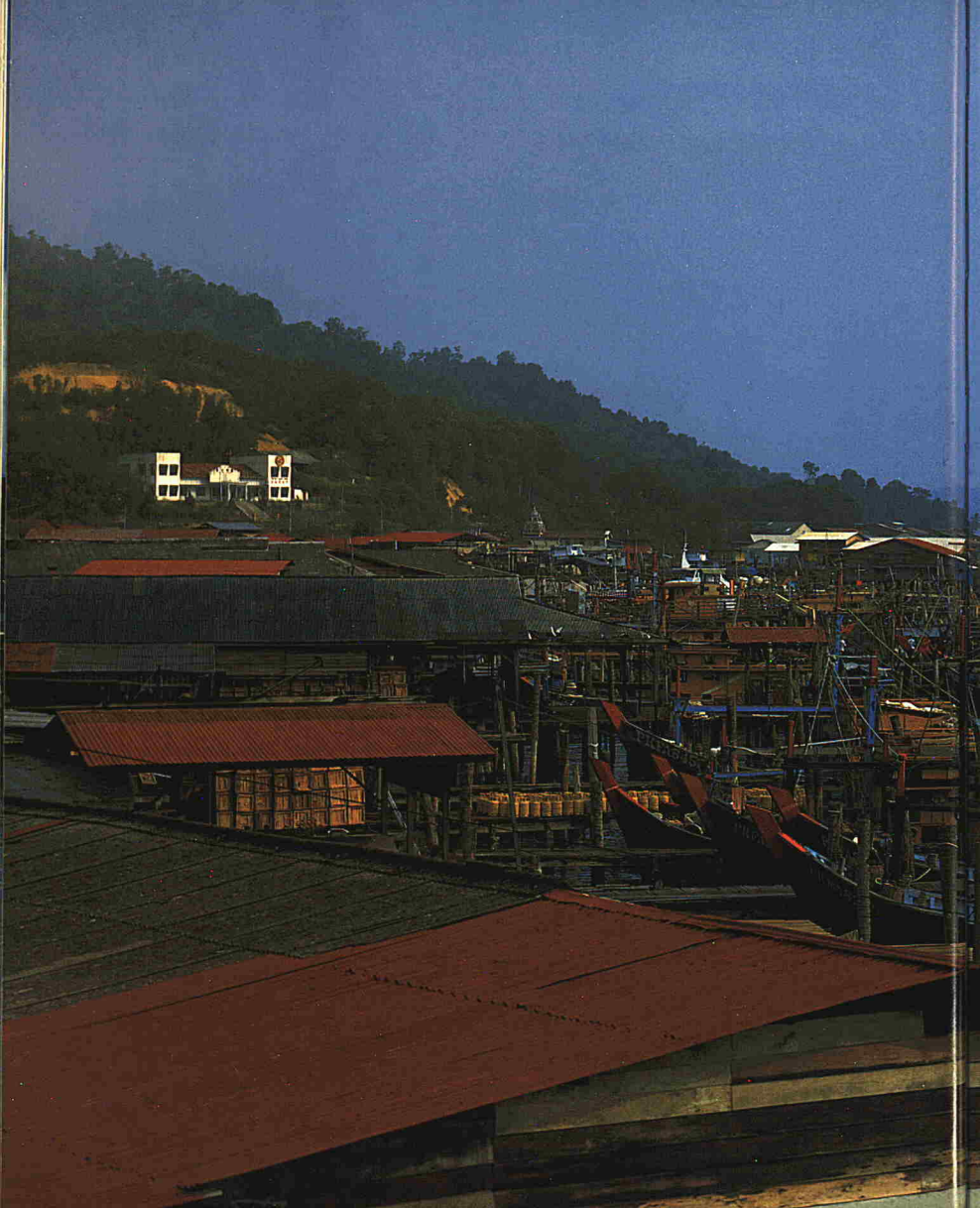
Speedboats in the sunset are a common sight from this landing point in Kota Kinabalu. Here is where Indonesian and Filipino immigrants disembark to go into the city and pick up provisions before shutting back to Gaya Island, where they are temporarily domiciled. Gaya is one of five islands off Kota Kinabalu which have been chosen to form the Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, named after the first Prime Minister of Malaysia.

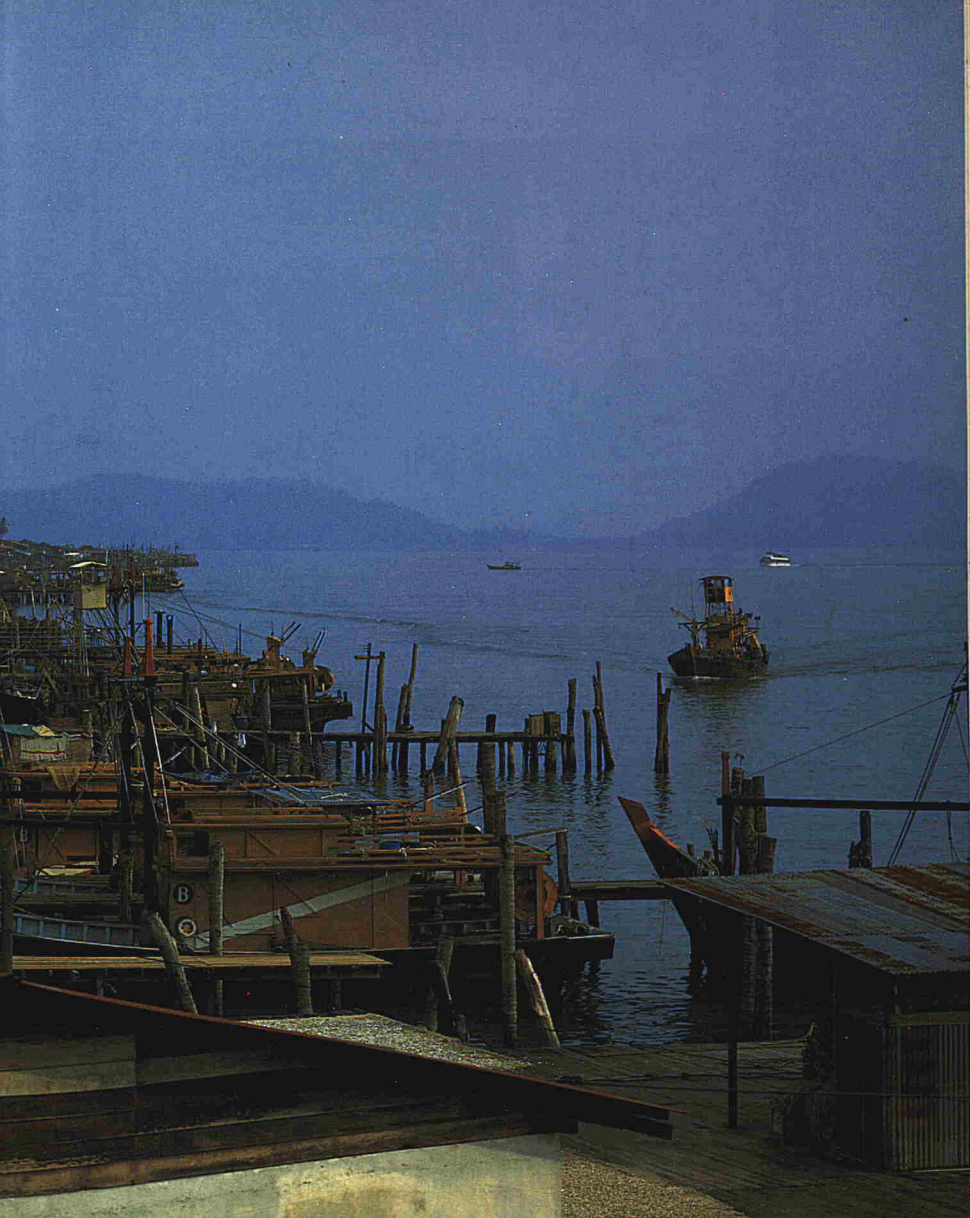
PRECEDING PAGES

#### KUALA MUDA VILLAGE -PENANG / KEDAH

Muda River is the natural boundary between the states of Penang and Kedah. By the banks the fishing boats are moored, and you can tell the 'statehood' of each from the colour it is painted. Blue boats are those registered in Penang and the red ones in Kedah. There is invariably a flurry of activity when the boats return with their catch. Buyers still use the age-old 'whisper system' to tender for the fish. After assessing the merchandise, each buyer would whisper to the fisherman the price he is offering. The fisherman would sell to the highest bidder. The buyers are usually middlemen who in turn sell the fish to restaurants, fishmongers and other retailers.

LEFT





**PANGKOR ISLAND –  
PERAK**

It is early morning and a couple of boats are already setting out to sea from Sungai Pinang Kechil, a village in Pangkor Island. The one with the lookout cabin specialises in catching *ikan bilis* (anchovies). It is equipped with cooking facilities because *ikan bilis* have to be cooked as soon as they are hauled in. Back at base later on, the fish are oven-heated overnight before they are put out to dry in the sun as are those on the plankway in the foreground. Apart from fishing, in which more than half the population are involved, Pangkor Village is noted for fresh seafood. Restaurants and family-run eating stalls offer delicious cuisine. The crab curry here is so tasty, you can't find better anywhere else.

PRECEDING PAGES

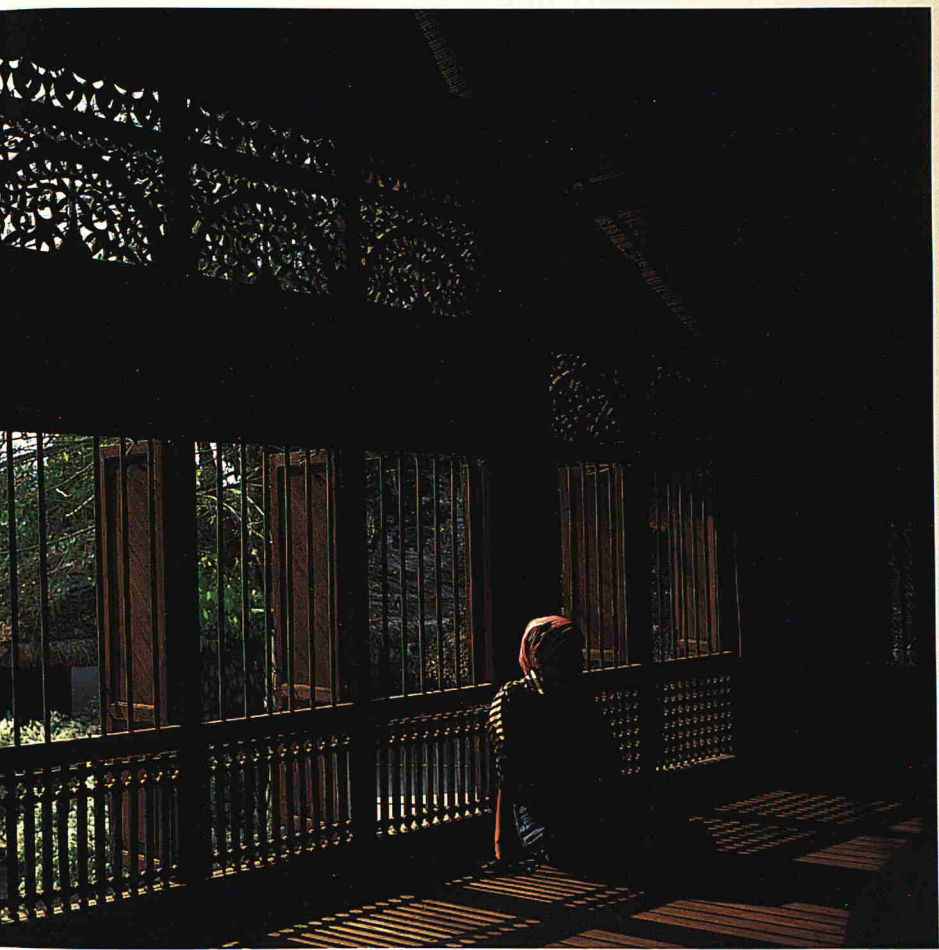
**A KEDAH HOUSE  
– LANGKAWI ISLAND**

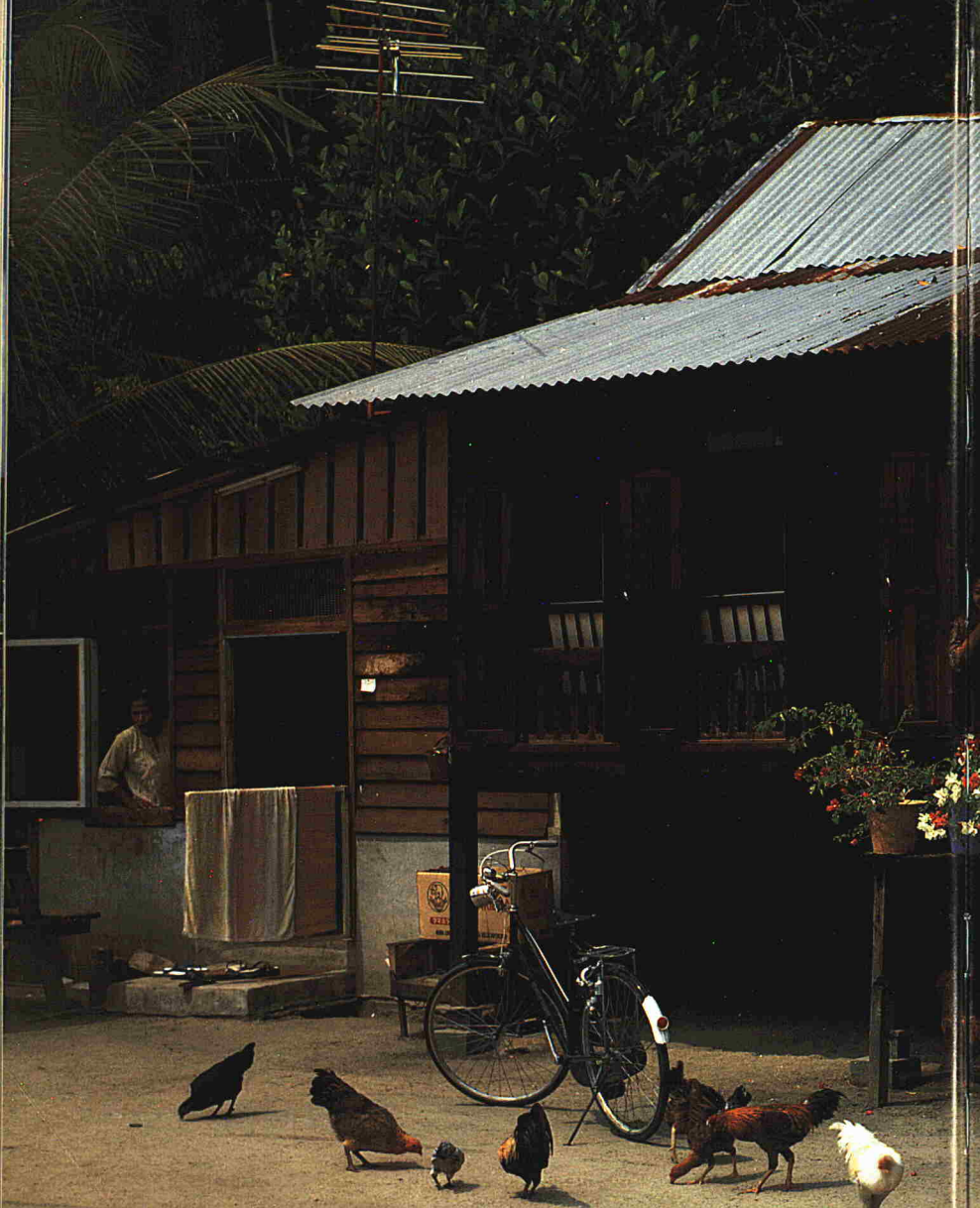
The typical Kedah *kampung* house is living proof of architecture that is sensible, and sensitive to the tropical environment. Built on stilts and capped by a high triangular roof thatched with *atap* and surrounded by an abundance of windows, it is structured to allow for efficient air circulation. In the compound outside, the proliferation of greenery also helps to keep the environment cool. No wonder the lady in the picture can rest in comfort, secure in the harmony between sunlight and shadow.

RIGHT











#### A PERAK KAMPUNG HOUSE - PANGKOR

A pastoral scene of salubrious and wholesome living. The chickens in the yard pecking the earth for food are the kind untainted by toxic injections to fatten them up as are those reared in commercial farms for urban consumption. *Kampung* chickens grow healthily and naturally in their rustic habitat and are therefore more nutritious. The *kampung* lifestyle is generally more in tune with the environment. Trees and plants keep the air fresh and the surroundings pleasant. Bicycles provide transportation — and plenty of good exercise. The residents of this house evidently practise recycling — by putting discarded tyres, old pails and tins to new uses. Certainly it is this need to return to a healthy ambience, apart from family ties, that at least once a year draws people who used to live in the *kampung* back from their present urban homes. This practice of *baliu kampung* is essentially a return to roots and is most common during

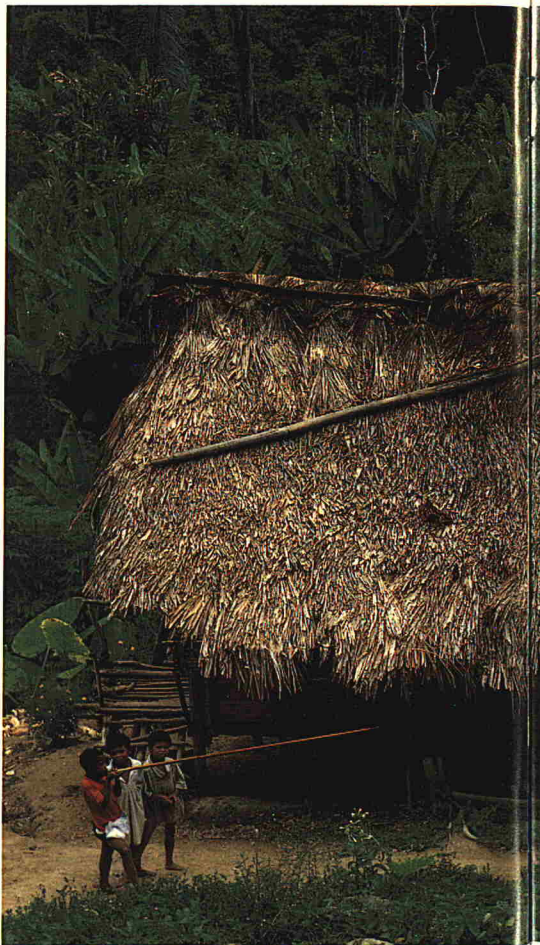
Hari Raya.

PRECEDING PAGES

#### NATIVE DWELLING — PAHANG

In isolated clearings in the jungle of the Tahan Range, *orang asli* or aboriginal dwellings such as this can be found. The roof is made of hand-woven *atap* leaves, the flooring of bamboo strips bound together and supported by wood stems. Before improved infrastructure brought development to their part of the world, the *orang asli* were hunters and shifting cultivators. Now they have access to food supplies from nearby villages and, as supplements, grow banana, sago and yam. Nature also provides ample quantities of durian, bamboo shoots and *petai* which they gather and sell. Sometimes they still hunt, using the traditional blowpipe, a lethal weapon in the hands of an expert. For the boys in the picture, however, the mastery they are aiming at is still a long way off.

RIGHT









#### MERLIMAU HOUSE – MALACCA

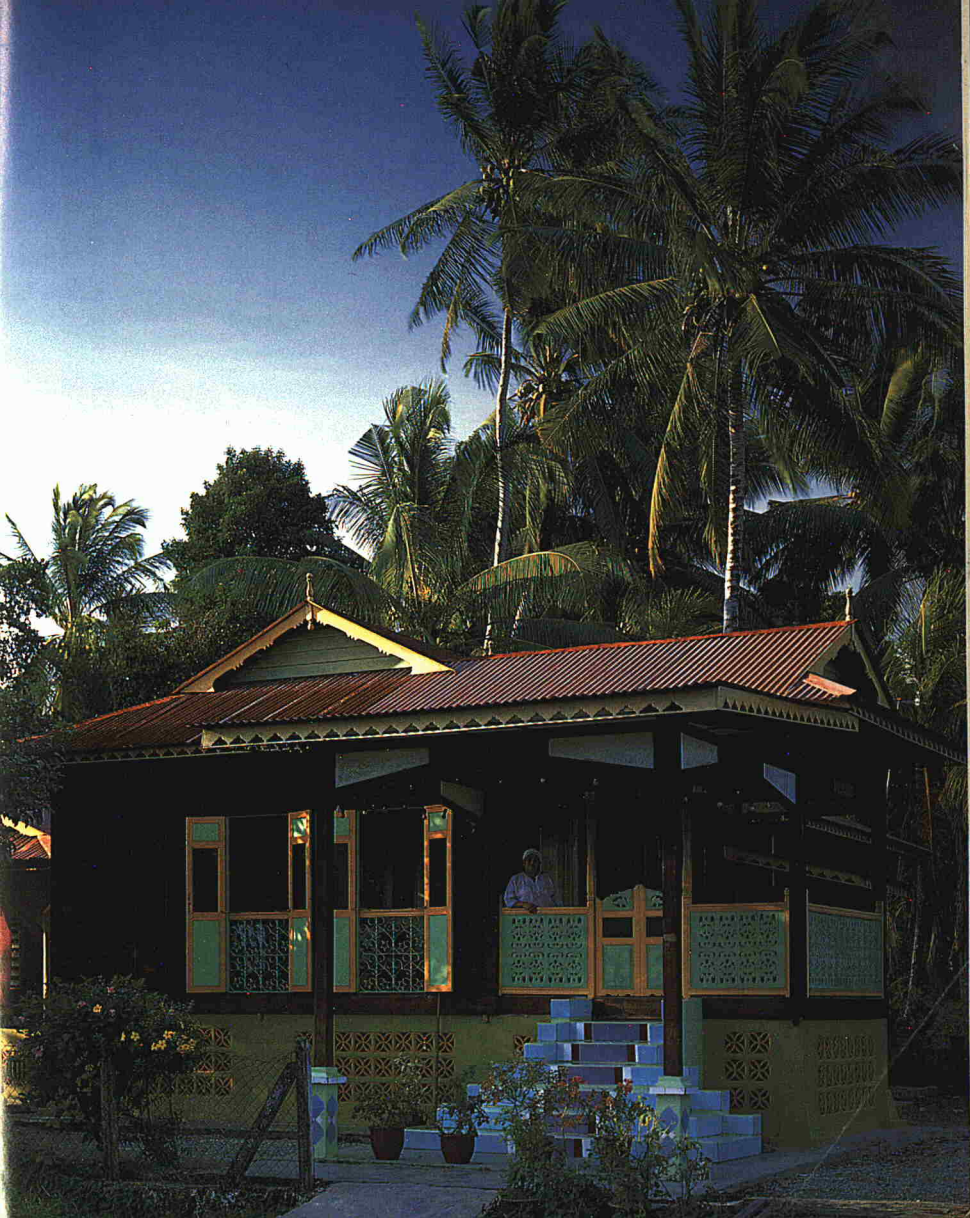
Some people consider this the most beautiful traditional Malay house in Malaysia. Built by the chieftain of Merlimau in 1894, it is decorated with art nouveau tiles imported from Europe which were in vogue at the time, and fine wood carvings. Gracing the front of the house are the descendants of the chieftain.

ABOVE

#### MALAY HOUSE – MALACCA

Bright primary colours dominate this typical Malay house in Serkam, Malacca. When the picture was taken, it had just been repainted in preparation for the coming *Hari Raya* festival. The house is about 30 years old, protected from too much sunlight by surrounding coconut palms, and resting on a raised level to prevent the infiltration of flood waters during the rainy season.

RIGHT







#### MALAY HOUSE - PENANG

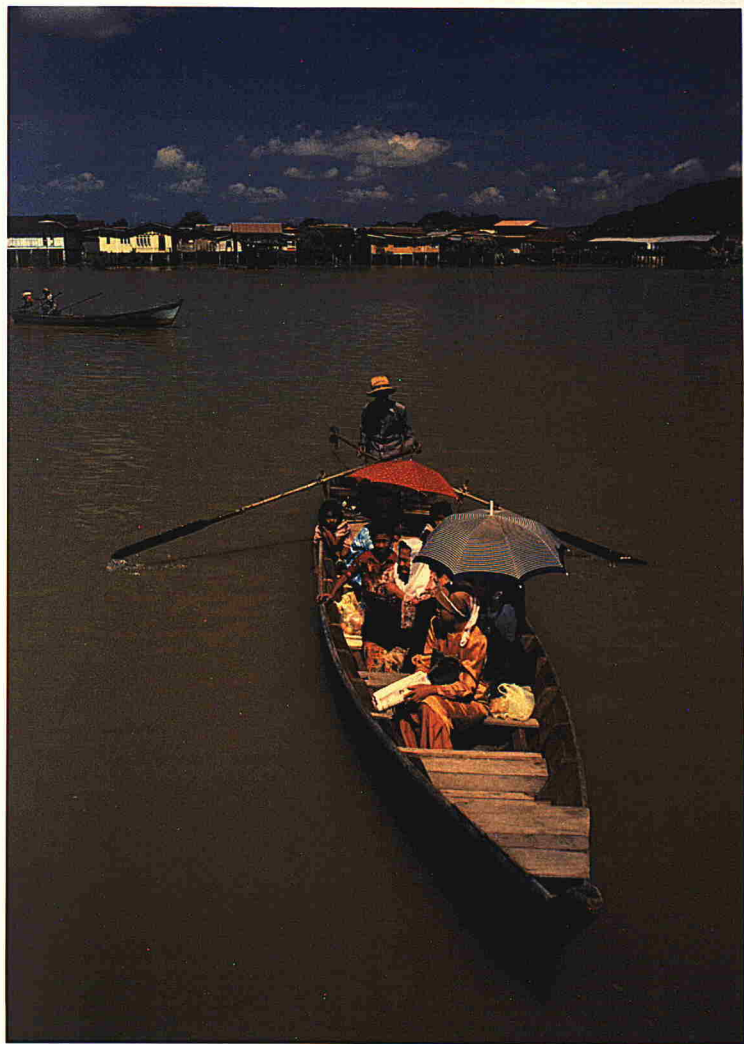
No Malay *kampung* would seem self-contained without the presence of coconut palms. So it is only natural for this *kampung* house in Balik Pulau, Penang, to be set amidst a coconut grove. Casualness informs the lifestyle of its residents, and this is clearly reflected in their daily attire of which the *sarong* is a standard item. Like the ones hanging out to dry outside this house, they are usually either checked (for men) or printed with a batik design (for women). Loose and formless when worn, the *sarong*, usually made of cotton, is a suitable piece of garment for a tropical climate. Sometimes women wear nothing but the *sarong*, tied above their breasts, leaving their shoulders and arms exposed, especially when they need to keep cool while engaged in household chores.

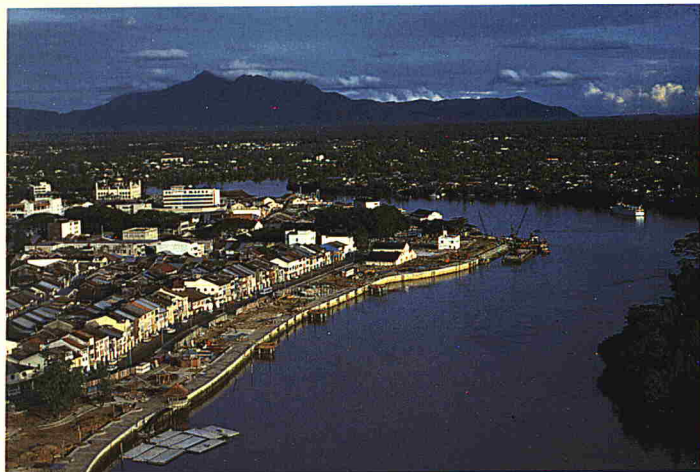
#### KUALA PERLIS - PERLIS

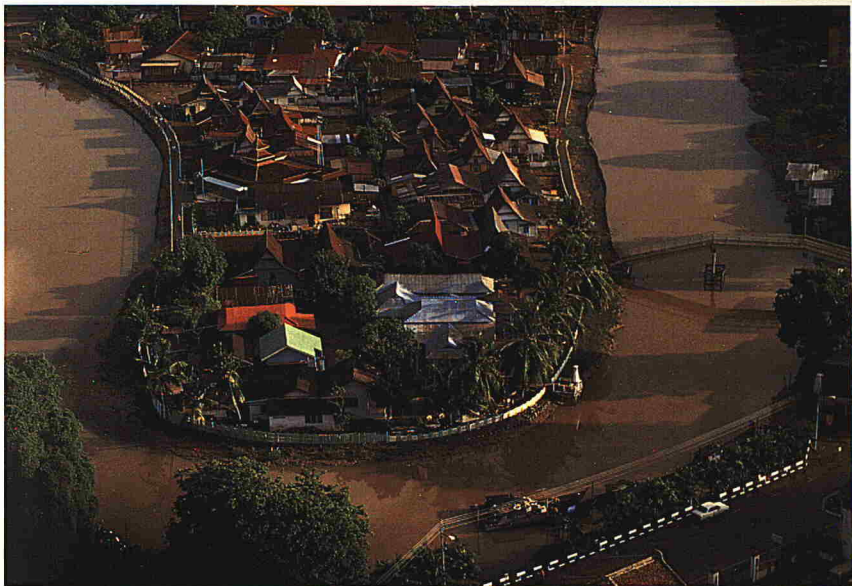
A sampan shuttle service from one bank of Kuala Perlis to the other is what this boatman offers for a nominal fee. Like the boat behind him, it is motor-powered but he still prefers the use of oars. Kuala Perlis is the northernmost town of Peninsular Malaysia. Its position makes it an important embarkation point for travellers to Langkawi. To improve ferry service to the resort island, a new jetty is being built in Kuala Perlis by the Government as part of its aim to bring development to the area. Plans are also afoot for the construction of a multi-million-ringggit highway linking Kuala Perlis to the southern Thai province of Satun. It looks like Kuala Perlis may in time become more than just a fishing town in Malaysia's smallest state.

RIGHT









#### KUCHING – SARAWAK

Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, commands a stately position beside the Sarawak River. The shophouses facing the river are enduring examples of Chinese architecture. Along the waterfront, a new promenade has been built as part of Kuching's beautification programme. Old godowns were removed, and steamers and barges that used to call are no longer allowed on this stretch. Across the river is the historical Fort Margherita — built by Charles Brooke, the second White Rajah of Sarawak, and named after his consort — now converted into a Police Museum.

TOP LEFT

#### SIBU – SARAWAK

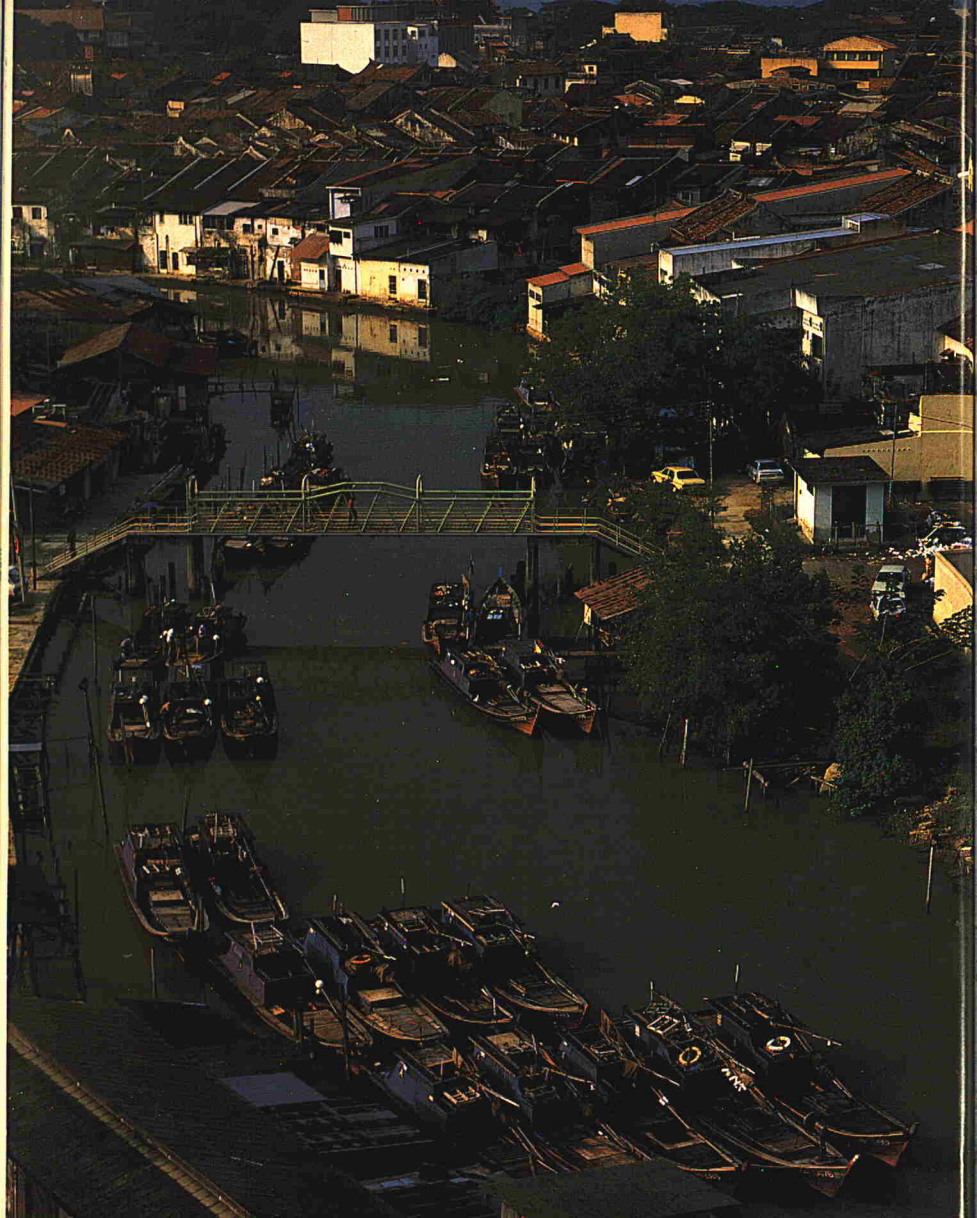
Sibu, situated at the confluence of the mighty Rajang, longest river in Malaysia, and the Igan, is the gateway to Sarawak's interior. Long speedboats known as the Express are the main mode of transportation up the Rajang to towns like Song, Kapit, and Belaga. The fact that rivers are still the most important communication network in Sarawak has made Sibu into a bustling port. Sibu is the second largest town in Sarawak with a population of more than 170,000 living in an area of 12,886 sq km.

LEFT

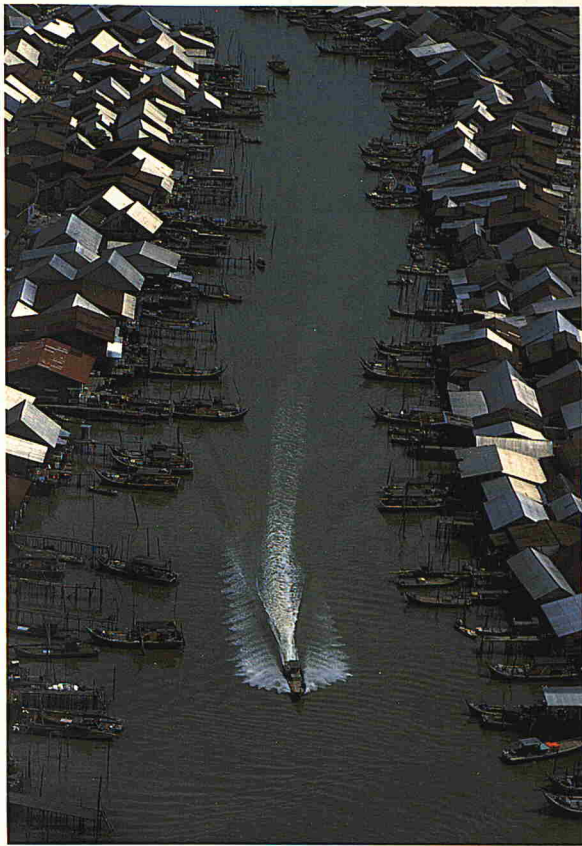
#### MALACCA RIVER

Kampung Morten is a dainty traditional Malay village on a horse-shoe stretch of the Malacca River. Its houses are distinguished by steep triangular roofs and pretty staircases, bearing strong Sumatran influence. The village is named after J.F. Morten, the Commissioner of Lands in Malacca in the 1920s, who helped to procure the land for the villagers. A bridge now links Kampung Morten to the town centre of Malacca as the village has become a popular tourist attraction.

ABOVE







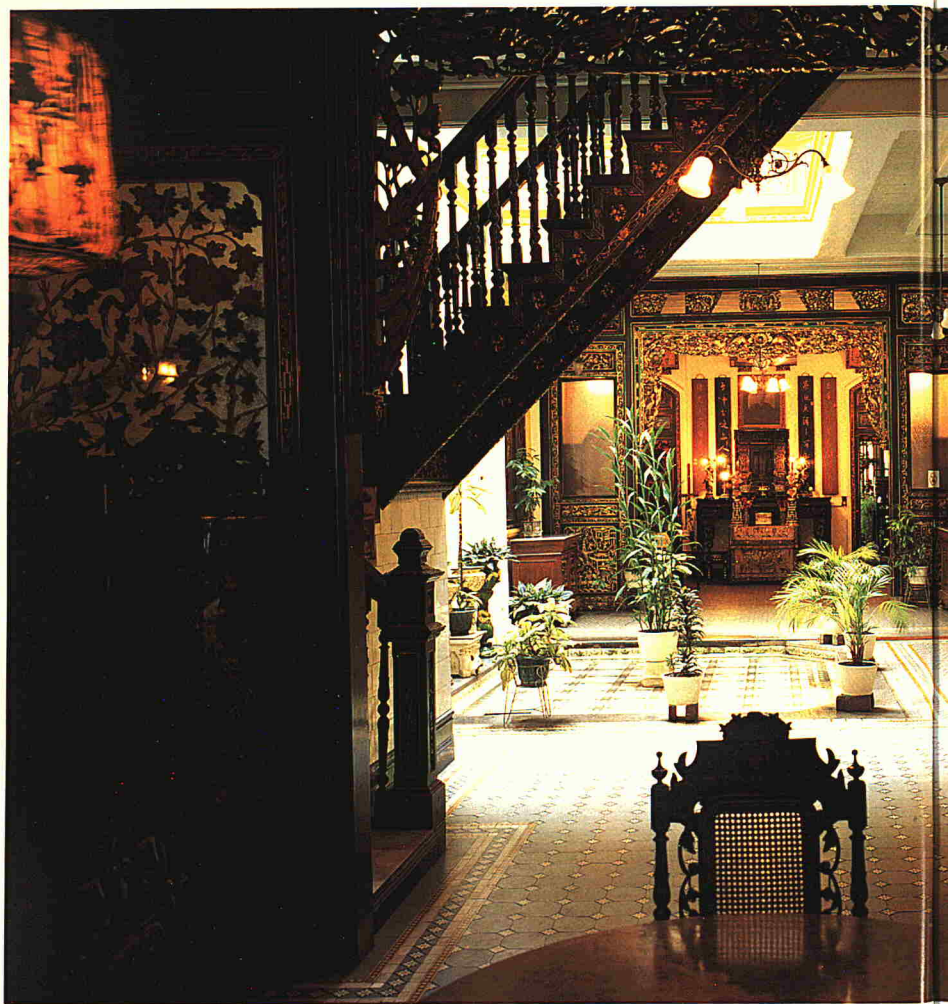
#### KUALA SEPETANG – PERAK

Kuala Sepetang is a fishing port that is moving on a fast lane. The traffic of commerce has been so busy that it has led to overcrowding. In the history books, this town is better known as Port Weld for it was between here and Taiping that the country's first railway track was laid, in 1885. This marked the start of improved communications in British Malaya essential for economic development.

#### MALACCA RIVER

Boats at rest on Malacca River conjure a leisurely atmosphere. The generations-old Chinese houses by the banks huddle together around characteristically narrow streets. There is a timelessness to this once great international port which attracted merchants of the spice trade and Chinese traders seeking markets for their silks and wares. The first wave of Chinese came in the 15th Century and some stayed on, assimilating the indigenous ways while maintaining their own cultural heritage. Known as Babas and Nyonyas, they evolved a whole sub-culture of their own, one that merges the best of both worlds.

LEFT





#### BABA-NYONYA HOUSE — MALACCA

Baba-Nyonya culture is splendidly preserved at the Chan family house in Jalan Tun Cheng Lock, Malacca. Built in 1896, it is now the residence of third-generation descendants of the patriarch and at the same time a museum. Daily conducted tours reveal to the visitor the traditional Chinese design of its spacious interior. The house is 54.5 metres long, with an airwell in the centre for ventilation. Antique blackwood furniture, imported floor tiles, and intricate carvings on lattice panels recall the old country from where the Babas originated. Taking pride of place is the ancestral altar, a memorial to past generations of the Chan clan. In accordance with Chinese belief, it is located in an inner section of the house whereas the main altar at the front is the sole domain of the gods. Ancestor worship is a cornerstone of Chinese custom but humans must never steal the thunder from the heavenly beings.



#### **INDEPENDENCE MEMORIAL – MALACCA**

This used to be the Malacca Club, but since August 31, 1985, it has served as a memorial to the country's struggle for independence. Photographs, historical documents, and videos reconstruct for the visitor the events and processes that led to the historic moment in 1957 when Tunku Abdul Rahman led the people in heralding the birth of a new nation.

LEFT



#### **SRI MENANTI PALACE – NEGERI SEMBILAN**

Set against a verdant backdrop, the Old Palace at Sri Menanti is an elegant example of Sumatran symmetry. Built in 1902, it preceded the Istana Besar as the home of Negeri Sembilan's royalty. It has now been turned into a Royal Museum. Made entirely of wood, it is decorated with intricate carvings, and its 99 pillars supposedly represent the 99 warriors of different clans.

ABOVE



#### JAHAR PALACE – KELANTAN

Sultan Muhammad II built this palace for his grandson in 1887. Now it is a museum of royal traditions and customs, part of a cluster of other museums in Kota Bharu's Cultural Zone. Visitors will get an insight into Kelantan's cultural heritage from photographs and exhibits on display as well as from the beautifully carved panels of Jahar Palace.

RIGHT



#### MINANGKABAU HOUSE – SEREMBAN

The Minangkabau House at the Seremban Cultural Park is a testimony to the refined culture of the race of people who fled their homeland in Sumatra to settle in Negeri Sembilan in the 16th Century. Fine traditional wood carvings adorn its stairs, pillars, walls and panels. Built in the 19th Century, it was originally sited in Mambau, but in 1924 it was transported to England to be displayed at an exhibition. Then it was later shifted to where it is now.

ABOVE

**SEREMBAN  
CULTURAL PARK  
— NEGERI SEMBILAN**

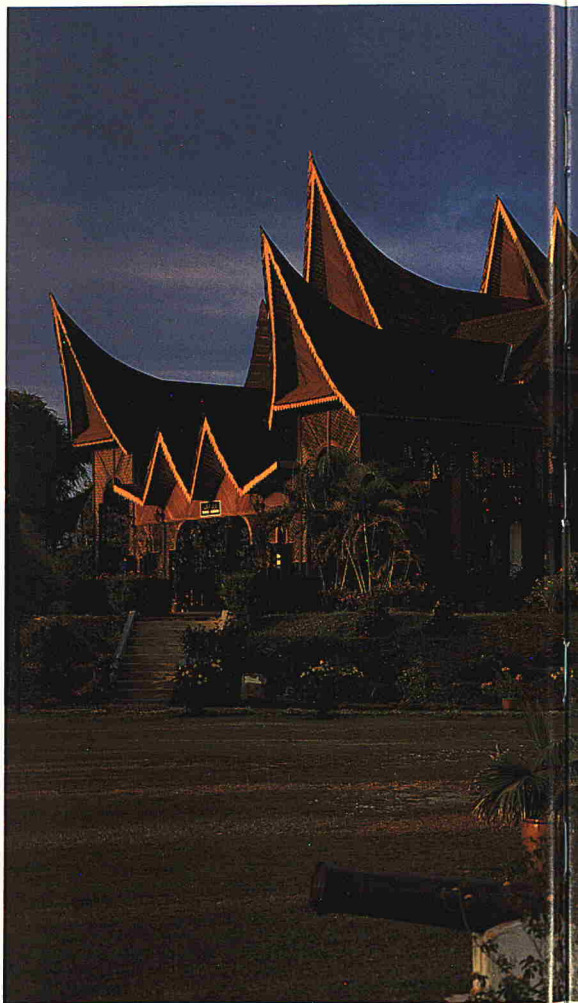
Bathed in the warm orange glow of the setting sun, the Seremban Cultural Park looks a fitting embodiment of Negeri Sembilan's glorious past. History lives on in this complex comprising the State Museum, the Minangkabau House, and the Cultural Handicraft Centre. The stamp of Minangkabau culture is on all three, from the curved pointed roofs to the artifacts inside. The State Museum used to be the old palace at Ampang Tinggi, built in 1861, before it was moved to its present site. The Cultural Handicraft Centre is the hub of history and handicrafts as well as traditional games and dance.

RIGHT

**MALACCA CULTURAL  
MUSEUM**

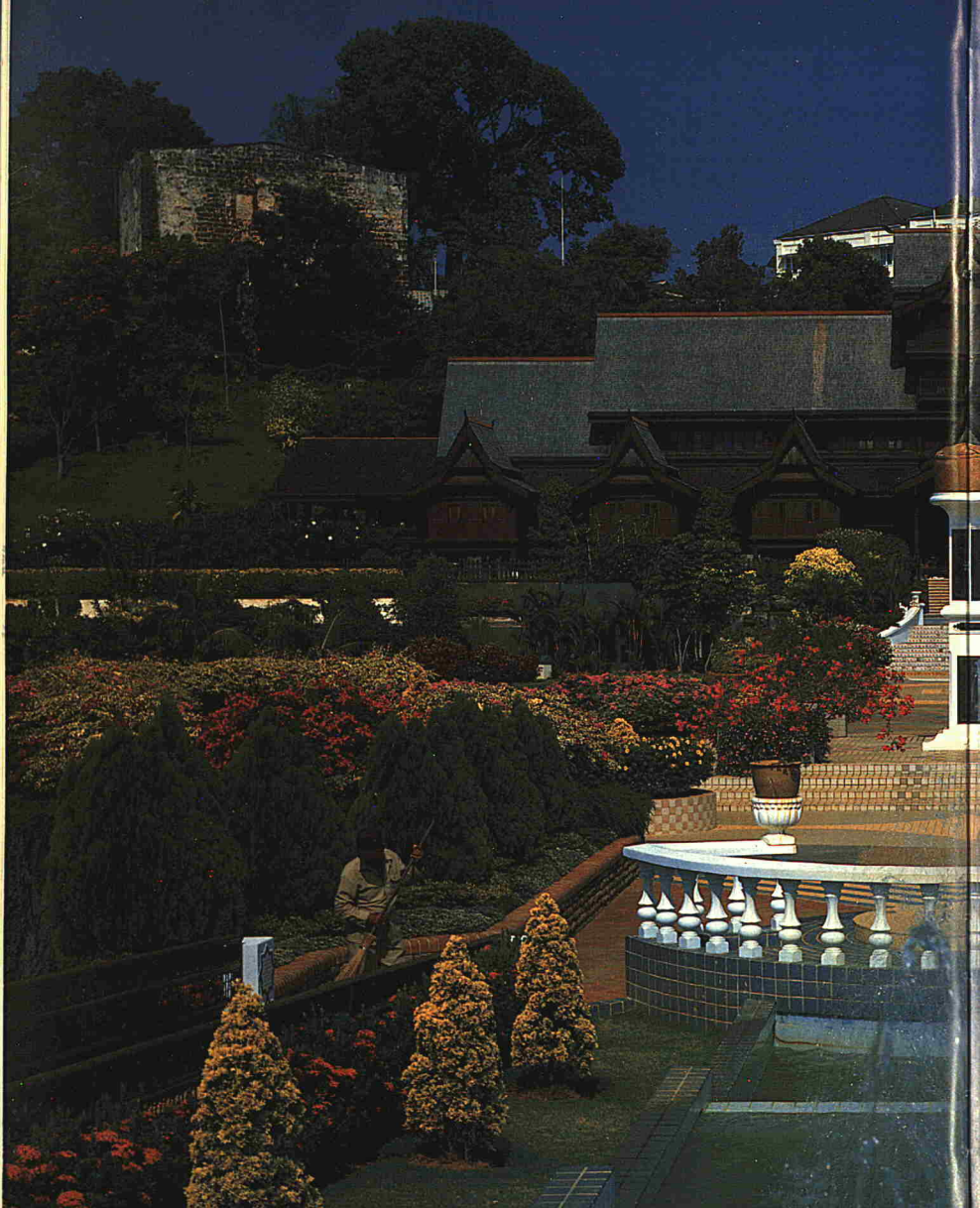
This elegant building is a product of history and imagination. As a replica of the palace of the Malacca Sultanate in the 15th Century during the reign of Sultan Mansur Shah, it was designed from descriptions of the original palace recorded in the *Sejarah Melayu* (Malay Annals). Nonetheless it is an impressive reconstruction. The Minangkabau influence is reflected in its roofs, made of ironwood shingles. The rest of the building is made of first-grade timber, *chengal* and *resak*. Its finely manicured garden is one of the most well-kept and extraordinary in the country. As a cultural museum, it brings to life the history of Malacca and displays exhibits that include weaponry, decorative arts, and artifacts that showcase the cultures of Malacca's communities.

OVERLEAF





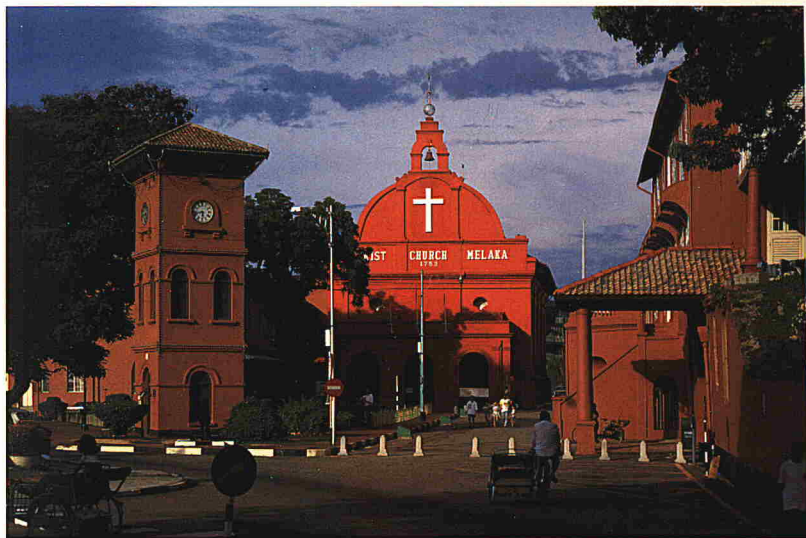












#### STREET SCENE – MALACCA

Time seems to stand still for this old shophouse. The old man at the ice-grinder is making *ais kacang*, a sweet concoction of red bean, sweetcorn, milk and syrup, as he would have done decades ago. He also makes ice balls steeped in syrup, relished by children of yesteryears but a rarity today. The house itself seems to retain its original ambience and appearance, complete with ancient windows. Only the Coke slaking the thirst of the trishaw man standing in the doorway is an emblem of the present. Scenes like this are common in Malacca where the 'old-world' spirit is still very much alive.

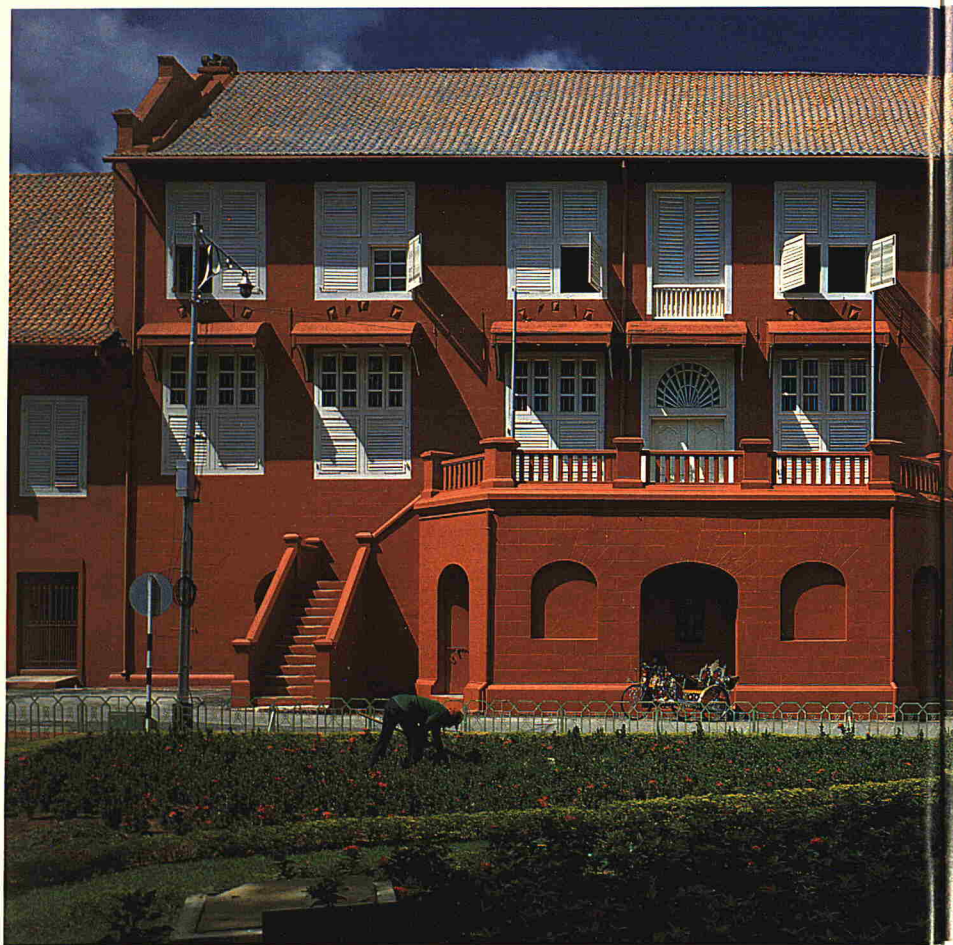
LEFT

#### MALACCA TOWN CENTRE

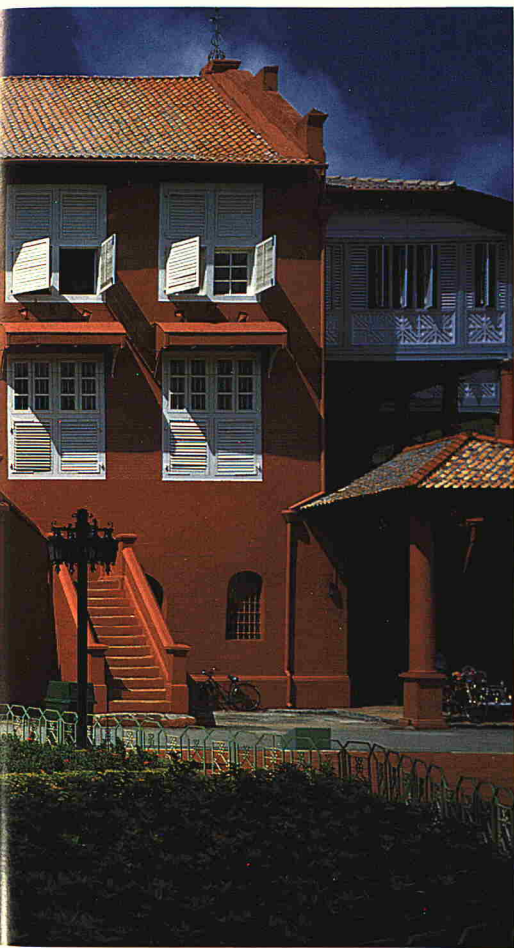
The clock tower, Christ Church and the Stadthuys are famous features of the historic city of Malacca. The clock tower is the legacy of Tan Beng Swee, a rich Malaccan philanthropist who had it built in 1886; the other two landmarks are relics of Dutch rule. In its heyday, centuries ago, Malacca was considered an important centre of trade because of its strategic position. This naturally attracted the attention of forces that sought to dominate the trade. The Portuguese were the first to conquer it, in 1511, putting an end to the reign of Sultan Mahmud and the glorious Malacca Sultanate. They immediately fortified their position by building a fortress called A Famosa, the only remains left of which is its gateway, *Porta de Santiago* (top picture), now a tourist attraction. In 1641, the Dutch wrested control from the Portuguese after six months of confrontation. Christ Church was built in 1753, the Stadthuys a century earlier. In 1842, the Dutch lost Malacca to the British.

ABOVE









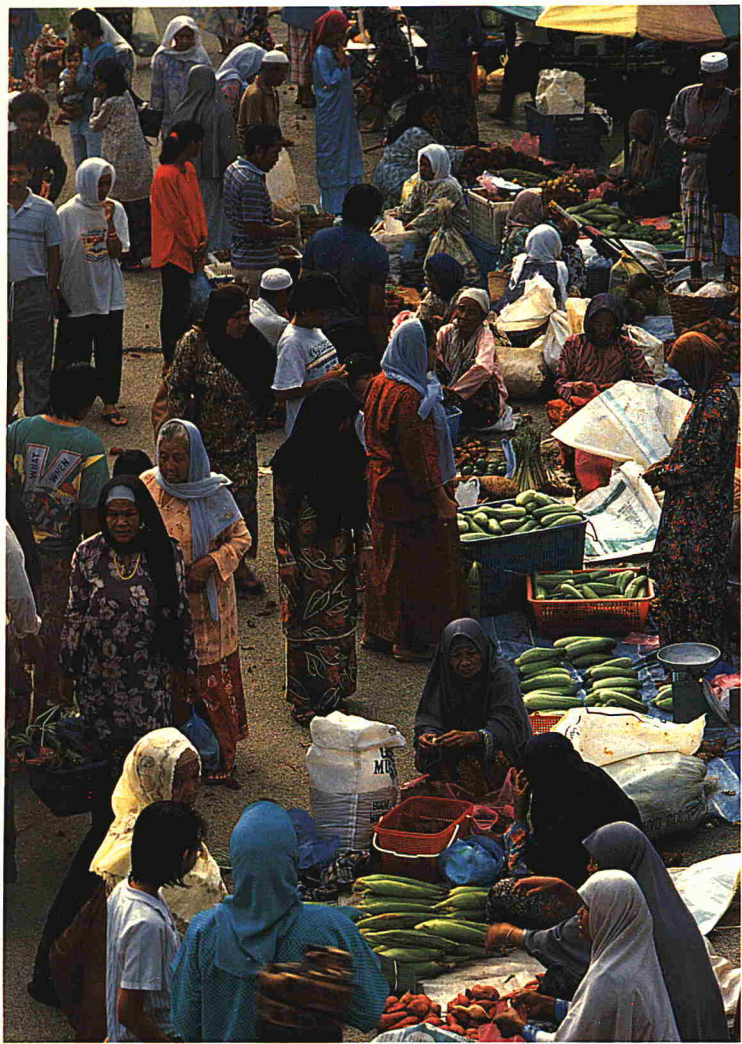
#### THE STADTHUYS - MALACCA

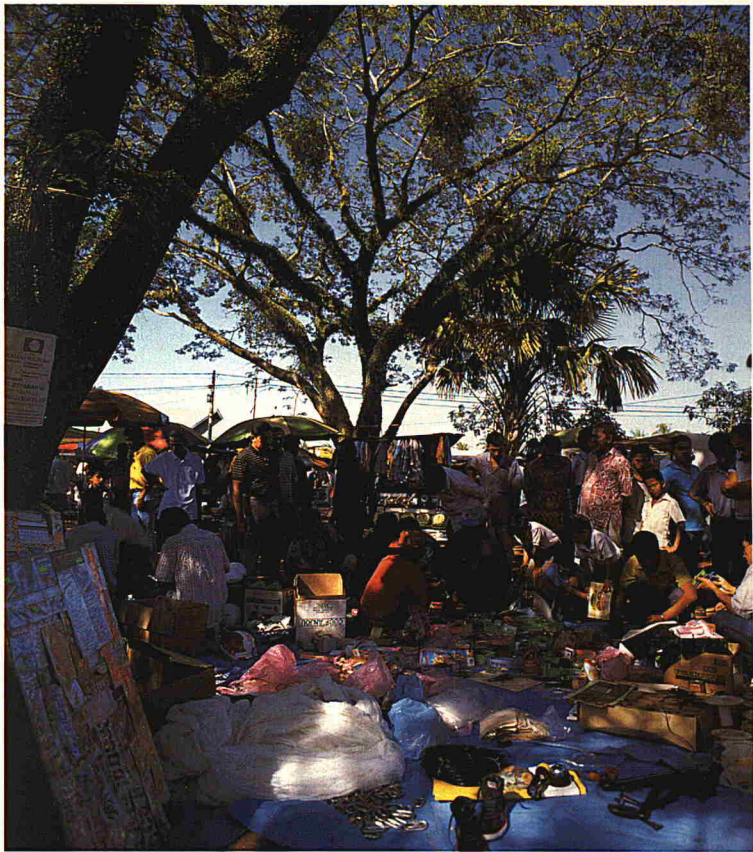
Distinctive in red, the Stadthuys continues life today as premises for the Malacca Historical Museum. Completed in the mid-17th Century, it was originally the residence of the Dutch governors and their officers.

When the British ruled Malacca, they used the Stadthuys as a place for putting up visiting guests. The upper floor was also used as a court of justice and the lower floor shared between the fire service and the main military guard.

Now, as a historical museum, it showcases items ranging from Portuguese, Malay and Chinese antiques to a pair of boxing gloves once used by Muhammad Ali.

LEFT





#### **PENAGA MARKET – PENANG**

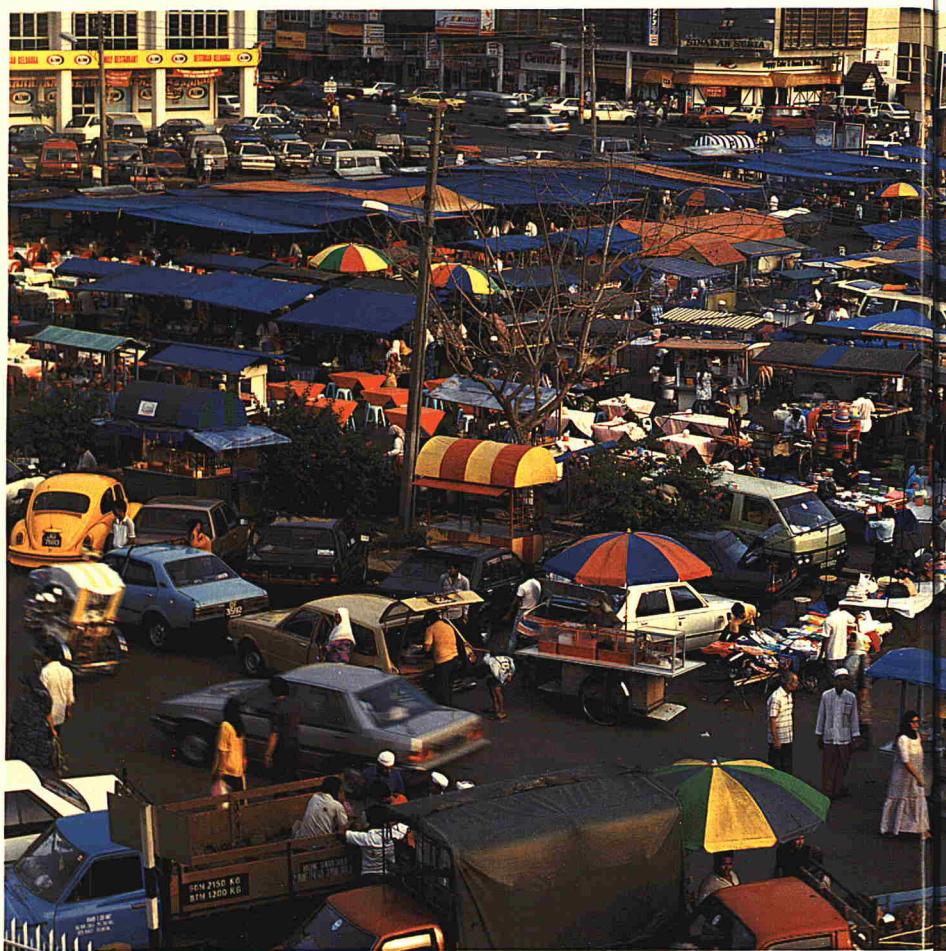
Open air markets are a distinct feature of Malaysian life. It seems the most natural thing for traders, some coming from nearby states, to drive up in vans or lorries and set up business under the trees or big colourful umbrellas. In the morning, it is called *pasar pagi*; at night, *pasar malam*. Almost everything under the sun — or moon — is on sale: furniture, bicycles, shoes, clothes, food, costume jewellery, even, as in this picture, fishing nets. Of course, the traders are vulnerable to the vagaries of the weather. On a rainy day, their business can get washed out. But oftentimes the indefatigable spirit of these people shines through. As soon as the rain stops, you can bet they'll be back.

#### **MARANG MARKET – TERENGGANU**

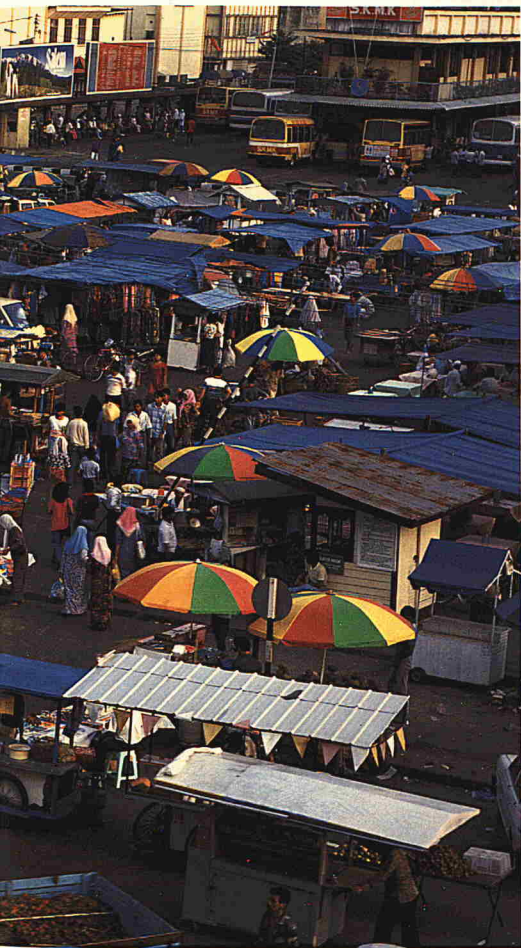
Friday is a busy market day in Marang as the East Coast state of Terengganu observes Thursday and Friday as its holiday weekend. Most Muslim women in Terengganu go about with their heads covered, using scarf, shawl or *tudung*. Men wearing white round caps are those who have performed the *hajj* in Mecca.

LEFT









#### **KOTA BHARU NIGHT MARKET - KELANTAN**

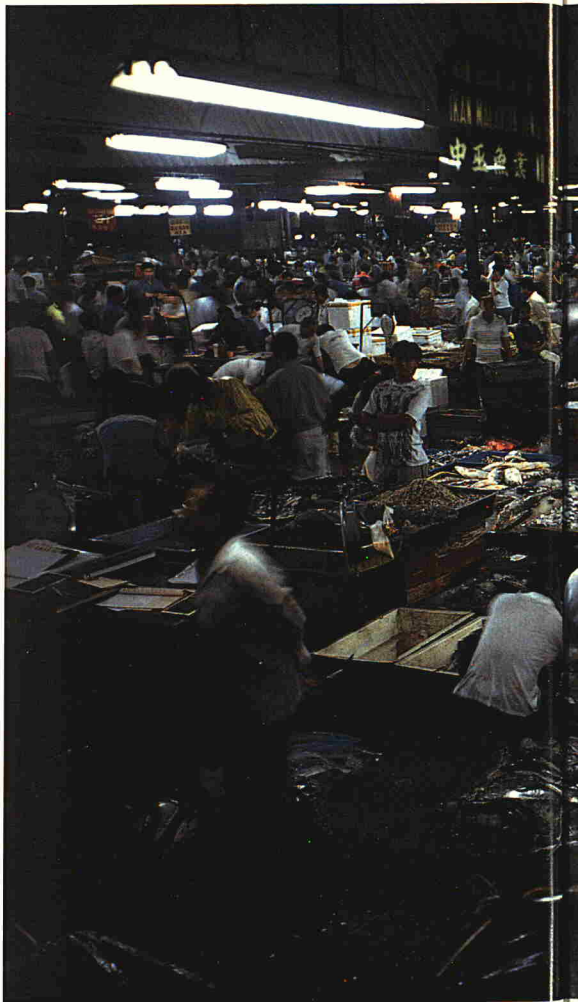
This is one of the best *pasar malam* in the East Coast. It actually starts in early evening with the traders setting up their stalls in an open space that during office hours is employed as a car park. There are no markings on the ground but each trader knows exactly which space he should occupy. The

result is an orderly arrangement with no room for chaos. There are sections for eating stalls with tables set up for diners, and sections devoted to stalls selling clothes. In between are pockets where fruits, household wares and other things are hawked. Because of Kota Bharu's proximity to Thailand, many Thai goods are available. Situated right in the heart of town, this *pasar malam* is a significant part of Kota Bharu's night life. The contrast between the fervid bazaar atmosphere, where haggling is a custom, and the more sanitised, airconditioned ambience of the A & W Restaurant across the road, where prices are not negotiable, is what gives Malaysian life its variety and vibrance.

SELAYANG  
WHOLESALE MARKET  
- SELANGOR

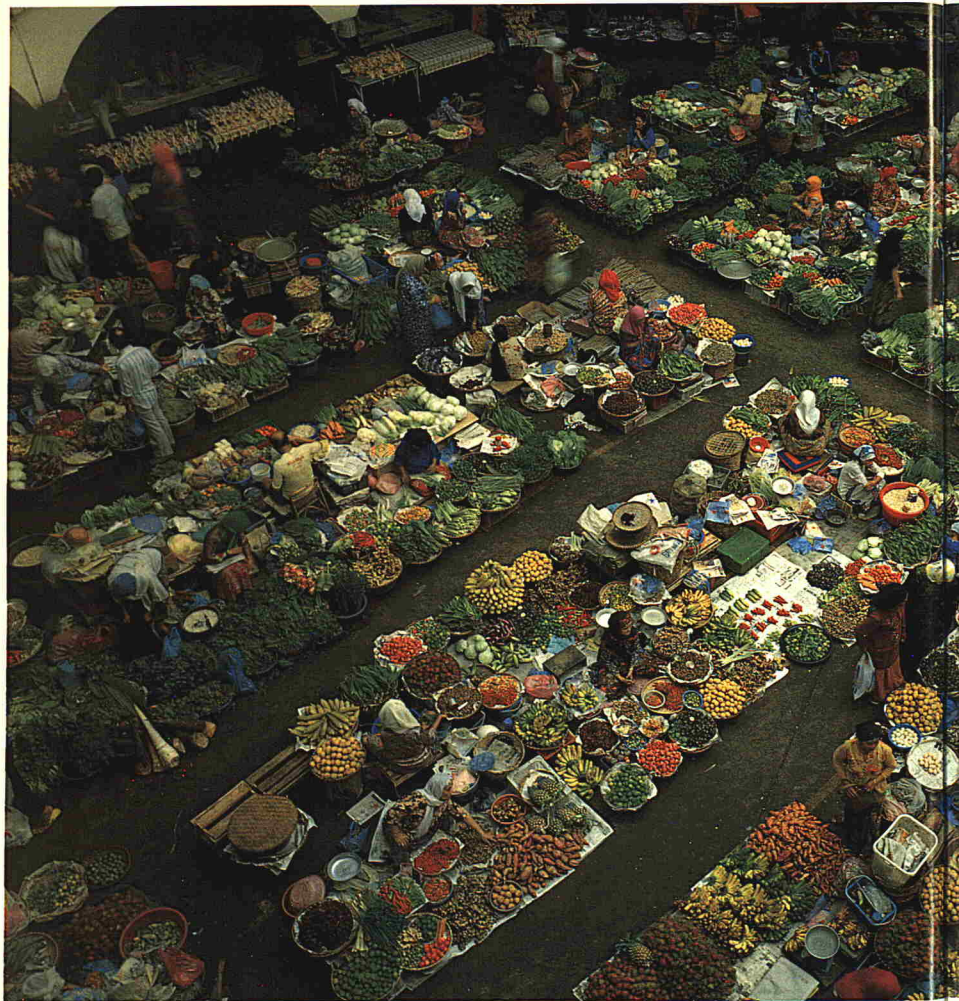
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3.30 a.m. is when most people are snug in their beds, but at Selayang Wholesale Market, the 'night' is still young. Buyers and sellers are wide awake haggling over the price of fish brought in from the coastal towns of Perak and Selangor. Sold at wholesale prices, the fish is bargain pickings for fishmongers and restaurateurs, but these are by no means the only early birds on the scene. Housewives and other small buyers, too, sacrifice normal sleep to take advantage of the cost-saving prospect. Apart from fish, fruits and vegetables are up for grabs at prices they can't get anywhere else.













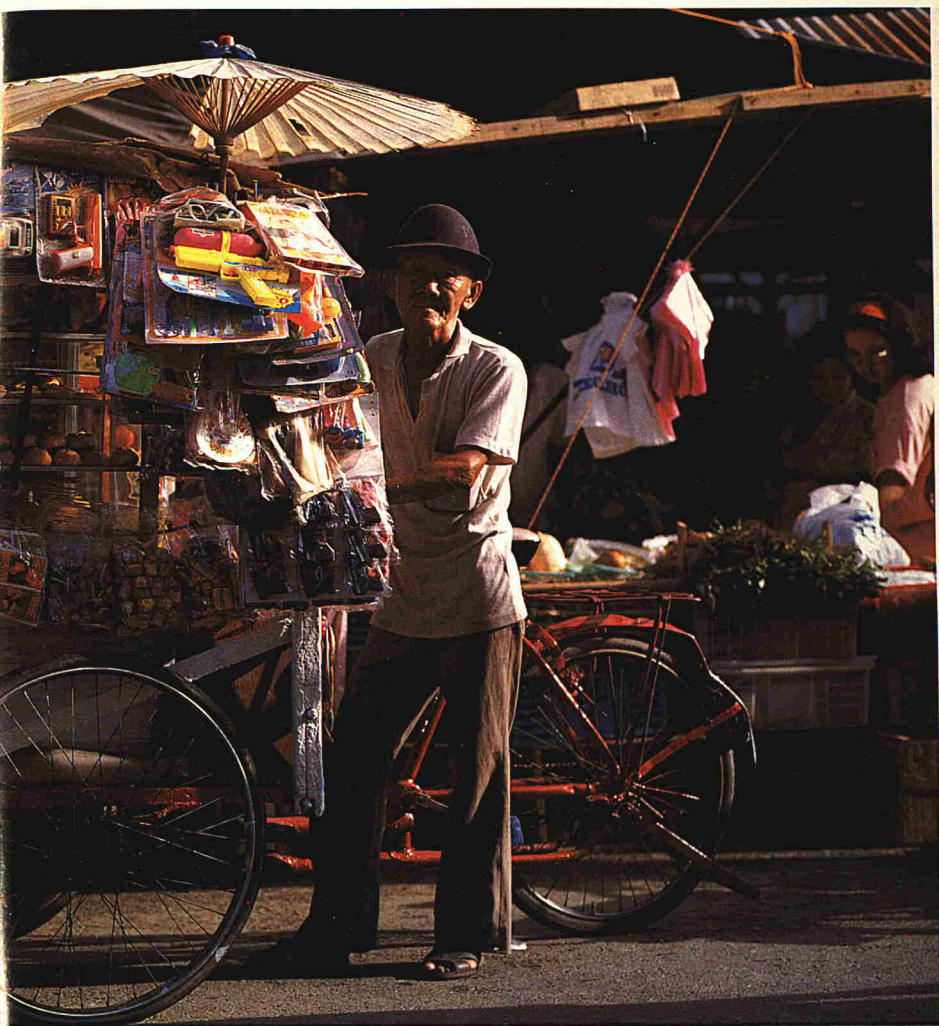
**KOTA BHARU CENTRAL  
MARKET - KELANTAN**

A kaleidoscope of colours describes this section of the Kota Bharu Central Market. Not only is this attributable to the glorious hues of the variety of vegetables on sale but also to the appearance of the vendors, mostly women, decked out in their colourful *tudung*, batik wear, and gold ornaments. The wares are laid out on the ground, inviting informal rapport between buyers and sellers, and apart from vegetables, fruits, spices, and dried foodstuffs are available. The chickens at the top left hand corner of the picture are of the *kampung* variety, lower in fat content and tougher of flesh but more healthy than the commercially reared ones.

**STREET PEDLAR –  
MALACCA**

You are looking at the last of the street pedlars of Malacca. When this man passes on, it is unlikely that someone else will carry on pushing his cart of condiments and fancies through the narrow streets of Malacca to bring delight to little children. His contraption is a quaint one, belittling the quaintness of the streets he negotiates, some so narrow it is a wonder man and cart can pass through them. The cart rests on a three-wheeler that has been converted from a trishaw but not a Malaccan trishaw which normally has the rider beside the passenger car; this one comes from the north, probably Penang, with the rider behind. The man sometimes pedals, sometimes pushes the cart, drawing attention to his presence by yelling and pressing a horn. By now, those who know his routine are familiar with the call. Children look forward to what he has to offer — toys, sweets, biscuits, dried *safay* fish. Adults know he doesn't make much but they still bargain over prices. *He* knows he will carry on till his last legs, despite the odds that progress poses.







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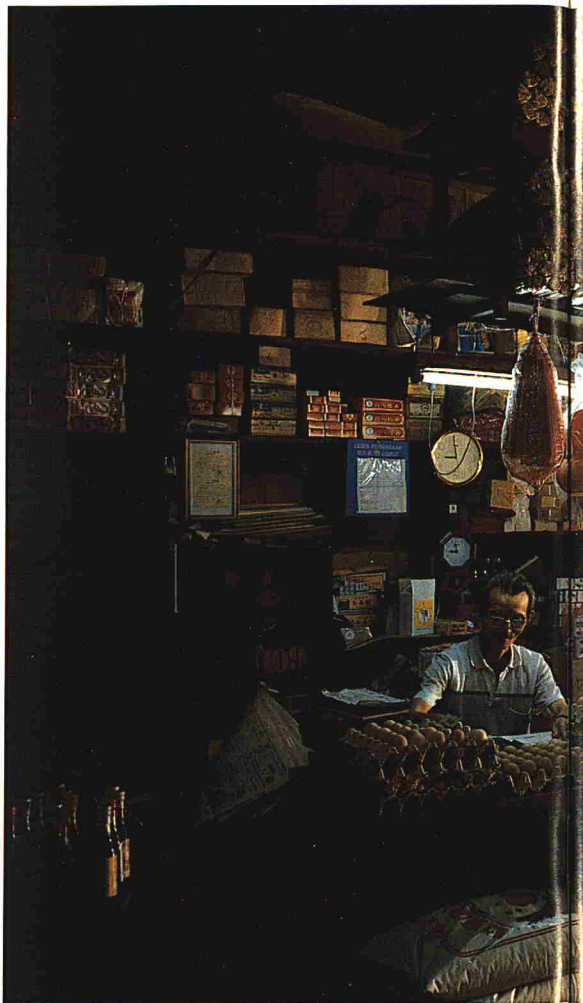


## BOOKSHOPS – MALACCA

Few shops open earlier than these two. At 7 in the morning, they open their doors, mainly to provide the staple item of morning readers — newspapers. Other than that, they both sell basically identical goods — books, magazines, cigarettes, toiletries, small household needs like the *kemenyan* (incense) in the red baskets. The operators of the shops are Indian Muslims, and their business is conducted much in the same way as it used to be a few generations ago. The old bicycle in the centre is somewhat reflective of their way of life and trade. Old Raleighs like this are now associated with the past, still usable, very resilient, though not quite like the modern, lighter type. These shops, though not as attractive and well-stocked as the modern supermarkets, still serve a vital function. Opening as early as they do, they are a necessary alternative.

**SUNDRY SHOP  
— AYER TAWAR —  
PERAK**

Sundry shops such as this have seen better days. It used to be that consumers flocked here to obtain their daily necessities, but now the times they are a-changin'. Supermarkets have lured the customers away with their seductive advertising and competitive prices. Because the supermarket buys in bulk, it gets its supplies cheaper. The proprietor of this shop sometimes finds himself in the ridiculous position of being able to buy items at lower prices from the supermarket than from his own wholesale suppliers. Things being what they are, it is no longer a matter of pride for the children of a sundry shop owner to be called *thow keh kneah* (boss junior); the term has lost its original connotation.







#### **PASAR TANI – LANGKAWI – KEDAH**

*Pasar tani* literally means agricultural market. Traders sell a variety of farm produce as well as cakes and savoury food. Predominantly a Malay affair, *pasar tani* can be found throughout the country. This picture was taken during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadhan. The traders are preparing the food even as they are fasting. Those who buy from them will pack the food back to wait till it's time for the breaking of fast.

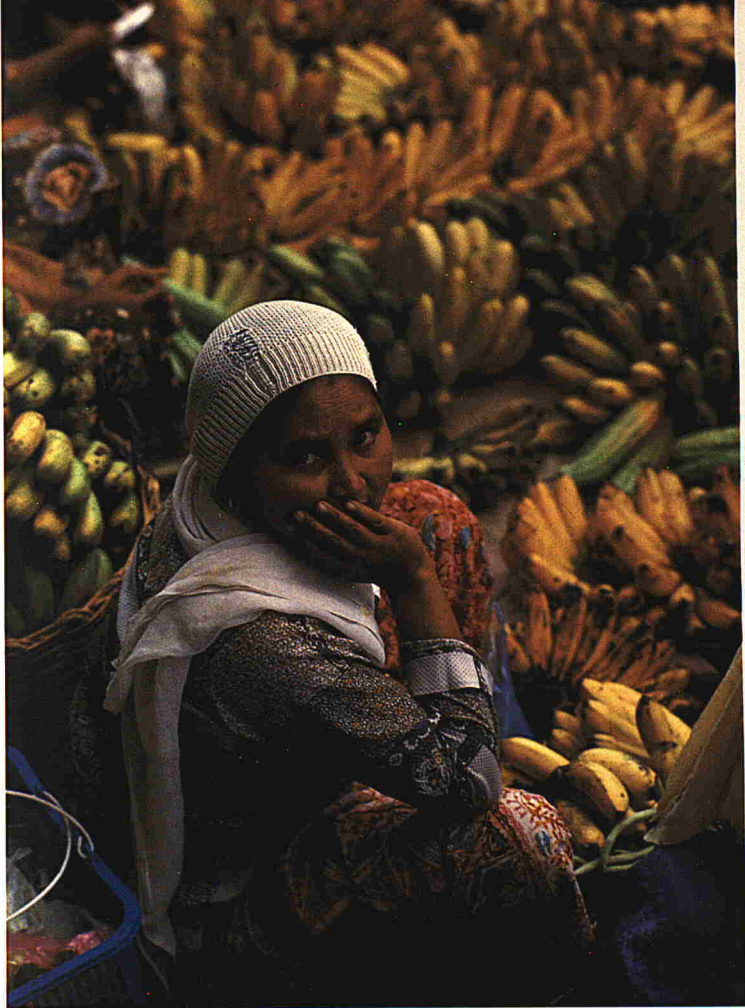




#### FOOD STALL – KELANTAN

The man's feeling hungry just looking at the food. The boy is practically drooling. This food stall at the Kota Bharu Night Market is attracting customers certainly because of the wide variety of cooked food it has to offer. The cuisine is typical Kelantanese Malay — curried prawns, beef *rendang*, *satay*, etc. Skewered *ayam percik*, which fills the outermost trays of the stall, is a Kelantanese original and therefore the local favourite. Slowly grilled over charcoal fire and continually basted with a marinade of spices, coconut milk, shallots and lime, *ayam percik* makes an incomparable tasty treat.





#### FRUIT SELLER - KOTA BHARU - KELANTAN

This lady must be tired of bananas — she's surrounded by combs of them! Now, if someone would take them off her hands, it might bring some shine into her eyes. Bananas, anyone?

#### KOTA BELUD TAMU - SABAH

The natives of Sabah gather every Sunday morning at the town of Kota Belud to hawk all kinds of native produce. Tobacco, seafood, handicrafts like the colourful food covers made of *mengkuan* in the bottom picture are laid out for any takers. Sometimes a colourful sight comes in the form of a *Bajau* riding a buffalo, with another in tow. For a good price, the buffaloes will be considered sold.

LEFT



**MALAY STALL – KELANTAN**

If prizes were given for food stall arrangement, this one would probably take the cake. The colourful display and the menu items on the board distinguish this as a Malay stall. Its specialty appears to be fried rice, which it professes to do in a number of ways, depending on the ingredients thrown in — like chicken or squid or *belacan* (prawn paste). One wonders, though, what goes into *Nasi Goreng Amerika* (American Fried Rice)! Soups are also available, including the Thai-style *tom Yam*, which is relished for its fiery tang. The most arresting item would be *Kuw Tiew Konghu* (Cantonese fried noodles). Of late, Malay hawkers have been trying their hand at Chinese cooking — certainly a heartening way of introducing to their mostly Malay clientele the cuisine of another race. There's nothing like culinary exchange to foster closer racial ties.

#### **MALAY CAKES**

There are so many types of *kuih* here I can't decide which to settle for. Should I get the pink-striped *kuih lapis* or the brown, round *kuih kosui*? Maybe the packet of green-coloured *onde-onde* would be better. Or the leaf-wrapped *pulut panggang*. I know my father likes the *kuih badak*, sweet potato cake with savoury filling. His Chinese and Indian friends do, too. And my mother's favourite is *pulut inti*, made from glutinous rice with sweet coconut filling. My sister goes for *bingka ubi*, baked tapioca cake. In fact, all these cakes look too attractive to resist. Oh well, maybe my parents will buy one of every kind. That will save me from having to decide.

RIGHT







#### **MALAYSIAN FRUITS**

Roadside stalls selling fruits are a common sight. In the top picture, a wide variety is prominently displayed to catch the attention of passing motorists. The bottom picture shows durian experts selecting the cream of the crop. The durian, of course, is the king of fruits, and still looks set to reign for a long time to come as new strains have been successfully cultivated, yielding better, tastier fruit than ever before.



#### MALAYSIAN FRUITS

Pomeloes hanging like green lanterns are almost everywhere in Ipoh, capital of Perak (top). They are so abundant here that stalls selling the fruit with a soft, thick rind and juicy pulp sprout side by side all the way down the road. The stalls in the bottom picture are the more conventional ones which sell imported fruits as well. Thus, one can find oranges, pears, apples and grapes together with cheaper local products like bananas, rambutans, pineapples and papayas.



**Goreng Pisang  
 – Teluk Intan –  
 Perak**

*Goreng pisang* is banana dipped in rice flour and deep fried in a large wok of sizzling oil until it turns golden and crispy. Served piping hot, it makes a sweet-savoury tea-time favourite. The type of banana that is ideal for *goreng pisang* is *pisang nangka*.

LEFT

**Fruit Stall –  
 Perak**

The *campedak* is in season, judging by the abundance of the fruit in this stall along the road between Tapah and Cameron Highlands. The *campedak* is a kin of the jackfruit, with a leathery rind and orange-coloured starchy flesh. Malaysians eat it either raw or deep fried in batter.

RIGHT

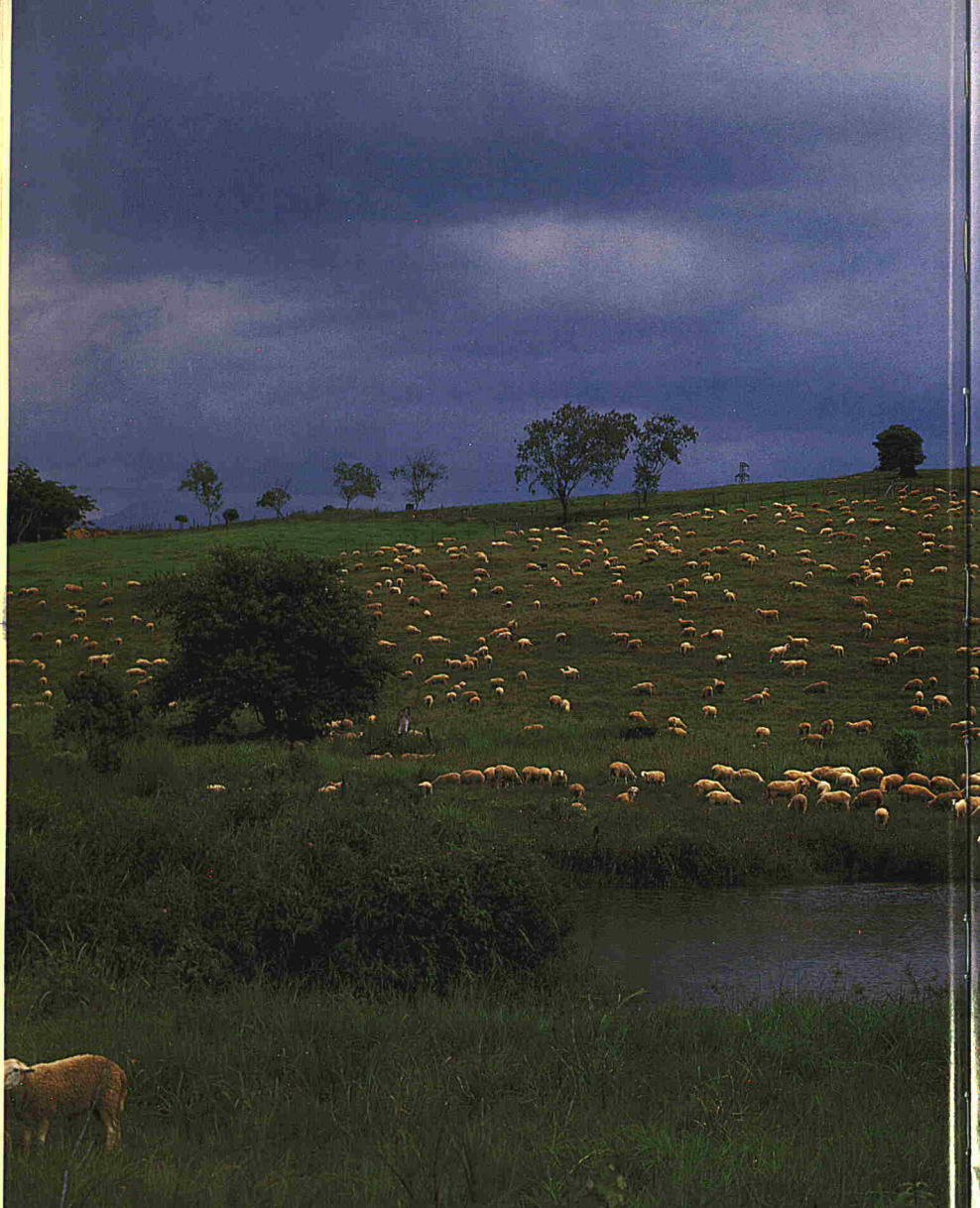
**Sundry Shop  
 – Simpang  
 Renggam –  
 Johor**

You can get all kinds of things from this shop, including fruits and local tittbits and munchies. Starfruit, mangoes and *buah duku*, all locally grown, are in the forefront while trays in the centre are filled with local oranges. Inside the shop, Malaysian favourites like *dodol*, durian cake, dried *selay fish*, preserved fruit, *kensik*, tapioca and banana chips, *keropok*, and groundnuts are readily available.

BOTTOM RIGHT

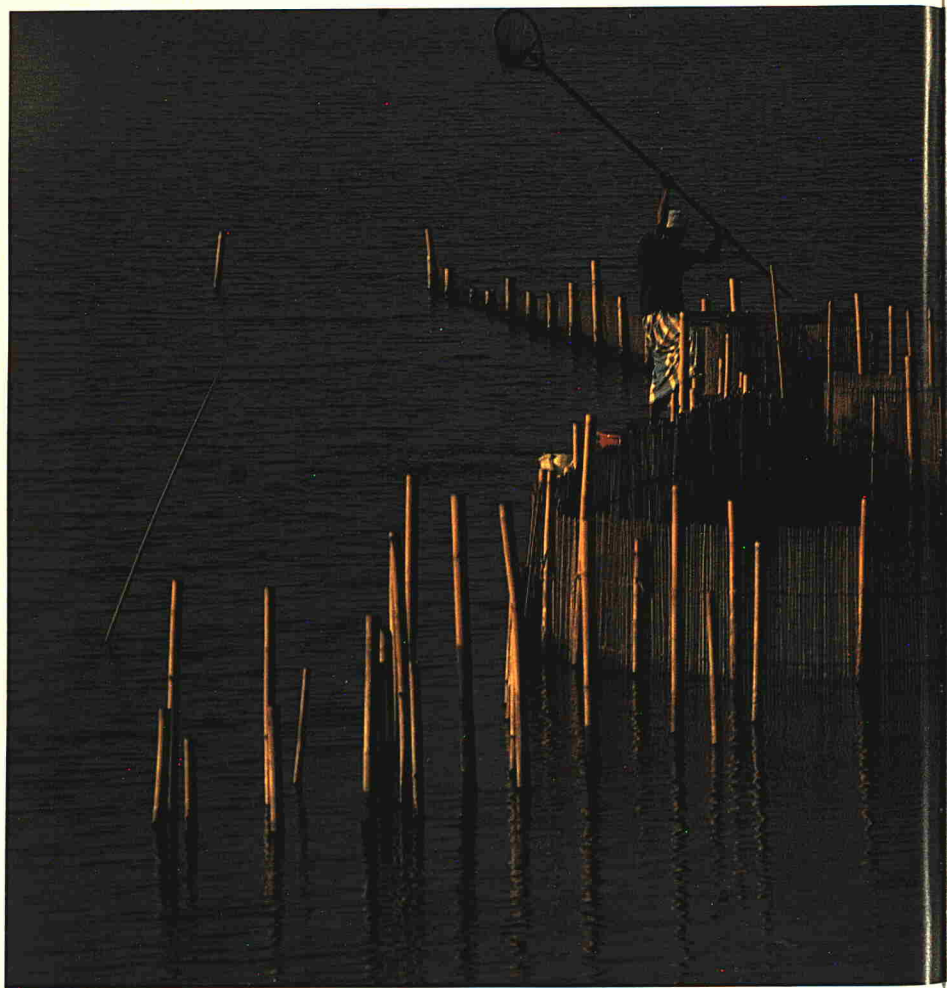




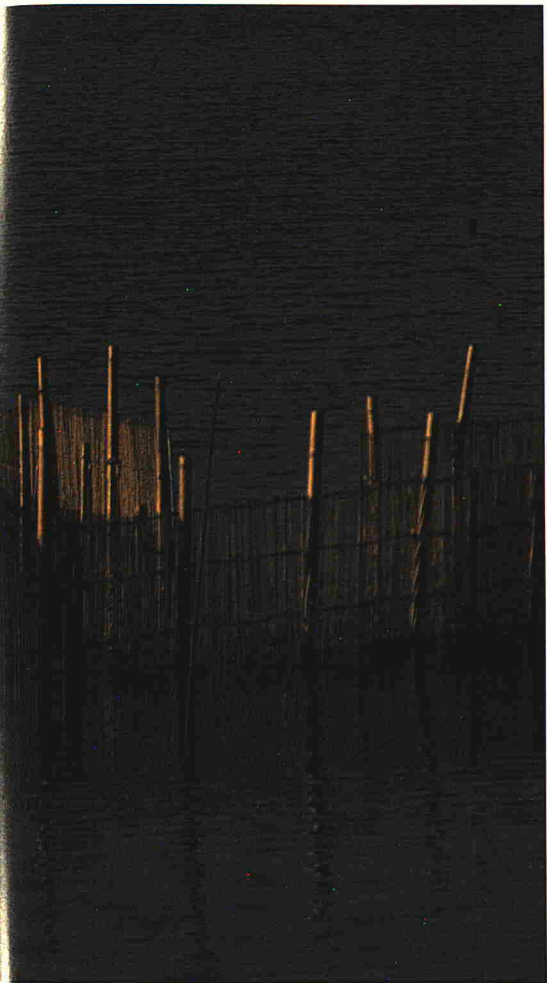












#### **SHEEP FARM – SETIU – TERENGGANU**

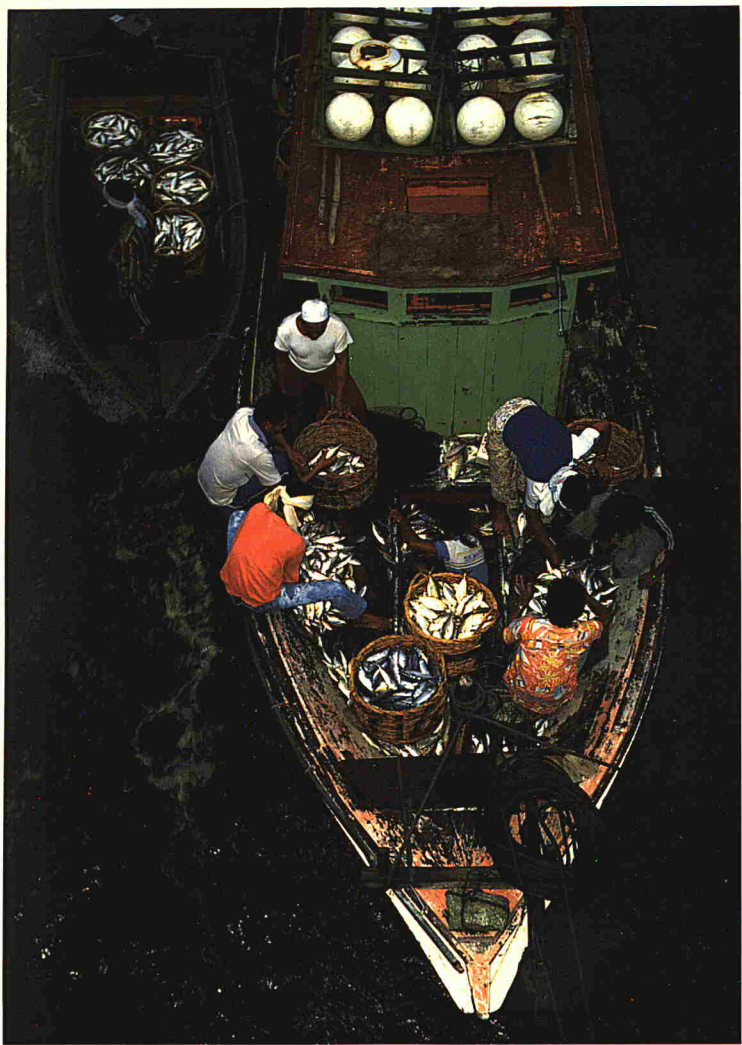
This might look like an English meadow but the locale is actually Setiu, Terengganu. The sheep are a special breed. Their wool is not luxuriant, and as such, they are reared more for their meat. Covering 445 hectares and opened in July 1992, this is the second largest sheep farm in the country. Other sheep farms are located in Kluang, which has the biggest, Negeri Sembilan, Kedah, and Selangor.

**PRECEDING PAGES**

#### **FISH TRAP – KELANTAN**

Fish are swept into this trap by the fast-flowing water at this strategic point of the river. They are then scooped out with a net. The same basic principle is employed by the *kelong*, used to trap fish in the open sea. Wooden or bamboo stakes such as these are driven into the seabed over a wider area. The *kelong* comes complete with kitchen, bathroom and dormitory for the fishermen who man it. Fish are trapped in the lift nets secured around the stakes when they are attracted by the light of kerosene lamps placed above the nets. This effective method is used mostly on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

**LEFT**





**FISHING BOAT - MARANG**

It's been a hard night's work for these fishermen returning from the South China Sea. The catch is being sorted out and put in respective baskets to be sold at the Marang morning market. Conditions are cramped on the small boat and the life of a fisherman is not a bed of roses; nonetheless fishing is an important occupation on the East Coast. Sabah fishing boats are usually bigger than those of Peninsular Malaysia. The fishermen's catch also tends to be more substantial and varied. Marlin and tuna are among the types of fish that get hauled on board.

LEFT / ABOVE



#### FISHING JETTY - LABUAN

A welcoming committee of sorts gathers at this jetty in Labuan to receive the fishing boats that have returned and to examine their bounty from the sea.

#### KUNAK VILLAGE - SABAH

*Ikan selayar* (marlin), easily recognised by their long pointed bill, are fast swimmers because of their streamlined bodies, but it looks like these particular ones were not fast enough to escape the fishermen's net. Chopped up,

the *selayar* steaks fetch reasonable prices at the market.

RIGHT







#### **SABAK FISHING VILLAGE - KELANTAN**

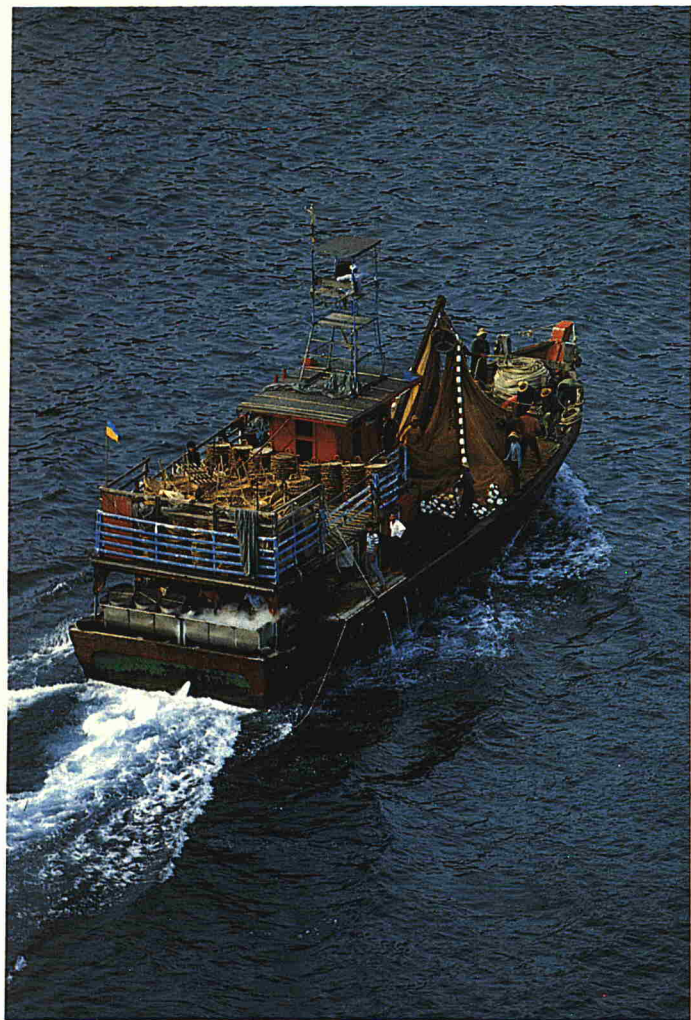
Sabak is the epitome of a total fishing community. The men go out to sea at the break of dawn to pursue their livelihood, the women and children assist with cleaning and drying the fish. There is a spirit of mutual cooperation among the fishermen. When a boat returns, everyone lends energy to bring it in. The philosophy of "every man for himself" is strange to these people. Perhaps it is because they are only too aware that their destiny is a common one, and that it is closely bound up with the capricious sea. During the months from October to January when the seas are rough, the fishermen take a hiatus. This is when they can work at mending their nets and repainting their boats — and, of course, taking leisurely puffs of their 'roll-your-owns'. Kelantanese are fond of tobacco, which explains why it is a major cash crop in the state.



#### SABAK FISHING BOATS – KELANTAN

The most colourful fishing boats with prows proudly bearing figureheads called *bangau* are to be found at Sabak. Carved to resemble mythological figures, *bangau* are believed to be effective in warding off evil in the open sea. The picture above was taken three years ago when there was still a beach for the Sabak fishermen to park their boats. Today, the whole stretch of beach, all 30 metres of it, is gone, eroded by a sea that provides as well as takes.









#### **BESERAH FISHING VILLAGE – PAHANG**

Beserah is the only place in Malaysia where water buffalo is used to cart fish from the boat to the beach. The boat is unable to come ashore because the water is too shallow, so it is met on the surf by the cart. Once the cart is loaded, it is drawn by the mighty water buffalo to the village, where the buyers are waiting. This practice has been going on for countless generations.

#### **FISHING TRAWLER – PENANG**

This trawler is out to catch *ikan bilis*. It is installed with sophisticated equipment to detect where the fish is but a man is still stationed on the high perch to make doubly sure. Once a large shoal has been located, the crew will spread out a heart-shaped net to round up the fish. The stern of the boat is where the freshly caught fish is immediately cooked. When the boat returns to shore, the *ikan bilis* is sent to be oven-heated overnight before it is put out to dry in the sun.

LEFT









#### **BULLOCK CART - SERKAM - MALACCA**

Slow down! Is that a bullock cart I see before me? Still around in this day and age? Yes, around the countryside in Malacca. It's an old form of transportation that is dying out but it gives the place its local colour. In the background is a roadside stall selling bananas and fresh sugar cane juice, run by the *kampung* folk to derive extra income. Sugar cane juice is a healthy thirst quencher and a favourite of Malaysians. Which is why sugar cane stalls can be found in almost every village, town and city.

ABOVE

#### **DRIED FISH - BESERAH - PAHANG**

Thousands of *ikan selar kuning* are laid out to dry on the beach in Beserah to provide additional income to the village. The fish are salted and placed on split-bamboo platforms raised slightly above the sand. Much of the fish is excess catch which the fishermen would rather hold back to hedge against a drop in price due to glut. In this sense, they are able to profit both ways since the dried fish can cater to a different market of its own. Some of it is also kept in storage literally for a rainy day. It serves as food for the family during the season when seas are rough and the fishermen are unable to venture out.

PRECEDING PAGES





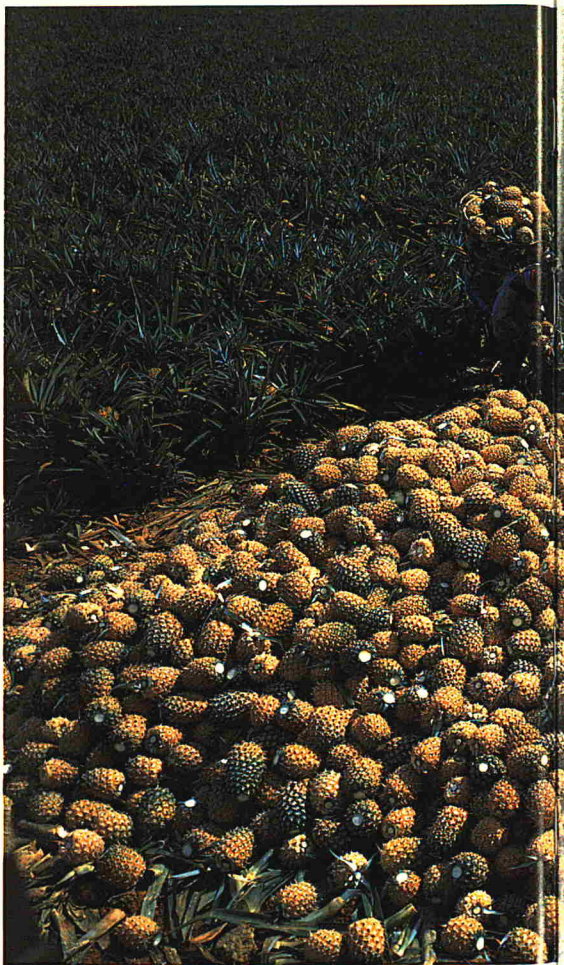
#### **BOH TEA GARDEN – CAMERON HIGHLANDS**

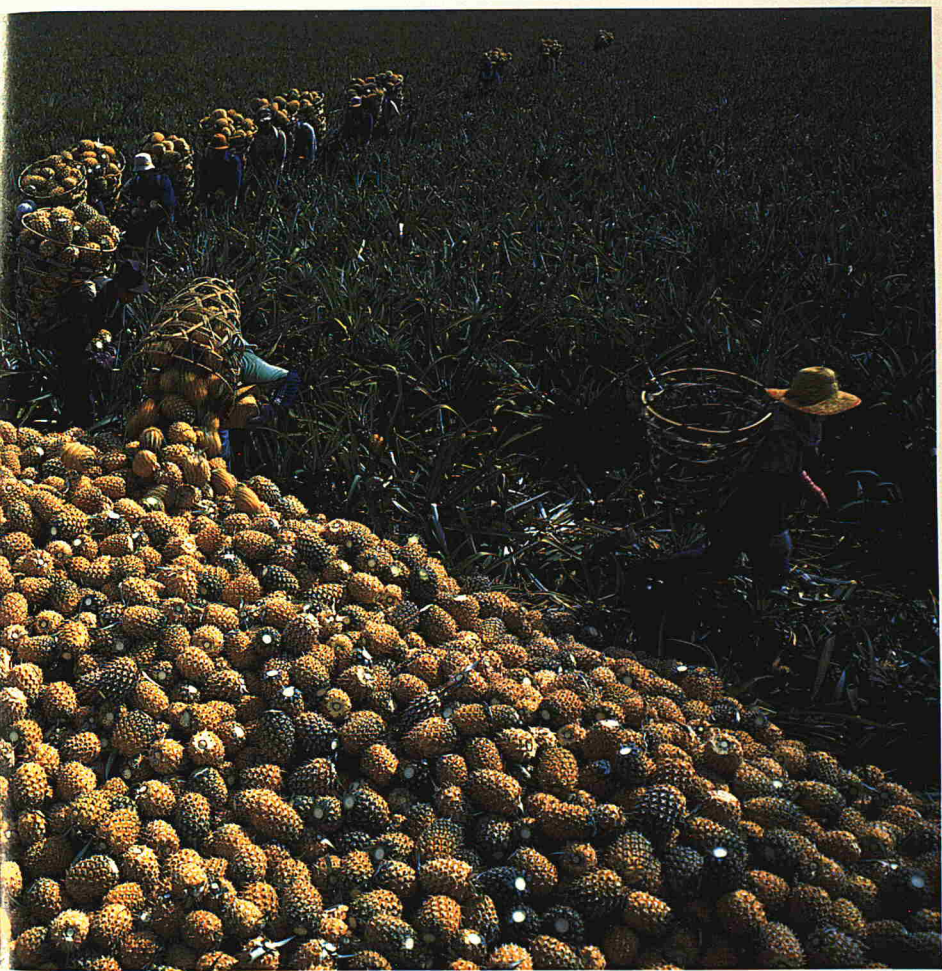
Tea is grown in Cameron Highlands over 4,800 hectares of land. Because of the suitable weather, the tea plants here can live up to 200 years. The biggest estate is Boh, covering 2,800 hectares and run by the descendants of J.A. Russell, the Englishman who pioneered tea growing in the country way back in 1929. The labour force of tea-pickers comprise mainly women who have to be extremely fit and agile to scale the steep slopes while gathering the leaves. Boh Estate produces more than 4 million kilos of tea annually, the equivalent of 5.5 million cups of tea a day. This makes up 70 per cent of all the tea produced in Malaysia and meets about 50 per cent of the country's consumption needs.

**LEE PINEAPPLE  
PLANTATION - JOHOR**

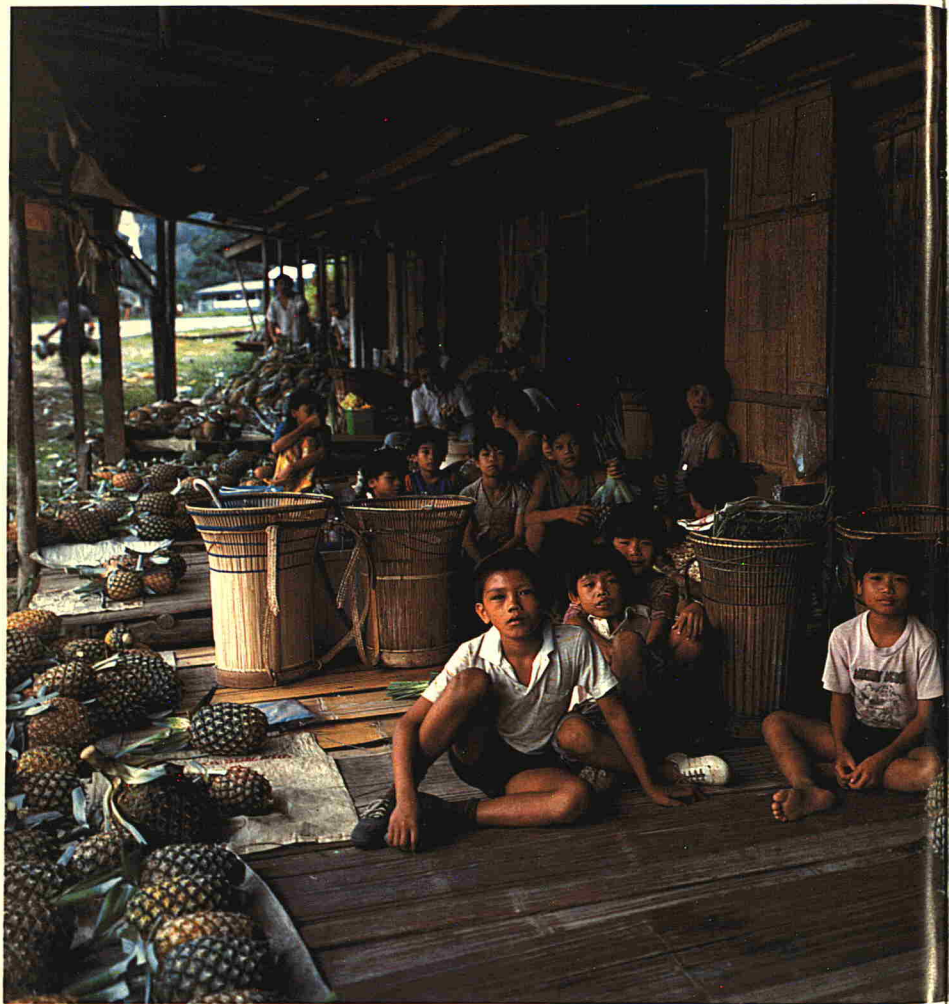
A gorgeous mound of pineapples builds up as harvesters line up to unload the contents of their baskets. Each basketload can weigh as much as 50 kilos, which means it takes a tough man or woman to be a pineapple harvester. There is no sexual discrimination here — the women carry as much as the men. Johor is the largest producer of pineapples in the country. Plantations stretch along the southwestern coast from Kukup to Benut, blessed with fertile alluvial soil and ready irrigation from the rivers. These fruits are a cross-breed between the tubby Bali variety and the elongated Sarawak species. They are tougher and juicier and not so easily perishable.

RIGHT







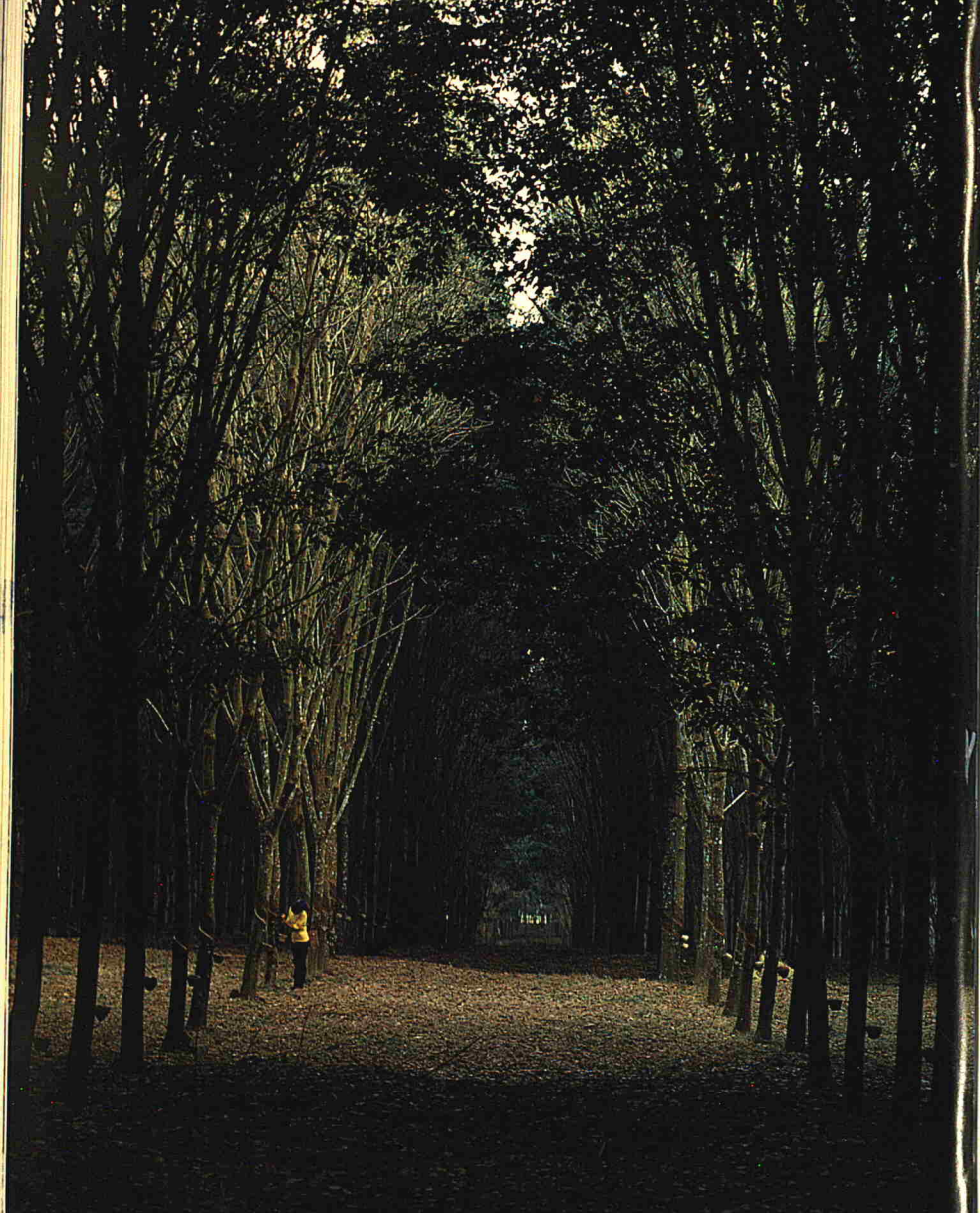






#### **FRUIT STALL – SABAH**

Pineapples and asparagus are waiting to be sold at these roadside stalls. The asparagus is grown on elevated ground in Tambunan and brought here in native baskets made from bamboo and pandan (screwpine). The children in the picture appear to be waiting hopefully — perhaps not just for customers to patronise the stalls, but also for the promise of a bright future. Natives of Sabah, they are now realising the importance of formal education and the worlds it can open up. Many Sabahan natives have benefitted from it and gone on to institutions of higher learning and eventual success as qualified professionals. This has inspired the youth of Sabah to strive harder to improve their lot.





#### **RUBBER ESTATE - KEDAH**

The branches of the rubber trees form a lovely natural archway over this corridor between their parallel ranks, but the rubber tapper is probably too busy to notice it. Tapping of the trees begins as early as 5 a.m. when the weather is cool and the latex flows best. A diagonal cut is made on the bark halfway round the tree, and the latex is channelled into a cup via a spout. By noon, the tappers go round collecting the latex from the cups and this is taken by bicycle or motorcycle to the collection station. Formic acid is added to coagulate the latex before it is sent to the factory where it is then cleaned, rolled, squeezed, dried, and packed into bales for export.

LEFT

#### **BANANA CULTIVATION - JOHOR**

These cavendish bananas may be green and look unappetising, but when they ripen they turn a tempting golden-yellow. This particular variety of banana is the *Montel*, which is cultivated from Filipino tissue culture. Although Malaysia grows many native varieties of banana, the Johor State Economic Development Corporation has of late concentrated on the cultivation of this strain. Bigger in size, clear and smooth of skin, and not so easily perishable, it has the edge over the local *pisang emas*, *pisang rajah*, *pisang rastali*, etc. *Juanita* is grown especially for export to Japan, Australia and Europe.

ABOVE



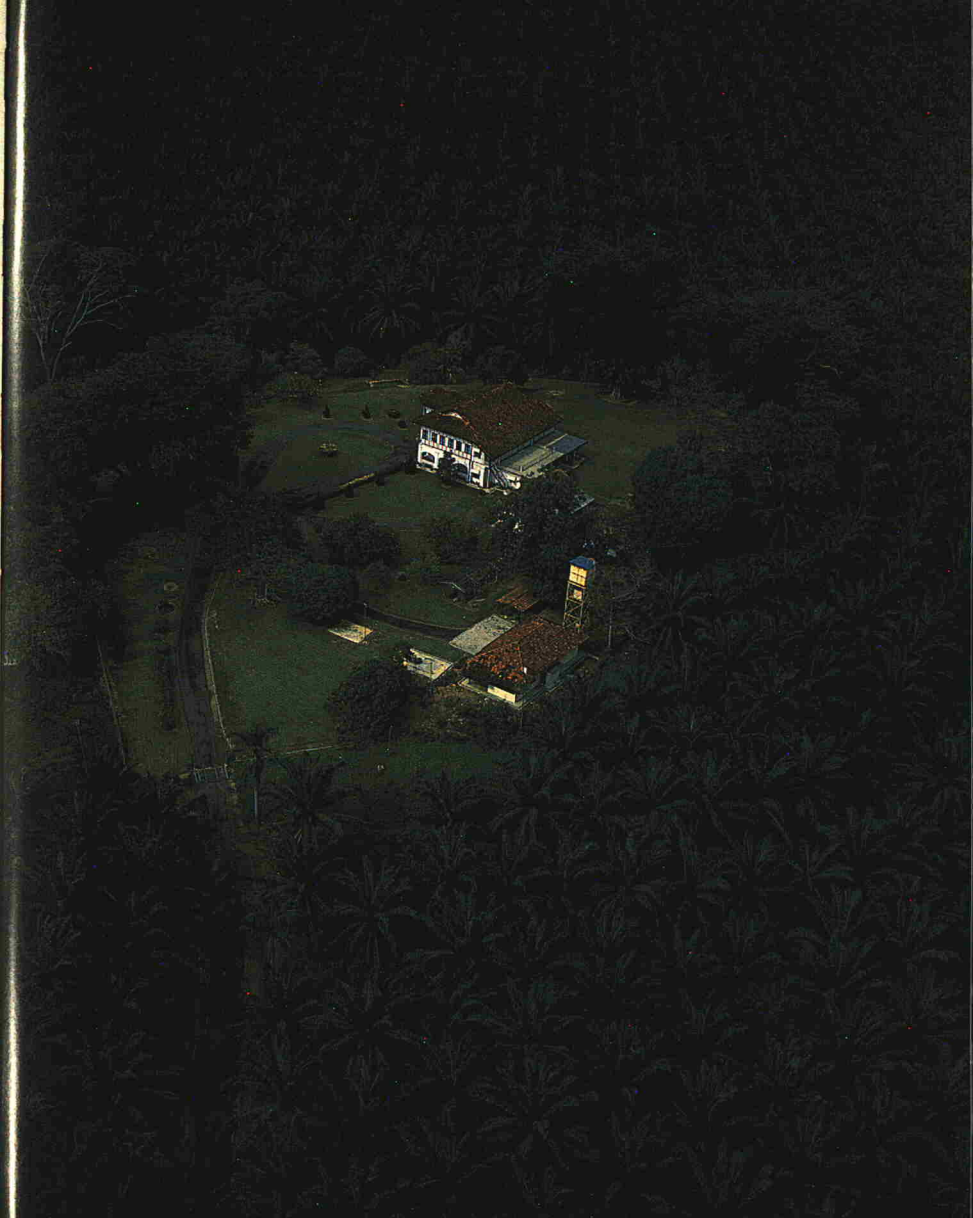


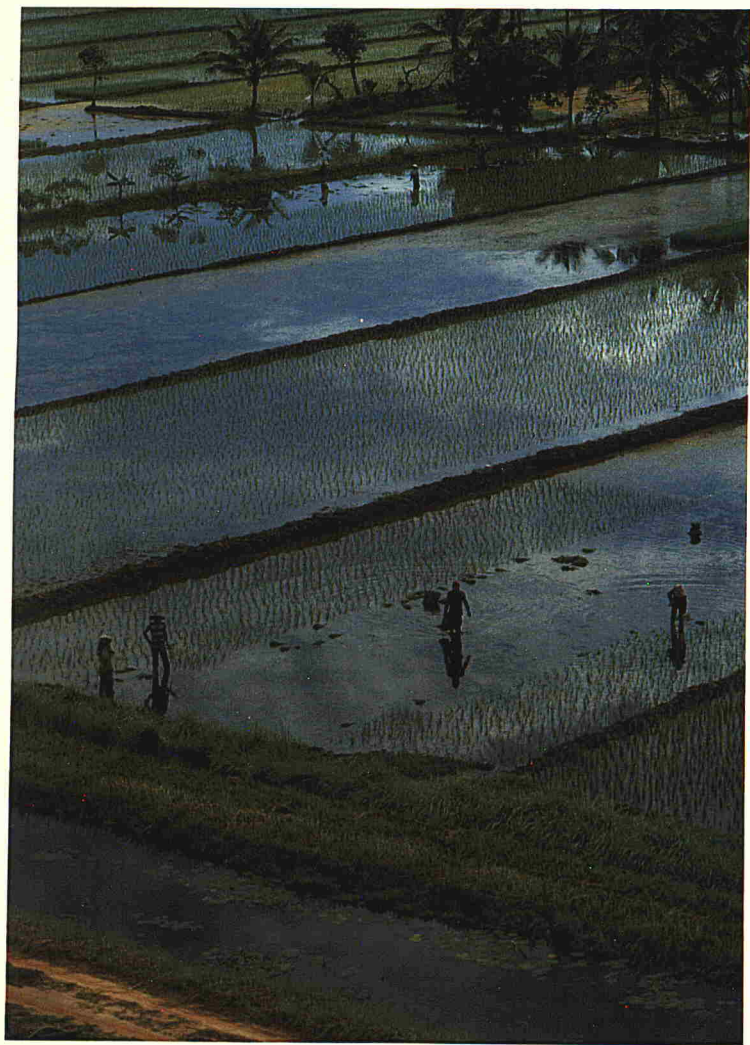
#### GUTHRIE ESTATE

The Guthrie Group of Estates controls the largest acreage of cultivated crops in Malaysia. Its prodigious plantations produce cocoa, rubber, oil palm, and coconuts. In the top picture, a worker is picking out the cocoa pods that are ripe to extract their seeds for fermentation. In the above picture, the motorised vehicle, known as a

"mechanical buffalo" or *badang*, is used to transport harvested oil palm fruits within the estate. (right) In Guthrie's Tanah Merah estate in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan, oil palm is grown in abundance over an area of 4,612 hectares. Commanding the highest point in the estate is a large, elegant colonial-style bungalow which since the early 19th Century has served as the residence of the estate's managers.









#### PADDY FIELDS

Rice, the staple food of Malaysians, is grown mainly in Kedah, Perak and Selangor. The picture on the left is of a paddy field in Perak during the early planting stage, when seedlings are just being transferred from the nursery to the field. The above picture features a field in Sekinjang, Selangor, when ploughing is under way to prepare for replanting. Kedah is the biggest rice producer, accounting for more than half of the country's output. It has a lot of flat land, rich clay soil and adequate irrigation — conditions ideal for the cultivation of the crop. With the aid of fertilisers, Kedah's farmers can reap two good crops a year.



#### PADDY WINNOWING AND HARVESTING

A cow watches with seeming interest as the woman winnows paddy grains to separate the husk. In the bottom picture, farmers harvest the paddy using *sabit*, an instrument shaped like a sickle. After harvesting, the paddy is threshed and cleaned before it is sent for winnowing.

#### ORCHID FARM-NEGERI SEMBILAN

Orchids grow freely in Malaysia, and more than 2,000 native species have been identified, but the commercial cultivation of orchids in the country is a relatively recent enterprise, encouraged by the Ministry of Agriculture. This orchid farm in Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, is owned by the East Asiatic Company. It specialises in nurturing particular hybrids for export especially to Japan, Australia and Europe.

RIGHT





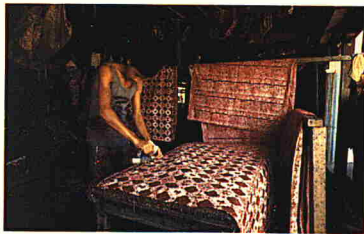


#### AIR HITAM POTTERY – JOHOR

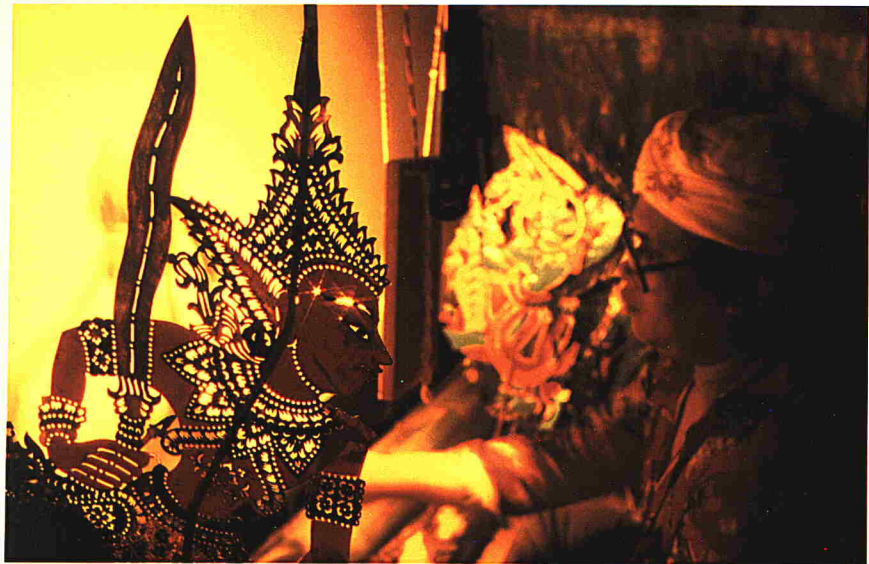
The finest specimens of Malaysian ceramics can be found at Air Hitam, 88 km from Johor Bahru. Available in various shapes and sizes and in a spectrum of colours, from teacups to huge flower pots, replicas of fruits to animal shapes, they are sold in many shops in this Johor town. Perak and Sarawak are other states noted for pottery but their unglazed earthenware cannot compare with the glazed beauties of Air Hitam.

## ARTS AND CRAFTS

The best known arts and crafts of Malaysia are kite-making, batik painting and printing, and copper tooling. The distinctive Malaysian kite (above) is called *wau*, synonymous with Kelantan where the tradition of kite-flying goes back a few centuries. The *wau bulan* (moon kite) is the most popular design, and because it is an emblem that is easily identified with the country, it is the insignia of the national carrier, Malaysia Airlines. (below) The East Coast is also a main producer of *batik*, either hand-painted with a *canting* (wax pen) or stamped with colourful patterns. (far right) Copper tooling is another craft that calls for skill. The pictures created by this process are quite amazing because of the variety of shades and tones that can be achieved with just the basic material. Villages in Terengganu like Kampung Tanjung and Kampung Ledang specialise in this.





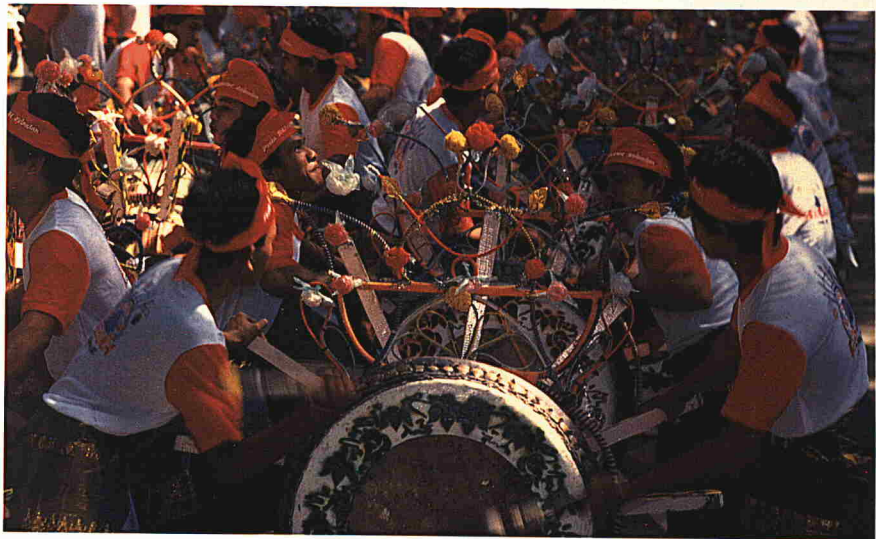


#### MALAYSIAN CULTURE

Malaysia is a cauldron of cultures, embracing the myriad forms of its many races, each rich in its own way and therefore enriching the whole. *Wayang kulit* (shadow play) is one form that boasts an age-old tradition dating back a few centuries. Enacting stories from the Indian epic *The Ramayana*, a full performance used to last for days. The *dalang* (puppeteer) tells the stories with the aid of puppets carved from buffalo hide whose shadows are projected onto a screen by a strong light source. The *dalang* manipulates the puppets, narrates the stories, and is the voice for all the characters, which in a single performance can be as many as 70. It is virtually a virtuoso performance. Music to punctuate the drama and accompany the singing, also performed by the *dalang*, is provided by a group playing percussion and *serunai*, a wind instrument with a piercing timbre. *Wayang kulit* is essentially a rural diversion. In urban areas, modern cultural experiments have given rise to dance items such as the one on the right which attempts to incorporate multi-racial elements in gesture, movement, and costume. In the bottom right picture, members of the Sikh community perform the colourful and robust *bhangra*, a blend of song, dance, and gymnastics which is exhilarating because of the energy it exudes.







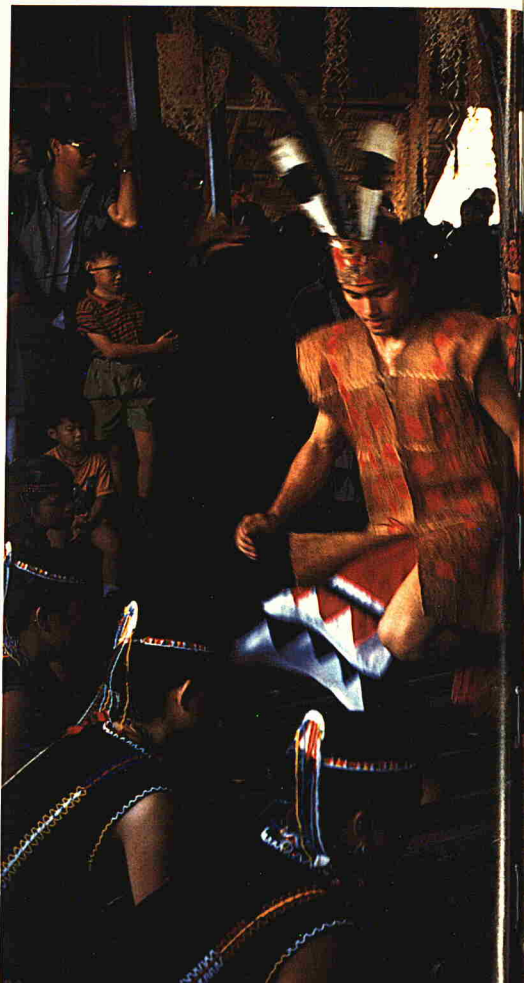
#### MALAYSIAN CULTURE

Percussion plays a big part in the music of indigenous Malaysians, as can be seen in the top picture of a Sabah traditional music combo and, above, of a *rebana* competition in full swing in Kelantan. The *rebana* is a big ceremonial drum played during weddings, harvest festivals and other important events. Made of buffalo hide, it can be played by up to six people. *Rebana* competitions are usually held at the end of the harvesting season. It is a way of celebrating and releasing tension after the hard work of the preceding months.



#### PESTA KAAMATAN — SABAH

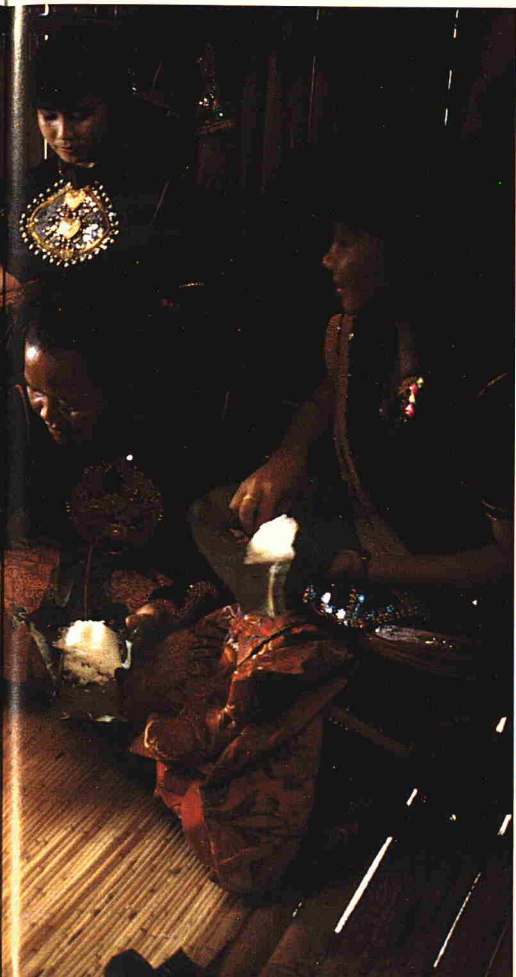
Hey, watch out! One wrong step could be painful! These Sabah natives have to be nifty in their footwork to avoid getting their feet caught when the bamboo poles are clapped together as they perform the tricky Bamboo Dance during Pesta Kaamatan or Harvest Festival. In May every year, native paddy farmers all over Sabah celebrate Pesta Kaamatan to honour the spirit of paddy, Bambaazon, at the end of the harvest. Once the sun has set, a chanting ceremony led by the village priestess begins the celebrations. After that, the villagers, dressed in their best, sing praises to Bambaazon to the accompaniment of rhythmic stamping of feet and poles on the floor and the community's triumphant yell. This goes on till daybreak. When the spirit has been appeased, merry-making begins. A Sunday bazaar (above) at a longhouse is in session. On sale are native handicrafts made of rattan, mengkuang and beads, as well as pottery, carvings and mats.











#### **LONGHOUSE HOSPITALITY - SABAH**

Come now, don't be shy.  
Help yourself to some native  
cuisine. Feel free to use  
your hands to eat the rice  
off the fragrant leaves. Try  
some pickled wild boar, or  
fern tips and bamboo  
shoots. Savour it with *tuak*  
(rice wine). After lunch,  
maybe you'd like to try your  
feet at the Bamboo Dance.

Longhouse hospitality  
(above) comes warm and  
easy, and it is as infectious  
as the smiles of these ruble  
maidens. The state of  
Sarawak celebrates their  
Harvest Festival or Gawai  
Dayak which not only marks  
the bountiful harvest but the  
beginning of the Iban New  
Year in a much similar  
fashion.

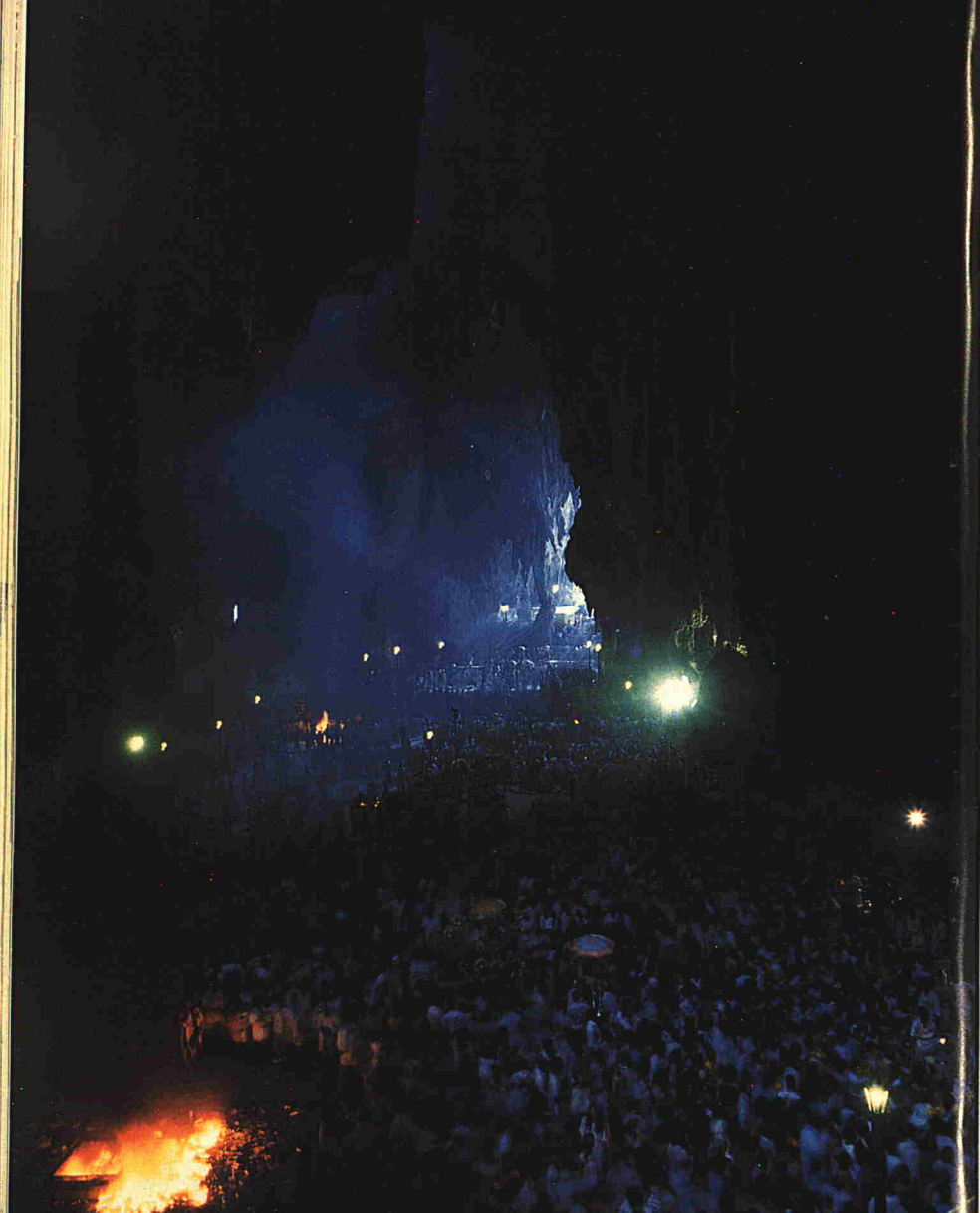




#### MALAYSIAN HANDICRAFT

The Rungus maker of necklaces (*left*) and the Malaccan maker of the shoes above are poles apart geographically, but they share a common pursuit — the making of pretty things with beads. The Rungus are the most traditional of Sabah's natives and a majority of them still live in longhouses. The women are noted for their handicrafts; baskets, textiles and beadwork produced by them are obtainable at native markets. The Malaccan craftsman's shoes are a novelty item, and orders come for them from all over the world. In this shop in Jalan Hang Jebat, one can also find miniature replicas of shoes worn by traditional Chinese women with bound feet.

LEFT AND ABOVE







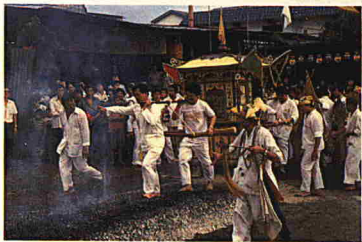
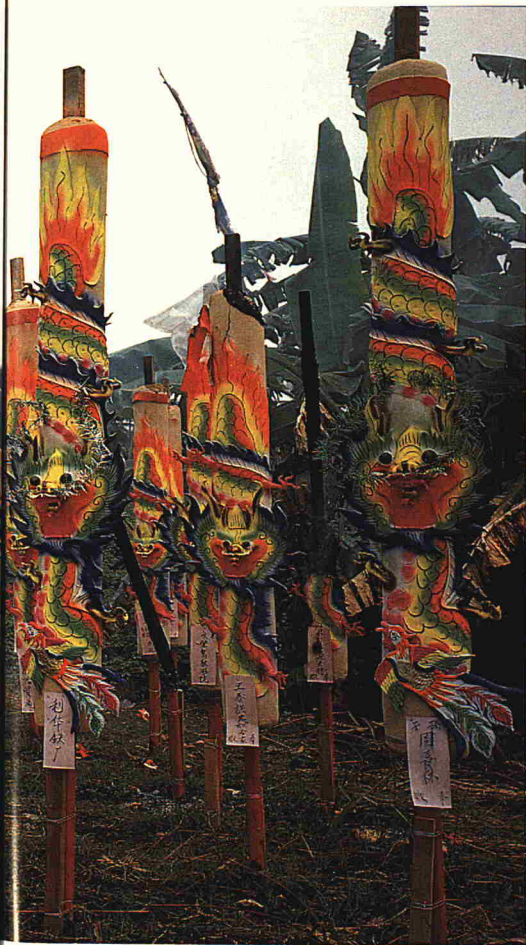
#### THAIPUSAM

There could not be a more dramatic setting for a religious celebration than the Batu Caves in Selangor (left). A mystical aura pervades the place where thousands upon thousands of devotees from all over the country gather in the month of Thai in the Hindu calendar to show their devotion to the deity, Lord Muruga. For 3 days and 3 nights, these devotees leave their worldly cares behind. They climb up the 272 steps to the century-old temple in the Caves to offer prayers and to be a part of the spiritual camaraderie. The highlight of Thaipusam is the carrying of kavadi up the steps in fulfillment of vows to Lord Muruga.

Thaipusam is the carrying of kavadi up the steps in fulfillment of vows to Lord Muruga. Long skewers and hooks are pierced into the flesh of the kavadi carriers who then move in a trance to the chanting of "vel, vel" by the crowd and to the hypnotic beat of drums. Some of the skewers are pierced through the devotee's cheeks or tongue and other parts of his body. The biggest kavadi is said to have 108 skewers. However, it is not the size of the kavadi that determines the degree of devotion. One is considered just as devout carrying the *paal kudam*, a pot filled with milk. The Sri Maha Mariamman Temple (right) in Jalan Tun H.S. Lee is Kuala Lumpur's oldest Hindu shrine. Every year during Thaipusam, it is from here that the silver chariot bearing the statue of Lord Muruga departs for the Batu Caves and it is here that it returns after the procession. In Penang (above) thousands of devotees line the streets to offer their tribute to the silver chariot carrying the statue of the deity.







#### HUNGRY GHOST FESTIVAL

The whole of the seventh moon of the Chinese lunar calendar is regarded as the month of the Feast for the Hungry Ghost or Wandering Souls. During this festival, offerings are placed before the altar of a huge effigy of the "Emperor of Hades" (above). Giant joss sticks (left) are lighted to mark the beginning till the end of the 3 days celebration. In

Penang, this festival is celebrated by the Chinese in the Chinatown where almost every major street has its own celebration. Chinese operas are staged in the streets as a tribute to the gods. The fire walking ceremony (top) is also an important religious ritual among the Chinese.





#### RELIGION

The grand hall of Cheng Hoon Teng Temple (above) is the oldest Chinese temple of the nation. Built in 1645, this building in Malacca is one of the finest examples of Chinese architecture found outside China. Dragons, lions, birds, flowers and other Chinese mythical figures made from fine porcelain and coloured galls, cavort on the tiled roofs of the temple. the Khoo Kongsi (top) in Penang is the most elaborate clan house in the country, the intricately carved interiors covered in gold leaf and the fine craftsmanship of the pillars are comparable to those found in China. Kek Lok Si Temple (right) is the largest and finest buddhist temple in Malaysia. From the top of this 30 meters high pagoda, a panoramic view of the city of Georgetown, capital of Penang is seen.





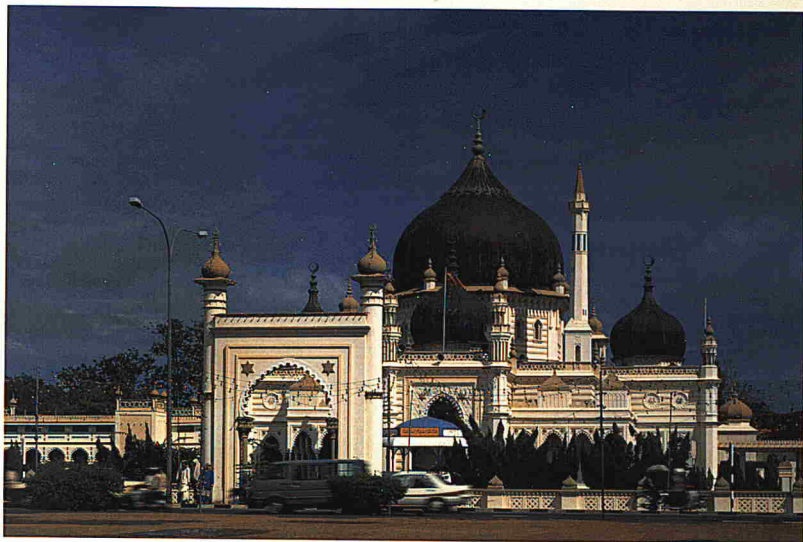


#### RELIGION

A Christian church in Kuala Kangsar (above) where children are attending Sunday school. Christianity was introduced to the country by the Portuguese after their conquest of Malacca in 1511. The successive Dutch and British colonisers helped to spread it further.

The 400-year-old Festival of San Pedro (right) is celebrated in a big way towards the end of June at Malacca's Portuguese Settlement. It is a thanksgiving to St Peter, the patron saint of fishermen. Boats are cleaned and decorated, and lighted up with candles and incense. Quotations from the Bible are hung on their masts. A priest then blesses the boats. After that, for 3 days and 2 nights, the fishermen and their families celebrate by feasting, drinking, singing and dancing till the wee hours. Nothing expresses more vividly the gaiety of the Cristao (Portuguese Eurasian) people of Malacca.





#### RELIGION

The majestic Zahir Mosque (above) is the most beautiful mosque in the Northern Peninsular. Built in 1912, this grand mosque in moorish-style is an imposing landmark in Alor Setar, the capital of Kedah. Opposite this mosque lies several historical buildings - the Balai Nobat, Balai Besar and Royal Museum. It is built around the 1890's. This mosque Masjid Kampung Kling (right) in Malacca was built in 1748, is one of the oldest mosques in the country. The pagoda - style minarets and pyramid roof are typical of the mosques found in Malacca.











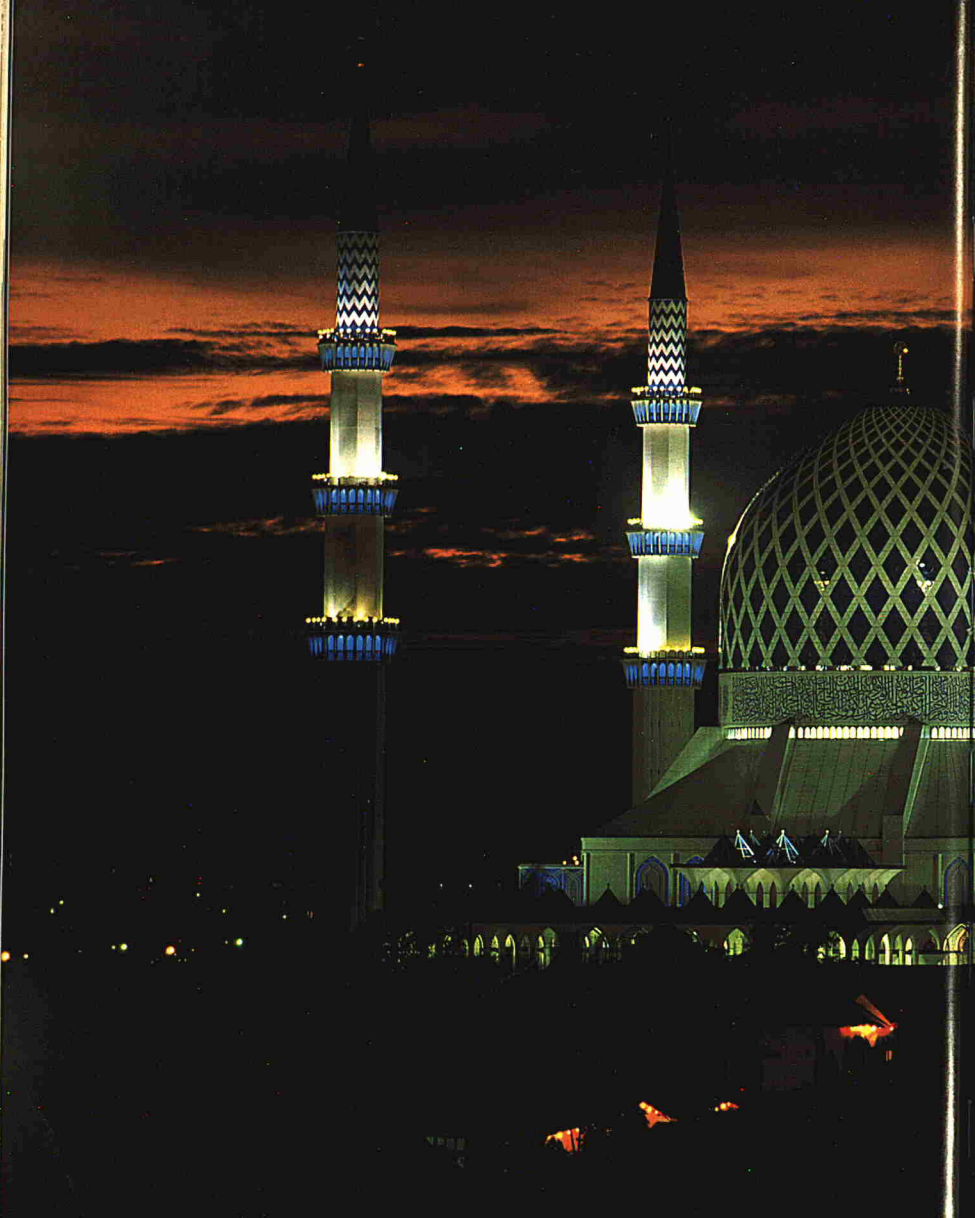
#### RELIGION

Dressed in colourful East Coast *Baju Kurung* (a traditional Malay dress) with *Tudungs* on their head, while the "little gentlemen" wear *Sarung & Songkoks* (cap), they gather here at the home of a *Tok Guru* (religious teacher) for a lesson on Islam. At a tender age, these children learn to recite verses from the holy *Al-Quran*. Islam is the official religion in the country with historical evidence dating back to 14th century, recorded in *Terengganu* predating the common belief that Islam was brought to Malacca during the reign of Parameswara, the founder of

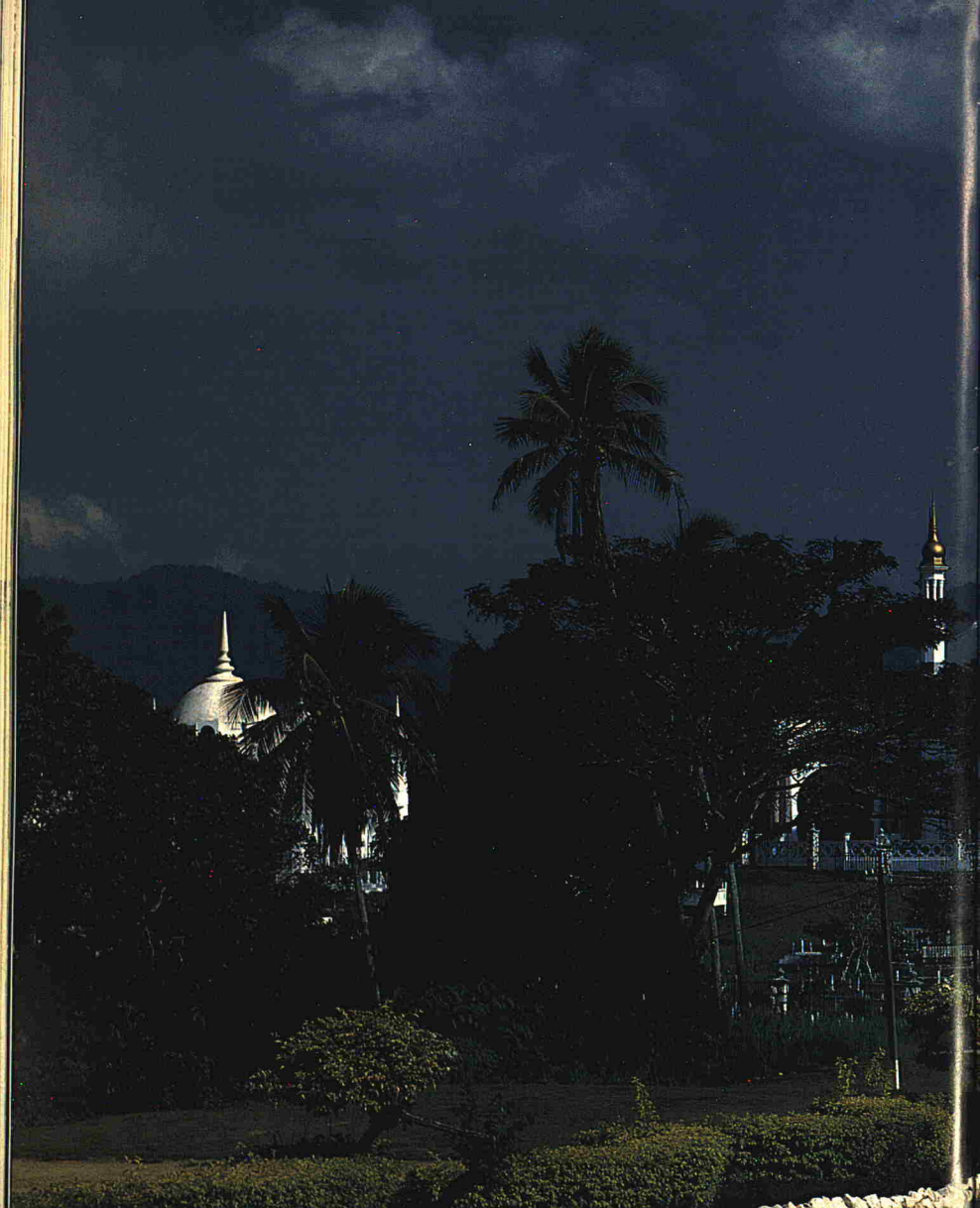
Malacca in 1411.  
LEFT & ABOVE

#### SHAH ALAM MOSQUE – SELANGOR

Dominating the skyline of Shah Alam is the Sultan Salahuddin Mosque or "Blue Mosque of the East". The four minarets of the mosque are reputed to be the highest in the world and stand out strikingly beside the blue dome.  
OVERLEAF

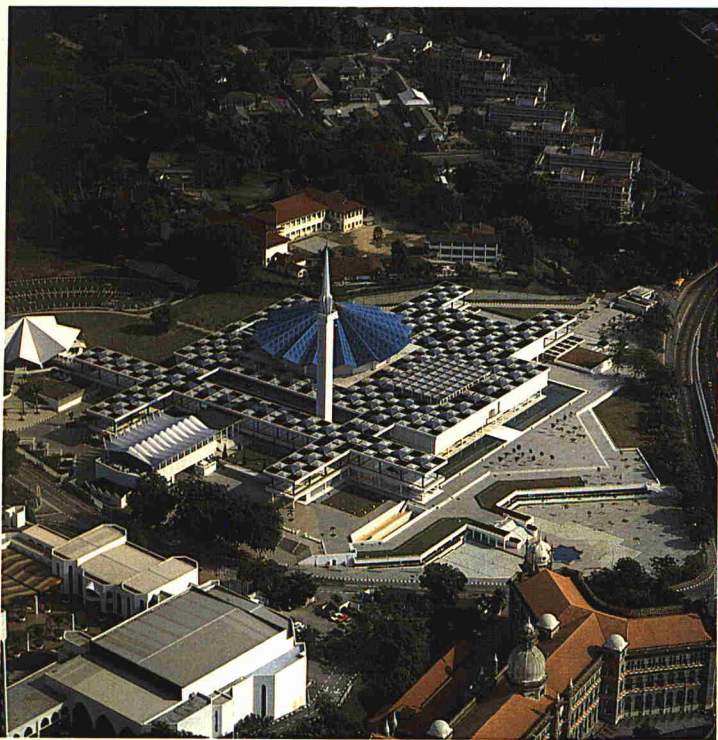












#### **KUALA LUMPUR**

The National Mosque of Kuala Lumpur is an important landmark in the city. Built in 1965 of contemporary design, this mosque has only a single minaret rising from the centre. Part of the Islamic Centre which shelters ancient muslim manuscripts are seen in the foreground along with the Railway Station Administrative Building

ABOVE

#### **UBUDIAH MOSQUE - KUALA KANGSAR - PERAK**

This magnificent mosque is built on a small hill overlooking the Perak River. The mosque has a huge golden onion-shaped dome surrounded by tall white minarets and capped by smaller golden domes of similar design. A royal mausoleum lies within the courtyard.

PRECEDING PAGES



#### **KUALA LUMPUR**

For 96 years, the Ampang Road Race Course has been the weekly meeting place for the rich and famous as well as the man on the streets. The grandstand of the Selangor Turf Club seen in the picture was demolished in October 1992. A new modern race course with night racing facilities has been built in Sungai Besi.







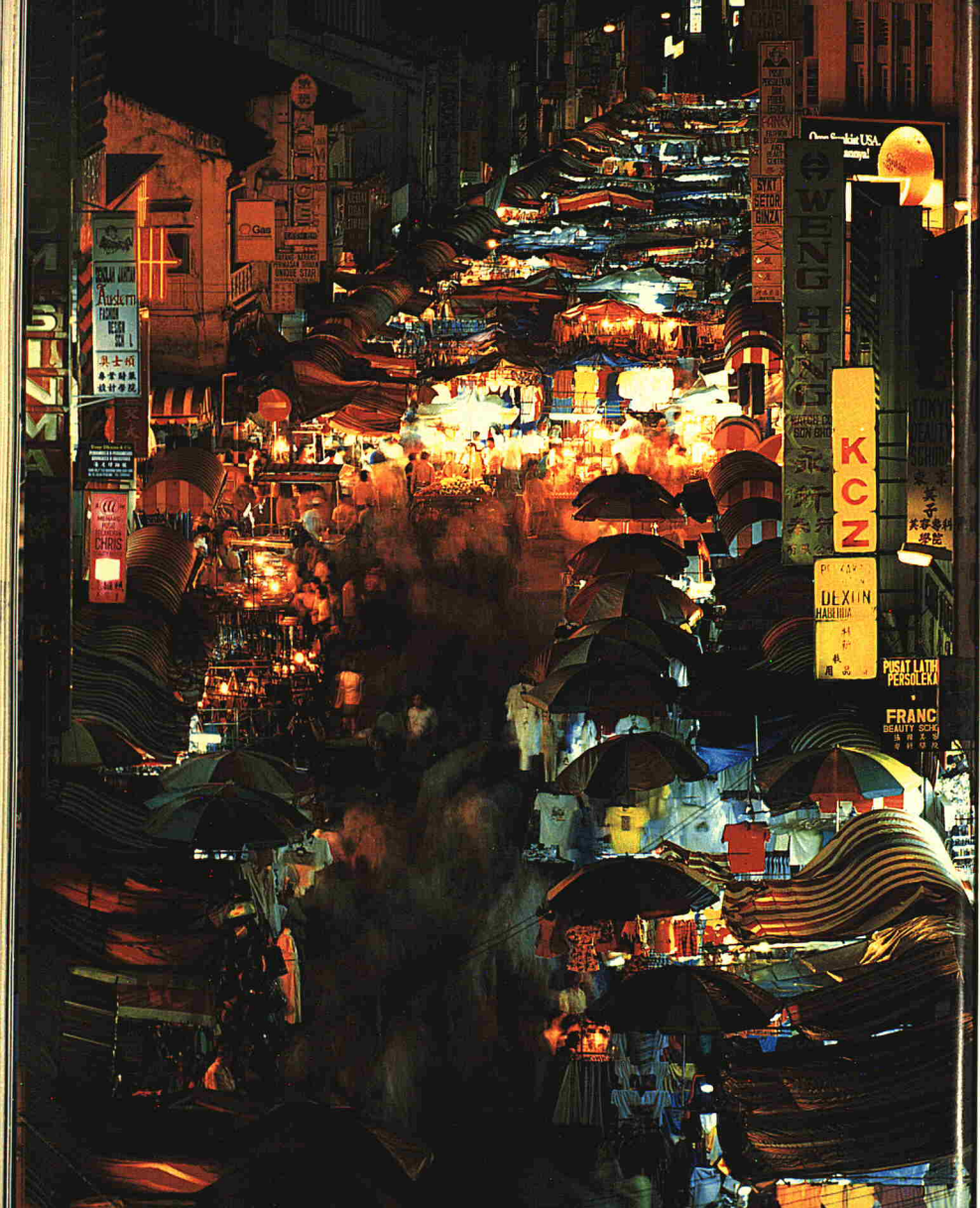


#### THE FLORAL PARADE

Since 1990, each year in July, a grand Floral Parade has been held in Kuala Lumpur.

Flowers in abundance are brought in from Cameron Highlands to create these masterpieces. Competition is keen and the artistry, creativity and fantasy displayed here is truly amazing. Bands, vintage cars, cultural performance and school children parade in between the floats. The crowd along the route applauds as their favourite float passes by. The entry by the state of Penang entitled - The Botany Beat has won this year (1993) Premier award for the best floral float in the country.





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專業縫紉  
設計學院

CHONS

Glas

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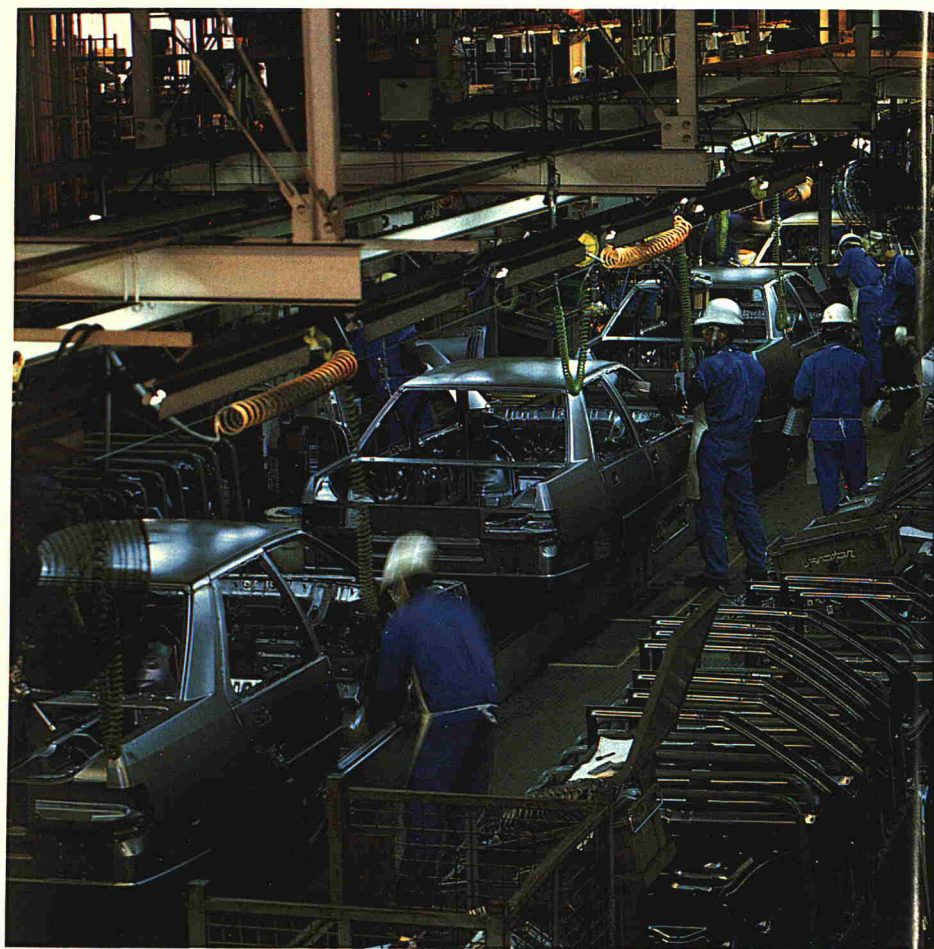
BEAUTY



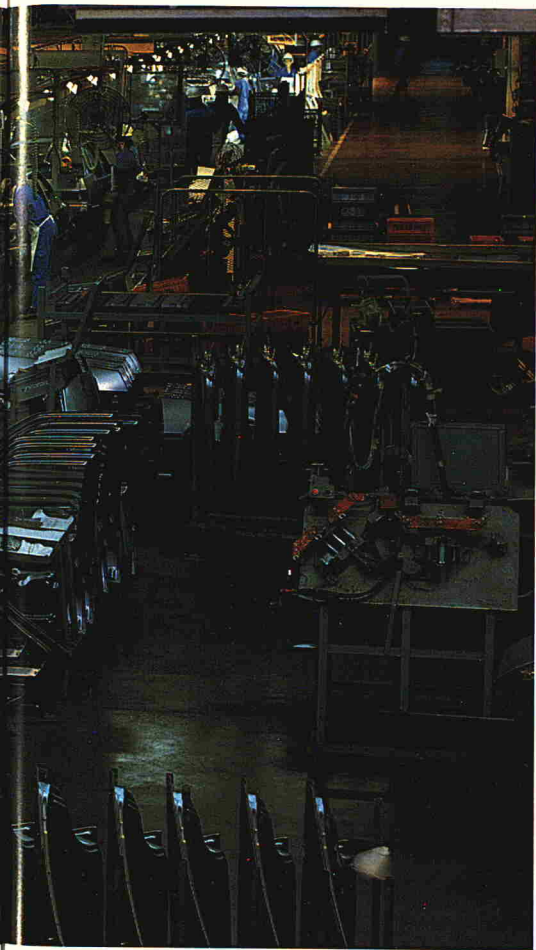


**CHINATOWN – KUALA LUMPUR**

The Petaling Street Night Market (left) is the best night market found in Kuala Lumpur. Under bright tungsten and halogen lightings, the "Jacks of all trades" gather along the street to trade. Prices are "always" at rock bottom and "genuine copies" of the well known brands are sold at unbelievable prices. A crowded morning market outside the Pudu Road Main Market. (above) On festive seasons, the surroundings are so crowded that it takes time to reach the other end.





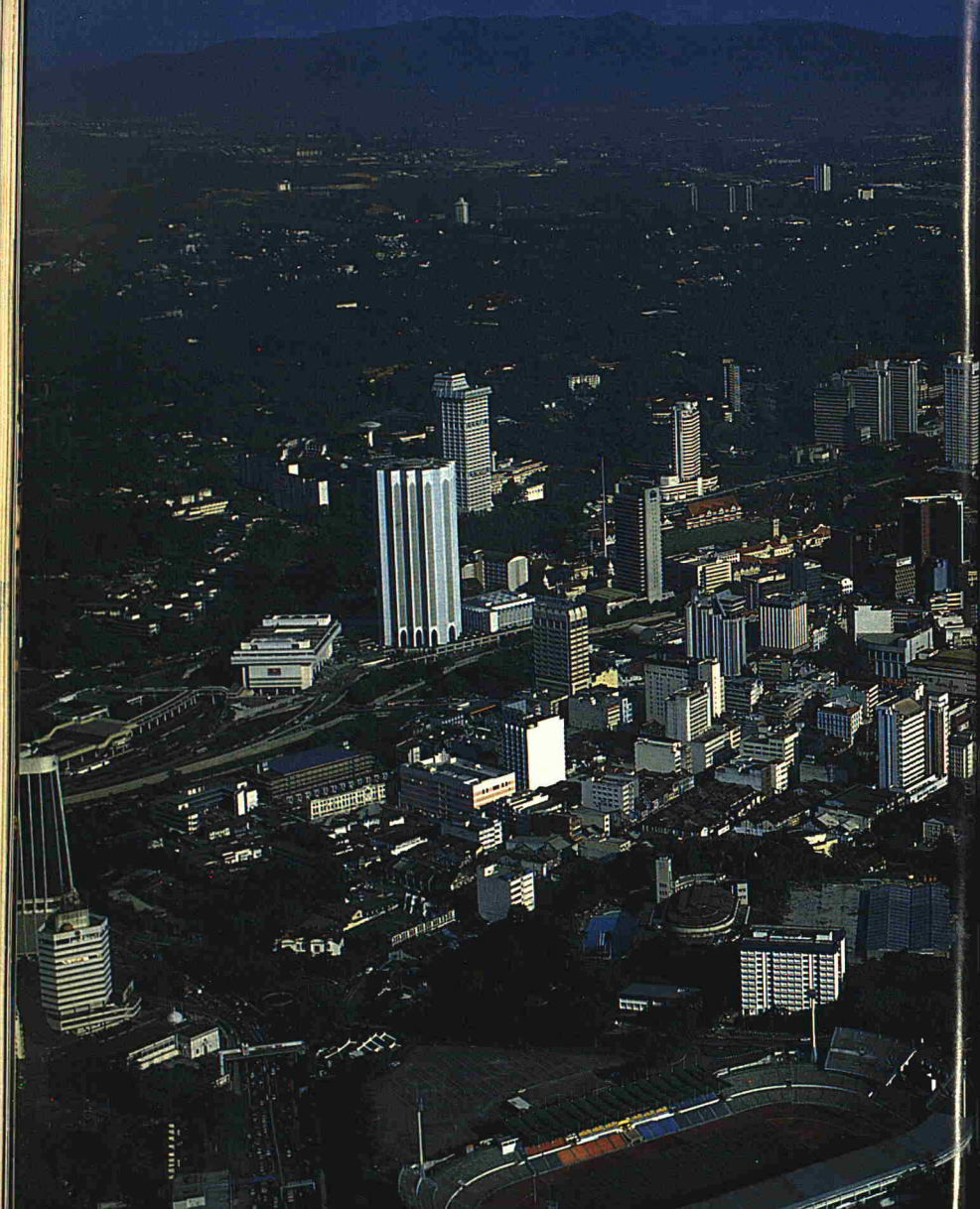


#### **BAXTER GLOVE FACTORY - PENANG**

Baxter Healthcare SA located in Penang, is the world's largest producer of surgical and examination gloves. The Plant's production lines are the most modern in the industry using state-of-the-art process. Over one and a half billion of these surgical and examination gloves are produced annually using Malaysian latex as the raw material.

#### **PROTON SAGA FACTORY - SELANGOR**

The first Proton Saga rolled out of the manufacturing plant on July 9, 1985. Since then, it hasn't looked back. After 8 years, more than half a million units of the Malaysian-made car have been produced of which more than 65,000 have been exported to 16 countries. The national car project was launched with the intention of providing Malaysian engineers hands-on experience in the making of cars and effecting transfer of technology from Japanese partners its Mitsubishi. Now this learning-by-doing approach has paid off. On May 21, 1993, a new model called the Proton Wira was unveiled. Embodying 80 per cent Malaysian content and input, its sleeker and more dynamic look attracted 4,000 bookings one month before it was even launched. Indeed, the domestic demand for the Proton cars is now so great, the waiting period for the buyer can be as long as six months.







#### **KUALA LUMPUR**

An aerial view of the federal capital, from the south. The skyline of Kuala Lumpur is constantly changing with modern high-rises and architectural landmarks. In between prime land of the city, modern complexes co-exist with the colonial buildings and old Chinese shophouses. KL as the city is often referred to, has a population of 1.2 million with most of them coming from other parts of the country. The role of developing the city lies in the City Hall while specific development has been assigned to the Urban Development Authority or UDA. Kuala Lumpur is the venue for the next - 1998 Commonwealth Games to be held for the first time in this country.

PRECEDING PAGES

#### **NATIONAL DAY - KUALA LUMPUR**

Malaysia celebrates its National Day on the 31st of August each year. A very special day for the nation, as Malaysians from all walks of life and of different ethnic races join hands to present the grandest performance in the country of the year.

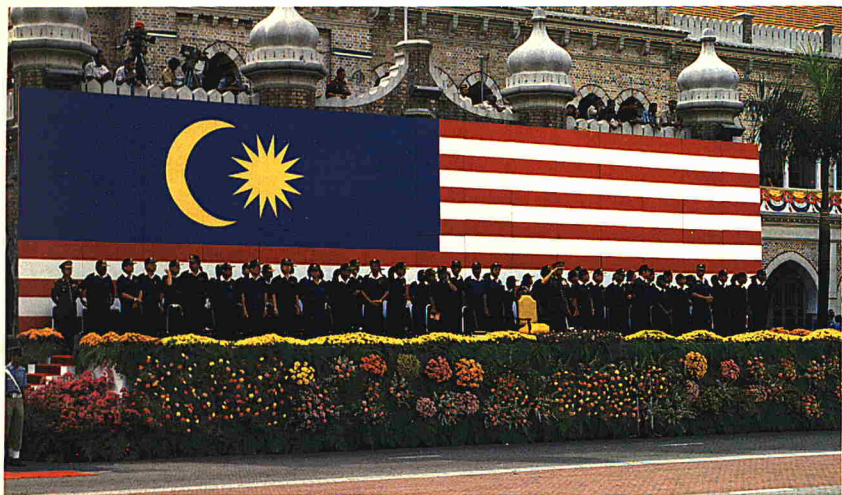
Colourful parades are performed by uniformed forces, statutory bodies and the private sector. Cultural performances, air displays and fireworks at night mark the occasion.

RIGHT



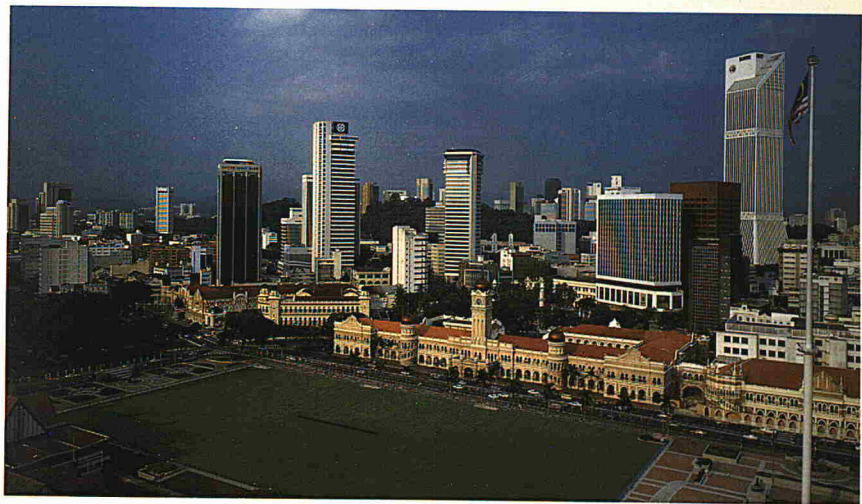
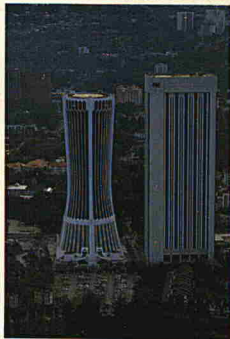
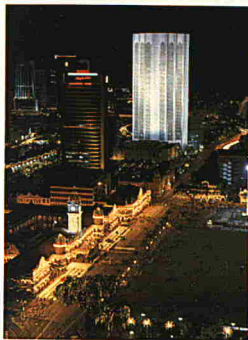






#### NATIONAL DAY - KUALA LUMPUR

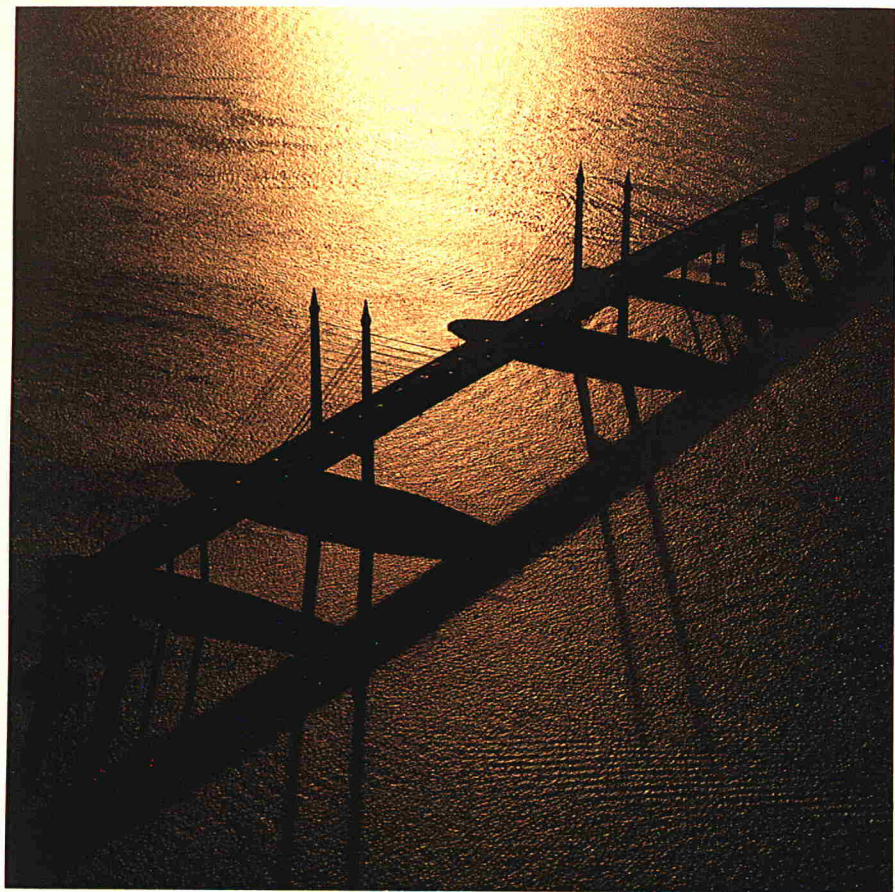
The King (above) takes the salute along with the Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers from the royal stand with a giant national flag as backdrop. National Day celebrations are telecast live throughout the country and each state has its own celebration simultaneously. The clock tower of the Sultan Abdul Samad building (top left) is Kuala Lumpur's most photographed landmark. The National Monument (top right) is a permanent symbol of the gratitude of the people of Malaysia for those brave men and women who died in the twelve long years of Emergency (1948 - 1960) against Communist terrorists.



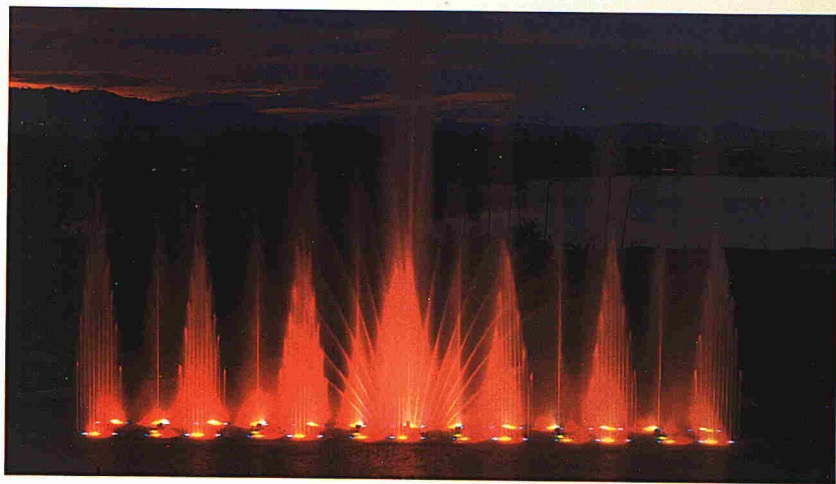
#### KUALA LUMPUR

The city of Kuala Lumpur or Garden City of Lights is the administrative capital of the country . Viewed from Bukit Aman, the Selangor Club *padang* (field) is the venue for major events and celebrations. Rising from the Merdeka Square is the world's highest flag-pole with the Malaysian flag swaying proudly. The Dayabumi Building, (top left) Tabung Haji Tower and PNB Tower (top right) are all imposing new landmarks of the city.









Overlooking the largest ex-mining lake in the world is one of the greatest entertainment parks in the country. The Musical Fountain, (above) part of The Mines Resort, operates daily in the evenings, entertaining visitors who have come to the park for an enjoyable experience. Penang Bridge (left) is the pride of the people of Penang. This 13.5 km wonder is the longest bridge in Asia and third longest in the world. Georgetown (right) is the capital of Penang and one of the most beautiful cities in the country. The 65-storey Komtar Tower houses the main administrative centre of the state.

#### OVERLEAF PAGES

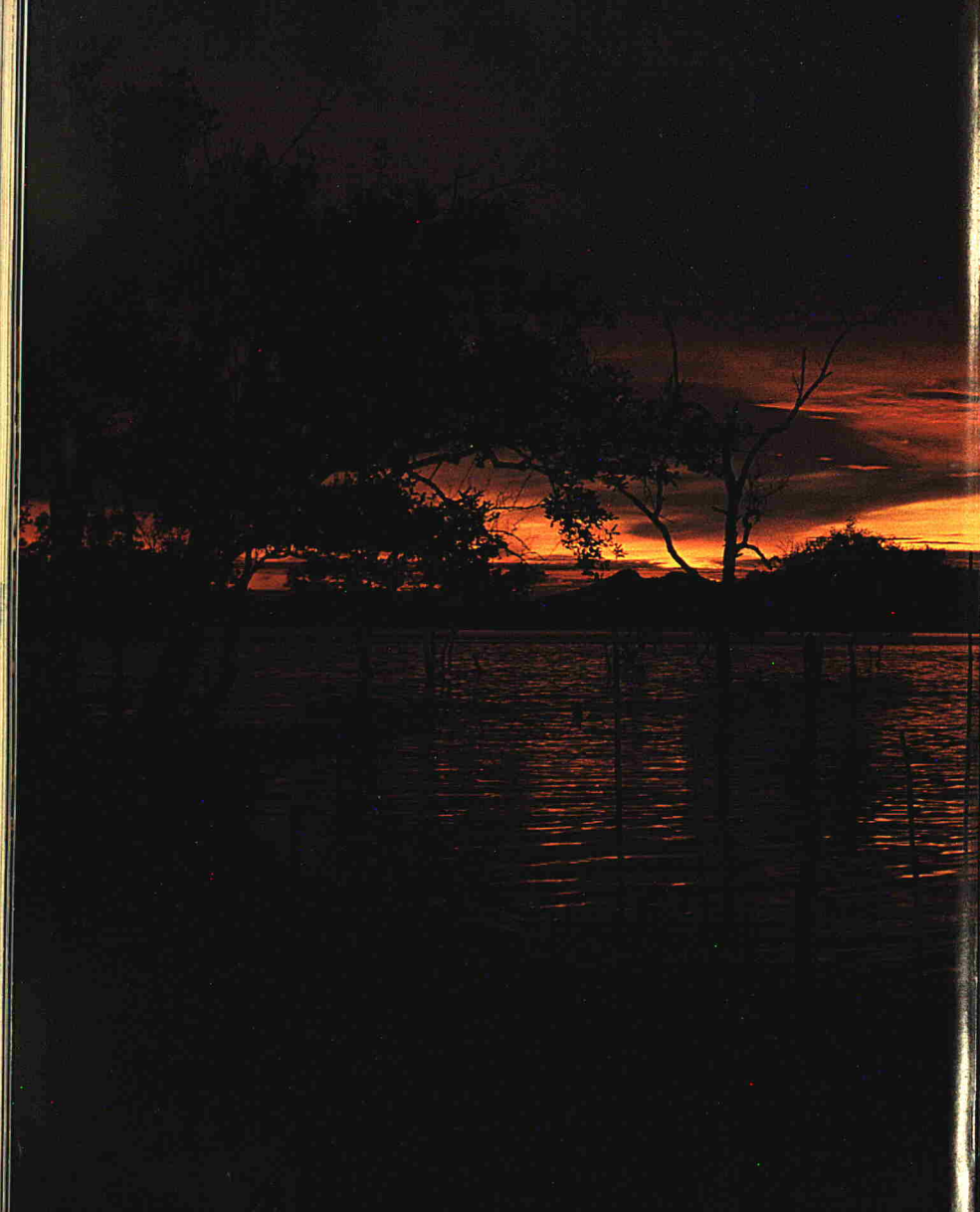
A spectacular sunset in Kuah, near Langkawi Island.

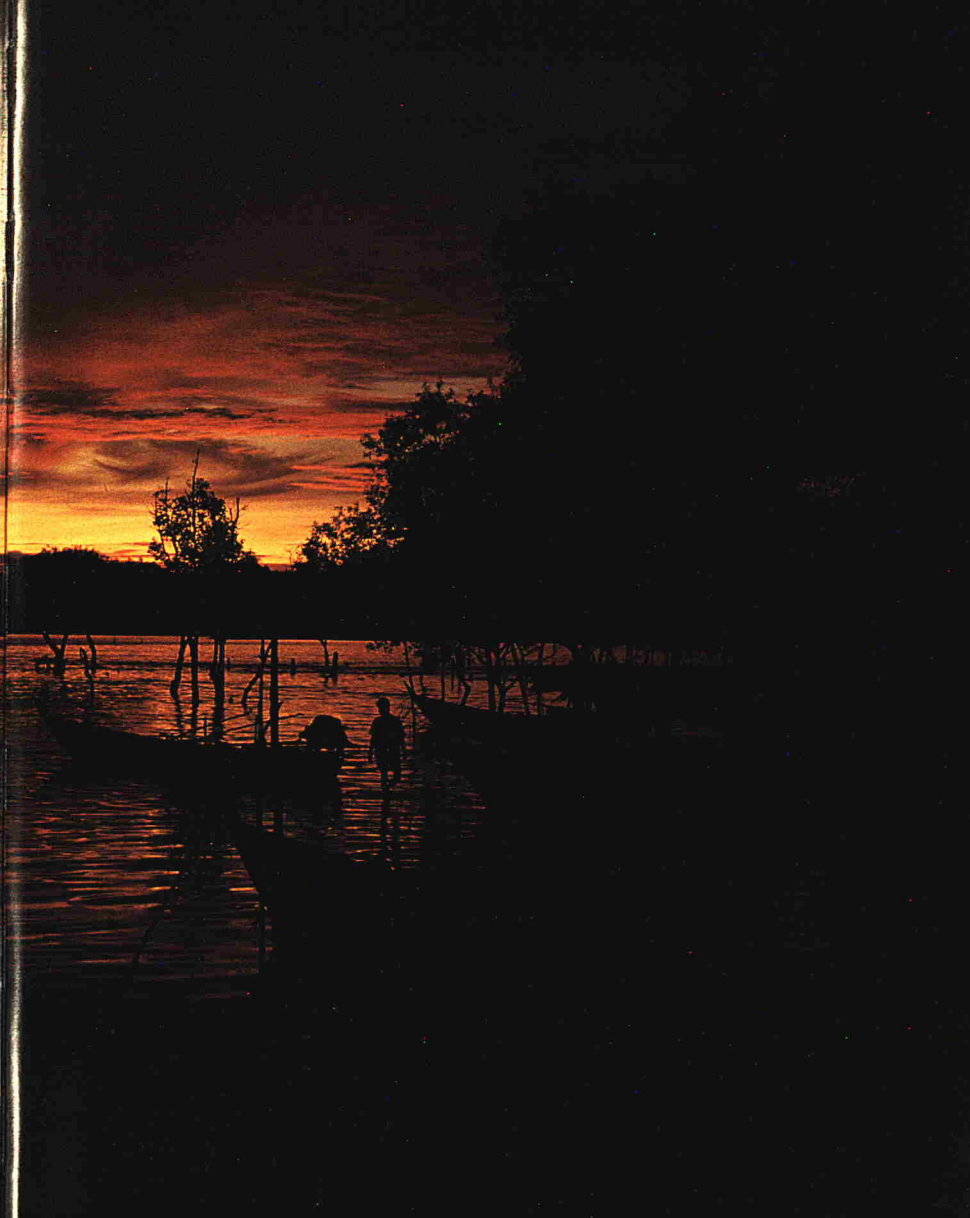
Multi-flashes of nature's high voltage spectacle slices through the skies near the Kuala Terengganu estuary.

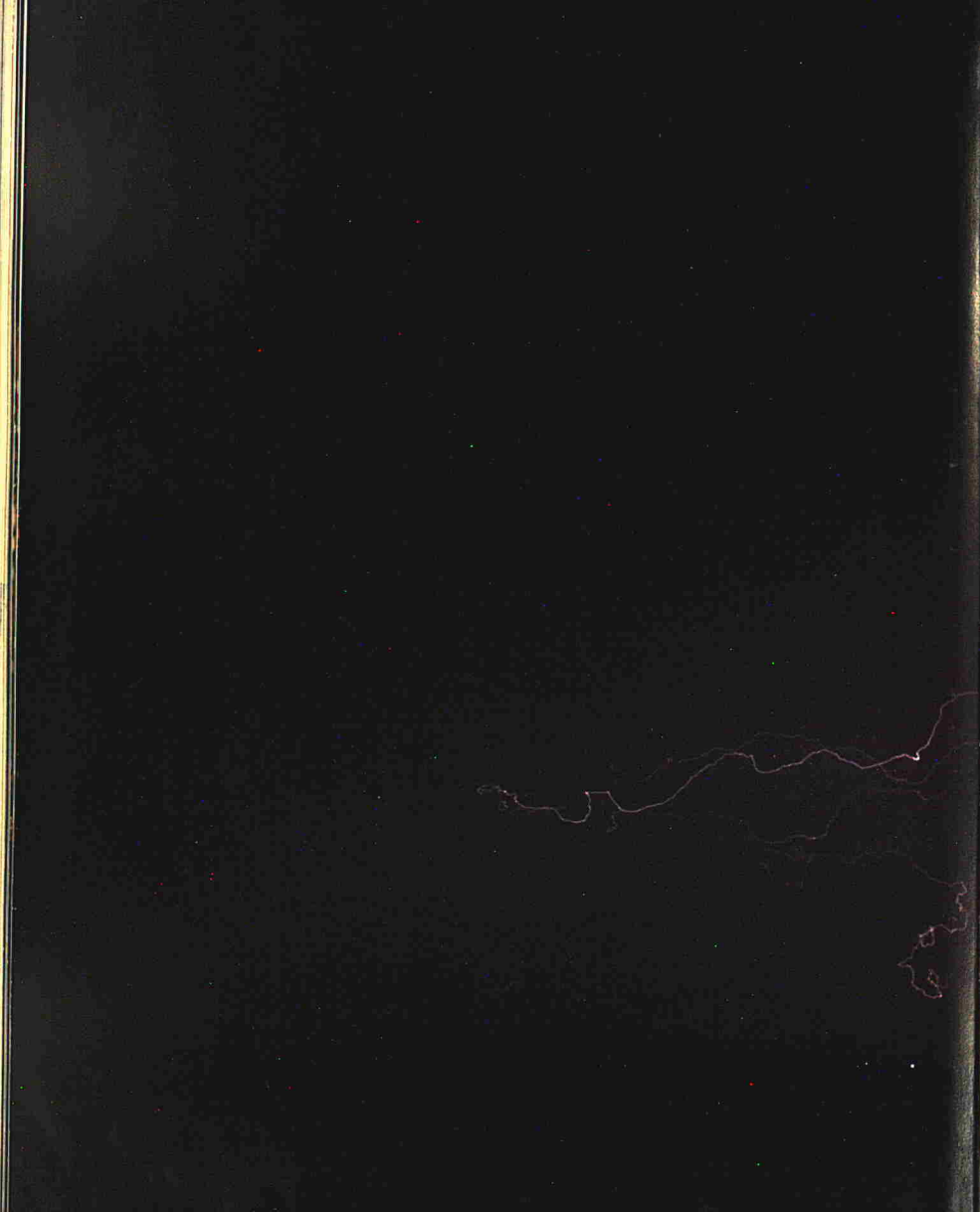
Bathed by the morning sunlight, the view of the Genting mountains is enchanting.

A little inhabited island in the sun, near Tioman Island.

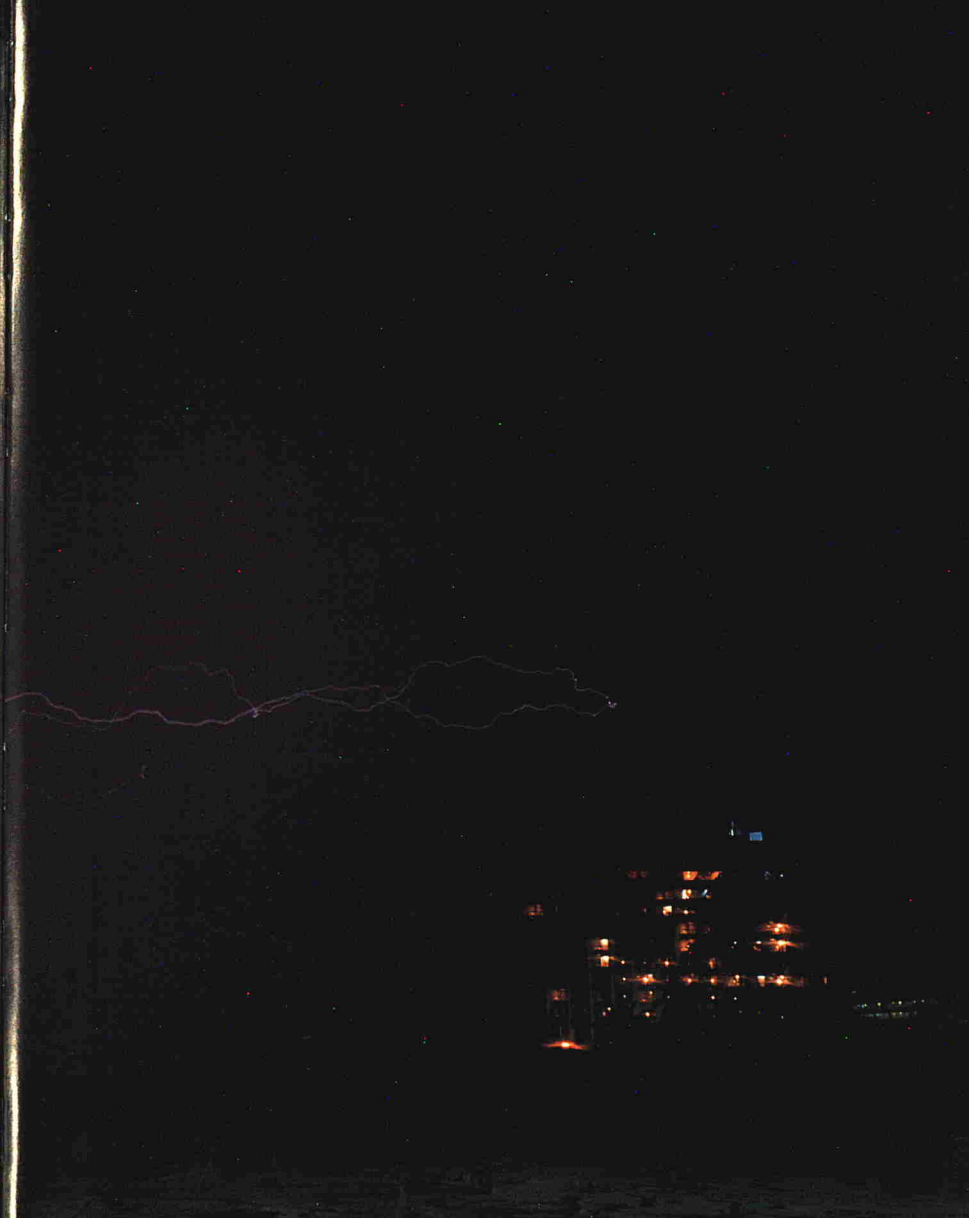




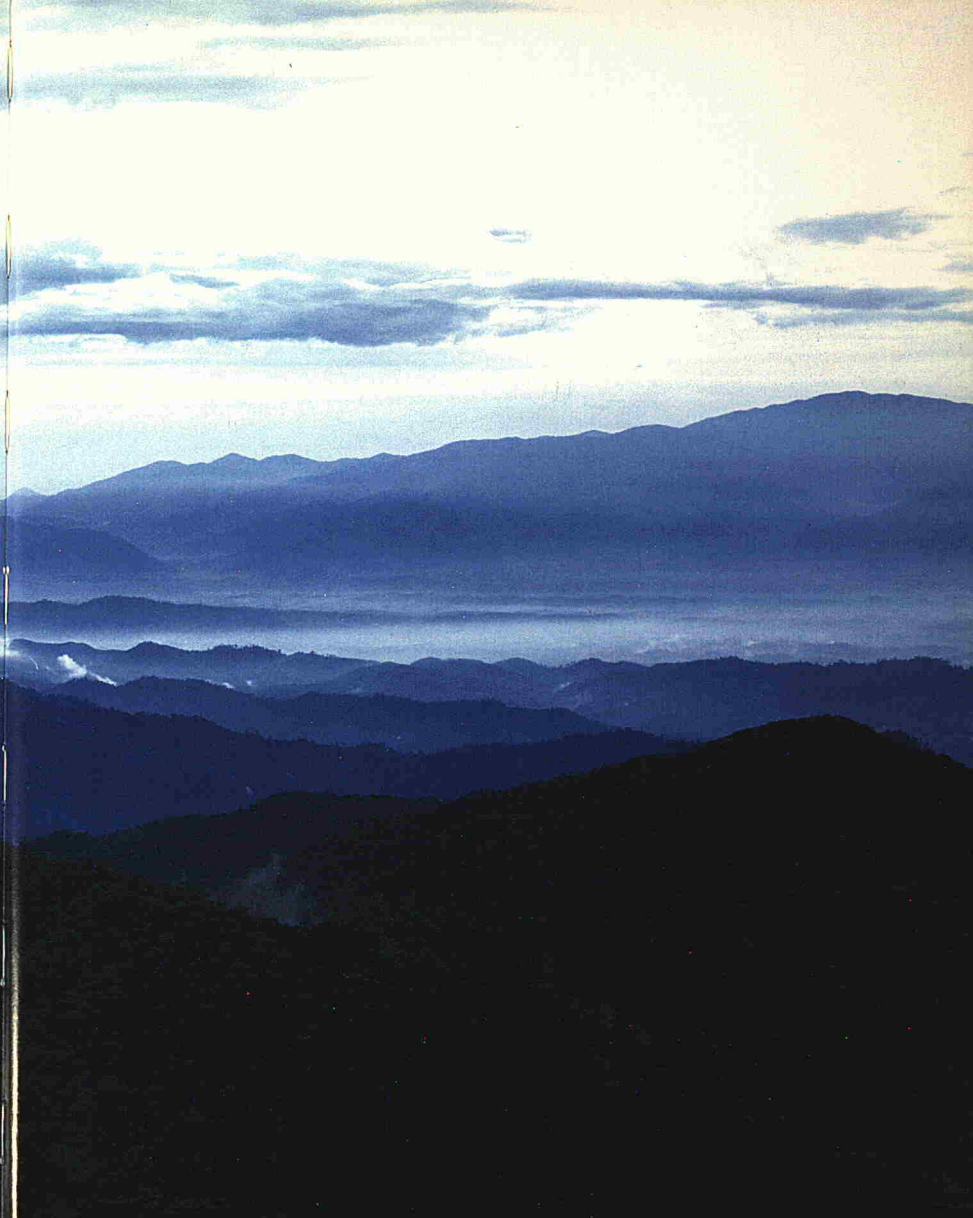


















The Johor State Economic Development Corporation (JSEDC) started operations in 1970 as the principal development arm of the Johor State Government. Now, the Johor State Economic Development Corporation (JSEDC) has achieved tremendous success in developing Johor into a thriving industrial state and become a model for state development programmes in Malaysia. The business interests of the corporation are carried out principally through private and public listed companies within the JSEDC group ranging from urban development, urban renewal programmes and the provision of industrial sites to the development of commercial and residential property, from plantations and agro-processing to agri-business, from forestry to timber processing and export of timber products. The Corporation is also involved in manufacturing, transport and shipping services, trading, aquaculture, deer farming, medical and specialist healthcare, hotel, sport, leisure and travel as well as a wide range of marketing and management services. JSEDC has grown in strength to become one of the leading corporate entities in Malaysia.



#### GUTHRIE GROUP BERHAD

The Guthrie Group Berhad, Malaysia's leading producer of rubber and palm oil, and the world's premier producer of quality latex has established itself as one of the world's leading plantation companies through 170 years of steady growth. It was founded in 1821 as a private proprietary enterprise by a Scotsman, named Alexander Guthrie, but rapidly became involved in the shipping of crops for the London commodity markets. By 1925 Guthrie owned palm oil enterprises had become an important player in the rubber industry. The Guthrie Group now has an international marketing network that spans the globe and some of the most advanced research and development facilities undertaken in the field of agriculture. In the recent years, the Guthrie Group has entered into new profitable ventures like agricultural consultancy and building of golf courses.



Jaya Jusco Sdn Bhd. is honoured to be celebrating its Tenth Anniversary concurrently with Visit Malaysia Year 1994 since its establishment in September 1984. Jaya Jusco has rapidly grown from a one store operation to a chain of four stores with several other locations being earmarked on the planning board. Jaya Jusco aims to be collectively active in stimulating and accelerating the growth of tourism by creating exciting new shopping centres which provide a high standard of merchandise, services, vast product range, aesthetic appeal, night themes, ample car parking bays, equipped with facilities to serve the needs of the discerning shoppers. Jaya Jusco's philosophy of being suburban centred is a testimony of its goal to be close to its customers and is functioning on the guiding principle that customers are always placed first in all their endeavours.



From its inception in 1934, FUJIFILM has spearheaded the imaging and information industry with bold technological concepts that have helped make it a world leader today. World renowned FUJIFILM products, from its photographic film, photo paper, optical products, photo processing equipment, magnetic recording materials, x-ray products, graphic arts products, micro-film products to its motion picture film stand testimony to the company's technology advancements. FUJIFILM is today synonymous with Quality through 130 notions in which it is found. Worldwide, FUJIFILM is continually expanding into the imaging and information field to project itself as an integrated enterprise.



EKRAK BERHAD is an investment holding company with diverse and multifaceted interests. The main activities are carried out through its subsidiaries: Woodhouse Sdn Bhd and Federal Cables Wires and Metal Manufacturing Berhad (FCWM). Woodhouse, a turnkey contractor, is a pioneer and leader in the technology of using woodbased prefabricated components in construction. The company uses local timber resources extensively for its construction projects, in line with existing government policies of encouraging downstream timber activities. Two prominent projects by Woodhouse are the Sheraton Langkawi Resort Hotel and Delima Resort, both in Langkawi Island, which were completed in a record time of 100 days and 53 days respectively. FCWM has substantial interests in business such as cable manufacturing, distribution and trading of telecommunication products, and the provision of telecommunications engineering services and piping services. With Woodhouse as the turnkey contractor and the FCWM Group as the secured supplier of quality power and telecommunications cables, EKRAK is able to establish itself as the complete turnkey operator in Malaysia, capable of undertaking and delivering projects in the most time-effective and cost-efficient way anywhere in the world. EKRAK has to date secured several resort development projects in China, Iran, Vietnam and Philippines.



BAXTER HEALTHCARE S. A.

Baxter's Malaysia Glove Operations is located in Bayan Lepas, Penang, Malaysia. They are part of Baxter International Inc., with its headquarters in Deerfield, near Chicago, USA. The parent company is the world's largest health care company, selling over 120,000 different products and able to supply 75% of what are required to run a hospital. The Malaysian Operations is the world's largest glove manufacturing complex. They started operation in 1988, and added another factory in 1989. The Glove Operations employ over 2,000 employees, and are one of the world's largest consumers of latex. Baxter sells over 2.4 billion exam and surgeon gloves annually, with the bulk of those coming from the Malaysian Operations. Here the gloves are made using state-of-the-art machinery under the strictest quality conditions. The young Malaysian Operations have already been certified by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States, as well by the International Standards Organization's ISO 9000 quality standards. The Operations also have 50 blind or visually disabled people as permanent full time employees. Baxter is committed to producing the best gloves and to help Malaysia to become the undisputed glove manufacturing country of the world.



The Yayasan Seri Beradiah started as a dream of the founder and chairperson, Yang Amat Berbahagia Tu Puan Mahani Khair Daim. A fervent lover of the arts, she had this vision of helping to preserve and promote the traditional arts of Malaysia and delving occasionally into foreign fares for variety. The objectives of the Yayasan are clear enough. It will promote and preserve the diverse traditional arts of multi-culture Malaysia. It will also activate the local performing arts into a vibrant and meaningful zone of regular creative activity reflective of the nation's multi-cultural tastes. The Yayasan also seeks to provide sponsorship for various arts and cultural events, assist institutions in disseminating knowledge on culture and the arts to interested parties and help support charitable projects for the benefit and advancement of culture and the arts. The Yayasan is also proud to have a colonial styled bungalow to carry on its project in the city which was granted by the Government of Malaysia. The bungalow known as "Rumah Yayasan" is located at 198 Jalan Temerloh, Kuala Lumpur. An exhibition of the Best Photography Works of C.T. FONG are being planned for next year (1994).



The concept of country living was created by Country Heights and is the first of its kind in Malaysia. This is a very successful residential project in a unique concept of a country living environment with beautiful landscaping without fencing and low-density. Country Heights offers the buyers and their family a country living lifestyle with ample land area for landscaping and gardening. The common area for the whole project is beautifully landscaped with pine trees, palms and other height plants along with a jogging track and horse trail all over the 400 acres site. Leisure and sport facilities are also provided at the Equestrian Club, World Tennis Centre, Convenience Centre and Family Club for residents and club members. The Country Heights project is today synonymous with quality living and has been duly recognised with the Award of Distinction for Best Residential Development 1992 awarded by the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) Malaysian Chapter. Country Heights has also been credited with the development of the country's first private hi-tech industrial park and the current transformation of the world's largest disused open-cut tin mine in Sungai Besi into a "resort city" aptly called The Mines Resort featuring Malaysia's first musical fountain, an 18 hole golf course, a water sports centre, a theme park, a business park, hotels, restaurants, service apartments and bungalow lots.



The Malaysia Tourism Promotional Board (Tourism Malaysia) under the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism is responsible for coordinating and promoting tourism both on the domestic and overseas market. The board who serves as a channel of communication between the Federal Government, international and domestic tourism organizations in matters relating to tourism. Following the successful launch of Visit Malaysia Year 1990, Tourism Malaysia is planning another bigger launch for the coming Visit Malaysia Year 1994 with year-long events to attract tourists to this region.



#### MALAYAWATA STEEL BERHAD

Initially incorporated as Malaysian Steel Limited on the 10th day October, 1961 and capitalised at \$20, the company was to become a pioneer in the Malaysian steel manufacturing business. It was converted into a public limited company on April 28, 1966 and the country's first integrated steel mill in Penang was opened on September 9, 1967. Malayawata obtained listing on the then stock exchange of Malaysia and Singapore in October the same year. Today, the company is still principally involved in the running of an integrated steel mill and as a property investment holding company. Malayawata is the largest producer of steel bars in Malaysia.



The Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Limited (DKB) has a representative office in Kuala Lumpur since 1981. This bank seeks the potential in tremendous Malaysia economy and plans are being finalised to start an off-shore bank branch in Labuan. In Japan the Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Limited (DKB), was formed in 1971 through the merger of the Dai-ichi Bank, Ltd., and the Nippon Kangyo Bank, Ltd., both prominent banks with long history. DKB has achieved impressive growth since its formation and since 1985 has been ranked No. 1 in the world in terms of assets and deposits. DKB is one of the world's most comprehensive financial institutions. The Bank provides a wide range of services and products to customers around the globe through a network that spans five continents.

# MALAYSIA





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C.T.FONG

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