OVER MALAYSIA

contents page: The forest and the river have long been dominant forces in Malaysia's landscape, and in the awareness of the people who make their living there. While many Malaysians are now city-dwellers, for whom the forest exists only as a backdrop, other Malaysians, like these farmers in Sarawak, East Malaysia, live and work on the river and by the forest.

pages of and 7: the Rajang River is the longest river in Sarawak, parayipable for 100 mile upstream.

Above the rapids, as seen here, it displays all the vitality of youth.

pages 8 and 9: Malaysia's humid forest miss, these on the West Malaysian peninsula, are list by the rising sun.

pages 10 and 11: Kuola Lumpur emerges from the mist under the gaze of the peoples of the Main Range of the Peninsula.

The city is the showcase of Malaysia's coming of age, where graceful colonial buildings flank modern sky-scraping edifices

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All photographs were taken from the helicopters of the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

Project Coordinator: Marina Mahathir:Roussille Editor: Peter Schoppert Photas & French edition: Marie-Claude Millet

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ISBN: 981-00-3071-1

Typeset on an Apple Macintosh DTP system, courtesy of Sapura Holdings Sdn Bhd Cast on a Linotronic by Superskill Graphics, Singapore Colour separation by Far East Offset, Kuala Lumpur

M 915.93 KEB

Printed in Italy by Milanostampa



OVER MALAYSIA

A ERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY GUIDO ALBERTO ROSSI / TEXT BY KEE HUA CHEE

Dengan ingatan tulus ikhlas

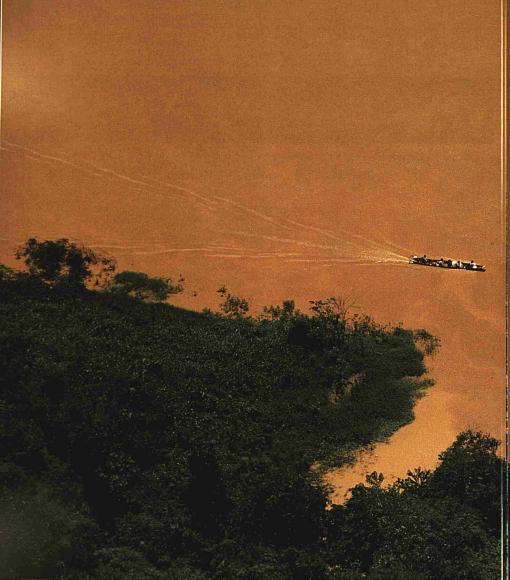
Seminar Nasional ke 9 Pengurusan dan Kepimpinan Pendidikan

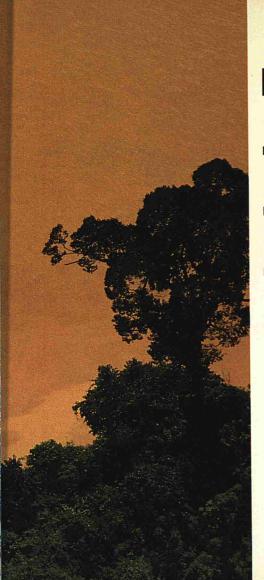
1 - 3 Ogos 2000

Institut Aminuddin Baki Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORG GERSTER, BERNARD HERMANN, AND ALBERTO CASSIO
ADDITIONAL CAPTIONS BY HEIDI MUNAN







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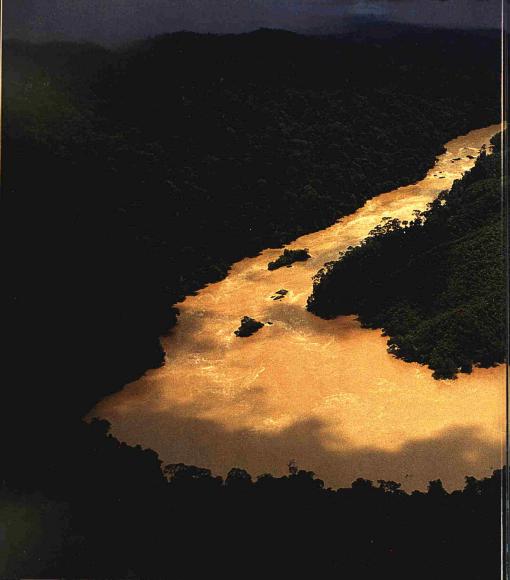
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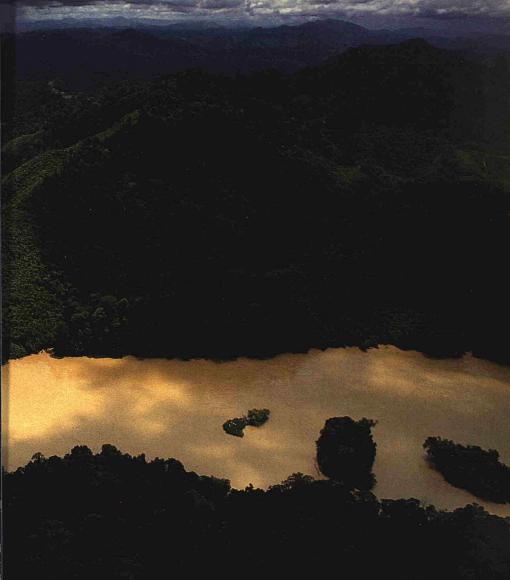
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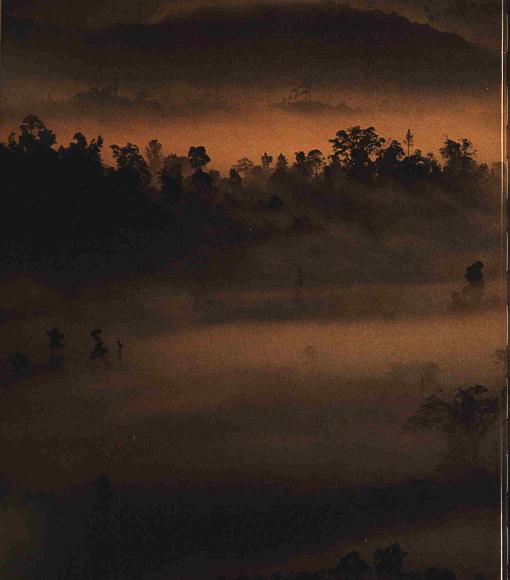
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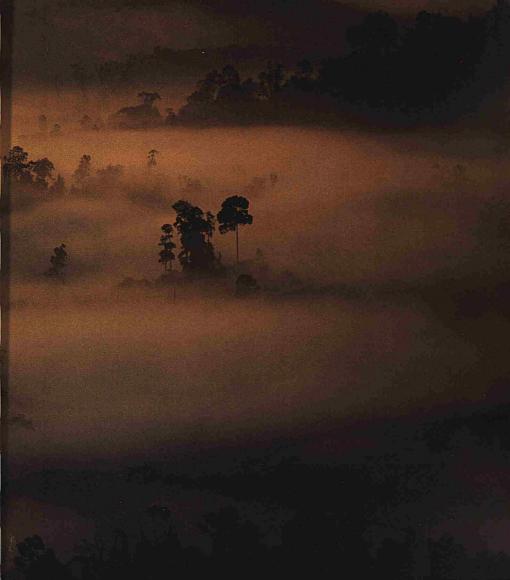
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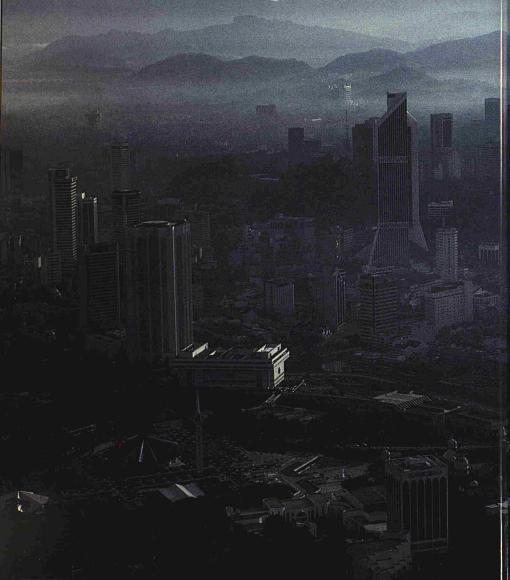
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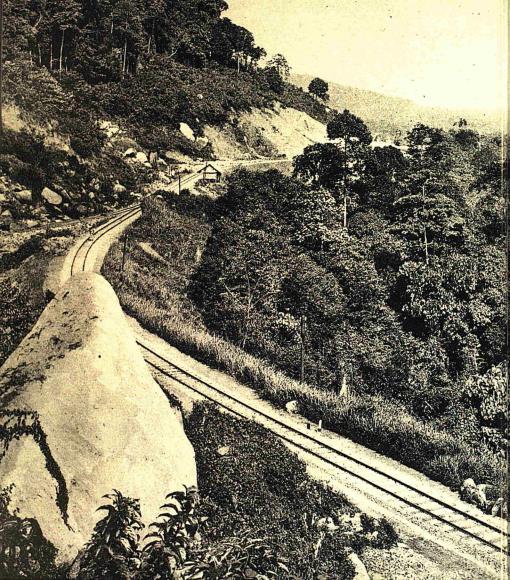


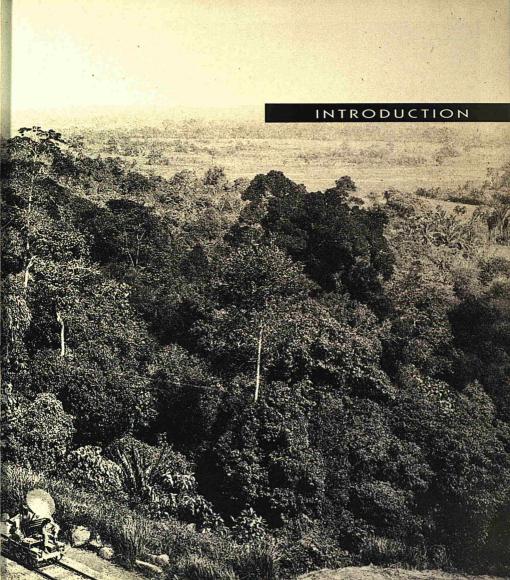












hidever way you look at it, Malaysia is enchanting and exatic. None of these qualities are lost from above, but the evalled perspective of the aerial view does impose a certain uniformity that is not evident from the ground, from above, Malaysia spreads out deliciously like an endies carpet of broccoli. Despite massive opening of land for development, plantations, and lumbering, over 70% of Malaysia is still forested. Green, from every standpoint, is the obtain about Modern Malaysia constitutes the Malaysia Peninsula on the Asian mainland and Sabah and Sarawak on the north coast of the island of Borostitutes the Malaysia Peninsula on the Asian mainland and Sabah and Sarawak on the north coast of the island of Borostitutes.

reo. The mainland—West Malaysia—is separated from the two East Malaysian island states by the South China Sea. West Malaysia stretches 740 kilometres from Perlis in the north to the Johor Strais down south, encompassing Kédah, Kelonton, Maloka, Negri Sembilan, Perok, Pahang, Pulau Prang, Terengganu, Selangor and the Federal Temitory of Kuda Lumpur. Its 1930 kilometre coastline eithes out a tartalising pear shape between the Strats of Melaka and the South China Sea: East Malaysia has a 1120km coastline running from Tanjung Datu in the west to Hog Point in the east.

Pennsular, Malaysa's green blanket heaves and undulates along its bookbone—the Main Range—, running from the Thoi border southwards till Negri Semblan, effectively solating the east from the west. This topographical division has historically served to differentate and define two regions, deserving of capital letters, the West Coast and the East. Within the regions, their mens, running out from the Main Range were the main avenue of communication. Almost all the states here take their names from their principal mens and the state capitals tended to spring up at the tree mouth. Malaysia's longest mess are across the South China Sea; the Rajang of Sarawak (563 kilometres) is navigable 160km upstream and the Kinabadrangan of Sabah, equally long, flows eastwards to the Sulu Sea. Sabah boats Southeast Asia's highest mountain. Mr Kinabad rises to 4176 metres, or 13,700 feet, the cultimination of the Crocker Range. In Sarawak, the interior is generally mountainous, and the highest people line the border with indonesias Kalimonton.

Rce cultivation breats the forest monatory with its patchworks throughout the Peninsula, especially in the traditional centres in the Peninsula's north.

Depending on the season, the fields take on hoes of green, gold, or brown, and when flooded before planting they reflect the hoes of the sky. Other tracts in the West Coast begin to risal the forest, with visions of corboncopy slender trees and elegant, strately fronds. The fruge nubber and oil palm estates that seemingly go on forever, refenteesly, are mostly here. The coastal regions are fininged by dark tanks of mangroves, their aerial roots poking out from the bracklish waters. The East Coast is justly famed for its more sandy shorelines, with beaches flanked by sentines of fiveliaden occount trees. Like

emeralds set in a literal sea of aquamarine, the pristine and suitably coral-reeled islands of Perhentian, Redang, Tioman and myriod others wink entianally

In East Malaysia, settlements are concentrated along the rivers and coasts, and vireyards of pepper, gambier and other spices are reminders this was once the first outpost of the Spice Islands. The Malayan Peninsula was known to ancient Europeans as the land of the "Golden Chesonese". It was a vital supposer between churlish monsoons for traders enroute to the Orient or Occident. The gold still shimmers for its natural and economic wealth, Malaysia remains pivotal as the heart of Southeast Asia.



Charles Kliengrothe photographed British Malaya in the early. 1900s, capturing images of the colony's industry and infrastructure, as in the photographed preceding, of Padang Rengas Pass.

Penang was an early base for the British in Southeast Asia. And very quickly after the founding of Georgetown in 1786, the colonials found the cool heights of Penang Hill to be an ideal retreat from the heat and bustle of the port some 1000 metres below. These views, from an album published in 1821, foreshadow the appeal of aerial photography. and demonstrate the 19th century British fascination with landscapes and vistas.





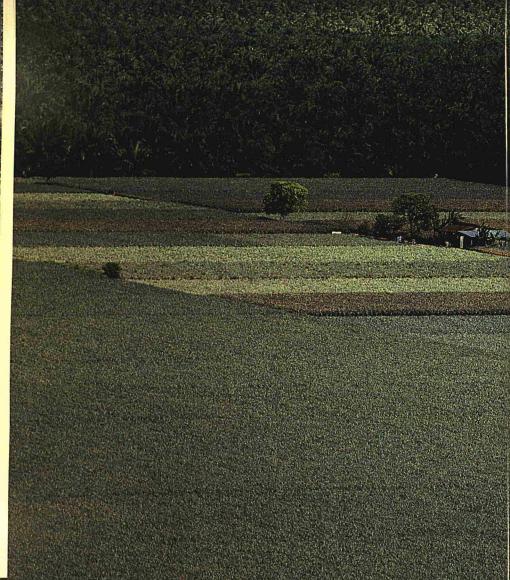


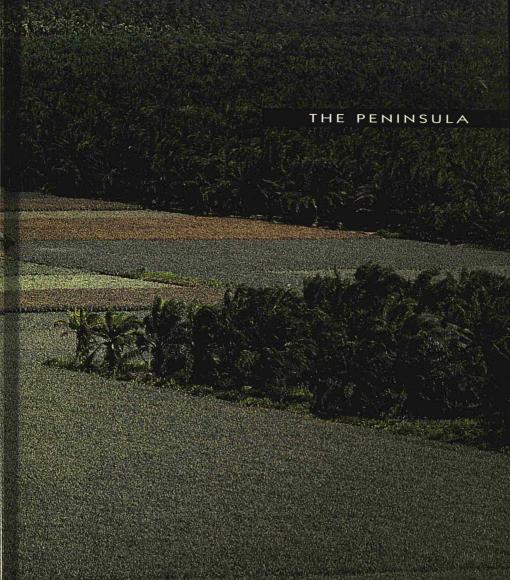




These two panoramic views date from 1884 and 1882 respectively. The top photo is of Kuala Lumpur, and the wild and woolly appearance of what was little more than a trading post at the time underscores the city's relative youth. It will strike some as odd that KL was so undeveloped compared to Taiping two years earlier, in 1882 a tidy town of brick houses, well-laid out pathways and a padang.







rom the knoted Trans-Himalayan plateau of central Asia, a spine of mountains works its way down to East Burma, following a loopy line of gravity through Thailand to form the backbone of the Malayan Peninsula, southernmost appendage of the great Eurasian landmass. It would be simplifying reality to say that Malaysia's Main Range—or Barisan Titiwangsa—divides the Peninsula into two, but the two coasts, West and East, have a distinct identity, brought about in port because of this mountain barrier. The range runs down to the south-southeast, with the ridges slicing now and again unevenly off to the east, effectively loading the East Coast states of Kelantan, Teeragganu and vast tracts of Pahang. The lopsided thrust ends at Negri Semblan, and the relatively low-lying southernmost state—polso—is tradisonally part of the West Coast. The landforms of the peninsula bear the marks of a watery post. The Main Range was uplified from the seabed ears ago, and its granter heart is often covered over with sedimentary took that formed when the area was under the sea. Great churks of white seabed limestone litter the Peninsula, and the exfoliating action of the elements has shaped them into spectocular forms, especially outside of Kuala Lumpur, in the Kirna Valley near lipoh and at various outcops in Kelantan, Pahang. Kedah and Peris, Lying at the intersices of these limestone formations are sands at their teet make a bundation of a different sort these alluvia are loaded with precious tin are. Tin opened up Perak and Selangtor in the 19th century, Luring miners from Chira and transforming a shorty town into a boomtown that later became the nation's capital. The modern capital of a dynamic nation retains its original handing post name, describing itself in an apt if unflatering fashion. Kuala Lumpur means likeally Muddy Rev Modrit.

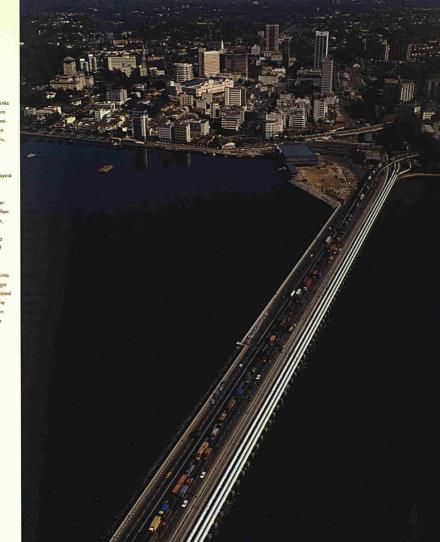
From the air, ar even from a highrise varage, Kuala Lumpur can be seen to share all the elements of the Peninsula's geographic setting. The city is watched over by the peaks of the Main Ronge, including the 2000-metre Gunung Ulu Kali. Arranged in ters below the blue shadow of the highlands are Imestone formations, including Klang Gates and the diamatic sugarioal of Batu Cases. The alluval incheding sands that first brought settlers to the area are in evidence on the city's outskirs, where huge residental developments arise on the sites of disused in mines. The residents of Kuala Lumpur share the joys of living in a tropical environment. Despite thirty years of sometimes headlong urban growth, green lungs, rejuvenate and rehydrate the city. The lake Gardens are the most well-known and romantic of the city's green spaces, with blossoming plants,

stately trees, and a manmade lake, it is here, on two green fullhops divided by a surprisingly unabtrusive highway, that one finds two of the nation's mast potent symbols, the National Manument, which commemorates the southces arendant on Malaysia's birth, and Parliament House, beacon of democracy.

During the official bunch of Visir Malaysia Year 1990, a promotional effort that did much to put Malaysia on the world burism map, the Prime Miniser Data Seri. Dit Mahathiir Mohamad declared Kudla Lumpur a "Garden City of Lights". Garrisons of elegant trees and flotillas of flowering plans line Kuala Lumpur's.



The aerial view [preceding] gives a scene of pineapple and oil palm plantalions a delightful texture. Kudla Lumpur's downtown is dominated by fanciful architecture.



The Causeway links the extreme southern tip of the Asian continent, the Malaysian town of Johor Bahru, with the island of Singapore, While Singapore left the Federation of Malaysia in 1965, the two countries are still closely tied together: the Causeway is often jammed with traffic, and the pipelines visible here carry a sizeable portion of Singapore's fresh water needs Increased arrivals into Malaysia from Singapore have necessitated the expansion of the Immigration Post on the Malaysian side.

The green colour that dominates the Malaysian landscape is also said to be the favourite colour of the Prophet Mohammed. It is used here for a new mosque built in traditional Melaka style.



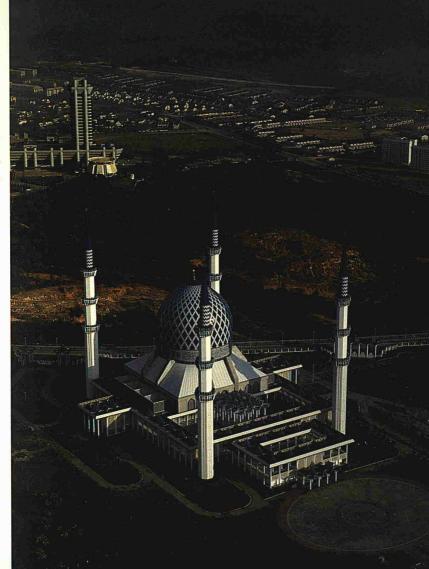
boulevards and streets, softening the concrete outlines of the city with a soothing—or to use a local expression—'cooling' effect. The University of Malayo's Rimba Ilmu, or Jungle of Knowledge, contains no less than 1500 species of native plans on 40 hectares of campus land. The 'reforestation' of the city has been so successful that birds once confined to the snobby suburbs on the hills have condescended to flutter into lown every now and then. Kuda lumpur is refaxed and liveable. Its growing middle class, has enough economic clout to fill shopping malls, cultural centres, cinemas and entertainment plazas.

Being just a headbeat from the equator, the median temperature in the peninsula is high, from 25°C to 28°C. The humidity and rainfall are also suitably equatorial. But a few hours' drive from Kudia Lumpur are the cool getaways of the highlands and foothills of the Main Range. The sweltering heat of the lowlands evaporates among the mountains, and the thermometer can plummer to a temperateseeming 16°C. And besides relief from the heat, many of the hill stations offer another attraction, a panoramic view from on high.

The rearest of the hill retreats to Kuda Europur is Gerting Highlands. From the city centre it can be seen, when not hidden by cloud cover, as a farroff speck dominating the highest visible ridge of the Main Range. Seen from clover up, or from a helicopter hovering over the kinfesharp ridge, it is a glitzy multi-milliondollar megaresort, perched unabashedly, provocatively, almost impossibly, on top of a mountain. Genting's Casno and famous night-time entertainment combine with the altrude and setting to give many a lowlander shortness of breath. The founder. Fan Sin Lim Coh Tong fanceed a holiday burgalow atop Gunung Ulu Kali, but calculated that the cost of driving a road through some of Malaysia's most impregnable terrain did not justify just a single building. When the buildicases streed up in 1965, they cleared a partitivary to a highland laming and tourism resort, in a fear of hermendous engineering still and ingenuty. In 1971 the Highlands Hotel operaed its doors, and in 1978, the new Genting Hotel, making a total of 1115 rooms and 1770 agrantments available on the mountain top. Those seeking the aerial view might consider the Genting Cobble Car as an alternative to a helicopter or a light place. The cable car floots from a 912-metre elevation to 1768 metres, beginning from a landscape of upmarket country clubs, and horse ranches, possing over deep livest, and a multifered, multi-hued Chinese temple pagoda that arises out of the jurgle like some bizare and evance miague, forever might not be visible from Genting, on a clear day, but most will make do with Kuala Lumpur, the Strats of Melaka to the west and the South China Sea to the east.

In its brashness and esuberance, Gening Highlands may be view Malaysian, but the hill resort was first an obsession of the British. In the colonial days, when they were masters of the county—if not the climate—they used to migrate each season to high plateaus like Pahang state's 1500metre high Cameron Highlands, named after its discoverer. In 1885 William Cameron sumbled onto to fine plateaus with gentle slopes, shut in by mountains" while on a mapping expedition. When the plateau was found to be ideal for tea growing, a boom began. A clutch of charming cottages and bungalows with functioning fireplaces restled among scented risse gordens made. Cameron Highlands a Billipution.

The magnificent Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah mosque of Shah Alam, Selangor's capital, encompasses both classical and high-tech elements. It draws on the refined tradition of Sinan, architect of Istanbul's great mosques, yet modern technological innovations ensure that the building has brilliant acoustics, and provides a new level of comfort for worshippers.



England flourishing at the height of summer all year round. Today, a modern condominium flaunts window baxes laden with the most untropical of faults, strawberry plants! Also in Pahang is Fraser's Hill, on the same altaide as Cameron Highlands. The adventurer Louis James Fraser built a house in the hills, and operated a lucrative if primitive mule train, carrying tin ore over a mountain pass. When he mysteriously disappeared before World War I, Bishop Ferguson-Davie of Singapore set out on a search-andrescue mission. Though he came back without news of Fraser, he did tell of a small, hidden plateau, an ideal retreat for those who couldn't, well, take the heat. The last eight kilometres to Fraser's is along a winding road called the Gap, so narrow and deliciously precarious that only one-way traffic is permitted. Traffic follows a strict timetable. Further north is Maxwell Hill, or Bukit Larut, in Perak. This is the country's oldest and smallest hill station, but it is blessed with the biggest sunflowers, dahlias, daisies, pansies, lupins and marigolds. About a thousand metres high in all, the harpin road makes for a hair-raising ride, only possible for four-wheel-drive vehicles. But at the top, a panaramic view awaits. And gleaming in the distance is Penang, Pearl of the Orient, If there was a need to show a historical precedent for the appeal of aerial photography, Penang Hill, now Bukit Bendera, would do. Like a good gerial photograph, the view from Penang Hill is transcendent, taking in far horizons as well as bringing the eye down a precipice, to see the city of Georgetown below, flattered out as in a map. The view from the Hill was popular from the time of Francis Light, who sequestered the island from the Sultan of Kedah in 1786, as a naval and trading base for the East India Company. In 1821 a series of views from the heights was published in England (see page 15). The hill, a mere 850 metres, is best scaled via a funicular railway, built in 1923. Modern coaches have replaced the wooden carriages, but the ambience remains, and the rider still needs to change trains midway. The lessurely ride is a treat, and the temperatures lighten to 18°C, as the flowers run riot. Cool Penang Hill was once a hot favourile, as the sedate European mansions testify. From here, in one fell swoop, you can take in Penang's capital, Georgetown (after George III), Province Wellesley (after the Marquis of), the North Straits, the Kek Lor Si Temple at Air Hitam, and Penang Bridge, a long arc which links the island to the mainland

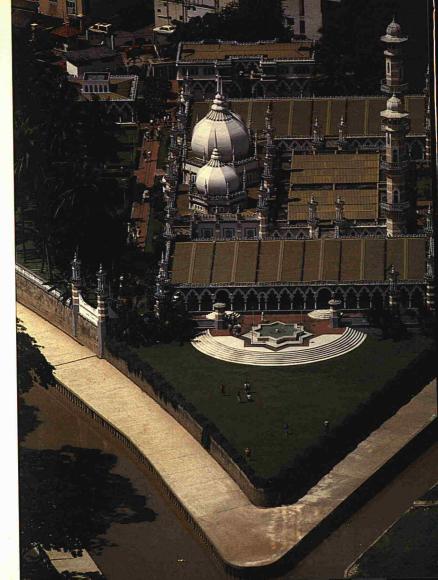
The hill stations thrive best when they are paired with an urban centre. Their refuge is only necessary when there is a place to fice from; KL in the case of Genting and Frazer's, Ipoh for Cameron, and Georgetown for Penang. The West Coast developed in an entirely different fashion from the East, and as a result of the fin industry, better transportation and ports protected from the morsoon, and its position flanking the Strats of

Meloka, the West Coast is more urbanised, more industrial, and relatively better off than the East. The East is queter, more traditional, and has no hill stations. The East Coast states of Kelonton, Teenagganu and Pahang share many similarities by vinue of their relative isolation. Malay folk culture is generally accepted to be at its purest in the East Coast, where Chinese, Indian, Indonesian and Western influences have been more or less muted. The ordinary folk live simple, unpresentous lives in fishing and farming villages scattered along the 5.444/iometre coastine, tagged by the South China Sea. All administrative bodies conduct their



This city sidewalk is decorated with planters for the bougainvillea plant. Malaysia's city planners are making use of the colourful possibilities provided by tropical vegetation.

The place where Kuala Lumpur began. This is the famous muddy confluence of the Gombak and Klang rivers, now hemmed in by concrete, in the heart of Kuala Lumpur's business district. The confluence is dominated by the Jame Mosque, the city's oldest, and arguably its most graceful.



business from the capitals of Kota Bahru, Kuda Terengganu and Kuantan. Dino for banking, hading, and manufacturing. The population hoves under a million each for Kelantan and Pahang, and just over 600,000 for Terengganu. Still, each state nutrures a distinct personality. Kelantan holds the singular honour of being the only state to have been governed by female rulers, the famous beauties. Che Sii Wan Kembang and Puteri Saar'dong whose grace, power and prestige spread for and wide. To this day, only women transact retail trade and hold court in Kota Bahru's busting. Certail Market. Being next door to Thaidand, Kelantans history tended to be interwined with its larger, more aggressive neighbour. Once a vassal of the Smijahyan Empire, Kelantan converted to Islam in the 1.5th century and by the 19th it was the most densely populated state on the peninsula. It fashioned the fabulous "Bunga Mazi" or Tice of Gold as tribute to Thailand in exchange for relative autonomy. Only in 1909 did the British assume overlondship. Kelantanese are among the friendless, most easygoing and musically-inclined of Malaysians. Their boaches are accolaimed for their protitine allaw, their swartness of golden sand and their famousic names: the Beach of Passionate Love, the Beach of Hamonious Melody, the Beach of Wisspering Breezes, the Beach of the Seven Fatally Charming Maders...

Terengganu has long languished in Kelantan's shadow. The East Coast arts, batik, songker weaving, and slik however find a home here Kelantan invariably gets the credit for these crafts, by virtue of entenched association. But new peroleum drilling and refining industries mean Terengganu can flex its economic muscles. Its meanerising islands of Perhentian, Redang and Kapas are irresistible bat for surseekers and scuba divers. Pahang state, the peninsula's largest, is also home to several rapiclass beach resorts, and it too has benefited from new prosperity.

Despite their importance for the modern nation, all talk of the two coasts, the cities and the highlands just delays the inevitable reckning with the dominant personality of the landscape of the Malayan Peninsula. Only a little way up the slopes of the East Coast faothills of the Main Range, on the margins of Genting Highlands, or the edges of the pleasanity gardened atmosphere of Comeron Highlands or fraser's Hill, on the gentle peaks around the plateaus, and falling from the ridgelines that snake south and west, is pure unhamed jurigle. It claimed fraser, it may also have claimed a famous visitor to Comeron Highlands, Jim Thompson, the Thai slik king, who went for a strall one day and never returned. As recently as the 1960s, a tiger was sported stralling across the well-tended farmways of the Comeron Highlands golf course. The peaks of the Main Range rise only a little above the levels of the hill station plateaus. Ridgelines run to the east from Comeron Highlands to form the Pahang - Kelanton

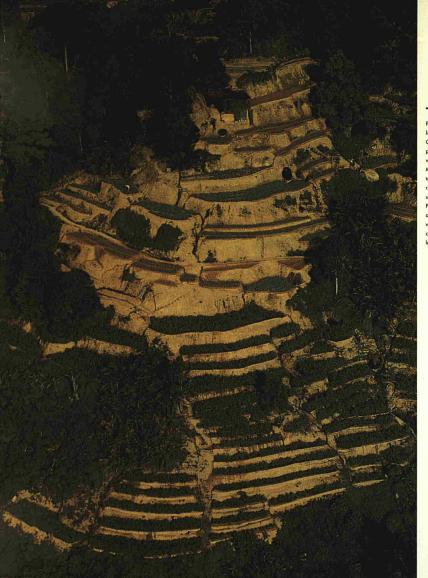
This paradisical hideaway on Malaysia's East Coast is tucked away amidst the natural flora of the beachside, its height limited to that of the casuarina



border, the peaks of Gunung Swetenham (2181) metres) and Gunung Tangga (2014) metres) standing out. To the west, the ridge that cradles Cameron's and separates Pahang from the West Coast state of Perak boasts of Berinchang. Turnang Batu and Batu Puth, all over 2000 metres. The highest mountain on the Peninsula is Gunung Tahan, which reaches 2187 metres, its peak standing fairly undiamatically over a high plateau of dwarf montaine forest.

The highest ridges, pummelled by wind, are enmeshed in a stunted forest of mass and ferns, where oaks and laurels struggle to grow a few metres high. Lower on

A resort hotel on the island of Pangkor, off the West Coast, in the Straits of Melaka. The design of the resort blends well with the environment, and the Water Villas built just off the shore allow tourists to share in the atmosphere of Malaysia's many water villages', settlements built on piles over shallow seas or estuaries.



The steep slopes of Penang Hill, which looms over the city of Georgetown, are planted with terraced vegetable fields. Malaysian soils are too soft for terraced rice cultivation, so unlike Indonesia or the Philippines, hillsides are used to cultivate vegetables and other crops which require less water. the ridges the trees reach 25 metres or so, and tree ferns dominate the hill station trails. But it is at the base of the hills, in the derive lowland forest, that the jurgle expresses itself most completely, in every possible shade of lifegiving green. The roots of the Malaysian jurgle go back. 130 million years, for it has been propogating that long, in an endless cycle. This rainforest is innocent of upheavall the the Lee Age, which interrupted the flourishing of rainforests elsewhere. The jurgles of the Amazon and the Corgo Basins, which are often assumed to be the world's most ancient, are secondary forests in the geological terms by which the



A flock of dairy cattle ambles across a river delta plain along the East Coast. Locally-produced milk is generally drunk fresh or in the form of sweetened condensed milk.

Malaysian forests age is measured. From the air, the embrace of over 21 million hectares of Malaysta's trapical rainforests beggars description. Greenies will marvel at the statistics: 2500 different types of trees and over 5500 species of other plants. It is not completely unusual to find a hundred species of tree on one acre. In what must be the record for forest diversity, about 820 tree species have been counted in a mere onelifth of a square mile. And nowhere in Peninsular Malaysia is this similiorest better preserved than in Emann Negara, Malaysia's premier National.

Park. to overs 4343 square kilometres in the centre of the peninsula, a border area between the states of Kelantan, Tierengganu and Pathang.

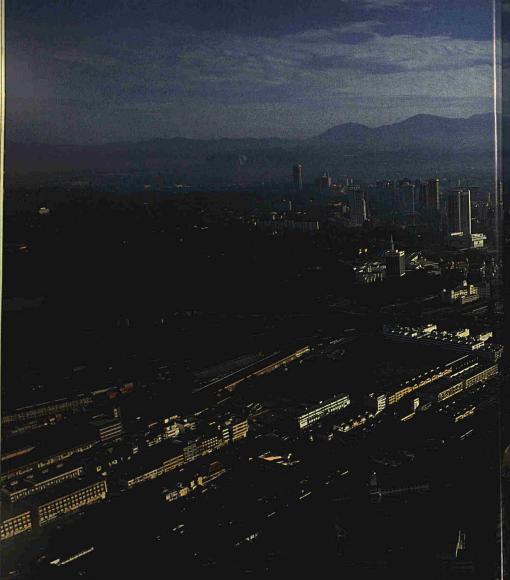
The Park was born in 1925 when Pahang designated 1300 square kilometres of jungle on the slopes of Gunung Tohan as an involable.

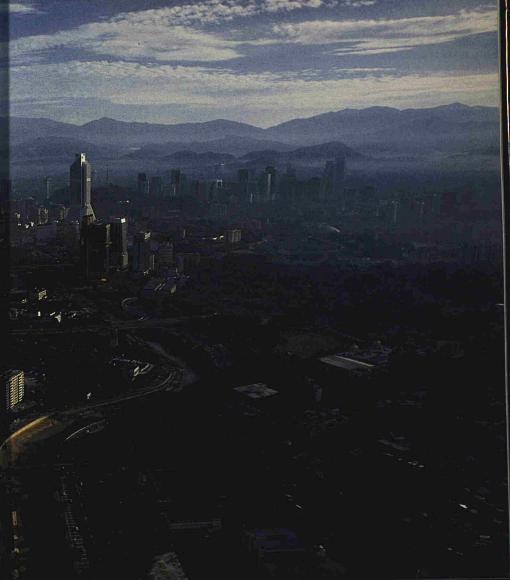
Gaming Reserve. In 1935, in what was for the time a grandly farsighted gesture, the Sultans of the three states agreed to form the King George

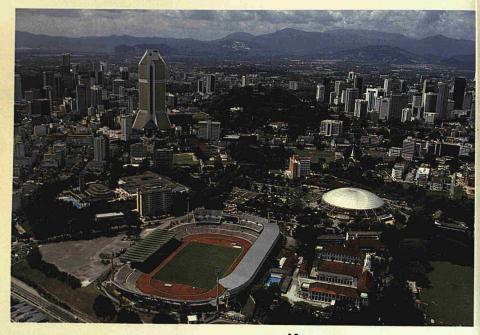
V National Park, which became the Toman Negara after Malaysia's 1957 independence. The keepers of Toman Negara have one sole objective, to "utilise the land within the park in perpetuity, for the propagation, protection and preservation of the independent and found." The
park has never heard the ominous buzz of a chairsow. Trees fall here only a nature's behest, as an intrinsic part of the cycle of life. Consistently
flowering tess are uncommon, but epiphytes like the bewildering archid more than compensate. The world's largest, the 'mother of all archids';

is Gammatophyllum speciosum, notive to the region and capable of clawing its way up eight metres.

Toman Negara is a limitess aviary. Birds of over 620 sorts of feather flock together here. The Great, Rhino and Pied Hombills each hover and hop, perching on legs that are thickly feathered, like portaloons. Firebook Pheasants, Fishing Eagles, the Masked Infoot, Kingfishers and others are often heard and seen together with tens of thousands of species of insect and buterfly. Wild game is generally more abundant and varied in the lowland jungle, especially near the meandering rivers. There are over 190 ventrous. Leading the carnivare pack must be the tiger, rarely seen but still brity plentiful. The leading annivare is the Malayan honey bear and the hothest herbivore is surely the elephant. Taman Negara's various hides deep in the jungle's recesses provide the patient abserver thrilling glimpses of such large animals as the laptir (actually a close relative of the elephant) and borking deer, wild boor, sambar deer, leaf monkeys, long-tailed macaques, whilehanded gibbons, squirrels and the sity's seladang (wild out which is reputed to attack on sight. The endangered Sunatron Rhinoceros, the Clouded Leopard, porthers and the Joson Rhina are all here too, but their shyness forces them to forego your company.

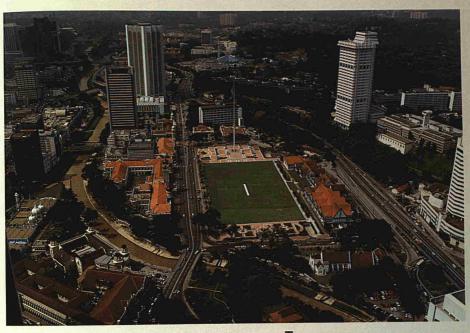






Kuala Lumpur, KL to its citizens, is a heady mix of high-rise architecture, and a tropical sort of oldworld charm (preceding). It has grown quickly, as Malaysia has, but the city is full of greenery, and retains an easy atmosphere.

Merdeka Stadium is Malaysia's Wembley, hosting football matches, concerts and international athletics events.



Tunku Abdul
Rohman, Molaysia's
first Prime Minister,
declared independence for Molaysia at
the stroke of midnight,
August 31st, 1957,
here on Kuala
Lumpur's padang, or
common. Later
renamed the Dataran
Merdeka,

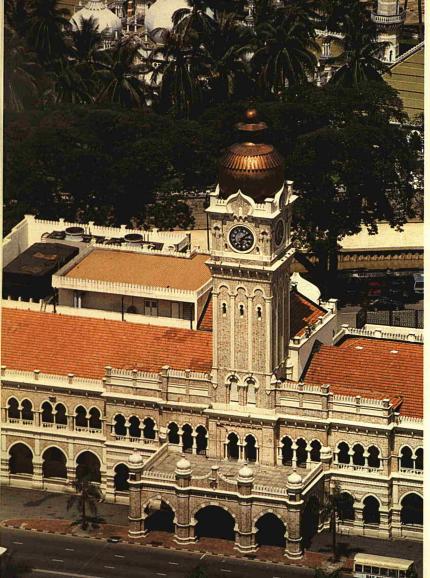
Independence Square, the padang is flanked by listed buildings, including the Royal Selangor Club, nicknamed by colonials as the "Spotted Dog", and the Sultan Abdul Samad Building across the road.



Two graceful, turnof-the-century buildings are among the chief assets of Malayan Railways, or Keretapi Tanah Melayu. The terrocatio building in the foreground houses KTM's administrative headquarters. Behind that is KT's railway station, often conside-

red to be one of the world's most exquisite. The onion domes, mock minarets, arches and dointy pillors are more reminiscent of an exotic Moorish polace than of a busy hub of transport and commerce.

A Moorish style also dominates the Dataran Merdeka, seen here after an Independence Day parade. The pink plaza and its flagpole are new additions to this historic spot: the free-standing flagpole is currently the world's tallest. Its base looms one storey high, dominating the green padang, and hiding beneath it a vast underground carpark and shopping centre. Now beautifully decorated above and below, Independence Square is a firm crowd-puller with the city's youth.

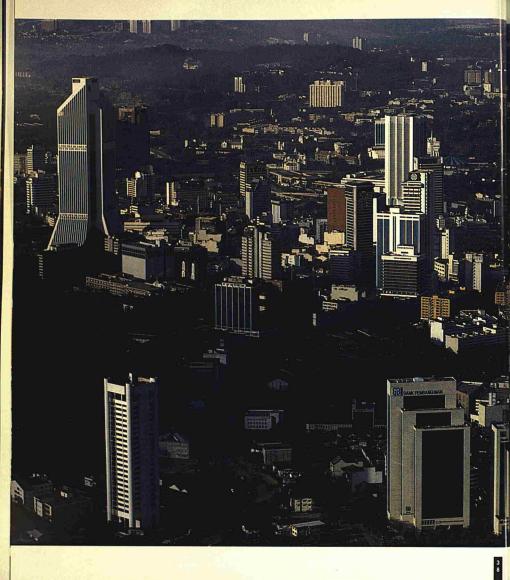


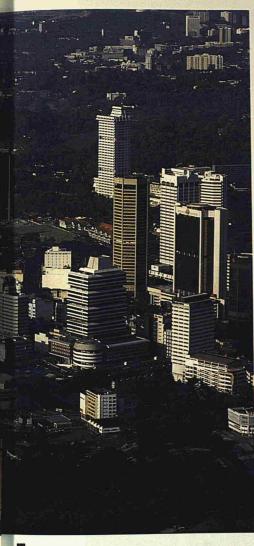
The Clock Tower of the Sultan Abdul Samad Building is part of the old State Secretariat building. This is the most famous and most-photographed landmark in Kuala Lumpur. It is the oldest of the Moorish and Mughal-fashioned buildings erected in colonial days in the centre of Kuala Lumpur. Today's citydwellers count down the New Year here, while holding their celebrations under the watchful eye of the clock.

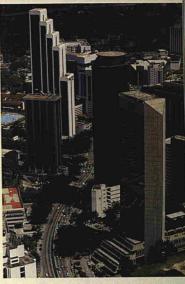


The heart of old Kuala Lumpur. This image puts it all lagether: the Jame Mossque at the confluence of the Klang and Gombak rivers, the Sultan Abdul Samad Building and the Clock Tower at Jalan Roja, and the padang. Dataron

Merdeka, the symbolic green field that is the city's great common space. These landmarks are the core symbols of the city.





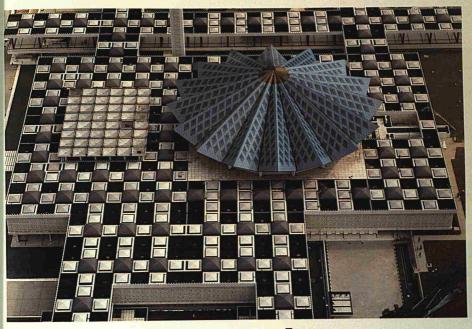


From this vantage point, the sharp upward angles of the headquarters of Malayan Banking Berhad make it one of the more domineering of the brash new skyscrapers that have sprung up recently in downtown Kuala Lumpur. Hotels, shopping centres and more highrises, including the headquarters of Malaysia Airlines, are found along Jalan Sultan Ismail.

Rising values in downtown Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle prime property area have built many a fortune.



Another prominent building in KL has an Islamic connection: the Tabung Haji Building, a cylindrical structure, with an unusual 'waspish' waist, houses the foundation which assists Malaysian Muslims in their efforts to make the pilgrimage to Mecca. The building is a rare example of local architectural innovation. The PNB Building next door is more conventionally international modernist, but it successfully incorporates a classically Malay istana-like annexe.



From the air, the National Mosque, the Masjid Negara, in Kuola Lumpur is a vision in blue. The structure, covered with abstract patterned filligree, used to be a pristine white, signifying the purity of Islam. But after renovations, the dome.

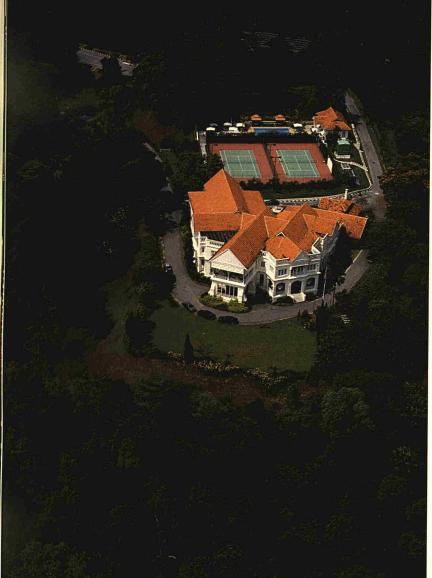
is now aqua blue and green, symbolising the magnaminity and magnitude of the national religion. Prayer halls too have been enlarged.



A burgeoning middle class and an enviable record of economic growth have led to a huge increase in the number of cars on K1's highways over the past few years.

One new addition to the highways has been the Proton Sago, a made-in-Malaysia car

that is very popular. Traffic jams are an occasional irritation, especially for carbound commuters from the populaus suburbs. Still, overpasses and flyovers like this one near the city centre help ease the burden. Parliament House has a pleasant hill of green all to its own, near Kuala Lumpur's large Lake Gardens. For years, the 18storeys of Parliament House made it the country's tallest building. It still looms over the city, and the nation, as the preeminent symbol of the values of democracy and openness.



Carcosa Seri Negara was once the residence of the highest civil servant of the colonial administration, and was given in perpetuity to the British Government by Tunku Abdul Rahman as the residence of the High Commissioner. It has since been returned to the Malaysian Government, It is now one of Asia's most acclaimed and most luxurious hotels. The Queen of England was its first guest in 1989, when she attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur.



The National
Monument, or Tugu
Negara, is a permanent reminder
of the debt owed by
the nation to those
slain defending the
country from its
enemies. The bronze
sculpture depicts a
group raising the
Malaysian flag in

victory; the surrounding gardens make for a peaceful sanctuary.



KI consumers can choose between airconditioned shopping centres and supermarkets and the hustle and bustle (and fun) of fierce bargaining in markets like these, both in the centre of town. While the haggling may occasionally heat up, umbrellas and awnings shade market-goers from the sun. Some stall-holders say they prefer the independence that goes with

being a small-scale entrepreneur to the enforced uniformity of an office or factory job. Market stalls can be packed up and reassembled at short notice.



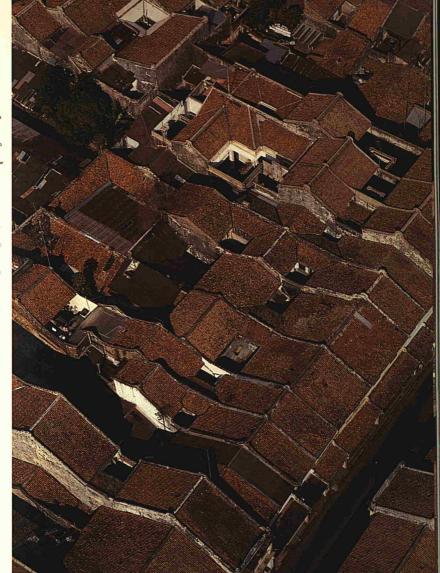


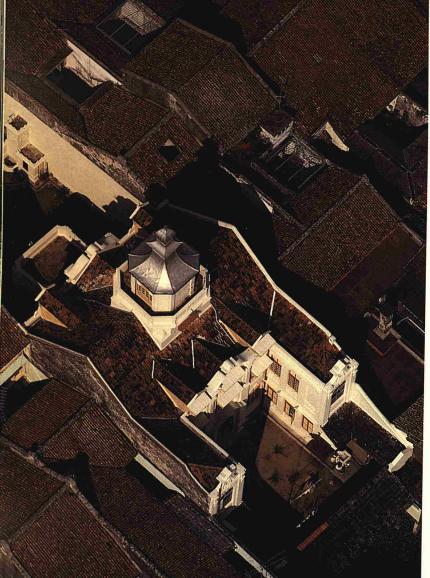


Al fresco dining is a way of life for Malaysians, who enjoy great culinary riches: Malaysian food is an assortment—and a mix—of Malay. Southern Chinese, North and South Indian, and European influences. Fresh ingredients are crucial,

especially seafood and vegetables, and liberal use is made of spices and condiments like sambal belacan, a pungent mix of dried shrimp paste and chilis.

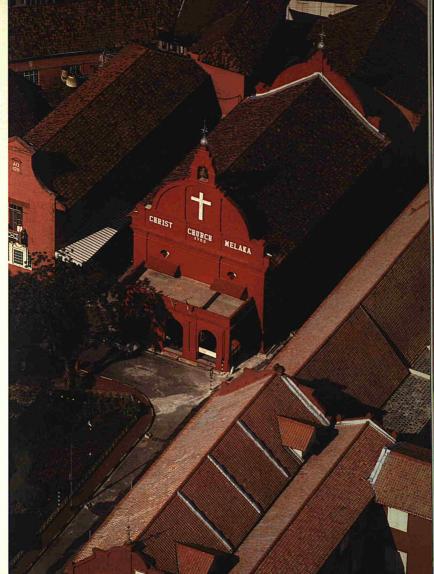
One of the most characteristic elements of a Malaysian city is the shophouse. Designed according to colonial urban codes, shaphouses are narrow buildings fronted by the 'five-foot-way', a covered passageway formed from the overhang of the second floor. This view of shophouses in Melaka reveals another basic element: the airwell, used to bring light and fresh air into interiors of the houses. Airwells and tile roofs give the cityscape an interesting rhythm, even from this unaccustomed angle.

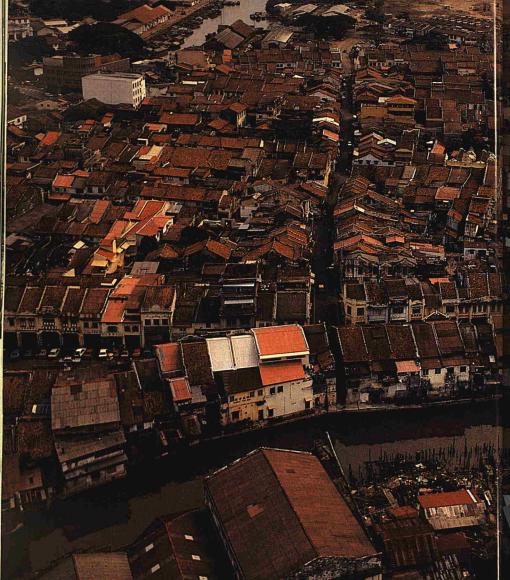


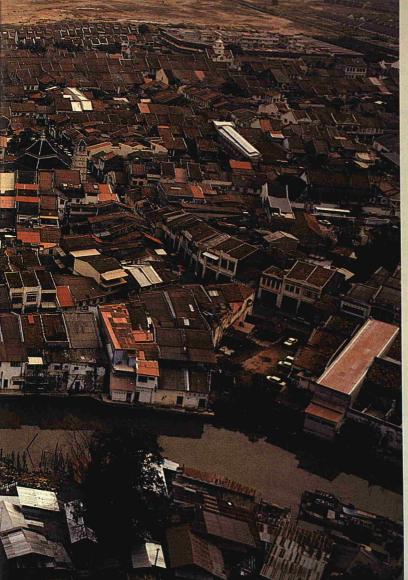


Melaka, Malacca in its older spelling, is one of the magical towns of Southeast Asia. Founded by a line of Malay princes from Sumatra, it quickly became a powerful and sophisticated trading empire. It drew support from the orang laut, a literally floating population that controlled the inlets and byways of the Straits. It also had an alliance with the Ming Chinese, through the Muslim Admiral Zheng Ho. The Muslim faith of Melaka's leaders brought the city into contact with a thriving trading network that stretched from Arabia to China.

The wealth of the Sultanate of Melaka made it an attractive target for the Western powers covetous of controlling the spice trade. The Portuguese took Melaka first, and fortified the city. It was later taken by the Dutch, who have left their mark with buildings in the city centre, including the Christ Church and Stadhuys, or Town Hall. The Melaka court reestablished itself in Johor and elsewhere: most of Malaysia's current sultans trace their ancestry back to the Melaka sultanate.





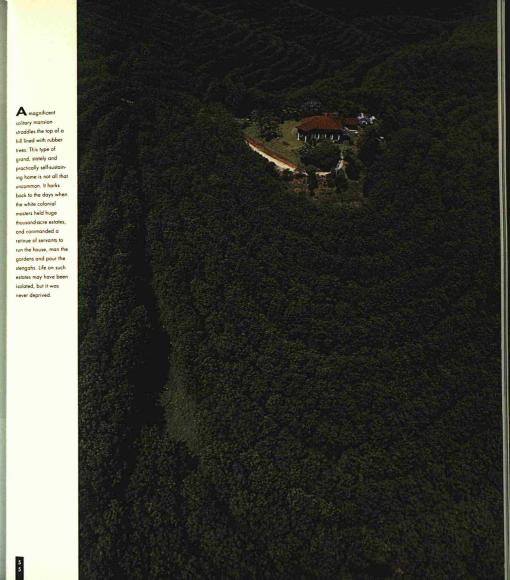


The British took Melaka from the Dutch in a complicated trade of territory that was part of the end of the Napoleonic Wars. They largely dismantled the Portuguese fort, but many of the city's oldest buildings survived. Visible in this image are the Tranquerah mosque, and the Cheng Hoon Teng Temple, from 1645. The city did well out of the rubber boom, but the silting of the port spelled doom for its role as a trade emporium. Today, land reclamation projects reach seaward, and cultural tourism is touted as a major growth industry for the city.

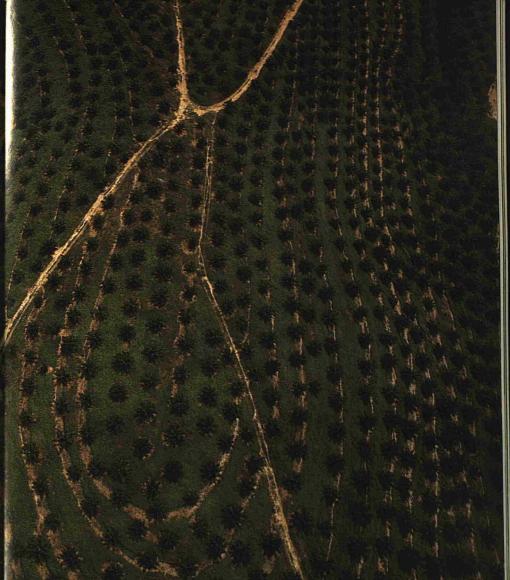


Although rubber is still more or less the most significant crop in the Malaysian agricultural sector, the multi-billion ringgit oil palm industry is one of the country's great success stories. Around 1.5 million hectares are under oil palm cultivation making Malaysia

the world's biggest producer of palm oil. The Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (PORIM) works to keep Malaysia's competitive edge. Here a private plane takes off from a plantation airstrip deep amongst the palms.









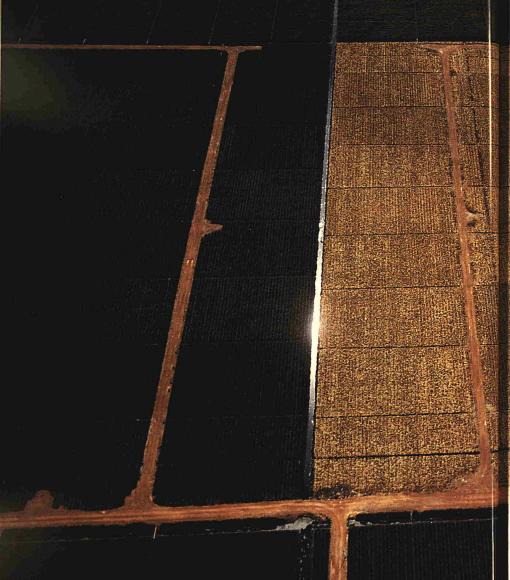
The very image of broccoli land: thick clusters of deep Malaysian jungle trees in clumps like a head of broccoli. Despite extensive development of the land, jungle still rules over 70% of Malaysia. One crop which competes for land is the oil palm, grown in neat patterned rows, below, or in contoured rows on hilly land, previous pages. Palm oil has received some bad press in the past, but it is now generally accepted to be good for the health. Palm oil is an important export, but the tree also finds a place in stately gardens, prized for its elegant fronds.

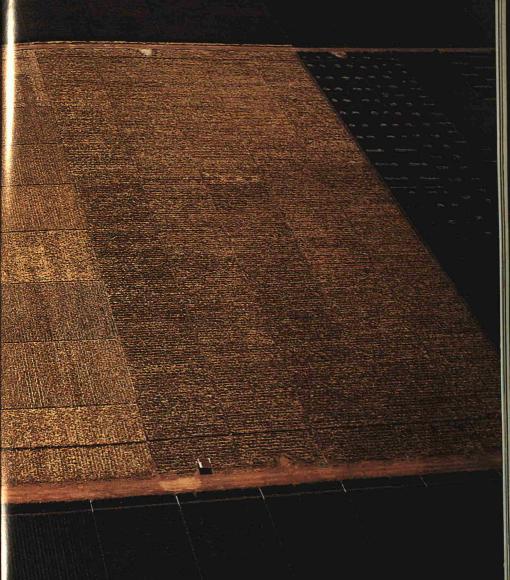


The coconut palm is a symbol of the tropics, and of the long beaches of Malaysia's East Coast. Every part of this versatile plant can be used, from the multi-purpose fruit to the leaf and trunk. New short hybrids can be plucked by anyone of average height. So far the Beruk -coconutpicking monkeys- have not launched an official protest at this threat to their livelihood. Another useful tree is an import from Brazil: the rubber tree is also grown on plantations. The scene (below right) looks like forest devastation, but it is actually a plantation in the course of being replanted.



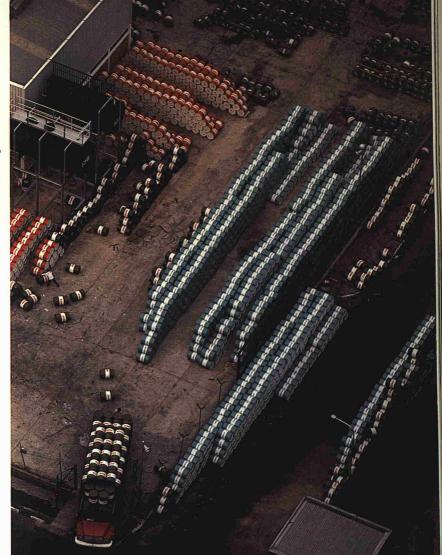




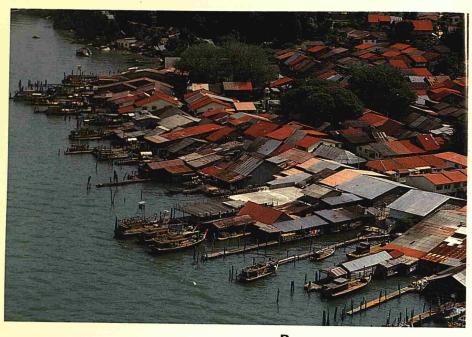




rrigation projects have brought largescale agriculture to Southern Johor, as in the photo of a field ready to be planted, previous page. This could well be a children's playground; it is actually big business. The bulldozers may look like toys, but they are no pushovers, as proved by the multi-ton logs as neatly arranged as matchsticks. But rough terrain takes its tall, as seen in the number of spares in the yard.

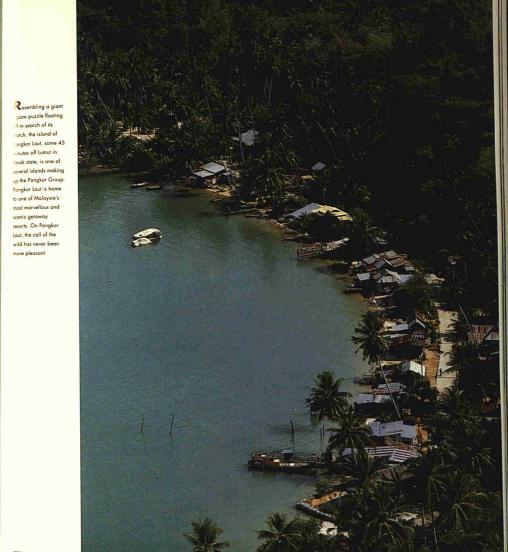


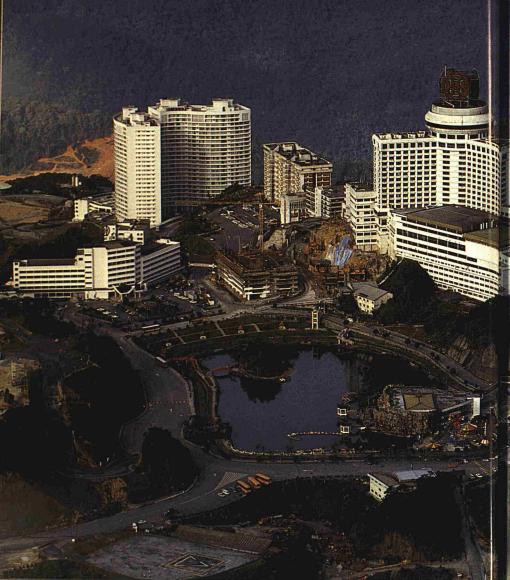
Industrial enterprise as interesting to analyse from the aerial view. From this vantage, day-to-day disorder recedes, to be replaced by the logic of a functional order, in this case in the storage and distribution of a well-known motor oil.

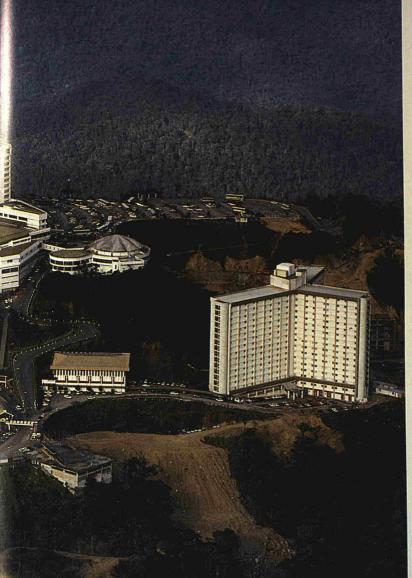


Pangkor Island is a beautiful island made famous in Malaysian history by the signing of the Pangkor Treaty between the British and Perak leaders. Fishermen in this village go in search of cuttlefish and anchovy; the roafs of their houses used to be of

attap (coconut) fronds but zinc sheets now reflect the midday heat. Its day in the sun of local history assured, Pangkor island continues its peaceful, slumbering ways....



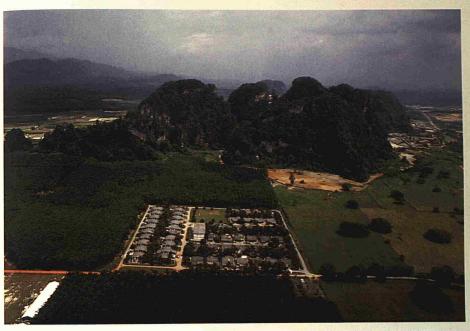




Bold, brash, and perched on the mountain top, the Genting Highlands Resort attracts tourists from Malaysia, Singapore and around the world. Its casino, its nightlife, the fresh cool air and magnificent views give it a special appeal. First opened up in the 1960s, the resort rests on a high point of the ridge of Gunung Ulu Kali. At night, and on clear days, the resort can be seen from downtown KL, beckoning from on high.



Cameron Highlands is one of the eight districts of Pahang state. Its cool and invigorating climate makes it ideal for flower nurseries and patchwork patterns of vegetable gardens. A popular colonial hill station, it looks like a small patch of England in the tropics, with many Tudor-style government guesthouses and hotels. Paliang became one of the four Federated Malay States in 1896.



This particularly scenic outcrop of limestone hills and caves is part of a complex reminiscent of Guillin in southern China. A few miles from loph, capital of Perak state, this area is a major tourist destination despite encroaching

development. Perak is home to the the country's richest and largest tin lodes, although ironically 'perak' in Malay means 'silver'.



The search for tin in the states of Perak and Selangor did much to open the interior of the Malayan Peninsula, and still today Malaysia and Bolivia dominate the world's tin industry. Craters and pools remain after tin-bearing sands have been dredged of their share of the metal, but the energy of the tropical flora means that nature begins to rehabilitate the exhausted tin fields quickly.



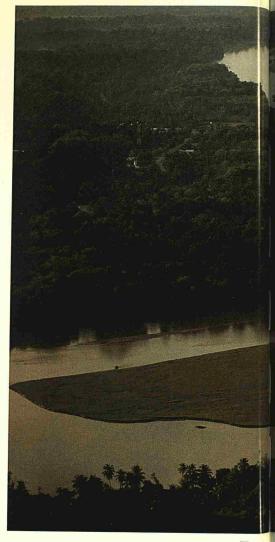
Like a crazy neon version of the dark side of the moon, the fresh remains of open-pit in mining make for an eerie aerial spectacle, tocals believe that furious malignant spirits lurk beneath the waters, and when children drown in these

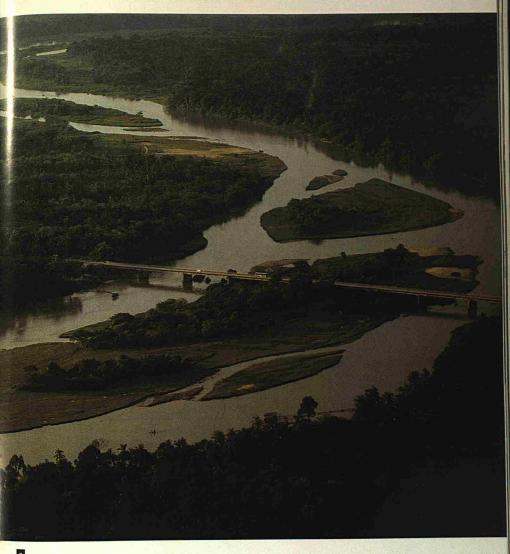
relatively shallow depths, they whisper of the vengeance of nature.

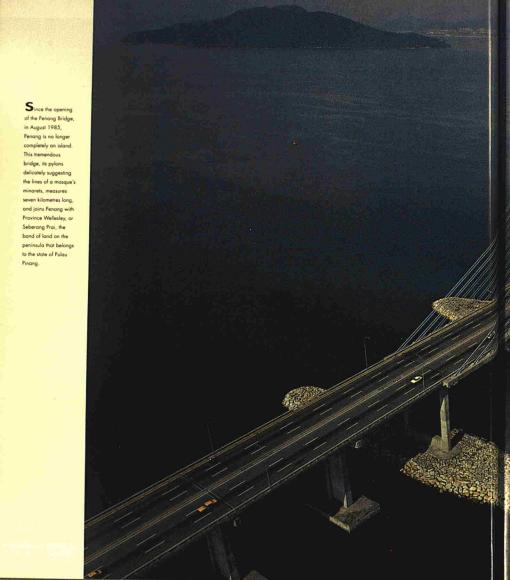


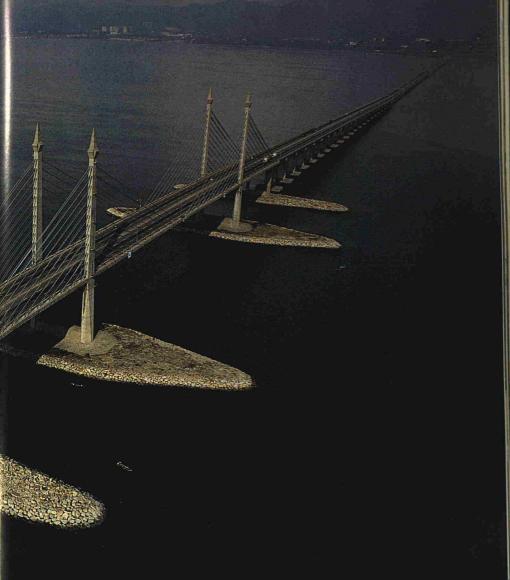
A disused floating dredge rests in a pool in an old tin mine, the land already coming back into productive use to grow oil palm. A low-lying landscape of mines, agricultural villages. and shady row after row of rubber trees on large plantations makes the drive north from Kuala Lumpur through Perak to Ipoh and further north to Penang a pleasant one. North-South road

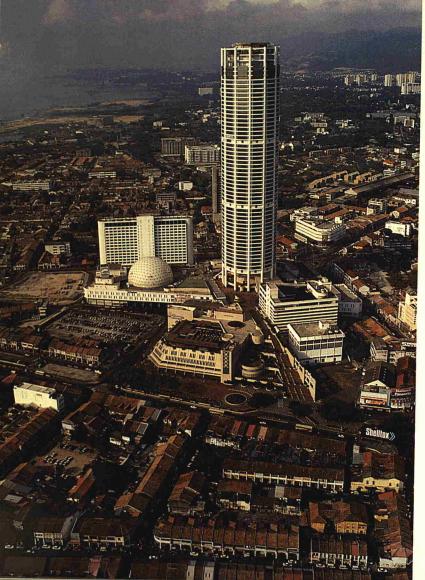
links are now being expanded and improved, for this corridor through the most densely populated part of Malaysia is really the main backbone of the Peninsula.



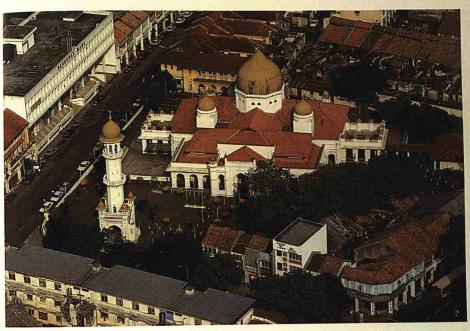








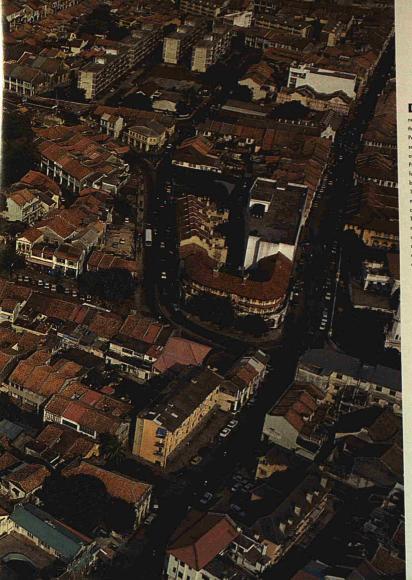
The pride of Georgetown, capital of Pulau Pinang, must be Komtar, a stunning monolith towering nearly 60 storeys above the din and bustle of old Penang town. While it is a disruption of the urban fabric of the town, the rationale is that it concentrates all development in one spot, allowing the rest of the city to preserve its traditional feel. Shops and major department stores occupy the lower levels, with offices above. The adjoining geodesic dome is used for meetings and exhibitions.



The history of Penang mirrors that of commerce and industry China, Burma and of Malaysia. Francis Light recognised the potential of the island as a naval and trading Indian Muslims, who base for the East India Company, Barely inhabited in 1786, it prospered quickly, luring adventurous

tradesmen and entrepreneurs from India, Indonesia. The mosque is a fine example of the contribution of carved out a profitable niche for themselves





Despite the evernearing approach of the 21st century, Penang still basks softly in the afterglow of its glory years. Prospering since it was founded, the city boomed during the 1920s, on fortunes made in rubber and other commodities. The thick clusters of tile roofs are seemingly unchanged since then, and are a reminder of the once-bustling entrepot trade.

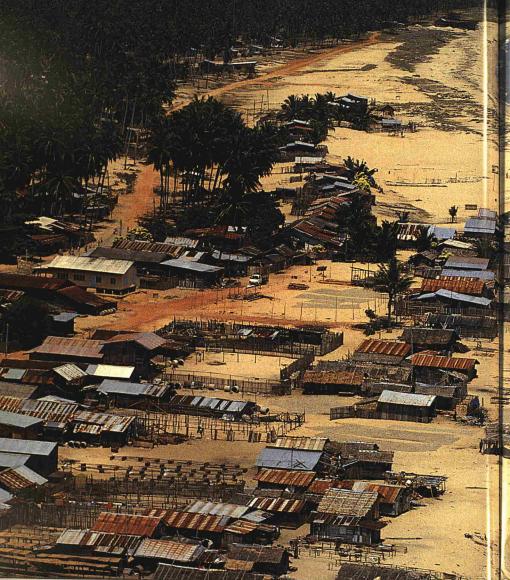


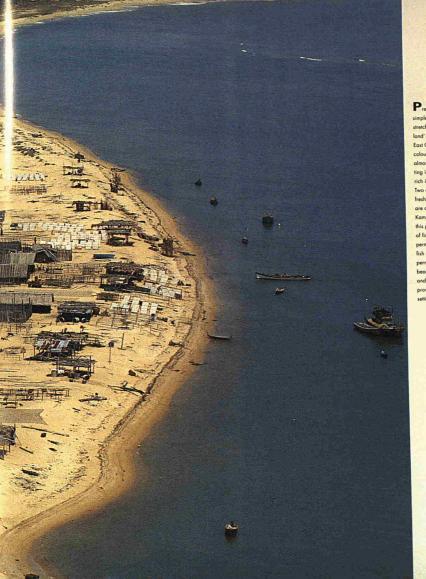


The funicular railway to Penang Hill was built by a Swiss engineer in the 1920s. The train may now have new carriages, but it is still a charming way to reach the coolness of the hillstation summit. The Hill is currently occupied by a few old mansions and rest houses, and offers wonderful views over Georgetown and across the straits to the mainland of Seberang Prai and the peaks of Kedah. This tranquility may change: plans have been announced to develop part of the Hill into a recreational centre and theme park.

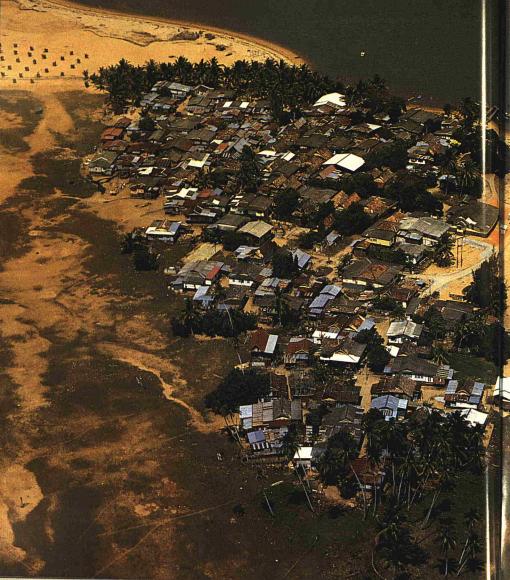


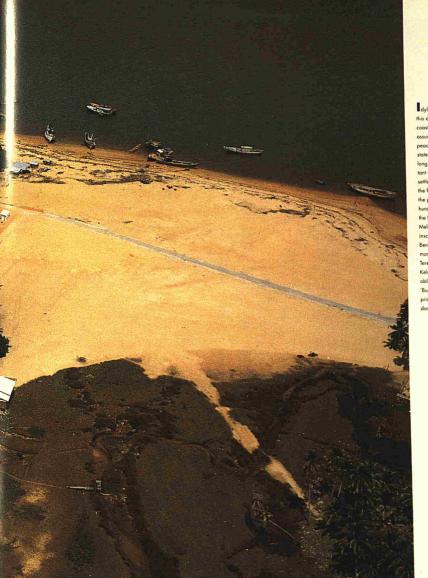




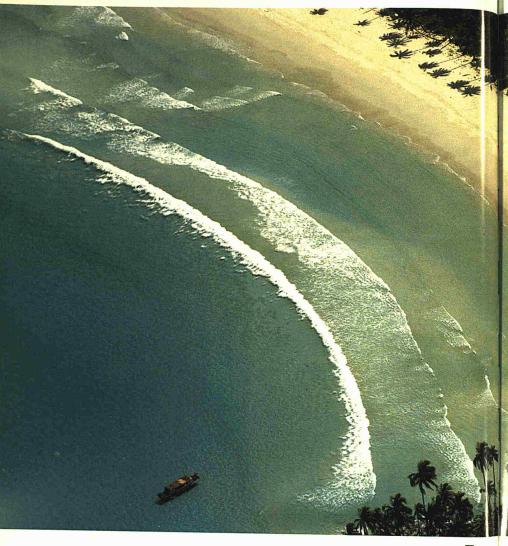


Previous page: this simple and beguiling stretch of 'no-man's land' is atypical of the East Coast. A darkcoloured river runs almost parallel resulting in a saline estuary rich in flora and fauna. Two different worlds, fresh and sea water, are only a lap away. Kampung Kuala Besut, this page, is a village of fishermen where the permanent adour of fish drying in the sun permeates the air. The beach of fine sand, and the coconut palms provides a picturesque setting.

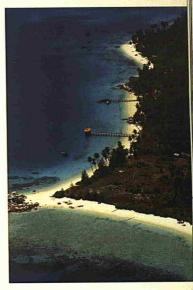




dyllic villages like this dot Terengganu's coastline. Although assumed to be a peaceful backwater state, Terengganu has long been an important area of Malay settlement, and was the first Islamic state on the peninsula, a full hundred years before the founding of Melaka as a stone inscription at Kuala Berang bears testimony. Both Terengganu and Kelantan were obliged to send the 'Bunga Mas' to Siam prior to British domination.

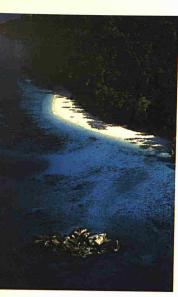






Twenty kilometres off the East Coast of Terengganu, the islands of Perhentian Besar and Perhentian Kecil make a superb refuge. The shallow seas and rich coral reels around the islands have prevented them from being heavily fished, so their spectacular sea life is available to snorkellers and scuba divers. There are basic amenities here, but it is still possible for

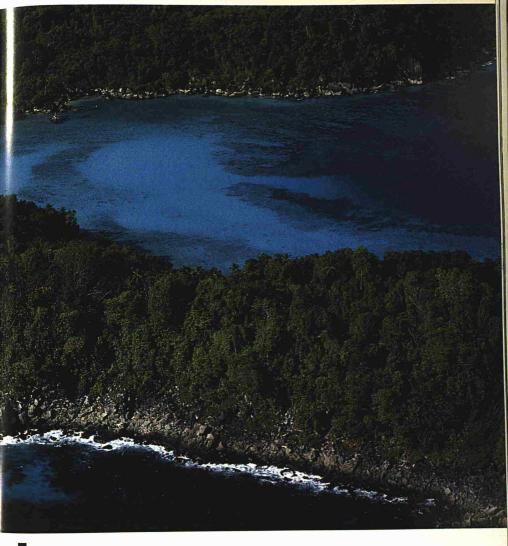
the tourist to realise the greatest touristic dream of many: a deserted beach, all to them selves. Fishermen from the mainland ferry travellers and divers out to Perhentian for their own deserted island experience.



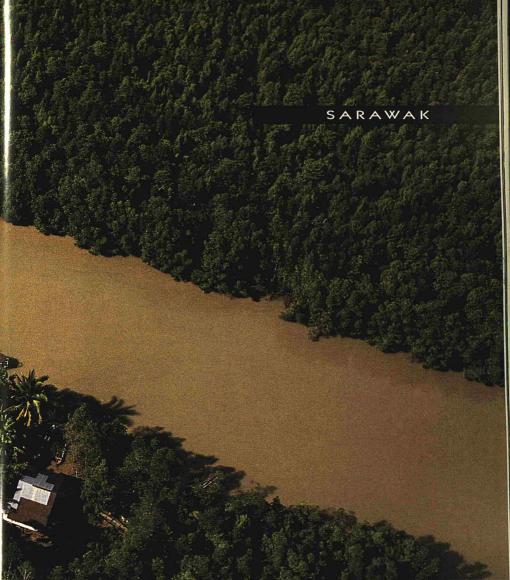
Tioman island, and the islands near it. off the Johar part of Mersing, are a popular getaway for holiday makers The diving is excellent the coral sand of the beaches is line, interspersed here and there be found on the with boulder rimmed coves The islands offer a mix of sophisticated resorts complete with golf clubs. inexpensive beachside chalets, and isolated getaways. Tioman has

long been attractive to travellers, it was a watering spot for Ming Dynasty traders from China, and bits of Ming blue and white well-eroded by the action of sea and sand, can occasionally shores









the history of Sarawak could have been lifted straight out of a Hollywood epic boxedfice hit. In the 19th century, a cast of several thousand headhuriters and pirates set into action a swirt of events perpeted with enough adventure and intrigue to safate any would be Cecif de Mille. The dynasty of the White Rights was a classic case of being in the right place at the right time. When the English swast-buckling adventurer James Brooke docted in 1839, Sarawak was in the throse of a rebellion against the Brunet submate. As a token of appreciation to James Brooke for quelling the uprising, the grateful Pengina.

Mahkata of Bruner granted Blooke the territory between Tanjung Datu and Samarahan twer in 1841, James Brooke 'crowned' himself with the life.
Rajah', becoming the first white man to rule a large territory in the East in his name and not on behalf of a European monarch.

He moved decisively to consolidate his personal private kingdom in the East by curtaling Walay and bon seapower and by forging a strong government. When Charles, his nephew and her took over the manife in 1868, Sarawak stetched further, to Tanjung Kidurong. Rajah Charles Booke continued his undes expansions policies of Brune's expension. With the crimevation of Lawas in 1905, Sarawak acquired its presentiday boundaries. His eldest son Rajah Charles When Brooke acceded in 1917 and ruled Sarawak as absolute potentate though he granted Sarawak a written constitution in 1941. The Japanese arrived the same year, putting events on hold and the Rajah only reassumed his rule tive years letter. Brush pressure and his belief that the state could not recover and progress on its own resources timed Sarawak into a British Crown Colony. This Abdull Rahman, Malayas and others against the cession, coming to a head in 1949 with the assassisation of the second colonial governor. Tunk Abdull Rahman, Malayas flest Prime Minister, proposed in 1961 that Sarawak jon Malayas in a new Federation of Malayas, together with Singapore and Sabah, and thus gan her independence. The Federation was born on the 16th of September, 1963 despite Indonesia's armed opposition which ended only in 1966.

At 123,986 square kilometes, Sarawak is by for the largest state in Malaysia, nearly equivalent to the eleven states of the Pennsula. Its multi-ethnic population of 1.6 million is a fascinating blend of Bon [29.6%]. Chinese [29.1%], Malay (20.7%], Bidaysh or land Dayak (8.4%), Melanau [5.8.%) and other indigenous peoples making up a total of 23 recognised ethnic groups. Sarawak's sland, Borneo, is a geological tellor of Sundaland, a now-submerged arm of continental Asia. The Pennsula and Bornea were joined as recently as 10.000 years ago, during the last be Age, and so their flora and fauna closely resemble each other. Sundaland has surfaced and again receded at various times, and this has contributed to the mostly.

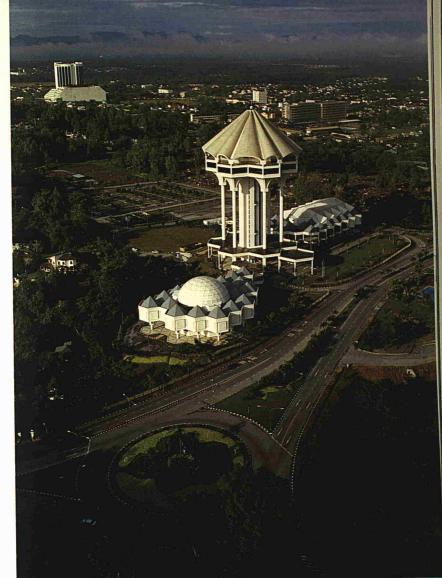
sedimentary character of Sarawok's goology. The most valuable mineral found here is all. Other commercially viable deposits are bauxile and coal, with gold and antimory, both once very important to the economy. Along the coast and offshore, especially near the towns of Mini and Birtulu, Sarawok's landscape is doned with oilfields and the structures of the liquified natural gas industry.

Over 75% of the state is still forested with some of the world's most diverse vegetation, luxuriant tropical ranforests, swampy marshlands along the coast and soggy, damp, most-layered forests with dwarf vegetation occurring at altitudes over 1000



Malaysia is not a member of Opec, but it is an exporter of oil. These storage drums are near the Sarawak town of Miri. Previous pages: a windless day on a river near.

Cuching's space e City Hall is a isterpiece of funky ruristic architecture. e building functions a meeting place, languet hall, confeence room, and exhibition complex. In front is the structure holding Malaysia's only planetarium Some have noted the similarity of the main tower to a parachute in full descent.



Express river boats tie the main cities and towns of Sarawak together. Fast and streamlined, they have a shallow draught, and are often called upon to navigate tricky rapids.



metres. Unique in the world are Sarawak's heath forests, where confers rule supreme. This lowlying type of forest, seen in its most extreme form in the Bako National Park on the coast just south of Kuching, grows up over impoverished or poorly-drained sols, and is festioned with low, gnarled vegetation.

From above, Sarawak is one lumpy green blanket airscrassed with brown veins. The rivers are the country's longest and most navigable. The Rajang is navigable up to Kapit 160 km inland. Other imposing arteries include the Baleh, tributary of the Rajang, the Baram (400 km), the Baram (400 km), the Baram (400 km), the Baram (400 km).

the Sarawak (113 km). The main towns are all along these mighty conduits of commerce and transport, including Slou, which is the terminus for the long-distance boot lines going up the Rajang. Because development has come so recently to much of Sarawak, and because communications are still dependent on the sometimes capricious rivers, some of the riverine settlements still have an adventurous air of the finisher about them.

Kuching, home to 306,000, is the nerve centre of Sarawak, and the seat of the state's government and administration. Kuching means 'cat' in Malay, and though the popular stary has the name chosen by the Rajah, it is likely to have been the traditional name for the area for some time, inspired by the cas' eyes trees. For all its modernity, new developments and impressive government buildings, the city can still evoke the time of the White Rajah's expecially Rajah Charles Brooke. The Astrona with its private jety and point of formidable towers was but in 1870 by Charles as a bridal gift to his wrife, the Rance Margaret. It is now the official home of Sarawak's Head of State. Also Charles' handwork is forn Marghento, built in 1878 and named offer his believed wife. The flag mast has seen the banners of many masters the colours of the Brooke family's escutcheon, the Rising Sun, the Union Jack and now the Malaysian Flag. The Forts new role in these rather more peaceful times is as the police museum.

The Round Tower is another fort commissioned by Rajah Charles though its actual purpose is a bit absoure. Down the road towards the river is the Square Tower, an odd edifice of solo tower, slit windows and parapets, a bit of Medieval England transported to the ricpics. Kuching's architecture is a bewildering hodge-podge of lund crientalia, classical Paladian, British colonal and Modern, as if the master planner couldn't decide on the overall theme and opted for a bit of everything. The Court House is acknowledged as one of the most magnificent in Malaysia, with a clock tower, an obelisk to Rajah Charles Brooke and intricate native motifs on its doors and grills. The General Post Office, with its ten Corintian columns, looks as if it would be more at home in Athens' Partheron. Learned souls will make their way to the Sarawak Museum, one of Asia's linest. Completed in 1891, its tocade is Normandy but the interior houses Bannean art and crafts, and a natural history collection stand by the famous naturals Albert Wallace. The standard of and new wings provide a rich insight into Sarawak's bentage. The goody red Tua Pek Kong Temple is Kuching's oldest dating book to fire 1860s. A grand new Sarawak State Mosque now supercodes the 1968 one which was designed by the renowned architect Sami Museum and stands regally on 100 acres, on the site of an earlier wooden mosque but in 1852. A lifle bit further from Kuching, by the foor of Saraubong Mountain is Sarawak's Cultural Vilage, a living, open air museum highlighting the various ethnic cultures.

Some of Sarawak's most arresting, spell-binding and magical sights are completely unavailable to the aerial view. They are even too bashful and demure to be seen from on the ground. One has to go underground, in fact, to appreciate them. The Gurung Mulu National Park is only a compact 544 square kilometres, but within its boundaries is one of the most spectacular and extensive limestone care systems above and below this earth. The Sarawak Chamber, lubrang Nasis Bagus (Good Luck Hole) is the world's largest natural chamber at 600 metres long. 450 metres wide and 100 metres high, cavernous enough to grange 7500 buses! Deer Care has the largest passage known to us at 100 metres wide and 120 meter high, cavernous enough to grange 7500 buses! Deer Care has the largest passage known to us at 100 metres wide and 120 metres high, cavernous enough to grange 7500 buses! Deer Care has the largest passage known to us at 100 metres wide and 120 metres high, cavernous enough to grange 7500 buses! Deer Care has the largest care system in Southeast Asia is Clearwater Care which winds at least 51.5 kilometres into the mountain. The much publicised British/Yadaysan Mulu Expedition of 1980 did a great deal of work surveying the cavers, and to date over 26 cares with 159 kilometres of passages have been surveyed. Yet this is believed to constitute only 30% of the cavern system!

A little of Mulu's magic is visible from the air, as the limestone that is turnelled through underground yields bizone shapes and forms above ground as well. Huge forested hummocks and sheer cliffs mark the Mulu landscape, but the most exciting above-ground spectacle here is the sight of the desolate, weitfly shaped princides protuding pervessely along Gunung Apris slopes. These formations—kinle-shapp, intensely-ground spectacle here is the sight of the stone—born as much as 45 metres above the treetops. The second highest peak in Saravaki is Gunung Mulu, at 2376 metres. Covering the mountains, cares, valleys, health and floration are, at the last count, 1500 species of litowering plants including 170 architack and 10 species of platter plants. Traversing the surface are 68 species of mammals, 265 species of birds including all 8 species of horrbills, 74 species of frags, 47 fish types, 281 forms of butterflies and 458 kinds of ants, Inside the Deer Care are several hundred thousand free-tailed bots, one of the twelve bot species which form black clouds at the care entrances each evening. These zones are home too for three species of swift, for scorpions, cervigis, and mortations architects. Underground, confined to a gloomy subteranean existence are 25 inventebrates including a rare scorpion and white arab, living fassits soved from extinction by the cave's specialised mode of existence. Other bizarte lifeforms may be in the cares, yet to be described by scientius. In other parts of Sarawak, living the Nish Cares, now part of a 3102 hectare National Park, flying care dwellers provide locals with an excellent source of income. Bass and swifts provide the materials for the groun and birds nest industries. The red variety of birds nest now commands M\$300 per kilo.

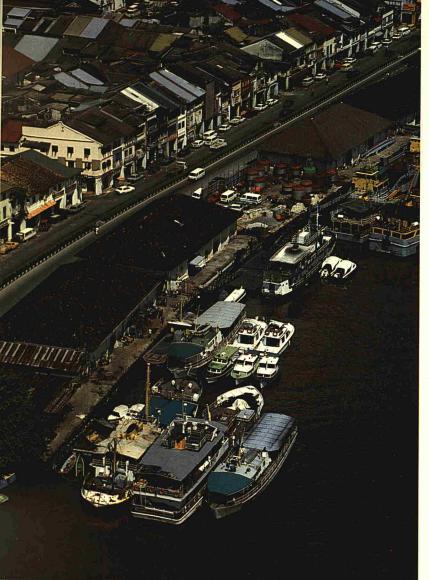
The entire rugged, sandstone paninsula by the Boio river 37 kilometes east of Kuching is Boko National Park, 2742 hectares of plunging cliffs,

eroded headlands, sandy bays, sea arches, seo stacks, bizarre and coloured rocks from diffused iron depositions. The main feature here is the 100-mete high sandstone plateau that holds a unique seat of peat forest. Bolio's extensive mangraves are home to the probascis mankey, silver leaf mankeys, long-tailed macaques, two-metre long monitor ligands, mud-skippers, and even inquisitive and playful ofters.

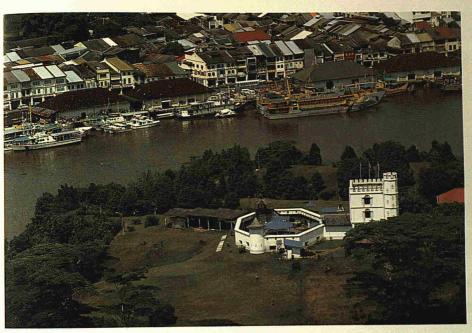
Birds have always played a crucial role in the myth and symbolism of the peoples of Sarawak, the land of the Hornbills. Despite their dominion, the bird's eye view only begins to reveal the secrets of this natural haven.



The Goddess of Mercy temple prominently located in Kuching honours Guanyin, a Buddhist diety very popular among the Southern Chinese who migrated to Sarawak.

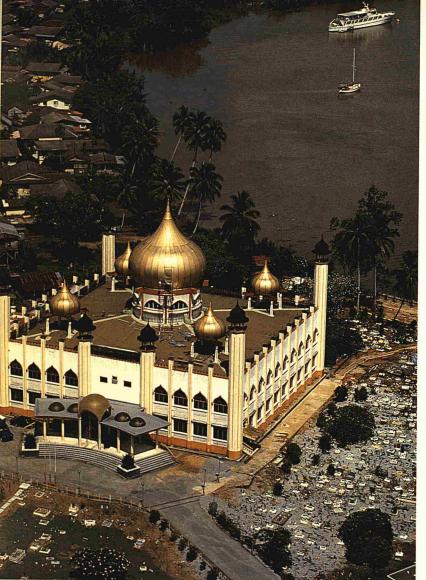


The Sarawak River, Kuching's lifeline, remains an active seaport, communicating with the sea some 50 kilometres downstream. The port is mostly used for goods carried to and from the interior. In Sarawak towns and settlements not directly on the sea hug the river, which still serves as the principal means of transport for this rugged state.



Down by the Sarawak River is Fort Margherita, an oddlooking building erected for Charles Brooke, resembling an English medieval fortress transplanted to more peaceful times, it the tropics. It originally serves as a Police served as a prison, and has served as a fortress in its time,

though some suggest that its true purpose was to amuse the Rajah's wife Margaret, who had been reading a little too much Sir Walter Scatt. Today, in Museum.



The Sarawak
State Marque was
completed in 1968,
on the site of an
earlier wooden
marque built in 1852.
Commanding a view
of the river, and
surrounded by a small
graveyard, the mosque
has since been superseded by a new,
grander mosque,
which was completed
in 1990.



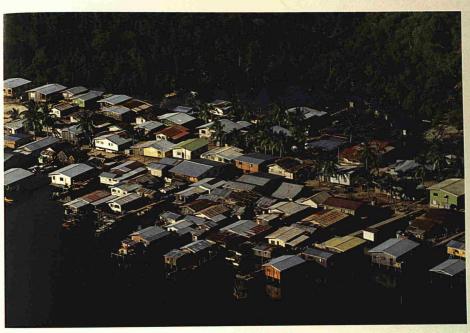
The Astana was built in 1870 by Rajah Charles Brooke, the second White Rajah, as a wedding present to his wife, Ranee Margaret. Margaret prided herself on good relations forged with the women of Sarawak. It has its own private jetty, and

the two imposing towers serve as lookout points. The Astana is now the official residence of Sarawak's Head of State.



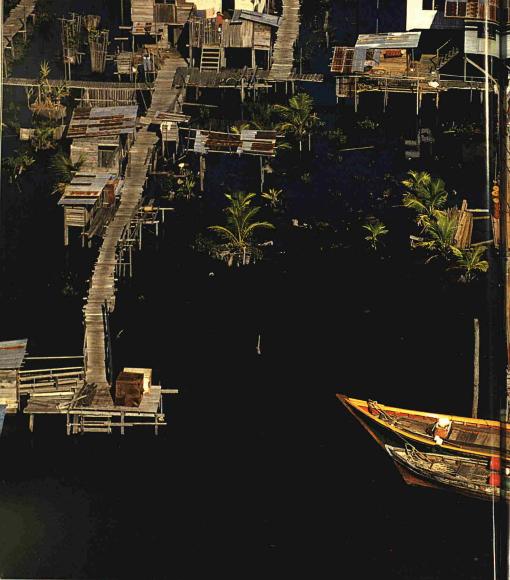
Throughly modern Miri is Sarawak's second largest city, on the coast east of Kuching, near the border with the ail-rich independent Sultanate of Brunel. Miri was one of the first areas in Borneo to be exploited for oil, Sarawak's first oil

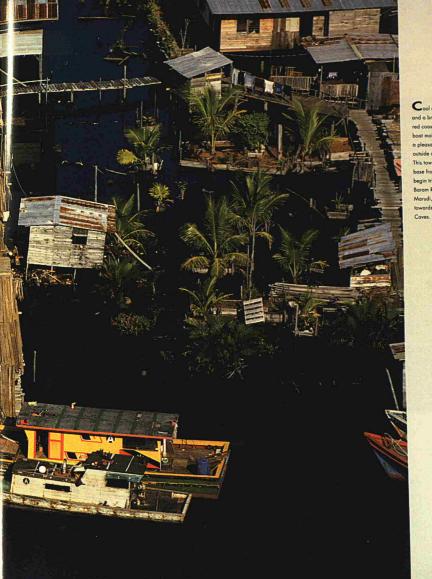
well was drilled here in 1910. The centre of the industry in Sarawak has now shifted south to Bintulu, where natural gas fields are currently being tapped.



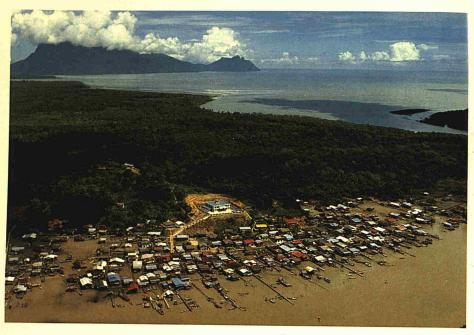
This study in blue and evening light is a scene from the water village outside of Miri. Many towns in Borneo (and Kalimantan) have the environment. a kampang air, or water village, built on stilts and piles over the protected waters of an estuary or rivermouth. The tides serve to tidy

up the yards, and the lapping of the water on the house piles adds a degree of coolness and quiet to





Cool reflections and a brightly coloured costal fishing boat make for a pleasant scene outside of Miri. This town is a good base from which to begin trips up the Baram River to Marudi, and towards the Mulu Caves.



Bako Village, displaying its new mosque, tends towards the river. The village is the entrance point to the Bako National Park, which occupies a peninsula of rugged sandstone in the Sarawak River delta. The dramatic shape of Sanubong

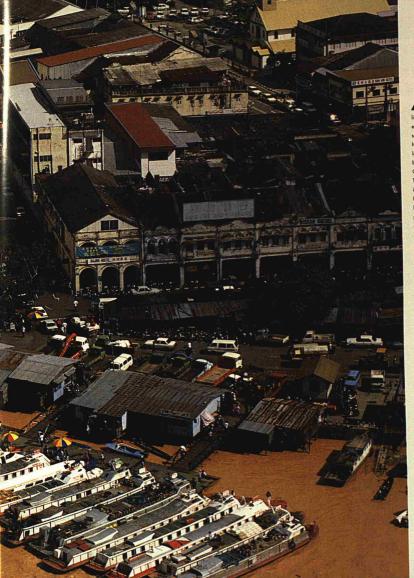
Mountain, capped in cloud, dominates the views. The mountain has served as a landmark for navigators making for the Sarawak River for at least a thousand years.



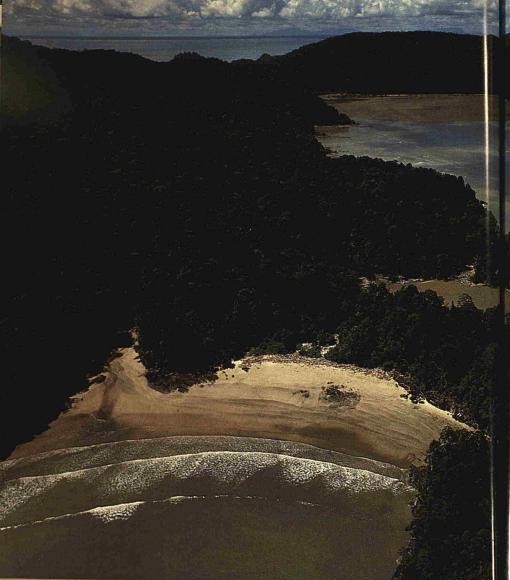
Sibu city is the main port for the Rajang River, Sarawak's longest. The capital of Sarawak's Third Division, the city is the terminus for boots plying their way upriver to the towns of Kapit, and—water levels permitting—beyond to Belaga and

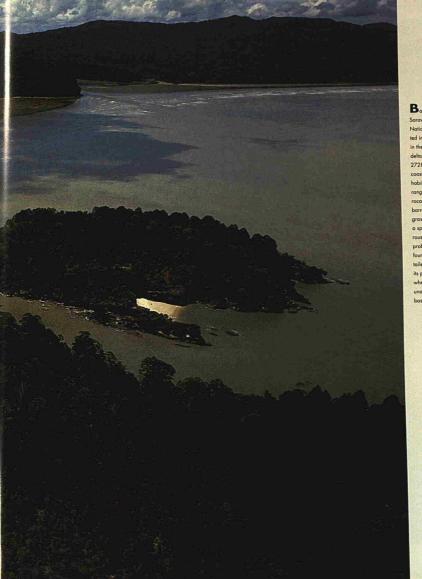
the upper reaches of the Rajang. The Baleh, a tributary of the Rajang, is also served from here.



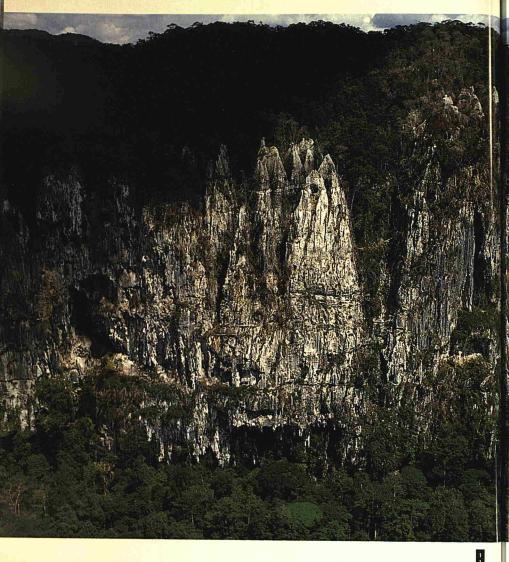


An array of streamlined long-distance express river boats seem to be paying homage to Sibu's landmark, the pagada built as part of a Chinese temple. These boats can make it all the way upriver to Belaga. The express boats are often equipped with video sets and air-conditioning. Traffic on the river might be light, but the boats have steel-lined hulls to contend with possible hazards floating just below the waterline.

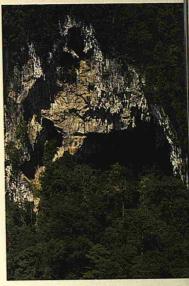




Bako was Sarawak's first National Park, gazetted in 1957. Situated in the Sarawak River delta, Bako preserves 2728 hectares of coastal and mangrove habitat. The flora ranges from lush dpiterocarp forest to nearbarren padang of tall grass and scrub, with a sprinkling of carnivorous plants. The rare proboscis monkey is found here; the longtailed macaque enjoys its protected status when it raids visitors' unattended picnic baskets.

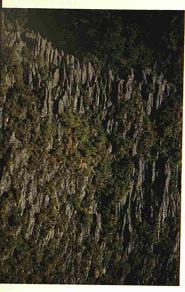






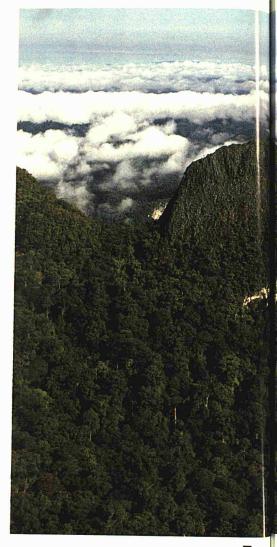
The massive boulder of limestone that is Nigh sits in the lowland swamps like a huge sponge riddled with innumerable caves. The Niah Caves have long been known to the local inhabitants, who were curiously reluctant to discuss them; it is only after World War II that the Sarawak Museum seriously investigated and explored this prehistoric burial site. Niah Man, a human

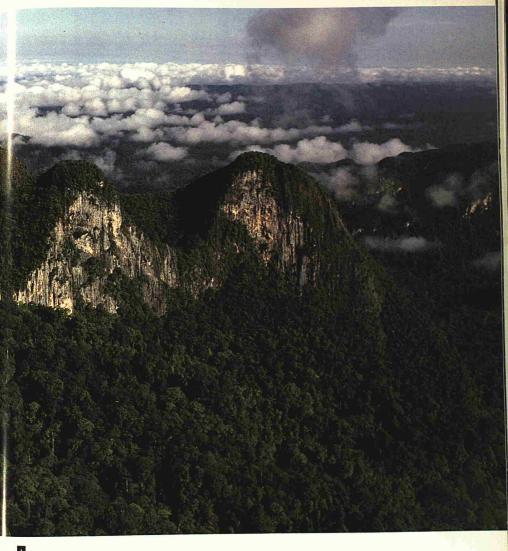
fossil 35,000 or more years old, was found in Niah Great Cave. The collection of bird's nest still goes on in the caves, but under the authority and strict control of the Sarawak Museum.



Gunung Api, a 1250 metre limestone mountain, has ruled over the forests of the Mulu National Park for over five million years This area has long remained isolated by virtue of its rugged limestone terrain. One feature that attracts visitors are the knife sharp pinnacles rising up 45 metres high two thirds the way up the slope of Gunung Apr Deep ravines and impossibly steep

mountain slopes form the outer surface of a honeycomb of limestone that holds the Mulu Caves, a cave complex that tivals any in the world







Townships like
Belaga are the focal
points of wide,
mountainous tracts of
Kapit division. Belaga
used to be one row of
shaphouses where
natives bartered jungle
produce for a few
commodities like cloth,
salt, beads and jars.
Now a school caters

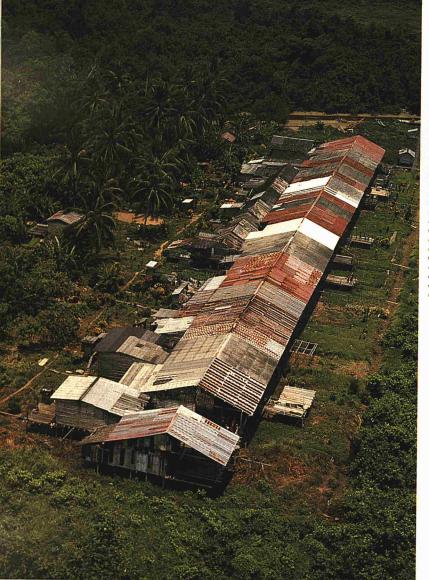
to a young population hungry for education, and a District Office and Haspital serve the far-flung community. Transport is still uncertain and expensive, Belaga may be reached by air, by boot, or very laborrously on foot

Gushing rapids mark the zones where Borneo's mighty rivers drop from the high plateau into the wide lawland plain Log rafts and silted water are common sights here. In the past, nearly all of Sarawak's lumber was exported as round logs. This is changing as timber processing in the State is encouraged A local industry provides jobs for skilled and semiskilled labour, and so helps to better distribute the value of forest products between the primary producers in Sarawak and the processors and sellers in the end markets, mostly in Japan and East Asia





Like bees drawn to a pot of honey, these elongated speed-boots call at an Esso 'offshore' petral station, for fuel and to catch up on local news. Once oar-driven, boots and sampans are nowadays fitted with motors for speedy occess.



This longhouse, fairly near the coast between Sibu and Miri is roofed in zinc. supplemented with the occasional touch of attap under the eaves Relatively few longhouses with ironwood tiles remain. Though the basic longhouse form is common to many of the indigenous groups of Sarawak, the internal layout of the longhouse can vary. Typically though, a shared verandah runs the entire length of the house.



vidized zinc roofing also colours this view of a Chinese temple or clan house, though the roofridge ornaments of dragons and longevity gourds can be discerned. The use of such ornaments, and upturning eaves, is one indication that

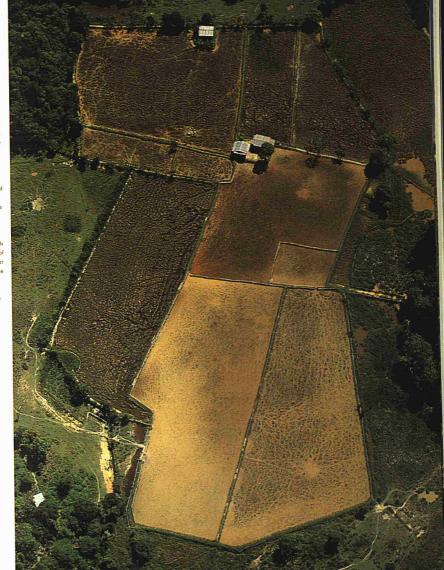
Southern Chinese and Southeast Asian house styles may share a common ancestor.

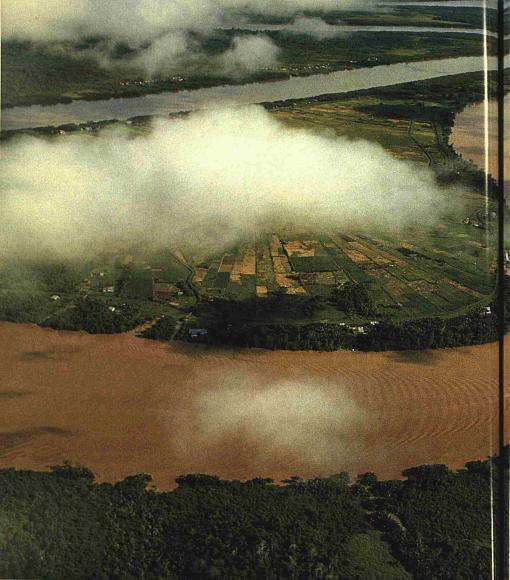


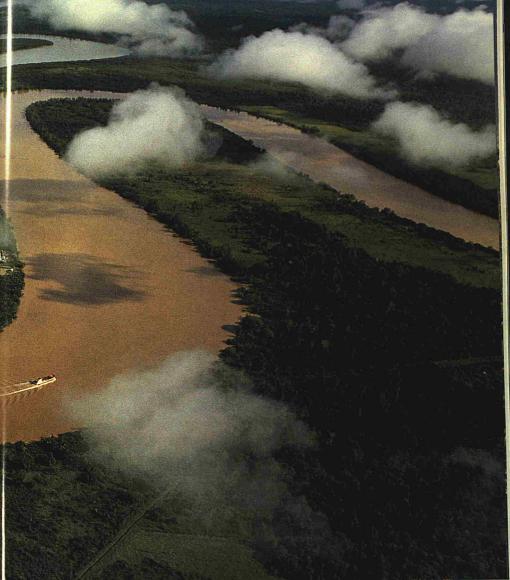
For centuries Bareo has been a place apart Before Malaysia Airlines' sturdy Twin Offers were put into regular service, the traveller paddled upriver from Mits for one week, then walked they developed a through rugged mountain territory for another to reach this

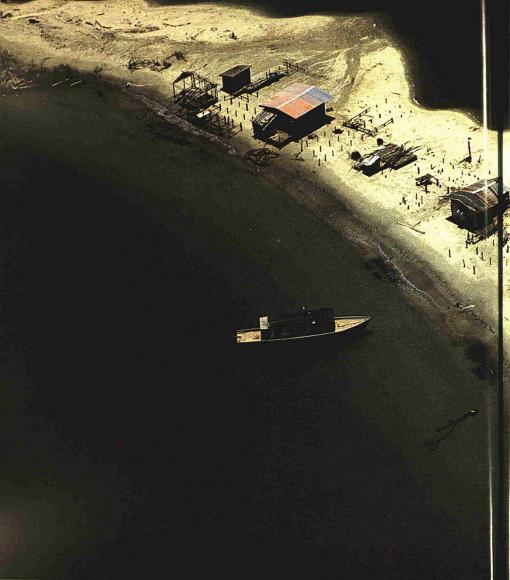
highland valley This isolation has made the Kelabit an independent people with proud traditions. They share the remarkable artistic skill of most indigenous Barneo peoples, and sophisticated system of irrigated rice culture

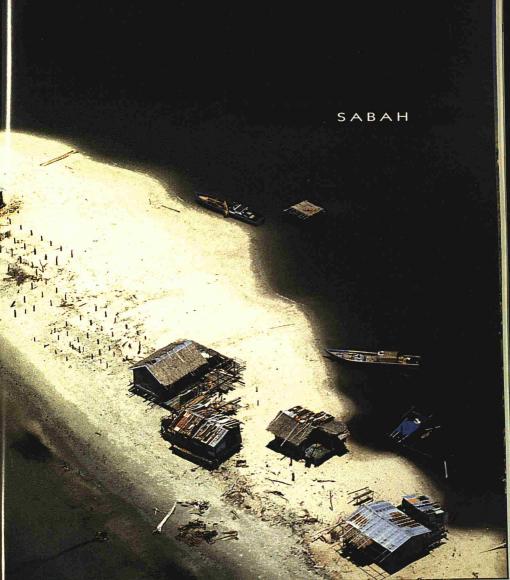
The ricefields of Bareo look brown and uninviting between the seasons. A month after this photo was taken, the nursery will be prepared, and the sluice gates on the stream opened to flood the earth. The newly sprouted rice seedlings are planted into the soft mud by patient back-breaking labour Carefully tended bunds permit the regulation of the water level Far, for downstream from these ricefields is the winding delta of the Rajang, shown on the following pages. developing a classic oxbow near the seaside town of Sarikei

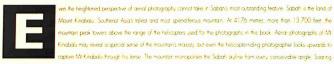












magestically to embrace the Immanent with its obudicrowned and windswept head. Movin Knoboliu's Sabah's centerpiece. The mountain has given the state its identity as The Land Below the Wind. Sabah's gearest and most rook-solid asset is seased to the Knobizons whose ancestal spirits look down beneatherly from above as mortal look up in diversification. Mount Kinabahis pool is an uniqually raw mass of twisted rook, but a look of the dazzling, aesthetically pleasing symmetry of furyama or Mayon does not district from Kinabahis towering aminipresence.

Satish, the second biggest Molaysian state on the world's third biggest stand, occupies the nonthern churk of Borneo. The state is washed by the South China Sea on it is such early to be seen to be such early business to be such as the second of the state is such early business to be such early business to be such early business to such early such ea

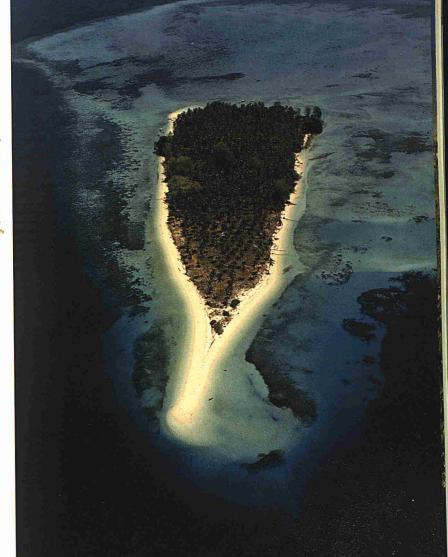
Sabah as a separate state only come into being in the 1880s in the wole of buccaneeing vestern appointints. From to the white man's arrival to state his claim, the area was a series of private fedoms, farling chiefshorces and authorisons profess owing a loade allegance to the suitans of Bones. In 1704 a succession dispute was resolved with the intervention of the Suitan of Suita. As a result, the white of the Suita dody made a claim to the land east of Manufal Bay and it remains a pricity, save. Though Sabah's Line fristery is trived to the United Cingdom, an American and an Authorit beard at land in string up as affairs. An American tracer persuaded the Buses suban to lease him the greater part of Sabah. This lease passed into the possession of the Authorit before an English Suitanessing righted that of a Minac Deat arministed the suban of Buses and Salam and College and Suitaness.

converting the lease into a cassion. In 1881 the Chartered Company of British North Barneo was set up to run Denris acquisition. The Company run North Barneo (Sabah's old name) like any other business entity till 1942 when the Japanese marched in. When they were swept out after World War. It for Chartered Company of British North Barneo threw in its final land for to the British Government and the territory became a British Clown Colony. In 1963 Sabah gained he independence as a member of the Federation of Malanas.

Kota Kinabalu (formerly Jesselton) is a pleasant enough capital. though it was almost



A sandspit off
Sabah's East Coast,
previous pages. Fishermen erect makeshift
structures here, for
drying nets and solling
fish. This not-quite-onisland, left, is visible
off Semporna



Pulau Sibuan is one of the beautiful islands that lie off the coast of Sabah near the town of Semporna The islands are relatively undiscovered by travellers, though scuba divers now make a beeline for Pulau Sipadon, an oceanic island some thirty miles further off the coast than Sibuan Because it rises directly from the ocean floor, Sipadan has an amazing wealth of aquatic life around its shores

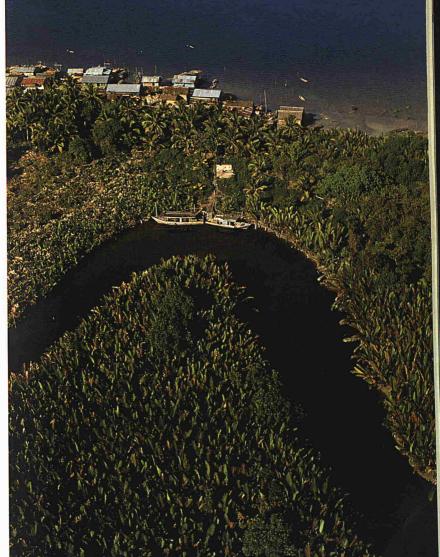
Rice is grown in north Sabah, watered by the many rivers that have their sources on the slopes of Mt Kinabalu. The stubble on these fields is likely to be burned, to return notifients to the soil.



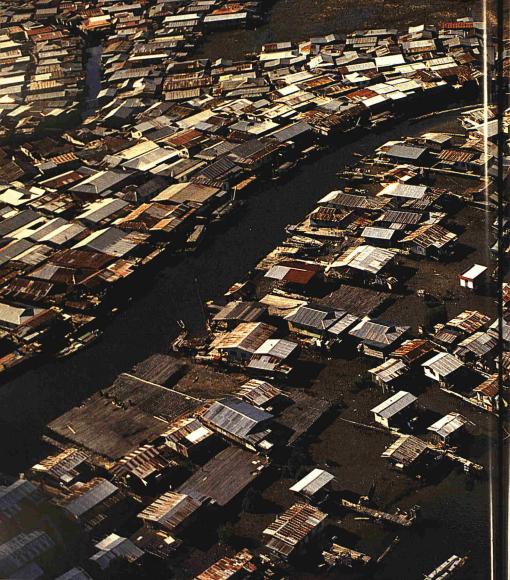
totally rebuilt after the War. It sits by the sea, just minutes from the beaches of lumbs. Abdul Rahman Marine Paul. The State Mosque and the State Museum are attact from but a most outstanding building is term minutes east of the city, at tikes flax. The Soboth Foundation Building is one of just from tribuildings in the world that are actually fluorings. In floors suspended from the bad bearing one. The 30 storage floorings in a flooring suspended from the bad bearing one. The 30 storage flooring is Soboth is geologically complicated, strapped to an unstable belt of the earth's caust it shows a split procorally, the Crocker and additioning ranges are stabled to the

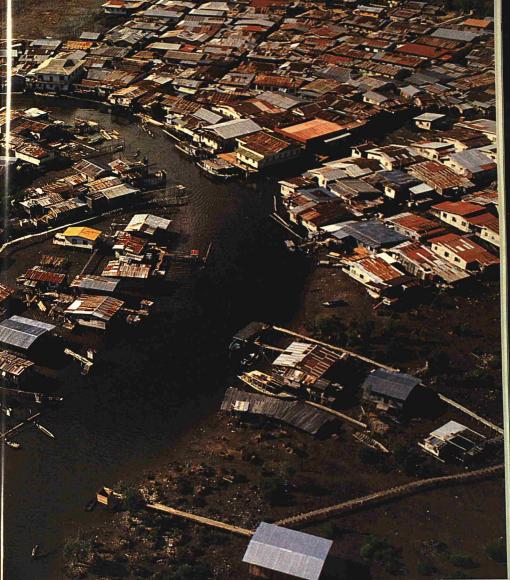
Tetray bided mountains of Sarawok, Burne and Central Kalmantan whereas to the east, the dominant structures are linked to the Solu analyseign and Sulf Sen Both. Its dual presons a side reflected in to 1440 kinnete coast test of the west coast is sand, and mangrow awarms wie the east coast. Reminants of intense volcance activity are similar to those of the Philippines. It is Esgonial valler, Kina Bellid region. Bang and Balamangari solards, branche lava and pyrocinate rucks had it a volcat part though tuday the only signs of such levy powerance are het springs. Second to the mornian in forming Salams appeal and vingue appearance in how and the coaffines. Road, pellucid waters on the north and coast coast habour wondood name life and progresser coast, noting this are it marries man bountaful recover hows. The beauties and late explorates of Solards earl coast are the Songari Cultican and Bouringan food along which them the luttle blands from Their man coast are one the green tudies and entangered howshift table. The former roan mody in Jednigan between Augus to October and the later or Cultican from February to Anni February to Anni Fishar Spoatan and the later of Cultican from February.

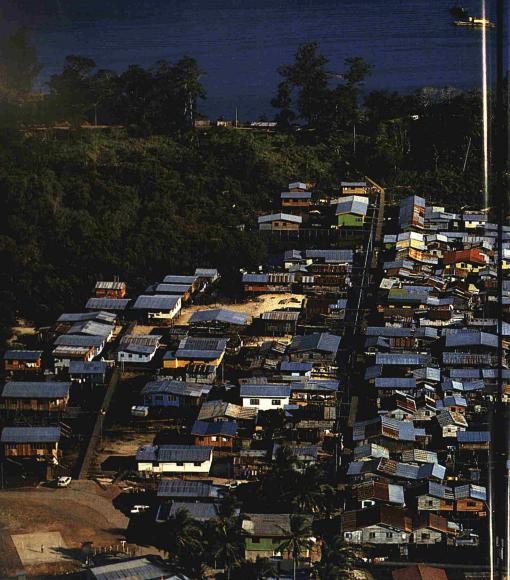
While the freets of Sabah look much the same on the freets of Sarawal, the trescoil carrow hides some varieties. When the about to respect the pass to name, is home to a hour of unique from "they take on drastically affected shapes and sizes for by the Primary forest marches resolved assumes sovereight. Disting up other 2800 metres in an appeal sociation of starent trees subject by the wind, dwarf bushes and event, unique flowers. The flow of Mr Charlotol frace examples excitation of starent trees subject by the wind, dwarf bushes and event, unique flowers. The flow of Mr Charlotol frace examples contains in the Countries Book of Records. The world's higgest flower, seen and array methodog the slopes in the parameter driving upper by Mr Charlotol frace examples. Book of Records The world's higgest flower seen and array methodogs the slopes in the parameter of spatial properties graph—a land of packet plant—makes the world's largest like backet. Bush pather can fold up to tak lines of non-water the world's largest like backet. Each pather can fold up to tak lines of non-water the world's largest like backet. Each pather can fold up to tak lines of non-water the world's largest like backet. Each pather can fold up to tak lines of non-water the world's largest like backet. Bush pather can fold up to tak lines of non-water that world's largest like pathers are some an according to a paper tree fooding families which is a type of world, grown of the first of largest and of the 17th of June 1974. And there is more to first mountain than world in the cold. Specifical stands the some whole so and does underground are large to seek 1000 species of southers. The adventy's supporting per large flows to world support and one underground are large flower or prices and does underground are large.

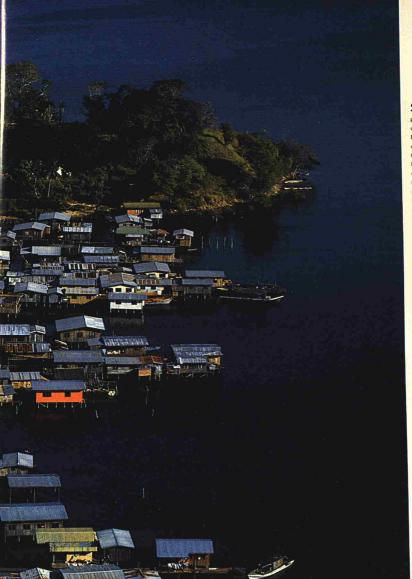


A bend in the river there ever was one This photo illustrates graphically the mixed forming and fishing environments of coastal dwellers in many of the low-lying seaside areas of Southeast Asia One important crop for people in these areas is the sago palm, which can thrive an sodden soil and can tolerate brackish









Sandakan, previous pages, was once the capital of North Borneo under the rule of the Chartered Company. The city has seen its fortunes ebb and flow several times. Now relatively prosperous due to timber wealth, the town boasts one of the most extensive kampong air in the state. Another kampong air, these pages, is found in Kudat, a town on the north coast of Sabah that became the capital after Sandakan.



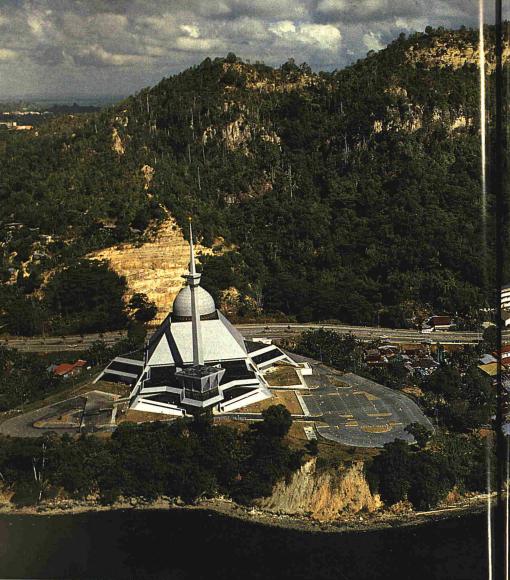
The busy fishing port or Kedat hins at the maritime traditions of this town, which was once an important emporium for the China knob of the South China Seo provide a bountful living for fishernen, but the many magnificent

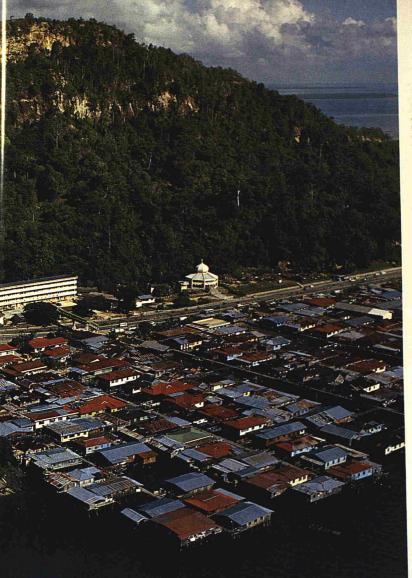
beaches near Kudat have yet to be developed for tourism



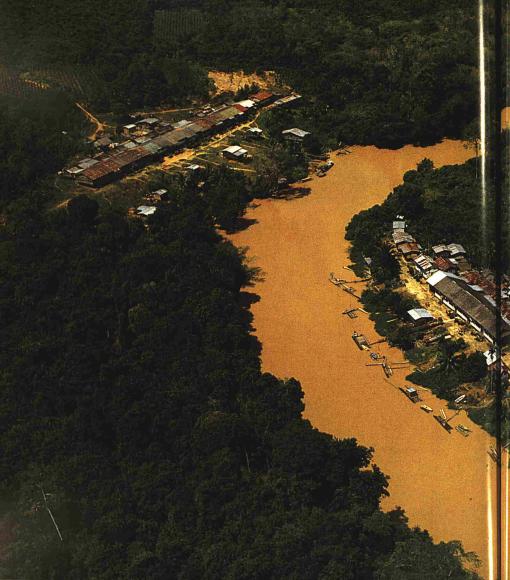
oter makes on efficient transport system for cut logs. They are floated down rivers in log rofts, corrolled and pushed into place by small specially and then loaded from out of the water.

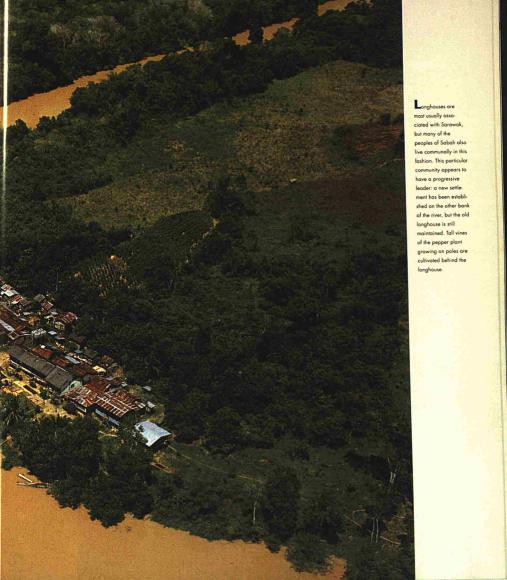
freighters, like this one off the East Coast of Sabah.





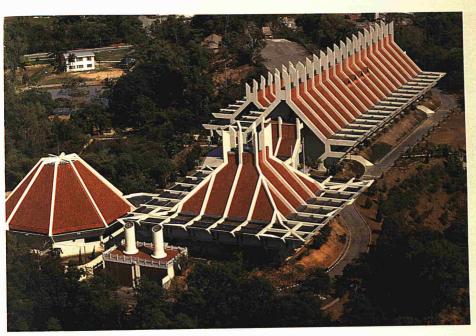
Part of the attraction of Sandakan to the North Borneo
Chartered Company was its fine deepwater port, at the head of the large bay of the same name. The city is also defended landwards by a lorge limestone ridge, seen here backing the brand new mosque of a fantastic, futuristic design.





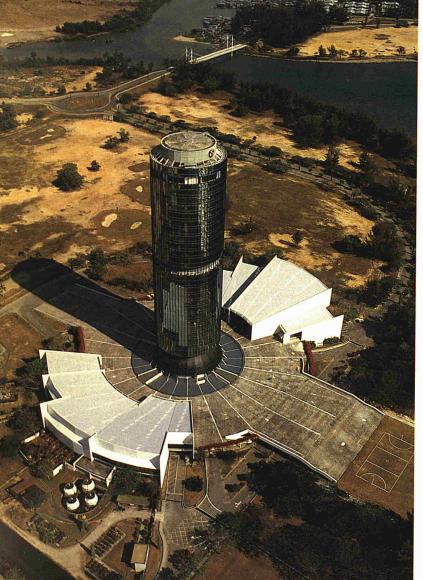


The island of Labuan, off the coast of Sabah, was once a British coaling station, and so has a different political history from Sabah and Sarawak. Now a Federal Territory, on par with Kuala Lumpur. Labuan is being developed as a financial centre and free port. The mosque is one of the most impressive buildings in the fown

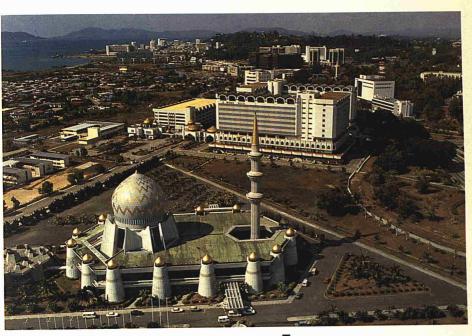


The Sabah State
Museum is one of the
great attractions of
Kota Kinabalu. The
lines of the building
are based on the
design for a traditional
Rungus longhouse,
which has outward
sloping walls underneath a broad sloping
roof. The Museum

has the challenging task of adequately portraying the cultures and histories of Sabah's more than 30 ethnic groups.

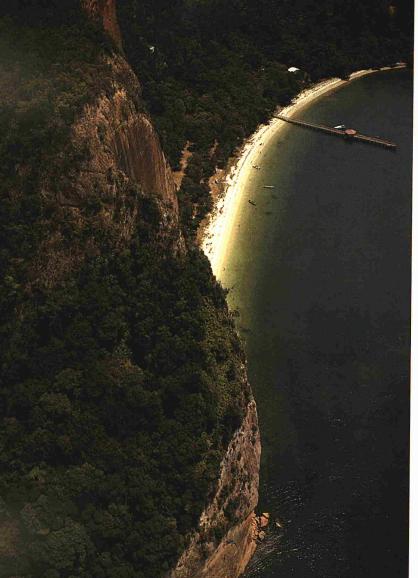


The most impressive building in Kota Kinabalu is the headquarters of the Sabah Foundation, a para-state welfare organization which provides scholarships for Sabahan students among its benevolent activites Each of the building's 30 storeys 'hangs' from a central supporting core, each of its 72 sides are cased in glass



The citizens of Sabah's capital follow the Malaysian fashion for abbreviating the double-barreled name of their city. Koto Kinabalis is modern, and it was almost totally rebuilt after Warld Warl III. Competing with the

Sabah Foundation and the Museum for the title of most impressive building in the city is the Sabah State Mosque.

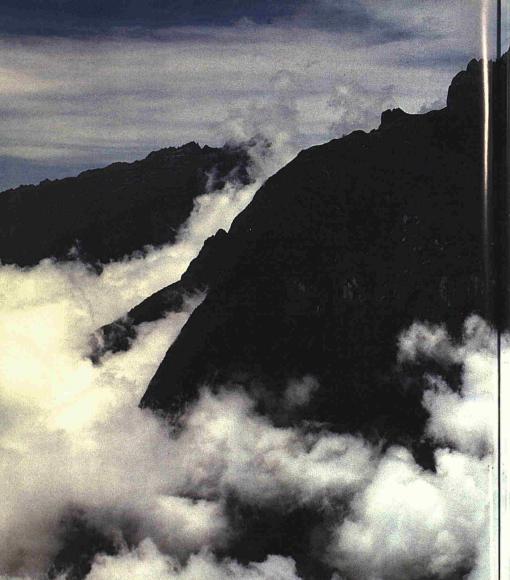


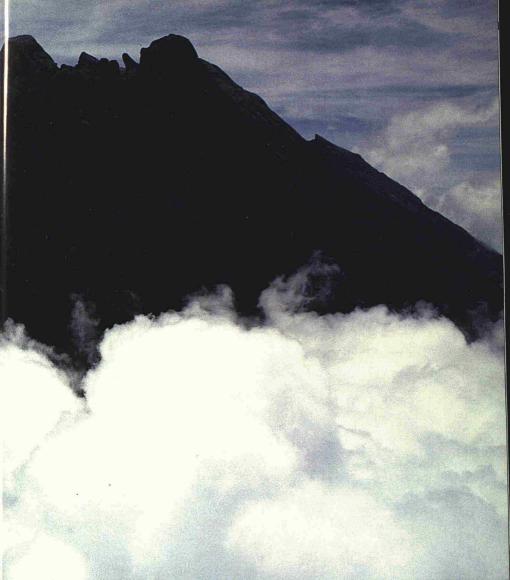
The impressive soaring cliffs of Pulau Bahala, in Sandakan Bay, frame a pristine beach, and make for a lovely touristic scene. During the wor, Bahala was the site of a Japanese detention, camp, and tales of tragedy from those days are still heard in Sandakan and the area today.

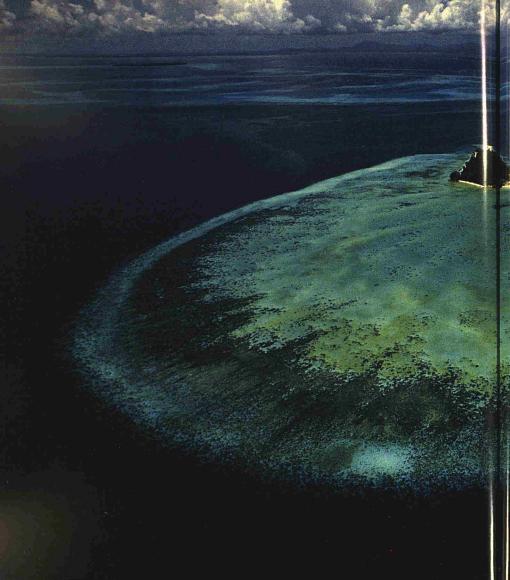


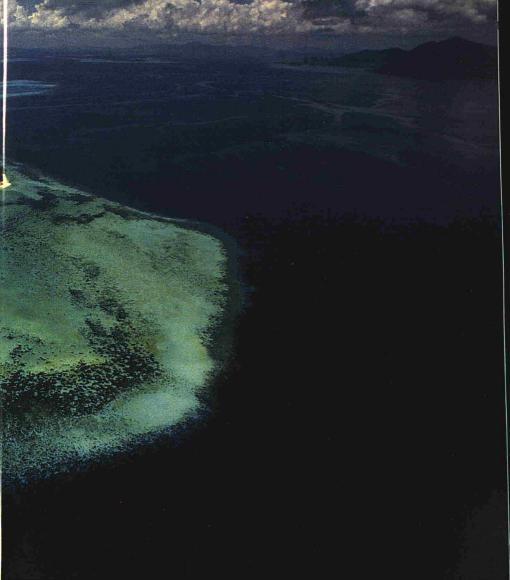
The large bays on the East Coast of Sabah are home to nesting turtles and other marine life. Nearby to Sandakan are other natural attractions, including the famous Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary and the Gamantang Caves, a major

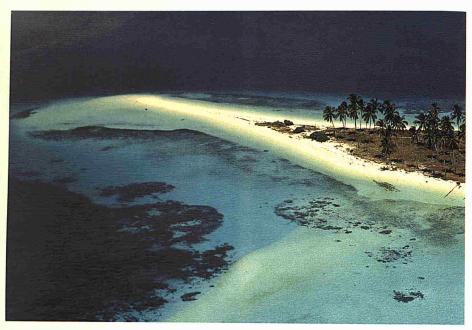
bird's nest collection site. On the following pages is the peak of MI Kinabalu, taken from a helicopter hovering above the clouds, but under the 4176-metre elevation of the peak.





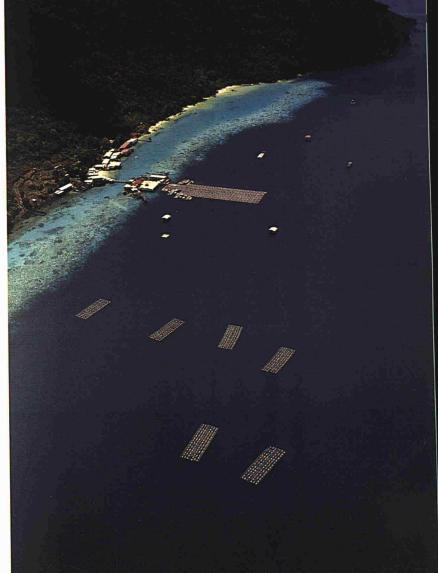


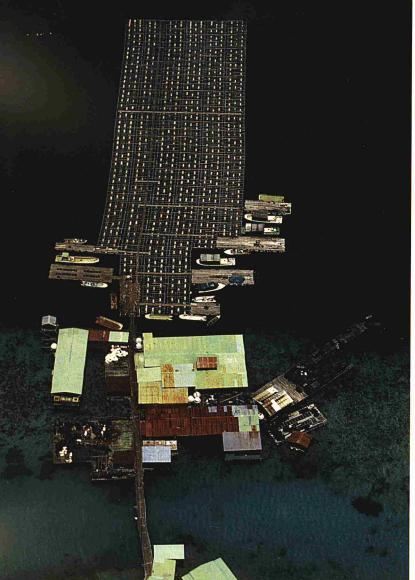




The Sulu Sea is a photographer's dream. Yes, the sea really is this blue, the palm trees do sway in the breeze, and the sand is pure white, perhaps tracked by a burfle's dragging flippers, during laying season. This is Pulau Sibuan, and on the preceding

pages, one of the islands off of Semporna a small town on the southeastern coast of Sabah Rich in islets and inlets and hidden nooks, the Sulu Sea was once home to Borneo's most feared pirates. In the 18th century the Sultan of Sulu made a last stand against the Spanish encroaching from the Philippines, and neither side was nice in their methods Rocks, islands and lagoons were dange rous to the proud galleons, but offered friendly shelter to shallow craft paddled by the canny sea rovers of Sulu Small coastal settlements might be raided. burned down, deserted and built again a few months later out of the simple materials near at hand





This is not a flooting work of obstract art, a is the pearl farm on Pulau Baheydulang Kun by a lapannee company, this farm produces cultured pearls. The filigree looking grid is a roft, set on white flootion tanks. It holds cages containing systems that work so hard to satisfy a fastidious world market.



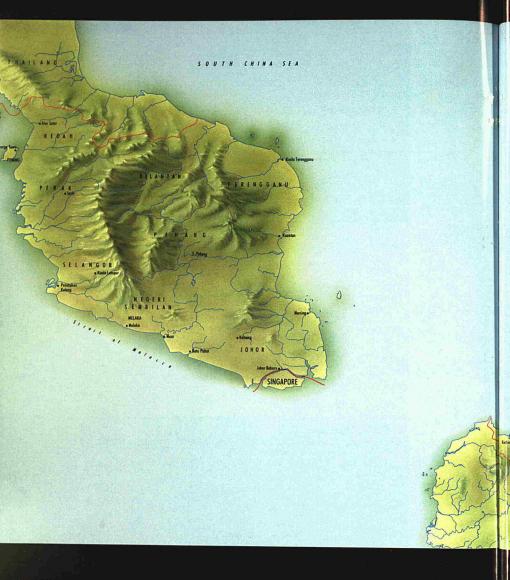
The East Coast of Sabah is host to an amphibious population, "sea gypsies" who live in houseboats or on huts quickly erected over the tidal shallows. This photo shows a fishing site, not a village. The strawlike structures between the nets are

fishtraps which are emptied regularly. The day's catch is salted and sun-dried as future provision and for sale.



Malaysia's most far-flung possession, Terumbu layang Layang is one of the Spratly Islands, a scattered chain of atalls and islets in the South China Sea, five hours by helicopter off the coast of Sabah. This one is presently occupied by the Malaysian Navy, partly to guard against encroachments by Vietnamese or Chinese forces, who have laid claim to the island in the past. One plan is for the military to develop the atall for tourism, for those travellers who desire the experience of an isolated desert island

All the archival research is by John Falconer. Pages 12-13: a photo by Charles Kleingrothe, circa 1907. Copyright John Falconer. Page 14: William Daniell, an aquatint after an oil painting by Capt Robert Smith, "View of Glugor House and Spice Plantations, Prince of Wales Island, Inscribed to the Proprietor, David Browne, Esq", from the Views of Prince of Wales Island set published in 1821, courtesy of the British Library. Page 15, top: William Daniell, an aquatint after an oil painting by Capt Robert Smith, "View from the Convalescent Bungalow, Prince of Wales Island", Views of Prince of Wales Island, 1821, courtesy of the British Library, Page 15, bottom: William Daniell, aquatint, "View from Strawberry Hill, Prince of Wales Island", The oil painting by Smith from which this aquatint was copied has yet to be discovered. From the Views of Prince of Wales Island, 1821, courtesy of the British Library. Pages 16-17: Panoramas, 1884 and 1882, copyright of the Royal Commonwealth Society. All photographs by Guido Alberto Rossi except for pages 18-19, 34, 35, 40, 41, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52-53, 58, top, bottom, 59, top, bottom, 60-61, 63, 121, all by Georg Gerster; pages 62 and 118-119 by Bernard Hermann; and pages 146 and 147 by Alberto Cassio, and page 96 by Rio Helmi The map on pages 158-159 is produced by Swanston Graphics, Derby, UK. The publishers wish to thank the men and women of the Royal Malaysian Air Force for their assistance and cooperation in the making of this book. In particular, we would like to thank General Tan Sri Hashim Mohd Ali, Chief of the Malaysian Armed Forces, Lt-General Dato Seri Hi Mohd Yunos Tasi, Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force, Colonel Rahim, Sat Abdullah bin Abdul Rahman, and pilots Capt Ravi Chandran, Capt Omar Shuib, and Maj Prabakaran.











This book would not have been possible without the active support of Resorts World Bhd and Malaysia Aiilines. MAS' connection with things aerial is obvious enough. Resort World owns Genting Highlands, famous for the near-aerial view from its heights. This book was photographed from the helicopters of the Royal Malaysian Air Force. Just about the only spot in Malaysia that the helicopters of the Air Force did not manage to top was the peak of Mt Kinobalu.