

VISIT HISTORIC  
**MELAKA**  
M E A N S  
VISIT MALAYSIA



M  
915.95118  
VIS  
f

aw  
thyl

APB 01012067

NASKAH PEMELIHARAAN  
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA

05 DEC 2000





*Published by*



**MALACCA STATE GOVERNMENT**

Seri Negeri, Ayer Keroh  
75450 Melaka,  
Malaysia.

*Concept & design by*



**PM - WARISAN MEDIA SDN BHD**

Lot 2, Aras 4, Graha Maju,  
Jalan Graha Maju,  
75300 Melaka, Malaysia.

*Colour separation by*

**CENTRAL GRAPHICS SCAN SDN BHD**

No. 7, Lorong Thambi Dua  
Off Jalan Changkat Thambi Dollah  
Pudu, 55100 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

*Printed by*

**AMPANG PRESS SDN BERHAD**

6 & 8, Jalan 6/91, Taman Shamelin Perkasa  
Batu 3 1/2, Jalan Cheras  
56100 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

ISBN 983-40310-0-9

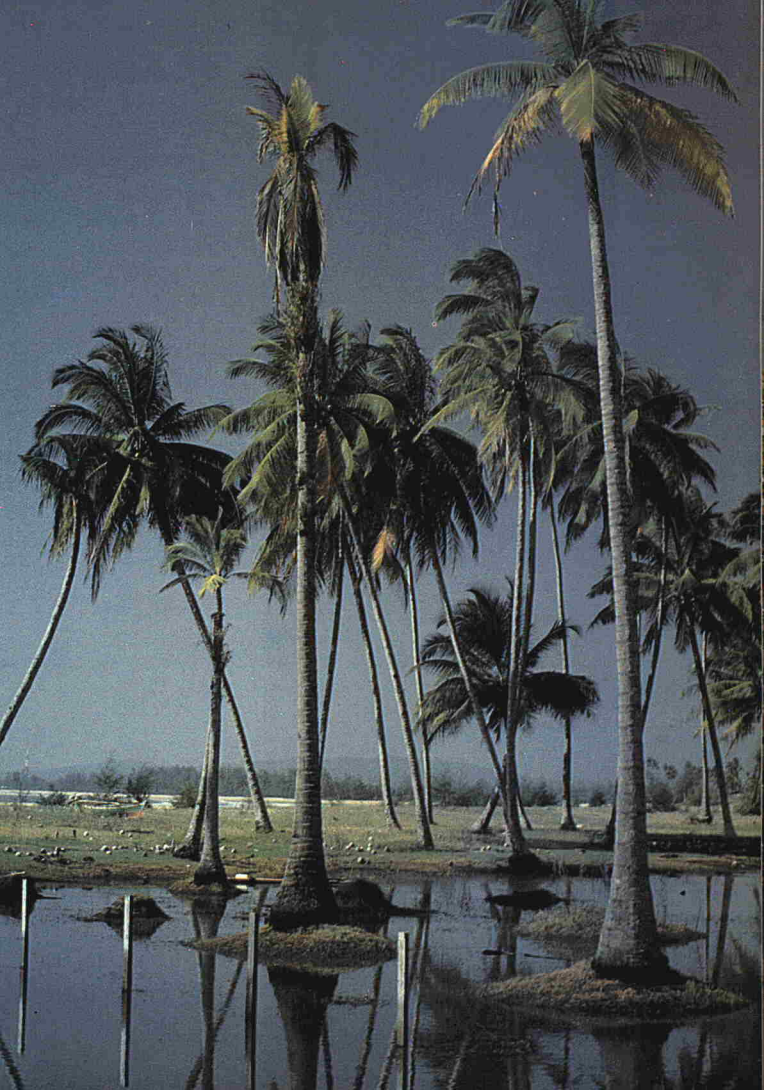


9 789834 031008

*Copyright © Malacca State Government, 2000  
First Edition 2000*

*All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or utilised in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information, storage and retrieval systems, without the prior written permission of the copyright owners.*









## CONTENTS

---

<i>Message from The Prime Minister</i>	<b>11</b>
<i>Foreword by The Chief Minister</i>	<b>13</b>
<i>Where It All Began</i>	<b>15</b>
<i>Where Is Melaka</i>	<b>29</b>
<i>History</i>	<b>37</b>
<i>Culture</i>	<b>51</b>
<i>Recreation</i>	<b>67</b>
<i>Sports</i>	<b>83</b>
<i>Shopping</i>	<b>89</b>
<i>Conventions</i>	<b>99</b>
<i>Health Tourism</i>	<b>113</b>
<i>Education</i>	<b>121</b>
<i>Agro-Tourism</i>	<b>129</b>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<b>136</b>

---











"VISIT HISTORIC MELAKA MEANS VISIT MALAYSIA"



*Message from*  
**THE PRIME MINISTER of  
MALAYSIA**

Malacca's fascinating story begins in the last decades of the 14th century. A prosperous and powerful nerve centre of trade between the East and West, it eventually rose to become an empire. The Portuguese described Malacca as the richest emporium in Southeast Asia and perhaps the world.

Today, Malacca is a fascinating historic city to explore. Its narrow alleys where ancient traders from many lands once walked through, the Dutch Stadthuys, the immortal Porta de Santiago and the centuries-old mosques, temples and churches are places reminiscent of the heydays of Malacca's glory. History buffs will find this historic city and its buildings, people, festivals and antiques captivating. Its culinary delights are especially not-to-be-missed.

The publication of this *Visit Historic Melaka Means Visit Malaysia* travel guide provides a useful source of information to readers. It hopefully will further serve travel industry, travel operators and consumers in getting the best information about the state. The details and information obtained and coordinated from many sources, will save the visitors the inconvenience of seeking data from different sources.

It is hoped that visitors will make full use of *Visit Historic Melaka Means Visit Malaysia* in navigating through all the experiences that Malacca has to offer and in a manner that is unique only to Malacca. I wish to commend the State Government of Malacca for this excellent work.

**DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD**  
Putrajaya  
10 February 2000



"VISIT HISTORIC MELAKA MEANS VISIT MALAYSIA"



*Foreword by*  
**CHIEF MINISTER OF  
MELAKA**

I wish to record my sincere appreciation to YAB Datuk Seri Utama Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia for his kind endorsement of this book.

This publication, *Visit Historic Melaka means Visit Malaysia*, is another contribution to the ongoing efforts by the Melaka State Government in further improving the scope and quality of tourism-based services, for the benefit of the travel industry, visitors and tourists to our historical state.

Melaka has so much to offer. This publication presents our main tourism sectors of history, culture, recreation, sports-tourism, shopping, conventions, health-tourism, education and agro-tourism. All these sectors are more than sufficient to interest travellers to visit Melaka, the state where the history of Malaysia began.

*Visit Historic Melaka means Visit Malaysia* plays its role in bringing together updated information of particular interest to personnel and organizations in the travel trade. It also serves as an authoritative guide on places of interest in Melaka as well as a directory on essential services that will make your visit to Malaysia complete.

I am confident that the information contained will unlock some of Melaka's secrets from between the pages of this guide; others are waiting for you to discover for yourself. No matter how strange the sights are to you, there is an innate sense of being in a land that welcomes you to explore it. I sincerely hope you will enjoy exploring Melaka with us.

**DATUK WIRA ALI RUSTAM**  
CHIEF MINISTER OF MELAKA







*The founding of the Melaka Malay Sultanate and its empire.*



## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

*M*elaka is known as a historically rich state and is recognised as one which epitomised the spirit of a nation, forged through the crucible of a tumultuous and intricate history.

Melaka was founded by Parameswara (or Raja Iskandar) the last Malay ruler of Temasik (ancient Singapore) in 1396 when he and his followers retreated up the straits to Muar, then to Sungai Ujung before settling at Bertam near the estuary of Melaka River.

*Stone relief of Hang Tuah*

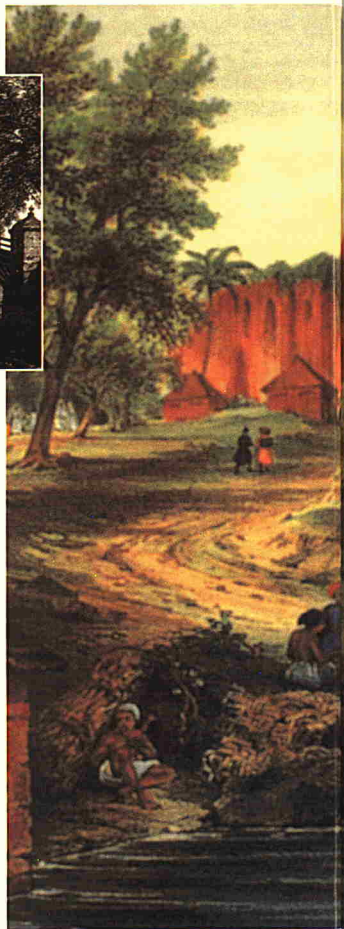


Finding the place is of strategic location, he decided to make a permanent settlement there, naming it "Melaka" after the name of the tree he leaned against.

The Melaka Sultanate occupies a special position in the history of Malaysia. Its inauguration marked the beginning of the emergence of a new Malay empire. The birthplace of the Malay Sultanates and Malaysia's historic city, Melaka provided the stage on which the Portuguese, Dutch and English played out their roles in shaping history.



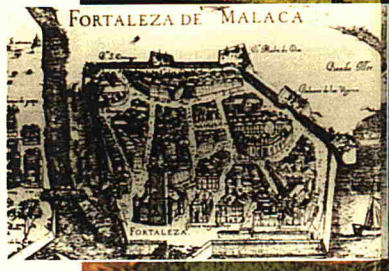
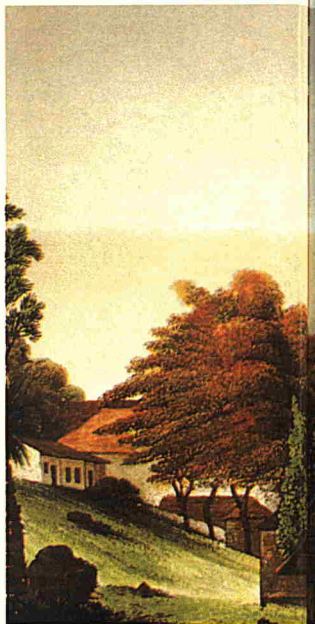
*Early lithograph of Arab dhow sailing up the Malacca River.*





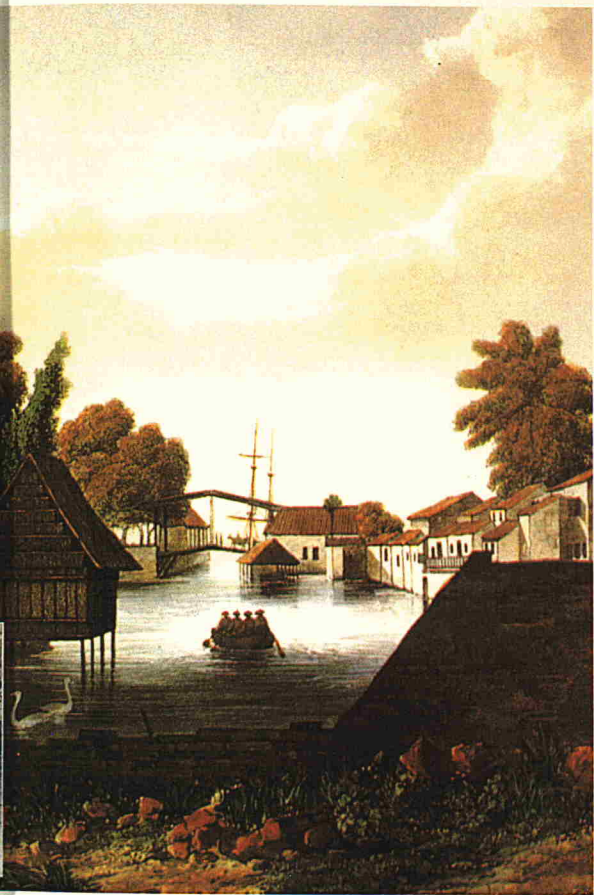
Melaka emerged as a strong maritime trading state under the industrious Parameswara and his chiefs. Melaka also began to be noticed by Muslim traders from West Asia and India, who until that period, had been concentrating their activities in Aru, Pedir and Pasai en-route to the East, especially China. Because of its strategic location straddling the Straits of Melaka, it thrived as a port-of-call and a centre of entrepot trade with ships and merchants from China, Japan, India, Arab and South Africa.

In 1511, it fell to the hands of the Portuguese, followed by the Dutch in 1641 after a fierce battle. In 1795, Melaka was given to the British to prevent it falling to the French when the Netherlands was captured during the Napoleonic Wars. It was returned to the Dutch in 1818 under the treaty of Vienna but was later exchanged by the British for Bangkokulu,



*Ancienne Eglise A Malacca.*  
Handcoloured original lithograph from  
"Voyage autour du monde execute pendant  
les annees 1836 et 1837 sur la Corvette la  
Bonte" by Auguste-Nicholas Vaillant, Paris,  
1852.

Plan of Malacca town, 1640 (insert).





---

Sumatra. From 1826 onwards, the British East India Company along with Singapore and Penang governed it, under the Straits Settlement administration in Calcutta. After World War II, anti-colonial sentiment bred in the country among the nationalists, the result of which was the proclamation of Independence by Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Malaysia's first Prime Minister, at the Padang Pahlawan (Warrior's Field) at Bandar Hilir, Melaka on 20 February 1956.



*Independence celebration at Padang Bandar Hilir Malacca.*



The Dutch, who held Melaka for over a century, left many fine buildings marking their heritage. The most imposing relic of the Dutch period is the Stadthuys, a strikingly pink town hall which is today the oldest Dutch building in the Far East. Right next to it stands the bright red Christ Church, constructed with pink bricks imported from Holland and covered with local red lacerite. Today, these buildings together with the ruins of the Portuguese built A Famosa and St Paul's Church are the most prominent reminders of the Europeans' presence in Melaka.



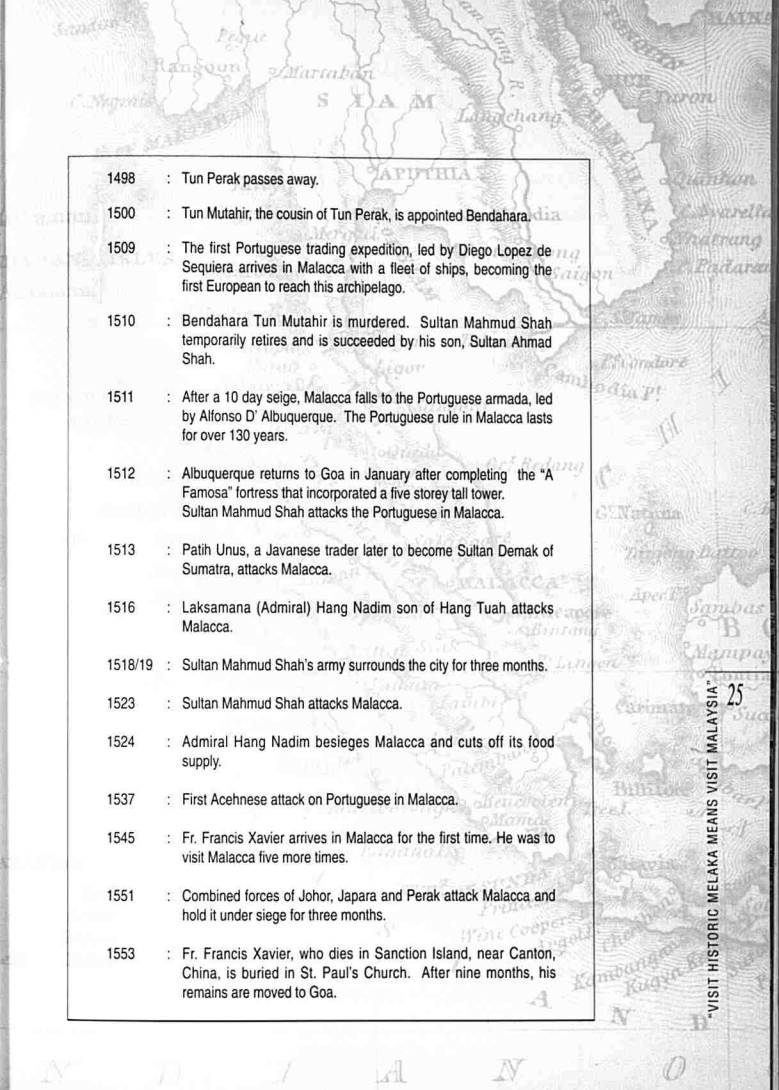
*A replica of the Melaka Sultanate palace, also known as the Cultural Museum.*



## HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

- 1396 : A Sumatran prince refugee named Parameswara, flees Temasek, ancient Singapore after a power struggle. He seeks sanctuary in this fishing village and decrees his kingdom be built here. The name "Malacca" was given after the name of a tree Parameswara took shade under.
- 1403 : The first Chinese envoy, Yin Ching arrives in Malacca.
- 1407 : The Chinese Imperial Fleet, under Admiral Cheng Ho visits Malacca.
- 1411 : Parameswara visits the Ming Emperor in China.
- 1414 : Parameswara embraces Islam and changes his name to Raja Iskandar Shah.
- 1424 : Parameswara's son, Seri Maharaja, ascends the throne and later assumes the title "Sultan", becoming the first ruler to do so in this region. He changes his name to Sultan Muhammed Shah and rules according to the principles of Islam, establishing palace etiquettes and spreading Islam in this region.
- 1445 : Raja Ibrahim, the youngest son of Sultan Muhammad Shah becomes ruler upon his father's death and assumes the name, Sultan Abu Shahid.
- 1446 : Sultan Abu Shahid's accidental death results in Sultan Muzaffar Shah, his elder brother, assuming the throne.
- 1447 : The first Siamese attack on Malacca but was repelled by Melakan fleet.
- 1456 : Tun Perak is appointed as the Bendahara, or Prime Minister, and becomes the most well known of all the Bendaharas responsible for the rise of Malacca.
- 1458 : Sultan Mansor Shah succeeds his father Sultan Muzaffar Shah.
- 1477 : Sultan Mansor Shah passes away and is succeeded by his son Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah.
- 1488 : An enterprising and just ruler, Sultan Alauddin dies of poisoning in Pagoh. Sultan Mahmud Shah ascends the throne due to the efforts of Tun Perak and Hang Tuah (a legendary warrior).



- 
- 1498 : Tun Perak passes away.
- 1500 : Tun Mutahir, the cousin of Tun Perak, is appointed Bendahara.
- 1509 : The first Portuguese trading expedition, led by Diego Lopez de Sequiera arrives in Malacca with a fleet of ships, becoming the first European to reach this archipelago.
- 1510 : Bendahara Tun Mutahir is murdered. Sultan Mahmud Shah temporarily retires and is succeeded by his son, Sultan Ahmad Shah.
- 1511 : After a 10 day seige, Malacca falls to the Portuguese armada, led by Alfonso D' Albuquerque. The Portuguese rule in Malacca lasts for over 130 years.
- 1512 : Albuquerque returns to Goa in January after completing the "A Famosa" fortress that incorporated a five storey tall tower. Sultan Mahmud Shah attacks the Portuguese in Malacca.
- 1513 : Patih Unus, a Javanese trader later to become Sultan Demak of Sumatra, attacks Malacca.
- 1516 : Laksamana (Admiral) Hang Nadim son of Hang Tuah attacks Malacca.
- 1518/19 : Sultan Mahmud Shah's army surrounds the city for three months.
- 1523 : Sultan Mahmud Shah attacks Malacca.
- 1524 : Admiral Hang Nadim besieges Malacca and cuts off its food supply.
- 1537 : First Acehnese attack on Portuguese in Malacca.
- 1545 : Fr. Francis Xavier arrives in Malacca for the first time. He was to visit Malacca five more times.
- 1551 : Combined forces of Johor, Japara and Perak attack Malacca and hold it under siege for three months.
- 1553 : Fr. Francis Xavier, who dies in Sanction Island, near Canton, China, is buried in St. Paul's Church. After nine months, his remains are moved to Goa.

- 1567/68 : With help from Johor, the Acehnese attack Malacca again but are defeated.
- 1571 : The Acehnese attempt an attack on Malacca again but their invasion is foiled by a storm.
- 1575 : Japara attacks Malacca.
- 1585/86 : Johor attacks Malacca.
- 1588 : The first English visitor, Ralph Ritch, arrives in Malacca.
- 1597 : The Dutch attack Malacca.
- 1606 : A combined Dutch and Johor force attacks Malacca. The timely arrival of Portuguese reinforcement from Goa saves Malacca.
- 1615/16 : The Acehnese mount another attack on Malacca.
- 1628/29 : The Acehnese hold Malacca for eight months before withdrawing.
- 1636 : Dutch ships destroy Portuguese ships off the harbour.
- 1641 : The Dutch and Johor Malays attack again. After a fierce battle, the Portuguese are forced to surrender. Dutch rule in Malacca lasts for a 154 years.
- 1645 : The Cheng Hoon Teng temple is built by Chinese head man, Lee Wei King. This is the oldest surviving temple in Malaysia.
- 1645/70 : Dutch war with Nanning in the interior.
- 1650 : The Stadhuys or "State House", the residence of the Dutch Governor, as well as the administrative centre is built.
- 1710 : St. Peter's church, the oldest functioning Christian Church in Malaysia, is built by the Portuguese descendants comprising an architectural mix of Oriental and Occidental.
- 1753 : The Christ Church is completed.
- 1756 : The Bugis under Daing Kamboja attack Malacca.
- 1784 : Raja Haji lands in Malacca to capture it but is killed.
- 1795 : The British take over Malacca from the Dutch.

- 
- 1806 : The British begin the demolition of the Portuguese fortress and total abandonment of Malacca. They planned to transfer the trade and population to Penang in order to weaken Malacca's standing as a trading centre.
- 1808 : The timely arrival of Stamford Raffles, saves Malacca from total destruction.
- 1818 : With the end of the Napoleonic Wars, Malacca is returned to the Dutch under the Treaty of Venice.
- 1819 : Sultan Hussain Mohammad Shah of Johor cedes Singapore to the English East India Company. The Sultan's grave lies within the ground of the Tranquerah Mosque.
- 1824 : By Anglo-Dutch Treaty, or Treaty of London, Malacca is firmly placed under British rule. Along with Penang and Singapore, Malacca is incorporated into the Straits Settlement in 1826.
- 1867 : The administration of the Straits Settlements is transferred from the Governor – General of India's Office to the Colonial Office in London and Malacca becomes a British colony.
- 1904 : The Queen Victoria Fountain is erected to commemorate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.
- 1942 : The Japanese Occupation forces take over Malacca.
- 1945 : Malacca is returned to British rule after the Japanese surrender to the British in Singapore.
- 1948 : A state of "Emergency" is proclaimed as Malaya fights against communist insurgency. Malacca joins the Federation of Malaya.
- 1956 : The proclamation of the date of independence by Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first Prime Minister takes place at Padang Bandar Hilir (Padang Pahlawan) in Malacca on 20th February.
- 1957 : Malaysia achieves her independence on August 31st. Malacca's last British Resident Commissioner, H.G.Hammet, hands the instrument of independence to the first local Governor.
- 1963 : Malacca joins the Federation of Malaysia.
- 1989 : Malacca is declared a Historical City on April 15th.

NEGERI SEMBILAN

TO  
KUALA LUMPUR  
148 KM

SIMPANG EMPAT  
INTERCHANGE

ALOR  
FAJAH

AYER KEROH  
INTERCHANGE

MELAKA  
TENGAH

JOHORE

TO  
SINGAPORE  
245 KM

STRAITS  
OF  
MALACCA

Tanjung  
Bruas Port

HISTORIC CITY  
OF  
MALACCA

Teluk Mas

PAKAU BESAR

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
|  | NORTH-SOUTH EXPRESSWAY |
|  | RAILWAY LINES          |
|  | MAIN ROADS             |



# WHERE IS MELAKA

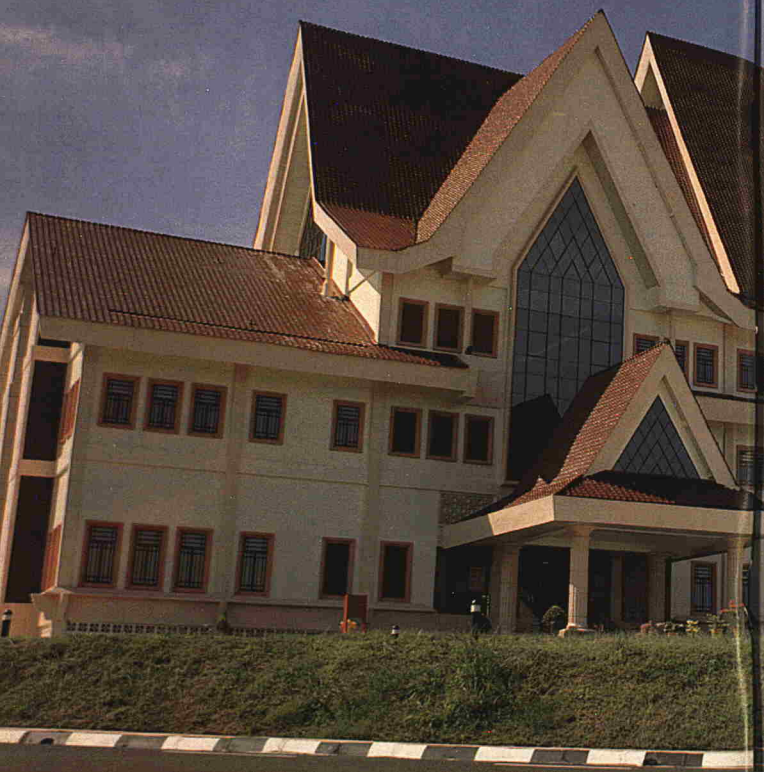
*M*alaysia is situated one to seven degrees north of the equator. The state of Melaka, one of the thirteen within Malaysia, is situated on the South-Western Coast of Peninsular Malaysia facing the Straits of Malacca and sandwiched between the states of Negeri Sembilan and Johor.

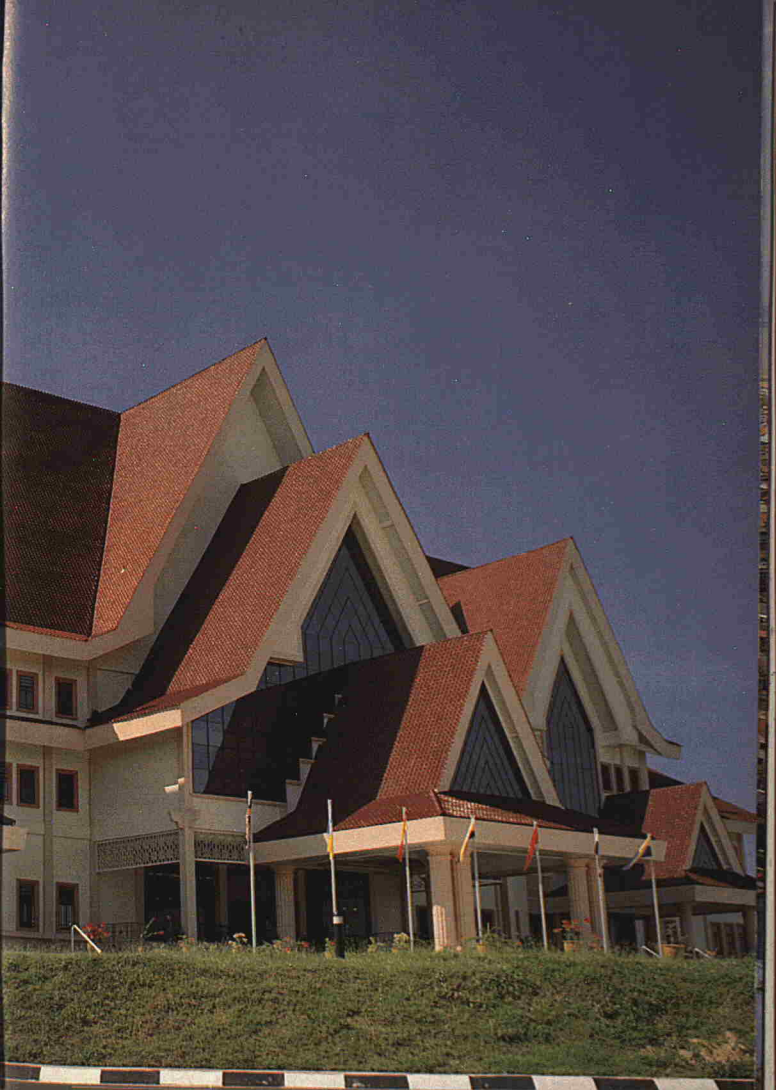
Melaka covers an area of 1,658 square kilometres and is divided into three districts, namely Melaka Tengah, Alor Gajah and Jasin.

The North-South Expressway allows easy highway access into Melaka from all states of Malaysia. It takes about an hour and a half to travel by road from Kuala Lumpur to Melaka and approximately three hours from Singapore to Melaka.



*Seri Negeri - state government administrative complex.*







The Kuala Lumpur - Melaka expressway.

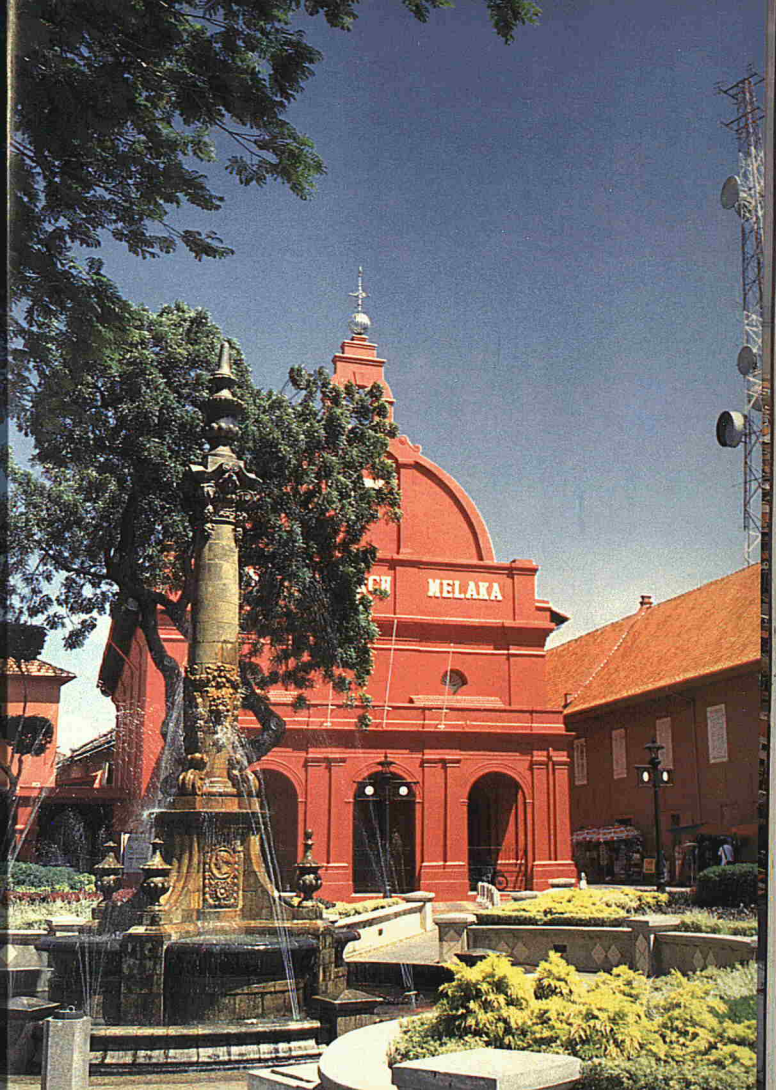


Batu Berendam Airport.

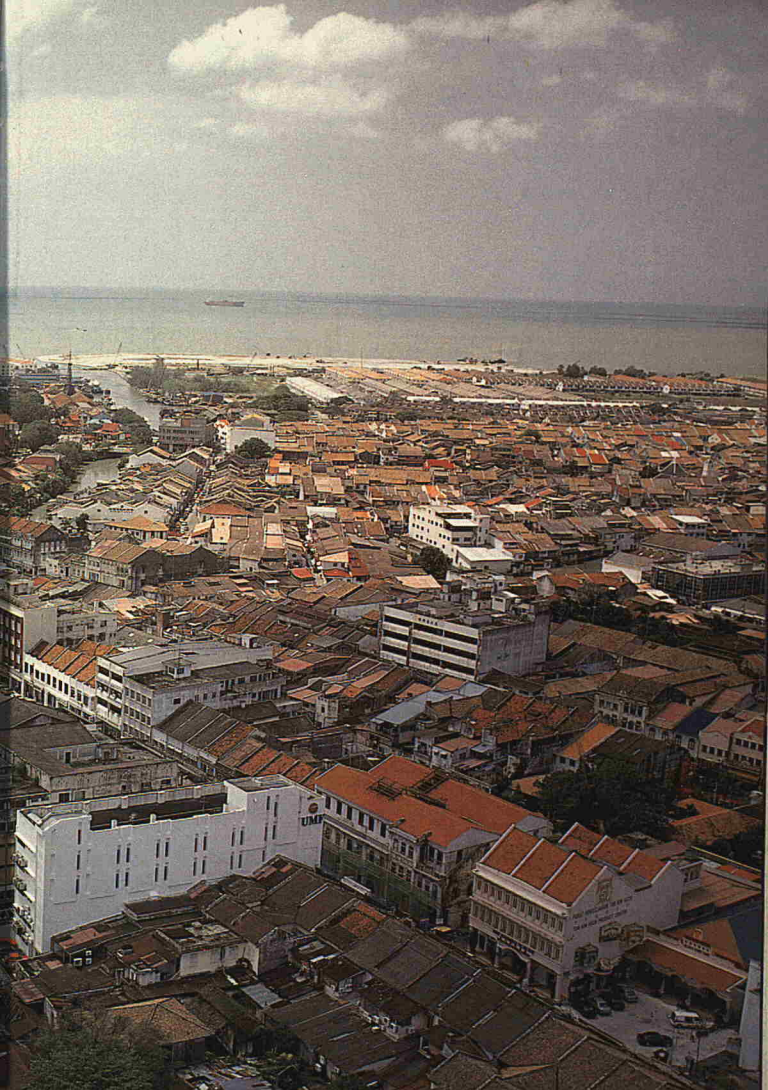
Another way to get to Melaka from Kuala Lumpur is to take a leisurely drive through the coastal and country roads passing through Klang, Morib and Port Dickson before arriving in Melaka. Those coming from Singapore can take the picturesque route passing through coastal kampungs or villages and plantations.















*The Sultan on his throne during a court session.*



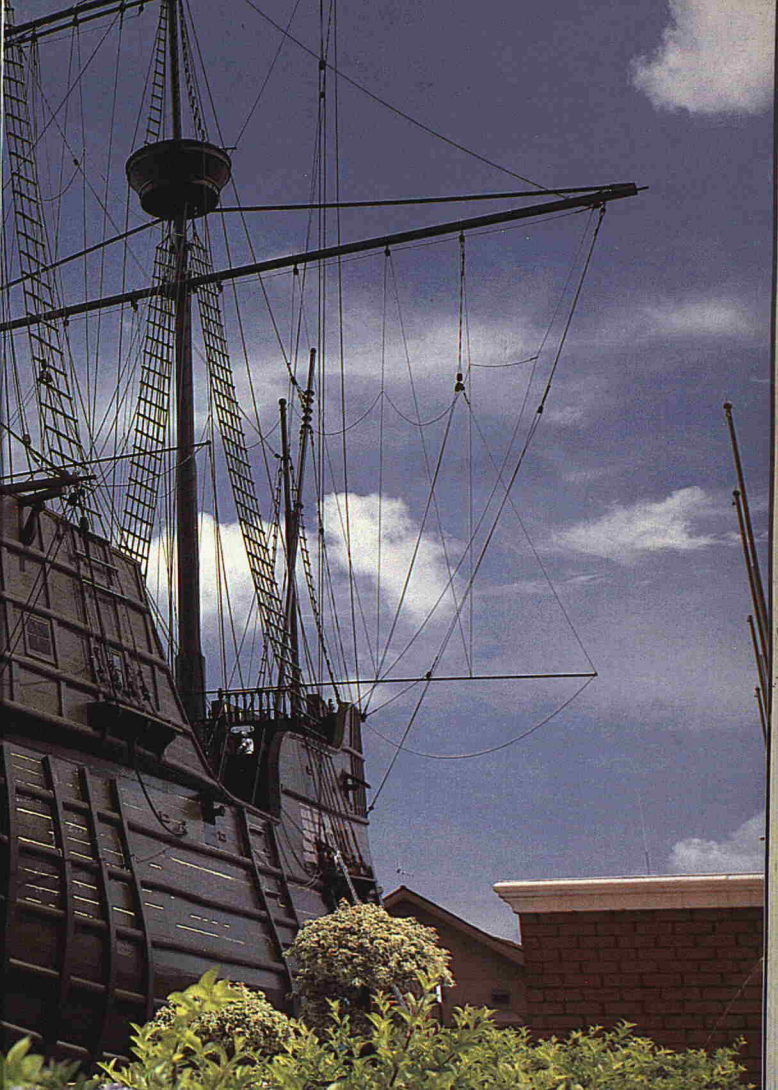
# HISTORY

*M*elaka's fascinating story began in the last decades of the fourteenth century when a prince named Parameswara founded it. Melaka rose to become a prosperous and powerful nerve centre for trade between the East and West and eventually became an Empire.



*A replica of Flor De La Mar.*







*The roofless ruin of St. Paul's Church.*



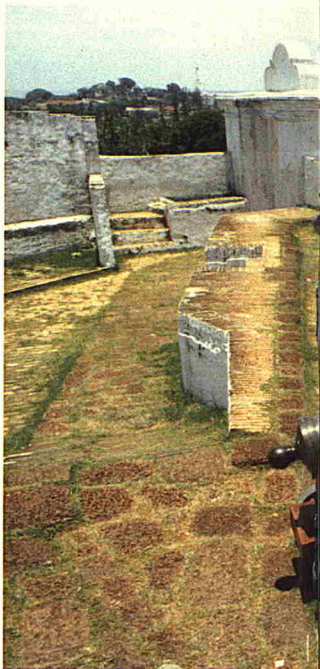


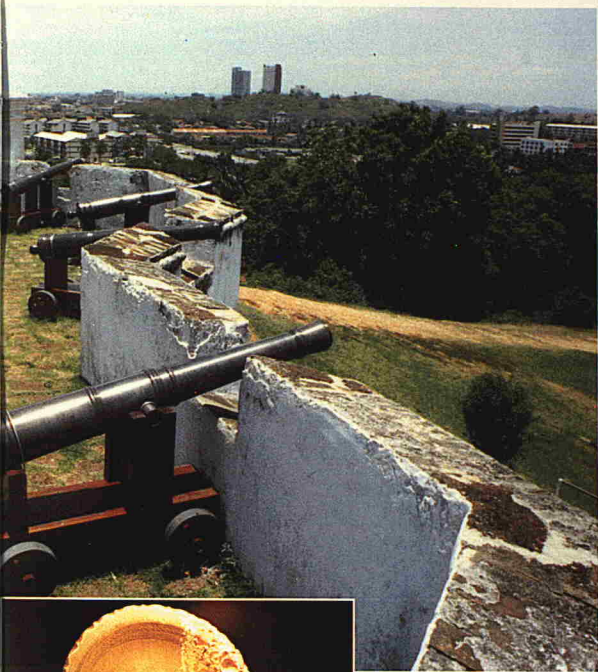


*A treasure trove of a different kind - ancient artifacts like pottery and ceramics attest to the numerous shipwrecks that litter the seabed of the Straits of Malacca*

The good geographical location on the maritime route, linking the Indian Ocean and South China Sea swiftly established Melaka as an "opulent emporium" that lured all ships that passed through the narrow straits. Chinese envoys brought gifts and expressed eagerness to set up trade arrangements with this Malay stronghold of Melaka.

It was not long before the fame of this celebrated city attracted expanding colonial powers namely the Portuguese, Dutch and English who monopolized the spice trade. The Portuguese were the first to control Melaka in 1511 and ruled for 130 years. In 1641, the Dutch ousted the Portuguese and ruled for 154 years. British sovereignty followed in 1824.





St. John's Fort.







In 1942, during World War II, the Japanese occupied Melaka. In 1945 after the obliteration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States, Japan returned all British colonies, including Melaka, to British rule which continued until 1957, when Melaka together with the other states which make up Malaya, achieved independence.

Heralded as the hearthstone of Malaysian history, Melaka offers interesting and educational historical sights that enthrall visitors with fascinating stories and legends and a rich mix of Malaysian cultures. This historical melting pot of cultures and races gives rise to uniquely different architectural influences to homes and buildings that still adorn the city today.

Of all the European influences in Melaka, Dutch architecture is most prominent as a reminder of past glories, with many fine public buildings and churches that still stand today as historical monuments. A tour on foot is the best way to get up close to appreciate the magnificent facades: Museums, mosques, churches and historical forts.

Although the city is best explored on foot you may also relish the sights by rickshaw rides or through the comfort of air-conditioned coach bus.

*Old buildings along Jalan Hang Jebat (Jonker Street).*







Don't forget to include in your itinerary a visit to Dutch Square, Stadthuys, Porta De Santiago (A Famosa), the Dutch graveyard, The People's Museum, Proclamation of Independence Memorial, Maritime Museum, Hang Jebat's Mausoleum and Hang Kasturi's Mausoleum.

Interesting cultural and heritage centres may be explored at Malaysia's Youth Museum, Melaka Sultanate Palace, Infokraf Centre, Jonker Street, Baba and Nyonya Heritage, Villa Sentosa, Bukit China, Hang Li Poh's Well, St John's Fort, the Portuguese Settlement, as well as at various district museums depicting indigenous heritage.



Hang Li Poh's well.

Just outside of Melaka town, there are landmarks worth visiting such as Auyin Hill Resort, Dol Said's Grave, Gadek Hot Spring, the British Graveyard, Dutch Fort, Hang Tuah's Mausoleum, Hang Tuah's Well and Tun Teja's Mausoleum. Villages on the outskirts in places like Jasin and Alor Gajah also offer a variety of tourist attractions, such as Penghulu Mat Natar's traditional house, old mosques and houses, and places of worship.



Hang Jebat's Mausoleum

History leaves its mark behind and Melaka's grandeur is filled with relics too big to be housed by any museum. Every street and monument tells a fascinating story of conquest and valour, avarice and victory. Melaka town itself is a living museum, waiting to be explored and cherished by its visitors.

Hang Tuah's Mausoleum.

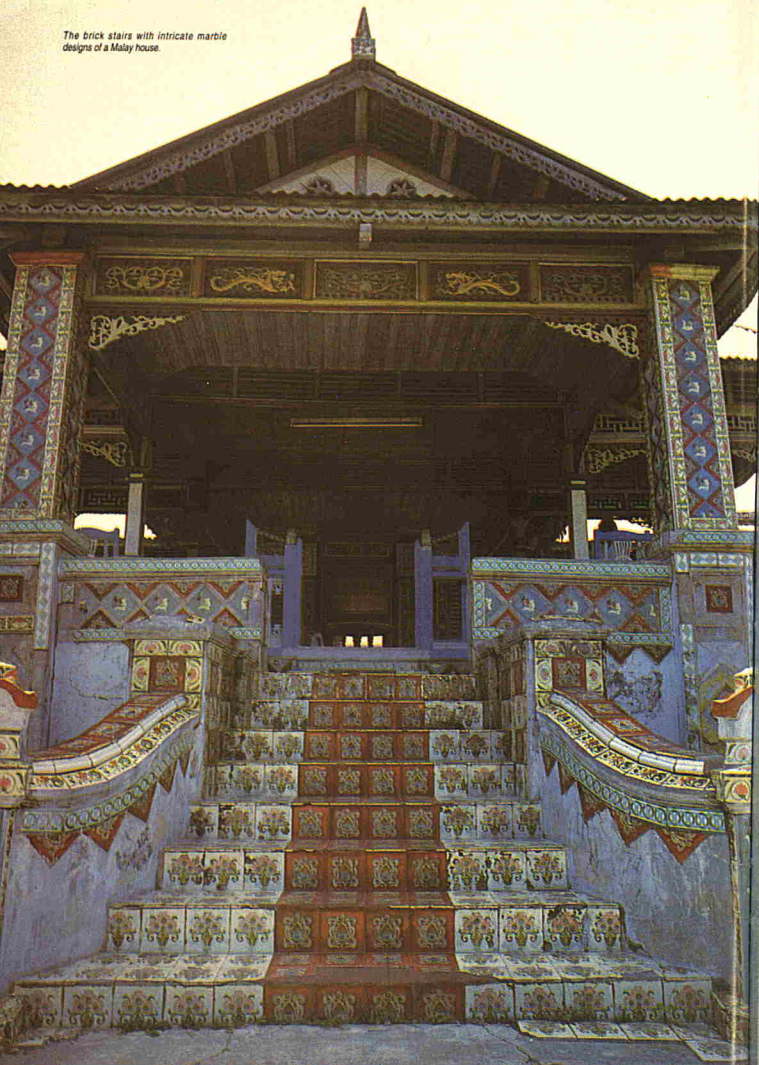








The brick stairs with intricate marble designs of a Malay house.





# CULTURE

*M*elakan culture is a tapestry woven over six centuries of diverse ethnic customs, folklore and traditions. The harmonious co-existence of people of different cultures and religions inherited from centuries of multi-racial living has produced the fluid intermingling of the Malays, Chinese, Indians, Babas and Nyonyas, Portuguese, Chitty and the Eurasians. Each ethnic group adds to the pluralistic and ever changing society of the people of Melaka that is itself a group of diverse, friendly and hospitable people.



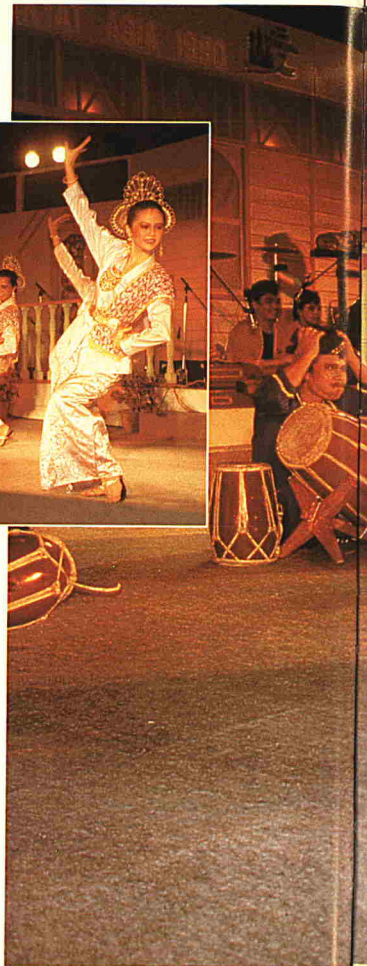




Al-Azim mosque - the state mosque.







*Traditional Malay drums.*



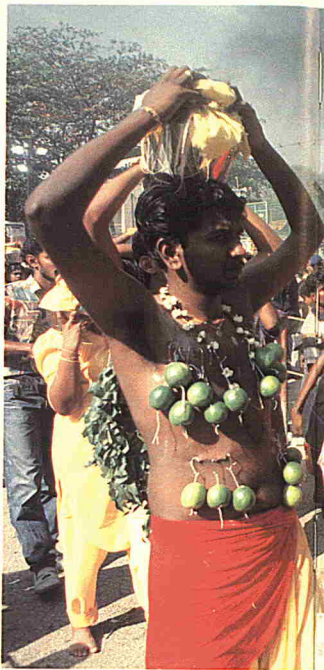


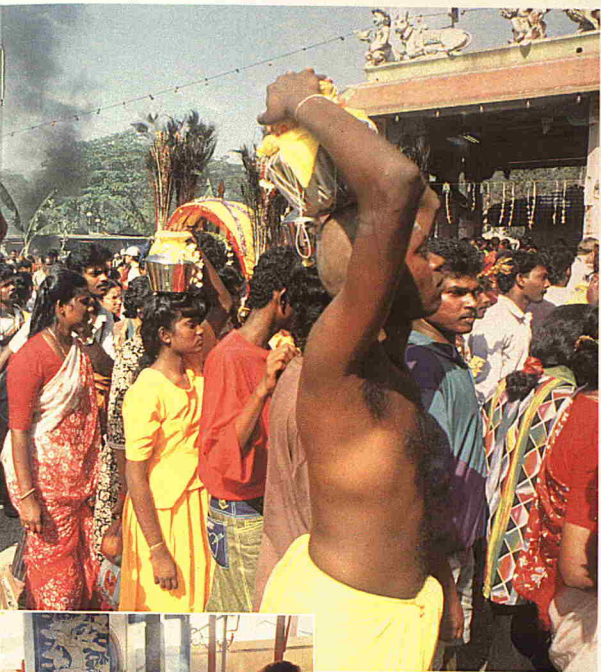
A Baba Nyonya performance.

Each of these races hold steadfastly to its respective traditions and heritage which is infused in the different areas including food, religious customs and festivals, cultures, dances, architecture, dressing, jewelry and handicraft.

Today, Melaka has a lot to offer its tourists in terms of its rich, varied cultures, ethnic customs, historical sites, and religious festivals and traditional celebrations within the city itself and in the outlying districts of Alor Gajah and Jasin.

The Malay social organisation in Melaka is divided between the practice of the Adat Temenggong, which is patrilineal and more pervasive in several districts, and the Adat Perpatih, which is matrilineal.





Hindu devotees celebrating Thaipusam.











*Intricately sewn beaded slippers.*



*Tiny silk shoes used in the ancient Chinese custom of foot-binding.*



Malay women wear loose, long-sleeved tunics called *baju kurung* worn over a *sarong* or a tight fitting *kebaya*. Malay men wear collarless shirts called *baju Melayu* worn over loose trousers with colourful cloth known as *kain sampung* tied around their waist. For weddings and religious feasts or special occasions, the *kain songket* replaces the *kain sampung*. Other indigenous traditions and characteristics are portrayed in the songs such as *Dondang Sayang Melayu* and the arts of self-defense such as *silat* (Malay).

The Chinese had flocked to Melaka since the early days of mass migration from the southern provinces of China. The various clans of Hokkien, Cantonese, Hakka, Teochew and Hainanese Chinese still adhere to their individual customs, traditions, food, languages and cultural characteristics with each clan usually specialising in its particular trade.







Ladies from a noble Malay family.



The Yeo Wee Gark family in typical Baba Nyonya attire.

Most Indians in Melaka are Tamils from South India who had, in the early days mostly inhabited the rubber plantations. However, it is not unusual to see them in various areas of trade including jewelry and fabric shops, whilst some are retail traders, merchants and money lenders.

The local-born Indians, known as Melaka Chitty, are the off-springs of the Hindus who were engaged in agriculture. Their lingua franca is Malay while the religious practice is Hinduism.

Babas and Nyonyas are Melaka's straits-born Chinese or Peranakans (meaning "born here") whose lineage traces back hundreds of years when their descendents arrived and inter-married with the local women. From these mixed marriages evolved a unique culture which retains Chinese customs and Malay traditions.

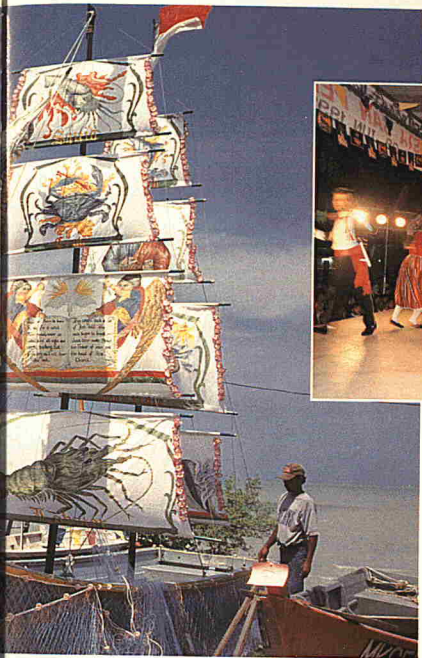
The Babas and Nyonyas introduced unique furniture, porcelain and chinaware, dress style and delicious food to be found only in Melaka. The Nyonya women dress in sarong kebaya with Malay decorative brooches and intricately designed jewelry of silver and gold.





Melaka houses the famed Portuguese settlement of Malaysia, founded in 1930. The residents more frequently refer to this settlement as Padre Sua Chang (Priests' Land) in honour of its founders. The community that lives in this settlement are mostly Eurasians of Portuguese descent and make their living mostly as fishermen. The Portuguese are very religious Catholics and speak a language called *Cristang* (*Cristao*).





*Festa San Pedro at Portuguese settlement*

The Portuguese presence in Melaka provides an infusion of a traditional lifestyle, language, customs and music which is indeed unique. The most popular dance is the Beranyo and the Frapeirra. Christian festivals are celebrated with great splendor and gaiety including Christmas, San Pedro's Fest and Easter.

Religious places worth visiting include the Christ Church, St. Francis Xavier's Church, St Paul's Church, Sri Poyyatha Vinayagar Moorthi Temple, Kampong Kling Mosque, Cheng Hoon Teng Temple, Kampung Hulu Mosque, St. Peter's Church, Sam Poh Kong Temple and Tanquerah Mosque.

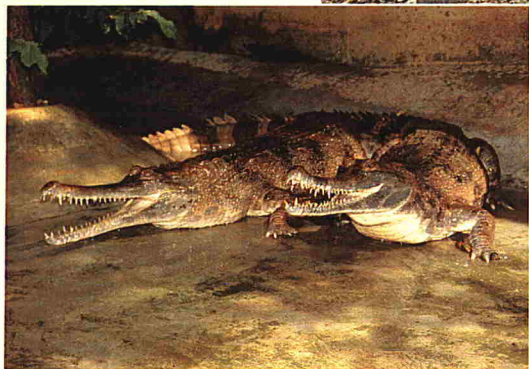




# RECREATION



*M*odern Melaka provides captivating sights such as the Light and Sound Spectacular, the Portuguese Settlement, Portuguese Square, Mini Malaysia/ Mini Asean. Nature lovers will enjoy the Butterfly Farm, Ayer Keroh Recreational Forest, Crocodile Farm, Melaka Zoo, Ayer Keroh Lake, and Peacock Paradise.







Since Melaka is bordered by sea, water sports such as swimming, snorkeling, deep sea diving, fishing, boating, yachting, and wind surfing are perfect past-times. Sports lovers can indulge in tennis, squash and other racket sports at the various clubs and associations that dot Melaka.

Those without a sporting bias, can also find plenty of places to occupy their spare time. Antiquarians will spend many enjoyable hours hunting for historic curios along nooks and crannies of Melaka's streets. Those with a passion for more modern items may indulge in shopping sprees at the selection of malls or browse around Infokraf Melaka or Jonker Street for some priceless souvenirs to take home. Night tours provide the option of relaxing at the Esplanade or browsing through a wide range of handicraft.









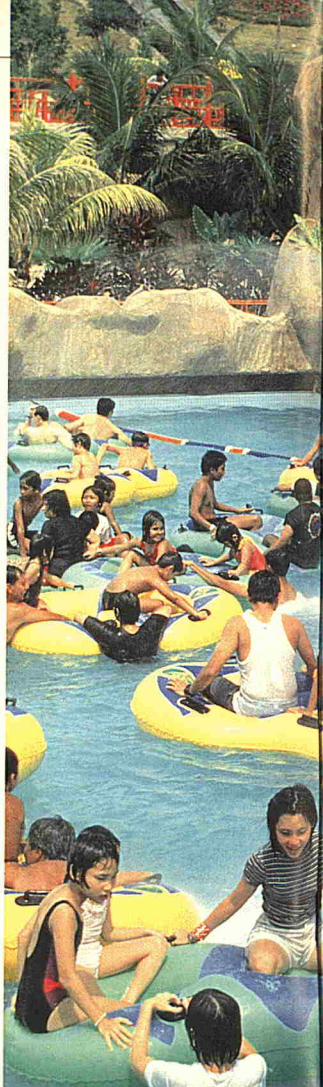
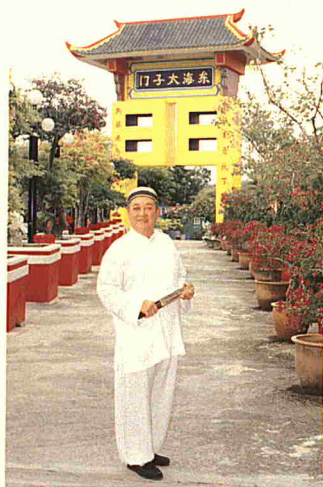
Melaka has a lot to offer for family or group activities. The Ayer Keroh Recreational Forest, offers 68 ha of rain forest with walkways, camping sites and picnic spots. Also located in Ayer Keroh is the Butterfly Park, Crocodile Farm, Fish World, Auyin Hill Resort (the Feng Shui Garden), Ayer Keroh Lake and Taman Mini Malaysia/Asean, which features model houses representing the various styles of architecture found in Malaysia's thirteen states, along with cultural and entertainment programmes. Also located nearby are the Melaka Zoo.

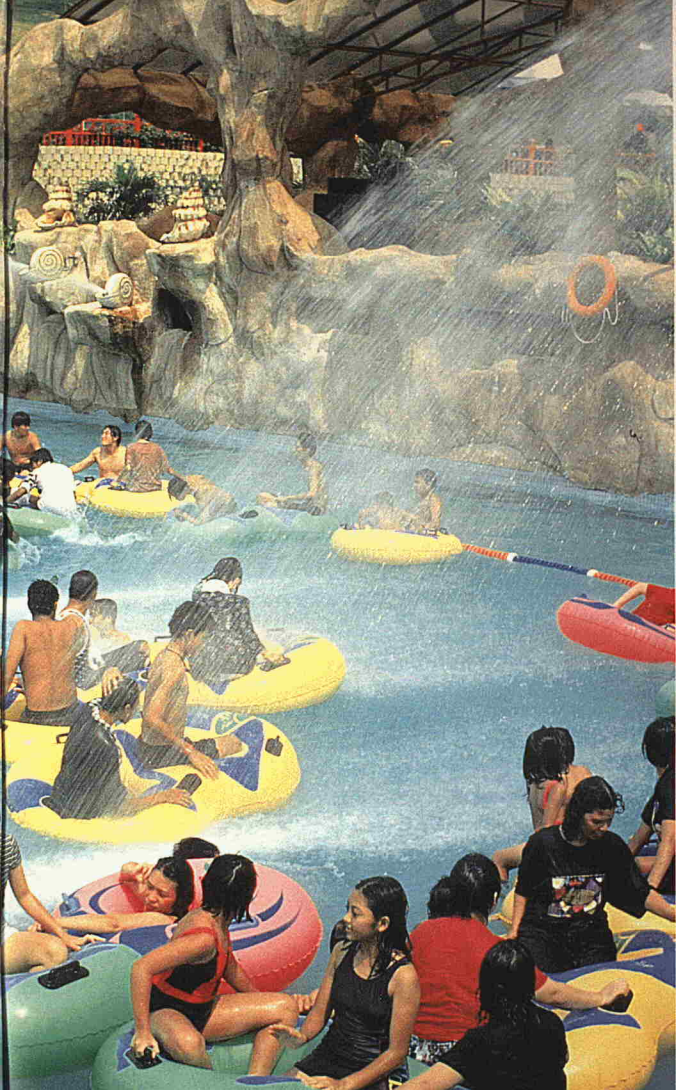




The A Famosa Water World is a must stop for the family. This massive amusement park is based purely on all sorts of water rides and fun activities. For an invigorating treat of nature there is the Gadek hot springs located along the route to Tampin.

If bargain hunting is your game, select special tours into villages, wet markets and peddlers havens. Nature lovers may opt for plantation tours and visit rubber and oil palm estates and witness latex processing and harvesting of palm fruits.









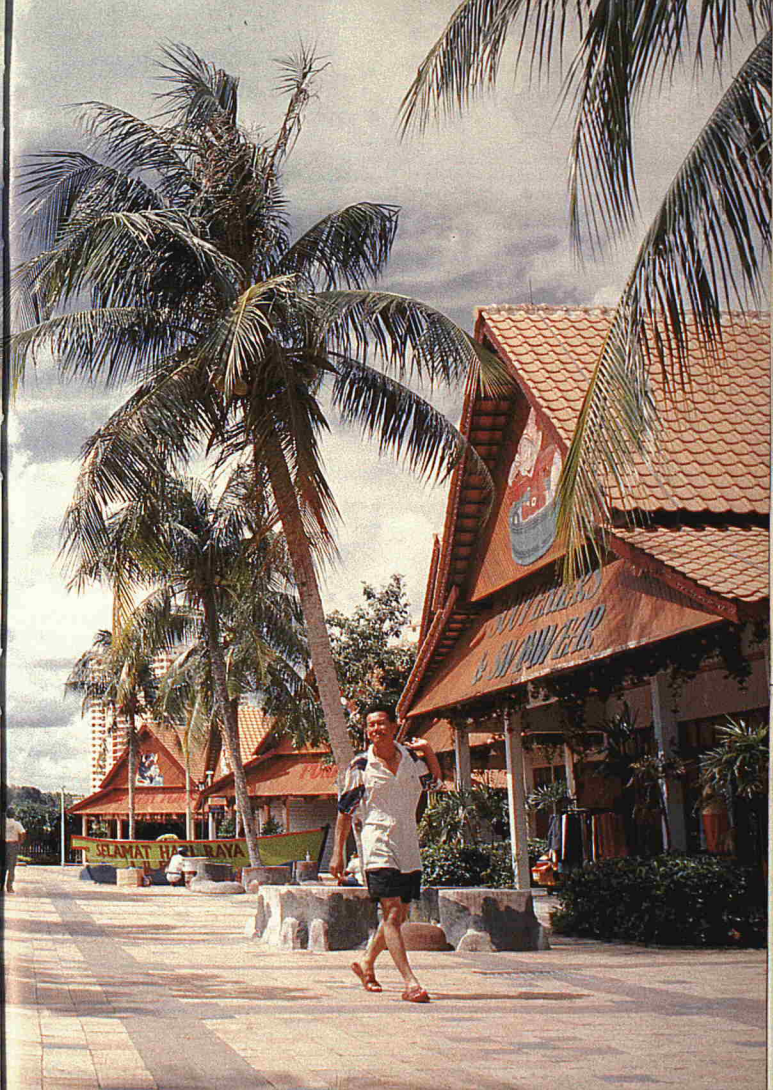


For the adventurers, you may combine the plantation tour with a visit to an aborigine settlement (Temuan tribe) and see how these "orang asli" use blow-pipes to hunt small game.

Tours may also be arranged to any one of the numerous islands off Melaka's shores namely Pulau Besar, Pulau Jawa, Pulau Upeh, Pulau Undan and Pulau Hanyut. Depending on your cup of tea, these islands cater for a wide range of interests and past-times including fishing, golfing, turtle watching or you may simply want to go for a pleasurable boat ride to these islands of mystique tales and legends.

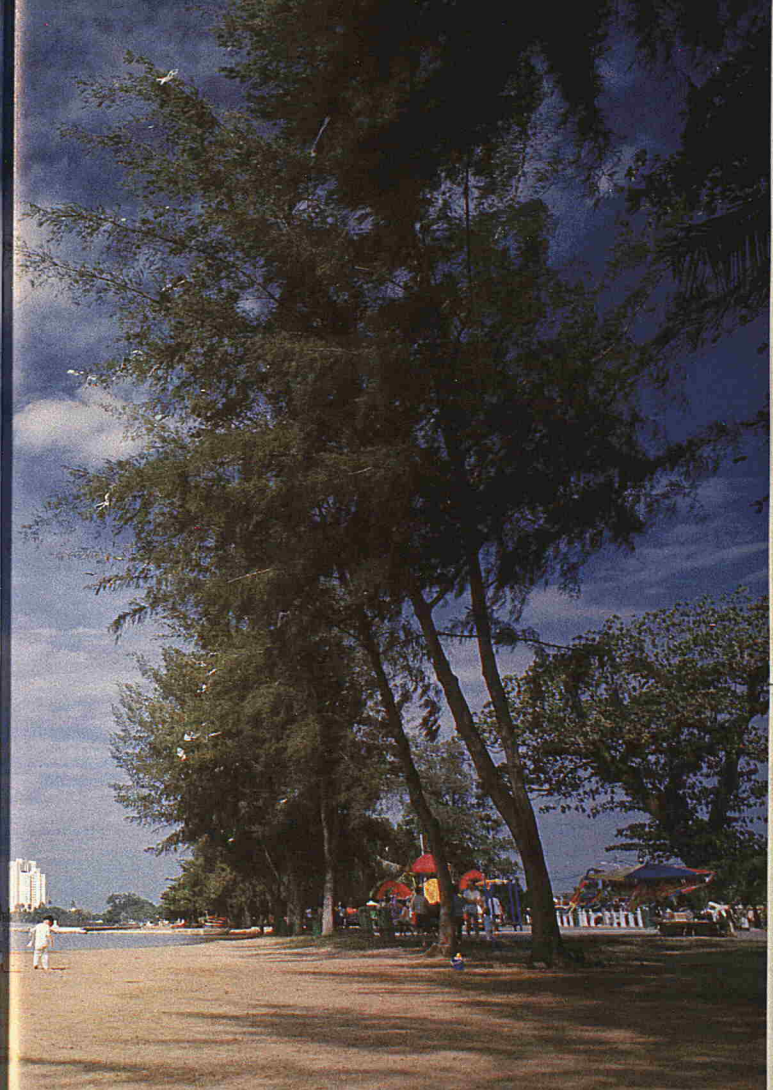












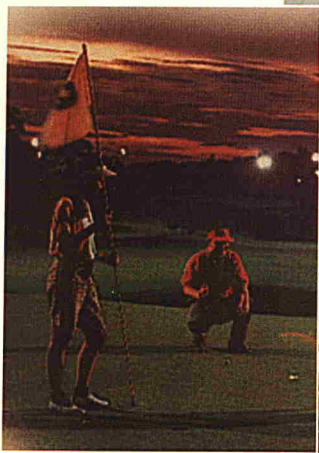




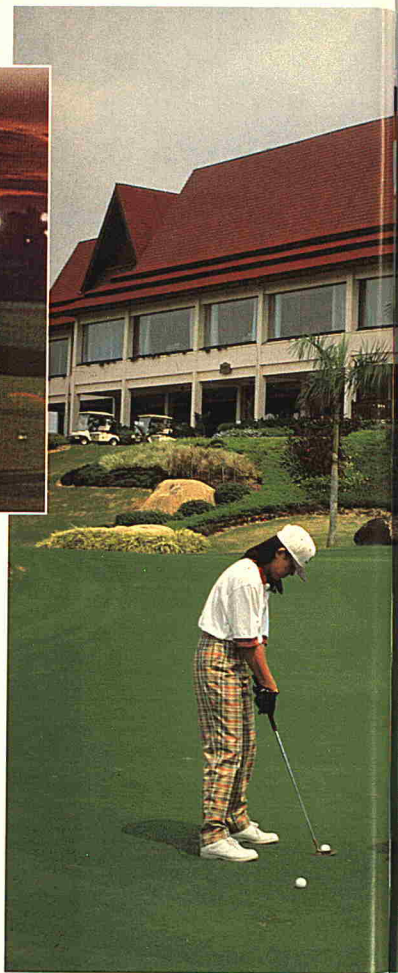
# SPORTS

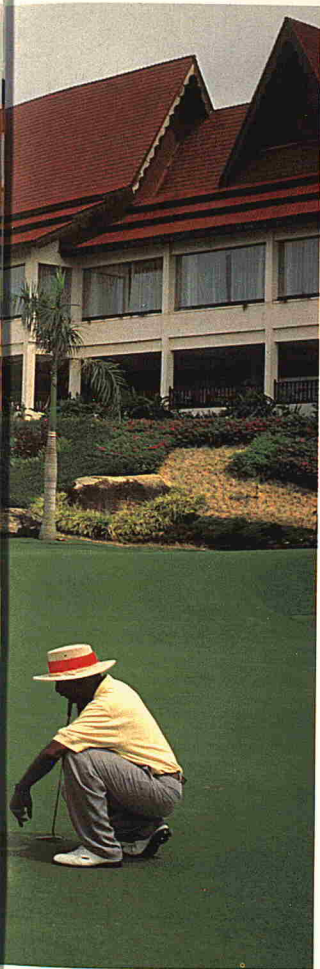


Whether it is just to unwind, or to strike a serious business deals, golfers can take their pick from the choice of various challenging golf courses in Melaka.



Night golfing





Where avid golfers are concerned, Melaka is a veritable golfing paradise. Golfers may choose to tee-off at any one of numerous golf courses around the state. Among the clubs that lure local and visiting international golfers, are the Ayer Keroh Country Club, A Famosa Golf Resort Bhd, Golden Valley Golf & Country Club, Tiara Melaka Golf & Country Club, Jasin Golf Club, Pandanusa Golf Club and Orna Resort Golf and Country Club.

If golfing on a serene island piques your interest, take a boat or ferry trip to the 18-hole par 72 Pandanusa Golf Club in Pulau Besar. If daylight hours are insufficient and you just cannot get enough, head for the A'Famosa Golf Resort greens where the fairways are illuminated at night with floodlights. This alluring 36-hole golf course was designed by Australian architect Ross Watson and incorporates a combination of narrow and undulating fairways.

Peace and quiet is what is offered at the reclusive retreat of the Tiara Melaka Golf and Country Club, a 27-hole golf course which offers a host of facilities including a swimming pool, squash and tennis courts and a gymnasium.

The Ayer Keroh Country Club provides a good challenge with the 18-hole par 72 greens with heights ranging from 100 to 160 feet above sea level, sharp gradients, water hazards and hills galore.



---

The Golden Valley Golf and Country Club offers a sprawling game over 36 holes comprising both a lake course and mountain course. Open seven days a week, this enormous club also boasts a host of other facilities including a Japanese Hot Spa, motel, fishing pond and fruit orchard.

The Jasin Golf Club is one of the oldest clubs in the country and features a nine-hole par 34 greens turfed with cow grass while the Bukit Terendak Golf Club course features a short par 33 nine-hole layout that has a stream cutting across almost every fairway.

The Orna Golf and Country Club offers a golfing experience in the luxury of nature's tranquil and serene surroundings. The 27-hole fairway sprawls over 432 acres of undulating land, providing a challenging game for the skilled golfer.

Since Melaka is bordered by the sea, water sports such as swimming, snorkeling, deep-sea diving, fishing, boating, yachting, and wind surfing are perfect past-times. Landlubbers can indulge in tennis, squash and other racket sports at the various clubs and associations that dot Melaka.

Traditional sports such as *main gasing*, *congkak*, and *silat* can be arranged by tour operators for the entertainment of visitors.

---











Mahkota Parade shopping complex.

# SHOPPING

The state government is keenly aware of the presence of a sizeable commerce and service sector in the state. The state has devised policies and programmes to enhance financial, wholesale, retail and even informal service sectors in the state.

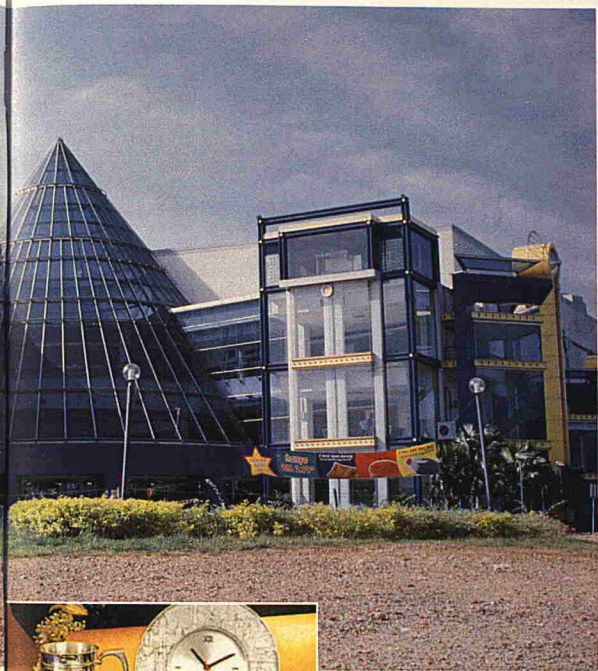




Silversmith at work.



To this end, many shopping complexes, pedestrian malls and duty free zoning centres have been built. Melaka as a shoppers paradise features upmarket department stores and supermarkets like Jusco, Fajar Department Store, and The Store. Hour after hour of indoor shopping pleasure in the cool air-conditioned comfort of the Kotamas Shopping Complex, Madam King's Departmental Store, Mahkota Parade, Plaza Hang Tuah and Plaza Soon Seng provide the avid shopper with a hodgepodge of both contemporary and collectible items.



Kotamas shopping complex.



What makes Melaka a shopping centre is the fact that several items, goods and merchandise are now "duty-free". For the air-travellers, arriving at the Batu Berendam Airport, a list of all duty-free items can be easily obtained.

Mini markets and mom-and-pop stores are excellent alternatives for buying fresh foods and canned goods. For a truly Malaysian ambience, visit the pasar malam or night markets and the numerous roadside stalls selling fresh fruits and garden produce. From antiques to boutiques, restaurants and shopping centres to mega-malls, Melaka offers an enjoyable shopping experience for tourists, local visitors and Melaka residents. Although one may choose to shop in air-conditioned shopping complexes and malls, Melaka's real shopping flavour is in the bustling street markets and roadside stalls.

Night market



Handicrafts stalls in  
Bandar Hilir.



Melaka is a paradise for antique lovers, souvenir hunters and treasure enthusiasts. Along Jalan Hang Jebat (Jonker Street), Melaka's past can still be found and purchased at a reasonable price. Numerous antique shops offering the finest antiques from Melaka's rich past cater to souvenir hunters as well as serious collectors of historical artifacts and paraphernalia.

As Melaka has a long-standing reputation as an antique hunter's paradise, Jalan Hang Jebat is appropriately dubbed "the Antique's Street". Along this narrow and often congested thoroughfare, is a wide range of antiques, curios and memorabilia. The range available truly boggles the mind and on this quaint street, and you will find relics of yesteryears, brass bedsteads, porcelain artifacts and other delightful and genuine articles.





Exquisite antique items can be found in shops along Jalan Hang Jebat.



In between these intriguing items are exquisite porcelain and ceramic pieces, sculptured glassware and period furniture. Apart from antiques and rare jewelry, bargain hunters will also have a field day picking out fabrics and clothing, and admiring exquisite pieces of pewter and silverware. Collectors will also find collectible pieces of brassware, screw pine, rattan and bamboo ware, as well as lacquer ware.

You'll find rare Chinese porcelain from the Sung, Ming or Ching dynasties, as well as 17th century Dutch and 18th century Japanese porcelain. Also to be found are Indian brassware, Chinese brass irons and intricately carved Chinese Rosewood furniture inlaid with mother-of-pearl. A treasure trove of ancient artifacts like pottery and ceramics attest to the numerous shipwrecks that litter the seabed of the Straits of Malacca.

From the Dutch heritage are beautifully carved cupboards and sideboards, and well-known hanging kerosene lamps and chandeliers. From the Victorian era are majestic brass beds and household utensils which were once prized possessions of wealthy owners. Numismatics will delight in gold, silver and copper coins dating back several centuries. Filigree and repousse goldware and silverware which fuse Malay, Chinese and Indian jewelry craftsmanship are especially beautiful. Silver is fashioned into intricate floral and foliage motifs and incorporated into bolster and pillow ends and belt buckles.

Bangles, anklets, decorative hair pins, earrings, necklaces and brooches, some mounted with colourful gemstones, attest to the prestigious lifestyle and social distinction of Malay, Chinese, Indian, Nyonya and Chitty ladies.

Many visitors may also want to take home the ever popular Malaysian signature fabrics and clothing of batik and songket which are fashioned into clothes, handkerchiefs, scarfs, neckties, sarongs, tablecloth and even lamp shades. Another Malaysian trade mark is pewter and silverware crafted in an endless list of items such as women's jewelry, men's cuff-links and tie-pins as well as coffee and tea sets, sugar and milk holders and trays, coffee cups, saucers, mugs, fruit bowls, cake servers, teaspoons and ash trays.



'Kerosang' - a three-piece brooch used to fasten the kebaya.

From priceless ancient weaponry to silverware, brassware, porcelain, old gramophones and even colourful puppetry, Melaka's rich historical heritage take pride of place in the showcases of antique dealers, providing hours of browsing pleasure for lovers of nostalgia.











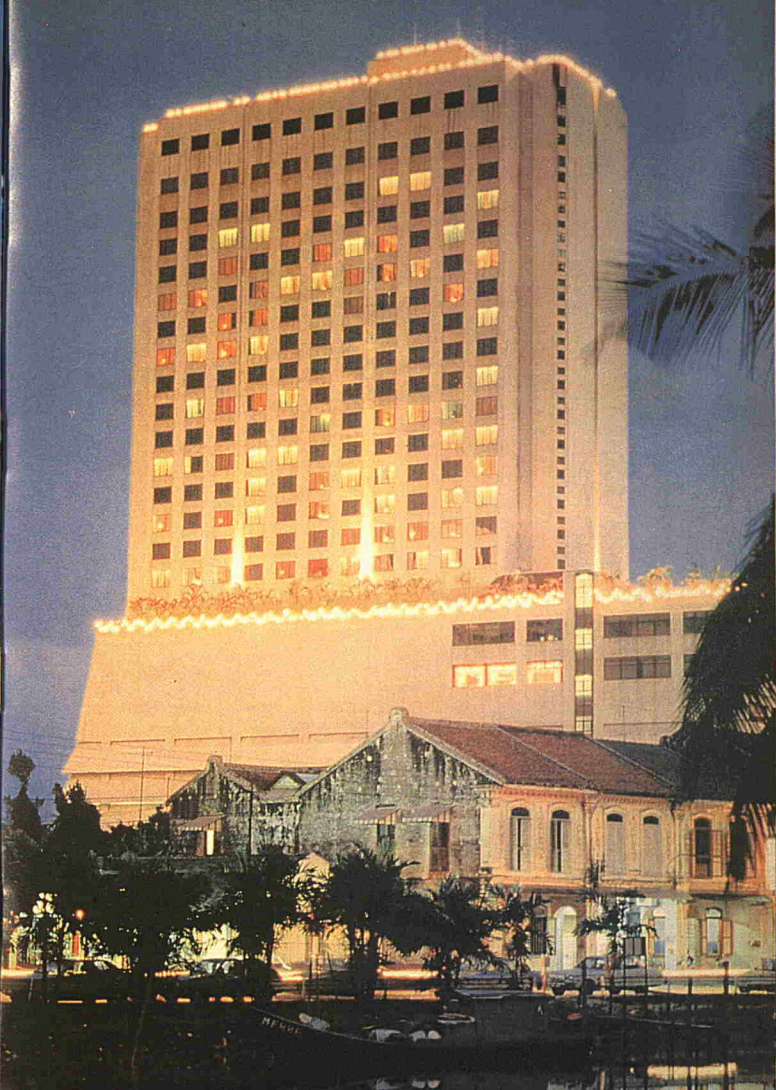
# CONVENTIONS

*M*elaka offers various facilities for conferences, conventions, seminars, symposiums and exhibitions. Many of these facilities are provided within several new international class chain hotels and resorts. The combination of luxurious hotels, MICE facilities, great recreational amenities and Melakan hospitality, history and culture make Melaka an ideal MICE destination as well as a wholesome experience.



CENTURY  
MAHKOTA HOTEL  
MELAKA











With the increasing traffic and never-ending stream of local and foreign visitors that throng the streets of Melaka, the state has undertaken measures to meet and anticipate the needs for increasing number of hotel rooms.

Melaka has a good range of city and resort hotels, from deluxe hotels that are luxuriously appointed for the tourists or business visitor complete with shopping arcades, swimming pools, restaurants and discotheques, to moderately priced and no-frills type accommodation.

Melaka's wide range of hotels and accommodation make excellent destinations for both indoor and outdoor MICE activities. Whether in a city hotel, a secluded golf resort or on an island, various infrastructure already in place allows for very successful indoor and outdoor conferences, conventions or training workshops.



Five-star hotels complete with amenities to pamper are found in the city's vicinity, by the beaches, on nearby islands and in the heart of town/city. Several resorts also offer chalet type accommodation that is ultimately quaint and charming while apartment style or all-suite accommodation makes for an ideal convention venue.

You'll find resorts and old villas by the sea and on the islands, golf resorts, city hotels, boutique hotels and budget lodgings. For those who really want to get immersed in the vitality of a Melakan lifestyle, homestay arrangements may also be arranged.











The wide range of accommodation available makes it extremely easy for the creative MICE planner to find accommodation and facilities that best suit both needs and budget.

And if the classroom need to be taken outdoors, Melaka's recreation facilities of golf courses, forests, plantations, water theme parks, natural parks, etc. make for a greatly unique learning experience in itself. For the adventurous MICE planner, cabins, huts and camping sites and facilities are available in selected areas in the depth of a forest or by a serene lake.

The streets of Melaka are an educational experience in itself, unfurling its story of past glory and history on every street turn and every wall façade. For a treasure hunt along the streets of Melaka or simply as the entertainment break after a day of being cooped indoors, Melaka town will surely excite and charm.

Food is also a big part of this business sector and to this event, the hotels cater to all sorts of cuisines, both international and local. Whether the preference is Chinese, Western, Malay, Japanese, Nyonya or all of them, arrangements may be made to accommodate every whims.

Melaka is a gourmet paradise of a potpourri of cuisines made up from the rich and colourful diversity of Peranakan, Malay, Chinese, Indian and Portuguese-Eurasian cooking that delightfully portrays the multiracial origins of the Melakan people.

Besides offering some perfectly delectable local and Western food, two unique local specialities not to be missed are the sampling of Portuguese and Nyonya cuisines.

Melaka's gastronomical haven is provided through colourful restaurants, street stalls and coffee shops. Open air dining is a favourite among visitors and locals alike. With a sumptuous smorgasbord of culinary delights, from push-cart meals on wheels to casual dining out at hawker centres, Melaka offers a gastronomical affair that never ends.



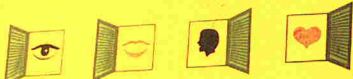






# Discovery Cafe

Connecting People around the world



Selamat Datang

Welcome

欢迎

ようこそ

WELKOM

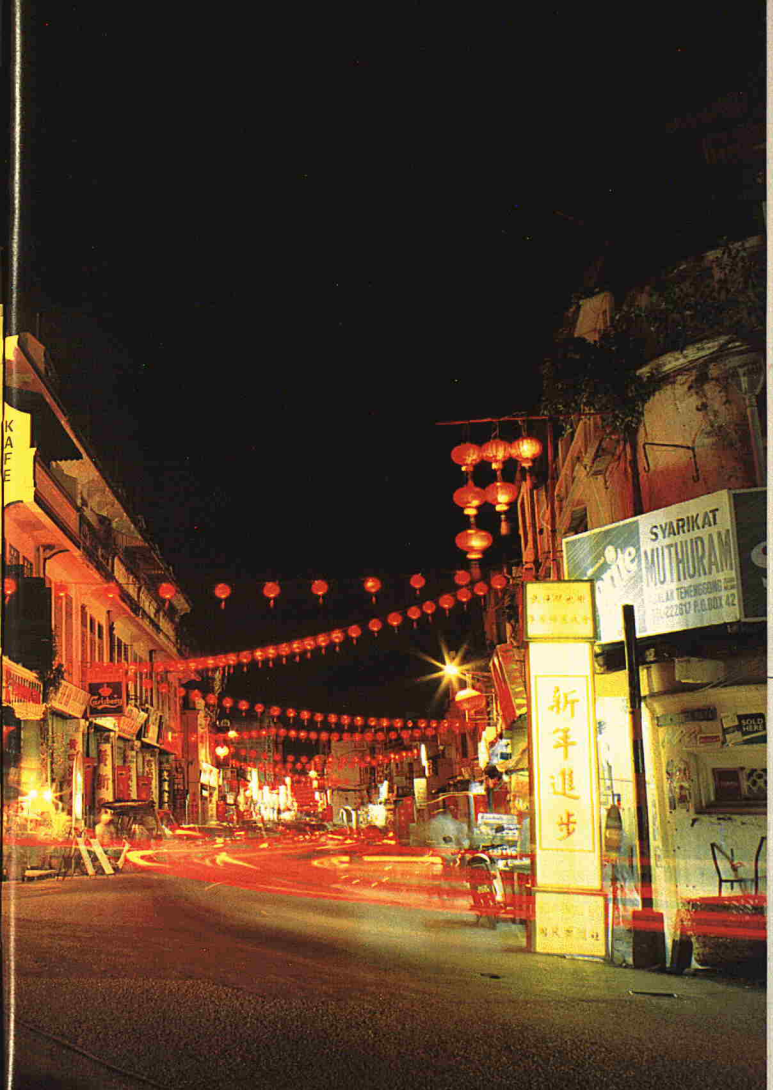
Willkommen

OPENING PROMOTION  
10% OFF ALL ITEMS  
EXCEPT BEVERAGES & BAKERY  
VALID UNTIL 31/01/2010



SELAMAT  
TAHUN BARU CINA

千禧金兆 幸福萬年



K  
A  
E

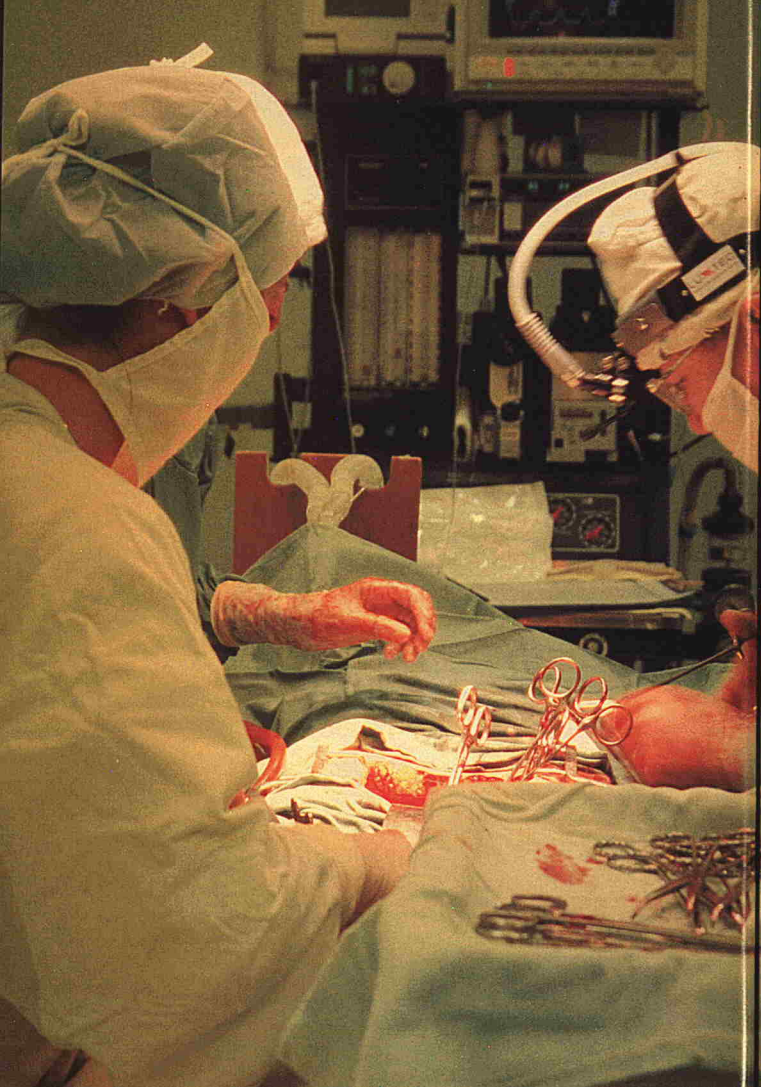
大年三十  
正月初一


新年進步

新加坡 42

SYARIKAT  
MUTHURAM  
AN TENENGGANG  
TEL: 222517 P.O. BOX 42

SOLD HERE





# HEALTH TOURISM

*M*elaka offers medical services comparable

to those in other developed countries. Apart from the government run general hospital, there are several private medical specialists centres; namely the Straits Hospital, Mahkota Hospital, Pantai Specialist Hospital and Southern Hospital. For the treatment of common ailments and diseases, one can turn to the hundreds of clinics run by general practitioners as well as district hospitals and clinics.

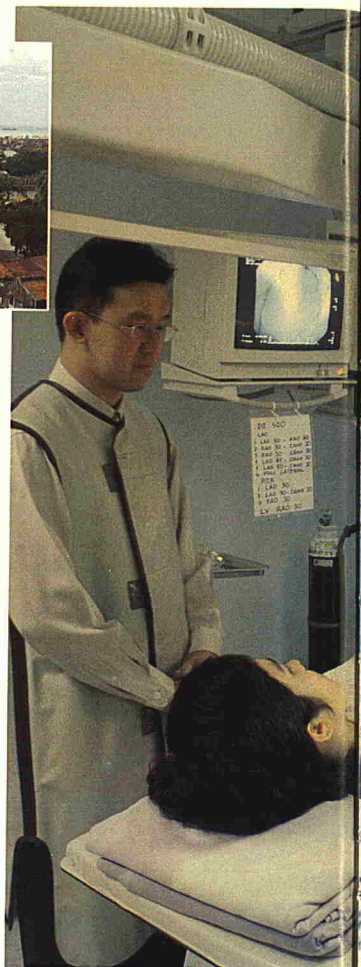




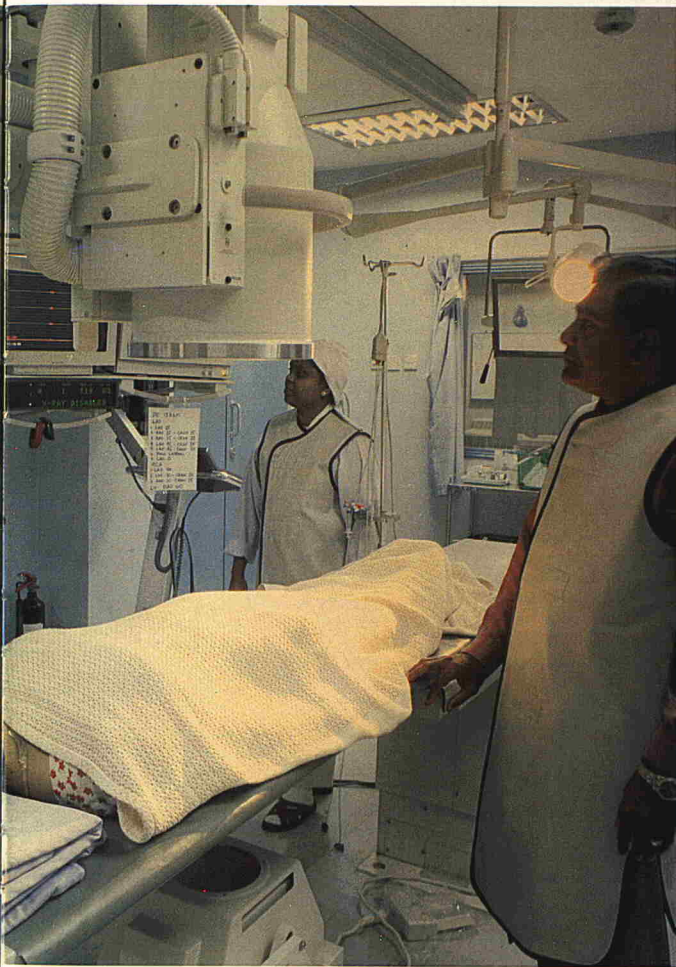
Southern Hospital

The Southern Hospital Sdn Bhd has a majority shareholding by the state Government of Melaka with United Medicorp Singapore, Doctors and Apex Pharmacy. The hospital is a healthcare provider for many corporate companies, hotels, banks, multi-national factories, and Fomema. The hospital is ideally situated in the heart of Melaka, nestled along the banks of the Melaka river, nearby to many hotels.

The hospital offers specialisations in general surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, urology, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, oral and dental surgery, internal medicine, ENT, ophthalmology, diagnostic radiology, pathology, anaesthesiology and several others.



ENT - 500  
1. LAG 50 - AND 50  
2. RAO 50 - LAG 50  
3. RAO 50 - LAG 50  
4. LAG 50 - LAG 50  
5. LAG 50 - LAG 50  
6. LAG 50 - LAG 50  
7. LAG 50 - LAG 50  
8. LAG 50 - LAG 50  
9. LAG 50 - LAG 50  
10. LAG 50 - LAG 50





*The new wing of Melaka General Hospital.*

Among the facilities and services available are radiology, clinical laboratory services, physiotherapy, pharmacy, executive health screening, a 24-hour accident & emergency department. There are also major and minor operation theatres, anaesthetic reception and recovery bay, intensive care unit, cardiac care unit, paediatric ICU, neonatal ICU, delivery suite and obstetrics operation theatre, a nursery and a 24-hour polyclinic.

Regular seminars, CME programmes and forums keep the doctors and general practitioners informed of the latest in medical practice.









---

The Hospital Pantai Ayer Keroh is a 141-bedded, full service facility that is supported by 38 consultants from various fields of specialization. Services and facilities include a 24-hour accident and emergency centre, intensive care unit, coronary care unit, labour and delivery facilities, health screening, medical laboratory, pharmacy, physiotherapy, imaging services, critical care, non-invasive cardiac laboratory and cardiac catheterisation laboratory.

Areas of specialities include cardiology, gastroenterology, renal dialysis, respiratory diseases, neurology, internal medicine, endoscopic services, paediatrics, urology, obstetrics and gynaecology. Surgery and specialist services include general, ear-nose-throat (ENT), hepato-biliary, laparoscopic, ophthalmology, orthopedic, vascular, cardiothoracic and neuro-surgeries.

The Straits Hospital is a 54-bedded hospital offering a comprehensive range of diagnostic and therapeutic services for both in and outpatients. Day care treatment is also provided.

The Straits Hospital provides treatment in the medical specialities of general medicine and cardiology, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, ENT surgery, head and neck surgery, urology, obstetrics and gynaecology, pediatrics and anesthesiology.

The hospital provides facilities in the areas of clinical and laboratory investigation, radiology and imaging services, endoscopy, gastroscopy and colonoscopy, mamography services, lithotripsy services, echocardiography and treadmill stress test, ancillary services for CT scans and haemodialysis services. Amenities provided include 24-hour ambulance service, cafeteria, convenience shop, ample parking spaces and corporate rates for corporate clients.

At the Mahkota Medical Centre, apart from specialist and diagnostic services, regular packages are offered for health screening as well as dentistry services.

A few minutes ferry ride from the main land of Melaka is a beautiful island known as Upeh. Originally developed as a holiday resort, plans are underway for this island to be converted into a healing centre that is unique. This Upeh Island healing centre is a project aimed at implementing the vision of a team of Holistic Medical doctors, Natural healthcare practitioners, researchers, scientists, and teachers. The objective is to develop an integrated healthcare centre to bring together the best of medical and natural healing.







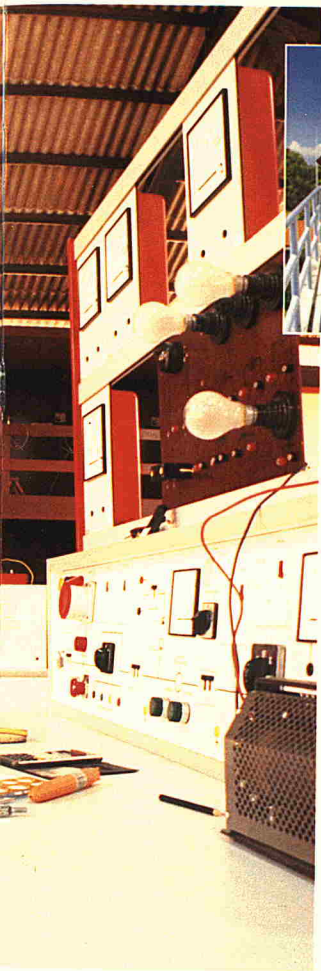
# EDUCATION



*M*elaka is one of Malaysia's oldest education centres, besides Penang. Despite its small size, Melaka has ample room for seats of learning. The education industry is in the spotlight in line with the efforts of the state government to turn Melaka into a centre for education.







Already, several schools and colleges adorn the Melakan landscape. The school going children of foreign investors can select from a number of government and private educational institutions in Melaka. Melaka also has several high schools, technical colleges and religious schools of varying sizes and capacities. Already, Melaka has produced school leavers who have become national and international figures.

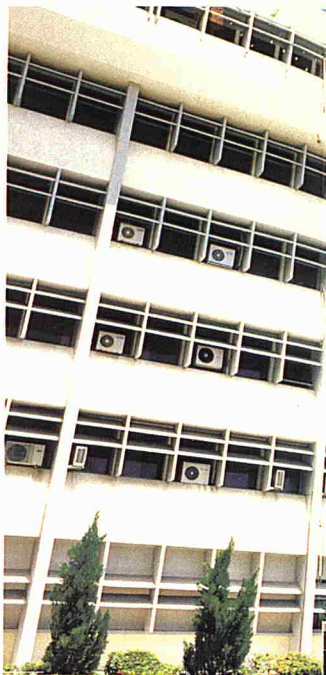
The Melaka International School is a fully licensed school approved by the Ministry of Education catering for primary and secondary students who require an international education. The school follows the British curriculum and is affiliated to Cambridge University in the UK. Currently, there are 22 classrooms, four administration rooms, a canteen, football field, hall and car park. Local students also follow the Malaysian KBSR (new Primary School Curriculum) and KBSM (new Secondary School Curriculum) curricula and selecting from either the arts or Science streams.

Where tertiary education is concerned, Melaka offers a wide choice of public and private institutions. The University of Malaya branch campus and the MARA University of Technology campus represent state-funded institutions. A branch campus of Malaysia's premier skills training institution, The MARA University of Technology has been operating since 1984 at its grounds in Lendu. The diverse disciplines embraced by these students include Public Administration, Business Studies, Bank Management, Accountancy and Graphic Design.

The University of Malaya Melaka branch campus of higher learning is located in the growth corridor of Bertam. It offers tourism courses, appropriate with Melaka's high profile role as a historic city.

Earmarked for educational development is the growth corridor of Selandar and Alor Gajah. In Bukit Beruang, Multimedia University stands proud as the first of its kind in Malaysia with Telekom running a training centre adjacent to it.

Undergraduates who prefer private colleges may enroll at Stamford College in Taman Kota Laksamana. The College offers 12 lecture rooms, a computer laboratory, a library and demonstration centre for hospitality management. The college is able to cater for up to 5,000 students.









The Melaka State Government established Kolej Yayasan Melaka (KYM) in 1997 as an institution of higher learning. It was established through Kolej Yayasan Melaka Sdn Bhd (formerly known as Yaspem Sdn Bhd), a subsidiary of Yayasan Melaka.

Strategically located on the top of a hill, the college has various recreation facilities for staff and students and amenities that include easy access to commercial areas, housing estates, banks, post offices, etc. Transportation is convenient as there are many public conveyances.

KYM's extensive facilities include 85 seminar rooms that accommodate about 4,000 students at a time, five computer labs with 100 computers available for computer classes as well as for student use, a library with references in various fields and other reference materials, three lecture rooms that accommodate 150 – 300 students each, students union halls, a swimming pool, tennis, badminton and takraw courts, four buses for student transport and a hostel apartment for outstation students.

KYM currently has a student enrollment of 3,800 and caters to students pursuing diplomas and bachelor courses in various fields of study. In the near future, enrollment is expected to touch 6,000 students.

Kolej Islam Melaka (KIM) is a public institution of higher learning that is wholly owned by the State Government of Melaka.

The college combines the development of spiritual, academic and vocational skills. All the programmes conducted by KIM have been endorsed by the Ministry of Public Services and for the school of Nursing, endorsement has been received by the Nursing Association of Malaysia as well as the Ministry of Health, Malaysia.

KIM has four campus branches located all over Melaka and also works with local universities, among them, University Tun Abdul Razak (UNITAR) and overseas universities such as the University of St. Martin, Lancaster, UK, University of Exeter, UK and University of Napier, UK.

The college is fully equipped with a hall and lecture centre, computer lab, library, cafeteria, sports and recreation facilities, hotel school facilities, hostel and accommodation, student health facilities, student insurance scheme and financial assistance for scholarships and loans.

The college has different schools for programmes which include Islamic Studies, Business Studies, , Hotel and Hospitality Studies and Nursing.

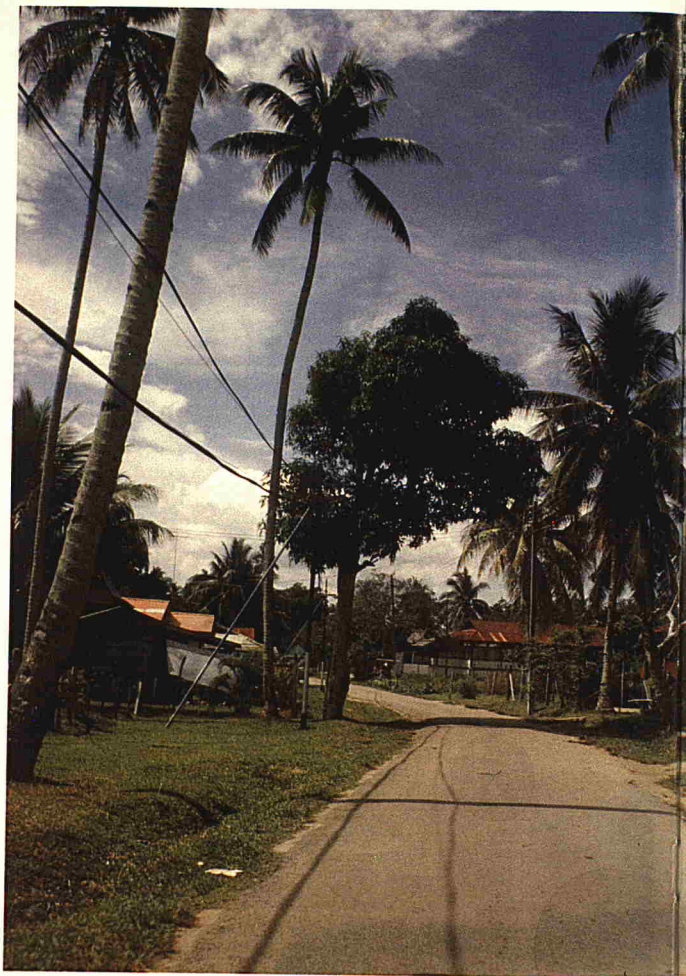


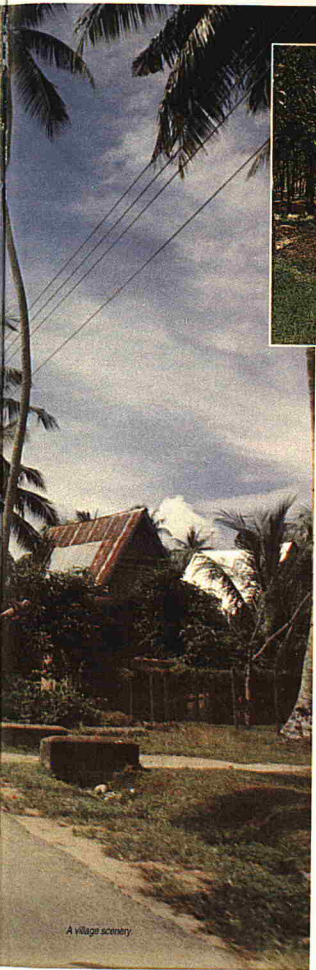
# AGRO-TOURISM



*T*illing the earth has long been a respected profession for Melakans and agribusiness plays an important role in the state's economy. The agricultural sector for tourism shows excellent potential for rapid expansion.







A village scenery.



Rubber plantation.

Agro-tourism in Melaka encompasses visits to rubber estates and palm oil plantations. Tourists are given a feel of rubber seeds and witness how rubber trees are planted and tapped and learn about the process of making rubber sheets from latex.

Tourists are also given a little insight into the history of rubber in Malaysia when the British first planted rubber seedlings in Malaysia. *Hevea brasiliensis* or natural rubber seedlings were brought from Brazil and planted on Malaysian soil. The first seedlings were planted on an experimental basis and were found to take exceptionally well to Malaysian climate and soil. Rubber plantations then flourished, propelling Malaysia to a position of being the leading producer of natural rubber in the world at one time.



Exotic local fruits.

At the oil palm estates, visitors are shown the different species of oil palm and are educated on the age of the tree, its species and the relation to the quality of palm oil that will be obtained from these trees. An interesting briefing educates on how the fruit is harvested, sorted out and processed. Tourists are also introduced to the various uses of palm oil and its beneficial impact on health.

Melaka also boasts various fruit plantations and a visit to a fruit plantation is always an enjoyable one. Visitors are especially thrilled by the sight of an abundance of fruit growing on trees and find great pleasure in having a young coconut picked fresh from the tree to be relished or discover the growth development of cocoa seedlings and the various stages of the fruit before harvesting. Visitors will also have the opportunity to view languid, swaying rice fields, a mass of green dotted with placid water buffaloes and cows.





Turtle breeding ground.



Scenery of a padi field





A must for nature lovers is the Ayer Keroh Recreational Forest which is spread over 500 acres of greenery. This forest offers visitors the opportunity to explore an untouched tropical forest rich in countless species of flora and fauna. The trees are labelled with their original and scientific names. This is an ideal place for jungle trekking, hiking, jogging and cycling.

To support the activities of agro tourism, a set of attractions relying on outdoor recreational facilities is being planned for Ayer Keroh and the surrounding areas. In addition, along the coastal areas and islands off Melaka, accommodation and beautification programmes are being constructed. These encompass scenic spots at Tanjung Bidara, Ayer Keroh, Pulau Upeh and Tanjung Tuan.



## **Acknowledgements**

*The State Government of Melaka wishes  
to express gratitude to*

**YAB Datuk Seri Utama Dr Mahathir Mohamad**  
*The Prime Minister of Malaysia*

**Prof Dato' Dr Mohd Yusoff Hashim**

*and*

*to those who have contributed to  
the publication of this book.*

