

Sarawak Natural Heritage



Peter Anderson

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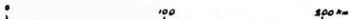
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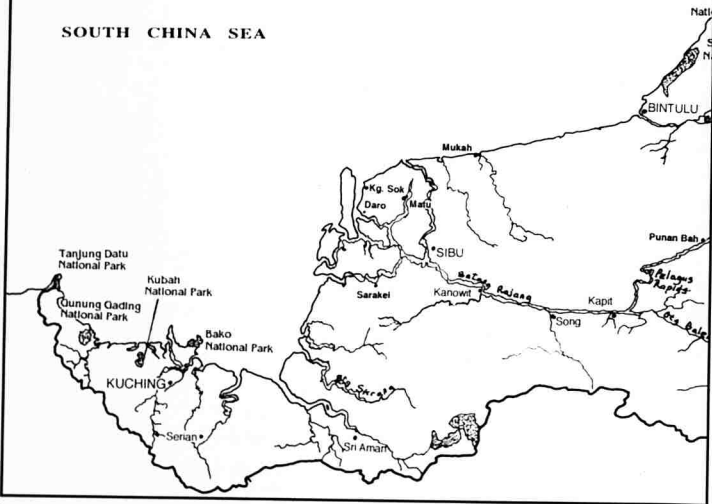
Front Cover: Melanau performing a welcoming dance for visitors at Kampong Sok.

Title Page: Sisterly love.

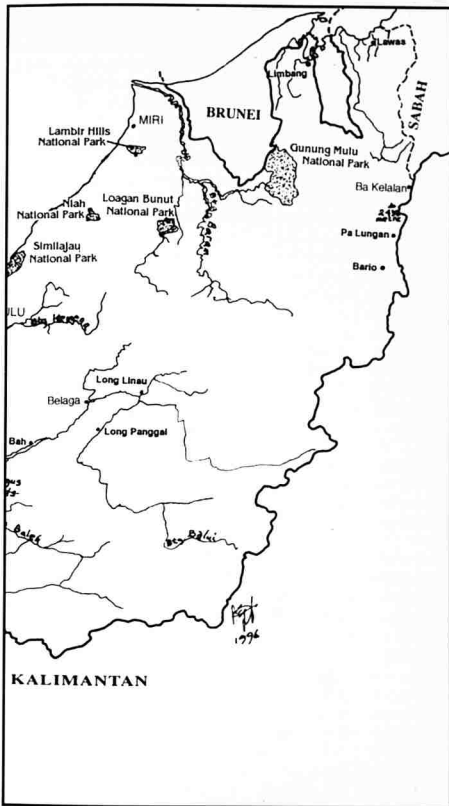
Sarawak



SOUTH CHINA SEA



Sarawak - Geography



Sarawak is situated in the north-west of Borneo, between latitudes 0° and 5° North and longitudes 109° and 115° East and borders Brunei, Sabah and Kalimantan, Indonesia. It is the largest state of Malaysia covering an area of 124,450 square kilometres (48,342 square miles) with a coastline 720 kilometres in length. Its highest point is Gunung Murud, 2,438 metres, and has the longest river in Malaysia, Batang Rajang, which stretches over 640 kilometres. Sarawak, with an average rainfall of over 200 inches per year, is an expansive network of rivers, rainforests, mangroves, swamp forests, mountains and has the world's oldest limestone caves.

Sarawak does not have a large network of roads due to the terrain of the centre of the State. The main road from Kuching to Miri, which is over 800 kilometres, passes through Serian, Sri Aman, Sarakei, Sibul, Bintulu and finally Miri. There are numerous side roads to other towns such as Kanowit, Mukah and Oya. All the routes are serviced by buses. Most of the travelling to the interior is by boat or by plane. Air services to the interior are operated by Malaysia Airlines, who run the Rural Air Services (RAS), to the small interior airports with their 19 seater Twin Otter planes.

There are regular express boat services from Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri up the main rivers and from the smaller towns longboats are available.

Sarawak – an Introduction

The origin of the word Sarawak comes from the Malay, *serawak*, meaning antimony which is a mineral used as a dyestuff and medicine. Sarawak has been populated from the earliest times.

Close to the coast beside the Niah river there is an outcrop of limestone hills filled with caves. Here, in an atmosphere which is perfectly dry and almost airconditioned, archaeologists, prospecting in 1954, found traces of human existence dating back to the Middle Palaeolithic phase, of 40,000 to 50,000 BC. The Upper Palaeolithic, the Mesolithic and the Neolithic phases are also represented, down to the Chalcolithic phase of about 250 BC. The earliest Palaeolithic flaked tools have a likeness to those of the so-called 'Sohan' culture of north-west India.

The skeletons that have been discovered in a burial-ground a little further into the cave are some of the Mesolithic culture, small in size, Melanoid in type, and some of a Neolithic culture, also small but more Mongoloid in type. To what extent the present-day tribes are descended from these early inhabitants has yet to be determined.

It is unknown when the first Malays came to Borneo. According to Malay tradition the original home of the race was the kingdom of Menangkabau in Sumatra; but it is likely that its original homeland was Java. Islam came fairly recently to the Malays.

The Malays of Sarawak claim to have come directly from Menangkabau, in the early days of Malay expansion; but the Malays of Brunei, whose dialect is somewhat different, are said to come from the Malay peninsula, at a slightly later date. The ruling families, both in Sarawak and Brunei, boast of a descent from the Sultans of Johore.

Archaeological discoveries include a statue of an image of Ganesh of the sixth or seventh century, found at Limbang, and one of Buddha in the late Gupta style, dating from about AD. 800, found at Santubong.

By the end of the fifteenth century the coast-lands of north-west Borneo were owned by a number of Muslim

Malay Sultans.

Chinese merchants had been sailing around the islands and through the Straits of Malacca since before the Christian era. Beads of Chinese origin nearly three thousand years old have been found in Borneo.

The oldest of the jars still kept in Borneo longhouses date from the times of the Tang dynasty, seventh to tenth centuries.

In spite of the pirates and the hostility of the Dutch, the English East India Company still hoped to establish trade with the Indonesian islands and Borneo seemed to be the most promising area. The Company's station at Bandjermasin had been abandoned in 1655. In 1693 the station at Soekadana was reopened, but only for one year, and in 1700 the Company returned to Bandjermasin.

The British concentrated their efforts on the Malay peninsula and Java and for a period of time little was done to establish stations in north-west Borneo.

Stamford Raffles, the chief architect of the scheme for a British Borneo, remained as Lieutenant-Governor of Bencolen, in southern Sumatra, until 1824. When he finally sailed for home, most of his possessions and the notes that he had carefully collected were destroyed when his ship caught fire. But he never forgot his interest in Borneo. Until his premature death at the age of forty-five, he continued to write of the riches and possibilities of the huge island of Borneo. His books found eager readers and amongst them was a man twenty-two years his junior, James Brooke.

James Brooke was born on 29 April 1803. It had been decided that James should make his career in the armed forces of the East India Company. He was commissioned in the Bengal Army in 1819 and received his lieutenancy in 1821. In 1824 he was wounded fighting against the Burmese and after a time in a Calcutta hospital he was sent on furlough to England. He arrived in England in 1825 and shortly later resigned his commission due to a mis-understanding.

In February 1834 James heard of a brig for sale at Liverpool that was going at a cheap price. The 'Findlay', a 290 ton slaver-brig was purchased and James persuaded

some of his friends to crew for him.

They set sail from Liverpool on 6 May 1834 but the trip was an utter disaster. Within a few days James had quarrelled with the captain and when they reached the East their cargo proved difficult to sell. Eventually, at Macao, James sold the brig and the remaining cargo at a loss, paid off Kennedy and returned home to England.

James's father died in 1835 leaving him with £30,000 and although James genuinely grieved for him, the inheritance came at a timely moment.

In April 1836 the 'Royalist' a 142 ton schooner, was purchased and a trial voyage to the Mediterranean was arranged.

The 'Royalist' sailed from London on 26 October 1838 and the voyage took five weeks to reach Singapore via Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town. He spent nine weeks in Singapore, studying Borneo and its Malay and Chinese inhabitants. On 27 July 1839 with an interpreter called Williamson, who was half Malay on board he set sail. James had originally decided to sail to Marudu Bay but decided to sail some six hundred miles closer to Singapore to a river called Sarawak.

On 1 August James Brooke landed at Tanjung Datu, the cape that marks the present day boundary between Sarawak and Indonesia. On 15 August the 'Royalist' anchored in the river at Kuching town after she had made her way slowly upstream and once running aground.

Kuching had recently been founded by the governor Makota, after the sacking of Katubong by the Dyaks. It contained about 800 inhabitants, all Malays except for a handful of Chinese traders. The local Malay nobility still preferred to live at Lida Tanah, further upstream. The greater part of Kuching was occupied by the palaces of the Rajah, the Makota and of their attendant nobles.

Towards the end of September he prepared to set sail for Singapore.

On his return to Kuching and finally after two months of delays James announced to Rajah Muda Hasim his irrevocable decision to leave. Hasim in his distress made one final plea; if James would stay Hasim

would grant him the country of Siniawan and Sarawak, its government and trade, and suggested that he could have the title of Rajah. James was tempted. He was too prudent to accept the offer outright; but he did not say no and he agreed to stay.

The rebels offered to surrender only if their condition, that their lives would be spared, was met. James could not promise but said he would use his influence and the rebels relied on the Englishman. However Hasim and the Makota had no wish to spare the rebels' lives and it was only after James threatened to leave that they agreed to his terms.

James was getting anxious that nothing was being done regarding Hasim's offer. After all he was only heir-presumptive. Final authority would have to come from the Sultan of Brunei who might not be too pleased that Hasim was giving away provinces to an Englishman.

James returned to Singapore in February 1841 and told Hasim that on his return he wanted a house built, antimony collected and the document regarding his title prepared. Whilst in Singapore James decided that he needed another vessel.

He could only find one that was for sale, a schooner the 'Swift', which was not very suitable for cargo and was very expensive. As there was nothing else available James purchased her, filled her with cargo and returned to Kuching in April.

When he arrived he found that no house had been built, no antimony collected and nothing had been done about his title. James was angry and as Hasim still wanted James's assistance a house was built and some antimony was collected.

Finally Hasim drew up and signed a document assigning James the government of Sarawak and its dependencies in return for a small annual payment to the Sultan of Brunei and a promise to respect the laws and religion of the country. The document was duly signed, sealed and delivered and on 24 November 1841, James Brooke, aged 38, was ceremoniously proclaimed Rajah and Governor of Sarawak.

It was not easy to take over single-handed the government of a strange country especially for someone,

like James Brooke, who had no administrative experience.

Brooke continued his crusade to stop piracy and headhunting during his reign as the Rajah. There are many tales told of why the gruesome tradition of headhunting flourished. One tale has it that among some tribes the taking of a head symbolized manhood and that it would be difficult for a young man to find a wife if he had not taken a head. Another reason given was that a departed chief would not have a happy life after death if a sacrificial head was not taken.

James Brooke finally left Sarawak in September 1863, 22 years after his proclamation as Rajah. He wrote as he was leaving, "I once had a daydream of advancing the Malay race by enforcing order and establishing self-government among them; I dreamed too that my native country would derive the benefit of position, influence and commerce without the responsibility from which she shrinks. But the dream ended with the first waking reality and I found how true it is that nations are like men - that the young hope more than they fear and that the old fear more than they hope. I have at last awakened from my dream of extended usefulness."

As he was sailing back to England he received a telegram informing him that the British Government had finally recognized Sarawak as a Sovereign State.

Sarawak had grown in area under Brooke, from the relatively small area of 18,000 square kilometres, from Tanjung Datu to Samarahan, to the area bounded by Bintulu in the north east, eastward to the present Sarawak/Indonesia border at Tanjung Datu in the west.

On 11 June 1868 James Brooke had a stroke and passed away. James Brooke was a great man. He had his faults and weaknesses but he possessed the undefinable gifts of personality and charm.

He was greatly admired by the majority of his subjects and their descendants will tell you that looking from Kuching towards Mount Santubong, which rises from the sea near the spot where James Brooke first set eyes on Borneo, the outline of the summit is the outline of his profile, lying in repose but still watching over the Raj that he created.

As James had never married the Raj was handed to

his nephew Charles Anthony Johnson Brooke. Officially James's reign ended on 25 July 1868, when the mail steamer arrived, with the news of his death, in Kuching. Charles took oath on 11th October 1870, when the General Council met for the first time in his reign. The new Rajah had in fact governed the country since the departure of his uncle five years earlier.

For the next forty seven years Charles Brooke continued with his uncle's work. Head hunting was greatly reduced and piracy had almost ceased to exist. In 1888 Sarawak was accorded British protection.

At this time Kuching was officially enlarged to include the whole area within a two mile radius of the Court House. Kuching only had become the official name of the town in 1872, previously it was called Sarawak in official documents. Under the second Rajah, Charles Brooke, who ruled from 1868 until his death in 1917, Sarawak was extended to its present boundaries. Government administration was formalized and some effort was made towards economic development and technological adaptation.

The last of the white Rajahs was Charles Vyner Brooke, known as Rajah Vyner, who was the second son of Charles Brooke and succeeded his father in 1917.

After the First World War Sarawak prospered and the revenues increased. The Civil Service was enlarged and public works such as roads and radio communication was extended.

In 1941 at the Centenary celebrations of Sarawak under the Brooke rule, the Rajah proclaimed his intention of divesting himself of his absolute rule and establishing a Constitution which would give the Council Negeri the power to ensure that no law could be passed or money spent without its consent. This was accomplished and while he was on leave in Australia Sarawak was forcibly occupied by the Japanese in December 1941.

When the Japanese sought an armistice on 15 August 1945, all regular resistance ceased. Australian Armed Forces under Major-General Wootten entered Kuching on 11 September 1945 to receive the formal surrender of the Japanese army and Sarawak was placed under Military Administration until 15 April 1946.

After the liberation in 1945, the Rajah decided to cede Sarawak to Britain as a Crown Colony. A Bill was read for the third time on 17 May 1946 and was passed by nineteen votes to sixteen. On 1 July 1946, Sarawak became a British Crown Colony.

During the Colonial period Sarawak achieved steady progress which was made easier by the high prices of pepper and rubber. The Colonial Development and Welfare Fund was available to help Sarawak with major schemes such as roads, ports, airports, schools, hospitals and Government offices. The World Health Organization sent several teams of personnel who had great success in stamping out malaria. The Colombo Plan offered scholarships to Sarawak students for specialized training and studies abroad and sent qualified teachers to teach in Sarawak's schools.

In 1948 the Local Authority Ordinance was passed which gave the Governor power to set up Local Authorities or District Councils, the first Local Authority in Sarawak was the Kuching Municipal Council. In 1957 a new Constitution was promulgated which gave an unofficial majority to the Council Negeri for the first time.

The Malaysia concept was first announced by YTM Tunku Abdul Rahman, the Malayan Prime Minister, in May 1961.

In mid 1966, the Ningkan Cabinet was replaced by a new cabinet with Penghulu Twai Sli as Chief Minister. Sarawak's first direct general elections were held on 7 July 1970. The Sarawak Alliance joined forces with the Sarawak United Peoples Party (SUPP) to form Sarawak's first coalition government under the leadership of Datuk Haji Abdul Rahman Ya'kub.

The Coalition Government was returned to power in 1974 and in September of the same year, the Sarawak National Party (SNAP) joined Parti Bumiputra Bersatu (PBB) and SUPP to form the State Barisan Nasional Government, which was re-elected in 1979. Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Rahman Ya'kub remained as Chief Minister until his resignation on 26 March 1981. On the same day Datuk Amar Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud was sworn in as the fourth Chief Minister.

On 2 April 1985 Datuk Patinggi Haji Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Muhammad Noor was appointed fifth Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak, or head of State of Sarawak. In 1987 Datuk Patinggi Taib was re-elected as Chief Minister for a third term leading the State Barisan Government comprising PBB, SUPP and SNAP and in 1988 a new State flag was raised, a symbol of the State Government.

Today the State Barisan Government still governs the State under the leadership of Datuk Patinggi Taib Mahmud and the head of State is Tun Datuk Patinggi Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Muhammad Noor.

Datuk Patinggi (DP) and Datuk Amar (DA) are two of the highest honours awarded in Sarawak. They are the English equivalent of Sir or Lord.

Kuching has grown from 6,000 inhabitants in 1848 to its present number of nearly half a million. However it still retains its former charm despite progress.

The indigenous inhabitants of Sarawak are now categorized into four main groups; the Sea Dayak, more commonly known as the Iban (approximately 30% of the population), the Land Dayak or Bidayuh (8.5%), Melanau (5.8%) and the Orang Ulu (5.2%) made up of the Kayan, Kenyah, Lun Bawang, Kelabit, Penan, Bisaya, Tagal, Tabun, Bukat, Bukitani, Lisum, Tatau, Sa'ban, Sihan and Kajang. The Kajang who were the earliest people to inhabit the upper Rajang comprise of Lahanan, Punan, Sekapan and Kejaman groups. Most of the rest of the population is made up of Chinese (29%) and Malays (20%).

Baby carriers, rice baskets and storage containers are some of the everyday items that make extraordinary and useful ornaments to bring back memories of the intriguing people of Sarawak when you have returned home.



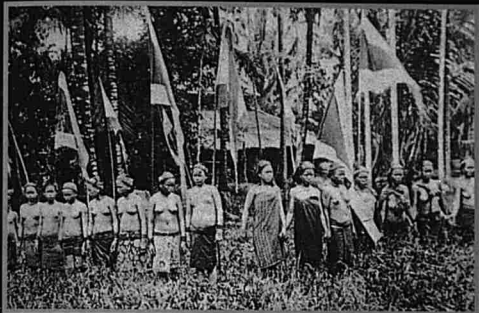
*Top: Chinese shops in Kuching
c. 1870*

*Centre: Iban woman from Saribas
weaving. Date unknown.*

*Bottom: Peace Making Ceremony
at Kapit, 16 November 1924. The
Manchak Babi ritual is being
performed.*



*Some Photographs
of the Past*



Top: Lun Bawang Head Feast

Centre: Orang Ulu men heavily tattooed and with elongated ear lobes. These were supposed to enhance their looks. 1950's



Bottom right: Kuching Waterfront, c.1910.

Bottom left: James Brooke (1803-1868), the first Raja of Sarawak from 1841 to 1868.

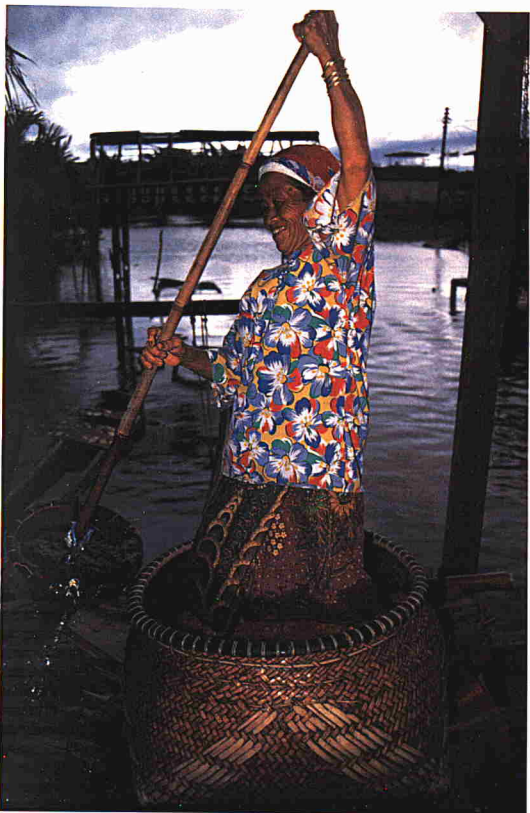




Top: An Iban longboat on Batang Skrang in the early morning. This scene is very typical of Ulu(upriver) country.

Left: In complete contrast a commercial vessel struggles through the infamous Pelagus Rapids.

Right: A Melanau woman trampling sago at Kampong Tian. Sago, not rice is the staple diet of the Melanau. Although there are now modern sago factories sago is still processed in the traditional way for local consumption.





Top: Murat longhouse on Batang Skrang. Most Iban longhouses were built on the banks of a navigable river.



Left: Some longhouses provide separate guest houses. To get the true 'Ulu' lifestyle it is preferable to stay with a family. This photograph shows the bedroom of a guest house at a longhouse.

Right: Nearly 10% of Sarawak will be National Parks when when all seventeen National Parks have been constituted. There are currently ten Parks with another seven that have been proposed. The trail to Deer Cave in Gunung Mulu National Park.



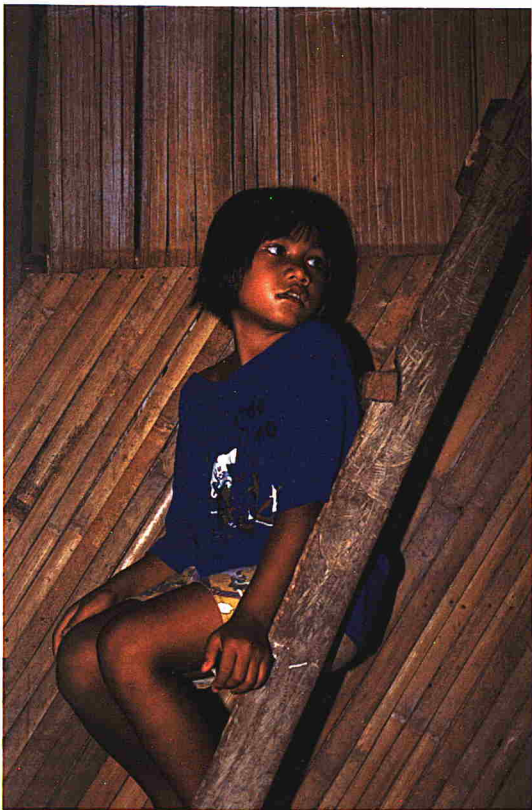


Top: Young Iban boys learn the Ngajat at a very young age. Taken at Murat longhouse on Batang Skrang.



Bottom: Bidayuh boys enjoying a carefree life during Gawai Dayak at Annah Rais.

Right: Young Melanau girl watching her elders performing a welcome dance for visitors at Kampong Sok.

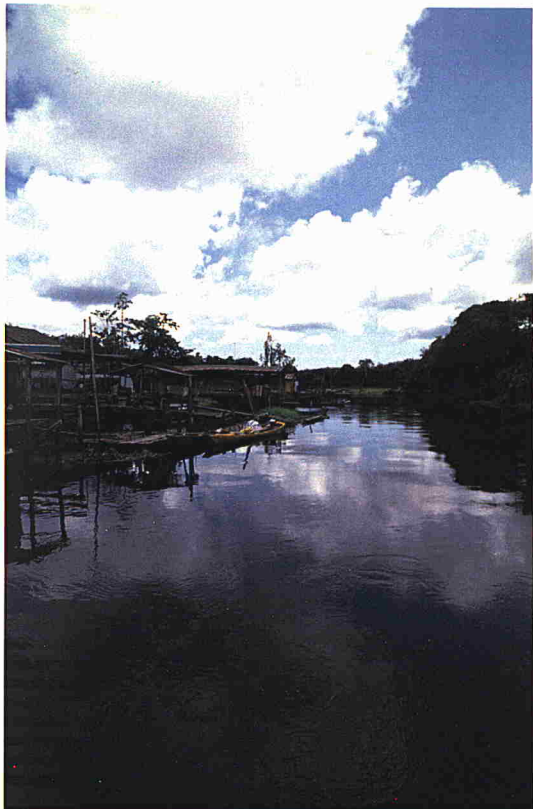




Top: An Orang Ulu chief in traditional costume proudly stands beside his Proton Wira, Malaysia's national car. This photograph was taken at Kapit which has only twenty kilometres of sealed roads.



Bottom: Pepper is one of Sarawak's main exports. This factory at Sarikei not only produces pepper corns but pepper sweets and perfume.

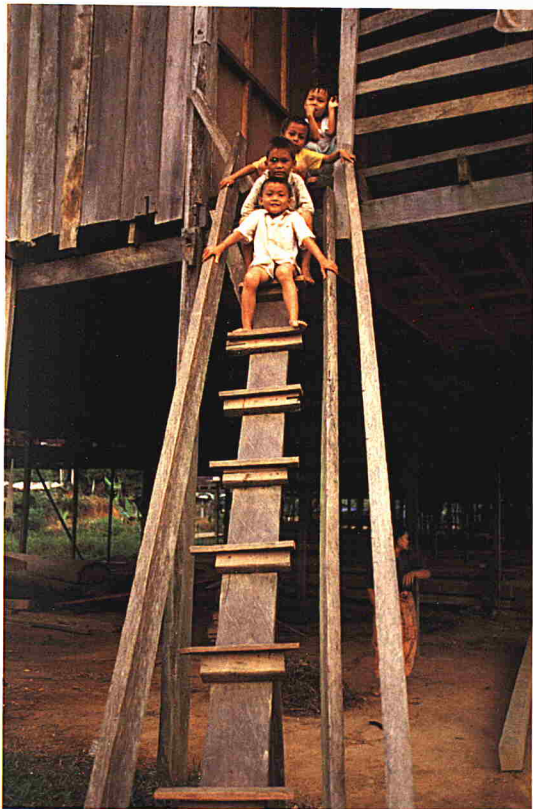


Right: The village of Matu is situated near the coast by the mouth of Batang Rajang. Most goods are brought to this pleasant village by the river.



Top: Iron patterns on a sandstone cliff overlooking Telok Assam, Bako National Park.

Bottom: Wash day at a Bidayuh kampong house.



Right: Kayan children posing on the steps to their longhouse at Uma Kahei, a short distance from Belaga.



Top: Lang's Cave in Gunung Mulu National Park has very interesting limestone rock formations as well as stalactites and stalagmites.

Bottom: Melanau at Kampong Sok setting out to visit friends by one of the commonest forms of transport in Sarawak; the longboat.

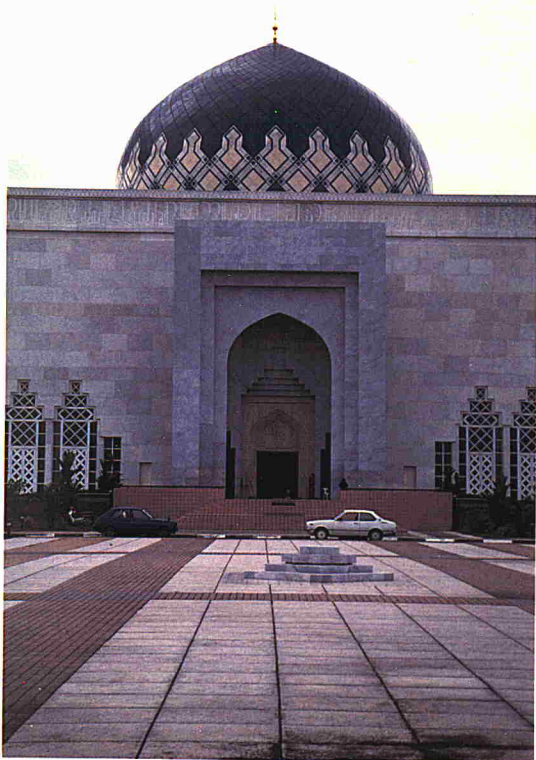
Right: Akek – the last known surviving Iban headhunter. The tattoos on his fingers denote the number of heads he has obtained. When I last visited Murat longhouse Akek, who is 100+ years was very fit and well.





Top: The serenity of the Ulu country is very evident in this early morning shot of Sungai Engkari.

Bottom: Visiting a longhouse is one of the highlights of a Sarawakian visit. This is a Bidayuh longhouse in the Serian area.



Right: The new State mosque which is situated on the Kuching Bako road has forty-one domes. The domes can only be seen from the inside.



Top: One of the important people you will meet on your longboat trips is the front look-out person. This person will advise the boatman what route to take to avoid boulders and other dangers. An Iban on Batang Skrang.

Bottom: Fort Margherita stands on the north bank of the Sarawak River. It is now the Police Museum.

Right: A Bidayuh spirit image. It was believed that images such as these would cure sicknesses. Some of these images were carved out of iron wood which is an extremely heavy and hard wood. Today most Bidayuh are Christians.



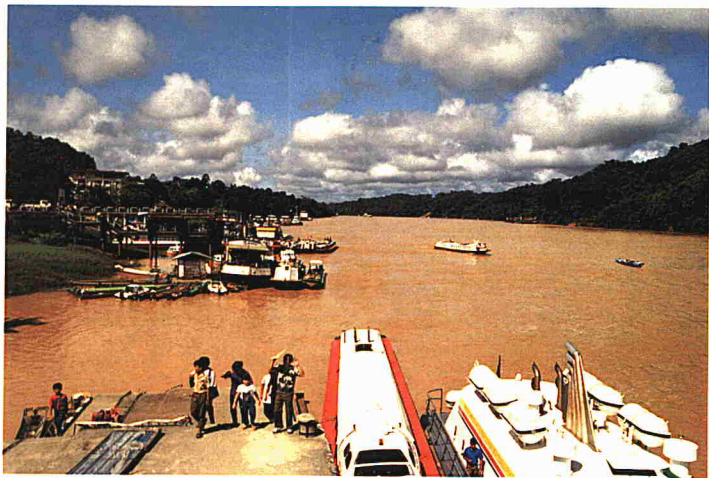


Top: Telok Paku Beach from Bako National Park with Mount Santubong in the background.

Bottom: Longboat traffic is an everyday sight on the rivers of Sarawak. Batang Lemanak.

Right: The Seven Storey Pagoda is Sibul's most well known landmark. It is situated close to the main ferry jetty on the banks of Batang Rajang.





Top: The ferry jetties at riverside townships are the main links to the other towns and cities. The jetty at Kapit is a hive of activity especially in the early morning when produce is brought to the market.

Bottom: Melanau muslims relaxing in their Kampong near Daro.

Right: An Orang Ulu chief in full traditional costume. This photograph was taken at Kapit during the 70th anniversary of the Peace Making Ceremony of 1924. Note the not so traditional footwear of the chief in the right of the picture.





Top: Salong's are burial places that were common amongst the Orang Ulu. Many can still be seen when travelling up the rivers. This particular salong was built in 1994 for the mother of one of the local Kayan chiefs near Long Linau, upstream from Belaga.



Bottom: Early morning mist covers the houses near Long Panggai on Batang Rajang.

Right: A male Iban performing the Ngajat at Murat longhouse on Batang Skrang. If you visit an Iban longhouse you will have the opportunity to join in with the locals.



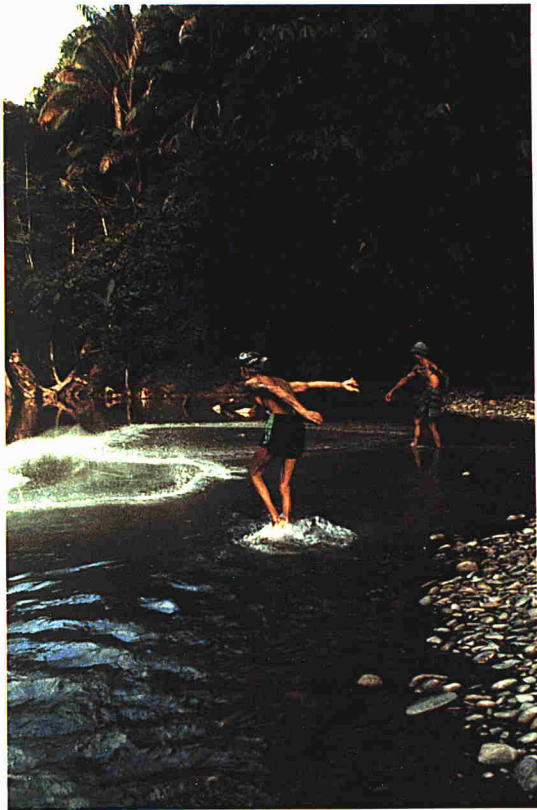


Top: The Courthouse in Kuching reminds one of the Brooke era. This photograph was taken at the back of the building.



Bottom: A photograph of the wooden shophouses in the main street of Daro. I was told by the locals that they are to be replaced by modern concrete ones.

Right: Fishing is a way of life for the Iban. Most evenings when the river level is fishable they will go out in the early evening to catch some supper. Nothing tastes better than freshly caught fish traditionally cooked over an open fire on the riverbank.





Top: The rivers are a way of life in Sarawak as these two photographs show. Belaga the last township on Batang Rajang gets very busy at 6:00am when the ferry leaves and again at 1:00pm when the ferry arrives from Kapit, subject to river conditions.



Bottom: Fishing boats at Kuching on the Sarawak River.



Right: Reminders of the headhunters' days. Skulls still hang in the longhouses today, blackened by smoke over the years. It is believed that bad luck will befall a longhouse if they are shifted.



Top: If one is fortunate to arrive at a longhouse during one of the many festivals you will be able to witness the local people performing their traditional dances in their costumes. Here the Melanau perform at Kampong Sok.

Bottom: Melanau musicians accompanying the dancers above.



Right: This unusual pineapple was part of the Nimang Ranyai, a welcoming ceremony, that I witnessed while at Rumah Massam longhouse at Song.



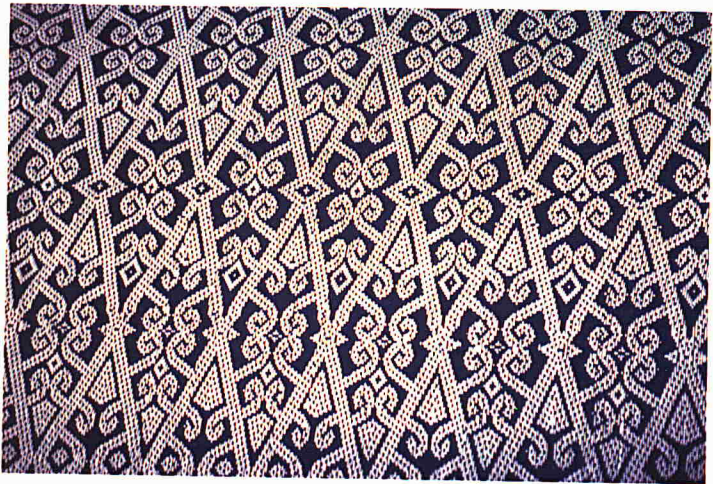
Top: Although snakes are common in Sarawak an encounter with one is very unlikely. This Ulu Kata, frog snake, is harmless and I was able to get close to it as it was early morning and the snake was still cold.



Bottom: Long tailed macaques enjoy playing in the water and one can spend many hours watching them playing amongst themselves.

Right: A large variety of insect eating pitcher plants can be found throughout Sarawak. This is *Nepenthes gracilis* at Bako National Park.

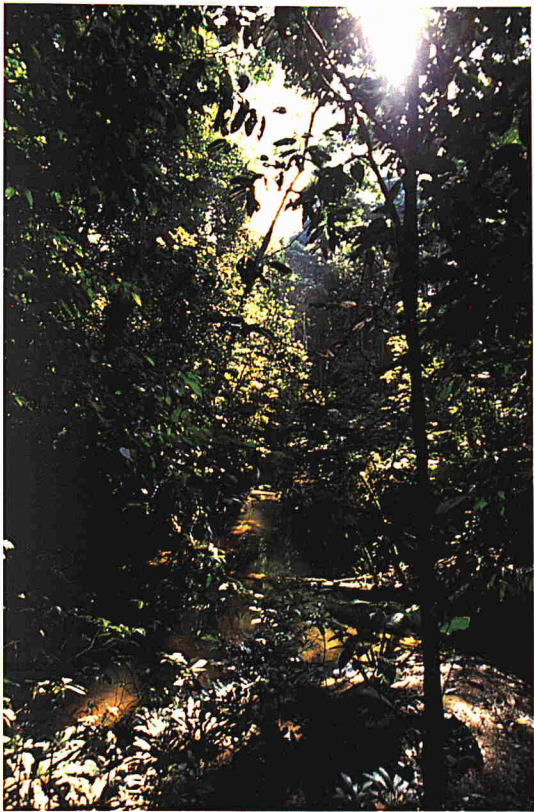


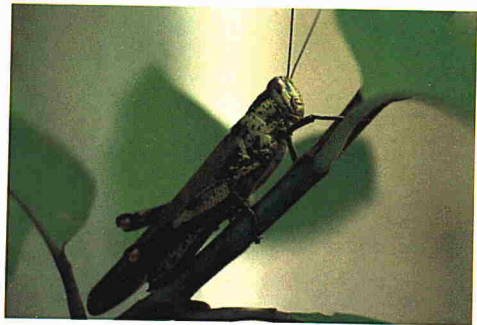


Top: The Iban are renowned for their weaving. Some of their weavings are extremely complicated and can take many months to complete. This pua kumbu is a traditional Iban weaving.

Bottom: A modern Lahanan longhouse at Long Panggai.

Right: The jungle and National Parks of Sarawak offer the visitor an opportunity to visit some of the oldest rainforests in the world.





Top: The flora and fauna of Sarawak offer the photographers and the nature lovers a myriad of opportunities to photograph or simply admire.

Bottom: Walk slowly and look carefully when walking through the jungle and you will be surprised what unfolds in front of you.



Right: Plants that live in the mangrove swamps have evolved through the centuries to enable their survival.

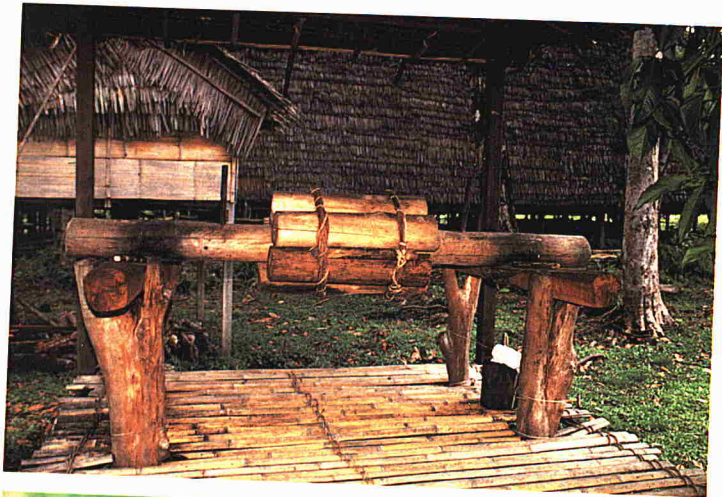


Top: No visit to Sarawak would be complete without a visit to the Sarawak Museum, regarded as the best in South East Asia.

Bottom: Fighting cocks tethered in the main street of Kerajau Gauyus. These cocks are highly prized by their owners.



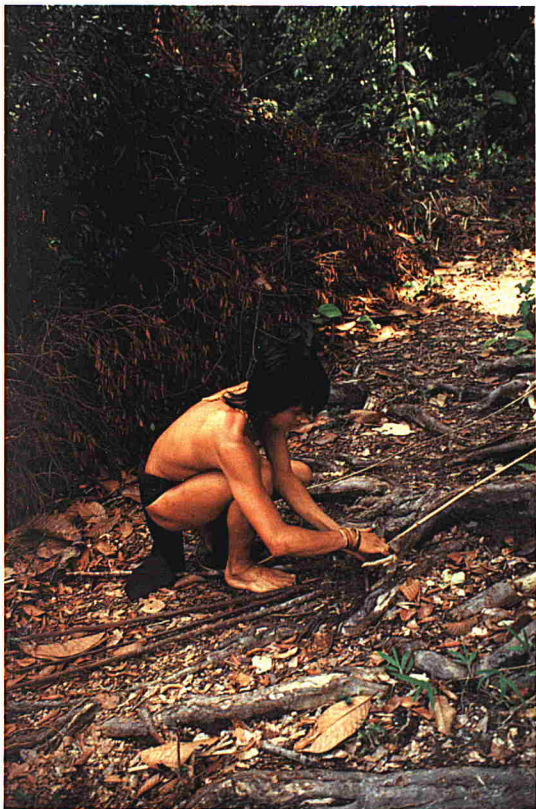
Right: An Iban mending his fishing net.



Top: A wooden sugarcane crushing machine outside a Bidayuh longhouse. The juice of the sugar cane is a popular Malaysian drink but today's machines that you find in the towns and cities are built out of steel and plastic.

Bottom: A creature of the mangrove swamps.

Right: A Penan setting an animal trap. All the ethnic groups of Sarawak practise conservation as they will only take enough food to cover their immediate needs.





Top: Punan women preparing food for a feast at Punan Bah.



Bottom: Batang Ai Longhouse Resort has been constructed along an Iban longhouse design. Situated on the edge of Batang Ai reservoir it offers the visitor peace, comfort and tranquility.



Right: There are many choices of accommodation in Sarawak. From luxurious five star hotels, resorts, longhouses, tree houses and camping areas. The Kuching Hilton is Sarawak's premier hotel. Situated on the banks of the Sarawak river the Hilton offers true Sarawakian hospitality.



Top: The Round Tower is another Kuching building from the Brooke era.

Bottom: Malaysia has more species of butterflies than any country in the world. The Raja Brooke is one of these magnificent insects.



Right: Modern agriculture has crept into the lives of the people of Sarawak. Here an Iban chief is tapping rubber close to his longhouse.



Top: A Punan woman weaving a basket at Punan Bah longhouse. Notice that the verandah is at ground level, not on stilts as the other longhouses are. The mat in the foreground is so tightly woven that it is waterproof. A mat can take up to three months to complete.

Bottom: A bearded pig scavenging at night.



Right: This magnificent klirieng can be seen outside the Sarawak Museum. It took five years to complete this piece of art. It was transported from its original site on Batang Rajang to its present position.



Top: Iron capping and seascape at Telok Pandan Kecil, Bako National Park.

Bottom: An Orang Ulu longhouse built out of ironwood. This wood is extremely heavy and hard.

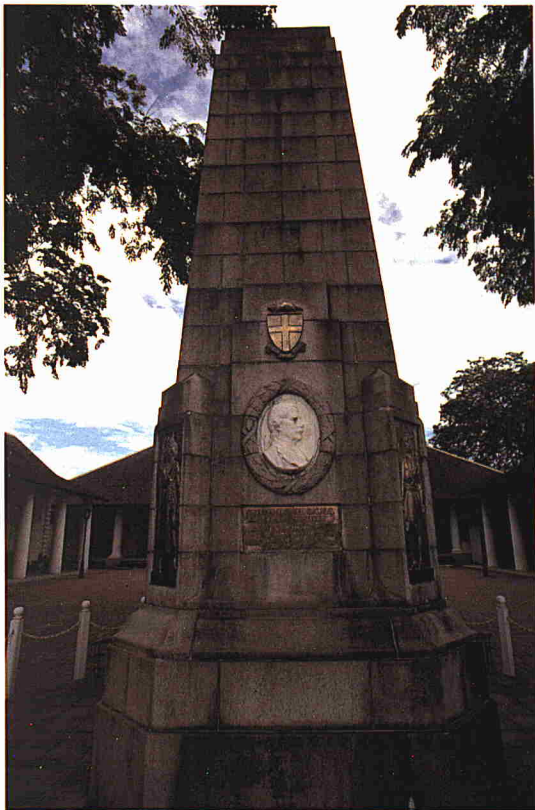


Right: A Bidayuh man performing the Be'uh during Gawai Dayak.



Top: The mousedeer is the subject of many myths and legends. It is only the size of a small dog yet is very brave but as it is extremely shy and difficult to see in the jungle.

Bottom: Iban longboat on Batang Lemanak in the early morning.

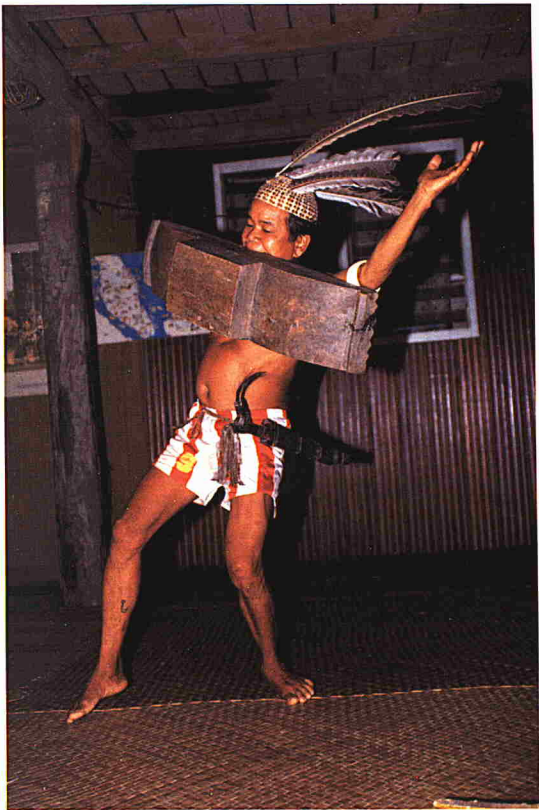


Right: The Brooke Memorial stands in front of the Court House in Kuching.



Top: The Tua Pek Kong Temple is the oldest Chinese temple in Kuching, built in the mid 1800's.

Bottom: Pepper is an important export for Sarawak. The pepper grows on vines such as these in Bahagian Sri Aman.



Right: An Iban chief performing Ngajat Lesong. I was invited to attempt this 'feat', but could hardly pick up the piece of ironwood with both hands. My dentist is possibly the only person who regretted that I refused this invitation.



Top: One thing you can be assured of during your visit to Sarawak is the genuine friendliness of the people. A Chinese man watching the world go by at Sibü.



Bottom: If asked to join a traditional dance on a visit to a longhouse do not be shy, the occupants will always appreciate your effort - no matter the quality - ask Yuzer, seen here attempting the Ngajat.



Right: I was amused by the sight of these two Orang Ulu women who were watching the Peace Making Ceremony celebrations at Kapit. There was no reason why they could not have gone inside.

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