

Walter FRANÇOIS
presents

MALAYSIA

PHOTOGRAPHS by Yvan DEWEERDT
TEXT by Walter FRANÇOIS
ENGLISH TRANSLATION by Jos MERLIER
Miriam CHINNAPPA
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915.25
1992

COVER: THE SULTAN ABDUL SAMAT BUILDING

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*Perpustakaan Negara
Malaysia*



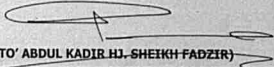
MENTERI KEBUDAYAAN, KESENIAN DAN PELANCONGAN MALAYSIA
(Minister Of Culture, Arts & Tourism Malaysia)

MESSAGE

The fabric of Malaysian society is woven by the threads of our rich, multi-ethnic heritage, of our population who has learnt to practise mutual tolerance, acceptance and celebration of each other's customs, traditions and lifestyles. These are facets that make Malaysia so colourful and fascinating to others. Yet we are very mindful of our roots and how we came together to be what we are today, a united and harmonious people.

The diversity of Malaysia's cultural heritage is matched by that of our landscape. Mother nature has been kind, endowing us with great mountains and rivers, idyllic tropical islands and palm-fringed beaches. Our majestic rainforest is a backdrop of boundless beauty and provides habitat for an amazing proliferation of wildlife and plant species.

I would like to congratulate Mr Walter Francois and Mr Yvan Deweerdt for producing "Walter FRANCOIS presents MALAYSIA". This photo book captures the essence of Malaysia and will, I hope, serve as an invitation to visit Malaysia.



(DATU' ABDUL KADIR H. SHEIKH FADZIR)

TINGKAT 36, MENARA DATU' OSMAN, PUSAT DAGANGAN DUNIA PUTRA,
45 JALAN TUN BMAAIL, 50094 KUALA LUMPUR

Telefon: 03-2931515

Tele: MA 2822

Fax: 03-2930881

THE AUTHOR'S MISSION: TO MAKE MALAYSIA BETTER KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, BELGIUM, AS WELL AS THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE AND INDEED PEOPLES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Yeoh Oon Chuan, a journalist for a local daily, The Malay Mail, in his article of September 3rd 1999, entitled "FRANCOIS OUT TO SELL MALAYSIA" explains my special love for Southeast Asia, and Malaysia in particular.

In 1997 Malaysia and other countries in Southeast Asia were struck by the worst financial crisis they have ever experienced. The economic policy adopted by Malaysia to combat the crisis was innovative and unorthodox. This policy came under sharp criticism in the western world.

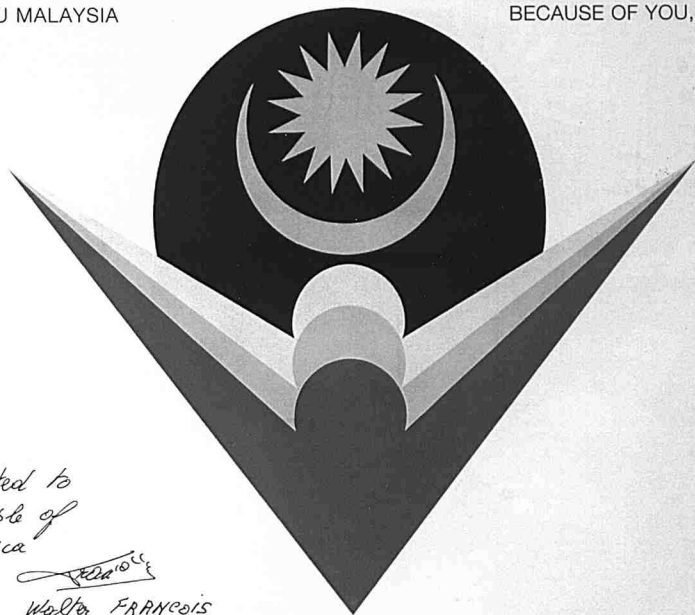
Despite the severe financial set backs, Malaysia succeeded in overcoming the crisis. Malaysia's achievements, before and after the crisis, can truly be described as impressive. Through the implementation of sound and appropriate socio-economic policies, the multi-ethnic and multireligious people of Malaysia were able to develop the country.

Tourism has tremendous potential for growth in this country. Just about everything a modern world explorer is looking for can be found in this paradise on earth, which is aptly captured in the tourism slogan "MALAYSIA TRULY ASIA".

The main objective of this book is not to emphasize the photogenic qualities of the Malaysian landscape, but to illustrate how the local population have harmoniously adapted to their own environment and the world at large without losing their distinctive character.

This typically Malaysian character is found in a basic Malaysian reality – that is, this country and its people, located in a strategic crossroad of the world, survive by reaching outwards. This is reflected as much in the enormous variety of culinary delights as in the hospitality, moderation and tolerance of its people.

Malaysia is truly a confluence of many cultures.

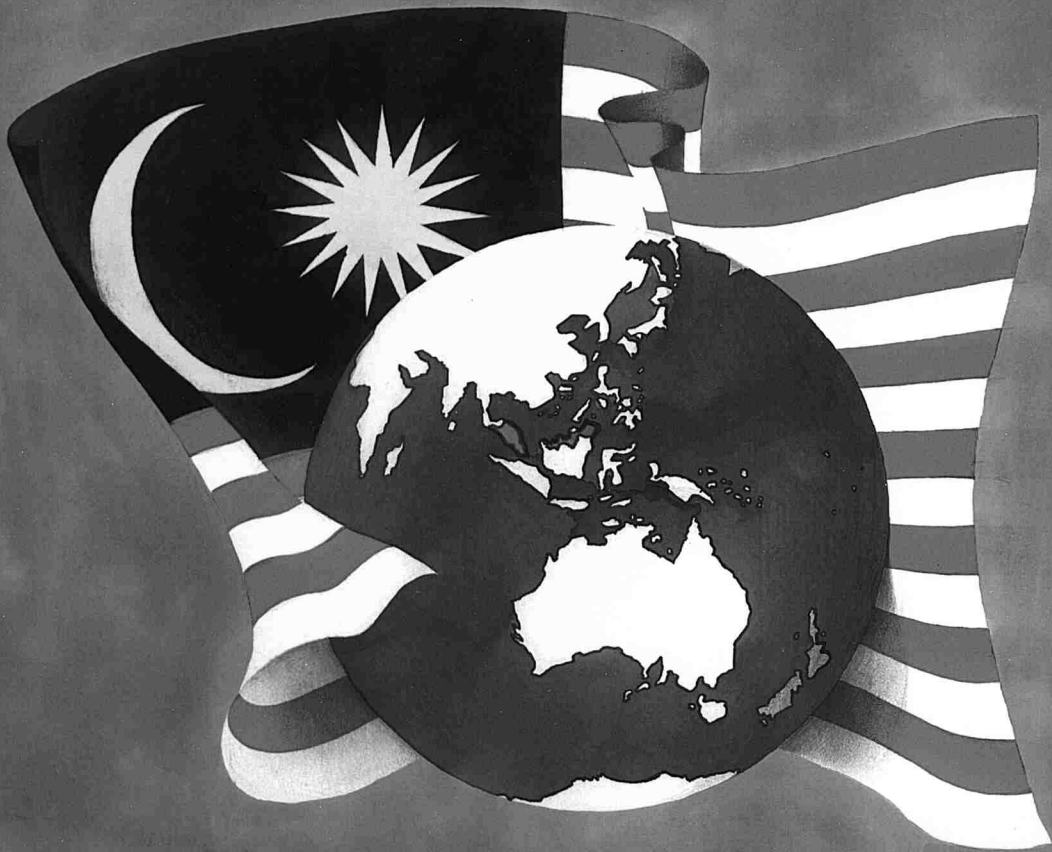


*Dedicated to
the people of
Malaysia*

Walter Francis

Walter FRANCIS

Na



MALAYSIA

It is truly the first rainbow country in the modern world.

Malaysia with its many different faces, literally and figuratively, is situated in the very heart of Southeast Asia, just north of the equator. Peninsular Malaysia shares a border with Thailand to the north and Singapore to the south. On the west, the peninsula is separated from Sumatra (Indonesia) by the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea forms the natural eastern border. In the northern part of Borneo, the third largest island in the world, are located the two states of East Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak.

Peninsular Malaysia consists of eleven federal states: Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Perak, Penang, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Melaka and Johor as well as the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur and has a total area of about 131,450 square kilometres. The two federal states of East Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, are about 198,950 square kilometres and are the two biggest states in the country. The city of Kuala Lumpur and the capital of Putrajaya are separate Federal Territories. Another Federal Territory is the small island of Labuan, which is off the coast of Sabah and which is an International Offshore Financial Centre.

Malaysia is a constitutional Monarchy. Nine of the thirteen federal states have Sultans as their constitutional heads. Every five years, a new King is elected from among the Sultans to be the Head of State of Malaysia.

One of the principal visions of Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir, the fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia, who has been in office since 1981, is for the socio-economic, industrial and technological progress of the country to be in tandem with the cultural and religious values of its progressive people.

Owing to its geographical location (between one and seven degrees north latitude) Malaysia enjoys a tropical climate with an average temperature of about 27°C. The dry season is between April and October but monsoons can bring about huge differences in rainfall between Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia.

Malaysia has always been and continues to be open to the world.

The strategic location of Malaysia, halfway between India and China and at the crossroads of two important navigation routes, was the main reason why traders from India, China and the Middle East focused a large part of their global commerce on this country. In 1511 the mighty Empire of Melaka was overrun by the Portuguese who wanted to monopolise the spice trade and who also tried to expel Islam, resulting in the beginning of European rule. After the Portuguese domination, the Dutch and the British established their rule. The Second World War resulted in some years of Japanese rule. After the surrender of the Japanese and the return of Malaya to British rule once again, the cry for independence became louder and louder.

In 1957, the Union Jack was lowered for the last time. Tunku Abdul Rahman became the first prime minister and he was also the brains behind the formation of the Federation of Malaysia (a merger of Malaya, Singapore and North Borneo, present-day Sabah, and Sarawak) in 1963. Singapore became an independent state in 1965.

The above-mentioned historical developments explain the multi-ethnic and multireligious mosaic of Malaysia. Besides the indigenous culture, Malaysia is also home of three of the world's major cultural traditions – Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist. Islam is the official religion although there is complete religious freedom for other faiths. In no other place in the world can such tolerance be found. Nowhere else too can one find an array of culinary traditions and architectural styles as in Malaysia. The cultural heritage is inexhaustible and very few countries are so richly endowed with pristine nature with its unique and exotic fauna and flora. A large part of the 130 million year-old rain forest, the oldest in the world, remains to be explored.

In recent years, Malaysia has given due emphasis to tourism. The government recognises that the orderly and sustainable development of this industry is an important ingredient for a diversified economy. The emphasis is on environmentally friendly development of the tourism sector, stressing economic benefits while minimising negative socio-cultural and environmental impacts on the country's development.



THAILAND

BRUNEI

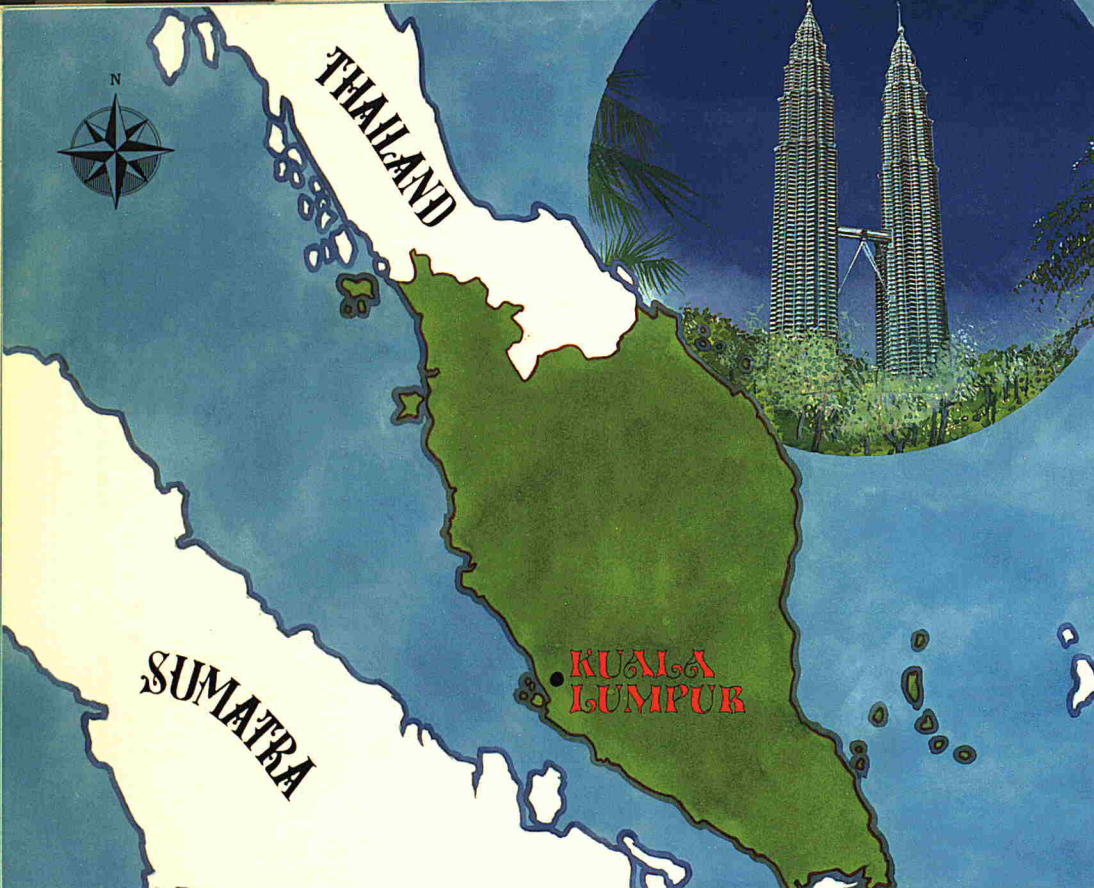
malaysia

SINGAPORE

KALIMANTAN

SUMATRA



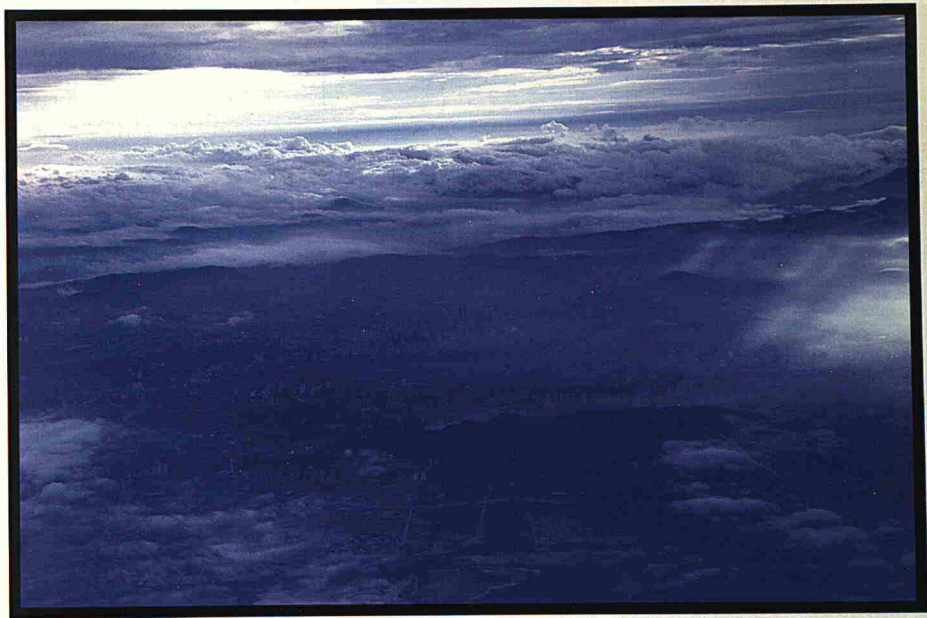


THAILAND

SUMATRA

KUALA
LUMPUR





A MOST FASCINATING DESTINATION EMERGES FROM
UNDER THE CLOUDS: KUALA LUMPUR,
THE CAPITAL CITY OF MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

The clean and ultra-modern infrastructure of Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) immediately arouses in the minds of visitors to Malaysia with wildest expectations. Originally a tiny settlement, KL, as everybody now fondly refers to Kuala Lumpur, developed into a prosperous metropolis comparable with other modern cities in the world.

Innumerable sheets of coloured glass, concrete and steel, each with its own unique flair and character, rise and stretch their architectural vision into heaven.

The most impressive building, and undoubtedly the pride of KL and Malaysia, is the Petronas Twin Towers-complex. This spectacle has truly drawn the attention of the world. It is the pre-eminent symbol of the country's rapid technological development and the dynamism of its people. Those who are keen on modern architecture can be treated to its magnificence and splendour. Visitors who prefer shopping will definitely find something to suit their taste here.

KL also possesses a wide range of luxurious hotels. Those who appreciate excellent cuisine will definitely find a wide variety of the most exquisite restaurants in this city of about 2,000,000 inhabitants. The kaleidoscope of cultures offers a great diversity of houses of prayer. The melange of traditional places of worship, evocative colonial buildings and the modern skyscrapers give this city its distinct architectural character.

In his 'Vision 2020' Prime Minister Dato'Seri Dr. Mahathir clearly expressed his plan to transform Malaysia into a fully developed and industrialised state. Even on a brief stay in KL, one cannot be oblivious to the unbound spirit of progress that symbolises Malaysia's unhesitating leap into the future.

The old Kuala Lumpur Railway Station and Masjid (Mosque) Jamek are world-famous. Treading through these buildings, one feels transmitted into a Moorish fairyland. The Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, where the High Court of Justice is presently situated, appeals to one's imagination, although the sight of high and modern skyscrapers, with their rather bland commercial posters, to a certain extent, spoil the historic importance of these buildings.

The Palace of the King of Malaysia "the Istana Negara", the National Monument "Tugu Negara" dedicated to those who fell in battle during the communist insurrection, and the National Mosque "Masjid Negara" are other highlights. From the top of the Menara Kuala Lumpur, the fourth highest telecommunication tower in the world, one gets a bird's-eye view of the hustle and bustle of this vibrant modern city.

If you are looking for some tranquillity whilst in the busy but charming capital, the Lake Gardens, "the Tasik Perdana", offers some respite with its undulating greenery, interspaced with flowering plants, trees, botanical gardens and much more.

In Shah Alam, the capital of the federal state of Selangor, you will find the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque, the largest Mosque in Southeast Asia, which conquers the sky with its azure-blue dome. Four minarets of about 142 metres surround the huge place of worship, which can accommodate about 16,000 faithfuls at a time.

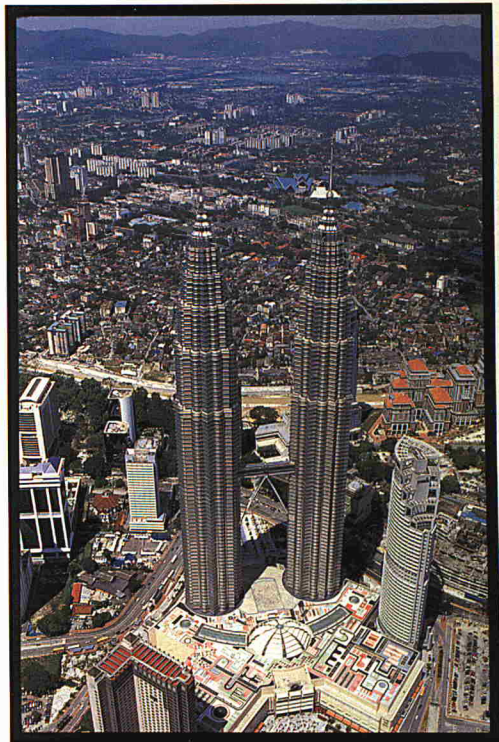
During the annual Thaipusam feast, the Hindu temple complex at Batu Caves attracts large numbers of pilgrims. The devotees and penitents climb 272 steep steps to reach the entrance of the cave and give their offerings to the gods. Some practise mortification of the flesh to cleanse their souls.

Kuala Lumpur is the focal point of a new Malaysia. The city brings together Malaysia's past and present, its tolerance, cosmopolitan culture and varied natural resources. It gives the visitor an excellent opportunity to see Malaysia from different perspectives and in a new light.

In a nutshell, Malaysia is a country of great diversity in terms of physical beauty and natural resources. That diversity is also reflected in the ethnic, cultural and religious background of its people.



KUALA LUMPUR (COMMONLY CALLED KLE)
A PERFECT COMBINATION OF TRADITIONAL
AND MODERN BUILDING STYLES



THE PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS
THE WORLD'S TALLEST TWO FREE-STANDING TOWERS
KUALA LUMPUR



THE PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS, 452m HIGH,
MALAYSIA'S NEW LANDMARK, SYMBOLISING THE
CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE GROWTH

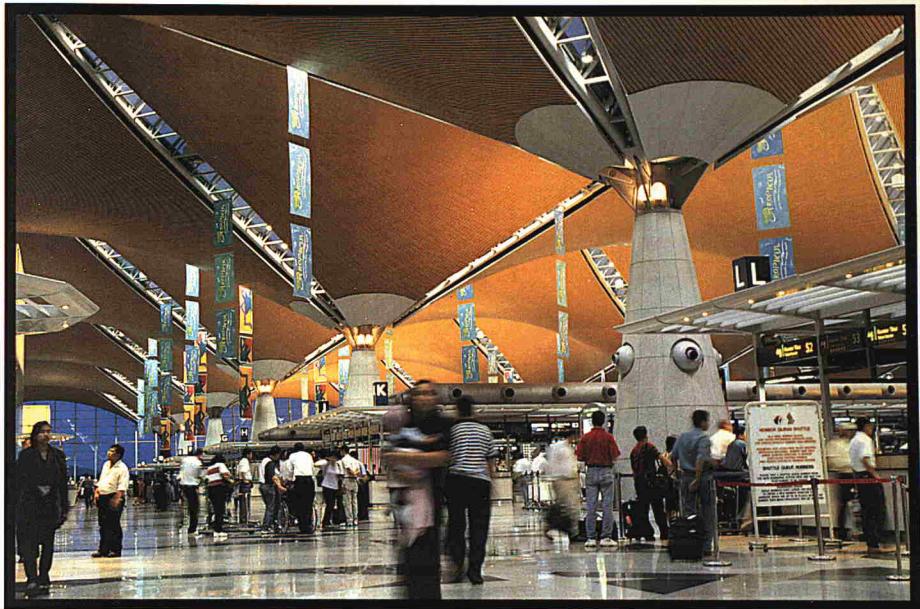


THE PREMIER INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY TO MALAYSIA:
KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (KLIA)

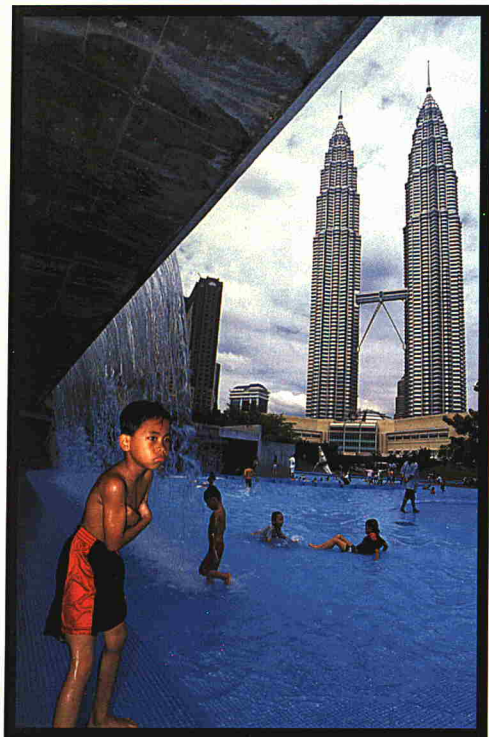


AEROTRAIN CONNECTING
THE MAIN TERMINAL BUILDING WITH CONTACT PIER

KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED AIRPORTS IN THE WORLD

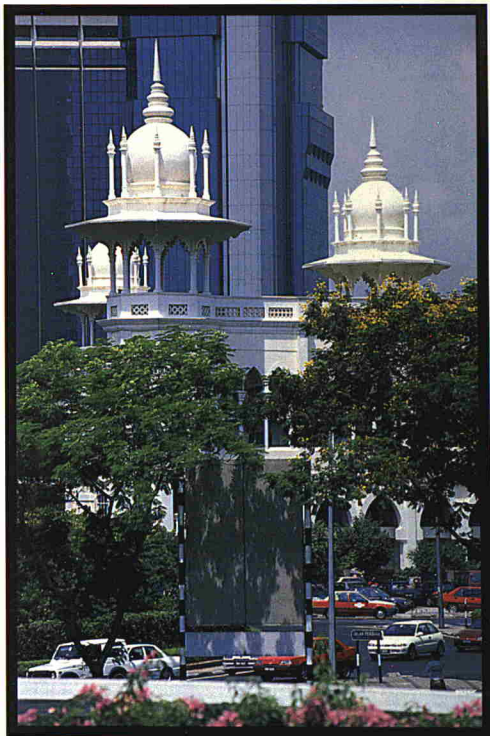


KLIA IS A HEAVEN OF PEACE AND QUIET AND TRAVELLERS SHOULD HAVE NO FEAR AT ALL THAT AN ATMOSPHERE OF NERVOUSNESS, STRESS OR HUSTLE AND BUSTLE AWAITS THEM



CITY CENTRE PARK WITH
CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

THE OLD KUALA LUMPUR RAILWAY STATION
REFLECTS MOORISH ARCHITECTURE

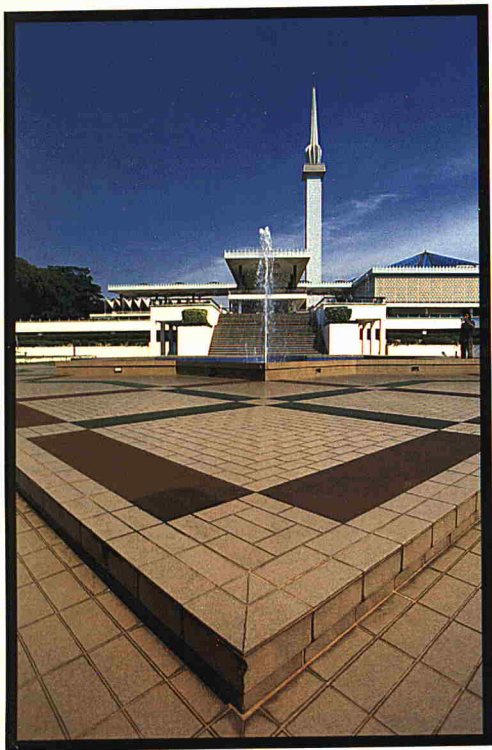




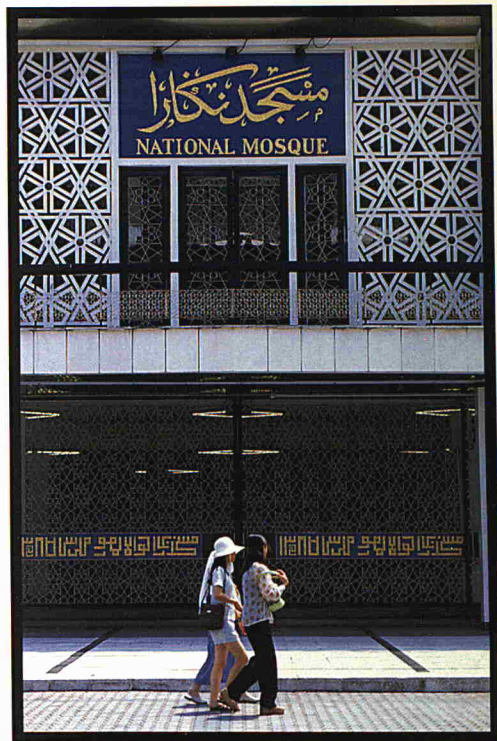
MERDEKA SQUARE, THE HISTORICAL HEART OF KL,
WHERE THE UNION JACK WAS LOWERED
FOR THE LAST TIME IN 1957
WHEN MALAYSIA BECAME INDEPENDENT



THE SULTAN ABDUL SAMAD BUILDING, KUALA LUMPUR'S MOST FREQUENTLY PHOTOGRAPHED BUILDING IS A MAJOR LANDMARK IN THE CITY AND SERVES AS THE BACKDROP FOR IMPORTANT EVENTS



THE NATIONAL MOSQUE (MASJID NEGARA),
ONE OF THE LARGEST MOSQUES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA,
A CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSION OF
TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC ART



ISLAM IS THE OFFICIAL RELIGION IN MALAYSIA
BUT ALL OTHER RELIGIONS ARE PRACTISED FREELY



THEAN HOU TEMPLE OR TEMPLE OF THE GODDESS OF HEAVEN,
ONE OF THE LARGEST CHINESE TEMPLES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA,
IS LOCATED ON A HILL, SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY.

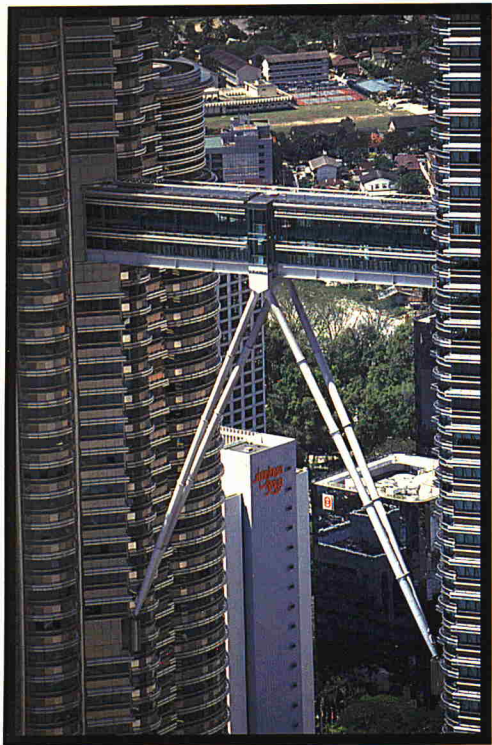
THE INDIAN TEMPLE SRI KANDASWAMY KOVIL
AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF MODERN
ARCHITECTURE





MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN KUALA LUMPUR :
CENTRAL PLAZA

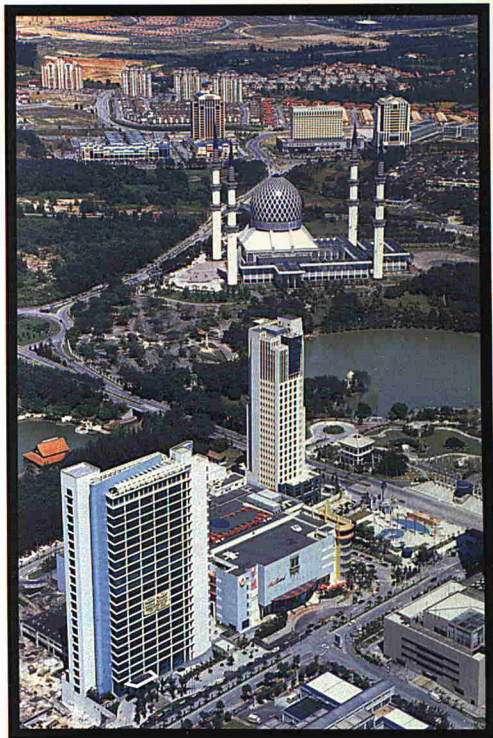


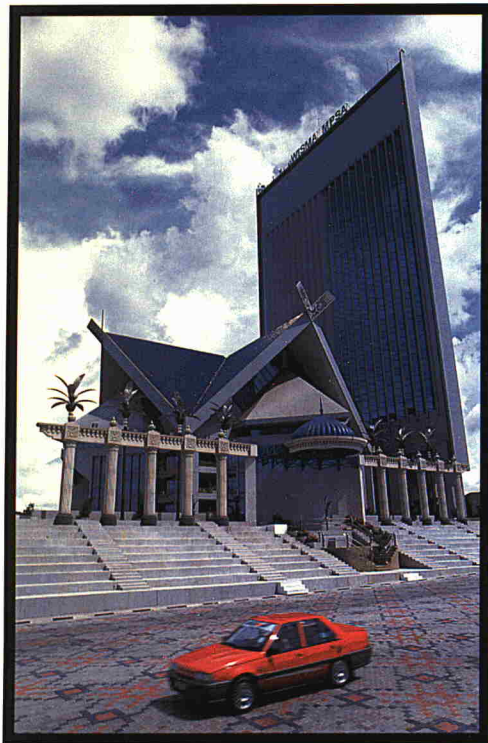


SKY BRIDGE, ALMOST 60m LONG AND SOME 170m ABOVE STREET LEVEL, CONNECTING PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS AT THE 41st AND 42nd FLOOR

STATE OF SELANGOR WITH SHAH ALAM AS ITS CAPITAL, IS ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING DESTINATIONS IN MALAYSIA.

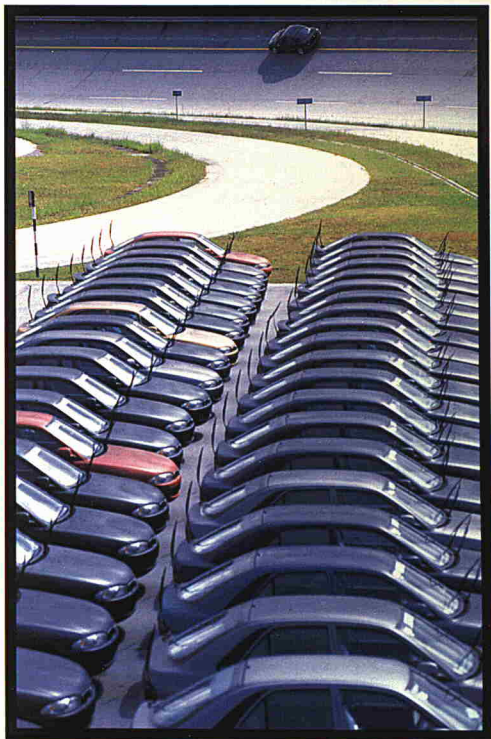
THE SULTAN SALLAHUDIN MOSQUE (THE BLUE MOSQUE) HAS THE TALLEST MINARETS (142m) IN THE WORLD. THE GREAT HALL CAN ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN TWENTY THOUSAND WORSHIPPERS.





SHAH ALAM MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PROTON (PERUSAHAAN OTOMOBIL NASIONAL),
MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL CAR COMPANY, LOCATED IN
SHAH ALAM IN THE STATE OF SELANGOR

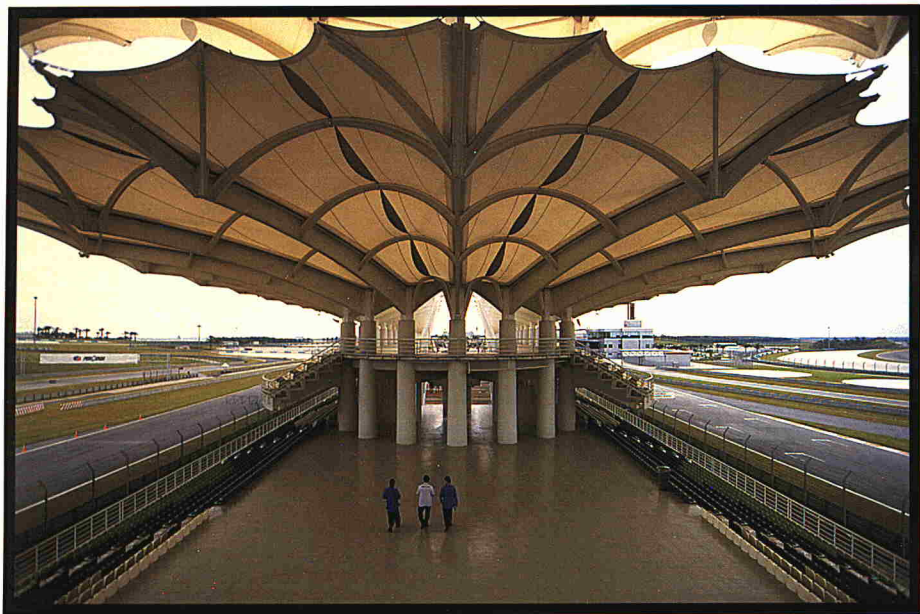




PROTON LIMOUSINE



IT'S GOOD TO WORK HERE



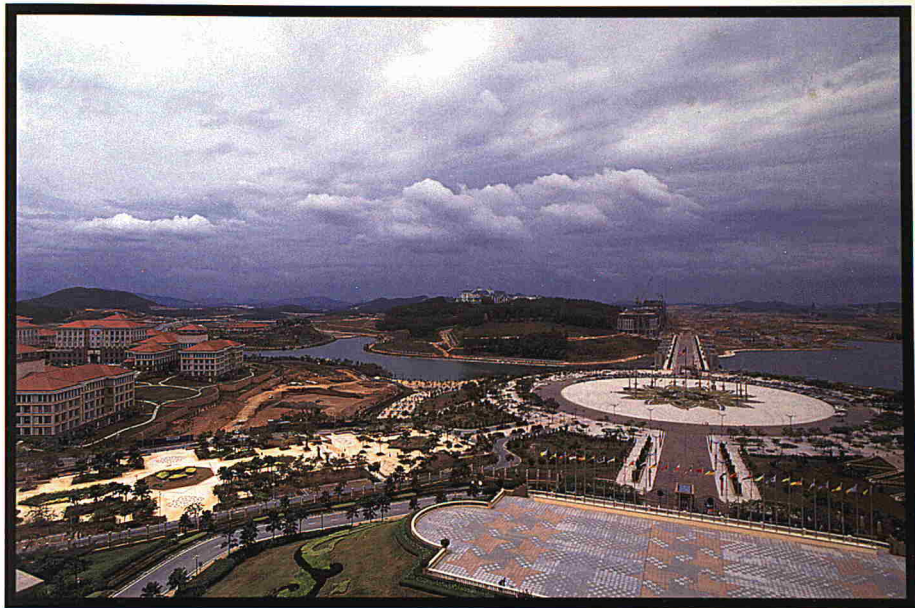
THE ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE OF SEPANG F1 CIRCUIT



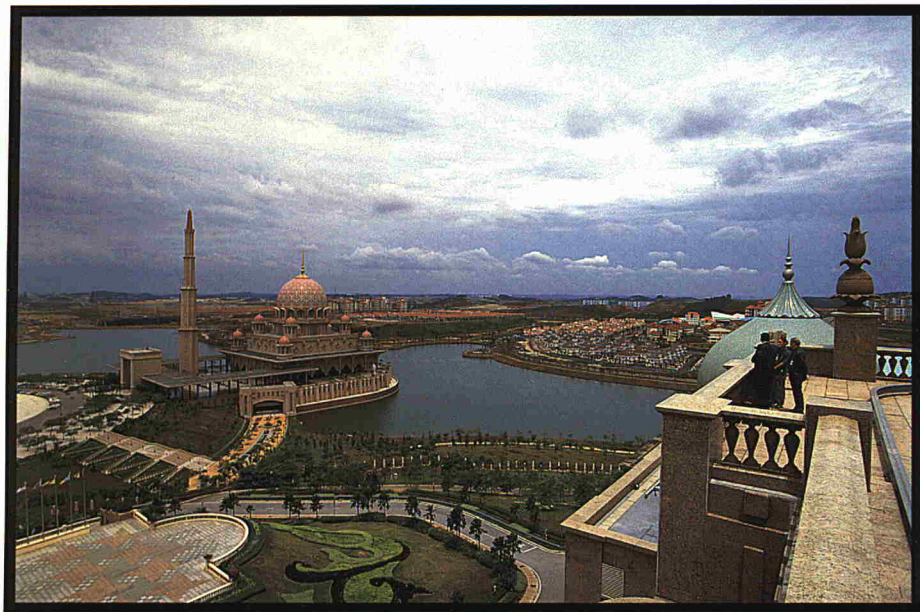
VICTORY ULTIMATELY IS THE RESULT OF TEAMWORK



A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL EMERGES: PUTRAJAYA



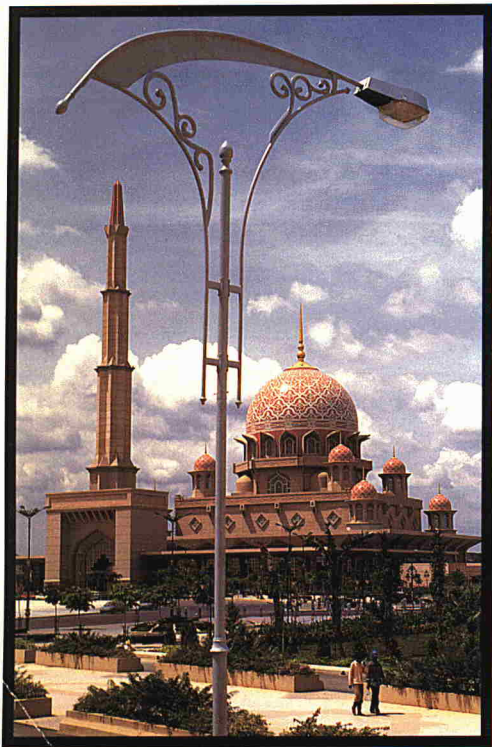
THE POPULATION OF PUTRAJAYA IS FORECAST TO GROW TO OVER
300,000 BY 2012



PANORAMIC VIEW OF PUTRAJAYA, WITH THE
BEAUTIFUL MOSQUE IN THE CENTRE



THE SIX-STOREY PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE



THE EYE-CATCHING PUTRA MOSQUE
CAN ACCOMMODATE FIFTEEN THOUSAND
WORSHIPPERS.



THE TRANQUIL ARCHITECTURE STYLE OF PUTRAJAYA



INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS IN CYBERJAYA, INFO-TECH CITY
IN THE HEART OF THE MULTIMEDIA SUPER CORRIDOR, NEXT TO
PUTRAJAYA FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE

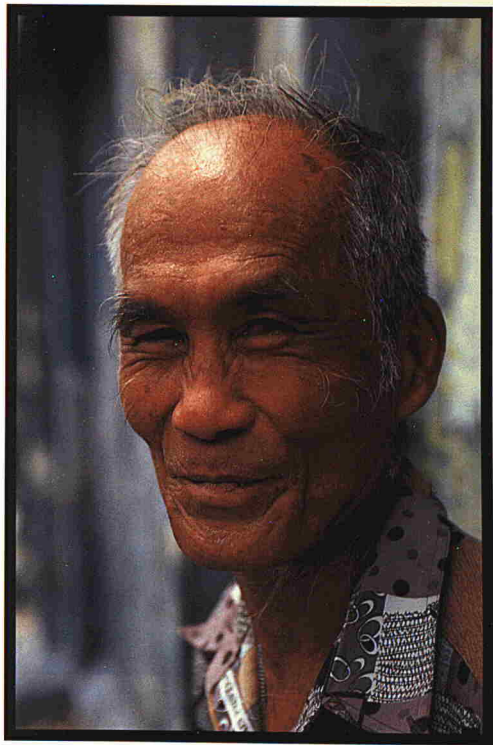


THE MULTIMEDIA SUPER CORRIDOR PRESENTS THE
MOST ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY AND PERFECT
ENVIRONMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY AND HIGH-VALUE
MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT



SURIA KLCC SHOPPING CENTRE NEXT TO PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS

"LOOKING HOPEFULLY TOWARDS THE FUTURE"





HAPPY ON FATHER'S MOTORBIKE



ROYAL SELANGOR PEWTER

THE DISCOVERY OF TIN IN THE LATE 1800s AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE KLANG AND GOMBAK RIVERS GAVE BIRTH TO THE CAPITAL CITY OF MALAYSIA



* MOBILE ICEMAN *



STORE BIKE



KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA'S COMMERCIAL HUB,
IS MORE THAN A PARADISE FOR THE SHOPPER



KUALA LUMPUR OFFERS AN INCREDIBLE
VARIETY OF SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES

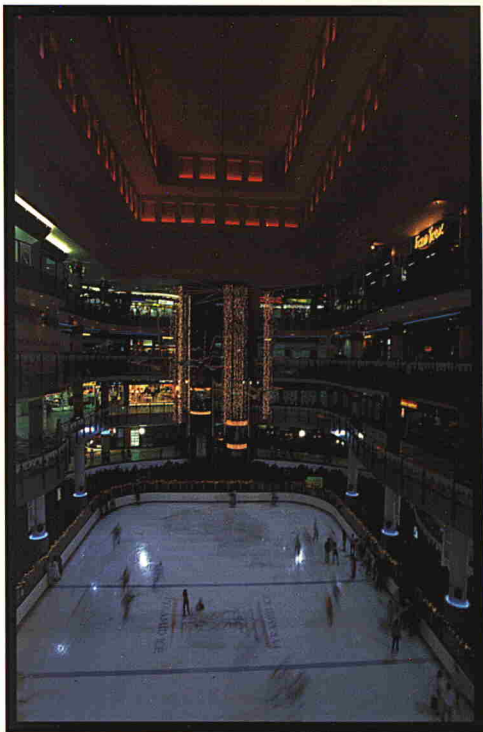


ANOTHER WELL-KNOWN SHOPPING MALL IN KUALA LUMPUR:
LOT 10, WITH ITS REMARKABLE GREEN FACADE



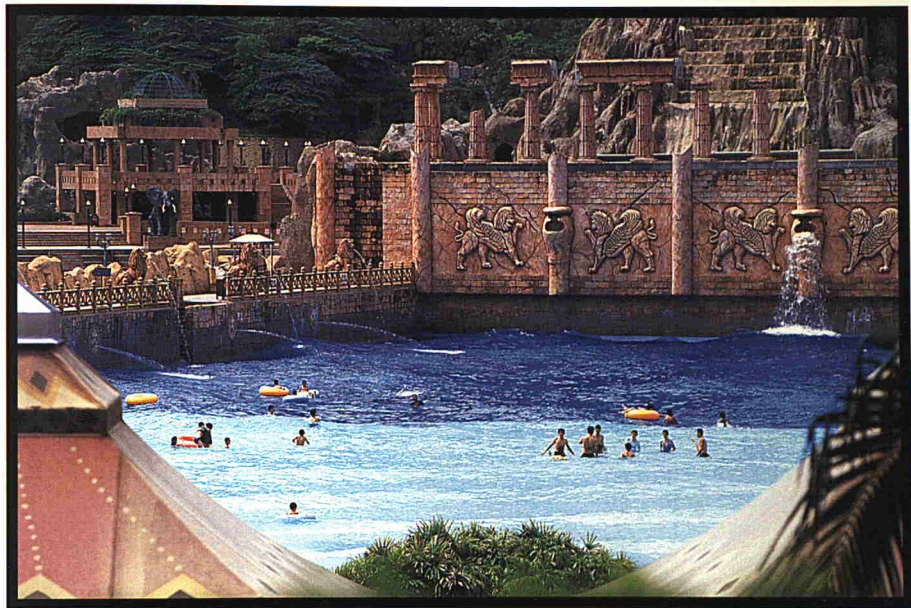
ULTRAMODERN SHOPPING CENTRE, CALLED SURIA KLCC, NEXT TO THE PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS WITH TWO MAJOR DEPARTMENT STORES AND SOME OTHER 250 SPECIALITY STORES. DEFINITELY A PLACE TO BE FOR THE SHOPAHOLIC!

THE MEGA SHOPPING CENTRE SUNWAY PYRAMID
IN PETALING JAYA INCLUDES AN ICE SKATING RINK,
A 48-LANE BOWLING CENTRE AND 10 CINEMAS

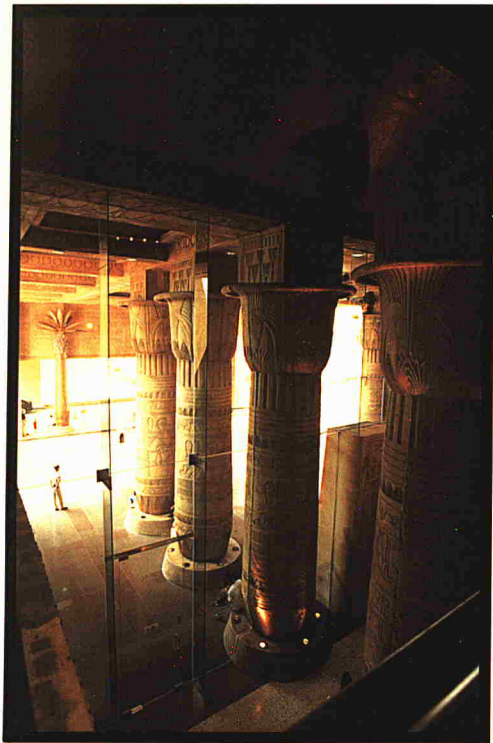




SUNWAY LAGOON RESORT HOTEL
PETALING JAYA



SURF-WAVE POOL
SUNWAY LAGOON



SUNWAY PYRAMID PETALING JAYA
MEGA SHOPPING CENTRE WITH MORE THAN 250
TENANTS AND PARKING SPACE FOR 5000 VEHICLES;
SHAPED LIKE A PYRAMID



GENTING - CITY OF ENTERTAINMENT
COLOURFUL ARRIVING HALL FROM THE FIRST WORLD HOTEL



GENTING CAN BOAST OF HAVING
THE LARGEST CONVENTION AREA IN MALAYSIA



FIRST WORLD HOTEL,
GENTING'S LATEST HOTEL,
WITH NO LESS THAN 32 CHECK IN COUNTERS

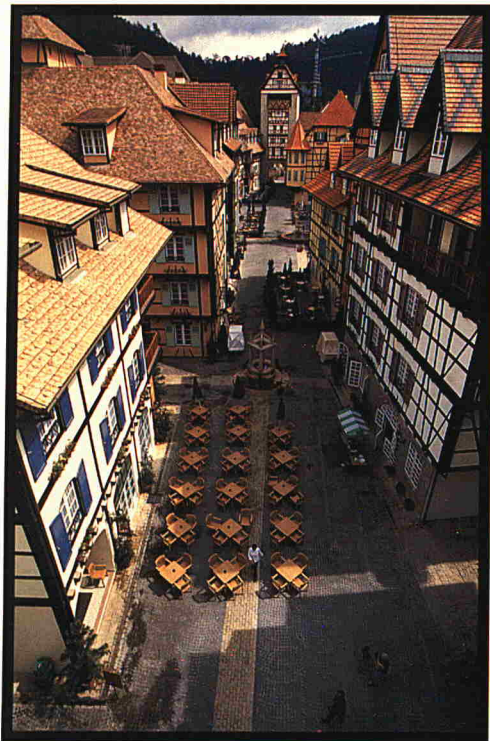


THE GENTING HOTEL OFFERS AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES

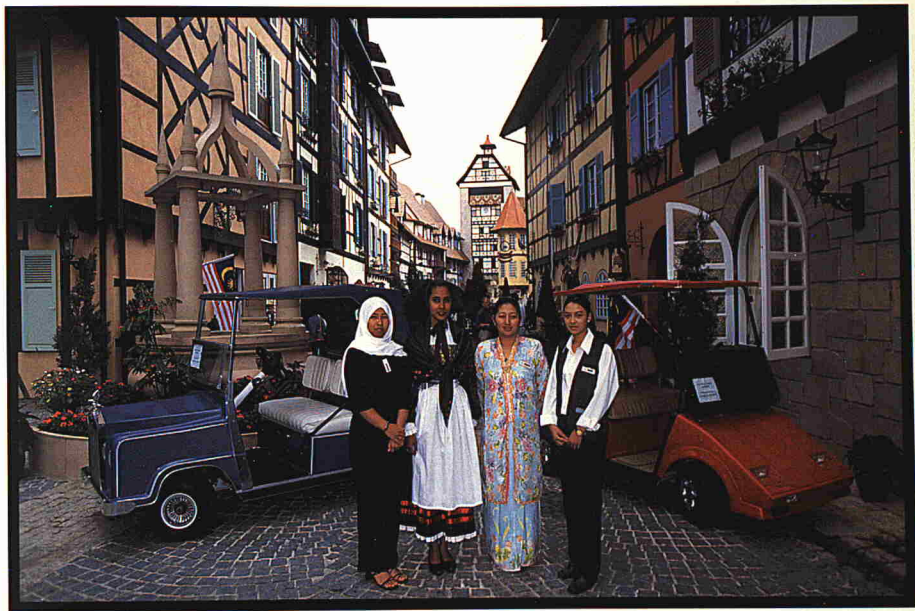


BUKIT TINGGI

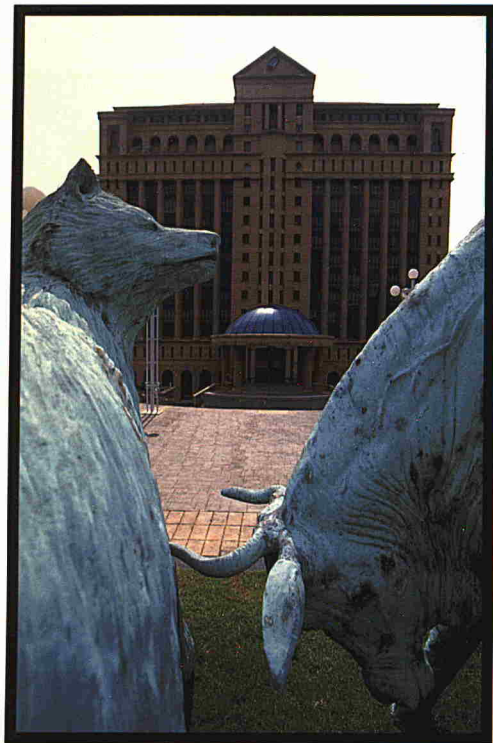
COLMAR TROPICALE
A FRENCH-THEMED RESORT



FRANCE IN MALAYSIA,
LESS THAN ONE-HOUR DRIVE FROM KUALA LUMPUR



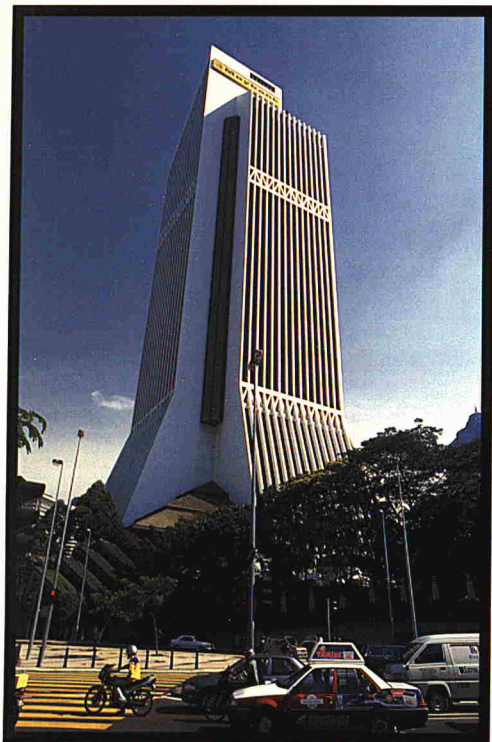
INSPIRED BY FRENCH ARTISTRY



THE POSTMODERN AND NEOCLASSICAL STYLE OF
KUALA LUMPUR STOCK EXCHANGE

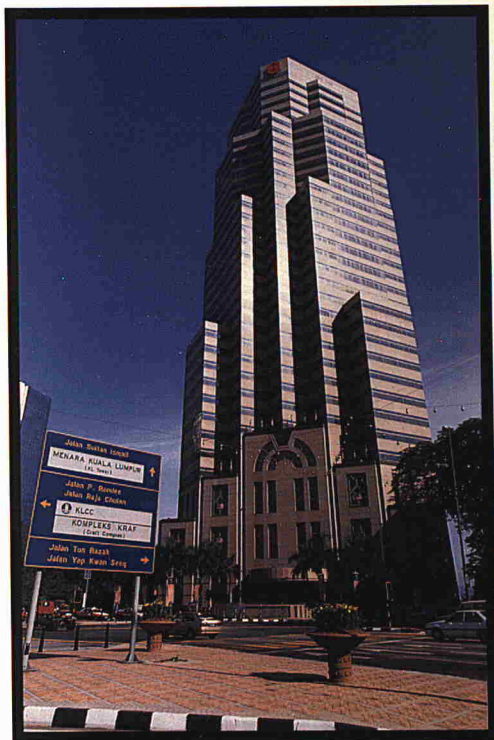


YOUNG PEOPLE OPERATING MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEMS



KUALA LUMPUR IS THE COUNTRY'S TRADE,
COMMERCE, BANKING AND FINANCE CENTRE

MAYBANK, MALAYSIA'S PREMIER BANK



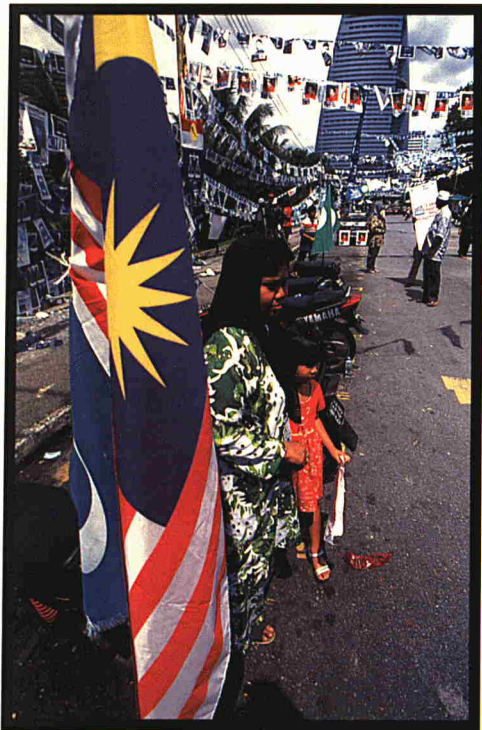
HEAD OFFICE PUBLIC BANK



THE NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNED BY THE FAMOUS AMERICAN SCULPTOR FELIX de WELDON IN HONOUR OF THE NATION'S FALLEN HEROES IN THE SUCCESSFUL WAR AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS



THE 1999 GENERAL ELECTIONS

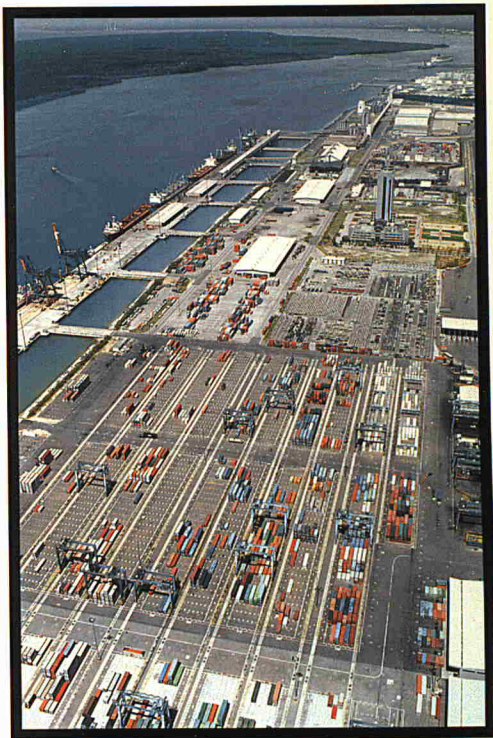


STREET PUBLICITY FOR THE GENERAL ELECTIONS





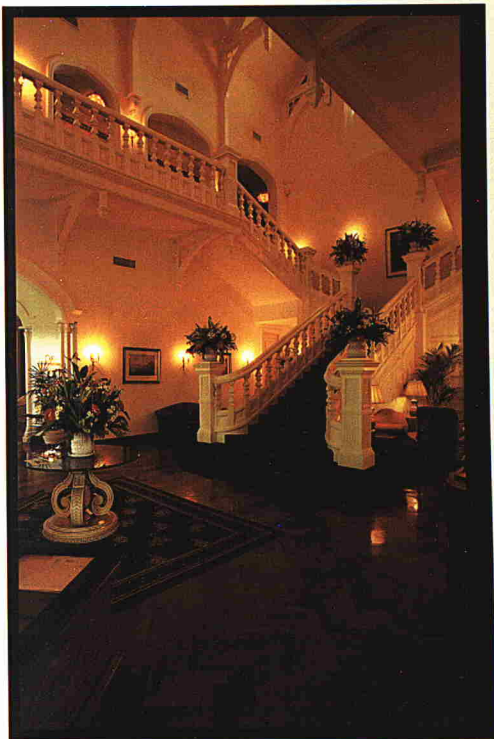
THE SKYLINE OF KUALA LUMPUR, CHANGING DAY BY DAY



PORT KLANG: SOUTHWEST OF KUALA LUMPUR, ON THE WEST COAST OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, IS A BUSY CONTAINER TERMINAL.



CARCOSA SERI NEGARA BOUTIQUE HOTEL,
LUXURIOUS URBAN RETREAT,
LAKE GARDENS AREA

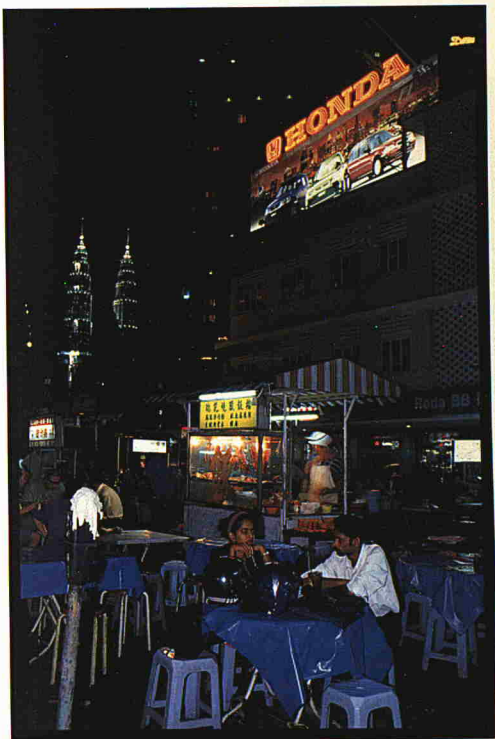


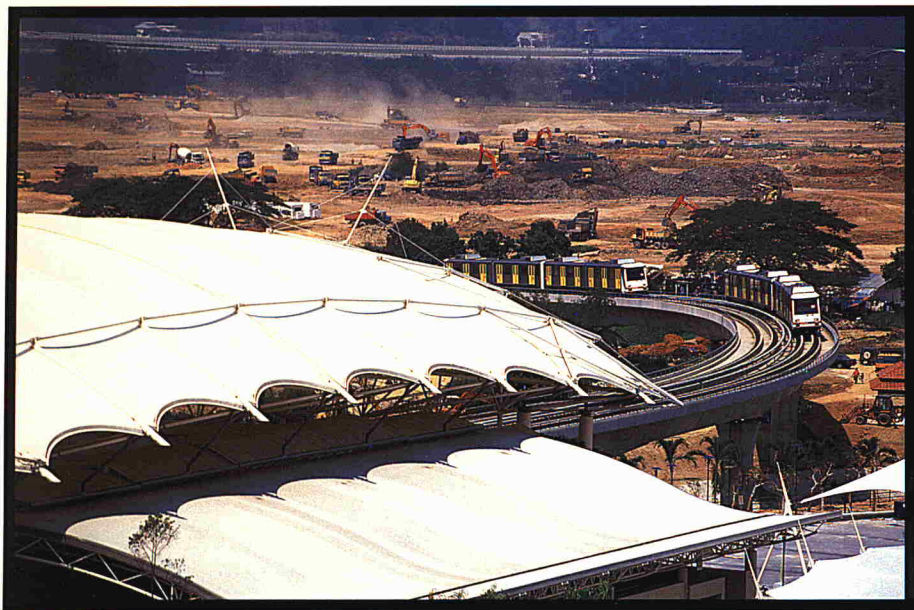
CHARMING COLONIAL STYLE OF CARCOSA SERI
NEGARA



DIFFERENT PREFERENCES OF THE MALAYSIAN, CHINESE AND INDIAN POPULATION BRING ABOUT AN IMPRESSIVE VARIETY IN FOOD

A GASTRONOMIC PARADISE WHEREVER YOU GO. BE IT IN A FIVE STAR HOTEL, A FLOATING RESTAURANT, A HAWKER CENTRE OR A ROADSIDE STALL.





THE PUTRA LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT DRIVERLESS TRAIN
SERVING THE NATIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX IN BUKIT JALIL.



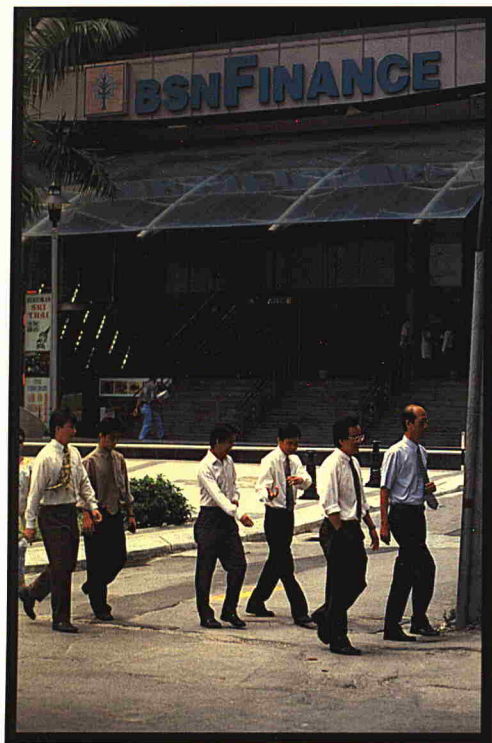
THE NATIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX IN BUKIT JALIL



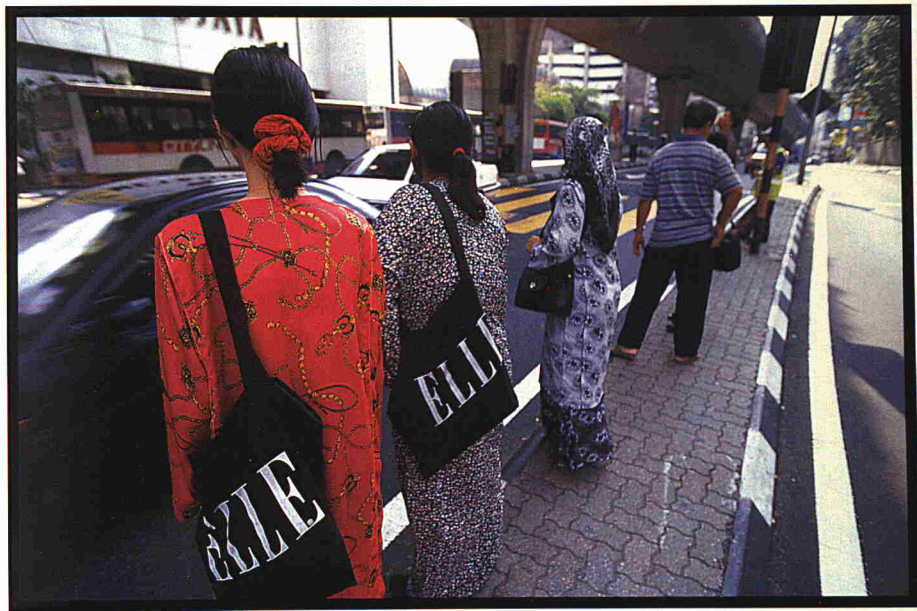
THE NEW KUALA LUMPUR CENTRAL TRAIN STATION



AT THE FORMER KUALA LUMPUR RAILWAY STATION



POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY HAS
ENSURED DEVELOPMENT





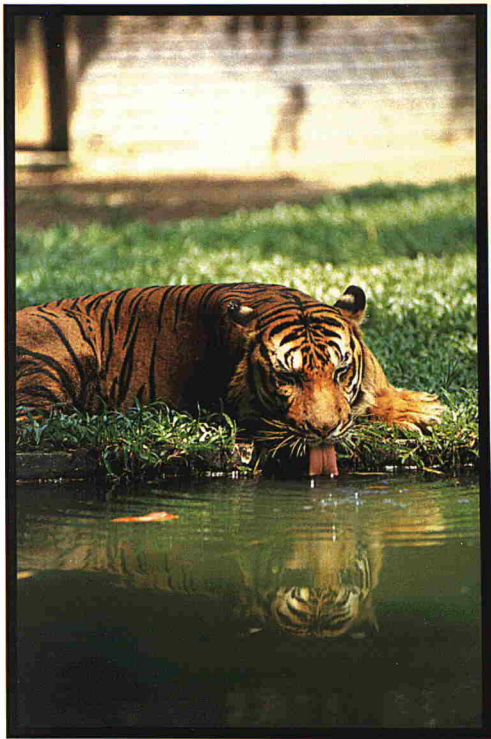
THE EMERALD GREEN COLOURED BUTTERFLY RAJAH BROOKE'S BIRDWING (*Troides brookiana*)



INNOVATIVE FLOODLIGHTS FOR
THE CITY WITHIN THE CITY



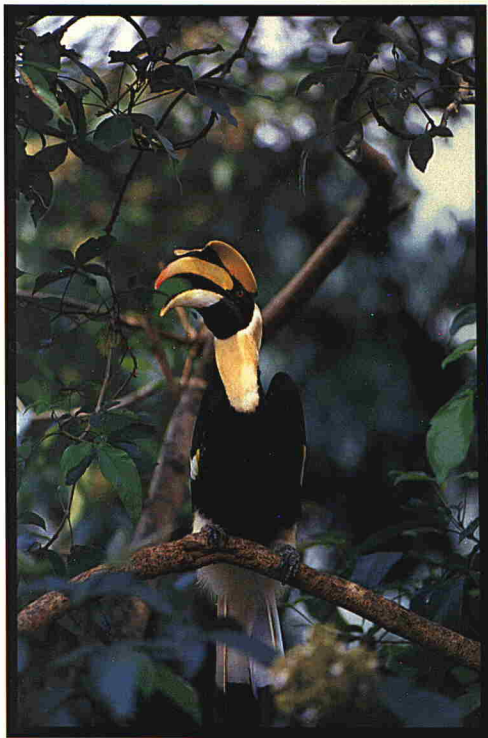
TAMAN RAMA RAMA, KUALA LUMPUR BUTTERFLY PARK, IS A MINIATURE JUNGLE WITH SEVERAL THOUSAND BUTTERFLIES AND A VERY INTERESTING INSECT MUSEUM



NATIONAL ZOO (ZOO NEGARA)
13km FROM THE CENTRE OF KL
HULU KELANG
SELANGOR



TAMAN RAMA RAMA KUALA LUMPUR BUTTERFLY PARK. MORE THAN 120 SPECIES, THE MOST FAMOUS AMONG THEM BEING THE RAJAH BROOKE'S BIRDWING, OFFER THE VISITOR A COLOURFUL SPECTACLE



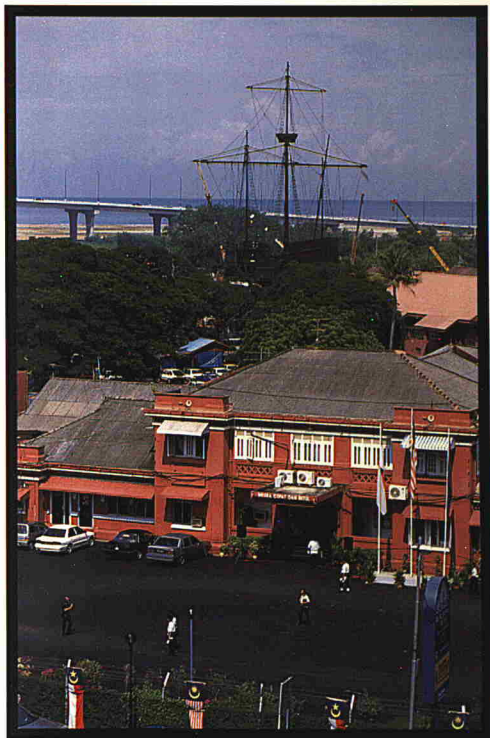
GREAT HORNBILL (*Buceros bicornis*) ONE OF THE SEVEN VARIETIES OF THE HORNBILL IN BIRD PARK (TAMAN BURUNG) LAKE GARDENS AREA KUALA LUMPUR

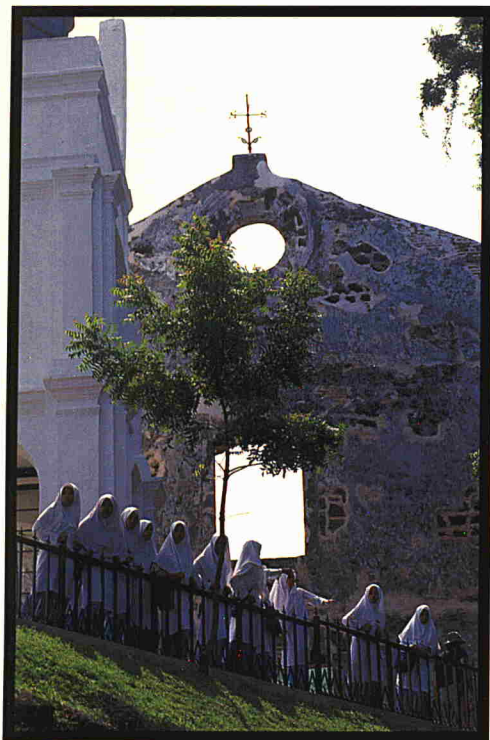


MELAKA

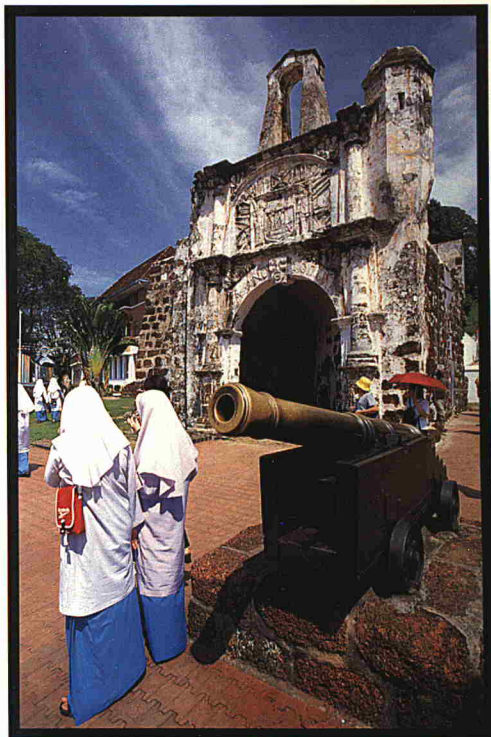
THE MOST FAMOUS AND POWERFUL TRADING PORT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA IN THE 15th CENTURY, IS NOW MALAYSIA'S MOST HISTORICALLY INTERESTING CITY

THE "FLORA DE LA MAR" MARITIME MUSEUM
(RE-CREATION OF AN OLD PORTUGUESE SHIP)

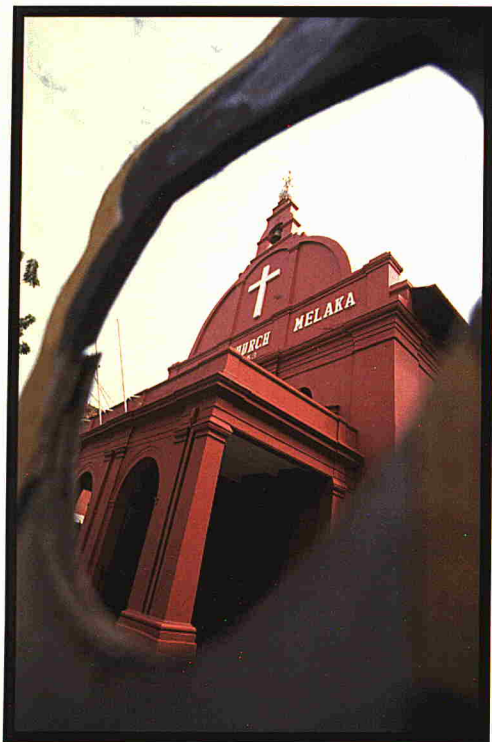




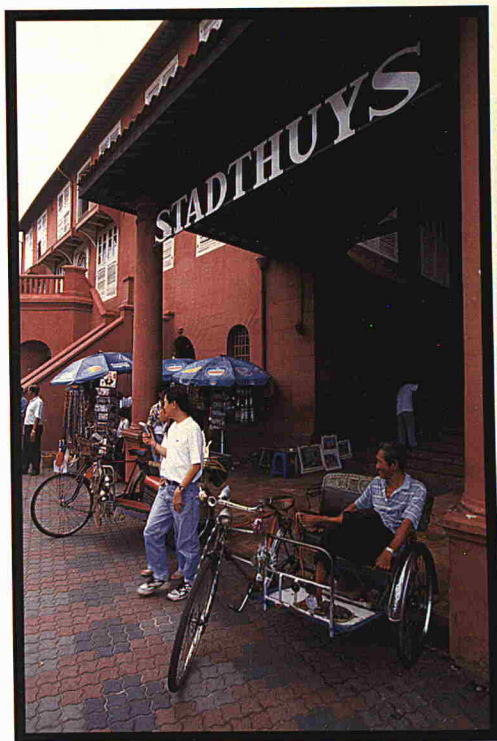
RUINS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH, SMALL CHAPEL
CALLED "NOSSA SENHORA DA ANUNCIADA"
(OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION)



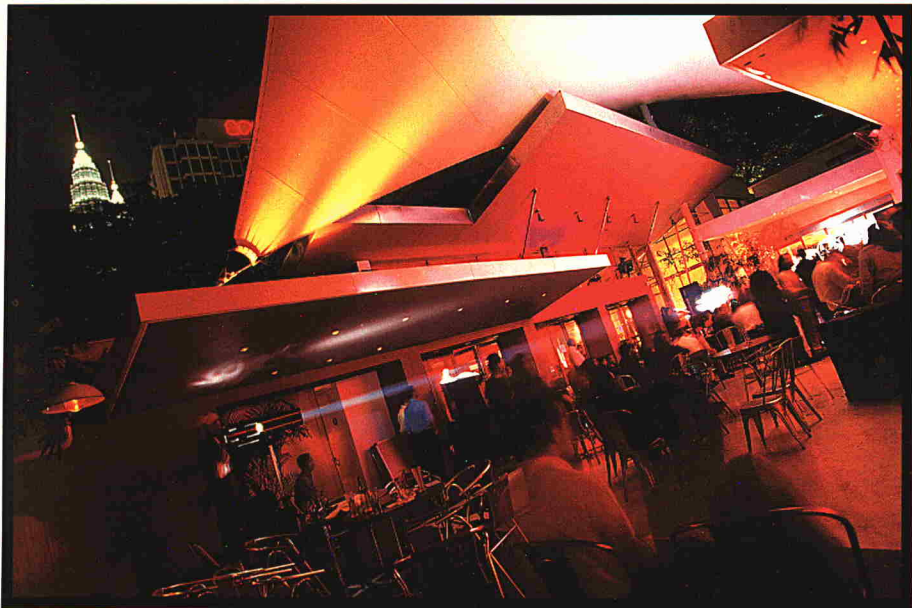
REMAINS OF THE 16th-CENTURY PORTUGUESE
FORTRESS A FAMOSA, CONSTRUCTED
BY ALFONSO D'ALBUQUERQUE



THE BRIGHT RED CHRIST CHURCH



STADTHUYS MELAKA,
A SOLID REMINDER OF THE DUTCH PERIOD,
HOUSES THE MALACCA HISTORICAL, ETHNOGRAPHIC
AND LITERATURE MUSEUMS.



NIGHTLIFE IN KUALA LUMPUR
MORE THAN ENOUGH TO KEEP NIGHT OWLS OUT OF BED



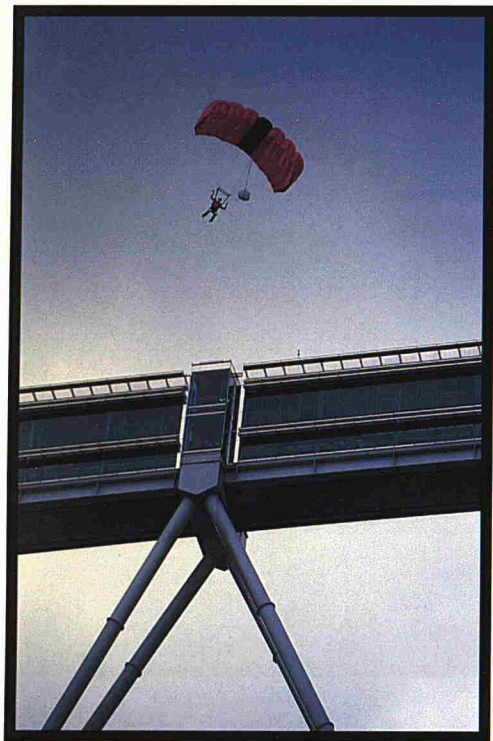
ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENTS ALONG JALAN BUKIT BINTANG



GALAXY OF NEON LIGHTS



ON THE EVE OF NATIONAL DAY



AN EVERLASTING FESTIVAL, ESPECIALLY
ON MALAYSIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY, FOR EXAMPLE
THE MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
OF EXTREME SKYDIVE



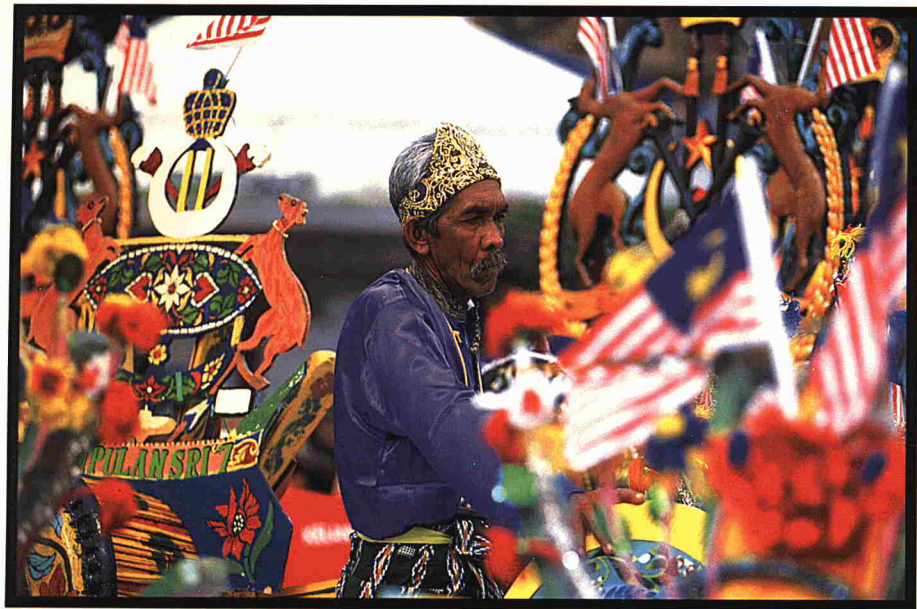
THE SKY IS THE LIMIT



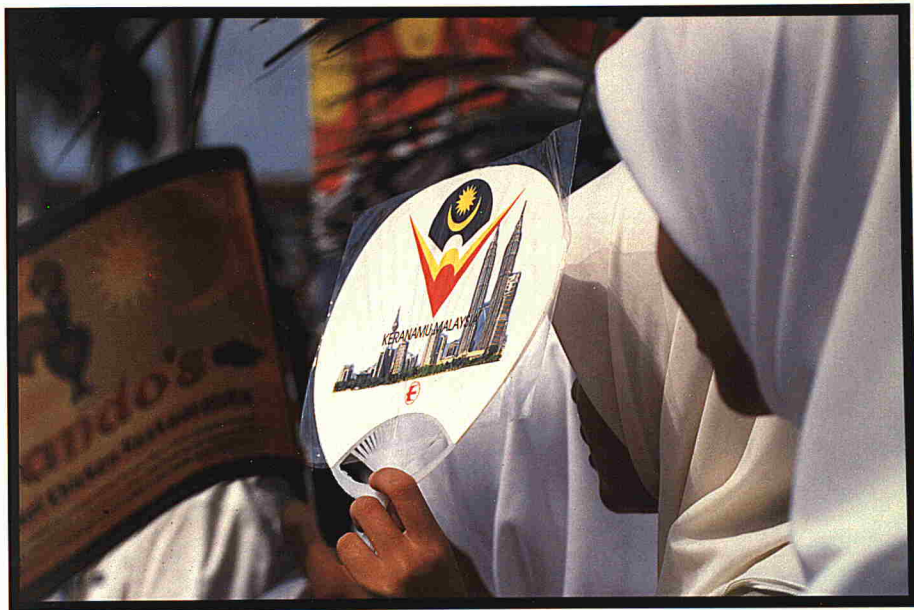
GETTING READY FOR NATIONAL DAY



BEGINNING OF NATIONAL DAY PARADE



AMIDST THE COLOURS OF MALAYSIA



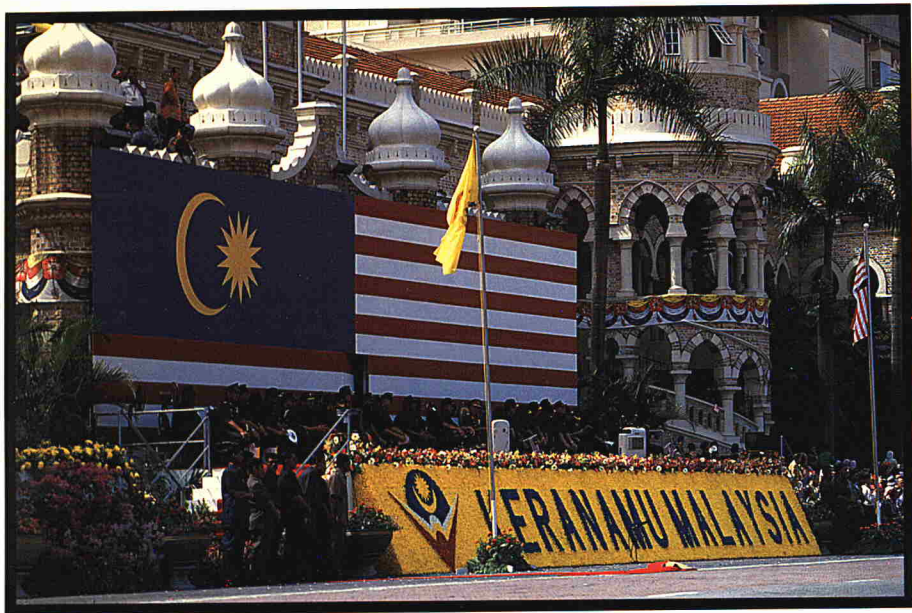
NATIONAL DAY LOGO



PROUD TO PARTICIPATE IN FOLK DRUM ENSEMBLE



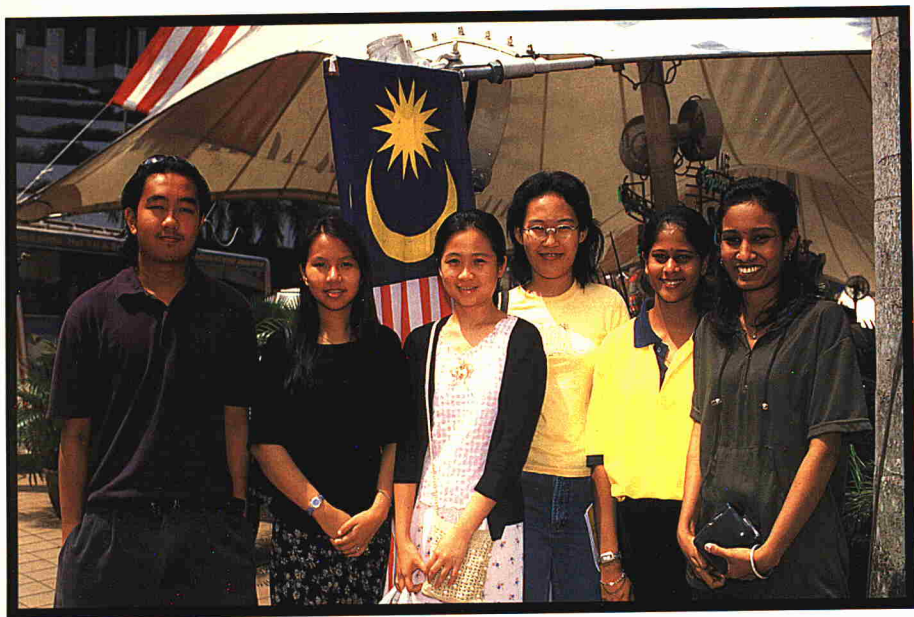
SOLDIERS IN MERDEKA PARADE



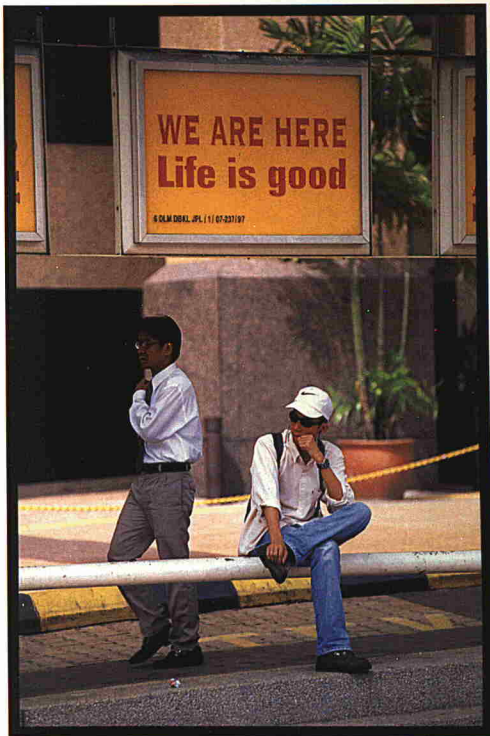
DIGNITARIES WATCHING NATIONAL DAY PARADE



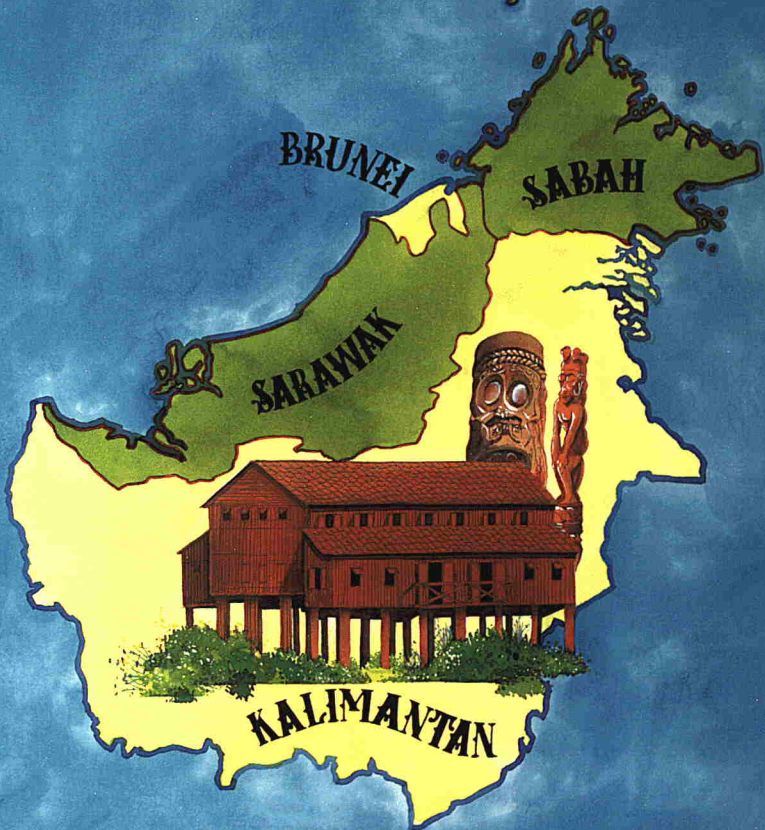
THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE



MALAYSIA'S MULTI-CULTURAL POPULATION: TRULY ASIA



MALAYSIA'S SUCCESS STORY PROVIDES A HIGH
STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ITS POPULATION



SARAWAK THE LAND OF HORNBILLS

Borneo is the third largest island in the world and most of it belongs to Indonesia. On the northwest of Borneo is located the east Malaysian state of Sarawak, "the largest state in Malaysia", with an area of 124,450 square kilometres. Mountains, hills and jungle dominate the landscape. Sarawak has a typical equatorial climate and the daily temperatures vary between 24°C and 32°C. The heaviest rainfalls are from November till February.

In 1963, after more than 100 years of rule by White Rajahs, Sarawak became part of the Malaysian Federation and that definitely put an end to the colonial era.

Although Islam spread rapidly through most parts of Malaysia, it was less so in this region. The population is ethnically diverse and the Chinese, who form about 30% of the population, control most of the trade.

The capital of Sarawak is Kuching, which means 'cat'. Statues of cats - and even a cat museum - are fascinating attractions in the city. The Sarawak Museum is world-famous and is a must see for every visitor. It is considered one of the richest and most beautiful museums in Southeast Asia in terms of anthropological collections.

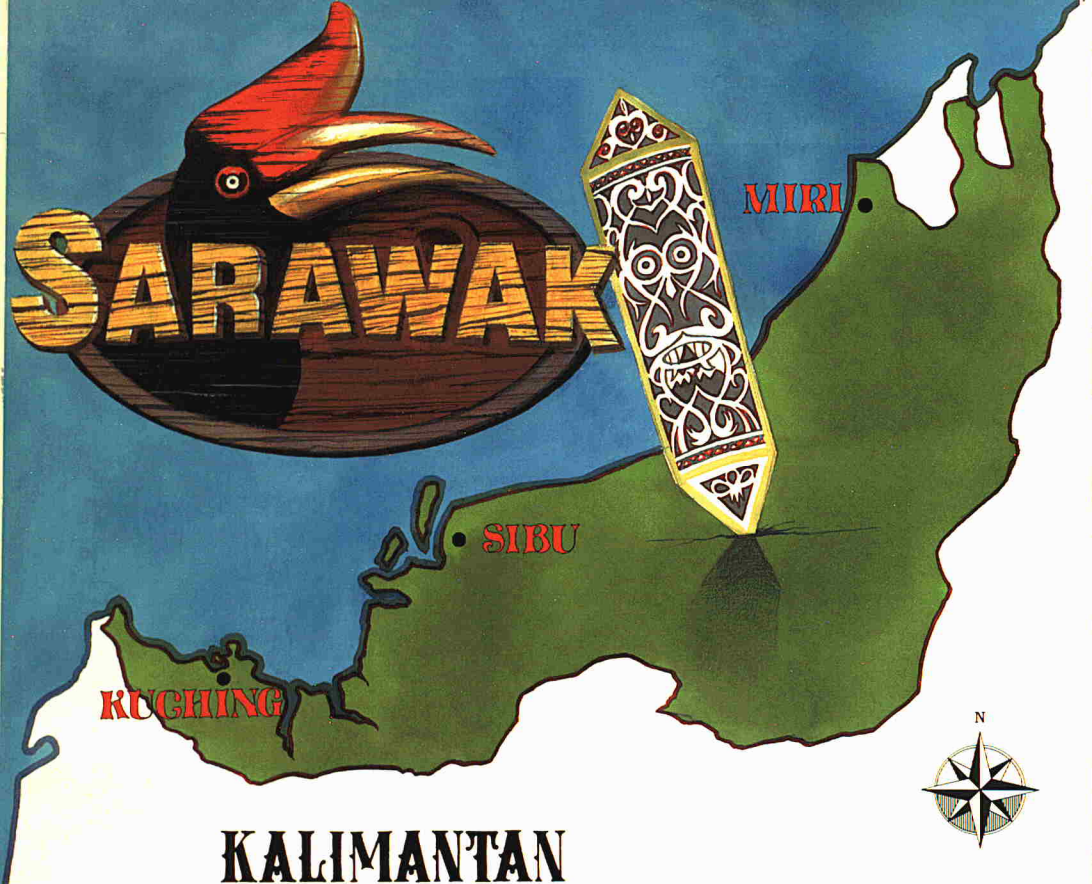
The emblem of this state is the impressive and gigantic rhinoceros hornbill, which the Iban people, Sarawak's largest ethnic group, consider to be their 'protector' or 'guardian angel'.

The modern cities continue to attract young people, even though the typical longhouse or the 'village under one roof' is still very much part of the lifestyle.

There was a time when young and brave warriors had to prove their courage to win favours of local beauties through head-hunting. The memories of the past are represented by trophies, which are traditionally found in every longhouse. Nowadays, however, hospitality is an innate character of the indigenous people.

The fauna and flora of Sarawak show an immense variety. Almost ten national parks preserve the rich natural heritage of Sarawak. Amongst them, the Gunung Mulu National Park appeals most to the imagination. It is very well-known for its caves, including the Deer Cave which is populated by millions of wrinkle-lipped bats. Every day when the sun sets, at least when the weather gods are well-disposed, enormous hordes of bats leave their shelters and take off in search of food in the nearby jungle, for themselves and their offspring. An estimated eight to ten tons of insects fall prey to the bats every day.

Miri, near the Brunei border, is the third largest city of Sarawak and is a very important trading post. In 1910 oil was discovered, sparking off tremendous economic activity, which made the city flourish. Miri is also an exit-base for visits to other national parks in the immediate neighbourhood.



SARAWAK

MIRI

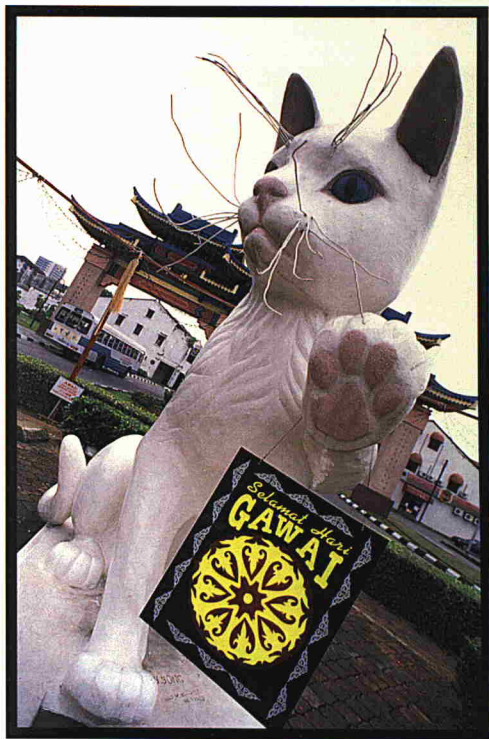
SIBU

KUCHING

KALIMANTAN



KUCHING, SARAWAK'S CAPITAL: A TOWN CALLED CAT
THE GREAT CAT OF KUCHING IS A MONUMENTAL KITSCH STATUE, SITUATED AT THE JUNCTION OF JALAN PADUNGAN AND JALAN CENTRAL

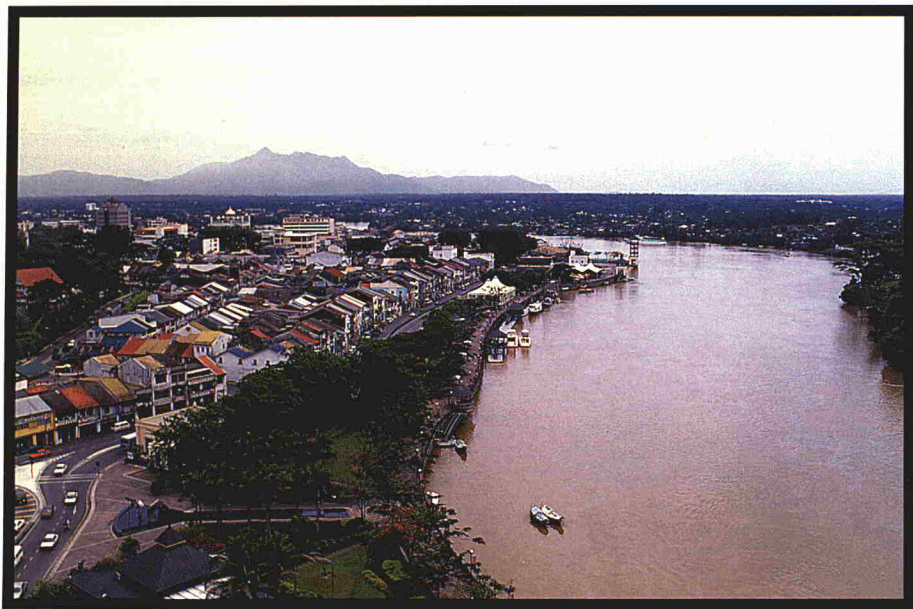




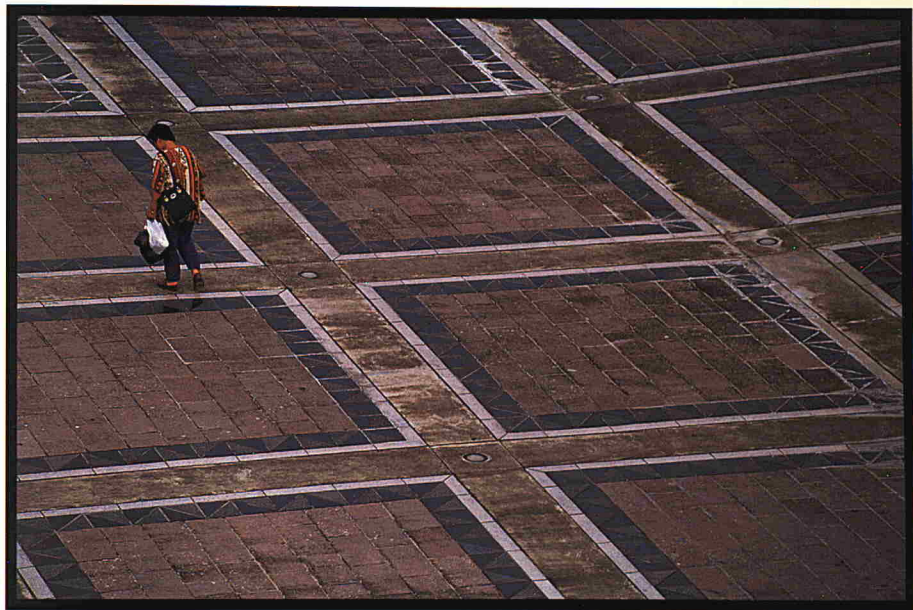
MEANDER SLOWLY IN A SAMPAN UP AND DOWN THE SARAWAK RIVER,
AND DISCOVER THE TYPICAL MALAY KAMPUNG



KUCHING WATERFRONT, WITH AN ALMOST 900m-LONG ESPLANADE AND BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED WITH ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES, HAS BECOME THE MOST POPULAR MEETING PLACE



THE OLDEST STREET IN KUCHING IS MAIN BAZAAR, JUST OPPOSITE THE WATERFRONT AND WITH ITS MAGNIFICENT EXAMPLE OF CHINESE SHOPHOUSE ARCHITECTURE, THE HEART OF OLD KUCHING.



WALKING AROUND IN SQUARES AND IN CONTEMPLATION IN KUCHING



TRANSPORT ACTIVITY ALONG THE SARAWAK RIVER.
KUCHING



ROADSWEEPERS OF KUCHING NORTH CITY COUNCIL



SARAWAK PLAZA SHOPPING CENTRE



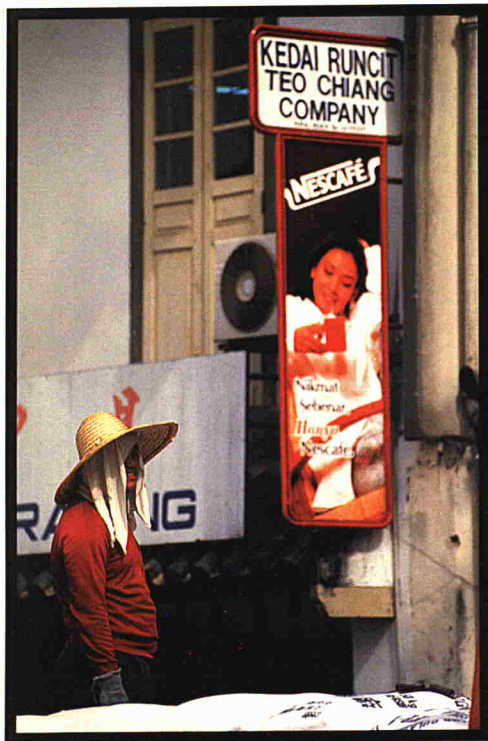
INDIA STREET IS MOST FAMOUS FOR ITS SHOPHOUSES, SELLING ALL KINDS OF GOODS AND MORE PARTICULARLY TEXTILES



KUCHING SOUTH CITY HALL



KUCHING NORTHERN CITY HALL (WITH CAT MUSEUM)



WORKING UNDER THE TROPICAL SUN
KUCHING



CALLIGRAPHIC SIGNBOARDS
KUCHING



MOTORCYCLE OF THE ASTANA (OFFICIAL
RESIDENCE OF SARAWAK'S HEAD OF STATE)

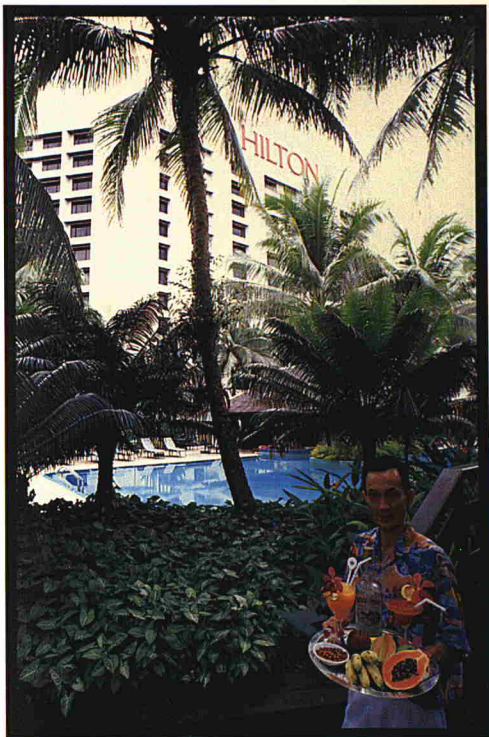


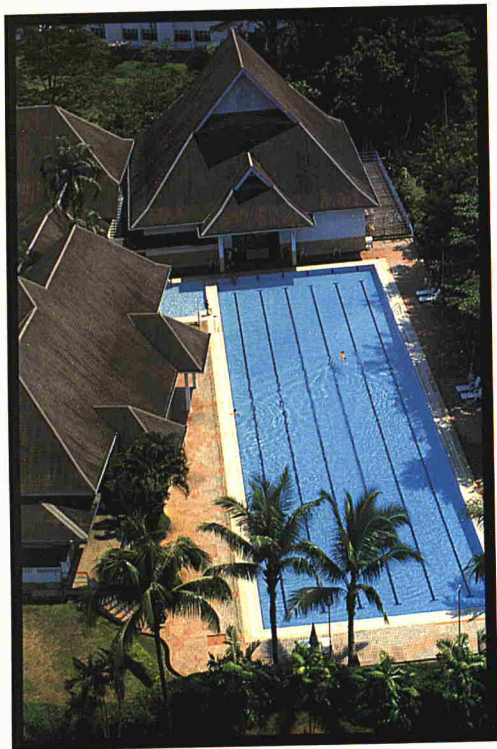
AT THE ENTRANCE OF A SHOP IN KUCHING:
MODERN HEADHUNTING?



MARKET IN SERIAN
SPICES ARE HIGHLY APPRECIATED IN
MALAYSIAN CUISINE.

KUCHING HAS AN EXCELLENT RANGE OF
ACCOMMODATION, FROM LUXURY TO BUDGET

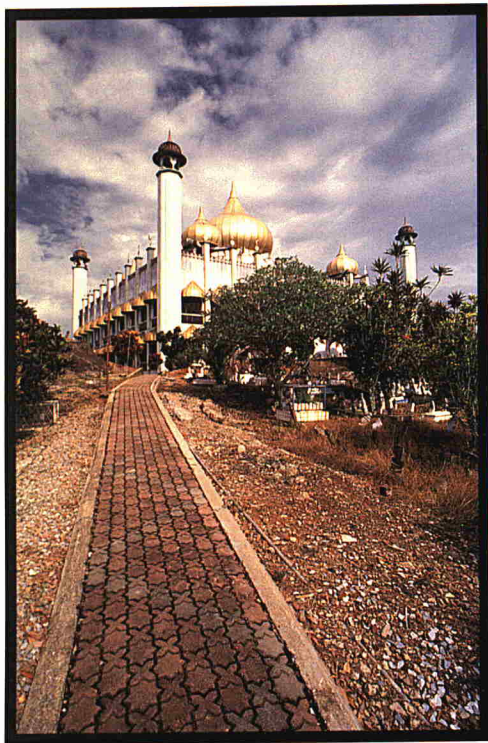




SWIMMING POOL OF SARAWAK CLUB
SEEN FROM THE CIMC CENTRE TOWER KUCHING



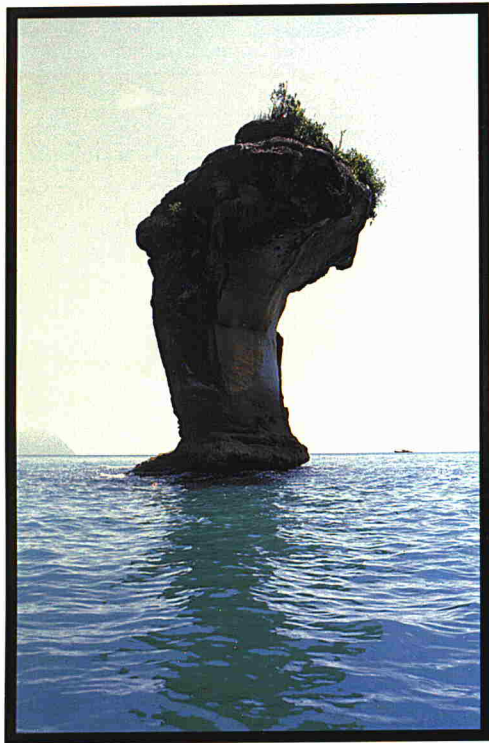
THE OLD WING OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS SARAWAK MUSEUM IN KUCHING IS DESIGNED IN THE STYLE OF A NORMANDY TOWN HOUSE AND HOUSES ONE OF THE BEST ETHNOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



OLD STATE MOSQUE (CITY MOSQUE)
KUCHING



MUSLIM GRAVEYARD
LOCATED AT THE OLD STATE MOSQUE (CITY MOSQUE)
KUCHING



SEA STACK WEATHERED BY WAVE ACTION
BAKO NATIONAL PARK



HIGH TIDE IN BAKO NATIONAL PARK (WEST SARAWAK)
AT THE MOUTH OF THE BAKO RIVER



UNUSUAL SIGNBOARD AT BAKO NATIONAL PARK



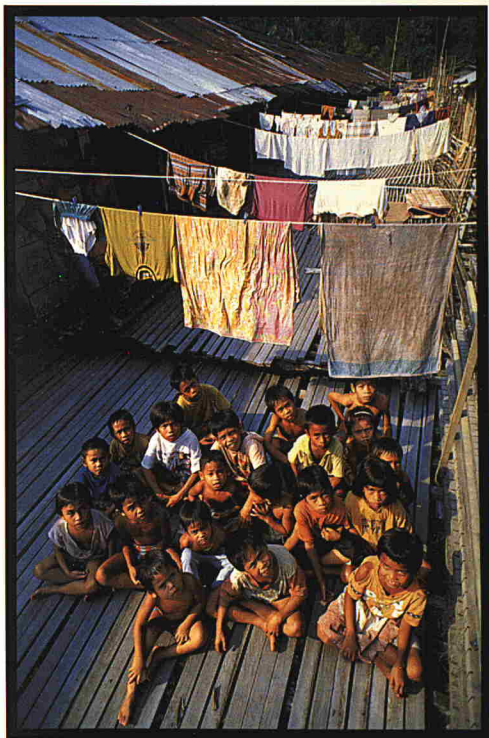
IN THE GARDENS OF A LONGHOUSE IN SARATOK



LITTLE CHILD SLEEPING AT BAKO PARK HQ

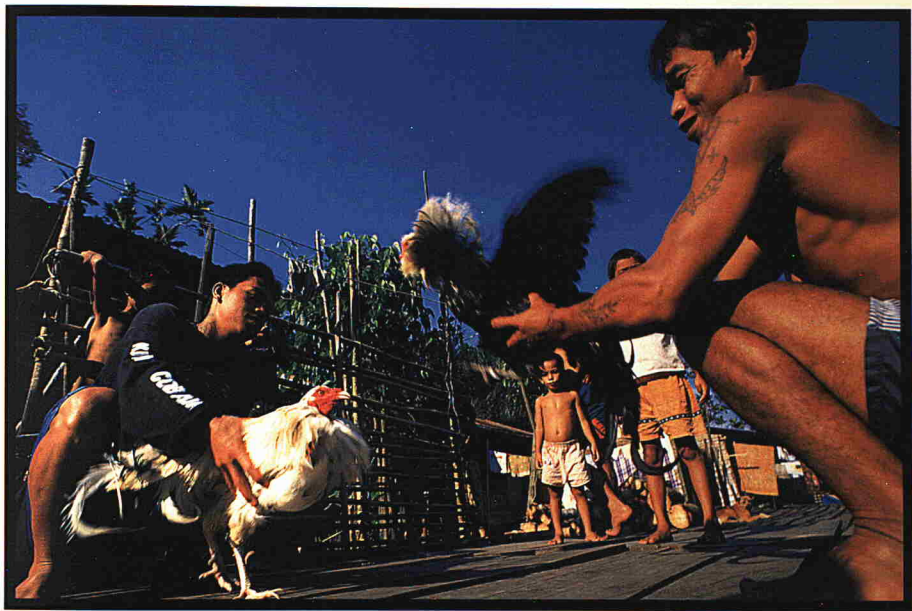
IBAN LONGHOUSE AT NANGA SPAYA

MANY ETHNIC GROUPS OF SARAWAK
LIVE IN LONGHOUSES ALONG THE MAJOR RIVERS.
A LONGHOUSE IS A SMALL VILLAGE UNDER ONE ROOF

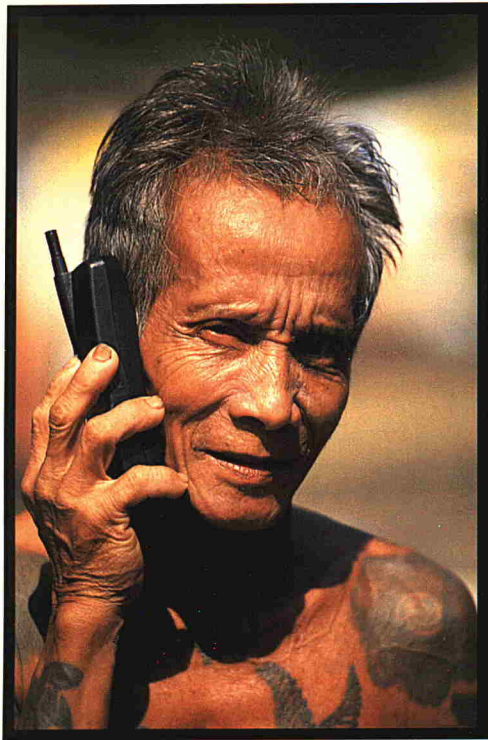




CHILDREN FROM A LONGHOUSE AT NANGA SPAYA



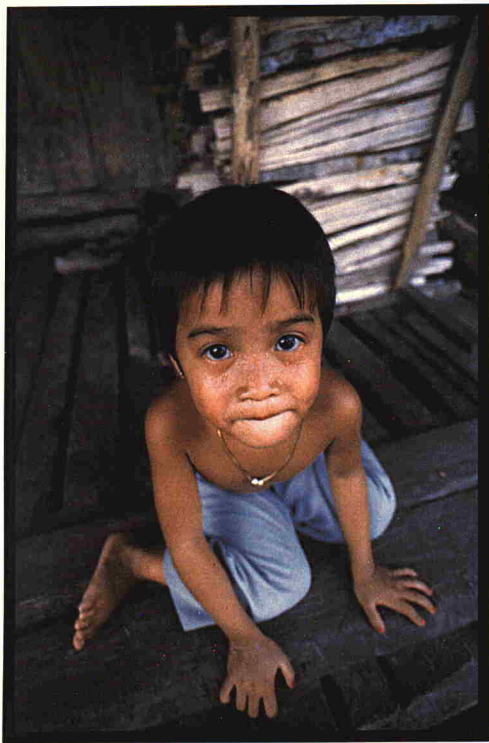
A FAVOURITE SPORT AMONG THE IBANS IS COCKFIGHTING.
THEY TREAT THEIR * FIGHTER-COCKS* WITH MUCH CARE



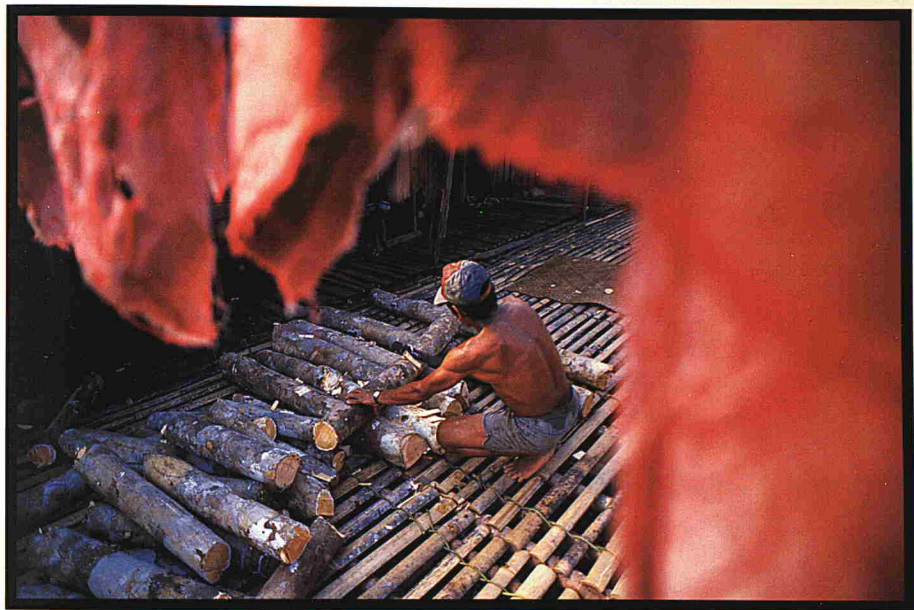
THE IBANS ARE THE LARGEST ETHNIC GROUP IN SARAWAK. THEY MAINTAIN THEIR VERY RICH CULTURE, WHILE ALSO FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH TECHNOLOGY. NO DIGITAL DIVIDE.



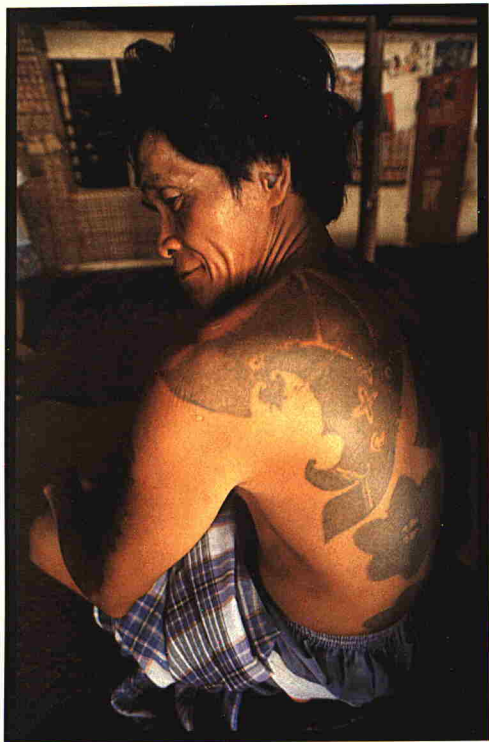
EVERY FAMILY HAS ITS OWN SEPARATE ROOM
IN THE LONGHOUSE, BUT SHARES A COMMON HABITATION



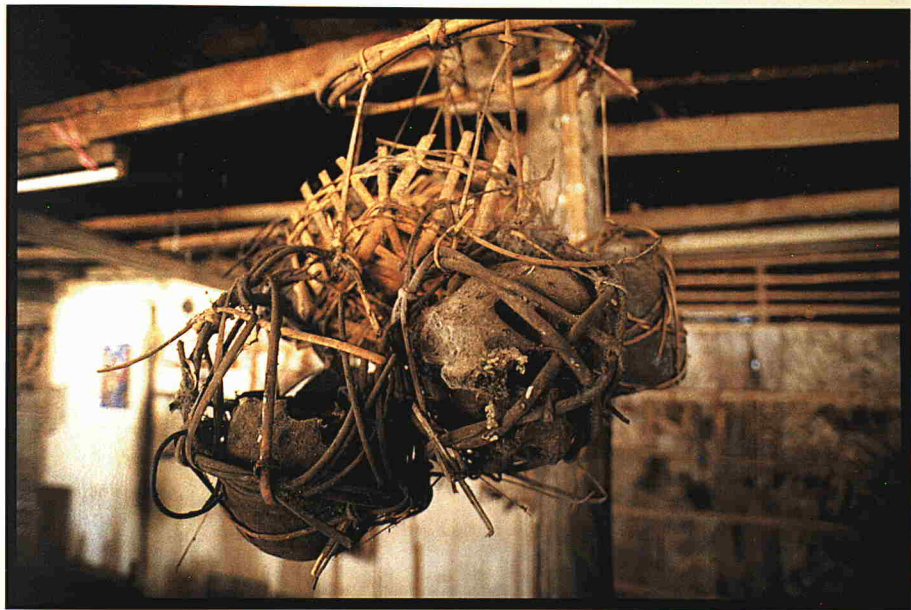
WHEN NOT WORKING IN THE PADDY FIELDS,
MOTHERS STAY IN THE LONGHOUSE WITH THEIR
CHILDREN, PRODUCING HANDICRAFTS
AND DOING HOUSEWORK



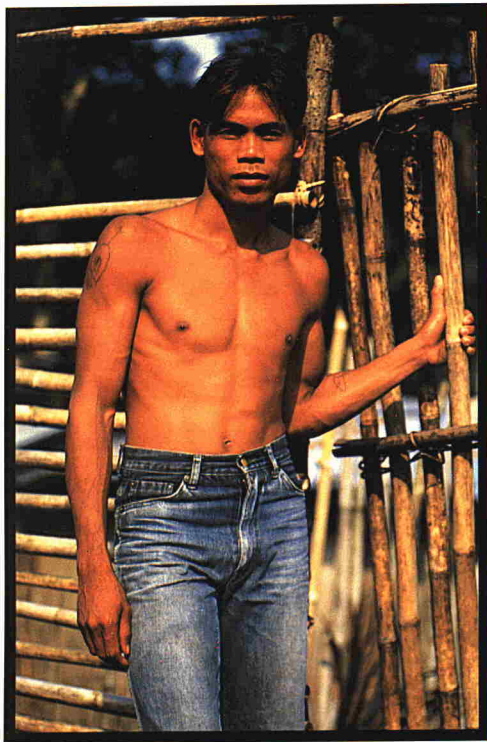
AN IBAN MAN CUTTING WOOD ON THE OPEN DECK
(OUTER VERANDAH) OF THE LONGHOUSE
THE FLOOR IS MADE OF SPLIT BAMBOO



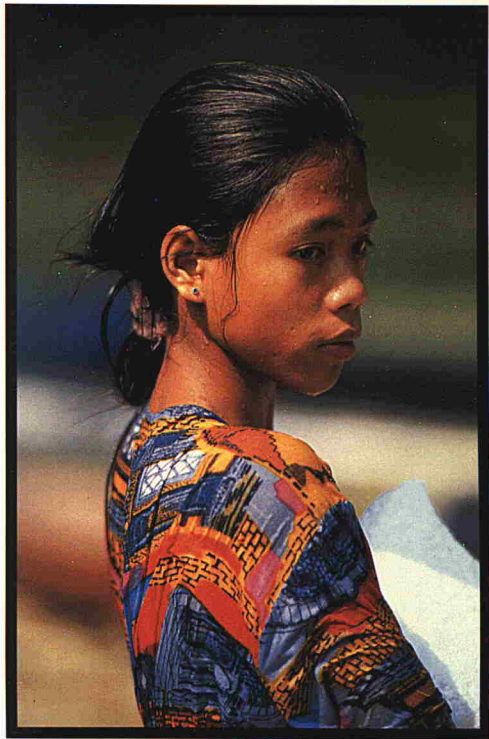
TATTOOS GIVE AN INDICATION OF A MAN'S BRAVERY,
AND ALSO HIS SOCIAL STATUS



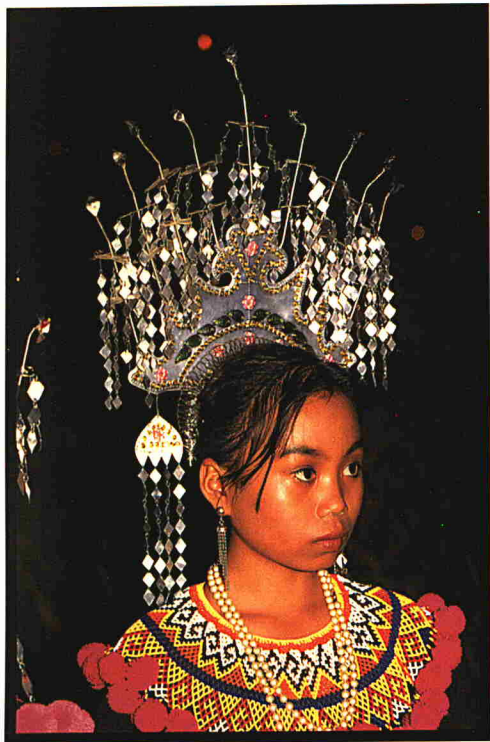
HEADHUNTING WAS PRACTISED AMONG MANY TRIBES IN BORNEO.
THE TROPHIES, SYMBOLISING BRAVERY AND MANHOOD,
ARE A REMINDER OF THE PAST



MEMBERS OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN THE LONGHOUSES HAVE LESS EYE-CATCHING TATTOOS. THEY NO LONGER NEED TO SHOW THEIR MANLY CREDENTIALS BY TAKING A HEAD



IBAN DREAM



IBAN GIRL IN CEREMONIAL COSTUME FOR HARI
GAWAI (GAWAY DAY), AN ANNUAL HARVEST
CELEBRATION IN JUNE.



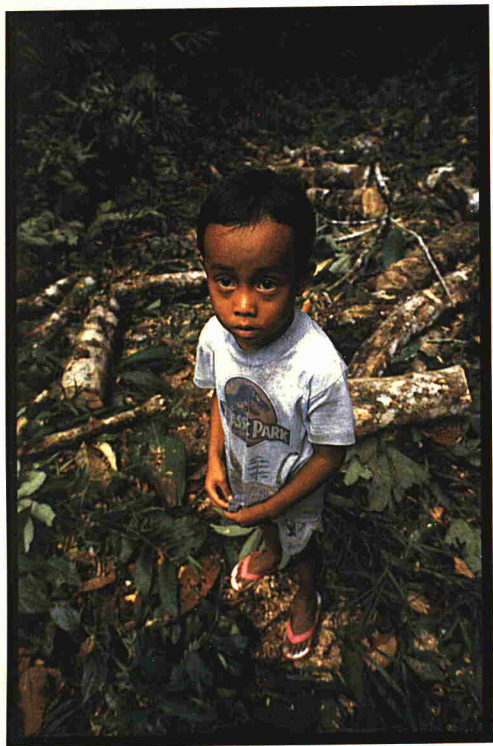
NOWADAYS, TRADITIONAL COSTUMES AND HEADDRESSES ARE WORN ONLY FOR SPECIAL FESTIVALS AND WEDDINGS



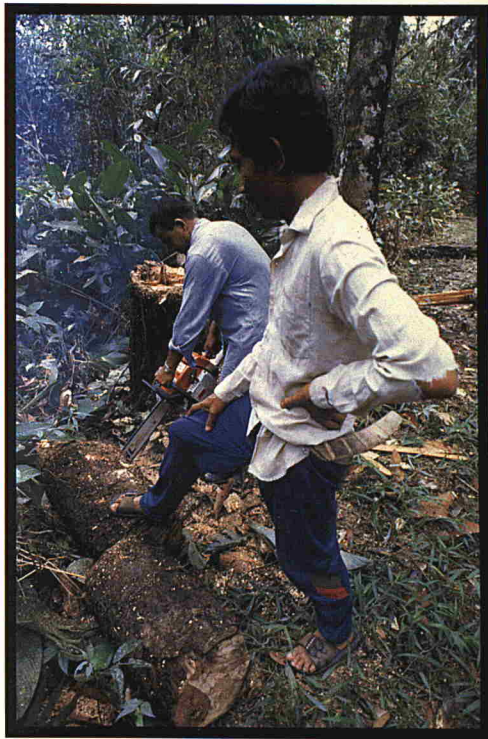
BIDAYUH GIRL IN TRADITIONAL COSTUME
THE BIDAYUH ARE THE THIRD
LARGEST ETHNIC GROUP IN SARAWAK



CHILDREN FROM A LONGHOUSE IN SARATOK



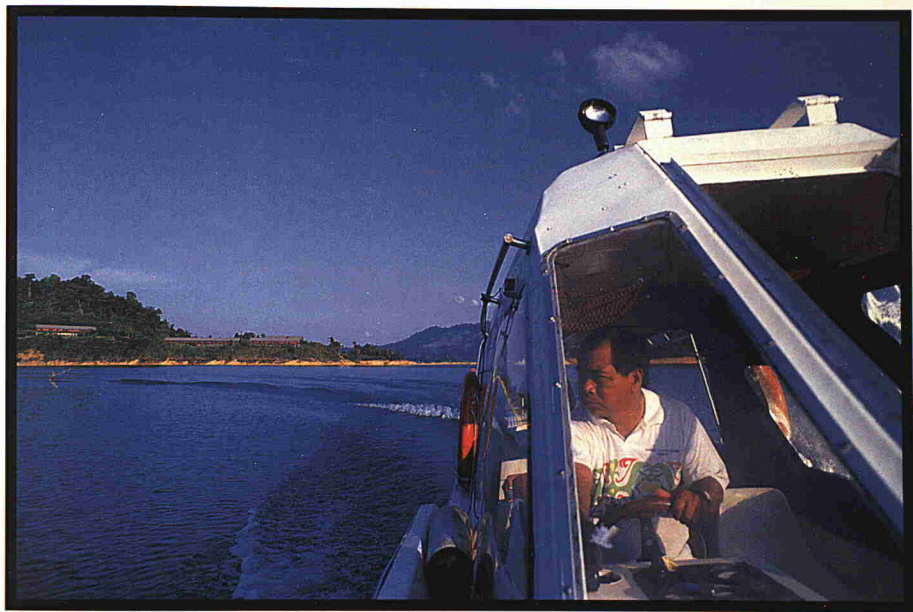
CHILD FROM A LONGHOUSE IN SARATOK
ON THE WAY TO SIBU, THE SECOND LARGEST TOWN
IN SARAWAK AT 130 km FROM THE SOUTH CHINA SEA



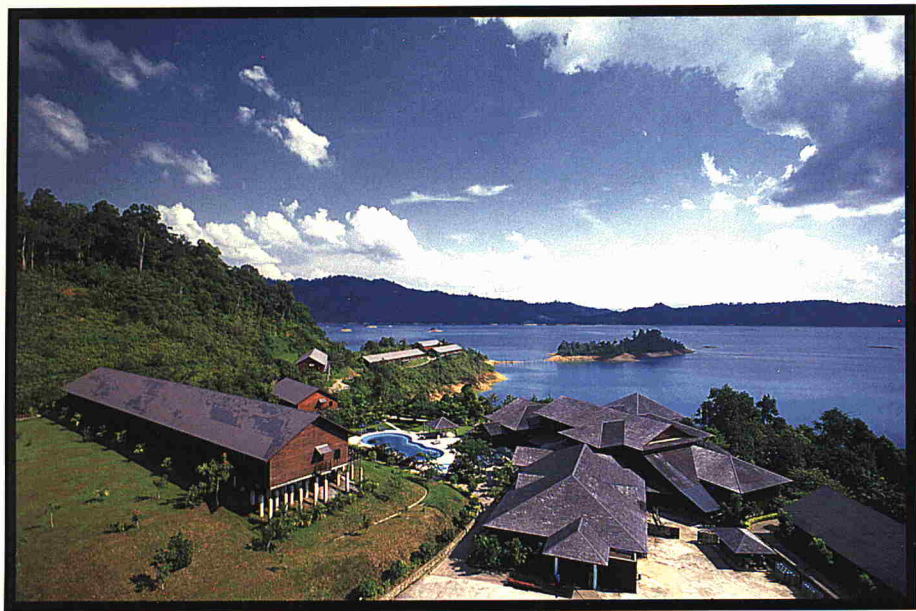
PROVIDING FIREWOOD
IN A LONGHOUSE IN SARATOK



THE MOST POPULAR WAY OF TRANSPORTATION ALONG THE RIVERS
IS THE LONGBOAT WITH OUTBOARD MOTOR
UNDER GUIDANCE OF A LOCAL SKILFUL BOATMAN



THE HILTON BATANG AI LONGHOUSE RESORT
PROVIDES JUNGLE ADVENTURES AND
VISITS TO TRADITIONAL IBAN LONGHOUSES.



AERIAL VIEW OF HILTON BATANG AI LONGHOUSE RESORT



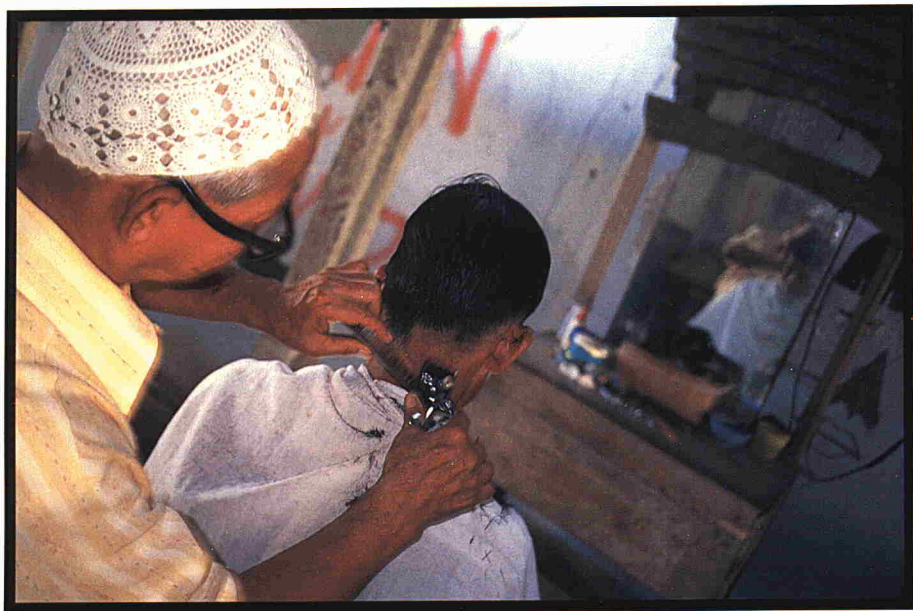
FISH HATCHERY
BATANG AI



THE ROOMS IN HILTON BATANG AJ LONGHOUSE RESORT
ARE BUILT IN TRADITIONAL LONGHOUSE STYLE WITH ALL THE
USUAL HILTON COMFORT



SUNRISE AT HILTON BATANG AI LONGHOUSE RESORT THROUGH LENS

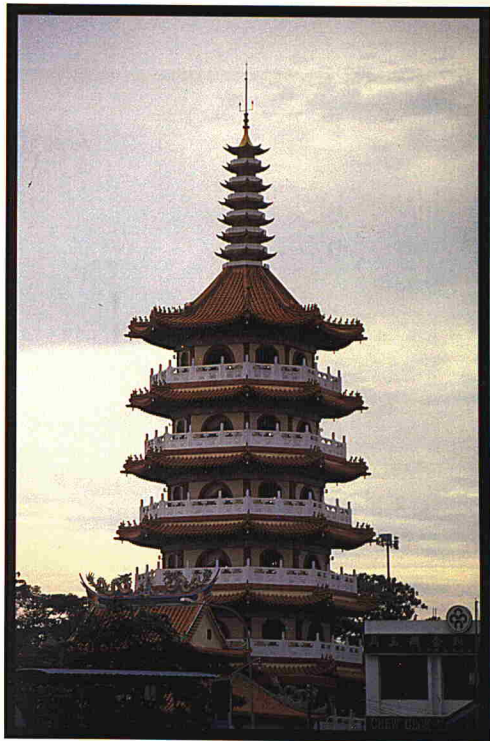


BARBERSHOP IN SERIAN

SIBU: THE GATEWAY TO SARAWAK'S INTERIOR

171

THE TUA PEK KONG TEMPLE WITH ITS
SEVEN STOREY KUAN YIN PAGODA .

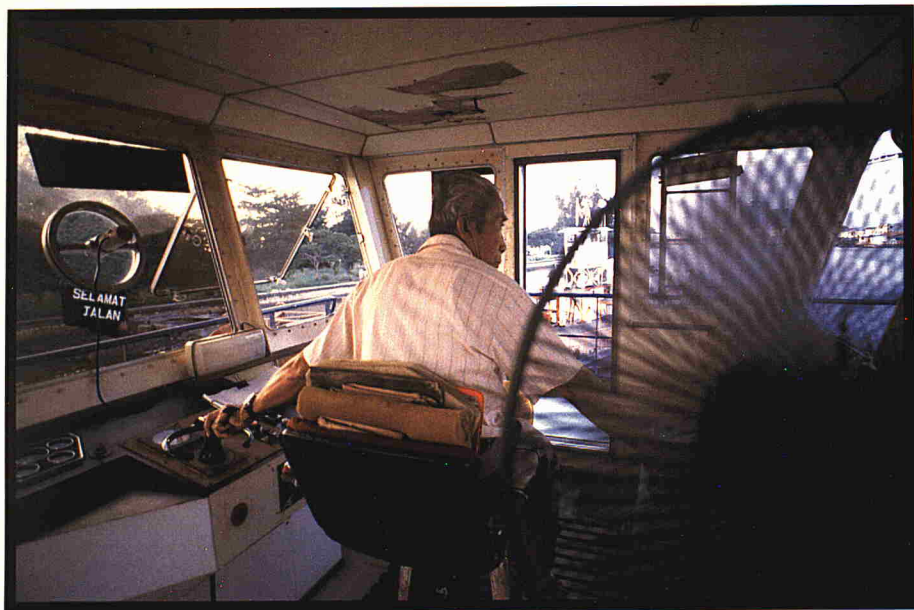




EXPRESS BOATS SIBU
THE ONLY MEANS OF ACCESS TO LONGHOUSES AND VILLAGES
ALONG THE RIVER REJANG, THE LONGEST RIVER IN SARAWAK



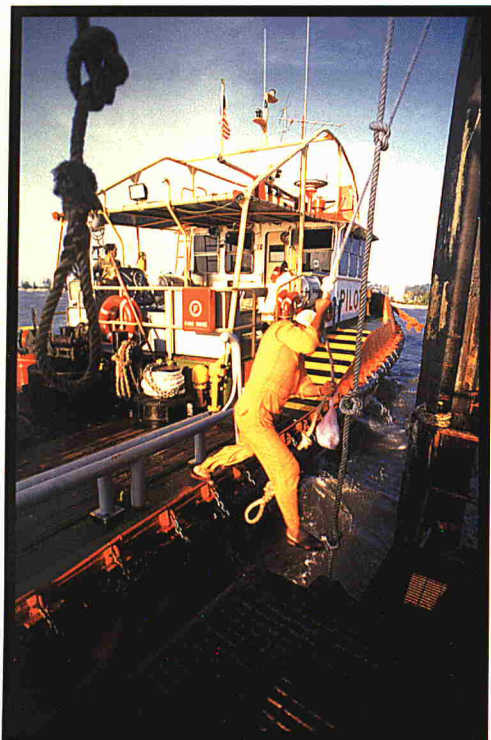
INSIDE THE EXPRESS LONGBOAT



LUTONG FERRY ON MIRI RIVER



THE BUSTLING OIL TOWN OF MIRI
IS THE GATEWAY TO NORTHEAST SARAWAK'S
MOST INTERESTING ATTRACTIONS



RETURNING FROM AN OIL PLATFORM.

MIRI BENEFITED FROM BOOMING
EXPORT EARNINGS FOLLOWING OIL DISCOVERY



MIRI HAS A SIGNIFICANT CHINESE COMMUNITY



RIHGA ROYAL HOTEL, 4 km SOUTH OF TOWN CENTRE MIRI



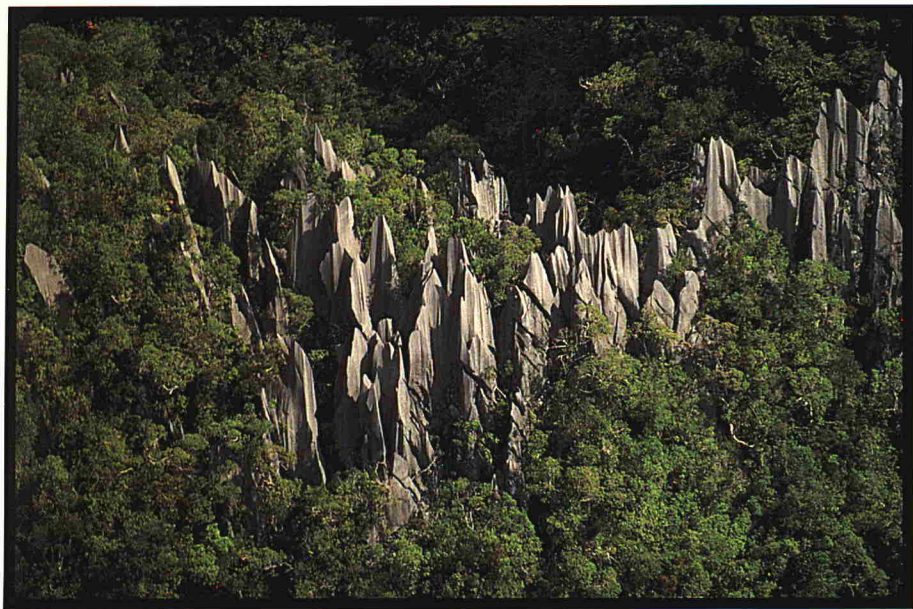
SWIMMING POOL RIHGA ROYAL HOTEL



DISINFECTION AT THE ROYAL MULU RESORT



TERRACE AT THE ROYAL MULU RESORT



THE PINNACLES (LIMESTONE SPIKES)
LOCATED ON THE FLANKS OF GUNUNG API
GUNUNG MULU NATIONAL PARK.



A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST RAIN FOREST,
GUNUNG MULU NATIONAL PARK



EVERY DAY MILLIONS OF BATS EMERGE FROM
DEER CAVE IN SEARCH FOR FOOD.

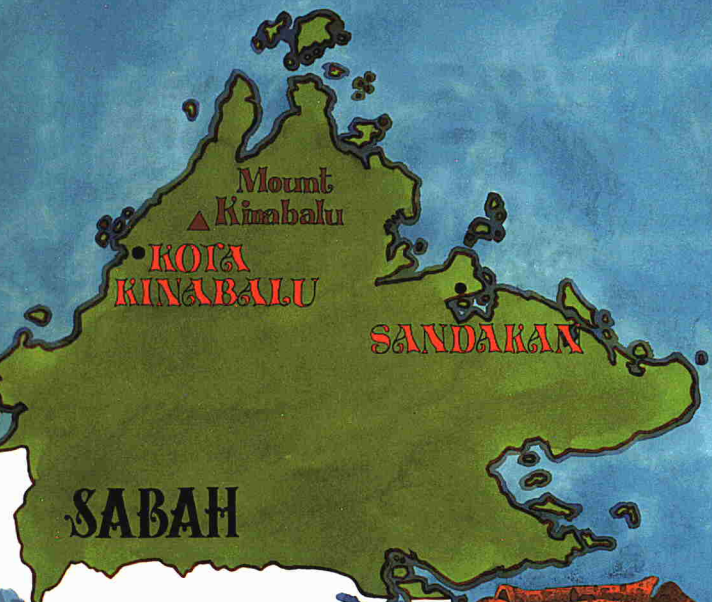


DEER CAVE, THE WORLD'S LARGEST CAVE PASSAGE,
GUNUNG MULU NATIONAL PARK



ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST MODERN FLEET OF BOEING AND AIRBUS AIRCRAFT: MALAYSIA AIRLINES

THE NATIONAL CARRIER HAS A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS AS WELL AS AN EXPANSIVE NETWORK OF DOMESTIC FLIGHTS



Sarawak and Sabah form the eastern part of Malaysia.

Sabah, popularly known as "The Land below the Wind", is located on the northeast of Borneo, just north of the equator, and it is the second largest state of Malaysia. Sabah, a tropical paradise, with a land area of 74,500 square kilometres, is found between the South China Sea on the west and the Sulu Sea and Celebes Sea on the east.

The 4093m Gunung Kinabalu, the highest mountain between the Himalayas and Papua New Guinea, dominates Sabah. To conquer this giant, is any adventurer's greatest challenge. But once this feat has been accomplished, the adventurer will be amply rewarded by a breath-taking panoramic view of the jungle below and beyond.

The state of Sabah has a heterogeneous population. Of the thirty ethnic groups, which inhabit this area, the Kadazans and the Bajaus are the largest. Christianity is the predominant religion here, while Islam and other religions hold sway in other parts of Malaysia.

The capital city, Kota Kinabalu, previously called Jesselton, has many hotels with modern facilities. The State Museum is an example of modern architecture, inspired by the designs of local longhouses. The museum houses a rich collection of historical and anthropological items. The Sunday market in Jalan Gaya offers a colourful display of fresh and aromatic natural produce, bright textiles, exotic flowers and plants, souvenirs and all sorts of handicraft.

The Tunku Abdul Rahman Park consists of five exotic little islands and is a haven for those who enjoy a serene lush green tropical environment. As the sun sets, one is treated to a riot of colours splashed all over the vast expanse of the sky.

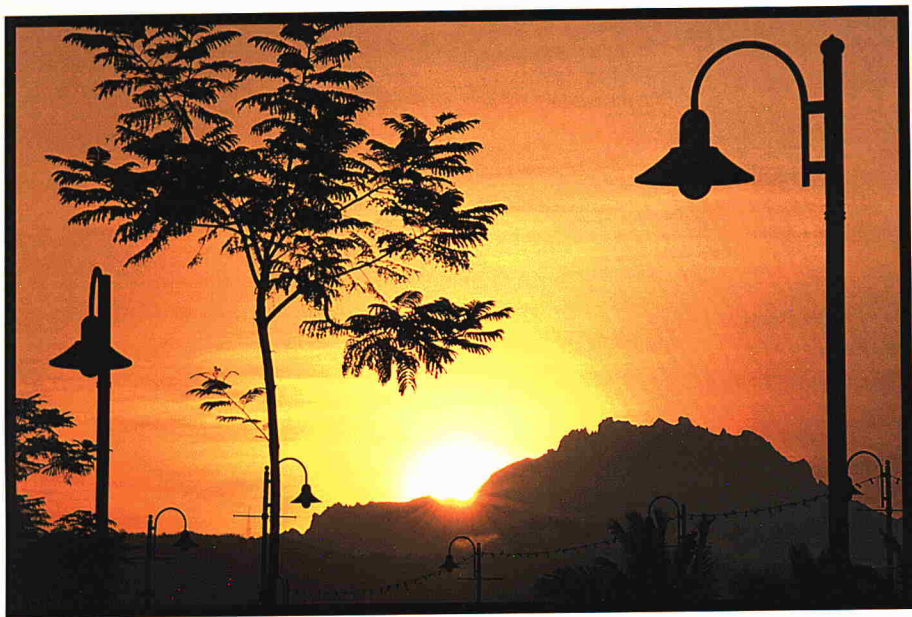
There is a railway connection, which, incidentally, is the only one in Borneo, stretching all the way from Kota Kinabalu to Beaufort and Tenom. Apart from the locals, many travellers make use of this means of transport. It is an ideal way to avoid the turbulent boat trip on the river Padas.

Turtle Islands Park is situated in the Sulu Sea about 40 km north of Sandakan. It is an important marine conservation park where different species of turtles go ashore to lay eggs. After a 50-day incubation period, the baby turtles emerge and immediately head for the sea. One of the highlights in Pulau Selingan, a small island of about 8 hectares, is observing turtle nesting and breeding under the supervision and guidance of park rangers.

The world-famous Sepilok Orang-utan Park offers a natural habitat for this endangered species. The park, which is about 25 km from Sandakan, has a rehabilitation centre to help reintroduce these captured primates to their natural habitat. They are taught and encouraged to re-adapt to their natural habitat.



SABAH'S ULTIMATE CHALLENGE:
MOUNT KINABALU , WITH A HEIGHT OF 4093m,
IS THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



TO REACH THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT
KINABALU BY SUNRISE - A DREAM
NOT THAT EASY TO COME TRUE

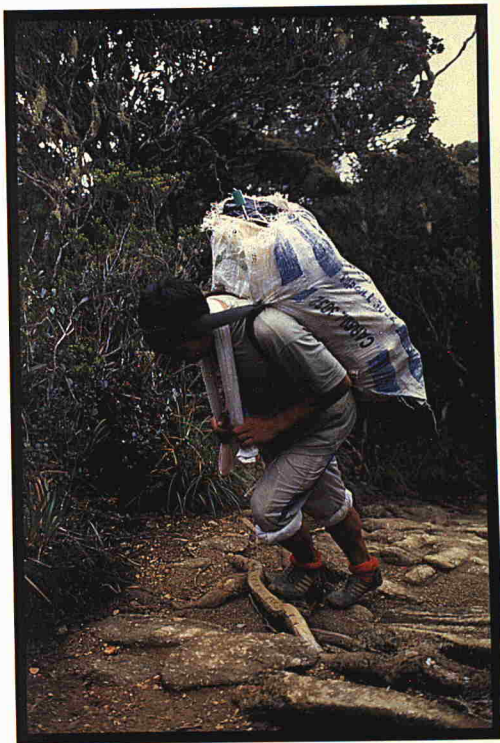


INSECTIVOROUS PITCHER PLANT
NEPENTHES VILLOSA MOUNT KINABALU

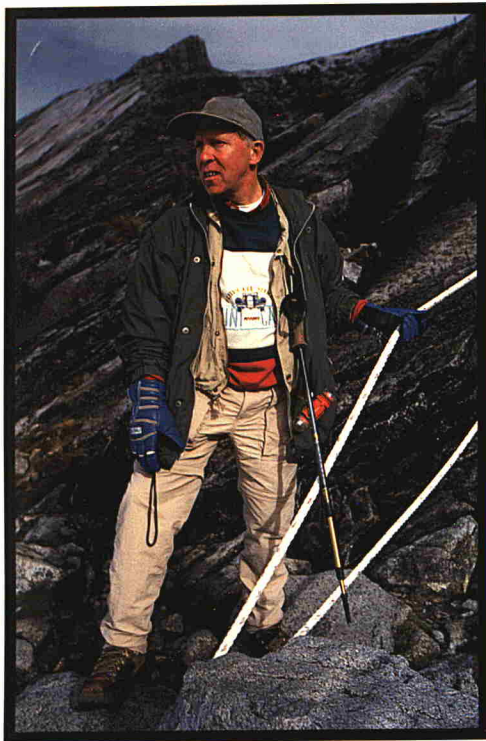
THE KINABALU NATIONAL PARK IS A PARADISE FOR THOSE WHO SIMPLY ADMIRE NATURE



THE NEVER-ENDING WAY DOWN MOUNT KINABALU

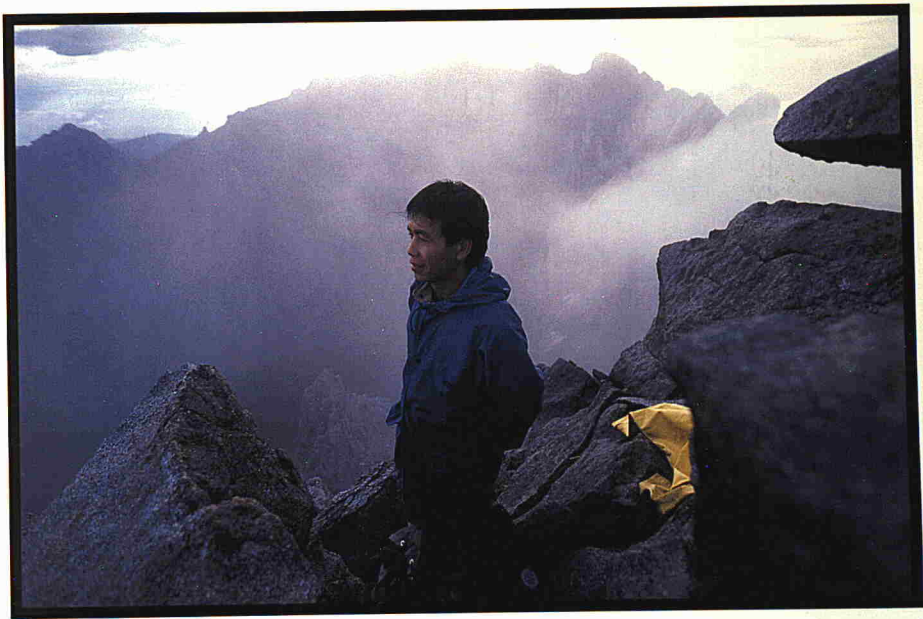


CLIMBING MOUNT KINABALU REQUIRES NO SPECIAL
GEAR OR SKILLS.
PORTERS MAKE CLIMBERS' LIVES MORE
COMFORTABLE.

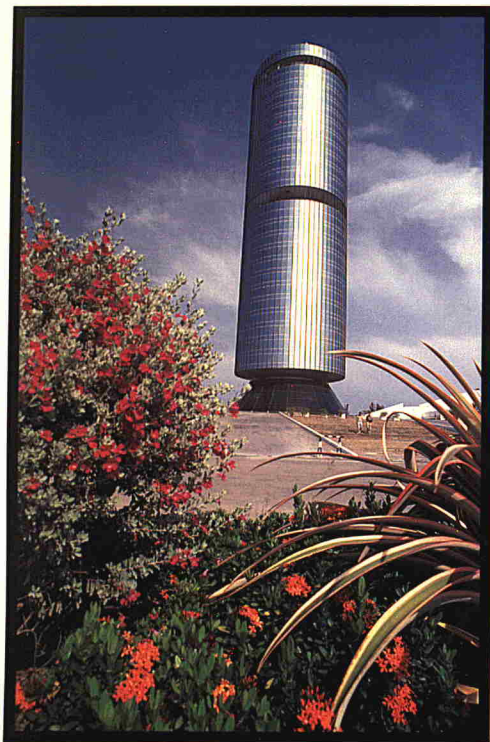


THE AUTHOR OF THIS BOOK HAS ALREADY CONQUERED MOUNT KINABALU FOUR TIMES. BECAUSE OF HEAVY TROPICAL STORM, HE ONCE DID NOT SUCCEED IN REACHING THE TOP, AND ONLY GOT AS FAR AS LABAN RATA, A REST HOUSE AT 10,700ft.





HAVING REACHED THE PEAK OF BORNEO IS A
MOST WONDERFUL LIFE-ENRICHING EXPERIENCE



THE SABAH FOUNDATION COMPLEX
(THIRTY SUSPENDED CIRCULAR FLOORS)
HOUSES THE CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE.

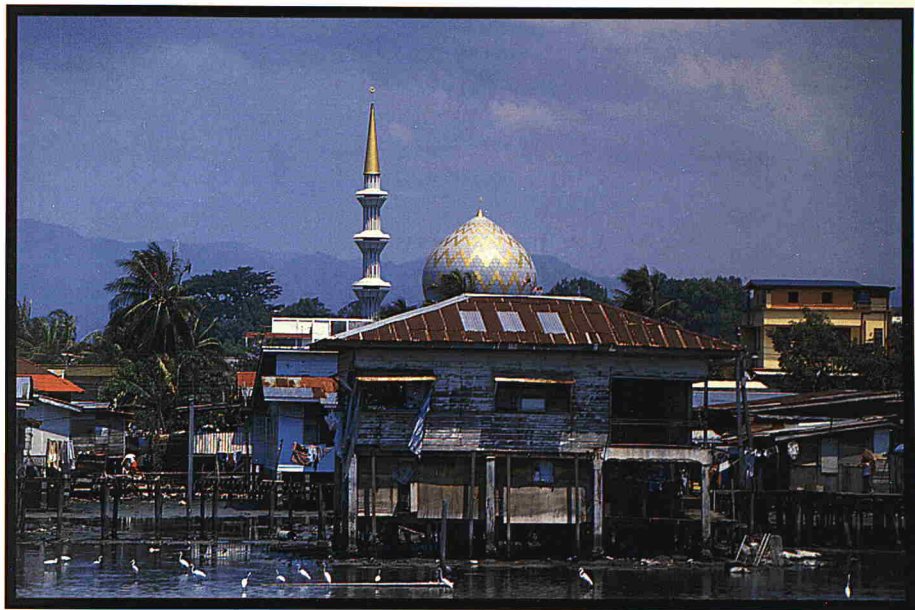
5km OUT OF KOTA KINABALU



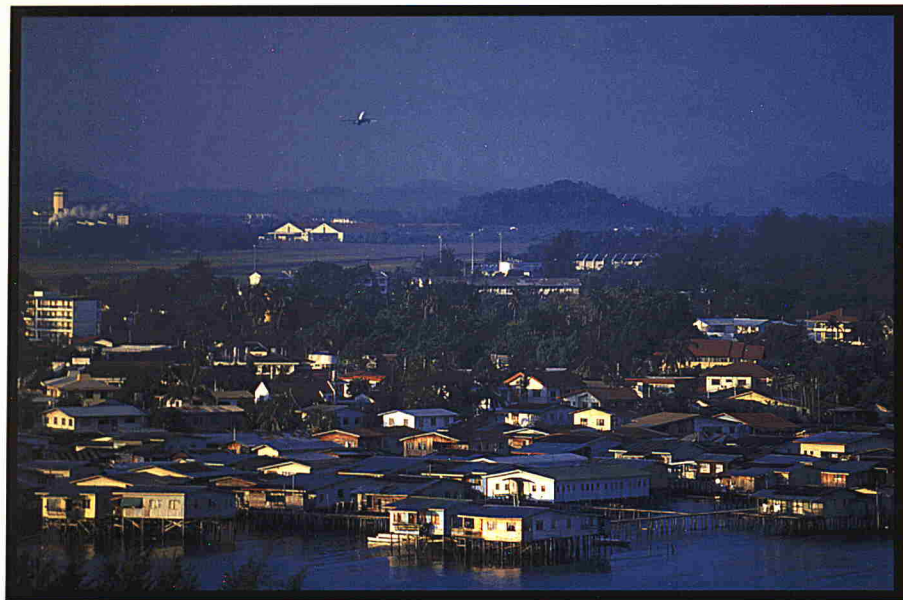
THE ONLY COLONIAL HOUSE LEFT INTACT AFTER WORLD WAR II
IT NOW HOUSES THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE
KOTA KINABALU



GOLFING HOLIDAYS
ARE BECOMING TRENDY IN MALAYSIA



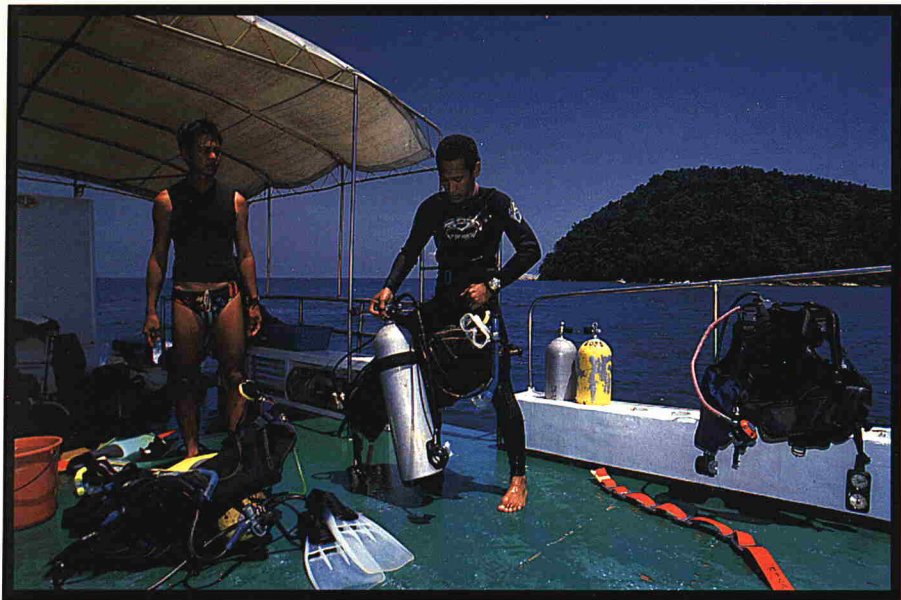
SABAH STATE MOSQUE NEAR KAMPUNG AIR STILT VILLAGE



KAMPUNG AIR
WATER VILLAGE
KOTA KINABALU



CHALETS IN MANUKAN ISLAND
TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PARK



SURROUNDED BY CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATER, THE ISLANDS OF TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN NATIONAL PARK ARE AN EXCELLENT RECREATIONAL AREA FOR WATER SPORTS



SABAH : A DIVER'S PARADISE



TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN NATIONAL PARK
CONSISTS OF FIVE PRISTINE ISLANDS
AND IS JUST 20 MINUTES BY BOAT FROM KOTA KINABALU



FAMILIAR BELGIAN ADVERTISEMENT
KOTA KINABALU



ACTING LIKE ACTORS
KOTA KINABALU



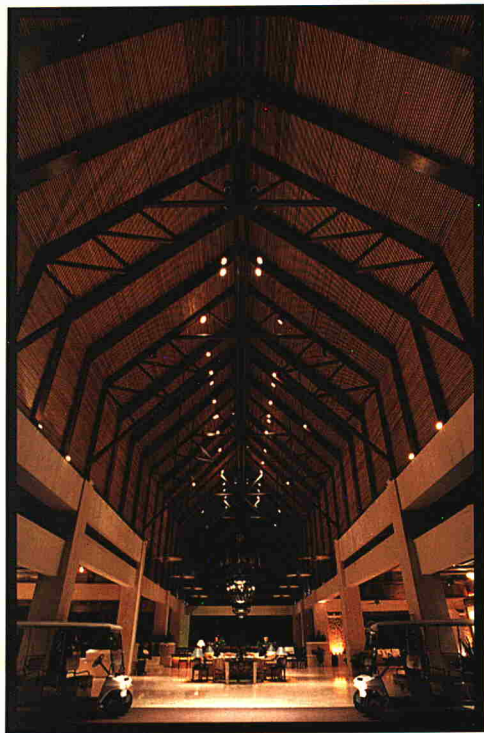
BREAKFAST AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT
KOTA KINABALU



JESSELTON BECAME THE CAPITAL OF SABAH IN 1946
AND WAS RENAMED KOTA KINABALU IN 1967



ELECTRONIC BANKING NEAR KOTA KINABALU CITY MOSQUE





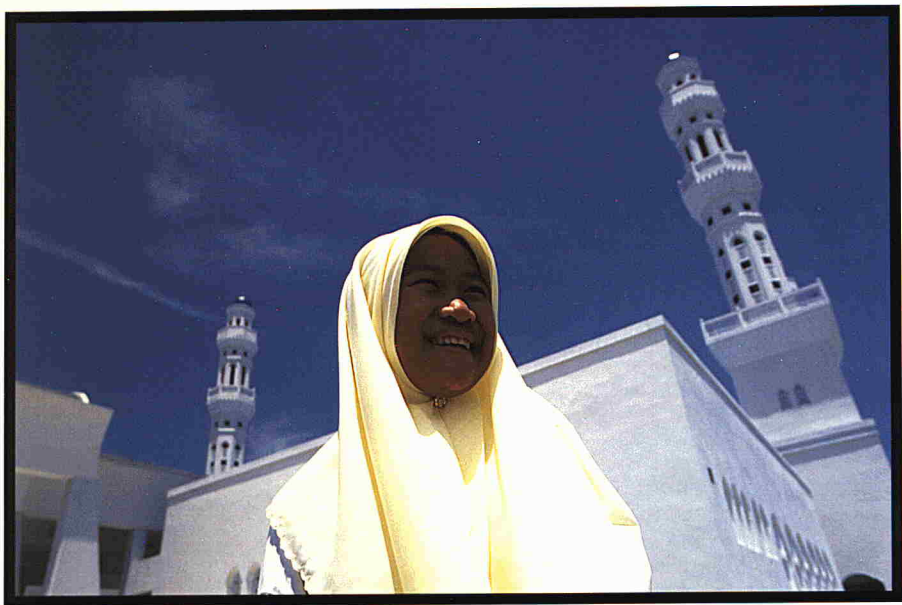
NEXUS GOLF RESORT KARAMBUNAI



IN THE WATERS OF TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN NATIONAL PARK



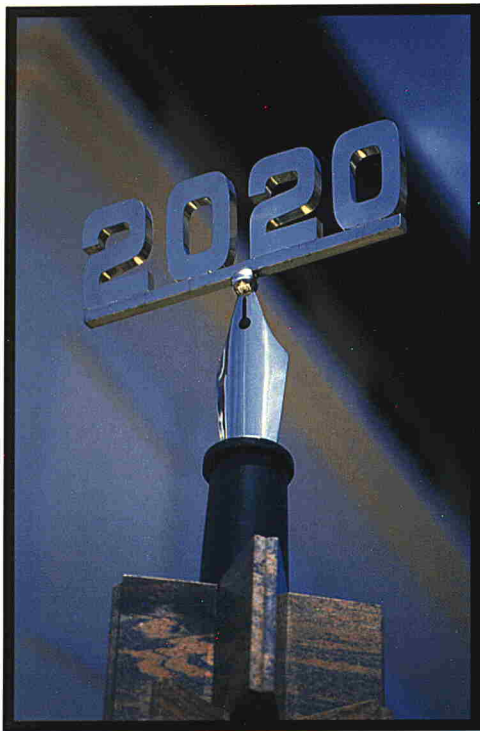
SUTERA HARBOUR AT DUSK
KOTA KINABALU



YOUNG MUSLIM GIRL AT THE NEW
KOTA KINABALU CITY MOSQUE



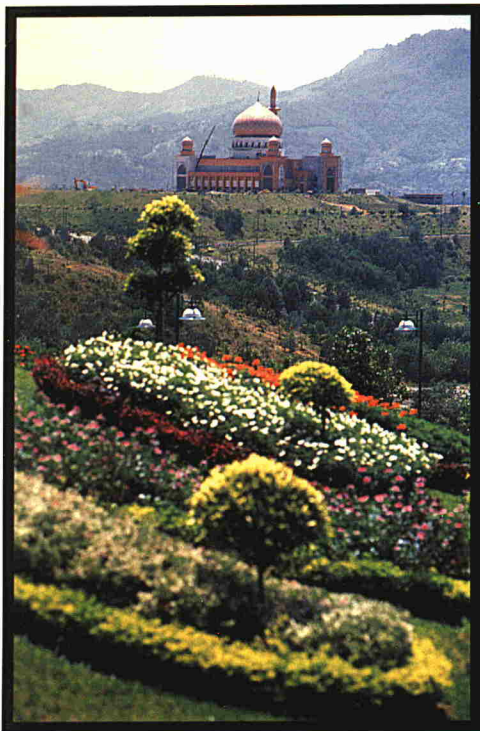
SUNDAY MORNING MARKET AT JALAN GAYA
KOTA KINABALU



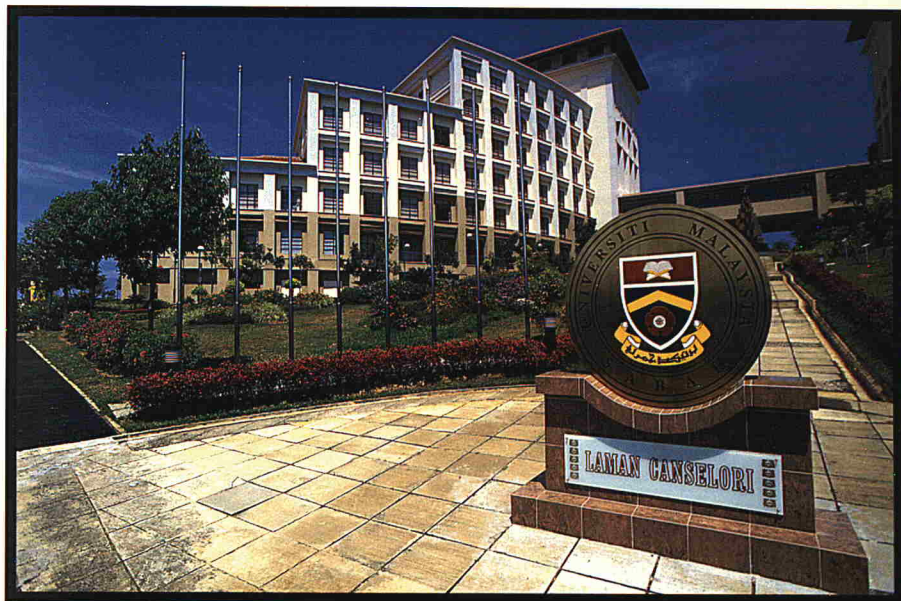
WAWASAN 2020 VISION 2020
TO BECOME A DEVELOPED COUNTRY
BY THE YEAR 2020



THE NEW "KOTA KINABALU CITY MOSQUE"



MOSQUE AT UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH



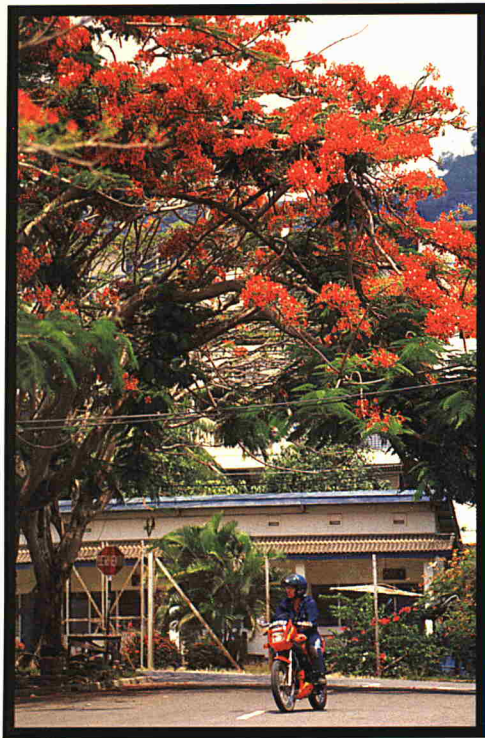
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH
INAUGURATED BY
PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
SEPTEMBER 2000



CUTTING WOOD
TAMBUNAN



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE? NOT IN SABAH...
ON THE WAY BACK FROM TAMBUNAN TO KOTA KINABALU

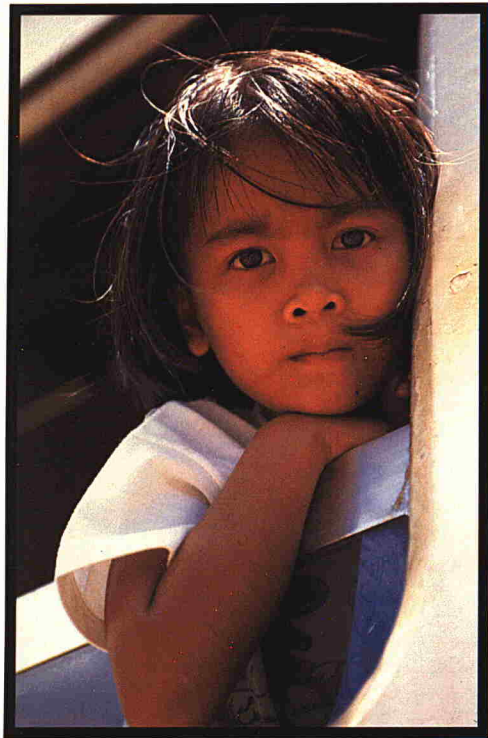


IMPRESSIVE "FLAME OF THE FOREST"
TAMPARULI, 30km NORTH OF KOTA KINABALU

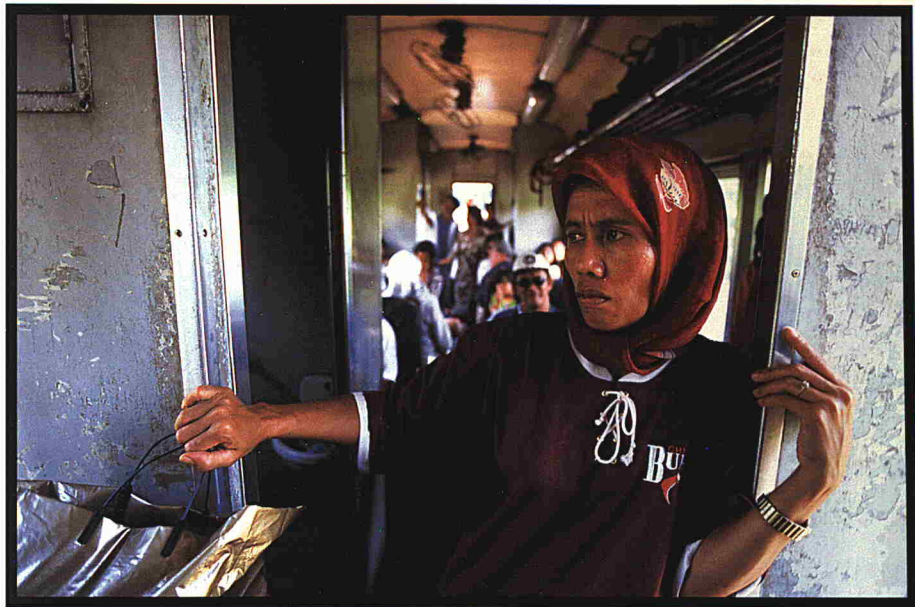


A RAILWAY CONNECTING KOTA KINABALU WITH
TENOM, VIA BEAUFORT

ARRIVAL AT BEAUFORT STATION



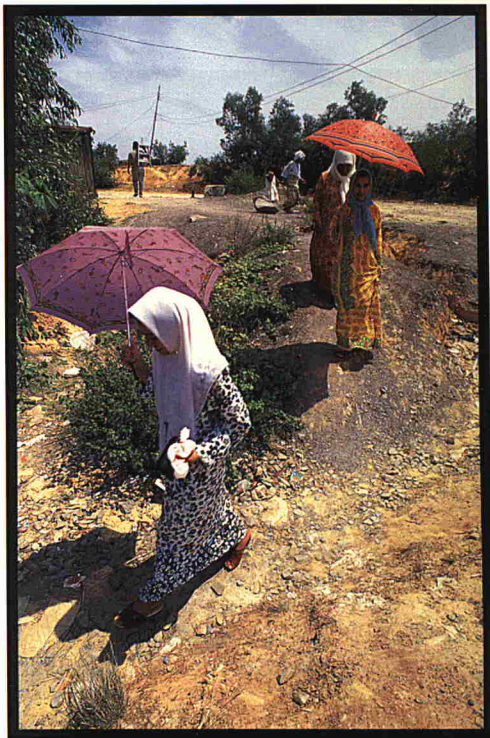
ONE DAY, WHEN I AM BIG...



APART FROM THE LOCAL PEOPLE,
MANY TOURISTS MAKE USE OF THIS MEANS OF TRANSPORT



NELUMBUM NELUMBO SACRED LOTUS
THE TIMELESS SYMBOL OF TRANQUILLITY



BAJAU WOMEN FROM MENKABONG VILLAGE

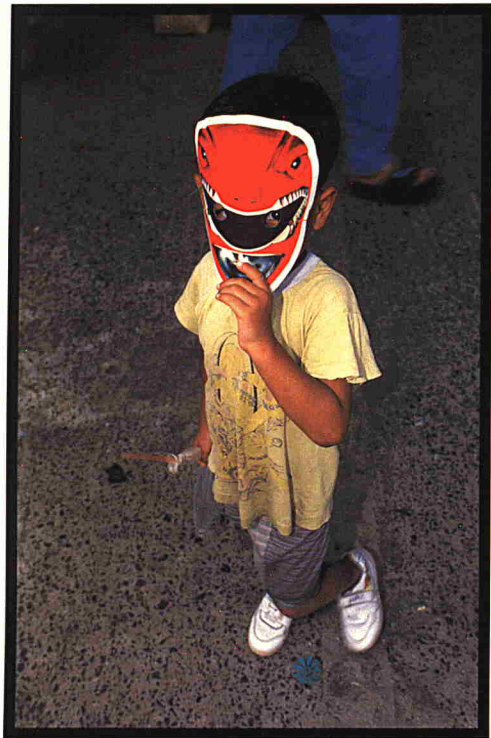
BAJAUS OFTEN CALLED "SEA GYPSIES"



KAMATAN (HARVEST) FESTIVAL IS SABAH'S MOST POPULAR FESTIVAL
KADAZAN AND DUSUN COMMUNITY PAY HOMAGE TO THE SPIRIT
OF THE RICE FOR A BOUNTIFUL AND SUCCESSFUL HARVEST



SANDAKAN, THE FORMER CAPITAL OF SABAH,
WAS TOTALLY DEVASTATED BY
ALLIED BOMBING AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II



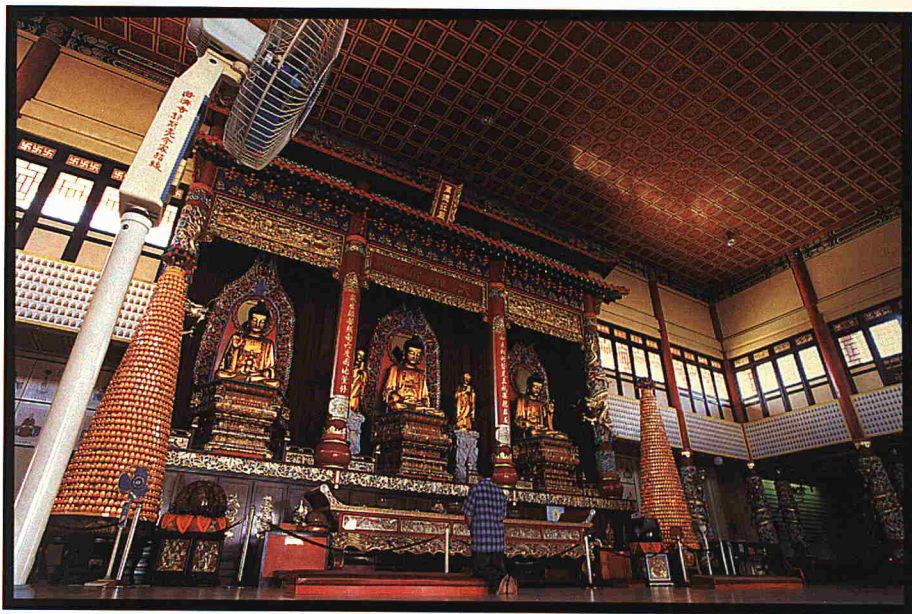
LITTLE BOY AT THE CENTRAL MARKET
SANDAKAN



WATER VILLAGE
SANDAKAN



THE BUDDHIST POO JIH SHIH TEMPLE
SANDAKAN



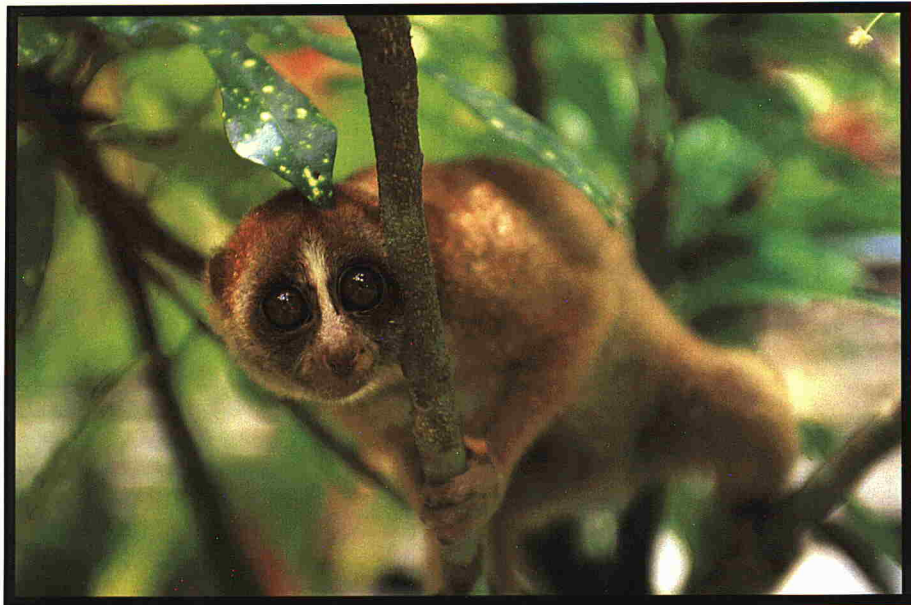
THE PUJI JIH SHIH TEMPLE CONTAINS THREE
LARGE GAUDY BUDDHA IMAGES



MALAYSIA IS THE WORLD'S No. 1 PALM OIL PRODUCER



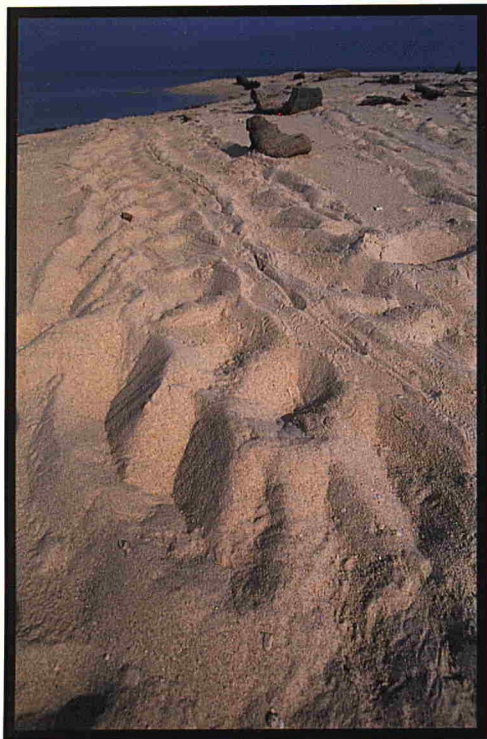
PATTAN LADDERS USED FOR COLLECTING
EDIBLE BIRD'S NESTS AT GOMANTONG CAVES.
TWICE A YEAR LICENSED COLLECTORS
GATHER THE DELICACY FOR THE WORLD MARKET



SLOW LORIS (*Nycticebus coucang*)
NOCTURNAL PRIMATE OF THE FOREST



DISCOVERING WILDLIFE AND WATCHING BEAUTIFUL
BIRDS FROM A COMFORTABLY SILENT BOAT
OXBOW LAKES
SUKAU

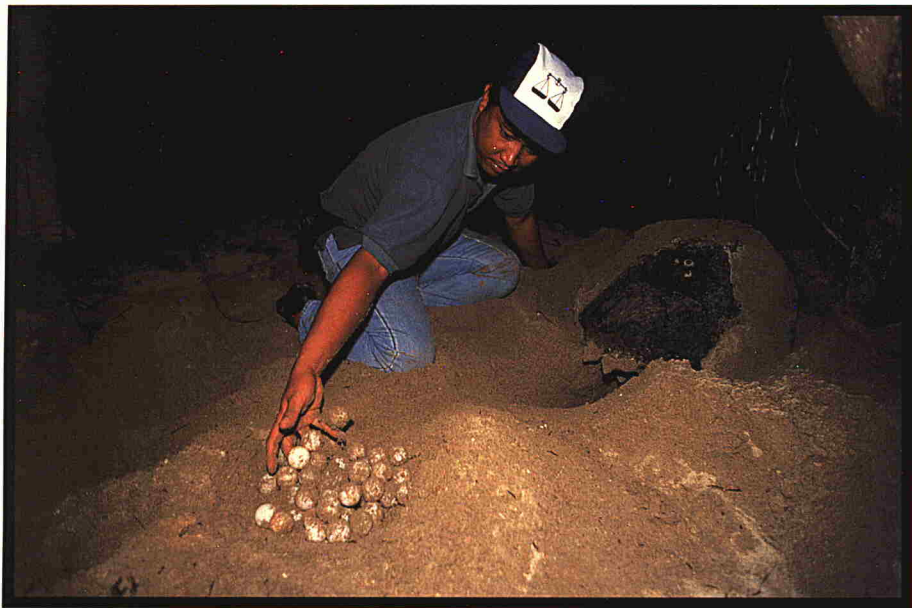


TURTLE ISLANDS PARK
ABOUT 40km NORTH OF SANDAKAN,
CLOSE TO THE PHILIPPINE BORDER

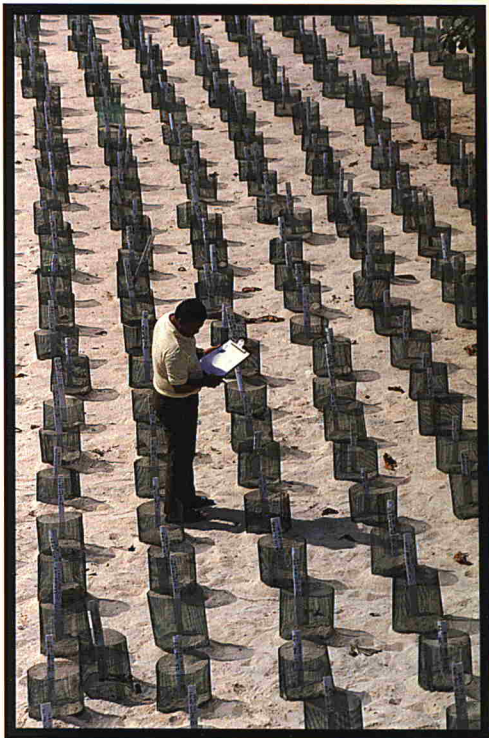
TURTLE TRACKS ON SELINGAN BEACH,
THE SECOND LARGEST (ONLY EIGHT HECTARES IN SIZE)
OF THE THREE ISLANDS



ALL YEAR ROUND, GREEN AND HAWKSBILL TURTLES
COME ASHORE TO NEST ON THE BEACHES



PARK RANGER TRANSPLANTING EGGS TO
THE HATCHERY IN ORDER TO PROTECT
THE TURTLES FROM EXTINCTION



EACH PIT IS CONSCIENTIOUSLY MARKED
WITH THE SERIAL NUMBER OF THE NEST,
THE NUMBER OF EGGS AND THE COLLECTION DATE



AFTER AN INCUBATION PERIOD OF SOME 50 DAYS
THE BABY TURTLES DIG THEIR WAY UP TO THE SURFACE OF THE PIT



BABY TURTLES BEING RELEASED TO THE SEA.
MANY OF THEM WILL FALL PREY TO NATURAL SEA PREDATORS.
PERHAPS 20 OR MORE YEARS LATER THE LUCKY ONES RETURN
TO THE VERY SAME BEACH TO LAY EGGS



TWICE A DAY THE SEMI-WILD ORANG UTANS RETURN TO THE PLATFORM FOR THEIR RATION OF MILK AND BANANAS. THE ONCE CAPTIVE ORANG UTANS HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO SURVIVE IN THE MIGHTY JUNGLES OF BORNEO



THE ORANG UTAN, MALAY FOR "MAN OF THE FOREST"
AND MAN'S CLOSEST RELATIVE, IS VERY GENTLE
AND REMARKABLY INTELLIGENT



ORANG UTAN, NICKNAMED "WILD MAN OF BORNEO",
AT THE BANK OF KINABATANGAN RIVER NEAR SUKAU.

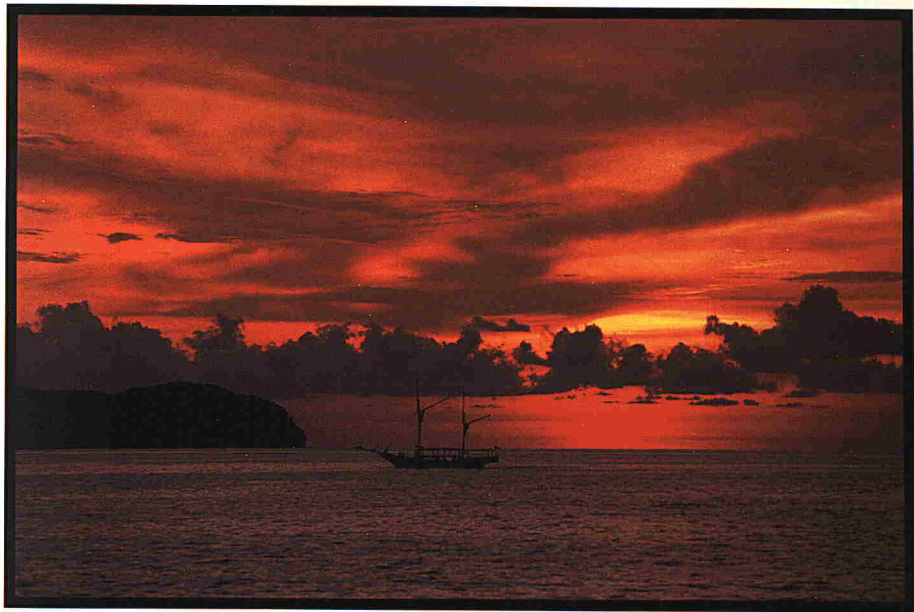


THE KINABATANGAN RIVER AT SUKAU.

SABAH'S LONGEST RIVER,
ALONG ITS LOWER REACHES ONE OF THE GREATEST
CONCENTRATIONS OF WILDLIFE CAN BE FOUND



KAMPUNG AIR AT DUSK KOTA KINABALU



BREATHTAKING SUNSET
AT TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN NATIONAL PARK



MOUNT KINABALU
SUMMIT OF BORNEO
WHERE EARTH AND HEAVEN MEET ...

AFTERWORD

During my first travel to Malaysia I fell in love with the beautiful country.

Once tasted it, I longed for more. I have been there more than 13 times now. Leafing through my book you will be introduced into the wonderful world of Malaysia. It is with particular pleasure that I express my affectionate and deeply-felt gratitude to LILIANE VAN LAERE, my wife and BART, my son. Without their support and understanding, the making of this book would not have been possible.

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