

M A L A Y S I A

in

my

E Y E S

Photography
YOU JAE RYUK

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18 JUL 1997

Perpustakaan Negara
Malaysia

MALAYSIA
in
my
EYES

Photography
YOU JAE RYUK

Sponsored
by

INNOSABAH

A Short Note

I arrived on the shores of Malaysia twelve years ago. I was surprised to find such a prosperous country as I had the impression that Malaysia had the same standard of living as her neighbours, Thailand and the Philippines. The latter I had visited in 1969.

After a few short days, I realised the error in my judgment. I also came to realise that this multi-racial country has retained much of her cultural traditions.

Here is a country with her varied races living in harmony. A country which is politically stable and relatively free from serious crime. Here is a country with plenty of natural resources like tin, timber, oil and gas; abundant agricultural produce like rubber and palm oil; and much industrial and infrastructure development. Malaysia is also rich in natural beauty with her undisturbed jungles, crystal clear waters and beautiful beaches.

With all these natural endowments, I feel that this land is blessed by God. Unlike my homeland Korea which has very little natural resources and a harsh and cold winter.

A photographer's duty is to record. After three months in Malaysia, I decided to register my impression of the country through my camera lens. I had not realised then that it would take me twelve long years to complete this project but, the result is this book: Malaysia in My Eyes.

This book is not meant to be a guide for tourists. My objective is to show polite, hospitable eyes, happy lives, the rich cultural heritage, and the beauty of nature whispered by the green leaves.

If I should publish a second book on Malaysia, then I would want to record the achievements of the people who are at the front-line of the industries which make Malaysia's miracle economy. I would also like to capture the images of the people involved in the traditional arts and crafts for example dancing, kite flying and carving.

I would like to record my sincere thanks and appreciation to those people who made this project a reality: Mr. Faidzan Hassan, the Executive Director of Innosabah Securities Sdn Bhd; Mr. Mohammad Naser Baharom and his staff at Nesicorp Resources Sdn Bhd, Labuan for the design and publishing of this book. Most of all, gratitude goes to Innosabah Securities Sdn Bhd for sponsoring and producing this book.

My thanks also to Mr. Yew Chuan who wrote and chose the captions and beautiful poems to accompany the photographs; Dr. Tony Lau who contributed some verses; and Mr. Zahir Ahmad and his team at Innosabah Securities Sdn Bhd who did the final touch-up.

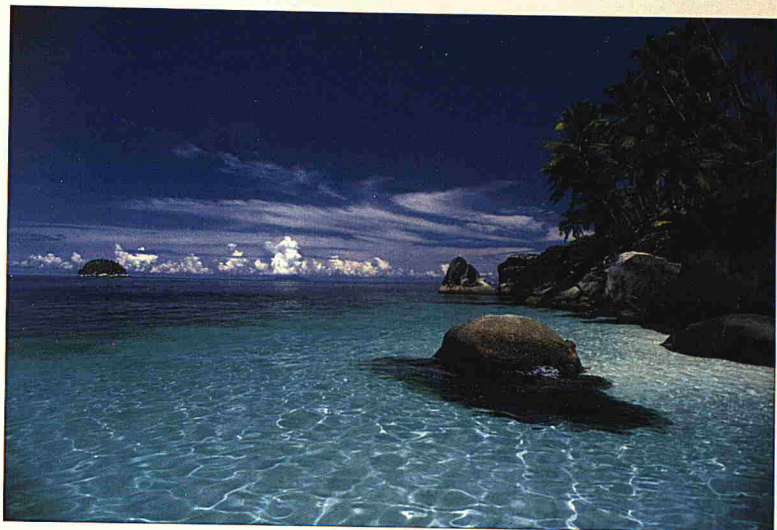
Finally, to my loving wife Joon who patiently endured twelve years of my absence from home, my heartfelt thanks. She told me not to come home unless I became rich or achieved something to stamp my reputation as a recognised Korean photographer.

THIS BOOK IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED TO JOON.



You Jae Ryuk

THE
BLESSED
LAND



NIKON F2A NIKKOR 24mm f2.8

MALAYSIA,
rich with
natural and cultural
diversities.

The visions of Malaysia, reflected through the smile of a young Malaysian.





QUIET JOYS

I Will

I will grow, I will dream,

I will love, I will soar

The smile of a young Malay boy reflects a glimpse of his future: bright and colourful. Countless opportunities await this young Malaysian, where it takes only his choice of path to decide the course his life will take. Medicine, law, business, the arts, engineering.... to name but a few of the many careers available to him.

Overflowing with Grace - River of life, flowing through the pristine rainforest





ART PAKCIBAMA 617 NAKCI 90 mm IS

In Harmony - Tribal man with his Sape, a traditional musical instrument, after a day's work.



Sarawak tribal man.

*Happy the man whose wish and care
A few paternal, acres bound
Content to breathe his native air,
In his own ground.
Blest, who can unconcern'dly find
Hours, days and years slide soft away,
In health of body, peace of mind,
Quiet by day,
Sound sleep by night; study and ease,
Together mix; sweet recreation;
And Innocence, which most does please
With meditation.*

< Alexander Pope >



This is where man and nature exist in perfect harmony, each respecting the other.



ART PANORAMA 017 FIBROX 90 mm B



ART PANORAMA 017 FIBROX 90 mm B

Santubong Mountain in Sarawak.

D.A.W.N

b y

S E A

*I must down to the seas again,
to the lonely sea and the sky,*

And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,

And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,

And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn breaking.

< John Masefield >



NIKON F2A 135mm f2.5

Traditional Malay boat
at Kelantan on the northeast
of the Malaysian peninsula

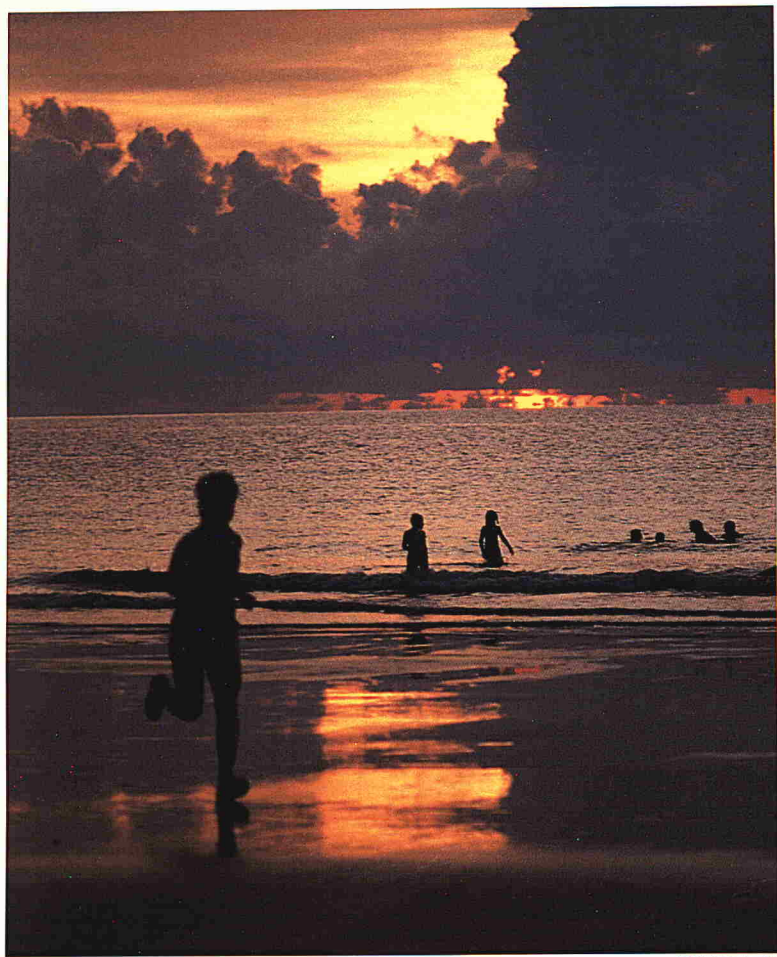
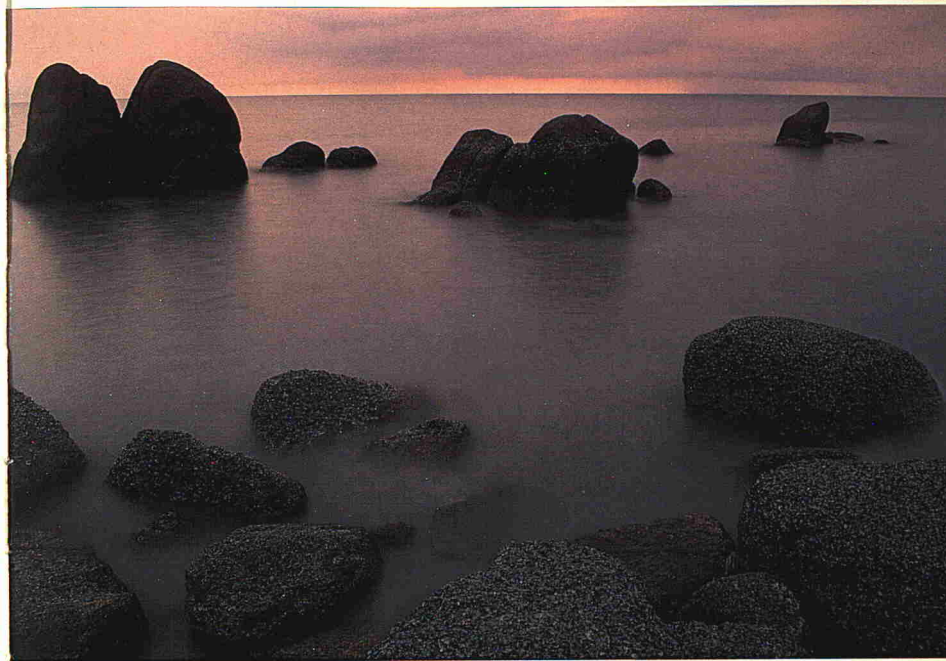


PHOTO: NIKHIL SHARMA/ISTOCK

The dawn of a new era.

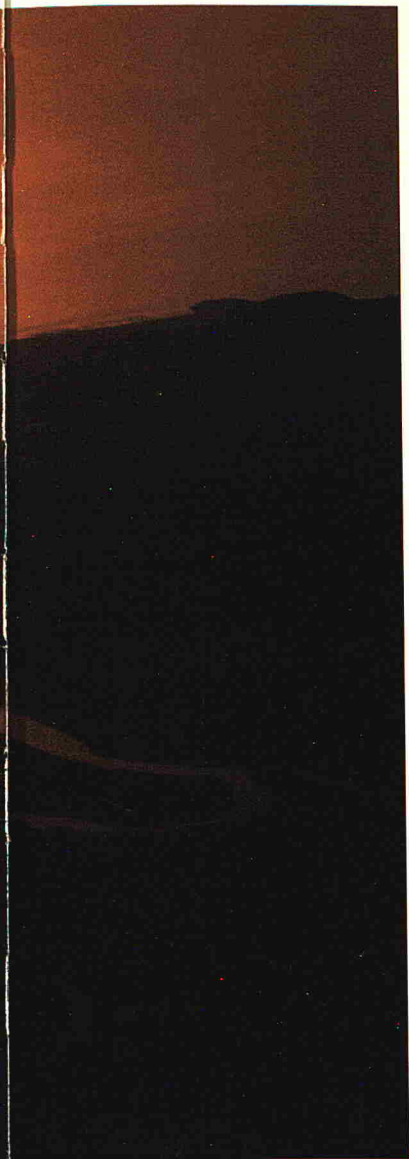


AWCH 145 ANGELEUX 26 - 10/01/12 ©

Dreamland

An early morning view of the sea, at Teluk Chempedak Beach, Kuantan.





Flow of Life

*In the setting sun, the river meets the sea,
blessing the land she has tarried by.*

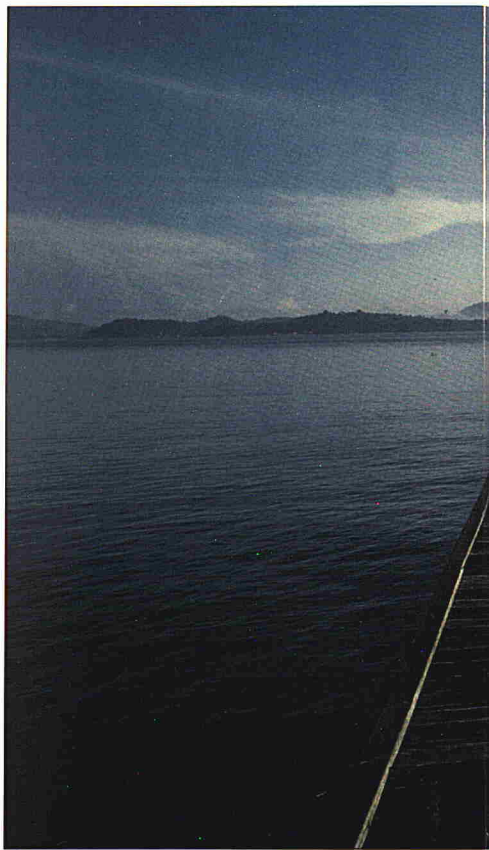
Rivers are the lifeblood of the people.

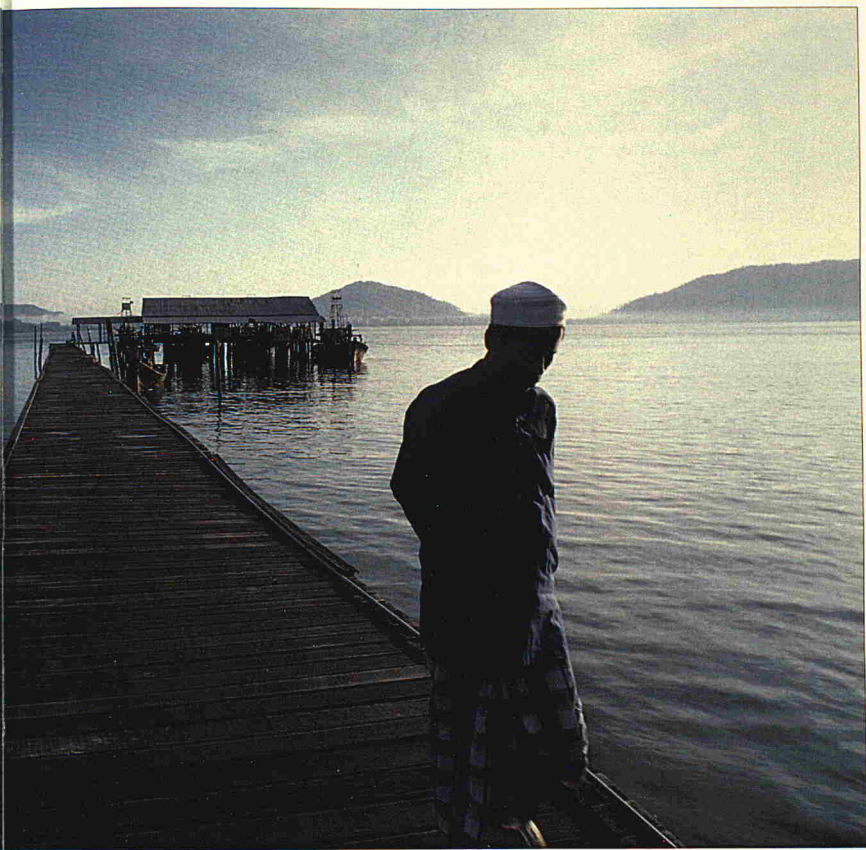
*The riverbank houses range from small settlements
to big cities like Kuala Lumpur,*

*Malaysia's capital, was founded at
the meeting points of two rivers,*

Sungai Kelang and Sungai Gombak.

Silent Prayer
A Malay Muslim
back from his morning prayers.
Pulau Pangkor, a beautiful island on the
west coast of the peninsula.





180CM F2A 180X202 24mm E2 8

The Malays, forming some 60% of the population,
are soft-spoken people with hearts of gold.

They go about life with a mind
that is akin to a calm day by the sea.

C.H.I.L.D
O F
T H E
N A T I O N

The hopes and joys of the nation,
who better than a child to tell of them.



NIKCAI/FA NIKCOR/150mm G2.5

Child of the Nation - A young Malaysian celebrating National Day.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. SMITH

Children are the "light of one's eyes" in Bahasa Malaysia.

Cahaya Mata

Truly, no expression of the joy and wonder that children
bring can equal the phrase.



NKCN F43 NIKKOR ED 80 - 200mm f2.8

*Let our children grow tall,
and some taller than others
if they have it in them to do so.*





NIKITA FZA - NIKKOR 135mm f2.8

Pride and Joy

An 'orang asli', a Malaysian aborigine, with his young child.
The orang asli like Senoi, Jakun and Negrito,
live closely with nature.
They hunt and cultivate the land in the
heart of the rainforests.

◀ **Thumb Sweet Thumb**

NIKITA FZA - NIKKOR 28mm f2.8

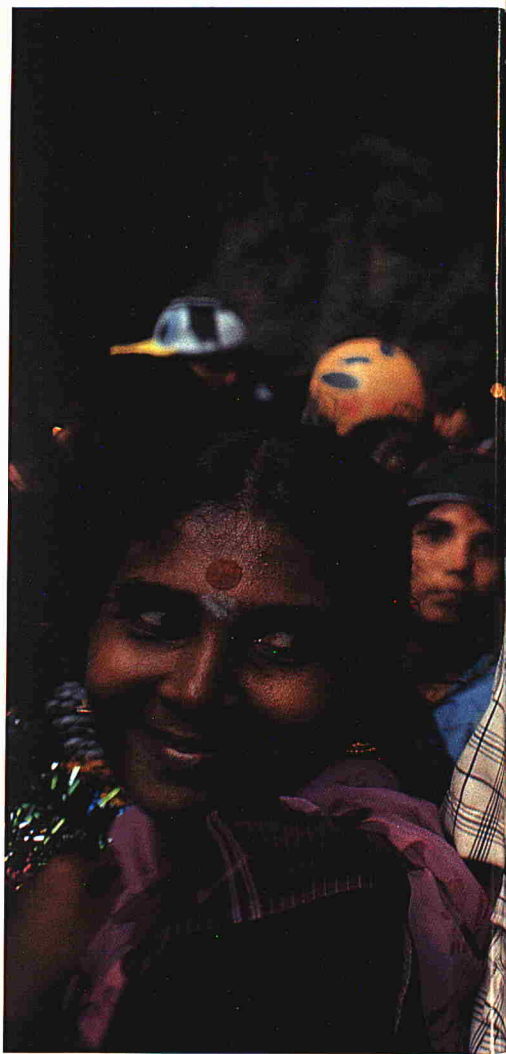
Generation Trio
Father, son and grandson





NIKON FM2 NIKKOR 105mm f2.5

Indians make up less than 10% of the total population but their ethnic and religious festivities are celebrated with no less vigour than the other races of Malaysia. During Thaipusam, thousands of devotees flock the "Batu Caves" to celebrate the triumph of good over evil.



Happy Day - A family celebrating Thaipusam



NIKON FM2 38500 24mm f2.8



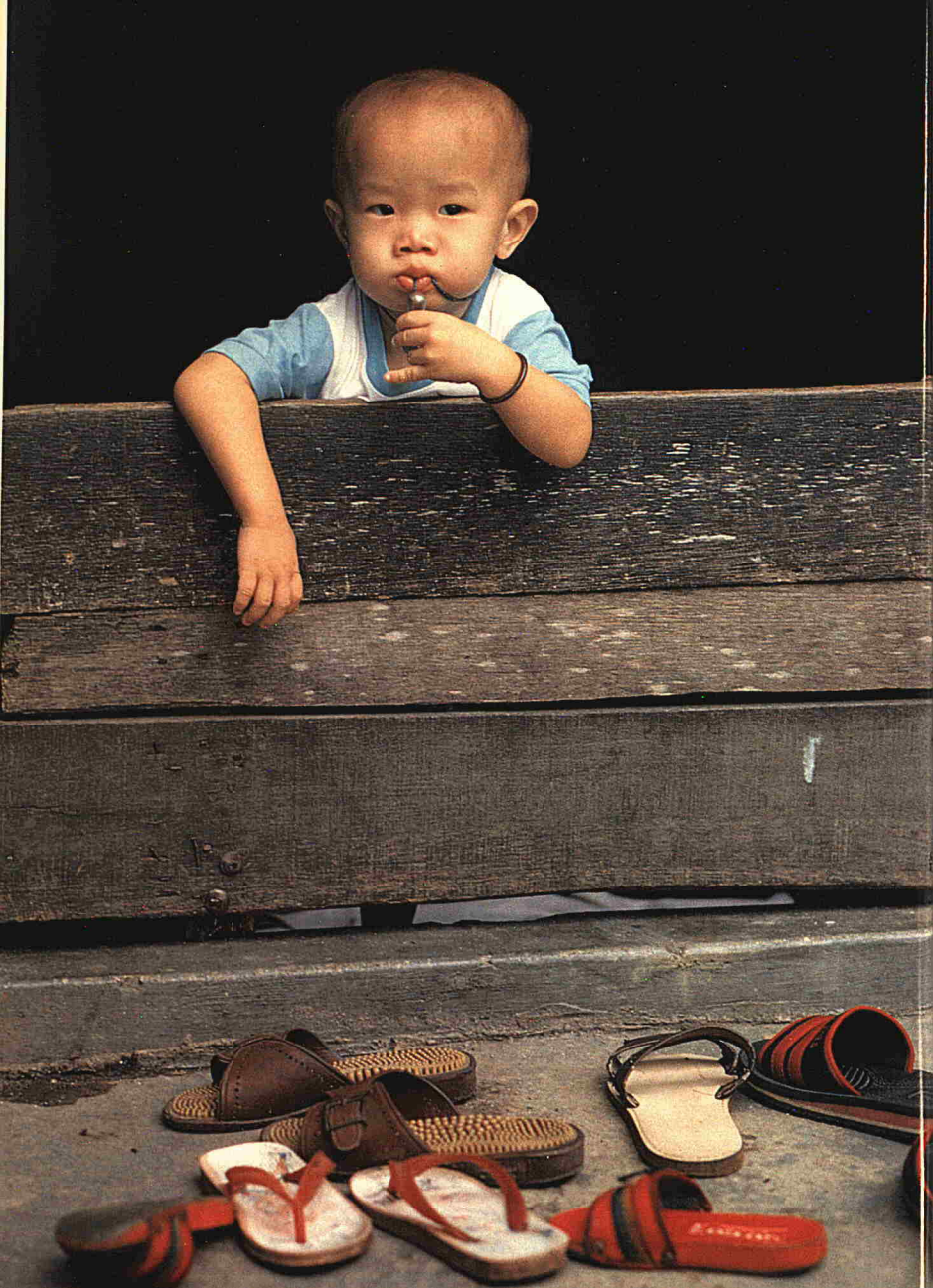
NIKON FM2 NIKKOR 135mm F2.5

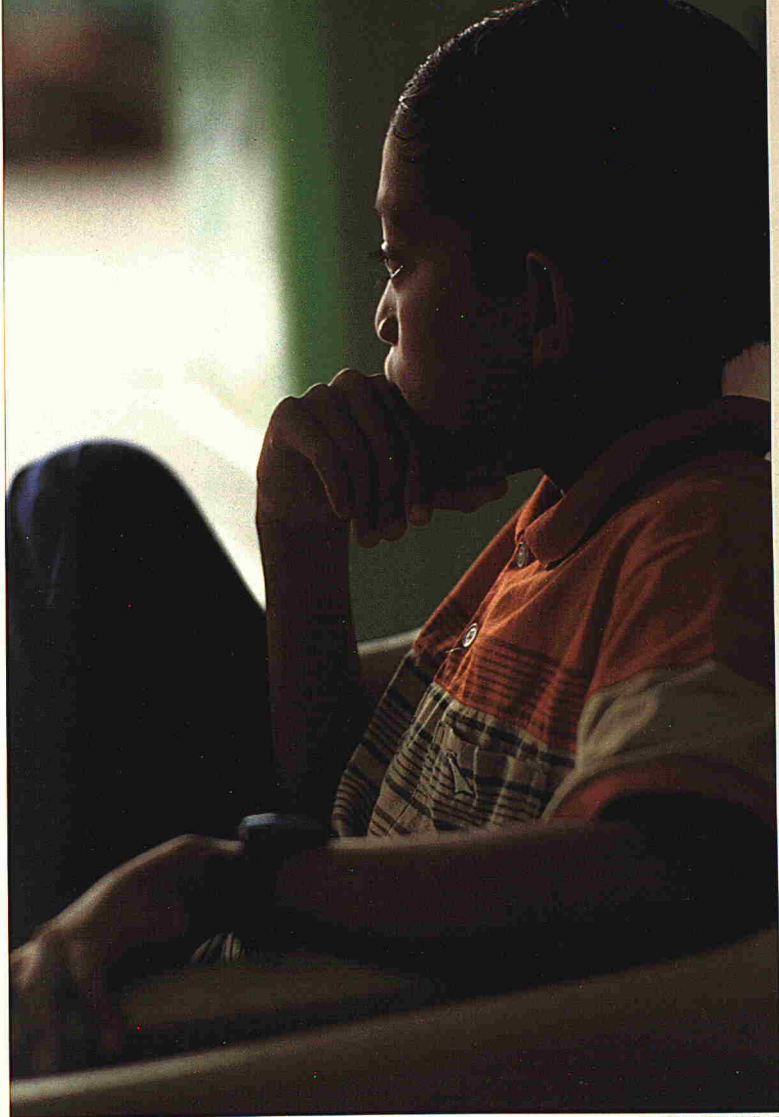
Me and My Pals

Youngsters in rural settlements
such as plantations and estates
spend much time with their neighbourhood peers,
knitting a close bond of friendship
between themselves.

Wild Simplicity ►
Orang asli child at Endau Rompin
NIKON FM2 NIKKOR 135mm F2.5







LEICA M6 SUMMICOCON 90mm f/2

I wonder...

◀ *Oh!, Let me out, let me run, let me fly.
All penned up; a Chinese boy in his wooden enclosure*

NIKON F400 AE 1/1000 85mm f1.8

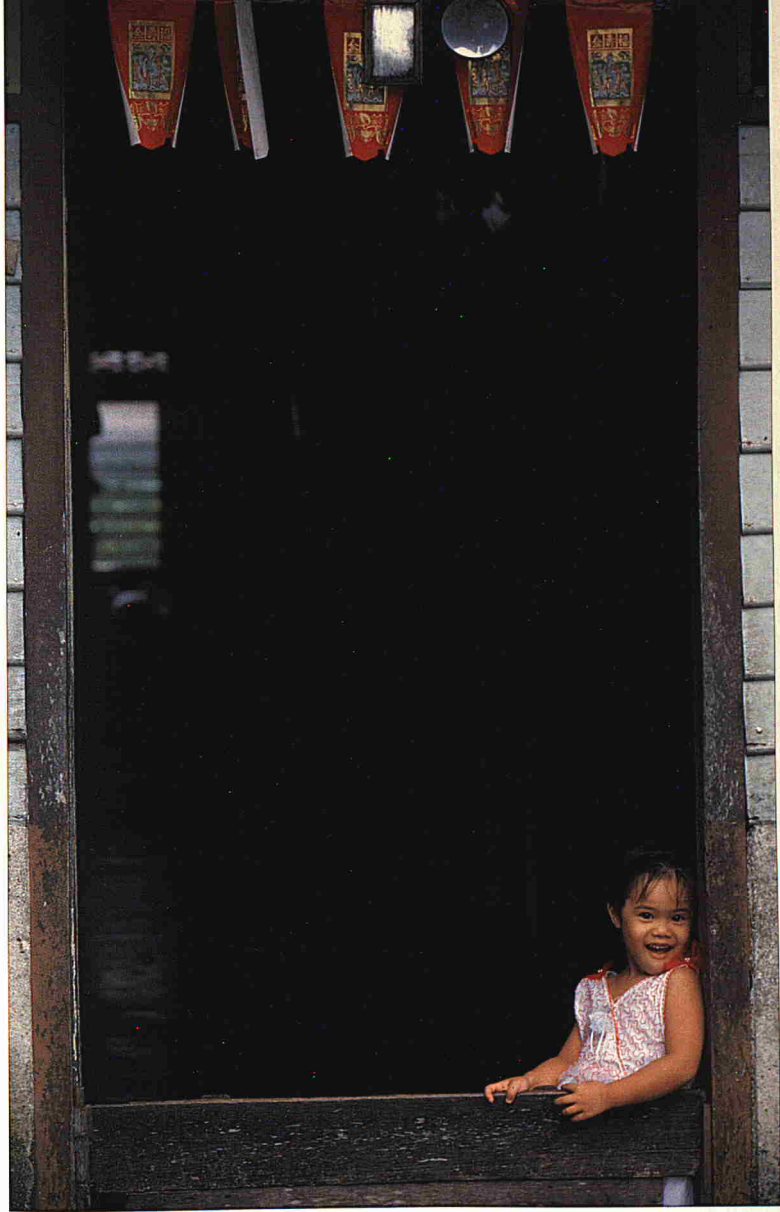


Changing Fast - An orang asli child at Tasik Chini, Pahang.

NIKON F45 AF ED NIKKOR 105mm F2.8

Red - The Chinese consider the colour red to be of great significance. Red denotes prosperity and luck. Together with a "pat kua" (octagonal mirror) and charms at the door, bad luck is reflected away and good luck is ushered into this typical Chinese house.

NIKON F90 AF NIKKOR 105mm F1.8

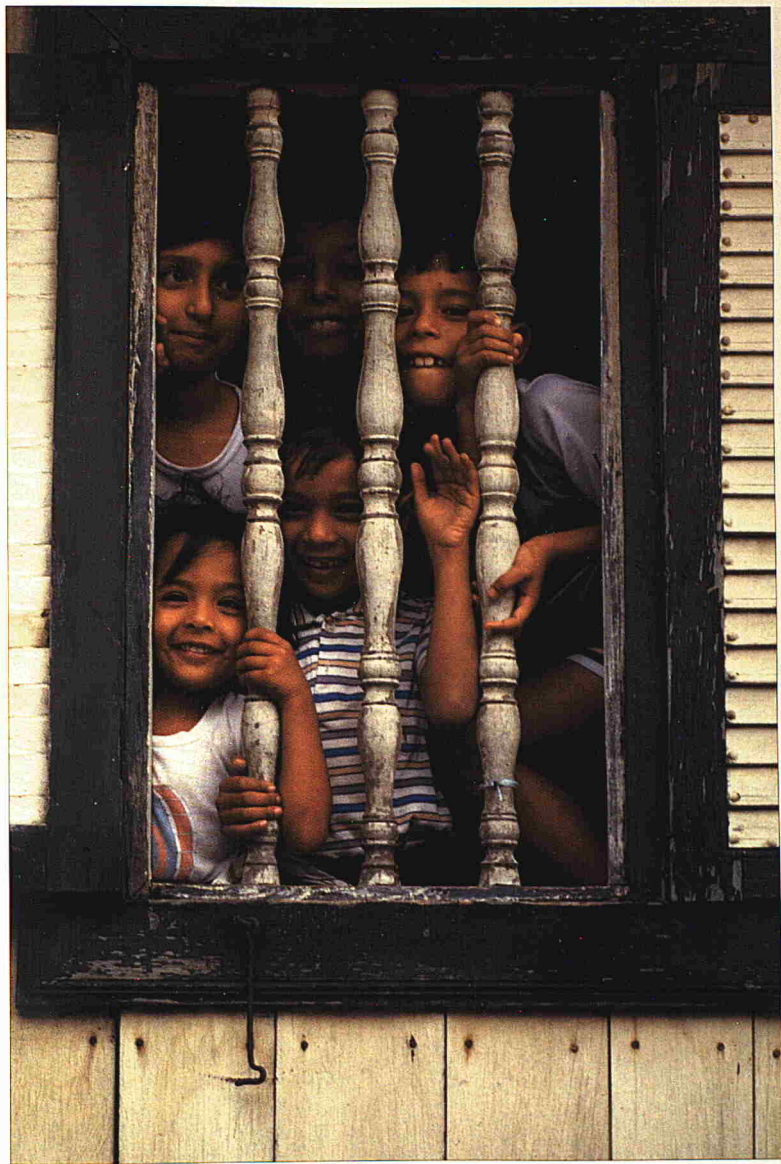




SHAWN FAY / AP ED/PAK/© 1999/12/8

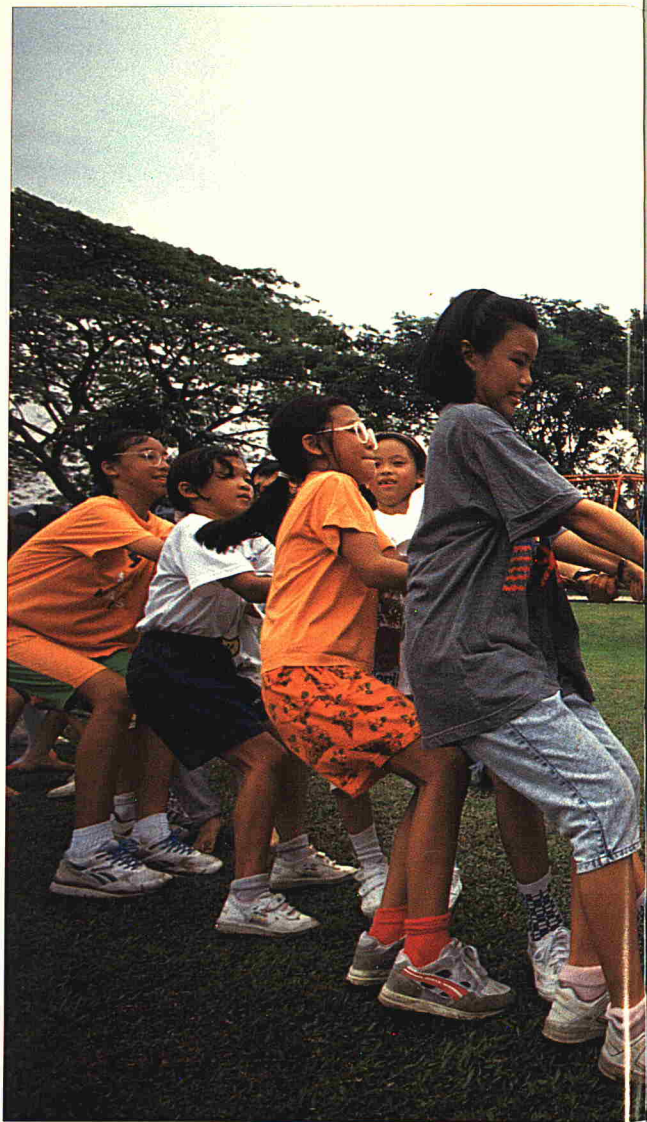
Friends

Children giving each other a hand as they play.

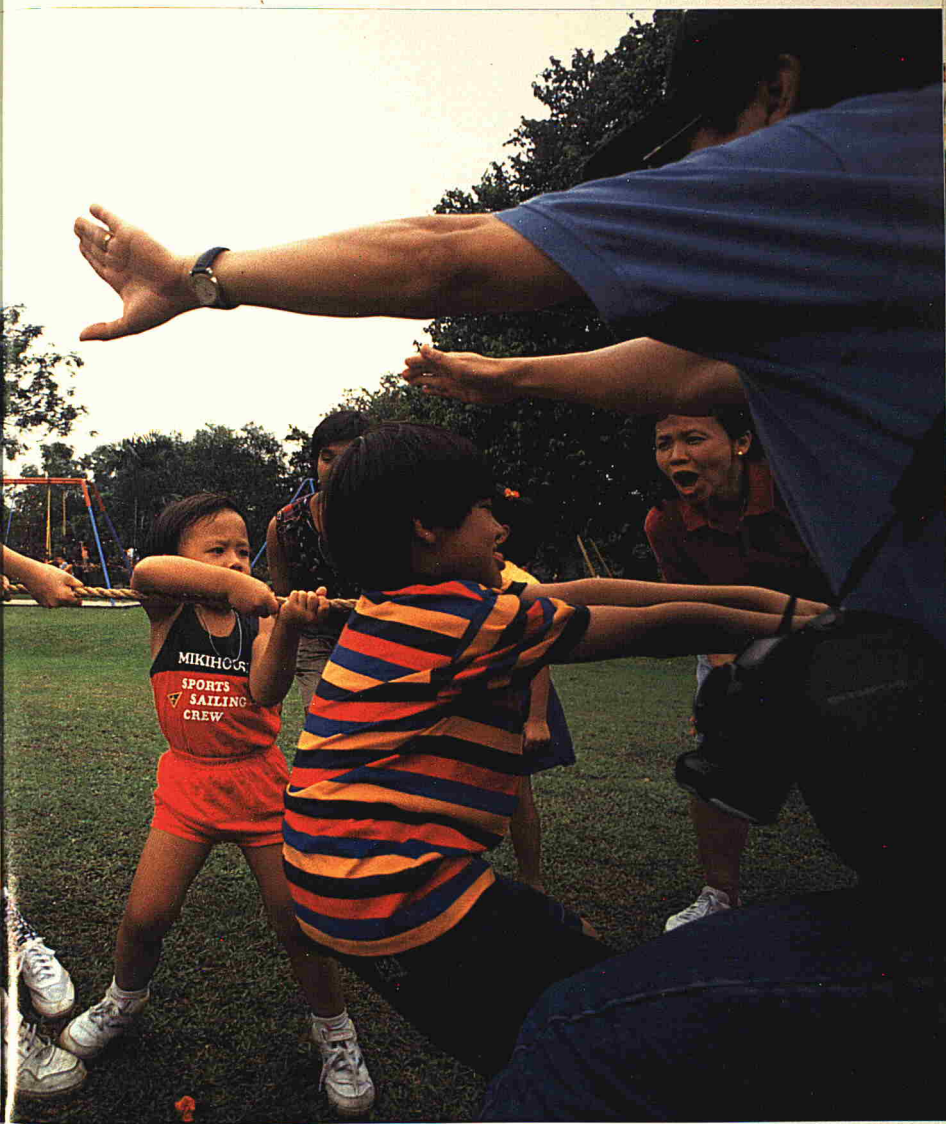


NIKON FM2 NIKKOR 105mm G2

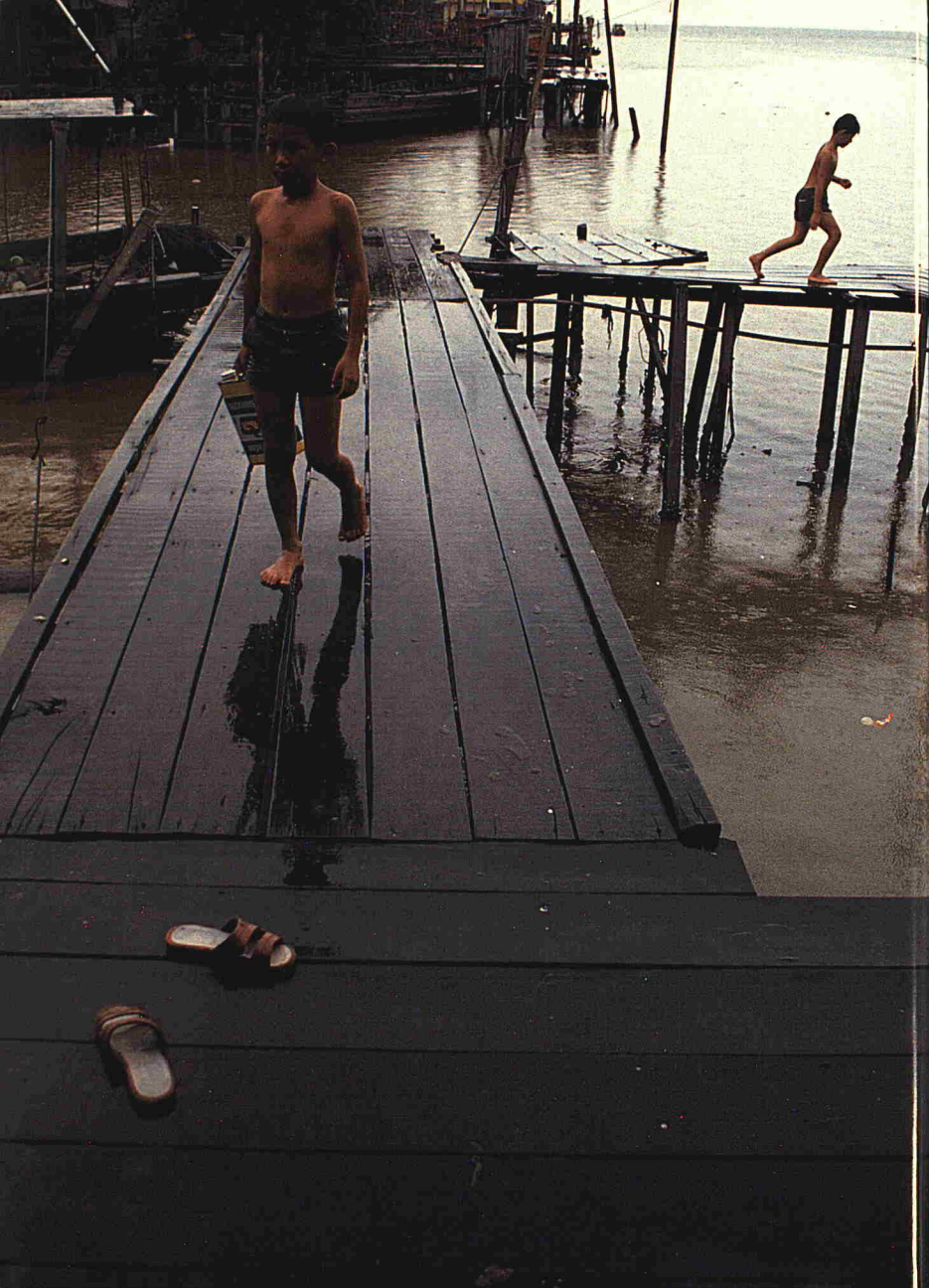
Community outings are very much a part of family activities in the country.



Heave, Ho



LEICA RE. SAMBON 13mm f5.6





LEICA R7 EIMASO 28mm f2.8

Child showing off a 'Horse Shoe Crab' caught in the shallow waters, Labuan.

◀ **Water Children** - The can helps the boy stay afloat while swimming.

NEOSUN F.6. NIKON/LEICA 28 - 28mm f2.8

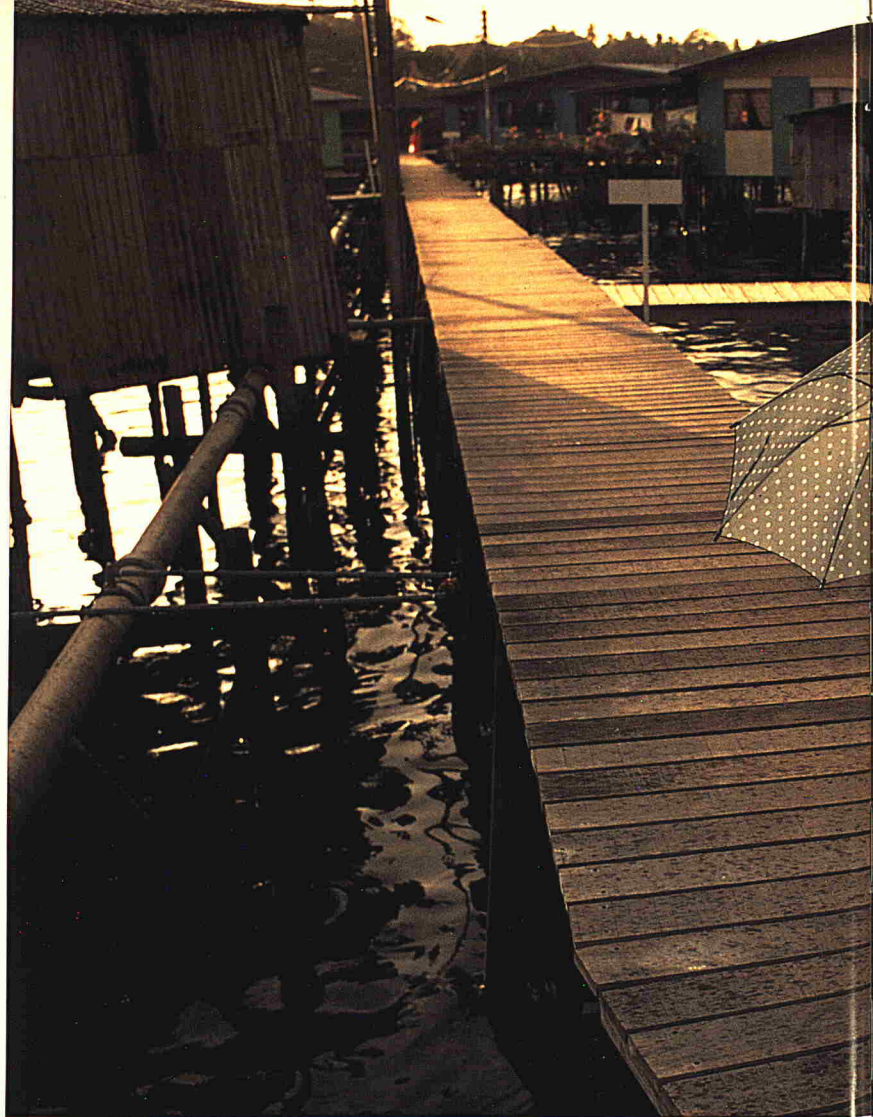




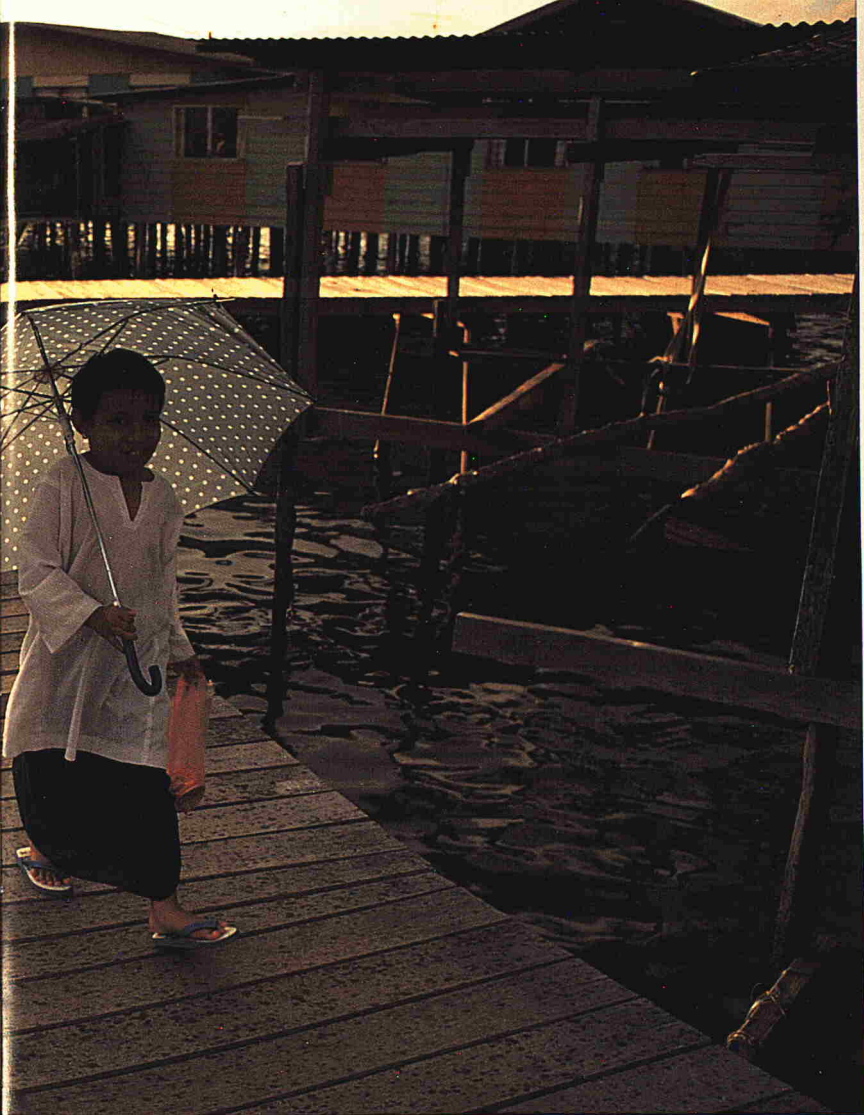
NIKON F4E ANGENUX 28 - 70mm f2.6

A Wish

Contrasting lifestyles of a youngster in the city and a village boy.

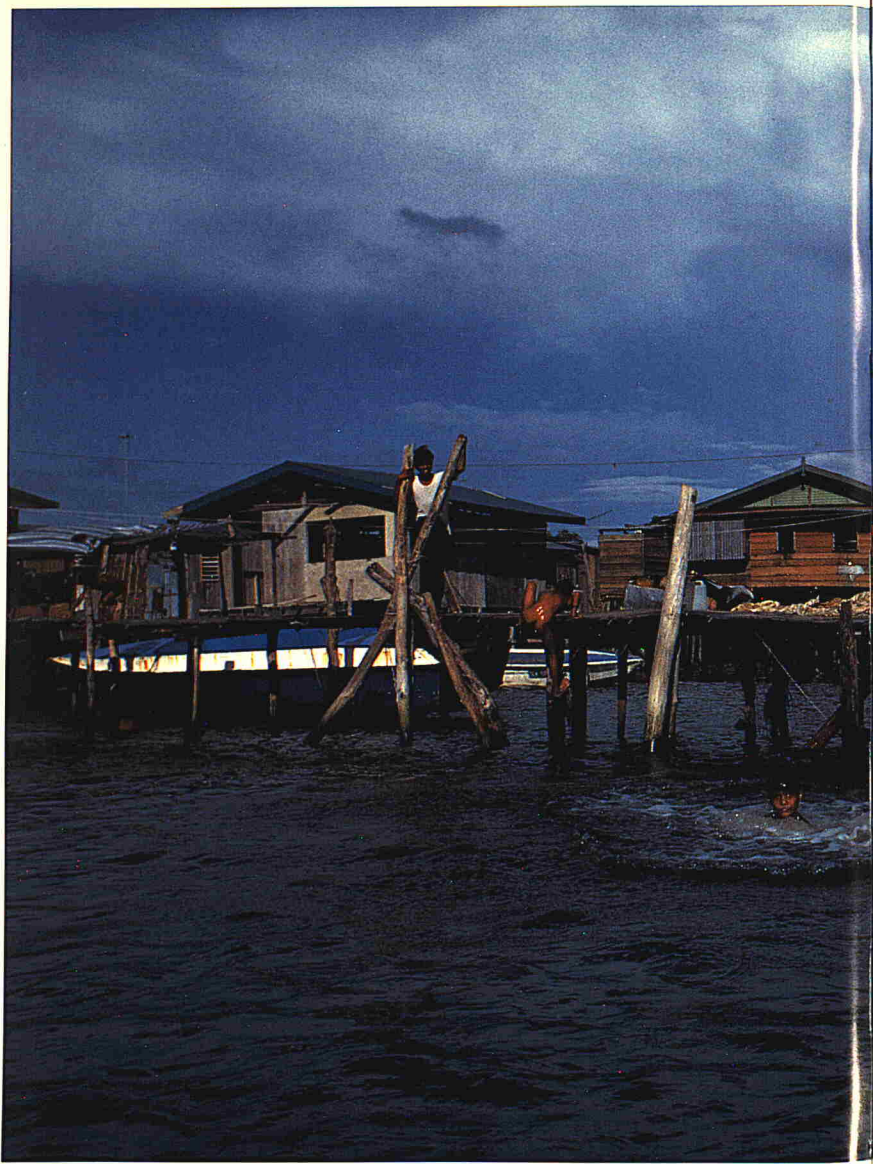


Home From School

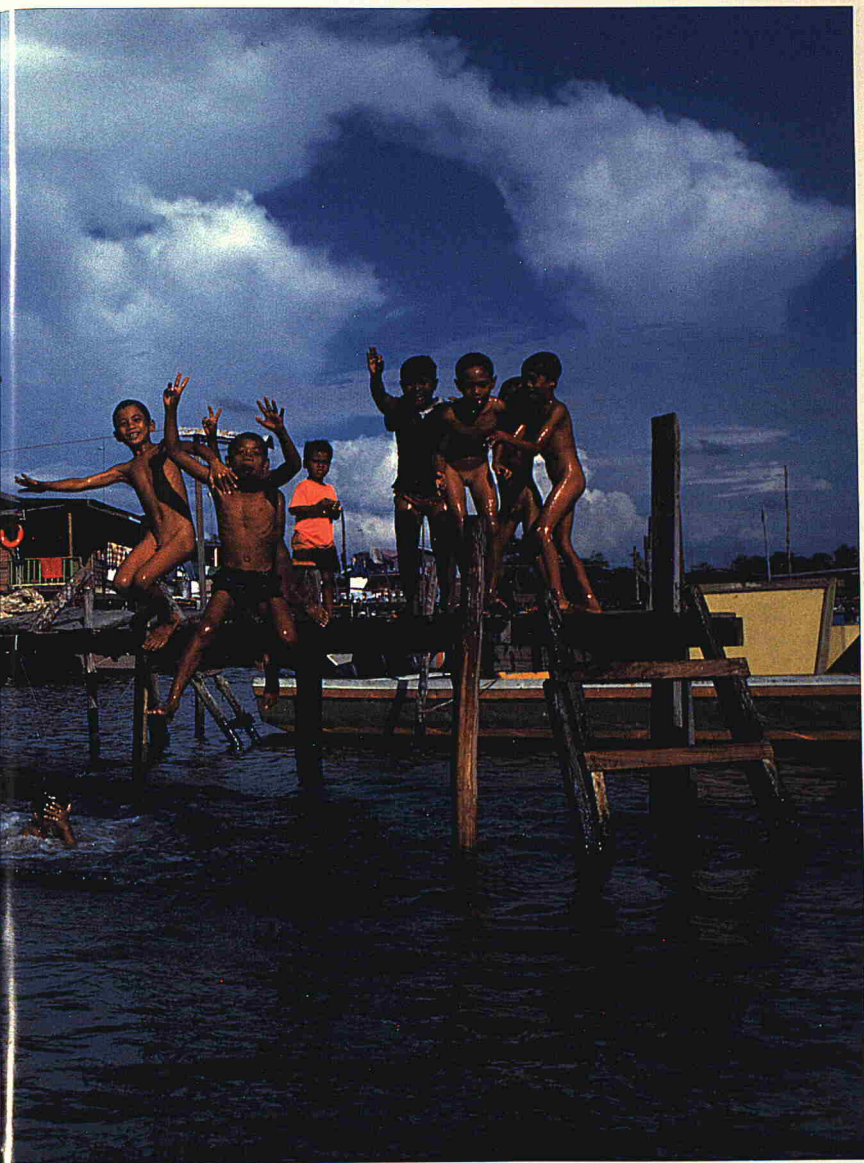


LEICA R7 ELMARIT 28mm G 8

In Labuan, many villages are set on water. These *kampung air* (water villages) are built on stilts and neat plankways connect one house to another.



Naked Joy! Children playing at the water's edge, Lahuan.



LEICA SF ELMARIT 28mm f2.8

Untuk Si dia

*Gelang emas di atas peti
Ambil lampu padam pelita;
Barulah puas rasanya hati,
Jika dapat bertentang mata.*

For Her

[Just seeing you makes me glad]

*A gold bracelet on the chest,
Turns on the lights and
switches off the lamps,
My heart will only be glad,
If we can see eye to eye.*

Untuk Si dia

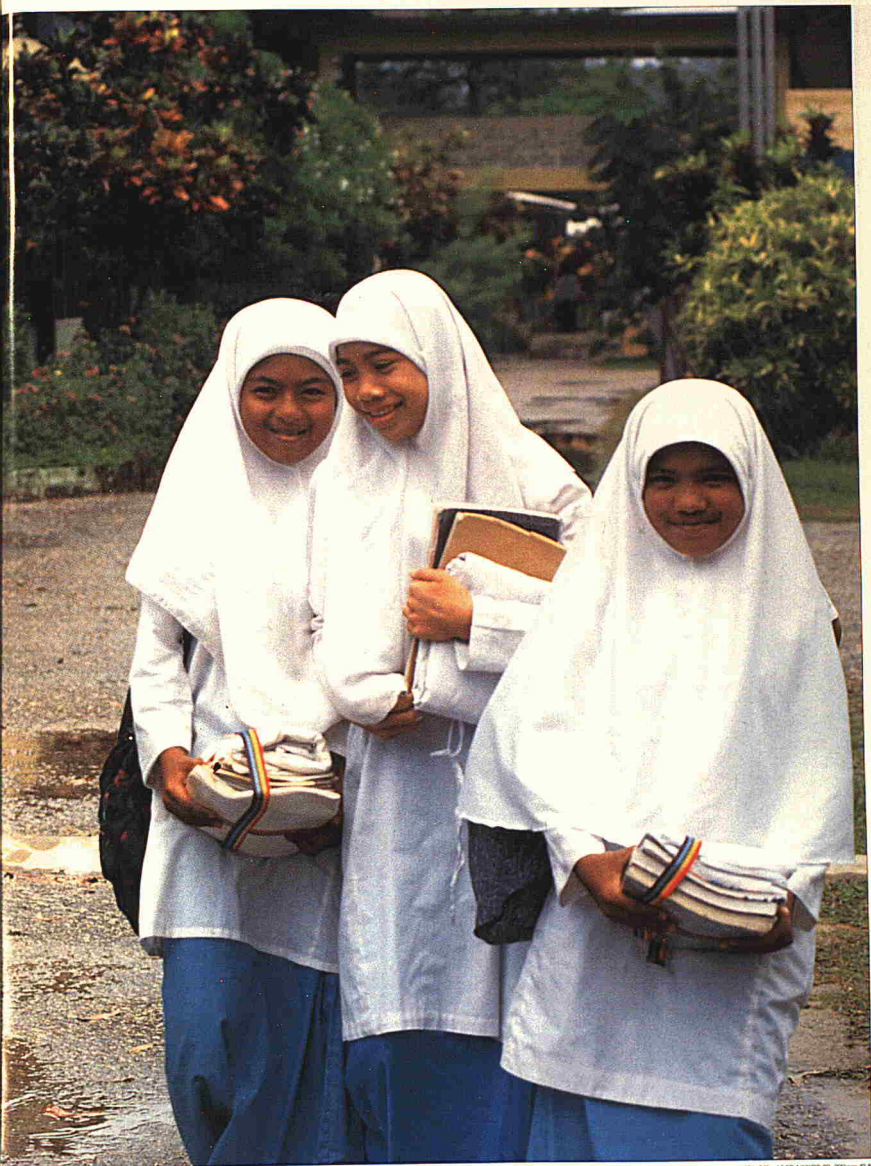
*Apa guna pasang pelita,
Jika tidak dengan sumpahnya;
Apa guna bermain mata,
Kalau tidak dengan stunggunya?*

For Him

[Why court if one is not sincere?]

*What is the point of lighting a lamp,
if one does not burn its wick;
What's the point of winking at each other,
If one is not sincere?*





MAKIN F&E AF ED MKKOR 83-309mm 02.8

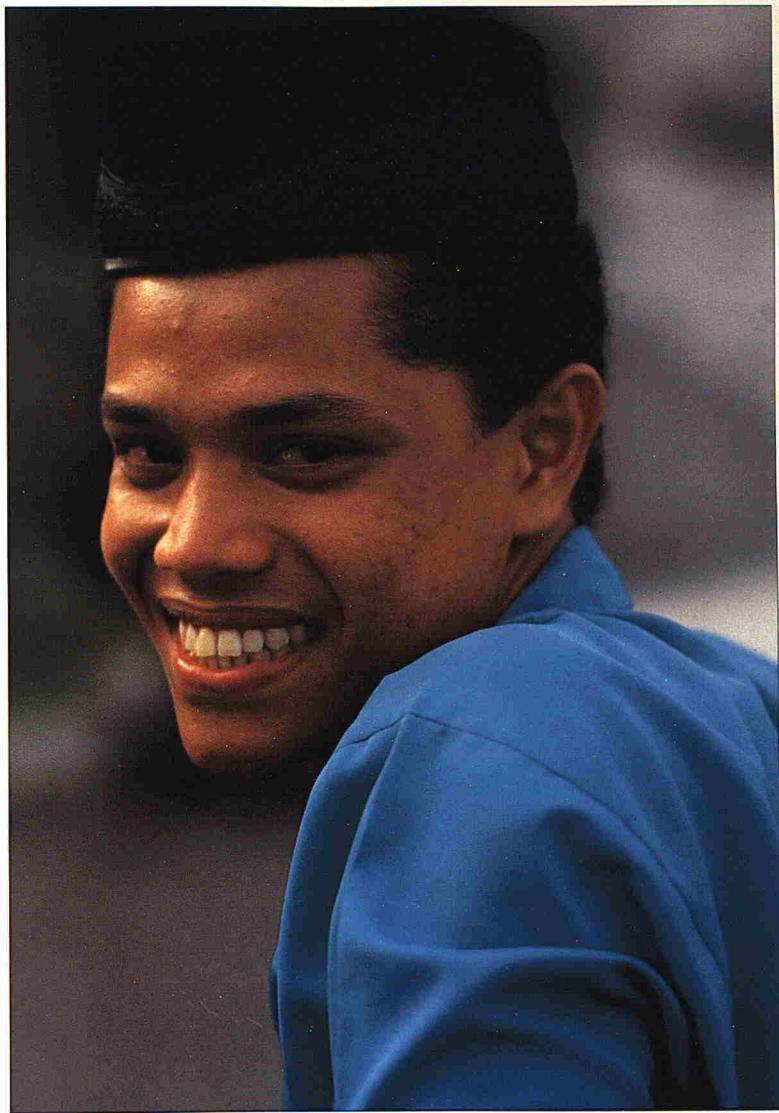
N.A.T.I.O.N

But My Neighbour Is My Treasure

*Solemn and lovely visions and holy dreams,
Mysterious portents, wanderers who range
Among unearthly themes,
Strong catalysts that change
The colour and the contours of the mind;
Be silent in your valleys in the moon,
Fade to the country that we never find:
For I am listening for that mortal tone,
The broken anthem of my fallen kind,
And seeking for the vision of those I see
Daily and here, in this poor house with me.*

*Their name is Wonderful, a holy name;
These in the light of heaven I shall behold,
If I can come there, standing in the flame
Of glory, with the blessed in the gold.
There is no dream more wonderful, for they
Are worth the whole creation, each alone,
Grant me to see their beauty on that Day!
There is no vision to prefer, but One.*

< Ruth Pitter >



LEICA RE SUMMICHON 30mm f2

Shy-lah! A typical Malay boy in baju Melayu (Traditional Malay Men's Costume)
"lah" is the most common exclamation suffix used by almost all Malaysians to express excitement,
admiration, shock and anger.



NIKOLA FONG / NIKOLA FONG P/S



180CA145 Af ED 180CA 80 - 200mm G.8

A Generation Apart
Malay women, young and old

All in a day's work - A rubber tapper with her yield



NAKON/ISA, NAKON/ISA/ISTOCK/123

Happy because I am

Two damsels of different calling and lifestyles.

*One, a plantation worker and the other,
a nyonya girl.*

The Peranakan ▶

are descendants of Malay and Chinese parentage of days gone by. Unlike other ethnic mixes, where the more dominant group dictates one's cultural exercise, the Peranakan have become a distinct ethnic group themselves.

Women are referred to as Nyonya and the men Baba.



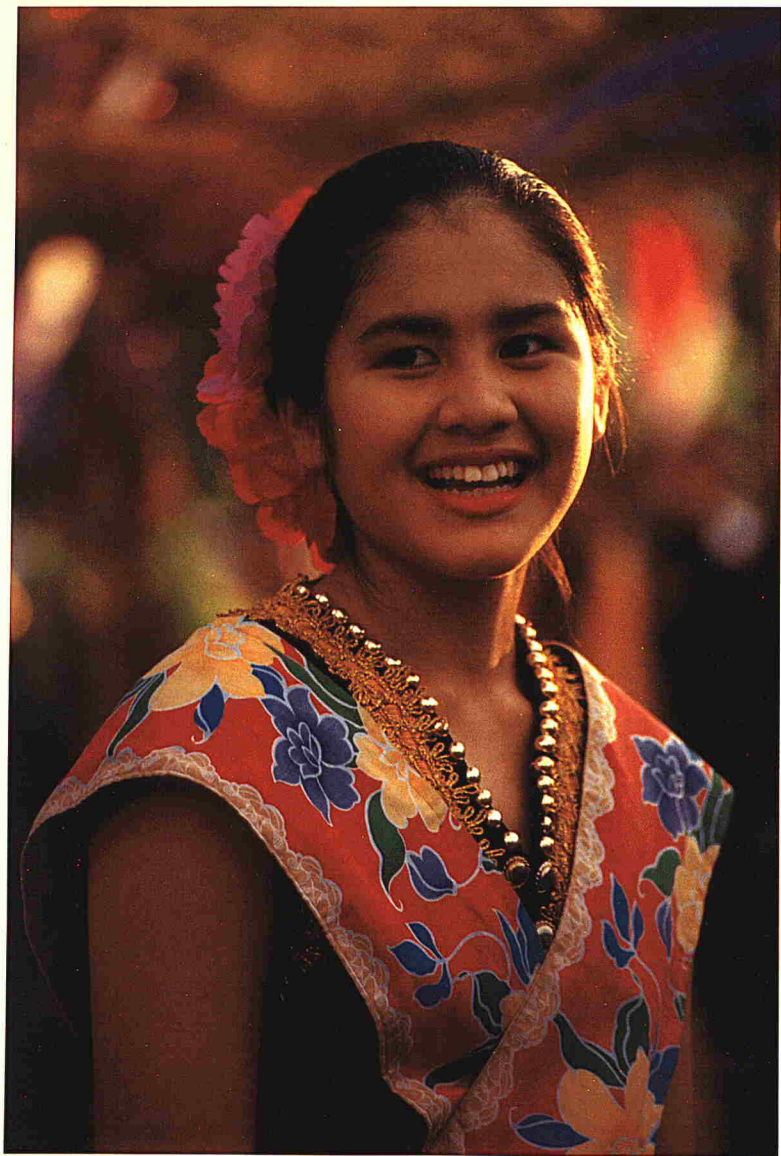
NIKON F2A NIKONIC 135mm f2.8

Gadis Berbaju Merah

Cik Ros pergi ke pekan,
Hendak membeli ubi keladi;
Bukan kurus kerana tak makan,
Kurus kerana merindu di hati.

Lady in Red

To market, Rose goes,
To buy a kilo of yam;
She's slender and lithe not for want of nourishment,
but because of longing for her lover.



Charming Kadazandusun lass at a harvest festival do in Kota Kinabalu.

LEICA DE SASSON EDI TRIPPHOTO



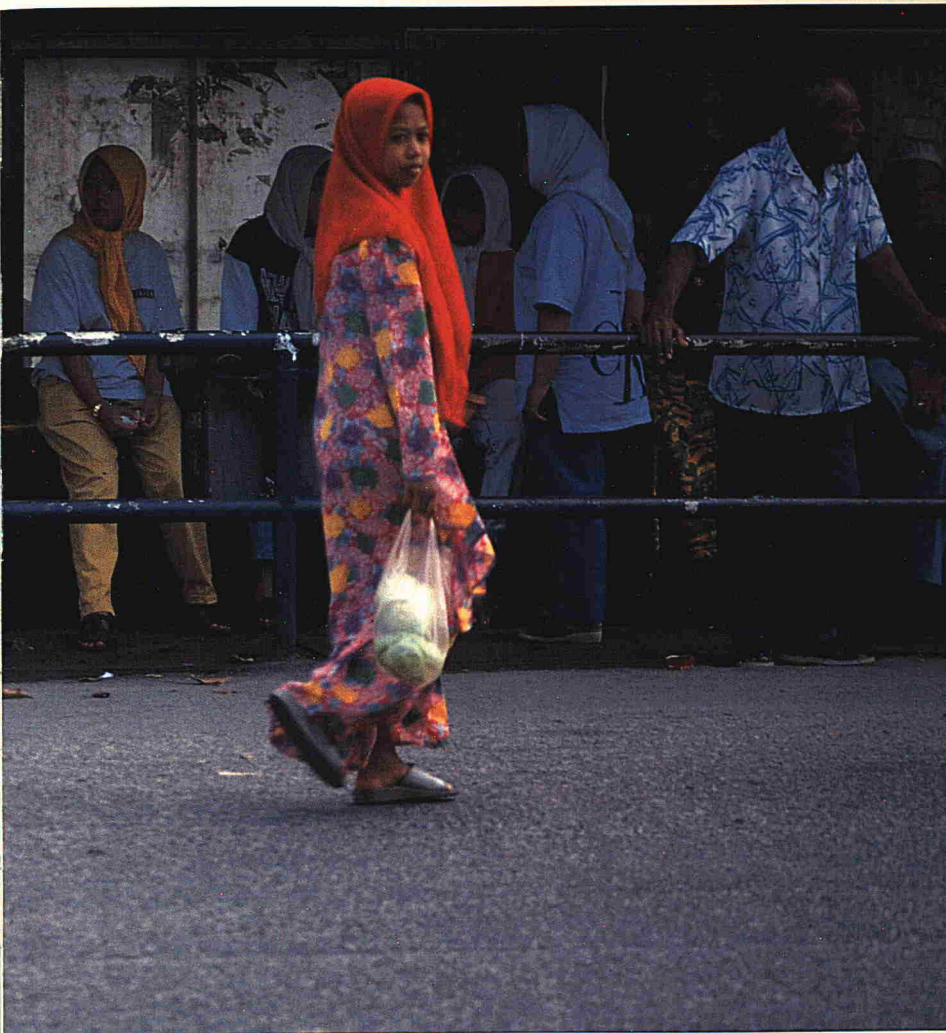
Youth congregation at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Labuan.

LEICA M6 SUMMORON 25mm f2

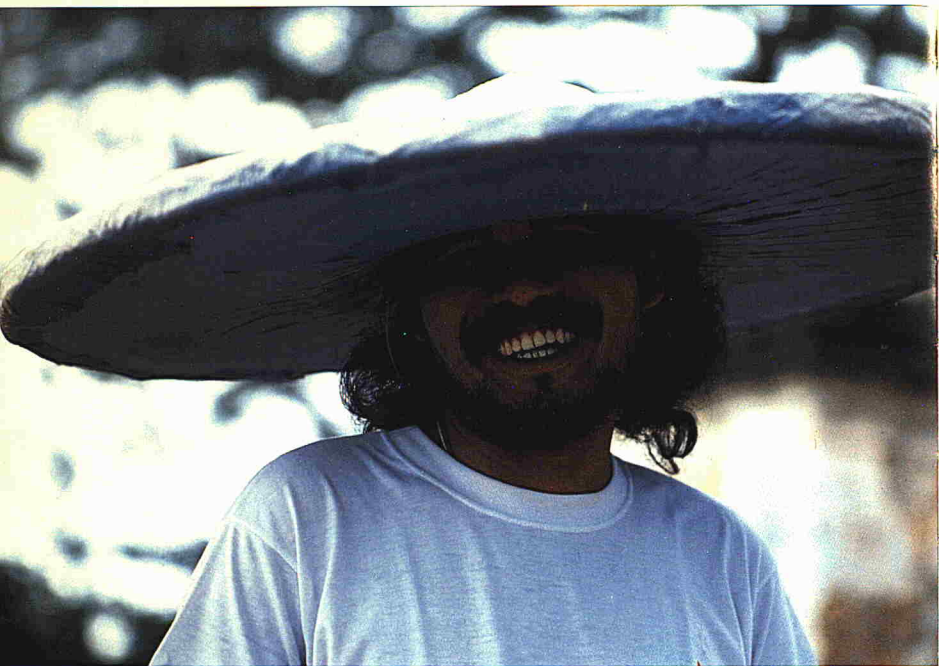
Lily of the Valley

A young lady stands out from the crowd with her brightly coloured baju kurung.





LEICA Q7 VARIO ELMAR R 75-210mm f4



NIKOLAJI / NIKOLAJI DESIGN CO.

Many Faces

A road artist, trishaw man, mamak stall owner, orang asli, and passerby.



NACON F&E ANGENEUX 28 - 70mm G2.6



NACON F&E ANGENEUX 28 - 70mm G2.6



NACON G2A TAKKOR 135mm G2.5



NACON F&E ANGENEUX 28 - 70mm G2.6

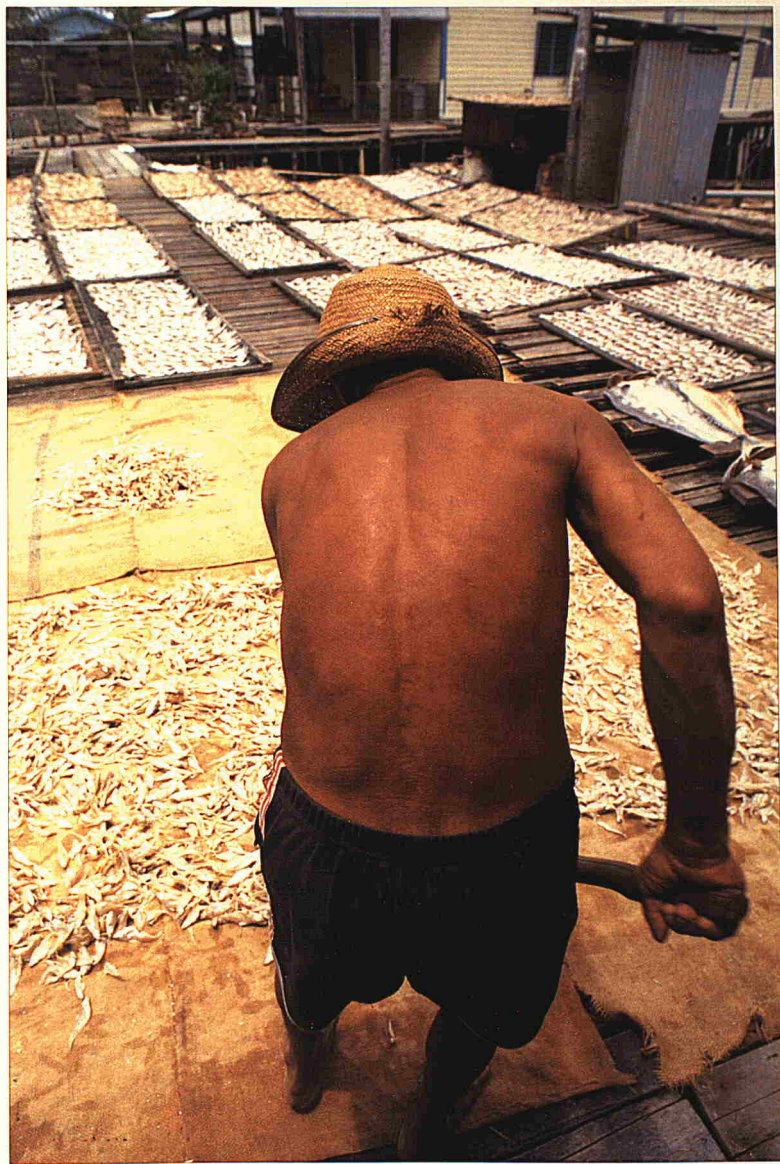
A multi-racial country with a population of 19.0 million. Malaysia's main racial groups are the Malays, Chinese and Indians and the very diverse indigenous people of Sabah and Sarawak.

Facing page : Malay
Top left : Baba
Top right : Indian
Left : Orang Asli
Below : Chinese



PHOTO: ANAGNELOK - TORE/CS

*The Bounties of the Sea
Fishermen in Sekinchan and Pulau Ketam, Selangor with their catch.*

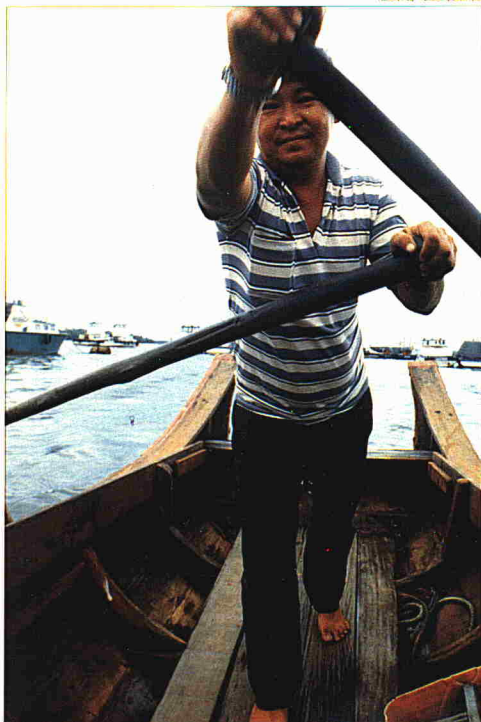


NIKOH FADZ NIKOH 2011/12.8



SHINJI KAWA / ANSA/GETTY IMAGES

SHINJI KAWA / ANSA/GETTY IMAGES

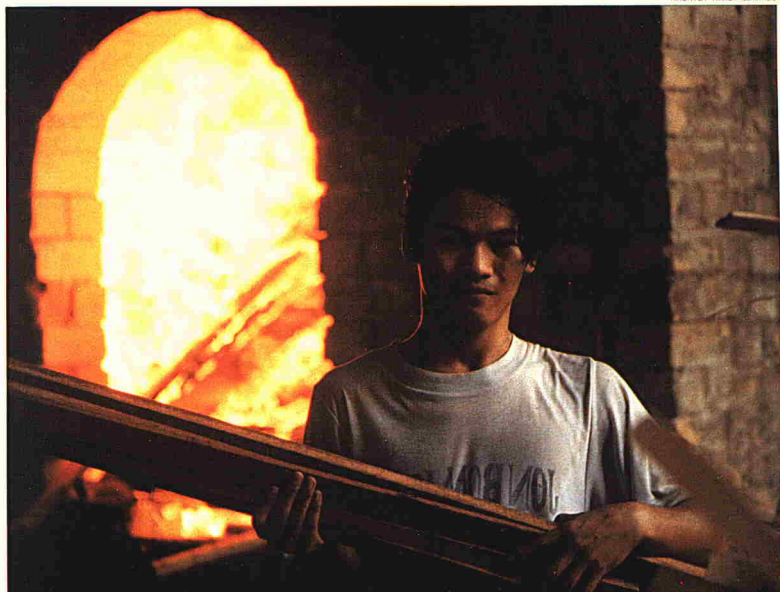


The Good Life

*Various trades and lifestyles;
freshwater fishing, plantation,
boating and plywood manufacturing.*

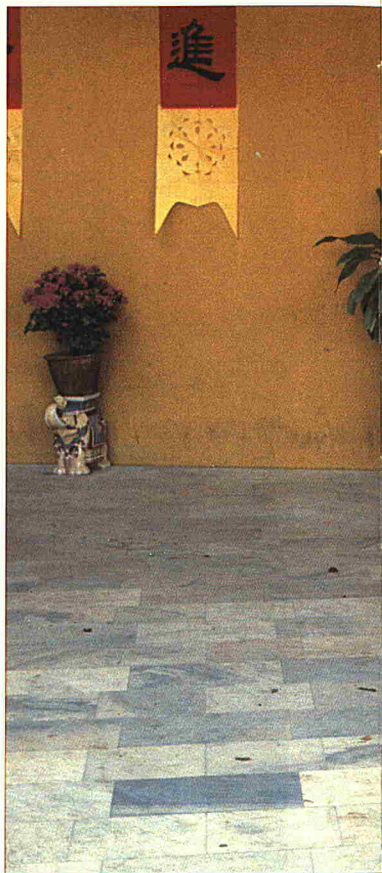


NIKON F2A NIKKOR 105mm F2.5





NIKOLY PANG / KUALA LUMPUR 12/1



Waiting

A Chinese lady selling pork in the marketplace.

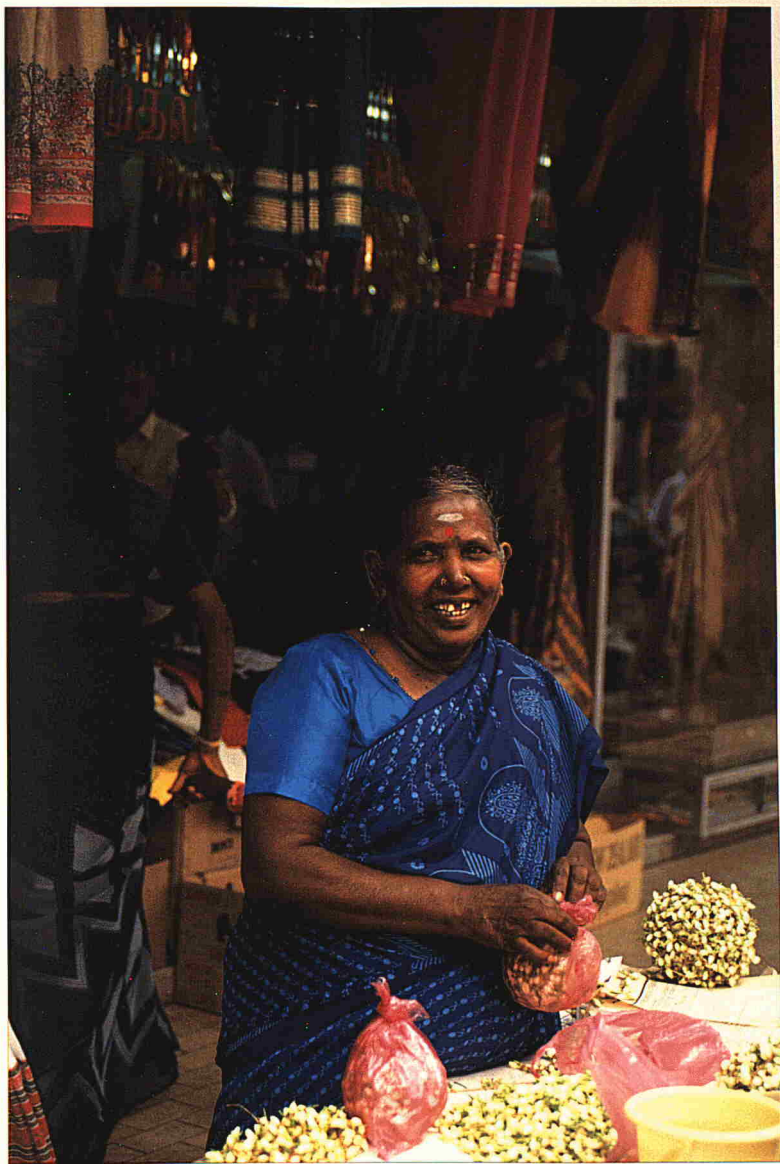


A Chinese man selling **guava**, a tasty local fruit, outside the San Poh Tong Cave Temple in Ipoh.

NIKON FM2 NIKKOR 105mm f2.5

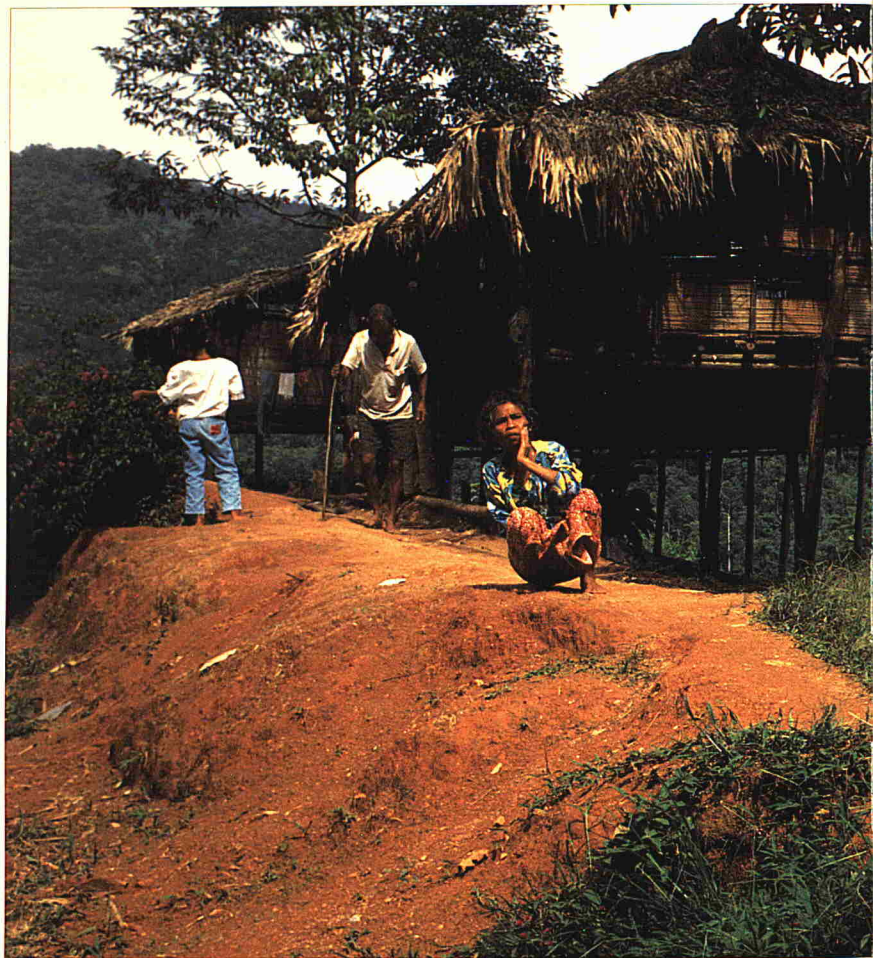
扶漢室





NICKY NG. ANGENEUX 28 - 29/01/12.8

An Indian lady selling jasmine flowers on prayer day.



"Orang Asli"

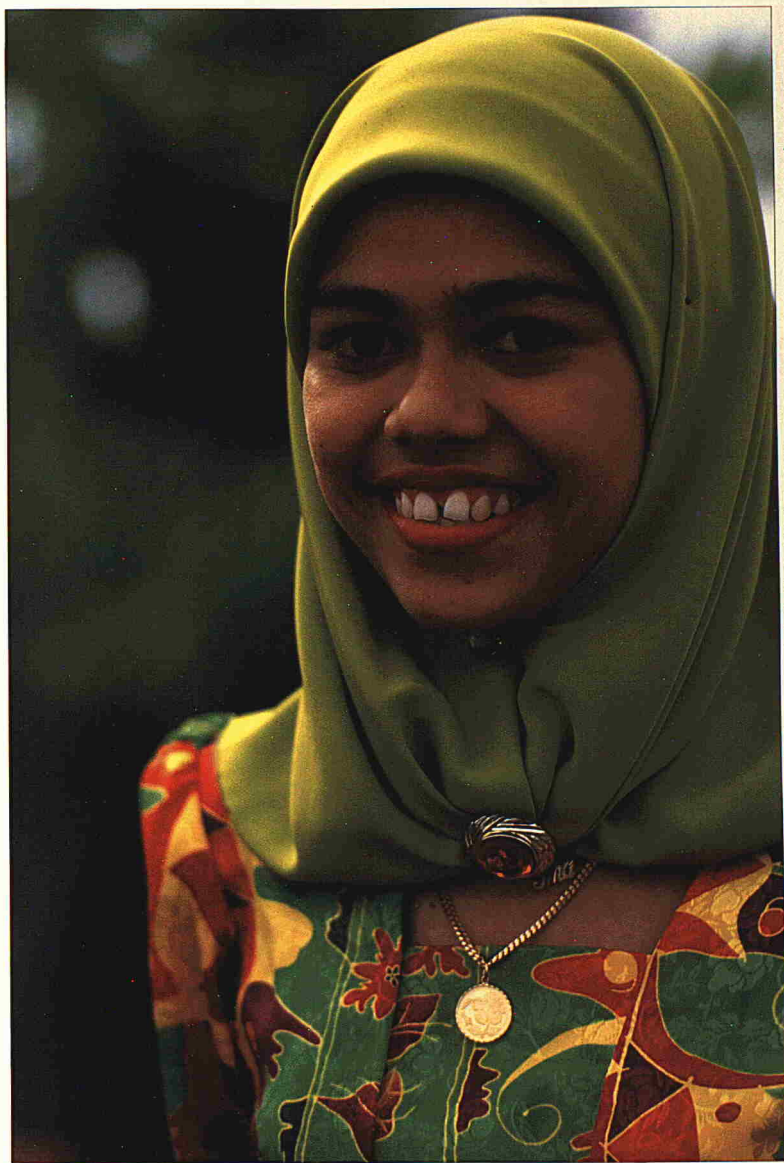
are the aborigines of Malaysia.
Some have achieved high positions in government
and some are highly educated.
Many still prefer the simple lifestyle.



LEICA M6. SUMIKACION 35mm f/2



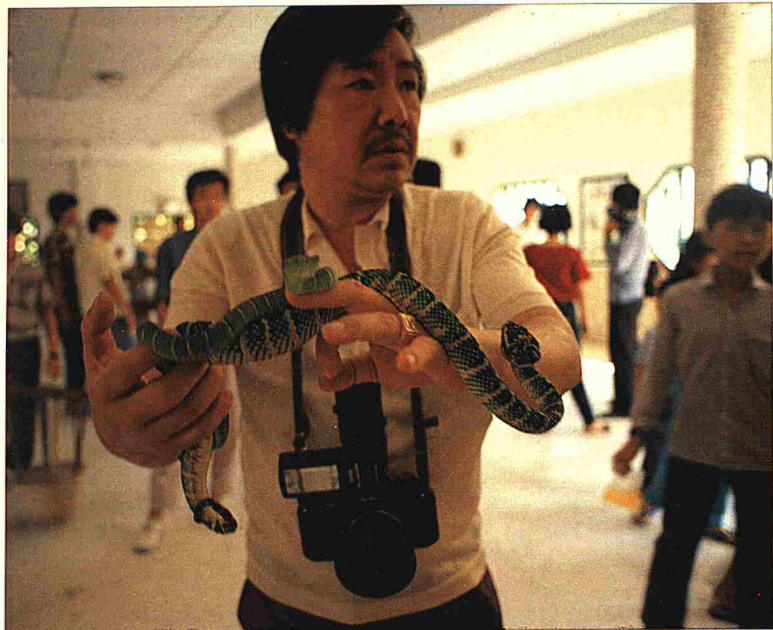
Smile! A typical Malay girl wearing a "tudung" - the Malay lady's headdress for the more genteel.



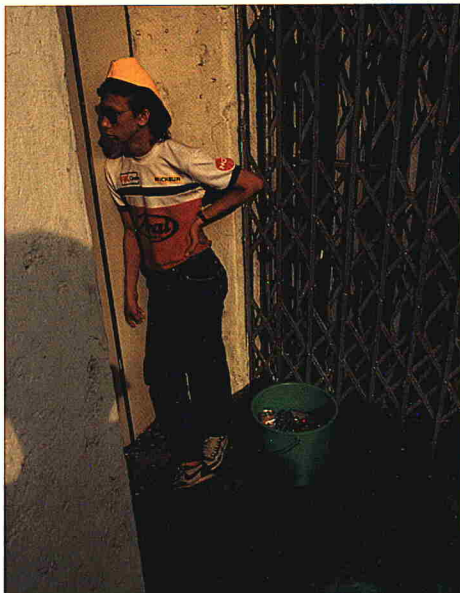
LEICA RE. SUMARION 50mm f2

◀ Lighting Up The Way - A Malay with lanterns in Marang Resort, Terengganu.

LEICA R7. SUMALUX 50mm f1.4



*Even a simple drink peddler
is fully garbed in the latest
fashion trends of the country!*





LEICA RE SUBMIRCON 90mm f2

To Each His Own

*A photographer in Snake Temple in Penang,
a drink peddler on National Day,
a meat seller in Old Town Market in Petaling Jaya.*





HASELBRAD SECKM PLANAR 80mm f2.8

Ploughman Singing

Here morning in the ploughman's songs is met

Ere yet one footstep shows in all the sky,

And twilight in the east, a doubt as yet,

Slows not her sleeve of grey to know her by.

Woke early, I arose and thought that first

The old owls might have halloed if they durst,

But joy just then was up and whistled by

A merry tune which I had known full long,

But could not to my memory wake it back,

Until the ploughman changed it to the song.

O happiness, how simple is thy track!

Tinged like the willow shoots, the east's young brow

Glows red and finds thee singing at the plough.



LEILA DE LAMAS / GAYAGREY.COM

Safe Return

Women await their husbands' return from the sea, Kota Bharu.



LEICA R8 VARIO - ELMAR 70 - 210mm f4

Teamwork

Kelantanese fishermen bringing their boat ashore.



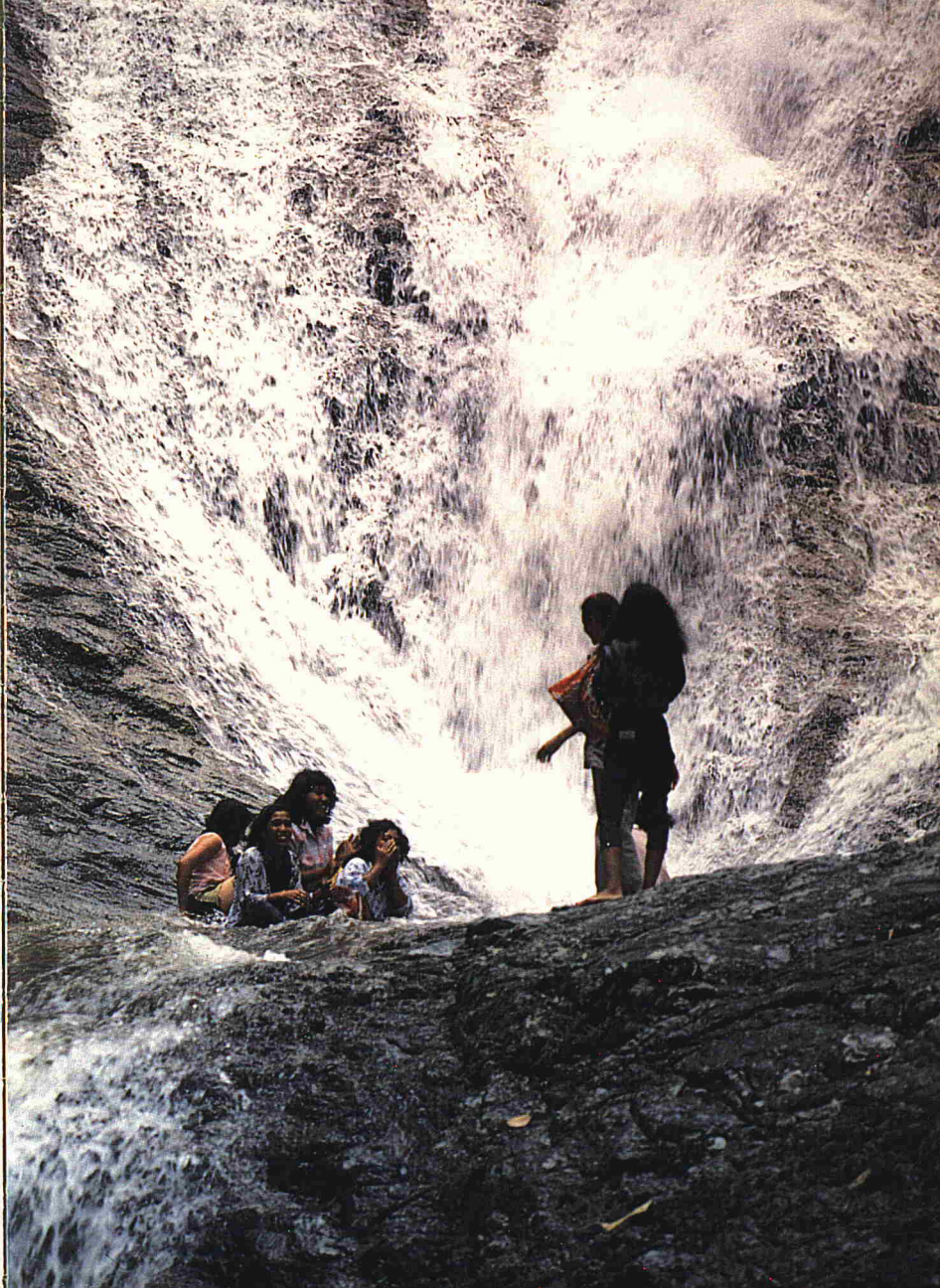
NIKOLEP/AGF - FAKROH/100mm f2.8

Waterfall in Tioman Island

*Water, Water, Everywhere -
Waterfalls are popular spots
for picnickers and thrill-seekers alike.*

Waterfall in Cameron Highlands ▶

NIKOLEP/AGF - FAKROH/100mm f2.8

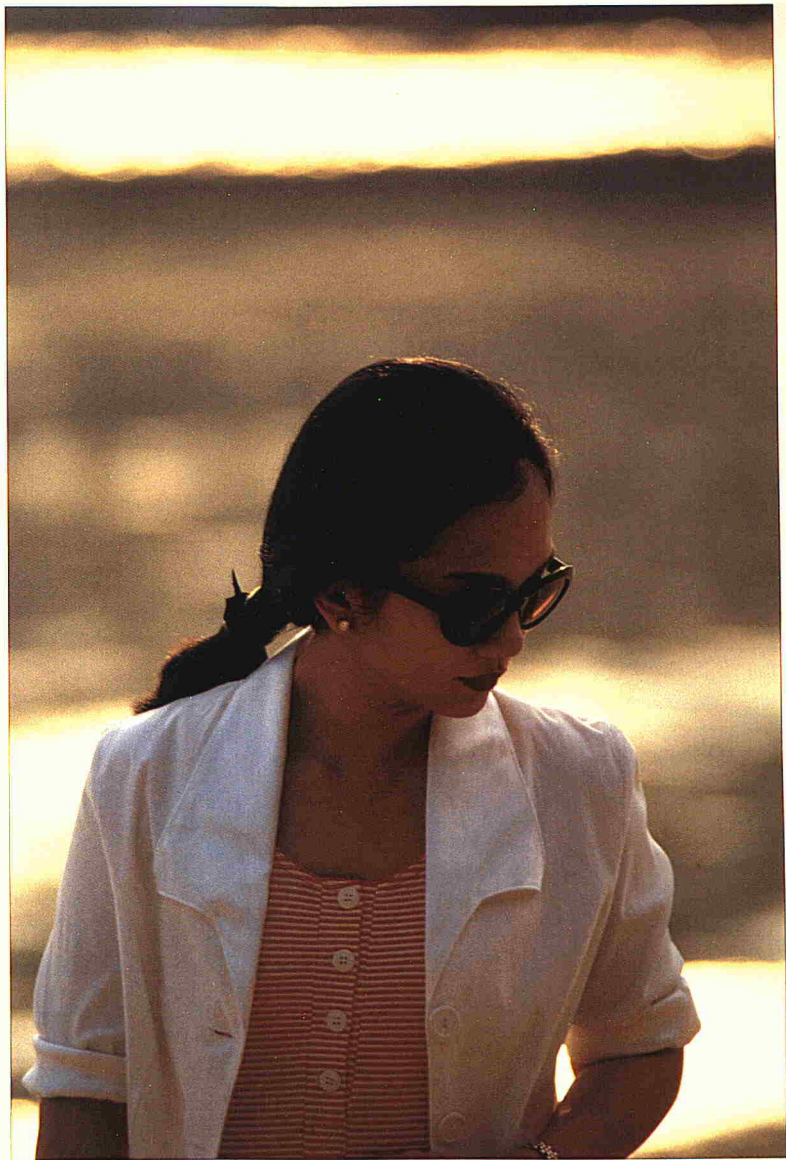


SHEILA MAJID
A.R.T.I.S.T.E

*Prided on her,
Mellifluous voice,
with a touch of melancholy.
Sheila. The pride of Malaysia.*

< You-Cham >





WANITA

Wajah selembut bayu
Lenggang dan lenggokmu
Keperibadian wanita
Ayu....

Di dalam kerayuan
Ada Kekuatan
Engkandah racun kau penawar
Insan

Bagai dermaga
Di pelabuhan
Berdiri gagah
Sendirian
Hadapi gelombang
Kebiduan
Kau memberi menerima
Menempubi segala
Dengan rela

Tapi ada masanya
Engkau api marak, membakar
Ada ketikanya
Kau penawar bisa
Kau wanita
Ciptaan istimewa

Suka duka berganti
Rahsia tersembunyi di hati
Tabahnya hatimu
Beriman berilmu
Wanita
Sumber ilham selalu

WOMAN

A face as soft as a breeze
Your moves and graces
A woman's personality
Soft, charming....

In your delicateness
there is strength
You are the venom and cure
of mankind

Like a mooring
in a port
standing strong
alone
facing the waves
of life
You give and take
facing every challenge
gladly

But there are times
you are a wildfire burning
There are times
when you are the soothing cure
You are a Woman
a special creation

Happiness and sadness intertwined
Secrets lay hidden in your heart
Your heart is strong
Spiritual, knowledgeable
Woman
Always the source of inspiration

< Lyrics from Sheila's - WANITA >





NIKON F2A NIKKOR 80-200mm f4

L.A.N.D

Keroncong Sang Suria

*Berseri Sinarannya
Cahaya Sang Suria
Nikmatnya Ku Terima
Tiada Kata*

*Ku Terpesona Melihat Suasana
Tersusun Serentak Irama
Tersirat Seribu Ertinya
Damai Meresap Di Jiwa*

*Tak Mungkin
Kita Dapat Melukiskan Rasa
Keagungannya Tetap Nyata
Terbuang Di Alam Maya*

The Song of the Sun

*The radiant rays
of the glowing sun
warm sensations which
cannot be expressed*

*I bathe in its glow
like a melody
with a thousand meanings
peaceful is the feeling*

*P'haps I cannot paint
my feelings to reflect
the sun's radiant glory
upon the universe*

< Dr. Tony Lau >



FAKRU HAZI NIKICOR 24mm f2.8



Tranquillity

The many inland lakes and wetlands in Terengganu.

SAKILAH BINA SUDIPUTRA PUNJANG 2004/05



A serene swamp in Terengganu.

HASILRAD 500CM PLANAR 80mm 12.8



All Alone

A single tree overlooking a grassy horizon, Alor Setar.

PHOTO: HAZRAT SHERIFF

The Land

*Lembah hijau,
bukit dan lerah,
padang pertamangan dan kemesraan,
bercambah kuntum-kuntum segar,
teratai di kolam tak beriak,
kenangan di tanah tinggi.*

< Shamsuddin Ismail >

*Green plains, hills and valleys,
The fields of battle and of bliss,
Where a thousand blossoms bloom,
The waterlilies smile in the pond,
Memories are held high.*



RMON 12A PAKC02 2/0001 12.8

*Sunny Palms
Pulau Langkawi at noon.*

Langkawi,
an island off the coast of Kedah,
is a major duty free tourist
destination in Malaysia.

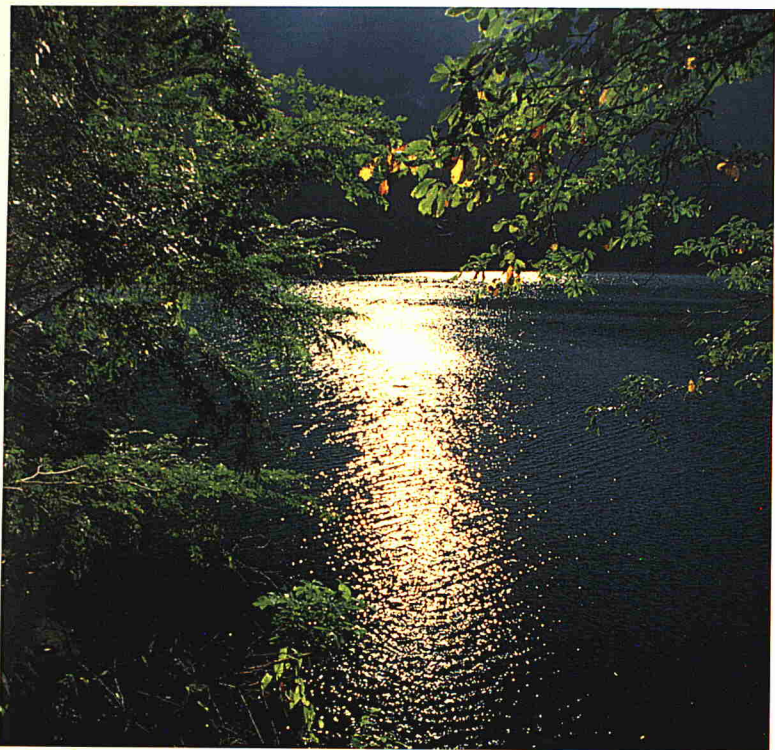


NIKON/EPSON/NIKON/EPSON/NIKON/EPSON

*Little drops of water, little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land.*

Gentle Falls ▶
Waterfalls in Negeri Sembilan.
NIKON/EPSON/NIKON/EPSON/NIKON/EPSON





NIKOLAYI / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Coming Out of the Foliage

Tasik Dayang Bunting

or Lake of the Pregnant Maiden.

Langkawi derived its name from a legend that tells of a couple married for 19 years but remained childless.

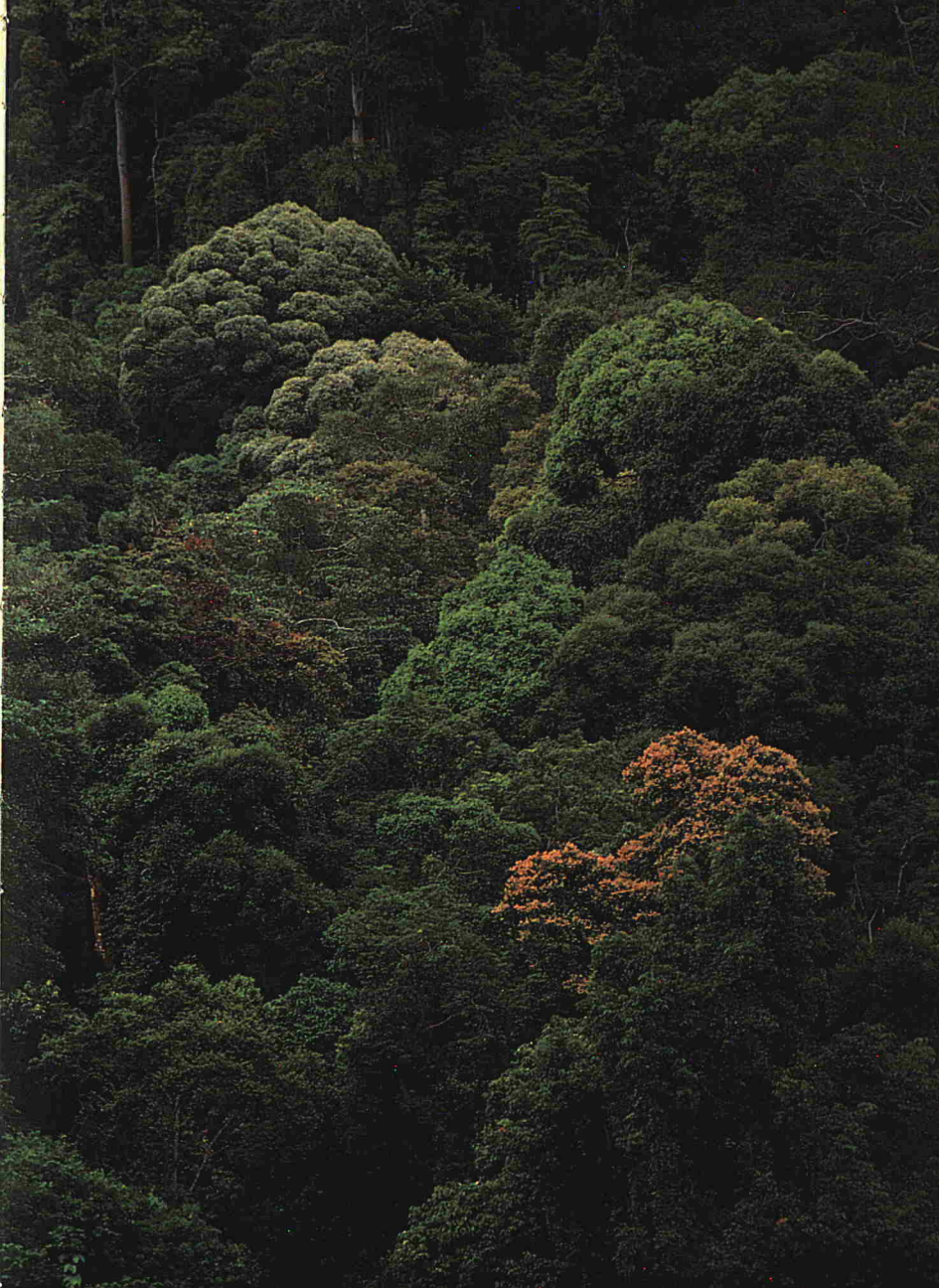
However, after having drunk from the lake, her fertility returned and she became pregnant.

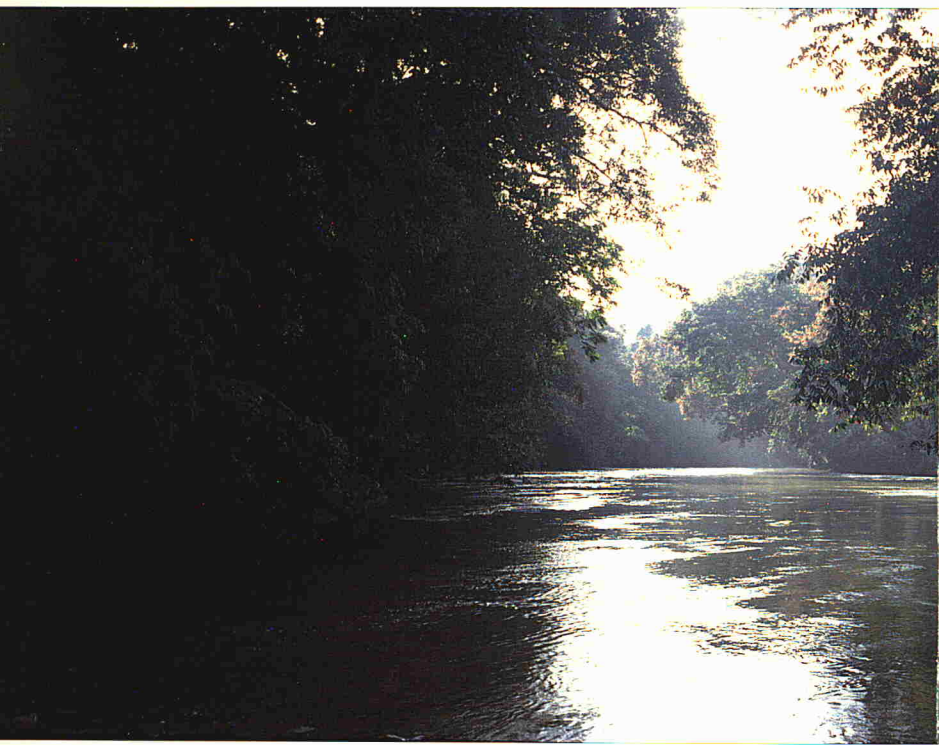
Thereafter, the place has been popular among many childless couples.

Contrast ▶

A patch of red amidst shades of green in the rainforest.

NIKOLAYI / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM





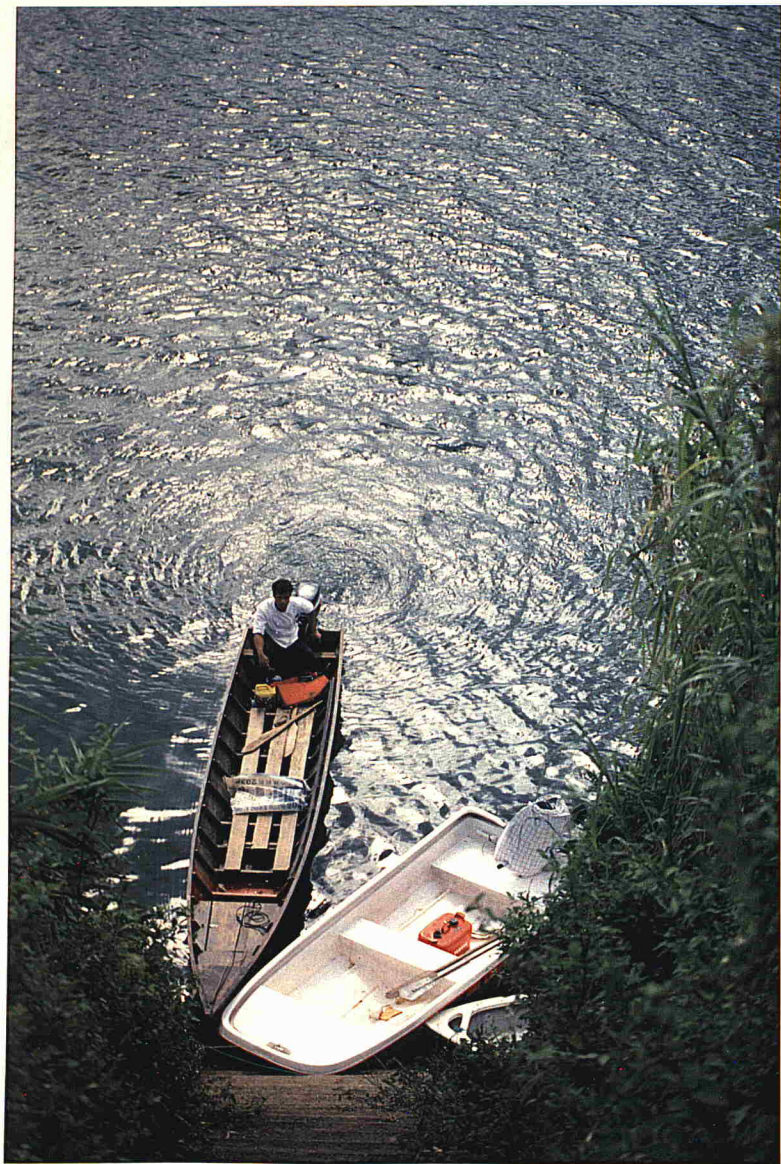
Still Waters Run Deep - The grand Sekrang River, Sarawak



AGI PANCIKAMA 017 8800610000

A trip back in time

Three hours down the river will bring one to
magnificent Iban longhouses



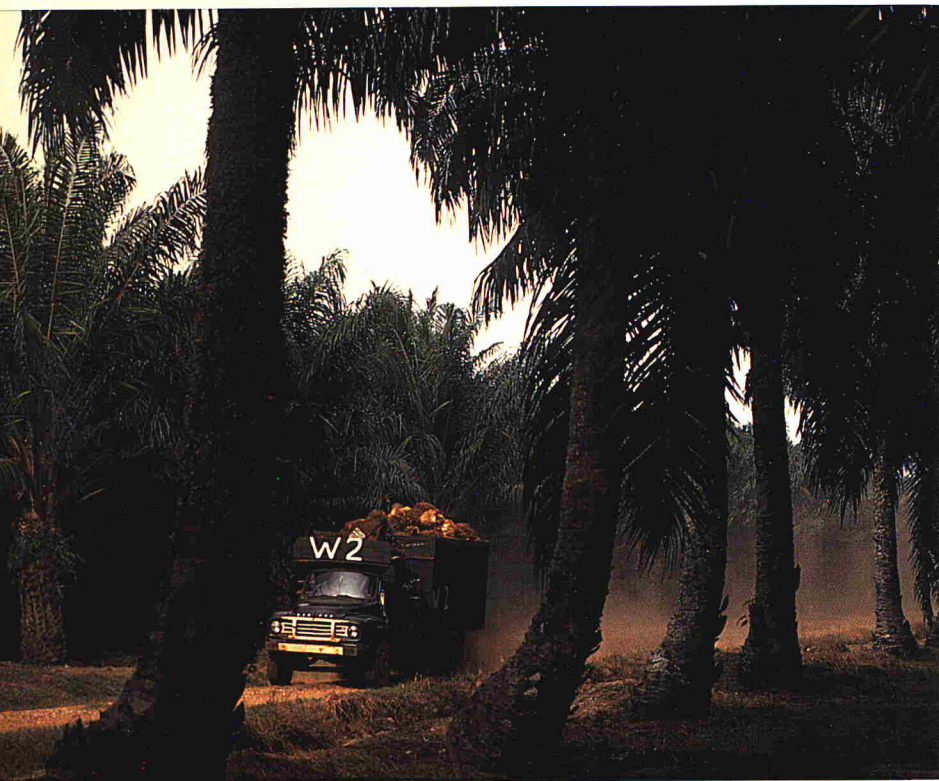
Messing About In Boats - Boating in Temenggor Dam

SAATCHI & SAATCHI DAMAN, G. 8



Standing Tall - Trunks and branches reaching out from the depths of Temenggor Dam.

NIKON F3 NIKKOR 28mm f2.8



14073101_011010000000_00000000

A lorry carrying oil palm, Golden Hope Estate.

The Oil palm industry contributes much
to the Malaysian economy.

Oil palm is a good alternative source
of cooking oil as it is rich in Vitamin E.



LEAFER IV 4 X 5 - ANGLADON 10mm 16.8

Umph! (An advertising phrase which means any quality that's too good for words.)

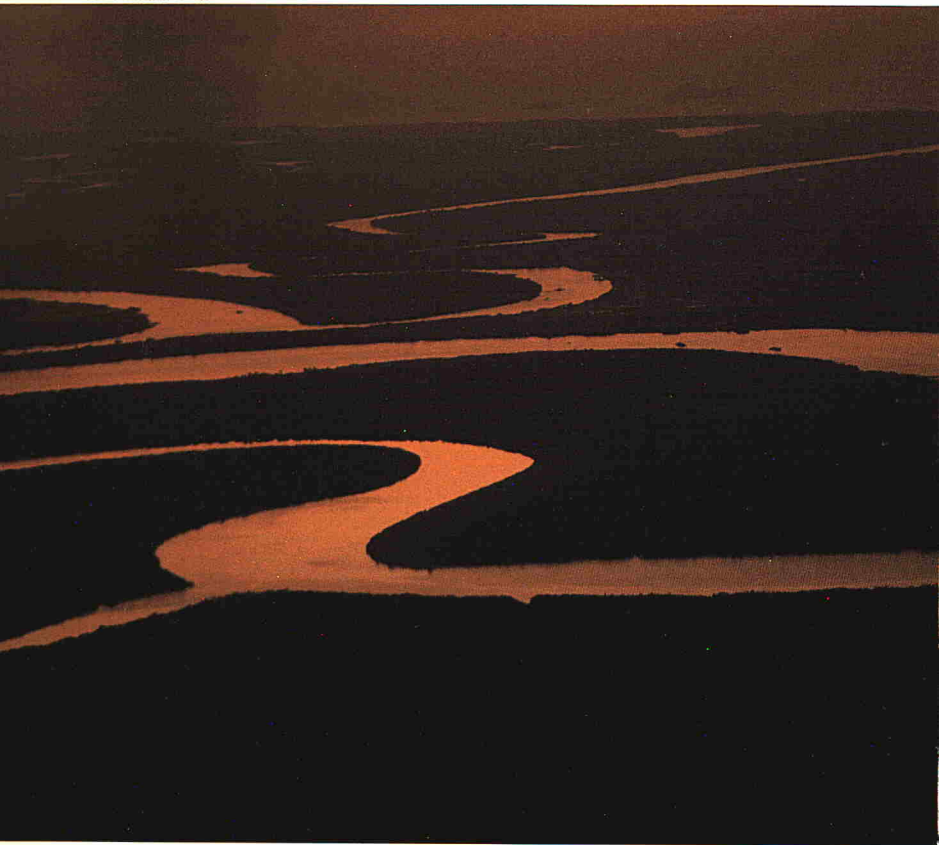
Picking tea leaves with shears in the early morn,

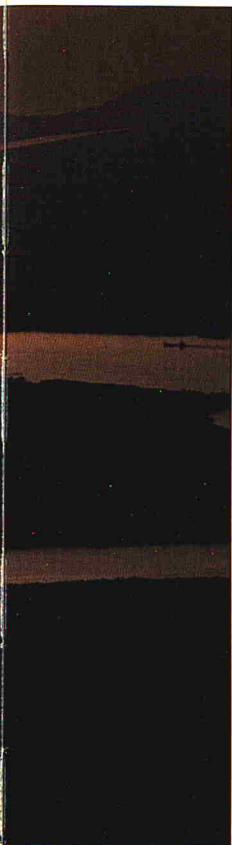
Cameron Highlands.

Tea leaves are planted on hilly slopes.

Given the conducive environment,

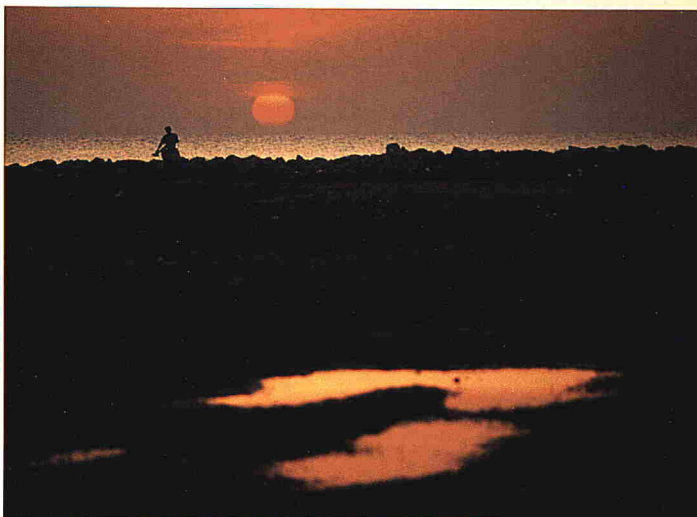
tea from Cameron has gained international acclaim.





Dusk

*The Kuching river meandering towards the sea.
Like contours of a palm,
the life - line of the nation quietly bends
around the land.*



Riding across the plains at Sekinchan.

LEICA SE. ANGIENUX 70 - 210mm f3.5

◀ *A boatsman crossing the Kuching river.*

NIKON F30 ANGIENUX 28 - 70mm f2.8

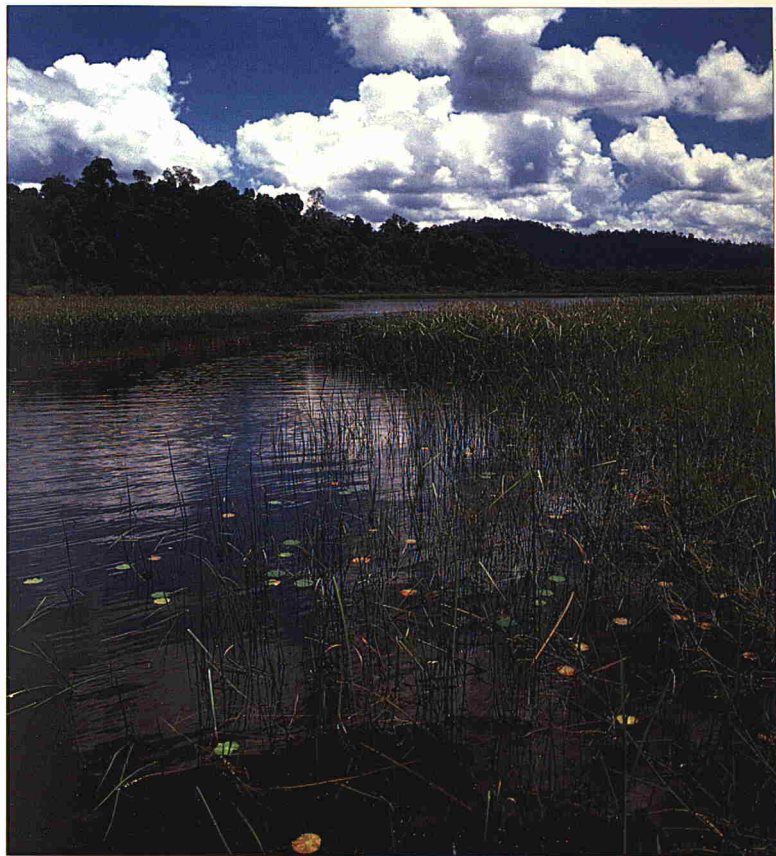
L a k e
C.H.I.N.I

The moods of this waterland are dictated
entirely by the sky and the horizon.



Orang asli and children. - A day in the life of the nation, tarrying along the lakeside.

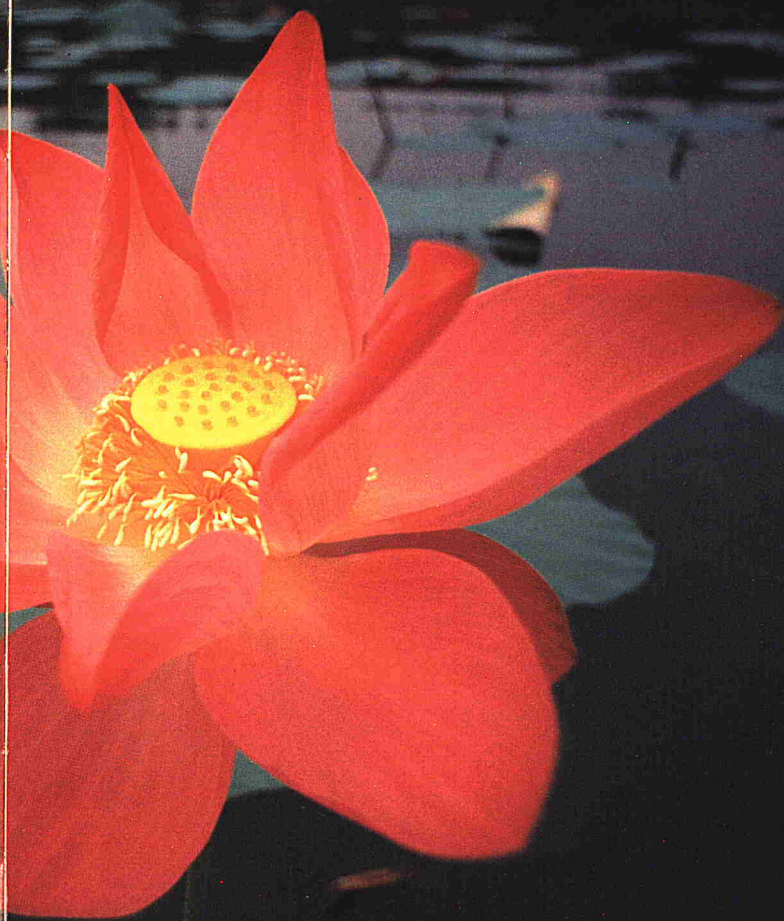
PHOTO: ANASTASIA DE TORRES

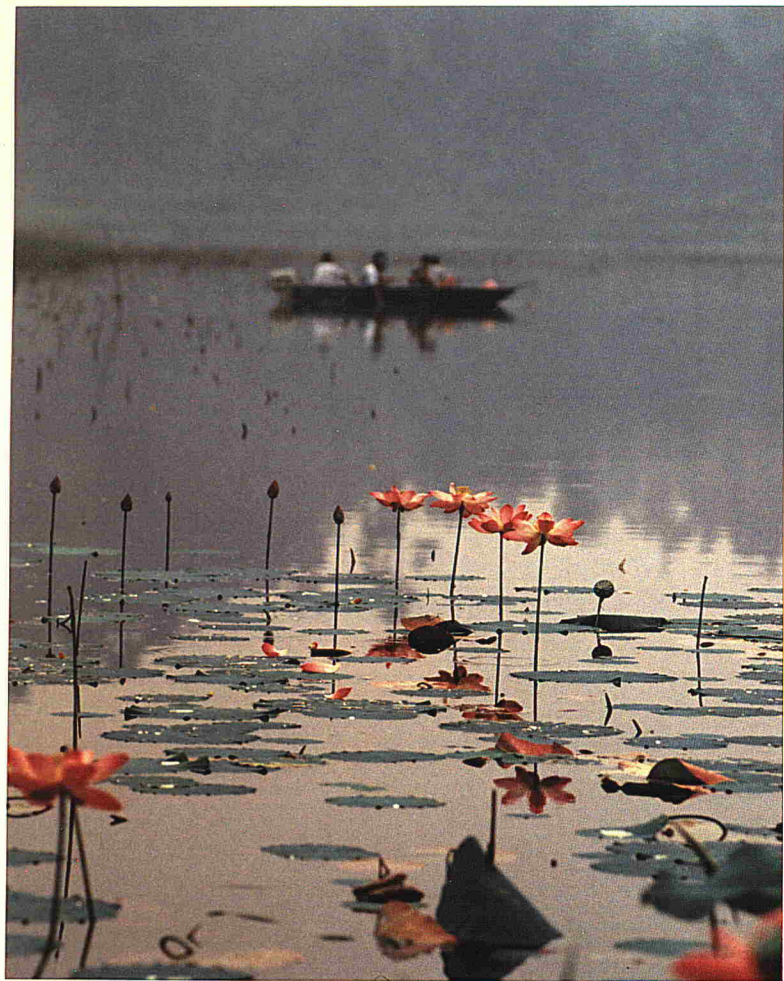


By the Lake - Grassy bank at Lake Chini, Pahang.

HASELBAZI BUKUM DISTAGON BSMH/14







NAKPA140 - 40 10 144K/6/90 - 200mm/2.8

Glorious Flower

The lotus grows abundantly in Tasik Chini.
It blooms in July and August every year.

< Previous Page >
MCKW140 - 140mm/11mm/0.5



NIKOH F&S ANGENHEIM 28 - 70mm f2.8

I SEEK FOR PEACE

I care not where 'tis found:

*On this rude scene in briers and brambles drest,
If peace dwells here, 'tis consecrated ground,
And owns the power to give my bosom rest;
To soothe the rankling of each bitter wound,
Gall'g by rude envy's adder-biting jest,
And worthy strife - ah, I am looking round
For peace's hermitage, can it be found? -
Surely that breeze that o'er the blue wave curl'd
Did whisper soft, "Thy wanderings here are blest."
How different from the language of the world!
Nor jeers nor taunts in this still spot are given:
Its calm's a balsam to a soul distress;
And, where peace smiles, a wilderness is heaven.*

< John Clare >

Lake of many Legends

Not unlike its Scottish counterpart - Nessie, beneath Lake Chini looms legends of fish-like monsters and phantoms.



SALEK/AG/ALFALAK/28/2000/13



Misty at Chini

©CORAX 12 SCHWAB 20mm f2.8

HIGHLANDS
K.I.N.A.B.A.L.U

Warkah Dari Gunung

Sebutir bintang mengerlip
di ufuk senja
setitik embun damai
di malam senketa.

Senyum dara di jendela
secarik warkah di tangannya
kabari dari gunung
suara dari muara
kami pintalah damai
aku dan dikau
jabatangan mesta
bersimpuh jiran tetangga.

Sebutir bintang mengerlip
di ufuk senja
setitik embun damai
di malam senketa.

Mari kita ke muara
Kita tarikan simponi damai
lagu keramat dan kemanusiaan
pada tikad paling luber
di mercu keimanan

Sebutir bintang mengerlip
setitik embun damai
bulan bintang, salib di dada
lambang suci umat manusia.

Mari bapa mari ke gunung
mari sayang mari ke ladang.

Tidings from the Mountain

A single star twinkles
at dusk
A drop of dew
in the quiet evening.

A virgin smiles behind the curtains
A scroll of tidings in her hands
Tidings from the mountain
Voices from the river
We seek peace
You and I
A friendly handshake
Neighbors say hello.

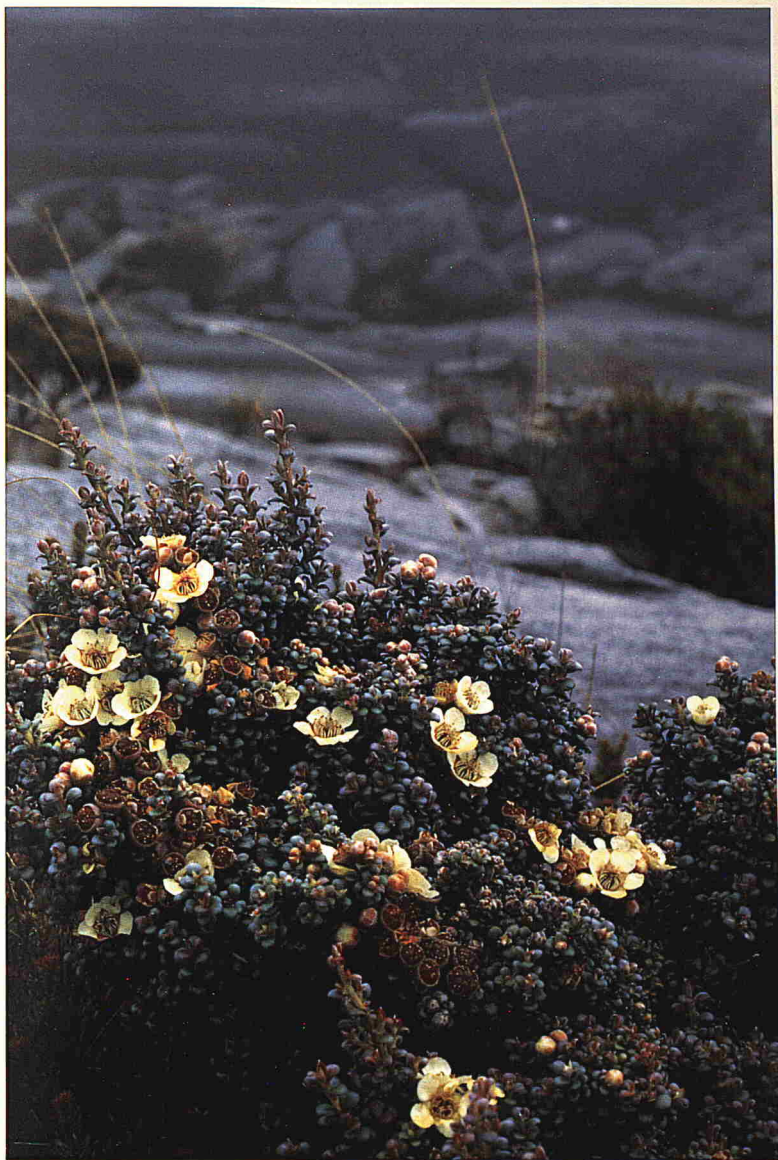
A single star twinkles
at dusk
A drop of dew
in the quiet evening.

Let us make way to the river
We will make a peaceful symphony
A song of humanity
At a time
of holiness

A single star twinkle
A drop of dew
The star, the moon and the cross on the chest
A symbol of purity

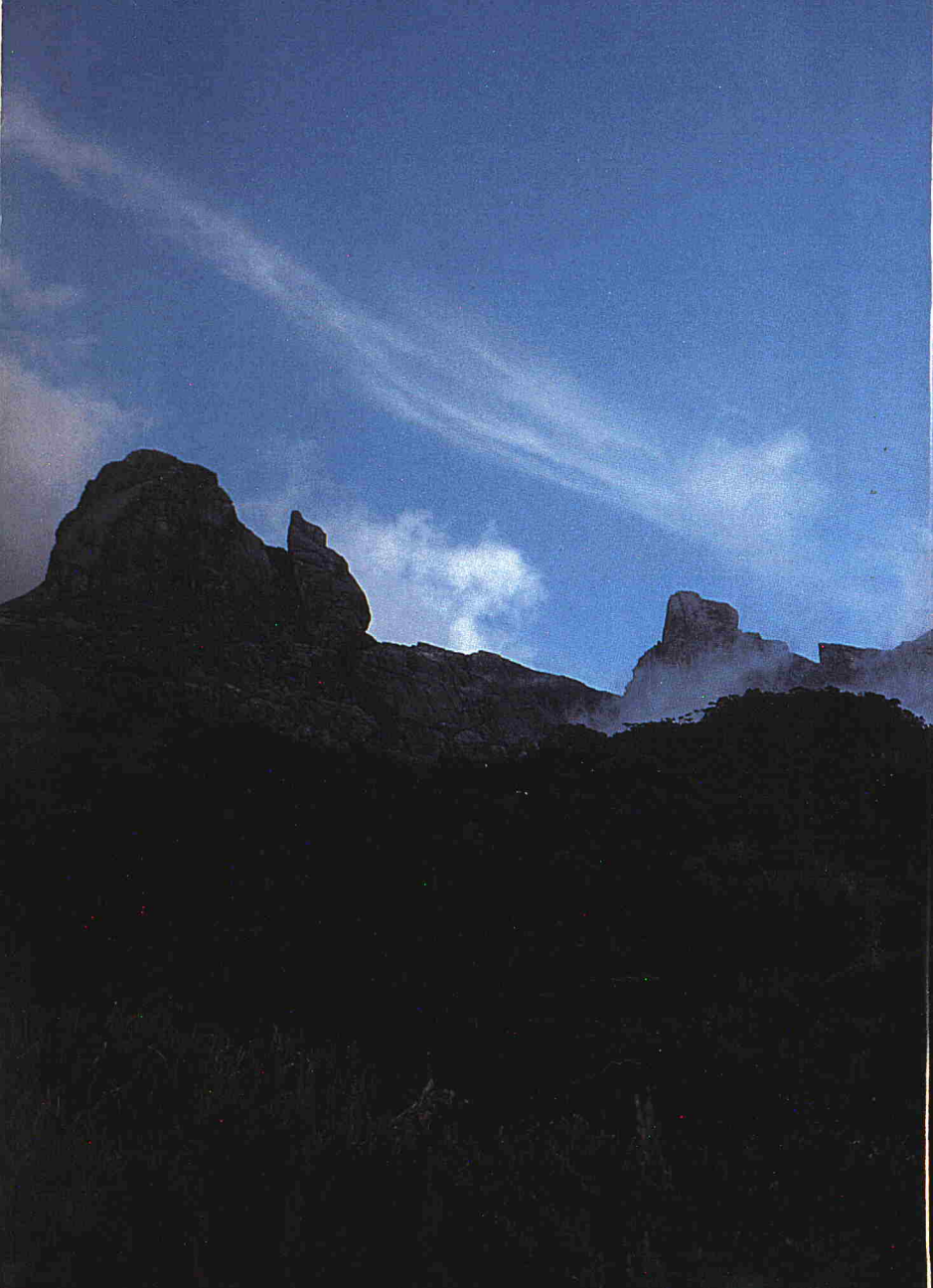
Come let us go to the mountains, father
Come, my love, let us make our way to the fields.

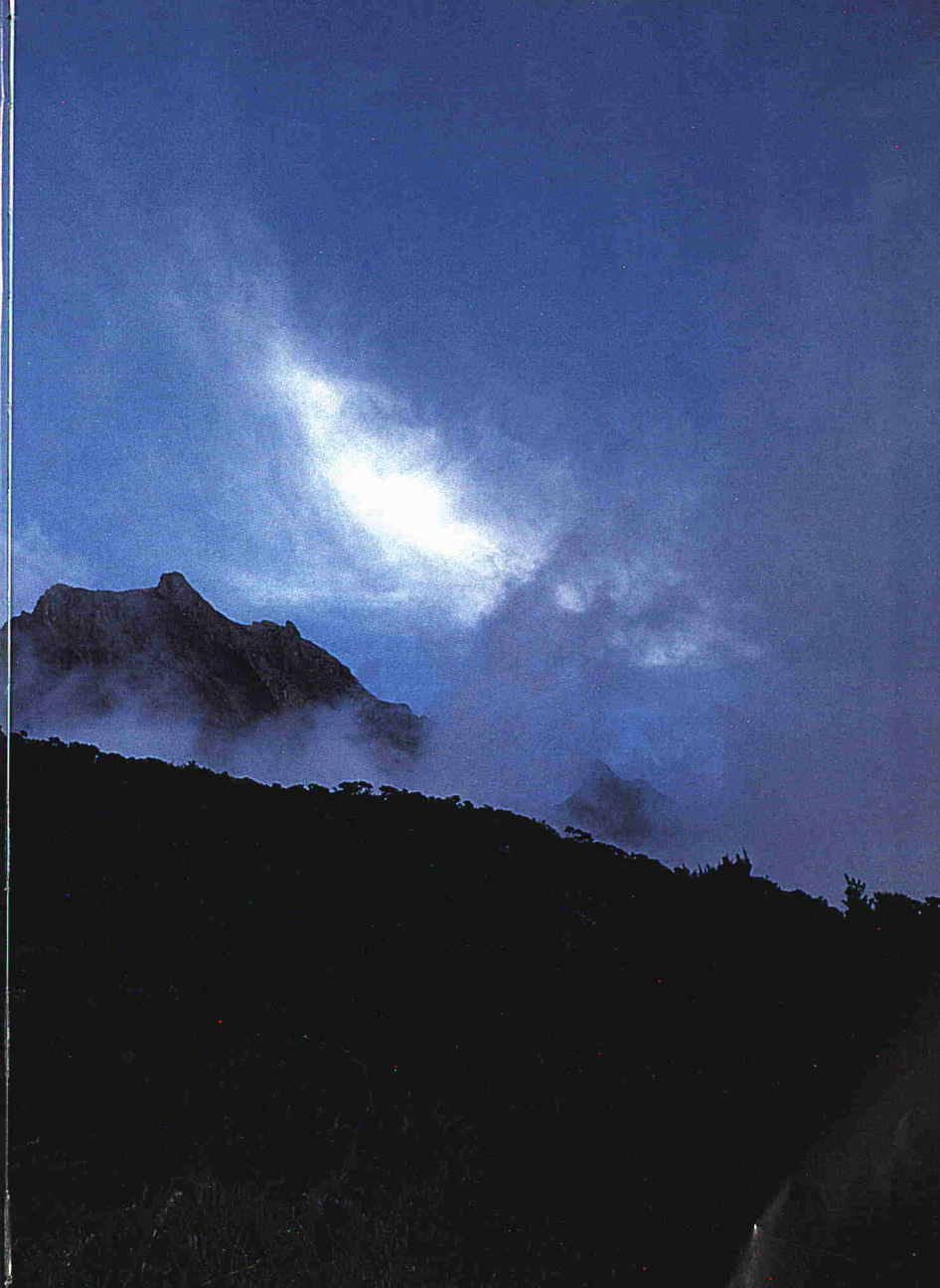
< Shamsuddin Jaafar >



Flowers, High and Wild - Wild flowers on Mount Kinabalu, Sabah.

LEICA 97 MACRO - ELIMITE 60mm f2.8

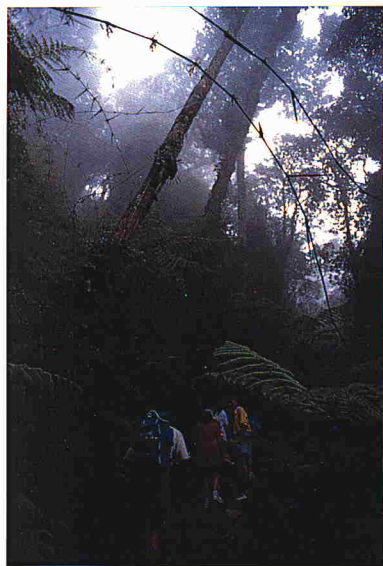






View of the peak from Kundasang

*Misty trail to the top of
Mount Kinabalu*



© Perotini Juyat

O'er heaven the white clouds stray

(KUNAK MO. SUPRIATI/2012/2014/15)



KELOMPOK HIKMAH BERKUALITI MELAKSAKAN KEMERIAHAN



© 2011 KEMERIAHAN

At the summit.



Sunrise at Donkey's Ears

ISSA BT. ISMAYI 2011/12

Kinabalu

*On your peak
I contemplate*

*Drinking in the
beauty
around me*

*Ah, I am tired
after the
long climb*

*but, how can
I not smile
at your
dancing flowers*

*& your friendly clouds
they're so playful
that when they
touch me*

*I feel so
alive, I belong*

*I want
to sing at
the top of
my voice
note*

*let the whole
world hear
me
loud and clear*

*Kinabalu
you make me
forget my pain*

*& tomorrow I am going to rise
together with the
sun to
touch the sky.....*

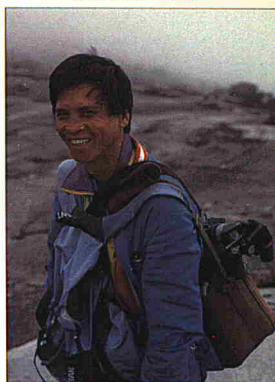
(Zahir Abidin)



LEICA 95 VARIO - ELMARIT 70-210mm M



LEICA R7 - ELMARIT 28mm f2.8



LEICA R7 - ELMARIT 28mm f2.8

Most porters at Kinabalu are petite
Dusun women who can carry up to 20kg.

*In the highlands, in the country places,
Where the plain men have rosy faces,
And the fair maidens
Quiet eyes*

< Robert Louis Stevenson >



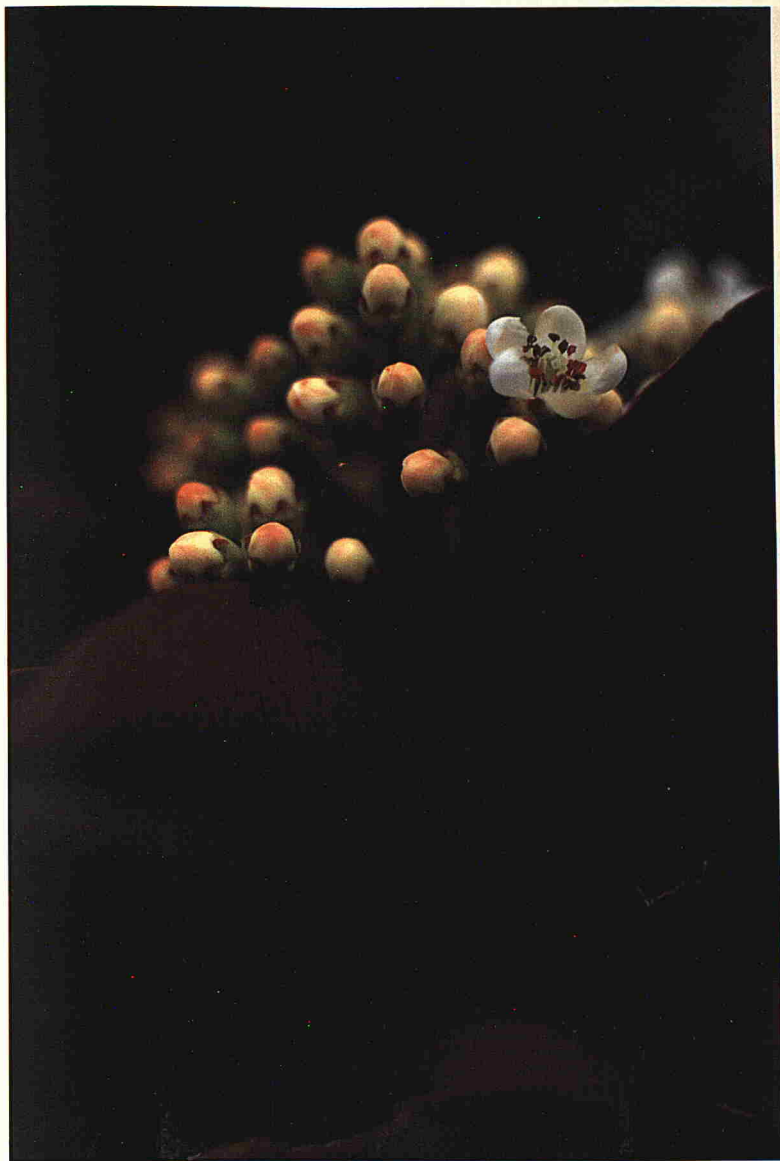
USA 01 - MAMBAK (2000) ©

*Low's Gully
named after Hugh Low,
a British Administrator
of colonial times.*



USA 01 - MAMBAK (2000) ©

South Peak - On Top of the World.



LEICA RB. WAKO. ELMAR. FO. 270mm. M.

Bursting into Blossom. - *Euphrasia borneensis*

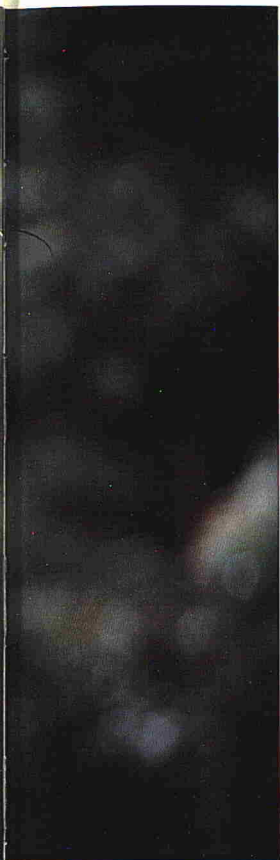


The Climber.



Eyes of gold and
bramble - dew
- *Schima brenifolia* -

SEKAI-UMI-UMI TO 2000/14



LICAFIX MACRO - ELMARIT 20-210mm/1:4

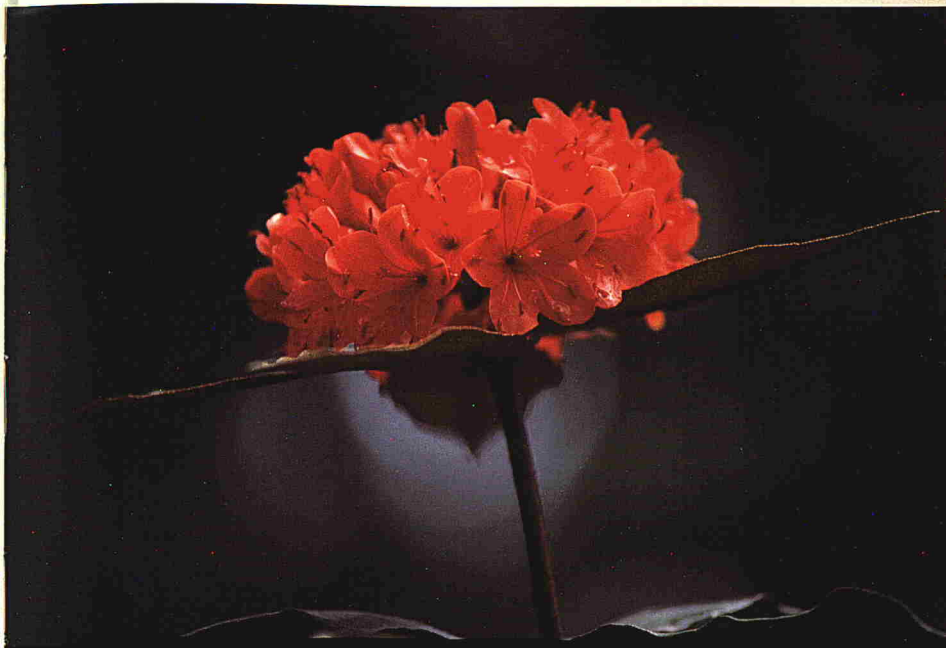


LICAFIX MACRO - ELMARIT 20mm/1:2.8

Elephant's Trunk
The stem of a fern unfolding itself.



SEGA RT. MACRO. TIMAR. NEMES 6.8



LEICA R11 VARIO - ELMAR 70 - 210mm f4



LEICA R11 MACRO - ELMAR 90mm f2.8

*We plough the fields, and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand...*

< Jane Campbell >

- ◀ *Will you walk into my parlour?*
The carnivorous pitcher plant inviting curious insects into its mouth.
- *Nephenthes lomii* -



(LCA 87 MACRO) ELMAR 80mm f2.8

The flora of Kinabalu changes with elevation representing species from the four seasons.



(LCA 87 MACRO) ELMAR 80mm f2.8



(LCA 87 MACRO) ELMAR 80mm f2.8



(LCA 87 MACRO) ELMAR 80mm f2.8

- *Rhododendron ericoides* -



LEICA DE VARIO - ELMAR 30 - 250mm f/4



LEICA R7 MACRO - ELMAR 60mm f/2.8

*He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star.*

< Jane Campbell >

ENDAU ROMPIN
N.A.T.U.R.E

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,

There is a rapture on the lonely shore,

There is society, where none intrudes,

By the deep sea, and the music its roar:

I love not Man the less, but Nature more,

From these our interviews, in which I steal

From all I may be, or have been before,

To mingle with the Universe, and feel

What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.

< George Byron >

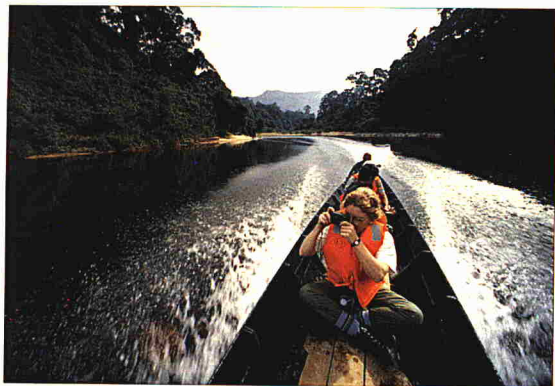
Endau Rompin derived its name
from the meeting of two rivers,
Sungai Endau and Sungai Rompin.
Situated at the Pahang and Johor borders,
countless scientific expeditions have been made
to the area during the 1980's and 90's.



LEICA R16 ELMAR 28mm f2.8

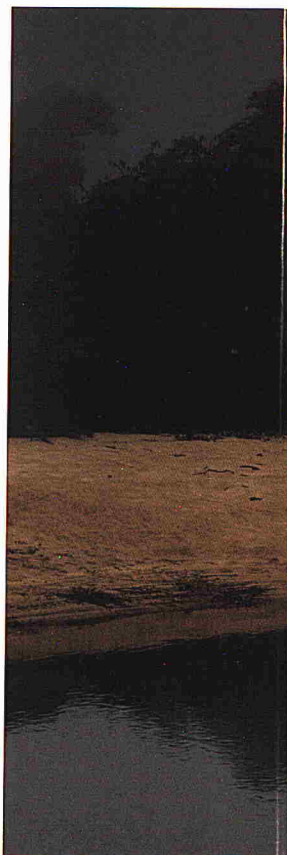
Mossy rocks - by a gentle stream in Endau Rompin, Johor.

Gazetted as a state park not long ago,
Endau Rompin houses a wide
variety of plant species.
Among them are new species of palm
including one named after
the late Tunku Abdul Rahman,
the father of Malaysian Independence.



NIKON F801 SIGMA 14mm f/2.8

Sightseeing by Boat.





LEICA RE. ELMARIT 28mm f2.8

Of a grey silent world

*I listened in emptiness on the ridge,
The curlew's tear that turned its edge on the silence...
May I still meet my memory in so lonely a place
Between the streams and the clouds, hearing curlews,
Hearing the horizon endure.*

< Ted Hughes >



WALCH PHOTO SUKMA LATOEN 12

Speed !

Endau Rompin is today a major eco-tourism haunt
among foreigners and locals alike.

Tourists rough it out in the wild and enjoy the
company of nature and the local orang asli.

The Catch.

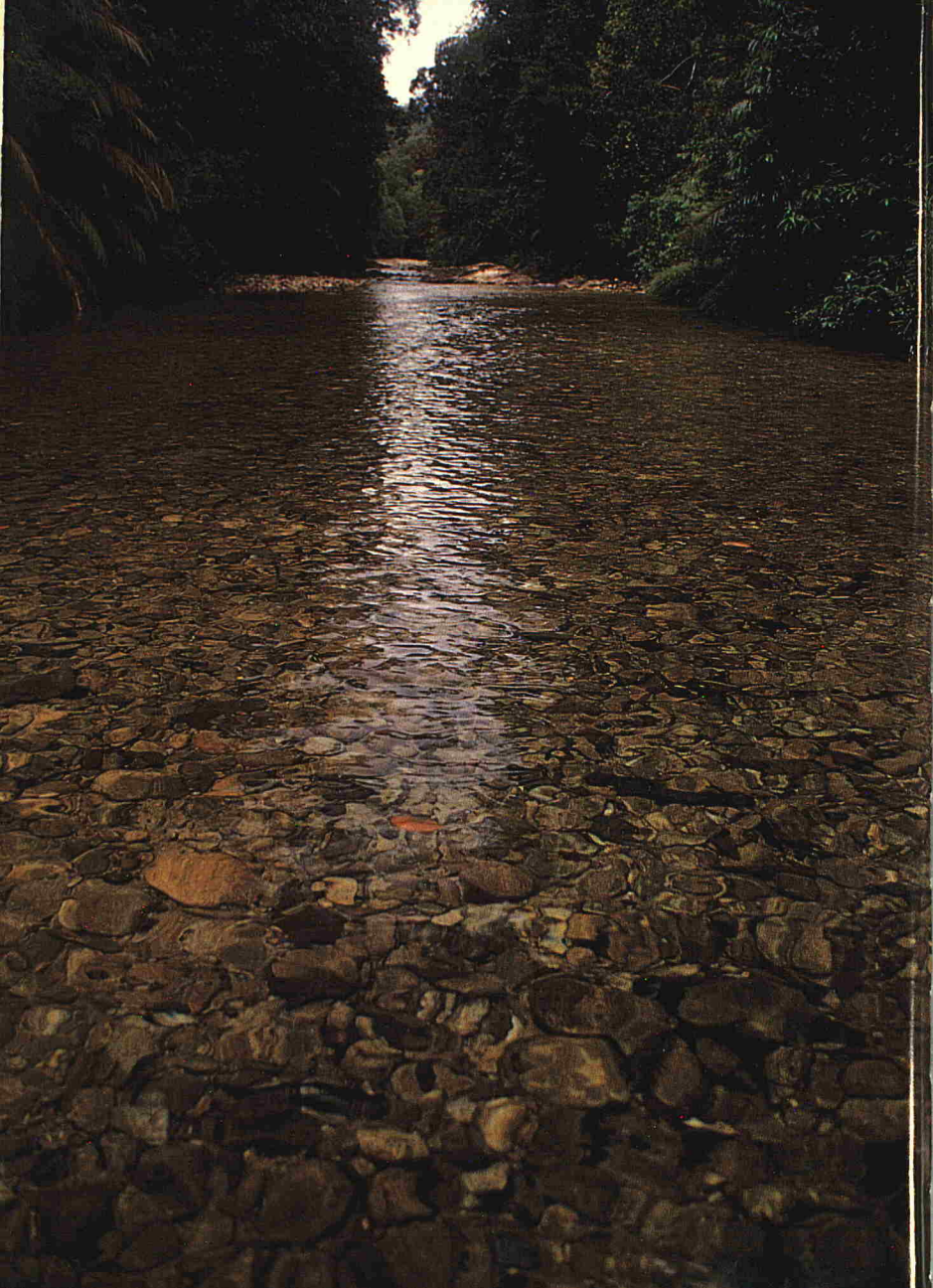


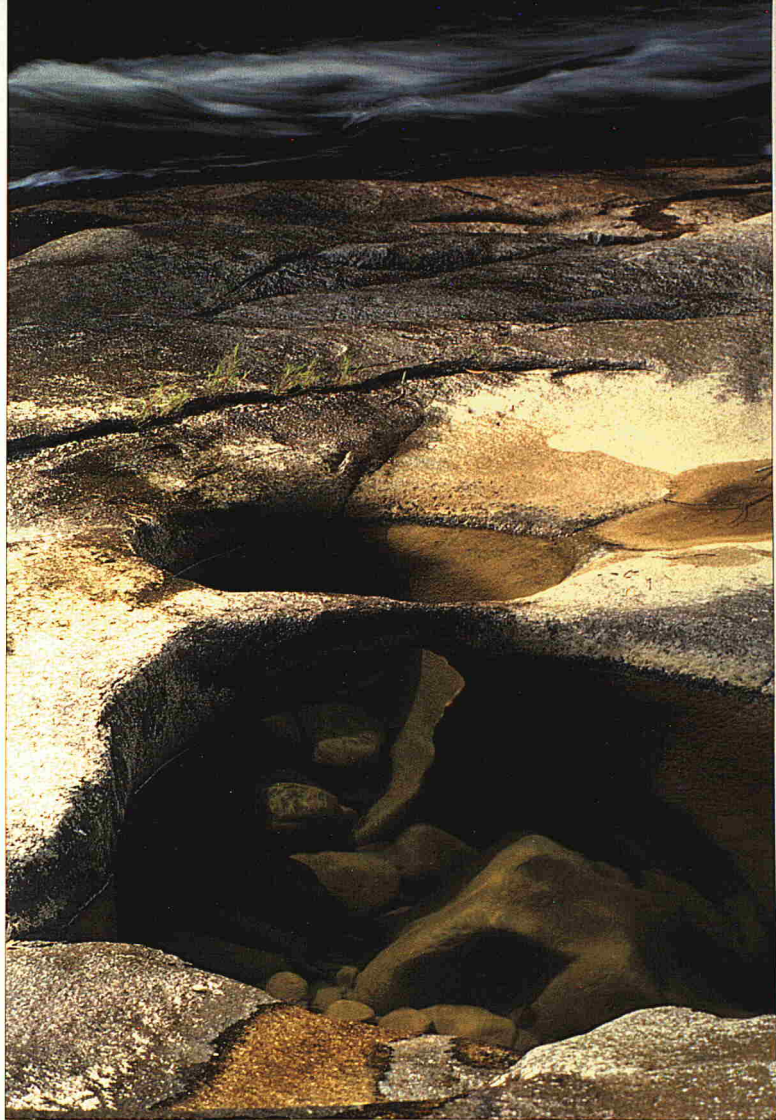
NIKON F7A NikonColor 28mm 1:2.8



NIKON F2A NikonColor 28mm 1:2.8

ti-pity-tap!
Collecting rainwater using pails.





LEICA DE SUMACRON 10mm G2

"Bath-tubs" of Sungai Jasin

◀ Crystal Clear Waters.

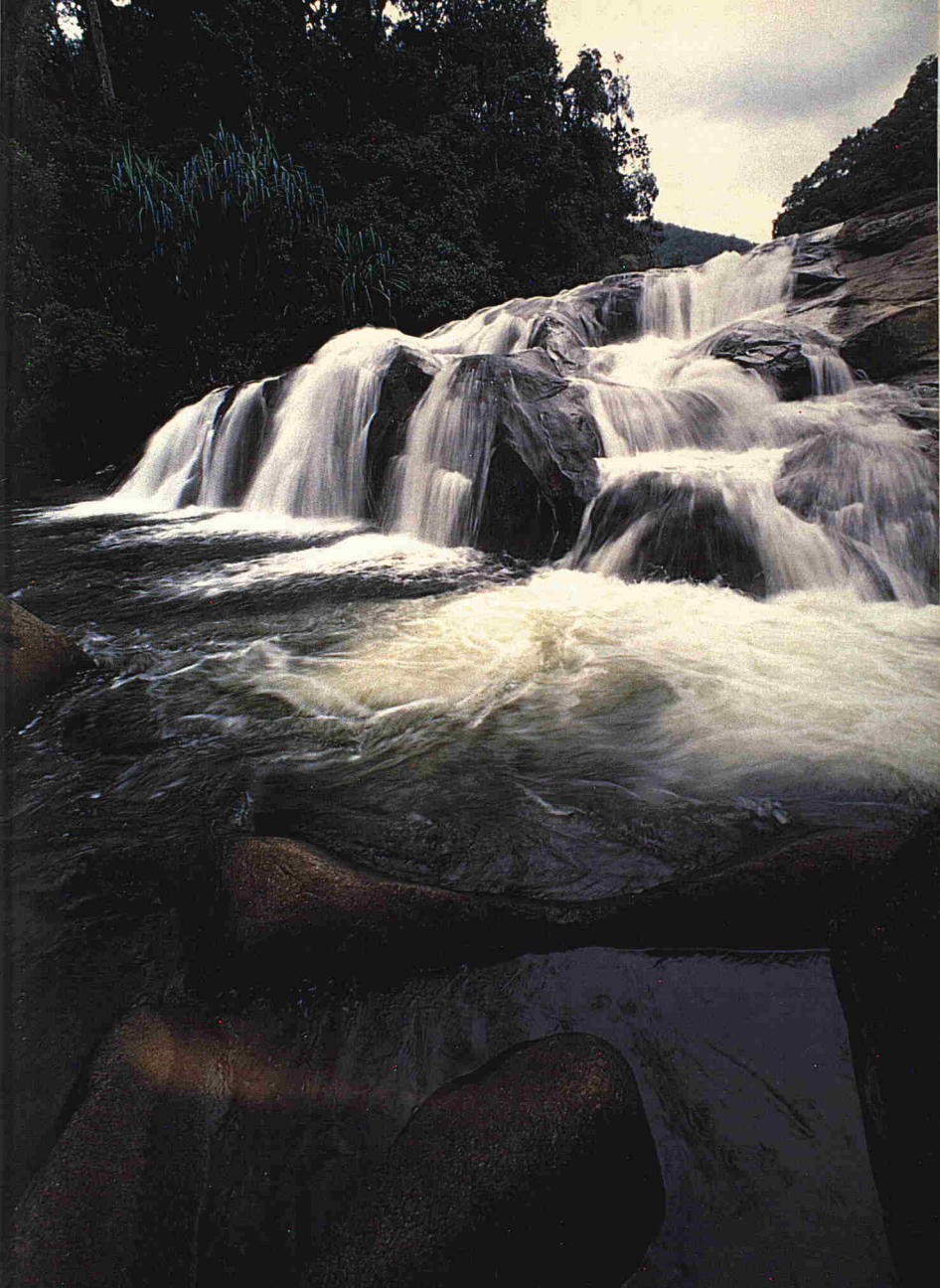
LEICA DE LUMARI 28mm G2.8



LEICA DE SUMMATION 90mm f2

Alter Egos

Contrasting temperaments of a same river:
melancholic at one point, sanguinary at another





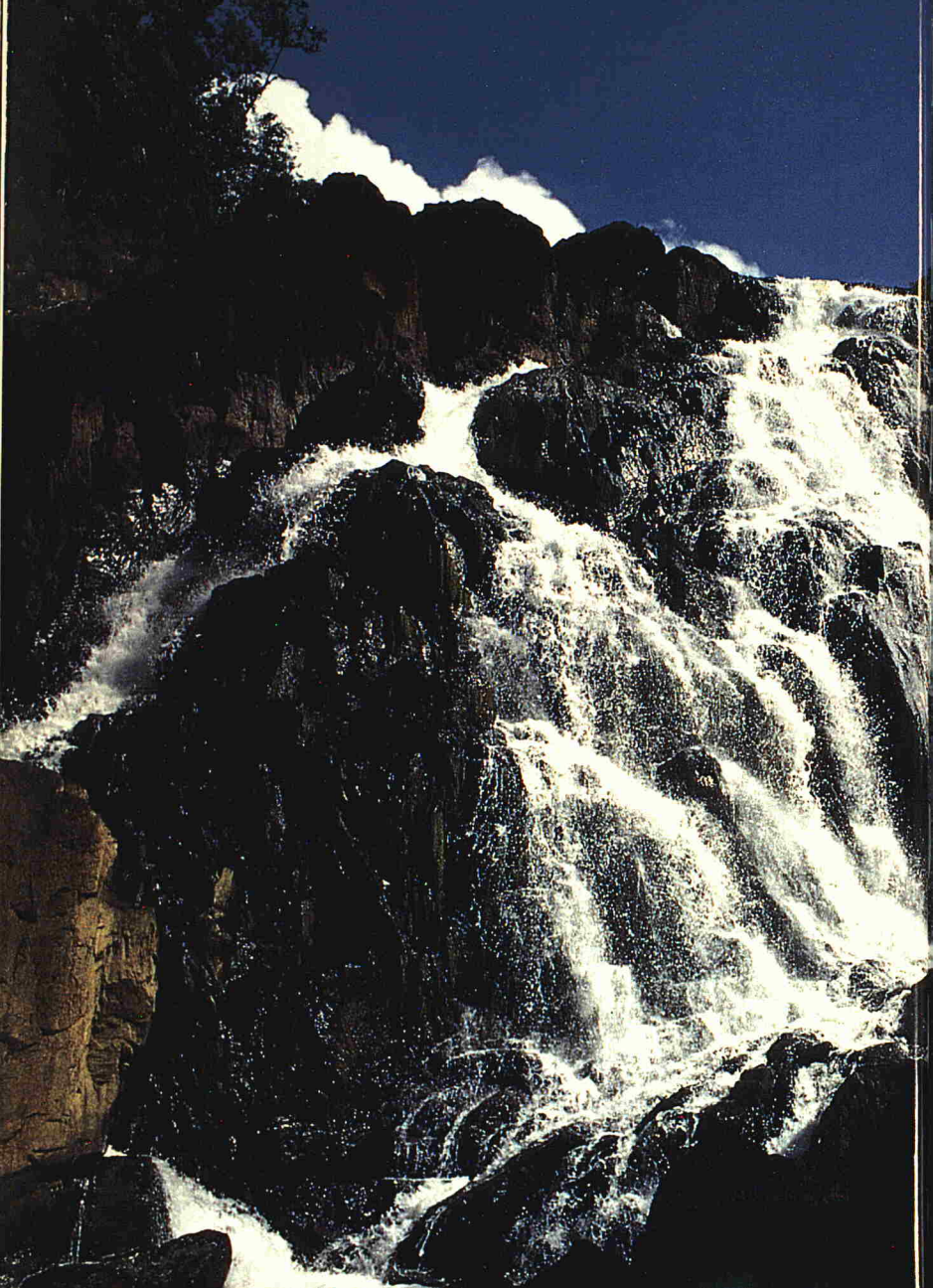
LEE JIA SHI - ILLUSTRATION © 2018

Garden of Moss and Ferns



Livistona endauensis, a newly discovered fan palm endemic to the park.

NIKOH 12A - NIKOH 24mm 12.8





S.E.A

The Visiting Sea

As the inbasting tide doth roll,
Home from the deep, along the whole
Wide shining strand, and floods the caves,
-Your love comes filling with happy waves
The open sea-shore of my soul.

But inland from the seaward spaces,
None knows, not even you, the places
Brimmed, at your coming, out of sight,
-The little solitudes of delight
This tide constrains in dim embraces.

You see the happy shore, wave-rimmed,
But know not of the quiet dimmed,
Rivers your coming floods and fills,
The little pools' mid happier hills,
My silent rivulets, over brimmed.

What! I have secrets from you? Yes.
But, visiting sea, your love doth press
And reach in further than you know,
And fills all these; and, when you go,
There's loneliness in loneliness.

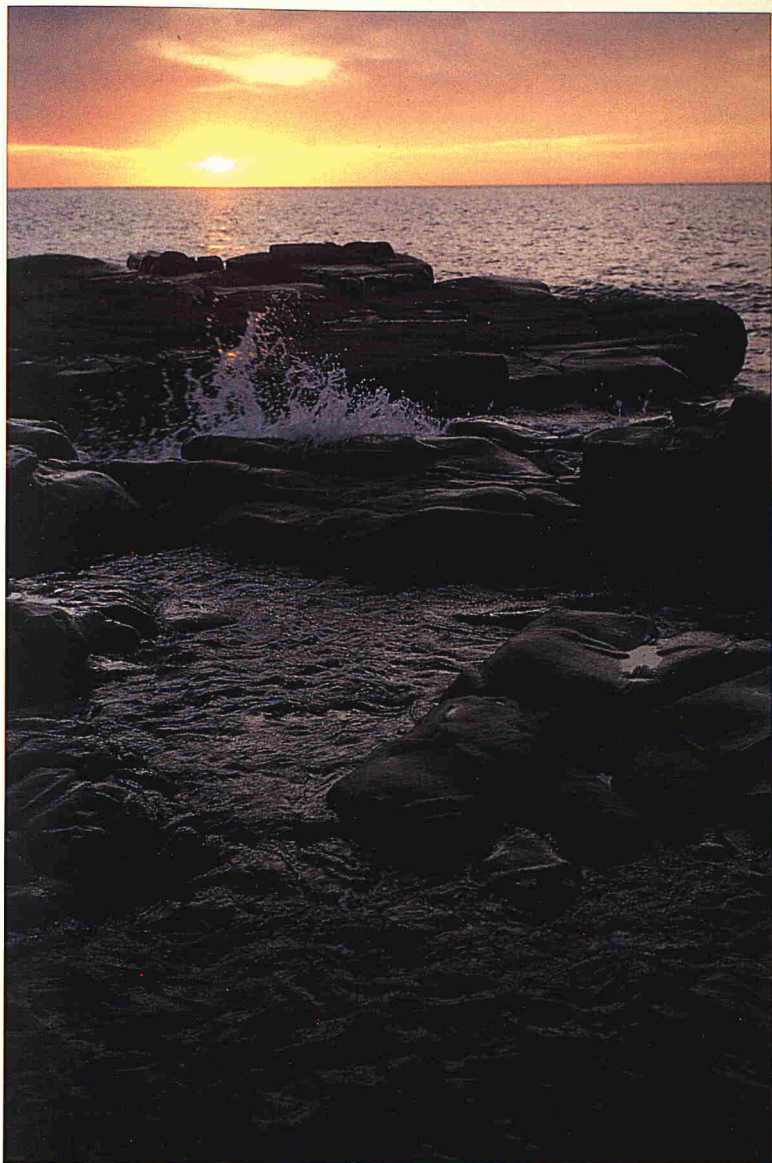
< Alice Mesnell >

< Previous page >

Majesty !

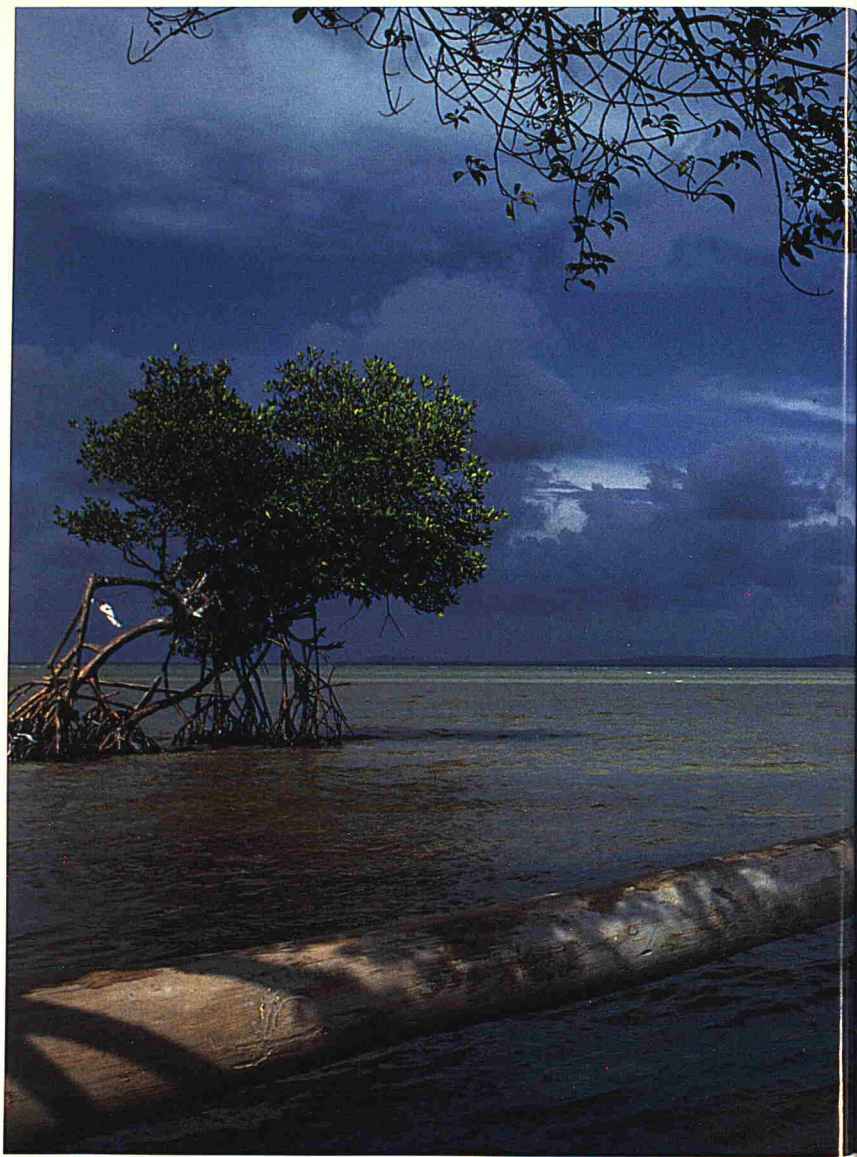
Waterfall at Buaya Sangkut, Endau Rompin
with 80 cubic meters per second of water
dropping some 40 meters,
even huge boulders can be washed away like pebbles.

LEKIA DE ELMAHRI 28mm 12.8



LEICA R7 VARIO - ELMAR 70 - 210mm f4

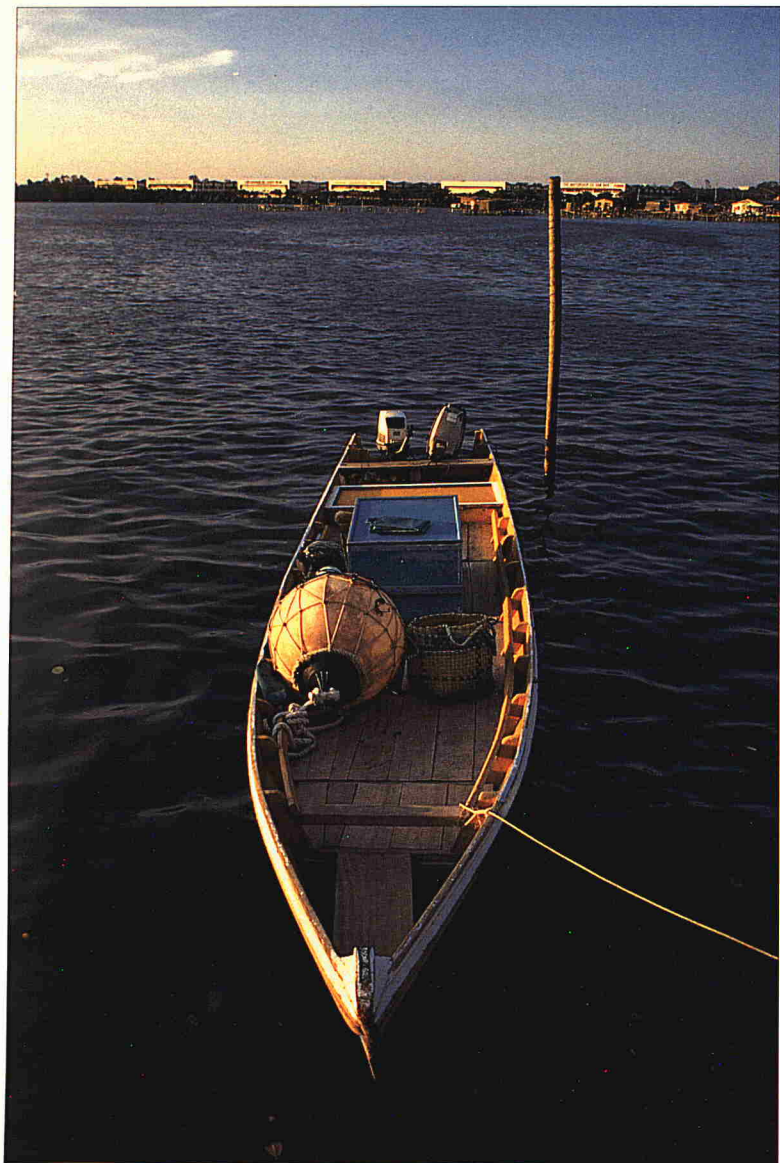
Sunset at Pulau Sapi, Sabah.



Yippe! Village boys playing by the sea, Labuan.



REV. 8A, APRIL 12 20mm 12.8



LEICA DT (S)MART 28mm f2.8

It's how you look at it - Boats from different perspectives, Labuan.



NIKON F3 NIKKOR 28mm F2.8

Vivid colours of blue and red as a boat journeys to an island.

Labuan, Federal Territory, is a tiny island and a lush tropical paradise off the North West Coast of Borneo. Formerly used as a naval base to suppress piracy, today it is Malaysia's International Offshore Financial Centre.

< Facing page >



PHOTO: I.M.C. / MARKUS ZILBER / G.S.

Have boat will travel
A fishing village in Pulau Ketam.

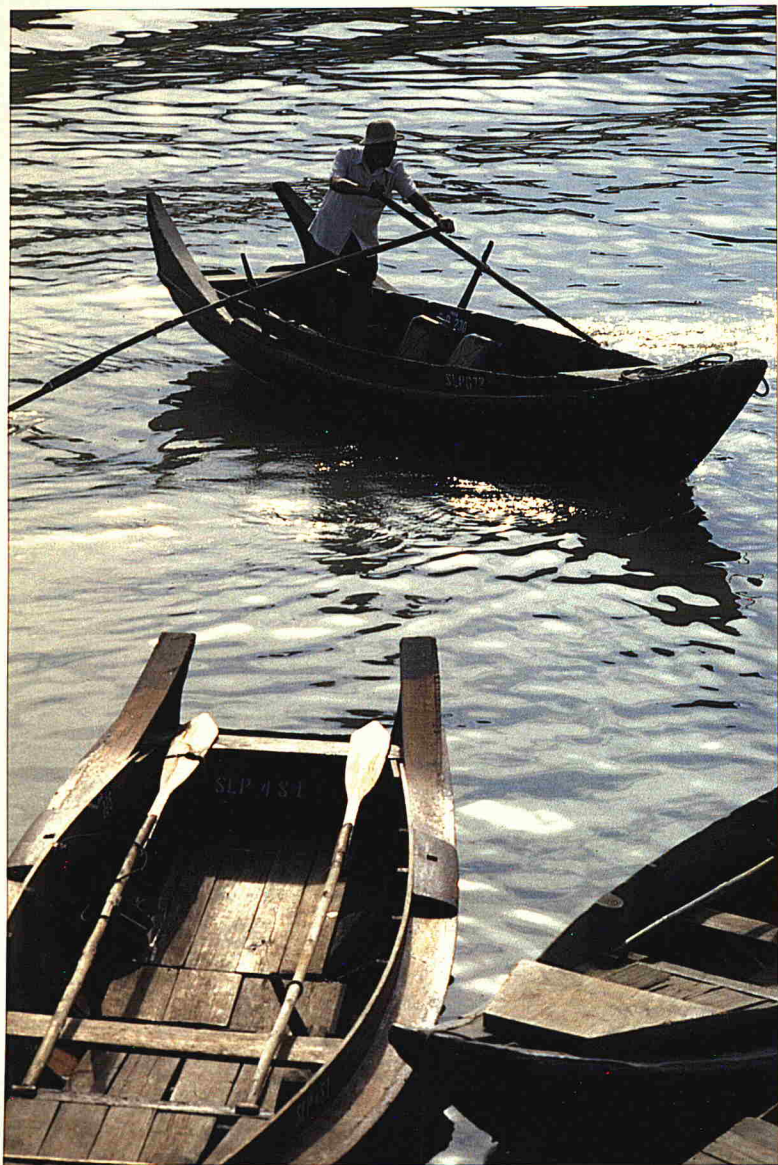
Best known for its delicious seafood,
Pulau Ketam is made up entirely of plank and wood.
As such, this little isle off the shores of Selangor is unique if only for the
fact that it is a soil-less island in the sun!



HASELBAO SEEM PLANAR 80mm f2.8

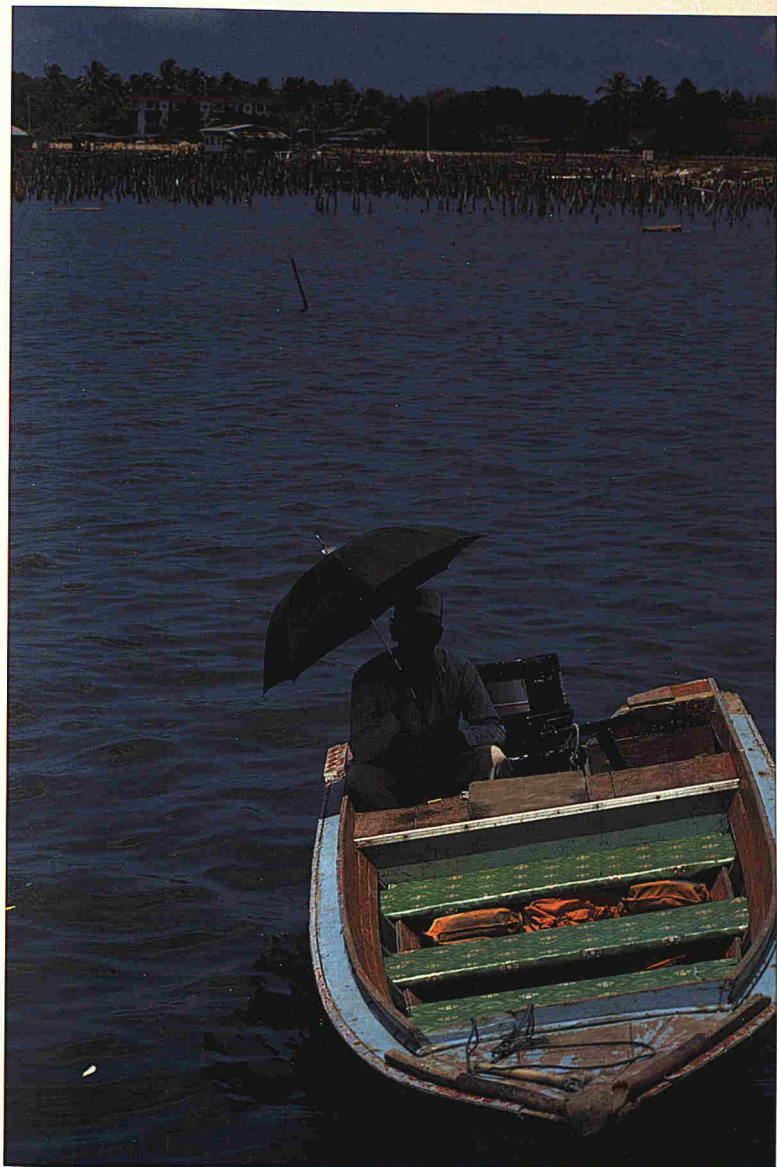
Little Beacon

Nets spread out to dry at night, Sarawak.



Gently down the stream - Boatman at Port Kelang.

NIKON FM2 NIKKOR 105mm f/5.6



LEICA R7 VARIO-ELMAR 35 - 210mm f4

Taxi boatman relaxing in his "perahu penambang" at Labuan.



NKON IMG NKORZ 2444528

Picnic - A family outing at the beach. Numerous beautiful beaches line the coasts of Malaysia.



NIKON FM2 NIKKOR 24mm f2.8

Surf - Pulau Tioman

Pulau Tioman is the perfect island for those seeking tranquility.

With unspoilt beaches, crystal clear waters and coral reefs,

Tioman is the perfect place in the sun for weary town folks to getaway.

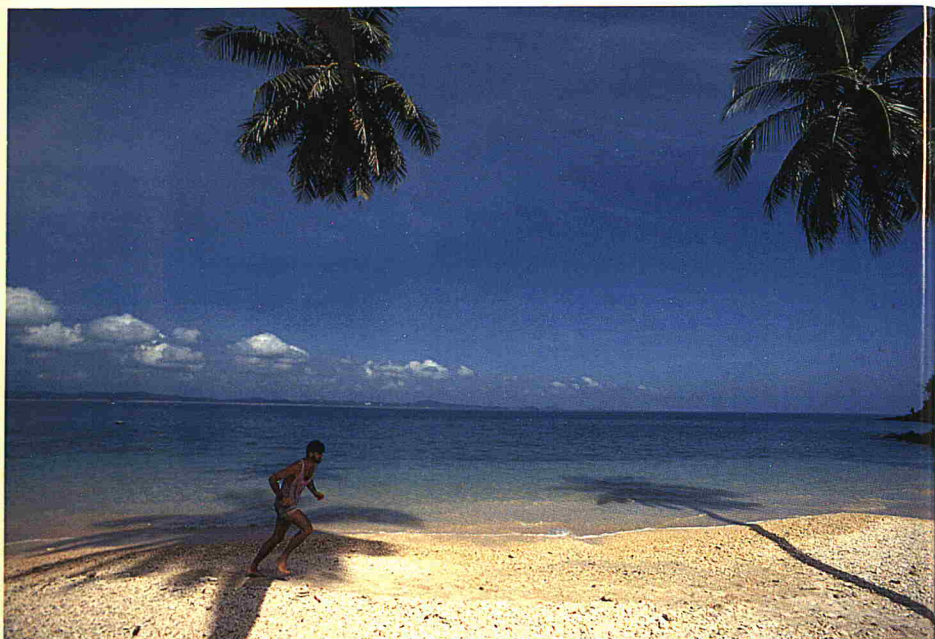


PHOTO: FREDERICK HARRIS

Colours of the Sea

Crystal blue and green waters at Pulau Kapas and Pulau Sapi, respectively.

Pulau Kapas, located off the coast of Trengganu,
is a popular destination
with deep blue green waters.



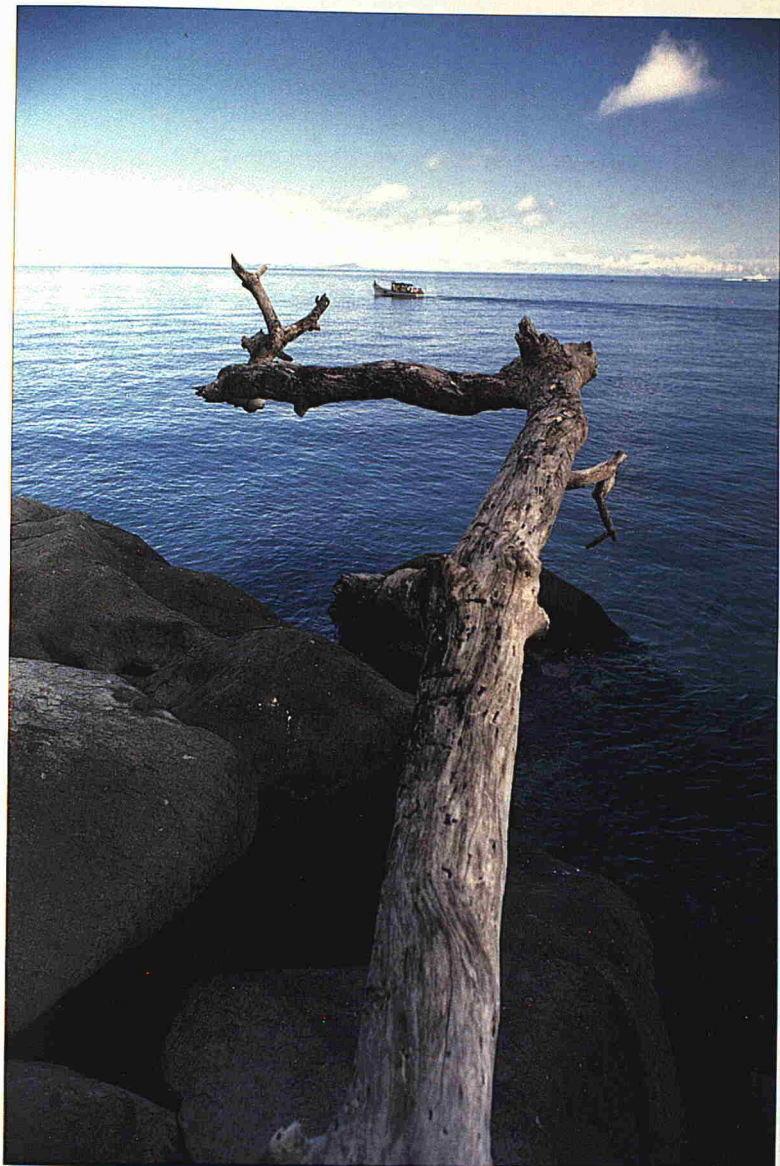
LEICA R7 ELMARIT 28mm G8

From Sabah, "The Land Below the Wind",
comes Pulau Sapi, with her spectacular
coral reefs and unparalleled undersea scenery.



WADI BEARD SUDUM SIFARAH DORUM M

Leisure
Making waves with speedboats, Pangkor Island.



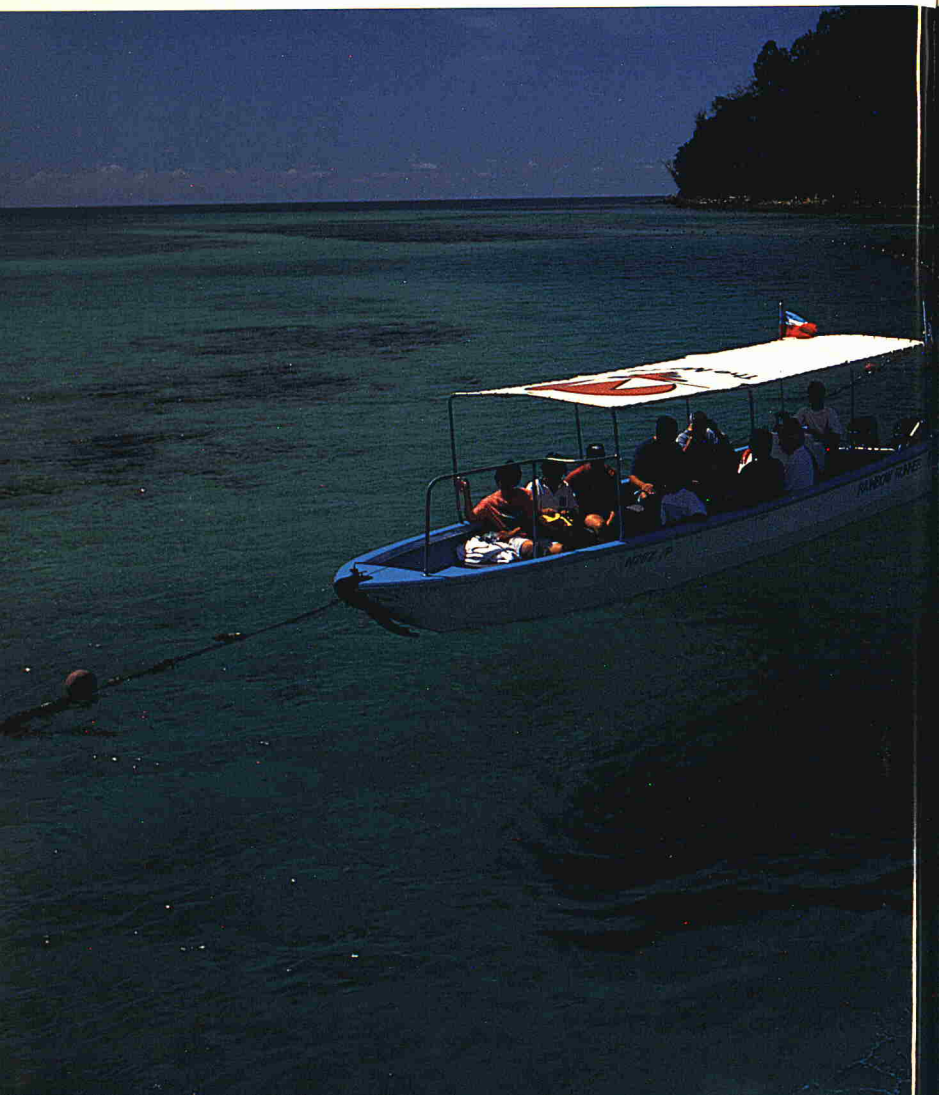
In a calm sea - every man is a pilot < Proverb >

NIKON F2A NIKONOR 28mm F2.8

*O'er the glad waters of the dark blue sea,
Our thoughts as boundless, and our souls as free,
Far as the breeze can bear, the billows foam,
Survey our empire, and behold our home!*

< George Byron >

Sapi Island



Tunku Abdul Rahman Park

Consisting of five unspoilt natural islands 3 to 8 km off Kota Kinabalu,

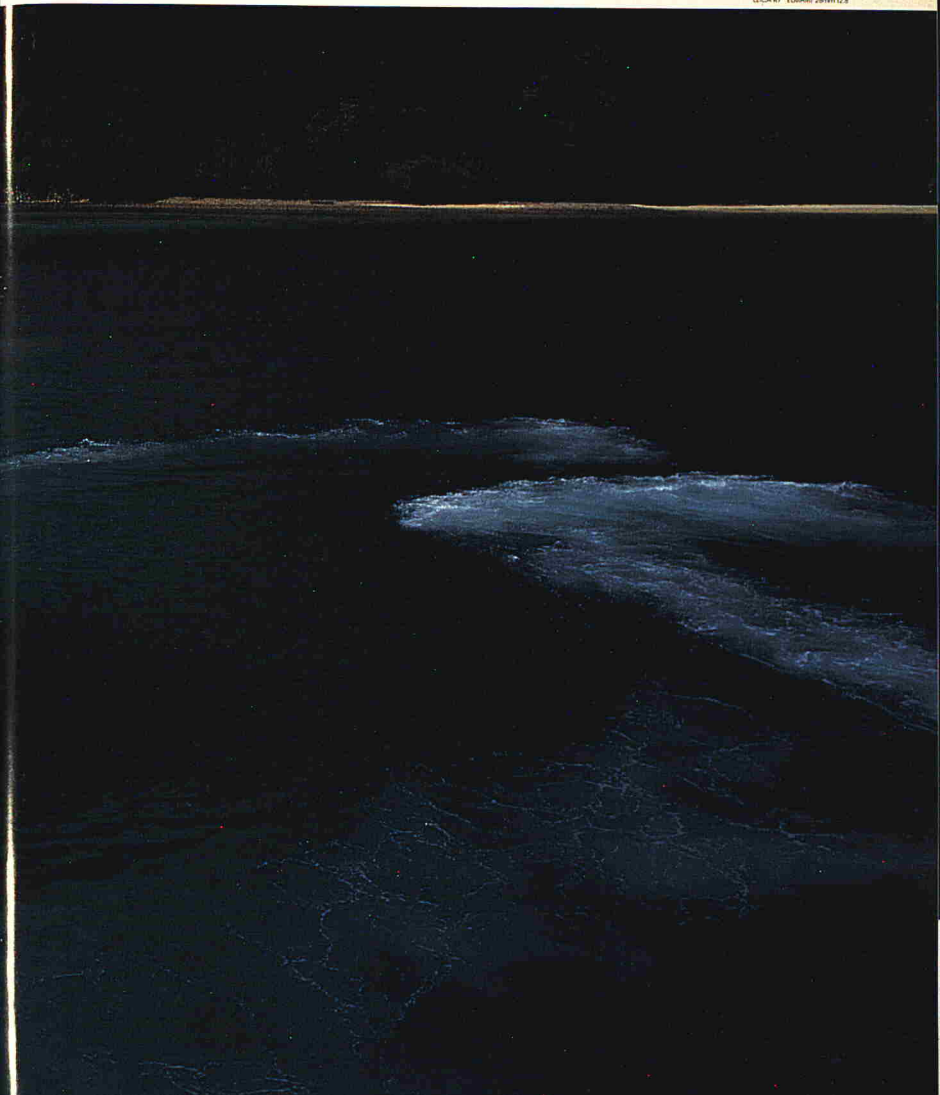
the Tunku Abdul Rahman Park in Sabah is a picture of peace and tranquility.

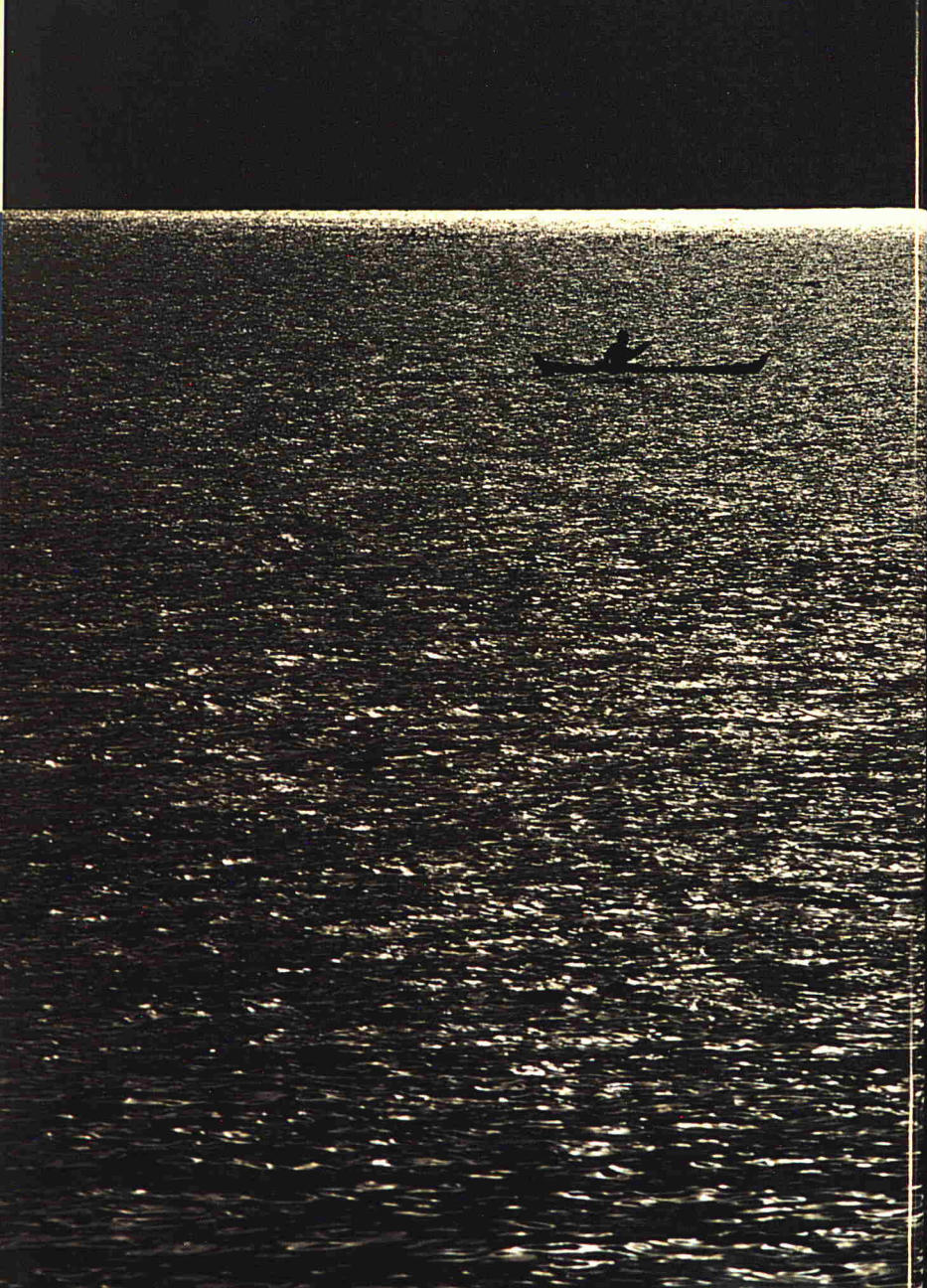
Coral reefs with colourful marine life, mangroves, coastal vegetation, low land tropical rainforest

plus beautiful beaches with crystal clear waters typify the park's natural environment.

The park covers an area of 4,920 ha, more than two-thirds of which covers the sea.

LEICA R7 ELMARIT 28mm D2.8

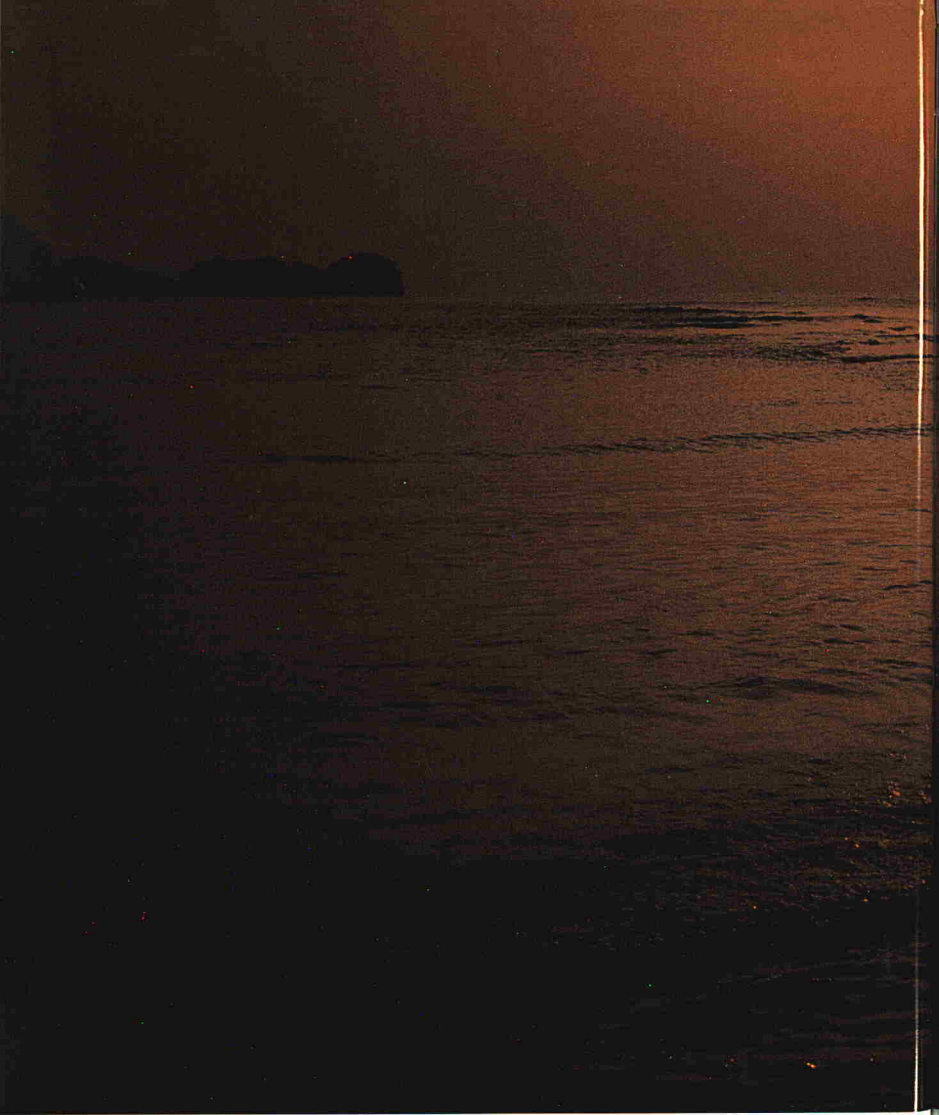




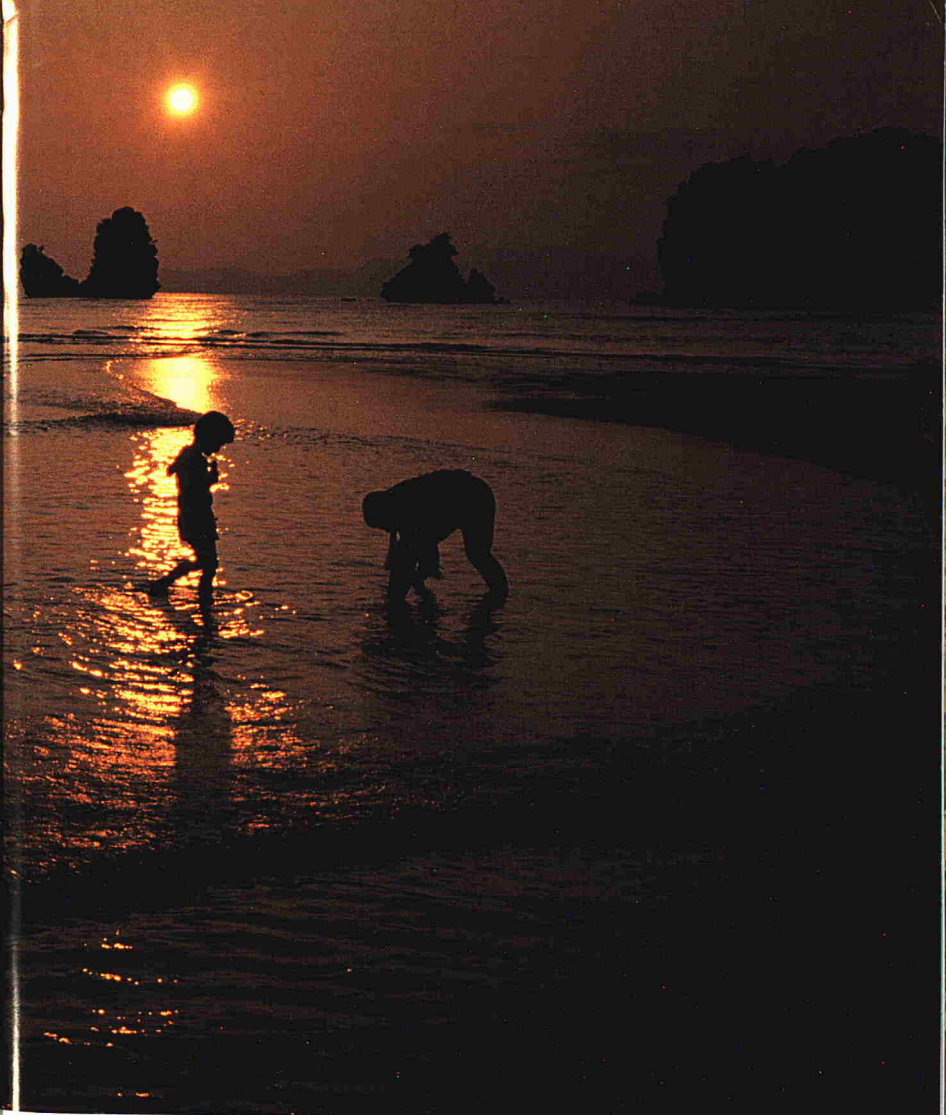


*Alone, alone, all, all alone,
Alone on a wide, wide sea!
And never a saint took pity on
My soul in agony.*

< Samuel Coleridge >



Dusk - at Tanjung Riu in Pulau Langkawi.



CORONA 12. 300000 30mm G 8

*The twilight comes; the sun
Dips down and sets,
The boys have done ...*

*In a warm golden glow
The woods are steeped,
The shadows grow;
The bat has cheeped.*

*Dusky it grows. The moon!
The dew descend.
Love, can this beauty in our hearts end?*

< John Masefield >

C.I.T.Y

Lagu Ibukota

Kurindui kau
bila bulan di bumbung atap
sinarnya menerpa rasa
membawa rahmat.

Kukagumi kau ibukota
dengan bangunan menjulang
dengan parlimen dan masjid negara
tegak megah di tanah pusaka.

Kurenung dikau pada kali yang mengalir
membelah dada dan saraf nadimu
tapi aku hanya dapat membayangkan
wajah-wajah pucat yang meminta-minta
ah anak siapa
hai anak siapa?

Banggaku atas pendakumu
mobil-mobil kencang berlari
dengan penjaja-penjaja bersimpang siur
tapi suara siapa gerangan?

Aku
atau mereka?

Bertanyalah sendiri
jawabnya sudah pasti!

An Ode to Kuala Lumpur

I long for you
when the moon appears above the roofs
Her rays touch my soul
showering blessings.

I adore you, Capital City
with your towering skyscrapers
with the Parliament and National mosque
Proudly standing in the ancestral land.

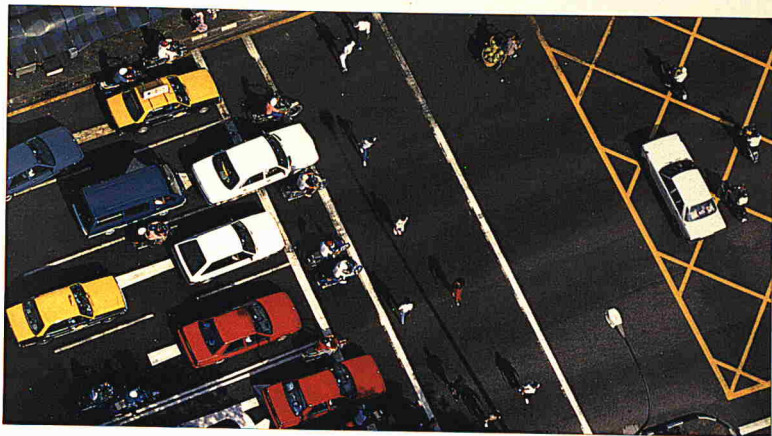
I look at you as you hurry by
going about your busy ways
But I can only guess
whose faces these are
pale and pitiful
whose children are they?

I am proud of your achievements
the hustle and bustle of the city
the peddlers promoting their wares
but whose voices are they really?

Mine
or theirs?

Ask yourself
The answer is obvious!

< Shamsuddin Jaafar >



NACON 13 NAKKOD 80 200mm 14

Kuala Lumpur - the capital of Malaysia, offers a blend of old and new wonders. Home for more than one million city folks, it consists of both high-rise buildings and old structures featuring a wide range of influences, Moorish, Chinese, Tudor and Minangkabau.



PHOTO: TANAKI SHIMIZU

The Garden City

Amidst the hustle and bustle, the quieter side of Kuala Lumpur reveals herself.

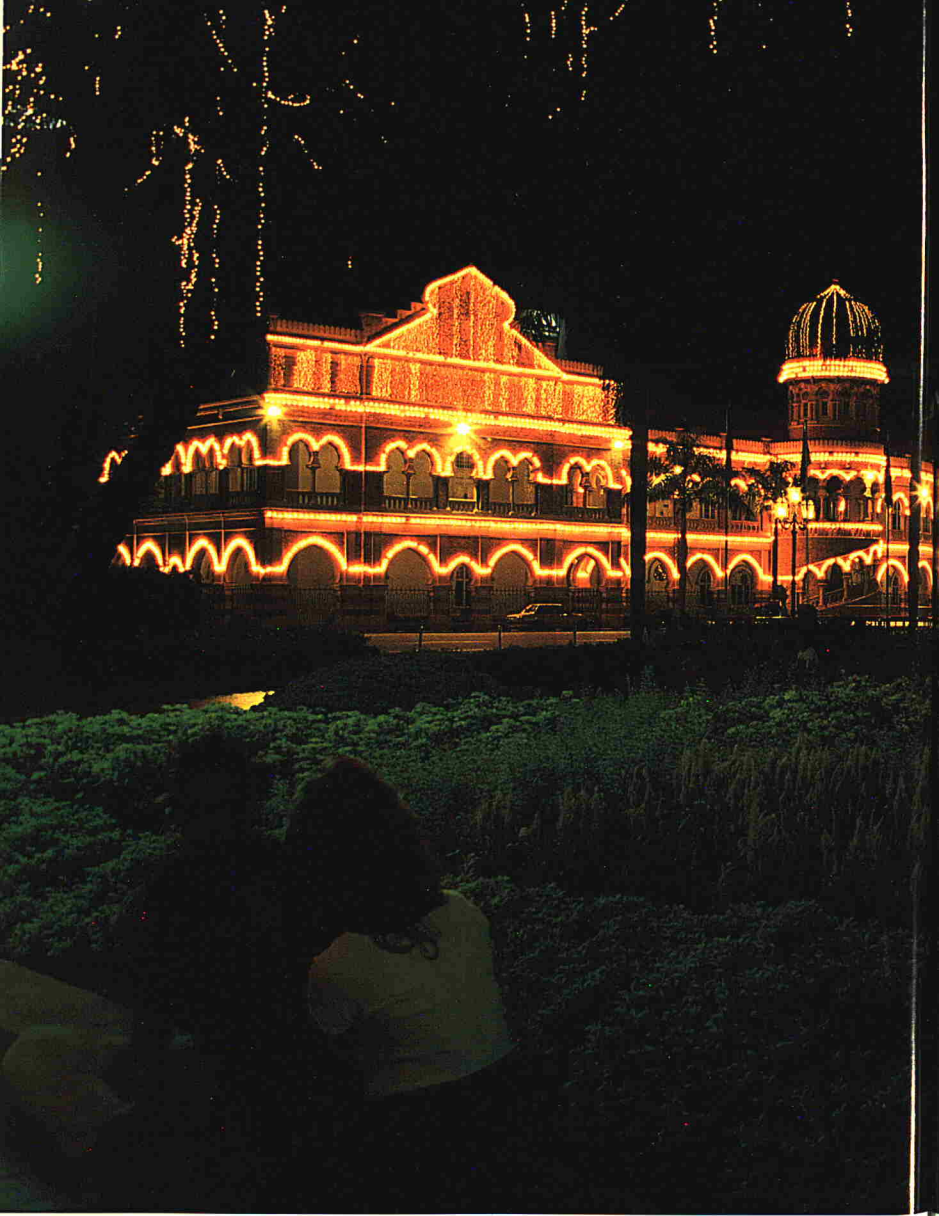


NIKON F3 NIKKOR 80 - 200mm f4

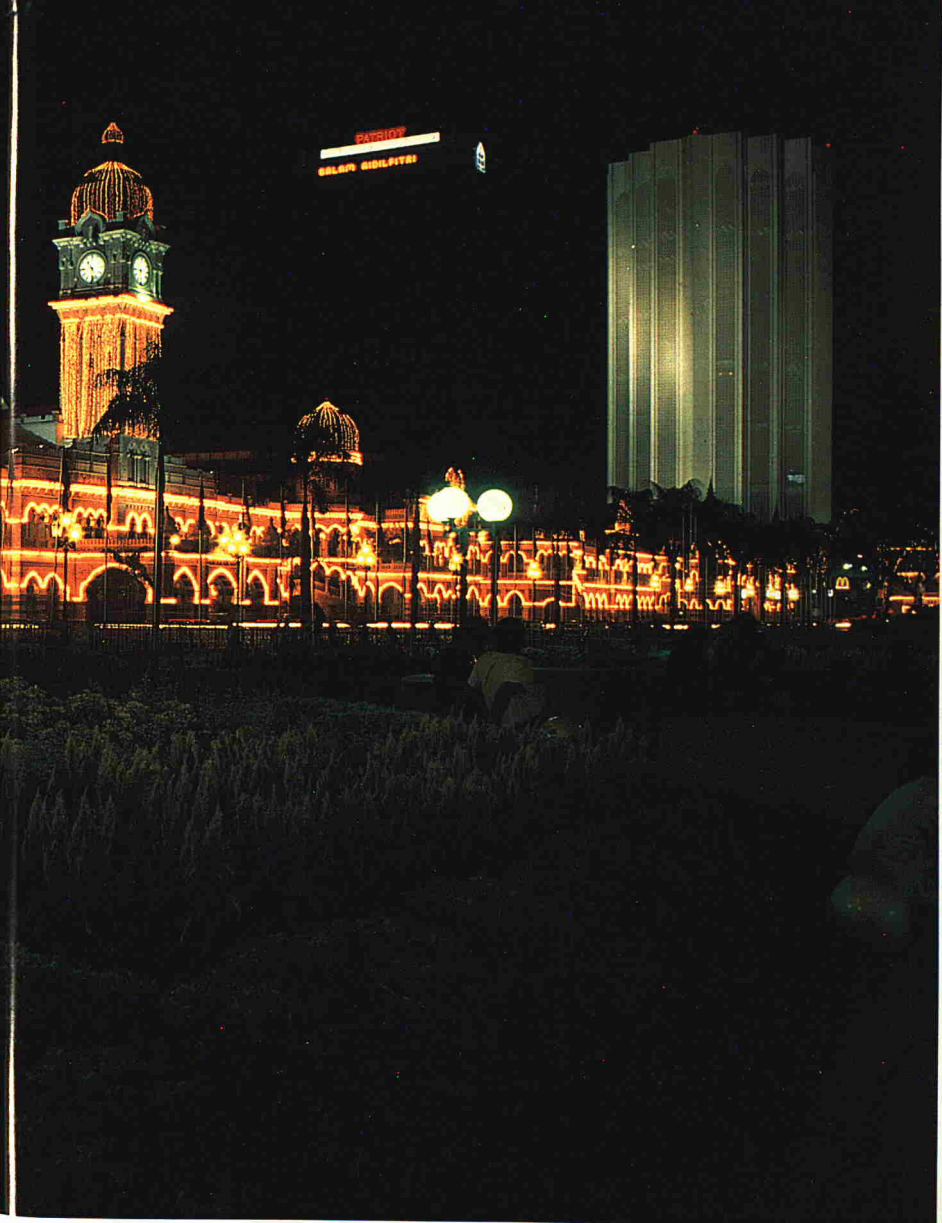


NIKON F3 NIKKOR 80 - 200mm f4

*A gardener going about her chores in the early morning.
A City Hall worker cleaning up the pavements.*



Garden City of Lights -A brightly lit Sultan Abdul Samad Building, Kuala Lumpur

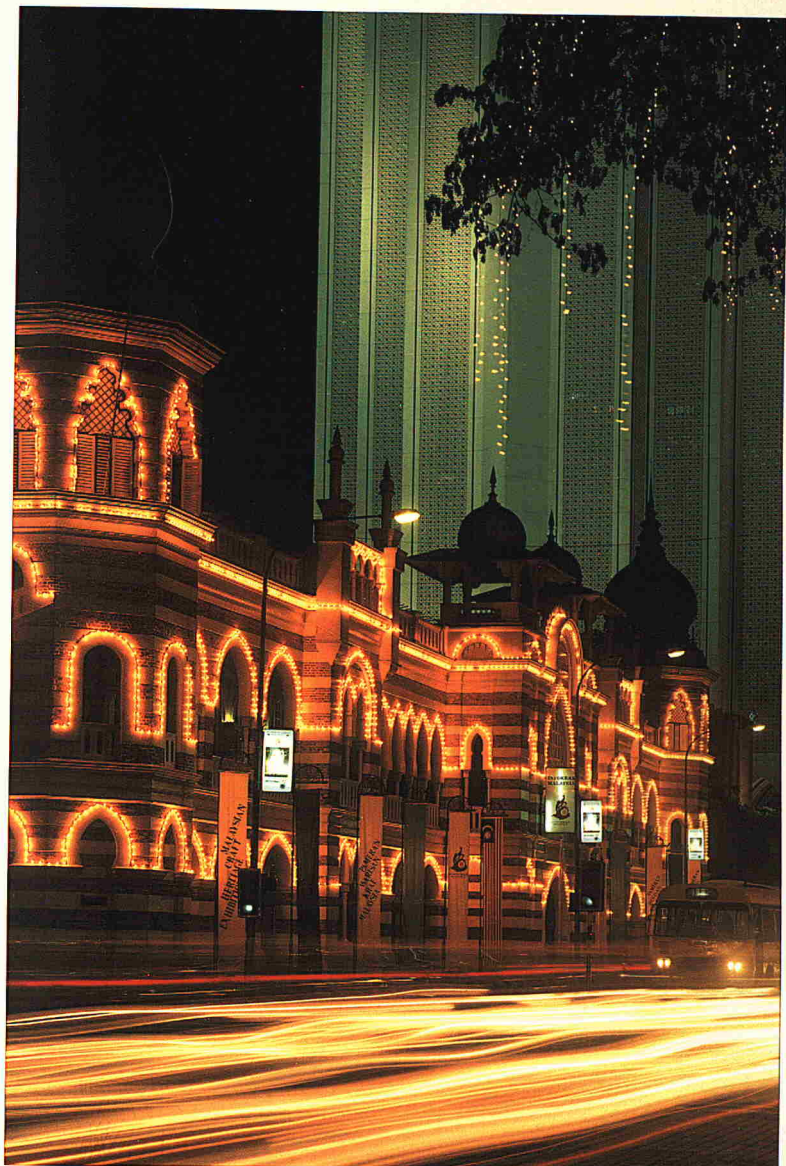




SPR 01/11 1/10/01 No. 20000111

Buildings, Old and New

The corner of a shophouse near the Pekeliling flats, Kuala Lumpur.



UNIFOR IV 403 APD LANTHAR 210mm MS

Sultan Abdul Samad Building - with the towering Dayabumi complex in the background.

ISLAMIC SPLENDOUR
W.O.R.S.H.I.P

*Every Man,
Every Child,
Every Race, Everywhere,
Worships the great Creator.*

< Mohammad Naser >

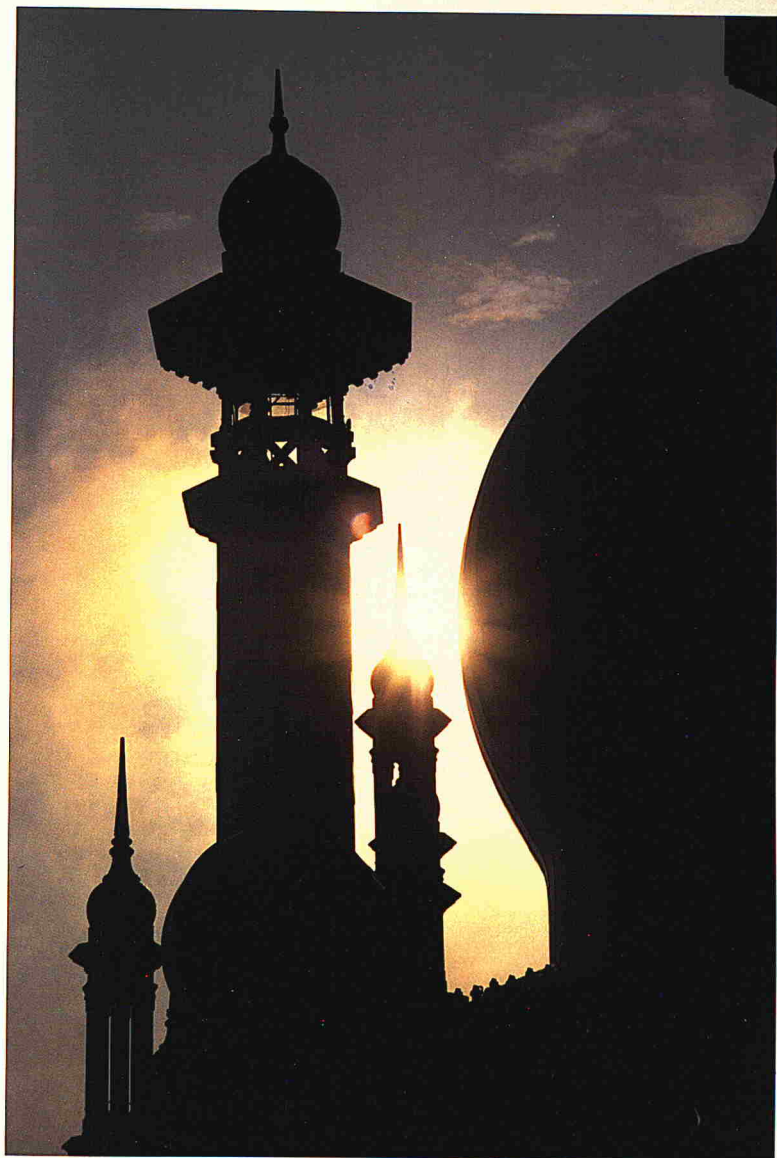
Reverence

Rustic but charming mosques abound in the country.



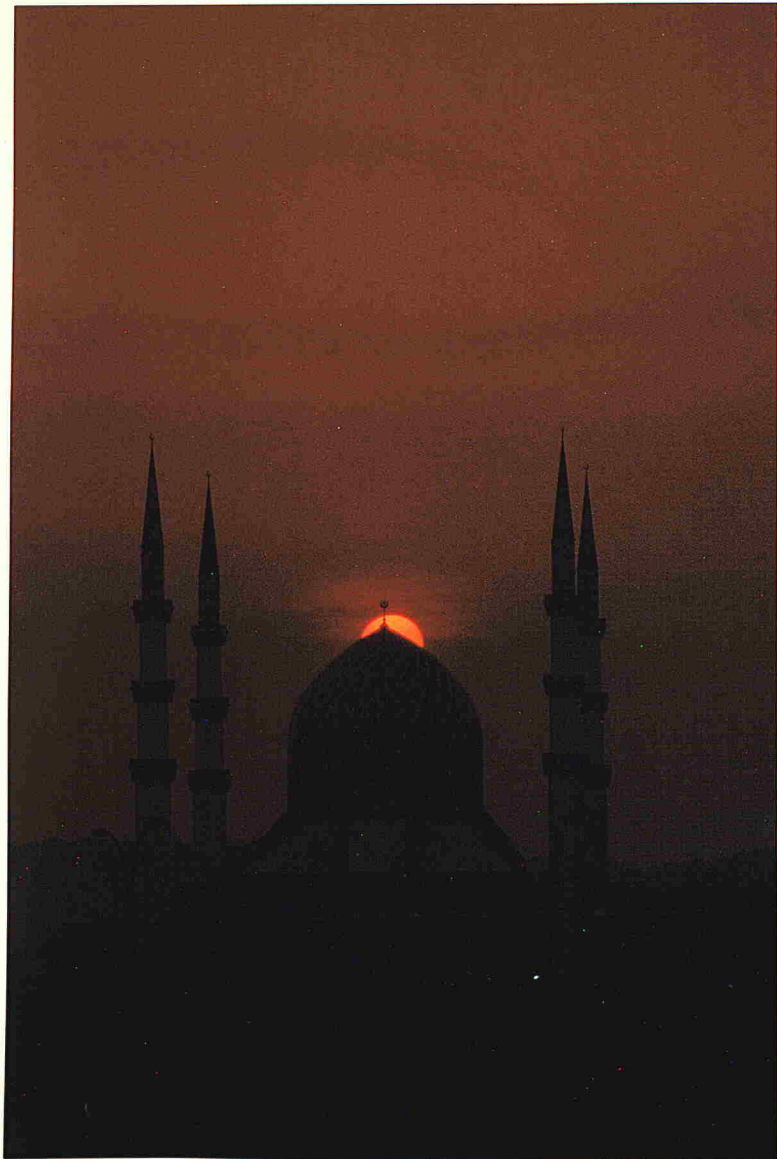
Sultan Sulaiman Mosque, Klang

SAKILA FIZA, SAKILADesigns



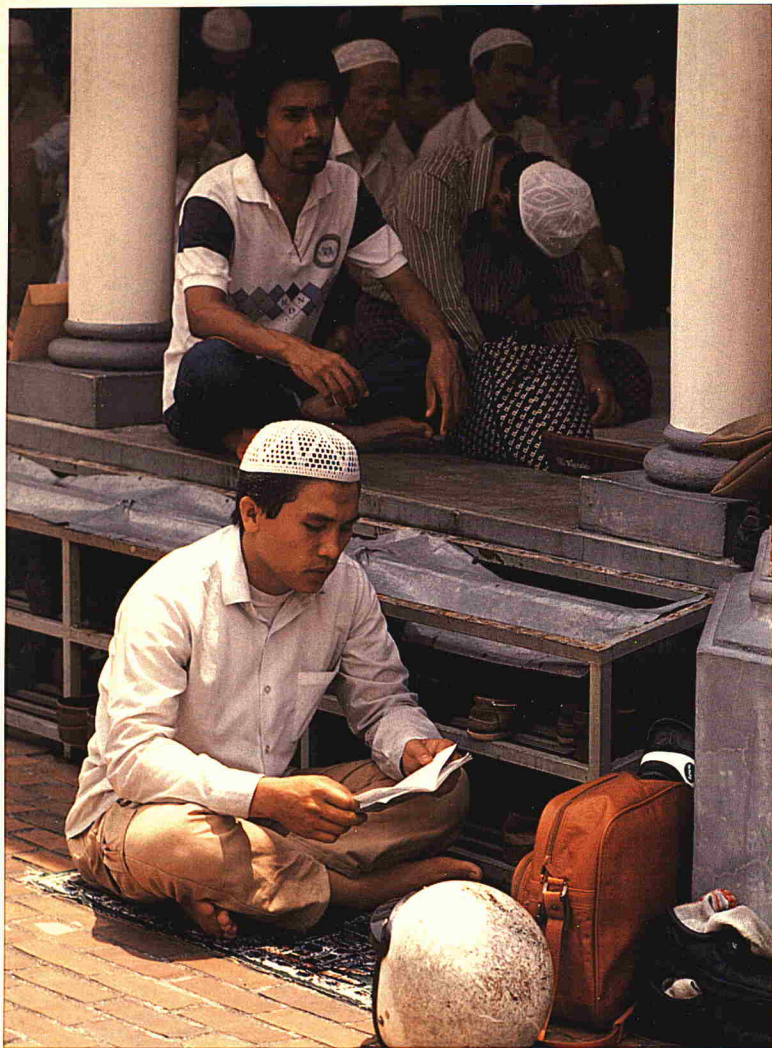
MAKIN F&D PAKSISI 100mm G2.8

Ubudiah Mosque, Kuala Kangsar.



In His Steps - A young Muslim making his way to the worship hall. ►





SARIFULLAH, SAKA/© BIC / ZUMApress

No Room - For this worshipper at Masjid Jamek, Kuala Lumpur, who is quite comfortable reading the holy verses by the verandah, the truest form of worship comes from the heart.

From All Walks Of Life ►

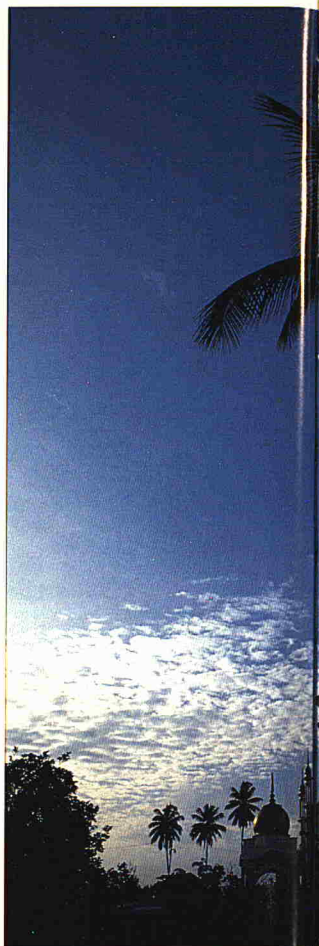
Muslims prostrate before God at the Sultan Sulaiman Mosque, Klang during Friday prayer.

SEKOLAH, SIKAMA 21 / 30/04/05





TRACOL/F2A - NIKKCO/241mm/12.8



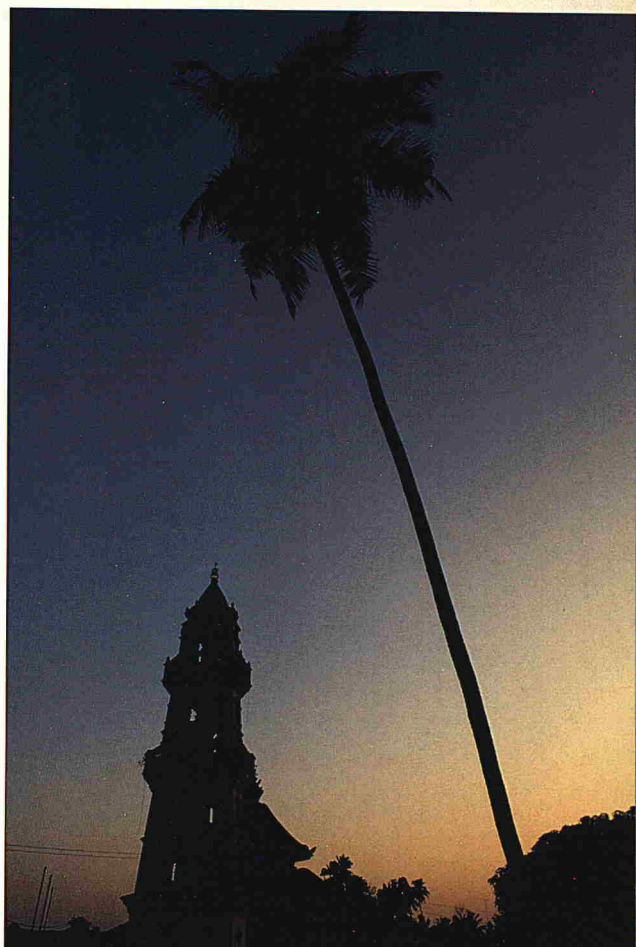
Peaceful Places

*The peace of joys,
The peace of lights,
The peace of consolations.*

*The peace of souls,
The peace of heaven,
The peace of virgins*



NIKON F2A 180mm 28mm G.8



NIKON F2A 180mm 24mm G.8

*The peace of fairy bowers,
The peace of peacefulness,
The peace of everlasting.*

*The peace of God, the peace of men.
Be upon each window, upon each door,
Upon each hole that lets in light,
Upon my body that is of earth
And upon my soul that came from on high.*

< Gaelic verse >

Heaven On Earth

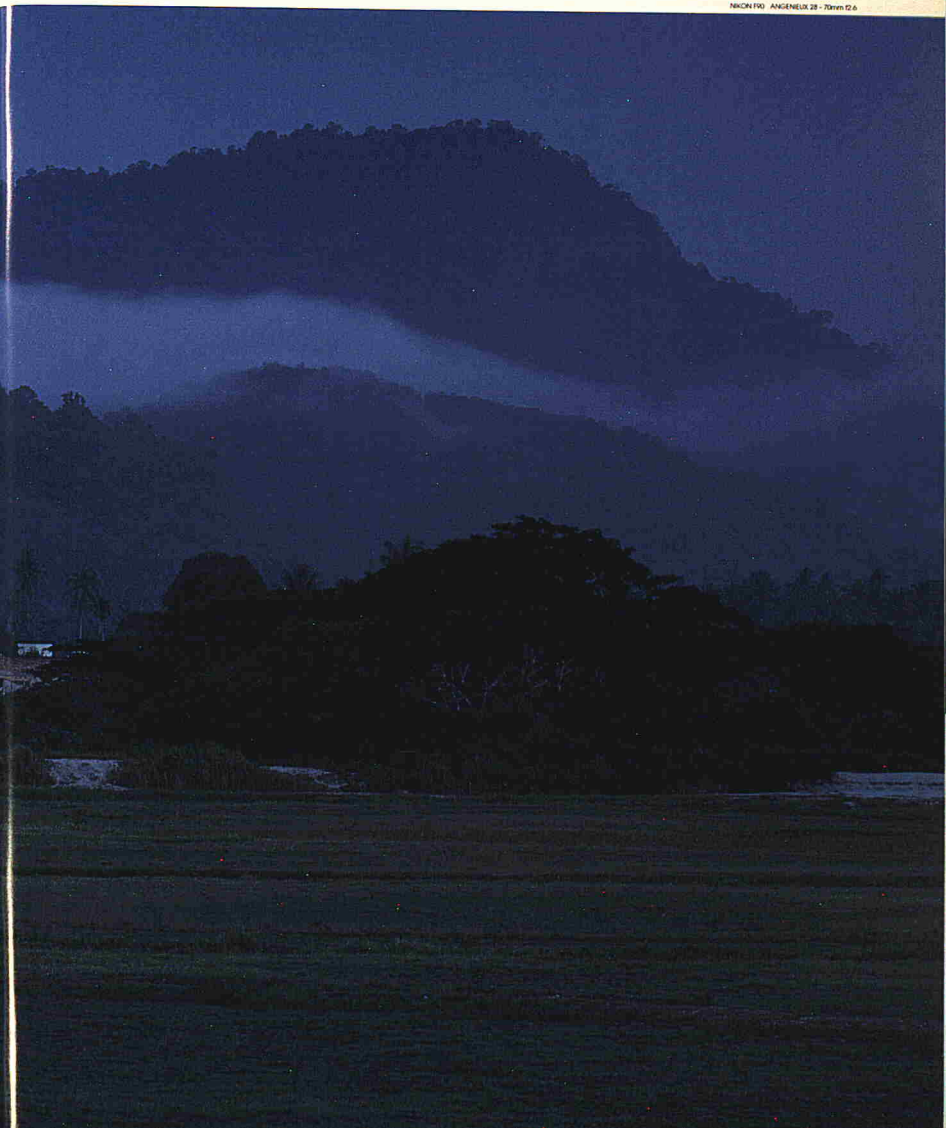
Mosque at the foot of a hill in Ulu Yam Lama, Selangor.



*Give peace, that is, continue and preserve it;
Give peace, that is, give us hearts worthy of it, and thankful for it.
In our time, that is, all our time;
For there is more besides a fair morning required to make a fair day.*

< Thomas Fuller >

NR09190 ANGENEUX 28 - 70x110 12.6



CULTURAL
H.E.R.I.T.A.G.E

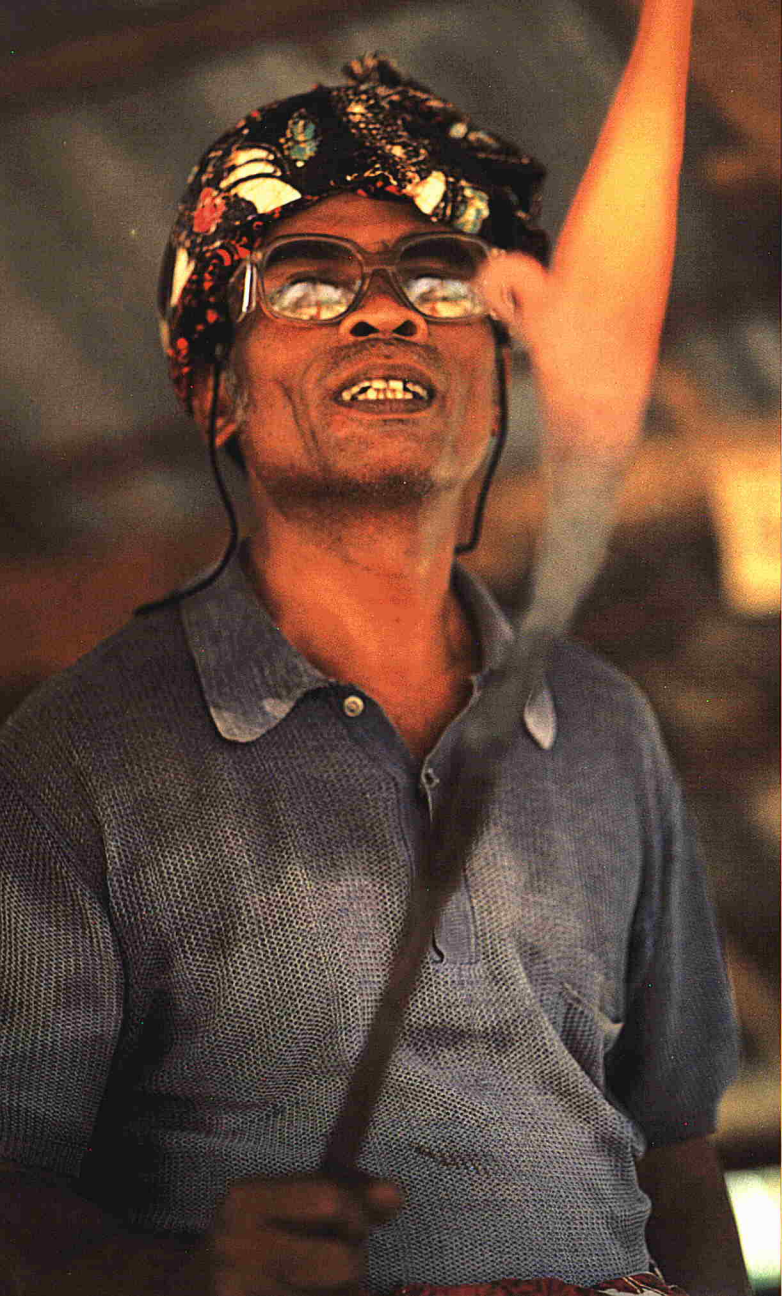
*Layang-layang terbang melayang,
Jatuh ke laut disambar jering,
Siapa kata abang tak sayang,
Jikalau bunga rasa nak gedong.*

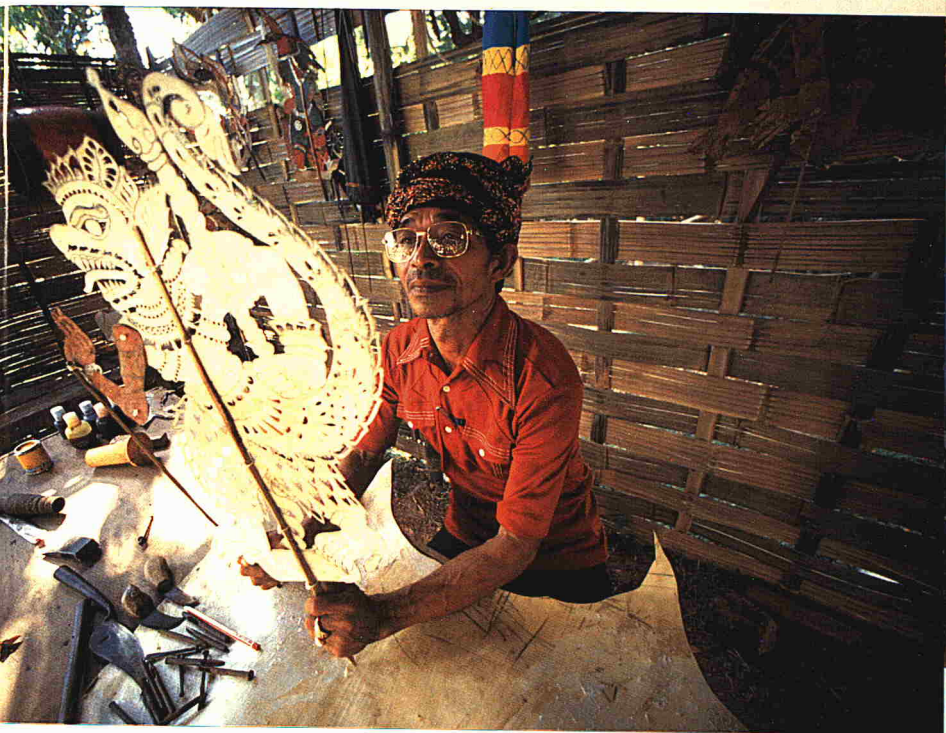
*Kites soar in the air
The sharks rage in the sea
Who says that I have not loved
If you're a flower, I would want you more.*



Kite flying is serious business in the East Coast of the Peninsular.

MICROFLEX ANGELHEX 80 - 200mm f4





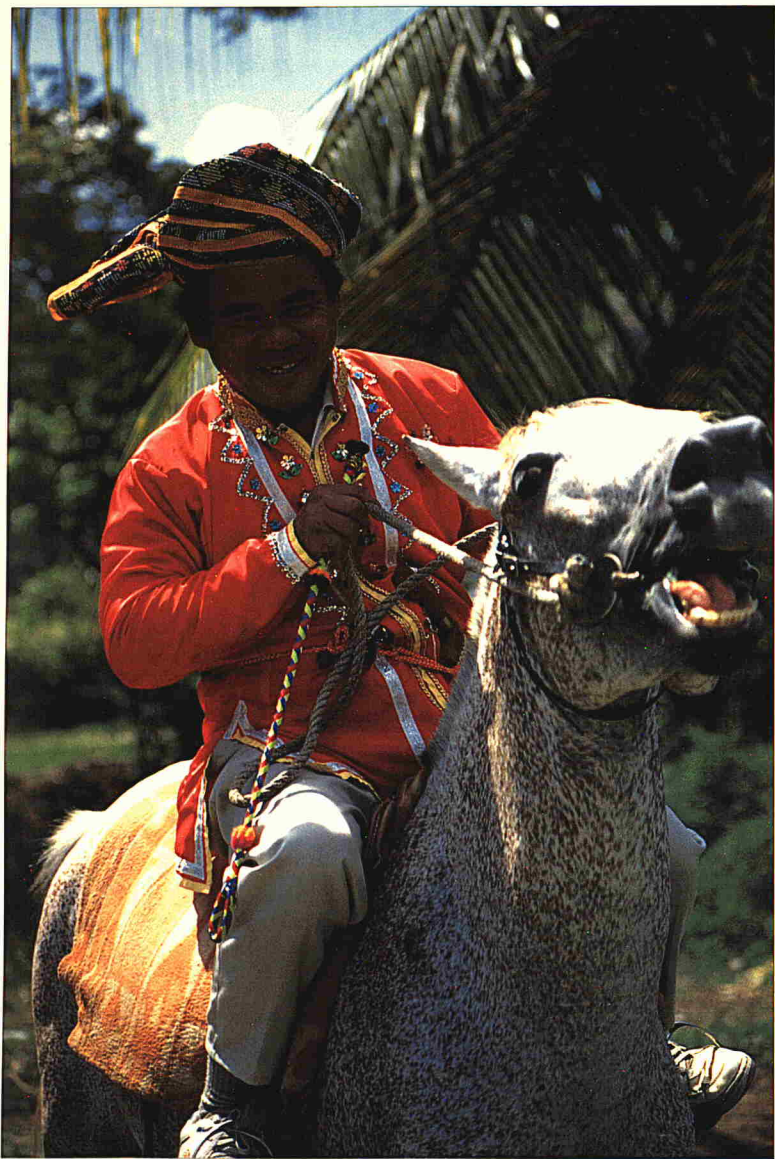
NIKON F100 SIGMA 14mm f2.5

Shadow Makers - Behind the stage, wayang kulit (shadow play) craftsmen prepare for their act.

An instrument of communication in ancient times, the *shadow play* has evolved to characterise not only a tradition of artistic and educational values but more importantly a heritage of knowledge to be cherished.

◀ *Pandai Besi (Blacksmiths) not only create inventions, but also utilise the imagination and skills. They continue the tradition of forging iron banded down by their ancestors.*

NIKON F100 ANGSTROM 28 70mm f2.5



The Wild, Wild East - A Bajau tribesman on horseback, Sabah, East Malaysia.

LEICA DE. SHARADON 84mm G



Rebana players in Kelantan, East Peninsular.

PHOTO: IQAS. FINOCIDE 24mm f2.8

Rebana is the harvest drum festival
where a contest for the longest
lasting drummer is held.

◀ **Pahlawan Bajau**

Pahlawan gagah....
Engkau melambangkan bangsa mu,
Pahlawan Bajau yang menunggang kuda teji....
Senyamlah engkau dengan semangat kepahlawanan mu....
Paculah kuda teji mu sederas air mengalir....
menuju ke era baru.

< Fabsun Hui >

Bajau Horseman

Great warrior....
You are the epitome of your race,
Astride your horse....
Smile, let your fighting spirit rise....
Spur your horse to gallop like the rapids....
heading to a new era.

< English version >



SEKOLAH 2013, TANGKUP, TERBUKA, 2013

*Kain batik selendang batik,
Mari sebar ke atas pentas;
Adik cantik abang pun cantik,
Bagai dakwat dengan kertas.*

< Pantun M. Lina Lina >

*Batik cloth, batik shawl,
Come spread it across the floor,
The lady is lovely so is the man,
Like ink and paper,*

< Old Malay Verse >



Shadow fighting - Deadly moves of the Malay silat, a traditional martial art-form.



HAGEUBAU/SOCCM, SORRAT/DOHIN SA

It's all in the ears

A pretty Orang Ulu lass and
an old Iban man.
Orang Ulu and Iban are
native tribes of Sarawak.



NKORF3, ANGELEUX/28, TOKIN/21

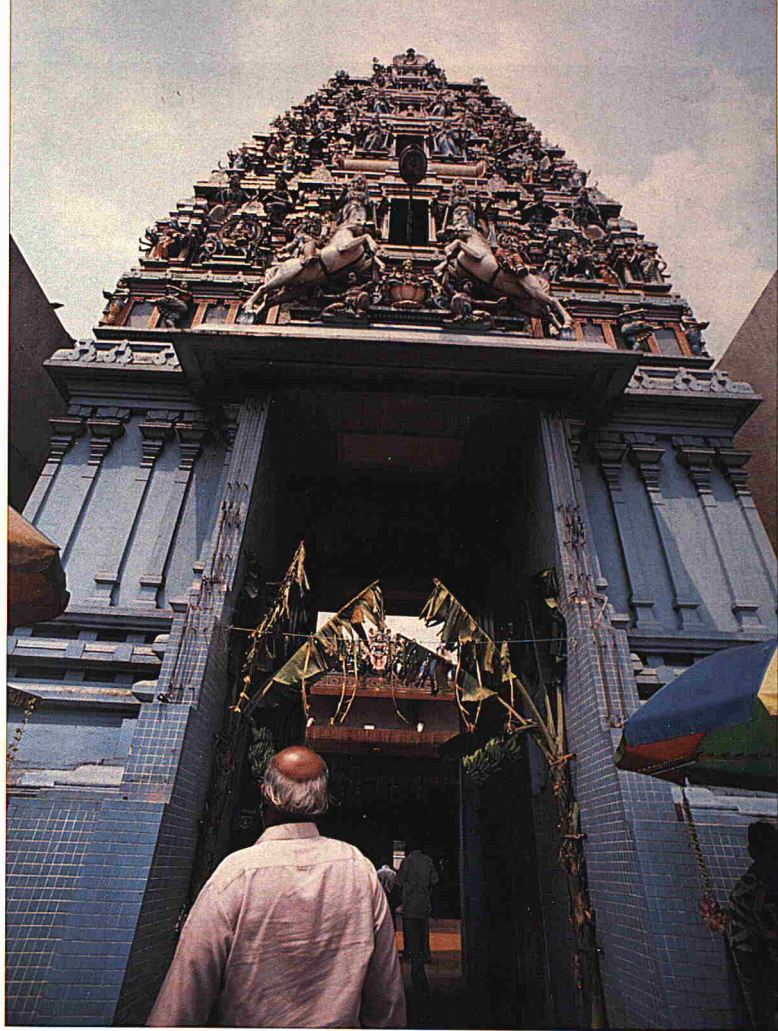


HASSLEBRAD SEEDCH PLANOR Edm 02.8

Dancing to the music

An Iban dancer, clad in full warrior attire, ritually clenches his long dagger in his mouth. Several "head-hunting" trophies can be seen in the background at top right.





LICARIE TAMBOUR 17mm f2.8

Gateway - Hindu temple in Kuala Lumpur.

◀ **Balancing Act**

Chingay acrobats in action, Penang.

During the festivities, martial art exponents in Penang brace themselves with long flag poles in a test of strength and skill.

NARAYANA TAMBOUR 24mm f2.8

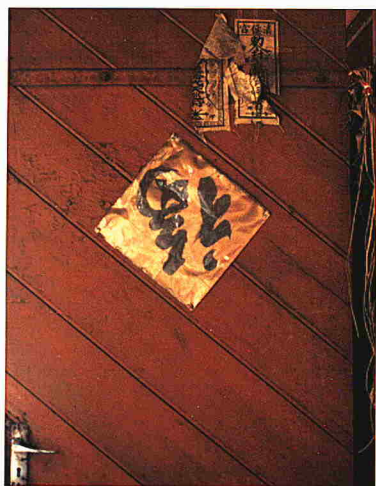


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Medicine Man

A street peddler enticing his curious audience.

The magic word for the Chinese,
'Fu' or Blessings, posted upside down
on a door to welcome the "in-pouring of
prosperity" to its occupants.



Good Luck Charm

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MACR/13 NIK/01 24/01/02

Wide Open - Lion heads displayed in a Chinese shop during the Lunar new year.



A caretaker taking a break in a Chinese crematorium, Penang.

PHOTO: ANGKATILAK @ TRIPADVISOR

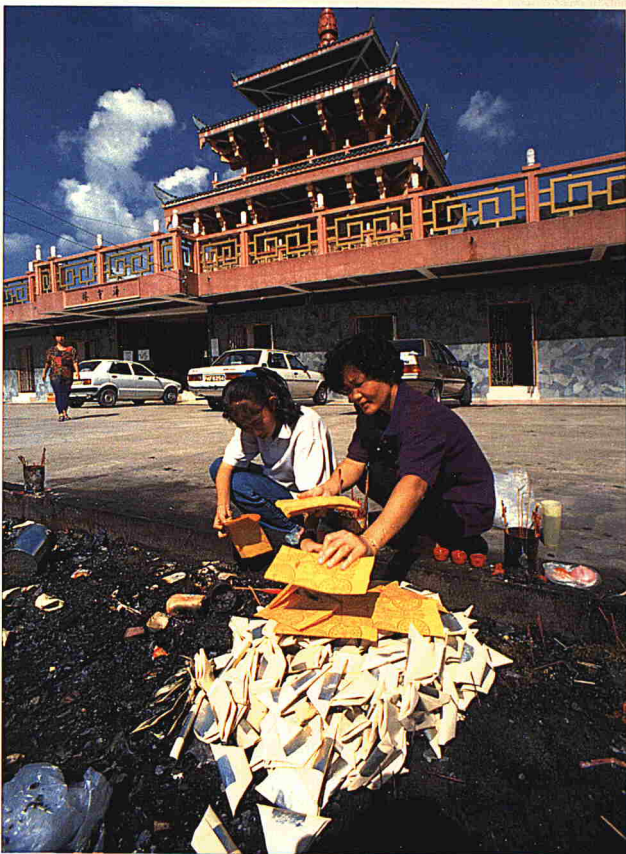
Honouring the Dead

The Chinese pay special respect for the dead. They shower their departed loved ones with prayers and burn incense and replica items like cars, homes and electrical appliances

Burning - Paper offerings to the dead, a Chinese custom, Pulau Ketam.

PHOTO: ANDREW TAN @ TRIPADVISOR





NKON F100 TAMRON 17mm f3.5

Loved ones praying for the deceased's spirit with the burning of yellow and gold paper for the spirit world.



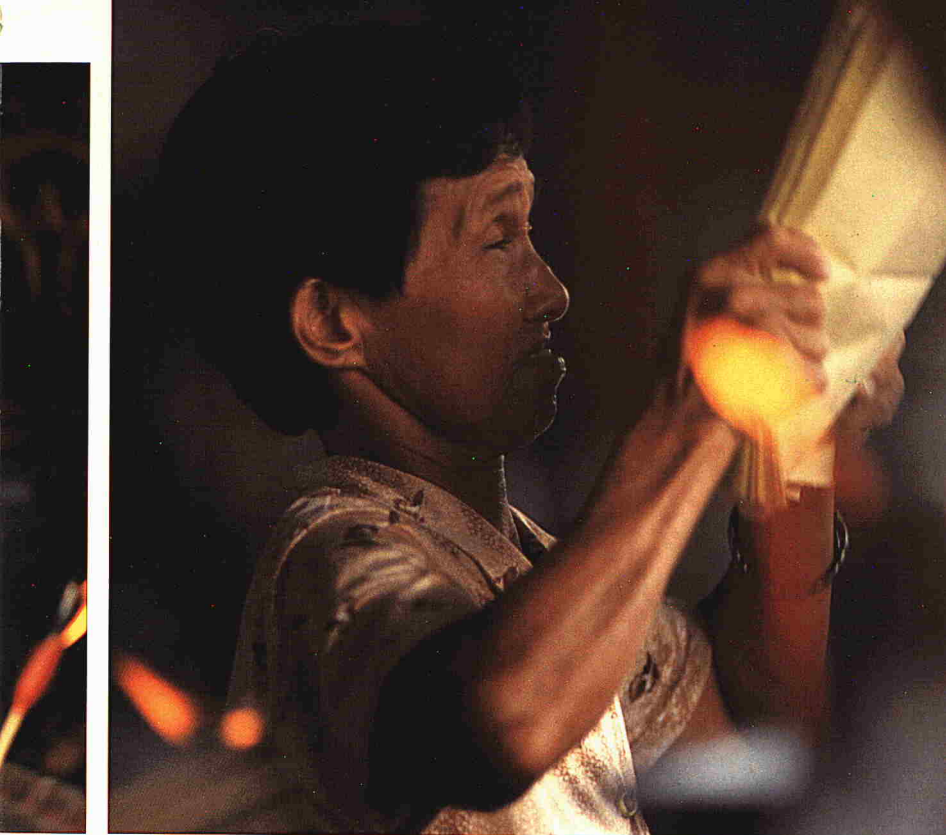
NIKOLEE / SHAGOR / ISTOCK.COM

Candlelight Prayer
Woman lighting up
candles and offering prayers
in a Chinese temple.



**Idols with burnt out
ends of joss sticks -
apparently a target
of vandals.**

NIKOLEE / SHAGOR / ISTOCK.COM



God Bless!

Joss-sticks being burned and offered to the gods.

LEICA RE TAMRON 300mm f2.8



NIKON F2A NIKKOR 105mm f2.6





NIKON F100 ANGENIEUX 28 - 35mm f2.5

Sheltered Statues

The Lord Buddha at Kek Lok Si Temple, Penang. The tiles were donated by devotees, each bearing its donor's name.

- ◀ **Raise the Lanterns** - Yellow and red lanterns silhouetted by the sun at Kek Lok Si Temple, Penang.

NIKON F2A NIKKOR 28mm f2.8

H I N D U I S M
T.H.A.I.P.U.S.A.M

Thaipusam is a celebration of the triumph
of good over evil. Today, thousands flock
the caves to pay tribute to
Lord Murugan's victory and subject themselves
to a frenzied display of devotion.



NIKCH 1502 TAKKOR 100mm f2.8

Frenzy

Fire intensifies during the Thaipusam celebration in an equally blazing afternoon.



An Indian devotee with hooks attached to his body.

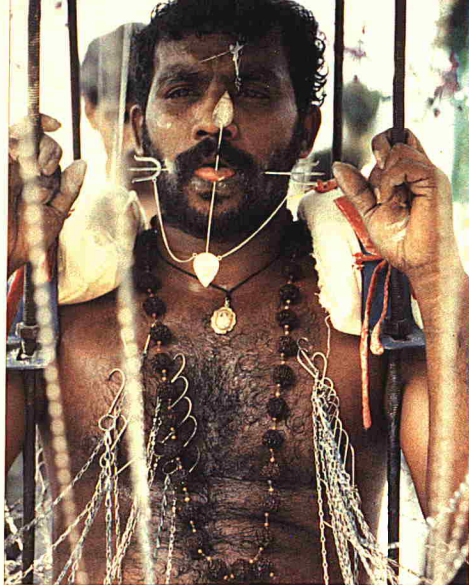
SHARIF/PAZ, SHARIF/SHARIF 120



NIKON F2A 140000 24mm F2.8

No Pain

Thaipusam devotees subject themselves to skewers and hooks, hair pulling, and other forms of affliction while being in a trance. These afflictions are endured to purge themselves from past sins and those who have emerged faithfully from them are considered to be "cleansed" fully!



SANTOSH KAPOOR/REUTERS/GETTY IMAGES

SANTOSH KAPOOR/REUTERS/GETTY IMAGES

SANTOSH KAPOOR/REUTERS/GETTY IMAGES



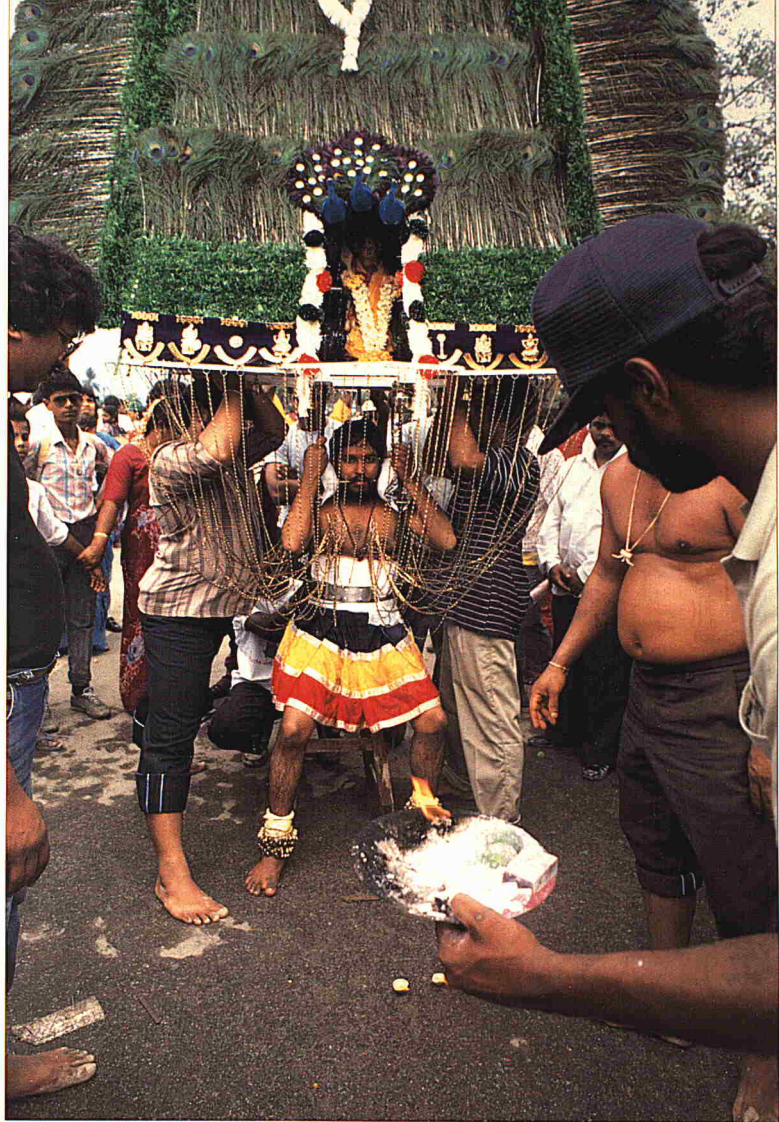


PHOTO: IZRA NIKKOR 28/06/12 ©

Test of Strength

Kavadis being carried using hooks and skewers secured onto the carrier's body.



SENKHA/PA - NAKHO ZAHAY/PA

Thaipusam celebrations in Batu Caves still draw crowds even from as far as India. Only Malaysians celebrate this religious ritual on such a grand scale.

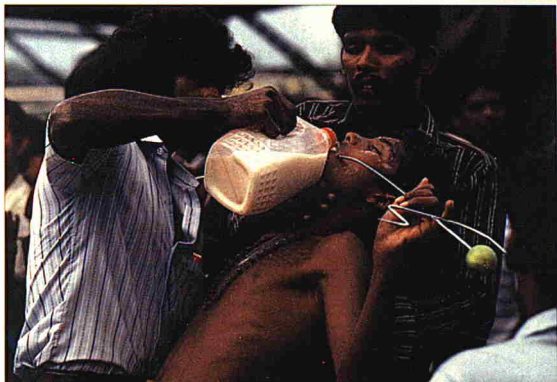




NIKON F2A NIKKOR 24mm f2.8

Milk for the Young
Young man given gulps of
milk to help ease the pain.

NIKON F2A TEANPA 35mm f2.8



S M O O T H
S . A . I . L . I . N . G

The sea

*The sea! The sea! The open sea!
I am where I would ever be,
With the blue above and the blue below,
And silence whereso'er I go,
I never was on the dull, tame shore
But I loved the great sea more and more.*

< Brian Procter >



Rituals By The Sea - Chinese fishermen offer prayers to the sea, asking the spirits to bless their boats and their journeys.

LEICA SE ELIMARI 20mm f2.8



Set Sail - Strong winds usher the fishermen and their prayers.

Journey Mercy

*O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those who peril on the sea.*



LEICA M7 SUMMOLUX 17mm F1.5

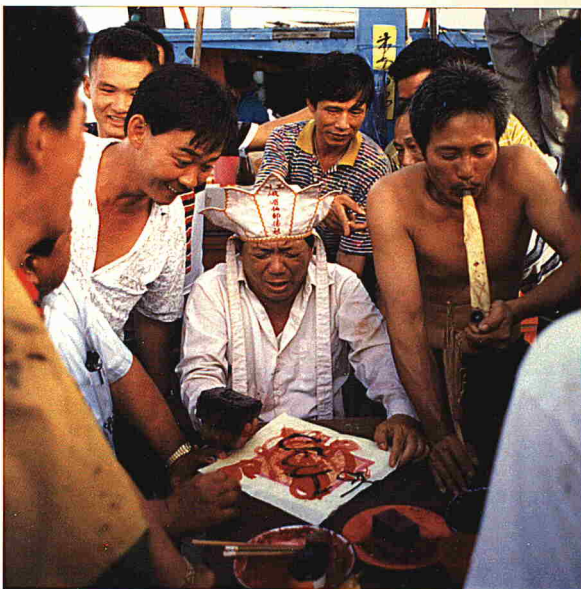
< Top right >

Warrior

A devotee licks the blade of a sword as part of the ritual to the warriors and gods of sea.



LEICA M7 SUMMOLUX 50mm F1.4



LEICA M7 SUMMACRON 90mm F2

Intense Moment - The leader fervently chants mantras, asking for blessings from the sea gods to keep them safe and to grant them a good catch each time they set out.



LECA 07 - UMAR 26/11/08



LEICA M6 - TAMRON 17mm F1.5



LEICA M6 - TAMRON 17mm F1.5



LEICA M7 - ELMARIT 28mm F2.8

Rituals and Procession

Offering

Charmed paper is scattered onto an altar to be burned later as offerings to the gods.

< Top Facing Page >

Fire Dance - In Sekinchan, rituals dedicated to the gods of the sea are held with no less fervency than other festivals.

G R E E N
N . A . T . U . R . E

QUIET BEAUTY

Auguries of Innocence

*To see a world in a grain of sand
And heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And eternity in an hour.*

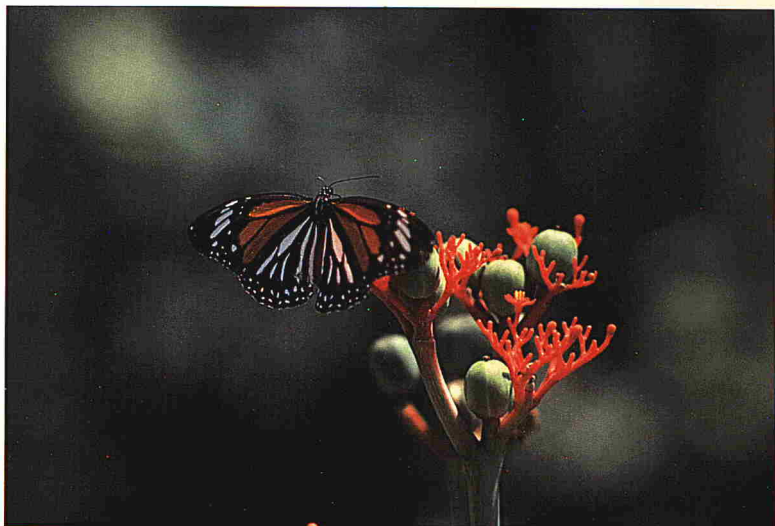
*A robin red breast in a cage
Puts all Heaven in a rage.
A skylark wounded in the wing,
A cherubim does cease to sing.*

*The wild deer, wandering here and there,
Keeps the human soul from care.
The owl that calls upon the night
Speaks the unbeliever's fright.*

*A truth that's told with bad intent
Beats all the lies you can invent.
It is right it should be so;
Man was made for joy and woe;*

*And when this we rightly know
Through the world we safely go.*

< William Blake >



The winged flowers

NKCF12A ANKCOI 10/09/05

Butterflies

*As butterflies are but winged flowers,
Half sorry for their change, who fain,
So still and long they lie on leaves,
Would be thought flowers again -*

*E'en so my thoughts, that should expand,
And grow to higher themes above,
Return like butterflies to lie
On the old things I love.*

< William Davies >



Good Morning, Malaysia

The national flower, Hibiscus in dazzling red.

© 2004 by World Wildlife Fund. All rights reserved.



April Showers - Wayside flowers enjoying the rain.

LEICA RE VARIO-ELMAR 70-210mm f/4



SHARIF S. SAKOOR AL. 2004-14

Little Stars, Bright and Pinky

*Who loves a garden, loves a greenhouse too.
Unconscious of a less propitious clime,
There blooms exotic beauty, warm and snug,
While the winds whistle and the rain descend.*

*Wee they reward the toil. The sight is pleased,
The scent regaled, each odoriferous leaf,
Each opening blossom, freely breathes abroad
Its gratitude, and thanks him with its sweets.*

< William Couper >



NEOH F3 FINCHER 80 - 2008mm 14

Here's flowers for you;

Hot lavender, mints, savory, marjoram;

The marigold, that goes to bed wth the sun

And with him rises weeping; these are flowers

Of middle summer, and I think they are given

To men of middle age.

< William Shakespeare >



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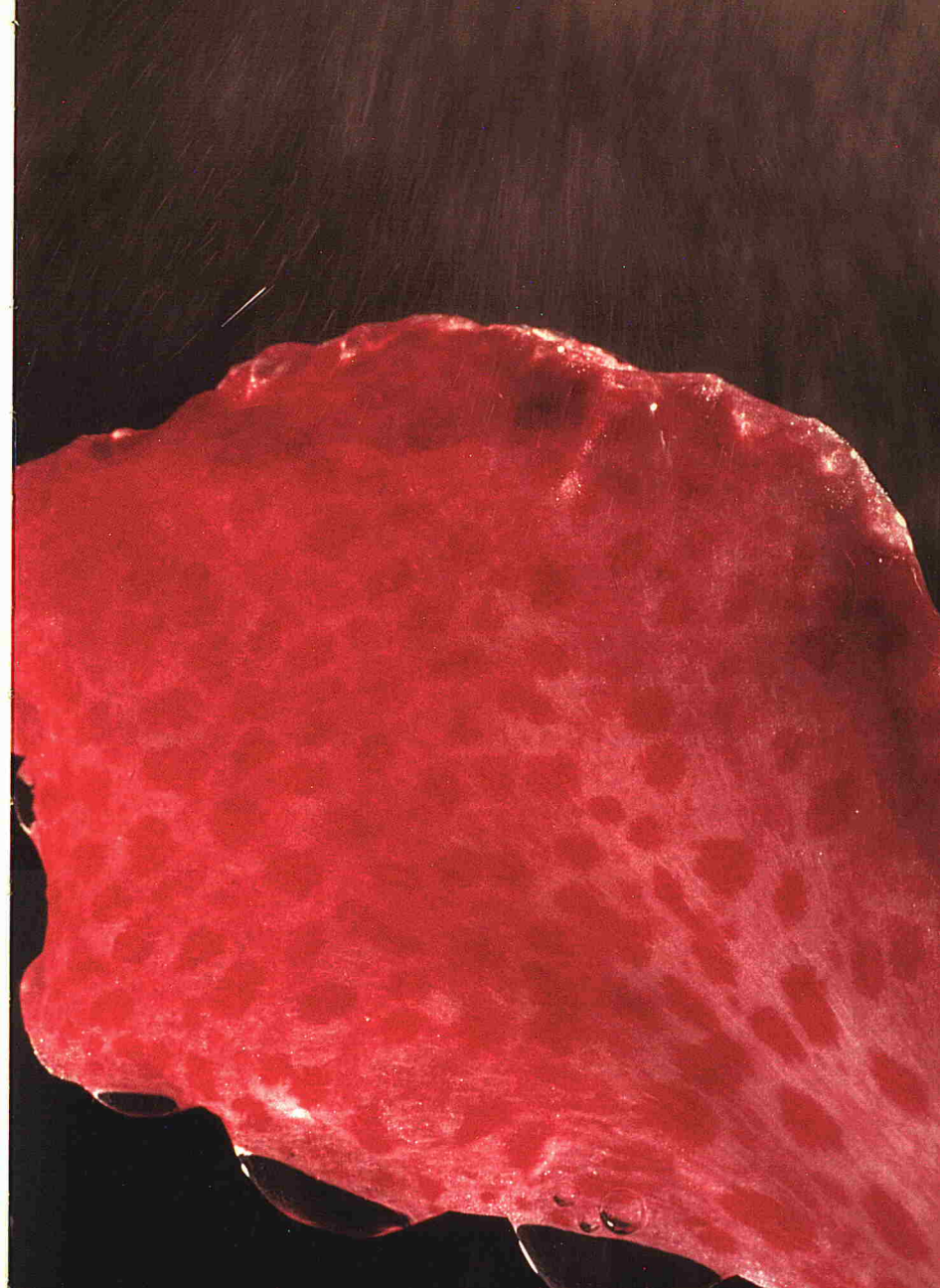
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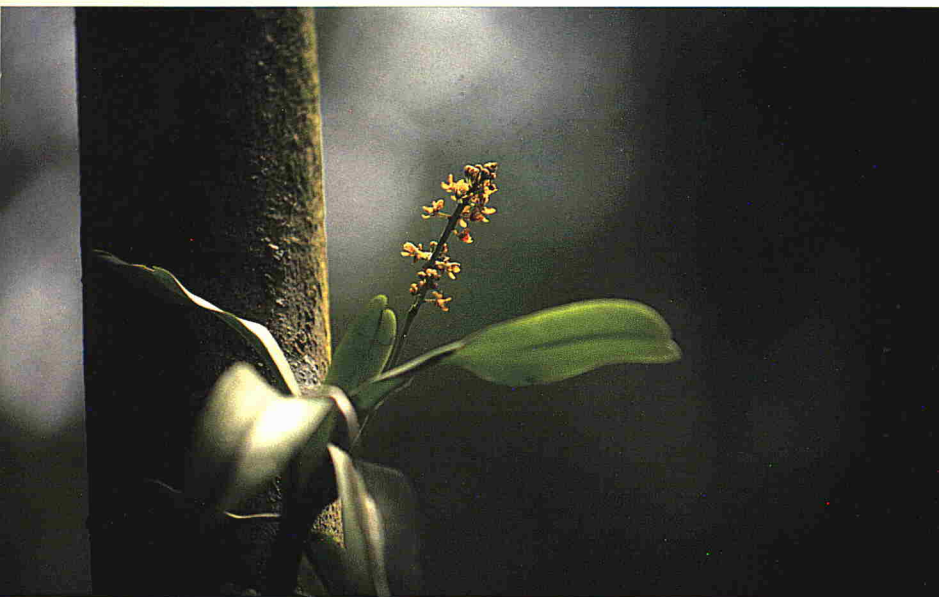
Perspectives

Different angles of the same orchid, also carry with them, distinctive charms.

Orchids are native to Malaysia.
Numerous species are found in the wild.
The orchid growing industry is well
developed with exports
to many countries worldwide.

SMK/PL/13/11/00000/0000/000 ▶





ARTIST: THOMAS HALL

Young Flower

*Take her up tenderly,
Lift her with care;
Fashioned so slenderly,
Young, and so fair.*

< Thomas Hall >

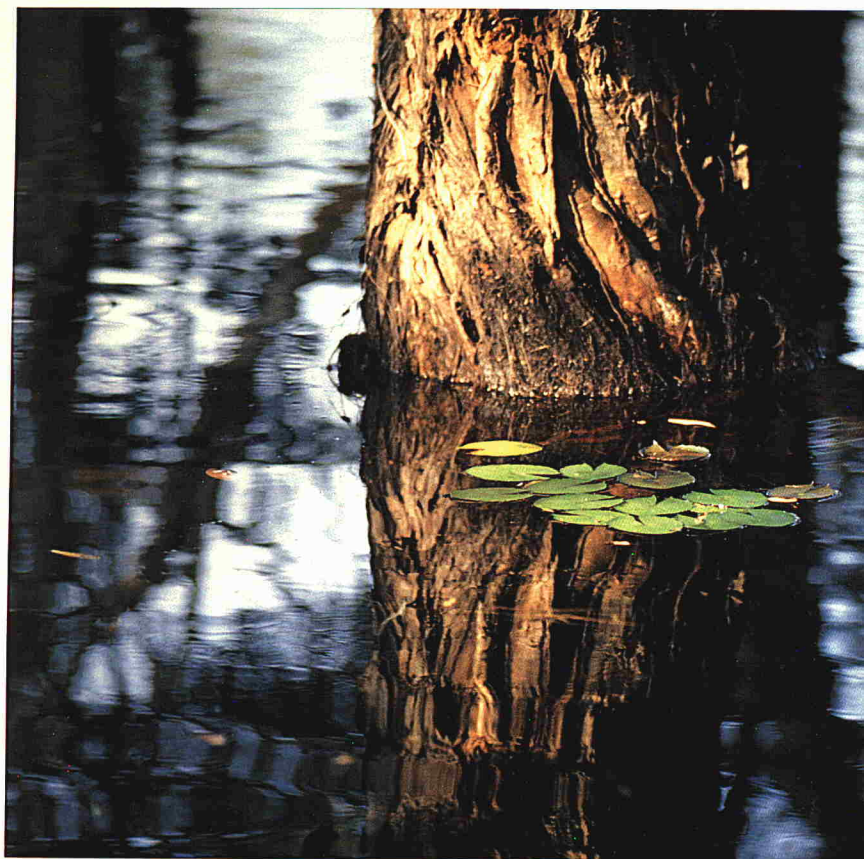


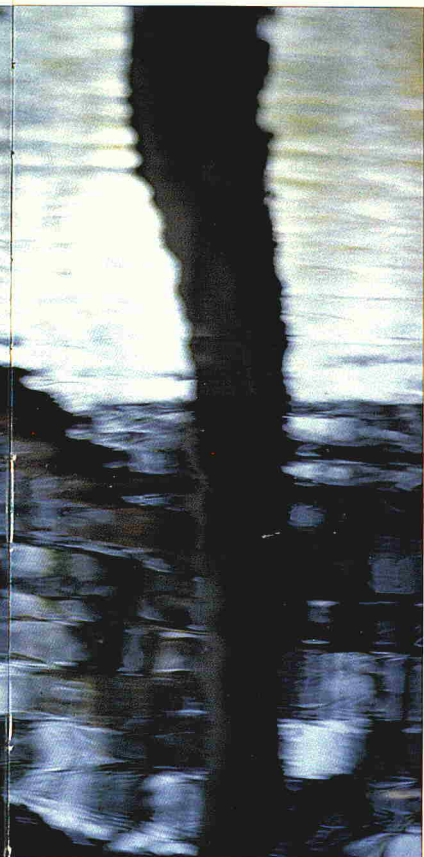
NIKON F3 NIKKOR 80-200mm f4

Shy Beauty

*Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.*

< Thomas Gray >





NONOFAE AF EDUKAKOR 180mm/28

Reflections

The tall rock,
The mountain, and the deep gloomy wood,
Their colours and their forms, were then to me
An appetite; a feeling and a love,
That had no need of a remoter charm,
By thought supplied, nor any interest
Unborrowed from the eye. - That time is past.

For I have learned
To look on Nature, not as in the hour
Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes
The still, sad music of humanity,
Nor harsh, nor grating, though of ample power
To chasten and subdue.

And I have felt
A presence that disturbs me with the joy
Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime,
Of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
A motion and a spirit, that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought,
And rolls through all things.

Therefore am I still, well pleased to recognise
In nature and the language of sense,
The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse,
The guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul
Of all my moral being.

< William Wordsworth >



Still Air - Even silence has a music of its own

PHOTO BY PANG SUYONG/ARTS AND CULTURE MALAYSIA



LICA 87 SIMACSON © 2002

A Solitary Leaf

*When green buds hang in the tree like dust
And sprinkle the lime like rain,
Forth I wander, forth I must,
And drink of life again.*

*Forth I must by tree-shrub bowers
To look at the leaves uncurled,
And stand in fields where cuckoo flowers
Are lying about the world.*

< Alfred Housman >





< Previous Page >

Leaves floating on the water, Terengganu mangrove swamp.

NAKON THO ANGEMERUK 28 - 30 Mei 2016



LEA & BT ANA 300 - LUMAGI 200000 2





LEICA BY MACRO - ELMARIT 50mm G2

Dewdrops

The dewdrops on every blade of grass are so much like silver drops that I am obliged to stoop down as I walk to see if they are pearls, and those sprinkled on the ivy-woven beds of primroses are so like gold beads that I stooped down to feel if they were hard, but they melted from my finger. And where the dew lies, they are emerald and beryl, yet nothing more than the dews of the morning on the budding leaves; nay, the road grasses are covered with gold and silver beads, and the further we go the brighter they seem to shine. It is nothing more than the sun's light and shade upon them in the dew morning; every thorn-point and every bramble-spear has its trembling ornament: till the wind gets a little brisker, and then all is shaken off, and all the shining jewelry passes away into a common morning full of budding leaves, primroses, violets, and orchids, and common place objects.

< John Clare >

< Previous Page >
LEICA BY MACRO - ELMARIT 50mm G2

O R A N G
U . T . A . N

*I think I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid and self contain'd;
I stand and look at them long and long.
They do not sweat and whine about their condition;
Not one is dissatisfied - not one is demented with the mania of owning things;
Not one is respectable or industrious over the whole earth.*

< Walt Whitman >

The Orang Utan (Man Of The Forest)
is a protected species.
The Orang Utan sanctuary at Sepilok
near Sandakan is a wild preserve
where the visitors can observe the Orang Utan
in its natural habitat.

Innocence ►

A young orang utan at the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre, Sabah.

HASILBARU 5000.M SEMPANG 150mm.H



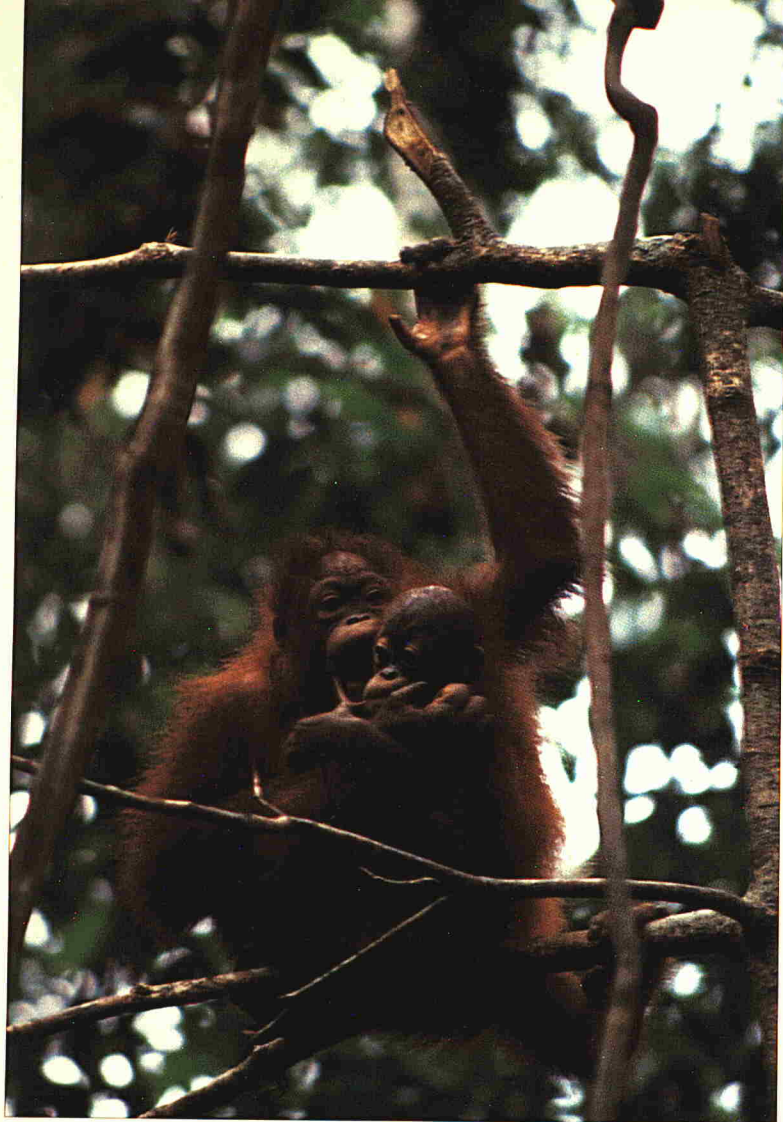


PHOTO © 1998, NATURE PHOTO LIBRARY

Mother and Child

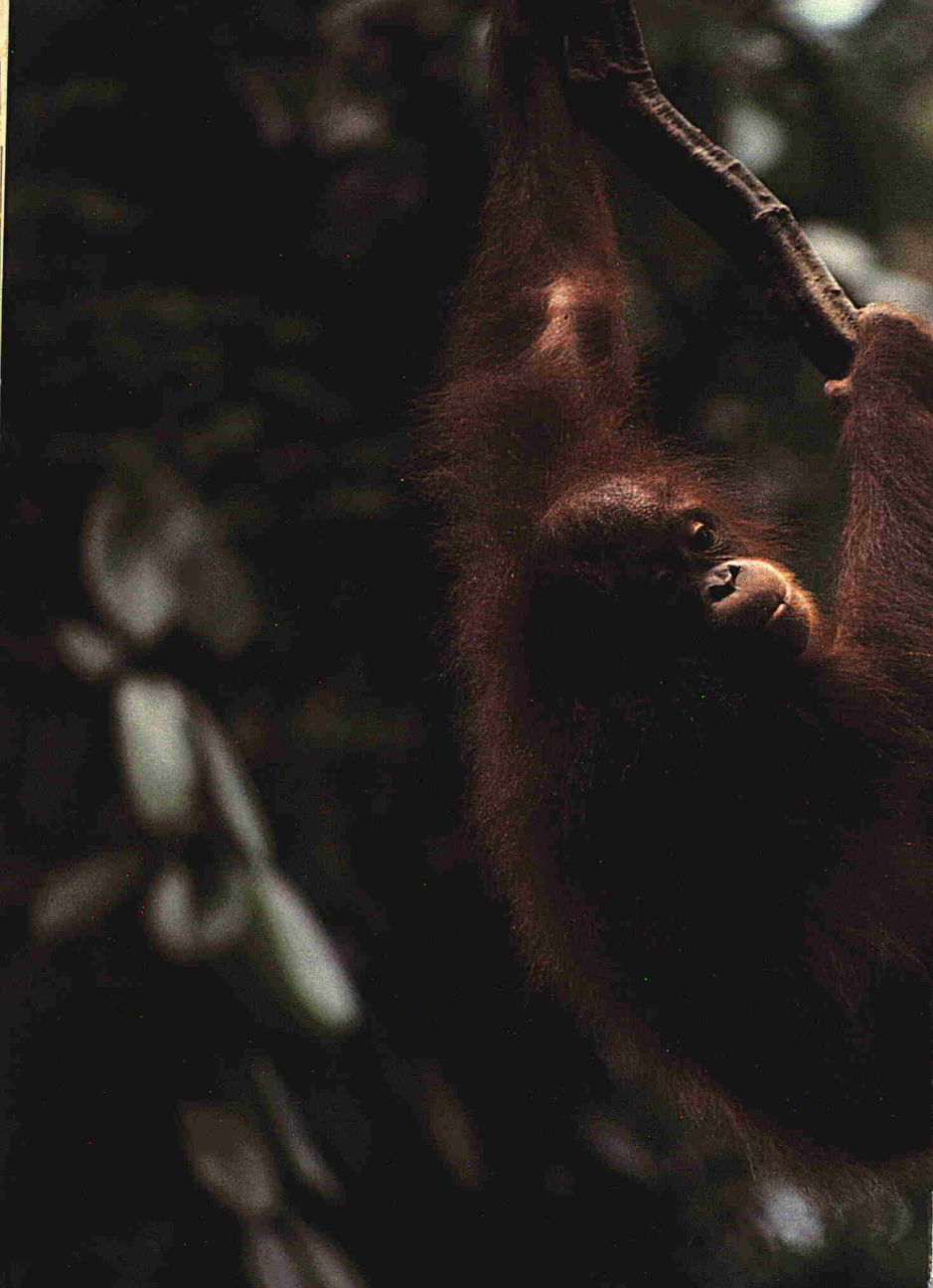
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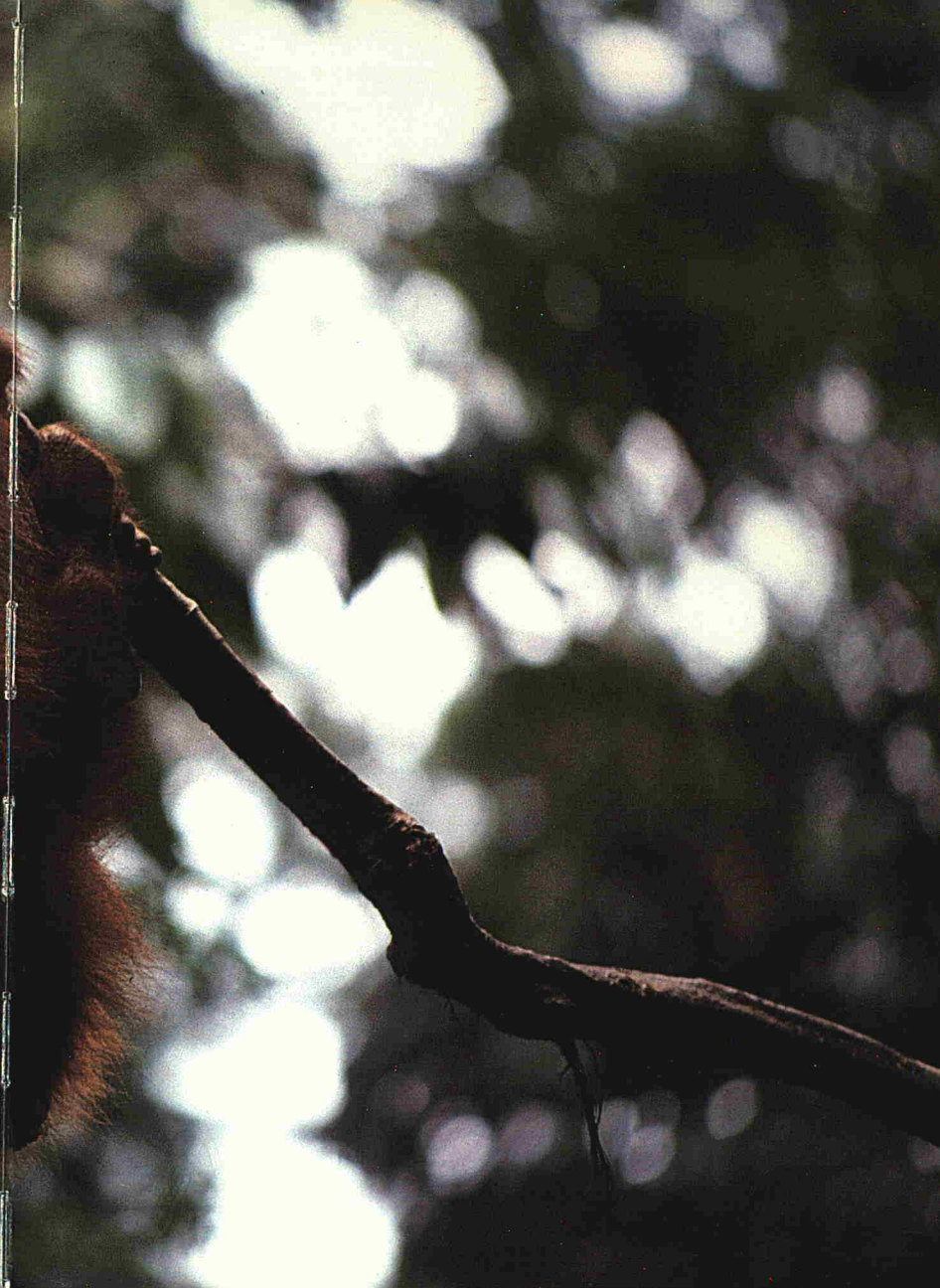
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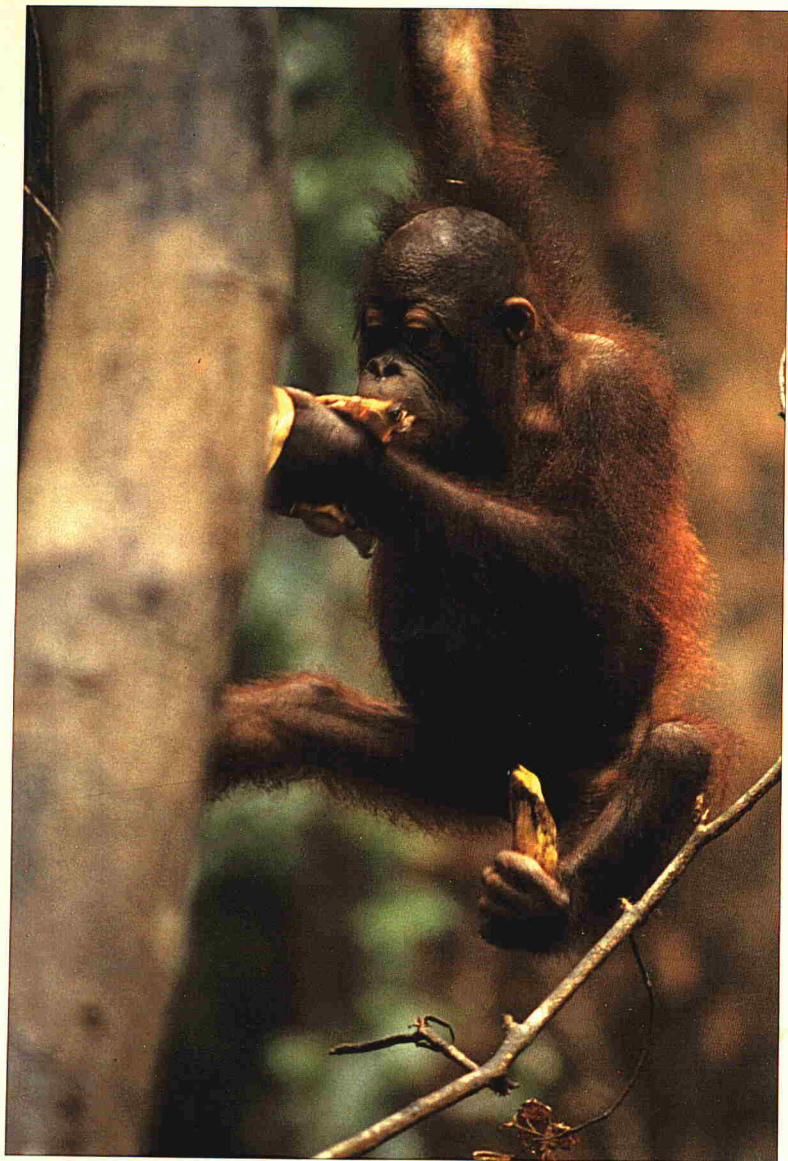
Acrobatics ▶

PHOTO © 1998, NATURE PHOTO LIBRARY









Helping Herself - Bananas constitute the main dietary source for Orang Utans.

PHOTO BY NAKCHI BOO, 2000/11/14

B.R.I.E.F O.F M.A.L.A.Y.S.I.A

BRIEF OF MALAYSIA

A HISTORICAL PRIMER

Malaysia, a federation of thirteen states lies approximately 1 degree north of the equator and 100 degrees longitude. The country, a constitutional monarchy, was formed on September 16th 1963 by the merger of the independent Federation of Malaya, the British colonies of Sarawak and North Borneo and Singapore. Singapore subsequently left the Federation in 1965 to become an independent republic.

The Federation was born in turbulent times with Indonesia conducting a policy of "confrontation" and the Philippines laying claim to Sabah. However peace was restored in 1966 with the signing of the Bangkok Accord. Indonesia put to rest her policy of confrontation and the Philippines recognised Malaysia.

Malaysia has been inhabited since the stone age. Stone implements and other relics of ancient habitation discovered in the Niah Caves in Sarawak and also in Lenggong, Perak bear testimony to this.

The earliest present-day settlers are probably the Orang Asli of the Peninsula and some of the native peoples of Sabah and Sarawak such as the Rungus and Penans. Some of these people still live a nomadic life in the forests, hunting and gathering for sustenance. These peoples probably originated from the heart of the Asian continent, having migrated southwards through Indochina, the Malay Peninsula and onwards to the archipelago in the South China sea.

The first Malays probably arrived in the peninsula around 1000 B.C. believed to be from Yunan, China. Over the subsequent centuries other waves came and spread out to the Indonesian archipelago. Early settlers were likely to be farming and fishing communities. Regular trade contacts with China and the Indian sub-continent in the first century B.C. brought Indian, Hindu and Buddhist influences.

By the thirteenth century A.D. the Sultanate of Melaka had been firmly established, holding sway over both sides of the Straits of Melaka. At this time Islam arrived at the Sultanate through Arab and Indian traders. With the conversion of the Malay rulers of the Sultanate after 1400, Islam spread rapidly throughout the Peninsula and to the

Indonesian archipelago. Since then, Islam became part of the way of life of the Malay people.

The Portuguese attack on Melaka in 1511 saw the fall of the Sultanate and marked the beginning of the era of European colonization. There was an abortive attempt to revive the Sultanate in Johor. Local rivalry among groups such as the Achense, Minangkabau, Bugis and others, coupled with European interference led to the fragmentation of the Peninsula into the precursors of the present-day states of the federation.

British influence began at the end of the eighteenth century, the British having established the Straits Settlement consisting of Melaka, Pulau Pinang and Singapore, headed by a colonial governor. From these bases, their influence grew and spread through the peninsula. The Anglo-Dutch treaty of influence gave the British control of the Peninsula and the Dutch the Indonesian archipelago. The treaty probably laid the foundation of the present-day nations of Malaysia and Indonesia.

The treaty of Pangkor signed in 1874 with the Sultan of Perak, marked the first step taken by the British to impose direct rule over the peninsula. Other similar treaties with other states followed.

Meanwhile, in Sarawak, a British adventurer, James Brooke had carved out Sarawak in northern Borneo for himself from the Sultan of Brunei declaring himself, Rajah and starting a dynasty that was to last until the end of the second World War.

In Sabah, the North Borneo Chartered Company ruled over the territory on the north eastern part of Borneo island under British protection. Like Brooke in Sarawak, the company had gained territory at the expense of the Brunei Sultanate.

The Japanese conquest of the territories of South East Asia in 1941 weakened the European colonial powers and sowed the seed of nationalism. Although the British resumed their rule after the surrender of the Japanese in 1945, they faced new realities and revamped their administration in the region. The Straits Settlement was dissolved; Melaka and Pulau Pinang were combined with the Malay states to form the Malayan Union; Singapore and Sarawak became separate crown colonies; and Labuan was incorporated into British North Borneo.

forming another colony.

The formation of the Malayan Union which reduced the status of the Malay states into that of a crown colony was vehemently opposed, forcing the British to establish the Federation of Malaya in 1948. This new entity grouped the nine Malay states with Melaka and Pulau Pinang under a federal government headed by a British High Commissioner with Kuala Lumpur as its capital.

Colonial status in Sarawak was also met with opposition. The movement was however crushed in 1949 after the assassination of the colonial governor.

The post-war era saw the growth of the Malay nationalist movement spearheaded by the United Malays National Organization (UMNO). The formation of an alliance of political parties of the main ethnic groups cleared the last hurdle towards independence. This alliance initially between UMNO and the Chinese party MCA has ruled to this day, now known as the National Front or Barisan Nasional; the Front now has grown to many parties. On August 31st 1957, the Federation of Malaya gained independence from Britain. Her first Prime Minister was Tunku Abdul Rahman. Her first Prime Minister for Sabah and Sarawak came with the formation of Malaysia on September 16th 1963, when the two territories was amalgamated with the Federation of Malaya to become Malaysia.

GEOGRAPHY

Malaysia being situated in the equatorial region has a hot humid climate through out the year with temperatures averaging 26 degrees Celsius. Rainfall is heavy and intermittent with the wettest spells in the inter-monsoon periods from March till May. Regional variations in temperature depend on elevation above sea-level with cool temperatures in highland regions like Genting and Camerons in Pahang and Kundasang in the foothills of Mount Kinabalu in Sabah.

The Crocker Range in Sabah features Mount Kinabalu which at 4101 meters is the highest mountain in South East Asia. The Mulu caves in Sarawak is one of the largest cave systems in the world. A mountainous spine, the Banjaran Titiwangsa cuts across the Peninsula, separating the eastern part of the Peninsula from the west.

As a result of heavy rainfall, great rivers criss-cross the landscape; the longest being the Rajang River at 563 kilometers.

Much mineral is found all over the country. Malaysia was once the world's largest tin producer with tin ore found particularly in Perak and

Selangor. Copper can be found in various locations with big mining operation at Mamut in Sabah. Gold is mined at Bau in Sarawak, with smaller deposits elsewhere. Coal is found in abundance in Sarawak. Oil and gas is produced offshore in Terengganu, Sarawak and Sabah.

Despite large scale development for agriculture, industry and infra-structure, over half of the country is covered in forests. The tropical rain forests of Malaysia contain an amazing variety of flora and fauna. Their compositions vary according to elevation.

THE PEOPLE

Malaysia has a population of nearly twenty million people. Her ethnic composition is extremely diverse with dozens of ethnic groups. Broadly, Malaysia's races can be classified into two groups: the races with cultural affinities indigenous to the region referred to as the Bumiputera or sons of the soil; and those whose cultural affinities lie outside the region.

The predominant racial group is the Malay, forming 60% of the population. Among the Malays, subtle distinctions exist, example between those on the east coast of the Peninsula who have long settled in the country, and more recent arrivals, from Sumatra along the west coast, and the Malays from Sabah and Sarawak.

The next largest group, The Chinese, form 30% of the population. They originated from South China with Cantonese and Hokkien being the main dialects spoken. They are mainly concentrated in the urban areas of the west coast of the Peninsula and in the town areas of Sabah and Sarawak.

Besides the Malays, the other Bumiputera groups are the Orang Asli, the aborigines of the Peninsula and the ethnic groups native to Sabah and Sarawak. The Orang Asli are the oldest elements of the population; few of their numbers exist today. Like aborigines of other countries, the Orang Asli live closely with the land hunting, fishing and gathering for sustenance and growing crops on the land.

The ethnic groups native to Sabah and Sarawak are a diverse lot. In Sarawak, the largest groups are the Ibans, Bidayus and Melanau. Smaller groups include the Kayans, Kenyahs, Kelabits and Penans. The latter is a nomadic people who hunt and gather from jungle and practise shifting cultivation.

In Sabah, the largest indigenous group is the Kadazandusun. Others include the Murut, Rungus, Bajau, Bisaya and Iranun. All these groups native to Sabah and Sarawak represent those of the same

basic Malay stock who entered the country in the early period of migration centuries ago. All these groups practise shifting cultivation.

Nowadays, indigenous Malaysians are found in all levels of society, in every trade, profession and employment.

The Indians form 8% of the population and are mostly found in the Peninsula. They are mostly Tamils from South India and Sri Lanka, with significant Sikh and Malayalee minorities. Many are employed in the plantation sector.

CULTURE, CUSTOMS AND THE ARTS

The way of life of the Malaysian is as diverse as her ethnic mix. His way of life is largely dictated by his ethnic background and religion, with influence from the other races and also influence from the West. There are thus Islamic, Chinese, Indian, Western and indigenous elements in Malaysian Culture.

Malay culture is intertwined with the teachings of Islam which has been their religion since the thirteenth century. Marriage and burial customs, ceremonial occasions and daily living follow the teachings of Islam. A hallmark of the Malay character is politeness and patience. Malay custom dictates respect for parents and elders. A spirit of community cooperation is strong and decisions are often reached by consensus.

Traditional men's wear consist of a loose shirt (baju), long trousers, and a sarung wrapped around the waist. The ensemble is completed with a headdress, the songkok. The women wear a baju kurung, a long loose blouse and a sarung, or a baju kebaya, a tight fitting blouse and a sarung. Some of these apparel are depicted in the photographs in this book.

Malay cuisine is generally hot and spicy. Coconut milk is a major ingredient. Like Indian food, curries feature largely in Malay cuisine. Malay food is dictated by Islamic teachings and must be halal or permitted in the tenets of the Koran. Thus pork is totally forbidden as are other meats such as those of predators and reptiles. Meat must be slaughtered according to Islamic rites.

Popular traditional pastimes, now mainly practised in the rural areas, include top-spinning and kite-flying. The Malay art of self-defence, the silat is still widely practised as is the sport sepak takraw, a volley-ball like game using mainly the feet and head instead of the hands.

Malay architecture features the use of wood to a large extent and is characterised by intricate and

beautiful carvings. The ordinary Malay house follows a distinctive style in various parts of the country. In Terengganu and Kelantan, boat building is an art form. The intricately carved spar-rs of fishing boats with figures depicting serpents and mythical creatures are a testimony to the skill of the Malay boat builder.

Traditional music takes the form of the Ghazal, Dondang Sayang and Dikir Barat. Dance forms include the Joget and Baria. These art forms are seldom practised nowadays except in some rural areas and of course in shows put on by troupes for the benefit of tourists. The *Wayang Kulit*, a shadow play is still practised in Kelantan.

The Chinese are chiefly urban dwellers both in the peninsula and in Sabah and Sarawak. Their forefathers migrated mostly from South China. Their traditional customs and practices follow that of their roots in China although over time, some practices have evolved into a form unique to Malaysia.

The Chinese dress informally, preferring Western style clothes. Traditional styles such as the Cheongsam is seen only on ceremonial occasions like weddings.

Chinese cuisine is extremely diverse with styles mainly that of Canton, Hokkien and Szechuan.

Most Indians in Malaysia are of South Indian origin; the majority are Tamil speaking. There are Muslims and Christians among them although the large majority are of the Hindu faith. Colorful Hindu temples are found wherever there are significant Indian communities.

The Sari is the traditional Indian ladies wear. The men prefer Western clothes reserving traditional wear such as the Kurta and Dhoti to festive occasions or as temple wear.

Indian food features hot and spicy curries eaten with rice. Flat forms of bread such as chapatti and paratta are also common.

In Sabah the main indigenous people is the Kadazan dusun. They are mainly agricultural, planting rice as the staple crop. Some of their numbers still live in traditional longhouses. Their forefathers were animists, although now many have been converted to Christianity and Islam.

Traditional women's wear is the black skirt and blouse with gold trimmings. The traditional dance form, the *sumazau* is still widely performed. The fermented rice brew, the *tapai* is widely consumed during festive occasions.

In Sarawak, the largest indigenous group are the

ibans. They are mainly settled along the many river that flow through the state, living in longhouses and growing crops. The Bidayhs mainly found upstream from Kuching are also farmers. Along the coast are the Melanau, Kedayans and Bisayas. Each group has its own customs and tradition.

THE FESTIVALS OF MALAYSIA

Malaysia perhaps celebrates more festivals than any other country in the world. The "open-house" where friends and relatives visit each others houses during some festive occasions is probably a unique Malaysian tradition. During such occasions, food and drinks are proffered to guests. The festivities where open-house are practised include the Muslim Hari Raya Puasa, the Chinese New Year, the Kadazandusun Harvest Festival, the Indian Deepavali and the Sarawakian Gawai celebrations.

The Malays celebrate most Islamic festivals. The main ones are the festival marking the successful completion of the pilgrimage to Mecca, the Hari Raya Haji, and the festival marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan, the Hari Raya Puasa. The latter is celebrated on a much larger scale with house-to-house visitations, even among total strangers; all are welcomed during these open-houses regardless of race or creed. This is the time also when most city dwellers return to their parents' homes in the villages. During these occasions, children formally approach their parents to ask forgiveness for their sins committed during the previous year.

The Chinese celebrate the new year in a big way. The family reunion dinner is held on the eve of the new year. This is the time to clear old accounts and settle debts. The festivities go on for fifteen days until the fifteenth day of the first lunar month. As with Hari Raya Puasa among the Muslims, the open-house is a feature of the new year celebrations. The giving of money to unmarried youngsters in red packets (ang paws) is a custom that has now spread to the Muslim community where the gifts are enclosed in green packets during Hari Raya. Other festivals celebrated by the Chinese are the Festival of the Hungry Ghosts, the Chinese equivalent of the Christian All Souls day; the Moon Cake Festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month; and other smaller festivals.

The chief festival of the Malaysian Indian is the festival of lights or Deepavali. The occasion celebrates the triumph of good over evil and is marked by the lighting of oil lamps which dissipates the spiritual darkness. On the morning of the festival, the family rises at dawn to take a bath of herbal oils, then proceed to the temple to pray. Again, like the other racial groups, the ubiquitous open-house is held. The Indians also celebrate

Thaipusam and Thaiponggal. The former festival is an occasion for penance and atonement for one's misdeeds. It is celebrated in particular, by the great Hindu temples of Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Pulau Pinang. The Maha Mariamman Temple in Kuala Lumpur celebrates this occasion in grand manner. Huge processions pass through the streets of the capital to Batu Caves some eight kilometers away. In the festivities, devotees do penance by piercing their cheeks with skewers, hang hooks with weights from their bodies and carry the Kavadi. The penitents climb the 272 steps up the Batu Caves Temple.

The Kadazandusun in Sabah celebrate the Harvest Festival or Kaamatan on the 30th of May each year. The occasion marks the end of the rice harvest. Aside from the solemn and spiritual aspects, this is the time for merry making. Much tapai, the Kadazandusun rice wine is consumed during the festivities. Like their fellow Malaysians of other cultural backgrounds, visiting each other's homes is a feature.

In Sarawak, the indigenous races celebrate the Gawai, which as in Sabah also marks the end of the rice harvest. This is held every year on the first day of June.

THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY

Malaysia's economy is one of the fastest growing economies in the world today, having sustained a growth of above 8% for almost the whole of the last ten years. Significant sectors of the economy are: agriculture, manufacturing, mining, oil and gas, and the timber sector.

The agriculture sector of the economy was inherited from the British colonials. This is still an important contributor to gross domestic production, employing some 20% of the workforce and 10% of export earnings. The production of export commodities is still the most important aspect of this sector. Malaysia is a leading world producer of palm oil, rubber, pepper and pineapple; along with produce of less significance such as tobacco and cocoa. Crops grown largely for domestic consumption include rice, maize, vegetables, coconuts, a wide variety of fruits like durians, rambutans and pomelos. The production of flowers including orchids for local and export consumption is also significant.

Rubber has been grown in Malaysia since the turn of the century with the area under cultivation growing from 200,000 ha to 1.7 million ha today. The shortage of plantation labour, together with the conversion of rubber land to grow other crops as well as for property development, has caused the contraction of rubber production in recent years.

Palm oil has now replaced rubber as Malaysia's leading crop: the country is the world leader in palm oil production. The industry like the rubber industry started in the early years of this century and has grown to reach today's cultivated area of some 2.3 million hectares, producing over seven million tonnes of the crude palm oil and one million tonnes of palm kernel oil in 1994.

Rice is Malaysia's third most important crop in terms of acreage. The grain is the country's staple food. Production at 1.8 million tonnes meets some 60% of local consumption. The other significant crops are : cocoa with a planted area of 340,000 ha and production of 195,000 tonnes in 1994; pepper production at 17,300 tonnes in 1994 accounted for 17% of world production; pineapple, producing 175,000 tonnes in 1994; and coconut 1,183 million tonnes of copra and coconut oil.

Malaysia produced 35 million cubic meters of sawn logs in 1993. The bulk of timber production is from the forests of Sabah and Sarawak. There is now much downstream activity such as plywood production and the manufacture of mouldings and furniture. The government has imposed production quotas on logging to conserve the forests and have set up permanent forest estates to ensure sustained production of timber.

The mining industry in Malaysia is strongly associated with tin which has been important to Peninsula Malaysia since the days of the Melaka Sultanate. Of late with depressed tin prices, the industry has gone into decline with the closure of many mines. From a peak of 35,000 workers employed by this industry in the mid eighties, this figure has dropped to two thousand workers recently.

Petroleum and natural gas is now the country's number one foreign exchange earner. The industry started in Miri, Sarawak in 1910 with the discovery of oil inland. The inland wells have since dried up and production is centered in offshore fields in Sarawak, Sabah and Terengganu. Natural gas is liquefied in installations at Bintulu, Sarawak. There are presently 32 oilfields in production with 13 in the Peninsula, 12 in Sarawak and 7 in Sabah. Production of crude oil is around 650,000 barrels per day; and gas production at three billion standard cubic feet per day. Down stream, the country has five refineries with a total capacity of 350,000 barrels per day. Gas besides being liquefied is piped to households in Miri; the Peninsula Gas Utilization project will see the biggest domestic gas utilization scheme in South East Asia. In Labuan gas is used in the manufacture of methanol. Urea and ammonia are produced in Bintulu, using gas as feedstock.

Other minerals mined in Malaysia are of minor importance. These include coal, copper, gold,

bauxite, iron ore and kaolin.

The industrial sector is now playing a major role in Malaysia's economy. This sector began only after independence was achieved as prior to this, Malaysia was primarily a producer of raw materials. This sector of the economy now represents more the 30% of gross domestic production and its contribution to growth is at nearly 50%.

In the field of manufacturing, electrical and electronic products contribute to some 60% of manufacturing output. A wide range of products are made ranging from semi-conductors and integrated circuits to television sets and room air-conditioners. Other products include cable and wires, dry cells and automotive batteries, switch gears, distribution transformers and electric motors. The performance of this manufacturing sub-sector has been remarkable, registering growth of 30% annually from 1986 to 1993. Malaysia has become one of the largest exporters of semiconductors.

Being one of the largest producers of natural rubber, Malaysia is promoting the rubber-based products industry. Latex based goods account for 58% of local rubber consumption. Latex based goods include gloves, medical catheters, balloons, condoms and swimming caps. The non-latex based rubber goods include tyres and tubes, and footwear.

Malaysia is also into the manufacture of automobiles with two car makers: Proton and Perodua. Other manufactured goods include plastics, chemicals, food, beverage and tobacco, and wood products.

THE STATES OF MALAYSIA

Malaysia is a federation of thirteen states, nine are headed by hereditary Malay Rulers and the other four by Governors. Each state has its own state assembly and the head of government is the Chief Minister or Menteri Besar. Election to the state assemblies are held every five years. Each state is sovereign and retains some residual authority in certain areas as laid down in the federal constitution for example in mining rights and land matters. The federation is a constitutional monarchy headed by a supreme ruler, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, currently His Royal Highness Tuanku Ja'afar of Negeri Sembilan. The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong is elected once every five years from among the nine Malay rulers at the Conference of Rulers; this is done in rotation among their Royal Highnesses. The government of the country is headed by a Prime Minister, presently The Most Honorable Dato' Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad. Elections to the federal parliament are held every five years. The seat of government is in

Kuala Lumpur which is a federal territory.

JOHOR

The state of Johor lies in the southern end of the Peninsula; it has a population of two million. It is connected to Singapore by a causeway which carries road and rail traffic across the Straits of Johor. The state is served by a port at Pasir Gudang which is fast becoming important internationally and an international airport at Senai.

The state is one of the most developed in the federation with large areas planted with palm oil, rubber and pineapple. It also produces timber and wood based products, and pepper. Industrial development is taking place at a fast pace.

Besides the capital Johor Baru, other major towns are Batu Pahat, Muar, Kluang, Kota Tinggi and Pontian. They are all connected by a good network of roads and each has its own attractions for the visitor. Sights at Johor Baru include the Sultan Abu Bakar mosque facing the Straits of Johor, and the Istana Besar (Grand Palace) which with its collection of rare furniture and other priceless objects, have been converted into a museum.

For the nature lover, the Endau river on the borders of Johor and Pahang and the Endau-Rompin National Park afford the visitor breath-taking views of nature. Gunung Ledang a mountain on the western side of the state offers a good challenge for the average mountaineer. There are many beautiful beaches in Johor with Desaru being the leading resort. Others are at Mersing and Pontian Kecil.

MELAKA

The state of Melaka has its beginnings in the thirteenth century when Parameswara, a Sumatran prince founded the city-state, which over the course of the next hundred years, grew to become the greatest entrepot in the region, and a focal point for the growth of Islam in the Malay world. After the fall of the old Melaka empire, the Portuguese, Dutch and British took turns to rule the place until independence in 1957.

Melaka, with a population of 500,000 is traditionally an agricultural state. However, commerce has also been a mainstay for centuries. In recent years there have been much industrial development and it is the site of a large oil refinery.

Tourism is an important industry in Melaka which with its long history as an important port and capital of the old Melaka empire, has many buildings and sites of historical interest. Examples

include the Stadthuys built in 1650, believed to be the oldest Dutch building in the Far East; the ruins of A Famosa, a Portuguese fort built in 1511; Christ Church built in 1753, a fine example of old Dutch architecture, the Kampung Hulu Mosque, the oldest in the country, built in 1728; and Cheng Hoon Teng Temple, the oldest Chinese temple in South East Asia.

NEGERI SEMBILAN

Negeri Sembilan literally means nine states. This was what it originally was, a confederation of nine states, established in 1773 under Raja Melewar as its first ruler. In the period of the Melaka Sultanate, the state was occupied by Minangkabau settlers from Sumatra who were content to live under the protection of the Melaka sultans; with the fall of Melaka, protection was provided by the Johor sultans. When Johor could no longer provide protection, the settlers turned to their former homeland in Sumatra for a prince who could unite them. This resulted in the proclamation of Raja Melewar as the first ruler.

This state is largely mountainous as it is covered by the southern slopes of the Main Range (Banjaran Titiwangsa). With a population of 700,000, Negeri Sembilan is rapidly growing as an industrial state, being close to Malaysia's premier port, Port Klang, and the capital Kuala Lumpur.

The state, with its Sumatra connections in the early years has many Minangkabau style houses. At the royal capital of Sri Menanti is the traditional style palace of the ruler, now converted to a museum. There are well developed beach resorts and marinas at Port Dickson as well.

KELANTAN

Kelantan lies on the northeastern corner of the Peninsula, bordering Thailand. Its coastline faces the South China Sea. The area has been settled since prehistoric times. The present day sultanate traces its origins to the period of the Melaka Sultanate in the fifteenth century.

The state has a population of 1.2 million people. It is mainly agricultural with rice and rubber as the main crops. Tobacco is an important cash crop for Kelantan with 6700 hectares under cultivation, accounting for 90% of Malaysia's tobacco production. Other crops are coconut, corn, cocoa and vegetables. Timber production is an important revenue earner for the state, producing two million cubic meters in 1993. Fisheries contribute to over a quarter of the country's total catch of 1.8 billion ringgilt annually.

Kelantan is steeped in tradition and cultural

heritage. Many Malay traditional pastimes, dances and theatrical arts are still practised in the state. Examples are: kite-flying, top-spinning, drum beating (rebana) competition and the shadow play, wayang kulit. Kelantan is the cradle of Malay culture, the arts and handicrafts of the country originating mostly from this state.

The beaches and waters of Kelantan are excellent for swimming and diving. The coral is beautiful. Turtles come to lay eggs on her beaches.

The handicraft of Kelantan exemplifies the best in Malaysia: hand printed batik cloth, songket, cloth woven with silver and gold threads, beautiful wood carvings and intricate silverware.

KEDAH

Kedah is the most ancient state in the federation, the present-day royal house having its origins in the Hindu era. The state is situated in the northwestern part of the peninsula, bordering on Thailand. Its territory includes the islands of Langkawi.

The state has a population of 1.3 million residents. It is the traditional rice-bowl of the nation. The Muda Irrigation project is the largest such scheme in Malaysia, located on the Kedah-Perlis plains, covering 127,000 hectares. Seventy six percent of this area is under rice cultivation.

Langkawi has now developed into a major tourist destination, with its numerous five star resort accommodation. This duty-free island is the venue for international expositions for aircrafts, boats and automobiles.

PAHANG

Pahang is the Peninsula's largest state. It has a 200 kilometer coastline facing the South China Sea. The Pahang River at 475 kilometers is the Peninsula's longest river. The state emerged as separate political entity in the fifteenth century in the era of the Melaka sultanate as a vassal state of the later. The present royal house of Bendahara started in 1882, when Bendahara Wan Ahmad proclaimed himself sultan and sovereign ruler after a prolonged civil war.

Pahang is a largely agricultural state, it has a population of just over one million people. Major crops are oil palm, rubber and cocoa. Timber is also produced in the state. There are a number of small and medium-scale industries in various industrial sites.

The National Park is situated in the northern part of the state. The park has much to offer to the nature

and wildlife lover. The forests in the highlands at Fraser's Hills, Cameron and Genting provide excellent opportunities for jungle trekking and nature walks. For the enthusiast, excursions up the Endau River and the Endau-Rompin Forest reserve will be very rewarding. Other scenic spots include Tasek Chini and Tasek Bera.

The hill resorts of Fraser, Genting and Cameron provide excellent recreation, providing golf courses and theme parks in cool surroundings. Beautiful flower gardens and tea estates dot the Cameron Highlands. They all have excellent hotel facilities. The beach resorts at Cherating and Chendor are well developed with some international class facilities. The exotic Isle of Tioman is a haven for scuba-diving, with its beautiful coral reefs.

PERAK

Perak, bounded by Pulau Pinang to the north and Selangor to the south at one time had the richest alluvial tin deposits in the world. The Perak river valley is one of the oldest human settlements. The present ruling dynasty started in 1528, when Sultan Muzaffar, the eldest son of the last Sultan of Melaka was proclaimed ruler of the state. As the state had rich tin deposits, it was constantly threatened by its neighbours, the Bugis from the south in Selangor and the Thais from the north through Kedah. The importance of tin in the nineteenth century brought an influx of Chinese prospectors to the state.

Perak is one of the nation's most populous states, with a population of 1.9 million. Its economy used to be based on mining and plantation but now it is diversifying into other areas such as manufacturing. Tin mining used to be the major contributor to the state's economy but this activity has declined sharply in recent years due to poor tin prices on the world market, depleting yields and the closure of marginal mines. The agricultural sector is still the largest contributor to Perak's economy with major produce being rubber, rice, palm oil and coconut. Fishing and logging also contribute significantly.

Places of interest to the visitors include: the geological museum with its collection of 600 minerals; the railway station, an impressive Moorish style mosque; the hot springs at Tambun; Kellie's castle, an old mansion set in the middle of thick vegetation; and the Royal Museum at Kuala Kangsar. Pangkor Island offers magnificent white beaches and crystal clear waters; it houses a beautiful resort hotel built in rustic style.

PERLIS

Perlis, Malaysia's smallest state, lies on the northern part of the Peninsula, bordering Thailand. The state

was originally part of Kedah: in 1842 on restoring the Sultan of Kedah to his throne, the Thais who conquered the state in 1821, created Perlis as their vassal state. Syed Hussain was installed by the Thais as the Raja of their newly created principality.

This state of 185,000 people is mainly agricultural. Rice is the chief crop covering 28,000 hectares. Rubber, maize, vegetables, ground nuts and fruits are the other crops. Mango production is on the rise and becoming of significance. Fishing is also an important occupation. There is a sugar refinery and a cement plant at Chuping.

There are spectacular limestone outcrops at Chuping which is the site of prehistoric finds.

PULAU PINANG

The island of Penang and a strip on the mainland opposite the island known as Seberang Prai form the state of Pulau Pinang. The island is linked to the mainland by a suspension bridge as well as by regular ferry service. In 1786, the British East India Company acquired the territory from the Sultan of Kedah for use as a naval and trading base. It grew to become an important entrepot for the region and became part of the crown colony of Britain known as the Straits Settlement until after the Second World War when it became part of the Malayan Union and subsequently a member state of the federation in 1948.

The mainstay of the state's economy today is manufacturing. The state has numerous factories producing electric and electronic goods, semiconductors and microchips, latex based products and other manufactured goods. The state has a population of over one million people.

Pulau Pinang has many places of interest for the visitor. Her beach resorts are very well developed with numerous international class hotels. There are many picturesque Chinese temples on the island, including the Kuan Yin Temple at Pitt Street built in 1800 by the island's first Chinese settlers; the Kek Lok Si Temple at Ayer Itam, built in 1890 to 1910, reputed to be the most beautiful and largest Buddhist temple in South East Asia with its seven tier pagoda of ten thousand Buddhas; and the Buddhist temple at Burmah Road of Thai architecture, housing the third largest reclining Buddha in the world. The Penang Bridge, spanning 13.5 kilometers is the longest in Asia. The 30 hectare Botanic garden offers peace and tranquillity amidst a large collection of plants and animals.

TERENGGANU

The state is situated between Kelantan to the north

and Pahang to the south. It has a coastline of 240 kilometers facing the South China Sea. Historical evidence points to the existence of the state as a distinct entity almost a hundred years before the emergence of the Melaka Sultanate. The present ruling dynasty has its beginnings in the early eighteenth century, founded by a half-brother of the Sultan of Johor.

The major produce of Terengganu today is petroleum and natural gas. Large reserves of oil and gas are found in the fields off the shores of the state in the South China Sea. There are vast oil and gas installations in the town of Kerthe. Agriculture still plays an important part in the economy of Terengganu, major crops being palm oil, rubber and cocoa. Logging and the down-stream processing of timber is a major industry in the state.

Terengganu has a cultural identity that is uniquely its own, being cut off from the rest of the Peninsula for centuries. Traditional handicrafts include silk weaving and boat building. Old style Malay houses with ornate carvings can still be found. The Istana (palace) Tengku Nik is a fine example of Malay architecture. The town palace of the ruler the Istana Maziah is constructed in French style. Visitors can watch turtles lay their eggs between May and September at the beach at Rantau Abang. Practically the whole of the coastline is prime beach for swimming; there are well developed beach resorts at Tanjung Jara and in the capital, Kuala Terengganu.

SELANGOR

Selangor lies on the west coast of the peninsula with Perak to the north and Negeri Sembilan to the south. The heartland of Selangor with its tin deposits has been the Klang River Valley. In the days of the Melaka Sultanate, the region was an appenage of Tun Perak, the Bendahara of the Sultanate. Bugis settlers took the place of earlier Minangkabau settlers and by the middle of the eighteenth century, they had succeeded in establishing the present Sultanate. Chinese miners came in large numbers in the nineteenth century in search of tin.

Selangor with a population of 2.3 million is the most developed state in the federation. The state is highly industrialized with many factories producing all types of goods.

Jungle walks and waterfall bathing can be enjoyed at the Gombak and Langat valleys of the Main Range which form the backdrop of Kuala Lumpur. Just outside Kuala Lumpur, interesting limestone caves are found at Batu Caves; at Kuala Selangor, the original capital of the state, two forts stand at the estuary of the Selangor River. The

larger of the two stand of Melawati Hill which is also the site of the royal mausoleum containing the remains of Selangor's first Bugis rulers.

SABAH

Sabah lies on the northern tip of the island of Borneo. It is the second largest state in the federation, having 1440 kilometers of coastline. Before the arrival of the British, the state consisted of scattered settlements and autonomous communities owing their allegiance to the Sultan of Brunei. In 1704, the land east of Marudj Bay was ceded to the Sulu Sultan. In 1881, the British North Borneo Company acquired the territory from the Sultans of Brunei and Sulu and administered the state until the Japanese occupation in 1941. It became a colony of Britain after the war, known as North Borneo until it became part of the federation in 1963.

Timber has been the major produce of Sabah, although in recent years production has declined due to the restriction of exports to conserve the forests and depleting supplies of wood. Petroleum is produced offshore. Copper is mined in Mamut. Agricultural produce include cocoa, palm oil and rubber. Fishing is an important industry. Sabah's population is over 1.8 million.

Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in South East Asia is a great attraction for climbers. The Kinabalu park at the lower reaches of the mountain is famed for its rich fauna with more than 1000 species of orchids, 450 species of ferns, and species of other plants. The Famous Rafflesia, the world's largest bloom is found in the park. Kundasang near the park is a centre for growing temperate and local vegetables. For the diver, Sipadan Island provides one of the most spectacular dive spots in the region. The indigenous races with their unique culture and customs have their own style of handicrafts.

SARAWAK

Sarawak also lies on the northern part of Borneo island but to the south of the Sultanate of Brunei. It is the largest state in the country and the longest river, the Rajang flows through its land. Modern Sarawak began in the area around the Sarawak River where it was a province of the Sultanate of Brunei. In 1841 the area was ceded to a British adventurer, James Brooke and Sarawak emerged as a distinct political entity. The territory expanded at the expense of Brunei during the reign of the Brooke dynasty until it reached Lawas in 1905. The Brooke rule ended with the Japanese invasion and the British ruled Sarawak as a Crown Colony in 1946.

Sarawak has a population of 1.7 million. Her economy is mainly resource based. Forestry is a major contributor to the state's economy with log production at 13-14 million cubic meters. Downstream activities include sawmilling, plywood production and the production of furniture and mouldings. Oil and gas production centre around Bintulu which houses a liquefied natural gas plant, a urea plant and a middle distillate synthesis plant. Agricultural produce includes pepper, tea, coffee, palm oil and rubber.

A large part of Sarawak is covered by tropical rain forests. The visitor can experience the beauty of the jungles by travelling up the many rivers of the state by boat. Mulu caves are the largest cave system in the world and offer the visitor breathtaking sights. Kuching, the state capital houses many fine museums, the Sarawak Museum being probably the region's oldest and finest. Sarawak's rich indigenous cultural heritage provides the visitor with colorful dances, costumes and handicrafts and a trip to a traditional longhouse up the river is an experience to remember for a life-time.