



Volume 7

PP 14252/10/2011(026531)

# KINTA VALLEY'S

## LIMESTONE HILLS AND CAVES



**foreword**

**Dato' Hamidah Osman**

State Executive Councillor for Tourism

Much water has flowed under the bridge and a number of touristic programmes have come and gone. Two major activities, namely *Fiesta Memancing Teluk Intan* and the *Royal Belum Drums Festival* have ended on a high note. Public response so far, has been very encouraging although more could be done in terms of numbers.

We are now into the third month of Visit Perak Year 2012 and with March coming our way, a few more activities are underway to further enhance VPY 2012. Of significance are the *Golf Invitational Challenge, Ipoh* and the *World Water Day Celebration* at Sg Kerian in Parit Buntar. These activities will appeal to Perakeans of all ages, as there is something for everyone.

My fervent hope is for every able-bodied Perakean to join in the fun and merriment and to fully embrace the spirit of VPY 2012. After all, the activities are tailor-made for you.

The emphasis in this instalment of Perak Tourism News, incidentally, is on Kinta Valley's natural treasures – limestone hills and caves. I hope, the depiction of these wonderfully crafted natural occurrences, which are over 250 million years old, will make you want to explore.



The singular most conspicuous natural objects that are found in abundance in the Kinta Valley are limestone hills and caves. They are reputed to be between 250 and 350 million years old, with the oldest over 400 million years. There are about 45 outcrops in total and they come in varying shapes and sizes. The extensiveness of the limestone deposits beneath the ground is remarkable. A geological survey conducted in 1960 estimated the amount to be in excess of 700 sq. km. The depth is unknown.

Kinta Valley's limestone is made largely of calcite or calcium carbonate or dolomite (combination of calcite and magnesium carbonate). It is mostly white, pale grey or tinged with yellow although there are variations due to the presence of iron. Marble is found in some hills.

Erosion at the base of the outcrops has resulted in the formation of caves. The caves are magnificent both in size, features and in some instances, biological life.

Tin was found in abundance amongst the hills, washed down from the granite upper layers. This resulted in Kinta Valley becoming the world's largest exporter of tin in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The last deep quarry closed in the 1999. Today due to market demand, limestone quarrying continues unabated, despite protestations.

The limestone hills and caves are located between Kanthan, in the north and Kuala Dipang, in the south. Most are visible and accessible from the old trunk road. Gunung Tempurong, however, is best viewed from the PLUS Expressway.

Six limestone hills including their dedicated caves will be featured here. Descriptions of the hills and caves are made based on observations beginning from Gunung Lang in the north to Gunung Gajah in the south. The accompanying map will be a good guide for those keen on having a piece of the action. However, a word of caution for the brave hearts – you have to be physically fit to venture out on your own or with your friends. Ropes, torchlight, maps, hand phones, food and water are some of the items you must have on you.



## Gunung Lang



**G**unung Lang is located by the side of Jalan Kuala Kangsar about 3km north of downtown Ipoh. It is the city's second most popular public park after Polo Ground. The Gunung Lang Park has three man-made lakes which were former mining pools. Visitors can enjoy the scenic view from atop the limestone outcrop or view it at ground level from the paved pathway. Boat rides are available.



## Gunung Rapat



**G**unung Rapat is visible from the old trunk road to Simpang Pulai, about 5km south-east of city centre. Standing at 381 metres above sea level the hill is home to several Buddhist temples, the most popular being the *Kek Lok Tong Temple* and the *Perak Tong Temple*. Both are a huge draw for devotees and the curious.



## Gunung Lanno



**G**unung Lanno at 407 metres above sea level overlooks the old trunk road and the former mining town of Kg. Kepayang. It is about 10km (as the crow flies) south-east of city centre. A view from atop Gunung Lanno is a must. But getting to the top can be a little strenuous. The lake east of the hill is a haven for fishing buffs.

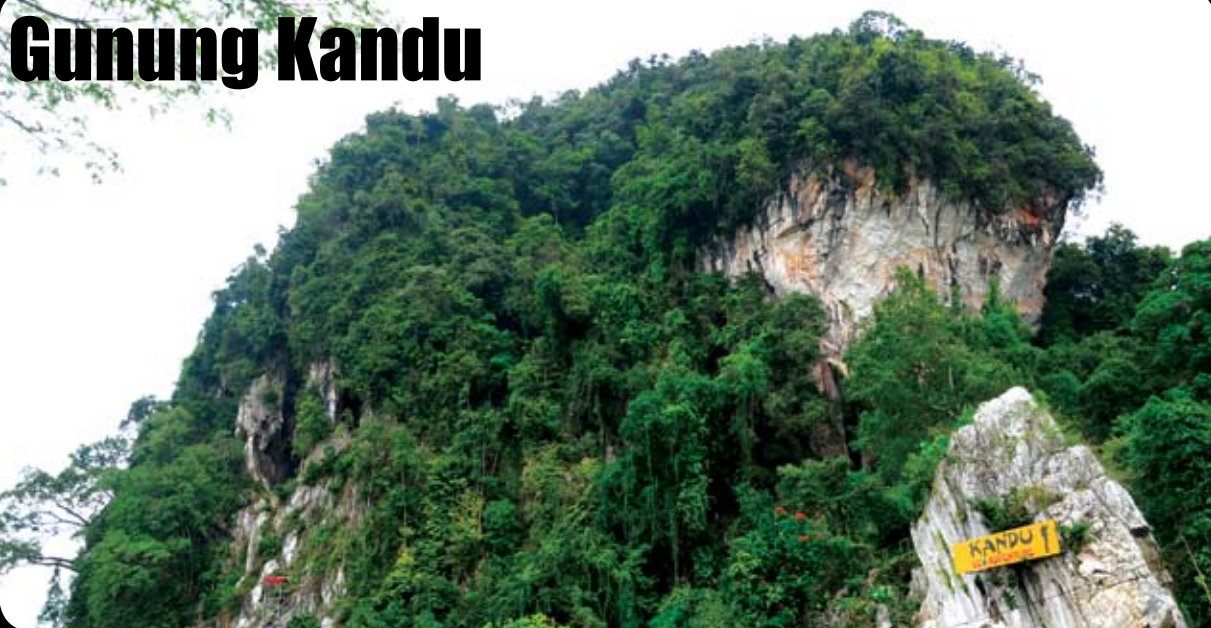
## Gunung Gajah



**G**unung Gajah at 355 metres above sea level overlooks Pekan Jeram. It is accessible from the old trunk road at Kg. Kuala Dipang. The hill is shaped like an elephant thus the name, *Gajah*. Scaling the hill requires more than just determination, as the going is pretty tough. But to dedicated trekkers, taking a dip in the Salu Waterfall is a welcome relief. A popular picnic spot for weekenders.



## Gunung Kandu



**G**unung Kandu (195 metres) is close to the Kandu Eco Adventure Camp, a boot camp for outdoor enthusiasts. Due to its largely unspoilt terrain and greenery, the area is an ideal spot for eco-tourism. Gunung Kandu has many cave systems, the largest being Gua Kandu which is over a kilometre long. The cave systems were used by the Japanese Imperial Army during the Japanese Occupation (1942 to 1945) and by Communist insurgents during the Malayan Emergency (1948 to 1960).



This publication is wholly financed by the Perak State Government via Tourism Perak Management Bhd in collaboration with the Perak Tourism Association.

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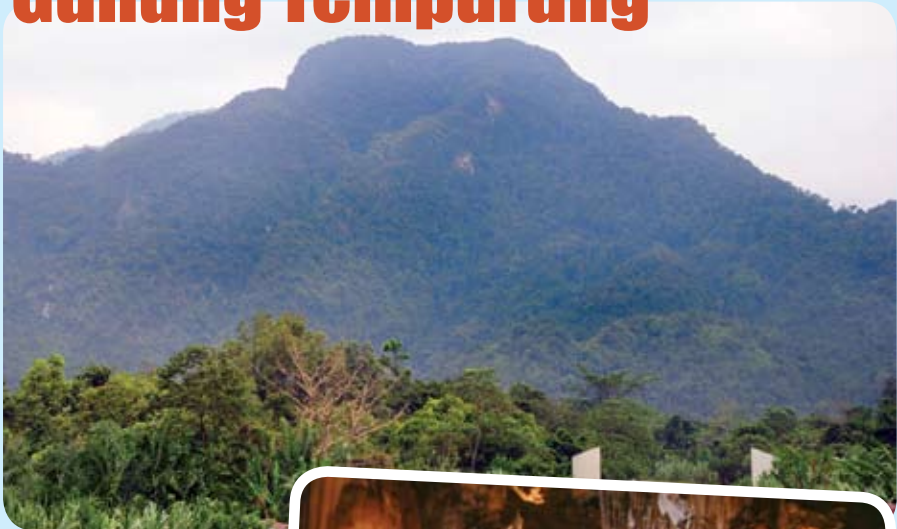
Muhammad Shahir and Rosli Mansor.

Published by Ipoh Echo Sdn Bhd,  
A-G-1, No. 1 Persiaran Greentown 2,  
Greentown Business Centre,  
30450 Ipoh.

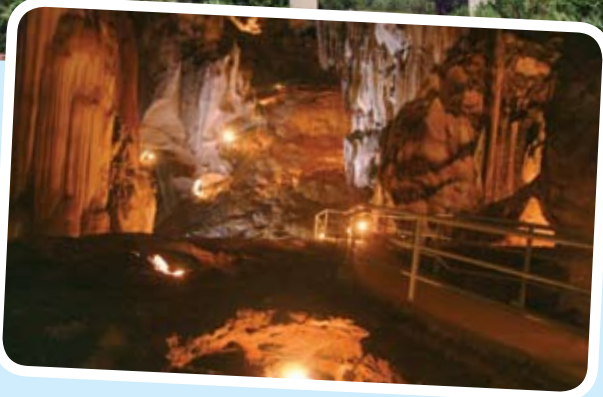
Printed by Konway Industries Sdn Bhd,  
Plot 78, Lebuhraya Kampong Jawa,  
11900 Bayan Baru, Pulau Pinang.



# Gunung Tempurung



**G**unung Tempurung is so called because it is shaped like an inverted coconut shell. Standing at 497 metres above sea level, Gunung Tempurung is accessible from the old trunk road at Kg. Mesah Hulu, 3km south of Gopeng.



Within Gunung Tempurung is Gua Tempurung which is almost 2km long making it one of the country's longest caves. A river flows at the lower part of the cave. From the main entrance a boardwalk ascends for about 200 metres before approaching the first cavern. It was a noted Communist terrorists' hideout during the Japanese Occupation and the Malayan Emergency.

## LOCATION MAP

Legend:  
— North-South Highway  
— Main Trunk Road  
G. Gunung

## Tourism Roundup

### Launch of VPY 2012



Visit Perak Year 2012 was officially launched on Saturday, February 11 at the Dataran MBI, Ipoh. Over a thousand people thronged the square to witness the ceremony which was graced by Dato' Hamidah Osman, Executive Councillor for Tourism and Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim.

"We hope to attract more tourists to Perak. Ipoh has its own uniqueness. Heritage buildings in the city are a huge attraction. They're maintained and continuously upgraded, in the hope that more people would come and see them," she said.

Thirty one programmes are planned throughout the year. Among the highlights are the recently concluded Royal Belum Drums Festival, the Ipoh International Run in July and the International Youth Rainforest Exploration in November.

### Desa Pulai Jaya

### Simpang Pulai

**Harga Jualan Rumah 1 Tingkat 4 Bilik (LOT BIASA - 22' X 70')**

Dari **RM160,000**

Pinjaman	100%	90%	80%	70%	60%
	RM 160,000	144,000	128,000	112,000	96,000

**BAYARAN BALIKBULANAN (ANGGARAN)**

- BANK (40 TAHUN)	-	707	634	561	415
- KERAJAAN (30 TAHUN)	788	720	651	582	513

**GAJI BULANAN UNTUK LAYAK PINJAMAN (ANGGARAN)**

- BANK	-	1,800	1,600	1,400	1,200
- KERAJAAN	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,000

**Rumah Teres 1 Tingkat**

**4 Bilik**

**22'x70'**

**SIMPULAI LAND SDN BHD**

05 - 241 2339 / 012 - 507 8825 / 012 - 500 9513 / 019 - 555 8231

9A, Medan Chateau, Taman Chateau, 30250 Ipoh, Perak.



## KAMPUNG SELABAK'S BAZAAR



During a recent visit to Teluk Intan Executive Councillor for Tourism, Dato' Hamidah Osman and CEO of Perak Tourism Ahmad Fathil Abd Ghani made a stop at *Bazar Nanas Kampung Selabak*, some 4km from Teluk Intan. The bazaar provides a good insight into goods that are available in this part of the state.

The entourage spent time checking out local produce like salted fish, sweet potato, tapioca and yam, and popular local fruits like banana, water apple (*jambu air*), *cempedak* and mango. They also took the opportunity to try out the different varieties of pineapples indigenous to Kampung Selabak. Pineapple is synonymous with Teluk Intan as pomelo is with Tambun.

## International Prawn-Fishing Fiesta



This two-day fishing fiesta was held at a spot along Sungai Perak near Teluk Intan recently. Over 300 fishing enthusiasts, including some from the ASEAN region, participated. A few Arab anglers were also present.

The objective of the fiesta, according to Executive Councillor for Tourism, Dato' Hamidah Osman, was to showcase Teluk Intan as a prawn capital of Perak besides it being a programmed activity of VPY 2012.

A food court selling prawn dishes and *ikan bakar* (barbecued fish) will be built soon by the local council to tap on the crustaceans' popularity.

Ishak Mohd Ayob and Mohd Rafizan Anuar from Teluk Intan were declared joint winners. They shared the RM5,000 top-prize money. Runners-up Mohd Zaini Arshad and Razali Damiri took home RM3,000 and RM1,000, respectively. Hilir Perak District Officer, Ahmad Zainuddin Yeop Shamsuddin gave away the prizes.

## Old Town Heritage Trivia



*St Michael's Institution*



*The Chapel*



*The beginning*

St Michael's Institution / SMI, (icon 7) of the Ipoh Heritage Trail Map 1 will be celebrating its centennial (100 years) this year.

The school is the second mission school in Ipoh and started with just 37 students in a large double storey half-brick, half-wooden bungalow house in a coconut plantation.

Interestingly, due to a shortage of Christian brothers, its first Headmaster was a Sikh convert, Mr P.J. Morsingh a teacher from St Xavier's Institution Penang.

The design of the building is described as Neo-Gothic architecture and its facade of the present day building is 177 feet wide.

On the third floor of the building is its chapel, recently restored in 2011, whose design was inspired by the celebrated Sainte Chapelle on the Ile de la Cite in Paris. In preparation for the centennial year the school converted a classroom into a Heritage Gallery to to showcase the Lasallian and Michaelian heritage as well as capturing the rich and invaluable history of the 100-year old school.

JAG

### TOURISM CALENDAR – MARCH AND APRIL 2012

1. AAM Malaysian Rally Championship at Kompleks Sukan Majlis Perbandaran Manjung – **March 2 to 4.** (Contact MPM **605-6871363**)
2. VPY 2012 Golf Invitational Challenge, Ipoh – **March 8 to 10.** (Contact Tourism Perak **605-5290894**)
3. International Conference on Biodiversity and Tourism, Ipoh – **March 13 to 14.** (Contact Tourism Perak **605-5290894**)
4. Perak MATTA Fair at Stadium Indera Mulia, Ipoh – **March 16 to 18.** (Contact MATTA **605-2546825**)
5. National-level World Water Day 2012 at Sg Kerian, Parit Buntar – **March 24.** (Contact JPS Perak **605-2531957**)
6. Batu Gajah Mountain Bike Jamboree 2012 – **March 25 to 26.** (Contact MPBG **605-3632020**)
7. International Martial Arts at UiTM Seri Iskandar – **March 31 to April 1.** (Contact Tourism Perak **605-5290894**)

*Dates subject to changes.*

## Royal Belum Drums Festival



The inaugural *Royal Belum Drums Festival* on Sunday, February 26 attracted over 6,000 spectators who crammed MBI Square, Ipoh on its opening night. This unique gathering of drummers, musicians and dancers representing 10 nations, including Malaysia, put on a superb performance which kept the mixed crowd of young and old rooted to their seats and spots.

Chief Minister, Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambry Abd Kadir launched the 3-hour musical fest which, according to Dato' Hamidah Osman, Executive Councillor for Tourism, will be made an annual event forthwith.

The encore at the Grik airstrip on the night of Sunday, February 26 was a fitting tribute to its namesake. Grik is at the fringe of the 130-million-year old Royal Belum rainforest. HRH Raja Muda Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah who graced the occasion, formally closed the musical extravaganza. Some 10,000 music lovers packed the airstrip and helped enliven this obscure capital town of Hulu Perak District.