



Volume 8

PP 14252/10/2011(026531)

PERAK RIVERS

A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND INSPIRATION



Rivers in Perak have played a major role in the development of the silver state. They have provided facilities for transportation moving both materials and people from the coasts to the interiors and back. The main transport routes during the 19th century Perak, when tin was mined extensively in Kinta and Larut districts, were Sungai Perak, Sungai Kinta and, to a lesser degree, Sungai Sepetang. Navigating the upper reaches of Sungai Perak and Sungai Kinta was “treacherous as they were shallow and were encumbered by debris of forests carried down by the annual floods”. The colonial administration incurred great expenses to keep these rivers navigable. Today, these waterways are no longer used to ferry goods and people. Their aesthetic value, however, has been tapped for a more lucrative reason – eco-tourism. We shall now discuss some of these rivers vis-à-vis their touristic appeal.



Dato' Hamidah Osman
State Executive Councillor for Tourism

Foreword

March has been an auspicious month for Tourism Perak. In spite of the many uncertainties and exigencies, I have managed to come up with a plan to keep Visit Perak Year 2012 on track. On Thursday, March 15, I have called for a press conference at my office to detail touristic activities for the months of March and April. Some 18 programmes have been lined up for the two months. Keeping the media well informed of the activities helps in drawing in the crowd.

My ability to put on paper proposed programmes for each succeeding month is indicative that things are beginning to brighten up. Two major contributors are the realisation by organisers, at district and council levels, that VPY 2012 is for real. The other is the support that Tourism Perak and I get from industrial players. I am glad that those in the tourism industry are, slowly but surely, beginning to see the futility of remaining aloof.

Three events namely, AAM Malaysian Rally Championship held in Manjung, Perak MATTA Fair held at Stadium Indera Mulia, Ipoh and the Batu Gajah Mountain Bike Jamboree have drawn the kind of crowd that I had envisaged. The mountain bike jamboree in Batu Gajah is the crowning success. Public response so far has been very encouraging. The media have played their part remarkably, I must admit. Kudos to them.

We are now into the fourth month of Visit Perak Year 2012. More activities are in the pipeline to ensure that VPY 2012 meets its targets of drawing people to Perak. Our ultimate aim of getting 5 million visitors to Perak is never in doubt.

The emphasis in this instalment of Perak Tourism News, incidentally, is on rivers. Rivers have played a significant role in the development of Perak. I feel there is potential in our rivers making it to the forefront of the tourism industry.

Teluk Intan Riverfront : Anglers' Watering Hole



Teluk Intan Riverfront, located at the edge of Teluk Intan town fronting Sungai Perak, has long been the point of convergence for visitors in pursuit of a wholesome family outing. It is a well known site for anglers keen on sport fishing and shrimping.

The availability of boats to take anglers out in the river mouth attests to its popularity. These boats can be rented for a minimum of RM100 per person. The boatman, being a local, knows the river well and will take you to the right spot for fishing. You may be able to land fish and prawns, some weighing in excess of 700 grams, on a good day. *Sangkar dulang*, a much-sought-after freshwater fish is found in that part of Sungai Perak. Catching one is well worth the effort.

One's patience is tested to the limits in fishing. However, if you have none, the next best place to be is the nearby food court. Grilled fish and prawns, freshly caught from the river, are up for grabs. The food vendors can prepare some mouth-watering dishes in a jiffy.

If you are a bird lover (of the feathered kind) head for Bird Island. The island is a convenient stopover for migratory birds. The trees lining the islet are home for fireflies.

For details on the Teluk Intan Riverfront call Hilir Perak Malay Anglers' Association at **605-623 2659**.

Sungai Kinta, Tanjung Tualang and Kinta Nature Park



Sungai Kinta is a major tributary of Sungai Perak. The confluence of Kinta River is located to the south of Kampung Gajah. Sungai Kinta, incidentally, played a pivotal role in the development of Kinta Valley. Tin mined in the interior was transported in boats and drougts to Teluk Intan for shipment to Penang and Singapore where the metal was smelted for exportation.

Its historical importance assured, the stretch of Sungai Kinta near Tanjung Tualang has long been noted for something more palatable – freshwater fish and prawns. The preponderance of seafood restaurants in Tanjung Tualang bears testimony to this statement. It is a fact that Tanjung Tualang has some of the best eateries in the country. The most remarkable dish being the succulent freshwater prawns cooked Chinese-style.

If you are a nature buff a brief stop at the Kinta Nature Park south of Batu Gajah is recommended. The park is a noted for bird watching, especially migratory birds that come as far away as Russia and Mongolia.

Pasir Salak's Historical Significance



The stretch of Sungai Perak which flows past *Pasir Salak* is of historical significance, as it bears witness to the murder of Perak's first British Resident, J.W.W. Birch on November 2, 1875. At the spot where Birch was murdered, is the Pasir Salak Historical Complex. The complex is a must see for visitors keen on knowing the origins of Malay nationalism.

The main attraction of the complex is the historical time tunnel where most of the important historical events of the Malays and Malaysia are exhibited through dioramas.

Other interesting sights include the burial site of **Seputum**, **Maharajalela's house**; **lela rentaka**, a type of cannon used by the Malays; traditional Perak Malay houses called **Rumah Kutai** and handicraft stalls.

The scenic Sungai Perak and the activities it offers is another attraction.

Sungai Perak Sayong, Kuala Kangsar



The stretch of *Sungai Perak* that flows past *Sayong* in Kuala Kangsar (KK) is a significant landmark of the royal town. Efforts are underway to make this spot a tourists haven. In the past, water sports and water-related activities such as boating, duck-catching, climbing the slippery poles and decorative boat race were held to mark the Sultan's birthday.

One can cross over to Sayong from the town jetty. The boat ride, costing RM1, is an experience in itself.

One highly recommended item for visitors to Kuala Kangsar is watching the vast expanse of Sungai Perak from the Rest House. The spot offers a panoramic view of the slow-flowing river.

A trip to Kuala Kangsar is incomplete without tasting the town's famous *laksa*. Make a date with Laksa Pak Ngah.



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

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

BATU GAJAH MTB JAMBOREE 2012



It was not a gathering of scouts but instead a gathering of mountain bikers who were there to do justice to their two-wheelers. Almost a thousand mountain-bike enthusiasts, from all over the country, made a beeline to Arena Square, Batu Gajah on Sunday, March 25 to participate in a 40-km off-and-on-road race to determine the fastest of them all.

The Batu Gajah MTB Jamboree 2012 was flagged off by Dato' Hamidah Osman, Executive Councillor for Tourism. The hardest, man and machine, will come out on top.

Hafiz Rosli, 26, from Team Giant of Trengganu took top spot finishing the gruelling race in 1 hour and 35 minutes. Second placed Mohd Hafisza Mahbob, 25, from Team Deter Cyclist of Klang crossed the finish line in 1 hour 50 minutes. Ipoh's Zaid Hary Shah, 25, was placed third with a time of 1 hour 55 minutes.

Hamidah was pleased with the turn out. "It's a good indicator that mountain bike racing is fast catching up with our youths," she said in her opening speech. The race was organised by the Batu Gajah Town Council and inadvertently was incorporated into the Visit Perak 2012 programme.



MOH SINGGAH TAPAH



Moh Singgah Tapah (Come and Visit Tapah) was one of the many programmes slated for Visit Perak Year 2012. The celebration went regional as part of a carefully crafted strategy to localise touristic events to districts and local councils.

Moh Singgah Tapah, incidentally, was the first to be organised by a district office. It was held over a period of three days from March 23 to 25. The 3-day festivity was aimed at exposing some of the more interesting sites in Tapah to visitors. Among them is Kuala Woh, a popular picnic spot, Latar Kijang Waterfall, Malaysia's tallest waterfall, the Orang Asli settlements along the road to Cameron Highlands, Sungkai Deer Farm, Felda Sungkai Hot Springs and some of the more pleasant eateries in Tapah town, which have been a hit with travellers in the past.

The event went on as planned. An influx of tourists, mostly locals, was observed during the period of festivity. Records, however, are not available.



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TAIPING MARATHON 2012

Taiping Marathon 2012, slated for on Sunday, September 16, is expected to draw a larger number of participants compared to last year when only 1219, including 56 foreigners, took part. The organisers envisage a turnout of over 5,000 participants.

"The expected influx of runners can be attributed to publicity generated by Visit Perak Year 2012," said Dato' Hamidah Osman during a media conference organised by the Taiping Municipal Council recently.

The 42-km run will start and end at the iconic Taiping Esplanade. Chief Minister, Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambry Abd Kadir will flag off the race.

There is a catch, however. This is in the form of a handicap to ensure fairness, especially to local runners. Participants from Asian countries can register for all categories while those from outside Asia are only eligible for the Open Category. This is to avoid a clean sweep of the top spots by Kenyan runners, as had happened in the past. "It's not discriminatory," Hamidah insisted.

For details please contact the Taiping Municipal Council at **605-808 0777**.

TOURISM CALENDAR - APRIL 2012

1. **Raja Nazrin Bridge Run and Tasik Raban Water Sports** - April 7 and 8 (Majlis Daerah Lenggong **605-767 7207**)
2. **Asli Fest Kuala Woh, Tapah** - April 6 to 8 (Pejabat Daerah Batang Padang **605-401 1402**)
3. **Larian Bendang Menara Chondong**, Teluk Intan - April 8 (Majlis Perbandaran Teluk Intan **605-622 1299**)
4. **Pesta Laut Pangkor, Lumut and Pangkor** - April 24 to 29 (Majlis Perbandaran Manjung **605-687 1363**)
5. **International Conference on Biodiversity and Tourism, Ipoh** - April 26 and 27 (Tourism Perak and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia **605-529 0894** and **607-553 3333**)
6. **Pesta Pelancongan Daerah Kerian, Parit Buntar** - April 28 (Majlis Daerah Kerian **605-716 1228**).

Dates subject to changes.