

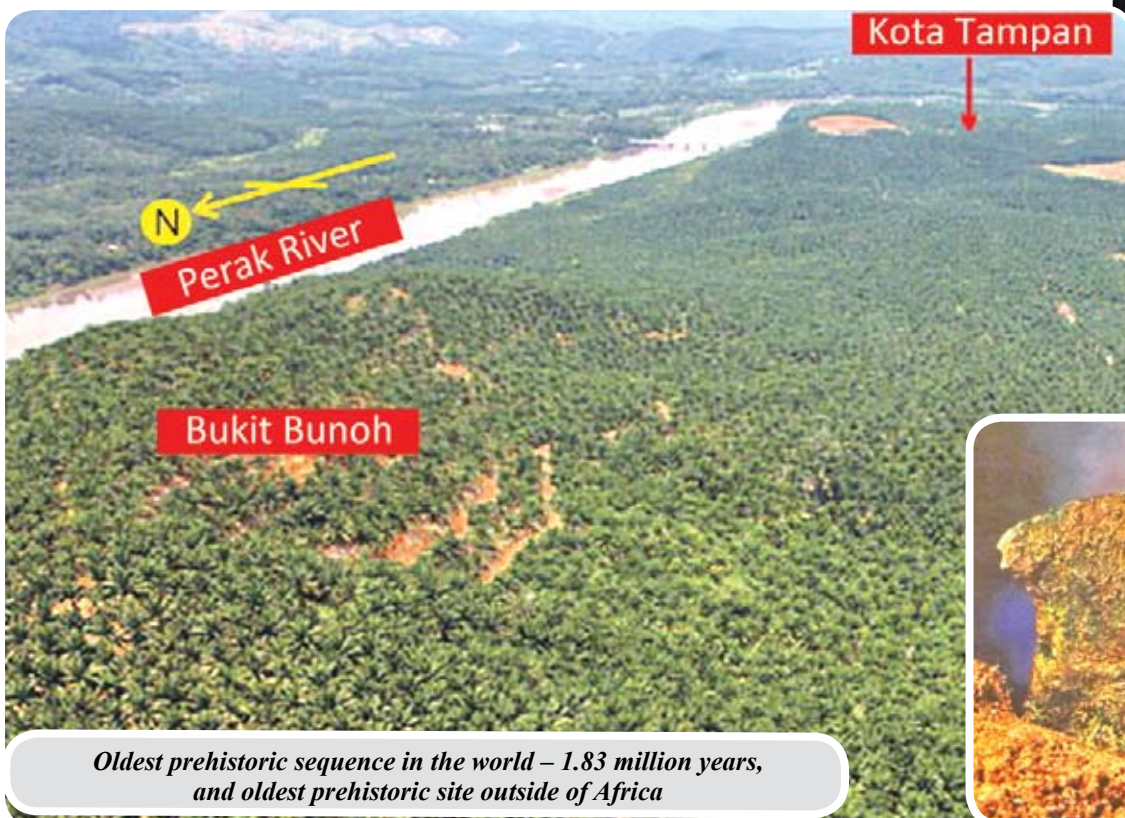


Volume 13

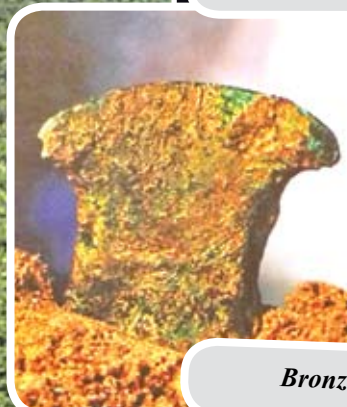
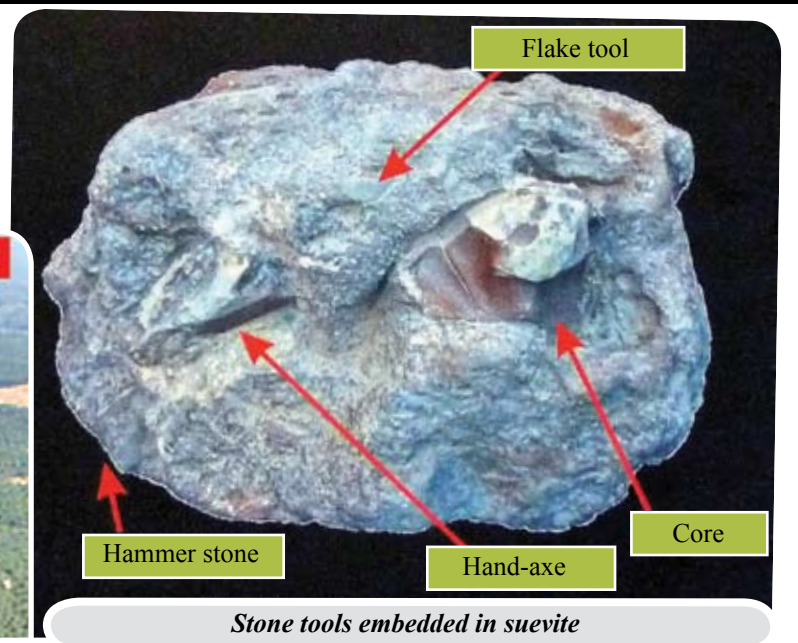
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# Lenggong Valley

## UNESCO World Heritage Site



Oldest prehistoric sequence in the world – 1.83 million years, and oldest prehistoric site outside of Africa



Bronze axe and pottery from Gua Harimau

On Saturday, June 30 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) declared Lenggong Valley as a World Heritage Site. Visitors accessing UNESCO's World Heritage website on Lenggong <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1396> will be intrigued with the description of the site. It states, "The property includes four archaeological sites in two clusters which span close to 2 million years, one of the longest records of early man in a single locality, and the oldest outside the African continent."

It features open-air and cave sites with Paleolithic tool workshops, evidence of an early Paleolithic technology. The number of sites found in this relatively confined area suggests the presence of "a fairly large, semi-sedentary population with cultural remains from the Paleolithic, Neolithic and Metal Age."

The whole valley has so much to offer. Due to the number of relatively undisturbed sites, which are generally in good condition, the whole Lenggong Valley provides a wonderful testimony of a pre-historic site over a prolonged period of time in human history thus underlining its Outstanding Universal Value for both present and future generations.

*Continued on page 2*

## foreword

**Dato' Hamidah Osman**

State Executive Councillor for Tourism



It was yet another eventful month for Perakeans, especially for Muslims. Having endured the rigours of fasting from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan, they finally got to unwind and celebrate *Eid Mubarak* at the beginning of the Muslim month of *Syawal*, which fell on Sunday, August 19 of the Gregorian calendar.

The ensuing month-long merriment will not in anyway diminish my desire to ensure that the objectives of Visit Perak Year 2012, in its final leg, be achieved realistically.

Although not much activity was recorded during the month of Ramadan, some noteworthy developments did however take place. They will, inadvertently, have an impact on the eventual course of VPY 2012 and, consequently, Visit Malaysia Year 2013.

I am always open to ideas and suggestions to improve the way Tourism Perak plans its programmes for mutual benefits. In this context, I wish to thank those who came up with the brilliant idea of Perak hosting the much-touted television reality game show – explore race. Yes, Perak will be the first state in the country to host its own version of the popular series dubbed, "Perak International Explore Race 2012".

The race, involving ten teams, will be held over a 3-day period starting on September 14 till 16. The ending will coincide with the finale of another equally exciting programme – *Perak Arts Festival*. There can never be a better mix, the explore race, the arts fest and Malaysia Day celebration all culminating at one spot – MBI Square. It smacks of patriotism and dynamism on a grand scale. Believe me, there is plenty to see and to enjoy. Make a date with Ipoh on Sunday, September 16.

Much has been said of the recently declared UNESCO world heritage site, Lenggong Valley. Readers and tourists alike are keen to know the site better. The lead story for the September issue of Perak Tourism News is on the iconic Lenggong Valley, Perak's contribution to UNESCO's 962 properties on the Organisation's World Heritage-List.



## Continued from page 1...

The valley is surrounded by hills and limestone outcrops, Tasek Raban and bordered by the Perak River. Its close proximity to a lake and river plus abundant flora and fauna, made it a suitable location to sustain “a fairly large, semi-sedentary population from early Stone Age (Palaeolithic) to Metal Age, through late Stone Age (Neolithic).”

The river was a source of raw material for making stone tools such as hand axes. “The undisturbed in situ Paleolithic stone tool workshops, located on the shores of a paleo lake and an ancient river, are an outstanding ensemble of lithic (stone age) technology.

Evidence of a hand axe dating as far back as 1.83 million years was discovered at Bukit Bunoh embedded in suevite rock, providing strong evidence of human existence at the time and earlier.

Suevite rock is formed as a result of a meteorite impact which occurred at Bukit Bunoh. The discovery of suevite at Bukit Bunoh is, currently, the only evidence of its existence in South East Asia. The stone tool workshops at Bukit Jawa date back 300,000 to 200,000 years, while the Kota Tampan workshop goes back 74,000 years.

At the limestone outcrop of Bukit Kepala Gajah, 20 caves have been identified. One of the caves, Gua Gunung Runtuh is where the *Perak Man*, dating back 11,000-10,000 b.p was discovered in 1990.

The *Perak Man* was buried in a foetal position and is the most complete human skeleton found in South East Asia. His remains had been dated to 10,120 BP. Another two caves at this karst outcrop, Gua Teluk Kelawar and Gua Kajang, have also revealed prehistoric burials.

At Gua Badak cave paintings adorn the walls of a rock face. Once a cave, it has since collapsed due to quarrying activities done earlier.

Over at Bukit Sapi one can see volcanic ash which was carried over from Lake Toba after a super volcanic eruption 75,000 years ago. A mapping survey done in 2007 revealed that the ash was spread over an area 70km wide with a depth of between 7 to 10 meters.

Visitors to Lenggong Valley are encouraged to visit the Lenggong Archaeological Museum located at Kota Tampan first in order to get an overview of the archaeological attractions of the valley.

The Gallery exhibits and explains the various archaeological projects that took place over the last 25 years, such as the Perak Man and cave paintings among others.

Behind the Gallery is the Kota Tampan dig site a 74,000 year old stone tool workshop, a Geology Garden and a 4-story tower for a tree-top view of the Valley.

Lenggong Valley is located 100 km north of Ipoh. To get there take North-South Expressway and exit via the Kuala Kangsar junction.

After the toll gate take the trunk road leading to Grik. Along the highway keep a look out for signage to the Gallery/Museum.

## Bukit Bunoh



Bukit Bunoh is one of the oldest prehistoric archaeological sites in the world outside of Africa. Evidence of a civilisation dating back 1.83 million years ago was verified after a rock embedded with a hand axe was dated. Using the fission-track dating method, the result revealed that the age of the rock was 1.83 million years old and the rock was suevite stone.

Suevite stone is formed upon impact by a meteorite which causes native stones to melt forming a new stone suevite.

The discovery of the hand axe embedded in the suevite stone indicated the existence of a prehistoric civilisation much earlier than 1.83million years.

Subsequent findings of stone tools made of suevite stone dating 40,000 and 30,000 years back indicate that this was the only Paleolithic site in the world that functioned as a workshop for making stone tools and continued to be used periodically.

The evidence at Bukit Bunoh also questions the Nomadic theory of the Paleolithic culture.



## Lenggong Archaeological Gallery Kota Tampan



All visitors to Lenggong Valley are encouraged to visit the *Lenggong Archaeological Gallery* first. The gallery, located at Kota Tampan, was initially called the Kota Tampan Archaeological Museum. It houses a comprehensive display of historical photos of earlier archaeological digs around the Lenggong Valley and its findings such as cave drawings, types of stone tools, bronze findings as well as a diorama that shows prehistoric families going about their daily routines.

The *Perak Man* is given his own corner complete with a replica and details on his background.

The Kota Tampan dig site which is also the site of a prehistoric stone tool workshop dating back 74,000 years is located at the back of the Gallery.

Next to it is the Geology Park where suevite rocks from Bukit Bunoh are on display. Further up the hill is a 4-storey viewing tower for visitors to have a view of Lenggong Valley.



## Bukit Sapi (75,000 years old)



Located at Bukit Sapi is volcanic ash deposited from the volcanic eruption that occurred at Lake Toba, Sumatra 75,000 years ago. The locals call this *debu Toba* or Toba Ash.

The Toba super eruption deposited ash throughout South East Asia. In 2007, a mapping survey of the Valley by University Sains Malaysia revealed that the ash was spread 70km around the valley and had a depth of between 7-10 metres.



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### Editorial Board:

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### Graphics:

Muhammad Shahir and Rosli Mansor.

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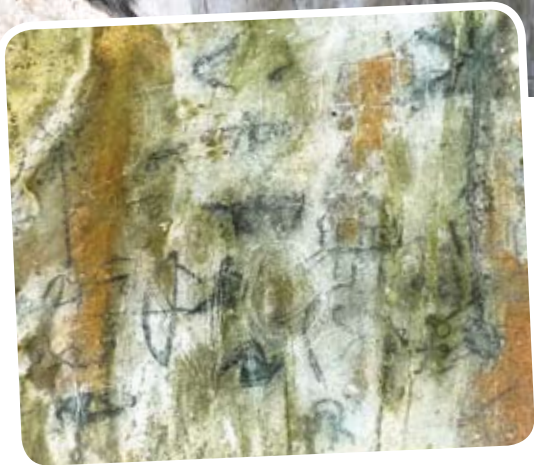
# Bukit Jawa (200,000 years old)



The *Bukit Jawa* site dates back 200,000 years. The location was a workshop for making stone tools. The finding reveals evidence of the Paleolithic culture and technology during that particular period.



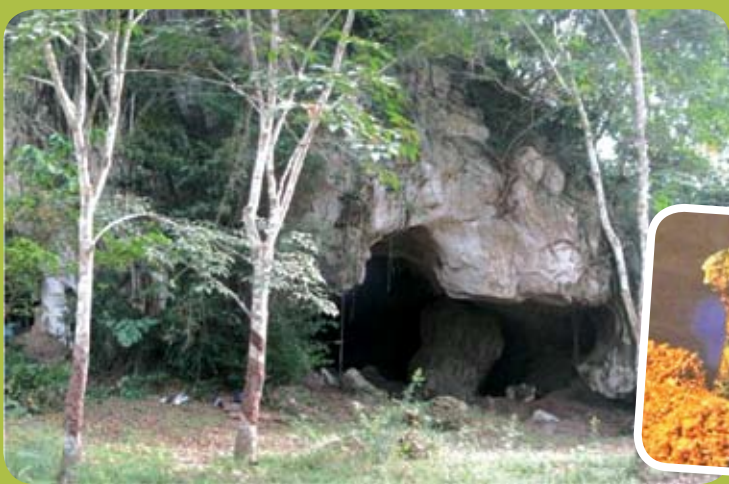
# Gua Badak Cave Drawings



At *Gua Badak* the significance of this cave is its drawings. The drawings were made by the Lanoh Negritos using charcoal who also scratched the drawings into the rock cliff walls.

The drawings were discovered as early as 1918 by Evans but was thought to have been lost due to quarrying until they were rediscovered in 1992.

They depict matchstick men hunting animals with bows and arrows, which was subsequently replaced by blowpipes.



# Gua Kajang



*Gua Kajang* is one of 20 caves at Bukit Kepala Gajah. It is a short tunnel cave that takes one through Bukit Kepala Gajah. This archaeological site was first researched in 1917 by I.H.N. Evans. A 10,000-year-old skeleton was discovered buried here in a folded state along with stone tools, food wastes and pottery.



At the other end of the cave is a wooden walkway that takes one to three other caves within the Bukit Kepala Gajah outcrop.

# Gua Gunung Runtuh



*Gua Gunung Runtuh* is located atop of Bukit Kepala Gajah. The existence of human settlement, dating some 13,000 years ago, was found in this cave. However, the most significant discovery is the *Perak Man*.

Dating back 11,000 to 10,000 years, it is the most complete human skeleton found in South East Asia. It is the only prehistoric human skeleton in the world with a congenital deformity called *Brachymesophaalangia Type 2*.

He was buried in a foetal position together with stone tools and thousands of riverine shells. He was 154cm tall and aged between 40-45 years. Information about the *Perak Man* can be gleaned at the *Lenggong Archaeological Gallery*.

The discovery of *Perak Man* has provided a lot of information about life during that Paleolithic period such as beliefs, diet, technology, race, gender and disease.

# Gua Harimau

Excavation work at *Gua Harimau* which began in 1987 discovered a human burial site dating between 5000-2000 years ago. This is an important archaeological site because it revealed the discovery of burial goods which included pottery and a bronze axe dated around 4000 years ago not to mention the presence of bronze molds indicating the production of metal products.



## Gua Teluk Kelawar



**G**ua Teluk Kelawar is another cave found within Bukit Kepala Gajah. The findings indicate that the cave was used as a shelter some 10,000 to 6,000 years ago. Besides evidence of stone tools and food wastes, a female skeleton (GTK 1), buried 8000 years ago, was found here.

## Tourism Roundup

# PERAK INTERNATIONAL XPLOSPACE 2012



Perak is set to become the first state in the country to host the internationally acclaimed exploration race named *Xplorace 2012*. The race will bring together participants from all over the world. Ten teams will compete for the top prizes of USD30,000, USD20,000 and USD10,000, respectively.

Eight teams representing Asia, North America, South America, Europe, Australia and two from Malaysia will partake in the race. Each team will consist of two participants. The teams will transverse the state passing through the ten districts. They will compete in an endurance test at 14 designated locations throughout the 3-day race beginning on September 14 and ending on Malaysia Day, September 16. The theme is along the lines of the popular TV reality game of the same name. This was revealed to the media by Dato' Hamidah Osman during the event launch at Impiana Hotel, Ipoh recently.

"The objective is to showcase the many touristic spots in Perak and to further promote Visit Perak Year 2012," said Hamidah. The race will begin in Tanjung Malim on September 14 and end at MBI Square, Ipoh on September 16. Among the tests the participants will undergo is working in an anchovy-processing factory on Pangkor Island and trekking in Gua Tempurung.

As an additional attraction a Perak Royal household exhibition will be held at the MBI Square on the final day. "The exhibition is an integral part of the Malaysia Day celebration which will be the finale of the *Perak Arts Festival*," said Hamidah.

## Lenggong Accommodation



### The Lenggong Rest House.

Located in Lenggong Town at Jalan Alang Iskandar.

Rates start from RM80-RM200.

Contact: **605-7678 702 / 6019-5793 414**



### Tasik Raban Resort.

Located along the Kulala Kangsar - Grik trunk road on the banks of Tasik Raban about 12 km from Lenggong Town.

Rates start from RM80-RM250.

Contact: **605-7512 799 / 6019-5763 414**

## Map of Lenggong



## TOURISM CALENDER - SEPTEMBER 2012

1. August 31 to September 2: **Gua Tempurung Gopeng Eco Challenge.**  
Venue: Gua Tempurung, Gopeng.
2. September 7: **Citra Perak Amanjaya.**  
Venue: Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh (MBI) Square, Ipoh.
3. September 14 to 16: **Perak Arts Festival.**  
Venue: Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh (MBI) Square, Ipoh.
4. September 14 to 16: **Perak International Xplorace 2012.**  
Starting at Tanjung Malim and finishing at Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh (MBI) Square, Ipoh.
5. September 16: **2nd Taiping International Marathon 2012.** Venue: Taiping.
6. September 16: **Malaysia Day State-level Celebrations.**  
Venue: Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh (MBI) Square, Ipoh.

For details, call **Tourism Perak** at

**605-2083600**