

P E R A K TOURS



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Perak International Homestay Carnival 2012



The objective was to showcase homestay packages from the IMT-GT (Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand – Growth Triangle) countries. Malaysia had the most number of participants followed by Indonesia. Thailand, for some inexplicable reasons, pulled out at the very last minute.

The Sayong Riverfront Complex was opened last year. Built at a cost of RM17 million with funding provided by the Northern Corridor Implementation Agency and the Ministry of Tourism.

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foreword

Dato' Hamidah Osman

State Executive Councillor for Tourism



ctober has come to a close and, as the days pass, we are nearing the end of the year. The end of 2012 signals the end of Visit Perak Year 2012, as well. I am saying this with a heavy heart for, as the saying goes, "a woman's work is never done". There is still plenty to be done and considering the limitations, deliberate or otherwise, I feel we have achieved what we have set out to do, with some reservations, of course.

There will be those who think the opposite I am not averse to criticisms, as this is only to be expected. The adage, "you can't please everyone" holds

true. I am not absolving myself or my staff of any blame. After all, we are all human and are apt to make mistakes. We have to look at the bigger picture. If, in the eyes of my detractors, VPY 2012 has achieved little, at least it is a likeable foundation for Visit Malaysia Year 2013. My optimism remains high, in spite of the many shortcomings.

The highlight of October was the *Perak International Homestay Carnival 2012*, the first of its kind in the country. It was successfully organised by

The highlight of October was the *Perak International Homestay Carnival 2012*, the first of its kind in the country. It was successfully organised by the Ministry of Tourism (Perak) with the collaboration of the Kuala Kangsar District Office and the Kuala Kangsar Municipal Council. Participation by homestay operators was most encouraging. My only regret, however, was the poor turnout. There are several factors for the shortfall. But it will not deter us from doing the same come next year.

The theme for November's issue of Tourism News is on homestay in Perak. There are eight defined locations in the state where homestay services are available. Each will be given the prominence due. Hopefully, the information given will be of use to those wishing to give themselves a break during

the coming school holidays.

11900 Bayan Baru, Pulau Pinang.

ocated on a 6-hectare site on the banks of Perak River at Sayong, it can be accessed by road via a bridge or by boat from the Kuala Kangsar Jetty at Bukit Chandan. Facilities available include a jetty, an art gallery, restaurants and an exhibition cum handicraft centre.

The eight Ministry of Tourism (Perak) sanctioned homestay service providers in Perak came in full force. They had the opportunity to introduce their homestay services and products to visitors that thronged the two-day carnival. Operators from neighbouring states such as Kedah, Perlis, Selangor and Negeri Sembilan were also present to showcase their products.

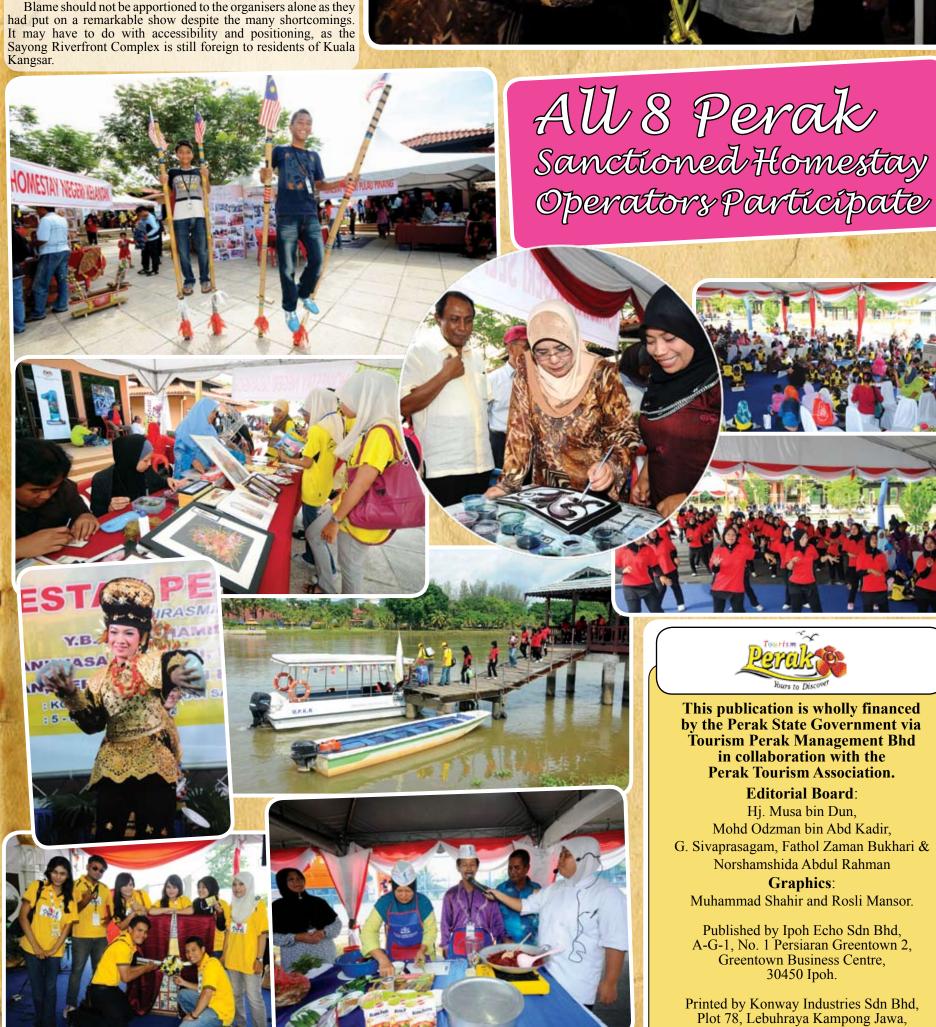
The weekend event had plenty to offer with cultural performances, traditional games and handicraft exhibitions. An interesting workshop organised by Malaysian Homestay Chairman, Dato' Shariman Hamdan provided participants some chairman hands on how to micromanage the growing homestay. useful tips on how to micromanage the growing homestay

Dato' Hamidah Osman, in her opening address, thanked the federal government for honouring Perak with the hosting of the carnival. The event would help develop the homestay industry in the country and the region.

Attendance, unfortunately, was below expectation. The reasons could be several. In spite of the many banners announcing the event strung on lamp posts and at rest areas along the PLUS Expressway, the message did not filter down to the public. Inclement weather could be the other reason for the shortfall.

Blame should not be apportioned to the organisers alone as they had put on a remarkable show despite the many shortcomings.





Gopeng Homestay



the Gopeng Homestay is a collection of traditional Malay houses offering homestay services for the discerning travellers and adventure seekers. It is spread out in three Malay villages in Gopeng namely Kg Jelintoh, Kg Sg Itek and Kg Pintu Padang. These villages are located along the Gopeng-Kg Ulu Geruh road with the imposing Main Range (Banjaran Titiwangsa) looming high in the east.

Due to their proximity to the highlands the place is relatively cool compared to Gopeng. One major attraction is the preponderance of trees and shrubs giving one a healthy feeling of being closed to Nature.

Sungai Kampar, which flows in a south-westerly direction, provides some tacky staging points for white-water rafting and other forms of water activities of which Gopeng is famous for.

Guests can indulge themselves in traditional Malay handiworks like basket weaving, making of bird cages, making of bedak sejuk (rice-based face powder), etc. Trips to Kellie's Castle, Herbal Garden and the iconic Gua Tempurong can be arranged upon request.

For details and reservations call the coordinator at 605-477 5145 or 6017-506 4783. Email: gopenghomestay@yahoo.com.

Bukit Gantang Homestay

ukit Gantang is a village named after a hill lock shaped like a container to measure rice. One gantang of rice weighs 6 katis or 3.6 kilos. The village is on the old Kuala Kangsar-Taiping trunk road that runs through a pass in the Bintang

Range.

This thickly wooded area is well known for durian, a seasonal fruit which is

The appeal Rubit Gentang Durian Fest is a major attraction one which is eagerly awaited by both tourists and locals.

A number of villagers have turned their humble wooden abodes into shared lodgings offering homestay services for the intrepid travellers and sojourners.

The village's proximity to touristic spots such as Kg Dew (fireflies), Kuala Sepetang Mangrove Forest, Long Jaafar Museum and historic Taiping makes the Bukit Gantang homestay an ideal home-away-from-home for Nature lovers.

The period most favoured by visitors is the fruiting season (November to March) when durians, mangosteens and langsat are in sheer abundance. For details and reservations call 605-855 1311. Email: ghasaliyunus@yahoo.com.

Kiah Homestay



omestay Klah, unlike others in Perak, is managed and run by a federal agency the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA), an agency dedicated to developing state lands for oil palm and rubber cultivation.

Klah is a quintessential FELDA oil palm plantation located at the southern tip of

Perak close to Tanjung Malim. It is accessible from the old trunk road.

The choice of this spot for the provision of homestay services is prompted by the presence of numerous hot springs. These thermal springs are being optimised to the

fullest by the operators and have become a major source of revenue for the agency. Guests will be hosted by villagers and thus get to enjoy the ambience and experience of the day-to-day routine of their hosts. Taking a dip in one of the spruced-up hot springs is a must.

For details and reservations call the coordinator at 605-438 6869 or 6013-590 7698. Email: deeklahomestay@yahoo.com.

Maju Manik Homestay





This homestay takes its name from the Malay village of Sungai Manik located in the District of Hilir Perak at the south-western part of the state. In this relatively flat hinterland of Perak, where agriculture is the major staple of the populace, activities common to kampong are the major highlights of a tour package.

Visitors can learn to plant and harvest padi, try their luck fishing in streams and rivers and, if they have nothing much to do, share the simple lifestyle of the villagers within a rustic rural setting. Your hosts are more than willing to let you loose in their kampongs away from the hustle and bustle of the cities.

Sungai Manik's closeness to Teluk Intan and Pasir Salak provides guests a chance to see Teluk Intan's leaning clock tower, savour the local cuisines and visit the historic Pasir Salak Complex for a peek into Perak's chequered past. This can be done in a day, as accessibility is never problematic.

For details and reservations call the coordinator at 6012-591 7771.

Email: koperasimajumanik@yahoo.com.

Pendiat

Pendiat ampung is located on the banks of the Perak River within the mukim (ward) of Bota Kanan. It is accessible from the Ipoh-Bota Kanan Road.

Being thriving a riverside settlement, activities closely associated with riverine communities feature prominently on the visitors' programme. Fishing using nets (jala) and traps, commonly used by the villagers, are some of the activities in store for visitors. One can even boat or kayak in the Perak River provided facilities are available.

Since Kg Pendiat is close to Lumut, Pasir Salak and Batu Gajah day trips to these places can be arranged upon request. The much-anticipated rural ambience is lost should one

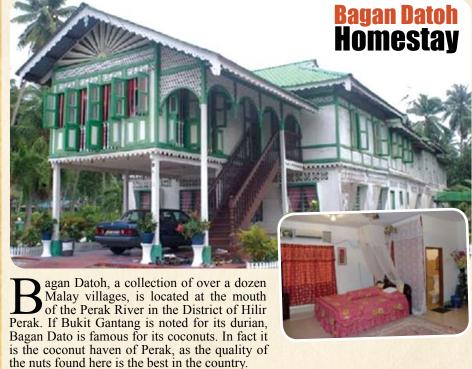




decide to leave for the bright lights of the towns. So it is better to stick to your hosts' programme. The Bota Kanan Terrapin Breeding Centre is must see. For details and reservations call the coordinator at 6017-579 6251.

Email: homestaypendiat@yahoo.com.



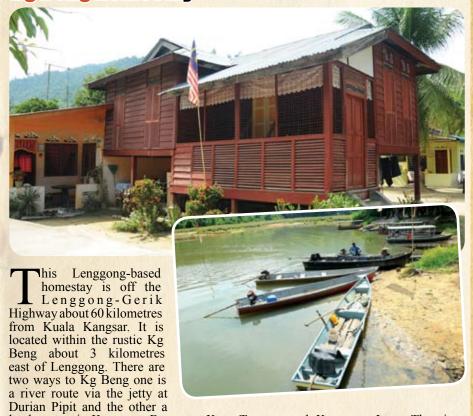


There are over a hundred houses that offer homestay services to visitors. The idyllic charm of a rural lifestyle is forever engraved in the minds of those who care to drop-

Experience the carefree nature of the pleasant Malay villagers and immerse in the subtle beauty of the rural countryside. You will be spoilt for choice.

Some of the pre-determined activities on the tour package programme are a trip to Benting Beras Basah, a scared spot for the Perak royalty, a visit to Bagan Dato's famous coconut oil-making factory, traditional dance performances, fishing for lobsters, etc. For details and reservations call the coordinator at 605-648 0757 or 6019-549 9777. Email: homestaybagandatoh@yahoo.com.

Kg Beng Homestay



land route via Kampong Baru Kota Tampan and Kampong Luat. The river route, incidentally, is the more exciting of the two.

The Kg Beng homestay has been acknowledged by the Ministry of Tourism Malaysia as the best managed homestay in Perak. It is placed fifth in the national ranking. Being so highly rated, the services and amenities offered are definitely notches above the rest in the industry.

A 3-day-2-night tour package cost RM140 per person. Guests get to stay in one of the 42 houses and will be cared for by the operator. Activities include fishing and night boating in Chenderoh Lake, jungle trekking, a visit to a deer farm, water sports and partaking in the villagers' daily routine. Meals are being provided by the hosts so one gets to eat what the villagers eat.

For details and reservations call the coordinator at 605-757 7102 or 6016-565 4303. Email: homestaykgbeng@yahoo.com.

Selama Homestay



omestay Selama is a grouping of 32 houses located in two localities, Bagan Baru (23 houses) and Sungai Seputeh (10 houses). Located in the northern region of Perak, this homestay has been in operation since 2004.

There are two ways to get to Selama; one is from Bagan Serai and the other is from Kamunting. Both ways have their advantages, in terms of accessibility. The preferred

route is from Kamunting as the scenery is more appealing to the eyes.

Selama sits right smack on the Perak-Kedah border which is defined by the fast-flowing waters of the Krian River whose source is from the summit of Gunung

Situated close to the Ijok Felda Scheme, oil palm trees fill the landscape. In fact, one has to pass through rows upon rows of palm trees to get to the homestay. For city dwellers this is an attraction by itself.

Programmed activities are similar to the other homestays. Some fascinating places to visit include a giant pond, a river on a river, the largest deer farm in Malaysia, the third tallest waterfall in Asia, a mini museum and a thriving herbal industry using "mas cotek" (Ficus deltoidea, also known as "mistletoe fig") as an ingredient.

A 3-day-two-night package costs RM260 per person. The homestay can accommodate 80 visitors comfortably.

For details and reservations call the coordinator (Ali Mohd Radzi) at 6013-418 8418 or 605-839 4813 (Koperasi Risda Selama).

Tourism Roundup

Sealing Gunung Rinjani

hirty members of Media Perak, an association ▲ of Perak-based media representatives, are set to create a record of sorts by being the largest group of media personnel to scale Mount Rinjani in Lombok, Indonesia.

Capping at 3726 metres, Gunung Rinjani is the second highest of Indonesia's 127 active volcanoes after Gunung Kerinci (3800 metres) in Sumatra. The team will be led Minister's Press Secretary.

by Datuk Akmar Hisham Mokles, the Prime

Dato' Hamidah Osman, on behalf of the state government and Tourism Perak. donated RM30,000 to the media club during a brief ceremony held at the State Secretariat Building on Thursday, October 25.

Datuk Akmar Hisham, a Perakean is elated at being given a leading role in the effort. 'It's a challenge which we'll assume with much pleasure. A successful attempt will have a definitive impact on Malaysia and Perak, in particular.'

The team will leave for Lombok on Saturday, November 3 and return on Sunday, November 11. Scaling of the mountain is scheduled for November 4 to 6.

TOURISM CALENDER - NOVEMBER 2012

1. KARNIVAL CUTI SEKOLAH

Venue: Batu Gajah

Contact: Tourism Perak at 605-208 3600

2. November 4: KAYUHAN PELANCONGAN KUALE

Venue: Kuala Kangsar.

Contact: Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Kangsar / Sekretariat Kayuhan Kuale at 605-776 8199

3. November 6 to 7: WORLD AMATEUR INTER TEAM GOLF **CHAMPIONSHIP (WAITGC)**

Venue: Ipoh

Contact: Tourism Malaysia Perak at 605-255 9962

4. KARNIVAL DUNIA HERBA PERAK 2012

Venue: Batu Gajah

Contact: Tourism Perak at 605-208 3600 / Jabatan Pertanian at 605-253 1957