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Quarterly Travel Newsletter

by Sri Sutra Travel Sdn Bhd

Yuletide
GREETINGS!
OF THE SEASON!

UNRAVEL

The Mulu Mysteries of Borneo

CHIC SHOPPING

Dressing Up in Winter

WISHING OUR HINDU READERS A HAPPY DEEPAVALI - FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

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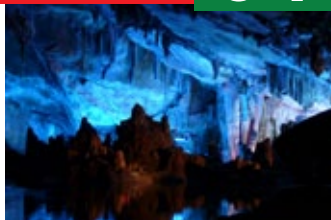
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Domestic Highlight

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Gazetted as a National Park in 1975, the Mulu Caves is part of the natural habitats in all its diversity amidst wild and rugged scenery making it as one of Sarawak's most popular destinations. Come and unravel its mystery with us ! The once glorious bastions of the British Straits Settlements, Penang and Melaka are now Malaysia's greatest showcase of national heritage sites, endorsed by UNESCO .While both are rich in history, each destination evokes a different charm of its own.



A X'mas Affair Tonight !

10

Come experience a sunny Christmas in tropical Singapore this December! Love the lights and love the sights – Singapore sparkles once again for you and Orchard Road, once again will be lighted up during the Yuletide season. Spend your merrymaking holidays with plenty of shopping and entertainment fun and while the countdown continues, the city will offer you endless options and ideas that even Santa is not willing to share.



A Perennial Paradise

14

A perennial favorite among holiday makers from the world over, Bali never fails to attract new visitors during any seasons. We discover new places where you can indulge your leisure to its fullest, new hotels & resorts, chic restaurants, elegant shops, and not forgetting the traditional cultural performances and activities that is so Bali undoubtedly.



Getting To Know You

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Soft spoken Mr Ariff tells us why he is so happy with his job. It is as challenging as his favorite badminton hobby where strategy and strength are essentially important traits to deal with in any crisis, where the right shoes must be worn for the right moves.



special highlights

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



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Penang still conjures the perfect holiday destination for anyone. This is where food and places of interests collide wonderfully well in terms of accessibility, value for money fulfillment, safety and options. Options means that you are spoiled for choice in whatever you want to do even with so little time. So how many days should you actually need to spend on this island once dubbed the 'Pearl Of The Orient' and a destination even more popular nowadays after it was proclaimed a UNESCO Heritage site a few years ago? It was a boon for the local tourism industry and what's even better is that the government (both state & Federal) have put greater efforts and funds to improve on the existing infrastructure that has been needing a lot of caretaking, rehabilitating as well as providing good accessibility to reach these places.

The best part about Penang's most scenic attractions is that they are all reachable quite conveniently via the public bus services. The most central part of Penang is the most easiest place to convene to start off your city tour because that is where George Town, the capital of Penang is historically located from the day the British colonial masters, founded it in 1786 by Sir Captain Francis Light.

You will be surprised to know too that the most pleasurable and exotic way to arrive on the Island is neither by air, nor by driving over the bridge, but via one of the double-decker ferries plying the narrow channel between the island and the mainland. Cars and motorcycles pack the lower deck while commuters on foot head for the upper deck where they sit on wooden slatted benches. These ferries carry names of Malaysian islands like Pulau Undan, Pulau Talang, Pulau Kapas and Pulau Angsa to name just a few.

Once you arrived at the Penang Jetty side, you can choose your own directions or centerings to kick start your walkabout tour of Penang and you will be surprised that you don't need to be street smart to get lost in a colourful and friendly city such as Penang. Street signage was something that every tourists appreciated and welcomed with ease because it makes a huge difference when you're trying to find your own way between the attractions that you can easily find out where you are. Penang seems like a small place especially when you are around Georgetown. I would like to call this area the Colonial Enclave. Here you are taken back in time as you witness some of the most beautiful 18th century buildings ever erected in this part of the world.

Visiting Penang also means that you can really enjoy eating at the quaint and charming places whether it is in an old café, a traditional "kopitiam" in a modern shopping complex or even in the crowded open air night markets or waterfront hawker centres offering endless mouth watering choices of local fares and international award recognition culinary accolades that is also an enriched Penang heritage. From its chicken

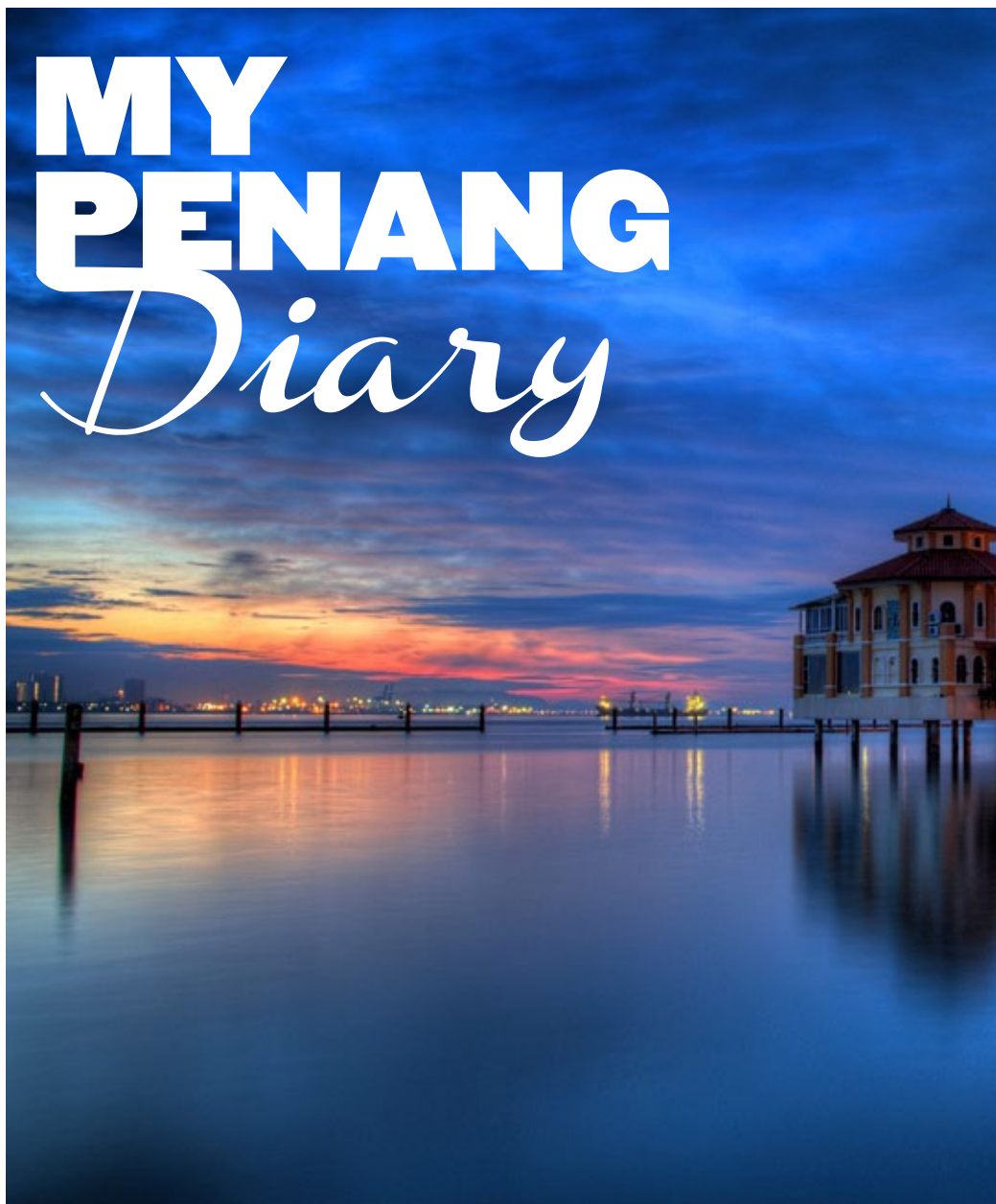
rice speciality to nasi kandar to ice kacang, luscious laksa to popiah, the tastes of Penang is something you must go for and not the commercialized McDonalds or Starbucks menu even though the American fast food giants are as ubiquitous as it would be the school children. If you have that available chance, do get on to enjoy a trishaw ride for that once in a lifetime experience. Such three wheeler front passenger loading carts were once status symbol modes of transportation for the Penang high society but should it not have been for the tourism demands and its probable extinction awareness and concerns, the Penang trishaws would have lost its place on the streets. Nowadays, the old trishaw riders are obviously a dying breed and as a consolation, you might not even want to haggle over their generous fare if you happen to use their services.

Penang like Melaka, both share their common bond and enriching Peranakan cultures whose heritage are well preserved as seen through their museums, festivals, culinary feasts as well as the century old residences. As a freeport during colonial times, Penang has emerged to become one of the most important trading post complementing the new economic developments in Malaya during those times. What Penang has achieved today is the desire to continue an everlasting legacy of hope, hard work and success that speak on the importance of tourism development it has achieved to make it as one of the most popular tourist destinations in Malaysia. In 2012, the Indonesians topped the ranking

of tourist arrivals with 234,703 tourists. Singapore and China came in second and third with 98,777 and 43,676 tourists respectively. Other countries that made it to the list of the top 10 were Japan, US, Taiwan, Australia, Thailand, UK and India.

George Town was the first town in the then Malaya to receive city status, by a royal charter granted by Queen Elizabeth II, just before the country achieved independence. For that reason, you often hear it being called the City of George Town, especially among the locals. With over 2000 people on every square kilometre, Penang is the most densely populated state in Malaysia. Some of the most visited places on the island have long lasting impressions which makes it as a potential destination to incur repeat visitations by its visitors, be it local or overseas. While in Penang, these places are a must to visit - Dharmikarama Buddhist Temple, Kek Lok Si Temple, Tropical Spice Garden, Jubilee Clock Tower, Penang Hill, Penang Bazaar, Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, Khoo Kongsi, Fort Cornwallis, The Penang Museum, the E & O Hotel.

Penang will always be one of my favorite places to visit in the country. You can find history here, explore the flea market, strolling by the sandy beach, eating the best local food, experience the tram car ride but most of all you can do what you want to do, all within and around you.



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Penang's latest tourist attraction

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Opening Time : 09:30 - 18:30



THE OIL CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS

-Miri-

The dynamic oil town of Miri is busy and modern – not much about it is Borneo – but there's plenty of money sloshing around and of course the eating is good as there are many good restaurants that cater to many types of urban and regional people, local or otherwise. The broad avenues in the city are brightly lit and there's plenty of activities to do even when it is raining. The city's friendly guesthouses are a good place to meet other travelers as well but good 4 star accommodation are also available for the more sophisticated visitors requiring deluxe accommodation. The city population is about 40% Dayak (mainly Iban), 30% Chinese and 18% Malay.

Over the years, Miri has developed into a more liveable city with many housing projects and social amenities being built. There are at least 6 major shopping complexes around it and they are often crowded over the weekends as well as during national holidays, with an ever increasing steady flow of Bruneians taking advantage of its foreign exchange superiority against the Malaysian Ringgit. The famous Mulu Caves also boosted the importance of Miri as an important gateway for Borneo's eco-tourism products.

Miri also serves as a major transportation hub too and if you are travelling to/from Brunei, Sabah, the Kelabit Highlands or the national parks of Gunung Mulu, Niah or Lambir Hills, chances are you will pass this great and interesting Oil City.

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- Daily breakfast
- Long House Tour (3 hour)
- Entrance fee & Guide

FROM RM
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per person /
twin-share

Places of Interest to visit around

Miri



Canada Hill,

Canada Hill, on the low ridge behind the town centre, is the site of Malaysia's first oil well, the Grand Old Lady. Bored in 1910, the well produced around seven barrels a day until it was abandoned in 1972. The hill is a popular exercise spot with a handful of refreshment kiosks, and it's worth walking up here at sunset just for the views across Miri to the South China Sea. The new Petroleum Museum on the hill has a few interesting displays on the source of the city's wealth.



Petroleum Museum

The Petroleum Museum has a few interesting displays on the source of the city's wealth.

City Fan

As a self-proclaimed 'resort city', Miri is cultivating a reputation for its recreational areas, and the whole urban landscape is studded with greenery and amenities. Nearest to the centre is the City Fan, an expanse of themed gardens that boasts the largest open-air amphitheatre in Malaysia. It's popular with joggers, and also has a public swimming pool, indoor stadium and public library.

Lambir Hills National Park

Lambir Hills National Park is the closest primary rainforest to Miri (around 30km south) and it makes for a pleasant day trip out of the city. A perennial favourite among the locals, this scenic scrap of jungle offers waterfalls, picnic areas and a clutch of pleasant walking trails through its dipterocarp rainforest.



San Ching Tian Temple

The San Ching Tian Temple is the largest Taoist temple in Southeast Asia. The design features intricate dragon reliefs brought all the way over from China.

Taman Selera Beach

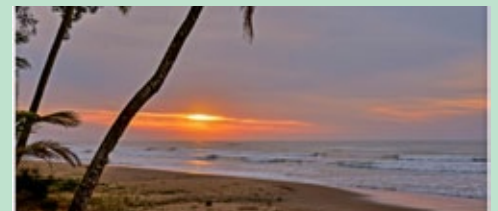
Miri has a passable beach and recreation park with food centre at Taman Selera Beach. The food centre juts out into the sea for perfect sunset dining.

Tua Pek Kong Temple

The wide courtyard of the Tua Pek Kong Temple is a good spot to watch the river traffic float by.

Hawaii Beach

Hawaii Beach is a clean, palm-lined stretch of sand about 15 minutes outside town by bus.





The Gunung Mulu National Park is home to one of the world's most extraordinary cave systems in the world. The park, which is as large as Singapore, is also an incomparable place to experience the wonders of the Malaysian rain forest, the oldest on Earth. To get there, you can either take a bus from the sleepy city of Miri, followed by a boat rides up the Baram River - or take a twenty minute plane ride from Miri. The plane ride is by far the most popular method, because on a clear day the pilot will buzz the park's most striking above-ground feature, a serrated ridge of towering peaks called the Pinnacles. Once you get to Mulu, there are two places to stay: either in the lodges just outside the park, or in the Royal Mulu Resort, a comfortable, tree-house of a hotel situated in the middle of the jungle.

The Caves, by far, are the park's biggest draw. They are like nothing else, a must see attraction you can never find anywhere else in the world..

There are four caves open to the general public in Gunung Mulu, each with its own unique attraction. The first stop was the smallest, called Lang's Cave, which is known for its limestone formations. This cave was discovered by Jacob's cousin, a Berawan man named - yes - Lang. A gifted hunter, Lang was tracking a wild boar up the side of the mountain when he came across the cave. When he saw its size and the amazing limestone formations near its mouth, he knew he had found something special, but told no one of his discovery. "He got selfish somebody explained. "There were so many boar living near the cave that every time he went hunting he came back successful. It made him look good with the women, so kept it was kept as a secret. " But the other men in the tribe finally prodded Lang into revealing the secret spot. After that, word of the cave spread quickly.

Next there was the Wind Cave and Clearwater Cave. Wind Cave is named after the cool breeze that fans from its entrance, and famed for its unusual calcite formations. The formations here were less abundant than in Lang's Cave, but much larger. In a chamber called the "King's Room" were impressive stalactites and stalagmites that looked like polished chandeliers and candlesticks. Clearwater Cave, a stone's throw away, was much more impressive. With 107 kilometers of passage, it is easily the longest cave in Asia, the tenth longest in the world. It's name comes from crystalline water of the roaring river inside, which is purified as it passes through hundreds of feet of limestone. Near the entrance there is also a small, emerald pool - perfect for a soothing dip after walking through jungle heat.

The last cave of the day was called Deer Cave. Claustrophobia did not exist there. Standing inside, its sheer volume almost induces spacial disorientation. It is the largest cave passage known to man, and its magnitude defies all description. No photograph has been able to

provide a proper idea of Deer Cave's immensity, and so writers and scientists have invented an ever-growing lexicon of visual comparisons -- largely attached to humankind's own colossi. With a length of over 2 kilometers, a width of up 150 meters, and a ceiling that reaches 120 meters, the Cave can reputedly contain five St. Paul's Cathedrals, over 20 Boeing 747 jumbo jets, and four Houston Astrodomos. To these I offer an altogether non-quantifiable comparison (which I hope I may be forgiven for). Deer Cave would have made a perfect base for the Rebel Alliance. It has a rear entrance, and Han Solo could have easily piloted the Millennium Falcon into its mouth and still had plenty of room to land. It takes 40 minutes to walk from one end to the other.

Inside the cave was a world in itself, complete with hills and valleys, plains and forests (because of the huge entrance, there is enough light for trees to grow a quarter-mile in). There is a sizeable creek, which turns into a river when it rains heavily. Deer Cave even has a metropolis-sized population, consisting of an estimated 1.8 million wrinkle-nosed bats, who stream out of the entrance every day at 6pm sharp to spend the night feeding in the forest. (Later on, we would stand outside the cave and watch them leave in a single stream that snaked across the pale evening sky and took an hour to get from head to tail). The tiny bats are barely visible while they roost in crevices far above, but they have clearly left their mark on the terrain below. Bat guano, a fertile and pungent powder, covers the entire floor of the cave. In one place, there is a hill of it at least 20 feet high, and its rusty color turns the cave's interior into a landscape more reminiscent of Mars than Earth.

The final pleasure was a view of Deer Cave's back entrance, called Adam and Eve Forest. Beneath a huge natural doorway was an impossibly lush stand of trees. Dwarfed by the huge entrance, the trees, some of which were nearly 100 feet in height, looked like decorations on a train set. Falling straight down from the ceiling was a mystical waterfall, dubbed Adam & Eve's shower.

In Mulu, they have caves for claustrophobes, and if you go you must see them !

EXPLORING MULU





A MELAKA MEMOIR FOR THE INTREPID TOURIST

Melaka, Malaysia's oldest city, is just two hours south of Kuala Lumpur and about four hours northwest of Singapore. Here lies the unique foundation of vibrant multiculturalism, which dates back to centuries of varying western colonialism and regal superpower Sultanate. It offers the international visitors a melting pot of historical attractions much sought after these days – a cultural heritage 'living museum' endorsed by UNESCO.

The hub of Malacca's civic colonial sites is of course the imposing Dutch Square — also called the Red Square due to the colour of its buildings — where tourists pose in front of the century-old Queen Victoria Fountain and as trishaws gaily decorated with colourful plastic flowers to the canned blaring music that accompany the riders and their loads of passengers strode along the nearby ruins of the A'Famosa fort, one of Asia's oldest European-built structures, erected by the Portuguese 500 years ago, and the imposing Stadthuys, or town hall, built by the Dutch in 1650 and later painted salmon red by the British, Melaka's last foreign rulers, whose reign lasted until 1957.

On the west side of the Malacca River, which flanks the square, along the old center's narrow, atmospheric streets, are hundreds of lantern-hung shophouses, some distinctly Chinese in style, others bearing geometric Art Deco trademarks, and grand residences with ornately tiled stoops built by wealthy families of the past. For centuries, these streets served as the town's commercial and residential center. The most prolific of modern establishments near the Melaka River is of course the new Hard Rock Café and The Casa del Rio Hotel which

have added a new entertainment lifestyle for tourists visiting the city.

The Baba Nyonya Heritage Museum, in a grand, preserved residence on Heeren Street (officially known as Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock), pays tribute to Peranakans, a group of wealthy, sophisticated families that arose from the intermarrying of Babas, or Chinese traders, and Nyonyas, or local residents. The Peranakans forged a distinct East-meets-West culture that represents much of what makes Malacca so fascinating: a racial and religious multiculturalism that's been cultivated and honored for centuries.

This rich cultural heritage is also being celebrated in new lodging options. In 2009, a 100-year-old residential property down the street was converted into the 14-room Courtyard @ Heeren hotel, which blends era-appropriate furnishings with modern amenities.

Perhaps the most glaring example is Jonker Street, officially called Jalan Hang Jebat. Once known for its antiques shops, the strip now draws tour groups trawling stores stocked with Birkenstock knockoffs, batik linens and cheeky T-shirts with sayings like, "If YouTube MySpace, I'll Google Your Yahoo." It's particularly raucous on weekends, when a food and retail night market takes over. It is the most popular "Pasar Malam" haunt in Melaka.

As someone mentioned "Once you step into Malacca, you can feel the positive energy," "Foreigners, once they come here, they don't want to go home." And how true such a remark is!

Places of Interest to visit around Melaka



Jonker Walk

A definite haven for antique collectors and bargain hunters. Authentic artifacts and relics, some dating as far back as 300 years, can be found among a host of interesting collectibles, each with its own history and mystery. Jalan Hang Jebat, formerly known as Jonker Street, is known worldwide among serious antique collectors as one of the best places to hunt and bargain for antiques. Recently, a new wave of cafes and craft shops have sprouted on this street, lending it a cultured air of old-meets-new.



Melaka River Cruise

The river was the main artery of trade for Melaka in its heyday when it was bustling with traders from all around the world. Some buildings from that era still stand majestically by the river, which is also lined by old villages, or kampungs, and modern day buildings. The 45-minute cruise is accompanied by an entertaining and informative commentary. And, for just RM8, it's a good bargain. See parts of historical Melaka, get a history lesson for next to nothing, and never break a sweat!



St. Paul's Hill (A'Famosa)

The Portuguese colonised Melaka from 1511 to 1641. The first thing they did was build a fort overlooking the river, calling it A'Famosa. As Melaka was the centre of struggles between super powers of the time, and suffered the constant threat of attack, the A'Famosa fort was critical in Portugal maintaining its colonial foothold in the Far East. Within the fort walls were housing and food stores, a castle, a meeting room for the Portuguese Council and five churches. A seven-month attack by the Dutch just about destroyed the entire fortress, leaving only the entrance faade and the structure of a church at the top of the hill.



St. John's Fort

Rebuilt by the Dutch in the 18th century, St. John's Fort was once a private Portuguese chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The fort has an interesting feature - cannons face inland as, during that time, attacks on Melaka came mainly from the hinterland instead of from the sea. Another attraction for many is the view from the top of the hill where St. John's Fort stands, particularly for the fantastic tropical sunsets.



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An Out of The Ordinary Theme Park



The Lost World of Tambun is located within the Ipoh City region, ideally situated between the Penang and Kuala Lumpur urban centres along the North and South Highway. The RM60 million water theme park which opened in 2005 is also the biggest park there is in Malaysia.

The park is strategically located at the foot of Tambun Caves, which is famous for its 5,000-year-old Neolithic cave paintings. The 40-acre sized waterpark brings to life the ancient ruins and grottos of a lost civilization of the Malay peninsula. When you step foot at the park's Lost World, you will get the natural feeling of wandering into a lost civilisation almost like those featured in the Hollywood Indiana Jones movies. One of the main attractions that is almost the trademark of the theme park is of course the magnificent pool, filled with hot mineral water derived from the Tambun hot springs. The hot spring waters are renowned among the locals for its therapeutic properties.

Indeed It was a great challenge trying to re-create an environment and landscape that can 'transport' guests back to the ancient world often mystified with enigmatic encounters and strange awareness.. Thankfully, the theme park is only a 5 minute walk across the parking lot.

The Lost World of Tambun is incredibly big but thankfully, it is only a 5 minute walk across the parking lot! Entrance into the theme park is via the use of bracelets, which is also a unique form of indigenous merchandise to give the visitors an authentic feel of entering a stone age kingdom. Visitors will later head out to the water park area and the amusement rides towards the Tin Valley. Along the way, visitors can view the beautiful natural limestone caves that itself provide an imposing and unique backdrop especially to the first time visitor.

Tin mining is one of the oldest industries in Malaysia and Tin Valley helps to educate on Malaysia's mining heritage. Incidentally, the Tin Valley attraction leads to the entrance of the team building area where you will also find the other forms of team building activities structures like zip lining, The view of this place is so breathtaking especially across a beautiful lake surrounded by lime stone cliffs and lush green forest.

Visitors to the Theme Park can participate in some physical challenges attractions such as zip lining, leap of faith, high rope course, abseiling, and many other types of outdoor sports for a great team building outing. Besides that there is also roller coaster attraction and another popular ride named spinning swings which is part of the amusement park rides galore including the cool pirate galleon. It is considered to be one of the children's favorite rides. The water park has several different concept areas for all different ages of visitors and many visitors would have the opportunity to indulge in these experiences. The sunny days would surely enhance the weather conditions for those who love to bask in the open places surrounding the areas.

There is also a wave pool where visitors can rent floats or buoys for use on the lazy river attractions besides the water slides which were absolutely fun places to be when you are in the park.

At another interesting attraction called the Tiger Valley, you can witness tigers swimming in the pools. The Lost World Of Tambun has a family of 5 grown up tigers altogether however only 2 are released for public viewing at a time. These Siberian tigers are amazing creatures indeed and their feeding times schedule is the most anticipated show time among the visitor crowds especially when it is one of the most exciting event to watch especially for the children and adults..

The Lost World Of Tambun Theme Park also boasts of having a menagerie of animals and reptiles including snakes, birds, goats, lizards, raccoons, deer and even monkeys from their natural habitat at the nearby forests. A word of caution is required especially when the visitors are mingling with the monkeys while extra attention is also needed while viewing the snakes..

As far as food is concerned, they are very reasonably priced at the Park. There are some great hawker stalls near the kids water park while ice creams and sundaes are aplenty.

In fact, there is so much to see and do at the Lost World of Tambun Theme Park and while staying for 2 days there for your family getaway, there is still not enough time to fulfill that holiday satisfaction. The Lost World of Tambun and Ipoh should be on anyone's travel list when visiting Malaysia.

How to get there?

Along the North South Highway use exit 139 to Ipoh, and take a left turn at the traffic light. Then proceed to "Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah Utara". Take another left turn at the traffic light where Pantai Putri Hospital is located. After that, go straight along Tambun Road where you will finally reach the Giant shopping center building on your right.. Finally, the destination of the Lost World of Tambun should be visible a bit further down on the right hand side.

Opening Hours / Fees

It opens from 12 noon until 7 pm on weekdays. On weekends, school and public holidays, the park opens at 10 am. It closes on Tuesdays except if the day falls on Malaysian school and public holidays.

Book with us now by calling 603 - 4026 6600

Theme Park tickets
Entry to all outlets /rides

RM38.00 per person

Lost World Hotel
Based on standard rooms with
2 complimentary breakfasts.
2 tickets to Night Hot spring
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RM248.00 per room
weekend

RM198.00 per room
weekday



A TROPICAL CHRISTMAS IN SUNNY SINGAPORE

Singapore has a lot to offer visitors, from glittering mega-malls full of designer fashion to world-class theme parks and a casino resort that is the envy of Las Vegas. Unfortunately, Singapore is also considered to be one of the more expensive cities to visit in Asia, along with Tokyo and Hong Kong.

Behind the glitzy 5-star malls, 20 dollar cocktails and luxury hotels, there's a fascinating city waiting to be discovered. Singapore hides many budget-priced gems and you may be surprised at just how inexpensive and unique a trip to Singapore can be. Whether you're looking for somewhere to take your new date or for a drink with friends, Singapore can always deliver.

Christmas Magic on Orchard Road

This Christmas, Orchard Road transforms into an enchanting winter wonderland of twinkling stars and sparkling diamonds. Watch the sunbeams dance off these gems by day while glowing softly under the enthralling moonlight by night. Visitors are welcomed by a stately Gateway which ushers one and all into a precinct of glittering lights, dressed in elegant hues of blue and white.

Come, experience the Christmas magic with loved ones and friends, right here on Orchard Road – A Great Street. Interactive displays will play out alongside a nightly drive-past of several beautifully-decorated floats. A caroling choir with 1,000 participants will also entertain the crowds around the Orchard Road Christmas tree.

Finally, a Christmas concert will be held on December 25 between Scotts and Bideford Roads, marking the arrival of Christmas Day Shopping is the central activity for Christmas in Singapore. Outside of the Great Singapore Sale, the promotions and the freebies offered by Singapore's shopping centers are some of the lowest yet, designed to hitchhike on the Christmas spirit and get Christmas bystanders come in and buy, buy, buy.

The razzle-dazzle begins on Saturday 23 November 2013. Be sure to be on Orchard Road to join in the fun!

Christmas & New Year Countdown Parties

So while you are still hooked on the X'mas fever in tropical Singapore, don't miss the great excitement and fun to be part of the anticipated New Year Count Down spees where special events as colourful as the people who attend them will celebrate with bombastic parties to ring in the new year, one at Marina Bay and the Esplanade waterfront, and two others to be thrown at Siloso Beach on Sentosa Island.

You can catch Singapore's longest-running and most-awaited music dance festival organized by the Zouk Club when it kicks off on Siloso Beach, Sentosa, uniting partygoers in a sea of music, dance and good vibes.

At the Marina Bay Singapore Countdown. Singapore's foremost New Year party happens at Marina Bay on the evening of December 31, with fireworks and performances bursting forth against a highly-modern backdrop.

To mark the countdown, celebration, visitors can expect some new visual art installation each year with a different concept that will pour into Marina Bay. It is almost an iconic venue to welcome the 2014 New Year.

Singapore Sentosa Countdown. At Siloso Beach on Sentosa, a far more raucous party will ring in the New Year. Stilt-walkers, dancers and fire-eaters will amplify the excitement launched by the fireworks. And they're bringing back the foam pool! The party starts early on the evening of December 31, at Sentosa Siloso Beach.

Be sure to be there where the action is going to be this Christmas and New Year. Singapore awaits you in real glitzy and spontaneous style!

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OCTRAVES TECHNOLOGY SDN BHD is a full fledge software development company with Malaysia MSC status that develops, markets, and distributes the Travel Technology Products and Solutions. OCTRAVES TECHNOLOGY was incorporated in 2008 and is a subsidiary of Sutra Travel Management Group. Following are the major offerings of OCTRAVES TECHNOLOGY.



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Experience the Magic of Christmas in London

There may be no better place to spend Christmas than in London.



Crossing the neighborhoods of Mayfair, Soho, Marylebone and Fitzrovia, Regent Street and Oxford Street, the two main shopping streets in London, are dressed-up in Christmas lights for the holidays, a must-see. A great time to check out the lights is on December 10-11 when Oxford Street is closed to all automobile traffic and pedestrians can walk down the street to go shopping. Those days there are many different sales and events put on by the stores on Oxford Street, making it maybe the best shopping day in London.

For those who want a different way of shopping, there are many Christmas markets that open across London. From traditional Christmas gifts to alternative gift ideas and great food, the Christmas markets are a great way to experience a fun way of shopping. The Cologne Christmas Market opens around the Southbank Centre and the Hyde Park Winter Wonderland is another traditional German Christmas Market. You'll find some of the most unique gifts as the Duckie Christmas Market in the Barbican.

For the kids, Santa Grotto's are set up in many stores, most famously in Harrods and Selfridge. Both stores are located around Hyde Park, with Harrods in Knightsbridge and Selfridge to the west side of the park. This gives the children a chance to Santa for gifts

for Christmas. At the Selfridge store, there are many activities besides just speaking to Santa, including an ice grotto where kids can play with real snow, meet with a Wish Fairy, and dodge snowballs thrown by Jack Frost and snowmen. Reservations for both stores are recommended.

Since 1947, the city of Oslo has given London a Christmas tree for England's support during World War II. The famous Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree reaches over 20 meters (65 feet) in height and is decorated in traditional Norwegian style with 500 white lights. This year it will be lit on December 2 and will remain until January 5th. Also this is where the traditional Christmas carols are sung every night from December 7 to December 22 from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. Just as a reminder to everyone, the extremely famous Trafalgar Square is located at the cross between Westminster, Mayfair and Soho, and Bloomsbury and West End.

Besides the free caroling at the Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree, you can visit some of the most revered sites in London to hear the Christmas classics. The Westminster Abbey Christmas concert held on December 13, featuring performances from the Abbey Choir. The free carol service on Christmas Eve is also very popular. At the most famous concert venue in London, Royal Albert Hall Christmas Festival is held from December 12 to Christmas Eve. Performances of Christmas favorites by the performers like the Royal Choral Society, The London Philharmonic Choir and London Philharmonic Orchestra highlight the festival. The final three performances will be by candlelight with the performers in 18th century costume. If you want to make sure you arrive on time to this magical performance, consider an apartment rental in Knightsbridge

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- Services of Trafalgar's London Reception Centre.
- A qualified Local Guide in London.
- FREE travel on Central London's buses and Underground (subway) trains zones 1 and 2 for three days.
- Tickets for a one day Original London hop-on hop-off sightseeing tour.
- A stylish wallet and travel documents.

FROM RM

2297
per person / twin-share



Oxford Street Christmas Lights

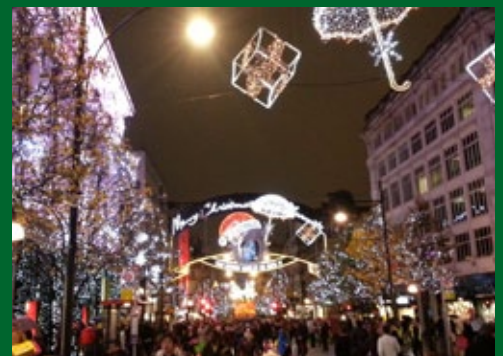
From 12 November 2013 to 5 January 2014

The 54th annual Oxford Street Christmas lights will be switched on at a spectacular ceremony hosted by the world's top department store Selfridges on 12 November.

For the first time in five years, the world famous Christmas lights have undergone a glittering transformation. The new £1.5m display will provide a dazzling show with three quarter of a million LED lights lighting up Oxford Street.

The new design is inspired by falling snow. The whole mile of Oxford Street will be covered in a blanket of bright white lights and 1778 baubles providing a perfect Christmas setting.

The switch-on celebrations will be opened by one of the UK's most dynamic and prolific pop artists. Previous global superstars who have switched on the display include Robbie Williams, Westlife, and The Spice Girls.



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BALI

Traveler's Choice



HORISON SEMINYAK HOTEL

With a boutique size of only 153 rooms, the newly built Horison Seminyak Hotel is strategically located around the most happening area in Bali. Catering to the leisure and business travelers alike, it is just a mere 5 minutes' walk away to the famous Double Six beach, often associated with the magical sunset moments it often imparted as well as the surfing schools and beach vendors it offer. Within a stone's throw away from the hotel's premises are various options for dining possibilities from open air cafes to fine dining as well as endless shopping experiences such as renowned boutiques, souvenir shops, and bargain centers, all awaiting for the tourists' spending invasion. For chilling out purposes in the evenings, some of Bali's best bars and clubs are just a short drive away.

Guests staying at the Horison Seminyak, which is a modern minimalist style resort will also be able to get to know the local Balinese culture as there are a variety of cultural performances and activities organized by the hotel management's PR department including Balinese dancing lesson, Balinese music appreciation called "Rindik", Balinese offering making called "Mejehahitan" and as well as cooking lessons to make "Lawar" for example. As part of its ongoing local culture promotion and knowledge immersion, the Resort offers every house guests at the Horison Seminyak the opportunity to have a complimentary photograph taken in intricate Balinese costume as well as a free elaborate script mentioning your memorable stay at the Hotel written in Balinese indigenous script as a souvenir. Such exceptional and pleasurable personalized gestures undertaken by the hotel will surely offer the hotel guests an everlasting memory. The best attraction the hotel provide is of course the sumptuous buffet spread during breakfast time which is completely HALAL.

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2D1N Hotel Stay

- Daily breakfast
- Complimentary wifi internet connection
- Complimentary photo shoot in Balinese costume and souvenir

FROM RM

218
per room/per night

THE BEACH WALK

Bali's latest beach front icon is undoubtedly the hip and happening "beachwalk" located at Kuta. Opened since 12 August, 2012, the fabulous mall offers the fashionable visitors plenty of stores parading the finest fashion and beauty brands, sophisticated yet funky dining outlets as well as being an oasis for the arts, culture and cinematic audience. For the record, this prestigious retail and lifestyle hub building design has been architecturally inspired by the gentle contours of the rice terraces that have been etched into the Bali's rural landscape by generations of farmers. A great lifestyle icon in Bali indeed that is not to be missed when you walk on Kuta!



SOMEWHERE IN UBUD

Don Antonio Blanco, is arguably the most famous and successful artist to ever live in Bali. After settling down in Bali in 1952, he later built his magnificent studio on top of a mountain overlooking the Campuhan River. This flamboyant building which is a unique blend of traditional Balinese architecture imbued with the spirit of his native Spain, houses an interesting collection of works drawn from different periods of his long and distinguished career. During his life it was visited daily by hundreds of people from all over the world. The artist, full of "Catalan charisma," earned himself the sobriquet "The Fabulous Blanco," an expression that mirrored his talent for creativity and cultural integrity. He died in 1999.

During his lifetime, Don Antonio Blanco received many awards, among which include the following :

- The Tiffany Fellowship (USA)
- The Cannon Prize (New York City)
- The Suydam Bronze Medal (National Academy of Art and Design New York City)
- The Most Popular Painting Award (USA)
- Honorable Mention (Honolulu Academy of Art USA)



MOU SIGNING BETWEEN SUTRA TRAVEL SDN BHD & UiTM SHAH ALAM

A bilateral memorandum of understanding to collaborate on special projects pertaining to education and tourism was signed recently by the Head of Faculty for Tourism and Hotel Management of UiTM, Tan Sri Sahol Hamid and YB Dato Syed Razif representing Sri Sutra Utama Sdn Bhd. One of its main objectives is to assist in the implementation of tourism related initiatives supported by the government in accordance with the education system.

SUTRA DURIANS & FRUITS FIESTA AFTERNOON

As an annual activity, this informal event organized by the Sutra Active Club members once again brings that aromatic essence of the King of Fruits right in front of our door steps. It was well anticipated and was akin to a "Pasar Tani" festival with a free flow of tropical fruits galore including "dokong" and mata kucing and other special entremetses like "pengat durian" and other "kuih muih".



SUTRA HARI RAYA OPEN HOUSE

This year's Sutra Hari Raya Puasa Open House was held at the popular "Kampung Pengantin" venue in Setapak. It was well attended by our corporate guests and Dato Syed's close family members. The event was held from 3.00 pm till 10.00 pm and guests were entertained to a continuous performance of classical evergreen songs and music from an acoustic and percussion band while enjoying the sumptuous buffet spread of traditional favorites like ketupat, rendang, laksa, beriyani, fried chicken, cendul, barbequed baby lamb and all-day favorite beverages like "teh tarik" and "sirap". A lucky draw concluded the festive evening mood with all guests leaving happy and satisfied.



FORUM PERDANA - MUSLIM TOURISM

YB Dato Syed Razif was also recently invited by Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) to speak about the Malaysian Muslim Tourism Trends in its weekly "Forum Perdana" programme that touched upon the perspectives of Islamic /Muslim travel topics within the social intellect.

It was the first time that the panel was given a tourism theme discourse as opposed to the regular and traditionally strong religious subjects offered. The programme was recorded earlier and was only televised in the month of September.



7 BUSINESS MENTORS REVEAL THE REAL SECRETS OF SUCCESS - BERNAMA RADIO PROGRAMME

Our Group MD and Group CEO, Datuk Syed Mohamad Razif Al Yahya was featured in a special business segment over a Bernama Radio interview recently. He gave some valuable insights into the development of his travel agency from its infancy stage until what is today, a progressive and much respected travel management company. He shared his personal expertise and wide experience know how of the trade through his appearance with 7 other Bumiputera entrepreneurs in particular, the introduction of the travel franchise trade, which is a first for any Bumiputera travel company in the country.



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Come 2014, VMY or Visit Malaysia Year will come into place to greet tourists once again to welcome them to savour the enchanting and diversified destinations the country has to offer.

Places to visit in Malaysia

Malaysia offers the best of everything in one country. This beautiful tropical country offers lush rainforest adventures, amazing shopping experiences, multiracial cultural encounters, fascinating food choices, endless white sand beaches and more.

For the city lover

There are a number of main cities to explore in Malaysia, each city offers a different kind of experience. Kuala Lumpur is the capital where everything happens. All the major international brands for most things can be found here. Other notable cities to explore are Kota Kinabalu in Sabah where it is a coastal city with a beautiful waterfront while Kuching in Sarawak caters to the more nature and adventure type of place.

For the nature lover

Many places around the country offer amazing national and wildlife parks apart from the forest reserves, mountains and marine parks. As there are too many to name, I will note the most popular which is Kinabalu Park, Sukau Kinabatangan and Danum Valley in Sabah Borneo. There is also Niah and Mulu National Park in Northern Sarawak while there is also the Bako National Park in the south.

Over in Peninsular Malaysia, there are numerous places worth exploring like the Taman Negara National Park and the Endau-Rompin National Park.

For the food tourist

Malaysia is a land of food abundance and a variety of mouth-watering food can be found just about any corner of the country. Many have said 'You will never go hungry in Malaysia' and that is a fact. Local Malaysian food comes in hawker and restaurant choices where it all depends on how you want to explore the foods here. Culinary tourism is a great travel adventure encounter for the hungry tourist.

However, for the international traveler, there are also many other cuisines found throughout the country. From general Continental, Japanese, Mexican, Spanish, Korean, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Thai and even Middle Eastern food which can be found at most cities in restaurants. Some hawker centers offer stall that sell these kind of foods.

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- Halfday city tour (2.5hrs)

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344
per person

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- Daily breakfast
- Return Airport Transfer
- Halfday city tour (3hrs)
- Visit to Sarawak Cultural Village- Entrance fees included (4hrs)

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per person

**3D2N Johor Free & Easy**

- Daily breakfast
- Return Airport Transfer

FROM RM
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per person

**3D2N Kuala Lumpur City Escape**

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Mr Ariff Mohammad, who is the Senior Finance Consultant at Sri Sutra Travel Sdn Bhd is not your typical finance personnel head you would find in a modern corporate office, more so especially for a travel agency establishment. Why ? Because while many steering financial positions are often minded by their own relatives or immediate families, the position that Mr Ariff Mohammad is helming calls for a very tall responsibility especially so for the entire Sutra family business. Immaculate and well dressed Mr Ariff Mohammad is the new generation of young accountants who is not only well qualified in his educational attributes but who also possessed excellent oral and written communication skills, together with his strong and savvy computer skills. It is as if he is already putting attention into details so to speak.

Most people would think that accountants perform the same activities every day in the office but heading the overall finance department requires a passion to meet your utmost dedication with the people you work with and the clients that your company possess but within the common job description of the people working under his jurisdiction, he sees that repetition builds experience, skill and efficiency in most employees' job scope. According to Mr Ariff once his staff becomes more experienced, their daily skills become more diverse as they develop skills to address their job performances.

Mr Ariff Mohammad proudly mentioned about his main job responsibility, citing that " it is the systematic management of the company's cash flow, collection, monitoring clients accounts, managing daily MIS, forecasting as well as budgeting " in one single statement..

As an ongoing personal desire to accomplish his professional qualifications, Mr Ariff Mohammad

is currently attending his CIMA classes and in the event when there is no class he will be spending his spare time with family going out for a wholesome movie or enjoying his favorite satay snacks at dinner time. He admits that his career gives him positive effects on his physical and mental attitude and this is due to his ability to manage and balance both career and personal life well. To him his career is something of a professional passion but defended that his family's priorities come first and will not compromise them for anything less.

As far as his hobbies are concerned, he has nothing much to elaborate except that he indulges only in the racquet game especially badminton while adoring Lin Dan as his favorite sports idol and Amazing Race as his favorite television programme..

He believes that he is still too young to give any sort of professional advice to anyone who intends to take up an accountant position but since the question was raised, he responded

rather objectively : "Anyone who wants to be an accountant need to develop to become a person who will able to to foresee things and must learn to develop in depth knowledge on any industry they are in to " .

On a parting note Mr Ariff Mohammad have these visionary and wise words to say about the Company:

"My vision for Sutra is to enhance the finance and accounting process and provide value proposition in increasing profit. Aspiration for my department is to develop the team members knowledge in finance and accounting and improve their individual skill on their daily routine task."

We wish him good luck and good appetite to success for Mr Ariff Mohammad 's current and future undertakings.

INBOX

First letter

Dear Ms Nadia,

We stayed for 3 (three) nights at the Coconut Village Resort near Patong Beach and found the hotel to be a great place. Very central to most attractions, and very relaxing. My family had a good stay and we found that the location was great for shopping and easy to get to the night life. Also very handy to the beach and for sightseeing there was plenty of transport available at a small cost and plenty of good food outlets and bars where food was available. There was plenty to do, and I must say that this is a great resort in Phuket ! .
The rooms were very clean and the rooms were very spacious indeed! The hotel staff were very friendly, helpful and spoke English fluently. I would recommend this hotel to any of my friends without hesitation.

I would like to spend my forthcoming honeymoon there next year ! Phuket here I come ! .

Lots of memories ,

Linda Rahman

Second letter

Dear Ms Winnie,

My experience at the Hard Rock Hotel in Penang was marvelous indeed ! This is the kind of swanky place you go when you are keen on all the little things being right. Countless little touches put this place among the best hotels I've ever stayed in. The service was phenomenal, the room and bathroom pristine. I had great entertainment at the next door Café and the music puts me in a great mood to relax and unwind. Too much to expect from a little Island but Penang has so much to offer , We had an enjoyable Malaysian holiday and thanks to a great location ,we now have so much to do for our itinerary .

Thanks a million !

Mr & Mrs Paul Ganeson

Third letter

Dear Ms Nadia,

I stayed in the Swiss Hotel Singapore during an exhibition trip at the Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre recently. The hotel location was superb, right in the very heart of Singapore with many shopping places and restaurants. Getting to Orchard Road was very convenient via the MRT ! Singapore provides great convenience both for sightseeing and shopping and always adds a touch of history to my stay when I visited the National Museum. This must be the tallest hotel in Singapore. The staff were very friendly and extremely helpful. It makes my stay even more pleasant. When arriving into Singapore for my business trip I always feel myself like coming home as I can meet many local friends and enjoy the local food with them too.

Thank you for recommending a great Hotel in a great location ! Sutra surely made my day !

Regards,

James Matius anak Singkang

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