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borneoheights

destination

Villages Above The Clouds



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,
CREATIVE INDUSTRY AND
PERFORMING ARTS



SARAWAK TOURISM BOARD





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CONTENTS

11 VILLAGES ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Kampung Sapit
Kampung Kiding
Kampung Simuti

25 VILLAGES ABOVE THE DAM

Kampung Sting
Kampung Muk Ayun
Kampung Rejai Nyegol

37 THE MOTHER VILLAGE ANNAH RAIS

The longest longhouse in Kuching,
and one of the oldest Bidayuh
longhouse

47 HEAVENLY HOMESTAYS

Sarawak aboriginal homestay,
excellent view and beautiful
cozy rooms

53 NATURE WATERFALLS

Varieties of magnificent waterfalls
in Padawan

67 NATURE CAVES

Explore our beautiful caves
in Padawan

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark pinstriped suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red patterned tie, stands in the foreground. The background features a sunset over a mountain range with a sea of clouds below. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. The overall mood is serene and professional.

**“ GREATER
SARAWAK ”**

MESSAGE FROM PREMIER OF SARAWAK

**Assalamualaikum and
Salam Sarawak Ibu Pertiwiku.**

First of all I would like to congratulate members of the Persatuan Usahawan Bumiputera Penrissen (PUBP) under the constituency of N19 (YB Datuk Dr. Jerip Susil) for publishing their first travel magazine entitled “**Borneo Heights Destination**”. This is indeed a very encouraging effort by PUBP to assist the Bidayuh communities in Borneo Heights area to enhance their socio-economy by highlighting the various local eco-tourism attractions in this first edition of the magazine.

I am given to understand that PUBP is working closely with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) to develop the contents highlighting the many aspects of nature and cultural heritage of the Bidayuh people as portrayed in their ways of life and interactions with the natural surroundings, unique food, festivals and art forms. These are potentials that need to develop and promote to attract both local and international travellers to come and experience the hospitality of Sarawak’s local people.

I sincerely hope that the publication of this magazine will provide easy access to information on places of interest and local attraction in the Borneo Heights for the benefit of both local and foreign tourists.

The COVID-19 pandemic even with the easing of restrictions has been quite a challenge to tourism promotional efforts. It is great to note that the publisher is offering alternative methods of promoting the eco-tourism products by making the magazine available both in printed and online versions.

I wish to see more editions of the magazine in the future in other themes and graced with the alluring pictorial presentations of places of interest and attractions in the Borneo Heights.

Once again, I would like to congratulate PUBP for this great effort and I wish readers happy browsing and reading.



**YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman
Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg**
*Premier of Sarawak
Minister of Finance and New Economy
Minister of Natural Resources and Urban Development
Minister of Energy and Environmental Sustainability*



“

**SARAWAK
THE BEAUTIFUL
REGION**

**WITH VIBRANT CULTURE
AND HERITAGE**

”

MESSAGE FROM

MINISTER OF TOURISM, CREATIVE INDUSTRY AND PERFORMING ARTS MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT SARAWAK

Greetings!

The Sarawak Tourism Industry is BACK and we are ready to welcome tourists travelling to Malaysia and into our beloved state of Sarawak again. Hence, we would like to say 'Selamat Datang' or Welcome to Sarawak, the beautiful region with vibrant culture and heritage.

We are all aware of the Covid-19 situation back in 2020-2021 and its impact on the tourism sector when travel ban and restrictions were imposed on almost every country on earth. However, that did not stop us from organising major events such as Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Destination Marketing Forum 2021, held on 25th – 26th November 2021 albeit on virtual platforms. The forum gathered top minds in destination marketing and management across Asia Pacific whereby around 700 delegates from 62 countries attended the two-day virtual event and they had the opportunity to view virtual tours across Sarawak. Other than PATA, we also organized TENUN Fashion Week 2021 and this event was dedicated completely to the handweaves of The Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN. The inaugural event was screened online from 15 to 17 October 2021, celebrating the handwoven textiles and weaving communities in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines. TENUN Fashion Week 2021 was organised in joint cooperation between ASEAN Handicraft Promotion and Development Association (AHPADA) and Tanoti. The event was also supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia and Maybank Foundation through its Maybank Women Eco Weavers Programme.

Now that we have opened our border to tourists all over the world, we have numerous events in plan for you and all can be found in our tourism calendar. Among those major events supported by our ministry are Rainforest World Music Festival (RWMF), The ASEAN International Film Festival & Awards (AIFFA), Borneo Cultural Festival, Borneo International Kite Festival, Spartan Race and etc. Please feel free to browse our website at sarawaktourism.com to discover and finding out more on what we have in store.

I would like to congratulate Persatuan Usahawan Bidayuh Penrissen (PUBP) for this very first edition of travel magazine called "Borneo Heights Destination" which aims to promote and highlight tourist destinations in the Padawan and Penrissen area. This is indeed an excellent approach in furnishing information for the existing local supporters and potentially attracting more international tourists. All imperative information in the magazine is definitely valuable to the Sarawak Tourism industry, tour agencies and tour operators at large.

Revealing a hidden side of Borneo Heights is unlike anything else. It offers an alternative point of view for those seeking humble and authentic experiences, a journey of discoveries all on its own, which is far from the tourist-trap clichés. Whether it is to share the lifestyle of one of the many indigenous communities' longhouses, or exploring nature of waterfalls and villages above the clouds, you will find Sarawak offering a host of memorable experiences to bring home and perhaps to your loved ones.

Borneo Heights Destination welcomes you! Thank you.



YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah



**“ LOST WORLD OF
MOTHER NATURE IN BORNEO ”**

MESSAGE FROM

DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT SARAWAK (AVIATION AND ROAD)

My highest appreciation to YAB Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg on his kind approval for this very first edition of **Borneo Heights Destination** Magazine. My gratitude to YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry, Performing Arts for his encouragement on this great initiative in promoting Bidayuh localities especially the Borneo Heights Destination.

It is a well-known fact that the Bidayuh community in the past, especially those residing in Padawan and Penrissen area, settled in villages within higher grounds due to various reasons and the most crucial would be – for security. In those days, the villagers will have to meander around on foot through thick jungles, climbing steep slopes, crossing crystal clear rivers and streams to commute to their farms and daily activities such as gathering for jungle produce, fishing and hunting.

Many of those villages resting on high grounds are still maintained until today although some had moved to lower grounds and over time, heavy transportation becomes available thus providing the people with modern telecommunications and amenities. The rivers and streams are still intact with fresh underground waters flowing through them, finding its ways to the mouth of Sarawak River and into the South China Sea.

Kampung Kiding, Kampung Sapit, and Kampung Simuti are among traditional villages still standing on the very high grounds. These are the villages fondly referred to as the “**Villages Above the Clouds**”.

It is time now to share the beauty of mother nature in Borneo Highlands to holidays makers as well as eager travellers.

I am very pleased to see that a team comprising of Persatuan Usahawan Bidayuh Penrissen (PUBP), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), and N19 Mambong Media Team had proposed this magazine with the intention to showcase the uniqueness of natural beauty and culture in Borneo Heights to the rest of the world.

I sincerely hope that the magazine can provide necessary information for adventure lovers and for families or educational retreat.

I wish you all the best and please have a good time exploring the rich and diverse natural landscape in Borneo Heights and experiencing the authentic Bidayuh culture.



YB Datuk Dr Jerip Susil



“

BORNEO HEIGHTS DESTINATION

THE BIDAYUH'S PARADISE

”

MESSAGE FROM

CHAIRMAN, PERSATUAN USAHAWAN BIDAYUH PENRISSEN (PUBP)

First, I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone involved in this first edition of our very own Eco-tourism magazine, 'Borneo Heights Destination'. The successful collaboration between Persatuan Usahawan Bidayuh Penrissen (PUBP), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), and the N19 Mambong Media Team has led to the conception of this wonderful magazine with the main objective as a promotion platform for eco-tourism at the Borneo Heights Destination area thus presenting us with the opportunity to share the serenity of our flora and fauna to nature-enthusiasts alike. I would like again to acknowledge the committees for their dedication to materialise this dream to compile our eco-tourism highlights in Puncak Borneo inside one special magazine: PUBP with the committee members, UNIMAS represented by Associate Professor Dr. Qistina Donna Lee, and finally the N19 Mambong media team. Thank you everyone.

It is without a doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many people and businesses around the world. The unfortunate circumstances surrounding us for the past couple of years made some of us extremely stressed out and anxious due to the ongoing spread and the spike in the number of cases. As a result, the tourism sector, which is arguably the most affected industry during this period, was laid dormant for almost two years. Fortunately, with recent ease of the Standard-Operating Procedure (SOP), it is hoped that the tourism sector would once again flourish as it once was. Henceforth, it is the right time for us to reveal the newly discovered tourist spots in Puncak Borneo.

Previously, many villages in Puncak Borneo were plagued with challenging terrains with farther villages as far as Kampung Sapit proven to be a dangerous and treacherous journey since it is bordered with Indonesia.

Today, most of the kampungs in Puncak Borneo are easily accessible by proper roads with modern facilities. To add on, the kampungs now have telecommunications and stable internet connections provided by Unifi. With better infrastructure that we have now, it is possible to develop a tourism spot in Puncak Borneo. We have attainable potentials and beautiful tourist spots such as 'Villages above the Clouds', 'Villages by the Dam', rocky waterfalls, hot springs, Heritage longhouses, Homestays, caves, river kayak safari and picturesque landscape.

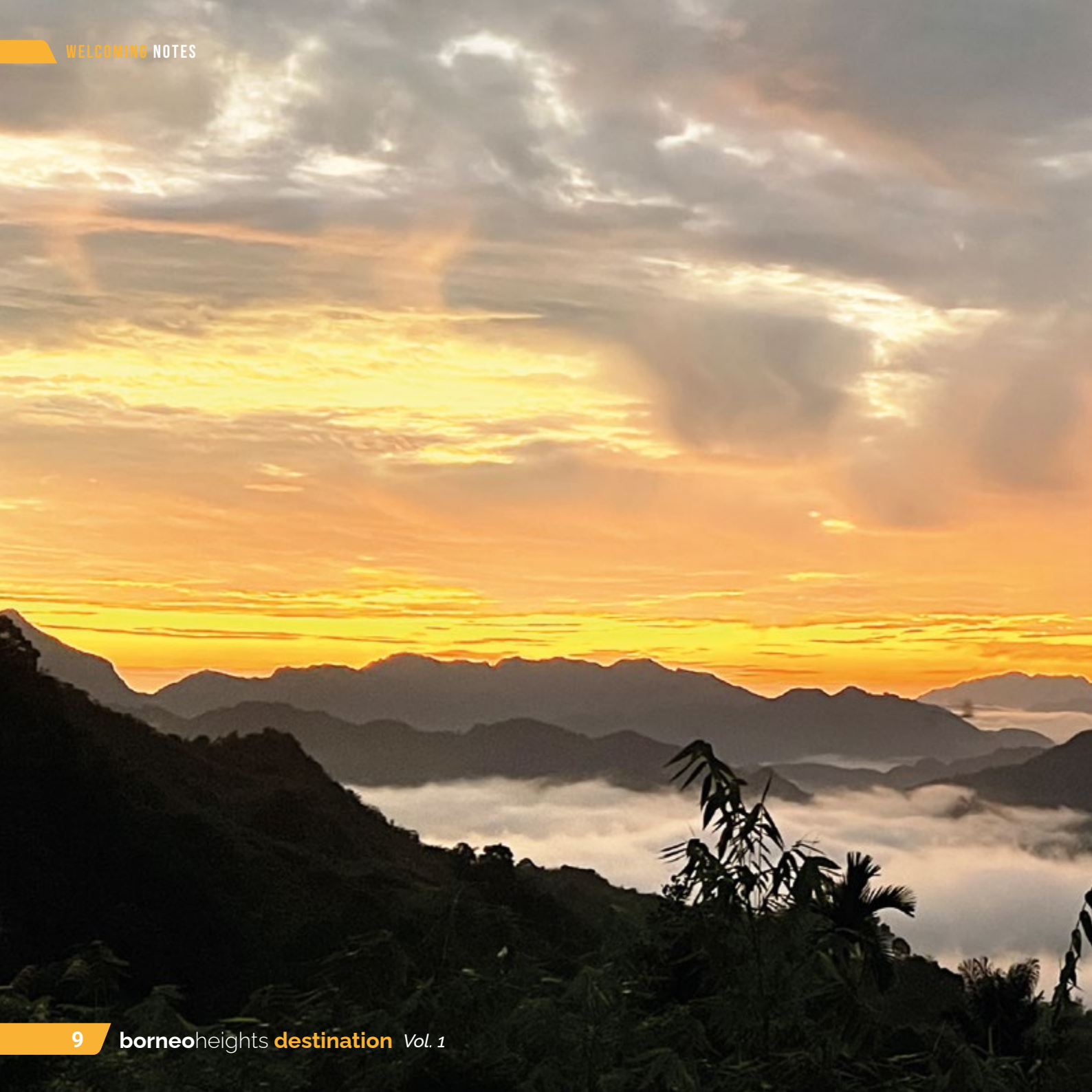
Before I end my message, I would like to express my very special thank you to YAB Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg and YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah for their blessings on this project. Even with their busy and tight daily schedules, they were still able to spend time with us to ensure the success of this tourism magazine.

Not to forget our very own YB Datuk Dr. Jerip Susil, Assemblyman for N19 Mambong and Deputy Minister of Transport. Without his utmost support, guidance, and financial contribution, I'm sure our dreams for this magazine will just be a mere dream.

Finally, as the Chairman of PUBP, with my humble heart, I would LOVE to hear your interest or thoughts on this venture of the kampung at Puncak Borneo.



Mr. Jores Sedek



Chief Editor's Letter

Firsts, debuts and inaugural moments of any journey are special. Undoubtedly, it is the same for us as we bring you the first edition of the Borneo Heights Destination Magazine. This tangible output is born out of our love for travelling into nature and breathing the fresh environment of Borneo Highlands, the land of the Bidayuhs. After preserving memories of all the travels that we took together, we realised that we needed to tell these stories to others who share similar passion. Stories about the Villages Above the Clouds, Villages Above the Dam, magnificent waterfalls and caves in Padawan and the Jurassic Park of Borneo. Visitors will enjoy revealing the history of the Mother Village, full of stories about little things such as the sunrise and sunsets, flowers, nature, the people, their hospitality, and many more beautiful legends that the Bidayuh people hold so dear to their heart.

The world has been hit by the COVID-19 virus and has badly affected people all around the world, our economy especially the tourism sector has been hit like a tsunami. With the restriction of movement, closed borders, and limitation of business activities, people are looking for something that they can do with their free time. Thus, this leads them to explore more on outdoor activities mainly hiking and trekking. Recent trend on social media saw the Lost world of Padawan where the scenery looks like the Jurassic period. This Jurassic Park look alike is located at Susung Waterfall in Bengoh Dam area. Other than Susung Waterfall, Kampung Sting also has a mesmerising panorama of the sunset from the top of the hill.

“ECO TOURISM AT BORNEO HEIGHTS DESTINATION”

This magazine is created as an initiative for eco-tourism in Borneo Highland but throughout our meeting we decided it is best for this publication to be a one kind of the only magazine specifically representing Bidayuh Cultural and Heritage. In this first edition, Annah Rais, registered as the Heritage Longhouse in Geopark will be the highlights apart from Bengoh Dam and Village above the Dam. There are numerous activities for tourists in Annah Rais and they will be provided with the guideline on how to book homestays. Furthermore, we have invited the locals here to share fascinating history and legends surrounding their villages in their own way with keen visitors.

Borneo Heights Destination will be a potboiler for the Bidayuh's lifestyle and legendary tales. We look forward to seeing you and hope you will enjoy your visit here as much as we have while creating it.

To new beginnings. upwards and onwards!



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Qistina Donna Lee
Deputy Dean Research and Commercialization
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak



A scenic view of a mountain village at sunrise or sunset. The foreground shows a wooden roof with a railing. The middle ground features silhouetted trees and a mountain peak. The background is a bright sky with a sun low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The text "VILLAGES ABOVE THE CLOUDS" is overlaid in the upper center.

VILLAGES ABOVE
THE CLOUDS



View from Shiroh Campsite and Chalet



Tent facing the view at Kiyau campsite

• KAMPUNG SAPIT

Kampung Sapit is famous on social media as many people talk about the beautiful and breathtaking view and it as mystical as its name 'The Village Above the Clouds'. For those who want to escape the bustling city life, you may want to consider exploring this place for a relaxing time and experiencing the warm kisses of sunrise. Additionally, you may also spend the night in a tent among the clouds high up the mountain.

“

The beautiful and
breathtaking view of
Kampung Sapit

”

Kampung Sapit is located not far from the border of West Kalimantan, Indonesia and with just around 2-hours drive from Kuching city centre. Tourists can enjoy spectacular views of the Padawan highlands from 1000 meter above sea level along the way.

There are a few operating campsites in **Kampung Sapit**. The campsites belong to the villagers who have decided to open their doors for outsiders to sample the way they live. There are two types of campsites: the *tanju* (bamboo platform) and the one on the campsite.



Villages houses at Kampung Sapit



Connecting bamboo bridge to one of the campsite





Kiyau campsite

Jungle trekking and hiking are some of the activities offer for those who love strenuous adventure. Campsite operators provides a variety of activities such as hiking to a few of the village waterfall; Piin Bereh Fall, Bajau Fall, Subah Fall, Sangoh Fall and the latest to be found is Takor Fall. Jawatankuasa Kemajuan dan Keselamatan Kampung (JKKK) or the Village Development and Security Committee in **Kampung Sapit** has decided to join venture with the JKKK Kampung Gun, Tembawang (West Kalimantan) in order to gain mutual benefits by promoting eco-tourism activities together. The most interesting part here is that tourists get the opportunity to go to the border of West Kalimantan and enjoy a beautiful waterfall there called Mureh Fall. Interesting fact regarding Mureh Fall is that it is also called the 'Three Daughters Waterfall'. It got the name from the water that falls simultaneously into the ravine. After a long day walk, it is a good idea to reward your mind and body with some crystal-clear water of the waterfall.



Bung Siju @ sunrise view village stay



Kiyau campsite



Paddy field at Kampung Sapit



Magnificent view from Kampung Sapit

Waking up early after spending the night in **Kampung Sapit** is such an experience and visitors may want to consider catching the beautiful sunrise and a sea of thick clouds surrounding the village at dawn. Should the weather permits, tourists will be able to witness the night sky full of glimmering stars. Other than that, tourists may request for a Bidayuh traditional food or sample the locally brewed rice wine. In terms of cooking utensils for the Muslim, fret not as the campsite's operator will cater for them and their halal needs.



Takar Ketek, Kampung Kiding



A hut at Takar Ketek

• KAMPUNG KIDING

Kampung Kiding is one of the villages being put under the category of 'Village Above the Clouds'. This village is so high up that it is considered a hidden gem because the whole village is shrouded by the clouds as it is located on the mountain peaks. Located in Ulu Padawan, 412 meter above sea level and just below the *Darud Manung* (*Manung's Mountain*) this village community is called the Bidayuh Biya. This community first settled here around 400 years ago according to the village locals. For those wanting an adventure driving along hilly roads and being close with nature, **Kampung Kiding** is definitely the one to explore. This village is so quiet and calm that it is also called the sleepy village.

“

Village Above
the Clouds unique for
Exotic Pahkak tree

”

Kampung Kiding is connected to the waterfalls via few hiking trails. These waterfalls are called Gareg Fall, Jahnam Fall and Tanju Fall. Tourists can go for a hike there with the help of local guides. The waterfalls are not the ones to be missed when they go for tours in Kampung Kiding as those are the main attractions of this village apart from the magnificent view and Pahkak (*Litsea tree*) processing centre.

Many are not aware of the existence of a plant named pahkak and it can be found in **Kampung Kiding**. Its scientific name is '*Litsea Cubeba*' but is known to the Bidayuh community as Pahkak and for the Orang Ulu it is called *Tenem*. This plant surprisingly only grows and thrives well in the mountains surrounding **Kampung Kiding** in the entire of Padawan municipality area while the rest of its natural habitat are somewhere in Bario, Long Telingan as well as Long Kerebangan, Lawas. The main purpose of this plant is for the making of hygiene products such as sanitisers, soaps, shampoo, air fresheners, and essential oils. Traditionally, pahkak plant are used as herbs for food flavouring. Apart from that, it was solely used as traditional remedy to soothe stomach-aches before it was discovered to have commercial values.



Pahkak leaves



Pahkak leaves



Processing machine of Pahkak



Distillation Process of Pahkak

Kampung Kiding also has its own Pahkak processing centre which has become a unique feature to this hidden village. After Pahkak plants are harvested, they need to be processed immediately to retain its benefits and nutrients. Under Sarawak Biodiversity Centre, co-financed by Unit Peneraju Agenda Bumiputera (TERAJU), they have appointed 24 residents of Kampung Kiding to plant at least 200 trees on their own land.

Each season the villagers will be able to yield up to one litre of *Litsea Cubeba* extract within a duration of one month. From planting this plant, the villagers can earn at least RM1,000 per harvest. This proof to be one of the successful initiatives ran by the Sarawak Government to promote **Kampung Kiding** and improving the livelihood of the villagers.





Homestays are available should tourists want to spend the night and feel the cool breeze at dusk as there are a few homestays available for booking. The water supply in **Kampung Kiding** is from natural resources provided by Manung Mountain from the gravity-fed streams flowing downwards into the village. This made the water cold at night or in the morning. Tourists will feel the freezing cool air when sleeping in a village on top of a mountain. There is abundance of activities for the tourists here such as enjoying the night by sitting on the traditional *tanju* (platform made of bamboo) or they may opt to set campfire / barbeque outside of the *tanju*. However, the availability of these activities is depending on the location of the house and the weather.



Traditional barbeque pit

Kampung Kiding has plenty of bamboo trees scattered around its area, so it is a readily natural resources for the village people. They use bamboo mostly to build and maintain the traditional features of the *tanju*.



Sunset, Kampung Simuti

• KAMPUNG SIMUTI

Kampung Simuti is a village that is hidden among the other villages. It is a small village blessed with rich culture to be learned by visitors. It is located in the highlands of Padawan, Borneo. The journey to this kampung will let you pass by the well-known Annah Rais longhouse and their famous hot springs. The winding roads will take you on a thrilling journey and you will feel that you are riding the roller coaster. The journey itself is not dangerous in fact, it will be entertaining to those who is seeking some excitement in their road trip. The view along the way is stunning as there are plenty of paddy fields belonging to the villagers.



Rocks at Sungai Kayan



Tieng Arun bridge connecting the village

Kampung Simuti has one passage leading up to a river called *Sungai Kayan*. It will take around 2 hours of hike to reach this beautiful river. There is even a small waterfall at the end of the riverine. *Sungai Kayan* is full of rocks in different sizes where you can find monolith attractions such as *Batu Nibong* and *Batu Kayu* there. Tourists may ask the local guides or from the Village Head for more information regarding the monoliths.

Apart from that, **Kampung Simuti** also offers well-worth hikes to a mountain named *Gunung Sebatuh* for active hikers. It has a nice view on top as you can view the whole village. If you are lucky during the hike, you will hear a few types of birds singing their tune along the way. Furthermore, from a distance you can see paddy fields which means the journey is still a long way to go. The more you move inside the heart of the mountain, the atmosphere gets colder with all the big trees covering the track.



Morning view from Kampung Simuti

Back at the village, next to a church, there is a huge football field and this is where you may witness the clouds slowly cloaking the village at dawn or dusk. It is a beautiful scene that you do not want to miss. In Padawan, a traditional bamboo structure called *tanju* is a very well-known feature in every home. This is because bamboo trees grow a lot and very prevalent especially in the areas surrounding the village.



Bengoh Dam view

VILLAGES ABOVE THE DAM





Bengoh Dam view

The **Bengoh Dam** was completed at the end of 2010. The purpose of this dam was to supply clean water to almost 1 million people around Kuching. As a result of the construction of the dam, about 1600 local residents had to be relocated to the Bengoh Resettlement Scheme (BRS) area. Based on a series of studies conducted by the Sarawak State Government since 1980 which concluded that Kuching residents and people living in the area needed new and energy-friendly water resources to keep the town sustainable in the future. This sustainable water reserve is also imperative to facilitate the fast-developing Kuching city. One of the projects during the construction of Bengoh Dam started in 2007 is the relocation of the nearby residents from Kampung Taba Sait, Kampung Pain Bojong, Kampung Semban, and Kampung Rejai.

Since they were affected by the dam construction, the authority needed to transport the villagers to new resettlement areas. Although some of the residents were unwilling to move out from their ancestor's land, they were still allowed to build up new settlements on top of the hills that was not affected by the dam. On top of that, each family unit of the affected villages is compensated with a new house and a land for farming. In the newly designed village under the Bengoh Resettlement Scheme, the residents are provided with an internet centre, a multi-purpose hall, and a public school.

However, it is difficult for the Bidayuh people to be separated from their customary land, so 3 new villages were formed namely Kampung Sting, Kampung Nyegol and Kampung Muk Ayun, which is known as Village Above The Dam. These villages are very famous as one of the eco-tourism area available in the Padawan district.



One of the villagers with the boat



Jetty where the villagers park their boats



The Village Above The Dam is not accessible by road. Therefore, visitors need to take a boat for 20 minutes through the Bengoh Dam to reach the three (3) villages. During the journey across the Lake, visitors can enjoy the view of Lake Bengoh surrounded by mountains and waterfalls that flow into the lake.

After reaching the base of the hill, visitors need to continue the journey by foot up the hill to reach the village. The journey usually takes only around 10-20 minutes to reach the destination.



“

Spectacular view
from the boat when
cruising through
the **Bengoh Dam**.

”





A villager resting at the *tanju*

• KAMPUNG STING

“

Kampung Sting or previously known as Kampung Pain Bojong is now given the nickname “Jurassic World” by the local people.

”

Kampung Sting or previously known as Kampung Pain Bojong is now given the nickname “*Jurassic World*” by the local people. The nickname is very appropriate for the mountainous terrains and thick forests, surrounding the village. To travel to **Kampung Sting**, visitors will have to take the boat from Bengoh Dam and the journey takes about 15 minutes before they arrived at the foot of the hill or the jetty. The journey continues with visitors having to hike for another 20-30 minutes to reach the settlement.

To get there, you can hire a local guide as it is not advisable for visitors to travel around the area by themselves therefore you need to make early arrangements with the guide for a smooth journey. Visitors are highly recommended to visit Curtain Waterfall and Susung Waterfall. The trip to the waterfall will take about 45 minutes up the hill from the jetty. When you reach at the first waterfall it looks like a curtain which is how it got its name, Curtain Waterfall. 20 minutes from Curtain Waterfall, you will reach Susung Waterfall where you will find the popular 'bent' tree vine and its amazing view of Susung Waterfall in the background.



Trail to Kampung Sting

While hiking through **Kampung Sting** area, you will notice that there is a rubber farm just a few miles away. Rubber tapping is some of the economic activities practiced by the villagers even since before the construction of the dam apart from other commodities such as pepper and rubber. Your journey to the villages will be quite challenging as you need to track and climb through slippery and muddy trails.

In **Kampung Sting**, some villagers took the initiatives to renovate and extend their houses. As a result, they have opened homestays and other local activities such as boat ride, and traditional dance workshop for outsiders as alternative sources of income. Up to date, there are 6 homestays registered in this village. Each homestay charges visitors at different rates depending on facilities and activities available in each property.

One interesting thing to do that you need to add to your bucket list while visiting **Kampung Sting** is to view the whole area of the lake from one high point in the village. Some homestay owners built high-level *tanju* for tourists to relax while enjoying the incredible scenery such as clouds covering up the hills during sunsets. However, visitors are advised to return to the jetty in the evening (just before nightfall) and spend the night at **Kampung Sting** to fully experience life in the Village Above The Dam.



Bidayuh Baruk

• KAMPUNG MUK AYUN

Kampung Muk Ayun has its own specialty - visitors can come and spend the night while having meals together with the villagers. The meals here are prepared and cooked in accordance with the demands and dietary restrictions of the visitors themselves.

According to our interviews with the locals, tourism here is yet to be popular as the village population is slightly low and many activities are done only on weekends as everyone in the village goes to their farms or forests on weekdays since that is their primary and domestic lifestyle. The uniqueness of this village in terms of sceneries and the culture will become the selling point for **Kampung Muk Ayun**.



The Tanju



Jetty of Kampung Muk Ayun

• KAMPUNG REJOI NYEGOL

Kampung Rejoi Nyegol or as it mostly known as just **Kampung Nyegol**, is famous for the Bayan Atuh Eco Tourism Zone. Kampung Nyegol provides activities such as overnight stay in the village, river picnic, waterfall visit and food foraging. In addition, there are also other fascinating activities such as night camping in forest tents.

According to the Village Head, Kampung Nyegol Homestay has been running its business since 2017. He also added that the journey from the jetty to the homestay only takes about 25 minutes. In addition to extreme activities (such as hiking and climbing), cool weather are some of the main attractions to the tourists.

Kampung Nyegol first became known to many when it hosted the Bayan Atuh Trail Run back in 2017 and 2018. Interestingly, the participations for the event were not only from the locals as there were others from abroad such as the United Kingdom, Belgium, Ireland, Singapore, Italy and Indonesia.



View from Bayan Atuh Homestay





Entrance to the Annah Rais longhouse



THE MOTHER VILLAGE
ANNAH RAIS

EMLYN'S
ESTAY & CAFE

The longest longhouse in Kuching

Many people are familiar with **Annah Rais** as the only traditional and longest longhouse in Kuching aside from its famous hot springs. But only a few know the history of **Annah Rais** and how the early settlers founded the village. Why did they call it Mother Village? It is because Annah Rais is the 'Mother' village in the Biannah area. Biannah is a clan of Bidayuh tribes comprising of 15 villages in Ulu Padawan. Apart from that, there is another clan called The Biya clan which consists of 13 villages and they are found in Ulu Padawan establishing their base towards the upper of Padawan area. There is yet another clan called the Biperoh and this clan resides along the roads in Borneo Heights.

According to the locals, **Annah Rais** was initially called Senah Negri during the colonial era. Senah Negri was a name given to refer to the Bidayuh clan called Biannah. Eventually in the 1980's, it is decided that the name Senah Negri to be changed to **Annah Rais** (*Rais is village*) which means "the village of Biannah".

Annah Rais is the earliest settlement for the Biannah clan in Borneo with 14 other villages consisting of Tepui, Sira, Stubot, Dunuk, Rayang, Rudan, Bukit Nanas, Semeru, Abang, Sadir, Simuti, Sibakar, Sibuang, and Rudan. Another interesting fact about this village is that **Annah Rais** is among the earliest villages to have constructed a school in the category of 'Sekolah Kebangsaan' (a primary school).



Bridge connecting the sections of the kampung



If you wanted to learn more on the uniqueness of living in a longhouse, **Annah Rais** is one of the best places to spend a night in and experience the lifestyle as a Bidayuh. Visitors need not to worry about accommodation since there are a few registered homestays available here. Your schedule will be packed with a variety of activities such as going to the nearest river to fish using bamboo rod, dipping your feet to refresh yourself at the nearest stream, having local delicacies such as ayam pansuh and upon request you can arrange a session for the local people to perform their traditional dance called '*brejang bauh*'.

Visitors also may visit '*Panggah*' or the head house as there still a few customary skulls lie rested there. The remains are believed to be the actual skulls from rival tribes which were acquired long time ago even before Christianity set foot in Borneo. It was during a period where many native tribes in Sarawak were still practicing head hunting rituals. The '*Panggah*' surprisingly has kept a historical brass cannon tribute from the Sultan of Brunei during his rule dated even before 17th century.

Fancy listening to Bidayuh traditional musical instruments? No problem! **Annah Rais** has one of its '*Pratuokng*' player, Arthur Broman, in resident to play you some authentic Bidayuh tunes. '*Pratuokng*' is a type of bamboo zither that can only be played by certain people. The sound of '*Pratuokng*' is different from the other string music instruments and the sound of its music only be heard when you are in **Annah Rais**. Please feel free to purchase handmade beads crafted by the locals as a souvenir to your loved ones. The souvenir can also be kept as memorabilia and as something to remember from your visit to the longhouse.



- **Pratuokng** is a Bidayuh traditional musical instrument that can only be played by certain people.



The kampung people playing the Pratuokng



Headhouse @ Panggah

• ANNAH RAIS LONGHOUSE

Have you ever wondered what life looks like in a Dayak longhouse? You will be able to experience it yourself when you take on a journey to **Annah Rais** Longhouse. This settlement has its own fascinating history and fable passed from one generation to the next up until now.

Located right after the Borneo Highlands Resort the **Annah Rais** Longhouse is highly regarded as one of the few Bidayuh traditionally built longhouses left in Sarawak. This housing complex albeit traditional on the outside, is decorated with a modern touch for the interior providing a wonderful fusion of the old and the new in a vibrant manner. This longhouse is within reach via Kuching city centre for 59 minutes of driving.



Actual skulls from rival tribes



One of the section at the longhouse

The entrance of the house is unique as you have to bring yourself to climb a traditional Bidayuh staircase made from belian wood. Upon arrival, you will see the *tanju* or the verandah that is made of bamboo. *Tanju* refers to open space for villagers to perform their daily activities. In fact, *tanju* has also been used as a gathering place for social activities.

Annah Rais settlement is consisted of 4 main sections namely *Kupo Saba* (Saba Section), *Kupuo Tirakan* (Tirakan Section), *Kupuo Putos* (Putos Section), and *Kupuo Sijo* (Sijo Section). For visitors looking for some authentic Bidayuh souvenirs to bring home to loved one, there are some stalls along the longhouse selling beadwork, local handicrafts and local farm produce.



• **Sugarcane Crusher / Tus**
(in Bidayuh language)



• ANNAH RAIS HOTSPRING

Annah Rais Hotspring is found in the upstream of Sungai Semadang, Padawan. This natural hot spring is one of the most visited point of interests for local tourists and foreigners alike.

The journey to the spring will take visitors 1 hour 7 minutes from Kuching city centre. There are rented vans and e-hailing services available for hire via Jalan Puncak Borneo. Jalan Puncak Borneo is the main route to several Bidayuh villages in Hulu Padawan thus you will be able to view the beauty of Sarawak nature along the ride.



Entrance of Annah Rais Hot Spring



Pathway heading to the Hot Spring

According to scientific studies conducted in the area, the **Annah Rais** hot spring was formed by geothermal forces heating up the local underground water which ultimately reaches the surface of the river. This geothermal spring quickly transforms into a site of interest with the aid of the government. On 10th April 2011, this area was officially opened to the public by then Deputy Minister of Tourism, the late YB Dato' James Dawos Ak Mamit.

The place is equipped with facilities such as a homestay that cost around RM 150 per night. Visitors are also given access to washrooms, showers, changing rooms, rest huts as well as BBQ pits for picnics. The hot spring itself consists of 2 pools, a big one and a smaller one which are divided across the river. An entrance fee of RM 5 for adults and RM 3 for students is charged upon arrival.

The pool is open daily from 8 am until 5 pm. Visitors will expect a 3 minutes' walk from the registration hut.




 KURAKURA HOMESTAY


 KURA-KURA
HOMESTAY
**The Owners**

• Mr Lars and Madam Liza

Kura-Kura Homestay is operated by *Madam Liza Ahngau* and her husband, *Mr Lars Larsen* since 2009. It is also known as 'Rumah Hutan' or 'Forest House' for its unique location deep within the jungle just at the brink of Sungai Semadang. As the homestay is surrounded by trees and natural elements, visitor can clearly see the concept of nature-friendly here. This has propelled the popularity of **Kura-Kura Homestay** not just in Sarawak but also outside of Malaysia as they have welcomed huge numbers of foreign visitors each year. Liza and Lars are also very involved in producing their own coffee beans which they aptly named as Kura-Kura Coffee and it became an instant hit among their visitors. Visitors to the homestay are welcomed to spend some time relaxing in their coffee plantation or just take a quick rest in the balcony while enjoying the evergreen environment. There is also a river nearby where

visitors may be tempted to take an invigorating dip. Liza further stated that the homestay also acts as a host to natural wildlife hence nature lovers would definitely appreciate the many different species of plants, trees and animals especially when they take a stroll along the paths leading to this place.

-  Kpg Semadang, Batu 24, Jln Borneo Heights, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
-  **Lars** 012 - 892 0051 / **Liza** 0111- 400 9092
-  KuraKura Homestay
-  kurakurahomestay@gmail.com
-  <https://www.kurakura.asia>

PENOT BORNEO HOMESTAY



The Owners

• Mr Zechariah and Madam Lichy

Madam Lichy anak Tumi is the owner and operator of **Penot Borneo Homestay** which she founded right after she retired from her job as a teacher. The homestay is in Kampung Git and it takes around 45 minutes from Kuching town to the homestay. The homestay has 3 Rooms, a swimming pool and a *tanju* for relaxing. There is also a bar here offering homemade tuaks (local alcoholic drink) by **Penot Borneo Homestay** and a barbeque garden complete with a barbecue pit and a karaoke set. **Penot Borneo Homestay** also caters for day trips and private parties.

- 📍 Kampung Git, km 27, Off, Jalan Puncak Borneo, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak
- ☎ 019 - 489 3900
- 👤 Lichy Tumi
- ✉ lichytumi@gmail.com

GIAM
HOMESTAY

The Owner
• Madam Phyllis Tobi

Kampung Giam is situated in the Penrissen area on the way to Puncak Borneo with a distance of 40 kilometers from Kuching town centre, the capital city of Sarawak. It takes about 60-minute drive from the heart of Kuching city or 40 minutes from the Kuching International Airport.

Giam Homestay is operated by the lovely *Madam Phyllis* who has been offering her home to guests for almost a decade now. From the outside, it may look just like any other Bidayuh traditional house with its structures made of wooden and concrete materials. However, when you go in, you're almost immediately greeted with the warm feeling of a home with a well-balanced tribal decorations and modern functionalities. Giam Homestay is perfect for those looking to spend some time away from the city without having to sacrifice modern comfort.

-  Kampung Giam, Jalan Puncak Borneo, 93250, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
-  **Madam Phyllis Tobi**
019 - 382 1516 / 019 - 327 4603
-  Giam Homestay Kuching
-  GiamHomestay@hotmail.com /
tophyllis@yahoo.com



KARUM BIDAYUH HOMESTAY



The Owners
• Mr Louis and Madam Karum

Located in Annah Rais longhouse, **Karum Bidayuh Homestay** is founded in the year of 2006 and owned by Madam Karum and her husband Mr. Louis. This homestay has five (5) bedrooms and it can occupy at least 10 person at one time. Visitors that come can choose their activities based on their budget and interest. This homestay provides meal that is included in the packages that has been chosen.

Activities that the homestay provides are; jungle trekking, longhouse tour, barbecue, traditional dance performed by the villagers and hiking to a place called *Sikina*. Apart from that, visitors can go to a nearby waterfall named *Ba'an Prutan* and take a dip at the *Awui Turok* river.

- 📍 No. 67, Kampung Annah Rais, Jalan Borneo Heights, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak
- ☎ +6 016 - 898 1675
- ✉ karumjugag08@gmail.com

HOMESTAYS AVAILABLE IN KAMPUNG STING



Tikom Homestay

☎ 019-814 0124 (Tikom)



Kuek Homestay

☎ Samuel (Shym Travers Homestay & Tour)
013-567 8146 / 016-936 8146

📍 Shym Travers ✉ rieshym@gmail.com



Kinan Homestay

☎ 016-890 5449 (Samy)



Biyus Homestay

☎ 019-565 4020 / 014-581 4178

HOMESTAYS AVAILABLE IN KAMPUNG STING



Bungai Homestay

☎ 019-506 5140



Kitak Homestay
(Highest Homestay)

☎ 019-879 3470



Amazing Kampung Stay
(Kpg Muk Ayun)

☎ 017-883 2138 (Stanley)



Bayan Atuh Homestay
(Kpg Nyegol)

☎ 011-1406 5483 (Tengah)

NATURE WATERFALLS

- **APOT WATERFALL,
KAMPUNG BIYA ASSUM**

Apot Waterfall is one of the largest and most popular waterfall in *Kampung Biya Assum*, Ulu Padawan. **Apot waterfall** is estimated at 40 meters in height, and this gives a remarkable view of nature around its vicinity. This also makes it one of the highest waterfalls in the area. The journey to *Kampung Biya Assum* takes an estimated duration of between 40 to 50 minutes from Kota Padawan. It will take about 1 hour trip to Apot Waterfall from *Kampung Biya Assum* by foot thus visitors are highly advised to put on appropriate attire for trekking since the paths are challenging with slippery tracks and steep slopes.





Aside from **Apot Waterfall**, the villagers recommended everyone to visit the other 4 waterfalls since all of them have their own distinctive features that will amaze waterfall enthusiasts. Interested guests may reach out to *Mr. Siang Sayod at 013-4800575* or *Mr. Simus Pasi at 016-5228490* to arrange your visit to *Kampung Biya Assum* or the waterfalls. For further information, keen guests may also head over to the official Facebook page *Kelab Sukan Rekreasi Kampung Assum*. There will be a variety of packages for visitors to choose from while enjoying the beautiful natural sceneries of *Kampung Biya Assum*.



- **BA'AN GONG WATERFALL,
KAMPUNG SIKOG**

Ba'an Gong Waterfall is the nearest waterfall to either Siburan or Padawan area as it takes only 30 minutes to travel to this waterfall. **Ba'an Gong Waterfall** is hosted by *Kampung Sikog* and the journey by foot from the village to the waterfall is around 30 minutes. Since it is situated very close to Kuching, **Ba'an Gong Waterfall** is the perfect weekends indulgence for visitors looking to escape city life even for a short time. Visitors may just park their car or get dropped off in *Kampung Sikog* and easily begin their quick trails to the waterfall. Guests who are looking to set foot in the stunning **Ba'an Gong Waterfall** are advised to get in contact with *Mr Fletcher* at 011-16070899.



Scenery around the waterfall area



Ban Buan Kukout two-storey waterfall



Traditional paddy field

• BAN BUAN KUKOUT WATERFALL & MABI WATERFALL, KAMPUNG ANNAH SADIR

Ban Buan Kukout Waterfall and **Mabi Waterfall** are another two natural cascades and essentially as interesting as any other waterfalls in the outskirts of Padawan area. These waterfalls can be found resting among the mountainous region of a Bidayuh village, *Kampung Annah Sadir*. Interesting feature about **Ban Buan Kukout Waterfall** is that the waterfall is actually a two-storey waterfall hence its rapid flow of water. The journey to *Kampung Annah Sadir* from Kuching City will take around 2-hours drive.

Once visitors have arrived in *Kampung Annah Sadir*, they will start-off the unforgettable journey by foot to the waterfalls. Immediately after started their trails, visitors will have the chance to witness the first amazing view of their journey – a massive traditional paddy fields. These paddy fields stretched over a few hills give out a picturesque landscape of the locals performing their daily tasks. After that, visitors will continue their trails by descending the hill slopes for another 15 minutes until they arrive at their first location, **Mabi Waterfall**. **Mabi Waterfall** is such a fine spot for relaxation, picnic and swim. However, should the visitors plan to visit the next destination, they must cut short their time in **Mabi Waterfall**.

The journey to **Ban Buan Kukout Waterfall** continues and then it will take up another hour since the trails get higher hence the reason the waterfall is known as the highest point for any waterfall in *Biannah* area.



Mabi Waterfall

Guests who are keen to pay a visit to *Kampung Annah Sadir* are encouraged to make use of Waze or Google Map App for more reliable directions to the village. One popular attraction can be found along the way is the Annah Rais Hot Spring. After passing by the hot spring, visitors will then stumble upon the *Sungai Merah* (Red River) bridge and *Kampung Annah Sadir* is just on the other side of the bridge. The village also provides local guide services to safely bring the visitors to the waterfalls. Alternatively, visitors may contact Backyard Tour, Saloma Villagestay or directly get in touch with the local guide, *Mr Ambrose* at 019-937434.





Beautiful water flows from Gareg Waterfall

• GAREG WATERFALL, KAMPUNG BIYA KIDING

The **Gareg Waterfall** is a well-known waterfall among visitors to the area. It is situated in Kampung Biya Kiding, another one of the Villages Above the Clouds. Kampung Kiding is now connected to the main highway by a network of newly built roads. However, the road here is built on high grounds and steep slopes. Visitors and hikers to *Kampung Biya Kiding* are encouraged to travel here by four-wheel drive. Once they have arrived at the meeting point, visitors may commence their hike by first preparing all essential items and attire for the long journey. The hike to **Gareg Waterfall** from the village will take about 1 hour 30 minutes.



The trails are very challenging hence visitors are urged to utilise the app Wikiloc or for the best assurance, they may hire a native guide. The hike is well worth since the trails are naturally decorated with wonderful sights such as high footbridges made from bamboo to cross rivers and the breath-taking view of the Bengoh Dam – simply majestic! Apart from **Gareg Waterfall**, there is another waterfall here such as Tanju Waterfall. Keen guests are advised to arrange bookings and confirmation 3 days in advance. Any further information about *Kampung Biya Kiding* and local guide services, you may get in contact with *Mr. Bakas (014-6932328)* or the Village Head, *Mr. Boniface Nyusor (013-8738952)*.



• SUSUNG WATERFALL AND PE'AN @ CURTAIN WATERFALL

Susung Waterfall and Pe'an @ Curtain Waterfall are two of the most popular waterfalls in Padawan area and both have become favourite spots for people to picnic or go for a refreshing swim. **Susung Waterfall** and **Pe'an @ Curtain Waterfall** should definitely be added in waterfall lovers' bucket list.

The famous bent tree vine of Susung Waterfall



Pe'an @ Curtain Waterfall

The waterfalls are located in the downstream vicinity of Bengoh Dam area and the journey by boat will take about 20 minutes from the Bengoh Dam jetty. On arrival at the jetty entrance, fret not about the security of the parking space since the area is well guarded by the dam operational personnel. Please be aware to only enter areas that are free for public access.


Before you commence your journey to Bengoh Dam, you need to make an appointment with the local guide to help you moving around the area. Interestingly, the assigned guides mostly originated from the nearby villages and most of them living around the dam's vicinity.

During the construction of the Bengoh Dam back in 2007, the affected villagers were asked to relocate to designated areas under the Bengoh Resettlement Scheme. The resettled villagers are mostly from villages in the Bengoh Highlands such as Taba Sait, Pain Bojong, Semban, and Rejai. Even though the villagers have moved out to a new site, some still insisted to stay nearby and built their houses on the hills close to the Bengoh Dam. This is the reason why the guides are selected from nearby villages since they are well versed in the history of the dam itself.

The guide will bring you to the waterfalls by boat thus safety measures such as wearing a life jacket should be strictly observed during the trip. The boat ride will take about 15 minutes from the jetty to the waterfall. You will witness amazing sceneries such as natural hills along the journey and paddy plantations in nearby villages. The size of the lake is huge and deep as the lake itself was formed from impoundments during the construction of the dam. The lake is also vital for the nearby residents as it is used as the only way for them to commute for daily activities. Water transportations such as boats serve as their main transportation to bring goods into their settlements. At the same time boats also cater to tourists during their visits.

You will then arrive at the drop-off point on the other side of the lake. The drop-off point functions as a place where the visitors will gather for briefings before everyone heads to the waterfalls. It takes about 2.5 km of hiking from the drop-off point to the waterfall however the estimated time of arrival may vary depending on your pacing. At times, you will cross over some streams and rivers but please be attentive since the routes may be muddy and slippery after rain.





During the hike you will go through the paddy field and make sure to keep the river on your left side so you're always on the right track. You are nearing your destination once you start to hear the soft sound of water drizzles.

Pe'an @ Curtain Waterfall will be the first waterfall you encounter on this journey. The waterfall consists of three layers of water cascades. Apart from bathing in the fresh water, you may have picnics as huts are provided for tourists. Changing areas and restrooms are also provided here for your comfort.

Once you are done with your visit to **Pe'an @ Curtain Waterfall**, you may continue the journey towards **Susung Waterfall** which is the main attraction of the Bengoh Dam. Although the hike to the next waterfall only takes few minutes, some sections of the trail are challenging and perhaps need you to be more alert at all times. **Susung Waterfall** borders with Kampung Kiding, Kampung Sting and Kampung Semban.

Susung Waterfall and the paths leading to this place was also given the nickname "*Jurassic World*" by the locals as the area looks prehistoric and unique from other places in the area. The source of the river originates from the hills on Kalimantan Barat's side. If you loved taking pictures or a photographer yourself, **Susung Waterfall** is a perfect place for you to capture amazing photos as the scenery is breathtaking and covered in rare greeneries.



- **SEBARAU WATERFALL,
KAMPUNG BRA'ANG BIDAD**

Sebarau Waterfall is yet another water cascades attraction found in Padawan area. This waterfall is situated in *Kampung Bra'ang Bidak* and the journey from the village to the waterfall will take an estimated 30 minutes on foot and is well connected to the main highway with limited traffic network. People from Kuching city centre may expect an hour drive to the village. **Sebarau Waterfall** is always open to visitors who are eager to revel in the beauty of natural surroundings. To pay a visit to **Sebarau Waterfall**, visitors are advised to acquire the service of a local guide for safer directions and to avoid any inconvenience. Interested guests may get in touch with Mr. Burn at 019-2251439 for further information such as other activities, camping necessities and hiking packages.



NATURE CAVES

• MA'ASA CAVE SEMADANG

Rivers and jungle trekkings are common past time activities in Padawan. But do you know the town has other hidden gems? Padawan nests some under explored caverns and one of these worth traversing caves is the **Ma'asa Cave** in *Kampung Semadang*.

The journey to *Kampung Semadang* will take about 50 minutes from Kuching city. Like other point of interests in Padawan, hired vans and e-hailing services are also available to *Kampung Semadang*. **Ma'asa Cave** is situated slightly within the jungles of *Kampung Semadang*. This village is well known for its river rafting challenge that is held annually. Before visiting the cave, visitors are required to get in touch with the local guide to book a session for the cave visit. A chargeable fee will be imposed for visitors according to the number of people present during the session.



For example, if there were 4 people in a group, each person will be charged RM50. If the number of visitors is 5 to 10, everyone will be charged RM35. For 1 or 2 people in a group, they must pay a fee of RM70 each. For international visitors, they will be imposed RM80 per head.

Ma'asa Cave is covered with dense forest rarely seen by visitors including locals in Kuching. Before heading to the cave, visitors are required to wear track pants, hiking shoes, socks, headlamps, caps also prepare enough food and water for the trip. Visitors will be guided by villagers or guides who are familiar with the cave surroundings avoiding dangerous points.



The journey starts by passing through a herbal farm before going into the woods. During the journey, you will walk through a path decorated with the beauty of flora and misty fresh air. The guide may share some information on several plants, especially herbs usually used in traditional cooking or remedy by the villagers. The villagers will then proceed to climb some rocks to cross the river and steep hills. After facing these obstacles, visitors will arrive at foot of the cave. However, the entrance of this cave is actually located upward thus visitors need to climb the hilly slope to get up there.

As you reach the entrance of the cave, visitors will realise that the interior of the cave is adorned with rock formations including some hanging from above. From the entrance, visitors will need to climb up and down to fully explore the cave. Some of the paths are challenging thus extra precaution is advised. During the cave exploration, visitors will need headlamps as the interior gets darker while traveling deeper into the core. Bats are the main inhabitant of the cave and they can be seen hanging from the cave ceilings. Visitors are advised to be aware of tarantula, spiders, scorpions and snakes.



Some of the stone formations in this cave are amazing as the pattern may resemble some familiar objects or animals such as turtles, coral and helmet-like shapes. Before leaving the cave, make sure you snap some pictures since you might discover some astounding cave patterns never seen by anyone. To find it more about this cave contact *Mr Hanas* at *012-8907044*.



- **PENOT CAVE, KAMPUNG GIT**

Situated at *Kampung Git* there lies a unique cave called **Penot Cave**. To get to *Kampung Git*, visitors should expect to travel 32.6 km away from Kuching city centre. Visitors may drive to this Bidayuh village themselves, hire a van or take e-hailing services for a 44 minutes drive. This village is famous for its annual Padawan Raft Safari hosted by the Padawan Municipal Council.



Before you plan a trip to **Penot Cave**, you need to make an appointment with the local guides. You also need to prepare extra clothing, food and water, socks, hiking shoes and caps before you commence the journey as traveling through the **Penot Cave** will require one boat trip from the village.

You need to arrive early at Penot Homestay as the guide will conduct a briefing for the rules and regulations. After the briefing, the journey will start with a short walk for about 5 minutes to reach the village riverbank. From the riverbank, you will hop onto the boat and the boat ride take you about 15 minutes to arrive at the starting point for the jungle trek. You will be enjoying the cool breeze of air as you traverse along the river. The journey to the cave will take about 20 minutes and the trails leading to the cave is slightly difficult as you need to scour through the thick jungle.

You also need to be mindful of the muddy trails causing some patches to be slippery. Fortunately, the interesting part of the trekking is that you will cross over a few untouched streams. There are also some unique bridges that are naturally built from rocks. The rocks have been eroded for million of years and thus formed into many shapes such as arch-like bridges.

Once you arrived at the cave entrance, you will be awed by the enormous size of it. There will be rocks and stones all over the cave and in fact, some stones can be seen hanging above the ceiling wall which we call 'column'. As you walk deeper into the cave, you may need to take extra precautions as some of the areas are steep and slippery. Further inside the cave, you will see so many attractions that are not seen in the outside world. Fresh water streams flow through the cave keyholes while swarms of bats cover the ceilings of the cave. These bats are the most common animals living inside the caves. You will see them hanging on top of the ceiling as they are asleep during the day. Tarantula can be found as they lived on the cave grounds.

If you want to experience a traditional Bidayuh way of life, you may want to consider spending some nights in the homestay. For more information, you may call or text *Madam Lichy Tumi* at 019-4893900.





• SIWA CAVE

Located in Kampung Bunuk and 32 km away from Kuching City, the journey to the cave is quite challenging. You need to set an early booking so that the guide will be able to make some preparations upon receiving you. You also need to wear proper attire for jungle trekking such as track pants and hiking shoes as you need to go through the rainforest jungles. Aside from that, you need to bring headlamps, enough water and food for the exploration.

During the journey, you will be accompanied by a guide as they will show you the route towards the cave. The journey through the jungle is calm and mental-healing as you trail pass the lush greenery and sweet melodies of jungle insects.

After the 20 minutes journey through the jungle, the trail gets a bit difficult as you need to climb over some tree trunks that had fallen over and some sharp turns and bumps as well. After a few minutes, you will arrive at the entrance of **Siwa Cave**. Interestingly, the entrance of this cave is on the ground thus this would be a small relief to some since you would not have to do extra climbing such in the case of other caves in the area. The entrance is special as it looks like you are entering a tunnel. The cave interior is not wide but it is still interesting to see some fascinating stone formations all around.





The interior of Siwa Cave

If you are interested to see some swiftlet nests, you need to descend further down the cave as the cave has some sections underneath. However, the location of these nests are dangerous as they are hanging on the wall and it is risky if you wanted to go deeper inside when the trail is steep. **Siwa Cave** and the surrounding area have been gazetted by the government hence that is why the area looks as it is for centuries.

If you are interested to visit **Siwa Cave**, you may contact *Mr. Henry* at 019-8908279.



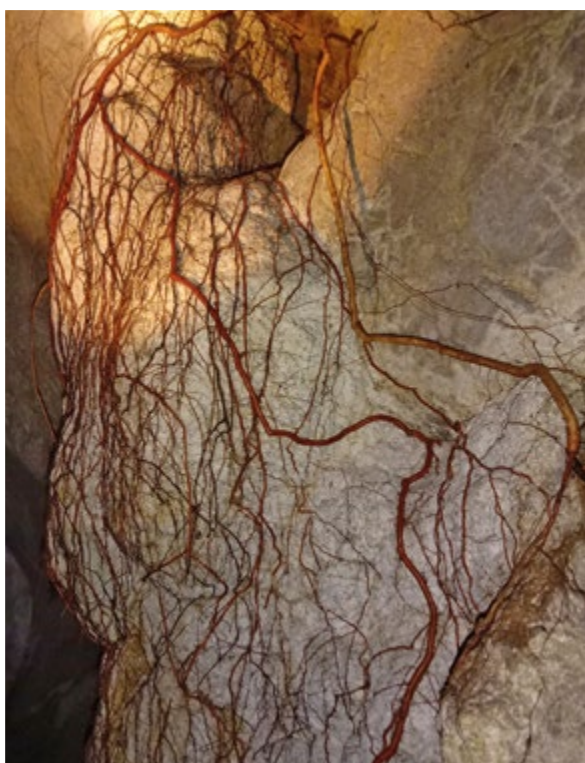
• TANG JEI BESAR CAVE & TANG JEI KECIL CAVE

Tang Jeoi Besar Cave and **Tang Jeoi Kecil Cave** are located in the same proximity as Siwa Cave. The day before the journey, you must make sure to prepare appropriate trekking attire. Please make sure to bring along a flashlight and headlamp, water and food for the trip.

From Kampung Bunuk, you will start to trail about 20 minutes through the jungle. During the jungle expedition you will find yourself surrounded by lush nature as the area is gazetted, similar to **Siwa Cave**. The trail heading to this cave is quite challenging as you need to climb up some steep hills. During the climb, you need to take extra precautions as the trail is slippery and there are covered holes along on the ground.







Upon reaching the cave entrance, you will discover that **Tang Jeoi Cave** is split into 2 complexes namely **Tang Jeoi Kecil** and **Tang Jeoi Besar**. As their names suggested, **Tang Jeoi Besar** is larger and wider than **Tang Jeoi Kecil**. You will first arrive at **Tang Jeoi Kecil Cave**. Albeit the '*small*' adjective attached to its name, this cave is actually medium in size compared to other caves and the interior is adorned with stone formations. Similar to Siwa Cave, **Tang Jeoi Kecil Cave** also houses huge number of swiftlet nests. This bird species build their nests on the roof of the cave and you need to climb down to some of the lower sections to see them.

When you are finish from **Tang Jeoi Kecil Cave**, you may continue the journey to **Tang Jeoi Besar Cave**. However, at some point of the journey, you need to hike up a trail as this cave is located further above the hill.

Once you have reached the cave perimeter, you will then descend the hill to get to the cave entrance. Please be cautious when climbing down the hills since the slopes may be slippery. When you have arrived at the bottom of the hill, you will start to hear familiar squeaking of bat indicating that you have reached the entrance of **Tang Jeoi Besar Cave**. The cave is huge with some open sections in its interior. During exploration, you will see a section that leading down the cave. To enter this section, you need to slowly climb against the wall until you reach down below. After reaching below, you will walk into a section that is large and dark. Amazingly you will find some swiftlet nest inside.

If you are interested to visit **Tang Jeoi Cave**, contact *Mr. Henry* at 019-8908279.



Swiftlet nest





Hello Bara Madis,

In this Column, do allow me to share a bit about the formation of the association. Persatuan Usahawan Bidayuh Penrissen (PUBP) was officially registered with the Registrar of Societies (ROS) on 20th Jan, 2016 by a group of young and promising entrepreneurs from the Penrissen area. The objective is to create a platform to learn, exchange ideas and network with each other. The association also serves to promote professionalism, unity and a spirit of camaraderie among Bidayuh entrepreneurs. Official launched of Persatuan Usahawan Bidayuh Penrissen was on 21st July 2018 by it's Patron, YB Datuk Dr Jerip Susil at Padawan Sub-District Office.

Thank you.

Mr. Jores Sedek
PUBP Chairman



The three colours **YELLOW, RED** and **BLACK** represent Bidayuh common colours. However, they have specific meanings in this logo.



YELLOW is the colour of the sun. It is full of energy, hope and positivity and that is what PUBP aspires to be.



BLACK represent strength, authority and power. It symbolizes formality and importance.



RED represents life, courage and love for what we are doing (it also represents our passion for nurturing entrepreneurship spirit among our community).



The **CIRCLE** represents unity corporation and commitment to the community. It also shows we are not stagnant but constantly revolving.



Vision

To be a platform for Penrissen Bidayuh entrepreneurs to forge strategic alliance and professional networking, exchange ideas as well as promote principled, knowledgeable, innovative and progressive Bidayuh entrepreneurs.



Mission

To unite, and enhance rapport and working relationships amongst Penrissen Bidayuh entrepreneurs. To create a cordial relationship amongst Penrissen Bidayuh entrepreneurs from various fields and expertise aimed at facilitating the continued successful development of their businesses and professions. To assist / facilitate member entrepreneurs to acquire expert knowledge, training and services as well as organise programs / activities targeting inculcating and promoting entrepreneurship as an option to help uplift the living status and eradicate unemployment among Penrissen Bidayuh's younger generation.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Kuching Visitor's Information Centre

Sarawak Tourism Complex (Old Court House),
93100 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Email : vic-kuching@sarawaktourism.com
Tel : +6082 - 410 944
Fax : +6082 - 256 301
Operating Time : 9am - 6pm (Mon - Sun)

Sarawak Tourism Board

Level 4, Plaza Aurora, Jln McDougall, Taman Budaya,
93000 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Email : stb@sarawaktourism.com
Tel : +6082 - 423 600
Fax : +6082 - 476 700

Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts

2nd Floor, Bangunan Baitulmakmur Medan Raya,
Petra Jaya, 93050 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Tel : +6082 - 319 313
Fax : +6082 - 445 311

Persatuan Usahawan Bidayuh Penrissen

CL 204, 1st Floor MJC, Batu Kawa New Township,
93250 Kuching, Sarawak
Email : pubpenrissen@gmail.com

Useful Telephone Numbers

Tourist Police Unit

(Kuching Waterfront, 8am - Midnight)
Tel : +6082 - 250 522

Central Police Station

(Opposite Padang Merdeka)
Tel : +6082 - 241 222

Immigration

(UTC Building, Jalan Padungan)
Open every day except for public holiday
(8.30am - 9.00pm)
Tel : +6082 - 245 661

Police (Emergency only)

Tel : 999

Fire & Rescue

Tel : 994



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Apot Waterfall