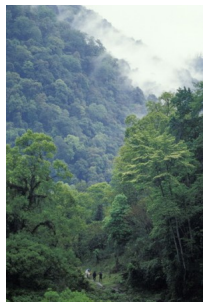


MALAYSIA: THE REALM OF ANCIENT RAINFORESTS



The Asian continent and its striking diversity have been attracting many culture lovers as well as adventure seekers for decades. One of the countries that can present itself as a magnet for eager shoppers and modern life enthusiasts as well as nature admirers and devoted adventurers is Malaysia. Here, Kuala Lumpur attracts with its spinning nightlife and fresh lifestyle; equally appealing are local rainforests.

The Malaysian rainforest is the oldest consistent rainforest on Earth. It dates back nearly 70 million years and spreads over an area of 4, 343 km². Taman Negara (literally 'National Park') is one of the most striking creations of wild nature in our world. The park itself was established in 1938/1939 and nowadays encompasses three states, Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu. There are a lot of attractions in the park, however, it is pure wilderness and thus tourists should be aware of the fact that entering the rainforest without experienced guides is extremely dangerous.

The most popular attraction, especially for hikers and climbers is the highest peak of Malaysia - Mount Kinibalu. A popular hike takes the travelers through the Danum valley, a breathtaking undisturbed rainforest area. It is also world's largest orangutan sanctuary.

Another must-see destination is the cave system of Gua Telinga or Lata Berkoh (a rapid).

There is also some very rare fauna to be observed by the visitors; Indochinese Tiger, Sumatran Rhinoceros and Asian Elephant count as the most precious mammals one can discover in the Taman Negara. Birdwatching is also a much desired tourist activity one may enjoy here, as well as the thrill of jungle trekking.

Date: 2007-09-18

Article link: <http://www.tourism-review.com/malaysia-the-realm-of-ancient-rainforests-news532>