



# Treasures of Perak

Discover the wonders of the state at the upcoming Malaysia Domestic Tourism Fair



**E**ARTH Camp, a winner in the recent Malaysia Tourism Awards, will be the star attraction at the Perak Tourism Association booths during the second Malaysia Domestic Tourism Fair (MDTF) at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur from May 14-16.

Located in Gopeng, the back-to-basic camp won the Innovative Tour Programme for the Adventure and Nature category of the awards.

The camp, managed by Nomad Adventure, is the country's first swift water training hub offering programmes that are internationally recognised and in compliance with the standards given by the National Fire Protection Association.

Sharing the spotlight is the State's latest luxury resort, The Banjaran, which is located in Tambun, only 15 minutes drive from Ipoh.

The five-star retreat sanctuary consisting of 25 luxury villas is situated in a valley surrounded by limestone hills, natural caves, pristine jungle and hot springs.

The Banjaran is designed for a relaxing stay with the primary focus on health enhancement and balance which is geared towards fitness, healthy eating, relaxation and renewal.

The association will also highlight the State's other resorts like the Lost World of Tambun, Belum Eco Resort and Banding Island Resort.

"Not only that, we will also

highlight hotel operators — big and small — from Pulau Pangkor," says association president Odzman Abdul Kadir.

These hotel and resort operators aside, the eight booths taken by the association will be filled with eco-tourism products.

"Places like Gua Tempurung, Matang mangrove forest and Zoo Taiping will also be showcased," he adds.

The three-day fair will also feature the state's rich heritage and culture. Visitors looking for culture-based tour packages will be charmed by the royal heritage of Kuala Kangsar.

"For those looking for a typical kampung experience, we will also



Adventure activity at the Earth Camp in Gopeng, Perak

have some of our homestay participants at the booths," Odzman says. The association will also be holding quizzes and contests for visitors. The booths are among 250 booths featured at the fair.

Besides the sales and exhibition booths, the fair will also include

tourism talk sessions, live performances, cultural shows and fashion shows as well as games and buyers.

Among the highlights are the Open Photography Challenge and a bridal fair. Exhibitors interested to showcase their tourism products can call 03-9283 2268 or 03-2116 5951.

## Perak's destinations galore

Here are some of the destinations that will be showcased at the Perak Tourism Association booths at MDTF:

● **Sungai Kampar, Gopeng** — The white water of Sungai Kampar is Perak's answer to the likes of Sungai Sedim in Kedah, Jeram Besu in Pahang and Sungai Selangor in Selangor. The river, rated grade one to three, offers a ride through 14 rapids. The Earth Camp is located by this cool, rocky river.

● **The Lost World of Tambun** — The sprawling theme park is

nestled in limestone hillside which are more than 400 million years old. The park has two swimming pools, one of them is filled with water from Tambun's hot springs. It also includes the country's biggest wave pool, the longest inflatable tube ride, cliff-racing a la Indiana Jones, the longest inflatable twin speed coaster and Asia's longest river ride, the first in Malaysia with wave effects. The Banjaran is

the theme park's latest addition.

● **Belum Valley** — The rainforest is one of the last bastions of virgin rainforest in the Peninsula. Belum Valley is made up of Royal Belum State Park, Grik Forest Reserve, Temenggor Forest Reserve and Tasik Temenggor, created by Temenggor Dam built in 1978. At 300,000 hectares, the rainforest complex is about four times the size of Singapore. Belum Eco

Resort and Banding Island Resort are located in the heart of Belum Valley.

● **Zoo Taiping** — The zoo is reputed to be one of the oldest and best zoos in Malaysia. Its best feature is the Night Safari, the first of its kind in the country. For the safari, the zoo uses lighting similar to moonlight to cast the beauty and splendour of nature, as well as to recreate the setting for the

safari's nocturnal creatures. Zoo Taiping is located at the foothill of Bukit Larut Taiping.

● **Kuala Kangsar** — The royal town is the oldest district in Perak. It has a rich legacy that dates back to the time of the Malay Sultanate. Set by the bank of grand Sungai Perak, Kuala Kangsar is a serene and well-preserved royal town with well-maintained old palaces.



From left: Fire and Rescue team members undergoing training in the Kampar River; Seeking reprieve from the scorching heat at the Lost World of Tambun; Rafflesia plant at Belum Forest; Ride at Zoo Taiping's Night Safari; Kuala Kangsar's iconic palace museum