

Travel to the Land Below the Wind

Uqbah Iqbal*

School of History, Politics and Strategy, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UKM 43650, BangiSelangor, Malaysia

Tourism has multiple purposes in accordance with the perspectives and insights of parties involved tourists themselves, accommodation and transportation organizations, educational organization, government and so on. The tourism word comes from the Latin and Greek works, namely *tornare* and *tornos* which means movement in a circle. Historically, Malaysia is a unique country because despite the diversity of ethnicity and religion, all people can live in harmony and Malaysia also develops swiftly from sourced commodities, especially rubber and tin in 1957 to economic diversification backed by heavy industries at the time now. Each of the 13 states and 3 Federal Territories in Malaysia has its own special attraction in generating revenue from the tourism sector to the national economy. The author chose to focus his experiences traveling in Sabah or dubbed the Land below the Wind. It is located on the island of Borneo with Sarawak, which is part of East Malaysia.

For the author, Sabah is a state that is always in his heart because it has its own attraction. Sabah population comprising 33 indigenous groups, communicate in over 50 languages and 80 ethnic dialects taught the author to explore every different culture, in line with the 1 Malaysia concepts. Sabah also has famous resort islands such as Layang-Layang Island, Memutik Island and Sipadan Island, interesting areas of tourism such as Mount Kinabalu in Kundasang, Poring Hot Spring in Ranau, Tanjung Simpang Mengayau in Kudat, Tamparuli Bridge, KDCA Cultural Village in Penampang, Murut Cultural Centre in Tenom, Desa Cattle Dairy Farm in Kundasang, Sorinsim Waterfall in Kota Marudu, Sepilok Forest Reserve and Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre in Sandakan and Sabah capital, Kota Kinabalu also provides a distinctive shopping experience. Although the author live in Selangor, but it does not prevent him to choose Sabah as a leading domestic holiday destination, at least once a year. For the author, every visit to Sabah will draw his heart to return again in the future.

In Kota Kinabalu, there are various shopping malls like Suria Sabah, Wisma Merdeka, KK Plaza, Centre Point, Warisan Square, Imago, Oceanus Waterfront Mall, 1Borneo, Megalong Mall and Karamunsing Complex and Asia City Complex who can fulfill the desire of the author to run stroll and see the people. Even if the author wants to find souvenirs to take home like beaded chains, the author only needs to go to the Philippines market. But the author must skillful in bargaining with the seller if he wants to get the lowest price. On Sunday the author likes to visit the Gaya Market which is located in the heart of the city. In this market there is also available a variety of souvenirs that are sold at cheaper prices.

In Kota Kinabalu downtown, it is easy to get a taxi if the author did not bring own vehicle because they are either in front of Suria Sabah, Wawasan Complex, Api-Api Centre or Milimewa Superstore, there will always be a taxi waiting for customers. In fact, the author feel the number of taxi in the city center are more than passengers who want to ride. Regarding the public transport system in Kota Kinabalu, it is very effective because the author just have to wait in designated places if he wants to take the bus service. Even the bus service to move to any part in Kota Kinabalu also always there and the author do not have to wait long. From Kota Kinabalu, the author also does not face difficulties in getting to the other parts in Sabah such as Kudat, Sandakan, Tenom,

Labuan and Tawau. This is because the bus terminal for the most part in Sabah has been set and it is located adjacent to one another. For example to Tenom and Kudat, the author only needs to take a bus at Padang Merdeka, while the bus to Sandakan and Tawau were taken in Inanam Terminal. In Padang Merdeka are also buses to University Malaysia Sabah which is the main university in the state.

Besides Kota Kinabalu, the author also likes to visit Kota Marudu. Kota Marudu often becomes a transit point to the author before reaching Paitan that is located in the northern part of the interior of Sabah. Paitan is a special place in the author heart because of his familiarity with people from there had previously given the author a foster family. The author also has many contacts from the villages around there when together celebrate the Feast of Harvest and Christmas in the village. Of all the towns around Sabah visited by the author, the author found that Kota Marudu town is the liveliest town. This is due to the active involvement of the people who carry out economic activities in every corner of the Kota Marudu town that gave birth to the lively atmosphere. This town is a main town other than Goshen town. However hotel for tourists is located in Goshen town. Vehicles also constantly passing on the road around the Kota Marudu town, thus adding a buoyant atmosphere in addition to traffic congestion. In Kota Marudu town there is also no problem to get the bus service because it is visited by locals and also an interest place where the residents of rural areas in addition to Pitas and Kota Belud to buy their needs.

The author also likes to visit Kundasang and Ranau when in Sabah. This is because both places had cold weather and the author likes to be in this type of place. In fact, around the town of Kundasang and Ranau, can be seen Dusun girls known for their beauty and softness of their character. The author also interested in the cuteness of Dusun small children in there. For the author, Sabah beauty girls especially the Kadazan Dusun, Murut and Rungus cases is one factor that can attract outsiders to visit Sabah. In fact, their beauty will be on display to the public through Unduk Ngadau Harvest at village, district and state levels. Beluran is a stop place for the author from Kota Kinabalu to Sandakan. When in its town, the author heart feels calm because of peaceful atmosphere there. The atmosphere at night is also full of engross as can be seen scattered stars in the sky at night. Fishing activities can also be done at this time behind the quiet atmosphere, away from the bustle of the city. Sometimes to get to know ourselves, we need to isolate ourselves from the outside world and being in an area such as Beluran town. The best tourist places are filled with a sense of humanity and can touch our hearts.

***Corresponding author:** Iqbal U, School of History, Politics and Strategy, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UKM 43650, BangiSelangor, Malaysia, Tel: +60389215555; E-mail: hjh0037@hongik.ac.kr

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Another similar place that can give serenity to the author is Tenom. It is accessible from Kota Kinabalu by bus or train. If you want more of an adventure ride through the woods and see the lives of people in rural areas, you can choose to use the train to Tenom. Tenom town is also famous with Antanom monument. Antanom real name is Ontoros Antanom aged 30 years (1885-1915) was the head of the Murut race in Rundun. Antanom admired not only for his prowess stir rebellion against the British North Borneo Company, but more to the credibility to unite his people who was hit by controversy and discord. British administration admits Antanom privileges in reconcile and unite the

Murut tribes hostile then. Tenom is also very famous for its coffee known as Tenom Coffee.

In closing, if given the opportunity to travel to the states in Malaysia, Sabah remains the first destination for the author in view of the hospitality of its people, its cultural uniqueness and effective transportation facilities throughout the state. Even cheap cost to go there from low-cost airlines, namely Malindo Air and Air Asia even after the shutdown of Rayani Air recently still encourages the author to return to Sabah in the future.