

M.V. SOLITA'S PASSAGE NOTES



SABAH

BORNEO, MALAYSIA

Updated August 2014

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Sabah is one of the 13 Malaysian states and with Sarawak, lies on the northern side of the island of Borneo, between the Sulu and South China Seas. Sabah and Sarawak cover the northern coast of the island. The lower two-thirds of Borneo is Kalimantan, which belongs to Indonesia.



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The area has a fascinating history, and probably because it is on one of the main trade routes through South East Asia, Borneo has had many masters. Sabah and Sarawak were incorporated into the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 and Malaysia is now regarded as a safe and orderly Islamic country. Sabah has a diverse ethnic population of just over 3 million people with 32 recognised ethnic groups. The largest of these is the Malays (these include the many different cultural groups that originally existed in their own homeland within Sabah), Chinese and “non-official immigrants” (mainly Filipino and Indonesian).

In recent centuries piracy was common here, but it is now generally considered relatively safe for cruising. However, the nearby islands of Southern Philippines have had some problems with militant fundamentalist Muslim groups – there have been riots and violence on Mindanao and the Tawi Tawi Islands and isolated episodes of kidnapping of people from Sabah in the past 10 years or so. Even more recently, there was a significant political upheaval in the Lahad Datu area of Sabah in early 2013, when militant Muslims from Mindanao and the Tawi Tawi islands “invaded” to try to restore an old claim to the east coast of Sabah by the Sultan of Sulu. During the fighting at this time over 100 people were killed. In 2014 there were several kidnappings of tourists and sea farm workers from the east coast of Sabah, and a German couple cruising on their yacht was believed to have been abducted by the Abu Sayyef group from an area between Palawan and Balabac Islands in the Southern Philippines. For this reason, some care should be taken when travelling between Tawau and Kudat. Check with local authorities before cruising through this area.

There is a significant Malaysian military presence near borders. From 2013, Malaysia has provided a task force to guard the east and north Sabah coasts from militant Muslim attacks. Vessels from the Indonesian Navy patrol the area just south and east of Tawau. The Philippines Coastguard patrols the Balabac Straits and fly over the eastern Sabah/Philippines border regularly.

These cruising notes give information we gained during our travels in Sabah between November 2010 and May 2013. We updated the notes again during our trip south along the Sabah west coast in 2014. During this time we had no problems and found Sabah a great area for cruising.

Thanks to Doug Schuch on “Fellow Traveler” for revising and updating some areas on the east coast in June - July 2014.

Sue and John Woods

MV SOLITA

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VISAS

When entering Sabah at a designated Immigration port (Tawau, Sandakan, Kudat, Kota Kinabalu, Labuan) the Malaysian Immigration Department will generally grant you a free 90 day visa on arrival. No prior visas are necessary. You can leave your boat there for longer, but you must renew your visa by leaving the country every 90 days. When moving with the boat you should also clear in with Customs and the Harbourmaster (Jabatan Laut) of the major port you are entering.

Clearing port to port has been a debatable issue but it is generally considered unnecessary for private pleasure craft unless you are entering or leaving Sabah.

When leaving Sabah with your boat, you will need to clear out with Immigration, Customs and your current port's harbourmaster. Travelling on to Sarawak or mainland Malaysia requires clearance out of Sabah as for travelling to another country.

ACCESS TO OVERSEAS FUNDS

There are many banks in the major towns of Sabah (Tawau, Sandakan, Kudat, Kota Kinabalu and Labuan) with affiliations to the major international banking systems. Most banks, shopping centres and chain stores like Seven-Eleven have ATMs where you can get a maximum of 1000 or 1500 RM per transaction using your ATM or credit card. Some larger stores and fuel stations have credit card facilities. However, we did not see many ATMs or banks that we could access outside the larger towns. In most of the larger towns there are also Western Union agencies, pawnshops and moneychangers. Changing currency is probably better done with a licensed moneychanger.

PHONE AND INTERNET

There are several major communications companies in Sabah that offer similar services. Most shopping centres or towns will have agents that sell SIM cards, computer modems and recharge cards. The SIM cards here fit into most standard phones. Internet and phone access is fairly good throughout Sabah, but there are fluctuations in the service. It is often busier, and therefore less reliable, during business hours, and 3-6 pm. There are few problems with access in the larger towns but once away from a town coverage can be patchy. Generally if you can see a red and white tower you will have coverage. We found good coverage in some small outlying islands yet patchy reception in places with a greater population.

There are several companies that offer phone and internet service. Their products are similar but it may be worth comparing what is on offer. Service plans are usually either pre paid or a designated contract. Pre paid coverage is generally linked to a time limit, so even if you haven't used your purchased download capacity, it may "time out". This may also mean that you will lose your allocated phone number. Most companies offer a deal where you can extend the time limit to a year for approximately 30 RM.

Internet: We purchased a Celcom modem in Sandakan for 100 RM and settled on a 68RM per month plan, but they offer pre-paid cards and other usage plans.

Phone: We purchased a Digi SIM card for about 30RM and our average prepaid usage was approx. 30RM per month. Calls to landlines and 1300 numbers, even overseas, are very cheap. The expiry date for phone recharge is very short – often just 5 days. To avoid this, pay for a 30RM recharge that will be valid for 1 year. You can then top this up as needed.

WEATHER

Sabah is called “The Land Below the Wind” because it is below the typhoon belt of the northern hemisphere. Generally the weather is very pleasant, with temperatures between 25 and 30 degrees, and mild breezes prevail. During the times of a La Nina influence, the weather may be a little more extreme than usual.

There are 2 monsoon seasons - the NE monsoon is from November/December to March/April, and the SW monsoon is from May to October/November approximately, with two transition periods between them when the winds are light and variable.

During the NE monsoon period there is rain most days – usually in the early afternoons. The sky often clouds over from midday. The mornings are relatively calm, with the prevailing NE wind picking up in the afternoons. The wind rarely exceeds 15-20 knots but occasionally there will be stronger winds.

The SW monsoon lasts a little longer, and the SW winds can be consistent for longer periods. You will get occasional squalls or “blows” from the SW where the wind can quickly pick up to 50 kts at times, but these squalls usually only last for 2-3 hours. It tends to be calm in the late afternoon and evening.

The east coast seems to be wetter around October/November, the west coast around April/May, and there are often thunderstorms at these times. Occasionally Sabah will feel the effects of typhoons in the Philippines with increased wind and rain, but never of cyclonic strength.

The South China Sea can often produce a NW swell along the western coast of Sabah, usually during the NE monsoon – this can be uncomfortable with prevailing SW winds.

NAVIGATION

Navigation around Sabah is relatively easy and safe. We found CMap fairly accurate. There are many anchorages which are well-protected and are close enough to allow day-hopping. Many of the rivers are accessible and provide good anchorages.

GEOGRAPHICAL OBSERVATIONS

North coast:

Care is needed around the shoals and reef to the north, but the shipping channel is well-marked. There is a lot of water traffic in this area – freighters and container ships using the shipping lane, tug and barge sets, ferries between Kudat and the outlying islands, fishing boats and small military vessels patrolling the area. There are frequently lightning storms around the Balambangan/Banggi Island area, especially in the SW monsoon, and several yachts have reported being hit by lightning there.

Banggi Island has several good anchorage options to provide protection from prevailing winds. The two small bays on its west coast offer easy access and can be a good overnight stop before crossing the Balabac Strait. There is a small town on Banggi Island with a good market, some small stores and regular ferries to Kudat, but there are no significant facilities on the other islands.

Balambangan Island has less anchoring options, but the large bay on its east coast is useful (though take care to avoid the small scattered reefs within it). Just north of this large bay is a long curved sandy beach, close to Tiga Island, which shoals very gently towards the shore with a sand bottom and reef only at the ends of this shallow bay. We found this gave excellent protection from SW winds and a great stop off point before or after the Balabac Strait.

Malawali, a large island to the east of Banggi, is low, rocky and mangrove-strewn, but with care it is possible to enter and anchor in its main bay.

There are a couple of bays on the north coast of Borneo that offer anchorages with minimal or no facilities but take care with isolated rocks and reef.

Kudat is a significant town with government facilities and a road link to Kota Kinabalu (KK). Most yachtees stop here to reprovision, check in or out of Malaysia or use it as a staging point before heading off to the Philippines. See Kudat in “Towns” section for more information.

West coast:

There are not many good anchorages along this coastline between Kudat and KK. It is best to leave Kudat early to have the time to make a decent anchorage before sunset if you are not doing an overnight passage.

There are a couple of shallow small bays just to the east of the Tip of Borneo if you need to wait for strong SW weather to moderate, but they offer no protection from wind other than SE to SW.

The rock wall at **Batomande Rock/Agal Pt** provides some protection in good weather – you can anchor either north or south of the wall, close to the coast, depending on the prevailing wind. Both corners have gently shoaling sandy bottoms.

Mantanini Island is an untenable anchorage in anything but calm weather.

Usukan Bay has several good anchoring options to escape from wind and swell. We have used the bay directly west of the bay entrance and found good holding there, out of the wind and swell. We have also found good shelter from the SW wind tucked in close to the east side of the small **Usukan Island**, just north of the larger bay. It was very shallow here – 2-4 M, and there is only room for 1-2 boats in windy weather, but it is surprisingly calm if there is not a strong NW swell.

Ambong Bay also has several bays to offer good anchorage and protection from either SW or NE winds, but there are some large reefs to negotiate at the entrance and within the bay.

Gaya Island also has several options for anchoring in any wind, but some of its bays are quite deep and most have fringing reef.

Kota Kinabalu has one marina – Suter Harbour Marina. It is a very comfortable marina, situated between two luxurious resorts, but its fees are quite steep, especially for casual visitors. However, the convenience of the marina often outweighs the cost, and it's not hard to enjoy their facilities here. Review their current costs on their website: www.suteraharbour.com. You can anchor just outside the marina, but this would be untenable in strong winds. The marina also charges a significant fee for dinghy access in the marina. Other fair weather anchoring options are north of the Tanjung Aru Resort, south of this peninsula off the Kota Kinabalu Sailing Club (which offers generous casual visitor's rates) or in front of the Esplanade in town, though you would need to be careful of security in these spots.

The islands of **Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park**, other than Gaya Island, are not as suitable for anchoring.

South of KK there are some comfortable and well spaced out anchorages.

Just south of KK there are a couple of small islands (the larger is **Dinawan Island**) close to the coast around **Kinaruit** where you can anchor in light SW to SE winds. On a high tide here you can access a small coastal resort, Lankah Shabah, by dinghy. It provides excellent meals and also homemade pies and cheeses at times.

Tiga Island has a good anchorage in its SE-facing bay, and also to the north and east of Little Tiga Island. There are several good walking tracks on Tiga Island (though they can be overgrown and untended at times) – one of which leads to the natural mud “volcanoes”, a popular attraction. There are many long-tailed macaque monkeys and large monitor lizards roaming the island and beaches. There are some good snorkeling spots in the main bay of Tiga. The National Park on Tiga asks for a small “landing fee” from visitors (10 RG per adult non-Malaysian) – this is payable at the National Park office. The resort at Tiga welcomes cruising people at the bar, though the prices are a little steep. Sand flies can be prevalent on Tiga in calm weather.

Kuala Penyu is a small town located on a large inlet to the east of Tiga Island. The entrance is quite shallow but has port and starboard markers. The shallowest spot of inlet access is between the two sets of markers - we noted the least depth of 1.8M on a 1.2M tide. Once past the markers the inlet deepens and you can find an anchorage either side of the inlet but before the bridge. This is a great bolt-hole if the weather deteriorates while you are at Tiga Island, which is only 6 miles away. Two haul out yards started operations

in this inlet in 2013 – one on either side of the entrance to the inlet. The Excel Corporation Kuala Penyu yard has generated their list of charges – you can phone them on +60 87883091 or +60 138506854.

You can also find a good anchorage on the northern side of the **Kuala Penyu peninsula**, well-protected from southerly winds, where the bottom is gently shoaling mud/sand. We have anchored there in 5-7 m of shoaling sand quite comfortably in a SW wind and swell situation.

The **Klias River** is easily entered at Menumbok, where the Labuan ferries land, and the entrance is well-buoyed. This river is an excellent one to explore, navigable for about 25 miles to Kota Klias, and with very little traffic. The river landscape is interesting, with occasional sightings of proboscis and macaque monkeys (the closer to Kota Klias the greater the monkey sightings) and fireflies in the trees of some jungle areas. There are a couple of shallow patches at the early stage of the river – expect shallow areas where there are rocks along the edge of the river, and where there is a middle ground marker just past a small boat wharf about 2 km from the entrance (stay to the east, or right hand side, of this marker going up river). See the “Rivers” section for more details.

Labuan, just off the southern border of Sabah, is a Malaysian Free Port, meaning it sells alcohol, cigarettes, chocolate and other items at duty-free prices. There are many shops offering duty free goods and there is a very busy ferry terminal servicing ferries from KK, Menumbok and Brunei. It is also the obvious port for yachts to clear out of Malaysia if going on to Brunei and Sarawak. The Immigration, Jabatan Laut and Customs staff are very used to yachts clearing here and the procedures are quick and streamlined if you have copies of your boat registration and Crew List for them. Our best time was 25 minutes to clear all three services.

Anchoring in Labuan can be uncomfortable at best, with all the wash from the ferries and other boat traffic, the water pollution and numerous water taxis whizzing past at close range. We found a tolerable spot opposite the ferry terminal and in front of the Coastguard wharf, in about 4-6 M, but the holding can be poor there because of all the rubbish on the bottom. Others have also found anchorages to the north and south of the marina. Outboard thefts have been reported here recently, so take care with your dinghy. It is possible to hail a water taxi to pick you up off your boat then return you from the water taxi “stand” next to the ferry terminal, enabling you to leave your dinghy tied up on board. In March 2014 the Labuan Marina opened again after an extensive closure for repairs. It is open but is still experiencing some problems. See “Labuan” in the Towns section for more information.

East coast:

There are many small islands, deep bays and navigable rivers along the east coast of Sabah that can provide good anchorages. The more northern islands like **Tegapil** may not be tenable in windy weather as their extensive reefs mean anchoring a distance from shore.

We met some small groups of “sea gypsies” living on their dilapidated timber boats that were anchored off islands along this coast. They visited us to sell some seafood and also to ask for handouts of food, clothes and other household items. They were not threatening in any way and seemed genuinely needy.

Jambongan Island is quite large and offers several anchoring options. The bay to the west of Jambongan is very shallow – we did not explore this area.

We entered two rivers along this coast – the **Pura Pura River** and the **Tadian River**. Both had shallow bars a long way out from their entrances (especially the Tadian) but once over these shallow areas the rivers were deep and wide. We saw no signs of local habitation up the Pura Pura, but there was a small Police Station and tiny village at the entrance to the Tadian, and an old palm oil facility a couple of kilometres upstream.

Lankayan Island is a significant distance off the coast and would be very uncomfortable in windy weather as there is little protection there, but the water is usually very clear and the snorkeling and diving are excellent. The island resort charges a “conservation fee” to land here and a “usage fee” to use the moorings and visit the resort.

Libaran Island and the **Turtle Island Group** are close to the coast and an easy sail/motor just north of Sandakan. We believe it is necessary to have a permit to visit the Turtle Group, issued in Sandakan, but we could not find out where to apply for this, so we did not land on any of these islands.

Be aware that the Philippine border is just north-west of the Turtle Island group – it is easy to accidentally slip into Philippines waters unknowingly and the Philippines Coastguard patrol this area quite diligently. We had a lovely snorkel off **Langan Island** and were quickly visited by a small local boat loaded with 5 armed Philippines Coastguard staff. They were very friendly, saying this happening frequently, but please, in good time, return to Malaysia.

Sandakan is situated on the northern shore of a large natural harbour – access and anchoring pose no problems, but there is an exclusion zone for anchoring off the town. See the “Town” section for more details.

The **Kinabatangan River** was the highlight of this whole coast for us. The entrances into the river can be a little tricky but the exercise is so worth it! See the “Rivers” section for details.

Doug Schuch on “Fellow Traveler” accessed the **Marowop (or Maruap) River**, just west of the NE corner of Sabah. More details in the “Rivers” section.

The **Tambisan Island Channel** was easy enough to enter and travel through, and saved some miles by not having to go around the cape. It was also a great overnight anchoring spot. We did not spend much time along this stretch of coast down to **Lahad Datu**, and in view of the recent problems there in early 2013, it may be prudent to not linger here. We have heard that there is a small but safe harbour at Lahad Datu, but we have not visited there.

We passed the famous dive resort of **Mataking** – it looked picture-perfect but does not offer much in the way of protected anchorages. We stopped for several days at nearby **Gaya Island**, where the southern side is almost a lagoon, being almost fully enclosed by a low sand spit and reef.

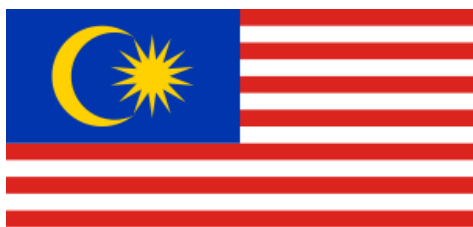
We did not visit **Semporna**, but have heard it is a great spot, and that you can easily travel the channel between mainland and island. **Mabul** was a delight for snorkeling and diving, though we had to anchor in deep water not far from the “oil rig” resort. There were also some “sea gypsy” boats anchored on the shallow grassy flats off the main village, and two men from this group visited late one night asking for food. The social inequity of island locals and diving tourist was very evident here and did make us feel a little uncomfortable.

Recently there have also been safety issues in this area. Many years ago there was a kidnapping of tourists from Sipidan. In 2010 two local men were abducted from a seaweed farm off Semporna, and again in 2014 individuals were kidnapped from this area. In July 2014 a policeman was killed and another abducted by the Abu Sayeff Muslim fundamentalist group in Mabul, so great care is needed to ensure you are not travelling in this area when there may be local unrest. Check with travel advisories and the police in Tawau or Sandakan. There are frequent coastguard patrols in this area by all three bordering countries.

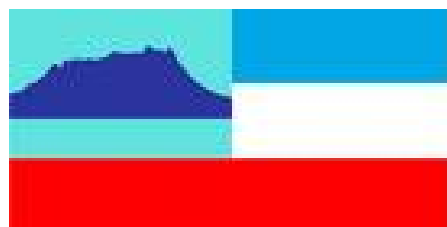
Just off this famous diving area is the international corner of the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. To skirt some offshore reefs between Mabul and Tawau it is easier to cross back into Indonesian waters. We did this en route to Mabul from Tawau and were asked to stop by a large Indonesian navy ship patrolling this area. They inspected our travel documents and were quite friendly when we explained why we were there – it seems many boats follow a similar route.

Tawau is a sizable town with the necessary agencies to check into or out of Malaysia. The waterfront off the town is frenetically busy – we found a good anchorage off the Tawau Yacht Club. The club offered a free week’s membership and we found this very useful, though the members we met were not overly friendly. For more details of Tawau, see “Towns” section.

FLAGS



Malaysian



Sabah

TOWN INFORMATION

KOTA KINABALU:

KK is the capital of Sabah with a population of around 650,000. It is a safe and orderly town with all government offices represented here. The main centre has several large shopping malls, a large town market with associated wet areas for fish, chicken, pork and beef. There are many more retail outlets and the usual services in outlying suburbs. The bus system is good and cheap, taxis are also inexpensive. Car hire costs from approx. 100 RM per day. Medical and dental services are good and a fraction the cost of those in Australia. Prescription eyewear is also much more affordable.

Anchoring: For a short term stay you could anchor in the following spots: in front of the Sutera Harbour marina; just north of the Tanjung Aru resort; south of this peninsula in front of the Kota Kinabalu Sailing Club; or off the Esplanade in town. However, none of these anchorages are secure or well protected from adverse weather. The marina offers very secure berths with wonderful facilities, but it is quite expensive, and in 2014, generally full. Contact the marina office on Ph. +60 88318888 or email

marina@suteraharbour.com.my for updated details.



Formalities: Immigration & Customs are at the Main Port, just east of Jesselton Wharf, 1 km east of Suriah Sabah complex. Jabatan Laut is at Sepangor, approx. 25 kms north of town, past 1Borneo. This is difficult to get to unless you taxi, which will be expensive (about 100RM return – ask taxi to wait for you!).

Provisioning: Listed below are details for services that most yachtees may require when arriving in KK. The information list was compiled by several yachtees living at Sutera Harbour in 2011, and has been divided into Boat Services, Other Services, Provisioning and Tours and Activities.

There are a few main areas for purchases of most boaters' needs in the greater Kota Kinabalu area. If staying at the Sutera Harbour Marina, their city shuttle bus will get you to central KK, with the option of 3 stops (Centrepont, Merdeka and KK Plaza). Otherwise you will need to catch a bus, use a taxi or hire a car to get to other areas.

- **Inanam Baru and Inanam Area** – automotive supplies and repairs (many items suitable for marine use), hardware store, paints and metal suppliers, hydraulics, oils, bearings, filters, seals etc. Catch Inanam bus from Wawasan bus terminal or taxi approx. Rm20 one way.
- **Damai Plaza** – Speciality Foods (cheese, beef salami, bulk bread flour and lots more), also one store with the best range electronics, switches, battery chargers, etc. Catch Beverly Hills bus from Wawasan Bus Terminal approx Rm2 or taxi approx. Rm12 one way.
- **Kota Kinabalu city centre** – hardware, electrical, groceries, fresh food market, clothing, DVDs, movies, money changing, tourist information, restaurants and many other things.
- **Karamunsing Complex** – electric appliances including air conditioners, computers, accessories and

- repairs. 15 minute walk west through Asia City from KK City, or Rm 12 taxi ride from CentrePoint, one way.
- **Kolombong** – Fibreglass supplier – taxi approx Rm15 – it is in the back streets, far from the bus stop and very hard to find.
 - **Tanjung Aru** – Dressmakers, cheap beer, supermarkets, not too long a walk from Sutera Harbour, easy to get a taxi back again with supplies.

BOAT SERVICES IN KOTA KINABALU

AUTO PARTS

Syarikat Vui Hin Auto Parts Sdn Bhd. Mile 6, Tuaran Rd, Inanam Baru (Lot 23, Inanam Shop House).
Ph. 88 420530.

BATTERIES

Auto Industries Batteries, No 9, Inanam Baru Tel: 088-421712. Fujiya Batteries (manufactured in Kuching). 'Battery Lady' Michelle speaks English, very helpful. Price includes delivery to the boat and connection if required.

BOAT CLEANING

Washing & polishing/underwater cleaning. Approx. RM70/day, ask boat boys for recommendation.

CANVAS & SAIL REPAIRS, AWNINGS, CUSHIONS, UPHOLSTERY

Mun Seng Cushion Centre G/F Lot 4, Block J Sinsuran Complex Tel: 088 230607.

Located in Jalan Dua Puluh, get off at CentrePoint. Across the road, northern side of CentrePoint. Cheap awnings, well made from durable vinyl material, will pick up and deliver from Sutera Harbor, but better to make template. Also does sail and awning repairs.

Tsin Sen Mui. (Ask for Ken.) Lot 29, L. Industrial Building. Bandar Penampang Baru, Mile 5 Jalan Penampang. KK 088-710525. Specialise in awnings and tents. Will not come to the boat (need to take a template). Good range of vinyls, upholstery fabrics/leathers at good prices.

Dr. Sofa (George). Will come to the boat to measure up. Can make more complicated shapes, biminis etc. Also upholstery. Will quote for whole job or sewing only if you supply fabric. Does not like working with vinyls. Sunbrella supplier. Lot 923, Tamon Sinar, Mile 2.5 Jalan Tuaran, KK 88400. Ph 0128285808

CHANDLERY

YU KIEN Sdn Bhd, G/F, Lot 6, Block E, Segama Shopping Complex KK Tel: 088-211667, 211397. Has general marine supplies. Other stores nearby have marine supplies as well.

CHARTS

Zaxco Enterprise, Block G, Lot 3, G/F Sinsuran Complex Tel: 088-223018, 088-216461

KTI Technical, Shop Lot 18, 1/F Taman Luyang Phase 8, Specialist Centre
Tel: 088-239780, 239781

CHART COPYING

Open front shop in Gaya Street, approximately 4 doors north from Tong Hing Supermarket in KK city. Can do full sized or reduced chart copies.

ELECTRICAL BITS & PIECES

East Con Trading, Wawasan, KK. General electrical components, electrical wire, power points, extension leads as well as electrical appliances, travel adaptor plugs, small inverters.

Capital Lighting & Electrical, Lot 4 & 5, Inanam Baru

Retail store with large range of electrical supplies, battery chargers, lighting and appliances.

Yu Kien SDN BHD, Ground floor, Lot No. 6, Block E, Segama Shopping Complex. Ph. 88211667.

Located an easy walk from Merdeka bus stop.

Automotive Electrical Technology, No 3, Block H, Hakka Buildg, Mile 5 ½ Tuaran Road, Inanam Tel: 088-423248, 088-384248

SL LETRIK, Lot 16, G/F Jln Sentosa Kg Air Tel: 088-236641, 236734, 236716

FIBREGLASS SUPPLIES

DoubleGain Industrial Supplies Lot 1, Warehouse 32 Jalan Maakaat, Pusat Industrial Kolombong Estate (AK Land) Lorong Pusat Industri, Inanam Phone 088-430822, 420520

Range of bulk fibreglassing supplies, mat, pigments, resin, etc. Reasonable price. Difficult to find without taxi.

FIBREGLASS BOAT BUILDER & REPAIRS

James Wong 016-8312789 May also have supplies of Lexan/acrylic.

FILTERS

KN Parts. Lot 12 & 13 Inanam Baru, 019- 8516265

KS Filters, Lot 36 Inanam Baru, 088-425406, 383787

FREIGHT & FORWARDING AGENT

RT Cargo. Lot 3 Sembulan Baru Tel 088 225 161

NCT Forwarding, Tel 088 45 555

FRIDGE & AIRCONDITIONING REPAIRS

Mr LIM Handphone: 016-8375113

FUEL

Shell Fuel Barge, located in the bay in central KK; call the day before to book a time. Note that it is moored near reef, so take care with access. Diesel price in July 2014 = 2.93 RM/litre. Tel: 019-8128355, 0198201768,

Sutera Harbour Marina. Diesel price in July 2014 = 3.75 RM/litre.

GALVANISING

UNIMEKAR METALS, Lot 11,12,13 EOIZ, Phase 1, KKIP, Jalan Sepanggar Tel: 088-498970, 498906, Handphone 013-8508878, email mwtals@pd.larring.my

Michael Wong 012-8010000 – can organise pick up from Sutera Harbour Marina

GARMIN GPS

Lot 3, 70c, 3rd Floor, Karamuning 016-5882296 or 0168315630.

HARDWARE

Hang On Hardware, Lot 41 Inanam Baru Tel: 088-429312, 429313, 428620

General Hardware, paint, sandpaper, tapes, tools, battery chargers, epoxy, etc.

Fook Fah Hardware, near Wisma Merdeka in town at Segama Complex (east of main road). General Hardware, Stainless Steel Hose Clamps, S/S Bolts Paints etc.

ICI Deluxe Builders Emporium, behind Supertanker Restaurant, Lot 6 Tel: 088-729626

HYDRAULICS

HT Excavator Parts. Ground floor, Lot 27, Inanam Baru, Inanam. For Caterpillar, Komatsu & Hitachi (hydraulic seal kits, oil rings, hydraulic hose, other replacement parts). Ph. 088 387939.

INJECTORS SERVICING

Borneo Fuel Pump Services

Lot No 11, Block B, Hiong Tiong Industrial Centre, Lorong Buah Salak, Km 11.2, Jalan Tuaran, Inanam.

88450 Kota Kinabalu. Tel: 088-385026 Fax: 088-385035. Contact: FAV. Chong 016 831 1862.

ICE DELIVERY

Atlas Ice, Tel: 088-434799, Handphone: 019-8633740

LPG REFILL

Zuramah Enterprise, Luyang, telephone 088-244773, Handphone 012-8285441

Shell in the city, Simuran area near Hyatt Hotel, Ph. 088-256116

Petronas 088-244773. In July 2014 would not pick up from marina.

METAL MACHINING

Jesselton Engineering, Lorong Burung Keleto, Off km9 Jalan Tuaran, Inanam

Speak to Jackson, Ph. 0168280006

MOTOR SERVICING – OUTBOARD

Multi Motors, Inanam Tel 088-423633

Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki, Yamaha

Yamaha Servicing and Genuine Spare Parts Segama Complex near Wisma Merdeka, behind Fook Fah Hardware store Tel: 088 263070

AJ Outboard Marine, Lrg 9, LRG Industri Warisan 1, Lot 4, Block E, Segama Shopping, Tel: 088-386 058, 012-8208432 (Alex), 013-8808432

Mercury Engine, In front of Sabah Medical Centre, Damai, Tel: 088-72318

MOTOR SERVICING – DIESEL

Volvo

Freycraft Marine Industries, Volvo Penta Servicing 088-425579, 012-8205855 (Mr Geoffrey)

HP Marine Jalan Minyak Mile 5 ½ Jalan Tuaran, Inanam Tel: 088-431336,431337

STC Marine Services Lot 22, Kian Yap Industrial Estate, Kolombong, Inanam Tel: 088-81864, 012-8028189 (Joseph Voon)

Yanmar

Sin Kong Enterprise, Jalan Tuaran, Bypass Mile 10, Kampung Dambain Menggatal, Tel: 088-499888, 499000, 019-8109579 Michael Wong, 012-8010000 Yap Sin Kong

OILS

Syarikat Vui Hin Auto Parts Sdn Bhd. Inanam. Ph. 088 420530 or cell 014 6518358.

PAINTS

JOTUN PAINT. Shop at Inanam Baru, near Hang On Hardware Look for Jotun sign at Inanam Baru or Aaron Chin Motorship Company, Labuan (Phone 087-414035 – approx Rm70 per litre - price includes delivery to Sutera Harbour. Also Liferaft servicing and other chandlery.

INTERNATIONAL PAINT. Summit Kinabalu, Sdn.Bhd, 1121, Lot 8, G/F Fu Yen ShopHouses, Mile 1.5 Jalan Tuaran, Kota Kinabalu Phone 088-216946,088-210497

SPRAY PAINT, POLYURETHINE FILLER/PRIMER, MASKING TAPE, SIKAFLEX

Dayspring Marketing, 22-0 G/F Block G, Lorong, Inanam Point 2, Inanam Commercial Centre, Mile 6, Jalan Tuaran KK Tel: 088-422133, 019-8803192

SEALS & SEAL SUPPLIES

Several stores at Inanam, behind Hang On Hardware supply seals.

SIKAFLEX

Dayspring Marketing, 22-0 G/F Block G, Lorong, Inanam Point 2, Inanam Commercial Centre, Mile 6, Jalan Tuaran KK Tel: 088-422133, 019-8803192

SLIPWAYS

PENUWASA, KUDAT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, Tel: 088-612328, 614327, 671326, 614325, Handphone: 019-8219386, email: penuwasa@gmail.com.

EXCEL CORPORATION, Kuala Penyu, Tel: 087-883091, Handphone 0138506854, email lindi@tm.net.my. Contact Lim or Lindy.

KAYA SHIPYARD Tel 088-430000, 431000, 432000 Handphone: 019-8216144

STAINLESS SCREWS, BOLTS, FITTINGS, FLANGES

CBN (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, DBKK No 3, Lot 15 Pusat Perindustrian Ngee Lim, Lorong Burung Kaleco, Mile 5 ½, Jalan Tuaran Tel: 088-435 999

Fook Fah Hardware, near Wisma Merdeka in town at Segama Complex. General Hardware, S/S Hose Clamps, S/S Bolts, paints etc.

SM Super Trading Yisu Industrial, Lot 3, MPKK, 6, 6 ½ Mile, Jalan Tuaran, KK Tel: 016-8103989, 088423989, 425895, 425907, 088711292

Suncover Company, Luyang Tel: 088 386858

H.P. Marine. Jalan Burung Selingkir, off Jalan Tuaran, Mile 5.5, Inaman.
Ph 088 431336 or 016 804 7883.

OTHER SERVICES

COURIERS

DHL, Lot 15 G/F, Wong Kwok Commercial Centre, Jalan Bundusan, Penampang 88300. Tel 088 724-770

ABX Express, No 48 G/F Jalan Gaya, KK Tel: 088-224000

City-Link, Shop Lot 5, G/F Lorong Bernam 3, Taman Soon Kiong Tel: 088 23662

COMPUTER REPAIRS

Budget PC, Lot 3, 32, 3/F Komplek Karamunsing, Edmund Senior Technician Tel: 016 8410243 Shop
Tel: 088-254633 Also sell a good range of hard drives, DVD drives, WIFI antennas, etc

DataSoft, Lot 2, 62 2nd Floor, Karamunsing Complex Tel: 088-255735

DENTIST

Dr Vivien Lo Dental Surgery, Shoplot 2, 1st Fl Block A, Damai Plaza Phase 4 Tel: 088-270037

Dr Majid Ali Chiragdin, Sabah Dental Surgery, 5 Wisma Yakim, Kbu Tel: 088-215535

Dr Dick Wong, Lot 34, Damai Plaza Tel: 088-266580

Choa Dental Clinic, 1/F Lot 3, Block G, Segama Shopping Complex, KK Tel: 088-232196

Dr Alex Lo, 5th floor, Centrepoint. Ph. 88 265215.

DOCTOR

Klinik Sabah, Drs Richard Barrow and Ruhaizad Doud, 1st floor, 8 Jalan Pantai, KK. Tel: 0109 314190.

LOCKSMITH

Securilocks, B57, 2nd Floor, CentrePoint.

OPTOMETRIST

KK Optics, Wisma Merdeka. Enter Merdeka Shopping Mall where Sutera bus drops you, first shop on your right as you enter.

Best Look, Wisma Merdeka. Located near Coastal Highway entrance.

SCUBA EQUIPMENT SERVICES

Sabah Divers, G/F Wisma Sabah, KK H/Ph: 012-8383603, 012-8339901

Borneo Divers, Wisma Sabah.

WELDING

Stainless Steel Welding & Polishing. Kamajuan Jaya Teknik Tel: 016 8378099 Blk B, No 3 Mile 5 ½,
Jalan Tauran, Inanam

PROVISIONING

SUPERMARKETS

In general, no one food supplier keeps everything you need/want. Shopping involves visiting several different stores/centres

KK City (On Sutera shuttle bus route)

Wawasan Building – G/F - Giant Supermarket. Decent “all round” supermarket with some fresh stuff. BBQ chickens and coleslaw after 11am.

CentrePoint Building – Basement Supermarket (Queens). Decent all round supermarket – not much fresh stuff.

KK Plaza - Servay Supermarket. Decent “all round” supermarket, opposite the fresh market but also has some fresh stuff which is not available at the market eg red & yellow capsicums, different chinese greens. Green Thai curry paste available.

Gaya Street North – Tong Hing – many “western” products – more upmarket (and expensive). Offers good bakery items, cheeses and cold meats. Has a wine shop which is generally quite expensive.

– Mrs Yong’s Fruit shop – almost next door to Tong Hing. Good quality fruit and vegetables. Homemade yoghurt. Good variety at reasonable prices.

Suriah Sabah Centre – City Grocer, 3rd floor. Has western products, fresh meats, fruit and veg, Japanese products incl. sushi, etc at “greater than local” prices.

Damai Plaza (approx 12Rm taxi ride from Sutera Harbour, same from KK)

Cons Cold Storage– bulk cheddar, mozzarella and cream cheese, beef salami, range of bottled and canned European foods, bulk specialty flours and baking supplies, pasta. Limited range of frozen imported meat.

Heng Seng Cold Storage – Frozen goods and meat from Australia & NZ. (Lamb, steak, mince, smoked salmon, different cuts, sausages, salami, cheeses, etc).

Merdeka Supermarket at Lido (Bus13 from Wawasan Bus Terminal)

Best overall range of ordinary “western” products at decent prices – eg the only place you can get Vegemite (sometimes). Has some good frozen meat (pork, beef steak & lamb), cold sliced meats, cheese, fruit & veg. Also has wine shop at entrance with reasonable prices.

City Mall, Jalan Lintas (By taxi or car only).

Giant Supermarket. Large modern supermarket with decent range; non-halal section selling pork and sausages, bacon etc; fresh food section; BBQ’d chickens; bakery with wholemeal bread, baguettes.

Pick and Pay (Damai, across Jalan Kolam from Damai Plaza).

Good range of imported and local fruit and veg, non-halal section, fresh sushi, fresh squeezed juice, good fresh chicken. Often have decent bread and homemade yoghurt.

Sunny Supermarket (Tanjung Aru, 20 minute walk from marina, 12 RM taxi back)

Good range of general household stores, chicken and sometimes fresh fruit and vegetables. Also has hardware and some homeware and stationery items on top floor. Sells beer and wine.

BEER, WINE, LIQUOR (Best Prices)

Sunny Supermarket, Tanjung Aru (for wine)

Kedai Lai Yaip, No. 18 Pinang St, Tanjung Aru – a Chinese food shop that sells beer at good prices (Cartons of 24 – Dester = 50RM, Stella Artois = 60RM, Tiger = 75RM)

Centrepont basement of Queens Department store – sometimes has inexpensive wine.

CAR RENTAL

Bizmaz Car Hire. Contact Richard on Ph. 0178 983893. Has been very helpful and reliable, often rents to yachtees, can manage at short notice. Speaks good English, will deliver to marina.

Kinabalu Rent a Car (Walter) 012-844 9012

Syarikat Sun Transport – at Car Wash opposite Marina complex. Ph. 0105 355455 (Bakri)

Safie – cheaper, older “yachtie” cars and some better ones. Cheapest. Will deliver and pick up. 0168366507 eg Kancil RM80/day; RM70/day for 3 day hire or RM40/day for 1 mth hire.

MOTORBIKE RENTAL

GG Adventure Tour 01-868559, 013 865 3559

TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

KK is also a gateway to the rest of Sabah, and exploring by car, air, train, bus or tour is easily arranged. Listed below are some suggestions:

Most of these day trips can be organised by the tour companies at Wisma Sabah, opposite the Merdeka bus stop. Try Borneo Icons, Excel Dive and Tours, Wildlife Expeditions, TYH Borneo Co.

- **WHITE WATER RAFTING:**

To Kiulu River – grades 1 & 2 rapids. Day trip, lunch incl. Cost approx. 170 RM pp.

To Padas River – grades 3 & 4 rapids (Trans Borneo Co.) = 230 RM pp.

- **WETLAND WILDLIFE AND FIREFLY CRUISE:**

Klias River or Tauran wetlands cruise to find proboscis monkeys etc. Includes high tea and dinner by the river. Afternoon & Evening trip. Cost approx. 185 RM pp.

- **KINABALU PARK AND PORING HOT SPRINGS:**

Flora and fauna experience including canopy walk, possibly Rafflesia sighting and hot spring tub. Day trip, lunch included. Cost approx. 185 RM pp.

- **TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN MARINE PARK:**

5 islands close by KK. Can do afternoon, morning or all day trips. Water sports available at extra expense. Cost approx. 170 RM for all day, pp.

- **LOK KAWI WILDLIFE PARK:**

Zoo specialising in Malaysian and other Asian animals + botanical park. Day trip. Lunch included. Cost approx. 170 RM. You can drive yourself there – entry approx. 20RM for adults.

FURTHER AFIELD:

- **KOTA BELUD SUNDAY MARKET:**

Monthly Tamu or market, with food, handicrafts, produce. Also “Cowboys of the East” – Bajau horsemen. Travel through small traditional villages and by fields en route. Option – Horse riding at Tuaran Beach Resort en route.

- **RUNGUS LONGHOUSE & TIP OF BORNEO :**

3 hours travel towards Kudat and top of Borneo. Pass produce fields, handicraft centres, visit historic longhouse. Day trip incl. lunch, guide, fees = 270 RM pp.

- **MONOSOPIAD CULTURAL VILLAGE :**

Kadazan cultural farmhouses, dance performance, stories & folklore. Half day trip, incl. entrance fees and guide. Cost 160 RM pp.

- **RASA RIA RESORT ORANGUTAN RESERVE:**

Resort has it's own forest reserve + nursery. 2 feedings- 10am & 2pm. 1 hrs drive north, entry 65 RM. Call 4-5 days ahead to book. Ph 088792888.

- **MT KINABALU CLIMB (THY Borneo Co.):**

2 day, 1 night tour. Climb to top of Mt Kinabalu, staying in hut en route. Trip includes transfers, guide, entrance fees, insurance, meals, accom. in unheated hut, does not include climbing permit (100 RM pp). Cost = 800 RM pp.approx.

- RIDE BORNEO Sdn Bhd:

Guided or customized self tours by 150cc trail bike. Included is insurance, helmet, touring info & maps. Half day novice trail = 195 RM pp., 1 day East Point Ridge (250 kms) = 275 RM pp, 1 day Nulu Ridge (230 kms) = 275 RM pp. Can organize up to 6 day/5 night tours in Borneo.

- TABIN WILDLIFE AND BIRD RESERVE (Excel Dive & Tours, Wisma Sabah), ex Sandakan:

Near Lahad Datu in Sabah. Dedicated area for breeding of wildlife and birds – pygmy elephant, Sumatran rhino, monkeys + flora & mud volcanoes. Cost : 2 days = 818 RM pp, 3 days = 1160 RM pp. includes accom., meals, guide, permits etc.

- KINABATANGAN RIVER (Excel Dive & Tours), ex Sandakan:

South-west of Sandakan, all meals and accom., guides, permits etc.

2 days, staying at Abai = 828 RM, 3 days, staying at Suchau = 1308 RM

- KINABATANGAN RIVER (Hadi Abdullah, private tour guide, Ph. 0178 233642, email is hadiabdullah7@yahoo.com), ex Sandakan. Lovely man, excellent guide, has organised tours for yachtees for years. Will put together tours to suit.

- DANUM VALLEY (Borneo Anchor Travel & Tours), ex Sandakan:

Located in Sabah's Danum Valley Conservation Area. 3 day trip, incl. all meals, accom., transfers from Lahud Datu. Cost = 2010 RM for standard chalet, 2300 RM for Deluxe chalet

- LABUAN ISLAND:

Flight, bus or car and ferry from Kota Kinabalu. Also ferry from Menumbok. See WW2 sites, option for wreck and other diving + is duty free port.

- BRUNEI:

Flight or ferry – can't drive a Sabah-registered hire car across the border into Brunei. See Islamic culture & architecture. Fly via Air Asia or Royal Brunei Airlines from approx. \$70 AU return from KK. Accom. From \$60AU per night. Local sights include mosques, Regalia Museum, palaces, proboscis monkey tours, Kampong Air tours. Ferry from Labuan. Brunei Yacht Club (Maura) very welcoming.

- SANDAKAN:

Bus from KK approx. 45 RM pp., flight approx. 200 RM pp. Accom. from 30 RM per night.

Stepping off point for wildlife tours, Gomantong Caves and visits to diving islands offshore. Also WW2 sites, Sepilok Orangutan Centre, Agnes Keith House, Chinese temples, early mosques, etc.

- DIVING IN AND AROUND SABAH:

Sipidan/Mabul: West of Tawau. Diving and accom. at Mabul or nearby islands.

Layang Layang: North-west of KK, in Sth China Sea. Upmarket resort, access via helicopter.

Lankayan Island: North-east of Sandakan. 3 D/2N package = 1,910 RM pp, & includes transfers.

Small diving resorts also operate on Tiga Is., Mantanani Is., Matakang Is., Labuan, Librarian Is.

Snorkelling and some diving also possible off Tunku Abdul Rahman Marina Park, KK; Librarian and Turtle Islands, near Sandakan; Mengalum Island off KK.

There are several dive tour companies in Wisma Sabah – try Sabah Divers.

- SABAH HOMESTAYS:

Experience the daily life of a community in Sabah by living with a local family, and be introduced to local foods, handicrafts, farming, cultural history of the area. Available in many areas eg Kota Belud, Kudat, Kundasang, Kinabatangan. Contact Homestay Association Sabah, on www.sabah-homestay.org, or Ph. 013 8721765 or 014 6555043.

SANDAKAN:

Sandakan is the second largest city in Sabah and lies on the east coast about half way between Kudat and Tawau. It has a population of approx. 400,000. It has had a fascinating history but probably most noteworthy in recent times was its involvement during the Second World War, when it was a major Japanese base after its fall from Allied Forces hands in 1942. The large and deep natural harbour was utilized by both sides during the war. There were Japanese prisoner of war camps here, and the infamous Death Marches, which involved 2504 Allied Forces soldiers, stretched across Borneo from Sandakan to Ranau. The town was virtually destroyed in the last stages of the war and has since been rebuilt.

Legend

LIST OF HOTEL IN SABAH BY CATEGORY:

3 Star Hotel Category	Tel no.	3 Star Hotel Category	Tel no.	1 Star Hotel Category	Tel no.	Budget Hotel Category	Tel no.	8&A Category	Tel no.
1. Hyatt Regency Kinabalu(3)	6-086-221234	7. Baylun Palace Hotel(3)	6-086-211911	14. Casuarina Hotel(4)	6-086-221000	25. Ang 1 Hotel(1)	6-086-234999	33. Baciopokes Lodge 8&A(1)	6-086-241495
2. Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort(3)	6-086-225800	8. Hotel Shangri-La(3)	6-086-212000	15. Diamond Inn(7)	6-086-261222	26. City Inn(1)	6-086-219313	34. Borneo Sociopatives(7)	6-086-214009
3. Sereva Harbour Resort & Spa(3)	6-086-218666	9. Tang Dynasty Hotel(4)	6-086-261366	16. Fall View Hotel(1)	6-086-254500	27. High Street Inn S/B(1)	6-086-218116	35. North Borneo Cabin(1)	6-086-217800
4 Star Hotel Category		10. Certlan Hotel(1)	6-086-242222	17. Hotel Deleeron(3)	6-086-252222	28. Hotel Holiday(3)	6-086-213116	36. Pines Kinabalu(1)	6-086-219148
4. Beverly Hotel(1)	6-086-259999	11. Hotel Capital(1)	6-086-231999	18. Hotel Matar(1)	6-086-242333	29. Hotel New Sabah(3)	6-086-225810	37. Topianna Lodge(7)	6-086-212024
5. Promenade Hotel(1)	6-086-262555	12. Kinabalu Dava Hotel(1)	6-086-240000	19. Kinabalu Hotel(1)	6-086-245599	30. Molar Kinabalu Hotel(1)	6-086-262313	38. The Beach Lodge(1)	6-086-213988
6. The Jesselton Hotel(1)	6-086-223233	13. Promenade Hotel Apartments(1)	6-086-268666	20. Ruby Hotel(1)	6-086-212022	31. Mandahin Hotel(1)	6-086-225222	39. Twilens Lodge(1)	6-086-222223
				21. Victoria Hotel(1)	6-086-218511	32. Pantai Inn(1)	6-086-219221		
				22. West May Hotel(1)	6-086-266116				
				24. Winner Hotel(1)	6-086-242222				

It is a pleasant town with many facilities, stretching along the northern shores of Sandakan Harbour. Anchorage can be found in front of the Sandakan Yacht Club (but be careful of underwater cables running out from the slipway next door – best to be in a depth of approx. 10M) or on the other side of the Exclusion Zone, just west of the Coastguard jetty and before the fishing fleet wharves. There is approx. 8 M depth here with good holding. Dinghies can be parked at the Yacht Club if you pay for temporary membership (100RM per week), at the market or in front of the restaurants and Gentingmas shopping store on the foreshore (this involves climbing up a small rock wall). The harbour can be subject to strong SW squalls during the SW monsoon period so anchor securely at this time.

Provisioning: Gentingmas Mall store is good value for money, and it certainly is easy if you park your dinghy at the rock wall at the front of the store. If you need a greater variety of food, there is a Giant supermarket in the suburbs, not far from the War Memorial. From Gentingmas Mall it is also just a couple of block's walk to the wet markets, where there is a great variety of fish, chicken, beef, fruit and vegetables in a very clean market environment. Fuel can be obtained by jerry can from the Esso Service Station at the rear of Gentingmas Mall or the Shell station at the end of the bus terminal nearby, and there is usually someone there with a trolley to help you for a small charge. The fuel barges in the harbour won't sell to yachtees.

Attractions: There is quite a lot to see in Sandakan itself. Elvira at the Tourist Information Office is a great help, and is very pro-yachtee. To mention a few attractions:

- The Heritage Trail – the Tourist office has put together a self-walking tour of the town's highlights.
- Agnes Keith House – home of the author who wrote 3 books about her life and experiences in Sandakan pre and post WW2. Her books are well worth reading.
- Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary and the Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary
- War Memorial
- Town Museum, situated above the Tourist Information office.
- Main Chinese temple

Nearby areas to visit are:

- Libaran Island and the neighbouring Turtle Island Group. Some of these islands are restricted and you need a permit, available in Sandakan, to visit. The more outlying islands of the group are actually in the Philippines.

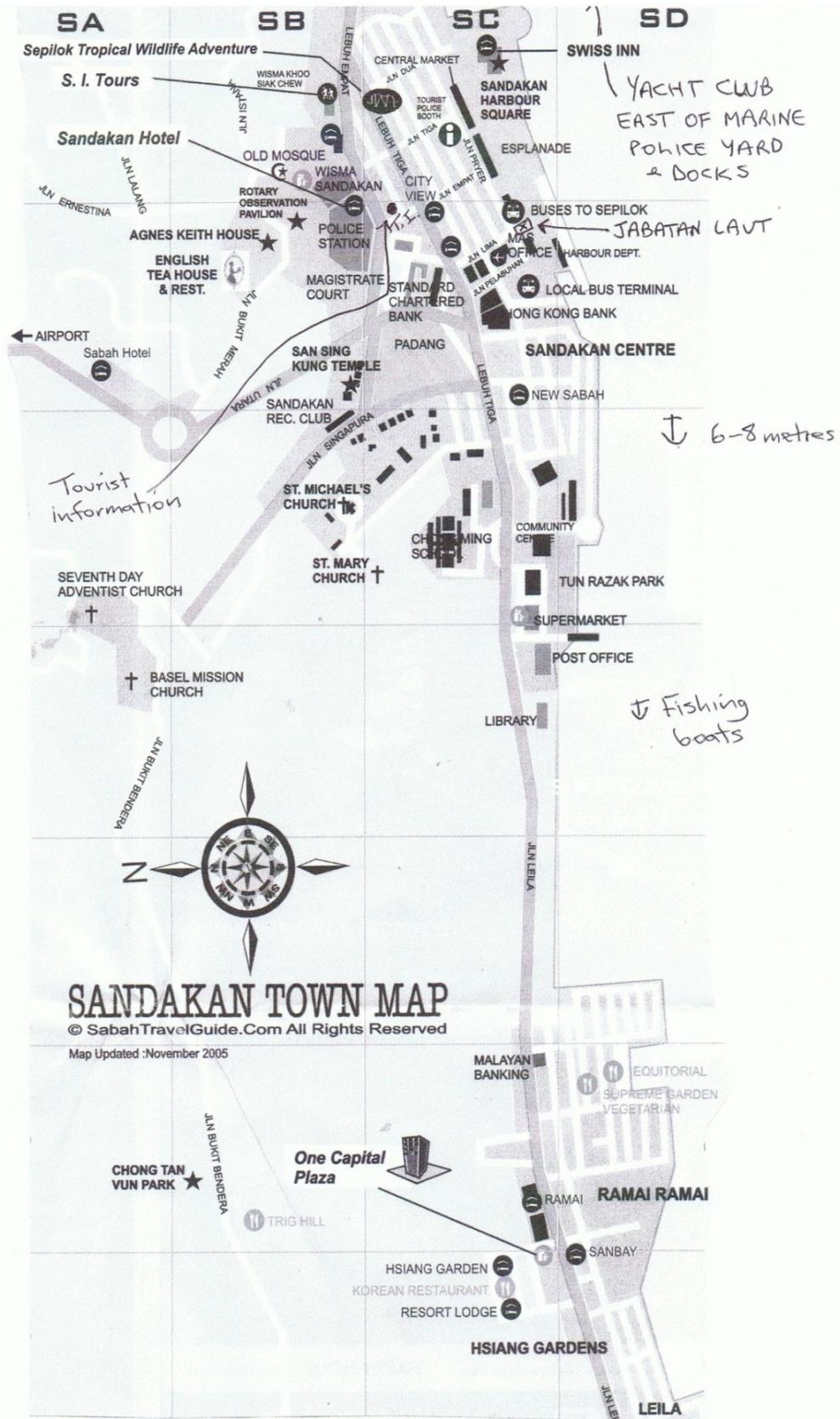


- Lankayan Island for excellent snorkeling and diving, though it is a few hours travel from the coast and doesn't offer poor weather anchorage.
- Kinabatangan River. Its northern entrance is just a few miles south of Sandakan harbour. It would be



wise to enter the river on a rising tide as the river bar extends out to sea for several miles and is quite shallow. Despite extensive logging and the establishment of palm oil plantations, there is a lot of wildlife to see. Check "Rivers" section of this guide for more details.

Formalities: Harbourmaster or Jabatan Laut is next to the Esso Service Station, one block back from the waterfront. Immigration and Customs are a fair way west of town at the international ferry terminal.



TAWAU:

Tawau is a smaller town of just over 300,000 people, situated just north of the Indonesian border on the east coast of Borneo. Its large harbour serves as the entrance to many large rivers, and there is usually quite a tidal race, worse during spring tides. There are also many small boats fishing in the harbour, using gill nets between 2 flags. We did not anchor in front of the town – it was too busy and there seemed to be no safe place to leave the dinghy ashore. We found a good anchorage just off the Tawau Yacht Club, just south of a foul ground marker, in about 5M of water. Like Sandakan, Tawau can be subjected to sudden and strong SW squalls during the SW monsoon period.

The Yacht Club, while not very interested in visiting yachts, offered us a week's free temporary membership and use of some of their facilities. These included a couple of safe options for tying the dinghy, use of their restaurant, bar and swimming pool. It was also only a 10 minute walk to town. Many yachts enter Malaysia at this port – we found the officials were all very helpful and friendly.

Provisioning: There is a large wet market next to the Tarakan ferry terminal at the waterfront which sold all varieties of fruit, vegetables and some chicken and meat. There are also many small stores along the waterfront and for several streets back which sell general provisions. We could not find wine anywhere, but beer and some spirits were available from the supermarkets and some Chinese stores. Fuel can be purchased at several service stations at the edge of town. We bought bulk diesel from a fuel barge anchored in front of the town.

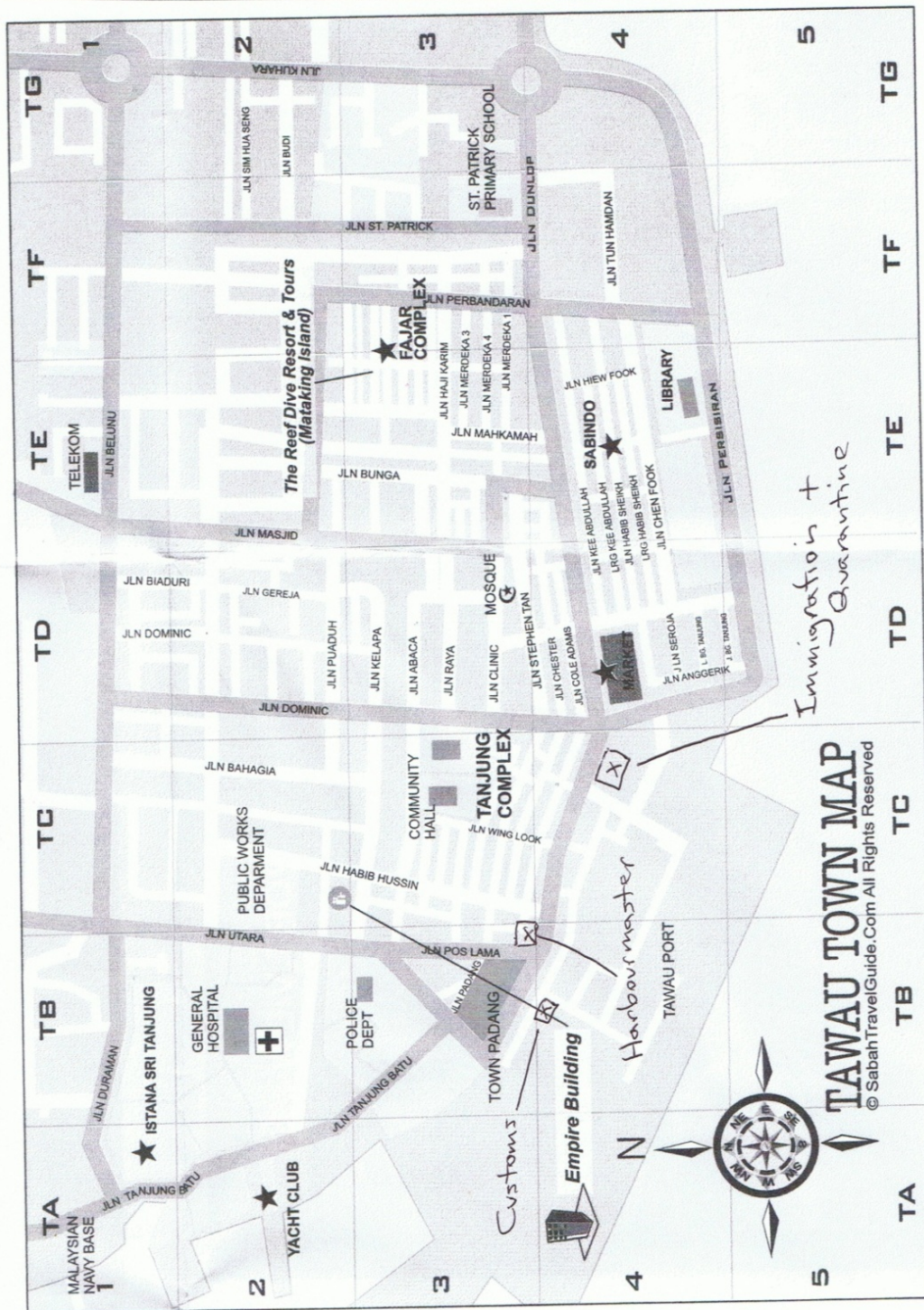
Attractions: The town does not offer much in the way of sightseeing. Apparently there is a large park within the town but we did not visit it.

Nearby areas to visit include:

- Dive sites around the islands of Sipidan and Mabul. Many dive operations work out of Semporna, about 60 miles east-north-east of Tawau.
- Tabin Wildlife Reserve and Danum Valley Conservation Area
- Tawau Hills Park

Formalities: The immigration and Quarantine offices are both located in the large ferry terminal building next to the wet markets on the waterfront. Customs are in a waterfront building further north-west of the ferry terminal. The Harbourmaster, or Jabatan Laut, has an office on a corner nearly opposite the Customs building. All were friendly and obliging. Customs told us we didn't need to visit them if we had nothing to declare, but if you are leaving Sabah you do need a Customs clearance. Quarantine staff were never in their office – the Immigration staff told us not to bother trying to catch them, after we re-visited the office twice.

Note: Since the political problems in the Lahad Datu region in early 2013, there may be more security forces present in the town and Immigration may be more vigilant about foreign nationals entering or leaving the country here.



Marked Rock ▲
 -6M ⚓
 over mud

□ Fuel barge

Immigration + Quarantine

Harbourmaster

Empire Building

Customs

TAWAU TOWN MAP
 © SabahTravelGuide.Com All Rights Reserved

KUDAT:

Kudat is a small town at the top of Borneo with a population of around 75,000 people. It has Immigration, Customs and Jabatan Laut agencies represented here, so it is possible to clear in and out of Malaysia. Many yachts clear out here for the Philippines.

There are two main options for anchoring here. You can anchor in the harbour, which is protected to some degree from the SW to N. There is good holding in 6-8 M, just off the fishing wharves. The anchorage can get busy when the fishing boats are moving about, and many move off the public wharf to anchor in the harbour at night. We had no problems there but have heard of theft from unattended boats at night in the past. You can park your dinghy by the public toilets amongst the wharves, or onto the Police wharf, but this wharf is locked around 9pm.

The other option is to use the boat basin just north of the harbour entrance, where you approach the travel lift and haul-out yard. The boat basin is surrounded by the golf course and haul-out yard so is virtually fully protected, though some cruising folk have reported strong SE winds will cause some problems. People have also complained that it is hot and “buggie” at times. There is room for about 8 - 10 boats to tie stern-to the wall with the anchor dropped forward. If possible talk to other yachtees here before anchoring to gauge where others have dropped their anchor – this may avoid fouling someone else’s anchor. You could also anchor in the open area of the basin between the marina and the Penuwasa haul out yard, but many fishing boats maneuver in this area.

Marina: In early 2013 a small marina in this basin opened, though initially there was no power, water or any other facilities available. Boats were using the marina but no fees were charged. In April 2013 the marina officially “opened” and fees were charged, though there was no power or water provided to the marina pens. There is a clubhouse with good shower/toilet amenities and a small bar/café in the complex. In May 2014 the fees to use the marina were 800 R per month, and there was still no water or power to all the pens, though some long-term cruisers had rigged very long power cords to the marina complex and long hoses to the water tanks.



There is a permanent army camp in the boat basin, but there have still been recent reports of theft from boats using the marina and basin.

Next door to the marina is the Kudat Golf and Marina Resort. They are welcoming to people from the marina if you buy the occasional coffee or meal at the pool bar. They will allow you to use their pool, showers and garbage dumpsters when buying drinks or a meal. The Golf Club is a 5 minute walk away from the marina, and offers meals and beer at non-member prices.

From the marina it is a 15 minute walk to town, but often locals will offer you a lift – the usual cost is 2 RM per person. There are also taxis but they will charge 10-15 RM one way to or from town. Peter Tseu is a long-term taxi driver in Kudat who charges 10 R to travel from town to the marina. His phone no. is 0198 020084. Danny is also a long-term taxi driver, on Ph. 0165 721837.

You can get to KK by road from Kudat – it is about 3 hours by bus or shared taxi. The road is now in relatively good repair, though signage is not good around Kota Belud and Tuaran. You can pay for a seat in a taxi-van for 30 R, but you may be waiting for hours until the van fills before it leaves. You may be able to negotiate a private hire – we paid 150 R for the exclusive use of a 7-seater mini van to travel from Kudat to KK via Inanam. Friends rented a minivan for the day, to travel to KK and back, for 350 R. We heard that there is also a local bus service to KK which is meant to be very inexpensive, but we did not find this service.

Provisioning: There is an excellent market for vegetables, fruit, chicken, pork and beef that operates every day, but mainly in the mornings. There is also a separate seafood market across the road. The Milimewa Supermarket is on the waterfront opposite the wet markets. The variety of goods there is not bad though some of their prices can be high. There is also a smaller Chinese supermarket and many small shops selling a variety of wares in the main street. Wine is difficult to find, but cheap beer can be found at some Chinese shops.

Fuel can be obtained from the two service stations on the waterfront of the harbour, but they will only sell 20 litres of fuel at one time if it is put into containers and not a vehicle . You can get a same-day permit to enable purchase of larger amounts of fuel from a council office – ask one of the taxi drivers for details.

Eating out: There is a very good Chinese restaurant just a five minute drive from the marina that offers free pick-up and drop-off in a 7-seater minivan if you want to use their restaurant. Their phone no. is 0198 086938. Another good Chinese restaurant is Sungai Wang in the New Town area. The Curry House, behind the Chinese Temple in the Old Town, does great curries and roti.

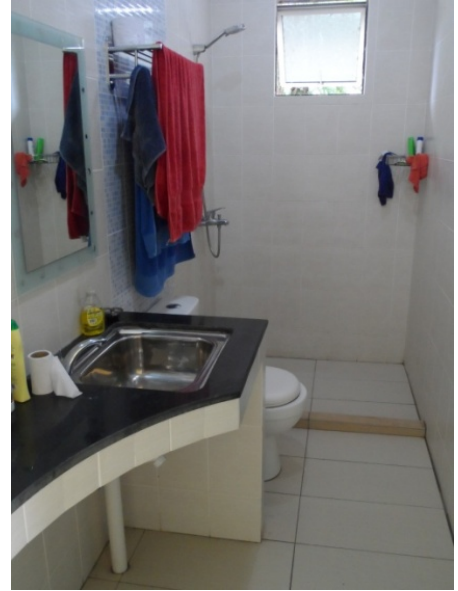


Attractions: Except the wonderful Chinese Temple, there is not a lot to see in the town of Kudat, but if you hire a car or taxi you can visit some nearby areas of interest. The Tip of Borneo offers great 270 degree views of the South China Sea and there is a wonderful swimming beach on the western coast there. Just south of Kudat there are several interesting villages where people still follow some traditional ways, including a Rungus Long House approx. 40 kms south of Kudat which is open to visitors. A little further

south is the town of Matuggong, the centre for original Malay gongs.

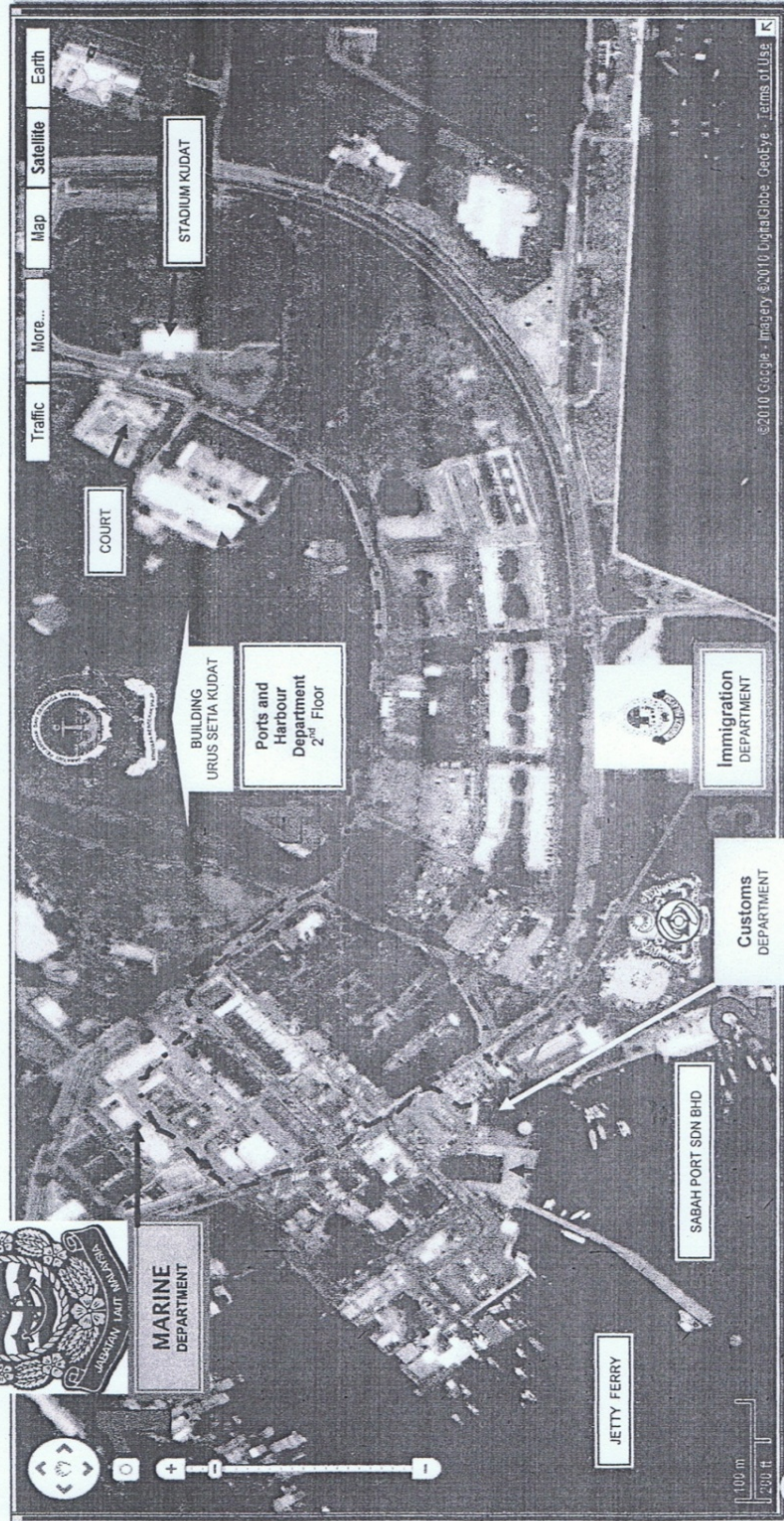
Formalities: The Immigration and Customs offices are on the waterfront, between the Milimewa store and the Police Wharf. In May 2014 Immigration had just moved into a large recently renovated building at the entrance to the Police Wharf, just next to Customs. The Jabatan Laut (Harbourmaster) is located on the second floor of a building of shop/houses just behind the Chinese Temple – locals will point it out for you.

The Penuwasa Haul Out facility, in the Boat Basin, has undergone some changes in the last couple of years, and is now much cleaner, with improved facilities for yachtees. There is now some concreted hard stand areas with private tiled bathrooms for each boat. These are very nice, with great water pressure and hot water! A communal seating area and wifi is also provided, and most days a small sari-sari store and café is open. The facility stocks a large store of chandlery and hardware items, and they have a machinery shop on site. For details of haul out costs at the Kudat facility, email them at refer to their web site – penuwasa@gmail.com.



KUDAT MAPS

TO SUBMIT REPORT ARRIVALS



Submit : **Arrival**

1. Form Shipping Arrival Report
2. Form MSS 1 (Malaysian Port And Statistics)
3. Crew List
4. Last Port Clearance (Fotocopy)
5. Inward Manifest Cargo

Submit : **Departure**

1. Form Application Port Clearance
2. Form MSS 2 (Malaysian Port And Statistics)
3. Crew List
4. Outward Manifest Cargo

LABUAN:

Labuan is a federal territory belonging to Sabah, and is a group of 7 islands – one large main one with 6 other smaller ones - located just 8 kms off the Borneo coast, opposite Brunei. It has a population of just over 90,000. People usually access Labuan by ferry from KK, Brunei or Menumbok, at the entrance to the Klias River. It is a duty-free port, so most of the many stores there offer duty-free liquor, cigarettes, chocolate and perfume. It is a busy port for large container ships and boats that service the gas and oil industry just off-shore.

The harbour and main town is on the SE side of the island. You can anchor in the harbour, either just SE of the marina or further in by the water village, opposite the Ferry Terminal, but the wash from the ferries and other large vessels makes it very uncomfortable. A marina was opened in 2009 but experienced some building problems and closed for repairs in September 2011. It re-opened again in March 2014.

Marina: When we arrived in July 2014 it was obvious the marina was still having major problems. The entrance had been improved but still allowed some boat wash and swell into the basin. All the outside walkways had either broken away or were not being used, and the 8 or so cruising boats there were tightly clustered around the docks in the centre of the marina, attached to the shore by a long and very narrow concrete walkway. With strong winds or a high-speed ferry leaving the port, there is a lot of wash and water movement inside the marina. The “old hands” here told us that the cleats have pulled out of the dock sides and recently during a storm a couple of the marina fingers had broken away. On the other hand, it is very cheap compared to Sutera and Miri (0.5RM per ft per day), and the marina offers facilities like a free laundry, free wifi, showers, toilets, garbage collection and an in-house café. It is very close to town, and stores may deliver your purchases there by taxi. Alternatively, a water taxi from town (by the ferry terminal) will deliver you and your shopping directly to your boat for 10RM per person.



It is possible to stay at Menumbok, in the Klias River or off one of the smaller islands off Labuan overnight and make a day-trip into Labuan harbour to provision if you are reluctant to stay there overnight.

Provisioning: There is a small Giant supermarket and Parksons department store on the ground floor mall of the Financial Park, the “triple towers” building just a 3 minute walk from the marina. There are 2 or 3 other supermarkets (Millimewa and One Stop are in the town centre) and many other small food, grocery and specialty stores scattered around the town. One store on the main road along the waterfront, opposite the Labuan Deepsea Seafood Restaurant, sells many western-style foods. The town markets are at the western edge of town past the ferry terminals. There are also several large hardware stores between the terminals and the markets.

The ferry terminals are in the middle of the town and are very busy. There are many duty-free shops throughout the town selling alcohol, cigarettes, chocolate and other imported items. Most will offer discounts if you ask. Restaurants also abound – the majority are Muslim or Chinese, but there is also Italian, Indian and Japanese.

You can get your shopping back to the marina by taxi or water taxi – both are 10RM per trip.

Fuel is relatively cheap and limited amounts can be bought at several service stations in town.

Attractions: People usually visit Labuan for the duty-free shopping, but it is worth hiring a car for the day to travel around the island.

Labuan had a significant involvement with the Second World War – it was invaded by the Japanese on 1st January 1942 and was occupied until their surrender in September 1945 - and there is a cemetery and war memorial for Allied servicemen here. The Labuan Museum is worth a visit – it is located in History Square by the Tourist Office.

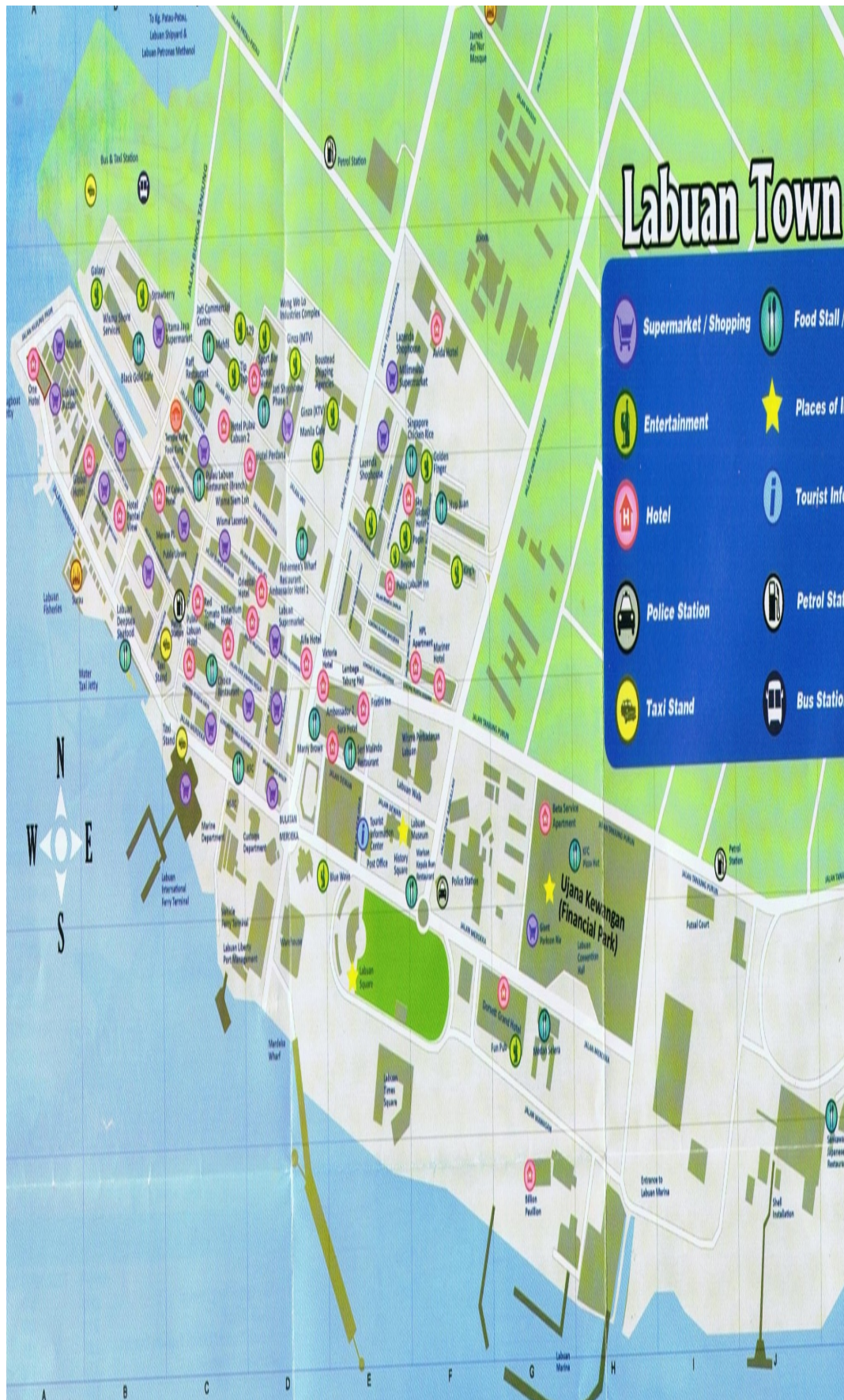
There are attractive beaches on the west coast and a small bird zoo on the north coast. There is a small open air market behind the Museum on Saturday mornings. Offshore there are several small islands off the southern coast of Labuan and four wreck dive sites.

The Klias River, just 10 miles away, is well worth exploring – see the section on Rivers.

Formalities: Immigration and Customs officials have an office within the main ferry terminal and the Harbourmaster/Jabatan Laut is behind the HSBC bank just east of the ferry terminal, in a small fenced area. They are very efficient and helpful.

Note: Outboard thefts were occurring in the harbour and marina area in early 2013, esp. 15 HP ones.

SABAH RIVERS



Kinabatangan River:

These notes were compiled from various sources - our experiences, notes from Sue on "MV Lifeline" and the folk on "SV Cetacean", information in "Cruising Guide to South East Asia" - Vol 2, by Davies & Morgan (page 184), Google Earth and "Kinabatangan River" by Wendy Hutton.

The Kinabatangan is a major river on the east coast of Sabah, and travels through some beautiful jungle. Travelling along the Kinabatangan River is an exciting and enjoyable trip - well worth any difficulties getting into the river. There is a wealth of wildlife to see and cruising a river like this is a great change from sea travel. The best time to see the river is apparently May - October, during the dry when there are more animals moving about, but the water level is down, so this makes navigating into and about the river a little more exacting. We visited in November 2010 after the rains had begun so the water level was up but there were a lot of logs and debris in the water. We visited again in November 2011 and there was very little debris in the water, and the water levels were average. Areas of jungle along the river are interspersed with stretches of nipah palms and large sections of the jungle back from the river have been cleared for palm oil production, but recent conservation agreements have dedicated remaining areas to be conserved as a wildlife corridor.

We used 2 different entrances into the river - the northern one called the Mamuyon River and the south-eastern one labelled Dewhurst Bay. We suspect there are others but which are probably not navigable by yachts. The local barges and tourist boats from Sandakan use the Mamuyon River entrance.

For the northern entrance we used CMap and the following waypoints - both were fairly accurate in 2010 and 2011, and we also followed a local small barge that used a very similar track. The shallowest section started about 2.5NM offshore but it deepened as we approached the entrance, as shown on CMAP. The depths in the right hand column were noted at a tide of 1.0M via CMap Tide Tables. It would be sensible to use a rising tide to enter the river here. The waypoints for this entrance to the Kinabatangan, via the Mamuyon River, are:

WPT 1	05.54.00'N	118.15.54'E	
WPT 2	05.52.38'N	118.17.63'E	4.3M
WPT 3	05.50.83'N	118.18.47'E	1.8M
WPT 4	05.50.24'N	118.18.98'E	2.4M
WPT 5	05.49.86'N	118.19.48'E	2.8M
WPT 6	05.49.39'N	118.19.79'E	3.0M
WPT 7	05.48.62'N	118.20.16'E	2.3M
WPT 8	05.47.67'N	118.20.46'E	3.2M
WPT 9	05.46.89'N	118.20.97'E	7.0M

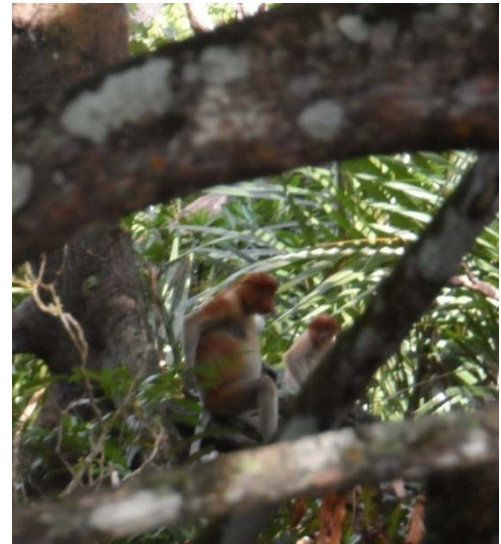
We approached the southern entrance from Tambisan Island. Again the shoal areas were 5-6 nautical miles out into Sula Sea - the least depth was about 3M at around 5NM out to sea, with about 0.5m of tide (ie similar shallow depths to the other entrance but for a lot longer). We used CMap for this approach and it appeared fairly accurate. For more detail about this more south-eastern approach, follow the notes on page 30 (an extract from "Cruising Guide to South East Asia - Vol. 2). The shallowest area we found was

approx. 1.2 M but we did not explore around for a greater depth here, as our draft allowed us to pass.

Once inside both entrances we usually had depths of 4-10 meters and there was water if you use standard river navigation procedure – i.e. favour the outside of the bends and don't cut corners.

The 2 river entrances meet at the town of Apia (05.41.89'N 118.23.08'E) where there are about 50 houses, a school, a small shop and several small tourist lodges. The Kinabatangan then winds inland for many miles. We encountered 2 barge crossings before Sukau. At Sukau there are power lines crossing the river and most yachts will not fit under these. Sukau is a much bigger town with road access, phone and internet coverage, some shops and a small market. There are also more tourist eco-lodges there and it is possible to either join a wildlife spotting group or hire a guide from one of them. Many tourists visit the Kinabatangan by road and the towns of Suchau and Bilit are the main destinations for them.

We saw many proboscis and macaque monkeys, parrots, doves and a couple of hornbills on both trips, but in November 2011, we also saw a crocodile not far from the entrance of the Mamuyon River and pigmy elephants at Apia.



Kinabatangan River (East Sabah)

The Kinabatangan River is northeastern Sabah's longest river. It rises in the Wittti Range and winds its way through 350 miles of mountains, valleys, jungles and floodplains before emptying into the Sulu Sea between Sandakan and Kampong Tambisan.

This river is easily navigable up to the town of Sukau and further depending on drought and mast height. There are power lines crossing the river at Sukau 05° 30.51N, 118° 17.2E and tall vessels should do their homework before venturing under them.

The Kinabatangan journey is a 'must do' experience for every cruising yacht; permissions are required but are easily obtainable from the local agent. (see below)

From GPS position, 05° 34.04N, 118° 34.19E head 228° directly for the middle of the river, which is clearly visible. Do not attempt to enter north of this position as the shallow bank extends dangerously to seaward.

Inside the entrance is deeper and easier going. Up the river 4 miles is a village on the southern shore. Proceed a further 2 miles to 05° 34.04N, 118° 34.19E and take the Nipah Palm-lined right hand tributary proceeding to 05° 35.24N, 118° 34.19E. From here, the river gets much shallower. A small island of Nipah Palms splits the waterway. Take the right hand tributary and stay close to the right hand bank passing the island. The river turns sharp right and it is possible to return to the middle.

An intersection called 'The 4-Ways' is three miles further up at 05° 37.88N, 118° 31.77E. Turn into the left tributary favouring starboard to enjoy the scenery change from Nipah Palms to verdant jungle over the next 15 miles. At 05° 41.90N, 118° 23.06E is a left hand tributary leading past the village of Api and on to Sukau 20 miles further up stream. There is a small restaurant at Api and the Muslim villagers are warm and inviting. Wear appropriate attire.

Where river meets jungle is a haven for wildlife, best viewed at sunrise or near sunset. You will find Orang-utans, Proboscis Monkeys, Grey Leaf Monkeys and common Macaques in the trees lining the river. The rare Pigmy Elephant has been seen along this river and at night, you can spotlight plenty of crocodile's eyes shining in the water.

The river carries logs and foliage that can foul anchor chains and damage propellers. Local barges carrying palm oil roots, logs and sand ply the river all the way to Sandakan. Display plenty of light at anchor so you are visible to them at night and avoid stopping close to river bends where there is less navigable water for them to manoeuvre in.

For all permissions and advice on cruising this area, contact Touchdown Holidays, the local agent.

Touchdown Holidays Sdn Bhd
Lower Level Pacific Sutera Hotel,
Sutera Harbour Resort, P.O. Box 14962,
88859 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.
Tel (+60) 088 249 276, Fax (+60) 088 256 408
email: victoria@siaextreme.biz



Ed. SIBERS X 4

* Areas of jungle with monkey colonies start 5 miles upriver from 4-Ways.
▲ Depth can ↓ to 1.1M. Also sighted a ? rock or stuck log in this area.

* Several tributaries of the K. River lead out to the coast, south of Sandakan. ? navigable for vessels of draft > 1M?

Klias River:

The Klias River is situated in the wetlands of the Sabah west coast just east of Labuan, which is only 10 nautical miles away. The entrance is at the town of Menumbok, where ferries leave for Labuan and Brunei. There are also small shops, a post office, road access to KK and good internet coverage at Menumbok. The entrance is well-marked and the shallowest area seems to be the approach from the red fairway marker in the East Channel to the entrance leads. Waypoints to use for the approach are:

1. 5*19.0'N, 115*18.1'E
2. 5*19.0'N, 115*18.75'E
3. 5*17.8'N, 115*20.1'E
4. 5*17.6'N, 115*20.9'E
5. 5*17.38'N, 115*21.8'E
6. 5*17.64'N, 115*22.3'E
7. 5*18.2'N, 115*23.1'E
8. 5*17.88'N, 115*22.5'E
9. 5*18.5'N, 115*22.5'E

The river is very protected and offers easy navigation and good anchorages all the way up to Kota Klias, about 25 miles upstream, where there is a small town with shops, restaurants and road access to KK and the town of Beaufort 20 kms away. There are low power lines and a bridge over the river at this point, restricting further travel.



The first mile or so of the river has no obstacles but we found a very shallow patch about 1.5 miles up river, where there is a small rocky island close to the western shore, or left side of the river, just before the farm with a jetty, and we guessed there may be an underwater rock wall or reef here. We found the depth here to be around 2-3 M on the left side of the river. There is also an underwater rock bar across the river with a depth of approx. 2.5M, between the palm oil boat wharf and small restaurant/accommodation huts, about 2 miles upriver from the entrance. This is marked by a middle ground buoy. If you keep to the right, or SE side of the river along this stretch you will minimize your chances of encountering these shallow areas. It may also be wise to pass here when the tide is higher. Once past these spots the river is easy to navigate with good depths – just exercise the usual practice of following the wider curve of the river. We found the depths in the river generally varied from approximately 3M to 18M at LW.

As you get closer to Kota Klias the river narrows and you will pass several tour operations – restaurants and wildlife tour boats – on the northern side of the river. Just past here you will see the town’s black water tower and there are low overhead power lines that will stop most river traffic.

It is possible to anchor before the town and arrange to hire a taxi in Kota Klias to take you to Beaufort the next morning where you can catch the local train to Tenom, in the Highlands. The train journey is said to be quite spectacular and the cost very cheap. In July 2014 the train left Beaufort around 7.30am. The trip takes about 3 hours, and you will have around 90 minutes at Tenom before the train returns to Beaufort.



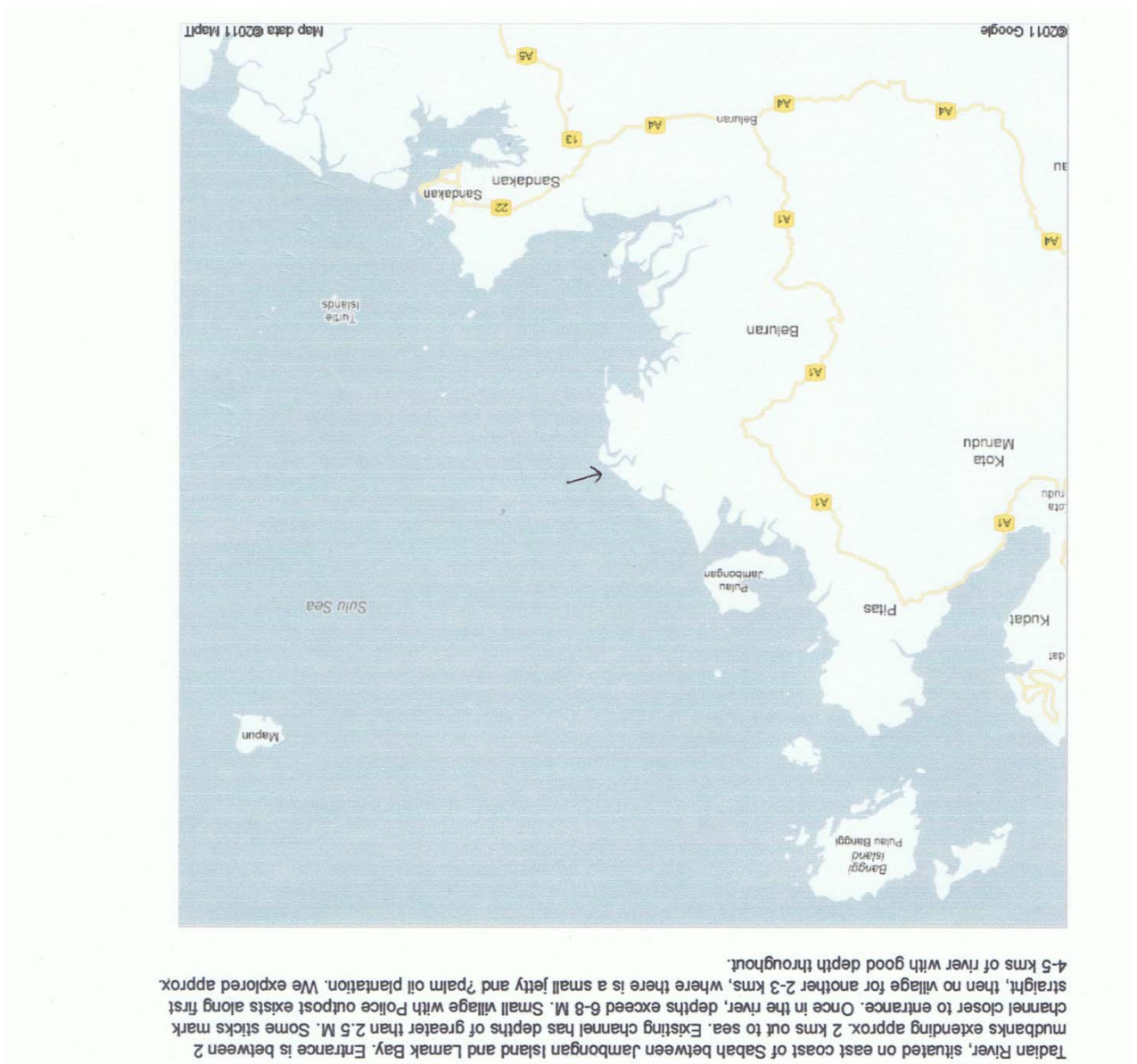
There is some great wildlife along the river banks – birds, fireflies, monkeys, otters, but the animals are very timid. There were more monkeys – proboscis and macaque – closer to Kota Klias. We found very few mosquitos or sandflies in the river when we visited, but lots of moths and insects that were attracted to our lights.

One morning we experienced a heavy fog that gave the river quite a mystical look until it cleared around 8am.

We noticed there was very little traffic on the river – any boats we met were mainly confined to the lower reaches. We did see one barge so expect some work boats to frequent the river.

Tadian River:

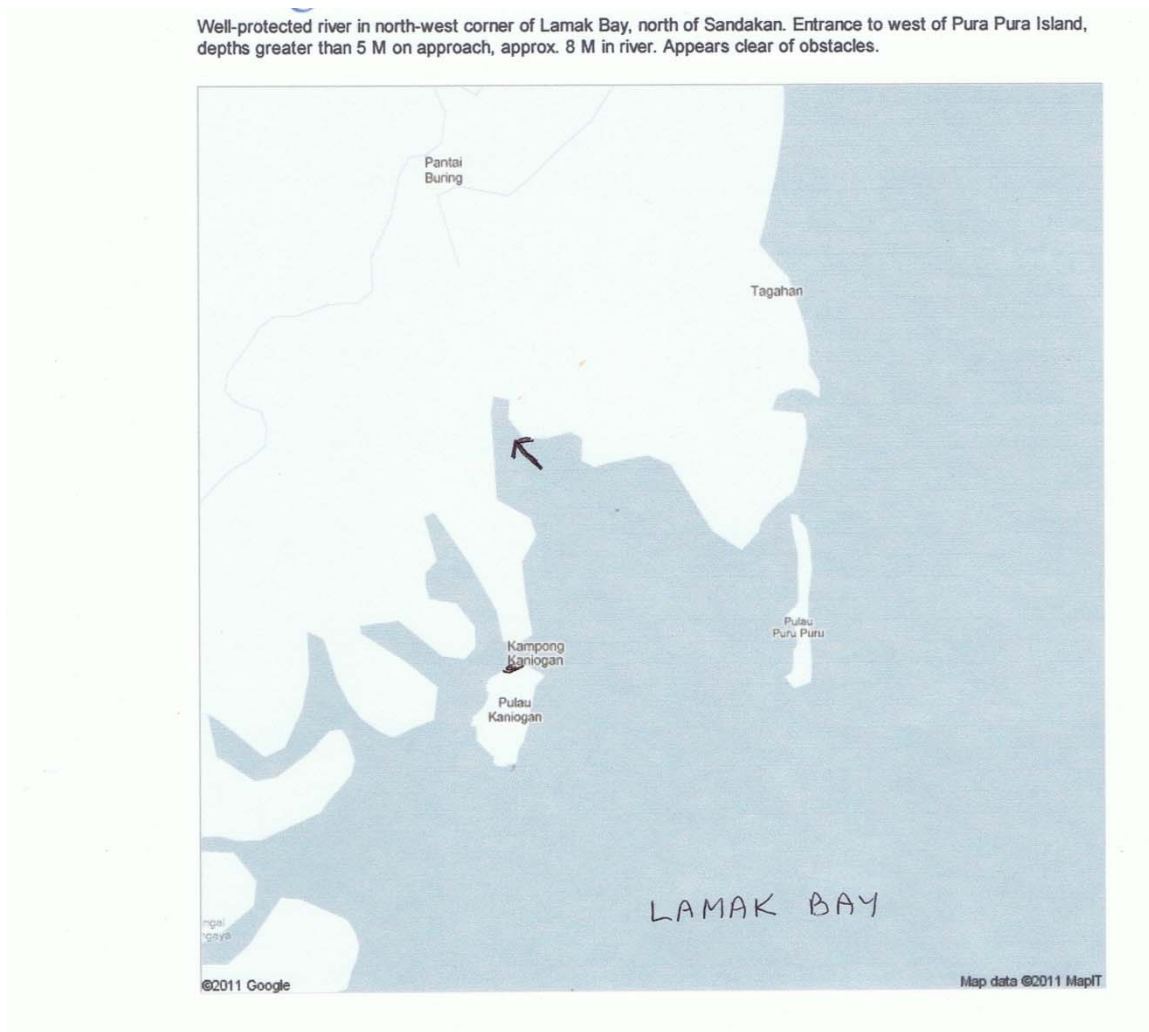
The Tadian River is one of several on the east coast north of Sandakan but it appears to have an easier entrance than most of the others. Once in the river it is deep and wide with good depths of approx. 6-8 metres, although some of the turns are shallow on the outer edges.



Entrance to the river is at: 6°26.1'N, 117°44.0'E. The entrance bar to the river is quite a long way out. Take care to stay in the channel as you approach the entrance, as extensive mudbanks line the channel.

Pura Pura River:

This river is also on the east coast north of Sandakan, but in the NW corner of Lamuk Bay. It has an easy entrance to negotiate, with depths of 4 M or greater all the way from the bay into the river, where it seemed to be a consistent 8-10 M. There were minimal mosquitos or sandflies and we did catch a glimpse of some monkeys but they are very timid. There is a large Muslim village on the nearby island of Kanoigan.



Entrance to the river is at: 6°14.23'N, 117°39.5'E. There was a small bar before the entrance.

We explored about 5 kilometres up this river, which was easily navigable with good depths throughout.

Fishermen from a nearby village in the bay fish here during the day.

Maraup River:

This small river is on the east coast between the eastern entrance to the Kinabatangan River and Tambisan Island on the NE tip of Sabah. Doug on "Fellow Traveler" explored this river in June 2014. He chose to explore this river as he was concerned about his boat's 6ft+ draft at the bars of the Kinabatangan River entrances.

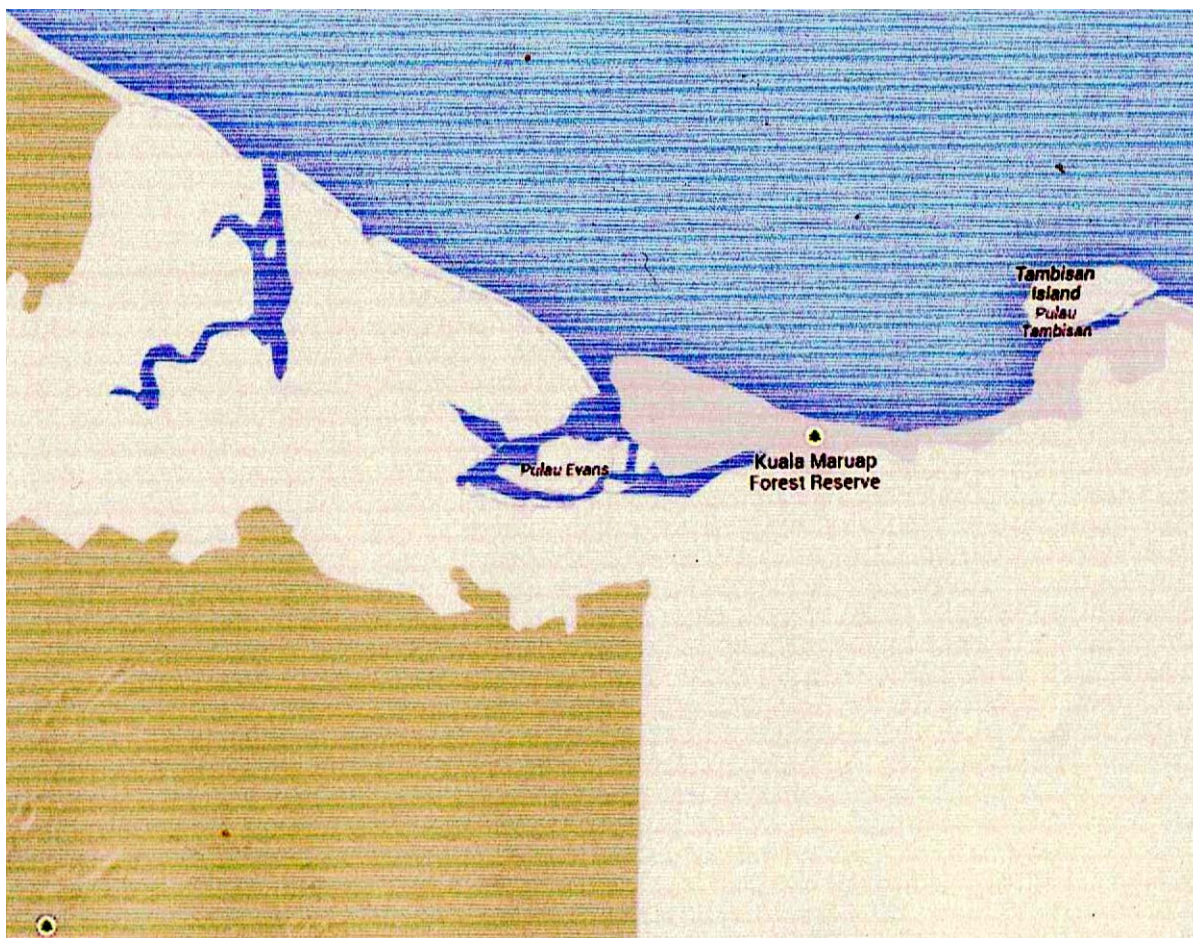
He reported there was ample depth over the bar of this river at mid tide going in and out (diurnal tides in this immediate area) with a minimum depth of 4 meters noted. He used the waypoints given in the Sail Malaysia Rally guide to enter:

05 29.57'N 118 56'E

05 26.38'N 118 56.05'E

05 24.62'N 118 56.44'E

He anchored around 05°24.20' N, 118°55.50'E.



The Tabin Wildlife Reserve (indicated by small dot above) is south-west of this river but they do not connect.

Sabah Anchorages:

	Anchorage	Access	Protection	Facilities	Comments
West Coast	Labuan: marina or harbour eg. 5*16.36'N 115*14.96'E Eg. 5*16.4'N 115*14.3'E	Easy, through shipping lane and post/starboard markers	Large harbour open from east to south	All Govt. facilities, shops, duty-free, banks, markets, Int. & Ph. coverage, airport	Entry & duty free port. Access to KK, Brunei & Miri by air & ferry. Labuan marina re-opened March 2014. Reports of theft of dinghy &/or outboard from harbour anchorage. See Towns section of this guide.
	Klias River, Menumbok: Eg. 5*21.0'N 115*24.2'E	Easy, shallow in parts. Follow ferry markers & waypts at entrance	Excellent all-round protection once in river	Town of Menumbok at entrance. Small shops, Int & Ph coverage at river entrance.	Deep water in river except for marked rock bar at approx. 2.5 metres deep. 2 kms upriver. Can navigate 25 miles upriver to Kota Klias. Monkeys & fireflies present. See Rivers section of guide.
	Tiga Island: SE bay: 5*43.2'N, 115*38.8'E Nth anchorage: 5*45.7'N 115*41.2'E	Easy, some reef close to island, esp. Sth & East corners.	NE protection in southern bay, SW protection behind sand cay on northern side.	Small resorts, national park, mud "volcanoes", good swimming & snorkeling, only patchy Int. & Ph coverage	Easy day's journey from Labuan and Kota Kinabalu. Good anchorages, easy access to beaches via dinghy. SE anchorage – should report to Nat. Parks office, pay fee of 10RM pp. Resort welcoming but drinks expensive. Beware: many sandflies when very calm.
	Kuala Penyu inlet: 5*35.6'N 115*38.4'E, or 5*34.2'N 115*35.9'E	2 sets of leads – least depth for inlet access is between them. May need to wait for rising tide	Good protection from NW thru west to S.	Entrance to small river (Setompok), close to town with shops, road access, small market, Int. & Ph. Coverage.	Good option for SW wind. Anchor off river mouth in 6-8 M or enter inlet via leads – min. depth 3M at HWN between 2 sets of leads. Anchor along foreshore near old ferry cable crossing river at town. Two small haul out facilities at entrance to inlet.
	North of Kuala Penyu peninsula: 5*36.9'N 115*37.46'E	Easy but take care around cape – many outlying rocks	Good from E thru S to WSW.	None but several beaches and small pier on shore. Good IC.	Gently sloping sandy bottom – no rocks seen – and anchorage at 6M.

	Kinaruit/Dinawan Is. 5*50.86'N 116*00.16'E	Easy from sea but care with shoals toward coast.	Some protection from W to WS.	Road access to KK, a resort with restaurant ashore, patchy IC.	Good option in light winds and neap tides – may be too shallow in spring tides.
	Tunku Abdul Rahman Marina Park Offshore from KK town.	Easy	Many bays - may offer calm weather anchoring during the day.	Swimming & snorkeling, beaches, resorts, fair to no Int. & Ph cover.	Very close to KK. 5 islands – main anchoring option is Gaya Island, with bays on south, north and eastern sides. Smaller islands busy with day trippers.
	Kota Kinabalu: Sutera Harbour marina: 5*57.9'N 116*3.6'E or harbour: 5*59.3'N 116*04.6'E	Follow buoys through both nth & sth entrances to harbour. Marina entrance in front of Pacific & Magellan hotels.	SW protection in harbour in corner at southern end of town	All Govt facilities, shops, markets, Int. & ph coverage, banks, airport, many boat services.	Town anchorage fairly open, busy & prone to wash. Some reports of theft from boats here. Sutera Harbour marina (ph. 88318888 or VHF ch. 72) has excellent facilities though expensive & may be full at times. KK capital of Sabah & gateway to rest of state. Entry port. See Towns section of this guide.
	Ambong Bay: Sth. bay: 6*18.4'N, 116*17.9'E or Nth bay: 6*19.1'N 116*18.9'E	Easy but watch for reefs at entrance & within northern bay.	Several bays within large bay – protection from all winds	Small villages, some Int. & Ph coverage if you can see a tower nearby.	Well-positioned as o/night stop between KK and Kudat. Locals may visit for beer.
	Usukan: Sth bay: 6*22.2'N 116*20.1'E Nth bay: 6*23.9'N 116*20.6'E	Easy but watch for reefs	SW wind – anchor to north of small island. NE wind – anchor in larger bay	Large village, road access, no int. & Ph coverage	Well-positioned as o/night stop between KK & Kudat. Locals may visit offering lobster for sale.
North Coast	Kudat Boat Basin: 6*53.5'N 116*51.5'E	Easy	Boat basin offers all-round protection.	All Govt. facilities, boatyard with haul out fac.,	Tie stern-to in Boat Basin – only room for 10-12 boats. Small marina in basin opened early 2013. Can anchor off

	Harbour anch. at 6*52.5'N 116*50.5'E	Easy	Harbour good for N thru West to S protection	markets, shops, banks, road access to KK, Int. & ph coverage	Penuwasa if room. 20 min walk to town, but taxis available. Entry port. See Towns section of guide. Anchor in harbour close to town, dinghy access at public toilets, Police Wharf.
	Banggi Island: Eg. 7*7.6'N, 117*5.6'E Eg. 7*15.1'N 117*17.4'E	Easy but watch for fringing or isolated reefs	Several anchorage offer protection from various directions	Town of Karakit on sth end has shops, market, Police, some Int. & Ph coverage.	Numerous options for anchorages. Eastern side mainly mangrove inlets along inshore bays, north & west more open.
	Balambangan Is. East Bay Eg. 7*15.9'N 117*00.2'E	Care needed – outlying reef/rocks at entrance to bay.	Protected from N thru west to SW.	None. No IC.	Large and deep bay but there are large sections of reef within it. This GPS pt is good anchorage in SW wind., as a staging point from Kudat to cross Balabac Strait.
	Balambangan Is. NE Beach 7*17.65'N 117*01.34'E	Gently shoals but watch for rocks at ends of beach.	Protects from NW thru W to SW.	None.	Attractive gently shoaling bay. Long uninhabited beach. Easy access. Good as a staging point from Kudat to cross Balabac Strait.
	Malawali Island: 7*3.2'N 117*16.0'E	Care needed to skirt reef at entrance	Protected from N thru east to S.	None	Large mangrove bay but small entrance. Reef at entrance & within bay. Good anch. over mud at GPS position noted.
East Coast	Jambangan Island: Eg. 6*45.2'N 117*24.3'E	Easy from north, watch for reef from south and east.	Several anch. offer good protection from prevailing winds.	Small villages with basic supplies, patchy Int. & Ph. cover.	Large island offers several anchorage options. To gain protection from nth, approach via Marchessa Bay.
	Mabahok Island: 6*46.88'N 117*27.5'E	Easy but care with fringing reef.	No protection.	None.	Day anchorage for swimming & snorkeling only.
	Tegapil Island: 6*32.7'N 117*42.8'E	Care with fringing reef & shoals	No protection.	None.	Day anchorage for swimming & snorkeling only.
	Tadian River: Eg. 6*28.5'N 117*36.3'E	Care needed on approach – shoal & mudbanks for several kms.	Excellent protection once in river.	Police, small village but no shops. No int. or ph. cover.	Deep & wide river easy to navigate, with many options for anchorage but stick to channel when entering. See Rivers section of guide.

	Lankayan Island: 6*30.2'N 17*54.8'E	Easy.	Minimal protection from NE.	Resort & conservation office. No IC.	Use moorings in front of resort – do not anchor. Resort charges 47RM per visit for yacht –use of mooring and resort grounds. Conservation charges 25Rm pp per day. Excellent diving and snorkeling.
	Pura Pura River: 6*15.5'N 117*39.4'E	Easy entrance to river	Excellent all-round protection	None	Depths greater than 4 M at entrance, and 8-10 M within river. See Rivers section of guide.
	Libaran Island: 6*6.5'N, 118*0.5'E	Watch for reef on approach & fringing reef in anch. bay	Some protection from NE	Small village with basic supplies, small resort offers meals	Good stop after/before Sandakan, and for Turtle Islands exploration. Not good swimming or snorkeling but walking OK. Patchy to no IC.
	Sandakan: 5*50.1'N 118*6.7'E	Easy	Some protection from N and NW	All Govt facilities, markets, shops, airport, Int.& Ph. coverage.	2 nd largest town in Sabah. Entry port. Large harbour but busy with fishing boats & container ships. Close to Kinabatangan River. See Towns section in guide.
	Kinabatangan River 2 entrances	Care needed as approaches are shoal for several kms out. Use waypoints.	Excellent protection from all directions once in river.	None except at Apai (small village with some basic supplies) & Suchau.	Great opportunity to explore a large river with amazing wildlife. See Rivers section of guide.
	Maraup River 05 24.20' N 118 55.50'E	No problems encountered using waypts.	Excellent protection once in river.	None.	Another option for river exploration if you can't get into Kinabatangan. See Rivers section.
	Tambisan Island Passage: Eg. 5*26.5'N 119*8.3'E	Care needed on approach to passage both ends – fringing reef.	Excellent protection once in passage.	Small village at eastern end, has basic supplies, Police, Int. & Ph coverage.	Passage offers shortcut around cape and several good anchorage spots. Watch for shoals, fishtraps and rocks in passage – most marked with sticks.
	Dent Haven: 5*15.9'N 119*15.7'E	Easy but some outlying rocks	Protection from west only.	Small town and jetty. ?Int. & Ph. Coverage.	Swell can wash into this shallow bay – good anchorage in light wind only.
	Mataking Island: 4*33.7'N 118*57.1'E	Easy approach.	None.	Dive resort.	Well known dive resort, spectacular scenery on island and around area, but poor anchorage options. ?day visit only.

	Gaya Island: 4*36.3'N 118*44.5'E	Entrance to "lagoon" on west. side close to island.	V. good protection from west thru N to east.	None.	Spectacular scenery – tall kaast islands with clear lagoon surrounding bay. Good reef for snorkeling within lagoon. Good swimming over sand at edges of bay.
	Mabul Island: 4*15.1'N 118*37.8'E	Easy, watch for reef.	Only minimal protection from SE.	Resorts, dive centres, shops on island.	Spectacular reef for snorkeling/diving. Many diving tourists visit here. Sipidan Is. close by but permit needed. Many turtles, fish, coral growth. Sea gypsies camped on sth side. Possible safety issues here & Semporna with recent kidnappings.
	Tawau: 4*15.1'N 117*52.4'E	Easy but watch for traffic, fish nets and current.	Some protection from north-east only.	Large town with Govt. facilities, shops, markets, airport, Int. & Ph coverage.	Indonesian border just miles from sth. end of Tawau harbour, so is a major point of entry/exit to Malaysia. See Towns section of guide.