



Sibu City
Snapshot of Sarawak Series:

About Sibu, Sarawak



Welcome to Sibu, located just 130km from the South China sea – it is a Sarawakian town rich with heritage and unsung beauty. A place where modernity and history exist in symphony, much like how the town sits at the confluence of the Igan and Rajang rivers. A place where the air is fresh, the rivers clear, and the sky like artwork throughout the day. It is without a doubt, the most prosperous town in the Rajang valley and serves as the main port for the Rajang Basin.

The town derives its name from the local Sibau fruit, or more commonly known as the rambutan fruit which is called 'Buah Sibua' in native Iban.

The riverine town of Sibu was established in 1862 and was known originally as 'Maling', named after the winding portion of the Maling Cape. Prior to that Sibu was part of the Sultanate of Brunei that was later ceded to Sir James Brooke (1803-1868) of Sarawak who established Fort Brooke in the town in 1863.

Since then a diverse population of Chinese, Malay, Indians as well Iban and other and indigenous ethnicities has nestled around Fort Brooke and now call Sibu home. The fort was situated along Race Course Road but no longer exists today.

By 1871, Sibu was a bustling town with almost 60 wooden shops in existence as recorded by the Sarawak Gazette. Sibu developed rapidly and just two years later, in 1873, a divisional headquarters was set up in Sibu. This made it the epicentre of the Rajang basin. Much of the population consisted of the indigenous Malay, Iban and Melanau populations.

Wong Nai Siong (1849-1924) led the first Foochow settlers to Sibu in 1901, cementing Foochow dominance in Sibu which has not waned ever since.



The very first Sibu airport



The old Sibu Municipal Building

Map of Sibu City



There are so many attractions, hotels, eateries, markets, shopping plazas, museums, and fascinating nooks to explore in Sibul. The best part is that everything is within walking distance! However taxis are always available. City buses run from the busy boat terminal to all parts of the city. Buses to Kuching, Bintulu, and Miri leave from Sungai Antu - the long-distance bus terminal. A taxi to the long-distance bus terminal takes 20 minutes and costs just a few local ringgit.

Rejang Express has a tiny ticket window located across the street from the bus/boat terminal; this is a convenient place to buy long-distance bus tickets without going to the Sungai Antu station.

EXCITING TOURS

Travelling to and from Sarawak, and visiting various destinations in the state, are as good as any first class destinations elsewhere in the world. Sarawak as a well-known tourism, business, leisure and adventure destination due to its unique cultural diversity, varied landscape, affordable accommodation and transport, excellent variety of food, and many other distinctive attractions.

Pre and Post Tours available are below:



Iban Longhouse

A trip to Sarawak is incomplete without a visit to *Rumah Panjai* or Iban Longhouse. Although the Ibans are modern people who have fully embraced the 21st century, they still maintain many traditional practices such as shooting blowguns, and they retain their *adat* or traditional law. The Ibans welcome guests with *Tuak* (Traditional Iban Rice Wine). Visitors learn blowpipe shooting and weaving a *Pua Kumbu*, then feast on traditional pastries, while enjoying magnificent scenery of vast paddy fields and the mighty *Rajang* river. The Ibans are a warm, hospitable people, and this coupled with their colourful customs, is a memorable experience. Licensed guides can be found at the Tourist Information Office in Sibul.



Chinese Cultural Attractions

Sibu is rich in Chinese cultural attractions, especially those of the Foochow clan. The *Sungai Merah* Heritage Walk is a landscaped park situated in the *Sungai Merah* township where the earliest Foochow settlers first landed in 1902. The *Foochow Centennial Celebration Building* commemorates 100 years of Foochow immigration to Sibu. Sarawak is one of the only few states in Malaysia where Chinese words adorn the traffic and street signs. For those who know Chinese, it would be interesting to study the street signs in Sibu both written in Chinese and Malay - although the accuracy of the translation could be disputed! The main roads in Sibu are *Brooke Drive*, *Jalan Oya*, *Jalan Lanang*, *Jalan Wong King Huo*, *Jalan Rajang*, *Jalan Au Yong*, *Jalan Li Hua* and *Jalan Aup*. Sibu gateway, which is located on *Pedada Road* and *Kampung Nyabor Road*, houses displays of the twelve Chinese zodiac animals. Another landmark of Sibu is the century old *Tua Pek Kong Temple* with its iconic 7-storey pagoda.



Sibu Cultural Heritage Museum

Sibu Cultural Heritage Museum was formed in 1988 and was originally located at the Sibu Civic Centre but has since moved to its present location in the former Sibu Municipal Council building. The museum displays the rich cultural heritage of the various ethnic groups of the Central Region from the history of the Chinese migrants to relics from the Iban longhouses and Melanau seafarers. From time to time, new exhibits are added to give variety and keeping the museum up to date. Visitors can view stuffed rare animals from around the world and those found in the heart of Borneo, such as the moon rat, the rhinoceros hornbill or even the Orang Utan.



1Malaysia Cultural Village

The 1Malaysia Cultural Village located opposite Taman Bukit Aup is a recreational facility which showcases pavilions (or pondoks) of various ethnicities such as the Malays, Iban and Chinese. It is a popular place for picnics as visitors can rent BBQ pits for cooking. There is also a restaurant on the premises for guests to rest and have a bite to eat to sample local cuisine.



Sibu Night Market

The Pasar Malam (Night Market) is situated in the town centre. The vibrant Night Market sets up every afternoon around 5pm and operates until 10pm or later. Items on display are general Malay and Chinese delicacies, clothing, daily necessities, handicrafts and others. The stalls offer all manners of household goods, footwear, fashion items, and all varieties of food. Even the Prime Minister made a brief visit here on 5 July 2009, whilst attending the launch of 6th Tionghua Cultural Festival, in conjunction of Borneo Cultural Festival 2009.



Sibu Central Market

The Central Market is the biggest indoor market in Malaysia. It is home to thousands of stalls selling everything from fresh vegetables and fruits to live poultry. Local farmers and rural harvesters gather in the central market daily to display their offerings. This is a good opportunity to view and sample local produce that are indigenous to this region's jungles and rivers.



Hotels & Accommodation



RH Hotel Sibu

7 Number of Meeting rooms

226 accommodation rooms

1000 Banquet style capacity

Jalan Kampung Nyabor,
P.O. Box 1762, 96008 Sibu, Sarawak,
Malaysia

Telephone: (6) 084-365 888

Facsimile: (6) 084-365 999

Email: reservationssibu@rhhotels.com.my



Kingwood Hotel

11 Number of meeting rooms

168 accommodation rooms

1200 Theatre style capacity

12, Lorong Lanang 4, 96000 Sibu, Sarawak,
Malaysia

Telephone: +60 84-335 888



Tanahmas Hotel

8 Number of meeting rooms

120 accommodation rooms

500 Theatre style capacity

Lot 277, Block 5, Jalan Kampung Nyabor,
96007 Sibu, Sarawak, Malaysia

Phone: +60 84 333188

Fax: +60 84 333288

Email: info@tanahmas.com.my

Hotels & Accommodation



Paramount Hotel

5 Number of Meeting rooms

95 accommodation rooms

520 Banquet style capacity

No. 3, Lorong 9A, Jalan Kampung Dato,
96000 Sibu, Sarawak.

Phone: +6 084 331122

Fax: +6 084 338 111 (HOTEL)

E-mail: paramount@paramountsibu.com
paramount_hotel@yahoo.com



Kawan Hotel

7 Number of meeting rooms

100 accommodation rooms

350 Theatre style capacity

No.2-6, Jalan Chengal
96000 Sibu, Sarawak, Malaysia.

Phone: 60-084-315888

Fax: 60-084-327888

E-mail: Admin@KawanHotel.com.my



Premier Hotel

8 Number of meeting rooms

189 accommodation rooms

150 Banquet style capacity

Sarawak House Complex, P.O.Box 1064,
Jalan Kampung Nyabor, 96000 Sibu, Sarawak

Phone: 6084-323222

Fax: 6084-323399

Email: sibupremierhotel@gmail.com

Top Reasons For Choosing Sibu, Sarawak

1. Sarawak has been blessed with political, economic and social stability for decades. It is also free from air pollution, natural disasters, civil wars, and major crime.
2. The Queen's English is widely spoken, which is a rarity in most of South East Asia.
3. Over 2.6 million people from 28 ethnic groups live in harmony in Sarawak. Our multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious communities celebrate diversity, and welcome world travellers with a smile.
4. Home to one of the world's oldest rainforests yet striving to be at the forefront of modern technology and communications, Sarawak presents itself as a unique venue where "old-world charm meets modern convenience", in a place where headhunters used to roam 150 years ago. Sarawak will take you to a unique world, where it is commonplace for misty mountains and green jungles to sit at the fringes of our ultra-modern city lights.
5. The State Government ensures the best and the latest services are available in transportation, banking, commercial amenities, conferencing, accommodation and city developments.
6. The State and Federal Governments offer financial sponsorship and delegate marketing packages to add amazing value to your event. Your supporters include Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Sarawak and Sarawak Convention Bureau.
7. Outstanding value for money can be had with some of the most affordable rates for hotel accommodation, conference venues and tours in the world. Here, a room at a 5 Star Hotel is only RM300 a night, while local meal (or a beer) is just RM10, and a sirloin steak just RM50.



Top Reasons For Choosing Sibu, Sarawak

8. Sarawak has been hosting world class conferences and meetings with great success since 2006. Its popularity and experience continues to rise as more delegates seek unique alternatives to typical city locations. This strength shines through the high 82% success rate we enjoy for international convention bids. For more information, go to www.sarawakcb.com.
9. The history of Sarawak is as romantic as any in the world, filled with swashbuckling English adventurers and noble tribal kingdoms. In 1841, James Brooke, an English adventurer, was awarded the feudal title of Rajah. Thus began the rule of three generations of the White Rajahs, which lasted over 100 years and brought development to this raw and wild land.
10. This riverine town, along the nation's longest river, the Rajang, is also the largest and busiest port here for trips further up the river and into another world of adventure. A gateway to the heart of the state, Sibu naturally excels as host for travellers with luxurious hotels, choices of food, entertainment and cultural extravaganza as the confluence point of the rich ethnic diversity of Sarawak.
11. The state is a gastronomic wonderland that offers five star cuisine to the world's best street food! Asian, Western, Middle Eastern, European, Halal, Vegetarian, and even special menus are available.

