

= Miri , Malaysia =

Miri / ʔmʔriʔ / ( Jawi : ميري ; Chinese : 美里 ; pinyin : Měi Lǐ ) is a coastal city in northeastern Sarawak , Malaysia , located near the border of Brunei , on the island of Borneo . The city covers an area of 997 @. @ 43 square kilometres ( 385 @. @ 11 sq mi ) , located 798 kilometres ( 496 mi ) northeast of Kuching and 329 kilometres ( 204 mi ) southwest of Kota Kinabalu . Miri is the second largest city in Sarawak , with a population of 234 @, @ 541 . The city is also the capital of Miri District of the Miri Division .

Before Miri was founded , Marudi was the administrative centre of the northern region of Sarawak . Miri was founded in 1910 when the first oil well was drilled by Royal Dutch Shell . The discovery of an oil field in Miri has led to rapid development of Miri town . Miri became the administrative centre of the northern region of Sarawak by 1929 . During World War II , the Miri oil fields were destroyed by the Brooke government to sabotage Japanese operations in Southeast Asia but to no avail ; Miri town was the first landing point of Japanese troops in Borneo . The subsequent Japanese occupation led Miri to become a target of Allied air raids which caused the destruction of oil refinery facilities in Miri . The petroleum industry continued to be a major player in the city 's economy after the war . Oil exploration has moved offshore since the 1950s , but subsequently new inland oil fields were found in 1989 and 2011 . In 1974 , the formation of Malaysian oil and gas company Petronas led to co @-@ operation between Petronas and Shell on oil exploration in the Miri region . In 2005 , Miri became the 10th city in Malaysia to be granted official city status , the first non @-@ state capital city to be bestowed such status .

Miri is the main tourist gateway to Gunung Mulu National Park , Loagan Bunut National Park , Lambir Hills National Park , Niah National Park and Miri @-@ Sibuti Coral Reef National Park . The Gunung Mulu National Park with its Sarawak Chamber is one of the favourite ecotourism destinations . Miri is also the birthplace of the Malaysian petroleum industry . Other major industries in the city include timber , oil palm and tourism .

= = Etymology = =

Miri town is named after a minority ethnic group called " Jatti Meirek " or simply " Mirek " , or " Miriek " . This ethnic group is the earliest settlers in the region of Miri Division . Europeans who later came here for oil exploration mistakenly pronounced " Miriek " as " Miri " and hence the name continue to be used today .

= = Prehistory = =

The first foragers visited the West Mouth of Niah Cave ( located 110 km southwest of Miri city ) 50 @, @ 000 years ago when Borneo was connected to the mainland of Southeast Asia . The landscape of Niah Cave was drier and more open than it is now . Prehistoric Niah Cave was surrounded by a mosaic of closed forests with bush , parkland , swamps , and rivers . The foragers were able to survive in the rainforests through hunting , fishing , mollusc collection , and plant gathering . The earliest evidence of human population in the area dates back to 40 @, @ 000 BC in Niah Cave at Paleolithic period . This is evidenced by the discovery of a Homo sapiens skull nicknamed " Deep Skull " in a deep trench uncovered by Tom Harrisson in 1958 , which is the oldest modern human skull in Southeast Asia . The skull probably belongs to a 16- to 17 @-@ year @-@ old adolescent girl . Unfossilised Manis paleojavanica ( Asian giant pangolin ) bone dated back to 30 @, @ 000 BC was also found in the proximity of the " Deep Skull " , as well as with the Mesolithic and Neolithic burial sites inside the Niah Caves .

= = History = =

= = = Brooke administration = = =

Charles Brooke succeeded James Brooke as the new Rajah of Sarawak in 1868 . By 1883 , Sultan of Brunei ( Sultan Abdul Momin ) ceded the Baram region ( including Miri ) to Charles Brooke . The fourth division of Sarawak was immediately created with the installation of Claude Champion de Crespigny as the first Resident of the Division . The Miri area was still a fishing village at that time . It was a small settlement surrounded by mangrove and Nipah palm jungles consisted of 20 scattered houses , a few wooden shops operated by Chinese traders and a lone Arab trader . A fort was built in Claudetown ( present day Marudi , 43 km to the east of Miri ) in 1883 . Claudetown became the administrative centre of the division . Mr Claude 's administration was helped by two junior officers , 30 rangers , and a few native police . Charles Hose succeeded Mr Claude as the new Resident in 1891 and the fort in Marudi was renamed as " Fort Hose " . To restore peace among various ethnic tribes fighting in the Baram region , Charles Hose decided to organise a peace conference at his fort in April 1899 . This peace conference also led to the birth of first Baram Regatta , a long boat race competition among the natives which continued to be held until today .

The local population in Miri has indeed started to extract oil from hand @-@ dug wells for centuries . Song Huiyao Jigao , a documentation of the Song dynasty of China , mentions the imports of Borneo camphor and petroleum in the 11th century . In 1882 , Mr Claude reported to the Brooke government on 18 hand @-@ dug oil wells in the Miri area . He also recommended that area near Miri River should be thoroughly explored . However , his recommendations were ignored . But when Charles Hose took over the Resident office in 1891 , he was interested in Mr Claude 's idea and began to collaborate with him . Mr Claude began to map oil seeps around the Miri area , however a consultant geologist from England discouraged the oil exploration in Miri due to poor logistical conditions . After his retirement from administrative positions in Sarawak , Charles Hose went back to England . He later went to London to discuss the idea of oil exploration in Miri with the Anglo @-@ Saxon Petroleum Company ( later became a part of Royal Dutch Shell Company in 1907 ) . Mr. H.N. Benjamin , a branch manager from the petroleum company , was interested in this idea . Finally in 1909 , Rajah Charles Brooke came to London to sign the first Sarawak Oil Mining Lease . Royal Dutch Shell dispatched a senior geologist named Josef Theodor Erb together with Charles Hose back to Miri . Mr Erb started to map Miri oil fields from August 1909 to July 1910 . He also identified a location known as " Miri Hill " ( now known as " Canada Hill " , 150 m above sea level ) is suitable to act as an anticline for oil drilling .

Finally , on 10 August 1910 , the first oil drilling operation was started . A 30 @-@ metre @-@ high rig ( nicknamed the " Grand Old Lady " ) made up of wooden derricks and cable tool drilling was used in the operation by Royal Dutch Shell . On 22 December 1910 , oil was struck after 130 metres of drilling at the well . Royal Dutch Shell also founded a subsidiary company named Sarawak Oil Field Ltd , which now operated as Sarawak Shell Berhad . Since then , another 624 land wells have been drilled around Miri until 1972 which are collectively known as the " Miri field " . The Miri field is the only onshore field in Sarawak , because oil production has shifted offshore since the late 1950s . The first oil well on Canada Hill ( Miri Well No. 1 ) produced a total of 0 @-@ 65 million oil barrels for the next 60 years until its closure on 31 October 1972 . The first oil refinery and submarine pipeline was built in Miri in 1914 . The oil refinery has since been relocated to Lutong ( 11 km to the north of Miri ) in 1916 .

Resident Office moved from Marudi to Miri in 1912 . Miri grew as fast as the rate of oil production by the Shell company . In 1920 , roads were built in Miri . Bicycles and motorcycles were also bought into the town . By 1921 , there were 40 shop houses in Miri , with one English school and one Chinese school . Motor cars were later introduced to the town . In 1924 , Pujut Road was built to link Miri with Lutong . By 1925 , rotary drilling was introduced . Oil production continued to increase until it reached a peak of 15 @-@ 211 barrels per day in 1929 . Water supply were improved , jungles were cleared , and more roads were built . Miri became the administrative centre of the entire Baram region in 1929 .

= = = Japanese occupation = = =

The Brooke government had been actively lobbying for the British government to accept Sarawak as one of its protectorates in an event of a war . By 1888 , the British finally agreed to grant the protection to Sarawak . The British dispatched several troops to Sarawak to strengthen its defences in the 1930s . By 1938 , under the leadership of Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke , airstrips were constructed in Miri , Kuching , Oya , and Mukah in preparation for an imminent war . However , by 1941 , British Royal Navy and Royal Air Force had withdrawn from Sarawak and returned to Singapore . Therefore , the British government advocated a " scorched earth policy " for the Brooke government in the event of a Japanese attack . A Denial Scheme was formulated to destroy oil installations in Miri and Lutong . This was because the coastline measuring 30 miles from Lutong to Miri was impossible to defend from Japanese landings due to shortage of manpower . By May 1941 , 1 Infantry Company from 2 / 15 Punjab Regiment , 6 @-@ inch Hong Kong @-@ Singapore Royal Artillery Battery , and 1 Platoon of Royal Engineers were stationed at Miri to oversee the destruction of the Miri oil fields . In August 1941 , an operation was carried out to reduce Miri oil output by 70 % .

Soon after the news of Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor , Japanese planes were seen making reconnaissance flights over Miri . The Brooke government decided on a complete destruction of oilfields and airfields in Miri . Shell company officials received orders to carry out the Denial Scheme on 8 December 1941 . In the evening on the same day , the task was completed . All producing oil wells were sealed up with vital equipment and machinery dismantled and shipped off to Singapore . Skilled workers and important company papers also went along with the equipment and sent to Singapore . The Punjab Regiment and several officials were sent to guard Kuching . On 16 December 1941 , 9 days after the Pearl Harbor bombing , Japanese troops consisting of 10 @,@ 000 men landed on Tanjung Lobang Beach , Miri without much resistance . However , on 19 December 1941 , a Dutch flying boat from Tarakan Island attacked the Japanese destroyer Shinonome ( under the command of Hiroshi Sasagawa ) off Miri . The ship was sunk along with the entire crew of 228 . Another flying boat X @-@ 33 also damaged a Japanese transport ship . After the fall of Singapore on 15 January 1942 , skilled workers that went into hiding with their equipment were sent back to Miri by the Japanese . They were immediately put to work for Japanese oil supply service company named Nen Ryo Hai Kyu . Much of the Japanese oil drilling and refinery equipment was portable . A total of 0 @.@ 75 million barrels were produced during the Japanese occupation from 1941 to 1945 .

During the occupation , Miri and Lutong became a periodic subject of Allied air raids and bombings . Food , clothes , and medicine were scarce . Workers of the Japanese oil supply service were used to reconstruct and maintain Lutong Bridge and Lutong airstrip from Allied bombing damage .

= = = Recent developments = = =

Petronas , a Malaysian national oil and gas company , was formed in 1974 . As a result , a concession system was changed into production sharing contract system ( PSC ) between Shell and Petronas . All the foreign oil companies including Shell required to obtain licenses from Petronas . The first two PSCs were signed on 30 November 1976 . Foreign oil companies are required to keep not more than 41 % of the oil produced until their original costs are recovered . After a return of their investments , the oil companies will keep 30 % of the revenue after all operating costs and oil royalties are deducted . Petronas also formed a company named Petronas Carigali Sdn Bhd which was directly involved in the exploration , development , and production of oil and gas in the country . Petronas also initiated the Baram Delta Gas Gathering ( Bardegg ) project which involves the collection and compression of gas from five fields , namely Betty , Bekor , Baram , Baronina , and West Lutong , located 10 km to 45 km offshore from Miri . This is to ensure the minimisation of gas loss during oil production . Petronas and Shell are also involved in educational outreach activities such as awarding scholarships to deserving students . Both companies are also involved in Malaysian first rig @-@ to @-@ reef project , in an effort to preserve bio @-@ marine life in the sea offshore Miri . In this project , an abandoned offshore platform was made to become part of the Siwa reef . Both companies also started to establish Piasau Nature Reserve in 2014 .

Miri Municipal Council has adopted the seahorse as the town 's official symbol . It was proposed by the former Sarawak chief minister Abdul Taib Mahmud and introduced as part of the " I love Miri campaign " in 1994 . The seahorse is chosen because of its beautiful and distinctive figure with gentle and graceful motion . These characteristics describe multiple ethnic and cultural identities of Miri which live in peace and harmony with good values of life . It also denotes the location of Miri town near to the sea and coral reefs and the city status as a resort paradise .

Miri was elevated to city status on 20 May 2005 and became Malaysia 's tenth city . Miri is also the first town in Malaysia which is not a state capital to be granted city status . Miri City Day is celebrated each year on 20 May since it was declared by the past Chief Minister , Abdul Taib Mahmud . A time capsule containing news article of the day and a souvenir book was buried at Petroleum Science Museum at Canada Hill , Miri . The time capsule will be opened 100 years later on 20 May 2105 . An effort has also been made to develop Miri as liveable resort city .

= = Governance = =

Miri City currently elects one member of parliament from the Miri parliamentary seat ( P.219 ) into the Parliament of Malaysia . The city also elects 3 state assemblymen into the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly , namely Piasau , Pujut , and Senadin .

= = Local authority and city definition = =

Miri was formerly administered by the Miri Municipal Council for 24 years . It was upgraded to Miri City Council ( MCC ) on 20 May 2005 , with Lawrence Lai Yew Son as its current mayor , headquartered at Raja Road , Miri . Area under the jurisdiction of MCC is 977 @. @ 43 km<sup>2</sup> . Miri lies within the boundary of the Miri District , which consists of Miri City , Sibuti sub @-@ district , and Niah sub @-@ district , with a total population of 290 @, @ 274 and total area of 4 @, @ 707 km<sup>2</sup> . Miri Resident Office and Miri District Office are located at Kingsway Road , Miri City .

= = Geography = =

Miri is situated on the alluvial plain of the Baram River on the western shore of northern Sarawak on the island of Borneo . Locally the Baram River is called the Miri River . Because of the prevailing southerly off @-@ shore current , beach drift has built up the Peninsula Road as a barrier beach between the Miri River and the shore causing a " Yazoo effect " where the river runs parallel to the coast before breaking through into the South China Sea . The city is predominately located on the inland ( east ) side of the Miri River with only a few scattered residential neighbourhoods , a Golf Club and a small airstrip on the Peninsula Road .

= = Climate = =

Miri has a tropical rainforest climate . There are two monsoon seasons : the southwest monsoon , which is the dry season from April to September , and the northeast monsoon , which is the wet season from October to March . The annual rainfall is around 250 to 380 cm ( 100 to 150 inches ) . The air temperature is between 23 ° C ( 73 ° F ) to 32 ° C ( 90 ° F ) the whole year round . But in rare occasions , temperature can reach down to 18 ° C ( 64 ° F ) to 16 ° C ( 61 ° F ) especially in the months of November , December and January . Lowest ever recorded is in December 2010 when the temperature dropped down to 11 ° C ( 52 ° F ) .

= = Demography = =

People from Miri are called " Mirians " .

The growth of Miri population is shown below :

### === Ethnicity ===

According to the 2010 Malaysian census , Miri City has a total population of 234 @, @ 541 . Indigenous people form the largest ethnic group in the city ( 143 @, @ 736 , 61 @. @ 3 % ) which consists of Iban ( 61 @, @ 273 ) , Malay ( 46 @, @ 723 ) , Melanau ( 8 @, @ 313 ) , Bidayuh ( 3 @, @ 308 ) , and other indigenous tribes ( 24 @, @ 119 ) . This is followed by Chinese ( 75 @, @ 329 , 32 @. @ 1 % ) , Indians ( 980 , 0 @. @ 43 % ) , and non @-@ Malaysians ( 13 @, @ 362 , 5 @. @ 7 % ) . The Malay people here consists mainly of Mirek , Dalik , Berawan , and Bakong people . Miri has 19 out of 27 Sarawak ethnic groups , including Kedayan , Lun Bawang , Kayan , Kenyah , and Kelabit people . Chinese in Miri mainly consist of the Foochow majority with significant populations of Hakka and Cantonese including a small number of Teochews and Hainanese . A majority of non @-@ Malaysians in Miri are Suluk and Bajau people from the southern Philippines , working at Baram Delta as fishermen . There are also illegal Suluk and Bajau people entering Miri using Pulau Tikus ( near Baram Delta ) as a transit point .

### === Languages ===

English , Mandarin and Malay languages are widely spoken here . Respective ethnic groups also speak their own languages . Indigenous groups speak languages such as Bruneian / Kedayan , Miriek , Iban , Bidayuh , Kayan , Kenyah , and Kelabit languages . Meanwhile , the Chinese would speak Mandarin , Hakka Chinese , Cantonese , Teochew dialect , Hainanese , and Fuzhou dialect . However , younger generations in Miri tend to use mainstream languages ( English and Malay ) rather than it 's indigenous languages ( such as Iban and Kelabit ) , and an effort has been made to promote the usage of the indigenous languages among the younger generation .

### === Religion ===

There are several religions in Miri including Christianity , Islam , Buddhism , Taoism , Hinduism , Sikhism and Bahá ' í Faith . Among the Christian churches , there are the Borneo Evangelical Church , Anglicanism , Methodism , Roman Catholics , and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints . Respective religious groups are free to hold processions in Miri city . Among notable religious places in Miri are : Tua Pek Kong Temple , Lian Hua San Ching Tien Temple ( ?????? , Taoist temple ) , St Joseph Cathedral ( Roman Catholic ) , Hwai En Methodist Church , St Columba church ( Anglican ) , Al @-@ Taqwa Mosque , Al @-@ Jamek Mosque , Sikh Temple , and Kamini Durga Eswari Amman Temple ( Hinduism ) .

### == Economy ==

There are a few industrial areas in Miri , some examples include Kuala Baram Industrial Estate ( Mixed , Light , and Medium Industries ) , Piasau Industrial Estate ( Mixed Light Industries ) , Senadin Industrial Area , Eastwood Industrial Estate and Bekenu Light Industrial Area ( food processing ) .

Miri mainly relies on its oil and gas industry , which contributes significantly to the Gross Domestic Product ( GDP ) of Sarawak . Sarawak Shell Berhad ( upstream business ) and Petronas Carigali Sdn Bhd have their offices based in Miri . Other multinational oil and gas companies also set up their offices here , including Nippon Oil , Schlumberger , Baker Hughes , Halliburton , Technip , Ranhill WorleyParsons , and Petra Resources Sdn Bhd . In 1989 , Asam Paya Oilfield was discovered in Sarawak inland areas . In 2010 , Petronas discovered two oil fields offshore between Bintulu and Miri . In 2011 , new underground reserves of oil and gas deposits were discovered by Nippon Oil in an inland region near Miri , Sarawak .

In the 1970 to 1980s , timber exporting industry became one of the major income generators for Miri . Multinational conglomerates based in Miri such as Shin Yang and Samling had their early beginnings in timber industry . Besides , shipbuilding companies such as Sealink Shipyard , Shin Yang Shipping & Shipyard , Berjaya Dockyard , and Sarawak Slipways have their major shipyards

set up in Miri - Kuala Baram industrial area along the Baram river .

First large @-@ scale oil palm plantation in Sarawak began in 1968 , in which the newly formed Sarawak Oil Palm Berhad ( SOPB ) planted a total of 5 @,@ 000 @-@ hectare ( 50 km2 ) oil palm plantations near Miri by employing Indonesian workers at these plantations . Since the 1980s , SOPB has a total of 30 @,@ 000 @-@ hectare ( 300 km2 ) of oil palm in Miri and Bintulu Divisions , generating a total revenue of RM 85 million in 2005 . SOPB is now majority @-@ owned by Shin Yang Group and Sarawak Land Custody and Development Authority ( LCDA ) with its headquarters based in Miri . By 2014 , oil palm plantations between Miri @-@ Bintulu zone constituted 60 % of total oil palm estates in Sarawak .

Miri Port Authority ( MPA ) was established on 1 February 1981 and commenced operation on 1 March 1983 . It is located near the mouth of Baram River . The port is able to take in ships measuring up to 1 @,@ 500 GRT ( Gross Register Tonnage ) , with general cargo area of 50 @,@ 895 m2 and total developed area of 34 hectares ( 0 @.@ 34 km2 ) . It is mainly used in handling petroleum , timber products , coal , and building materials . A total of 23 @.@ 94 million metric tonnes of goods was handled by MPA from 2011 to 2013 , which earned a total revenue of RM 48 @.@ 58 million in port dues .

Miri is a popular shopping destination for visitors coming from the neighbouring country of Brunei because of a discrepancy in currency exchange rate ( 100 Brunei dollar to 250 Malaysian ringgit ) , cheaper items , and a variety of resorts here in Miri for recreational activities . Bintang Plaza and Boulevard Shopping Mall are the two major shopping destinations for Brunei people . As of 2014 , Miri visitor movement along Kuala Baram @-@ Kuala Belait checkpoint ( Sungai Tujoh , along the Sarawak @-@ Brunei border ) reached a total of 2 @.@ 9 million people in one year . Miri is also an eco @-@ tourism gateway to four national parks and a marine national park .

The education sector is another income generator for Miri . Curtin University Sarawak brought in RM 480 million foreign exchange annually from 3 @,@ 000 foreign students studying at the university .

= = Transportation = =

= = = Land = = =

All the roads in Miri are maintained by Miri City Council ( MCC ) . Miri is accessible by road from Bandar Seri Begawan ( Brunei ) through the Sungai Tujoh checkpoint which is located 35 km north of Miri . Miri is connected to all major cities and towns in Sarawak including Kota Kinabalu in Sabah through the Pan Borneo Highway . Miri is also connected to Bintulu town through a coastal road and Marudi through a 42 km road . ASEAN Bridge is located along the Miri @-@ Baram Highway and crosses the Baram River , providing direct access to neighbouring country of Brunei , and the towns of Limbang and Lawas in Sarawak .

= = = = Public transportation = = = =

Miri city has 2 bus stations , namely the local ( located at Melayu Road next to Tamu Muhibbah and Visitor 's Information Centre ) and long @-@ distance bus stations ( located near Pujut Corner ) . The local bus station serves the Miri city area , Bakam area , Miri Airport , and Brunei . Buses to Niah National Park , Lambir Hills National Park , Bintulu , Sibul , Kuching , and Pontianak , Indonesia depart from the long @-@ distance bus station . Local taxi services are also provided in the city with the main taxi stand at China Road in the city centre . Taxis here do not use meters .

= = = Air = = =

Miri Airport ( IATA : MYV , ICAO : WBGR ) is an important gateway to the northern region of Sarawak . It is located 11 km south of Miri city . It serves as a hub for domestic , international , and

rural air services . Miri Airport is the third busiest airport in Malaysia , in terms of aircraft movements and the fifth busiest in terms of passengers handled . It provides services to 2 @. @ 2 million passengers in 2013 . The airport has direct international flights to Singapore . It also receives flights from domestic destinations such as Kuala Lumpur , Johor Bahru , Kota Kinabalu , Labuan , Kuching and other major towns in Sarawak . Miri Airport also caters flights to the Sarawak interior such as Bario , Ba 'kelalan , Marudi , Lawas , Limbang , and Mukah through MASwings using DHC @- @ 6 Twin Otter aircraft . Currently , there are three airlines serving Miri airport , namely Malaysia Airlines , Air Asia , and MASwings .

= = = Water = = =

Kuala Baram Express Boat Jetty is located 45 minutes away from Miri city centre . There are daily departures to Marudi , Long Lama area , and Gunung Mulu National Park by using express boats .

= = Other utilities = =

= = = Courts of law and legal enforcement = = =

The current court complex is located at Merdu Road , Miri . It contains the High Court , Sessions Court , and the Magistrate Court . Miri city also has Syariah Subordinate Court which is located at Wisma Pelita Tunku , Miri with area of jurisdiction of Miri District and Marudi District . There is one district police headquarters at Pujut Road , Miri . Miri central police station is located at Raja Road while other police stations are located at Bakam Road , Miri Airport , Kampung Tulang Road , Bekenu , and Niah . There is also a central prison in Miri .

= = = Healthcare = = =

Miri Hospital started operation on 6 May 1995 , located 2 @. @ 5 km away from Miri city centre and with an area of 87 @. @ 11 hectares . The hospital has 339 beds , and it provides specialist services such as surgery , ophthalmology , obstetrics and gynaecology ( ONG ) , and radiology . It is also the secondary referral hospital in the northern region of Sarawak . There are also 2 polyclinics in Miri namely Miri polyclinic and Tudan polyclinic . Miri City Medical Centre is a private hospital that started its operation in 2002 and has 30 beds . It is located at Hokkien Road , Miri . Columbia Asia Medical Centre was formerly known as Selesa Medical Centre . It was acquired in 1998 , located 4 km downtown Miri . It serves the communities from Miri , Limbang , Marudi , and Brunei . Shell employees make up the largest customer base for this private hospital .

= = = Education = = =

All the primary and secondary schools in Miri ( under National Education System ) are managed by the Miri District Education Office located at Kipas Road , Miri . Among the Chinese primary schools are SJK ( C ) Chung Hua Miri , SJK ( C ) Chung Hua Pujut , and SJK ( C ) Chung Hua Lutong . SK Agama Miri is an Islamic primary school . There are several national primary schools such as : SK Anchi , SK Senandin , and SK St Columba , along with several other national secondary schools in Miri namely SMK Chung Hua Miri , SMK Agama Miri , SMK St. Columba , Kolej Tun Datu Tuanku Haji Bujang , and Sekolah Menengah Vokasional Miri . Miri has 2 out of 14 Chinese independent schools in Sarawak . These are Pei Min Middle School ( ???? ) and Riam Road Middle School ( ???? ) . Tenby International School is the first international school in Miri . Other private schools in Miri such as Sekolah Rendah Sri Mawar and Sekolah Rendah Sri Mulia are providers of primary education .

Curtin University Sarawak is the first foreign university to establish its campus in Sarawak since 1999 . It offers business , accounting , and engineering courses . Institut Pendidikan Guru Malaysia

Kampus Miri Sarawak ( Teachers training Institute Malaysia Miri Campus ) offers training for teachers placements in primary and secondary schools . I @-@ Systems College offers a nursing programme . Fajar International College ( FIC ) offers a Diploma in Occupational Safety & Health ( DIPOSH ) , accounting , and business studies courses . IBS College was established in 1998 , currently offering finance , business , accounting , and security courses . Maxcel Institute of Management offers Diploma programme for Hotel and Tourism Management .

Cahaya Education and Training Academy ( Ceta ) offers training courses on oil and gas industries . Institut Latihan Perindustrian Miri ( Miri Industry Training Institute ) was formed in 2004 , currently offering courses such as electrician , product design , and telecommunication . RIAM Institute of Technology Sarawak ( RIAMTEC ) was established in 1996 , offering technical training in the fields of agriculture and mechanics . Institut Kemahiran Belia Negara ( National Youth skills Institute ) and Pusat Pembangunan Kemahiran Sarawak ( Sarawak Skills Development Centre ) also offer technical training for students . Kolej Komuniti Miri ( Miri Community College ) offers short module courses upon request from the public . Open University Malaysia ( OUM ) also opens a learning centre here .

= = = Libraries = = =

Miri City Council Library was established in 1958 . Currently , it has branches in Piasau , Lutong , and Taman Tunku . Pustaka Miri is a regional library established by the state @-@ run Sarawak State Library . It is located at Miri City Fan .

= = Culture and leisure = =

= = = Attractions and recreational spots = = =

= = = = Cultural = = = =

Miri May Fest has been held in Miri since 1989 . It is a month @-@ long celebration of entertainment programmes , trade fairs , cultural , arts , sports , and social activities organised by various governmental agencies . Miri City Day will also be held during the Miri May Fest . Gong Xi Fa Cai Bazaar is held annually a few weeks before the Chinese New Year eve . There will be stalls opening daily selling food and drinks , clothes , decorative items , potted plants , paintings , and handicrafts . Various entertainment programmes such as lion and dragon dances will be held every evening . Miri International Dance for Humanity is held annually since 2004 by Miri Chapter of Malaysian Red Crescent Society to promote racial and cultural harmony . This event will showcase up to 40 to 50 multicultural dance troupes which attract an audience of around 3 @, @ 500 . No dancing competition will be held during this event . Donation cards will be distributed to raise funds for the Red Crescent Society . 916 Malaysia Day Countdown cum Street Party has been held annually since 2010 . It consists of a variety of outdoor sports events , street parties , and entertainment programmes which runs beyond midnight to commemorate the formation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963 . Miri International Deep Sea Fishing Tournament is held annually at Luconia Shoals at South China Sea . Participants will depart from the Marina Bay , Miri and head up to the ocean for 3 days . The participant who catches the biggest fish in that category wins . Miri city Christmas Parade is held annually since 2007 . Churches in Miri would start the parade at Miri City Fan and cover the main streets in the city centre .

= = = = Historical = = = =

In 2005 , a petroleum museum was opened in Miri to preserve the city 's roots as an oil and gas city . The petroleum museum is built at the site of " Grand Old Lady " , the first oil well in Malaysia which



was opened in 1910 . Visitors are able to interact with advanced devices displayed in the museum . Niah Archeology Museum is located near the archaeological site of Niah cave . It exhibits the prehistorical artefacts found in the area . Baram Regional Museum was opened in 1997 , housed inside Fort Hose at Marudi . The fort was burnt down in 1994 , but it was rebuilt later according to its original design and was converted into a museum . It displays historical and cultural artefacts belonging to various ethnic groups living in the area . The Miri Tua Pek Kong Temple was built in 1913 to give thanks to a monk who was believed to chase away evil spirits . The evil spirits were believed to have caused an unknown epidemic in Miri . It is the only building which survives World War II .

= = = = Leisure and conservation areas = = = =

Miri is surrounded by five national parks namely : Gunung Mulu National Park , Niah National Park , Lambir Hills National Park , Loagan Bunut National Park and Miri @-@ Sibuti Coral Reef National Park . Tanjung Lobang Beach is the oldest recreational park in Miri . It is a popular spot for watching sunsets . There are two wooden piers extending out into the ocean which offer a view of the coastline and the seahorse lighthouse at Marina Bay . Taman Selera ( which serves seafood meals ) , Miri Marriott Hotel and Parkcity Everly Hotel are located at Tanjung Lobang Beach . Marina Bay also has berthing facilities for yachts . Hawaii Beach is located 15 minutes away from Miri city . Picnic and barbecue facilities are provided here . Lutong Beach is suitable for paragliding and paramotor sports . Luak Esplanade Beach is located 11 km south of the city . It is a popular spot for barbecues and picnics . Further down the Luak Esplanade Beach is Bungai Beach , which is located at Bekenu , about 1 hour drive from Miri city .

Miri Bulatan Park was opened to the public in 1993 . It has a man @-@ made lake , a jogging track , and a traffic garden . Traffic games will held every year at Miri Bulatan Park . Taman Awam Miri ( Miri Public Park ) is located 3 km away from Miri city centre . It has a children 's playground , botanical garden , and a jogging trail . Miri City Fan is an urban park complex that has a variety of theme gardens , botanical garden , a swimming pool , a library , and an amphitheatre where concerts are frequently held . Taman Bunga ( Flower Garden ) is located at Asrama Road . Every plant here has a label which list the name and characteristics of the plant .

= = = = Other attractions = = = =

Miri Crocodile Farm is located near the Baram Delta . It houses 1 @, @ 000 estuarine crocodiles including Malayan gharial crocodiles . Man @-@ made sanctuary pools are also constructed for the crocodiles . Other animals can also be found here such as cassowary , sun bears , python , monkeys and porcupines . Visitors are allowed to feed the animals with bananas available from the canteen .

= = = = Shopping = = = =

The shopping malls in Miri are Bintang Megamall , Boulevard Shopping Complex , The Imperial Mall , E @-@ Mart , Merdeka Mall , Miri Plaza ( Servay Hypermarket ) , MYY Mall , Permy Mall , Soon Hup Shopping Complex , Wisma Pelita Tunku , and Permaisuri Imperial City Mall .

Saberkas Weekend Market is located at Sarbekas Commercial Centre . It opens in late evening every Friday , Saturday and Sunday . There are over 170 stalls in the market which sell vegetables , fruits , sea products , drinks , satay , grilled fish , BBQ chicken wings and other products such as local handicrafts , clothes as well as used magazines at reasonable prices . Miri Handicraft Centre is located at Brooke Road , Miri . It features handicrafts and souvenirs of Sarawak such as colourful bags , beadwork , woodcarvings , and textiles made by local indigenous groups , Chinese , and Malay artisans .

= = = Music = = =

There are three music festivals in Miri , namely Borneo Jazz Festival , Asia Music Festival ( AMF ) and Miri Country Music Fest ( MCMF ) . Borneo Jazz Festival was started in 2006 . It is a 2 @-@ night festival of 4 performances in each night by local and international jazz musicians at Parkcity Everly hotel , Miri . Asia Music Festival is also a 2 @-@ day event featuring artists and musicians from Asian countries such as India , Taiwan , Philippines , and Indonesia . It was first held in 2013 at Eastwood Valley Golf and Country Club , about 5 km from the city centre . It attracts about 4 @,@ 000 music lovers attending the event . Miri Country Music Fest ( MCMF ) is a one @-@ day event introduced in 2014 , held at Parkcity Everly Hotel , Miri . Among the activities that can be found here are music and dance workshop , and night concert featuring country music bands from all over the world . Stalls selling food items , games , and souvenir items are also available .

= = Cuisine = =

Miri Central Market ( also known as Miri Open Air Market ) is located at the Miri Old Town centre . It offers a wide choices of local food whose recipes which have been passed on for generations . Popular local delicacies such as Miri curry rice , chicken porridge , open air kolo mee , and Char kway teow can be found here . Exotic dishes of pig 's stomach cooked with pineapple and pig 's blood with chives can also be found at the central market . There are also a variety of restaurants in Miri that offer seafood , Western food , Chinese , Japanese , and Muslim food . Authentic cuisine from Kelabit Highlands especially from Bario can also be found here .

= = Notable people = =

Zee Avi , international singer and ukulele player .  
Shaun Maloney , Scottish national football player .  
Abdul Taib Mahmud , fourth chief minister of Sarawak .  
Joseph Kalang Tie , Sarawak FA football player .  
George Chan Hong Nam , Sarawak 's former deputy chief minister .  
Wee Han Wen , first chairman of the Miri City Council .  
Natasha Seatter , Malaysian racing driver .  
Watson Nyambek , Ex @-@ national sprinter

= = International relations = =

Several countries have set up their consulates in Miri , including Netherlands and the United Kingdom .

= = = Sister cities = = =

Miri currently has two sister cities :  
Guangning County , China  
Hualien County , Taiwan