

= Tawau =

Tawau (Malaysian pronunciation : [?ta wau] , Jawi : ????? , Chinese : ?? ; pinyin : D?u Hú) formerly known as Tawao , is the third @-@ largest town in Sabah , after Kota Kinabalu City and Sandakan , and lies on the south @-@ eastern coast of Borneo in Malaysia . It is the administrative centre of Tawau Division which is bordered by the Sulu Sea to the east , the Celebes Sea to the south at Cowie Bay and shares a border with North Kalimantan . The town had an estimated population as of 2010 of 113 @,@ 809 , while the whole municipality area had a population of 397 @,@ 673 .

Before the founding of Tawau , the region around it was the subject of dispute between the British and Dutch spheres of influence . In 1893 , the first British merchant vessel sailed into Tawau , marking the opening of the town 's sea port . In 1898 , the British set up a settlement in Tawau . The British North Borneo Chartered Company (BNBC) accelerated growth of the settlement 's population by encouraging the immigration of Chinese . Consequent to the Japanese occupation of North Borneo , the Allied forces bombed the town , in mid @-@ 1944 , razing it to the ground . After the Japanese surrender in 1945 , 2 @,@ 900 Japanese soldiers in Tawau became prisoners of war and were transferred to Jesselton . Tawau was rebuilt after the war and by the end of 1947 the economy was restored back into its pre @-@ war status . Tawau was also the main point of conflict during the Indonesia ? Malaysia confrontation from 1963 to 1966 . During that time , it was garrisoned by the British Special Boats Section , and guarded by Australian Destroyers and combat aircraft . In December 1963 , Tawau was bombed twice by Indonesia and shootings occurred across the Tawau @-@ Sebatik Island international border . Indonesians were found trying to poison the town 's water supply . In January 1965 , a curfew was imposed to prevent Indonesian attackers from making contact with Indonesians living in the town . While in June 1965 , another attempted invasion by the Indonesian forces was repelled by bombardment by an Australian Destroyer . Military conflict finally ended in December 1966 .

Among the tourist attractions in Tawau are : The Tawau International Cultural Festival , Tawau Bell Tower , Japanese War Cemetery , Confrontation Memorial , Teck Guan Cocoa Museum , Tawau Hills National Park , Bukit Gemok , and Tawau Tanjung Markets . The main economic activities of the town are : timber , cocoa , oil palm plantations , and prawn farming .

= = History = =

Like most of part of Borneo , this area was once under the control of the Bruneian Empire in the 15th century before been ceded to the Sultanate of Sulu between the 1600s and 1700s as a gift for helping the Bruneian forces during a civil war that happened in Brunei . The name Tawao was used on a nautical charts by 1857 , and there is evidence of a settlement by 1879 . The East India Company had establish a trading post in Borneo , though there was no significant activity by the Dutch on the east coast . In 1846 , Netherlands formed a treaty with the Sultan of Bulungan , where the latter assured the Dutch control of the area . When the Dutch began to operate in 1867 , the Sultan married his son to the daughter of the Sultan of Tarakan . Around this time , the Dutch sphere of influence reached the Tawao . They controlled the area north of Tawao , overlapping an area controlled by the Sultan of Sulu .

In 1878 , Sultanate of Sulu sold the southern part of his land bounded by the Sibuco River to a Austro @-@ Hungarian consul Baron von Overbeck , who later tried to sell the territory to the German Empire , Austria @-@ Hungary and the Kingdom of Italy for use as a penal colony but failed , leaving Alfred Dent to manage and establishing the British North Borneo Chartered Company (BNBC) . The BNBC negotiated in the 1880s with the Dutch for a definition of a boundary between the area conferred by the Sultan of Sulu and the area that the Dutch claimed from Sultan of Bulungan to settle a dispute that arising from the unknown exact location of the real border between the territory that was held by the Sultanate of Sulu and the Sultanate of Bulungan . On 20 January 1891 , a final agreement was reached on a line along 4 ° 10 ' north latitude ? on the central division of the Sebatik Island . In the early 1890s , approximately 200 people lived in the Tawao settlement ,

mostly immigrants from Bulungan in Kalimantan , and some from Tawi @-@ Tawi who had fled from Dutch and Spanish rule . The settlement was renamed from Tawao to Tawau . Most of those who fled from the Dutch colonisation continued trading with the Dutch . In 1893 , a British vessel S.S. Normanhurst sailed into Tawau with a cargo to trade . In 1898 , the British built a settlement which later grew rapidly when the BNBC sponsored the migration of Chinese to Tawau .

On 16 December 1941 , during World War II , the Japanese invasion of Borneo began . After the first landing in Miri , the Japanese moved along the coastline of Borneo from the oil fields of Kuching and towards Jesselton . Life in Tawau continued as usual until 24 January 1942 when the Japanese were sighted off Batu Tinagat . The district officer Cole Adams and his assistant were expecting an attack at the shipyard but were instead arrested by the Japanese . The Allies began counterattacking the Japanese in mid @-@ 1944 with the bombing of Tawau . From 13 April 1945 , six massive air strikes were made on town , concentrating on the port facilities . The last and largest of these attacks was on 1 May 1945 when 19 B @-@ 24 bombers bombed Tawau until it was completely razed to the ground . After an unconditional surrender of the 37th Japanese Army under Lieutenant General Masao Baba in mid @-@ September at Labuan , 1 @,@ 100 Australian soldiers in Sandakan under the command of Lt. Col. JA England marched into the Japanese bases at Tawau . A total of 2 @,@ 900 Japanese soldiers of the 370th battalion under Major Sugasaki Moriyuki were taken as prisoners of war and transferred to Jesselton .

At the end of the war , the town had been largely destroyed by bombing and fire ; the Bell tower was the only intact pre @-@ war structure . Tawau quickly recovered . Though almost all the shops were destroyed , a report by The British North Borneo Annual Report in 1947 wrote that " the pre @-@ war economy was largely made towards the end of 1947 " . In the first six months post @-@ war , the British rebuilt 170 shops and commercial buildings . By 1 July 1947 , subsidies for the purchase of rice and flour were introduced .

= = = Indonesian confrontation = = =

Due to the its exposed location near the international border with Indonesia , Tawau become the main point of the conflict during the confrontation . In preparation for the impending conflict , Gurkhas were stationed in the town with other units including the " British No. 2 Special Boat Section " under Captain DW Mitchell . Australian River @-@ class destroyer escorts were stationed in Cowie Bay and a squadron of F @-@ 86 Sabre aircraft flew over Tawau daily from Labuan .

In October 1963 , Indonesia moved their first battalion of the Korps Komando Operasi (KKO) from Surabaya to Sebatik and opened several training camps near the border in eastern Kalimantan (now North Kalimantan) . From 1 October to 16 December 1963 , there were at least seven shootings along the border resulting in three Indonesians deaths . On 7 December 1963 , an Indonesian Tupolev Tu @-@ 16 bomber flew over Tawau bay and bombed the town twice .

By mid @-@ December 1963 , Indonesian had sent a commando unit consisting of 128 volunteers and 35 regular soldiers to Sebatik . Their aim was to take Kalabakan , then invade Tawau and Sandakan . On 29 December 1963 , the Indonesian unit attacked the 3rd Royal Malay Regiment unit . The Indonesians managed to throw several grenades into the totally unprepared Malay Regiment 's sleeping quarters . The attack resulted in eight Malay soldiers killed and nineteen wounded . Malaysian armed police eventually drove the attackers north after a two @-@ hour battle .

In 1964 , the situation remained tense in Tawau . A group of eight Indonesians were detained while trying to poison the water supply of the town . On 12 May 1964 , there was a bombing attempt on the Kong Fah cinema . At the end of January 1965 , a night time curfew was imposed in Tawau to prevent attackers from contacting the approximate 16 @,@ 000 Indonesians living there . By the end of February 1965 , 96 of the 128 Indonesian volunteers had been killed or captured , around 20 successfully retreated to Indonesia , and 12 remained at large . On 28 June 1965 , an attempt by Indonesian troops to invade eastern Sebatik was repelled by a heavy bombardment by Australian destroyer HMAS Yarra . In August 1965 , an unknown assailant made an attempt to blow up a high @-@ tension electricity pylon while in September 1965 , a logging truck was destroyed by a land

mine . The confrontation largely ended 12 August 1966 , and in December there was a complete ceasefire in Tawau .

= = Government and International relations = =

Indonesia has a consulate in Tawau and the town has twin town arrangements with Zhangping , China and Pare @-@ Pare , Indonesia .

There are two members of parliament (MPs) representing the two parliamentary constituencies in the district : Tawau (P.190) and Kalabakan (P.191) . The area is represented by six members of the Sabah State Legislative Assembly representing the districts of : Balung ; Apas ; Sri Tanjung ; Merotai ; Tanjung Batu ; and Sebatik .

The town is administered by the Tawau Municipal Council (Majlis Perbandaran Tawau) . As of 2016 , the President of Tawau Municipal Council is Alijus Sipil who take over from Datuk Ismail Mayakob after serving for six years . The area under the jurisdiction of the Tawau District is the 2 @, @ 510 @-@ hectare (25 @. @ 1 km²) town area , 3 @, @ 075 @-@ hectare (30 @. @ 75 km²) surrounding populated area , 568 @, @ 515 hectares (5 @, @ 685 @. @ 15 km²) of rural land and 38 @, @ 406 hectares (384 @. @ 06 km²) of adjacent sea area .

= = = Security = = =

Today , Tawau is one of the six districts that involved in the eastern Sabah sea curfew that have been enforced since 19 July by the Malaysian government to repelling any attacks from militant groups in the Southern Philippines .

= = Geography = =

Tawau is on the south @-@ east coast of Sabah surround by the Sulu Sea in the east , Celebes Sea to the south and shares a border with East Kalimantan (now North Kalimantan) . The town is approximately 1 @, @ 904 kilometres from the Malaysia 's capital , Kuala Lumpur and is 540 kilometres south @-@ east of Kota Kinabalu . The main town area is divided into three sections named Sabindo , Fajar and Tawau Lama (Old Tawau) . Sabindo is a plaza , Fajar is a commercial area while Tawau Lama is the original part of Tawau . Almost 70 % of the area surrounding Tawau is either high hills or mountainous .

= = = Climate = = =

Tawau has a tropical rainforest climate under the Köppen climate classification . The climate is relatively hot and wet with average shade temperature about 26 ° C (79 ° F) , with 29 ° C (84 ° F) at noon and falling to around 23 ° C (73 ° F) at night . The town sees precipitation throughout the year , with a tendency for November , December and January to be the wettest months , and February and March become the driest months . Tawau mean rainfall varies from 1800 mm to 2500 mm .

= = Demography = =

= = = Ethnicity and religion = = =

The Malaysian Census 2010 Report indicates that the whole Tawau municipality area has a total population of 397 @, @ 673 . The town population today is a mixture of many different races and ethnicities . Non @-@ Malaysian citizens form the majority of the town population with 164 @, @ 729 people . Malaysian citizens in the area were reported divided into Bumiputras (Racially divided among Ethnic Malays (Cocos Malays , Buginese people and minorities of Javanese people) ,

Bajau / Suluk , Kadazan @-@ Dusun and Murut including (Tidong) sub @-@ ethnic group) (134 @, @ 456) , Chinese (40 @, @ 061) , Indian (833) and others (mostly non @-@ citizens) (6 @, @ 153) .

The non @-@ Malaysian citizens are mostly from Indonesia . The Malaysian Chinese , like other places in Sabah , are mostly Hakkas who arrived after British rule ended . Their original settlements are around Apas Road which was originally an agricultural field . The Bajau , Suluk and Malays are mostly Muslims . Kadazan @-@ Dusuns and Muruts mainly practice Christianity though some of them are Muslim . Malaysian Chinese are mainly Buddhists though some are Taoist or Christians . There is a small number of Hindus , Sikhs , Animists , and secularists in the town .

The majority of non @-@ citizens are Muslims , though some are Christian Indonesian who are mainly ethnic Florenese and Timorese that arrived since the 1950s . A small number of Pakistanis also in the town , mainly working as shop or restaurant owners . Most non @-@ citizens work and live at the plantation industry . Some of the migrant workers have been naturalised as a Malaysian citizens , however there are still many who live without proper documentation as illegal immigrants in the town with their own unlawful settlement .

= = = Languages = = =

The people of Tawau mainly speak Malay , with a distinct Sabahan creole . The Malay language here are different from the Malay language in the west coast which resembles Brunei Malay . In Tawau , the language had been influenced by the Indonesian language spoken by the Buginese , Florenese and Timorese . As most Tawau Chinese are Hakka Chinese , Hakka Chinese is widely spoken . The east coast Bajau 's language has similarities with the Sama language in the Philippines and has borrowed words from the Suluk language . The Bajau language on the east coast is different from the west coast Bajau , where the language has been influenced by Malayic languages from Brunei Malay .

= = Economy = =

As of 1993 , there were 40 timber @-@ processing plants and a number of sawmills . Tawau 's Port is a major export and import gateway for timber especially from North Kalimantan . A barter trade has been formalised between East Kalimantan (now North Kalimantan) and Sabah with the creation of Tawau Barter Trade Association (BATS) in 1993 . The association handles the cash @-@ based trade of raw materials from Indonesia , but in recent years has focussed on timber industry . Other than timber , since British rule ended exports have traditionally been spices , cocoa and tobacco . Birds ' nests are harvested at Baturong , Sengarung , Tepadung and Madai Caves by the Ida 'an community . Tawau is one of the top cocoa producers in Malaysia , and the world together with Ivory Coast , Ghana and Indonesia . The town is the cocoa capital for both in Sabah and Malaysia . Cocoa production is mostly concentrated in the interior , north of the town , while palm oil production is concentrated along the roads to Merotai , Brantian , Semporna and Kunak . Both cocoa and palm oil are part of the large agriculture sector that has become the main income producer for the town .

Like in Sandakan , people in Tawau have always relied on the sea for their sustenance . Every day , hundreds of deep sea trawlers and tuckboats can be seen at the Cowie Bay . In the sea also where the barter trade economy been used . The Tawau marine zone are one of Sabah four marine zones , with the other been in Sandakan , Kudat and the west coast . A great variety of high @-@ grade fishes and all kinds of crustaceans were found in abundance in the sea and waterways around Tawau . Prawn farming has become largest sea economic source for the district . The oldest and largest prawn farm were located on this area together with six frozen shrimp processing plants .

= = Transportation = =

Most of the town 's roads are state roads constructed and maintained by the state 's Public Works

Department . A program began in 2012 to upgrade the towns roads and increase the amount of public parking . Most major internal roads are dual @-@ carriageways . The only highway route from Tawau connects : Tawau ? Semporna ? Kunak ? Lahad Datu ? Sandakan (part of the Pan Borneo Highway)

Regular bus services and taxis operate in the town . The town has long @-@ distance , short @-@ distance and local bus stations . The long @-@ distance services connect Tawau to Lahad Datu , Sandakan , Telupid , Ranau , Simpang Sapi , Kundasang , Kota Kinabalu , Sipitang , Beaufort , Papar and Simpang Ranau . The short @-@ distance services connect to destinations including as Sandakan and Semporna .

Tawau Airport (TA) (ICAO Code : WBKW) is the second largest airport in Sabah province , after Kota Kinabalu , and has flights linking the town mostly to domestic destinations . Destinations for the airport include Kota Kinabalu , Kuching and Kuala Lumpur . Flights by MASWings connect the airport to smaller towns or rural areas in East Malaysia , and internationally to Juwata International Airport in Tarakan , Indonesia . The airport opened in 2001 and as of 2012 handled almost one million passengers annually . Prior to this the area was served by the Old Tawau Airport on North Street (Jalan Utara) . The airport was opened in 1968 and was used for small aircraft such as the Fokker 50 . The runway was widened in the 1980s , allowing it to operate Boeing 737s . There was a fatal accident in 1995 when Malaysia Airlines Flight 2133 , a Fokker 50 , crashed due to pilot error on landing , leading to 34 fatalities . A Cessna 208 Caravan crashed on takeoff in 1995 and MAS Boeing 737 @-@ 400 skidded off the runway in 2001 , neither causing fatalities . The airport was closed when the new Tawau airport opened .

There is a daily ferry service from northeastern Kalimantan to the town 's sea port . This route has been used for smuggling subsidised goods from the town to certain parts in Indonesia , especially southern Sebatik , by Indonesian smugglers as this area is highly dependent on Tawau . Many Indonesians near the international border choose to seek a medical treatment in the town due to the lower cost and better facilities , compared to other Indonesian towns .

= = Public Services = =

Tawau 's court complex is on Dunlop Street . It contains the High Court , Sessions Court , and the Magistrate Court . Syariah Court is located at Abaca Street . The district police headquarters is on Tanjung Batu Street , and other police station are sited throughout the district including Wallace Bay , Bombalai , Bergosong , Kalabakan , Seri Indah and LTB Tawau . Police substations (Pondok Polis) are found in Tass Bt . 17 , Apas Parit , Merotai , Quin Hill , Balung Kokos , Titingan , Kinabutan and Burmas areas , and the Tawau Prison is in the town centre .

Tawau has one public hospital , four public health clinics , three child and mother health clinics , seven village clinics , one mobile clinic and two 1Malaysia clinics . Tawau Hospital , on Tanjung Batu Street , is the town 's main hospital and an important healthcare facility for patients from Semporna , Lahad Datu , Kunak , and Sandakan . Indonesian patients near the border area also frequently visit the hospital . Tawau Specialist Polyclinics (TSPC) is a walk @-@ in healthcare clinic that sees patients from Tawau and surrounding areas as well as patients from neighbouring Philippines and Indonesia . TSPC has a range of medical specialists , a medical laboratory and radiology services . The hospital has undergone a series of modernisations since 1990 with the construction of specialist clinics , Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) , new wards and operation theatres . The Tawau Regional Library is one of three regional libraries in Sabah , the others are at Keningau and Sandakan . These libraries are operated by the Sabah State Library department . Some schools , colleges , or universities have private libraries .

There are many government or state schools in and around the town . Secondary schools include Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kinabutan , Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Jalan Apas , Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kabota , and Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Pasir Putih . The town has two private schools , called the Sabah Chinese High School (Sekolah Tinggi Cina Sabah) and Vision Secondary School (Sekolah Menengah Visi) . Tawau has two of the three A @-@ Level education centres in the state of Sabah ? the Institute of Science and Management (ISM) and

Maktab Rendah Sains Mara Tawau . A teacher @-@ training college called Tawau Teacher Training Institute is found in the town . For tertiary education the town has the Tawau Community College and GIATMARA Tawau , and campuses of two universities , Universiti Teknologi MARA and Open University Malaysia .

= = Culture and leisure = =

The Tawau International Cultural Festival is an annual event , first held in 2011 , that has been promoted for its potential to attract tourists . The Tawau Bell Tower in the town 's park was built by the Japanese in 1921 shortly after World War I to mark the close allied relations between Japan and Great Britain . Other historical attractions include the Japanese War Cemetery , Confrontation Memorial , the Public Service Memorial and the Twin Town Memorial . Tawau is one of the top cocoa production centres in Malaysia . The Teck Guan Cocoa Museum has become one of the important historical attractions for the town since it was founded in the 1970s by Datuk Seri Panglima Hong Teck Guan . Varieties of cocoa products including chocolate jam and hot cocoa beverages are sold in the museum .

Tawau has nearby conservation areas and areas set aside for leisure . The Tawau Hills National Park has picnic areas , a vast camping site , and cabins . It is 24 kilometres (15 miles) from Tawau and is accessible by road . Bukit Gemok (also known as Fat Hill) is an approximately 428 @-@ metre (1 @,@ 404 ft) hill about 11 km (7 mi) from the town . It is part of the 4 @.@ 45 @-@ square @-@ kilometre (1 @.@ 72 sq mi) Bukit Gemok Forest Reserve , which was declared a forest reserve in 1984 . Tawau Harbour is used as a transit point to islands near the town including Sipadan , Mabul , Kapalai , Mataking , and Indonesian islands including southern Sebatik , Tarakan and Nunukan .

The main shopping area in Tawau is the Eastern Plaza located at Mile 1 on Kuhara Street . It was built in 2005 , completed in 2008 and opened in May 2009 . The complex has three levels of car parking with 476 covered and 49 surface parking bays . Sabindo Plaza was opened in January 1999 and is known as the first shopping centre built in Tawau . There is a market that runs alongside Dunlop Street . The Tawau Tanjung Market was established in 1999 . Since then , it has expanded to house 6 @,@ 000 stalls and is known as the largest indoor market in Malaysia .

The town has a sport complex with badminton , tennis , volleyball and basketball courts , and two stadiums for hockey and football . In 2014 , Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin announced formation of a National Sports Institute (ISN) in Tawau . It will be the third sports satellite centre in Sabah once completed in 2015 . A cross @-@ border sporting event was held in 2014 between the town and Nunukan in Indonesia . It has been proposed to be repeated annually to strengthen ties between the towns .

= = Notable residents = =

Political

Chua Soon Bui : Malaysian politician

Entertainment

Amber Chia : Malaysian model

Pete Teo : Malaysian singer @-@ songwriter , musician , film producer , music producer and actor

Sports

Julamri Muhammad : Malaysian football player

Muhd Rafiuddin Rodin : Malaysian football player

Shahrul Azhar Ture : Malaysian football player

Siswanto Haidi : Malaysian cricket player

Sumardi Hajalan : Malaysian football player

= = Literature = =

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