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Exciting and breathtaking `hidden gems` in Selangor



Take 'Instagrammable worthy photos' at Sky Mirror, Kuala Selangor

by LYDIA NATHAN

PEOPLE often view Selangor as a developed and modern state. It is after all the richest state based on the contribution to the country's RMI.35 trillion economy.

Commercial, residential and industrial centres are homes to millions of people. Business flourished to cater for the various industries and consumer demands. Millions of jobs are created. The state-of-the-art infrastructure that zigzags across the towns and cities awes outsiders.

But many fail to see Selangor as a tourist destination. Locals see Penang as a holiday destination that offers splendid sidewalks food, interesting places and charming colonial architecture. Melaka is a favourite for its historical legacies. The east coast states top for sandy and pristine beaches.

Between the high-rise and megastructures, Selangor does offer plenty of attractions itself.

According to the Selangor Tourism Association (STA), the state received over 72 million tourists last year.

"Over four million of the visitors were locals while three million were foreigners," a representative of the

association told *The Malaysian Reserve*.

Government figures showed that there were 25.8 million tourist arrivals to Malaysia last year.

People in the industry said Selangor offers plenty of interesting places and attractions to local and foreign tourists. In fact, Selangor has many "hidden gems", unknown to locals.

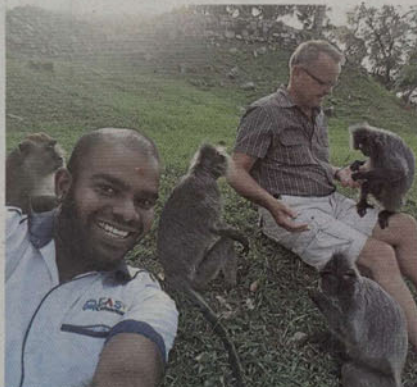
Tourplus Technology Sdn Bhd tour guide Shanker Vellu said there has been an increase in the number of tourists who are visiting "the hidden gems" that are so often overlooked by Malaysians, especially those who are living in Selangor.

"Many people especially local tourists either do not know of these places or prefer to travel to bigger states with their families. But lately, Tourplus has seen an increase of day trips to places like Kuala Selangor that has so many special attractions," he said.

Kuala Selangor, that is about 90 minutes drive from the city centre, is becoming a popular destination with many surprises to visitors.

He said there are day trips to Kuala Selangor which start as early as 8am.

"Many of these tourists are from Australia, China, the US and the Middle East," he said.



Shanker (left) and a tourist playing with monkeys at Melawati Hill in Kuala Selangor

By courtesy of Shanker Vellu



The Makam Sultan Abdul Samad at the Royal Mausoleum in Bukit Jugra was constructed according to Moorish and Islamic architecture

He said one of the most popular sites and "Instagrammable worthy photos" is the recently discovered Sky Mirror, Kuala Selangor, named after its mirror-like reflection of the sky. Sky Mirror is also dubbed as Malaysia's own Bolivian "Salar de Uyuni".

"It is a seabed that appears above water for a few hours when it is low tide. Some said it is best to go during the full moon and new moon period according to the Chinese Lunar Calendar.

"The photos often appear like you are walking on water. Sometimes, we bring props for our guests and encourage them to wear bright colours, so the photos will capture the vivid colours," Shanker said.

Besides taking photos and walking barefooted, there are many different marine creatures that can be seen on the shore.

"You can see giant jellyfish, crabs and different shells. It's a great place for kids to explore nature," he said.

Tourists have also been taken to feeding monkey at Melawati Hill in Kuala Selangor. The attraction is very popular among Middle Eastern tourists who come with their children.

"I've taken one family from Jordan three times because the children love to see the monkeys in their natural habitat. The monkeys are very tame and friendly, they will sit on your

shoulder or hands and let you feed them," he said.

Other attractions in Kuala Selangor include walking around paddy fields and learning how rice is produced at a local factory.

"People can see how rice mill processed the paddy," he said, adding that tourists can also stop at the Mango King Farm in Sekinchan.

First-time visitor from Perth, Western Australia, Allison Percy said she really enjoyed seeing the different varieties of mangoes at the farm.

"Back in Perth, we mostly have one or two types and they can be expensive depending on the season. It's mainly imported from Malaysia or Thailand. To see the mangoes being grown here was a nice experience. It is nicer with the mango ice-blended" she said.

Shanker said the area is also famous for eagle feeding and fireflies watching tours. Visitors are taken on a speedboat and watch the eagles swooping the chicken meat thrown into the edge of the river.

"Eagles are such majestic creatures," Shanker said.

Visitors can also watch the sunset and later enjoy the fireflies. Tourists from all over the world are quite mesmerised by the fireflies. Nature enthusiasts will enjoy the canopy walkway Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Templer Park.

"People can experience the tropical

rainforest environment without going far from the city. The view and landscape is something you can't see from the ground," he said.

FRIM is also home to the Botanical Gardens where people can see and touch local-plants like "tongkat ali".

"Visitors can also just relax in the middle of the forest and enjoy the fresh air," he said.

Templer Park which is not too far has proven to also be a popular tourist destination. The location is good for visitors who want to hike, go on a picnic and enjoy the waterfalls," he said.

Jugra Hill has also started to gain attention among visitors. The spokesperson from STA said this historical town located in Kuala Langat is becoming popular. Its rich history and heritage, old stately buildings and bridges are the main attractions.

There is also the Makam Sultan Abdul Samad at the Royal Mausoleum in Bukit Jugra which was constructed according to Moorish and Islamic architecture. There is also the royal town of Klang and attractions in the capital of Shah Alam. Selangor is also home to one of the country's largest theme parks — Sunway Lagoon — which received millions of visitors annually.

Selangor may not be able to shed its developed image, but the state does offer plenty of attractions as a tourist destination.