HALIM SAID gets immersed in the sport that is making a splash with extreme sports enthusiasts, and which has been named one of Selangor's official tourism products.

HULU SELANGOR: Take one lorry tyre, apply the tube to the rapidly flowing Sungai Selangor and there you have it — a new form of extreme sports in Selangor.

Selangor Tourism officially made river tubing one of its tourism products. Spills and thrills aside, visitors have the added pleasure of soaking in the verdant and scenic Hulu Selangor recreational area.

The new product was launched by Mentri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim who recommended the activity for the entire family.

"It’s healthy to enjoy the weekend outdoors with family and friends."

“I once had a thrilling experience when my children dared me to take a roller-coaster ride with them. It was frightening but the time I spent with my children was what makes it worthwhile."

At the launch, 30 volunteers demonstrated the sport.

The sport is handled by Tracks Adventures, a company which specialises in extreme activities like water rafting and kayaking.

Its director Marjorie Gabriel, 45, said river tubing was safe provided participants followed the basic safety rules and wore the right safety gear.

She said the activity was suited for ‘class two’ rivers as the rapids are lower and safer for beginners.

“There are safety regulations to follow when you are in the water and while cruising on the tyre. Safety gears such as flotation vests and helmets must be worn."

Gabriel said the sport was not new as it had been conducted in other rivers in the country since 2004, but publicity has been minimal.

“We hope to attract extreme sports enthusiasts to visit Selangor often."

Marjorie said a session usually comprises a group of 10 as that number is ideal for
Safety is the number one priority. There are trained personnel accompanying each group.

"Although the river tubing ride is only 2.5km long, the trip takes about one to one and a half hours as we stop at designated points along the river bank," she said.

Gabriel said fitness was a prerequisite for the sport. "We don't encourage those aged below eight and above 30 to take it up. However, those interested are always welcome to consult us first," she said.

The company charges RM120 per person. For information, call Tracks Adventures at 03-6065 1767 or emailtracks@tm.net.my.

Other activities that can be held at the Hulu Selangor recreational area are picnics, overnight camping, jungle tracking, flying fox, abseiling and rock climbing.

In his speech, Khalid also pointed out the other tourism attractions in the state such as the Kampung Kuantan fireflies sanctuary in Kuala Selangor, Batu Caves, and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (Frim) in Selayang.

"Frim is the best place for parents to bring their children to learn all about plants as they would be able to see and touch the plants," he said.

Also present was state exco for Tourism, Consumer Affairs and Environment, Elizabeth Wong, who said the government has published a tourism booklet listing the interesting tourist spots in the state.

"The booklet will help visitors to know about and locate them," she said.

The booklet is available at the Selangor Tourism office in Shah Alam and the Tourist Information counters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and Subang Skypark.
A river ride on the wild side

Nature watch is one of the activities at the park. — Pictures by Rosdan Wohid

Dive right into the new extreme sport at Sungai Selangor — river tubing.

Though all one needs is a lorry tyre tube to enjoy the ride, flotation vest and helmets are mandatory for safety.
A river ride on the wild side

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The ideal river for such river-rafting activities is the Sungai Gombak, including the instructor and wagons.