Welcome to Kuching, Sarawak

Take a quick look around Kuching and you will certainly notice a historical building or two, dotted and unique, enchanting things. These are just some of the attractive charms of the city. Singly or clustered, these historical buildings and monuments are found almost every turn and step you take around the city. Starting from the old Brooke Dynasty Empire during the 19th and 20th Century to the White Raja’s for much of the 19th and 20th Centuries, the city’s wealth of heritage sites offer an exciting mix of western and eastern architecture whilst walking distances of each other. A home to many, it is also bewildering in choice of venues to visit for those with premium on time.

Amidst the activities of the city today, you will also find distinctive buildings from the days gone by from the Brooke era and the British Colonial era. Architecture and its expressions vary to surprisingly fresh new looks. This once inverse finding post here reveals the strategic port, administrative town. Borneo’s war ended 1906. Almost all the modern amenities exist today, but the heart remains the same, the hustle and bustle of a metropolis. Careful planning of the environment to maintain. This historic area was Kuching’s gift to residents and visitors alike, a feeling of warmth and comfortable existence that is rest and stimulating.

Multilingualism, the key to Kuching, is the language of Sarawak, the official state language, and English is also widely spoken. Some of the native dialects are also spoken, with Chinese, Malay, and English being the most widely understood. You can see the people comfortably mix the two, but you may be surprised by the old, the new, the rich, the poor, and friendly people.

Sarawak’s Early History (1841-1941)

The early history of Sarawak is unique in Malaysia as the state was ruled not by a foreign empire, but by a family. The Brooke (also called the White Rajahs) were responsible for most of the early architecture and urban development of Kuching, having been in rule for 100 years.

The first Rajah, James Brooke (born 29 April 1803, dies 11 June 1868) was a man of adventure. Born in Berwick, England, he served in the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 and began his sailing adventures with the purchase of a schooner, The Bupi, in 1834 from an invention of 30,000 pounds upon the passing of his father.

On April 15 1839, James arrived in Kuching and was welcomed by the then Governor, Pengiran Haji Mumin, uncle of the Brunei Sultan, to put an end to warfare. With superior weaponry and tactics, he quickly quelled the rebels and in return, was made Rajah in 1841, thus initiating the reign of the White Rajahs here.

Kuching then consisted of humble timber huts with rapai thatched roofs nestled along the Sarawak River, primarily the stretch along the present Kuching Waterfront. Some of the notable buildings during the early Rajahs were Brooke’s Palace (1845), Old State Mosque (1847), Government House (1850), St. Thomas’ Cathedral (1867) and the Taiping Kong (pre1820).

Charles Brooke (born 3 June 1839, died 17 May 1897) was the nephew of James and succeeded the first Rajah in 1868. Charles was the consummate aristocrat and a stickler for order and decorum.

Mr. A.D. Ward, a civil servant who served under the Rajah from 1865 to 1923, had remarked that dinners at the Astana were always formal and punctuality was obligatory. At the sound of the gong from Fort Margherita at five sharp, diners were led in personally by the Rajah.

Posthumously at 80m, the Rajah would bid his guests and officers good night before retiring to bed, leaving his guests to depart at their leisure.