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Little things do matter

Bulbir Singh

I AGREE with the sentiments expressed in the Editor's Note on Nov 3 about hospitality and friendliness to attract tourists to our shores.

I hope you will continue to point where we can improve on domestic travel. The issue of Nov 10 is interesting to read with much information on where to go and when in Malaysia.

One question, why do Malaysians prefer to travel abroad than at home? Is it because the terms and conditions offered abroad are better? What is so nice that we do not have here?

Let us learn something we can adopt here! Yes, being nice is one thing, other factors are important too. Let us make a concerted effort to "sell" our land, beaches and the good things we have. Let us travel less overseas and more at home.

For this we must, for instance, have clean and unpolluted beaches which are open and free.

One other factor is the high charges for food. Taxi fares are too steep, many a tourist have lamented and so have locals.

Even Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is on record for having rebuked Pulau Langkawi merchants for raising charges of food and duty free goods, for no valid reason.

Who is looking into all these? Agreed courtesy is our way of life but sometimes in our zeal to please foreigners, we overdo things which are annoying the local tourists.

Many complaints in the newspapers point out to the fact that the locals are always overlooked when they see "white men" around. This must stop for the good of local tourism.

Hotels should also show some special treatment to senior citizens. I notice senior citizens overseas travel a lot, unlike their counterparts in Malaysia.

I recollect that during my travels in the US, I was given a five per cent rebate for food and beverages and some reduction in hotel/motel rates, too! Can we not do the same.

Little things do matter and look at them is now.