

12/11/1999

16 days of fun await visitors to island carnival

LANGKAWI, Thurs. - There are 220 captivating events over 16 days in store for visitors to the island during the Langkawi Carnival 99 which begins on Nov 20.

Organised as a side attraction for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (Nov 30 to Dec 5), the focus is on cultural and craft shows.

Other highlights during the carnival which ends on Dec 6 include concerts, yacht race, bagpipe presentation, military tattoo, snake show, fireworks display, martial arts, painting and fishing contests, karaoke and shopping expo.

Langkawi Development Authority general manager Datuk Abdul Halil Mutalib said the idea for the carnival came from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who wanted a touristic atmosphere for Lima '99.

Dr Mahathir has been invited to launch the carnival.

Halil said it was also to fill the void of night activities for the benefit of exhibitors and tourists during Lima '99 where the air and maritime events are held during the day.

State Governments will be sending their cultural troupes for the carnival spearheaded by the Kedah Government, Lada, Tourism Malaysia, government agencies and the private sector.

The events will be spaced out to enable the people to get a taste of all the programmes which have been arranged.

The events will be staged at various venues like Dataran Lang, Taman Lagenda, Craft Cultural Complex, Laman Padi, Lada car park, Jetty Point and the airport.

Halil said while hotel rooms were available from Nov 20 to 30 especially those in Kuah town, most of the rooms had been booked for the week during Lima '99.

For visitors from the mainland who are coming for the day, ferry services will be extended until 11.30pm, depending on the demand. The 23 ferries will be able to bring 6,000 passengers each from Kuala Kedah and Kuala Perlis. To facilitate additional departures, the people have been advised to book early.

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