

Sarawak Natural Heritage



Peter Anderson

Part of the proceeds of this book
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**The School for Mentally Handicapped Children, Kuching, Sarawak
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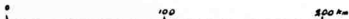
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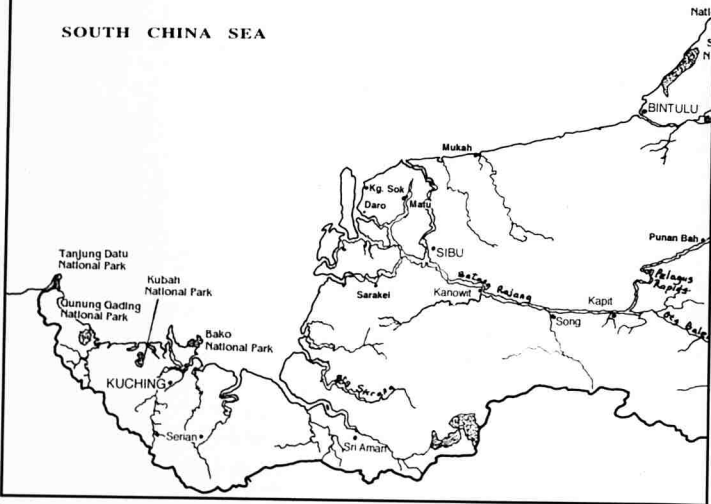
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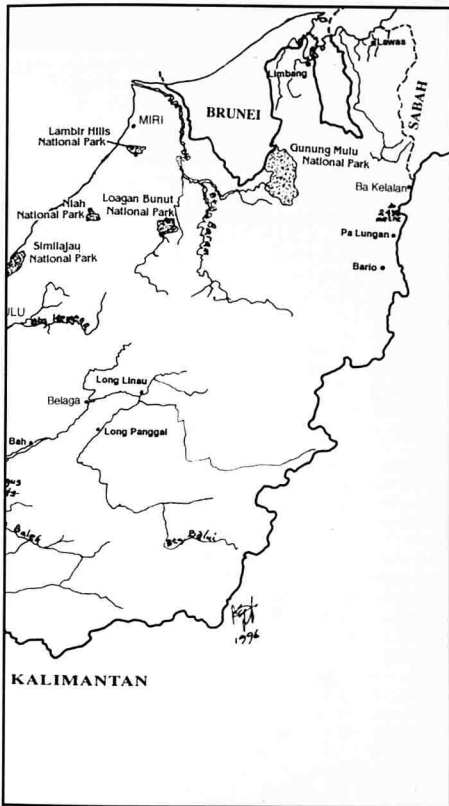
Sarawak



SOUTH CHINA SEA



Sarawak - Geography



Sarawak is situated in the north-west of Borneo, between latitudes 0° and 5° North and longitudes 109° and 115° East and borders Brunei, Sabah and Kalimantan, Indonesia. It is the largest state of Malaysia covering an area of 124,450 square kilometres (48,342 square miles) with a coastline 720 kilometres in length. Its highest point is Gunung Murud, 2,438 metres, and has the longest river in Malaysia, Batang Rajang, which stretches over 640 kilometres. Sarawak, with an average rainfall of over 200 inches per year, is an expansive network of rivers, rainforests, mangroves, swamp forests, mountains and has the world's oldest limestone caves.

Sarawak does not have a large network of roads due to the terrain of the centre of the State. The main road from Kuching to Miri, which is over 800 kilometres, passes through Serian, Sri Aman, Sarakei, Sibul, Bintulu and finally Miri. There are numerous side roads to other towns such as Kanowit, Mukah and Oya. All the routes are serviced by buses. Most of the travelling to the interior is by boat or by plane. Air services to the interior are operated by Malaysia Airlines, who run the Rural Air Services (RAS), to the small interior airports with their 19 seater Twin Otter planes.

There are regular express boat services from Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri up the main rivers and from the smaller towns longboats are available.