

# *Restless Spirits*

n o r t h   b o r n e o

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# SABAH

South China Sea

Kudat

Kota Belud

Tuaran

Ranau

Mt Kinabalu

Kota Kinabalu

Sandakan

Keningau

Sakau

Semporna

Tawau

Kalimantan



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# Foreword

**I**n a land as culturally diverse as Sabah, seeing is believing. Set against one of the most enthralling mixtures of nature's many splendours, the tapestry of life in this northern "corner" of Borneo is a rich one. But where would or might one begin, if one were not from a culture indigenous to Sabah?

The views of life presented here are a combination of two talents, both amply focused on learning about the background and the business of everyday living among what would be the most colourful peoples and traditions that could be encountered. From afar, the Sabah scenery might be mistakenly assumed to be dominated by Mount Kinabalu, orang-utan and a cultural repertoire of several interesting dances. However, setting foot in this domain quickly establishes that the fascination occupies an almost never-ending realm. For Sabah is a land of many cultures, contrasts and reassuring comforts. From wherever one comes, the simple beauty of such an incredible range of subjects beckons the curiosity—from dance to superstition, language to dress, crafts to livelihoods, and seas to mountains—and in a moment one begins, even when not quite ready, to observe, absorb and understand.

It is the nature of life in this land that captivates. Sabah is a whirlpool of attractions. And the guides and commentaries, aplenty since two centuries ago, are astonishing in range and content. So one looks for a cross-section, if that is at all possible, recognising the diverse ways in which different cultures can discover and interpret other cultures. Here, the co-makers of this account have tried to record what they have discovered for themselves, a testimony of how refreshing and enjoyable Sabah has been, and is, in their eyes.



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