

best of kinabalu park

Malaysia's First World Heritage Site

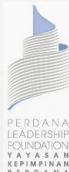
SABAH
malaysian borneo

9521



A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

through **KINABALU PARK**, Malaysia's First World Heritage Site



best of kinabalu park

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“ This BEST OF KINABALU PARK photo book is my photography journeys through Kinabalu Park over the years. I hope this book will be able to generate a new and fresh perspective of Kinabalu Park. ”

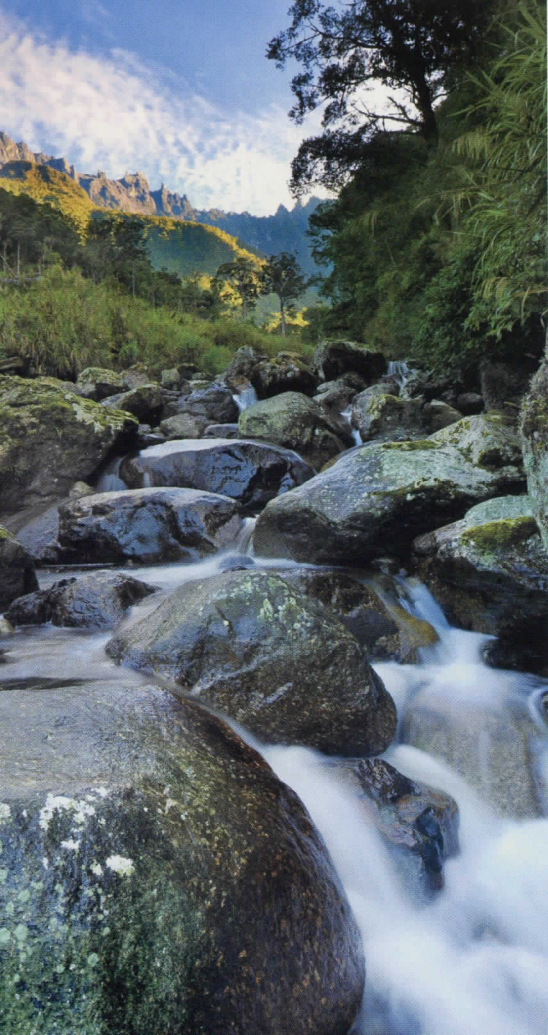
John Kong

best of kinabalu park



the journeys

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foreword message

There have been publications on Kinabalu Park from easy-to-read brochures to every day guide books and massive coffee table books. This condensed version of a pictorial guide and travel book is an excellent endeavour to highlight the best of Kinabalu Park through stunning images and candid descriptions.

I would like to express my thanks to the photographer and publisher of “The Best of Kinabalu Park” for taking this initiative to show not only the best but also the unexplored and rarely seen images of this amazing nature reserve and its stand out feature, Mount Kinabalu.

“... Sabah is blessed with an abundance of captivating features....”

Tourism has always been a mainstay of Sabah's economy and it is important to keep it fresh and exciting to encourage more visitors with diverse interests to come here. Photography is one aspect that we can take advantage of as Sabah is blessed with an abundance of captivating features such as its geographical landscape, biodiversity, people and cultures.

With 160 pages of high-quality photographs, this book is a fantastic resource to appreciate the splendour of Kinabalu Park and its natural features. It would also be a much valued gift to inspire the inner photographer and traveller in you.

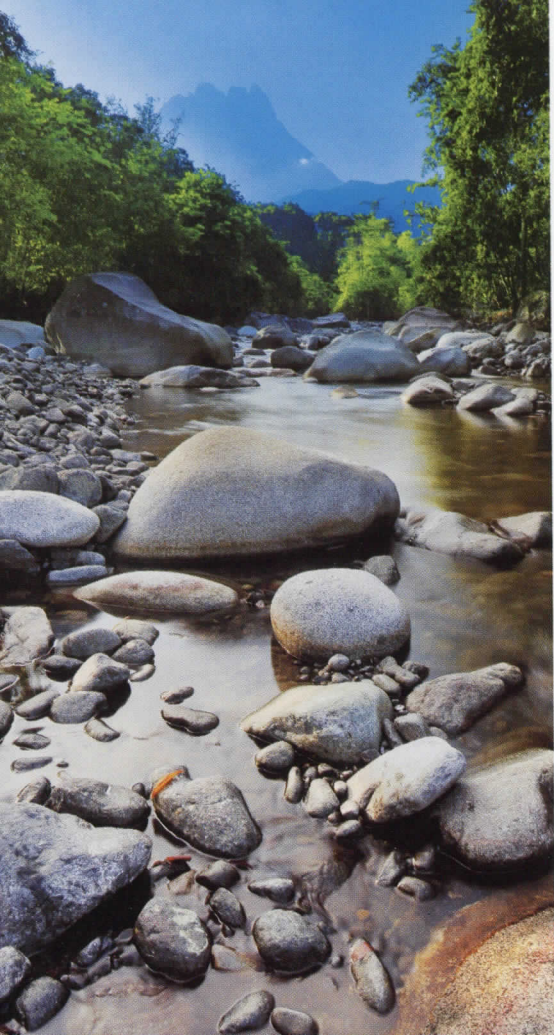
YB Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Masidi Manjun
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment Sabah



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KePKAS



foreword message

It is a pleasure for me to say a few words about this very timely publication. Kinabalu Park and Mount Kinabalu in particular, is one of the most popular destination for photography enthusiasts and it is easy to understand why. As you turn over the pages of this book, the exceptional beauty of the park, the mountain and its surroundings come alive.

I would like to congratulate the photographer and publisher of this book who had spent long hours traversing every corner of Kinabalu Park to bring you such a wonderful selection of photos. I hope they will spark a desire in your heart to visit Kinabalu Park and to experience a similar photographic journey.

**“... the exceptional beauty of the park,
the mountain and its surroundings come alive.....”**

Complemented with its convenient size, practical travel information and simple yet effective photographic layout, this book will appeal to a wide variety of readers. From leisure tourists on the road to adventure to the avid photography buff in search of locations to capture Mount Kinabalu at its best, this book will be an indispensable guide and travel companion.

I hope this edition will be a start to more photographic journeys of Sabah Parks' other nature jewels.

YB Datuk Joniston Bangkuai
Chairman, Sabah Tourism Board (STB)





YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamed,
Foreword message

A special mountain deserves a special photo essay; and it is epitomized by 'BEST OF KINABALU PARK, Malaysia's First World Heritage Site' by John Kong, the author and photographer applying the adage 'A picture is worth a thousand words' true to form. The magnificent Mount Kinabalu is the majestic summit of Borneo, the world's third largest island. Kinabalu Park is a botanical paradise, centre of endemism and a beacon of biodiversity in Southeast Asia, harbouring more than half of all Borneo plant species. Borneo is the orchid treasures island of the world with two thirds of the 1,700 Borneo orchid native species being in Kinabalu Park, especially the crown jewel of the orchid world, the *Paphiopedilum Rothschildianum*. This spectacular Rothschild slipper orchid is the Sabah's state orchid. Kinabalu Park is also home to two species of *Rafflesia*, the world's largest flower as well as *Nepenthes rajah*, the world's largest pitcher plant. It also has the highest number of plant species per unit area in the world with over 5,500 species of vascular plants in just 120 sq. km across 6 vegetation zones, from tropical to alpine that one can experience spring, summer, autumn and winter in just a single day climb in a safe, conducive and enabling environment. To the more adventurous climbers, Kinabalu offers the world's highest Via Ferrata according to the Guinness World Records, and is fast emerging as Asia's premier alpine playground with a ceiling of a total 196 climbers a day on the 754 sq. km mountain to maintain

“... The magnificent Mount Kinabalu is the majestic summit of Borneo the world’s third largest island....”

carrying capacity and limit of acceptable change. All these, enhanced by the spectacular natural landscape and unique living heritage are beautifully and professionally presented in this classic photographic journey that resonates to the soul of the sacred ‘Aki Nabal’, its legend and mysticism, and a place that offers so much of nature and which remains securely conserved. Kinabalu Park has become not just a natural wonder to the people of Malaysia and of the world, but has also clearly emerged as an indispensable part of our scientific heritage with over 500 publications, mostly in scientific journals, of researches on the natural treasures of this incomparable mountain.

The Kinabalu Park which was established in 1964 is charged with protecting the mountain; in managing and encouraging these very aspects we are proud to note that it has been most successful in conserving, promoting the scientific, educational, recreational interest and eco-tourism regarding Mount Kinabalu. At the same time, it brings socio economic benefits to the local community around the Park and provides wellbeing to the indigenous people at the foothills of this great mountain so they can continue living in harmony with nature embraced by Kinabalu Park, Malaysia’s first UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Y.M. Dato' Seri Tengku Dr. Zainal Adlin Bin Tengku Mahamood
Chairman, Sabah Parks Board of Trustees



SABAH

malaysian borneo

Sabah is on the northern tip of the mystical Island of Borneo, the world's third largest island. Also known as the "Land below the Wind", Sabah lies below the typhoon and monsoon belt, and is thus sheltered from the more dramatic caprices of tropical weather. Sabah is a place where there is not a single month in the year without any special celebration. People of many creeds and from different cultural backgrounds share this unique place and make it their home.

Sabah's lush jungles – the oldest rainforest in the world – have provided an ideal playground for nature. Scientists from all over the world travel to Sabah to study the unique nature of this part of our planet, and only slowly from that we begin to realise what treasure nature has given to us. Sabah has also some of the most astounding diving destinations on earth, the underwater world offering just as many wonders, if not more, than Sabah's rainforest.

From the largest flower to the smallest deer in the world, flying lizards and flying frogs, orangutans, proboscis monkeys, black orchids, pitcher plants and from Borneo's only elephants to the exceedingly rare Sumatran rhino, Sabah really has it all.

Climbing Mount Kinabalu is already an adventure in itself, though shared with many same-minded climbers, a thrilling experience is certainly the Padas White Water Rafting. And if you are looking for true trekking adventures through some of Sabah's last truly undeveloped areas, trekking in the Crocker Range with 3 of the highest peaks in Malaysia might just be what you are looking for!



kinabalu park

Situated still among the wailing winds, Kinabalu Park is cradled in the arms of lush luminescent green. The green foliage stretches into the parks interior when your eyes gravitate towards the high pull of land that succumbs into a grey granite that is Mount Kinabalu, the queen jewel of the park. It is the highest mountain between the Himalayas and New Guinea, standing at 4,095 metres tall. Shying away in a swirl of clouds, or basking in the warm glow of the day's sun, Mount Kinabalu looms over the whole park. A common sight at all corners of this national park.

Surrounding the gentle yet magnificent beauty of Mount Kinabalu, Kinabalu Park covers approximately 75,370 hectares of land. With an altitudinal range of 1,520 metres to 4,095 metres above sea level, the park covers 6 vegetation zones from lowland rainforest to alpine scrub. It is dubbed the centre of plant diversity for South East Asia and was made Malaysia's First World Heritage Site in December 2000.

Location: Districts of Kota Belud, Kota Marudu & Ranau

Area: 754 Km² / 75,370 Hectares

Established Year: 1964

Coordinate: 6°09'N 116°39'E

Nearest City: Kota Kinabalu



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE in December 2000



A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

through **KINABALU PARK**, Malaysia's First World Heritage Site

Standing in majestic solitude, Mount Kinabalu has beckoned thousands of visitors to its lush forest-covered foothills and jagged granite peaks to capture its many changing moods, vistas and colours through the lens. This easy to carry book is a compilation of such photographs that reveal the beauty of Mount Kinabalu in the heart of Kinabalu Park as seen through the eyes of a photographer, an adventurer, an intrepid traveller and a nature lover.

Each photograph in this brilliantly illustrated booklet tells a unique story of rivers, rainforest, flora and fauna that has earned Kinabalu Park the recognition as a world heritage site. Practical information on park facilities and travel advice completes this must-have edition to make your journey through Kinabalu Park an enriching experience.

Y.M Dato' Seri Tengku Dr. Zainal Adlin Bin Tengku Mahamood
Chairman, Sabah Parks Board of Trustee



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