

MALAYSIA TOURISM NEWS

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Celebrating 50 Years of Nationhood



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The Visit Malaysia Year logo design is a stylised illustration of the hibiscus or *Bunga Raya*, Malaysia's national flower. The logo carries the slogan 'Celebrating 50 Years of Nationhood' to highlight the golden anniversary of the country's independence. It carries with it the idea of self-governance and freedom.



Cover Photo :
**White Water Rafting
at Kampar River**

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Villa Sentosa

The house, which received the Best Traditional House award during the 2007 Melaka Tourism Awards recently, is as old as Kampong Morten itself as it was built by one of the village's founders and its headman, Tuan Haji Hashim bin Dato' Demang Haji Abdul Ghani in 1920.

Unlike typical Melakan Malay traditional houses commonly found in the village, Villa Sentosa was built in the style of "urban Malay house" which was fashionable during the turn of the 20th century without sacrificing the traditional Malay architecture of the region.

The house was mainly constructed in timber with minimal partitions or interior walls inside the house, allowing for the flexible use of space and for good ventilation and lighting of the interiors.

Villa Sentosa has now been converted by family members of the late Tuan Haji Hashim bin Dato' Demang Haji Abdul Ghani into a private museum. All visitors will be entertained by the family members of the house. Guided tours are also conducted for the visitors to view an intriguing collection of costumes, Malay embroidery, furniture, muskets and an array of interesting relics.

The admission is free. However, donations are most welcome to maintain and upkeep the house.

Visiting hours:

Friday : 2.45pm - 5.00pm.

Other days : 9.00am - 1.00pm and
2.00pm - 5.00pm.



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Malaysian Culinary Journey with Rohani Jelani



To those familiar with the Far East, Malaysia is, quite simply, a gastronomic heaven. The country's unique ethnic blend of Malays, Chinese and Indians brings together the widest imaginable range of fine Asian cuisine. That in itself is already a stunning reason to visit Malaysia.

But the story continues. The interaction between these diverse races over the centuries combined with the influence of various colonial powers, have resulted in a truly Asian 'fusion' food culture. For where else in the world can you taste a superb Indian curry infused with unmistakable Chinese and Malay undertones? Or wonder at the brilliance of a *nyonya* (Straits Chinese) dish that not only contains Indian spices but also a couple of ingredients borrowed unashamedly, from the English pantry? Or be stunned by sour Assam dishes further inspired by Thai and local Malay herbs? The permutations are as limitless as they are wonderfully delicious, and not a little bewildering.

To make sense of it all is Rohani Jelani, a Cordon Bleu trained cook and food writer who has never lost her roots in the excitement that is Malaysian food. Those lucky enough to find themselves at her cooking classes get to experience first hand, the joy of creating delicious,

authentic Malaysian dishes. Her classes are bright, cheerful, informative, and above all, enjoyable. Participants not only make every dish from scratch, but also get to sit down and savour the delicious results in a lovely, relaxed atmosphere alongside other food enthusiasts.

Rohani believes people learn by doing and that this hands-on approach is a much more effective way to impart a recipe than merely demonstrating the making of a dish. What is even better is that students can later amaze their friends and family back home by recreating mouth-watering Malaysian favourites like beef *rendang*, curry *laksa* or *ayam percik* in their own kitchens.

For more information and the latest schedules, please visit Rohani's website on <http://www.rohanijelani.com> or contact her at rohani@cooking.net if you have any special requirements.



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