

# CONTENT

PREFACE DR AZMIL MUNIF MOHD BUKHARI	2
TUNKU TEMENGGONG KEDAH, ROYAL PATRON	3
MR WAN KAMARUL FAISAL WAN KAMARDIN	
PROF. EMERITUS DATO' DR IBRAHIM KOMOO	
WHAT IS A GEOPARK?	6
CO-MANAGEMENT CONCEPT	7
GEOTOURISM TUBA	8
OBOTOURISM TOBA	•
GEOPARK CORNER AT SCHOOL	10
RELIGIONS TRAIL - MASJID AL HANNA	11
COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM PROGRAM	
'ARCA DASAR LAUT'	12
LAMAN PADI LIVING MUSEUM	13
ZERO KM FOOD	14
DIGITAL NOMAD	16
ASIA PACIFIC GEOPARKS NETWORK	17
ORANG LANGKAWI	18
EXPLORING GLOBAL GEOPARKS	20
MUDEUNGSAN GEOPARK AND	
MAROS PANGKEP GEOPAR	
TOURISM AWARD	22
AWARDS & RECOGNITION	23
	24
	24
GEOPARK PARTNER	26
GEOPARK PRODUCTS	30
EVENT - GEOPARK ENDURO	32
EVENT - IRONMAN	
	9
EVENT - SAND BAR WALK	34

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



#### DR AZMIL MUNIF MOHD BUKHARI

Manager of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark

A very warm welcome from Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark!

For Malaysia as a whole, 2022 was a year of recovery, and Langkawi embarked on a journey of the return to normalcy. The significant increase of tourism activities on the island was definitely a welcoming relief for the local economy which had gone through a steep decline, as with the rest of the world.

Many unfortunate losses were sustained during the COVID-19 pandemic, but with a huge decrease in human activity during the lockdowns, nature and the biological ecosystem on the island had time for recuperation. The amazing flora and fauna across Langkawi Geopark have prospered and received a well-deserved break from the typical hustle and bustle of everyday human life.

This gave domestic and international tourists returning to the island, an unforgettable chance to enjoy the flourishing beauty of Langkawi like never before.

The need to be more present online saw the improvement of internet infrastructure, and programs like the Digital Nomad Visa gave Langkawi a significant edge in becoming one of the premier destinations for digital nomads from around the globe, to choose the island as their new home.

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Geopark And Sustainability Section, Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) Kompleks LADA, P.O. Box 60, Jalan Persiaran Putra,

07000 Langkawi, Kedah Darul Aman, MALAYSIA

- 604 9600 600
- 604 9600 509
- 🔀 geopark@lada.gov.my
- www.instagram.com/langkawiunescoglobalgeopark
- www.facebook.com/langkawiglobalgeopark
- mww.langkawigeopark.com.my



Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGCp) continues to be a jewel of Kedah State that holds a special place in my heart. Since its designation of UNESCO Global Geopark, I have lent my time and effort, to support the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) in its mission to promote tourism, whilst at all times preserving the natural beauty of Langkawi.

Langkawi UGCp is a shining example for sustainable tourism & development in the Asia Pacific region. This makes me very proud and I will continue to support the efforts, activities and initiatives of the managers and stakeholders responsible for the development of geoparks in this region, and the implementation of best practices in managing Langkawi's unique natural and cultural heritage.

Sharing of knowledge obtained from studies conducted at the Langkawi Research Centre, and the wealth of expertise from all parties involved on proper geopark governance and management, has made it possible for the local communities in Kilim and Kubang Badak to manage their own geo-heritage site, as an effort to grow geo-tourism activities in Langkawi.

I take great pride in Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark's achievement in being appointed as reference centre and advisor to the Asia Pacific Global Geopark Network. This truly highlights all the hard work and dedication put forth by the Langkawi UGGp team.

As the royal patron of the only UNESCO Global Geopark in the world to have one, I pledge to stay committed in overseeing the sustainable development of Langkawi UCCp for our future generations.

# FOREWORD



Deputy Chief Executive Office of LADA

#### Greetings to all our beloved readers.

As a island destination in Malaysia filled with mythic tales and wonderous natural beauty, Langkawi continues to be one of Southeast Asia's premier tropical island paradise. Its designation of UNESCO Global Geopark status in 2007, made the Langkawi Island archipelago the first of its kind to receive this recognition in Southeast Asia.

Since being awarded this prestigious status, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark have put forth many initiatives and efforts towards establishing sustainable tourism and development in Langkawi. We have implemented a strategy to balance economic growth, whilst at all times ensuring the preservation of the island's natural environment.

In 2022, Langkawi saw a very healthy rise in tourism activity, with many domestic and international tourists returning to the island for their holiday getaways. This is due to the ease of accessibility, with a significant increase of flights in-and-out of Langkawi and ferry schedule returning to normal as per before COVID-19 restrictions.

Langkawi was also very fortunate to have been declared a 'green zone' during the pandemic, and became part of a safe travel bubble program for domestic tourism. The island welcomed more than 90,000 visitors in the first 27 days, despite the rest of the country facing lockdowns and travel restrictions.

In conclusion, as 2022 saw the return of international tourists to the country, Langkawi's international status as an island destination saw a huge spike in tourism. With 2023 set to be a return of more internationally renowned events to be held in Langkawi, like LIMA and Ironman, we look forward to welcoming new and returning visitors to our shores.

Welcome to Langkawi and we hope you have an amazing time exploring our UNESCO Global Geopark!



Welcome back from Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark!

Thank you for returning to this beautiful island and helping to make the Langkawi Geopark an incredible destination for geo-tourism in the region. Although the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 significantly slowed down human activity all over the world, Langkawi's 'green zone' designation allowed for domestic tourists to really take the time and appreciate the flourishing biodiversity thriving with reduced human interference.

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark has many geological, biological, and cultural heritage sites of national and international standing. Since Langkawi's designation as a Global Geopark in 2007, we've developed many geo-tourism products over the years, always adhering to the three key components of a Geopark's agenda: superior heritage conservation, knowledge-based tourism, and benefits to the local community.

We plan for Langkawi Geopark development in a focused manner, elevating and explaining natural phenomena that produce beautiful landscapes, earth history, uniqueness, and biological diversity, as well as cultural and natural relationships; all to spark the passion to protect and conserve the island's remarkable ecosystem.

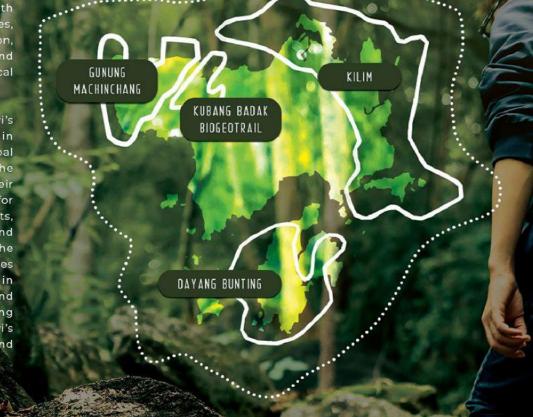
Langkawi UGCp aims to increase the source of income for the local community through geo-tourism activities. With plans to expand the bio-geotrails around Langkawi's Island archipelago, locals can look forward to more edu-based tourism as they also expand their knowledge and appreciation for the stunning geological and biological diversity of their island home. This in turn will enhance the infrastructure on the island, uplifting the local economy and improving the overall quality of life in the villages around Langkawi.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are defined as unified geographical areas where sites and unique landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark is made up of an archipelago of 99 islands within the district of Kedah State. This unique collection of islands are situated in the Andaman Sea, some 30 km off the coast of mainland North-western Malaysia.

The development of Langkawi UGGp revolves around three key factors of a region with significant natural treasures, superior heritage conservation, knowledge-based tourism, and benefits to the community.

At the core of Langkawi's longstanding success in maintaining its UNESCO Global Geopark status, community. With unyielding support geo-tourism geo-volunteer programs, geo-education efforts, the island's local communities continue to be pivotal in aligning tourism activities and offerings towards highlighting the value of Langkawi's geological, biological and cultural heritage.



LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL **GEOPARK GAZETTE 2022** 

# CO-MANAGEMENT CONCEPT

The management of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark employs the concept of co-management; whereby all acts and standard operating procedures are based on existing laws, created by the various government agencies.

The success of the 'Global Geopark' concept falls under the purview of the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) and the State Covernment of Kedah; sharing a common goal of achieving sustainable development and promoting the outstanding geological, biological and cultural heritage of Langkawi

This led to the formation of the Langkawi Geopark and Sustainability Section, a specialized team under the management of LADA to oversee the daily operation of Geopark initiatives and activities.

The management of Langkawi UGGp is overarching by an Advisory Council, chaired by the Chief Minister of Kedah with three coordination committees. These committees play important roles in advising LADA and other stakeholders on various aspects of geopark development, particularly scientific research input, planning for future development, recommendations of areas or sites for conservation, and promotion of Langkawi Geopark locally and internationally.

Yang Teramat Mulia Dato' Seri Diraja Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Sarinaz Binti Almarhum Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah

GEOPARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

YAB Chief Minister of Kedah

ADVISOR

Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr Ibrahim Komoo

COORDINATION COMMITTEE Chief Executive Officer

(CEO) LADA

#### SECRETARIAT

Geopark and Sustainability Unit, Langkawi Development Authority (LADA)

#### PROMOTION & PHYSICAL **DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

Deputy CEO LADA (Planning and Development)

#### **EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Deputy CEO LADA** (Management)

#### **CONSERVATION & SCIENTIFIC** SUB-CIMMITTEE

Chair Langkawi Geopark Geologist

#### **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

- 2. Forestry Department
- Marine Department
- 4. District Education Office 5. Public Works Department
- 7. Langkawi District Office
- 8. Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency
- Royal Malaysian Navy

- 12. Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia
- 13. Department of Environment 14. Mineral & Geoscience Department
- 15. Wildlife Department

#### CORPORATE AND NGO

- . Friends of Langkawi Geopark (FLAG)
- 2. Malaysia Association of Hotels (MAH)
- Langkawi Tourism Association (LTA) 4. Langkawi Tourism Industry (LTI)
- 5. Langkawi Tourist Guides Association (LTGA)
- 7. Langkawi Business Association (LBA)

- 10. MareCet (Marine Mammal Research & Conservation
- 11. E-Idaman (Solid Waste Management)
- 12. MBHA (Malaysia Budget Hotel Association)
- Trash Hero Langkawi

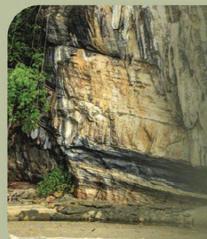
#### GEO-VOLUNTEER

- 4. Geopark In-House Guide

### This Just In!

# GEOTOURISM TUBA

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark introduces 5 new geo-trails on the



### KAMPUNG PULAU TUBA GEOTRAIL (TRIASSIC DEFORMATION)

Original village and the earliest known settlement of the Malay community on Pulau Tuba. Still in its original state, visitors to this scenic geotrail can witness the vertical limestone wall on the beach of the Sill Granite Geosite, and the Recumbent Fold Geosite of Bukit Kechil, which tells the history of compression of Langkawi's earth during the Triassic Period (200 – 250 millions years ago). This is an important event in the formation of Malaysia, as the largescale uplifting of granite magma caused the ocean floor to become landmass.



#### TAJUNG PELURU GEOTRAIL (DETRITAL LAYERS IN BETWEEN SETUL LIMESTONE)

This geotrail is located between the foot of the ridges, and originates from 450 million year-old layering of sedimentary rocks which were later forcibly uplifted to become land. The almost north-south oriented ridge on the east coast of Pulau Tuba, consists of layers of metamorphosed shale, phyllite, and quartzite. Some of these rock layers are exposed to the coast, forming capes and rocky coastlines that are resistant to wave erosion. The sandy coastal part of the bay is mostly decorated with coastal plants, while tall trees of lowland dipterocarp forest populate the foot of the ridge all the way to the top.



#### SELAT TUBA GEOTRAIL (VALLEY OF GRANITIC RIDGE)

This landscape of granite ridge shows the uplift of the landmass during the Triassic Period (200 – 250 million years ago), which was followed by weathering and water erosion that produced a landscape of granite tor, lumpy beaches, and smooth rocks. Mangrove forests along the strait and granite forests in the hilly areas add on to the biodiversity heritage value. Local villagers in this region still maintain traditional lifestyle with economic activities based on fishing and agriculture.



### TELUK BEREMBANG GEOTRAIL (WAVE DEPOSITION OF THE QUATERNARY ERA)

Sandy beaches, lagoons and series of sand bars alternating with tributaries are modern landscapes formed since the Quaternary period (2.5 millions years ago). Pulau Tuba originated from two islands separated by a shallow sea, Tanjung Peluru hills in the east and limestone granite hills in the west. Continual deposits from wave processes has created ridges that united the two islands. This scenic location consists of lagoon habitats and migratory birds, as well as quaint life of a coastal fishing community.



### GUA WANG BULOH GEOTRAIL (KARST LANDFORM AND BIODIVERSITY)

This trekking geotrial climbs through the limestone forest and ends at Wang Buloh Cave, which is the highest cave in Langkawi. Wang Buloh Cave is pristine and has beautiful cave features such as flowstones that resemble someone who is praying, elephants, and curtains; this adds to the mystery of the cave. The journey along this geotrail offers a new experience for tourists to enjoy the natural heritage of Pulau Tuba.



GEOPARK GAZETTE 2022

Starting Em' Young

# GEOPARK CORNER AT SCHOOL

Aiming to lead the way for geo-education initiatives for geoparks in the region, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark is proud to become the only Global Geopark to have 'Geopark Corners' in every school on the island; with the theme of 'Celebrating Earth's Heritage Sustaining Local Communities'.

These 'Geopark Corners' are designated areas in the school where information & knowledge about Geoparks are displayed, and utilised by all students, teachers and visitors to the school to have extra-curricular activities and other Geopark educational programs.

The set-up and development of these Geopark Corners were done by the teachers and students of the respective schools. The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) alongside Langkawi Research Centre UKM (PPL UKM) provided support and insights on how best to curate and display information about Langkawi Geoparks. The dedication and hard work from all the teachers and students were truly inspiring and a great example of the 'co-management' aspect of our Geopark governance concept.

These are the Top Three Best Geopark Corner in Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark:

- 1. Sekolah Kebangsaan Kedawang
- 2. Sekolah Kebangsaan Kelibang
- 3. Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Teriang

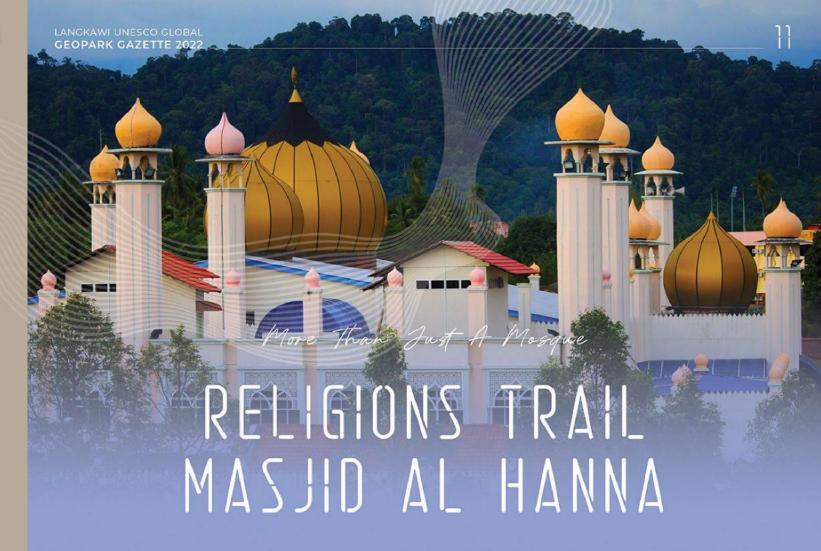
The Langkawi Development Authority congratulates all winners on a job well done!

Geoparks offer opportunities to give insights into the importance of natural heritage to children and adults of all ages; therefore we encourage other schools, institutions and visitors to engage with the schools in Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, in order to create the necessary awareness about the Geopark's role in educating communities on sustainable tourism practices and understanding langkawi's geological history.









Al Hana' Mosque, located in the heart of Kuah Town, was built in 1890 and is the oldest mosque in Langkawi. With the increase of Langkawi Muslim community since its initial construction, Al Hana' Mosque was rebuilt in a new location to cater for the growing congregation in 1959.

The idea for the new location for Al Hana' Mosque was originally proposed by our First Prime Minister, A Marhum Tunku Abdul Rahman, and mutually agreed upon by the appointed District Officer of Langkawi, to have an iconic building on Langkawi Island that can be seen from the sea, even at considerable distance from the coastline.

During the rebuilding process, the base of Al Hana Mosque was built on hard work, physical labour and perseverance of the local community, as they only had basic wood saws and hoes.

The coming together of the entire community on this construction project is truly inspiring, and in 1959 the construction was taken over by the government and was finally completed in 1961. Al Hana' Mosque was officially launched in 1961 by, Al Marhum Tunku Abdul Rahman.

Over the years and with a steadily growing population in Langkawi, Al Hana' Mosque has gone through renovation twice, in 1995 and in 2007. The Middle Eastern inspired architecture along with sculpted interior designs featuring a hybrid of Uzbekistan and Malay elements, makes Al Hana' Mosque particularly famous amongst visitors performing their prayers during their visit to Kuah Town.

With modern facilities and amenities such as seminar and lecture halls, mini library, kindergarten, multi-purpose hall, dining hall, and catering equipment, Al Hana' Mosque becomes a one-stop centre for various community activities that benefits the community in Kuah and Langkawi as a whole.

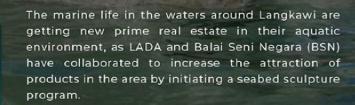
For more information on the other Mosques found along Langkawi's Religious Trail, log onto naturallylangkawi.mv for the full list.





Home For the Fishies!

# COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM PROGRAM ARCA DASAR LAUT'



In addition, this seabed sculpture program has been successfully implemented and listed as one of the most seabed sculptures in Malaysia in the Malaysian Book Of Records!

This program was set in motion on November 11, 2021 and was finally realized on May 23, 2022 where a total of nine local artists, Tengku Sabri Tengku Ibrahim, Abdul Multhalib Musa, Ahmad Fuad Osman, Dr. Zainuddin Abindin present, Low Chee Peng, Maxine Xie Xian Xin, Mohd Al Khuzairie Ali, Mohd Radzi Ismail, and Umibaizurah Mahir, embarked on a huge art project to show off their creative prowess; the theme of this art project...'Underwater sculptures with the concept of myths and legends of Langkawi'.

These 9 creative minds delivered with a total of 14 unique and beautiful sculptures, which have now become a new attraction for divers to Langkawi and listed in the Malaysia Book of Records.

The launch of this sculpture was officiated by the then Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Datuk Nancy Shukri.



www.artgallery.gov.my

Rice is a BIG deal in Southeast Asia, and for the local islanders in Langkawi it's more than just a source of food, it's an integral part of their cultural heritage.

LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL

**GEOPARK GAZETTE 2022** 

Visitors to Langkawi can experience the traditional way of rice cultivation in Malaysia, at Laman Padi in Pantai Cenang.

Sprawling across more than 14 acres with enormous stretches of paddy fields under the watchful eyes of mud and water buffalos, this rice paddy museum gives visitors a glimpse on the rustic way of life in Langkawi for many generations.

With a heritage gallery, paddy gallery, herbs garden and even a garden of variety whereby the rice paddy are planted at different times to showcase the journey of the paddy from seeding to harvesting, you'll definitely be immersing yourself on what it's like to be a rice paddy farmer!

There's also Kerisik Restaurant where you can indulge on traditional Malay delicacies sawah style, set against a very instagrammable golden hue of the vast paddy fields during the paddy ripening session.



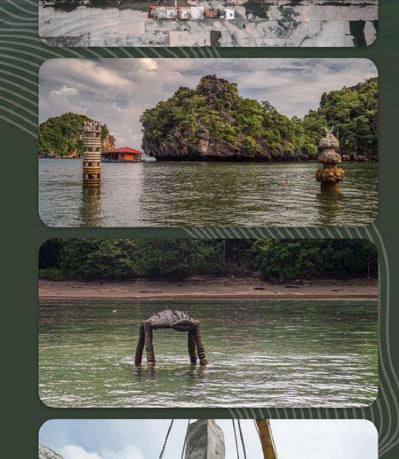
If you give Me Rice, I'll Eat Today.
If you teach Me How To Grow Rice, I'll Eat Everyday.

LAMAN PADE

LIVING MUSEUM









The unique geological heritage of Langkawi plays an integral part in the type of food sources available, and determines the way local producers, farmers, and entrepreneurs within Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark are able to empower themselves economically, whilst preserving traditions in the way the food goes from 'farm to table'.

Here are some of the local food products that have been developed by enterprising Geoparkians, to give visitors an insight into the unique delicacies and food items the island has to offer, providing them with a wide array of products that is made right on the island:



#### MC GEMILANG NATURAL WATER

LWI Blue's natural mineral water source comes from a filtration system made up of the highest granite mountain in Langkawi, Gunung Raya. Reserves of potable natural mineral water below the ancient Langkawi rainforests at the base of Gunung Raya created the company MC Gemilang, as they set about harnessing this gift of Langkawi to share with Langkawi's residents and visitors.



#### **BRONOK SALAD**

As with it's common cousin the sea cucumber, the bronok (sea potato) has a myriad of health benefits; many traditional medicines and nutritious cuisine featuring this sweet sea potato, has made it a local island delicacy. If you're a connoisseur of unique salads, definitely be on the lookout for kerabu beronok, it's definitely worth the trip to Langkawi!



#### VIRGIN COCONUT OIL

The many uses and healing benefits of coconut oil go beyond people's expectation, coconut is indeed a true superfood. Here in Langkawi, amidst the natural beauty of Datai Valley, a very enterprising businesswoman have been spreading the health benefits of virgin coconut oil in maintaining overall vitality for many years. This product is a great example of using the natural gifts provided by the environment.



#### MADU KELULUT

Kelulut Honey (madu in Malay) comes from a large tribe of bees called Meliponini, and are closely related to the common honey bee, carpenter bees and bumblebees. The key difference that sets these Kelulut bees apart, are their non-functioning stingers for defence (hence also commonly known as 'stingless bees'). The honey produced from these stingless bees are nutrient rich and extremely high in antibacterial resistance compared to normal honey.



#### LAKTUD & MEE KETAM

Perhaps one of the more recent food discovery over the past decade is Laktud; a type of seaweed from a species of green algae found mainly in the Indo-Pacific region. This laktud is normally eaten raw or served as a salad. With fresh ingredient around, visitors to Crab Farm Langkawi can enjoy a delectable combination of Laktud salad and crab noodles.

### Home Is Where you Make It.

## DIGITAL NOMAD

### OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE OUR AMAZING GEOPARK WHILE "WORKING"



With the implementation of the 'Langkawi Digital Nomad Visa' in 2021, this island paradise has become a popular destination amongst digital nomads who choose to stay in Langkawi for up to 1 year, with the possibility of extending their stay for another year.

Besides the stunning natural beauty and relaxed island lifestyle in Langkawi, digital nomads can enjoy other incentives such as:

#### 1. TAX EXEMPTION

Digital nomads who participate in the program are exempt from paying personal income tax in Malaysia.

#### 2. SIMPLIFIED VISA PROCESS

The visa application process is streamlined and can be done online, making it easy and convenient.

#### 3. BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Langkawi is a hub for entrepreneurs and business owners, offering opportunities for networking and collaboration.

But that's not all! Here are other benefits to calling Langkawi your new home for the foreseeable future:

#### (A) INTERNET ACCESS

Langkawi has decent internet access, especially in busy areas such as Pantai Cenang and Kuah. Popular internet service providers available in the area include TM Unifi, Maxis, and Digi. This makes it easy for digital nomads to work online and stay connected with their clients and colleagues.

#### ACCOMMODATION

From villas and apartments to hotels, there is a range of affordable options available. Just scroll through popular booking websites till you find the right place!

#### WORKSPACES

Langkawi offers various workspace options, including cafes and coworking spaces. One recommended workspace is Coco Valley Langkawi, located in Pantai Cenang. This space offers a comfortable and peaceful environment with high-speed internet access, perfect for getting work done.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Being a major holiday destination for tourism, Langkawi has a myriad of transportation option, including renting a motorbike or car to explore the island. Public transportation is also available in the form of e-hailing and taxis. So getting around is not an

#### YY ACTIVITIES

You're in an island paradise, so if it involves sun, sea and sky...there an activity for it. From surfing, jet skiing, scuba diving, jungle trekking and paragliding, there are plenty of options to choose from.

So if you're looking to soak in the warm waters of the Andaman Sea and feel some sand between your toes, come to Langkawi and work in tranquillity.

### It's Been An Eventful Year!

# ASIA PACIFIC GEOPARKS NETWORK

In 2022, as more and more Asia Pacific countries opened up to international travel, APGN activities



#### LET'S CELEBRATE OUR PLANET!

On 25th April 2022, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark organised an Earth Day 2022. The webinar featured speakers from four geoparks, namely Langkawi UGGp, Khorat aUGGp (Thailand), Rinjani-Lombok UGGp (Indonesia) and Hong Kong UGGp (China). The webinar was attended by more than 240 participants from various regions around the globe including Asia, Middle East, and European Countries.



#### IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO GET TOGETHER

Over a span of 3 eventful days, 21st - 23rd October 2022, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark successfully hosted the 5th Regional Course on the Global Geopark Network and Asia Pacific Geoparks Network family. With the theme of 'Utilizing Geosite for Geotourism Product', a panel of 7 experts from all over the world came together for a forum and sharing session, to give their unique insights on managing a successful geopark.



#### SAWADEE KRAP AND IRASSHAIMASE FRIENDS!

From 14th - 18th November 2023, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark played host to Muroto UGGp (Japan) and Satun UGGp (Thailand), as part of the Geopark Sistership Exchange Program. The 4 days were spent showcasing Langkawi's unique geological, biological and cultural definitely an unforgettable cross-culture learning experience filled with smiles and laughter, strengthening the bond between these 3 Global Geoparks.

### Tales From the Mystical Island Of Langkawi.

# ORANG LANGKAWI



local businesses who's been around for generations, interesting hobbies that's not in inspiring local heroes who make a difference to Langkawi, just by being themselves.

https://www.instagram.com/oranglangkawi

https://www.youtube.com/@OrangLangkawi































# EXPLORING GLOBAL GEOPARKS MUDEUNGSAN GEOPARKS

For Langkawi to keep evolving as a UNESCO Global Geopark, it has to keep learning and share ideas of successful management practices and conservation efforts with other UNESCO Global Geoparks around the world.

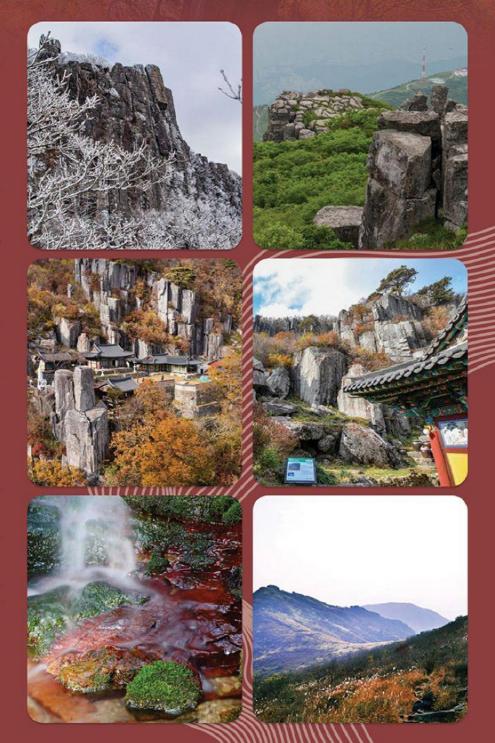
In 2022, Langkawi UGGp embarked on a journey across continents, whereby the team explored the wonders of Mudeungsan UNESCO Global Geopark in Korea and Maros Pangkep UNESCO Global Geopark in Indonesia.

These visits are part of a Geopark Sistership Exchange Program and have forged a strong bond of networking and cooperation between these Geoparks. Here's a look into the uniqueness of these Sister Geoparks to Langkawi UGGp:

#### MUDEUNGSAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK, KOREA

Nestled near the vibrant city of Gwangju, Mudeungsan Geopark showcases an awe-inspiring blend of geological marvels, diverse ecosystems, and rich cultural heritage. Mudeungsan Mountain, geopark's centerpiece, narrates a story that spans millions of years through its rugged cliffs, mesmerizing rock formations, and unique flora and fauna. The geopark is a haven for biodiversity, offering habitats such as forests, wetlands, and rivers. It also boasts a remarkable cultural heritage, with ancient temples, historical relics, and traditional villages dotting its landscape. Through its Geopark sistership with Langkawi Geopark, Mudeungsan Geopark actively engages in global networking and collaboration.

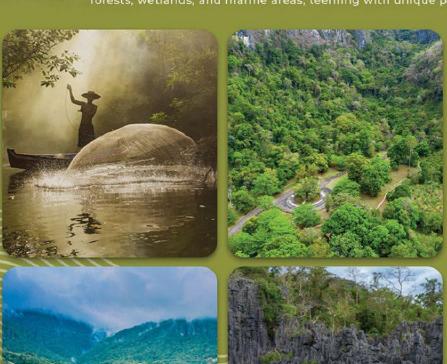
More info: https://geopark.gwangju.go.kr/



# EXPLORING GLOBAL GEOPARKS MAROS PANGKEP GEOPARK

#### MAROS PANGKEP UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK, INDONESIA

Situated in the enchanting region of South Sulawesi, Maros Pangkep Geopark is a treasure trove of natural wonders and cultural heritage. The geopark is renowned for its karst landscapes, featuring majestic limestone formations, crystal-clear lakes, and captivating underground rivers. It is home to diverse ecosystems, including



LANCKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL

**GEOPARK GAZETTE 2022** 

Maros Pangkep Geopark also heritage, with ancient cave art, Bugis-Makassar Pangkep Geopark actively



Geopark and Maros Pangkep yourselves, visit their websites for





LADA Bage Another One!

# TOURISM AWARD

The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) has done it again as the organisation won another award at the Asian Tourism and Hospitality (ATH) Awards 2022-23, being crowned as the 'Leading Government Tourism Board of the Year'.

The prestigious awards ceremony was held at Le Méridien, Kuala Lumpur. Attendees from various tourism and hospitality agencies from all around Asia came out dressed to the nines, as there were more than 200 nominees, from over 20 countries, with more than 90 finalists and 30 plus winners.

LADA was recognised for their efforts in establishing Langkawi as a renowned world-class tourism destination.

"We are extremely pleased to have been granted this prestigious award. To be acknowledged in front of our peers and fellow industry players will serve as a great motivation for us to keep pushing on in order to elevate Langkawi to greater heights.

We believe we are on the right track in our goal of ensuring Langkawi is established as a top tourist destination in the world. As a team fully focused on our goals, we are more motivated than ever to capitalise on the limitless opportunities which are aimed at accelerating the growth of tourism in Langkawi. We hope there are many more special nights like tonight on the horizon for LADA" said Deputy Chief Executive Office of LADA, Mr Wan Kamarul Faisal Wan Kamardin.

It was certainly a special evening at the Asian Tourism and Hospitality Awards, as the spirit of resilience and excellence was being celebrated. The acknowledgement of LADA as once of the exceptional contributors to the tourism industry, further elevates Langkawi's standing as a leading tourism destination in the region.

# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Going Beyond Excellence

It has been a great 2022 for Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark as we've won some very prestigious accolades in the travel and tourism industry.

These are the travel & tourism awards won by Langkawi UGGp:

Thank you to all the various agencies and tourism industry players who have been monumental in elevating the standard of tourism in Langkawi, and position the islands as a world-class destination for paradise seekers.

#### TRAVEL+

Top #5 Best Islands In Southeast Asia 2022



The Best Holiday Island in Malaysia 2022



Nation's Pride Tourism and Destination Branding Award 2022

### Träveler

Top #4 Best Islands In Asia : Readers' Choice Awards 2022

Best Resorts in Asia

Top #6: Four Seasons Top #10: The Datal Top #14: St. Regis





### Heroes Within The Local Community

# GEOPARK AMBASSADOR

The Geopark Ambassador Program appoints individuals from diverse background and social status in the community, to promote and spread awareness about Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark using their own platform and avenue.

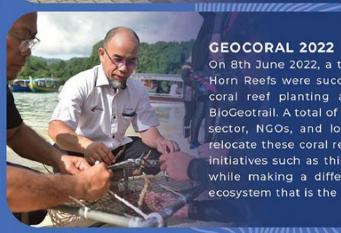
This ambassador program has proven to be the most effective way in rallying support for Geopark programs and

Here are some of the events in 2022 made possible through the support of our dedicated Geopark Ambassadors:



#### **GEOWALK 2022**

In conjunction with the launch of Langkawi Geopark 2022 Carnival, passionate Geoparkians took it upon themselves to celebrate 15 years of Langkawi's Global Geopark status with a 24 hour walk! Starting at 10 am on 31st May 2022 and finishing at 10 am on 1st June 2022, their strenuous walk covered a total of 70 km around Langkawi island. Throughout the arduous journey, participants crossed 15 Geosites and discovered not only the true beauty of Langkawi, but also the strength of their own



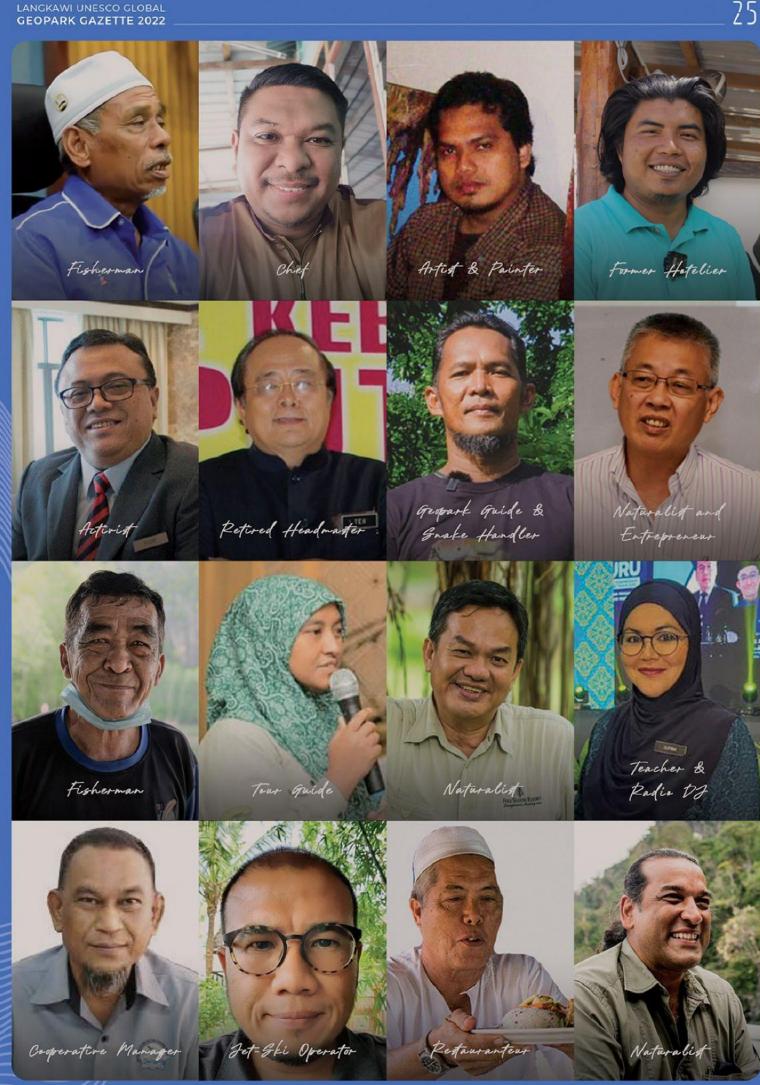
#### **GEOCORAL 2022**

On 8th June 2022, a total of 800 Acropora Formosa coral reefs or Deer Horn Reefs were successfully planted by Langkawi locals, as part of a coral reef planting and relocation program around Kubang Badak BioGeotrail. A total of 126 people from government agencies, the private sector, NGOs, and local communities came together to replant and relocate these coral reefs in the waters around Kubang Badak. Geopark initiatives such as this is the best way to cultivate the love for nature, while making a difference in preserving and conserving the marine ecosystem that is the habitat for aquatic life.



#### **GEOHIKING 2022**

In conjunction with the celebration of the 15th anniversary of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp), a mountain climbing expedition program "GeoHiking" was organized on 11th June 2022 at Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park. The program was attended by 60 participants from a variety of backgrounds led by a group of certified Geopark tour guides. The climbing expedition took 6 hours with a peak altitude of 708m above sea level. Participants were treated to a breathtaking 360° panoramic view of the Manchinchang mountain peaks, stunning green landscapes of Singa formation, and of course views of Langkawi's most beautiful beaches.



### You've Got A Friend In Me

# GEOPARK PARTNERS

All of the efforts and hard work put forth by the team at Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark would not have been enough, were it not for the help of the local communities and valued partners to Langkawi UGGp.

Here a little bit about the wonderful organisations and agencies that has passionately supported Langkawi UGGp in Geo-tourism initiatives, in their own way:



### GEOPARK DISCOVERY CENTRE @ FOUR SEASONS RESORT LANGKAWI

Located right in the heart of luxury, the Four Seasons Resort Langkawi Geopark Discovery Centre, provides guests with an enriching experience through a series of exhibition boards and interactive presentations to learn about the regions' oldest and most spectacular rock formations alongside habitats as diverse as rainforests, mangroves, flora and fauna. Their Resident Naturalists, Aidi and Amy, will walk you through the wonder that is Langkawi's UNESCO Global Geopark.



### ECO-DISCOVERY CENTRE @ THE RITZ-CARLTON LANGKAWI

Built specially for young explorer, Ritz Kids Eco-Discovery Centre is dedicated to create meaningful experiences and memories, with a wide-ranging program learning sessions designed to open eyes and minds to the wonders of nature. The humble sea cucumber is also a valued guest at The Ritz-Carlton Langkawi, as there's a 'gamat' nursery tasked to promote the protection of these amazing creatures.



#### NATURE CENTRE @ THE DATAI LANGKAWI

When it comes to natural surroundings, The Datai Langkawi is blessed with an abundance of plants and wildlife. The Nature Centre within this ultra-luxurious resort, houses a library full of references to the natural world of Langkawi and Malaysia, a lounge for guests to sit and listen to stories from the wild by a team of resident naturalists and marine biologists. Guests can enjoy a plethora of specially curated nature experiences and activities, where they will discover the unique flora & fauna of the resort.



#### LANGKAWI DISTRICT EDUCATION

One of the most crucial factor in generating awareness for the preservation of Langkawi's natural and cultural heritage is educating the youths about Langkawi's amazing Geoparks. The District Education department has worked hand-in-hand with the Langkawi UGGp team to successfully launch Geo-education programs such as Geopark Corners, school to Geopark visits, and Geo-teacher programs, which all aims to ignite the spark of curiosity in Langkawi's young minds to find our more on how they can help with Geopark conservation efforts.



#### LANGKAWI RESEARCH CENTRE

An Institute for Environmental and Development (LESTARI) and under the guidance of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Langkawi Research Centre carries out research related to the heritage, conservation and development of geoparks. Having the research centre right here on the island, gives Langkawi UGGp an edge when it comes to being the leader for Global Geopark research and development in the region.



#### KOPERASI KOMUNITI KAMPUNG KILIM

Kilim Karst Geoforest Park is one of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark's biggest attraction when it comes to Geo-tourism. In order to build stronger bonds within the local community of boatmen, Koperasi Komuniti Kampung Kilim provides a unified front for Langkawi UGGp to effectively inform the local Kilim community about Geopark goals and agendas.



#### KOPERASI NELAYAN SUNGAI KUBANG BADAK

With more volunteer programs put in place by Langkawi UGGp, like GEOMangrove activities, GEOCoral & GeoMarine conservation program, and GEOTeacher education program, Koperasi Nelayan Sungai Kubang Badak play an integral part in making sure the local Kubang Badak community are not only participating in these GEOVolunteer programs, but are leading in the logistics and planning process.



#### **PULAU TUBA LOCAL COMMUNITY**

With 5 new biogeotrails set to be in operation in Pulau Tuba, the cooperation and Geopark education of the local community at Pulau Tuba is of utmost importance. An active partnership between Langkawi UGGp and Pulau Tuba local community made the development of GeoTourism infrastructure possible; positioning Pulau Tuba as next place to visit for tourists looking to witness stunning geological features and diverse flora & fauna in a pristine environment.



#### LANGKAWI TOURIST GUIDE ASSOCIATION (LTGA)

Langkawi's main industry is undeniably tourism, and since 1992 the Langkawi Tourist Guide Association was formed to create a trusted body to care for licensed tourist guides. Throughout the years, members of LTGA have been essential in captivating visitors to the island with curated tours and promoting sustainable tourism within Langkawi's Geoparks.



#### YTL LANGKAWI CEMENT WORKS

Besides being one of the biggest employment providers on the island, YTL Langkawi Cement Works have actively been participating in the preservation and conservation efforts of Langkawi UGGp. They have even established the Langkawi Biodiversity Conservation Initiative (LBCI), which is an extension of their conservation efforts, focused on the protection and conservation of cave ecosystems including Gua Balai, Gua Pinang, Gua Layang, and their immediate surrounding areas, this initiative is part of a commitment to manage biodiversity sustainably.



#### FRIENDS OF LANGKAWI GEOPARK (FLAG)

Since it's inception in 2013, Friends of Langkawi Geopark (FLAG) which is a community-based organisation, has been instrumental in assisting on implementation of Geopark related programs and activities, providing suggestions for the improvement of Langkawi UGGp and promoting volunteerism aimed to advance Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark's conversation efforts.



#### TRASH HERO LANGKAWI

Since 2015, these heroes of the island has been meeting up every Saturday to clean around Langkawi. For nearly a decade they have generated awareness about waste management, educated the local children about the impact of plastic, created long-term programs to help communities better manage existing and future waste, inspire people to break free from plastic and take small steps toward a zero-waste world, and of course keep Langkawi looking beautiful!



#### LANGKAWI CRAFT COMPLEX

Langkawi Craft Complex is one of the major tourist attractions in Langkawi Island. It is one-stop centre housing a variety of authentic craft products such as batik, hand woven cloth, fibre plaited, metals and other crafts. The craft complex is a 'must-stop' destination for delegates attending Geopark programs in Langkawi, like the 5th Regional Course, as it showcases the beautiful craftmanship of local artists and the uniqueness of the island's cultural heritage.



#### LANGKAWI SKYCAB

Hovering over lush tropical jungle and climbing over 550 million year old rock formations, Langkawi SkyCab give visitors some amazing views! As part of the Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park, this cable car ride provides the best vantage point to fully appreciate the breath-taking mountain environment and geological heritage of one of the oldest part of Southeast Asia. It's no wonder that all GeoEducation programs will entail a visit to Langkawi SkyCab, to learn about the history of this region.



#### LANGSURA GEOPARK

A subsidiary of LADA, Langsura Geopark manages the operation of four very important tourism products in Langkawi, namely Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park, Kerisik Restaurant, The Gemalai Village and Geopark Hotel in Kuah. Throughout the years, the team at Langsura Geopark has worked very closely with Langkawi UGCp, in ensuring the promotion of geo-tourism and sustainable tourism practices within the



#### **PARADISE 101 LANGKAWI**

This eco-friendly private day-resort island specialises in creating stress-free, hassle-free holiday experiences. Whether you're looking for a beach getaway, Cruises, or amazing water sports, they've got you covered. Behind all the tours that the team at Paradise 101 organises, they always keep the conservation of Langkawi's beautiful Geoparks in mind and are an advocate for sustainable tourism practices.



#### CROCODILE ADVENTURELAND LANGKAWI

Housing almost 4500 crocodiles, this crocodile park is the biggest in Malaysia, according to the Malaysian Book of Records! Crocodile Adventureland Langkawi is also registered with the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species; as they aim to educate visitors on the importance of maintaining a delicate balance when it comes to development, to protect endangered wildlife.



#### TROPICAL CHARTERS

Best known for their fun and relaxing cruises, Tropical Charters adds a Special touch to in their trips on the water. They advocate Mother Nature and all it has to offer. A private 6 hour educational cruises in and around the enchanted islands of Langkawi, is perfect for school groups and individuals who want to know more about the geological heritage of the island. Throughout the years, Tropical Charters have been a valued partner to Langkawi Geopark in organising Geo-Education cruises with arious school groups.



#### UNDERWATER WORLD LANGKAWI

One of the largest marine and fresh water aquaria in South East Asia, the concept and theme of Underwater World Langkawi are geared towards Knowledge, Education and Entertainment. It is built to raise awareness on the importance of conserving our precious aquatic life forms. Not to mention, they've got a penguin section!



#### LANGKAWI WILDLIFE PARK

With more than 150 different animal species calling this park their home, it is no wonder Langkawi Wildlife Park is a must-visit destination for school field trips. They are an advocate for getting up-close and personal with animals, and here at the park visitors have a chance to feed these animals and foster an appreciation for Malaysia's flora and fauna.

## Think Global, Buy Local!

# GEOPARK PRODUCTS

With the continued development of geo tourism programs and products in Langkawi. Many enterprising locals have taken it upon themselves to create unique, locally made food and beauty products that either contains ingredients found only Langkawi UGCp; or create beautiful handmade crafts using sustainable materials with designs inspired by the island's geological and cultural heritage.

Here is the amazing product catalogue found only in Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark:

### FOOD

Food plays a huge role in the local culture, and with Langkawi's rich biodiversity, the natural resources for locals to create unique delicacies has span over generations. From the use of natural herbs and indigenous plants in coffee, to sea-cucumber cookies and ultra-pure water filtered through million of years old granite rock formation, the food product offerings specific to Langkawi is definitely something to bring home.



**KOPI PERIUK TANAK** 



**GAMAT COOKIES** 



**BRONOK SALAD** 



**GEOCOOKIES** 



**KOPI PUTEH** PREMIXED COFFEE



**BUFFALO MILK &** ICE CREAM



MINERAL WATER

### HEALTH & BEAUTY

An integral part of the local tradition handed down from generation to generation is the use of natural remedies when it comes to health & beauty. With ingredients found within the natural surroundings around Langkawi, these enterprising locals are sharing the tried and tested benefits of organic remedies that has proven successful



VIRGIN **COCONUT OIL** 



**GEL DAUN** BIDARA



MAHA **BIRD'S NEST** 



**MADU KELULUT** 



MAHSURI **GOLD BALM** 

### HANDMADE CRAFTS

Both the methods of making masterpieces and the raw materials used in making these works of art, make up what is known as cultural heritage. For Langkawi, the uniqueness of its geological resource, diverse flora and fauna provide not only the raw materials of making these products, but also the design inspiration to showcase the artistic beauty of nature.



**BADAI ENTERPRISE** 



CRYSTAL GLASS BLOWING



**GRANITE MARBLE** CRAFT



ILHAM CERAMIC STUDIO



**JAFIQACOUTURE** BATIK



LAZY LIZARD BATIK



**TUBA ISLAND** CRAFTS



TWO PIE CRAFTS

# GEOPARK ENDURO



morning in Langkawi, 252 mountain bike adrenaline junkies are perched atop the mountain at 99 Bike Park Langkawi, anxiously awaiting the flag-off.

It's 19th June 2022 and on yet another beautiful

And as the flag dropped, these racers sped down the mountain pedalling with all their might fuelled by an epic combination of incredible physical strength, sheer bravery, the laws of gravity and whatever they had for breakfast that morning.

This was the scene at the Langkawi Geopark Enduro Challenge 2022 Championship, which saw mountain biking enthusiasts from all walks of life coming together in Langkawi for this championship event.

Out of the 252 participants that entered the race, only 10 participants were from Langkawi; the remaining 96 percent of racers hailed from all over beautiful Malaysia, and 18 international participants came from the rest of the world.

With attendance from the participants' families, teams and coaches, an estimated 1,500 people entered Langkawi for this championship race alone. This brought about economic benefits to the island in neighbourhood of RM 650,000 (through spending on accommodation, transportation and other holiday

The organizer of the tournament who is also the Chairman of the 99 Kuah Langkawi Bicycle Club, Raziman Ishak said, this program is part of the four series Mountainbiker Enduro Championship (MEC) 2022 that takes place across the country.

This Langkawi Geopark Enduro Challenge were also held in conjunction with the month-long Langkawi Geopark Carnival 2022.

Congratulations to all the winners! Your hard-work and dedication to the sport is definitely an inspiring ale of champions.







"Gwim Like You Are Being Chased Like A Shark, Bike Like You Stole It And Run Like Forrest Gump'

## EVENT IRONMAN

On 5th November 2022, a total of 1,500 triathletes participated in the prestigious triathlon event IRONMAN Malaysia and IRONMAN 70.3 Langkawi 2022, What's in it for the athletes? Well for IRONMAN Langkawi participants this time, there's 55 qualification slots to the VinFast IRONMAN 2023 World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii and 30 tickets to the IRONMAN 70.3 VinFast World Championship in Lahti, Finland.

This year saw triathletes hailing from 54 countries with the highest participation being from Malaysia with a total of 631 participants, followed by Japan and Singapore with 120 participants and 91 participants respectively. The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) became a collaboration partner and established a partnership with World Endurance Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. to organise this triathlon event.

In addition, a more than 1,050 volunteers from the local community were involved as part of the operations team during the

After the drastic drop in global tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic, the sights and sounds of renowned international events such as IRONMAN returning to Langkawi is a welcomed relief for the island; as it's an indication that Langkawi's tourism industry is on the road to recovery.

Everyone at Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark and all the Geoparkians around the island are extremely excited for IRONMAN 70.3 Langkawi 2023!

We look forward to welcoming all the triathletes to our shores once again.









Once a year, the waters in Tanjung Rhu Beach, Langkawi, will lower just enough for visitors to walk on the sandbar to visit the other islands nearby.

Island locals and visitors, experienced this phenomenon during the Sandbar Walk event on21st & 22nd February 2022 between 6.45am and 7.30am.

During these hours of the day, the sea level at Tanjung Rhu Resort dropped to a maximum of 0.0 metres, allowing people to walk on the sandy path and explore the other islands.

A short journey on the sandbar lead visitors to Pulau Kelam Baya, and for those willing to explore further they took a long walk to Pulau Cabang. The walk gave visitors a unique opportunity to explore the various types of marine life on the different islands in Langkawi.

The annual Sandbar Walk was said to be the brainchild of Tanjung Rhu General Manager Reginald T. Pereira when he noticed the phenomenon during one of his property visits in 2019.

The resort decided to hold the event in 2020 and it was a great success with about 300 people showing up for the one-day event.

If you've missed it this time round, don't fret...there another one coming up in 2023! Just be sure bring your camera for some breath-taking scenery.









- Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The success of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark duty to protect the rich geological and biological habitats and the diversity of flora and fauna in Langkawi, hangs heavily on the education of the youths of Langkawi on the importance of conservation and preservation efforts.

It goes without saying that they are the future of the Geopark; hence Langkawi UGGp have been committed in initiating youth-based programs and activities, to get these young minds interested in learning about the natural heritage of the island.



#### **GEOPARK JUNIOR GUIDE PROGRAM 2022**

This program aims to educate students as young pioneers, on the importance of preserving and conserving Langkawi's natural treasures now and in the future. The 1st series of the Geopark Junior Guide Program (GpJG) was attended by 97 students representing each Geopark school in Langkawi. Through this program, all students were given initial exposure and introduction to Geopark and the uniqueness of Langkawi UGGp. The 2nd and 3rd series in the GpJG module will focus on more specific topics of Geopark agenda and fieldwork. The goal of this program is to produce more Geopark Ambassadors and the next generation of Geoparkians, committed to the preservation of Langkawi's natural heritage.



#### **GEOVOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

There were numerous Geopark programs organised in 2022 that called upon volunteers within the local community; and the youth of Langkawi definitely stepped up and showed their support! Be it a beach clean-up or painting the handrails at the biogeotrails, students and young volunteers came out to now only play their part is beautifying the surroundings, but also learn about the fascinating flora and fauna found in these geosites.



#### GEOMANGROVE PROGRAM

On 12th June 2022, the Mangrove Planting Program (GeoMangrove) took place at Kilim Karst Geoforest Park in conjunction with the World Environment Day celebration in Geopark Carnival 2022. A total of 200 volunteers attended this program from various government agencies, NGOs, and school students. 2,022 mangrove trees of the Rhizophora apiculata species, better known locally as Oil Mangrove were planted. This program hopes to restore mangrove forest resources and biodiversity on Langkawi Island. With GeoMangrove activities, Langkawi UGGp hopes to generate awareness especially within the youth community, on the importance of nature and cultivate interest in planting trees to help restore Langkawi natural environment.

With the revalidation of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark status coming up in 2023, it is the engagement and support from the local community that will show Geopark invigilators, the shared love for the natural and cultural heritage of the island; and that everyone who calls Langkawi their home are indeed a Geoparkian.



# Langkawi UNESCO Global GEOPARK GAZETTE











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Geopark And Sustainability Section, Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) Kompleks LADA, P.O. Box 60, Jalan Persiaran Putra, 07000 Langkawi, Kedah Darul Aman, MALAYSIA

- **604 9600 600**
- € 604 9600 509
- geopark@lada.gov!my
- www.instagram.com/langkawiunescoglobalgeopark
- www.facebook.com/langkawiglobalgeopark
- www.langkawigeopark.com.my

