



Calm and peace of Tasik Dayang Bunting

Island idyllic

DINING on a sea-front patio, marvelling at the brilliant hues of the tropical sunset, feeling the breeze against your face and tucking in to a hearty meal (pleasure heightened by the fact that the fish sizzling on the platter is your prize catch of the day) this is a dream cum reality enacted on Pulau Langkawi.

Langkawi — the very name conjures up images of a tropical paradise steeped in legend. For a holiday-maker, it offers more than a refuge from the hectic world, the noise, pollution and stress of modern life. It adds excitement and spice to your holiday.

Langkawi actually consists of 99 islands, the largest of which is Pulau Langkawi. Situated 112 kms north of Penang and 27 kms from Kuala Perlis, the island is accessible by sea and air. MAC (Malaysia Air Charter) offers two flights daily from KL and Penang.

If your budget permits, take the

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plane. The view from the air (as one approaches the island) is simply breathtaking. Emerald-green islands dotting the blue sea, carving fascinating contours, breakers spewing white foam on the beach.

On landing, a waiting bus takes visitors to Kuah, the capital, along narrow country roads with hardly any traffic — no angry honks or flashing lights.

You could stay at the Langkawi Country Club, run by the TDC. A guest in T-shirt, shorts and slippers would feel very much at home here. One can read or play indoor games like carroms, darts and table-tennis. The club organises activities like pony rides for children, speedboat cruises for the family.

Or you could visit places of legendary interest such as Princess Mahsuri's tomb, Padang Masirat (Field of Burnt Rice), Telaga Tu-

juh (The Seven Wells) and Tasik Dayang Bunting (The Lake of the Pregnant Maiden). The more adventurous can go diving or snorkelling.

But visitors must go fishing. The waters around the islands seem to be teeming with fish, mainly garoupa. For a small charge, the hotel provides bait and line, a speedboat and a friendly boatman who knows where the best fishing grounds are.

The thrill of waiting for the bite, the tug and then — voila! your first catch of the day. For a nominal charge, the hotel chef will cook your catch the way you like it, steamed, fried or grilled.

You could also go for a picnic, swim or simply stroll along the quiet beach, collecting seashells. Here in Langkawi, the mind and body enjoy a therapeutic experience and become enriched by it.