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TIPS

Tips for an enjoyable RWMF experience

- Be there early. There are usually long queues at the gate for tickets or access to the venue due to ticket verification and other security measures.
- Please do not bring non-permitted items (knives, sharp items) as they will be confiscated.
- No food, drinks, and animals are allowed inside the venue.
- Food, beverage, CDs, souvenirs and crafts will be on sale at the event.
- All items are sold on cash terms except where indicated and there is no ATM machine at the venue, so please prepare accordingly.
- Limited car-parking facilities are available near the festival site. However, to avoid any inconvenience, you are encouraged to catch the shuttle buses which operate at regular intervals during the event.
- You can bring your own lawn chairs or mats.
- Bring along a desire to be at one with nature, and a yearning to celebrate and unite with kindred spirits from around the globe.

What to expect at RWMF?

Apart from the music, there will be a smorgasbord of delectable delights at the Food and Village Mart set against the Orang Ulu and Iban longhouses, which encircle the venue.

Take back a variety of arts and craft, event memorabilia, as well as CD and recordings of the performing artists.

Music is not all about sound; it is an art-form, and with it comes culture, diversity, creativity, talent, and spellbinding performances.

More updates on the Rainforest World Music Festival 2012 are available online at www.rainforestmusic-borneo.com.

15TH RAINFOREST WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

■ By GERALD CHUAH
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SARAWAK is a place for history, mystery, romance, and exotic adventures, the land of the fabled White Rajahs, the Hornbills and the Orang Utans. Its rainforest houses the world's richest and most diverse ecosystem.

The ancient virgin forest is also home to 27 ethnic groups with their own distinct languages, culture and lifestyle. Their ancient cultures may differ but they have one thing in common, their warmth and hospitality.

Every year in mid-July, thousands of music lovers travel across the globe to Sarawak, converging at Santubong (a 45-minute drive from Kuching) to attend the Rainforest World Music Festival, voted as the one of world's Top 25 international festivals.

It is an annual pilgrimage for music lovers to the unique festival, which brings on the same stage renowned world musicians from all continents and indigenous musicians from Borneo.

■ Three-day celebration

The annual event, now in its 15th year, is organised by Sarawak Tourism Board. The three-day celebration to be held from July 13 to 15 is inclusive daytime musical workshops, and action-packed nightly shows.

The afternoon informative workshops (ethno-musical lectures and jamming sessions) begin at 2pm every day, where festival-goers can interact with musicians up close; while at night, concerts will take place on the a main stage, and the smaller "Tree Stage" for about five hours



and carry on past midnight.

The festival then culminates in a huge finale on the final night, where all performers play onstage as one.

As one foreign journalist puts it, the festival is "one of the most extraordinary festivals I have attended, in terms of camaraderie amongst the performers, the lakeside setting under Mount Santubong and warm welcome by the hosts."

■ Line-up of Musicians

This year's line-up has been confirmed. There will be performers from Burkina Faso;

Mamadou Diabate, Le Trio Joubran from Palestine, Khusugtun from Mongolia, Raiz De Cafezal a group of Brazilian Amazonian Indians;

Oreka TX from Spain, La Zikabilo from France, String Sisters comprising fiddlers from the Scandinavian countries, Scotland, Ireland & the United States;

Kanda Bongo Man from Congo, Cankisou from Czech Republic; Daniel Waro from the Reunion Island, Zee Avi (Malaysia/USA), and Hata-The One comprising musicians from Malaysia, Korea, Turkey and Taiwan.

They will be joined by Malaysian musicians like Samuel Dass and Prakash, Diplomats of Drum as well as Sarawakian very own Rhythm of Borneo, and The Music of Sarawak, representing the diverse local music and instruments.

■ Musical Instruments

Enjoy music from Sarawak's traditional Sape, the boat-shaped lute that has become the symbol of the Rainforest World Music Festival, gongs of all sizes and bamboo instruments, the Sitar and Tabla (the influence of Hindustani music in Malaysia), Dhol drums with Malaysian flavours.

All these you will hear alongside music from across the globe.

Lovely ladies on fiery Fiddles, Balafon and talking Drums that mingle with the ancient Oud (an ancient string instrument); exotic instruments like the Carimbo of the Brazilian Amazonian Indians and mythical Txalarpartas – an instrument made from long wooden boards, played by the Basque band from Spain.

There will also be traditional music like slave chants in the Creole language accompanied by traditional instruments – the Kayanm, Bob and Rouler music which evokes



Zee Avi

emotional intensity and ecstatic rhythmic trance.

You will get to hear incredible throat singers from Mongolia and their musical instruments like Horse Head Fiddles and Zither among others, as well as French Chanson and Gypsy music.

And if that is not enough the Kanda Bongo Man and his Kwasa Kwasa dance will sure to make you dance.

A thousand harmonies seemingly at odds and yet in unison, a world apart and one world, together... a real adventure!

For more information visit www.rwmf.net and www.sarawaktourism.com.

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