

KUCHING HERITAGE TRAILS

The Brooke Legacy
Self-guided tours

A Project by:





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Welcome to Kuching, Sarawak!

Take a quick look around Kuching and you will certainly notice a historic building or site, stately and unique, enchanting always; these are just some of the attractive charms of the city. Singularly or clustered, these fascinating cultural and historic icons are found at almost every turn and step you take around the city.

Starting from the Brunei Sultanate Empire during the 17th and 18th Century to the White Rajahs for much of the 19th and 20th Centuries, the city's wealth of heritage sites offer an exciting mix of western and eastern influences spread within walking distances of each other. A haven to most, it is also bewildering in choice of venues to visit for those with premium on time.

Amidst the skylines of the City today, you will also find distinctive buildings from the days gone by, from the Brooke Era's and British Colonial style architectures, archaic Chinese temples and alleyways to surprisingly fresh new looks for centuries old shophouses. This once riverine trading post has since then grown to be a strategic port, administrative town, business centre and capital city. Almost all the modern amenities expected of a city are available here, minus the hustle and bustle of a metropolis. Careful planning of the surrounding environment to maintain this leisurely pace is Kuching's gift to residents and visitors alike, a feeling of warmth and comfortable existence that's real and stimulating.

Multi-culturism is the face of Kuching; most visitors can't tell the residents from the out-of-towners as this melting pot of ethnic diversity is both fascinating and interestingly confusing. The rich varieties of food can be tempting, challenging; indecisions on choices are positively understandable. Also, those travelling with pocket dictionaries quickly discover their usefulness - inside the backpacks! as English is both spoken and welcomed here. Discover Kuching and be prepared to be surprised by its rich historical, cultural treasure trove and warm friendly people.



Kuching Time Line | The transformation of a riverine trading post to a city

Sarawak was named after its thriving trade of antimony at that time, which was known as 'serawak' in Malay. James Brooke informally named his capital 'Sarawak' in 1842, even when the locals called it 'Kuching'. Although there was no official acknowledgement on this, the town shared this appellation until August 1872, when Charles Brooke, nephew and successor to James, officially reverted it to 'Kuching'. Another hundred years later, Kuching was declared a city on 1st August 1988.

As serene as Kuching looks now, its past was anything but that. Rebellions, pirates, attacks and head-hunting raids were once the reality of life here, leading to the abandonment of two earlier trading sites at Tupong river in 1700 A.D. and near the Santubong river mouth in the early 1800 A.D., both set up by the Sultanate. The present Kuching site was then established not far from the Brunei Governor's residence which was just across the river.

When an English adventurer, James Brooke arrived in Kuching in 1839 with his ship, The Royalist, the Sultanate took the opportunity to quash the rebellion which had been going on since 1836. Both the Malays and the Bidayuh rebels were defeated in 1840 by the superior guns of the ship and Brooke was rewarded with the Government of Sarawak. Two years later, in 1842, he became the first White Rajah of Sarawak.

The peaceful reign that followed led to the growth of Kuching as more traders began arriving. The Chinese were lured by the gold and antimony mines, the Indians and Strait Settlement group, Indonesians from Sambas and Pontianak also arrived in search of better livelihood while many of the defeated rebels also chose to settle down in Kuching later.

The name 'Kuching' is known to have been derived from Sungei Kuching, a rivulet that flowed past the Tua Pek Kong Temple, before joining the Sarawak River. The rivulet was probably named after the *mata kucing* (cat's eye) fruit tree that once dominate the area just behind the hill behind the temple, the Bukit Mata Kuching. Another version claims that the Chinese and Indian traders referred to this flourishing port at 'cochin', which closely resembles 'Kuching'.



James Brooke

The Brooke Legacy (1841 - 1941)

The early history of Sarawak is unique in Malaysia as the state was ruled not by a foreign empire, but by a family. The Brookes (also called the White Rajahs) were responsible for most of the early architectural and urban development of Kuching, having been in rule for 100 years.

The First Rajah, James Brooke (born 29 April 1803, died 11 June 1868) was a man of adventure. Born in Benares, India, he served in the Burmese war in 1825 and began his sailing adventures with the purchase of a schooner, The Royalist, in 1835 from an inheritance of 30,000 Pounds upon the passing of his father.

On April 15 1839, James arrived in Sarawak and was enlisted by the then Governor, Pengiran Muda Hashim, uncle of the Brunei Sultan, to put down a revolt. With superior weapons and tactics, he quickly quashed the rebels and in return, was made Rajah in 1842, thus initiating the reign of the White Rajahs here.

Kuching then consisted of humble timber huts with nipah thatched roofs nestled along the Sarawak river, primarily the stretch along the present Main Bazaar. Some of the notable buildings during James' reign were Bishop's House (1849), old State Mosque (1847), the Government House (1857), the St. Thomas Cathedral (1857) and the Tua Pek Kong (pre1839).

Charles Brooke (born 3 June 1829, died 17 May 1917) was a nephew of James and succeeded the first Rajah in 1868. Charles was the consummate administrator and a stickler for order and decorum. Mr. A.B. Ward, a civil servant who served under the Rajah from 1899 to 1923, had remarked that dinners at the Astana were always formal and punctuality was obligatory. At the sound of the guns from Fort Margarita at 8pm sharp, diners were led in personally by the Rajah. Punctually at 10pm, the Rajah would bid his guests and officers good night before retiring to bed, leaving his guests to depart as best they could.



Charles Brooke



Charles Vyner Brooke



Among the impressive buildings of Charles' reign includes the old Kuching Courthouse (1874) and Indian Mosque (1876), Fort Margherita and Square Tower (1879), Kuek Seng Ong Temple (1895), the Pavillion (1909) and the old Chinese Court (1912).

Under Charles' administration, thoroughfares like Carpenter Street, India Street and Rock Road emerged by 1870s with smaller pathways joining them to Main Bazaar. In 1880, when cement first arrived in Kuching and after the Great Fire of 1884 which razed many timber structures, masonry and concrete constructions began to take precedence over wooden structures and buildings. Of significance too during Charles' reign were the development of public infrastructure with the introduction of waterworks, telephone and railway, the latter discontinued after 1930s due to the huge financial losses in the operation.



Charles Vyner Brooke (born 26 September 1874, died 9 May 1963), eldest son of Charles, ascended the throne in 1917 and was quite the opposite to his father, being more of a carefree, happy-go-lucky and deeply shy man. The reign of the White Rajahs effectively came to an end with the invasion of the Japanese forces on Christmas Eve in 1941.

The significant building's under Charles Vyner included the General Post Office building (1931) and also the first cinema named after the Ranee Sylvia in 1934 (demolished in 1966).

At the end of World War II in 1945, Sarawak was ceded to Britain and became a Crown Colony. Hence, unlike other parts of Malaysia, the colonial period was relatively short: 18 years, till the formation of Malaysia on 16 Sept 1963.

The Brooke Legacy - self guided tours

The historic precinct of the old Kuching city is best navigated on foot, with an up close and personal encounter with the heritage and culture of the place and its people. The Brooke Legacy self-guided tours highlight some of the buildings that best capture the charm of the Brooke era. The 25 featured buildings are all within walking distances and the streets along the routes are highlighted to provide a nostalgic look into the past.

Starting at the Old Kuching Courthouse which was the government administrative centre during the Brooke era, Route 1 covers the eastern part of the old Kuching town, while Route 2, covers the west end of the old town.

Route 1 and Route 2 will take about 2 hours each of leisurely exploration, or longer if you stop to investigate or catch short rests between each site along the way.

Things to remember when planning to visit these sites!

Kuching's tropical position makes hats, shades and umbrella useful items to bring along when on the trail. Drinking water is recommended and light, comfortable clothing make the journey pleasurable. Always check that your shoes or footwear are comfortable to avoid bruised, sore or blistered feet that will spoil the holiday here.



- Old Kuching Courthouse ①
- Brooke Memorial ②
- The Japanese Building ③
- The Old Government Treasury and Audit Department Building ④
- The Round Tower ⑤
- The Pavilion ⑥
- General Post Office ⑦
- Guan Thian Siang Ti Temple ⑧
- Kueh Seng Onn Temple ⑨
- Tua Pek Kong Temple ⑩
- Old Chinese Court ⑪
- Fort Margherita ⑫
- The Astana ⑬
- Old Sarawak Steamship Building ⑭
- Square Tower ⑮



This is the route where the variety of sites with different architecture and cultural backgrounds abound. The 2-hour (approx.) route introduces visitors to the historical precinct of old Kuching city, where featured buildings are closely located to each other. Visitors may join the trail at any point along the Route, but are strongly encouraged to begin at the Sarawak Tourism Complex (Old Kuching Courthouse) where useful brochures of the City, state and country can be obtained. The Complex also resides in the centre of both Kuching Heritage Trail Routes. This route focuses on the eastern side from the Old Kuching Courthouse.

(1) OLD KUCHING COURTHOUSE (1868–1900s)



The Old Kuching Courthouse is the first Brooke era administrative building which housed all the government functions under one roof. Commenced in 1868, there were many subsequent blocks added to it that created a courtyard. The architectural features of the building adapted to the local climate with long thin blocks and deep verandahs. Local materials like belian (iron) wood, sun-dried clay brick, sand lime plaster and lime wash finish were primarily used in the construction of this building. The harmonious integration of simplified classical elements adapted to local conditions makes this a fine example of Brooke era architecture.

Conservation of the Old Kuching Courthouse for Adaptive Re-use as Sarawak Tourism Complex was completed in 2003. The project won several National awards for conservation. Descriptive plaques mounted on the individual block provide detailed historical information of the building.



(2) BROOKE MEMORIAL (1924)



This 6-meter high granite obelisk, design by Architect Messrs. Swan & McClaren (Singapore) to honour the second Rajah, Charles Brooke for his services and dedication to the state was commissioned in 1924. At each corner of the obelisk is a bronze panel with figures representing Chinese, Iban, Malay and Kayan communities, a reminder of the ethnic diversity found in the state.

(3) THE JAPANESE BUILDING (1941-1945)

Called the Japanese Building, it was the only purpose-built administrative building by the Japanese Occupational Force in Sarawak during the World War II (1941-1945). POWs from Sabah and Sarawak (detained at Batu Lintang Camp) were marched daily to the site to provide the labour force for construction of this building. Its construction blocked off the connection from India Street to Carpenter Street. In 1989, passage ways were created at the building to re-establish a link between the two streets.



(4) THE OLD GOVERNMENT TREASURY & AUDIT DEPARTMENT BUILDING (1927)



Completed in 1927, this building carried similar sensibilities to the Old Kuching Courthouse in terms of architectural expression. This was the first building in Sarawak to use a pre-cast concrete floor system. The Government Treasury and Audit Department vacated this building in 1954 and it was later used by Bank Negara Malaysia (Central Bank of Malaysia).

(5) THE ROUND TOWER (1886)

After the great fire of 1884 which destroyed much of the buildings between Carpenter Street and Main Bazaar, this was the first public building built and was completed in 1886. The Round Tower was operating as the town dispensary when the Pavilion building behind it was used as the Medical Headquarters. However, it was commonly thought that the building was intended as a sentry post and possibly also as a defence outpost for the Brooke administrators due to its strategic siting. The presence of narrow slit windows, much like gun-slots, probably provided much fuel for speculation.



(6) THE PAVILION (1909)



This building, originally used as the Medical Headquarters, was one of the first public buildings of more than 2 stories high. Built with concrete frames and supported by bakau (mangrove timber) piling, it also had a concrete flat roof where occupants used to lounge and watch the setting sun, as fondly recalled through numerous writings of that era. The ground floor housed consulting rooms, a laboratory and offices, whereas the 1st floor was the 'European Hospital' and nurses' quarters occupied the top floor. During WWII, the building was used as a propaganda HQ by the Japanese.

After the war, it was occupied by the Education Department until the 1970s, when it was used by the Judiciary Department. The building had been conserved and is currently used by the Museum Department as their Textile Museum.

The Textile Museum opens daily from 9am till 5.30pm.



(7) GENERAL POST OFFICE (1932)

This majestic building was designed by Denis Santry of Messrs. Swan & McClaren Architects (Singapore). Completed in 1932 under Charles Vyner (the third Rajah), the Neo-Classical facades were quite in contrast to the style of buildings favoured by James and Charles Brooke (the first and second Rajah). The site was once used for a police station and also the Rajah's Stables. Occupants of the old Medical Headquarters across the road fondly recall looking to the Rajah's Stables, surrounded by areca palms, to the coach house, hay loft and harness room, and watching the horses being fed, watered & groomed.



(8) GUAN THIAN SIANG TI TEMPLE (1889)



This temple was completed in 1889, by the Chinese migrants predominantly from the Guangdong province of China. A stage was built directly across the road where operas were performed during festivals to appease the deities. The temple also serves as a community hub for the local residents and is especially vibrant during religiously related festivals. Annual processions are organised for the temple deities on the 4th day of the 12th month of the lunar calendar. Currently, the area in front of the stage is also occupied by stalls serving local (non-halal) delicacies.

Carpenter Street was called 'atap street' because of the atap (nipah palm leaves) buildings and carpenters' workshops which flourished there before the great fire of 1884. It was also known to the locals, since the Brooke era, as 'back street' because it was considered the 'back' street to Main Bazaar which fronted the riverfront. In those days, the street was

notoriously infested with gambling dens, opium-smoking joints and brothels, which were eventually eradicated by the British Colonial government. After the fire of 1884, the second Rajah, Charles Brooke banned inflammable materials like timber and atap leaves, and decreed that all new shophouses must have brick walls. Carpenter Street ends at the junction of Bishopgate Street, where Leboh Ewe Hai begins.



(9) KUEH SENG ONN TEMPLE (1895)



This temple was built by the Hokkien community in 1895. According to a local legend, during the Great Fire of 1884, locals saw a vision of a child deity waving a black flag to put out the fire. In commemoration of this event, a great annual procession is held on the 22nd day of the 2nd month of the lunar calendar. A stage was also built across the road from the temple, for rituals and operas during temple festivals. The original temple was demolished in 2005 and a new temple was built in its place.

(10) TUA PEK KONG TEMPLE (pre-1839)

This temple was believed to have been built by the Chinese migrants from Kalimantan, Indonesia. In his early records of 1839, a guest of James Brooke, Frank Marryat, mentioned a similar Chinese temple at the same location, thus possibly making this temple the oldest temple in Kuching. In the olden days, this



temple overlooked the mouth of the Kuching stream which ran between the temple and the Old Chinese Court (present Chinese History Museum), to the Sarawak River. Numerous additions and renovation works had been done over the original structure. The dominant dragon frieze was added to the retaining wall in the early 1980s.

(11) OLD CHINESE COURT (1912)



Declared open in 1912 by the Rajah, this single storey building was originally used by the Chinese community as a court to administer the laws and customs on marriage, divorce and probate. It effectively took care of all civil cases involving Chinese litigants, which was in line with the wishes of the third Rajah, Charles Vyner who wanted

the Chinese to settle their own matters among themselves. The Chinese court was dissolved in 1921. The Chinese Chamber of Commerce formed in 1930, used it as their office until 1990. Since 1993, the Sarawak Museum had set up its Chinese History Museum here, with displays that traced the history of Chinese settlement in Sarawak.

(12) FORT MARGHERITA (1879)

From the Main Bazaar, situated across the Sarawak River, the fort was named after Ranee Margaret, the wife of Charles Brooke (second Rajah). Strategically perched on top of a hill, with vantage points overlooking Kuching and the river, it was the ideal sentry point for the settlement. It was first occupied by the Sarawak Rangers until 1932. Charles Brooke established the fort as his first line of defence. Ironically, during WWII, the Japanese circumvented



this heavily fortified defence site by marching into Kuching through the Satok Bridge without much resistance. It was used as the Police Museum until 1999.



Fronting the Sarawak River, *the Main Bazaar* carries the distinction of being one of the oldest streets of Kuching. The bazaar started out with a small settlement of 'atap' buildings, which was later lined with rows of timber shophouses facing the river. With the fire in 1884 that destroyed the stretch of timber and 'atap' shophouses, it was rebuilt with sturdier masonry structures. These stretch of buildings used to serve the port and wharves lined along the river as the trading centre

of Kuching. Back in its heydays, the bazaar was alive with the sight of rickshaws plying the street and the boisterous sound of hawkers peddling street food. Now, it is often referred to as an 'antique arcade' not only because of its old-fashioned facades but also for the variety of antiques and handicrafts outlets found here.

(13) THE ASTANA (1870)

This romantic structure standing across the river in its regal splendour was the private residence of the Rajah Charles Brooke which was built as a bridal gift to his beloved wife, the Ranee Margaret. Before the Astana was built on this site, James Brooke's first residence was called 'The Grove', which was later replaced by 'The Government House' after a fire in 1857. After the completion of the Astana in 1870, 'The Government House' was demolished. The Brookes continued



to occupy the Astana until WWII when Sir Charles Vyner Brooke left Sarawak during the Japanese Occupation. Now, the Astana is the official residence of the State Governor.

This building is not accessible to the general public.



The Kuching Waterfront had undergone several transformations since 19th century, from a small settlement of modest 'atap' buildings, to a busy port with warehouses and wharves, and to the landscaped riverside walk it is today. During the days of the Rajahs and the British colonials, boats would berth along the Sarawak River waterfront, which was lined with godowns and custom offices. Travellers and cargo alike would embark and disembark at the wharves, making the waterfront a hive of activity during its glory days.

(14) OLD SARAWAK STEAMSHIP BUILDING (c.1930)



The Sarawak Steamship Company started in 1875 with an office at a wing in the Old Kuching Courthouse. Built in 1930s, this building used by the Company as warehouse and office. Extensively renovated, it has now been transformed into a commercial centre with restaurant, fast food outlet and convenience store.

(15) SQUARE TOWER (1879)

Completed about the same time as the Fort Margherita in 1879, both forts served as sentry posts on each side of the Sarawak River. Built next to the first Kuching Prison (1877, demolished c.1930s), it served as a maximum-security detention centre. Adjacent to the Square Tower, is the landing point called Pengkalan Batu, where the Rajahs disembarked from the Astana to attend to administrative matters at the Old Kuching Courthouse. The Square Tower, which was later, converted to a dancing hall used by the Brooke's officers and servants during most of the weekends when he was in Kuching.



SARAWAK RIVER

- Old Kuching Courthouse ①
- Old Markets ⑩⑪⑫⑬⑭⑮⑯⑰⑱⑲⑳
- First Sarawak Museum ⑰
- Sarawak Exhibition Building ⑱
- Banka Building ⑲
- Indian Mosque ⑲
- Old Fire Brigade Station ⑳
- Brooke Dockyard ㉑
- Old State Mosque ㉒
- Old Railway Station and Maintenance Depot ㉓
- Old Government Printing Office ㉔
- Central Police Station ㉕



Continuing from Route 1, Route 2 will further explore the western side of Kuching's historical precinct. This route will take approximately 2 hours to complete.

(16) OLD MARKETS (1924-1959)



Beyond the Square Tower at the termination of the Kuching Waterfront, resides the market district. Along this stretch, there is the Vegetable Market and Fish Market (1924), Pork Market (since destroyed by fire in 2002) and Poultry Market (1957). In the earlier days, these markets were of rudimentary timber and 'atap', which faithfully supplied daily provisions to town folks. With the burgeoning trade at the wharves along the riverfront, the markets prospered and were upgraded to masonry construction. The market district continues to serve the population of

Kuching. As early as 3 a.m., traders can be seen unloading their goods for another day of haggling with customers.

(17) FIRST SARAWAK MUSEUM EXHIBITION BUILDING (c.1889)

In 1878, Charles Brooke (the second Rajah) decreed that a collection be started with the view of creating a museum. This building was used as the first Museum Storage and Exhibition galleries in 1889, while awaiting a new Sarawak Museum proper to be completed



(presently along Jalan Tun Abg Haji Openg). Temporarily stored at the Clock Tower of the Old Kuching Courthouse, the collection was displayed for the first time to the general public in 1889 in this building. The artefacts were eventually relocated to the Museum Building (1891), along with some new exhibits that arrived from the British Museum. Since the British colonial period till the present time, many government departments have occupied this building.

Gambier Street is named after 'gambier' which was a principal item of trade during Charles Brooke's time. It is an extract of the leaves of 'Uncaria Gambier', a large tropical vine. Aside from its medicinal properties, gambier is also widely used for leather tanning, as natural dyes and as a condiment to betel-nut chewing. Mainly cultivated and traded by the Chinese migrants, it commanded a good price in export during the late 1890s.



(18) BANKA BUILDING (1929)



This 3-storey building was once used primarily for the storage of antimony ores, a mineral that was among the primary export of Sarawak even before the arrival of James Brooke in 1839. Although originally a 2-storey warehouse (pre-1929), through the years it had undergone many renovations. The wharf behind this building facilitated the export trade as small boats would ferry the ores down from the Sarawak River here before transferring to ocean going boats. When the antimony trade ceased in 1877, other items like gutta percha (latex from 'nyatoh' tree, a local hardwood), gambier, rubber and pepper were also traded in the 1890s.

(19) INDIAN MOSQUE (1876)

Towards the middle of portion of the rows of shops fronting the markets are a stretch of spice shops that displays distinctive Moorish architecture on their facades. Nestled behind these spice shops is the Indian Mosque. Built by the Muslim Indian merchants that had settled here and flourished with their textile and spice trade in this area, this Indian Mosque was believed to have started out as an 'atap'-roofed structure as described in one of Mrs McDougall's early records (c.1850s). Still actively patronized by the faithful, it is the oldest and only Indian mosque in Kuching. This mosque is accessible from Gambier Street through a distinctive archway, and also through a narrow alleyway (Indian Mosque Lane) that effectively provides an intermediate link from Gambier Street to India Street.



*A dirt road, known as 'Kling Street', was structurally improved over the decades and renamed **India Street** in 1928. In its early days, the majority of traders here were Indian migrants involved in trading textiles, brassware and spices and market goods. Today it is flanked by century old shophouses, where some had been renovated with modern designs. It used to be congested with vehicles loading and unloading wares before it was converted into a pedestrian mall in late 1980s. Still supplying textile and spices to the general population of Kuching, it is also lined with shops that supplies daily provisions, food and clothes stores with every available space stacked to the fullest.*

(20) OLD FIRE BRIGADE STATION (c.1917)

This Old Fire Brigade Station started with the arrival of the first coal-powered fire engine from England in 1917. The site was the Gartak River, where local residents drew water from, before it was reclaimed in 1907. Later the Station was built on this site. The old Fire Brigade lookout tower was left unscathed although the Station was demolished when the new Fire Station at Jalan Padungan was completed. To serve the transportation hub within its vicinity, food stalls sprouted around the Lookout Tower, where patrons used to dine alfresco. Even though a roof was later put over this food centre, locals still fondly refer to this place as the 'open-air'.



*The 'open-air' food centre is flanked by Gartak Street and Power Street. **Gartak Street** derived its name from the reclaimed rivulet, which used to be accessed by the local residents on old rickety wooden 'gartak' (Malay colloquial for wooden platform). **Power Street** was named after the first electric power station built across the Old Fire Brigade Station, now the Electra House.*

(21) BROOKE DOCKYARD (1912)

Work started on the dockyard in 1907 and was declared open in 1912 by the Ranee Muda Sylvia (wife of Rajah Muda Charles Vyner Brooke). Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works Corporation were established during the time of second Rajah, Charles Brooke in 1912. Together with the Satok Suspension Bridge (1924), it was the first maritime steel structure building in Kuching. It is still a functioning dry dock for boat repair works since the Brooke era.



(22) OLD STATE MOSQUE (1965-1967)



The first mosque built on this site in 1847 by the family of Datuk Pattingi Ali, a famous Malay leader, was a simple wooden building that resembled a Malay house with pitch roof, during the reign of James Brooke. When cement was first imported in 1880, a major renovation with concrete columns and cement floors were added to the mosque. In 1929, a dome was added to the mosque's existing structure, and was then the largest mosque in the state. In 1965, the mosque was demolished to make way for this old state mosque, which was declared open by D.Y.M.M. Yang Di-Pertuan Agung (Reigning Monarch of Malaysia) on 29th October 1968.



(23) OLD RAILWAY STATION AND MAINTENANCE DEPOT (c.1907)

Opposite the road from the Brooke Dockyard and the Old State Mosque is the site where the former Railway Station and Maintenance Depot once stood. The Sarawak Government Railway, which terminated at the 10th Mile bazaar, commenced operations in 1915. Three locomotives, 'Bulan', 'Bintang' and 'Jean' freighted crops and passengers, and once an ice-chilled train car carried fresh milk from a dairy farm into Kuching. Train services slowed down in 1931 due to the emergence of public bus services (known as mosquito buses) in 1912, which was a cheaper and a more convenient means of public transport. Thus, the railway service closed in 1933 with heavy financial losses. The Japanese Occupation forces exploited the railway line during the WWII to transport passengers & prisoners to work at the quarries at 7th mile. The train station platform was demolished in 1965. The old maintenance depot and some remnants of the old railway line can still be seen embedded in the floor today.



(24) OLD GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE (1908)



The Ladies Club building occupied this site from 1896 until the completion of this building in 1908. Upon the completion of this building, printing machineries from the Resident Office at the Old Kuching Courthouse was moved here. After the Printing Office

moved to its present site at the junction of Rock Road and Jalan Tun Abg Haji Openg in 1951, Kuching Municipal Council (KMC), now known as Kuching City South Council (MBKS), occupied this building after extensive renovation works. Today, this building houses the Kuching Resident and District Office.

Khoo Hun Yeang Street was named after the infamous Mr Khoo Hun Yeang, who held the state-sanctioned monopoly to deal and produce opium and arrack (spirits). The old shophouses fronting this street was built by Khoo in 1902.



(25) CENTRAL POLICE STATION (1930)



The Central Police Station, built to replace the old Police Station which used to occupy the site of the present General Post Office, opened in October 1931 and has resiliently retained its original function and facade till today.

Barrack Road was named as such due to the presence of police barracks for Sikh and Sepoy policemen which stretched from India Street up to the Central Police Station. Although these barracks have long since been dismantled, the name of the road has remained.

This heritage trail is researched and developed jointly by the Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS) and Malaysian Institute of Architects Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC). Supported by the Ministry of Urban Development & Tourism (MUDT) and the Sarawak Tourism Board (STB), the heritage trail is conceived as a continuous, non-profit, and research based project.

As such, assistance from the public in terms of volunteers, knowledge sharing, correction of erroneous facts, contribution of archive materials and constructive suggestions for improvement is welcomed.

Information may be forwarded to sarawakheritagesociety@gmail.com.

The heritage trail is targeted as a self sustaining project and donations, which shall be used for the development of the trails, are welcome. Contributions in the form of cheques payable to "Sarawak Heritage Society" may be forwarded to:

"Kuching Heritage Trail Project"

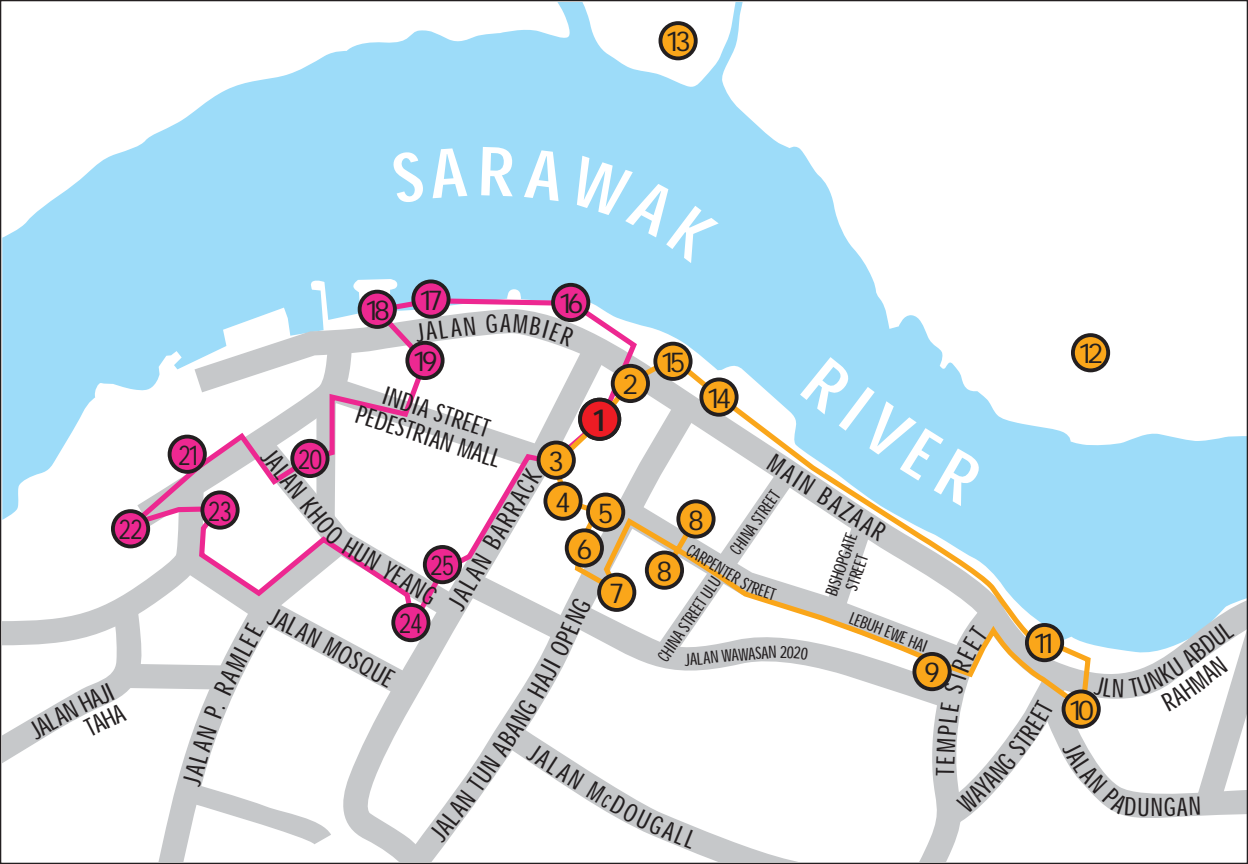
Sarawak Heritage Society ,
c/o Jurutera M & E Konsult Sarawak Sdn. Bhd.
Wisma Cemerlang, 6 Jalan Bampfylde, 93200 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

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LEGEND

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SARAWAK

RIVER

JALAN GAMBIER

INDIA STREET
PEDESTRIAN MALL

JALAN KHOO HUN YEANG

JALAN MOSQUE

JALAN P. RAMLEE

JALAN HAJI
TAHA

JALAN TUN ABANG HAJI OPENG

JALAN MCDOUGALL

MAIN BAZAAR

CARPENTER STREET

CHINA STREET LULO

CHINA STREET

BISHOPGATE STREET

LEBUH EWE HAI

JALAN WAWASAN 2020

TEMPLE STREET

WAYANG STREET

JLN TUNKU ABDUL
RAHMAN

JALAN PADUNGAN

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16 17 18 19

2 15 14

21 20 22 23

25 24

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Supported by:



Sarawak
Tourism Board

A Project Compiled & Developed by:



Malaysian Institute of Architects
Sarawak Chapter