

Natural Resources Diversity: Recreational Activities Attraction in Tanjung Malim, Perak, Malaysia

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Abstract

This paper presents a study on recreational activities attraction in Tanjung Malim, Perak, Malaysia. Tanjung Malim is a town located in the state of Perak, Malaysia. It lies on the Perak-Selangor state border, with Bernam River serving as the natural divider. The present study identify natural resources diversity located in the selected district as suitable venues and attraction for recreational activities. The major purpose of the study is to explore and examine the potential area of Tanjung Malim as a recreational destination. This study focused on natural resources diversity. The main data was collected via observation and unstructured interviews. Through this research, the findings concluded that various natural resources in Tanjung Malim have the attraction and potential to be exposed for recreational activities. The recreational activities attraction include white water kayaking, water tubing, four wheel drive, mountain biking, waterfall, trekking and mountainneering. Therefore, all these recreational activities attraction will be the major recreation products in Tanjung Malim and the place will be more popular among recreational community.

Keywords : natural resources, recreation, diversity, activity, attraction, Tanjung Malim

Introduction

Recreational activities is one of the main attractions for players to come and feel the satisfaction of activities in one place. The attractiveness of an activity that offers different challenges is one of the main principals satisfaction (Mason, 2004). At this point, information from local residents and accurate surveys can influence the development of activities and attractions of a place to be on par with other popular sites. Based on accurate information, product development in recreation area will become more famous among people who love the adventure activities. For promoting the recreation activities, the local communities should play their role to make sure the positive benefits spread to the local based on impact of the activities (Newsome & Moore, 2004).

Study Background

Tanjung Malim is one of a town in the state of Perak, Malaysia. It is approximately 70 km north of Kuala Lumpur via the North-South Expressway. Tanjung Malim is a small town in Perak. In district of Batang Padang, it is 3rd largest after Tapah and Bidor, just ahead of Slim River. The population comprising of Chinese (41%), Malay (40.88%), Indian (15.76%) and others (2.0%) (Tanjung Malim District Council, 2008). It lies on the Perak-Selangor state border, with Sungai Bernam serving as the natural divider.

Today, "Tanjung Malim" usually refers to the territory under administration of Tanjung Malim District Council or Majlis Daerah Tanjung Malim (MDTM), which includes the smaller towns such as Proton City and Behrang 2020. "Tanjung Malim" is lately also referred to the Old Town and New Town divided by the Keretapi Tanah Melayu Komuter rail at its heart, from which the town grew. Commuter train services from Tanjung Malim has started since 1 June 2009.

An early settlement nearby Sungai Bernam is named Kampung Kubu. The Bugis community planted jambu fruit trees along the river bank. As population grew overtime, the area is referred to as Kampung Jambu. A mosque is also built to cater its Muslim community. During a visit by a British Straits of Settlements official, Sir List, the state officials headed by Raja Itam referred the area as Tanjong, as quoted by its local ulama Tuan Haji Mustafa bin Raja Kemala. However, it is also known locally as Kg.Kubu, Kg.Bugis, Kg.Jambu and Tg. Jambu. Hence, Sir List 'officially' named it as Tanjong Malim to avoid confusion. (Malim or mualim refers to the pious local Muslim community)

Major development took place as infrastructures were upgraded. e.g. railway station, bus station, tarred roads, a federal trunk road, schools, district hospital, etc. In 1922, the Sultan Idris Training College was built there, (first education training institution in Malaysia). The SITC expanded over decades (to MPSI, IPSI, UPSI) and is now a public university, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris. A polytechnic is also establish recently, granting the town the nickname Town of Education.

After the 1957 independence, Tanjong Malim is a rather sleepy town. Most Malaysian would only recall this town as a stop-over rest area during long haul travels between Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur. The great flood in 1970 further dampened the town development. In the 1990s, there were plan to push Tanjong Malim to become a buffer city with mega projects such as Proton City and Diamond Creeks. However, the 1997 worldwide economy meltdown put a big comma to it. Recently, Tanjong Malim is back on track. The Proton City project is turned on, and coupled with the Bernam Jaya projects, a City status could be foreseen in a matter of time.

The researchers argue that the Tanjung Malim has the potential to be highlighted as one of the recreational attractions of a multiplicity of resources available. Among the area attractions such as mountains, rivers, waterfalls and others will definitely attract more visitors to the downtown. This is one opportunity for local people to develop recreational products available and thus improve the economic status of the community.

Objective of the Study

The objective of this research is to; (1) find the potential product for recreation area as recreational attraction (2) recommend recreational product based on natural resources available in Tanjung Malim.

Significance of the Study

This study will be (1) promoting Tanjung Malim area as one of the recreational attractions, (2) enhance the economic status of the local population and (3) develop recreation products in this area.

Methodology

This study used qualitative methods to get information and accurate data retrieval. Data were collected for three weeks in the area. Analysis of these findings are the result of all the resources that have been obtained from local residents, community leaders, village heads and district council officers on district council. There is two types of data in this research which is primary and secondary. The data collected through interview and observation call it primary data. This is including interview with local residents, community leaders, village heads and district council officers on district council. The descriptive data which is collected based on site analysis, observation, natural area assesment and others. While the secondary data which was collected by several references including journal, report, article and source from internet. The study is using checklist as an instrument for data collection.

Result & Discussion

Based on the interview and observation among local community in Tanjung Malim area, the researcher was found a few recreational activities attraction in Tanjung Malim. The recreational activities attraction in Tanjung Malim area was found is;

Mountain Biking (MTB)

Natural area around Tanjung Malim is one of the heaven for mountain bikers lover. There is plenty of nice and adventure MTB route there. However, the route only famous among MTB bikers in Tanjung Malim area only. Less promoting to attract people in this recreational activities might this place not popular and people don't know about that. The MTB route including single trails off roads and multi trails. There is 45 minutes to 1 hour drive from Kuala Lumpur or 1 hour 45 minutes drive from Ipoh. The start location for bikers is just 10 minutes drive from Tanjung Malim town. There is natural area which is including fruits orchards, rubber tree farm, palm and natural forest area. The route here is very friendly start from beginners to advanced bikers or soft to hard tail. Mountain biking, like others sport requires biomechanical techniques. In others words proper fundamental skills are needed to become more proficient. Some skills, however require more trust and less analysis (Langton, 2008)

White Water Kayaking

The words of white water kayaking describes an adventurous activities in recreation activity. There is a few river nearby Tanjung Malim area which is suitable for white water kayaking. White water kayaking is one of the popular activity in the world of kayaking and caoieng nowadays (International Canoe Federations, 2007; Lembaga Pendiudikan Kanu Kebangsaan, 2012). One of the river is very close to Tanjung Malim area is Sungai Bernam. Sungai Bernam is located in the downtown area and only takes about 45 minutes from Kuala Lumpur and 5 minutes from downtown exit. The river is very suitable as a training ground for those who are new in this white water kayaking. This river can be classified as a river at the bottom of the class 1 and class 2 and class 3 rapids at the upper part, but depending on the height of the water. Along the route at the bottom of this fast-moving river current and unencumbered, rock and so on. Other activities that can be conducted in this area is water river tubing and river crossing. Not many people know about this river which is can paddle for white water kayaking. The people from University pendidikan Sultan Idris always doing their activity in that river. If local council can promote more about this activity it would be great for people around the world to know the best white water kayaking spot in Tanjung Malim. This is because the facilities is there and not involve money to set up the facilities.

Trekking and Waterfall

According to local people, Tanjung Malim have a beautiful natural waterfall called it Lubuk Kawah and Nine Stages Waterfall. But it not much popular among outdoor lover in Malaysia and only few people know about this place because lack of promoting. What is the most interesting of this place is, people gonna go there they need to do trekking before they can reach the place. Also, mountain bikers can reach thee by their bike. This is because some of the road is off road and the car or four wheeler cant reach there. To reach the waterfall, which short distance travel from Tanjung malim town, people can reach one of the most popular forest resort in Tanjung Malim called it Teratak Riverview Resort. The resort is a nice place to stay and can do some team building activities because there is a few resort and dorm. Before passing the resort, people can passing through a local kampung which name is Kampung Simpang Empat. The local people there working as a rubber tapper and palm growers. Lubuk Kawah Waterfall is formed by a single tumbling fall that drains into aroughly cauldron shaped pool that empties out from a single points into a series of tumbling cascades. While, Nine Stages Waterfall is a beautiful place to go with friends. The waterfall have nine stages from top to down and at the final stages there is a big pool and people can swim there.

Camping

From the observation and some information from local there, there is a few camping ground which is offered by few resort operator at the natural forest there. Which is charged fees below RM20 you can use the facilities while enjoying the natural scenery. Also there is a place you can camping without charges but you need to trekking a bit to the place. The placed call it Jeram Gading, there is river junction there and very nice spot to put as a camping ground. Normally every weekend they have some group trips camp there and most of them is university student from one of the higher learning university nearby Tanjung Malim.

Four Wheel Drive (4 x 4)

Tanjung Malim area is also well known as a hotbed of activity for four wheel drive enthusiasts. There are many remains from the extraction of timber route before. Now the route was the main route energizer activities this four-wheel drive. This activity mostly very popular among the locals due to most of local people has its own four-wheel drive vehicles. This is because the local people working as a rubber tapper and palm oil . Challenging routes is one of the main attractions of this activity enthusiasts. However, the activity regulated in some way protect the environment from damage and contamination. Local councils should act as a major catalyst in popularizing and promoting the activity as one of the products main attraction for visitors to come and feel the adventure in Tanjung Malim.

Conclusion

Recreational activities attraction in Tanjung Malim, if managed and planned properly it can to contribute to a substantial income to the government, the private operators and local community also. It accounted for it in terms of food, accommodation such as homestays, chalets, and so on, the food, gifts, logistics and others. Through the local council is not impossible recreational activities attraction is capable of strong currents moving in tandem with the recreational products of others. It is consistent with the function itself to promote Tanjung Malim area and Malaysia as one of the best destinations on the local and international recreation community. Additionally, it can assist in the development of the adventure based tourism industry and promote local tourism products.

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