

*For Immediate Release*

**SUTERA SANCTUARY LODGES  
In Sabah, Malaysia**

**Kota Kinabalu, Sabah:** As one of Asia's most intriguing destinations, Sabah is renowned for its rich diversity of flora and fauna. A tropical haven, its ancient rainforests are home to botanical splendours and rare species of wildlife. The 1,500 kilometre long coastline showcases exquisite, jewelled islands fringed by dense coral reefs and inhabited by spellbinding marine life. Towering above all these attractions is the awe-inspiring peak of Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain between the Himalayas and the highlands of New Guinea.

Nestled neatly within this land is the comfort and joy of the five strategically located eco-resorts that make up **Sutera Sanctuary Lodges**. The five properties are wholly owned by the Sabah government under Sabah Parks, and management of the properties was privatised on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1998. **Sutera Harbour Resort**, Asia's premier lifestyle destination encompassing The Pacific Sutera (500 rooms), The Magellan Sutera (456 rooms), Sutera Harbour Marina, Golf & Country Club and The Residences at Sutera Harbour, was appointed to co-manage the properties on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2002. Sutera Sanctuary Lodges was launched and currently oversees the accommodation and restaurants of all five properties while Sabah Parks administers park activities and collection of conservation fees.

**Kinabalu Park** – This was designated Malaysia's first World Heritage site by UNESCO on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2000 for its 'outstanding universal values' and role as one of the world's most important biological sites. Located at 1,585 metres above sea level, Kinabalu Park showcases an amazing ecological system unrivalled anywhere else in the world. It carries lowland, montane and alpine vegetation on a scale that is not seen anywhere else in the world. Kinabalu Park plays host to the annual Mt. Kinabalu International Climbathon event, proclaimed the 'World's Toughest Mountain Race'. The event attracts top mountain racers from around the world.

At the park you can choose from 30 private lodges of 1 or 2 bedrooms. At the Liwagu Restaurant, where diners can enjoy the relaxing ambience brought on by the fireplace and soft music, try their famous '*Linogu Beef*' served with local *cili padi* (bird's eye chilli). Special and private gatherings can be held at the Fern Room. The Balsam Restaurant features a popular daily steamboat dinner

**Mesilau Nature Resort** - Nestled at the foot of the mountain at 2,000 metres above sea level within the World Heritage Site, Mesilau Nature Resort enchants you with its cool temperate climate and serene surroundings. The Mesilau Trail is the newest start to the climbing route to the peak of Mount Kinabalu, which joins the existing Summit Trail at Layang Layang (2740m above sea level). The world's largest pitcher plant, the "Nepenthes Rajah" grows in abundance here.

Cool and refreshing, this resort is the ideal venue for a retreat, seminar or company outing with a total of 22 private lodges of 2 or 3 bedrooms, meeting rooms and indoor recreation facilities. The Renanthera Restaurant, which has a spectacular view of the mountain from its veranda, has a mountain stream running underneath it and is famous for its piping hot steamboat and barbecue dinners, also available at the Lounge and Terrace. A challenging 18-hole golf course awaits avid golfers nearby.

**Laban Rata** - Experienced climbers and novices alike will begin the day's ascent from either Kinabalu Park or Mesilau Nature Resort to Laban Rata at approximately 3,272 metres above sea level. Laban Rata offers climbers hostel accommodation (a total of 160 beds) and a restaurant before they resume their climb to the peak the following early morning. Come face to face with the mighty mountain, savour the life-enriching experience of watching a sunrise from the peak and feel the excitement and awesome realisation that you are indeed on "top of the world"!

**Poring Hot Spring & Nature Reserve** - The natural hot spring is perfect to soothe tired and aching muscles after the long climb up Mount Kinabalu. The reserve derives its name from the giant bamboo plants found in the area (Poring meaning 'bamboo' in the dialect of the local Dusun tribes). It offers 4 private lodges of 2 or 3 bedrooms as well as a camping ground for the more adventurous. Located in Ranau, a forty-minute drive from Kinabalu Park, Poring Hot Spring is renowned for its open-air baths of sulphuric water known for its skin-curative properties. Try the canopy walk and enjoy a bird's eye view of the surrounding rainforest. You can also see a wide variety of lowland orchids, rare butterflies at the Butterfly Farm and Tropical Garden within the nature reserve, and at times, the world's largest flower, the Rafflesia. The Rainforest Restaurant located 5 minutes away from the entrance serves a variety of Asian and Western favourites.

**Manukan Island Resort** - Located just 15 minutes away by boat from the city of Kota Kinabalu, Manukan is the second largest island of the five Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park islands. For the avid diver, the reefs off the island offer excellent crystal clear water and beautiful corals. For those who want to enjoy the scenery, take a leisurely stroll along the nature trail or simply laze by the 1.5km stretch of a delightful dolphin-shaped beach located at the eastern end of the island. All 20 units of hilltop or beachside lodges overlook the South China Sea and encourage overnight visitors to lose themselves in the romance of a tropical island paradise. Dining options at the island include a sumptuous BBQ lunch served daily at the beachfront from 11:30am to 2:30pm. A tri-section restaurant is also available with an open air area, the "Prahu Terrace" and "Pulau Restaurant".

There are few places on earth that can promise guests the world's oldest rainforest, a mountain that is a World Heritage Site, diving spots that are internationally renowned and a rich history of cultural diversity that dates back over 28,000 years. Only in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo can guests enjoy the freedom to ascend, immerse and explore it all in the comfort of **Sutura Sanctuary Lodges** with these five strategically located eco-resorts.

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