

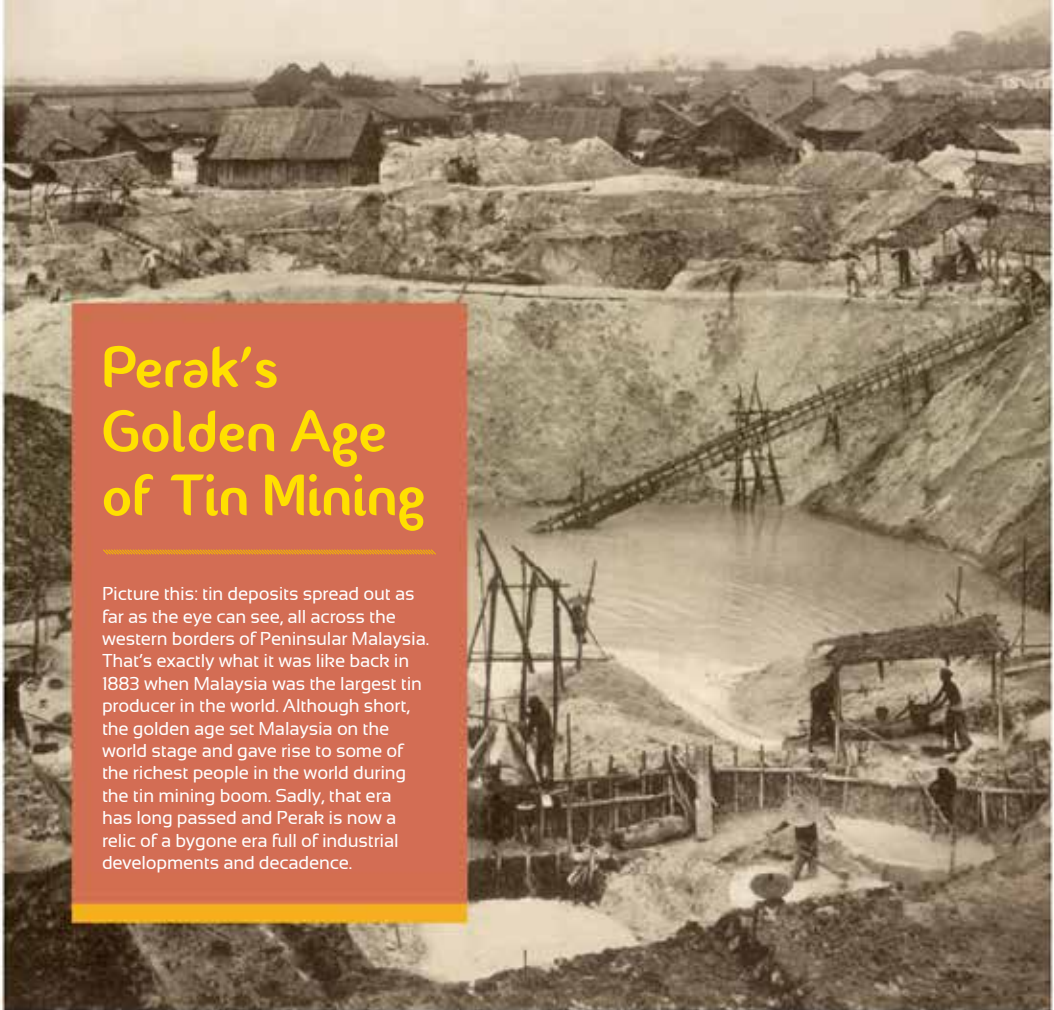
THE LAND OF GRACE

perak

Tin Mining Trail

Perak's Golden Age of Tin Mining

Picture this: tin deposits spread out as far as the eye can see, all across the western borders of Peninsular Malaysia. That's exactly what it was like back in 1883 when Malaysia was the largest tin producer in the world. Although short, the golden age set Malaysia on the world stage and gave rise to some of the richest people in the world during the tin mining boom. Sadly, that era has long passed and Perak is now a relic of a bygone era full of industrial developments and decadence.



THE LAND BUILT ON TIN, perak

PERAK, MEANING "SILVER" IN MALAY, was believed to have been named after the silvery tin ore deposits that once provided great wealth to its land.

Today, Perak's glory days of tin mining is in the past, but the tales and legends of the cities of millionaires carry on, passed from generation to generation less we forget the strife of our ancestors in the development of our state – the land built on tin.

In this booklet, we'll go on a journey through the peaks and valleys of tin mining in Perak. Discover for yourself the heritage and culture origins that have left its remnants in modern-day Perak.

PERAK'S TIN MINING TYCOONS & TOWKAYS

NGAH IBRAHIM

Ngah Ibrahim was a Malay headman who succeeded his father, Long Jaafar, as headman and administrator of the Larut district when his father died in 1885. Ngah Ibrahim was appointed as Orang Kaya Mantri of Larut in 1858.



FOO YET KAI

Born in Batu Gajah in 1907, he moved to Yunting village in Fujian, China. In 1924, he returned to Malaya and began working in a tin mine owned by his uncle. Not long after he began his own mining company, then venturing into multiple lucrative businesses, he became a renowned philanthropist who gave back to his community.

CHUNG KENG QUEE

Kapitan China Chung Keng Quee was the founder and administrator of modern Taiping in Perak, Malaysia. Appointed "Kapitan China" by the British in 1877, he was a millionaire philanthropist and known as a tin mining innovator.



LONG JAAFAR

Long Jaafar's name is famous amongst historians in Malaysia. He was the first to discover tin ore in Larut and started it in 1848. Due to his efforts, the State of Perak, especially the Larut region, became increasingly popular for its tin mining.



LEONG FEE

Liang Pi Joo, known by his Hakka name Leong Fee, was a worker from Guangdong in China who emigrated to Malaya in 1876. Half a year after arriving on the shores of Penang, Leong Fee moved to Perak where he made his tin mining fortune. In 1902, he opened a mine in Tambun. It contributed to the world record for tin production that Tambun received a year later.

FOO CHOO CHOON

Known as a Hakka tin miner, Foo Choo Choon was also a farmer and businessman. It is said that during his time, he was the richest Chinaman in the world. Due to his riches, he was dubbed 'Tin King' and 'the Carnegie of the Orient'.



History of Tin Mining in Perak

TIN MINING IS ONE OF THE OLDEST INDUSTRIES IN MALAYSIA.

In the 1800s, the first of an abundance of tin was discovered in Perak, causing a boom in the industry that propelled the sleepy towns of Taiping and Ipoh into heights of glory.

The legend goes that Perak's first-ever tin miner was actually an elephant. The elephant was named Larut and was known to be Long Jaafar's pet. The story is that one day, Larut went missing in the jungle. When they finally found him, they noticed a silvery substance smeared on his leg. Curious, they searched the forest and it led to the discovery of tin.

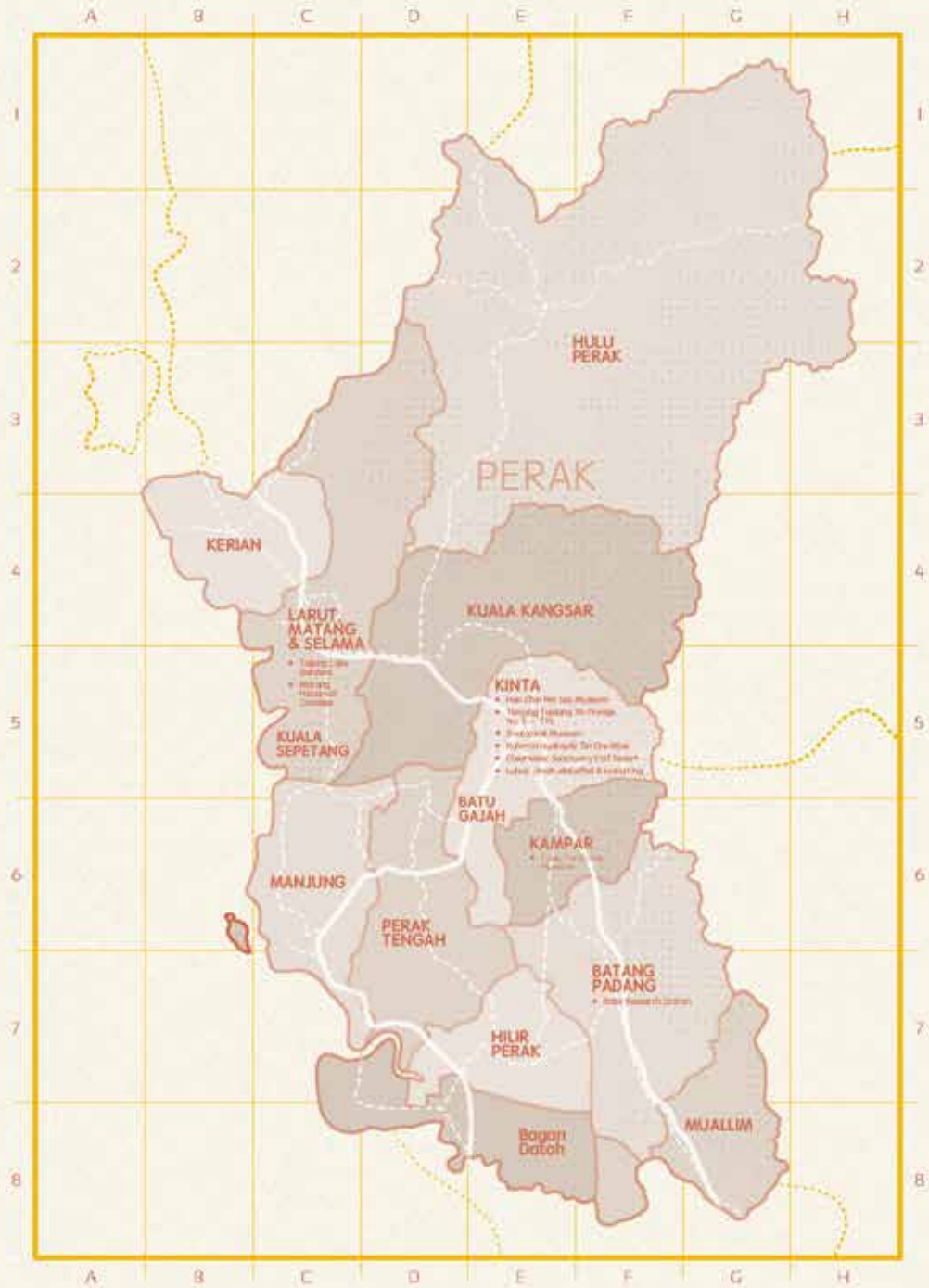
Mining techniques have changed over time as new groups of people introduce their own methods to mining. Malay miners used ground sluicing or the *lampan* method by cutting ditches from the nearest river. This was followed by the Siamese and Mandailings using the *tabuk* mine, which is an excavated pit from which water is removed by cantilevered baskets. The Chinese mining workers initially used agricultural tools such as hoes, rakes and baskets to excavate the earth but later discovered the water wheel. They used wooden trays (*dulang*) to scoop up earth mixed with water, and by carefully swirling the water, the mud was swept away and the heavier tin ore remained.

With the advancing of mining

methods, the resulting wealth of the tin mining cities grew and Ipoh became known as "the City of Millionaires". The first railway in Perak from Taiping to Port Weld (now known as Kuala Sepetang) was built in 1885 to transport the wealth of tin. By 1890, Kinta had become the principal tin-producing district, not only in Perak but in the whole of the Malay peninsula. By 1904, Malaya produced 50,000 tons of tin annually, supplying half of the world output. Word of success spread to the Europeans, who fought for control of the land and brought in capital, managerial expertise, and technology to revolutionize the industry. In 1913, dredging was introduced and put into practice by Malayan Tin Dredging Ltd. (MTD), which later became the largest tin dredging company in the world.

However, during the last thirty years of the 20th century, tin's relative importance to Malaysia's economy steadily declined with the increased diversification of the country's exports and the falling of tin price. Today, Malaysia's golden days of tin mining are over, but the story of the land built from tin remains.





MAP

MUSEUM



HAN CHIN PET SOO MUSEUM



GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM



TANJUNG TUALANG
TIN DREDGE NO. 5 - TT5



MATANG HISTORICAL COMPLEX

KINTA TIN MINING MUSEUM

EDUCATION



RAHMAN HYDRAULIC
TIN ORE MINE

RECREATION



TAIPIING LAKE GARDENS

CLEARWATER SANCTUARY
GOLF RESORT



LUBUK TIMAH WATERFALL
& HOTSPRING

BIDOR RESEARCH
STATION

TOWNSHIP



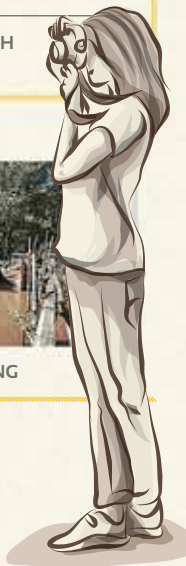
KAMPAR



BATU GAJAH



KUALA SEPETANG



MINING METHODS

TIN ORE HAS BEEN MINED IN MALAYA FOR CENTURIES.

At that time, mining methods were primitive and tin ores were mined along the river banks. It was the discovery of large deposits of tin ore by Long Jaafar in Larut, Perak in 1848 that started the development of the tin mining industry in Malaya.



EARLY METHODS (Ground Sluicing, Lampan)

Did you know that the old Chinese method of mining was mainly carried out by hand? The ground was manually dug using a *changkol* (hoe) and the *karang* was carried to hydraulic sluices.



UNDERGROUND MINING

As the title states, mining is carried out underground in tunnels and shafts. The most famous underground mine in Malaysia was Sungei Lembing in Pahang.



OPENCAST MINING

In areas where tin ore occurs in rocks and boulders, the ore-bearing materials are dug by excavators and transported by dump trucks to a collection pit. An example of an open cast mine is the Rahman Hydraulics in Perak.



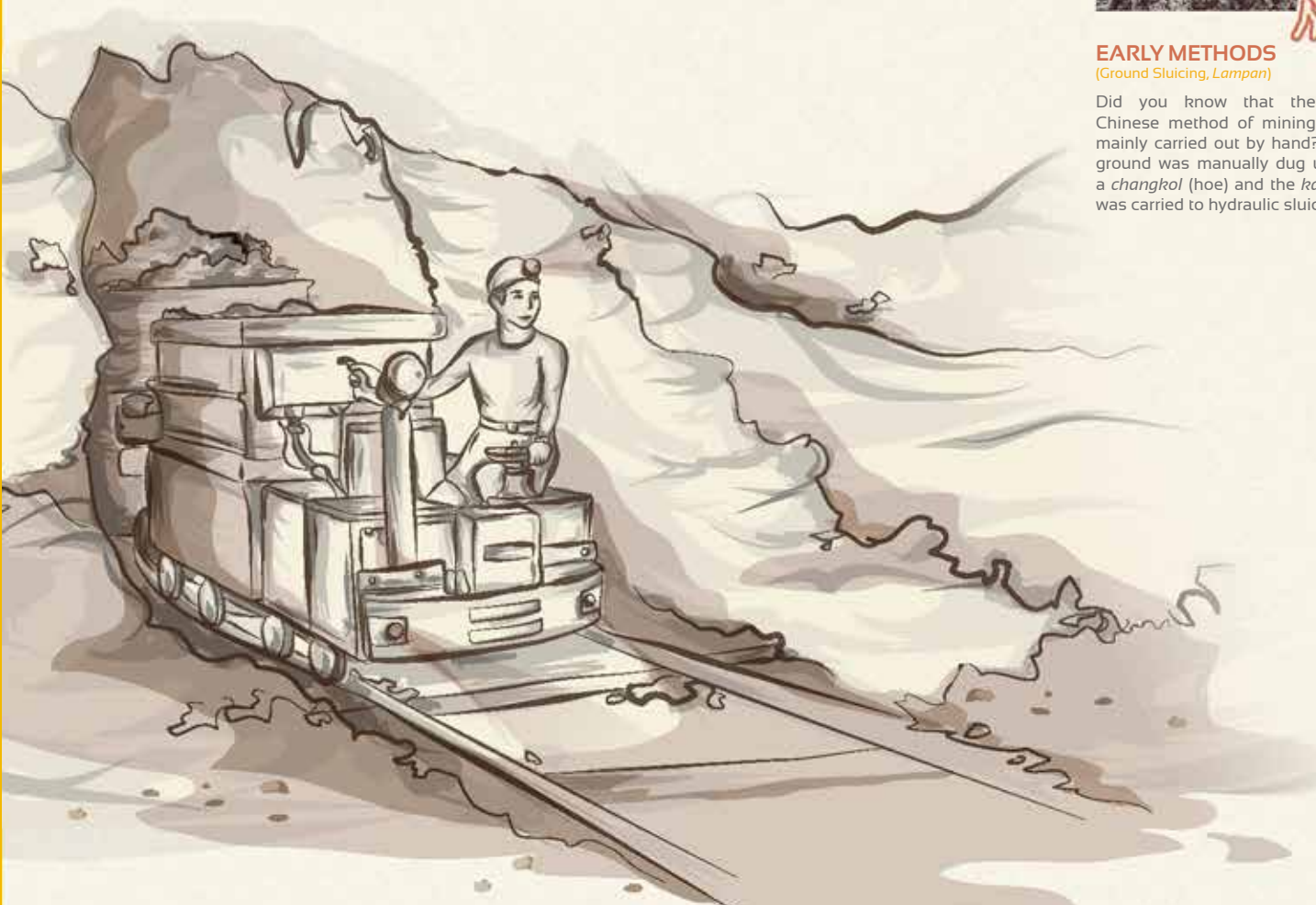
BUCKET DREDGE

The bucket dredge may be described as a continuous dipper dredge where the material is raised by a revolving chain of dippers or buckets which then scoop or dig into the deposit.



DRY MINING

Dry mining is a mining operation where there is no moisture in the ventilating air. Every effort must be made to prevent the ventilating air from picking up moisture as this could disrupt the process entirely.



The List of MUSEUMS

Perak has some very interesting museums that are not just on tin mining history but also on a variety of topics just waiting to be discovered.

Learn about the bygone era of the tin mining boom in Malaysia back in the late 1800s and the unique culture and illustrious clans that were founded and flourished long before Malaysia's independence. Tin Mining is not only responsible for putting Malaysia on the world map but also contributed to the rich culture and history we have today. Discover Perak's past preserved in museums that make for a fun activity on a hot day when you need shade from the sun and are keen to explore the past with your loved ones, no matter the age.



HAN CHIN PET SOO MUSEUM

Malaysia's first Hakka tin mining museum, Han Chin Pet Soo is an exquisitely refurbished Hakka Miner's Club, located on the outskirts of Ipoh's Old Town not far from the Kinta River. The museum invites guests to get a glimpse into the lives of Hakka tin miners, the tin mining industry, as well as insight on a secret world where hustling, gambling, opium smoking and triad activities thrived behind the opulent façade of the club.

🕒 Monday-Sunday 9:30am-3:30pm

📍 3, Jalan Biji Timah, 30100 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia.

☎ +605 241 4541



The List of MUSEUMS



TANJUNG TUALANG TIN DREDGE NO. 5 – TT5

**Did you know that TT5 is the last tin dredge in Malaysia?
And that it weighs 4,500 tons?**

TT5 was built in England in 1938 by F.W.Payne & Son and was in operation for 44 years until the Malaysian tin industry began to plummet in 1982 due to exhausted tin deposits, low tin prices and high operating costs. Today, guests can take a tour of the dredge to enjoy the Panning Experience, Self-Tour TT5, and the Santai Bazaar@TT5 to savour the experience of decades past. Don't forget your camera!

📅 **Monday-Thursday, Saturday-Sunday** 9:00am-6:00pm
Friday 9:00am-12:30pm, 2:30pm-6:00pm

🎫 **Entrance Fee**
Without Tour Guide: RM5
With Tour Guide: RM10 (Malaysian), RM20 (Non-Malaysian)

📍 9th KM, Jalan Tanjung Tualang, 31000 Batu Gajah, Perak, Malaysia

☎ +6014 904 3255



The List of MUSEUMS

KINTA TIN MINING MUSEUM

Found in the little town of Kampar, the Kinta Tin Mining Museum is the perfect place to reminisce and discover a time when tin mining took centre stage, making Malaysia the world's forerunner in tin production. For those who are keen to learn, this museum offers all the nitty-gritty on tin extraction unique to the area and more. This museum is worth checking out for a taste of Kinta Valley's tin mining glory days. While you're in the vicinity, be sure to check out the beautiful surrounding lakes (which used to be tin mines) varying in all shapes and sizes for some amazing photoshoot sessions.



🕒 **Monday-Sunday**
9:00am-5:00pm

📍 Lot 126026 Jalan Batu Karang
Taman Bandar Baru, 31900
Kampar, Perak, Malaysia

☎ +605 466 2632



GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Don't let its exterior appearance fool you. The Geological Museum might not seem like much from the outside but you'll be surprised at the treasure-trove you'll find inside. Built in 1957, the museum forms an integral part of the Minerals & Geoscience Department and is divided into seven zones. These featured zones range from the history of the museum and department itself to the history of the earth, dinosaurs, minerals, mining activities, mineral exploration, geological finds and hazards and so much more. Curated to perfection, this museum is bound to amaze all who venture here.

🕒 **Monday-Thursday** 9:00am-12:30pm, 2:00pm-4:30pm
Friday 9:00am-12:00pm, 3:00-4:30pm
Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm **Sunday** Closed

📍 **Jabatan Mineral dan Geosains Malaysia**
Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, 30820 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia

☎ +605 540 6000

The List of MUSEUMS

MATANG HISTORICAL COMPLEX (NGAH IBRAHIM'S FORT)

Located along Jalan Taiping, Kuala Sepetang, this complex/fort is named after Nгах Ibrahim, the son of a powerful and wealthy tin miner in Perak. This fort used to be a house, a court, a college, a school and was even the headquarters of the Imperial Army during the Japanese occupation of Malaya. The fort has been under the management of the Museum and Antiquities Department since 1987 and houses a collection consisting of all types of artefacts related to the chronology of events leading to the establishment of the complex itself.

🕒 **Monday-Sunday**
9:00am-5:00pm
Friday
9:00am-12.15pm
2.45pm-5:00pm

** Closed on first day of Hari Raya
Aidilfitri and Aidiladha*

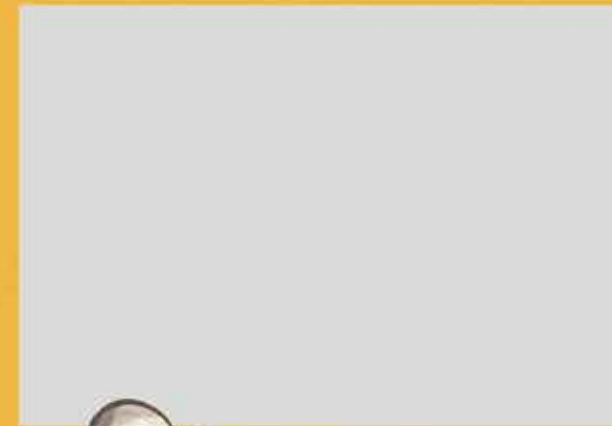
📍 **Matang Historical Complex**
Matang, 34750 Taiping, Perak,
Malaysia

☎ +605 8081 691



Education: RAHMAN HYDRAULIC TIN ORE MINE

Here's something you probably didn't know,
**RAHMAN HYDRAULIC TIN ORE MINE HAS BEEN IN
OPERATION SINCE THE EARLY 1900S** and has conducted
some of the largest hard rock tin ore mining in Malaysia!



So what makes Rahman Hydraulic Tin Ore Mine different from the other mines found in Malaysia?

The answer is in its name!
This particular company uses hydraulic pumps to extract tin ore from the earth and is still in operation as an open mine till this day. Another interesting fact about this place is that it stands today as an educational spot for current and future generations.



📍 P.O.Box WDI, 33200
Klian Intan, Perak, Malaysia

☎ 04 477 8211

TOWNSHIP



KAMPAR

Founded in 1887, Kampar is an old tin mining town nestled within the Kinta Valley. Many of its surrounding tin mines were established in the late 19th century and flourished throughout the 1900s. They began to stagnate and decline after World War I, with the exception of a second boom in the 1920s. By the late 20th century, many tin mines in the area closed down following the collapse of the industry.



BATU GAJAH

Batu Gajah is a town that straddles the Kinta River and has an estimated population of 35,000 people. During its heyday in the late 19th century, Batu Gajah was one of the largest tin mining producing towns. With all tin deposits depleted, Batu Gajah is now a quiet retirement town.



KUALA SEPETANG

Formerly known as Port Weld, Kuala Sepetang is a coastal town located in Perak. In the past, Kuala Sepetang was famous as it was part of the first railway line of Malaya. The railway line was 12.8km long and was mainly used to carry tin from mines in Taiping to Kuala Sepetang so that they could be transported overseas through the port. Today, it is a thriving fishing village and the place where you can board a boat to Pulau Sangga as well as visit the fish cage culture sites which float on the river.

TIN MINE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



TAIPIING LAKE GARDENS

Did you know that Taiping's best attraction used to be an abandoned tin mine?

Twenty-one years after it was abandoned by Hai San clan leader Kapitan Chung Keng Kwee, the park was officially opened to the public by then Perak British Resident Frank Swettenham in 1893. The concept behind the creation of the lake gardens is said to be reminiscent of the Lake District of England and the Scottish Highlands. It is now a refuge to approximately 1,300 types of trees.

📍 Jalan Pehelling,
Taman Tasik Taiping, 34000
Taiping, Perak, Malaysia

CLEARWATER SANCTUARY GOLF RESORT

Bet you didn't know this sanctuary of a resort used to be a tin mine site!

Better believe it cause this little piece of heaven on earth spread out across 100 acres is now a 27-hole golf resort. Impeccably designed by Tim Woolbank of the internationally renowned Australian Golf Management, Clearwater Sanctuary pays tribute to the traditional homeland of this ancient game, Scotland! This tin mine turned golf resort which then turned animal sanctuary is now home to nature's exotic flora and fauna.



📍 Lot 6019, Jalan Changhat Larang,
31000 Batu Gajah,
Perak Darul Ridzuan, Malaysia



LUBUK TIMAH WATERFALL & HOTSPRING

Originally a mini hydro dam built during the British colonial era, it was used to generate electricity to nearby tin mines. Today, water still flows over the dam on both sides, forming two waterfalls further in just past the two pools of natural hot springs.

Lubuk Timah Hot Spring is about 15 kilometres from Ipoh City. Its waters were once used for tin mining in the early 20th century. Here you will find three pools with varying degrees of heat.

📍 Pusat Rekreasi Lubuk Timah
Jalan Keramat Pulai, Kampung Kepayang, 31300 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia

TIN MINING FESTIVAL

THIS FESTIVAL HELD ANNUALLY SINCE 2015 IN KAMPAR, PERAK by the Kinta Tin Mining Museum with UTAR and the Perak Chinese Miners Association as co-organizers.

The programmes featured in the festival are Tin Talks, Tin Town Heritage Walk, Cultural Performances, Curator's Tour, Carnival Fair, Special Exhibition, and so on.

Visitors can stay one or two nights in Kampar to learn about and feel the vibrance of the past glorious days of the tin mining industry in Kinta, which was once the most productive place for tin in the world since the 1890s.



Please refer to the organisation's Facebook page listed below for more event details.

 [Kinta Tin Mining Museum](#)


The Tin Mining Story: IPOH HERITAGE TRAIL


The Ipoh Heritage Trail is **FREE OF CHARGE AND CONSISTS OF 27 POINTS OF INTEREST**, beginning with a historical adventure at Ipoh's Old Town and venturing further to its maturing business centre.



In this two-hour trail, take a stroll down memory lane and discover stories about important landmarks like the Ipoh Town Hall Building, Ipoh Railway Station, and Birch Memorial. It's an easy walk and suitable for all members of the family no matter the age. During your exploration of the trail, you can try the famous Ipoh White Coffee and even some delicious Nasi Kandar.

 www.lokalocal.com/tour/3715/the-tin-mining-city-story-ipoh-heritage-trail

 hello@lokalocal.com

 +6012 233 2994 (EN), +6012 345 2994 (CN)



OUTFIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Make sure you have a comfortable pair of sneakers or sandals and use light cottonwear for maximum comfort.



FOR POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS

Bring along water and an umbrella. Please use sunscreen at all times.



SAFETY NOTICE

The trail is relatively easy as the route follows footpaths in and around the city centre. The walking tour takes about 2 hours to complete and is conducted in both English and Chinese language.



TOURISM PERAK MANAGEMENT BERHAD

22, 22A & 22B, Jalan Teh Hawa, 30300 Ipoh, Perak

Tel | +605-249 9966 / +605-241 2372

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 Tourism Perak  @PerakTourism  tourismperak  霹靂州旅遊局

All information stated in the brochure is correct at time of printing.

