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Sekinchan is famed for its expansive and picturesque padi fields. — KAMARUL ARIFFIN/The Star



Pantai Morib is one of Selangor's most-visited beaches. — KK SHAM/The Star



Boats decked by a jetty at Pulau Ketam, a popular destination for those who want to get a taste of island life. — ART CHEN/The Star

Bask up close in nature's splendour

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IN addition to being the location of choice for high-end industries and the manufacturing sector, Selangor is also one of the country's top tourist destinations.

Blessed with an array of attractions encompassing natural wonders, historical splendour and modern marvels, tourism is one of the state's top priorities.

There are about 25 natural waterfalls in the state, including the Kanching Falls in Rawang, the multiple Sendat Falls in Ulu Yam Baharu and the Sungai Pisang Waterfall near Gombak.

For those who like the outdoors, there are various places of interest to visit such as the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in Selayang, the Malaysia Agriculture Park in Bukit Cerakah, Shah Alam, and the Kanching Recreational Forest in Ampang Jaya.

There are also smaller trails scattered all over Selangor for trekking enthusiasts.

Selangor, which has a long coastline, is also home to several beautiful beaches such as Morib, Bagan Lalang and Batu Laut.

These beaches are popular with families, especially during holidays, given the affordable accommodation and a generous number of seafood restaurants that offer a mouth-watering selection of dishes made from freshly caught seafood.

There is also Pulau Ketam near the Klang coastline, which is a popular destination for those who want to experience life on an island for themselves.

Meanwhile, those who want to experience the beauty of lush

padi fields can make their way to Sekinchan, which is a popular destination for domestic visitors.

Sekinchan-based padi farmer Allen Lim took his family business a notch higher by setting up a padi museum which receives about 10,000 visitors a month.

"We also have exhibits in the museum to show people how padi farming has evolved over the years," Lim has been quoted as saying.

Selangor executive councillor in charge of tourism Hee Loy Sian said the number of people visiting places of interest in Selangor had increased in 2022.

"A total of 2,549,262 tourists, made up of domestic and foreign travellers, visited Selangor from January to June this year and the number recorded a 209.7% increase compared to tourist inflow in the year 2021," said Hee.

According to the trend, the Petaling district recorded the highest number of visitors with 1,998,093 people visiting places such as Bandar Sunway, the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Mosque in Shah Alam (also known as the Blue Mosque), Klang Town and Bagan Lalang, added Hee.

He said an estimated RM2.07bil in tourism revenue had come into the state from both domestic and international visitors.

Tourism Selangor also carried out various exercises to increase the flow of foreign tourists into the state.

Recently, the agency embarked on a series of visits to Russia (Moscow), Uzbekistan (Tashkent), Kazakhstan (Almaty) and Turkiye (Istanbul) to attract more tourists from there to visit Selangor.



There are a number of scenic spots for visitors to enjoy at FRIM in Selayang. — SHALINI RAVINDRAN/The Star