

## BINTULU

### Introduction

Originally a sleepy Melanau fishing village, Bintulu is nowadays Sarawak's main industrial town and principal deep-water port, servicing the oil, gas and timber industries. The town is located at the mouth of the Kemena River and has a population of approximately 100,000, made up primarily of Ibans, Chinese, Malays and Melanaus, with a smattering of Bisayas, Kedayans, Bidayuhs and Orang Ulus, and a sizeable expatriate contingent.

### Attractions

For the visitor, Bintulu's main tourist attraction is Similajau National Park, a narrow strip of forest fronted by golden sand beaches (see National Park chapter). Other attractions & town features are listed below.

**Pasar Tamu & Pasar Utama** are two markets located near each other along the riverfront selling a range of local produce. The cone-shaped roofs symbolize the traditional Melanau headgear, the Terendak. The top floor of the Pasar Utama has stalls selling local hawker food favourites.

**The Night Market (Pasar Malam)**, off Jln Abang Galau, is a good place to stroll around and try snacks, grilled meats and fish, and delicious local cakes.

**The Council Negeri Memorial** in the town centre commemorates Sarawak's first State Legislative Assembly meeting, which was held in Bintulu on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1867.

**Tanjung Batu Beach** is a local picnic and recreational spot located approximately 3km from the town centre. Take a taxi or bus No. 9.

**Kidurong Tower**, a small observation tower located at Tanjung Kidurong on the outskirts of town offers views of Bintulu's oil and gas facilities and structures. It's best to go shortly after dark when the flame-offs from the refineries and processing facilities make an awe-inspiring sight.

### International Class Hotels

Bintulu's accommodation ranges from budget to international class hotels. Unless otherwise indicated, all are located in the Town Centre Area. Rates shown from cheapest single to most expensive double, and are inclusive of 5% government tax and 10% service charge except where indicated (++) . Telephone dialing code is +086 from overseas and 086 within Malaysia.

**Parkcity Everly Hotel**, Jalan Tun Razak. Tel: 318899. Email: [pkcity@po.jaring.my](mailto:pkcity@po.jaring.my). [www.vhhotels.com](http://www.vhhotels.com). 228 rooms. Room rate Rm300-360 (++) . Suites RM476-2,700(++). Outlets include Luconia Bay Coffee House (local and international cuisine), M&D's Restaurant and Waves Pub. Amenities include laundry and dry cleaning, business centre, baby sitting service, children's playground, fitness centre, swimming pool, internet access, hotel shop, executive lounge, conference & banqueting facilities.

**Regency Plaza Hotel**, 116 Taman Sri Dagang, Jln Abang Galau. Tel: 335111. Fax: 332742. Email: rihbtu@tm.net.my Room rates RM170-200. Weekend promotional rates RM120.75. 3 Star hotel with recently refurbished rooms. Facilities include swimming pool, coffee house, laundry and dry cleaning and conference & banqueting facilities.

### Mid-Range Hotels

**Hoover Hotel**, No. 92, Jln Keppel. Tel: 337166 Fax: 337597. Room rates RM65-86.25

**Kemena Inn**, 78 Jln Keppel. Tel: 333378 Fax: 316998 Room rates RM55-70.

**Li Hua Hotel**, Lot 36, Berjaya Commercial Centre, Jln Sultan Iskandar. Tel: 335000 Fax: 335222. Email: [lihuahb@yahoo.com](mailto:lihuahb@yahoo.com). [www.lihuahotelbtu.com](http://www.lihuahotelbtu.com). Room rate RM88-198++. Amenities include laundry and dry cleaning, swimming pool. WiFi access, beauty saloon, karaoke rooms, café, restaurant, conference & banqueting facilities. Well run 2/3 star property located just outside the town centre.

**Kintown Inn**, No. 93, Jln Keppel. Tel: 333666 Fax: 333335. Email: [kintowninn@yahoo.com](mailto:kintowninn@yahoo.com). Room rates RM69-80.50 nett. One of the better mid range inns in town.

**Riverfront Inn**, 256 Taman Sri Dagang. Tel: 333111. Fax: 339577. Room rates RM60-90++. Pretty decent mid range hotel on the riverfront.

**Sunlight Inn**, No. 7 Pedada Road. Tel: 332577. Fax: 334075. Room rates 68-78 nett. Good location, spotlessly clean and good value for money.

### Budget Hotels

There are numerous budget inns in the town centre with rooms in the RM30-50 price range. Noise can be a problem in some of these places and standards vary widely so ask to see the rooms before checking in. One of the most popular budget inns for foreign travelers is the centrally located Sea View Inn.

**Sea View Inn**, No 254, Jln Masjid, Taman Sri Dagang. Tel: 339118. Fax: 339228. Room rates RM40-50. Basic, clean rooms on the waterfront.

### **Eating Out**

#### Chinese

Chinese coffee shops are found all around the town centre and sell a range of noodle dishes, chicken rice, mixed rice and other local hawker food.

**Apple Restaurant**, No 78-79, Parkcity Commerce Square. Tel: 333377. Halal. Popular restaurant serving Malaysian & Chinese dishes. 5 mins taxi ride from the town centre. Bookings advisable on weekends. Open 10am – 2pm and 5pm – 10pm.

**Marco Polo Restaurant & Grill**, see International below.

**Riverfront Café** (in the Riverfront Inn), 25 Taman Sri Dagang. Tel: 333111.

### Indian

**Abida Café**, 159, Taman Sri Dagang, Jln Masjid. South Indian Muslim food including nasi biryani, curries, thosai, chapatti. Open 6am to midnight.

### International

**Marco Polo Restaurant & Grill**, Ground Floor, Lot 114-116 BDA-Shaida Commercial Centre. Halal. Tel: 332458. Open 10am to 2pm and 5pm to 11.30pm.

**M&D's Restaurant**, Parkcity Everly Hotel, Jln Tun Razak. Tel: 318888. International and Malaysian cuisine.

### Malay

There are some good Malay restaurants in the town centre with most places offering mixed rice, roti canai, noodles, nasi lemak, etc. Jalan Sommerville is probably the best place to head for as it has a cluster of outlets open from early morning until late at night.

**An-Nur Café**, 39 Jln Sommerville, Open 6.30am to 10pm.

**Famous Mama Café**, 10 Jln Sommerville, Open 6.30am to midnight.

**PJ Corner**, No. 18 New Commercial Centre, Jln Abang Galau. Open 7am to 11pm.

**Puteri Corner Café**, 26 Jln Sommerville, Open 7am to 3am.

**Rom Face**, No. 2 New Commercial Centre, Jln Abang Galau. Open 7.30am to 5pm.  
Sri Impian, Lot 108 Ground Floor, Taman Sri Dagang. Open 8am to 6pm.

**Shalimar Restaurant**, 22 Jln Sommerville. Open 7am to 11pm. Malay food plus some Pakistani dishes such tandoori and fish and good naan bread.

**Jing Cheng Café**, 9 Jln Sommerville. Range of Malay stalls selling satay, mee jawa, mixed rice and roti canai. Open 7am to 5am.

### **Entertainment**

There are countless karaoke lounges and dangdut bars located in the town centre, all with a similar set-up. If karaoke and being hassled to buy 'ladies drinks' is not your thing, your best bet is to head to a coffee shop where cheap beers are available.

### Golf

Bintulu Golf Course, Jln Tanjong Kidurong, Tel: 252001. 18 hole course set on hilly terrain adjacent to the coast. Weekday green fees, RM52.50 (9 holes), RM105 (18 holes). Weekend green fees RM78.75 (9 holes), RM157.50 (18 holes).

### Travel Connections

Air: Bintulu's international airport is located 27 kilometres from the town centre. Air Asia ([www.airasia.com](http://www.airasia.com)), MASWings and MAS ([www.malaysiaairlines.com](http://www.malaysiaairlines.com)) all service Bintulu. See Miri Travel Connections for airline contact details, and airline websites for the latest schedules, frequencies and fares. The taxi fare from the airport to town (30 min) is RM29.50.

Bus: The Long Distance Bus Station is 5km from the town centre at Medan Jaya.

As Bintulu is on the main Pan Borneo Highway, long distance destinations are the same as for Miri. Use bus No. 29 or take a taxi (RM10). The Town Centre Bus Station is on Jln Abang Galau, next to the taxi and minivan stand.

Road: Bintulu is connected by road to all major towns in Sarawak.

Car Rental: Kong Teck Car Rental, No. 12, Bangunan Baru Terminal Bas, Jln Tun Hussein Onn, 97000 Bintulu. Tel: 312106