

## ENTERTAINMENT

### **Pubs and Bars**

The residents of Miri like to enjoy themselves and the city has a justified reputation as a party town, especially at weekends, and there is no shortage of entertainment outlets. There are a few pubs, bars and karaoke lounges in the city centre, but the most happening nightlife takes place in and around the Pelita Commercial Centre, a short taxi ride from the city centre hotels. Here you'll find a few pubs ideal for a chat with friends and a cluster of lively bars and clubs where Miri's party crowd hangs out. For cheap beer head for the coffee shops which offer special '3 can' deals.

**Al Fresco**, Ground Floor, Unity Centre, Pelita Commercial Centre. Located in the midst of the Pelita bar strip, this pavement café cum bar serves western food and pasta dishes, but also a popular drinking spot owing to giant TV screens showing live football. Open 2pm – 2am.

**Atmosphere**, Lot 1120, Jalan Sehati, Miri Square Shopping Complex. Located on the terrace of the shopping complex, this outdoor bistro is hard to miss. With its white, giant canopy it makes for a breezy place to hang out. 2 giant TV screens cater to the football crowd. Open 8am to 1pm and 5pm – 1.30am.

**Balcony**, Upper Floor, Unity Centre, Pelita Commercial Centre. Large corner pub with dancefloor that attracts the younger party crowd. Music is random mix of R&B, pop and techno. Packed at weekends – even the shark in the huge aquarium above the bar dances in this place. Open 6pm – 2am.

**Chaplins**, 339, Ground Floor, Pelita Commercial Centre. Small, friendly pub that is popular among Miri's expat community. Open 5pm – 2am.

**Cheerie Berries**, Ground Floor, Unity Centre, Pelita Commercial Centre. Popular for its live bands and R&B playlist. 2 giant TV screens and a pool table. Open 5pm – 2am, happy hours on alternate Mondays.

**Crescendo**, Ground Floor, Unity Centre, Pelita Commercial Centre. Small bar next to Al Fresco. Ladies night on Saturdays.

**Island**, Ground Floor Block 7, Unity Centre, Pelita Commercial Centre. The music is nicely restrained making for a relaxed environment to hang out. With a selection of over a hundred cocktails, you won't run out of choices. Open 4pm – 2am.

**Lush Bar**, Miri Marriot Resort & Spa. Stylish hotel lounge, also serves food including tapas, salads and Asian dishes. Open 3pm – 1am, live band 9pm – 11.45pm.

**The Other Office**, Ground Floor, Lot 349, Pelita Commercial Centre. A favourite amongst expatriates and locals. If you want cheap beer and pleasant company, this friendly pub is the place to go. Open 3.30pm – 2am, happy hours until 8pm.

**Thai Bar**, Lot 2212, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Krokop 5, Taman Yakin. 5 mins taxi drive from the town centre. One of the largest clubs in Miri with a central dance floor, large bar and balcony area. The dance floor and pool tables attract the younger crowd whilst the balcony and sofa areas provide quieter areas to drink and hang out with friends. Open 4pm – 2am.

**Wheels Bar & Café**, Miri Waterfront Commercial Centre (below the Highlands Hostel). Music café serving western food and playing pop and R&B. Live band on Saturdays. Open 4pm – midnight (weekdays) and 2pm – 1am (weekends).

#### Cinema

Star Cineplex, Bintang Plaza, level 3. Tel: 417610. Email: mstarcine@yahoo.com. Check local press for movie listings.

#### The Performing Arts

Traditional music and dance performances are often staged in the leading hotels, outdoors at Miri City Fan, public parks and at the Civic Centre (off Jln Gartak). Check local press for details. The popular Miri International Jazz Festival is held at the Parkcity Everly Hotel in early May every year.