

Thrills for the junkie



Crawling on bellies through dark Gua Tempurung.



Abseiling down a 15m waterfall in Gopeng. — JOLEEN LUNJEW

“Kurang kurang manis!”

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see other rafts capsizing. All were safely hauled back into the raft, however.

Our two hours on the river proved too short in the end. Oh well, that's just me, an adventure never lasts long enough, but the rest of the participants seemed happy.

We rode back to the Gopeng Nature Resort in an open-back one-tonne lorry. It was such an experience and, though soaking wet and feeling somewhat like farm animals being transported, we laughed all the way back.

That night, we retired exhausted but content.

Dark waters

Adventure caving, here we come! We gathered at the mouth of Gua Tempurung early next morning for a briefing by Michael.

Michael, who has been spelunking many caves around Asia for almost two decades now, is very passionate about underground caverns. He explained that his company provides a unique caving experience because he combines adventure with education.

Our adventure started off tamely enough as we walked along the colourfully lit walkway of the cave. Michael pointed out the various cave formations and told us how they were formed.

A fascinating section that caught our interest was the Rolls Royce Cave which apparently got its name because of some intriguing drawings said to be by the communists. They depict the ambush of a car that looks like a Rolls Royce with a clock next

to it, its hour hand at seven. The drawings are said to be the attack plan for British High Commissioner to Malaya, Sir Henry Gurney. He was killed not too far from here in 1951 as he made his way up to Fraser's Hill and was ambushed by communist guerrillas.

Our wet underground adventure began when we reached a trickling underground stream. The stream grew wider and the passageway narrower as we proceeded further into the cave. We soon found ourselves crawling on our bellies and wading through the cold dark waters, thankful for our helmets as the ceiling had really rough edges which we kept bumping into.

Our efforts were rewarded later as we swam towards the light and emerged triumphantly at the other end of the cave.

We had a nice picnic lunch before heading back the way we came, packing all our rubbish with us so as not to disrupt the cave's ecosystem.

We moved a little faster on the way back as it was getting dark and Michael said the river would fill up the cave very quickly if it rained. We didn't want to be trapped inside, so there was definitely a sense of urgency.

We swam, waded, crawled and clambered back, acutely conscious of the river's level now, but the water didn't rise much.

It was an exciting five hours that I truly enjoyed and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who likes to get "down and dirty". It was absolutely heavenly.

□ To experience an AquaAdventure, contact Michael at 019-644 6505 or visit www.mmadventure.com