

MULU EXPEDITION: STRIVE FOR GLORY

Expedition Club of SPU organized a trip to Mulu Cave, Sarawak during 09 - 14 May 2010. These 6 days 5 nights trip has left unforgettable memories and experience in all the 19 SPU staff. The famous "Bat Exodus" was the first destination which was located 3.4km away from the Gunung Mulu National Park. They came out first in small clouds, like puffs of smoke made up of whirling black specks. Their individual movement appeared erratic, but as a pack they moved in concert, flying over our heads and out of sight behind the trees. They did not spread out across the sky but clustered together in a band, and they kept coming for an extraordinarily long time, until it became easy to believe there were 4 million of them.

Our journey started at around 7.30am the next day. We took more than 12 hours to reach Camp 3 (resting place), which is located 11.8km away from the Park HQ. Leeches were plentiful along the journey and we had to look out for them. We started our 6 hours journey to Camp 4 at around 10.30am the next morning. Stopping to take pictures along the way lengthened the journey from 4 hours to 6 hours. Pitcher plant and some insects were some of the interesting things we found along the way. Some of us went to the 'Heli Pad' to view the sunset and took pictures. *Sangat cantik!!!* Henry, Norasiken, Razali and Syafie were the school fastest climbers of the expedition team therefore they represent the team to climb the Mulu Summit. Opportunity to swim in the river increased our adrenalin level. We met up at the river and had a short swim before it started raining cats and dogs.

The most exciting part just began when we had a longboat ride from Park HQ up the Melinau River to Wind Cave. After 10 minutes ride, we reached Wind Cave. As literal as the name suggests, Wind Cave offers a breeze which comes from inside the cave. We can feel the cooling effect as we entered the mouth of the cave. Special walkways and lighting are constructed inside the cave. After the Wind Cave, we took another boat ride to Clearwater Cave which was located only 5 minutes away from Wind Cave. A surprise lunch was prepared by our guides for all of us. While enjoying our lunch, some of us grabbed the opportunity to swim in the river, taking pictures and exploring the Clearwater Cave. After we had our lunch, we were 'sent' to Mulu Airport by longboat. It was an extraordinary experience for all of us - the experience that we cannot gain anywhere else.

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