



Built Heritage



Surau Kubang Semang, Kubang Semang, Penang

Surau means prayer hall in Malay and Surau Kubang Semang is a beautiful example of Malay architecture. It was built in the late 19th century and its architecture is similar to the traditional Malay house. The building is raised on concrete stilts. The skills of past craftsmen are very much evident in the intricate carvings found on the air vents, eaves and pediments of this surau.





At the end of July each year, the St. Anne's Novena and Feast is held at the St. Anne's Church, Bukit Mertajam. This annual event attracts more than 100,000 pilgrims from near and far.



Hindu Temple at Bandar Sunway

“Diversity creates dimension in the world.”

- Elizabeth Ann Lawless -





The Ruins of The Church of Sacred Heart of Jesus was once a grand church, styled after the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Built in 1882, this 131-year-old Catholic Church is now in ruins. The church was built by a French missionary together with the Hakka Catholic populace who were the early settlers of the area known as Pagar Teras, about three kilometers away from Sungai Lembu.

The church, which has 62 steps leading up to it from the roadside, sits on a hillock. It provides visitors with a breathtaking view of the nearby Bukit Mertajam hills.





This mansion with early traditional architecture style is owned by a family member of Mr. Kee Lai Huat, the founder of Sungai Bakap.

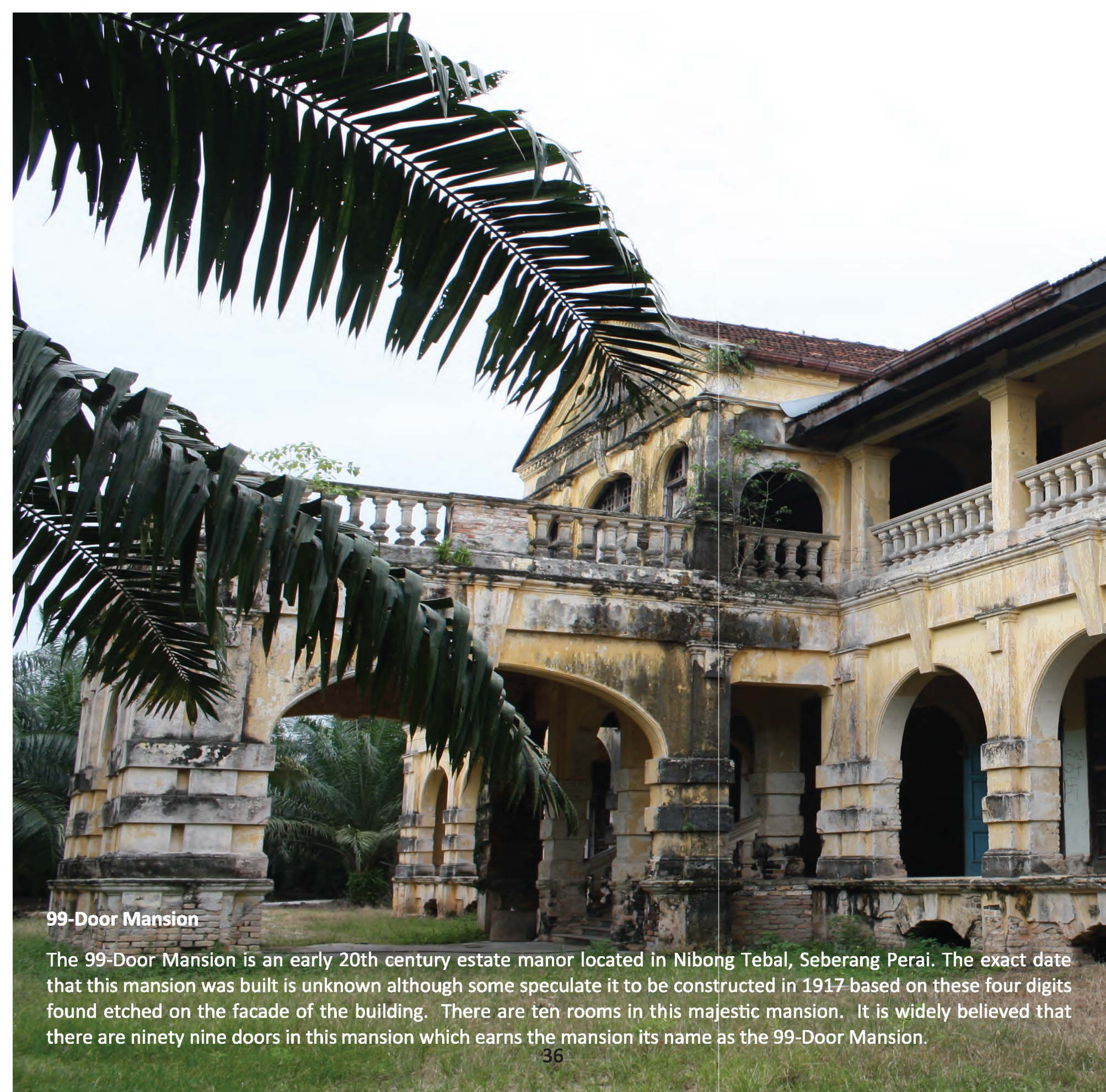




Kee Kongsì

Kee Poh Huat Kongsì is a famous and huge Chinese ancestral temple and residence in Sungai Bakap. This historic building was built in the late 19th century by the late Kee Lai Huat, founder of Sungai Bakap town. In 1853, Kee Lai Huat arrived in Penang at the tender age of 19 leaving behind his hometown of Teng Hai. Kee originated from a wealthy family in China and had travelled first class on the ship that brought him here. Upon reaching Malaya, he first set foot at Batu Kawan before making his way to Bukit Tambun.

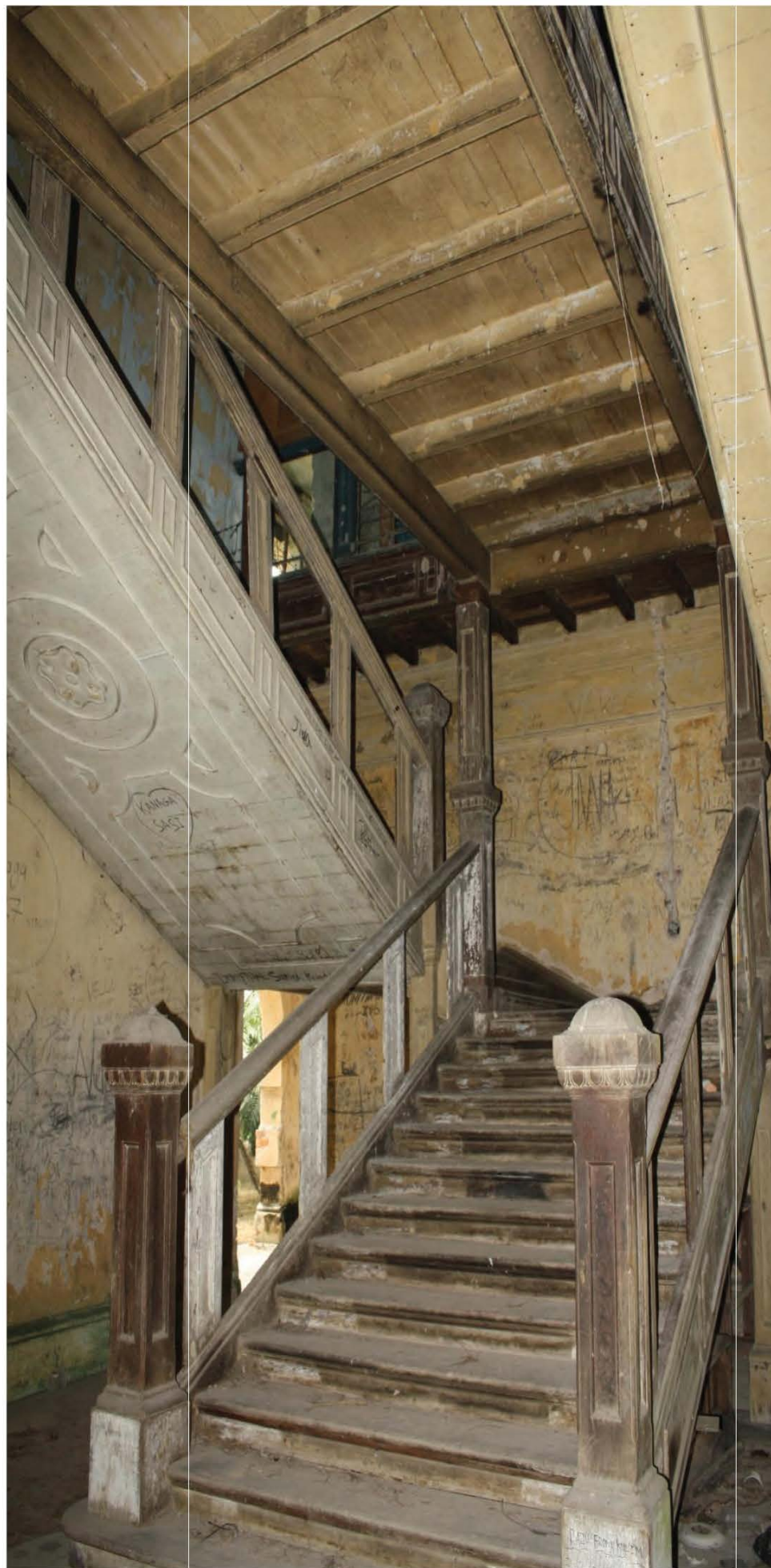




99-Door Mansion

The 99-Door Mansion is an early 20th century estate manor located in Nibong Tebal, Seberang Perai. The exact date that this mansion was built is unknown although some speculate it to be constructed in 1917 based on these four digits found etched on the facade of the building. There are ten rooms in this majestic mansion. It is widely believed that there are ninety nine doors in this mansion which earns the mansion its name as the 99-Door Mansion.





Bertam House







Bertam House was built more than 100 years ago. The house served as the residence to the Manager of Bertam Estate.

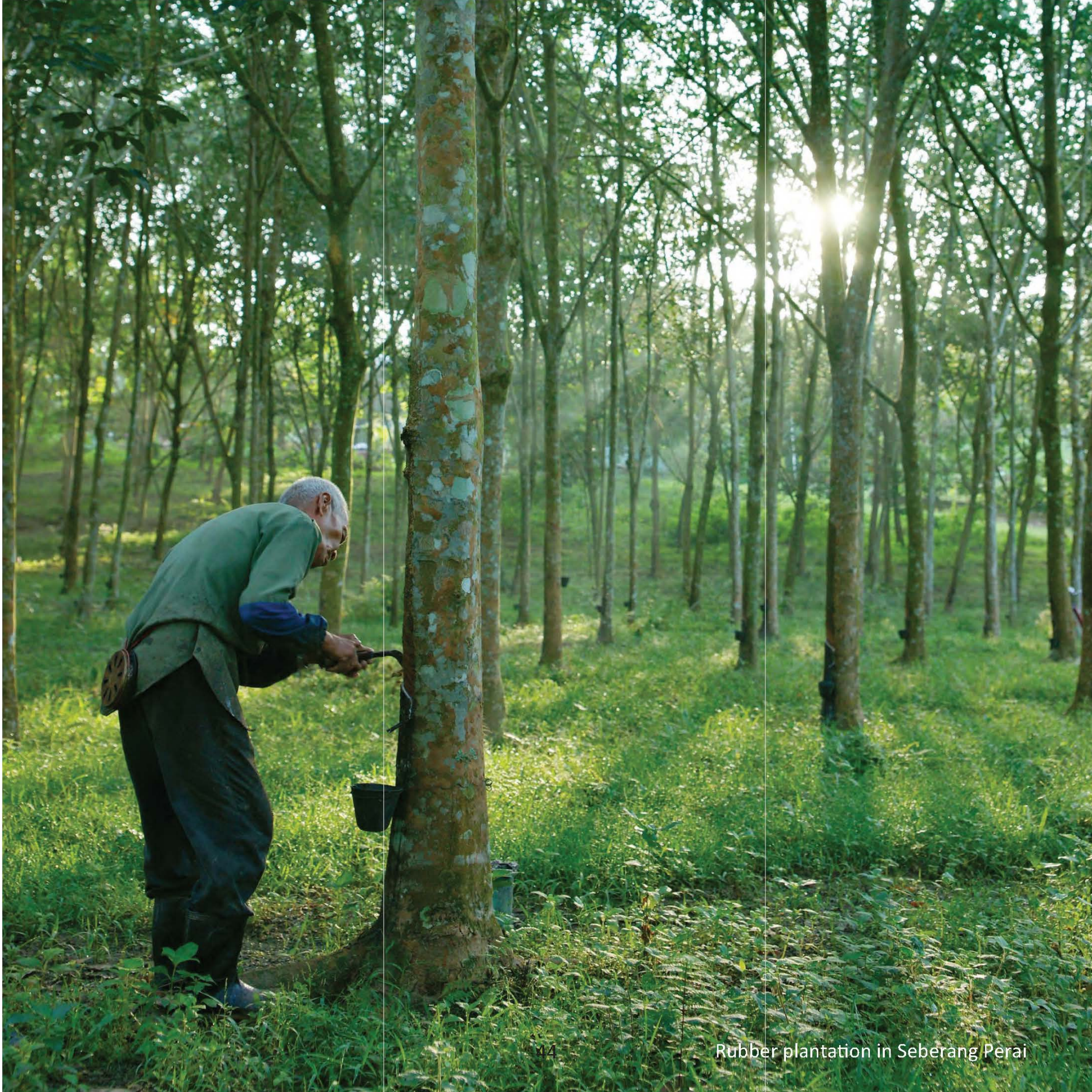


PEOPLE & CULTURE



Diversity may be the hardest thing for a society to live with, and perhaps the most dangerous thing for a society to be without.

- William Sloane Coffin Jr. -



People and Culture

Seberang Perai has a population of about 820,000 making it the second most populous local government area in this country. As such, it is only befitting that this chapter celebrates the people from all walks of life that make Seberang Perai such a vibrant and lively place. For many generations, the three main ethnic groups of Malay, Chinese and Indian have lived and worked together to make Seberang Perai a prosperous state. You can experience and see the communities of different ethnicities living side by side in peaceful harmony. Although each ethnic group has his own mother tongue but there is a unifying language which is Bahasa Melayu, also the national language of Malaysia. Each ethnic group has the freedom to practice their own faith while respecting the religious beliefs and practices of others. The communities in Seberang Perai embrace the unique differences of each ethnic group. This is evident during ethnic based festivals such as Hari Raya, Chinese New Year, Christmas and Deepavali where the whole community celebrates together.

Daily Activities







explore modernism.



Faith

The people of Seberang Perai are from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds, faiths and ethnic groups, namely, Malays, Chinese, Indians and some minority groups. The main religion is Muslim practiced by the Malays. Followers of the Muslim faith perform prayers five times a day and it is obligatory for all Muslim males to attend weekly Friday prayers at the mosque. In terms of festivities, the *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* has been celebrated annually by Muslims after fasting for 30 days in the holy month of *Ramadhan*. Hari Raya is a time where Muslims from far and near will return to their respective hometowns to be together with their families.

The Chinese in Seberang Perai are mainly Buddhist and Taoist though some have also embraced Christianity. The Chinese community celebrates Chinese New Year annually to mark the beginning of the Lunar year. For Taoists, they also celebrate special festivals and perform rituals that are associated with the gods and deities they worship such as the Nine Emperors' Festival. Amongst the Indian community, the main events celebrated every year are *Deepavali* and *Thaipusam*. To the Indians, *Deepavali* means the festival of lights where good prevails over evil. Christianity is also commonly practiced among the Chinese and Indians. The main denominations of Christianity practiced are Catholic and Protestant. Beside Christianity, there are also Sikh and Siamese who practice their own faith.





harmony in living.



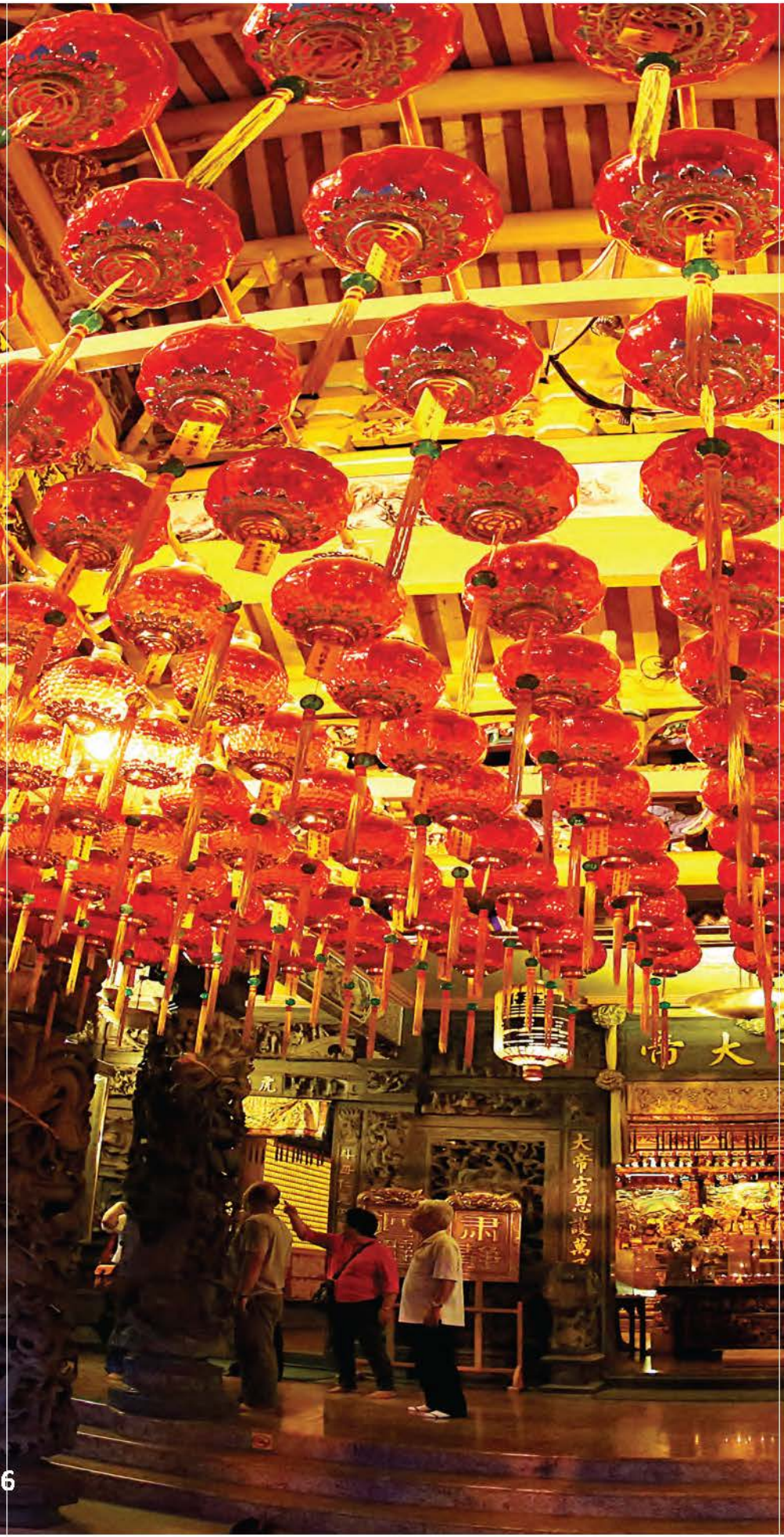
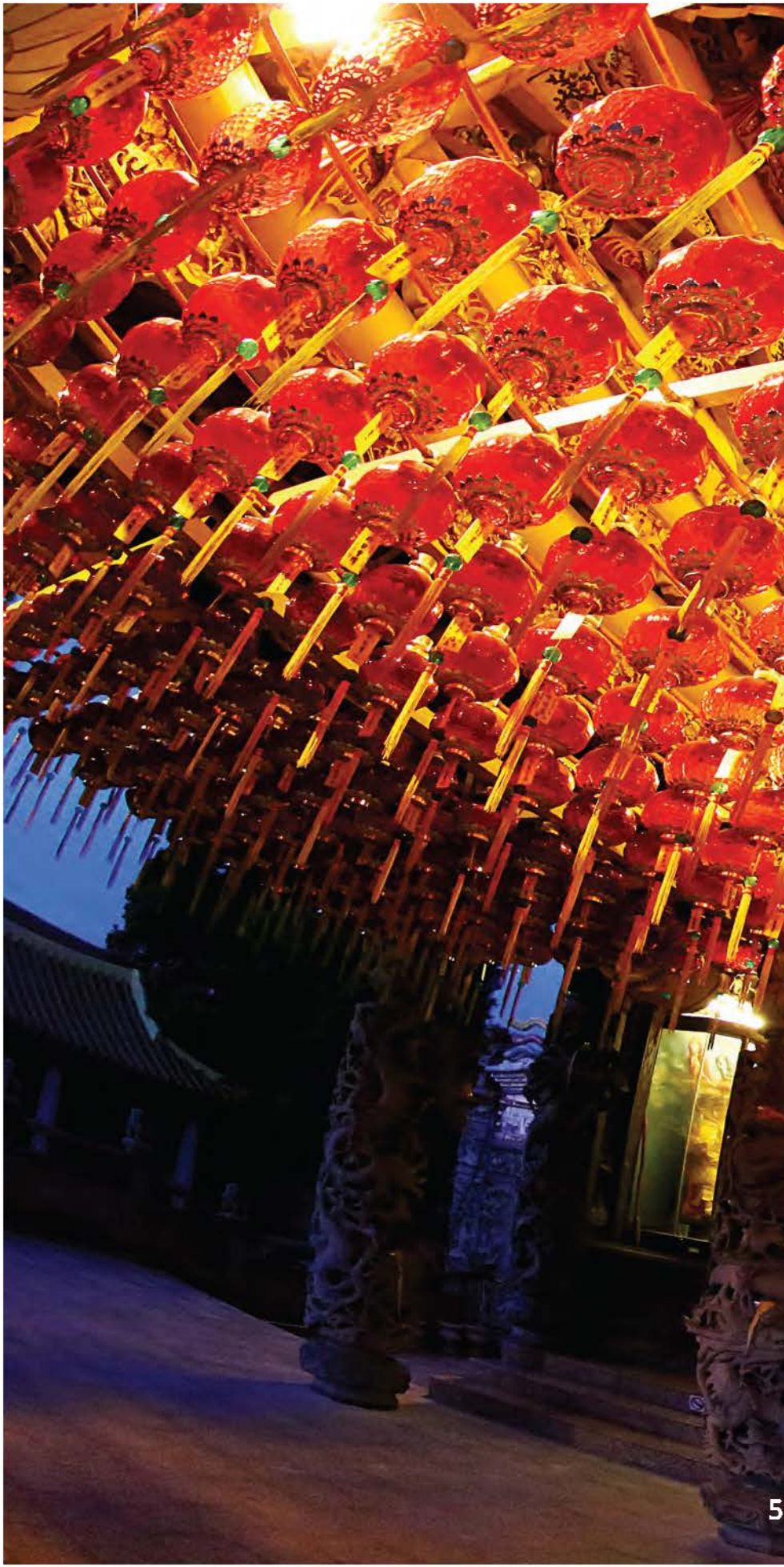
Cultural Diversity



"In a culture of diversity, one group is likely not "just like everyone else." To deny that we have different needs, concerns, thought processes, worldview, is to refuse to look at the reason we are supposedly an identifiable community."

- Anthony D. Ravenscroft -







Healthy Lifestyle



Healthy living is the main component in healthy communities. Healthy lifestyles are clearly emphasized in Seberang Perai with the introduction of bicycle track for the communities to take part in recreational cycling. Every weekend, the President of Seberang Perai Municipal Council will participate with the community in group aerobics exercise. This is a weekly activity in every district. Parks are also created to encourage recreation and outdoor activities.





Green Initiatives

The local community is often ready to swing into action when the local councils are prepared to provide the leadership in organising various green initiatives under Local Action 21 (LA21).

LA21 is an action plan towards global sustainable development in the next millennium (21 refers to the 21st century). It was adopted in 1992 by more than 178 governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

Seberang Perai started their district's school-based Green School programme in 2010, with 30 schools. Now there are more than 50 schools participating in the programme. The objective of this programme is to implement green practices of 4Rs among the school children. This involves reduce, reuse, recycle and refuse food waste, detergent, used cooking oil and plastic bags. The project also promotes tree planting, saving energy, water conservation, school cleanliness and outdoor activities



