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Borneo to Host Mount Kinabalu International Climbathon Race

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Deemed the world's toughest mountain race, the 24th Mount Kinabalu International Climbathon is the ultimate challenge for runners. Participants will test their endurance by running across steep terrain for a total distance of 13 miles on Oct. 23 and 24. Runners will summit Low Peak at 13,435.7 feet high, only to come right back down in order to cross the finish line. This year's race will have more than \$33,400 in prize money. In addition, 24-carat gold pendants will be given to the first man and woman who reach the summit. The first climbathon was inaugurated in 1987, when Sabah Parks began scouting for a team of exceptional mountain climbers to form a rapid rescue squad. Restricted to Malaysians at its inception, it has now grown to a world-renowned event, attracting top-notch athletes from the United States, France and Japan.

Mount Kinabalu, also known as Gunung Kinabalu, is one of the tallest mountains in Southeast Asia. The mountain and the surrounding area are among the most important biological sites in the world, with thousands of plant, bird and mammal species. Among the unique species of wild life is the Rafflesia, the largest flower in the world, reaching a diameter of over three feet and weighing over 20 pounds. In 2000, Mount Kinabalu was accorded UNESCO World Heritage status. For more information, visit www.climbathon.sabahtourism.com/2010, www.tourismmalaysiausa.com or www.tourismmalaysia.com.

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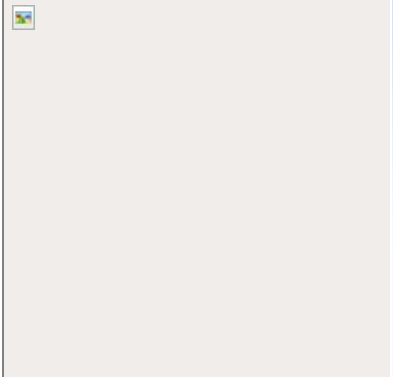
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