



Buaya Sangkut waterfall



Upeh Guling whirlpool

The legends of Buaya Sangkut and Upeh Guling are about two breathtaking waterfalls located along the main river that forms the backbone of the Endau-Rompin State Park.

The Upeh Guling waterfall comprises of a four-stepped cascade of water that derives its name from an ancient *Orang Asli* (Aborigine) legend. According to the enduring legend, the waterfall was named after a young *Orang Asli* named Upeh. One day Upeh met with a fatal accident. As he was about to cross the river at one end of the waterfall, he saw his fiancée. He slipped upon turning and rolled (*guling*) down the cascading slope and died at the foot of the falls. Hence, the reason the waterfall was named Upeh Guling.

Similarly, Buaya Sangkut tells the tale of a beautiful five-stepped waterfall that is as mysterious as its name. Based on the *Orang Asli* legend, a woman gave birth to a baby girl but was haunted by a dream of a crocodile (*buaya*) that was coming to kill her daughter. Believing the dream was an omen, the woman and her family moved uphill to prevent this catastrophe. Nevertheless, the crocodile managed to follow them. To protect their baby girl the woman's husband summoned a python to kill the crocodile. This led to a fierce fight where both python and crocodile were killed. The husband relieved at the outcome, lynched the crocodile's skin and hung it on a wall. Unfortunately, a few days later it fell on their daughter and killed her anyway.

THE TRAGIC TALES OF BUAYA SANGKUT & UPEH GULING

Till this very day, many believe, that the crocodile-shaped stone that can be seen at the foot of the falls, when the water level is low, is the same crocodile recounted in the legend.

Today, tourists can visit these magnificent waterfalls if they make their way to the Endau-Rompin State Park. The Upeh Guling waterfall, located midway to the Buaya Sangkut waterfall, has a series of whirlpools formed by ancient volcanic rocks, supposed to be the oldest existing landmark in Malaysia at 240 million years old. Upeh Guling is a great place for a refreshing swim and picnic. The awesome Buaya Sangkut waterfall requires a testing six-hour trek from the Visitors Control Centre along *Sungai Jasin* or Jasin River. Experiencing the force and wonderment of this 40-metre-wide fall gushing a million gallons of roaring water from a drop of 120 metres, makes every effort worthwhile.



Refreshing swim at Upeh Guling waterfall

Endau-Rompin State Park is the second designated national park of Malaysia with numerous exotic and newly identified species of flora and fauna. Permits must be obtained before entering this nature reserve. Visitors to Endau-Rompin State Park have four campsites to choose from located at Kuala Jasin, Batu Hampar, Upeh Guling and Kuala Marong.