



Entrance to Kota Gelanggi Cave

Not to be confused with the lost city of Kota Gelanggi in Johor, Kota Gelanggi Cave in Pahang is a 150 million-year-old, cave complex alive with unique flora, fauna and magnificent rock formations. From the several hundred caverns, few are accessible and frequented. As with most ancient spots, Kota Gelanggi Cave is also shrouded in fascinating legends.

The word *Kota* means city and the peculiar feature of this intricate network of caves reveals the impression of an old city. Legend has it that these caves were actually the ruins of an ancient city belonging to forest elves (*Bunian*), which were turned into stones together with their belongings. An old man of the house can be seen here sitting on his chair by his oven or furnace with loaves of bread and his cupboard filled with flour and sugar, all turned to stone.

Some believe Kota Gelanggi was a hiding place for *Puteri* or Princess Bera and *Putera* or Prince Jelai. When parents from both sides, particularly Putera Jelai's father – Maharaja Perba Jelai – opposed of their wedding plan, the couple decided to elope, which resulted in a civil war in

Indrapura (City of Demigods), an ancient

kingdom of Pahang.

Others believe the word *Gelanggi* is a variant of the Indian empire Kalingga that ruled Kedah in the early days.

Limestone formation in the shape of a cobra head

THE LEGEND OF KOTA GELANGGI CAVE

Still, each limestone cavern has its own captivating tales to tell. Gua Sanding, for example, offers physical proof for its name. *Sanding* is a Malay word describing a bride and a groom sitting on the dais and at the cave's mouth, there are two figure-like stones sitting next to each other. *Gua Terang Bulan* (Moonlight Cave) is one of the most renowned show caves in the region. At the very end of this cave, even in total darkness, looking up, visitors will be able to see a stream of light.

Located 30 kilometres east of Jerantut, Pahang, Kota Gelanggi Cave offers a spellbinding and exciting adventure experience. Reputed to be one of the best tropical limestone caverns in the region, visitors from all around come here to witness the caverns' natural wonders and experience the awe of the stalagmites and stalactites as well as the spectacular rock formations. At the entrance of the area is Kota Gelanggi Museum. The area is opened all year round from 9am to 5pm. Guided tours to Gua Terang Bulan are also available.

Mesmerising limestone formations



The driveway towards Kota Gelanggi