

A woman is shown in profile, facing left, wearing traditional Hmong attire. She has a large, intricate silver headdress with many dangling ornaments. Her necklace is made of colorful beads and has several red pom-poms. A large silver brooch is pinned to her chest, and a silver belt with many coins hangs from her waist. She is wearing a silver bracelet on her left wrist. The background is dark with some blurred light sources.

THE LEGEND OF
PRINCESS
SANTUBONG



View of Mount Santubong from the river mouth

In the past, local legend recounts of two beautiful mythical sisters, Princess Santubong and Princess Sejinjang, from a magnificent and idyllic mystical kingdom called *Kayangan*. The princesses were sent to earth to restore peace between the neighbouring villages of Pasir Kuning and Pasir Putih, with a strict condition – they must never quarrel with each other. As decreed by the mighty *Kayangan* King, *Puteri* or Princess Santubong, an expert weaver, was to rule over Pasir Kuning and Princess Sejinjang, a skilled rice thresher, was to rule over Pasir Putih.

Princess Santubong's intricately woven fabrics were an instant success and Princess Sejinjang's paddy fields were greatly thriving. Both villages soon became famously prosperous.

The beauty and talent of both Princesses made them much sought after by handsome suitors from all over. None won their hearts until they met *Putera Mahkota Serapi* (Crown Prince Serapi) of Matang. The Crown Prince fell in love with both of them, but they refused to be joint wives. Because of him, they had an awful quarrel and exchanged blows. Sejinjang swung her thresher, which hit Santubong's cheek. As she fell on her back, Princess Santubong threw her weaver at Princess Sejinjang, hitting her directly in the head. Putting an end to the ghastly fight, the great *Kayangan* King cursed both sisters into mountains. It is said that Mount Santubong resembles a woman lying on her back. The deep crevice at the peak is where the Princess received the blow to the cheek from her sister's thresher.



Local Iban in traditional attire weaving



Scenic view of Mount Sejingang

Located about 35 kilometres north of the state capital Kuching, both mountains, Santubong and Sejingang, are blessed with stunning and lush rainforest teeming with strikingly diverse flora and fauna that enchant and enlighten. A charming cascading waterfall nestled in Mount Santubong offers an excellent way to rejuvenate at the end of a trek. The mountains and their surrounding area are popular tourist destinations.



Harvested rice

Located at the base of Mount Santubong is the Sarawak Cultural Village, a living museum that showcases Sarawak's diverse ethnic heritage. It opens daily from 9am – 5.15pm, with two exciting cultural show performances a day. Tickets can be purchased at the entrance. For more information, go to www.scv.com.my

Local Iban lady pounding rice

