



*Chula Naga of Tioman Island*

## THE ISLE OF THE SLEEPING DRAGON

Tioman Island, located 32 kilometres off the eastern peninsula's coast, is more than a charming sun-drenched retreat. It possesses an enchanting local legend that claims the island as the manifestation of a forlorn dragon princess.

Locals believed, a long time ago, South China Sea was home to a family of mighty dragons. The dragon princess had just gotten married and the newlyweds decided to explore the southern part of the sea. As the dragon couple frolicked and swam gleefully southward, the dragon princess realised she had lost her silk bridal shawl. She sought the permission of her husband to recover the shawl. The dragon prince was reluctant to let her go because turning back on an intended journey was a bad omen. But, she did lose her precious bridal shawl and she promised him that she would return soon.



*Jetty at Tioman Island*

Swiftly she traced back her route, northbound. Unfortunately, it took her sometime before she found her silk bridal shawl. Ecstatic, she swam speedily towards her awaiting prince. Alas, when she reached the spot, her prince was gone. Surprised, the princess continued to swim all over in search of her husband. Exhausted and lonely, she stopped. As tears of sorrow fell, she held her silk bridal shawl tightly and pledged to wait for her beloved husband at the very spot. Centuries had past but she waited unrelentingly until she grew weak. A sprite took pity on her and cast a sleeping spell where she now remains, frozen in eternity as a beautiful island with a unique landscape. The granite twin peaks of Tioman Island, popularly known as *Chula Naga* (Dragon's Horns), seem to verify this touching tale and the ragged mountain terrain at the back of these twin peaks portrays the profile of a sleeping dragon.

Tioman Island is perhaps the best sanctuary to retreat and rejuvenate. It has now become the island getaway for nearby city slickers and holidaying families from all over. Enjoy the cool refreshing breeze and the soothing waves or take a stroll and enjoy the sunset along some of the famous beaches near the following villages: Tekek, Air Batang, Genting, Salang, and Juara. These wonderful golden beaches subside to clear blue waters complete with colourful corals, ideal for swimming, snorkelling and diving. Other interesting sites in Tioman include waterfalls nestled in the verdant hill at Mukut.

*Gunung Nenek Semukut*

