



MEDIA RELEASE

GET WET! GET WED!

Like any couple getting married, Renee Wu and Louis Loi wanted an unforgettable wedding ceremony and honeymoon. They chose an underwater wedding for a truly memorable experience and were declared husband and wife in the sea at Redang Island in Terengganu state on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia on 15 July 2006.

Loi, 36, a Malaysian-Chinese works with an IT firm in Shanghai, China, while Wu, 33, originates from Shanghai. Both avid divers, they were mesmerised by the beauty of Redang Island when they vacationed there last year.

The wedding, attended by 30 family members and close friends from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, took place at the Laguna Redang Island Resort located on Long Beach (Pasir Panjang) directly facing the South China Sea and sunrise.

The Pulau Redang archipelago (*pulau* means island in Malay language) is renowned for its coral reefs and marine ecosystems. It consists of nine islands, namely Pulau Lima, Pulau Paku Besar, Pulau Paku Kecil, Pulau Kerengga Besar, Pulau Kerengga Kecil, Pulau Ling, Pulau Ekor Tebu, Pulau Pinang and Pulau Redang, which is the main island. Pulau Redang boasts crystal-clear water, white sandy beaches and spectacular coral reefs.

Redang, the largest in this groups of islands, is about seven kilometres long and six kilometres wide. It has a chain of resorts whereas the rest of the islands are uninhabited except for Pulau Pinang, which is the Marine Park Center.

Besides Redang, the idyllic islands of Pangkor, Tioman, Perhentian, Lang Tengah, Gemia, Mabul, Matakang, Lankayan and others are also perfect for those beach escapades. You can run barefoot with your true love on a tropical sun-kissed beach, dive into crystal clear waters,

relax at beaches with powdery ivory sand and swaying coconut palms, and watch crimson sunsets.

Malaysia is fast attracting lovebirds to profess their vows of eternal devotion to each other. It is becoming the venue for dream weddings and romantic honeymoons. Whether it's a traditional wedding amid a rustic village setting, or a lovely bash in a modern hotel, Malaysia offers a wide variety of wedding and honeymoon packages to suit couples. With its countless scenic, cultural, entertainment and gastronomical attractions, as well as accessibility from all over the world, Malaysia is the perfect place for a dream wedding and honeymoon.

For sheer luxury, go to The Four Seasons, The Andaman, The Datai and Tanjung Rhu on Langkawi island. The private isle of Pangkor Laut offers complete seclusion while offshore islands in Sabah have top diving spots like Layang-Layang, Kapalai, and the world famous Sipadan.

Love birds seeking greener pastures and cooler climes can opt for hill resorts in the country like Cameron Highlands, Fraser's Hill and Kundasang. These colonial retreats have fruit and vegetable farms, flower gardens and tea plantations and are great for birdwatching activities. Other highland choices are the French-themed Colmar Village in Bukit Tinggi Resort and Malaysia's first UNESCO world heritage site, the Kinabalu National Park in Sabah.

For those who fancy fun, Genting, the City of Entertainment, rises 6,000 feet above sea level in the state of Pahang's Ulu Kali mountain range. Genting Highlands is merely 51km or about 45 minutes by car from Kuala Lumpur. This integrated family resort offers sports, eco-nature activities, shopping, international concerts and performances, food, theme parks, meeting and convention facilities, and gaming facilities in its casino. Its six hotels, with over 7,000 rooms, can accommodate more than 12,000 people at any one time.

Nature lovers will enjoy the many national parks, forest reserves, caves and hills which allow up-close and personal encounters with nature. The top destinations include Taman Negara (National Park) in the state of Pahang, Endau-Rompin in Johor, Bako, Niah, and Mulu in Sarawak, and Danum Valley in Sabah.

Heritage sites which depict the rich history of the country are common in Malaysia. They include A'Famosa in Melaka; Penang's old historical quarter with the Khoo Kongsi, Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion and Fort Cornwallis; the colonial and Moorish-styled buildings in Kuala Lumpur, and the Main Bazaar in Kuching. Along with people of diverse races, multi cultures, creeds and languages, a visit to Malaysia certainly adds exciting colours and flavours to your wedding or honeymoon.

The plural society in Malaysia also means that there are different wedding styles that foreign couples can choose to experience. Whether it's the elaborate Malay *akad nikah* and *bersanding* ceremonies, the luxurious Nyonya dowry presentation, the intricate Chinese tea ceremony, the elegant Christian church celebration or the graceful Hindu temple wedding, it will certainly be more memorable than tying the knot back home. Adventurous couples can also wed in the traditional style of the indigenous groups in Sarawak, such as the Iban, Bidayuh or Orang Ulu, or choose an elaborate Kadazandusun style nuptial in Sabah.

Many hotels in the country offer special themed weddings such as the raucous pirate, primordial jungle or celebration of clowns. Whichever destination in Malaysia you are looking forward to have your wedding and honeymoon, there are wedding organisers and planners to customise a package according to your needs and budget.

In Malaysia, the possibilities are endless and so are the attractions when you decide to get hitched here. The accompanying attractions and activities will heighten your romantic holiday experience.

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For further information, please contact Daryl Yep at (603) 2615 8188

or email: yldaryl@tourism.gov.my