



Malaysia
Truly Asia

A Room with a View

Isabel Smith, Audley's Malaysia Specialist, spent time mixing business with pleasure when she visited the Tanjong Jara Resort hideaway on the peninsula's east coast.

I must confess, until I stayed at the Tanjong Jara Resort, I'd always thought of many resort hotels as a bit artificial, I'm delighted to say that I no longer have this misconception. The Tanjong Jara's architecture is based on the beautiful *Istanas*, elegantly crafted wooden palaces of the Malaysian sultans from the 17th Century and the majority of the woodcraft and soft furnishings are

produced locally. Sited in tropical gardens blending into natural forest and fronting a beautiful white sand beach, describing the location as serene would be something of an understatement.

For those who haven't tried it, Malaysian cuisine is something of a fusion between Indian, Thai and Chinese and is one of my favourites. On the first night I dined at the Di

Atas Sungei which has a gorgeous setting on stilts over the river that runs through the grounds, looking out over the South China Sea. The meal was as memorable for the wonderful setting as much as for the delicious *rendang*, spiced curried chicken with coconut. The resort's second restaurant, the Nelayan, overlooks the beach and serves lighter, but equally delicious, meals.



I'm not really into spas and fitness centres but I put my 'travel professional' hat on and inspected the Tanjong Club which has a fully equipped gymnasium and therapy centre for massages, aromatherapy and reflexology. I spoke to several guests who had tried the spa out and they were raving about it. For those looking for watersports there's kayaking, windsurfing and diving all available on site plus, for golf enthusiasts, there are three courses within a short drive. Personally, the resort's two pools were quite enough for me.

After a couple of days on the beach I got itchy feet and joined the resort's morning excursion, the Pimpin River Safari. The Pimpin winds its way through natural forest and is home to otters, sea eagles, giant monitor lizards and kingfishers. The safari finishes at a local fishing village which specialises in boat building and I was fascinated to watch them build beautiful traditional

boats using mainly hand tools. The hotel offers a selection of excursions for those who want to mix relaxation with a little exploration.

I stayed in a delightful *Bumbung* room which overlooks the tropical gardens, there are also *Serambi* rooms, which have their own terrace, and *Anjung* rooms which have their private garden overlooking the sea, complete with sunken outdoor bath. I looked at the three types of room and they are all beautifully decorated in wood and traditional fabrics.

I would recommend the Tanjong Jara for those wanting a week away to relax or to slot a few relaxing days in at the end of a tour of Malaysia. Many of Audley's clients returning from China with Malaysia Airlines have also been stopping off for a few days relaxation on their way home.

Will I be returning there? "No", I want to try out the owner's other resort, the Pangkor Laut with its new Spa Village, on the west coast!

Special Offer Exclusively for Audley Clients

Kuala Lumpur and the Tanjong Jara Resort

9-nights £995 per person (departs between 1st October and 9th December 2002). £1,095 per person (departs between 1st and 30th September 2002)

Spend two days exploring the vibrant city of Kuala Lumpur before relaxing for six days at the Tanjong Jara Resort.

Price includes: International flights with Malaysia Airlines • Airport taxes • Private transfers in

Malaysia • 2 nights at the JW Marriott hotel in Kuala Lumpur based on two people sharing a twin room • Return flights between Kuala Lumpur and Kuala Terengganu for the Tanjong Jara Resort • 5 nights at the Tanjong Jara Resort based on two people sharing a Bumbung room • Breakfasts • Full day city tour of Kuala Lumpur.

Not included: Travel insurance • Meals other than those stated • Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.