

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**TOURIST LEISURE AND RECREATION
EXPERIENCE AT RECREATIONAL FOREST**

MOHD JINIS ABDULLAH

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ABSTRACT

Natural forest area is the backbone of forest recreation. Malaysia is a tropical country, which is endowed with tropical rain forest that is rich in diverse natural resources. These natural resources are of high tourism potential. As the only forest recreational destination in Kuala Lumpur City Centre, Bukit Nanas Recreational Forest must offer leisure and recreational opportunities to fulfill the diverse needs and requirements of the visitors. This involves establishing recreational participation and facilities usage. The study focuses on the leisure and recreational experienced of the international tourists' visiting Bukit Nanas Recreational Forest. The data was drawn from survey conducted at Bukit Nanas Recreational Forest, Kuala Lumpur. The findings from the study identify the demographic background of the visitors. Their leisure and recreation activities, travel characteristics, benefits of signages, relationships between visit behaviour and various recreational activities, motives, and attractions. Results indicated that the tourists enjoyed, satisfied, willing to make a revisit, recommend, say positive about the activities, motives, and attractions at Bukit Nanas Recreational Forest. This showed that there were significant relationship between activities, motives, attractions and visit behaviour. The assessment on tourists leisure and recreation experience will contribute to the development of an integrated recreational programme. This will benefit the nation as a whole in promoting nature based recreation within vicinity of the city.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter provides the background and rationale for the study. The study also identifies visitors' demographics, activities, needs, motivations and attractions for visiting Bukit Nanas Recreational Forest. Their behaviour and experience while at the forest recreation were also taken into account.

1.1 Leisure, Recreation and Forest

Leisure is time available to an individual when work, sleep and other basic needs have been met or discharge (Boniface and Cooper, 1987; Cooper *et al.*, 2005; Hudman and Jackson, 2003; Newsome *et al.*, 2001; Williams, 2003). It is the free time available from non-work situations. While recreation is most commonly connected to purposeful activities engaged during leisure time (Newsome *et al.*, 2001; Williams, 2003). These activities act as mean for the revitalization of one personal state of mental and physical. Among the places people keen to spend their leisure and recreation are in the natural environment setting which include the forests. The forests provide a wide range of goods and services which includes ecotourism and recreation (FAO, 1998). Forest recreation sites attract tourists with quite diverse purposes and attitudes (Oku and Fukamachi, 2006). Owing to that, it is worth to analyze the tourists purpose and experience while visiting recreational forest.