

# PULAU KAPAS GOT ITS NAME FROM THE FINE, SOFT AND WHITE SAND ON ITS BEACHES

By Stephen Ng



Medical students who will be based at UCSI Kuala Terengganu Campus will be able to enjoy some of the beautiful island resorts off the town of Marang. Pulau Kapas is just one of the many island resorts, not to mention others like Pulau Redang, Pulau Gemia, Pulau Perhentian, and Pulau Lang Tengah just to name a few.



Pros Candal giving the thumbs up to Pulau Kapas

What exactly is it that draws tourists like 30-year-old Spanish, Pros Candal and his girlfriend, Diana Navarok all the way from Spain to the little island of Pulau Kapas, a 15-minute boat ride off Marang town in Terengganu?

When met, Pros, who had already stayed at a chalet in Pulau Kapas for eight days, said he had read about the island from the Lonely Planet Travel Guide.

“It’s a beautiful island and I like the privacy on this island,” he said. “We have gone jungle trekking and snorkeling. It’s such a wonderful experience staying on this island.”

One of his favourite places is the Spanish Lagoon. “It’s so beautiful that I cannot describe in words,” he said. “It’s about 10 metres deep, and you can dive right into it.”

The operator of Kapas Garden Resort, where Pros and Diana stay, Assari Leh is also a volunteer with the turtle conservation sanctuary at Pulau Gemia, where divers can watch turtles in the sea.

Before we left the chalet to talk to another chalet operator, Rose, the young and adventurous Pros called out to us with his thumbs up for Pulau Kapas: “Jumpa lagi!”

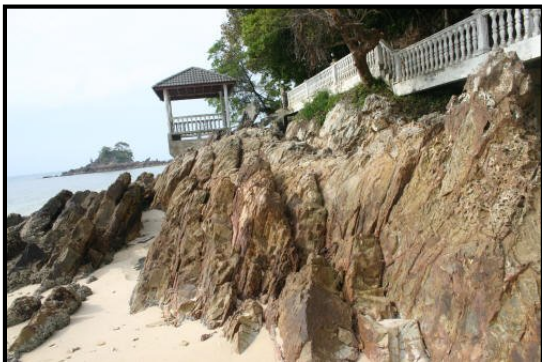
Rose, a former air stewardess with MAS and her husband, Nolly discovered Pulau Kapas on one of their holiday trips to the island and had since fallen in love with the charm of the sea. “We decided to buy over the resort and operate it,” she said.



Rose and Qimi showing their chalet, Qimi Chalet

The chalet named after his six-year-old son, Qimi, also has a restaurant that serves food throughout the day. “We have a lot of choices on the menu, so it’s flexible. Whatever the tourists want to eat, we can prepare,” she said.

Among the attractions at Pulau Kapas, according to Roslan Ishak of MGH Boat Service in Marang, are corals and crystal clear water for snorkeling enthusiasts,



Pulau Kapas with its beautiful sandstones

beautiful sunsets and white sandy beaches.

“In fact, the island got its name from the fact that the sand here is fine and white,” he said, adding that the island resorts – nine in total and two campsites – are among the most economical in the country as an island resort.

One of his favourite packages is a 2-hour snorkeling stint, which includes boat transfer from the Marang Jetty to Pulau Kapas. “It only costs RM55,” he said.

Ping Anchorage Travel & Tours Sdn. Bhd., which has bagged several Tourism Malaysia awards, has a 2-day package to Kapas Island Resort from RM265 per person, which includes snorkeling and boat transfer.

### Getting There

Kuala Terengganu is accessible by air and land. Both MAS and Air Asia have flights to Kuala Terengganu. There are also express buses that travel from major towns in Peninsular Malaysia to the Tanjong Bus Depot in Kuala Terengganu.

From Kuala Terengganu, it is about another 20 minutes’ drive to the Marang Jetty, where a boat transfer to Pulau Kapas takes 15 minutes.



Taking a dip in the beautiful sea at Pulau Kapas

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