



A photographer and colourful coral bommie surrounded by glassfish at Santak Point

在Santak Point潜点，一名摄影人和五颜六色的珊瑚浅礁被玻璃鱼包围着

MIRI

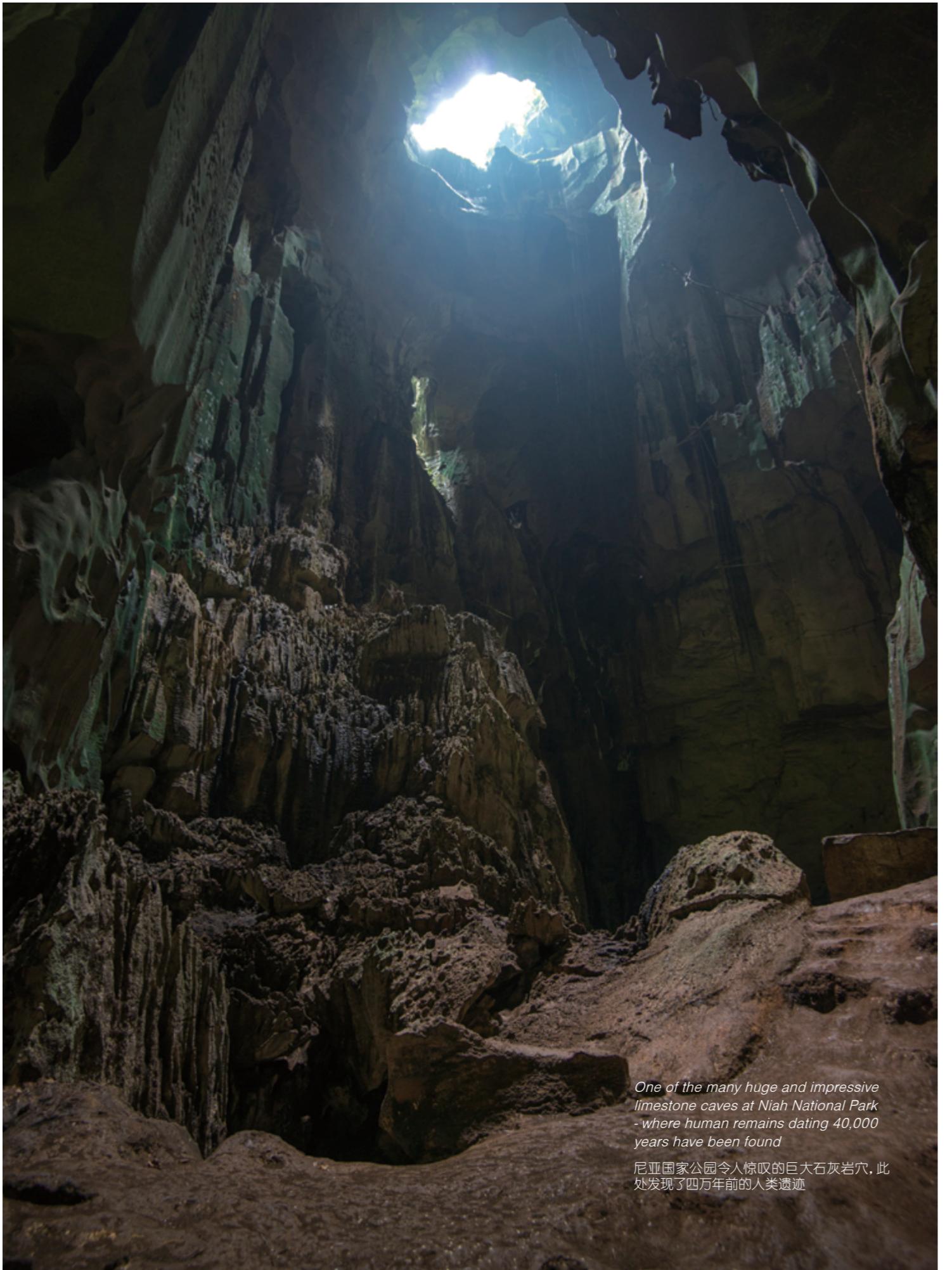
美丽美里



Miri is a nice and quiet, laid-back city for shipwrecks, giving divers the luxury of having the dive site all to themselves without bumping into large dive groups underwater unlike the more famous dive destinations in Malaysian Borneo.

就拥有沉船潜点的城市来说，美里是一处美好恬静的悠闲所在，和马来西亚婆罗洲的其它知名潜点不同，在这里潜水人无需在海中与一大群潜水团体客争先恐后，就能奢侈地独占整个潜游区。

Text & Photo Christian Loader / Scubazoo



The little-known city of Miri in the Malaysian state of Sarawak, close to the border of Brunei, is not a place that springs to mind when thinking about diving in Borneo. Miri is better-known as the gateway for tourists visiting the rainforest at Lambir Hills National Park, or the limestone caves and archeological sites of Niah National Park – where human remains dating 40,000 years have been found. Also nearby is Gunung Mulu National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that attracts tourists for its limestone karst formations, vast cave networks, rock pinnacles, cliffs, gorges and mountainous forest. The park is world famous for the largest caves in the world.

Miri is one of Borneo's up-and-coming dive destinations, particularly for wreck diving, and an ideal place to immerse yourself underwater for a few days as an interlude to Sarawak's other tourist attractions. Off the coast of Miri, the protected Miri-Sibuti Coral Reef National Park is the largest marine park in Sarawak. The abundance of patch reefs lying at depths ranging from 7–30 meters is divided into two main areas – the shallower Siwa reefs closer to the coast between 6–15m which feature abundant hard and soft corals, barrel sponges, anemones, and bommies; and the deeper Tukau shoals between 18–30m featuring flatter topography with scattered bommies and large gorgonian sea fans, whip corals, and soft corals.

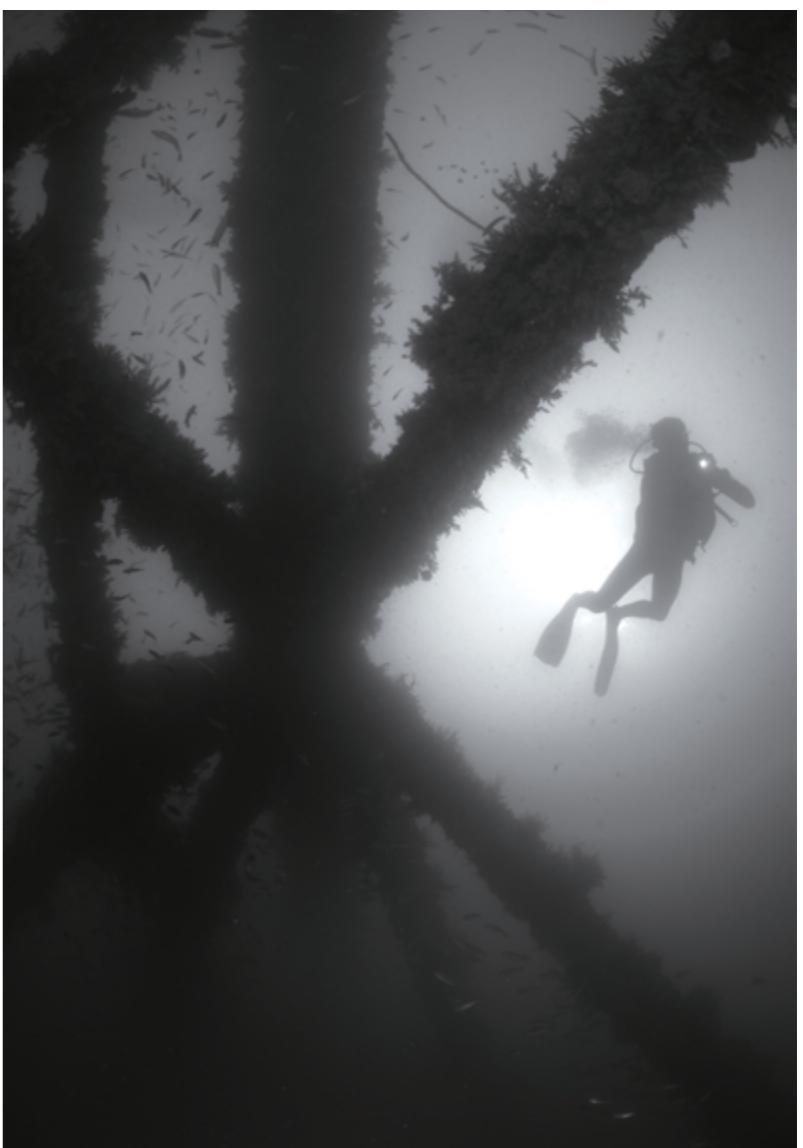
美里这座鲜为人知的城市，位于马来西亚的砂拉越州，靠近文莱的边界。通常人们想去婆罗洲潜水时，并不会首先想到美里。人们所知的美里，是游客前往兰卑尔山国家公园的雨林，或是探访尼亞国家公园——此处发现了四万年前的人类遗迹——的石灰岩穴和考古遗址，都需要经过这处门户。同时，邻近美里的姆鲁山国家公园，是一处名列联合国教科文组织世界遗产名录的公园，其石灰岩溶地形、广阔的岩穴脉络、嶙峋多岩的山峰、峭壁、峡谷以及群山丛林，吸引旅客慕名前来。这座拥有全世界最大洞穴的公园，也因而名闻全世界。

美里是婆罗洲其中一处崭露头角的潜点，尤其是沉船潜水，是一个值得你从砂拉越其它景点抽身几天，沉浸于水底世界的完美地点。位于美里外海的Miri-Sibuti珊瑚礁国家公园是砂拉越最大的海洋公园。丰饶的珊瑚礁丛斑斑点点的横生在7至30米深之间，分成两个主要的区域。较浅的Siwa礁区在近海岸约6~15米之间，有充沛大量的软、硬珊瑚、桶状海绵、海葵以及浅礁；较深一些的Tukau shoals则在18~30米处，浅礁与大型的红海扇柳珊瑚、鞭珊瑚和软珊瑚零落的散布于较平坦的地形上。

Miri's special attraction for divers are five shipwrecks, as well as an artificial wreck of part of a decommissioned oil rig. Shipwrecks are generally few and far between in Sabah and Sarawak, with a few others further north in Labuan Island and Usukan Bay, making Miri especially appealing to the growing number of wreck enthusiasts. The majority of over 30 dive sites are within a 15–60 minute speedboat ride from Miri's marina, while the furthest dive sites are accessible on a day trip up to 70km south near the town of Sibuti.

美里吸引潜水人的特别之处，是这里的五艘沉船以及一座废弃的钻油平台所形成的人造残骸。沙巴和砂拉越之间的沉船残骸通常稀有且遥远，少数其它的沉船位于更北方的纳闽岛和乌斯康湾，对与日俱增的沉船迷来说，美里更是格外的具有魅力。美里的三十多个潜点中，大多数潜点到美里码头只需乘坐15到60分钟快艇，最远的潜点则需要花上一天的行程，一路往靠近Sibut镇以南70公里的地方。

A diver hovers above the Kenyalang oil rig artificial wreck
一名潜水员悬停在人工沉降的Kenyalang石油钻井平台上方





Colourful soft corals cover the structures at Kenyalang

五彩斑斓的软珊瑚覆盖了Kenyalang的结构

I was in Miri with two colleagues filming a new episode of Borneo From Below exploring Miri's reefs and wrecks as well as the caves at Niah National Park. We dived with Co Co Dive, an experienced, safety conscious team, offering customized dive packages and specialty courses. Next door is Co Co House, a clean, spacious and affordable lodge located just a 10-minute walk from the small city center. There are a number of attractions including the famous Miri Handicraft Centre for local arts and crafts; the fantastic food court Taman Seroja serves all kinds of local food; and the very popular and vibrant Ming Café is the place to be after the sun goes down where you'll find the finest selection of beers in Sarawak!

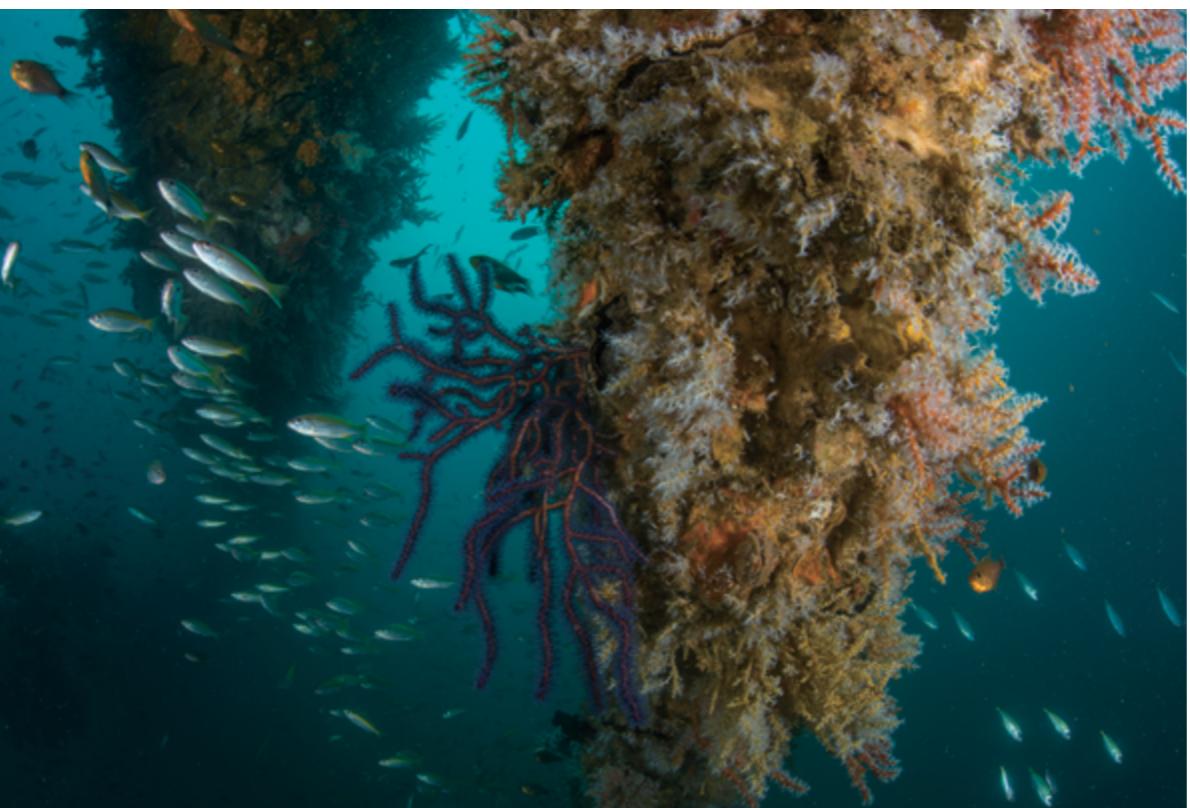
We headed out each morning from the marina, past the photogenic seahorse lighthouse and out to sea for the day's diving, and with our underwater cameras in hand, we were eager to explore what Miri's had to offer. The shallower Siwa reefs are abundant with hard and soft corals, barrel sponges, anemones, numerous nudibranchs, reef fish, schooling snappers and fusiliers, as well as small coral cat sharks hidden among rocky crevices during the day. Batu Balais, a sloping reef at 14m flourished with colorful foliose hard coral at 20m with many large gorgonian sea fans on the sandy bottom. Batfish are common here as well as schooling barracuda and trevally.

The large and deeper Siwa Reef is 800m long and 250m wide and thriving with large boulder and staghorn

hard corals, and can be explored over a number of dives. Anemone Garden and Eve's Garden are both shallow, pretty reefs with many bommies and sandy patches teeming with hard corals, anemones, giant clams, and soft corals such as leather corals, elephant's ear and dead man's fingers – these sites are great for novice divers and dive training.

I was really impressed with the deeper reefs of Santak and Tukau, which offer better visibility than dive sites closer to the coast. Santak Point and Gorgonian Paradise are reefs at 18-22m with flat topography and a large number of huge gorgonian sea fans as well as large bush and whip corals. Schools of snapper, fusiliers, barracuda, and batfish inhabit these deeper reefs, and occasional large bommies are home to swirling schools of glassfish.

The Kenyalang Rig is a leg of a decommissioned oil rig sunk in 2004 by Shell, Petronas and the Malaysian government to create an artificial reef. Lying on its side on a sandy bottom at 21m rising to 14m, this large 20m-long structure is now teeming with marine life. Schools of snapper, rabbit fish, and damselfish swarm around the rig which has a dense covering of soft corals and whip corals, while orange anthias, hawkfish, and scorpionfish can be found all over the metal structures. Olive sea snakes can often be seen slithering around the sandy seabed in search of food, or swimming in the blue next to the rig.



A hapless juvenile blue-lined grouper falls prey to a hungry reef lizardfish

一只倒霉的蓝条石斑幼鱼成为饥饿的岩礁蜥蜴鱼的猎物

Colourful soft coral and snappers on the Kenyalang oil rig artificial wreck

Kenyalang钻井平台上五颜六色的软珊瑚和鲷鱼

我和两位同事在美里拍摄过一集《Borneo From Below》，这集里探索了美里的礁石和沉船，同时还有尼亚国家公园的洞穴。我们参加了可可潜水中心的潜游行程，这家潜水店有一个经验丰富、注重安全的团队，提供订制化的潜水套餐行程与专业课程。隔壁是“可可小屋”，干净、宽敞且价格合理的旅舍，距离小小的市中心走路只需10分钟。那里有一些迷人的景点，包括著名的美里手工艺品中心，展示当地的艺术品与手工创作；超赞的Taman Seroja美食中心，供应各式各样当地的食物；太阳西下后，去名叫很响的Ming Café喝一杯，你会喝到全砂拉越最棒的啤酒！。

每天早晨，我们从码头出发，经过很上镜的海马灯塔，驶向大海，展开一天的潜游旅程，我们手握水下摄影机，满心渴望着在美里一探究竟。浅水处的Siwa礁脉满是软、硬珊瑚、桶海绵、海葵，无数的海蛞蝓、礁鱼、成群结队的笛鲷和乌尾鮗仔，还有大白天就宅在岩石裂缝中的小型斑猫鲨。Batu Balais是一座倾斜的礁脉，14米处茂生着五颜六色、枝叶繁盛的硬珊瑚，20米处则有许许多多大型的红海扇柳珊瑚蛰居在海底沙地。燕鱼是此处的常客，三五成群的巴拉金梭鱼与鲹鱼也不时会现身。

广大又深邃的Siwa礁脉，长达800米，宽有250米，放眼尽是巨大的圆石和鹿角硬珊瑚，还有一些潜点可以去探索。Anemone Garden与Eve's Garden都不深，有着大量浅礁和补丁般沙地的美丽礁脉充斥着硬珊瑚、海葵、大蛤蜊以及像是皮革珊瑚、象耳海绵还有水手珊瑚的软珊瑚；这些潜点都非常适合潜水新手潜游，也适合从事潜水训练。

Santak与Tukau的深海礁脉真的令我印象非常深刻，此处的能见度比靠近海岸的潜点还来得高。Santak Point和Gorgonian Paradise是两座位于18至22米深处的礁脉，有平坦的地形以及为数众多的巨大红海扇柳珊瑚，同时还有大型的珊瑚丛和鞭珊瑚。一大票的笛鲷、乌尾鮗仔、巴拉金梭鱼以及燕鱼群，全都栖住在这处深海礁脉间，盘旋回旋的玻璃鱼偶尔也会入住在这一大片浅礁区。

Kenyalang Rig潜点原本是一个石油钻井平台的支架，2004年荷兰Shell公司同马来西亚国家石油公司以及马来西亚政府合作，沉降了这个退役的钻井平台，从而形成该人造礁脉。这座20米长的庞然大物，侧卧于21米深的海底沙地，一路挺立至14米处，如今海洋生物随处可见。川流不息的笛鲷、蓝子鱼和雀鲷呼朋引伴地在覆盖着密密麻麻的钻井架四周厮混，刺盖拟花鲈、鹰鲷与触鱼则聚集在金属结构的区域。通常还可以看到剑尾海蛇在沙床上溜来滑去地寻觅着食物，或是悠游在钻井架旁的深蓝中。



Getting there

Red Wreck is the site of an old wooden fishing boat sitting upright on a sandy seabed with its stern at 30m. Covered in hard and soft corals, the wooden wreck presents a variety of macro life such as shrimps and nudibranchs. Schools of big-eye barracuda and snapper stay close to the wreck, while a school of batfish hover in the blue close to the surface.

The best wreck in Miri's waters is the Atago Maru, one of two World War II wrecks lying in shallow water close to the coast. This 100m-long Japanese cargo ship was bombed 6km from Miri in 1944, and sadly 270 people lost their lives. This vast wreck which has slowly sunk into the sand over the years rests at just 14m, and the ship's superstructure has taken a beating from the monsoon waves. The wreck is home to schools of trevally, large cobia, barracuda, and batfish, and among the metal wreckage moray eels, octopus, scorpionfish, lionfish, shrimps and many nudibranchs can be found.

Due to the unfavorable conditions we experienced during our short trip here in the typhoon season, we only managed to do one dive on the Atago Maru with the visibility down to almost zero! The team at Co Co Dive rave about diving here during the calmer and clearer months of April–June, and we can't wait to return next year to see this wreck in all its glory.

Another alluring reason to come back to Miri for a future dive trip is the very high chance of observing aggregations of large pharaoh cuttlefish mating in March and April, and divers can get up close to these mating pairs. During this same time of year lucky divers could see enormous whale sharks or manta rays which are attracted to Miri's coast to feed on the rich blooms of krill.

If you're looking for a new dive location to avoid crowds of other divers, or are particularly interested in wreck diving, then Miri is certainly the place for you. Coupled with the rich, tribal history of Sarawak, and some adventurous land-based tours to nearby Mulu, Niah, or Lambir Hills National Parks, you're sure to have an exciting activity-filled vacation here in Malaysian Borneo. [EZ](#)

Visas

Passport holders from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and all south-east Asian countries (except Myanmar) can obtain a free 30-day visa on arrival, while most western visitors are entitled to a free 90-day visa on arrival. Visitors from mainland China can apply for e-Visa online.

Language

Malay is the official language, and English and Mandarin are widely spoken in Malaysia.

Currency

The local currency is the Malaysian Ringgit (MYR). 1 MYR = 0.23 USD.

Electricity

220 - 240V 50Hz. Plug sockets are 'type G' (3 rectangular prong). Consider bringing adapters with you, although they can be purchased easily locally.

Best time to dive

The diving season in Miri runs from March through to end November, with visibility between 10–20m. During the months of April, May and June divers can expect the best visibility between 20–30m, while July to September can bring the occasional typhoon, causing rough surface conditions and reduced visibility of ~5m lasting a few days. Warm waters all year round with an average of 30° Celsius.

Dive operator (潜水业者)

Co Co Dive

www.divemiri.com

Hoopa Diving Club

diving.hoopa.com.my/miri/

For more videos about diving in Miri, check out the website www.borneofrombelow.com

Red Wreck这处潜点是一艘老旧的木头渔船，笔直地屹立在沙床的一隅，船艉则落置于30米深处。满布着软、硬珊瑚的这艘木制残骸，招来了各种各样的迷你小生物，像是虾子和海蛞蝓。大眼金梭鱼群和笛鲷群在沉船附近晃荡著，燕鱼群则在靠近水面的靛蓝中盘旋。

Atago Maru是美里海域中最棒的沉船，它是其中一艘二次大战期间沉没的残骸，静置于临近海岸的浅水处。此艘100米长的日本货轮于1944年在距离美里6公里处遭到炸弹攻击，造成270人不幸罹难。这艘庞大的沉船在此后的多年里，慢慢地沉入海沙中，最后在14米深处安顿下来，而上层结构则承袭着季风海浪的袭击。此沉船居住着一群群的鲹鱼、大型的海鲷、巴拉金梭鱼、燕鱼，还可以在金属残骸间看见蹠躄的海鳗、章鱼、鮋鱼、狮子鱼、虾子和众多的海蛞蝓。



交通

马来西亚航空(Malaysia Airlines)以及亚洲航空(Air Asia)提供从新加坡与吉隆坡飞往美里的直航班机，马来西亚境内也有国内班机从热门的城市往返于美里，像是亚庇、古晋和乔治城。

签证

持有香港、台湾以及所有东南亚国家(除了缅甸)护照的旅客，可享有落地后30天免签证的待遇，而大部分西方旅客则为落地后90天免签证。来自中国大陆的旅客可在网上申请电子签证。

语言

马来语为官方语言，英语和中文也是马来西亚广泛使用的语言。

货币

当地货币为林吉特(Malaysian Ringgit, MYR)。1 MYR = 0.23 USD。

电力

220—240V/50Hz。电源插座为G型(方型三脚插头)。虽然可以在当地买到简易的转接器，不过最好还是自己携带。

最佳潜游时间

美里的潜游季节从三月一直到十一月底，能见度在10至20米间。四、五、六月之间的能见度可达20至30米，七月到九月偶尔会有台风，造成海况不佳，有几天的能见度最少会降5米。全年的水温温暖，平均温度有摄氏30度。



由于我们的短途旅程正好碰上台风季节，我们的潜游行程也就不太顺利，只能进行一趟Atago Maru的探潜，能见度还几近零！“可可潜水中心”的团队极力推荐在四月到六月间到此潜游，那时的风浪较平静且海水更清澈，而我们已经迫不及待，要在明年回来看看这艘沉船的壮丽全貌。

另一个吸引游客回到美里潜游的理由是很有机会见到三、四月聚集于此进行交配的大王乌贼，潜水人可以近距离观赏这些甜蜜的爱侣们。在每年的同一个时期，幸运的潜水人还能够见到庞然的鲸鲨或蝠鲼，它们全是为了美里海岸无数丰美可口的磷虾大餐远道而来。

倘若你正在寻觅一处能避开人潮的新潜点，或是你对沉船潜特别有兴趣，美里绝对适合你。结合砂拉越丰富的部落历史，加上附近姆鲁、尼亞或是兰卑尔山国家公园的一些陆上探索之旅，马来西亚的婆罗洲肯定让你有一个激动又不冷场的假期。

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