

Local, foreign tourists throng KL top attractions

KUALA LUMPUR: The Sin Sze Si Ya Temple, a 164-year-old temple in Lebuah Pudu, which has witnessed the development of Kuala Lumpur, is one of several places that the Chinese community, as well as local and foreign tourists visit during the Chinese New Year celebrations.

Founded in 1864 by Yap Ah Loy, it is one of the earliest temples established in the capital.

Australian tourist Steven Smith, 38, who is in Malaysia for the second time, said he and his wife stopped by at the temple to experience the Chinese New Year celebrations in the country.

He said he decided to visit the temple as he had heard about its history.

"We are here for seven days and yesterday, my wife and I went to the temple to observe the Chinese community celebrating the festival. You can see red decorations along the street and they are beautiful. I was thrilled to watch for the first time the dragon dance performed at the temple."

A survey found that other focal points in the capital city such as Bukit Bintang, the Petronas Twin Towers and Taman Tasik Titiwangsa were packed with locals and outstation visitors taking advantage of the long public and school holidays.

Fatimah Abd Manap, 48, from Sungai Petani, Kedah said she and her family visited Kuala Lumpur to enjoy the atmosphere and

visit their Chinese friends here.

"We are going to the open house of a colleague whom we haven't met for a long time," she said while enjoying the atmosphere at Taman Tasik Titiwangsa.

For Daniel Lew, 38, from Malacca, Kuala Lumpur is his *kampung*, and he has come back for the festive occasion to visit his parents and other family members.

"I am taking my children, who are on school holidays, for a visit around Kuala Lumpur," said Liew when met in Bukit Bintang.

On Saturday, the Chinese community nationwide ushered in the Year of the Wood Dragon, a symbol of strength, honour, success and good fortune. – Bernama