About Erau Adat Kutai

Erau Adat Kutai is a cultural heritage dating back from the 13th Century’s Kutai Kartenegara Sultanate. The ceremonies are held in the Kutai Palace throughout the week of Erau and are performed for spiritual reasons as well as to maintain the traditions of the people in this region.

The term ‘Erau’ itself is derived from the world ‘eroh’ which in the Malay language of Kutai Tenggarong means ‘party’, or in general can be interpreted as ‘party of the people’. In the past, Erau was considered to be a great celebration for the Sultanate of Kutai and the people throughout his territory which now covers much of East Kalimantan. Initially this event lasted for 40 days and 40 nights, and was followed by all levels of society, but it is not held within a week of each year.

In this event, people from various parts of the country can enjoy the festivity of the event and partying. Erau is a form of gratitude for the abundance of the products obtained by the people of Kutai. The Sultanate’s family also entertained the attendees with varieties of events as the form of gratitude for their devotion to the Sultanate.

Over time, the Sultanate of Kutai then joined the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. Up to 1960 Kutai was a Special Region with the Sultan as regional head. Afterwards, Kutai’s regional status turned into a district, led by the Bupati (Regent). Although the era of Sultanate is technically over, Erau Adat Kutai is part of the cultural heritage of the Sultanate of Kutai Kartanegara and is still maintained as one as one of the attractions of art and tourism.

Erau Adat Kutai was previously held to coincide with the anniversary of Tenggarong City, which is on September 29th. However since 2010 the festival has been held every July to coincide with the holiday season in order to attract more tourists.

Through the Erau festival, people celebrate art and culture which involves international folklore and dance groups from abroad as well.

During the festival you can also enjoy:

* traditional sports competitions
* dragon boat races and motor boat races on the Mahakam River
* art exhibitions
* a culinary festival

Visiting Kutai Kartanegara will not be complete without enjoying the annual folk festival of Kukar, namely Erau Adat Kutai. Erau Adat Kutai is one of the oldest cultural festivals in the area, which until now continues to be preserved and developed as one of the annual programs of Kutai Kartanegara. This annual tradition has been going on for centuries, with the history of the Kutai Kartenegara Ing Martadipura Sultanate.