

# TERENGGANU

—LAND OF ALLURING BEAUTY—

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MASRAH PEMELIHAKAAN  
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA

TERENGGANU : LAND OF ALLURING BEAUTY

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# TERENGGANU

—LAND OF ALLURING BEAUTY—

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# I N T R O D U C T I O N



THE STATE OF TERENGGANU is one of thirteen in Malaysia. It is situated in the northeast of Peninsular Malaysia and covers 12,956 square kilometers or just over 5,000 square miles. To the north and northwest lies the State of Kelantan while Pahang is to the south and southwest. To the east, picturesque villages and palm fringed beaches meet the clear blue waters of the South China Sea.

Terengganu is endowed with a wealth of natural resources and physical features. Deep silent gorges, cascading waterfalls, placid lakes, mysterious limestone caves and mist shrouded hills carpeted in lush, virgin forest, form a large part of the interior. Ancient jungles, estimated to be 100 million years old, provide a natural habitat for rare tropical plants and for species such as the fireback pheasant, tapir, sunbear and the elusive Sumatran rhinoceros.

Over on the eastern horizon, mile upon mile of deserted white sandy beaches merge with clear blue skies, stretching from Besut in the north to Kemaman in the south, along 225 km of coastline. Terengganu's offshore islands are perhaps the most attractive in the country. Rich in secluded coves and unspoiled beaches, the state is endowed with some of nature's most spectacular coral reefs and a marine life that never fails to amaze underwater enthusiasts. Its tranquil, remote beaches are also renowned as one of the few areas where turtles, including the rare giant leatherback, come ashore to lay their eggs.

## CLIMATE

Typical of equatorial climates, temperatures in Terengganu range from 21 to 32 degrees Celsius. Relative humidity averages 84 per cent and annual rainfall is around 270 centimeters.

Near the coasts and on the islands, however, cooling sea breezes create a remarkably refreshing and pleasant environment. There is a distinct wet and windy season, marked by heavy rainfall, from November to January.

## HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Terengganu was an important area of Malay settlement long before the rise of Malacca and its history goes back to the First Century. An inscribed stone of Javanese origin, found in Kuala Brang, testifies to the existence of an Islamic State as early as the 14th century. It speaks of the state being a tributary to the Great Majapahit Kingdom. The stone, which can be seen in the main museum of the Terengganu State Museum complex, is written in Malay with an admixture of Sanskrit and Arabic.

In the early 18th century, the present royal house of Terengganu was founded by a half brother of the Sultan of Johor. From 1726 to present day, beginning with the rule of Sultan Zainal Abidin I, it has been

ruled by 16 Sultans, all members of the same ruling house. The Sultan is the constitutional head of the Terengganu State Government. He exercises legislative powers on the advice of the Executive Council which is headed by the Menteri Besar or Chief Minister.

## **ECONOMY**

Fishing is the main economic activity of Terengganu. In every coastal village the main attraction is the return of the fishing fleet with the day's catch. Middlemen cart off the majority to the markets while fishermen check and repair their nets and boats and family members help to clean and process the fish. Another major activity in the state is agriculture, the main crops being rubber in the hilly regions, oil palm in the foothills, paddy on the coastal plains and river deltas, and coconuts in the interior and along the beaches. Together with these crops of course, a huge variety of horticultural produce - fruits, vegetables and herbs are produced throughout the state.

In recent years oil and gas production have made an increasing impact on the economy. The discovery of oil off the coast of Terengganu in the mid 1970s has resulted in huge oil installations, refineries and depots. The state is now by far the largest producer of oil and gas in the country. This has generated revenue to improve Terengganu's infrastructure and transport facilities which are among the best in Malaysia.

A relatively recent development has been a rapid growth in tourism. Terengganu's improved accessibility has encouraged foreign and local tourists to explore its picturesque beaches, islands, forests and lakes. The resultant growth in hotels and other leisure related facilities has given a substantial boost to the economy as well as creating a large number of new jobs and raising local living standards.

## **PEOPLE AND CULTURE**

Apart from its natural beauty, Terengganu's attraction lies in its people, who are as fascinating and gifted as their state. The population stands at about a million of which 90 per cent are Malays, the remainder being largely Chinese and Indian. Although the state is rapidly developing, its people have retained their natural, unpretentious attitude to life. Visitors and tourists are welcomed with a genuine and unaffected warmth which never fails to charm.

Craftsmanship and artistry are second nature to the population with skills being handed down from father to son and mother to daughter. The influence of religion, tradition and culture can be seen expressed in handicrafts such as batik painting, songket and mat weaving, rattan basketry, brassmaking, woodcarving and the highly skilled craft of boatbuilding. For visitors who would like to take part of Terengganu home with them, such examples of local craftsmanship are perfect. - DIANA KOH



















## T H E E A R L Y D A Y S



s a state in the Malay Archipelago, Terengganu was one of the earliest places of settlement since the first century. According to the book, *Tuhfat al-Nafis-Naskah* - meaning Precious Gift in Arabic, the seat of the Malay kingdom shifted from Malacca to Johor and then to Terengganu following the death of Sultan Mahmud of Malacca in 1699.

At that juncture, Terengganu, because of its strategic location, was already the leading maritime state in the Malay Peninsula. Ships from Europe frequently called at its capital, Kuala Terengganu, a major international port, to trade in areca nuts, pure silk sarongs, spices, dried fish products, rubber, tin ore, iron and rice. It was during this golden era of the mid-eighteenth century, that the state became a renowned centre for trade and as a natural trading centre for Cochin-China and Hainan junks.

As most of the state's economic activities were focused on the coastal areas and at the river mouths, more ports were gradually opened and this made Terengganu a main gateway of the East Coast of the Peninsula. Sadly, under the British, though Terengganu contributed greatly to the Administration's trade revenue, the British were more interested in developing the West Coast of the Peninsula than the East.

As a result, East Coast states, including Terengganu were largely ignored in terms of development of infrastructure and provision of basic amenities - a decision that has proven to be a blessing in disguise, as it has left Terengganu's plentiful natural resources virtually untapped and its rich inherent culture untouched by Western influence until the current century.

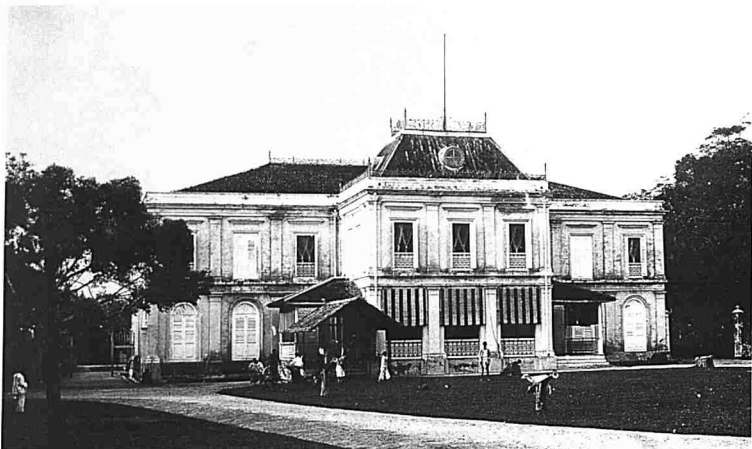
For the people of Terengganu in these early days, daily living centred mainly around the activities of fishing, boat building, tending to their paddy, coconuts, tobacco, rubber, fruit orchards and vegetable plots at an unhurried pace. Hot blistering afternoons were spent in a game of checkers, congkak, kit flying, catching up with the latest community happenings or just snatching forty winks beneath the cool of coconut palms.

This leisurely lifestyle, also left the people plenty of time to delve in creative crafts like batik painting, rattan basketry, wood carving, brass making, weaving of songket and pandanus mat weaving, resulting in the preservation of their natural crafts to this day. The teaching of cultural dances, songs and poems steeped in religion and rich in tradition to younger generations were other favourite pastimes.

PRECEDING PAGES : Rocky outcrops and fishing boats along the beach at Kemaman.

PRECEDING PAGES : The "Floating Mosque" at Chendering. RIGHT : A Chinese junk berthing in the Terengganu River in 1935.





Courtesy of Museum Terengganu



Courtesy of Museum Terengganu

Two early pictures captured in 1930s showing the Maziah Palace or 'Istana Terengganu' (TOP), and Abidin Mosque (ABOVE) near Kampung Cina in Kuala Terengganu.





Courtesy of Museum Terengganu



Courtesy of Museum Terengganu

A landing place near the mouth of the Terengganu River (TOP), and a street scene in Kampung Cina (ABOVE). Both photographs were taken in 1930s. By the late 1950s, trishaws have replaced the hand-drawn rickshaws which was once popular.

This sailing vessel from Thailand brings rice and salt to the Port of Kuala Terengganu and on its return journey carries home cincalok and belachan (made from shrimps) which is famous in the capital. The practice of using sailing boats to transport goods and local produce began to slowly fade in the early 1960s.

This picture captured around 1960s is from a private collection photographed by the late Sultan Ismail Nasruddin Shah who ruled the State from 1945 to 1979.







Courtesy of Muzium Terengganu

A long boat race held during the Sultan's birthday celebrations in the late 1920s. Bukit Puteri with a lighthouse lies to the right and the old custom office is in the centre. Part of the Maziah Palace can be seen on the left.



Courtesy of Muzium "Sebanggan"

Unloading of goods near the jetty beside the present Central Market, fronting Bukit Puter. This picture captured in 1930 shows much development on the banks of Seberang Takir in the background.

## ISLANDS OF TEREANGANU

**T**erengganu is blessed with more islands, marine parks and coral reefs than any other Malaysian state. Though similar in some ways, each island has its own character and charm owing to the diverse marine life and underwater terrain of the waters around it. The tourist will find endless possibilities for adventure and fun in the sun, sea and sand, be it photography, diving, snorkeling, bird-watching, fishing or just observation and appreciation of the flora and fauna. Accommodation on each island varies to suit different budgets and preferences - from basic camping and rustic thatched chalets to international class resort villas.

The northernmost island is Perhentian, which as the name suggests, is a stopover point for fishermen and migratory birds from the strong winds of the northeast. It is located 21 km off the coast of Terengganu and consists of two islands - Perhentian Kecil (Lesser Stopover) and Perhentian Besar (Main Stopover). The approach from the mainland is by boat from Kuala Besut. Both islands are famed for their beautiful beaches, sandy sea bed and wide variety of marine life such as blacktip reef sharks, batfish, Napoleon fish, stingrays and turtles. The premier attraction here is Terumbu Tiga, an outcrop of boulders whose walls are adorned with patches of soft coral, sea fans and multi-coloured sponges. A myriad of molluscs such as cowries, comb and murex shells lie scattered on the ocean floor.

Some 25 minutes by boat from Perhentian brings one to the isolated Lang Tengah island, whose name means "eagle-shaped island in the middle of two islands". Its uncrowded beaches and rich variety of diving and snorkeling sites makes Lang Tengah an idyllic getaway. The coral gardens here feature an abundance of giant tridacna clams and soft corals, while the reef crevices are inhabited by damselfish, butterflyfish, wrasses, gobies and soldier-fish guaranteed to render diving enthusiasts spellbound.

Moving south, just 45 km north of Kuala Terengganu using the quaint fishing village of Tanjung Merang as a jump off point, lies a small archipelago of nine islands. Popularly known as the Redang islands and taking its name from the principal and most inhabited island, the archipelago is home to hundreds of turtles, swifts, different species of reef-building corals, bivalves and fish. The other islands in the group are Pinang, Ling, Ekor Tebu, Kerengga Besar (Main Kerengga), Kerengga Kecil (Lesser Kerengga), Paku Besar (Main Paku), Paku Kecil (Lesser Paku) and Lima.

It is little wonder that hundreds of local and international tourists a year visit the Redang archipelago in search of good diving, snorkeling, bird-watching, game-fishing and exploration. The chief attraction at each island in the group vary enormously.

Pinang Island offers snorkellers and divers the unforgettable experience of being surrounded by hundreds of sergeant-majorfish, wrasses, damsels and rabbitfish in search of a hand-out. Meanwhile at Ling island, a rocky outcrop devoid of vegetation, there is a natural staghorn coral garden with numerous centuries-old mushroom shaped porite corals, abundant small reef-fish and multitude of sea-birds that make a visit to the island a must.

At Ekor Tebu, the chief attraction is a submerged reef located 100 metres off its southeastern shore teeming with schools of fusilier fish, trevallies, jacks and barracudas. Kerengga Besar and Kerengga Kecil are the joint owners of a submerged coral garden that lies midway between them and is a popular site for night diving. Known as Mini Mount, it has fascinating marine life as soft coral and sponges dominate the garden and it is noted for the variety of gobies, blennies, shrimps and molluscs that inhabit the many crevices of the coral.

Paku Besar and Paku Kecil islands have noisy black swifts that inhabit the caves located in the steep walled channels of the northern coast. While at Lima island, another vantage point known as Big Mount is just the place for the sighting of docile whale sharks, groupers and coral trouts.

Leaving the Redang Islands and moving south, one reaches Bidong island, another stopover point for fishermen. Lying just 35 km off the Terengganu coast, it was once closed to visitors and used to house more than 250,000 Vietnamese refugees until late 1991. With this history, the 203 hectare Bidong attracts many day-trippers who are interested in seeing what the refugees have left behind them. What is relatively unknown is that Bidong is also a paradise for game-fishing, as its waters teem with gamefish such as spanish mackerel, barracuda, black marlin, sailfish and spearfish.

For those who wish for both a private island paradise and the option to hop over to another island, then Kapas and Gemia islands are the ideal destinations. Located just 30 minutes by boat from the fishing village of Marang, both offer a complete holiday. Swimmers will especially appreciate Kapas as its sandy sea floor and clean waters make this activity a delight. Both islands share a common stretch of coral teeming with marine life in the channel that runs between them.

A short swim or canoe trip from Kapas is the private island of Gemia where adventure awaits. Choose from exploring swift-inhabited caves, scaling stunning cliffs, studying the multitude of exotic sea-birds, snorkeling among the coral gardens, visiting the turtle sanctuary and more.

Naturalists will find the southernmost island of Tenggol particularly interesting as the island harbours a variety of reptiles. That aside, Tenggol, which is an hour's boat ride from Kuala Dungun, is a pleasant retreat for lazing on the beach, picnics, swimming and quiet strolls. Its lagoons and sheltered bays are also breeding grounds for coral reefs, lobsters and rare giant clams. Occasionally one may encounter a whale or grey shark.

There can be no doubt that Terengganu's islands and all its natural treasures, both on land and underwater, will continue to place it ahead in terms of tourism. It is poised to become one of Asia's most popular travel destinations.

Terengganu offers the visitor some of the most idyllic and isolated islands in Malaysia. The two islands of Perhentian, Lang Tengah, Redang, Bidong, Kapas, Gemina, Tersogol and smaller islands such as Yu, are largely deserted.

The remoteness of this beach on Perhentian Besar is evident in this picture of a few scattered chalets - a little holiday paradise - nestling in a secluded cove and facing the quiet, undulating South China Sea. FAR RIGHT

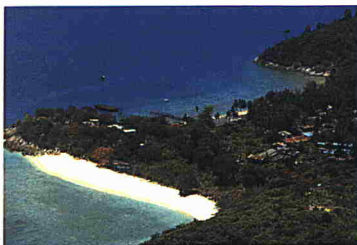


Photo: Wikimpy



Photo: Lu



Photo: Lang Tengah

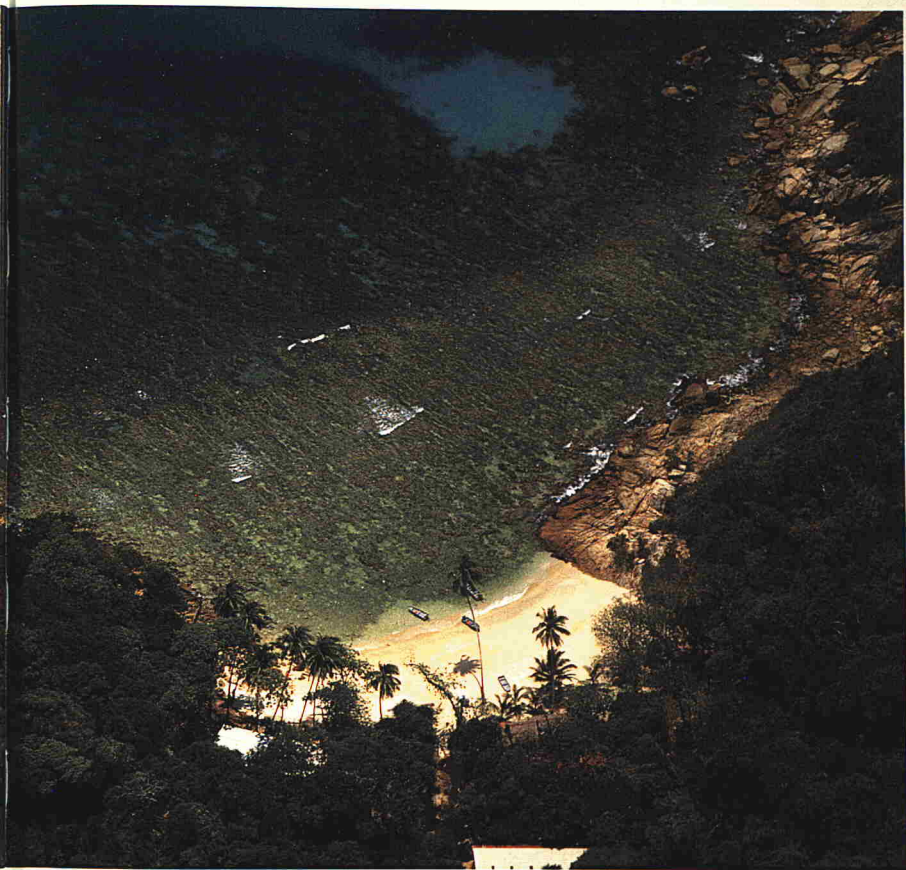


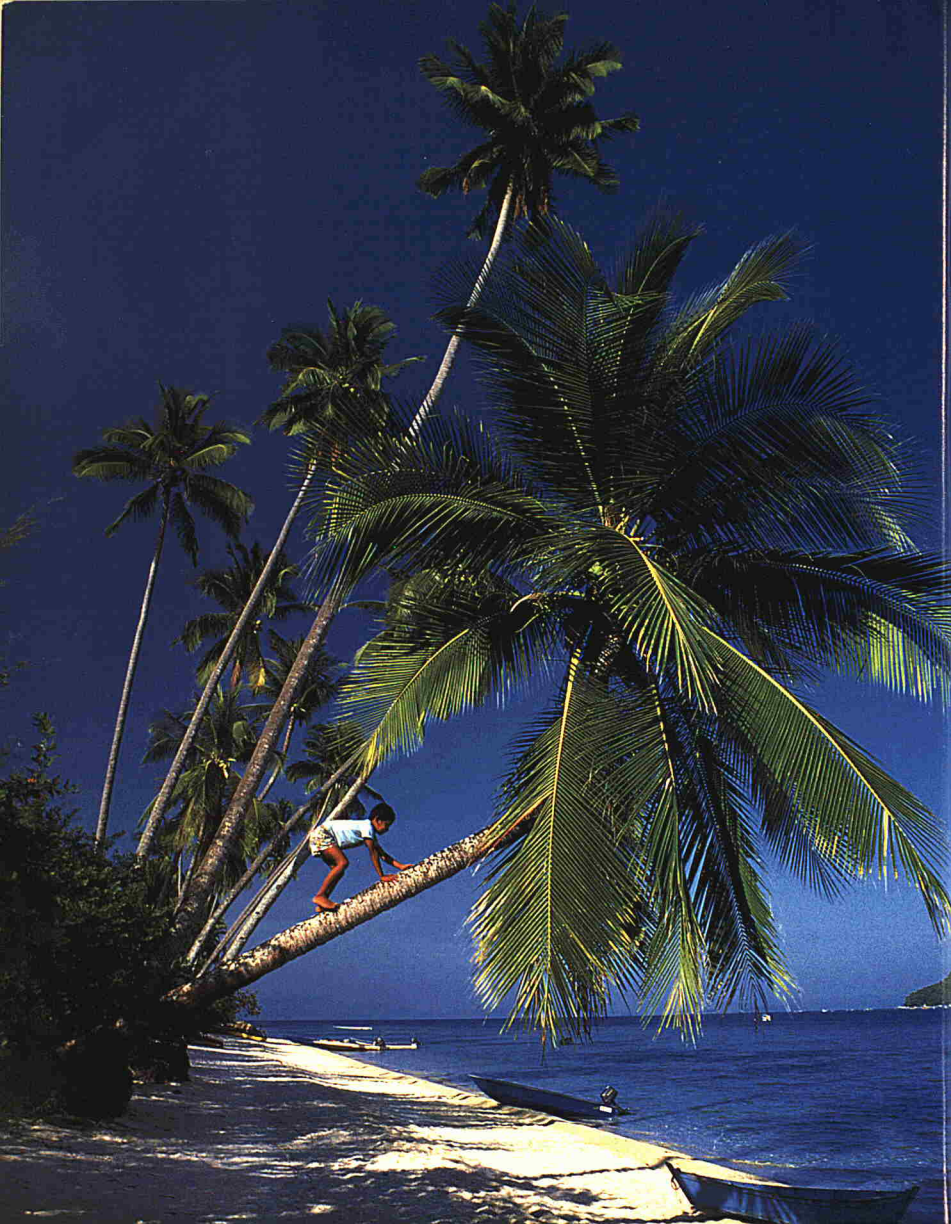
Photo: Bidong Island

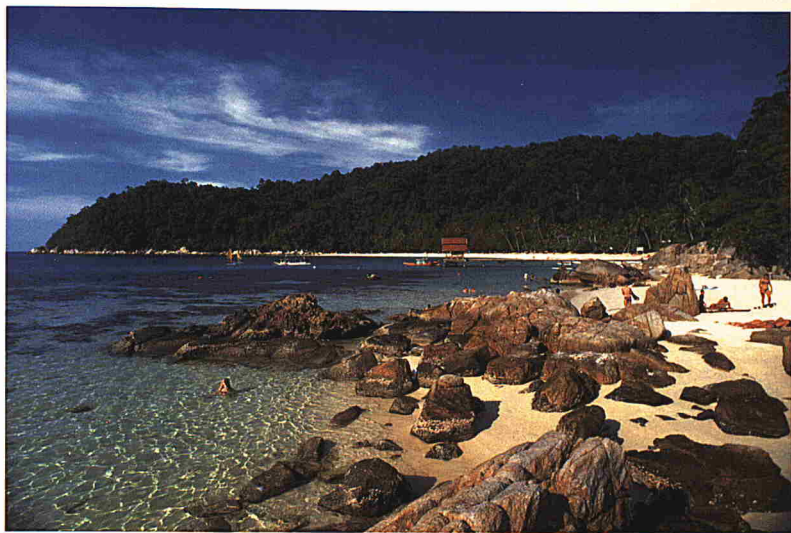


Perhentian Besar









A tranquil bay on Perhentian Besar, the larger of the two islands making up Perhentian, looking towards the south. Crystal clear water is fringed by a sandy shore broken by rocks and palm trees. A modern jetty welcomes visitors to the main holiday resort on Perhentian even at low tide.

ABOVE

At Perhentian Besar, the accommodation is simple and rustic but the view is spectacular, as most chalets look out to sea and to the island of Perhentian Kecil yonder. Wooden chalets complete with thatched roofs offer the visitor to the island, a restful respite from the concrete walls and skyscrapers of daily city life.

LEFT



Perhentian Kecil is the smaller of the two islands which make up Perhentian. Its gaunt north western coast is broken by this secluded sandy cove, while rising in a blue haze in the distance is the tiny islands of Rawa, Kemudi Island Rock and Susu Dara.



Lush tropical vegetation and trees cover almost the entire surface of Perhentian Kecil while rocky cliffs plunge into the ink-blue sea. In the background to the left lies "Long Beach" or Pasir Panjang with its stretch of white sand.

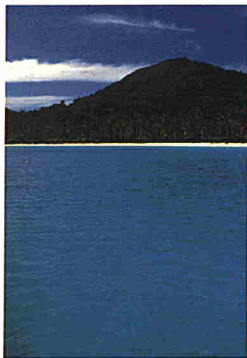
Here on Perhentian Kecil the tin-roofed huts in this sandy bay is home to a small community of fisherfolk who make a living from the sea. The island is largely uninhabited and covered by thick vegetation, the home of a rich variety of wildlife and seabirds.

FAR RIGHT

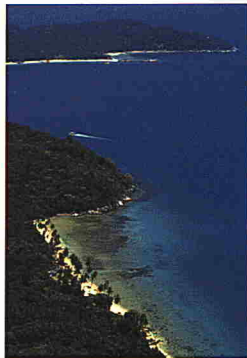
Pulau Lang Tengah is an island lying between Perhentian and Redang. It was totally deserted until this modern resort, complete with swimming pool, was built recently.

The isolation and loneliness of the new community is shown by the thick, dark forest of trees encroaching on all sides to landward.

BELOW



Turtle Bay, Redang Island



Perhentian Islands

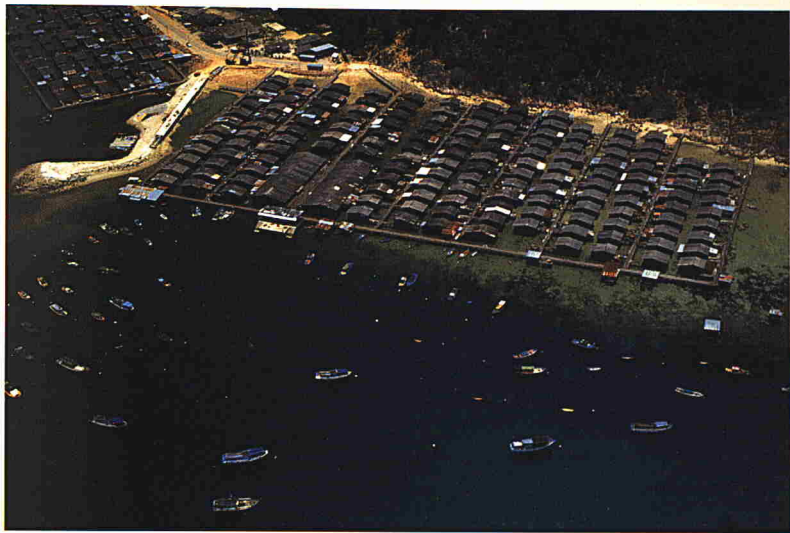






Perhentian Kecil possesses only one village but this is almost self sufficient and comes complete with school, police station and other facilities catering for its 2,000 inhabitants. Until recently the village was solely dependent on fishing but over the last few years tourism has assumed a growing importance.



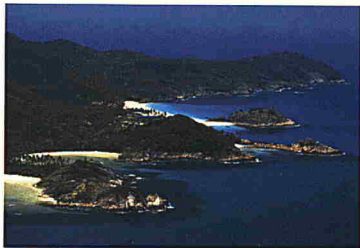


Here on Rodang island a traditional fishing village of wooden houses resting on stilts stands above the sea. Its inhabitants were the first pioneers to occupy the island over 20 years ago, but they are now moving gradually to more modern accommodation inland as the tourist trade brings increased wealth to the island.





Coral Redang Resort occupies one of the best stretches of beach in Redang Island. FAR LEFT

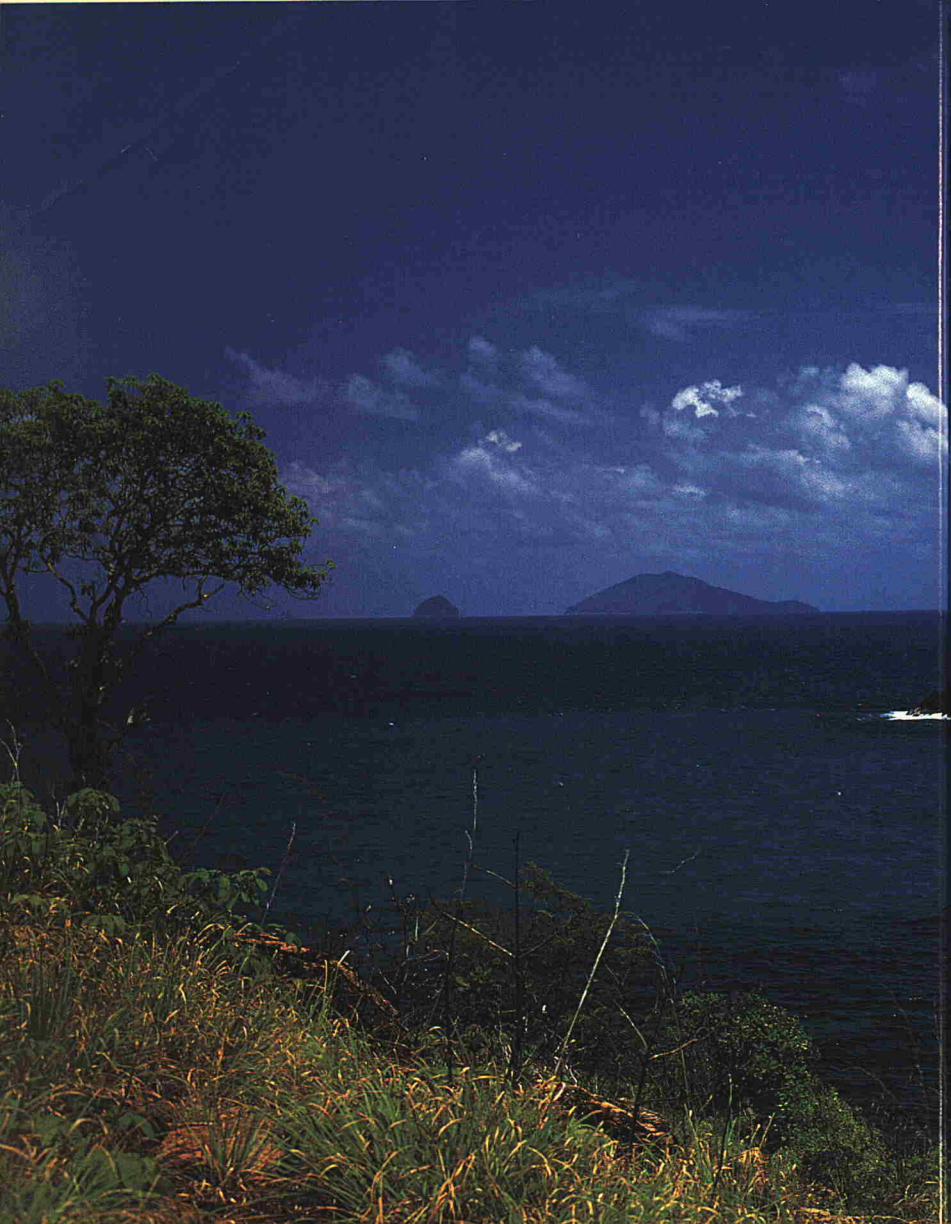


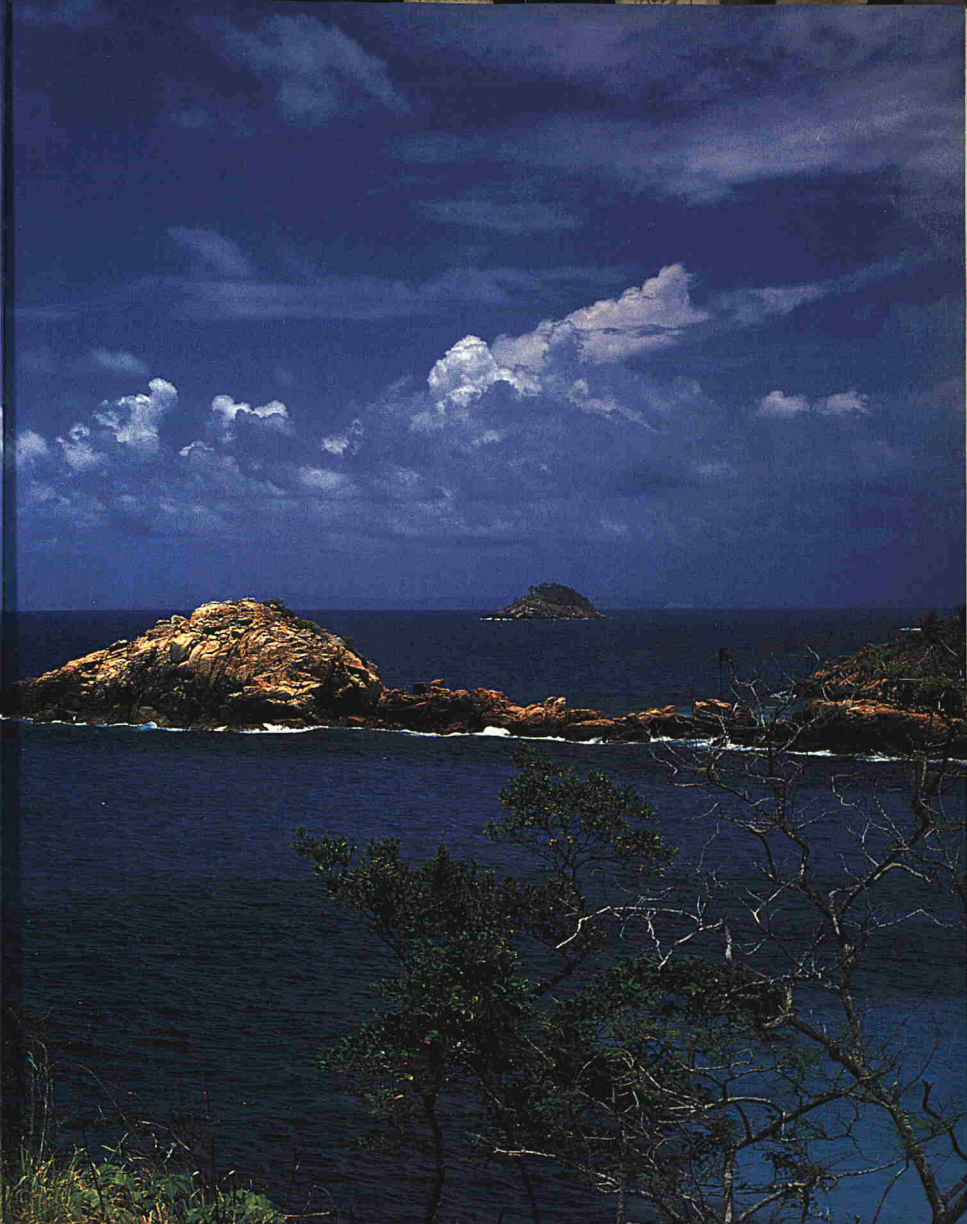
The azure sea and deep blue of the sky with its scattering of fair weather clouds are seen at their best from this rocky vantage point on Redang Island, overlooking the smaller islands of Paku Besar and Paku Kecil.

ABOVE

Capes and promontories on the eastern coast of Redang Island. Beneath the alluring sea some of the country's best underwater heritage.

LEFT





From a perch high on Redang the surrounding islands rise in a blue haze from the depths of the sea. The islands of Yu (left) and Bidong appear almost surreal on the skyline while little Ekor Tebu on the right in the distance is more recognisable as it stands framed above the rocks. PRECEDING PAGES

Numerous shallow bays and windswept promontories occur along the north-eastern shore of Redang island where most of the longer beaches are to be found. Swaying coconut palms fringe these isolated shores, emphasising the remoteness of much of the island.

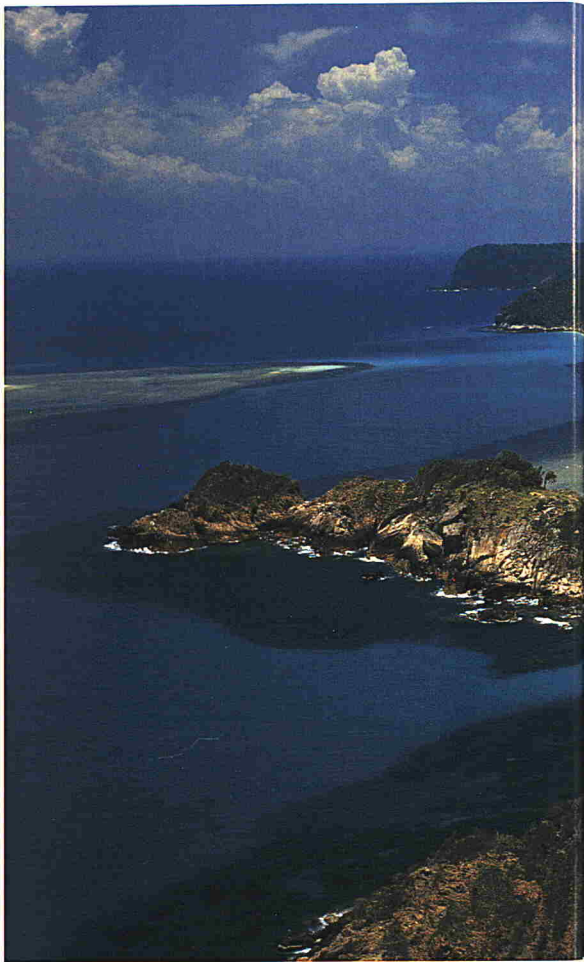
RIGHT

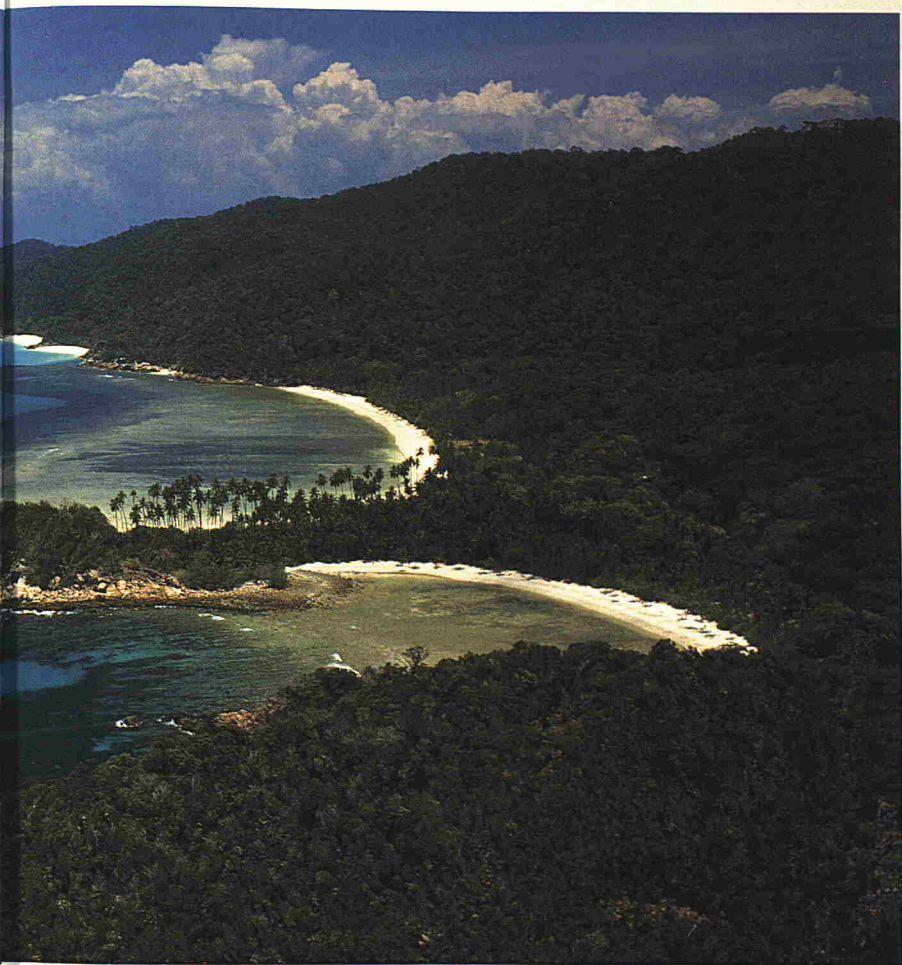
Pasir Panjang Besar is a long stretch of white sand and probably the best beach on Redang. From here the smaller islands of Lima, Paku Besar and Paku Kecil can clearly be seen across the white capped waves rolling into the bay - offering an unforgettable view from this island paradise.

OVERLEAF

The bay at Pasir Panjang Kecil adjoins that of Pasir Panjang Besar on Redang island. Craft of all types - traditional fishing boats and modern speedboats - anchor here to escape the strong winds which at times sweep in from the north-east. Pulau Lima, Pulau Paku Besar and Pulau Paku Kecil help to protect the bay from the full force of the South China Sea.

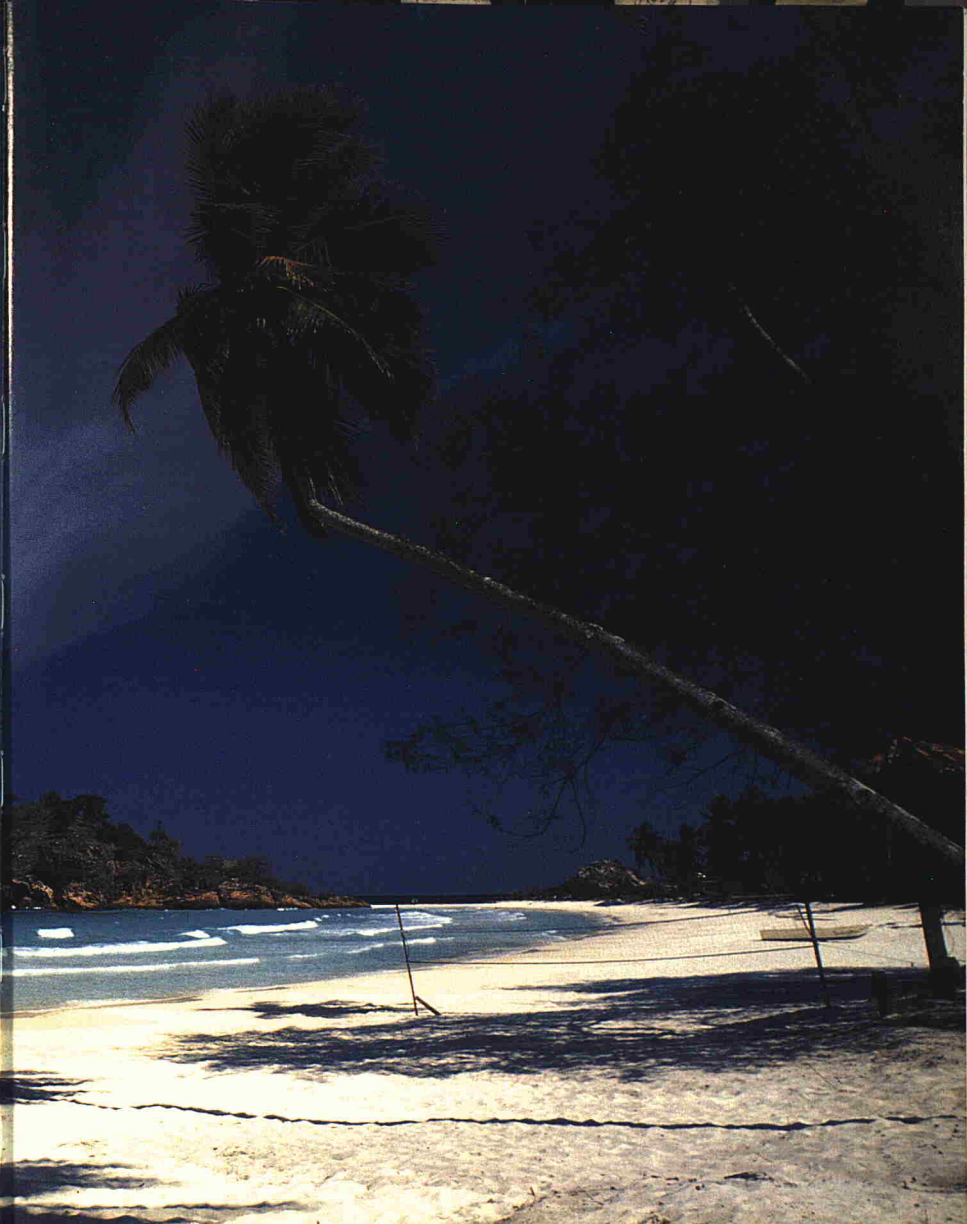
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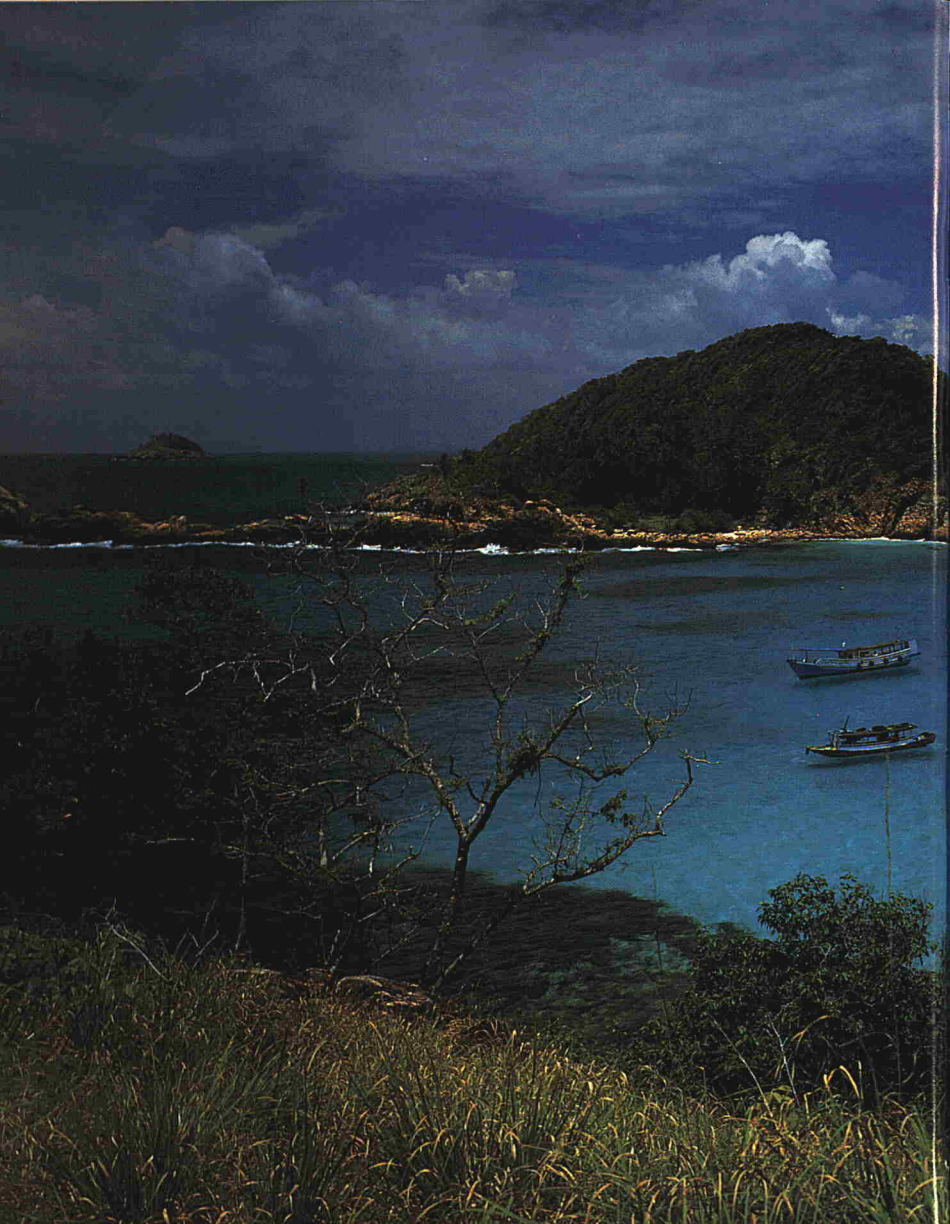


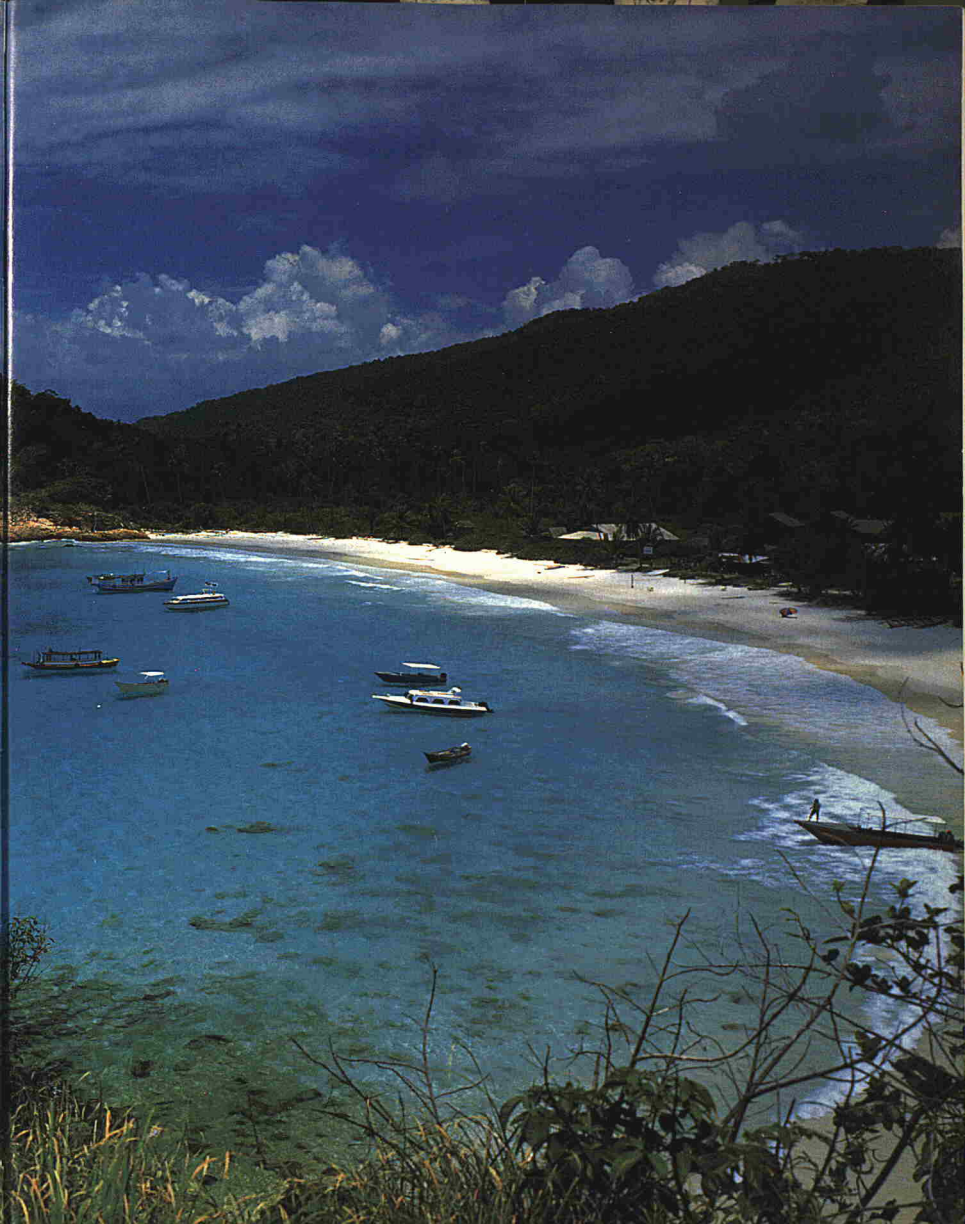










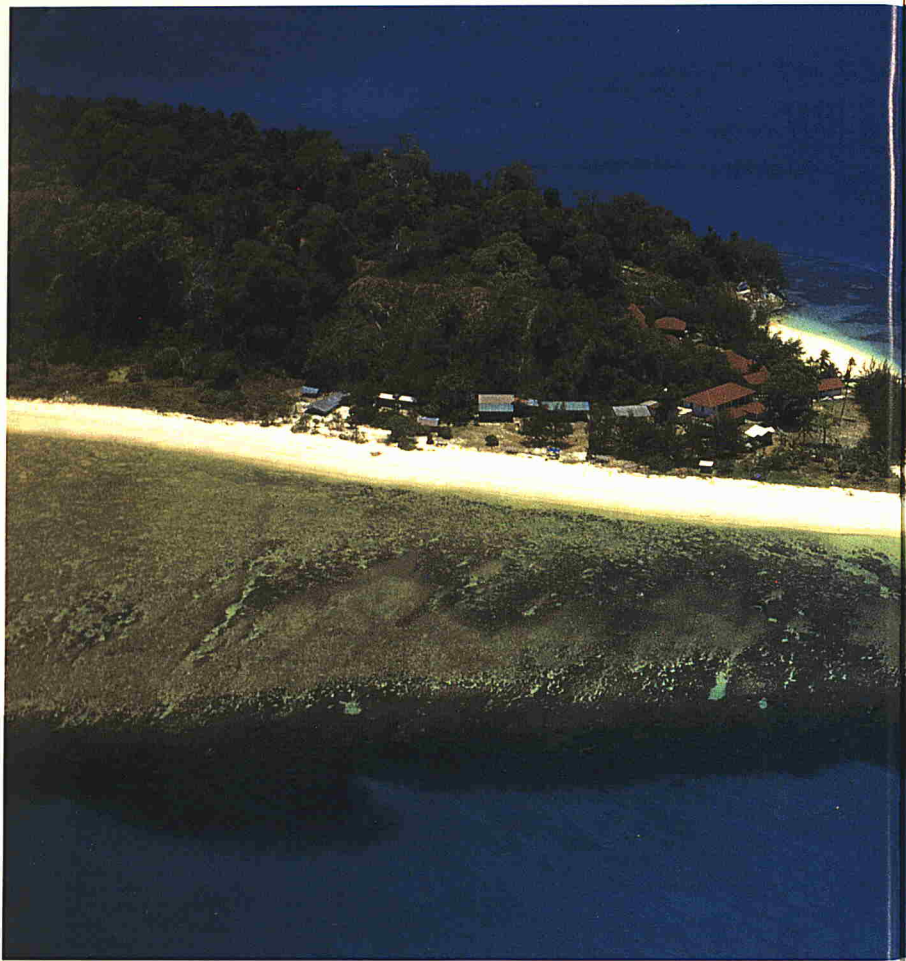




The rays of the dawn sun burst through the clouds between Pulau Paku Besar and Lima island from this viewpoint among the palm trees on Redang - providing an indelible memory



The deep caves of Gua Kawah on the north-east side of Redang island are the home of hundreds of swifts whose nests are harvested by the highest bidder in an open tender. The high value of the nests is shown by the presence of the boat to the right which stands constant guard against raiders.





Pinang island, like many of its neighbours, is largely deserted, its slopes carpeted by rich vegetation. The only development is on this promontory opposite Redang fishing village. The sturdily built, modern buildings and concrete jetty form the gateway of the Department of Fisheries marine park which covers Redang and its surrounding islands.



Photo Library

The sea fan which is abundant in the coral gardens of Terengganu grows out from the substrate of the reefs. Unlike its relative the sea whip, sea fans are very colourful with colours ranging from red, orange, purple to white. The sea fan has been discovered to contain the chemical postaglandin which is used in treating cardiovascular disease, asthma and gastric ulcers and research is underway to extract this for medicinal purposes.



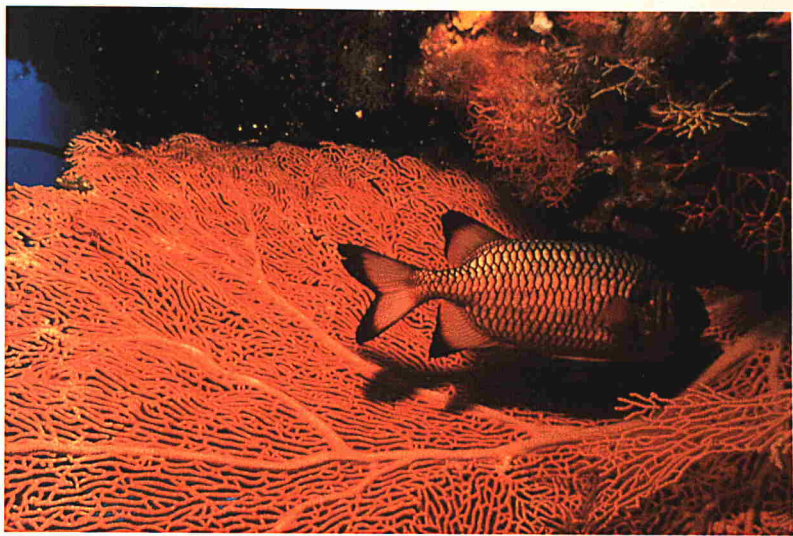
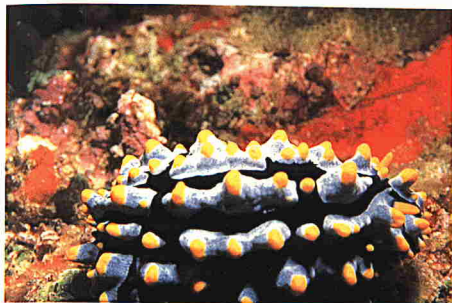


PHOTO: GARY

Easily recognisable by its 'scorched' fin appearance, the Soldier fish is a fierce predator constantly scouring for food among the coral reefs surrounding the islands of Terengganu. However, like all creatures of the deep, it darts into crevices when it senses the approach of larger predators or Man.



©2004 AJ Corbett (Getty Images)



Nudibranch, Pulau Tenggar

Picture Library



Nudibranch coral, Pulau Tenggar

Picture Library



Sea squirts, Pulau Tenggar

Picture Library



Nudibranch, Pulau Tenggar

Picture Library

Havens of coral and marine life that lie beneath the cloak of turquoise waters surrounding the islands of Terengganu is said to be one of the most beautiful in the country with the Redang archipelago being the best among them. The beauty of the corals reefs are only rivalled by those of Sipadan Islands in Sabah.



Picture Library

Brightly coloured Moorish Idols are often seen gliding effortlessly among the coral reefs that surround Gemia and Kapas islands. They usually move around in pairs and feed on plankton and other micro-organisms that thrive in the sea.



Photo Library

The Hawksbill turtle is named after its narrow, hooked beak. Growing up to 100 cm it can weigh up to 50 kg. A regular visitor to the beaches and islands of Terengganu, its thick, rough shell is the source of "tortoiseshell" - still used to produce translucent ornaments.



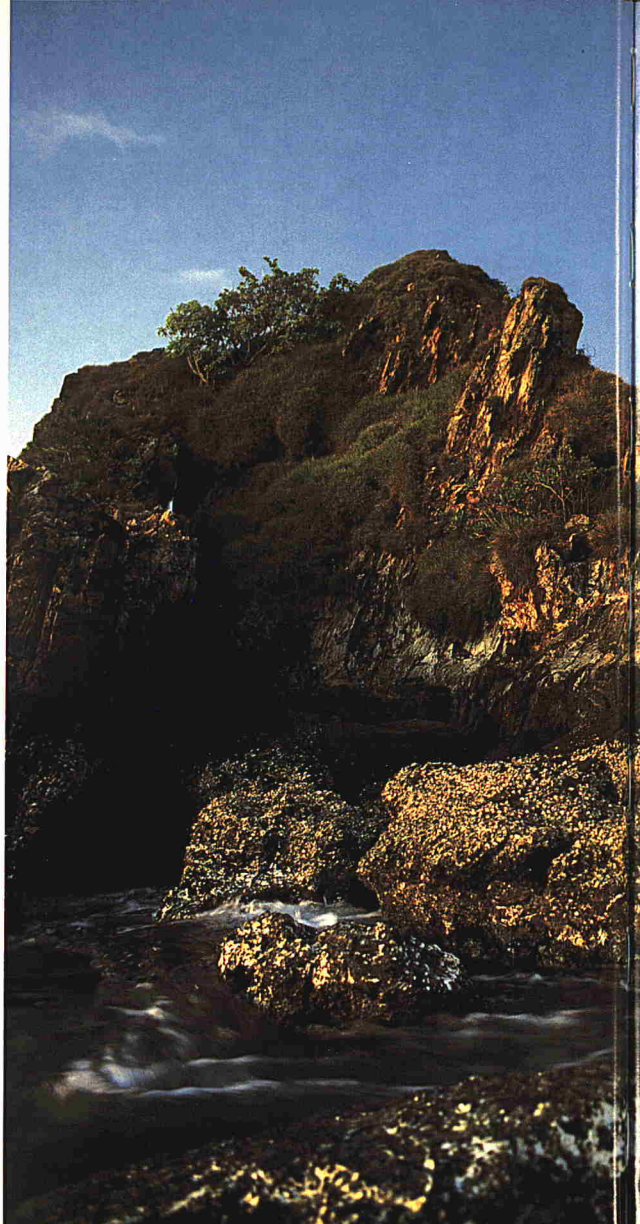
Four species of turtles are found off the coast of Terengganu. The largest is the two metre Giant Leatherback, followed by the 1.2 metre Green turtle, Hawksbill at one metre and the Olive Ridley which measures a mere 70 cm. While all the four types of turtles are on the endangered list, the number of leatherbacks returning to nest on the shores have reduced the most during the recent years. Leatherbacks (Top) can lay between 60 - 120 eggs, the Green turtle (Centre) 100 - 140 eggs, the Hawksbill - 130 eggs and the Olive Ridley, 100. Along the coast of Terengganu and on islands such as Gemia, turtle eggs are removed to protected hatcheries where they are hatched and the hatchlings such as these baby green turtles (below) are nourished before being released into the ocean.



Two sturdy rock outposts - one shaped like a lion and the other the home of Bat Cave - stand like guardians to defend the channel between Kapas and Gemia islands. Now the scene is tranquil and serene but late in the year storms can transform the gentle waves into majestic, white capped rollers.



Some islands and Southern Cape of Papua New Guinea







Here on the north-west  
cape of Gemia island,  
where erosion of the  
rocky face has created a  
natural work of art,  
oysters thrive abundantly.  
Collecting them, however,  
is prohibited as all wildlife  
is protected on this  
privately owned island.  
Up above, a birdwatcher  
scans the evening sky for  
sea eagles and watches  
the spectacular sunset  
over the mountains on the  
mainland.





Deep in the dark shadows of this islet, linked only tenuously to the eastern point of Gemia island, hundreds of bats hang from the dark interior of Bat Cave. The rocky outcrop stands guard, protecting the coral riches of Gemia from the wrath of the South China Sea.

ABOVE

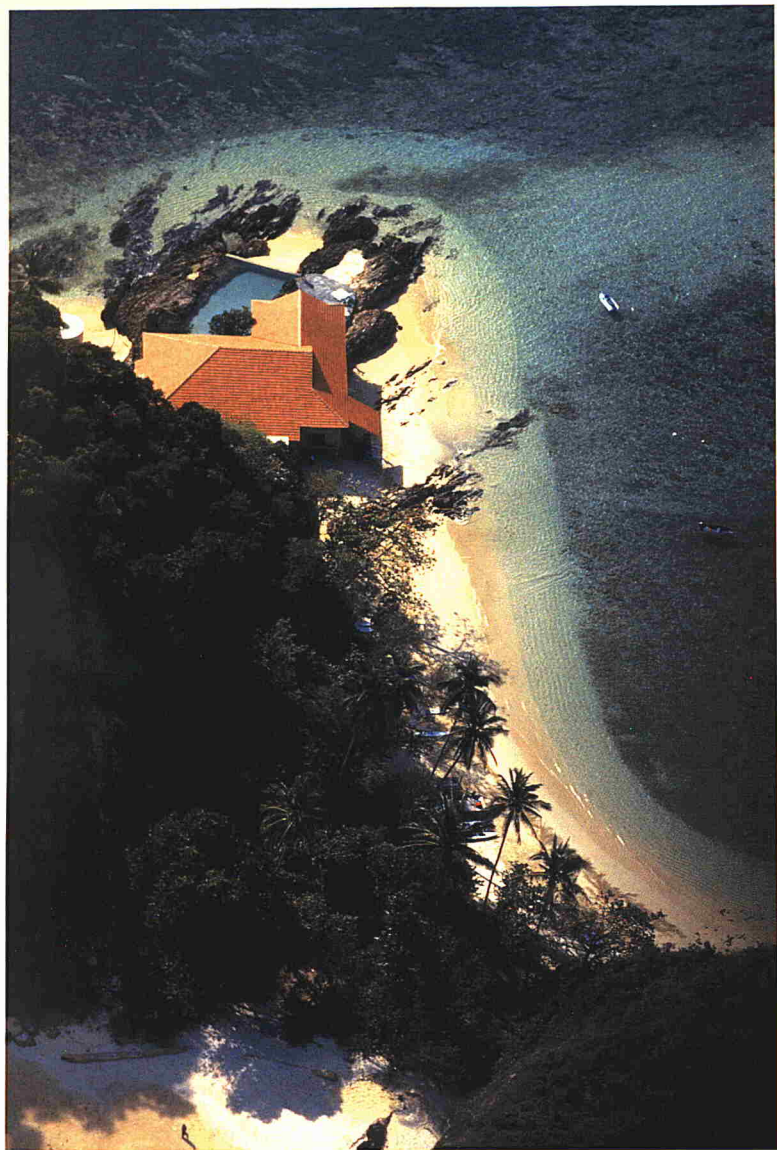
Pounding waves from the South China Sea send water gushing into this rocky grotto, created over the centuries on Gemia island. The nests of swifts cling precariously to the cliff face and bats make their homes in the dark crevices of the caves.

LEFT

On the northwestern cape of Gemia island, tall rocky cliffs rise up from the sea.

Nests of the migratory white terns are nestled upon their precarious ledges.

ABOVE





The Resort with a View. Overlooking the shallow, coral filled channel between Kapas and Gemia islands, this elegant restaurant forms a perfect vantage point to observe passing sea eagles, reef herons, terns and kingfishers as they skim the water. Some 800 metres beyond, but appearing deceptively closer, lie the deserted beaches and wooded hills of Kapas island.

LEFT

Some 100km north of Kuala Terengganu lies Bukit Keluang and Dendong beach park in Besut. Protecting the flat countryside from the ocean stand a line of tall, barren ridges, while between them a slow moving river finally ends its journey in the sea.

ABOVE



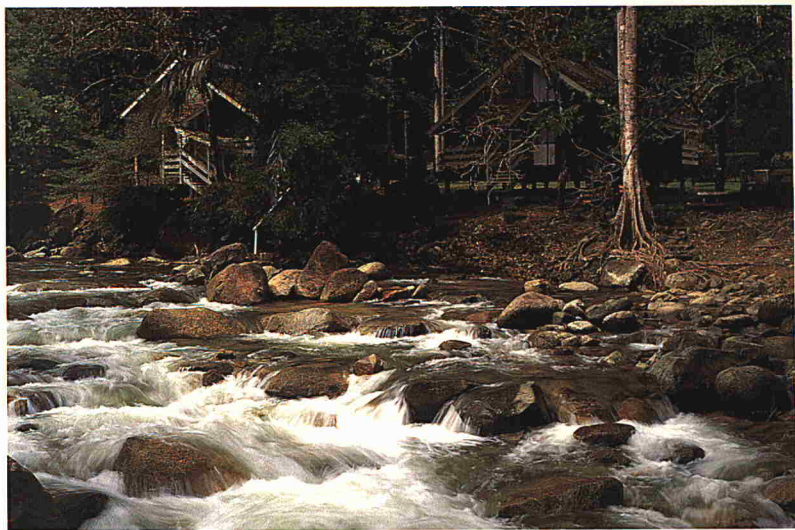
Only the north-western coast of Kapas island possesses the white sandy beaches seen here. Elsewhere spectacular rocky cliffs and steep contours fall steeply to the sea. Holiday resorts with Malay style chalets and more expensive accommodation have mushroomed in the last few years to cater for the growing tourist trade. A boat ride to Kapas from the mainland takes some 30 minutes by converted fishing boat.



Tenggol island is typical of the islands of Terengganu which face the South China Sea. Only to the north-west is there sufficient protection for a sandy cove to survive. Elsewhere steep, weatherbeaten cliffs, swept by the incoming rollers, drop down to the ocean depths







White water cascades over and between the boulders at Sekayu waterfall in Kuala Brang while holiday chalets nestle among the trees along the bank. The park, the most easily accessible in Terengganu, also boasts a forest reserve, a suspension bridge across the river and a mini zoo.

ABOVE

A very different waterfall from Sekayu (previous page). The awesome and rarely witnessed Chenderong waterfall in full spate as it thunders down a 200 metre slope. Chenderong is 1,000 metres above sea level. To see this sight requires an arduous two hour trek along jungle trails - and then another two hours to get back. But it's worth it!

LEFT

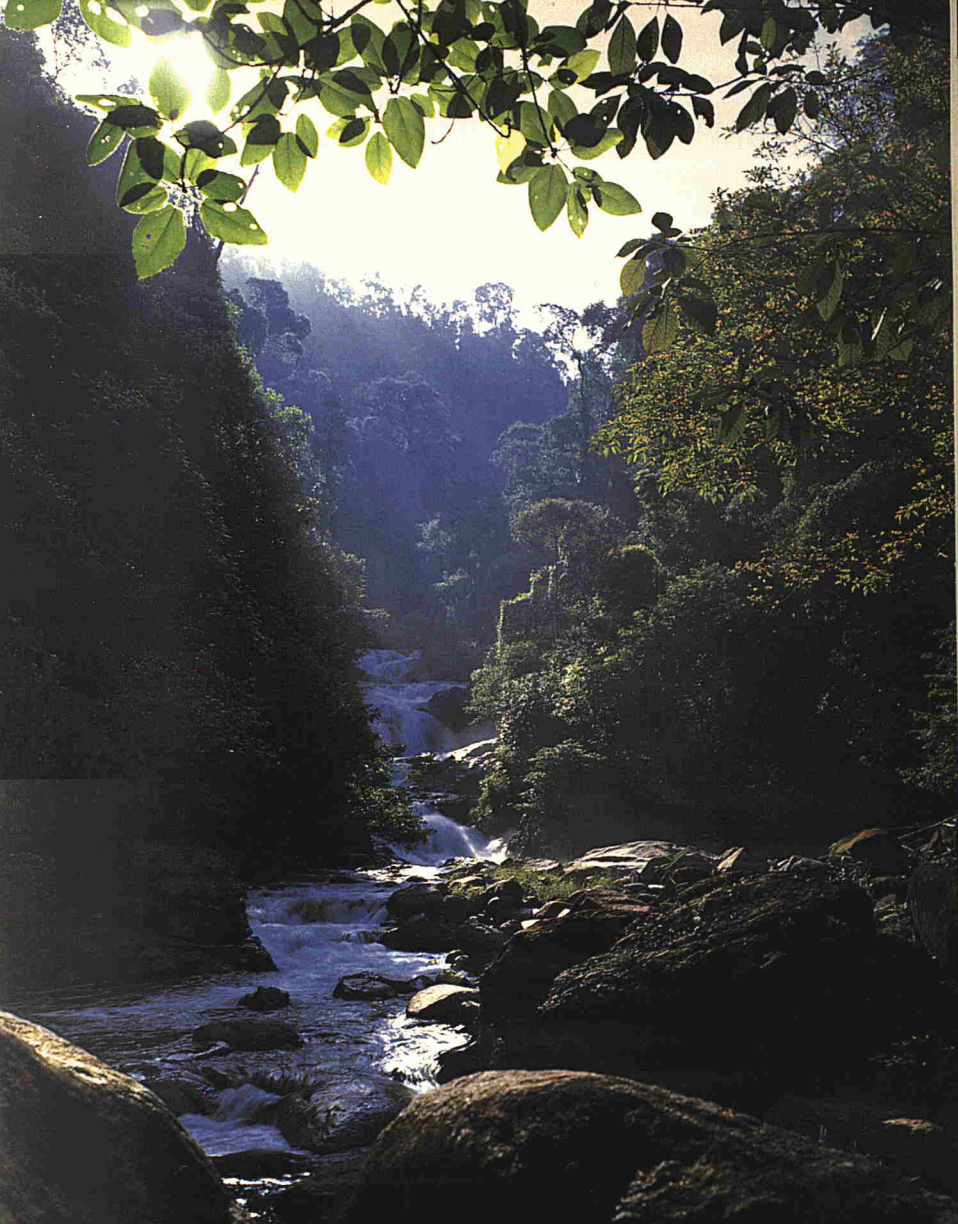


The size of Lake Kenyir, Asia's largest man made lake, is shown in this aerial view. Over 400 islands were formed when the area was dammed and flooded to provide hydro-electric power to the region.

ABOVE

Lasir Waterfall is not only the largest and most spectacular falls among the many that feeds the giant man-made Kenyir Lake but is also said to be one of the most beautiful in Malaysia. Indeed it is quite an awesome sight to capture a sight of its crystal-clear water gushing down to the sun-dappled river gleaming in the sunlight down below. The lower reaches of the waterfall is just 20 minutes away by speedboat from Kenyir Dam landing point. There on, it is up slippery jungle trails to the mid-section of the falls.

RIGHT

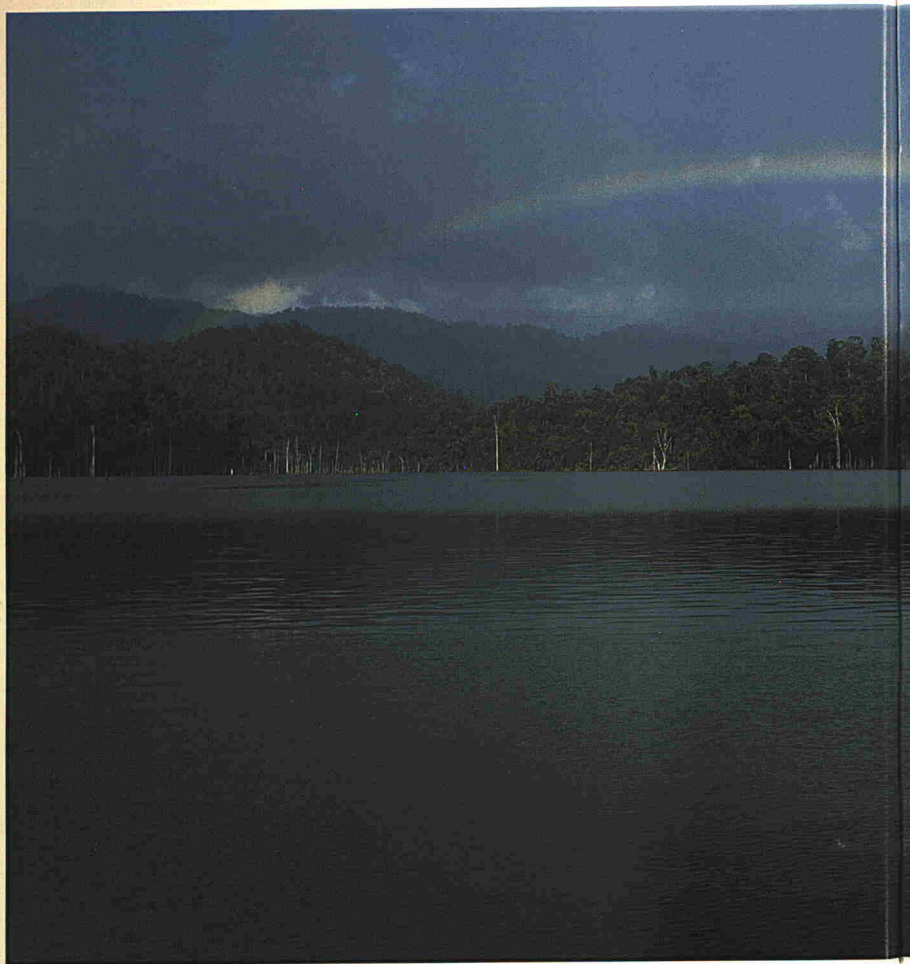




Floating chalets on Kenyir lake form one of its earliest resorts. Bears, elephants, tigers and other animals have been seen on the lake shore observing the strange human intruders. In the dry months the lake can fall up to 20 metres from this level.



This elephant is on its way by barge across Kenyir lake to a safe new home in Taman Negara. It will then be tracked by satellite using a sensor around the animal's neck and so that its wellbeing and future movements can be monitored.





The mysterious landscape of Kenyir Lake is best appreciated in the late afternoons especially after a downpour. Low mist tends to drift just above the water's surface while the cacophony of birds fill the air. Hawks and eagles are often seen soaring the skies while hornbills only make occasional appearances. This rainbow appearing just before our eyes caps it all.

Waters of the Cacing River, which lie at the boundaries of Taman Negara National Park, are shallow even in the rainy month of December and access is only possible by canoe. It is here that fish fry of the sebarau, toman and kelah survive, lying hidden from predators among the smooth pebbles of the river bank. As the river moves towards Kenyir Lake, it grows in size and depth to become of the main channels that feeds the lake.

OVERLEAF

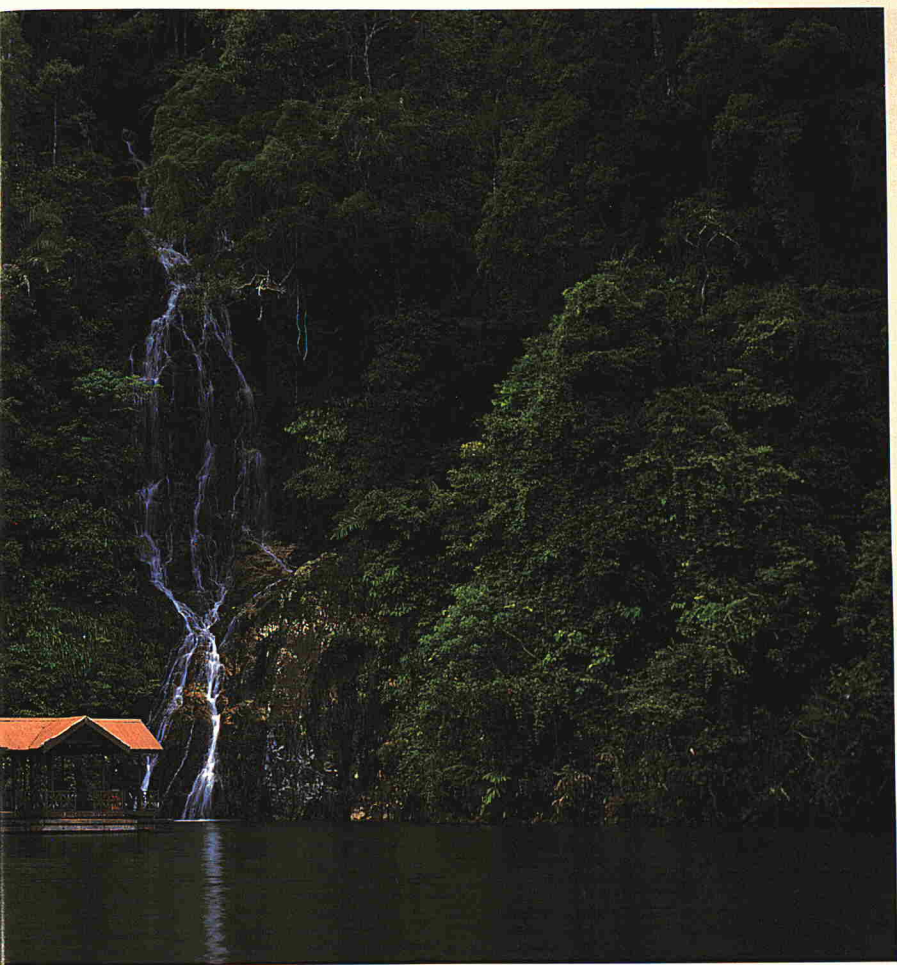






This sheltered pontoon offers a unique site for a picnic, fishing or swimming at Kenyer Lake. The silence of the area is only broken by the cnes and flapping of the numerous hornbills as they fly from perch to perch and by the thunder of water cascading over the rocks.







The arch of a 12 foot hut is all that remains above water during the wet season at Kenyir Lake. Heavy rains have caused the river to burst its banks and become one with the lake. Camping on higher ground becomes the only means of accommodation during the rainy season. Nevertheless, it is quite a cosy and adventurous way of living close to nature.



The drowned trees of Lake Kenyir form mysterious and rather eerie shapes almost everywhere. When the water is calm their reflections sway and beckon on the dark, glassy surface, providing visitors with probably their most poignant memory.



Two hands are needed to hold this toman fish, but it is only a juvenile as seen from its smart orange underside with black stripes. The adults are a striking greenish-blue black, have white bellies and can grow to one metre in length. Tomans are very ferocious and carnivorous in nature.

ABOVE

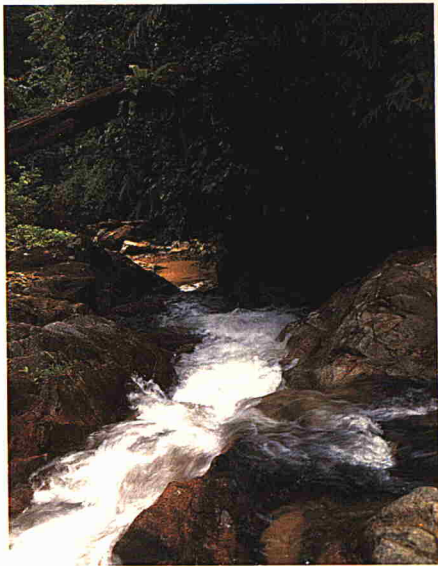
An explorer studies the majestic entrance of the Bewah cave at Kenyir Lake. To gain access to the cave, one must travel by boat to Mount Mewah, then scale a cliff to the cave's entrance. Certainly not a task for the faint-hearted!

RIGHT









Bawah cave in Kenyir Lake originally had three entrances but one has been submerged. Centuries old stalactites and stalagmites line the roofs and rise from the floors, gleaming mysteriously in the light of a torch. Archaeologists have discovered tools and weapons here dating back to Neolithic times (4,000 BC) and further excavations are likely to reveal more secrets of the past.

LEFT

Hundreds of streams flow into Kenyir lake, many without names, and each with its own distinctive character. At times the clear water forms deep pools surrounded by lichen and ferns, at others it meanders slowly and quietly past marshy banks. Elsewhere it froths and gurgles down steep gulleys. And always there is the sound of water - soft and soothing, merrily bubbling or falling resonantly into hollows - an evocative and magical sound.

ABOVE

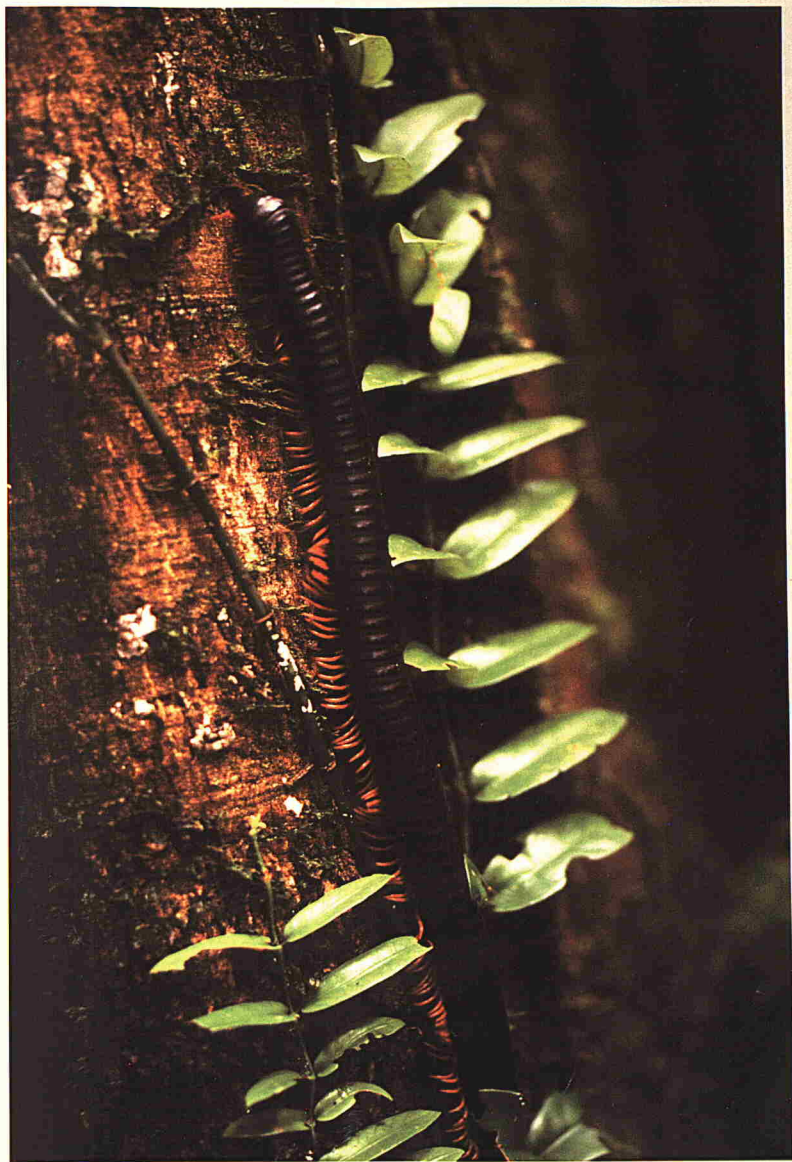


Green pitcher plants gape open amidst the vegetation around Kenyir Lake in a bid to trap unwary insects. Another variety, reddish brown in colour, dangles from vines above the ground. These and hundreds of other species are to be found in the primeval forests of

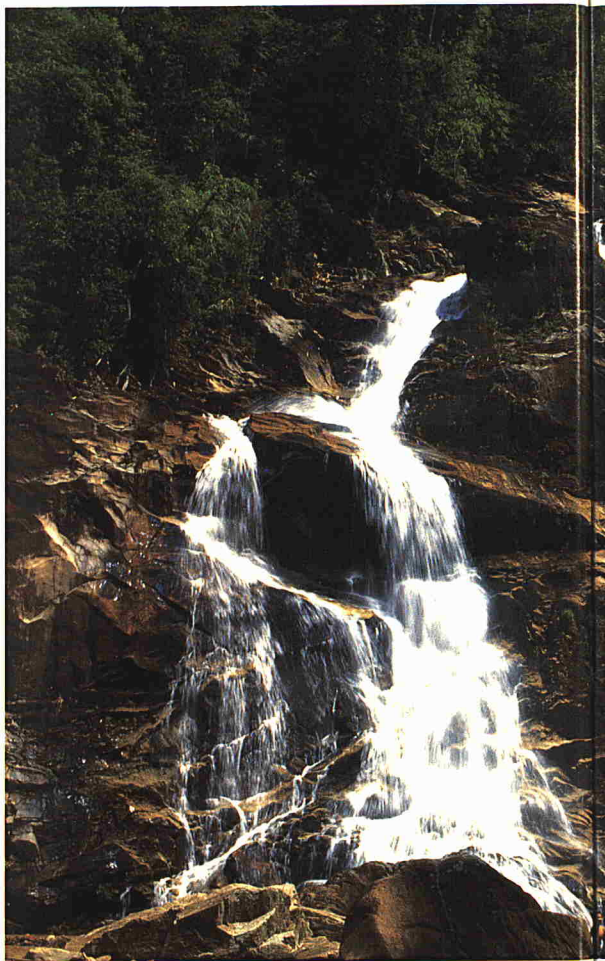
Terengganu  
ABOVE

A millipede clambers hurriedly up a vine-clad tree at the sound of human visitors on their way to Chenderong waterfall. Such insects can grow up to half a metre in length. A wide variety of flora and fauna can be seen here, near Pasir Raja in the south-western forests near the Pahang border.

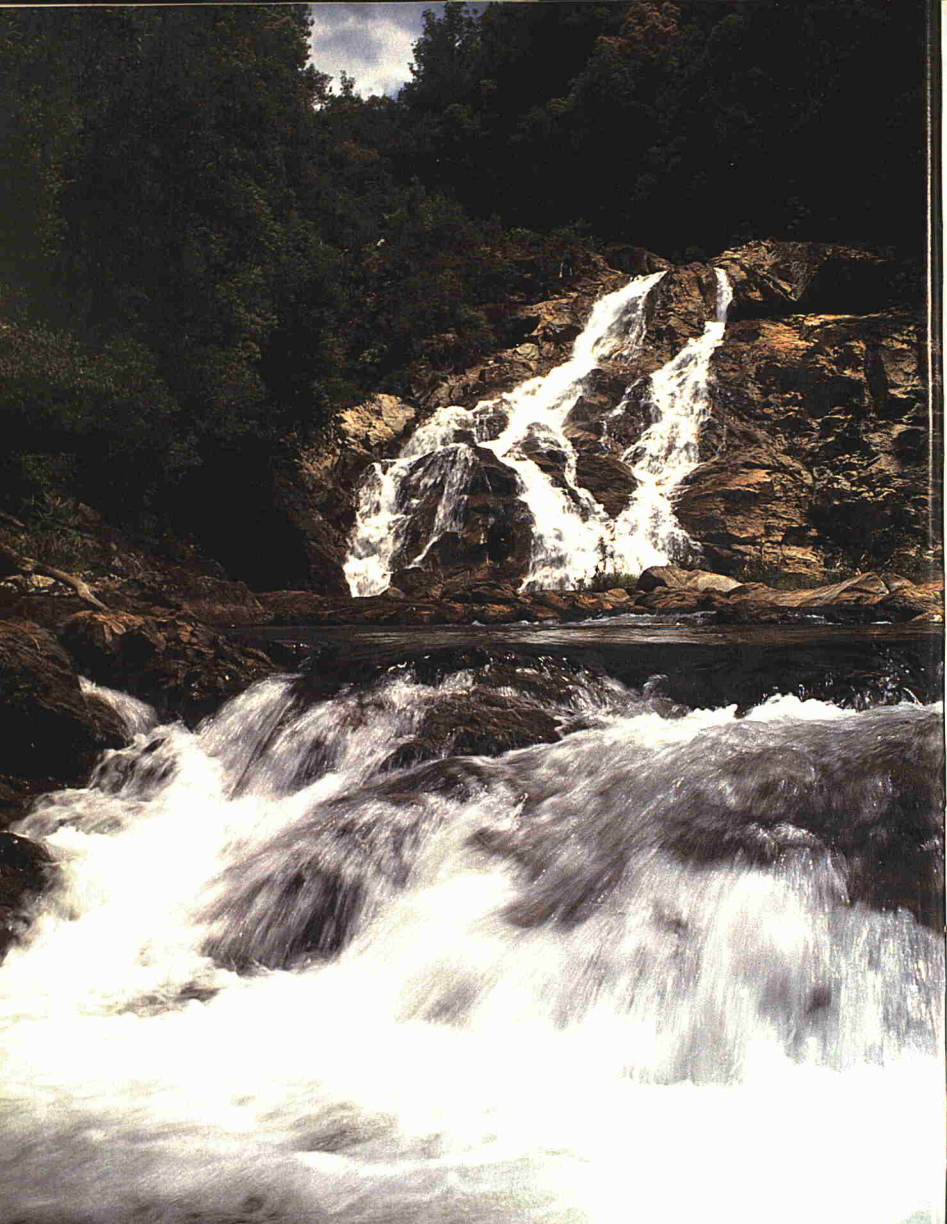
RIGHT



Located in the northernmost district of Besut, near the border of Kelantan, is the famous seven-tier Lata Tembakah waterfall. Several natural pools created by rapids such as seen at this third and fourth tier, can be found at the lower reaches of the falls. A concrete path has been constructed to the fifth tier to prevent visitors from slipping on the boulders.









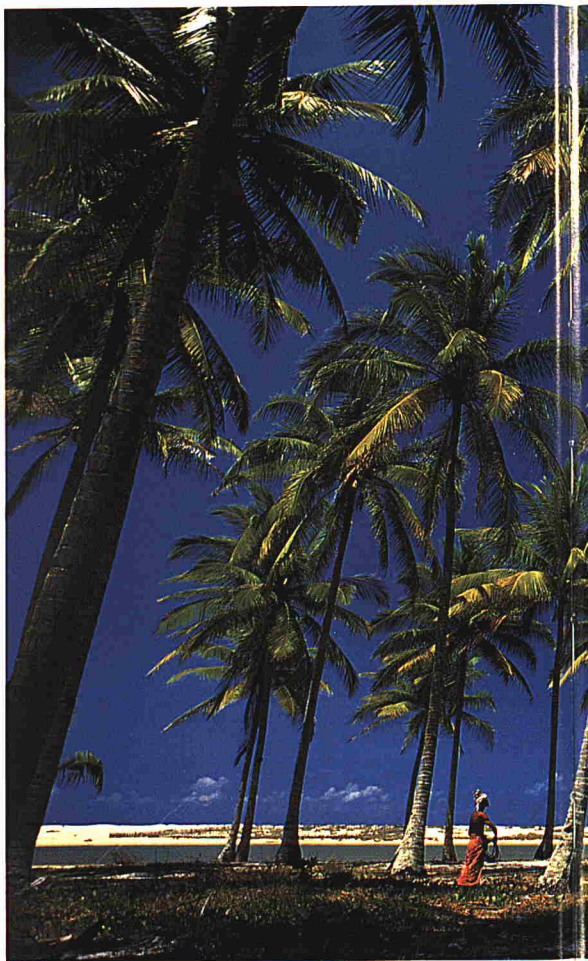
Nearing the top of the Lata Tembakah Waterfall, this sixth tier is only accessible by way of a steep path through virgin forests. Giant centipedes, millipedes, cicadas and butterflies can be seen and heard along the journey through the dense foliage.

LEFT

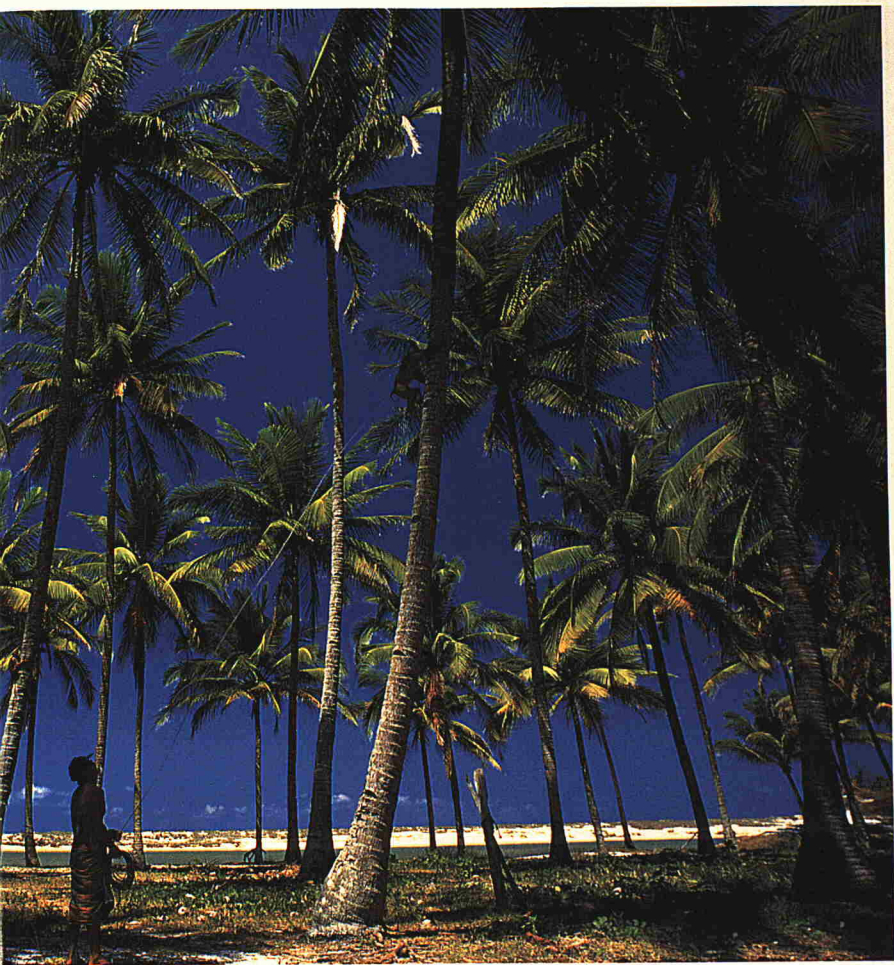
The lake, an active iron ore mine until the 1960s is today a recreational park. Known as Bukit Besi (Iron Hill), it is situated 85 km south Kuala Terengganu and has a lake large enough for organising water sports events. From an islet on the lake a small lookout hut offers a panoramic view of its surroundings.

ABOVE

Macaque monkeys are educated to scale coconut palms and twist off only the ripe fruit. They are trained from the age of one and are fully proficient at three. A mature animal can harvest 300 - 500 fruit in a morning. The owner is the only person to whom the monkey will respond. He rents out his services to smallholder owners of coconut trees along the coast.









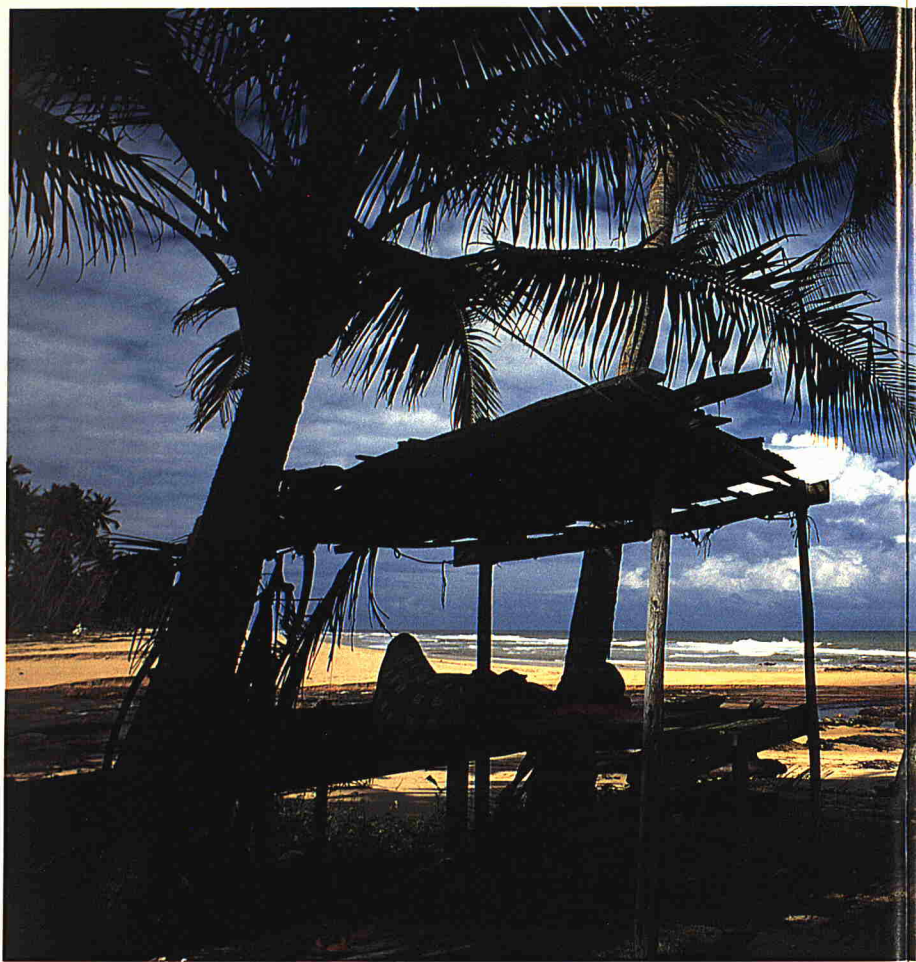
Steady does it! This youth displays the agility of a mountain climber as he clambers up the tall coconut palm in search of the golden fruit. The coconut which fringes much of the coasts of Terengganu, is known as a plant of many uses. The white flesh and juice of the young coconut is a refreshing thirst-quencher and is fermented to become toddy, a sweet liqueur. The meat of old coconuts is scraped and squeezed for coconut milk which is then used for cooking. The husk of the coconut can be used to fertilise crops and orchid plants.

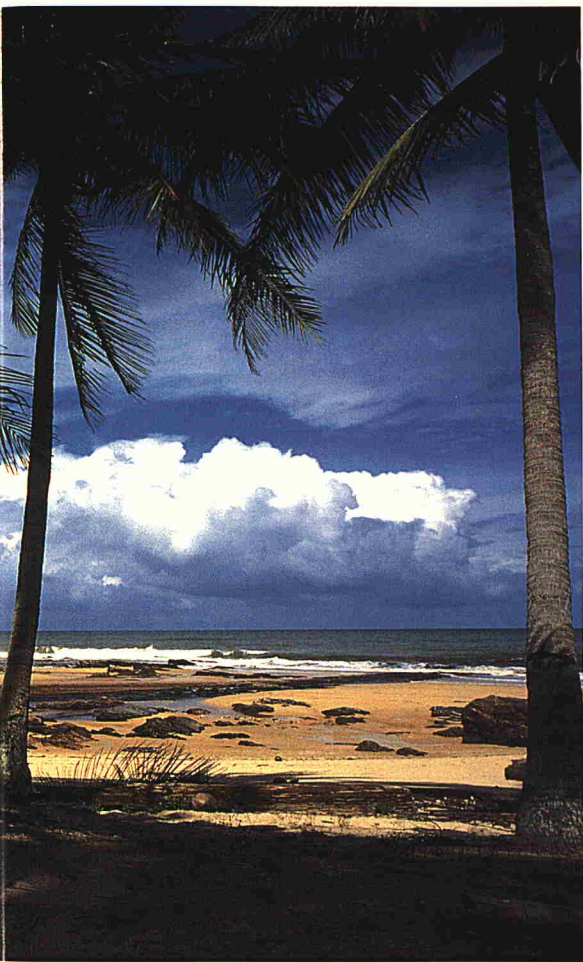
ABOVE

Under the shade of tall palms, this woman gazes deep in contemplation at the blue horizon. The many scattered coconuts will soon sprout green fronds and grow as tall as their neighbours.

RIGHT

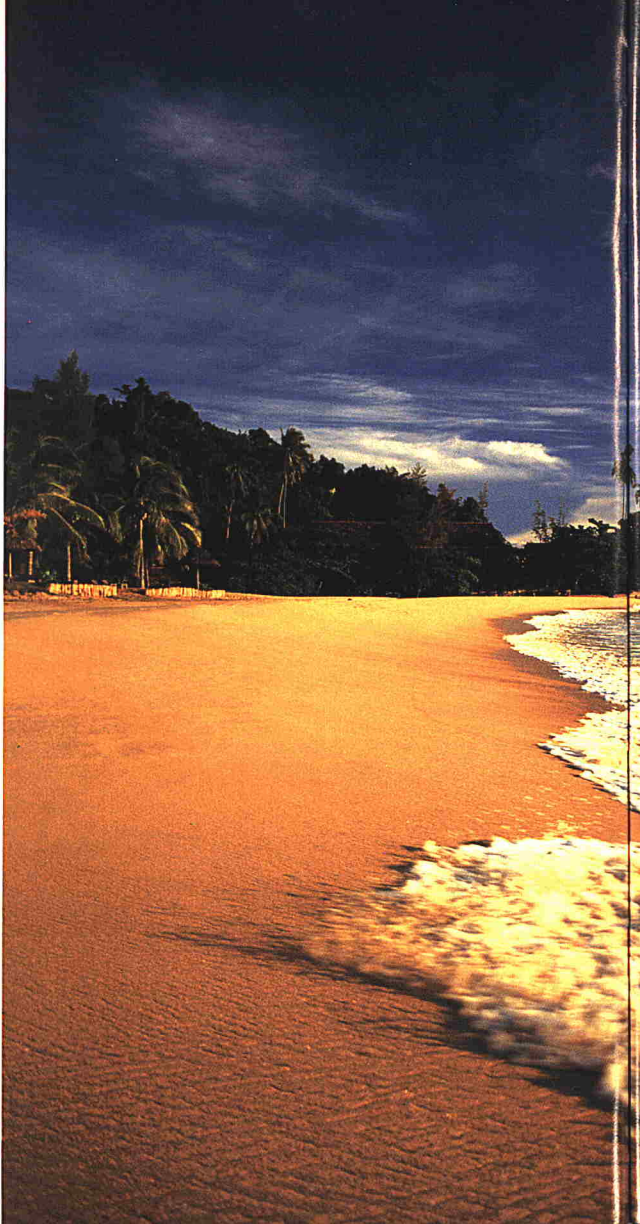


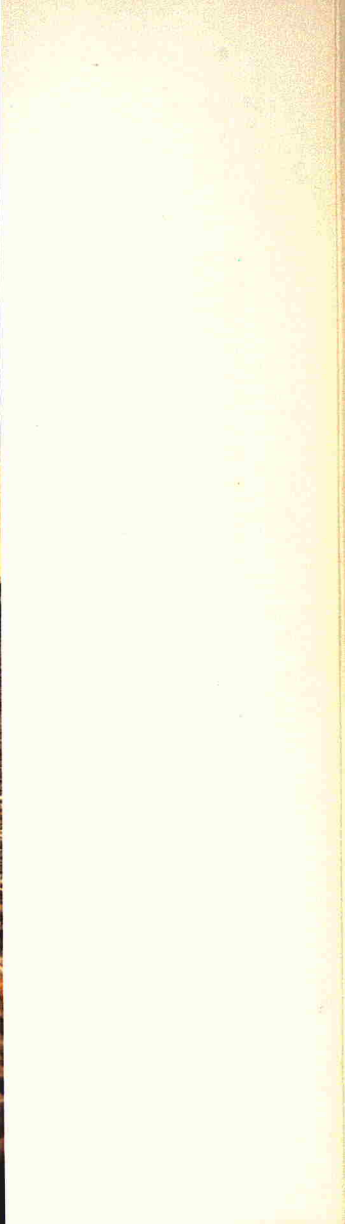
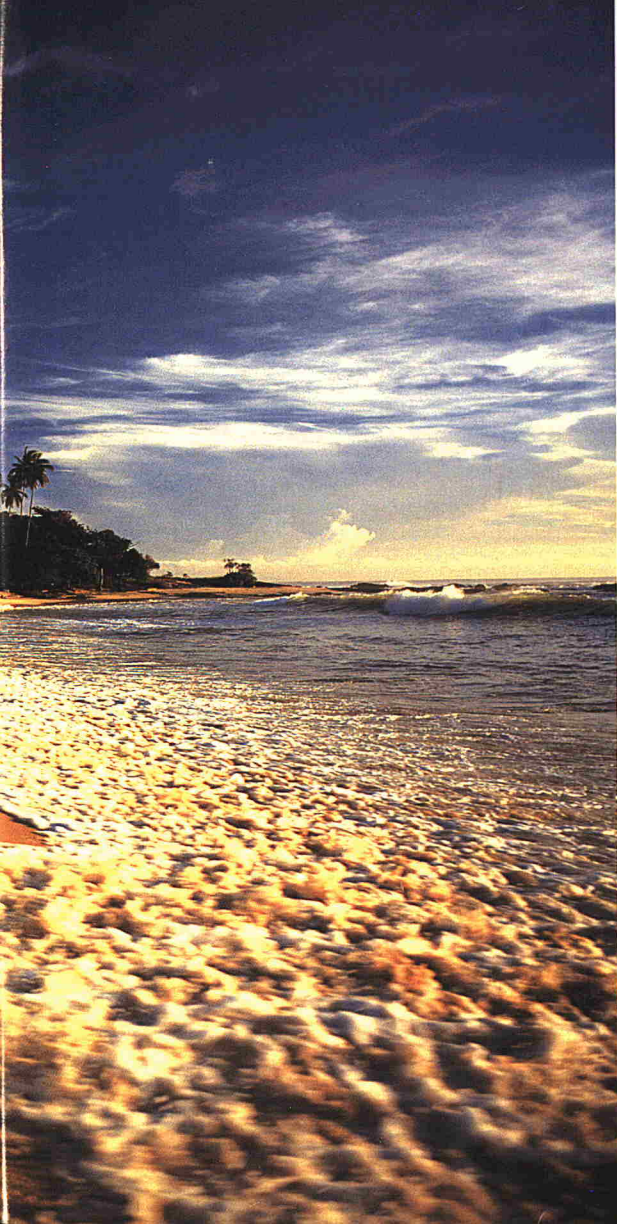




The afternoon in Terengganu is often the time for a nap. Below the tall swaying palm trees on Kuala Abang beach, a villager lies half awake and half asleep, listening idly to the rhythm of the wind and waves. Along Terengganu's 225 km of coastline, there are many secluded beaches that exist unknown to Man and visited only by turtles who return to nest there yearly.

The early morning  
sunshine lights up the  
golden sands of Tanjung  
Jara beach in Dungun  
while the sea drapes the  
shore with white foam.  
The Tanjung Jara Beach  
Resort, is one of the  
earliest international  
class resort built in the  
East Coast of Malaysia.  
Styled after an old Malay  
palace, the resort has  
been awarded the Aga  
Khan award for its  
superlatively unique and  
creative architecture.  
Directly opposite lies  
Tenggol island which is  
approximately an hour's  
boat ride from the resort.





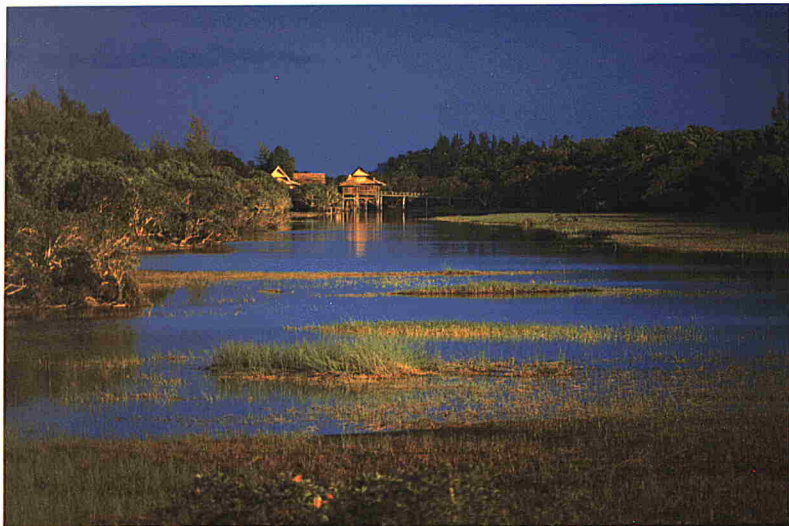


Between May and September visitors to Rantau Abang beach, to the north of Tanjung Jara, are privileged to be able to observe the elusive giant Leatherback turtle lay its eggs in the sand. This turtle, the largest in the world, can grow up to 2 metres and is an endangered species.





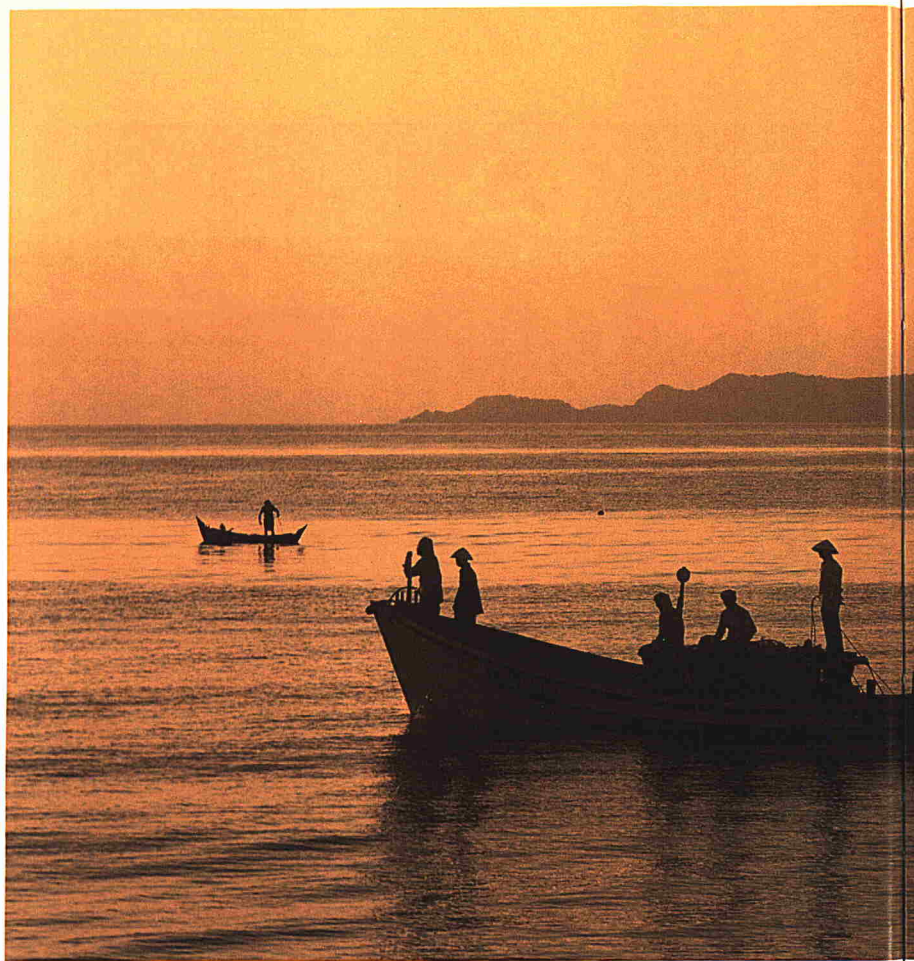
Here the shallow waters of the Merang River finally meet the South China Sea. A long causeway of golden sand has been formed, reaching out from the casuarina fringed shore and under constant threat of being swept away by the waves. Yet even in this precarious spot trees and vegetation have managed to secure a hold.

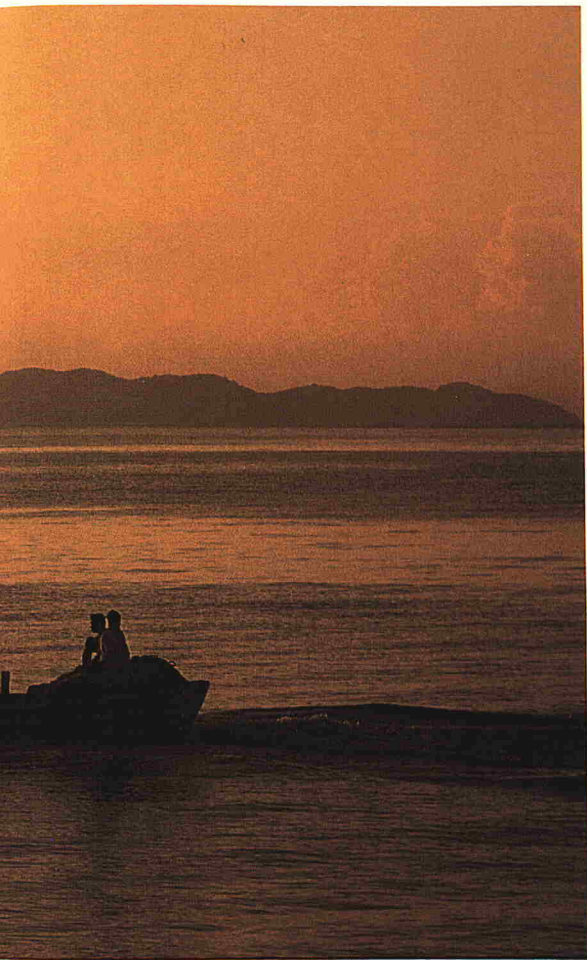


A shallow lagoon runs parallel to the sea along Rantau Abang beach. Wooden chalets and a walkway in the distance form part of Rantau Abang Visitors Centre. The lagoon forms an ideal hunting ground for colourful kingfishers, herons and other fish eating birds and is a wonderful place for birdwatchers. At times turtles have been seen here



Marang Safari Resort consists of Malay style wooden chalets either facing the sea or the inland creek which runs just inshore. It is a popular destination for tourists and abounds with mangroves and wildlife. Even in the rainy season at the turn of the year, the waves crashing ashore and the winds sighing through the palm trees exert their own compelling spell.

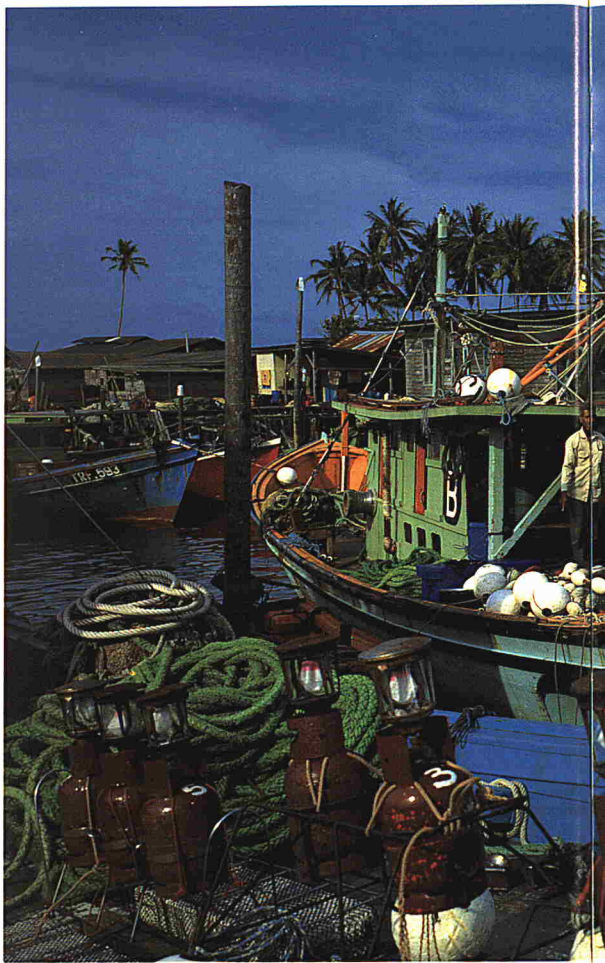


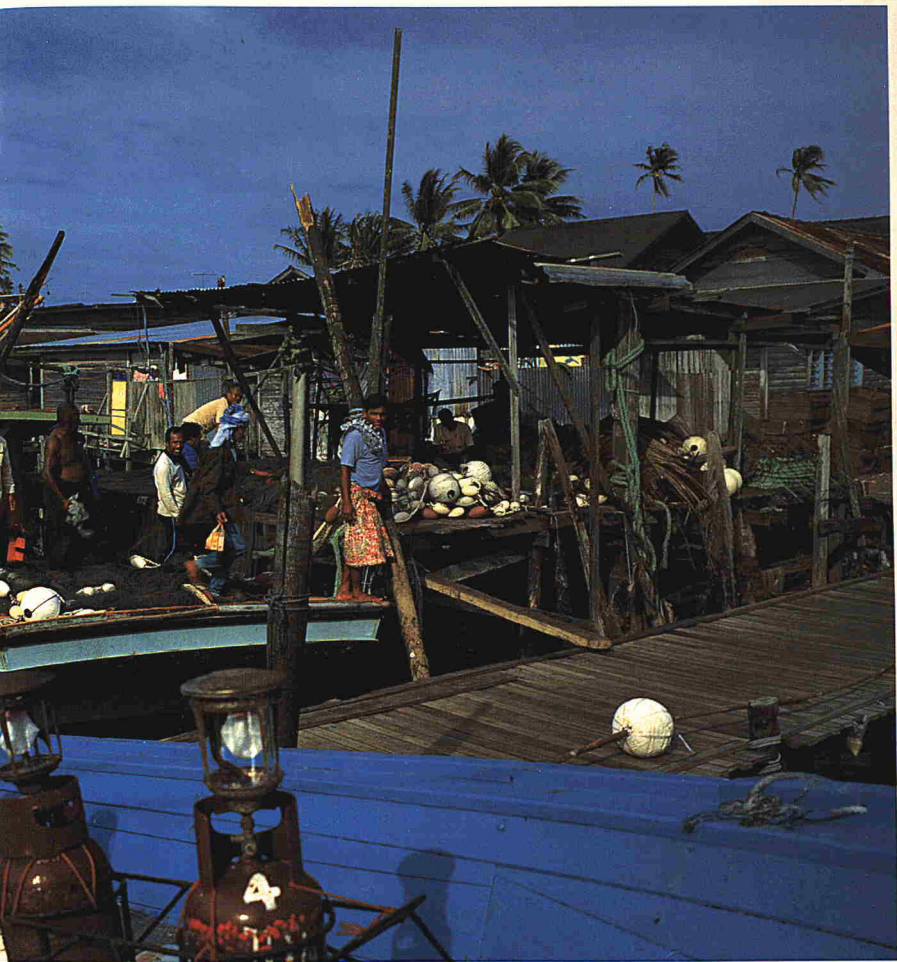


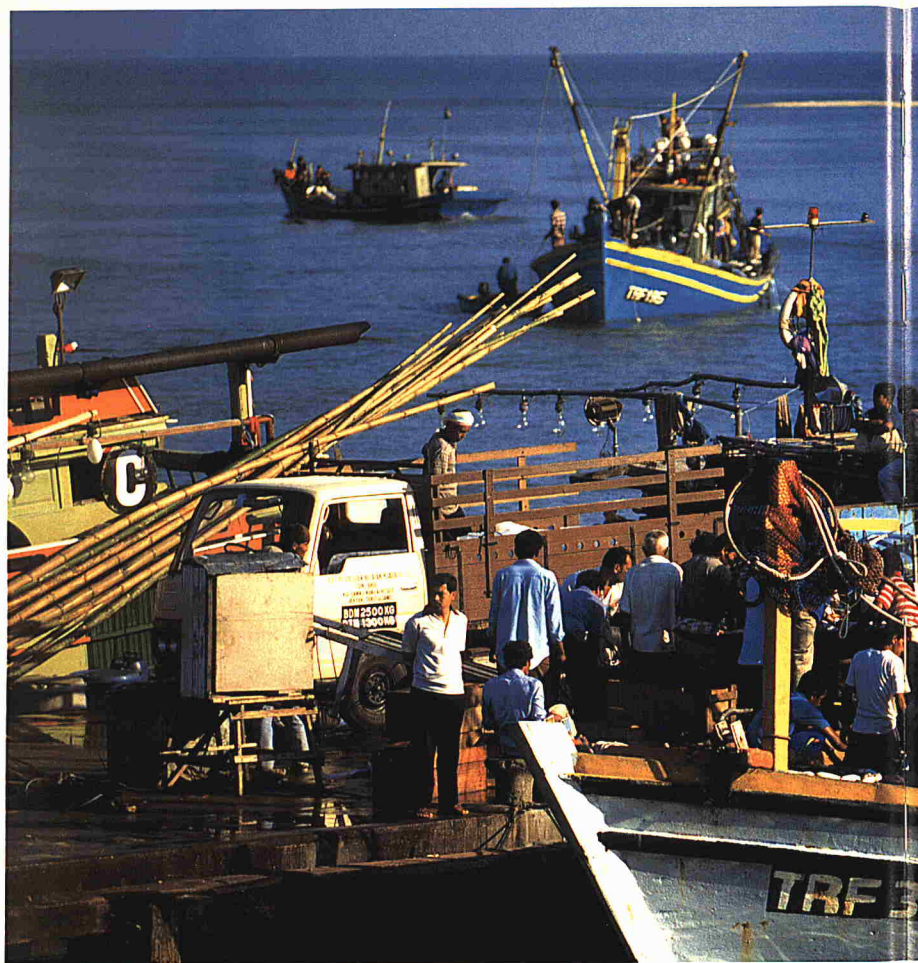
As the first rays of dawn glisten on the waters near Chendering Port, teams of fishermen push out to sea, ready to reap the marine harvest of the South China Sea. Chendering Port is one of the three fishing ports in Malaysia strategically set for the further development of deep sea fishing. Its sheltered bay complete with a fishing complex is particularly a popular mooring point for fishing vessels as it offers adequate protection against the rough waves brought on by the northeasterly wind during the rainy season. A shadowy Pulau Kapas looms in the background.

Fishing vessels, zinc-roof huts built on stilts and wooden jetties completely cover one bank of the

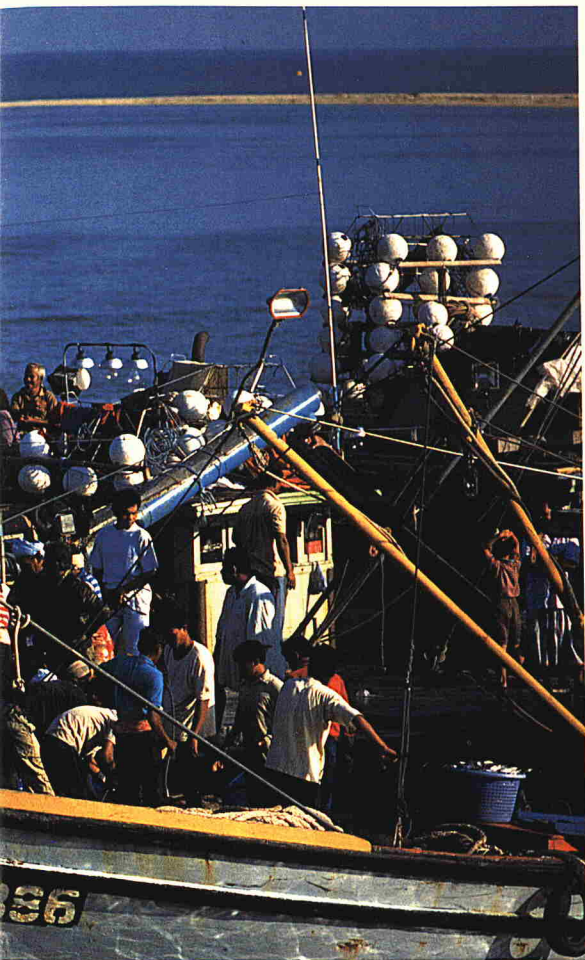
Paka River. In the foreground, gas lamps stand ready for the coming night. These lamps will be fitted on the sides of the boats to attract the squid to the nets. The best time for squid catching is from April to August and the haul is especially large when the moon is full.







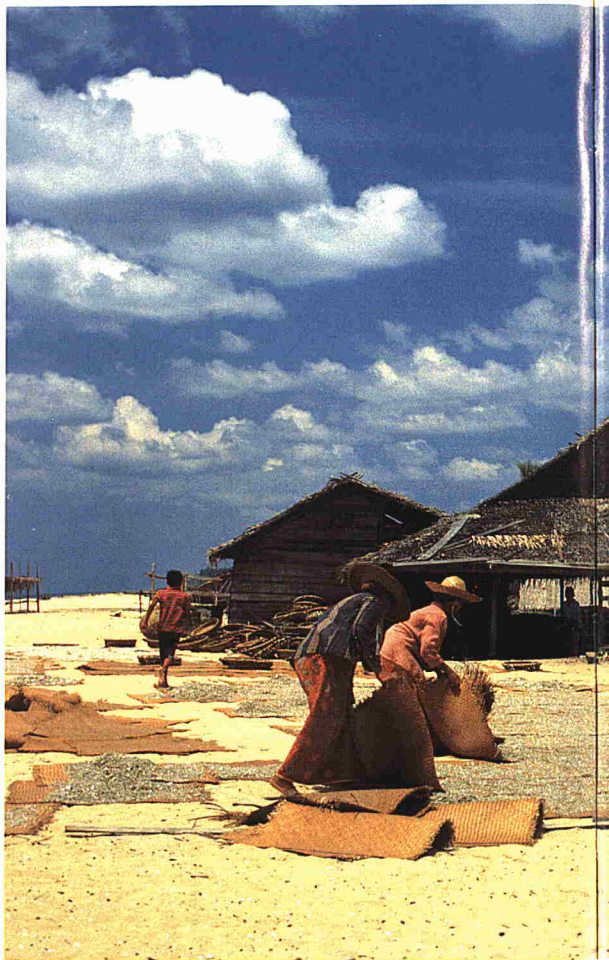




After a night of successful squid-fishing, it is off to the market with the catch at this Besut fishing complex, located at the mouth of the Besut River.

The squid is sorted according to size and packed with ice into crates for the different markets. Unlike the fishermen of Paka, who use gas-lamps to attract the squid, Besut fishermen prefer generator-run electric bulbs.

During the season of plenty in August and September, much anchovies abound for the fisherfolk of Terengganu. First the fish are caught by drag nets, then boiled in hot water before being oven-heated and sun-dried in the scorching heat. Larger fishing vessels have the facilities to boil the freshly caught anchovies on board but owners of small fishing boats have to do this on shore.





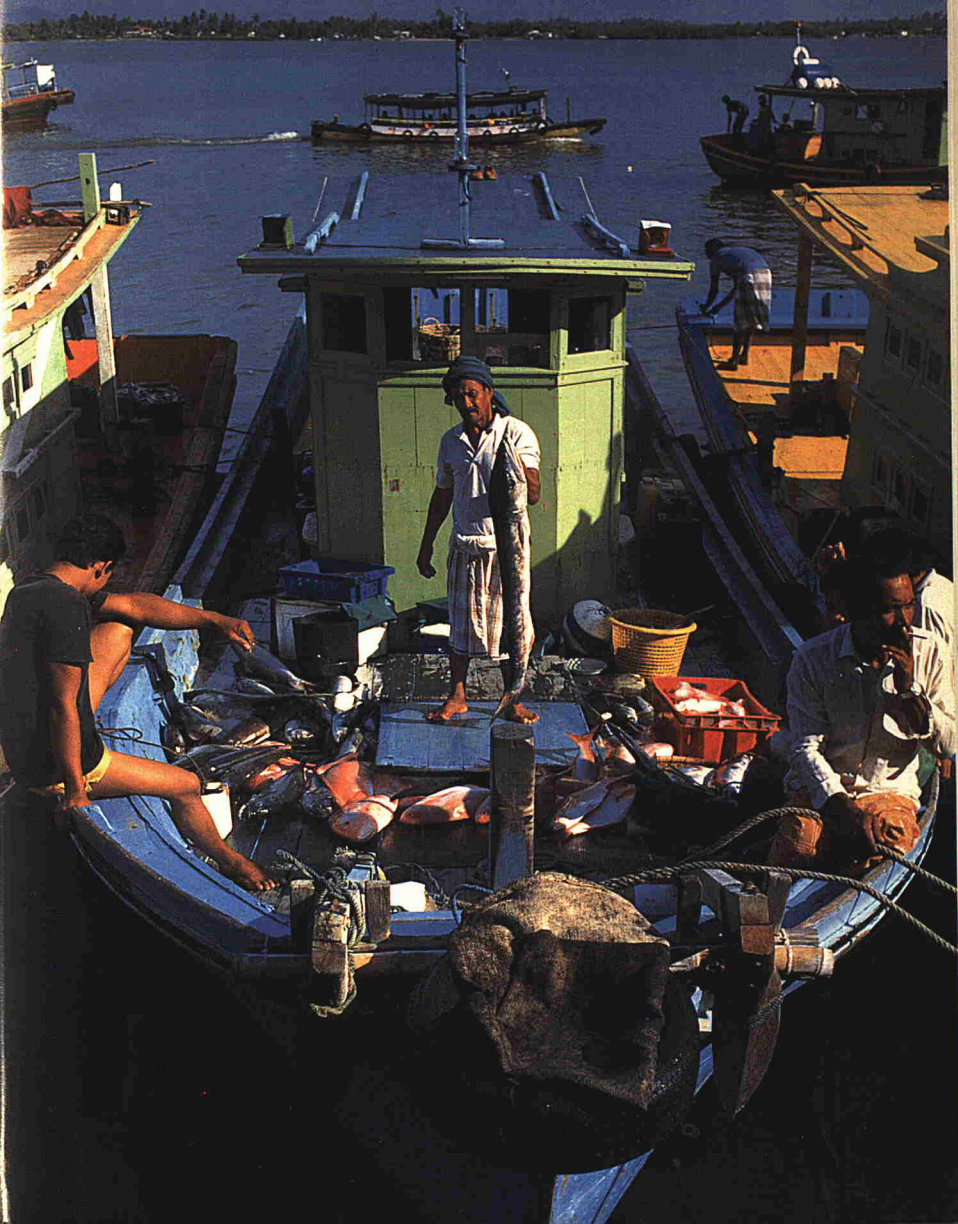


It is all in a day's work for these three women of Marang. With only cone-shaped thatched hats and long sleeves to protect them from the scorching sun, they painstakingly spread squid on stainless steel stretch frames for drying. When adequately sun-dried, the squid will be sorted according to grade and size, packed and distributed to both local and international markets.

ABOVE

What a whopper! One of the fishermen shows off the metre long six banded barracuda that the drag nets have hauled in. For the others in the team, there is time enough for a smoke and a breather before the work of sorting the fish and carting them off to the Kuala Terengganu central market. Scattered haphazardly on deck are large painted sweetlips, black kingfish, spotted spanish mackerel, scads and tuna.

RIGHT







Judging from the grins on their faces, it has been a successful night of fishing. Now, it is homeward bound for the markets, hot food and probably a nap afterwards for these tired fishermen of Merchang, a village just south of Kuala Terengganu.

LEFT

There is no better way to beat the scorching heat of the afternoon than to sit in the shade, swap jokes and tales and enjoy a smoke while tending to nets torn by the previous night's fishing. Soon, it will be another night of making a living from the sea.

ABOVE



In the late afternoon, boats sway on their moorings with the gentle currents along the bank of the Besut River. Though deceptively quiet and still, preparations are underway on board these vessels for the evening's departure. Far off in the distance, a concrete bridge links the two banks of the Besut River, removing the need for ferries and barges that used to transport people and cargo across the river.





In the months of November and December, the northeasterly winds blow landwards, bringing with them heavy rains and a halt to the planting season. For these buffaloes of Kuala Brang, such a time spells rest and play which includes wallowing in the soggy fields with their calves.



Flat land, rich soil and sufficient irrigation are the three criteria that are necessary for the planting of paddy. The transplant of seedlings from the nurseries to the main fields is usually done in the cool of the early morning and is usually the responsibility of the women as seen here in Kuala Brang. Now with improved hybrids and the use of fertilisers, two harvests are possible in a year.

ABOVE

A rare sight anywhere in Malaysia is the winnowing of paddy by wind. Nowadays the mills do a more efficient job of separating the grain from the husk. As demonstrated by this woman of Kuala Brang, winnowing by wind requires strong arms and a cooperative gust of wind.

RIGHT





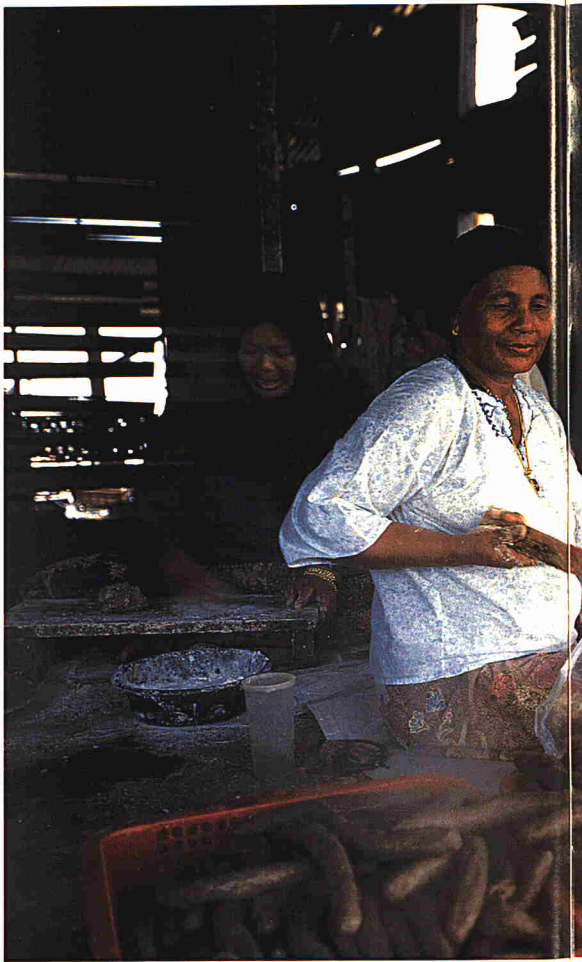


Keropok are made from fish or prawns and comes in two forms, as dried slices or in sausage-like rolls. The latter known as Keropok Lekor and is a perennial favourite of the East Coast states, especially in Terengganu.

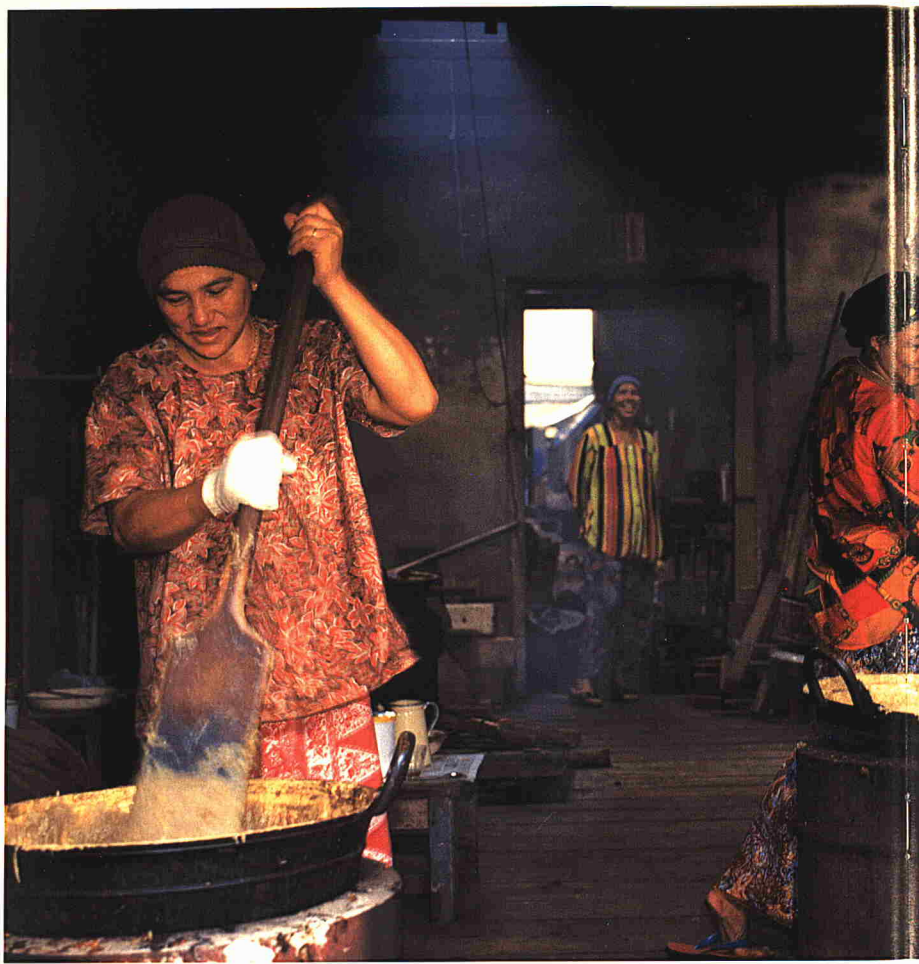
It is made mainly from minced fish meat using kembong (mackerel), sellar kuning (yellow-banded scad), parang(barracuda), selayang (round scad) or tamban (sardinella). First,

the fish is cleaned, deboned and blended into a paste manually or by machine. Then the paste is mixed with sago flour and seasoned with salt to bring out its natural flavour. Finally it is kneaded and shaped into foot long sausage-like rolls with diameters no larger than a 50 sen coin.

The rolls of keropak lekor are boiled in hot water for 15 minutes before they are scooped from the pot, left to dry and packaged for sale. Keropak Lekor can be boiled or fried and is best eaten with a homemade sweet-sour chili sauce. Connoisseurs will tell you that the best keropak lekor is to be found in Losong, on the outskirts of Kuala Terengganu, where numerous stalls do a brisk business daily. Locals eat it for lunch, dinner, tea or as snacks. Keropak Lekor from Terengganu is known to be of high quality and attractively packaged.











At this durian cake factory in Kampung Cina, durians are first sorted and peeled upon their arrival. Next, the seeds of the fruit are rolled by hand over a wire mesh sieve to separate the flesh from the seeds. The flesh is then mixed with sugar in large copper cauldrons and stirred continuously over a wood fire. When ready, the mixture is scooped from the pots and left to cool. It is then moulded into half-foot rolls and wrapped in clear cellophane paper, ready for the market. The durian cake made here contains no preservatives, and to remain fresh, must be consumed quickly or kept in the refrigerator.





A wide range of Nyonya, Chinese, Malay and Indian tea time delicacies are offered at this stall, particularly during Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month. Kuih kochi, kuih lapis, sugar doughnuts, egg tarts, kuih balu, ghee balls, vadell, cucuk udang, curry puffs and fried popiah are just some sweet and savoury delights available for the breaking of fast.

LEFT

Lemang, a special Malay delicacy of glutinous rice and coconut milk is baked inside bamboo sticks over a slow wood fire at Kijal. Patience is the key to making good lemang as preparations can take up to two hours.

ABOVE

This woman is busy preparing butter bun, a speciality found only at Kampung Cina. First, a ball of butter is inserted into the flour dough and hand-rolled into a ball. The balls of dough are then baked at high temperatures in the oven. The butter bun here is special because melted butter oozes from the bottom of the soft bun, making each bite a delight.

RIGHT

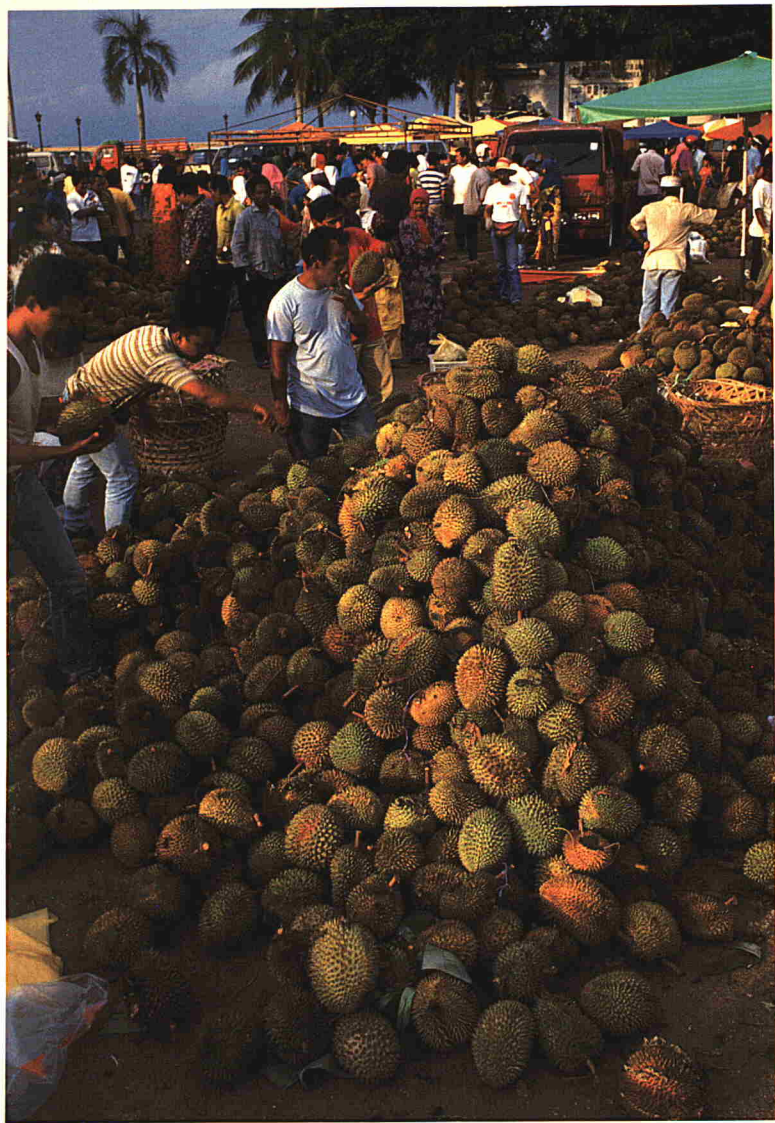




Stalls packed high with fruits, like this one, on the way to Kuala Terengganu are a common sight as one crosses the state. The wares vary depending on the season. While succulent pineapples and golden bananas can be found throughout the year, petar is an additional offering in May and June and in late September, dukus, chempedak and rambutans are offered at the same stall.



Tobacco farming is one cash crop that has brought lucrative income for farmers in Terengganu. Widely planted in Besut and Marang, the crop is actively cultivated more in smallholdings than in large plantations.





Harvesting the dokong fruit. This fruit, traditionally a delicacy in the Thai royal household, has recently been introduced into Terengganu. The original tree is in Thailand, and although over 200 years old, still bears fruit. This plantation, at Bukit Jelutong in Dungun, has 38,000 trees and is the largest in Malaysia. The dokong, langsat and duku, all grown in Terengganu, are of exceptional quality and sweeter and juicier than the same fruit grown in neighbouring states.

ABOVE

When durian season hits Malaysia, bumper crops of the fruit, straight from the orchards around the country, flood open markets like this one located near the Terengganu River. Depending on the type, grade and size of the fruit, one can take home an exceptional durian for 10 ringgit or seven fruits for the same price.

LEFT



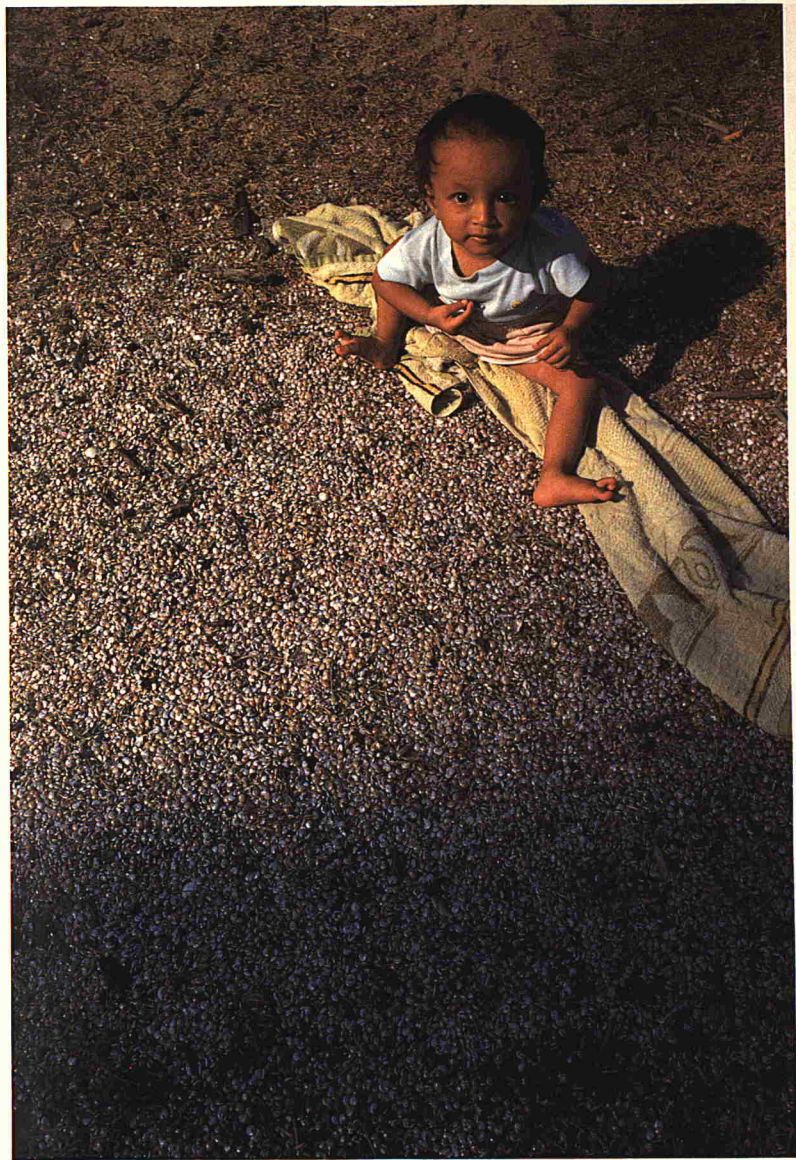
It is brisk business for this ice-kacang stall located at the 14th milestone, on the way to Kuala Brang. Also known as ABC (air batu campuri), it is a mound of pure shaved snow-white ice sitting on little red beans, sweet corn, coloured jelly, grass jelly and light-green cendol. Just the dessert to parch one's thirst on a scorching afternoon.

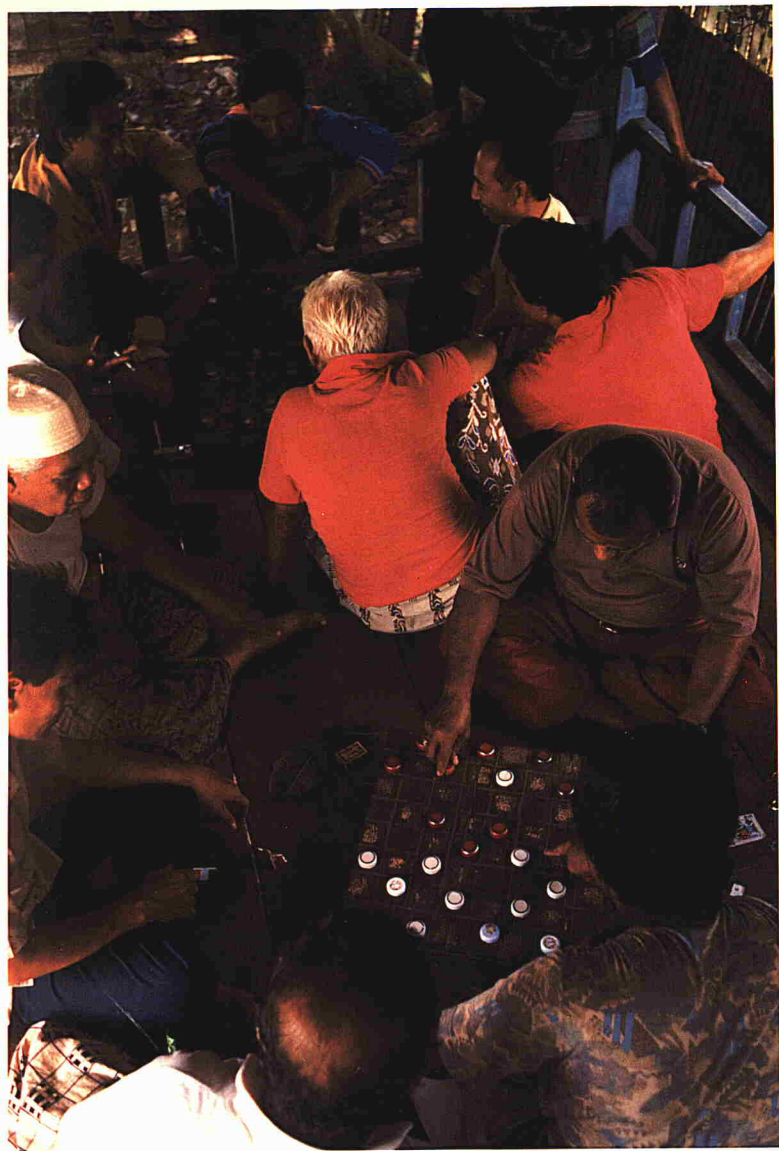
TOP

Helping their elders man the family fruit and sundry stall at the open market after school, is part and parcel of life for these six children. Sweets, crackers, drinks, seasonal and imported fruits such as grapes, oranges and honey pears can be found at stalls such as these.

ABOVE









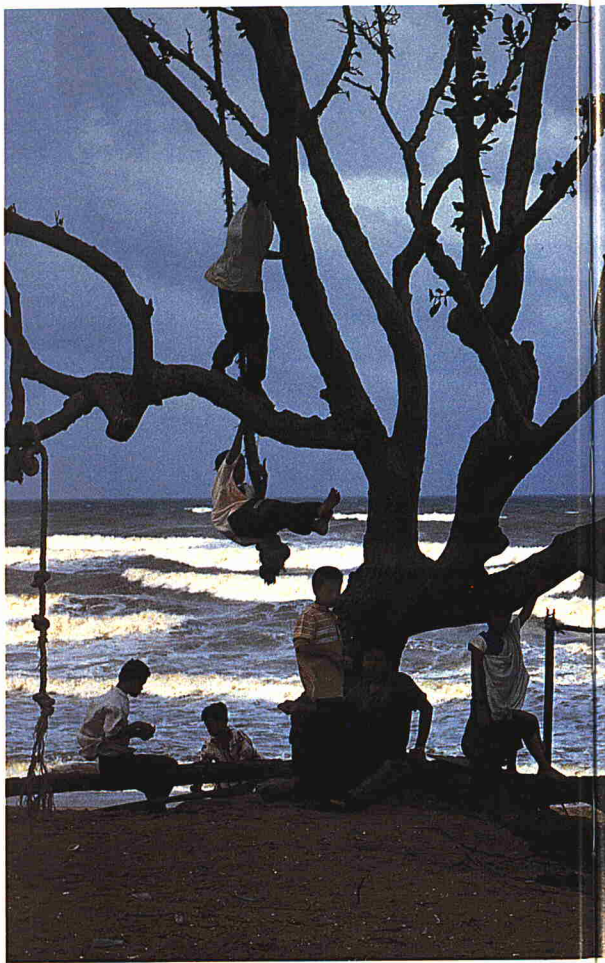
Merbuks are the popular choice of Terengganu bird-lovers and competitions are held frequently during the year to judge the best singer among them. Although, no prize money is offered at a competition, offers to buy a champion merbuk can be as high as 25,000 ringgit. Interestingly, what gives a bird its value is not its looks but the resonance of its voice. It is said that the crooning and chirping of a champion can be heard above the din of hundreds of birds surrounding it.

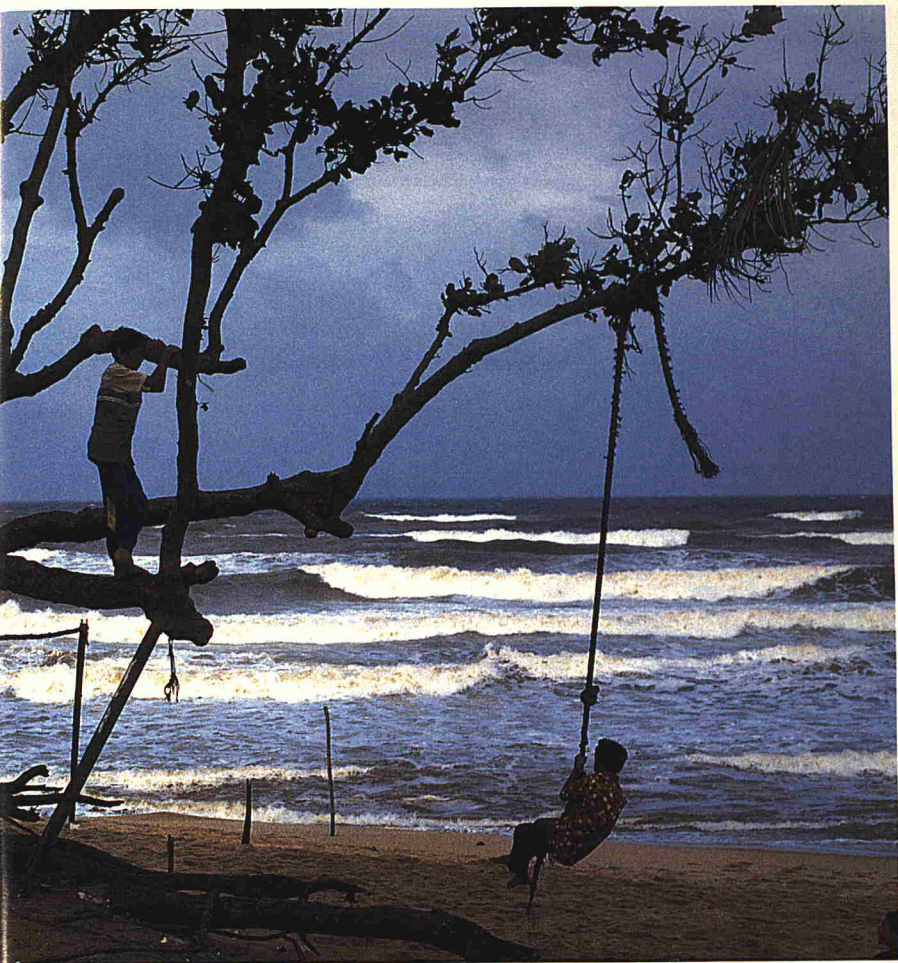
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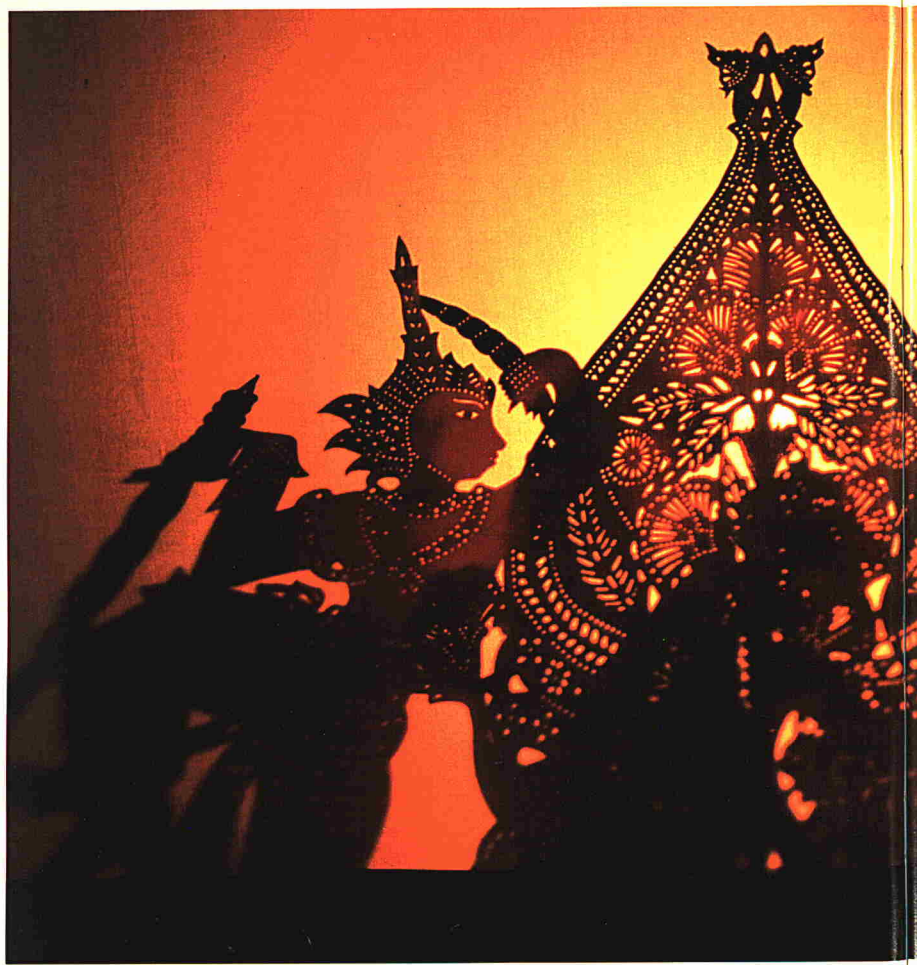
For these fishermen of Seberang Takir, a shady bus shelter functions well as an ideal meeting place for a game of draughts fashioned from homemade plywood boards and bottle-caps for tiles.

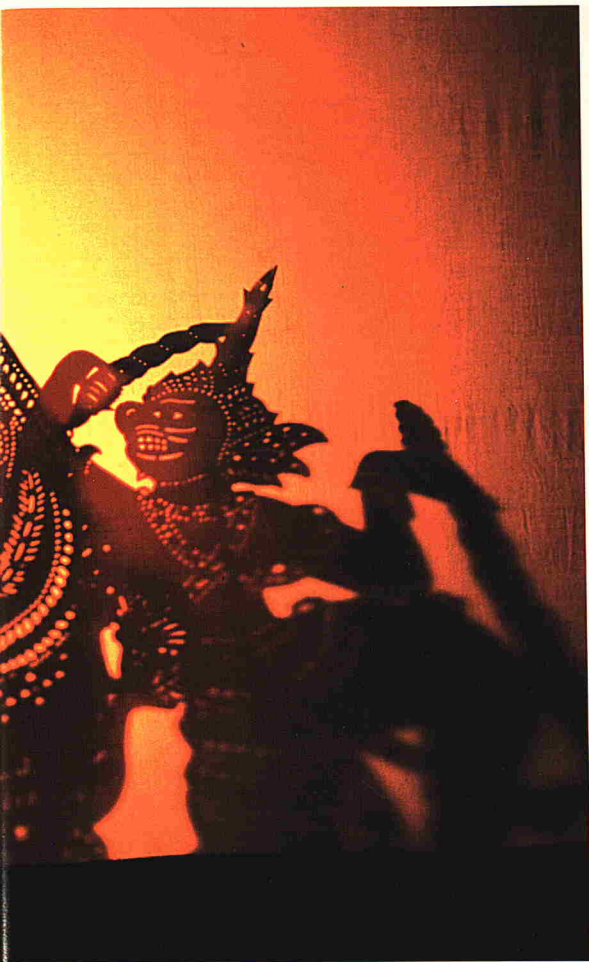
LEFT

The months of November to February can be wet and windy in Terengganu. Fishermen in villages along the coast are often unable to take their boats out because of the sea conditions. So it is a time for rest, relaxation and for doing the jobs postponed earlier, while the boats lie safely hauled up, high on the beach. Football is a favourite pastime along the soft, sandy shore and here village boys chat and swing idly from a tree, watching the white capped waves sweeping inexorably towards the shore.

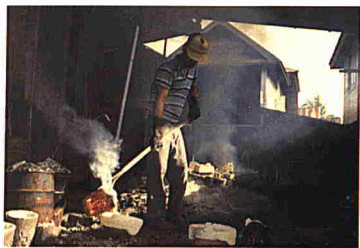








Wayang kulit ( shadow play) which was created as a form of diversion and entertainment in the evenings and at special occasions a few centuries ago is an excellent example of rich culture that exist in Malaysia. In Terengganu, the wayang kulit is still popular and stories told are taken from various Indian epics such as the Ramayana and Mahabrata. The tok dalang ( puppeteer) sits behind a screen with puppets carved from buffalo hide and a strong light source. He manipulates the puppets, narrates the story and modulates his voice to create suspense and drama. Shadows from the puppets are projected onto the screen by the light source.



Pouring liquid copper into copper heads



Finishing the copper



Dark coloring factory



Production of Marigoldy coloring

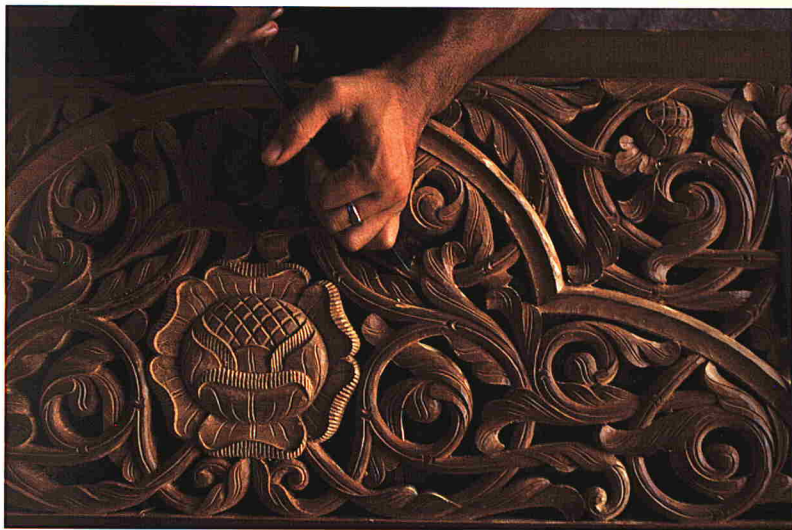


Books of design for batik printing



Printed batik





It takes a creative mind, a meticulous eye for detail, a skillful hand and patience to transform a piece of wood into an art form like this decorative wall panel. The designs for the carved motifs on wood are usually inspired from the plentiful flowers and plants found growing in the state. In the past, it was not unusual to find arms and legs of furniture, handles of kris and kitchen implements adorned with intricate carvings of wood.

ABOVE

Gifted with an eye for beauty and an ability to create works of art, Terengganu people like working with their hands. Using the skills taught to them by their forefathers, they churn out traditional masterpieces of brassware, songket, woven hats and baskets, filigree silverware and other local handicrafts.

LEFT



Songket is a brocade of traditional Malay design which was once strictly reserved for the use of royalty only. Today, Malaysia's "cloth of gold" is also used for ceremonial occasions, weddings and functions of deep social significance. It is the gold and silver threads woven into virgin or dyed silk that give the brocade its distinctly rich glitter and dignity.



Genuine gold threads used in this piece of hand-woven songket not only gives it the exquisite look but also a costly price-tag of 12,000 ringgit. Made by The House of Tengku Ismail, appointed clothier to the royal house of Terengganu, the prints on this songket cloth is derived from the collection of patterns designed exclusively for the royal court of Terengganu.



Terengganu is renowned for its boat-building skills with Pulau Duyung being the most well-known boat building ground in the state. The skills which have been passed down through the generations is an art form honed to perfection by experience and refined with personal pride. What is specially exceptional is the fact that the boat builders of Terengganu work entirely from memory and without the need of any set plans or blueprints. Pulau Duyung, a small islet at the mouth of the Terengganu river is easily accessible by the Sultan Mahmud bridge that spans over it.

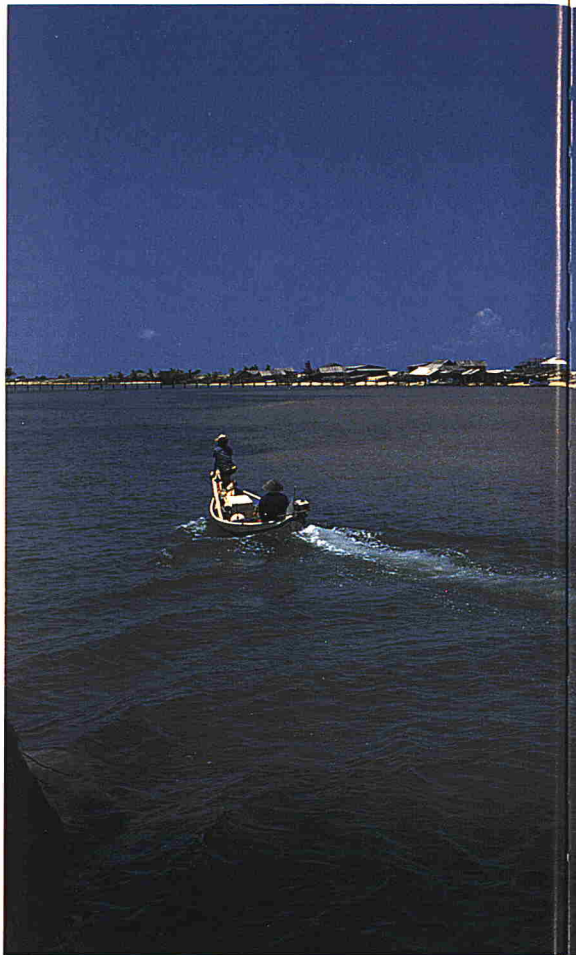
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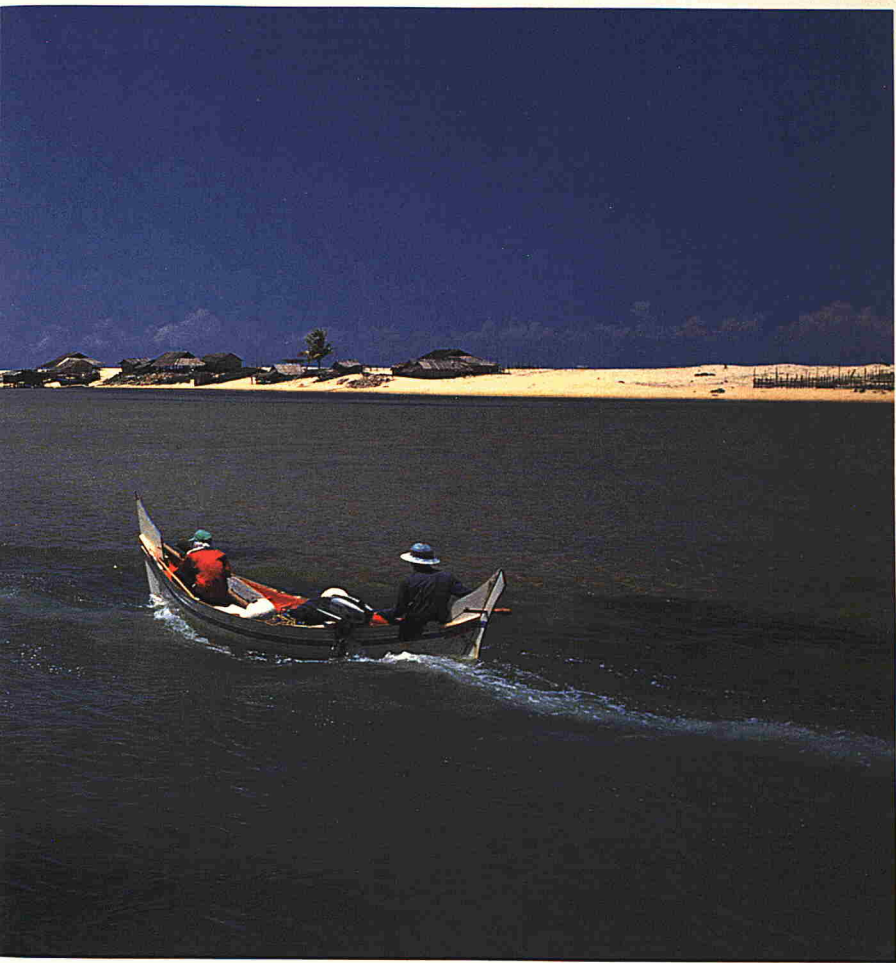
Squid-fishing is becoming a popular sport with tourists to the state. A long line of lighted fishing boats, like this, can be seen at sea, illuminating the water like lights along a street, during the time of the full moon when squids are in abundance. Best time for squid-fishing is from April to August and a popular spot is the waters around the islands of Kapas and Gemia.

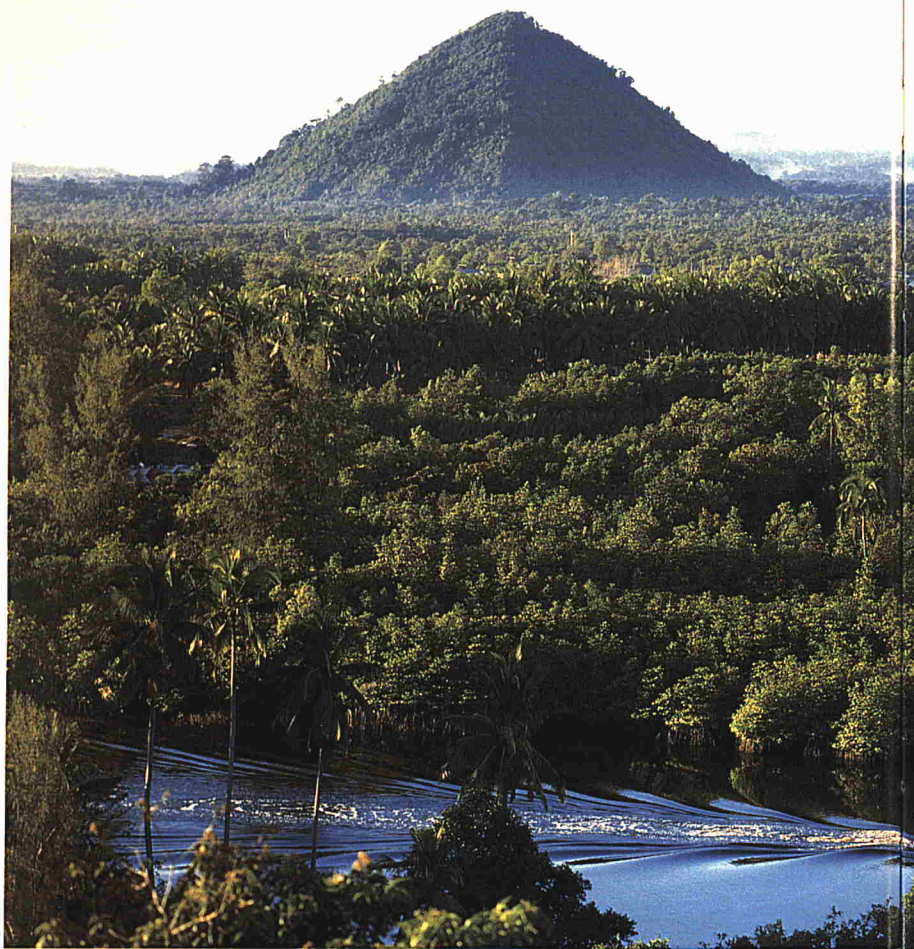
RIGHT



In the late morning, off the fishing village of Merchang, small perahu(boats) can be seen making their way out to sea to fish. It takes two to man these motorised boats and to handle the nets. On the beach ahead, stand a row of kilns used to oven-dry the anchovies. By the door of the kilns, wood are stacked high in readiness to feed the fires in the ovens. There is a large community of fishermen in Merchang





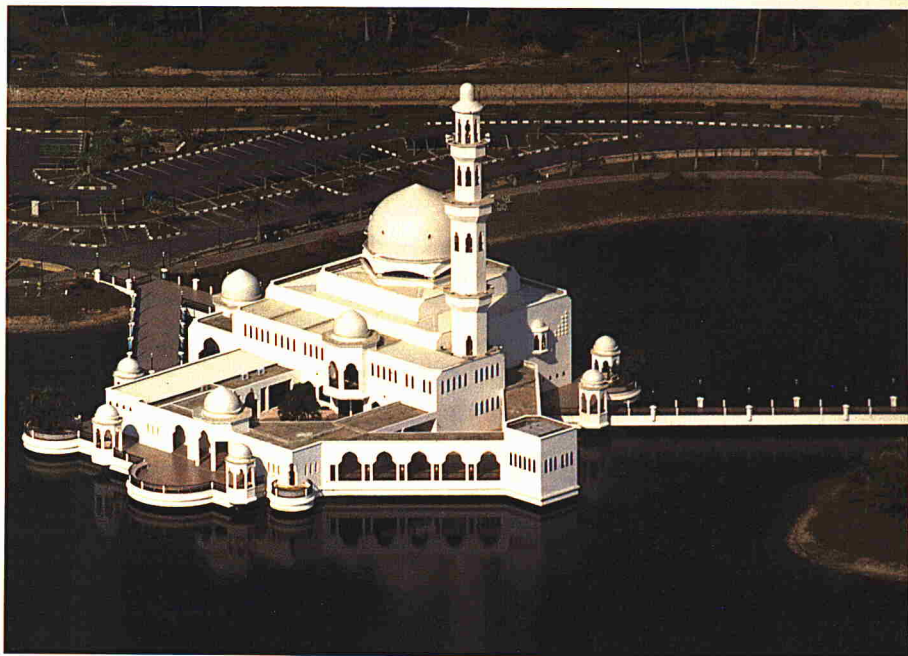






Morning has broken and the glassy surface of the river at Merang is broken by the ripples spreading away from a fishing boat on its way down to the sea. A pyramid shaped hill rises up above the morning mist patches, now dispersing from the marshland hollows. In the background to the right, a fishing village nestles almost unseen among the palm trees.





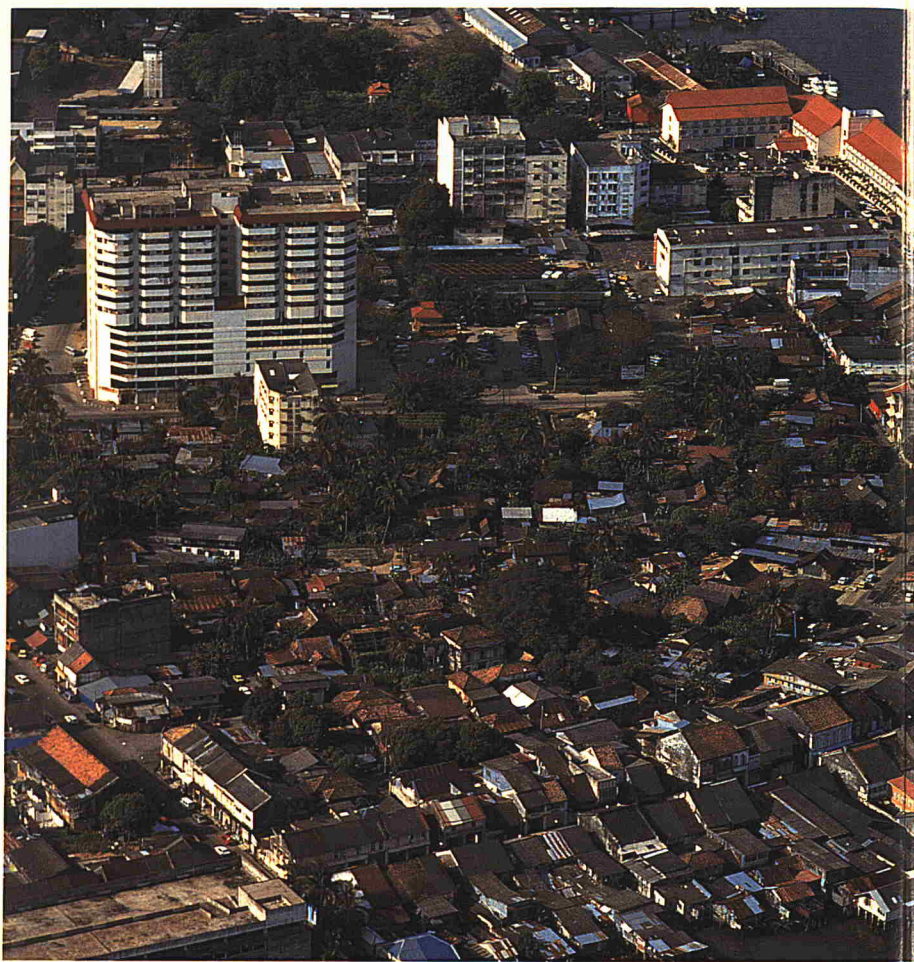
This dazzling white Kuala Ibai mosque sits as the latest landmark in Chendering. Known as the "Floating Mosque of the East", it is built on the lagoon beside the mouth of the Ibai River.  
ABOVE

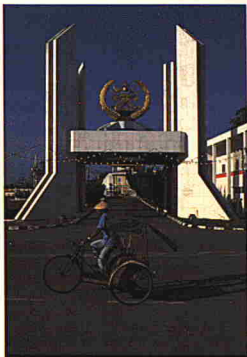
It is a stroll of nostalgia for this elderly villager of Kampung Manir as he strolls leisurely beneath the canopy of rain trees that have been there since the day of his youth. Life remains virtually unchanged at this stage for the villagers who eke a living from fruits of the abundant duku trees around the village and fish reared in kelongs in the shallow reaches of the river.

LEFT









Kuala Terengganu, the capital of Terengganu is situated on one bank of the river, while the other bank has been opened to industrialisation. The small islet, Pulau Duyung, located in the middle of the river and the two banks are connected by the second longest bridge in Malaysia. On the far right, sits a small fishing village known as Seberang Takir while in the foreground, lies the popular Batu Buruk Beach, a golden stretch of sandy beach amidst a casuarina wooded grove.

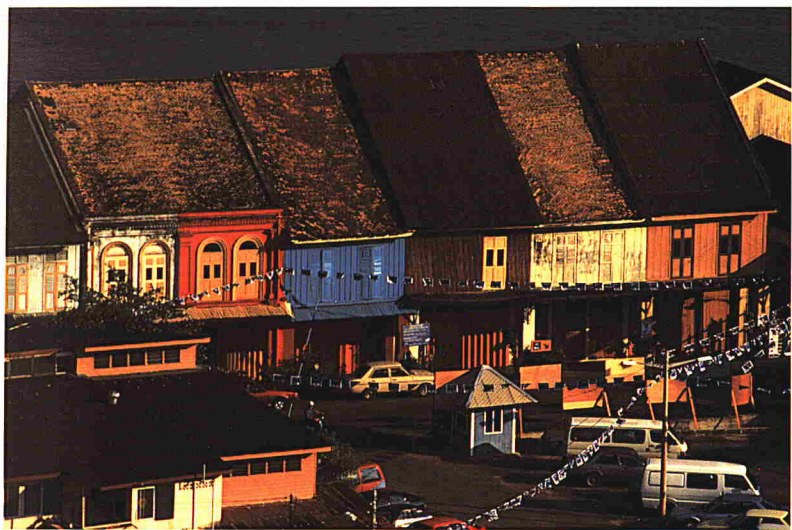
PRECEDING PAGES

Trishaws are ubiquitous around the Central Market located just a short distance from the Istana Maziah at Kuala Terengganu. Often, trishaws can be seen shuttling past the entrance of the Istana, ferrying people and goods or on their way back to the market.

ABOVE

Kampung Cina was the home of the first Chinese traders during the mid-18th century in Kuala Terengganu. The famed one-street chinatown which runs parallel with the river bank circles the Malay settlement which lies further inwards.

LEFT



The houses of Kampung Cina have architecture that is peculiar only to Kuala Terengganu. Built of wood with slanted roofs, the two-storey houses are built on stilts and extend into the river which flows behind them.





A decade ago, these small wooden two-storey shophouse with zinc roofs lined the main street at Marang town. Today, more than half of these shophouse have made way for more modern buildings.



The old palaces in Terengganu, such as this, resembles large houses of Malay architecture from the outside. However closer inspection will reveal its ornately carved woodwork. Although many of the palaces were built more than a century ago, only minimal work was needed to restore them to their former glory.



Standing regal at the Terengganu Museum Complex in Locong, this old Malay traditional palace was dismantled at its original location and reassembled here. Its elaborate and intricate carvings which are well preserved bear testimony to the fine woodworking skills that has belonged to the people of Terengganu till today.



The treasure-trove of Terengganu's history awaits the visitor in this collection of the most impressive buildings in the East Coast - the new Terengganu Museum Complex at Bukit Losong. Located just 10km from Kuala Terengganu and styled in traditional Malay architecture, the complex is designed to be a centre for education and research as well as museum exhibiting state relics. Easily the largest in South East Asia, the complex which sits on 25 hectares has four interconnecting blocks interlinked with decorative walkways, is nestled among landscaped gardens, fountains and pools. It houses a Marine Museum, a State Museum, several ancient Malay palaces and a herbarium of tropical fruit trees and local medicinal plants.

ABOVE AND RIGHT





Istana Maziah, with a blend of the modern and traditional in its architecture, is one of the early palaces believed to be built during the reign of Sultan Zainal Abidin III. It is used as the venue for state ceremonial purposes such as receptions for local and foreign dignitaries, weddings and yearly conferment of titles by the ruling Sultan on His Highness's official birthday. Towards the right, near the entrance of the palace, sits the 200m high historical hill of Bukit Puteri, which was used as a fortress in the early 19th century to defend the state from enemy attacks. The highest point in Kuala Terengganu, it offers visitors a vantage view of area surrounding the capital as well some historical remains such as cannons, a large bell and a fort.



On His Highness, DYMM Sultan Mahmud's birthday which falls on April 29th yearly, members of the royal family, state ministers, officials and dignitaries don their traditional vestures for the grand birthday celebrations held at Istana Maziah. Conducted in full regalia, the royal occasion will include a conferment of titles ceremony and reaffirmation of pledges by State Executive Councillors. Led by the Menteri Besar (Chief Minister), the state councillors will renew their pledges of loyalty to His Highness.



Kemaman Port which is already a major port for the East Coast is destined to reach greater heights. With its naturally deep bay and sheltered basin, it is destined to be "numero-uno" port for East Coast and one of the largest in South East Asia. In anticipation of the importance that the port will play, 70 hectares of the land around the port has already been gazetted for a free commercial zone.





At the mouth of the Ibai River at Chendering just eight km south of Kuala Terengganu. To the right, lies the newly developed Chendering light industries zone which covers a total area of 59.1 hectares.





As Besut is the rice bowl of Terengganu its fishing port at Kuala Besut, as seen here is the main fish-landing centre for the state. More than 1,000 locals involved in fishing in this district and yearly 17 million ringgit worth of fish are landed at the Kuala Besut Waterfront. What is less known and more interesting is that at the edge of the Besut estuary stands an old palace resembling a large house of Malay architecture which is more than a century old. Closer inspection reveals intricately-carved features of Siamese and Riau influences.

ABOVE

The aerial view of the mouth of the Marang River, the jump-off point to Kapas and Gemia islands. As there are many sand banks abound at the mouth of the river, it takes patience and experience to negotiate the waterway without running aground.

LEFT





DELIMA 01

TA 02

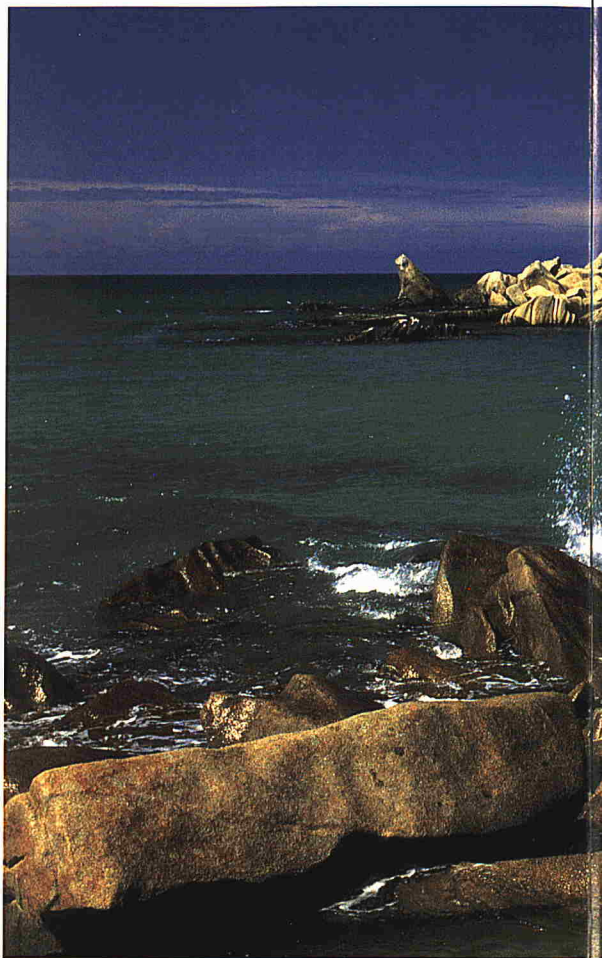
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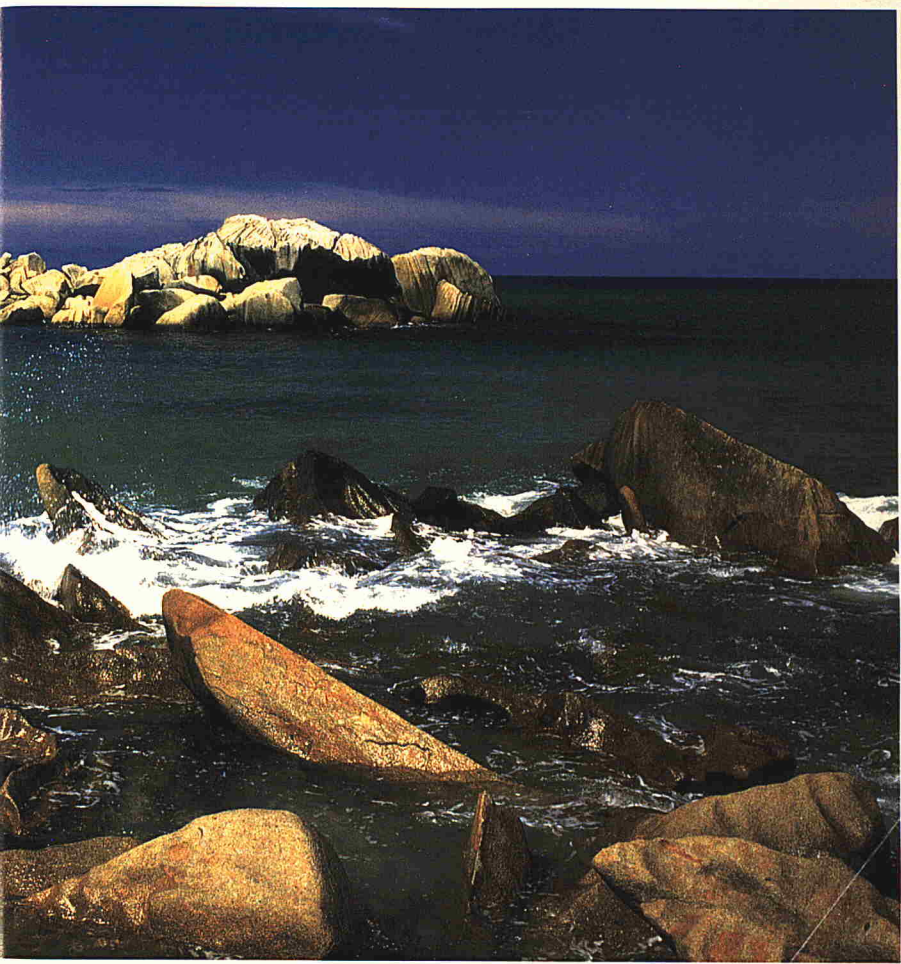
Marang fishing village is one of the most picturesque in the country. A river meets the sea here and incoming waves and forever shifting sands at the estuary mouth require constant vigilance by boatmen. At low tide boats rest stranded on the sand while the crews doze in their huts among the coconut palms and boys play in the shallow water.

PRECEDING PAGES

A group of strangely shaped rocks, with one resembling a seal, or perhaps a human face, breaks the surface of the azure sea at Tanjung Penunjuk. In the center a wave strikes a rock and the spray is captured on film. Visitors come here often, both to try their luck with hook and line just to gaze dreamily out towards the horizon.

RIGHT







The Sultan Mahmud Bridge which spans across the Terengganu River is the second longest in the country.



# FACTS ABOUT TERENGGANU

## GEOGRAPHICAL

Terengganu is one of the 13 states in Malaysia. It is located on the northeast of the peninsular and lies between the State of Kelantan to the north and northwest and Pahang to the south and southwest. Covering an area of 12,956 square kilometres, it has an interior that is largely covered with virgin rainforest and a long coastline of 225 kilometres facing the South China Sea.

In addition, it has a number of offshore islands whose surrounding waters have been designated as marine parks. They are Pulau Perhentian Besar, Pulau Perhentian Kecil, Pulau Lang Tengah, Redang archipelago, Pulau Bidong, Pulau Kapas, Pulau Gemia and Pulau Tenggol.

The state is divided into seven districts that comprise of Besut, Setiu, Kuala Terengganu, Hulu Terengganu, Marang, Dungun and Kemaman. The capital town is Kuala Terengganu which lies at the estuary at the mouth of the Terengganu river.

## GOVERNMENT

The Sultan is the constitutional head of the Terengganu State Government. He exercises legislative powers on the advice of the Executive Council which is headed by the Menteri Besar or Chief Minister.

## POPULATION

The population of Terengganu is estimated to be one million of which 90 per cent are Malays and the rest being Chinese and Indians.

## CLIMATE

The climate here is hot and humid with temperatures ranging from 21 to 32 degrees Celsius. Average rainfall varies between 200 to 270 centimetres with relative humidity averaging 84 per cent. Near the coasts and on the islands, sea breezes create a refreshingly cooler environment. There is a distinct wet and windy season which is marked by heavy rains between the months of November and January.

## COMMUNICATION

Terengganu is accessible from Kuala Lumpur by air and road. Main points of entry by air are via Kuala Terengganu Airport at the capital and Kerteh Airport at Kerteh, Kemaman. Travel by road from the western side of the peninsula is via the East-West and Karak highways.

## ECONOMY

Fishing is the main economic activity in Terengganu. Small fishing villages can be seen all along the coastal areas of its coastline from Besut in the north to Kemaman in the south and on the islands too. The other major activity is agriculture with main crops being rubber, oil palm, paddy, coconuts and a large variety of horticulture produce such as fruits, vegetables and herbs.

The discovery of oil, two decades ago, off the coast of Terengganu has resulted in the state being the largest producer of oil and gas in country today. Revenue generated from this industry has done much to improve Terengganu's infrastructure and transport facilities, said to be among the best in the country.

This in turn has encouraged the rapid growth of a new activity - tourism. Given Terengganu's wealth of natural resources, such as picturesque beaches, islands, forests and lakes, hotels and leisure related facilities have sprung up in the recent years, giving a substantial boost to the state's economy.

# MALAYSIA

## PENINSULAR MALAYSIA



## TERENGGANU





**EAST MALAYSIA  
(BORNEO)**

**SOUTH CHINA SEA**

