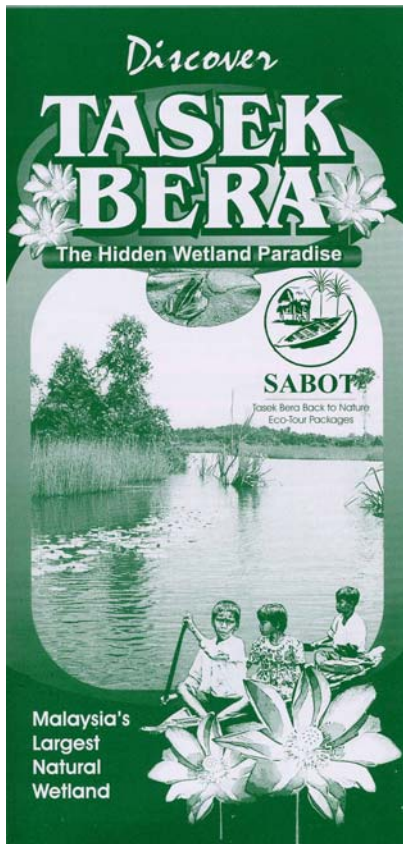


## JOURNEY INTO TASEK BERA WITH THE ORANG ASLI SEMELAI



### Tasek Bera, land of myths and legends

Selamat Dos. Welcome to Tasek Bera. We are the Semelai people and Tasek Bera has been our home for as long as we can remember.

Our lives and culture are very closely linked with the lake and surrounding forest. They provide us with food and resources to build our homes or tools for our daily needs.

Tasek Bera is the largest freshwater swamp in Peninsular Malaysia and is protected under the Ramsar Convention since 1994. It has a rich biodiversity which includes fish species, mammals, turtles, terrapins, frogs, interesting plant life and the very rare Malayan False Gharial, a freshwater crocodile!

Many mysterious legends also surround the lake but one prominent story tells of huge lake serpents that are covered in large scales. The young serpents are grey in colour but turn golden when they mature. They have short horns on their heads and instead of hissing, they snort loudly like a ship's horn, an elephant's trumpet and a sea lion's bark all rolled into one. Fortunately these docile creatures have never attacked anyone.

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## **Tasek Bera, where there's never a dull moment**

Many adventures await you in Tasek Bera. Here are some of the experiences we want you to have when you visit us.

### **Canoeing**

Gliding down the lake waters in a traditional dugout canoe is the best way to see Tasek Bera. Not only will you see beautiful gardens of lotuses, exotic lilies, and purple water trumpets, you would also have the best chance of spotting the carnivorous pitcher plants fringing the waterways, and wildlife like a sleepy Python curled up on a branch. Perfect for photo opportunities!

### **Boating**

For longer distances and fishing trips, we have motorboats that make it easier and faster to travel from one area to another.

### **Fishing**

Tasek Bera, home to 94 species of fish is, not surprisingly, popular with anglers and fishing is a favourite past time of the Semelai. Don't forget to check out our traditional fish traps while you are here.

### **Jungle Trekking**

For braver souls, the jungle is where you might encounter tigers, wild boars, sun bears or tapirs. But such meetings are very rare and at the very least, you will see the different prints or claw marks. Equally fascinating, are the various medicinal forest plants that we, the Semelai use to treat our sick.

### **Accommodation**

#### **Traditional Semelai House**

To fully experience untamed nature, come sleep on the bamboo floors of our traditional house called a 'Balai' in our isolated jungle/lake camps. For your convenience, the house comes equipped with toilets and a kitchen for cooking simple meals. Alternatively, we can also arrange food for you.

#### **Homestay**

Our homestay programme offers you a chance to live and eat with a Semelai family as well as experience our daily way of life.

#### **Cultural Demonstration**

Try your hand at basket weaving, appreciating traditional music, or even shooting with a blowpipe. We have many fine handicrafts which you may purchase from our tourist office or from the Semelai craftsmen themselves.

#### **More fun activities**

Try our night spotting and solo night or you can play some traditional games. Then, if it gets too hot, go for a cool dip in the lake. It is highly recommended.