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Taman Kulimambang, educational yet recreational
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Tasik Merimbun Heritage Park
Haji Ariffin Md. Noor

C o n t e n t s

Note on front & back cover photos

Front cover - Butterfly
Back cover - Tasik Merimbun (Aerial view)

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Taman Kulimambang, educational yet recreational

Brunei Darussalam, a nation blessed with natural resources and luscious green tropical rainforest, is undoubtedly a strength for its eco-tourism industry. With an area of 5,765 sq. km with 76 per cent of its land area still covered with forest, it has become a haven for numbers of wildlife and an exciting destination for nature enthusiasts and scientific studies.

The government has continuously given strong emphasis on a well-balanced development realising the importance of preserving and sustaining its natural environment for the future generation to enjoy. As such, eight per cent of the 76 per cent of land area covered with forests have been gazetted under the forest classification of National Park and one per cent under Recreation Forest.

Amongst the well-known eco-tourism attractions in Brunei Darussalam is the Ulu Temburong National Park and Selirong Island where both are located in Temburong District. This district also houses the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre where a number of scientists had conducted studies and research at this centre, truly a centre that is well recognised not only locally but has reached the international arena.

With the on-going efforts by the government in highlighting the importance of the environment, a new place of attraction was recently introduced in the Tutong District.

Taman Kulimambang or Butterfly Garden

Named as 'Taman Kulimambang' or Butterfly Garden, this garden is located in Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park, a park that has been recognised as one of ASEAN's Heritage Parks indicating its important contribution and unique attributes to the environment.

Kulimambang is the local term for butterfly, in other Malay speaking countries, it is also known as *rama-rama*. Another insect that is quite similar to butterfly is moth or locally known as *kupu-kupu*. Although both look similar but there are differences in their physical and way of resting. Some people suggested that an easy identification can be made by looking at their wings as a butterfly usually has colourful wings.

Scientifically, butterflies are a group of insects in the order Lepidoptera. Lepidoptera is Greek for scaly wings which is appropriate given that butterflies have thousands of scales on their wings.

The garden is set up by the Department of Brunei Museums with the following objectives:

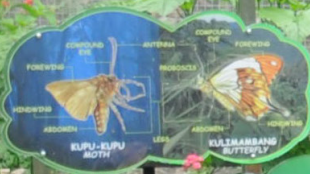
- As nurturing garden for butterfly species which aim for learning and research purposes.
- As an additional attraction for local and foreign tourists to visit Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park.
- To provide awareness to visitors particularly the new generation on the importance of butterfly to environment.

The construction of the garden began on November 17, 2011 and was completed on February 2, 2012. The garden's cage is about 18 x 18 metres in width and eight meters in height which costs around \$80,000.





PERBEDAAN ANTARA
KULIMAMBANG DAN KUPU-KUPU
*DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
BUTTERFLY AND MOTHS*



KITABAN HIRUP
TETAPAN



Taman Kulimambang the Brunei's first butterfly park

Taman Kulimambang was launched on July 3, 2012 by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair.

More than 100 butterflies from more than 30 local butterfly species can be found in this garden where the butterflies are originated from the Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park itself.

The Butterfly Garden is set up like a mini-flower garden with water ponds. A variety of flowers are planted not only as decoration but to act as breeding place of the butterflies.

At the garden, visitors will have the opportunity to look closely on the life cycle process of the butterfly from egg to larva to pupa to adult.

As it is served to not only as a recreational place but also as an educational site, informative boards assist visitors to explain on information related to butterflies such as their cycle process.

The garden is opened daily except on Friday from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm (from Monday to Thursday), and from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm (on Saturday and Sunday) where admission is free. Visitors are however advised to contact Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park Gallery at +673 4269179 before visiting.

With the launching of Taman Kulimambang, it is hoped that it will provide more choices for tourists both domestic and foreign to visit whilst in Brunei Darussalam. It is not only serves as a tourist attraction but also as an educational platform that can be used to disseminate information on the beautiful butterflies and their important contribution to the environment.

Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park



Brunei Darussalam joined Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) on January 7, 1984. In the same year, 11 parks and reserves were named as ASEAN Heritage Parks and Reserves when six ASEAN's member countries (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) signed the ASEAN Declaration of Heritage Parks and Reserves on November 29.

The Declaration was made in consideration of 'the uniqueness, diversity and outstanding values of certain national parks and reserves of ASEAN member countries that deserves the highest recognition so that their importance as conservation areas could be appreciated regionally and internationally'.

These are the criteria that the site should possess to be included under the ASEAN Heritage Parks that are; Ecological Completeness, Representativeness, Naturalness, High Conservation Importance, Legally Gazette Area and Approved Management Plan.

The numbers of ASEAN Heritage Parks grow by years and by October 18, 2011, there were in total 30 parks. Among the 30 listed parks, Brunei Darussalam's Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park is one of them.

Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park is located in Mukim Rambai of Tutong District, about 70km from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.



Archaeological research suggests that Tasek Merimbun was the earliest settlement in the rural areas of the Tutong District as indicated by the discovery of ceramic artefacts dating as early as the 15th century of Ming Dynasty. The natives here are the Dusun, one of the seven Malay ethnics group in Brunei. Their livelihood depended on the products of nature in the form of wild animals, vegetation, fish and paddy.

A legend stated that, the name Tasek Merimbun derived from a son of the village chief from Kampung Merangking in the Belait District named 'Imbun'. Imbun got lost when he went hunting and stumbled on a beautiful lake. He saw the lake was rich with fish

and its surroundings with vegetation and fertile soil. This prompted him to move to the area with his vast family and that was how the area came to be known as Kampung Tasek Merimbun.

On physical environment, Tasek Merimbun is part of a geological formation that was uplifted from a shallow sea about seven million years ago. The soil is clayey on the flat land and peat on the swampy lowland. The Tutong River forms the natural boundary to the north and east of the park. Annual rainfall is at least 2,000 mm and the temperature varies from 27 to 34 degree Celsius all year round. Being an equatorial ecosystem, one can expect a humid tropical rainforest.

Tasek Merimbun is a kind of low depression surrounded by swamps as opposed to being a typical lake. The water is black due to the presence of peat that is fermentation of plant vegetative materials that feed into the lake through several streams flowing and passing through the peat swamp. It is divided into two depressions that are connected by Sungai Piasau which have an area of 100 and 120 hectares respectively.

The park had a flow of timeline since 1976 when it was recognised as a valuable asset for its potential as a Wildlife Sanctuary by the first Director of the Brunei Museums Department.

The timeline is as follows;

1967 - Tasek Merimbun declared as a National Heritage Park

1983-1984 Brunei Museums Department conducted first field study

1984 - Tasek Merimbun declared as an ASEAN Heritage Park

1996 - Building of Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park Complex

1997 - Completion of Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park Complex

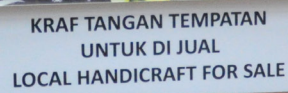
2000 - Official launching of Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park Complex

In 1983-1984, a survey on Tasek Merimbun's bio-diversity and socio-economic activities was first conducted by a commission comprises of staff from both the Natural History and Ethnography Sections of the Brunei Museums Department.

This one-year project led to a significant discovery. A live specimen of the rare White-Collared Fruit Bat (*Megaerops wetmorei*) was collected in the vicinity of Tasek Merimbun. This proved to be the first live specimen seen in the world for more than a hundred years. This discovery became a vital part of the criteria which made Tasek Merimbun into one of the only 11 ASEAN Heritage Parks and Reserves at that time.







As a heritage park, Tasek Merimbun's objective is to act as a wildlife sanctuary to conserve the rich flora and fauna are at the same time facilitate researchers and other educational bodies. Being a heritage park, Tasek Merimbun aims to be a recreational area for the public and ultimately become a major tourist attraction for all.

After the completion of the complex, Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park was officially opened on August 27, 2000, by the then Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussein.

Various of facilities are available at the heritage park to accommodate researchers, students, organisations and public especially nature lovers. Among the facilities are 'Balai Purun', a multi-purpose hall; researcher's quarter, interpretation trail and jungle trekking.

One of the attractions of Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park is Banunih Trail. The journey for the whole trail is approximately 650 meters that takes about 45 minutes and the trail is a secondary forest. There are various species of fauna and flora found along the trail.

Visitors can also visit the exhibition gallery that displays various types of items including freshwater fishes and mammals that found at Tasek Merimbun, different types of carriers used to carry local produce and information related to Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park.

Recently, a new attraction was added to the park. The launching of Taman Kulimambang (Butterfly Garden) is hoped to further enhance the value of Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park not only as a national treasure but also as educational and inspiring sites.

Visitors can expect a smooth road-trip as the park is linked with a well-structure a road except during rainy season where certain area may be affected by flash flood.

Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park is under the management of the Brunei Museums Department. Interested parties (to visit or research) can contact the respective department at 673 2381672 or the park at 673 4269179.



Tasik Merimbun Heritage Park





