

*Land of The Perpatih*

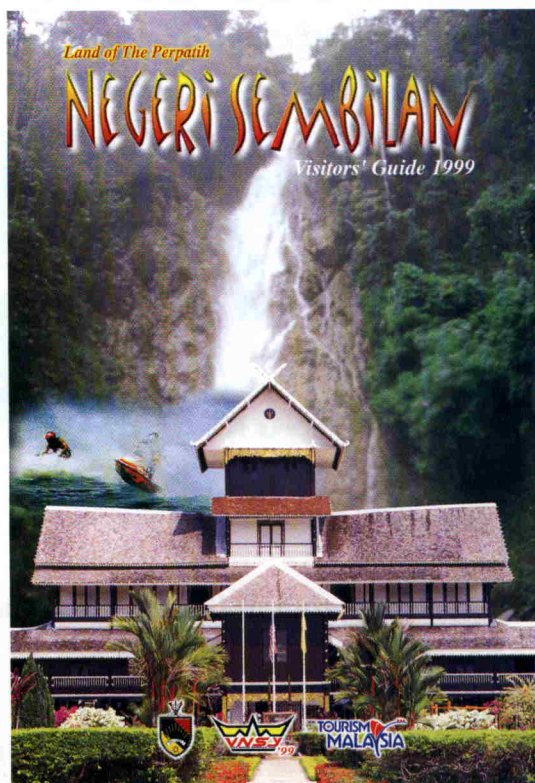
# NEGERI SEMBILAN

*Visitors' Guide 1999*





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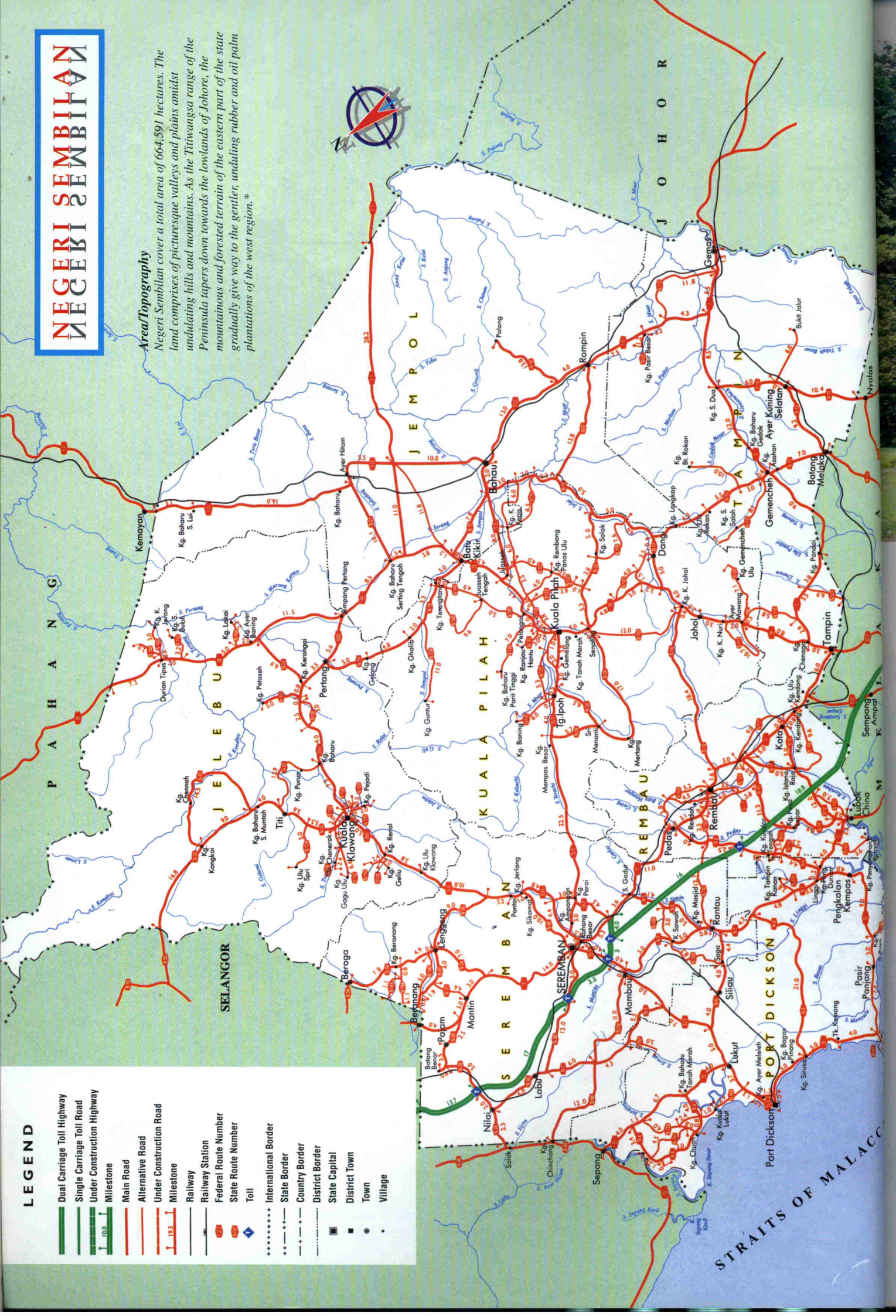
*This guide book is an official publication for Visit Negeri Sembilan Year 1999*



# NEGERI SEMBILAN

## Area Topography

Negeri Sembilan cover a total area of 664,591 hectares. The land comprises of picturesque valleys and plains amidst undulating hills and mountains. As the Tiwiwanga range of the Peninsula tapers down towards the lowlands of Johore, the mountainous and forested terrain of the eastern part of the state gradually give way to the gentler, undulating rubber and oil palm plantations of the west region. \*



## LEGEND

- Dual Carriage Toll Highway
- Single Carriage Toll Road
- Under Construction Highway
- Milestone
- Main Road
- Alternative Road
- Under Construction Road
- Milestone
- Railway
- Railway Station
- Federal Route Number
- State Route Number
- Toll
- International Border
- State Border
- Country Border
- District Border
- State Capital
- District Town
- Town
- Village



# PASSING BY LAND OF THE PERPATIH



*Roots of the tradition... This Minangkabau House is one of the main buildings of the Cultural Complex (located 2 km from Seremban Town) features a wooden shingled roof and fine carving verses from the Koran.*

## ROOTS OF THE TRADITION

Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus is one of the most unique states in Malaysia because of its socio cultural practices, that is Adat Perpatih (Matrilineal Social System). The phrase 'Darul Khusus' itself means literally 'a unique state'. Adat Perpatih was brought along by the Minangkabau people who migrated to the region during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. 'Negeri Sembilan' means 'the Nine States'. Originally it consisted of nine fiefdoms: Sungai Ujong, Rembau, Johol, Jelebu, Naning, Segamat, Ulu Pahang, Jelai and Kelang that



*Reflection of rich cultural and political heritage... Seri Menanti Old Palace located in Royal Town, Kuala Pilah.*



*Symbol of strength and power. One of the royal ceremonial equipments.*



*The spectacular throne of Seri Menanti Grand Palace in Royal Town, Kuala Pilah.*



Negeri Sembilan originally consisted of "nine states" namely Sungai Ujong, Rembau, Johol, Jelebu, Naning, Segamat, Ulu Pahang, Jelai and Kelang. After 1898 treaty between Yam Tuan Sri Menanti (The King) and Dato'-Dato' Undang Yang Empat (The Traditional Chieftains), 'the nine states' was confederated into seven districts as it is today. These districts have their own nickname for their specialties which are Seremban (Cultural Corridor), Port Dickson (Dickson Colorful Beach), Rembau (Route of Tradition), Kuala Pilah (Seat of Customs), Tampin (Heritage Rouge), Jempol (History Route) and Jelebu (Route to Nature).

## Jelebu

The name Jelebu was originated from a type of special seeds brought from a traditional village named Batang Labu. Its covers an area of 136,756 hectares and a population of 40,012.

For information : Tel: **06-6136479** Fax: **06-6137515**

## Places of Interest

- The Mausoleum of Moyang Salleh
- Kuala Dulang Mosque
- Waterfalls of Jeram Gading
- Jeram Toi
- British Memorial Stone
- Lata Kijang
- (Jelebu National Park)

## Seremban

The capital of Negeri Sembilan. With the population of 263,383 people, it has an area of 95,133 square hectares. It takes about 45 minutes drive from Kuala Lumpur to Seremban, which is approximately 64 km to the south of Kuala Lumpur.

For information : Tel: **06-7581243** Fax: **06-7582129**

## Places of Interest

- Cultural Complex
- Animal Park
- Galla Recreational Forest
- Lenggeng Recreational Forest
- Seremban Lake Garden
- State Assembly Legislative Building
- State Library
- State Mosque

## Port Dickson

About 32 km away from Seremban, it is known as Dickson Colourful Beach. The population here is about 92,171, an area of 55,868 hectares and the length of the beach is 11 km. It is the most popular tourists destination in Negeri Sembilan.

For information : Tel: **06-6471335** Fax: **06-6474890**

## Places of Interest

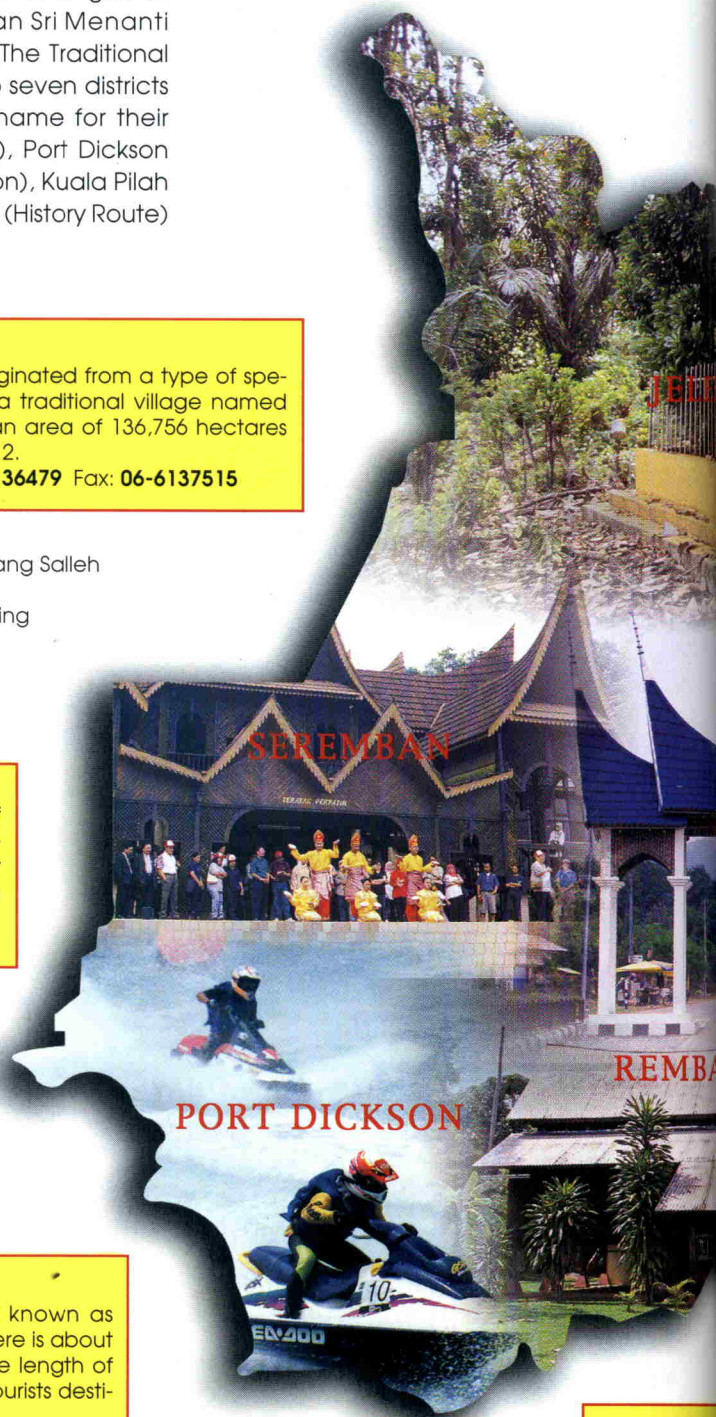
- Lukut Fort
- Military Museum
- Telok Kemang Beach
- Kuala Lukut "Kelong" (Floating Fishing Deck)
- Sungai Sekawang Village
- Cape Rachado Lighthouse
- Megaliths of Pengkalan Kempas

## Rembau

Rembau is traditional beliefs and population of 51,418. For information

## Places of Interest

- Rembau Cultural Museum
- Pedas Hot Springs
- Suka Bumi Recreation Area
- Gunung Datuk



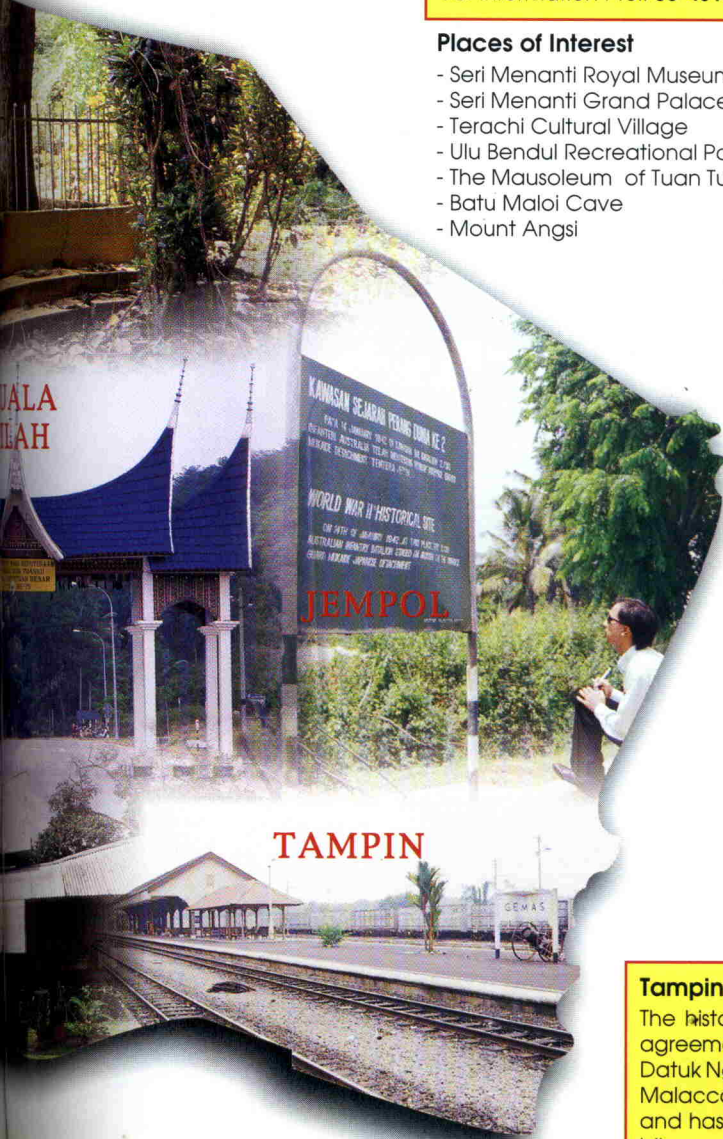
## Kuala Pilah

The Royal Town of Negeri Sembilan, is located here. Kuala Pilah is 30 km away from Seremban with an area of 109,042 hectares.

For information : Tel: **06-4812075** Fax: **06-4811042**

### Places of Interest

- Seri Menanti Royal Museum (the Old Palace)
- Seri Menanti Grand Palace
- Terachi Cultural Village
- Ulu Bendul Recreational Park
- The Mausoleum of Tuan Tulis
- Batu Maloi Cave
- Mount Angsi



## TAMPIN

## Jempol

Jempol is situated in the west of Negeri Sembilan with an area of 138,569 hectares and its population is about 122,033. It is believed that the name Jempol derived from a tragic tale of a beautiful lady called Jampu.

For information : Tel: **06-4541233** Fax : **06-4581242**

### Places of Interest

- Serling Ulu Recreational Park
- Japanese War Victims Monument
- Mahsan Recreational Park
- De Bana Recreational Forest

## Tampin

The history of Tampin begins with the signings of an agreement between Datuk Undang Rembau the 13th, Datuk Nganit (1819-1838) and the English authorities in Malacca. Tampin covering an area of 87,805 hectares and has a population of 72,297. It is progressing rapidly as one of the leading districts in Negeri Sembilan.

For information : Tel: **06-4411606** Fax: **06-4413001**

### Places of Interest

- Tampin Museum
- Mount Tampin
- Repah Waterfalls
- Kelamah River Monument
- Gemas Railway Station

known for its people strong  
of the Adat Perpatih. With an  
there are 17 mukim with a  
21.  
Tel: **06-6851144** Fax: **06-6855117**

and Traditions Museum  
ational Park  
Mount of the Great Grandfather)





There are also several handicrafts and souvenirs outlets in all districts. Spend your time buying local souvenirs at the handicraft centre in Kuala Pilah. This Government-owned handicraft centre not only offer abundance of finest local products but you can also test your skills in craftsmanship.





# RICH HERITAGE BENEATH SPECTACULA

## Seri Menanti Old Palace

The four level castle was built in 1903 imitating the concept of Minangkabau traditional houses. It has 99 pillars which represent the 99 King's warriors. You have the opportunity to appreciate the finest beauty of traditional Malay sculptures and wood carves at the palace. You can also learn the varieties of cultures and customs, as well as the heritage of the local royalness from the various royal treasures there. Do not forget to go up the "Mountain Stairs" of the palace and enjoy the breathtaking landscape. The Old Palace is situated at the Royal Town of Seri Menanti in the district of Kuala Pilah (32km from Seremban). The town has several "royal buildings" like The Seri Menanti Grand Palace and The Royal Mausoleum.

*Sri Menanti Old Palace has been turned into the Royal Museum which houses many artifacts that treasure the history of the Royal family of Negeri Sembilan.*



# ARCHITECTURE



*Some of the finest Malay wood carvings and sculptures on the pillars and walls of the Sri Menanti Old Palace.*



*Nepitid of the throne where the King sits during Payang Hama Ceremony.*



## Cultural Complex

It is the first tourist attraction welcoming you at the doorstep of Negeri Sembilan capital town which is located at the entrance of Seremban/Labu toll exit off KL-Seremban Highway. Situated 2km from Seremban town, the complex consists of several main buildings like the Headquarters of State Museum Board, Teratak Perpatih (State Museum), Istana Ampang Tinggi (an old wooden palace), replica of The Sungai Udang Shrine, and Minangkabau House. Here, you will discover artifacts that show the roots of the local socio-cultures.

- 1 TERATAK PERPATIH
- 2 ISTANA AMPANG TINGGI
- 3 RUMAH MINANGKABAU









# FAVOURITE PAST TIME

## Tarian Lilin

The **tarian lilin** is believed to have originated in Minangkabau, Sumatera. To add more effect, a 10 cm candle is lit in the middle of the saucer when the dance is performed. In Negeri Sembilan when this dance is performed, the girls wear traditional Minangkabau costume, whereas the male dancers wear a traditional Malay costume. Every dancer wears a ring at the tip of the middle finger to tap the saucer in rhythm to the music. The dance has now been adopted by other states in Malaysia.



## Silat

**Silat** is a traditional Malay art of self-defence. In the old days it was essential for an adult male to master the movements of silat. This graceful art which dates back to antiquity, ranges from demonstrations by individuals to interteam competitions using various types of Malay weapons. The kris is commonly favoured and at times a stick about 1.3 m in length is used. In Negeri Sembilan the graceful movements are always accompanied by the beat of the local traditional music of Cak Lempong.



## Congkak

**Congkak**...It is one of the genre traditional games (usually played amongst ladies) which require ones alertness and fast thinking in order not to lose a turn.

Normally it involves 2 players. In the old days, the game was played using the seeds of sour plums which were later put into a man-made holes in the ground. With the new innovation, a special board has been designed for this particular game which consists of 5, 7 or 9 holes with a bigger hole at each end called 'house'. Beside using seeds from sour plum, marbles or gravel stones may be used as well.

\*\* A large portion of these articles were taken from a booklet on Negeri Sembilan produced by TDC.





In the old days, this game was played with bare foot.

## Sepakraga

**Sejarah Melayu** (the **Malay Annals**), the famous historical text stated an incident during the Malacca Sultanate whereby a game of sepakraga resulted in the killing of an aristocrat's son. Sepakraga is a game usually played by men (or boys) standing in a circle and trying to keep the rattan ball in the air with their feet and heads. The game had to be played all over again if the rattan ball touched the ground. Until today, the game is still popular among Malaysians.



Stay alert or you stand to lose.

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# CUSTOM

The history of Adat Perpatih (customs) in Negeri Sembilan started and grew with the transmigration of the people from West Sumatra to Rembau during the 14th century.

During its process of maturity the Adat Perpatih has influenced the structure, concept and socio-cultural philosophy of local people. It is commonly known that the uniqueness of Negeri Sembilan lies in this exclusive custom.

Adat Perpatih has had a significant impact on the way of life of the locals from the macro level aspects like its political, economic and social systems, to micro level issues like customs and ceremonies carried out during the King's inauguration, ways of giving ones inherited properties and wedding procedures that are rather detailed.

Though influenced and assimilated with other cultural elements through times because of its flexibility, the custom survives and is still relevant nowadays, as the saying goes:

*The old to be renewed,  
The withered to be replaced,  
Once a flood flashes,  
So the soil formation goes.*

Some of the principles of Adat Perpatih are still evident in the Negeri Sembilan people's practices like their constitutional monarchy, cultural activities, dialects, dressing, norms and ethical codes.

Hence, the most significant concept and philosophy of Adat Perpatih is its democratic ways that recognise the opinions of every individual ranging from the Ruler to the citizens according to the individual's position and responsibilities in the society, as illustrated by the maxim below:



Templer Customs and Traditions Museum.



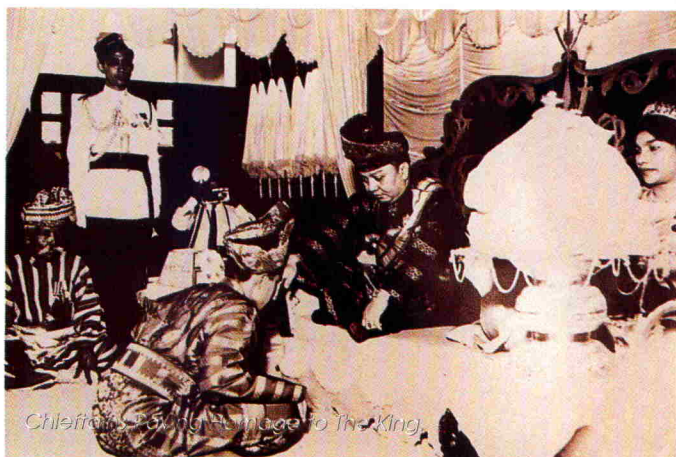
Clan heads give consent during a 'masuk suku' (join the clan) ceremony.

*The Undang's word is generous,  
The word of clan chief resolves,  
The word of spiritual leader is the truth,  
The word of the court clerk connects  
(investigates),  
The word of the warrior is vigorous,  
The word of the woman is gentle,  
The word of the people consensus.*



Bersanding...Bridal couple seated on a dais.





## PAYING HOMAGE TO THE KING BY TRADITIONAL CHIEFS: MANIFEST OF OBEISANCE

One of the main events being lined up for VNSY'99 is 'Traditional Chieftains Paying Homage To The King' (26-27 April 1999) which will be held with full regal colour and splendour. This event has an important implication on the political, administrative and the constitutional monarchy of the State of Negeri Sembilan.

The history of the traditional custom of Paying Homage began in 1898 with the signing of an agreement between Yam Tuan Sri Menanti, Tuanku Muhamad Shah and Dato' Undang Yang Empat to elect Tuanku Muhamad Shah to be King with the title Yang DiPertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan.

This ceremony closely relates with other ceremonies like 'Celebrating The Home Coming Of The King' (24 April 1999) and 'Ceremony to Mark 101 Years of Understanding Between the Yang DiPertuan Sri Menanti and Dato' Undang Yang Empat' (29 April 1999).

The experience from witnessing this ceremony is extremely valuable and one is definitely missing a great opportunity by not being there. Hence, it would not be an exaggeration to say it would be an 'experience of a lifetime' for the tourists and even for the locals!

*Sri Menanti  
Grand Palace*



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*Popular local dish...hot and spicy  
Masak Lemak Cili Padi.*

Negeri Sembilan usually prepares its food heavily chilled and spiced, following the tradition of its early inhabitants from Minangkabau. Of the variety and range, the dishes Masak Lemak Cili Api and Rendang Minang are widely popular. Lemang (glutinous rice cooked in bamboo) is tasty by itself but more often eaten with "rendang", a dry curried meat dish.

There are plenty of restaurants in the towns of Negeri Sembilan and hotels that serve Western, Malay, Chinese and Indian cuisines to suit a variety of tastes. (TDC)



*Stirring Dodol - a sweet cake to perfection*



*Preparing Lemang - Glutinous rice mix with coconut milk cooked in bamboo.*



*Delightful combination... Lemang is usually served with Rendang.*