



Photo by Jeremy Holden, FFI

Indonesia

Kerinci-Seblat

NATIONAL PARK

INDONESIA

Covering close to 1.4 million hectares, Kerinci-Seblat is one of the largest conservation areas in Southeast Asia, and harbours the oldest tropical rainforest in Asia. The National Park protects the world's largest flowers and hundreds of plants and animals not found anywhere else in the world. Accordingly, the Park is home to more than 4,000 plant species, and 17 bird species and several mammal species endemic to Sumatra (www.keinci.org). It also nestles several mountain lakes, notably Danau Gunung Tujuh (*Danau* means lake) or "Lake of Seven Mountains," the highest caldera lake in Southeast Asia at almost 2,000 metres altitude (www.kerinci.org; ASEAN/JICA/UNEP, undated).

Kerinci-Seblat, one of Indonesia's ASEAN Heritage Parks, lies in nine districts of four provinces of Sumatra: West Sumatra, South Sumatra, Jambi, and Bengkulu (KSNP-ICDP Project, 1999). The Park is now being considered for inscrip-

tion in the list of World Heritage Sites.

Kerinci was decreed a national park in November 1992 by the Minister of Forestry, and then officially gazetted through a Decree issued by the Minister of Forestry and Estate Crops in October 1999.

Kerinci-Seblat is thus the first national park in Indonesia to have received official gazettelement (KSNP Management Framework, 2002-2006).

Still covered with undisturbed forests, Kerinci protects the vital catchment area of three major rivers: Sungai Musi in South Sumatra, the largest; Sungai Batang Hari in Jambi, the longest; and Sungai Ketahun in Bengkulu. These rivers support more than three million people and four million hectares of agricultural land (www.kerinci.org).

The reserve is largely mountainous, and forms part of the southern half of the Bukit Barisan mountain range. It has steep sloping land and many high peaks including several that are over 2,500 m

a.s.l. Mount Kerinci, which towers to some 3,800 metres in altitude, is the highest mountain in Sumatra, and the second highest in Indonesia. Right in the middle, the mountain opens up to a relatively flat valley about 70 km long, resting between 900 and 1,300 m a.s.l.. This is the densely populated enclave known as Kerinci valley (ASEAN/JICA/UNEP, *undated*). There are two other large valleys in the northeastern and southwestern sections, and some lowland hill and plain systems on the west and the east (www.kerinci.org)

Within the Kerinci valley, lies the largest mountain lake of the Park - Danau Kerinci, which is about 10 by 6 km and 110 metres deep. The next largest is Danau Gunung Tujuh, which is actually filled-in volcanic crater that stretches to 10 sq. km, and as mentioned earlier, the highest lake in the reserve and all of Southeast Asia. Other lakes include Danau Sati and Danau Ladehpanjang, west of Danau Gunung Tujuh at the north end of the enclave. Danau Langkat and Danau Dua are at the south end of the enclave while a group of three lakes: Danau Pauh, Danau Kechil and Kanau Dipatiempat is located about 300 km of the southern border of the enclave (ASEAN/JICA/UNEP, 1992).

Forest Types

In the Management Framework of Kerinci-Seblat National Park (2002-2006), Laumonier (1994) discussed seven forest

types: lowland, hill, sub-montane, lower montane, mid-montane, upper montane, and the sub-alpine. Laumonier's descriptions of these forest types are summarised below:

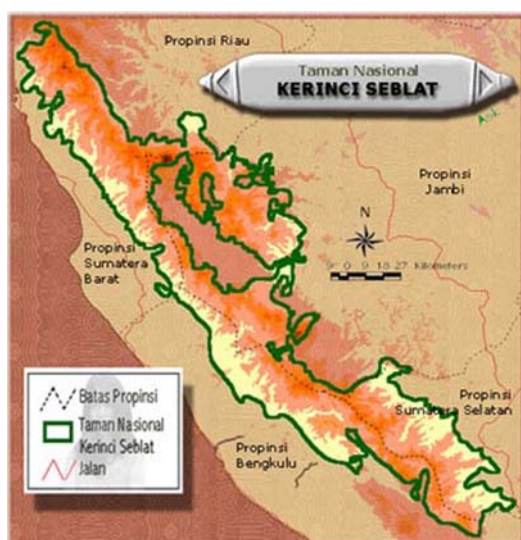
The lowland forest ranges from 150 to 200-m a.s.l. in the eastern slope of Bukit Barisan, and up to 300-m a.s.l. in the west coast, which is dominated by *Dipterocarpus* species, *Shorea atrinervosa* and *S. multiflora*. Along the west side of the Park, this forest type is often restricted to valley bottoms and isolated from areas of similar habitat within the park by hill and sub-montane forests. Small areas of lowland forest are confined to North Bengkulu, Pesisir Selatan, and Musi Rawas Districts. Accordingly, about 24% of this forest type has been lost.

The hill forests, which range from 300 to 800 m a.s.l. in the western side, and from 150-m (lower hill) to 800-m (upper hill) in the eastern side of the Barisan Mountains, are similar in structure but differ in emergent and canopy species. On the volcanic bedrock of the eastern Bukit Barisan, the *Dipterocarpaceae*, *Fagaceae* and *Burseraceae* are dominant, with *Hopea cf. beccariana* as the most abundant species. *Sterculia* is the most abundant emergent species on the steep hill forest on the west coast.

Between 800 and 1,400-m a.s.l. lies the sub-montane forest where trees between 20 and 45 m, as well as emergent trees as high as 50-m are common. Generally, however, species that grow up to 25 to 30-m high such as *Myrtaceae* and *Fagaceae* are more abundant. Two forest facies variations occur: bamboo and *Garcinia*.

The lower montane forest, which occurs between 1,400 and 1,900-m a.s.l., is abundant with epiphytes and mosses that include *Fagaceae*, *Lauraceae*, *Myrtaceae*, *Theaceae*, and a number of *Sapotaceae* species. The undergrowth is particularly rich in *Myrsinaceae*.

In the mid-montane forest that ranges between 1900 and 2400-m a.s.l., microphyllus plants increase considerably and the forest becomes less dense. Podocarpus species may reach 25-m in height. Trees that grow up to 15 to 20 m

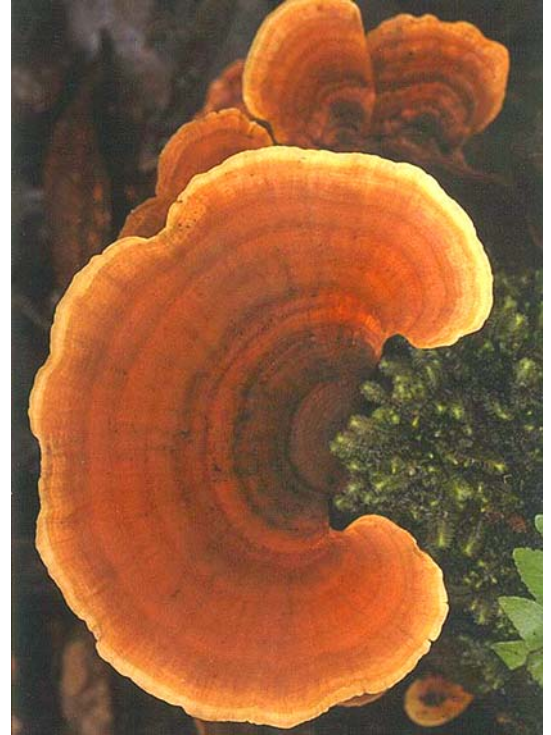


Profiles



Amorphophallus titanum

Photo by Jeremy Holden/FFI



Forest fungus

Photo by Jeremy Holden/FFI



Rafflesia hasseltii

Photo by Jeremy Holden/FFI



Mandarin Veil

Photo by Alain Compost

high include *Quercus oidocarpa*, *Vernonia arborea*, *Symingtonia populnea*, *Drypetes subsymetrica*, *Gordonia buxifolia*, *Weinmannia blumet* and *Polysma integrifolia*. Their trunks are covered with mosses and epiphytes. The lower canopy includes such species as *Olea javanica*, *Archidendron clypearia*, *Platea excelsa*, *Lithocarpus pseudomoluccus* and *Myrsine hasseltii*. Bryophytes are abundant near the upper limit of this forest type.

The upper montane forest is between 2400 and 2900 m a.s.l. Between the 10

to 15-m canopy height, *Symplocos cochinchinensis* var. *sessilifolia* and *Ilex pletobrachiata* are dominant while *Ardisia laevigata*, *Meliosma lanceolata*, and *Cyathea trachypoda* dominate the lower layer (5-10 m). The largest area of this forest type is found on the slopes of Mt. Kerinci where fertile volcanic soils have encouraged conversion of forest to agriculture. Thus about 21% of this forest type has already been lost.

At 2,900-m and above, the Ericaceae (*Rhododendron retusum*, *Vaccinium miquelii*

and *Gaultheria nummularoides*), and Symplocaceae (*Symplocos cochinchinensis*) dominate the sub-alpine thicket, where trees are 3 to 6-m tall.

The Park also has several forested wetlands of international values (Giesen and Sukotjo, 1991, as cited). Notable of these is the Bento swamp and lake lying at 1,375 m a.s.l. It covers 1,000 ha of dwarf peat swamp woodland, small areas of sedge-grass peat swamp, and several tiny lakes. The woodland trees are 5-6 m tall with diameters ranging from 2-6 cm. Their branches are covered with encrusting lichens and draped with climbing ferns. Wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*), and long-tailed macaques are known to roam these areas.

Ladeh Panjang, at 1,950 m a.s.l., is Sumatra's highest recorded peat swamp forest, covering 150 ha. It consists entirely of dwarf peat swamp woodland, with many tussock-forming sedges and grasses. Trees in the woodland are less than 5 m tall, and usually festooned with long, beard-like lichens. Many large mammals inhabit the area; these include the sambar deer (*Cervus unicolor*), muntjak (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), sun-bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), porcupine (*Hystrix* sp), wild pig (*Sus scrofa*), siamang (*Symphalagus syndactylus*) and Malayan tapir (*Tapirus indicus*).

Among the flowering plants, the *Amorphophallus titanum* known locally as

Bunga Bangkai (when flowering) and *Amorphophallus gigas* or Batang Krebuit (non-flowering phase) are claimed to be the world's tallest flowers, the latter towering up to 5 m above the forest floor. The *Amorphophallus* species - its English name is Titan Arum - is also known to attract pollinating insects, by emitting a very strong scent similar to rotting flesh; the flowers can often be smelled even before these are seen. Unfortunately, some locals believe that the flowers eat humans, so they often destroy the plant. On the other hand, *Rafflesia hasseltii*, locally called Cendawan Harimau, is famous as the world's largest flower (www.kerinci.org).

There are a myriad other plant and animal species unique to the Park. Some like the Kerinci rabbit (*Nesolagus netscherie*) and two rare ground birds, have even been assumed to be extinct, as these have never been seen for almost 70 years. Recently however, researchers from Fauna and Flora International have recorded Kerinci rabbits and also sighted the Graceful pitta and the Schneider's pitta (*Pitta schneideri*) (www.kerinci.org).

The Sumatran is the last surviving race of tiger in Indonesia; the Javanese and Balinese tigers have already become extinct because of poaching and habitat loss. The Indonesian Government has thus created the Sumatran Tiger Project to protect this critically endangered species (www.kerinci.org).



Sumatran Tiger

Photo by Jeremy Holden, FFI

Profiles

Other rare and endangered species include the Sumatran elephant (*Elephas maximus sumatrensis*), Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) – watched by the Rhino Protection Unit, Golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*), and Marbled cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*). Of the hundreds of bird species so far recorded in the Park, the Helmeted hornbill (*Buceros vigil*), one of five hornbill species found there, and the Salvadori's pheasant (*Lophura inornata*) are among the rare and threatened ones. The Sumatran pit viper (*Trimeresurus trimeresurus sumatranus*) is also threatened (www.kerinci.org).

The most important primates include the siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*), Dark-handed gibbon (*Hylobates agilis*), and two macaques: Long-tailed (*Macaca fascicularis*), and Pig-tailed (*Macaca nemestrina*) (ASEAN/JICA/UNEP, undated).

The Ethnic Groups and Their Culture

Several indigenous ethnic and sub-ethnic groups live on the fringes of the Park. The Minangkabau are found in the north, the Kerinci in the middle, the Ipuh along the west coast, and the Rejangin in the south. In some villages, they have mixed with other ethnic groups such as the Javanese, Batak, and Sundanese (KSNP Management Framework, 2002-2006).

Over 70% of these groups rely on agriculture. They grow seasonal crops such as vegetables, wet and dry rice; semi-permanent crops like coffee, and permanent crops that include rubber, oil palm and cinnamon (KSNP Management Framework, 2002-2006).

Some ethnic and sub-ethnic groups surrounding the park are still practising their own traditional systems of using natural resources. The residents of Rantau Kermas in Sub-district Jangkat, District of Merangin, for one, have agreed not to sell land in the village to prevent land shortage that would increase pressure on forestland. Similar principles can be found in other villages surrounding the park. However, outside intervention (especially with the implementation of Law No. 5, 1979) has challenged and weakened traditional values. But now that the law has been cancelled, and a new law (Law no 22, 1999) regarding village government is being implemented, their traditional values may be strengthened again (KSNP Management Framework, 2002-2006).

In addition, the Kubu population represents a traditional culture of nomadic rain forest foragers, the only case so far in Sumatra. Referring to themselves as Orang Rimba, "People of the Forest", the Kubu are generally found throughout the upper parts of the Batang Hari and Musi watersheds where navigable watercourses create a number of relatively large interfluves. The Kubu inhabit the interiors of these interfluves, which are fringed by Malay village communities settled on the riverbanks. They are extremely mobile, remain outside any normal administration, constantly move between different villages, sub-districts, or even districts, and have a long tradition of adverse relations with outside authorities (Sandbuki, 1995). The Kubu are not residents within the Park but



Rhacophorus sp

Photo by Jeremy Holden, FFI



Saturniid moth

Photo by Jeremy Holden, FFI



Sumatran Elephant

Photo by Jeremy Holden, FFI

may occasionally enter the lowland forests of the Park's eastern edge.

Park Management

The Directorate-General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (Perlindungan Hutan dan Konservasi Alam - PHKA) within the Ministry of Forestry is the responsible for the management and stewardship of Indonesia's protected area system. PHKA's mandate covers the planning, designation and management of all national parks. The office provides strategic vision and leadership, and supervises communication and collaboration at the national level among entities concerned with park management. At the field level, each national park is managed by a Park manager with an annual budget from PHKA (The World Bank Staff Appraisal Report, 1996. KSNP-ICDP).

The Park headquarters in Sungai Penuh administer Kerinci-Seblat through provincial offices located in Jambi, West Sumatra, Bengkulu, and South Sumatra. The Head Office has a visitors' centre while each of the management offices, except for Jambi, has an information centre.

The Park is under permanent threat of fragmentation, encroachment, mining, over logging, and poaching. In order to contain these activities, the Government of Indonesia and the World Bank (IBRD,

GEF) have financed a six-year, multi-million-dollar project known as Kerinci-Seblat National Park Integrated Conservation and Development Project (KSNP-ICDP). Local and international consultants that include WWF-Indonesia are providing technical assistance to the Project. The project aims to improve park management and protect its biodiversity and territorial integrity. The latter shall be achieved through two major commitments: (a) prosecute persons who encroach and conduct illegal activities, and (b) financially and institutionally help the people in and around the Park to earn their living without irreversibly impoverishing the Park's resources. The 'Adat' (tradition) concept of managing forests is being promoted in the buffer zone.

It was through the Project's Park Management Component that KSNP has been "gazetted", that is, precise boundaries have been marked, mapped and legalised.

How to Get There

Kerinci Seblat National Park may be reached through international and domestic flight connections serving the provincial capitals of Padang, Jambi and Bengkulu. These cities are within a 5- to 8-hour drive from the town of Sungai Penuh. Located 275 km from Sungai Penuh, Padang is the best gateway to the Park. International flights from Malaysia and Singapore, and daily flights from Jakarta lead to the city. Visitors to the eastern edge of the park, in particular those wanting to see wild elephants, may travel via Jambi (located 475 km from Sungai Penuh). Also, Jambi's airport offers daily connections to the capital.

By Air. Padang: (International):

Pelangi (branch of MAS) flies from Kuala Lumpur, via Johore to Padang every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Silk Air (branch of Singapore Airlines) flies to Padang Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

(Domestic): Two flights, daily, to Jakarta (Mandala and Garuda). There are additional flights to Medan for visitors planning to visit both Kerinci-Seblat and Gunung Leuser National Parks. **Jambi:** Daily flights to Jakarta (Mandala and Pleangi).

Bengkulu: Two flights a week to Jakarta.

Palembang: Daily flights to Jakarta.

By Land: The small market town of Sungai Penuh and the tea plantation village of Kersik Tuo at the foot of Gunung Kerinci are the most popular bases for excursionists. Sungai Penuh also houses the headquarters of the national park and is served by bus transportation to the provincial capitals of Padang and Jambi as well as other major cities in central Sumatra.

Buses tend to depart only when full, and those going to Sungai Penuh are not air-conditioned. Air-conditioned mini-buses provide a more comfortable and quicker journey, and will pick up and drop off passengers at specified locations. *Lokets* at the central bus station sell bus and travel tickets. Most hotels can book tickets for a mini bus service.

Direct bus and/or travel services connect Kerinci with the following towns and cities: **Padang:** From this city, it takes 10 hours by bus, via the Muara Labuh and Kayuaro route to reach Kerinci. For those climbing Mt. Kerinci or Gunung Tujuh, getting off at Kersik Tuo, which has several homestays, would be ideal. An alternate route from Padang is along the coast road via Painan and Tapan. Travel minibuses ply the Kerinci-Tapan route (7 hours). For those coming from **Jambi**, a Travel service takes 10 hours via Sarolangun and Bangko, and a bus, 12 to 15 hours. From **Bengkulu**, one could travel by bus (15 hours) following the coast road via Tapan, Muko Muko, Ipuh. For those travelling on a hired car, the Bengkulu-Curup-Lubuklinggau-Bangko route is recommended. **Bukittinggi:** Once a week bus travel from Padang.

Pekanbaru: Daily connecting service (Travel) between Sungai Penuh-Padang-Pekanbaru. Regular direct bus service, more than 20 hours via Padang. Traveling hours are only estimates and depend on road conditions.

From the Padang airport, the official yellow taxis can take passengers to the national park but a rented *Kijang* (Indonesia's versatile high wheel-base family station wagon) would be the best option. The fare will depend on one's

bartering skills. From Padang, two roads lead to Sungai Penuh: the inland and shorter route through the mountains, passing through Kersik Tuo, which is an one hour ride before reaching Sungai Penuh; and the coastal route to Tapan, which leads to the Park via Muara Sako valley. Both routes are very scenic with many opportunities for roadside birding.

Getting Around the Park

Small buses and minivans known locally as *oplets* or *microlets* provide local transport. *Oplets* serve outlying villages and usually return to their base in the early afternoon. Public transport also serves some very remote villages but only on market days at the nearest large village. For a more comfortable ride and a set journey time, hiring a car would be best. Local public transport service between villages generally ends by 3:00 pm, but one can always ask around for an *ojek* (motorcycle taxi).

Public transport to some areas of interest

Gunung Kerinci/Gunung Tujuh: Buses run regularly between Sungai Penuh and Kayuaro (1 hour and 25 min. travel time), from approximately 0600h to 1700h.

Muara Emat: Travel mini-buses (leaving between 0830 and 0930h) or standard buses (mid morning and later afternoon) ply the Sungai Penuh-Bangko-Jambi route. More or less two hours.

Gunung Masurai/Muara Manderas: Buses leave from Bangko in the mornings (3.5 hours more or less). There is no easy travel connection from Sungai Penuh so one could plan to spend the night in Bangko Ipuh and Seblat (Bengkulu): Direct bus service (4 hours more or less) from Bengkulu city, or take local *oplets*. From Kerinci (Sungai Penuh), take the Kerinci-Bengkulu bus and tell the driver where you want to get off. (8-9 hours)

Bukit Tapan and Muara Sako: Public transport is not readily available. Either take an *ojek* from Sungai Penuh to the top of Bukit Tapan and start walking or wait for the daily (late morning) Kerinci-Bengkulu bus. Return (night) on the Bengkulu or Padang to Kerinci buses.

Riverboat rides

Some park-edge communities can only be reached by crossing a river, but riverboat rides are for adventurers only so it is advisable to check out one's insurance!

Air Liki: Bangko, is an enclave east of the national park between Bangko and Kerinci. Take a motorboat from Bangko or from Ngaol (more or less two hours), then hire a local guide and walk from Air Liki to Kerinci (Tarutung village).

Musi Rawas, South Sumatra: One can find the Kubu Lodge Hotel, a small forest lodge specifically designed for ecotourism. Boats reach this place from Pulau Kida village near Sarolangun Rawas (Lubuklinggau).

Ulu Batang Asai: In the headwaters of the Asai River, 80 km west of Sarolangun on the Trans Sumatra Highway, five small traditional villages are nestled in a beautiful valley surrounded by primary forest. A 3.5h bus ride from Sarolangun, then a motorised, hand-built canoe ride (2hrs) upriver reaches the village. Non-swimmers are cautioned against taking this trip.

What to See and Do

The Kerinci website recommends several attractions and eco-tourism activities at the National Park. Some are

summarised below.

Kerinci offers excellent access to hill and montane rainforest avifauna and the added attraction of seeing Sumatran endemic species. A few lucky visitors have seen the Kerinci rabbit and at least three tourists so far have seen the mysterious *Orang Pendek*, which is considered Asia's greatest natural history mystery. Zoologists have been cataloguing reports of this mysterious ape in the Park for more than 150 years but, to this day, the animal generally known in Kerinci as '*uhang pandak*', remains unidentified by scientists. Three naturalists from Flora and Fauna International, who have been searching the forests for three years to obtain proof of *orang pendek*, "fear that if *orang pendek* indeed exists, it may be very close to extinction."

Birding: Among bird watchers, the Park has been internationally recognised as the place to see many of Sumatra's 610 recorded bird species, and a majority of the island's endemic birds which are found generally at altitudes exceeding 1000 meters, notably on the slopes of mountains such as Kerinci and Gunung Tujuh. For beginners, a good start for bird watching is around the rice fields (*sawah*) of Sungai Penuh — where munias, Lesser Coucal, egrets, bitterns



Golden Cat

Photo by Jeremy Holden, FFI

and purple moorhen have been spotted.

Birding from the Mura Sako road is also popular. Many people have seen the Schneider's Pitta, Sumatran Peacock Pheasant, and even the elusive Sumatran cochoa. The birder's log kept in Subandi's Losman in Kersik Tuo keeps updated information on where key species can be found. For bird identification or those who want more details about the birds, the Kerinci website recommends, among others, the comprehensive field guide "Birds of Sumatra, Borneo, Java and Bali" by John MacKinnon and Karen Phillipps; English and Indonesian versions are available. The website also provides bird watching tips.

Climbing Gunung Kerinci: People from all over the world come to climb Gunung Kerinci. The view from the top is remarkable. As one climbs up to the summit, nothing disturbs the sight across one of the last remnants of Sumatra's once vast natural rainforest landscapes.

Most people start from Kersik Tuo, which is an hour's climb through tea and cinnamon plantations to the park entrance gate; or get an *Ojek* (motorcycle taxi) to reach the gate. Normally, it is quite an easy 8-hour hike up to the base camp. From the camp, one has to get up at least two hours before dawn to make the final steep climb to the summit but, if the summit is covered with clouds or if the volcano is active, no one should attempt to reach it.

Trekking: Leisure walks, particularly between villages along the ancient trading paths, allow visitors to experience the magic of the deep forest. A local guide is essential for most walks. Locals have a good knowledge of the area, its animals, plants as well as legends. For deep jungle treks, the Park staff in Sungai Penuh or the rangers can provide advice on reliable guides; these are local people who help in the Park during their spare time.

For treks into remote locations, local guides would insist on a second guide or a porter — mainly for their safety and the visitors. Pay rates are negotiable and charged from morning of departure to return to base. Fees for English-speaking

guides are generally higher. Groups should always negotiate a special fee and agree on the prices before embarking on a trek, whether for a day or a week.

Visitors are advised to be sensitive to local customs and beliefs, and to ask what one may and may not do in the forest. Taboos vary from one community to another community.

Longer treks: All the treks detailed below require one to be physically fit — and visitors should discuss their route with guides and park rangers before setting off.

- **Lempur-Seramphas-Dusun Tuo** — Three days on easy, well-used jungle trail, forest and ladang and isolated Kerinci settlement of Seramphas. Caves, hot springs. Wildlife includes elephant, tiger, tapir, and giant tortoise.

TNKS ranger posts: Bangko. Lempur.

- **Lempur/Talang Kemoning-Sungai Ipuh** — Three to four days. Detour via semi-active volcanoes of G. Kunyit or G. Beliarang for hot springs, sulphur fields. Hill and lowland forests. Tiger, tapir, bear. Good swimming in jungle rivers.

TNKS ranger post: Lempur.

- **Pelompek-Danau Tujuh-Tandai** (or vv): Six days. Montane forests above Lake GunungTujuh, (rare montane siamang gibbon) then descend through the fine forests to old logged lowland hill forests of Tandai. Wildlife watching of tiger, tapir, bear, and birds. Rafflesia and many orchids in rainy season.

TNKS ranger post: Pelompek. Sikinjang (Padang Aro)

- **Tanjung Genting-Sungai Penuh/Muara Sako.** Three/four days. Mainly highland forest, following mountain ridges around Kerinci valley. Waterfalls, mossy forest (Gunung Mesjid), hot springs. Tapir, bear, tiger. Many siamang. Also possible to trek from Tanjung Genting to Air Haji or Indrapura on West Sumatra coast (two extra days).

TNKS ranger post: Tapan

- **Pungut Mudik-Renah Pemetik-Pelompek** (or vv). Three days easy walking through traditional farming settlements and forest. Beautiful scenery. For a longer trek, bird and animal watchers should head for the fine hill forests on the

slopes of Gunung Pata Tiga.

Nearest TNKS ranger post: Pungut Muduk

Tarutung (Kerinci) - Air Liki - Sungai Manau. Four days plus. Still regularly-used trail near Lake Kerinci to isolated forest settlement of Air Liki. From there, one can take a sampan or bamboo raft down to Sungai Manau - and even as far as Bangko.

Nearest TNKS ranger post: Tamaie

Muara Aman-Ketenuh-Seblat-Madras. Four days. Mainly primary (hilly) lowland forest. Hot springs, tiger, rhinoceros, rafflesia.

Tapus-Rejang Lebong-Sarolanggun - Five-six days. Many caves (swifts and bats) tiger, bear, tapir - hope to meet nomadic hunter-gatherer Kubu people (Suku Dalam) in the forest.

Where to Stay

There are several hotels, and homestays operated by local families in Kerinci-Seblat. Following is a list of some of the Park's more popular places in Sungai Penuh and in other areas as recommended in the Kerinci website.

Some hotels in Sungai Penuh (with their room rates per night): **Yani, Jl.** Muradi, Tel.(62-748) 21409; 20-55,000 Rupiah; **Busana, Jl.** Depati Parbo, Tel. No. (62-748) 21122; 20-60,000 Rp.; **Aroma, Jl.** R.A. Kartini, Tel No. (62-748) 21142; 16,500-60,500 Rp.; **Masgo, Jl.** Depati Parbo, No. 20, Tel.no. (62-748) 323603; 18-60,000 Rp; **Matahari, Jl.** Ahmad Yani, Tel. No. (62-748) 21061, 18-35,000 Rp. (Price List updated 11 March 2002 (1 USD = Rp. 10,000)

Home Stays (Jl. Raya Kayu Aro): The rate per night is 15,000 Rp. Among those mentioned in the website are: **Bandi** (62-748) 357009; **Darmin; Paiman; Timan; Wandu; and Solok and Edes, both in Pelompek.**

Outside of Sungai Penuh, the popular lodging establishments include the following: **Penginapan Damaie**, Jl Protokol, Medan Jaya, Ipuh, Bengkulu Utara, Tel: (62-737) 61021; **Losmen Bukit Indah**, Jl Jenderal Sudirman, Bangko, Jambi, Tel: (62-746) 21349; Hotel Ratu, Jl. Lintas Sumatera, Sarolanggun, Jambi, Tel. (62-

736) 22682; and **Carolina Beach Hotel**, Bungus Bay, Padang Tel: (62-751) 37900 or (62-751) 37863.

The popular home stays outside of Sungai Penuh, include the following: Subandi's Homestay, Kersik Tuo: (A big favourite with birders and mountain climbers, Pak Subandi's house is 30 meters from the road entering the tea plantation and leading up to the base of Gunung Kerinci. A birders' log is kept here containing the latest information on where to see the Park's speciality birds); Kasihan Ombak, Sindang-Silaut. (On the coast road from Tapan to Muko Muko, and serves exceptional food. Access from here to Sindang-Silaut peat swamp coastal forests.); and Damaie, Jln Protokol Medan Jaya, Ipuh. (Can organise guided trekking, birding, and turtle watching).■

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