

Red-eared Slider

The Red-eared Slider gets its name from the small red stripes around its ears. It is an extremely popular pet all over the world.

It is native to southern United States and northern Mexico, but has become established in many other countries due to the pet trade. It is a hardy and aggressive species, and establishes itself easily, and is considered one of the world's most invasive species. Hatchlings are sold at a low price and its small size and attractive appearance make it a commonly kept turtle. As it grows in size and outgrows its novelty value, it is often released into lakes and ponds and some escape into the rivers.

Invasive Red-eared Sliders cause negative impacts to the ecosystems they occupy because they have certain advantages over the native populations, such as a lower age of maturity, higher reproductive rates, as well as when competing for food resources. They also transmit diseases and displace the local species with which they compete for food and breeding space.

9958

RED-EARED SLIDER, COMMON SLIDER

Local name
Kura Telinga Merah

Scientific name
Trachemys scripta

Food
Aquatic vegetations, fishes, carrion

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IF YOU ENCOUNTER A SEA TURTLE...

- Do not attempt to touch or hold on to it
- Do not feed it underwater or on land
- Do not take photos using a flash



IF A SEA TURTLE IS NESTING...

- Stay out of its way
- Do not shine a light at it
- Do not crowd around it
- Do not sit on it
- Do not take photos using a flash
- Do not switch on the light on your mobile phone or torchlight
- Do not attempt to retrieve its eggs



IF YOU ENCOUNTER A TURTLE WHILE TREKKING...

- Do not pick it up
- Do not bring it home
- Do not relocate it to another area
- Do not harm it in any way
- Do not scribble words/ numbers on its shell
- Remove geolocation information when posting photos of the turtles on social media sites
- Do not give detailed locations/ landmarks to anybody

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A TURTLE WHILE DRIVING...

- Do not drive/ run over it
- Pull over to the side if it is safe for you to do so
- Help the turtle cross the road if it is safe for you to do so
- Do not place it back to where it came from, or it will attempt to cross the road again
- Do not bring it home
- Do not relocate it to another area
- Always ensure your own safety before attempting to help a turtle

TURTLES OF MALAYSIA



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Sea Turtles

Sea turtles (or marine turtles) are amongst Earth's most ancient creatures. They have been around for more than 100 million years, since the time of the dinosaurs. Sea turtles live in almost every ocean basin throughout the world, nesting on tropical and subtropical beaches. They migrate long distances to feed, often crossing entire oceans.

Sea turtles have flippers and unlike freshwater turtles, cannot retract their heads and flippers into their shells. Sea turtles do not have teeth, but their jaws have modified "beaks" suited to their particular diet. They do not have visible ears but have eardrums covered by skin. They hear best at low frequencies, and their sense of smell is excellent.

Among the threats that sea turtles face are entanglement in fishing gear, habitat loss and degradation as well as consumption of their eggs and meat. They are also poached for their shells, which are used for jewellery and ornaments. Sea turtles often drown if it gets caught in fishing gears such as shrimp trawls, long lines and gill nets. Coastal development can destroy critical nesting sites, impact coral reefs, and artificial light from houses and other buildings attracts hatchlings away from the ocean.

Pollution like plastic bags are often mistaken for food such as jellyfish and ingested, which blocks their intestines and potentially kills them. Items such as plastic straws and bottles often end up accidentally eaten by sea turtles, causing severe injury and death.

There are seven species of sea turtles in the world, and four species are known to nest in Malaysia.

Tortoises

Tortoises are primarily land-dwelling turtles that do not swim. They live in diverse habitats, including deserts, arid grasslands, and scrub to wet evergreen forests, and from sea level to mountains.

Most tortoises are herbivores, feeding on grasses, weeds, leafy greens, flowers, and some fruits, although some may be omnivorous.

Tortoises generally have one of the longest lifespans of any animal, and some individuals are known to have lived longer than 150 years. In most tortoise species, the female tends to be larger than the male. The male plastron is curved inwards to aid reproduction. The easiest way to determine the sex of a tortoise is to look at the tail. The females, as a general rule, have smaller tails, dropped down, whereas the males have much longer tails that are usually pulled up and to the side of the rear shell.

Like other turtle species, habitat loss and degradation and hunting for the meat trade are threats. But an increasingly significant threat to tortoises, is illegal poaching to supply the demand from high-end reptile collectors. These reptile enthusiasts desire rare species, and the smaller the wild population, the higher the premium they are willing to pay. Endemic species are particularly vulnerable, and many have been driven close to extinction.

There are 3 species of tortoises that are native to Malaysia.

Freshwater Turtles

Freshwater turtles are found in freshwater environments, such as rivers, streams, lakes and ponds.

Most freshwater turtles have webbed feet, and can retract their heads into their shells. Freshwater turtles are generally smaller in size than sea turtles, with the exception of some softshell turtles.

Among the threats that freshwater turtles face are entanglement in fishing gear, habitat loss, and poaching and trafficking for the pet, meat and medicinal trade as well as for ornamental use.

They are also threatened by the demand for their eggs. Freshwater turtles need to surface for air and if they are caught in fishing gears for long hours while submerged, they may drown. Habitat destruction, in the form of sand mining, not only destroys the dynamics of the river, but also critical nesting banks for some species of freshwater turtles.

There are 15 species of freshwater turtles that are native to Malaysia.

Each species in the MyBIS system has its own unique identifying number. This species number enables a user to search for a particular species quickly. To search for a species, enter www.mybis.gov.my/sp/xxxx where xxxx is the species number. Alternatively, you may also scan the QR code on the left. Go on, try it out!



Scan to explore MyBIS in Telegram

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- University of Malaya (UM)
- Malaysia Biodiversity Information System (MyBIS)
- Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
- Taipei Zoo

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IMAGE CONTRIBUTORS



SEA TURTLES



21029

LEATHERBACK TURTLE

Local name: Penyu Belimbing
Scientific name: *Dermochelys coriacea*
Food: Predominantly jellyfishes

20930

GREEN TURTLE

Local name: Penyu Agar
Scientific name: *Chelonia mydas*
Food: Seagrasses, seaweed



21128

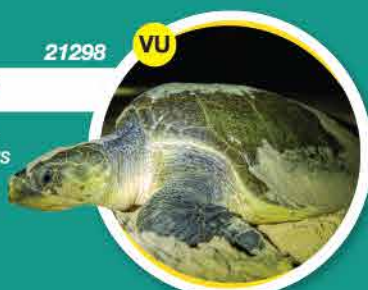
HAWKSBILL TURTLE

Local name: Penyu Karah
Scientific name: *Eretmochelys imbricata*
Food: Predominantly sponges found in coral reefs

21298

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE

Local name: Penyu Lipas
Scientific name: *Lepidochelys olivacea*
Food: Crustaceans, jellyfishes, fishes, seagrasses



TORTOISES



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21361

IMPRESSED TORTOISE

Local name: Baning Bukit
Scientific name: *Manouria impressa*
Food: Forest mushrooms, fruits, grasses, bamboo shoots
Habitat: Typically on hills and mountains

9956

ASIAN BROWN TORTOISE

Local name: Baning Perang
Scientific name: *Manouria emys*
Food: Fruits, leaves, seedlings, mushrooms, bamboo shoots, invertebrates (prawns, crabs), insects, frogs

Habitat: Temperate moist, broadleaf forest and tropical evergreen rainforest that experience monsoon rains, typically in upland areas



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21151

ELONGATED TORTOISE

Local name: Baning Lonjong
Scientific name: *Indotestudo elongata*
Food: Leaves and fruits
Habitat: Teak forests where the humidity is high

EXTINCT



THREATENED

LOWER RISK

FRESHWATER TURTLES



CR

49568

SOUTHERN RIVER TERRAPIN

Local name: Tuntung Sungai
Scientific name: *Batagur affinis*

Food: Mangrove apples, screwpine, vines, grasses, wild mangosteens, malay apples, riverine grasses

Habitat: Intertidal areas in large rivers



female

CR

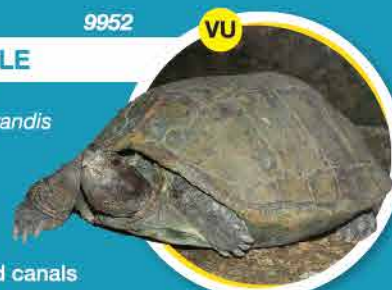
9952

GIANT ASIAN POND TURTLE

Local name: Kura-Kura Besar
Scientific name: *Heosemys grandis*

Food: Vegetable matter, fruits, small invertebrates (prawns, crabs, insects, worms) and fishes

Habitat: Lakes, ponds, rivers streams and canals



VU



CR

48617

PAINTED TERRAPIN

Local name: Tuntung Laut
Scientific name: *Batagur borneoensis*

Food: Mangrove apples, screwpine, vines, grasses, wild mangosteens, malay apples, riverine grasses

Habitat: Juveniles in freshwater areas of rivers; adults in estuarine areas



female

CR

21392

MALAYSIAN GIANT TURTLE

Local name: Juku-Juku Besar
Scientific name: *Orlitia borneensis*

Food: Seeds, fruits, aquatic plants, molluscs, prawns, crabs and fishes

Habitat: Large lakes, swamps and slow-flowing rivers



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21606

BLACK MARSH TURTLE

Local name: Kura-Kura Kolam
Scientific name: *Siebenrockiella crassicolis*

Food: Various plant materials, aquatic invertebrates (molluscs, prawns, crabs), frogs, fishes, carrion

Habitat: Slow-moving or stagnant waters with abundant vegetation



VU



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53731

YELLOW-HEADED TEMPLE TURTLE

Local name: Kura-Kura Tokong
Scientific name: *Heosemys annandalii*

Food: Mostly plants

Habitat: Flooded field, wet forests, swamps, and very slow-flowing rivers



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VU

21365

MALAYAN FLAT-SHELLED TURTLE

Local name: Kura Punggung Datar
Scientific name: *Notochelys platynota*

Food: Plants, fruits and small invertebrates (molluscs, prawns, crabs)

Habitat: Clear, shallow waters with small currents, such as those in streams, ponds, marshes and soft-bottomed swamps

22612

MALAYAN SNAIL-EATING TURTLE

Local name: Jelebu Siput
Scientific name: *Malayemys macrocephala*

Food: Freshwater snails, shrimps, crabs, insect larvae, worms and fishes

Habitat: A range of freshwater habitats where there is little current, muddy bottoms and plenty of aquatic vegetations



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9949

BOX TURTLE

Local name: Kura-Kura Katup
Scientific name: *Cuora amboinensis*

Food: Mostly feed on plants but also invertebrates (insects, molluscs, prawns and crabs)

Habitat: Juveniles fully aquatic (marshes, swamps, ponds, pools, rice paddies); adults semi-aquatic



9951

ASIAN LEAF TURTLE

Local name: Kura-Kura Bergerigi
Scientific name: *Cyclornis dentata*

Food: Fruits, invertebrates (prawns, crabs, snails, worms), insects and carrion

Habitat: Typically on hills with abundant vegetations



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9953

SPINY TURTLE

Local name: Kura-Kura Duri Bukit
Scientific name: *Heosemys spinosa*

Food: Seeds, plants, insects and carrion

Habitat: Near shallow rainforest streams in wooded and forested hill and mountain regions



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SOFTSHELL TURTLES



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20934

NARROW-HEADED SOFTSHELL TURTLE

Local name: Labi-Labi Bintang
Scientific name: *Chitra chitra*

Food: Freshwater invertebrates (prawns, crabs) and fishes

Habitat: Large rivers with clear water and sandy bottoms

20746

SOUTHEAST ASIAN SOFTSHELL TURTLE

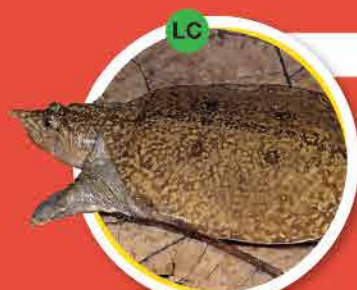
Local name: Labi-Labi, Labi Biasa
Scientific name: *Amyda cartilaginea*

Food: Prawns, crabs, snails, clams, insects, some fishes and vegetable matter

Habitat: Lakes, ponds, canals and lowland streams



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9955

MALAYAN SOFTSHELL TURTLE

Local name: Labi Melayu
Scientific name: *Doganina subplana*

Food: Fruits, aquatic invertebrates (prawns, crabs, snails) and fishes

Habitat: Clean running water in rocky streams at high elevations

21396

ASIAN GIANT SOFTSHELL TURTLE

Local name: Labi-Labi
Scientific name: *Pelochelys cantorii*

Food: Mainly fishes, presumably also prawns, crabs and molluscs

Habitat: Inland, slow-moving freshwater rivers and streams



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