

## 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  
Food  
Aquatic vegetations, fishes, carrion

Scientific name  
*Trachemys scripta*

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## TURTLES OF MALAYSIA

## 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.

### 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

Scan to explore MyBIS in Telegram



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/ep/xxxx where xxxx is the species number. Alternatively, you may also scan the QR code on the left. Go on, try it out!



- Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia (TCS)
- University of Malaya (UM)
- Malaysia Biodiversity Information System (MyBIS)
- Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
- Taiiping Zoo

### IN COLLABORATION WITH



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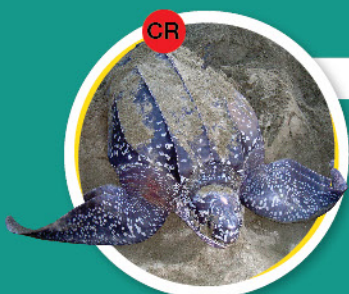
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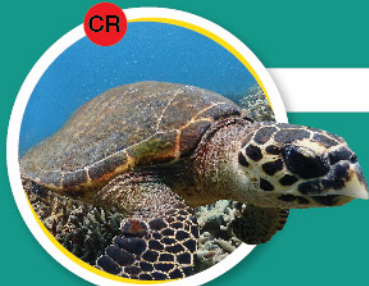
## SEA TURTLES



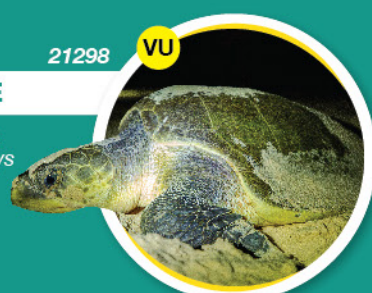
**21029**  
**LEATHERBACK TURTLE**  
Local name: Penyu Belimbing | Scientific name: *Dermochelys coriacea*  
Food: Predominantly jellyfishes



**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



**21361**  
**IMPRESSED TORTOISE**  
Local name: Baniang Bukit | Scientific name: *Manouria impressa*  
Food: Forest mushrooms, fruits, grasses, bamboo shoots  
Habitat: Typically on hills and mountains



**9956**  
**ASIAN BROWN TORTOISE**  
Local name: Baniang 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



**21151**  
**ELONGATED TORTOISE**  
Local name: Baniang Lonjong | Scientific name: *Indotestudo elongata*  
Food: Leaves and fruits  
Habitat: Teak forests where the humidity is high

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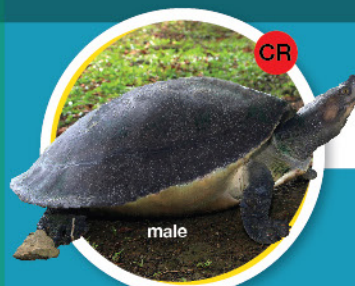
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## FRESHWATER TURTLES

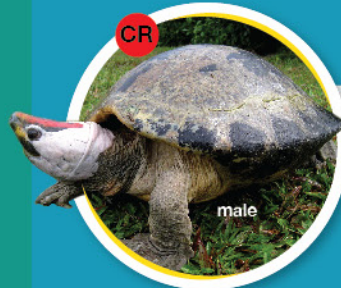
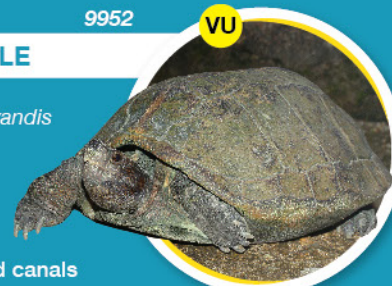


**49568**  
**SOUTHERN RIVER TERRAPIN**  
Local name: Tuntung Sungai | Scientific name: *Batagur affinis*  
Food: Mangrove apples, screwpine, vines, grasses, wild mangosteens, malay apples, riverine grasses  
Habitat: Intertidal areas in large rivers

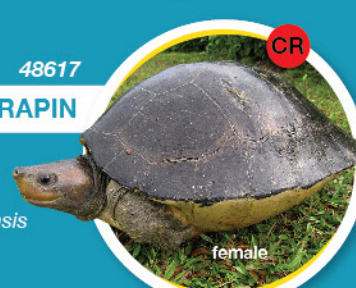


### GIANT ASIAN POND TURTLE

**9952**  
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



**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



**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

### BLACK MARSH TURTLE

**21606**  
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



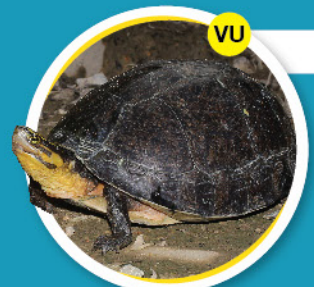
**53731**  
**YELLOW-HEADED TEMPLE TURTLE**  
Local name: Kura-Kura Tokong | Scientific name: *Heosemys annandalii*  
Food: Mostly plants  
Habitat: Flooded field, wet forests, swamps, and very slow-flowing rivers



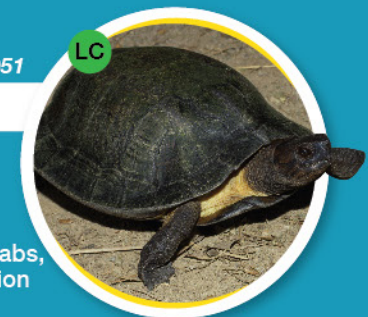
**21365**  
**MALAYAN FLAT-SHELLED TURTLE**  
Local name: Kura Punggung Datar | Scientific name: *Notochelys platynota*  
Food: Plants, fruits and small invertebrates (molluscs, prawns, crabs)  
Habitat: Clear, shallow waters with small currents, such as those in streams, ponds, marshes and soft-bottomed 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



**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: *Cyclanorbis dentata*  
Food: Fruits, invertebrates (prawns, crabs, snails, worms), insects and carrion  
Habitat: Typically on hills with abundant vegetations



**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

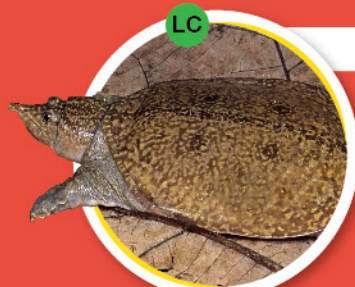
## SOFTSHELL TURTLES



**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



**9955**  
**MALAYAN SOFTSHELL TURTLE**  
Local name: Labi Melayu | Scientific name: *Dogania 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