



*MNS HORNBILL CONSERVATION PROJECT (Est. 2004)*  
**MNS HORNBILL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME 2018**  
**INFORMATION SHEET**



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# BELUM-TEMENGOR FOREST COMPLEX

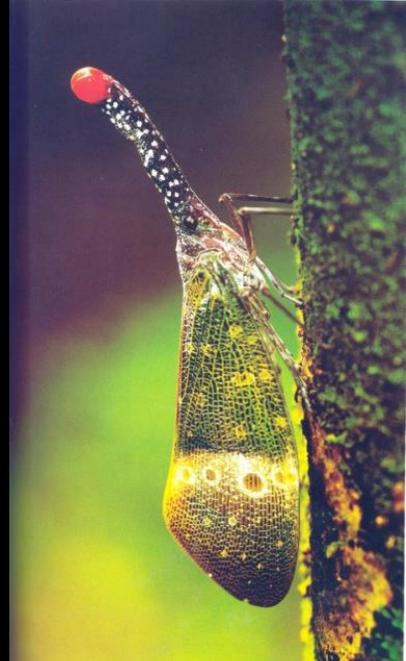
*Jewel of northern Peninsular Malaysia*

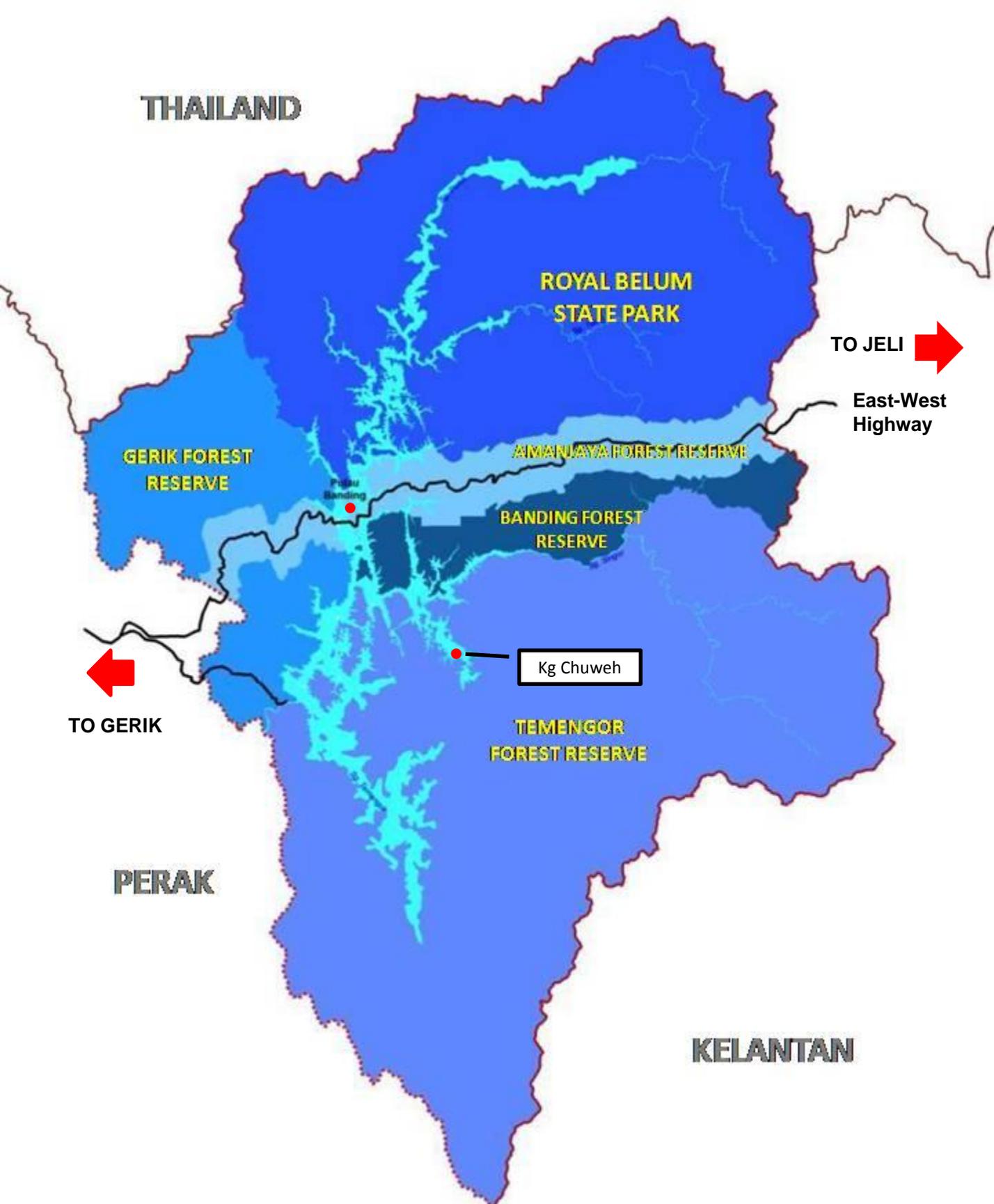


Belum-Temengor Forest Complex (BTFC) is undoubtedly northern Peninsular Malaysia's "natural jewels", the only remaining contiguous block to tropical rainforests linking southern Thailand (Bang Lang National Park/Hala-Bala Wildlife Sanctuary) and parts of the Titiwangsa Range. This large forest complex, about 340,000 ha, consists of several different blocks that are administered by two main State government namely Perak State Parks Corporation (Royal Belum State Park) and Perak State Forestry Department (Gerik, Temengor, Banding and Amanjaya Forest Reserves) (see the map on the next page).



The tropical rainforests of BTFC are reputed to be older than those in the Congo (Africa) and Amazon (South America). BTFC supports an amazing array of biodiversity rivaling, or not surpassing, Taman Negara National Park. Past scientific expeditions into BTFC have uncovered various new findings (some even to science), country records, endemic plants and fauna and geological wonders. BTFC, however, is also known to support large populations of Malaysia's mammals such as the Malayan tiger, Asian elephant, primates and Malayan Tapir. BTFC also fulfils the needs of all 10 hornbill species found in Malaysia. It is one of the two sites in this country where all 10 species can be seen in a single location.





**Administrative forest blocks that make up the BELUM-TEMENGOR FOREST COMPLEX (BTFC)**



*The MNS BT story thus far....*

MNS has advocated for the conservation of BT since the 1990s where the Society organised two scientific and heritage expeditions into Sungai Halong (in Temengor) and Sungai Tan-Hain (in Royal Belum). The expeditions were first of its kind in Malaysia and later such actions were adopted by other government agencies in various states. The BTFC expeditions resulted in confirming the site's natural (and national) heritage value thus in need of protection and conservation attention. Globally, it is also recognised as one of Malaysia's 55 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA). It is also our only Forest of Hope site in Malaysia.

Post-expedition period, MNS has been involved in further advocacy work in securing proper protection status for BT. In the mid-noughties, MNS and her allies mounted a campaign to call for BTFC's protection which resulted in the partial protection of the forest complex i.e. gazettelement of the Royal Belum State Park (117,500 ha) in 2007.

Apart from that, MNS has also established the MNS Hornbill Conservation Project in 2004 as the Society's demonstration of its long-term commitment in the conservation of BTFC's biodiversity. It remains the only long-term hornbill conservation work in Malaysia to date.

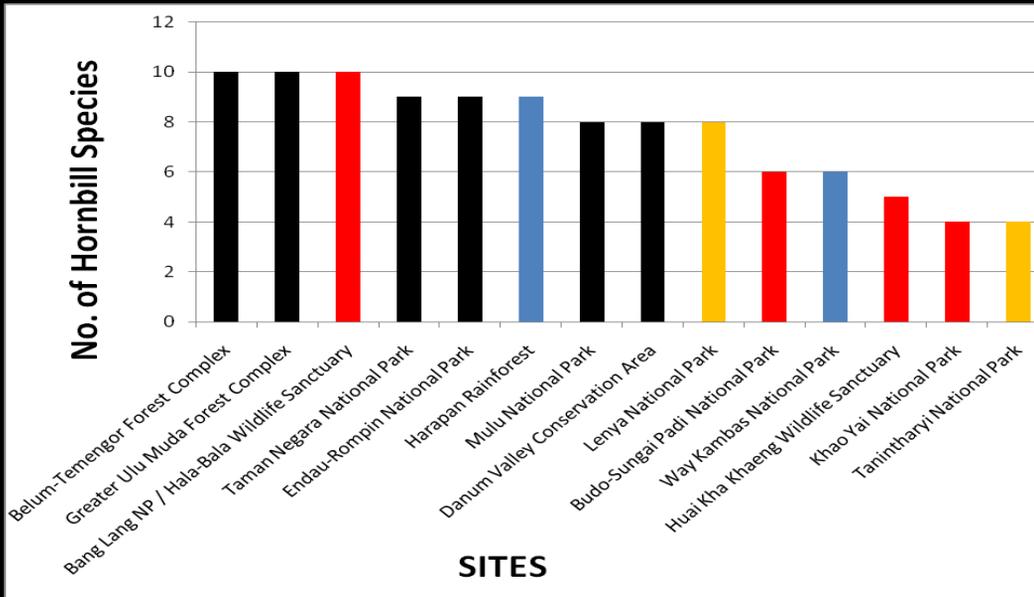
Today, MNS continues to advocate for better protection and conservation for BTFC and explore more opportunities to initiate exciting on-the-ground conservation projects while consolidating existing initiatives.

Your action in sharing the MNS BT story with others is a first step in helping them to know and appreciate BTFC and perhaps lend a hand as well.

# BELUM-TEMENGOR FOREST COMPLEX

## Why BT is special place for hornbills?

Diversity of hornbill species **PER SITE** of several notable locations in Malaysia (in black), Myanmar (orange), Thailand (red) and Indonesia (blue).



In Malaysia, very few places can rival BTFC in terms of hornbill diversity. Only the Greater Ulu Muda Forest Complex (GUMFC) is on par. The earlier MNS expeditions first provided the evidence that Malaysia supported 10 hornbill species with the discovery (of its seasonal mass movement) and confirmation of the globally threatened Plain-pouched Hornbill. The 10 hornbill species are:

- Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*
- Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*
- Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*
- White-crowned Hornbill *Berenicornis comatus*
- Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus*
- Wrinkled Hornbill *Rhyticeros corrugatus*
- Plain-pouched Hornbill *Rhyticeros subruficollis*
- Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros*
- Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*
- Helmeted Hornbill *Rhinoplax vigil*

Globally, Malaysia is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> place with Myanmar in terms of **hornbill diversity per country – 10 each** (Thailand and Indonesia takes first place with 13 species). However, if we look at **hornbill diversity per single site**, BTFC together with GUMFC and southern Thailand are in the top position which brings us to.....

....introducing **HoT** which stands for the  
**Hornbill Triangle**

GREATER ULU  
MUDA FC

BANG LANG NATIONAL  
PARK/HALA-BALA  
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY  
(THAILAND)

Tasik Temengor

BELUM-TEMENGOR FC

US Dept of State Geographer  
© 2012 Tele Atlas  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
© 2012 Cnes/Spot Image

5°40'32.69" N 101°26'20.48" E elev 429 m

# BELUM-TEMENGOR FOREST COMPLEX

## *What do we know so far of the Plain-pouched Hornbills?*



Since the MNS Hornbill Conservation Project began in 2004, MNS has monitored the seasonal mass movement of the Plain-pouched Hornbills and sought to understand the factors that influence their 'migration'. In the early years on the project, monitoring efforts were limited to only a few days monthly due to constraints in resources. The introduction of the MNS Hornbill Volunteer Programme in 2008 enabled MNS to monitor twice daily flyby populations of the Plain-pouched Hornbills at Kg Tebang thus help better understand its daily and monthly trends. Through this continuous effort, we have counted perhaps the highest concentration of hornbills in the world to date i.e. over 3,200 individuals in a single count session. And we have also seen some very low numbers in some years.

The global distribution of Plain-pouched Hornbills is only limited to three countries i.e. Peninsular Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar, with an estimated global population of 7,000 mature individuals. Based on these estimates, it is categorised as a globally threatened bird or Vulnerable to be precise. It is threatened by habitat loss and degradation and hunting/poaching.

Little is still known about their biology, ecology and conservation needs. MNS is working together with the Thailand Hornbill Project team to address this situation. Meanwhile, both parties continue to monitor their movements and locate their nesting sites to enable more detailed observations and improve the species' conservation status.



Plain-pouched Hornbills feeding on the 'piwar' fruit in Temengor in September 2013.





“Half-Beak”, a male Plain-pouched Hornbill with a missing (part) upper mandible observed near Kg Chuweh. A first case reported from the wild (Top). A pair of Plain-pouched Hornbills in flight (Bottom).





The flight formations of Plain-pouched Hornbills. Some fly close to the ridge tops, challenging volunteers to spot and count them accurately.



# MNS HORNBILL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

*MNS needs your support in August and September.*



In 2008, MNS initiated the first Hornbill Volunteer Programme (HVP) as a form of citizen science with the twin objectives of:

1. To conduct intensive daily monitoring of the globally Plain-pouched Hornbills in August and September;
2. To provide opportunities for MNS members to be involved in hornbill conservation efforts; and
3. To foster relationships between MNS members and the Orang Asli communities of BTFC.

Much is still unknown about this hornbill species which underscores the importance of monitoring via the HVP. This long-term national effort hopes to address this gap and use the information gathered to pursue better conservation measures for hornbills and their forest habitat in BTFC.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HVP VOLUNTEERS

- Prepare for your respective HVP session by reading and understanding this Information Sheet.
- Arrange your own transport to Pulau Banding and overnight accommodation at Gerik town if necessary.
- Assist the MNS HVP Field Coordinator/Manager to count the flyby Plain-pouched Hornbills at dawn and dusk daily at fixed count stations.
- Focus, count and report the data as required as accurately as possible.
- Interact with the Kg Chuweh villager(s) through arranged MNS activities and other impromptu opportunities to better understand their way of life and challenges living in this forest complex.
- Provide constructive feedback about your HVP participation/experience to the MNS HVP Field Coordinator/Manager or MNS Secretariat (if requested).



## **SESSION ITINERARY (4D/3N)**

NOTES: (1) With the exception of PPH count sessions, the timing for all other activities are tentative. (2) PPH counts will not be conducted under adverse weather conditions.

### **DAY 1**

1400 hrs – Pick up at the Banding Jetty and travel to Kampung Chuweh  
1500 hrs – Debriefing by the HVP Field Manager  
1615 hrs – Travel to Kampung Tebang PPH count station (dusk count)  
1700 – 1930 hrs – Conduct PPH DUSK COUNT (1).  
2030 hrs – Dinner @ Kampung Chuweh  
2300 hrs – Lights out

### **DAY 2**

0500 hrs – Wake up call. Self-prepared breakfast @ Rumah Enggang  
0615 hrs - Travel to Kampung Tebang PPH count station (dawn count)  
0700 – 0900 hrs – Conduct PPH DAWN COUNT (1).  
1100 – 1300 hrs – Visit local attractions conducted by Orang Asli.  
1400 hrs – Lunch @ Kampung Chuweh  
1500 hrs – Community Activity with Orang Asli  
1615 hrs – Travel to Kampung Tebang PPH count station (dusk count)  
1700 – 1930 hrs – Conduct PPH DUSK COUNT (2).  
2030 hrs – Dinner @ Kampung Chuweh  
2300 hrs – Lights out

### **DAY 3**

0500 hrs – Wake up call. Self-prepared breakfast @ Rumah Enggang  
0615 hrs - Travel to Kampung Tebang PPH count station (dawn count)  
0700 – 0900 hrs – Conduct PPH DAWN COUNT (2).  
1100 – 1300 hrs – Community activity with Orang Asli.  
1300 hrs – Lunch @ Kampung Chuweh  
1500 hrs – Community activity with Orang Asli  
1615 hrs – Travel to Kampung Tebang PPH count station (dusk count)  
1700 – 1930 hrs – Conduct PPH DUSK COUNT (3).  
2030 hrs – Dinner @ Kampung Chuweh  
2300 hrs – Lights out

### **DAY 4**

0500 hrs – Wake up call. Self-prepared breakfast @ Rumah Enggang  
0615 hrs - Travel to Kampung Tebang PPH count station (dawn count)  
0700 – 0900 hrs – Conduct PPH DAWN COUNT (3).  
1000 – 1200 hrs – Free and easy, pack up. Group photo session.  
1200 hrs – Depart for Banding Jetty



**LOCAL DAILY TEMPERATURE: 23 – 33°C**

### **Facilities at Rumah Enggang, Kampung Chuweh**

Facilities in Rumah Enggang are basic. The nearest town is Gerik which is about 40 minutes drive from Banding Jetty. Rumah Enggang can accommodate 5 people (inclusive of the HVP Field Manager) in a single session. The field house has an indoor bathroom, squatting toilet and a simple equipped kitchen. There would be 2-3 hours of electricity at night. Water is piped into Rumah Enggang from village water storage tanks. The source of this water is Sungai Chuweh about 1 km away from the village. There is no handphone reception in the village. (Note: To evacuate the village for any emergency purposes and reach Gerik town would require a minimum of 1.5 hours.)

## **ARE YOU...**

- A member of MNS?
- Enthusiastic and open-minded?
- Interested in Malaysian natural history and biodiversity such as hornbills?
- Appreciate nature?
- Fit and adventurous?
- Able to live under very basic conditions?
- 18 years and above of age?
- Willing to work as a team?
- Keen to know the Orang Asli of this land?
- Can help share the BT story to others after the HVP?

## **THEN JOIN US!**

## **WHAT DOES MNS PROVIDE DURING THE HVP?**

- Candles (for morning use)
- Limited electricity (2-3 hours at night)
- Sleeping mats
- Mosquito nets
- Basic light cooking facilities (Lunch and dinner are provided by the villagers. Pork will not be served.)
- Basic bathroom with squatting toilet
- Basic first aid kit and medicines
- Reading materials on Belum-Temengor Forest Complex

## **MNS DOES NOT PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING, SO BRING YOUR OWN....**

- Binoculars (essential)
- Camera
- Extra batteries
- Torchlight
- Good walking shoes or hiking boots
- Slippers
- Leech socks
- Long sleeves and pants (earth colors advised)
- Light sweater for night and early morning and cooling clothes for the afternoon
- Personal medical kit and/or medicines
- Mosquito spray/insect repellent
- Personal reading material
- Raincoat
- Sleeping bag or blanket
- Sun hat
- Sunscreen lotion
- Personal toiletries
- Waterproof camping bag/luggage

## **OPTIONAL ITEMS**

- Inflatable sleeping mat (e.g. Thermarest) or bed and pillow.
- Spotting scope
- Video camera

There are **NO** shops within the vicinity of the village, so please purchase whatever you need before hand and bring it along with you.



# HOW TO GET TO PULAU BANDING JETTY?

## By Car

The public jetty on Pulau Banding is located midway of the East-West Highway. The nearest towns to the jetty or Pulau Banding are Gerik in Perak and Jeli in Kelantan, which are linked by the East-West Highway. Driving to Pulau Banding from Kuala Lumpur takes about 5 to 5.5 hours.

1. Take the PLUS North-South Expressway (NSE / E1) and head north for Ipoh.
2. Drive pass Ipoh towards Kuala Kangsar.
3. Exit at the Kuala Kangsar toll interchange and follow the road sign towards Gerik town on Route 76.
4. Driving straight on through Gerik town, you will reach a small roundabout. Follow the direction that leads to Kota Bharu and Pulau Banding.
5. You will reach a T-junction, turn right towards Kota Bharu and Pulau Banding (Route 4).
6. There are two bridges that lead to and away from Pulau Banding. When you reach the first one, cross it.
7. Driving on about 1.5 km, you will reach the second bridge. DO NOT cross this bridge.
8. There is a small road on the left just before the bridge, take that turn to Banding Island.

**IMPORTANT: Some stretches of the East-West Highway (Route 4) can be winding with sharp bends, please drive carefully and be alert.**





## HENTIAN ROYAL BELUM @ AMANJAYA – The new Banding Jetty

### THE PICK UP POINT AND PARKING YOUR VEHICLE

After turning in from the main road, you will come to the Hentian Royal Belum on your right. Continue to drive further on the small road until you come to another small road on the right which goes down a slope. You can park either (1) on the gravel area just before coming down the slope (Photo C) OR closer to the old Banding jetty (Photo D). However, be warned that sometimes park space at the latter is hard to find especially during school holidays and long weekends. **MNS will not be responsible to any loss or damage to your vehicles.** However, we (MNS field staff) have not experienced any car vandalism/theft to date.



Volunteers are advised to call up the relevant contact numbers to obtain more up-to-date information on travel and accommodation (in Gerik).

### By Bus

Destination	Bus company, cost, departure times
KL (Hentian Duta) → Gerik Town	TRANSNASIONAL bus (RM30.30 one way)* Departure: 9am and 10pm, daily
Gerik Town → KL (Hentian Duta)	TRANSNASIONAL bus (RM30.30 one way)* Departure: 9am, daily
Gerik Town → KL (Hentian Puduraya)	TRANSNASIONAL bus (RM30.30 one way)* Departure: 10pm, daily

\* Check the website for current pricing.

Note:

1. Travel time is approx. 4½ – 5 hours. Highly advisable to buy return ticket upon arrival at Gerik bus station or at Hentian Duta.
2. More info visit TransNasional's website - <http://www.transnasional.com.my/>  
Info line 1 300 888 582, Tel: 03- 4047 7878 and Email : [ktb@ktb.com.my](mailto:ktb@ktb.com.my).
3. Lapan lapan bus company Singapore -> Johor Bahru -> Gerik tel: 05-7912187

### By Taxi

Outstations taxis are usually available from the cities and bigger towns. Small groups may charter a taxi and special arrangements can be made with willing taxi drivers to tour the main areas of interest within the district.

Gerik town ↔ Banding jetty Distance: 40 km Travel time: ½ hour	RM50/taxi, one way Note: Taxi stand is behind Gerik bus station, tel: 05-7911263. Arrangement for return to Gerik must be made with taxi driver.
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### By Train

If you choose to travel by train from any destination in Peninsular Malaysia, the nearest station is Kuala Kangsar train station. From Kuala Kangsar, you can take a taxi or Syarikat Red & Yellow bus from Kuala Kangsar Bus Station direct to Gerik.

For further information, please contact KTM Berhad Railway station in:

Kuala Lumpur	03 - 22671200 (Information Counter)
Ipoh	05 - 2540481
Butterworth	04 - 3237962 / 3312796

### By Air

To get to Gerik, you have to fly to the major airports in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh or Penang, and thereon by taxi or bus. For enquiries and booking, please call MAS office at:

Kuala Lumpur	1 300 88 3000 (within Malaysia)
	03 - 7843 3000 (outside Malaysia)
	03 - 8776 4321 (ticketing)
Penang	04 - 2176321 / 6323 / 6326 (ticketing)

# WHERE TO STAY IN GERIK TOWN AND WHAT FACILITIES CAN I FIND?

As a capital town, Gerik has grown over the years and continues to further develop. As such, it is not hard to find budget motels/hotels and resthouses that are affordable. Most of these accommodations are concentrated around the town centre. Prices start from RM50.00 onwards which includes facilities such as hot shower, television, comfortable beds (single to queen sized) and Wifi. Below are some suggested motels and their contacts. Most do not need reservations as there are ample accommodations in Gerik for short stays. However, do contact them before hand for more recent information about their room rates etc. should you feel the need to.

**IMPORTANT: The list below does not constitute as endorsements by MNS and not exhaustive.**

Motel/Hotel Name	Contact
SMZ Hotel	No. 17, Jalan Mat Saman Utama, 33300, Gerik, Perak Tel: 05 791 7822 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Smz-Hotel/136463643097231">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Smz-Hotel/136463643097231</a>
Sri Temenggor Hotel	No 20, Jalan Toh Shahbandar, 33300 Gerik, Perak Tel: 05 791 2417 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SriTemenggorHotelGerik">https://www.facebook.com/SriTemenggorHotelGerik</a>
Gerik Hotel	No. 21, Jalan Tok Shah Bandar, 33300 Gerik, Perak Tel: 05 791 4797 Email: <a href="mailto:gerikholtel@yahoo.com">gerikholtel@yahoo.com</a>
Shar Shalom Hotel	69, Jalan Takong Datok, 33300 Gerik, Perak Tel: 05 791 8899
Hotel Sri Bintang	1428 Jalan Cengal, Taman Ibu, 33300 Gerik, Perak Tel: 05 791 5178
Gerik Resthouse	No. 682, Jalan Hj Meor Yahya, 33300 Gerik, Perak Tel: 05 7911 454

Gerik town has several banks (Maybank, CIMB, Bank Simpanan Nasional, Bank Rakyat, Bank Agro), supermarkets/hypermarket (The Store, A-Wang, TF Value Mart), mini marts, convenience stores, fast food restaurants (KFC, Pizza Hut) and plenty of eateries (mainly Chinese, Malay and mamak), general post office, clinics and district hospital.

For more information about Gerik town, do check out the Gerik District Council website [www.gerik.gov.my](http://www.gerik.gov.my). The highlight of the week in Gerik is the *pasar malam* (or night market) held every Friday evening from 5 pm onwards.