

About Kelab Alami



Initially launched in 2008 under the Tatana Roots umbrella, Kelab Alami was officially registered as an environmental education club in Mukim Tanjung Kupang, Johor, Malaysia in 2009. Under the programme, fishing village youth were trained as habitat experts; scientifically monitoring seagrass and mangrove habitats and working as ecotourism guides for visitors to the area. In 2014 unavoidable development arrived. Kelab Alami now focuses on enabling the community to earn alternative livelihoods, participate in, and benefit from the development around them. At the same time, we continue to document the natural and cultural heritage of the area before it is completely lost. Kelab Alami youth teach others in the community and beyond about the local habitats through myriad environmental education programmes. Our dream is to set up, manage and maintain a Nature & Heritage Centre to showcase the flora, fauna and fishing heritage of this unique region.



Pulau Merambong

Pulau Merambong is a 2.75 hectare rocky island with interesting geological features. It has a hilly centre, within which is a mysterious royal Malay shrine. There are several species of mangroves on the island, and a few patches of seagrass. The rocky shore was once thriving with wildlife from seahares to stone crabs to octopus. Today there is a little less obvious fauna but if you are patient and look amongst the cracks and crevices, a lot of surprises await. The back of the island hosts a healthy soft coral and sponge ecosystem that is home to many intriguing critters. Fishermen used to see dugongs playing and feeding off its shores.

The island has a magical past and local folklore speaks of its spirits. Village elders often say that if you spot something odd on the island you shouldn't mention it. We always recommend that you do not take any souvenirs home with you. There is said to be a large diamond hidden amongst the rocks with a solitary water monitor lizard guarding it. We have met this lizard once but have yet to find the diamond. Many generations ago, village folk and fishermen would circle round the island with prayers and release offerings in its surrounding waters for a good catch and other requests. Today some people still offer prayers at the shrine and hope for good fortune.

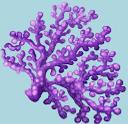


Rocky shore and coral reef revealed at low tide.



Interesting geological features of the island.

Many plans have emerged for this island, but we hope that it will be gazetted for protection given its special island ecology and connectivity with the nearby seagrass meadows.



1 Coral area



2 *Thalassia hemprichii* (Seagrass)



3 *Enhalus acoroides* (Seagrass)



4 Octopus

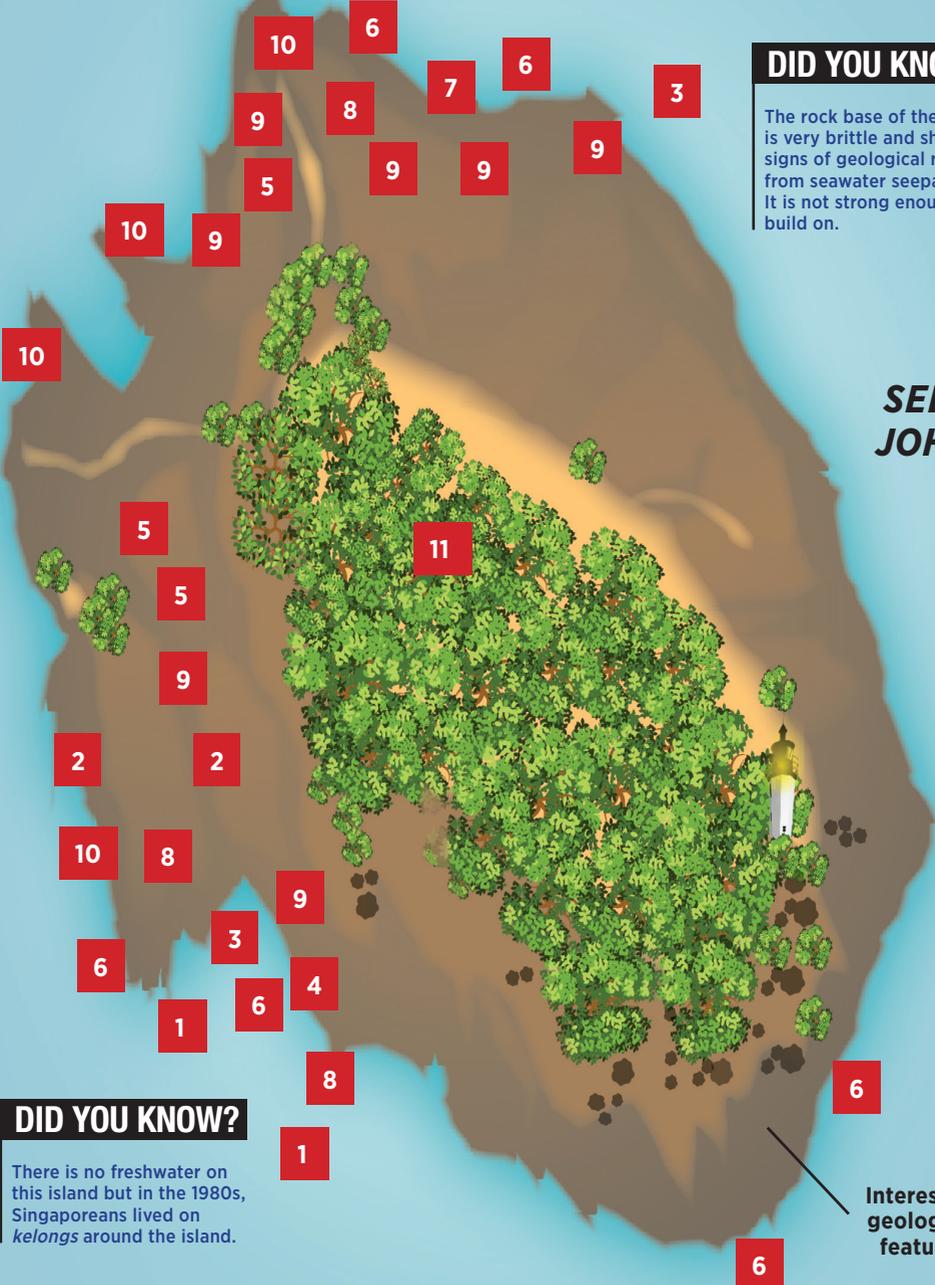


5 Mussels

DID YOU KNOW?

The rock base of the island is very brittle and shows signs of geological rusting from seawater seepage. It is not strong enough to build on.

SELAT JOHOR



DID YOU KNOW?

There is no freshwater on this island but in the 1980s, Singaporeans lived on *kelongs* around the island.

Interesting geological features



6 Sponge



7 *Jorunna funebris nudibranch*



8 Tube anemone



9 Zoanthid



10 Sea star



11 Royal shrine

Kelab Alami Guided Habitat Walks

Kelab Alami habitat guided walks first began as part of our environmental education programme for the local fishing community. They then evolved into opportunities for our Youth Ranger Guides to share their natural heritage with visitors, as well as earn some pocket money in the process. This is one of the ways that we enable local folk to benefit from development in the area or develop alternative income options related to their marine heritage. Guided Walks are available in the seagrass, mangroves or on Merambong Island. These visits promise to be informative, interactive and a total immersion in the local habitat. At the end of the walk you will be treated to either local refreshments or a full seafood BBQ. You will be guided by our Youth Ranger guides. For more information on these walks and to enquire about dates and costs, please email kelabalami.walks@gmail.com.



Contact

For more information on our work:

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Website: kelabalami.weebly.com

 [www.facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KelabAlamiMukimTgKupang)

[KelabAlamiMukimTgKupang](https://www.facebook.com/KelabAlamiMukimTgKupang)

 [kelabalami_](https://www.instagram.com/kelabalami_)

Official Registration:

Kelab Pencinta Alam, Tanjung Kupang,
Johor Bahru Johor (2634-10-JHR)

Anak Alami Enterprise (002222420-D)

Alami Services (002516902-V)

Koperasi Alami Johor Berhad (J-5-1299)

Flyer design: Benjamin Cheh Ming Hann

Kelab Alami is working with the Iskandar Regional
Development Authority (IRDA) Environment
Division on the PESISIR programme.



People behind Kelab Alami

Kelab Alami was founded by Shalan Jum'at and Serina Rahman. Anak Alami Enterprise, registered under Shalan Jum'at, oversees and manages all elements of Kelab Alami. Zurina Jaafar, a local teacher, heads KA's local community committee. Kelab Alami has a full time administration team of Nur Afiqah bt Mohd So'ot, Muhd Sofi b Johari, Mohd Irfan b Yazid, Manisa bt Arif, Hakimi b Bakri, Mohd Haikal b Zamani and Nur Syazwani bt Ali; all former youth members of Kelab Alami. Other Youth Rangers work part-time as guides or research assistants. We are advised by a network of scientists, nature and environmental education researchers and myriad other experts.