



**Simple:** A typical kitchen area found in the Malay traditional fisherman's house in the olden days.



**Cosy:** A bedroom normally found in a traditional Malay house.

# It's all in the net

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**First in the country:** The Tanjung Balau Fishermen's Museum in Kota Tinggi, Johor.

## Tanjung Balau Fishermen's Museum a good place to learn about the country's fishing activities

Dateline: Johor Baru

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**T**HE Tanjung Balau Fishermen's Museum in Kota Tinggi district is the best place for visitors to learn a thing or two about the history of fishing in Malaysia.

The museum stands on the site of Johor's oldest fishing village founded almost a century ago by fishermen who came from Kelantan and Terengganu.

Opened in 1992 by the South-East Johor Development Authority (Kejora), it is located on an 8ha site,

overlooking the South China Sea and just metres away from the popular Tanjung Balau public beach.

"This is the only museum in Malaysia which showcases the livelihood of traditional fishermen and their activities," the museum's assistant curator Muhammed Iqbal Rosli told *StarMetro*.

He said while the number of traditional fishermen had dwindled — as youngsters were not keen to take up the job, there were still a small group of traditional fishermen who still depend on the seas for living.

Muhammed Iqbal said the artefacts on display were either given by fishermen and their family members

from all over the country or purchased by Kejora from antique shops.

He added it was not an easy task to acquire the artefacts as some were reluctant to part with their family's heirloom due to sentimental reasons despite monetary offers.

"However, there are those who were more than willing to part with their heirloom knowing it will be put on display for the benefit of museum visitors," said Muhammed Iqbal.

The museum is divided into several galleries — the Fishermen's Gallery showcasing the life of fishermen, fishing villages, rituals, tools and types of fishes they caught in artefacts, diorama, poster panels and



**Muhammed Iqbal**  
the only one in M...  
to fishermen and

photos.

At the Geology over 100 unique shapes, sizes and be millions of y Tanjung Balau an areas.

The Sea Galler edge to visitors on



**Iqbal:** The museum is Malaysia dedicated their activities.

Gallery, there are stones of different colours believed to be years old found in and its surrounding provides knowledge in marine navigation



**Miniature:** Fishing boats of different types on display at the museum.



**Ancient:** Blue and white Chinese porcelain salvaged from the ill-fated Desaru Ship which sank off Desaru waters in the 1830s are on display at the museum.

and communication systems, including safety aspects at sea.

The Desaru Shipwreck Gallery is named after a junk that sank off Desaru waters near the popular holiday area in southeast Johor on her way carrying cargo for the European markets in 1830s.

The junk was carrying tonnes of blue and white Chinese porcelain

including 50,000 soup spoons as well as clay water urns and wine pitchers but only a small portion of the cargo from the ill-fated vessel is on display at the gallery.

"The wreck is named after Desaru as it was found there but the vessel's original name is unknown," said Iqbal.

He said apart from Desaru Ship —

there were two other vessels carrying blue and white Chinese porcelain destined for the European consumers that sank off Desaru — Diana in 1817 and Tek Seng in 1822. Tanjung Balau Fishermen's Museum is open daily from 9am to 6pm.

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