

ISTANA AMPANG TINGGI, NEGERI SEMBILAN



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Istana Ampang Tinggi in Seremban was built during the reign of the 5th Yamtuan Udin, also known as Yamtuan Imam (1861-1869). Built between 1865 and 1870, it was originally located in Kampung Ampang Tinggi, Kuala Pilah, and overlooked a rice field.

Yamtuan Imam later gave the palace to his daughter, Tunku Cindai, when she married Tunku Muda Chik, the son of the 4th Yamtuan Radin. This was in accordance with the unique tradition of adat perpatih which favours daughters. The royal families stayed in this palace until 1930. It was left vacant after that.

In 1953, the 8th Yamtuan, Tuanku Abdul Rahman, granted permission for the old palace to be dismantled

and relocated to Seremban. In 1980, the palace was again moved to the present location in the state museum.

Istana Ampang Tinggi is 20.2m long and 7.1m wide. It was built using timber joinery technique, i.e. without nails. This allowed the building to be disassembled easily, transported to the new location and reassembled.

The palace was made with hard and tough cengal wood. The design of the roof is known as bumbung panjang (long roof) and dominates the low walls with an open stilted bottom. This design promotes good air flow into the roof space, keeping the interior cool and well ventilated. Unique carved artworks found on the walls, windows and staircases, reflect Minangkabau culture. ■