

Archaeological sites in South-East Asia



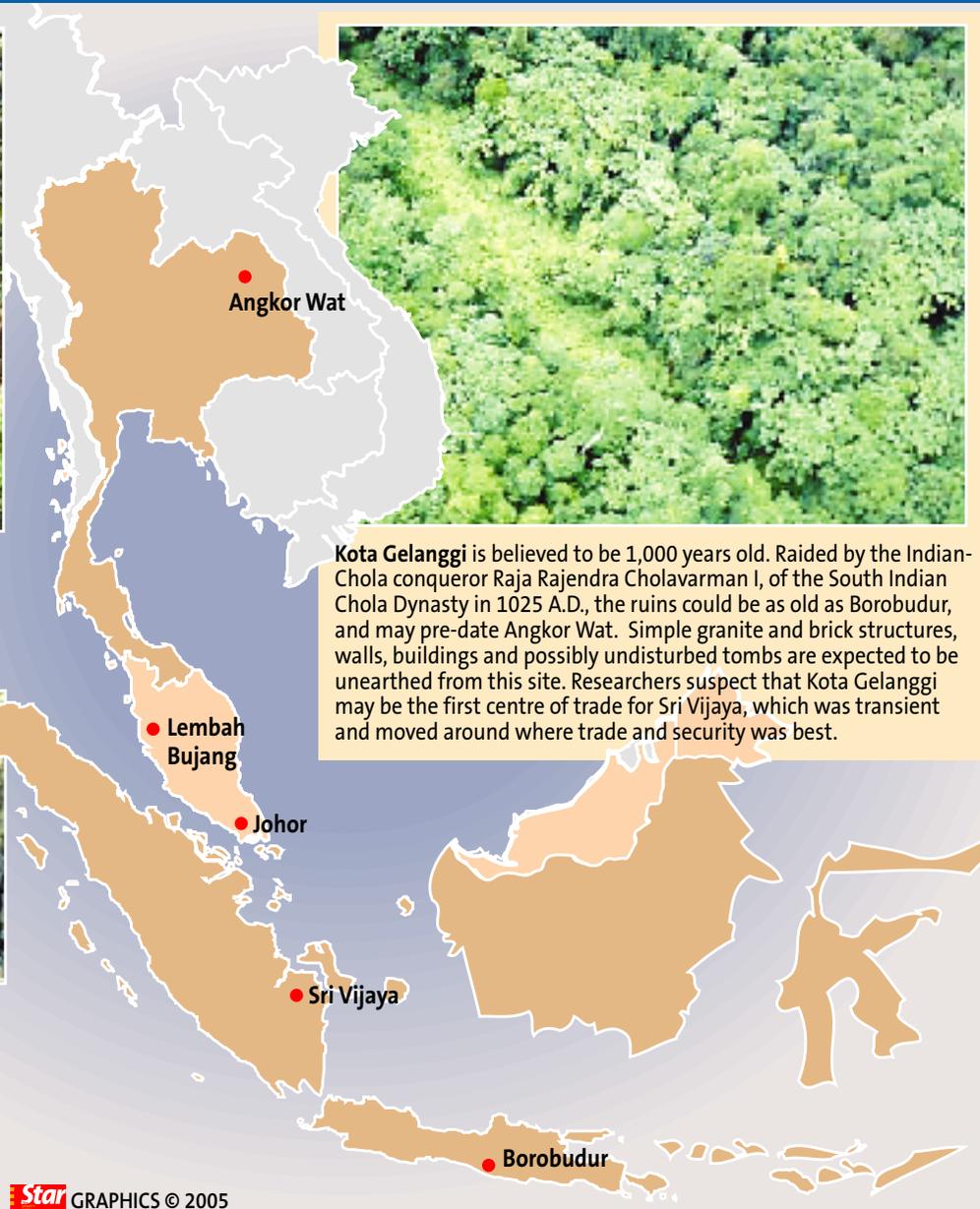
Lembah Bujang (Bujang Valley), Malaysia

Located on the foothills of Gunung Jerai, research indicates that an ancient Hindu-Buddhist kingdom was here as early as 300 A.D. It is the richest archaeological site in Malaysia, thus far.



Sri Vijaya, Indonesia

One of the longest lasting empires in human history. It controlled the Straits of Malacca for 640 years, from its founding in 650 A.D. to its defeat by the Javanese in 1290. At its peak, Sri Vijaya expanded its territory and controlled parts of Southern Thailand, peninsular Malaysia, West Java, and the western portions of Borneo.



Kota Gelanggi is believed to be 1,000 years old. Raided by the Indian-Chola conqueror Raja Rajendra Cholavarman I, of the South Indian Chola Dynasty in 1025 A.D., the ruins could be as old as Borobudur, and may pre-date Angkor Wat. Simple granite and brick structures, walls, buildings and possibly undisturbed tombs are expected to be unearthed from this site. Researchers suspect that Kota Gelanggi may be the first centre of trade for Sri Vijaya, which was transient and moved around where trade and security was best.



Angkor Wat, Cambodia

Considered the absolute masterpiece of Khmer architecture and is a pyramid temple built by King Suryavarman II between 1113 and 1150 to honour the Hindu god Vishnu. Angkor Wat covers an area of 81ha and is surrounded by a 174m wide moat and about 6.4km long. The monument and the entire city of Angkor were declared a World Heritage Site by the Unesco World Heritage Committee in 1992.



Borobudur Temple Complex, Indonesia

Built during the Sailendra dynasty between 750 and 842 A.D. It was built 300 years before Cambodia's Angkor Wat. One of the greatest monuments in the world, Borobudur was composed of 55,000 square metres of lava-rock and erected on a hill. Borobudur was restored with Unesco's aid from August 1913 to 1983 and declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco.