



MALAYSIA TRAVEL TIPS

Dear Travelers,

Welcome to Malaysia!

A beautiful country -located in the Southeast Asia & just south of Thailand on the Malay Peninsula, Malaysia is a tropical paradise in the heart of southeast Asia. It's perhaps best known for many nice beaches, rainforests, the wealth of natural beauty and impressive scenery. The capital, **Kuala Lumpur** houses the tallest twin towers in the world, while its islands are home to some of the most beautiful dive areas you can see. Whether you're up for trekking and diving, or just want to relax on the beach and dine in the city, Malaysia is certainly worth a visit.



PLANNING YOUR TRIP TO MALAYSIA

WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE IN MALAYSIA FOR ALL YEAR ROUND?

Malaysia's climate is **equatorial** that is **hot, humid** and **rainy** throughout the year.

Summer Season in Malaysia

The summers in Malaysia are from March to October. It is the best time to visit Malaysia in its eastern part which remains drier during this time of the year. The west coast of Malaysia including places like **Penang, Langkawi, and Pangkor** experience rainy season from April to October. March is the hottest month in Malaysia with a temperature rising up to 28°C, while the weather from April to October is also comparatively warmer as compared to the other months of the year. One must carry light clothes to Malaysia during this time, to stay cool.

Monsoon Season in Malaysia

Malaysia has two monsoons- one on the eastern side, while the other on the western side. The monsoon season is not the best time to visit Malaysia, because many adventure activities and water sports are restricted during this season. However, one can visit the eastern side when there are rains on the western side and vice versa. Thus, when to **visit Malaysia** is not a question to worry about as one can have fun in Malaysia at any time of the year. One must take an idea of the weather conditions before visiting the country, and pack accordingly.

Thus, different seasons of Malaysia cannot be differentiated from one another because Malaysia has an even climate throughout the year, but the best time to visit Malaysia depends on the place one wants to visit in the country. For the eastern areas, the best time to visit is from April to October, while for the western areas, the best time to visit is from December to February.

Winter Season in Malaysia

The best time to visit Malaysia in winters is from December to January to enjoy festivals like New Year, Christmas, and others with friends and family. One also gets to see the Chinese New Year celebration which is a 15 days festival in Malaysia. The winters in Malaysia fall from November to February, and January is the coldest month. During winters, the days are generally cool with a



light breeze, while the nights are chilly. One must pack a light jacket for the nights. During winter months, the eastern part of Malaysia experiences heavy rainfall, and therefore, visiting the western part is preferred.

IN AREAS:

Lowlands & Highlands (places include Kuala Lumpur, Malacca and Cameron Highlands)

Hot and humid throughout the year, Kuala Lumpur and Malacca experience showers that occur almost daily. However, the highlands have a very different climate from the rest of Malaysia. The temperatures average a very pleasant 22 °C in the daytime and a relatively cool 15 °C at night with heavy rainfall between September and early December, the highlands are definitely an excellent location for growing tea, flowers, and fruits.

West Coast (places include Langkawi, Penang and Pangkor)


The west coast mainland and islands off Peninsular Malaysia enjoy the typical tropical climate --- hot, sunny, and humid with showers all year round. The downpours are heavier during September and October.

East Coast (places include Kuantan, Tioman Island, Perhentian Islands, Terengganu, Redang and Kota Bharu)

The east coast of Malaysia is well known for its hot and sunny weather for much of the year with the warm waters of the South China Sea. However, tourists are advised to avoid visiting the islands during the North-East Monsoon that strikes between November and February. That is because the showers are heavier and they can disrupt boat crossings and safety. Outside of the North-East Monsoon months, the east coast is usually drier than the rest of Malaysia.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIMES TO VISIT MALAYSIA?

The best times to visit Malaysia are as:

-  Lowlands & Highlands (included: **Kuala Lumpur, Malacca and Cameron Highlands**) - from **October-November** shoulder season is the **top time** to visit this area!
-  West Coast (included: **Langkawi, Penang and Pangkor**) is **from December to February** when is the most suitable months to explore this part.
-  East Coast (included: **Kuantan, Tioman Island, Perhentian Islands, Terengganu, Redang and Kota Bharu**), from **April to October** is the **best time**, when the weather is at its driest.

IMPORTANT NOCES BEFORE YOU TRAVEL TO MALAYSIA

Check Visa & Passport Requirements


Check if you need a visa before travelling to Malaysia. The visa requirements are different for many countries; some nationalities do not need visas for a stay less than 30 days, some nationalities can obtain e-visa to Malaysia online and some need to get visa to Malaysia in advance a Malaysian Representative Office in his country of residence. **Always check the visa requirements for your country** to make sure you are allowed to enter Malaysia!



Make sure **your passport is valid at least 6 months** from the arrival date to Malaysia to avoid trouble!

Tip: You can see more information for **Malaysian visa** at: <https://www.malaysia.gov.my/>

Packing for Malaysia

<p style="text-align: center;">Checklist travel documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Original passport ✓ Visa on Arrival if applicable ✓ Insurance certificate if have ✓ Vaccination card (check if you need) ✓ Flight ticket (printout or e-ticket) ✓ Travel credit card ✓ Cash USD & Malaysian Ringgit accepted ✓ List of emergency contacts. ✓ International Driver's License ✓ Optional: Diving certificate ✓ Optional: Waterproof document bag 	<p style="text-align: center;">Electronics checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cell phone with charger ✓ In Malaysia the power plug sockets are of type G. Check out the following pictures.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Headphones ✓ Power bank or solar charger ✓ Flashlight/headlamp if needed ✓ Optional: Camera with charger ✓ Optional: Rain cover for your camera ✓ Optional: Multiple socket <p>Note: Electricity Socket: 240V AC</p>
<p>Wearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ T-Shirts ✓ Blouses/Shirts ✓ Trousers/Shorts ✓ Skirts and dresses ✓ Cardigan/Jumper ✓ Footwear ✓ Sandals / Flip flops (Preferably sturdy for visiting rugged beaches and waterfalls) ✓ Comfortable walking shoes ✓ Hiking boots if you plan on trekking ✓ Hat and sunglasses 	
<p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hand sanitizer* or wipes ✓ Anti-mosquito repellent (e.g. Nobite, Autan, with ingredient DEET* or similar). ✓ Painkillers (e.g. ibuprofen, aspirin) ✓ Diarrhea medication (e.g. Imodium Akut, charcoal tablets) ✓ Wound cream (e.g. Bepanthen) ✓ Plasters and blister plasters ✓ Tablets for seasickness/travel sickness (e.g. Superpep) ✓ Dental floss* ✓ Hygiene articles 	

Purchase Travel Insurance

Always travel with travel insurance. You never know what will happen abroad, especially if you



are taking part in more extreme activities like riding motorbikes, hiking mountains, cliff-jumping, and doing water sports. Even if you don't plan on doing crazy sports, you still want to be covered in case you get sick. InAsisTrips Travel & DMC recommend you to buy travel insurance with a trusted **LOCAL INSURANCE COMPANY** in your country as it is much easier to work with when there is anything happened!

Consult Your Doctor

Visit your doctor at home before you visit Malaysia. Ask them if they recommend taking any medications or if you need any vaccinations before you go.

WHEN YOU ARE IN MALAYSIA

Currencies

The **official currency in Malaysia is Ringgit** with the code MYR and symbol as: "**RM**". Ringgit have banknotes worth RM100, RM50, RM20, RM10, RM5, RM1 and 50 sen (cent) coins, as well as 20 sen, 10 sen, and 5 sen coins, **exchange rates here: <https://www.bnm.gov.my/latest-rates>**

Where are the Best Places to Exchange Money in Malaysia?

There is no limit on the amount of foreign currency that people can bring in and out of Malaysia. However, the amount of Ringgit is limited to the equivalent of US\$10,000.

We advise some places as:

1. UAE EXCHANGE
2. VITAL RATE (OPERATED BY MERCHANTRADE)
3. MAX MONEY
4. NS CASHPOINT
5. METRO EXCHANGE

DRESS RESPECTFULLY

When entering temples, you have to abide by the dress code. In addition to removing your shoes, you have to wear clothes that cover your knees, shoulders, chest and stomach.

RESPECT THEIR WAY OF LIFE BY COVERING UP A BIT MORE.

You are perfectly fine wearing shorts and T-shirts when it is hot out, just try to hide areas like cleavage and the midriff so you seem a bit more aware of the Malaysian modesty.

ASK BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHING PEOPLE

Before taking a photo of someone, ask for their permission. If you see a local wearing a traditional garment or a monk praying in a temple, this can be a beautiful image to capture.

Malaysians are usually very friendly, so if you ask for a photo they will most likely oblige.

If you need more help with this, check out our guide to travel photography tips for beginners.

AVOID TOUCHING OTHER PEOPLE'S HEADS



The head is considered the holiest part of the body, so you should never touch someone's head. It seems unlikely that you would touch someone's head anyway, but just be aware that it is seen as disrespectful so try to avoid that.

BARGAIN WITH DIGNITY

Bargaining for goods at street markets is a huge part of travelling to Malaysia. Definitely give it a try, but always be respectful and don't bargain too low. See what the original price is, and slowly try and lower the cost. Generally speaking, half of the original price is as low as you should go. Anything lower than that may offend the vendor.

If you are buying something handmade or truly unique and special, just pay the full price as your money will benefit the local artist and community.

BUDGET TRAVEL TIPS FOR MALAYSIA

Tipping is NOT customary in Malaysia, there is absolutely NO mandatory requirement to tip anyone, but small gratuities for great service are very much appreciated.

InAsiaTrips Travel & DMC just give you an idea of most common tips as below:

HOTELS IN MALAYSIA, TIPPING IS NOT REQUIRED

Tipping is not required, and a service charge is usually included in the price. You can tip RM 2-10 per bag to the porter, RM 2-10 for room service and RM 2-10 per day for the housekeeper, if you want. However, this is not expected, nor required. Some hotels, mostly higher end, will encourage tipping for the porter (bellhop) and for room service.

RESTAURANTS IN MALAYSIA – DON'T TIP

At most restaurants, tipping is not required and will not be expected. A 10% service charge will normally added to the bill and many locals round-up the bill and leave the change.

SPAS IN MALAYSIA – DON'T TIP

You are not expected to tip at spas in Malaysia. Some hotels add a 'spa charge'.

FOR TOUR GUIDE? - TIP 20RM - 30RM PER PERSON PER DAY

A private tour guide should receive RM 20 – 30 per day, per person. You aren't expected to tip a group tour guide, but you can tip 10% of the price if you want.

FOR TAXI DRIVER? - DON'T TIP

In Malaysia it is not required or expected to tip your taxi driver. However, if you hire the driver for a few days, it may be nice to tip RM 25-50.

FIND THE CHEAPEST FORM OF TRANSPORTATION

Compare different forms of transportation to find the cheapest option. Malaysia has an extensive network of travel options. For travelling short distances you can take a tuk-tuk, rent a motorbike, or hop into a songtaew (red pickup trucks that serve as shared taxis).

For travelling long distances, you can take buses, minivans, trains, or planes.

One transport option isn't always cheaper than the others, so ask around, do some research, and try to find the cheapest option before you travel.



DON'T DRINK THE TAP WATER

The tap water is not safe for drinking in Malaysia. Bring a reusable water bottle that you can refill at drinking water stations, or bring your own filter so you can always have clean water. You can buy bottled water during your trip to Malaysia, but try to reduce your plastic waste whenever possible!

USE SUN PROTECTION

Always wear sunscreen. Whether you are on the beach, in the city or in the mountains, whether it is sunny or cloudy, just wear sunscreen to be safe. The sun is so strong in Malaysia, so you are always at risk of burning, no matter what skin type you have. You may want to bring your own sunscreen from home, as the prices are quite expensive in Malaysia. Also, wear sunglasses and a hat whenever possible.

AVOID PETTY THEFT

- ✓ Be alert and aware of pick pocketing and bag-snatching, as petty crime is rampant in Malaysia.
- ✓ Avoid secluded places at night.
- ✓ Do not carry big amounts of cash with you at public places.

INTERNET

Internet cafés and shops can be found in all Malaysian cities and large towns, often in malls or in upstairs premises along central streets, and most backpacker guesthouses have free wi-fi connections. While many serve the odd coffee or coke, the emphasis often isn't on beverages or even getting online, but on networked gaming, the terminals swamped by kids playing noisy shoot-em-ups late into the night. Periodic crackdowns temporarily compel the internet cafés to keep sensible hours and, it's hoped, the youths in their beds. At least the cafés do provide reliable internet access, costing RM3–6 per hour in practically all cases.

BE SAFE ON THE ROAD

Drivers in Malaysia can be insane to say the least. Sometimes road traffic doesn't seem to have any rhyme or reason, and some locals drive super-fast. You'll see about 10 people on motorbikes in one lane, all packed close together and whipping around corners. It is a bit scary, so always pick bus companies that are reputable so you know you are safe on the road. If you plan on driving in Malaysia, either in a rental car or on a motorbike, be very careful at all times!

WHAT TO DO & NOT TO DO IN MALAYSIA

These are some of the most important things to know before you go travelling in Malaysia.

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Do wear Appropriate Clothing! ❖ Do ask before, taking photos of locals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Don't Shake Hands With Muslim Women ❖ Avoid Public Displays of Affection ❖ Don't Use Your Forefinger To Point At Things



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Do the "Salam" Rather than a Normal Handshake! ❖ Do take your Hat off! ❖ Do remove Your Shoes Before Entering A Malaysian Home ❖ Do dress Modestly At Religious Sites ❖ Do greet People With A Smile & Nod ❖ Do try The Local Cuisine ❖ Do haggle At Markets ❖ Do ASK people before you tip ❖ Do avoid talking to politic ❖ Do care of local customs, especially when visiting places of worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Don't Insult The Royal Family ❖ Don't Litter ❖ Don't Take Photos Of People Without Their Permission ❖ Don't Get Drunk in Public ❖ Don't Touch Anyone On The Head ❖ Avoid Using Public Taxis ❖ Don't – show the soles of your feet. ❖ Don't – show anger or frustration. ❖ Don't insult while Bartering! ❖ Don't give to Street Children – Honestly i'm not heartless! ❖ Don't – Handle Objects with your left hand only!
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OTHERS

Useful Words and Expressions

The official national language of Malaysia is Malaysian. It's quite similar to Indonesian. However, because there is a large population of Indians and Chinese, not to mention the influence of Islam, several languages are spoken in this very multicultural country. English is recognised as the second or third most spoken language so if you can't get by in Malay you can always speak English!

General greetings in Malaysian

Hello/ Hai	Hello/Hi
Good Morning	Selamat Pagi
Good Afternoon	Selamat Tengahari
Good Night	Selamat Malam
How are you	Apa khabar
Please	Tolong
How much	Berapa
Can you speak English	Bolehkah anda berbahasa Inggeris
Where is the toilet	Di mana tandas
Thank you	Terima kasih
You're welcome	Sama-sama
I don't understand	Saya tidak faham
Yes/no	Ya/tidak
Goodbye	Selamat tinggal

Prices & markets in Malaysian

How much is it?	Berapa banyak?
It is very cheap	Ia tidak mahal
It is too expensive!	Ia terlalu mahal
Can you lower the price?	Bolehkah anda menurunkan harga



I would like to buy this one!	Saya ingin membeli...salah satu yang
I like it / I don't like it	Saya suka/Saya benci
Money	wang

Transportation in Malaysian

I would like to go to ...	Saya ingin pergi
Plane	kapal terbang
Boat	bot
Train	kereta api
Taxi	teksi
Bus	bas
I would like to rent ...	Saya mahu sewa
Motorbike	motosikal
Car	kereta
Bike	basikal

Numbers in Malaysian

One/two/three/four/five/six/seven/eight/nine/ten

yang/dua/tiga/empat/lima/enam/tujuh/sembilan/sepuluh

twenty/thirty/forty/fifty/sixty /seventy/eighty/ninety

dua puluh/tiga puluh/empat puluh/lima puluh/enam puluh/ tujuh puluh/lapan puluh/sembilan puluh

One hundred peratus

Hours/Dates and days in Malaysian

What time is it? pukul berapa sekarang

When? apabila

Yesterday semalam

Today hari ini

Tomorrow esok

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Isnin/Selasa/Rabu/Khamis/Jumaat/Sabtu/Ahad

I am here on vacation Saya perjalan

I am here for business Saya di sini untuk kerja-kerja

Eat in Malaysian

I am hungry / I am thirsty Saya lapar/Saya dahaga

Enjoy menikmati makanan anda

Cheers! kesihatan




It was delicious ia lazat

What can you recommend? Apa yang anda cadangkan?



I am vegetarian	Saya seorang vegetarian yang
Not spicy please	tanpa rempah
It's too hot	ia terlalu panas
I am allergic	Saya alah
Sea food	makanan laut
Peanuts	kacang tanah
Gluten	gluten
I would like...	Saya ingin
Water	air
Tee / Coffee	teh/kopi
Beer / Wine	bir/wain
The bill, please	Sila menambah
Have a nice day!	hari yang baik

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