



Malaysia: A Land Of Many Charms

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Kuala Lumpur: Rich Past, Visionary Future

Kuala Lumpur is a city of contrasts and is one of Asia's most dynamic cities. The city began as a mining settlement in the late 1800s, but now has an impressive skyline including the world's tallest twin towers, the old Moorish railway station and numerous mosques, temples and churches.



There are many places of interest in Kuala Lumpur which can be accessed easily as distances between them are short, hence it is possible to discover the capital by foot. Alternatively organised tours and public transport are readily available and allow you to see the heart of the city and surrounding areas.

Another option is to hire a car and drive from Kuala Lumpur up into the Cameron Highlands along the Tapah Road through the tea plantations. One of Malaysia's less known wonders, spend some leisurely time exploring the number of townships in this highland paradise.

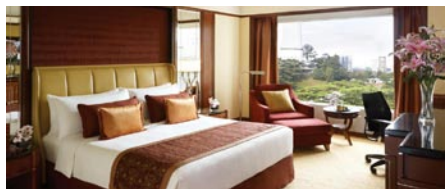
Getting to Kuala Lumpur and Around

Flights run direct from Auckland to Kuala Lumpur 6 days a week with Malaysia Airlines. Alternatively travel through Singapore with Singapore Airlines and JetStar who offer low cost fare to Kuala Lumpur and beyond. From KLIA the quickest way to the city is to take the KLIA Express. It is a non-stop 28 minute journey to KL Sentral and only costs 35RM one way (\$13.90 NZD). From KL Sentral customers can connect to all major hotels and sights through the Monorail system.

Some hotels also offer a collection from KL Sentral, so do check when booking. For travel around Malaysia, domestic flights run to all major airports, MAS Wings, Air Asia and Berjaya Air are the main carriers. Malaysia also has a main train service which runs from Singapore along the coast and up into Thailand. Use this to extend your Malaysian experience and discover the breath taking landscapes from the comfort of your carriage.



Nestled amidst lush greenery in the heart of the city, **Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur** is just moments from the city's leading business, shopping and entertainment districts. The hotel is merely a five minute walk to the iconic Petronas Twin Towers and Kuala Lumpur Tower, and the Kuala Lumpur International Airport is only 45 minutes away by car. The hotel comprises 662 newly renovated luxurious guestrooms, including 101 elegant suites, all with panoramic views of the city or the tranquil gardens.



Traders Hotel, Kuala Lumpur is located right in the heart of Kuala Lumpur City Centre, next to KLCC Park and opposite the iconic Petronas Twin Towers. All 571 stylishly appointed guest rooms and suites feature crisp modern décor, spacious bathrooms and panoramic views of the city or KLCC gardens. The stylish elegance of Gobo Upstairs Lounge & Grill is ideal for intimate dinners and special celebrations, and is renowned for serving up the best steaks in town!



A Unique Experience

Sip a lychee daiquiri at SkyBar and watch the lights of the Petronas Towers come on at twilight. Kuala Lumpur's most popular bar destinations, SkyBar offers intoxicating views and the chance to enjoy 'out-of-this world' cocktails in a contemporary and chic setting. Located on level 33 of the Traders Hotel this is a must do!

Kuala Lumpur Top Sights

- **KLCC** The heart of the city and among the highlights are the mesmerising Petronas Twin Towers, KL Tower with its 360 degree views and revolving restaurant and KLCC gardens which offers free water park areas for big and small kids alike!
- **Butterflies, Deer and Birds** Visit the three key parks in KL within the Lake Gardens. With over 2,500 birds flying freely, this is a great day excursion.
- **History at every turn** Kuala Lumpur has not forgotten its past and with buildings like the Sultan Abdul Samad Building and the Old Moorish Railway Station it is hard not to be swept away. A visit to Merdeka Square will leave you under the shadow of the world's tallest flag pole.
- **Shoppers Delight** Petaling Street is well known for trying your bartering skills, but if you want to real deal go to Bukit Bintang the shopping and entertainment district of Kuala Lumpur. The Pavilion or Suria KLCC malls will leave your feet gasping for a Malay spa treatment.
- **Beyond the City** Take a day trip to Putrajaya, the nation's government capital, Batu Caves with its 272 steps up to the main Hindu temple and the Royal Selangor Pewter Factory, where the likes of Bill Clinton, Mel Gibson and Martha Stewart have visited the largest pewter tanker on display. If antiques are for you then head to Melaka the historical spice trade port.



Kuching: A magnificent city full of surprises

There is something utterly fascinating and mystical about Sarawak and its capital is no exception. Kuching is an intriguing place to grab a glimpse into the past. Sarawak is Malaysia's largest state, covering an area of 124,450 sq km and is divided into eleven divisions with the city of Kuching as its heart in the southern corner.



Fondly known as 'Cat City' Kuching is located on the Sarawak River and its tourist belt is the waterfront and Main Bazaar which features old shop houses selling local pepper, artefacts, antiques and exotic forest products. The waterfront is a 900m long esplanade and can be explored on foot or on

one of the many river night cruises.

Kuching boasts many international-class hotels such as the Hilton Kuching, Pullman Kuching, Riverside Majestic Hotel and Grand Margherita Hotel, both are under renovation but still open throughout the process with no disturbance to guests.

Getting to Kuching and Around

Domestic Flights connect Kuching to Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Sabah, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei. Air Asia and Malaysia Airlines offer low cost domestic fares to and from this city.

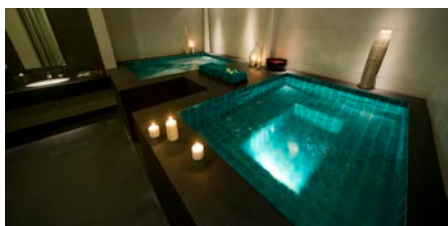
For those with a more leisurely schedule, boat rides are an exciting way of getting

to the remote villages and national parks around Kuching and Sarawak.

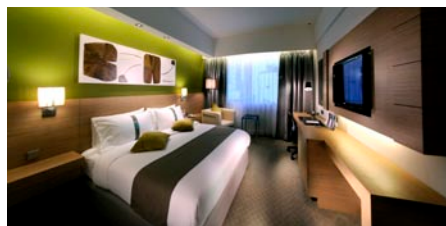
Roads around Sarawak are tarmacked but can be hard to drive due to the terrain; hence a 4x4 is recommended. Roads are also not direct; hence a trip from Kuching to Miri can take up to 12 hours.



Urban chic in Borneo. **Pullman Kuching** redefines the lifestyle of modern-day travellers with contemporary living spaces that feel warm and familiar. Nestled on top of Jalan Mathies hill, it offers astonishing panoramic view of the vibrant city and the Sarawak River. After a long day of sightseeing, why not indulge at their spa and sample their hot and cold plunge pools.



Sarawak's first international hotel, the **Grand Margherita Hotel** is by the riverfront and commands an unrivalled view of the picturesque Sarawak River and colourful Malay villages. Situated in the heart of the city's business, entertainment and shopping district, the hotel is 20 minutes' drive from the Kuching International Airport.



Don't miss tomorrow's edition which showcases more fascinating activities Sarawak, Borneo has to offer!

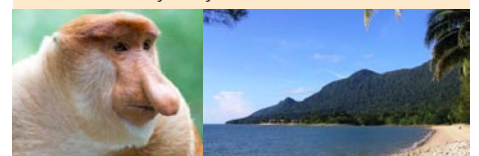


A Unique Experience

Spend a passionate day with Orangutans at Heart2Heart. This one day programme allows you to actively participate in the orang-utan rehabilitation at two of their Wildlife Centres, Matang and Semenggoh. This day is a once in a lifetime experience and will stay with you forever!

Kuching Top Sights

- **City Life** Kuching has a diverse range of sights within its city centre. The Tua Pek Kong Chinese temple, Fort Margherita, Main Bazaar and India Street are just a few of the surprises this undiscovered city has to offer.
- **Bako National Park** This is ideal for day trips because of its proximity to the city. Among the residents here are the native Proboscis Monkey, Wild Boars, Long-tailed Macaques, Leaf Monkeys, Monitor Lizards, Plantain Squirrels and about 150 species of birds.
- **Playground Antics** 45 minutes from Kuching is a pleasant playground of beaches, golf courses and resorts at Damai Beach.
- **9 historical experiences** Kuching lays claim to nine museums, many within walking distance of each other. The English Brooke family history is ever present in this bubbling city with buildings and new structures mirroring the old colonial styles.
- **Sarawak Cultural Village** Dubbed as a 'living museum' this award winning attraction is a cultural microcosm of the entire state. View over 7 tribal homes and participate in some of the traditional dances and crafts. This is also where the Rainforest World Music Festival is hosted every July.





Sarawak: A paradise for Eco-Adventures

Nicknamed the Land of the Hornbill; Sarawak Borneo is alive with natural and cultural wonders.

With two-thirds of its land as rainforest, it is teeming with natural marvels, sheer mountains, abundant wildlife, stimulating rivers and ancient rock formations.



Sarawak has a population of about 1.8 million and is made up of 27 ethnic groups, which include the Iban, Chinese, Malay, Bidayuh, Melanau and Orang Ulu. This melting pot of culture is seen throughout the state and ever present in the rural locations of Sibu and Mukah.

Its verdant jungles are strewn with massive natural formations, the world's largest cave chambers as well as endemic flora and

fauna. Sarawak's greatest asset includes its UNESCO World Heritage site and 10 protected national parks including Bako, Niah and Mulu where you can journey to the top of the famous Pinnacles.



Damai Puri Resort and Spa

epitomizes the finest qualities of Malaysia's best resorts;

luxury, tranquillity and uniqueness. It has 207 guestrooms and suites with exceptional facilities which include 5 signature restaurants and bars, 2 fabulous freeform swimming pools and a secluded stretch of golden sand beach. Located just 1 hour from Kuching this is a fantastic getaway location to relax and unwind.



Permai Rainforest Resort is an eco-resort set in pristine Borneo rainforest located on the shores of

the South China Sea, and at the foot of mystical Mount Santubong. Carefully designed to minimise impact on the natural environment, it offers a unique rainforest experience. There is something for everybody: peace and tranquillity for those who simply want to relax, a private and fun place for families to get together, a refreshing natural environment for training groups and a safe and easily accessible place for those who loves adventure and want to explore.



A Unique Experience

Paddle down-river through the jungle in Sarawak with Kuching Kayaking.

Kayak through the rainforests on a meandering river in the Bau district – an absolute 'must-do' experience for nature lovers and the adventurous.

Sarawak Top Sights

There is so much more to Sarawak than meets the eye.

- **Miri** Malaysia's first Oil town. Visit Grand Old Lady - Miri's first oil well.
- **Sibu** Sibu's history is as the rubber merchant capital and was run by the Chinese who were encouraged by Charles Brookes to set up here. Due to this past Sibu has a 100 year old Chinese temple dedicated to the patron saint of merchants, Tua Pek Kong. Located on the waterfront it has a seven story pagoda with breath taking views.
- **Gunung Gading National Park** Go and see the gigantic Rafflesia flower which can reach up to one metre in full bloom.
- **Iban Longhouse Tour** No visit to Sarawak is complete without visiting a traditional Iban Longhouse. Here you can experience life in the past and are welcomed with Tuak, or rice wine, a meal and tour.
- **Niah Caves National Park** Considered by many to be the most important archaeological site in Southeast Asia, the Niah Great Cave and Painted Cave are a spectacular attraction and are declared as a National Historical Monument.



Don't miss next week's editions as we will be showcasing Mulu National Park and the Headhunters Trail, Langkawi and Penang.



Mulu: Astounding natural attractions

One of the most outstanding attractions in Sarawak, Gunung Mulu National Park is a treasure trove of vertical cliffs, jagged limestone pinnacles and intricate cave networks.



The area is a paradise with some 20,000 animals and 3,500 plant species. It is Malaysia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site and Sarawak's largest national park. Its spectacular show caves, longboat river travels, and the mass exodus of wrinkled-lip bats (about three million at last count) in the evenings have lured witnesses from all corners of the world.

If the synchronized flight performance by the bats doesn't thrill you enough, then braving the daunting Pinnacles trail will leave you literally breathless.

Tours and caving expeditions are available from the park office and are accompanied by World Heritage Guides. To truly appreciate the beauty of Mulu, visitors are advised to allocate at least several days for their trip.

Getting to Mulu and Around

The only way to get to Mulu is to fly. Flights run from Kuching to Miri to Mulu most days.

Once in Mulu there are only 2 accommodation options, The Royal Mulu Resort or the cabins in Mulu National Park. The

Royal Mulu resort will collect guests from the airport and drive them the 5 minutes to the resort. They can also drive guest to the Mulu National Park entrance for day tours and River cruises leave from The Royal Mulu Resorts jetty.

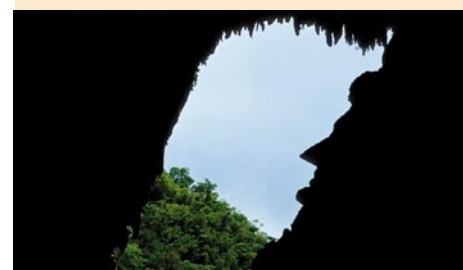



A Unique Experience

Walk the Headhunters' Trail from the amazing Mulu Caves out to The Pinnacles and Limbang. This trail is named from the local indigenous people who used this route on raiding expeditions. It journeys from Mulu National Park, towards the Pinnacles and ends in the picturesque town of Limbang which is on the Limbang River, north of the park. The whole trail takes 3.5 – 4 hours.

Mulu Top Sights



- **World record sites** Mulu has 3 magical caves. Deer Cave has the largest cave passage in the world, Clearwater Cave is Asia's longest cave and the Sarawak Chamber is the world's largest cave chamber and can accommodate 40 Boeing 747 aircraft!
- **USA presidential appearance** A unique feature at Deer Cave is the formation which resembles the profile of Abraham Lincoln. No visit to these caves is complete without seeing this formation.
- **The Pinnacles** Gunung Mulu's signature attraction is the razor-sharp limestone spikes called The Pinnacles. A hike to these outstanding formations will take 3 whole days and is not for the faint hearted.
- **Musical trees** One of the most fascinating discoveries of Mulu is to ask your guide to show you how the trees make music. One simple, light tap results in the tree vibrating and making a fantastic sound. This music comes from the ants who live in the tree and when under attack join together to make this sound.





Designed in the style of ethnic longhouses, **Royal Mulu Resort** is built on wooden stilts, three metres above the ground. Linked by a series of wooden walkways, the resort stands on the banks of the Melinau River, in the midst of a breath-taking natural splendour.

The resort is currently under a major renovation to become the Mulu Marriot Resort and Spa, the first stage of completion will be in March 2013. Please see the images below on how the resort will look once completed.

Don't miss tomorrow's edition as we will be showcasing Langkawi, one of New Zealand's favourite getaway islands.



Langkawi: Intriguing Legends and Nature's Wonders

Langkawi is the jewel in the crown of Kedah. Made up of a 99-island Archipelago, this charming tropical isle boasts some of the region's best natural attractions. It is South East Asia's first GeoPark; a status accorded by UNESCO for its geological formations.



Most tourists agree that Langkawi's biggest attraction is its natural, undisturbed state. Rice fields with grazing buffaloes give the island its rustic appeal and a host of nature-based adventures await visitors to Langkawi. Go on a fascinating boat ride through the mangroves, experience the rare opportunity of feeding eagles, visit the large caves; roosting grounds for thousands of fruit-eating

bats. Alternatively, discover the rainforest or take the ride of a lifetime on the thrilling rainforest canopy adventure.

Visitors can take a self-guided walk to Seven Wells and swim in mountain pools or take the Langkawi Cable Car to the summit of Gunung Mat Cincang at 700m for a spectacular view of the islands on the Skywalk, including neighbouring Thailand.

Getting to Langkawi and About:

Malaysia Airlines, Singapore Airlines, MAS Wings, Air Asia and Berjaya Air all operate direct flights to Langkawi from Kuala Lumpur or Singapore.

Ferry services operate during daylight hours from Kuala Perlis and Kuala Kedah on the mainland to Langkawi with Langkawi Ferry Service. A one way ferry cross-

ing costs RM\$18 and a return is RM\$36. Ferries also go to Penang from Langkawi so go for a day trip or overnight stop. The ferry takes 2 hours 45 minutes and costs RM\$60 for single trip or RM\$115 for a return. Ferries leave twice a day from Langkawi at either 2.30pm or 5.15pm. Return trips leave from Penang to Langkawi at 8.15am or 8.30pm.

THE DATAI

LANGKAWI

LEADING HOTELS

The Datai Langkawi is one of a kind. Conceived as a grand retreat, immersed in an ancient virgin rain-

forest, it is an icon of luxury. Its secluded villas are set on meandering paths leading down to a private bay and a white sandy beach, facing the Andaman Sea; this is the ultimate in peaceful perfection.



BERJAYA

LANGKAWI - MALAYSIA RESORT

Home to Unesco's World GeoPark, **Berjaya Langkawi Resort** is cocooned

within a rainforest sanctuary which embraces boundless views of emerald waters and green-cushioned mountains. With 162 rooms positioned on stilts amongst lush gardens, an infinity pool with sunken bar, 4 restaurants and an abundance of leisure activities, you won't want to leave!

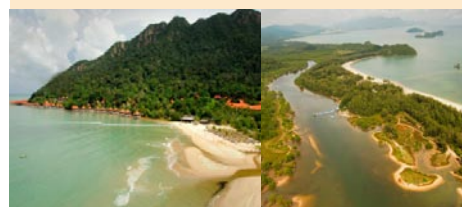


A Unique Experience

Stroll through the clouds on Langkawi's SkyBridge. Suspended at 700m above sea level, this walk takes you across the mountains and offers magnificent views of the Andaman Sea and Thailand's Tarutao Island.

Langkawi Top Sights

- **Beach Activities** The best beaches in Langkawi include Pantai Cenang, Burau Bay, Pantai Kok and Pantai Datai. Head to any of these locations for some well-deserved relaxation.
- **Pulau Payar Marine Park** Situated 20km south of Langkawi is a popular diving and snorkelling site. Boats from Langkawi take day trippers to the park where there is a viewing platform for relaxation between underwater adventures.
- **Duty Free Shopping** Langkawi is a duty-free island offering an attractive range of goods. Shops in the main town of Kuah and the Langkawi International Airport offer the islands best shopping.
- **Sail the Andaman Sea** Sailing is a popular activity with first-class marinas providing berths for many international yachts. Yacht charters of varying durations are possible, where you can explore the sea caves, deserted beaches, mangroves and freshwater lakes. Sunset cruises on luxury motorised yachts are also available.



Tomorrow we show you Penang's old world charm.



Explore and discover the beauty of Penang

Witness the delightful fusion of the East and West as well as the old and new in the Pearl of the Orient, Penang. The Islands alluring beaches and old-world charm has made this island a popular tourist destination.



Penang Island is linked to Seberang Perai by the longest bridge in Asia, Penang Bridge, as well as the oldest cross-channel ferry service in the country.

Locals swear Penang has Malaysia's best food and will delight in taking visitors to the

multitude of open-air stalls along Gurney Drive. Elegant colonial buildings rise among modern skyscrapers in the historic heart of George Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Relax and take a trishaw ride to discover Georgetown's heart and soul.

Getting to Penang and About:

All the major carriers have flights to Penang from Kuala Lumpur; Malaysia Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Air Asia, MAS Wings and JetStar from Singapore.

Penang is connected by a bridge to the main land so as an alternative you can drive from Kuala Lumpur and see some of Malaysia's

breath taking landscapes. On the way you will pass through Cameron and Genting Highlands Ferry services run from Penang to Langkawi at 8.15am or 8.30pm for an overnight stop. The ferry costs RM\$60 for a single trip or RM\$115 for a return and takes 2 hours and 45 minutes.

PARKROYAL PENANG RESORT

Located along the beautiful shorelines of Penang, **Park Royal Penang Resort** is ideal for unforgettable honeymoons, fun family getaways and corporate workshops. The resort has 330 tastefully decorated rooms, including 30 suites with private balconies and ocean views. You can relax with contemporary facilities and services like the St Gregory Spa, fitness centre, outdoor swimming pool and the Koko-nut Kids Club. You'll leave with nothing but happy memories.



Shangri-La's **Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa** PENANG, MALAYSIA

Located on the renowned Batu Ferringgi Beach, the **Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort and Spa** covers 30 acres of lush gardens nestled between the sea and Penang's emerald green hills. The hotel is approximately 45 minutes' drive from Penang International Airport and 20 minutes' drive to George Town, UNESCO world heritage site. The resort comprises 304 spacious guestrooms and suites, each with breathtaking views of the sea, grounds or gardens.



A Unique Experience

Stop for an 'ice kacang' while exploring the UNESCO-listed old Colonial quarters of George Town in Penang. Absorb the stunning heritage architecture while enjoying this Malaysian delicacy – a sweet dessert made of shaved ice, beans, nuts, syrup and jelly.

Penang Top Sights

- **George Town** Declared a world Heritage site in 2008, this bustling capital has over 200 years of history and culture. The best ways to see George Town's heritage trails is by trishaw or by foot.
- **Eastern and Oriental Hotel** This is the place to unwind and be reminded of an era when it was a popular venue for the city's elite. For well over a century, this remarkable hotel - known simply as 'The E&O' to generations of travellers - has stood as a testament to the grand elegance of the British colonial era.
- **Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion** This majestic Mansion was built in the 1880's and belonged to the illustrious Cheong Fatt Tze.
- **Kek Lok Si** This temple is a breathtaking sight to behold and overlooks the Ayer Itam town. Climb to the top of the temple and take in the views across Penang.
- **Gurney Drive** Sample the best of Malaysia's street food at one of the many open air food stalls. After your meal, enjoy the seafront view as you walk along the promenade.

