

MALAYSIA

AMAZING EXPERIENCES



Malaysia is made up of two areas: Peninsula Malaysia and the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak located on the island of Borneo. This fascinating country offers an exotic blend of the old and new, with a unique culture based on a vibrant mix of Malay, Chinese, Indian and indigenous cultures and customs. Malaysia has fast become one of the best value destinations in the Far East, where you can enjoy world-class accommodation, cheap transportation, mouth-watering food and excellent shopping all at fantastic value-for-money prices. If that's not enough encouragement to visit, Malaysia also boasts palm fringed beaches and

enchanting islands, restful hill stations and un-spoilt tropical forests, friendly, hospitable locals and a whole host of land and water based activities.

Whatever your needs for a holiday Malaysia can suit everyone.



WHEN TO GO The climate in Malaysia is tropical: hot and humid year round, with tropical rain spells. The east coast of Peninsula Malaysia experiences heavy rainfall between November and January. In Sabah the heaviest rain falls between May and November and in Sarawak between October and March. So there's always a part of Malaysia you can head to - to escape the showers!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT Malaysian food is spicy, but not too hot and local dishes include meats dipped in peanut sauce (satay), fiery curry prawns and spiced curried meats in coconut marinade. Local hawker stalls are the best places to try out authentic cooking with delicious food sold at bargain prices. Because of Malaysia's multi-racial mix you will also find fantastic Chinese, Indian and Indonesian cuisine available as well as a choice of western food. And the choice of tropical fruits is amazing!

SHOPPING The variety of bargain items you can find in the markets is endless. Traditional arts and crafts to quality electronics, silver, pewter and silk are amongst the best buys. Remember that you can haggle in the outdoor markets,

but if shopping in the air-conditioned malls and department stores the prices are fixed. The best value shopping destination is Kuala Lumpur, where you can pick up fake designer goods at knockdown prices.

FESTIVALS/EVENTS With so many cultures and traditions to observe, Malaysia has plenty of festivals including unusual events such as the national top spinning championships and a squid fishing fest! Colours of Malaysia cultural festival (May/June) This month long celebration provides visitors with a wonderful overview of the nation's multi-cultural diversity, its arts and traditions. Colourful parades, food festivals and cultural exhibitions take place throughout the country. Malaysia Mega Sale Carnivals (Mar/Aug) Shopping carnival in Kuala Lumpur and urban centres throughout Malaysia - fantastic bargains and unbeatable discounts. Merdeka Celebrations (Aug/Sep) Merdeka Day or Independence Day celebrations take place over a month and include fireworks displays, historical and patriotic exhibitions, cultural shows and parades across the country.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

VISA British citizens do not require a visa to enter Malaysia for a period of stay up to 3 months, providing your passport has a minimum of 6 months validity beyond your departure date.

CURRENCY The local currency is the Malaysian Ringgit. Travellers cheques and all major credit cards are accepted in hotel and main shops and restaurants.

HEALTH Recommended vaccinations are typhoid, hepatitis A, tetanus and polio. If you are planning on visiting remote parts of the country then it is advisable to also take precautions against malaria. Contact your GP for more information.

FURTHER INFORMATION Contact Tourism Malaysia on 020 7930 7932 or visit their website, www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my.