

EXPLORE!

Explore Malaysia

13 days

Malaysia - Trip code EM



Explore Malaysia

This fascinating journey takes us from the gleaming metropolis of Kuala Lumpur to the idyllic beaches of Langkawi. We discover colonial buildings in Malacca, visit orphaned Orang-utans at Bukit Merah and trek through one of the oldest rainforests in the world in Royal Belum. The trip then takes us to colourful Georgetown where we get the chance to sample some authentic Malay cuisine before ending on the tropical island of Langkawi.

Trip highlights

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:

12 - 18

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Kuala Lumpur

We join our trip in Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur. East and West rub shoulders in this eclectic and energetic city. KL (as it is known locally) has a hugely varied population, comprising mainly of Malays, Sikhs, Chinese, Indians, Tamils (many in local dress), and the odd splash of saffron from a robed Buddhist monk, adding colour to the vibrant street scenes. After checking into our hotel, the rest of the day is free at leisure.



Accommodation: Swiss Inn Kuala Lumpur (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Discover Kuala Lumpur's varied sights on a walking tour of the city

This morning we embark on a walking tour to uncover some of the cultural diversity of this lively and modern city. The tour starts at the colourfully decorated Guan Yin Temple, an ornate Buddhist temple dedicated to Guan Yin, the Goddess of Compassion. We then venture into Chinatown and onto Petaling Street, a pedestrianised lane lined with traditional Chinese lanterns and where anything from sunglasses to Bonsai trees can be bought. We move next onto the Hindu temple of Sri Maha Mariamman, a towering temple that is South Indian in style, and is said to be the oldest Hindu temple in all of Malaysia. On our way out of Chinatown we stop via the Central Market before crossing the Gombok River and onto the city's birthplace. This area offers a stark contrast from Chinatown and is full of historic buildings such as the Cathedral of Saint Mary and the Tudor-styled Royal Selangor club, from Malaysia's colonial days. The rest of the day is free at leisure. If you would prefer to explore, you may wish to visit 'KLCC', the area in which the magnificent Petronas Towers lie. For wonderful views of the Towers along with a choice of Asian-inspired cocktails, head for the 'Sky Bar', residing on the 33rd floor of the Traders Hotel, directly opposite the towers.



Accommodation: Swiss Inn Kuala Lumpur (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Morning visit to Batu Caves, afternoon drive to Malacca. Evening river cruise

This morning we head out of the city and on to the iconic Batu Caves. Some 272 steps lead up to the sacred Hindu temple that lies inside the cave, and wonderful views of the city and beyond can be had from the entrance. The temple is a shrine to a Hindu deity, Lord Murugah and the complex consists of three caves full of colourful Hindu murals and artwork. After some time spent exploring, and perhaps witnessing a puja if we are lucky (a Hindu ceremony of worship where often an offering to the gods or deity will be made), we will continue south and drive onto the colonial city of Malacca. This afternoon we will then visit Villa Sentosa, a traditional house offering an interesting insight into the daily lives of a typical middle-class Malaysian family at the turn of the 20th century. This house-come-museum has been kept almost entirely as it was 100 years ago, and is located within the sleepy settlement of Kampong Morten, a village community hidden within the confines of the city. This evening we include a river cruise, offering an interesting vantage point to watch the sun set over the colonial cityscape.



Accommodation: Hotel Puri Melaka (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Walking tour of the Old Town and visit to Villa Sentosa

Malacca is one of the oldest towns in Malaysia, and certainly the most cosmopolitan. In its time it has been ruled by the Portuguese, the Dutch, the British and the Japanese, finally becoming Malay in 1957. Old Malacca is a fascinating area to wander around by yourself, and we include a walking tour of some of the major sights such as the tomb of Huang Kasturi, one of Malacca's five great 15th century warriors, and Cheng Hoon the oldest Chinese temple in Malaysia. The rest of the afternoon is free to explore this charming city. Malacca is the place to pick up antiques along 'antique row', and there are plenty of open-air restaurants along the water front in which to try the local speciality 'steamboat' - satay sticks of all types cooked in a pot in the middle of your table and eaten communally



Accommodation: Hotel Puri Melaka (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Free morning to explore Malacca, afternoon drive back to Kuala Lumpur

This morning has been left free for further exploration of the narrow winding streets of Old Malacca, a city best explored and experienced on foot. Later this afternoon we transfer by bus back to Kuala Lumpur, where the evening is at leisure.



Accommodation: Swiss Inn Kuala Lumpur (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available

DAY 6 - Visit Bukit Merah Orang-utan Sanctuary, travel to Belum Rainforest

We head north today, first travelling by train to the Perak State capital of Ipoh, where we then transfer to our bus and continue by road to the Bukit Merah Orang-utan Island. Bukit Merah was originally set up as an orang-utan Sanctuary in early 2000 and after many successfully rehabilitations it has now been recognised as a full conservation centre, caring for a total of 24 orang-utans. Bukit Merah rescues orang-utans either from illegal possession or illegal trade, and acts to rehabilitate these gentle primates before returning them to the wild. It also acts as an education centre for locals and tourists alike, teaching people about the importance of the 'Men of the Forest' and how vital the conservation of their natural habitat is. We make the short trip across to the Island by ferry and then spend some time watching the orang-utans and learning about the important conservation work being done here. (Please note that if the water levels are too low we will not be able to visit Bukit Merah, and instead will visit Kuala Sepetang Mangrove forest, where we can explore the forest on foot via the maze of boardwalks through the low-lying mangrove trees.) We later continue our journey north and cross into the Belum Rainforest. The Royal Belum State Park covers a large swatch of northern Malaysia and is believed to be one of the oldest rainforests in the world, dating back over 130 million years. Upon arrival in the park, we settle in to our rooms where the rest of evening is at leisure to enjoy our surroundings.



Accommodation: Belum Eco Resort (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Morning visit to Orang-Asli tribe. Afternoon free for jungle activities

After breakfast this morning we head out by boat onto the Temenggor Lake to visit the aboriginal villages of the Orang-Asli people. Translated from Malay to literally mean 'the original people', these tribes are indigenous to Peninsular Malaysia and live remotely in the forest regions of the north. We visit the Jahai and Temair tribe, where we learn about their ancient customs and traditions that have been passed down to them for generations. We will then continue our journey through one of the world's oldest forests on foot where, if we are lucky, we have a chance to encounter the incredible Rafflesia flower (seasonal), the world's largest flower. We plan to take up spot next to the beautiful Sugai Ruok Waterfall for our picnic lunch, before returning back to our rainforest retreat. This afternoon has been left free where we can either relax in our surroundings or take part in a number of optional activities organised with the resort's front desk. There is a variety of excursions on offer which include jungle walks, a river cruise, fishing, bamboo rafting and night walks.



Accommodation: Belum Eco Resort (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Travel to Georgetown by bus and ferry

We leave the tropical rainforest behind today as we wind our way out of Royal Belum State Park and onto Butterworth. It is here we leave the road and the mainland behind as we board our ferry to cross over to Georgetown, Penang Island. Upon arrival, we will visit the charming temple of Khoo Kongsi where we can admire its intricate carvings, with its woodwork bearing all the hallmarks of master craftsmen from China. We then continue on foot to the 'Little India' of Penang, a melee of stalls selling colourful saris, garments and bangles through to household items and crafts. We also have the chance to try some local delicacies such as 'Teh Tarik', a kind of cappuccino tea made with foam and milk!



Accommodation: Neo Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 9 - Morning tour of Penang, Afternoon free

Often called the 'Pearl of the Orient' by the local people, Penang lies some 4km off the Malay mainland. Its deep-water harbour is ideal for trade and so the island has become a haven of commerce. This morning we take an excursion around the island by private bus; visiting the majestic Kek Lok Si Temple, located on top of a hill, giving us a good insight into local life as it takes us through rural villages. You can also ride on the funicular railway to the top of Penang Hill (optional) for far reaching views across the island. In the afternoon you are free to explore. The Botanical Gardens are beautiful and can be reached quite easily by local bus, and there are many other interesting mosques and Buddhist temples to see. Appreciators of art should search out the local batik work at the Penang Art Gallery. In the evening we will organise to eat at one of the many local food stalls that Penang is so famous for, whether Indian, Chinese or Malay, the choice is yours!



Accommodation: Neo Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 10 - Morning ferry to Langkawi island, free afternoon

We rise early this morning for our ferry to the idyllic island paradise of Langkawi, a journey of approximately three hours. Langkawi is an archipelago made up of 99 islands lying just off the west coast of the Malaysian Peninsular. Surrounded by turquoise waters, the interior of the main island is a mixture of jungle-clad hills and picturesque paddy fields. This lush interior is encapsulated by white-sand beaches lapped by the warm waters of the Andaman Sea; an ideal place to relax or explore for our last few days in Malaysia. We will be met on arrival on the island and transferred to our base for the next 3 nights, where the rest of the day has been left free at leisure.



Accommodation: Favehotel Cenang Beach (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 11 - Free time in Langkawi - relax or optional island hopping

Today is a free day where you can choose to relax on the beautiful coconut palm-fringed beaches or perhaps snorkel amongst the tropical fish of the Andaman Sea. If you would prefer to remain more active, there are a number of optional excursions which can be arranged. Optional excursions include a cycling tour where you can explore some of the island's towns and villages on two wheels, an island-hopping cruise where you can discover some of the lesser-visited islands of the archipelago, or a visit to the Northern Mangroves taking in the unique geology, flora and fauna of this area.



Accommodation: Favehotel Cenang Beach (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 12 - Free to relax or optional cycling & exploration of mangrove forests

We have another free day to relax, unwind, or explore.



Accommodation: Favehotel Cenang Beach (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 13 - Trip ends in Langkawi

The trip ends in Langkawi this morning after breakfast.



Meals Provided: Breakfast



Why book this trip

Malaysia is one of the least visited in the South East Asian region and this holiday is planned to showcase the diversity of the Malay Peninsula. You will journey from north to south and really experience everything from an ancient Chinatown in Penang to the jungles of Royal Belum to the tropical beaches of Langkawi. Along the way you will find the people as diverse as the landscape and architecture - ethnic Malay, Thai, Indonesian, Indian and Chinese people truly make Malaysia the melting pot of Asian cultures.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 12



Transport

Bus
Boat
Ferry
Public Bus
Train



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Boat Crew
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



Accommodation

12 nights standard hotel

Trip information

Country information

Malaysia Holidays & Tours

Climate

Temperatures are uniform throughout the year, with conditions on the coast more humid. Day-time temperatures reach around 31°C and then drop at night to about 23°C. There is no clearly defined wet and dry seasons, though the southwest monsoon (September to November) and the northeast monsoon (November to February) bring rather more rain. On the west coast rain tends to fall mainly in short lived thunderstorms, and the sky clears quite quickly.

Time difference to GMT

+8

Plugs

3 Pin Flat

Religion

Islam

Language

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Penang - Take a trip on the funicular hill railway for views of Georgetown and beyond - £7.00 per person
Kuala Lumpur - Dinner dance show £12.00 per person
Langkawi - Cable Car and Oriental Village - £25 per person
Langkawi - Tour of northern mangroves and bat caves - £32 per person
Langkawi - Boat trip and snorkelling Pulau Payar Marine Park - £50 per person

Clothing

Pack for hot conditions. Bear in mind that the region is tropical (humid) and that days can be very hot. Lightweight rainwear is advisable all year. Casual clothes are the most practical (something with long sleeves, and long trousers for evenings). Malaysia is a Muslim country so dress with respect, tight or brief shorts and clothes should be avoided by both men and women.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes and sandals. Lightweight walking shoes are recommended.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daysac. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

A small torch, some insect repellent and a water bottle for walks.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly you should allow £20. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Country Information

Malaysia Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£4

Dinner price

£8

Beer price

£2

Water price

£0.8

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Malaysian Ringgit.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP or USD.

Where To Exchange

Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise on arrival.

ATM Availability

Major towns and cities.

Credit Card Acceptance

In major restaurants.

Travellers Cheques

Major towns and cities.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Ferry, Public Bus, Train

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Malaysia: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. All passports must have at least 6 months validity after departure from Malaysia. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Non refundable permits

Malaysia Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, tetanus, infectious hepatitis, typhoid, diphtheria and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against Malaria. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.
