

MALAYSIA TRIP NOTES

Malaysia is two countries in one. On one side of the South China Sea are the futuristic city of Kuala Lumpur and the colonial seaside grandeur of Penang Island. On the Borneo side, you'll find some of the most unspoiled and vividly beautiful places on earth with rainforests, highlands, waterfalls and exotic plants and wildlife.

Malaysia offers extreme contrasts, from towering skyscrapers to national parks. For pure adventure, head to Borneo to climb S.E. Asia's highest peak, Mt Kinabalu, or visit the heart-melting Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary where orphaned and injured orangutans are rehabilitated.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

US nationals are required to have a passport valid for at least 6 months from date of return and at least 2 blank visa pages. This is subject to change without notice. This is subject to change without notice.

MEDICATIONS & INNOCULATIONS

There are no require shots or medications for travelers arriving from the US into Malaysia. Use insect repellent, and take sensible precautions to avoid bites and stings if you embark on a jungle adventure. Please check with your travel clinic for their recommendation based on your personal health history.

CURRENCY

The Malaysian Ringgit is the currency of Malaysia. The currency code for Ringgits is MYR, and the currency symbol is RM.

CREDIT CARDS

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so. Cash is needed for shopping at street markets. ATMs are plentiful in cities.

A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>



TIME DIFFERENCE

Kuala Lumpur is 16 hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time and 13 hours ahead of US Pacific Standard Time.

SHOPPING

Pewter, fabric such as batik and hand woven crafts are the best souvenirs from Malaysia. For those with a bigger budget, coveted Sabah pearls are priced better in Malaysia than anywhere outside.

ELECTRICITY

In Nepal the standard voltage is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. Plugs are types C, D and M. For more information on plugs and voltage, please visit <http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

LANGUAGE

Bahasa Malaysia is the national language. English is generally understood throughout the country.

CLIMATE

Malaysia's climate is tropical, with high humidity all year. The temperature is usually 86 degrees F. The rainy season, which affects mainly the east coast of the peninsula, the north-eastern parts of Sabah and the western part of Sarawak, lasts from November to February.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

In Malaysia, people don't normally tip. If you go to a restaurant, there will be a service charge of 10% included on your bill. That being said, it is common, even for locals, to tip the wait person who serves you at bars/pubs/clubs.

Your guide appreciates a tip, and US \$5 a day is a good amount. US \$1 a day is an appropriate tip for a driver.

ETIQUETTE

Never touch anyone on the top of the head (home of the soul), especially a child. Avoid touching anyone of the opposite sex.

Affection is not shown in public.

Use your right hand to eat, pass things and touch people. Do not pass objects with your left hand.

Do not move objects with your feet or point at another person with your foot.

Giving a slight bow when leaving, entering or passing by people means, "excuse me."

This information is provided by Asia Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting, and is up to date to the best of our knowledge. Further information is available to you at this website - <https://www.malaysia.travel/>