

# MALAYSIA : Some Travel Tips



## Population

Malaysia's population is a fusion of many ethnic and indigenous groups. The Malays, Chinese, and Indians form the main ethnic group in Malaysia although in Sarawak the populace is made up of mainly the Malays, Chinese, Iban and Dayaks as well as other indigenous tribes.

## Religion

Islam is the official religion. However, there is freedom of worship, one that is enshrined in the country's constitution.

## Government

Malaysia enjoys a parliamentary democracy. The supreme head is Yang Di Pertuan Agung (The King). The head of government is the Prime Minister who is the leader of the party that commands the majority seats in parliament.

In Sarawak, the Head of State is His Excellency the Tuan Yang Terutama whilst the head of government is the Chief Minister.

## Weather

Tropical climate, with temperatures ranging between 22c° to 32c° (72f° to 90f°). Humidity is high all year round. The coastal parts of Sarawak experience wet season during the months of December to March with the driest months being June and July.

**Travel Documents:** A visitor must present his/her PASSPORT together with the duly completed ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE CARD to the Immigration officer on duty and he/she must ensure that the passport or travel document is endorsed with the appropriate pass before leaving the immigration counter. With the Abolishment of Visa, the **Social Visit Pass** is required. Every foreign visitor entering Malaysia must obtain a social visit pass for social visits including purposes of tourism, attending meetings, seminars, etc. This is issued at points of entry on arrival.

**Language:** Expect to find Malay and a variety of native tongues spoken in the marketplace. However, English is widely understood and used in the commercial world.

**Working Hours:** Banks are open Mondays to Fridays from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Offices usually operate from 9am-5pm, Mondays to Fridays, while shopping centres are open from 10am-10am every day.

**Sarawak Immigration Requirements:** All international visitors are required to fill in an immigration form upon arrival. Malaysia has strict anti-drug trafficking laws and those caught smuggling illegal drugs will be given mandatory death penalty.

**Communications:** Mobile telecommunications cover many parts of Sarawak except for the most remote area. Public phones are available sporadically in many places.

**Medical:** Government hospitals, clinics and dispensaries are located in all towns and larger villages. Private medical practitioners and pharmacies are listed in the local phone directory. However, those who need specific medication are advised to bring along adequate supplies.

**Disabled friendly facilities:** Facilities are limited. Please check with your accommodation of choice.

**Clothing:** Shoes must be removed before entering homes, longhouses or mosques. Long sleeved shirts and long pants or skirts are appropriate for visiting places of worship. Nude sunbathing or swimming is unacceptable. Do bring your swimsuit. Light, casual and a good pair of walking or trekking shoes would suffice for day activities. Mosquito repellent is advisable if you plan to jungle trekking, but you may also purchase them from pharmacies here.

**Electricity:** The electricity supply is 220/240 volts at 50 hertz . The electrical plugs and sockets used are similar to those used in Britain. North Americans will have to use adaptors which are readily available from the major hotels.

**Banking and Currency:** The Malaysian currency, the Ringgit (RM) is presently to the US dollar at RM3.30 to 1 USD (please check current rate). The Malaysian Ringgit notes are available in denominations of RM1, RM5, RM10, RM50 and RM100 , and coins from 1 sen, 5 sen, 10 sen, 20 sen, 50 sen . Most outlets take the major credit cards and ATM machines are readily available. However, do note that most but not all of these machines have a 24 hour operation. And most convenient stores and coffee shops only accept notes.

**Tipping:** Service charges are included in billings for food, beverages and accommodation. Tipping is not customary.

**Souvenirs for home:** Sarawak is the region's most famous pepper producer - be sure to bring some back for your friends. Many visitors from other parts of Malaysia take with them frozen seafood and caviar of a local fish. Local food such as shrimp paste, fruit preserves and pickles allow you to share a taste of Sarawak with your friends. Kain songket, batik, beaded jewellery, weaved mats and rattan baskets are reminders of the native's ingenious use of natural products. The musically inclined may wish to bring a sape back to share its haunting melody with others.

**Leave behind:** Your footprints and everything you see in the Natural Parks and wilderness. Sarawak has a tough wildlife law. All animals and plants are protected under such law. Enjoy the beauty of this paradise and allow others after you to enjoy it too.

# MALAYSIAN IMMIGRATION AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

All persons entering Malaysia must possess valid national passports or other internationally recognised travel documents valid for travel to Malaysia. These passports or travel documents must be valid for at least six months beyond the date of entry into Malaysia.

## Application for Visas

Application for visas for the purpose of entry into Malaysia should be made at the nearest Malaysian mission abroad. In countries where Malaysian missions have not been established, applications should be submitted to the nearest British High Commission or Embassy.

## Entry into Malaysia

Passes to be Obtained at Point of Entry - a visit pass for the purpose of a social, tourist or business visit may be obtained at the point of entry if the visitor can satisfy the immigration authority at the point of entry that he has a valid passport and visa (wherever applicable).

## Visit Pass (Social or Tourist)

Visit passes (social or tourist) are issued solely for the purpose of a social or tourist visit. A person who has been issued with a social or tourist visit pass is not permitted to take up employment, business or professional work while in Malaysia.

### 1. Countries which require a VISA

Afghanistan (Visa Dengan Rujukan)  
Angola  
Bhutan  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Central African Republic  
China  
Colombia  
Comoros  
Congo Democratic Republic  
Congo Republic  
Cote D'ivoire  
Djibouti  
Equat. Guinea  
Eritrea

Ethiopia  
Guinea-Bissau  
Hong Kong (C/I or D/I)  
India  
Liberia  
Mali  
Myanmar (pasport biasa)  
Nepal  
Niger  
Rwanda  
Serbia & Montenegro  
Taiwan  
United Nations (Laissez Passer)  
Western Sahara

### 2. Commonwealth countries which require VISA

Bangladesh  
Cameroon  
Ghana  
Mozambique  
Nigeria  
Pakistan  
Sri Lanka

### 3. Countries which require Visa for Stay longer than 3 months

Albania  
Algeria  
Lebanon  
Lienchestien

Argentina	Luxembourg
Australia	Morocco
Austria (Vienna)	Netherland
Bahrain	Norway
Belgium	Oman
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Peru
Brazil	Poland
Croatia	Qatar
Cuba	Romania
Czech Republic	St Marino
Denmark	Saudi Arabia
Egypt	Slovakia
Finland	South Korea
France	Spain
Germany	Sweden
Hungary	Switzerland
Iceland	Tunisia
Ireland	Turkey
Italy	Turkmenistan
Japan	United Arab Emirates
Jordan	United Kingdom
Kirgystan	Uruguay
Kuwait	Yemen
Kyrgyz Republic	

#### 4. Countries which require Visa for stay more than 1 month

Armenia	Madagascar
Azerbaijan	Maldova
Barbados	Mauritania
Belarus	Mexico
Benin	Monaco
Bolivia	Mongalia
Bulgaria	Nicaragua
Cambodia	North Korea
Cape Verde	North Yemen
Chad	Panama
Chile	Paraguay
Costa Rica	Portugal
Equador	Russia
El Savador	Sao Tome & Principe
Estonia	Senegal
Gabon	Slovenia
Georgia	Sudan
Greece	Surinam
Guatemala	Tajikistan
Guinea Republic	Togo
Haiti	Ukraine
Honduras	Upper Volta
Hong Kong SAR	Uzbekistan
Kazakhstan	Vatican City
Latvia	Vanezuela
Lithuania	Zaire
Macao SAR	Zimbabwe
Macedonia	

#### 5. Countries which require Visa for Stay more than 14 days

Iran (90 hari)  
Iraq (30 hari)  
Libya

Macao (Travel Permit/Portugal CI)  
Palestine (30 hari)  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Yemen  
Syria (30 hari)

Visa is not required for citizens of United States of America who arrive for the purpose of social visit, commerce or academic purposes (except employment)

Visa is not required for stay of less than 1 month for ASEAN nationals except Myanmar. Visa is required for stay more than 1 month except Brunei and Singapore.

Israel nationals require visa and approval for entry from Ministry of Internal Affairs

Nationals of Republik Serbia dan Republik Montenegro require visa for entry without reference to KDN.

Citizens of countries other than the above stated (except Israel) are allowed entry into Malaysia without visa for the duration no more than one month only.

## Useful Malay Words & Expressions

### Pronunciation guide

#### ENGLISH

#### MALAY

#### Greetings

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How do you do?	Apa khabar?
Good morning	Selamat pagi
Good afternoon	Selamat petang
Good night	Selamat malam
Good bye	Selamat tinggal
Bon Voyage	Selamat jalan
Fine	Baik
Welcome	Selamat datang

#### Questions

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Can you help me?	Bolehkah anda tolong saya?
How do I get there?	Bagaimanakah saya boleh ke sana?
How far?	Berapa jauh?
How long will it take?	Berapa lama?
How much (price)?	Berapa harganya?
What is this/that?	Apakah ini/itu?
What is your name?	Apakah nama anda?
When?	Bila?
Where?	Di mana?
Why?	Mengapa ?

#### Pronouns

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I	Saya
You	Anda, Awak, Encik(MR)

We	Cik(Miss),Puan(MRS)
He/She	Kami
They	Dia
	Merdeka

### Useful Words and Expressions

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A little	Sedikit
A lot	Banyak
Beach	Pantai
Beef	Daging Lembu
Chicken	Ayam
Cold	Sejuk
Crab	Ketam
Drink	Minum
Do not have	Tiada
Eat	Makan
Excuse me	Maafkan saya
Exit	Keluar
Female	Perempuan
Fish	Ikan
Fruit	Buah
Have	Ada
Hot	Panas
I am sorry	Saya minta maaf
Male	Lelaki
Meat	Daging
Money	Wang/Duit
Mutton	Daging kambing
No	Tidak
Please	Tolong/Sila
Pork	Daging babi
Prawn	Udang
Salt	Garam
Shop	Kedai
Sugar	Gula
Thank You	Terima kasih
Toilet	Tandas/Bilik air
Trishaw	Beca
Wait	Tunggu
Want	Mahu
Water	Air
Yes	Ya

### Directions

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Go up	Naik
Go down	Turun
Turn	Belok
Right	Kanan
Left	Kiri
Front	Hadapan
Behind	Belakang
North	Utara
South	Selatan
East	Timur
West	Barat

Up  
Down

Atas  
Bawah

### Numbers

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One	Satu
Two	Dua
Three	Tiga
Four	Empat
Five	Lima
Six	Enam
Seven	Tujuh
Eight	Lapan
Nine	Sembilan
Ten	Sepuluh
Eleven	Sebelas
Twelve	Dua belas
Twenty	Dua puluh
One hundred	Satu ratus