**About Malaysia Tab**

Malaysia is a country blessed with beautiful natural beaches and islands, as she is made up of a large peninsular and the third largest island in the world.  
  
As Malaysia has a long history of civilisation and colonialisation, you can find traces of Portuguese, Dutch, English and Japanese architectural and cultural heritage in Malaysia.  
  
You must also visit Malaysia if you want to taste different kinds of oriental cuisine because here in Malaysia we have Malay, Chinese, Indian and a lot of other types of cuisines.  
  
Malaysia is also a must-visit place for those who want see different culture and religious practices in a harmonious community. We have some of the most beautiful mosques, largest Hindu temple complex and several gigantic Buddha monuments.

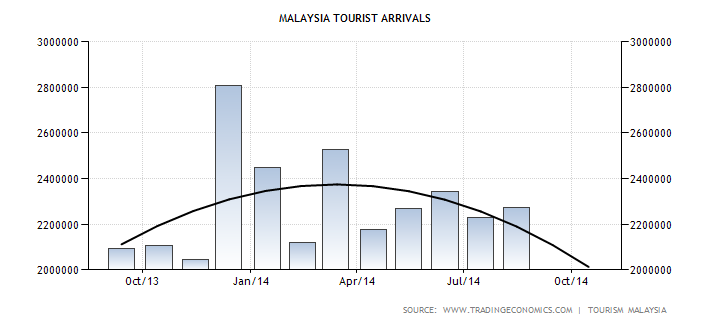
To know Malaysia is to love Malaysia – a bubbling, bustling melting-pot of races and religious where Malays, indiansm, Chinese and many other ethnic groups live together in peace and harmony. Our multiculturalism has Malaysia a gastronomical paradise and home to hundreds of colorful festivals. It’s no wonder that we love celebrating and socializing. As a people, Malaysians are very relaxed, warm and friendly.

Geographically, Malaysia is almost as diverse as its culture. 11 states and 2 federal territories (Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya) form Peninsular Malaysia which is separated by the South China Sea from East Malaysia which includes the states (Sabah and Sarawak on the island of Borneo) and the third federal territory, the island of Labuan.

One of Malaysia’s key attraction is its extreme contrasts which further add to this theme of ‘diversity’. Towering skyscrapers look down upon wooden houses built on stilts while five-star hotels sit just meters away from the ancient reefs.

Rugged mountains reach dramatically for the sky while their rainforest-clad clopes sweep down to floodplains teeming with forest life. Cool highland hideaways roll down to warm, sandy beaches and rich, humid mangroves.

For the prefect holiday full of surprises, the time is now, the place is Malaysia.  



**Architecture**

The architecture all around Malaysia today displays almost every imaginable architectural category and style of Asia’s main cultures and religions. Yet while the old architectural heritage is preserved, Malaysia looks forward and creates its own new towering heritage in the world.  
  
Today most Malaysian cities and towns are a milieu of old and new. As exemplified by the capital Kuala Lumpur, where traditional houses and colonial edifices stand together with mosques, temples and churches; all within walking distance under the shadow of a new heritage, the Petronas Twin Towers, the world’s tallest twin buildings. This architectural evolution is the result of historical influences on the nation over the centuries. It began from the ancient forest-born native dwellings to Hindu-Indian and Arab-Muslim influences followed by the arrival of the Chinese as the Asian part. Then came the series of European colonial periods from the Portuguese, Dutch and finally the British but which was tempered by local sentiment throughout; finally to the independent modern Malaysian vision yet still rooted in traditional spirituality.

**Beaches & Islands**

Malaysia a land of friendly people and a nation blessed with natural wonders, welcome you are bordered by Thailand to the north and Singapore to the south, Malaysia also stretches across the northern tier of Borneo to form the states the Sabah and Sarawak.  
  
With 48,000 km of coastline, Malaysia boasts some of the most beautiful islands and beach in Asia with the straits of Malacca on the west, the South China Sea to the east and the Andaman sea to the Northwest. An amazing number of these natural treasures lay nestled in tranquil bays and coves. Beneath the aquamarine waters lies a fascinating world of coral and marine life waiting to be discovered.  
  
Come and be mesmerized by these fabulous holiday retreats.

**Cultural**

In Malaysia, visitors will be surprised to find all of Asia’s main ethnic groups living together in harmony. Indeed, all the world’s major religions are also represented here. An interesting sight in major towns is the proximity of mosques, temples and churches to each other.  
  
This social phenomenon has enriched the shared character, cultural mosaic and vision of the nation.  
  
Mingle with the country’s over 25 million people, consisting of the majority Malays and other indigenous groups including the Orang-Asli, Dayaks, Kadazan, Dusun, Melanau, Murut and more. Joining them are the Chinese, Indians, groups of mixed descent such as Baba-Nyonyas and Eurasians of Portuguese and other European ancestry as well as more recent immigrants from Asian countries.

**Gastronomy**

Malaysia has many kinds of restaurants almost everywhere in the cities and towns. There are Malay Restaurants, Chinese restaurants, Indian Restaurants, Thai Restaurants and more. Eating out in Malaysia is a real gastronomic adventure.  
  
There is such a great variety; spicy Malay Food, a seemingly endless variety of Chinese food, exotic cuisine from North and South India, as well as Nyonya and Portuguese Food.  
  
Popular Malaysian dishes include satay, nasi lemak, rendang, roti canai, murtabak, laksa, chicken rice, and fried noodles. Western cuisine is also easily available. In addition, international fast food chains operate in major towns side by side with thousands of road side stalls and food bazaars.

**Historical**

The historical tours in the country of Malaysia would include numerous visits to those places which bear some historical significance. There are plenty of cities and places in Malaysia which provide careful insights into the history of the country. A historical tour in Malaysia would enable you find out all that there is to know about the history of the country. There are numerous buildings and monuments in the country which bear evidence to the colonial past of the country of Malaysia. The Dutch, the Portuguese and the British buildings form an integral part of the country.  
  
The historical tours in Malaysia would not fail to offer you some exciting holiday memories for you to carry back home. The different cities of the country boast of numerous museums which the tourists could visit. A majority of the people in Malaysia follow the religion of Islam. Thus you would be able to find plenty of mosques in the country which bear a historical significance. The colonial past of the country ensures that the country also boasts of a few historical churches and memorials.  
  
The historical tours in Malaysia would surely be an enriching experience for all the tourists.

**Religion**

All of the world's major religions have substantial representation in Malaysia, the main adherents of each largely reflecting the multi-ethnic character of the population. The variety of religions found in Malaysia is a direct reflection of the diversity of races living there. Although Islam is the state religion of Malaysia, freedom of religion is guaranteed. The Malays are almost all Muslims. The Chinese embrace an eclectic brew of Taoism, Buddhism and ancestor worship, though some are Christians. Although Christianity has made no great inroads into Peninsular Malaysia it has had a much greater impact upon East Malaysia, where many indigenous people have converted to Christianity, although others still follow their animist traditions.  
  
With so many cultures co-existing in harmony within its shores, Malaysia naturally boasts a myriad of festivals celebrated throughout the year. The major festivals are Aidilfitri (Eid-ur-Fitr), Chinese New Year, Deepavali, Christmas, Vasakhi, Gawai Dayak and Tadau Ka’amatan.During these festivals, Malaysians practice a concept called ‘open house’, an occasion to receive well-wishers. There will be feasting and merry-making as everyone partakes in the gaiety of the occasion. Malaysians of all races and religions join in the festivities

**EVENTS**

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| **EVENTS** | **VENUE** | **2014** | **2015** |
| **KL 1Malaysia Family Fair @ Matic (Family Fun)**  Ministry of Tourism | **Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTiC), Kuala Lumpur** | Every Saturday (4pm – 11pm) | Every Saturday (4pm – 11pm) |
| **Jalur Gemilang Flag Raising Ceremony At Dataran Merdeka** | **Dataran Merdeka** | Every Monday (9am) | Every Monday (9am) |
| **JANUARY** | | | |
| Royal Langkawi International Regatta | Langkawi, Kedah | 6 – 11 Jan (Mon – Sat) | 5 – 10 Jan (Mon – Sat) |
| **FEBRUARY** | | | |
| Chinese New Year Celebration | Throughout Malaysia | 31 Jan (Thurs) | 19 Feb (Tues) |
| Sunway Fest Truly Malaysia Chinese New Year Showlights | Bandar Sunway, Selangor & Sunway City Ipoh, Perak | Jan | Feb |
| 1Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Heritage Xplorace 2012 | Menara Kuala Lumpur | 22 Feb (Sat) | 21 Feb (Sat) |
| Thaipusam | Batu Caves, Selangor | 16 Jan (Wed) | Feb |
| **MARCH** | | | |
| Le Tour De Langkawi (LTDL) | Putrajaya – Langkawi | Feb/March | Feb/March |
| 1Malaysia GP Sale (Affordable Luxury) Shopping Malaysia Secretariat, Tourism Malaysia | Throughout Malaysia | 15 Mar–15 April | 15 Mar–15 April |
| Malaysia International Shoe Festival (Business Tourism) Ministry of Tourism | Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) Kuala Lumpur | March | March |
| Petronas F1 Malaysia Grand Prix (EE&SS) Sepang International Circuit Sdn Bhd | Sepang International Circuit, Selangor | March | March |
| Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) (Business Tourism) HW LIMA Sdn Bhd | Langkawi, Kedah | March | March |
| LIMA Tourism Carnival (Family Fun) Ministry of Tourism | Langkawi, Kedah | March | March |
| Future Music Festival Asia (EE&SS) Live Scape Sdn Bhd | Sepang International Circuit, Selangor | March | March |
| Putrajaya International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta (Family Fun) Putrajaya Corporation | Putrajaya | March | March |
| Malaysia Water Festival – Port Dickson (EE&SS) Ministry Of Tourism | Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan | 2-4 May (Fri-Sun) | 1-3 May (Fri-Sun) |
| Malaysia Water Festival – Langkawi (Family Fun) Ministry of Tourism | Cenang Beach, Langkawi, Kedah | 12-14 April (Fri-Sun) | 11-13 April (Fri-Sun) |
| Malaysia Water Festival – Labuan International Sea Challenge (EE&SS) Ministry Of Tourism | Labuan | 25-27 April (Fri-Sun) | 24-26 April (Fri-Sun) |
| Maybank Malaysia Open 2012 (EE&SS) Global One | Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club, Kuala Lumpur | April | April |
| Corporate Travel Bazaar (Business Tourism) Tourism Malaysia | Kuala Lumpur/ Selangor | April | April |
| Regatta Lepa (EE&SS) Sabah Tourism Board | Semporna, Sabah | April | April |
| **MAY** | | | |
| KL Tower International Day Night Towerthon Challenge (EE&SS) Menara Kuala Lumpur Sdn. Bhd. | Menara Kuala Lumpur | 18 May (Sun) | 23 May (Sat) |
| Sabah Fest - A Cultural Extravaganza (Family Fun) Sabah Tourism Board | Kota Kinabalu, Sabah | May | May |
| Borneo International Jazz Festival (EE&SS) Sarawak Tourism Board | Miri, Sarawak | May | May |
| AAM Malaysian Rally Championship (EE&SS) Perlis State Office Ministry of Tourism | Ladang Tebu, Chuping, Perlis | May | May |
| Pahang International River Rafting Adventure (EE&SS) Ministry of Information, Communication and Culture | Sungai Pahang | May | May |
| Colours of 1 Malaysia (Family Fun) Ministry of Tourism | Merdeka Square, Kuala Lumpur | 17 May (Sat) | 23 May (Sat) |

**TOURSIST ARRIVALS FOR MALAYSIA FROM WORLD WIDE**



DESPITE some major setbacks this year Tourism Malaysia’s aggressive promotional efforts and commitment from industry players in line with the celebration of Visit Malaysia Year 2014 have contributed to the continuous growth of the country’s tourism industry.

From January to May, Malaysia welcomed a total of 11.53 million (11,532,859) tourists, registering a hike of 10.1% compared to 10.48 million (10,478,419) tourists for the same period last year.

The top 10 tourist generating markets to Malaysia from January to May were Singapore (5,799,383), Indonesia (1,113,502), China (754,696), Thailand (574,255), Brunei (488,199), India (328,498), the Philippines (265,555), Japan (229,982), Australia (253,370) and Britain (199,741).

Throughout the month of May, the Asean region continued to be the largest contributor of tourist arrivals with 75.7% share (1.72 million) of Malaysia’s total arrivals. Among Asean countries, Brunei registered the highest growth of 41.5%, followed by Vietnam (+28.9%), the Philippines (+21.3%), Indonesia (+17.9%), Laos (+14.4%), Thailand (+12.6%), Cambodia (+11.8%), and Singapore (+10.8%).

The upsurge of arrivals from Indonesia was due to the additional daily flights by AirAsia which connects Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, as well as the new weekly flights from Jogjakarta and Lombok to Johor Baru since April.

Malaysia’s participations in the Vietnam International Travel Mart 2014, International Gastronomy Festival and Hue Festival have also contributed to the increase in arrivals from Vietnam as a large number of tour packages to Malaysia were sold.

The medium-haul markets contributed 17.9% or 406,036 tourists to Malaysia’s total arrivals in May. Countries that registered double-digit growth were South Korea (+50.2%), Oman (+42.7%), Egypt (+36.9%), the United Arab Emirates (+29.6%), Pakistan (+21.1%), India (+19.1%), and Saudi Arabia (+13.9%).

A hike in arrivals from South Korea was a result of the new AirAsia’s flights from Busan to Kuala Lumpur since July 2013. For Saudi Arabia, it was due to the three new Flynas Airlines’ weekly flights from Jeddah to Kuala Lumpur since April.

A total of 143,556 tourists or 6.3% of Malaysia’s total arrivals were contributed by the long-haul markets during the month of May. The markets that posted double-digit growth were Spain (59%), Italy (26.2%), Germany (18.8%), Ireland (14.6%), the Netherlands (10.7%) and Switzerland (10%).

The distinct growth in arrivals from Spain was due to the sponsorship on Sevilla football club since March. The Visit Malaysia Year 2014 logo on the jerseys allowed the campaign to get a wide coverage in Spain and worldwide.

The increase in arrivals from Italy was attributed to the additional air connectivity offered by Turkish Airlines from the cities of Bologna, Pisa, Naples and Catania, through Istanbul to Malaysia.

Tourism Malaysia’s participation in international tourism exhibitions including CMT (Caravanning, Motor and Tourism) Stuttgart, Reisen Hamburg, and ITB (Internationale Tourismus-Börse) Berlin have contributed to the growth in arrivals from Germany.

**Data on tourist arrivals is supplied by the Malaysian Immigration Department.**