

Introduction

Malaysia is divided into two regions, Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur, which is located along the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia, is the political and commercial capital of the country and its largest city.

KL, as it is commonly referred to, is a modern Asian city with a unique blend of old colonial and new Asia where bustling street vendors and night markets are found next to world class hotels and skyscrapers.

Area

243 sq km

Time Zone

GMT/UTC +8

Population

Malaysia's population is 25 million and approximately 1.8 million people live in Kuala Lumpur.

Approx 50% of its population are Malay, 33% Chinese and 9% Indian, plus several other indigenous tribes.

Language

Bahasa Malaysia is the national language but English is also widely spoken along with various other languages by smaller ethnic groups.

Currency

Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)
AUD\$1 = approx MYR2.75

Climate

Hot and humid with rain throughout the year with the wettest months being Mar-Apr and Sep-Nov.

Temps range from 26 °C to 33 °C.

Electricity

240V

Getting there

Malaysia Airlines operates 47 weekly flights from five cities in Australia - Sydney/Melbourne/Perth/Brisbane and Adelaide to KL.

Getting around

Air services fly into Kuala Lumpur

International Airport which is 75km south of the city centre and from the airport the KLIA Ekspres train takes travellers direct to KL Sentral (Central Station) in around half an hour.

To get around the city travellers can either use rental cars, metered and non metered taxis, buses and trains as well as light rail (LRT) or the Kuala Lumpur Monorail.

Accommodation

KL has a range of accommodation on offer for travellers including first class hotels like Hilton and JW Marriott Hotels as well as serviced apartments, lodges and backpacker hostels.

Things to do

The National Museum - provides an introduction to the history and culture of Malaysia with galleries that trace the periods of history of Peninsular Malaysia.

Lake Gardens - are 91.6 hectares of manicured gardens near the Malaysian Parliament building.

There's also an a butterfly park, a planetarium, a walk-in aviary and row boats for hire there.

Central Market - has local crafts, souvenirs, clothes and jewelry for sale.

Kuala Lumpur's cultural diversity means there are also festivals and local events on throughout the year.

Visas

Australian citizens do not need visas for visits of less than 3 months.

Every visitor entering Malaysia must have a passport valid for more than 6 months from the date of entry.

Religion

Islam is the official religion of Malaysia but other religions including Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity are also widely practised.

When to Go

KL lies so close to the equator that its weather varies very little so any time is a good time to visit.



The city of Kuala Lumpur



Kuala Lumpur promotes itself as having some of the world's best shopping.

Street markets are best for atmosphere, or travellers can find a bargain in one of its shopping malls or department stores.



The Petronas Towers at night, one of the world's tallest buildings which rises above KL's skyline.

Visitors can marvel at the view from its Skybridge.

Images courtesy of Tourism Malaysia.

This destination report has been sponsored by Malaysia Airlines.

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DESTINATION KUALA LUMPUR - MALAYSIA

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