

The Edvectus Educator: An Introduction to Malaysia

A Guide to Successful Integration



The Facts and Figures

Official Name: Federation of Malaysia

Location: South East Asia

Border: Malaysia has borders with Thailand, Brunei and Indonesia and water borders with Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Area: 329,847 square kms

Topography: 4/5 of peninsular Malaysia is rainforest and swamp – particularly on the East Coast which is mainly jungle and less populated. The majority of the country's population live in the coastal plains in the west. The north is more mountainous.

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

Population: around 30,699,000

Main Language: Malaysian (Bahasa Malaysia)

Currency: MYR (or RM) Malaysian Ringgit

Dialling Code: +60

Time Zone: UTC +8

Government: Federal Government within a constitutional monarchy

Main Airport: Kuala Lumpur International Airport

Main Carrier: Malaysia Airlines

Drives on the: Left

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Religion: The majority practice Islam though there is freedom to worship other religions and a large portion of the population also practice Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and traditional Chinese (amongst other) religions.



Unique Selling Points

Malaysia is perfectly positioned between Thailand and Singapore, with Indonesia to the south, to the west and to the east. On the north coast of the island of Borneo are the states of Sabah and Sarawak. Malaysia is a beautiful, exciting country with diverse and stunning scenery, wildlife, rainforests, beaches, mountains, highlands, history and culture. Malaysia's economy is largely supported by manufacturing, tourism, natural rubber, palm oil, timber and petroleum. It is a very multi-cultural country with a population comprised of a variety of ethnic groups – the majority being Malay and other indigenous, followed by Chinese and Indian. Bahasa Malaya (Malay) is the official language, though English and Chinese are also widely spoken. Although the official religion is Islam, there is freedom of worship and the country has a unique blend of races, religions, culture and traditions that peacefully co-exist. With a year-round tropical climate that varies depending on which part of the country you are in, it is always a good time to visit. Generally speaking, the best time for dry weather on the east coast is June and July and then January and February if you're heading to the west coast. The wettest months on the west coast fall between May and October whilst on the East Coast it's September to December. If you're heading to the capital, Kuala Lumpur, then it's probably best to avoid March and April and September to November when rainfall peaks.

Your experiences in Malaysia will also vary depending on your location. One minute you could be hiking riding, cycling, four wheel driving, ab-sailing or zip-lining through one of the oldest rainforests on earth, home to some of the world's tallest trees, and the next minute you could be relaxing on a white sandy beach listening to the gentle lapping of the sparkling turquoise water. In the jungles of Borneo, you can experience the privilege of learning about the indigenous tribes or observe orangutans or and other rare and fascinating wildlife (pygmy elephant, gibbon or proboscis monkey for example) in their natural habitats. For the energetic, there is adventure caving, white water rafting and exploring underground limestone structures (and the wildlife that inhabit these caves, such as snakes, bats and fireflies). For the less active traveller, you can take a leisurely river safari or try your hand at fishing. The cities in Malaysia offer some amazing sights and experiences too, with the glistening metropolises that rival any major city in the world for shopping, food and entertainment.

Gurney Drive, Penang



There are numerous tropical island resorts off the north-west coast of Malaysia (close to the Thai border), which are popular holiday destinations. One of the most well-known is the state of Penang which is comprised of Penang Island and Seberang Perai on the Peninsular. Penang is just a 3-hour drive from Kuala Lumpur (or you can

fly) and, with its exotic beaches (such as the palm-fringed Monkey Beach, Tanjung Bunga, Bahu Ferringhi and Teluk Bahang) and tropically warm year round climate, it is popular amongst locals and foreigners alike. Penang is known as the food capital of Malaysia with eating is a popular activity. Aside from eating, there is lots of culture and you can explore the capital, Georgetown, with its colonial and traditional architecture, or enjoy the views from Penang Hill. There are also plenty of museums, art galleries and temples - such as Kek Lok Si Temple - to discover and some very cool street art, as well as various festivals and sporting events. As with Kuala Lumpur, shopping is also a major pastime!

Another idyllic retreat within Malaysia is Langkawi – a group of 99 white, sandy beached islands in the sparkling waters of the Andaman Sea, 30kms off North West Malaysian coast. It's a duty free island (so more shopping is called for!) and has been a popular tourist destination since the 1980s. To see unrivalled views of the islands, you can take the Langkawi sky cab or, for a more unique view, try parasailing or the skytrex adventure which zip lines through the tree tops. For those who prefer terra firma (almost), you can walk through the tree tops via bridges and walkways of the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park. For those who prefer land (or rather sea level), then there is jet skiing and island hopping. A mangrove tour is also worth doing, as is taking a wander through the rice paddies via elevated wooden walkways. Langkawi is famous for its seafood and eating out is, once again, a popular pastime for locals and tourists alike. For a little culture you can visit the art museum.

The opportunities in this amazing country are endless. Even if you do want to take a longer break somewhere completely different, Malaysia's location is perfect for a quick trip to Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, or beyond.



Langkawi, Malaysia



Beach in the Perhentian Islands, Malaysia

Find out more:

<http://www.edvectus.com/pages/malaysia>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/malaysia>

<http://www.tourism.gov.my/en/au/about-malaysia>

<http://www.worldtravelguide.net/malaysia/things-to-do> Malaysia Travel Guide

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIDaERCRmrc> Malaysia Tourism-An Enchanting Getaway

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JeM1MA5LgA> Malaysia Vacation Travel Guide Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V55a5zX7cns> Visit Malaysia
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QPCPCaRNdM> Penang Malaysia's Pearl of the Orient
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTfEGGmcPXI> Penang Island, Malaysia [HD]



Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur (KL) is the capital city of Malaysia and is said to be the 6th most visited city in the world. It is one of the three federal territories of Malaysia (the other two being Putrajaya and Labuan) and is surrounded by the state of Selangor. It is also the most populous city in the country, the largest economically and the most cosmopolitan, with a large mix of different ethnic groups that include Malays, Chinese and Indians. China town and Little India (aka Brickfields) are noteworthy places to visit and to experience the abundant array of temples, stores, food markets, clothing and restaurants.



Collage of Kuala Lumpur

For a city only founded in the mid-19th century, Kuala Lumpur packs in an incredible amount of history, culture, architecture and entertainment. It is glitzy, modern and traditional simultaneously, and this is reflected in the architecture that ranges from traditional and modern to Colonial and Chinese.

Shopping is a popular pastime in Kuala Lumpur and the malls are expanding. The city is home to scores of shopping malls and to 3 of the 10 largest in the world. The Golden Triangle Area is the epicentre of shopping and international brands. It is also a popular evening destination with a variety of entertainment options in the form of bars, restaurants and clubs.

For daytime sightseeing, a good starting point is the iconic Petronis Towers where spectacular views of the city can be taken in from the viewing bridge between the two towers. For equally impressive panoramic views, you can climb Manara KL tower and from there pinpoint your route around the city, visiting the numerous mosques, monuments, Thean Hou Chinese Temple, Central Market, KL Lake Gardens, Bird Park or the Butterfly Park. The city is easily navigated by monorails, trains, LRT and taxis.

Reinforcing the Malaysian theme of diversity, high rises and shopping malls tower over the traditional village of Kampung Baru (a village within a city) which comes complete with wooden

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houses built on sticks and roaming chickens! A foodie's heaven, the night markets and street stalls are a must for one evening. The village is so close, yet so far, from the hustle and bustle of the busy city.

There is plenty to see and do in the surrounding area and, about 13kms out of KL, in Selangor, you will find the Batu Caves. This is one of the most important Indian religious sites outside of India. Set in limestone caves that are estimated to be around 400 million years old, there is intriguing wildlife that includes bats, snakes and the resident monkeys. In addition to the religious shrines and amazing nature, there are a number of vegetarian restaurants worth dining at.

Find out more:

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/malaysia/kuala-lumpur>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuala_Lumpur

<http://www.kuala-lumpur.ws/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWY4OjQdqpI> Travel Guide, KL now

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF3QqR0SB7Y> INSIDE Kuala Lumpur with Carey Ng | October 2014

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tinpbBhFpYA> Kuala Lumpur Vacation Travel Guide



Cyberjaya, Selangor

Cyberjaya (often referred to as the Silicon Valley of Malaysia) is a town located in the district of Sepang, Selangor, which is Malaysia's most populous and wealthiest state located on the west coast of Malaysia. The state of Selangor surrounds the capital city of Kuala Lumpur.

Cyberjaya is an emerging township with relatively few facilities compared to other locations and, as such, would suit those looking for a quieter life away from the bustle and hustle. Outdoor recreational facilities include a mini park, a 3.5 km promenade area, Sports Arena, basketball court, tennis court, futsal courts, a football field and a small food court.



For indoor recreational facilities, there is the Cyberjaya Community Club which has 2 futsal courts, 2 badminton courts, a gymnasium and 2 squash courts, 2 tennis courts, a swimming pool, a go-kart circuit and golf driving range. There are also a few bars, restaurants and shops.

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The KL-Putrajaya Highway links Kuala Lumpur to Cyberjaya and it takes about 20 minutes to travel between the two (they're about 30kms apart). This is also the route for the international airport which can be reached from KL in 30 minutes. The cities are linked by train as well.

Find out more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4cCUNhuHsk> Malaysia: Visit to Selangor in 2012
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_ZePD3mIU0 The Batu Caves, Selangor, Malaysia
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGetaKz77zM> Overview of Cyberjaya



Jamek Mosque, Selangor

Johor Bahru, Johor

Johor (an Arabic word meaning 'precious stones') is a Malaysian state in the south of the country just north of Singapore. It is the fifth largest Malaysian state by land size and third largest by population. It is also Malaysia's industrial and transportation hub. The city of Johor Bauru (JB) is the state capital and it is Malaysia's second largest city, as well as a rapidly growing and lively city with a number of Singapore-owned companies there. Johor Bahur is just a short distance from the border of Singapore and linked to Singapore by a 1038m long causeway.

The causeway is kept busy by tourists and Singaporeans living in Malaysia who enjoy the lower cost of living in Johor Bahru whilst working in Singapore. The cost of living does, of course, vary depending on lifestyle and spending habits, but the city has a considerably lower cost of living than many other cities around the world. For example, it is 57% cheaper to live in Johor Bahru than in Sydney, LA or Dubai, 70% cheaper than London, 51% cheaper than Toronto, 66% cheaper than New York and 50% cheaper than Auckland. The other attraction for the Singaporeans who flock across the causeway each weekend are the numerous shopping districts and malls within Johor, as well as the ample dining and entertainment options. Depending on traffic, it can take between about 1/2 hour and 1 hour to travel between the two locations via train, taxi, boat or bus. The Johor-Singapore Causeway also has a railway line that links Singapore with Thailand (passing through Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Butterworth).

Outside of work, there is plenty to do and see in Johor and this includes several theme parks (LEGOLAND Malaysia, Puteri Harbour Family Theme Park, Angry Birds Activity Park, Hello Kitty World and Danga World Petting Zoo and Theme Park for example), Johor Bahru Zoo and a number of museums, galleries, temples and mosques. The Sultan Abu Bakar State Mosque and the Royal Palace Museum of the same name are worth visiting, as is the Tebrau-Arulmigu Sri Rajakaliamman Glass Temple (the world's first Hindu glass temple). You can also visit the fishing village of Kukup - which is built over the water and brimming with seafood restaurants - or the pretty town of Muar.

Danga Bay Marina, Johor



There are many national parks in Johor, such as Tanjung Piai National Park (about 90km south of Johor Bahru), Endau Rompin National Park and Pulau Kukup Johor National Park. For other day trips, there are some beautiful beaches, and Desaru Beach is one of the best known. It's a lovely quiet beach about 22kms long and popular with locals and Singaporean tourists. Located around 90kms east of Johor Bahru, it's perfect for a quiet and relaxing weekend getaway.

The Seribuat Archipalego islands also have many beautiful beaches and coral reefs, although trips there are best taken between April and October to avoid the monsoons. Despite the lack of facilities, you will still find things to do from snorkeling and surfing, to golfing, and kite flying, to excursions to see fireflies or fruit picking at the nearby fruit farm. There are some large beach resorts with spas, waterparks and activities for the whole family. There are also bars in the hotels though, with most of the visitors being Muslim, there isn't much nightlife. Also, close to JB are islands such as Pulau Sibu or the white sandy palm fringed Pulau Rawa. For a more energetic getaway, you can trek the Gunung Ledang Mountain and the Ayer Panas Waterfall or visit Kota Tinggi Waterfall Park or go diving at Sibu Island. There is also the Pekan Air Panas Hot springs and waterfall, or Pulau Davang for diving, snorkeling and fishing. Served by Senai International airport and also Singapore airport, the rest of the world is within easy reach for short weekend or longer holidays.

Find out more:

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/malaysia/peninsular-malaysia-east-coast/johor-bahru>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johor>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCgHVPiXjoU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CmD3IRCso0>

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Orangutans of Borneo



Borneo (Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan), East Malaysia

East Malaysia, situated on the island of Borneo, is made up of the states of Sabah, Sarawak, and the Federal Territory of Labuan. East Malaysia shares borders with Brunei and Indonesia and is probably most famous for its rainforests and orangutans. Most of the land is mountainous rainforest. Less developed and populated than Peninsular Malaysia, East Malaysia is rich in natural resources (namely gas and oil) and also in wildlife. It has some spectacular dive spots where you can encounter turtles, hammerhead sharks and whale sharks. There are plenty of other outdoor

activities and if mountaineering is your thing, then perhaps take a trip to climb Mount Kinabalu in Sabah (Malaysia's tallest mountain and the third tallest peak in South East Asia). There is rainforest trekking or the Kinabatangan River area in Sabah for the opportunity to see highly endangered species that include elephants, proboscis monkeys, orangutans, crocodiles and pythons. You can stay in an Iban longhouse in Sarawak or simply relax on one of the island's pristine beaches.

The city of Kota Kinabalu is the capital of Sabah on the North West coast of Borneo and, with it being so close to some beautiful and tropical islands and rainforest, it is becoming an increasingly popular tourist destination. Some of the best and most diverse coral reefs in the world are accessible from here, and for those fond of outdoor adventure, in addition to diving, there are jungle treks and running tracks, paragliding, snorkeling, a canopy walk through Kinabalu Park or white water rafting. For those who prefer something a little more laid back then there are plenty of luxurious world class resorts and beaches to relax in and on, the Poring Hot Springs to take a soak in, a walk to sunset-point (perhaps with a sighting of the world's largest flower – the Rafflesia), a round of golf, dining out and sampling an array of local and international cuisine, experiencing the music and arts scene or shopping the markets and malls. I think you'll agree there is something for everyone!

Islands close to Kota Kinabalu



Find out more:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Malaysia

http://wikitravel.org/en/Kota_Kinabalu

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<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/malaysia/malaysian-borneo-sarawak>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/malaysia/malaysian-borneo-sabah>

<http://goasia.about.com/od/destinations/tp/Malaysian-Borneo.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XZp-2f9HSq> Sabah, Malaysian Borneo (HD)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqUAazAz-UM> Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia Travel Guide -

Must-See Attractions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eLbTaLF-W4> About Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia by Asiatravel.com

Top Ten Reasons to Consider Malaysia

- Diversity in everything that is Malaysian – from the wildlife, landscape, climate, religion, culture, history – there is something for everyone in this spectacular country
- Amazing, and rare, wildlife
- A wide variety of stunning, tropical beaches
- Rainforests and jungle
- Rich biodiversity
- A thriving economy
- Shopping! And some of the largest shopping malls in the world with many well-known, international brands
- Festivals and night markets
- Great nightlife in KL with clubs, wine bars, restaurants and night markets
- Beautiful architecture ranging from colonial to Chinese and Indian to modern and post-modern.

Luxury Resort near Kota Kinabalu, Borneo



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