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35 Most Popular Things to Do in Malaysia

Located in Southeast Asia, Malaysia offers various fascinating and exciting places. Despite having a relatively small area, this country has numerous holiday destinations including museums, religious sites, theme parks, landmarks, enchanting islands, and other tourist attractions.

If you are interested in traveling to one or some of those places and need a helpful reference to arrange your itinerary, check this review of 35 traveling destinations in Malaysia you should visit.

1. Petronas Twin Tower

Petronas Twin Towers is one of Malaysia's most famous landmarks. This tower held a record of the world's tallest building in 1998-2004 before Burj Khalifa tower breaks the record in Dubai.

While several Malaysian companies use this tower as their headquarters, another attraction point offered by Petronas Twin Towers is the Skybridge. It connects the two towers on the 41st and 42nd floors with the height of 170 m.

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You can visit the Skybridge to enjoy the city view of Kuala Lumpur which costs RM10 for one ticket. The ticket counter opens at 9.30 a.m. However, because the ticket purchase is limited to approximately 1600-1700 visitors per day, it is better for you to start standing in line earlier at 6.00 a.m.

Besides taking public transportation such as trains or bus, you can also reach Petronas Twin Towers by driving your private vehicles.

2. Kuala Lumpur City Center Park

Kuala Lumpur City Center Park is located below Petronas Twin Towers. Visitors usually use this park to go jogging and cycling or for sitting and enjoying the beautiful scenery surrounded by many skyscrapers.

A man-made lake with water fountains was built in KLCC Park. If you are lucky enough, you can enjoy colorful water shows every night. Visiting this park does not cost anything to you, it is all free.

Due to its strategic location in the city center of Kuala Lumpur, KLCC Park can be reached by any mean of transportation.

3. Kuala Lumpur Bird Park

Kuala Lumpur Bird Park is a part of Perdana Botanical Garden, located 10 minutes from the city center of Kuala Lumpur. In this park, you can view 3000 local and imported birds.

The birds live in their natural habitat and can fly anywhere in the park area. When you walk along this park, you will also see other kinds of fowls such as duck, eagle, and ostrich. You can take a picture as you like, feed the birds, or observes the process of artificial incubation of fowl eggs in the incubator.

The bird show opens every day from 12.30 to 15.30. To reach Kuala Lumpur Bird Park, you can use commuter line or bus that stop near the park location. The ticket prices range between RM29 and RM39.

4. Bukit Bintang (Bintang Walk)

If New York has Time Square, Malaysia owns Bukit Bintang as a famous shopping center for local and foreign tourists. Various shopping centers in this district sell anything, from affordable goods to imported brands.

Besides shopping, you can also find some restaurants, cafe, and street food stalls selling many kinds of food from all over the world. To reach Bukit Bintang, you can use monorail or MRT (rapid mass transportation).

5. Kek Lok Si Temple

The main attraction of Kek Lok Si is a seven-floor temple building, designed by the mix influence of Chinese, Thai, and Burmese culture. There are ten thousand Buddha statues made of alabaster and bronze inside the temple, and a 30.2 meters' tall bronze statue of the Goddess of Mercy, Kuan Yin.

You can pray and see beautiful natural panorama in this Malaysian biggest temple. The ticket only costs you RM2.

Kek Lok Si can be reached by taxi that costs RM25 per person, or by bus with prices range between RM2 and RM3 per person.

6. Langkawi Cable Car

Langkawi Cable Car offers a new sensation of riding a flying gondola over the height 709 meters above the sea level. In the twenty-minute journey, you will enjoy the enchanting panorama of tropical forests.

The gondola station opens and operates from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. To ride a gondola, adult passengers are cost RM15, while children only pay RM5.

Langkawi Cable Car is located approximately 30 minutes from the center city of Kuah and 15 minutes from Langkawi International Airport. You can use a taxi or drive your private vehicles to reach this place.

7. Batu Caves

Batu Caves is a popular icon and tourist attraction located in Selangor. It is a holy place for Hindus. Every year, Batu Caves' administration staff holds a Hinduism festival called Thaipusam. This festival is always attended by Hindus from around the world.

Batu Caves is a limestone cave consisting of 3 main caves and several small caves. When entering this place, you will be welcomed by a 42.7 meters' tall golden statue of Lord Murugan, before stepping into 272 steep ladder steps.

You will find many wild monkeys while walking along the steps. Batu Caves is located 13 km from Kuala Lumpur. You can use the commuter line, bus, or taxi to arrive at this place.

8. Redang Island

Redang Island is famous for its diving location. Located in the South China Sea, this island belongs to Terengganu Marine Park, Malaysia.

To reach this place, you can use a 40-minute boat trip from Tanjung Merang that costs RM40 or by an airplane that costs about RM250 if you want to arrive faster.

In addition to its numerous diving spot, Redang Island is popular for its clear sea. From the land, we can see many fascinating marine ecosystems. If you are interested in visiting this place, you will need a bigger budget as the rent price of resorts in Redang Island is relatively expensive.

The reason the price of those resorts is high because most of them include snorkeling and diving facility in their services. And if you want to take a picture undersea, you can rent a special camera with RM30 per day.

9. The Habitat Penang Hill

The Habitat Penang Hill needs to be included in your holiday destination list if you want to introduce nature and forests to your children. It is an educational tourism place with a forested view, various exciting floral ecosystem, and marine panoramic beauty.

In this place, you can enjoy The Canopy Walk, a ride that allows you to experience wonderful sensation when skywalk along the groups of shady trees. The ride was built tree-friendly; it means that the steels of this ride will not potentially damage any plant or tree around it.

Other facilities you can enjoy besides The Canopy Walk are The Red Garden, Butterfly Bank, and Fragrance Garden.

The Habitat Penang Hill ticket prices range between RM10 and RM20. It opens from 9.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. You can ride a monorail from Penang Hill to reach this place.

10. Kuala Gandah Elephant Orphanage Sanctuary

Experience the interaction with elephants in Kuala Gandah Elephant Orphanage Sanctuary. This ecotourism is a preservation park of the Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*). There are about 1200 Asian elephants preserved in this place.

To experience the more enjoyable moment, try to bathe the elephants in the river. Kuala Gandah Elephant Orphanage Sanctuary located 15 km from Kuala Lumpur.

The ticket price is RM10 for adult visitors and RM5 for children. Kuala Gandah Elephant Orphanage Sanctuary opens from 9.00 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.

11. Sunway Lagoon Theme Park

Welcome to the most enjoyable and pleasing theme park in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia! Sunway Lagoon Theme Park is a playground site consisting of six different theme parks: Water Park, Wildlife Park, Extreme Park, Scream Park, Amusement Park, and Nickelodeon Lost Lagoon.

By only visiting one place, you can enjoy more than 80 interesting rides and attractions. The distance between Kuala Lumpur and Sunway Lagoon Theme is about the fifteen-minute trip. To reach this place, you can use several means of public transportation such as bus, a commuter line, or LRT (Light Rail Transit).

The ticket of Sunway Lagoon Theme Park costs RM43 for adult and RM11 for children under 11 years old. It opens from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

12. National Zoo (Zoo Negara)

National Zoo, or as local people called Zoo Negara, is a public zoo run by the Malaysian government. This zoo owns approximately 5.500 animals from 400 different species. At weekends and holiday sessions, Zoo Negara is always full of visitors, either local or abroad.

The main attraction of this zoo is a giant panda from its origin country, China. Zoo Negara also has many other interesting rides and attractions.

The ticket prices range between RM8 and RM12. For those who are easily exhausted to walk around the zoo, the zoo management provides a zoo tram that can be used by visitors to explore Zoo Negara. The zoo opens at 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Zoo Negara can be reached by LRT (Light Rail Transit) and continued by Kuala Lumpur Transit Bus. You can also use a taxi, Metro bus, or your own car.

13. Genting Highland

The famous and glamorous Las Vegas in America can also be experienced in Malaysia when you visit Genting Highland. It is a hilly range located about 51 km from Kuala Lumpur.

You can find anything you want in this place: theme park, casino, resorts, restaurants with local taste and world class cuisine, natural tourism attraction, and shopping center. Those attractions are surely not to be missed. Looking at various entertaining points it offers, Genting Highland is called The City of Entertainment.

To reach this place, you can ride Express Bus with a one-way ticket that costs RM7.50 for adults and RM5.80 for children. If you drive private vehicles, you can stop in Awana and continue the trip to Genting Highland peak by using SkyTrain.

Make sure that you bring a plenty amount of cash when visiting Genting Highland because you do not want to miss any attraction in this entertainment center.

14. Garama Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary

Enjoy an exciting experience in the natural habitat of proboscis monkeys (*Bekantan*) while tracing along Garama River on top of a boat.

Don't forget to bring a pair of binoculars if you want to see the monkeys more closely. Besides proboscis monkeys, you can also find other species of wild monkey playing and hang from the trees.

The trip in Garama River takes time about 2 hours. Along with your journey, you will view the beauty of tropical forest scenery. And if you are lucky enough, at the end of the trip, you can witness the sunset from the rest area provided specifically for the visitors.

In this place, you can also see groups of buffalo in the river while enjoying delicious dinner of local cuisine. The ticket tour in Garama River costs between RM180 and RM200. The tour starts at 4.00 p.m.

You can ride an airplane or rent a car to arrive at Garama Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary. But if you have a bigger budget for a holiday and want to get a more comfortable journey, you can rent a helicopter.

15. Malaka River Cruise

Malaka is an old city in Malaysia with its many ancient buildings from Dutch colonialism era. The main attraction of this city is the boat trip across Malaka River that can be used by visitors to enjoy the old city buildings.

The ride of Malaka River Cruise takes time about 45 minutes. The trip costs RM10 for adults and RM5 for children. Don't forget to bring your camera and take a picture of any building, bridge, and old merchants you can find along your trip.

Malaka can be reached by bus, taxi, or car. The city is located 2-hour trip from Kuala Lumpur.

16. Dayang Bunting Island

Dayang Bunting Island is a unique island in Langkawi, Malaysia. It is named "Dayang Bunting" because if we see it from a distance, this island looks like a sleeping pregnant woman (bunting is a Malay language for pregnant).

This island can be reached by private cars or public transportations through Awana Porta Malai terminal. The next 20 minutes of the trip will be continued by a motorboat that begins its operation at 10.00 a.m.

After reaching Dayang Bunting Island pier, you need to walk to get to the main island. You will pass a forest filled with green trees before arriving at the entrance point. The walk continues for 15 minutes once you get through the entrance gate.

Enjoy the relaxing nuance, fresh atmosphere, and captivating scenery in this beautiful place. The tour prices range between RM35 and RM60 per person. If you choose to stay at the island resorts, the resort usually provides a boat to carry and pick up the visitors.

17. Langkawi Crocodile Farm

Langkawi Crocodile Farm is a crocodile conservation park, the house of 1000 crocodiles from various species. All crocodiles have been tamed, so they are safe for visitors.

Each stall in Langkawi Crocodile Farm is guarded by professional guides and crocodile tamers. In this place, you can watch crocodile shows, feed the crocodiles, and enjoy other challenging and interesting attractions.

Langkawi Crocodile Farm opens from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. The ticket prices range between RM18 and RM25. It can be reached either by private vehicles or by Langkawi Sky Cab.

18. Malaysia Textile Museum

To learn about the history of Malaysian clothes and textiles, you can visit Malaysia Textile Museum. In this museum, you can find out everything about Malaysian special clothes, see how traditional textiles are made as well as observe the tools and equipment behind the process. The good news is, it is all free.

The museum opens every day from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m., except for Islamic Days (Eid Al Fitr and Eid Al Adh). You are free to choose whether you like to explore the museum alone or accompanied by a tour guide.

Besides Malaysian special clothes and textiles, some traditional clothes from other countries such as India, Thailand, and Indonesia are also shown in this museum.

You can use public transportations or your vehicles to get to this museum.

19. Malaysia National Museum

Malaysia National Museum is a right place for those who want to travel while learning about the history of Malaysia. There are four main galleries in this museum: Early History Gallery, The Malay Kingdom, The Colonial Era, and Malaysia Today. The museum building adopts Minangkabau architecture from Indonesia.

To reach this museum, you can use commuter line or monorail. From the station, you still need to walk around 15 minutes through the pedestrian walk.

The ticket costs RM5 for adults and RM2 for children. Malaysia National Museum opens every day from 09.00 a.m. to 06.00 p.m., except for Islamic days and Muslim Festivals.

20. Penang National Park

Penang National Park is a famous ecotourism park with the width of 1213 ha. The main attraction of this park is turtle conservation in Kerachut Beach and Kampi Beach, mangrove forests and captivating natural lake.

Penang National Park is a home for thousands of tropical flora and fauna ecosystem. Between September and April, you can witness the migration wave of rare species of birds. You can enjoy all of them for free. However, the visitors must initially sign up to the administrator for safety reason.

To reach Penang National Park, you can use Rapid Penang Bus series U101 or U501 or by driving private cars through Teluk Bahang.

21. Penang War Museum

Penang War Museum is in Batu Maung Hill, the southeast part of Penang Island. From Georgetown, you can drive along Jelutong freeway to the intersection at Penang Prawn Village.

Take the straight way from the intersection until you see a road sign pointing at Penang War Museum. Follow the steep road to Bukit Batu Maung, and then arrive at the museum. It opens from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. The ticket costs between RM15 and RM30.

The main attraction of this museum is its building; the old fort from England colonialism era. There are various historical artifacts and a dungeon inside the building.

For special tours such as Tunnel Tour and Observation Tower, the visitors will be charged additional fee that costs between RM5 to RM15.

22. Fort Cornwallis

Fort Cornwallis is one of the historical sites in Malaysia that is mostly visited by foreign tourists. Like Penang War Museum, this site is also located in Penang Island. In this site, you can visit an old chapel, a historical giant canon called Seri Rambai Cannon, and a gallery of Malaysian history.

To get access to Fort Cornwallis, you will be charged RM20 for adults and RM5 for children. The fort opens every day to the public from 9.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

The museum can be reached by public transportations such as taxi and Penang Rapid Bus, or by your private cars.

23. Gunung Mulu National Park

Gunung Mulu National Park is one of the most famous traveling destinations in Malaysia. Gunung Mulu is in Sarawak. The main location can only be accessed by an airplane, but after arriving at the local airport, you can continue the trip by renting a car.

The main attractions of Gunung Mulu National Park are Cave of the Winds and Deer Cave, two caves in the location which are uniquely formed by nature. In the Cave of the Winds, you will see fascinating stalactites and stalagmites hanging on the cave walls. Meanwhile, in the Deer Cave, you can find numerous bat nests, hanging around 2 km from the cave ceiling.

Another unique thing you can find on this site is a river which flows between the two caves. You can rent a boat or motorboat to explore the river. The ticket costs RM10. If you want to rent a boat, you only need to pay an additional charge for RM5. The national park opens from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

24. Putra Mosque in Putrajaya

It is broadly known that most Malaysian people are Moslems. Therefore, if you are interested in visiting this country, don't miss the chance of visiting Putra Mosque in Putrajaya.

Middle-east architecture influenced the mosque building. Its location juts out into the Putrajaya Lake. Because of this, Putra Mosque is called the floating mosque.

You don't need to buy a ticket to gain access to the mosque, but you are obliged to wear covered and proper clothes. The mosque can accommodate up to 1500 visitors and opens for 24 hours.

Besides praying, you can also rent a boat for a trip along Putrajaya Lake that surrounds the mosque location for RM10. But if you want to ride a bigger boat, you can rent Kapal Belimbing Sightseeing Cruise Boat for RM30. The boat is facilitated with air-conditioning and can accommodate up to 76 passengers. Putra Mosque can be reached by private vehicles, taxi, bus, or train.

25. Legoland Malaysia

Treat your kids by visiting the most famous theme park in Malaysia: Legoland. Legoland has two main attractions: Legoland Theme Park and Legoland Waterpark. Each attraction has a different ticket price.

If you want to visit both places, you can buy Combo ticket that costs RM140 for visitors over 60 years old and children under 12 years old. For visitors in the age group of 12-59 years old, the ticket costs RM174.

Sophisticated facilities and rides complete this theme park. Like its name, most of the buildings in this theme park are constructed from Lego stacks. Legoland opens from 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Legoland can be reached by the flight to Senai Airport or Changi Airport, Singapore, and then continued by land transportations. If you depart from Kuala Lumpur, you can rent or ride private cars. The trip from Kuala Lumpur to Legoland takes time about 4 hours.

26. Kuala Lumpur Tower

Another skyscraper in Malaysia besides Petronas Twin Towers is Kuala Lumpur Tower, the icon of Malaysia capital city. The rooftop of this tower can move in a circle at 360 degrees. Some luxurious restaurants serving Malaysian cuisines are available on the rooftop.

From the top of the tower, you can also see the wonderful city landscape of Kuala Lumpur. The best time to visit this tower is at night because you can watch the fascinating and gleaming lights of the city lamps. Kuala Lumpur Tower opens for public from 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.

The ticket entrance costs between RM13 and RM52. Due to its strategic location, Kuala Lumpur Tower can be reached by any public transportation such as taxi, bus, and train.

27. Lake Gardens

Lake Gardens is in the center city of Kuala Lumpur. Various public transportations can reach this place.

It is a large garden with a 91-ha area that has many interesting tourist attractions such as Hibiscus Park (*Taman Kembang Sepatu*), Deer Park, and National Monument. All of them open at 9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

The access is free, and you can walk or ride a bicycle along the garden area. There is bicycle rent available in the park that costs RM3 for the thirty-minute ride.

28. Malaysia Islamic Arts Museum

Malaysia Islamic Arts Museum is a house for Islamic culture and history in Malaysia and around the world. The ticket only costs RM12. You can explore various historical relics presented in this three-floor building.

To visit Malaysia Islamic Arts Museum, you can ride a taxi from Kuala Lumpur that costs RM8. The museum opens from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

29. Sri Mahariamman

Sri Mahariamman is a Hinduism site located in Chinatown area, in the center of Kuala Lumpur. The temple is not far from Jalan Petaling, the shopping center and traditional cuisine area in Malaysia. Sri Mahariamman is always full of visitors, especially when Hinduism festivals are held.

Entry access to Sri Mahariamman Temple is free. You only need to rent a locker for storing your shoes because the visitors are not allowed to wear shoes when getting into the temple. The main attraction of this temple is its unique architectural building.

Sri Mahariamman opens from 6.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. and can be reached by public transportations such as bus or taxi.

30. Desaru Fruit Farm

Feel the exciting experience of picking the fruits directly from their trees in Desaru Fruit Farm. In this place, you can find various tropical fruits such as durian, jackfruit, guava, and soursop. Desaru Fruit Farm has more than 100 types of fruits from 10 different species.

Desaru Fruit Farm is located about 39 m from Kota Tinggi. From Senai Airport, you can ride a taxi or drive a car through Kota Tinggi. The entrance ticket costs between RM22 and RM27. You can also choose several package tours for different prices. This place opens from 8.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.

31. Gurney Drive

Penang is known as the culinary capital of Malaysia, while Gurney Drive is the center of it. It is the tourism center of cuisine located in Penang, Malaysia.

There are various kinds of culinary sold in this place, from local to international, halal and non-halal. From Penang International Airport, you can rent a car to reach Gurney Drive. This place opens in the morning until midnight, some of the restaurants even have longer service for 24 hours.

32. Manukan Island

Manukan Island is the second biggest island in Taman Tunku Abdul Rahman tourism center. Geographically, this island is in eastern part of Malaysia, or in Sabah to be exact.

To go to Manukan Island, you must reach Kinabalu City initially. There is Jetti Jesselton Point available in Kinabalu that allows you to buy a ship ticket for getting into Manukan Island. Ship departure from Kinabalu to Manukan Islands opens between 8.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

You can choose several tour packages with a different price for each package, depending on how many islands you want to visit. For the one-island tour, the boat price costs about RM23, not including terminal ticket that has additional cost for RM7.63.

When arriving in Manukan Island, you still need to pay the entrance ticket that costs RM10 for adults and RM6 for children under 18. The main attraction of Manukan Island is its clear sea. You can explore the undersea world in this island by diving or snorkeling.

33. Taiping Zoo

Taiping Zoo is one of Malaysia tourism areas that combine educational trip and nature exploration. This zoo is also used to observe and preserve various species of animals.

Taiping Zoo is in the north part of Malaysia peninsula. Today, Taiping Zoo owns about 1.200 kinds of animals from 140 species. This place opens every day from 8.30 am. to 6 pm., while the ticket prices range between RM8.5 and RM12.

An exciting program available in Taiping Zoo is Night Safari. The ticket to this program is different from the regular ticket. It offers the zoo exploration tour at night, opening at 8.00 p.m. and closing at 11.00 p.m.

From Kuala Lumpur, you can ride a bus or train, rent a car, or even drive your own car to reach Taiping Zoo. The trip from Kuala Lumpur to Taiping Zoo takes time about 8 hours.

34. Bukit Bendera (Flag Hill)

Bukit Bendera is a tourist area located in Penang highland. In this place, there are numerous tourist attractions: ecotourism, Hindus religious sites, and shopping center. This place can be reached from Georgetown by a Transit Link Bus with series number 1 or 101 that stops at Air Itam Terminal.

From Air Itam, the trip continues by a special tram for hiking to Bukit Bendera. The tram ticket costs RM4.5 per person for one-way transport. Along the road to the peak, you can enjoy the relaxing scenery of nature.

You will get a fascinating landscape once the tram gets into the peak of the hill. At the peak, you can enjoy the natural view while sipping a cup of coffee or tea.

It is best for you to visit Bukit Bintang before 9.00 a.m., because after those hours, the visitors will increase, causing a long line at the tram stop. The tram starts to operate at 6.30 a.m., and it will carry the passengers to Penang Hill every half hour.

35. Sam Poh Tong

Sam Poh Tong is a natural temple cave located about 5 km from Ipoh. In this Buddhist temple, you can find some Gods and Goddesses statues, also natural stalagmites and stalactites on the cave walls. Prepare to be astonished by its natural beauty.

From Kuala Lumpur, you can ride a bus or train to reach Ipoh, and then continue the trip by renting a car or riding a taxi to Sam Poh Tong cave temple. It opens between 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

The visitors are only given an hour to explore the inside part of the cave. You don't have to buy a ticket to get into this place. However, it is better for you if you donate to Buddhist monks and nuns who manage the temple.

Those are 35 traveling destinations in Malaysia you don't want to miss. Before you decided to go traveling, make sure you get enough information about the destinations you want to visit, so you can anticipate everything and avoid any inconvenience when you are traveling abroad or to the places you've never visited before. Happy holiday!

Reference

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