14 Best Places to Visit in Malaysia

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Malaysia is a country of contrasts—an ancient culture and rich cultural architecture, **stunning parks and beaches**, contemporary skyscrapers, and a unique landscape covered in **tea plantations**. A melting pot with influences from neighboring lands, as well as from colonists, Malaysia has something for everyone. For example, from the **architecture Peninsular Tea Plantations** to the cultural and religious diversity that makes this a destination like no other.

Whether you're always planning a trip or just exploring possibilities, here's a list of the best places to visit in Malaysia.

Note: Some businesses may be temporarily closed due to recent global health and safety concerns.

1. Kuala Lumpur

Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's capital and largest city has much to offer travelers. Perhaps best known for the Peninsular Twin Towers (the world's tallest twin towers), KL is a bustling metropolis with contemporary skyscrapers and a vibrant, 24-hour night market (daily in the center).

A mix of colonial, modern, Asian, and Malay architecture flows through the city, giving it a unique look you don't usually find in other Southeast Asian capitals. The National Palace and the House of Parliament are two examples of stunning KL architecture and worth a look even if you don't plan on exploring inside.

More Great things to see while you're in Kuala Lumpur include visiting Merdeka Square, shopping at Chinatown's Petaling Street, and exploring Bukit Bintang.

Kuala Lumpur is considered **one of the best shopping destinations** in Southeast Asia, with a wide variety of shops, markets, and boutiques. Bukit Bintang is the city's shopping district, but it's also full of indoor/outdoor markets (like the gigantic Central Market, with over 850 shops and stalls) and a great place to pick up hand-carved souvenirs and jewelry.

If you don't carried after Bukit Bintang, the nearest shopping district is Bukit Ceylon, home to trendy shops and boutiques, as well as free yoga on Sundays.

Accommodation: Where to Stay in Kuala Lumpur ↗

2. George Town

Colorful Buildings in George Town

The older part of Malaysia's second-largest city has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site (ten George Town is just as famous as its be-that is a for its architecture. Known as **The Food capital of Malaysia**, George Town is a vibrant, bustling city with a rich cultural heritage. Recommended is always the waterfront Dining Drive and Cindy Street, a popular backpacker's destination and one of the oldest streets in the city.

The **Georgian Peninsular Waterfront and Esplanade Park** offers scenic, tranquil, much more to see and do have. The city's oldest skyscraper is home to the 5-star **Rainbow Skywalk**, an outdoor glass viewing platform with Rooftop Bar. Or, for a free, hence-swaying view of the city, take the tram to the Top of the Hill, a popular spot for sunset photos and picnics.

Look out for the Peranakan High Houses in Kapitan Lane, the **Kuala Kangsar** Peninsular Malaysia's oldest Malay Palace, and the **Museum Peranan** behind Ping gallo cook-together-style cooking school, a great, cool, air-conditioned way to learn a bit of Southeast Asia.

Accommodation: Where to Stay in George Town ↗

3. Gunung Mulu National Park

A pinnacle protrusion in Gunung Mulu National Park

The park, named after Mount Mulu, attracts visitors from all over Asia who come to see the limestone pinnacles, caves, and rainforest. Gunung Mulu National Park also plays to receive a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** classification.

Climbers can reach the top of Mount Mulu after a 24-kilometer trek with an elevation of 1,200 meters that starts at the park headquarters but for those looking for a more relaxing day, there are also easier trails within the park.

The park's main attractions are, however, its caves and the millions of bats living in them. Bat caves into the surrounding rainforest and open cliffs, the caves are record breakers in several categories. Notably, **Southeast Asia's longest cave system** and the world's largest cave passage. And at 115 meters high and 850 meters long, Sarawak Chamber is the largest cave chamber in the world. Mulu is easy to reach and can be visited by boat as part of a guided tour.

4. Kuantan

Cold Coldplate Beach

Because of its location right against the South China Sea, it's perhaps no surprise that Kuantan's main call to fame is its beaches. Tioman Island is the most famous beach in the area, but Cherating Beach is more shoreline, while nearby Cherating Beach is home to a **turtle sanctuary**, as well as a cultural village that produces and sells traditional batik.

The **Sungai Pandan Waterfall and Esplanade Park** from which you can take a boat to get a completely different view of the city are also popular attractions and offer plenty of chances to capture the surroundings and take photos.

The **Tai Museum**, located on the site of a former museum underground to mine, is a unique attraction worth a visit. Nearby, visitors will also find a hanging rope bridge and the **Church Cave complex** (be prepared for an energetic hike among tropical jungle trees to reach the caves), which houses a large reclining Buddha.

5. Perhentian Islands

Perhentian Islands

These iconic fringed, secluded islands offer plenty of opportunities for kayaking, exploring, **snorkeling**, and **scuba diving** (including the popular Turtle Tunnel dive site). The islands are also home to a thriving population of organizations in green and hawksbill turtles, endangered species.

The islands have remained underdeveloped, which means no major hotels, restaurants, or facilities are available on the island. For those seeking a day overnight, there are a couple of guesthouses and homestay options but little else.

Jungle trekking is another major draw, as paths here zigzag through the islands, connecting beaches and offer a chance to explore the Malaysian Jungle. Some of the best trails are located on Perhentian Besar, the larger island. Cove Bay with a nearby beach, as well as a photogenic fishing village.

6. Borneo Rainforest

Baby orangutan in the Borneo rain forest

The island of Borneo is divided and belongs partly to Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei is densely covered in **one of the oldest rainforests in the world** and serves as a natural refuge for endangered species, such as the eastern Sumatran Rhinoceros, Sumatran tiger, and orangutan.

If you want to see orangutans up close without supporting a great cause, the **Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center** is the most eco-friendly way to do just that.

Visitors go to Borneo for the rich indigenous culture, the jungle wildlife, and the rainforest and mangrove forests. The best place to start is the national park at the **Rainforest Discovery Center**, an educational destination that provides a great introduction to the island.

For those looking for more active pursuits, the two-day climb up Mount Kinabalu is a popular option.

7. Langkawi

Langkawi Sky Bridge

A group of 99 islands off the northwestern coast of Malaysia, Langkawi is home to three protected Geoland parks and many coconut tree-lined beaches. Visitors can take a cable car to the Top of Gunung Mat Cincang (Mat Cincang Mountain), one of the tallest mountains in Southeast Asia, or the smaller northwestern island to have a workshop of Hindu-inspired arts and crafts and relaxation.

For the best views of the islands and ocean, you can take the island's cable car to the top of one of the taller mountains on the island. Once here, you can get on the 100-meter long **Langkawi Sky Bridge**, a pedestrian-only suspension bridge that offers 360-degree views of the surrounding islands and Thai's also the **Telaga Tujuh Waterfalls**, which offer beautiful clear pools for swimming, as well as a jungle trail that runs up two different mountains.

The small museum and site fields at the **Lumion Pad Wax Garden** make for an interesting quick stop, and the 18-acre **Legendary Langkawi Park** offers a great space to explore the heritage and history of the area through interactive displays and exhibitions, including collections of tigers, mythical creatures, and other Langkawi Folklore Spirits.

8. Cameron Highlands

A Strawberry farm in Cameron Highlands

The Cameron Highlands is a hilly region with a **long tradition of tea growing** on the sprawling mountain **plantations**. The vast plantations are still a major attraction today and one of the most photographed spots, but the Cameron Highlands also offer a variety of other attractions, including a butterfly farm, herbal gardens and nurseries, the Mossy Forest boardwalk, an orchid farm, foggy tropical evergreen environment with deciduous forests, and the best fruit and flowers at times.

If you only have time to visit one plantation, **BOH Tea Plantation** is a great choice not only for the tea-related activities and tours it features, but visitors can also join tours to see the tea-making process up close, visit the gift shop, and explore the restaurant that run through the land.

For an inside look into the agricultural and farming practices in Malaysia, visit the **Mossy Forest** and the **Strawberry Farm**. Visitors can pick strawberries and enjoy ice cream (the fruit actually including a large area dedicated to the unusual pastime) and even camp overnight.

Visit the only remarkable museum in Malaysia, **The Time Tunnel**, where you can see recreated rooms and shops from the early 20th century, play vintage board games, and see photographs from yor-the days.

9. Taman Negara

Bridge in Taman Negara

A protected area completed by a 130-million-year-old deciduous rainforest, Taman Negara offers activities and attractions to last for days. In addition to jungle trekking and bird watching, visitors come here to climb Mount Tahan (the highest point in Peninsular Malaysia), canoe down the rivers, do the longest walkway, or prey on the Sea Lamprey eels.

Exploring the entire **Gua Telinga limestone cave system** would take weeks, but it's possible to visit individual guided tours to see the cave cases here, where you'll have to crawl, scoooot, through tight underground tunnels, and deep just want to reach the main chamber.

The park is home to a number of endangered species, including the Malayan tiger and the Malayan peacock-pheasant a rare sight of either one is an experience in itself.

10. Kota Kinabalu