

## **Best of Malaysia**

### **Day 01: Arrive Kuala Lumpur**

Arrive Kuala Lumpur International airport (KLIA) Meet & transfer to hotel.

### **Day 02: In Kuala Lumpur**

Half Day City Tour -An orientation tour of the city covering the major historical landmarks- The King's Palace, The National Monument, Kuala Lumpur Tower, The National Museum and The Merdeka (Independence) Square. Much of the history of the city is depicted here as well as the tradition and cultural heritage of the major communities. Driving pass Chinatown you will have a glimpse of the old Kuala Lumpur with hawkers selling foodstuff and clothing along interesting old shophouses lining the streets. This place becomes alive at night with many tourists and locals alike browsing through these sidewalk stalls looking for bargains.

Evening is free for you to explore this bustling city. The hotel is located in the heart of the entertainment & shopping area. Or join an optional tour to see a traditional Malay.

### **Day 03: Kuala Lumpur - Cameron Highlands (4 hrs)**

Heading north onto the state of Perak, your journey to Cameron Highlands (the centre of Malaysian tea production) takes you to altitude of 1500-1800 metres above sea level. Vegetables grow in profusion and flowers bloom, everywhere in the cool weather, which can drop to 8 degrees Celsius.

After driving on the North-South Expressway for about 2 hours from Kuala Lumpur we will break for lunch in Tapah before continuing the journey on the scenic mountain road to Cameron Highlands. Along the way visit a bamboo basket cottage industry, a refreshing stop at the Lata Iskandar (Iskandar Waterfalls) and an opportunity to see the Orang Asli (Malaysian aboriginal) complete with their blowpipes. (lunch)

### **Day 04: Cameron Highland - Penang (7 hrs)**

Your day begins with a visit to one of the tea plantations owned by the Boh Plantations to watch the processing of black tea and later to sample various kind of tea in the teahouse. (Note: Tea factory is closed on Mondays). After the tea break, we will visit the local fruit - vegetable market where fresh produce are sold directly to the locals by the farmers themselves and see the vegetable terraces nearby.

Depart Cameron Highlands - drive to Tapah and continue northwards to Ipoh - the city of millionaires', that made its fortune from the rich tin mines of Kinta Valley - the heart of tin dredging in Malaysia. You will visit one of the famous Cave Temples in Ipoh followed by lunch in a local restaurant. Then we proceed to Kuala Kangsar, with its unique Ubudiah Mosque - a magnificent building with golden dome - and the former palace of the Sultan of Perak with its intricate woodcarvings. Have a glimpse of the official residence of the Sultan of Perak - Istana Iskandariah before leaving this charming royal town. Cross the Penang Bridge (spanning 13.5 km - the longest bridge in Asia and the third in the World) into the island of Penang. Check into your hotel. (Lunch)

### **Day 05: In Penang**

Today you explore Penang - the Pearl of the Orient and the oldest British settlement in Malaysia. Visits include the Khoo Kongsi (Dragon Mountain Hall) clan house with its ancient design constructed to capture the splendour of an Imperial palace, the historical Fort Cornwallis and the Thai temple of Wat Chayamangkalaram, which houses a 32 metres reclining Buddha. The rest of day is free for your own independent activities. (Lunch)

**Day 06: Penang - Langkawi**

Transfer to Penang airport for a short flight to Langkawi. On arrival, meet & transfer to hotel.

**Day 07 - 08: In Langkawi**

Langkawi - Tucked against Thailand off Peninsular Malaysia's northern coast, the Langkawi archipelago contains not only one but also a hundred or so idyllic islands. Scattered where the Andaman Sea merges into the Malacca Straits, there are between 99 to 104 of them – the figures vary as some of the islets are submerged during high tide.

The main island and the largest of the lot are popularly known as Pulau Langkawi, about the size of Singapore. Most of the development and population are on this island, as are the places of attractions and accommodation.

Kuah, the capital town, is the island's most developed and populated place. It is here that most of the island's shopping complexes, offices and restaurants are based.

Beyond Kuah town, much of Pulau Langkawi remain (surprisingly) unspoiled. The island's centre is a picturesque composition of Malaysian countryside where brooding, rainforested mountains tower over vast expanses of paddy fields and traditional villages, while sandy white beaches hug the coastlines.

Much of the island's character is that of a rustic malay countryside, much reflected by the relaxed lifestyle of local villagers as they saunter to work or hang out with their buddies at the nearby warong<sup>1</sup>. Another prevalent sight in this pastoral scene is that of water buffaloes nonchalantly basking in the paddy fields, their dark hides contrasting with the fertile green fields. One wonders if modern harvesting machinery has rendered them redundant, but this benevolent creature remains a charming sight to behold.

Free at leisure.

- Relax and enjoy the sun & beach.
- Indulge in some spa treatment available in the resort.
- Join an optional tour to discover the beauty of this legendary island.

**Day 09: Depart Langkawi**

Transfer to airport for flight to Beirut.

**Price Includes:**

- Air fare Beirut – Kuala Lumpur – Beirut.
- Air fare : Penang – Langkawi – Kuala Lumpur.
- All private transfers & tours with services of English speaking guide.
- Meals : Lunch as indicated in the programme.
- All entrance fees in the places of visits.
- Airport tax (73 US\$).
- Malaysian visa will be granted at airport.