



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Malaysia - Ipoh

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Kuala Lumpur
- ✓ **Language:** Malay
- ✓ **Population:** ± 658,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 643
- ✓ **Currency:** Ringgit (RM)
- ✓ **Country code:** +60 (5)
- ✓ **Visa:** Few countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 999
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** DTP / Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Japanese Encephalitis / Malaria prevention



### History Recap Over 1 Drink

1400s: Prince Parameswara founds Melaka. 1511: Portuguese capture Melaka: center East-Indian spice trade. 1641: Dutch took over. 1786: British Captain Francis founds Penang. '24: Anglo-Dutch treaty spice trade: Melaka British → Colony of Straits Settlements. Indian/Chinese working immigrants. Protectorates over Malay Sultanates. '95: Federated Malay States. 1942-'45: Japanese occupation. '48: Federation of Malaya (British-ruled Malayan territories). '57: Independent from UK. Rahman Prime Minister (PM). '65: Singapore withdraws from Malaysia. '69: Anti-Chinese riots (frustration over their economic success). '70: Razak PM: National Front coalition. '71: Min. quotas Malays in business. '78-'89: Unrestricted Vietnamese asylum. '81: Mohamad PM. '89-'90: Communist insurgents sign peace accord with government. '93: Sultans lose legal immunity. '97: Asian financial crisis. 2001: Ethnic clashes between Malays & Indians. '02: New laws against illegal immigrants → exodus. '03: Badawi PM. '09: Ban recruitment foreign workers. Razak PM. 2010: First Islamic punishments: flogging women for extra-marital sex, allow underage marriage in Melaka. '14: MH17 flight from Amsterdam to KL crashes in Ukraine: shot down. '15: Razak took \$700m from sovereign wealth fund (1MDB) / corruption scandal. '16: Sultan Muhammad V new king.

### Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry												
Wet												
High season					Rama	dan						
Budget												

Altitude: 22m. Climate: Tropical Climate (Af).

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Hiking & Greenery:** [Bukit Kledang](#) trails, [Gunung Lang](#), Tasik Cermin (*lake*), [Botani Eco Park](#), Sultan Abdul Aziz Recreation Park, DR Sennivasagam Park, Kinta River,
- ☺ **Sights:** Ipoh Mural Art Trail, [Ipoh Heritage Trail](#), [Ipoh Railway Station](#), Birch Memorial Clock Tower, Town Hall, Concubine Lane, Jalan Bijeh Timah, Masjid India Muslim & the 100s of (*cave*) temples.
- ☺ **Free Museums:** [Han Chin Pet Soo](#), Ho Yan Hor Museum, Miniature Wonders Art Gallery (*ground floor*)

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 **Paid Sights:** Kellie's Castle, Ulu Geroh Rafflesia Trail (*guided*), Qing Xin Ling Leisure and Cultural Village, [Perak Herbal Garden](#).
- 👍 **Museums:** [Funtasy House Trick Art](#)
- 👍 **Caves:** [Gua Tempurung](#), [Gua Tambun](#).

The Earth Becomes My Throne

## Budget Bites

⌘ **Supermarkets:** Minimarkets. Make sure you bring food from Ipoh or KL if you need anything specific.

⌘ **Markets:** Kea Farm Open Air Market, Pasar Malam Brinchang.

⌘ **Local food:** Nasi Lemak, Nasi Goreng (*rice dishes*), Satay (*skewer*), Cendol (*cold dessert soup*), Roti Canai (*Indian*), Laksa (*soup*), Fish Head Curry, Chicken Curry, Roti Jala (*netlike crepes*), Popiah (*spring rolls*), Mee Goreng (*noodles*), Beef Rendang (*curry*), Ikan Bakar (*grilled fish*), Bak Kut Teh (*pork ribs broth*), Sambal Udang (*spicy shrimp*), Rojak (*fruit & veggie salad with fish*), Chee Cheong Fun (*rice noodle rolls*), Lok Lok (*hot pot*), Durian, Otak Otak (*fish cakes*), Bee Hoon (*rice noodles*), Banana Leaf Rice (*Indian*), Murtabak.

⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is very easy and cheap in Malaysia. Ipoh is well-known for its cuisine, and also vegan options are widely available. Check them on [Happy Cow - Ipoh](#).

## Mama Said

☠ Ipoh is generally safe, but always use common sense. As in most places, don't walk alone at night and don't flash valuables or leave them anywhere visible.

☠ When going on a hike, inform someone about your planned itinerary and expected return time. Bring a map, fully charged phone with local simcard, sufficient water, food, a first aid kit, a torch and headlamp, a pocket knife and a lighter.

☠ Boycott "zoos", like the one in Lost World of Tambun, where animals are held in captivity.

☠ Tap water is not drinkable.

## Next?

➔ **In Malaysia:** Cameron Highlands, Penang, Langkawi, Kuala Lumpur.

➔ **International destinations close by:** Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore.

## Sleep Cheap

❖ **Hostels and hotels** are very cheap in Malaysia, but the prices are quite high in popular Ipoh. Going around and asking for short-term rent directly with the owners generally gives you cheaper deals. Use [this link](#) for €15 discount at Booking.com. Get €25 travel money for free on Air BnB with [this link](#).

❖ **Camping** is the cheapest option, but it be prepared for the heat and humidity! Wild camping is possible. There are snakes and poisonous animals here, so don't leave shoes outside.

❖ Go **Couchsurfing** or **Housesitting**: get 20% off your yearly Trusted Housesitters membership via [this link](#). Also check [WorkAway](#).

## Festivals

⚙ **Ipoh Food Fest:** Apr/May.

⚙ **Ipoh Fun Run:** July.

⚙ **Chinese New Year:** Aug.

## Free-Riding?

■ The best way to get around is **walking**. However, to get from suburb to suburb, alternative transport is recommended due to the intense heat.

■ The **Amanjaya Bus Terminal** is very far away from the center, and your cab/grab fare will be considerable... alternatively, take public city bus 116. The **Ipoh Railway Station** is on the edge of the old city and at walkable distance from town. Within Ipoh public buses can be used; Pay driver.

■ Cabs are rather expensive. It is recommended to install the **Grab** app (*local version of Uber*) to receive the same service cheaper and without haggling/rip-offs.

■ **Airport:** Ipoh Airport (Sultan Azlan Shah – IPH); KL International Airport (KLIA / KUL).

■ **Hitchhiking** is possible, locals are very willing to take a foreigner along and have a chat.