



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Malaysia - Kuala Lumpur

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Kuala Lumpur
- ✓ **Language:** Malay
- ✓ **Population:** ± 1.6 mln
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 243
- ✓ **Currency:** Ringgit (RM)
- ✓ **Country code:** +60 (3)
- ✓ **Visa:** Few countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 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 |
|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|------|---------|------|-----|-----|--------|------|---------|
| Wet | | | | South- | West | Monsoon | (KL) | | | North- | East | Monsoon |
| Dry | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Best | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Altitude: 52m. Climate: Tropical Rainforest Climate (Af).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** KLCC Park, Thean Hou Temple, Masjid Negara (*National Mosque*), [Perdana Botanical Garden](#), Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, Sultan Abdul Samad Building, Jamek Mosque, National Monument, Chinatown, Little India, Istana Negara, [National Visual Arts Gallery](#), [Ilham Gallery](#), [Wei-Ling](#).

☺ **Nature:** [KL Forest Eco Park](#), Bakut Tabur (*limestone ridge*), Kepong ([FRIM](#)), Bukit Gasing Forest Reserve, [Orchid Park](#), [Kanching Waterfall](#), Hibiscus Park.

☺ **Night markets:** Petaling Street, Bangsar Baru (Sun from 5:30PM), Taman Connaught (Wed).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Sights:** [Petronas Towers](#), [Menara Tower](#).

👍 **Museums:** [National Museum](#) (*Muzium Negara*), [Petrosains Science Discovery Center](#), [National Textile Museum](#), [Islamic Arts Museum](#), Illusion 3D Art.

👍 **Theme parks:** [Berjaya Time Square Theme Park](#).

👍 **Adventure sports:** Canyoning, rappelling, [balloon rides](#).

👍 **Get a massage:** They're cheap here.

Full list [here](#).

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Mydin, Sam's Groceria, TMC, Cold Storage, Giant, Jaya Grocer, Hock Choon a.o.

⌘ **Markets:** Chow Kit, Central Market, Kampung Baru, Jalan Pasar, Jalan Sayar, Besar Pudu, Tuman Tun Dr. Ismail, Tani Mega Section 17, Imbi, Borong Selangor, Taman Pertama, a.o.

⌘ **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 and especially in Kuala Lumpur. Every supermarket has vegan products and there are many vegetarian and vegan restaurants... check them on [Happy Cow - Kuala Lumpur](#).

Mama Said

☠ Kuala Lumpur is generally safe, but as it's a capital city it's a bit more unsafe than the rest of the country. Be aware of pickpockets and bag-snatching. As in most places, don't walk alone at night. Worse areas at night: Chow Kit, backside Petaling Street, Brickfields (*red light district*), Doraisamy Street.

☠ Boycott zoos like Kuala Lumpur Bird Park, Butterfly Park, KL Tower Mini Zoo and Aquaria KLCC where animals are held in captivity.

☠ Tap water is not drinkable.

☠ Only use licensed cabs or take an Uber / Grab.

☠ Only cash out inside of banks, not on street ATMs.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Hostels and hotels are very cheap in Malaysia. Be aware that there are scams with Air BnB and booking-websites, so book directly via hotel or verify first.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Festivals

☼ Chinese New Year: Feb-Mar.

☼ Hari Merdeka (National Day): 31-Aug.

Nights Best Spent

◆ Nightlife areas: Bukit Bintang, Bangsar, Ampang. Clubs: Rootz Rooftop Bar, Play Club, Gravity Club.

◆ Theatre: KLPAC, Panggung Bandaraya City Theatre, Coliseum Theatre, Gardens Theatre.

Free-Riding?

■ KL has a rather compact city center, but it's really too hot and humid to walk long distances.

■ KL has a bike share system called [oBike](#).

■ Public transport is easy, fast and cheap, especially the subway and train system: [check map](#). There's also a monorail and bus system. You can get a [MyRapid](#) or [Touch 'n Go Card](#). For intercity transport buses are faster than trains. There are several bus stations in KL, the main one being Pudu Sentral.

■ Airport: Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL).

■ Hitch-hiking is possible, but won't save you much as public transport is really cheap in Malaysia.

Next?

➔ In Malaysia: Melaka, Cameron Highlands, Taman Negara, Tioman Island, Penang, Perhentian Islands.

➔ International destinations close by: Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, India, Vietnam, Cambodia.