



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Malaysia - Kuching

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Kuala Lumpur
- ✓ **Language:** Malay
- ✓ **Population:** ± 325,200
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 431
- ✓ **Currency:** Ringgit (RM)
- ✓ **Country code:** +60 (82)
- ✓ **Visa:** Few countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 999 (*emergency*), 994 (*fire*)
- ✓ **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	wettest											
Dry							driest					
Best												

Altitude: 9m. Climate: Tropical Rainforest Climate (Af).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** Cat Monuments, Hindu temple, Tua Pek Kong Temple, Chingsan Yan Temple, Sri Srinivasagar Temple, Waterfront, Warrior Monument, Kuching Mosque, Murals, The old courthouse, Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak, Malaysia-China Friendship Park, Fort Margherita.

☺ **Free-entrance National Parks:** [Santubong NP](#) → climb Mount Santubong. Mount Singai.

☺ **Museums:** [Cat Museum](#), [Sarawak Museum](#), [Chinese History Museum](#), [Islamic Museum](#), [Textile Museum](#).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **National Parks & Reserves:** [Kubah NP](#), [Bako NP](#) (*check tides!*), [Kuching Wetlands NP](#) (*boat tour*), [Gunung Gading NP](#), [Tanjung Datu NP](#), [Talang Satang NP](#), [Wind Caves & Fairy Caves NR](#) (*Bau*), [Sama Jaya NR](#), [Semenggoh NR](#), Kampong Panchor Hot Spring, Annah Rais Hot Springs.

👍 **Adventure sports:** Canyoning, rappelling, kayaking, rafting, scuba diving, snorkeling.

👍 **Museums:** Upside Down House, [Brooke Gallery](#).

👍 **Visit a longhouse:** Annah Rais (*tour*).

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** H&L, Everrise, Unaco, Giant.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Sunday Market @ in between Jalan Padungan and Jalan Song Thian Cheok, Satok Weekend Market.
- ⌘ **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 Kuching. Every bigger supermarket has vegan products and there are many vegetarian and vegan restaurants... check them on [Happy Cow - Kuching](#).

Mama Said

- ☠ Kuching is generally safe, but always be aware of pickpockets and bag-snatching. As in most places, don't walk alone at night. Take extra care at Jalan Reservoir and Jalan Tabuan.
- ☠ Boycott zoos like the Crocodile Farm and Matang Wildlife Centre (*they have their orangutans caged*).
- ☠ 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 via reviews.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Festivals

- ☼ Chinese New Year: Feb-Mar.
- ☼ Hari Merdeka (National Day): 31-Aug.
- ☼ World Harvest Festival: Apr.

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Nightlife areas: Carpenter Street. Check out Terminal 1 Club, Drunk Monkey Street Bar, Insanity Premier Dance Club, LS Dance Club. The rest is karaoke.

Free-Riding?

- Kuching has a rather compact city center, but it's really too hot and humid to walk long distances.
- Public transport is slow and very unreliable. Most buses leave from the bus stop next to the Open Market or around this block. Times and frequency change on a daily basis, so verify before and make sure you always have a Plan B.
- Airport: Kuching International Airport (KCH).
- Hitch-hiking is possible, locals are very willing to take a foreigner and have a chat. It can be a good back-up plan if the bus system fails again.

Next?

- ➔ In Malaysia: Miri, Mulu NP, Kota Kinabalu.
- ➔ International destinations close by: Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, The Philippines.