



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Malaysia - Kuala Lumpur

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Kuala Lumpur
- ✓ **Language:** Malay
- ✓ **Population:** ± 873,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 277
- ✓ **Currency:** Ringgit (RM)
- ✓ **Country code:** +60 (6)
- ✓ **Visa:** Few countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 999 (police), 994 (fire), 991 (ambulance), 112 (from mobile phone)
- ✓ **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: 13m. Climate: Tropical Rainforest Climate (Af).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Sights:** Melaka Straits Mosque, Kampung Kling Mosque, St. Paul's Hill, Red Square, Stadthuis, Cheng Hoon Teng Temple, River Walk, Christ Church, Famosa Fort, St. Peter's Church, St. Francis Xavier Church, Queen Victoria's Fountain, Independence Memorial, Bukit China, Middleburg Bastion, Hokkien Huay Kuan.
- ☺ **Free museums:** Villa Sentosa, Orangutan House, [Tham Siew Inn Artist Gallery](#),
- ☺ **Night markets:** China Town Jonker Street (*weekend*).
- ☺ **Beach:** Pantai Klebang.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 **Museum & sights:** [Baba & Nyonya Heritage Museum](#), [Sultanate Palace](#), [Maritime Museum](#), [Cheng Ho Cultural Museum](#), Straits Chinese Jewelry Museum, [Malacca Heritage Centre](#), History & Ethnography Museum, [Submarine Museum](#), [House of Museums](#), [Architecture Museum](#), [Museum Royal Malaysian Customs](#), Stamp Museum, [Toy Museum](#), Prison Museum, [Menara Taming Sari](#), [The Shore Sky Tower](#).
- 👉 Take a river cruise on the Melaka River or hike in [Gunung Ledang NP](#) (*guide obligated*).
- 👉 **Get a massage:** They're cheap here.

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Giant, Sukaria, Tesco.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Jonker Walk Night 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, Melaka being the Vegan Paradise. Every supermarket has vegan products and there are many (*local*) vegetarian and vegan restaurants... check them on [Happy Cow - Melaka](#) (*don't miss Vege Good!*).

Mama Said

- ☠ Melaka is rather safe. Be aware of pickpockets and bag-snatching. As in most places, don't walk alone at night in desolate places.
- ☠ Many places in Melaka don't have sidewalks and traffic isn't very considerate of pedestrians. Be aware of potholes and badly installed drain covers.
- ☠ Boycott zoos like Malacca Zoo, A'Famosa Safari Wonderland, the Huskitory (*they're polar animals, they suffer in this climate*), V Goat Farm, Melaka Bird Park, Wildlife Theatre Melaka and The Shore Oceanarium where animals are held in captivity.
- ☠ Tap water is not drinkable.
- ☠ Only use licensed cabs or take an Uber / Grab.

Next?

- ➔ **In Malaysia:** Cameron Highlands, Taman Negara, Tioman Island, Penang, Perhentian Islands, Kuala Lumpur.
- ➔ **International destinations close by:** Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, India, Vietnam, Cambodia.

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

- ☼ Melaka Kite Festival: Jan.
- ☼ Chinese New Year: Feb-Mar.
- ☼ Hari Merdeka (National Day): 31-Aug.

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Nightlife areas: Portuguese Square, along the river, China Town. Clubs: Mixx Club, Alto Sky Lounge.

Free-Riding?

- Melaka has a rather compact city centre, but outside the historic centre there are no sidewalks and it's dangerous to walk around.
- Melaka has a bike share system called [Smoove](#) and [Melaka Bike Share](#). Hotels rent bikes too.
- Melaka has a bus system, but isn't served by railway. All buses leave from Melaka Sentral, 4.5km outside of the center (*you can take a city bus 17 or 8 to the center*).
- You can take a taxi, Uber or the cheaper Grab.
- Airport: Melaka International Airport (MKZ) & Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL).
- Boats leave to Indonesia (*Bengkalis, Dumai & Pekanbaru in Sumatra*). Go to Harbour Master's Jetty (*Jeti Shabandar*).
- Hitch-hiking is possible, but won't save you much as public transport is really cheap in Malaysia.

