



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Malaysia - Miri

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Kuala Lumpur
- ✓ **Language:** Malay
- ✓ **Population:** ± 358,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 997,4
- ✓ **Currency:** Ringgit (RM)
- ✓ **Country code:** +60 (85)
- ✓ **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 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| High Season | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Altitude: 10m. Climate: Tropical Rainforest Climate (Af).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** Miri City Fan, Canada Hill, Riam Temple, Tua Pek Kong Temple, San Ching Tian Temple, Taman Awam, Petroleum Museum.

☺ **Beaches:** Tusan Cliff Beach, Luak Bay.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **National Parks:** [Lambir Hills NP](#), [Niah Caves NP](#), [Loagan Bunut NP](#), [Gunung Mulu NP](#) (3-days Pinnacles Trek, Headhunter Trek & Cave Treks all with guide).

👍 **Outdoor sports:** Snorkeling, scuba diving.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Hostels and hotels are very cheap in Malaysia. If you travel with two people or more a private room is often even cheaper than a dormitory.

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

Festivals

⚙ Chinese New Year: Feb-Mar.

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

Find all events on this [page](#).

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Mega, Everwin, Emart, GK, Servay, Econsave, New World, Boulevard.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Miri Central Market (Jalan Brooke), Saberkas Weekend Market (Thu-Sun: Jalan Miri Pujut).
- ⌘ **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, but a bit of a challenge in Miri. There are some vegan restaurants outside of the center: check them on [Happy Cow - Miri](#). If not, settle with the standard rice/noodles with vegetables.

Next?

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

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Bars: Club Celebrities, Ming Café, Black Pearl.

Free-Riding?

- Miri has a compact and traffic-congested city center, but it's rather pedestrian-unfriendly and really too hot and humid to walk long distances.
- Public buses leave from the bus terminal, located outside of the center at the Pujut corner (*you can get there with bus 20 and 33a*). Note that bus travel takes very long due to limited road access.
- Uber is widely used and cheaper than taking a taxi, but the local Grab is even cheaper. When traveling with 2 or more Grab even beats bus prices.
- Airport: Miri Airport (MYY).
- Hitch-hiking is possible and Borneans will be thrilled to take on a foreigner.

Mama Said

- ☠ Malaysia is generally safe, but Miri is a bit dodgy. Be aware of pickpockets and bag-snatching. As in most places, don't walk alone at night.
- ☠ Boycott zoos like the Crocodile Farm where animals are kept in captivity.
- ☠ Tap water is not drinkable.
- ☠ Only cash out inside of banks, not on street ATMs.

The Earth Becomes My Throne