



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Malaysia - Tioman Island (Pulau Tioman)

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Kuala Lumpur
- ✓ **Language:** Malay
- ✓ **Population:** ± 432
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 136
- ✓ **Currency:** Ringgit (RM)
- ✓ **Country code:** +60 (9)
- ✓ **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					Always	chance	on	rain				
Best												

Altitude: 1038m. Climate: Tropical Rainforest Climate (Af).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Beaches:** Salang, Monkey Beach, Panuba, Berjaya, Genting, Paya, Juara.
- ☺ **Jungle hikes:** ABC to Monkey Beach (to Monkey Bay to Salang), Tekek to Juara (*trail starts up from mosque, barely visible*). Always follow the power lines. Mountains: Paya to Mount Kajang (*10 hours without breaks*).
- ☺ **Climb:** Dragon Horns (*5 days*).
- ☺ **Sights:** Mukut waterfall, Asah waterfall, Juara Turtle Project.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 **Diving:** The dive season officially starts at March until wet season (*Nov*). There are numerous dive sites. [Eco-divers](#) is recommended.
- 👍 **Snorkeling:** Renggis Island, Monkey Beach, Monkey Bay, Coral Island, Paya, ABC, Salang. Bring your own snorkel or rent it cheaply in Tekek, ABC or Juara.
- 👍 **Watersports:** Kayaking, wakeboarding & jetskiing.
- 👍 **Golf:** at [Berjaya Resort](#) (*18 hole*).

Budget Bites

⌘ **Supermarkets:** Available in Tekek, as is duty-free alcohol.

⌘ **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, although the options are limited in Tioman... Make sure you have a kitchen or check the few restaurants with vegan options on [Happy Cow - Malaysia](#). You can always request rice/noodles with vegetables.

Mama Said

☠ Malaysia and Tioman Island are generally safe. As in most places, use your common (*travel*) sense. Don't walk alone at night, keep an eye on your belongings.

☠ Safety issues are mostly related to weather conditions and tides. Also realize that during bad weather you can be stuck on the island for days.

☠ There's only one ATM at the island (*that sometimes doesn't work*) and Western Union isn't operational. In short, bring enough cash.

☠ Tap water is not drinkable.

☠ Bring bug spray. Wasps, mosquitoes and especially sand flies are a big issue. More sandflies are found in Juara.

☠ Don't approach wildlife such as monkeys and lizards. They can attack if they feel threatened or cornered by you.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Hostels and hotels are very cheap in Malaysia. Be aware that there are scams with Air BnB and booking-websites, so only book accommodations with reviews.

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

Free-Riding?

■ The main city is Tekek, from where it's possible to walk to ABC or Berjaya. Within towns (*kampongs*) all is easily walkable. To move to different towns further apart alternative transport is necessary.

■ It's possible to rent a bike, although many parts are only reachable by boat or jungle hike. Also, don't underestimate the hills and humid heat. It's more convenient to rent a motorbike.

■ There is no public transport on the island. You reach the island by boat via Mersing, there's only one boat company and tickets can be bought at the ticket office in the shopping mall next to the jetty (*you pay more via middle men*). The boat stops at several places west of the island. During monsoon the ferry can be suspended for days. There are also very expensive private speedboat services (to be arranged at harbor).

■ There are overpriced cabs available.

■ Airport: Tioman Airport (TOD) / Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL).

■ Hitch-hiking is possible.

Next?

➔ In Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Cameron Highlands, Taman Negara, Penang, Perhentian Islands.

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