



MALAYSIA - COUNTRY FACT SHEET

➤ GENERAL INFORMATION

Climate & Weather	Equatorial, hot and humid throughout the year.	Time Zone	UTC+08:00
Language	Bahasa Malaysia.	Currency	Malaysia Ringgit (MYR).
Religion	Muslim.	International Dialing Code	+60
Population	Approximately 30 Million.	Internet Domain	.com.my
Political System	Democracy.	Emergency Numbers	Police and Ambulance : 999 Fire : 994 Civil Defence : 991
Electricity	240V.	Capital City	Kuala Lumpur.
What documents required to open a local Bank Account? Can this be done prior to arrival?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passport. 2. Work Permit endorsed in the passport. 3. Bank Letter from the local HR. 4. Tenancy agreement of permanent or temporary accommodation. 5. Proof of residential address in origin country (bank statement, utility bills etc.). 6. An initial deposit depending on the type of account required. 	Please confirm how salaries are paid? (eg monthly directly into a Bank Account)	Most often through direct credit to the bank account.



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Culture/Business Culture

Malaysia is a multi-cultural society. The main ethnic groups are the native Malays as well as large populations of Chinese and Indians.

When visiting Malaysia, it is clear that the ethnicities retain their religions, customs and way of life. It is important to respect everyone and nobody is more superior than another.

Malays, Chinese and Indians all strive to maintain face and avoid shame both in public and private. Face is a personal concept that embraces qualities such as a good name, good character, and being held in esteem by one's peers. Face is considered a commodity that can be given, lost, taken away, or earned, be it in the family or company, both in personal or professional context.

Health care/medical treatment

Healthcare in Malaysia is divided into private and public sectors and medical services in Malaysia are of an extremely high standard

The public healthcare system does not cover visitors or tourists, and as such, private doctors and institutions are the only options for expatriates. While treatment can be expensive and medical facilities can demand payment upfront, patients in private hospitals won't have to wait for access to a doctor. Patients will often deal with English-speaking doctors who hold western medical qualifications

Private healthcare in Malaysia often boast access to the latest diagnostic technologies and medical treatments.

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Education

International schools International schools in Malaysia are funded by the private sector and teach an international curriculum using English as a medium of instruction.

Although these schools mainly cater for the needs of the international community, such as the children of the staff of foreign businesses, international organisations, foreign embassies and missions, up to 40% of students may be Malaysian.

The main types of international curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education are the British curriculum, the Australian curriculum, the American curriculum and the Canadian curriculum. Many of these schools offer education from pre-school right up to the preparation of students to sit for an external international examination like IGCSE 'O' level, GCE 'A' levels, International Baccalaureate Diploma, Grade 1 to 12, etc.

Utilities

Gas - Centralized gas system is not widely available and propane is the norm in Malaysia, generally run on bottled gas, which can be purchased from sellers in residential areas. Depending on how much you cook, the propane cylinder lasts between four to six months.

Electricity - The only supplier is Tenaga Nasional Berhad and the electric sockets in use are the British BS-1363. Electricity bills can be very high, especially if you frequently use air conditioning. Minimize your bills by keeping air-conditioning units maintained and switching them off when you're not in the room. Ceiling fans are extremely popular because of their effectiveness and low cost. The account usually remains in the landlord's name although the tenant pays the bills.

Water - Supplier is SYABAS and tap water is safe to drink in major towns or cities, but it is recommended to boil it first. Mineral or bottled water is available everywhere. There is also the option of installing a water filter if needed.



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Food & Drink	<p>One of the best reasons to come to Malaysia is the food, comprising cuisines from Chinese, Indian and Malay, the three main races of Malaysia.</p> <p>Malaysian cooking has its own unique specialities, based on exotic spices, chilli, ginger, lemongrass, lime leaves, coconut milk and peanuts. Many dishes are spicy, but rice is served with almost everything. By and large, Malaysian food is delicious and none of the great dishes/meals come at a great expense.</p>
Leisure/Entertainment/ Sport	<p>It is plentiful in Malaysia, full of attractions, places to see and sports activities one can engage in, practically no shortage. Nightlife is lively never bored.</p> <p>For children, the city also have indoor centres catered for them, especially the choice of many parents when it is hot and humid outside.</p>
Security	<p>Violent crime against tourists and foreigners is relatively rare.</p> <p>Take sensible precautions to protect yourself from petty crime.</p> <p>While most streets are safe to walk, downtown areas around bars tend to become populated after midnight. If possible, avoid these areas late at night.</p>
Driving	<p>Driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence and the traffic police regularly carry out breath tests. Anyone over the legal limit can face serious penalties.</p> <p>Road conditions in Peninsular Malaysia are generally good, but less so in East Malaysia.</p> <p>Traffic moves on the left side of the road, and most vehicles are right-hand drive.</p> <p>By law, passengers must use front and back seat belts and are prohibited from using their cell phones while driving.</p> <p>Traffic is heavy during the morning and afternoon rush hours and slows down considerably when it rains.</p>



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Public Transport

Travel by public transport is generally considered quite safe in Kuala Lumpur but common sense and normal precautions should be observed.

There are a variety means of transport in the capital eg. buses, taxis, trains and uber transportation.

Be wary that some drivers, particularly in tourist areas, refuse to use the meter despite a law requiring that they do so, and if you plan to travel by bus, choose a reputable company and avoid overnight routes.

Taking Pets

No pet is allowed into Malaysia without a license and this must be applied for in advance. Importing a pet into Malaysia without a license is classed as smuggling and can result in a prison sentence.

There are some breeds of dogs that are not allowed in Malaysia, some subject to special condition such as being micro-chipped.

Exotic birds may be subject to wildlife conservation regulations as well.

Climate change may affect pet's eating habits, ensure to register with a vet as soon as possible if attention is needed.

Expat Groups

Yes, refer to: <http://www.expatswoman.com/malaysia.aspx>

Cost of Living

Cost of living will depend on one's lifestyle which can be costly or inexpensive.

How much is
1 litre milk:
A loaf of bread:
1 litre of petrol:

- 1 gallon of milk - MYR9.50
- 1 loaf of bread - MYR3.50
- 1 gallon of petrol - MYR2.50



➤ HOUSING AND TENANCY INFORMATION

Do expats tend to live in specific areas/ compounds or standalone properties throughout the city?	Dependent on their needs, typically in specific expats communities.
How long does it take between finding and securing a property?	One to two months.
How many days face to face home search package without any unforeseen problems are required for	Single 2 days Couple 3 days Family 4 days
Please advise availability of Furnished and Unfurnished properties and please advise what is normally included in Furnished and Unfurnished (eg. Carpets, curtains etc)	Fully Furnished – Everything is included, but is dependent on offer. Partially Furnished – Only whitegoods, curtains, lightings, built-in wardrobes, air-conditioners.
What is the length of a normal tenancy agreement?	Typically 24 months.
When are rental payments due?	Monthly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Explain when other:
What is normally the term to give notice?	2 months' notice.
What are usually the tenancy renewal terms?	Option to renew for an additional 12 months tenure.
What break clauses are generally available e.g. business/diplomatic, and what time scale can notice be given eg. 2 months after 6 months	2 months' notice after fulfilling 12 months tenure.
Is a deposit paid and how much will this be? Who holds the deposit and how is this protected?	Security deposit is 2 months, to be held by the Landlord. Should there be no claims or damages or outstanding bills, the deposit would be refunded in full within 30 - 60 days from departure.
In what name can the tenancy agreement go? Eg. Individual, company	Flexible, but most Landlords would prefer Corporate lease.
When a property has been found - does a holding deposit has to be paid and how much? Will this secure the property	Yes, it would be 1 month rental to be paid as the Holding Deposit. Once the lease is finalized, the same would be treated as an upfront rental for the first month rent.



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What information does a tenant or occupier need to provide before being able to secure the property eg. References, employer's reference, ID copies	For personal lease, copy of employment pass endorsed in the passport. For Corporate lease, certain Landlords would require company registration documents.
Can properties be taken and rent paid at any time of the month or only on the 1st of the month?	Rent would need to be paid before the due date, before the commencement of the following month.
Are rents paid in currency of the country	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is short term accommodation available?	Yes.
During tenancy who normally manages the property?	Dependent on the nature of the issues, it can be either under the responsibility of the Landlord or Tenant.
Are there any broker/government/agency fees to be paid	Only the stamp duty for the tenancy agreement.
Any other cost that client should be aware of when taking on a property? Such as tenancy preparation charges, government and service charges	Only the stamp duty for the tenancy agreement.
Are tenancy agreements in English?	Yes.
Do you provide any move-in information such as personalised area guide or welcome pack?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> We will be conducting the needed inspections and reporting, no Welcome Pack would be provided.

➤ OTHER SERVICES

Is Rental furniture available?	Yes, it is available.
Is there any information you wish to share with us?	