



## Country Profile: Malaysia

Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy with an elected federal parliamentary government. The country is comprised of 13 states, 11 on the Malay Peninsula and two, Sabah and Sarawak, on the island of Borneo. There is also a federally administered set of territories: the capital city of Kuala Lumpur, the administrative center of Putrajaya, and the island of Labuan. Malaysia is a multi-ethnic country of 27 million people. Malays form the predominant ethnic group. The two other large ethnic groups in Malaysia are Chinese and Indians. Islam is the official religion and is practiced by some 60 percent of the population. Bahasa Malaysia is the official language, although English is widely spoken. Travelers to Malaysia may access information on areas of interest through the Malaysian government's web site at <http://www.gov.my/> and Tourism Malaysia's web site at <http://www.tourism.gov.my/>. Read the Department of State's [Background Notes](#) on Malaysia for additional information.

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### COUNTRY OVERVIEW



<b>Country Name:</b>	Malaysia
<b>Continent:</b>	Asia
<b>Capital City:</b>	Kuala Lumpur
<b>Boundary Countries:</b>	
<b>Recommended Hospitals in Capital:</b>	Kuala Lumpur: Damai Service Hospital, Gleneagles Intan Medical Center, Hospital Pantai Indah, Pantai Medical Center, Sentosa Medical Center, Pantai Cheras Medical Center
<b>Main Cities:</b>	Kuala Lumpur, George Town, Ipoh, Johor Bahru
<b>Country Size:</b>	329,750 sq km
<b>Population:</b>	23,522,482

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### COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Language:</b>	Bahasa Malaysia (official), English, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, Hokkien, Hakka, Hainan, Foochow), Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Panjabi, Thai <i>note:</i> in East Malaysia there are several indigenous languages; most widely spoken are Iban and Kadazan
<b>Currency:</b>	Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)
<b>Predominant Religions:</b>	Muslim 60.4%, Buddhist 19.2%, Christian 9.1%, Hindu 6.3%, Confucianism, Taoism, other traditional Chinese religions 2.6%, other or unknown 1.5%, none 0.8%
<b>National Holidays:</b>	Independence Day/Malaysia Day, 31 August (1957)
<b>Economic Status:</b>	Malaysia, a middle-income country, transformed itself from 1971 through the late 1990s from a producer of raw materials into an emerging multi-sector economy.
<b>Security:</b>	Malaysia Army, Royal Malaysian Navy, Royal Malaysian Air Force, Royal Malaysian Marine Police, Sarawak Border Scouts
<b>US Presence:</b>	<a href="#">U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur</a> 376 Jalan Tun Razak 50400 Kuala Lumpur Phone: 60-3-2168-5000

<b>Major Airports:</b>	Airports: 117, Airports w/paved runways: 38  Kuala Lumpur International (KUL/WMKK) Kuala Lumpur, KLIA, Malaysia, Pengurus Besar, Tingkat, 3 & 4 Airport Management Centre, Kuala Lumpur International Airport, 64000 Sepang, MALAYSIA Tel: +60 (0)3 7846 7777, +60 (0)3 8777 8888 Fax: +60 (0)3 8926 5209 Website: <a href="http://www.malaysiaairports.com.my">www.malaysiaairports.com.my</a> Customs, hours: 24 hours Tel: +60 (0)3 8787 2312 Fax: +60 (0)3 8787 2311
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