

TRAVELLER PROMOTION

Malaysian ADVENTURE

Malaysia has vast appeal for both the intrepid traveller and those seeking a luxurious adventure. We can't rave enough about this natural playground

The recently launched direct flight from British Airways has made Malaysia even more accessible to UK travellers. Those who off-road to this unsung country find a beguiling land bursting with colour and culture, nature and adventure, fabulous food, and the kindest welcome. With so much to see, many travellers combine two or more Malay destinations or take a longer Malaysian journey.

MAINLAND MALAYSIA

Most start in Kuala Lumpur, an edgy city where old meets new, and where mosques and temples stand alongside skyscrapers, shopping malls and trendy nightspots. Head 200km north to find the tea plantations of the Cameron Highlands. This is Malaysia's hill station, an alpine escape of blue peaks, green hills, tumbling rivers and small towns. Enjoy the cool, fresh climate, and spend days trekking and tea tasting. The perfect base is Cameron Highland Resort, a 56-room boutique hideaway surrounded by peaceful plantations.

MALAYSIA'S ISLANDS

Malaysia's islands are beach pin-ups where flying in then flopping is all too easy. But fight the laze-inducing vibe and go exploring – you'll unearth a load of

island treasures. Langkawi has been on the hot list since the Datai opened its luxurious treetop doors. This expansive jungle lodge above a curve of platinum sand offers a unique adventure. Dive the pantone-coloured coral reef or trek the 10-million year old rainforest with resident naturalist Irshad Mobarak in search of the dusky leaf monkey and flying lemur; go after dark to spot bats and flying squirrels; kayak through mangroves and watch kites and kingfishers swoop and fiddler crabs scuttle. Another natural idyll is the jungle-strewn private island of Pangkor Laut Resort. Home to glorious beaches and acres of wild rainforest, travellers can take canopy tours or zipwire through the trees, walk forest paths to hidden waterfalls and swim in natural pools. Both are an easy onward journey from Kuala Lumpur and the Cameron Highlands, making a great two- or three-stop Malay journey. Over in Borneo is another island making its name for all the right reasons. Gaya Island Resort is teeming with coral reefs, protected mangroves, thick jungle, and it also runs a brilliant PURE activity programme, immersing guests in the environment. Walk the hushed, forested trails – home to monkeys, mouse deer and bearded pigs – take yoga under a canopy of trees and end with reef diving.



MALAYSIAN BORNEO

Sabah is a wildlife wonderland – from orangutans to whale sharks – it provides an up close and personal adventure. From Kota Kinabalu it's 40 minutes down to Pantai Dalit beach and the secluded Shangri-La Rasa Ria, complete with 64-acre orangutan conservation reserve. Kinabalu Park is perfect hiking terrain where the energetic can climb to the summit of Mount Kinabalu. A short flight away is the famous Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, while further afield is Danum Valley Conservation Area. Travellers fly to Lahad Datu, before driving to this extraordinary place far away from civilisation. It's worth the journey for the chance to see Sumatran rhinoceros, clouded leopard, orangutan and majestic Asian elephants.

For further information, visit tourism.gov.my

Reader offers

■ Kuala Lumpur, Cameron Highlands and Pangkor Laut

Cleveland Collection is offering 11 nights B&B from £1,730 per person including British Airways flights, transfers, two nights at the Majestic Kuala Lumpur, two nights at Cameron Highlands Resort and seven nights at Pangkor Laut Resort.

■ Kuala Lumpur, Cameron Highlands and Langkawi

Enjoy 11 nights B&B from £1,920 per person, including British Airways flights, internal flights and transfers, two nights at the Majestic Kuala Lumpur, two nights at Cameron Highlands Resort and seven nights at the Datai.

■ Borneo and Danum Valley

Experience a 10-night Borneo journey from £2,320 per person including British Airways flights, internal flights, transfers, one night B&B at Shangri La Tanjung Aru, two nights full board at Borneo Rainforest Lodge with shared excursions, and six nights B&B at Gaya Island Resort.

To book, call Cleveland Collection on 020 7843 3531 or visit clevelandcollection.co.uk. Offers are based on two sharing. Room categories apply.



Clockwise from top: Stunning Malaysian panorama; Kuala Lumpur; Lambir National Park, Borneo; Rebak Marina, Langkawi