Driving Guide
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A Guide to Kuah Town

The Only Guide You Need To Plan Your Vacation

November 2010 VOL.4 NO.4
FREE
WELCOME TO LANGKAWI

The main goal of Langkawi Link is to help you maximise your vacation experience. What you’ll get within these pages are straightforward guides to help you choose the activities that are most appropriate for your travel style, personality and budget.

We rate each activity according to a five-part ranking system on a 1 to 10 scale:
1. Educational or Culture Factor, for all you culture buffs and knowledge seekers.
2. Fun Factor, for those who either crave or want to avoid high-octane excitement.
3. Romance Factor, for lovers.
4. Older Kid Interest, for those travelling with children.
5. Fitness Level Required.

Make careful note of the last rating regarding fitness. It is meant for those who cannot perform too much strenuous activity, but it is also for you to plan your activities for each day. The Langkawi sun is hot and the humidity at sauna levels during certain times of year. If you jam-pack your entire day with outdoor activities listed at fitness level 6 and above, you risk getting heat-exhaustion and dehydration. That means you’ll be sleeping in your hotel room by sundown instead of dining on luscious seafood and going barhopping afterwards.

The best way to vacation in Langkawi is schedule the strenuous activities followed by the relaxing ones, like having a nap by the pool or getting a massage. If all you do is frenzied activity, you are missing the whole point of being in Langkawi.

We sincerely hope that this guide will help you plan a great vacation.

Patrick Low
Editor

Happy Deepavali & Selamat Hari Raya AidilAdha
A NOTE ABOUT PRICES AND ADDRESSES IN THIS GUIDE
Except for the tourist attractions, we have few prices listed here due to the fact that they fluctuate so much between high and low seasons. It is also complicated by the fact that local Malaysians get a discount on most entrance fees. There are also very few addresses listed because they will not help you find these places. Roads are not marked at every intersection and shoplot numbers are often impossible to find. All local residents get by on landmarks, so that’s what we’ve provided as much as possible. It is always best to call ahead and ask the businesses for directions if you’re driving. See our Directory on pg 21 for phone numbers.
A DRIVING GUIDE TO LANGKAWI:

Renting a car or scooter is simply the best way to get an all-round perspective of the island. Car or scooter rentals are cheap, and a self-drive tour of the island gives you a glimpse of authentic village life, the magnificent sight of mountains and padi fields, plus the commercial tourist attractions. Also fuel prices are low in Langkawi and the main roads are in great shape. For backpackers and budget travellers, renting a car or scooter is the most cost-effective way to maximize your vacation experience.

You may come across car rentals as low as RM 60 per day but these are unlicensed rentals and there is no insurance or refund if the car gets confiscated at a police checkpoint. Legitimate car rental companies generally rent for no less than RM 90. Make sure there’s a licence sticker on your rental.

Langkawi roads are usually not marked at an intersection. When there is a marker, it is at ground level. Even the residents here don’t go by street names; everyone uses landmarks to find places. The directions here reflect this.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Do not explore the side roads of Langkawi in a car, if possible. The roads are far too narrow. Always be on the lookout for animals crossing the roads. Avoid driving at night. If you come from a country that drives on the right, tape a big left-pointing arrow on top of the dashboard so you’ll always know which side of the road to drive (use masking tape or paper strips). Please do not rent a bike or scooter if you have no experience riding them. Bike riders should always stay as far left of the road as possible and always give way to cars.

The following are some interesting out-of-the-way places to visit while driving around Langkawi:

**JALAN AIR HANGAT**

Wat Wanararm Buddhist Temple

Starting from Kuah town, drive past the town limits and you’ll soon see the massive school grounds of the Mara Science College on your left. Look for the entrance to the science college but signal for a RIGHT turn. Directly across from the school gates, there is a side road marked by a picture of a monk. Take the side road to the temple. Also worth checking out is the organic dragonfruit farm near the temple. If they just had a harvest and there’s dragonfruit for sale, buy some.

Happy Hours: 3pm - 6pm
Everyday Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Pantai Cenang (next to Casa del Mar) on the beach
Tel: 6 04 955 1363
Fax: 6 04 955 1221
Email: info@beachgardenresort.com
www.beachgardenresort.com

**Temples Under the Stalactites**

Just 500 metres north from Wat Wanararm is another side road on the right marked by a huge yellow sign above the road. The road leads to a T-junction that is guarded by a large green Hindu statue. From that junction, the road to your left leads to the Wat Tham Kisap Buddhist temple while going right takes you to a newly-constructed Hindu temple. The Hindu and Buddhist temples are up against strikingly gorgeous limestone cliffs with overhanging stalactites.

**JALAN TELUK YU**

Look for a low yellow and red stone fence near Kompleks Kraf. The entrance, flanked by two concrete structures (see photo above), leads to a tiny park. There is a great view of the boulders in the sea from a lookout point near the parking lot. If you walk to the other end of the park, you’ll find stairs leading down to the beach. On a sunny day at medium tide, the beach here is quite beautiful (if they’ve picked up the trash).

There is another entrance point to this stretch of beach directly across from the entrance to Kompleks Kraf. Park your vehicle at the unpaved parking lot and take the stone stairway down. This is a lovely, secluded picnic spot that few people know
Perdana Quay is a favourite hotspot that locals and tourists simply can’t get enough of. With an international array of restaurants and cafes overlooking a lovely marina, there’s no better place to unwind and have a great meal than Perdana Quay.

Music & Theatre Specials From 19 November 2010 to 2 January 2011
- Angklung & Strolling Musicians Nightly
- Mahsuri Theatre on Friday  
- Cultural Dance on Saturday
- 4 piece Live Band on Sunday

Outlets in Perdana Quay:
Tapaz, Hamachi Japanese Restaurant, Mare Blu Ristorante, The Privilege, The Loaf, USSR Restaurant, Harbour Park Seafood Restaurant, Restoran Normaj, El Mandi Restaurant (Arabic & Northern Indian Food), Azra Cafe, Artisans

For Enquiries Call:
604 959 1826 (Langkawi) 603 9106 3000 (Kuala Lumpur)

Another project owned & managed by
Tradewinds Corporation Berhad
about because there are no signs indicating a park. This beach is part of Teluk Yu (Shark Bay) beach. Most tourists go to the promenade area just a minute away if you keep driving west. There is parking there and a cheap restaurant with some fairly good local food.

Ewa Jetty is a short one-minute drive away further west. Look out for a big sign on the main road. While it’s not the most scenic fishing jetty in Langkawi, especially with the monstrous cement factory looming over it, it still has a certain charm.

When you reach Telaga Harbour at the west end, check out the Telaga Harbour Lighthouse. Look for a giant sign on the road that says Perdana Quay and take the left turn before The Danna hotel. Follow the road flanking The Danna to the end and you’ll reach the lighthouse (see map below).

JALAN DATAI

When you get to Temurun waterfall, there’s a restaurant across the street called Tiga (good restaurant, too). There’s a footpath at the back of the restaurant leading to an interesting but non-swimmable beach called Pebble Beach. It looks quite haunting if you’re here at sunset.

As you approach the Datai and Andaman resorts, you’ll see the best views of virgin rainforest on the island. This is what driving in Langkawi used to look like 20 years ago. If you are a birder, park on the side of the road outside the entrance to the Datai, grab your binoculars and take a casual walk along the road.

JALAN BUKIT MALUT

Jalan Bukit Malut is a long and winding road that hugs the southern coastline of Langkawi. It provides some extremely pretty views of the southern islands but the road is probably best explored by motorcycle as there are not many places for a car to easily pull over.

While on Jalan Bukit Malut, you might want to take a quick detour on a U-shaped road called Jalan Lencongan Bukit Malut. It’s a nice drive with scenic views at some spots, and no matter where you enter, you will come back out on Jalan Bukit Malut. Do not explore the narrow side roads on this boulevard or you might end up in the Burmese refugee village.

JALAN PADANG GAONG

There is a fantastic swimming area at Lubuk Semilang (some maps mark this as Book Village) that is frequented by the local villagers. As you drive into Lubuk Semilang, take a left turn on the side road next to the giant electric tower. Unfortunately, this is a VERY narrow side road so you drive here at your own risk. When two cars meet, it is very tricky to get through. If you are on a motorcycle, look out for cars coming around the bend. The payoff is that there are several excellent natural swimming pools at the very top that are rarely mentioned in tourist guides. Skip this during the dry season from January to March.

There is a very nice park below for sunset walks, picnicking and swimming.

Right: Swimming pool at the top of Lubuk Semilang
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

**Galeria Perdana**

This beautiful museum houses political gifts given to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad plus some of his personal treasures. There is an enormous variety of items here from all over the world. The museum pieces range from cheesy kitsch to very elegant antiques. Besides the usual crafts, there are also kitsch to very elegant antiques.

The collection might be a bit too eccentric for some but culture buffs and lovers of fine architecture will really enjoy this place. There is an addition charge of RM 2 to bring in a camera and RM 5 for a video recorder.

**Underwater World**

Not as spectacular as some mega-budget super aquariums around the world but it’s still fun and well worth the admission fee. Some highlights: the split-level penguin exhibit with underwater view and the tunnel tank housing the giant groupers, rays and sharks. Also don’t miss the mesmerizing jellyfish and sea dragon exhibits. At 2.45 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, there is a heartbeat-shaking traditional Malay snake-handling performance.

Try to time your visits with the following feeding times, which are always lots of fun to watch: Freshwater Fishes 10.30am, African Penguins 11am & 3pm, Rockhopper Penguins 11.15am & 3.15pm, Otters 11.15am & 3.30pm, Sharks 3pm.

**Kota Mahsuri**

A cultural centre and mausoleum honouring the memory of Mahsuri, a folk heroine who, 200 years ago, withstood brutal torture after being falsely accused of adultery. Besides her bravery in the face of torture, Mahsuri is famous for the curse she laid on the family that killed her.

Most Langkawi legends in the tourist brochures are half-baked PR gimmicks, but the Mahsuri legend has actual historical roots. Virtually all the locals regard it as true. Whether or not you believe the supernatural elements of the story, the islanders will tell you that Langkawi suffered incredibly bad luck for exactly the number of years Mahsuri stated in her curse. This very moving story is laid out in the mini-museum at Makam Mahsuri.

There are cultural performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 3pm. Try to time your visit with these performances (call to confirm). Recommended for those who like history and culture.

**Wildlife Park**

Children and the young at heart will especially love this attraction, which is also called the Bird Park (Taman Burung). They can feed the virtually all the birds and animals, pet a snake and make friends with an assortment of large parrots. They will also love the donkey rides and the rabbit pen. But it’s not all just for kids. Couples will enjoy aviary, especially the serene and romantic landscaped pond where all sorts of exotic waterfowl are roaming free. Look for the huge pelican up in the trees. Tip: if you go early around 9am, the birds and animals are hungry and will be really glad to see you. In the aviary, the birds will land on you and eat birdseed out of your hand!

**Langkawi Link**

Under the Government-supported Homestay Program, Malaysian villagers open their homes to tourists interested in experiencing their simple day-to-day routines. It is especially popular with young travellers who wish to immerse themselves in genuine Malaysian family activities.

For travellers who seek the Homestay experience but would like more space and privacy, Foxhill offers a glacial concept called Kampungstay. It projects a more global approach, providing lodgings in separate traditional village houses furnished with modern amenities. The three Foxhill houses (named Sura, Amin and Jasmine) can comfortably accommodate families big or small, teenagers, seniors and honeymooners. There’s also a Tree Top House for budget travellers. Their “Balai Seri Ilmu” communal hall contains an international library with some books contributed by guests. Activities offered are weaving, batik painting, kite making, “congak” (marble game), Malay cooking & dancing classes. All guests are considered part of owner Maria Alfah’s extended Foxhill family, and therefore have the run of the resort.

A typical Kampungstay will start with “nasi lemak” breakfast, then off to tap rubber before visiting the MARDI Fruit Farm for fresh fruit juices. Around mid-morning, you return to the cabana for batik painting. Lunch will be “Ikan Bakar” at a local restaurant, then for an ice cream dessert at Buffalo Park. After a visit to the Craft Complex, guests will then get to plant rice at Laman Padi, and finally a visit to a night market. All in all, Foxhill promises a unique and memorable Malayan village experience.

For more information, go to www.foxhill-langkawi.com or email: office@foxhill-langkawi.com, Tel/Fax: +604 955 7599 / Maria 012 473 7099
Admission is free.
Tel: 04 953 1913 / 1844
Educational or Culture Factor: 10
Fun Factor: 7
Romance Factor: 5
Older Kid Interest: 9
Fitness Level Required: 3

Snake Sanctuary
The big attraction here is the snake charming shows held at 11.30am and 3pm daily. Unfortunately, there is no guide to explain the interesting snake exhibits on the premises, so it’s not worth it if you miss the show. This place needs guides and a makeover badly.
Adults: RM 15
Children: RM 6
Tel: 04 955 7288
Educational or Culture Factor: 3
Fun Factor: 1 (7 with the snake show)
Romance Factor: 2
Older Kid Interest: 4 (8 with the snake show)
Fitness Level Required: 2

The Field of Burnt Rice
It’s not actually a charred field but a nice traditional house built on a historical site where the villagers burned their entire rice harvest in 1821 trying to starve out invading Siamese soldiers (Mahsuri’s Curse was in effect and it didn’t work).
This is a very low-key tourist attraction and it won’t be tragic if you miss it. If you still want to go, look for a big parking lot across the public school in Padang Matsirat. Squeeze through the narrow alley at the corner and you’ll come to the house. You may have to ask for directions to the alley.
Educational or Culture Factor: 4
Fun Factor: 0
Romance Factor: 0
Older Kid Interest: 0
Fitness Level Required: 1

Laman Padi (Rice Museum)
Laman Padi gets frequently ridiculed in travel forums for being boring but all you need is a guided tour and things get more interesting. A guide is usually on standby but you have to ask for one. There is a lot to interest culture buffs and nature lovers too.
Admission is currently free, even at the museum. There’s a RM 2 charge whenever they have a rice planting demo (if you don’t mind being knee deep in muddy water, definitely give it a try). There’s a nice spa at the back with a great view of the rice fields.
Educational or Culture Factor: 10
Fun Factor: 3
Romance Factor: 8
Older Kid Interest: 6
Fitness Level Required: 1

The Ancient Tomb (Makam Purba)
There are two tiny ancient tombstones next to the big mosque in Ulu Melaka so old that no one knows who is buried there. Frankly, this site should be designated for historical research and not marked on maps as a tourist attraction. There is nothing for tourists to see here anyway, just two tiny gravestones between village houses. Out of respect for these two mysterious early visitors to Langkawi, we recommend that you skip this unless you are researching SE Asian archeology.

Air Hangat Village Hot Springs
Not recommended at the moment because it is under construction. It is open if you still want to check out the cultural stuff and the interesting wall murals. Admission is free and there are some shops selling very cheap clothes and souvenirs.

Mardi Agro Park
Mardi Agro Park is a government fruit farm and research centre that’s open to tourists. For a small admission fee, you get a 15 minute guided tour around the orchards. They sell nice platters of exotic fruits at the cafe. There is also a forest path here if you want to go jungle trekking.
Closed Fridays.
Adults: RM 15
Children: RM 8
Tel: 04 953 2550/2551
Educational or Culture Factor: 10
Fun Factor: 2
Romance Factor: 2
Older Kid Interest: 6
Fitness Level Required: 2

Crocodile Farm
Like the Snake Sanctuary, it’s not worth going unless you time your visit with their shows. There is croc feeding at 11.15am and croc wrestling at 2.45pm, and both shows are pretty amazing sights. The animals here are bred for their pelts and the meat is sold to the exotic meats industry.
Adults: RM 15
Children: RM 10
Tel: 04 959 2559
Educational or Culture Factor: 8
Fun Factor: 8 (with show)
Romance Factor: 0
Older Kid Interest: 10 (with show)
Fitness Level Required: 2

The Charity Club Langkawi
NGO 1556-10-KDH
The CCL is a small group of island residents committed to improving the day-to-day lives of underprivileged families in Langkawi through the following activities:
• Distributing donated food, clothing, linen and toys to villages.
• Helping families apply for welfare benefits.
• Arranging and funding medical appointments.
• Conducting Adopt-A-Family and Schoolchild Sponsorship programmes.
• Constructing or repairing houses.
Contact Lyn 016 458 9234, Sheila 016 687 6600 or Hani (Malay speaking) 016 458 9606. More info on our website www.langkawicharity.com or email us langkawicharity@gmail.com.
Note: Donations of food, clothing and toys (but NOT monetary donations) may be dropped off at the Langkawi Link Vacation Guide office at 40 Persiaran Bunga Raya, Langkawi Mall, located across from the Hindu Temple. Please call Patrick 017 458 2669 or Aini 017 508 4213 beforehand.
Programs Available:
- Textiles Contemporary Craft Exhibition
- Pua Weaving
- Songket
- Dastar
- Crystal
- Batik
- Wood Carving
- Weaving Songket
- Mengkuang Weaving
- Batik Painting
- Pottery Painting
- Make A Kite
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Helicopter Tours from Elite Luxury Vacations

Experience stunning aerial views of the island in ELV's luxury helicopters, all equipped with plush leather seats, air-conditioning and extra-large windows for a bird's-eye view. Those with extra time to kill before boarding a flight at the airport can try their 10-minute Instant Tour of the sights surrounding Langkawi airport (RM 413 pp for a group of 5). They also have a 15-minute Instant Tour.

Their signature tour is the 30-min Magical Tour, with 2 amazingly scenic routes to choose from. The Eastern Route takes you to the southwestern islands and then to Kilim Geopark in the northeast via the eastern coast. The Western Route gives you great views of the waterfalls, Mat Cincang mountains, Telaga Harbour and Datai Bay. The group discount for this tour is only RM 660 per person for a group of 5, which is incredible value for a 30 min helicopter tour.

ELV runs their tours with the highest safety standards. All their rides are smooth and comfortable, even for timid beginners. Travellers with limitless budgets should check out their luxury custom tour packages. They provide airport transfers at RM 1650 per helicopter per way.
Scuba Diving at Pulau Payar
Company: East Marine Holidays
Tel: 04 966 3966

Whether you’re a certified diver or a complete beginner diving for the first time, East Marine is the people to call. There’s no one else on the island that can provide you with the equipment, knowledge, training and safety for diving around Langkawi.

East Marine is one of the biggest dive operators in northern Malaysia, and over the years they’ve earned a solid reputation for excellent diving instruction and services. They even have their own fleet of specially-designed dive boats. They provide international open-water scuba diving certifications for SSI, PADI, BSAC and NAUI, from basic open-water lessons up to instructor status.

For beginners, their Open-Water Certification course takes four days to complete. If you don’t have four days, you can just sign up for the Introductory Dive Programme. At the sparkling waters of Pulau Payar Marine Park, you’ll be taken underwater for about half an hour with full scuba equipment, accompanied at all times by an experienced dive master. But you can’t scuba-dive on your own after the introductory course; you can only spend the rest of the day snorkelling. If you can spare four days, their certification course will open up a whole new world of underwater adventure for you.

Jet Ski Island Hopping
Company: Mega Water Sports
Tel: Said Mokti 012 200 2155

This high-adrenaline tour of the southern islands on a 4-stroke 1500cc jet ski is one of the most inspired tours available in Langkawi.

While regular island-hopping tours are limited to places accessible by boat, jet skis have no problem reaching places accessible only to the locals. In fact, none of the places along their routes are the regular tourist areas, which means you’ll be experiencing parts of the southern islands that few tourists get to see.

The vessels used are Canadian-made Sea-Doos, which are top of the line jet skis. They are much more environmentally-friendly than the 2-stroke jet skis. You don’t need a licence to ride a Sea-Doo (Australians please take note) and children can ride comfortably with an adult.

The tour is fully licensed, insured and run with proper safety procedures. Snorkelling equipment will be provided. They have set tour packages but the company will do customised tours on request. Advance bookings can be made online at www.megawatersports.com.

Quad Bike & Elephant Jungle Rides
Location: Oriental Village
Tel: 04 959 4959 or 012 512 9200

Oriental Village backs up against the forested foothills of Gunung Mat Cincang and you can explore this great jungle on quad bike or on elephant back. There is a short elephant ride around the garden or a 15-minute quad ride (RM 80) for the timid, but adventure seekers can go for the 20-minute elephant jungle ride or book the more challenging quad trails.

The 5km quad bike trail is for beginning to intermediate riders and takes about a half hour to complete. The 10km Geopark Trail is more difficult and takes around an hour to complete.

Most challenging of all is the Mat Cincang Trail, which takes 30-40 mins but is so risky that you have to prove your competence during the Geopark Trail before you can sign up for it. All quad rides are limited to those 16 and above. Please call for current prices.

A NOTE TO ADVENTURE TRAVELLERS:
This stairway in Lubuk Semilang Park goes almost to the top of Gunung Raya, our tallest mountain. It’s a great adventure you can do on your own, but it is 4,287 steps to the top! Walk into the park and follow the trail next to the stream until you come to the stairway marked by a red sign next to a blue sign. This stairway is not frequently maintained. We recommend, for safety reasons, that you go with a qualified nature guide (try Dev’s Adventure Tours). And dress for leeches if there has been heavy rain (tuck your pants into your socks).
Welcome to Langkawi

Nestled at the foothills of Mt. Machincang is the quaint Oriental Village, home to Langkawi Cable Car and more than 50 activity providers; duty-free retail & souvenir outlets; spas; galleries and F&B outlets.

The Langkawi cable car—arguably the best tourist attraction in the country—as its “main attraction,” the Oriental Village is Langkawi’s premier must-visit destination.

Village Adventures

The Oriental Village may be synonymous with Langkawi Cable Car but the Village also hosts a myriad of activity, shopping & F&B options. There will always be much to do at the Village other than cable car rides.

Just barely 50m from Langkawi Cable Car, visitors will encounter Elephant Adventures, where visitors may ride an elephant into Langkawi Geopark. See facing page.

Also at the Village, there are Segway Rides, Motor Cross Bike Trails and ATV Rides, whose respective operators offer guided tours around the Village or into the foothills of Machincang.

Oriental Village

Welcome to Langkawi

Village Accommodation

With the numerous activity options the Oriental Village has to offer, staying over at the Oriental Village may seem a sensible idea, especially if the Seven Wells Waterfalls and beach time at Pantai Kok is on the itinerary.

The boutique Geopark Hotel offers guests 27 superior rooms and three suites from only RM150+ per night, including breakfast. Visitors may also choose one of several packages, including the Jumbo Package that includes both elephant and cable car rides. For bookings, call +604-959-1200 or visit www.geoparkhotel.com.

Geopark hotel also also offers budget travelers accommodation at its Geopark Dormitory from RM25 per Pax.

Adventurers may also camp out from RM70 per person on a fully-catered campsite.

Flavours of Malaysia

Hungry guests will find a wide variety of food offerings including local favourites, Asian and Western fare inexpensively.

Set by the lake, Mizumi Japanese Restaurant features authentic Japanese Cuisine while others may wish to sample local fare at the food court outlets, such as Tastez Corner, Lala Kebab House has the best naan on the island while Dropstone and Oriental Cafes also offer guest Western favorites.

For more food offerings at the Village, visit www.foodspotting.com/1/2/25 or www.orientalvillage.my/directory.html for a full listing.

Galleries & Info Centers

Visitors will also discover more about Langkawi Geopark and the UNESCO Network of Global Geoparks at two information centers managed by LADA and the Research Department of the National University of Malaysia.

To discover more about the Malayah River, hop over to the Tiger! Tiger! Gallery & Exhibit and observe Langkawi’s felines frolic in the grass or take a dip in a stream. The Gallery is open 10am to 5pm.

Shoppers’ Haven

Bargain hunters will find it hard to resist souvenirs and gifts cheaper anywhere else on the island as many outlets at the Village are non-commissionable, ensuring the best deals are reserved for its guests.

Duty-free shopping at the Oriental Village is “anchored” by the Zon Duty-Free Emporium & the Langkawi Shopping Zone, which are strategically located at opposite entry points to the Village.

Spas

Spa buffs are not forgotten at Anjung Spa, where guests may choose from its signature “Fish Spa Therapy” or one of its massage and spa packages.

The Oriental Village is managed by LADA Eco-tourism Sdn Bhd. For rental enquiries & other information, call +604-959-3099 or visit its management office at the Village.

The “Oriental Village” section in the Langkawi Link is compiled by the Tiger! Tiger! Gallery & Exhibit for enquiries & feedback, kindly e-mail hello@orientalvillage.my.
Yes, there are elephants in Malaysia.

The elephants found in Malaysia are of the Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus) variety, the other being the African (Elephas africana) Elephants. Previously known as "Indian Elephants," Asian elephants in Malaysia are essentially similar to those found from Thailand to India.

Once proudly paraded in royal processions, worked on farms, caught alongside armies; provided transportation and used as beasts of burden, the elephant lost its place in Malaysia's cultural heritage after World War II.

Today, there are only 1,200-1,400 elephants in the wild & fewer than 50 elephants in captive programs around the country.

On Langkawi, the Asian Elephant species is represented by Elephant Adventures' handsome bull tusker that is affectionately known as "Lasah."

Meet Lasah
The Asian Elephant

Yes, you may ride an elephant on Langkawi. In fact, the island is one of only a handful of locations where elephant riding is available in Malaysia.

Since 2006, Lasah has given rides to adventurers from more than 80 countries.

Interestingly, in 1998, Lasah was one of 13 elephants that featured on the set of Anna & the King. However, with the closure of the Anna & the King Gallery in 2007, Lasah is just about the only remaining "movie prop" that is "on exhibit." Here, visitors to Elephant Adventures may choose between Fun Rides & Geopark Adventures (reading "lunch rides") from RM80/basket (which may accommodate two adults).

Alternatively, guests may also gain entry with the purchase elephant feed for Lasah. Elephant Adventures is open daily from 10am to 5pm, regardless of whether Langkawi Cable Car is operating.

For more information, contact:
Langkawi Elephant Adventures
Tel: +60.12.512.0200 • hello@langkawi.org

QUADS RULE!

Ride an All-terrain Vehicle (ATV) or quad into the foothills of Mt. Machincang and explore the 90 million year old mountain with Langkawi Quad Adventures.

Visitors may choose from several trail options to suit both riding abilities that last 15, 30 or 60 minutes.

All trail options will involve riding into Container secondary forests, riders may catch fleeting glimpses of wildlife such as birds, primates, civet cats, wild boar, feral dogs, and monkeys as the animals scramble or sit up out of riders' paths.

Compared to other venues, the trails at Langkawi Geopark are highly variable. Riders will encounter a variety of surfaces from undulating terrain, winding trails, narrow roads, rocky outcrops, hilly terrain, sandy beach trails and mud baths. Admissions will be subject to seasonal or weather conditions.

Tulaga, Geopark & Geopark Trails
Each of these trail options will take riders into the foothills of Mt. Machincang and/or the secondary forests around Burau Bay for a fun-filled ride. These trails are suited to both beginner and intermediate riders, although first-time riders will need to demonstrate competency on ATVs.

Machincang Trail
This trail option is a works-in-progress and lengths with each adventure. Open only to intermediate and advanced riders, adventurers will challenge Mt. Machincang as we try to make our way to a northwestern tip of the island. This program will last a minimum of 60 minutes.

Disclaimer:
As funds for the initial build, Lasah are not able to be loaned. As such, only riders aged 16 and above are permitted. Although all convoys are guided, riders are ultimately responsible for their own safety and for any damages they inflict on the ATVs. Riders may have to demonstrate competency prior to hitting the trails.

For more information and reservations, contact Langkawi Quad Adventures
Oriental Village, Burau Bay, 07100
Tel: +60.12.512.9200 or +60.4959.4959
E-mail: langkawi@quadstravel.com

Langkawi's First Tiger

The Oriental Village is also home to Langkawi's First Tiger, "Tiger 2," a tiger rescued in 2008 from a hotel in Phuket, Thailand. The tiger has been domiciled at Langkawi's First Tiger in the Oriental Village since January 2009.

Tiger! Tiger! Gallery & Exhibit
Oriental Village, Burau Bay, 07100
Tel: +60.4959.4959 or +60.4959.4959
E-mail: info@tiger2.com

Tiger! Tiger! is a private initiative towards highlighting the plight of the Malayan tiger. It was opened as a collaborative effort with ÉLARÈDE Exhibition, The Galleryscreen to visitors and FREE Admission access subject to a dress code.

For more information, visit the Tiger! Tiger! Gallery & Exhibit or call +60.4959.4959 or www.langkawi.com
A GUIDE TO BOAT TOURS

Island Hopping

Island hopping boat tours are cheap boat tours that you can take of the scenic southern islands. For only around RM 35 to RM 50 per person (depending on season), the standard tour usually includes the following: eagle feeding at Pulau Singa Basah, get dropped off for a swim at Pulau Beras Basah and then to Pulau Dayang Bunting for swimming or paddleboating at the freshwater lake. The whole excursion takes about 3½ hrs.

Pulau Beras Basah has some of the clearest waters around southern Langkawi. Although not a top diving spot, you can still have some interesting diving here and see shoals of small fish.

Pulau Dayang Bunting has the famous Lake of the Pregnant Maiden, which is a very unusual geological feature of Langkawi. It is a deep freshwater lake separated from the seawater by a very narrow wall of rock. There are solar-powered paddleboats you can rent to explore the beautiful lake without exhausting yourself. Warning: the swimming area is extremely deep and is for good swimmers only.

Eat a hearty meal before you go. There’s no food available at these islands. Bringing your own food is not a good idea because of the monkey problem.

Educational or Culture Factor: 3
Fun Factor:  8
Romance Factor: 3
Older Kid Interest: 9
Fitness Level Required:  6

Yacht Cruises

Yacht Cruises are available on a sharing basis for around RM 270-400 per person. The Sunset Cruises are the most popular and typically involve cruising to a secluded beach for a swim, a barbecue buffet dinner and then a slow sail back during the sunset hours.

The more expensive packages include free flow of quality wines and spirits and a much longer tour of the southern islands. Sunset cruises can be anything from 3 to 6 hrs long depending on the company. The morning cruises are usually cheaper, but couples should definitely pay extra to experience those fabulously romantic Langkawi sunsets on a yacht.

Day-long or overnight private yacht cruises can cost RM 3,000 for a standard yacht to a king’s ransom for big luxury yachts. For honey-mooning couples, it doesn’t get any more romantic than a half-day private sunset cruise, which can be had for around RM 2,500 or less if you shop around.

Educational or Culture Factor: 2
Fun Factor:  8
Romance Factor: 10
Older Kid Interest: 9
Fitness Level Required:  2

Kilim Geopark Tour

The Kilim Geopark Reserve in the north-east of Langkawi is one of the most unique natural regions in the world. The cheapest way to see it if you have a group of people together is to hire a boatman for about 3 hours. Prices for 3 hours if arranged through tour agents are generally between RM 160 to RM 180 per boat, but at these prices the tour is probably uninsured and unlicensed (the official boat rental price at Kilim Jetty for a licensed tour without guide is around RM 100 per hour per boat).

The mangrove tour includes a visit to the Fish Farm, an incredible eagle-feeding frenzy, a cruise around the limestone islands of the northeast and then a visit to a bat cave. The fish farm is truly fun, especially the stingray feeding and archer fish demonstrations.

The eagle feeding may be an awesome sight but the birds are fed chicken skin, which is extremely unhealthy for them. We encourage you to avoid this terrible practice if possible.

Kilim boat tours that include a guide and pickup from your hotel go for around RM 120-160 per person. But if you are a die-hard nature lover, we recommend going with a nature company like Dev’s or Junglewalla. For RM 180-200 per person, you will learn everything about the unique ecology of Kilim with expert nature guides specially trained to spot wildlife.

There are many beautiful limestone caves at Kilim. The Kilim boat tours can be customised for cave tours or a special trip to Pulau Dangli, which has waters clear enough for snorkelling. Negotiate with the boat operators at Tanjung Rhu beach for these special tours.

Educational or Culture Factor: 10 (with a guide)
Fun Factor:  9
Romance Factor:  3
Older Kid Interest: 9
Fitness Level Required:  5

Pulau Payar Excursion

Pulau Payar is a tiny coral island 30km south of Langkawi and not a part of the Langkawi archipelago. However, it is one of the most popular day trips available from Langkawi. The super-clear waters, marine life and coral reefs make for great scuba diving and snorkelling. Prices have been known to fluctuate wildly between seasons, from RM 100-200 per person just for transport. Expect to pay extra for diving or snorkelling packages. Going to Pulau Payar is an all-day affair so you need to schedule an entire day for this.

Currently, 3 of the most popular diving sites are closed until around November to allow the ecosystem to recover from mass tourism. In the meantime, there are other dive sites being used by the tour companies, while East Marine Holidays is using the neighbouring Pulau Lembu Island, which is just as good for diving but without the crowds.

Educational or Culture Factor: 2
Fun Factor:  9
Romance Factor:  3
Older Kid Interest: 9
Fitness Level Required:  6

Fishing Trips

Boat operators can take you to the best spots around Langkawi for fishing. A basic speedboat can be hired for a 4 to 5 hour fishing trip for around RM 350-450. Check with the tour agents at Jetty Point or at your hotel. A luxury speedboat can be booked through Tropical Charters (see below).

Tropical Charters
Tel: 04 955 3407 / 012 588 3274
Email: info@tropicalcharters.com.my
Tropical Charters is one of the most diverse yacht charter companies around. You can choose between a luxury yacht (Suka Suka), a spacious 2-deck catamaran (Seasation) for big parties, a 32 ft luxury speedboat for fishing expeditions or thrill-rides around the island, an Indonesian bugis perahu (Hati Halu) for those who love the charm of vintage wooden boats, or a racing yacht (Baby Tonga).

The emphasis on their cruises is fun. Depending on season, they offer a host of activities like beach BBQs, karaoke, Fingsbee, snorkelling and short jungle treks. The main yachts are all equipped with boom nets that let you lie just above the water as the boat sails. And they are the only ones who regularly offer kayaks, which are truly a fantastic way to explore the southern islands.

(A special message from Tropical Charters: Safety is our top priority and we are the only licensed company in Langkawi offering sharing and private yacht charters with full comprehensive insurance coverage. We invite our guests, hoteliers and agents to check with the Ministry of Transport, Jabatan Laut, to verify this).
Jet Ski Island Hopping
Company: Mega Water Sports
Tel: Said Mokti 012 200 2155
Email: msmokti@tecmore.com.my
If island-hopping with a boatload of camera-toting tourists is not your cup of tea, how about cruising the southern islands on a powerful 4-stroke jet ski? With this Jet Ski Island Hopping Tour, you'll get to see a side of Langkawi that few tourists get to see and go snorkelling on secluded beaches. For more information, see the review of this tour in our Adventure Section on pg 11.

East Marine Pulau Payar Tours
Tel: 04 966 3966
Email: info@eastmarine.com.my
For those especially interested in diving or snorkelling at Pulau Payar, East Marine would be your best bet whether you're expert or rank beginner. They are Langkawi's only diving specialists and will take you to the best spots around the island for underwater exploration. See article on East Marine in our Adventure Section.

Blue Water Star Sailing
Tel: Gerd 013 407 3166
Email: info@bluewaterstarsailing.com
Their sunset cruises may cost a little more but they're almost twice as long and you get an extended tour of the southern islands. They also serve higher quality meals, wines and spirits than most on the standard sunset cruise, so you're getting real value for money.

Stardust
Exclusive and shared charters
Tel: Hamish 017 483 9076
Email: cruise@langkawi-sailing.com
Unlike every other yacht charter, Stardust operates from the stunningly beautiful Kilim Geopark in the northeast. This location allows them to offer a free one-hour mangrove speedboat safari and 6-hour yacht cruise for less than most cruise companies charge for a 3-hr sunset cruise in the southern islands.

Their flagship yacht is a vintage, solid teak boat called Damai Indah. It belongs to a class of Indonesian cargo boat known locally as perahu lambo and is distinctly different from the modern yachts used for private romantic cruises. If you're on a honeymoon or planning a surprise proposal, they will do anything they can to accommodate special requests. Owner Eva Zimmermann also has a dozen neat tricks up her sleeve for private romantic and family cruises so be sure to ask her for suggestions.

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Because they operate in the northeast, you will rarely see other tourists once Stardust gets out into open water, making their cruises perfect for private romantic getaways. Each cruise offers a substantial buffet of European and Asian cuisine washed down with an all-day open bar.
Langkawi has beautiful sunsets all year round. The sun sets around 7:30 pm, so the best time to start your stroll would be around 6:45 or 7 pm. Bring a flashlight in case you have to make your way back in the dark. Note: the walks listed below are just very pleasant strolls to take during the sunset hours. You will not be able to glimpse the setting sun for a few of them.

**THE BEST SUNSET WALKS IN LANGKAWI**

**Langkawi Link**

**Boardwalk at Awana Porto Malai**

This is a very short walk but Awana Porto Malai overlooks one of the most beautiful bays in Langkawi. Park at the huge empty parking lot before the resort and walk your way down to the boardwalk. There is also a lovely lighthouse at the end of the boardwalk.

**Tanjung Rhu Beach**

There are two beaches here that make for great evening walks. The inner one past Tanjung Rhu resort is probably the most beautiful beach on the main island, but the one closer to the traffic circle is also very scenic.

**Telaga Harbour Boardwalk & Pantai Kok**

A great view of the marina and the sunset. Park at the petrol station or immigration office and follow the stone path all the way around to Tapaz restaurant. If you want to continue, go straight past Tapaz and follow the road until you reach the lighthouse. Or you could start at the lighthouse and walk along Pantai Kok beach, which is fairly deserted and gorgeous at sundown, especially by the big boulders at the west side. Unfortunately, massive construction has started by the Danna hotel and that area is not too romantic at the moment.

**Pantai Cenang**

There are lots of people here at sunset, especially volleyball players, so it may not be your idea of a romantic walk. Still there’s something very special about Cenang’s atmosphere at this time. Leave your car at the parking lot next to Casa del Mar and turn right. Keep walking along the beach around Pelangi resort until you almost hit the end of the beach. Put down a blanket and watch the sun set.

**Pantai Tengah**

The street flanking Tengah beach from Holiday Villa to the T-junction is lined with shady casuarinas and makes for a nice walk. If you turn left at the T-junction, you will reach the public entrance to the beach. Stroll along the beach and get back to your car by cutting through either Frangi-pani or Holiday Villa resort. Pantai Tengah is one of our most scenic beaches.

**Lagenda Park**

This popular jogging park in Kuah was recently re-opened after being closed for two years. It looks great except the grass isn’t laid down yet. There is a gorgeous tree-lined path next to the canal if you enter from Eagle Square. If you enter from Pekan Rabu next to al-Hana Mosque, it’s a short walk to the magnificent arched stairway decorated with Islamic motifs. The view at the top is quite nice. There’s a scenic beachside trail from the Pekan Rabu side as well. Don’t get this park mixed up with Chogm Park, which is the park along the main road. See map on left.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Please Do Not Feed The Monkeys

While you are in Langkawi, please do not feed the wildlife, especially the monkeys. It is bad for their health and over time they will lose their ability to forage for food in the wild. It is dangerous for you as well. Wild macaque monkeys can get very aggressive with humans, especially humans carrying lots of food.

We also recommend that you do not participate in tours that conduct eagle feeding shows.

A walk along the casuarina-lined road between the Four Seasons and Tanjung Rhu resorts is also magical at sunset. Pick a section of the road where you can get a nice view of the mangroves on the river (it’s actually a lagoon).

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Lubuk Semilang

This is a beautiful park with a nice cascading stream running through it. Located at Jalan Padang Gaong, this is a very popular picnic park for the locals so it gets crowded during school holidays or long weekends. There is a nice walking trail if you keep following the stream.

There is an alternate trail going through the long-abandoned Book Village. Just look for the cement walkway going through the empty houses across from the parking lot. This path goes through beautiful rainforest trees and you might see great hornbills and the shy dusky-leaf monkeys before sunset. A great place for a late-afternoon walk or picnic.

Teluk Yu Promenade

Located at the north of the island very close to Kompleks Kraf. Look for a restaurant next to a very short public walkway with coconut trees and parking spaces in front of it. Avoid this place when it is very low or high tide. When it is medium tide, it makes for a nice walk. When you reach the beach, turn right and walk towards the giant boulders. If you turn left, you’ll be walking towards Langkawi’s only industrial nightmare, the Lafarge Cement Factory. But if that doesn’t bother you, there’s a rustic fishing village and jetty next to the factory you can check out.

Kilim Jetty

There is a nice walkway with wooden handrails at the jetty where you book boat tours. About a hundred metres before you reach the jetty, stop at the restaurant on the left and you’ll find the bridge to the walking path right next to the restaurant. See photo below:

Entrance to walkway at Kilim Jetty
DINING

EATING DISTRICTS IN LANGKAWI

Perdana Quay (Telaga Harbour)

Perdana Quay is without doubt the most elegant dining district in Langkawi. This is THE place to come if you want a huge variety of great food accompanied by posh surroundings and fabulous scenery. Here you can get Spanish tapas, classy Italian, Chinese, Middle-Eastern, Japanese or Russian food. Put together, it’s like an ongoing international food fest.

Perdana Quay was originally constructed to resemble a Mediterranean coastal town, so the architecture here has a European look not seen anywhere else on the island. Most people come here at night, when it comes alive with a laid-back party atmosphere. But it’s also a great place to stop for lunch, especially with that great view of the harbour during the daylight hours.

From 19 Nov to 2 Jan, Perdana Quay will be holding special music and drama performances. There will be strolling musicians and angklung performances nightly. On Friday nights, there will be a drama based on the Mahsuri legend. Cultural dances will be on Saturday nights and a 4-piece live band will play Sunday nights. Don’t miss these great events.

Pantai Cenang/Tengah

Cenang is the most well-known eating district in Langkawi with dozens of restaurants, bars and cafes jammed tightly together. There is a huge variety of food available here but your best bet is for Asian seafood, European meat dishes, Indian food and Italian-style pasta and pizza. There are great restaurants right on the beach where you can dine and boozie while watching the surf. For some people, life just doesn’t get any better than that.

The same continues over at Pantai Tengah, but everything there is much more spread out and the atmosphere less frenzied.

Trimula (Kuah)

This is the nickname for row of restaurants along Jalan Persiaran Mutiara, which is the road across the canal from the castle-like Bella Vista hotel. There is a Malay-style burger place and a Chinese vegetarian restaurant serving mock meats, but the main attraction here is cheap seafood and cheap beer (available everywhere except at the Muslim restaurants at the east end). There are many Thai restaurants on the west side and a couple of Chinese places across the street that serve exotic dishes like wild boar curry. Tourists generally head for Wonderland while the locals go to Ka Kee Langkawi Seafood and Steamboat.

Pekan Rabu (Kuah)

In another year, the Pekan Rabu area might become one of Langkawi’s biggest after-hours hangout for both tourists and local residents. Located next to al-Hana Mosque, the new buildings here currently house an uneasy mix of western-style cafes and restaurants with low-brow clothing stores, gamat (folk medicines) shops and cheap local eateries. Less than half the lots have been rented out so it’s hard to tell right now which ambience will win out in the end.

There is a good Malay restaurant called Aji at the jetty administrative building at the back of Pekan Rabu. It serves surprisingly good Western food like grilled fish fillets for only around RM 15. There is also a food court in the blue building but mostly locals eat there.

At the other end of the blue building facing the road is Amandla’s Coffee and Tea, a popular hangout with the locals, expats and yachts. A few doors down in the next building, several mid-priced restaurants like Artisans Pizza have opened up along with one very popular low-budget Indian restaurant called Al-Aiman.

Above: Burger Goreng. You haven’t lived until you’ve tried a whole hamburger deep-fried in egg batter. There’s only one man in Langkawi with the guts to make something so unhealthy. You can find him at the night markets in Kuah and Ar Hangat.

Street hawker making the Indian flatbread roti boom.

Sheetla’s Restaurant

Location: Pantai Tengah
Tel: 017 551 6535

After 17 years in business, Sheetla’s is still a sure bet for a good meal. Set in a lovely garden with a pond, Sheetla’s serves up classic Western and Malaysian dishes. For beef lovers, they have a selection of great steaks. Their flexible Malaysian menu allows you to select a meat or seafood to be cooked in a variety of styles.

Red Tomato Café

Location: Pantai Cenang
Tel: 012 513 6046

A favourite among local expats, Red Tomato is well-known for owner Tanya’s pastas, breads and her famous salads. Their entrees are generously-sized and consistently good.

Red Tomato also serves a great breakfast menu. Along with the usual breakfast favourites, you must try their Eggs Benedict, which should keep you well-fueled the rest of the day. They also serve the thickest, fruitiest milkshakes we’ve ever seen in Langkawi. Highly recommended.

Mumbai Palace

Location: Pantai Cenang
Tel: 04 968 1203 / 017 452 7585

Mumbai Palace has a big menu featuring great shish kebabs and other Middle-Eastern favourites, fragrant basmati rice dishes and classic North Indian cuisine, all cooked with real flair. They even have pasta, pizza and fish-and-chips, in case your kids can’t handle exotic spices. This is also a great place for vegetarians (lots of meatless dishes in both the Arabic and Indian menus). Try their shisha (water pipes) for a unique way to end your meal.

Little Lylias Chillout Café

Location: Pantai Cenang
Tel: 017 569 2072

Little Lylias is the last of the original Cenang beach bars. 13 years in business, it is now frequented by backpackers and corporate execs alike, famed for having an atmosphere so laid-back that even the most stressed-out workaholic would find relief.

Their funky tiki-hut décor is designed by Lylia’s owner Gie Hussain, who is an artist on the side. In the evenings, there is usually a band of musicians playing chilled-out versions of rock, blues and reggae classics. If you are a musician, they’ll usually let you jam along if you ask.

Little Lylias is also known for their tasty pastas, salads and barbecues, all mid-priced but generously portioned. There’s a good selection of Asian and vegetarian dishes too. For many, chilling out by the beach at a place like Little Lylias, taking in the music, food and drink, is what Langkawi is all about.
Artisans Pizza
Locations: Kuah and Pantai Cenang
Kuah: 04-967 1232/012 523 1232
Cenang: 04-955 1232/012 477 1232
Perdana Quay: 017 477 1232
Artisans is the most successful pizza company in Langkawi. While they do make good pizzas, they also make excellent sandwiches, pastas, fish and chips and omelets. You don't have to have a craving for pizza to go there. Artisans bakes their own multi-grain bread, have a breakfast menu that is served until 6pm, and they have a great dessert menu with items like crepes and lychee/mango custard. Their branch at Pekan Ratu in Kuah specializes in chicken/lamb chops, BBQ chicken wings and lasagna. Their brand-new branch at Perdana Quay offers some additional items like cakes, fresh brewed coffee and gelato ice cream.

Amanda Coffee & Tea
Location: 37 Pekan Rabu, Kuah
Tel: 04 966 0037
A favourite evening hangout with the locals and yacht community, AC&T has the largest non-alcoholic drinks menu on the island. Gourmet coffee, teas, amazingly good hot chocolate, ice-blended drinks and dozens of premier Monin soda syrups from France—and it seems like every week, owner Amanda Zulkifli and her brother Fakris come up with even more drink recipes. Some of us have stopped ordering; we just tell Amanda to surprise us. They have sandwiches and home-made desserts too. AC&T is a bit hard to find. It's in the blue building on the side facing the road. Look out for a place with red walls.

Beach Garden Restaurant
Location: Pantai Cenang
Tel: 04 955 1363
Beach Garden has been around for two decades and is still hugely popular for one simple reason: it's the only restaurant in Langkawi where you get served gourmet Asian and Western favourites right on the beach. In fact, it is one of the very few casual dining restaurants on the island that has a trained European chef. They are also known for being one of the best breakfast places in Langkawi. Their home-baked European breads are especially tasty. Their breakfast menu is à la carte only—no buffet—and runs from 8am to 1pm.

Note to lovers of good German beer: they don't come expecting 100% authentic Malaysian cuisines. Head Chef Anuar just wants to give you something familiar but with an interesting twist. Those from Johor may recognise smoked banana (broth) appetizers are filled with big chunks of lobster.

Atmosphere-wise, Privilege is a truly serene dining experience, with very elegant décor and tasteful food presentation. Their entrées are between RM 25-50, appetizers mostly RM 10-15 and desserts from RM 8-20. They have many vegetarian dishes (don't miss their great Lotus Root Salad). Their Happy Hour (3-7pm) gives you 3 rolls of a dice to win a free drink! Free wi-fi.

Chenang Boat Quay
Location: Pantai Cenang
Tel: 012 329 4094
CBQ is a branch of the popular Tapaz restaurant at Telaga Harbour. They serve great Spanish tapas dishes at one of the most spectacular waterfront views in Langkawi. They have also teamed up with local gourmet cheese producers Friendly Farms to hold demonstrations on making buffalo-milk mozzarella.

If you didn't know, tapas are small, snack-sized dishes served both cold and warm. Just like Chinese dim sum, you order lots of different dishes so that you end up sampling a wide variety of food in one sitting. They have wonderful seafood tapas but their marinated raw tuna tapas are especially heavenly—if you have a taste for raw fish, that is. Their chicken liver pate is also highly recommended. CBQ also serves Italian-style pizzas.

Charlie’s Place
Location: Langkawi Royal Yacht Club, Kuah
Tel: 04 966 4078
If you’re in Kuah, there are a few nice places for elegant casual dining, but you’re not going to find a better combination of food and waterfront view than Charlie’s Place. Westin is fine dining at twice the price while the other waterfront hotels can’t match the food quality or the serene harbour ambience of this restaurant.

Located smack in-between the Westin and Jetty Point, Charlie’s Place serves both Malaysian and Western cuisines in a great alfresco setting where you can see the lovely marina from every table. The bar is a popular hangout for the yachting community, making this a great place to meet new friends if you’re the social type. There are several meatless entrees on the menu for vegetarians.
**The Beaches of Langkawi**

**Pantai Cenang**

This is a great beach for a swim. Lots of beachside restaurants, spas and watersports operators everywhere so you don’t have to walk far to get anything. There’s a very special atmosphere here at sunset with people playing volleyball and lovers strolling everywhere. Cenang beach is the liveliest and most sociable place on the whole island, but at high season it might be too frenzied for some people.

**Pantai Tengah**

At certain times of the year, Pantai Tengah has big waves and strong currents on the north side of the beach from Underwater World to around Frangipani resort. There are very beautiful islands offshore, making this one of our most scenic beaches. It’s much less crowded and noisy than Cenang. Avoid the part of the beach between Holiday Inn and Federal Villa. There is no beach maintenance there.

**Pantai Kok Beach**

Because there are no restaurants or changing rooms here, Pantai Kok (pronounced like Coke) is usually fairly deserted, even during high season. This makes it one of the best public beaches in Langkawi to chill out if you crave seclusion. The scenery here is gorgeous, especially at the huge boulders on the west side. Occasionally, there’s a herd of buffalo that roams this beach. In another year, half of Pantai Kok next to The Danna might become a site for luxury chalets, in which case the beach would likely become private and the buffalo will be kicked out. Enjoy this beach while you can.

**Teluk Yu Beach**

No one ever swims here. It could be because Teluk Yu means Shark Bay in Malay, or maybe because there is no shade or changing rooms. It’s a good place for a snack or a nice sunset walk, though. It looks terrible at low tide so go at medium or high tide.

**Tanjung Rhu Beach**

There are two public beaches at Tanjung Rhu in the northwest of the main island. Coming off the Jalan Air Hangat circle, the first beach you will see is a very pretty cove that is usually deserted until the sunset hours, when the locals come here with their children for a relaxing picnic before dinner.

The true jewel here is the beach at the Tanjung Rhu Resort. As you drive through lovely the casuarina-lined road next to the mangroves, you will eventually come to a row of bargain clothing stores. Beyond this is the fabulous crescent shaped beach that is arguably the most beautiful on the main island.

Parked right in front of the beach is a gorgeous trio of limestone islands. At low tide you can walk over to the islands, but you must know what time the tide comes back in or you will be stranded on the island. The area in front of the Tanjung Rhu Resort is private. Do not use their facilities or you will be ejected by security.

**Pantai Pasir Hitam (Black Sand Beach)**

No one swims here; it just looks plain uninviting. A few hundred metres to the right of the designated tourist area is a rusted pier built out of coconut tree trunks and wooden planks. The atmosphere at this side of the beach is much more cheerful. There are colourfishing boats all around. During high tide, it’s great fun to watch the village children dive off the pier. If you must have a swim here, do it on this side of the beach.

**Pantai Pasir Tengkorak (Skull Sand Beach)**

Tengkorak beach is a hugely popular picnic and camping spot for the locals. It is actually a very short stretch of beach, but it is still a good swimming beach with shady trees close to the water and, best of all, toilets and changing rooms. Tengkorak is also the only beach with a regular clean-up crew so the beach is usually quite clean. Children will enjoy playing at the thick vines hanging from the trees near the bathrooms. The rope bridge is in disrepair; watch the kids if they are playing on it.

There’s a mildly-interesting look-out point on the rock formations at the east end. There are TONS of aggressive monkeys here; do not bring food.

**Datuk Bay**

This beach is drop-dead gorgeous and spotlessly clean, but it is only for guests of the Datat and Andaman. There is no way to get to the beach except through the resorts and security there is very tight.

**Bura Bay**

The beach is maintained by Berjaya and Mutiara Burau Bay resorts so it is a private beach. The bay is very beautiful and you can get access to it by booking watersports from the resorts. With that mountain backdrop behind the hotels, this is one of the most scenic beaches for kayaking or jet-skiing. They may turn down outside visitors for watersports during peak tourist seasons.

**Waterfalls**

Langkawi features several cascading waterfalls that are spectacularly beautiful during the rainy season between August to October. We feature the three main ones here.

Warning: all the waterfalls are potentially dangerous for very small children or the elderly. Also, because of the monkey problem, do not bring food to the waterfalls. Eat at the resort restaurants. Unless you just want to go for an uphill hike through a scenic jungle, skip the falls altogether during the dry season from January to March, or when there has been no rain for several weeks. The ratings below are for when the waterfalls are gushing after some heavy rainfall.

**Seven Wells Waterfall (Telaga Tujuh)**

Our most spectacular waterfall, Seven Wells is a must-see for those who have the stamina to climb those exhausting 600 steps to the top. At the top are natural jacuzzi-like pools made out of smooth rocks.

During the rainy season, soaking in these swirling pools overlooking the panoramic view of the valley is an unforgettable experience. During dry spells, the pools become stagnant and black, but you can still come up here for a nice nature hike and for the staggering view of the valley. There is a good hiking trail at the back of the wells.

Those who can’t make the climb up to the top can visit the lower falls, which is less geologically unique but still offers great swimming. You still have to climb a short but very steep road. Then follow the marked footpath on the left.

**Temurun Falls**

Temurun used to rival Seven Wells as Langkawi’s most beautiful cascading waterfall, until three ugly concrete dams were built along the stream in March. The dams do create good swimming pools during a heavy downpour, but they back up garbage and stagnant water the rest of the time. Still, the pool at the top level might be the best natural swimming pool on the island. It is surely one of the most scenic, especially with that 100-foot waterfall coming over an unusual wall of black rock. It is quite deep in parts of the pool and is not recommended for non-swimmers.

Resist the urge to have a picnic at this lovely spot. The monkeys will steal food right out of your hand. There’s a very good restaurant (Tiga) across the road if you need to eat. The lower pools are a bit rocky but that’s what makes the water so much clearer here than at the other waterfalls.

**Durian Perangin Falls**

Durian Perangin has the least appealing natural swimming pools but the surrounding jungle is more majestic than at Seven Wells or Temurun. This is a great place to come for a quick hike to appreciate the rock formations and the rainforest, although the landscape is somewhat marred by mysterious black rubber tubes running everywhere. The main pool at the top provides a nice swim but the rocky slope leading to the pool is at a scary angle. Be extra careful walking down to the main pool. It is a bit of a climb to the top but it gets more scenic the further up you go.

**Educational or Culture Factor:** 2

**Fun Factor:** 7

**Romance Factor:** 8

**Older Kid Interest:** 10

**Fitness Level Required:** 6

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**Fitness Level Required:** 6
The following businesses would love to tell you more about their products and services. Give them a call today for info and directions!
WHERE TO HAVE FUN IN KUAH

Admittedly, Kuah does not appeal to everyone. It has the atmosphere of a sleepy Malaysian town back in the 1970s, something which some people find charming but others find dead boring.

Almost everything is cheaper in Kuah than the rest of the island. In fact, we recommend that you shop in Kuah first and then shop elsewhere on the island later. If you saved the trip to Kuah at the end, you may find the exact same items you bought selling for up to 20% cheaper.

Kuah is also a fabulous place to eat, especially in the evenings, with lots of excellent seafood restaurants that are cheaper than the ones at Cenang and Tengah. For non-Muslims, Kuah is the only place in Langkawi where you can find Chinese restaurants everywhere serving pork.

Beers here go for as low as RM 2.50. Besides shopping and dining, Kuah can be quite a fun experience if you are curious about local culture and don't mind some low-key excitement like talking a walk at Eagle Square or Lagenda Park (see Evening Walks section) in the late afternoon.

Refer to map below for the following places:

Langkawi Parade/Langkawi Fair/ Jetty Point:
These malls don't have the glamour of big-city malls but take your time and you'll find some very good discounts for clothes, shoes, jewellery and souvenirs. You'll also find fast food franchises and a nice café or two at these shopping centres.

The Banking District
Although most banking districts are very upscale places, the one in Kuah does not fit that description. Come here if you enjoy Third-World urban charm or if you want to score some good discounts on the items like chocolates, suitcases, cigarettes, booze, cheap tableware, cashew nuts and dried fish snacks. Other popular items include local textiles, electronics and folk medicines. The souvenir shops here generally have cheaper prices than the rest of the island.

Plaza Langkawi is the shopping mall next to the banking district. From the outside it looks enormous but there are only about three floors of shops selling mostly textiles and folk medicine. The rest of the building is office space. Don't come here unless you're looking specifically for Thai or Malay clothing and folk medicine. If you need a miracle tonic for an ailment, you've come to the right place. Also there's a big selection of Thai and Malay-style shirts, blouses and caftans at pretty much the lowest prices on the island.

There are a few popular non-halal Chinese food courts (pork and booze galore) around the intersection before the bridge at Langkawi Baron hotel. One is called Water Garden (it turns into Rootian restaurant at night) and the other is Langkawi Sunrise.

Langkawi Mall
This is mainly a business, clothing and dining area for the locals. Unless you're interested in how the locals live, there's not much to interest tourists except perhaps the Malay, Chinese, Thai and Indian restaurants—and there are a lot of them here, some mid-priced but mostly very cheap. The famous Wan Thai Restaurant is located here.

The Malay restaurants are buffet-style nasi-champur restaurants and that open during the day for breakfast and lunch. The Chinese restaurants are mostly at the front facing the main road and are open till late. The Kamdar department store at the east end of the cobblestone street (the interior...
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- Black, White and Brown Tahini
  ...and many more!

November Promotions!
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Reservation Please call Tel: 04-966 0089

Bellis HEALTH & BEAUTY SPA
41, Jalan Kelibang, Langkawi Mall, 07000 Langkawi, Kedah.
Open daily from 11am to 10pm

part of Langkawi Mall) has a great selection of Indian-style clothing at bargain prices.

Jalan Persiarian Mutiara
This road running in front of the Bella Vista Hotel (across the canal) is flanked by a string of popular seafood restaurants that open only at night. What they lack in décor they make up for in good food and low prices. If you don’t mind the flimsy tables and plastic chairs, this is the place to go for a cheap seafood dinner to be washed down by lots of cheap beer. This eating district is called Trimula.

Pekan Rabu
Located next to al-Hana mosque, Pekan Rabu is an up-and-coming shopping and dining district. Less than half the stores are rented at present but there are still some nice restaurants and cafes. The west entrance to the lovely Legenda Park is by the parking lot next to the marina.

In keeping with their natural health theme, their signature services are Herbal Detox Massage, Herbal Steambath and Aromatherapy Massage, all going for rock-bottom rates because of the price war going on between Kuah massage centres. These rates are amazing considering Bellis may have the most spacious and luxurious massage room in Kuah (not counting the one at Westin).
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST - CHECK OUT THESE 4 WEBSITES

For Maps: www.maps-of-langkawi.com
Pop-Up Maps with 69 Attractions and Places of Interest - with pictures and short descriptions

For Eating Out: www.langkawi-restaurant-guide.com
With Restaurant Picker: click type of food, budget and location and get a proposal out of more than 180 restaurants

For Night-Life: www.langkawi-nightlife.com
With about 2 Dozen Places, ca. 18 Places with Live Music, and some real Hot Spots

For Local News of Langkawi: www.langkawi-gazette.com
With several News Updates every week