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## General information about Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia

### Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur is the capital and the largest city in Malaysia by population. Since the 1990s, the city has played as hosts to many international sporting, political and cultural events including the 1998 Commonwealth Games, 2010 the World Conference of Accountants and the Formula One World Championship which is held annually.

In addition, Kuala Lumpur is home to the tallest twin buildings in the world namely the PETRONAS Twin Towers, which have become an iconic symbol of Malaysia's futuristic developments.

### Malaysia

Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy in Southeast Asia. It consists of thirteen states and three federal territories and has a total landmass of 329,847 square kilometers. Land borders are shared with Thailand, Indonesia, and Brunei, and maritime borders exist with Singapore, Vietnam, and the Philippines. The capital city is Kuala Lumpur, while Putrajaya is the seat of the federal government. In 2010 its population exceeded 27.5 million.

Malaysia has its origins in the Malay Kingdoms present in the area which from the 18th century became colony to the British Empire. Since independence in 1957, Malaysia has had one of the best economic performances in Asia, with GDP at an average of 6.5% per annum for the last 50 years. The economy has traditionally been fuelled by its natural resources, but is now expanding to the sectors of science and technology, manufacturing, tourism, international trade and medical tourism.

### Language

The official language of Malaysia is Bahasa Malaysia, a standardised form of the Malay language. English remains an active second language, and serves as the medium of instruction for mathematics and sciences in all public schools. Malaysian English, also known as Malaysian Standard English (MySE), is a form of English derived from British English. Malaysian English sees wide use in business, along with Manglish, which is a colloquial form of English with heavy Malay, Chinese, and Tamil influences.

### Climate

Kuala Lumpur has a tropical rainforest climate which is warm and sunny, along with abundant rainfall, especially during the northeast monsoon season from October to March. Temperatures tend to remain constant. Maximums are between 31 and 33°C, while minimums are between 22 and 23.5°C. In December you can expect temperatures between 21 to 31°C.

### Voltage

Generally the voltage in Malaysia is 230V, 50Hz. You should bring an electrical adapter if you intend to use your laptop, however the hotel also provides them upon request.

### Currency

Ringgit (MYR; symbol RM) = 100 Sen. Notes are in denominations of RM100, 50, 10, 5 and 1.

1 MYR = 0,31975 USD

1 USD = 3,12745 MYR

Exchange Rate: Oanda.com of 3 November 2011

**Please note that all individuals are responsible for their own travel arrangements and visa matters.**

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