

Peninsular Malaysia Wildlife Trail: Taman Negara, Kuala Gandah & Langkawi Mangroves

Prepared by TourGrids

 Destination
Malaysia

 Duration
7 Nights 8 Days

 Starting from
Rs. 98,000 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ Kuala Lumpur · 2N

↗ Taman Negara (Kuala Tahan) · 2N

↗ Kuala Gandah / Bentong · 1N

↗ Langkawi · 2N

Overview

Peninsular Malaysia packs rainforest, elephants and mangroves into one drivable circuit. Taman Negara, protected since 1938 and one of the oldest rainforests on earth, is the core of this trip: you cross the Tembeling River by longboat, walk the canopy walkway suspended between tall tualang trees, sit in a jungle hide at dusk and shoot the Lata Berkoh rapids. The route then stops at the National Elephant Conservation Centre at Kuala Gandah, which rehabilitates wild Asian elephants displaced by plantation expansion.

Kuala Lumpur adds KL Bird Park's free-flight aviary and the fireflies of Kampung Kuantan near Kuala Selangor. Langkawi closes the trip with the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park, where boats run through mangrove channels past brahminty kites, white-bellied sea eagles, macaques and mudskippers. Good round the year on the west coast; February to April and June to August are driest. Expect 26 to 33 degrees.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ 7 nights accommodation with daily breakfast
- ✓ 2 nights Kuala Lumpur, 2 nights Taman Negara riverside resort, 1 night Bentong area resort, 2 nights Langkawi beach hotel
- ✓ All meals at Taman Negara (2 lunches, 2 dinners)
- ✓ Air-conditioned vehicle for all land transfers and sightseeing
- ✓ Longboat transfer to Kuala Tahan and Taman Negara park permits
- ✓ Canopy walkway, Bukit Teresek hike, night jungle walk and Lata Berkoh rapids shooting
- ✓ Orang Asli settlement visit with blowpipe demonstration
- ✓ National Elephant Conservation Centre, Kuala Gandah
- ✓ Kuala Selangor firefly boat ride
- ✓ KL Bird Park entry
- ✓ Langkawi Kilim Karst Geoforest Park mangrove boat tour
- ✓ Kuala Lumpur to Langkawi flight or ferry as per itinerary

✗ Not Included

- ✗ International flights to and from Malaysia
- ✗ Visa/eNTRI fees and travel insurance
- ✗ Meals not specified and all beverages
- ✗ Camera fees, optional activities such as Langkawi SkyCab and island hopping
- ✗ Personal expenses, laundry and tips
- ✗ Anything not listed under inclusions

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrive Kuala Lumpur & KL Bird Park

Arrive at KLIA and transfer to your hotel in the Bukit Bintang or KLCC area. After freshening up, head to the Lake Gardens for KL Bird Park, a large covered free-flight aviary with hornbills, flamingos, milky storks and Malaysia's native brahminy kites. Walk across to the Butterfly Park or the Orchid Garden if time allows. In the evening see the Petronas Twin Towers light up from KLCC Park and watch the Lake Symphony fountain show. Indian vegetarian food is widely available in Brickfields.

Day

2

Zoo Negara Pandas & Kuala Selangor Fireflies

Morning at Zoo Negara, home to the Giant Panda Conservation Centre as well as Malayan tapirs, sun bears, Malayan tigers and a walk-through aviary. Return for lunch and rest. In the late afternoon drive around 90 minutes to Kuala Selangor. Visit the Bukit Melawati hill for silvered leaf monkeys with their orange infants, then take a wooden boat at Kampung Kuantan after dark to see synchronous fireflies flashing along the berembang trees on the Selangor River. Return to Kuala Lumpur by night.

Day

3

Drive to Taman Negara & Canopy Walkway

Depart Kuala Lumpur after breakfast for Kuala Tembeling, then transfer by longboat down the Tembeling River to Kuala Tahan, roughly three hours on water past kampungs and forested banks. Check in at the riverside resort and cross to the park headquarters. Walk the Canopy Walkway, a suspended bridge strung 40 metres above the forest floor between tualang trees, and continue on to the Bukit Tereseik viewpoint for views towards Gunung Tahan. Dinner at a floating restaurant on the river.

Day

4

Lata Berkoh Rapids, Orang Asli Village & Night Walk

Board a longboat upriver on the Sungai Tahan for rapids shooting at Lata Berkoh, passing through narrow forested gorges. On the way visit a Batek Orang Asli settlement, where the community demonstrates fire-making and blowpipe hunting. Afternoon free to swim or rest. After dark join a guided night walk on the forest floor to spot scorpions, stick insects, tarantulas, civets and sleeping birds, or sit in the Bumbun Tahan hide, which overlooks a salt lick used by deer, tapir and wild boar.

Day

5

Kuala Gandah National Elephant Conservation Centre

Leave Taman Negara by boat and road for Kuala Gandah in Pahang, around four hours away. The National Elephant Conservation Centre, set up in 1989, relocates and cares for wild Asian elephants displaced by habitat loss. Attend the afternoon programme with a talk on translocation work, elephant feeding and the visitor viewing sessions run by the centre. Check in at a resort near Bentong and spend the evening amid rubber and durian country, with a quiet dinner at the resort.

Day

6

Fly to Langkawi & Beach Evening

Drive back to Kuala Lumpur and take the short flight to Langkawi, about one hour. Transfer to your hotel at Pantai Cenang or Pantai Tengah. Spend the afternoon on the beach and see the sunset over the Andaman Sea, one of the best on the island. Optional visit to Langkawi Wildlife Park at Kampung Belanga Pecah, where you can feed lorries and see hornbills, wallabies and raccoons in walk-through enclosures.

Day

7

Kilim Karst Geoforest Park Mangrove Safari

Full-day boat safari through the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park on Langkawi's northeast coast. The route runs through mangrove channels between 400-million-year-old limestone outcrops, with stops at the Bat Cave, a fish farm and the Hole in the Wall inlet. Watch brahminy kites and white-bellied sea eagles, plus long-tailed macaques feeding on crabs at low tide, mudskippers, monitor lizards and tree-climbing crabs. Return in the afternoon for the Langkawi SkyCab and Sky Bridge at Gunung Machinchang, subject to weather and queues.

Day

8

Langkawi Departure

Free morning for a last swim or duty-free shopping at Cenang, where chocolate, cookware and perfumes are the popular buys. Check out and transfer to Langkawi International Airport for your flight to Kuala Lumpur and onward home. Travellers with a longer layover in KL can add a stop at Batu Caves, 13 km from the city centre, where macaques crowd the 272 coloured steps below the Murugan statue.

? Frequently Asked Questions

? What is the best time to visit Malaysia from India?

December to February is the most reliable window, with drier weather in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Langkawi and daytime temperatures around 31–33°C. March to May stays warm and works well if you want lower crowds. The west coast (Langkawi, Penang) gets heavy rain from September to early November, while the east coast islands like Perhentian and Redang shut down roughly from November to February during the northeast monsoon. If you are heading to Borneo for Sabah's diving or Mount Kinabalu, aim for March to September. Chinese New Year (January or February) and Hari Raya bring festive energy but also higher hotel rates and packed transport.

❓ **How much does a Malaysia trip cost from India per person?**

A 6-night Malaysia package from India typically costs Rs 65,000 to Rs 95,000 per person on twin sharing, covering return flights, 3-4 star hotels, airport transfers, breakfast and key sightseeing. Budget travellers doing it independently can manage Rs 45,000 to Rs 55,000 by booking AirAsia or Batik Air fares early and staying in Bukit Bintang budget hotels. Mid-range daily spend runs about Rs 3,500-5,000 covering meals, Grab rides and entry tickets. Genting cable car, Petronas Twin Towers observation deck and Langkawi Sky Bridge each cost roughly Rs 700-1,900. Luxury island resorts in Langkawi push the total past Rs 1.5 lakh per person.

❓ **Do Indians need a visa for Malaysia?**

Indian passport holders currently enjoy visa-free entry to Malaysia for stays up to 30 days, a facility Malaysia extended for Indian and Chinese nationals from December 2023. You must complete the Malaysia Digital Arrival Card (MDAC) online within three days before arrival, which is free. Carry proof of return or onward ticket, confirmed hotel bookings and sufficient funds, as immigration officers do check these. Your passport should have at least six months validity. Policy extensions are announced periodically, so verify the current status on the Immigration Department of Malaysia website or with your tour operator before booking non-refundable flights.

❓ **How do I reach Malaysia from India?**

Direct flights to Kuala Lumpur International Airport operate from Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Kolkata and Ahmedabad on Malaysia Airlines, AirAsia X, Batik Air Malaysia, IndiGo and Air India Express. Flying time is around 4 hours 30 minutes from Chennai and Bengaluru, and about 5 hours 30 minutes from Delhi. Return fares usually sit between Rs 18,000 and Rs 32,000 depending on season. Penang has direct connections from Chennai on some carriers. For Langkawi, Kota Kinabalu or Kuching, take a domestic hop from KLIA, which takes an hour or so and costs Rs 3,000-6,000 when booked in advance.

❓ **How many days are enough for a Malaysia trip?**

Six to seven nights suits most first-time Indian travellers. A practical split is three nights in Kuala Lumpur covering Petronas Twin Towers, Batu Caves, Merdeka Square and a day trip to Genting Highlands or Putrajaya, followed by three nights in Langkawi for the cable car, island hopping and beaches. If you prefer heritage and food, swap Langkawi for Penang and spend two nights exploring George Town, Kek Lok Si and Penang Hill. Adding Malacca needs one extra night. Sabah or Sarawak for orangutans and diving deserves a separate four-night extension. Anything under five nights leaves you rushing between airports rather than enjoying the destinations.

❓ Is Malaysia safe for Indian tourists and solo travellers?

Malaysia is among the safer Southeast Asian destinations for Indian travellers, including women and solo visitors. Violent crime against tourists is uncommon; the practical risks are pickpocketing and bag snatching in crowded areas like Petaling Street, Bukit Bintang and Chow Kit, and occasional taxi overcharging, which you avoid by using the Grab app. Malaysia has strict drug laws with severe penalties, so never carry parcels for anyone. Dress modestly when visiting mosques and in conservative states like Kelantan and Terengganu. Tap water is treated but stick to bottled water. Save the tourist police number 03-2149 6590 and keep digital copies of your passport and MDAC confirmation.

❓ Is vegetarian and Indian food easily available in Malaysia?

Yes, easily. Malaysia has a large Indian-origin population, and Kuala Lumpur's Brickfields (Little India) is packed with South Indian vegetarian restaurants serving banana leaf meals, dosa and thali for Rs 250-500. Jalan Masjid India and Bangsar have more options, including Gujarati and North Indian places. Penang's Little India in George Town and Ipoh also serve familiar food. Halal certification is widespread, so Muslim travellers from India have no difficulty. Do try local vegetarian-friendly dishes like roti canai with dal, nasi lemak (ask without anchovies), cendol and Nyonya kuih. In Langkawi and island resorts, Indian food is limited, so inform your hotel about dietary needs at booking.

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