

**Type: Travel Article – Nature/Adventure/Resort**  
**Place: Redang Island, Terengganu, Malaysia**

## **REDANG ISLAND – A CORAL PARADISE**

With turquoise blue waters and abundance of spectacular marine life, Redang is beyond doubt one of the most beautiful islands in Malaysia. Located about 45 km off the coast of Kuala Terengganu, measuring seven kilometers long and six kilometers wide, Redang is the largest of the group of nine islands dotting the South China Sea off the Terengganu coast.

The other eight islands are *Pulau Lima*, *Pulau Paku Besar*, *Pulau Paku Kecil*, *Pulau Kerengga Besar*, *Pulau Kerengga Kecil*, *Pulau Ling*, *Pulau Ekor Tebu* and *Pulau Pinang* (\**Pulau* is the Malay word for island).

### **REDANG – A PARADISE FOR DIVING AND SNORKELLING**

In order to protect the beautiful marine life and environment in the Redang archipelago, waters up to seven nautical miles surrounding the archipelago were gazetted as Marine Park in 1985. Hence, Redang is abound with magnificent corals and marine life, as well as crystal clear waters and clean white sandy beaches.



The island is a haven for scuba diving, snorkelling and swimming. Other activities that can be enjoyed there include boating, canoeing and jungle trekking. Every dive site on the island offers something different to see and experience.

Among the famous sites include Terumbu Kili, which has rocky seascape encrusted with both soft and hard corals at about 15 metres, and slopes down to

20 metres at the sandy bottom. Big Mount offers divers a chance to observe macro lifeforms to possible encounters with the whale shark while Mini Mount has numerous cowries, spider shells and large aggregation of colourful Christmas tree worms carpeting coral blocks. It is also a famous site for night diving.

Tanjung Tokong is another site not to be missed. Large Napoleon wrasse, parrotfish, jacks and unicornfish are common sight here, besides many chromodoris nudibranchs and green staghorn corals. Other popular dive sites include Tunnel Point, Tanjung Cina Terjun and also the Marine Park Centre.

Redang also has two historic shipwrecks, namely the H.M.S. Prince of Wales and the H.M.S Repulse which were sunk at the beginning of World War II, setting the stage for the Japanese occupation of Malaya.

## A PERFECT GETAWAY IN LUXURIOUS RESORTS

Being a famous holiday destination, many resorts and hotels are available in Redang, catering to different needs and budgets. For sheer luxury and first-class diving services, or simply to indulge in a romantic getaway, visitors can opt for the reputable Berjaya Redang Beach Resort or the Berjaya Redang Spa Resort.



*Deluxe Chalet at Berjaya Redang Beach Resort*



*The beach at Berjaya Redang Beach Resort*

Set amidst the turquoise blue waters of Teluk Dalam, Berjaya Redang Beach Resort has white sandy beaches which is perfect for lazing around. The resort features 220 tastefully furnished rooms and suites in Malaysian-style chalets. The 130 elegant and luxurious guestrooms and suites on the hillside are the Redang Hill View and Redang Sea View categories. Berjaya Redang Beach Resort offers both local and international cuisines, a wide variety of recreational activities, spa, as well as conference and banquet facilities.

Berjaya Redang Spa Resort is located in Teluk Siang, on the southern side of the island. Perched on a cliff 140 feet above sea level, it commands a spectacular view of the South China Sea. Set in lush tropical rainforest, it offers 100 cosy chalets. The resort provides complete privacy for those seeking a perfect getaway from the hustle and bustle of the city life. Guests at both Berjaya Redang Beach Resort and

Berjaya Redang Spa Resort have the privilege of utilising the common facilities on both properties.

*Snorkelling at Berjaya Redang Beach Resort*



*Laguna Redang Island Resort*



Access to both islands is by boat from Shahbandar jetty that takes about 1½ hours or by flight via Berjaya Air from Subang Airport in Kuala Lumpur or Seletar Airport in Singapore.

Another well-known resort in Redang is Laguna Redang Island Resort, which is located at Long Beach (Pasir Panjang). The resort offers 222 comfortably furnished rooms ranging from standard to suites housed in 12 blocks of authentic Malay architectural wonder, reminiscent of a traditional village setting. All guest rooms are spacious and uniquely decorated with distinctive Malay design that exudes warmth and cosiness.

Like Berjaya Redang Beach Resort, Laguna Redang also offers conference and banquet facilities, as well as an extensive selection of recreational activities such as scuba diving, snorkelling, jungle trekking, nature walk, sunset cruise, island hopping, canoeing, banana boat, beach volleyball and beach soccer.

### **THE BEST TIME TO VISIT REDANG**

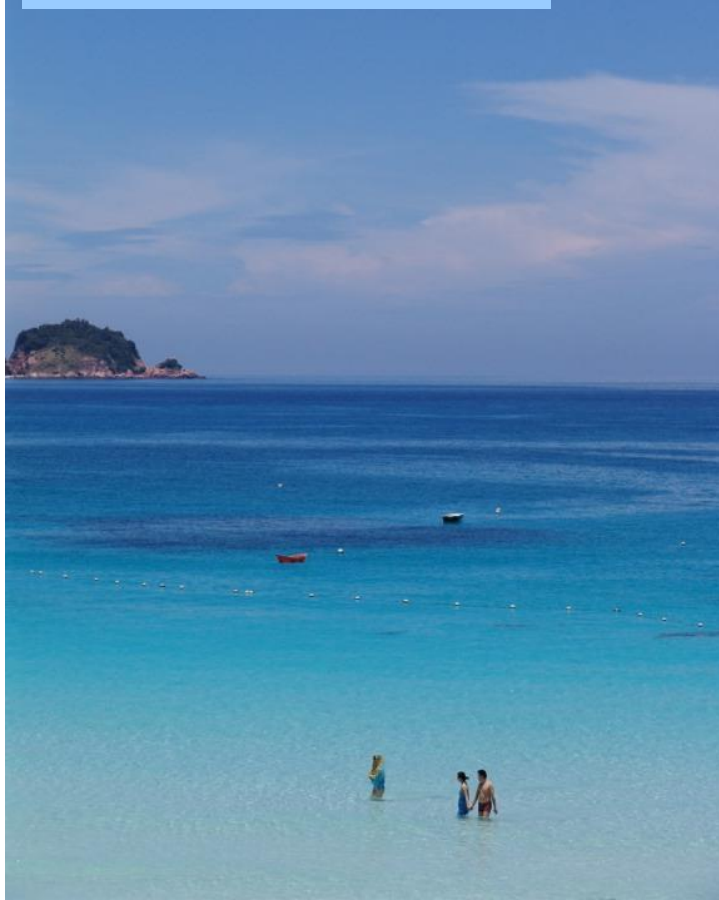
During the North-East monsoon season, the resorts on the island are closed for a few months, normally between November and February. Hence, the best time to visit Redang is between March and October. In fact, some resorts will start to close by mid-October and will only re-open in the first week of February. Therefore, it's advisable to check and make a reservation with the respective resorts before heading to the island.

### **BOATS & FERRIES TO REDANG**

Boats to Redang depart from the fishing village of Merang, while some such as Berjaya Redang Beach Resorts' ferry depart from Shahbandar jetty in Kuala Terengganu.

Merang jetty is about an hour's drive from the Kuala Terengganu airport while Shahbandar jetty is merely 10 minutes away from the Kuala Terengganu airport.

*The beach at Laguna Redang Island Resort*



Most of the boats or ferries will depart from the jetty once in the morning and another trip in the afternoon. However, each resort has its own boat transfers schedule and it may change according to the tide, sea and weather conditions. Therefore, prior reservation is advisable.

The holiday packages to Redang normally include accommodation, boat transfers and meals. Some resorts also include snorkeling, scuba diving or jungle trekking trips in their packages.

Berjaya Redang's ferry departs from Shahbandar jetty daily at 10.30am and 3.00pm, while the ferry from Redang leaves at 7.00am and 1.00pm for Shahbandar jetty. The return fares are RM100.00 per adult and RM50.00 per child.

Laguna Redang Island Resort's boat departs Merang jetty at 9.30am and 12.30pm. From the resort to Merang jetty, the boat departs at 9.00am and 12.00pm.

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