

## **A short write-up on tourist attractions in Malaysia for ASEAN Tourism website**

In the heart of Southeast Asia lies one of the world's most enchanting lands – Malaysia. A tropical paradise of immense charms, Malaysia promises the perfect holiday full of lovely surprises. The country is a veritable treasure trove of diverse cultures and hospitable people, culinary delights, fascinating festivals, quaint villages, and modern skylines, complemented by world-class hospitality services and state-of-the-art tourism infrastructure.

Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia's dynamic capital is home to the magnificent Petronas Twin Towers, one of the world's tallest structures. The modern city offers great shopping facilities, besides a fascinating architectural mix of museums and galleries, lively bars and world-class restaurants, budget and luxury accommodation, as well as good transportation system.

The UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Melaka and George Town are steeped in history, boasting a labyrinth of historic streets, mosques, temples, and shops.

For a rejuvenating mountain retreat, Cameron Highlands and Fraser's Hill are the perfect choice to escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. The beautiful islands of Redang, Perhentian, Pangkor, and Langkawi are among the best in the country for sheer relaxation amidst crystal clear waters and colourful marine life, with a choice of staying in a simple chalet or an exclusive resort.

Being one of the 12 mega biodiversity countries in the world, Malaysia certainly has plenty to boast when it comes to pristine rainforests rich in flora and fauna. The forests of Taman Negara, for instance, reputed to be among the oldest in the world, offer the perfect backdrop to watch wildlife in their natural habitat.

For adventurous activities and ecotourism, Sabah is indeed a haven. Whether it's scaling Mount Kinabalu, Southeast Asia's highest peak, or exploring the lush rainforest of Danum Valley, spotting proboscis monkeys along the Kinabatangan River, or visiting the world's largest orang utan sanctuary at Sepilok, Sabah is a true tropical wonderland.

Neighbouring Sarawak, Malaysia's largest state, also has its fair share of superlatives. Its magnificent Mulu Caves boast the world's most extensive cave system and the world's largest cave chamber while the Niah Caves are one of the most important archaeological sites in the world as the oldest modern human remains discovered in Southeast Asia were found there.

Besides having various innovative tourism products such as parks and gardens, homestay, and helicopter tour, Malaysia is also home to Southeast Asia's first Premium Outlet Center and Asia's first LEGOLAND theme park.

Throughout the year, the country is abuzz with various colourful parades, carnivals, festivals, shows, events, conventions and celebrations. They cover a range of activities from sports and culture to festive and arts, reflecting a celebration of diverse lifestyles and customs of Malaysia.