

# Malaysia Travel Guides from Where's Sharon Family Travel Blog

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## Malaysia Overview

Malaysia is my favourite destination to travel with kids which surprised me as I was not a big fan of Malaysia when I travelled there alone. The people are so friendly and welcoming of children though, that it is hard not to warm up to this country. You can check out all our posts about Malaysia on this section of our family travel blog.

Malaysia is an easy country to get around, many signs are in English and many people speak English as well. We really had no dramas, whether we were catching a long distance bus or a taxi down the road. It is cheap, there is a great cultural mix, lots of great food and lots of great family attractions.



*Walking through Chinatown, KL*

We visited [Kuala Lumpur](#), [Penang](#) (where we also lived for 6 months), [Langkawi](#), [Johor Bahru](#) and [Port Dickson](#) with kids as part of our [SE Asia Travel with Kids](#) adventure. Everything was great, but Kuala Lumpur was our favourite Malaysian destination. We just loved our stay here, partly because of staying in the fabulous Berjaya Times Square Hotel. It has great prices for apartments and has so many facilities as well as a massive shopping center underneath. Family travel really doesn't get easier than this! It does highlight how much the right accommodation choice can affect everyone's enjoyment.

### Malaysia with Kids

We love travelling in Malaysia with kids and we have been many times – from our kids being 11 months old to the present.

Malaysia is an easy country to travel with kids as the average person went out of their way to help us. I would feel horrible when old ladies would get out of their seats on buses for us, but that's how much people would want us to be comfortable. There are also many attractions aimed at families.

The food is fabulous, and we had no problems finding something yummy, nutritious and good for all of us to eat. At hawker stands there wouldn't be a high chair, but at other places there usually was.



*Me and my baby on the monorail in KL*

Baby stuff is easy to find. Kuala Lumpur had plenty of nappies, baby food, formula etc. We used the pram a lot in Malaysia, although not every destination is pram friendly. It was particularly useful at attractions aimed at families, like the aquarium and in shopping centers.

We unfortunately got to try out a local doctor in [Kuala Lumpur](#). He was great and the whole service was cheaper, easier and more professional than at home.

### **Best Family Hotels in Malaysia**



*S leaps into her time at the Rasa Sayang Resort*

We can personally recommend the following hotels from our experiences:

- **Berjaya Times Square Hotel in Kuala Lumpur** – situated over a massive shopping centre with a crazy amount of facilities and apartments for rooms, this is hard to beat – [Check latest prices](#).

- **Tune Hotel KLIA2** – simple hotel good for overnight stopovers in KL or you can pay for a three hour period to rest between flights (you need to book that on arrival) – [Check latest prices](#) – [Read full review](#).
- **Avillion Port Dickson** – our over the water chalet just a couple of hours from KL and an hour from the airport at this resort was heavenly – [Check latest prices](#) – [Read full review](#).
- **Golden Sands Resort, Batu Ferringhi, Penang** – this resorts and its facilities just screams family fun. We absolutely loved our time here right on the beach – [Check latest prices](#) – [Read full review](#).
- **Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang, Batu Ferringhi, Penang** – this 5 star resort next door to the Golden Sands is just heavenly and perfect for families or couples – [Check latest prices](#) – [Read full review](#).
- **Holiday Inn Resort, Batu Ferringhi, Penang** – lovely resort on the beach which has some fabulous family rooms – [Check latest prices](#).
- **Bayview Beach Resort, Batu Ferringhi, Penang** – great value resort for families on a budget with many great facilities on the beach – [Check latest prices](#).
- **Cititel Hotel, Georgetown, Penang** – located in a great spot in Georgetown – [Check latest prices](#).
- **Grand Bluewave, Johor Bahru** – a lovely big resort by the causeway to Singapore. Big apartment style rooms and a big pool were a hit – [Check latest prices](#).
- **Hotel Jen Puteri Harbour, Johor Bahru area** – a fabulous 4 star hotel right on the water, opposite [Thomas Town and Sanrio Hello Kitty Town](#) and a 5 minute free shuttle from Legoland – [Check latest prices](#).

You can also read our fill list of the [best place to stay in Penang](#) and [best places to stay in Kuala Lumpur](#).

You can read more of our overall thoughts about Malaysia travel with kids on our [Malaysia wrap up](#) page. Enjoy our Malaysia travel guides.



# Kuala Lumpur Travel Guide

*This article is a combination of our experiences over four trips to Kuala Lumpur 2013-2015.*

We love Kuala Lumpur. It is a fantastic city to visit with kids, packed full of attractions. It also has delicious food and is easy to get around thanks to several train lines and cheap taxis. We have now visited four times with our kids from the ages of 11 months old to 5.5 years old and every time has been great.

In this guide, you will find a long list of things to do in Kuala Lumpur with kids (most will appeal to adults as well), the best family accommodation in Kuala Lumpur, practical information about eating, getting around and going to the doctor, as well as what baby products you can find. This is a guide for everything you need to know for your next family holiday to Kuala Lumpur!



## Things to do in Kuala Lumpur with kids – KLCC

The KLCC (Kuala Lumpur City Center) area is just perfect with kids. This is a newish area where the Petronas Towers are located as well as a large city park. There are many things to do with kids just in this area. We visited the massive park, KL Aquarium and Petrosains Discovery Center (science museum). They are all excellent places to visit with kids.

On our latest visit to Kuala Lumpur, we chose to stay in this area to make it ultra easy to hang out in the park area as much as possible. If you are limited on time, then this would be my top area of Kuala Lumpur for kids. Everything is stroller friendly.

### Petrosains Discovery Center

This center (basically a science museum) is just awesome. There are so many hands on educational exhibits for kids. Both kids just loved it (as did I). S went at both 2 and 4 years old and loved it both times. She was too young for most of the science behind things but there are so many things to play with that it is still very enjoyable.



*They both LOVED Petrosains Discovery Centre*

It is lots of fun, and I highly recommend it for kids of all ages. It is very engaging and full of helpful staff with good English. We could spend a long time here. I am sure we will keep visiting every time we are in Kuala Lumpur and they will get more out of it each time.



*Hurricane simulator – S's 2 year old expressions were priceless*

#### *Practical Information*

[Petrosains Discovery Center](#) is located on the fourth floor of the Suria shopping center at the base of the Petronas Towers. Adults are RM25, 3-12 year olds are RM15, kids under 3 are free

## KL Aquarium

Located in the KL Convention Center, next to the Petronas Towers, the aquarium is a must see on any list of things to do in Kuala Lumpur with kids. I missed out on this one, but these are J's thoughts:

It is good, especially the 90m tunnel. It starts with animals that aren't actually fish, such as spiders and reptiles. Then you go downstairs to the aquariums, where it is far more interesting. There are a lot of tanks full of fish that are well presented. The 90m tunnel also has some sharks, stingrays and turtles. J liked that part so much that he did it twice.



*S enjoys Kuala Lumpur Aquarium*

S enjoyed it, but seemed a little bit too young at 2 to get right into it. She rushed through it. Her favourite part was the sharks. She didn't want to play with the touch tanks.

### *Practical Information*

The [aquarium](#) is RM50 for adults, RM40 3-12 year olds and free for under 3s.

## KLCC Playground

We had no choice but to go to this massive free playground at KLCC as it looked so fantastic in photos. It is awesome! There is also a free water park next to it. It would have to be one of the best playgrounds in the world. I especially recommend visiting in the late afternoon when it is cooler and there are a lot of local families. The playground is just so big that even when there are lots of people there, there is plenty of space for everyone.





*Just part of the great playground at KLCC*

## **Berjaya Times Square**

This is reputedly one of the world's biggest shopping centers and was located under the hotel where we stayed on three of our visits to KL, so we spent a fair bit of time there. We loved it. There is lots of energy and some great food at good prices which are kid friendly. Even within the shopping center there are lots of things to do with kids. They also have some cool random stuff, like "piano stairs" that played piano notes as we walked up them and we enjoyed going to the cinema – so much cheaper than in Australia and everything



*Berjaya Times Square*



## Berjaya Times Square Theme Park

We also visited the amusement park inside this shopping centre which was great fun. The first time we went, it was the kids' first time in an amusement park. Z couldn't do anything at 11 months old, but there was a kids' area where S could do everything bar one ride at 2. We went on some with her, but she was just as happy to go on them alone which is a big testament to how much she loved this place as she has been ultra shy here, spending most of her time plastered onto me.

I loved the big roller coaster which is easily the highlight for adults. There are also a few other adult rides, but unfortunately, I didn't get a chance to go on any others.



*S enjoys the rides at Berjaya Times Square theme park*

As a testament to how much S loved this place, when she caught sight of it in 2015, nearly 2 years after we went to it, she remembered going here and started talking about some of the rides.

This theme park is best suited for preschoolers. The kids' area has 8 different rides, a playground and a kids' cinema (they show movies throughout the day for kids which we enjoyed). S was borderline too old for most rides at our last visit when she was nearly 5.5. The annoying part is that you need to be at least 4 foot 2 to go on any of the adult rides. S is crazy tall for her age and was just under this.

There were only three adult rides running included in the admission both times we went. There are 5 in general, so the park would get boring fast if you didn't have kids with you I suspect. There are also some extra rides you can pay extra for.

We also loooved the [hotel](#) here.

*Located on the Imbi monorail station. The [amusement park](#) is currently RM51 for adults, RM41 for 3-12 year olds, free for under 3, although we had some raised eyebrows and the person serving us got the manager's approval for S to get in for free. They obviously did not believe she was 2 (which I don't blame them as she was very big but it was very awkward).*

## Lake Gardens

One of the popular places in Kuala Lumpur for kids is visit the Lake Gardens... At least that is what I read.

The Lake Gardens is sold as a popular and lovely park in the middle of Kuala Lumpur. It is huge and full of things to do with kids like museums, a bird park with the “world’s largest free-flight walk-in aviary”, gardens, butterfly farm and, of course, a lake. After reading all of this, it was on my list of what to do in Kuala Lumpur with kids on our first visit, and I was looking forward to it.

Unfortunately, the reality was a bit of a disappointment. After researching the attractions, I decided on the butterfly farm and deer park. The bird park was quite pricey, so I decided to give that a miss. I figured we only really had time for two attractions plus the lake before the kids were too tired. We chose to go on the weekend, as I had read that we could hire boats on the lake on weekends.

## Butterfly Farm

We started at the butterfly farm. It is pretty good. Lots of butterflies (although not as many as other ones I have been to. They were not landing on us or anything), a few fish ponds where we could feed the fish and some random tanks with things like turtles in them. It was a decent size and a nice place to wander around. At the end, there is a whole lot of exhibits inside showing lots of insects and creepy crawlies.

S loved feeding the fish, but was actually a bit scared of the butterflies!! Z fell asleep soon after we got there.



*S feeds the fish in the butterfly farm*

The lake area is free but many of the attractions have entry fees. The [butterfly farm](#) was RM20 per adult or RM10 per child (2+). When I tried to buy S a ticket, the lady asked how old she was and said not to worry about a ticket for her when I said she was 2.

## The lake

I asked for directions to the deer park, and it turned out it was shut for renovations, so we asked for directions for the lake instead. This is where things became ridiculous.

It took us 45 minutes to get to the lake, which I expected to be about 5 minutes away. The roads were all winding and nothing was at all clear. We ran into a couple of other groups of foreigners who were lost too. Otherwise, there was barely anyone around. By the time we got to the lake (45 minutes later, pushing Z asleep in the pram and carrying S in humid heat on hilly roads), we were over it.

We seemed to end up walking all around the bird park in that time, and I was quite disappointed we didn't go. It looked massive and pretty damn good. The lake is quite small. There are no boats and barely anyone was there either, so we stopped to eat some sandwiches we had on us and then started the journey home.



*Exploring the Lake Gardens KL*

I had expected the Lake Gardens to be all park land, but the actual park land isn't that big. The attractions seemed far more spread out once there and the roads are lined with massive trees, so it is hard to get any type of bearing.

I imagine it could be a great family day out, with the right expectations and transport. You really need your own transport, or to hire something or do a tour if you want to go around a couple of the attractions here. I would definitely go back as I still want to see the bird park, but otherwise I wouldn't bother.

*The lake area is free but many of the attractions have entry fees. We took a monorail to KL Sentral and tried to walk from there, but ended up giving up and getting a taxi (RM12 coupon taxi – a rip off). We walked back to KL Sentral, but the last bit was very dodgy (walked up a lane of a main road :-/). It is definitely worth taking a pram. There are footpaths in the park but there are some staircases in the butterfly farm and it was a bit awkward walking back to KL Sentral with it.*



## KL Bird Park

On our latest visit to Kuala Lumpur, we were not missing out on this attraction. It was the first attraction we visited in 2015. We were happy we did – It is awesome!



*Photo bombed by a peacock*

I have not visited a bird park before, only bird aviaries that were part of bigger attractions such as zoos. I am far from a bird watcher and I have always been underwhelmed by aviaries at these places. This is why I was surprised by just how much I liked KL Bird Park which has the biggest walk in aviary in the world. It is a lot of fun. This is mainly because it is a very big site in a lovely setting.

The first half of the experience was more like walking around a very well done botanical gardens that just happened to be under a massive net with birds everywhere. It was very green and filled with plant life which made it feel like we had the place to ourselves as we walked around. There are regular points where we could buy food to feed the birds and fish in the many ponds and lakes. There are many different types of birds and lots of peacocks around which the kids particularly enjoyed. We even noticed monkeys playing on top of aviary.





*S feeds a parrot*

The second part had aviaries as well as educational centres, a bird show auditorium (we were there at the wrong time unfortunately) and other exhibits. The kids probably liked this section best as there were emus and ostriches they could feed as well as parrots. They loved holding out food for the parrots to eat.

All in all, we loved it. We spent about two hours which says a lot as the kids get bored easily especially at attractions which require a lot of walking such as this one. J and I could have easily spent longer. We didn't look at the educational centre or go to the bird show which I would have loved to do.

*Adults RM48, children RM38, under 3's are free. It only cost about RM9 in a cab from KLCC – we were not going to make the mistake of not taking a cab this time! It is pram friendly.*

## **Chinatown**



*Walking through Chinatown*

We headed here one evening to check out the market and eat dinner. We aren't shoppers, and I have been here many times before, so it wasn't that interesting for us. We did have a nice dinner though!



*Yummy dinner in Chinatown hawker centre*

*Practical Information* We caught the monorail to Maharajalela and walked from here (not far). We caught a taxi back. We only asked a couple, but they wouldn't use the meter and both said RM10. We didn't take a pram, but it would have been ok, apart from the stairs at monorail stations.

## **Little India**



*Our vegetarian feast*

We visited here mainly to eat – which was awesome! But it is also a nice place to have a wander and look at shops. I do have a warning though. It may result in lots of whinging from little girls who want their own beautiful Indian outfit.



## KidZania Kuala Lumpur



*The brilliant KidZania Kuala Lumpur*

After the success of our visit to [Bangkok's KidZania](#) the kids were excited to do it all again. This was all the excuse we needed to visit KidZania Kuala Lumpur. If you've been to any of the KidZanias around the world then the Kuala Lumpur one is no different, other than the brands used and some variation in activities.

If you've never been to one then KidZania is a miniature city made for kids where they can undertake different activities representing different careers. Kids can be firefighters, medics, police, store clerks, cooks, pilots, journalists, doctors, nurses, photographers, couriers and even tax collectors. Each "career" lasts for various amounts of time usually 15 or 20 minutes and for each activity there's some education aspect to it. For example kids learn the value of hygiene before making food, or fire safety before going to fight a fire.

Kids can earn money (in the local currency, Kidzos) from the jobs and get paid in cash which can then be spent on activities with a cost where they usually get something to take away (like a hamburger from working in the hamburger restaurant or milk from working in the milk bottling factory). There's a department store where kids can spend their earnings too, but it isn't so easy to do so.

The awesome thing about KidZania, though, is the staggering level of detail. Kids will be involved in organisations they would see in the real world. Most activities have a uniform of some sort that will look close to the real thing – firefighters wear hats and coats that look like real Malaysian firefighting gear. There's even a small ambulance and fire truck that the medics and firefighters ride to their call-outs complete with lights and sirens.

Being Malaysia there is even a kids only prayer room (plus one for adults, too).

Activities have age guides. Many are recommended for ages 4+ and younger kids might struggle to get much out of it. We pretend Z is 4 (and pay the associated higher admission) so he can get more out of it. The age limits can be flexible but height limits, where required for safety reasons, were not. Thankfully there were few of them.

Our kids loved it. We were in place for the opening at 10am and I didn't manage to lure the kids out until just before 6pm with the bribe of a special dinner. They left exhausted but very happy. The immersive nature of KidZania is such that kids get right into whatever they're doing. It was pretty much the same as the [one in Bangkok](#) and just as well executed. It was a lot of fun for the kids and me, although tiring.

As good as it is, I do have a few small gripes. Eating options range to the unhealthy and/or bad value, although that's to be expected. I don't think there's anything to stop you bringing your own food and drinks though (we brought our own water). Second, activity times tended to drag out so 20 minute activities were more like 30 and S and Z got bored during some things while waiting. Often this was due to the official photographer taking photos of each kid for many activities. The upside of this slow speed, as well as being a cause, is that kids got a lot of attention and assistance when needed. We found things moved faster in Bangkok.

Lastly, it was hard to spend the kids hard-earned Kidzos. The kids could participate in activities that watered and fed them but they couldn't use them to buy any of the other food and drink. And the prices at the department store were beyond the earning potential of many kids. The cheapest things were 150 kidzos, and were small things like a pen. Even with our kidzos from Bangkok, all of the kids pooled earnings would have bought virtually nothing, like a pair of hairclips – so that is after two kids “working” two full days.

Unfortunately, this resulted in the kids leaving KidZania grumpy and upset. It's best to prepare them in advance that they won't be able to buy anything unless you have already been a few times and saved your money.

That said it's more about the doing, not the buying at KidZania. And that is a whole lot of fun.

*More information [here](#). Tickets are currently RM80 4-17 year olds, RM39 for adults and 2-3 year olds. You can get discounted tickets by buying in advance on their website which is what we did. A taxi from Berjaya Times Square is RM30 if you get one to pull over, RM60 if you are stuck getting a coupon taxi.*

## Mega Kidz World



*Mega Kidz World*



On the top level of the gargantuan Mid Valley Megamall is Mega Kidz World, an indoor play centre that's a great place for kids to run out some energy or go as a payoff for going along with some shopping. Inside is a large padded structure with places to climb, slide and leap around, common to these sorts of centres. It isn't the largest of its type I have seen, but it is very tall and so works well for kids young and old (kids up to 12 can play).

In addition to the big structure, there is a small bouncy castle, a TV screen showing some movies and an area of younger kids to play in. There are some activities not included in the entrance fee that cost extra like painting.

Socks are required, but if you forgot them like I did then they'll sell you some. They're decent quality socks, too. The centre is well secured, with a guard and staff making sure kids leave with the people they arrived with. Staff check on crying kids to make sure they are okay.

Although not being huge our kids happily ran around and played all afternoon (there is no time limit) and emerged four hours later tired and happy. For parents there's a small "cafe" that serves food and drinks that isn't too bad.

*The centre isn't cheap: RM 50 per child (+ GST) or RM 25 for kids under three. Thankfully one adult per child can go in free. You can find more information [here](#). There is a train station at the shopping centre.*

## **Getting to and from Kuala Lumpur**

Getting to and from Kuala Lumpur is very easy thanks to a big international airport with flights to many parts of the world.

If you are coming from elsewhere in Malaysia or a neighbouring country, we recommend checking out [easybook.com](http://easybook.com) to buy bus and train tickets online. Buses and trains in Malaysia are generally very good and we have had no problems travelling round the country with our kids.

If you are flying any budget airlines in or out of KL check out [our guide to KLIA2](#) and the Tune Hotel at KLIA2.

## **Best family hotels in Kuala Lumpur**

If you are looking for somewhere to stay with kids, there are some great accommodation choices in Kuala Lumpur that are not only well suited to families but are generally very good value as well.

### **Berjaya Times Square Hotel – Our favourite choice**

I always spend a very long time working out the perfect accommodation in every place we go. We obviously have a budget, and with two little ones things like size, cleanliness and location are very important. We have to be able to eat easily and there needs to be somewhere for them to run around, especially if our room isn't too big. Ideally, our room needs enough space for the kids to nap and for us to do stuff without disturbing them.

[Berjaya Times Square Hotel](#) seemed to tick every box and more when I booked them online. About \$90 a night for a one bedroom suite, complete with living area and kitchenette in a hotel with (amongst other things) a massive pool, a kids pool and a playground. And we mustn't forget the massive shopping center that lies underneath complete with food courts (over 65 food outlets!), over 1000 retail outlets, train station, cinema and an amusement park.

**The reality?**

It was everything we promised to be and wins extra praise when we were able to check in at 8:30am after our long haul flight from Australia. The staff were just awesome in general, they helped us with all our bags and really took away any stress after a [long night getting there](#). They helped us quickly with any request, and I was very impressed.

The hotel facilities are also awesome. The shopping center is great (see above), and there is the biggest pool I have ever seen in a city hotel, as well as two kiddy pools, one of which suited our kids perfectly, and the playground was great too! I want to move in here permanently. We actually ended up going back to Kuala Lumpur later that trip just to stay there again!



*Z checks out all that space*



*The pool area at Berjaya Times Square Hotel*



*The morning view from our hotel room*

#### *Practical Information*

*Berjaya Times Square Hotel – we had a superior suite with an early bird discount for about \$90 a night. Kids are free as long as they use a cot or existing bedding. An extra bed was RM100 a night. [Click here for the latest prices](#)*

#### **Other options**



*The pool area at our apartment with one of the Petronas Towers in the background*

Some other top family hotels in Kuala Lumpur are:

- For a prime KLCC position close to all the attractions listed above, try the fabulously priced **Hotel Maya** which is 5 star rated a short walk from Petronas Towers. There is a beautiful semi indoor pool. Kids under 5 stay free in existing beds. [Click here for the latest prices.](#)

- For a great location near everything (especially Berjaya Times Square) with the option of large family suites in a 5 star hotel, try the **PARKROYAL Kuala Lumpur**. This hotel also has a large pool and kids under 12 stay for free when using existing beds. [Click here for the latest prices.](#)
- For a location super convenient to transportation at KL Sentral, free shuttles to several areas and an infinity pool, the **Ramada Plaza Kuala Lumpur** is a great option. It especially stands out to me as a good option for families who want more space in a great hotel at a good price. It was only about US\$100 a night last time I checked for two bedroom executive apartments – a bargain! There are also one bedroom suites and regular hotel rooms as well as a kids' pool and babysitting. [Click here to see the latest prices.](#)

You can also read our complete guide to the [best places to stay in Kuala Lumpur](#).

If you are looking for an alternative family accommodation in Kuala Lumpur, we have also stayed in a great [Airbnb](#) option in which is unfortunately no longer available. You can read all about that experience [here](#).

## Eating in Kuala Lumpur

We all love the food here. The kids have had no problems adapting. Every second meal, S is declaring something different her favourite. She probably is the least fussy toddler in the world when it comes to food though. We eat just about every meal at food courts or hawker centers. They are fabulous. The food is generally made fresh, ultra fast and tasty with many options and it is very cheap. Less than \$10 usually with drinks. We eat something different every meal, and generally order three mains which is enough for all of us (Z eats bits and pieces off all our plates).

S doesn't like the milk. I'm not sure why as it tastes normal to us. She has stopped having it as a drink because of this. She's also not interested in eating breakfast which is cereal with milk in our room (usually her favourite meal). Strange how it's the one meal that's like home that's the main problem. We bought soy milk as well (for me and Z), but even though it was meant to be plain, it just tasted like sugar, so we haven't been using it. We brought so much formula with us (5 tins, crazy right!), that there is no need for him to have it at the moment anyway.



*Mmmm yummy*



High chairs have been available in most places we have eaten. However, they don't have tray tops. This has proved a bit challenging for us as Z insists on feeding himself and likes to play with the food for awhile before eating it. This involves lots of placing it on the table. It's not very sanitary, but we are struggling to stop it. We only sit at places that seem clean (obviously), and I wipe down the area in front of him with a baby wipe. He has only had baby food a couple of times, basically when he needs to eat at a time that doesn't coincide with us.

## Getting around Kuala Lumpur

Part of what we have always loved about travelling is taking local transportation. We worried how this would work with the kids, but it is mostly fine. We took the occasional taxi, but mostly took the monorail or buses.

The monorail is cheap and easy. It is only one line, but it took us most places we wanted to go and was situated next to our hotel so very easy. It could get very crowded though. It was very crowded the first time so we nearly didn't catch it again, but it wasn't so bad other times. Z found it tough as he didn't like the crowds. S was ok and at times, loved it (being a two year old who loves different transportation) . It was free for the kids and for adults, the cost varied depending on distance. We never paid more than RM1.60.

It was not pram friendly. Lots of steps, even in the stations that had some escalator access. We would usually have to fold up the stroller before hopping on.



*Me and my baby on the monorail*

We made use of the KL-Go free buses between Berjaya and KLCC. These were great. I could only get the stroller on with help unless it was folded down, but I had no problems getting help (although I'm sure the man who lifted the pram with S in it over a barricade wished he hadn't made that offer when he realised how heavy the whole thing was!!).

Taxis are easy and everywhere. They are cheap, but unfortunately, we had no luck getting them to use the meter, so we paid an inflated price compared to what we should have. Short rides were about RM10. The drivers were all helpful and good with the kids.

Taking a stroller around with us can be challenging – it is pointless to take one with you anywhere if you can't handle some stairs. We found it was worth dealing with stairs occasionally for the benefits it provided. J would carry Z in it up flights, unless they were narrow, and S just had to learn that she had to walk up or down the stairs and then get back in the stroller. I would definitely not recommend taking anything but a lightweight umbrella fold stroller though (more tips on choosing a stroller for travel [here](#)).

## The people

The people are fabulous. I love Malaysians!! This place is just so kid friendly. People go out of their way to help all the time. It is quite amazing and a bit of a shock after being in Australia, where most people just ignore you or give you looks like you are irritating them. Sometimes, they are too helpful as I feel bad when old ladies give up their seats on buses for us.

Z is constantly getting positive attention. He is absolutely lapping it up. S also gets a fair bit of attention. She just grabs me and looks at the person blankly as she is quite shy. Some people even take their photos (after asking, they are polite). People often touch the kids. Only in a positive, friendly way and it doesn't bother me or them, but I can see why it may bother some parents. In food courts, we often get offered free food for the kids too.

## Baby products

In the supermarkets there are lots of nappies that cost about the same as I pay back home (where I admittedly get the cheapest ones). There is baby food, but only fruit purees. Formula was also available, but not what I am used to, so I'm very glad we brought all of what we need.

## Doctors

I wish I wasn't able to write about this, but unfortunately Z was unwell the first time we went to Kuala Lumpur. We took him to a medical center on level 5 of Berjaya Times Square. We went in when it opened at 10am without an appointment and only had to wait for half an hour. The doctor was very thorough, wrote a note saying he was fit to travel, among other things like he could have measles... (you're fit to travel if you have measles???!), and they gave him a whole bag of medications. Seriously. 4 medicine bottles and a cream. Not sure if we will use anything but the paracetamol. It cost RM150 all up (under AUD\$50) including medications.



*Z's medicines*

## Some random stuff

Don't underestimate how much water everyone needs here. As a baby, Z was literally having 3 times as many bottles as at home and we still had some dry nappies. We learned to be constantly handing him a sippy cup of water.

## Our verdict?

We have loved all four visits we have had here since having kids.



*Some super happy kids at the Berjaya Times Square Theme Park*

I found this surprising as I had been to KL a few times before having kids and never thought much of it. With kids, my focus has obviously shifted, and Kuala Lumpur has so much to offer a travelling family.

A big part of why we liked it so much was probably our hotel. Staying at Berjaya Times Square was just awesome. Even without the massive shopping center downstairs, the hotel is in a great location, the room was just fabulous and the hotel facilities as good as I've seen. I really can't believe that it was only \$90 a night.

It is easy to get around. Food is everywhere, cheap and very good. The people love kids, especially babies. At times, it felt like we were with famous people as everyone was so interested in our kids. Really, what is there not to like?

Our favourite attraction was Petrosains Discovery Center, KL Bird Park and KidZania Kuala Lumpur. They are just great fun with kids, and I think I probably could have enjoyed it myself alone too (excluding KidZania, you need kids to go there).

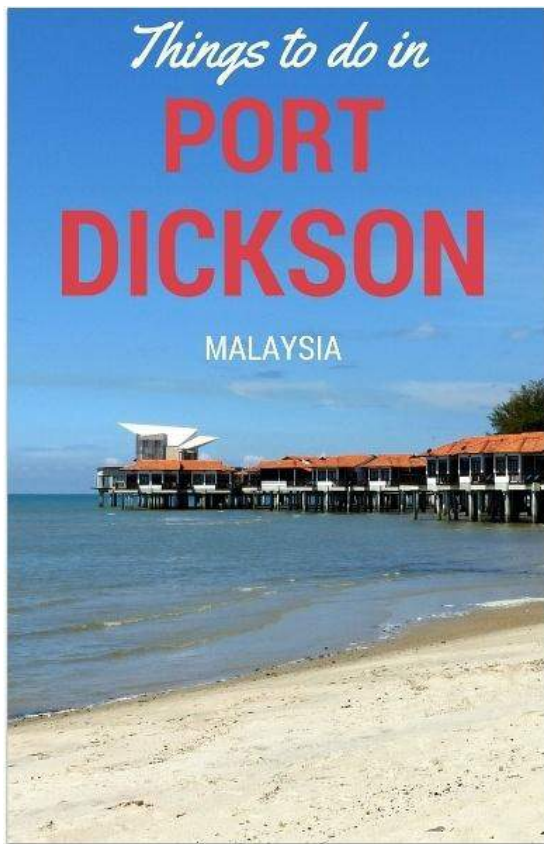


## Port Dickson Travel Guide

Port Dickson is perhaps one of the lesser known tourist destinations in Malaysia. Located about 45 minutes from KL airport, it is a very convenient one! We have been there twice and found it a lovely place to hang out and relax for a few days (especially in a fabulous [water chalet at Avillion Port Dickson](#)), enjoying what Malaysia has to offer without feeling like we have to rush around like crazy being “good” tourists.

It is a great alternative to Kuala Lumpur for a transit in Malaysia if you would prefer a beach destination to a city.

Port Dickson does, however, have some nice attractions to visit. We found plenty to entertain us for a couple of days. In this guide, you will find our list of what to do in Port Dickson as well as other information to make your visit a success!



### 6 fun things to do in Port Dickson

Here's our list of what to do at Port Dickson...

## 1. Military Museum



*Port Dickson Military Museum*

Port Dickson is home to a museum for the Malaysian Army and one of the top places to visit in Port Dickson is here. There's two sides to the museum: the galleries covering the military history of the Malay peninsula and the old military hardware – some of which you can climb on. It's the armored cars and helicopters that'll be more engaging to kids.

For the history side there are two buildings and a tunnel covering events and exhibits from early European involvement all the way to UN peacekeeping. The tunnel is a recreation of the ones used by Communist guerrillas during the Malay Emergency. A few rooms just had captions in Bahasa Malaysian but most had English too.

I liked the galleries, as there was a lot to read. This didn't interest S, who was with me. She was much more interested in the big things, especially ones she could climb on. There was a train, lots of armored cars and jeeps, and some helicopters and planes which were the highlight for S. We comfortably spent a couple of hours here.

I think Mr 3 (who couldn't join us) would have loved this even more.

*The museum is located approximately 500 metres from the traffic lights that are 1.5km south of Avillion. Entry is free.*

## 2. Ostrich Farm



*Ostrich Farm*

Located in the south of Port Dickson is this surprisingly fun attraction. It is definitely one of our favourite things to do in Port Dickson with kids. While Ostriches are the stars of the show, there is actually quite a lot to do and many animals to see.

There are quite a few ostriches which you can feed (although I'd not recommend that for small kids – they've got big beaks) and pet. These birds do get very big – up to three metres tall and 150kg.

The big draw card for our kids was the chance to ride on an ostrich! Anyone under 40kg can have a ride – it costs RM10 for kids and RM15 for an adult. The kids were well looked after with two staff making sure they didn't fall off and guiding the ostrich around. The rides didn't go for long but the kids loved them.



*Ostrich ride*

What we liked even more were all the other animals – especially the rabbits and guinea pigs. There were horses, donkeys, goats, fish, chickens, turkeys and peacocks as well. Most animals could be fed (you had to buy the feed –



RM3 a bag). A few animals ran around outside of the pens or in pens you could go into. You could get close to most of the animals. Some could even be picked up and patted which S and Z both really enjoyed.

There's a cafeteria at the farm serving ostrich satay sticks and burgers ("it's very fresh!" I was told) in addition to more mainstream options. Plus a small playground that had turkeys wandering in it. In addition to the animals, there's paint balling, archery and horse rides for those too big for an ostrich.

The Ostrich Farm is a well set up destination. The staff were really proactive in encouraging the kids to interact with the animals and help them handle them. Two hours flew by here. If we didn't have to get back to our hotel, we could have spent more time.

*Entry was RM15 for adults and RM10 for kids.*

### **3. Yun Loon/Wan Loong Chinese Temple**



*Yun Loon/Wan Loong Chinese Temple*

A different Port Dickson attraction is the Yun Loon (a.k.a. Wan Loong) Chinese Temple, a colourful temple located approximately 5km south of the [Avillion Port Dickson](#). It is not big, but it is richly decorated and makes for an interesting sight.

The big attraction for kids is the small pond and garden where there's lots of turtles and one large tortoise. The temple's claim to fame was a giant tortoise who was (apparently) over 100 years old but sadly he died earlier this year (according to reports). It was explained to us that the turtles were thought to bring good luck, as was rubbing their shells, and some people sponsor baby turtles to get good fortune.



*Some of the turtles at Yun Loon/Wan Loong Chinese Temple*

The kids loved to pat the turtles and tortoise and watch them go into and out of their shells. They could get right up close and observe although the big tortoise was not fond of the attention. Having never been that close to turtles or a tortoise that big they were really fascinating to watch – even for me.

*You can enter the temple and grounds for free. There's a donation box in the temple itself.*

#### **4. Alive 3D Art Gallery**

We didn't have time to visit this place, but one of the popular Port Dickson activities is the Alive 3D Art Gallery. The gallery has around 50 3D/isometric art murals and paintings that let you look like you're part of the action. If you're not sure what that means then have a look at our Made in Penang Interactive Museum entry in our [Penang guide](#).

It's not a unique attraction by any means but these types of places can be fun, and if you are looking for an indoor, air-conditioned, activity this could be a good choice.

The Alive 3D Art Gallery is located in Lukut, which is to the north of the Port Dickson area. Consequently it might be hard or expensive to get to without your own car.

## 5. Beaches



*One of the beaches near Avillion Port Dickson*

The most popular of the Port Dickson things to do is obviously its beaches. These beaches are lovely for relaxing by and great for kids to paddle in the water (there's no surf and shallow water for up to 50 metres from the edge of the water). These beaches are picturesque and relaxing places and are unsurprisingly popular with Malaysians.

The beach just south of Avillion, Tumasek Beach, has a playground and some facilities like toilets and a place to change as well as food and drink vendors in the car park. You can get a basic but cheap meal in the afternoons/evenings and watch the sun set over the water.

## 6. Go on a day trip



*Walking through Chinatown*

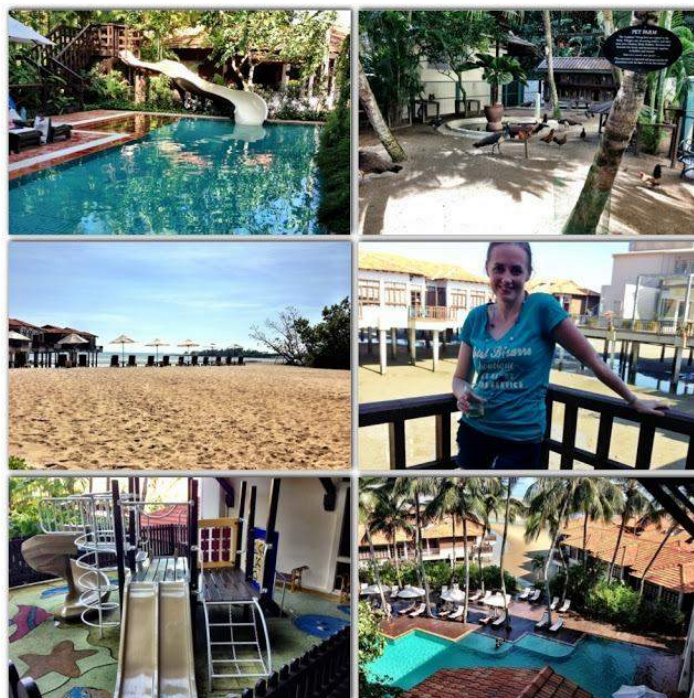
In addition to the places to go in Port Dickson above, one of the best parts about Port Dickson is its proximity to many other places in Malaysia, primarily Kuala Lumpur and Melaka. Melaka is only an hour away and Kuala Lumpur about an hour and a half. It is easy to make a day trip to either of them. You can read more about [things to do in Kuala Lumpur here](#).



## Port Dickson with kids

As you can probably tell already, we think Port Dickson is an excellent destination with kids. We visited with our 3 and 5 year old and they had a great time. It was also very easy for us parents with some fun things to do in Port Dickson with kids, the beach and a great resort.

## Best hotels in Port Dickson



*Avillion Port Dickson*

## Avillion Port Dickson

We have a clear favourite resort in Port Dickson – the Avillion Port Dickson. We love the water chalets here and the primary reason we returned to Port Dickson was to stay here again – these chalets are excellent and work well with kids.

The resort also has great facilities – three pools (including an adults only and a kids option), kids' playroom, several restaurants, a petting zoo and just beautiful grounds.

You can read more about this resort in [our full review](#) or [check out the latest prices here](#) – it is quite a bargain.

## Other Port Dickson hotels

Some other great options in Port Dickson are:

- **Lexis Hibiscus Port Dickson** – An amazing 5 star option for people who love luxury. There are amazing private pool villas which are on the water. Many of the room types come with two king beds making this a good choice for families. [Click here to see the latest prices.](#)
- **Marina Crescent Condominium** – A budget apartment option for people who have a low budget and want the space of an apartment. There is also an outdoor pool. [Click here to see the latest prices.](#)

- **Thistle Port Dickson Hotel** – A solid resort option with a wide range of room options, an outdoor pool and a kids club. [Click here to see the latest prices.](#)

## Getting to Port Dickson

There are buses to Port Dickson but we found it easier to take a taxi. A coupon taxi from KLIA2 cost RM94 and took just under an hour. Taxi prices on to Kuala Lumpur varied quite a bit. We found a taxi happy to do it for RM150 including tolls. It took about an hour and a half.

## Getting around Port Dickson

Port Dickson is quite spread out and is hard to navigate by foot. Footpaths vary in quality, from non existent to okay. When they do exist it isn't always for large stretches. Strollers won't work well here.

To visit the things to do at Port Dickson above you will need to either have your own car or take some taxis. There are limited public buses, and there are *just* enough taxis to make it a viable option to get around but if you haven't arranged one (directly or through a hotel) you might need to spend five minutes waiting for one to go by.

That's if you're on the coastal road. Roads off this had less taxis. Taxi drivers usually gave a card with their number so it might be a good idea to call one up if you're off the coastal road and need one.

Port Dickson cabs don't use meters, instead going off distance. We paid RM 4 for a few kilometres, 10 for up to eight km, and RM 20 for anything over that. Although it sounds dodgy ("No, we don't use meters in Port Dickson...") the drivers were reasonably consistent with prices so it didn't seem like a scam.

Taxis have yellow roofs and a yellow sign on top but otherwise no consistent colour or quality as most are privately run.

If you have your own car, the places we went have ample parking spots. Beaches usually have car parks as well, but these can fill up on weekends.

## Our verdict



*The kids loved the Ostrich Farm*

We love visiting Port Dickson. It's a nice, easy place to be where we can relax and unwind. There are enough activities in Port Dickson to keep us busy for a couple of days, but not so much that we didn't have plenty of time to relax and enjoy our lovely water chalet.

It's an especially great place for kids. We find our kids are happier in easier going destinations and the activities at Port Dickson worked well for them. There is a reason we returned for a second time and I have no doubt there will be a third.

It is a low key destination though. If you are looking for a beach destination in Malaysia with lots of attractions and more people then I would recommend [Langkawi](#). Port Dickson is a good choice for people wanting an easy weekend break or to fill in a few days while in transit.



# Langkawi Travel Guide

Langkawi has been on my bucket list for a long time now. We have nearly visited several times in the past, but something has always prevented us. I was so happy that we finally made it to this beautiful island and surprised to find that it was even better than I had imagined.

Langkawi should definitely be on your must visit list when you go to South East Asia and below you will find the best of Langkawi and all the information you need to make your visit as awesome as possible!



## Best Things to do in Langkawi

What is there to do in Langkawi? So much! There are a lot of attractions in Langkawi. I was surprised by just how many there are. Working out what to do in Langkawi and how to prioritise your time may be the hardest part about a trip here. Here is our list!

### Sunset cruise with Naam

I have to start my list of Langkawi things to do with this one as it was my personal favourite. We took a three hour sunset cruise on a beautiful boat with Naam to watch the sunset including dinner and drinks (including alcohol). The cruise departed from the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club and, with a cold towel and cold juice on departure, we felt incredibly relaxed right from the start.



The scenery was just superb. I was surprised to find that the landscape reminded me a lot of the Krabi area. It resembles its Thailand neighbour far more than the coast in Penang. There were lots of islands and limestone cliffs. It was very peaceful. The sunset dinner was lovely and fresh – featuring fish, satay, salad, rice, and several other dishes. I had no problems being vegetarian.

The boat was perfect. A great size with places for the kids to explore and plenty of space to sit and relax. We only shared the cruise with about ten other people which added to the enjoyment. There were plenty of staff on hand to help us out and serve us drinks. It was truly heavenly.

I was also happy to find that the kids enjoyed it too, so much so that there were no tired tantrums. I am usually too scared to take them out in the evening as I think they will have a breakdown, but it was not an issue at all. The staff were great and assisted our children whenever they wanted to go up or down stairs or walking around in general. They were very good in making sure the kids were never at risk of going overboard if they suddenly raced off on us. I was never worried at all.

*You can find more information about this cruise and other opportunities to explore Langkawi with Naam [here](#).*

## **Langkawi Bird Paradise Wildlife Park**



*Z feeds giant fish*

One of the kids' best places to visit in Langkawi would have to be this wildlife park. There is an emphasis on being hands on and interacting with the animals, and they just loved it. They fed and patted a huge amount of animals from guinea pigs and rabbits to hornbills and deers. J even fed a massive crocodile. The park has many types of birds as well as fish, turtles, monkeys and racoons.

The idea of this initially concerned me, but I feel it was done in a responsible way. The kids absolutely loved getting to feed the animals and I was impressed how into it they got. They were not scared of anything and it was great for my little city slickers to have a completely different experience. I don't think S is going to forget being covered in budgies for a long time!



*Budgie madness*

There is also a cafe onsite and we had a great lunch.

Read more information about [this park](#).

### **Mardi Agro Technology Park (Fruit Farm)**



*They grow some giant star fruit at this fruit farm ;)*

This fruit farm is a lovely, relaxed place to visit on your family vacation. There are tours via truck with stops to see different fruit trees with the opportunity to feed deers at the end. It is informative and fun and our kids were certainly interested to see how different fruit were grown.

There is also a delicious fruit buffet where you can try lots of different fruit. We found this especially useful as people who are living in Malaysia – it has us eating different fruit now.

You can find more information about visiting this fruit farm [here](#).



## Langkawi Skycab



*Langkawi Skycab*

Another must visit attraction in Langkawi is the Langkawi Skycab. It is the world's steepest cable car, with the top station at 708 metres above sea level. The ride up is lots of fun and there is a stop to take in the views on the way. The top has great views over Langkawi and out to the sea.

While waiting for the Skycab there is also an attraction – the Skydome. This consists of a dome equipped with 12 projectors to show 360 degree 3D images. We watched a short “movie” about being on a roller coaster on Mars. Movie is really the wrong word though, it definitely felt like we were in the roller coaster, despite the seats/floor not moving. This is an attraction in itself and the kids loved it.

At the bottom there are shops selling drinks, snacks and souvenirs, as well as other attractions, such as a 6D cinema and a 3D Art in Paradise museum. There is also a Skybridge near the top of the hill which is a 100m pedestrian bridges suspended above the ground (this is not suitable for kids under 6).

You can find more information [here](#).

## Underwater World Langkawi



*Seals at Underwater World*

One of the top things to do in Langkawi with children has to be to visit Underwater World.

This aquarium is divided into multiple sections covering different types of fish. The highlight is the Sub-Antarctic (penguin) section, with chilled display tanks featuring a range of different penguins. The tropical fish section was also memorable for its bright and colourful fish.

There is a cafeteria with toilets roughly mid-way through the aquarium. It all ends in a duty free shop with some impressive prices on spirits.

Find more information [here](#).

## Other things to do at Langkawi



*Eagle Square from our sunset cruise*

There are many other places to visit in Langkawi as well as many activities in Langkawi. Here is a list of more Langkawi attractions that we did not get a chance to personally visit or experience but might suit your timetable:

- Beaches – try Pantai Cenang, Tengah Beach or Tanjung Rhu among others
- Visit rice paddies and a free [rice museum](#).
- Parasailing
- [Duck land and river tour](#)
- Horseback riding
- Explore the [Kilim Karst Geoforest Park](#)
- [Skytrek Adventure](#)
- [Langkawi Buffalo Park](#)
- Jungle trekking
- Kayak tours
- Snorkeling and diving
- Island hopping tours
- Eagle Square and Legend Park
- Eagle watching
- [Langkawi Crocodile Farm](#)

## Finding the Best Hotels in Langkawi

There is a wide range of places to stay in Langkawi as well as a wide range of locations. Langkawi is not very big – it is possible to drive anywhere within a relatively short period of time. However, the attractions are spread out, so if there are some particular Langkawi island attractions you want to visit, then it is worth seeing where they are in relation to each other and where you might want to stay.

We stayed in two different hotels in Langkawi. Both were great, but offered different experiences. Which place is the best hotel in Langkawi for you will depend on your needs and budget. In fact, if I was planning Langkawi again, I would probably do the exact same thing as what we did – stay in a central, good value hotel for the first part of the trip while exploring attractions and then finish with what is perhaps the best resort in Langkawi for some relaxation.

## Adya Hotel



*Our best welcome at a hotel ever – cake, balloons and a sign waiting in our room for Z's birthday*



We loved staying at this new hotel in Kuah, the largest town in Langkawi. Its central location made things very easy as it was surrounded by restaurants, and there is a shopping centre next door.

The hotel is new and everything in our room was great. It was a standard international style hotel room, and we were able to get an extra bed for the kids. The room had a balcony with great views.



*View from our room of Kuah*

The hotel has two infinity pools (one women's only), a kids pool, a gym, restaurant and other services and facilities that you would expect from a 4 star hotel. The breakfast buffet was fantastic. One of the best I have had with a huge variety of food and not just a station for omlettes, but one for roti and some other goods. They also were baking fresh croissants which were just delicious.



*Enjoying some special juice at the infinity pool*

The thing that really stood out at this hotel to me was the service. This hotel is rated 4 stars, but the service was easily 5 star standard. Multiple people welcomed us to the hotel, there was always lots of staff around and everyone was just so friendly.

We also had by far our best welcome at any hotel. On our arrival day, it was Z's 3rd birthday. When we arrived in our room, there were balloons, a happy birthday sign and a cake! And the staff come in and sung happy birthday. He was ecstatic and S is asking to go to this hotel for her birthday.

What also makes the Adya Hotel one of the best places to stay in Langkawi is that it is incredibly good value. I found prices online for only RM200 (currently less than US\$55). You can check out [the latest prices](#) for yourself.

Read more about the Adya Hotel on [their website](#).

## The Andaman Langkawi



*Our "backyard" in our gorgeous suite*

If I was going to describe the most perfect resort I could come up with, then I would describe The Andaman. This beautiful luxury resort is surely one of the best places to stay in Langkawi.

In addition to our absolutely stunning, two room suite with private terrace, there is a huge lagoon style pool, 4 restaurants, bars, a great kids' club and an innovative Coral Nursery where you can have included private snorkeling tours.



*Snorkeling at the Coral Nursery*

However, the best part about this resort has to be the location. It feels like it is located right in the rainforest while still being right on the beach. It is secluded and private. All four of us had a fabulous time here and it is the perfect spot to relax.

You can read our full review of [The Andaman Langkawi](#) or check out the [latest prices here](#).

## **Other best family resorts in Langkawi**

Some other good options are:

- **The Danna Langkawi Hotel** is a great choice for people who are wanting to splurge. This hotel receives consistently high reviews and is located near the chair lift. Children are welcome, extra beds are available and there are all the facilities you want with a great swimming pool and kids club. [Click here to see the latest prices.](#)
- **Berjaya Langkawi Resort** is a fabulous option away from the hustle bustle. It is a big resort with a variety of room types including over water bungalows. There is a fabulous pool and other great facilities. [Click here for the latest prices.](#)
- **Meritus Pelangi Beach Resort & Spa** is the best choice for people who want to be in the centre of things and right by the beach in its Pantai Cenang location. This hotel is full of facilities such as a pool, kids' water slides, playground and many water sports. There are a wide range of room types including family rooms. [Click here to see the latest prices.](#)
- **NR Langkawi Motel** is a good budget option for families who want to stay in a central spot at Pantai Tengah for a cheap price. This motel has a range of rooms including 4 person rooms. It's a 5 minutes walk from the beach and 10 minutes to the main strip in Pantai Cenang. [Click here to see the latest prices.](#)

## **Getting to Langkawi**

If you are wondering how to get to Langkawi then it couldn't be easier. There are regular flights here on Malindo Air, Air Asia, Firefly and Malaysia Airlines from Kuala Lumpur. The flight takes about an hour and is often heavily discounted for a crazy cheap price. You can also get to Langkawi from KL by catching a bus and then a ferry, but given the cheap price for flying, I'd stick to that.



It is also possible to do what we did and fly from Penang. We bought tickets on an [Air Asia sale](#). We literally paid about AUD\$100 for all 4 of us return. There is also a ferry from Penang, but you will probably find that flying is cheaper.

[Skyscanner](#) is a great site to use to find the cheapest flight.

## Getting around Langkawi

There is a distinct lack of public transport on Langkawi so I would recommend hiring a car. This would have to be one of the easiest places to drive in Asia, so I would not worry about being able to handle the traffic (there is not much) or the roads. I easily found car hire online starting at RM60 per day.

If you do not hire a car, you will need to take taxis or tours which can quickly add up. Attractions are spread out all over this island.

## When to go to Langkawi

The temperatures in Langkawi do not vary much throughout the year – it is always hot and humid. The dry season is mid November – mid April. The wet season is September to mid November. Even in the wet season, it usually only rains for a couple of hours a day on average with half of that being overnight, so it shouldn't necessarily deter you from a holidaying at this time. The peak tourist season aligns with the dry season.

## What to pack for Langkawi

There is nothing special you need to pack for Langkawi although I would certainly bring your bathers, sunscreen and a hat. There are plenty of shops to purchase anything you may have forgotten. We find toiletries so cheap in Malaysia that we usually buy them on arrival rather than take them from home (apart from sunscreen that is very expensive). Casual, summer holiday wear is perfect for Langkawi.

## Langkawi with Kids?



*Which kids don't like the beach?! Playing at The Andaman*

Langkawi is the perfect destination for a family. There are so many activities to do in Langkawi for kids. There are also many accommodation options and you should have no problem finding something to suit your family.

Our kids loved Langkawi especially the wildlife park, the sunset cruise and The Andaman's Young Explorers Club. It is a great holiday destination for us as the attractions are largely outdoor and nature focused with plenty to interest S and Z.

## **Our Verdict**

We loved Langkawi! We came to Langkawi wanting a vacation and we found the perfect place to have it. It is just such a beautiful and easy place to be. From the top of the cable car to the sunset cruise to splashing around in our private pool, it was a fantastic experience and I really cannot wait to go again.

# Penang Travel Guide

Penang is a place close to our hearts. It is the wonderful place where we spent 6 months of 2015. We just love it.

One of the up sides of spending so long on this Malaysian island is that we know it well. Below you will find our guide to everything you need to know about Penang with kids – where to stay, what to eat, how to get here and around, as well as the biggest and best list of what to do in Penang on the internet! This will be useful whether you are travelling with kids or not.



## **The biggest and best list of things to do in Penang with kids ever!**

Wondering what to do in Penang, Malaysia? Wonder no more. Below you will find a list of 37 Penang attractions for kids. Most of these attractions also appeal to adults, so don't think you need little ones to make use of this list.

If you are looking for the must do attractions in Penang, I would say that Penang Hill and the funicular ride is the main activity in Penang that I would head to (whether you are with kids or not). If you are looking for the number one activity to do in Penang for kids, head to the Youth Park. This is our favourite place.

### **1. Adventure Zone**



*The biggest two slides – I dare you to do that drop!*



This fabulous indoor playground is located in Batu Ferringhi at the Golden Sands Resort (but is open to the public as well). The main point of difference between this and others is the three fabulous and fast drop slides. There is also a specialised toddler play area. More details to come.

*More information [here](#). Current price RM33 for kids, adults free. Discounted if you stay at the Golden Sands Resort or Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort (we have stayed in both and both are excellent!)*

## **2. Batu Ferringhi Beach**

This beach is great for families – well mostly. It is clean, nice and calm and I never saw it very busy. You can check it on in the top photo on this page. The problem is that although the risk of jellyfish stings is meant to be low – I was stung the first time I went in! So this is something to keep in mind.

## **3. Penang Butterfly Farm**



*Penang Butterfly Farm*

This small butterfly farm with insect displays is in a lovely spot near Batu Ferringhi. There are many butterflies, as well as other animals such as lizards, turtles and fish. The museum part has informative displays. Be warned that this place is great, but small. We spent only 20 minutes here.

*Current price is RM27 for adults and RM15 for kids 4-12 years old*

#### 4. Penang Hill and funicular tram ride



*At the top of Penang Hill*

This was a must do for us! You basically catch a funicular tram ride up to the top of Penang Hill where there are views, some things to do and plenty of places to eat. The tram ride is fun (we all loved it) and even a bit thrilling on the way down. You definitely need to sit at the bottom of the tram to get the full effect. For some strange reason this is easy to do as we were there at a busy time but the locals seemed to not to want to sit there.

At the top, there are two food courts – one with food, the other with juice and icy treats such as awesome ais kacang, an owl museum, temples, a playground and some other minor attractions. The kids absolutely loved the playground, and I was a fan of the Hindu temple. It was very tranquil standing in the cooler temple air, surrounded by chanting on the top of the hill.

My only complaint is that the views were not very good. There are lots of trees which is awesome, but it did hide much of the view.

*More details [here](#). Current price RM30 for adults and RM15 for kids 4-12. There are lots of family discounts.*

#### 5. Youth Park



One of our favourite things to do with kids in Penang is visiting Youth Park. This massive park is always a huge hit – we just love it! There is a massive playground, many different areas with exercise equipment and lots of different pools – this is just one area in the photo. There are also trails into the surrounding jungle.

One of the best parts of this park (other than being free) is that there are lots of trees. The abundance of shade makes it a very pleasant place to hang out. Even if you don't have kids, I think you would enjoy half a day here in the pool. There is also plenty of seating space, shops and toilets.

It is close to the Penang Botanical Gardens and we preferred this area far more to those gardens. There are also some monkeys here.

Click [here](#) for more details.

## 6. Colourful cyclo rickshaw ride



*Trishaw in Batu Ferringhi*

Reflecting the Chinese influence on the island's development and history, Penang is one of the few places you can still ride by Trishaw – bicycle powered cabs. Sometimes called “beca” locally, these trishaws are a modern version of the human pulled rickshaws heavily used in Penang long ago. These days they are purely for tourists.

You can rent trishaws for short trips or by the hour (for your own special tour) in Georgetown, around the historic centre and Little India. They tend to wander round and you can hail them on the street if you see them passing; rates vary but (very) short trips start at RM 10. In Batu Ferrenghi trishaws are available at night time, lightly lit up. Most will wait out the front of the Golden Sands hotel but some will go up and down Jalan Batu Ferrenghi. For RM 40 you can go from the Golden Sands up to the Holiday Inn and back (about 10 minutes) or for RM 60 they'll take you further up to the western edge of the night market.

It's not a cheap trip but our kids loved it and there's something relaxing and timeless about a taxi that goes barely faster than walking.



## 7. Kek Lok Si Temple and Liberation Pond



*Kek Lok Si Temple Complex*

This temple is the biggest Buddhist temple in Malaysia and the whole complex should definitely be on your list of what to do at Penang. It's in a very picturesque setting against the mountains of Penang.

There is the massive temple as shown in this photo as well as a pagoda and a few other temples. There is a pretty fish pond and some other nice garden areas. The whole area is very peaceful and I loved spending time here and so did the kids.

It was a bit tricky working out where to park, but just keep going and you will get there. We parked right at the foot of the temple. There is an inclination lift that you can catch between the temples to avoid lots of stairs.

*It currently costs RM2 to go to the Pagoda for adults, RM6 to use the inclination lift and RM3 to park. The kids were free.*

## 8. Snake Temple



*Snake Temple*

Another kids activities in Penang is the Snake Temple. It is a small but traditional Chinese Buddhist temple in Bayan Lepas, near Penang Airport. It was built in 1850 by monk Chor Soo Kong, who legend has it gave sanctuary to snakes there. After his death, snakes came by their own accord. Snakes used to inhabit the temple but no more. There are two large snakes you can pay to pose with for photos, and a “snake breeding area” – a small fenced off area where young snakes are raised between the main temple and a secondary temple out the back.

While the temple is ornate, without the snakes it is not particularly unique or noteworthy.

*Buses to the airport (such as routes 102, 306 and 401E) go past the temple and there are places to eat and buy drinks adjoining the temple's car park. Driving to the temple is straightforward (just look for the signs as to where to turn off) and parking is free and easy. Entry is free, although there is a small donation box.*

## **9. Drive around the island**



*Views of Western Penang*

Driving down the Western part of the island is a very different experience to visiting the rest. The small road is very winding and picturesque as you drive through the jungle and farms with many durian stalls. The high rises that are present everywhere else on the island are noticeably absent. It's definitely worth the effort of making a drive around the island of Penang.

## **10. Batu Ferringi night markets**

These night markets are on the main road in Batu Ferringhi and are a great way to pick up some souvenirs after having a yummy dinner at Long Beach Cafe hawker centre.

## 11. Penang Botanical Gardens



*Penang Botanical Gardens*

Another item on our list of things to do in Penang for kids is the Botanical Gardens. It is a beautiful place to chill. There are lots of trees and attractions and you are sure to love the monkeys which are scattered across the park (and not aggressive like the ones in Bali thankfully!).

*Entry is free and you can get here on the bus. I recommend not visiting around lunch time, not just because it is hot but because many of the enclosures shut down from 12:30-2pm.*

## 12. Hard Rock Hotel pools

The pool area at the Hard Rock Hotel is great. There is a water play area for kids as well as pools including a sandy bottom pool. You can buy day passes as well as an annual pass which is great value for families who plan to spend awhile in Penang.

## 13. Teluk Bahang Forest Park/Penang Eco Park



*Playground at the Eco Park*



The Penang Eco Park is a lovely excursion for people wanting to see some of Penang's natural beauty. Located in the Teluk Bahang Forest Park, it is a great outdoor attraction with kids or a place to go on some nature hikes as it's the start of many of the forest trails that go through the Forest Park.

Located near the entrance is the Forest Museum (entrance: 1RM for adults, kids 5+ are 0.50 RM). Unfortunately, it was almost all in Malay, but S and Z enjoyed it for a few minutes as we looked at the exhibits. Further up the main path there is a playground that, while small, kept the kids occupied for quite a while. And just beyond there is a series of small pools, made from a stream, that you can swim in. One even has a waterslide! When we went (on a Sunday) these were busy.

Near the pools is a paid change room, if you need it.

*Current price for Forest Museum is RM1 adults, RM0.50 for kids 5+*

#### **14. Made in Penang Interactive Museum**



*One of the exhibits*

The Made In Penang Interactive Museum is somewhat of a misleading name. It's not a museum really although it does highlight the history and culture of Penang. Instead of traditional museum exhibits, MIPIM uses "3D" (or isometric) art, where you're encouraged to pose and put yourself into the work. Some works feature aspects of Penang's history and culture, others are just for fun.

On top of this there's some great miniature scale models of old Penang, and a movie on Penang's culture and history.

S and Z were mainly focused on the artwork, though, and just wanted to pose in different scenes. The history and culture was a bit lost on them and they raced through it. There's at least half an hour's worth of entertainment – more if you're not as fast as we were. If you don't know much about Penang, its history and traditions, then this is a novel introduction.

*Adults are RM 15, kids are RM 10 (although Mr 3 was free).*

## 15. Toy Museum Heritage Garden



*Inside the Toy Museum*

The Toy Museum and Heritage Garden (formerly the Toy Museum, Wax Museum, Handbag Museum and Heritage Garden), which claims to be the most expensive collection of toys in the world, is simple a small warehouse filled with display cabinets of toys, statues and collectibles. They cram a lot of toys in. The collection is very random and eclectic (Kiss dolls anyone?), focusing mainly on merchandise from movies, Barbie dolls, and models of military equipment with no seeming logic to its order. My favourite item was the big Astro Boy.

S and Z enjoyed looking at toys from movies or things they recognised, but the novelty soon wore off and it provided only half an our of entertainment at most. The bigger kids, and kids at heart, found it more interesting, and possibly the older you are the more you'll get out of it (nostalgia's like that). It no longer contains such attractions as a wax museum, although they still advertise that they do. We were quite annoyed by the advertisement they handed us a few days before we visited at another attraction which boasted of things that no longer existed and had the admission price as much cheaper than it was in reality – don't be fooled!!

*The Toy Museum and Heritage Garden is located in Teluk Bahang. There is a small sign indicating the turn off 50m south of the big roundabout in Teluk Bahang, from there follow the sealed road which turns right not far off the main road and leads to a low, white, building with a small carpark. It is within walking distance of where the 101 and 102 buses terminate in Teluk Bahang.*

*You can get entry into the toy museum and heritage gardens on the same ticket. It' not cheap though – for non-Malaysians entry was 30 RM for an adult and 20 RM for children, even Z at 2 years old.*

## 16. Penang Bird Park



*Penang Bird Park*

If you are looking for something else to add to your what to do in Penang with kids list, this fabulous bird park is located across the causeway in Butterworth. There are multiple aviaries, ponds and animals including many types of bird life, turtles and fish. We all enjoyed this park and it was bigger than we expected. The bird show was also enjoyable. The one downside was that a couple of birds were tethered.

*Admission is RM38 for adults, RM20 kids 2-12 and RM1 for a camera. It is an easy drive if you have your own car. Currently, the shows are at 11:30am and 3:00pm.*

## 17. Fort Cornwallis



*Entry to Fort Cornwallis*



This fort is by the sea in Georgetown. It consists of the old fort with many informational boards and a museum section (which is currently being improved). It covers a reasonable size area and doubles as a nice, peaceful park. I found it very interesting and loved looking at all the old photos of Penang.

*Entry is RM20 for adults and RM10 for kids (ours were free) which I think is overpriced. Still, it is a nice place to visit especially if you are a history buff.*

### 18. Ferry to Butterworth



*Ferry to Butterworth*

There are still car ferries that run back and forth between Georgetown and Butterworth. They run regularly and are cheap. We had fun catching it back and forth.

*Tickets are RM1.20 for adults, RM0.60 for kids (ours were free) from Butterworth to Penang. You don't pay in the opposite direction. They run regularly.*

### 19. Mega Kiddie World



*Mega Kiddies World in Queensbay Mall*

This great indoor play centre can be found in Queensbay Mall. It was an absolute hit with our kids. Too much of a hit in some ways as it was mission impossible to get them out (and they charge more if an adult goes in too!).

*It costs a whopping RM23 for kids and RM7 for adults. You can sit outside on one of two hard wooden benches and avoid the adult fee – I do find it weird that they want you to pay to supervise your kids! Our kids were fine without me in there and I did get a nice break so perhaps this is a good thing!*

Other indoor play centres:

## **20. Urban Playground**

### **21. Kidland Edutainment Center\* (not so great for under 5s)**

### **22. Cartoon World**

### **23. Jump Street Trampoline Park**

Here are some further Penang attractions that we did not get the time to visit...

### **24. Escape**

Escape is an adventure park with lots of rides and games for adults and kids. We never made it here as we worried our kids were too young to enjoy it properly. More [here](#).

### **25. Penang National Park Canopy Walkway**

There is a walk high up in the canopy at Penang National Park

### **26. Monkey Beach and boat ride**

This beach is also located in Penang National Park.

### **27. Penang Turtle Sanctuary**

Also located in Penang National Park.

### **28. Fish spa**

There are plenty of fish spas you can try out in the main street in Batu Ferringhi.

### **29. Wet Markets**

There are many wet markets in Penang which you can find with a quick google.

### **30. Tropical Fruit Farm**

Here you can see and taste many varieties of tropical fruit from around the world.

### **31. Tropical Spice Garden**

This is a beautiful 8 acre garden that you can visit, wander around or do a guided tour. There are also activities for kids. More information [here](#).

### **32. Bao Sheng Durian Farm**

### **33. Playground at Straits Green with Water Sprayground**

### **34. Purrfect Cat Cafe**

### **35. Orangutan Island**

This unique island is about an hour and a half from Penang. Instead of finding orangutans in enclosures, you take a boat across to the island and then the humans walk through an enclosure while the orangutans can roam free.

### **36. Taiping Zoo**

This zoo is located not far from Orangutan Island.

### **37. Carnivall Water and Land of Excitement Theme Park**

If you want to cool down, this park is about an hour from Penang.

## **Where to stay in Penang**

There are some fabulous hotels in Penang. The first thing you will need to decide is which area to stay in. The most popular choices (and where you will find the best hotels in Penang) are Georgetown and Batu Ferringhi.



*Golden Sands Resort in Batu Ferringhi*

Georgetown is the capital and is a nice place to wander with old colonial architecture and old communities. There are also new shopping centres and it is where the ferry goes across to Butterworth which can make this a convenient stop. There are also buses to many parts of the island. However, I have found the streets to often be deserted and it is not somewhere I felt comfortable walking alone at night.



Batu Ferringhi is a beach town about 45 minutes from Georgetown (this can vary a lot depending on traffic). It consists of a main strip with a night market and many restaurants, hotels and services catering to tourists. It is a very nice place to be and we have absolutely loved living here.



*The “Kid Suite” at the Holiday Inn Resort Penang*

There are tourists around (although nowhere near as many as you will see in equivalent towns in Thailand), so this can be a turn off for some. It is more relaxed in Batu Ferringhi and this is where you will find most Penang resorts for families as well as the best beach hotels in Penang.

For another alternative, stay along the main road in Tanjung Bungah or Tanjung Tokong. These suburbs are in between Batu Ferringhi and Georgetown and will allow you to get to either option easily. Many are by the water and there are many Penang family hotels here as well.

### **Best family hotels in Penang**



*Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang*

If you are looking for the best hotels in Penang for families, I can personally recommend the following hotels:

- **Golden Sands Resort, Batu Ferringhi, Penang** – this resorts and its facilities just scream family fun. We absolutely loved our time here right on the beach and we think it is the best family hotel in Penang – [Check latest prices](#) – [Read my review](#).
- **Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang, Batu Ferringhi, Penang** – this 5 star resort next door to the Golden Sands is just heavenly and perfect for families or couples. It would be our pick for the best resort in Penang especially if you are wanting to relax in a great location – [Check latest prices](#) – [Read my review](#).
- **Bayview Beach Resort, Batu Ferringhi, Penang** – this resort right by the beach in Batu Ferringhi is incredible value with rates often starting at well under US\$100. There is a fabulous big pool, kids' pool, kids club and our favourite part – the kids' water playground. Our kids spent hours playing here – [Check latest prices](#).
- **Holiday Inn Resort Penang** – this resort, in a fabulous location by the beach in Batu Ferringhi, has our favourite family rooms in Penang and friendliest staff. The “kid suites” are just fabulous with a separate kids' bunk bed area and themed rooms. The kids also enjoyed the kids' club which has long opening hours – [Check latest prices](#).
- **Flamingo by the Beach, Tanjung Bungah, Penang** – this is a great hotel by the waterfront in Tanjung Bungah. There is a large pool, kids' club and it is in a great location with our favourite Indian place, Sri Ananda Bahwan, across the road – [Click here for the latest prices](#).
- **Cititel Hotel, Georgetown, Penang** – located in a great spot in Georgetown, this is one of the best Penang hotels in this area – [Check latest prices](#).

You can also read our full list of the [best places to stay in Penang](#).

## Best places to eat in Penang

Penang is known as the food capital of Asia and the food here is absolutely superb. There are so many great places to eat particularly if you love Malay, Chinese or Indian food. There are many other options as well, and you will never have to worry about where to eat in Penang – you will have no problems finding something to fill your belly.

Food is not just delicious, but very good value. We eat out a lot and it rarely costs very much. If you eat at a local restaurant, you will pay around RM5-10 per meal. Hawker centres (a collection of food stalls kind of like a food court) can be even cheaper although keep in mind the quality of the food generally goes down if you pay less than this – there won't be much meat and vegetables added. Shopping centres have some great restaurants which usually cost closer to RM15+.

Many food options are spicy. If this is an issue for you, be sure to ask for it to not be spicy. Dishes also change regularly. You can order something one day, come back and order it the next day, and it can suddenly be spicy so just keep asking for non spicy options if this is what you need.

Here are our personal favourites...

- [Long Beach Cafe](#) – Hawker centre in Batu Ferringhi. It is hard to beat the options and the quality of food at this centre. You could eat here for months and not get bored, there are just so many options. This is my pick for the best place to eat in Penang. Options start at RM3.
- [Golden River Restaurant](#) – Chinese in Batu Ferringhi. About RM10 per meal.
- [Zarie Laksa House](#) – Malay in Batu Ferringhi. Options start at RM5.
- [Ferringhi Inn and Cafe](#) – Indian and Western in Batu Ferringhi. This is where we go if we need a pizza or pasta fix. Expect to pay about RM15-20 for a meal. They also do quick and easy delivery.

- [Bora Bora by Sunset](#) – Western and Malay food in Batu Ferringhi. Great option right on the beach. We all loved it as the kids could play in the sand while we waited. RM12+ per meal. Also a good option for a drink.
- [Sri Ananda Bahwan](#) – Indian food in Tanjung Bungah. Its reputed to have the best Indian food on the island and I believe it! A definite place to go if you love Indian. RM5+ per meal although you are looking at RM10 for a bowl of (absolutely delicious) curry.
- Sakae Sushi – Japanese sushi train restaurant in various locations. We tend to go to the one in the Tesco centre in Tanjung Tokong. It's delicious and they have tablets at the tables to make it super easy to order.
- [Red Garden](#) – Hawker centre in Georgetown. Great variety. RM4+
- [Annalakshmi Temple of Fine Arts](#) – Indian Vegetarian in Georgetown. This great place has good food in a garden setting. It also has no fixed prices – you can pay what you feel the meal deserves. Saturday evening from 6pm there is a special buffet.

## How to get to Penang

Penang is a major population centre and a major tourist destination, so it is very easy to get to Penang. The two main options are by bus and plane, although you can also get a train to Butterworth then catch a ferry across to Penang.

Buses come to Penang from many destinations, and it should not be difficult to get one here from most places in peninsular Malaysia. It is also possible to get [tourist shuttles from Thailand](#).

There are many flights to Penang, although most go from Kuala Lumpur. You can also fly to Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand directly.

## Getting around Penang



*Our car*

There is a good system of buses in Penang which makes getting around between the main areas easy. There is even a bus that goes all the way from the airport to Batu Ferringhi (warning: this does take two hours!). You can see all the latest timetables and routes [here](#).

There is also a tourist [hop on and hop off bus](#) which is handy for people without much time.



Taxis are good value and readily available. I use a smart phone app, [MyTeksi](#), which makes it very easy to book taxis and understand what the rates are.

It is also very affordable to hire a car and we find it an easy place to drive. We rent our car through [Magic Green Rent-A-Car](#). They have been fabulous to deal with and have great rates.

## Penang with kids?



*Trying out the massage chairs*

Penang is a fabulous destination for kids – ours just love it! There are lots of attractions and kids' activities in Penang to keep them interested, there is an abundance of great food, they are going to preschool that they love... It is all just so easy here for families.

The local population is very welcoming of families. We always feel comfortable and at home. They are also used to foreigners so we also don't have to deal with too much attention – if you have a red headed kid you will know why this is such a good thing!

## Our verdict



Penang is just such a nice, easy and delicious place to be! We love just hanging out here whether it be at Youth Park, a bird park, the beach or in a hawker centre.

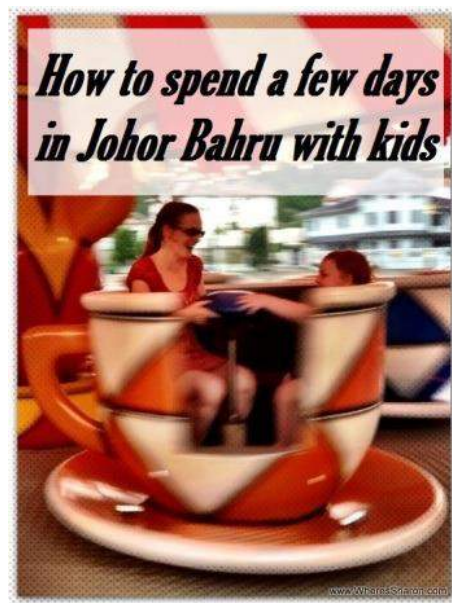
We love it so much that we cannot keep away – we lived here on three separate occasions in 2015. We hope this guide we help you to enjoy it as much as us!

## Johor Bahru Travel Guide

Johor Bahru is located at the southern end of peninsula Malaysia and is the entry (or exit) point to [Singapore](#). It is often ignored by travellers who just stick to Singapore or rush past on their way to [Kuala Lumpur](#). However, Johor Bahru is definitely a worthwhile destination in its own right. There are some great places to visit in Johor Bahru, especially if you are travelling with kids.

Many people just day trip over from Singapore to visit [Legoland Malaysia](#). However, I recommend coming for at least a few days and experiencing the other attractions in this slice of Malaysia. It's also a good way to save some money with prices being much better value than they are over the causeway.

*This article is a combination of our experiences visiting this area in 2013 and 2016.*



Before staying in Johor Bahru for the first time in 2013, I had been through a few times on my way to and from Singapore, but I never had any reason to stop here. That was until I realised just how many fun Johor Bahru attractions there are.

The thing that first drew me here was Thomas Town (then called Little Big Club). I knew my two year old toddler would love it and I was right. We found some other reasons to enjoy our time in Johor Bahru though, and we had such a good time that we knew we had to make another visit on our most recent Asian adventure.





*Random street in Central JB*

Below, you will find our guide to what to do in Johor Bahru including the top Johor Bahru things to do, information for visiting Johor Bahru with kids, finding the best hotel in Johor Bahru, eating in Johor Bahru and information about travel from Singapore to Johor Bahru and on to Kuala Lumpur.

## **Top things to do in Johor Bahru and surrounds**

### **Central Johor Bahru**

The first Johor Bahru attraction you are likely to see is the area around central JB. I was surprised to find that it is quite pleasant. There is the massive immigration/customs buildings and train station as well as some big shopping centres, but the streets behind this are low rise and quite charming.



*Random streets in Central JB*

We found everything we needed around here including (thankfully) laundry services.

## Danga Bay

I had read about Danga Bay theme park online and it sounded like one of the fun places to go in Johor Bahru to spend an evening. It was quite a disappointment.



*The merry go round is a hit!*

We got there about 5pm. According to their website, they open at 3pm. Barely anyone was around and it looked closed. We were all disappointed especially poor S. We went to leave when we noticed there was a lady in the ticket booth. We walked around a bit and suddenly some people turned on the lights on some of the rides. We talked to the ticket lady. We have no idea what was actually going on, but we were able to buy tickets for two of the rides only – the merry go round and the teacups.

We were so glad to be able to go on something, as S looked a bit heart broken, and we had made the effort to get out there. We went on them a couple of times each.



The majority of rides (there are quite a few) and the dining facilities out there looked well maintained and clean , so maybe it just doesn't fully open on weeknights or something? This was a Tuesday. Who knows! There was no sign of the petting zoo that was meant to be there as well. It's a shame as it looked fun and it's in a nice location on the waterfront.

We walked to the neighbouring restaurants, but they were super pricey, so we decided to head back into Johor Bahru. Catching a taxi back was fun. We finally got one, but someone stole it on us (lovely thing to do to a family). Thankfully, it wasn't much longer before we got one.

#### *Practical Information*

*Danga Bay was about a 10 minute, RM12 taxi ride from our downtown. The rides we went on were RM4 each.*

### **Thomas Town (previously Little Big Club)**

This attraction in Johor Bahru was the main reason we visited in 2013 and a big part of the reason we returned after Z was old enough to enjoy it too. It was our favourite Johor tourist attraction with young kids – I have visited it with both a 2 year old S and a nearly 4 year old Z and 5.5 year old S.

After I had read about the Little Big Club (now Thomas Town) many years ago, I knew I had to take S there. She is such a big Angelina Ballerina fan, and I knew she would be in heaven.



*Highlights*

Thankfully, we weren't disappointed.

Thomas Town is located in Puteri Harbour, and it is about a 20 minute cab drive from central Johor Bahru. S was very excited on the way. On arrival, we found the place pretty much empty. They asked S's age a few times, since she is just under the age limit to pay and doesn't look 2, but then let her in for free.

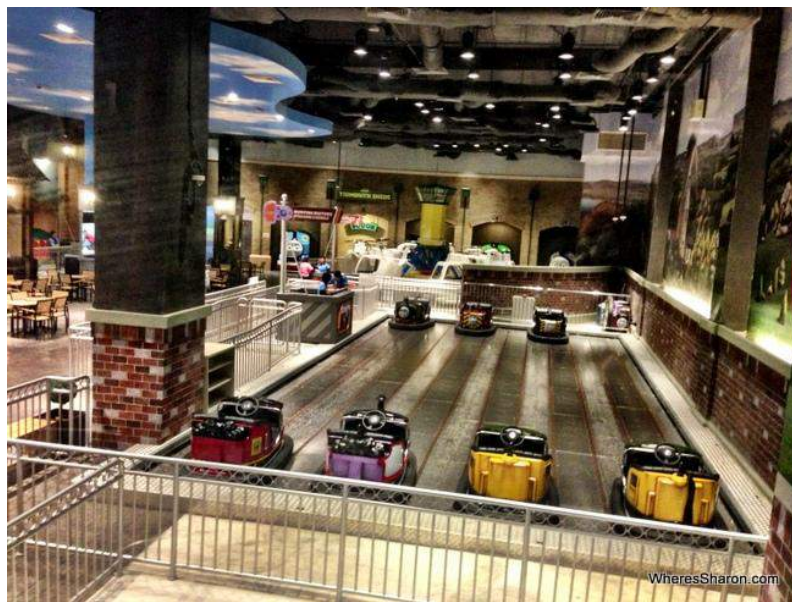
In the same building, there is also Sanrio Hello Kitty Town – more about this below.



We made our way upstairs and there was Angelina and Bob the Builder waiting for us! S was very very happy. She likes Bob the Builder as well, but he didn't even get a look in with Angelina there. She was shy though and just wanted to stand next to Angelina but wouldn't talk to her or anything.

The place is split over two levels and isn't very big. There are themed areas for Angelina Ballerina, Bob the Builder, Thomas the Tank Engine, Pinggu and Barney the Dinosaur.

The next session to dance with Angelina wasn't for another 45 minutes, so we headed straight upstairs to the Thomas area as this is the best part of Thomas Town. It has six rides. S could go on all but one at 2 (she just missed out on height requirement for dodgem cars) and an awesome indoor playground. We went on the 5 rides she could go on in record time, as no one else was there at all! The staff were lovely and friendly and S had a great time.



*Part of the Thomas area*

We then explored the playground area which was just awesome! It was a bit old for S though, and an average sized two year old would have struggled in there. I had to go in with her as it was maze like. We had fun going up and down corridors, tunnels and slides, trying to find the entry to a train hanging in the air in the middle of it. It was fun! And it was perfect when we returned a few years later with 3 and 5 year olds.

The Angelina area of Thomas Town consists of a big dance stage with mirrors on one wall and big TV screens at the front showing Angelina. There are tutus, mouse ears and wands to put on and hold. Very cute!

S kitted up and learned some ballet moves. She loved it, although she was shy and hung back a bit. There was only her and one other girl. After the dance class, she danced by herself with Angelina for ages. We spent a lot of time in this area on a couple of different occasions. I must admit, I got a bit into it myself and had to hold myself back from dancing round on the stage belting out the Angelina theme song. It is probably best I leave that to our living area at home though.



Angelina heaven

*S-ina Ballerina*



*S and I with the star herself*

The other areas of the Little Big Club were not as exciting. Bob the Builder and Barney areas were basically good play equipment, although there was a cool part of Bob the Builder where you built pretend brick walls out of blocks. The Pinggu area was arcade games which were fun on our second visit when our kids were 3 and 5.



*Exploring the Bob the Builder area*

There is a shop you can go through before and after. I was actually looking forward to getting S an Angelina treat or maybe something for her birthday at the end of next month. However, I think they lost a money making opportunity here as there wasn't much. They didn't have anything for S's age group in Angelina. Disappointing! You can visit the shop without paying entry to the theme park.

Overall, the place was a big hit. S loved it, and it was perfect for her age at 2 and we had a great return visit when the kids were 3 and 5.

I do think Thomas Town is a bit overpriced, but in saying that, I haven't been anywhere else that is so perfect for the 2-4 year old age group which is why we were so excited to return. S was borderline too old at 5.5, but she still had a lot of fun at that age as well.

You can read our full, updated review on Thomas Town and Sanrio Hello Kitty Town [here](#).

#### *Practical Information*

*Thomas Town entry is RM85 for adults and children, but under 3s are free. If you want to go to Hello Kitty Town as well, it is RM125. I paid RM 40 for a taxi for the 20 minutes to get there in 2013. He wouldn't use the meter, if I had waited for one that would, it would have only been about RM30. On the way back there are heaps of taxis, but they are only fancier, more expensive ones and it cost me RM59 on the meter.*

You can save money by [purchasing tickets here beforehand](#).

*In 2016, we stayed at the Hotel Jen Puteri Harbour which is literally steps away from this attraction which made it all much easier.*



## Sanrio Hello Kitty Town



*A family portrait in Hello Kitty's House!*

Sanrio Hello Kitty Town is found in the same building as Thomas Town and if you buy a joint ticket, you can move freely between the two.

At this place to visit in Johor Bahru, there is a whole floor of Hello Kitty activities, memorabilia and shows. We explored Hello Kitty's house, went on a tea cup ride, made badges and decorated Hello Kitty cookies. We also played in a cool indoor playground and completed the Hello Kitty in Oz World challenges. The best part, however, is definitely the live shows.



*Cookie decorating*

For Hello Kitty fans, this is definitely a must visit Johor Bahru tourist attraction. What we liked most about this place is that it encouraged us to do stuff together as a family. While Thomas Town is lots of fun, it was more about watching the kids have fun, whereas here we worked together.

Read our [full review here](#).

#### *Practical Information*

*Sanrio Hello Kitty Town entry is RM85 for adults and children, with under 3s free. If you want to go to Thomas Town as well, it is RM125. More information about getting here in Thomas Town section above. You can save money by [purchasing tickets here beforehand](#).*

### **Legoland Malaysia**



*Building race cars at Legoland Malaysia*

Our prime reason for returning to this part of the world was to visit the biggest tourist attraction in Johor Bahru – Legoland Malaysia!

We missed this on our first visit as our kids were only 1 and 2, but we were very excited to return with our more grown up nearly 4 and 5.5 year olds and they were very excited as well. We weren't disappointed.



Even if you don't love Lego, you will love this park. It's actually two parks – one a more traditional Legoland with many rides, Lego themed activities, shows and the awesome Miniland – where you can see Lego reconstructions of many famous sites in Asia. The other is a water park which is also fun and worth a visit. We spent two days to see both which is what I would recommend.

The main park is just fantastic fun. There are clever Lego creatures, buildings and people everywhere and some fun rides. We visited in January which was great – there was barely anyone there and we could ride everything as much as we wanted. I think S must have gone on the roller coasters about 20 times! We also enjoyed the shows and the kids particularly enjoyed being able to play with Lego – like making racing cars and racing them!



*Legoland Water Park from the big observation tower at Legoland*

The water park is also fun – there are many water slides and some awesome water playgrounds. We also had fun constructing Lego here – we built boats and raced them and then tried to build a gigantic Lego raft (and failed miserably but it was fun trying!). There's also a wave pool and lazy river ride. It's a great way to cool down as Johor Bahru is hot.

We had an absolutely fantastic time here and have no hesitations in recommending Legoland Malaysia to others. I do want to warn that it is not full of thrilling rides – there's some roller coasters but they were all fine (and loved) by our 5 year old. It is definitely a very family friendly theme park – for example, our kids were approached by staff and given supervised Lego activities to do while we waited for lunch. It's just great!

Read our [full review \(including lots of tips\) here](#) or you can save money by [purchasing tickets here beforehand](#).

#### *Practical Information*

*Legoland Malaysia is about a 20 minute drive from central Johor Bahru. We stayed at Puteri Harbour (more information below) which was much more convenient. Taxi prices are going to be similar from central JB as to Thomas Town. You can see all the latest ticket price information [here](#).*



## Visit Singapore

Although many people stay in Singapore and day trip over to Johor Bahru, it is completely possible to do things the other way around. This is also a good way to save money.

You can read more about Singapore in my [complete guide to visiting Singapore with kids](#).

## Visiting Johor Bahru with kids



*Looking at Build-A-Raft river at Legoland Malaysia*

As you can see from all of the above, there are plenty of things to do in Johor Bahru for kids and this is an excellent destination for families. Our kids not only enjoyed Johor Bahru at the time, but they looked forward to visiting when we returned when they were 3 and 5. My 5 year old even had some memories of dancing with Angelina Ballerina on our previous visit at 2!

## Best hotels in Johor Bahru

On each of our different trips, we had two different accommodation experiences – one staying in central Johor Bahru, the other time staying in Puteri Harbour. If you are looking for the best place to stay in Johor Bahru, then both destinations are worth considering.

## Puteri Harbour

For our latest visit, we were there to check out the biggest tourist attractions in Johor Bahru – Legoland Malaysia, Thomas Town and Sanrio Hello Kitty Town so we decided against staying in Johor Bahru itself and instead headed to Puteri Harbour as this is a much more central location for these attractions.

We stayed at the Hotel Jen Puteri Harbour.





*The beautiful pools*

I can't recommend this hotel enough – the service and facilities are fantastic with beautiful infinity pools. It's right on the harbour with beautiful views and the rooms are great.

If you want to visit the same attractions as us, then its location is perfect – we were literally steps away from Thomas Town and Legoland was just over 5 minutes away by free shuttle. There are many restaurants and shops all around and in the hotel itself.

You can read [our full review here](#) or [check out the latest prices here](#).

## **Central Johor Bahru**

On our first visit, we wanted to explore Johor Bahru itself and we stayed in a central spot near the causeway to Singapore. We stayed in an “executive suite” at the [Grand Bluewave](#).

Our room was great. A very big one bedroom apartment which included a buffet breakfast for only \$74 a night. There is also a swimming pool and other facilities.

The downside? Despite the fact it looks incredibly centrally located, it's not really. The roads all take roundabout routes to get there and there's no pedestrian friendly way to walk anywhere, so we were stuck taking cabs everywhere. They were cheap, but the \$5 return we were paying adds up when it's a few times a day, and we would wait up to 30 minutes for a cab to come get us sometimes :-/ Very annoying. Otherwise, we had a good stay here.

[Check out the latest prices for the Grand Bluewave here](#).

Other great accommodation options in Johor Bahru that are very centrally located, have great rooms, great facilities and are a great price are:

- Citrus Hotel – [Check latest prices](#).
- Puteri Pacific Hotel – [Check latest prices](#).

## Eating in Johor Bahru

We mostly ate in City Square, a big shopping centre in central JB with lots of great eating options. We had some great food, especially some yummy Japanese. More information [here](#).



*Mmmm sushi*

If you stay in Puteri Harbour, there are plenty of places to eat. We ate a Belgian restaurant and there are even themed Hello Kitty and super heroes cafes.

## Getting there and away

### Transport from Singapore to Johor Bahru

It is easy peasy to get from Singapore to Johor Bahru.

There are three main options:

- Train
- Bus
- Taxi

Long distance trains no longer run from Singapore but there is a shuttle service across the causeway between Johor Bahru and Singapore.

Generally the most convenient ways to travel are taxi or bus.

### Bus from Singapore to Johor Bahru

On our first family visit (and the times I visited alone), we decided to take the bus. It's cheap and we like a (easily winnable) challenge!

We caught the Causeway Link which cost SG\$2.40 (free for under 3s) and left from Queen St bus mall which was only a block from [our hotel](#). There was another option, but they wouldn't allow us to put our suitcases under the bus, so we'd have to pay for seats for them, and more annoyingly, get them in and out of the bus. The buses leave regularly, and we were soon on our way.

It took about 30 minutes to get to the Singapore checkpoint. This was ultra fast with no lines at the time we went through which was about 11:30am. We were soon back on a bus and going to the Malaysian side. This was also very quick and straight forward, although involved a lot more walking, but thankfully there were elevators. You have to take all your luggage with you.

We found the taxi rank and paid for an overpriced coupon taxi to our hotel (which we could see from JB Sentral but were unable to walk there).

It only took about an hour from the time our bus left in Singapore to the time we arrived at our hotel in JB.

### **Taxi from Singapore to Johor Bahru**

On our most recent visit, I was pregnant and since we were going to Puteri Harbour rather than central JB, we decided it was worth the extra cost of a taxi. It cost SGD\$70 to get a taxi from Queen St bus mall (just a block from [where we stayed](#)) to the Hotel Jen.

This is ultra easy. We could stay in the taxi at both checkpoints. If you can spare the extra money, this is what we recommend.

#### *Practical Information*

*Causeway Link bus CW-2 cost SG\$2.40 from Singapore to JB Larkin in 2013, but we didn't get back in one at JB Sentral. You get out on the Singapore and Malaysian sides with all your belongings and then board whatever bus comes long (from that company) once you are through immigration and customs.*

*The taxi was SGD\$70 in Jan 2016 right to the door of our hotel.*

*Prices for everything are cheaper when making the reverse journey from Johor Bahru to Singapore.*

### **Johor Bahru to Kuala Lumpur**



*Our bus from JB to KL*

We took a bus from Johor Bahru Larkin (the name of the bus terminal) to KL in 2013. Larkin is a big terminal, but it's not very organised. There are touts everywhere. I remembered this from previous trips, so J went the day before we left with Z to sort out the tickets, as it can be a bit overwhelming to be swarmed with touts and choices with our luggage and kids.

You could just turn up and get on one though. This would at least save the wait that we had, and if you had young kids and didn't want them on your lap, you could make a judgement call on whether it was necessary to buy them a seat or not.

There are lots of buses between Johor Bahru and Kuala Lumpur leaving all the time. We caught a nice big comfortable one. It left half an hour late and stopped an hour into the journey for half an hour. We bought a seat for S, but we needn't have as it was nowhere near full. It took 4.5 hours all up, including the time we were waiting for it to leave. It was painless, and we easily caught a coupon taxi from the bus station to our hotel.

You can also read our list of [things to do in KL with kids](#).



*S having a good girl lolly pop (which maybe she shouldn't have been since she wouldn't sit down!!)*

#### *Practical Information*

*Meridian Holidays bus JB-KL RM30 for adults, RM25 for a kid (or you can have them on your lap) It took about 4.75 hours including the half hour we waited for it to leave and stopping time. Coupon taxi to our hotel in the center cost RM27*

## **Getting around**

There are local buses which are cheap and easy to use (J and Z caught a couple). On our first visit, we were stuck using taxis a fair bit because of our hotel's location and this was also easy and cheap, although it could take awhile for taxis to come to our hotel. Taxis just about always used the meter without prompting.

## **Our verdict?**





*Lego Kingdoms entry*

Johor Bahru is not the most exciting place in the world, but it's pleasant, easy and there are some great Johor Bahru tourist attractions. There are also some good big shopping centers in downtown Johor Bahru and it is a nice area to walk around.

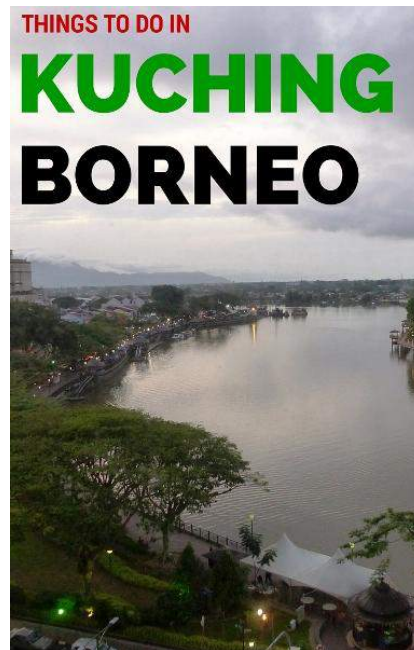
There are quite a few things to do in Johor Bahru. However, the highlights are definitely Legoland Malaysia and Thomas Town.

These things can be done as day trips from Singapore, although you can save yourself a fair bit of cash on accommodation (let alone food, transport, etc) by staying in Johor Bahru. It doesn't have the polish of Singapore, but it is a nice place especially at Puteri Harbour. It does seem like there is a lot of development going on, so there may be even more reasons to come to Johor Bahru in the very near future.

## Kuching Travel Guide

I first came to Kuching in 2009 with my brother when I was pregnant with S. I found a charming city with a great river area, a lovely place to hang out with plenty of day trips to the Borneo jungle and all its attractions. When I returned over 6 years later, I found the same thing. Kuching is lovely! Perhaps one of the nicest cities in Asia.

Kuching means cat and the Sarawak capital has some fun cat attractions as well as being a great springboard to explore the rest of this part of Borneo. We had a fun 4 days exploring the Kuching attractions.



Below, you will find our list of what to do in Kuching, our thoughts on visiting Kuching with kids, best places to stay in Kuching as well as practical information so you can have a great trip too!

### Top 15 things to do in Kuching

#### Cat Museum



*Cat Museum entry – so much fun!*

It makes sense that if there was a cat museum anywhere it'd be in Kuching. So we couldn't resist visiting and seeing just what a museum dedicated to cats would be like.

Calling it a museum is not quite accurate – it's more of a cute and kitschy collection of sculptures, poems, images and everything else cat. It's like someone's cat collection that grew out of hand. It's surprisingly enjoyable and I think the adults liked it more than the kids. In fact, I think it is one of the top places to visit in Kuching – it's funny.



*One of the amusing exhibits*

While there's a lot of individual items on display this museum won't take a long time to get around, half an hour to an hour is enough. There's a small display on the history of Kuching and good views over the city from the same building, too.

*Entry was free, except for our camera, which was RM4. A taxi from our hotel in central Kuching to the museum was RM60 return including waiting time.*

## **The Riverfront**



Kuching is beautifully located on the banks of the Sarawak River. In the city centre there are riverside walks along both sides. Walking along this area is just lovely and is my pick for the best place in Kuching.

If you are wondering what to do in Kuching at night – come here! Early evening and night time are the best times to explore as the heat of the day passes and the humidity is lower. At this time of day, the riverside stalls and small restaurants open up, the lights come on and the locals are out and about giving the riverfront a bit of a buzz.

### **Boat Across the River**



*Taking the boat across the Sarawak River*

While you are walking along the river there is another of the worthwhile Kuching things to do – cross the river in one of the small boats.

Small passenger boats cross the river between small wharves up and down the river. It is an easy and quick way to get from one side to another. Crossing take a couple of minutes and cost just RM1 per person per trip if going directly to the other side. Some boats will also go up or down the river as well as across.

On the other side, there is another walkway as well as a cheap and tasty hawker centre.



## Cat Statues



*Great Cat of Kuching – when I visited with my brother in 2009*

There are some random, fun cat statues across the city and finding and posing with them is part of the fun! You can't come here without visiting one of the cat attractions in Kuching.

## Sarawak Chinese Museum



*The Sarawak Chinese Museum viewed from the street*

Since the earliest days of the White Raj, when James Brook was granted control over Sarawak by the Sultan of Brunei, Kuching has been a town of trading and industry. As a result Kuching has been a magnet for immigration – in particular Chinese immigration.

In a small building by the river that used to serve as the Chinese Court for Kuching is the Chinese Museum. It is a small but interesting museum documenting the different groups of Chinese who came to Kuching as miners, traders or labourers and built communities. There's a lot of information and I spent awhile here, at least half an hour.

It's a small museum but well done and one of the more interesting things to do in Kuching City. However the size and text heavy displays meant it's not a good fit for young kids.

*Entry is free.*

## **Sarawak Islam Museum**



*The main building of the Sarawak Islamic Museum. There's several wings and other buildings behind it.*

The Islamic Museum covers not just the history of Islam in Sarawak but Islamic tradition and history everywhere. It does so over eight galleries, some wonderfully air conditioned. There's a lot to see and even more to read and, given the space and the lack of other visitors (we were alone), this is one of the Kuching places of interest that is fine with little kids.

Although this has some interesting displays, I wish it had focused more on Islamic Sarawak rather than the entire world. The weapons display was interesting.

*Entry is free.*

## **Sarawak Museum, Natural History Museum and Art Museum**



*The very impressive looking Sarawak Museum building. There's some great gardens out the back.*

These three museums are clustered together. The largest at the top of the hill is the Sarawak Museum. Shortly after the establishment of the Brooke Raj in Sarawak, the first white Raja, James Brooke, established a historical collection and the Sarawak Museum was built in 1891 to house it.

Over two large floors is a mixture of displays. The top floor, focusing on the longhouses of Sarawak, is quite interesting for both kids and adults alike. Small kids shouldn't be a problem, either. There's half an hour or so of exploring to be done and this is a worthwhile Kuching attraction.

Behind the main museum is a large grassy area with gardens that are good for a relax, walk or run around in.

The Natural History Museum and the Art Museum are both smaller. Sadly they were mainly closed for renovations at the time of our visit.

*Entry is free to all museums.*

## **Sarawak Textiles Museum**



*The stately looking Sarawak Textile Museum.*

Next to the Merdeka Plaza shopping mall is a three story Textile Museum. It covers the different types of textiles produced by the different ethnic groups and tribes of the region, with fabrics, sample tools and displays on how they were made. Having learnt about the different cultural groups the day before it was interesting although it won't be the best thing to do in Kuching for everyone.

It helps a lot if you visit the Sarawak Museum or take a trip to the Sarawak Cultural Village first as everything makes more sense.

## Chinatown



*The Harmony Arch at the eastern end of Jalan Carpenter makes for a grand entrance to Kuching's Chinatown.*

With such a large Chinese influence it's unsurprising that there is a Chinatown in Kuching. Along Jalan Carpenter is the old Chinatown. There's a new Chinatown further east but this place is – in our opinion – better. There's a lot of bustle and shops lining the street and at the western end of Jalan Carpenter a large Chinese arch – the Harmony Arch.

If you're after some cheap places to eat in Kuching, especially Chinese food, this is the place to go.

## Hiang Thian Siang Temple





On Jalan Carpenter, not far from the Harmony Arch, is the Hiang Thian Siang Temple. The temple was first built in the mid 19th century and rebuilt and renovated several times since. Being in the middle of the old Chinatown, it is a busy, well frequented, temple with locals burning incense and offering prayers. The inside is heavily decorated in traditional Chinese style. If you're visiting Chinatown, it's worth going to this place to visit in Kuching.

Across the road is a small but good hawker centre, open for lunch and dinner.

## **Hong San Si Temple**



*The Hong San Si Temple, near Kuching's China Town*

At the eastern end of Lebu Wayang is this attraction in Kuching, the Hong San Si Temple. Another brightly and richly decorated Chinese temple, the Hong San Si is quieter and will let you have a bit more of a linger and explore without feeling like you're intruding.

## **Eat kek lapis**



*Some yummy kek lapis*

A speciality in Kuching is kek lapis – basically layer cake. We made it our mission to try some especially after we saw how awesome it looked. It tasted just as good too! We bought this tasty cake from one of the stalls that line the riverfront in the evening.

## Sarawak Cultural Village



*Sarawak Cultural Village*

About a 40 minute drive from the Kuching riverfront is the Sarawak Cultural Village. It advertises itself as “explore Sarawak in half a day” and basically this “village” is set up so you can see traditional houses and learn about many of the cultural groups that make up Sarawak. It’s at the top of the interesting places in Kuching to visit list.

We were able to explore longhouses, a Chinese farm house and a Malay house. It’s a nice introduction to Sarawak and its different ethnicities and we enjoyed it a lot. The houses generally displayed some type of activity that belonged to that cultural group, like making a traditional food, preparing sapo or making and playing a traditional instrument. The buildings all had people that spoke good English to describe it as well.



*Traditional house at Sarawak Cultural Village*

There are also two 45 minute cultural shows a day which mostly consist of dancing. It was quite entertaining. The kids particularly enjoyed this especially when they were able to get up on stage and dance with the performers. The show displayed one of the things I love most about [Malaysia](#) – the mix of different cultures.

My favourite part of the cultural village was actually the setting – in the Borneo jungle. It's a pretty place to walk around with plenty of trees to keep things cool and a lake in the middle.

*Entry is RM60 per adult, free for under 6's. We hired a taxi to take us here and wait for RM150. You can find more information [here](#).*

## **Semenggoh Wildlife Centre**



*An orangutan at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre*

Many people come to Borneo wanting to see orangutans and if that's you, then this wildlife centre should be your top thing to do in Kuching.

Located an easy commute from Kuching, Semenggoh Wildlife Centre is rightly popular and offers the chance to see orangutans in their natural environment. We couldn't wait to go! However, once we arrived in Kuching, we found out that we were there at a low season, the chance of seeing any orangutans were low and we would most probably need to stand around for an hour or so quietly in the hope they would appear.

Since we were in Kuching with 3 and 5 year olds, that last part was just not going to happen. I also did not want to deal with two upset kids if we did not see them at all so unfortunately we had to skip this Kuching attraction.

Hopefully, you will be in Kuching at a more favourable time of year. In which case, head out here!



You can also [read about my experiences visiting orangutans](#) in Sepilok on the opposite side of Malaysian Borneo in Sabah.

You can find more information [here](#). There are feeding times around 9am and 3pm which is when you should visit. We were going to combine it with a trip to Sarawak Cultural Village and had arranged a taxi driver for a day to take us to both.

## **Annah Rias Longhouse**



*Annah Rais Longhouse*

Borneo is known for its indigenous people and the traditional longhouses they live in. If you have the time and inclination, you are able to travel a couple of days into the jungle to visit indigenous communities that live in long houses in more traditional ways.

If time isn't on your side and you want to visit a longhouse where people still live (compared to Sarawak Cultural Village where you can view how they were), then Annah Rais Longhouse is a Kuching attraction to consider. It is just over an hour from Kuching which makes it easy to visit. The downside is that it is not really that traditional.

I visited with my 15 year old brother on my first trip to Kuching. We did a half day tour here which turned out to just be us and a guide. The guide showed us around. There were many locals around but they did not seem at all bothered by our presence.

What makes the longhouse impressive is how long they are. I expected one to look like one long structure with lots of rooms (which is how they looked when I went to one in [Brunei](#)). Instead it was more like a set of conjoined houses on top of a common bamboo raised platform. There was a lot of tin used as well which made it quite hot compared the traditional houses we saw at Sarawak Cultural Village.

We were told a lot of information about how it used to be at the longhouses and how they used to live. We tried using blow pipes and checked out some of the traditional dresses as well.



Despite enjoying the visit, I'm not sure how worthwhile it was. We could have read the information in a book and being there didn't help add to it as it wasn't traditional at all. Even a room they had set up to be more traditional had electric lights and a sink.

If you are choosing between this and Sarawak Cultural Village, I would definitely pick the cultural village.

## **Kuching with kids**



*The kids loved getting up on stage at the Sarawak Cultural Village*

Kuching is a fabulous place to visit with kids. Many of the attractions listed above make great things to do in Kuching with kids, especially the Sarawak Cultural Village and Cat Museum. We visited Kuching with our three and five year olds (and one in the belly!) and we were not disappointed.

It's also a very easy place to be with kids. There's plenty of eating options and the river bank is perfect for letting kids run around a bit.

If you are looking for must visit places in Kuching with kids, they might enjoy the kids play area and rides at CityOne Mall. Here on the 2nd floor, you will find a kids play area with bouncy castle, small cars, cubby houses and lots of other toys. On weekends, it costs RM6 for the first half hour, RM2 for each 10 minutes thereafter It's less during the week.

## **Best place to stay in Kuching**

One of the things that attracted me to revisit this city was the great value Kuching accommodation. It was easy to find some great hotel deals!

I'd recommend accommodation in Kuching close to the riverfront. This puts you in walking distance to many of the Kuching attractions above and also means that you can enjoy the gorgeous riverfront as much as possible.

Below is our list of the best hotels in Kuching.

## Hilton Kuching



*Part of our huge hotel room at the Hilton Kuching*

Our pick for the best hotel in Kuching is the fabulous Hilton Kuching – we had a great stay here!

This big hotel is right on Kuching’s riverfront in a great spot. I’m sure we would have liked it anyway, but we had a free upgrade to a King Deluxe Plus which made it even better – we were in a huge room with a living room area and a separate study.

The views over the river are awesome and its worth paying the little bit more money for a Guestroom Plus which has a river view.



*This photo was taken from our hotel room. How gorgeous is this!*

The hotel also has a pool, gym and many restaurants. We ordered room service breakfast every day while we were here and it was huge – one serving was enough for four of us and we are not small eaters.

The best part was that it was incredibly good value. We only paid just over AUD\$100 a night which is a bargain and there were cheaper room types.

[Check the latest prices here.](#)

## **Harbour View Hotel**



*Views from our room at the Harbour View Hotel*

This is a great option for accommodation in Kuching if the Hilton is out of your price range and it's where I stayed on my first visit. It's in a similar position, just back from the river and offers a restaurant, wifi and other facilities you would expect from a business class hotel. I definitely recommend a room with a view.

[Click here for the latest prices.](#)

## **Getting around**

We found getting around Kuching annoying as the taxis were very overpriced. We always had to negotiate a price and they were more than what seemed fair. They all seemed to have the same set rates too so we struggled to be able to do anything. The best deal was actually a taxi from the airport which is coupon based and RM26.

## Our verdict



*Fun times at the Cat Museum*

We had a fabulous stay in Kuching. It's a nice, easy place to be which is both lovely and charming.

There is enough to do in Kuching itself to keep you busy for a couple of days and there are plenty of day trips around Kuching to explore Borneo. Kuching is an excellent base from which to explore further. We found four days a great amount of time to see Kuching and see some of the surrounding Sarawak attractions. You could easily spend longer and venture out to more.

It's very cheap and easy to fly to Kuching, thanks to Air Asia, and it only took about an hour and a half from [Johor Bahru](#) and a bit longer back to [Kuala Lumpur](#). For this reason, it is very possible to add Kuching to a holiday to Malaysia, even though it can look far away from peninsular Malaysia on a map.

Would we recommend it? Most definitely! Get yourself to Kuching and Borneo – you know you want to!