



HIGH COMMISSION OF MALDIVES  
KUALA LUMPUR

# WELCOME TO MALAYSIA

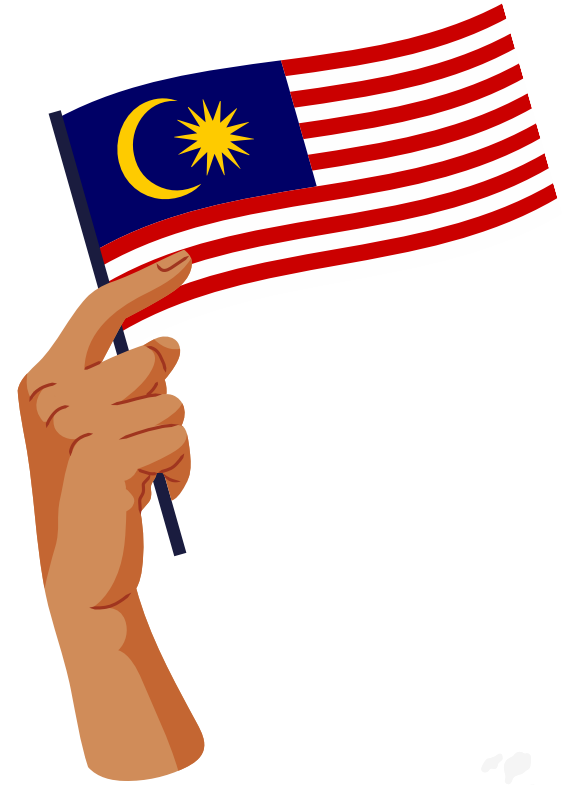
**A GUIDE FOR MALDIVIAN STUDENTS ARRIVING TO MALAYSIA ON STUDY TOUR**



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# ABOUT MALAYSIA

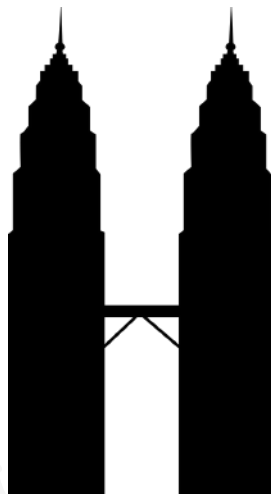
Malaysia is a diverse and vibrant country known for its rich culture, delicious cuisine and modern infrastructure. It is home to people of Malay, Chinese, Indian, and indigenous backgrounds, creating a unique multicultural experience.



Official Language; Malay (Bahasa Malaysia)

Widely Spoken Languages; English, Mandarin, Tamil

Currency; Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)



# LIVING IN MALAYSIA

## Accommodation:

A variety of accommodation options are available to suit different preferences and budgets. Whether you're looking for hotels, serviced apartments, or short-term rentals, there's something for everyone. You may explore and book your stay through the following platforms:

[PropertyGuru Malaysia](#)

[iProperty Malaysia](#)

[Airbnb](#)

Choose the option that best fits your comfort and convenience!



# TRANSPORTATION

## Public Transport:

- Malaysia offers an efficient and affordable public transportation network, including the LRT, MRT, monorail and buses, making it easy to travel within the city and surrounding areas

## E-hailing Services:

- Grab is the most widely used e-hailing app and a convenient option for booking rides across the city

## Taxis:

- If you choose to take a taxi, always insist on using the meter to avoid overcharging. Alternatively, use Grab for a hassle-free experience





# FINANCIAL MATTERS

## Currency:

- The local currency is the Malaysian Ringgit (MYR).

## Foreign Exchange:

- You can exchange your foreign currency at banks, authorized money changers, or currency exchange outlets—many of which are located in shopping malls and near tourist areas
- Some bank branches are available just outside the airport arrival hall
- Please note that a valid passport is required for currency exchange at most authorized locations.
- Exchange rates may vary slightly between outlets



## Payment Methods:

Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and stores

However, it is advisable to carry some cash for small purchases or in areas where card facilities may not be available

## ATMs:

ATMs are easily accessible across the city

Do check with your home bank for international withdrawal fees

# LOCAL LAWS



## **Strict Drug Laws:**

Drug-related offenses are treated very seriously in Malaysia and can carry severe penalties, including the death penalty

## **Public Conduct:**

Public intoxication is not tolerated and may result in fines or arrest

## **Cultural Sensitivity:**

Malaysia is a multicultural and religiously diverse country

Dress modestly, especially when visiting religious sites or rural areas and be respectful of local customs

## **Public Gatherings:**

Avoid participating in public demonstrations or protests, as these are strictly regulated and can lead to legal consequences.

# CULTURAL NORMS AND ETIQUETTE

## Greetings:

- A handshake is a common form of greeting
- However, some Malaysians, especially Muslim women, may prefer a polite nod or placing a hand over the heart instead of physical contact

## Dress Code:

- Malaysia has a generally relaxed dress culture, but modest attire is expected when visiting religious sites such as mosques and temples

## Food:

- Halal food is widely available across the country.
- Must-try Malaysian dishes include:
  1. Nasi Lemak – fragrant coconut rice served with sambal, anchovies, and egg
  2. Satay – grilled meat skewers served with peanut sauce
  3. Roti Canai – flaky flatbread often served with curry

## Public Behaviour:

- Holding hands in public is acceptable, but public displays of affection (e.g., kissing or hugging) should be kept minimal out of respect for local customs.



# IMMIGRATION & VISA MATTERS

## Visa Entry:

- Maldivian students typically enter Malaysia on a Social Visit Pass (Tourist Visa)
- It is important to avoid overstaying, as this can result in fines, detention, or deportation

## Passport Validity:

- Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of arrival in Malaysia

## Arrival Procedures:

- Complete the Malaysia Digital Arrival Card (MDAC) before arrival: <https://imigresen-online.imi.gov.my/mdac/main?registerMain>
- Check for visa and entry stamps at the immigration counter upon arrival

## Document Safety:

- Always keep a copy of your passport and visa with you during your stay in Malaysia





# IMMIGRATION & VISA MATTERS



## Visa (Permit to Stay):

If you are entering Malaysia for leisure, family visits, study tours, or meetings, you may be eligible for a Social Visit Pass. This visa is issued upon arrival, provided you meet the following conditions:

- Hold a valid passport (with at least 6 months' validity from the date of entry)
- Have a confirmed return ticket (you may be asked to show this)
- Are not a prohibited person under Section 8 of the Malaysian Immigration Act 1959/63 ([View Act](#))

Ensure you comply with all immigration requirements to avoid complications during your stay.

# IMMIGRATION & VISA MATTERS



## Customs Regulations:

- You may be required to open your luggage for inspection upon arrival
- Please cooperate fully with customs officers if requested
- Malaysia enforces strict laws on drug possession and trafficking
- Under Malaysian law, drug trafficking is punishable by death.
- Ensure you do not carry any prohibited items and familiarize yourself with local regulations before travelling.

# USEFUL MOBILE APPS

Grab



For ride hailing and food delivery

Waze



For easy navigation and directions

TNG eWallet



For cashless payments at stores, transport, and more

Google Translate



For quick language assistance

Google Maps



For easy navigation and directions

Klook



To book tours, activities, and local experiences

Traveloka



To book tours, activities, and local experiences

# SHOPPING IN MALAYSIA

Malaysia is a shopping paradise, offering everything from luxury brands to budget-friendly street markets. Whether you're after designer fashion, electronics, or unique local souvenirs, there's something for every shopper.

## Popular Shopping Destinations:

- Pavilion Kuala Lumpur - a high-end shopping mall featuring international luxury brands in the heart of Bukit Bintang
- Suria KLCC - located at the foot of the iconic Petronas Towers, this mall blends luxury and mid-range stores in a scenic setting
- Berjaya Times Square - a massive mall offering affordable fashion, electronics, and indoor entertainment, including an indoor theme park
- Petaling Street (Chinatown) - ideal for souvenirs, bargain shopping and street food, also a vibrant cultural experience.
- Central Market - a heritage landmark known for traditional crafts, local artwork, and Malaysian souvenirs

## Shopping Tips:

- Bargaining is acceptable in street markets, but not in malls
- Stay alert and watch your belongings in crowded areas.





# STAYING CONNECTED

## Mobile & Internet:

- Local SIM cards are easily available at airports, convenience stores and mobile shops
- Recommended providers - Digi, Celcom, Maxis and U Mobile.
- ESIM options are also available for phones that support them

## Wi-Fi Availability:

- Free Wi-Fi is commonly available in shopping malls, restaurants and many public areas
- Most hotels and hostels offer complimentary Wi-Fi for guests

## Calling & Messaging:

- International Calls - use apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, or Viber for free calls and messages
- Local Calls - a prepaid SIM card offers cheaper local call rates and mobile data



# SAFETY AND PRECAUTIONS



Malaysia is generally safe for travelers, but it's always wise to take basic precautions.

## **Personal Safety:**

- Be cautious of pickpockets in crowded areas like markets and public transport
- Avoid walking alone at night in unfamiliar or poorly lit places
- Do not share personal information with strangers
- Keep copies of your passport and visa and store the originals in a secure place

## **Health Precautions:**

- Carry basic medications and personal hygiene items
- Stay hydrated, especially during outdoor activities in hot weather
- If you feel unwell, private clinics and hospitals are widely available and provide quality care

# PLACES TO VISIT



Petronas Twin Tower



National Museum



Perdana Botanical Gardens



Central Market



KL Tower



Bird Park

# CONSULAR SERVICES FOR MALDIVIANS

The consular department at High Commission support Maldivian citizens during their stay in Malaysia. In this regard we;

- Provide assistance during emergencies.
- Notify the next-of-kin in the event of emergencies.
- Assist with lost, stolen, or damaged passports by arranging emergency travel documents
- Offer Notary Public services including document certification, authentication, and notarization if required
- For any assistance related to consular matters, contact our hotline +60126557895



# CONTACT DETAILS



## Contact Information

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🌐 Website: <https://my.mdvmission.gov.mv/index.php/en/>

For assistance or enquiries, feel free to reach out during office hours.

# DEPARTURE

## Before Departure:

### ✓ Check Your Travel Documents

Ensure your flight ticket, passport and visa are valid and in order before heading to the airport

### 🕒 Arrive Early

It is recommended to arrive at the airport at least 3 hours before departure for international flights to allow time for check-in, security, and immigration procedures

### 🛍️ Duty-Free Shopping

KLIA (Kuala Lumpur International Airport) offers a wide selection of duty-free shops, perfect for last-minute souvenirs, gifts, or personal treats before you fly.



# ASSISTANCE TO STUDY TOUR STUDENTS



The High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in Malaysia extends a warm welcome to all Maldivian students visiting Malaysia on study tours. We are pleased to assist both students and tour organizers by providing relevant and helpful information to ensure a smooth and enriching experience.

## **Please note:**

There is currently no designated counter at Immigration specifically for students arriving on study tours. As such, the High Commission is unable to facilitate immigration clearance for these arrivals.

For any assistance or enquiries, feel free to contact the High Commission.