Discover
Malaysia & Singapore

Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:

**The Best…**
Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don’t miss out

**Don’t Miss**
A must-see – don’t go home until you’ve been there

**Local Knowledge**
Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights

**Detour**
Special places a little off the beaten track

**If you like…**
Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:

- Sights
- Eating
- Drinking
- Sleeping
- Information

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This is Malaysia & Singapore

Southeast Asia’s dynamic duo offer wildlife-rich jungles, beautiful beaches, idyllic islands, culinary sensations, and multiethnic culture in 21st-century metropolises.

Malaysia’s primary jungle is among the most ancient ecosystems on earth. Significant swathes remain intact, protected by national parks and conservation projects. Join a ranger-led nature walk and you’ll be alerted to the mind-boggling biodiversity all around: the pitcher plants, lianas and orchids of the humid lowlands, and the conifers and rhododendrons of the high-altitude forests. The icing on this verdant cake is the chance to encounter wildlife in its natural habitat. The most common sightings will be of a host of insects or colourful birdlife, but you could get lucky and spot a foraging tapir, a silvered leaf monkey, or an orang-utan swinging through the jungle canopy. The oceans are just as bountiful – you can snorkel or dive among shoals of tropical fish, paint-box corals, turtles, sharks and dolphins.

Urban explorers won’t be disappointed either. Singapore is a city showstopper that combines a historical legacy of elegant colonial buildings with stunning contemporary architecture and world-class attractions like its zoo, museums and amazing botanical gardens (two of them!). Malaysia’s capital Kuala Lumpur (KL) is less organised but perhaps more appealing because of that – a place where Malay kampung (village) life stands cheek by jowl with the glitz of the Petronas Towers, and shoppers shuttle from traditional wet markets to air-conditioned mega-malls. The historical cores of Melaka and George Town (Penang) are inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage list for their unique architectural and cultural townscapes, developed over a half a millennium of Southeast Asian cultural and trade exchange. Both should be high on your to-visit list.

The region’s potpourri of cultures mirrors the natural environment’s diversity. Each ethnic group has its own language and cultural practices that you can best appreciate through a packed calendar of festivals and a delicious variety of cuisines.