



East Coast Islands, Kelantan & Terengganu

09

Includes »

Kelantan	273
Kota Bharu	273
East Coast Islands.....	283
Pulau Perhentian	283
Pulau Lang Tengah.....	291
Pulau Redang	292
Pulau Kapas	293
Terengganu.....	294
Kuala Terengganu	295
Around Kuala Terengganu.....	299
North of Kuala Terengganu.....	299
South of Kuala Terengganu.....	300

Best Places to Eat

- » Bubu Restaurant (p289)
- » West Lake Eating House (p279)
- » Four Seasons (p279)

Best Places to Stay

- » Terrapuri Heritage Village (p301)
- » D'Lagoon Chalets (p290)
- » Pasir Belanda Homestay (p283)
- » Shari-la Island Resort (p290)

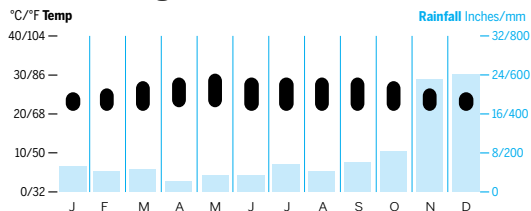
Why Go?

Though Malaysia's east coast is beautiful, containing many a lovely beach and bucolic *kampung* (village) well worth visiting, what brings folks back to the region time and again are the tantalisingly beautiful islands offshore. 'Paradise' barely does these gems justice, though that'll likely be the word that comes to mind when you first lay eyes on the white sands and swaying palms of the Perhentians or Pulau Kapas. Snorkellers and scuba divers will find the coral and marine life beneath the azure waves second to none.

Cultural travellers, meanwhile, will find in cities like Kota Bharu and Kuala Terengganu a distinctively Malay vibe that's managed to remain fairly undiluted despite the nation's headlong rush to prosperity. And nature lovers will want to spend time exploring the vast and as yet largely untrammelled expanses of jungle that make up much of Kelantan's interior.

When to Go

Kuala Terengganu



Apr–May Escape the heat in the higher mountainous regions.

Jun–Aug Drier weather and Kota Bharu's festivals make summer a great time to visit.

Nov–Feb Few options open, but discounts on offer for those braving monsoonal rains.

KELANTAN

Travellers often rush through Malaysia's northeastern-most state, seeing it as a way-point between Thailand and Pulau Perhentian. Those who don't linger are missing out on both a stronghold of Malay culture and one of Southeast Asia's great cultural blending zones, combining a distinctive blend of Chinese, Indian, Thai and Malay cultures.

Kota Bharu

POP 425,000

Kota Bharu has the energy of a mid-sized city, the compact feel and friendly vibe of a small town, superb food and a good spread of accommodation. A logical overnight stop between Thailand and the Perhentians, KB is a good base for exploring Kelantan. The state's villages are within day-tripping distance, and its crafts and culture are present in the city itself.

The centre of town is a busy area north-east of the clock tower, bounded by Jln Pintu Pong, Jln Kebun Sultan/Jln Mahmud, Jln Hospital and Jln Temenggong. The central bus station is just off Jln Padang Garong, opposite the 25-storey Kota Bharu Trade Centre.

Sights

The real attraction of the Padang Merdeka area is the nearby cluster of **museums** (☎748 2266; www.kelantan.muzium.net), all contactable by the one phone number. You can hit them all in a day and come away a semi-expert in Malay history and culture.

Bank Kerapu

MUSEUM

(WWII Memorial Museum; Map p276; Jln Sultan; adult/child RM2/1; ☎8.30am-4.45pm Sat-Thu) Built in 1912 for the Mercantile Bank of India, the Bank Kerapu building is a gem of colonial architecture, the first stone structure in Kelantan and, during WWII, HQ of the *kempaitai*, Japan's feared secret police. Today it is also known as the 'War Museum', thanks to its focus on the Japanese invasion and occupation of Malaya and the 1948 Emergency. Exhibits mainly consist of old photography, rusty guns and other militaria.

FREE Muzium Islam

MUSEUM

(Islamic Museum; Map p276; Jln Sultan; ☎8.30am-4.45pm Sat-Thu) Muzium Islam occupies an old villa once known as Serambi Mekah (Verandah to Mecca) – a reference to its days as

Kelantan's first school of Islamic instruction. Nowadays it displays a small collection of photographs and artifacts relating to the history of Islam in the state.

Istana Jahar

MUSEUM

(Royal Ceremonies Museum; Map p276; Jln Istana; adult/child RM3/1.50; ☎8.30am-4.45pm Sat-Thu) Kota Bharu's best museum, both in terms of exhibits and structure. It's an achingly beautiful chocolate-brown building that dates back to 1887, easily one of the most attractive traditional buildings in the city. The interior displays focus on Kelantanese ritual and crafts, from detailed descriptions of batik-weaving to the elaborate ceremonies that once marked the life of local youth, from circumcision to wedding nights to funerary rights.

Istana Batu

MUSEUM

(Royal Museum; Map p276; Jln Istana; adult/child RM2/1; ☎8.30am-4.45pm Sat-Thu) The pale-yellow Istana Batu, also known as Muzium Diraja, was constructed in 1939 and was the crown prince's palace until donated to the state. The richly furnished rooms give a surprisingly intimate insight into royal life, with family photos and personal belongings scattered among the fine china and chintzy sofas, and the late sultan's collection of hats.

FREE Kampung Kraftangan

ARTS CENTRE

(Handicraft Village; Map p276; Jln Hilir Kota; admission free, museum adult/child RM2/1; ☎museum 8.30am-4.45pm Sat-Thu) This handicraft village, a touristy affair opposite Istana Batu, has a one-room museum with displays of woodcarving, batik-making and other crafts.

Muzium Negeri Kelanta

MUSEUM

(State Museum; Map p276; ☎748 2266; Jln Hospital; adult/child RM2/1; ☎8.30am-4.45pm Sat-Thu) This museum, next to the tourist information centre, is the official state museum. The exhibits on Kelantan's history and culture are interesting, but the signage is poor.

Courses

Roselan's Malay Cookery Workshop

COOKING

(☎call for address 017-933 7242) The ever-cheerful and civic-minded Roselan runs this popular Malay cookery workshop. Prices vary depending on the number of participants and ingredients used, but expect to pay around RM90 to RM125 per person for a group of four. Students are invited to a real, middle-class Malay home