



Pahang & Tioman Island

09 / POP: 1.45 MILLION / 36,137 SQ KM

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Best Places to Eat

- » Restoran Ratha Raub (p269)
- » Ana Ikan Bakar Petai (p256)
- » Bersatau Nipah Chalets (p251)
- » ABC Restaurant (p248)

Best Places to Stay

- » Swiss Cottage Resort (p246)
- » Bushman (p249)
- » Villa de Fedella (p258)
- » Traveller's Home (p264)

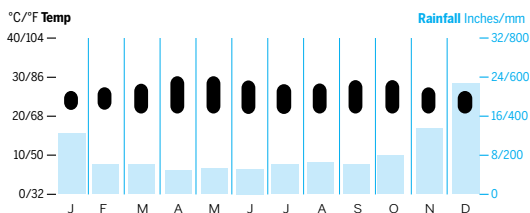
Why Go?

Pahang, Peninsular Malaysia's largest state, is home to some of the county's most accessible outdoor action. It holds the region's grandest jungles and is bordered by 209km of surfable sandy beaches and the near-perfect tropical island of Tioman. A three hour drive from Kuala Lumpur brings you to the primordial national park of Taman Negara, with elusive elephants and tigers within its tracts of virgin jungle. If you're coming from Singapore, the green peaks and blue waters of Pulau Tioman are only four hours away. Those heading down the east coast from Terengganu shouldn't miss a stop at the super-laid-back surf-bum and artist haven of Cherating.

In between these tourism starlets, you will find off-the-beaten-path gems offering pristine jungles, wildlife and flora, Malaysian culture, colonial architecture and culinary delights, many as yet undiscovered by the tourist hordes.

When to Go

Endau



Jan–Apr The weather is at its warmest and driest and the crowds gather.

May–Dec Humidity exceeds 82% and there's intermittent rain.

Nov–Feb Monsoon season: some places close; others offer discounts for hardy travellers.

Pulau Tioman

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Beautiful Tioman has a near-Polynesian feel to it, with its hibiscus flowers, steep green peaks and turquoise, coral-rich waters. At 20km long and 11km wide, the island is so spacious that your dream beach is surely here somewhere. But this is no secret: the island attracts around 190,000 visitors annually. Fortunately holidaymakers are ab-

sorbed subtly and the island retains an unspoiled feel, with pristine wilderness and friendly, authentic village life.

A short stretch of road runs along the western side of the island from Berjaya Tioman Beach, Golf & Spa Resort to the northern end of Tekek, where it is interrupted by steps before continuing as a path to the end of Air Batang (known as ABC). A winding, newly paved road links Tekek with the dozy east coast idyll of Juara.



Pahang & Tioman Island Highlights

1 Village hopping, diving, snorkelling and jungle trekking on **Pulau Tioman**

2 Getting wet, muddy and covered in leeches in deep, dark and undeniably adventurous **Taman Negara** (p260)

3 Exploring and dining in the off-the-beaten-track colonial village of **Raub** (p269)

4 Being stared at by curious **Pekan** (p252) locals, who find visitors as interesting as we find their regal architecture

and charming *kampung* houses

5 Enjoying amazing food in **Kuantan** (p256)

6 Relaxing in the beach town of **Cherating** (p257)