



East Coast Islands, Kelantan & Terengganu

09

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Kota Bharu Night Market (p288)
- ➔ Four Seasons (p288)
- ➔ World Cafe (p299)
- ➔ Madame Bee's Kitchen (p308)
- ➔ Restoran Golden Dragon (p308)

Best Places to Stay

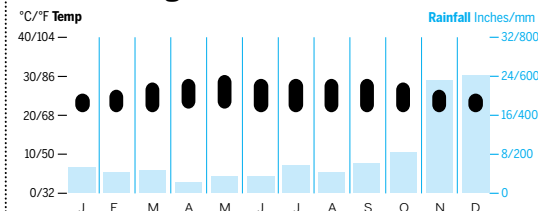
- ➔ Pasir Belanda Homestay (p292)
- ➔ D'Lagoon Chalets (p299)
- ➔ Alunan Boutique Resort (p299)
- ➔ Terrapuri Heritage Village (p310)
- ➔ Kapas Turtle Valley (p303)

Why Go

Though Malaysia's east coast is beautiful, containing many lovely beaches and bucolic *kampung* (villages) 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 divers will find the coral and marine life beneath the azure waves among the planet's finest.

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 accommodation options, but discounts on offer for those braving monsoonal rains.

East Coast Islands, Kelantan & Terengganu Highlights

- 1 Tempting your taste buds at the street stalls, markets and restaurants of **Kota Bharu** (p287)
- 2 Learning about Malay culture and history at the excellent museums in **Kota Bharu** (p284)
- 3 Checking out the Thai temples in the borderlands of **Tumpat** (p291)
- 4 Taking in sun, sand and sea on the diverse beaches of the **Perhentian Islands (Pulau Perhentian)** (p292)
- 5 Taking a night-time boat tour through the ghostly mangrove swamps and being surrounded by fireflies blinking in synchronisation at the **Penarik Firefly Sanctuary** (p310)
- 6 Snorkelling and beachcombing in the less visited tropical paradise of **Pulau Kapas** (p303)
- 7 Exploring the heritage alleys and laneways of Kuala Terengganu's **Chinatown** (p304)

