



Langkawi, Kedah & Perlis

04 / POP 2.3 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Muda Coffee Shop (p211)
- ➔ Siti Fatimah (p206)
- ➔ Nasi Lemak Ong (p211)
- ➔ Langkawi's Night Market (p205)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Bon Ton (p201)
- ➔ Temple Tree (p201)
- ➔ Ambong Ambong (p203)
- ➔ Tanjung Rhu Resort (p204)
- ➔ Datat Langkawi (p203)

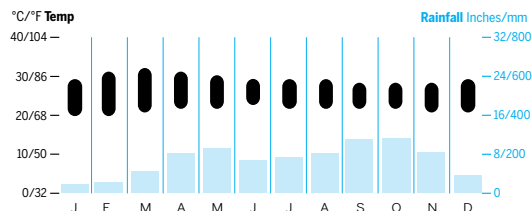
Why Go?

The states of Kedah and Perlis represent a rural idyll that is central to the Malay identity. Limestone pillars thrust up through emerald paddy fields, which contribute to the harvest of over half of the country's domestic rice supply. Not that many foreigners see this. In fact, most travellers would draw a blank if you asked them about 'Kedah'. That's because almost everyone knows this state by its biggest island: Pulau Langkawi. And justifiably so. Langkawi's glorious clear waters and luxurious wide beaches warrant the attention they receive. Swathes of ancient rainforest reach right to the shore, while corners of the island mimic the green terrain of the mainland.

Perlis, Malaysia's smallest state, has an even lower profile. Like Kedah it borders Thailand, and most travellers simply rush through it on their way up there. Their loss; this friendly corner of the country is part of the Malay heartland, and well worth a look-in.

When to Go

Kuala Kedah



Feb & Mar Generally the region's driest months, although temperatures can be relatively high.

Apr–Oct The wettest time of year; the odd tropical storm is expected and tourist numbers are low.

Jul Typically Pulau Langkawi's coolest month.



Langkawi, Kedah & Perlis Highlights

- 1 Cooling off in the freshwater pools at Langkawi's **Telaga Tujuh** (p195) or **Durian Perangin** (p196) waterfalls.
- 2 Riding the **Panorama Langkawi** (p193) cable car all 708m to the top of

- Gunung Machinchang to enjoy the spectacular views.
- 3 Revelling in the former glory days of royal Malaysia in **Alor Setar** (p208).
- 4 Relaxing on one of the stunning beaches of **Pulau Langkawi** (p192).

- 5 Exploring the limestone caves and remote border feel of **Taman Negeri Perlis** (p214).
- 6 Kayaking through the mangroves at **Kilim Karst Geoforest Park** (p195).

KEDAH

For travellers' purposes there are essentially two Kedahs: the tropical island of Pulau Langkawi and its surrounding islets, and the rural, little-visited mainland Kedah, known as Malaysia's 'rice bowl'.

Langkawi is the stuff of tourist brochures that don't skimp on descriptions such as 'sun-kissed' and 'paradise'. The good news is that the beaches generally live up to the hype, but

it's also an island destination that continues to maintain its Malay roots. If, like most, you've only included Pulau Langkawi on your itinerary, you can rest assured that you'll still get the chance to experience both Kedahs.

History

Settlement in Kedah goes back to the Stone Age; some of the earliest excavated archaeological sites in the country are near Gunung Jerai. Recent finds in Lembah Bujang date