WELCOME TO LANGKAWI

The main goal of Langkawi Link is to help you maximise your vacation experience. What you’ll get within these pages are straightforward guides to help you choose the activities that are most appropriate for your travel style, personality and budget.

We rate each activity according to a five-part ranking system on a 1 to 10 scale:
1. **Educational or Culture Factor**, for all you culture buffs and knowledge seekers.
2. **Fun Factor**, for those who either crave or want to avoid high-octane excitement.
3. **Romance Factor**, for lovers.
4. **Older Kid Interest**, for those travelling with children.
5. **Fitness Level Required**. Make careful note of the last rating regarding fitness. It is meant for those who cannot perform too much strenuous activity, but it is also for you to plan your activities for each day. The Langkawi sun is hot and the humidity at sauna levels during certain times of year. If you pack your entire day with outdoor activities listed at fitness level 6 and above, you risk getting heat-exhaustion and dehydration. That means you’ll be sleeping in your hotel room by sundown instead of dining on luscious seafood and going barhopping afterwards.

The best way to vacation in Langkawi is schedule the strenuous activities followed by the relaxing ones, like having a nap by the pool or getting a massage. If all you do is frenzied activity, you are missing the whole point of being in Langkawi.

We sincerely hope that this guide will help you experience a great vacation.

Patrick Low
Editor

A NOTE ABOUT PRICES AND ADDRESSES IN THIS GUIDE

Except for the tourist attractions, we have few prices listed here due to the fact that they fluctuate so much between high and low seasons. It is also complicated by the fact that local Malaysians get a discount on most entrance fees.

There are also very few addresses listed because they will not help you find these places. Roads are not marked at every intersection and shoplot numbers are often impossible to find. All local residents get by on landmarks, so that’s what we’ve provided as much as possible. It is always best to call ahead and ask the businesses for directions if you’re driving. See our Directory on pg 21 for phone numbers.
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On June 1st 2007, Langkawi was given World Geopark status by UNESCO, making it the first internationally-recognised geopark in Southeast Asia. Being awarded World Geopark status was truly a landmark event, not just for Langkawi but for the whole of Malaysia. But to appreciate the significance of this award, we need to look back 10 years ago when UNESCO first came up with the concept of a Geopark. It was a hugely ambitious project that sought to persuade communities worldwide to combine the science of geology with environmental protection, eco-tourism and development of local economy.

Any country with geologically significant rock formations can designate itself a geopark. But to gain official UNESCO Geopark status, it must meet certain criteria. The land must be geologically interesting enough to attract both scientists and tourists. The local government must have measures in place to protect the environment and the local culture from the effects of mass tourism. Development plans for tourism must not only be eco-friendly but also benefit and involve local businesses. By meeting such stringent criteria, we are understandably very proud to be on the list of UNESCO Geoparks.

Langkawi Geopark is an all-encompassing concept. It includes the 99 islands of the archipelago plus the surrounding ocean and also the villages and rice fields. There are few other tourist destinations where you can experience such an amazing combination of education, adventure, traditional culture, relaxation and sheer natural beauty.

Besides enjoying our lovely beaches, we heartily encourage all visitors to explore the wonders of our rainforests and limestone formations. But Nature is very sensitive to the effects of mass tourism and we need your help to preserve Langkawi’s natural heritage for the island’s inhabitants and future tourists.

Please keep the island clean by keeping your trash in a bag until you find a proper garbage bin. Do not feed any wild animals or participate in wildlife-feeding activities by irresponsible guides. Use only the services of properly licensed and environmentally-concerned tour operators. If you visit our caves and other geological sites, please do not take away any fossils, crystals or stalactites as souvenirs.

With that in mind, we here at LADA wish you all an unforgettable vacation.
A DRIVING GUIDE TO LANGKAWI:

Renting a car or scooter is simply the best way to get an all-round perspective of the island. Car or scooter rentals are cheap, and a self-drive tour of the island gives you a glimpse of authentic village life, the magnificent sight of mountains and padi fields, plus the commercial tourist attractions. Also, fuel prices are low in Langkawi and the main roads are in great shape. For backpackers and budget travellers, renting a car or scooter is the most cost-effective way to maximize your vacation experience.

You may come across car rentals as low as RM 60 per day but these are unlicensed rentals and there is no insurance or refund if the car gets confiscated at a police checkpoint. Legitimate car rental companies generally rent for no less than RM 90. Make sure there’s a licence sticker on your rental.

Langkawi roads are usually not marked at an intersection. When there is a marker, it is at ground level. Even the residents here don’t go by street names; everyone uses landmarks to find places. The directions here reflect this.

SAFETY TIPS:

Do not explore the side roads of Langkawi in a car, if possible. The roads are far too narrow. Always be on the lookout for animals crossing the roads. Avoid driving at night. If you come from a country that drives on the right, tape a big left-pointing arrow on top of the dashboard so you’ll always know which side of the road to drive (use masking tape or paper strips). Please do not rent a bike or scooter if you have no experience riding them. Bike riders should always stay as far left of the road as possible and always give way to cars.

The following are some interesting out-of-the-way places to visit while driving around Langkawi:

JALAN AIR HANGAT

Wat Wanararm Buddhist Temple

Starting from Kuah town, drive past the town limits and you’ll soon see the massive school grounds of the Mara Science College on your left. Look for the entrance to the science college but signal for a RIGHT turn. Directly across from the school gates, there is a side road marked by a picture of a monk. Take the side road to the temple. Also worth checking out is the organic dragonfruit farm near the temple. If they just had a harvest and there’s dragonfruit for sale, buy some.

Temples Under the Stalactites

Just 500 metres north from Wat Wanararm is another side road on the right marked by a huge yellow sign above the road. The road leads to a T-junction that is guarded by a large green Hindu statue. From that junction, the road to your left leads to the Wat Tham Kisap Buddhist temple while going right takes you to a newly-constructed Hindu temple. The Hindu and Buddhist temples are up against strikingly gorgeous limestone cliffs with overhanging stalactites.

JALAN TELUK YU

Look for a low yellow and red stone fence near Kompleks Kraf. The entrance, flanked by two concrete structures (see photo above), leads to a tiny park. There is a great view of the boulders in the sea from a lookout point near the parking lot. If you walk to the other end of the park, you’ll find stairs leading down to the beach. On a sunny day at medium tide, the beach here is quite beautiful (if they’ve picked up the trash).

There is another entrance point to this stretch of beach directly across from the entrance to Kompleks Kraf. Park your vehicle at the unpaved parking lot and take the stone stairway down. This is a lovely, secluded picnic spot that few people know about because there are no signs indicating a park.

This beach is part of Teluk Yu (Shark Bay) beach. Most tourists
go to the promenade area just a minute away if you keep driving west. There is parking there and a cheap restaurant with some fairly good local food.

Ewa Jetty, a short one-minute drive away further west. Look out for a big sign on the main road. While it’s not the most scenic fishing jetty in Langkawi, especially with the monstrous cement factory looming over it, it still has a certain charm.

When you reach Telaga Harbour at the west end, check out the Telaga Harbour Lighthouse. Look for a giant sign on the road that says Perdana Quay and take the left turn before The Danna hotel. Follow the road flanking The Danna to the end and you’ll reach the lighthouse (see map below).

JALAN DATAI
When you get to Temurun waterfall, there’s a restaurant across the street called Tiga (good restaurant, too). There’s a footpath at the back of the restaurant leading to an interesting but non-swimmable beach called Pebble Beach. It looks quite haunting if you’re here at sunset.

As you approach the Datai and Andaman resorts, you’ll see the best views of virgin rainforest on the island. This is what driving in Langkawi used to look like 20 years ago. If you are a birdwatcher, park on the side of the road outside the entrance to the Datai, grab your binoculars and take a casual walk along the road.

JALAN BUKIT MALUT
Jalan Bukit Malut is a long and winding road that hugs the southern coastline of Langkawi. It provides some extremely pretty views of the southern islands but the road is probably best explored by motorcycle as there are not many places for a car to easily pull over.

While on Jalan Bukit Malut, you might want to take a quick detour on a U-shaped road called Jalan Lencongan Bukit Malut. It’s a nice drive with scenic views at some spots, and no matter where you enter, you will come back out on Jalan Bukit Malut. Do not explore the narrow side roads on this boulevard or you might end up in the Burmese refugee village.

JALAN PADANG GAONG
There is a fantastic swimming area at Lubuk Semilang (some maps mark this as Book Village) that is frequented by the local villagers. As you drive into Lebuk Semilang, take a left turn on the side road next to the giant electric tower. Unfortunately, this is a VERY narrow side road so you drive here at your own risk. When two cars meet, it is very tricky to get through. If you are on a motorcycle, look out for cars coming around the bend. The payoff is that there are several excellent natural swimming pools at the very top that are rarely mentioned in tourist guides. Skip this during the dry season from January to March.

There is a very nice park below for sunset walks, picnicking and swimming.

Natural swimming pools at the top of Lubuk Semilang
Perdana Quay is a favourite hotspot that locals and tourists simply can’t get enough of. With an international array of restaurants and cafes overlooking a lovely marina, there’s no better place to unwind and have a great meal than Perdana Quay.

Outlets in Perdana Quay:
Tapaz, Hamachi Japanese Restaurant, Mare Blu Ristorante, The Privilege, The Loaf, USSR Restaurant, Pulau-Pulau Restaurant & Steamboat, Restoran Normaj, Halo Snack House, Bar Centro & El Mandi Restaurant (Arabic & Northern Indian Food)

For Enquiries Call:
604 959 1826 (Langkawi) 603 9106 3000 (Kuala Lumpur)

Another project owned & managed by Tradewinds Corporation Berhad
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Galeria Perdana
This beautiful museum houses political gifts given to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad plus some of his personal treasures. There is an enormous variety of items here from all over the world. The museum pieces range from cheesy kitsch to very elegant antiques. Besides the usual crafts, there are also automobiles, vintage weapons, musical instruments and antique books on display. The architecture of the building is stunning, especially the intricate ceilings. The collection might be a bit too eccentric for some but culture buffs and lovers of fine architecture will really enjoy this place. There is an addition charge of RM 2 to bring in a camera and RM 5 for a video recorder.

- Adults: RM 10  Children: RM 4
- Tel: 04 959 1498
- Educational or Culture Factor: 10
- Fun Factor: 2
- Romance Factor: 7
- Older Kid Interest: 4
- Fitness Level Required: 3

Underwater World
Not as spectacular as some mega-budget super aquariums around the world but it’s still great fun and well worth the admission fee. Some highlights: the split-level penguin exhibit with underwater view and the tunnel tank housing the giant groupers, rays and sharks. Also don’t miss the mesmerizing jellyfish and sea dragon exhibits. At 2.45 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, there is a heart-stopping traditional Malay snake-handling performance.

- Try to time your visits with the following feeding times, which are always lots of fun to watch: Freshwater Fishes 10.30am, African Penguins 11am & 3pm, Rockhopper Penguins 11.15am & 3.15pm, Otters 11.15am & 3.30pm, Sharks 3pm.
- Adults: RM 38  Children: RM 28
- Tel: 04 955 6100
- Educational or Culture Factor: 10
- Fun Factor: 8
- Romance Factor: 7
- Older Kid Interest: 10
- Fitness Level Required: 3

Langkawi Cable Car
This is a cable car ride that few places in the world can rival. The incredible views of the mountain range are beyond description. Of all Langkawi’s tourist attractions and activities, this is the one you MUST experience before you leave—no if, ands or buts. Save it for a sunny day with few clouds.

The Sky Bridge at the upper platform offers even more amazing views. For safety reasons, this bridge is often shut down for maintenance, and security officers will chase everyone off if a big cloud comes in. If it’s open and you’re fit enough to climb the long flight of stairs back up, don’t miss this! At press time, we were told the cable car will reopen 6 Sep after a long renovation. Call to confirm.

- Adults: RM 30  Children: RM 20
- Tel: 04 959 4225
- Educational or Culture Factor: 3
- Fun Factor: 10
- Romance Factor: 6 (8 at sunset)
- Older Kid Interest: 10
- Fitness Level Required: 4 (8 for Sky Bridge)

Kota Mahsuri
A cultural centre and mausoleum honouring the memory of Mahsuri, a folk heroine who, 200 years ago, withstood brutal torture after being falsely accused of adultery. Besides her bravery in the face of torture, Mahsuri is famous for the curse she laid on the family that killed her.

Most Langkawi legends in the tourist brochures are half-baked PR gimmicks, but the Mahsuri legend has actual historical roots. Virtually all the locals regard it as true. Whether or not you believe the supernatural elements of the story, the islanders will tell you that Langkawi suffered incredibly bad luck for exactly the number of years Mahsuri stated in her curse. This very moving story is laid out in the mini-museum at Makam Mahsuri.

- Tel/Fax : 604 959 2332  Email:hamachi.langkawi@gmail.com
- Chef Goh  012 476 3268
- Perdana Quay, Telaga Harbour
- Tel: 04 966 5855
- Educational or Culture Factor: 10
- Fun Factor: 9
- Romance Factor: 7
- Older Kid Interest: 10
- Fitness Level Required: 3

Wildlife Park
Children and the young at heart will especially love this attraction, which is also called the Bird Park (Taman Burung). They can feed the virtually all the birds and animals, pet a snake and make friends with an assortment of large parrots. They will also love the donkey rides and the rabbit pen. But it’s not all just for kids. Couples will enjoy aviary, especially the serene and romantic landscaped pond where all sorts of exotic waterfowl are roaming free. Look for the huge pelican up in the trees. Resist the urge to go through this wildlife centre at top speed. You’ll be missing out on a lot, especially at the aviary, where lots of amazing birds and butterflies are hiding out in the trees or bushes.

- Adults: RM 22  Children: RM 15
- Tel: 04 966 5855
- Educational or Culture Factor: 10
- Fun Factor: 9
- Romance Factor: 7
- Older Kid Interest: 10
- Fitness Level Required: 3

Langkawi Craft Complex (Kompleks Kraf)
We recommend that you book ahead for a one or two-hour guided tour of this interactive museum for Malay arts and crafts. With the guided tour, you also get to participate in wood, ceramic, batik and traditional kite painting, and you get to keep everything you’ve done at no charge (drop-in visitors have to pay RM 15 just to do a batik painting).
Because they usually deal with big tour groups, you might face some government bureaucracy when booking a guided tour. It’s better to get your concierge to make arrangements. They need one or two days’ notice to arrange these interactive tours and there is a two-person minimum. If you go without a pre-booked tour, don’t miss the mini-museums in the interior and the workshops way at the back. The free glass-blowing demonstrations at the Faizy Crystal workshop is a great treat for both adults and children. You can try glassblowing yourself if you are on the guided tour. The ratings below are for the guided tour.

Admission is free.
Tel: 04 959 1913
Educational or Culture Factor: 10
Fun Factor: 7
Romance Factor: 5
Older Kid Interest: 9
Fitness Level Required: 3

**Snake Sanctuary**

The big attraction here is the snake charming shows held at 11.30am and 3pm daily. Unfortunately, there is no guide to explain the interesting snake exhibits on the premises, so it’s not worth it if you miss the show. This place needs guides and a makeover badly.

Adults: RM 15
Children: RM 6
Tel: 04 955 7288
Educational or Culture Factor: 3
Fun Factor: 1 (7 with the snake show)
Romance Factor: 2
Older Kid Interest: 4 (8 with the snake show)
Fitness Level Required: 2

**The Field of Burnt Rice**

It’s not actually a charred field but a nice traditional house built on a historical site where the villagers burned their entire rice harvest in 1821 trying to starve out invading Siamese soldiers (Mahsuri’s Curse was in effect and it didn’t work). This is a very low-key tourist attraction and it won’t be tragic if you miss it. If you still want to go, look for a big parking lot across the public school in Padang Matsirat. Squeeze through the narrow alley at the corner and you’ll come to the house. You may have to ask for directions to the alley.

**Laman Padi (Rice Museum)**

Laman Padi gets frequently ridiculed in travel forums for being boring but all you need is a guided tour and things get more interesting. A guide is usually on standby but you have to ask for one. There is a lot to interest culture buffs and nature lovers too.

Admission is currently free, even at the museum. There’s a RM 2 charge whenever they have a rice planting demo (if you don’t mind being knee deep in muddy water, definitely give it a try). There’s a nice spa at the back with a great view of the rice fields.

**Mardi Agro Park**

Mardi Agro Park is a government fruit farm and research centre that’s open to tourists. For a small admission fee, you get a 15 minute guided tour around the orchards. They sell nice platters of exotic fruits at the cafe. There is also a forest path here if you want to go jungle trekking.

Closed Fridays.
Adults: RM 15
Children: RM 8
Tel: 04 953 2550/2551
Educational or Culture Factor: 10
Fun Factor: 3
Romance Factor: 2
Older Kid Interest: 6
Fitness Level Required: 1

**Crocodile Farm**

Like the Snake Sanctuary, it’s not worth going unless you time your visit with their shows. There is croc feeding at 11.15am and croc wrestling at 2.45pm, and both shows are pretty amazing sights. The animals here are bred for their pelts and the meat is sold to the exotic meats industry.

Adults: RM 15
Children: RM 10
Tel: 04 959 2559
Educational or Culture Factor: 8
Fun Factor: 8 (with show)
Romance Factor: 0
Older Kid Interest: 10 (with show)
Fitness Level Required: 2
Jet Ski Island Hopping
Company: Mega Water Sports
Tel: Said Mokti 012 200 2155

This high-adrenaline tour of the southern islands on a 4-stroke 1500cc jet ski is one of the most inspired tours available in Langkawi.

While regular island-hopping tours are limited to places accessible by boat, jet skis have no propellers so the guides on this tour can show you cliffs, caves or mangrove forests up close. They can also take you snorkelling at clear beaches known only to the locals. In fact, none of the places along their routes are the regular tourist areas, which means you'll be experiencing parts of the southern islands that few tourists get to see.

The vessels used are Canadian-made Sea-Doos, which are top of the line jet skis. They are much more environmentally-friendly than the 2-stroke jet skis. You don't need a licence to ride a Sea-Doo (Australians please take note) and children can ride comfortably with an adult.

The tour is fully licensed, insured and run with proper safety procedures. Snorkelling equipment will be provided. They have set tour packages but the company will do customised tours on request. Advance bookings can be made online at www.megawatersports.com.

Quad Bike & Elephant Jungle Rides
Location: Oriental Village
Tel: 04 959 4959 or 012 512 9200

Oriental Village backs up against the forested foothills of Gunung Mat Cincang and you can explore this great jungle on quad bike or on elephant back. There is a short elephant ride around the garden or a 15-minute quad ride (RM 80) for the timid, but adventure seekers can go for the 20-minute elephant jungle ride or book the more challenging quad trails.

The 5km quad bike trail is for beginning to intermediate riders and takes about a half hour to complete. The 10km Geopark Trail is more difficult and takes about an hour to complete.

Most challenging of all is the Mat Cincang Trail, which takes 30-40 mins but is so risky that you have to prove your competence during the Geopark Trail before you can sign up for it. All quad rides are limited to those 16 and above. Please call for current prices.

Jet-Ski Tours
The Best Way To See The Beauty of Langkawi
Three island Tour - 4 Hours
Pregnant Maiden Island Tour - 4 Hours
Lunch At Fishing Village Tour - 4 Hours
Private Tours On Request

Scuba Diving at Pulau Payar
Company: East Marine Holidays
Tel: 04 966 3966

Whether you're a certified diver or a complete beginner diving for the first time, East Marine are the people to call. There's no one else on the island that can provide you with the equipment, knowledge, training and safety for diving around Langkawi.

East Marine is one of the biggest dive operators in northern Malaysia, and over the years they've earned a solid reputation for excellent diving instruction and services. They even have their own fleet of specially-designed dive boats. They provide international open-water scuba diving certifications for SSI, PADI, BSAC and NAUI, from basic open-water lessons up to instructor status.

For beginners, their Open-Water Certification course takes four days to complete. If you don't have four days, you can just sign up for the Introductory Dive Programme. At the sparkling waters of Pulau Payar Marine Park, you'll be taken underwater for about half an hour with full scuba equipment, accompanied at all times by an experienced dive master. But you can't scuba-dive on your own after the introductory course; you can only spend the rest of the day snorkelling.

If you can spare four days, their certification course will open up a whole new world of underwater adventure for you.

A NOTE TO ADVENTURE TRAVELLERS:

This staircase in Lubuk Semilang Park pictured above goes almost to the top of Gunung Raya, our tallest mountain. It's a great adventure tour you can do on your own, but it is 4,287 steps to the top! It's totally worth it if you are fit enough. Walk into the park and follow the trail next to the stream until you come to the stairway marked by a red sign next to a blue sign. If you feel more secure accompanied by a nature guide, call Junglewalla or Dev's Adventure Tours (see Eco Tours, pg 15).
Oriental Village

Welcome to Langkawi

Nestled at the foothills of Mt. Machincang is the quaint Oriental Village, home to Langkawi Cable Car and more than 50 activity providers: duty-free retail & souvenir outlets; spas; galleries and F&B outlets. Furthermore, with Langkawi Cable Car and the best tourist attraction in the country, as its "main attraction," the Oriental Village is Langkawi’s only must-visit destination.

Village Adventures

Starting September 6, life at the Village is expected to return to normalcy when Langkawi Cable Car operations is expected to resume after its scheduled annual maintenance program has been completed.

However, as the Village also hosts a myriad of activity, shopping & F&B options, there has always been much to do at the Village other than cable car rides.

Just barely 50m from Langkawi Cable Car, visitors will encounter “Lasch,” our very own resident elephant at Elephant Adventures, where visitors may ride an elephant into Langkawi Geopark from RM80 per basket (for up to two adults). Call +60.12.512.9200 or e-mail hello@gajah.org all enquiries and booking requests.

Also at the Village, there are Segway Rides, Motor Cross Bike Trails and ATV Rides (see feature on facing page).

Village Accommodation

With the numerous activity options the Oriental Village has to offer, staying over at the Oriental Village may seem a sensible idea, especially if the Seven Wells Waterfalls and beach time at Pantai Kok is on the itinerary.

The boutique Geopark Hotel offers guests 27 superior rooms and three suites from only RM150+ per night, including breakfast. Visitors may also choose one of several packages, including the Jumbo Package that includes both elephant and cable car rides. For bookings, call +60.4.959.1200 or visit www.geoparkhotel.com.

The Village also offers budget accommodation at the Geopark Dormitory and at its fully-carpeted campsite. Yes, fully carpeted.

Flavours of Malaysia

As Ramadhan comes to an end, all F&B outlets will also resume normal operations allowing visitors to sample both Malaysian and other cuisine.

And no vacation is complete without at least sampling local favorites such as naiz iamak or chicken rice at one of several outlet offering local favorites, including Tweenz Corner at the food court or Kopitiam.

For more food offerings at the Village, visit www.foodspotting.com/guides/225 or www.orientalvillage.my/directory.html for a full listing.

Galleries & Info Centers

Visitors will also discover more about the Langkawi Geopark concept at two information centers managed by LADA and the National University of Malaysia.

Then meet "Zanah," Langkawi’s first tiger at the Tiger! Tiger! Gallery & Exhibit, a private initiative aimed at highlighting the plight of 500 remaining wild Malayan Tigers. For more information, also visit www.zanah.com.

Spas

Spa buffs are not forgotten at Anjung Spa where guests may choose from its signature “Fish Spa Therapy” or one of its massage end spa packages.

Shoppers’ Haven

Bargain hunters will find it hard to price souvenir and gifts cheaper anywhere else on the island as many outlets at the Village are non-commissionable, ensuring the best deals are reserved for its guests.

Duty-free shopping at the Oriental Village is “anchored” by the Zon Duty-free Emporium & the Langkawi Shopping Zone, which are strategically located at opposite entry points to the Village.

The Oriental Village is managed LADA Eco-tourism Sdn Bhd. For rental enquiries & other information, call +60.4.959.3099 or visit its management office at the Oriental Village.
**Langkawi Quad Adventures**

Hop into one of our All-terrain vehicles (ATV) or quad and explore the two-cathedrals of Mount Machincang from a different perspective and the safety of these 4-wheelers.

Langkawi Quad Adventures, which operates out of the Oriental Village, offers adventurers several trail options—each one more challenging than the other to suit riders of different competency levels.

As our trail options will involve riding into the secondary forests of Burau Bay, riders may catch fleeting glimpses of wildlife such as birds, giant squirrels, primates, civet cats, wild boar, feral dogs and a variety of reptiles, as the animals scramble or slither out of riders’ paths.

Suited to the beginner, yet our Langkawi Geopark trails are highly variable compared to those offered at many venues. Riders will encounter a variety of trail surfaces including undulating terrain, winding trails, narrow creeks, rock outcrops, hilly terrain, sandy beaches and mud baths, each offering different challenges as the seasons change.

Our standard quads are 150 cc powered automatics, while the proven intermediate rider may opt for more powerful 320 cc units with manual transmissions. Despite the potential speed of some of our quads, we do not operate speed trails and all adventures are guided.

**Village Rides**

Fun Rides are available as an introductory option to first-time riders and is compulsory to unlicensed youth riders prior to taking on any jungle trail. All sessions are conducted around a circular trail.

**Telaga, Burau & Geopark Trails**

Each of these trail options will take riders into the foothills of Mount Machincang and/or the secondary forests around Burau Bay for at least 15, 30 or 60 minutes respectively. These trails are suited to both beginner and intermediate riders although first-time riders will need to demonstrate competency on ATVs.

**Machincang Trail**

This trail option is at best described as a “work-in-progress” and lengthens with each adventure. Our ultimate aim is to reach a northwestern tip of the island and make a good 5 km trail. So far, only 1 km of this has been mapped yet it already takes an hour to complete a round-trip over this distance. Ready to duel Machincang?

**Disclaimer**

As fun as the quad riding may appear, ATVs are not toys. As such, only riders aged 16 and above are permitted although Quad Adventures does have one “youth unit” for children aged 12-16. All adventures are guided although riders are ultimately responsible for their own safety and for any damages they inflict on the machines. Also, all riders have to demonstrate competency prior to hitting the trails.

Quad Adventures start at RM80 per person per quad, and requires the participation of at least two riders.

For more information and reservations, contact Langkawi Quad Adventures:
Oriental Village, Burau Bay, 07100 Langkawi
Tel: +60 12 512 9200 or +60 12 519 4869
www.quadsrule.net

*Photos are for illustrative purposes only, all riders will be required to wear helmets.*
Island Hopping

Island Hopping boat tours are cheap boat tours that you can take of the scenic southern islands. For only around RM 35 to RM 50 per person (depending on season), the standard tour usually includes the following: eagle feeding at Pulau Singa Basah, get dropped off for a swim at Pulau Beras Basah and then to Pulau Dayang Bunting for swimming or paddleboating at the freshwater lake. The whole excursion takes about 3½ hrs.

Pulau Beras Basah has some of the cleanest waters around southern Langkawi. Although not a top diving spot, you can still have fun snorkelling here and see shoals of small fish.

Pulau Dayang Bunting has the famous Lake of the Pregnant Maiden, which is a very unusual geological feature of Langkawi. It is a deep freshwater lake separated from the seawater by a very narrow wall of rock. There are solar-powered paddleboats you can rent to explore the beautiful lake without exhausting yourself. The swimming area is extremely deep and is for experienced swimmers only.

Eat a hearty meal before you go. There’s no food available at these islands. Bringing your own food is not a good idea because of the monkey problem.

Educational or Culture Factor: 3
Fun Factor: 8
Romance Factor: 5
Older Kid Interest: 9

Fitness Level Required: 6

Yacht Cruises

Yacht Cruises are available on a sharing basis for around RM 270-400 per person. The Sunset Cruises are the most popular and typically involve cruising to a secluded beach for a swim, a barbecue buffet dinner and then a slow sail back during the sunset hours.

The more expensive packages include free flow of quality wines and spirits and a much longer tour of the southern islands. Sunset cruises can be anything from 3 to 6 hrs long depending on the company. The morning cruises are usually cheaper, but couples should definitely pay extra to experience those fabulously romantic Langkawi sunsets on a yacht.

Day-long or overnight private yacht cruises can be booked from just under RM 3,000 for a standard yacht to a king’s ransom for big luxury yachts. For honey-mooning couples, it doesn’t get more romantic than a half-day private sunset cruise, which can be had for around RM 2,500 or less if you shop around.

Educational or Culture Factor: 2
Fun Factor: 8
Romance Factor: 10
Older Kid Interest: 5
Fitness Level Required: 2

Kilim Geopark Tour

The Kilim Geopark Reserve in the northeastern part of Langkawi is one of the most unique natural regions in the world. The cheapest way to see it if you have a group of people together is to hire a boatman for about 3 hours. Prices for 3 hours if arranged through travel agents are generally between RM 160 to RM 180 per boat, but at these prices the tour is probably uninsured and unlicensed (the official boat rental price at Kilim Jetty for a licensed tour without guide is around RM 100 per hour per boat).

The mangrove tour includes a visit to the Fish Farm, an incredible eagle-feeding frenzy, a cruise around the limestone islands of the northeast and then a visit to a bat cave. The fish farm is truly fun, especially the stingray feeding and archer fish demonstrations.

The eagle feeding may be an awesome sight but the birds are fed chicken skin, which is extremely unhealthy for them. We encourage you to avoid this terrible practice if possible.

Kilim boat tours that include a guide and pickup from your hotel go for around RM 120-160 per person. But if you are a die-hard nature lover, we recommend taking a tour with the companies listed in our Eco-Tours section. For RM 180-200 per person, you will learn everything about the unique ecology of Kilim with expert nature guides specially trained to spot wildlife.

There are many beautiful limestone caves at Kilim. The Kilim boat tours can be customised for cave tours or a special trip to Pulau Dangli, which has waters clear enough for snorkelling. Negotiate with the boat operators at Tanjung Rhu beach for these special tours.

Educational or Culture Factor: 10 (with a guide)
Fun Factor: 9

Fishing Trips

Boat operators can take you to the best spots around Langkawi for fishing. A speedboat can be hired for a 4 to 5 hour fishing trip for around RM 350-450. Check with the tour agents at Jetty Point or at your hotel.

Romance Factor: 3
Older Kid Interest: 9
Fitness Level Required: 6

Pulau Payar Excursion

Pulau Payar is a tiny coral island 30km south of Langkawi and not a part of the Langkawi archipelago. However, it is one of the most popular day trips available from Langkawi. The super-clear waters, marine life and coral reefs make for great scuba diving and snorkelling. Prices have been known to fluctuate wildly between seasons, from RM 100-200 per person just for transport. Expect to pay extra for diving or snorkelling packages. Going to Pulau Payar is an all-day affair so you need to schedule an entire day for this.

Currently, 3 of the most popular diving sites are closed until around November to allow the ecosystem to recover from mass tourism. In the meantime, there are other dive sites being used by the tour companies, while East Marine Holidays is using the neighbouring Pulau Lembu Island, which is just as good for diving but without the crowds.

Educational or Culture Factor: 2
Fun Factor: 9
Romance Factor: 3
Older Kid Interest: 10
Fitness Level Required: 6

Jet Ski Tours

There’s no better way to see the beauty of Langkawi than on a Jet Ski. Three Island Tour - 4 Hours

Pregnant Maiden Island Tour - 4 Hours

Lunch At Fishing Village Tour - 4 Hours

Private Tours On Request

All rates include full comprehensive insurance

Reservations
Said 012 200 2155
Hussein 012 389 0801
Caty 019 316 1933
Yaceeb 019 334 4282
Huffy 019 316 4946

Advance Booking:
www.megawatersports.com
RM100 to confirm reservation

Lot 31 Kompleks Pekan Rabu, Kuah Langkawi
Tel: 04 966 6902 Fax: 04 966 6907
Hp: 012 200 2155

Jet Ski Island Hopping

Company: Mega Water Sports
Tel: Said Mokti 012 200 2155
Email: msmokti@tecmore.com.my

If island-hopping with a boatload of camera-toting tourists is not your cup of tea, how about cruising the southern islands on a powerful 4-stroke jet ski? With this Jet Ski Island Hopping Tour, you’ll get to see a side of Langkawi you never thought possible. 45 minutes of pure adrenaline and adventure is a must for those who want to make their vacation extra special.
of Langkawi that few tourists get to see and go snorkelling on secluded beaches. For more information, see the review of this tour in our Adventure Section on pg 11.

East Marine Pulau Payar Tours
Tel: 04 966 3966
Email: info@eastmarine.com.my

For those especially interested in diving or snorkelling at Pulau Payar, East Marine would be your best bet whether you’re expert or rank beginner. They are Langkawi’s only diving specialists and will take you to the best spots around the island for underwater exploration. See article on East Marine in our Adventure Section.

Their 3 hour sunset cruises tour the very scenic islands in front of Awana Porto Malai.

Blue Water Star Sailing
Tel: Gerd 013 407 3166
Email: info@bluewaterstarsailing.com

Their sunset cruises may cost a little more but they’re almost twice as long and you get an extended tour of the southern islands. They also serve higher quality meals, wines and spirits than most on the standard sunset cruise, so you’re getting real value for money.

BWSS’s extra touch of luxury works best on their private cruises. If you’re on a honeymoon or planning a surprise proposal, they will do anything they can to accommodate special requests. Owner Eva Zimmermann also has a dozen neat tricks up her sleeve for private romantic and family cruises so be sure to ask her for suggestions.

Their flagship yacht is a vintage, solid teak boat called Damai Indah. It belongs to a class of Indonesian cargo boat known locally as perahu lambo and is distinctly different from the modern yachts used for cruises. For one thing it is steered not by wheel but by a five-foot wooden tiller! You can ask the captain to let you steer for a bit, too.

Junglewalla and Dev’s Adventure Tours are like the Rolls Royce of nature tour companies in Langkawi and they are staffed by actual nature guides, rather than all-round tour guides who also do nature tours. What you get with these two companies are thoroughly knowledgeable guides trained to spot wildlife and give you a scholarly lowdown on forest ecology and geological formations in the area. All their tours are conducted with absolute respect for the natural environment. They will not engage in any gimmicky animal feeding activities and will probably leave you with lots of tips on how to take care of your planet.

Their prices are a bit higher than regular nature tours but you will get more value for money. And you are helping to conserve Langkawi’s natural habitats by supporting such tour companies. If you love nature, we can’t recommend them enough.

Junglewalla Tours
Tel: 019 225 2300
Email: junglewalla@gmail.com

JungleWalla is headed by Irshad Mobarak, who many consider the godfather of nature guides in Langkawi because he mentored all the top guides operating today. He is also the leader of the conservation movement that fights against environmentally-destructive activities on the island.

Junglewalla’s passionate team of guides developed the benchmark when it comes to interpreting nature in an easy, informative and fun way. All their tours are conducted in an eco-sensitive manner with minimum negative impact to the environment. For their mangrove tours, Junglewalla is the only nature company operating a quiet solar-powered boat that does not scare away the wildlife, pollute the waterways or erode the mangroves.

You can also go on a kayaking tour of the mangroves, which they conduct at Kubang Badak in the north, where the mangroves are healthier and the environment more serene compared to the mangrove forest at the busy Kilim Jetty. The tour ends with a picnic lunch at a secluded jungle stream, a perfect ending to this unique tour.

Bird watchers should note that Junglewalla is a leader in bird-watching tours in Malaysia. This is their specialty, and their vast experience in this field will ensure a successful birdwatching outing each time.

They also offer morning nature walks, evening/night nature walks, Kilim Geopark cruises, escorted nature and wildlife photography tours, jungle trekking, island hopping, bicycling nature tours, student and corporate team-building programmes. These tours are suitable for adventure tourists as well as families with children.

Dev’s Adventure Tours
Tel: 019 494 9193
Email: info@langkawi-nature.com

Dev’s Adventure Tours is a team of top-notch nature guides handpicked and rigorously trained by Dev (pronounced “Dave”). Living in Langkawi for more than 20 years, Dev is a passionate and articulate environmentalist who has gained legendary status on the island. But if The Man himself is not available for a tour, you’ll see the same love and fire in the eyes of all their guides. Rest assured you’ll still be in very good hands.

Their signature tour is a five-hour kayaking expedition through the Kilim mangroves. It’s not as physically demanding as it sounds and is one of the most amazing nature tours you’ll ever experience. The kayak allows you to go right into the mangrove forest, where you’ll learn that these plants are much, much more than just trees with funny roots.

Less well known but equally satisfying is their 3 hour Evening Jungle Trek through the magical Mat Chinchang jungle behind Berjaya resort. The rainforest is a different world at nightfall and you’ll be astounded at the wildlife that emerges after dark. Your chances of seeing those fabulous flying lemur and squirrels are almost guaranteed. DA Tours also offers the usual range of nature tours: jungle treks, morning and evening walks, nature cycling tours, bird-watching tours and a regular boat tour of Kilim Geopark.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:
Please Do Not Feed The Monkeys

While you are in Langkawi, please do not feed the wildlife, especially the monkeys. It is bad for their health and over time they will lose their ability to forage for food in the wild. It is dangerous for you as well. Wild macaque monkeys can get very aggressive with humans, especially humans carrying lots of food.

We also recommend that you do not participate in tours that conduct eagle feeding shows.
THE BEST SUNSET WALKS IN LANGKAWI

Langkawi has beautiful sunsets all year round. The sun sets around 7.30 pm, so the best time to start your stroll would be around 6.45 or 7 pm. Bring a flashlight in case you have to make your way back in the dark. Note: the walks listed below are just very pleasant strolls to take during the sunset hours. You will not be able to glimpse the setting sun for a few of them.

Telaga Harbour Boardwalk & Pantai Kok

A great view of the marina and the sunset. Park at the petrol station or immigration office and follow the stone path all the way around to Tapaz restaurant. If you want to continue, go straight past Tapaz and follow the road until you reach the lighthouse. Or you could start at the lighthouse and walk along Pantai Kok beach, which is fairly deserted and gorgeous at sundown, especially by the big boulders at the west side. Unfortunately, massive construction has started by the Danna hotel and that area is not too romantic at the moment.

Boardwalk at Awana Porto Malai

This is a very short walk but Awana Porto Malai overlooks one of the most beautiful bays in Langkawi. Park at the huge empty parking lot before the resort and walk your way down to the boardwalk. There is also a lovely lighthouse at the end of the boardwalk.

Tanjung Rhu Beach

There are two beaches here that make for great evening walks. The inner one past Tanjung Rhu resort is probably the most beautiful beach on the main island, but the one closer to the traffic circle is also very scenic. A walk along the casuarina-lined road between the Four Seasons and Tanjung Rhu resorts is also magical at sunset. Pick a section of the road where you can get a nice view of the mangroves on the river (it’s actually a lagoon).

Pantai Cenang

There are lots of people here at sunset, especially volleyball players, so it may not be your idea of a romantic walk. Still there’s something very special about Cenang’s atmosphere at this time. Leave your car at the parking lot next to Casa del Mar and turn right. Keep walking along the beach around Pelangi resort until you almost hit the end of the beach. Put down a blanket and watch the sun set.

Pantai Tengah

The street flanking Tengah beach from Holiday Villa to the T-junction is lined with shady casuarinas and makes for a nice walk. If you turn left at the T-junction, you will reach the public entrance to the beach. Stroll along the beach and get back to your car by cutting through either Frangi-pani or Holiday Villa resort. Pantai Tengah is one of our most scenic beaches.

Lebuk Semilang

This is a beautiful park with a nice cascading stream running through it. Located at Jalan Padang Gaong, this is a very popular picnic park for the locals so it gets crowded during school holidays or long weekends. There is a nice walking trail if you keep following the stream.

Teluk Yu Promenade

Located at the north of the island very close to Kompleks Kraf. Look for a restaurant next to a very short public walkway with coconut trees and parking spaces in front of it. Avoid this place when it is very low or high tide. When it is medium tide, it makes for a nice walk. When you reach the beach, turn right and walk towards the giant boulders. If you turn left, you’ll be walking towards Langkawi’s only industrial nightmare, the Lafarge Cement Factory. But if that doesn’t bother you, there’s a rustic fishing village and jetty next to the factory you can check out.

Lagenda Park

This popular jogging park in Kuah was recently re-opened after being closed for two years. It looks great except the grass isn’t laid down yet. There is a gorgeous tree-lined path next to the canal if you enter from Eagle Square. If you enter from Pekan Rabu next to al-Hana Mosque, it’s a short walk to the magnificent arched stairway decorated with Islamic motifs. The view at the top is quite nice. There’s a scenic beachside trail from the Pekan Rabu side as well. Don’t get this park mixed up with Chogm Park, which is the park along the main road. See map below.

Kilim Jetty

There is a nice walkway with wooden handrails at the jetty where you book boat tours. About a hundred metres before you reach the jetty, stop at the restaurant on the left and you’ll find the bridge to the walking path right next to the restaurant. This area is surrounded by beautiful limestone hills.
The Charity Club Langkawi
NGO 1556-10-KDH

The CCL is a small group of island residents committed to improving the day-to-day lives of underprivileged families in Langkawi through the following activities:
- Distributing donated food, clothing, linen and toys to villages.
- Helping families apply for welfare benefits.
- Arranging and funding medical appointments.
- Conducting Adopt-A-Family and Schoolchild Sponsorship programmes.
- Constructing or repairing houses.

Contact Lyn 016 458 9234, Sheila 016 687 6600 or Hani (Malay speaking) 016 458 9606. More info on our website www.langkawicharity.com or email us langkawicharity@gmail.com.

Note: Donations of food, clothing and toys (but NOT monetary donations) may be dropped off at the Langkawi Link Vacation Guide office at 40 Persiaran Bunga Raya, Langkawi Mall, located across from the Hindu Temple. Please call Patrick 017 456 2669 or Aini 017 508 4213 beforehand.

Kompleks Kraf Langkawi

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Diving At Pulau Payar Marine Park

Intro Diver  Rm 340 per person
Same as Snorkelling Tour plus one Introducing Dive with full equipment and Dive Master

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Lagenda Park
**Perdana Quay (Telaga Harbour)**

Perdana Quay is without doubt the most elegant dining district in Langkawi. This is THE place to come if you want a huge variety of great food accompanied by posh surroundings and fabulous scenery. Here you can get classy Italian, Chinese, Middle-Eastern, Japanese or Russian food. One popular restaurant serves Spanish tapas. Put together, it’s like an ongoing international food fest. The Japanese bakery and bistro, The Loaf, is owned by our ex-prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir.

Perdana Quay was originally constructed to resemble a Mediterranean coastal town so the architecture here has a European look not seen anywhere else on the island. Most people come here at night, when it comes alive with a laid-back party atmosphere. But it’s also a great place to stop for lunch. Since the restaurants are all alfresco, you’ll get a great view of the harbour and the surrounding mountains during the daylight hours.

With the upscale hotel The Danna opening right next door, Perdana Quay looks set to become Langkawi’s premier food and entertainment centre.

**Pantai Cenang/Tengah**

Cenang is the most well-known eating district in Langkawi with dozens of restaurants, bars and cafes jammed tightly together. There is a huge variety of food available here but your best bet is for Asian seafood, European meat dishes, Indian food and Italian-style pasta and pizza. There are great alfresco restaurants right on the beach where you can dine and booze while watching the surf, which for some is what vacationing in Langkawi is all about.

The same continues over at Pantai Tengah, but everything there is much more spread out and the atmosphere less frenzied.

**Trimula (Kuah)**

This is the nickname for row of restaurants along Jalan Persiaran Mutiara, which is the road across the canal from the castle-like Bella Vista hotel. There is a Malay-style burger place and a Chinese vegetarian restaurant serving mock meats, but the main attraction here is cheap seafood and cheap beer (available everywhere except at the Muslim restaurants at the east end). There are many Thai restaurants on the west side and a couple of Chinese places across the street that serve exotic dishes like wild boar curry. Tourists generally head for Wonderland while the locals go to Ka Kee Lang Seafood and Steamboat.

**Pekan Rabu (Kuah)**

In another year, the Pekan Rabu area will probably become one of Langkawi’s biggest after-hours hangout for both tourists and local residents. Located next to al-Hana Mosque, the new buildings here currently house an uneasy mix of western-style cafés and restaurants with low-brow clothing stores, gamat (folk medicines) shops and cheap local eateries. Less than half the lots have been rented out so it’s hard to tell right now which ambience will win out in the end.

There are two good Malay restaurants at the jetty administrative building at the back of Pekan Rabu. The one called Aji serves surprisingly good Western food, although some dishes have been modified to suit local taste buds. There is also a food court in the blue building but mostly locals eat there.

At the other end of the blue building facing the road is Amanda’s Coffee and Tea, a popular hangout with the locals, ex-pats and yachties. A few doors down in the next building is Artisans Pizza, a new branch of Cenang Beach’s most popular pizza restaurant. The new D’Baron hotel also offers some evening dining.

**A Warning about Ordering Tiger Prawns**

_In case you didn’t know, tiger prawns are giant shrimps that can grow to the size of small lobsters. They are also as expensive as lobsters. Some waiters may not tell you the size of prawns they have in stock or ask how many you want. They’ll simply bring one to each person at your table and stick you with a HUGE bill at the end. Always ask to see the prawns and determine the price with the waiter before they cook it._

**CHEAP EATS: How to Order from a Local Malay Food Menu**

A typical menu in a cheap Malay restaurant in Langkawi would be divided according to fried rice dishes (nasi goreng), noodle dishes and possibly a section on fried flatbread (roti). The noodle dishes come in your choice of yellow instant noodles (mei), flat rice noodles (kuey teow) and vermicelli (bee hoon). The Malays here like their noodle sauces sweet. Be careful: many cheap restaurants in Langkawi serve these dishes insanely hot. If you don’t want it hot, say, “Tak mau chilli, boleh?”

**Nasi Goreng (Fried Rice)**

_Cina (pronounced chinner):_ Usually peas, carrots and some chicken breast chunks.

_Kampung/Ikan Bilis:_ Chopped greens and anchovies.

_Ikan Masin:_ Chopped greens and salted fish.

_Ayam:_ Fried or grilled chicken.

_Udang:_ Shrimp

_Paprik:_ Comes with a separate plate of cauliflower, carrot, broccoli and chicken breast in salty/sweet dark sauce.

_Pattaya:_ Like nasi goreng cina but with everything wrapped in a tissue-paper thin omelette and topped with sweet chilli sauce.

_Daging Merah:_ Tomato/chilli beef.

_Mee/Kuey Teow/Bee Hoon/ Instant Noodles/Flat Rice Noodles/ Vermicelli:_

Noodle dishes usually come with green vegetables, seafood and chicken.

_Hong Kong:_ Noodles in thick Chinese style sauce.

_Hailam:_ Sauce is a mixture of very sweet soy sauce, oyster sauce and chilli sauce.

_Goreng:_ Flash-fried in lots of oil and spices.

_Sup:_ Soup

_Bandung:_ Similar to Hailam but sauce is much more tomato-flavoured.

**Roti (Fried Flatbread)**

The accompanying curries served in Malay restaurants are usually very sweet. If this is too strange for your taste buds, order rotis from Indian restaurants. The plain flatbread is called Roti Canai (pronounced chair-nai). These flatbreads can be ordered stuffed with egg (telur), bananas (pisang), onions (bawang) cheese or sardines (sar din). Then there are these variations: _Planta/Boom:_ Smaller but thicker roti with tons of margarine inside. Crispy outside, chewy inside.

_Tisu:_ The dough is stretched tissue-paper thin and then moulded into a huge cone as it cooks. It is sprinkled with sugar when done and looks spectacular when served. Butterly, sweet and salty all at once, it is highly addictive.
Beach Garden Restaurant  
Location: Pantai Cenang  
Tel: 04 955 1363  

Beach Garden has been around for two decades and is still hugely popular for one simple reason: it’s the only restaurant in Langkawi where you get served gourmet Asian and Western favourites right on the beach. In fact, it is one of the very few casual dining restaurants on the island that has a trained European chef.

They are also known for being one of the best breakfast places in Langkawi. Their home-baked European breads are especially tasty. Their breakfast menu is à la carte only—no buffet—and runs from 8am to 1pm. Not to lovers of good German beer: they have Paulaner and other great brews.

Red Tomato Café  
Location: Pantai Cenang  
Tel: 012 513 6046  

Red Tomato well-known for owner Tanya’s pastas, breads and her famous salads. Their portions are also huge and no one goes away hungry.

Don’t miss this place for breakfast either. Along with the usual breakfast favourites, you must try Tanya’s Eggs Benedict, which should keep you well-fueled the rest of the day. They also serve the thickest, fruitiest milkshakes we’ve ever seen in Langkawi.

Charlie’s Place  
Location: Langkawi Royal Yacht Club, Kuah  
Tel: 04 966 4078  

If you’re in Kuah, there are a few nice places for elegant casual dining, but you’re not going to find a better combination of food and waterfront view than Charlie’s Place. Westin is fine dining at twice the price while the other waterfront hotels can’t match the food quality or the serene harbour ambience of this restaurant.

Located smack in-between the Westin and Jetty Point, Charlie’s Place serves both Malaysian and Western cuisines in a great al fresco setting where you can see the lovely marina from every table. The bar is a popular hangout for the yachting community, making this a great place to meet new friends if you’re the social type.

Artisans Pizza  
Locations: Kuah and Pantai Cenang  
Kuah Tel: 04 967 1232/012 523 1232  
Pantai Cenang Tel: 04 955 1232/012 477 1232  

Artisans is the most successful pizza company in Langkawi. While they do make good pizzas, they also make excellent sandwiches, pastas, fish and chips and omelets. You don’t have to have a craving for pizza to go there.

They also bake their own multi-grain bread. They have a breakfast menu that is served until 6pm. And they have blintzes, pancakes and crêpes on their dessert menu—a real rarity in Langkawi. Plus they have incredibly good fruit smoothies for just RM 4 a glass. Their new branch at Pekan Rabu in Kuah also serves rib-eye steak, lamb steak, mutton shish kebab, grilled chicken chop and chicken wings.

Mangoes  
Location: Kuala Teriang  
Tel: Michelle 017 589 8117 or Lutz 012 564 0307  

Mangoes Bar and Grill is located on the edge of the Andaman Sea, surrounded by lush foliage. The serene waterfront setting makes it the perfect spot for a relaxing dining experience or simply a drink with friends.

With a unique Western/European menu and daily specials, there is something for everyone. Everything is prepared from fresh ingredients and that dedication, has made Mangoes a favourite among residents as well as visitors for many years.

Chenang Boat Quay  
Location: Pantai Cenang  
Tel: 012 329 4094  

CBQ is a branch of the popular Tapaz restaurant at Telaga Harbour. They serve great Spanish tapas dishes at one of the most spectacular waterfront views in Langkawi. They have also teamed up with local gourmet cheese producers Friendly Farms to hold demonstrations on making buffalo-milk mozzarella.

In case you didn’t know, tapas are small, snack-sized dishes served both cold and warm. Just like Chinese dim sum, you order lots of different dishes so that you end up sampling a wide variety of food in one sitting. They have wonderful seafood tapas but their marinated raw tuna tapas are especially heavenly—if you have a taste for raw fish, that is. Their chicken liver pate is also highly recommended. CBQ will also be serving Italian-style pizzas.

Hamachi Japanese Restaurant  
Location: Perdana Quay, Telaga Harbour  
Tel: 04 959 2332  

Hamachi is a new restaurant at Telaga Harbour that’s steadily gaining local attention with the high quality and consistency of their dishes. Perceptive diners will notice there’s fine attention to detail in virtually everything, from their presentation to their salad dressings, and even the way their green tea ice-cream is perfectly matched with a dollop of red bean sauce.

In the evenings, the teppanyaki chef steals the show with his utensil juggling act and fire show. We’ve been slowing eating our way through their huge menu and still can’t find anything to complain about. Currently our favourite is their fried salmon skin temaki (cone) sushi, a head-spinning blast of taste and texture. They serve RM 3 beers from 3-7 daily.

Amanda Coffee & Tea  
Location: 37 Pekan Rabu, Kuah  
Tel: 04 966 0037  

A favourite evening hang-out with the locals and yacht community, AC&T has the largest non-alcoholic drinks menu on the island. Gourmet coffee, teas, amazingly good hot chocolate, ice-blended drinks and dozens of premier Monin soda syrups from France—and it seems like every week owner Amanda Zulkifli is coming up with more drink recipes. Some of us have stopped ordering; we just tell Amanda to surprise us.

They have sandwiches and homemade desserts too. AC&T is a bit hard to find. It’s in the blue building on the side facing the road. Look out for a place with red walls.
The Beaches of Langkawi

Pantai Cenang

This is a great beach for a swim. Lots of beachside restaurants, spas and watersports operators everywhere so you don’t have to walk far to get anything. There’s a very special atmosphere here at sunset with people playing volleyball and lovers strolling everywhere. Cenang beach is the liveliest and most sociable place on the whole island, but at high season it might be too frenzied for some people.

Pantai Tengah

At certain times of the year, Pantai Tengah has big waves and strong currents on the north side of the beach from Underwater World to around Frangipani resort. There are very beautiful islands offshore, making this one of our most scenic beaches. It’s much less crowded and noisy than Cenang. Avoid the part of the beach between Holiday Inn and Federal Villa. There is no beach maintenance there.

Pantai Kok Beach

Because there are no restaurants or changing rooms here, Pantai Kok (pronounced like Coke) is usually fairly deserted, even during high season. This makes it one of the best public beaches in Langkawi to chill out if you crave seclusion. The scenery here is gorgeous, especially at the huge boulders on the west side. Occasionally, there’s a herd of buffalo that roams this beach. In another year, half of Pantai Kok next to The Danna might become a site for luxury chalets, in which case the beach would likely become private and the buffalo will be kicked out. Enjoy this beach while you can.

Teluk Yu Beach

No one ever swims here. It could be because Teluk Yu means Shark Bay in Malay, or because there’s no shade or changing rooms. It’s a good place for a snack or a nice sunset walk, though. It looks terrible at low tide so go at medium or high tide.

Tanjung Rhu Beach

There are two public beaches at Tanjung Rhu in the northwest of the main island. Coming off the Jalan Air Hangat circle, the first beach you will see is a very pretty cove that is usually deserted until the sunset hours, when the locals come here with their children for a relaxing picnic before dinner.

The true jewel here is the beach at the Tanjung Rhu Resort. As you drive through lovely the casuarina-lined road next to the mangroves, you will eventually come to a row of bargain clothing stores. Beyond this is the fabulous crescent shaped beach that is arguably the most beautiful on the main island.

Parked right in front of the beach is a gorgeous trio of limestone islands. At low tide you can walk over to the islands, but you must know what time the tide comes back in or you will be stranded on the island. The area in front of the Tanjung Rhu Resort is private. Do not use their facilities or you will be ejected by security.

Pantai Pasir Hitam (Black Sand Beach)

No one swims here; it just looks plain uninviting. A few hundred metres to the right of the designated tourist area is a rustic pier built out of coconut tree trunks and wooden planks. The atmosphere at this side of the beach is much more cheerful. There are colourful fishing boats all around. During high tide, it’s great fun to watch the village children dive off the pier. If you must have a swim here, do it on this side of the beach.

Pantai Pasir Tengkorak (Skull Sand Beach)

Tengkorak beach is a hugely popular picnic and camping spot for the locals. It is actually a very short stretch of beach, but it is still a good swimming beach with shady trees close to the water and, best of all, toilets and changing rooms. Tengkorak is also the only beach with a regular clean-up crew so the beach is usually quite clean. Children will enjoy playing at the thick vines hanging from the trees near the bathrooms. The rope bridge is in disrepair; watch the kids if they are playing on it.

There’s a mildly-interesting look-out point on the rock formations at the east end. There are TONS of aggressive monkeys here; do not bring food.

Datai Bay

This beach is drop-dead gorgeous and spotlessly clean, but it is only for guests of the Datai and Andaman. There is no way to get to the beach except through the resorts and security there is very tight.

Burauf Bay

The beach is maintained by Berjaya and Mutiara Burau Bay resorts so it is a private beach. The bay is very beautiful and you can get access to it by booking watersports from the resorts. With that mountain backdrop behind the hotels, this is one of the most scenic beaches for kayaking or jet-skiing. They may turn down outside visitors for watersports during peak tourist seasons.

Waterfalls

Langkawi features several cascading waterfalls that are spectacularly beautiful during the rainy season between August to October. We feature the three main ones here.

Warning: all the waterfalls are potentially dangerous for very small children or the elderly. Also, because of the monkey problem, do not bring food to the waterfalls. Eat at the resort restaurants instead. Unless you just want to go for an uphill hike through a scenic jungle, skip the falls altogether during the dry season from January to March, or when there has been no rain for several weeks. The ratings below are for when the waterfalls are gushing after some heavy rainfall.

Seven Wells Waterfall (Telaga Tujuh)

Our most spectacular waterfall, Seven Wells is a must-see for those who have the stamina to climb those exhausting 600 steps to the top. At the top are natural jacuzzi-like pools made out of smooth rocks.

During the rainy season, soaking in these swirling pools overlooking the panoramic view of the valley is an unforgettable experience. During dry spells, the pools become stagnant and black, but you can still come up here for a nice nature hike and for the staggering view of the valley. There is a good hiking trail at the back of the wells.

Those who can’t make the climb up to the top can visit the lower falls, which is less geographically unique but still offers great swimming. You still have to climb a short but very steep road. Then follow the marked footpath on the left.

Educational or Culture Factor: 2
Fun Factor: 7
Romance Factor: 8
Older Kid Interest: 10
Fitness Level Required: 6 (for lower level)

Temurun Falls

Temurun used to rival Seven Wells as Langkawi’s most beautiful cascading waterfall, until three ugly concrete dams were built along the stream in March. The dams do create good swimming pools during a heavy downpour, but they back up garbage and stagnant water the rest of the time. Still, the pool at the top level might be the best natural swimming pool on the island. It is surely one of the most scenic, especially with that 100-foot waterfall coming over an unusual wall of black rock. It is quite deep in parts of the pool and is not recommended for non-swimmers.

Resist the urge to have a picnic at this lovely spot. The monkeys will steal food right out of your hand. There’s a very good restaurant (Tiga) across the road if you need to eat. The lower pools are a bit rocky but that’s what makes the water so much clearer here than at the other waterfalls.

Educational or Culture Factor: 2
Fun Factor: 6
Romance Factor: 7
Older Kid Interest: 10
Fitness Level Required: 6

Durian Perangin Falls

Durian Perangin has the least appealing natural swimming pools but the surrounding jungle is more majestic than at Seven Wells or Temurun. This is a great place to come for a quick hike to appreciate the rock formations and the rainforest, although the landscape is somewhat marred by mysterious black rubber tubes running everywhere. The main pool at the top provides a nice swim but the rocky slope leading to the pool is at a scary angle. Be extra careful walking down to the main pool. It is a bit of a climb to the top but it gets more scenic the further up you go.

Educational or Culture Factor: 2
Fun Factor: 6
Romance Factor: 8
Older Kid Interest: 7
Fitness Level Required: 6
RESTAURANTS

KUAH
Amanda Coffee & Tea
Location: 37 Pekan Rabu Complex
Tel: 04 966 0037
Cuisine: Bistro food, cakes, gourmet coffee, ice-blended drinks and sodas

Artisans Pizza
Location: Pekan Rabu Complex, facing the main road
Tel: 04 967 1232
Cuisine: Pizza and Western
Open for breakfast daily
Location: KUALA TERIANG

Mangoes
Location: Turn left at T-junction north of Langkawi Lagoon. Turn left again and look for sign at end of street.
Tel: Michelle 017 589 8117 or Lutz 012 564 0307
Cuisine: European favourites
Signature Dish: Lambshanks

PANTAI CENANG & TENGAH

Beach Garden Resort
Location: Across from Rice Museum
Tel: 04 955 1363
Cuisine: Western and Asian
Open for breakfast daily

Artisans Pizza
Location: Across from Rasa
Tel: 04 955 1232
Cuisine: Pizza and Western

Red Tomato Garden Café
Location: Mid-Cenang, near AB Motel
Tel: 012 513 6046
Cuisine: Western

Chenang Boat Quay
Location: Between Pelangi and Bon Ton
Tel: 012 329 4094
Cuisine: Spanish Tapas and Pizza

Sheela's Restaurant
Location: Between Frangipani and Holiday Villa resorts
Tel: Willi 017 551 6535
Cuisine: Western and Malay
Signature Dishes: Pan-fried Chicken Breast, Malay Prawn Curry
Established in 1996, Sheela's Restaurant serves tasty Western and Malay dishes in a serene kampung (village) setting. First drink on the house if you bring this guide.

TELAGA HARBOUR

The Loaf Bakery & Bistro
Location: C9 Perdana Quay
Tel: 04 959 4866
Cuisine: Breads and Bistro food.

Hamachi Japanese Restaurant
Tel: 04 959 2332
Cuisine: Sushi, Sashimi, Teppanyaki and other Japanese favourites.

Mare Blu
Location: B5-6 Perdana Quay
Tel: 04 959 3830
Cuisine: Italian

Tapaz
Location: A1-2 Perdana Quay
Tel: 012 329 4094
Cuisine: Spanish Tapas

USSR Restaurant
Tel: 04 956 1022/3
Cuisine: Russian

TOURS OPERATORS

Blue Water Star Sailing
Tel: Gerd 013 407 3166
Email: info@bluewaterstarsailing.com
Private and sharing yacht cruises

Crystal Yacht Holidays
Tel: 04 955 6545 or 012 408 7866
Email: info@crystalyacht.com
Private and sharing yacht cruises

Dev's Adventure Tours
Tel: 019 494 9193
Email: info@langkawi-nature.com
Nature walks, treks, cycling, kayaking, bird watching

East Marine Holidays
Tel: 04 966 3966
Email: info@eastmarine.com.my
Pulau Payar excursions, scuba and snorkelling trips

Junglewalla
Tel: 019 225 2300
Email: junglewalla@gmail.com
Nature walks, treks, cycling, kayaking, bird watching.

Mega Water Sports
Tel: 04 955 3407 or 012 588 3274
Email: info@tropicalcharters.com.my
Private and sharing yacht cruises
Their flagship boat, Seasation, is a very spacious 55ft catamaran that's one of the best party boats around. They've recently added a 32ft luxury speedboat to their fleet, in case you prefer a thrill-ride around the island instead of a relaxing cruise

Tropical Charters
Tel: 04 955 3407 or 012 588 3274
Email: info@tropicalcharters.com.my
Private and sharing yacht cruises
Their flagship boat, Seasation, is a very spacious 55ft catamaran that's one of the best party boats around. They've recently added a 32ft luxury speedboat to their fleet, in case you prefer a thrill-ride around the island instead of a relaxing cruise

SPAS

Bellis
41 Jalan Kelibang
Tel: 04 966 0089
Herbal spa therapy, aromatherapy massage, facial treatments, organic health products

SOUVENIRS

Faizy Crystal
Langkawi Craft Complex
Tel: 04 959 4885
Web: glasscrystal-kamarulfaizy.blogspot.com
Original hand-blown glass art.
WHERE TO HAVE FUN IN KUAH

Admittedly, Kuah does not appeal to everyone. It has the atmosphere of a sleepy Malaysian town back in the 1970s, something which some people find charming but others find dead boring. Almost everything is cheaper in Kuah than the rest of the island. In fact, we recommend that you shop in Kuah first and then shop elsewhere on the island later. If you saved the trip to Kuah at the end, you may find the exact same items you bought selling for up to 20% cheaper. Kuah is also a fabulous place to eat, especially in the evenings, with lots of excellent seafood restaurants that are cheaper than the ones at Cenang and Tengah. For non-Muslims, Kuah is the only place in Langkawi where you can find Chinese restaurants everywhere serving pork. Beers here go for as low as RM 2.50.

Besides shopping and dining, Kuah can be quite a fun experience if you are curious about local culture and don’t mind some low-key excitement like talking a walk at Eagle Square or Lagenda Park (see Evening Walks section) in the late afternoon.

See Kuah Map next page for the following:

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**Langkawi Parade/Langkawi Fair/ Jetty Park**

These malls don’t have the glamour of big-city malls but take your time and you’ll find some very good discounts for clothes, shoes, jewellery and souvenirs. You’ll also find fast food franchises and a nice café or two at these shopping centres.

**The Banking District**

Although most banking districts are very upscalse places, the one in Kuah does not fit that description. Come here if you enjoy third-world urban charm or if you want to score some good discounts on the items like chocolates, suitcases, cigarettes, booze, cheap tableware, cashew nuts and dried fish snacks. Other popular items include local textiles, electronics and folk medicines. The souvenir shops here generally have cheaper prices than the rest of the island.

**Plaza Langkawi** is the shopping mall next to the banking district. From the outside it looks enormous but there are only about three floors of shops selling mostly textiles and folk medicine. The rest of the building is office space. Don’t come here unless you’re looking specifically for Thai or Malay clothing and folk medicine. If you need a miracle tonic for an ailment, you’ve come to the right place. Also there’s a big selection of Thai and Malay-style shirts, blouses and caftans at pretty much the lowest prices on the island.

There are a few popular non-halal Chinese food courts (pork and booze galore) around the intersection before the bridge at Langkawi Baron hotel. One is called Water Garden (it turns into Rootian restaurant at night) and the other is Langkawi Sunrise.

**Langkawi Mall**

This is mainly a business, clothing and dining area for the locals. Unless you’re interested in how the locals live, there’s not much to interest tourists except perhaps the Malay, Chinese, Thai and Indian restaurants—and there are a lot of them here, some mid-priced but mostly very cheap. The famous Wan Thai Restaurant is located here.

The Malay restaurants are buffet-style nasi-champur restaurants and that open during the day for breakfast and lunch. The Chinese restaurants are mostly at the front facing the main road and are open till late. The Kamdar department store at the east end of the cobblestone street (the interior part of Langkawi Mall) has a great selection of Indian-style clothing at bargain prices.

**Jalan Persiaran Mutiara**

This road running in front of the Bella Vista Hotel (across the canal) is flanked by a string of popular seafood restaurants that open only at night. What they lack in décor they make up for in good food and low prices. If you don’t mind the flimsy tables and plastic chairs, this is the place to go for a cheap seafood dinner to be washed down by lots of cheap beer. This eating district is called Trimula.

**Pekan Rabu**

Located next to al-Hana mosque, Pekan Rabu is an up-and-coming shopping and dining district. Less than half the stores are rented at present but there are still some nice restaurants and cafes. The west entrance to the lovely Legenda Park is by the parking lot next to the marina.

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**Bellis Relaxing Therapy**

Sea Salt Foot Bath
Full Back Aroma Oil Massage
Foot Reflexology
Relaxing Spa Facial
Organic Jasmine Green Tea
2hr 15 min RM 148

Aroma Rose Therapy
Sea Salt Foot Bath
Full Body Aroma Rose Scrub
Aroma Rose Body Mask & Wrap
Full Body Aroma Oil Massage
Aroma Eye Pillow Treatment
Rose Lotus Leaves Tea
2 hr RM 148

**September Promotion**

*Free pick up/transfer within Kuah Town area*

Reservation Please call Tel: 04-966 0089

Open daily from 11am to 10pm

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**Kamdar Department Store**

Located next to al-Hana mosque, this is the only department store in Kuah. It has three floors of shops selling mostly textiles, electronics and folk medicines. The rest of the building is office space. Don’t come here unless you’re looking specifically for Thai or Malay clothing and folk medicine. The rest of the building is office space. Don’t come here unless you’re looking specifically for Thai or Malay clothing and folk medicine. If you need a miracle tonic for an ailment, you’ve come to the right place. Also there’s a big selection of Thai and Malay-style shirts, blouses and caftans at pretty much the lowest prices on the island.

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**Organic Aroma Spa**

Aroma Rose Therapy
Sea Salt Foot Bath
Full Body Aroma Rose Scrub
Aroma Rose Body Mask & Wrap
Full Body Aroma Oil Massage
Aroma Eye Pillow Treatment
Rose Lotus Leaves Tea
2 hr RM 148

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**We have a HUGE selection of 100% Organic Products and Health Food Supplements**

- Bragg Apple Cider Vinegar
- Virgin Coconut and Grapeseed oils
- Organic Molasses
- Psyllium Husk
- Organic Grains and Beans
- Organic Dried Noodles
- Shaklee Nutritional supplements
- Black, White and Brown Tahini
- and many more!
Mountain Scents
Location: Kuah, Langkawi Parade, 3rd Floor. Tel: 012 302 2564
This store selling luxurious spa products and high-end teas is the only one of its kind in Langkawi. Everything here is 100% natural and of fantastic quality: hand-made soaps, aromatherapy essential oils, massage oils, potpourri and incense. They have a good range of quality Chinese teas, some very hard to find, like green pu-erh tea. They’re packed in brick pellets, too, like all fine aged Chinese tea. Owner Jenny also sells a great range of Chinese tea ceremony accessories. If it’s not too busy, she’ll serve you tea samples and give you a rundown of all their medicinal properties. Don’t miss this fabulous store!

Bellis
Located in Kuah on the main road near Langkawi Parade shopping centre, Bellis may not be that well-known to tourists but they have loyal local following. On the ground floor, they even have Langkawi’s only organic health food store.
In keeping with their natural health theme, their signature services are Herbal Detox Massage, Herbal Steam-bath and Aromatherapy Massage, all going for rock-bottom rates because of the price war going on between Kuah massage centres. Both the Herbal Detox and Aromatherapy Massages are only RM 88. These rates are amazing considering Bellis may have the most spacious and luxurious massage room in Kuah (not counting the one at Westin).

Faizy Crystal
Location: Kompleks Kraf, Jalan Teluk Yu
Tel: 04 959 4885
Faizy Crystal is run by Kamarul Faizy, who trained in glass art in New Zealand. It is the only place to get genuine Langkawi-made glass art (glass art sold elsewhere are imports). In fact, it is the only glass-art studio in Malaysia that’s owned and operated by all-Malay glass artisans.
Faizy tries to please as many people as possible with a wide variety of designs. They have great perfume bottles and glass pendants for western tastes. Muslim visitors will love their vases with Islamic motifs. They also have a stand in the main Kompleks Kraf building but it’s better to go to their workshop at the back of the complex where you can see glassblowing demos and a bigger variety of items for sale.
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST - CHECK OUT THESE 4 WEBSITES

For Maps: www.maps-of-langkawi.com
Pop-Up Maps with 69 Attractions and Places of Interest - with pictures and short descriptions

For Eating Out: www.langkawi-restaurant-guide.com
With Restaurant Picker: click type of food, budget and location and get a proposal out of more than 180 restaurants

For Night-Life: www.langkawi-nightlife.com
With about 2 Dozen Places, ca, 18 Places with Live Music, and some real Hot Spots

For Local News of Langkawi: www.langkawi-gazette.com
With several News Updates every week