



A Travel Guide to **MALAYSIA**



THE ESSENTIAL THINGS

PLACES CUISINES CULTURE HACKS and MORE!



It's a blessing for us to take people to places and make them smile every day.

- CEO David Dao

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A woman with long brown hair is shown from the waist up, lying on her stomach on a white surfboard. She is wearing a black bikini bottom and a green string bikini top. She is underwater, with her head above the surface and her arms resting on the surfboard. The water is a deep blue with white foam and bubbles around her. The text 'EXPLORE ENJOY REPEAT' is overlaid in large white letters on the left side of the image.

EXPLORE ENJOY REPEAT



UNBEATABLE
PRICES



7-DAY
MONEY BACK



DEPARTURE
GUARANTEE

Greetings from

Asia Vacation Group

Inspired by the passion of travelling and exploring the extraordinary, Asia Vacation Group travel agency was born in 2015 with the vision of delivering the ultimate travel experience to group and individuals around the world.

Guests Lover

Our dedicated services are with you all the way. Just sit back and relax.

Local Leaders

With more than 60 itineraries to 7 countries in Asia, we will take you the most beautiful corners of the land.

Responsible Travel

We implement only good ethic practices to protect the environment and historical wonders for mankind.

The accommodation was exemplary in the four hotels we stayed in and every tour was terrific with the highlight for me being the Saigon River dinner cruise. The food everywhere was fantastic. Thank you for arranging such a great holiday.

- Norm Avent
Asia Vacation Group Customer



MALAYSIA

Blessed by an astonishing natural beauty, including the huge national parks, verdant mountains, diverse wildlife and islands, Malaysia has a ton of extraordinary things for travellers to discover. From the vast land of tea plantation and tropical forest to the sparkling Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur city, visitors will have a long yet exciting journey to explore the country.





OVERVIEW

Quick Facts



POPULATION
32 mils (as of 2017)



CURRENCY
MYR (Ringgit)



EXCHANGE RATE

	1 USD	1 AUD	1 Euro
to MYR	4.2	2.9	4.7



POPULAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS
Kuala Lumpur (KUL)
Langkawi (LGK)
Penang (PEN)



LANGUAGE
Malaysian



TIME ZONE
UTC +8 hours

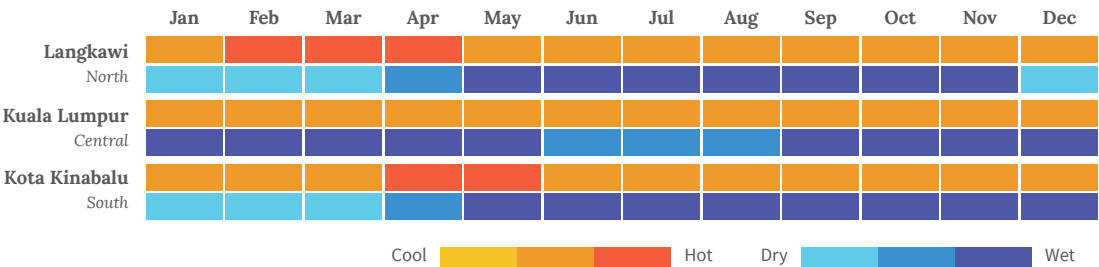


ELECTRICITY
240V/50Hz
Plug type G



Weather

Malaysia is hot and humid with some rain throughout the year. There are mainly the wet season and less wet season. The wet season occurs on the West between April-October, and on the East between Nov-Feb.



WHERE TO GO



Langkawi

Located in northwestern Malaysia, Langkawi Island possesses the most gorgeous beaches in the country and upscale resorts. Coming to this island, visitors will be greeted with a massive Eagle Statue at the pier.



Penang

As the most populous island city in Malaysia, Penang is home to a cosmopolitan George Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a lot of spectacular colonial architectures.



Cameron Highlands

The region is an extensive hill station is hidden away among the rainforest ecosystem, which is famous for a collection of peaceful towns perched on a hill and the endless tea plantations spreading across the valleys.



Kuala Lumpur

The city is the capital of Malaysia, well-known for its futuristic Petronas Twin Towers and colourful shopping districts. Lying deep inside the Central Market is a collection of traditional handicraft and an artistic hub called Annexe where local artists showcasing their work.



Malacca

Once one of the most vibrant trading ports in Southeast Asia, Malacca possesses a blend of Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch and British cultures imprinted in the buildings, cuisines and local lifestyle.



Kota Kinabalu

Situated on Borneo, the third largest island in the world, the area offers a great mixture of tropical islands, rainforests, wildlife, national parks and Malaysia's highest peak, Mount Kinabalu.



LANGKAWI

1

PENANG

2

CAMERON HIGHLANDS

3

KUALA LUMPUR

4

5

MALACCA

KOTA KINABALU

6

INDONESIA

WANT MORE?

There are much more beautiful destinations not being mentioned here. Visit our website to explore the bigger Malaysia.



WHAT TO DO

01

Check in at Petronas Twin Towers

No one should miss this iconic landmark when arriving in Kuala Lumpur. Taking a photo from far away or on top of the tower must be on your bucket list. These skyscrapers were the tallest buildings in the world from 1998 to 2004 and remain the tallest twin towers in the world. Watching the towers lighting up at night is also amazing.



02

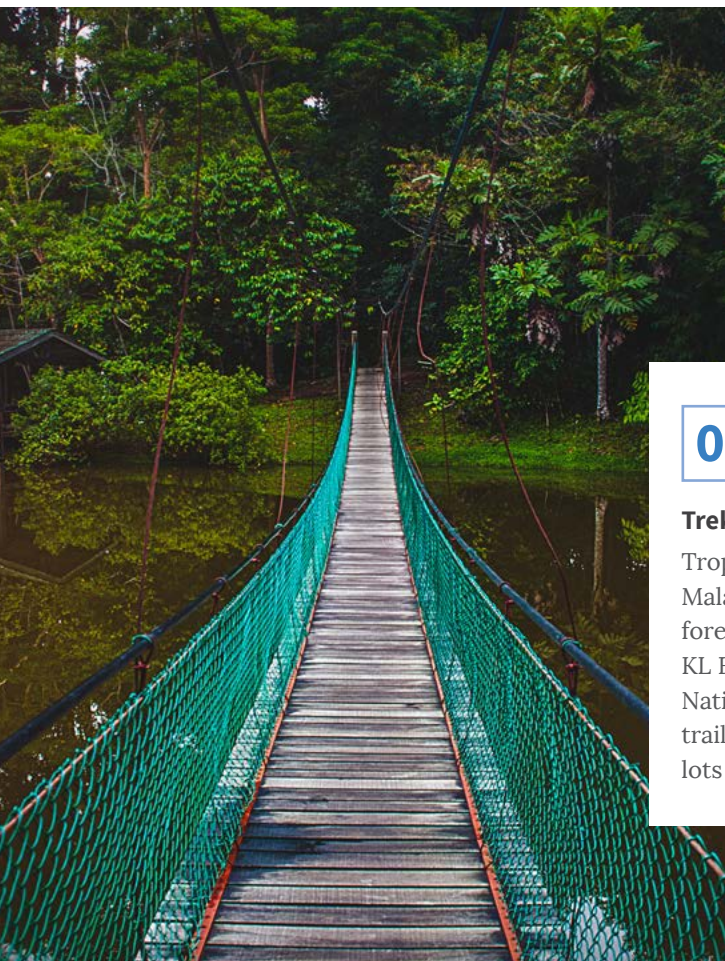
Hike to Mount Kinabalu

Being the highest mountain in Malaysia with the height of 4,095 metres, this destination offers a challenging yet worthy experience for hiking lovers. While conquering the summit requires exceptional levels of physical and mental strengths, travellers can always enjoy the surrounding botanical and biodiversity with a short trek.

03

Trek through tropical forests

Tropical forests are one of the specialties that Malaysia has to offer. There are numerous forests that one can choose to explore including KL Forest Eco-Park in Kuala Lumpur, Penang National Park and Danum Valley in Sabah. The trails typically feature exotic canopy walkways, lots of living species and amazing scenery.





04

Take a cable car to the Sky Bridge

Not only having charming beaches, but Langkawi island is also famous for the Sky Bridge and the cable car carrying passengers up and down. From the Sky Bridge as well as in the cable car, visitors will have breath-taking views of the island with green forests, white beaches and blue oceans.



05

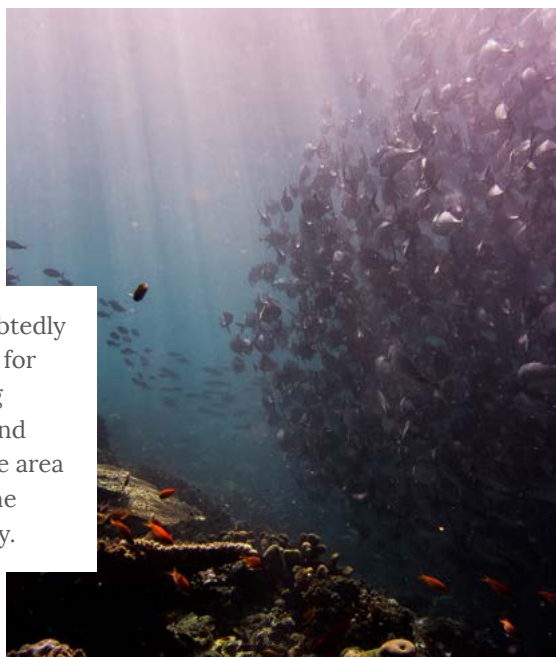
Observe orangutans

Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, located 25km north of Sandakan, is the first one of its kind in the world. The facility is established to support orphaned or injured orangutans before releasing them back to nature. Visitors will have a chance to watch feeding sessions and learn more about these clever species.

06

Diving in Sipadan Island

Located in Sabah State, Borneo, this island is undoubtedly the best place in Malaysia and arguably in the world for diving. There are schools of whirling barracudas, big sea turtles, sharks, more than 3000 species of fish and hundreds of coral species. The underwater life in the area is just simply stunning. There's no inhabitation on the island and only 120 divers are allowed to dive per day.



INSIGHTS

Getting a Visa

Travellers coming to Malaysia for leisure purposes usually apply for the single entry visa.

Type	Visa On Arrival	Visa Before Arrival	E-visa
What	Apply at the airport.	Apply at Malaysian embassy.	Apply online.
Pros		Save time at the airport.	100% online application.
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only residents from China and India are eligible. Must arrive from Indonesia, Singapore or Thailand, and hold a valid visa of those countries. Queue up at the airport. 	Must apply in person, except for residents from India and China.	Only residents from specific countries are eligible. Refer to www.imi.gov.my/index.php/en/visa/evisa.html

Living Costs

	Low Range USD 25/day	Mid Range USD 45-75/day	High Range From USD 120/day
 USD 8-12/night Hostels or dorms	USD 25-50/night Standard hotels	From USD 90/night Premium hotels	
 USD 0.5/ride Public transportation	USD 0.75-1/km Taxi	USD 0.75-1/ride Taxi	
 USD 2-3/meal Economical vendors	USD 7-10/meal Decent restaurants	From USD 30/meal Premium restaurants	

Local Money

Local currency can be exchanged at the banks or authorized agencies.

Popular banks are Citibank, Maybank, CIMB Bank, and Public Bank Berhad.

**Do not make any transaction at unauthorized shops. There's a fine and the difference is not worth it.*

***1 ringgit = 100 sen.*



50 sen



20 sen



10 sen



5 sen



1 ringgit



5 ringgit



10 ringgit



20 ringgit



50 ringgit



100 ringgit

MOVING AROUND



AIRLINES

Common domestic airlines include Air Asia, Malaysia Airlines, Firefly, Malindo Air, MASwing, and Berjaya Air.

Malaysian Airlines, Air Asia and Malindo Air tend to have larger planes and offers more comforts than the rest. The prices among the airlines are very competitive.



FERRY

There are many ferry routes connecting the islands within the territory. Popular destinations commutable by ferries are Langkawi, Penang, Port Klang, Kuantan, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu. A one-way trip Penang-Langkawi may cost ^{USD}15.



TAXI

Traditional taxis in Malaysia are not very common due to the fact that passengers usually have to negotiate the price to avoid over-pricing. App-based services like Uber/Grab are more popular, especially in big cities, as they are easier to track costs. A local phone number may be required to use the app.



BUS

In Kuala Lumpur, tourists can use the Go KL City Bus for free to commute around CBD to popular attractions. Regular bus service may cost USD0.7 per ride.

For inter-city, the busses are generally quite comfortable. For booking, please refer to www.easybook.com.



TRAINS

There are multiple train networks covering the country and they operate individually. In Kuala Lumpur, a ticket may cost USD0.25-0.75 per ride. For long-distance route, it is best to consult the staff at the stations for schedule and fares. It is worth noting that they generally have so great air-conditioning that passengers may even feel cold.



TRISHAWS

Travellers may find trishaws (three-wheel cycled vehicles) as a means of getting around. While it is not the fastest option, passengers enjoy the views on the way. This is also one of the must-try experience in Malacca.

FEELING

Malays. Chinese. Indians.

HUNGRY?

01 Fatty Rice (Nasi Lemak)

Best place to get: Anywhere

A dish contains white rice soaked in coconut cream then steamed to reach a standard flavour and topped with hot spicy sauce (sambal), boiled egg, cuttle-fish and cucumber slices.



02 Satay

Best place to get: Anywhere

Grilled meat (chicken, beef or lamb) marinated with a blend of local spices. This goes very well with spicy nut sauce or sambal.



03 Simmering Pork Rib (Bak-kut-the)

Best place to get: Anywhere

The herbal soup consists of pork ribs simmered in a broth of herbs and spices (including, filled with mushroom, fried tofu and choy sum (vegetables).



04 Banana Leaf Rice

Best place to get: Anywhere

Rice served on a banana leaf with a selection of meat, vegetables, curry and pickles. This dish originates from Indian and supposed to be eaten by hands.

05 Sweet dessert (Cendol)

Best place to get: Anywhere

This traditional dessert is made from rice flour, palm sugar, coconut milk, and jelly. There may be other ingredients added to balance the sweetness.



STAY HEALTHY

Malaysia's healthcare system is high-standard and there are many good clinics and international-standard hospitals in Kuala Lumpur. In general, water sanitation and food hygiene are safe. However, you should bring the anti-diarrhea medication along with you. In an emergency, you must quickly get transferred to the nearest medical centres for treatment and advice. We highly recommend that all travellers should purchase travel insurance for peace of mind.



EMERGENCY DIAL

999
POLICE

994
FIRE

999
MEDIC



STAY CONNECTED

A prepaid SIM card can be provided for free. Travellers will only have to pay for the top-up. It may cost ^{USD}2 for ^{USD}1.25 credits and 1GB of data (U Mobile).

Popular Network Providers are Maxis, Cellcom, Digi, and U Mobile.

STAY SAFE

Heat exhaustion: Malaysia weather is hot all year round so it is recommended to always bring a bottle of water, wear a hat and use sunscreen to avoid the risks of heatstroke.

Pickpockets and theft: To avoid becoming a victim, only carry small cash amounts and stay cautious when entering crowded areas.



CULTURE

FESTIVAL

➤ Chinese New Year

February - Nationwide

As the biggest holiday of Malaysia, Chinese New Year is annually held on the first day of the Chinese Lunar Calendar. This is the time when the whole country is at its busiest and all the streets get decorated in red. This time of the year is for families to reunite and have fun together. There are traditional lion dance performances, sparkling fireworks and the lucky red packets all over the place.

➤ Dragon Boat Festival

December - Nationwide

The festival is held annually at the Teluk Bahang dam near Georgetown. There are 40 competitors from Malaysia and across the world participating in the event. The team will race in colourful boats and under the fast-paced beats of the drums. During the festival, people can enjoy lots of local delicacies and cheerful crowds.



➤ Mid-Autumn Festival

September - Nationwide

Also called the Lantern Festival, this event is to celebrate after a bountiful harvest and thank the goddess for protecting the crops. During this time, colourful lanterns and dragon dances light up the streets. People enjoy a special food called “moon cake”, representing the unity between family and society.



ETIQUETTES



Stay local. Stay right

#1

Greet with a “salam”, which is a handshake with both hands. However, you always wait for others to extend their hands, especially women and elders.

#2

Dress in a conservative manner, especially when entering a mosque.

#3

Remove your shoes when entering a Malaysian's house and sacred places.

#4

Avoid expressing intimacy in public like hugging or kissing. Due to the predominantly Muslim culture, these types of contact are not encouraged in public.

#5

Tipping is not mandatory.

#6

When giving gifts to Malays, avoid alcohol, dogs or pigs related stuff, and white or yellow wrapping.

#7

When giving gifts to Chinese, avoid flowers, white or black wraps, and cutting utensils (knives or scissors).

#8

When giving to Indians, avoid leather products, alcohol, and white or black wraps.

#9

For Muslim, no alcohol or pork, and only “halal” certified restaurants. For Hindus, no beef.

#10

Malaysian may laugh to cover their discomfort. Society discourages shouting or reacting aggressively in public.



TRAVEL AGENCY

Employed by Asia travel experts, Asia Vacation Group understands deeply WHERE to go, WHAT to do, and HOW to take your holiday to the fullest



Best Prices



7-day Money Back



100% Departure Guarantee

Our tours typically include



Flights



Accommodation



Selective Meals



Transportation



Sightseeing



Tour Guides

**Prices are on per person twin share basis and subject to change without notice.*



12 Day Malaysia Tour with Langkawi Beach Break

Tour Code AMLB1-12

Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, Cameron Highlands, Penang, and Langkawi.

- Enjoy a half day city tour of vibrant Kuala Lumpur.
- Immerse yourself in the coastal buzz of Penang.
- Take in the stunning scenery of the Cameron Highlands.
- Relax on the beautiful beaches of Langkawi.



11 Day Best of Borneo

Tour Code ABN01-11

Kota Kinabalu, Selingan Island, Sepilok, and Sukau.

- Trek through the jungle trail and swim on Gaya Island, the biggest island of Tunku Abdul Rahman Park.
- Soak in the rejuvenating hot sulphur public pools in Kipunghit Waterfall.
- Visit some of the most eminent centres including Sepilok Orang Rehabilitation Centre, Borneo Sun Bear Conservation Centre and Rainforest Discovery Centre.

Have your own itinerary in mind?

Call us today and let us make your desired journey come alive. Our travel experts are always waiting for you.

TRAVEL HACKS

the CHECKLIST for PACKING

You don't need to pack your whole apartment into your luggage...



Documents

- ☐ Passport with at least 6 months expiry date.
- ☐ Visa documents.
 - ☐ E-tickets or printed ticket.
 - ☐ Hotel list.
 - ☐ Tour itinerary.



Clothes

- ☐ Tshirts, shorts.
- ☐ Swimsuit.
- ☐ Jackets.
- ☐ Hat or cap.



Electronics

- ☐ Chargers.
- ☐ Electrical adapter and converter.
- ☐ Camera kit, including batteries and memory cards.
- ☐ Phone, earphones.



Medicines

- ☐ Cold/Flu, Diarrhea, Pain Relief,
- ☐ Allergy.
- ☐ Prescription drug with label and doses description.
- ☐ Sunscreen and insect spray.



Money

- ☐ Foreign currency in cash.
- ☐ Credit card (Mastercard or Visa are more widely accepted).



Packing Gears

- ☐ 1 check-in luggage (up to 20/30kg).
- ☐ 1 carry-on luggage (up to 7kg).
- ☐ 1 small travel bag/backpack.



Shoes

- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes.
- ☐ Sandals.



Accessories

- ☐ Sunglasses.
- ☐ Umbrella.
- ☐ Hat or cap.



Toiletries

- ☐ Toothbrush and toothpaste.
- ☐ Soap/shower gel.
- ☐ Feminine product.
- ☐ Hand sanitizer or wet wipe.

TRAVEL HACKS

ON THE GO

SURVIVAL TIPS



SOUVENIRS

For those who do not want to get home empty handed.

- Batik fabric (Kuala Lumpur).
- Pewter goods (Kuala Lumpur).
- Durian Cakes & Chocolate (anywhere).
- Pearls (Sabah).

TALK LOCAL

Some common Malaysian phrases that may come in handy.

English	Malaysian
Hello	Hello
Thank you	te-ree-mah ka-seh
Sorry	Sa-ya min-ta ma
Yes	yah
No	Tee-dak



TREKKING

Trekking is a common activity in the country due to the existence of many forests and parks.

- Go with companions, just in case you in help.
- No trespassing means no trespassing.
- Avoid trekking during rainy seasons. Landslide is a big threat.
- Follow the designated trails.
- For elevated routes, bring extra clothes.
- Bring food, water and first aid equipment.



BOOKING FORM

Please fill in the form below and kindly send them to our office. Our address is on the last page of this guide.

SECTION 1: TRIP DETAILS

1. Which tour do you want to book?
.....

2. Preferred room type
☐ Twin ☐ Double ☐ Triple

3. Where will you depart from?
☐ Sydney ☐ Melbourne ☐ Brisbane
☐ Adelaide ☐ Canberra ☐ Perth
☐ Auckland ☐ Other (Please specify below)
.....

4. Would you like to purchase travel insurance
☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Preferred Flight Class
☐ Economy ☐ Premium Economy
☐ Business ☐ First Class

6. When do you want to travel
..... (dd/mm/yyyy)

7. Number of passengers
.....

8. Add-on Tours (Please name all of them)
.....
.....
.....

9. Special Request (transport, a ccommodation, etc)
.....
.....
.....

* Final price will vary based on your selections. But don't worry, you are still having the best rates possible

SECTION 2: LEAD PASSENGER

10. First Name

11. Middle Name

12. Last Name

13. Street Address 1

14. City

15. State

16. Postal Code

17. Street Address 2

18. Country

19. Nationality

20. Email Address

21. Phone Number

SECTION 3: OTHER INFORMATION

22. Would you like to hear about our latest offers and promotions? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Terms & Agreement (Please read carefully)
If submitted by one party only, I confirm that i am authorized to sign on behalf of all pasengers listed on this booking form.
All parties have read, understood and agree to abide by the terms, booking conditions and responsibilities.

Your signature

Today's Date:...../...../.....

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Reservation & Deposit

Tour prices are subject to availability of tour, airlines, special economy class fare and specific airfare class availability. All services are subject to availability.

Typically, a deposit (from \$199 per passenger) is required within three (3) days of receiving confirmation that the company is holding space for you. Actual amount of deposit may vary depending on tours. *Note that Private Tours and Tailor-Made Tours require a 30% deposit.* Passenger names must be provided exactly as per passport, including middle names, at the time of deposit/booking. Any spelling corrections made after a deposit is paid must be sent in writing and will incur additional fees, including any ticket reissue fees. Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to correct any errors in rates quoted or calculated, or any commissions made at any time during your booking. Any verbal quote given is an indication only of the final price and is subject to confirmation in writing.

Amenments & Extra Fees

The following fees will apply:

- Amendments to confirmed and deposited itineraries outside of 30 days prior to departure where the value of the booking is decreased: \$50 per change for admin fee.
- Transferring between tours (within 75 days): See "Cancellation by Customer" for applicable fees and details.
- Reissue of airline tickets: From \$100 per person.
- Once a booking is confirmed, name transfers may incur additional charges.

Cancellation by Customers

All cancellations must be made in writing to Asia Vacation Group and will be subject to the following cancellation charges from the date the written cancellation is received:

- If airline and rail tickets are issued, up to 100% of the airfare and rail fare surcharged.
- If your booking is made with the Budget airlines, up to 100% of package tour.
- If customer wants to change the travel dates and visa issued,

up to 100% of visa fee.

- More than 75 days prior to departure: loss of deposit plus any administration fees
- Between 74 and 59 days prior to departure: 25% of total cost
- Between 58 and 46 days prior to departure: 50% of total cost
- 45 days or less prior to departure: 100% of total cost
- Any "No Show": 100% of total cost

In the event of a cancellation any refunds will be less administration fees and any applicable amendment fees. Asia Vacation Group will endeavour to recover as much as possible from suppliers to pass on to the customer. Regrettably cancellation charges and fees cannot be waived. There can be no exceptions. No refund will be made for any unused portions of the holiday after the departure date. Please note that employees of any overseas company or staff of Asia Vacation Group outside Australia are not authorised to give any guarantees or agreements to customers in respect of refunds or any other matters.

Cancellation by the Company

Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to cancel or vary a tour prior to departure due to insufficient numbers. In such an event, alternative guaranteed travel dates will be offered. Should these options not be acceptable Asia Vacation Group will refund the full price paid, less visa cost. If a tour is cancelled or varied prior to departure due to unforeseeable circumstances such as, but not restricted to, severe weather conditions or force majeure, Asia Vacation Group will refund all monies prior to departure less visa cost, fuel surcharge and any other cancellation fees levied by airlines and other third parties. Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, adverse weather, flight rescheduling, hotel overbooking and faults with transportation or road conditions may also have an effect on the tour itinerary after the commencement date. Any decision made in respect of tour services by independent operators to re-route or amend the itinerary due to any of the above or similar circumstances

is at the discretion of the tour service provider and Asia Vacation Group will not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events.

Responsibilities

Asia Vacation Group acts as a co-ordinator for all persons taking these tours in the making of all arrangements for transportation, sightseeing and hotel accommodation. The Company does not own, manage, control or operate any transportation vehicle, any hotel or restaurant or any other supplier of services. All receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier and all services are subject to the laws of the country where the services are provided. The Company acts only as an agent for the owners, contractors and suppliers of transportation and/or other related travel services provided and assumes no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to baggage or property or for any injury, illness or death or for any damages or claims whatsoever caused arising directly or indirectly from accidents, loss, theft or damage to person or property, delays, transport failure, strikes, wars and uprisings or acts of God etc. over which the Company has no control. We strongly urge all customers to undertake a high level of personal responsibility in order to ensure that possessions, equipment and personal documents are closely monitored and protected at all times.

Privacy

We are collecting your personal information so that we can process your booking. We will also keep you up to date with other Asia Vacation Group's offers and product information that may be of interest to you if you have consented to this. You can opt out of receiving information at any time if you choose to do so. Any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with Asia Vacation Group's privacy policy.



We are living in a connected world.



AUSTRALIA HEADQUARTERS

ABN 74 608 656 800

Suite 902, 11 Queens Road, Melbourne VIC 3004

Toll free: 1800 22 93 39

Outside Australia: +61 3 9988 3029

support@asiavacationgroup.com.au

www.asiavacationgroup.com.au

NEW ZEALAND OFFICE

NZBN 9429046951151

Level 1, 2 Heather Street, Parnell, Auckland 1502

Hotline: 0800 49 1987

Outside New Zealand: +64 212 49 1987

sales@asiavacationgroup.co.nz

www.asiavacationgroup.co.nz

You
NEVER
have to travel
ALONE

