



Hello Readers!

No. 2/2016  
What's on in  
February?

Happy Federal Territory Day to Malaysians living and working in Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur and Labuan. It is always celebrated on the first day of February and is a public holiday for those three territories.

February is also the month of Chinese New Year and Penang has got a whole month of events lined up to celebrate this special occasion.

The annual World Kite Festival in Johor offers creative and beautiful kite displays from all over the world, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> Penang Hot Air Balloon Fiesta will give you the opportunity to see George Town World Heritage Site from a bird's eye view.

There's also culture and tradition being celebrated during the Mah Meri Ancestor Day and National Craft Day.

Sports-wise, the Le Tour de Langkawi is considered Asia's ultimate challenge where the top 11 teams from Europe will be pitting their skills and endurance against 11 of Asia's best.

For some, the month of February is the month of love. So, celebrate your love in the bustling city of Kuala Lumpur or at any of the romantic hideouts throughout the country.

**Azizah Aziz**  
**Director of Corporate Communication**  
**Tourism Malaysia**

### **Miri Country Music Festival 2016**

Here's a festival for both the young and the old, and definitely for country music lovers!

After a successful inaugural event in 2014, followed by a longer list of performers and bigger crowd in 2015, the Miri Country Music Festival 2016 will take place on 27 February 2016. Think country and western music, think cowboys and cowgirls – minus the cattles and horses! Yes, the Miri Country Music Festival is a place for all walks of life at the Parkcity Everly Hotel along Brighton Beach in Miri. Come fully dressed for the occasion. Yeehaawww!

**Date: 27 February 2016**  
**Time: 3 pm**  
**Venue: Parkcity Everly Hotel Miri, Malaysia**  
**Organiser: Planet Conventions and Events (PLACE)**  
**Contact: +6082-412100**  
**Website: [www.miricountrymusic.com](http://www.miricountrymusic.com)**





### Chinese New Year Celebration 2016 in Penang



It has become a norm for Penangites to take to the streets and soak in the festive Chinese New Year mood throughout the island with friends and family.

Celebrate the Chinese New Year in Penang on 13 February and you will get to visit the ancient ancestral temples of different clans, experience traditional and cultural games and performances, etc.

Enjoy mouth-watering street food and tantalizing treats along with impressive stage performances, art and cultural exhibitions, and thrilling street performances by the buskers.

**Date: 13 February 2016**

**Venue: Various locations in Penang**

**Organiser: Penang State Government & Clan Association Youth Committee Penang.**

**Contact: +604-262 1957 / +604-264 5576**

**Website: [www.penang.gov.my](http://www.penang.gov.my)**

### World Kite Festival 2016



If someone told you to “go and fly kites”, there is a place to do that! Some 900 participants will be doing exactly that at the World Kite Festival held at Bukit Layang-Layang, Pasir Gudang, Johor, from 24 to 28 February 2016. This year’s theme, “Explore Tradition and Colours”, is sure to challenge professional and amateur kite-flyers to showcase their skills in kite design and flying.

So come by and bring your family and friends because the skies over Pasir Gudang in Johor will be filled with beautiful, colourful and unique kite creations during the World Kite Festival 2016. Some kites look too huge to even make the lift-off, but do not be surprised that when they do, they will fly beautifully! Be enchanted by the amazing variety of kites while you enjoy parades, contests, kite-flying demonstrations and displays.

**Date: 24 to 28 February 2016**

**Venue: Bukit Layang-Layang, Pasir Gudang, Johor**

**Organiser: Pasir Gudang Municipal Council**

**Contact: +607-254 7777**

**Email: [mppg@johor.gov.my](mailto:mppg@johor.gov.my)**

### Penang Hot Air Ballon Fiesta

The Penang Hot Air Balloon Fiesta (HAB Fiesta) returns for the second time! Here's another chance for you to float above the Padang Polo (Polo Ground) in Penang on a hot air balloon. Be sure to mark your calendars on 9 and 10 February 2016, i.e. the second and third day of Chinese New Year.

It will be a one-of-a-kind experience as it is the only hot air balloon festival on an island in Malaysia. Giving you a sense of freedom to discover breath-taking sights of Penang that you will not normally see, the fiesta will have 15 international and local hot air balloons over the two-day festival. Aside from balloon displays, there will be 'night glow' shows, free flying balloons, cold inflation, and other family-friendly activities, creative workshops, and many other exciting activities!

**Date: 9 to 10 February 2016**

**Venue: Padang Polo, Penang**

**Time: 7 am to 9.30 pm**

**Organiser: Penang Global Tourism**

**Contact: +604-264 3456**

**Website: [penangglobaltourism.com](http://penangglobaltourism.com)**



### Le Tour de Langkawi 2016

Le Tour de Langkawi 2016 will see 22 teams racing in "Asia's Ultimate Challenge" from 24 February to 2 March. It's a battleground where the top 11 teams from Europe will compete against 11 of Asia's best. The race goes through Perlis, Kedah, Perak, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Putrajaya, Negeri Sembilan, Johor and ending up at Melaka.

Organised by Cislita Sports Sdn Bhd, the 21st edition is set to cover more than 1000 km over eight stages. This time the race will kick off from Taman Merdeka, Jalan Tun Abdul Razak, Kangar, Perlis on 24 February for an eight-day journey to Dataran Pahlawan, Melaka.

**Date: 24 February to 2 March 2016**

**Venue: From Perlis to Melaka**

**Organiser: Cislita Sports Sdn Bhd**

**Contact: +603-7832 6064**

**Website: [www.ltdl.com.my](http://www.ltdl.com.my)**



### Malaysia Chinese New Year Open House



Chinese New Year is an annual celebration marking the start of the year according to the Chinese calendar. Chinese New Year always falls in the months of January or February, and each year is represented by one of the 12 creatures of the Chinese Zodiac – 2016 is the year of the Monkey. The Lunar New Year is celebrated with lion dances and mandarin oranges. Experience the festivities at the Malaysia Chinese New Year Open House event, a programme that brings people together to celebrate the country's various festivals in line with the spirit of 1Malaysia. Enjoy cultural performances and traditional delicacies. All are invited to this free event.

**Date:** 27 February 2016

**Venue:** Dataran Sibu, Sarawak

**Organiser:** Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia

**Contact:** +603-8000 8000

**Website:** [www.motac.gov.my](http://www.motac.gov.my)

### Mah Meri Ancestors Day

Mah Meri Ancestors Day is a celebration of the greatness of the indigenous peoples of the Mah Meri tribe especially in Kampung Orang Asli Sungai Bumbun, Carey Island, Selangor.

Experience their lifestyle and celebrations as they give thanks to the spirits for all the good things that had been bestowed upon them.

The day is celebrated by offering prayers and blessings to their ancestors for prosperity of family, population and also shelter.

Special traditional dances called Mayin Jo-oh will be performed, where the men will wear wooden masks and dance with movements to reflect their daily routine which includes fishing and farming while the women make music from bamboo, viola, drum and brass gongs. Tourists can also visit the handicraft centre to see Mah Meri's unique craft works.

**Date:** 26 February 2016

**Venue:** Mah Meri Cultural Village, Carey Island, Selangor

**Organiser:** Mah Meri Cultural Village

**Contact:** +6010-2522 800

**Email:** [mmcvinfo@gmail.com](mailto:mmcvinfo@gmail.com)



### Kek Lok Si Display of Lights

Have you ever been to Penang's iconic temple? If not, 'Kek Lok Si' or the Temple of Supreme Bliss is said to be the largest Buddhist complex in Southeast Asia, and arguably one of the most famous in Penang. The 124-year-old Kek Lok Si Temple itself has always been a tourist attraction in Penang but the annual display of lights is always a crowd-puller, attracting tourists from all around the world and locals as well.



Kek Lok Si has started preparing for its annual lighting ceremony. This year, the temple will be lighted up five days before the first day of Chinese New Year and will continue to be lighted up every night from 3 February until 7 March 2016, showcasing more than 10,000 lights. The lighting of the temple symbolizes peace, luck and prosperity. Come to witness and enjoy the atmosphere of spectacular lights at the holy temple.

There are also several celebrations that you can explore and enjoy in Penang such as Festival Cheng Chooi Chor Soo Kong Birthday, Prosperity Yusheng, Pai Ti Kong Festival and Chap Goh Meh Celebration during the festive season of Chinese New Year.

**Date:** 3 February to 7 March 2016

**Venue:** Kek Lok Si Temple, Penang

**Organiser:** Kek Lok Si Temple and Penang State Tourism Development

**Contact:** +604-828 3317 (KLST) and 04-650 5136 (PSTD)

**Website:** [kekloksitemple.com](http://kekloksitemple.com)

### National Craft Day 2016

National Craft Day 2016 Malaysia is organised at the Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex from 24 February till 6 March this year. This is a chance for craft lovers and tourists to come and explore the many different Malaysian crafts on display and on sale here, including ceramic, silver, pewter, wood, and batik products.

Visit the permanent exhibits to learn more about the history and tradition of Malaysian craft. There are also craft demonstrations, cultural performances and interactive craft workshops.

**Date:** 24 February to 6 March 2016

**Time:** 10 am to 10 pm

**Venue:** Kuala Lumpur Craft Complex

**Organiser:** Perbadanan Kemajuan Kraftangan Malaysia

**Contact:** +603-2162 7533

**Website:** [www.kraftangan.gov.my](http://www.kraftangan.gov.my)





## A HEAVENLY VACATION ON PERHENTIAN ISLAND, MALAYSIA



Off the east coast of Malaysia is the Perhentian Island, or Pulau Perhentian in Malay, which is very accessible from Kuala Lumpur.

As its name suggests (perhentian means “stopover”), the island is a resting place not only for the fishermen who go out to sea for weeks on end, but also for visitors looking for a beautiful island retreat.

The Perhentian Island is actually made up of two islands in the South China Sea – Pulau Perhentian Besar (Big island) and Pulau Perhentian Kecil (Small island). Both offer tourists a range of accommodation options from budget chalets to resorts and everything in between. Food and beverage outlets are also plenty.



The Perhentian Island is ideal for snorkelling and diving activities and visitors are able to appreciate the natural beauty of the underwater world at some thirteen dive sites around the islands. Sightings of stingrays, black corals, moray eels, reef sharks and colourful fishes are the norm. Between April and September, turtles of the Green and Hawksbill variety come up to lay eggs.

There are numerous dive resorts on both the small and big islands that can organize diving trips and cater to the demands of divers. They offer affordable PADI or NAUI courses from beginners up to dive master levels.

The best time to go to Perhentian Island is between March and September when weather is at its best to appreciate the blue seas and sunny skies!

**All information is correct at time of publication.**

**Visitors are advised to contact the event organiser for the latest updates.**

For more media releases, media info and media features on Malaysia's tourism industry, kindly visit the Media Centre of Tourism Malaysia's website at [tourismmalaysia.gov.my](http://tourismmalaysia.gov.my).

MALAYSIA TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD OR TOURISM MALAYSIA is an agency under the Ministry of Tourism & Culture, Malaysia. Tourism Malaysia focuses on the specific task of promoting Malaysia at all levels. Since its inception, Tourism Malaysia has grown by leaps and bounds and it has emerged as a major player in the international tourism scene. In 2014, Malaysia registered 27.4 million tourist arrivals and RM72 billion in receipts, making tourism its second largest foreign exchange earner.

Malaysia celebrated its fourth VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR (VMY) in 2014 with the theme "Celebrating 1Malaysia Truly Asia". The promotion of the country continued with the MALAYSIA YEAR OF FESTIVALS (MyFEST) campaign in 2015 with the theme "Endless Celebrations" emphasising the various festivals celebrated by its multicultural society. Both campaigns are key drivers towards achieving the country's target of 36 million tourist arrivals and RM168 billion in receipts by 2020, as outlined in the Tourism NKEA (National Key Economic Area).

Through the Tourism NKEA, collaborative efforts between the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, other Government agencies and the private sector have been enhanced to help secure Malaysia's position as a leading tourist destination. The targets set under the Tourism NKEA will be achieved through the implementation of twelve Entry Point Projects (EPPs) clustered under five themes: Affordable Luxury; Nature Adventure; Family Fun; Events, Entertainment, Spa and Sports; and Business Tourism.

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***For more information on Malaysia please contact Tourism Malaysia Overseas Offices or Tourist Information Centres (TIC) at your respective states, countries or region.***