



Experience Malaysia

a monthly newsletter by Communications & Publicity Division, Tourism Malaysia

No. 1/2015

What's on in February?

Dear readers,

Malaysia is certainly a country blessed with many cultural celebrations and holidays. In this second month of the Malaysia Year of Festivals 2015, we see the celebration of the Federal Territory Day on 1 Feb which is typically marked with street parades; Thaipusam on 3 February; and the Chinese New Year on 19 and 20 February. Certainly, February will be a month of culture that tourists to Malaysia will appreciate!

Malaysians, too, will get to enjoy long stretches of public holidays to “balik kampung” or go for a short holiday nearby.

To give you some ideas of what to do this month, here’s a line-up of well-balanced events for tourists, both local and foreign, to enjoy in Malaysia. Plan your trip well, or engage the services of a licensed tour operator/travel agent.

Happy Holidays!

Mohmed Razip Hasan
Director, Communications and Publicity
Tourism Malaysia

Thaipusam

Customarily, Thaipusam is celebrated during the month of Thai in the Hindu calendar (January 15 – February 15) at an astronomically significant point of time. This year, the Hindu devotees in Malaysia will celebrate Thaipusam on 3 February.

During this day, the Hindu temple at Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur, will be a hive of activity as it becomes the centre of the largest religious gatherings. Hindu devotees from all over the world will come and celebrate the festival in Batu Caves, beginning with an 8-hour procession from the Kuala Lumpur city centre to the cave temple, bearing offerings as simple as milk in pots to elaborate *kavadis* carried on their shoulders.

Organiser: Batu Caves Hindu Association
Date: 03 February 2015
Venue: Batu Caves, Selayang, Selangor
Contact: 03 61896284
Website: batu_caves@malaysia.com

Penang Hot Air Balloon Fiesta 2015



For the first time in Penang, a one-of-a-kind experience can be found at the Penang Hot Air Balloon Fiesta. There will be 15 hot air balloons over the two-day festival and they will float against the picturesque backdrop of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of George Town. Besides the impressive hot air balloons, there will also be family-friendly activities such as fun inflatable playgrounds, creative workshops, photography competition and more!

Organiser: Supported by the Penang State Government with the cooperation of the Municipal Council of Penang Island & Penang Global Tourism

Date: 21 – 22 February 2015

Venue: Padang Polo

Contact: +6 04 264 3456

Website: www.mypenang.gov.my/hab

World Kite Festival 2015

The skies over Pasir Gudang in Johor will be filled with beautiful, colourful and unique kite creations during the World Kite Festival 2015, said to be the largest in Asia. Some kites look too huge to even make the lift-off, but don't be surprised that when they do, they will fly beautifully!

Kite enthusiasts from all over the world gather at this annual event and they certainly take their kite-making and kite-flying activities seriously! Last year, 180 kite-flyers from 25 countries took part, all wanting to show off their latest creations and kite-flying technology! Be enchanted by the amazing variety of kites while you enjoy parades, contests, kite-flying demonstrations, displays as well as an assortment of food.



Organiser: Pasir Gudang Municipal Council

Date: 25 February 2015 – 1 March 2015

Venue: Bukit Layang-Layang, Taman Bandar Pasir Gudang, Johor

Contact: +6 07 251 3720

Website: www.mppg.gov.my



Johor Bahru Jazz Fest 2015

The Johor Society for the Performing Arts (JSPA), organisers of eleven years of the JB Arts Festival, is proud to present a new event set to bring live, improvised music sure to quicken the pulse of jazz fans around the region – The Johor Bahru Jazz Fest 2015.

Living legends are coming to JB to entertain you! The JB Jazz Fest 2015 will feature world-class saxophonist Sadao Watanabe, Italian acapella group Mezzotono, along with well-known jazz names from around the region such as Steve Thornton, Jeremy Monteiro and Alberto Marsico with the Jazz-Blues Brothers, The David Gomes Jazz Ensemble with Junji Delfino, together with Xiong Quintet.

Tickets will be available at www.ticketpro.com.my from mid-January onwards. Don't miss the special early-bird promotions.

Organiser: The Johor Society for Performing Arts
Date: 26 – 28 February 2015
Venue: Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
Contact: +6 019 713 9900
Website: www.facebook.com/events/1611264682428463/

Malaysian Chinese New Year Open House Celebration

This is when the Chinese usher in the Lunar New Year with lion dances and mandarin oranges. Experience the festivities in an “open house” celebration, a programme that brings people together to celebrate the country's various festivals in line with the spirit of 1Malaysia. Guests will be enthralled by cultural performances and traditional delicacies. All are invited to this free event!

Organiser: Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC)
No. 2, Tower 1, Jalan P5/6, Precint 5, 62200 Putrajaya
Date: 28 February 2015
Venue: Teluk Intan, Perak
Contact: +6 03 8000 8000 / +6 03 8891 7100
Website: www.motac.gov.my



Penangites' CNY Celebration

Welcome the Chinese year of the goat with various activities and performances around the heritage area of George Town. The celebration promotes the Penang Chinese community's intangible heritage like its cultural practices, religious festivals, traditional arts and performances, cuisine and more.

Learn about the various clan associations and their history in Penang, the process of making traditional snacks and dishes, Chinese chess, calligraphy, music and martial arts. Witness art and craft demonstrations of making Chinese knots, printmaking, opera mask making as well as enjoy snake shows, traditional poem presentations and more.



Organiser: Penang State Government & Penang Chinese Clan Council

Date: 28 February 2014

Venue: The Heritage Precincts of George Town

Contact: +6 04 262 1957 / +6 04 264 2020

Website: www.penang.gov.my



New Attraction! The China-Malaysia Friendship Garden

To celebrate the good bilateral relations between Malaysia and China, the China-Malaysia Friendship Garden was built recently in Putrajaya, Malaysia's administrative city centre. The design of the garden is in the style of the Lingnan Garden that emphasises the elements of mountain, water, stone, building, calligraphy and plants.

A stroll in this serene lake-side garden will bring one to appreciate the unique flowers and plants, architecture, courtyard, pavilion and scenery, which all stand as a testimony to the long-lasting friendship between China and Malaysia.

Location: Anjung Floria, Precinct 4, Putrajaya

Product Owner: Putrajaya Floria Sdn Bhd

Contact: General line +603 8887 7137

Mr. Ariff Yunus (+6016 208 2042/ ariff@ppj.gov.my)

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All information is correct at time of publication. Visitors are advised to contact the event organiser for the latest updates.

ENDS

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 <http://www.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 2013, Malaysia registered 25.7 million tourist arrivals and RM65.4 billion in receipts, making tourism its second largest foreign exchange earner and the sixth highest contributor to its Gross National Income (GNI).

Malaysia celebrated its fourth **VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR (VMY)** in 2014 with the theme "Celebrating 1Malaysia Truly Asia". The promotion of the country continues with the **MALAYSIA YEAR OF FESTIVALS (MyFEST)** campaign this year 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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