

Experience Malaysia

a monthly newsletter by Communications & Publicity Division, Tourism Malaysia

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What's on in March?

Hello Readers!

Here comes March! How time flies by! If it's March, it must be time for the Formula 1 Malaysian Grand Prix and 1Malaysia GP Sale – a great month for lots of action on Malaysia's racing and shopping circuits!

Besides these two signature tourism events, March is also the month for multi-coloured hot air balloons in various shapes and sizes to take to the Putrajaya skies in the annual Putrajaya International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta. Meanwhile, the Le Tour de Langkawi 2015 race from Langkawi to Kuala Lumpur will keep cycling fans on the edge of their seats.

Besides sports, culture enthusiasts will have plenty to fill their days with events such as the Mah Meri Ancestors Day Festival, Chap Goh Mei Celebration, and Chingay Parade Festival.

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.

The Editorial Unit
Communications & Publicity Division
Tourism Malaysia



Putrajaya International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta (HABF)

Enjoy a spectacular scenery as beautiful helium balloons decorate the Putrajaya's skyline during the Putrajaya International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta. Photo enthusiasts and selfie lovers will have the time of their lives snapping away during this colorful spectacle, while other visitors can experience viewing Putrajaya from a bird's eye view with the 'Helicopter Joy Ride' attraction! Don't forget to bring your picnic mats to the picnic area, where you can pick up a bean bag and choose a spot to laze with a stunning view of the Putrajaya lake, while enjoying your pre-ordered meal from the 'Balloon and Breakfast' menu!

Organiser : AKA Balloon Sdn. Bhd with the cooperation Of Putrajaya Corporation
Date : 12-15 March
Venue : Monumen Alaf Baru, Precinct 2 Putrajaya
Contact : +6 03 7981 8712
Website : www.myballoonfiesta.com

Mah Meri Ancestors Day Festival

This annual festival of the aboriginal Mah Meri attracts many international visitors. The Mah Meri tribe of Selangor celebrates Hari Moyang (Ancestor's Day), a celebration about giving thanks to the spirits for all the good things that had been bestowed upon the villagers. It is celebrated by offering prayers and blessings to their ancestors especially to Muyang Gadeng, a female spirit guardian. Mah Meri people are skilful with craft work, their weaving skills are seen showcased in the neatly woven skirts, headbands and sashes worn during the celebration.



This three-day festival features a special dance called Mayin Jo-oh, to invite the ancestral spirits to join the festivity. The men would wear wooden masks and perform with movements to reflect their daily routine which includes fishing and farming, while the women make music from bamboo, viola, drum, and brass gong.

Organiser: Mah Meri Cultural Village
Date : 7 March
Venue : Mah Meri Cultural Village, Pulau Carey, Selangor
Contact : +6 010 252 2800
Website : www.mmcv.org.my

Penang Sports Club International Soccer Tournament

This is the Veterans 7-aside football tournament that attracts footie stars of yesteryears including former international players who are still actively involved in the game. A total of 44 teams around the world will participate in this tournament, including teams from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Australia, Maldives, China, Brunei, Hong Kong and Europe.

Organiser : Penang Sports Club (PSC)
Date : 7 to 8 March
Venue : Penang Sport Club (PSC), Georgetown, Penang
Contact : +604-229 7834 / +604-229 4541
Website : www.pgssportsclub.com.my

Le Tour de Langkawi 2015



Asia's premier cycling event, Le Tour de Langkawi 2015 is back! Featuring 22 international teams, the race goes through states namely Kedah, Perak, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan in one of the biggest events on the UCI Asia Tour Calendar.

Organised by Human Voyage Sdn Bhd, the 20th edition of Le Tour de Langkawi (LTdL) from 8 to 15 March 2015 is set to cover more than 1,000km over 8 stages.

The race will kick off from Malaysia's legendary island of Langkawi on 8 March for an eight-day journey to Kuala Lumpur via the east coast and Genting Highlands.

Organiser : Ministry of Youth and Sport, Human Voyage (M) Sdn.Bhd.
Date : 8 to 15 March
Venue : Kedah, Perak, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Pahang, Terengganu, Kelantan
Contact : +6 03 9222 0786
Website : www.ltdl.com.my

Chap Goh Meh Celebration

Chap Goh Meh is celebrated on the 15th night of the Lunar New Year and it is also known as the Chinese Valentine's Day. On this night, with the full moon shining down, young ladies of marrying age venture out to popular sea promenades to throw oranges into the sea, wishing for a good soul mate.

In Penang, the celebration takes place at the Esplanade waterfront. Enjoy delicious Penang Street food as well as games, performances and a grand fireworks display.

Organiser : Penang State Tourism Development & Culture Office
Date : 5 March
Venue : Esplanade, George Town, Penang
Contact : +6 04 650 5136 / +6 04 261 9012
Website : www.visitpenang.gov.my

1Malaysia GP Sale



The 1Malaysia GP Sale is held in conjunction with the annual Formula 1 Grand Prix race event. This event is one of the three great sales of the year besides the Malaysia Mega Sale and the Malaysia Year End Sale. Stores around Malaysia offer great bargains and discounts. Visitors who plan to attend the Formula 1 races should set aside some time to enjoy a shopping-spree.

Organiser: Shopping Malaysia Secretariat,
Tourism Malaysia
Date : 14 March to 5 April
Venue : Throughout Malaysia
Contact : +6 03 8891 8000
Website : www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my

Raptor Watch Week

Raptor Watch is an exciting event for birdwatchers. Enthusiasts converge at Tanjung Tuan to watch the annual migration of these birds of prey on their journey back to the northern hemisphere.

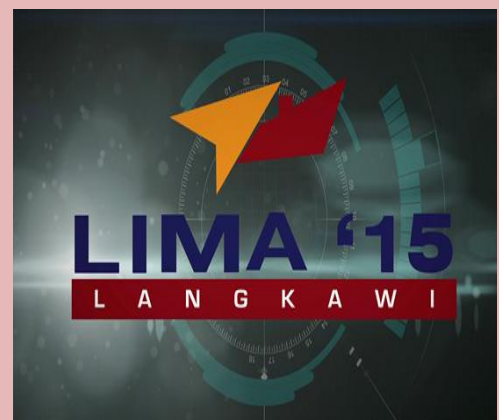


Organiser: Malaysian Nature Society
Date : 14 March
Venue : Tanjung Tuan Lighthouse, Melaka
Contact : +603-2287 9422/9477
Website : www.msnraptorwatch.wordpress.com

LIMA'15 Tourism Carnival

The biennial event organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia and is held in conjunction with the Langkawi International Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 2015), a dedicated exhibition for defence, civil and commercial applications.

Organiser: Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC)
Date : 17 to 21 March
Venue : Langkawi Island
Contact : +603 8000 8000
Website : www.motac.gov.my



International Drum Festival

Drums are one of the signature products in Malaysia's tourism products. This festival showcases various drum performances and drum-making workshops to share this art of craft-making and playing to the new generation. This programme not only promotes Malaysia's great culture but is also a platform to hand down drum-making knowledge to the younger generation.



Without this effort, Malaysia may lose the art and know-how of this craft that is popular amongst tourists.

Organiser: Kelantan
Tourist
Information
Counter (TIC)
Date : 14 to 15 March
Venue : Stadium Sultan
Muhamad IV
Grounds, Kota
Bharu,
Kelantan
Contact : +609 7485534/
+609 7483543
Website :
www.tic.kelantan.gov.my

Formula 1 Petronas Malaysia Grand Prix

Catch the blazing action of high speed rubber burning on one of the world's most challenging tracks as the 2015 Formula 1 Petronas Malaysia Grand Prix returns. This season, eleven teams and 22 drivers will be competing at the world's hottest race in the Grand Prix City of Kuala Lumpur.



Organiser: Sepang International Circuit Sdn. Bhd.
Date : 27 to 29 March
Venue : Sepang International Circuit, Selangor
Contact : +6 03 8778 2200
Website : www.formula1.com

New Tourism Malaysia Promotional Materials

Tourism Malaysia has produced the following promotional materials recently. Some of the materials produced are:-

- ✓ Tourist Map of Malaysia
- ✓ Malaysia Travel Guide
- ✓ Mega Events & Festivals 2015
- ✓ Putrajaya Bicycle Ride Events montage video
- ✓ "Malaysia Truly Asia" video
- ✓ KL Map & Guide
- ✓ Cultural Dances video

The materials can be obtained from the Tourism Malaysia headquarters, Tourism Malaysia domestic offices, and Tourism Information Centres. The brochures are also downloadable from the Tourism Malaysia website
<http://www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my>

NEW SHOPPING ATTRACTIONS!
IOI City Mall Putrajaya & Quill City Mall



Hello Shopaholics! Let's experience the new atmosphere of shopping at IOI City Mall. It is a brand new lifestyle and entertainment mall located in Putrajaya – just 20 minutes from KLIA and 30 minutes away from Kuala Lumpur.

IOI City Mall has over 350 specialty stores, and restaurants, and a huge movie theater. The best feature of the mall is the Olympic size skating rink and indoor sports & recreation themed action adventure park called "District21".

Location : IOI City Mall
Lebuh IRC,
IOI Resort City,
Putrajaya
Contact : +603-8328 8899
Website : www.ioicitymall.com.my



"District 21"
attraction in IOI City Mall Putrajaya



Apart from that, Quill City Mall is another new shopping center in Kuala Lumpur located along Jalan Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur. This shopping mall has more than 320 trendy lifestyle stores, an exciting entertainment hub and an exclusive Kid Zone spread across its spacious area.

A favourite hang-out place at the mall is its sky alfresco dining area, the first of its kind in Kuala Lumpur. The dining area has an organically shaped roof consisting of multi-colored glass and opaque panels that allow for maximum daylight and fantastic views of the surrounding area.

Some of the major retail outlets that can be found in Quill City Mall include AEON department store, Daiso, H&M, Apple Concept Store, Vans, Adidas, Guess, Hush and much more!

Location : Quill City Mall
Jalan Sultan Ismail,
Kuala Lumpur
Contact : +603 2603 1018
Website : www.quillcitymall.com.my



"Sky Alfresco Dining"
attraction in Quill City Mall

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 <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 continues promoting the country 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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