

# MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact : Siti Rahmah Lehan  
Tel : 603 2615 8447  
Fax : 603 2615 8299  
Email: [sitirahmah@tourism.gov.my](mailto:sitirahmah@tourism.gov.my)

## 22.05 MILLION TOURIST ARRIVALS IN 2008

Malaysia registered 22.05 million tourists in 2008, surpassing the 21.5 million target set by the government under the Ninth Malaysia Plan. This is an overall increase of 5.1% compared to 2007.

The month of December registered the highest number of tourists with arrivals of 2,058,684, an increase of 9.2% compared to the same month last year.

Table 1: Comparison of tourist arrivals to Malaysia (December 2007 and 2008)

MONTH	TOURIST ARRIVALS 2007	TOURIST ARRIVALS 2008	CHANGE %
DECEMBER	1,886,022	2,058,684	9.2

Source: Immigration Department of Malaysia

Table 2: Comparison of tourist arrivals to Malaysia (January - December 2007 and 2008)

MONTHS	TOURIST ARRIVALS 2007	TOURIST ARRIVALS 2008	CHANGE %
JANUARY - DECEMBER	20,972,822	22,052,488	5.1

Source: Immigration Department of Malaysia

The top ten tourist generating markets for December 2008 were Singapore (1,030,013), followed by Indonesia (251,118), Brunei (166,043), Thailand

(122,776), China (including Hong Kong & Macau) (71,566), India (49,175), Australia (45,724), the Philippines (39,684), Japan (37,776) and United Kingdom (36,131).

Singapore registered the largest number of tourists in 2008, contributing 49.9% of the total arrivals. This was followed by Indonesia (11.0%), Thailand (6.8%), Brunei (4.9%), China (including Hong Kong & Macau) (4.3%), India (2.5%), Japan (2.0%), Australia (1.9%), the Philippines (1.8%) and the United Kingdom (1.7%).

In terms of region, Europe recorded the highest growth of 21.8% in 2008 compared to 2007. The other regions that showed significant increase were Northern America (18.6%), Eastern Asia (15.9%), Southern Asia (15.7%) and Oceania (10.4%).

Speaking on behalf of Tourism Malaysia, Mr. Amirrudin Abu, Acting Director General, said "I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our partners in the Malaysian travel trade industry and overseas, as well as members of the media, for doing an excellent job in attaining another milestone in the country's tourism history. We have achieved an all-time high figure of 22,052,488 tourist arrivals. This is certainly an accomplishment considering the fact that 2008 had been a very trying time for us and a very challenging one as well."

#### TOURIST ARRIVALS TO MALAYSIA BY MAJOR MARKETS DECEMBER 2008

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE	DECEMBER		(% CHANGE DEC 08/ DEC 07	JANUARY - DECEMBER		(% CHANGE JAN-DEC 08/ JAN-DEC 07
	2007	2008		2007	2008	
SINGAPORE	935,439	1,030,013	10.1	10,492,692	11,003,492	4.9
THAILAND	162,208	122,776	-24.3	1,625,698	1,493,789	-8.1
INDONESIA	171,615	251,118	46.3	1,804,535	2,428,605	34.6
BRUNEI	145,386	166,043	14.2	1,172,154	1,085,115	-7.4
PHILIPPINES	28,425	39,684	39.6	327,140	397,884	21.6
VIETNAM	6,822	9,729	42.6	119,973	122,933	2.5
CAMBODIA	1,891	3,100	63.9	23,193	35,464	52.9
CHINA (Incl Hong Kong & Macao)	79,605	71,566	-10.1	789,568	949,864	20.3
JAPAN	32,337	37,776	16.8	367,567	433,462	17.9
TAIWAN	14,026	12,341	-12.0	201,311	190,979	-5.1
SOUTH KOREA	15,983	18,666	16.8	224,867	267,461	18.9
INDIA	36,800	49,175	33.6	422,452	550,738	30.4
WEST ASIA	11,375	20,850	83.3	245,302	264,338	7.8
SAUDI ARABIA	4,081	4,668	14.4	78,298	74,632	-4.7
UAE	1,122	1,647	46.8	38,170	34,994	-8.3
IRAN	1,394	7,438	433.6	27,215	63,165	132.1

CANADA	4,421	9,022	104.1	46,903	77,664	65.6
U.S.A	16,680	19,805	18.7	204,844	223,249	9.0
AUSTRALIA	34,810	45,724	31.4	320,363	427,076	33.3
NEW ZEALAND	4,214	5,556	31.8	41,369	56,117	35.6
UNITED KINGDOM	27,848	36,131	29.7	276,213	370,591	34.2
SCANDINAVIA	9,020	13,235	46.7	113,617	117,094	3.1
<i>DENMARK</i>	1,397	2,080	48.9	19,773	23,817	20.5
<i>FINLAND</i>	1,653	3,051	84.6	34,144	23,112	-32.3
<i>NORWAY</i>	1,451	1,910	31.6	14,954	21,516	43.9
<i>SWEDEN</i>	4,519	6,194	37.1	44,746	48,649	8.7
NETHERLANDS	3,218	8,225	155.6	55,604	90,802	63.3
FRANCE	4,591	8,097	76.4	59,456	86,030	44.7
GERMANY	6,373	10,409	63.3	78,598	111,525	41.9
SWITZERLAND	1,329	2,608	96.2	20,662	26,489	28.2
RUSSIA	1,533	3,334	117.5	16,868	26,308	56.0
POLAND	3,461	935	-73.0	34,344	11,745	-65.8
ITALY	2,591	2,978	14.9	31,576	38,945	23.3
TURKEY	671	1,001	49.2	9,580	8,152	-14.9
SOUTH AFRICA	1,550	3,881	150.4	21,233	25,437	19.8
OTHERS	121,800	54,906	-54.9	1,825,140	1,131,140	-38.0
GRAND TOTAL	1,886,022	2,058,684	9.2	20,972,822	22,052,488	5.1

To view the full table, please download the PDF file.

For further enquiry, please contact Mr Wan Zawawi Mohamed, Director of Communications and Publicity Division, Tourism Malaysia at 03-2615 8188, or email [wanzawawi@tourism.gov.my](mailto:wanzawawi@tourism.gov.my).

For more statistics, please log on to <http://www.tourism.gov.my/corporate/research.asp>.

**MALAYSIA TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD**  
(MINISTRY OF TOURISM, MALAYSIA)

Menara Dato' Onn, Putra World Trade Centre, 45 Jalan Tun Ismail, 50480 Kuala Lumpur  
P.O. Box 10328, 50710 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. TEL : 03-2615 8188. FAX : 03-2693 5884  
EMAIL : [enquiries@tourism.gov.my](mailto:enquiries@tourism.gov.my) WEBSITE: [www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my](http://www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my)