

Malaysia

Situated in the heart of Southeast Asia, Malaysia is a vibrant destination with a diversity of cultures and traditions. This tropical paradise boasts pristine jungles and verdant national parks that are teeming with numerous species of birds and wildlife. Malaysia's sun-drenched islands and beaches are home to a stunning range of marine life. Its natural wealth is complemented by magnificent modern landmarks and heritage buildings. There is something to charm every visitor, be it a history-lover, nature-enthusiast, sun-seeker or an avid shopper. Explore the length and breadth of the country to discover the many attractions of Malaysia!



Labuan

Labuan is a beautiful island in the South China Sea, about 8km off the coast of Sabah. Covering an area of 95 sq km, it comprises one main island and six smaller islands, Pulau Burung, Pulau Daat, Pulau Kuraman, Pulau Papan, Pulau Rusukan Kecil and Pulau Rusukan Besar.

Labuan was established as a Federal Territory on 16 April 1984, making it one of the three federal territories in Malaysia. The island was declared as an International Offshore Financial Centre (IOFC) in 1990.

It is dubbed as 'The Pearl of Borneo, Where Business and Leisure Meet' for the wide range of facilities that cater to incentive holidays. With its mesmerising dive sites, water villages, duty-free shopping and historical attractions, Labuan is a unique and unforgettable holiday destination for all.

GT GETTING THERE

Malaysia Airlines and AirAsia offer flights to Labuan from Kuala Lumpur. Flights are also available from Kota Kinabalu and Miri via MAS Wings. Labuan is also easily accessible from Brunei Darussalam. Visitors who wish to travel by sea can also take the ferry from various locations in Sarawak, Sabah or Brunei Darussalam.

GA GETTING AROUND

Labuan city centre can be easily explored by foot. The city centre is one of the most pedestrian-friendly cities in Malaysia. Alternatively, bus and van services are also available. Labuan has an excellent road network which links the main town to other parts around the island. Water taxis are the best way to get around the water villages.



S SHOPPING

Labuan's duty-free status makes it a paradise for shoppers. The island is the perfect place to find duty-free goods at bargain prices. Among the popular shopping spots in Labuan are Jalan OKK Awang Besar, the ferry terminal area, Victoria Point and Labuan Airport.

Labuan's Financial Park houses the most popular shopping complex on the island. Boasting a beautiful modern architecture, the mall draws a large number of tourists and locals with its variety of duty-free items. The mall has several restaurants, ATMs and a post office.

Visitors who enjoy hunting for local delicacies and other local products should not miss the Labuan Weekend Tamu, held on Saturdays and Sundays at the Labuan Walk. Load your shopping cart with gifts and great buys such as t-shirts, ornaments and many more!



D DINING

Labuan is well-known for its fresh and reasonably-priced seafood. The island is dotted with seafood restaurants that offer a great variety of dishes. A range of local and international cuisine is available at the hotels and restaurants in the city centre. Enjoy an assortment of cooking styles, such as Western, Malay and Chinese. Visitors can also enjoy a number of local delicacies such as coconut pudding, Lamban, Punjung and Jelurut.

The coconut pudding is a refreshing delight that is made of steamed coconut water and jelly. It is rarely found anywhere else. Akin to the Chinese dumpling, Lamban is a dish of sweetened steamed rice that is wrapped in coconut leaves. Punjung is a bite-sized delight made of rice flour while Jelurut is another delicious dessert made of rice flour, sugar and coconut milk.



POI PLACE OF INTEREST



WRECK DIVING SITES

Labuan is popular among experienced divers for its exciting dive sites. The American Wreck was capsized during the Second World War and divers can explore intact artefacts such as cannons and depth changers. The Australian Wreck, despite its eerie appearance, is home to an amazing array of marine life. Another astounding attraction, known as the Blue Water Wreck, lies amidst crystal blue waters and a rich variety of fish. The Cement Wreck is a spectacular sight with its top half covered by a garden of soft and hard corals, ferns and sponges. Wreck diving is offered by several dive operators here.



LABUAN MARINE PARK

Labuan Marine Park comprises the islets of Kuraman, Rusukan Kecil and Rusukan Besar. It is famous for the four wreck diving sites, namely the American, Australian, Blue Water and Cement wrecks. The lovely reefs, white sandy beaches and quiet coves make the marine park ideal for scuba diving, snorkeling, sailing, canoeing and jungle-trekking. Visitors must adhere to the marine park regulations at all times and are prohibited from anchoring, fishing, polluting and carrying out other activities that can break or damage the corals and reefs.



SURRENDER POINT

Situated adjacent to the Peace Park, the Surrender Point is another meaningful memorial where the 37th Japanese Southern Army surrendered to the 9th Division Australian Imperial Force, on 10th September 1945, which marked the end of the World War II in Borneo. The Surrender Point overlooks the South China Sea.



PEACE PARK

Set in a beautifully landscaped area, the Peace Park serves as a memorial and a renunciation of the war. A bronze plaque stands at the entrance, commemorating the surrender. This serene park features a large raised mound with two arched walls, gazebos as well as Japanese inspired bridges and ponds. Labuan Peace Park is the only one-of-its-kind in the country, built for peace and harmony.



UNITED NATIONS (UN'08) BEACH

Surrounded by the South China Sea, Labuan boasts beautiful, exotic beaches with picture-postcard views. The 9km stretch from Batu Manikar Beach to Sungai Miri Beach is hailed as the UN'08 Beach after it was accorded the 'Clean Beach Award' by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2008. Enjoy the refreshing sea breeze and glorious views of the sunset.



LABUAN BIRD PARK

This beautiful park sits on the northernmost tip of Labuan. Occupying an area of 6.9 hectares, Labuan Bird Park features landscaped gardens with flowering plants, shady trees and walking paths. Over 700 birds are kept in three large geodesic domes connected via four tunnels. Labuan Bird Park also strives to be a centre of knowledge on birds. It is home to a variety of Bornean birds such as hornbills, shamas and other species that are only found deep within the forested areas. This park is situated about 16km from the city centre. Entrance fee is required.

☎ 087 463 544



THE CHIMNEY

The Chimney is one of the most iconic and mysterious attractions in Labuan. The 106 feet high structure was built from thousand of red bricks imported from England and assumedly 23,000 pieces of bricks restored the outer walls. The Chimney was originally thought to be a ventilation stack. However, in recent years, it was discovered that there are no traces of smoke within, making its existence and purpose a puzzle. The Chimney is situated at the Chimney Historical Complex. The Chimney is the winner of The Green Apple Awards 2013 for the Archeological Heritage Category. This award entitles Labuan as the Green World Ambassador 2014.

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BA XIAN MIAO TEMPLE

Also known as the Chinese Eight Deities temple and the 'Heaven and Earth' temple, this Taoist place of worship was built to feature both the Heaven and Hell halls. It is one of the many Chinese temples in Labuan, and is very popular during the Nine Emperors Festival, a colourful celebration which honours the birth of a deity in Chinese mythology. The festival takes place in the ninth month of the Chinese lunar calendar.



KINA BENUWA ECO TOURISM

Stretching over 97,604 hectares, Kina Benuwa Eco Tourism is a pristine mangrove forest situated on the lower Kina Benuwa River. This is the longest and widest river system on the island. It comprises Sungai Bangat from the north and Sungai Bedaun from the west. The Kina Benuwa Eco Tourism is a conservation area dedicated to the protection of the fragile eco-system and its rich biodiversity. Kina Benuwa Eco Tourism is accessible by taxis from the town centre.



KAMPUNG PATAU-PATAU 2, MALAYSIA'S ONLY WATER VILLAGE HOMESTAY

Kampung Patau-Patau 2 is one of the last remaining water village homestays in Malaysia. The villagers are descendants of fisherfolk, sailors and traders from neighbouring Brunei who settled here many generations ago. The settlement is made up of houses on stilts that are built over the sea and connected by a series of boardwalks. Getting around by water taxis is definitely the highlight of a visit here. Visitors who participate in the homestay programme can join in the daily activities of the villagers and experience the local lifestyle and culture.



LABUAN BOTANICAL GARDEN

Situated along Jalan OKK Abdullah, about 2km from the city centre, this scenic park comprises a hibiscus garden and an herb garden. Sir Hugh Low, the British Chief Secretary of Labuan at the time, is credited for the creation of this garden. It is beautifully landscaped with a diversity of tropical plants, majestic trees, a man-made lake and an arched bridge. The garden is situated in the grounds of an old Government House locally known as Bumbung 12. Many interesting tales are associated with the garden and the house that once stood there.



WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

The largest memorial in Malaysia, Labuan War Memorial is the final resting place of 3,908 war heroes from Australia, Britain, India, New Zealand as well as Malaya, now known as Malaysia. Every year, an elaborate ceremony called Remembrance Day is conducted in full military tradition to honour the warriors. Held on 11 November or the Sunday closest to it, the event pays tribute to soldiers who lost their lives during World War II.



LABUAN GURDWARA SAHIB (SIKH TEMPLE)

The Labuan Gurdwara Sahib has a long history that dates back to the 1950s, when it was a small wooden structure. In 1967, the building was razed by a fire. However, the Holy Book was unscathed by the fire. The same year, the foundation stone for the second Gurdwara Sahib building was laid. It was officially opened in 1969. In 1996, the place of worship was rebuilt to the present double-storey brick building with a large dome and two smaller domes. Officially opened in the year 2000, the Labuan Gurdwara Sahib boasts beautiful design elements and consists of a dining hall, kitchen and other facilities. Visitors are required to cover their heads while visiting the temple.



LABUAN MUSEUM

Housed in a post-war colonial styled building along the waterfront, this museum gives a good insight into the history and culture of Labuan. The displays here take visitors on an interesting journey from the prehistoric era, to the Brunei Sultanate, the British colonial days, the declaration of Independence and to the establishment of Labuan as a federal territory. The exhibits here also showcase the main communities residing in Labuan as well as their cultures and traditions. Overlooking Labuan Museum is the History Square.

☎ 087 414 135



LABUAN MARINE MUSEUM

Built to resemble a ship, the Labuan Marine Museum takes visitors into the intriguing world of marine wonders. This museum features 572 collections consisting of marine specimens and contemporary items such as fishing tools, diving gears and oceanography technologies. The main attraction of the gallery is the 100 years old 42-foot skeleton of an Indian Fin whale found on Sebatu Beach, Malacca. It was once exhibited in Raffles Museum Singapore and the National Museum of Malaysia before transporting to the Labuan Marine Museum. In the interactive section, visitors can touch starfish and sea cucumbers. This museum is part of the Labuan International Sea Sports Complex.

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LABUAN INTERNATIONAL GOLF CLUB

Labuan International Golf Club is the island's newest 18-hole golf course. It is located beautifully atop a hill at Kiamsam, overlooking the South China Sea. Set amidst 200 acres of lush greenery, the Par 72 golf course provides enthusiasts with ample challenges. Facilities include a club house, a Muslim prayer room, changing rooms and a training area. It is also equipped with a Pro Shop and restaurant.

☎ 087 468 468



PULAU PAPAN (PAPAN ISLAND)

Accessible by a five-minute boat ride from Labuan Jetty, Pulau Papan has a breathtaking landscape and is watched over by an old colonial lighthouse. Pulau Papan attracts both locals and tourists looking for a weekend getaway. Activities here range from snorkeling in the clear waters to jungle-trekking to view small animals and the natural greenery. Chalets and campsites are available for overnight stays.



DUTY FREE SHOPPING

Duty-free shopping is one of the biggest attractions in Labuan. Labuan enjoys a duty-free status and has a wide array of items to choose from. Visitors can find everything from chocolates, liquor, jewellery, cosmetics and perfumes to timepieces and local souvenirs. Be sure to browse the mall, supermarkets and duty-free outlets to get the best products and deals in town!