

LANGKAV Nature Guide

Naturally LANGKAW

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AN ADVENTURE PARADISE Unlike any other Imagine an island with some of the oldest rock formations and as well as some of the oldest rain forests in South East Asia. With one of the largest unspoiled mangrove ecosystems anywhere. With an incredible abundance of flora and fauna ¬– some found nowhere else on earth. With more species of butterflies than any other island. With pristine beaches. And surrounded with still more islands dotting the horizon at every turn.

Yes, one paradise island getaway really does have it all. Discover it here. Uniquely, Naturally Langkawi.

## LANGKAWI: A PARADISE PRESERVED

Langkawi Archipelago

Langkawi is both the name of the main island and its surrounding archipelago of 99 islands located in the Andaman Sea. Part of the Malaysian state of Kedah, Langkawi has long been one of South East Asia's best-kept secrets as a tropical eco-adventure destination. Today more and more nature lovers and eco-enthusiasts are discovering its many charms and enchantments.

The island is also famous for its intriguing heritage of myths and legends, which also figure prominently in many of its physical features. Culture and tradition also play an important part in this 'Isle of Legends', long considered a 'living museum' adding a deeper, human dimension to its natural beauty. Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park

### LANGKAWI: SOUTH EAST ASIA'S FIRST GLOBAL GEOPARK

In 2007, Langkawi achieved worldwide recognition when it was awarded UNESCO Global Geopark status. It was granted this coveted title – even today there are less than 100 Global Geoparks in total – for its unique blend of natural wonders, heritage, and eco-friendly initiatives that serve to preserve and protect Langkawi's unique identity.

It is an identity characterised by incredible diversity: islands, mountains, rainforests, wildlife, caves, and beaches. Indeed, the entire archipelago of Langkawi is designated a UNESCO Global Geopark! Thirteen geosites have been identified in Langkawi to date. These have been 'clustered' around three dedicated parks, each with its own unique geological features: Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park, Kilim Karst Geoforest Park, and Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park.

Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park

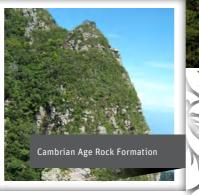
Kilim Karst Geoforest Park

ILIM GEOFOREST PARK



#### MACHINCHANG CAMBRIAN GEOFOREST PARK: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Seismic activity, wind, weathering and erosion have produced an almost fairy-tale landscape of rocky peaks, vertical cliffs, deep narrow gorges, waterfalls, as well as dramatic seascapes. The various rock formations exhibit excellent sedimentary structures such as cross-beds, ripple marks and load structures. They also yield various trace fossils (tracks, trails, burrows or other animal markings) and body fossils such as tribolites (the ancestors of modern insects) and brachiopods (marine invertebrates).



#### **PANTAI PASIR TENGKORAK :** TANJUNG BUTA TRAIL

A scenic 1.5 m trail from one beach to another, passing jungle. mangrove, and an impressive array of geodiversity, inludiung numerous rock structures,

This geosite comprises a 2km long cove with a remnant island which forms a headland at low tide. It includes famous Datai Beach. famous for its golden sand, a coral reef offshore accessible on foot during low tide, and picture-postcard sunsets.

#### TANJUNG HULOR : TELUK DATAI



Telaga Tujuh (Seven Wells) Waterfall is a beautiful series of cascades and pools deep within a forested area. The trail here is steep and passes through mature rainforest. Beware of cheeky monkeys. Continue deeper into the forest, to swim in cool mountain pools. Temurun Waterfall is Langkawi's highest waterfall, and is located just off the road to Datai Bay in a scenic rainforest setting.

### KILIM KARST Geoforest Park

The mangrove forest: one of nature's most beautiful, vital – and endangered – creations. Sadly, mangrove forests continue to diminish worldwide. Few eco-tourists even have the opportunity these days to experience pristine mangrove forest. All the more reason to visit Kilim Karst Geoforest Park, offering an unrivalled introduction to this magnificent eco-system. Situated on the island's northeast, the 83 sq km park includes the Kilim River and estuary, with its extensive mangrove forests and waterways.



Mangrove Tour

Brahminy Kites

Explore Kilim Karst Geoforest Park on foot or its more inaccessible regions by boat. Spot numerous birds, including the ubiquitous Brahminy Kites, white-bellied sea eagles, crested serpent eagles, and peregrine falcons sweeping in graceful arcs across the sky.

Or sea otters, monitor lizards, macaques, dusky langur, and many other animals that inhabit this species-rich intertidal region. Explore the many bat caves, and be on the lookout for the occasional pod of Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins.

At the fish farm, visitors can view stingrays, horseshoe crabs, sea bass, giant grouper, moray eel, and the comical archerfish up close.



lim Mangrove Forest

#### KILIM KARST GEOFOREST PARK : WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Take the cruise boat from Tanjung Rhu or Kilim Jetty for a breathtaking journey of discovery. Ply the rivers and narrow channels, framed by razor-sharp karst pinnacles, weirdly sculpted sea caves and arches. Admire the natural beauty of the overhanging Bogak tree, or the ancient palm-like cycads whose lineage dates back 220 million years, predating all other plants except the ferns - and long before the time of the dinosaurs.



#### CAVES

Gua Kelawar is found in the mangroves of Kilim River. Gua Cherita is accessible by boat and often visited by mangrove tour groups travelling from Tanjung Rhu to Kisap Forest Reserve. Access is via a beach and a short flight of steps. Gua Langsir is an imposing underground tunnel that connects a large lake to the sea, while Gua Buaya is another natural tunnel whose stream flows into an arched cave. Some contain ancient fossilised shells and are often home to colonies of bats.



Gua Cherita





# PULAU LANGGUN -Pulau tanjung Dendang geosite

These two off-shore islands comprise yet another fascinating cluster of individual geosites, including Tasik Langgun, the second largest fresh water lake in Langkawi. Pulau Anak Tikus is a remnant island rich in fossils, and Teluk Cina Mati is famous for its highest ancient sea level in South East Asia.

### DAYANG BUNTING MARBLE Geoforest Park

The park covers Langkawi's second largest island, Pulau Dayang Bunting, Pulau Tuba, and several adjacent islands. Situated just south of the main island, the park encompasses 44 sq km and is famous for its fresh water lake nestled amongst hills of rugged forest, as well as an incredible diversity of rock formations – Ordovician, Middle Devonian, Permian and Triassic – a veritable geological tapestry unfolding, graphically delineating the eons.







The legendary **Tasik Dayang Bunting (Lake of the Pregnant Maiden**, named for its surroundings hills, which resemble a recumbent child-bearing woman) is a beautiful freshwater lake located on limestone within the rainforest. It is Langkawi's largest lake and is separated from the sea by a thin rock wall less than ten metres wide and ten metres tall! Walk through the forests and paddle or swim in the lake for a refreshing interlude.

Pulau Tuba mangrove forest

#### DAYANG BUNTING MARBLE GEOFOREST PARK : WHAT TO LOOK FOR

**Gua Pasir Panjang** on the northwest side of Pulau Dayang Bunting is home to many cave dwellers such as bats. Access is by boat, then on foot. The stalactite and flowstone amphitheatre inside the cave has carved out a fantastic make-believe world.





What the states of



Dayang Bunting Geoforest Park is also noted for its picturesque karst topography, notably Pulau Dua, Pulau Jong and Pulau Lima, are noted for their sea arches and notches. Pulau Tajai is the home of Maxburettia gracilis palms.

Pulau Tuba is another inhabited island in the archipelago, and aside from its abundant natural attractions, is also well worth a trip to experience an older, more slow-paced and relaxed lifestyle - 'Langkawi the way it used it be'.

# FLORA & FAUNA

The rainforests of South East Asia are unique in that they remained untouched by the Ice Age ravages that affected other rainforests. From the Cretaceous Epoch upon the demise of the dinosaurs, Langkawi has experienced overlapping regenerations of its vegetation, leaving many species lines intact, and descended directly from prehistoric origins. The great variety of geologic substrates found on Langkawi likewise spawned an incredible variety of diverse flora and fauna, creating a miniature 'Garden of Eden'.





#### PLANTS

Langkawi is home to one of the richest mangrove ecosystems in the world. 78 out of 114 mangrove species worldwide are found here, comprising almost 70% of the world's total mangrove species.

**Maxburettia gracilis** is a beautiful palm tree growing only on vertical, a beautiful palm tree which grows on vertical limestone cliffs and is found only at Pulau Tajai and Pulau Dayang Bunting.

**Kibatalia anceps** (or its Malay name 'Pokok Bak Pulai'), is in the family of a major group of Angiosperms or flowering plants. Bak Pulai can only be found in Malaysia at Pulau Beras Basah.

**Drynaria bonii**, commonly known as the basket fern, is one of the smallest ferns and can only be found on Pulau Langgun, Kilim Karst Geoforest Park.



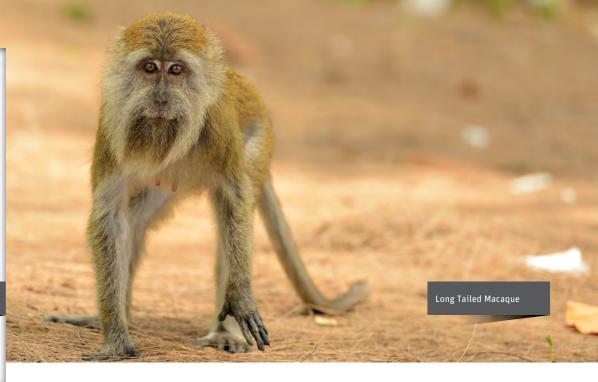


#### WILDLIFE

Langkawi is home to a fascinating wealth of fauna. The ubiquitous long-tailed macaque and dusky-leaf langur monkeys. Giant squirrels and monitor lizards (cousin to the Komodo dragon). While the loris, civet cat and 'armour-plated' pangolin make more fleeting appearances.

Then there are the animals dubbed Langkawi's Famous Flying Five – the colugo, the world's only flying primate; the red giant flying squirrel; the flying paradise tree snake; the twin-spotted flying frog and the flying dragon, a flying lizard.





Along coastal areas, the small clawed otter and smooth otter reside. In the surrounding coastal waters, Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin and finless porpoise are sometimes seen, and more rarely, whale shark - the world's largest fish – and Bryde's whale. So keep your eyes peeled!





#### BUTTERFLIES

Banded Peacocks, Golden Birdwings, White Helens, Swordtails, Commanders, Knights... an incredible 500 species of butterfly flutters by in Langkawi's lepidopterist Eden. Langkawi counts more butterfly species than Sri Lanka, or Australia.



#### BIRDS

There are around 226 species of birds in Langkawi, including 20 species of raptors, seven species of kingfishers; and three species of Malaysian hornbills. The best time of the year for birding is November to April, during the northern hemisphere's migratory season. The best places to observe water birds are paddy fields; in particular, Chenang and the area fronting Bon Ton Resort and Restaurant. For forest birds, the best areas are in the foothills. Drive up Mount Raya to see hornbills. For kingfishers, ideal sites are the mangroves between Mutiara Burau Bay and Berjaya Resorts, and Kilim Karst Geoforest Park.



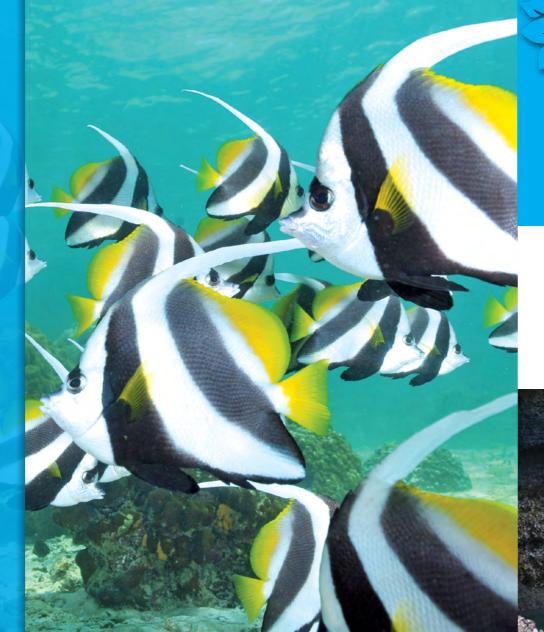
The Great Hornbill



Brown Winged Kingfisher

Black-Naped Tern

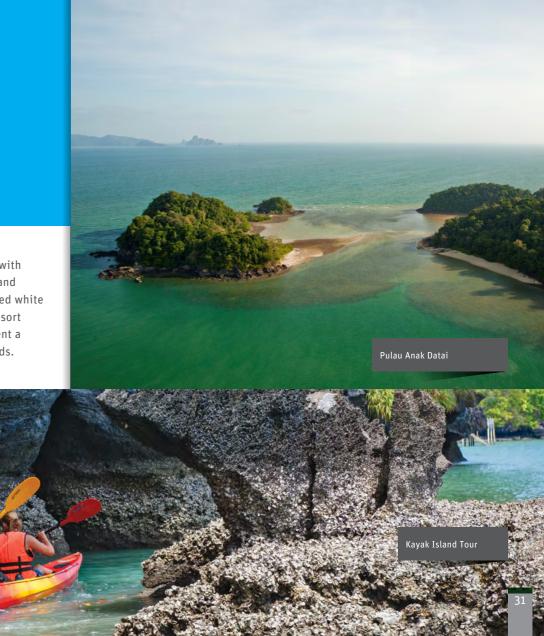
### NATURE EXCURSIONS AND ECO-ADVENTURES



#### SEA ADVENTURES

Langkawi and its neighbouring islands are blessed with kilometres of idyllic beaches, from secluded coves and crescents to long languorous stretches, from deserted white sand beaches only accessible by boat, to popular resort beaches popular with both visitors and locals. Or rent a kayak to explore the coastal areas and nearby islands.

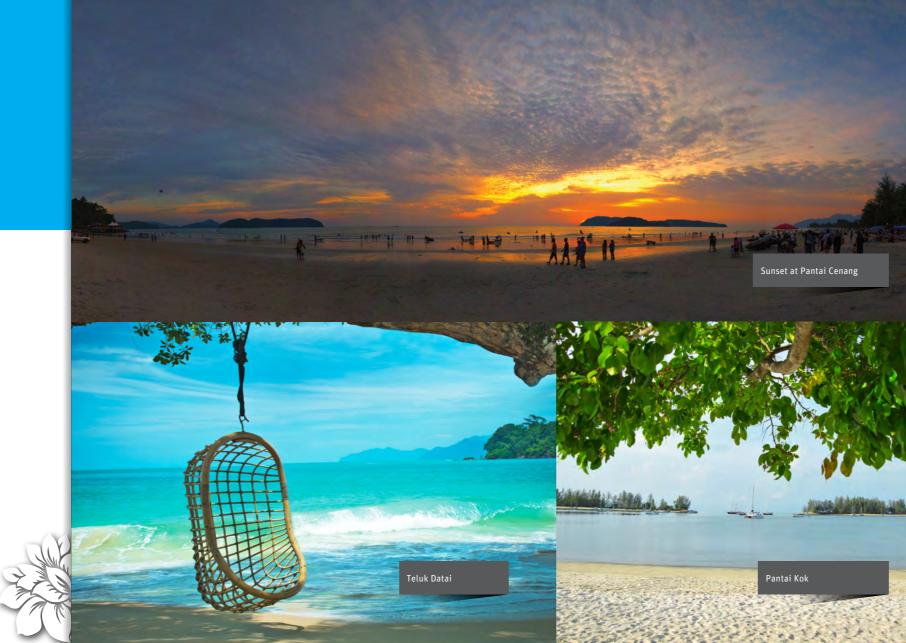






#### BEACHES

Idyllic beaches ('pantai' in Malay) abound in Langkawi. **Pantai Chenang** and **Pantai Tengah** are the most developed, with chalets, luxury hotels, restaurants and water sports. For less people and distractions, try **Pantai Kok, Burau Bay, Datai Bay**, the iconic **Pantai Tanjung Rhu** and **Pantai Pasir Tengkorak**. For a change in 'colour' there is famous **Pantai Pasir Hitam** or **Black Sand Beach**.







#### ISLAND HOPPING

One of the most popular activities is the 4-hour 'island hopping' tour where you will be brought to three different islands – Pulau Dayang Bunting, Pulau Singa and Pulau Beras Basah by speed boat. Pulau Beras Basah off Langkawi's western tip is a favourite for those seeking a deserted beach for snorkelling or picnicking.





YACHTING

One of the best ways to explore Langkawi and the archipelago is by boat. Excursions, either by tour or chartered boat or private yacht, afford an unforgettable experience in the island-sprinkled Andaman Sea. Langkawi boasts four marinas: The Royal Langkawi Yacht Club, Telaga Harbour Marina, Rebak Marina and Porto Malai Jetty. All provide safe berths with world-class service facilities for visiting yachts.





#### SNORKELLING AND Scuba Diving

While there are some coral reefs around the main islands, the most developed dive and snorkelling site offering the best visibility is **Pulau Payar Marine Park**, 35km southeast of Langkawi, a one-hour boat journey. Organised daylong package tours operate to the park. The Marine Park is also great place to enjoy the beach and bring the kids.







### JUNGLE TREKKING, CYCLING, KAYAKING AND MORE





#### JUNGLE WALK

The rainforest is constantly alive with changing sounds, sights, scents, rhythms, (and goings-on!), whether just after sunrise, just before sunset, in the middle of the day or night. Learn about the fascinating rainforest ecosystem and its living creatures during a Morning or Evening Walk with an experienced guide for an educational tour. Langkawi has several resident-naturalists with extensive knowledge of the area, who will provide you with an in-depth experience of the rainforest, its flora and fauna. Tours are for half- or full day, and can be arranged through your hotel or travel agent. Morning Walks focus on information about trees, plants, flowers and the animals that are active during the day, such as monkeys, squirrels and many butterflies. The variety of birds is amazing and the combination of sea, mangroves and rainforest attracts numerous bird species.

Experience the shift in the 'creature landscape' during Evening Walks, where the nocturnal animals play an important role. At this time one can easily spot at least half a dozen flying lemurs (colugos) and possibly also one of the flying squirrels (red giant or

Evening Walk at Gunung Raya



#### MANGROVE Kayak Trip

Enjoy the awesome splendour of the mangrove forest, along with a taste of adventure and an exhilarating workout. Catch a real close-up look at the mangrove ecosystem while gliding through the narrow channels away from the larger rivers. See monkeys, otters, monitor lizards, and numerous birds – Brahminy Kites and the majestic sea eagle (please don't feed them!) as well as other birds.



Kayaking along Kilim River



#### LANGKAWI CANOPY ADVENTURE

Malaysia's unique adventure tour takes you through the rainforest canopy for an adrenaline charged air trekking experience. The setting is at Gunung Raya, Langkawi's tallest mountain and home to some 400 tree species and an array of wildlife including the flying lemur, mouse deer, loris, wild boar, civet cat and at least 40 species of snakes. A guided trek up the 880m mountain is a popular 'roughing it' option, though a different sort of adrenaline rush can be found just a few hundred meters into the primary rainforest.









#### BIRDING

Various tour operators offer birding excursions, where it is possible to spot around 30 to 40 species of the 226 species of birds of Langkawi found in the jungle, in rice fields or near rivers. On one popular tour, an experienced guide will take you first up to Mount Raya (at 880m, the highest point on the island!) to try to spot mountain birds like the Great Hornbill. From there, continue on to forest, and then to paddy fields and other lowland birding hotspots. Pulau Dayang Bunting is home to one of Langkawi's three designated geoforest parks. It and the adjacent Pulau Tuba are also ideal for birding. Numerous migratory birds visit Langkawi from November through April, and even without the migratory birds Langkawi is a paradise for birders.







Langkawi comprises a total of 478.5 sq km and is situated just 30km off the coast of Peninsular Malaysia. It is just a onehour flight from Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur. Flights arrive and depart from early morning all the way through to late in the evening. Alternatively you can take the ferry from Kuala Perlis or Kuala Kedah (about one hour from each) or from Penang (2hrs 45min).

Langkawi's tropical climate offers year-round temperatures within a fairly narrow and predictable range, with daytime highs averaging 33°C, and night time averages of 24°C. December through February comprises the dry season, while the wet season runs from March to November.

And one more final attraction: Langkawi is a duty-free island, so it is also a 'paradise' for shoppers! For more information on Naturally Paradise, visit www.naturallylangkawi.my



#### NATURALLY INVITING









#### GETTING AROUND

#### CAR RENTAL/HIRE

Roads in Langkawi are well signposted and in good condition so hiring a car for self-drive adventures is a good option. You will need to watch out for motorbike riders, the occasional water buffalo that may wander onto the road and wildlife crossing. It is recommended that you use a licensed and insured car rental company to prevent any unpleasant incidents in the event of an accident.

#### TAXI

Taxis are readily available and resort staff can make bookings for you. Taxis work on a fixed price basis and we recommend you check the rate card when your fare is quoted. Some taxi drivers speak English better than others and they can be useful for round-island trips as they can show you many points of interest. Taxis can be hired from the airport, all hotels and from major attractions.

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