

# YACHT CHARTERS LANGKAWI



## THE ISLAND OF LEGENDS

Langkawi is located on the northwestern peninsula of Malaysia and is an archipelago of 99 islands at high tide and 104 at low tide. Situated closer to Thailand than to mainland Malaysia (just 25km away), its waters are where the Indian Ocean narrows to meet the Straits of Malacca. Langkawi is located only 800km from the Equator and is blessed with year round warm temperatures and warm waters.

The archipelago is famous for its white beaches and the relaxed and its slow paced island life. However, the jewels in our tourism crown are also the Langkawi Geopark and its natural treasures of serrated mountains that are home to a vast array of birds, butterflies, reptiles and animals. Langkawi is a duty free Island that makes for a great value holidaying.

Langkawi Island is covered by 60% forest, mountains, mangroves and shrubs with 20% being agricultural land and 20%, developed areas. Of all the islands, approximately 90% is forest and only three of the islands have some form of development. The topography varies from flat coastal plains of Pantai Cenang to the mountainous peaks of Gunung Raya (880m) and Gunung Machincang (713m). There are also many sandy beaches on the main island numerous deserted beaches on the other islands within the archipelago.



# CRUISING DESTINATIONS LANGKAWI



## BACK TO NATURE

Whilst many of people come to relax on the beach to work on their tan, Langkawi's natural beauty and amazing flora and fauna are the major draw cards and therefore important assets to the region.

Langkawi has been awarded UNESCO Geopark status for its beautiful heritage features dating back 500 million years. Langkawi Geopark is Malaysia's first geopark and is located in the far northern corner of peninsular Malaysia with a total land area of about 478km<sup>2</sup>. Langkawi has been dubbed the birthplace of the region.

The Langkawi archipelago with so many islands has gone through many geological, botanical and zoological changes. Being next to the Isthmus of Kra in Thailand and, being connected and disconnected to the mainland by rising and falling water levels, a great morphology has happened to shape present day Langkawi. A variety of birds visits the islands and, through their droppings, introduce new species of plants. Reptilian species, high up on the food chain, reign here with the absence of their wild feline neighbours and have become bigger. This has afforded Langkawi many unique features which are seen best in the Geopark. Mangroves are an essential part of keeping the ecosystem in balance as they act as a nursery for large number of animal fish and shellfish species.

A trip through the mangroves presents a chance to see giant monitor lizards, snakes, bats, a variety of birdlife and maybe even sea otters and dolphins.

Langkawi's distinct wet and dry seasons have produced some unique and fascinating plant life. During the wet season the island is a lush tropical paradise that has huge growing capabilities but during dry season when it doesn't rain for months, the plant life adapts often by shedding leaves. Langkawi has a diverse range of animals, reptiles and birds. Reptiles and birds on the island can grow up to 20% bigger than on the mainland and this is displayed well by the water monitor lizard which can be spotted growing up to 2.5m in length! Bird watching in Langkawi is fantastic with up to 230 species calling Langkawi home throughout the year. Of note is the great hornbill with a wing span of up to 1.5m.

# CRUISING DESTINATIONS

## LANGKAWI



## DIVING AND SNORKELLING

Pulau Payar or Payar Island is covered in tropical forest with mangroves and sandy beaches around the coast. On the island itself there are four small sandy beaches complete with picnic benches and hiking trails so that visitors can explore the island's tropical forests

Consisting of the main island of Pulau Payar, and the smaller islands of Pulau Kaca, Pulau Lembu and Pulau Segantang, Payar Marine Park is a fisheries protected area. It shows diverse marine life including 36 genera of hard corals, 92 other marine invertebrates and 45 genera of fish. When the sea is calm and the visibility is good the 'Coral Garden' is a spectacular sight. Pulau Payar's status as a marine park offers protection for its diverse marine life. Pulau Payar is also a snorkeling and diving site famous for its corals. There are several sandy beaches on Pulau Payar island for picnics as well as hiking trails for those who wish to explore the island. Just off the beach, one can indulge in the thrilling experience of feeding baby sharks

The main island is narrow with the whole of the north-western coast made up of rocky terrain with steep cliffs and wave-cut gullies. Much of the island is covered with verdant vegetation, while the few beaches are most inviting with white fine-grain sand. The other islands are mostly rocky outcrops with a dazzling underwater coral environment. The corals are about the same as those found in the Indian Ocean.

Within the shallow waters of the park are diverse and luxuriant coral formations of which at least 35 are of the hard varieties. Especially distinctive are the boulder corals located on the south-eastern coast of Pulau Payar. Beds of stag horn corals, sea anemones and sponges support a multitude of marine life around the islands. The breathtakingly beautiful area is where you can observe colourful soft corals that cover most of the rocky underwater seascape. Diverse coral can also be observed around Pulau Kaca, especially within areas to the north and northeast. Sunken boat wrecks offer good wreck dive. Pulau Segantang, with its sheer cliffs is only the small tip of a bigger rocky mass that plunges over 10 metres (33 feet) before reaching the sea floor. The area has a different underwater environment with different coral formations.

Although the Pulau Payar Marine Park can be visited all year round, the best time is between March to September, avoiding rougher seas in other months.

# CRUISING DESTINATIONS LANGKAWI



## WHITE SANDY BEACHES

Langkawi's beaches are what draw thousands of visitors to the island every year. They are renowned for their bright white colour and fine softness. They are mostly clean and safe and have the added benefit of not being over-run with hawkers disturbing those relaxing on the beach.

**Pantai Cenang** is probably the liveliest beach with an abundance of white sand and an array of restaurants, bars, live music venues and watersport activities. It is also a favourite place to relax at day's end to watch the sunset.

**Pantai Tengah** is a peaceful beach with a slightly steeper gradient and deeper water. This is a favourite for relaxing with an array of watersports, restaurants and bars.

**Pantai Tanjung Rhu** is one of the most beautiful beaches lined with casuarinas and 22km from Kuah. It is generally quite peaceful with the occasional fishing and tour boat sailing past.

**Pantai Datai Bay** is only accessible or through the Andaman and the Datai Resorts and access is only for in-house guests unless you arrive by the sea. With less development here, the waters tend to be clearer than those of Pantai Cenang and Pantai Tengah.

**Other Beaches** There are numerous other beaches (or pantai) such as Pantai Kok, Pantai Burau Bay, Pantai Yuluk Yu, Pantai Teluk Baru & Pantai Senari near Rebak Island which is used exclusively by Rebak Island Resort Langkawi – A Taj Hotel. As the archipelago has so many islands, some guests like to be dropped off for the day at one of several idyllic remote island beaches for a picnic, walk and a swim.