



Malaysia

Joined the Commonwealth in 1957 - visited by the Queen in 1998



Malaysia is a peninsular and part island nation lying just north of the equator in south central Asia

Pop: (2012) 29,240,000 Capital: Kuala Lumpur Area: 329,758 sq km

The high mountain spine of peninsular Malaysia falls away to coastal plains on either side with mangrove swamps and mudflats to the west and sandy beaches to the east. Sabah and Sarawak lie over the South China Sea on the island of Borneo.

Lowland areas are intensively cultivated while rubber and palm oil plantations have changed the nature of the natural forest. Tin is still an important mineral. Reserves of oil and gas have helped the economy to grow. Malaysia has developed an important electronics industry for export. Tourism is the third greatest earner.

East Malaysia has one of the largest and most varied bird populations in the world including many species of parrots, hornbills and broadbills. The endangered orang-utan, proboscis monkey and the massive wild ox draw visitors from across the world.



The Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur, the tallest twin towers in the world

