

# Experience Malaysia

a monthly newsletter by Corporate Communication Division, Tourism Malaysia

No.11/2015

## What's on in December?

Dear Readers,  
As 2015 ends, let's get into the holiday spirit one last time this year!

Head north for the Penang International Dragon Boat Festival to see muscle and team spirit at work, rowing traditional dragon boats across water in perfect unison.

Want something tougher? Get your adrenaline pumping at the 8th Royal Cup Muay Thai Championship, the 4x4 Rainforest Challenge, or the Festival International Sport Extreme (FISE) World Malaysia – three big events that's all about brawn, brains and great skills.

With the monsoon rains upon us, it's the perfect time to head to the Cherating International Surfing Competition to find the best wave breaker in this part of the world.

But if you're not after hard-hitting action, you can relax and enjoy cool jazz music by the beach at the Penang Island Jazz Festival.

Don't forget, Christmas in the tropics is just as nice in Malaysia (get your last-minute shopping done during the Malaysia Year-End Sale!).

Happy holidays!

**Azizah Aziz**  
**Director of Corporate Communication**  
**Tourism Malaysia**

### **Cherating International Surfing Competition**

This surfing event at Cherating Beach in Pahang is one of the destinations most favoured by surfer enthusiasts from around the world. Cherating Beach is renowned for its long and ideal waves, which attracts intermediate surfers.

**Date** : 11 to 13 December 2015  
**Venue** : Cherating Beach, Kuantan, Pahang  
**Organiser** : Ministry of Tourism and Culture Pahang  
**Contact** : 09-5171111  
**Email** : [pahang@motac.gov.my](mailto:pahang@motac.gov.my)



Cherating International Surfing Competition  
Cherating Beach, Kuantan



### Penang Island Jazz Festival.

The island of Penang comes alive with music at the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Penang Island Jazz Festival (PIJF), from 3 to 6 December 2015.



December 3rd – 6th, 2015

Apart from the outdoor main 'jazz by the beach' stage featuring local and international performers, the festival also has a number of other supporting musical activities such as workshops, exhibitions, sunrise @ tsg, after hours jazz jam, creative Malaysia fringe stages and the 'island music forum sessions'.

The festival attracts a regional audience and has established itself to be one of the most highly anticipated and important musical festivals in Southeast Asia. This year's festival will feature the Makiko Hirabayashi Trio, Cabocubajazz, Tobias Preisig Quartet, Andreyana Triana, Dos Orientales, Angelika Niescier Now Trio, Anne Pacey Yokai, Nina & The Butterfly Fish and the Penang Philharmonic Big Band.



<b>Date</b>	<b>: 3 to 6 December 2015</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>: Bayview Beach Resort, Hard Rock Cafe Hotel, Park Royal Penang Resort and Tropical Spice Garden Penang, Penang Island</b>
<b>Organiser</b>	<b>: Capricorn Connection</b>
<b>Contact</b>	<b>: 012 296 7800 / 012 356 5544</b>

### RFC-Rainforest Challenge



The RFC is an off-road 4x4 event which is among the world's top ten toughest motor races. It takes place annually from end November to early December. Every year, it attracts the bravest of the land daredevils from Europe to Asia to face the odds in the jungle for 10 days braving the mud, rain, steep uphill, downhill and undulating terrain plus the wrath of Mother Nature from the monsoon. An extraordinary event for extraordinary adventurers set in an extraordinary season, the monsoon.

<b>Date</b>	<b>: 28 November to 7 December 2015</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>: Seremban , Port Dickson, Gemas, Kuala Pilah &amp; Jelebu (Negeri Sembilan)</b>
<b>Organiser</b>	<b>: RFC (Rainforest Challenge) International.</b>
<b>Phone</b>	<b>: 03-9200 8908, 012-211 7080</b>



### 8th Royal Cup Muay Thai Championship

The Royal Cup Muay Thai Championship, the longest running muay thai event in Malaysia, returns again for the eighth consecutive time this December.

The event, organised by Z1 International Sdn Bhd, is sanctioned by the World Muay Thai Council and Malaysia Muay Thai Association. This year's championship is organised as an effort to promote Malaysia as a muay thai venue and to expose local talents to the world.

Experience three hours each night of the best fighters gathered at the historic Stadium Negara Kuala Lumpur.

<b>Date</b>	<b>: 4 to 5 December 2015</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>: Stadium Negara Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</b>
<b>Organiser</b>	<b>: Z1 International Sdn Bhd</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b>: <a href="http://www.z1international.com.my">www.z1international.com.my</a></b>

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sibü Bike Week, Sarawak

The Sibü Bike Week has become an international affair judging by the approximately 2,000 bikers from across the globe participating in its fourth edition last year.

Among them were bikers from Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei and Kalimantan on Borneo island, Peninsular Malaysia, Germany, Spain, the Philippines, Holland, Australia, Abu Dhabi, Indonesia and Thailand.

As always, the three-day event has lots of exhibitions and competitions such as Miss Sibü Bike Week, Tattoo Show, Bikers Game, Cars Exhibition, Bikes Exhibition, Bands Competition, Scooters Competition, Big Bikes Competition/Games, Slow Rides Competition, Skateboard & BMX Competition, Karaoke Competition and many more.



<b>Date</b>	<b>: 4 to 6 December 2015</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>: Sibü Town Square – Phase 2</b>
<b>Organiser</b>	<b>: RAZZ Chopper Malaysia</b>
<b>Contact</b>	<b>: 019 855 7171 (Helen)</b>
<b>Facebook</b>	<b>: Razz Chopper M'sia</b>

### FISE World Malaysia 2015

The Festival International Sport Extreme (FISE) was created in 1997 and is now the biggest action sports festival worldwide for sport professionals and amateurs in skateboard, BMX, wakeboard, inline skate and mountain bike.

For nailing-biting action and to see the latest stunts and tricks in this extreme sports, head on to beautiful Langkawi island for front-row seats.

<b>Date</b>	<b>: 18 to 20 December 2015</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>: Eagle Square, Langkawi Kedah</b>
<b>Organiser</b>	<b>: FISE World Series</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>: <a href="http://www.fise.fr">www.fise.fr</a></b>



### Penang International Dragon Boat Festival

Cheer on your favourite rowing teams featuring 20 to 22 sturdy men and urge them on to cross the finish line first and gain the ultimate victory at the Penang International Dragon Boat Festival.



Watch as traditional dragon-headed boats decorated in flamboyant décor and painted in multi colours glide across the waters to the rhythm of pounding drumbeats. The event also gives you the chance to witness a host of ancient religious and cultural rites including those featuring rice dumplings, performed at Teluk Bahang Dam.

<b>Date</b>	<b>: 12 to 13 December 2015</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>: Teluk Bahang Dam, Pulau Pinang</b>
<b>Organiser</b>	<b>: Penang State Tourism &amp; PIBDF Committee</b>
<b>Contact</b>	<b>: 04 6505136 / 016 411 0000</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>: <a href="http://www.penangdragonboat.gov.my">www.penangdragonboat.gov.my</a></b>
<b>Facebook</b>	<b>: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/penangdragonboat">penangdragonboat</a></b>

### Malaysia Christmas Open House Celebration



Celebrate Christmas in the tropics with the Prime Minister of Malaysia! Experience the festivities in an open house celebration, a programme that brings people together to celebrate the country's various festivals in line with the spirit of 1Malaysia. Guests will be enthralled by cultural performances and traditional delicacies.

<b>Date</b>	<b>: 27 December 2015</b>
<b>Venue</b>	<b>: Portuguese Settlement, Melaka</b>
<b>Organiser</b>	<b>: Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia</b>
<b>Contact</b>	<b>: 603-8000 8000</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>: <a href="http://www.motac.gov.my">www.motac.gov.my</a></b>

### International Sailing Federation (Youth Worlds Championship)

The ISAF Youth Worlds has seen a whole host of star studded names compete and take honours across its 44 - year history. Over 300 of the world's top youth sailors are expected to compete in Langkawi in a bid to add their name to the star studded list that includes Olympic and America's Cup stars such as Russell Coutts (NZL), Alessandra Sensini (ITA) and Ben Ainslie (GBR). The 2015 ISAF Youth Worlds, the 45th edition of the regatta, will see the addition of the Girl's Skiff - 29er where the winner will be awarded with a brand new ISAF perpetual trophy, the Malaysia Sailing Association President's Trophy.

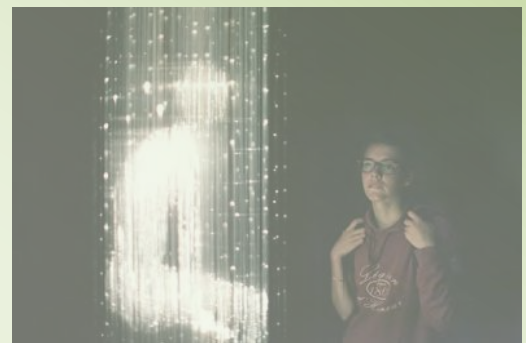


**Date** : 27 December to 3 January 2016  
**Venue** : Langkawi Island, Kedah  
**Organiser** : Kedah Sailing Association  
**Contact** : 604 9663 099

### Illusion: Nothing Is As It Seems

Families with children, youths and young adults visiting Malaysia will love the "Illusion" exhibition going on from now until 10 January 2016 at Petrosains, Malaysia's exciting science exhibition centre in Kuala Lumpur.

The exhibition, brought in from the Science Gallery at Trinity College Dublin, explores science in an interesting way, combining it with art, technology and illusion to appeal to all ages. Curated by psychologist and author Richard Wiseman, and researched by magician and escapologist Paul Gleeson, the exhibition will challenge your perceptions and get you to use your senses to understand how the brain works. Expect magic with psychology, optical illusions with scientific reasoning, and confusion with clarity!



**Date** : Now until 10 January 2016  
**Venue** : Petrosains, The Discovery Centre, Kuala Lumpur  
**Organiser** : Petrosains, The Discovery Centre  
**Website** : [www.petrosains.com.my](http://www.petrosains.com.my)  
**Contact** : 603 2331 8181

### A Day Trip To Melaka

Lovers of history and heritage will love a trip to Melaka. With new and exciting attractions in store, there's more of Melaka to enjoy now. But if you're short on time, here are the top new attractions not to miss.

#### **The Shore Shopping Gallery ([theshoreshoppinggallery.com](http://theshoreshoppinggallery.com))**

is a newly-opened shopping mall with a charming location on the Malacca River Cruise and monorail route, and opposite the Eye of Malacca. A stylish lifestyle-tourism focused shopping mall with 100 stores, its major attractions are the world's longest aquarium – the Melaka Oceanarium, as well as The Shore Sky Tower that accords a splendid panoramic view of the waterfront and beyond.



**The Shore Sky Tower ([theshoreskytower.com](http://theshoreskytower.com))** is Melaka's tallest building with 43 levels. From the observation deck on the highest level, one can enjoy views of the entire city and see Melaka like you've never seen it before. The operation hours for the observation deck is from 10 am till 10 pm daily. The entrance fee is RM18 per pax.



**The Shore Oceanarium ([oceanariummelaka.com](http://oceanariummelaka.com))** is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of The Shore Shopping Gallery. Learn about sea creatures such as star fish, sea cucumbers, sea urchins and even the bamboo shark at the interactive touch pool. Visitors can also see live turtles at Kg. Penyu (Turtle Village) and learn about other sea and river creatures. The entrance ticket for adults is RM28, while children and senior citizens are charged RM18 each. This oceanarium is open daily from 10.30 am till 9 pm.

For a bit of history, don't miss a trip to **Melaka Alive ([melakaalive.com.my](http://melakaalive.com.my))** to catch the 45-minute Winds of Melaka live performance. Combining spectacular visual effects, music and live acting, Winds of Melaka tells the story of Melaka's rich and diverse history, from the establishment of the city by its founder Parameswara to its fall at the hands of the Portuguese. The show is performed twice daily, at 7.30 pm and 9 pm. Tickets are priced at RM45 for adults and RM28 for children. Special discounts are available for Malaysian viewers.



### Celebrate Portuguese Heritage At Casa Del Rio Melaka

Fancy having Portuguese cuisine for dinner in a luxury boutique hotel by the river? You can do so at Casa del Rio Melaka's Saturday Night Portuguese & BBQ Buffet Dinner, which offers authentic modern Portuguese dishes specially crafted by Chef Micael Valentim of Sagres, Western Algarve, Portugal.



Casa del Rio is the first hotel built on the bank of the idyllic Melaka River. Its distinct Mediterranean architecture, design, and colour, pay homage to the Portuguese influence on Melaka, making it the perfect place to enjoy Portuguese cuisine.



This is also a part of the hotel's efforts in promoting the historic city of Melaka, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, through the celebration of Portuguese heritage.

<b>Organiser</b>	<b>: Casa del Rio Melaka</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>: Every Saturday Night (6.30pm - 10.30pm)</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>: The River Grill, Casa del Rio Melaka</b>
<b>Contact</b>	<b>: +60 6 289 6888</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>: <a href="http://www.casadelrio-melaka.com/index">http://www.casadelrio-melaka.com/index</a></b>



### FRIM Closes Its Canopy Walkway And Rover Track

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) regrets to inform that the Canopy Walkway and Rover Track will be closed effective 13 October 2015 until further notice due to the extensive damages to the bridge as well as the trail caused by the recent thunderstorm.

FRIM would like to conduct thorough safety assessments of the trail and the whole of the Bukit Lagong forest area.

We apologise for any inconvenience and appeal for understanding and cooperation from all visitors especially FRIM regular joggers to refrain from using the Rover Track.

FRIM's decision to close both the Canopy Walkway and Rover Trail was made with public safety in mind. For any query or assistance, call the FRIM One Stop Centre at +603-62797592 / +603-62797649 or e-mail to: [frim\\_enquiry@frim.gov.my](mailto:frim_enquiry@frim.gov.my).



Damages to the FRIM Canopy Walkway caused by the recent storms. A Melembu tree fell onto the second part of the walkway, causing stress on the whole system.



The decision to close Rover Track and Canopy Walkway at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia is for the long-term sustainability of its forests.



**All information is correct at time of publication.**

**Visitors are advised to contact the event organiser for the latest updates.**

For more media releases, media info and media features on Malaysia's tourism industry, kindly visit the Media Centre of Tourism Malaysia's website at <http://www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my/>

MALAYSIA TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD OR TOURISM MALAYSIA is an agency under the Ministry of Tourism & Culture, Malaysia. Tourism Malaysia focuses on the specific task of promoting Malaysia at all levels. Since its inception, Tourism Malaysia has grown by leaps and bounds and it has emerged as a major player in the international tourism scene. In 2014, Malaysia registered 27.4 million tourist arrivals and RM72 billion in receipts, making tourism its second largest foreign exchange earner.

Malaysia celebrated its fourth VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR (VMY) in 2014 with the theme "Celebrating 1Malaysia Truly Asia". The promotion of the country continues with the MALAYSIA YEAR OF FESTIVALS (MyFEST) campaign in 2015 with the theme "Endless Celebrations" emphasising the various festivals celebrated by its multicultural society. Both campaigns are key drivers towards achieving the country's target of 36 million tourist arrivals and RM168 billion in receipts by 2020, as outlined in the Tourism NKEA (National Key Economic Area).

Through the Tourism NKEA, collaborative efforts between the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, other Government agencies and the private sector have been enhanced to help secure Malaysia's position as a leading tourist destination. The targets set under the Tourism NKEA will be achieved through the implementation of twelve Entry Point Projects (EPPs) clustered under five themes: Affordable Luxury; Nature Adventure; Family Fun; Events, Entertainment, Spa and Sports; and Business Tourism.

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***For more information on Malaysia please contact Tourism Malaysia Overseas Offices or Tourist Information Centres (TIC) at your respective states, countries or region.***

