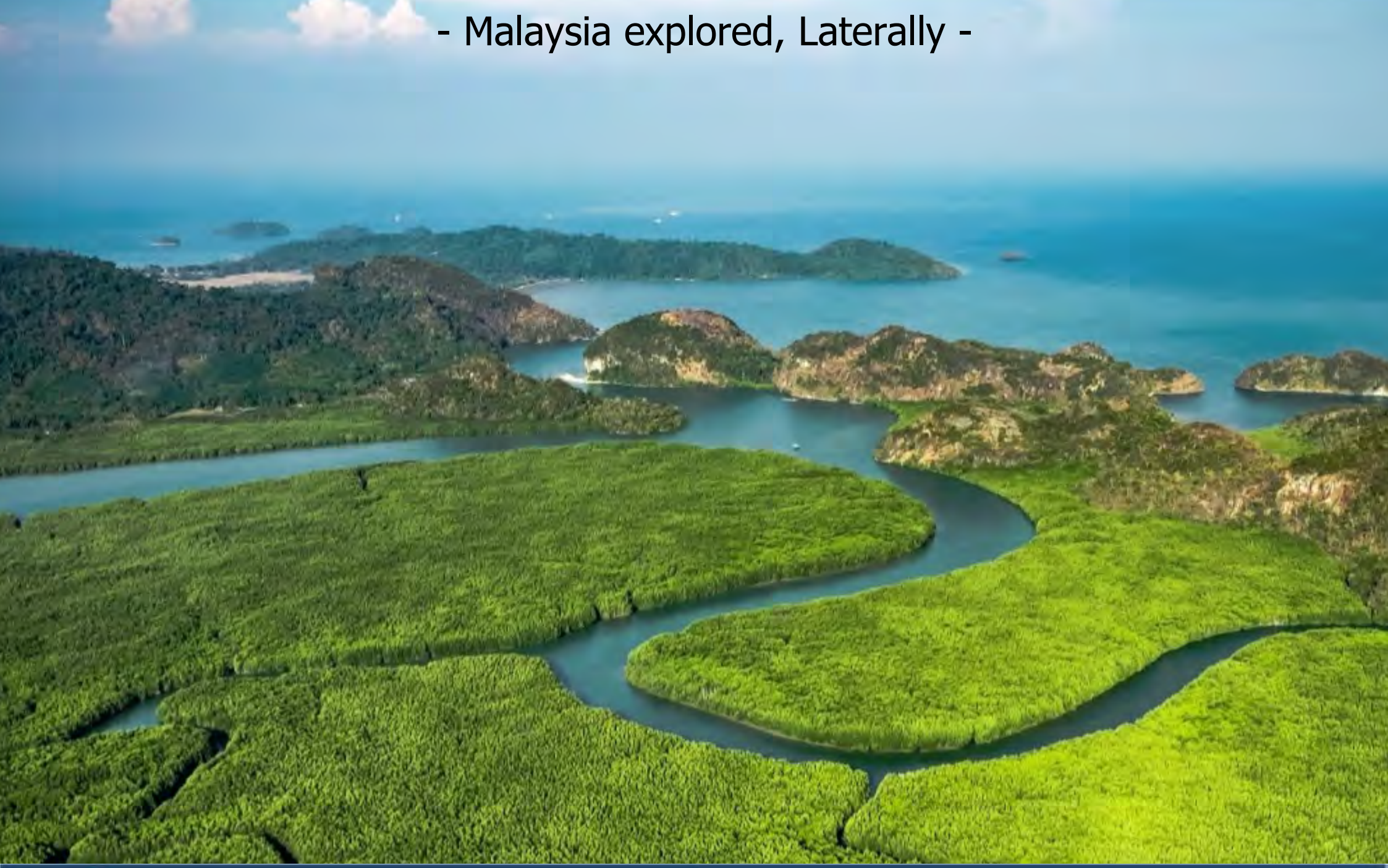
- Malaysia explored, Laterally -



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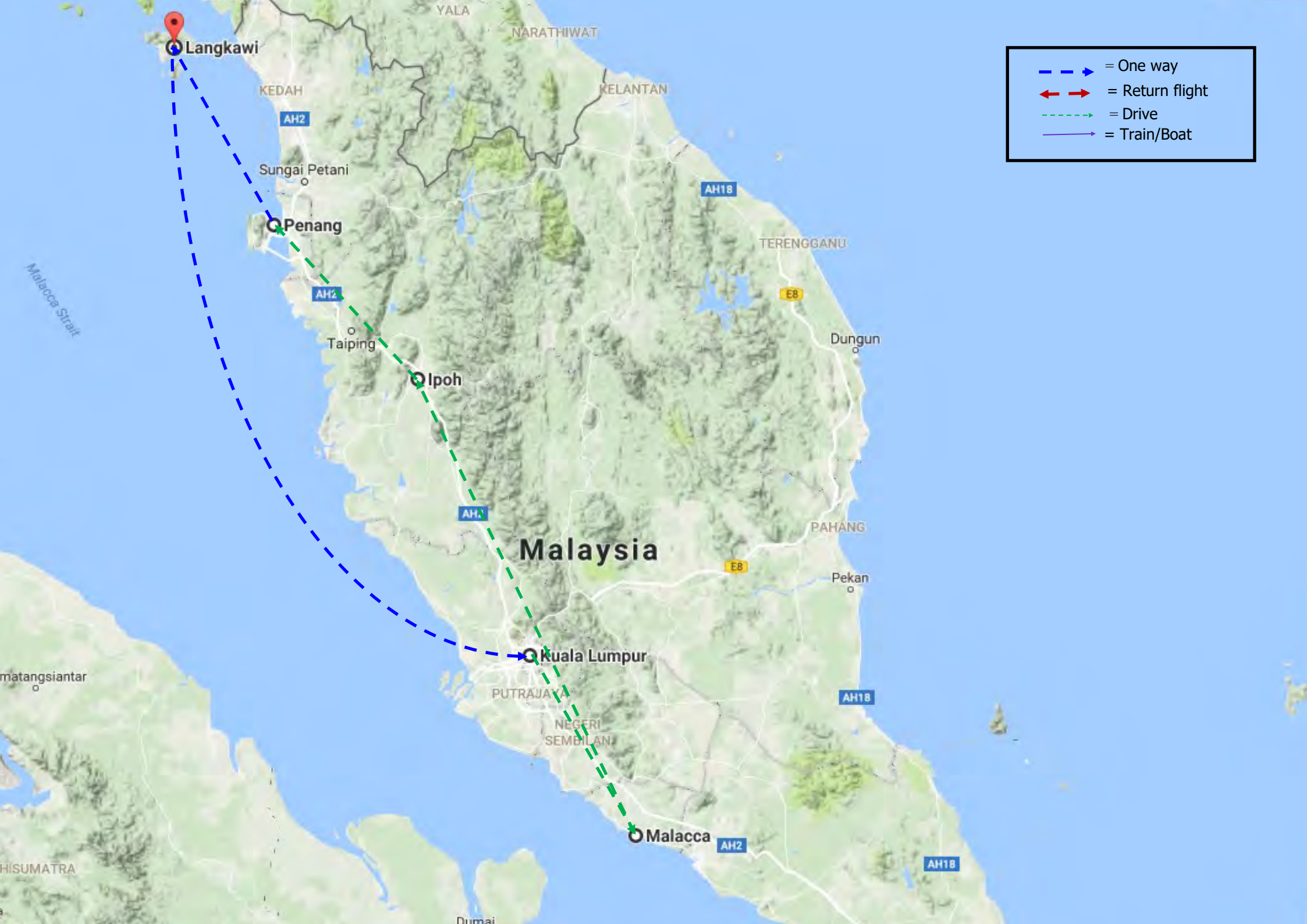
Because I've always wanted to...


= One way
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Langkawi
KEDAH
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E8
Malacca Strait
Taiping
Ipoh
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Malaysia
PAHANG
Pekan
Kuala Lumpur
PUTRAJAYA
NEGERI SEMBILAN
Malacca
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In a Nutshell...

Day 1, - Depart UK for Kuala Lumpur.
Day 2, - Arrival in Kuala Lumpur - Malacca. The Majestic Melaka.
Day 3, - Malacca Walking tour with Serge. The Majestic Melaka.
Day 4, - Evening River Cruise. The Majestic Melaka.
Day 5, - Transfer from Malacca to Ipoh. Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat.
Day 6, - At leisure. Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat.
Day 7, - At leisure. Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat.
Day 8, - Ipoh - Kuala Kangsar - Taiping - Penang. Eastern & Oriental Hotel.
Day 9, - Eating Asia - Heritage Walk Tour. Eastern & Oriental Hotel.
Day 10, - Island Tour. Eastern & Oriental Hotel.
Day 11, - Fly from Penang to Langkawi. The Datai.
Day 12, - Afternoon Mount Mat Chinchang. The Datai.
Day 13, - At Leisure. The Datai.
Day 14, - At Leisure. The Datai.
Day 15, - At Leisure. The Datai.
Day 16, - At Leisure. The Datai.
Day 17, - Fly from Langkawi to Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Pewter. The Majestic Kuala Lumpur.
Day 18, - Forgotten Trails of Kuala Lumpur. The Majestic Kuala Lumpur.
Day 19, - Departure home. Overnight flight.
Day 20, - Arrive in the UK. Welcome Home!

Flights...

Date	Airline & Flight Number	From	Departs	To	Arrives	Class
TBC	TBC	LHR	TBC	KUALA	TBC	TBC
TBC	TBC	PENANG	TBC	LANGKAWI	TBC	TBC
TBC	TBC	LANGKAWI	TBC	KUALA	TBC	TBC
TBC	TBC	KUALA	TBC	LHR	TBC	TBC

Your Sample Itinerary...

Day 1, - Depart UK for Kuala Lumpur.
Today make your way to the airport to catch your overnight flight to Kuala Lumpur.

Accommodation: Overnight flight.
Meals: Inflight meals.

Day 2, - Arrival in Kuala Lumpur - Malacca.
Welcome on arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Airport by a lateral**life** representative and transfer around 2 hours to Malacca for a 3-night stay. Check-in and enjoy the remainder of today at your leisure.

The historic city of Malacca is steeped in a rich tapestry of multicultural influences reflected in its heritage architecture, diverse lifestyles and eclectic cuisine. Founded centuries ago by a Sumatran prince, Malacca grew to become a powerful sultanate and the centre of the lucrative spice trade, visited by Arab, Tamil and Chinese merchants and subjected to dominance by the Portuguese, Dutch and British in turn. Each left their mark, creating the unique and enduring allure of the city today.

Accommodation: The Majestic Melaka, Deluxe Room.
Meals: None.

Day 3, - Malacca Walking tour with Serge.
After breakfast enjoy a historical heritage tour of Malacca, an adventure through more than 600 years of history to the present status of UNESCO World Heritage Site. Malacca is the only state and city in Malaysia to have been ruled by three different colonial powers - the Portuguese, Dutch and lastly the British.

Set off at around 10.00am and stretch your legs with a walking tour of Malacca with Serge, owner of the Snail House. Cross the bridge over the Malacca River, once the centre of trade between the East and West. Accompanied by Serge, walk along both sides of the river and learn about the Malay Sultans, the Portuguese, Dutch, British and Japanese, who one after another, ruled over the Straits of Malacca.

From churches to tombs, listen to the call of the muezzin over the tiled roofs of Malacca, where the Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Taoists, all pray in the same religious fervour.

This afternoon is at your leisure and we suggest a leisurely stroll along Malacca's antique row known as Jonker Street where you find a mishmash of antiques, art galleries, souvenirs, dried food and more.

This evening walk along the street-food market on Jonker Street and perhaps dinner at Nancy's Kitchen (reservations advised).

Accommodation: The Majestic Melaka, Deluxe Room.
Meals: Breakfast & Lunch.

Day 4, - Evening River Cruise.
Today is at your leisure to explore the city.

This evening enjoy a minute boat ride on the Malacca River, passing by small fishing villages and a number of historical buildings dotted along the river.

Optional activities:

Sunday Morning Antique Market - Every Sunday morning until 12pm you can enjoy the little antique market along Jalan Hang Lekir (right next to the popular Geographer Cafe).

Try Sate Celup for lunch - Sate Celup is a typical Malaccan way of eating sate skewers with all types of food, varying from meat, fish, seafood and vegetables. Restaurant Ban Lee Hiang along Jalan Ong Kim Wee is very popular among locals.

Visit the Baba Nonya Heritage Museum: http://babanyonyamuseum.com

Accommodation: The Majestic Melaka, Deluxe Room.
Meals: Breakfast.

Day 5, - Transfer from Malacca to Ipoh.
After breakfast depart to the 'Town Built on Tin' also known as Ipoh.

Ipoh was home to wealthy miners during the tin mining heyday and driving through the town feels a little like being caught in a time warp. Ipoh town itself is sectioned into two parts. The Kinta River divides the historic centre of Ipoh into Old Town and New Town with the Old Town home to old Chinese and colonial styled buildings while the New Town of Ipoh is home to the livelier business hub.

You have the option to stretch your legs with a wander through the Old Town before arriving at the Banjaran. A stop is also made at the Sam Poh Tong Cave Temple in Gunung Rapat. The temple houses an impressive work of art with various statues of Buddha set among the natural stalactites and stalagmites.

Arrive later this afternoon at the Banjaran, one of Malaysia's lesser known retreats.

Accommodation: The Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat, Garden Villa.
Meals: Breakfast & Dinner. Dinner includes an appetizer, main course and dessert. It can be chosen from the a la carte menu.

Day 6-7, - At leisure.
These next two days are at your leisure. Enjoy the hot-springs and Spa at the Banjaran.

Optional activity:
Taipiing & Maxwell Hill - Taiping (30 mins approx. drive time) dates back to the 1870s and during the 19th Century became famous for its tin mining activities. Taiping has some historical buildings, a famous zoo and the beautiful Taiping Lake Gardens. Stroll through the lake gardens before taking a 4x4 ride (mostly old Land Rovers) up Butik Larut (Maxwell Hill) for fantastic views of the lowlands below. This spot is a former British hill station to escape the heat.

Accommodation: The Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat, Garden Villa.
Meals: Breakfast & Dinner.

Day 8, - Ipoh - Kuala Kangsar - Taiping - Penang.
Check-out after breakfast and transfer to Kuala Kangsar, a most attractive royal town, around 60km north of Ipoh. Along the way you may choose to stop at the Ubudiah Mosque and the Iskandariah Palace (royal palace).

The Ubudiah Mosque is reputed to be one of the most beautiful mosques in the country. Its construction began in the reign of Sultan Idris Murshidul Adzam Shah 1, the 28th Sultan of Perak. Elephants damaged the Italian marble flooring twice during WW1.

Next stop will be at Taiping. The town of Taiping in Malaysia means "Eternal Peace" and is Perak State's foremost historic town. Formerly, known as Larut, the town was in the midst of a bloody feud between Chinese secret societies who worked the lucrative tin mines in the 1870s. After peace was declared between the feuding parties in 1874, the town changed to its present name. Before the founding of Kuala Lumpur in the south, Taiping prospered for several decades, scoring a number of firsts: first museum in the country, first English newspaper; first swimming pool. Today, it is chock-a-block with heritage buildings.

From Taiping continue the transfer to Penang crossing over the 4th longest bridge in South East Asia. Upon arrival, check-in to the historic Eastern & Oriental Hotel for a 2-night stay.

Accommodation: Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Deluxe Suite.
Meals: Breakfast.

Day 9, - Eating Asia - Heritage Walk Tour.
We suggest a light breakfast this morning.

Head out with your guide today on an 'Eating Asia Heritage Walk' through UNESCO World Heritage Georgetown.

Experience the historical and vibrant atmosphere of the city and starting in Chowrasta Market to witness the lively roadside trading of livestock, fruit and vegetables. This is followed sampling bread which has been toasted over charcoal.

Stop by Campbell Street, which was formerly named "Sin Kay" by the Chinese in the 19th century, and is one of Penang's notable precincts where vendors sell a bit of everything in small Chinese shop-houses. Treat yourself to "yu char kuih" (Donut fritters) at Campbell Street Wet Market, probably the oldest existing market in Georgetown dating back to the early 1900s. Try dim sum such as succulent steamed pork spareribs and "char siu bao" (steamed buns with roast pork) to mouth-watering shrimp dumplings which are known locally as "har gao".

Visit Khoo Kongsi where the Clan House building features a magnificent hall embellished with intricate carvings and woodwork. Pass the Kapitan Kling Mosque which has a dome-shaped minaret and is named after an Indian Muslim merchant, then sample an Indian Muslim traditional pancake known as roti canai for brunch.

Wander to Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, a Dravidian-style temple, which sports a sculptured tower or Gopuram, covered in brightly painted statues of gods and goddesses. Your walking tour continues with a visit the Goddess of Mercy Temple, a temple honouring Kuan Yin built in the 1800s by early Chinese settlers of the Hokkien and Cantonese communities. The temple was originally named Kong Hock Keong temple (Cantonese-Hokkien Temple).

For lunch, enjoy banana leaf rice at nearby Banana Leaf Restaurant and quench your thirst with a glass of 'pulled' tea (teh tarik).

The remainder of today is at your leisure.

Accommodation: Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Deluxe Suite.
Meals: Breakfast & Lunch.

Day 10, - Island Tour.
Set off on a half day exploration of Penang. Discover the enchanting beauty of Penang and her secrets with this essential circular island tour that takes you through idyllic and picturesque fishing villages. Stop at the Penang Batik Handicraft centre to observe how Malaysian Batik is being made. Stop at a street stall to be introduced to the many varieties of fruits and spices produced from the local farmers. Drive to the valley where clusters of traditional Malay villages and paddy fields can be seen. Proceed to the famous Snake Temple where pit vipers coil unperturbed on altars and temple grounds.

Optional activity:
A visit to Penang isn't complete without a visit to the beautifully preserved and restored Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion which also now serves as a small hotel – see www.cheongfatttzemansion.com

Accommodation: Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Deluxe Suite.
Meals: Breakfast.

Day 11, - Fly from Penang to Langkawi.
Check out of your hotel and transfer to the airport in Penang for a flight to Langkawi.

Upon arrival in Langkawi, your driver will transfer you to your hotel. Check-in for a 6-night stay in Langkawi.

One of only four inhabited islands in an archipelago of 99 islands in the Andaman Sea, Langkawi is a nature-lover's dream – relished for its equatorial climate, tropical flora and fauna, and clear emerald waters. Two-thirds of the island's dramatic mountainous landscape is covered with rainforest, while vibrant coral reefs lie just off shore.

Once a haven for pirates, Langkawi's intriguing cultural and ethnic diversity can be traced back to its days as a centre for Chinese, Indian and Arab traders. In a spectacular setting on Langkawi's northern cape, Langkawi offers easy access to discoveries on land and at sea, from bird watching, snorkelling and diving to jungle trekking, golf and island-hopping tours.

Accommodation: The Datai, Canopy Premium Room.
Meals: Breakfast & Dinner.

Day 12, - Afternoon Mount Mat Chinchang.
This morning is at your leisure.

This afternoon you'll be transferred to the Langkawi Cable Car located in the Oriental Village. The clear bubble shaped cable car takes the 2.2km ride up the mountainside on a 42-degree incline from where you can see the Seven Wells (Telaga Tujuh) Waterfalls and also the dense tropical forest which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Geopark. At the highest station, enjoy a drink in the café as the sun goes down, cross the Sky-Bridge (which ranks among the world's longest curved suspension bridges at 125 metres in length) and send a post card using the specially placed post box!

After the mountain visit, pass by Black Sand Beach before returning to your hotel.

Note: Cable car operates subject to weather conditions.

Accommodation: The Datai, Canopy Premium Room.
Meals: Breakfast & Dinner.

Day 13-16, - At Leisure.
Days are at your leisure on Langkawi.

We recommend a dinner at Temple Tree at Bon Ton which has one of the best restaurants on the island - www.bontonresort.com.my.

Accommodation: The Datai, Canopy Premium Room.
Meals: Breakfast & Dinner.

Day 17, - Fly from Langkawi to Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Pewter.
After breakfast at your hotel and check out and transfer to the airport in Langkawi for a flight to KL.

Upon arrival, prior to checking into your hotel, visit the Royal Selangor Pewter Centre. Founded in 1885, Royal Selangor is the world's foremost name in quality pewter, a brand synonymous with design and craftsmanship. In the hands of our skilled craftspeople, this versatile alloy of tin, copper and antimony is transformed into an endless variety of home-ware and gifts sold in more than twenty countries around the world. The Visitor Centre takes you back over a hundred years to the founding of Royal Selangor and its inextricable link with the history of Malaysia, to the present day as the world's largest pewter maker and its expansion into gold and sterling silver. During your visit you can try your hand at making your own creation of pewter.

Later you are transferred to your hotel for a 2-night stay.

The appeal of this nation's capital city cannot be denied. Be immediately struck by South-east Asia's tallest building stamping its mark on the iconic Kuala Lumpur city skyline. A mesmerising blend of old and new, the city's dynamism is reflected within its offerings; stroll through cultural enclaves, take in historical sites and landmarks that dot the city centre and enjoy yourself amongst modern day attractions.

Accommodation: The Majestic Kuala Lumpur, Deluxe Room.
Meals: Breakfast.

Day 18, - Forgotten Trails of Kuala Lumpur.
Think of Kuala Lumpur and what comes to the mind is the Twin Towers, modern high-rise skyscrapers and the busy, modern streets of Kuala Lumpur. Go behind the modern high-rise skyscrapers and visit the forgotten trails of KL.

Starting from a typical Malay village "Kampung Baru", stroll through streets where Malaysian style food stalls sprout like mushrooms. Marvel at the contrasting picture of traditional small Malay houses fronting this busy street, against the backdrop of the famous KL skyscrapers. Stop at one of the food stalls and try some local Malay sweets or cakes. Venture through the wet Chow Kit market, where housewives and hawkers haggle over prices. Chinese, Malays and Indian traders set up their poultry, beef, flowers, seafood and fruit stalls, all vying for a part of the action.

Walk through Little India, past the jewellery and saree shops and the beautiful Masjid

Jamek mosque. Then onto China Town, ending at the National Museum.

Finish your tour with a visit to a traditional Chinese Tea House in China Town. After which your guide will bring you to the Old China Café for lunch (paid locally) before returning to your hotel.

This afternoon, take the lift to the top of the famous Petronas Towers and a stop at the railway station to see its
East meets West architecture. Finish at Central Market where you can browse the countless stores. You may like to head to the famous shopping district at Suria KLCC Mall.

Optional evening activity (not included):
Enjoy sunset drinks at the Sky Lounge in the Maya Hotel with its stunning view of the Petronas Towers.

Accommodation: The Majestic Kuala Lumpur, Deluxe Room.
Meals: Breakfast.

Day 19, - Departure home.
At the agreed time, transfer to the international airport for your departure flight to the UK.

Accommodation: Overnight flight.
Meals: Breakfast & inflight meals.

Day 20, - Arrive in the UK.
Welcome Home!

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Laterally sleeping...

The Majestic Hotel, Malacca
Located on the banks of the river which in yesteryear teemed with Chinese junks and spice-laden vessels from all over the world, The Majestic Malacca provides a glimpse into the splendid saga of an extraordinary empire. The Majestic Malacca is an integral part of Malacca's colourful history. The original serene mansion, dating back to the 1920's, remains at the heart of the hotel, whilst a new building has been created, mirroring the original architecture, to house 54 spacious rooms and suites.

www.majesticmalacca.com

The Banjaran, Ipoh.
The Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat is nestled in a 16 acre valley, cradled by 260 million year old towering limestone hills, lush rainforest, rejuvenating geothermal hot springs, natural caves and cascading waterfalls. 25 sumptuous Garden and Water villas, a pampering Spa and Wellness Centre and a host of retreat experiences combine for ultimate seclusion. Also of note is the magnificent Jeff's Cellar, the owner's wine collection and bar set within a limestone cave. Savour a wide range of organic and rare wines in a setting where ethereal lighting, intimate cave interiors and natural water features present a whole new encounter and indulgence.

www.thebanjaran.com

Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Penang
The Eastern & Oriental Hotel is a colonial-style hotel in Penang, Malaysia that was established in 1885 by the Sarkies Brothers. The sea-fronting hotel is known for its luxurious accommodation and restaurants. The Eastern & Oriental Hotel is the embodiment of both a special time and a special place. For well over a century, this remarkable hotel - known simply as 'The E&O' to generations of travellers - has stood as a testament to the grand elegance of the British colonial era and its name is synonymous with the magical island once known as The Pearl Of the Orient.

www.eohotels.com/main.php

...sleeping Laterally

The Datai, Langkawi
Nestled in the heart of an ancient rainforest, The Datai Langkawi is a captivating destination resort that blends smoothly with its natural surroundings. Situated on the mystical island of Langkawi, each room, suite and villa enjoys the embrace of the lush rainforest and offers stunning views from private verandas of the breath-taking Andaman Sea.
National Geographic has rated Datai Bay as one of the top 10 beaches in the world, while the resort's jungle surrounds plays host to a wealth of wildlife, some of which are endemic to the area. Bask in the tranquillity and reconnect with nature. You may well spot dusky leaf monkeys, tokay geckos or Sunda flying lemurs during your stay.

www.thedatai.com/langkawi

The Majestic, Kuala Lumpur
The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur includes the original Hotel Majestic which is documented as a national heritage site. This colonial structure was built in 1932 and became one of the great hotels of Kuala Lumpur in its time. A true heritage classic landmark hotel, it is a short drive away from the shopping zone. Divided between a new and old wing, the new wing has an excellent restaurant and at lunchtime, the gourmet buffet is well worth a stop. Rooms in the new wing are fresh, modern yet traditional, light and inviting and very spacious with a mix of views. Rooms in the old wing are 'heritage suites' with mixed layouts and sizes. Old wing suites also have butler service. Facilities at the Hotel Majestic include an outdoor pool, a Truefitt & Hill Barbers, snooker room, cigar room and bar, an orchid house and a wonderful afternoon tea room and adjacent café.

www.majestickl.com