

Malaysia Country Guide

Country Guide: Malaysia

Due to the current coronavirus/COVID-19 situation and restrictions in various countries, the below information may not be accurate. This pandemic is a fluid situation. Check with authorities for local laws and restrictions concerning movements.

Updated: August 25, 2016

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Used Household Goods and Personal Effects

Documents Required

- Passport
- Detailed inventory in English, dated and signed by the owner of the goods
- Copy of bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)
- Full contact information of the owner of the goods in Malaysia
- Letter of employment / copy of work permit
- Copy of Malaysian ID (returning citizens)
- List of electrical items
- Diplomatic exemption letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (obtained by the Embassy - diplomats)

Specific Information

- The owner of the goods must be present in the country when the goods are being imported
- All shipments are subject to Customs examination
- ISPM 15 fumigation is required for all wooden packaging materials at origin country prior to import.
- All used household goods and personal effects used and owned by the owner of the goods for more than 6 months may be imported into Malaysia duty free.
 - Items less than 6 months old are subject to Customs duties and taxes.
 - Some entry ports in Malaysia may require an electrical board permit for all electrical goods.
 - The list of electrical items must include the item name, model, make, serial number and year of purchase (not required for port of entry at Port Kelang).
 - List of additional items include detailed information for books, VCDs, DVDs, CDs, etc. included in shipment
- The diplomatic letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes approximately 710 business days to obtain; check with agent regarding requirements to be included in the letter.

Motor Vehicles

Documents Required

- Original passport (1 copy)
- Original registration (1 copy)
- Proof of ownership
- Original insurance policy in country of origin proving use (1 copy)
- Letter from owner of the goods requesting permission to import a motor vehicle

Specific Information

- All motor vehicles imported attract high import duties and taxes.
- All documentation is required a minimum of 7 days prior to arrival of the vessel or 2 days prior to arrival of the flight to avoid incurring additional shipments (excludes diplomats).
- The process can take between 7 - 14 working days for the Ministry to issue the exemption letter.

The owner of the goods must apply for 1 import permit per vehicle with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry in Kuala Lumpur prior to import.

The owner of the goods can only import a motor vehicle if approved.

- Import duties where the cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value is less than RM 20,000.00, is approximately 170% - 300% and subject to taxes of approximately 10% - 20%.

Pets

Documents Required

- Certificate of vaccination
- Veterinary health certificate
- Import permit

Specific Information

- To apply for an import permit the owner of the goods must provide rabies / vaccination given 2 weeks validity with documentation and a microchip, along with the owner of the goods' passport and/or Malaysian ID (returning citizens), and their complete address.

This takes a day and is valid for 30 days.

- West Malaysia and East Malaysia have completely different set of government regulations.

Please check with destination agent in Malaysia for more specific information.

- All pets arriving after 10:00pm, will be charged for overtime cost at USD 80.00 flat rate
- No food will be provided while in quarantine, please make sure sufficient food is supplied at the quarantine.

Attach food for the duration of quarantine; otherwise food will be given for a cost.

- Space must be reserved for quarantine in advance of arrival.
 - The owner of the goods is allowed to visit the pet(s) at quarantine within office hours and on weekends upon special request to be made in advance.
 - Every pet owner is allowed to import their own pets, as long as rabies / vaccination documentation is up to date.
 - The veterinary health certificate must be issued 7 days prior to departure and state that the animal has been free from rabies during the preceding 6 months. •
- Cats and dogs are subject to quarantine in West Malaysia, if they are imported from Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Japan or Sweden.

Cats and dogs are subject to quarantine between 30 and 180 days in East Malaysia.

The government State Veterinarian Department will consider house quarantine after 30 days, subject to a formal application and approval during the first week of quarantine.

- Detailed information regarding the transport of animals must be provided to the destination airport prior to departure, including the type and number of pets.

Antiques, Artifacts, Carpets, Paintings

Documents Required

- Import permit
- Origin certificate
- Photograph of Item
- Valuation report

Specific Information

Contact the destination agent in Malaysia for further instruction.

Restricted/Dutiable Items

- Liquor, wine and tobacco (a special import permit is required and is difficult to obtain); these items are subject to high import duties and taxes.
- To import alcohol or tobacco a list must be supplied mentioning type of alcohol, quantity in ml or liter, country of origin, purchase value and percent of alcohol.
- The following items may qualify for free import if within the indicated limits:
 - Cigarettes (200), tobacco (225 g)
 - Alcohol (1 L)
- ◦ Books, VCD, DVD, CD, etc. (subject to censorship screening on arrival).
 - A screening fee will be charged directly to the owner of the goods.
- Restricted pets include:
 - Bull mastiff
 - Bull terrier
 - Doberman
 - Rottweiler
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Belgian / German shepherds

To import these pets requires a pedigree certificate and micro-chip.

The government veterinary officer will inspect owner's residence prior to approval for import permit.

Prohibited Items

- Narcotics (the death penalty is given for drug trafficking)
- Non-branded drugs
- Firearms, gas pistols, electric shock batons, stun guns (and similar weapons), ammunition and explosives (flares incorporating a barrel, etc.)
- Indecent or obscene video cassettes, DVDs, films, books, magazines and other articles
- Flick knives, butterfly knives and certain other offensive weapons, including some martial arts weapons
- Counterfeit currency
- Radio transmitters, walkie-talkies, citizen band radios, cordless telephones, etc. (an import permit is required)
- Meat and poultry; many other animal products; check with agent
- Plants and plant produce including trees and shrubs, potatoes and certain other vegetables, fruit, bulbs and seeds
- Animals and birds, whether alive or dead (egg. stuffed), parts and articles derived from protected species, including furs, skins, ivory, reptile leather and goods made from them

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

Cultural and Other Information

CIA World Factbook
Wikipedia Entry for Malaysia