

Living in Malaysia : understanding local traditions & practices

Malaysia is known for its diverse, open, and relaxed culture, but in some settings or occasions, conservative behavior is required. Understanding this balance is important for treating others with respect and being treated with respect in Malaysia.

2.1 : Appreciation of different cultures and beliefs

Embracing Malaysian Traditions and Cultural Diversity

Respect for Diversity: It is important to **respect and embrace** various cultural and religious backgrounds.

Participation and Active Interest : Your involvement and respect for festivals and customs, even if it means simple gestures like **greetings or understanding different customs** is encouraged.

Respecting Attire: Show understanding and respect of different cultures by **dressing appropriately in certain settings.** *

Multicultural Society: Explore and show interest in the rich blend of cultures, languages, and traditions in Malaysia.

Why should we understand the local tradition ?

Understanding and respecting local traditions makes it easier to be accepted in a new country. This understanding builds mutual respect, cultural harmony, and a stronger sense of belonging in a new environment.

DRESS CODE



*In Malaysia, modest dressing is essential, particularly when visiting places like **government offices and religious sites**. To show respect for local customs and traditions, it is important to wear modest clothing in these settings. This practice demonstrates a cultural understanding and a mark of respect towards the local norms.



Men usually do not greet women with physical contact when first meeting.



A polite nod, wave or a spoken greeting is more appropriate.

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2.2 : Common local practices when interacting with Malaysians



Respecting Elders and Traditions: Show respect for elders through gestures like helping them in public spaces or addressing them politely.



Tipping Culture: Malaysians generally do not practice tipping. Service charges may already be included in bills, and tipping is not expected but may be appreciated in some places.

MULTIPLE LANGUAGES IN MALAYSIA **INFO**
Malaysians speak a total of 137 languages, 41 of these spoken in the peninsula

Tamil is predominantly spoken by the Tamil people, who form the majority of Malaysian Indians.

The local in the northern and eastern parts of the peninsula speak in their own Malay dialects.

The Chinese speak in various southern Chinese dialects, such as Hokkien, Hakka, Cantonese, Teochew, Fuchow & Hainanese.

Iban is the main tribal language in Sarawak while the Dusun language is widely spoken by the natives in Sabah.

Sayangi Malaysiaku

Source : www.malaysia.gov.my
Bemama Infographics

Learning Local Phrases: Learn simple greetings or phrases in Malay, Chinese, or Tamil to show an interest in the local languages.

Malay:

- Hello: Assalamualaikum / Salam Sejahtera
- Thank you: Terima kasih

Mandarin (Chinese):

- Hello: nǐ hǎo
- Thank you: xièxiè

Tamil:

- Hello: vanakkam
- Thank you: nandri