

Malaysia

THE MALAY PENINSULA

LIMOSA HOLIDAYS | TOUR INFO PACK



A fine male Crested Fireback stalking the grounds of our hotel at Taman Negara © Brian Small, Limosa Holidays

2019 **Tuesday 19th February-Sunday 3rd March (13 days)**
2020 **Sunday 16th-Friday 28th February (13 days)**
Small group tour with Richard Thaxton & Lee Kok Chung

The Malay Peninsula offers a superb introduction to the amazing birdlife of Southeast Asia. Taking in three of the top birding sites, we begin at Shah Alam and the coastal mangroves of Kuala Selangor before moving up to the tropical montane forests that surround the old colonial hill stations of Fraser's Hill and Bukit Tinggi - with chances of Mountain Peacock-Pheasant and Ferruginous Partridge. The highlight of our holiday is a four-night stay amidst the pristine jungles of Taman Negara National Park, a vast tract of lowland rainforest and a treasurehouse of hornbills, trogons, broadbills and pittas.

- Join us for some of the finest tropical birding in all Asia!
- It's the start of the breeding season in Malaysia - and a good time of year for migrants, too
- The coast for Buffy Fish Owl, Hooded Pitta, Mangrove Blue Flycatcher
- 3 nights birding the tropical highland forests at famous Fraser's Hill
- Fire-tufted Barbet, Blue Nuthatch, Malayan Laughingthrush, Malayan Whistling Thrush
- **NEW!** Night Bukit Tinggi, seeking Mountain Peacock-pheasant and Ferruginous Partridge
- 4 nights amid the bird-rich lowland rainforests of Taman Negara National Park
- A wealth of pheasants, pittas, woodpeckers, trogons, broadbills and hornbills
- Expertly led by Limosa's Richard Thaxton and Malaysian bird guide Lee Kok Chung

What's Included?

- Limosa Tour Leader
- Expert English-speaking Malaysian bird tour guide
- Return flights - London Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, non-stop with British Airways
- 10 nights accommodation in Malaysia, at comfortable tourist hotels and chalet lodges
- All main meals - with drinking water provided during the day
- Minibus transport, switching to travel by boats at Taman Negara
- All excursions, entry fees, tour based tips and taxes

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Outline Itinerary

- Days 1-2:** We fly non-stop from London to Kuala Lumpur (arrival afternoon day two). One-hour transfer to our first hotel. Night Shah Alam
- Day 3:** Early start at botanical gardens. Late afternoon coastal birding Kuala Selangor. Night Kuala Selangor
- Day 4:** After a morning at the coast we travel inland to Fraser's Hill (3 nts)
- Days 5-6:** The montane forests of Fraser's Hill
- Day 7:** Morning at Fraser's Hill, then drive to Bukit Tinggi. Night Bukit Tinggi
- Day 8:** Early morning at Bukit Tinggi. Late morning we head to the lowland rainforests of Taman Negara NP. Taman Negara (4 nts)
- Days 9-11:** Taman Negara National Park
- Day 12:** Final morning at Taman Negara and return to Kuala Lumpur. Fly London
- Day 13:** Morning arrival London

Tour Overview

The tropical forests of the Malay Peninsula shelter one of the most exotic faunas on Earth: equatorial treasurehouses that resound to the unfamiliar cries of pheasants, barbets and pittas, and the maniacal whooping of gibbons. Add an astonishment of other birds and wildlife, good accommodations and the Malay Peninsula's generally excellent tourist infrastructure, and there can be few more alluring birdwatching destinations. Our extended tour itinerary takes advantage of direct flights with British Airways for a more relaxed start to the trip - and the opportunity to visit Shah Alam next day, where the birding excitement really begins!

The botanical gardens at Shah Alam are home to some special winter migrants, including the exquisite Hooded and Blue-winged Pittas – we got superb views of both species here in 2018!

Not far away, the coastal mudflats and mangroves at Kuala Selangor provide a gentle introduction to some of the commoner Southeast Asian birds. This bird-rich area is also home to several localised species, including Buffy Fish

Owl, Mangrove Whistler and Mangrove Blue Flycatcher.

As the coastal humidity begins to rise, we will escape inland to the cooler hill-forests of Fraser's Hill, one of Malaysia's attractive old 'hill stations'. Here we shall search for some of the peninsula's most enticing birds, from shy endemics like Malayan Laughingthrush and Malayan Whistling Thrush to upland specialities such as Mountain Scops Owl, Orange-bellied Leafbird, Mountain Bulbul, Blue Nuthatch, Red-bearded Bee-eater and Fire-tufted Barbet.

NEW to our itinerary for 2019, we will also enjoy one early morning at Bukit Tinggi, where we have a great chance of seeing two members of the 'Old World' *Phasianidae*: Mountain Peacock-pheasant and the richly coloured Ferruginous Partridge. This is currently the best site to see these two species anywhere and with patience we should get super views!

Crowning it all, our tour concludes with a four-night stay at the heart of one of Southeast Asia's finest national parks: Taman Negara. Set within a vast tract of pristine lowland rainforest, our splendid lodgings here give access to a network of forest trails and waterways, which offer a wealth of fabulous bird and wildlife experiences.

Although shy and elusive, it is at Taman Negara that we can hope to see the gorgeous Crested Fireback. The Great Argus is another thrilling pheasant possibility and as we search for them many more of Malaysia's forest jewels will hopefully come our way: Malayan Banded and Garnet Pittas perhaps, Raffles's Malkoha, up to four species of trogon, five kinds of broadbill and seven huge and impressive hornbills.

From time to time, a surge of excited calls signals the approach of a 'bird wave' and we will suddenly find ourselves surrounded by a frenzy of avian activity. With luck, we might even encounter the peculiar Rail-babbler, while a host of forest mammals and exotic butterflies - among them the spectacular Rajah Brooke's Birdwing - contrive to distract us. And at the end of each day, we can relax in the comfort of our air-conditioned rooms, with welcoming showers and a delicious evening meal to look forward to.

Lee Kok Chung is our resident local expert in Malaysia, a talented and very experienced bird tour leader. His eyesight and hearing are astounding, as is his knowledge of good local restaurants – and you'll find he is good fun, too! Lee leads our tours to Malaysia and Borneo in conjunction with Limosa's own expert guides.

Daily Itinerary

Days 1 - 2

FLY TO KUALA LUMPUR

Our birdwatching tour to the Malay Peninsula begins with a non-stop British Airways flight from London Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, where we arrive on the afternoon of day two.

Our local guide Lee will be waiting to welcome us and we make a short journey to our hotel at Shah Alam. *Night Shah Alam*

Day 3

SHAH ALAM & KUALA SELANGOR

At the nearby gardens at Shah Alam and in the botanical gardens there we will have a gentle introduction to some of the bulbuls and munias, including White-headed Munia in the cultivated fields. Our 'target bird' here is the fine Hooded Pitta that winters in the gardens, and we might also find a Blue-winged Pitta if we are very lucky - we were in 2018! In local parks, we have a chance of the noble Barred Eagle Owl.

After lunch we head for the coast at Kuala Selangor, where after checking in at our hotel and perhaps a brief siesta, we will visit local rice fields that host hundreds of egrets and swarms of swiftlets. For those with energy and enthusiasm to spare there will be the option of a short outing after dinner this evening in hopes of finding Buffy Fish Owl or Large-tailed Nightjar. *Night Kuala Selangor*

Day 4

KUALA SELANGOR TO FRASER'S HILL

The heat and humidity builds rapidly on the Malaysian coast so we will want to make the most of the cool hours of the early morning for a return visit to Kuala Selangor. With its extensive mangroves and brackish swamps, this pleasant coastal wetland is home to a very different range

of birds and mammals than we are likely to see elsewhere. Our first Pink-necked Green Pigeons, Coppersmith Barbets, Blue-tailed Bee-eaters and Asian Glossy Starlings await at the Kuala Selangor Nature Park - a splendid mangrove reserve at the mouth of the Selangor River. The large and imposing Buffy Fish Owl occurs in the area – but we will have to get there early!

Brahminy Kites and White-bellied Sea Eagles soar in the skies above the fishing village, where an excellent boardwalk leads out through the mangroves. From here we have chances of seeing several specialist mangrove feeders, including Chestnut-bellied Malkoha, the lovely Mangrove Blue Flycatcher and the more sombre Mangrove Whistler - along with the big Black-capped and Stork-billed Kingfishers, Common Flameback, Laced Woodpecker and Brown-throated Sunbird. Smooth-coated Otters and Long-tailed Macaques, as well as the much scarcer Silvered Leaf Monkey can sometimes be seen. If our visit coincides with low tide, there may be waders on the mud along with gesturing Fiddler Crabs and several kinds of mudskipper.

After a lovely lunch on the banks of the river, we will take a brief look at the local mudflats – hoping that the tide is not too far out – in search of a wonderment of waders, including Terek and Broad-billed Sandpipers. Our journey northeast heads past Selangor Dam, where we stop to look for the 'beefy' Rufous-bellied Swallow. By late afternoon, we should be climbing up into the Genting Highlands to arrive at one of Malaysia's best-loved birding spots - Fraser's Hill - at the start of a three-night stay. *Night Fraser's Hill*

Days 5 - 6

FRASER'S HILL

Fraser's Hill is a former tin mine and colonial hill station, established by the British to escape the stifling heat of Malaysia's coastal lowlands. Set amidst the Peninsula's cooler montane forest and with magnificent views into the surrounding hills, it's a delightful location in which to seek out a wealth of bird species restricted to Malaysia's central highlands.

Lured into the forest by the 'Siren songs' of Siamangs and White-handed Gibbons, the range of species to be found here is indeed impressive!

We will bird at a leisurely pace along roadsides and forest trails at elevations between ca. 820 and 1320 metres. Especially at the higher levels, birds tend to remain active throughout the day and our time will be filled with such treats as Dark Hawk-cuckoo, Collared Owlet, Fire-tufted and Black-browed Barbets, Greater Yellow-nape, Long-tailed Broadbill, Black-and-crimson Oriole, Common Green Magpie, Golden Babbler, Chestnut-capped and endemic Malayan Laughingthrushes, Silver-eared Mesia, Blyth's and Black-eared Shrike-babblers, Chestnut-crowned and Yellow-bellied Warblers, Little Pied and Rufous-browed Flycatchers, and the energetic Streaked Spiderhunter... With luck, and an early start, we might also come across Malayan Whistling Thrush, a scarce and retiring endemic.

From the extensive network of forest trails we have chances of finding the elusive Malaysian Partridge, Rusty-naped Pitta, Yellow-vented Pigeon and Blue Nuthatch. All forest birding requires a combination of skill, patience and luck, but with Lee's local expertise and amazing hearing our chances of success are greatly increased. One evening we will head out hoping to see Brown Wood Owl, Grey Nightjar and perhaps a Mountain Scops Owl calling - though actually getting to see one is rather more of a challenge! *Nights Fraser's Hill*

Day 7

FRASER'S HILL TO BUKIT TINGGI

We'll spend a final morning at Fraser's Hill, picking off some of the few remaining new birds. Local feeding stations are often frequented by Rufous-browed and Mugimaki Flycatchers, and Large Niltavas - the males brilliant in their cobalt-blue plumage. Understated Buff-breasted Babblers sneak out from the vegetation, but Streaked and Pygmy Wren-babblers are rather more loathe to do so.

After lunch, we return to the hotel and load up for a two-hour drive to another hilltop resort - Bukit Tinggi. This will be our base for one night in readiness for an early morning start tomorrow near the Japanese Garden. *Night Bukit Tinggi*

Day 8

BUKIT TINGGI TO TAMAN NEGARA

Rising early we'll have a quick snack and drive to an area near the Japanese Garden, then walk out to a viewing area in readiness for two 'five-star' birds. Over the past two years at Bukit Tinggi, birders have been able to see the highly sought-after Mountain Peacock-pheasant and richly coloured Ferruginous Partridge. Both are normally very elusive and hardly ever seen, but they come each morning to a feeding area here and show off their splendour! We have a good chance of seeing them today before returning for a late breakfast in readiness for our drive to Taman Negara.

We head first towards Krau Forest Reserve and nearby wetlands. The sedge-fringed lakes may hold Yellow Bittern, and the surrounding trees offer the huge-billed Golden-whiskered Barbet and Oriental Pied Hornbill. In the forest we also have our first chance of Garnet and Malayan Banded Pittas, plus many bulbuls and Whiskered Treeswifts.

We'll aim to arrive at Kuala Tahan, headquarters of the Taman Negara National Park, late in the afternoon and in good time to settle into our comfortable air-conditioned chalets at Taman Negara Mutiara Resort, which will be our base for the next four nights. *Night Taman Negara*

Days 9 - 11

TAMAN NEGARA NATIONAL PARK

Each day we will set off to explore the excellent system of forest trails close to our lodgings, or take short boat rides out along the Sungei Tahan. If we can locate a fruiting tree, we'll find this welcome but short-lived food supply draws innumerable frugivores such as pigeons, hornbills, barbets and bulbuls. While many of the park's birds and mammals can be difficult to observe in the depths of the forest, our extended stay at Taman Negara allows ample time to try for them. Whatever we see, birding here is always exciting and over the coming days we are in for a real treat!

Walking within Taman Negara's immense, timeless forests is a humbling experience. Largely unchanged for millions of years, the forest giants - towering up to 50 metres above

our heads - dominate this environment. Birds are everywhere in the forest, but often occurring at surprisingly low densities or roving in mixed feeding flocks - so we may go some time before actually seeing one!

As we gradually become accustomed to birding within the forest however we will start to realise that there is always something to watch - from the endless processions of termites to a plethora of beautiful butterflies. We should also come across a fascinating range of mammals, among them perhaps Dusky Leaf Monkey, Greater Treeshrew and the beautiful Prevost's Squirrel. Taman Negara is home to many of Malaysia's larger mammals too, but the likes of Asian Elephant, Tiger and Malayan Tapir are retiring and only rarely observed.

Despite the many distractions, birds will always be uppermost in our minds. Lesser Fish Eagle, Black-thighed Falconet, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, the amusing Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, Plaintive Cuckoo, Square-tailed Drongo-cuckoo, Raffles's, Black-bellied and Red-billed Malkohas, the outsize Malaysian Eared Nightjar, Silver-rumped Spinetail, Brown-backed Needletail and the lovely Blue-banded Kingfisher are among the many species we could see. As emerald Red-throated and Golden-whiskered Barbets 'chok' monotonously away from the lofty forest canopy, there are also more than fifteen different woodpeckers to watch for - including the huge Great Slaty and White-bellied, Crimson-winged and the amazing Orange-backed. Then there are all those fabulous broadbills to enjoy: Black-and-yellow, Black-and-red, Banded and Green.

Spectacular pheasants are well represented at Taman Negara. Daily, we will hear the loud resonant calls of Great Argus. Yet despite this bird's enormous size, actually seeing one is remarkably difficult! Exquisite Crested Firebacks are usually a little easier, with small parties emerging to feed on the trails in the early mornings. Trogons invariably feature high on everyone's list of personal favourites, a sudden burst of vivid colour bringing the middle storey to life and betraying the presence of Scarlet-rumped, Diard's and Red-naped. Above them,

parties of hornbills crash through the upper branches in search of fruiting figs; Black, Rhinoceros, Helmeted and White-crowned Hornbills are among eight species present at Taman Negara.

This is one of the best places to hear the loud and beautiful song of the Straw-headed Bulbul, a now rare riverine species threatened by the cage-bird trade.

Down on the shady forest floor - though like the pheasants, always difficult to see - handsome Garnet and Malayan Banded Pittas are among several of these jewel-like terrestrial species to watch for during our stay. Dressed in more subtle shades, Taman Negara's babblers include Abbott's and Chestnut-winged, Fluffy-backed Tit-babbler and Pin-striped Wren-babbler... And we haven't even started on the plethora of sunbirds, bulbuls and other small birds that await us! While an evening's 'owling' adds the prospect of Brown Hawk Owl, along with Gould's and Blyth's Frogmouths. *Three nights Taman Negara*

Day 12

KUALA LUMPUR, FLY LONDON

We'll enjoy a final morning of birding followed by lunch at Taman Negara before leaving this wonderful National Park and travelling back to Kuala Lumpur. After an evening meal at a superb local restaurant, we return to the airport, say farewell to our local guide and board our British Airways late evening flight home.

Day 13

ARRIVAL LONDON

Morning arrival in London, where our birding tour to the Malay Peninsula concludes.

Trip Information

Group Size Max 10 participants & 2 leaders

What To Expect A 13-day, small group birdwatching tour to the Malay Peninsula visiting three top sites: coastal Kuala Selangor, the highland forests at Fraser's Hill / Bukit Tinggi and the pristine tropical rainforests of

Taman Negara National Park. As with all wildlife tours to the tropics, be prepared for early starts, getting out in the field at daybreak, typically followed by a siesta during the hottest and least 'birdy' part of the day before venturing out again mid-late afternoon. This is primarily a birding tour but with good all-round wildlife interest, including several primates and an array of butterflies.

Birds: 275-325 species

Mammals: 10-20 species

Accommodation 10 nights accommodation in Malaysia staying in good tourist hotels at Shah Alam, Kuala Selangor, Fraser's Hill and Bukit Tinggi, and in comfortable air-conditioned chalets at Taman Negara. All rooms with private facilities.

Meals All main meals (and drinking water provided during the day) are included in the tour price, commencing with dinner in Malaysia on Day 2 and concluding with a sit-down evening meal on Day 12 prior to the flight home. Meals at Shah Alam, Kuala Selangor and Fraser's Hill will usually be taken at local restaurants; meals at Taman Negara will be taken at the hotel. The food on this tour is delicious – for meat-eaters and vegetarians alike!

Walking Walks are taken at a gentle pace, mostly along quiet roadsides and forest trails – at Taman Negara these are on slightly raised boardwalks, with stepped sections in places. One forest trail is accessed by a steep path that can be muddy underfoot. Some mornings we will be on our feet for up to 4.5 hours, so you might find a walking stick seat handy. At Taman Negara, some of our birding is by boat along forested waterways. Comfortable shoes or walking boots with corrugated soles for grip recommended.

Weather Tropical climate. Although hot and humid (28-35°C/ 82-95F) in the lowlands, for much of the time we will be in the shade of the forest. Generally cooler and more pleasant early and late in the day, and in the highlands at Fraser's Hill (15-25°C/59-77F, falling to below 10°C/50F at night). February/March is the 'dry season' here, but rainfall can and does occur year

round in the rainforest of course, particularly during the afternoons at Fraser's Hill.

Flights Return flights London Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, nonstop with British Airways.

Ground Transport By air-conditioned minibus. At Taman Negara National Park (where there are no roads) we travel by boat and on foot.

Insects As one would expect, *mosquitoes* are present in the coastal mangroves (bring repellent and cover up with long sleeves and trousers), but urban and coastal areas of Malaysia are declared free from malaria. Both Fraser's Hill and Bukit Tinggi are at an elevation too high for the malaria mosquito to occur. Malaria exists in limited concentrations in the deep interior, however, so you must check the current malarial risk and recommended precautions with your doctor. You do not need to bring a mosquito net with you on tour as rooms are well screened and/or equipped with air-conditioning and/or (at Taman Negara) provided with an electric 'mosi-coil' burner.

Leeches: expect to encounter leeches in the forests at Krau and Taman Negara where, although harmless, their presence can sometimes be distracting! Insect repellent applied to your footwear and lower leg area can be effective in keeping them at bay, but the effect is of course quickly lost if boots become wet or muddied. We recommend that you bring with you a pair of 'leech socks', which will prevent leeches reaching the skin on your feet and lower legs. Leech socks are available from specialist suppliers in the UK, such as the *Oriental Bird Club*.

Tour Cost

2019 (13 days):
 £3795 (flights from London)
 Land only cost: £3245
 Deposit: £500
 Single Supp: £525

Cost includes

- Services of Limosa guide
- Expert English-speaking Malaysian bird guide
- Return flights London-Kuala Lumpur
- 10 nights accommodation in Malaysia
- All main meals (with drinking water provided)
- Minibus transport
- Travel by boat within Taman Negara NP
- All excursions, entry fees, permits, tour based tips (inc. local drivers and guides) and taxes
- Map & Limosa checklist of birds

Cost excludes

Insurance, airport meals/snacks, drinks & items of a personal nature. Camera fees at Taman Negara (though these are minimal - 5MYR).

**** 2019 prices shown. Costs for February 2020 tour TBC (available summer 2019)**

About Your Guides

Richard Thaxton Richard is a principal Limosa guide who joined us in the early 'noughties' at the urging of our American friends Field Guides - who clearly know a good thing when they see one! Recently retired as warden at the RSPB's Loch Garten reserve, where he worked for 30 years, Richard was charged with the welfare of some of Speyside's rarest inhabitants, including Capercaillies and the world famous Ospreys. He is a first-rate bird tour guide with exceptional people skills and regularly leads our trips to eastern Europe, as well as those to the Caribbean and Latin America - including Brazil, Colombia and Trinidad & Tobago. Richard also has good experience of Southeast Asia, having travelled widely across the region, including Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Our February 2019

and 2020 tours will be Richard's second and third visits to the Malay Peninsula.

Lee Kok Chung 'Mr Lee' is our resident English-speaking expert in Malaysia and a very experienced bird tour guide. His eyesight and hearing are astounding – and you'll find he is good fun, too! Lee co-led our 2016, 2017 and 2018 tours to the Malay Peninsula as well as our July 2017 and 2018 tours to Borneo.

What You Say...

"... [Leadership] not just excellent but outstanding. Both leaders, particularly Brian, were able to meet the different needs of the individual members of the group while at the same time encouraging a cohesive and inclusive dynamic. I enjoyed both the birding and the social aspects of the holiday enormously..."

JA, Malay Peninsula tour

"Lee has astounding ability to locate birds. Brian is an excellent tour leader: funny, engaging, caring and endlessly patient. The pair looked after us supremely well."

NW, Malay Peninsula tour

Financial Security

Limosa Holidays is a fully bonded Tour Operator and a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO). We hold an ATOL (Air Tour Operators Licence) granted by the CAA, providing for your protection in the event of Limosa Holidays' insolvency. Our ATOL licence number is ATOL 2950.

For tours not including the cost of a flight from the UK or for holidays booked by you as 'Land Only', all payments made to us are fully bonded through the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT). Our ABTOT membership number is 5230. For details please see our brochure or website: <http://www.limosaholidays.co.uk/financial-protection>

Limosa Loyalty Discount

We are proud of the number of loyal customers who travel regularly with us. As our way of saying 'thank you', we offer a **Frequent Travel Discount**. Under the scheme, everyone who takes four trips with us is entitled to claim a 5% discount on their 5th trip. ^{*1}

^{*1} **Please note:** *This offer applies to the basic tour cost only and excludes certain commission-based trips, extras such as additional flights or accommodation, private extensions and cancellations.* • Discounts cannot be given in lieu of tour deposits or off the cost of single room supplements. • Discount **must** be requested at time of booking!

How To Book

Check availability on our website or with our office. We are happy to hold Provisional Reservations for up to 7 days. After this, we do require a Booking Form and deposit to confirm your place on tour. Any unconfirmed space will be released.

Book Online, by Phone or by Post

You can book and pay the deposit simply and securely **Online** via our website, using the '**Book This Tour**' button on the relevant tour page or the **Booking** tab at the top of the page.

Telephone bookings must be confirmed in writing by completion of a Booking Form (there's one tucked inside every brochure or as a PDF download from our website), which can be mailed to us in the time honoured way.

Be sure to read our **Booking Conditions** and **General Information** (found at the back of our brochure, on our website or available from our office on request) prior to booking.

When to Book

Early booking is advised since flights and accommodation are much more easily secured well in advance. To encourage early booking, we are pleased to offer an **Early Bird Discount** - see our current brochure or website for details.

All our tours are limited to small group sizes. So they can fill up quickly - sometimes even before our new brochure comes out! Single rooms in particular can often be in short supply and among the first to go, so do try to plan well ahead if you definitely require one of these.

Last-minute Bookings: We inevitably receive a few unexpected cancellations over the course of a season so it is always worth enquiring about vacancies on any tour - even for those departing in just a few weeks!

Payments

Deposit: The amount of **booking deposit** per person is shown alongside every tour. We accept deposit payments by **electronic bank transfer** (please ask for our bank details), **UK debit card** and **cheque** (made payable to *Limosa Holidays* and drawn on a UK bank in GBPounds Sterling).

For payment of **booking deposits** only we also accept Visa and MasterCard credit cards.

Balance: Full payment of the **tour balance** is due not later than 12 weeks prior to departure (20 weeks in the case of certain tours such as cruises or those involving rail travel). We will send you an invoice before the balance is due.

We accept balance payments and any additional payments (e.g. interim flight deposits, flight upgrades, extra hotels etc) by **electronic bank transfer (BACS)**, **UK debit card** or **cheque**.

Payment by overseas customers must be in GB Pounds Sterling and may be made by electronic transfer direct to our bank (*please ask for our bank details*).

We do **not** accept cheques on US Banks in US Dollars, or cheques in Euros or Eurocheques.

Credit cards

*We do **NOT** accept credit cards or overseas debit cards for balance payments (including any additional or interim payments) from customers living within the UK or European Economic Area (the EEA is the EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway).*

For customers living in North America, Australia and all other areas outside of the UK and the European Economic Area we are able to accept payment by Visa and MasterCard credit cards or overseas debit card but with a charge of 2.5% of the transaction amount to help offset card company charges.

Late Booking Payments: In order for us to guarantee your airline seats, hotels etc., full payment is required at time of booking for all late bookings (*i.e. bookings made within 12 weeks of departure*).

Other Things You Need To Know

Passports & Visas

Passports should be valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of entry into Malaysia.

[*Dual nationality:* Note that Malaysia does not recognise dual nationality. Technically you can be refused entry if you are found to be holding two passports of different nationality.]

- British nationals **don't need a visa** to visit Malaysia. You will normally be given permission to stay for 3 months on arrival.

All other nationalities should contact the nearest Malaysian embassy or consulate to check whether or not they require a visa. If a visa is required, you will need to apply locally. If the embassy or consulate requires you to provide a letter confirming that you are booked on an all-inclusive tour, please contact our office and we will be happy to provide one.

Health & Vaccinations

Visit your health professional at least 4 to 6 weeks before your trip to check whether you need any vaccinations or other preventive measures. Country specific information and advice is published by the **National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC)**, visit: travelhealthpro.org.uk/country-information/ and by **NHS (Scotland)**, visit: <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations.aspx>

Useful information and advice about healthcare abroad is also available at NHS Choices website: <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/Pages/Healthcareabroad.aspx>

Compulsory vaccinations: None (*note that a yellow fever certificate is required if arriving within 6 days from yellow fever endemic areas*).

Recommended vaccinations: typhoid, tetanus and hepatitis A. **Consult your doctor for current advice regarding malaria** and up-to-date information regarding diphtheria, hepatitis B, Japanese B encephalitis, polio and TB, which may be recommended in some circumstances. For further advice on malaria see: maps at www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk/destinations/asia-east/malaysia/malaysia-malaria-map.aspx

The above information, together with that contained within our Travel Information sheets (sent to everyone who books), outlines health requirements for this tour. **Please note that these details are given for guidance only - and are only for certain diseases - and you must consult your doctor in good time prior to travel as to what immunisations (if any) are needed for your chosen holiday.**

For full and latest health information we **urge everyone to consult The National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) website prior to booking any overseas holiday**. NaTHNaC is funded by the UK Government's Health Protection Agency and provides health information for both health professionals and travellers, with information compiled by its own clinical and scientific team. You can search for individual country requirements.

Your Safety & Travel Advice

An unavoidable aspect of travelling abroad nowadays is the risk it may pose to your safety and security. The best advice on current risks is provided by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO). In order to assess and protect against any risks in your chosen destination we **strongly recommended** that you refer to the relevant FCO Travel Advice - both prior to

booking and regularly before you travel. See www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

It is standard Limosa policy for our office to send a copy of the relevant FCO Travel Advice about the tour to all participants along with their Final Letter (ca. 2-3 weeks prior to the trip).

‘**Travel Aware**’ - staying safe and healthy abroad - is a travel safety campaign run by the FCO, and another useful resource. Go to: <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>

Travel Insurance

Good travel insurance is **essential** before setting off on any overseas trip. In common with all responsible tour operators, **it is a condition of booking** that all clients are fully and adequately insured before travelling overseas with us.

Be aware that some destinations may require you to produce proof of comprehensive travel insurance (e.g. valid insurance certificate) at immigration on arrival in the country, so you should carry your documentation with you.

Your travel insurance should cover against cancellation, curtailment, missed departure, delay, personal accident, death, loss of baggage and valuables (see note below), personal liability and legal expenses. Most importantly, your insurance must cover you fully in respect of medical care and repatriation should you become too ill to continue with the tour, including the cost of emergency evacuation by helicopter or air ambulance should this be necessary. Note that passenger liability insurance covering the transportation that we hire, particularly in Third World countries, may be inadequate; it is therefore important that your insurance cover includes sufficient provision for your dependents in the event of an accident.

We recommend that you obtain travel insurance as soon as possible after booking your holiday to ensure you are protected right from the word go in the event of unexpected cancellation prior to departure due to accident or illness. You must inform your insurers of any pre-existing medical conditions (including those of persons not necessarily travelling but upon

whom your holiday may depend) that may require treatment during a period of overseas travel or might cause you to cancel the trip.

Once you have arranged your insurance, please be sure to send us the following essential details: name and contact details of your insurance provider, your policy number, expiry date and your insurers 24hr Emergency Assistance number.

Important things to note about Insurance

- Travel Insurance does **not** normally provide sufficient cover for valuable optical equipment, which is often best protected under your own household insurance policy. If in doubt ask your insurers for advice prior to travel.
- Most travel insurance policies limit the amount of cover, typically up to a maximum tour cost of £5000 per person. If the tour you are booking exceeds this amount, additional cover can usually be provided upon payment of additional premium. **We recommend all travellers** check their individual policy limit to ensure the full cost of their holiday is covered.

Arranging Your Insurance: due to UK Government legislation, under Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulations, we are not allowed to offer or recommend travel related insurance to customers. Premiums can vary widely according to your age, needs, health, choice of destination and other factors, while many people nowadays have Annual Travel Insurance cover. For these reasons, we leave you free to shop around and pick your own policy, one best suited to your own individual needs.

General Information

www.limosaholidays.co.uk

Our website gives easy access to detailed tour itineraries (Tour Info Packs), trip reports, trip photos and the latest Limosa News.

Special Diets & Other Requests

We pass on all such requests to airlines, hotels and other suppliers, and do our best to ensure (but of course cannot guarantee) that your needs will be met. Please be sure to tell us about these (in as much detail as possible) at the time of booking, to allow good time to make the necessary arrangements.

Smoking

Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. For the enjoyment and comfort of all, we ask that smokers refrain from smoking in proximity to the group and respect our NO SMOKING policy in the vehicle, at meal times and when watching wildlife.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions at any time, you'll find our office staff friendly, efficient, approachable - and just a phone call away, eager to assist you in every way.

Our office is open 09.00-17.00 hrs Mon-Fri, and can also be reached by email. In the event we are unable to take your call, please leave a message on our answerphone (24hrs) and our office will contact you as soon as we can.

Thank you for your interest in our tours. We do hope that you will be able to join us - and we look forward to hearing from you again!

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