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There is only one word that can describe Langkawi—inexpressible! Can you believe that it is actually made up of 99 islands on Malaysia's west coast? 99! As Malaysia's most well-known holiday destination, there is just so much to explore.

Surrounded by stunning turquoise sea, the interior of the main island is a checkerboard of picturesque paddy fields and jungle-clad hills. If you intend to stock up on lots of booze, cigarettes and chocolate, then this is the place to be. You're right, this is a duty free island. However, except for alcohol and cigarettes, not everything can be assumed to be cheaper due to the additional transportation costs involved. Beware!

Nature-lovers will find the island delightful with its shoreline fringed with powdery fine sand and swaying coconut trees. The island is not only an excellent diving location, but a tropical masterpiece that hides a treasure trove of other thrilling vacation surprises. The sightseeing spots will not disappoint, and the vast array of gastronomic options will leave you spoilt for choice.

So what exactly can one do in Langkawi? Here we've picked out the more spectacular attractions:

Langkawi's popular cable-car ride takes visitors all the way up to Mount Mat Cincang, Langkawi's second highest peak. Beside it is the highest peak, Gunung Raya Mountain, but unfortunately the only way up to that peak is by car. According to local legend, the two mountains had 'quarrelled' before at the wedding of their children. So what happened next? Take a trip down to find out more!



At Mount Mat Cincang, a set of staircases will lead you to the observatory deck on top. Once there, you can finally enjoy the magnificent view of the surrounding horizon; the island's landscape, skyline and seas beyond. Beside the deck is the Langkawi Sky Bridge—a steel bridge suspended across Mount Mat Cincang and a neighbouring mountain. Walking across this bridge is a fantastic experience and offers a different viewpoint of the island and sea. It is a 410 foot-long curved pedestrian bridge above Mount Mat Cincang. As cliché as it may sound, the views from here are simply stunning—great for those Instagram moments!

What's the next best thing after viewing the skyline from the peak? Focus and hear—*Whoosh splash!* The melodious

rush of water drumming on rocks.

Telaga Tujuh Waterfalls is billed as the island's most wonderful natural attraction. Its name also means Seven Wells Waterfalls, referring to a series of seven connected natural pools fed by seven separate waterfalls in Mount Mat Cincang.

Locals say that the Telaga Tujuh Waterfalls are home to fairies, but really it is probably the gorgeous flora in the area that makes the place seem magical.

All psyched up for the fun-tastic waterfalls? Take in deep lungfuls of the fresh air, damp with mist from the waterfalls, and put on your swimming gear! Dip in and have a relaxing bath in the pool at the bottom. You will definitely have a splashing good time.

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While some might be content with simply admiring the waterfalls from the bottom, there's always more to see on top. Adventure enthusiasts can brave the steep climbs to the top of the waterfalls, past huge rocks and through the seven pools where you have to cut through the undergrowth—a journey that will take you approximately 45 minutes. Along the way, look out for the abundance of flora and fauna—you are likely to spot macaques, hornbills and a positively giant squirrel or two. Get ready a list, spot them and start ticking them off!

Don't forget to look at the bigger picture—99 islands! What better way to know more about Langkawi than island hopping? Take a tour, which costs around RM30–RM65 (S\$11–S\$24) depending on the quality of the tour. Usually, the tours include Pulau Singa Besar (Big Lion Island) where you get to watch the king of the skies—eagles diving for their prey with nothing less than chicken carcasses thrown by the boat drivers. Other islands include Pulau Dayang Bunting to catch the silhouette of the pregnant maiden, and Beras Basah Island (Wet Rice Island) which is a beach just to chillax (chill and relax), breathe in what Mother Nature has to offer, and soak up the holiday atmosphere.

Of course, what is a vacation without scrumptious food? For Langkawi, it has got to be seafood! What better way to know the best dining locations than from the experience of hundreds of others before? From my travelling experience, Tripadvisor is usually pretty accurate.

Nonetheless, words are just plain words and pictures are just pictures. They may paint a thousand words but there is always a limit to one's imagination. You have to see it for yourself to believe in Langkawi's wonders!

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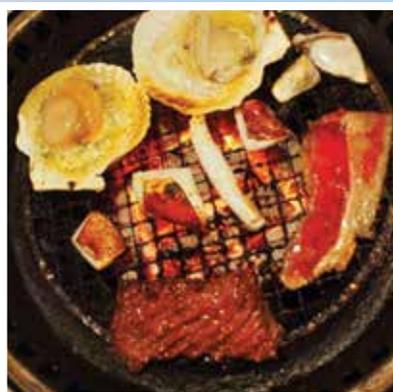
1) Kusatsu Onsen (草津温泉) is a popular hot spring resort located in Gunma Prefecture, Japan, northwest of Tokyo. Kusatsu is situated at an altitude of 1200 metres above sea level in the mountains of Gunma Prefecture.

- **Location:** Kusatsu, Kusatsu-machi, Agatsuma-gun, Gunma
- **Directions:** About 25 minutes by bus from Naganoharakusatsuguchi Station on JR Agatsuma Line



2) The latest food trend in Japan... Pancake! 'Pancake Days' Cafe at Harajuku is one of the numerous pancake cafes in Tokyo. Their kawaii smiley pancakes will brighten up your day.

- **Address:** 150-0001, Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 6-6-2, Harajuku Berupia 2F
- **Website:** www.pancakedays.jp/shop/harajuku



3) Do you know Yakiniku is Japanese BBQ? On the table of Japanese yakiniku is top grade kuroge wagyu beef! If you do not eat beef, its menu includes pork, chicken, and other varieties of side dishes.

- **Restaurant:** Gyu-Kaku, Harajuku
- **Address:** 3F, 1-13-21 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001
- **Directions:** 2-min walk from Harajuku Station