

# Thai Visa Runs to Malaysia: Extending Your Time in Paradise

## Screw going home: Thai Visa Runs to Malaysia

Exploring Thailand can take up a whole lot of time, so much time that you'll probably want to extend your stay. Thankfully you have some options. Jumping the border is one of your options, and is probably the most straight forward.

The long and short of it is essentially that you leave the country, get your exit stamp, spend some time in another country, return to Thailand. Now the issue is that the restrictions do vary and change from time to time. Check on the official visa websites and also your own embassy sites. Funnily enough, Larry in the bar who has just sunk his 12<sup>th</sup> Leo of the morning isn't always the font of knowledge that he thinks he is...

The following suggestion certainly works for American and UK passports, other countries should check. Most European's can follow the same system but those outside of these areas should spend more time researching the ins and outs of it.

### Getting your Thai Visa in Malaysia

It's no surprise that you can extend your visa in Malaysia. After all this is one of Thailand's closest neighbors. It is also the easiest country to enter on the above passports and has barely any visa restrictions itself. This means that you're reducing the cost of your overall trip. Laos, for instance, demands an entry visa, so you're paying twice the visa.

There are a few clear-cut options for your Thai visa run into Malaysia. The first is Kuala Lumpur. It's the nation's capital and has one of the largest airports in SEA. This makes for cheap flights, plus there's a Thai consulate in KL. The city itself is well worth a trip as well.

For those looking for a different trip, or those without the budget for a flight, Penang is your next best bet. Just over the Thai border, this island of Penang and the city of Georgetown are well worth a visit as well as being incredibly convenient.

For both the above you'll need to make a trip to the Thai consulate. You won't need to make an appointment, but we advise turning up as early as you can. You'll also need to collect a pile of paperwork, see the following list!

### What to bring on your Malaysian Thai Visa run:

- Your passport – goes without saying...

- Photocopy of passport ID page
- A set of passport pictures – some agencies require 2, others 4, some even more. Take a good few to be sure.
- Photocopy of your visa page
- Your departure card – don't forget this, no card, no visa.
- 1900 baht in cash, some agencies might take card but the majority will not.

Don't panic if you don't have photocopies. There are almost always some legit and illegitimate services on offer around the consulate.

Hand in all of the documents and they'll tell you when to return. Sometimes this can be later that day if it's quiet, other times it's the following day. If you're particularly unfortunate then you might have to wait more than 1 day.

### Insider Tip

Be flexible, if you can spend take the time to make the visa run over a couple of days you can save cash and inconvenience. Georgetown is a great city to explore whilst KL has all the bright lights of a major capital. Make your pick and enjoy! Soon you'll be back in the land of Leo and enjoying Thailand all over again.