

FILMING IN MALAYSIA - FACT SHEET

Locations - Malaysia Truly Asia

Malaysia lies just above the equator, right in the heart of Southeast Asia, strategically located between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. The Country is a unique melting pot of Asia influences resulting from centuries of trade between the West and Asia. From striking skyscrapers in Kuala Lumpur to colonial townships in Penang and Malacca, luscious greenery spread over 4.8 million hectares of permanent reserved forest, and 6 UNESCO listed heritage sites, Malaysia has unique and appealing locations for all genres. The abundant diversity of cultures and ethnicity forges the nation's claim to becoming Truly Asia. A crossroad for a multitude of Asian cultures, Muslim Malays, religiously diverse Chinese, and Hindu and Muslim Indians counts the land that straddles the South China Sea as their homeland, along with the indigenous people of Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo. The accumulation of traditions resulting from a long history of migration and trade results in a fascinating harmony of multiple languages, cuisines and religious celebrations.

Weather

No extreme weather and temperatures are consistent all year between 21°C - 32°C in Malaysia.

Local Costs

Malaysia can boast one of the cheapest costs of doing business among all film production hubs.

Favorable Exchange rates

The local currency is relatively stable, with extremely favorable exchange rates.

Film in Malaysia Incentive (FIMI)

- Introduced in 2013, FIMI offers 30% cash rebate with an additional rebate of 5% for projects with cultural test elements. (Cultural test consists of 2% for promoting locations in Malaysia directly or indirectly, 2% for hiring local heads of department in the project, and 1% for displaying cultural values and traditions of Malaysia in the project)
- No ceiling cap per project.

FIMI is a 30~35% cash rebate on all Qualifying Malaysian Production Expenditure (QMPE) that meets their guidelines. This qualifying spend includes:

- Both local and foreign crew hires,
- Local equipment hires
- Local transport, hotels, expendables
- essentially all 'boots on the ground' spend.

REBATE on Qualifying Malaysian Production Expenditure (QMPE) spent for production and post-production with the following minimum requirements:

- Qualifying Malaysia Production Expenditure (QMPE) of MYR 5 million for production (inclusive of post-production); or
- MYR 1.0 million for post-production activity only (for production inside Malaysia)
- Application must be submitted to FIMO at least 3 months before the production date.

For more information, visit <https://filminmalaysia.com/>

Tax Deduction for Sponsorship of Arts, Culture and Heritage Activities

- To encourage active involvement from the private sector in sponsoring arts, culture and heritage activities, the government of Malaysia has consented for tax deduction from the gross income to sponsor arts, culture, and heritage activities that have been approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture. For more details, visit www.motac.gov.my/en

Infrastructure

- Iskandar Malaysia Studios is a premier studio facility for filmed entertainment production in Southeast Asia, offering
 - 100,000 sq. ft. of Film Stages
 - 24,000 sq. ft. of HD ready TV Studios with an audience capacity of 1,260
 - 37,000 sq. ft. of Workshop space and Support Facilities; which includes Hair, Make Up, Dressing Rooms and Production Offices
 - 3 water filming tanks, including Asia Pacific's only paddock tank measuring 65m x 65m, a 6-meter-deep water tank and a 500 sqm indoor tank.
 - 6 acres of Period Standing Sets with 23 customizable buildings.
 - 12,000 sq. ft of Virtual Production Studio consisting a LED wall measuring 16m X 5m with in-camera VFX capability.
 - The facility also includes Film Services that specializes in lighting design consultancy and rigging equipment.
 - Post production on a dry hire basis, which includes a Dolby Atmos Dubbing Theatre and 50-seat DI Screening Theatre

For more information, visit <https://www.iskandarmalaysiastudios.com/>

- Malaysia has developed a large and growing equipment base to support both the domestic film & television industry as well as large to medium-scale international projects filming in Malaysia.

Talents

● Experience

Malaysia has hosted multiple large- and medium-scale foreign productions in recent years, in addition to supporting a thriving domestic film and TV industry. With more than 30 active film producers and over 250 TV producers, the country has a wide pool of talents that have earned a global reputation for their work ethic, expertise, passion, and versatility. Malaysia has hosted over 300 multiple large and medium-scale international productions, such as Marco Polo Season 1 & 2 (US Netflix's Series, 2015 & 2016), Indian Summers Season 1 & 2 (UK Series, 2015 & 2016), Blackhat (US Feature, 2015), Operation Mekong (Chinese Feature, 2016), Crazy Rich Asians (US Feature, 2018), Asia's Got Talent Season 1,2 & 3 (AXN Asia's Series, 2016-2018), Skyfire (Chinese Feature, 2019), Strike Back S7 (UK SkyOne's Series, 2019), The Singapore Grip (UK ITV's Series, 2020), Survivor (Swedish Series, 2021), Sisterhood (Chinese iQiyi's Series, 2022).

- **Language**

English and Mandarin Chinese proficiency in Malaysia are among the highest in Asia, so you will have ready access to a large and extremely capable multilingual crew based in-country. The 2021 English Proficiency Index ranks Malaysia as the third best Asian Country in English proficiency and 28th best in the world.

One Stop Central Agency - PUSPAL

Malaysia has a specific agency known as PUSPAL that acts as a one stop center for your filming approval needs from all the relevant authorities. PUSPAL also gives out consultations and approves work permits for foreign casts and crews.

For more information, visit: <https://portalpuspal.kkmm.gov.my/>