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## Malaysian Travel Tricks

By Mark Peoples

Nothing ruins a good trip than by unwittingly offending your host or the customs of the country.

Travel agencies attest to this, because these are most of the mistakes their clients make when in another country. Statistics show that the bulk of these mistakes happens when a tourist or visitor is on a country in a different continent. Perhaps this is because of the expansive difference between the cultures of the continents. Western culture is radically different from the cultures of the East, especially in terms of religion. Predominantly, Muslim regions are more stringent with their customs, and even visitors are not exempt. If you are thinking about traveling to a Muslim country like Malaysia, there are several things you must remember to enjoy smooth Malaysia travel.

Keep in mind that Malaysian population is an integration of social groups, diverse cultures, and traditions. Generally, the different racial groups form a society, but still keep individual lifestyles and traditions. Malays predominate the total population and are still governed by strong decorum and the authority of the elders. The other Asian members of the society originally came to Malaysia to take up civil service positions but are now also among the professional classes. The Western European influence is visible but minimal. Therefore, as a Western traveler, don't expect to find that your ways will be accepted and understood by most of the locals. Malaysians are hospitable, but they would not change their customs to suit your needs. If you want a successful and hassle-free Malaysia travel, it is better to equip yourself with the knowledge about your host country and its traditions.

Malaysia travel requires that you speak to the locals. Unless you have the extra money for an interpreter, it is best that you learn a few basic and useful Malaysian phrases, and forms of address. You would not be only thought of as considerate but also as a respectful traveler. Locals will also be more helpful and accommodating if you can talk to them, no matter how poorly. A handshake seems to be a universal symbol for peace and goodwill, but unlike the Western handshake, Malays do theirs relaxed and gently as a sign of warmth and welcome. If you want to pay respect to a Malay elder, statue, or temple, simply touch your chest briefly. The way you dress is very important as Malays are very proper people. Don informal clothing but don't be overly casual. Some shrines and temples won't allow visitors to enter if dressed too casually. Speaking of shrines, removing footwear before entering temples, shrines, and houses is a form of courtesy and respect. Despite the many social conventions, visitors can expect lavish hospitality from the locals. Unlike in western countries, giving tips is not

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practiced, so do not tip even taxi drivers. It may be interpreted as a sign of disrespect. Smoking is also deemed as rude; if you must smoke, go to designated smoking areas in your hotel but never do it on the streets.

Bear this in mind and practice them on your Malaysia travel. You can be guaranteed of a warm welcome and invitations to return from newfound local friends. With respect for others culture and the local residents, any travel will be surely glitch-free.

For more valuable information on Malaysian travel, please visit

<http://www.suaramalaysia.com>

### **It's Showtime!**

#### **By Preston Houer**

So you've decided to be a magician. Now you want to join a local group to learn a lot of tricks of trade. You practice them every night and now you think you're ready to perform. What should you remember to do? Here are some tips for a successful magical show.

#### Show it to Other Magicians

Before plunging straight to the stage, be sure to show it to other magicians from your local group. They can spot mistakes and give you advice you could use once you start doing your show. This will be very important so keep in mind what they have to say.

Remember to ask for help if you're struggling with your tricks. Ask them if you're doing it right or ask what you are doing wrong. Be humble enough to know there are others better than you.

#### Plan Your Show

You can't really barge in front of an audience without knowing the order of how you'll do your tricks. The key is to get their attention, maintain it and at the end do something mesmerizing.

The first trick should be something that will catch attention. Don't call on an audience volunteer immediately. Try some simple but effective sleights of hand to start things off. The second trick should be better than the first. Then follow it up with another trick. In between great tricks, try telling something funny or doing funny tricks just to make them laugh. At the end, mesmerize them with a spellbinding trick that will make them ask for more.

Remember that all your tricks should flow from one trick to another. It should be like a story where all the things happening are related to one another.

#### Length of the Show

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If you're in front of an audience that is paying, give them something that will not make them go to the refund window. Show them something exciting. New tricks are preferable as old tricks will just make them not want to watch your show.

If you're doing it for kids, do something simple and short. Remember that a child's attention span is short so you should give them something that will make them continue watching.

If you're doing street magic, just give them one of the tricks you've mastered. Just mesmerize them and leave them with their mouths wide open showing appreciation to your magic.

Remember to practice, plan and time your show. A great show doesn't need to be long to be good. Just give them something to remember you by.

Preston Houer has been involved with the art of illusion and sleight of hand for over 30 years. Let Preston show you how to Have Fun With Magic. Visit His Site Today!

<http://www.have-fun-with-magic.com>



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