

About Malaysia

By Xi Min

Many of you know that I am from Singapore, but did you know that my parents are themselves not from Singapore? My parents and grandparents are from Malaysia, and I am the first Singaporean in my family. We often travel from Singapore to Malaysia to visit my cousins and relatives.



My mother is from Taiping, in the north, and my father is from Johore Bahru, in the south. Johore Bahru is very near Singapore, only 1 or 2 hours by car. But Taiping is quite far, about 7 hours by car. That's about the same as from Takikawa to Hakodate. Nowadays when we go to Taiping, we don't drive. Instead, we take a plane to Ipoh, which is much faster.

Like Singapore, Malaysia has really good food. There are many hawker centers in Malaysia, which are places where there are lots of small shops which sell different kinds of food. It is also very cheap!



Hawker centers are usually very noisy and crowded, so they are very lively places, especially at night. Almost any kind of food in the world can be found in hawker centers; Malay, Chinese, Indian, Western, sometimes even Japanese food.



One of my favorite kinds of Malaysian food is Char Kway Teow from Penang Island. Singapore also has Char Kway Teow, but I think Penang Char Kway Teow is better. It is a kind of flat noodles with egg, beansprouts and seafood, all fried in lard. It is not very healthy, but really delicious.



Another great dish is Wantan Mee. This dish is made from thin noodles cooked in soy sauce, and served with wantan dumplings, vegetables and roasted meat.

My favorite place to eat Wantan Mee is in Bidor, a small town about 2 hours away from Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia.

Malaysia also has a lot of natural beauty, though it is very different from Hokkaido. Malaysia has a warm, tropical climate, and has a lot of beautiful beaches and hills.



Cameron Highlands is one of the coolest places in Malaysia, because it is so high up. It is famous for tea and strawberries, which is grown on the hillsides on farms like this.



Tioman Island has some of the cleanest and most beautiful beaches I have seen, and there is a lot of colorful marine life under the crystal-clear waters. This is also a great place to learn scuba diving.

There are many more interesting places like these in Malaysia, and I could go on forever about them. I hope you'll think about going to Malaysia or Singapore when you have the chance. Cheers!