

occasionally to refer to the geographical entity of Peninsular Malaysia when it became Malaysia. East Malaysia is the name formerly applied to the states of Sabah and Sarawak and is still commonly used.

**Climate** — Malaysia's climate is hot and humid, varying little throughout the year. Temperatures average 29°C (85°F) during the daytime and 24°C (75°C) at night. The annual mean rainfall is 254 cm (100 inches). October to February is the wettest period on the east coast and May to October on the west coast.

**Holidays** — Malaysian holidays reflect the country's multi-religious character. Because the Muslim calendar year has only 354 or 355 days, Muslim holidays fall 10 to 12 days earlier, each year, on the Gregorian calendar. The following list serves only as a guide and Canadians are advised to confirm dates of business visits with the Malaysian High Commission in Ottawa or the Canadian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. The weeks of Chinese New Year and Hari Raya are not suitable for business visits.

**New Year** — *January 1*

**Federal Territory Day** — *February 1*

**Chinese New Year** — *Late January or early February*

**Sultan of Selangor's Birthday** — *March 8*

**Prophet Mohamed's Birthday** — *March 2*

**Labour Day** — *May 1*

**Wesak Day (Buddhist)** — *Late May\**

**Yang-di-Pertuan Agong's Birthday** — *June 1*

**Hari Kebangsaan (National Day)** — *August 31*

**Hari Raya Puasa (Muslim)** — *September or October\**

**Deepavali (Hindu)** — *Late October or early November\**

**Hari Raya Haji (Muslim)** — *Late November or early December\**

**Awal Muharam (Muslim)** — *Late December or early January\**

**Christmas Day** — *December 25*

\*Date determined by Lunar Calendar

**Measures** — Both the metric and the Imperial systems are used.