



## PACK YOUR BAGS

**BEST FOR** Away-from-it-all romance. Once you've arrived here, there's little reason to stray. Split your time between your villa, four intimate eateries, an adults-only pool and the chic beach club.

**BEST FEATURE** Datai Bay Beach, with its sugar-white sands and clear, warm waters. Kayaks, catamarans and snorkels are up for grabs, or simply kick back on a lounge, cocktail in hand.

**BEST TIME TO STAY** Langkawi enjoys good weather year round. Showers during the August and September rainy season are short and sharp, providing just enough downtime for a quick nap.

**HOW MUCH WILL IT COST** Rooms start at \$580 a night.

**HOW DO I GET THERE** Fly to Kuala Lumpur International Airport, then board a Malaysia Airlines or AirAsia flight for the 55-minute hop to Langkawi. It's a 30-minute drive to the hotel.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW

Book the Honeymoon Package through Mr & Mrs Smith for stays until 31 August 2013, and receive daily breakfast, return airport transfers, a couple's spa treatment, romantic bath ritual, and a torch-lit beach dinner.

# “Rock-star treatment”

## THE DATAI, LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA

*For a luxurious honeymoon that blends jungle seclusion with a blissful beach scene, check in to The Datai in Malaysia's lush Langkawi islands, writes Sarah Lewis.*

If you're hankering for a beach break, but your new groom's gunning for jungle adventures, The Datai hotel in Langkawi may well fit the bill. Set on the edge of the Andaman Sea, this ritzy retreat is nestled in a pristine patch of rainforest.

The rock-star treatment begins as soon as we touch down at Langkawi Airport, where we're greeted by a sign-toting chauffeur and led to a Mercedes limousine, decked out with drinks, iPads and massage seats. So far, so fabulous.

Thirty minutes later, after a fuss-free check in and a gentle warning not to feed the monkeys, we're led to our villa. These brand-new abodes boast a romance-rewing outdoor shower, 12-metre pool and direct access to Datai Bay Beach. Honeymooners could happily hole themselves up here for a week, feasting on room service and soaking up the pindrop-peaceful atmosphere. We have other plans, however, and quickly throw on our swimsuits and hightail it to the beach.

Scenes don't come more postcard-perfect than this: lined with sunloungers, this near-deserted stretch is all powder-soft sands and pure, warm waters, with views to some of Langkawi's other 99-odd islands.

The buzzy Beach Club serves woodfired pizzas and tropical cocktails, and the activities hut offers catamarans and kayaks for jaunts across the bay. We paddle to a nearby isle, then flop onto loungers back on the shore. Within minutes, savvy staff bring us iced water and bowls of strawberry ice cream. Bliss.

As night falls, we wander back to the breezy reception pavilion to join a guided tour with naturalist Irshad Mobarak. A master storyteller, Irshad leads us through the forest, pointing out cheeky macaque monkeys and majestic hornbills. Our walk takes us past Gulai House, a rustic restaurant hidden in the trees. We earmark its Malay/Indian menu for another evening, instead dining on Thai dishes at the poolside Pavilion restaurant. Martinis in the lounge bar round out an indulgent day.



Bellini-fuelled breakfasts in the Dining Room the next morning provide the perfect excuse for a do-nothing day. Luckily, The Datai is primed for lazy living, with poolside cocktail service, the villa's secluded sun deck, and a dreamy day spa for pampering sessions. ◊

*Thanks to boutique travel experts Mr & Mrs Smith. To view their honeymoon collection, visit [mrandmrsmith.com](http://mrandmrsmith.com).*