



Climate

Equatorial/Tropical—the climate is generally hot and sunny all year round; visitors need to wear comfortable clothing to avoid heatstroke. We also have scattered unpredictable rains, therefore, it's advisable to always bring an umbrella in case it rains.

Average Temperature

Lowlands (Kota Kinabalu, Kudat, Sandakan, Tawau)

32 degrees Centigrade

Highlands (Ranau, Kundasang, Tambunan)

21 degrees Centigrade

*Bear in mind though, that Mount Kinabalu has its own climate. Temperatures can drop to freezing level above 3500 meters.

Currency

Malaysian Ringgit (RM)

Foreign currencies can be exchanged for Malaysian Ringgit (RM) at a few 5-star hotels and foreign currency exchange counters located in major shopping complexes. Most major hotels charge a nominal fee for currency conversion.

Banking Hours:

Monday – Friday: 9am to 4pm

Major Credit and Charge Cards

VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club – credit and charge cards are accepted in almost all departmental stores, supermarkets, petrol stations and restaurants.

Local Time

Standard Malaysian Time is 8 hours ahead of GMT (GMT+8)

Banking Hours

Monday through Friday from 9.30am to 4pm

Usual Office Hours

Monday to Friday from 8am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm; Saturday from 8am – 1pm

Shopping

Shopping centres, supermarkets, restaurants and mini markets are generally open daily from 10am to 10pm

As for tipping; food and beverages in exclusive restaurants, cafes and clubs, as well as accommodations normally include 10 per cent service charges.

With effect from September 1, 2018, Sales & Services Tax (SST) will be implemented throughout Malaysia. <https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/content/31319>

Tipping is not obligatory in most places.

Electricity & Water Facilities

Electricity is on the 240 Volts AC/ 50-Cycle system; treated pipe water is available in most urban and sub-urban areas. Type G plugs are used in Malaysia.

Communications

Mobile telecommunications cover many parts of Sabah with the exception of some remote areas. Public phones are scarcely available in most places.

Medical

Government hospitals, clinics and dispensaries are available in all towns. The list of private medical practitioners and pharmacies are available in the local phone directory. However, those with specific medical needs are advised to have a good supply of medications. Some of the medical institutions around Kota Kinabalu are:



Gleneagles Kota Kinabalu
<http://gleneagleskk.com.my>
+6088-518 888



Jesselton Medical Centre
<http://jmc.my>
+6088-366 333



KPJ Sabah Specialist Hospital
www.kpjsabah.com
+6088-322 000



Rafflesia Medical Centre (RMC)
www.rafflesiamedicalcentre.com
+6088-240 640



Permai Polyclinics KK (24 Hours)
www.kpjsabah.com
+6088-232100 / +6019-8232 100



Family Care Clinic Api-Api
www.familycareclinicmy.com
+6012-851 4847

Malaysian Goods & Services Tax (GST) for tourists

Tourists in Malaysia, including those visiting Sabah, are subject to certain taxes, including the Sales and Service Tax (SST) and other tourism-related charges, but it depends on the type of goods and services they purchase. Here's a breakdown:

1. Sales and Service Tax (SST):

Sales Tax: This is imposed on specific goods at the manufacturing or import stage, and tourists indirectly pay this tax when buying goods.

Service Tax: Charged on specific services like accommodation, dining, and entertainment. For example: Restaurants, hotels, and tour operators often include a 6% service tax in their bills.

2. Tourism Tax (TTX):

Foreign tourists are also required to pay a Tourism Tax of RM 10 per room per night when staying at registered hotels or accommodations.

Malaysian nationals and permanent residents are exempt from this tax.

***Exemptions and Refunds:**

Tourists cannot claim refunds for SST on services.

For goods, Malaysia offers a Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS) at certain airports, allowing tourists to claim back 6% SST on eligible purchases made at participating stores.

If tourists have specific questions about taxes, the hotel or service provider can typically provide details.

Flights Information

(Source: Sabah Tourism Board)

Arrivals Summary

Type	2022	2023	2024 (Jan - Sep)
International	280,101	858,475	991,629
Domestic	1,447,639	1,754,797	1,424,502
Total	1,727,740	2,613,272	2,416,131
Receipts (RM Billion)	3.181	5.759	5.619^E

(As of 15 Nov 2024)

Latest International Flight

Frequencies / Week	136
Seat / Week	25,236
No. of Destinations	19
No. of Foreign Airlines	10

(As of 15 Nov 2024)

Latest Domestic Flight

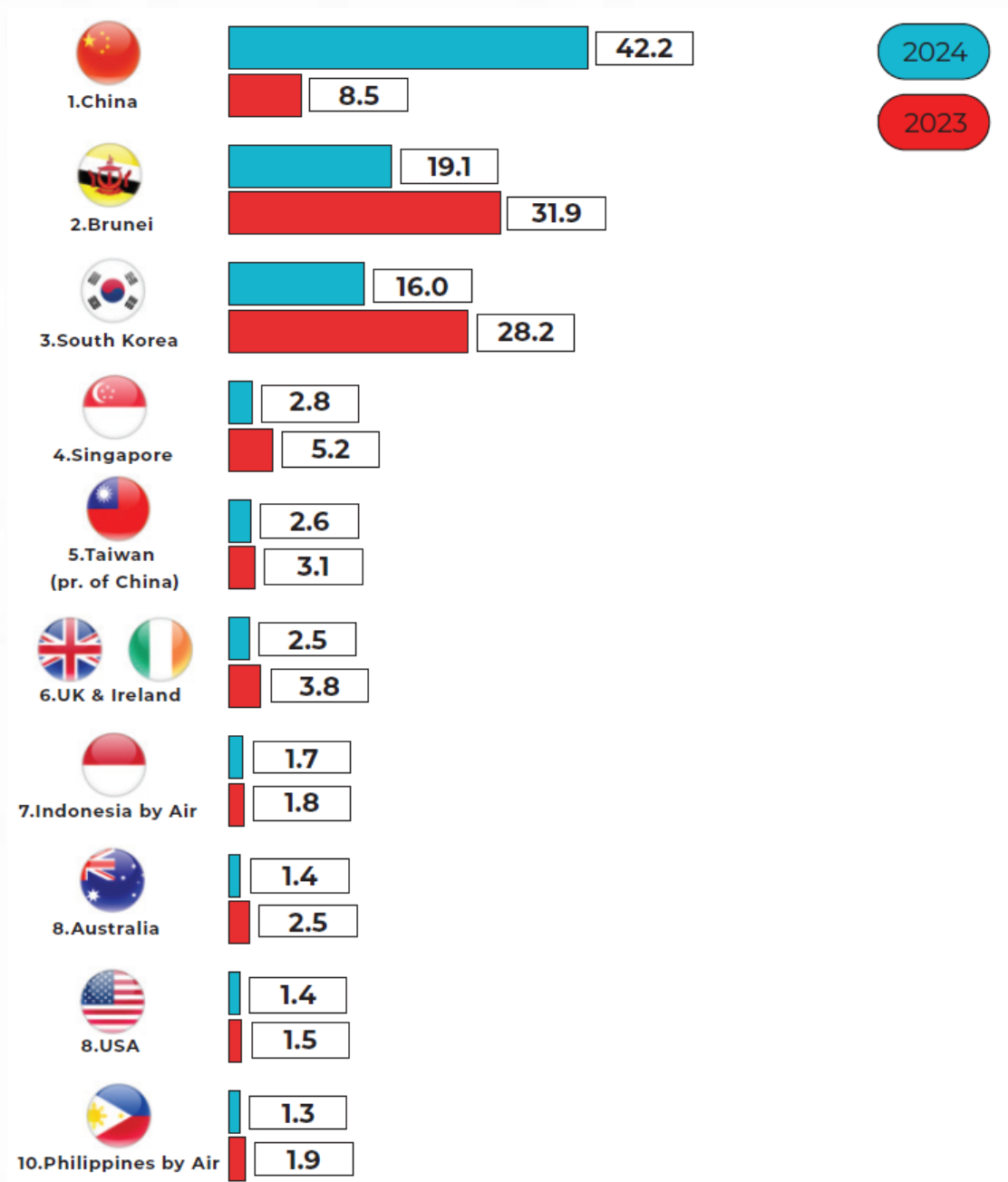
Frequencies / Week	372
Seat / Week	65,681
No. of Destinations	13
No. of Airlines	5

Non-Scheduled Flights (Charter & Extra Flights)

Country	2020	2024 (Jan-Sep)	
		BKI	TWU
China	30	5	188
Taiwan	3	-	-
South Korea	-	79	-
Japan	1	-	-
Singapore	-	-	-
Total Flights	34	272	
Total Passengers	3,321	45,820	

Country Arrival to Sabah (Top Ten Market Share% Jan-Sept 2024/2024)

(Source: Sabah Tourism Board)



For more info, please click here: [Quick facts \(20.11.2024\) FJ - Sep 2024 \(Updated\)](#)
by Sabah Tourism Board – Upon request