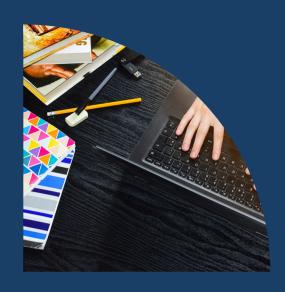
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# JOURNEY THROUGH KEDAH: PERSONALIZED TRAVEL ITINERARY CRAFTED WITH CHATGPT

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Kedah is a state of Malaysia, located in the northwestern part of Peninsular Malaysia. The state's capital is Alor Setar, and the royal seat is in Anak Bukit. Kedah is rich in history and home to majestic mosques, including the iconic Masjid Zahir. Kedah's royal legacy is celebrated through the Kedah Royal Museum, offering a glimpse into the monarchy's heritage. The state's natural beauty is showcased in places like Gunung Jerai. The natural beauty and heritage of Kedah have attracted many tourists, making the tourism industry the state's pivotal economic sector.

Table 1 illustrates the annual number of visitors to Kedah from 2012 to 2021. According to the table, there was an upward trajectory in the number of visitors from 2012 to 2019, reaching a peak of 14,831,000 in 2019, followed by a slight decline to 10,108,000 in 2020, potentially attributed to global factors like the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of visitors further decreased to 4,023,002 visitors in 2021. This reflected the continued impact of external events on tourism in the state. Despite these variations, the overall trend suggests significant growth in the state's tourism in the earlier years, followed by stability in the later years with fluctuations possibly influenced by broader socio-economic factors.

Table 1: Kedah domestic tourism

Year	Number of visitors
2022	11,186,197
2021	4,023,002
2020	10,108,000
2019	14,831,000
2018	14,480,018
2017	13,304,535
2016	13,188,000
2015	12,425,000
2014	11,372,809
2013	8,706,000
2012	8,474,000

Source: CEIC Data (2021)

Kedah is the oldest existing kingdom in Southeast Asia (Malaysia Productivity Corporation, 2019). The 'Visit Kedah 2025' initiative has gained traction, demonstrating the concerted efforts of tourism players to enhance the state's appeal and visitor experience (Ahmad Mukhsein, 2023). This article suggested a personalised travel itinerary in Kedah. The itinerary was a tailor-made journey from Alor Setar to Sungai Petani, Kedah that was

specifically designed to suit tourist preferences. ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence (AI) tool, was selected to create an itinerary to help tourists make informed choices regarding the places to be included in their itinerary, as well as routes, transport options, and costs involved (Dwivedi et al., 2024). The use of ChatGPT has been supported by Sudirjo et al. (2023). The study found that ChatGPT improves tourists' information search and decision-making process by providing quick and effective recommendations, information, and customer service, which help tourists in planning their trips more easily and efficiently.

The prompt 'Suggest a 3-day, 2-night itinerary in Kedah' was uploaded into ChatGPT. The generated responses were as follows:

Day 1: Historical Exploration in Alor Setar

Day 2: Nature and Cultural Immersion

Day 3: Island Escape to Langkawi

Then, the second prompt 'Suggest itinerary for driving from south to north of Kedah' was uploaded into ChatGPT. The generated responses were as follows:

Day 1: Southern Exploration in Baling

Day 2: Nature and Heritage in Kuala Nerang

Day 3: Coastal Drive to Kuala Kedah

By adding a modern and innovative touch to travel planning, tourists travelling from Alor Setar to Sungai Petani would likely ignore Langkawi, Baling, and Kuala Nerang due to distance and travelling route. The decision was made to include historical exploration, coastal drive, and natural and cultural immersion activities, as suggested by ChatGPT (OpenAI, 2023). The generated responses for a 3 days and 2 nights itinerary for tourists travelling from Alor Setar to Sungai Petani were as follows:

## Day 1: Historical exploration in Alor Setar

Start your day by visiting Alor Setar Tower, an iconic landmark offering panoramic views of the city and its surroundings. The tower stands tall at 165.5 meters and provides a breath-taking perspective of Alor Setar and the scenic landscapes of Kedah. Capture the beauty of the city from the observation deck at a height of 88 meters (PLANMalaysia Kedah, 2023) and enjoy the refreshing morning air.

After soaking in the views from the tower, head to Masjid Zahir, one of Malaysia's most magnificent mosques built in 1912. Masjid Zahir is known for its stunning architecture and cultural significance and has been voted as one of the world's top 10 most beautiful mosques (Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, 2023). Take your time to explore the mosque's intricate design, learn about its history, and appreciate the tranquil atmosphere.

Following lunch, delve into the rich royal history of Kedah by visiting the Kedah Royal Museum. The museum provides insights into the royal heritage, showcasing artifacts, historical documents, and exhibits related to the monarchy. Take a journey through time and learn about the fascinating history of Kedah's royalty.

This detailed itinerary for Day 1 in Alor Setar ensures a well-rounded experience, combining panoramic views and cultural exploration, in the heart of Kedah's capital city.

# Day 2: Coastal Drive to Kuala Kedah

Begin your day with a scenic coastal drive from your current location to Kuala Kedah. Enjoy the picturesque views of the coastline, pass through charming coastal towns, and witness the tranquil beauty of the sea. The journey itself becomes an exploration of the coastal scenery, offering a refreshing start to the day.

Upon reaching Kuala Kedah, immerse yourself in history by visiting Kuala Kedah Fort. This fort, with its strategic location overlooking the sea, holds historical significance. Explore the well-preserved structures and cannons and learn about the fort's role in the region's maritime history. Take in the panoramic views of the surrounding landscape and the sea from this historical vantage point.

After a dose of history, transition into a more adventurous afternoon. Engage in water activities like kayaking or opt for boat tours in the coastal waters of Kuala Kedah. Experience the refreshing sea breeze and explore the natural beauty of the area from a different perspective. It's an opportunity to add a touch of adventure to your coastal exploration. This detailed itinerary for Day 2 in Kuala Kedah combines coastal exploration, historical immersion, and water activities offering a diverse and enriching experience in this coastal town.

# **Day 3: Nature and Cultural Immersion**

Begin your morning by embarking on a scenic drive to Gunung Jerai, an ancient volcano that stands majestically in Kedah. The journey itself provides glimpses of rural landscapes and the transition from urban to natural surroundings. As you approach the foothills of Gunung Jerai, the air becomes cooler, and the lush greenery welcomes you to this natural wonder. Upon reaching Gunung Jerai, immerse yourself in the lush surroundings of the ancient volcano. Take a nature walk or hike to vantage points that offer panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes. Capture the beauty of the flora and fauna that thrive in this pristine environment. This exploration allows you to connect with nature and appreciate the serene ambiance of Gunung Jerai.

End your day relaxing at Pantai Merdeka, a picturesque beach along the coast of Kedah. Enjoy the soothing sound of the waves, stroll along the sandy shores, or simply unwind with a book while taking in the coastal breeze. Pantai Merdeka offers a tranquil setting for those seeking a peaceful retreat by the sea.

In conclusion, Kedah's tourism campaign, 'Visit Kedah Year 2025', can cater to a wide range of interests, from cultural and historical exploration to nature and adventure tourism by showcasing the state's diverse array of attractions. Kedah can enhance its tourism offerings by arranging a range of events, thereby appealing to various interests and demographics. This can facilitate the attraction of a more diverse array of visitors and enhance their engagement for extended durations. For the next travel adventure, tourists could explore the exhibits that reveal the cultural and historical significance of this ancient site, offering a glimpse into Malaysia's past. For example, tourists could consider Lembah Bujang Archaeological Museum. This museum showcases artifacts and historical remnants from the ancient Bujang Valley civilisation, providing insights into Kedah's rich archaeological heritage.

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