Beyond KL
Outside KL and wondering what to do? Here are some highlights.

**APRIL**

**JOHOR**

2-15 UTM INTERNATIONAL JOHOR HORSE SHOW 2012
Where: UTM Skudai, Johor Baru
Tel: 07 553 5761
Web: utm.myequine.com

Featuring jumping, dressage and an endurance event, come and see local and international clubs vied for top placing with the best crop of these majestic and agile beasts.

**21 GP JORAN BAGUS**
Where: Messing
Tel: 07 882 6765
Web: joranbagus.com.my

It's a hobby that can net interesting prizes. All you have to do is be patient enough for that nibble on the line. Witness this beachside fishing competition that tests the skill and endurance of contestants looking for that great big catch.

**19-22 ISKANDAR SHOOT 2012**
Where: JCTSA Shooting Range, TSM Estate, Kota Tinggi
Tel: 07 883 3600
Web: johorclaytarget.com

Watch as local and overseas participants squeeze the trigger to shatter those clay and skeet targets for glory as the sharpest shooter. There'll be plenty of things to see at this four-day event, while the public can also take part in the Air-Weapon Shooting Carnival.

**MELAKA**

14 GENDANG NUSANTARA FESTIVAL
Where: MBMB Square, Ayer Keroh
Tel: 06 333 3333
Web: www.mbmb.gov.my

This showcase of the Malay Archipelago's traditional musical instrument, the drum, as well as percussions and age-old dances will get you in a feet-tapping and head-rodding mood while you learn about Melaka's heritage. The event is part of the bigger, month-long event to celebrate the ninth anniversary of Melaka's status as a Historical City, which also involves various activities throughout the state, including a golf tournament, fishing competition and the Melaka Twin Cities Convention.

**PENANG**

1 PENANG WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL 2012
Where: Quarry Recreational Park, Botanical Garden

Admission: RM45-RM220
Tickets: ticketxpress.com.my
Tel: 04 650 5136 / 04 261 0012 / 016 411 0000 (hotline)
Web: penangworldmusic.com

First not if you’ve missed the first two days of this music festival featuring everything from traditional to fusion and contemporary music. On the last day, you can still catch sounds of Sarawak, Ireland, Russia and Columbia, among others, as well as chill out during the finale. This is surely a music festival that’s not to be missed.

**13-15 A MAN TIED TO A TOILET BOWL**
Where: Stage 2, Penangpac, Quay Quay
Time: 8.30pm, with extra 3pm show on 14 and 15 April
Tel: 04 899 1722/2722
Web: penangpac.org

Performed in Mandarin with parts in Cantonese, English and Malay, the story is about noodle seller Loo whose husband is leaving her for another woman. To prevent his leaving, she ties him to a toilet bowl, but events take a turn for the worse when their house is robbed and she ends up being tied with him. Enter the husband’s mistress – and what you have is an adult show about a love triangle.

**21 VAISAKHI OPEN HOUSE**
Where: Times Square
Time: 7pm-10pm
Tel: 017 584 0821

This Sikh feast marks the harvest festival and the religious Khalsa Janam Divas. It is celebrated with singing and dancing in a colourful, carnival-like atmosphere. The open house also gives visitors a rare insight into the beliefs, customs and practices that are pursued by the Sikh community throughout the world.

**13-15 THAI WATER FESTIVAL (SONGKRAN)**
Where: George Town Wat Chayamangkalaram Thai Buddhist Temple, Dhammikarama Burmese Buddhist Temple, Wat Chaiya Mangalaram Thai Buddhist Temple, Wat Rajaphahong Buddhist Temple
Time: 10am-4pm
Tel: 017 584 4921
Web: watpenang.gov.my

This traditional Thai New Year is celebrated annually by the Thai community in Penang. Songkran is a Thai word which means "move" or "change place", as it is the day when the sun changes its position in the zodiac. It is also known as the Water Festival, as people believe that water will wash away bad luck. Revelers young and old will be drenching each other with water in all sorts of manner, so be warned that you’ll likely get a good soaking.

**KEDAH**

13-15 LANGKAWI WATER FESTIVAL
Where: Pantai Cenang, Langkawi
Web: motour.gov.my

Relieve yourself in this tropical heat with some cool water sports at one of Langkawi island’s favourite beaches. Enjoy Jet Ski races, parasailing, kayaking, yachting, boat rides, fishing and other fantastic activities for the whole family at this adrenalin-filled festival.
KELANTAN

7 KELANTAN INTERNATIONAL BIRD SINGING COMPETITION

Where: Pengkalan Chepa, Kota Baru
Website: tic.kelantan.gov.my

In this age-old pursuit that now boasts participation from Malaysia as well as Asean countries, Bulbul songbirds of the Red-whiskered, Black-headed and Yellow-headed varieties go head-to-head to be judged on four categories: showmanship, activeness, vocals and resonance. Do drop by to hear these original tweeters at their very best.

26-28 MATTA FAIR

Where: Kota Bharu Mall
Website: mattafair.org.my

MATTA Fair, the most anticipated travel fair is back! Start planning your vacation in advance and you will be guaranteed a great package! At the MATTA Fair, visitors will be able to choose from the many different offers from hundreds of exhibitors for a great travel package.

27-30 CULTURE AND CRAFT

Where: Compound of Sultan Muhammad IV Stadium
Website: kelantan.gov.my

April is a good time to be in Kelantan, with two simultaneous events, the Festival of Batik, Songket and Craft and the Cultural Festival, showcasing the best of the state’s products. Do see how the locals paint beautiful designs for their batik cloth and make the songket, the gold-thread-woven textile that is primarily used for traditional Malay weddings. Meanwhile, the Cultural Festival’s activities include traditional dances, martial arts, kite-flying, top-spinning, congkak, wayang kulit and coconut husk percussion. There will also be plenty of food stalls selling snacks and delicacies peculiar to this East Coast state.

TERENGGANU

1-30 SQUID JIGGING FIESTA

Where: Redang Island
Website: www.terengganu.gov.my

One of the best things about being close to the sea is the amount of activities you can pursue. Come April and all the way through July, Terengganu celebrates the popular pursuit of squid jiggling. All you need is a boat to take you out, a fishing line and some hooks, and you’re set for some excitement that ends with a feast of fresh squid.

LABUAN

27-29 LABUAN INTERNATIONAL SEA CHALLENGE

Where: Labuan
Website: labuan.gov.my

This little island just off Sabah celebrates water in a big way this month. Activities comprise kayak competitions, game fishing and cross channel swimming, while supporting events include a battle of the bands and the Labuan Bike Festival.
Ba'kelalan is an ideal place for a homestay programme. This hillside village enjoys a cool environment and a sub-tropical climate that has proven to be the main attraction for tourists from all over the world. The cool ambience allows fruits such as apples and mandarin oranges to be grown. Visitors are allowed to pick apples from the farm and will also be taken to the hilltop to view the mountain scenery. The village folks are warm and friendly and welcome visitors with open arms.

Ozal Malaysia Closed Ozol Mountain Bike
Where: Bukit Siol, Kuching
Tel: 082 446 688 ext.134
Web: sarawaktourism.com
This popular cycling event will see mountain bike enthusiasts taking on steep trails, mud, exposed tree roots, overhanging branches and all sorts of obstacles along their way in categories including Downhill Challenge and Cross Country. Top riders from Sarawak, Sabah, Pahang and Selangor are also expected to participate in this challenging event. The race riding trail for Men’s Open Cross Country Race is 18 laps. It will be a tough challenge for the riders as they have to cross over the entire Bukit Siol terrain.

Benak is a term for the tidal bore phenomenon that regularly occurs in Sri Aman with cresting waves up to three metres high. There are various water activities for the enjoyment of visitors.