Sail Malaysia Pilot Guide and GPX File
Installation and Use

The Sail Malaysia Cruising Guide GPX file is a companion to the Sail Malaysia Pilot Guide.

The GPX file was created for the OpenCPN navigational software program and is specific to the corresponding version of the guide. The GPX file contains waypoints for all the anchorages listed in the guide as well as waypoints for marinas, haul out facilities, fuel locations, hazards, approaches to anchorages, currents, Ports of Entry and other information found in the guide.

Each waypoint in the GPX file has a built in link to the corresponding page in the Sail Malaysia Cruising Guide. Clicking on the link will cause the Cruising Guide to be opened in your default Internet Browser and the correct page displayed. No connection to the internet is required.

Note: It should be possible to upload this GPX file to Chart Plotters, but has not been tested. The icons displayed in the Chart Plotter would be unpredictable.

Installation Instructions

Download the current Sail Malaysia Pilot Guide and corresponding GPX file from the Sail Malaysia Website http://sailmalaysia.net/sailing-in-malaysia/sail-malaysia-cruising-guide/

The GPX file is specifically created for each version of the guide. Verify that the Version of the PDF and GPX files are the same dates. Once downloaded, place a copy of the Sail Malaysia Pilot Gide PDF file in the C:\ folder. Do not change the name. The links in the GPX file expect to find the PDF file in the C:\ folder and the name must be as provided by the download.

The GPX file makes use of an expanded set of waypoint icons that were just added to the latest stable version of the OpenCPN software. Download and install the 4.8.0(or later) version of the program. You can download the program from https://opencpn.org/OpenCPN/info/beta.html

The best method for using the GPX file is to copy it to a special folder in OpenCPN called a Layers folder. GPX files located in the Layers folder allow the user to easily display and hide the waypoints and protect waypoints from unintentional modification or deletion. In the Route Manager of OpenCPN select the Layers tab where you can hide and display the waypoints.

On Windows operating systems, the GPX file should be copied to a folder named Layers in the ProgramData\OpenCPN folder.

The ProgramData folder is a hidden folder. To allow access to the ProgramData folder and other hidden folders, go to Control Panel>Folder Options and select the view tab. Scroll down until you see the section on Hidden folders and select the Show Hidden Folders option. Do not confuse the Program Files folder with the ProgramData folder.

The Layers folder is not automatically created by OpenCPN. It must be created by the user and can vary by operating system. For most Windows operating systems the OpenCPN directory is located C:\ProgramData\OpenCPN. Create the Layer folder and copy the GPX file to the new Layers folder. The next time you run OpenCPN, all the waypoints should be visible on the chart.

For other operating systems the OpenCPN folder is the same folder that contains the file opencpn.ini. Search Your system for opencpn.ini and create the Layers folder in the same folder that contains the opencpn.ini file.

If you have previously installed a Sail Malaysia GPX file to the Layers folder, remove the previous version(s) to avoid duplicate waypoints.

For more information on creating the Layers folder and using Layers see here.
https://opencpn.org/wiki/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=opencpn:opencpn_user_manual:toolbar_buttons:route_mark_manager:layers

Using the GPX Waypoints

Once the files have been copied to the appropriate locations, start OpenCPN. All waypoints for the crusing guide should be displayed on the chart. They waypoint of the GPX file can be hidden and redisplayed by going to the Route Manager toolbar icon, selecting the Layers tab and clicking on the icon of the Eye at the front of the line.

To obtain more information on a Waypoint, right click on the waypoint and select properties. For some waypoints, i.e. Currents, additional information will be displayed in the description box. For more information and an automatic link to the Sail Malaysia Cruising Guide, click the link at the bottom of the dialog box named Sail Malaysia Cruising Guide. Clicking this link will open and display the corresponding page in the Cruising Guide in your default Internet Browser. It has been tested with Internet Explorer, Chrome and Firefox.

Note: If after clicking the link your browser attempts to download the PDF file rather than open it, you will need to change the settings in your internet browser on how it handles PDF files. It should be set to Open the file in the current browser. More information for each browser can be found on the internet or in the help file.

Google Earth Overlay Charts of Malaysia

Terry, on the yacht Valhalla, currently in the Philippines, has created Google Overlay Charts for all of the approaches and anchorages covered by the Sail Malaysia Pilot Guide and the corresponding GPX files. These include the rivers leading into the interior of Malaysia Borneo. They are a great additional tool to safely navigate Malaysian waters. The latest version of the Malaysia GE2KAP Overlay Charts can be downloaded at http://yachtvalhalla.net/navigation/terrystopics.htm

Questions, comments or suggestions can be sent to Gene on Reflections at reflectionsv37@yahoo.com.

Enjoy!