

KUALA LUMPUR GUIDE

YOUR FREE KUALA LUMPUR GUIDE FROM THE ASIA TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

The capital of an Islamic nation that has enthusiastically embraced the 21st century, Kuala Lumpur strives to emulate and compete with some of Asia's celebrated mega-buck cities. Home to over 1.4 million inhabitants, KL plays host to the world's tallest twin buildings (Petronas Twin Towers), colonial edifices such as Dataran Merdeka, and plenty of inner-city greenery.

Although you'll frequently hear the adhan (call to prayer) coming from mosques, it's easy to forget KL's Islamic roots once you hit the city's nitty-gritty sights. It is these spots - thriving hawker centres, pre-war shop-houses and a colourful jumble of street markets - that define KL and draw in countless visitors every year. From Petaling Street's faux-label laden avenue and Little India's colourful, culture-rich wares to the breathtaking view from the Twin Towers' Skybridge and a variety of temples, KL has something for everyone.



WEATHER MORE

The city's average temperatures range between 29°C - 35°C during the day and 26°C - 29°C at night, though it may get colder after periods of heavy rainfall. As it is shielded by mountainous terrains, KL is relatively cooler than most places in Malaysia while being one of the least affected by monsoon winds coming from the east or west. Occasional rainfall results in humid yet cooler temperatures than average and the city's temperate weather makes travelling here all year round a pleasure. http://www.kuala-

lumpur.ws/practicalinfo/weather.htm

AIRPORT TRANSFERS



All transport to downtown KL is found on the third floor of KLIA. The fastest way is the KLIA Ekspress - a 28-minute shuttle service that travels to KL Sentral and costs RM35. Additionally, you can hire either an airport limo - coupons are available from the Airport Limo counter or book an airport transfer service in advance at http://www.visitmalaysia.com/kl-transfer.htm; rates vary according to destination zones. Easier on the pocket but just as fast is the Airport Limo registered taxi service - they also utilise a coupon system. Alternatively, running set routes to KL Sentral are the hourly KLIA coach buses - a trip downtown will cost you RM10. Another alternative is to hire a car - you can book a vehicle ahead of time at http://www.kuala-lumpur.ws/hawk/ http://www.kuala-lumpur.ws/airport/

SIM CARDS AND DIALING PREFIXES

Malaysia's three main cell phone service providers are Celcom, Digi and Maxis. You can obtain prepaid SIM cards almost anywhere - especially inside large-scale shopping malls. Digi and Maxis are the most popular services, although Celcom has the most widespread coverage in Sabah and Sarawak. Each state has its own area code; to make a call to a landline in KL, dial 03 followed by the eight-digit number. Calls to mobile phones require a three-digit prefix, (Digi = 016, Maxis = 012 and Celcom = 019) followed by the seven digit subscriber number.

GETTING AROUND



KL has three train lines - the KL Monorail loops through the Golden Triangle, the KTM Komuter makes trips to the outer northern, southern & western suburbs and the Putra Light Rail Transit line goes from Kelana Jaya to Gombak. Fares start from RM1.20 but for the sake of convenience, purchase an RM10 Touch 'n Go card which can be used on all lines. Low frequencies and the lack of signage make the city's public buses a poor option for the casual visitor; a convenient alternative is to use the KL Hop-On, Hop-Off service. These double-decker buses stop at over 42 sightseeing spots - an all-day pass can be purchased for RM38 at Hop-On Hop-Off City Tour Bus. Consider using KL's ubiquitous taxi service - but beware that though they're required to use a meter there are many errant cabbies that do not adhere to this rule. http://www.kuala-lumpur.ws/gettingaround.htm

CURRENCY

Ringgit Malaysia (MYR). US\$1 = approximately MYR 3.20

TIME ZONE

GMT+8 (the same as China, Hong Kong and Singapore).

ELECTRICITY

Main voltage in Malaysia is 220 volts. Connect to the reliable electricity supply (220V-240V, 50 cycles) with a UK-type three-square-pin or two-parallel-flat-pin (British BS-1363) plugs.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

1 Stop Crisis Centre	+603 2615 3333
Tourist Police	+603 2164 0522
Civil Defence	991
Customs	+603 6201 6088
Directory Enquiries	103
Emergency Call From Mobile Phone	112
Fire	994
Foreign Affairs	+603 8887 4000
Immigration	+603 2093 9181
Flight Info KLIA	+603 8776 2000
MAS Airline	1 300 88 3000
AirAsia Airline	+603 7651 2222
Contraction of the second s	



KUALA LUMPUR AREA GUIDES

66 Covering an area of 243sqkm, Kuala Lumpur has an estimated population of 7.2 million. Home to the tallest twin skyscrapers in Southeast Asia as well as plenty of inner-city greenery and embellished temples, KL is following in the footsteps of 'big city' neighbours like Hong Kong and slowly becoming a celebrated tourist destination. If you're a first-time visitor it can be hard to locate KL's best offerings, so be sure to get our easy-to-print Area Guides!



BUKIT BINTANG

Bukit Bintang is one of Kuala Lumpur's trendiest shopping and entertainment districts. Extremely popular with locals and tourists alike, the area plays host to everything from shopping centres to nightclubs. Combining historical charm with urban chic, the area is one-third of the Golden Triangle district which encompasses Bukit Bintang's retail offerings such as Pavilion and Lot 10, the office towers of Jalan Raja Chulan, the five-star hotel strip of Jalan Sultan Ismail, the Jalan P. Ramlee party street and KLCC. 2 KLCC

There is only one way to describe KLCC: the heart of Kuala Lumpur. As an entertainment, commercial and business focal point, KLCC is home to some of the most popular landmarks in Malaysia such as the Petronas Twin Towers, the Dewan Filharmonik Orkestra concert hall, the KLCC Park and Suria KLCC, making it a popular tourist destination. With a host of options to choose from - dining, arts, culture, recreation, sightseeing, shopping and entertainment - you won't be stuck for ideas on what to do around here.

Read More...



3 CHINATOWN

Just a short distance away from the heart of Kuala Lumpur is a rather unassuming area that never sleeps, and is far more colourful and bustling than its bigger and more glamourous neighbours. Chinatown, based in Petaling Street, is also known as 'Chee Cheong Kai' (Starch Factory Street), a reference to its roots as a tapioca-producing district. Well-regarded as one of the busiest street markets in Kuala Lumpur, Chinatown is teeming with Oriental culture, heritage and history, making it one of the most popular tourist spots in Malaysia.

Read More...

Read More...



4 KL SENTRAL

Situated just 2 km away from the city centre, KL Sentral houses an impressive array of luxury hotels, local and international eateries with easy access to Malaysia's largest rail transport hub. KL Sentral is also within walking distance from the laidback residential neighbourhood of Brickfields where numerous quaint Buddhist temples and colourful shops with a strong South Indian presence can be found. Easily accessible via LRT, KTM, and Monorail, Kuala Lumpur's massive shopping malls are also situated just several train stops away from KL Sentral Station.



5 BANGSAR & MID VALLEY

Bangsar is one of Kuala Lumpur's most popular night time entertainment districts. The streets of Bangsar, mainly in Telawi and Maarof, are sprinkled with nightclubs, pubs and bistros, making it one big party area. Bangsar is also a large residential area (mainly for the affluent) but residents have grown accustomed to the hive of activity that Bangsar generates during the night. Bangsar Shopping Centre and Bangsar Village are two prominent shopping malls in Bangsar but most also flock to Mid Valley Mall, which is just a stone's throw away along the Federal Highway.



6 PETALING JAYA

Originating as a small, humble town in the 1950s measured at only 2.12sqkm, Petaling Jaya has developed into one of the most important cities in Malaysia. Also known as the twin sister of Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya is the country's first planned town. Consisting of numerous commercial, residential and business districts, the satellite city is now a metropolis of 500,000 inhabitants. Due to its close proximity to Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya remains a popular choice amongst city dwellers and visitors alike.

Read More...

Read More...

Read More...



KI_CC

BEST LUXURY HOTELS



GRAND HYATT KUALA LUMPUR,

If you are an avid traveller who appreciates

the finer things in life, look no further than

Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur as your choice of

accommodation while in the city. Occupying

a prime spot in the Golden Triangle, it is

within walking distance to well-known city

landmarks: Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala

Lumpur Convention Centre and KLCC Park

are all close by while the Pavilion KL

shopping mall is connected via a covered sky-

bridge just outside the five-star hotel.



2 SHANGRI-LA HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR, KLCC

Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur is one of the city centre's most jaw-droppingly opulent establishments. The world-class venture is an award-winning property with a beautifully landscaped outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, a fitness centre and 662 rooms with flat-screen TVs, in-room internet and personalised toiletries. The five-star establishment also boasts nine bars and restaurants including the award-winning Zipangu, Lemon Café and Lafite.



THE WESTIN KUALA LUMPUR, BUKIT BINTANG

The Westin Kuala Lumpur is a contemporary five-star hotel located in Kuala Lumpur's upscale shopping district, Jalan Bukit Bintang. All 443 guestrooms feature its signature Heavenly Bed®, in-room internet access, flatscreen TVs and boast views of either the Petronas Twin Towers or the expansive Kuala Lumpur skyline. The hotel's range of facilities include a state-of-the-art fitness centre, a beautifully landscaped swimming pool, and six restaurants and bars.

Book Now!

Book Now!

Book Now!

BEST BUSINESS HOTELS



1 GTOWER HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR, KLCC

Offering 180 stylish rooms furnished with comfy beds, work desks, iPod docking stations, in-room internet access, a 37-inch flat-screen TV in the room and a 19-inch flat screen in the bathroom, GTower Hotel snags the top spot as the city centre's best business hotel. The five-star venture is located adjacent to the Ampang Park LRT station, making it easily accessible to popular tourist destinations such as the Petronas Twin Towers, Suria KLCC and the KL Convention Centre.



2 CONCORDE HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR, KLCC

A ten-minute drive from the Putra World Trade Centre, the well-run Concorde Hotel KL is a four-star property located along the same strip as KL's Hard Rock Café, Carnegie's (a popular rock n' roll joint) and the New Zealand High Commission. Offering 542 rooms, a pool, business centre and six restaurants and bars, the hotel is a popular establishment that draws in a steady clientele due to its close proximity to the city centre's nightlife hotspots such as Bukit Bintang and Asian Heritage Row.

Book Now!



3 TRADERS HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR, KLCC

Located beside the expansive KLCC Park, Traders Hotel Kuala Lumpur is a contemporary four-star venture with 571 guestrooms with hotel facilities thatinclude four restaurants and bars, a gym, rooftop pool and an on-site spa. The Suria KLCC shopping mall and Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra concert hall are situated directly opposite the hotel. Numerous public transportation lines including the KLCC LRT station are also available within walking distances from Traders Hotel KL.

Book Now!

BEST SHOPPING MALL HOTELS



ASIAMEE

DIREC

CITITEL MIDVALLEY, MID VALLEY

Located in the Klang Valley Cititel Mid Valley is this 646-room venture that's particularly well located if you're looking to experience the city's shopping. Flanked by the Mid Valley Megamall and The Gardens shopping complexes, this air con lodging units feature broadband internet access, and a mini bar. The property was the winner of the 2008/2009 Malaysian Tourism Premier Award for the 'Best in Hotel Services' in the three-star category. Facilities include a health spa and business centre.



2 FAHRENHEIT SUITES, BUKIT BINTANG

Topping Fahrenheit 88 (the newest addition to Kuala Lumpur's mallscape) Fahrenheit Suites is a four-star establishment that offers 85 funky, air conditioned one-, two- and three-bedroom lodging units with flat-screen TVs, DVD players and attached bathrooms Close by the exclusive Starhill Gallery, Sephora and Lot 10 shopping centres, hotel facilities include a well equipped fitness centre and a swimming pool; nearby public transportation access includes the Bukit Bintang and Imbi Monorail stations.



3 GRAND MILLENNIUM KUALA LUMPUR, BUKIT BINTANG

Glitzy and glamorous, Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur is the perfect stay for those who are looking for convenience in terms of location and accommodation. Boasting 468 guestrooms and suites, the hotel stands in a prime location of Bukit Bintang C its neighbours are the shopping malls Pavilion, Starhill and Fahrenheit 88, and it is within walking distance of the Bukit Bintang Monorail station so getting to other attractions within the city is a breeze.

Book Now!

Book Now!

Book Now!

BEST BUDGET HOTELS



HOTEL SENTRAL KUALA LUMPUR, KL SENTRAL

Hotel Sentral Kuala Lumpur is a three-star venture located at the edge of the city centre. This well-run establishment offers 192 carpeted, air-conditioned rooms with flatscreen TVs and free in-room internet access. The newly-opened property is flanked by one of the city centre's main transportation hubs -KL Sentral - and rates are easy on the purse strings. The retro charming establishment is advantageously located close to the city's new Little India district and hotel facilities include function rooms, two restaurants and bars.



2 CUBE HOTEL BUKIT BINTANG

A wallet-friendly venture located along Jalan Pudu, Cube hotel is a two-star property close to the Bukit Bintang area. The hotel has compact and funky air con rooms with Spartan furnishings, flat-screen TVs and attached bathrooms. Nearby the hotel is KL's main bus terminus, Puduraya, making cheap public transportation readily available. A favourite among the savvy backpacker crowd, the hotel is the perfect place to stay especially if you're looking to sample the city centre's variety of retail therapy offerings.



B HOTEL CAPITOL KUALA LUMPUR, BUKIT BINTANG

On the face of it, Capitol Hotel Kuala Lumpur might not have much to offer to its guests, but what it lacks in hotel amenities, it makes up for with great value-for-money accommodation. Located along Jalan Bulan off Jalan Bukit Bintang, the hotel is slightly secluded but still within the exciting Bukit Bintang area, being across the street from Plaza Low Yat and Sungei Wang Plaza, two of the oldest malls in the shopping district. There are two on-site restaurants, Be Bes Kitchen & Bar and Cafe Rasa.

Book Now!

Book Now!

Book Now!

WHAT TO SEE IN KUALA LUMPUR

66 Malaysia may seem like a small country to many people, but more often than not most visitors find that they need help exploring this multicultural haven. While Kuala Lumpur has fully embraced the 21st century, there's so much of ethnic interest to entice visitors. From cultural temples and yawning caverns to world-famous high rises and bustling street markets, Kuala Lumpur city centre is home to a vast array of sightseeing locations.

PETRONAS TWIN TOWER

Anchoring the sprawling Kuala Lumpur City Centre, are the iconic Petronas Twin Towers. Hailed as the Twin Jewels of Kuala Lumpur, a visit to KL isn't complete unless you've visited these doppelgangers. The 88-storey chrome and steel towers are the headquarters of Malaysia's oil and gas company - Petronas. The Dewan Filharmonik Petronas concert hall - Southeast Asia's leading venue for classical music performances - is situated between the two towers. Read more... **Open:** 10.00-22:00 **Location:** between Jalan Ampang and Jalan Raja Chulan **How to get there:** Taxi, KLCC LRT Station

2 MENARA KL TOWER

Standing atop the Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve, the 421 metre-high KL Tower is the world's sixth tallest structure. Officially known as Menara KL, it has been outshone by the Petronas Twin Towers but remains an important architectural marker and offers spectacular views of the city. The viewing deck is at least 100 metres higher than the Petronas Tower's Skybridge. Read more... **Open:** 09:00-22:00 **Location:** No. 2, Jalan Punchak Off Jalan P. Ramlee **How to get there:** taxi

3 CHINATOWN

The colourful Chinatown is a well-known bargain hunter's paradise that seemingly never sleeps. Deeply immersed in Oriental culture, heritage and history, it is undoubtedly one of the most popular tourist spots in Malaysia, and holds its own against its more glamorous neighbours, KLCC & Bukit Bintang. Representing Malaysia's multihued multicultural background perfectly, you can find all sorts of items, from Chinese herbs to imitation goods in this area. Read more... How to get there: LRT (Pasar Seni or Masjid Jamek station), KTM Komuter (Kuala Lumpur station)

BATU CAVES

11 km north of KL, Batu Caves is a 400-year old limestone hill (with a 100-year old temple incorporated within it), best known as the focal point of the annual Hindu festival of Thaipusam. The celebration, held between Jan & Feb attracts thousands of visitors who come to see the colourful spectacle of devotees who pay homage by carrying ornately-decorated 'kavadis' (frameworks) combined with various metal hooks and skewers which are used to pierce the skin, cheeks and tongue. Read more... **Open:** 06:00 - 21:00 **Location:** Selayang **How to get there:** Take Cityliner bus No 69 at Jalan Pudu to get to Batu Caves

5

SULTAN ABDUL SAMAD BUILDING

Among Kuala Lumpur's earliest Moorish-style buildings, the Sultan Abdul Samad Building is a distinguished city landmark that originally served as the secretariat for the colonial British administration. Today it is home to the offices of the Ministry of Information, Communications and Culture of Malaysia. Built in 1897 and designed by AC Norman, it is set to the east of Merdeka Square (Dataran Merdeka) and is frequently the backdrop for Malaysia's annual Independence Day parades. Read more... Location: Jalan Tun Perak How to get there: 10 minutes walk from the LRT Masjid Jamek station



SUNWAY LAGOON THEME PARK

Water slides that whirl and twirl, a manmade 'river' ride, surf beach, wave pool and 360° revolving pirate ship... the list of fun attractions at the 323,749sqm Sunway Lagoon Theme Park is undeniably extensive. Located in Petaling Jaya, the park encompasses a total of five different zones - the water park, Scream Park, Amusement Park, Extreme Park and Wildlife Park. Read more... **Open:** 11:00 - 18:00 Monday & Wednesday - Friday; 10:00 18:00 Saturday & Sunday Location: Petaling Jaya How to get there: Taxi

AQUARIA KLCC

On the concourse level of the KL Convention Centre, the 464,515sqm Aquaria KLCC is home to over 150 species of marine life. Some people write it off as a tourist trap, but they're sorely missing out - beyond the gallons of water filled with necklaces of kelp, coral and sea creatures, is one of KL's foremost sightseeing attractions with real depth and complexity. Read more... **Open:** 11:00 - 20:00 **Location:** Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Complex **How to get there:** Taxi, KLCC LRT Station

LITTLE INDIA BRICKFIELDS

One of KL's most popular tourist hotspots, Brickfields - the site of the recently relocated Little India - is a seemingly different world. Originally a simple residential neighbourhood situated just outside the city centre, the wide thoroughfare now plays host to a colourful collection of Indian stores (retailing traditional Indian goods including saris, flower garlands and Bollywood music) as well as a smorgasbord of banana leaf restaurants run by Malaysia's Indian community. Read more...



















WHAT TO DO IN KUALA LUMPUR

66 Home to an alluring blend of seaside shanties, polished high rises as well as plenty of outskirt-attractions, Kuala Lumpur has steadily been gaining a reputation as one of Southeast Asia's most sought-after destinations. We've come up with a list of tours that make KL so indelibly exciting – from excursions to attractions like the Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary to tours of the city's best-known tourist sites.

HALF-DAY BATU CAVES TOUR BATU CAVE - TOUR DURATION: 3 HOURS

The Half-Day Batu Caves Tour will take you on a trip to see some of Kuala Lumpur's best-known attractions. First catch a glimpse of traditional Malay houses, as well as watch the production of fine silk Batik garments at the Malaysian Batik Cottage. The next stopover on the itinerary is an authentic rubber plantation before concluding with a visit to the well-recognized Batu Caves. Book now, call +60 (3) 2302 7556



KUALA LUMPUR HALF-DAY CITY TOUR KUALA LUMPUR CITY - TOUR DURATION: 3 HOURS

The KL Half-Day City tour takes you on a journey to see several iconic inner-city attractions. First up is the palm-grove lined Masjid Jamek – the oldest mosque in KL followed by the Tugu Negara – also known as the War Memorial to commemorate those who perished during Malaysia's fight for independence. Book now, call +60 (3) 2302 7556



KL HOP ON HOP OFF TICKET KUALA LUMPUR CITY - TOUR DURATION: N/A

This tourist-friendly bus is the best way to visit KL's most popular sightseeing attractions. The bus covers a circuit that takes you to over 40 KL tourist sites and you can hop on and off this double-decker tourist bus as often as you like. It's the best way to explore the city centre especially if you would like to do so in air-conditioned comfort. Book now, call +60 (3) 2302 7556



KUALA LUMPUR FULL DAY TOUR KUALA LUMPUR - TOUR DURATION: 7 HOURS

Kuala Lumpur has managed to retain her charm, with a skyline that blends the Old World with the New. See the contrast of the distinctive Indo-Moorish architecture and the ultra modern edifices, Petronas Twin Towers - tallest in the world. Beside this, you will visit to Malaysia King's Palace, National Monument and a lot more. Book now, call +60 (3) 2302 7556

KL TOWER NIGHT TOUR

INDEPENDENCE SQUARE, KL TOWER, KLCC, CHINATOWN - TOUR DURATION: 3 - 3.5 HOURS

This Tour offer you an insight into the old & new, starting see Kuala Lumpur alive after sunset, visit the famous night bazaar of china town for bargains and sights. Next to the Kuala Lumpur Tower, one of the tallest in the world - 421m, here you can observe the awesome skyline of the KL city at night. Book now, call +60 (3) 2302 7556



The Dutch Heritage Trails Tour brings you on a historic journey of Malacca's unique heritage, legacy and culture. Colonised by various powers over a period of four centuries, Malacca's landmarks have imprints from the Portuguese, British and Dutch; a trip down its streets promises to be a culturally enriching experience. Book now, call +60 (3) 2302 7556



CHINATOWN AND CULTURAL NIGHT TOUR CHINATOWN - TOUR DURATION: 4 HOURS

In a nutshell the Cultural Night Tour is a good way to experience typical Malaysian ethnic traditions in a single evening. This exciting tour first takes you on a visit to the Chinese culturally enriching Petaling Street, before heading out to an authentic and elaborate Indian temple. Later on enjoy a traditional Malay cultural performance while you savour a characteristically-Malaysian meal. Book now, call +60 (3) 2302 7556

ELEPHANT SANCTUARY TOUR PAHANG, KUALA GANDAH - TOUR DURATION: 8 HOURS

This tour takes you through the scenic Malaysian countryside to the Kuala Gandah Elephant Orphanage Sanctuary where you can watch and interact with rehabilitated elephants. The park's main purpose is to capture and relocate these elephants at the centre, watch an informative video, then observe handlers as they feed the big guys fruits; later you can see the gentle giants as they bathe and also swim with these majestic yet gentle creature. Book now, call +60 (3) 2302 7556













WHAT TO EAT

66 Brimming with different races and cultures, Malaysia has a smorgasbord of culinary offerings. Hawker centres, kopitiams (coffee shops) and mamak (Indian Muslim) restaurants mushroom all over the city, offering some of the best fare. Meanwhile KL's cosmopolitan lifestyle means that there are plenty of international fine-dining eateries where you can still sample ethnic favourites. Here are a number of must-try dishes.

NASI LEMAK

A Malay dish so popular, even the Chinese and Indians serve their own similar version. At its very basic, Nasi Lemak is a plate of white rice cooked in coconut milk. Accompanying it on the plate is 'sambal', a chilli paste mixed with salted anchovies or 'ikan bilis'. Then there is an egg served, either boiled or fried, with cucumber slices of and peanuts. Finally, you may add beef or chicken 'rendang', essentially pieces of meat cooked in rich coconut milk and curry!

BAH KUT TEH

A truly Malaysian-Chinese dish, Bah Kut Teh originated a few decades ago from Klang in Selangor state. It was prepared by a stall owner under a bridge for coolies in the area who smoked opium. As their taste buds were affected by the drug, they lost their sense of taste. So what the stall owner did was boil pork ribs and intestines in strong Chinese herbs, creating a stew ripe with aroma. From there, Bah Kut Teh caught on and became a nationwide phenomenonry.

3 ROTI CANAI

A breakfast favourite, Roti Canai is the ultimate in simplicity and taste. It is basically a kind of pancake made by combining wheat flour, oil, ghee, or butter, rolled up into a ball and then swung into the air until it takes a flat, oval shape. It is then fried on a hot iron plate and served with dhal, chicken or fish curry. There are many variations on the same theme that include putting in eggs to make it 'Roti Telur', sardines to make it 'Roti Sardin', bananas to make it 'Roti Pisang' and so on.

A SATAY

Satay is the Malaysian version of a kebab, only sweeter and somewhat smaller. Pieces of softened, marinated meat are skewered on a thin stick made of coconut frond. It is then barbecued over a tray of hot steaming charcoals until brown and tenderly moist. A wide range of meat can be used from rabbit to venison but beef and chicken is the most common. Accompanying it is thick peanut gravy and 'ketupat', rice cooked in coconut milk, cut into cubes and wrapped into an attractive weave of coconut leaves.

KAI FAN (CHICKEN RICE)

Although there are many variations of the meat from steamed white chicken and barbequed pork to roasted duck and curried boar, roasted chicken remains the most popular. First, the chicken is meticulously marinated (whole) and then roasted in an oven until crispy brown. The rice, on the other hand, is cooked with the leftover stock in a pot, sometimes with a touch of butter. Finally, cucumber slices are placed together with the chicken and rice to make Kai Fan.

NYONYA FOOD

The Nyonya food that you can find in Kuala Lumpur is heavily influenced by Malacca's rich Peranakan culture. The Nyonya style of cooking is the result of a fusion between Chinese and Malay ingredients and recipes, the result of Chinese traders settling in Malacca and adopting the Malay way of living in the 16th century. Some of the most common ingredients in Nyonya cuisine are coconut milk, lemon grass, turmeric, screw pine leaves, chillies and sambal.

CHAR KUAY TEOW

A favourite hawker dish in Malaysia, fried kuay teow - flat rice noodles stir-fried with prawns, cockles, eggs, bean sprouts and chives in chilli paste, lard and soy sauce - is one of the most popular regional dishes in the country. The noodles are best eaten piping hot after they've just been stir fried in a huge wok. Highly sought after by local ardent foodies, this dish is sometimes garnished with strips of Chinese sausage or crab meat.

8 ROTI JALA

Roti Jala is a popular tea-time entrée in the Malay community. It literally translates as 'net bread' referring to its thread-like pattern that resembles a fishing net. Essentially a type of crepe, Roti Jala occasionally replaces rice in the Malay home for meals. The batter is made from a mixture of plain flour and eggs, with a pinch of turmeric powder and butter that gives it a distinctive yellow colour. A special cup or mould with small holes is then used to make the lacy crepe which is cooked over a hot griddle.







BEST RESTAURANTS IN KUALA LUMPUR

G Malaysia's passion for food is well-known - food is not just a necessity here, it's an obsession. The whole country is filled with good places to eat, from roadside stalls to fine-dining restaurants and from local fare to international offerings, the choices are endless. Below you will find a list of eateries - ranging from upmarket fine dining restaurants to chic bistros with affordable fare where you'll be spoilt for choice.

MARINI'S ON 57

An exclusive Italian ristorante on the 57th floor of Petronas Tower 3 (adjacent to Suria KLCC), Marini's on 57 is a fine dining Kuala Lumpur restaurant offering gorgeous, up-close views of the iconic PETRONAS Twin Towers through its floor-to-ceiling windows and glass roof. Comprising a restaurant, bar and lounge, its décor is elegant and restrained, and the kitchen offers a menu of haute Italian cuisine, with standout dishes such as spaghetti with botargo (mullet roe) and almonds. Read more... **Open:** 17:00 - late Bar; 19:00 - late Restaurant; 15:00 - late Lounge **Tel:** +603 2161 2880 or +603 2161 4880 **Address:** Level 57, Menara 3 Petronas, Persiaran KLCC

TROIKA SKY DINING

Offering two fine dining restaurants, the impressive Troika Sky Dining unquestionably stands out from the pack. Set on the 23rd floor of Tower B of The Troika along Persiaran KLCC, it goes without saying that the cloud-skimming views here are something else entirely. However, the food is what helped put it on our list of Top 10 Kuala Lumpur Restaurants 2014 - Cantaloupe serves award-winning French, Italian, Greek and Spanish food, while Strato has an assertive and adventurous menu of high end pizzas and pastas. Read more... **Open:** 12:00 - 15:00 and 18:00 - 23:00 (Strato); 16:00 - 01:00 (Claret); 18:30 - 22:30 (Cantaloupe Dining Room) **Tel:** +603 2162 0886 **Address:** Level 23A, Tower B, The Troika, 19 **Persiaran KLCC**

3 THIRTY8 KL

An unbeatable dining room, wine bar and lounge on the 38th floor of Kuala Lumpur's Grand Hyatt Hotel, Thirty8 KL is a market focused temptation to local and visiting gourmet enthusiasts. Offering a diverse menu of Chinese and Thai seafood, Japanese sushi and sashimi and steaks, the elegant eatery is clearly one of the city's best restaurants. Everything on the menu is excellent but we are fans of the flawless symphony of fresh sushi and sashimi. Upscale yet inviting, polished yet unpretentious, large wraparound windows offer spectacular views of the prominent Petronas Twin Towers. Read more... **Open:** 12:00 - 15:00 & 18:00 - 23:00 **Tel:** +603 2182 1234 **Address:** Level 38, Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur



Specialising in spicy Malay food, Enak Restaurant KL is one of the city's most famous high-end Malay restaurants. Sitting unpretentiously on the lower ground floor of Starhill Gallery mall, the restaurant's décor is elaborate with Balinese-style tables, candlelight and polished antique brassware. Relying heavily on age-old family recipes, the food at this halal (pork-free) restaurant has such a rich, home-made flavour to it and while the spice levels are just perfect for locals, diners can also request that the kitchen tone down the chilli factor to appease mellower taste buds. Read more... **Open:** 12:00 - 01:00 **Tel:** +603 2141 8973 **Address:** LG2, Feast Floor, Starhill Gallery

PREGO KL

Set within The Westin Kuala Lumpur Hotel, Prego KL is an uptown homage to classic Italian cuisine. The twostorey restaurant's menu provides multiple opportunities for a memorable meal, best experienced when shared between two or more. Décor-wise the dining space features a lot of old world charm, while the kitchen offers sophisticated takes on Italian comfort food favourites. For example, risotto with a velvety sauce of wild mushrooms and parmesan cheese, and delicate ravioli filled with tender chicken chunks, sitting on a bed of rich mushroom cream sauce. Read more... **Open:** 12:00 - 14:30 (lunch) and 18:30 22:30 (dinner) **Tel:** +603 2731 8333 **Address:** The Westin Kuala Lumpur

CELESTIAL COURT KL

Offering innovative, halal Cantonese food, Celestial Court KL - set in Sheraton Imperial Hotel KL - ticks all the right boxes with a spacious venue of majestic elegance, presenting sweeping views of the nightclubs along Asian Heritage Row just opposite. When it comes to the food, the kitchen crew have truly blown the competition out of the water, with signature dishes such as honey-spiced roasted rack of lamb with sweet beans in Mongolian sauce, and sautéed sea tiger prawns with minced garlic and shallots. Read more... **Open:** Monday - Saturday: 12:00 - 14:30 & 18:30 - 22:30; Sunday & Public Holidays: 10:00 - 14:30 & 18:30 - 22:30 **Tel:** +603 2717 9988 **Address:** Sheraton Imperial Kuala Lumpur

FRANGIPANI RESTAURANT

One of the best French fine-dining experiences in Malaysia, Frangipani Restaurant is split-level expanse of understated elegance located along Changkat Bukit Bintang. Offering an engaging combination of style and substance, the sophisticated downstairs dining space surrounds a reflecting black pool with white Raj-like columns and cream linen covered tables enclosing it. A menu of punchy, well-seasoned classics that practically explode with flavour makes for an almost out-of-this-world culinary experience. Upstairs is a stylish gay-friendly bar. Read more... **Open:** 19:30 - 22:30 dinner **Tel:** +603 2144 3001 **Address:** 25 Changkat Bukit Bintang

8 NOBU KL

A Michelin-starred titan in the world of sushi, sashimi and tempura, Nobu is a Japanese restaurant known all over the world for its unique food that blends Asian and South American (specifically Peruvian) flavours. There are more than 29 franchises over the globe, and Nobu KL is Southeast Asia's first branch. Set just one floor below Marini's on 57 in Menara Petronas 3, the halal Nobu KL offers 360 degree KL skyline views, including up-close sights of the Petronas Twin Towers. Read more... **Open:** 18:00 - 23:00 **Tel:** +60 3 2144 2200 ext 5811 **Address:** Level 56, Menara 3 Petronas, Persiaran KLCC















WHERE TO GO FOR NIGHTLIFE

66 Kuala Lumpur's city centre - along with some choice urban spots - lights up at night as youngsters, revellers and yuppies frequent clubs, bars and pubs on the streets. After the sun sets, KL's nightspots offer a winning combination of lively and friendly ambience, extensive alcoholic beverages, & talented DJs spinning dance-worthy tunes until the wee hours of morning. **J**

CHANGKAT BUKIT BINTANG

Regarded as Kuala Lumpur's definitive party venue, Changkat Bukit Bintang is a narrow avenue filled with restaurants that transform into nightclubs with cocktails bars and pubs that transform into rowdy drinking joints, with DJs spinning music, ranging from house and electro to remixed pop and hip-hop tunes. Amongst the bevy of watering holes, there are a number of crowd-favourite establishments such as Pisco Bar, Frangipani, and Havana Bar & Grill. Read more...

ROOFTOP BARS

Some of the best nightlife in Kuala Lumpur happens far above the city streets, and rooftop bars are gaining massive popularity amongst Kuala Lumpur's late night revellers. It has resulted in numerous nocturnal hotspots that range from classy ristorantes to cocktail lounges nestled atop high-rise structures. Offering great ambience and breathtaking views of Kuala Lumpur, rooftop bars are your best bet if you want to just sit back and watch the sun set below the city horizon - with a drink in hand, of course. Some of the best rooftop bars in Kuala Lumpur include Marini's on 57, Sky Bar and Troika Sky Dining. Read more...



PETALING STREET NIGHT MARKET

The nightlife in Chinatown is in a league of its own - it's not about rows of clubs, pubs and bars offering musicand-alcohol-fuelled entertainment, but the colourful after-dark market along Petaling Street that dominates the nightlife scene here. A well-known shopping district, the whole area transforms into a lively and vibrant night market after dark, with hundreds of stalls selling apparels, souvenirs, and accessories at dirt-cheap prices, making it the most happening night market in the city. Read more...

JALAN ALOR

Hosting numerous hawker stalls and seafood restaurants, Jalan Alor is one of the most famous roads in Kuala Lumpur for food. Located just behind Jalan Bukit Bintang and a short walk away from Changkat Bukit Bintang, it is a favourite after-clubbing dining spot in the Golden Triangle area. A sharp contrast to trendy Jalan Bukit Bintang and Changkat Bukit Bintang, Jalan Alor has a traditional charm to it with atmospheric air-conditioned Chinese seafood restaurants, bright fluorescent restaurant signage lighting and mini red Chinese lanterns strung up in the trees. Read more...

BANGSAR

Bangsar, a popular expatriate stomping ground in Kuala Lumpur, is famous for its lively nightlife haunts. It is home to a variety of nightspots ranging from funky pubs and mini night clubs and to resto-bars and elegant cafés. While Bangsar's nightlife scene pales in comparison to Changkat Bukit Bintang, the streets in the area are crawling with college students, yuppies, tourists and expatriates during the weekends. Some of the most well-patronised establishments in Bangsar include SIX Cocktail Lounge, Ril's, The Social, and La Bodega. Read more...

JALAN P. RAMLEE

When it comes to nightlife in Kuala Lumpur, Jalan P. Ramlee is considered one of the city's hottest venues. In comparison to its neighbour (Changkat Bukit Bintang), Jalan P. Ramlee can best be described as a wackier and more eccentric nightspot with throngs of party-goers club-hopping from one establishment to another. Lively and vibrant after dark, exciting nightlife options line the street, each looking as colourful on the inside as they do on the outside. Read more...

ASIAN HERITAGE ROW

Popular with the young and yuppie crowd, the Asian Heritage Row is a section of Jalan Doraisamy which gives way to a spectacular stretch of converted colonial buildings. Located just off Jalan Sultan Ismail right next to Sheraton Imperial Kuala Lumpur, the avenue features once-abandoned 80-year old houses that have been turned into trendy dining and entertainment options with elegant and arresting façades. Read more...



NIGHT MARKETS (PASAR MALAM)

Pasar Malams (Malay for night markets) are an incredibly prominent feature in the Malaysian shopping experience. Available in every state throughout the country, these after-dark souks are all the rage because they allow locals and tourists to shop for inexpensive goods. Busy streets within residential neighbourhoods are shut down to traffic (one day only in a week) and stalls are set up as early as 18:00. In Kuala Lumpur, you can find many night markets happening each day in different places throughout the weeks selling all sorts of merchandise under the sun. Read more...







WHERE TO SHOP

66 Kuala Lumpur has a diverse retail landscape that caters to different budget levels & shopping preferences. The air-conditioned shopping complexes in the Bukit Bintang, KLCC, Bangsar and Petaling Jaya area are your best bet if you're after designer merchandise while seeking a reprieve from the humid weather. However, it's KL's street markets that define its shopping experience - these bazaars are the best places to find inexpensive apparel and unique knick knacks while you sample local specialties and chat with the locals.

PAVILION SHOPPING MALL

Located at the centre of the uber trendy Bukit Bintang district, Pavilion Kuala Lumpur is a sprawling 127,000sqm complex that comprised of three major components - a retail mall, an office block and two residential towers. Occupying prime real estate along Jalan Bukit Bintang, the mall was opened in 2007 and is noteworthy as the city centre's trendiest and most popular shopping development. Read more... **Open:** 10:00-22:00 **Location:** Right next to Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur, across the street from JW Marriott and Starhill Gallery. **How to get there:** By Monorail at Bukit Bintang Station

SURIA KLCC

An upmarket shopping mall situated between the Petronas Twin Towers, Suria KLCC is one of the most touristvisited malls in the city. A popular stopover for tours, the shopping podium sports a classy atmosphere and carries designer marques such as Louis Vuitton, Prada, Marc Jacobs, Hermès and more. The six-storey complex's entertainment offerings include a 12-screen movie theatre, a concert hall, an art gallery, a science discovery centre and a branch of Kinokuniya - a Japanese book store. Read more... **Open:** 10:00-22:00 **Location:** Suria KLCC, Kuala Lumpur city centre. **How to get there:** KLCC LRT

3

MID VALLEY MEGAMALL

The best shopping opportunity is not actually within Bangsar itself, but very near it; the Mid Valley Shopping mall is one of the largest in Southeast Asia and is arguably Klang Valley's most popular shopping attraction. From Bangsar, it is a mere few minutes away using a large flyover that cuts across the smaller Bangsar roads that lead to other areas. Read more... **Open:** 10:00-22:00 **Location:** Mid Valley City, Lingkaran Syed Putra. **How to get there:** RapidKL buses - U66, U84, U85, U87 and T631 or KTM Mid Valley station

THE GARDENS MALL

Linked to Mid Valley Megamall via a covered pedestrian bridge and underground corridor, The Gardens Mall offers an upscale retail environment with a lengthy roster of luxury labels under its roof. Some of the brands represented at this mall include Burberry, Louis Vuitton, Versace, Hermes, Michael Kors, AX Armani Exchange, Gucci and Calvin Klein. Read more... **Open:** 10:00-22:00 **Location:** Mid Valley City, Lingkaran Syed Putra. **How to get there:** RapidKL buses - U66, U84, U85, U87 and T631 or KTM Mid Valley station

STARHILL GALLERY KUALA LUMPUR

Connected directly to the five-star JW Marriott, Starhill Gallery is a high-end shopping mall with seven floors of luxury retail experience. The Feast and Relish floors feature a myriad of fine-dining options, while the Indulge and Adorn floors showcase a variety of designer labels with the former focusing more on fashion labels. Read more... **Open:** 10:00-22:00 Location: Jalan Bukit Bintang. How to get there: Across the street from Pavilion KL, right next to Fahrenheit

6

BERJAYA TIMES SQUARE

Comprising 10 floors and more than 700 retail outlets, Berjaya Times Square is a one-stop leisure destination for all ages. Linked to a five-star hotel of the same brand name, it also comes with several food courts, an indoor theme park with an IMAX theatre, a cinema, a spa centre, a games arcade, a karaoke lounge, a supermarket, a post office, a bank, an IT mall and hundreds of retail outlets offering everything from food to fashion. Read more... **Open:** 10:00-22:00 **Location:** Opposite Melia Hotel. **How to get there:** Imbi Monorail Station

ONE UTAMA SHOPPING MALL

Located away from the city centre, but still within the Kuala Lumpur limits, is the expansive 1 Utama shopping mall (fondly known as 1U to locals). Housing over 650 stores along with a multitude of eateries and entertainment outlets, 1U spans over five million square feet and is located in Bandar Utama, a small suburb just off the Lebuhraya Damansara-Puchong. Read more... **Open:** 10:00-22:00 **Location:** Lebuhraya Damansara-Puchong (LDP Highway).

8 SUNWAY PYRAMID

Sunway Pyramid is 1.7 million-sqft Egyptian-themed mall adjacent to Sunway Lagoon Theme Park in Bandar Sunway, Subang Jaya. A distinctive retail landmark, it is one of the largest shopping centres in the country and the only one with an indoor ice skating rink. Some of the brands represented at this mall include Coach, Ms. Selfridge, Mango and Timberland. Read more... **Open:** 10:00-22:00 **Location:** Bandar Sunway. **How to get there:** RapidKL buses: U76 from KL Sentral and U623 from Kelana Jaya LRT station.









DO NOT EVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT...

1. An umbrella or raincoat for those unexpected showers.

2. Earplugs - to block out street noise when you stay at down-market hotels.

3. A bottle of water - Malaysia's weather is hot and humid, so make sure you keep yourself hydrated.

4. A photocopy of you passport - you never know when you might be asked to produce identification.

5. A universal electric plug.

6. High factor sun block.

GASTRONOMIC TIPS

The country's staple dish is rice and noodles. Malaysian hawker fare is relatively safe but you should always take care not to dine in the grungiest shops as their levels of cleanliness are ultimately debatable. When eating with your hands, wash them first and try to use your right hand; use utensils to take food from a communal plate, never your fingers. Muslims are forbidden from eating pork - and most of them are incredibly strict about this rule - so never offer pork to Muslims. Also don't offer Muslims alcohol - although there are plenty who do partake in a little liquid indulgence now and again, especially the younger generation.

TV, RADIO & NEWSPAPERS

The country only has two government TV channels (TV1 and TV2) and four commercial stations (TV3, NTV7, 8TV and TV9). In the KL area, radio stations include Traxx FM (90.3 FM), HITZ.FM (92.9FM), Mix FM (94.5FM), Fly FM (95.8FM), Red.FM (104.9FM) and Light & Easy (105.7FM). The country's major newspapers include the News Straits Times, the Star and the Malay Mail.

MEASUREMENTS

Malaysia uses the metric system for weights and measurements.

NEGOTIATE YOUR SOCKS OFF

You can usually bargain to get prices for merchandise reduced at street markets sticker prices generally apply for items in shopping malls. If there's no barcode or price tag, then by all means start negotiating. Keep in mind that you'll catch more flies with honey than vinegar - smile as you parley and you're more likely to get deeper discounts. The best way to get the best price on an item you're coveting is to walk away - you'll definitely be called back for last ditch haggling.

TAXI SCAMMERS

There are unscrupulous taxi drivers in the city who love to take advantage of unsuspecting foreigners' purse strings. These cabbies do not charge fares according to their taxi meters (as they are supposed to do) but charge inflated rates - the best way to deal with this is to refuse to pay the inflated price. Inform them that you are aware that they're supposed to use the meter and demand that they charge you the proper fare. A good rule of thumb is to knock off at least RM5 from the inflated price - but be warned that it's not a hard-and-fast rule; also be sure to take down the info of errant cabbies as you can report them to the authorities.

WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Malaysia's a fairly liberal nation but rules of propriety still exist. Women are especially subjugated to the laws of convention and female tourists are encouraged to adhere to these standards. Dress modestly and try to blend in with the locals by being respectful, especially in areas of stronger Muslim religious sensibilities, such as the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

EASY THAI PHRASES

Selamat Pagi = Good morning Selamat tengah hari = Good afternoon Selamat petang = Good evening Selamat malam = Good night Selamat tinggal = Good bye Jumpa lagi = See you again Apa khabar? = How are you? Khabar baik = Fine, thanks Ya = Yes Tidak = No

Tolong/ Silakan = Please

Terima kasih (Terima kasih banyak banyak) = Thank you (Thank you very much)

Boleh/ Sama sama = That's fine/ You're welcome

Maaf = Excuse me/ Sorry/ Pardon

Minta maaf = I'm sorry

Dari mana asal saudara? = Where are you from?

Saya datang dari... = I come from...

Siapa nama anda? = What is your name?

Nama saya ialah... = My name is...

Boleh cakap Bahasa English? = Can you speak English?

La = thoroughly colloquial, 'la' is a word that is frequently added to end of a sentence/phrase by locals when speaking either English of Malay. It is merely added for emphasis to just about everything and has no real meaning





FURAMA BUKIT BINTANG HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR

Stepping into the soft, slate-grey reception of the 27-storey Furama Bukit Bintang Kuala Lumpur, you will immediately feel like you are worlds away from busy KL. Rather than a cocktail bar, the lobby has a sunroom-style lounge where guests can enjoy deli-style snacks and sink into cushy, smoothly upholstered armchairs while listening to piped-in classical music. This four-star hotel is perfect for both business travellers wanting to stay in the thick of things, as well as for families eager for some of Bukit Bintangs best shopping. Hotel facilities include seven function rooms, a restaurant, gym and a cool rooftop pool, fringed by palm trees, with fantastic views of KL. Read more...

EXCLUSIVE TOUR OFFERS FOR KUALA LUMPUR

G Just for Asia Web Direct readers, we selected three most popular tours in Kuala Lumpur and worked hard to get very special prices for you, you won't find them anywhere else. If you have any question or wish to book **even at the last minute**, please call +60 (3) 2302 7556 **3**



KL HOP-ON HOP-OFF TOUR

The KL Hop-on Hop-Off Tour takes on the popular 'see it all' concept available in bigger cities such as London and Paris, but the key to the tour is that it maintains its flexibility. With 22 designated stops, and over 40 attractions throughout Kuala Lumpur, the double-decker, air-conditioned tour bus is equipped with facilities such as pre-recorded multi lingual commentary for each of the attractions and Wi-Fi, making it one of the most convenient tours around. Read more...

Only from MYR45!

KL TOWER NIGHT TOUR

This Tour offer you an insight into the old & new, starting see Kuala Lumpur alive after sunset, visit the famous night bazaar of china town for bargains and sights. Next to the Kuala Lumpur Tower, one of the tallest in the world - 421m, here you can observe the awesome skyline of the KL city at night. After that, transfer to Twin Tower in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was the world's tallest twin building in the world. Later transfer back to hotel. Read more...

Only MYR105!

BATU CAVES EXPERIENCE

This Half-Day Batu Caves Tour takes you on a journey to visit some of Kuala Lumpur's bestknown cultural attractions. Batu Caves - a towering limestone outcropping just 13 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur. The caves house numerous Hindu shrines and is a famous landmark in KL. Its 272 steps to reach the top where you can admire the limestone formations and watch devotees pay homage to their respective deities. Read more...

Only MYR50!