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PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT
Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions
to help you put together your perfect trip

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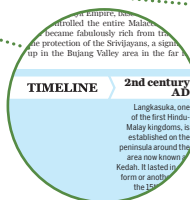


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UNDERSTAND KL, MELAKA & PENANG

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP
Learn about the big picture, so you
can make sense of what you see

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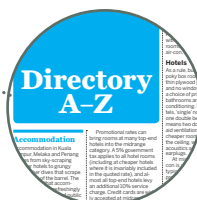


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In-depth reviews, detailed listings
and insider tips

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stay safe, say hello

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THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Simon Richmond,
Celeste Brash



Look out for these icons:



Our author's
recommendation



A green or
sustainable option



No payment
required

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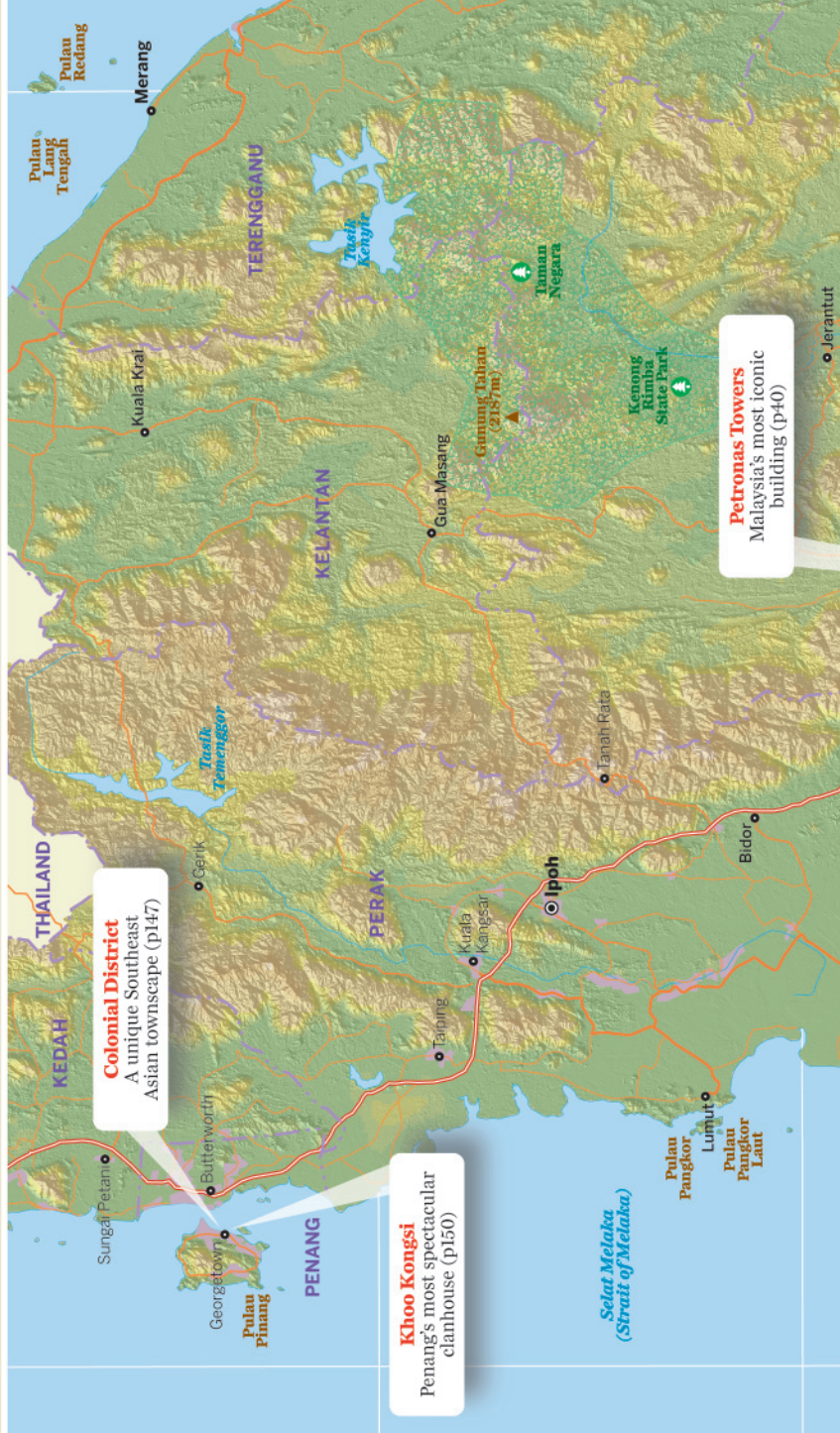
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➤ Kuala Lumpur, Melaka & Penang

Top Experiences >



Batu Caves

Technicolour temples in giant limestone caves (p102)

FRIM

Soothe your soul in this forest escape (p103)

Klang

Enjoy Indian food in this royal town (p108)

Putrajaya

Marvel at the city's modern architecture (p109)

Bayan Indah

Fab cooking classes in a rural retreat (p71)

Nonya Food

Enjoy tasty treats in Melaka (p133)

Jonker's Walk

Melaka's heritage district comes alive at night (p137)

Chinatown

Eat, shop and soak up the atmosphere (p46)

Merdeka Square

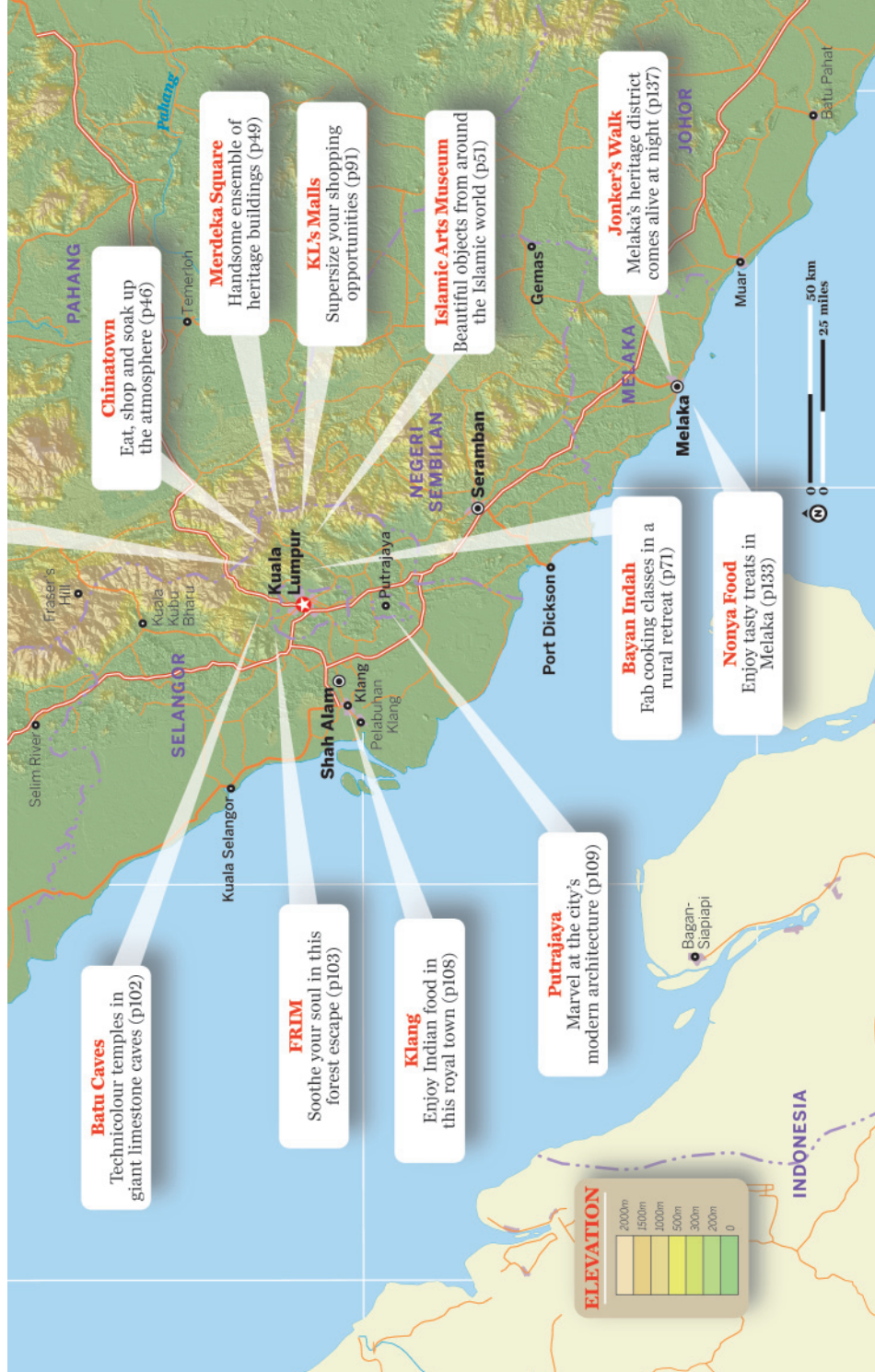
Handsome ensemble of heritage buildings (p49)

KL's Malls

Supersize your shopping opportunities (p91)

Islamic Arts Museum

Beautiful objects from around the Islamic world (p51)



itineraries

Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.



Four Days

Essential KL

For a bird's eye overview of the city take your pick between the skybridge and observation deck of the **Petronas Towers** or the bulbous head of **Menara KL** atop the jungle-clad hill Bukit Nanas. Explore **Chinatown**, dropping by its markets and Hindu and Taoist temples, and admire the colonial buildings around nearby **Merdeka Square** (Dataran Merdeka). Spend the evening in the **Golden Triangle** – dig into delicious food along Jln Alor, then sample the nightlife along buzzing Changkat Bukit Bintang.

Make the **Lake Gardens** the focus of day two, not missing KL Bird Park, the Islamic Arts Museum and the National Museum. Sample authentic Indian cuisine in either **Brickfields** or **Little India**. On day three, having enjoyed breakfast at **Imbi Market**, venture out to **Batu Caves**; exploring the cave temples only takes a couple of hours, leaving time the same day to wander the sleepy streets of **Kampung Baru** back in KL. Set aside day four for some 'me time': enjoy some retail therapy in giant shopping malls such as **Mid Valley Megamall**, or indulge in a luxurious spa treatment at Hamman in **Bangsar Village II**.



Two Weeks

The Terrific Trio

Starting in **Kuala Lumpur**, follow the previous itinerary, adding on a day to head out of town to view the modern architecture of **Putrajaya** or the lush surrounds of the **Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM)**. Tap into Malaysia's creative scene by spending a day touring KL's major galleries, including the **National Art Gallery** near Lake Titiwangsa, White Box at **Publika**, **Valentine Willie Fine Art** and **Wei-Ling Gallery**; and see what's playing at the **Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre**, the magnificent concert hall at the base of the Petronas Towers, or the jazz venue **No Black Tie**.

Use **Georgetown** as your base for exploring **Penang**, starting with **walking tours** of its fascinating colonial district and Chinatown, a Unesco World Heritage-protected area. Along the way be sure to visit the **Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion**, the fabulously ornate clan-house **Khoo Kongsi** and **Penang Museum**. Having prepped your stomach on afternoon tea in the elegant surrounds of the **Eastern & Oriental Hotel** or the restored grandeur of **Suffolk House**, go for broke by night trawling Penang's amazing range of streetside **hawker stalls**.

Lose yourself for half a day at the enormous **Kek Lok Si Temple**, which has an excellent vegetarian restaurant on the premises. Alternatively, stroll the pathways of the lovely **Botanical Gardens** and continue on to the base of **Penang Hill**. Ride the funicular railway to the peak and spend the rest of the afternoon strolling the trails in the cool air. Leave a couple of days to explore the rest of the island, including **Penang National Park** and the beaches and resorts at **Batu Ferringhi**.

Round off your trip with a few days in **Melaka**, becoming acquainted with the delights of Peranakan cuisine. Tick off the main historic sights, including the **Stadthuys**, **Porta de Santiago**, **St Paul's Church**, the **Sultanate Palace**, **Villa Sentosa** and historic **Chinatown**, where you'll find the **Baba-Nonya Heritage Museum**. Escape the crowds at **Bukit China** graveyard, with sunset views of the city. Time permitting, enjoy a **riverboat cruise** or an **Eco Bike Tour** and, if it's Friday or Saturday, don't miss the **Jonker's Walk Night Market**.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Simon Richmond

Coordinating Author, Kuala Lumpur Simon first visited KL, Melaka and Penang in 1996. A lot's changed in Malaysia since, but the country remains one of Simon's favourites for its easily accessible blend of cultures, landscapes, adventure and lip-smacking range of cuisines. His favourite experience of this research trip was learning to make the glutinous rice balls *onde onde* at the culinary retreat Bayan Indah. An award-winning travel writer and photographer, Simon has helmed

Lonely Planet's Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei guide for the past three editions, as well as a shelf-load of other titles for Lonely Planet and other publishers. Find out more about his work and travels at www.simonrichmond.com.

Read more about Simon at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/simonrichmond



Celeste Brash

Melaka, Penang Celeste first visited Malaysia while studying at Chiang Mai University, Thailand in 1993 and she later moved to Singapore to teach English. The more of Malaysia she's visited over the years, the more she's fallen in love with it. She's sure Malaysian food is the world's best and the country seems to get better and better with every visit. She's contributed to over 20 Lonely Planet guidebooks including *Travel with Children* and her award-winning writing has

appeared in publications from the LA Times to Islands Magazine. To see more of her writing go to www.celestebrash.com.

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lonelyplanet.com/members/celestebrash

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