



Kuala Lumpur

TELEPHONE CODE: 03 / POPULATION: 1.8 MILLION / AREA: 243 SQ KM

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Best Places to Stay

- » Bayan Indah (p71)
- » Fraser Place (p68)
- » G City Club Hotel (p71)
- » Sahabat Guest House (p67)
- » Serendah Tenggiri (p73)

Best Places to Eat

- » Imbi Market (p75)
- » Frangipani (p75)
- » Madras Lane (p74)
- » Nathalie's Gourmet Studio (p83)
- » Jalan Alor (p76)
- » Sek Yuen (p81)

Why Go?

Kuala Lumpur (KL) is the consummate Asian cyber-city: historic temples and mosques rub shoulders with space-age towers and shopping malls; traders' stalls are piled high with pungent durians and counterfeit handbags; monorail cars zip by lush jungle foliage; and locals sip cappuccinos in wi-fi-enabled cafes or feast on delicious street-side hawker food.

One hundred and fifty years since tin miners hacked a base out of the jungle, KL has evolved into an affluent 21st-century metropolis remarkable for its cultural diversity. Ethnic Malays, Chinese prospectors, Indian immigrants and British colonials all helped shaped the city, and each group has left its indelible physical mark as well as a fascinating assortment of cultural traditions.

Eating and shopping are highlights of any visit, but don't restrict yourself just to the heart of the city – there are many easy day trips when you need relief from the hustle and bustle.

When to Go?

If shopping is your aim, coincide your trip with the general sales that happen in March and from the end of November through early January. The end of March and early April is also a good time to visit to take in both KL Design Week and the events around the Malaysian Grand Prix. Foodies can dig into special treats at Ramadan markets and buffets across the city, usually in August and early September.

Good Food Blogs

If KLites have strong opinions about anything, it's on their favourite places to eat – and they're very happy to share recommendations online. **Friedchillies** (www.friedchillies.com) is the go-to website for spot-on reviews and fun video clips by some of the most enthusiastic foodies we've met. Other blogs guaranteed to get you salivating:

- » **Eating Asia** (www.eatingasia.typepad.com)
- » **Masa Masa** (www.masak-masak.blogspot.com)
- » **A Whiff of Lemongrass** (www.awhiffoflemongrass.com)
- » **Cumi & Ciki** (www.cumidanciki.com)

KL'S DAY & NIGHT MARKETS

Daily daytime wet markets in Chinatown, Chow Kit and Pudu, with stalls selling live chickens, fresh fish and an eye-boggling selection of exotic fruit and vegetables, are a truly Asian experience. KL also hosts several atmospheric *pasar malam* (night markets) once a week. From mid-afternoon until around midnight whole streets vanish under a sea of hawker stalls, traders' tables and motorcycles modified into mobile kitchens. Apart from stocking up on all kinds of cheap garments, shoes, accessories and gadgets, night markets are brilliant for eating.

Top Four Night Markets

- » **Kampung Baru** (Map p60) Around Jln Raja Muda Musa and Jln Raja Alang on Saturday continuing through to Sunday morning (hence it's known as the Sunday Market). Sample satay and spicy Indonesian food and southern Thai seafood dishes.
- » **Little India** (Map p60) From 1.30pm on Saturday along Lg TAR. Search out the stall selling freshly made chocolate cakes slathered in chocolate sauce.
- » **Bangsar Baru** (Map p59) Sunday, next to a car park off Jln Telawi 1. Sample wonderful sour-spicy *asam laksa*, freshly made *popiah* (spring rolls), *otak otak* (spicy fish paste grilled in banana leaves) and the crepelike *apam balik*.
- » **Taman Connaught, Cheras** In the southeast of the city, stretching along Jln Cerdas, this is the longest *pasar malam* in Malaysia. At the western end near Jln Pantas, fuel up on *kway teow mee goreng* (noodles), fresh juices and baked birds' eggs on a stick. Take the LRT or Komuter Train to Bandar Tasik Selatan, then hop in a taxi (around RM7).

TOP FIVE SHOPPING MALLS

- » Pavilion KL (p91)
- » Suria KLCC (p97)
- » Sungei Wang Plaza (p97)
- » Mid Valley Megamall (p95)
- » Bangsar Village I & II (p96)

Best KL Day Trips

- » Batu Caves (p102)
- » FRIM (p103)
- » Sunway Lagoon (p106)
- » Klang (p108)
- » Putrajaya (p109)

Internet Resources

- » KLue (www.klue.com.my) Features and listings
- » KL Tourist Association (www.klta.org.my) Tourist information
- » Time Out Kuala Lumpur (www.timeoutkl.com) What's on in KL
- » Visit KL (www.visitkl.gov.my) Official city site