

# 17 TOP EXPERIENCES

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## Petronas Towers

**I**t's impossible to resist the magnetic allure of the Petronas Towers (p40): the 452m-high structure is beautiful to look at, as well as being the embodiment of Malaysia's transformation into a fully developed nation. Designed by architect Cesar Pelli, this glistening, steel-wrapped structure is the focal point of the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), a 40-hectare development that also includes an imaginatively designed tropical park, a fun aquarium, an excellent kids' museum, a world-class concert hall and one of KL's best shopping malls.



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## KL's Chinatown

**2** Plumes of smoke curl upwards from smouldering coils of incense, flower garlands hang like pearls from the necks of Hindu statues and the call to prayer punctuates the honk of traffic. The temples and mosques of the city's Hindus, Muslims and Chinese Buddhists are crammed shoulder-to-shoulder in this atmospheric neighbourhood along the Klang River that epitomises multicultural Malaysia (see p46). Don't miss eating at the daytime Madras Lane hawker stalls or savouring the bustle and fun of the night market along Jln Petaling.



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## Batu Caves

**3** It's always a very busy and colourful scene at this sacred Hindu shrine (p102) but, if you can, time your visit for a holy day, the biggest of which is Thaipusam. Guarding the 272 steps that lead up to the main Temple Cave is the 43m gilded statue of Lord Murugan, assisted by a platoon of lively macaques who show little fear in launching raids on tourists' belongings. A new train station at the foot of the giant limestone outcrop makes getting here easy. Sri Maha Vishnu statue, Batu Caves