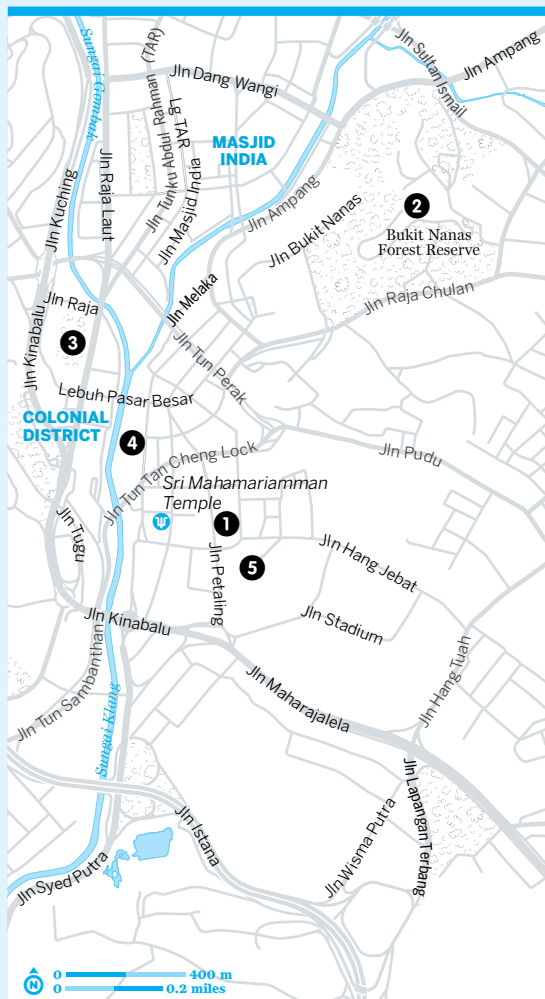


# Chinatown, Merdeka Square & Bukit Nanas



## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Exploring the cultural mash-up of **Chinatown** (p78) on our walking tour, which takes you past venerable Indian and Taoist temples and atmospheric markets.
- 2 Ascending **Menara KL** (p73) for a panoramic view of the city at the restaurant **Atmosphere 360** (p81).
- 3 Admiring the colonial architectural ensemble around **Merdeka Square** (p74).
- 4 Shopping for souvenirs and viewing cultural performances in **Central Market** (p77).
- 5 Going for a swim at **Chin Woo Stadium** (p84) and sticking around for the sunset view of the city.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Gain access to the exclusive members-only Royal Selangor Club (p79) by joining a free two-and-a-half hour walking tour around Merdeka Square, laid on by Visit KL (p226) every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 9am.



### Best Places to Eat

- Madras Lane Hawkers (p79)
- Old China Café (p80)
- La Vie En Rose (p81)
- LOKL (p81)
- Peter Hoe Beyond (p80)

For reviews, see p79 ➡



### Best Places to Drink

- Aku Cafe & Gallery (p82)
- Luna (p82)
- Reggae Bar (p82)

For reviews, see p82 ➡



### Best Shopping

- Central Market (p77)
- Petaling Street Market (p82)
- Peter Hoe Evolution (p83)
- Junk Bookstore (p83)

For reviews, see p82 ➡

## Explore: Chinatown, Merdeka Square & Bukit Nanas

If there's one part of Kuala Lumpur (KL) that's a microcosm of Malaysia's ethnic and historic mix, it's Chinatown, home and workplace not just to the scions of the original Chinese, Indian and Malay settlers but also to more recent arrivals from Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar. Jln Petaling is its central spine, hosting a bustling night market and bracketed by Chinese arch gates. Explore the surrounding streets and alleys and you'll find all manner of businesses, from traditional medicine shops to barbers and songbird sellers, not to mention some of KL's best street eats.

Ringed by impressive colonial-era buildings, Dataran Merdeka (Independence Square, but commonly called Merdeka Square) is a hugely symbolic location: this is where the British handed over control of Malaya to its citizens in 1957. Nearby, the graceful Masjid Jamek, the city's oldest surviving mosque, is shaded by swaying palms at the muddy confluence of the Klang and Gombak rivers that bequeathed the city its name.

East of here rise up the wooded slopes of Bukit Nanas (Pineapple Hill), the oldest protected piece of jungle in Malaysia, atop which stands Menara KL. The tower's observation deck provides fabulous views of the city while at the base are a handful of other attractions.

## Local Life

➤ **Market life** Join locals shopping for fresh fish, meat, fruit and vegetables at the Chinatown Wet Market (p77). There's a flea market on the alley running between Jln Petaling and Jln Sultan early each morning, while from 4pm to midnight Petaling Street Market (p82) becomes one of KL's best night markets.

➤ **Daily worship** Light joss sticks, have your fortune told and heed the call to prayer at the area's historic temples, shrines and mosques.

➤ **Raising the flag** Stand to attention at the flag-raising ceremony held from 9.45am to 10am every Monday on Merdeka Square, complete with horseback cavalry, marching soldiers and the major's brash band.

## Getting There & Away

➤ **LRT** Pasar Seni and Masjid Jamek LRT stations are the most convenient for the area. Plaza Rakyat station connects to Pudu Sentral bus terminal (p217).

➤ **Bus** Free **GO-KL City Buses** ([www.facebook.com/goklcitybus](http://www.facebook.com/goklcitybus)) ease connection between Chinatown, Bukit Nanas and the Golden Triangle areas.

➤ **Walking** These compact areas are easy to explore on foot.