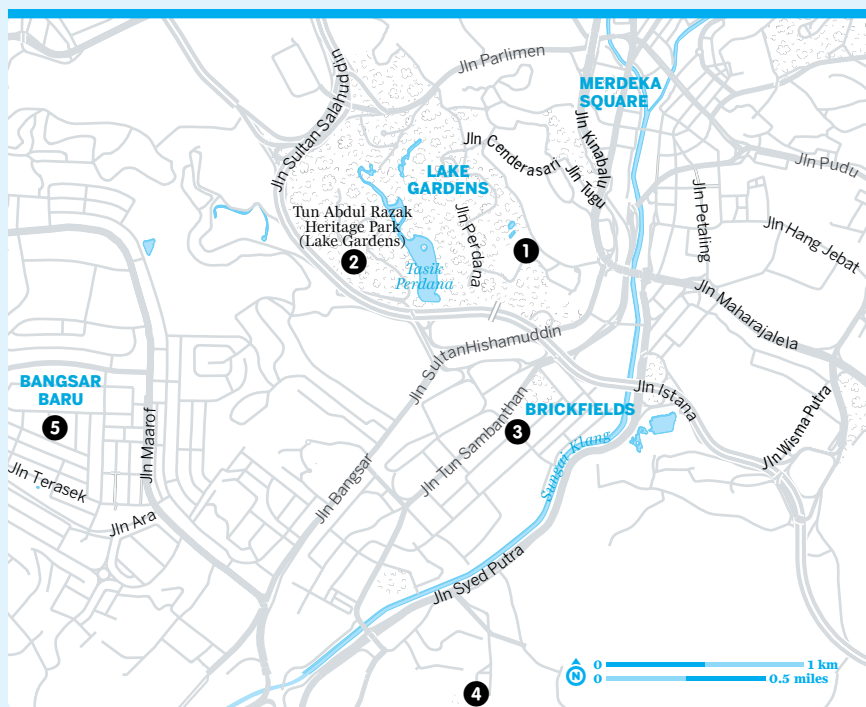


# Lake Gardens, Brickfields & Bangsar

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Admiring the beautiful objects and art works gathered from around the world in the **Islamic Arts Museum** (p97), which occupies an impressive building embellished with decorative domes and mosaic tiles.
- 2 Enveloping yourself in greenery at the **Tun Abdul Razak Heritage Park** (p98), home to KL Bird Park.
- 3 Exploring multicultural **Brickfields** (p103), home to temples, churches and Kuala Lumpur's official Little India.
- 4 Marvelling at the architectural detail of the **Thean Hou Temple** (p100) and the views from its elevated terraces.
- 5 Sampling some of KL's top food and fashion picks in **Bangsar Baru** (p106 and p110).



For more detail of this area, see Map p260 and p262

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Visit KL (p226) runs a free guided walking tour of Brickfields every Saturday, starting from Vivekananda Ashram at 9am and lasting around 2½ hours. You can just turn up, but advance booking is recommended.



### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Robson Heights (p106)
- ➔ Rebung (p107)
- ➔ Lucky Gardens (p108)
- ➔ Sri Nirwana Maju (p107)
- ➔ Wondermama (p107)

For reviews, see p105 ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ MAI Bar (p109)
- ➔ Hit & Mrs (p108)
- ➔ Plan b (p109)
- ➔ Ril's Bangsar (p109)
- ➔ Coffea Coffee (p109)

For reviews, see p109 ➔



### Best for Fashion

- ➔ Never Follow Suit (p110)
- ➔ Seethrough Concept Store (p110)
- ➔ 17A Select Store (p110)
- ➔ Nurita Harith (p110)
- ➔ Publika (p111)

For reviews, see p110 ➔

## Explore: Lake Gardens, Brickfields & Bangsar

The Lake Gardens were created in the late 19th century as an urban retreat for the colonial Brits to escape the hurly burly of downtown. Recently renamed the Tun Abdul Razak Heritage Park after Malaysia's second prime minister, this lush, landscaped area continues to act as KL's green relaxation zone and includes three museums, six themed parks and other monuments and sights.

Following devastating fires in the late 19th century, KL's colonial administration decreed that bricks would henceforth be used to construct the city's buildings. The area where they were manufactured became known as Brickfields. Many Indian labourers, mainly Tamils from southern India and Sri Lanka, settled here, giving the area its still-predominant Indian atmosphere – that's why it's KL's official Little India. However, in this ethnically diverse 'burb you'll also find a Chinese temple and various Christian churches alongside the Hindu and Buddhist shrines. All are overshadowed by the skyscrapers of KL Sentral, the city's transportation hub around which several new shopping complexes and offices towers have sprouted.

To the south ripple the green hills that are home to KL's main Chinese Cemetery as well as the spectacular Thean Hou Temple and the old Istana Negara. North of here is Bangsar, a century ago a rubber plantation, now an upscale residential area of luxury bungalows and condominiums. Its commercial hub, Bangsar Baru, is one of KL's most pleasant places to eat and shop.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Tugu Drum Circle** (<http://tugudrumcircle.blogspot.com>) Bang out a beat with the drum circle, who meet beneath the National Monument (p102) every Sunday eve.
- ➔ **Market life** Go grocery shopping and enjoy great hawker food at the Bangsar Sunday Market (p106).
- ➔ **Creative mall** Check out the varied weekend events and gallery showings at Publika (p111).

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Train, monorail and LRT** KL Sentral, the city's transport hub, is close to both Brickfields and the Lake Gardens; Bangsar is one stop southwest on the LRT.
- ➔ **Walking** The Lake Gardens can easily be accessed by foot from Chinatown.
- ➔ **Bus** The KL Hop-On-Hop-Off bus stops at Masjid Negara, KL Bird Park, the National Monument and the National Museum.
- ➔ **Bicycle** Pedal around the Lake Gardens area with a rental bike from KL By Cycle (p99).