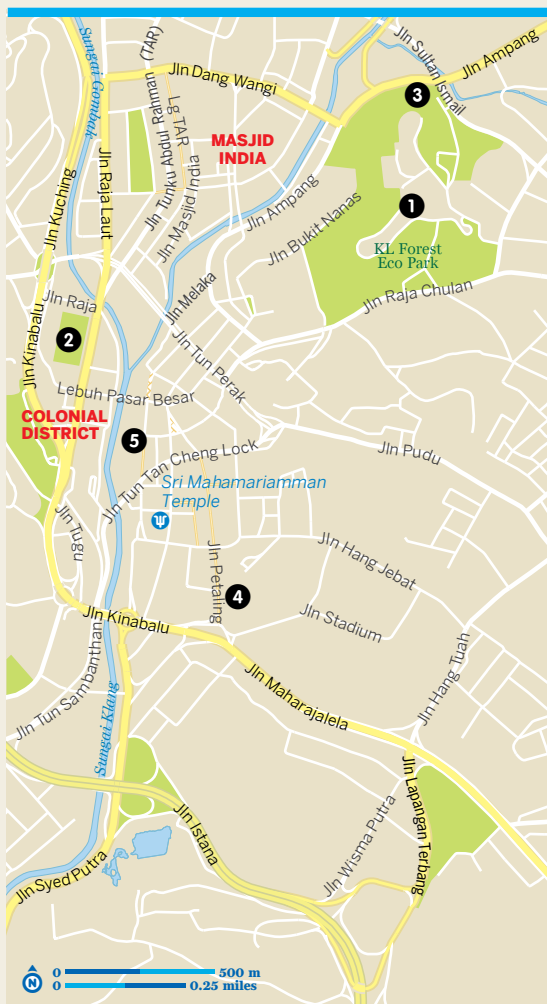


# Chinatown, Merdeka Square & Bukit Nanas



## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Menara KL** (p69) Getting treetop views from the canopy walkway in KL Forest Eco Park and ascending the tower for a thrilling panoramic lookout from the open-air deck.
- 2 Merdeka Square** (p70) Standing at the city's colonial heart, surrounded by a handsome ensemble of heritage buildings.
- 3 Kuala Lumpur Heritage Trail** (p81) Exploring the newly signposted walks around Chinatown and Merdeka Sq.
- 4 PS150** (p79) Sipping the creations of some of the city's top mixologists in retro surroundings.
- 5 Central Market** (p74) Shopping for souvenirs and viewing cultural performances.

For more detail of this area see Map p248

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Gain access to the exclusive members-only **Royal Selangor Club** (p71) by joining a free two-and-a-half hour **walking tour** (p81) around Merdeka Sq, laid on by Visit KL every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 9am.



### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Madras Lane Hawkers (p75)
- ➔ Merchant's Lane (p77)
- ➔ Bunn Choon (p76)
- ➔ Antara Restaurant (p78)
- ➔ LOKL Coffee Co (p77)

For reviews, see p75 ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Omakase + Appreciate (p79)
- ➔ PS150 (p79)
- ➔ Aku Cafe & Gallery (p79)
- ➔ Barlai (p79)

For reviews, see p78 ➔



### Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Central Market (p74)
- ➔ Petaling Street Market (p81)
- ➔ Museum of Ethnic Arts (p74)
- ➔ Gahara Galleria (p80)

For reviews, see p80 ➔

## Explore Chinatown, Merdeka Square & Bukit Nanas

If there's one part of Kuala Lumpur that's a microcosm of Malaysia's ethnic and historic mix, it's Chinatown. Jln Petaling is its central spine, hosting a bustling night market and bracketed by Chinese arch gates. Alongside the traditional, the neighbourhood's hipper side can be seen in new street art, cafes and cocktail bars clustered around the southern end of Jln Petaling.

Ringed by impressive colonial-era buildings, Dataran Merdeka Square (p70) is a hugely symbolic location, where the British handed over control of Malaya to its citizens in 1957. Nearby, the graceful Masjid Jamek (p75), the city's oldest surviving mosque, sits at the muddy confluence of the Klang and Gombak rivers, which bequeathed the city its name. The site of the mosque, the river banks and the surrounding streets have been revamped and made more pedestrian friendly with wider pavements, public art and heritage trails as part of the River of Life project (p187).

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 (p69). The tower's observation deck provides 360-degree 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 (p74). From 4pm to midnight Petaling Street Market (p81) sells all manner of counterfeit goods.

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

➔ **Hip hang-outs** Head to the southern end of Chinatown for cafe culture at Merchant's Lane (p77), Chocha Foodstore (p79) and Aku Cafe & Gallery (p79).

## 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 (p219).

➔ **Bus** Free GO-KL City Buses (p220) ease connection between Chinatown, Bukit Nanas and Bukit Bintang. Kota Raya and Muzium Telekom are useful stops.

➔ **Walking** These compact areas can be explored on foot.

➔ **MRT** New stations Pasar Seni and Merdeka are set to open in 2017.