

Lake Gardens, Brickfields & Bangsar

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Islamic Arts Museum** (p94) Admiring the beautiful objects and artworks gathered from around the world in this top-class museum, which occupies an impressive building embellished with decorative domes and mosaic tiles.
- 2 Tun Abdul Razak Heritage Park** (p95) Strolling the leafy gardens and visiting the the KL Bird Park.
- 3 Buddhist Maha Vihara** (p101) Exploring this peaceful complex of Buddhist temples and the neighbouring places of worship in Brickfields.
- 4 Thean Hou Temple** (p97)
- 5 Bangsar** (p99) Sampling some of KL's top food and fashion picks, and relaxing over a coffee or cocktail in Bangsar Baru.



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

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. Now named 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 suburb 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, now the Royal Museum. 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

- ➔ **Malls** Browse the shops at Mid Valley Megamall (p108), Bangsar Village (p109) or Bangsar Shopping Centre (p111).
- ➔ **Markets** Go grocery shopping and enjoy great hawker food at the Bangsar Sunday Market (p104).
- ➔ **Drumming** Join the Tugu Drum Circle (p111) as they bang out some beats near the National Monument.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Train, monorail and LRT** KL Sentral is close to both Brickfields and the Tun Abdul Razak Heritage Park; Bank Rakyat-Bangsar is one stop southwest on the LRT.
- ➔ **Walking** Tun Abdul Razak Heritage Park 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. The GOKL free city bus red line stops at KL Sentral, Masjid Negara and the National Museum.
- ➔ **Bicycle** Pedal around the Lake Gardens area with a rental bike from KL By Cycle (p220).

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The Tun Abdul Razak Heritage Park is huge, and in KL's heat and humidity getting to and from the sights can be a slog. The free GOKL city bus red line links KL Sentral with Masjid Negara, the National Museum and Merdeka Sq.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rebung (p102)
- ➔ Restoran Yarl (p103)
- ➔ Lawanya Food Corner (p103)
- ➔ Ganga Cafe (p106)
- ➔ Jaslyn Cakes (p104)

For reviews, see p102 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Coley (p106)
- ➔ Mantra Bar KL (p106)
- ➔ Mai Bar (p106)
- ➔ Pulp by Papa Palheta (p106)
- ➔ Ril's Bangsar (p106)
- ➔ Sino The Bar Upstairs (p107)

For reviews, see p106 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Thisappear (p109)
- ➔ Shoes Shoes Shoes (p109)
- ➔ d.d.collective (p109)
- ➔ DR.Inc (p109)
- ➔ Lonely Dream (p109)
- ➔ Fabspy (p108)

For reviews, see p107 ➔