



# Day Trips from Kuala Lumpur

## Batu Caves (p113)

This dramatic limestone crag riddled with caverns is both a natural marvel and religious site with its holy Hindu shrines and colourful dioramas.

## Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM; p115)

Switch track from the drone of city traffic and air-conditioning to bird-song and all-encompassing greenery at this jungle park.

## Bukit Fraser (Fraser's Hill; p116)

Breathe easy at this classic, colonial-era, high-altitude resort on the Selangor–Pahang border; it's also a top bird-spotting destination.

## Klang Valley (p118)

Travel from city to coast, pausing at a range of fun attractions and sights including a giant water theme park, a mega-mosque and Klang's vibrant Little India.

## Putrajaya (p122)

Malaysia's administrative hub is a showboat of daring contemporary and Islamic heritage architecture arranged around a pretty, artificial lake.



## TOP SIGHT BATU CAVES

One of Malaysia's most iconic sights and holiest Hindu shrines, this complex of giant limestone caves houses temples that have been drawing pilgrims for more than 120 years. Home to a troop of cheeky macaques, the caves are always a colourful and fascinating place to visit, especially during the festival of Thaipusam when hundreds of thousands of pilgrims converge here.

### Temple Cave

The so-called **Temple Cave** (☎8am-8.30pm) **FREE**, actually two enormous caverns joined by a short flight of stairs, sits atop 272 steps populated by scampering macaque monkeys and is guarded by an impressive, 42.7m golden statue of Hindu God Lord Murugan, erected in 2006 and said to be the largest in the world. The dome-shaped cavern has been a Hindu shrine since K Thambusamy Pillai, founder of the Sri Mahamariamman Temple (p72) in KL, placed a statue of Lord Murugan here in 1890.

Inside the first cavern, at the top of the stairs, Murugan's six abodes are carved into the walls. The second cavern holds the temple of Valli Devanai, Murugan's wife. Murugan, son of Shiva and Hindu god of war, is widely worshipped in Hindu Tamil communities. Prayers are held at 8.30am and 4.30pm.

### Dark Cave

At step 204 on the way up to the Temple Cave, branch off to the **Dark Cave** (☎012-3715001; [www.darkcavemalaysia.com](http://www.darkcavemalaysia.com); adult/child RM35/25; ☎10am-5pm Tue-Fri, 10.30am-5.30pm Sat & Sun) to join an excellent, 45-minute guided tour along 850m of the 2km of surveyed passageways within the cave complex. The tour takes you through seven different chambers where you can witness dramatic limestone formations, including gorgeous flowstones, see pits used for guano extraction, and possibly spot two species of bat and hundreds of other life forms, including the rare trapdoor spider.

### DON'T MISS

- Temple Cave
- Golden statue of Lord Murugan
- Dark Cave
- Ramayana Cave

### PRACTICALITIES

- 📍Batu Caves