

USEFUL INFORMATION

SHOPPING, RESTAURANTS, SIGHTSEEING AND NIGHTLIFE/BARS

SHOPPING

You can find almost everything you need in Kuala Lumpur in shopping malls, small shops, wet markets, or night markets.

Except in small shops and marketplaces, merchants seldom bargain any more, which is not the same as saying that bargains do not exist. Prices are undoubtedly better for many items than they would be the States, but don't expect a merchant to gladly enter into sustained haggling over the price of an item.

If you buy in quantity, be sure to ask for a discount, a more acceptable form of bargaining here.

Shopping Malls

Pavilion

Located next to the Grand Millennium, this shopping center has one department store and many stores for designer and international brands, ranging from GAP to Tiffany's. Perhaps a bit more upscale than a typical American mall, it has a good variety of shops and eateries. There is a grocery store in the mall as well. The food court offers a wide selection of good Malaysian fast food. This is less crowded than most of the other malls in KL. Open 10 am to 10 pm daily. (Sixth floor restaurant/entertainment areas are open 'til 12 midnight.)

<http://www.pavilion-kl.com/2009/home.html>

Starhill Gallery

This is connected to both the JW Marriott and the Ritz Carlton, located on Bukit Bintang and an easy walk from the Grand Millennium. This is KL's most upscale mall with top-end designer shops and eateries. It contains The Gallery@Starhill, which promotes the work of contemporary Malaysian artists, and an entire floor dedicated to spa treatments, hair and nail salons, and the like. This mall is not very crowded. <http://www.starhillgallery.com/>

Suria KLCC

At the base of the Petronas Twin Towers, Suria KLCC contains many of the same stores as in Pavilion. It houses several department stores and Kinokuniya Bookstore, which has one of the largest stocks of English-language books in the city. It has a grocery store, Toys R Us, and several high end jewelry and clothing shops. It is connected to the Symphony Hall. Like Pavilion, there are many food and beverage options. However, this mall is typically more crowded than Pavilion and Starhill. Open 10 am to 10 pm daily.

<http://www.suriaklcc.com.my/>

Berjaya Times Square

Less upscale than Pavilion and Suria KLCC, Berjaya Times Square attracts more regular residents of KL. It contains a Border's Bookstore as large and well-stocked as most U.S. branches, as well as Papa John's pizza, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and an indoor amusement

park and bowling alley. It also has the world's largest capsule vending machine (like those often found in grocery stores where the prize comes out in a capsule), verified by the Guinness Book of World Records. The easiest way to get there is via taxi.

<http://www.timessquarekl.com/>

Malaysian Handicrafts

Batik cloth ranks as one of the oldest industries in Malaysia. Batik cloth may be hand-painted or block-printed. But to be truly called batik, the design must be applied with wax. The material is then dyed before being boiled to remove the wax. The result is a myriad of colorfully designed fabrics used in manufacturing a wide variety of clothing and accessories. Real batik is easy to identify, both sides of the cloth will be the same (no front and back).

Pewter objects rank equally high in popularity among visitors here. An alloy of three percent copper and antimony and 97 percent tin, pewter production benefits greatly from the fact that Malaysia is the world's leading producer of tin. There is an incredible number of pewter items manufactured here, ranging from napkin rings to tea services. Tumasek and Penang Pewter offer diplomatic discounts of 10 percent at their own outlet and Royal Selangor at the factory.

Where to find handicrafts and souvenirs

Central Market: A former market selling meats and produce, it is now the center for handicrafts, knickknacks and artifacts from around the region. It has many small shops and eateries, mainly geared toward tourists, including several stores for ready-made batik clothing as well as antique vendors. Cross Jalan Cheng Lock to visit Peter Hoe's shop selling beautiful batik. The proximity of Chinatown, just a block away, makes a combined visit a no-brainer. The easiest way to get here is via taxi. *You can bargain here, though some stores are fixed price.*

<http://www.centralmarket.com.my>

Petaling Street: This street is the heart of Chinatown and you can find a variety of items, from fruits and flowers to pirated watches, videos, and designer clothing. The Nepalese traders sell beads and other ethnic goods. Crowded and fun in the evening. *Bargain vigorously.*

Little India/Batu Road: The area including Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman and Jalan Masjid India provides an interesting mix of Indian goods (saris, decorative items, and more), Chinese lace and furniture, carpets, textiles, and on Saturday evenings, a *pasar malam* (night market) featuring local goods and lots of people watching. *Bargain.*

Royal Selangor Pewter: This unique and beautiful Malaysian handicraft is widely available from stores around town. The factory, located at 4 Jalan Usahawan Enam, Setapak Jaya, has a tour and showroom available. *Items are fixed price.*

Kompleks Budaya Kraf: Jalan Conlay. The Craft Cultural Complex is a one-stop handicraft complex offering export quality Malaysian handicrafts such as songket, batik-

wear, pewter, silverware, and unusual ethnic items. Batik painting classes are also available. It is nearby. *Fixed price.*

RESTAURANTS /FOOD

There is no lack of good food near your hotel, and many of the shopping areas have fantastic food courts as well as sit down restaurants. Below is an example of the kinds of options available. If you are feeling adventurous, try the street food (hawker stalls). It is generally safe, cheap, and among the best food you will find here in Malaysia.

Bukit Bintang Area

Food stalls at Jalan Alor- A five minute walk from the Grand Millennium, this collection of outdoor restaurants and stalls has fresh seafood and tasty local Chinese and Malay dishes. Go here for a Malaysian food stall experience and cheap beer. Open in the evenings only.

Chinese – Hutong (Lower Ground Floor, Lot 10 Shopping Centre). Though indoor, this offers a wide variety of predominately Chinese food stall options. It will be hard to go wrong here.

Italian – Ciccio Restaurant (Changkat Bukit Bintang); Ristorante L’Opera (Jalan Bukit Bintang)

Pavilion Mall

American – Tony Roma’s (Level 1); T.G.I.F (Level 6), Morganfield’s (Level 4)

Chinese– Din Tai Fung (Level 6): If you like dumplings, this is your place. Hugely popular among the Embassy crowd, many of whom affectionately call this the “Chinese Olive Garden.”

Lebanese – Al-Amar (Level 6). This restaurant has solid Middle Eastern food and is frequented by many in the Embassy.

Malay – Madam Kwan’s (Basement); Grandmamas (Level 6) food court (Basement)

Western – La Bodega (Level 3)

Food Court- Predominately Malay and Chinese, this has something for everyone. Put aside your visions of food courts in American malls, this food is high quality and tasty. (Basement)

Starhill Gallery

Middle Eastern – Tarbush (Ground Floor)

Spanish – Sentidos (Ground Floor)

Indian – Spice of India (Ground Floor)

American – Angus House, Charcoal Steak Grill

Japanese - Kaihomaru

KLCC Suria Shopping Mall

American - Chili's (Level 3); This restaurant has views of the fountain in KLCC park and has most of what you would expect at a Chili's back home.

Western - Ben's (Level 1); Chinoz On The Park (Ground Floor); The Apartment (Ground Floor)

SIGHTSEEING

PETRONAS Twin Towers



One of the highlights for any visit to Kuala Lumpur is a visit to the PETRONAS Twin Towers. The towers are the headquarters of the PETRONAS company and the world's tallest freestanding twin towers at 1,479 feet (451.0 meters) high. You can take a one-hour tour up the towers visiting both the 42nd and 86th floor. One adult ticket costs RM80. They issue a limited number of tickets on the day of the tour and they go fast. We recommend that you purchase your tickets in advance online at the following link: <http://www.petronastwintowers.com.my/>

Islamic Arts Museum

The Islamic Arts Museum is Southeast Asia's largest museum of Islamic art. It houses more than 7,000 pieces including textiles, carpets, jewelry, pottery and scaled models of well-known world mosques. It includes a model of the Dar al-Islam mosque in New Mexico. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. It is closed on Mondays. There is an RM 14 admission charge for adults.

http://www.iamm.org.my/i_ex/



Merdeka Square/Masjid Jamek/Sultan Abdul Samad Building



This area of town has great historical significance. The Jamek Mosque, built in 1909, was constructed on the site where KL was founded -- at the confluence of the Klang and Gombak rivers. (Kuala Lumpur means “muddy confluence.”) *Merdeka* (Independence) Square is where the British flag was lowered at midnight on August 30, 1957 and the Malaysian flag hoisted for the first time. Asia’s tallest flagpole now stands at one end of the field, and the Selangor Club, the original home of the Hash House Harriers, also is located here. Across

the street is one of the most photographed buildings in Malaysia, the Sultan Abdul Samad Building, with its stunning Moorish design. It now houses the Malaysian Supreme Court.

Batu Caves

One of the most popular Hindu shrines outside of India, Batu Caves lies about 7 miles (12 kilometers) north of the city. It is a series of limestone caves and cave temples said to be 400 million years old. Wear comfortable shoes -- the Caves are a steep climb up 272 steps. Most hotels can arrange tours to Batu Caves, or you can get a cab to take you. Free admission. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batu_Caves



Lake Gardens (Taman Tasik Perdana)

These gardens have approximately 170 acres of beautiful gardens, lakes, and recreational facilities in the center of KL. The gardens include a butterfly park, an orchid park, the ASEAN Sculpture Garden, a deer park, the Planetarium, the War Memorial, a bird park, and the National Museum.

Kuala Lumpur Bird Park

The Bird Park is situated in the Lake Gardens and boasts world’s largest walk through free flying bird park. It plays home to more than 3,000 birds of approximately 200 species. Several species of hornbills are on exhibit. Open daily from 9:00am to 6:00pm. Admission is RM48.

<http://klbirdpark.com/index.cfm>

NIGHTLIFE/BARS

Sky Bar - Traders Hotel, KLCC (Tel: 2332 9888) Enjoy fantastic views of the PETRONAS towers while sipping a cocktail. Recently featured on the Amazing Race. Dress smart.

Luna Bar - Menara PanGlobal, 34F, Jalan Punchak, Off Jalan P. Ramlee (Tel: 2332 7777) Another place with great views of the PETRONAS towers as well as the KL tower. Dining is available. Dress smart. Cover charge on the weekend.

Marini's on 57 - Level 57 of Menara 3 PETRONAS in the KL City Centre (Tel: 2161 2880)

The View Rooftop Bar at G Tower Hotel – Located on 29th floor of G Tower Hotel.

Il Lido – Jalan Mayang, Off Jalan Yap Kwan Seng (Tel: 2161 2291)

Hard Rock Café KL – Ground floor, Concorde Hotel (Tel: 2715 5555)

Little Havana – Changkat Bukit Bintang (Tel: 2144 7170)

Rootz – Roof top, Lot 10 Shopping Centre (Tel: 2782 3555)