

**TRANSPORTATION** Taxis are available at the pier and drivers may accept U.S. Dollars. Taxis at the pier are not metered. Pricing should be negotiated and an itinerary should be established before getting into any vehicle. The city’s bus service comes in the form of stage buses. Check with the driver about fares for your destination and have loose local change ready.

**TOURIST INFORMATION** The local Tourist Information Office is located at 109 Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur (#9 on map). Open daily.

**USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES**

- Yes – Ya
- No – Tidak
- Thank you – Terima kasih
- You’re welcome – Sama sama
- Good morning – Selamat pagi
- How much? – Berapa harga
- Where is the toilet? – Di mana tandas

The official language of Malaysia is Bahasa Malaysia, but English is widely spoken.

**NOTES**

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**PORT EXPLORER**

**Port Kelang - Kuala Lumpur**  
**MALAYSIA**

**GENERAL INFORMATION** Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia, is located about halfway down peninsular Malaysia some 40 miles (65 km) inland from the west coast. It is Malaysia’s largest city and its’ cultural, commercial and transportation center. 42 miles(68 km) east is the city’s ocean port, Port Kelang, situated on the famous Straits of Malacca. The name “Kuala Lumpur” means muddy estuary, after the confluence of the Kelang and Gombak rivers, around which it was built.

The city, well known as “K.L.,” presents a mix of cosmopolitan sophistication with skyscrapers, sweeping highways and shopping centers along with Moorish architecture, minarets, Chinese temples and colonial buildings of a bygone era.

The population of approximately 1.5 million people consists of many different races, mainly Malays, Chinese and Indians who live in a favorable climate which produces lush tropical greenery and blooms. Tourists join with local residents in a virtual bargain hunters paradise of shopping and culinary delights.

**HISTORY** Kuala Lumpur was established in 1857 when two mining chiefs, Raja Jumaat and Raja Abdullah persuaded Chinese miners to prospect for tin in the Kelang Valley. 87 Chinese tin miners founded a settlement at Ampang, now a suburb of the city. The community flourished, enormous tin deposits were uncovered and a mining town was constructed despite its malarial jungle location. Attracted by the economic vitality, the British government transferred their headquarters from Kelang to Kuala Lumpur in 1880 under the leadership of Frank Swettenham. Streets were widened and the construction of the Kelang-Kuala Lumpur railway was begun. Brick and tile were used extensively as a fire precaution. It was during this period that dozens of Moorish style buildings were built.

The city’s central position led it to be chosen as the capital of the Federated States of Malay in 1895. After World War II the population increased and new villages were established on the city’s outskirts. In 1957 Kuala Lumpur was made the capital following Malaysia independence.





## POINTS OF INTEREST

**1 The National Museum** is found just outside the Lake Garden and is a palatial structure built in the style of old Malay architecture. It is one of Southeast Asia's finest museums and the main repository for the country's historic and artistic wealth.

**2 National Art Gallery**, is located on a 5.6 acre site at Jalan Temerloh and flanked by the National Theater and the

National Library. The Gallery contains displays of works by Malaysian artists, sculptors and designers.

**3 Sultan Abdul Samad Building** is K.L.'s most famous building and the center of the old city. It was constructed in 1897 with Moorish arches, copper domes and a 135 foot (40.5 m) high clock tower.

**4 National Mosque (Masjid Negara)** is located on Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin. It features Malaysian contemporary

architecture with a 240 foot (72 m) minaret. It is not the largest mosque in Asia, but can hold 10,000 worshippers. Modest dress is required. Remove your shoes before entering the mosque and use the robe provided. Tourists are forbidden to enter the Prayer Hall.

**5 Dayabumi Complex** is a 36 story ultra-modern building that stands in sharp contrast to the Moorish City Hall nearby. The building towers over the city and incorporates many traditional Moorish elements.

**6 Kuala Lumpur Lake Gardens**, behind the National Museum, is a 257 acre area of close cropped lawns, hillocks and cultivated gardens. It serves as a sanctuary from the chaos of the city. Boating on the lake, people watching and picnicking are a few of the favorite pastimes here. Located within the park you will also find a National Monument dedicated to the nation's war dead as well as an orchid garden.

**7 Sri Mahamariamman Temple** is the city's oldest and most important Hindu temple built in 1887. It is considered to be the most ornate and elaborate in all of Malaysia. Located close to Chinatown at the junction of Jalan Sultan and Jalan H.S. Lee. To enter the temple, remove your footwear. Floral garlands are sold by vendors and can be worn around the neck.

**8 Chinatown**, on Petaling Street is the premier shopping area of the city, exotic day and night. At the end of the street you will find the Chan See Shue Yuen Chinese temple.

## Beyond Kuala Lumpur

**National Zoo and Aquarium**, on the outskirts of the city, contains many species of flora and fauna as well as marine life from Malaysia and the rest of the world.

**Natural Rubber Museum** is a recent addition in Sungai Buloh. It traces the history and development of Malaysia's rubber industry.

**Batu Caves**, are 8 miles (13 km) outside of Kuala Lumpur. Inside is a series of immense limestone caves housing life size sculptures of Hindu deities and is one of the most holy Hindu shrines. It is reached by climbing up 272 steps with monkeys perched along the staircase. Please be cautious as these curious creatures may be aggressive.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to Port Kelang, Kuala Lumpur and surrounding areas, we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For further information consult your Shore Excursion brochure or contact the Shore Excursion desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS** Bargaining: Prices in most shops are fixed, but you may ask for a "discount." For tourist items at street stalls, bargaining is essential.

**Tipping:** Tipping is generally unnecessary. It is included in restaurant bills as a service charge. Many locals practice tipping in recognition of good service. Give what you think is fair.

**Dress Code:** Light cotton clothes are ideal for the tropical and balmy weather. Shorts and T-Shirts are acceptable for most sightseeing. When visiting mosques though, make sure that shoulders are covered and legs are covered to the knees.

**Local Cuisine:** Food in Malaysia is considered to be quite good with immense variety. You will find Malay, Chinese, Indian, Thai, Indonesian and Western (fast) food. One favorite dish is *Popiah* - spring rolls, another is *Koay Teow* - fried noodles. Street food is a main event in the country and there you can find *Bah Kut Teh* - pork ribs with rice. *Satay*, beef or chicken, is dipped in a spicy peanut dip and is recognized throughout the world.

**Local drink:** *Toddy* is a palm wine made from the fermented juice of unopened fronds. Tappers climb the trees in the morning and sell the beverage to shops who operate under government licenses. There are many fresh fruit juice combinations as well as soy milk. *Tiger Beer* is a favorite local brew. Bottled water is recommended.

**Illegal Substances:** Drugs in Malaysia are a serious subject. Heavy fines and prison sentences are levied for possession of all illegal drugs. The sale of drugs is punishable by death.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** The main shopping areas are found in Kuala Lumpur at Chinatown (**#8 on map**) at Petaling Street, the Central Market and the malls on Jalan Putra, Jalan Raja Chulan, Jalan Masjid India, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman and Jalan Tun Razak. Many handcraft items can be purchased at the Culture Craft Center on Jalan Conlay.

The specialties of the area include hand printed batik, Malaysian pewter, straw goods, handicrafts, silverware, gold jewelry and antiques. Mengkuang (pandan) are leaves woven into mats, baskets, hats and decorative items and prove to be good souvenirs. Some tourist oriented stores and street merchants may accept U.S. Dollars. Most stores accept major credit cards.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** The unit of currency in Malaysia is called the Ringgit, sometimes called the Malaysian Dollar (MYR). There are 100 Sen to the Ringgit. Notes are available in the following denominations: 2, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 1,000.

**POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES** The General Post Office is in the Dayabumi Complex (**#5 on map**).

A Telephone Office (Telekom Malaysia) can be found on Jalan Gereja in the town center. Open 24 hours daily. Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.80.0011

MCI: 1.800.80.0012 or 1.800.18.0012

Sprint: 1.800.80.0016