

A sample of my travel work:

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur is Malaysia's capital and largest city. This sprawling hub is the nerve centre of the country and a big draw for tourists from all parts of the globe. The amazing mix of architectural styles, where historic temples nestle between soaring skyscrapers, captures the imagination of many visitors. The local population are also well known for their kindness and generosity of spirit towards outsiders.

When to Go

Kuala Lumpur basks in tropical temperatures with humidity, heavy rainfall and imposing heat present throughout the whole year. The average temperatures range between 24 and 30 degrees Celsius. Having said that, the slightly more clement weather between May and July probably makes this the best time to visit. November through to March is considered the monsoon season, and roads are expected to flood.

Recommended Places to Stay

Kuala Lumpur is a friendly city, and has very little violent crime. Pick pockets do operate in tourist areas, so the usual precautions should be taken in that respect. There are no bad areas that need to be avoided, so where to stay comes down to personal preference. Shoppers should head to the golden mile area, which is teeming with shops and cafes. Outside the city centre, in areas such as Gombak, lies the natural beauty of the countryside.

Bukit Bintang - This shopping, partying and entertainment district is located within the Golden Triangle and ably serviced by KL's monorail network. Ideal for people wanting to see the city at its most lively, with food stalls, street artists and musicians all vying for your attention alongside cafes, shops and night clubs. The main streets are busy 24 hours, and the nightlife is spirited and unrestrained.

Gombak - Situated just outside the city, Gombak offers a look at the rural side of Malaysia and contains the greatest areas of natural beauty in the area, including the stunning Templar Park and the Ulu Yam Forest Reserve.

KLCC - Another top option for visitors to KL, designed as a city in itself, right in the heart of the modern city, with the Petronas Twin Towers, the huge mall, and the surprisingly large and peaceful public park with its beautiful fauna ideal for getting a moment of peace in the otherwise bustling surrounding area.

Top 3 Recommended Hotels in Kuala Lumpur

The wealth of luxury class hotels in KL makes choosing three a difficult task. New

affordable but luxurious hotels are springing up all the time. We have selected these three in particular for their exemplarity dedication to excellent food, great facilities and amazing service.

Shangri-La Hotel - This five star hotel is a great choice for people looking for a tranquil retreat right in the centre of the action. Located in the Golden Triangle, the area's abundance of shops and cafes and the incredible night life are in walking distance. The hotel is situated near the Gombak and Klang waterways, and perfect for river boat trips.

Mandarin Oriental - The Mandarin's opulent rooms offer breathtaking views of the City Centre Park and the Petronas Towers from an elevated standpoint. The immense selection of eating choices means you could stay a week and try a different restaurant in the hotel every day. Spa facilities offer a great way to relax after visiting the wealth of shops and cafes in the area. An ideal base for those looking to truly feel like they are in the lap of luxury.

Traders Hotel - The Skybar is one of the most striking ways to enjoy an evening drink in Kuala Lumpur. Situated at the very top of the hotel, it offers a truly awe inspiring view of KL's amazing architecture. Particularly arresting at night, when the surrounding skyscrapers are lit up. The rooms have a contemporary design and a deluxe room in this hotel is probably the best value for money, whilst maintaining the luxury standard facilities and services. This hotel is right in the centre of the happening part of the city, and suitable for families.

Top 3 Things to Do

Visit the Bird Park - Probably the largest park of its kind in the world, a visit to this 20.9 acre public aviary should be on the cards for any holidaymaker's agenda. Located next to the ornate and beautiful Lake Gardens, visitors can feed parakeets and pose with owls. Peacocks and Hornbills meander by. The park feels spacy and not 'caged in' like a zoo. Ideal for families with children.

Visist the Batu Caves – Found 13km out of the city, this labyrinth of caverns is carved into the limestone so prevalent in Malaysia. Not for the faint hearted, entrance to the cavern is gained by climbing 272 concrete steps. It is worth it though, the majesty and sheer scale of these vaults is jaw dropping. Of particular note is the 'Cathedral Cave' which is home to several Hindu shrines.

Petronas Twin Towers – The centrepiece of the KL skyline, and an imposing embodiment of the country's futuristic vision. No visitor to KL should miss out on seeing the city from the mid level sky bridge, a view that encompasses the whole cityscape and surrounding conurbations. The surrounding parkland is a true place of quiet right in the very heart of the city. The mall beneath the towers offers a truly immense shopping experience, for those who wish to scratch that itch. This truly is the epicentre of the modern, high-tech Kuala Lumpur.

