

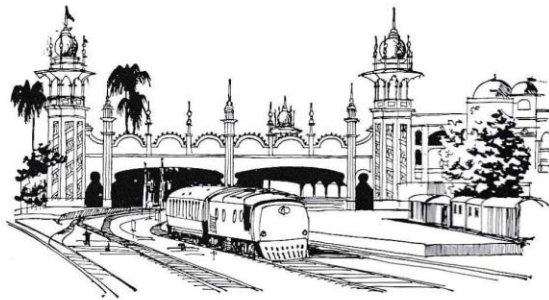
Kuala Lumpur

SAS City Portrait



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This is the 8th edition of Kuala Lumpur City Portrait printed in 30,000 copies – with information based on facts available in January 1979. Main changes from 7th edition: general increase in all prices, limit of RGT1,000 set for amount of local currency which you are allowed to take out of the country.



Front cover: Typical Malay beauty.

Introduction

Kuala Lumpur owes its existence, much of its wealth and its present prominence to tin.

In 1857, Malay chieftains Juma'at and Abdullah, with those of the 87 hired Chinese miners who had survived poling their way up the River Klang, found tin at Ampang, a few miles away from today's city center. The tiny, mining settlement that resulted from this discovery was sufficiently booming by 1880 for the Sultan of Selangor to move his State capital from the city of Klang to Kuala Lumpur.

The next 80 years were to see a long spell of British Colonial rule interrupted latterly by Japanese occupation, before, in 1957, the realization of national independence and, in 1963, the foundation of Malaysia.

Today, KL – as its 2 million citizens endearingly know it – is the bustling cosmopolitan capital of Malaysia; hub of the world's rubber and tin industries; and a commercial and business center of advancing importance in Southeast Asia.

It rides high the wave of prosperity.

Stunning skyscrapers – like the new University of Malaya – stand beside the Moorish-style Government buildings and fragile minarets. When you stroll, it is through a blend of futuristic stadiums, peaceful lake gardens, beautiful residences, modern factories and, of course, the effervescent Chinatown.

And it is in the latter as much as anywhere that you will see just how multi-racial Malaysia really is! Malays in sarong and kebaya, Chinese girls slender in cheongsam or trousered samfu, Indians in sari and dhoti, saffron-robed Sinhalese monks . . . all are but a small representation of the dozen or so major cultures and creeds that have settled these parts.

As it is to be expected, however, it is things Malay that remain to attract one most. In the Kampong Bharu, an exclusively Malay area, you can observe typical Malay houses and visit the clamoring "Sunday Market" (held every Saturday night) where countless local produce is displayed and sold – and traditional shows and Malaysian music are sometimes performed on a specially constructed stage.

For those who don't care to venture far, but still want to taste Malaysia's exciting interior, the tropical jungle is not far from town in any direction. Alternatively, a short way out of town, you can vary your time between the picturesque, photogenic Malay kampongs and the modern satellite town of Petaling Jaya with its 450-acre

industrial estate, or the rapidly developing Batu Tiga industrial complex with, for example, a Volvo assembly plant.

Even closer to the city, lie rubber estates and tin mines – ideal excursion goals – which make wholly interesting viewing.

Tropical islands, paradisiac beaches, refreshing hill resorts and exciting game reserves are all within easy reach.

And whether you come to sightsee, do business (the many ultra-modern meeting halls here have made KL an immensely popular center for conventions and exhibitions), visit a casino, hunt big-game or simply find peace in the area's great natural charm – Kuala Lumpur, fascinating and exotic, offers you an exciting encounter with that special atmosphere of Asia.

Your arrival in Kuala Lumpur

The new International Airport is some 16 miles (25 km) from the city of Kuala Lumpur. When you disembark your THAI International aircraft, ground hostesses will guide you through the customs and immigration formalities. The airport building contains an information office, a bar, a tax-free shop and a bank where you may exchange your money for local currency. Outside office hours, money can be changed in one of the souvenir shops in the Airport building, or in the hotel after arrival (the taxi can wait). Transportation from Airport to city center by taxi costs RGT11, with an air-conditioned taxi charging approx. RGT22.

A coupon system operates for taxi transportation – with the traveller paying in advance for the trip at the taxi counter in the airport and presenting the receipt to the cab driver.

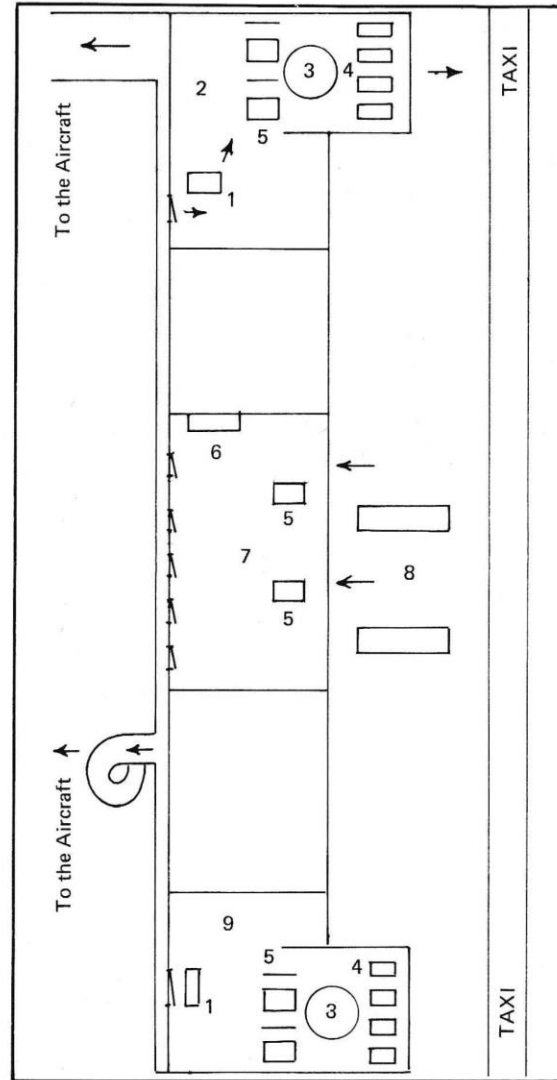
Remember to reconfirm air reservations for your onward journey or, if you have not reserved space, to do so as soon as possible. This can be done by phoning 8 03 61, or by calling at the SAS/THAI office at Denmark House, 84 Jalan Ampang (H3). The staff there will be pleased to assist you with any other information regarding tours and hotel accommodation etc., if required.

Entry regulations. All visitors to Kuala Lumpur must possess a valid passport or some other internationally recognized travel document. Visas are required by only a few nationals. (It is, however, worth checking with your travel agent or SAS/THAI before setting off.)

For those wishing to enter Malaysia on a social, business or professional visit, a visit-pass will be issued by the Controller of Immigration. This is valid for three months and may be extended.

A valid international certificate of vaccination against small-pox is required and, if the visitor has previously travelled

Kuala Lumpur International Airport



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Health Control. | 6. Tax-free Shop. |
| 2. Arrival Hall, North. | 7. Departure Hall. |
| 3. Arr. Baggage. | 8. Check-in Counters. |
| 4. Customs Clearance. | 9. Arrival Hall, South. |
| 5. Passport Control. | |

through infected zones, of inoculation against cholera and against yellow fever.

Duty-free allowances for those entering Malaysia include 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 1/2 lb. (250 grams) of tobacco and 1 quart (1 liter) in all of spirits and wine.

Currency: The monetary unit is the Malaysian Ringgit (RGT). There are no restrictions on import of foreign currencies provided they are declared upon arrival. When leaving, you can take with you foreign currencies up to the amount declared. There is a local currency limit of RGT1,000.

Hotels

Kuala Lumpur possesses a number of top-class hotels, each equipped to serve international cuisine. Nearly all rooms are air-conditioned and have their own bathrooms. Many also offer self-dial telephone, "reditune" music, a 24-hour bellboy service and TV if required. We recommend you book in advance. You can do this by contacting your travel agent or the nearest SAS office. Either can offer you – through the SAS Travel Planning Service – advice on accommodation of all types, with confirmation in some cases. If you have not made a reservation, contact the SAS/THAI Office (tel. 8 03 61), Denmark House, 84 Jalan Ampang, or the hotels.

Room charges range from RGT30 to RGT80 for single rooms and RGT40 to RGT100 for double rooms.

Listed below for your guidance is a selection of hotels:

Federal Hotel (J6)

35 Jalan Bukit Bintang.
Tel. 2 77 01.

Facilities include cocktail lounge, 24-hour coffee house, Chinese and European restaurants, swimming pool, bowling alley, nightclub, shopping arcade, hairdressers' and beauty parlor, travel agencies.

Fortuna Hotel (K6)

87 Jalan Berangan.
Tel. 29 94 31.

Facilities include 24-hour coffee house, bar and Chinese restaurant.

Genting Highland Hotel and Casino (off map)

Genting Highlands.
Tel. 8 83 93.

Located at approximately 5,600 ft. above sea level, some 32 miles from city center (1 1/2 hours' drive). Facilities include European and Chinese restaurants, bar, and casino with all types of games.

Hotel Equatorial (J4)

Jalan Sultan Ismail.
Tel. 42 20 22.

Facilities include: 4 speciality restaurants, bars, swimming pool and shopping arcade.

Holiday Inn (K3)

Jalan Pinang. Tel. 48 10 66.

Facilities include: shopping arcades, restaurant offering Malaysian food and cultural shows, Grill room, Coffee Shop, Cocktail lounge.

Hotel Malaya (G6)

Jalan Cecil. Tel. 2 77 21.

Facilities include a Chinese restaurant, nightclub, 24-hour coffee house and shopping center.

Hotel Merlin (I3)

Jalan Sultan Ismail.
Tel. 20 33 33.

Facilities include bars, Chinese and European restaurants, nightclub, swimming pool, bowling alley, shopping arcade, ladies' and gents' hairdressing, airline and travel offices.

Kuala Lumpur Hilton (K4)

Jalan Sultan Ismail.
Tel. 42 21 22.

Facilities include Planters' Inn, 24-hour restaurant, Melaka Grill, Pad-dock roof-top bar and lounge, Gazebo nightly barbecue, Aviary Bar, Tin Mine (disco), swimming pool, health center and a ballroom.

Malaysia Hotel (K6)

69 Jalan Bukit Bintang.
Tel. 42 80 33.

Facilities include two fine restaurants: Imperial Room serving Peking dishes and delicacies – and a steak house with continental cuisine.

Regent Kuala Lumpur (L6)

Jalan Imbi. Tel. 42 55 88.

Facilities include: Coffee House, Steak House, Malaysian Restaurant, Japanese Restaurant, Banquet Hall, Disco, cocktail lounge and bars, swimming pool, health club, travel agent, arcade shops, medical services and underground car parks.

Electricity: The standard voltage in Kuala Lumpur is 220 A.C.

Restaurants and cuisine

Malaysia's diversity of races is reflected in the wide variety of Asian and European foods. Exotic Asian foods vary from spicy Malaysian meat and vegetable curries and rice, with half-a-dozen side dishes known as "sambals", to a score of Chinese dishes; these include shark's-fin and bird's-nest soups, fish cooked with delicious sweet-and-sour sauce and mahmee and meehon – a kind of spaghetti.

European and Asian dishes are usually available in hotels, and many restaurants specialize in one type of food. Excellent European à la carte meals are served in the Merlin Hotel (I3), Le Coq d'Or Restaurant (J2), Hotel Malaysia (K6) and in the Federal Hotel (J6). You can get almost any variety of Asian food – especially if you are a little adventurous. When ordering Chinese food, however, please remember that most dishes mentioned on the menus are sufficient for four-six persons – so be careful!

Chinese

Dragon Court (J3)

Merlin Hotel.

Mandarin Palace (J6)

Federal Hotel.

K.L. Restaurant (G6)

Hotel Malaya.

Imperial Room (K6)

Malaysia Hotel.

Mayflower Restaurant (K6)

Hotel Fortuna.

Phoenix Room (J4)

Hotel Equatorial.

Indian

Akhbar Restaurant (G1)

Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

Bilal (G5)

3 Jalan Ampang.

Shiraz Restaurant (F2)

Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

European

Le Coq d'Or (J2)

121 Jalan Ampang.

Ranch Grill (L6)

Regent Kuala Lumpur

Melaka Grill (K4)

Kuala Lumpur Hilton.

Steak House (K6)

Malaysia Hotel.

The Harlequin (J3)

Merlin Hotel.

Sky Room (J6)

Federal Hotel.

Malay

"The Hut" (off map)

Shah's Hotel, Petaling Jaya.

Jaq's Restaurant (F2)

Mara Building,
Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

Eating out Malaysian style . . . an experience you shouldn't miss – is eating from the road-side stalls at Jalan Brickfields



late at night or at the Saturday Night Market in Kampong Bharu. Here you can buy Satay – the famous Malaysian delicacy – comprising pieces of skewered beef or chicken grilled over a charcoal fire and eaten with rice-cakes baked in coconut leaves and special sauce made from chillies and peanuts.

A Chinese “Steamboat” (you prepare your own dinner at the table) is also highly recommended. And if you are even more adventurous, all types of dishes can be enjoyed in the small Chinese eating places and stalls in Chinatown or in Jalan Bukit Bintang.

Drinks can be obtained at almost any hour of the day but most nightclubs and restaurants stop serving liquor at midnight. It is safe to drink water straight from the tap in large cities and towns.

If you like draft or bottled beer, three local brewers, Carlsberg, Malayan Breweries and Guinness, are able to meet any taste requirements.

Sights and excursions

Easily the best way to enjoy Kuala Lumpur is to stroll around its streets through the contrast of old-world minarets and modern towers, quiet parks and lively markets. Should you prefer, however, to walk with a purpose, you’ll find below some of the capital’s prime landmarks. The letters and numbers in parenthesis refer to a sight’s position on the map on the center spread.

Lake Gardens (B/C5/8). Among Kuala Lumpur’s most famous natural landmarks – where the formal beauty of a planned garden blends exquisitely with twin lakes. The Lake Gardens accommodate some of the city’s most prominent buildings, like the Parliament House, the National Museum and the 262-ton bronze National Monument.

Parliament House (A5). The House of Representatives, the Senate and various offices are in a large rectangular building, dominated by an 18-storey office block. Architecturally, Parliament House is a pleasing blend of East and West. It commands sweeping views of lawns and gardens and has a cool, spacious interior. Visitors may obtain passes to the public gallery when Parliament is in session.

National Museum (C8). An attractive, air-conditioned building containing many treasures of Malaysia’s past. The building’s

interior decor, with its impressive Malay screens, carved panels and giant wrought-iron grills, is as worthy of your time as are the museum’s dramatic exhibits. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., except Friday when it is closed between noon and 2 p.m. Admission free.

National Mosque (E7). Masjid Negara Malaysia. Symbol of the State’s religion, this beautiful edifice is one of the most modern in Southeast Asia. The main dome is designed in the shape of an 18-point star representing the 13 States of Malaysia and the 5 Pillars of Islam. 48 smaller domes – the main one is 150 ft. (46 m) in diameter – are similar to those of the Great Mosque in Mecca. Around the Mosque are ornamental lawns, fountains and pools – and a 245-ft. (75 m) minaret rises from the center of a pool. Visiting hours: 10 a.m. to noon and 4.30 to 6 p.m. daily, except on Fridays when the Mosque is open from 4.30 to 6 p.m. only. Visitors are expected to dress appropriately (i.e. ladies should not wear shorts/mini skirts, or sarongs with slits above the knee, and if hatless, should cover their heads with scarf), and to remove their shoes at the Mosque’s entrance.

National Art Gallery (J2). Situated in the grounds of Tuanku Abdul Rahman Hall at Jalan Ampang, the National Art Gallery has a growing collection of work by Malaysian artists and is an exhibition hall for international contemporary arts. Open from 10 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. daily, except on Fridays when it is closed between noon and 2 p.m.

EXCURSIONS WITHIN CLOSE REACH OF KUALA LUMPUR

Batu Caves. Eight miles north of Kuala Lumpur stands a remarkable limestone outcrop with the vast caverns of the Batu Caves rising 400 ft. (120 m) among jungle-clad hills. 272 steps lead to the entrance to the caves, in which there is a Hindu shrine. Every year, at the festival of Thaipusam, a time of penitence, thousands of Hindu worshippers climb the steps, many carrying the “Kavadi” – a decorated bamboo frame, the sharp spikes of which thrust into the bearer’s body.

Merdeka Stadium. Completed in 1957 at a cost of 2½ million Malaysian dollars, the Stadium provides seating for 30,000.

In addition to its regular program of sport, it also serves as the stage for ceremonies marking events of national and international importance, such as Malaya’s Declaration of Independence and the subsequent formation of Malaysia.

Stadium Negara. Close by Merdeka Stadium, another imposing architectural construction is the Stadium Negara. This is an indoor sports stadium, most famous as the venue for the Malaysian, and South-Asian favorite game, badminton. The individually air-conditioned seats of this stadium are an attraction in themselves.

National Zoo. Sited on 42 acres of semi-virgin jungle, the National Zoo lies about eight miles from Kuala Lumpur. Be-

sides Malaysian reptiles, birds and animals, it has many species of wild life from other parts of the world. Elephants, camels and ponies provide a choice in joy rides for younger visitors. The Zoo is open to the public 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday. Admission charge. (There is also a charge for every camera taken in.) Facilities include a restaurant, the "Lake-view", which is open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Templer Park. Tumbling cascades and cool, green hills abounding in flora and wild life, Templer Park (named after General Sir Gerald Templer) is a popular spot with holiday-makers – and for that matter, film-makers. It has always captivated visitors firsthand and its scenic expanse served as background for the shooting of many of the jungle scenes in the movie "The Seventh Dawn".

Well-kept paths afford visitors easy exploration of its natural charm.

Mimaland. Located 11 miles (17.6 km) from Kuala Lumpur on the road leading eastwards to Genting Highlands and the State of Pahang, lies Mimaland with its 30-acre lake, mountain streams and forested hills. Recreational facilities include swimming, fishing, boating and jungle trekking. Other interesting features include an amusement center, children's playground, mini zoo, orchid farm and flower garden, Malay Kampong, and a shopping arcade, selling local arts and handicrafts. Lakeside motels, and "bagans" – two-room chalets standing on stilts above the lake – provide accommodation. Internal transport is by a tram system while external transport to the resort is available in the form of public buses, excursion buses and limousine taxis.

Rubber Plantations and Tin Mines. Along the main roads out of Kuala Lumpur you can see something of the two basic industries on which Malaysia's prosperity is based – rubber and tin. There's a rubber plantation about five miles along the road to the Zoo. Tappers start their rounds of the plantation early in the morning to tap the trees for latex. At midday tapping comes to an end and the latex is collected and sent to the factory for processing into rubber sheets and crêpe. There is a tin mine opposite this plantation and five miles north of Kuala Lumpur on the road to the Batu Caves, you can see tindredging – the most practical and economical method of mining tin from the country's rich soil. The world's largest open-cast mine is near Sungei Besi. Visits to rubber plantations and tin mines can be arranged through local tour operators.

If you want to know more, contact the SAS/THAI International office.

EXCURSIONS TO OUTLYING INTEREST POINTS

Fraser's Hill. The lovely, government-administered resort of Fraser's Hill, four to five thousand feet (1,400 m) above sea level, is about 65 miles (98 km) north of Kuala Lumpur. It offers good private-hotel or bungalow-style accommodation,

a 9-hole golf course, tennis courts, panoramic waterfalls and miles of breathtaking jungle walks. The trees and flowers are magnificent and there are tropical birds, butterflies and small game to be seen in their natural sanctuaries. Fraser's Hill amenities include shops, a tavern and post office. You can get there by rail (to Kuala Kubu Road) and omnibus or taxi, or go the whole way by hired car.

Genting Highland. Hill resort and Casino. Only 1½ hours' drive, 32 miles, from Kuala Lumpur, at a height of 5,600 ft. (1,700 m), the newly-constructed luxurious Genting Highland Hotel looms on a ridge high above the surrounding jungle. An 18-hole golf course with a new club house is ready for keen golfers. Internal transport by cable-car is available between the golf course and the mountain top. The ride takes about ten minutes. A helicopter service from Subang Airport or Kuala Lumpur (Segambut) offers quick access to the hill resort. The main attraction, in addition to the cool mountain air, however, is the casino where tourists and players from all over the world meet.

Other hill resorts include Cameron Highlands, on the Perak-Pahang borders, Maxwell Hill above Taiping, and Penang Hill.

Malacca is only 90 miles (151 km) south from Kuala Lumpur and you can either hire a car through SAS/THAI International and drive there – or fly. The airtrip takes only 30 minutes.

(cont'd on page 15)








Code numbers in this booklet refer to the above map. Thus (H3) is located where lines drawn from "H" and "3" cross each other.

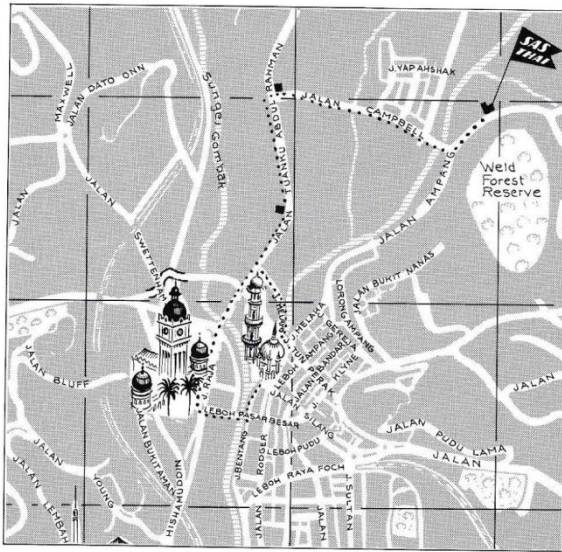
Interesting sights in Kuala Lumpur

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| (B/C5/8) Lake Gardens. | (F/G10) Istana Negara. |
| (A5) Parliament House. | (F/G6/7) China Town. |
| (C8) National Museum. | (F8) Railway Station. |
| (E7) National Mosque. | (G8) Merdeka Stadium. |
| (J2) National Art Gallery. | |

Useful addresses

-  SAS and THAI International Ticket Office: Denmark House, 84 Jalan Ampang (H3). Tel. 8 03 61.
-  Kuala Lumpur Tourist Association (E8), Railway Station, tel. 8 18 32.
-  Tourist Development Corporation (J5), Jalan Raja Chulan, tel. 29 93 45/9.

Distance from city center to airport: 16 miles (25 km).



One hour's walk around Kuala Lumpur

Start at the SAS office on Jalan Ampang, continue over the bridge to the right through Jalan Campbell passing an interesting Chinese shopping area. Turn left into Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the main shopping street of the town, passing many local shops. Turn left into Jalan Melayu with its Indian shops, and Indian and Malay street barbers' stalls.

Cross the bridge and turn right along the Embankment. Here you will see the picturesque old Central Mosque on your right on the other side of the river. Walk along the river to the Leboh Pasar Besar, where you turn to the right and continue to Jalan Raja with its intriguing mixture of Moorish, old English and modern architecture. On your right side is the Post Office and State Secretariat building with a famous Clock Tower. The turrets and arches which adorn these buildings give Kuala Lumpur a distinctive stamp. On the other side is the Padang, in front of the old English Cricket Club (Selangor Club), on which major functions and games are held. From here, you can either take a taxi back to your starting point or turn right down Jalan Raja and Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman to Jalan Tun Perak, cross the bridge, and continue on Jalan Melaka and Jalan Ampang back to your starting point.

An even better idea, instead of walking back, is to take a taxi from outside the Selangor Club and drive via the National Monument, the Parliament House, through the Lake Gardens and past the Museum Negara, the famous old Railway Station in Moorish architecture and the ultra modern National Mosque on your way back to the SAS office.

(cont'd from page 11)

There is a charming medieval atmosphere about Malacca's tiny, narrow streets. The bright tiled steps of the houses are reminders of its Dutch and Portuguese connections and there are many historic buildings. The Stadhuys is believed to be the oldest example of Dutch architecture in the East, dating from between 1641 and 1660.

The Old Gate, the Porta di Santiago, facing the Malacca Club, is also worth seeing – as are the remains of St. Paul's Church, built on a hilltop by the Portuguese, the oldest church and oldest European building in this part of the world. Malacca is also the oldest Chinese settlement in the Malay Peninsula. Its teeming Chinatown with numerous richly-ornated temples is really worth a visit. Another place of interest is the "Portuguese Kampong" where descendants of the Portuguese settlers are living, still speaking the language of 16th–17th century Portugal.

Ipo, mid-way point by road or rail between Kuala Lumpur and Penang, is an attractive little town with picturesque cave temples and ornately decorated shrines.

Penang, "The Pearl of the Orient", is a fascinating island to visit. The trip by air takes about half an hour, and there is also an excellent railway service. Beautiful tropical scenery greets you when you approach Penang, the greenery rising from the water's edge to the hills. A fantastic variety of Chinese junks, picturesque Bugis vessels, steam launches and big oil tankers jostle in the waters in front of Georgetown, Penang's port. In the town center a quiet Buddhist temple courtyard and the enclosed garden of a Muslim mosque provide a peaceful interlude. A funicular railway takes you to Penang Hill, where you can enjoy a breathtaking view of Penang Island and the mountains of the mainland. While here, be sure to visit the Kek Lok Si monastery and temple with its seven-storey pagoda, and the famous "Snake Temple". On the northern coast modern seaside resorts face the beach of Batu Ferringhi – well worth a relaxing stop. Penang is also – partially – a free port, and plenty of bargains in goods like cameras and watches as well as real antiques, can still be made.

Singapore (there is a separate SAS City Portrait on this important gateway) is but half an hour from Kuala Lumpur by air. There are also frequent train and bus connections.

Entertainment and night life

Entertainment ranges from Malay, Chinese and Indian folklore to sophisticated Western-style cabaret.

Many restaurants provide music for dancing and, in some instances, floor shows. Nightclubs usually close at midnight with the exception of Saturdays, when they stay open until 1 a.m. (In the larger hotels, closing time 1 a.m. and 2 a.m.) For nightclubs staying open longer, please ask for information at your hotel reception.



Dining, wining and dancing

Harlequin (J3)
Hotel Merlin,
Jalan Sultan Ismail.
European/Chinese.

Dragon Court (J3)
Hotel Merlin,
Jalan Sultan Ismail.
Chinese.

Sky Room (J6)
Federal Hotel.
European.

Mandarin Palace (J6)
Federal Hotel,
Jalan Bukit Bintang.
Chinese.

A la Russe (G6)
Hotel Malaya,
Jalan Bandar Cecil.
European.

Mayflower Restaurant (K6)
Hotel Fortuna.
Chinese.

"The Hut" (off map)
Shah's Hotel, Petaling Jaya.
Malay. Malaysian cultural dances
nightly.

Dining, wining only

Le Coq d'Or (J2)
121 Jalan Ampang.

Steak House (K6)
Imperial Palace,
Hotel Malaysia,
Jalan Bukit Bintang.

Other entertainment

Those who are in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday nights will also enjoy a visit to the crowded "Sunday Market" ("Pasar Minggu") at Kampong Bharu – living colorful kaleidoscope of Malayan life.

Cabarets

Latin Quarter (J6)
Federal Hotel.
Eastern Hotel (G3)
26 Jalan Ampang.

Discotheques

Tomorrow (J3)
Hotel Merlin.
Tin Mine (K4)
Kuala Lumpur Hilton.

Cinemas

ENGLISH:
Odeon (F2)
Jalan Campbell.
Cathay (J6)
Jalan Bukit Bintang.
Rex (G7)
Jalan Sultan.
Federal (off map)
Jalan Raja Laut.

CHINESE:
Pavilion (J6/7)
Jalan Bukit Bintang.

Madras (G7)
Jalan Bandar.

Majestic (L7)
Jalan Pudu.

Capitol (off map)
Jalan Raja Laut.

INDIAN:

Coliseum (F4)
Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

Central (H3)
Jalan Campbell.

Tipping

Most large hotels and restaurants automatically include a 10% service charge in the bill. Elsewhere, the amount is left to your discretion, but 10% of a bill's value is adequate for good service. A fair tip to porters at the airport and railway station is RGT1 for one or two pieces of luggage and RGT0.50 for each additional bag.

Shopping

The shops of Kuala Lumpur offer goods from East and West. There is no specific shopping district, the main thoroughfares being Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Jalan Tun Perak and Jalan Petaling (Chinatown). The Malayan Handicraft Center in Jalan Tun Perak, and the MARA Arts and Crafts Center and shopping arcade in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman are treasure-troves of locally-made goods. On sale here are the rich sarong brocades, the "Kain Songket", lengths of which can be bought from RGT35 upwards, and the traditional hand-made silverware, some pieces being obtainable for as little as RGT5.

Chinese embroideries, porcelain, jade figures, Chinese antiques and jewelry are other popular buys. In Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman you can browse attractive pewterware, made, of course, from Malaysian tin. Cultured pearls from Japan are also reasonably priced. The same goes for basketwork, wooden carvings, Malay krises (decorative daggers) and magnificent Persian carpets. Chinese gold and jade can be bought from any of the numerous jewelers in Jalan Bandar. For art-lovers – especially those interested in local paintings, scrolls, sculptures, etc. – there are the Samat Art Gallery, and the Asia Antique House (G2) located in an old Chinese millionaire's mansion, which offers for sale both antiques and modern art.

Remember that in the East, bargaining is part of the fun of buying and is expected in all the local shops. Foreign currency and traveler's checks are accepted by very few shops.

Business hours

Government offices open from 8 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and from 2 to 4 p.m. daily, except Fridays and Saturdays when they close at 12.45 p.m. Closed all day Sunday. (In the States





of Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu and Johore, Friday is the weekly holiday.)

Commercial offices generally open at 8.30 a.m. with a break for lunch between 1 and 2 p.m., closing at 4.30 or 5 p.m.

Banks open at 10 a.m., close at 3 p.m., opening on Saturdays 9.30 to 11 a.m. Foreign currency can also be changed at all hotels.

Shops usually open between 8 and 10 a.m. Those along Jalan Tun Perak close at 5 p.m. on weekdays and 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Others stay open until 7.30 or 10 p.m. Nearly all close on Sundays.

Transportation

You can travel anywhere, any time, by taxi. The standard charge is RGT0.60 a mile and RGT0.20 for each subsequent half mile. If more than two people use a taxi, an extra charge of about RGT0.20 per person on the whole journey is charged. (Between the hours of 1 and 6 a.m. a 50% surcharge is applicable.) A rate-card should be displayed in each taxi.

There are also good bus and train services to surrounding towns and cities.

Should you prefer to drive around in a hired car, then contact the SAS/THAI International Office. The staff there will readily assist you in securing a vehicle on satisfactory terms.

Sports

Golf. There are two 18-hole courses at the Royal Selangor Golf Club in Kuala Lumpur, the annual venue for the Malaysian Open Golf Championships. The new Subang Golf Club near the airport, and Sentul Golf Club too, have excellent golf courses. Green fees are RGT5 per day, the courses being open to visiting golfers by arrangement with the Club Secretaries.

Swimming. Merlin and Federal Hotels have their own swimming pools. There are also two large public swimming pools, the Weld Swimming Club, Jalan Raja Chulan (at the crossing with Jalan Bukit Bintang), and the Petaling Jaya Swimming Pool at Petaling Jaya (on the road to the airport). For those who prefer to swim in the sea, the palm-fringed beaches of Port Dickson, one of the West Coast's most popular resorts, are 63 miles (100 km) from Kuala Lumpur.

Spectator Sports. Football and horse racing are the most popular spectator sports, with badminton a close runner-up. Cricket (you can watch matches on the Padang), golf, basketball, table tennis and bowling also have their following.

At the Merdeka Stadium many national and international sports events are held – for example the Merdeka Football Tournament, when teams from all over Southeast Asia come to Kuala Lumpur.

The Stadium Negara, a circular stadium with a two-tiered saucer-shaped roof, is the venue of many concerts, variety shows, basketball and badminton competitions as well as other indoor games.

There is a race course a short distance from the town center. Races are held most weekends. Electric totalisator system available.

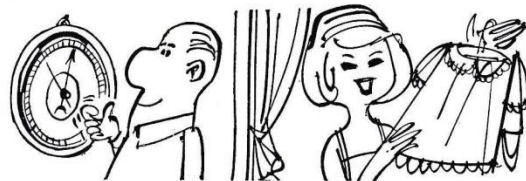
You may be lucky enough to catch sight of some of the numerous local sports, such as top-spinning, kite-flying and Merbok (a bird) singing competitions – all seriously competitive – and “Sepak Takraw” – similar to volleyball, except that the ball is projected with head, knee or foot.

Climate and clothing

The climate of Malaysia is generally hot and wet. Although only a few degrees from the Equator it does not have extremely high temperatures of continual tropical areas. Temperature throughout the year averages between 78°F (25°C) and 87°F (30°C). The hottest time is at noon when it is usually sunny and slightly humid, while in the morning and at night it can be cool and refreshing. There is no definite wet season but during the monsoon period, November–January, rainfall is usually copious. If needed, umbrellas can be bought at street corners for between RGT1.50 and RGT2.

	°F		°C			°F		°C	
	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.		Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.
January	90	72	32	22	July	90	72	32	22
February	92	72	33	22	August	90	73	32	23
March	92	73	33	22	September	90	73	32	23
April	91	74	33	23	October	89	73	32	23
May	91	74	33	23	November	89	73	32	23
June	91	74	33	23	December	89	72	32	22

Clothing should be very lightweight. Women are advised to wear sleeveless cotton or silk dresses and men to wear light-



weight trousers, or shorts, and shirts. For most occasions, men need not wear jackets until 7 p.m. The sun is strong and it is wise to wear a hat during the day. In the evening ladies should have something to cover their shoulders as it can be quite chilly in air-conditioned cinemas and restaurants.

Language

The official language is Malay, but if you speak English you will have no difficulty in getting around. Tamil and Chinese (in Kuala Lumpur, Cantonese; in Panang and Malacca, Hokkien) are also widely spoken.

Religion

The official religion of Malaysia is Islam, although Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism all have many followers – as the numerous mosques, churches, temples and other places of worship testify. Some of these are listed below for those wishing to attend services:

Islam: Masjid Negara (National Mosque), Jalan Sultan, Hisamuddin.

Anglican: St. Mary's Church, Jalan Raja. Tel. 8 96 72.

Baptist: Baptist Church, 70 Jalan Hicks. Tel. 2 17 03.

Lutheran: Zion Church, 21 Jalan Abdul Samad, Brickfields. Tel. 206-112.

Presbyterian: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Jalan Raja Chulan. Tel. 2 56 87.

Roman Catholic: St. John's Cathedral, Jalan Bukit Nanas. Tel. 8 18 76.

Seventh Day Adventists: Seventh Day Adventist Mission, 116 Jalan Bukit Bintang. Tel. 42 77 95.

Syrian: Mar Thoma Church, Jalan Ipoh. Tel. 67 20 15.

Buddhist: Chetawan Buddhist Temple, Jalan Pantai, Petaling Jaya. Tel. 562 79 12 (Chinese), the Kwan Yin Temple (Goddess of Mercy), Jalan Ampang.

Hindu: Sri Mariamman Temple, 163 Jalan Bandar.

Sikh: Sikh Temple, Jalan Perkins.

Special services

Tourist information. For all general information, including details of tours, contact the Kuala Lumpur Tourist Association, K.L. Railway Station, tel. 8 18 32. The SAS/THAI International office will also be able to help you with any inquiries. Address:

Denmark House, 84 Jalan Ampang, tel. 8 03 61. And so, too, will the Tourist Development Corporation at Wisma MPI, Jalan Raja Chulan (J5), tel. 29 93 45/9, at Ampang Shopping Complex, Jalan Ampang, tel. 29 93 45/9, at Jalan Tun Perak, tel. 8 07 78 and at the airport, tel. 76 52 23.

News. In Malaysia, 12 newspapers are published in English and Radio Malaysia Kuala Lumpur broadcasts in English as well as in Malay, Tamil and Chinese.

Business contacts: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, tel. 94 00 33.

Medical services: Most hotels have their own company doctors. Some of the best hospitals in Kuala Lumpur are: Assunta Hospital; Lady Templar Hospital (private); University Teaching Hospital, Pantai Valley; and General Hospital, Jalan Pahang.

Guides: There are guide service/tour operating agencies in all the best hotels. Social escort services are also available.

Public holidays and festivals

Holidays loom large on the Malaysian calendar. They may be a Malay, Iban or Kadazan festival, the revival of an ancient Chinese legend or an annual act of penitence in the Indian tradition, for these are the main racial groups of Malaysia, practising their customs and religions freely. But no matter what Asian culture is represented, these occasions afford visitors the year-round opportunity to observe, even sometimes participate in, the festivities.

January 1

New Year's Day.

November–
January*

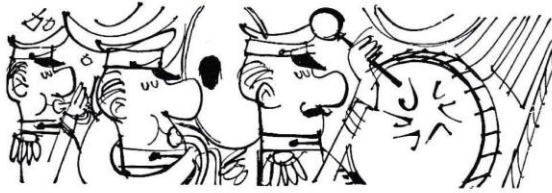
Hari Raya Puasa. This marks the end of the Mohammedan fasting period and is marked by thanksgiving prayers in the mosques and by Muslims wearing colorful traditional costumes.

January–
February*

Chinese New Year. This is the most colorful festival of the year. The Chinese decorate their houses, inside and out, and celebrate for four or five days (traditionally a fortnight) with feasts and fireworks.

* These are movable festivals and fall on different dates from year to year.





January–
February*

Thaipusam is celebrated yearly by Hindu devotees, who repent by various self-inflicted tortures. There is a pilgrimage to the Batu Caves Temple – see “Sights and Excursions” – when “Kavadis”, wooden frames decorated with flowers and fruit, are carried through the streets.

February 1
January–
March*

Federal Territory Day.

Hari Raya Haji. Muslims celebrate this as the tenth day of the twelfth month in the Mohammedan calendar by wearing their best clothes, attending the mosques for prayer and feasting in their homes.

March–
April*

Saturday following Good Friday. Christian churches hold services also on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

May 1
May*

Labor Day.

Wesak Day. This Buddhist holy day commemorates the birth, death and enlightenment of Lord Buddha. Mass meetings are held, and devout Buddhists in their saffron robes read the holy scriptures at the temples. Impressive lantern processions.

June 2
April–May*

Birthdays of H.M. the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong.

Maulud’an Nabi. Birthday of Prophet Mohammed. Celebrations include processions.

August 31

Malaysia Day. Festivities celebrating the birth of Malaysia go on right through the day. School bands and folk dancers perform at the Merdeka Stadium and Lake Gardens.

October
November*

Festival of the Nine Emperor Gods. One of the biggest festivals celebrated by the Chinese, it reaches its most dramatic peak at Ampang New Village (five miles outside Kuala Lumpur). Processions, fire walking, etc.

October
November*

Deepavali (Festival of Lights). This Hindu Festival commemorates the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon king, Naragasura. Fire-walking ceremonies take place and Hindu homes are illuminated at night with candles and oil lamps.

December 25

Christmas Day. Christian churches hold special services on this day.

* These are movable festivals and fall on different dates from year to year.

Name of my hotel: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____

Edited by Mike Simon

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Our Special Meal Service

If your diet is governed by religion, health, or regional preference, or if you need something different from the regular menu, ask your SAS office or travel agent about the SAS Special Meal Service.

This extra SAS service allows you to preorder from eight different categories of special meals – 70 dishes, among which we are sure you will find a meal to suit your individual taste, or that of your children.

