



Climb the rainbow steps to Batu Caves and Hindu temple. Inset: W hotel pool.

## CANOPY WALK IN A RAINFOREST

Where else can you explore an ancient tropical rainforest in the middle of the city? The Kuala Lumpur Eco Forest has nature trails, jogging tracks and a treetop canopy walk with city skyline views. It's one of Malaysia's oldest forest reserves and an easy walk from Bukit Bintang.

**FIND IT:** 240 Jalan Raja Chulan

**COST:** Adult \$13, student \$8, children under 7 not permitted. Extra \$3 to climb 50m tower

**forestry.gov.my**

## COOL OFF AT KLCC PARK

The 20ha KLCC Park's swim and splash pool, fountains, sculptures and huge children's playground is where families come to cool off during a hot day of exploring. In the evening watch the KLCC Lake Symphony Light and Sound Water Fountain show at 8pm, 9pm and 10pm.

**FIND IT:** Next to Petronas Towers/Suria KLCC

**COST:** Free

**suriaklcc.com.my**

## CROSS PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS SKYBRIDGE

The 452m-high Petronas Twin Towers stand as a monument to Malaysia's global advancement and are the highest twin towers in the world. The two-storey Skybridge – you may remember it from the movie *Entrapment* – connects the towers at levels 41 and 42, and the Observation Deck on level 86 has extensive views over the city and interactive displays about the building and Kuala Lumpur's history.

**FIND IT:** At Petronas Twin Towers, KLCC

**COST:** Adult \$26, child \$11

**petronastwintowers.com.my**

## DINING, COCKTAILS AND STREET ART AT KWAI CHAI HONG

Explore Chinese culture and heritage at the newly restored laneway and shophouses of Kwai Chai Hong in Kuala Lumpur's Chinatown. A small

wooden bridge leads into a lantern-lit laneway with cracked yellow walls,

climbing vines and exposed concrete, and six interactive murals including a stunning two-storey artwork depicting daily life in the golden era of the 1960s. With 10 restored shop houses, art installations, cocktail bars and restaurants, this Little Ghost Lane will transport you back in time.

**FIND IT:** Lorong Panggung, Kuala Lumpur

**COST:** Free

**kwaichaihong.com**

## SPEND TIME AT A MOSQUE

Visiting a mosque while in Kuala Lumpur – our favourites are the National Mosque of Malaysia and the pink Putra Mosque – is a special way to explore Islamic culture and appreciate the Moorish, Islamic, and Mughal architectural styles. Islam is Malaysia's official religion, and is followed by about 60 per cent of the population. Make sure you are dressed appropriately and visit outside of prayer times.

**FIND IT:** National Mosque of Malaysia: Jalan Perdana, Tasik Perdana, Kuala Lumpur. Putra Mosque: Persiaran Persekutuan, Presint 1, Putrajaya.

**COST:** Free

# The city that has it all

Kuala Lumpur offers the best of South East Asia in one spot

**K**uala Lumpur has been a popular travel hub for years, but it is often overlooked as a holiday destination. Malaysia's diverse capital may lack the glitz, beachside location and ancient temples of its neighbours, but spend a little time here and you'll find this friendly city, founded by Chinese tin miners in 1857, combines all the best parts of South East Asia.

From bustling food markets serving the tastiest Malay, Chinese and Indian cuisine, to colonial buildings and stunning modern architecture, fancy shopping malls, Hindu temples and revered mosques, Kuala Lumpur has it all – even a tropical rainforest and urban parklands sheltering under the shiny shards of the Petronas Twin Towers. An abundance of theme parks and outdoor adventures makes it easy to balance culture and entertainment, and Kuala Lumpur is the ideal jumping-off point for exploring the country's islands, jungle and historic towns.

We spent five days here, based at the Shangri-La in the heart of the city and

within walking distance to busy Bukit Bintang and major attractions.

It's usually humid so walking in the morning and evening and using the metro or Grab taxis during the heat of the day is the best way to get around.

There's a lot to explore: here's where to start.

## RIDE THE SLIDES AT SUNWAY LAGOON

Kuala Lumpur's favourite outdoor theme park has been delighting locals and tourists for 30 years with old-fashioned fun, rides and waterslides.

It's a fabulous family day out, but don't be like me and scream so much on the world's biggest slide that you make the children cry.

**FIND IT:** Just 20 minutes from Kuala Lumpur in nearby Subang Jaya.

**COST:** From \$60  
**sunwaylagoon.com**

## WALK ACROSS PINTASAN SALOMA

This new pedestrian walkway, named in honour of the famous Malaysian-

Singaporean singer buried at the nearby cemetery, crosses the Klang River and connects the KLCC and Kampung Baru districts. In the evening the betel nut leaf-inspired facade becomes a dazzling light display – wait for the Malaysian flag to appear – under the backdrop of the sparkling city skyline.

**FIND IT:** Follow Jalan Saloma from the Petronas Twin Towers.

**COST:** Free

## EXPERIENCE NIGHT FOOD MARKETS AT JALAN ALOR

Malaysia's street food is some of the best in the world, and each evening Jalan Alor transforms into a lively night market famous for its seafood dishes and barbecue chicken wings – we love the satay and cucur udang mamak (prawn fritters). Sit on plastic chairs and tables in the street and soak up the vibe, and after dinner wander up to Changkat Bukit Bintang for a \$10 foot massage and a beer at one of its many bars.

**FIND IT:** Jalan Alor and Changkat Bukit Bintang



**Evie Farrell has always felt at home in South East Asia, and that's why she spent years backpacking there with her young daughter. She's currently obsessing about returning to Japan and cruising the Antarctic.**



## LEARN AND EXPLORE AT PETROSAINS

One of our favourite family haunts in Kuala Lumpur, Petrosains, the Discovery Centre, is choc-a-block with interactive STEM challenges, puzzles and displays. You can feel an earthquake, control a robot, stand in a tornado or drive a Formula One car and even slide down an escape route. It takes at least two hours to explore.

**FIND IT:** Top floor, Suria KLCC Mall

**COST:** Adult \$9, child \$5.50

**petrosains.com.my**

## EXPLORE THE 400-MILLION-YEAR-OLD BATU CAVES

Batu Caves is the most important Hindu shrine outside of India, and is dedicated to Lord Murugan, a demon-defeater of the Hindu Tamil faith. The temple complex is reached by climbing the 272 rainbow-coloured stairs up into the cool limestone cavern. Keep an eye out for cheeky (and often aggressive) macaques.

**FIND IT:** 15km from Kuala Lumpur in Selangor. Take a Grab taxi for around \$10.

**COST:** Free

## POOLSIDE HAPPY HOUR

Finish the day with happy hour at a luxury hotel pool overlooking the city, such as Wet Deck at the W hotel. Swim, float, sip cocktails and mocktails and enjoy the view over the sparkling twin towers.

**FIND IT:** Wet Bar, W hotel 121, Jln Ampang, Kuala Lumpur, 50450

**COST:** Free if you order a drink or snack



Rainforest canopy walk, Kuala Lumpur.

## Escape route

### ● Getting there

Fly direct to Kuala Lumpur with Malaysia Airlines from Sydney and Melbourne. Many airlines fly from all Australian cities via Singapore – Scoot has great deals – and more direct flights are expected soon. It's a 30-minute train or 40-minute taxi ride from Kuala Lumpur International Airport to the city.

### ● Staying there

The Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur offers affordable five-star city luxury with a pool, piano lounge, health club and restaurants. Rates start at \$127 a night.

**shangri-la.com**



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