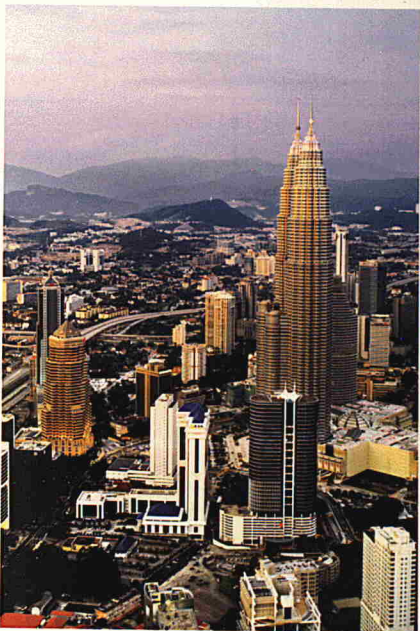


For Chin Chin, Chien Aun & Shuk Huay

A Random Walk In
Kuala Lumpur



TELAH DISEMAK

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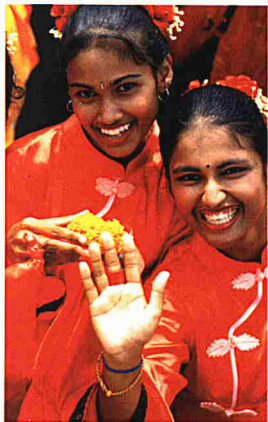
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NASKAH PEMELIHARAAN
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA

CONTENTS



- 7 The Many Facets of Kuala Lumpur
- 49 Historic Landmarks
- 57 Kuala Lumpur by Night
- 67 Chinatown
- 89 The Central Market
- 97 Dataran Merdeka
- 105 The National Mosque and Lake Gardens
- 117 Masjid India
- 131 Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve and its Vicinity
- 141 Kuala Lumpur City Centre
- 153 Pudu Area
- 163 Getting About in Kuala Lumpur
- 169 Food, Glorious Food
- 183 Recreation and Entertainment
- 191 Children Caught in Passing
- 203 Weddings
- 213 Places of Worship
- 237 Festivals and Celebrations

A Random Walk In Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia is a melting pot of several races - the Malays, Chinese, Indians, Eurasians and indigenous people. More than a century of living together, they have contributed to the cultural richness that makes Malaysia unique in South East Asia. Added to this richness is the influence of a British colonial past.

This uniqueness is reflected in Kuala Lumpur more than in any other city. It is a vibrant hub for two million people of different races, offering a study of contrasts as it races ahead to become a world-class metropolis. Investments have brought people from around the world to settle, albeit temporarily, in Kuala Lumpur. Besides the Europeans, the Japanese are a big community, making their presence felt not only in the board rooms but also in prestigious residential areas, shopping complexes and restaurants.

Kuala Lumpur is a young city compared with Paris, London, New York or Rome. It is still growing and maturing and it has all the vibrancy of youth. The sound of construction in the redevelopment of the city never seems to stop.

However, visitors will find that Kuala Lumpur, despite the trappings of a big city - concrete jungle with skyscrapers of metal and glass and grit-lock traffic jams - has its very own personality derived from the potpourri of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society.

Beyond the modern structures, visitors will find that nestled in their shadows the footprints of the past...like the Moghul-styled mosques, ancient temples that look like they've just been imported from China, shop-houses built when Chinese immigrants first came to work in the tin mines, quaint wooden Malay houses on stilts and pillars, and mansions built during the British colonial era.

Its people are friendly and never too much in a hurry to spare some moments for the tourist in need; they live and work together as one community and speak in their own mother tongues and also a brand of Manglish or English mixed with local dialects. It is interesting to sit and watch the world go by in Kuala Lumpur. One can see a Chinese girl wearing the *baju kurung*, Malay girls wearing traditional headscarves with jeans and T-shirts, fashion conscious teenagers in navel-bearing blouses and hipster jeans as well as Malay men on the way to the mosque in *baju Melayu* and *songkok*.

Eating places are noisy places as there's so much to say and laugh about in between mouthfuls while waiters believe in shouting orders to the kitchen. Uniquely Malaysian and popular particularly in Kuala Lumpur are *mamak* stalls run by Indian Muslims that offer their distinct brand of "pulled tea" or *teh tarik*.

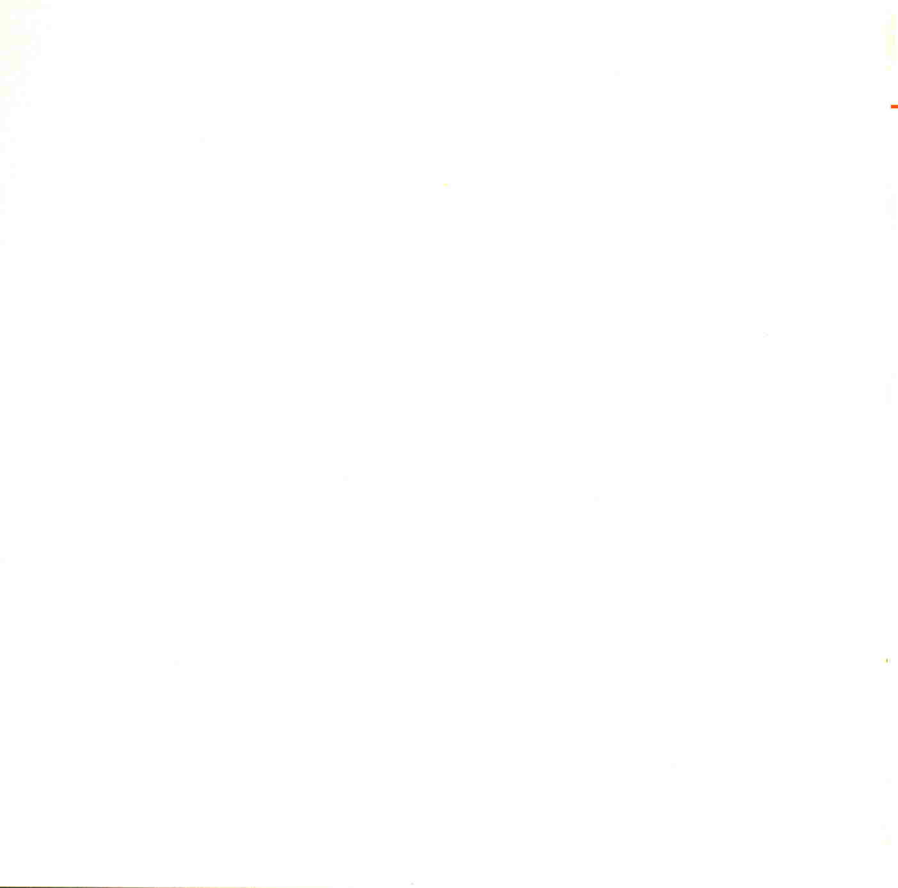
Festivals are a big thing and much exploited by the shopping complexes. It is fascinating to see how overnight, a shopping centre that is dressed for Christmas can be transformed into a mini Chinatown for the Lunar New Year.

The facets of Kuala Lumpur are a feast for the eyes. There is nothing like taking a random walk down the streets and savouring the sights and sounds.



Not to scale

Map copyrighted by Lucina De Pycker

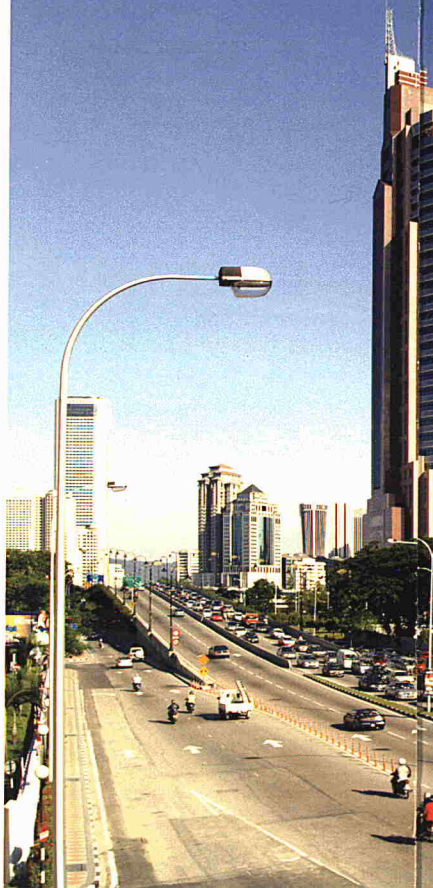


The Many Facets of Kuala Lumpur



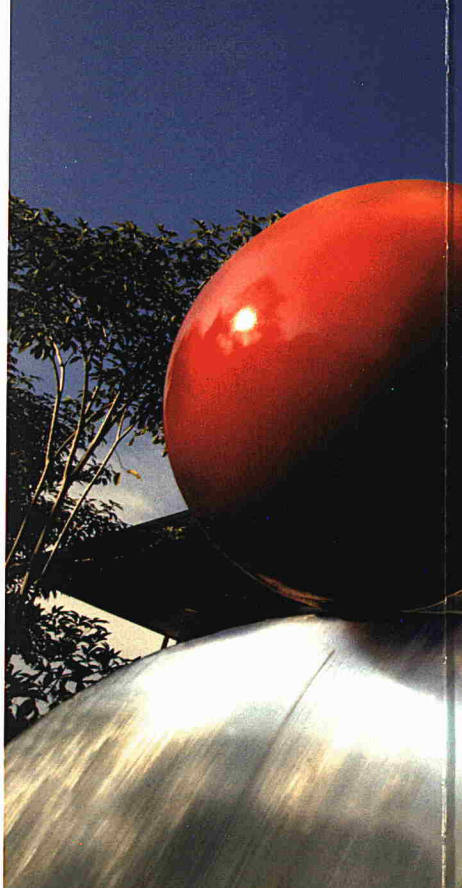
Kuala Lumpur has many facets: century-old buildings left untouched by redevelopment, skyscrapers rising majestically, high technology operating side by side with manual labour, and youthful faces mingling with age-worn ones. It is a city of interesting tales and sharp contrasts.

Along tree-lined Jalan Tun Razak skirting the Golden Triangle, with TH Selbom Building in the centre and the Petronas Twin Towers piercing the skyline





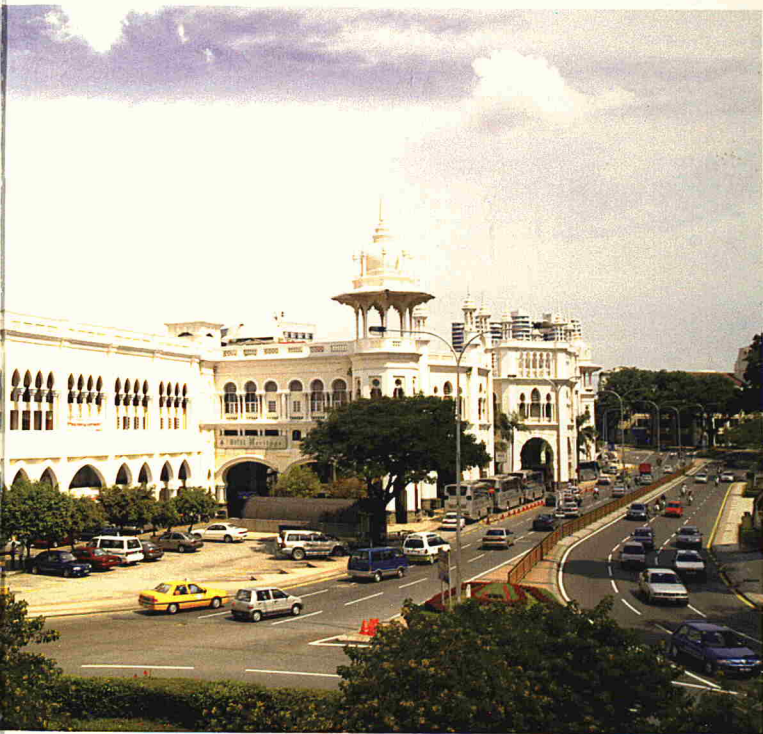
The National Theatre in Jalan Tun Razak: an architectural juxtaposition of angles and circles.





The Moghul-style Kuala Lumpur Railway Station in Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin built in 1911, domes, spires and airy archways are its prominent characteristics



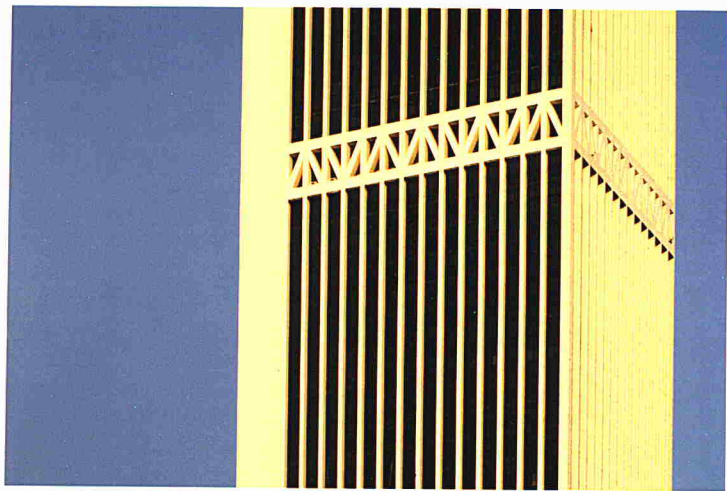




The Kuala Lumpur Tower mirrored on the glass
exterior of Menara Olympia in Jalan Raja Chulan.

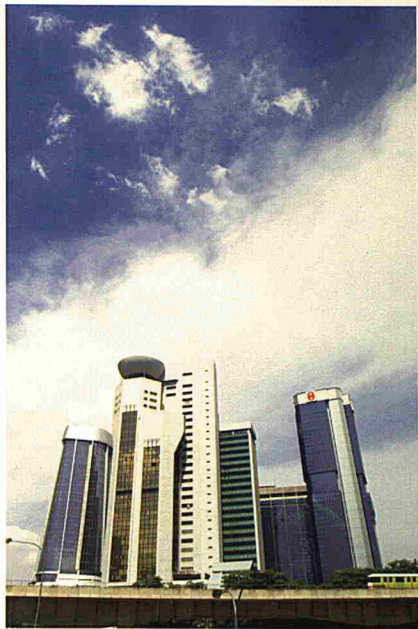
The grand entrance to the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange Building in Jalan Raja Chulan.





The Menara Maybank offers an appreciation of linear motifs.

A cluster of high-rise bank buildings in Jalan Kinabalu huddling in conference. Or are they finding security in a crowd?

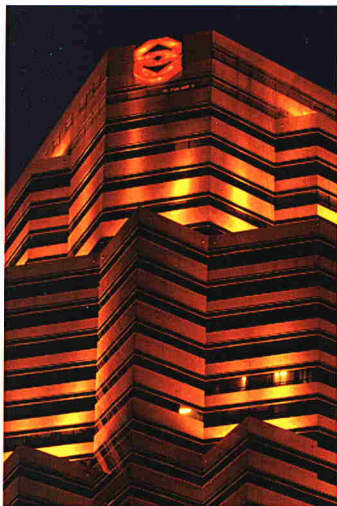




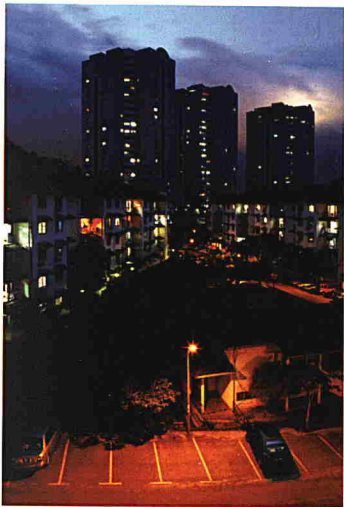
The Menara Tabung Haji in the forefront rises not only as an imposing landmark in Jalan Tun Razak but is also recognised as an engineering feat by the professionals



A glimpse of the Petronas Twin Towers squeezed in between Nikko Hotel and Menara Citibank.



Spotlights create a surreal image of Bangunan Am Finance and Public Bank in Jalan Yap Kwan Seng.

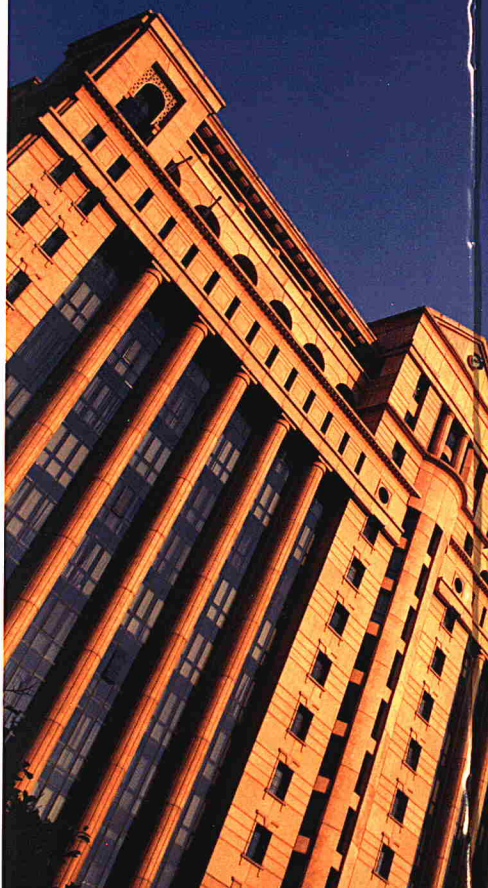


Cheras Pandan Perdana at night: a residential area to the South East of the city. Low and high-rise apartment blocks denote changing lifestyles.



The National Museum of History in Jalan Raja: a solid colonial building that witnesses the changing times.

The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange Building (left) in Jalan Raja Chulan, an edifice designed to inspire confidence and Menara Maybank (right) soaring into the great blue sky







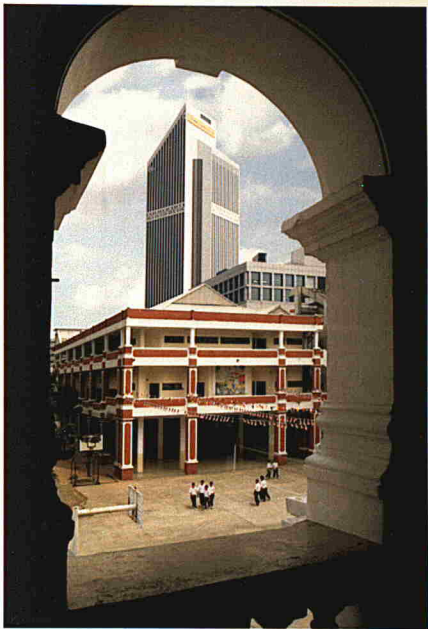
The Minangkabau-style entrance to Menara Maybank.



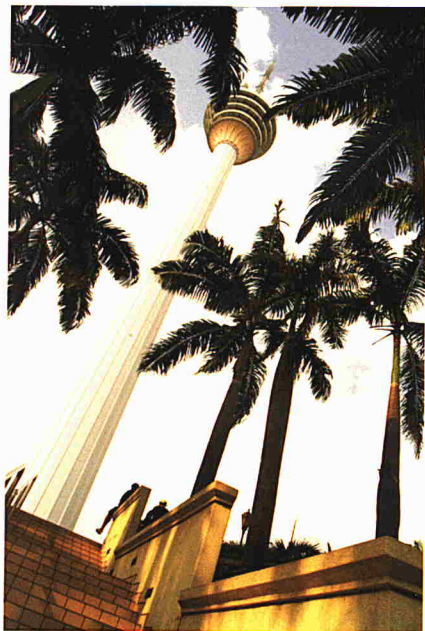
At the Lake Gardens, greenery lends a softer frame to a picture of bricks and concrete. Second from left is Menara Dayabumi, Kuala Lumpur Tower, Petronas Twin Towers and Menara Maybank.



In Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin: the century-old Sultan Abdul Samad Building, which now houses the High Courts, stands proudly side by side with modern architecture.



The St. John's Institution framed by an arch: it is one of the oldest schools in Kuala Lumpur built by the Roman Catholic mission in 1904.



The soaring Kuala Lumpur Tower atop Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve, swaying palms make good companions



One for the album at Istana Negara or the King's Palace. Royalty never fails to attract attention, neither the changing of guards at the palace grounds.



A resident of Cheras Pandan Perdana (above) doing the sword dance as her morning exercise. A sea of roofs (right) in a typical housing area in Kuala Lumpur. Double and single storey houses are laid out neatly in rows. The housing development industry is a major contributor to the economy.





A bird's eye view of Kampung Baru



One can see decades of difference within the same city - a typical old Malay house in Kampung Baru and the modern Kuala Lumpur Tower.



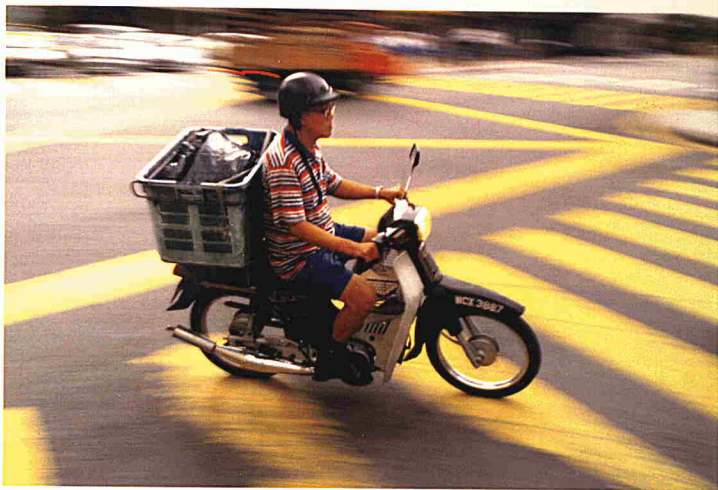
There are three mega sales in Malaysia every year to coincide with the school holidays. Kuala Lumpur, in particular, is being promoted as a shopping paradise to boost tourism.



Shoppers in Suria KLCC admiring an F1 race car on display to promote the annual Petronas Malaysian F1 Grand Prix in Sepang near Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Kuala Lumpur is one of the 18 F1 venues in the world.



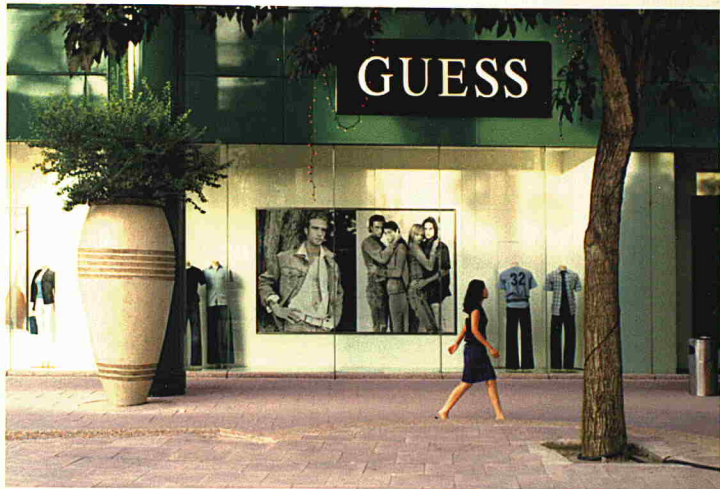
In Leboh Pasar Besar as in other parts of Kuala Lumpur, the different races work and live together.

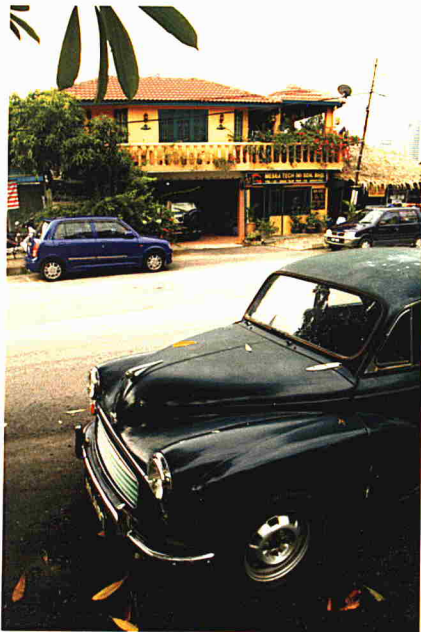


At the congested junction of Jalan Sultan Ismail and Jalan Bukit Bintang, a Honda Cub is a fast and effective means of transporting goods.



A crowd waiting for buses in front of drab shophouses in downtown Kuala Lumpur (left) in contrast with the fashionable shopping mall in the Golden Triangle area (right). Kuala Lumpur is a metropolis in subtle transformation.





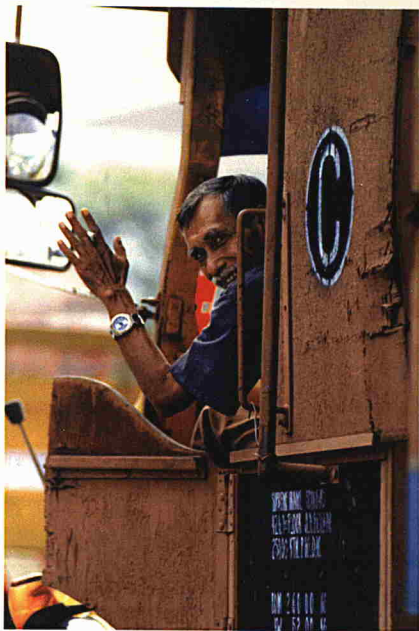
Kampung Baru, a Malay enclave where time almost stands still for some.



The business of living in Kuala Lumpur as captured at the low cost flats in Jalan Tun Razak. Amidst the morning laundry, a Malaysian flag flutters and a woman seeks divine blessings.



In a back street in Pudu, a weather beaten and wiry Chinese craftsman finds his simple tool - an old fashion handsaw not a handicap at all



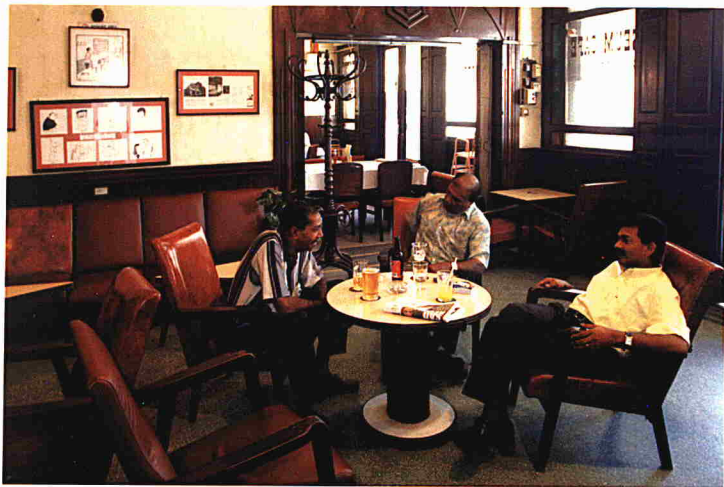
A cheerful Indian man on his way to work in Batu Caves



Chinese members of the Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur dressed up to perform a Japanese cultural dance. The club caters to the large population of Japanese working in Kuala Lumpur.



An East European at the piano entertaining guests. He is one of the many foreign entertainers working in classy restaurants and nightclubs in Kuala Lumpur.



The Coliseum Cafe in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman in its heydays, it was a favourite watering hole for the Maki Sallehs (the Caucasians)



In Jalan Dang Wangi: a typical Chinese coffee-shop where one can still get a cup of local coffee brewed black and thick. This shop is known for its special cakes.



At Suria KLCC located at the podium of the Petronas Twin Towers, exhausted shoppers find coffee-houses a welcome oasis.

Historic Landmarks



There are arguments as to the true founder of Kuala Lumpur and when it was founded. One of them is said to be Raja Abdullah Raja Ja'afar, who imported Chinese labourers and took them up the Klang River in search of tin in 1857. Yap Ah Loy and his men sailed from China to Port Klang, from where they rowed up the Klang River seeking their fortune. In 1868, Yap became the third Kapitan China or Captain of the Chinese community. However, it is said that there were already settlers around the confluence as early as in the 1820s. And so the dispute goes on. It is only right to say that everyone - the Malays, Chinese, English and Indians - left their marks in Kuala Lumpur and because they are so distinctively different from each other, it makes Kuala Lumpur unique. Some of the historic landmarks are the Railway Station, Carcosa and of course, Masjid Jamek.



Masjid Jamek, a significant historic landmark, stands at the confluence of the Gombak and Klang rivers where the city of Kuala Lumpur was born. It was built in 1909 and remained the main mosque until the National Mosque was built. It was the site of a trading post in the 1880s.







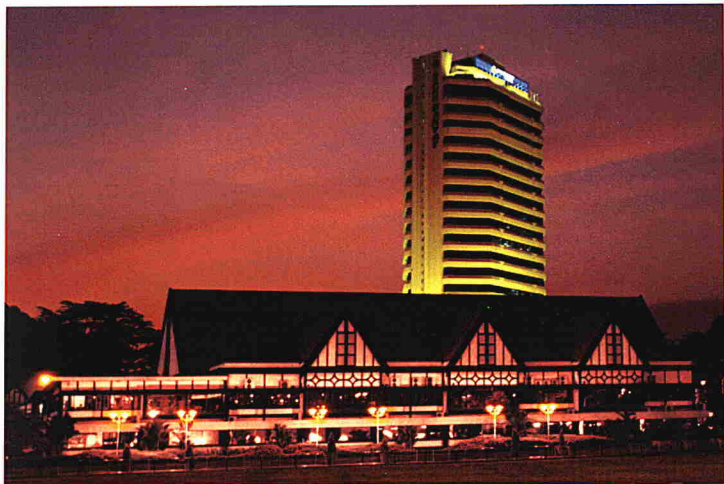
Carcosa Seri Negara Hotel on Persiaran Mahameru: built in 1898 by the British, it sits on a hillock in the Lake Gardens. It was the home of top colonial officials but was refurbished and reopened in 1989 as a classical hotel.



The Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial in Jalan Dato Onn: it was the home of the first British Resident and later, the first Chief Minister and first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman. It was turned into a memorial in 1994, displaying about 100,000 exhibits belonging to the Tunku, including a Cadillac.







The Royal Selangor Club, or the Spotted Dog, at Dataran Merdeka (Merdeka Square) it is the social venue for the elite. The lawn in front known previously as the Selangor Padang, was a venue for sports activities.

Kuala Lumpur by Night



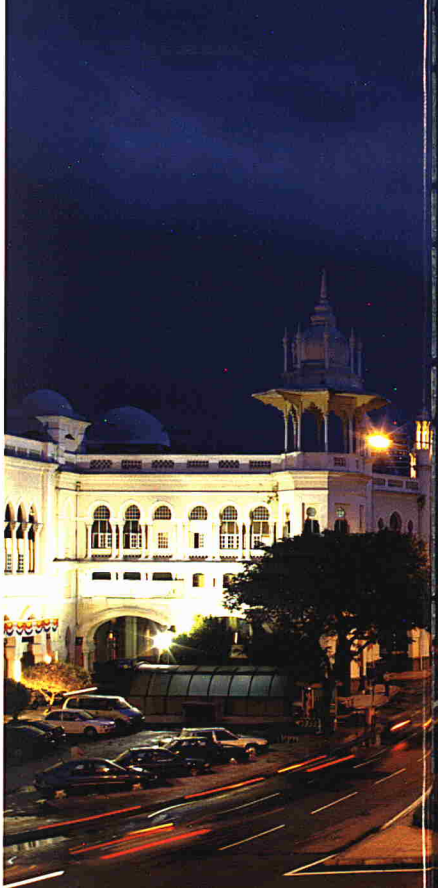
As the sun sets, heavy shadows are cast on buildings and structures, turning them into mysterious slumbering giants. Spotlights highlight facets, making them appear as if they were never there at all in the day. The city changes mood as dusk deepens into night.

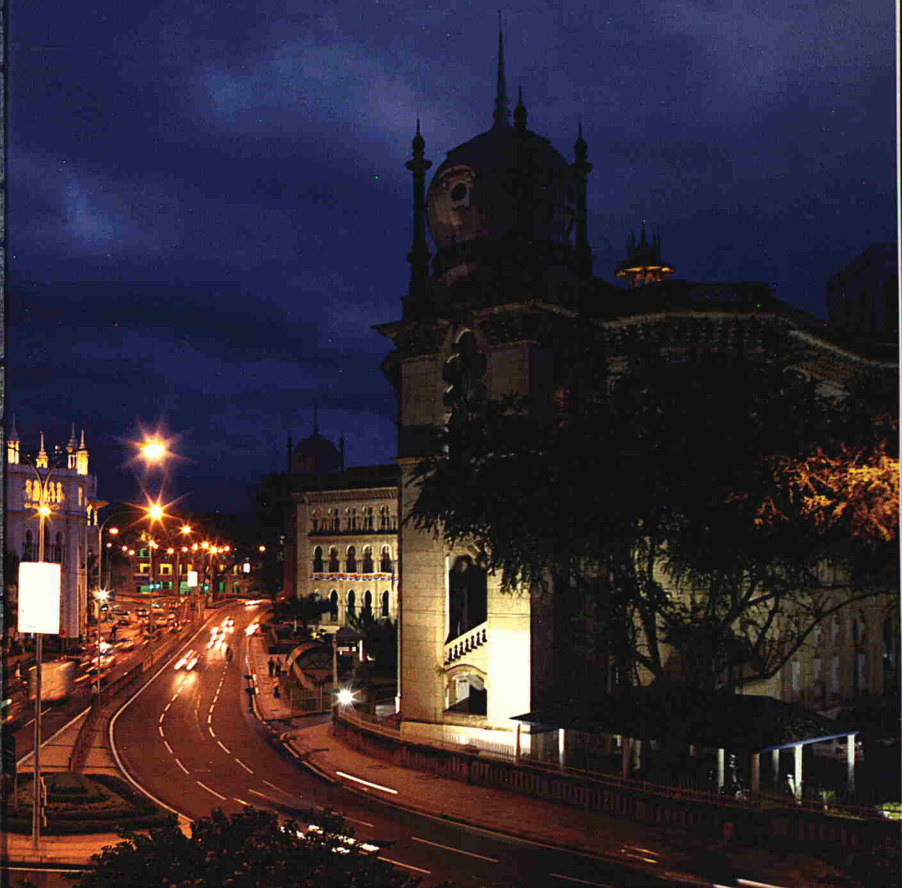


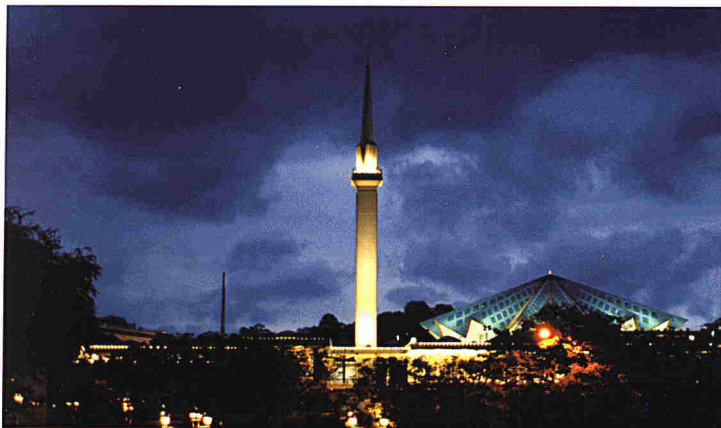


Kuala Lumpur lights up for the evening.

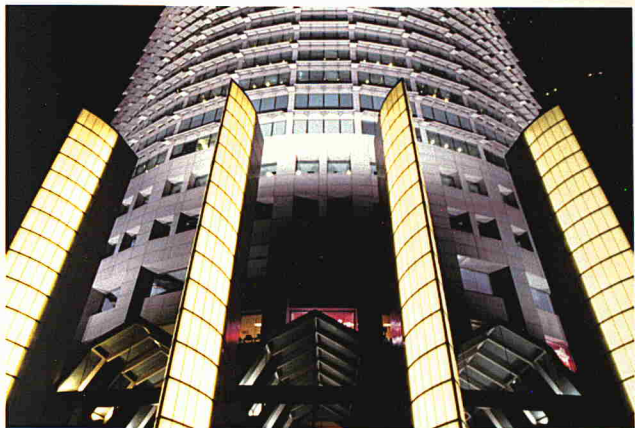
The Kuala Lumpur Railway Station (left) and its administration building (right) as darkness gently cloaks the city



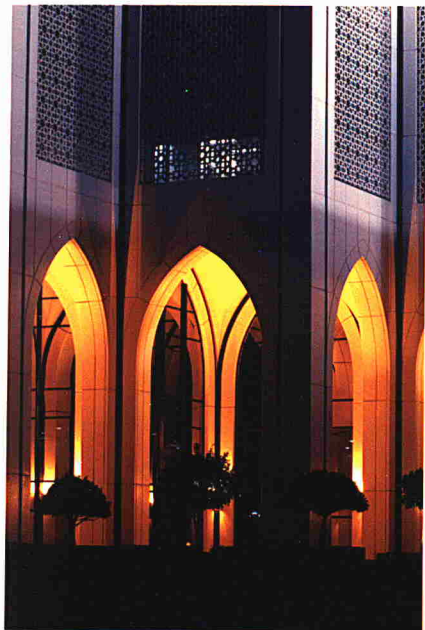




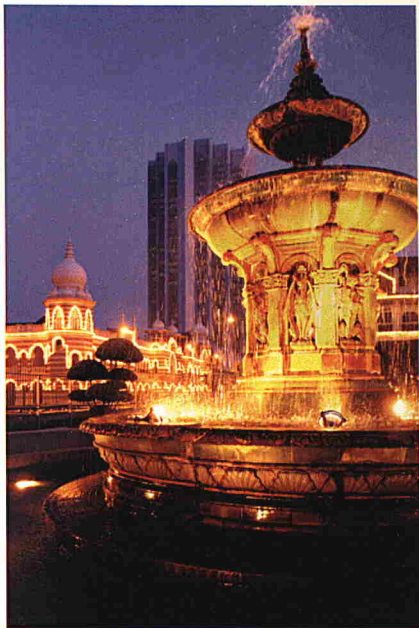
The National Mosque enshrouded with an air of mystic.



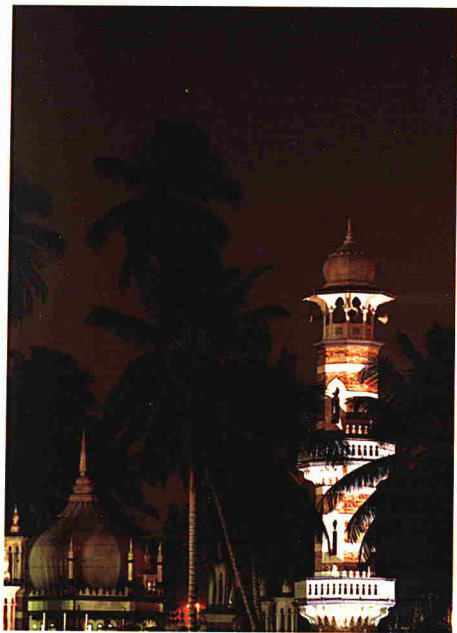
The Menara Maxis in Kuala Lumpur City Centre: a light and shadow play changes moods.



A picture of tranquility. The Menara Dayabumi is one of the earliest prestigious high-rise buildings in the city



The Cop's Fountain at Dataran Merdeka was built in 1897 in memory of Steve Harper, an inspector of Selangor Military Police.



Masjid Jamek's minaret gets the focus

Chinatown



Jalan Petaling has been touted as the heart of Chinatown where lies a flea market that operates from morning till late into the night. It offers cheap watches, T-shirts, fashion wear, CDs, gifts and souvenir items in great abundance. Roadside food stalls are popular with tourists who prefer something different. At night, the restaurants along adjacent Jalan Hang Lekir extend onto the road where foreign tourists have their fill of seafood and special dishes washed down with beer. Other streets like Jalan Sultan, Jalan Tun H.S. Lee, Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock are also part of Chinatown.



To chat with a friend is a good respite from looking after the stall all day long. Note the way the watches are displayed.



Even the Nepalese have a place to hawk their semi-precious stones.



Now, one is really spoilt for choice.



In Jalan Hang Lekir, Indian women are preparing big and beautiful bouquets for sale at the roadside stall.





A haircut is no laughing matter!



Huge neon signs that fight for space and attention brighten up Chinatown



A restaurant makes a statement with a traditional Chinese facade to promote mooncakes for the Mid-autumn Lantern Festival.



Chinatown is a pulsating shopping area jam-packed with people and traffic until midnight.



A hawker with a cartful of imported lychee in Chinatown.

A hawker takes orders of piping hot pancakes (left) while an ice-seller delivers ice blocks to restaurants and food stalls in Jalan Petaling





The Coffee Shop

PEPSI RESTORAN NGAI FONG

00-KG
50-KG

WS 2724
RDM 300 KG
150 KG

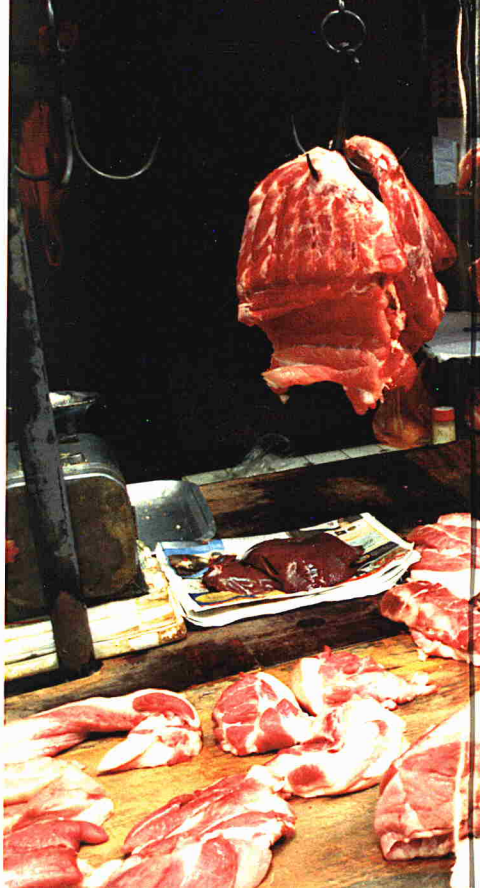


A haven for the chef, this sundry shop in Jalan Tun H S Lee stocks some of the best dried Chinese delicacies



Boxes of dried mushrooms, oysters and other such delicacies delight the heart of connoisseurs.

Different cuts for different folks. Pork is a favourite food among the Chinese.







A pet shop worker assembling bird cages in Jalan Sultan

Old but not condemned, the plaster is peeling off but the dilapidated building still makes a good abode for some.





The Chan Sze Shu Yuan, which houses the Federation of Chen (Tan) Associations of Malaysia, at the end of Jalan Petaling. The century-old clan house, built by craftsmen from China, is elaborately decorated with interesting and colourful figurines.



The clan house with its intricate and colourful roof work doubles up as a tuition centre.

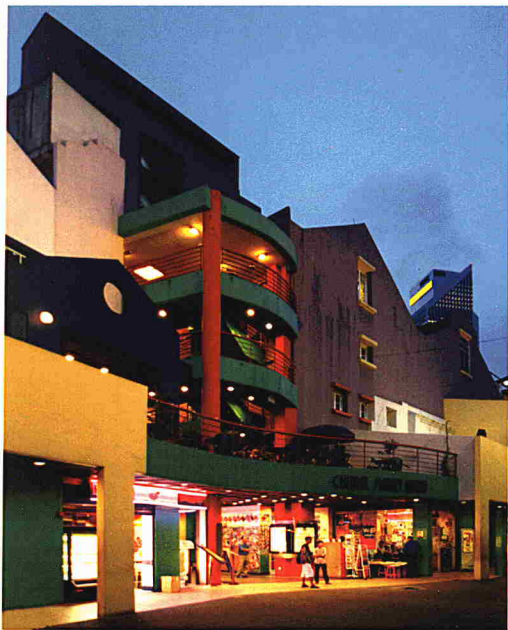


This traditional shop specialises in herbal brews to cool the body and improve complexion

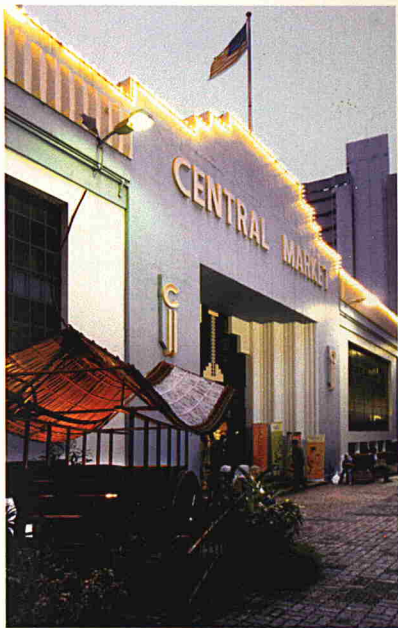
The Central Market



Built in mid-1930s, the Central Market served its purpose until the mid-1980s. It was a typical wet market - very wet and noisy but where one could get anything for cooking. Beside it, is Jalan Hang Kasturi where shops sold Chinese delicacies such as sharks fins, mushrooms and dried sea cucumber. A few still remains. In 1986, the Central Market was reopened as a centre for arts and craft. Jalan Hang Kasturi was turned into the first pedestrian mall in the city. The annexe, the Central Square, houses eateries and boutiques and a cineplex.



The hip and arty Central Square
at night.



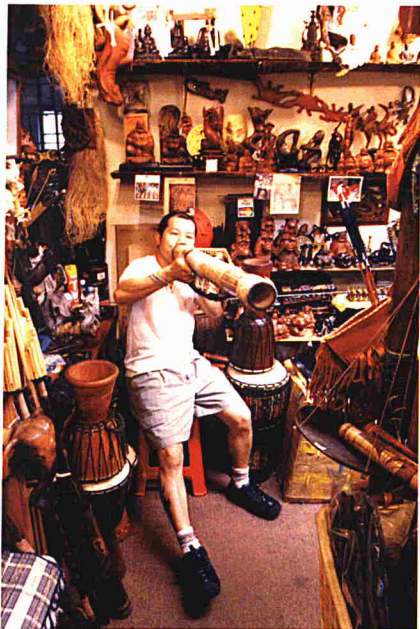
The Central Market. The structure of the wet market is unchanged but is now colourfully painted and decked with fairy lights.



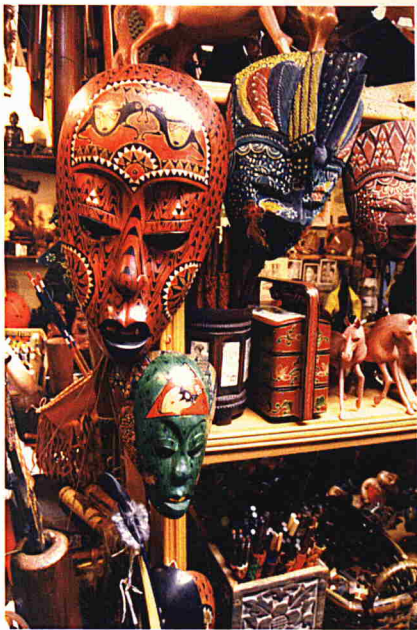
A stationery shop selling Chinese brushes, ink, rice paper for use in calligraphy and brush painting



An artist shows his collection of works.



How about this? A wooden music instrument akin to didgeridoo



Wooden masks inviting to be taken home.

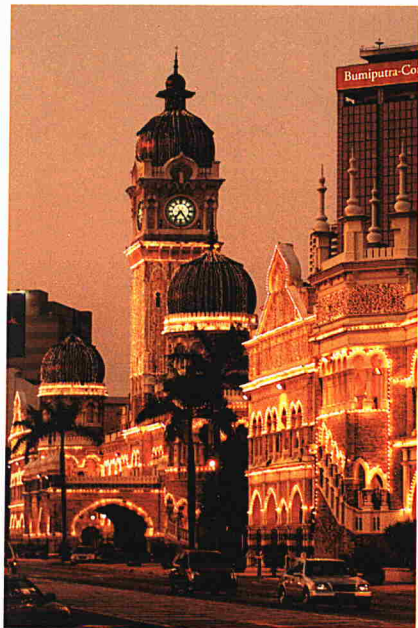


Even bridal couples find Jalan Hang Kasturi pedestrian mall good enough for their wedding pictures.

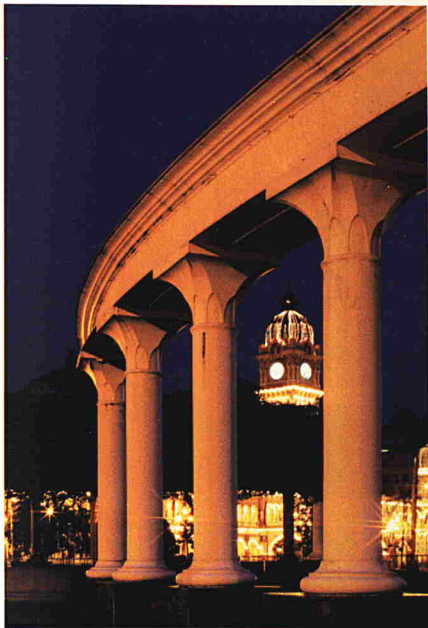
Dataran Merdeka



Dataran Merdeka, or Independence Square, witnessed the lowering of the Union Jack and raising of the Malayan flag at midnight on August 30, 1957, ushering in the birth of a new nation. It was the venue for the National Day celebration up to the year 2002. In 2003, the parade was held in Putrajaya. Today, evening strollers enjoy the sight of brightly lit Sultan Abdul Samad Building. It is also the venue of New Year concert where thousands throng the place for the midnight count down. Under the field in front of the Royal Selangor Club is an underground shopping centre and car park.



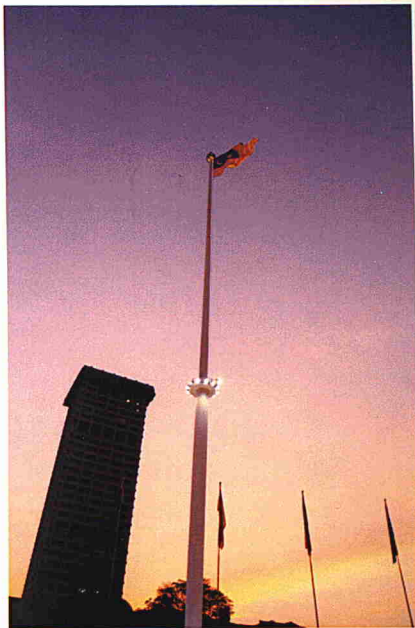
The brightly lit Sultan Abdul Samad Building gives an air of festivity



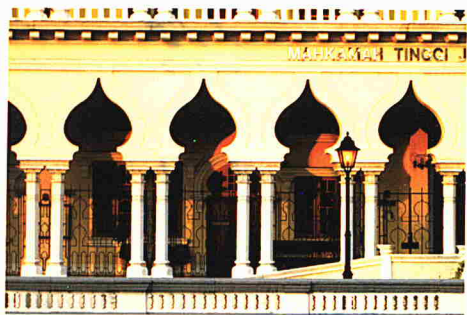
Decorative pillars in Dataran Merdeka with the Sultan Abdul Samad Building in the background.



Antique-looking lamp posts add more character



At 102 metres, this flag pole is the tallest in the world.





This Moghul-inspired building once housed the city hall and a theatre. It was renovated to accommodate the Sessions and Magistrates courts.



The Sultan Abdul Samad Building looks like one out of a fairy tale.

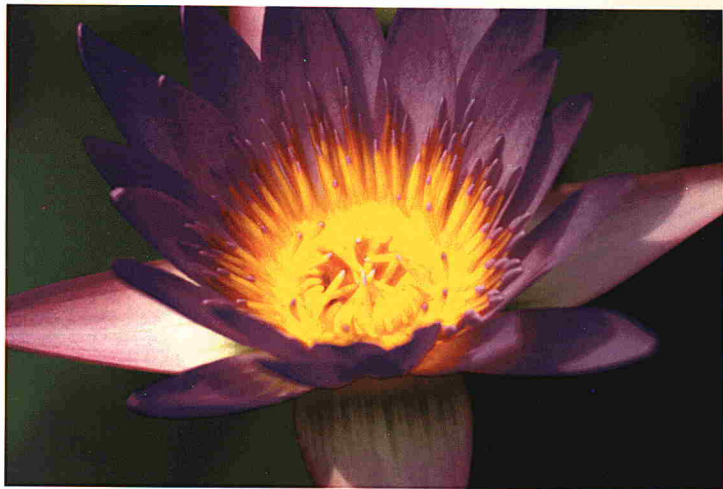
The National Mosque and Lake Gardens



The National Mosque was built in 1965, a magnificent structure in marble with a minaret 73 metres tall. It can accommodate 10,000 people. The water features of the building give it a very cooling and tranquil atmosphere in the midst of a busy city. The Lake Gardens is a much needed green-lung to the city. With attractions like Orchid Garden, Hibiscus Garden, Butterfly Park, Deer Park and Bird Park, the Lake Gardens is popular not only with joggers and picnickers but also tourists.



Pondering on the blooming tropical beauties at the Orchid Garden



An endearing lotus among the orchids



The National Monument overlooking the Lake Gardens commemorates the fallen heroes during the Emergency.

A view of the skyscrapers from the Lake Gardens with the Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur building (city hall) and Petronas Twin Towers in the background.





A Malay man in national costume, so intense in taking a good shot, is unaware of being photographed.



A souvenir shot for this Russian lady from Singapore



Cheerful schoolgirls queuing up for a visit to the Islamic Arts Museum







Having lunch outside the National Mosque after a visit



Watch your steps!



A maintenance worker is dwarfed by the size of the National Mosque.

Masjid India



Masjid India is nicknamed "Little India" because it looks, smells and sounds like motherland. Nevertheless, the shopping area has Malay shops too. Most of the Indians are Muslims who settled here and built the mosque, hence the name. Little India sells everything Indian, from sarees, jewellery, craft, kitchenware to aromatic curries. This enclave is tucked between Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman and Jalan Dang Wangi.



Masjid India is a very busy commercial area of department stores. It is also where hawkers squat by the five-foot way to sell their wares that range from jeans, handkerchieves, cigarettes (as above), food and beverages as well as traditional medicine.



Locally made perfume enjoys its own market niche.



The Saturday night market is a shopping haven with a wide variety of goods being hawked



A hawker makes his pitch, expounding the virtues of his traditional cures.



An interesting roadside stall offers a wide array of traditional medicine, ranging from roots to animal parts.



Bagged a good bargain!





Anything to do with footwork goes in this busy shopping area where a lot of walking is involved. Picture shows a masseur working on tired feet (left) while a cobbler mends a pair of worn out shoes.



It's sharing of culture. This type of temporary tattoo called *mehndi* was originally practised by the Indians but has become popular among other races. Picture shows an enterprising Malay girl at her stall drawing the intricate design for these Chinese girls



This is how mehndi is done. A nozzle is used to apply the dye on the skin. Later, the dye is washed away to expose the beautiful tattoo.



Posing for a camera shot, these shopkeepers are waiting to welcome shoppers.



Fabrics for every occasion, this stall caters mainly to Malay ladies who wear the traditional *baju kurung*, a soft flowing two piece attire.



Colourful rugs are particularly popular among the Malays and Indians

Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve and its Vicinity



The Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve plays host to the Kuala Lumpur Tower which, at a height of 421 metres, is the 4th tallest telecommunication tower in the world after the Toronto CN Tower (553 metres), the Moscow Ostankino Tower (537 metres) and the Oriental Pearl Television Tower, Shanghai (468 metres). At the fringe of the reserve is the St. John's Institution and the busy Jalan Raja Chulan.



The St. John's Primary School built by Catholic missionary. It nestles in an enclave surrounded by modern high-rise office buildings.



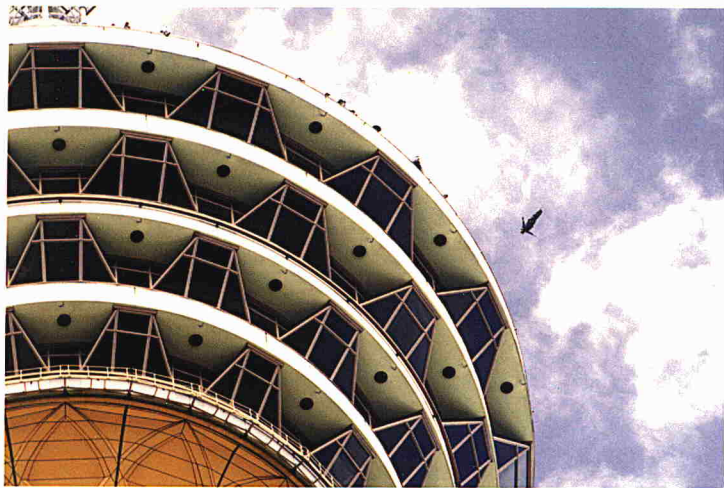
The St. John's Institution still stands proud despite the ravages of time.



The Kuala Lumpur Tower, with an observation deck atop, offers a bird's eye view of the city

An engineering feat, with a revolving restaurant at the top





The freefall moments of a BASE jumper who just dived off the Kuala Lumpur Tower BASE jumping which is banned in most countries, is one of the highlights in the tower's calendar of events



In the evening when the lights are on, it looks absolutely enchanting.



Schoolgirls on a visit to the Tower.



Fancy having your portrait sketched here?



In Jalan Raja Chulan, a row of dilapidated houses are awaiting redevelopment: a little out of sync with the skyscrapers further down the road.

Kuala Lumpur City Centre



Kuala Lumpur City Centre or KLCC, is built on 40 hectares of land that was once a race course. This city within a city embraces the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest twin towers at 452 metres, the Maxis and Esso Towers, Mandarin Oriental and Sunia KLCC, a world class shopping mall. A 20-hectare park with a man-made lake and a wading pool is an added attraction to the city folks.



Under the sweltering midday sun.



Shops offer branded goods at every level.



High fashion hits the catwalk.

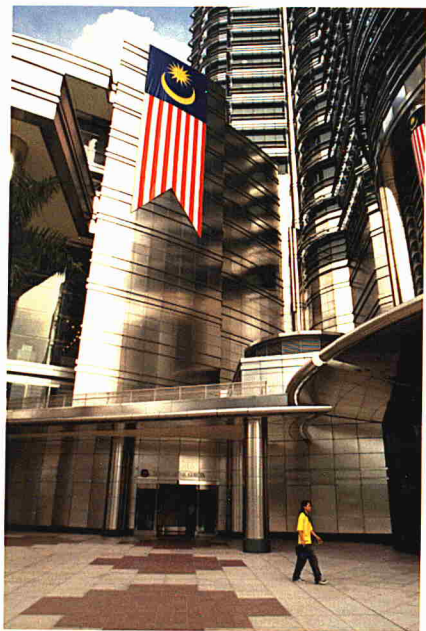




A glimpse of the moon framed by the arch legs of the bridge linking the twin towers.

The Petronas Twin Towers, a majestic office complex that is the corporate home of the national oil company, Petronas.

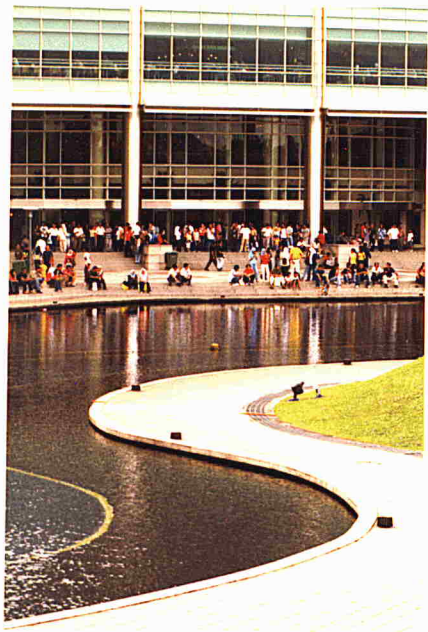




Looks like a steel and concrete jungle.



Waiting in solitude



A restful respite for tired shoppers



Fun time frolicking in the wading pool.

Flags of the various states fluttering at noonday against the Petronas Twin Towers. In the forefront is the Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory flag.



Pudu Area



Jalan Pudu is an old district with pre-war shophouses and a big wet market. The Chinese calls it "Poon San Pah" which means "half jungle" as it seemed so far flung from the Chinatown in the olden days. Shopping complexes have since sprouted, changing the skyline.



Far from being a "half-jungle", Pudu today is a vibrant business centre.



It's the local fruit season ... durians and rambutans are in great abundance. The pre-war shophouses in the background have been given a facelift.



An old lady lends a helping hand looking after the toddler while on the right, the stall owners await business in their well-stocked shop.







In a back lane, a restaurant worker prepares fish for cooking.



A Chinese coffee-shop makes a good venue for a chit-chat



A Malay man selling rings set with semi-precious stones.



The wall of the former Pudu Prison painted with murals by an inmate. It is now being used as a temporary holding centre for illegal immigrants and vagrants



An enterprising convenience shop selling anything from sweets to periodicals.

Getting About in Kuala Lumpur



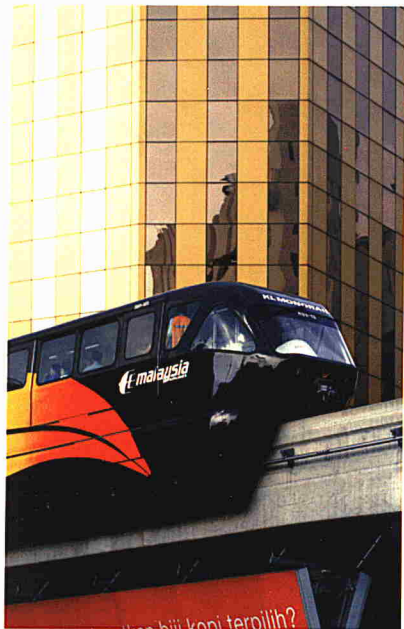
With billions of ringgit being spent on privatised transportation projects, getting about in Kuala Lumpur is relatively easy. Besides the regular buses and taxis, one has other options - the commuter train, the light rail transit and monorail.



For those living on the outskirts and work in the city centre, the commuter train is a convenient means of transport.



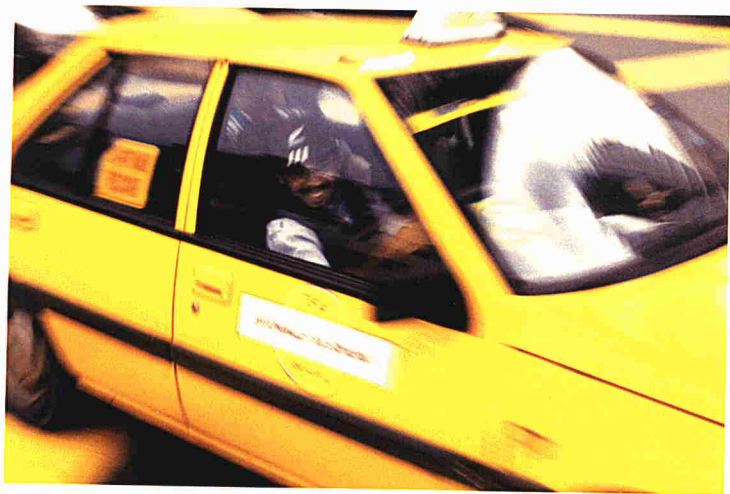
The light rail transit is catching on in popularity



Getting about in the city is made more convenient with the introduction of the monorail in 2003. Picture shows one of the coaches passing near Lot 10 in Jalan Bukit Bintang.



A light rail transit coach against the backdrop of high-rise office blocks - the picture of a typical modern city.



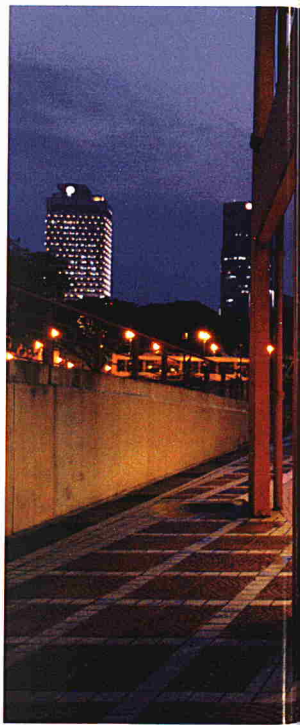
Want a ride?

Food, Glorious Food



Malaysians take pride in the great varieties of food they have - Asian, Middle-Eastern and Western food. The business of cooking and eating goes on throughout the day and at night. Hawker centres, fast food outlets and restaurants mushroom in the city where eating out is a popular pastime.

At the Central Market annex, an Indian Muslim restaurant, or *mamak* shop, serves spicy curry meals



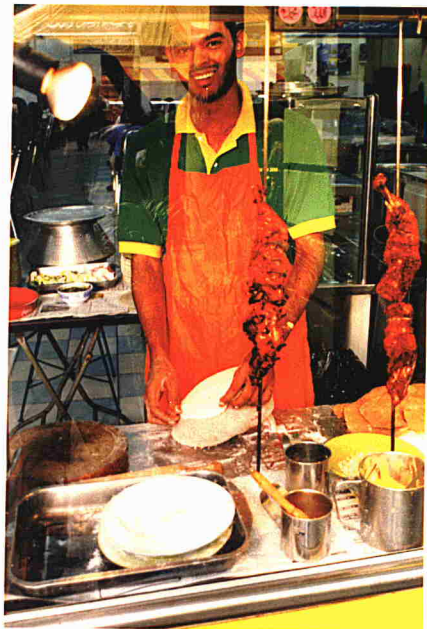




In Lebuh Pasar Besar a rare find in a Chinese *kopitiam* or coffee-shop metal tea and coffee pots that were normally used in tea-houses in China long ago

Cooking up a storm over a fiery stove. It's the secret to sumptuous Chinese cuisine.

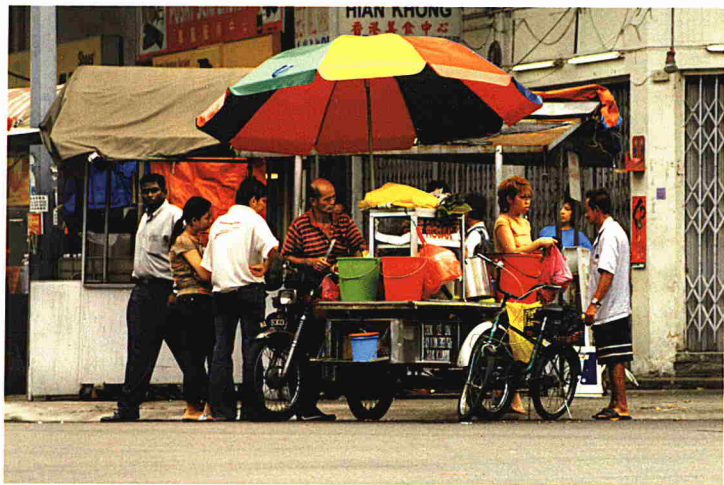




Tempting *tandoori* chicken on display. It is roasted in a traditional stone oven and eaten with *naan*, a type of Indian flat bread.



Tosari, another type of Indian bread eaten with curry, makes a lovely snack. It is served in most Indian restaurants.



A mobile stall hawking rojak, the Malaysian version of fruit salad mixed with thick black spicy sauce



A little stall that provides cheap refreshments.



Barbecued meat called *sate* eaten with a thick peanut sauce is a popular meal among all Malaysians.



No mahu SC
di derahhawa



Doing a roaring business selling banana, yam and sweet potato fritters to the hundreds attending Friday prayers at the National Mosque.



A roadside buffet spread offers delicious selection of Malay dishes to those attending Friday prayers.



Sizzling hot dogs tempt passers-by outside Central Market

Recreation and Entertainment



Recreation and entertainment in Kuala Lumpur can come in different forms. One can opt for a round of golf, go swimming, horse-riding or simply go to a movie. When night falls and the city is empty of office workers, the metropolis takes on a different character. Neon lights pulsate, fairy lights sparkle ... hubs for entertainment, wining and dining come to life.

Bangsar is a business centre in the day and a pulsating fun district at night









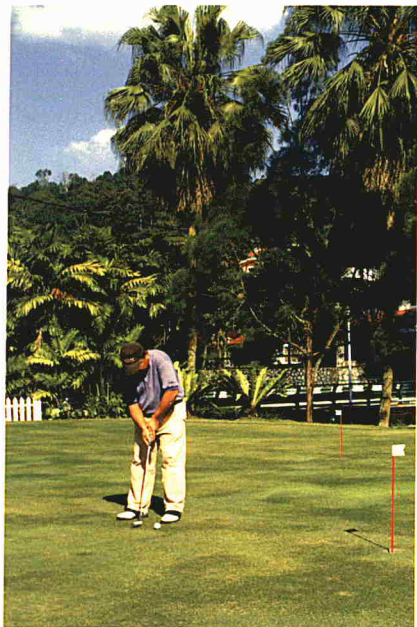
Bukit Bintang is the latest hip and happening district. Street performances like break-dancing draw young crowds and tourists.



Times Square at the junction of Jalan Pudu and Jalan Imbi is a wonderland for children.

Thrills and spills are the order of the day in this gigantic mall



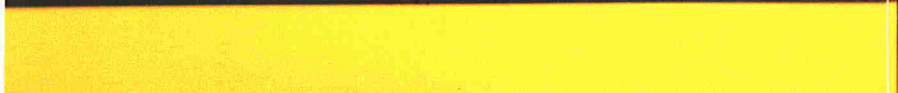


A round of golf at the Darul Ehsan Club can be refreshing.

Children Caught in Passing



Children in Kuala Lumpur blend well into the adult world. Wherever they are, they find fun, amusement and contentment. They are happy being themselves - warm, friendly and spontaneous.





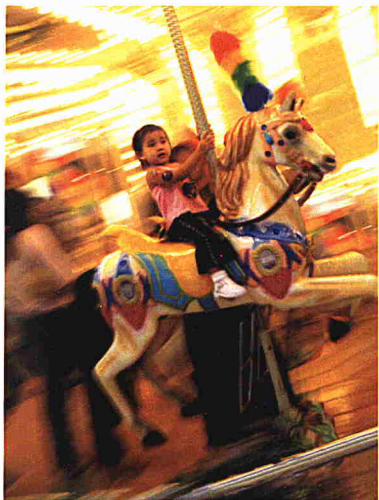
All smilesschoolchildren after a visit to the mosque.



Children in their best attire follow adults to worship at the temples in the Batu Caves



An Indian boy perfectly happy with flowers



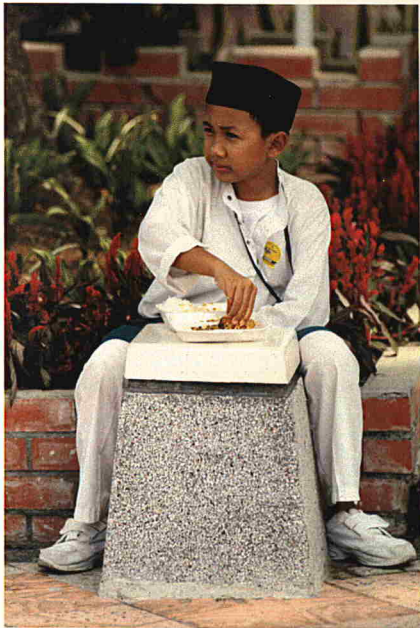
An Indian girl, in traditional dress, on a day out (left) and a Sunday treat on the merry-go-round (right), both at the Suria KLCC.



Hot and tired, a rest is in order for this little visitor at the mosque (left). Thoroughly enjoying her cake, this Indian girl is wide-eyed with awe at what goes on at an Indian wedding (right).



Just some makeshift space will suffice for this girl to do her homework at her parents' food stall in Chinatown.



It's a meal without fuss for this Malay boy on a visit to the National Mosque.



A newsstand in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, not too young for serious stuff.



Can't be a better place to hang out than this little book stall.



Transfixed by the National Day parade

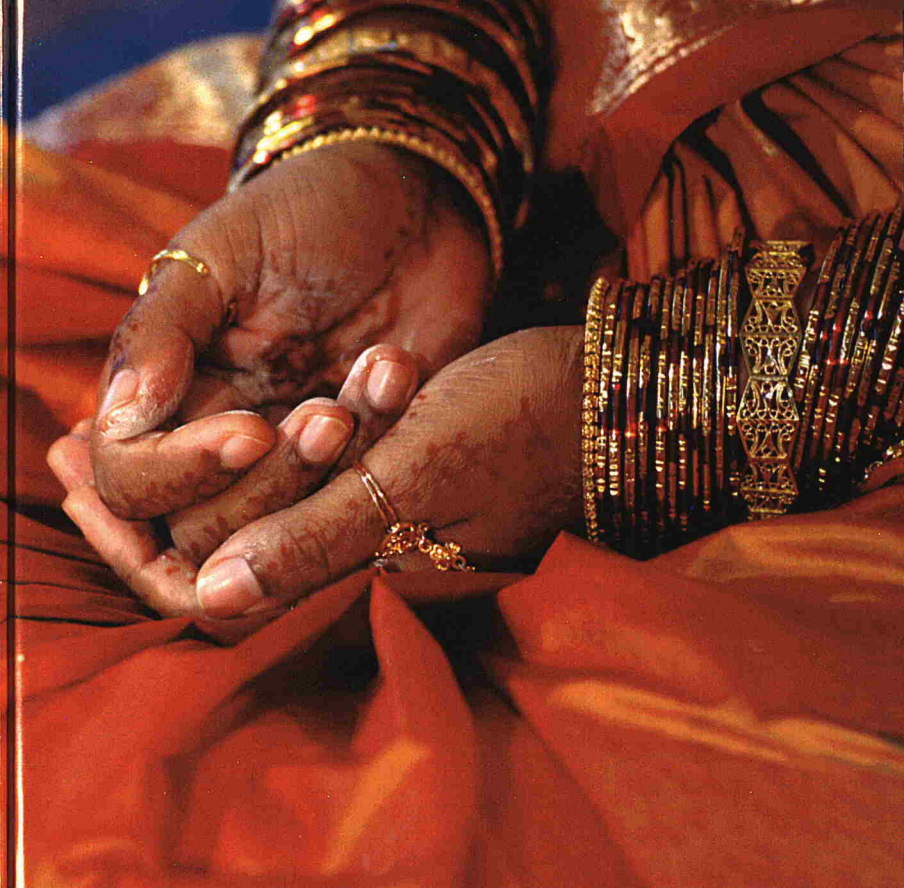
Weddings



Malaysian weddings are colourful because each race follows its own customs and rituals. Every part of the wedding ceremony has a significance. Although Christians get married in the church, they still observe certain traditional rituals after the church ceremony.

The hands of an Indian bride are beautifully decorated with temporary tattoo called *mehndi*. Colourful bangles are worn to complement her wedding saree.







An Indian bridal entourage arrives at a temple for the ceremony (left) and (right) toe ring for the groom to symbolise that he is now tied in matrimony.







A Hindu priest conducting the ceremony



At a Chinese wedding, the bride and groom offer tea to their parents and elders as a mark of respect and in return, they each receive an *ang pow* (a red packet with money inside) or a gift.



The extended family and the bridal couple pose for a group photo in the bridal chamber. It is normal these days for the newly weds to have their photographs taken before the wedding ceremony. Note the photograph on the wall.



The newly weds go from table to table at the wedding dinner to be toasted and photographed.



Outdoor settings such as this in the Lake Gardens are popular venues for wedding photo sessions

Places of Worship



Being multi-ethnic and multi-religious, there is no lack of places of worship for the Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and Hindus. Ceremonies can be as elaborate as they are colourful.



The St John's Cathedral off Jalan Pudu was built by the Roman Catholic mission that came to Malaya in 1900s. They also established the St. John's Institution around that time.



The St. Anthony's Cathedral in Jalan Robertson off Jalan Pudu was built in 1911.





It's festive time. The smell of burning joss sticks and sound of prayer bells fill the prayer hall of a Buddhist temple (left) and the faithful carrying out the rituals near Jalan Pudu (right).



Chinese opera is part of the religious celebration at temples. These shows are offered to the gods but worshippers enjoy them too!





The Kuala Lumpur Chinese Hawkers Association celebrates the *Hungry Ghost Festival* with an evening of songs and music.

Fire-walking for cleansing in conjunction with the celebration of the *Ninth Emperor God's* birthday.

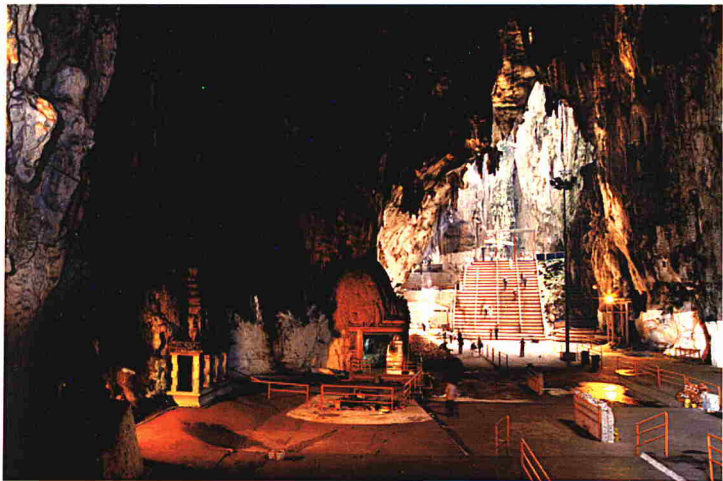




Balu Caves with the famous flight of 272 steps leading to the temples at the top.



Keeping the statue clean with a good wash.



The temples inside Batu Caves: it is jam-packed with worshippers during Thaipusam, a major Hindu festival.



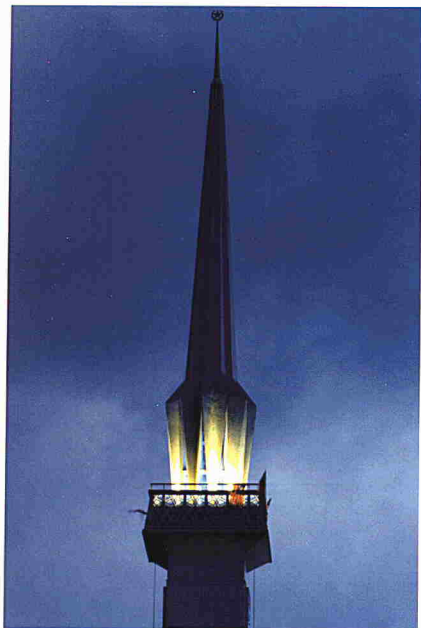
Tourists busy with their cameras at the higher level of the Batu Caves where the roof opens to the sky.



Sri Vinayagar Temple near Jalan Pudu Lama at the foot of the Court Hill attracts worshippers daily.

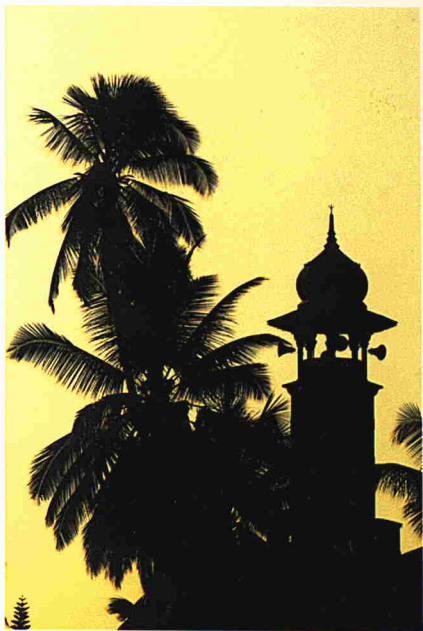


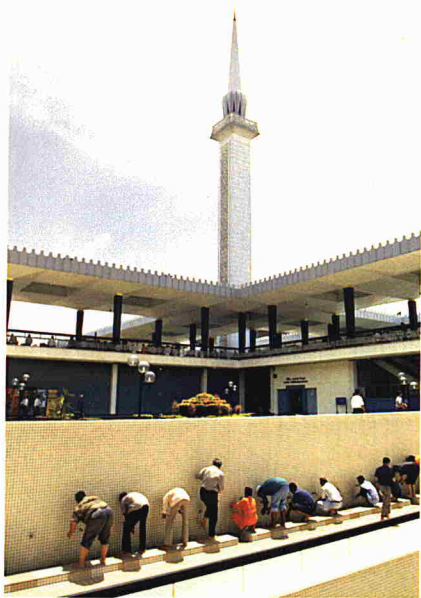
Threading garlands to be sold to worshippers at the Sri Mahamariamman Temple in Jalan Tun H. S. Lee.



The minaret of the National Mosque radiates a mystical charm at night.

Masjid Jamek's evening prayer call to the faithful.

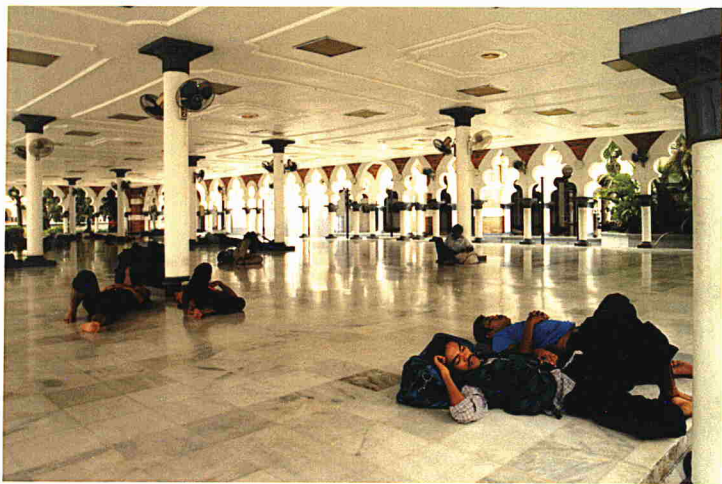




Worshippers at the National Mosque washing their feet before entering the prayer hall



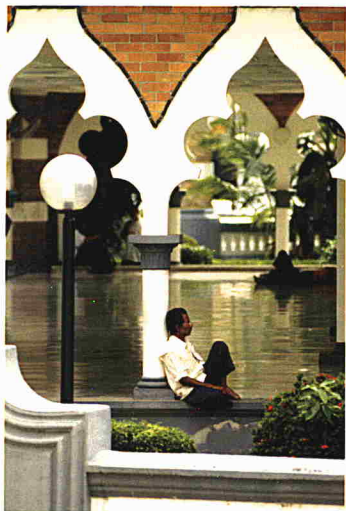
The long corridors and highly polished marble floors at the National Mosque.



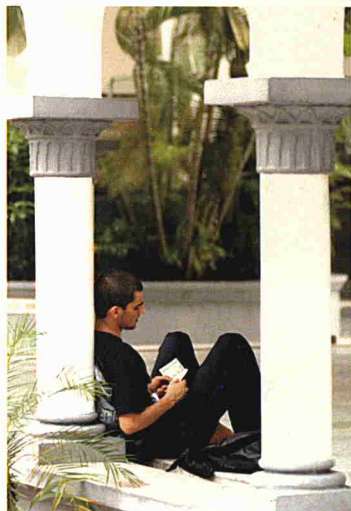
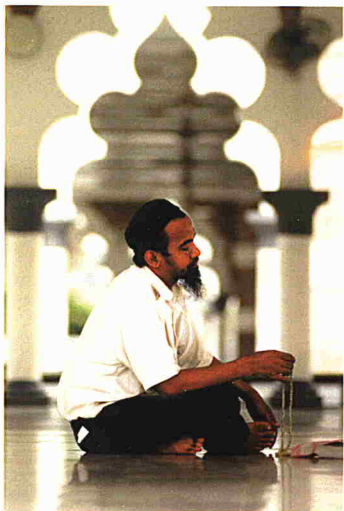
Masjid Jamek, a restful place for tired souls



After prayers, the faithful contemplates.



A hideaway for those who want some peace and quietness from the hustle and bustle



Taking time off from work to pray and reflect.



The lattice work in the National Mosque that is a prominent feature of Islamic architecture.

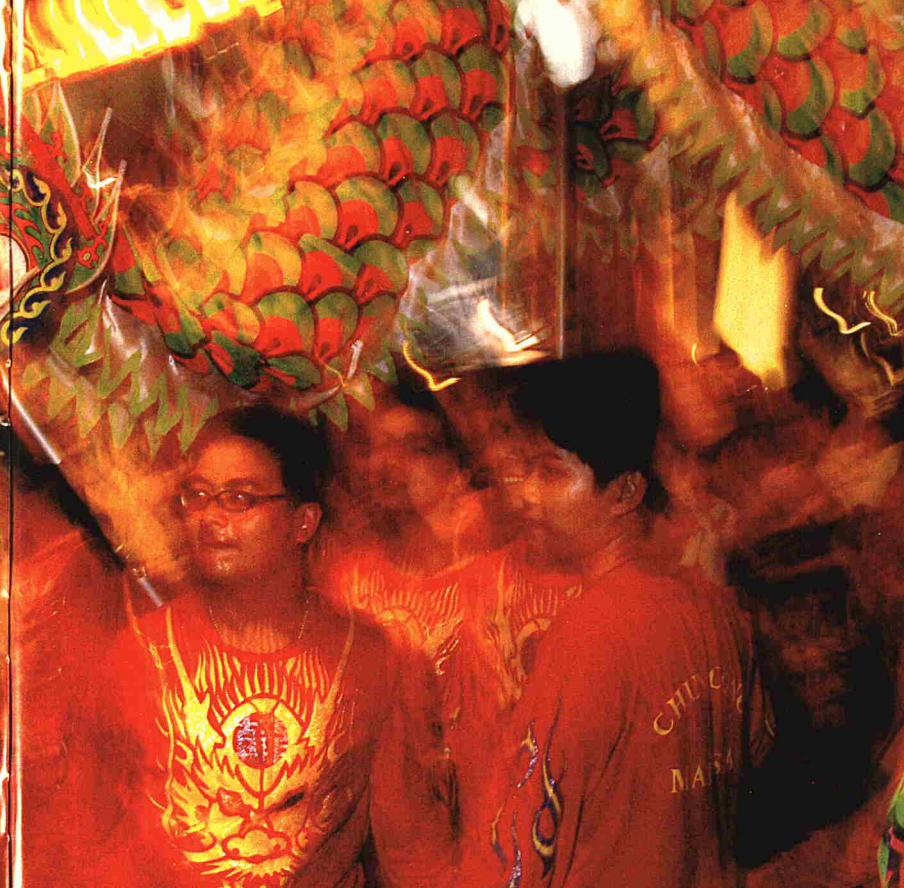
Festivals and Celebrations

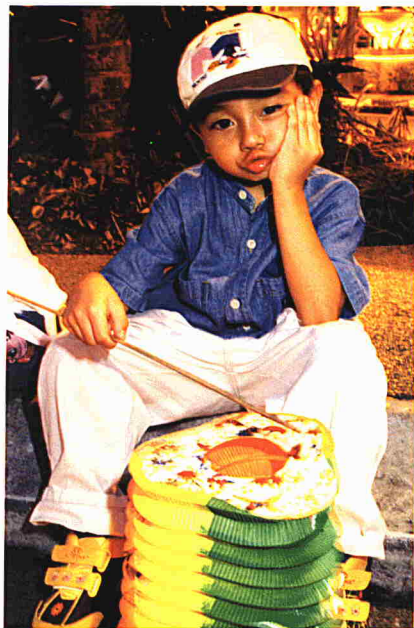


Malay, Chinese and Indian cultural and religious festivals are celebrated either at the national level or among the local communities. They are amazing shows of dazzling lights and riotous colours, not to mention the sounds.

Up close with a dancing dragon during the Chinese Mid-autumn Lantern Festival celebration







Children in brightly coloured traditional costumes parade with their own version of lanterns in Jalan Bukit Bintang.





An extravaganza of sights and sounds at a cultural festival in Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin.



Pretty girls in dazzling costumes on parade



Schoolchildren waiting to welcome Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the then Prime Minister, who visited Chinatown as part of the National Day celebrations in 2003



A lion dance troupe waiting for the welcome ceremony to begin.



Just being patriotic, it has nothing to do with fashion of the day



Age does not deter this lady from joining the crowd



The National Day parade was held in Putrajaya, the seat of the government, for the first time in 2003. The parade passed before Perdana Putra which houses the Prime Minister's Department.



Taking it all sitting down.



Turning out in full force.



This Malaysian-made vintage car is part of the parade.



The armour tanks rumble in.

Camera crew taking shots of the National Day parade
from the roof top of Putra Perdana





The Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi celebrates Hari Raya with the people by holding an open house at Putra World Trade Centre. Open house, widely practised by people of all religions, is unique in Malaysia. It is an open invitation to anyone wishing to share the festive joy with the host.

The Christmas tree at Suria KLCC in 2003 is believed to be the tallest in Malaysia so far. The tree stood at 33 metres, transforming the shopping mall into a fairytale.



Lucien De Prycker The Man Behind the Camera

A professional photographer from Belgium, Lucien, became fascinated with the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious diversity and wonderful nature that Malaysia has to offer. It is also what distinguishes Malaysia from neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia.

The charm and warmth of its people he read and heard about first brought him to Malaysia in 1995. Equipped with an old camera, it was his first destination of a photographic journey in the Orient which he was interested in since childhood. Many more visits followed.

In 2003 Lucien decided to stay longer to capture the capital city of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, on camera. More than 5000 pictures were taken of which only a small selection was made for this book **A Random Walk in Kuala Lumpur**. How he wishes that all 5000 photographs could be accommodated, for a selection of about 280 photos is far too little to show every aspect of a modern city that is still growing by the day. What you see is only a fraction of a vibrant tropical city.

A Random Walk in Kuala Lumpur only whets the appetite of those who have never been to Kuala Lumpur or have made very brief visits. Kuala Lumpur has much more to offer than only the few Chinese and Indian temples alongside Moghul style mosques from the past scattered over the city. Just as Lucien did in his many walks all over Kuala Lumpur, it is for you to discover the many other secrets that are hidden everywhere.

Lucien who was born and raised in Belgium, graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Professional Photography in 1992. Besides several journeys in Europe, he has ventured to the remote corners of Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Singapore, Borneo, Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia. Today, not only has he a precious collection of photographs but also many amazing travel stories to tell.

A Note From Lucien:

I would like to dedicate this book to my parents and give my special thanks and appreciation to my best friend Mei Ling Koh for the wonderful support she gave me during the production of this book. I also wish to thank Mrs Hisako Sube of the Japan Club in Kuala Lumpur for her permission to use the photographs of the ladies in traditional Japanese costume and the hairstyling under her supervision.

To all my readers, I wish you an enjoyable journey through this colourful book.

