



# Garden city of lights

Founded in 1857 by Chinese tin miners, Kuala Lumpur has blossomed into a gleaming global hub for business. **Upward Curve** reveals where to stay, what to see and where to eat in Malaysia's capital city

The oil and gas-driven Asian economy boom of the early 90s – that inspired growth in Malaysia to the tune of 10% – may have drastically reduced since the turn of this decade, but Kuala Lumpur is leading recovery with the diversification of its economy.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak recently announced that the government's revenues on oil and gas had been reduced from 41.3% in 2009, to 14.6% of the total in 2016. As Malaysian GDP continues to show resilience as it recovers – now creeping up again – its

capital city attracts more business than ever from around the world.

**SEE**

With a veritable smorgasbord of hotels to catch some rest between transit and meeting, you can't go far wrong in Kuala Lumpur. Global hoteliers dominate the city's skyline and most offer luxury suites and boardrooms to hire.

**Above: The striking Petronas Towers Right: Poolside view of the towers from the luxurious Shangri-La Hotel**

The Shangri-La Hotel is situated moments away from the main bustle, between the Petronas Towers and the KL Tower, with fabulous views to kick back, crack

on or indulge. Grand and spacious luxury suites are available, the dining is exquisite and leisure facilities feature a tropical outdoor pool, a large gym and spa.



Starwood's St. Regis is closer to the action – just walking distance to the lush Lake Gardens – boasting a rooftop pool and sublime wellness sanctuary at the Iridium Spa. With a delectable mix of French-Mediterranean; sushi by three Michelin star chef; Takashi Saito, and edo-style tempura at Ginza Tenkuni, there is no shortage of choice for dining in.

Recharge burned-out post-meeting batteries at the Villa Samadhi. With its 21 tranquil and tailored suites, lagoon pool and snug setting, it is a world away from the 'large and lavish' side of KL. The boutique abode is out on the leafy edges of the city centre, hidden between embassies and diplomatic buildings.

**Shangri-La Hotel**  
*shangri-la.com*

**The St. Regis**  
*stregiskualumpur.com*

**Villa Samadhi**  
*villasamadhi.com.my*

**DINNER AND DRINKS**

Elegant fine-dining followed by Marini's super-chic rooftop bar is a wonderful way to spend an evening in KL – enjoying signature cocktails, premium champagnes and an extensive list of exclusive wines. The bar's futuristic architectural design encompasses floor-to-ceiling glass windows, boasting the best views of the city.

For an authentic palate party, head to Bijan Bar & Restaurant where a mix of recipes, handed down over the generations, deliver forgotten favourites and delicious new flavours and textures.

Kuala Lumpur was also chosen as the destination for Nobu's first south-east Asian adventure, with dramatic 360-degree vistas of the skyline. Enjoy famously delectable, Michelin-starred sushi, sashimi and tempura set in Menara Petronas 3, with full-length windows that offer front row seats to the iconic Petronas Towers.

**Marini's on 57**  
*marinis57.com*

**Bijan Bar & Restaurant**  
*bijanrestaurant.com*

**Nobu**  
*noburestaurants.com*

**Above: The impressive Hindu shrine outside of Kuala Lumpur's Batu Caves Below: Wading pool is in the centre of KLCC Park; a public park in front of the Suria KLCC Mall and the Petronas Twin Towers**

**SEE**

Symbolic of Kuala Lumpur's futuristic ambitions, The Petronas Towers remain the tallest twin towers on earth (having been the world's tallest building from 1998 to 2004), boasting a fusion of contemporary design with a nod towards traditional elements.

This is in line with the Dayabumi building, Kuala Lumpur's first skyscraper, the Tabung Haji Building and Menara



**GRAND PRIX**

*Formula 1 will come to the Sepang International Circuit for the last time (in the foreseeable future) in 2017 after the contract – that started in 1998 – was not extended. Petronas will continue their involvement in the sport with Mercedes-AMG after enjoying a World Championship one-two thanks to Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton in 2016. 29 Sep-1 Oct formula1.com*

Telekom, both designed by the talented Malaysian architect, Hijias Kasturi.

The Suria KLCC is the city's largest luxury mall, located at the foot of the Petronas Towers with a beautiful park and the public Wading Pool. The Mall boasts a wealth of opulent brands among an art gallery, a philharmonic theatre and an underwater aquarium.

The Batu Caves offer one of the most popular Hindu shrines outside of India, featuring a series of cave temples in a limestone hill located eight miles north of the city in the Gombak district.

**Petronas Towers**  
*petronastwintowers.com.my*  
**Suria KLCC**  
*suriaklcc.com*  
**Batu Caves**  
*malaysia.travel*