



Moving to Malaysia

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Kuala Lumpur (KL) is the largest city in Malaysia and a major business and travel hub for Southeast Asia. Complete with bustling shopping malls and incredible restaurants, KL has made its mark as a world-class city in which to live. Yet for all its modernity and high-tech reputation, expats moving to Kuala Lumpur will experience a city that keeps in touch with its traditional and colonial roots.



Kuala Lumpur literally means “muddy estuary”, a name derived from its history as a tin mining town in the 1800s. With a highly efficient subway system, highways, beautiful architecture and some of the tallest skyscrapers in the world, it is clear that this city, situated in west Malaysia, has come a long way from its original description.



Living in the multicultural hub of South East Asia opens your world up to many new experiences. Whatever you are looking for, if you look hard enough you will find it here, from wandering around the bustling streets of China town and Little India- Brickfields or trekking through the jungle.



There are a number of perfect weekend getaways surrounding Kuala Lumpur. The Cameron Highlands, as well as the seaside town of Malaka are popular destinations, while Singapore, Bangkok and Bali are merely a quick and cheap flight away.

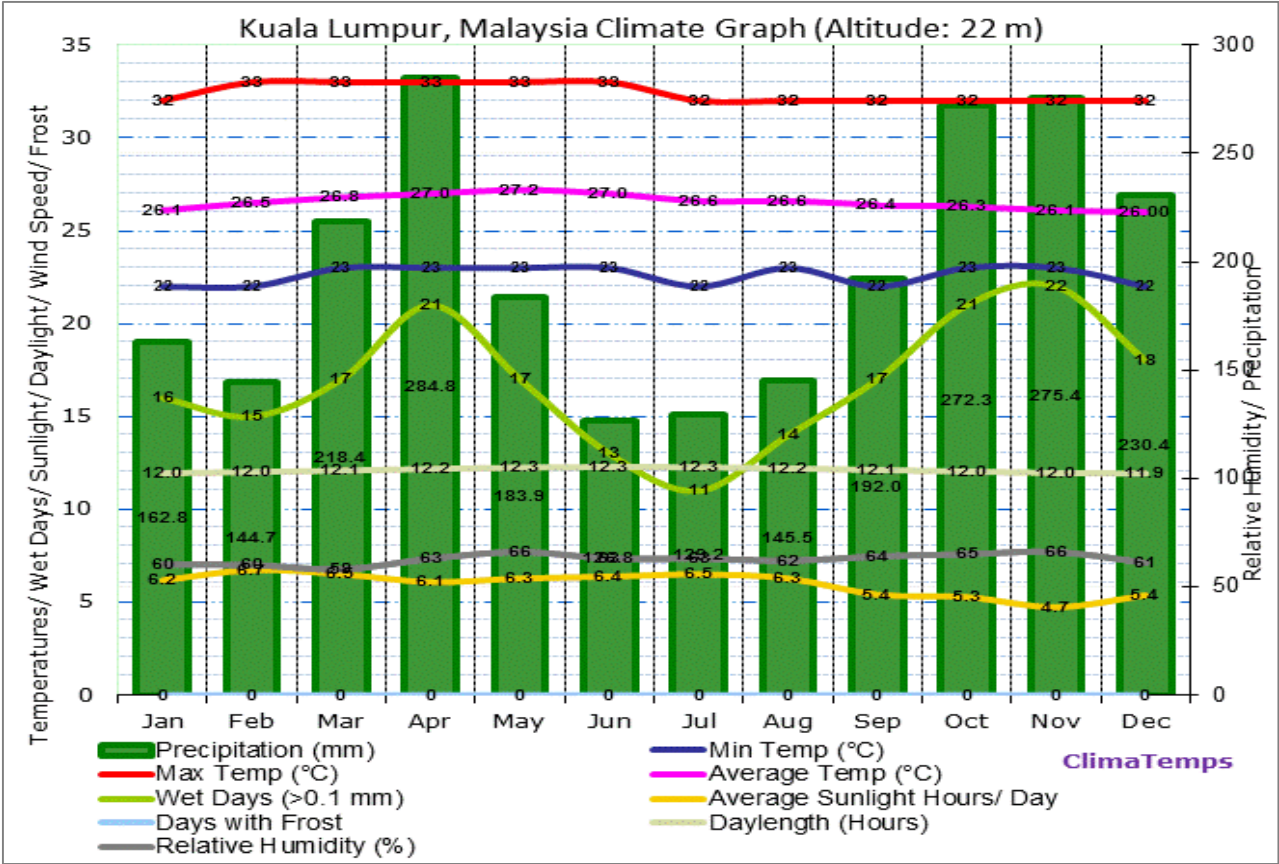


Cost Of Living

The cost of living in KL is more expensive than most other places to live in Malaysia, but when confronted with all the modern conveniences that the city offers, the added cost is understandable. It is, however, one of the cheaper Asian cities in which to live, especially when compared with neighbouring Singapore or Jakarta, and particularly Hong Kong, which is only a short flight away.

Climate in Malaysia

The climate in Malaysia is consistently warm. It is ideal for a beach holiday or a getaway, but living and working in the humidity and heat needs a little adjusting to. The rain storms are amazing in Malaysia and are quite a sight to see





Accommodation

Housing in Kuala Lumpur comes in many different forms and includes bungalows, semi-detached and terraced houses, and apartments and condominiums. Generally, condominiums are the most popular option for expats in Kuala Lumpur, as they are secure, and often have amenities such as gyms, swimming pools and tennis courts.

Accommodation can be furnished, semi-furnished or completely unfurnished (which may mean completely empty of kitchen appliances or even curtain rails). Most apartments will come unfurnished while serviced condominiums are mostly furnished. Serviced accommodation is significantly more expensive than a normal apartment, depending on the area one chooses.



Public Transport in Kuala Lumpur

KL has a developed transit system with buses and trains connecting all areas of the city. Transport routes, availability and commute times are a significant factor expats will have to get used to when moving to Malaysia, but over time expats will soon realise that getting around Kuala Lumpur is relatively easy.

Driving in Kuala Lumpur

Driving in Kuala Lumpur is generally similar to driving in any developing city. Traffic can be a problem, especially during peak hours. Cars drive on the left hand side of the road.

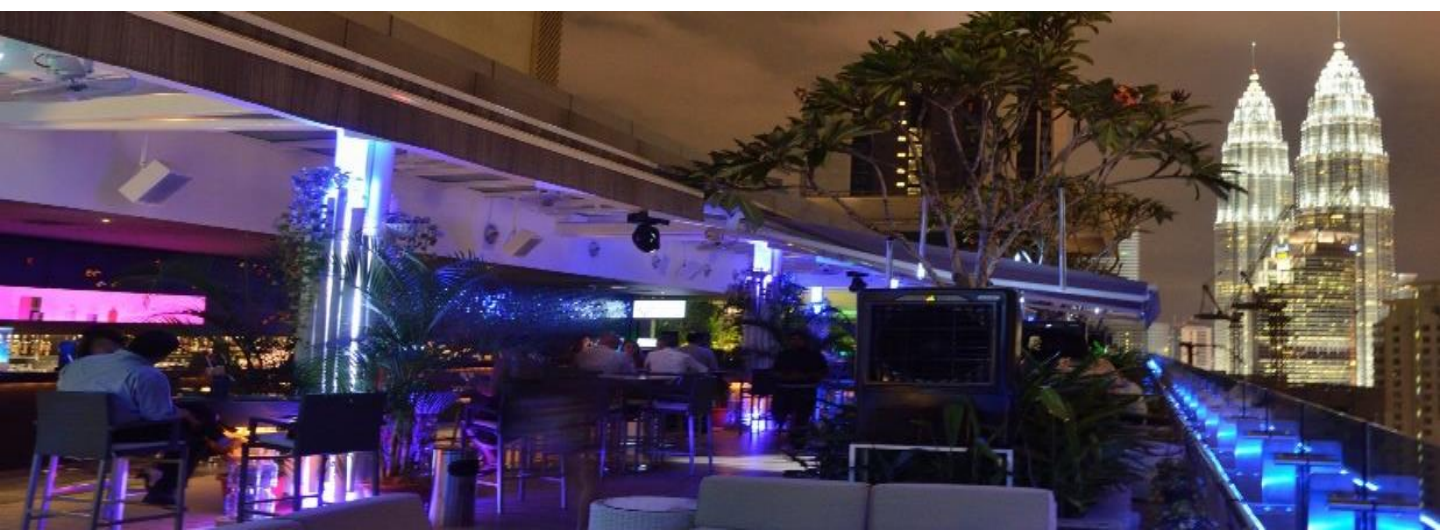


Malaysian Cuisine

Malaysian cuisine reflects its diverse cultural heritage, with Indian, Chinese and Malay flavours dominating. Most food will seem familiar to those coming from Western countries, and perhaps the biggest hurdle to overcome will be dealing with the sheer variety available.

Social Scene

There is a fabulous and varied social scene within the city and districts. You can choose from people watching in the backpacker bars to soaking up views of the city from one of their many roof top bars.





Shopping

KL is a popular shopping destination and has a host of large shopping centres and boutiques. Shopping is clearly one of Malaysian's favourite past times. Everywhere you look there seems to be a new shopping mall being built. However, if you go a little off the beaten track you will find 'real Malaysian' shopping wet markets for amazing fish and local markets for spices and of course 'designer' handbags at a fraction of the price.

Other Activities

If you are a lover of the outdoors you will really enjoy your time in Malaysia as Kuala Lumpur is one the greenest cities you will find. In fact, you do not have to go far from the city to find beautiful areas of the jungle to go and explore.

Mosquitoes – mosquito repellent is a must!

Down by the sea you will find a whole host of water sports and there are many expat sporting groups like, netball, rugby and running clubs to get involved with.

