



Eating it Up

Planning to spend a weekend in KL? **Faylay Tan** eats her way through 24 hours in this dynamic city.

Arriving in KL on **Malaysia Airlines** (malaysiaairlines.com) and taking the efficient **KLIA Express**, I had arrived at **Hotel Maya** (hotelmaya.com.my), an ultra-chic city-centre hotel within 45 minutes.

To fully relax into the weekend, I had a massage at the hotel's **Anggun Spa**, and then an aperitif on the balcony at the **Sky Bar**, which boasts a great view of the city: the majestic **Petronas Twin Towers** on one side and the **KL Tower** on the other.

In order to get a literal taste of the city, I first headed to the bustling **Jalan Alor**, a long street filled with stalls selling authentic local dishes, mainly in the evening. The aroma and atmosphere on the street is intoxicating: you haven't been to KL until you've eaten here, and the food is scrumptious. If you don't know what to order, here are my favourites: prawn *mee* (noodles), *char kuay teow* (fried noodles), oyster omelettes, stir-fried turnip cake, *bak kut the* (a broth), and Hainan chicken rice and morning glory with fermented tofu sauce.

Sated, I made my way to **Frangipani** (25 Changkat Bukit, Bintang), because Friday night's *the night* to go to this well-designed club that boasts great music, a friendly crowd

and a fine-dining restaurant in the basement. Afterwards, I dropped by **Velvet Underground** at **Zouk** (zoukclub.com.my) for a final boogie.

The next day, I walked to **KLCC** (suriaklcc.com.my) and had brunch with a friend at **Madam Kwan's Restaurant**, which is famous for the traditional Malaysian breakfast, *nasi lemak*: coconut milk rice, shrimp, curry and chicken. Yes, it's all about food in KL.

Then it was time to shop. Directly linked to **JW Marriott Hotel KL** (marriott.com) is **Starhill Gallery**, a beautifully designed shopping centre with a colourful **Feast Village** in the basement (starhillgallery.com).

Back at the airport, in Malaysia Airlines' **Golden Lounge** (pictured above), sitting at a table with linen and silver cutlery on a raised wooden platform, I dug into the buffet and the Häagen-Dazs freezer. The just-renovated shower rooms (equipped with rain showers and private sleeping rooms) also came in useful. After getting a thorough kneading on an automatic massage chair, I found myself, for the first time, wishing for a flight delay as I surfed the net and enjoyed a drink at the bar. 🍷

Faylay Tan flew to Malaysia courtesy of Malaysia Airlines.