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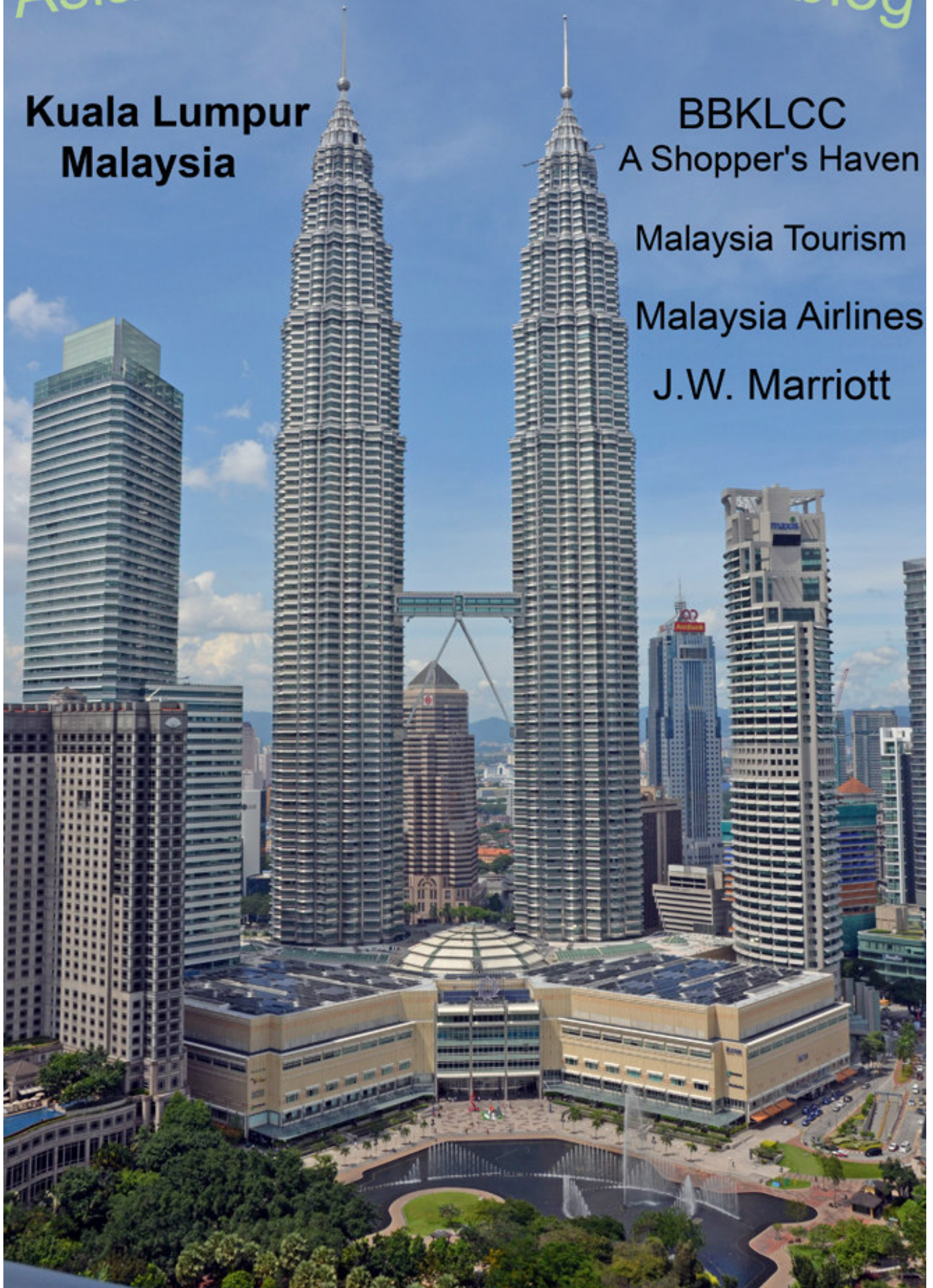
**Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia**

BBKLCC
A Shopper's Haven

Malaysia Tourism

Malaysia Airlines

J.W. Marriott



Shop Until You Drop – KL's Just a Short Hop From Singapore

Sunday morning 7.30 am & it's time to get a taxi to Singapore's Changi Airport. I was a last minute replacement blogger on a trip to KL managed by Mileage Communications to celebrate KL coming 4th in CNN's ranking of best shopping cities in the world. New York, London & Tokyo took the top 3 places. I was off for my retail therapy visiting 8 of KL City Centre - Bukit Bintang shopping malls in just 2 days!! This would be easy thanks to improved pedestrian connectivity of the malls to each other.



A short 40 minutes flight on Malaysia Airlines shuttle & in no time I was on the KLIA Express Train cruising at 160km an hour to KL City Center. The journey only took 28 minutes & was as smooth as silk. A taxi ride later & we were checked into the J.W.Marriott right on Jalan Bukit Bintang. My room was superb with full modern conveniences & a view over the Pavilion Mall.

The Pavilion was where I headed next with my guides Vanitha & Samantha of RAPR Mileage to meet our BBKLCC Tourism Association member Ms Kung Suan Ai. Wow could Suan Ai talk with passion about her “Shopper’s Haven” or should it be “Shopper’s Heaven”??? She loves her malls’ association & represents it with enthusiasm & knowledge. She eagerly gave us a summary of the great work done to promote shopping tourism to the Bukit Bintang Malls as we lunched at Madam Kwan’s on satay, fried kway teow & Nasi Bojari which included chicken, rice, prawns & a spicy beef rendang – Sedap!



The Exquisite Pavilion.

A tour of the Pavilion followed & I suspected we got the best mall first but only time would tell. The mall is huge! There are 1.4 million sq ft of shops with 500 brands spread over 7 floors. The Christmas decorations added colour to the contemporary, chic, elegant, eclectic, spacious mall.

From the Pavilion Crystal Fountain to the Food Street with its bistros & pubs to the Tokyo Street this place oozes class. The award winning design, wide corridors & segmentation into 7 sections eg “Couture” dedicated to the worlds top fashion brands such as Michael Kors, Bvlgari & Gucci; “Gourmet” choice foods, “Seventh Heaven” with its spas & beauty centres makes this a mall to come back to on a regular basis.

The photogenic Pavilion is shown below.



Turn Up The Heat at Fahrenheit 88

Back across Jalan Bukit Bintang it was just a few steps to Fahrenheit 88 which targets a vibrant, creative younger crowd with louder music, & a shopping experience where you find “Great Style for Less” including a factory outlet of designer brands – Cheap!!!



The mall features small & medium size shops & newer brands just opening up in KL & is anchored by a Uniqlo flagship store. Of course it provides entertainment too & hosts J-pop & K-Pop artistes on a regular basis. A massive crowd of 11,000 turned up to see South Korean sensations Big Bang earlier this year! Thanks Christine for our tour & the caffeine fix at Pacific Coffee!

One more mall to go on day one & this time it would be “Great Style” but definitely not for less!!!!

The Stars Shop at Starhill Gallery!

You don't have to be rich to visit the Starhill Gallery but if you want to shop in this upscale mall which connects the J.W. Marriott & Ritz Carlton hotels it certainly helps! From the names of the seven floors – Feast, Indulge, Adorn, Explore, Pamper, Relish & Muse I got the message that this is a “Gallery of Rich Experiences.” In addition “A Journey Through Time V1” Asia's luxury watch & jewellery showcase was in the gallery!! My wife would have loved the RM 22 million Mouawad's Snow White Princess Diamond Watch or even the slightly cheaper Boucheron Tourbillon Jungle Snake masterpiece. Oh dear, I forgot my cheque book – never mind. Next year! Thanks Yulia & Rachel for showing us how the other half live! After all that opulence we did get chance to partake in some top class snacks at the Tea Salon. Being Sunday it was

chocolate day – the British scones (yes made with chocolate) accompanied with jam, cream & a pot of tea were delicious.

Yulia & Rachel pose with Asian Journeys Magazine.



Beautiful Masterpieces of Creation are shown above & the Starhill Tea Salon below.



I'm glad I kept hold of my Starhill Reit shares after seeing this gallery – oops my lawyer says to add a note that this is not an invitation to invest lol!

The evening festivities at Starhill Gallery continued with a concert by The Leading Men, an Australian group often compared to Il Divo, singing songs from the musicals Les Miserables, Phantom & Cabaret to name a few.

It had been a long first day – we'd worked hard since leaving Singapore so it was time to sit down & enjoy a good bottle of Chianti & fine Italian cuisine at Michelanelo's at Food Street in the Pavilion. The calzone was yummy & the tiramisu to die for.

Bed Time!

Finally it was time for bed. Just to clarify my room was the one on the left! The other is the Marriott's presidential suite which I got a peak at.



Lots of Fashionistas Visit Lot 10

After a huge buffet breakfast it was time to hit the malls again. First stop was Lot 10, which is also part of the Starhill stable of properties.



“Always setting trends” Lot 10 has opened up its access to Bintang Walk so I entered through H&M which along with Zara & Isetan have multi level outlets. You can’t miss the giant sized YES video cube of the Wi Max flagship store in the concourse.

I’d eaten breakfast but the basement “Heritage Street Food Village” looked fantastic with Chinese & Malay offerings.

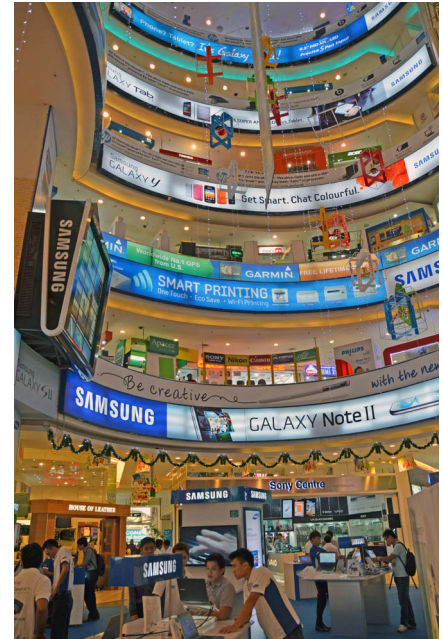
In line with targeting “Greenagers” Lot 10 has Rooz dance club, the place to see & be seen for the younger generation.

A Techie’s Dream! Plaza Low Yat is Malaysia’s Largest I.T. Lifestyle Mall.

If you think Sim Lim Square or the Funan Centre in Singapore are good for digital & I.T. shopping then you simply must visit Plaza Low Yat. What I like about this mall is how well organised it is. 1.1 million visitors a month agree! Thanks for the tour Serena & co.

Concept stores are on the ground floor, computers & gaming on the next level, Hypermarkets above them & one stop service centers on level 4.

Of course there are cafes, restaurants, money changers & ATM’s so there is no excuse for not spending all day here. I certainly wished I had more time to browse. The prices were good too. My Nikon lens was cheaper than in Singapore & I hadn’t started bargaining! I am not surprised that people come from all over Malaysia to shop here.



Plaza Sungei Wang is For Anything & Everything.

Plaza Sungei Wang is KL's equivalent to Lucky Plaza without the Filipinos. Established in 1977 this mall is 60% strata title owned making management more of a challenge as Carina & K.K. explained. In reality this is a one stop centre for mobiles, fashion & food & beverage for the young & young at heart at affordable prices. Fashion City on the 2nd floor has 33 new stores & Hong Kong station on the 6th floor has trendy urban fashion boutiques for teenagers. It's also a great place for simply hanging out & people watching.



Put on Your Walking Boots - Berjaya Times Square is MASSIVE!

I thought the Pavilion was big & then I went to Berjaya Times Square which is 7.5 million square feet & gets 2.5 million visitors a month. Thank goodness Ben & Sue were there to guide us.



There are 1000 shops, a 9 screen cinema complex, a bowling alley & Malaysia's largest indoor theme park with some really really scary rides. I was a wimp & declined the offer to have my DNA mixed or to go upside down at amazing speeds on the Supersonic Odyssey! The mall targets the middle & mass markets & isn't resting on its laurels – "Tiny Taipei", creating the buzz of Taiwan's night market, is opening in December 2012.



Don't be a square get down to Berjaya Times Square. There is something for everyone – excitement, thrills & frills. Shopping sprees. IT'S ALL IN THE SQUARE.

SURIA KLCC Shopping Centre Towers Above The Rest!

It is hardly surprising that SURIA KLCC gets a whopping 41 million visitors per year as it is located at the base of the iconic Petronas Twin Towers. In addition to almost 400 retailers SURIA KLCC has cafes fronting a 50 acre park, a Petroleum Discovery Centre, a major art gallery & a concert hall. The natural lighting from the skylight made this a pleasant place to stroll, shop & eat. I also liked the fact that the roof has a massive solar power system which helps provide electricity. Good stuff! Thanks Kalai for the tour.

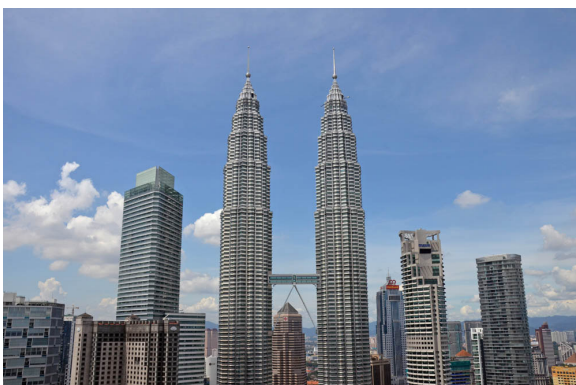
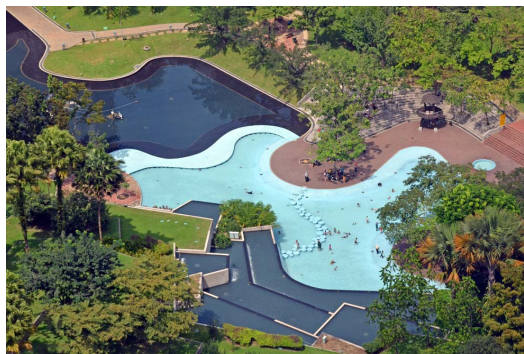


We didn't get there in time to book a trip up the Petronas Twin Towers but had fun

strolling in the park & taking weird self portraits & reflections.



To rest our feet – OK I admit we wanted a beer & cocktails - we went to the nearby Sky Bar in Traders hotel which has fantastic views of the towers & city. Thanks for the treat Kalai!



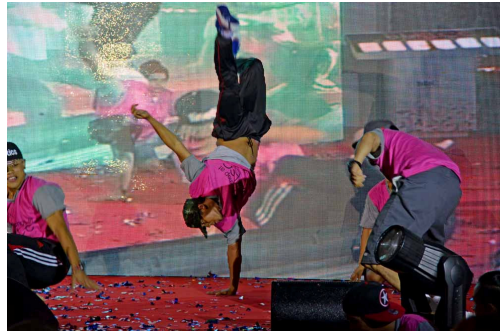
The company was great too!



CELEBRATION OF THE BEST at BBKLCC to Showcase the Best Shopping Experiences at Malaysia's Premier Shopping District.

Heavy rain could not put a dampener on the launch of the Celebration of the Best at BBKLCC held at SURIA KLCC & attended by Tourism Minister YB Dato' Seri Ng Yen Yen & Ms Joyce Yap, Chairman of the BBKLCC shopping district.

The celebration was for the launch of the year end festivities at the 9 malls in the BBKLCC shopping district & **Kuala Lumpur being ranked 4th best city in the world for shopping by CNN.**



KL scored top marks for value, did well for variety & has room for improvement in transportation & shoppers experience. Government initiatives such transport transformation, taxi ambassadors & improved connectivity of BBKLCC malls should help improve the marks for getting around town. Training to improve service, a better local performing arts scene & adding the WOW factor to shop window displays will help KL edge up to the number 1 spot.

The speeches were accompanied by cheerleaders, drummers, dance groups & performances by One Nation Emcee & Shila Amzah before we all headed to Aseana for dinner.

The rain didn't stop play!! Thanks to Malaysia Tourism, Malaysia Airlines, J.W. Marriott, BBKLCC & the staff of RAPR MILEAGE for a wonderful trip!! Floyd & Ernie were great travelling companions – I look forward to their articles!

SHOP TILL YOU DROP - IN KL !!!!

Cheers - Mike

PS. Where did Singapore come in the survey?