

## **Accommodation Guide to Kuala Lumpur**

*We have asked our teachers to write a brief synopsis of the accommodation and what the local area has to offer. All teachers live within easy reach of the school, although some locations are a 40-minute drive from school. Our teachers live in the main areas listed below.*

- **Bangsar/Bangsar South**
- **Puchong**
- **Kajang**
- **KL Sentral**
- **Mont Kiara**
- **IOI Resort (Putrajaya/Cyberjaya)**
- **Cyberjaya**
- **Gita Bayu**
- **Putrajaya**
- **Taman Desa**

*Click on the link below to bring up a map of Kuala Lumpur. Most of the accommodation is South of KL city centre.*

<http://alturl.com/edkqv>

*A good website to view property in Kuala Lumpur is:*

<http://www.iproperty.com.my/>

### **Bangsar**



*“Bangsar is great for families, couples and singletons alike. With a range of bars and eateries where you can dine for as little as a few ringgits to premium prices for gourmet fare - a couple of eateries even have play areas to entertain the kids - you rarely have to venture far for good food. There is also large sports centre, dance studios, Spa’s and independent fashion boutiques. 2 malls contain a wide range of ‘Western’ goods and Mid Valley Mega City Mall is nearby for a cheaper shopping experience. Sundays see a weekly street market for farm-produced goods and the nearby LRT and KL Sentral train/bus station mean you don’t always need to drive/taxi around. A 35-40 minute commute to Nexus with fairly clear roads all the way, Bangsar is a*

*great option if you want all facilities with a good dash of local flavour. There is a large range of different apartments that suit most budgets ”*

### **Bangsar South**

*Slightly cheaper than Bangsar as you get more space for your money. Nexus food and beverage centre is there with lots of restaurants and bars and a huge fitness gym. There is also a small Aeon supermarket nearby at The Sphere with more restaurants and bars. This area is currently being developed with more housing being built and a mall and park expected to open in 2016.*

### **Puchong**



*“Puchong is a conveniently located Satellite town; 20 minutes drive from Putrajaya and about 30 minutes from most places in central KL. Puchong has a very wide range of eateries, not perhaps as diverse or westernised as areas such as Bangsar, Mont Kiara and Sri Hartamas but has some excellent places to eat good, cheap chinese food. There is also a good range of local shops where almost anything of use can be bought at reasonable prices. There are some very good bars in Puchong and they offer some good value deals for drinks. Finally, there are a number of malls within easy driving distance - IOI Puchong mall is OK, but does not have a lot of International shops, but Sunway Pyramid is very close and has as good a range of shops as other large malls in KL.”*

## **Kajang**

*“Jade Hills is a housing complex situated in the city of Kajang, 15 minutes north east of Putrajaya. The complex itself has a range of houses, which vary in size and price. The smallest houses are 3-4 bedroom, 3-4 bathroom double houses. The complex boasts a fantastic swimming pool, gym and restaurant.*

*In the coming months, a commercial center will allow shops to open within the grounds. Jade Hills is 25 minutes away from Kuala Lumpur city centre, 40 minutes from the airport, and is close to a number of shopping malls. Living in Jade Hills is brilliant for families with young children, as it is safe and secure for your children to play outside with others. It's peaceful surroundings and great facilities make it a great place to come back to after a hard day's work.”*



## **KL Sentral**

*KL Sentral is fantastic for anyone who likes to travel without a car. You can choose to live within walking distance of the main train stations LRT and KL Sentral train/bus station, which is the hub of connections across KL and with a fast train to both airports. KL Sentral doesn't have many bars but it is situated right beside Brickfields (Little India), where you can dine and do your weekly shopping quite cheaply. There is a new mall that has recently opened directly in KL sentral, which has a variety of shops, supermarkets and restaurants. If you choose to live here, you are very close to Mid Valley Mega City Mall and Bangsar is just a 10 minute drive away. It takes 20 minutes on a train from KL Sentral to get to Putrajaya and then a 15 minute taxi ride to Nexus. KL Sentral is the perfect option if you want to be at the heart of everything, without having to buy a car. KL Sentral is probably not the best place for families with young children.*





### **Mont Kiara**



*Mont Kiara is one of the 2 largest expat communities in KL and caters for everyone; from families to couples to single teachers. It has a wide variety of restaurants ranging from street food to haute cuisine as well as a number of bars not to mention 3 shopping malls all within easy walking distance. It also hosts a night market twice a week where a wide variety of clothes and home cooked food are on offer cheaply. For the more adventurous, the centre of KL is a 15 minute 15 ringgit cab ride away, The Curve a 5 minute cab ride and Mega/Garden Malls 10 minutes. In addition the centre of Mont Kiara is only a 2 minute walk from Desa Sri Hartamas which offers a whole host of bars, restaurants and shopping opportunities; some with a western theme and*



*others with a more local feel. For active minded people most condos offer a range of sporting facilities with swimming pools, tennis and badminton courts and fully equipped gyms usually available. Mont Kiara is a 40 minute car drive from Nexus in light traffic, but can take a lot longer in heavy traffic and offers a range of facilities without forgetting its Malaysian roots.*

### ***IOI Resort (Putrajaya/Cyberjaya)***

*A number of staff who want proximity to school, quiet open spaces and the facilities and security of a gated community live in IOI Resort City. IOI Resort is a series of medium and low rise condominiums situated on an 18 hole-course, 10 mins drive from the school site making it ideal for people who want the ease of a short commute. The IOI residents are mostly expat with a range of nationalities and is a safe and amiable place with opportunities to make friends with other residents.*

*The benefits of IOI are numerous. The apartments all have 3 bedrooms, and range from 1500-2000sq ft. They can be partly or fully furnished with the majority having spacious balconies and views of the golf course, Putrajaya or the KL skyline. The facilities include two pools, a gym, saunas and steam rooms, two small but well stocked convenience stores and the golf course and hotel facilities.*



*One of the great things about living in Putrajaya and IOI is that you wake up to birdsong and you hear birds all day. It's very green, there are plenty of parks and open spaces and it feels leisurely. The Wetlands, a nature conservation area, is great for birdwatchers and the city has a good Botanic Garden. You can hire bikes at both places and also in the town centre if you fancy riding round looking at Putrajaya's impressive buildings. Putrajaya is called the*

*Garden City and it's Malaysia's showpiece so home to international festivals such as the Kite Festival, Garden Festival and Balloon Festival.*

*The IOI mall has recently opened and has a very large selection of international and local shops, supermarkets, bars, restaurants, and ice skating rink, lazer quest and numerous other activities. The mall is in walking distance of most of the condo units.*

*There is easy access to KL either via car or train. Although close to public transport links, a car is necessary, as there is no public transport to IOI and public transport and taxis are not as easily accessible as in KL.*

*IOI appeals to couples, families and single people.*

### **Cyberjaya**

#### **Garden residence in Cyberjaya.**



*Perfect for families (not singles, unless you like the quiet life). The facilities in the club house include a swimming pool, gym, security, badminton, shopping complex possibly with a bar coming soon. 10 mins drive from school, 30-40 mins from Kl city centre, next to the main Putrajaya train station, easy access to Cyberjaya and IOI Putrajaya mall. There are 3 and 4 bedroom houses at about RM4000 per month.*



### ***Summerglades in Cyberjaya***



*Summerglades is a new housing estate made up of 4 bedroom properties. The properties are a good size and well equipped and are priced at RM3600 per month. There is no club house or amenities in the estate itself. However, a 5 minute walk or drive away, there are a selection of restaurants, shops and supermarkets. The estate is very quiet, with good security, there are play areas for children and most houses have a small garden. It takes between 10 and 15 minutes to drive to school from Summerglades.*

### ***Shaftesbury Avenue – Cyberjaya***



*Shaftesbury Avenue is a complex of condo units and shops in Cyberjaya. There is a good selection of coffee cafes, restaurants and bars as well as banks, shops and mini supermarkets. The condo complexes have swimming pools and gyms. The average price for a 3 bedroom condo unit is around RM3000. The complex is a 15 minutes drive from school.*

### **Gita Bayu**

*Gita Bayu is a small gated community on the outskirts of Putrajaya, very close to The Mines shopping area and almost half way between Mid-Vally Mega Mall and Nexus International School.*



*It was developed in an old rubber plantation with the express purpose of keeping as many trees as possible around the houses and apartments. Because of this focus on nature and its peacefulness, Gita Bayu is a wonderful place to come home to.*

*Gita Bayu surrounds a very picturesque lake with a walking track and pavilions around it; perfect for get togethers. The club house has a Balinese feel to it. Open air with great service and although the prices are a little high, it is very convenient and the food is good. Next month they will be opening a bar. If you are into exercise, Gita Bayu has plenty of running tracks, an indoor gym, a hall for yoga and zumba, table tennis, an infinity pool and a small hill to climb. It is a great place for families as it's very safe and secure with a lot of outdoor space for kids to roam. There is a great mix of people in Gita Bayu. Ex-pats from a range of countries (but mainly Australians) and locals, particularly Chinese.*

*Rent in Gita Bayu starts at around RM3300 per month for a three-bed apartment. There are quite a few to choose from, though the nicer ones are*



*more expensive. Houses are quite big and very comfortable and rent starts at about RM4500. Gita Bayu is a top end housing community so rents are very high, although if you wait, you will probably find something within your price range. Gita Bayu is not near enough to any local train or bus services to walk and taxis are only available outside the gates, so you would need a car to get to and from work.*

*A major downside is mosquitoes. You can't escape them in Gita Bayu.*

### **Putrajaya**

*Putrajaya is generally a quiet city to live in. It is very green and there are lots of parks and open spaces with lakes. There are cycle paths everywhere so you can bike around the parks and lakes safely. Local housing can be very reasonable and spacious and in general neighbours are friendly, if you respect them and their culture. You can get a house with outdoor space. Of course you will not have a pool if you choose local housing, but if you are close to school the school pool is actually the best around, and you can use it after school and weekends*



*There are lots of activities for children, which are cheaper than in KL. There are opportunities for:*

- *bike riding*
- *climbing wall*
- *windsurfing on lake*

- canoe/ dragon boat on lake
- waterskiing and wakeboarding on lake
- fishing
- cinema
- Karaoke
- bowling
- Lots of parks for youngsters
- golf
- extreme park for skateboarding BMX
- Plus all the usual sports if you look for them.

*There is a night market, a small shopping mall and a choice of reasonably priced restaurants and food courts. Local village type areas, like the one near school have a variety of shops and cafes. Food is cheap. There are some good restaurants in hotels in IOI (about 5 minutes away) and also the new IOI mall. You are close to school saving over an hour of free time a day. If you have children in school teams, or have young children this can be a big bonus. If you like to pop into work weekends it helps too! If you do want a drink there is a pub/bar in Cyberjaya or Equine park a Chinese area about 10 min away where you can sit outside and beer is cheap. You can go into KL in 20-30 min on the expressway by car depending on time of day if you want the nightlife shopping etc. There are festivals that take place around the lake, but often not advertised well in English-but they are fun if you find them.*

#### *Minus*

*Putrajaya is mostly dry- you will not find many restaurants serving alcohol or pork and the range is limited compared to Bangsar and Mont Kiara. (IOI mall in Putrajaya/Cyberjaya does sell pork and alcohol) There are lots of local eateries- but cant class them all as restaurants. Many of the open spaces are empty and look deserted but if you go to the right places at the right times, there are lots of people about! You can't buy pork in central Putrajaya -only in IOI mall or Cyberjaya mall. There are very few expat standard restaurants apart from TG Friday and a couple others in the shopping mall. A lot of social events happen in KL area-so you can feel a bit out of it-but those who live locally organise things too and it is easy to get into KL if you want to get involved. There are not so many Expats directly in Putrajaya if you want to make friendships outside school. There is no Nightlife.*



## **Taman Desa**



*Taman Desa is a small suburb on the southern edge of Kuala Lumpur city centre. The area is a 25 - 30 minute commute to Nexus International School with very little traffic (on most days, there are no guarantees with KL traffic). A more local area with far fewer expats than either Mont Kiara or Bangsar, Taman Desa has a range of facilities to meet most peoples needs.*

*Accommodation: Taman Desa has a variety of condominiums with apartments available from RM2500 upwards dependent on location, size and quality of decor. There are several new build condominiums in the area including Papillon and Desa Eight which offer high-end, quality finish apartments. There are also a lot of low rise houses available in the area (though these do not come with the amenities that are available in a condominium).*

*Eating and Drinking: Taman Desa has a large and varied amount of restaurants. As well as a non-halal food court which caters for cheap local food (lots of choice and most meals are less than RM10) there are a further range of restaurants including; mamak stalls, Korean and Japanese barbeques, Chinese and Taiwanese steamboats, Japanese izakaya, noodle shops, dim sum, Thai restaurants and cake and coffee shops. There are no major chain restaurants in the area except for a KFC. There are several bars in Taman Desa though many of them are in the 'Salary man', late night karaoke style of bar. There are several good bars with a good atmosphere and reasonable prices in the area however.*

*Location and transport: Taman Desa is located between the Leburaya Sprint highway and Old Klang Road, both major arteries in the city. As stated, the school is a 25 - 30 minute commute away. Distances to other areas include; Bangsar - 10 minute drive, Mont Kiara - 20 minute drive, Bukit Bintang - 15 minute drive, KLCC - 20 minute drive. Mid Valley megamall is also only a 5 minute drive away. There is a KTM (commuter train) station in Taman Desa which connects with Mid Valley megamall and KL Sentral, from there you can connect to the MRT and LRT lines. A car is essential if you are choosing to live in Taman Desa.*

*Local Amenities: Taman Desa has all the local amenities you would expect within the 'town'. ATM's, petrol stations, mechanics, a good doctor, pharmacies, dentists, supermarkets and a range of local shops. There is also a night market on Wednesdays. These are all within walking distance of most of the accommodation options.*

*Overall, Taman Desa is a good all round area that is slightly cheaper than other nearby options. Ideally suited for those that want to be close to the city whilst avoiding long commutes it is probably best for those without children though there are several expat and many local families that currently live here."*

***The information provide here is correct as at the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014***