



Splendid Selangor

HOME TO THE largest port in Malaysia, Port Klang, and the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the touristic appeal of Selangor is enhanced by its variety of attractions. Its thriving city centres Petaling Jaya (PJ), Bandar Sunway, Subang Jaya and the royal town of Klang have modern facilities with excellent healthcare institutions, international colleges, modern shopping malls and recreational centres.

One of the thirteen states in Malaysia, it is located on the west coast of Peninsula Malaysia, bordered by Perak in the north, Pahang on the east coast, Negeri Sembilan in the south and the Straits of Melaka in the west. Selangor also surrounds the federal territories of Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur.

Some sources claim that the name "Selangor" comes from the Malay word *selangau* which means "a large fly", partly because of the huge amount of flies located within the marshes along the Selangor River in the north-western part of the state. Others believe that the state's name originated from the term *Selang Ur* meaning "land of the straits" (*ur* means "land" in Sanskrit and *selang* means "straits" in Malay). Selangor is also known by its Arabic moniker, Darul Ehsan, which means "Abode of Sincerity".

The grand Kota Darul Ehsan Arch which stands majestically over the Federal Highway welcomes visitors driving into the state. This Moorish-style arch is the state's most

distinguishing landmark, built to mark the ceding of Kuala Lumpur to the Federal Government in 1974.

Selangor has a colourful past, due mainly to the glorious days of its tin mining industry. There was a boom in the economy in the 19th century due to the exploitation of huge tin reserves and the growing importance of rubber. This resulted in an influx of Chinese migrants.

Chinese secret clan societies allied with Selangor chiefs to fight for control of the tin mines. The increasing violence created social and economic havoc which opened a window of opportunity for the British, who compelled the Sultan of Selangor to accept a British Resident at his capital of Klang in 1874. Selangor again prospered under the stability imposed by the British.

In 1896, through the coordination of Resident Frank Swettenham, Selangor united with Negeri Sembilan, Perak and Pahang to form the Federated Malay States (FMS) with its capital in the city of Kuala Lumpur. The FMS evolved into the Federation of Malaya in 1948, then became the Federation of Malaysia in 1963.

In 1970, Selangor relinquished the city of Kuala Lumpur to the Federal Government. Putrajaya also became a federal territory in the mid-1990s. Currently the richest, most industrialised and urbanised state in Malaysia, the Menteri

Besar (Chief Minister) of Selangor declared it a developed state on 27 August 2005.

Shah Alam city is Selangor's state capital and the royal capital is Klang town. A third major urban centre is PJ which was declared a city on 20 June 2006.

Located further away from the urban centres, Selangor is also well endowed with refreshing scenes of rural villages and serene coastlines. This exciting state is also the venue of world-class sporting events such as the Formula One Grand Prix and F1 Powerboat World Championship.

The traditional culture of Selangor's Malay majority is influenced by those of Bugis, Johor, Minangkabau, Mandailing and Javanese ancestry. In Selangor, the traditional Malay cuisine is influenced by Johor, Bugis, Java and Minangkabau roots. *Rojak Klang* (the famous Malaysian fruit pickle with dark shrimp sauce) and *Mee Bandung* (yellow noodles in thick soup) are famous dishes in Klang. Other famous dishes include *Mee Jawa* which is similar to *Mee Rebus* in Johor, *Satay Kajang* (barbecued marinated skewered meat), *Ketam Darul Ehsan* (Darul Ehsan crabs) and *Sayur Masak Rebung* (vegetables cooked in bamboo shoots).

A favourite Chinese dish is the *Klang Bak Kut Teh*. This herbal pork rib soup can be savoured for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Coastal towns such as Klang and Kuala Selangor are also famous for their seafood.