SELAMAT DATANG TO KAMPONG BHARU

KAMPONG BHARU

Kampung Bharu, meaning “new village”, was founded in the 1880s to accommodate Kuala Lumpur’s rising number of Malay farmers. A total of seven traditional villages located in the area between the Klang river and the Camden area were merged to form The Malay Agricultural Settlement, formalised by the British Administration.

This unique settlement is a close-knit community of Malays who lived here for generations and have retained their heritage and tradition. The existence of numerous traditional Malay houses, mosques, street stalls and shops, old trails, and eminent kampung Bharu a distinctive Malay identity and a showcase of an authentic culture.

Kampung Bharu never ceases to amaze visitors with her typical village scenes, complemented by the customary rock of chickens in the foreground, and the contrasting modern city skyline in the background. Closer to traditional Malay houses, many made out of wood with zinkal roof, made up most of Kampung Bharu’s landscape, some of which are beaded with beautiful woodcarvings and colored glass windows.

As you walk through Kampung Bharu on a normal afternoon, the aroma of grilled fish and burnt banana leaves - and the sound of the villagers’ estimated daily lives fills the air.

Some villages go about their daily businesses in their kampung (village) markets, the traditional Malay home attire, some sell Malay delicacies such as nasi lemak, keropok and various side dishes consisting of soup, spicy meat stew, and vegetable ferns.

On this walk through fascinating streets named after notable Malay leaders, visitors will see carvings, important historical landmarks, and districts of Malay heritage wooden houses as well as the traditional huts of the village living here. At times, you will hear the Islamic call for prayer reverberating through the already busy and energetic area. To reach Kampung Bharu’s famous markets to prepare their daily prayers.

The evening street bazaar bustles with traders and people shopping for fruits, vegetables, and local foods. The street lights and sounds are simply mesmerizing. For a while, visitors in Kampung Bharu forget that they are in the heart of one of the world’s most modern cities.

And join us on our guided tour. Learn the Malay customs and immerse yourself in daily Malay village life.

MUSLIM FESTIVALS

The Malaysian Muslims celebrate several Muslim religious festivals, among which include:

- **Ramadhan** - is the Muslim calendar month for fasting. Fasting days are from dawn until sunset from sunrise to sunset.
- **Hari Raya Aidilfitri** - is celebrated after a month of fasting. The Muslim community buys presents to give to the poor and distributes food to the less fortunate.
- **Hari Raya Aidiladha** - is celebrated during the festival of Dashur and is an Islamic festival celebrated by Muslims. The main event is the sacrifice of a cow or a sheep.
- **Masjidul Hatch** - is a celebration of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).
- **Amdal Muharram** - is celebrated marking the beginning of the Islamic New Year, which is the beginning of the 10th day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar.

MUST SEE AT KAMPONG BHARU

- The Ramadan street bazaar at Jalan Titiwangsa and Jalan Raya Putra is held during the fasting month of Ramadhan from dawn until sunset. Among the wide array of local Malay dishes available, the traditional Babi Kambing (goat) stands out.
- Friday market is a good time to see the variety of local Malaysian foods and is a good time to catch the eye of the Muslim community making their way to the famous “Jamek Mosque” for prayers and commerce.

MUST TRY AT KAMPONG BHARU

- Teh Tarik, a sweet milk tea, is a local favorite.
- Nasi Lemak, creamy rice, cooked in a fragrant coconut milk, served grated coconut with sambal, anchovies, cucumber, toasted peanuts, and a hard-boiled egg.
- Satay - stick of skewered meat grilled over charcoal and served with peanut sauce, and ketupat (rice cake), a very popular dish in Malaysia.
- Local coffee, served with different types of kaya (coconut jam).
- Dishes include goat meat, beef, and chicken dishes.
- Seasonal local fruits - Rambutan, Durian, and Mangosteen.