

Kuala Lumpur

Part 1 for Cathy's blog : Kuala Lumpur holiday.

Saturday 19th September, 2026.

We had almost packed ready for our trip, so on Saturday it was more of finalising things like toiletries and packing the charging cords. David made sure we had a good lunch, because it was going to be after 9:00 before we were at our Kuala Lumpur hotel.

He made cheese sandwiches for us to eat on the plane.

I made sure the washing was done and that the apartment was clean and tidy.

Our ride (through Siem Reap taxis) picked us up about ten minutes early. We needed this extra time because the traffic is busier at 12:30 (than our usual flight times, usually an early morning trip to the airport).

We flew with Air Asia. Their counter staff were friendly and helpful. Their luggage limits were clear, 25kg checked baggage (paid for extra, because the ticket had "no checked luggage") and some carry on weight. Easy to fit in with these requirements (and a planned laundry day somewhere near the middle of the holiday).

Standing in the queue, the polite Cambodian floor staff checked with the desk staff, and moved us through to the check-in. He didn't want us standing TOO LONG. I guess that means we look old.

So, our trusty BlackWolf (soft) suitcase was checked and my backpack (the only one we took) was weighed and tagged. Then it was through “immigration”, via the smart gates.

Trick one is to hold your passport flat on the glass reader.

Trick two (perhaps this should be number one) is to have your Malaysian “paperwork” done ... the arrival card... (this can be done three days in advance).

Then scan your boarding pass.

Then you put your fingers (for finger prints) on the next glass reader.

You position yourself in the yellow line for the photograph, and you are through.

The plane was delayed by about 15 minutes.

Boarding was done with two queues (zones) and it was a bit pushy. Due to the luggage limits/amounts, many people had their small suitcases, to put in the overhead lockers. There was still enough room.

All the seats were full.

I sat next to a Malaysian woman who had spent 4 days in Siem Reap (4 couples on holidays together). Her son was meeting her at the airport to take her home. It is so nice when the children grow up and they can provide taxi services for their parents!

Once we got to Kuala Lumpur, we found that the airport is big! It takes lots of walking.

The system is easy though, quickly through the gates for immigration and luggage collection.

It was more tricky to find the “e-hauling” area, and then to book a Grab in to the city. There are shops and lots of food outlets to walk past.

Once we had our Grab car, it was nearly 1 hour in the car (along several sections of freeway with speeds of up to 110 and several stops to tolls).

It was easy to check in at our hotel, which is the top 15 or so floors of the Ilham Tower building.

Our room is on the 50th floor.

We can see the Petronas Twin Towers (one of them, anyway) from our window.

The bed is SO soft.

We have booked a tour for Sunday...

Here are some pictures of our pictures of iconic Kuala Lumpur buildings.



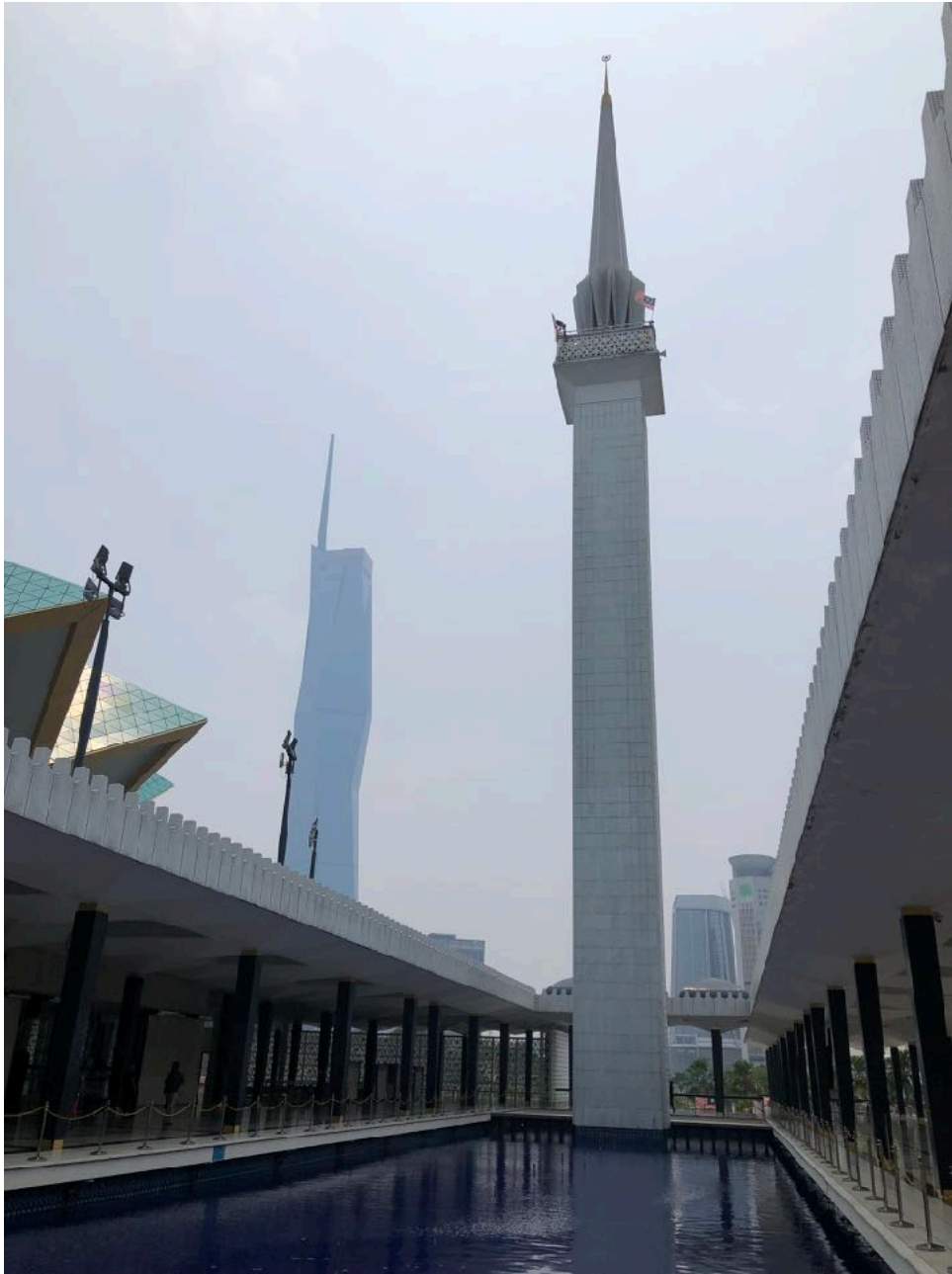
The Merdeka 118 Tower (678.9m tall). The “pointy bit” at the top is a penthouse and then a loooong lightning rod.

The Telecommunications tower (421m... and it is on a steep hill).





The Petronas Twin Towers (452m tall).



The minaret of the National Mosque (Masjid Negara).