

# LIFE & TIMES

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## Exploring colourful Kuala Lumpur

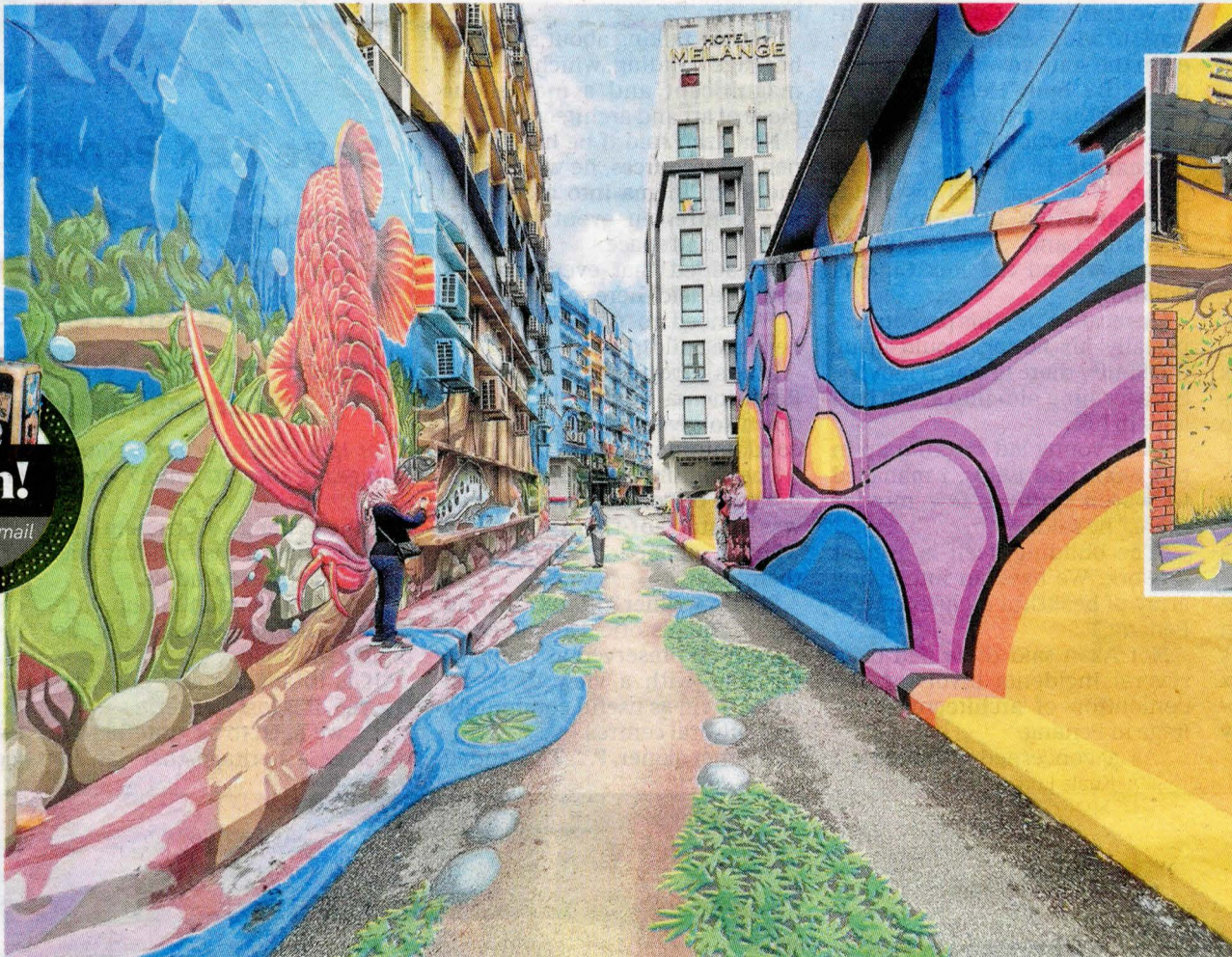
**I**T'S Federal Territory Day, and what better way to celebrate than exploring this beautiful capital of Malaysia.

This city has much to offer other than fancy malls and mega skyscrapers. Kuala Lumpur City Hall, for example, has been beautifying the city over the years to make it more attractive and safe for tourists and locals.

So, if you have no plans, why not go for a change of scenery from the air-conditioned malls and explore some of the many colourful and Instagrammable spots and alleys in the city instead.

You'll be surprised to see that some of the areas you may not want to go a decade ago, have been turned into vibrant, colourful spots with creative wall arts and boutique cafes.

Here are some of the spots where you can get photos that will boost your social media "likes" and comments or perhaps to just wind down at small cafes other than the usual international coffee chains.



**Jom!**

By Izwan Ismail



### 1. JALAN ALOR MURALS ←

Although Jalan Alor in Bukit Bintang is known for its eateries and nightlife, the new street art just behind the shop rows here is a sight to behold. These murals of land and sea life on walls, pavements and roads make for interesting photos. If you are coming from the lane of eateries, just walk down about 50m and you'll spot this colourful area.

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**2. LORONG PANGGUNG (KWAI CHAI HONG) ←**

For the past few years, Lorong Panggung or Kwai Chai Hong has become one of the famous Instagrammable spots in Kuala Lumpur. This alley is lined with a yellow row of old buildings as well as Chinese-themed wall art, giving you a glimpse of the 1960s KL Chinatown. If you're lucky, you'll see a contemporary art installation here. There are a number of retro-style boutique cafes and eateries for you to chill and grab a bite. Kwai Chai Hong is near the city traffic police headquarters and the Pasar Seni MRT station.

**4. PASAR KARAT ↑**

This morning flea market is famous for its used goods, like old digital and analogue cameras, watches, as well as used clothes and shoes. It is spread out along the alleys around Petaling Street from 6am up until 10am. If you don't intend to buy anything, there are more colourful murals here on the back wall of the shop rows. The trading activities here with the murals in the background will give you interesting shots.

**5. LEBUH AMPANG ↓**

This downtown area of Kuala Lumpur doesn't look like it has a lot to offer to tourists, but if you take a walk and explore the alleys, you'll find interesting art installations as well as murals. There are also a number of fine boutique cafes in these refurbished old shop lots.

**6. RAINBOW UNDERPASS ←**

Not many people know this colourful spot. Located under the flyover from Bukit Mahkamah to Bukit Nanas and about 20m from the Telekom Museum in Kuala Lumpur, this underpass is an interesting sight compared with the gray concrete structures all over the city.

PIX BY IZWAN ISMAIL

**3. RIVER OF LIFE ↑**

Another colourful area that you should not miss in Kuala Lumpur is the River of Life. Located at the back of a row of buildings just after the confluence of Sungai Klang and Sungai Gombak, and opposite the Sultan Abdul Samad building, this nature and history-inspired mural as tall as a four-storey building is really amazing. It has a story to tell, probably about how life by this river once looked like back in the old days.

