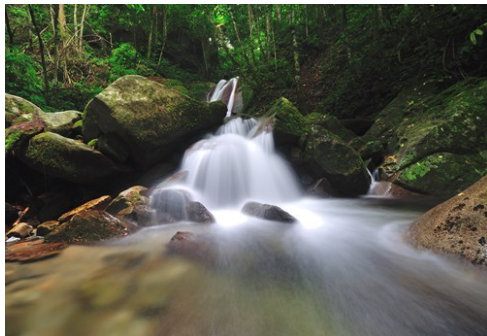




# Kota Kinabalu

Photo: Tappasan Phurisamrit/shutterstock



Nokuro/shutterstock



Wiput Tantulaphongse/shutterstock



Nokuro/shutterstock

Kota Kinabalu is the vibrant capital of Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo's northern coast. Surrounded by the stunning waters of the South China Sea, mountains, and ancient rainforests, KK is a bustling city known for its lively markets, modern boardwalk and beautiful beaches. The iconic Kota Kinabalu City Mosque and the nearby Kinabalu National Park, home to the towering 4,095-metre Mount Kinabalu, highlight its unique charm. This gateway to Borneo offers an enticing blend of natural beauty and urban excitement.

## Featured



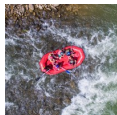
### Jari Jari Spa

Jari Jari Spa is renowned for its excellent service and lovely ambiance. The...



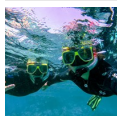
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### Manukan Island

Manukan Island has a beautiful beach perfect for snorkelling, water sports a...

## Top 5



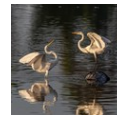
### Sea & Island Tours

If you enjoy cruises, snorkelling, fishing trips, island hopping or diving, ...



### Atkinson Clock Tower

The Atkinson Clock Tower is the oldest surviving structure in Kota Kinabalu,...



### Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre

Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre is a 24-hectare mangrove forest that serves as ...



### Taman Abdul Rahman Island Park

Taman Abdul Rahman National Park, named after Malaysia's



### Cap Kuda Coffee Factory (CKCC)

Everything you ever wanted to know about the unique

## THE CITY



hkhtt hj/shutterstock

Kota Kinabalu, affectionately known as KK in Malaysia, is a fascinating and richly 'blessed' city. Situated on the shores of the South China Sea, it is flanked by lush tropical islands and clear blue waters on one side, and Mount Kinabalu on the other. The city is renowned for some of the finest sunsets in the world.

Originally named Jesselton, the city was flattened during World War II but has risen from the ashes to become a thriving, vibrant, and colourful city. While much of Kota Kinabalu is relatively new, legacies of its Chinese trading history and colonial past are scattered throughout, alongside water villages and an ever-expanding array of commercial and residential developments.

## DO & SEE



Sylvia sooyoN/shutterstock

The centre of town is based around the waterfront area, which is home to a charming mix of old and new: trendy bars, restaurants and hotels line the area, but are contrastingly interspersed with traditional markets, fishing ports and hawker stalls, a great blend.

### Sea & Island Tours



If you enjoy cruises, snorkelling, fishing trips, island hopping or diving, SeaQuest Tours & Travel and Borneo Dream Travel Tours Sdn Bhd offer a wide range of activities to choose from. Known for their well-organised tours, they typically include lunch, ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience.

Photo: Ijam Hairi/shutterstock

Address: The Pacific Sutera Hotel, 1 Sutera Harbour Boulevard, Sutera Harbour, Kota Kinabalu

Phone: +60 17 866 4511

Internet: [www.seaquesttours.net](http://www.seaquesttours.net)

Email: [info@seaquesttours.net](mailto:info@seaquesttours.net)

### Atkinson Clock Tower

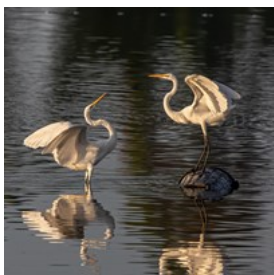


The Atkinson Clock Tower is the oldest surviving structure in Kota Kinabalu, dating back to its days as Jesselton. Located just a 10-minute walk from the Filipino Market and the I Love KK sign, this colonial-era landmark is easily accessible and offers a glimpse into the city's historical past.

Photo: Lano Lan/shutterstock

Address: Jalan Padang, Kota Kinabalu

### Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre



Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre is a 24-hectare mangrove forest that serves as a crucial refuge for local and migratory birds from North Asia.

Located in the city, it supports diverse wildlife and marine life, offering visitors a chance to see crabs, lizards, and unique plant species. The Centre also plays a vital role in stabilising sedimentation, storing nutrients, and removing toxins from freshwater supplies.

Photo: Alen Thien/shutterstock

Address: Jalan Bukit Bendera Upper, Likas, Kota Kinabalu  
Public Transport: Best way to get there is by bus towards Likas from the bus stations in front of City Hall or Wawasan Plaza to Likas Square. At the traffic lights there, turn right towards Signal Hill until you get to the third junction on the left.

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 8am-5pm, Mon closed

Phone: +60 88 246 955

Internet: [www.sabahwetlands.org/kkw](http://www.sabahwetlands.org/kkw)

### Taman Abdul Rahman Island Park



Taman Abdul Rahman National Park, named after Malaysia's first Prime Minister, consists of five stunning islands. It's a paradise for tourists and wildlife enthusiasts alike. Enjoy island hopping, snorkelling over coral reefs, and relaxing on white sandy beaches. Activities like windsurfing, parasailing, and kayaking are also available.

Photo: Chen Fangxiang/shutterstock

Address: Jesselton Point, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 8am-5pm

Phone: +60 88 523 500

Internet: [www.sabahparks.org.my/tunku-abdul-rahman-park](http://www.sabahparks.org.my/tunku-abdul-rahman-park)

More Info: The park is about a 10- to 20-minute speedboat ride from the city of Kota Kinabalu. Boat transfers depart from the Jesselton Point Ferry Terminal, located next to the Malaysia Royal Custom Department. Available daily from 7:30am to 5pm

### Cap Kuda Coffee Factory (CKCC)



Everything you ever wanted to know about the unique Malaysian caramelised coffee you will discover on a tour of this factory. Cap Kuda Coffee Company (or Yap Yu Sdn Bhd trading as Hock Lee Coffee Powder Factory) was established in the early 1960s and is now one of the largest coffee manufacturers in Sabah.

Photo: JIL Photo/shutterstock

Address: 29 Jalan Kilang, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm, Sun closed

Phone: +60 16 678 8472

Internet: [www.ckcc.coffee/tour.cfm](http://www.ckcc.coffee/tour.cfm)

Email: [info@ckcc.com.my](mailto:info@ckcc.com.my)

### Kota Kinabalu City Mosque



The second main mosque in the city is set by a peaceful lakeside. Kota Kinabalu City Mosque at Likas Bay is an extraordinary example of contemporary architecture, resembling the design of the Masjid al-Nabawi (The Prophet's Mosque) in Medina, Saudi Arabia.

The prayer room can hold up to 12,000 worshippers at one time and houses three madrasahs (religious schools). The man-made lagoon surrounding the mosque offers a beautiful and dramatic view on a full moon night.

Photo: Nokuro/shutterstock

Address: Masjid Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu, Jalan Pasir, Jalan Teluk Likas, Kampung Likas, Kota Kinabalu

Public Transport: Bus No.5A, direction to UMS

Phone: +60 88 205 418

Internet: mbrkotakinabalu.com

More Info: The Kota Kinabalu City Mosque is located 3 kilometres from Kota Kinabalu City, about 10-15 minutes by car.

### Monsopiad Cultural Village



Nestled beside the Penampang River, the Monsopiad Cultural Village is a living museum located 16 kilometres from the KK City Centre.

The village features traditional buildings and displays a variety of artefacts, including ceramic jars, padi grinders, bamboo items, and the costume of Bobohizan Inai Bianti, a senior high priestess. Other notable exhibits include a massive monolith surrounded by legends, a traditional restaurant, and Siou Do Mohoing, the House of Skulls, where all 42 "trophies" of the warrior Monsopiad hang from the rafters.

Photo: Uwe Aranas/shutterstock

Address: Kampung Kuai Kandazon, Jalan Putatan Ramayah, Penampang, Sabah

Public Transport: Bus 13 to Donggongon town in Penampang. Then board a minibus bound for Terawi and tell your stop to the driver.

Opening hours: Daily 9am-4:30pm

Phone: +60 11 1419 6488

Internet: infomonsopiadcultu.wixsite.com/monsopiadheritage

### Sabah State Museum



This museum preserves the cultural identity of Sabah by collecting, conserving, educating, and documenting ethnographic,

archaeological, historical, numismatic, art-historical, botanical, zoological, and mineralogical collections from across the state. Additionally, they conduct research on Sabah's cultural, social, and natural history, viewing it as an investment for the future and an essential part of the state's heritage.

Photo: Uwe Aranas/shutterstock

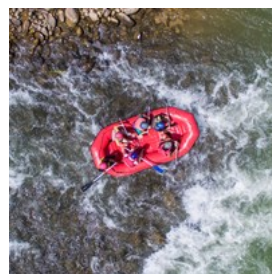
Address: Jalan Muzium, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Phone: +60 88 225 033

Internet: museum.sabah.gov.my

### Adventure & Sport



If lounging on the beach isn't your style, Sabah has plenty of adventure and sports activities for you. Try the Mountain Torq via ferrata, Kiulu

White Water Rafting, or jungle trekking in Mesilau.

Photo: Yusnizam Yusof/shutterstock

Address: Amazing Borneo Tours & Events Sdn. Bhd., 1st Floor, Kompleks, Jalan Asia City, Asia City, Kota Kinabalu

Phone: +60 88 448409

Internet: [www.amazingborneo.com/packages/tours/sabah-adventure-sports](http://www.amazingborneo.com/packages/tours/sabah-adventure-sports)

## Borneo Jungle



A range of treks is available for those keen to explore the jungle in depth. Temperatures can drop to 13°C at night, so bring your own sleeping bag and warm clothing. Proper shoes for varied terrain are essential. Mosquito nets are usually provided. Some treks offer porters to carry your backpack. Consider what you want to experience: options include fish massages, forest reserves, monkey sanctuaries, and white water rafting through the jungle.

Photo: Polina Koroleva/unsplash

Internet: [www.borneonaturetours.com](http://www.borneonaturetours.com)

## Golf



Golfing in Sabah offers numerous courses across the state, each with stunning scenery and challenging play. Scenic Dalit Bay Golf & Country Club, the historic Kudat Golf Club, the Jack Nicklaus-designed Borneo Golf & Country Club, and the prestigious Sabah Golf & Country Club are all near Kota Kinabalu. Visit their websites for more information.

Photo: photofriday/shutterstock

Internet: [www.golfasian.com/golf-courses/malaysia-golf-courses/kota-kinabalu](http://www.golfasian.com/golf-courses/malaysia-golf-courses/kota-kinabalu)

## Sabah Art Gallery



The building of the Sabah Art Gallery itself is a piece of art. Its internal structure is similar to the Guggenheim in New York and resembles a bahuyn — a traditional woven bamboo basket. The interior is quiet and peaceful and hosts an eclectic mix of local artist and student work from the Sabah region.

Photo: Lano Lan/shutterstock

Address: 14 Jalan Shantung, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 9am-4pm, Mon closed

Phone: +60 88 268 748

Internet: [www.instagram.com/sabahartgallery](http://www.instagram.com/sabahartgallery)

## Jari Jari Spa



Jari Jari Spa is renowned for its excellent service and lovely ambiance. The interior design, featuring textured walls, a tinkling fountain, and dark wood flooring, is perfect for restoring a tired body.

Photo: Chris Jarvis/unsplash

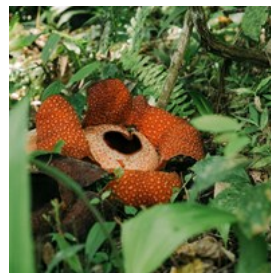
Address: Tanjung Aru Plaza, 2nd Floor Block B Lot 2.1, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 10am-9pm

Phone: +60 88 272 606

Internet: [www.jarijari.com.my/locations-contact](http://www.jarijari.com.my/locations-contact)

## Rasa Ria Reserve by Shangri-La



Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort & Spa launched a nature care project to raise awareness for endangered species and fauna endemic to Sabah and to support rehabilitation programmes aimed at returning these species to the wild. Remember

to wear sturdy footwear and prepare for mosquitos.

Photo: Colin + Meg/unsplash  
Address: Pantai Dalit Beach Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort, Kota Kinabalu  
Phone: +60 88 797 888  
Internet: [www.rasariareserve.com/nature-reserve.html](http://www.rasariareserve.com/nature-reserve.html)

### Manukan Island



Manukan Island has a beautiful beach perfect for snorkelling, water sports at reasonable prices, or simply relaxing by the sea. You can hike through the lush and shady rainforest, or try jet skiing.

Photo: Affendy Soeto/shutterstock  
Address: Manukan Island, Malaysia  
Internet: [www.borneowanderertravel.com](http://www.borneowanderertravel.com)

### North Borneo Railway



Travel back in time and experience the nostalgia of the Colonial era. A ride on the old British Rail is a brilliant way to see the countryside and its people. With the staff dressed in colonial style and a traditional Tiffin lunch, you'll be amazed at how authentic the experience feels on one of the last steam trains in the world.

Photo: yanchi1984/shutterstock  
Address: Daily departures from Tanjung Aru Station  
Internet: [www.northborneotraintour.com](http://www.northborneotraintour.com)

### Weston Wetland Park



Get a glimpse of Borneo's unique endemic primates — proboscis monkeys — and marvel at the beauty of nature. On this guided tour, you will see local fauna in their natural habitat, followed by an unforgettable sunset. Once the sun sets, trees fill with fireflies, creating a picturesque scene.

Photo: Tim Morgan/unsplash  
Internet: [borneocalling.com/tour/weston-wetland-proboscis-monkey-fireflies-river-safari](http://borneocalling.com/tour/weston-wetland-proboscis-monkey-fireflies-river-safari)

### Kokol Hill



Climbing Kokol Hill rewards you with stunning views of KK and its surroundings. On a clear day, you can see the sunset in the west, Mount Kinabalu in the east, and the western coastline of Sabah. There are several hiking trails to choose from, suitable for different fitness levels.

Photo: hkht hj/shutterstock  
Address: Kohol Poring Poring Road, Kota Kinabalu  
More Info: Can be accessed either through Jalan Kiansom, Inanam (4x4 or similar recommended) or Jalan Kokol Poring just after the small town of Menggatal.

### Downbelow Marine & Wildlife Adventures



Delve into an incredible rainforest experience on this beautiful jungle island. Downbelow Marine & Wildlife Adventures offers activities like hiking, snorkelling, scuba diving, and more. The hikes are challenging, but the views are worth it. Snorkelling, scuba diving, and other underwater activities are managed

professionally, ensuring a fun day outdoors.

Photo: Victoria Ballesteros/unsplash

Address: 33-G, Block F KK Times Square, Pusat Bandar Kota Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun closed

Phone: +60 12 866 1935

Internet: [www.downbelowadventures.com](http://www.downbelowadventures.com)

Email: [info@DownbelowAdventures.com](mailto:info@DownbelowAdventures.com)

## DINING



*szepei/shutterstock*

The culinary scene in KK is truly remarkable, reflecting the city's multicultural nature. You'll find everything from Malay and Filipino hawker food to 24-hour budget Malay and Indian eateries, exquisite Chinese seafood restaurants, and top-class international dining establishments. The variety and fusion of flavours make for an unforgettable gastronomic adventure.

### Kampung Nelayan Floating Seafood Market Restaurant



Kota Kinabalu's only lakeside floating seafood restaurant is anchored within the botanical park.

During dinner, you can enjoy a Malaysia Cultural

and Variety Show. The menu features fresh seafood, meat, and vegetables, complemented by a nice selection of wines.

Photo: Jing/pixabay

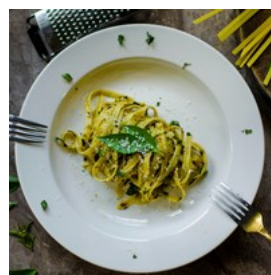
Address: Tun Fuad Stephens Park, Bukit Padang, Kampung Nelayan, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 11am-2pm / 6pm-11pm

Phone: +60 88 231 003

Internet: [kampungnelayan.com](http://kampungnelayan.com)

### Little Italy



Little Italy is a long-established local Italian restaurant offering stone oven-baked pizza, homemade pasta, antipasti, and other favourites. Enjoy Italian wine at friendly prices.

Photo: Lgh\_9/pexels

Address: Hotel Capital, Ground Floor, Jalan Haji Saman, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily noon-10pm

Phone: +60 88 232 231

Internet: [littleitalykk.my](http://littleitalykk.my)

### Filipino Market



The market next to Centre Point Sabah on Jalan Tun Fuad Stephens is known as the Filipino Market, as most of the stalls are run by Filipino immigrants. For an authentic and budget-friendly experience, visit the open-air hawker food stalls around the market, where you can enjoy excellent barbecued fish and chicken wings.

Photo: Lano Lan/shutterstock

Address: Pasar Malam Pasar Filipin, Jalan Tun Fuad Stephens, Kota Kinabalu

Phone: Mon-Fri 6pm-10pm, Sat & Sun 6pm-midnight

### Chilli Vanilla



Hungarian, Mexican and European style food made with fresh ingredients and served in a quaint and intimate setting. This little gem has a fantastic varied menu to choose from and the food is delicious.

Photo: RitaE/pixabay

Address: 35 Jalan Haji Saman, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 11:30am-9:30pm, Mon closed

Phone: +60 88 238 098

### El Centro



Popular with both expats and travellers, El Centro caters to Western tastes. It is a laid-back bar which serves great food and drink deals. Live music, pub quiz and Salsa night will guarantee a fun evening at El Centro.

Photo: Louis Hansel/unsplash

Address: 18 Lorong Dewan, Pusat Bandar Kota Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9am-11pm, Fri & Sat 9am-12:30am

Phone: +60 14 862 3877

### Ferdinand's



Ferdinand's offers a relaxed and elegant setting with subtle lighting and classy decor. Whether you try the lobster bisque or crusted salmon, every menu item will delight your taste buds.

Photo: NadineDoerle/pixabay

Address: The Magellan Sutera, Sutera Harbour Resort, 1 Sutera Harbour Boulevard, Sutera Harbour, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily noon-2pm / 6pm-11pm

Phone: +60 88 318 888

Internet: [www.suteraharbour.com/ferdinands](http://www.suteraharbour.com/ferdinands)

### Welcome Seafood Restaurant



Welcome Seafood Restaurant at Star City Mall is a popular spot for locals as well as tourists. It serves fresh seafood in a lively setting at very affordable prices. Go up to the counter to choose your own crabs, prawns, squids and local vegetables and specify how you would like them to be cooked. Make sure to try their all-time favourite Wet Butter Tiger Prawn.

Photo: juliwatson/pixabay

Address: Lot G-18, Ground Floor, Star City Mall, Jalan Asia City, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily noon-11:30pm

Phone: +60 88 447 866

Internet: [wsr.com.my/en/#location-map](http://wsr.com.my/en/#location-map)

Email: [info@wsr.com.my](mailto:info@wsr.com.my)

More Info: Welcome Seafood Restaurant is a chain restaurant with several locations in KK.

### Yee Fung Laksa



Yee Fung Laksa is renowned for its delicious laksa, considered the best in Kota Kinabalu. This hearty dish features rice noodles and prawns in a creamy coconut broth, topped with sliced beancurd puffs, omelette strips, shredded chicken, coriander sprigs, and half a lime, served with a spoonful of chilli sambal paste.

Photo: Amanda Lim/unsplash

Address: 127 Jalan Gaya, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Thu-Mon 6:30am-5pm, Tue & Wed closed

Phone: +60 88 312 042

Internet: [yeefunglaksa.com](http://yeefunglaksa.com)

### Coast at Shangri-La Rasa Ria



Coast Restaurant is situated in an idyllic spot to watch the sunset. The big buffet features so many choices and caters to everybody's taste, from local favourites to western delights.

Photo: Sharif Putra/shutterstock

Address: Dalit Bay Golf & Country Club Kota Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 5:30pm-midnight

Phone: +60 88 792 888

Internet: [www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/rasariaresort/dining/restaurants/coast-restaurant-bar](http://www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/rasariaresort/dining/restaurants/coast-restaurant-bar)

### Kozan Teppan-yaki at Shangri-La Rasa Ria



Japanese cuisine served in a modern interior. The signature dish, chicken teppanyaki, is prepared on the teppan, a large Japanese iron hotplate.

The attentive staff anticipate your needs, ensuring a delightful evening.

Photo: Rajeesh T K/pixabay

Address: Dalit Bay Golf & Country Club Kota Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu

Phone: +60 88 797 855

Internet: [www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/rasariaresort/dining/restaurants/kozan-teppan-yaki](http://www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/rasariaresort/dining/restaurants/kozan-teppan-yaki)

### Suang Tain Seafood Restaurant



Located in a covered open space, Suang Tain Seafood Restaurant offers a wide range of seafood, including lobsters, crabs, prawns, various fish, and clams. The service is impeccable, and the food is

always served with a smile.

Photo: Kondor83/shutterstock

Address: Sedco Complex, No.16, Block D, Ground Floor, Kampung Air, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 2pm-11pm

Phone: +60 11 2615 5796

Internet: [www.instagram.com/suangtainseafood](http://www.instagram.com/suangtainseafood)

### Shang Palace at Shangri-La Tanjung Aru



Shang Palace offers a delightful mix of traditional Chinese and Western dishes, alongside a variety of fine oriental cuisine and dim sum. All dishes are beautifully presented and delicious.

Photo: Rohan P/unsplash

Address: Shangri-La Tanjung Aru, 20 Jalan Aru, Tanjung Aru, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 11:30am-2:30pm / 6pm-10pm

Phone: +60 88 327 888

Internet: [www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/tanjungaruresort/dining/restaurants/shang-palace](http://www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/tanjungaruresort/dining/restaurants/shang-palace)

### Mai Yai Thai Orchid Restaurant



Dine on spicy Thai food with authentic flavours and fresh tastes while enjoying the view of the waterfront and the fresh breeze.

Photo: Ruttikal Chularom/pixabay

Address: The Waterfront, Lot 13, Jln Tun Fuad Stephens, Kota Kinabalu

Phone: +60 17 816 1995

### Coco-Joe's Bar & Grill



Located on the seaside, Coco-Joe's offers a fantastic oceanside view. Enjoy a fresh coconut opened on the spot and dine in a casual, laid-back

setting.

Photo: Jim Lightfoot/shutterstock

Address: Shangri-La Tanjung Aru, 20 Jalan Aru, Tanjung Aru, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 11am-10pm

Phone: +60 88 327 888

Internet: [www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/tanjungaruresort/dining/restaurants/coco-joe-bar-grill](http://www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/tanjungaruresort/dining/restaurants/coco-joe-bar-grill)

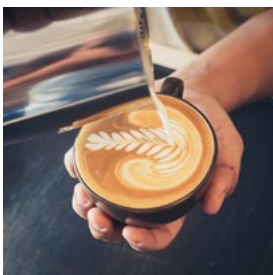
## CAFÉS



Luiz Rocha/shutterstock

The inner city is a calm and friendly place, characterised by an interesting blend of old and new architecture, which is evident in the best hangout spots in town.

### The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf Sabah (Damai)



Born and brewed in California in 1963, Herbert B. Hyman started The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. Now, over 40 years later, The Coffee Bean &

Tea Leaf has grown into one of the largest privately-owned, family-run coffee and tea companies in the world.

Photo: Coffee Lover/shutterstock

Address: 11 Jalan Damai, Luyang Commercial Centre, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 8am-11pm

Phone: +60 88 222 677

Internet: [www.instagram.com/coffeebean\\_sabah](http://www.instagram.com/coffeebean_sabah)

### The Jesselton Hotel



High tea is very popular here, and KK's most famous hotel is a great place to enjoy it.

Mountbatten Lounge is known for its delicious

afternoon tea and intimate drinks.

Photo: LvZhe/shutterstock

Address: 69 Jalan Gaya, Kota Kinabalu

Phone: +60 88 223 333

Internet: [jesseltonhotel.com](http://jesseltonhotel.com)

Email: [reservation@jesseltonhotel.com](mailto:reservation@jesseltonhotel.com)

### Wisma Merdeka Food Court



Wisma Merdeka Food Court is a popular food court for mid-day bargain eating. It is a good place for locals and visitors alike and a nice place for people watching.

Photo: Everything/shutterstock

Address: Wisma Merdeka, Jalan Haji Saman, Kota Kinabalu

More Info: 2nd Floor, Wisma Merdeka

### Starbucks



Starbucks has become a firm favourite with locals and tourists - with guaranteed great coffee, cakes and WiFi. There are three Starbucks in KK.

Photo: Shaiith/shutterstock

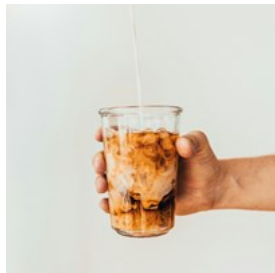
Address: Warisan Square, Jalan Fuad Stephen Lot No. 8, Ground & 1st Floor Block C, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-10pm, Sat & Sun 9am-1am

Phone: +60 88 447 062

Internet: [www.starbucks.com](http://www.starbucks.com)

### Nook Cafe



Nook Café in Kota Kinabalu is a popular boho-themed spot known for its cosy ambience and good vibes. It offers a diverse menu for

breakfast, brunch, and lunch, along with excellent coffee and desserts. Locals love its relaxed atmosphere and generous portions, making it a great place to unwind.

Photo: Tavis Beck/unsplash

Address: 19 Lorong Dewan, Pusat Bandar Kota Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 8am-9pm

Phone: +60 12 866 3900

Internet: [www.instagram.com/look.for.nook](https://www.instagram.com/look.for.nook)

### October Coffee Gaya



October Coffee Gaya is a top spot in Kota Kinabalu for high-quality filter coffee, espresso-based drinks, and snacks.

Known for its cosy

interiors and excellent service, it's a local favourite with strong Wi-Fi and delicious scones. The Flat White is particularly recommended.

Photo: Nathan Dumlao/unsplash

Address: Lorong Dewan, Pusat Bandar, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 9am-11pm

Phone: +60 88 277 396

Internet: [www.instagram.com/octobercoffeegaya](https://www.instagram.com/octobercoffeegaya)

### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Thoom/shutterstock

Most of the city's bars are within reasonable walking distance of each other, making it easy to enjoy a varied evening out. Many larger hotels feature bars with live bands, but the most popular spots are found on the waterfront and the side streets opposite this strip.

KK's vibrant nightlife centres around late-night pubs and bars, which often host live bands playing until late. There are also a few good nightclubs, all conveniently located near each other, so it's easy to find a venue that suits your taste.

### Upperstar Café & Bar



Upper Star is a friendly and very popular pub, wine bar, and restaurant with some of the best prices and comfort food in town.

Photo: Gorodisskij/shutterstock

Address: Imago Shopping Mall, Coastal Highway, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri & Sat 10am-11pm

Phone: +60 88 487 223

### My Office Cafe



Located in the Plaza 333 Kobusak Commercial Centre, this small local-style pub is often used as a starting point for a night out. It serves a scrumptious pub grub menu, features a big screen for viewing sporting events, and has a pool table.

Photo: Nejron Photo/shutterstock

Address: Plaza 333 Kobusak Commercial Centre, Lot 44, Level 1, Block F, Jalan Pitas Penampang, Kota Kinabalu  
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 4pm-1am, Fri & Sat 4pm-2am  
Internet: [www.instagram.com/myofficecafe](https://www.instagram.com/myofficecafe)

### Borneo Lounge & Bar

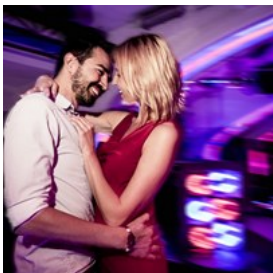


One of the city's most popular bars is situated in Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort and Spa. The Lounge and Bar is an all-day spot to meet and relax, or catch the sunset with a cool cocktail.

Photo: GDmitry/shutterstock

Address: Shangri-La Tanjung Aru, 20 Jalan Aru, Tanjung Aru, Kota Kinabalu  
Opening hours: Daily 9am-midnight  
Phone: +60 88 327 868  
Internet: [www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/tanjungaruresort/dining/bars-lounges/borneo-lounge-bar](https://www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/tanjungaruresort/dining/bars-lounges/borneo-lounge-bar)

### Rooftop Bar at Le Meridien



The Rooftop Bar at Le Meridien offers stunning sunset views over the South China Sea, unique Sabah-style cocktails, and creative bites. This stylish venue features live music and three private rooms, providing a relaxing and enjoyable

atmosphere.

Photo: mauro\_grigollo/shutterstock

Address: Le Meridien, Sinsuran, Jln Tun Fuad Stephens, Kota Kinabalu  
Opening hours: Daily 5pm-11pm  
Phone: +60 88 322 222  
Internet: [marriottbonvoyasia.com/restaurants-bars/le-meridien-kota-kinabalu-latitude05](https://marriottbonvoyasia.com/restaurants-bars/le-meridien-kota-kinabalu-latitude05)

### Sunset Bar at Shangri-la Tanjung Aru



Enjoy an ice-cold cocktail with a view of the picturesque sunset over the sea. With a jazz band playing in the background, this is the perfect spot to relax and unwind.

Photo: Sarymsakov Andrey/shutterstock

Address: Shangri-la Tanjung Aru Resort & Spa, 20 Jalan Aru, Tanjung Aru, Sabah, Kota Kinabalu  
Phone: +60 88 327 888  
Internet: [www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/tanjungaruresort/dining/bars-lounges/sunset-bar](https://www.shangri-la.com/kotakinabalu/tanjungaruresort/dining/bars-lounges/sunset-bar)

### Mosaic



Classy and accordingly priced, Mosaic is a bar situated in the Hyatt Hotel. The wine bar-themed café serves a decent selection of mostly Australian wines and offers food ranging from salads to meat dishes.

Photo: Christopher Gardiner/shutterstock

Address: Hyatt Regency Kinabalu, Jalan Datuk Salleh Sulong, Kota Kinabalu  
Opening hours: Daily 8am-10pm  
Phone: +60 88 221 234  
Internet: [www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/bkiki-hyatt-regency-kinabalu/dining/mosaic](https://www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/bkiki-hyatt-regency-kinabalu/dining/mosaic)  
Email: [kinabalu.regency@hyatt.com](mailto:kinabalu.regency@hyatt.com)

### The Shamrock Irish Bar



As the name suggests, The Shamrock is a traditional Irish pub. With Guinness on draught, live music that varies nightly, typical Irish decor, and a friendly atmosphere, what more could one need.

Photo: Elevate/unsplash

Address: 1664, Jln Tun Fuad Stephens, Pusat Bandar Kota Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily noon-1am

Phone: +60 88 249 829

Internet: [sabahbah.com/nightlife/shamrock-waterfront](http://sabahbah.com/nightlife/shamrock-waterfront)

## SHOPPING



Alen thien/shutterstock

For handicrafts, several small shops can be found in various shopping malls, but for the best bargains, authentic goods, and a fun shopping experience, head to the handicraft market on the seafront by the Filipino market — a labyrinth of craft stalls.

The old Filipino market is also the best tamu (fresh market) in town, offering a great selection of local produce and seafood.

Centre Point Sabah is the biggest shopping centre in town, a huge multi-story complex that offers just about everything you could wish for, with a speciality in electronic goods. Further

along the main street, you'll find Wisma Merdeka, another multi-story shopping centre with numerous great shops, perfect for bargain clothes. It also houses the best 'Borneo' bookshop in town — The Borneo Shop.

Between these major centres, you'll find numerous small local shops selling everyday products. The new and expanding Warisan Square and Star City Mall are plush centres ideal for purchasing brand-name goods.

For small souvenirs and budget buys, visit the regular night market in Kampung Air and be prepared to haggle.

### Gaya Street Sunday Market



Souvenirs, handicrafts, live animals, chicken pieces, potatoes and coconuts — this market offers all the ingredients for a Malaysian curry and more. It's the most interesting market in town, with bustling, crowded stalls and lanes. Arrive early to capture beautiful photos in the morning light, and don't forget to haggle.

Photo: Augustine Bin Jumat/shutterstock

Address: Jalan Gaya, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Sun 5am-1pm

More Info: Gaya Street hosts the Api Api Night Food Market every Friday & Saturday from 6pm until midnight

### Centre Point Sabah



The biggest shopping centre in town is Centre Point, a vast multi-story complex offering almost everything you could wish for, with a speciality in electronic goods. Centre Point is renowned as an

exclusive retail establishment with a wide selection of brand-name men's and ladies' apparel, household products, accessories, and a food court featuring diverse Asian and international cuisine. Brands range from The Mod House, RSH, NIKE, Adidas, Giordano, Hush Puppies, Unionbay, Botton, Aussino, Levis, Clark, Vincci, to Diesel, Starbucks, and Secret Recipe.

Photo: Matyas Rehak/shutterstock

Address: 1, Jalan Centre Point, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Opening hours: Daily 10am-9:30pm

Phone: +60 88 246 900

Internet: [centrepointsabah.com](http://centrepointsabah.com)

### Wisma Merdeka



Along the main street from Centre Point, you'll find Wisma Merdeka, another multi-story shopping centre with loads of great shops.

Wisma Merdeka features mostly local sellers, giving it a unique character and merchandise profile. It's a great place for buying clothes or souvenirs, and it is home to the best local bookshop in town — The Borneo Shop — and the city's largest golf shop.

Photo: hkhtt hj/shutterstock

Address: Jalan Tun Razak, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 10am-8pm

Phone: +60 88 232 761

Internet: [sabahbah.com/shopping/wisma-merdeka](http://sabahbah.com/shopping/wisma-merdeka)

### The Borneo Shop



Located on the ground floor of the Wisma Merdeka shopping mall, next to the Hyatt Hotel in the city centre, is the best bookshop in town for all

things Borneo. The Borneo Shop offers novels, travel guides, popular books on the island's natural history, culture, history, and cookery, as well as a large number of specialist books.

Photo: luminaimages/shutterstock

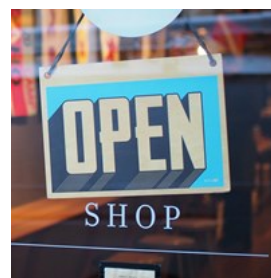
Address: Wisma Merdeka, Ground Floor, Phase 2, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 10am-6pm

Phone: +60 88 534 463

Internet: [borneo.bio.link](http://borneo.bio.link)

### Star City Mall



Star City Mall is a great place to buy clothing and accessories. You can find all kinds of shops, slimming and beauty salons, tuck shops, and a strip of Borneo arts & crafts stalls lining the walkway. The food court hosts popular restaurants like Fook Yuen, along with Korean, Japanese, Indian, and local eateries.

Photo: Mike Petrucci/unsplash

Address: Star City Mall, Asia City, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 9am-9pm

Phone: +60 88 260 585

### Kampung Air



For small souvenirs and budget buys, try the regular night market in Kampung Air and be prepared to haggle! This flea market is perfect for

shopping if you're looking for souvenirs and bargains. It's conveniently located just a stroll from Centre Point Sabah.

Photo: Nokuro/shutterstock

Address: Kampung Air, Kota Kinabalu

Internet: [www.kotakinabalu.info/kampung-air.htm](http://www.kotakinabalu.info/kampung-air.htm)

### Night Food Market



The Night Food Market is one of the most famous food courts in Southeast Asia, offering everything from fresh fruit and vegetables to handicrafts and local souvenirs. It is open from around 5:30 in the afternoon until the last haggling is done. With its hustle and bustle and the smoke from food stands drifting into the night sky, it's almost impossible to miss.

Photo: Khairi Harry/pexels

Address: Jalan Tun Fuad Stephens, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Opening hours: Daily 5:30pm-late

Internet: [www.thelongestwayhome.com/blog/sabah-malaysia-n-borneo/night-market-in-kota-kinabalu-a-tourists-night-out](http://www.thelongestwayhome.com/blog/sabah-malaysia-n-borneo/night-market-in-kota-kinabalu-a-tourists-night-out)

### Suria Sabah Mall



Suria Sabah Mall, known for carrying major brands like Levi's, Esprit, Mango, Thomas Sabo, and Swatch, is the most popular mall in KK. With three levels and a basement, this air-conditioned shopping centre provides the perfect hideaway on those unbearably hot days in Kota Kinabalu.

Photo: Richie Chan/shutterstock

Address: Jalan Tun Fuad Stephen, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm

Phone: +60 88 487 087

Internet: [www.suriasabah.com.my](http://www.suriasabah.com.my)

### Borneo Trading Post



If you're looking for high-quality artisanal treasures and antiques, visit Borneo Trading Post. They offer a unique range of items from Borneo Island and the rest of Southeast Asia, perfect for those who want something special.

Photo: Aisyaqilumaranas/shutterstock

Address: Jalan Singgah Mata, Pusat Bandar, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, Mon closed

Phone: +60 16 830 1638

Internet: [borneotradingpost.com](http://borneotradingpost.com)

### Cocoa Kingdom KK Chocolate House



Welcome to a chocolate lover's wonderland. Try locally made chocolates in variable shapes and flavours at affordable prices and sample their best-sellers.

Photo: 2creative/shutterstock

Address: 1 Lorong Bunga Telur A, Kota Kinabalu

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Phone: +60 88 214 128

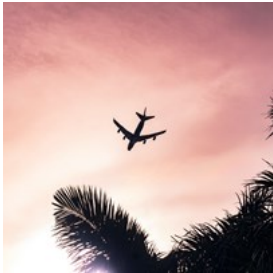
Internet: [www.instagram.com/cocoakingdom\\_borneo](http://www.instagram.com/cocoakingdom_borneo)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Marcel Eberle/unsplash

### Kota Kinabalu International Airport (BKI)



Kota Kinabalu International Airport, abbreviated KKIA, is located just outside of Tanjung Aru, about 10-15 minutes away from the

city. There are two terminals: the main KK International terminal and Terminal 2 that serves low cost carriers as well as full service airlines. Both use the same runways, but the terminals are separate.

To get from the terminal to the city you have to take the airport taxi. Vouchers can be collected from the taxi kiosk.

Photo: Eduardo Velazco Guart/unsplash

Address: Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kota Kinabalu,

Jalan Lapangan Terbang, Kota Kinabalu

Phone: +60 88 325 555

Internet: [www.kotakinabaluairport.com](http://www.kotakinabaluairport.com)

## Public Transport



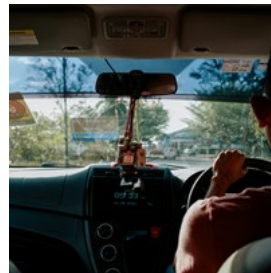
KK is a relatively small city, and the centre is easy to navigate on foot. The only other real transport option is by taxi, and rates are

reasonable.

If you are heading to the outlying areas like Tawau, Inanam, Penampang, Luyang, Beverly Hills, a less expensive alternative to taxis would be the popular minibuses. However, be aware that they are not air-conditioned.

Photo: Marie Sjödin/pixabay

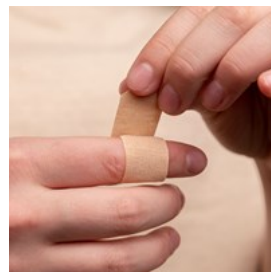
## Taxi



There is no general taxi contact number in Kota Kinabalu, as taxis are plentiful and readily available. Hotels can easily book one for you if needed. For destinations such as resort hotels, fares are often fixed, but it's advisable to agree on the price before starting your journey.

Photo: Eirik Skarstein/unsplash

## Pharmacy



Kota Kinabalu is well provided for in terms of medical facilities and pharmacies. BIG Pharmacy, Caring Pharmacy and ALPRO

Pharmacy are some of the popular chains.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/unsplash

## Post



The Malaysian postal system, operated by Pos Malaysia, ensures efficient mail and parcel delivery throughout the country, including Kota Kinabalu in Sabah. Pos Malaysia has several offices in the city.

Photo: Simona Sergi/unsplash

Address: Pos Laju Kota Kinabalu, Segama Complex, Jalan Chong Thein Vun, Off Jalan Tun Razak, Sabah, Kota Kinabalu  
Phone: +60 1 300 30 0300  
Internet: [www.pos.com.my](http://www.pos.com.my)

## Telephone



Country code: +60 City code: 8

Photo: Wesley Hilario/unsplash

## Electricity



Electrical appliances are connected to Malaysia's power supply using a three-pin plug known as plug type G. It is the same plug used in the UK. Expect 220-240V at 50Hz.

Photo: Idyshah/pixabay

## Population

500,421

## Currency

Malaysian ringgit (MYR or RM), plural: ringgit.  
1 ringgit = 100 sen

## Opening hours

Most shops are open from 10am to 7pm, but some have longer opening hours like 8am–10pm. Malaysia is a Muslim

country, which means that shops generally close on Friday, but some (Chinese or Indian) may still be open.

## Internet

[sabahtourism.com/district/kota-kinabalu](http://sabahtourism.com/district/kota-kinabalu)

## Newspapers

Borneo Post: [www.theborneopost.com](http://www.theborneopost.com)

Sabah Times

Daily Express: [www.dailyexpress.com.my](http://www.dailyexpress.com.my)

## Emergency numbers

Emergency: 999

From mobile: 112

## Tourist information

Sabah Tourism Board

51 Jalan Gaya, Kota Kinabalu

+60 88 212 121