

Petaling Jaya Old Town

The Modern City Intersected With The Nostalgic Charms Of The Old

Petaling Jaya is rich of history and blending with modern living.

In 1952, to ease congestion in Kuala Lumpur, a new settlement was planned. Petaling Jaya, between Kuala Lumpur and Port Klang, was chosen. The pioneering settlers established their residences in Sections 1, 2, and 3.

Commerce thrived with places like Hospital Assunta, banks, and the Majestic Cinema. Along Jalan Othman, old shops stand, reminding us of the city's past.

The heartbeat of commerce pulsed through the heritage enclave, anchored by institutions like Hospital Assunta, a bank, and the Majestic Cinema, catering to the thriving population. Along Jalan Othman, colonial-era shopfronts still stand, preserving the architectural legacy. These establishments, including the region's first liquor store, Petaling Jaya's initial hardware emporium, and the pioneer photography studio, serve as poignant reminders of the city's storied past.

After 70 years, the old quarters of Petaling Jaya, though no longer as flashy, continue to thrive as bustling economic hubs. The presence of both longstanding and new businesses enhances the city's amenities and serves the needs of its residents and workers, while the enduring flavors of many traditional eateries, some operating for over half a century, remain unchanged.

Explore Petaling Jaya's history today, where each corner has a story to tell.



The Origins Of The Name Petaling
Petaling Jaya got its name from the Petaling trees that once covered the area. "Jaya" was added following the success of the Kuala Lumpur project spearheaded by British colonial authorities.



PJ Old Town • Landmark

- 1 Medan Selera PJ Old Town**
Medan Selera PJ Old Town, Jalan Othman, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Also known as "48," this food court accommodates 48 hawkers stalls. Established in 1960, it offers Malay, Chinese, and Indian delicacies, from nasi lemak and banana leaf rice to bak kut teh and various desserts and drinks. It's busiest during lunchtime, drawing crowds from different ethnic backgrounds and reflecting Malaysia's cultural diversity.
- 2 Jalan Othman Wet Market**
23, Jalan Othman, Pjs 4, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 3 PJ Old Town Bus Terminal**
Terminal PJ Old Town, Jalan Othman, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Originally a vacant lot occasionally used by visiting circuses in the 1950s, it was later transformed into the Petaling Jaya Bus Terminal. Its heyday was during the 1970s to the 1990s. In 2015, the old terminal was replaced with a modern two-story facility, completed in 2018. The new terminal features elevators, toilets, offices, ticket counters, a convenience store, 16 shops, a waiting area, and facilities for people with disabilities.
- 4 Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Jamek Mosque**
69G, Lorong 3 & Jalan Templer, Seksyen 3, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 5 Sri Sithi Vinayagar Temple**
Seksyen 4, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 6 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**
40, Jalan Othman, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 7 Kwan Inn Teng Temple**
1, Lorong 4/49e, Seksyen 4, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 8 Sau Seng Lum**
7, Jalan 1/5, Seksyen 1, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 9 Sun Hoan Keong Temple**
47, Jalan Railway 1/2, Seksyen 1, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 10 Sun Tau Jing Sheh**
1, Jalan 1/15, Seksyen 1, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 11 Cheng Leong Keong Temple**
35-32, Jalan Railway 1/2, Seksyen 1, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 12 Temple Nam Tin Tao Tse**
25, Jalan 4/47, Pjs 4, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 13 Assunta Hospital**
Jalan Templer, Pjs 4, 46990 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Established in 1954, Assunta Hospital is one of Malaysia's oldest hospitals and the first private hospital in Petaling Jaya. Initially a small clinic named Ave Maria run by four nuns, it expanded due to increasing demand and was officially named Assunta Hospital in 1959. In 1961, the Tun Tan Cheng Lock College of Nursing, Malaysia's first private nursing college, was established here. Additionally, the Church of the Assumption Petaling Jaya opened its doors in 1960.
- 14 Church of The Assumption PJ**
70, Jalan Templer, 46050, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 15 Railway Park**
Jalan Railway 1/2, Seksyen 1, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Originally a slum of illegal wooden houses, it was converted into reserve land after inhabitants were relocated in the 1950s. In 2016, it was upgraded into a recreational park.
- 16 Kompleks Rakan Muda Arena Petaling Jaya**
Jalan Selangor, Pjs 3, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 17 Petaling Jaya Hockey Stadium**
18, Pjs 3, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- 18 Petaling Jaya Community Library**
Lot 389, Jalan Selangor, Seksyen 3, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

PJ Old Town • Old Shops Of Jalan Othman

- A Heng Fatt Watch Company**
77, Jalan 1/12, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
This shop is like a museum of watches from past decades, with its walls and counters adorned with timepieces of various styles.
- B Lian Hin Enterprise**
47, Jalan 1/12, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
As the only traditional stationary store in PJ Old Town, Lian Hin Enterprise sells toys and books that evoke nostalgia for many visitors.
- C Chelliah Kedai Gunting Rambut**
45, Jalan 1/12, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
A barber shop since the 70s, this establishment still retains its old-world charm with its classic swirling chairs, neon lights, and vintage mirror.
- D Brother Lim Cushion**
44, Jalan 1/12, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Established in 1972, Brother Lim Cushion specializes in sofa and car seat cushions. Its quaint signboard distinguishes it from other shops in the area.
- E Sing Hoe Weighing Enterprise**
45, Jalan 1/12, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- F KW Weighing Enterprise**
59, Jalan 1/12, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
These shops sell a variety of weighing scales and machines, catering to customers who used to weigh household items like firewood, rice, and vegetables in person.
- G PJ Glass & Frame Shop**
48, Jalan 1/14, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
This traditional shop specializes in making picture frames and mountings, with products crafted entirely by hand.
- H J&G Fashion**
50, Jalan 1/14, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
In the past, PJ had several tailor shops like J&G Fashion, where customers could get custom clothing made.
- I Pat Seong Wine Merchant**
56, Jalan 1/14, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Established in 1954, this wine merchant, with its original 50s architectural style, was the first in the country to own a liquor license.
- J Kim Tee Jewellery**
60, Jalan 1/14, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
During the 80s gold rush, jewellery shops like Emas Kim Tee installed iron bars due to security concerns.
- K Starlight Foto Studio**
48, Jalan 1/14, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Established in 1967, Starlight Foto Studio was a popular spot for various social occasions, offering photography services for families, weddings, and graduations.
- L Foong Joo Pawn Shop**
35, Jalan 1/14, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
In the past, when people needed quick cash, they would visit pawn shops like Foong Joo to pawn their jewellery and watches.
- M Sang Hup Hardware & Sons**
25, Jalan Othman, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Established in 1954, this was PJ's first hardware store, offering a range of tools and equipment.



Malay Neighbourhood - Section 3
Section 3 was Petaling Jaya's initial Malay settlement. It housed many civil servants and Malay elite like former Minister Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, spouse of the Prime Minister Dato' Seri Wan Azizah, former Inspector-General Tan Sri Musa Hassan, and singer Datuk Sheila Majid. Additionally, it hosted Petaling Jaya's first mosque, Sultan Abdul Aziz Jamek Mosque, and the first campus of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM).

The Origins Of The Names Jalan Templer And Jalan Othman
The first road in PJ, Jalan Templer was initially known as "Jalan Satu", meaning road number one. It was later named after the former British High Commissioner for Malaya, Sir Gerald Templer. Jalan Othman was originally named as "Jalan Dua", meaning road number two, renamed during the tenure of Selangor's third Menteri Besar (Chief Minister), Dato Othman Mohamed, who served from March 1953 to September 1954.

The Biggest Roundabout In Petaling Jaya
In the past, PJ Old Town boasted the largest roundabout in Malaysia, stretching from the shops near Public Bank to the traffic lights in front of the Medan Selera hawkers center. Older residents remember it as being the size of two football fields, with a popular park nestled within. Locals often gathered there, especially in the evenings when hawkers arrived, transforming the area into a vibrant hub of activity.

PJ OLD TOWN Suggested Itinerary For A Day Trip



PJ OLD TOWN • Food Map



Member of Parliament for Petaling Jaya Lee Chean Chung Service Centre
Address: 78-1, Jalan Othman 1/14, Seksyen 1, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Hotline: +6011-5995 9335
Website: <https://pjlestari.com/>

Publisher: Member of Parliament for Petaling Jaya Lee Chean Chung Service Centre
Illustration: Sankemaky
Date Of Publication August 2024

Non-Sale Items.

Foods PJ OLD TOWN



1 Auntie Peggy's Ice Kacang & Cendol, Medan Selera MUSLIM FRIENDLY

Established in 1961, this stall is now run by second-generation owner, Auntie Peggy. Their signature ABC ice kacang and cendol, both generously flavored with fragrant Gula Melaka (palm sugar), are perfect treats for a sweltering tropical day.

👍 Cendol, ABC Ice Kacang
📍 Stall #46, Medan Selera, Jalan Othman, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 8am - 4.30pm (Closed on Tuesday)



2 Seong Kee Yong Tow Foo, Medan Selera NON-HALAL

A favorite among local Hakka families and seasoned food enthusiasts, this second-generation stall offers a variety of delights including Yong Tow Foo, Hakka Yam Abacus Seed, Vinegar Pork Leg, Fish Head Curry, and more. Its popularity extends beyond locals to include seasoned food enthusiasts.

👍 Hakka Tofu, Yam Abacus Seed, Fried Chicken Wings
📍 Stall #35, Medan Selera, Jalan Othman, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 11.30am - 7pm (Closed on Monday)



3 Kie Kee Chicken Rice & Porridge, Medan Selera NON-HALAL

Besides the traditional roasted chicken rice, this stall also offers soy sauce chicken. Marinated in a special master sauce, the chicken boasts tender meat with a hint of soy flavor. Don't miss out on their roasted pork and pork curry as well.

👍 Soy Sauce Chicken, Roast Pork, Wild Boar Meat Curry
📍 Stall #41, Medan Selera, Jalan Othman, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 9.30am - 3pm (Closed on Tuesday)



4 Tian Tian Lai Bak Kut Teh, Medan Selera NON-HALAL

Among the oldest stalls in Petaling Jaya Old Town, this establishment holds memories of Chinese laborers enjoying bak kut teh for breakfast around four or five in the morning as they geared up for a day's work.

👍 Bak Kut Teh (Pork Rib Dish Cooked in Broth)
📍 Stall #39, Medan Selera, Jalan Othman, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 7am - 2.30pm (Daily)



5 Restoran Shoon Lee PJ - Koay Teow Th'ng NON-HALAL

Hailing all the way from Penang, this stall was established in 1972 and has been passed on for two generations. The owner starts his day early at 3 in the morning, boiling chicken and pork bones for more than three hours. Each bowl of the noodles has chicken floss, pork, fish balls, and lard, giving it an unbeatable fragrance!

👍 Fish Ball Noodles
📍 38, Jalan 1/19, PJ Old Town, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 6am - 3pm (Closed on Tuesday)



6 Shui Kee Steamed Chicken, Medan Selera Seksyen 2 NON-HALAL

With a legacy spanning 35 years, Shui Kee is renowned for its free-range and conventional chicken. The chicken is meticulously cooked before being soaked in cold water, resulting in tender and smooth meat. This stall sells an average of 20 chickens per day.

👍 Chicken Noodles, Fish Ball Noodles
📍 4, Jalan 2/27, Seksyen 2, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 8am - 1pm (Closed on Monday & Thursday)



7 Prawn Mee Seksyen 2 NON-HALAL

Originating from a humble hawker van, the owner has been serving prawn noodles for the past 50 years. The prawns are simmered for hours, resulting in a rich and flavorful broth with a spicy kick, minus the typical seafood scent. Prawn noodles are available only on weekends.

👍 Prawn Noodles, Curry Mee
📍 4, Jalan 2/27, Seksyen 2, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 8.30am - 2pm (Closed on Monday & Thursday)



8 Heng Kee Bak Kut Teh NON-HALAL

Heng Kee Bak Kut Teh operates exclusively at night, a tradition upheld since its establishment in 1973. With nearly 50 years in PJ Old Town, this stall has garnered accolades for its delectable Bak Kut Teh, recognized as one of the top twenty in the country. Various cuts such as ribs and pork belly are served in individual bowls with tantalizing herbal broth.

👍 Bak Kut Teh (Pork Rib Dish Cooked in Broth)
📍 16, Jalan 1/10 (Old Town), 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 4.30pm - 10.30pm (Closed on Monday)



9 Restoran Veng Soon Claypot Chicken Rice NON-HALAL

In operation since 1977, this restaurant has transitioned to the second generation. Their signature dish, claypot chicken rice, features tender chicken and flavorful rice, with or without salted fish. Upon entering the restaurant, a large iron furnace boils a variety of soups. Their coconut chicken soup is particularly noteworthy.

👍 Claypot Chicken Rice, Coconut Chicken Soup
📍 F19, Jalan Pasar 1/21, PJ Old Town, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 11.30am - 1.30pm / 5pm - 8.30pm (Closed on Tuesday)



10 Kedai Kopi Choon Kwong NON-HALAL

Since its establishment in 1970, this shop has been renowned for its pork noodles. The second-generation owner insists on using fresh pork meat sourced from trusted suppliers, paired with his homemade stewed bone soup. Prepared with pork meat, liver, intestine, cracklings, and egg, this humble dish holds a special place in the childhood memories of PJ residents.

👍 Pork Noodles with Egg
📍 5, Jalan 1/3A, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 7am - 1pm (Closed on Monday)



11 Saviour Dim Sum NON-HALAL

Originally a shoplot serving delectable Hong Kong-style dim sum, this stall transitioned after its owner reclaimed the space. Undeterred, the stall operator set up shop outside the original premises, equipped with a 6-tier steamer and a glass display cabinet for fried items. All dim sum are meticulously hand-made and cooked.

👍 Pork Buns, Taro Dumpling, Curry Puff
📍 Jalan 1/21, Old Town, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 7.30am - 8pm (Closed on Monday)



12 Tai Wah Kopitiam NON-HALAL

Serving as a breakfast spot for older residents since 1974, this coffee shop is a nostalgic hub after a morning of grocery shopping. Its robust coffee, accompanied by traditional toast and eggs, evokes cherished memories for many PJ residents.

👍 Coffee, Toast Bread, Half-Boiled Eggs, Chee Cheong Fun
📍 90a, Jalan Pasar, Off Jalan Othman, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 6.30am - 2pm (Closed on Wednesday)



13 Porridge Medan Selera Jati NON-HALAL

Established in 1956, this shop, now 70 years old, began as a tricycle stall selling mixed pig organs' porridge near a now-defunct bus terminal. Despite lacking a signboard initially, its aromatic aroma attracted patrons. The porridge boasts a thick texture with a tang of pickle and pepper, featuring mixed organs like pork blood curd, fried intestines, tongue, heart, and more.

👍 Pork Porridge, Pork Soup, Pork Mixed Rice
📍 Stall #21 Medan Selera Jati, Jalan 1/12, Off Jalan Othman, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 3pm - 8.30pm (Closed on Monday & Tuesday)



14 Traditional Hakka Lui Char Restaurant MUSLIM FRIENDLY

Originating as a small stall within a restaurant, the owner ventured into a standalone restaurant specializing in Lui Char, a traditional Hakka tea. This beverage features seven types of vegetables paired with white or brown rice mixed with dried shrimp, alongside the Lui Char soup, offering a delightful sweetness.

👍 Traditional Hakka Tea
📍 37, Jalan 1/12, Seksyen 1, PJ Old Town, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 9.30am - 2.30pm (Closed on Monday)



15 Tingkap Café MUSLIM FRIENDLY

Step into Tingkap Café and be transported back to the 70s and 80s with its tasteful retro decor. Owned by a PJ local, this restaurant specializes in East Coast delicacies such as nasi dagang, nasi kerabu, and nasi berlauk, freshly delivered from Kelantan to PJ Old Town daily. The owner aims to give locals a genuine taste of East Coast flavors.

👍 Charcoal Safay, Nasi Dagang, Nasi Kerabu
📍 52, Jalan 1/14, PJ Old Town, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 8am - 5pm (Closed on Monday)



16 Kavitha Banana Leaf, Medan Selera MUSLIM FRIENDLY

Since its establishment in 1974, Kavitha has been serving authentic Northern Indian cuisine, renowned for its expansive banana leaf rice spread featuring over 70 dishes. A unique custom at Kavitha is the leaf-folding tradition: fold the leaf inwards if you enjoyed your meal, and outwards if not.

👍 Banana Leaf Rice
📍 Stall #19, Medan Selera, Jalan Othman, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 9.30am - 9.30pm



17 Pisang Goreng PJ Old Town MUSLIM FRIENDLY

Banana fritters are a quintessential Malaysian street food, and this stall has been dishing them out for over 35 years across two generations. Alongside the iconic pisang goreng, patrons can enjoy cucur udang, curry puffs, and popiah.

👍 Banana Fritters, Spring Roll, Prawn Fritters
📍 No. 80 & 82, Jalan Othman, 1/14, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 12pm - 7pm (Closed on Monday)



18 Nasi Lemak Goreng Chef Fauzey MUSLIM FRIENDLY

Chef Fauzey elevates the classic nasi lemak by frying fragrant coconut rice with his signature sambal sauce. Served with crispy fried chicken and a fried egg, drenched in more spicy sambal, this Malaysian favorite is a must-try.

👍 Nasi Lemak with Spicy Sambal and Fried Chicken
📍 Jalan Sentosa 3/57, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
🕒 6pm - 10pm (Closed on Sunday)