

VISITORS' GUIDE
TO

BAYAN
INDAH 

The Culinary Resort

3343 Kampung Palimbayan Indah, Sungei Pencala, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tel: (+6) 03 7729 0122

<http://www.bayanindah.com>

rohani@bayanindah.com

Contents

HISTORY OF BAYAN INDAH	3
Location	3
The House	3
Map and Directions to Bayan Indah	3

THINGS TO DO	
The Classes	4
Other Things To Do	4
Fresh Food Markets	4
Food Courts / Restaurants	5
City Buzz & Shopping	5

FACILITIES AT BAYAN INDAH	
Our Philosophy	6
The Herb Garden	6
The Garden Seminar House	6
The Library	7
Breakfast	7
Other Meals – The Best Options	7
Washing Facilities	7
Complimentary Parking	8
Complimentary Internet Wi-Fi	8
Complimentary Little Touches of Home	8
Your Suggestions	8

AND FINALLY	9
--------------------	---

HISTORY OF BAYAN INDAH



LOCATION

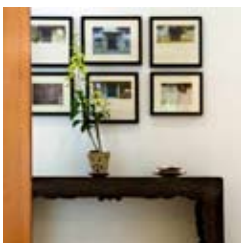
The Bayan Indah Culinary Resort is located in a beautiful secluded enclave at the edge of a small Malay “kampung” or village. The whole area is sparsely populated, yet lies within the borders of Kuala Lumpur city and is less than 30 minutes away from the city centre by car. At the back of Bayan Indah are genuine wild natural rain forests, pristine and undisturbed for centuries. The unspoilt nature of Bayan Indah is of course unique and wonderful - however visitors do need to be aware of the natural wildlife in the vicinity and be conscious of how one should interact with it. For example, please do not feed any monkeys that amble up to you as they will just continuously pester you (and others) for more food. Similarly, do not pick any pretty flowers or attempt to collect insects or butterflies around the resort. Some tropical plants can cause highly allergic reactions and many species of butterflies and insects are on the WWF endangered species list. But please do feel free to stroll around the area, or enjoy our Asian herb garden, one of the best in the country. In case you are wondering, Bayan is the local name for a red-cheeked longtailed parakeet bird and Indah is a Malay word for pretty (or kind or sweetnatured).



THE HOUSE

The property was selected as Malaysian House of the Year for the year 2008 before it was converted to Bayan Indah. It is an airy, spacious, elegant tropical home with one of the most beautiful kitchens in the country. Internally it has 4 superb luxury bedrooms for guests, with contemporary comfortable spaces for guests to lounge around for a chat or while planning the day ahead.

All the items of furniture are hand-picked antiques from Asia, and elegantly complemented by unique pieces of modern Asian glass art by world-renowned Penang artist, Wong Keng Fuan. The modern furnishings are beautifully handcrafted by our resident carpenter, using local sustainable wood. Nothing is off the- shelf in Bayan Indah, least of all your experience with us.



MAP AND DIRECTIONS TO BAYAN INDAH

Bayan Indah is indicated by the little X near the top middle of the following satellite picture. We show the satellite picture because there are no maps showing the final roads that lead to Bayan Indah. Don't worry though – the roads may not be on your map but they are actually good roads and not mud tracks or anything like that. It is just that the location is a little bit secluded and off the beaten track – but you will easily be able to navigate there with the exact directions which will be given to you when you book.

Casual visitors are not encouraged as we value the privacy and peace of our current guests so please kindly ring ahead to make an appointment if you wish to come to Bayan Indah to make a personal enquiry or do a viewing.

THINGS TO DO



THE CLASSES

Of course, guests are very welcome to stay at Bayan Indah just for the relaxing atmosphere and wonderful surroundings. However, we suspect that more than a fair share of guests would be people wishing to attend the unique cooking classes offered by Rohani Jelani, one of the best cooks in Malaysia and South East Asia. The cooking classes at Bayan Indah are done in our own beautiful kitchen which has been featured many times in local and international publications. In fact, Rohani Jelani's cooking classes at Bayan Indah are recommended as one of the top 10 things to do in *Savour Magazine's Top 100 List for 2009*, the only Malaysian site to be listed in the whole list. There are a variety of lessons, ranging from fantastic, classic Malaysian favourites and unusual specialities, spilling over to other kinds of Asian dishes from Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Laos, Cambodia, India, etc. One can experience the history of the evolution of Asian cuisine through these classes, with a special focus on Malaysia, which is the true culinary melting point for all Asian styles of cooking.



For locals Malaysians, it should be noted that Rohani is also a fully qualified Cordon Bleu chef, and she also does classes in Mediterranean, French and Spanish cooking, where she teaches the finer points of European bakery (speciality breads, cakes, biscuits, special pizzas, etc) and other styles of Western cooking.

OTHER THINGS TO DO

Although Bayan Indah itself is serene and secluded, it is still very easy to get to the bustle of local fresh food markets, or to sample local hawker or restaurant cuisine, or to experience the buzz of modern Kuala Lumpur, which is just under 30 mins away by car.



FRESH FOOD MARKETS

There are local fresh food markets nearby, though they are not open every day. Some of them are open only during mornings and some are also open during the evenings:

- Taman Tun Dr Ismail wet market
- SS2 Night Market



Transport is easy and cheap. Just let us know and we will arrange a driver to drop you off and pick you up. If you feel confident, please arrange with us to borrow our secondary kitchen and then you can buy some local produce to do your own cooking! It can be so much fun to experiment with these ingredients by yourself!



FOOD COURTS / RESTAURANTS

Malaysia is full of very interesting outdoor and indoor food courts where one can sample a relentless range of superb dishes. It has been very often said that one can choose a different style of food each day and one still would not have tried every style of food after a year!

As the variety of dishes can be not a little overwhelming, we can offer to provide a guide to help our guests if they feel they need a little help or to learn about the history and evolution of food in Kuala Lumpur. Again, just let us know and we will arrange a guide and transport who can show you the ropes.



But for those who feel adventurous enough to go it alone without help, some of the local eating places we can recommend are:

- Rasta @ TDDI
- TTDI Plaza
- SS2 Night Market



We can arrange transport and pickup afterwards as they are not far away from Bayan Indah.

CITY BUZZ & SHOPPING

As visitors to Kuala Lumpur, you would certainly have heard about the buzzing shopping and nightlife in the City. You would have read about places like Bukit Bintang, the KLCC Twin Towers, Chinatown, Museum Negara, CapSquare Boulevard, etc, and indeed they are definitely worth experiencing for they are part and parcel of life in Kuala Lumpur. Note that there is no luxury tax applied on luxury items sold in the city, and even better, there is no sales tax. Hence items such as Swiss watches and fashion clothing can be at least 30% cheaper than in Europe as the luxury tax in Europe is around 15% and then local VAT (or sales tax) would be included on top.

We would be happy to arrange transport and return pickup to any destinations you choose to visit in Kuala Lumpur, and that includes carrying all that shopping that you would have done! :o)



FACILITIES AT BAYAN INDAH



OUR PHILOSOPHY

At Bayan Indah, we provide all the comforts of home, and by home, we mean home. We offer nothing less than the finest furnishings and linens – the finest cotton sheets, the best cotton towels, the most luxurious room fittings, including antiques or items hand-made by local craftsmen or by renowned Asian artists. Bayan Indah is not only a home, but a very special home, meant to delight and to be enjoyed by everyone, especially guests to our lovely country. We treat you as if you are really part of our family living at Bayan Indah. We are very aware that you want to feel comfortable, with all the privacy and space that you wish to enjoy your own personal experience at Bayan Indah and so we promise to be as polite and unobtrusive as possible.



THE HERB GARDEN

Practically all the grounds around Bayan Indah is a tropical herb garden and this is where we gather the fresh herbs for many of our Malaysian cooking classes. You are always welcome to stroll through the gardens at any time and touch and smell the fresh herbs that are so important for making true Asian dishes. However, please do not pick any of the fresh herbs as they often need careful harvesting and sometimes picking them roughly can damage or even destroy some plants. Quite a few species here are very rare indeed and used only for very special dishes.



THE GARDEN SEMINAR HOUSE

We can provide a lovely private space for people who wish to have meetings, conferences, seminars, social or family events at Bayan Indah. Our Garden House can handle a group of around 20-30 persons as we do not like crowding in people. Large wide windows and comfortable seating with modern facilities give an unusually light and airy feel to this space, which contrasts with the often stuffy formal rooms in hotels and offices.

We can do a range of specialist catering as well, for lunch, dinner and snacks for break times. And you will know that our food is done especially just for you, direct from our kitchen, using ingredients from our herb gardens and the best produce from local markets. You can choose from our set menus or just ask to have a menu done specially for you.



THE LIBRARY

Rohani has written many books on Asian cooking, and there is a little library where you can read and check out some of her publications. There is also a collection of other books and magazines about cooking and travel and all guests are welcome to browse through the many titles in our little library.

If you wish, we can also let you purchase some copies of Rohani's best books, perhaps if you want to complement what you have learnt in the kitchen. Just let us know anytime.



BREAKFAST

Continuing our unintrusive philosophy, there is a self-service Western-style breakfast table each morning. Come whenever you like and simply serve yourself. If you wish to try a local hot breakfast, we would be happy to either cook it for you, or better still, drive you somewhere close-by for a real local breakfast eaten amongst local people, and then pick you up afterwards. Why do we suggest this? Because we know you will simply love doing this, and it is so cheap as well!



OTHER MEALS – THE BEST OPTIONS

We know that you enjoy food and cooking but we do not insist that you eat every day at Bayan Indah, especially when there is so much variety so close to us (we just think it would be a little unfair)! However, we do offer meals for lunch and dinner and they would be dishes that would combine the freshest ingredients and herbs that are in season. Just ask us for what we will be doing for lunch or dinner, and you are welcome to join in with us.

Alternatively, every cooking class ends up in a meal, and very usually, it will be a great meal. So why not see what classes are on offer for the day and experience the thrill and satisfaction of cooking your own food. Then you will know exactly how it is done and what has gone into it! Another great idea is to do tag-team cooking. Come with some friends, and they can make you lunch and you can make them dinner, or they can cook one day and you the next. Just let us know in advance and we will organise extra ingredients for your classes. This is so simple and so much fun to do between friends.

So you have three great choices: (i) allow us to organise for you little trips to sample a different style of food for each meal or (ii) eat at Bayan Indah and sample the best ingredients of the season with us, or best of all (iii) have fun learning to cook your own meals either by yourself or with your friends, and share your culinary masterpieces around.



WASHING FACILITIES

There are washing facilities at Bayan Indah, which are self-operated. We run an honour system and ask that you donate RM10 into the piggy bank for each wash to cover electricity and powder costs, and another RM10 if you wish to use the tumble dryer as well. (Electricity is quite expensive as we are in quite a remote district away from the main grid.) There is also an ironing board and iron which you can use free of charge, so you have basically all the normal washing facilities that you would have in your normal home.

If this is too much trouble for you, we can also organise a laundry or drycleaning facility that takes 24-48 hours turnaround time. This will be done by an external cleaning agency but this is, in our opinion, quite expensive.





COMPLIMENTARY PARKING

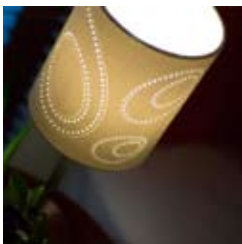
There should always be room for secure free parking at Bayan Indah, except for the temporary moments when we are really booked up for an event (we are being honest here)! But normally, secure parking is not a problem and there are also places for cars just outside and around the resort as it is a rural area. Complimentary Internet Wi-Fi.

We provide a free courtesy internet service via our wi-fi routers and the coverage extends to our gardens and the Garden House. So you can keep in touch with your friends and family in your room or while rambling around the grounds and even make VOIP/Skype calls for free. We don't mind – we know it's a lot cheaper and easier than paying for hotel phone bills!



COMPLIMENTARY LITTLE TOUCHES OF HOME

There will always be fresh fruit, coffee, tea, freshly-baked cookies or little cupcakes and snacks available at all times. And if you find our little tidbits irresistible (as many people do), we may be able to organise a little special lesson so that you can learn to make these tidbits yourself and take them home with you, or leave them for other guests to enjoy.



YOUR SUGGESTIONS

We do not claim to know it all, but we would like to know that we have done what we can to make your stay with us pleasant and homely and thoroughly enjoyable. So if you can think of some other things we can do to make things even better, then please do let us know. Fill in the questionnaire or drop us a note or an email and we will seriously look into it.

Other guests will always appreciate knowing what you did on your visit to us and Kuala Lumpur, so please do let us know what you found exciting or interesting or great fun and we will include your suggestions in later versions of this little guide.

And if you have had a good stay with us, please do drop us a letter or email to let us know. We do admit we get a little thrill every time someone writes in to say that they have had a great time with us at Bayan Indah!

AND FINALLY...



Well, we just like to say that we really like to welcome you to Bayan Indah! As you can hopefully gather by now, we do not think of you as strangers who are just passing through only to be forgotten the next day and replaced by other strangers. That is simply not in our nature. We want to meet you as friends and share with you our passion for cooking and living in Malaysia. We want you to experience the best Malaysia can offer, in a civilised cultured atmosphere, in a strange but lovely house at the edge of truly pristine rain forests, but yet not at all far from the bustle of Kuala Lumpur.

Most of all, we want you to remember Bayan Indah as the place where you were staying when you finally touched and were touched by the soul of Malaysia, by the sensual aromas and flavours of the best Malaysian cuisines, by the fragrances of the early tropical air and our herb gardens, and by the innate friendliness and organised chaos that is life in our beautiful, unique, joyful tropical country.