



The Saujana Hotel Kuala Lumpur

A Haven in the Heart of the City

Located just 35 minutes away from the city and situated in Shah Alam, Selangor, the Saujana Hotel Kuala Lumpur provides a study in contrasts. For this writer, the moment of truth always takes place when the car makes the turn into the driveway leading to the hotel, and the sights and sounds of the city seem to fade away to be replaced by lush tropical trees, a gorgeous lake and the feeling of tranquillity and contentment all around.

Resort Living

Boasting a storied history dating back nearly 30 years, the Saujana Kuala Lumpur has an enviable reputation as a haven amidst the urban hustle and bustle – a unique tropical retreat in the heart of the Klang Valley. The hotel itself is part of the wider Saujana Golf & Country Club, which was conceptualised by then Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed in the early

1980s, as a means of attracting investors to the country.

In a way, this sojourn at the Saujana Kuala Lumpur was like revisiting an old friend. A few familiar favourites were there, particularly the reception area which still had the feel of a beach resort with its tropical fittings and high thatched roofs which allowed the cool natural breeze in as ventilation.

Above: Palm trees, thatched roofs and other motifs help make the pool area at the Saujana Kuala Lumpur, the epitome of tropical splendour.

Right: Befitting its name, the new Charcoal Restaurant at the Saujana Kuala Lumpur, has live grills where chefs roast meat and seafood in front of diners.

Below: A stark contrast to the quaint and traditional charms of the hotel are the rooms (such as the deluxe room pictured here) which has a feel of modern luxury.



Yet some things have changed. This is not surprising, considering that from July 2014 to June this year, the Saujana has undergone an extensive period of renovation and refurbishment.

Luxurious Abodes

Just as entering the Saujana Kuala Lumpur is like going into another world, the rooms (such as the Deluxe Room) contrast the rustic ambience of the hotel. Whereas the compound is the epitome of a tropical bliss, the rooms are the very example of contemporary luxury, complete with iPhone and iPad docking stations, a large flat-screen television, a work desk,

complimentary WiFi and – best-of-all – an espresso machine (a blessing for any caffeine addict).

They are also near soundproof, making them ideal for rest and relaxation or even to do some serious work. I should know because when I left the aforementioned relaunch party, the event was officially over but the revelries were still on-going, accompanied by loud music. Yet, despite the fact that my room was just above the party area, not a single sound from outside was heard.

Where Business and Leisure Meet

The beauty of the Saujana Kuala Lumpur is that it manages to fulfil different needs for different guests. It is, of course, an ideal hotel for those seeking leisure and pleasure, to spend some quality time with family. However, it is also an excellent business hotel with the amenities and facilities, such as a Grand Ballroom and 16 meeting rooms, to host either large-scale events or smaller-scale conferences.

In other words, you get the best of all worlds at the Saujana Kuala Lumpur. Most important of all, you will definitely get a good night's sleep. Although I was suffering from a bout of insomnia brought on by a slight case of the flu, I woke up the next morning feeling absolutely refreshed. And whether you are on a holiday or on a business trip, there is nothing more you can ask for from a hotel, especially when you have a busy day ahead.

And if you do have a busy day ahead, what better way to start it than by energising yourself with a hearty buffet breakfast at the new Charcoal Restaurant. Satisfy your palate with a menu that includes Western and Asian selections, fresh fruit juices and one of the most generous servings of coffee in any hotel I've ever been.

Sitting at the al-fresco area of the Charcoal, cup of coffee in my hand, while gazing out towards the pool and the beautifully manicured lawn, a tinge of regret passed over me that it was almost time to leave this wonderful place. Then the thought struck me, perhaps the next time I go on leave, I will come here instead of travelling abroad. Whether you are coming from overseas and outstation or even if you're in the Klang Valley, a stay at the Saujana Hotel Kuala Lumpur is a must-try. But be warned, you will find yourself longing to come back for more. **IBR**