With the land size of 329,758 sq km the Federation of Malaysia comprises of Peninsular Malaysia and the states of Sabah and Sarawak on the island of Borneo. Located between 2º and 7º north of the Equator, Peninsular Malaysia is separated from the states of Sabah and Sarawak by the South China Sea. To the north of Peninsular Malaysia is Thailand while its southern neighbour is Singapore. Sabah and Sarawak are bounded by Indonesia while Sarawak also shares a border with Brunei.

Malays who make up about 57% of the 25 million populations are the predominant group in Malaysia, with Chinese, Indians and other ethnic groups making up the rest. Bahasa Melayu (Malay) is the national language but English is widely spoken. The ethnic groups also speak various languages and dialects. The official religion in Malaysia is Islam but all other religions are freely practiced.

Malaysia is blessed with a tropical climate with warm weather all year round. The temperatures ranged from around 21ºC (70ºF) to 32ºC (90ºF) and the annual rainfall varies from 2,000mm to 2,500mm. Manufacturing constitutes the largest single component of Malaysia’s economy. Tourism and primary commodities such as petroleum, palm oil, natural rubber and timber are other major contributors to the economy.

Malaysia is divided into Peninsular Malaysia (West Malaysia) and East Malaysia. The capital, Kuala Lumpur, lies midway along the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur represents the heartbeat of Malaysia, serving as its administration, cultural, commercial and transportation centre.

It all began in the Middle of the 19th century when a group of tin prospectors came to settle around the convergence of the Klang and Gombak rivers. This marked the foundation of Kuala Lumpur and it has been its share of growth and setbacks to become metropolitan centre of today.

With a population of over 1.3 million, Kuala Lumpur is by far the largest city in Malaysia. Malays, Chinese and Indians comprise the main races among others in this multicultural backdrop. This ethnic diversity has shaped the city over the years and is clearly seen in the various cultural customs and religious beliefs, as well as languages, cuisines and architecture.

Better known as KL to the locals, the city is a heady mix of history and culture intertwined with mushrooming skyscrapers and office towers. Kuala Lumpur is one of the best examples of a city that has managed to preserve the best of its cultural heritage and combine it with modern conveniences to offer a wholly unique experience to visitors.