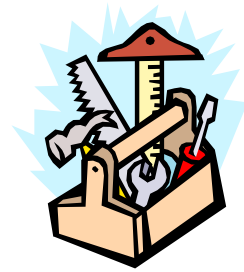


Help to Set Up Your New Home

Here is a list of information designed to help get you through the first couple weeks after your arrival. The recommendations listed are favorites used and frequented by Dalat staff. Hope it helps!



Telephone

- The country code for Malaysia is 60, the city code is 4 (i.e. to phone the school from outside the country, dial 60-4-899-2105).
- To direct dial out of Malaysia, dial 00 then the country code (i.e. U.S. and Canada are 1), then the area code and phone number. Using a phone card is cheaper. Dial the number listed on the card and follow instructions in English.
- School phone number: 899-2105
- Local Police for Tanjung Bunga: 899-0994, Police/Ambulance: 999, Fire/Rescue: 994

Drinking Water

You'll get mixed responses on this question. Many people do drink from the tap. Penang's water has been declared safe. It has a high chlorine content to kill off bacteria. On the other hand, many expats purchase bottled water (RM\$10-14 for 5 gallon bottle to use with water dispenser and delivered to your home or RM\$5 for 1 gallon bottle from grocery or convenience store) or filter their own using "water pots" (around RM\$60).

North-American Style Restaurants with Delivery Service

- McDonald's at Sunrise (226-4255) - closest to the school, also in Midlands Mall, Gurney Plaza, Komtar and other locations in the city
- Pizza Hut at Sunrise (226-7034) - closest, several others in the city
- US Pizza at Island Plaza (899-2828)
- Domino's Pizza at Gurney Plaza (227-5111) - 30 min. delivery

Transportation

- **Public Buses** - The bus system is inexpensive, runs frequently, and is easy to use. Minibuses (#31 or 88 travel between Tanjung Bunga and the Jeti) have a fixed rate of 80 sen/adult, 60 sen/child under 12. Larger buses (#93 and 202 travel between Batu Ferringhi and downtown) have rates which may vary depending on the distance traveled; it's best just to plop in 80 sen for short distances like to Midlands, but RM1 for longer distances. Drivers on the larger buses have been known to overcharge anyone who looks like a tourist--but the cost is still minimal. Bus schedules are not fixed. A bus normally passes by within twenty minutes. Exact change *is* preferable, but minibuses will give out 20 sen coupons if you pay with a ringgit. All buses end up at Komtar, the main bus terminal, eventually. The "return" area from Komtar is under the LifeStyle store. Ask someone inside how to get there the first time.

To signal a bus, stand on the sidewalk and hold out your arm. Only buses with numbers on them will stop. (Yellow "Bas Sekolah" is a school bus, blue "Bas Kilang" is a factory worker bus, white/green "Bas Persiaran" is a tourist bus. The drivers may smile and wave, but they will not stop.) Most bus drivers prefer your standing at the designated bus stop, but may stop if you signal them from some spot in between.

Be careful when returning to school on a minibus; check with the driver to make sure he plans to return all the way to Tanjung Bunga. The front placard may read "Tanjung Bunga," but the driver will only drive to Tanjung Tokong (large apartments where the road turns south). You may get stuck in front of the apartments, either waiting for another bus or deciding to walk the 2+ km back to school. If the driver "strands" you, make sure you ask for coupons to compensate your inconvenience.

- **Taxi Service** – Ronnie (890-4405, handphone 016-451-2452), or Tanjung Bunga Radio Service (890-9918). Taxis will stop anywhere, often offering you a ride whether you ask for it or not. Flag a taxi down in the same manner as a bus. Some drivers in regular looking cars will also pull over and offer you a ride. Decline civilly. Most taxis do not use a meter. Ask in advance what the fare will be, and wait for another taxi if you think the given price is too much. If you call in advance for a taxi, ask what you should expect the fare to be.

Grocery Shopping

- Cold Storage, basement floor Gurney Plaza (229-0312)– fine selection of imported goods, nice variety of meat and frozen goods
- Giant Supermarket, Jalan Burmah (227-1155) - same as Cold Storage
- Super Value, 1st floor Midlands Mall (229-6982) – mostly local products, less convenient to carry groceries out to your vehicle
- Tesco, 1 Lebu Tengku Kudin (659-4942), www.tesco.com.my – best selection of imported goods, "one stop shopping"
- Straits Mini-Market on Hillside (899-2561, 890-8191) – convenient for short-notice purchases, prices are higher, decent selection, some imports due to local international community (i.e. fajita wraps)
- Penang Store on Hillside (890-6915) – convenient but limited selection
- The Wet Market is located ½ mile west of school just off the main Tanjung Bunga road. It is open every morning from daylight until noon. You can purchase fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, chicken, and fish. There are also vendors with spices, fresh flowers, snack foods and a variety of local food. Try sampling Chinese pancakes from one of the vendors. The wet market is also open Tuesday evening from about 7:00 and is lined with vendors selling plastic ware, locally-made toys, hair accessories, and basic household goods and cleaning utensils. The stalls are open for restaurant-style eating. There is a wide variety of Indian, Chinese and Malay local cuisine.

Note: Don't be shy in asking for recommendations. You may want someone to suggest brands of food from the grocery store and favorite vendors from the wet

market. Using “tried and tested” suggestions will help you get through the first couple months until you feel the energy and courage to experiment.

Household Goods

- GAMA, Jalan Dato Keramat, near Komtar (226-5101) – cheap local products, plastic ware, drawer organizers, garbage bins, usually quite crowded
- Makro, 675 Jalan Sungai Dua (656-9888) – Sam’s Club style store, need a card which you can register for with your passport number and a receipt, good for tools, water filters, fans, lamps, small area rugs, pillows, bedding, clocks
- Super at Island Plaza or Komtar, and Parkson Grand at Gurney Plaza – similar to department stores in North America, wide range of household goods and electrical appliances, good prices when they have sales
- Mekio, 4th floor Gurney Plaza – decorative items, variety of lamps, small area rugs, nice selection of furniture, wooden toys
- Tanjung Bunga Hardware Store, Lembah Permai, Hillside (890-7242) – supplies simple tools, nails, screws, paints, screening, springy curtain wire, light bulbs, garden tools
- “Cheapside” next to Regent, Lebu Chulia – shops in the alley, cheap prices for paint, light bulbs, curtain rods, gardening tools, door locks, water hose and sprinklers, etc.

Curtains/Carpeting/Bedding

- Kamdar, 14 Jalan Burmah (227-7089) – 4 story building with wide variety of curtain, upholstery and clothing fabrics, also source of purchasing curtain hooks and tape if you choose to make your own curtains
- Raj Brothers, 88 Lebu Campbell (261-9792) – will tailor-make curtains and upholstery, will come to your house
- Teh Brothers Décor, 219 Jalan Burmah (227-0461) – nice selection of curtain and upholstery fabric, curtain rods, carpet, wallpaper, mini-blinds, will come to your house to measure and install
- Vipin Carpet, 107 Lebu Chulia (226-2603) – nice variety of wall-to-wall and area rugs, many imported varieties from India and Belgium, will deliver and install
- Regent, 281 Lebu Chulia – King Koil mattresses
- Super and Parkson Grand department stores – sheet sets come with fitted sheet and pillow cases, top/flat sheet must be purchased separately, wide variety of bedding sets
- Reject Shop, 3rd floor Gurney Plaza – bedding, pillows, North-American style for export

Electronics/E-mail/Satellite TV

- Sin Guan Hin/Sharp’s on Tanjung Bunga near Wet Market (890-7507) – microwaves, TV’s, VCR’s, satellite TV, fans, refrigerators, stoves, will install and arrange for satellite TV hook-up
- E-mail – You can purchase an e-mail account through Jaring or Streamyx broadband at Trionic Micros in Midlands Mall (227-1587). The start-up fee is

about RM\$95 and there is a monthly charge. When you go to register, bring your passport for ID purposes. You can also get a TMnet account at the main post office on Jalan Burmah, three blocks west of Komtar. Both Jaring and TMnet will provide you with Internet access at home.

- Astro cable – You pay a one-time hook-up price (about RM\$500) and monthly payments (RM\$50-150) depending on the package you choose.

Furniture

- Regent, 281 Lebu Chulia (262-6626) – ask to speak to Sim, offers some variety in store but has many catalogs available, will deliver
- Rayven, 290 Kampung Bharu, Ayer Itam by state mosque (827-4878) – ask to speak to Raymond Yeap, nice selection of North-American style furniture, will deliver

Note: The more hardwood in the furniture piece, the higher the cost. Wood is a commodity here. Even cane and wicker products are more expensive than North-American looking furniture.

Money

- The Malaysian Ringgit is approximately 3.7 to the U.S. Dollar. When you make your purchases, divide by about ¼.
- Maybank Bank near Wet Market – (899-1277, 899-1266) When registering for an account, take your passport for ID and letter of employment.
- Once you have a savings account at a bank, your employer can direct-deposit your salary.
- You can choose to have a cash card and withdraw money at ATM machines (which offer instructions in English) around the city and in the malls.
- Checks are not commonly used.
- You can pay regular bills (water, electric, phone) online or at the post office.

E-Banking

For those of you who have Maybank accounts and ATM cards, you may want to pay your bills over the web instead of standing in long lines at the post office. Here is a list of steps to take if you want to be able to pay phone, electric, water, Astro, and Internet bills online:

1. Go to any Maybank ATM.
2. Put in your card and select "Maybank2u.com Application" from the main menu.
3. Choose a 6-digit Maybank2u.com PIN and memorize it. You'll only use this PIN once, so feel free to write it down.
4. Log on to the web (it works the best if you do this early in the day).
5. Go to www.maybank2u.com
6. Select "Malaysia"
7. Go to the "login" button, then choose "First time login"
8. Read the terms and conditions then accept it at the end of the document.
9. You should see a "welcome" page.

10. At the "access Number" field, enter the account number you used to get the PIN (i.e. your savings account).
11. Enter your 6 digit PIN number.
12. Click "Activate"
13. A new login screen will appear. Select a preferred user name and password. The user name needs to have 6-16 characters (letters). The password needs to have 8-12 characters and is a mix of letters and numbers. Make sure you can remember these names!
14. You have an account now! Go to the "online banking" and do the "bill payment" section. You'll have to enter the information the first time ("Bill registration", or something like that), but then it's there and you can use it any time.

Gas Tank Replacement

Most stoves and dryers are run on portable gas tanks. Small cylinder tanks are 11 kg and usually grey in color (15 to 20 RM). You may order gas tanks through Tanjong Bungah Store (890-8580) or Ah Long (899-0716, handphone 016-453-8934) and have it delivered to your home.