

## JOM! STAY: History dwells in these hotels

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MERDEKA! MERDEKA! MERDEKA! Malaysia's National Day is just around the corner and what better way to celebrate than lounge in one of the heritage hotels that is steeped in history.

Agoda.com, one of the world's fastest growing digital travel platforms, pays homage to some of the nation's must-visit hotels with colourful history.



### 1. FEDERAL HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

Whenever Merdeka Day approaches, Federal Hotel, situated in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, come to mind.



The hotel is not just any ordinary hotel but shares a slice of Malaysian history and heritage.

It is Malaysia's first international class hotel, opened just three days shy of the nation's declaration of independence on Aug 28, 1957.

Over the years, this landmark hotel saw its many firsts including its Bintang Revolving Lounge and Restaurant, situated on the 18th floor.

Not only that, the hotel's iconic restaurant, the Mandarin Palace, was featured in a Hollywood movie, *The Seventh Dawn* (1964), starring William Holden and Capucine.



## 2. MAJESTIC HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

Discover some of the country's colonial heritage at the Majestic Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

This structure built in 1932, includes the original Hotel Majestic, which still stands as one of the greatest hotels of its time and is documented as a national heritage site.

Before the Federation of Malaya acquired independence from the British, this hotel was an icon of Malaya's boom years leading up to World War II.

Not only was the hotel a place for glamorous social events and government receptions but it was also the residence of prominent international visitors.





### 3. EASTERN AND ORIENTAL HOTEL, PENANG

Existing for more than a century, Eastern & Oriental Hotel in Penang has a long and colourful history, having survived two world wars, the wane of the British empire and the birth of Malaysia.

Throughout these highly significant events in history, the hotel has retained its charm and weathered the passage of time with character and grace.



#### 4. MUNTRI GROVE HOTEL, PENANG

Take a trip down memory lane with the Muntri Grove Hotel in Penang, which originally served as the living quarters of workers attending to wealthy families in the 19th century.

At that time, it was a modest building with low roofs, small living spaces and two rooms in each unit.

The hotel still exhibits subtle British influences from another era. Although it was restored in 2013, special effort was taken to maintain the original architectural framework so as to remain true to its history.

This hotel has a unique story to tell as part of the building was destroyed during World War II. That part was later rebuilt to contain an elevated swimming pool and reception area.





##### 5. GINGERFLOWER BOUTIQUE HOTEL, MELAKA

Ginger flower Boutique Hotel is a tastefully restored Peranakan townhouse. This hotel is on the Unesco World Heritage list and offers guests a 19th century cultural and architectural experience.

Its architecture is a unique blend of Dutch and Peranakan flair and is reminiscent of a bygone era. The hotel has preserved an original turn-of-the-century water-well that served as the only source

of water for all household needs and played an important part of Peranakan life.