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Putrajaya's princely sites

Tina Melan

SOME of the common impressions of Putrajaya are as the location of the nation's administrative centre, home of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, pride of the nation and vision city of the future.

Perhaps it should be reconsidered as a location for sightseeing and eating out.

One place which serves the gastronomic needs of Putrajaya residents and visitors is Selera Putra. Located at the lower level of Dataran Putra and fronting Putrajaya Lake, the food court offers local cuisine and fastfood.

With the capacity to seat 800 people, it is a hit among residents and many others from nearby. From nasi kerabu to dim sum and teh tarik to designer coffee, Selera Putra offers patrons a modern and fuss-free outlet, yet cosy enough to be a hang-out joint, with its indoor and outdoor dining area.

When in Putrajaya, also take the opportunity to walk about the area. The centrepiece Dataran Putra is a great place to start. A ceremonial 300-metre circular Dataran Putra is adorned with light and water features.

Dataran Putra is bounded by Perdana Putra, Perdana Walk, Putra Mosque, Putra Bridge and the Promenade. Together they constitute the most impressive showcase of Putrajaya's unique architectural form.

Visitors are allowed to park their cars on the square area - on weekends, the place is packed with tourists armed with cameras.

From Dataran Putra, head to the pink-domed Putra Mosque. Extending out of the western shore of the Putrajaya lake, the mosque seems to be floating on water.

The Putra Mosque is home to an impressive minaret built in five tiers - representing the Five Pillars of Islam.

The most prominent feature of Putrajaya is undoubtedly the Perdana Putra Building. At 50 metres above sea level, it occupies the highest hill in Precinct 1 and overlooks the Putrajaya lake.

The natural stone-clad building with its green pitched roof and onion-shaped dome forms the distinctive landmark of the administrative capital.

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