

**Old Istana Negara Building Still A Tourist Attraction**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 2 (Bernama) - The old Istana Negara building in Jalan Istana is still an attraction for domestic and foreign tourists although its function as residence of Yang di-Pertuan Agong ceased on Nov 15 last year.

A check by Bernama found that tourists still gather in front of the palace main entrance to snap photographs and record video as it is regarded as one of must visit places in the capital.

Most of them feel that the palace has its own historical value and played a role in retaining the monarchy institution in the country.

Noreedah Isa, 41, said the palace was a symbol of the sovereignty of rulers and should be visited by every Malaysian.

"Being at the main entrance makes me feel close to leaders of our country. This is not my first visit here as I came with the family during the school holidays," she added.

Rajiro Guth, 45, who is making his first visit to Malaysia, said the old palace building is unique as it is located right in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

"I am impressed with the classic and traditional structure of this palace and surprised to learn that it is no longer occupied," said Indian tourist.

Norizan Talib, 36, said he felt sad watching the palace closing ceremony on television as the building bring memories to a lot of Malaysians.

"I come to visit this palace as it means so much to Malaysians although it no longer play its previous role," said the woman from Klang.

Tourist guide Fuad Samsuddin, 50, said although Istana Negara has moved to a new location, foreign tourists still want to visit the old palace building.

"Generally, tourists will request places to visit and the old Istana Negara is a must due to influence of friends who had visited Malaysia," he said.

The building was originally a two storey bungalow built by millionaire Chan Wing in 1928 and later changed ownership to the Selangor government which modified it into a state palace.

In 1957, the federal government bought it from the Selangor government at RM1.4mil and converted it into the residence of Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The new Istana Negara built with Islamic and Malay traditional features is located on a 96.52 hectare site in Jalan Duta.

It is now the residence of 14th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam

Shah.

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