



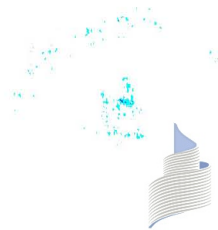
My Journey By Bus

Perak • Pulau Pinang • Perlis • Kedah

04

LAM CHING FU





S 011100
RM 80.0

FuFu | My Journey By Bus



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA



How long since your last journey by bus?



	•	Foreword
Start Of The Journey	•	
	•	Tanjung Malim (pg. 3)
Bidor (pg. 11)	•	
	•	Tapah (pg. 17)
Kampar (pg. 23)	•	
	•	Ipoh (pg. 29)
Kuala Kangsar (pg. 37)	•	
	•	Kampung Baru Sauk (pg. 45)
Tasik Raban (pg. 51)	•	
	•	Selat Pagar (pg. 57)
Ayer Kala (pg. 63)	•	
	•	Kuala Rui (pg. 71)
Taiping (pg. 77)	•	
	•	Kuala Sepatang (pg. 83)
Kuala Kurau (pg. 89)	•	
	•	Tanjung Piandang (pg. 97)
George Town (pg. 107)	•	
	•	Pantai Aceh (pg. 115)
Pekan Genting (pg. 121)	•	

Afterword	•
•	• Classic Bus Routes
End Of The Journey	•
•	• Teluk Intan (pg. 237)
Pulau Pangkor (pg. 229)	•
•	• Pantai Remis (pg. 223)
Beruas (pg. 217)	•
•	• Semanggol (pg. 211)
Kampung Tepi laut (pg. 203)	•
•	• Kampung Kuala Kedah (pg. 197)
Kuala Kedah (pg. 191)	•
•	• Tanjung Chali (pg. 185)
Pekan Cina (pg. 177)	•
•	• Kuala Perlis (pg. 169)
Timah Tasoh (pg. 163)	•
•	• Kaki Bukit (pg. 155)
Bukit Keteri (pg. 149)	•
•	• Kangar (pg. 143)
Gertak Sanggul (pg. 133)	•
•	• Teluk Kumbar (pg. 127)



FOREWORD

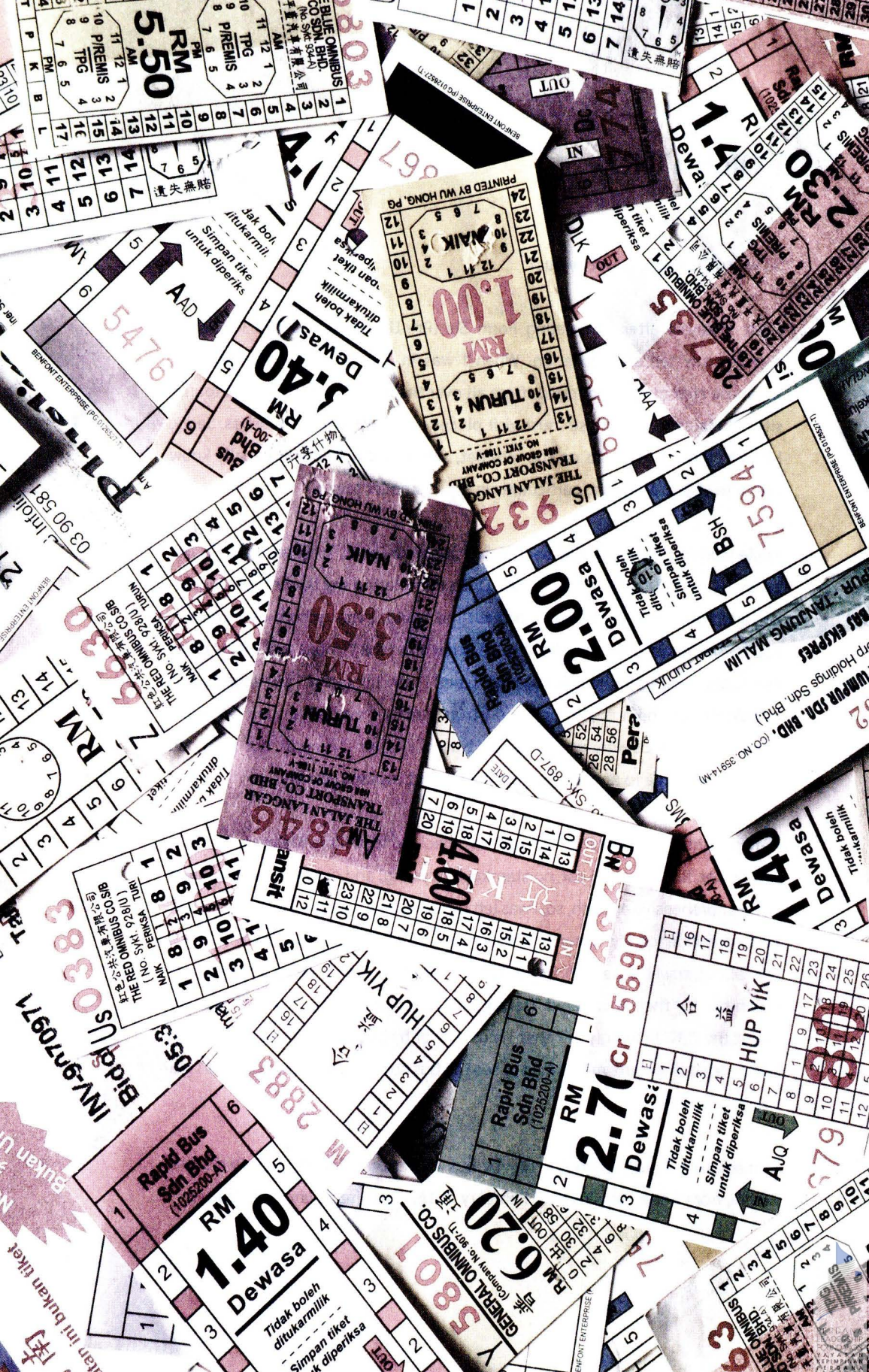
So why did I, FuFu, travel by bus?

I left Malaysia after completing Form Six (Pre-University Studies) for Japan pursuing my tertiary education. When I was in Japan, very often, both my Japanese classmates and friends from all over the world asked me about tourist sites in Malaysia, like those must-visit places and must-eat local dishes. Sadly, I had to look up the info on the internet, simply because I didn't really know where to visit in Malaysia, particularly in those smaller towns.

While studying in Japan, I had been to big cities like Tokyo, Yokohama and Osaka, as well as small towns and villages. Once completing my bachelor's degree, I headed off visiting my friends around the world. I met scores of travellers, again, they questioned me where to go other than the famous and major cities like Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Pulau Pinang and Pulau Langkawi. I felt ashamed as I couldn't tell them much, because I truly hadn't travelled around Malaysia. Many of my friends were envious of my travels all over the world, but I felt bad for not being able to answer the questions about my own country.

Hence, right after resigning from my job, I decided to explore Malaysia, first the peninsular. But I have no car, no stamina for cycling, and our train services were not comprehensive enough, so, I was left with only one choice — by BUS! This was also a coincidence. My research in university was on transportation and my thesis was about travel time and expenditure. I went to Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia for their Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems, my master's thesis was about the BRT. I strongly felt that I must travel by bus to know and understand better our bus system, meanwhile to see the bus coverage and which places I get to travel by bus.

Immediately, I started my journey by bus in Perak, Pulau Pinang, Perlis and Kedah, from December 2015 till February 2016, exploring towns and villages.



RM 5.50
Dewasa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

RM 1.00
Dewasa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

RM 3.50
Dewasa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

RM 2.00
Dewasa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

RM 1.40
Dewasa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

RM 4.60
Dewasa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

RM 2.70
Dewasa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

RM 1.40
Dewasa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

RM 6.20
Dewasa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

RM 1.40
Dewasa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

START OF THE JOURNEY

I love travelling with my backpack. Finally I had a chance to while going around Malaysia! My packing was fast, with a few t-shirts and undergarments, two pairs of shorts, a pair of long pants, socks, a cap, flip-flops, toiletries, phone charger, Bluetooth remote control and a waist bag thrown in.

On purpose my trip was extremely free and easy, no planning, no booking, no research. Well, some of the towns and villages are not even covered much online. I only told my family that I would be gone for two months.

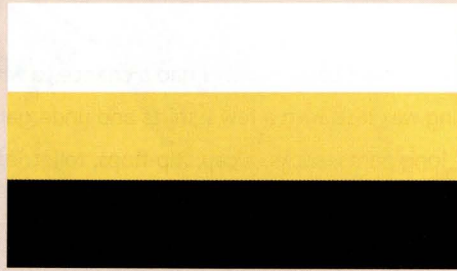
Initially, I wanted to start the journey from the North, all the way from Perlis till Kedah, Pulau Pinang and Perak before coming back to Kuala Lumpur. However, I did not realise that most of the bus routes were shifted to Terminal Bersepadu Selatan (TBS). Pudu Sentral, where I went to board a bus, only served a few bus routes: Genting Highlands, KLIA & KLIA2, Seremban, Tanjung Malim and Teluk Intan.

Hence I was left with two choices: my hometown (Tanjung Malim) and Teluk Intan. At last I bought a ticket back home. Since I left my hometown after secondary school, rarely did I go back. After so many years, I took this opportunity to see my hometown as a traveller. It would be fun I thought.

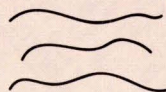
Alright, Tanjung Malim here I come!

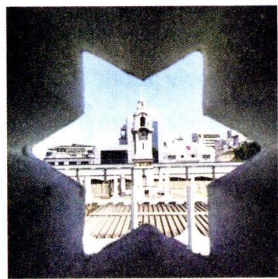
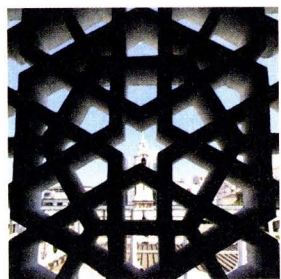
Perak

Darul Ridzuan



Tanjung Malim
Bidor
Tapah
Kampar
Ipoh
Kuala Kangsar
Kampung Baru Sauk
Tasik Raban
Selat Pagar
Ayer Kala
Kuala Rui
Taiping
Kuala Sepatang
Kuala Kurau
Tanjung Piandang







Childhood Memories

Stop No. 1	Tanjung Malim
Bus Route	Kuala Lumpur — Tanjung Malim
Bus Company	626 TM — KL



AIR-COND



RM 7.70



70 MINS

The days when Hentian Pudu (now Pudu Sentral) were bustling with activity are over. There's a calmness within as only a few bus routes ply here: Tanjung Malim, Teluk Intan, KLIA & KLIA2, Seremban and Genting Highlands. Other longer distance routes have now moved to the Terminal Bersepadu Selatan.

From Pudu Sentral, I board a bus which quickly turns onto the North South Highway, Northbound towards Tanjung Malim. Very quickly, the city's buildings give way to a lush blanket of oil palm and rubber trees. And just beyond a majestic mountain range backdrop. I doze off during the hour-long journey and awake just in time to see the bus pulling into the Tanjung Malim Bus Terminal.

How long haven't you been home?
Remember the roads taken when you were a child?
Those memories we thought were lost, are buried somewhere.
Not easy to recall, but never really forgotten.

I'm home

How much has home changed in 15 years?

The main street of Jalan Besar is divided by KTM rail tracks, separating the town's commercial centre and the Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) campus. From here I see the familiar old shop lots that are now renovated expanding upwards with additional levels. Curio shops, video cassette tape rental shops, bicycle repair shop, gift shops, bookstores, etc. of yesteryear, now replaced with boutiques, convenience stores, restaurants and mobile phone sales and repair shops. Fortunately, some old businesses that I didn't know existed remain, I'm glad, for it gives me the opportunity to 'rediscover' them.

The taste of tofu fa

Heading to my childhood home, I walk towards Jalan Ketoyong. To my left is a Tamil primary school, and to the right a Chinese primary and national secondary school. Standing at the junction,

I realised a tofu fa stall that I've patronised growing up was still in business. Having not visited it for over 10 years, I quickly walked over and ordered one bowl. Instantly I recognised the always pleasant stall owner and greeted her.

Owner: "You're back? Long time no see!"

FuFu: "You still recognise me?"

Owner: "You are Ah Kiew's son right?"

FuFu: "Yes! Didn't think you would remember!"

I remember savouring this delicacy, often with friends after school. Accompanied with drinks of soy milk and grass jelly. If alone, I would buy a few bowls to be brought home for the family. Now tasting this tofu fa once again, I can taste home!

My parents' grocer

Subsequently, I walked towards the direction of my childhood home where I stayed for 17 years. Every step brings me more memories. I remember home was also a crowded grocery store, but now



△

1	2
3	4

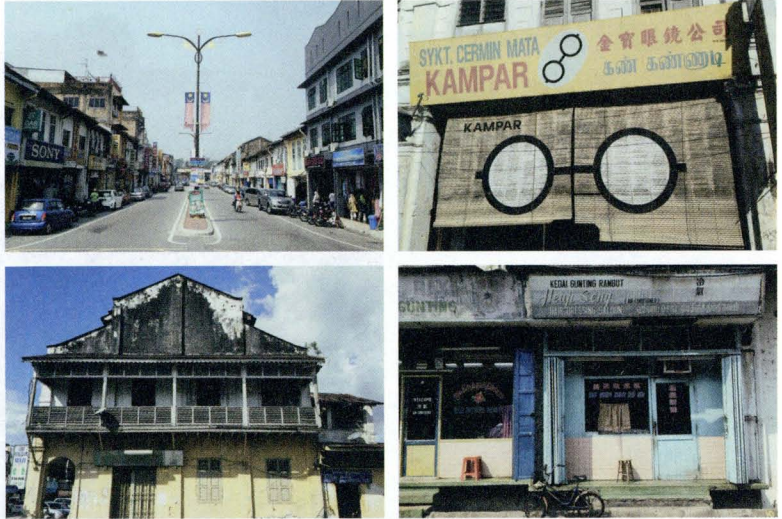
1. Mum pregnant with my brother when I was one year old. I was taken care of by an Indian nanny. **2.** Many pictures of me in my childhood you would see me holding snacks, benefits of having a family grocer! **3.** My strong-willed mother, busy operating a grocer while taking care of us. **4.** My uncle helped my mum at the grocer. Thanks to him for taking these pictures, going all out from renting the camera he used to developing photos hence creating lasting memories.

it is a Malay restaurant which only operates in the evenings. My parents inherited the grocery store from my grandfather, 'Sin Choon' it was called. The store was my playground.

Do you remember your childhood toys, games and playmates? I clearly remember my siblings and cousins gathering here to play skipping rope with rope made up of rubber bands, hopscotch, or my favourite game of 'flying shoes'. Once filled with children's laughter, now a quiet place. Only memories now, painting those days gone with beauty.

The grocery store was mainly manned by my mother. From morning to night, many uncles and aunties would patronise our business, and they would often chat and gossip. I guess that is why our grocery store was often called 'intelligence central'!

In the afternoons, we often get familiar faces of aunties who come to the store, patiently awaiting to watch Tamil dramas playing on TV. Even though no one knew the language nor could understand the subtitles, they had a merry time and often discussed the plot as it unfolded.



△	1	2
	3	4

1. Tanjung Malim's status has been changed from Daerah Batang Padang to Daerah Muallim. Beautified streetscapes are now a common sight. **2.** The Kampar Optometry shop unchanged for 30 years! This blinds as cute as ever. **3.** This is one of my favourite buildings, especially the balcony design on the second floor. **4.** When I was young, I often came to this barber shop, I would read the *Old Master Q* (Lau Fu Zhi) comics while waiting.

Some customers who happened to drop by were also hooked, they would stay and wait for the advertisements to play, then dart off home to continue watching!

Memories of the railway, its development now

"FuFu, go to the pasar to get two more chickens to sell!" Mum's voice will ring loud. On weekends or during school holidays I would watch cartoons after breakfast. Upon hearing mum's order, I immediately leave, riding a bicycle to the old pasar. The pasar whilst not far, takes me pass the railway tracks. If a train passes, a wooden gate

swings shut, stopping me in my tracks. Hence every time I hear the rumbles of the train not too far away, I will try to speed up, hoping to pass the gate before it swings shut. Else a long wait will ensue.

About 10 years ago, Tanjung Malim's railway was upgraded. Following the launch of the KTM Komuter (electrified commuter rail service) in June 2009 and KTM ETS (Electric Train Service) in December 2009, Tanjung Malim was linked to Kuala Lumpur and Northern towns such as Ipoh, Taiping, Butterworth, Alor Setar and Padang Besar.

A bus ticket gets you places,
An open heart gets you hidden Malaysian experiences.



ISBN 978-967-14983-1-6



FuFu Travel . MJBB 01 MYR80