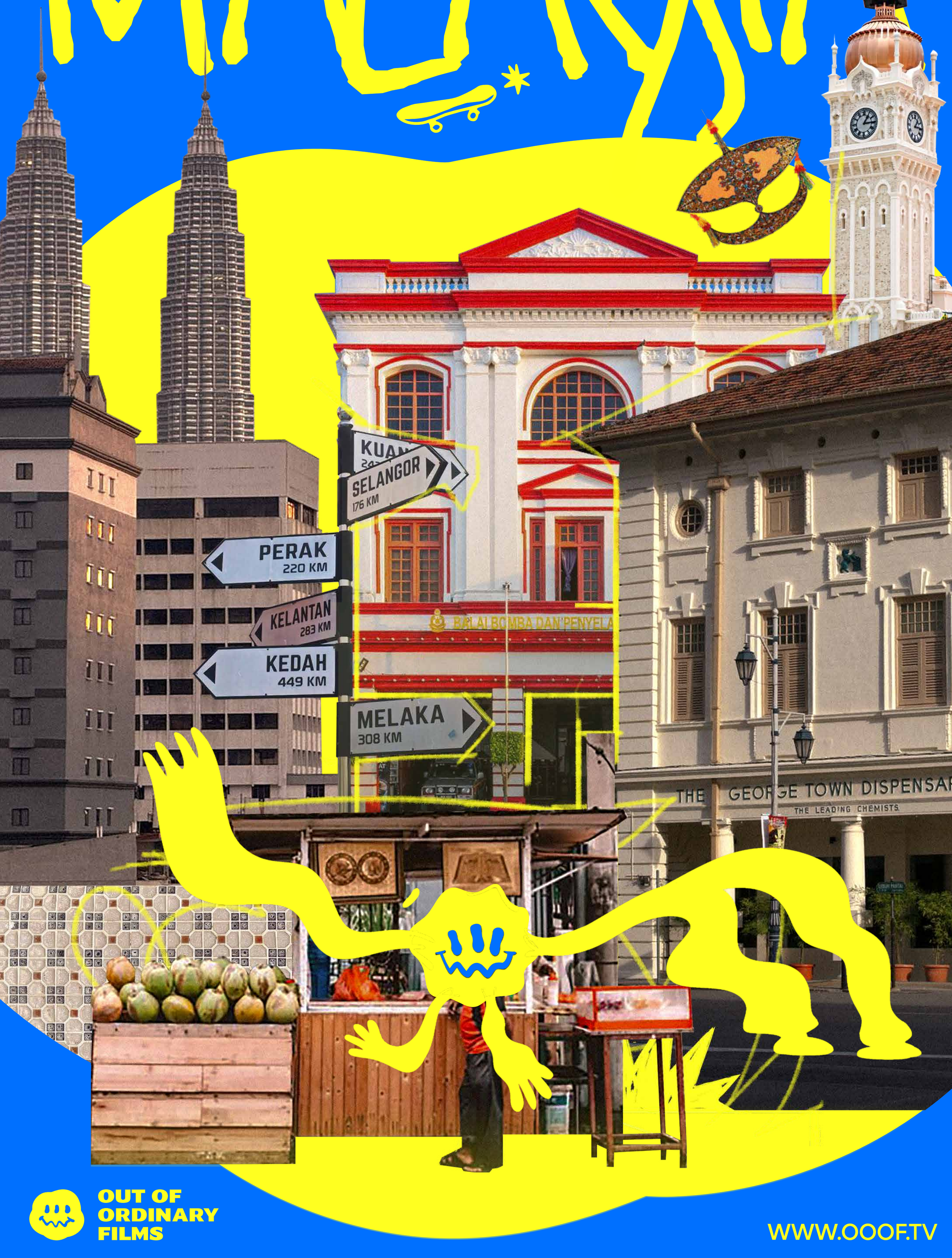
MALAYA


KUA
SELANGOR
176 KM
PERAK
220 KM
KELANTAN
283 KM
KEDAH
449 KM
MELAKA
308 KM
BALAI BOMBA DAN PENYELA
THE GEORGE TOWN DISPENSARY
THE LEADING CHEMISTS

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HOW TO SOUND LOCAL

A quick introduction to everyday
Malaysian slang you'll hear on location,
on set, and everywhere in between.

CHOP



verb

To reserve or claim something, such as a seat, spot, or item. On film sets, it's often used to mark your spot at the catering table or to "chope" a parking spot before the rest of the crew arrives. It can also mean to stop or pause for a short while.

Example:

"Chope. Is this in the call sheet?!."

✳

Throughout this guide, you'll find Malaysian words to learn. If you master them, you're already halfway to being Malaysian.

SOUTHEAST ASIA, RECONSIDERED

For years, Southeast Asia sat just outside the main conversation in global commercial production. Familiar. Available. Rarely prioritized.

That Position has Shifted

Today, the region runs on speed, range, and production fluency. Within hours: cities, coastlines, facades, jungle, skyscrapers, **kampung**[1] streets. Locations that register immediately. Environments that travel.

What Changed Isn't Scenery. It's Systems.

A REGION THAT ISN'T WAITING TO BE CHOSEN



We Ready Liao²

Production ecosystems across the region have settled into rhythm. **Krew**[3] are seasoned. Infrastructure holds under pressure. Permits **settle**[4]. Incentives calculate. English moves easily across departments. Budgets extend without visible compromise.

Malaysia sits at the center of this equation. Connected. Multilingual. Structurally prepared. The country delivers range, stability, and procedural clarity without friction. It operates to international production expectations.



This is not a discovery.
It's a correction.

Not an alternative region. A primary one.
Not emerging. Already functioning.

WHAT WE MEAN

[1] Kampung [kam-poong]

noun

Village; a local rural settlement with traditional homes and community life.

[2] We ready liao [lee-ow]

particle

A colloquial term used in Singlish/ Malay-English to indicate completion, change of state, or that something has already happened.

[3] Krew [kroo]

noun

Informal spelling of “crew.” Refers to a production team responsible for technical or creative execution on set.

[4] Settle [set-l]

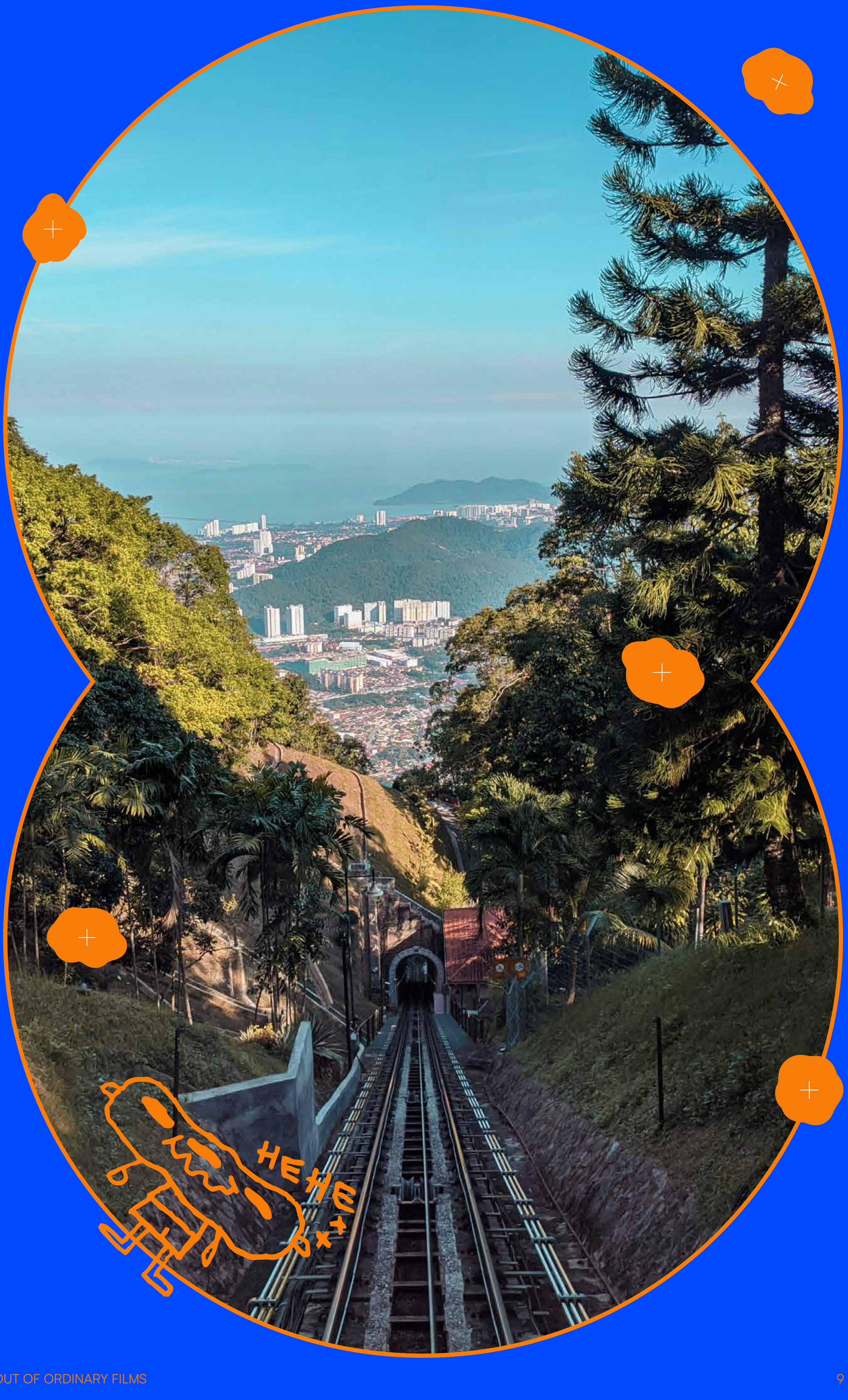
verb

Informal/film-industry slang; used to indicate that a process, task, or situation has reached a stable, reliable state. Implies smooth resolution, predictability, and that no further intervention is needed. Often used to signal that operations, approvals, or logistics are “taken care of” and can be counted on without fuss.

WHY MALAYSIA

A COUNTRY THAT'S STEADY[1]




HEHEHE



WHERE IT SITS IN THE REGION

Malaysia sits where regional movement naturally converges. ASEAN capitals are a short flight away. Coordination doesn’t require effort. It’s built into the map.







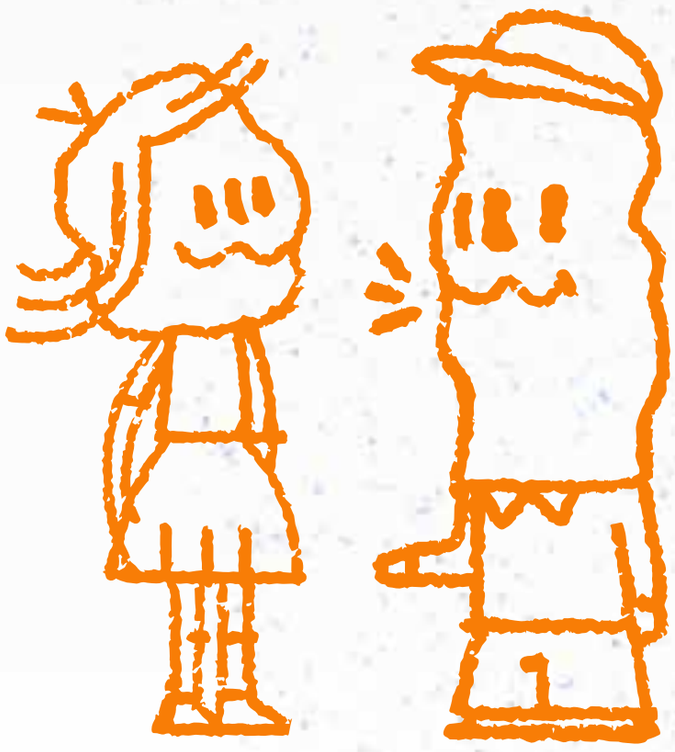
GEOGRAPHY, WITHOUT THE DISTANCE

Cities, jungles, coastlines, limestone hills, gleaming skyscrapers, and weathered streets, all lie within easy reach. In Malaysia, nothing feels far apart, and nothing slows you down.



LANGUAGE, PEOPLE AND HOW WORK GETS DONE



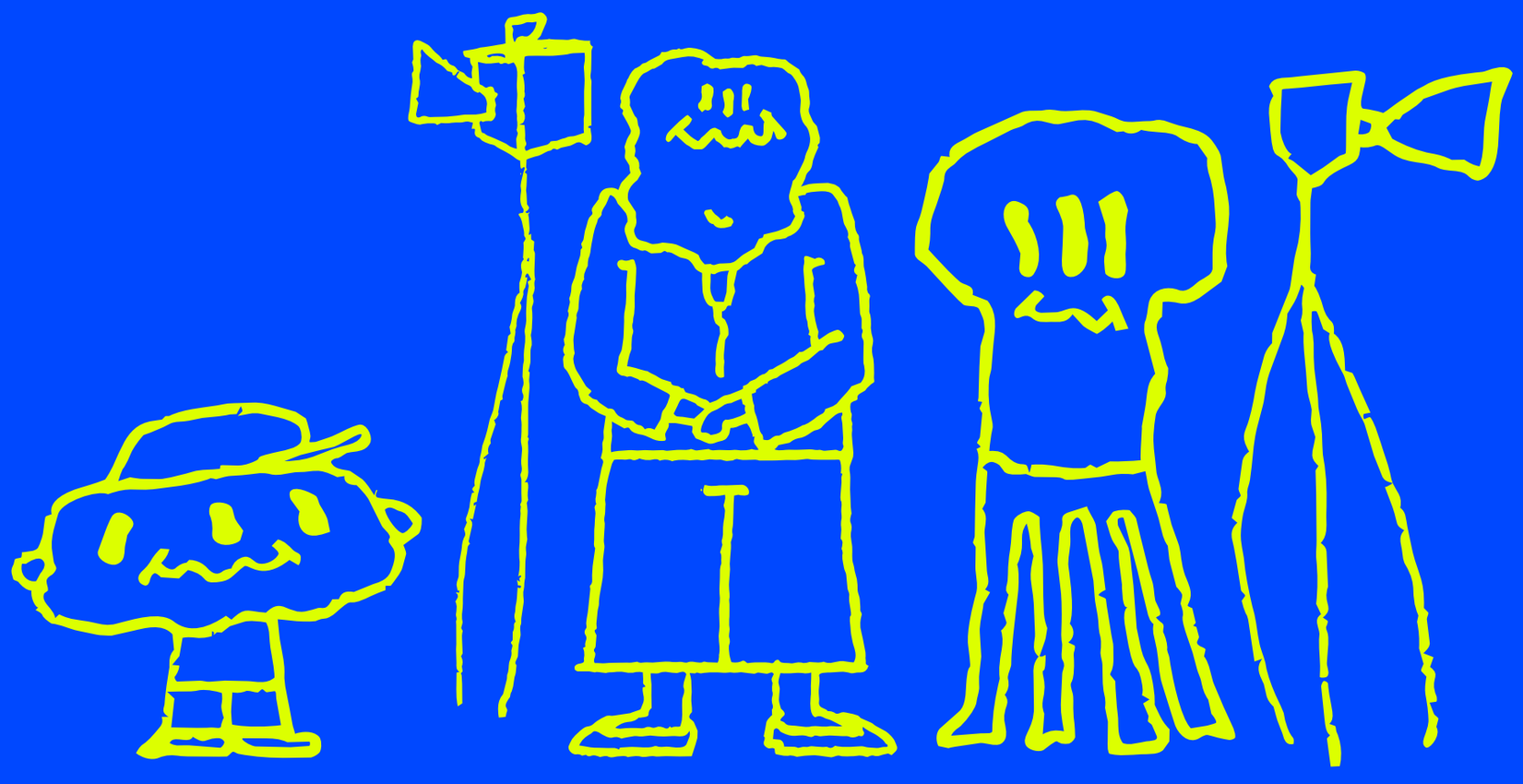


English moves seamlessly across departments. Crews understand not just the words, but the pace, hierarchy, and expectations that keep production running smoothly. Instructions are clear the first time, decisions are executed efficiently, and work flows without delay. In this environment, collaboration isn't just easy, it's instinctive.

CURRENCY, VALUE AND REALITY

The Malaysian ringgit provides cost efficiency without cutting corners. The ringgit stretches further, yet equipment, locations, and crews maintain top-tier standards. Production is efficient, professional, and dependable, every time.

Money moves farther. Results don’t budge.



SOUTHEAST ASIA AS A CLUSTER, NOT A COMPROMISE



Malaysia is the gateway to a region-wide production ecosystem. Short flights and shared industry standards across neighbouring countries mean crews, equipment, and services can move quickly. Productions benefit from diverse locations within a single region and streamlined cross-border efficiency.

Malaysia doesn’t sit at the edge of the region
We oredi² there



WHAT WE MEAN

[1] Steady [sted-ee]

adjective

Informal Malaysian/film slang; denotes reliability, competence, or solid performance. Conveys that something or someone is capable, dependable, and meets expectations without fuss. Often used as a nod of approval or respect

[2] Oredi [oh-red-ee]

adverb

Informal form of “already”; denotes completion or existing status.

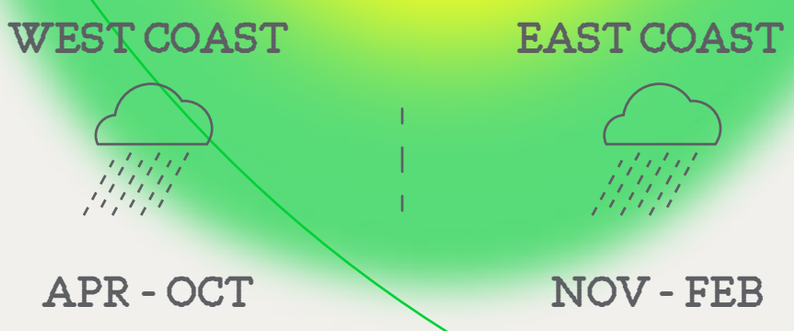
Climate, Seasons and Shootability

WEATHER YOU CAN PLAN AROUND

Malaysia operates on consistency. The country's tropical climate keeps temperatures warm and stable throughout the year, allowing production planning to proceed without seasonal disruption or weather-related guesswork.

Rainfall Patterns

Rain is seasonal rather than constant. The west coast sees heavier rain from April to October, while the east coast experiences monsoon conditions from November to February. Understanding these patterns allows scheduling shoots around peak rainfall windows.

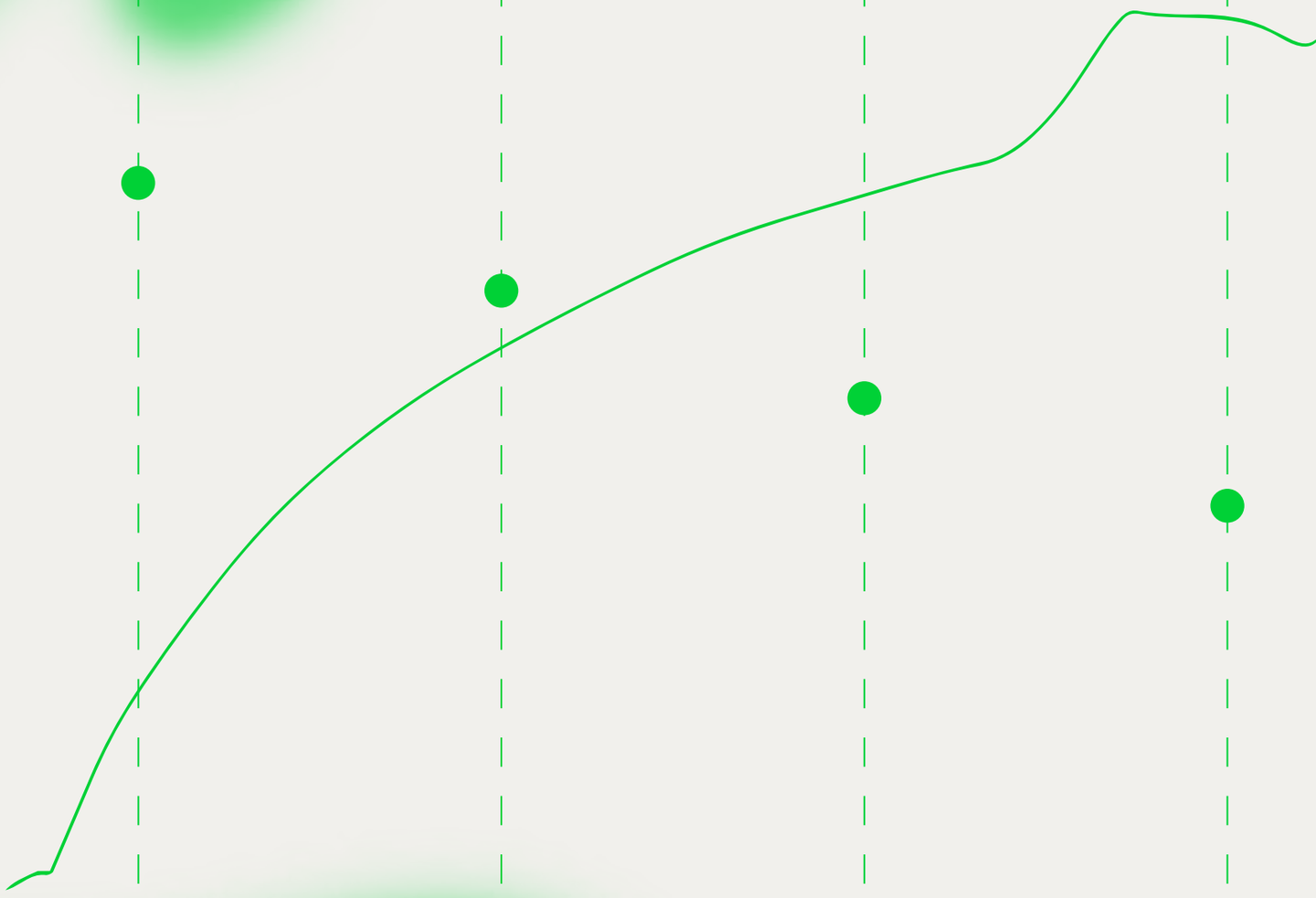


CLIMATE, SEASONS AND SHOOTABILITY

7am 9am 11am 1pm 3pm 5pm 7pm

Daylight Hours

Daylight is steady throughout the year, averaging about twelve hours daily. Sunrise is typically around 7:00 AM and sunset around 7:00 PM. This stability simplifies lighting plans, supports continuity, and allows crews to work with dependable natural light across seasons.



Optimal Shooting Windows

Drier months are ideal for outdoor shoots, offering more predictable conditions, longer uninterrupted daylight, and minimal risk of rain disrupting schedules.

West Coast : November to February
East Coast : March to September

In practical terms, this reliability translates directly to efficiency on set. Crews can execute complex setups, move between multiple locations in a single day, and maintain tight schedules without disruption.

Weather here doesn’t disturb production. It behaves.

28° 29° 30° 33° 32° 31° 30°

HOW TO SOUND LOCAL

A quick introduction to everyday Malaysian slang you'll hear on location, on set, and everywhere in between.

LAH

[LAH]



particle

A versatile Malaysian-English particle added to the end of sentences to convey tone, emphasis, friendliness, or reassurance. Commonly used in everyday conversation to soften statements.

Example:

"Don't worry lah, we'll fix it in post."

✳

Throughout this guide, you'll find Malaysian words to learn. If you master them, you're already halfway to being Malaysian.

VISUAL



• Architectural Diversity • Nature • Urban •

ONE COUNTRY, MANY LOOKS

RANGE

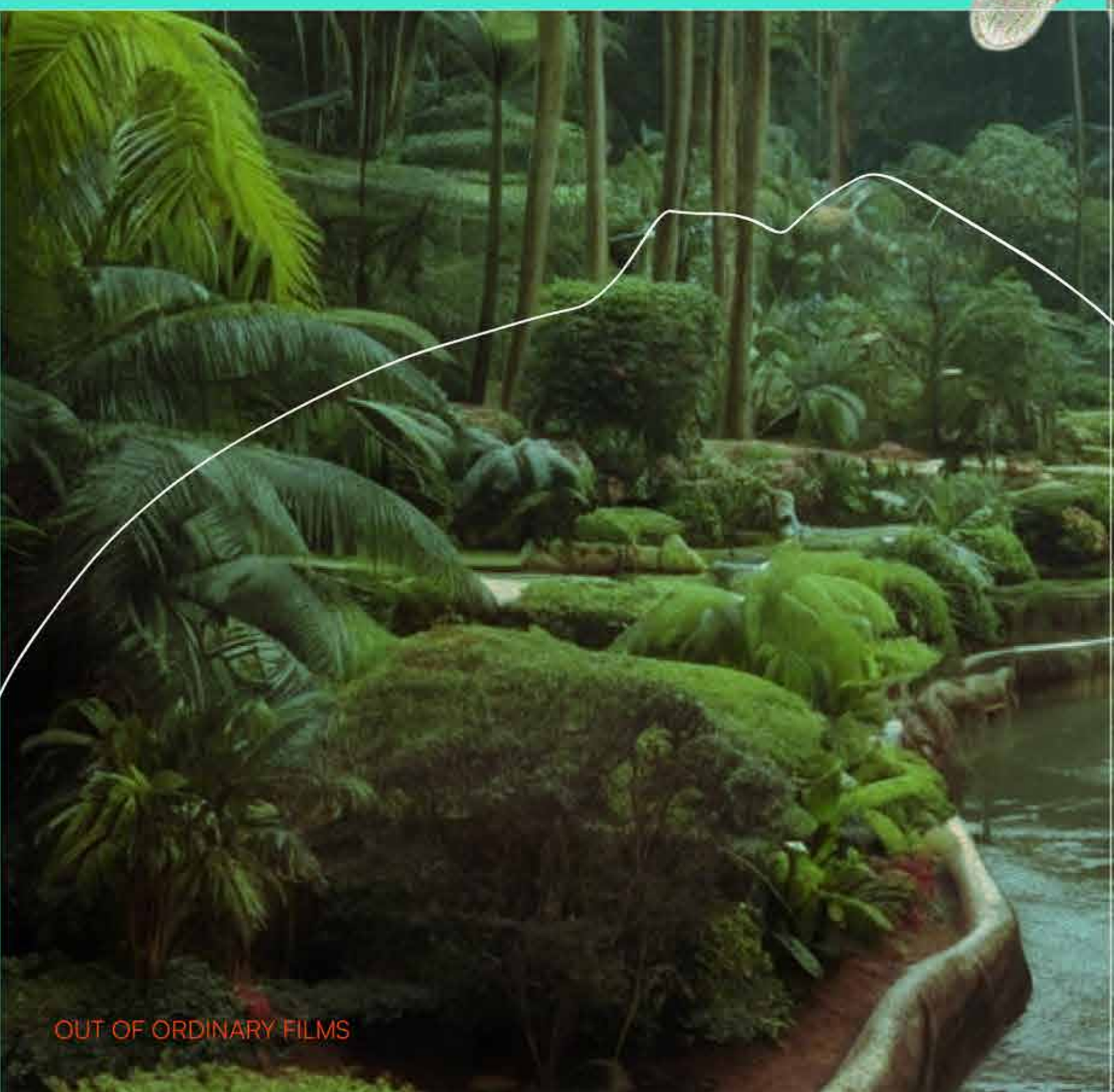
URBAN

Malaysia's cities offer contrast and versatility. Central business districts provide sleek, modern skylines; historic districts and colonial-era streets deliver texture, character, and a more grounded urban environment, **very kampung feel**' in some corners, very city in others. Suburban neighbourhoods offer practical, lived-in environments for lifestyle or narrative shoots.

NATURE

From coastal stretches and islands to dense rainforest, plantations, and highland terrain Malaysia's natural environments sit within short travel distances.

This range allows productions to move between different moods and landscapes without extended relocation. Coastal, rural, and mountainous settings create a wide range of moods and atmospheres without long transfers.



ARCHITECTURAL DIVERSITY

ARCHITECTURAL DIVERSITY





Architectural styles range from contemporary high-rises to heritage shophouses, colonial buildings, and traditional vernacular structures. This variety supports period storytelling, modern commercial campaigns, and culturally specific narratives, all within a single country footprint. It's a mix that just sits together, quite naturally, **like that**[2].





WHAT WE MEAN

[1] Kampung [kam-poong] feel

phrase

Informal Malaysian English; describes an environment or space that feels rustic, local, or village-like in character. Often used to convey warmth, simplicity, and a less urbanised atmosphere, even when found within or near city settings.

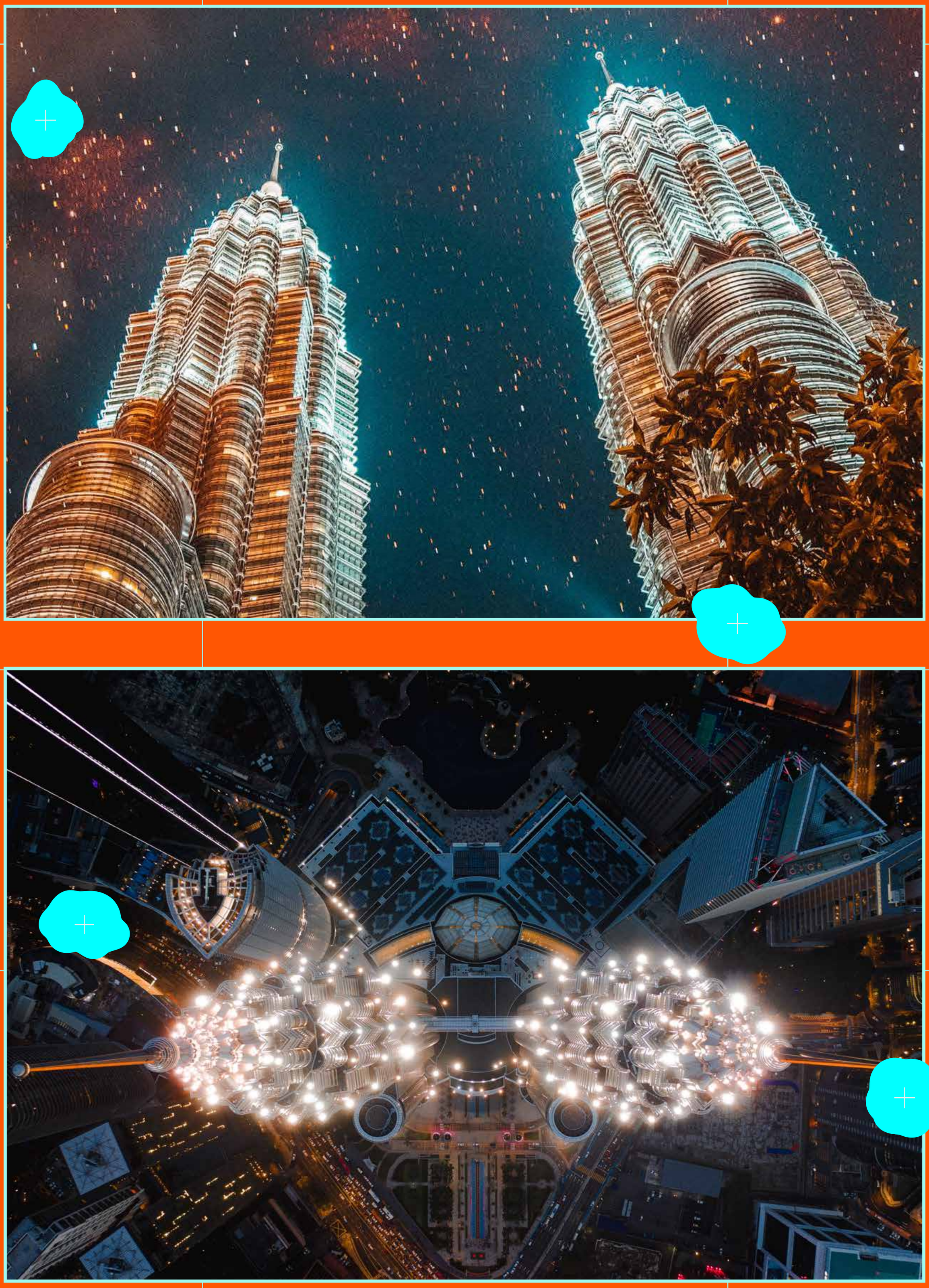
[2] Like that

phrase

Informal Malaysian English (Manglish); used to indicate acceptance, resignation, or acknowledgement of how something is done or how things are. Often carries a tone of “that’s just how it is” or “we proceed in this way without further complication.”

PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS

MENARA BERKEMBAR PETRONAS



FEDERAL TERRITORY MOSQUE

MASJID WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN



MASJID WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN

THE FEDERAL TERRITORY MOSQUE



THEAN HOU TEMPLE

TOKONG THEAN HOU





PENANG HILL FUNICULAR RAILWAY

KERETAPI BERKABEL BUKIT BENDERA



BATU DAM

EMPANGAN BATU

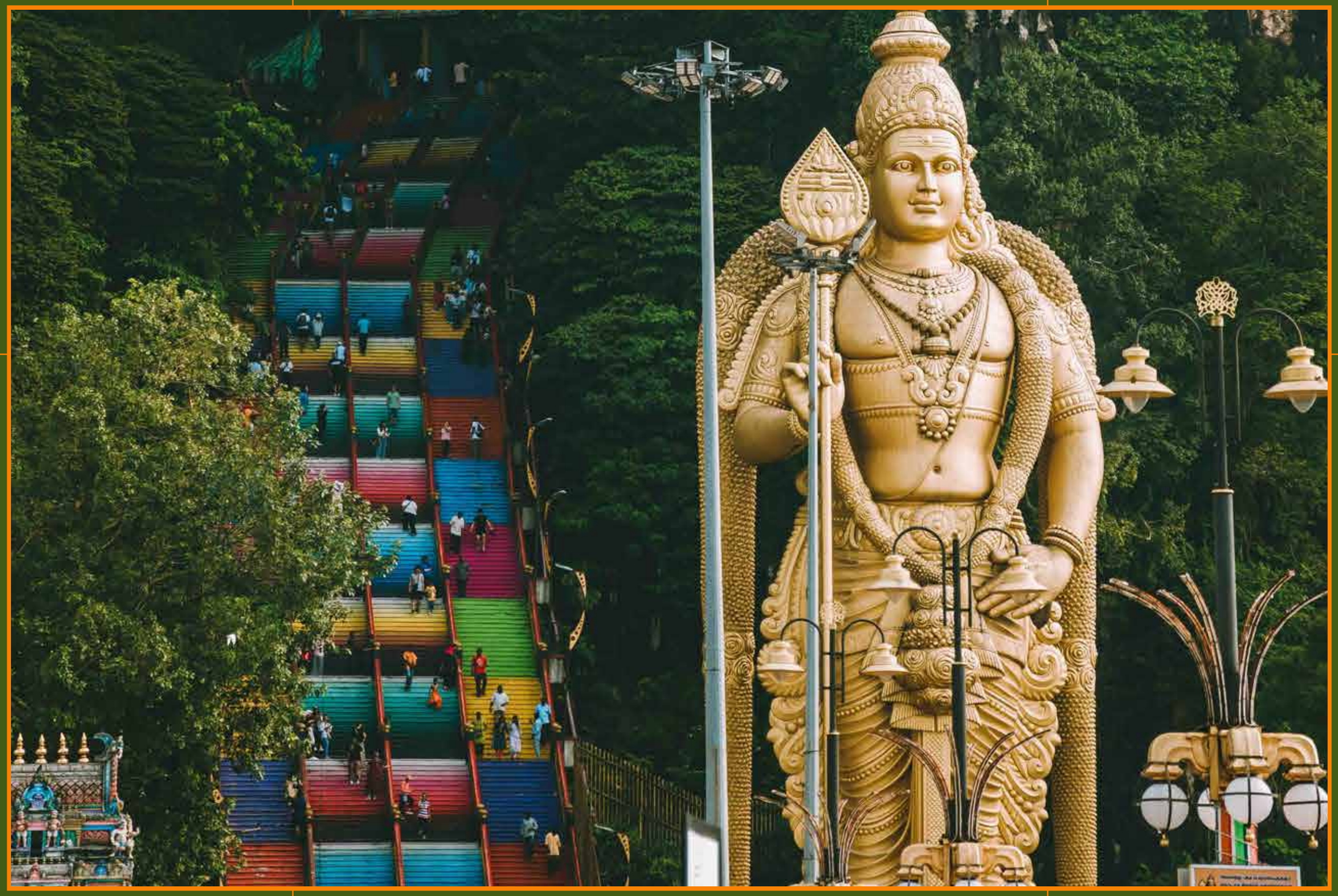
PERAK TONG CAVE TEMPLE

TOKONG GUA PERAK TONG



BATU CAVES

GUA BATU



SALOMA LINK

PINTASAN SALOMA



Culture, People and Way of Life

THE HUMAN LAYER

Ethnic Diversity
Daily Life
Traditions and Rituals



CULTURE, PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE
CULTURE, PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE

ETHNIC DIVERSITY



INDIAN





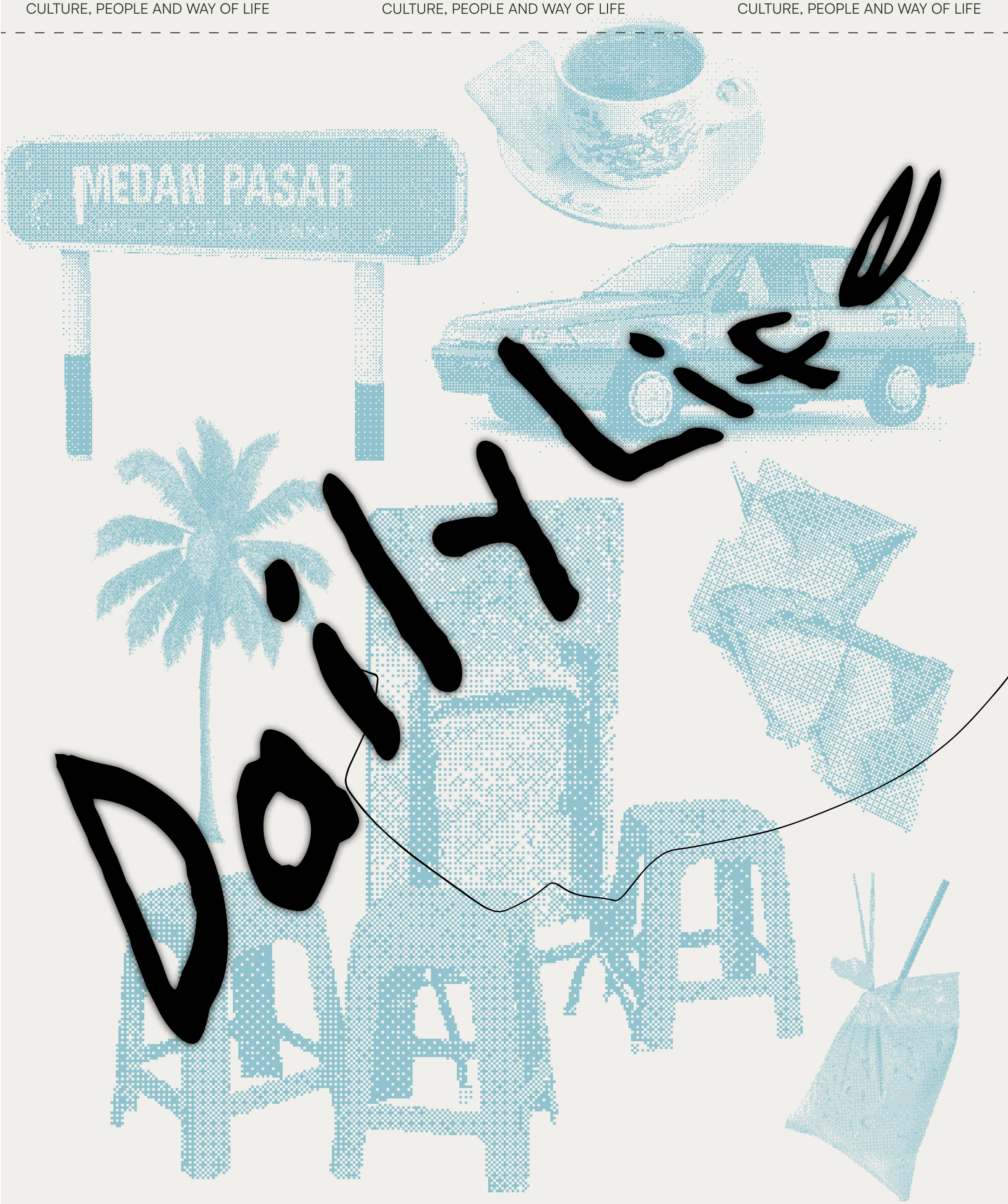


MALAY

CHINESE

Malaysia is a mosaic of Malay, Chinese, Indian, and indigenous communities living side by side. Each carries its own distinct languages, attire, culinary traditions, and cultural expressions, creating environments that are naturally layered and visually varied without needing to be staged, from kampung settings to **bandar**[1] areas, sometimes within the same district, depending on where you are.

CULTURE, PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE
CULTURE, PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE



Daily life moves across different settings, from pasar pagi[2] and school routines to city commutes and evening neighbourhood activity. Markets are active, public spaces are in use, and movement through the day feels continuous rather than staged.

Scenes of trade, family routines, and street-level culture are part of everyday surroundings, not arranged for camera. This gives productions access to environments that already carry lived-in detail and a natural sense of place.

CULTURE, PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE
CULTURE, PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE

Across the year, different communities move through cycles of preparation, celebration, and observance. Festivals, ceremonies, and traditional practices mark specific moments in time rather than permanent settings, shaping how spaces are used and how people gather.

FESTIVALS | CEREMONIES | TRADITIONAL PRACTICES

Traditions and Rituals

CULTURE, PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE
CULTURE, PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE

Religious observances, cultural performances, and regional crafts emerge at different points in the calendar, bringing shifts in pace and activity across towns, neighbourhoods, and public spaces.



CULTURE, PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE
CULTURE, PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE

WHAT WE MEAN

[1] Bandar [ban-dar]

noun

Malay term for town or city. Commonly used to describe urban areas with higher density, developed infrastructure, and more structured commercial and residential environments.

[2] Pasar pagi [pa-sar pa-gee]

noun

Malay term meaning “morning market.” Refers to open-air markets that operate in the early hours of the day, typically featuring fresh produce, food stalls, and everyday goods. A common feature of Malaysian neighbourhood life and daily commerce.

FOOD, LIFESTYLE AND LIVING
FOOD, LIFESTYLE AND LIVING

Food, Lifestyle & Living

Off Set, On The Ground

RECOMMENDED !











Zaatar

Malaysia operates on convenience. Its diverse dining culture and accessible lifestyle support long working days with good food at every hour, options for every diet, and a mix of shopping, culture and city life that allows visiting crews to settle in comfortably and enjoy their time between shoots. **Semua Ada**[1]!

FOOD, LIFESTYLE AND LIVING
FOOD, LIFESTYLE AND LIVING

EATING WELL , EVERYWHERE

Food is woven into daily life in Malaysia. Whether it's a quick meal between shoots or a long dinner with the team, good food is rarely far away.



Tingkap

No. 14, Ground Floor
Jalan Kemuja, Bangsar
59000 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +6012 858 5079

Food :
Traditional Malay Cuisine





Sari Ratu Signature

Republik, 1 Jalan Medan Setai 1
Bukit Damansara 50490
Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +6018 405 7784

Food :
Nasi Padang &
Minangkabau Cuisine





Zaataru

No. 21-1, Lorong Rahim Kajai 13
Taman Tun Dr Ismail 60000
Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +6011 6224 5723

Food :
Levantine & Japanese Restaurant

Sweet Inn

No. 18, Jalan SS 20/10
Damansara Kim 47400
Petaling Jaya
Tel : +603 7726 6623

Food :
Chinese Seafood &
Noodle Restaurant



Fifty Tales

No. 19, Jalan 21/11B
Sea Park 46300, Petaling Jaya
Tel : +6012 249 2697

Food :
Chinese Noodle Restaurant



Bottega KL

No 1A, Jalan Ceylon, Bukit Ceylon
50200 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +603 2070 4222

Food :
Italian Cafe, Pizzeria & Grocer



* Palillos Yakitori Bar

No. 23, Jalan Mesui
Bukit Bintang 50200,
Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +6016 472 3635

Food : Spanish-Yakitori Bar











Yellow Fin Horse

Inside Else Retreats
No. 145, Jalan Tun H S Lee 50000 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +603 2300 3700

Food : Mediterranean Cuisine

Kayra

No. F-8, First Floor Bangsar Village 1
Jalan Telawi 1, Bangsar Baru
59100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +6017 215 7382

Food : Kerala Cuisine

DELICIOUS





Big Leaf BLR

No. 600-GF, Jalan 17/12
Seksyen 17 46400
Petaling Jaya
Tel : +603 7931 5179

Food : Banana Leaf Rice

* Table & Apron

No. 23, Jalan SS 20/11
Damansara Kim 47400
Petaling Jaya
Tel : +603 7733 4000

Food :
Modern Malaysian Restaurant

Tasty!



FLAVOURFUL

Ramen Minamo *

38-G, Jalan 24/70A,
Desa Sri Hartamas
50480 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +6012 572 3703

Food :
Specialty Chicken
Ramen Restaurant



TASTY !!!

AMAZING

DELICIOUS

DIETARY FLEXIBILITY



Nature's Vegetarian

No. 24, Jalan Telawi 3
Bangsar 59100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +603 2201 9788

Food : Vegetarian Dimsum







Village Park

No. 5, Jalan SS 21/37
Damansara Utama
47400 Petaling Jaya
Tel : +6012 273 8438

Food : Halal Nasi Lemak



The Hungry Tapir

No. 135, Jalan Petaling
City Centre 50000 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +603 2022 2137

Food : Vegan & Plant-based Restaurant

La Juiceria Superfoods

Unit No. Retail 1, Ground Floor
No. 16, Jalan Tandok
Bangsar 59100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +603 5023 1705

Food : Vegan, Vegetarian and Keto-friendly



Madam Kwan's

Lot 420-421, Level 4
Petronas Twin Towers
KLCC 50088 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +6012 782 4199

Food : Halal Malaysian Cuisine

Feeding a diverse crew is rarely a challenge. Halal, vegetarian, vegan and other specialty dietary options are widely available, making it easy to accommodate different requirements across productions of all sizes.

FOOD, LIFESTYLE AND LIVING

Coffee, late nights & long conversations

Jom Mamak!!





24 HOUR

BOSS MAU APA?

!!!

RESTORAN SS2 MURNI





Nasi Kandar Pelita

No. 113, Jalan Ampang
50450 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +603 2162 5532

NASI KANDAR.
OPEN 24 HOURS

Murni SS2

No. 53, Jalan SS 2/75, SS2
47300 Petaling Jaya
Tel : +6012 529 9601

HALAL MALAYSIAN CUISINE.
OPEN 5PM-4AM

Production schedules often run beyond office hours. Malaysia's café culture and 24-hour eateries make it easy for crews to stay fueled, find a place to work or unwind, and continue conversations well into the night. **Jom Mamak!²**

FOOD, LIFESTYLE AND LIVING
FOOD, LIFESTYLE AND LIVING

Shopping, culture & getting around

Mid Valley



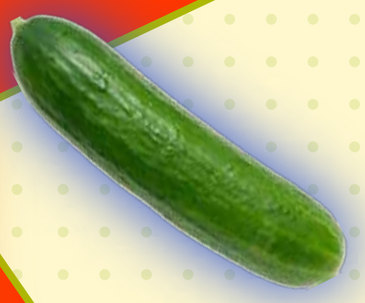


Trx









Sunway Pyramid









Pavilion

1 Utama

Urban areas in Malaysia are well-connected and highly accessible. Retail areas, cultural spaces and daily essentials are all within reach, supported by ride-hailing apps such as Grab, inDrive and Bolt, alongside established public transport networks including the MRT, LRT, Monorail and KTM Komuter. These systems make movement around Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya straightforward and efficient.



Arts, design & creative

Malaysia's multicultural influences are reflected across its visual culture, from contemporary design and architecture to independent galleries, craft traditions and creative spaces. These layers of cultural expression provide a rich source of inspiration for productions, both on and off set.





Ilham Gallery

Level 3 and 5, Ilham Tower
No. 8, Lorong Binjai
Off Persiaran KLCC
50450 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +603 2181 3003

Notes : Art Gallery









Ana Tomy

The Zhongshan Building
No. 82G, Jalan Rotan
Jalan Kampung Attap
50460 Kuala Lumpur

Notes : Custom Stationery & Objects



Snackfood Design

A-3-1, Centrio Pantai Hillpark
Jalan Pantai Murni 8
59200 Kuala Lumpur

Notes : Gift Shop



Kebun Kebun Bangsar

Lorong Bukit Pantai
Bangsar 59100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +6016 414 1620

Notes : Non-profit Community Farm

FOOD, LIFESTYLE AND LIVING
FOOD, LIFESTYLE AND LIVING

WHAT WE MEAN

[1] Semua Ada! [sem-mua a-da]

phrase

A colloquial Malaysian phrase meaning “everything is here.” Used to describe places where goods, services, and everyday conveniences are easily accessible in one location.

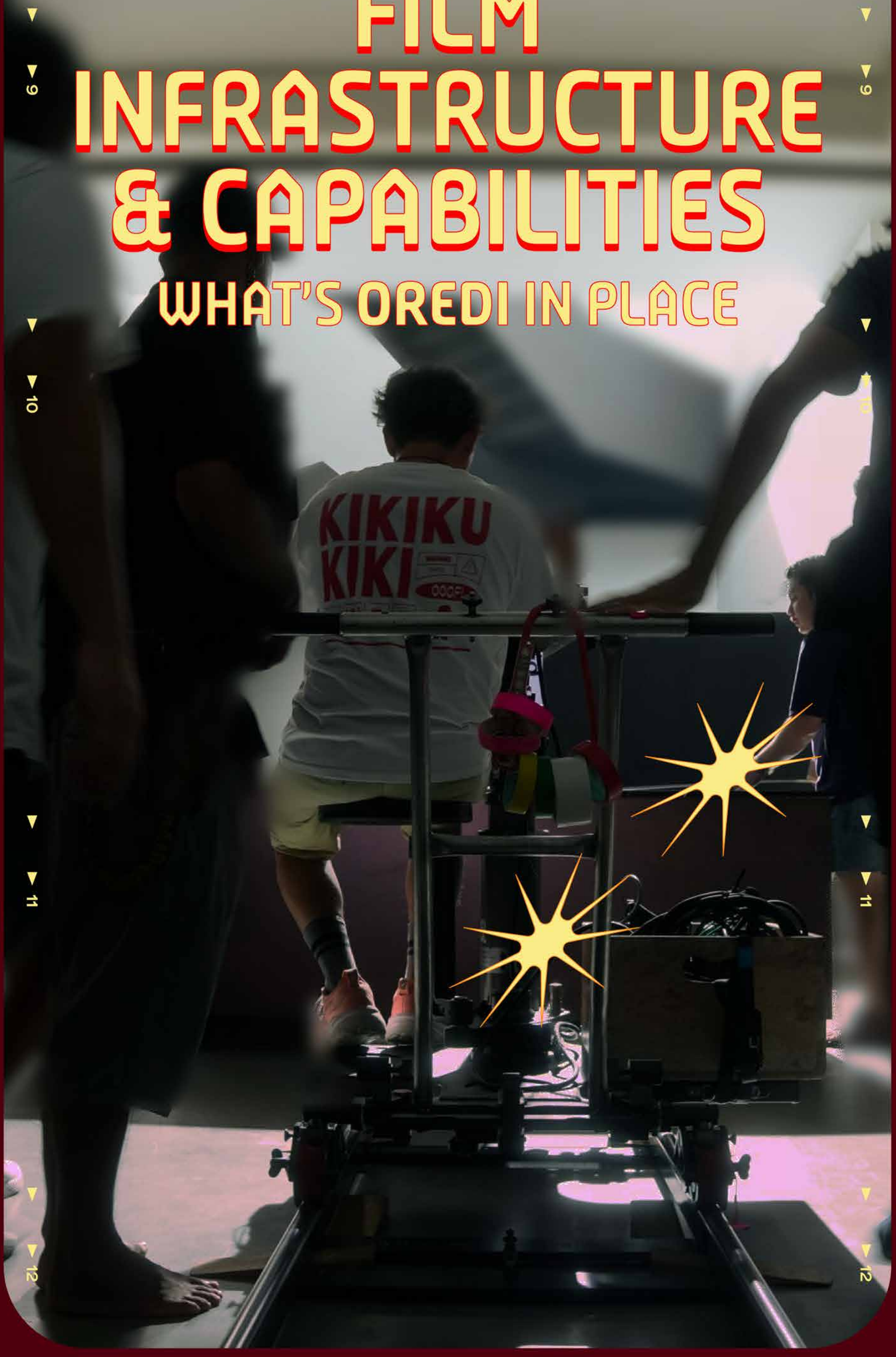
[2] Jom Mamak! [jom ma-mak]

phrase

A casual Malaysian expression meaning “let’s go to the mamak.” Refers to heading to a mamak stall (local Indian Muslim eatery), a common social spot for food, drinks, and late-night conversations. Often used among crews as an invitation for after-work meals or crew hangouts.

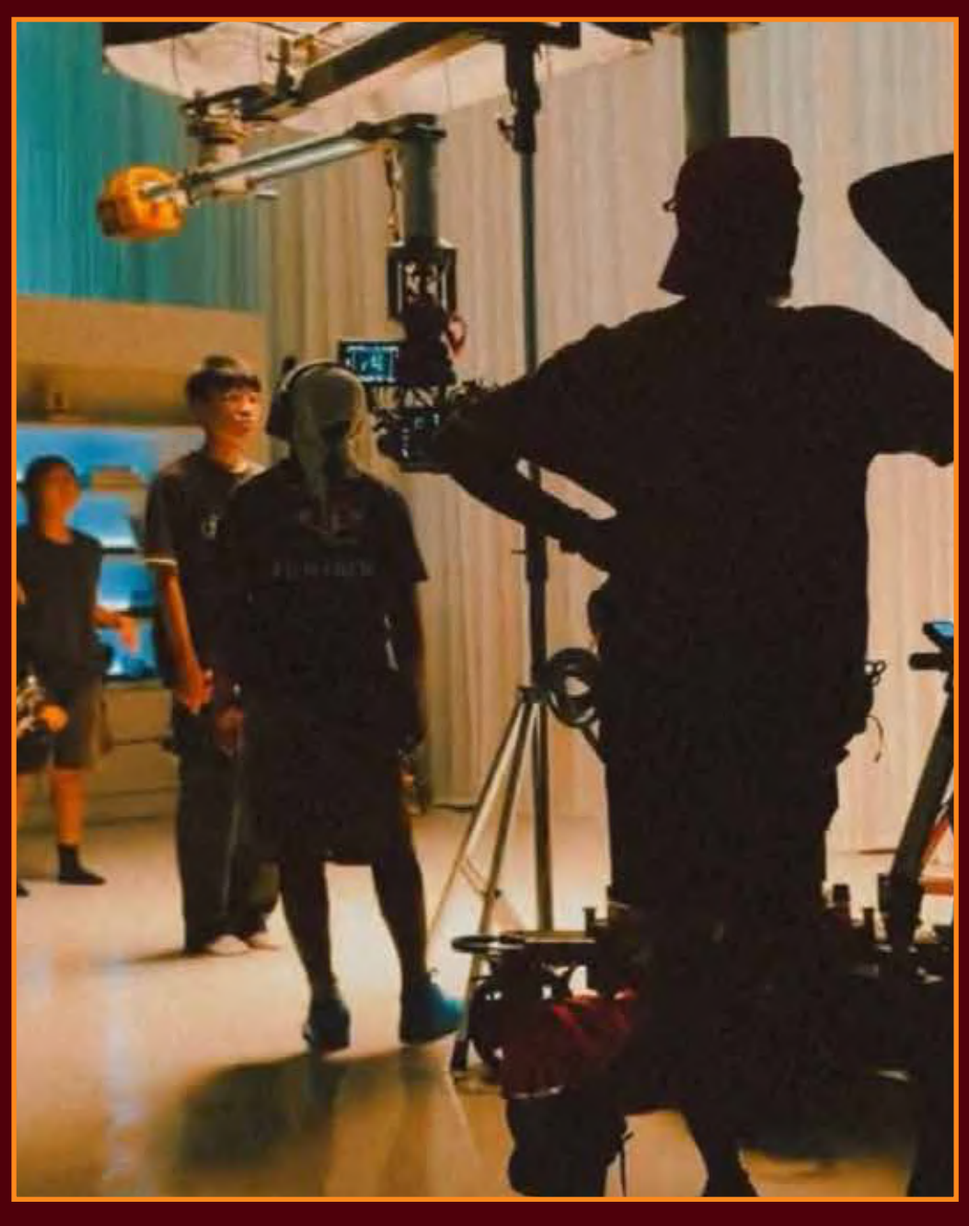
FILM INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPABILITIES

WHAT'S OREDI IN PLACE



FILM INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPABILITIES

EQUIPMENT & TECHNICAL SUPPORT







The systems here have been in use for years, shaped by the pace of real productions. Equipment is sourced through rental houses that understand what is expected on set, and what happens when something doesn’t arrive right.

Camera, grip, lighting, and specialist rigs are maintained with care and delivered ready, without needing to be rechecked or re-explained. Support is present when needed, and responsive without being called twice. Work continues as planned.

FILM INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPABILITIES

STUDIOS & SOUNDSTAGES



SCENE

TAKE



ROLL

Studios here exist in different types, depending on what the production needs. Sound stages provide control and consistency, while converted studio spaces offer scale and flexibility that are built for production. These are working spaces; practical, enclosed, and set up to support builds, rigging, and controlled environments.

What exists is not rigid. Spaces are used the way productions need them to be used, with access and movement considered from the start. Once it’s locked in, everything can just run, like that.

FILM INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPABILITIES

POST-PRODUCTION & FINISHING





Post-production follows a consistent workflow from start to finish. Editing, colour, sound, and visual effects are handled within systems already familiar with international delivery. There is no need to translate expectations or adjust standards midway. The work moves forward in a straight line, from assembly to **gao dim**[1], without losing shape along the way.

FILM INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPABILITIES

CREW, SERVICES & EXPERIENCE



Krew[4] here understand how a set works. They have worked across different formats, with different teams, and know how to hold both creative requirements and production discipline at the same time.

Around them, the rest of the system aligns. Permits are managed, casting is organised, logistics are carried through. These are not separate layers, but part of a single flow that keeps the production intact. What remains is the work itself.

FILM INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPABILITIES

WHAT WE MEAN

[1] Gao dim [gao-deem]

phrase

Cantonese-derived Malaysian slang; means “all settled,” “handled,” or “completed.” Commonly used in production and everyday contexts to indicate that a task, issue, or process has been fully resolved and no further action is required.

GOVERNANCE

, SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS



How things actually work

GOVERNANCE, SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS

FILM COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC BODIES



Primary Regulatory Body

The National Film Development Corporation Malaysia (FINAS) is the main government agency overseeing film and television production in Malaysia. It is responsible for issuing filming permits, regulating production activities, and managing incentive programmes for eligible productions.

Mandatory Requirement

Foreign productions are typically required to work with a licensed Malaysian production services company, which acts as the local coordinator for permit applications, location approvals, and regulatory compliance.





GOVERNANCE, SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS

Relevant Public Bodies And Authorities

Depending on the nature of the shoot, approvals may involve multiple agencies, including local city councils (PBTs) for public spaces, the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) for crowd control or road closures, and state authorities for land and heritage locations.

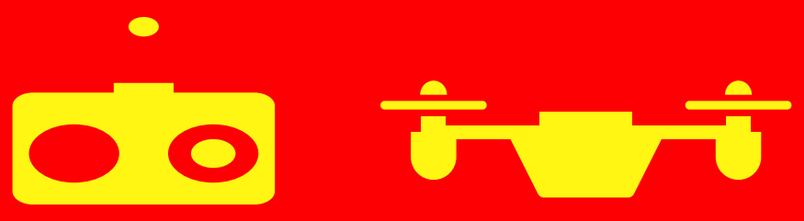






Specialised Permissions

Certain locations require additional approvals from relevant bodies, such as national parks, heritage sites, and restricted public infrastructure. Drone and aerial filming is subject to Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) regulations and prior clearance.



GOVERNANCE, SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS

Incentives And Rebate Schemes

FIMI

35%

Malaysia offers the Film in Malaysia Incentive (FIMI), administered by FINAS: a 30% cash rebate on Qualifying Malaysian Production Expenditure, with an additional 5% available for productions that pass FINAS's cultural test, up to 35% total. Minimum qualifying spend is approximately RM5 million (~US$1.2M).



GOVERNANCE, SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS

Visas, Entry And Work Permits

EMPLOYMENT PASS



NAME
OOOFIII

FOREIGN CAST

Foreign cast and crew are required to obtain professional visit passes or work permits, depending on the duration and nature of production. Applications are processed through the Immigration Department of Malaysia in coordination with the relevant government agencies and local production partner.

GOVERNANCE, SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS

Airports, Access And



Malaysia is well connected through major international airports including Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA and KLIA2), with additional access points in Penang, Johor Bahru, Kota Kinabalu and Kuching.

Kuala Lumpur serves as the main production hub, supported by strong road networks linking urban, suburban and out-of-city locations within relatively short travel times. This allows productions to move efficiently between cityscapes, industrial zones, coastal areas and natural environments without extensive regional relocation.

KLIA

KLIA2

Regional Connectivity

GOVERNANCE, SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS

Currency and production efficiency

The Malaysian ringgit provides cost efficiency without cutting corners; equipment, locations, and crews maintain top-tier standards while the ringgit stretches further than comparable regional currencies.

Combined with FIMI's cash rebate, this allows productions to achieve high-end output while maintaining efficient budget allocation, particularly for long-running or multi-location shoots.

Money moves farther. Results don't budge.



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