

The Thrifty Traveller

Strolls Around Asia, Europe & Beyond

Jalan Bellamy – Kuala Lumpur



Jalan Bellamy, in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, has been the home of Alice Smith's Primary School campus since 1952. For the benefit of those Old Alice Smithonians who might be feeling nostalgic about their school days here is how Jalan Bellamy looks in 2017.



It is actually one of the better preserved streets in KL, with a number of old colonial bungalows still in use and lined by massive mature trees. You can even hear roosters calling in places. Most of the bungalows are of identical design so perhaps the former colonial occupants were all officials of the same seniority.



It is a short road (about 700 m long – it may have been truncated when the Jalan Istana highway was constructed) and it was named after H.F. Bellamy who was a civil engineer and director of the Public Works Department in the late nineteenth century. He participated in the construction of the famous Sultan Abdul Samad Building on Dataran Merdeka though he was not in charge since his boss wrote that he was lacking in talent and drive to execute such a major construction programme. A Mr. C.E .Spooner from Ceylon was brought in over Bellamy's head to run the project. How terrible that poor Bellamy's job appraisal report is still being banded about on the internet after all these years but at least he got a road named after him.



He also had other interests. He headed up the Selangor Volunteer Fire Brigade and he might well be in this old photo.



Next door to Alice Smith is a Hindu temple called Sri Thirumurugan.



Opposite the school is an old bungalow housing the KL office of the Veteran Association of Malaysian Armed Forces.



The Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina is also on this street. KL is probably a nice quiet posting for Bosnian diplomats.



Next door is the mirror image of the embassy only this time with a blue roof. It is occupied by a government sports and welfare council office with the catchy acronym MAKSWIP.



A more modern building is the National Civics Bureau (Biro Tatenegara) of the Prime Minister's Department and the Nationhood Academy (Akademi Kenegaraan).



Another pair of bungalows with identical designs to MAKSWIP and the Bosnian Embassy are nearby. They are called Rumah Meranti 1 and 2 and are probably used as government offices or rest houses.



The best house on the street is Rumah Melaka, a wonderfully preserved colonial mansion which is the official residence of the Chief Minister of Melaka when he is visiting the big city of KL.



The street ends next to a park called Taman Dusun Bandar (urban orchard park) which opened a few years ago at some considerable expense. It's a very nice park. It's just a pity that I was the only person there, apart from the gardening staff.



A much more busy place is the adjacent Medan Ikan Bakar – barbecued fish hawker stalls. Specialities here include grilled squid, cat fish and mackerel wrapped in banana leaf. According to Lonely Planet, when the nearby Royal Museum was still used as a royal residence, the King would sometimes send one of his staff to buy an order of grilled stingray from one of these stalls.



Serunding means 'floss' and comes in three flavours, fish, beef or chicken. I think I'll stick with Oral-B mint flavour.

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Thrifty Traveller / January 10, 2017 / Jalan Bellamy - Kuala Lumpur / Alice Smith school, Jalan Bellamy, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Rumah Melaka

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