

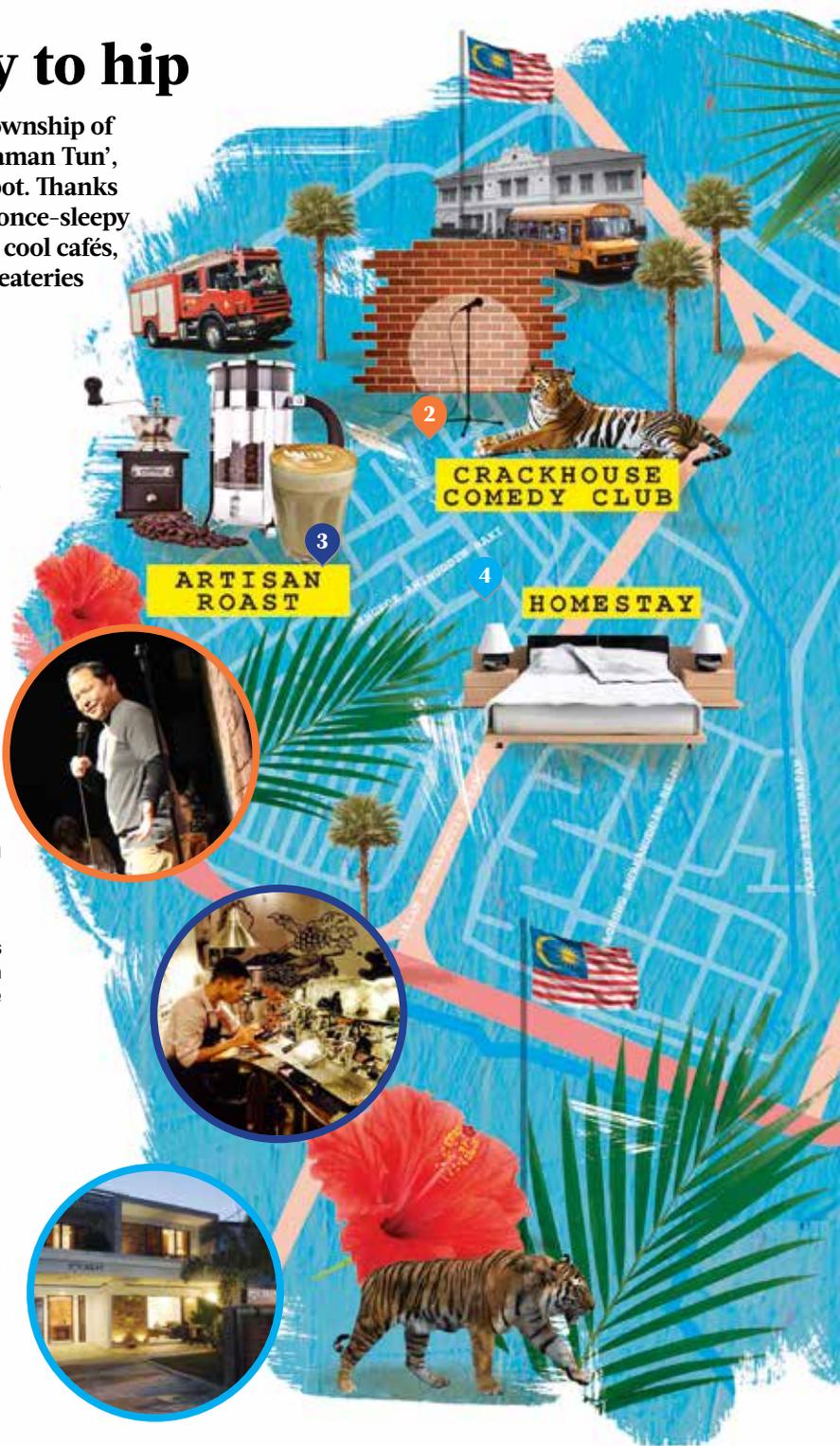
from homely to hip

Kuala Lumpur's affluent township of Taman Tun Dr Ismail, or 'Taman Tun', has become a happening spot. Thanks to yuppies and uccies, this once-sleepy neighbourhood now boasts cool cafés, arty venues and unique eateries

2 Crackhouse Comedy Club
Malaysia's thriving comedy scene has been in need of a home for some time, and now it has Crackhouse, an intimate club that both local and international comics can call their own. Seasoned wisecrackers regularly grace the stage, and on Wednesday nights, Open Crack! welcomes anyone with enough guts for this daunting exploit to grab the mic. Whatever your taste in humour, a little slapstick, satire or wordplay is bound to crack you up.
1st floor, 24A Lorong Rahim Kajai 14, +60 17-624 3412; crackhousecomedy.asia

3 Artisan Roast Coffee
Many establishments have cropped up to rival Artisan, but this spot is the cream of the crop. Serving up the best cup o' joe you can find at 8am, the folks here do everything in-house, from roasting beans to training baristas. Though most of the light bites are delicious – try the cheesecake or lemon slice – others are a bit odd (rolled-oats French toast, anyone?). With its rustic charm and consistently impressive caffeine hits, this place is always packed. Just remember to bring cash; they don't accept credit cards.
4 Lorong Rahim Kajai 14, +60 3-7733 6397; artisanroast.com.my

4 Homestay @ TTDI KL
Away from KL's bustling city centre, couples, large families or groups of friends can relax in a homey environment, complete with friendly neighbours and free wi-fi. The decor is a mix of rustic and modern, with wooden furniture and Asian ornaments. Lounge on the patio or venture out and head to the large malls that are just a few minutes' drive away.
19 & 21 Jalan Burhanuddin Helmi 1, +60 19-272 6336; homestayttidi.blogspot.my



1 Torii – Yakitori & Whiskey Bar
When patrons include suited expats from the Land of the Rising Sun, you know you're in the right place for fine Japanese dining. Though yakitori bars are the hot new spots to mingle with KL's elite, few venues can top Torii. With the city's largest range of Japanese whiskies to match its grilled meat, seafood and vegetable skewers, Torii turns a meal into a truly memorable night out.
18 Lorong Datuk Sulaiman 1, +60 3-7733 9309/
+60 12-668 4399; torii.my

5 The Pound Bar
Taman Tun has no shortage of bars, but The Pound is something worth howling about. Pooch portraits line the walls of this canine-friendly establishment, where you can lap up a Dirty Doberman (a whiskey cocktail with bite) with a tasty pork burger as you show off your smarts on Tuesday's Quiz Night. On Friday, rock out to Sharin Band, and on Saturday, wag your tail to Bollywood music at Mumbai Funk. The rest of the time, just enjoy a drink at this fun, unpretentious and laid-back bar.
50A Jalan Tun Mohd Fuad 1, +60 18-390 2294; facebook.com/ThePoundBar

6 Bowery Petit
At Bowery Petit, one of the newest eateries on the block, the Big Apple-inspired bites come courtesy of the owners' love for New York. With its understated decor, this outfit is all about the food. Feast on a 22-inch pizza, tear into the café's signature bagel balls or indulge in a decadent dessert with your coffee.
48 Persiaran Zaaba, +60 3-7710 0295; thebowerygroup.co

7 KSH Bicycle TTDI
One of the most recognisable stores in the area, this bike shop attracts sports enthusiasts from far and wide. You'll find both road and mountain bikes here, as well as a wide range of components and accessories. Tip: if you do pick up a bike at KSH, cycle to the large park that's five minutes away and take a spin around the lake, or challenge yourself to a ride in the nearby hilly jungle area.
34 Jalan Tun Mohd Fuad, +60 3-7727 5173; kshcycles.com.my *