

Pan Pacific is just the job when you need a quiet, restful, pampered night

By Jane Hammond

THINK about spending a night at an international airport and images of hard plastic seats, bright lights and constant noise come immediately to mind.

But there is an alternative, all be it at a price, and for the weary traveller the Pan Pacific Hotel at Kuala Lumpur International Airport is well worth the cost.

Five star value with a 24 hour gymnasium and meals to order at all hours await the visitor willing to part with the price of a hotel bed.

Pan Pacific KLIA is an oasis of luxury in the midst of a busy international terminal and the perfect place to rest between flights particularly those gruelling late night arrivals and early morning departures.

If you're really tired or keen to save even more time you can check into the hotel while waiting for your baggage. A special counter is provided in the baggage collection area to assist guests keen to put their head on a pillow.

The hotel is connected via a sky bridge to the airport. A short stroll, or if you prefer a quick buggy ride, will take you from the hustle and bustle of the airport to the tranquil lobby of the hotel.

The sounds of water features greet the visitor as they climb off one of many buggies' patrolling the sky bridge for baggage laden patrons. The check-in - for those who wait until they reach the hotel to complete the formalities - is quick, the service friendly and the exchange rate fair for those wanting local currency.

My only gripe was that the small shop closes at 11pm leaving little time for late night check-ins to purchase a light snack and cold drink without going through the hassle of room service, the bother of ordering at the 24 hour restaurant or



the expense of raiding the bar fridge.

The rooms are well appointed offering everything needed from broadband internet connections to tea and coffee making facilities, international news services or ironing boards.

A large bath offered a wonderful retreat for a body that had been confined to an airline seat for too many hours. A full complement of toiletries including toothbrush and paste make settling in easy for those who have forgotten the essentials or inadvertently checked them through on tomorrow's flight.

The rooms are clean, fresh and inviting and large enough to practice yoga or tai chi without tripping over your baggage. And if that is not enough and insomnia has really set in a visit to the gym, jacuzzi or sauna can be undertaken at any time of the day or night

But perhaps the most amazing aspect of the hotel is its sound proofing. For someone who has spent many a night under the flight path of Sydney's Mascot

airport I had expected the roar of passenger planes at one of the busiest airports in Asia to keep me awake all night.

Not an aircraft could be heard from the restful environment of the hotel room, even the gentle hum of the air-conditioning seemed lower than most.

The following morning the early morning call came as requested and I awoke refreshed and ready for the next leg of my journey. Breakfast was, as expected, befitting the standard of a five-star hotel with fresh coffee and Western and Asian offerings making up the sumptuous banquet.

A buggy was ready to deliver me to the airport lift in plenty of time to check in for an early morning flight.

So if you are en route and have a night to spare in KL but insufficient time for sightseeing, Pan Pacific KLIA is well worth a visit. It provides a welcoming respite to the rigours of long or short haul travel, a chance to freshen up and rest undisturbed in the midst of a major international airport terminal.