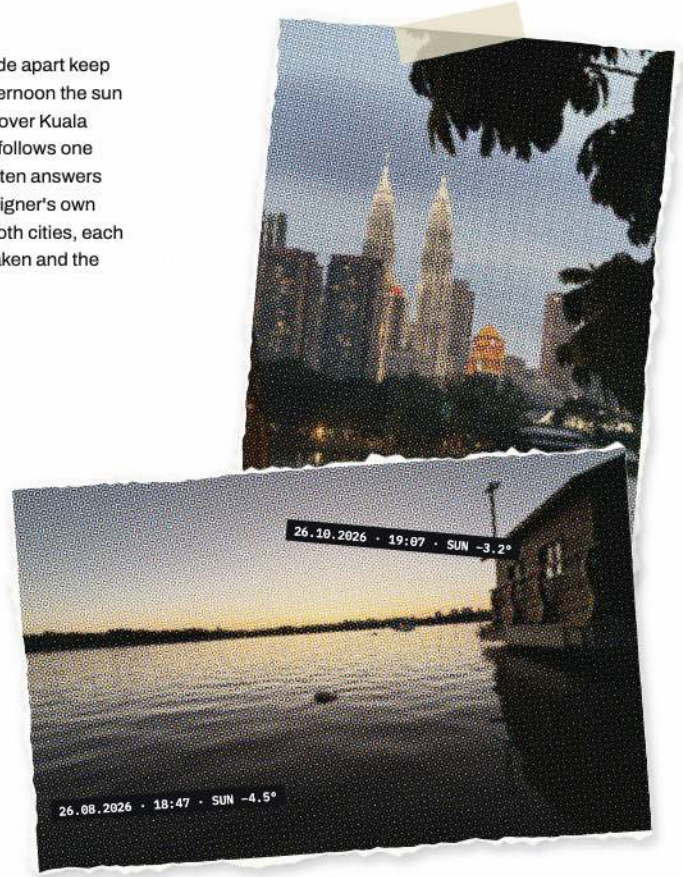
UTC+8

ONE CLOCK, TWO SUNS

Two cities forty degrees of latitude apart keep the same clock. At five in the afternoon the sun over Changchun is already low; over Kuala Lumpur it is still high. This book follows one computed day hour by hour, written answers from a small survey, and the designer's own photographs from the lakes of both cities, each labelled with the minute it was taken and the sun's height at that minute.



AFTER SUNSET IN BOTH CITIES · DIFFERENT DAYS · TIMES FROM THE FILES

BETWEEN

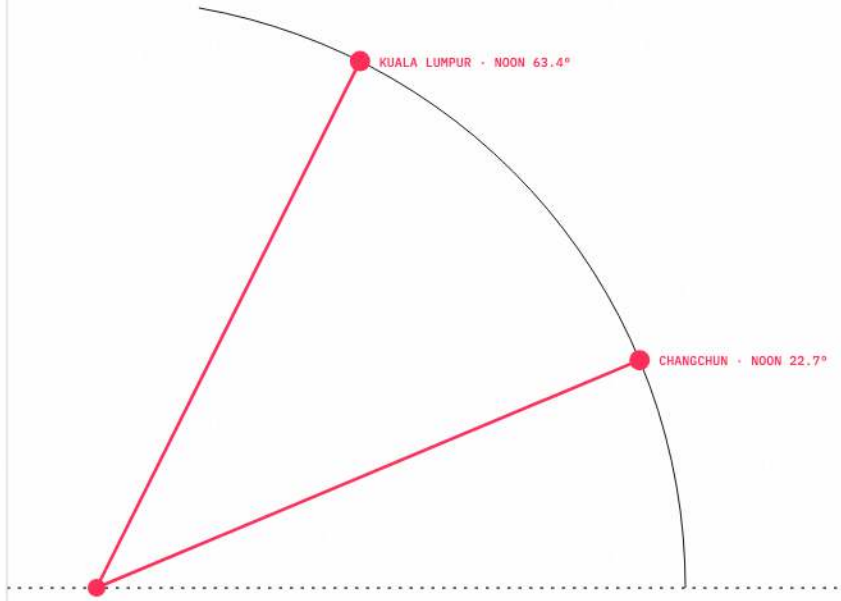
ONE CLOCK UTC+8 · CHANGCHUN 17:06 +10.9° · KUALA LUMPUR 16:47 +30.8°



LATITUDES

BETWEEN LATITUDES

An almanac in twenty-four hours



CHANGCHUN 43.8°N · KUALA LUMPUR 3.1°N

ONE CLOCK, UTC+8 · 21 DECEMBER 2025

12:00

THE CLOCK · THE SAME MINUTE IN BOTH CITIES

The clock says noon.

Local solar time: where the hands would point if the clock followed this city's own sun.

12:23

CHANGCHUN · THE SUN SAYS 12:23

SUN 23 MIN AHEAD OF THE CLOCK TODAY



10:49

KUALA LUMPUR · THE SUN SAYS 10:49

SUN 71 MIN BEHIND THE CLOCK TODAY



SAME CLOCK, TWO SUNS.

Changchun, where I was born, and Kuala Lumpur, where I study, keep the same time: UTC+8. Neither city lies on the line that time is set by. Over 2025 Changchun's sun ran on average 21 minutes ahead of the clock; Kuala Lumpur's ran 73 minutes behind.

How might visual communication make the gap between clock time and solar time – and the light we remember – perceptible?

1 · COMPUTE

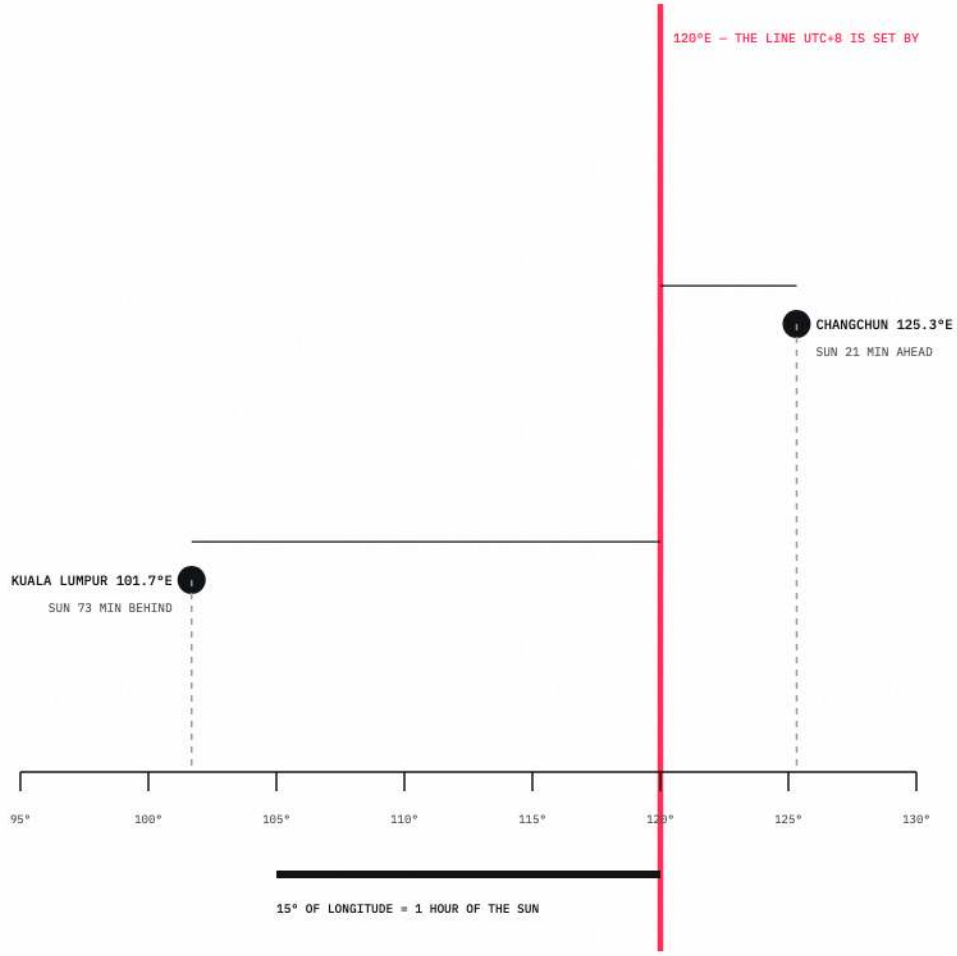
the sun for both cities, every minute of 21 December 2025 and every day of 2025 (NOAA).

2 · SET SIDE BY SIDE

the two days on one clock, hour by hour.

3 · LISTEN

to five people who wrote about the light where they grew up and where they live (survey, 2026).



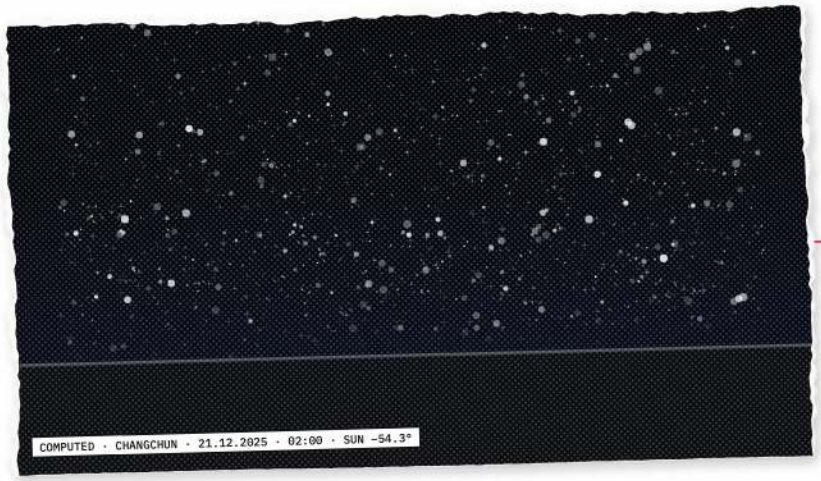
21 DECEMBER 2025

	CHANGCHUN	KUALA LUMPUR
Sunrise	07:09	07:13
Solar noon	11:37	13:11
Sunset	16:04	19:10
Daylight	8 h 55 min	11 h 57 min
Sun at noon	22.7°	63.4°

02:00

ONE CLOCK · BOTH SUNS FAR BELOW THE HORIZON

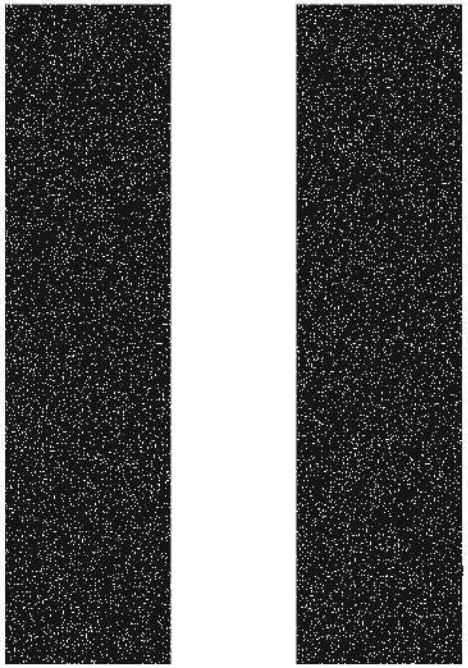
> *"Looking at my phone and seeing "2:00am" while standing under that bright violet sky felt deeply disorienting, almost like time had glitched."*
>
> P05 · GREW UP IN KUALA LUMPUR
> SURVEY, NOVEMBER 2026 · WRITTEN ANSWER



COMPUTED · CHANGCHUN · 21.12.2025 · 02:00 · SUN −54.3°



COMPUTED · KUALA LUMPUR · 21.12.2025 · 02:00 · SUN −66.5°



ACT II · DAWN

05:25 → 12:00

SUNRISE · 21 DECEMBER 2025

07:09 CHANGCHUN

07:13 KUALA LUMPUR

4 MINUTES APART

Sunrise is 07:09 in Changchun and 07:13 in Kuala Lumpur: the only moment of the day the two cities nearly agree. At 08:00 the red lines leave the horizon at the sun's real angle. Skies computed, not photographed.



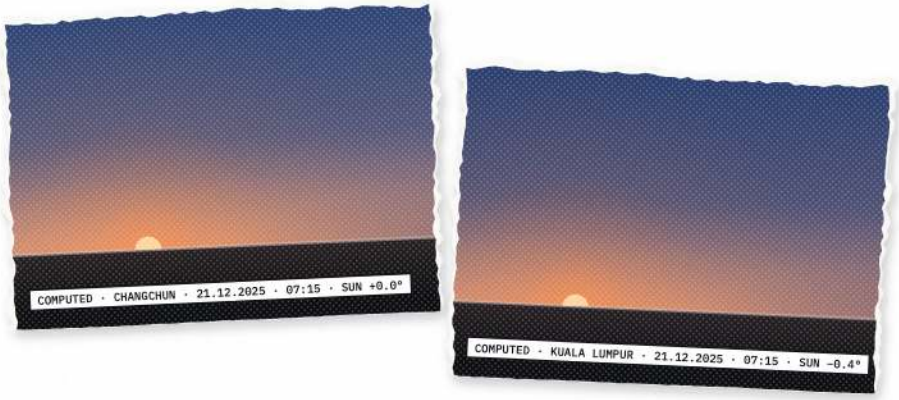


08:00

ONE CLOCK · CHANGCHUN +6.4° · KUALA LUMPUR +9.9°

6.4°

WHAT TIME DO YOU WAKE UP?



SUNRISE 07:09 / 07:13 · SKIES COMPUTED FOR 07:15

"Waking up at 12 PM and going to bed at 1 or 2 AM - I feel like my schedule here is even worse"

P01 · GREW UP IN JIAN'OU, CHINA
SURVEY, NOVEMBER 2026 · WRITTEN ANSWER

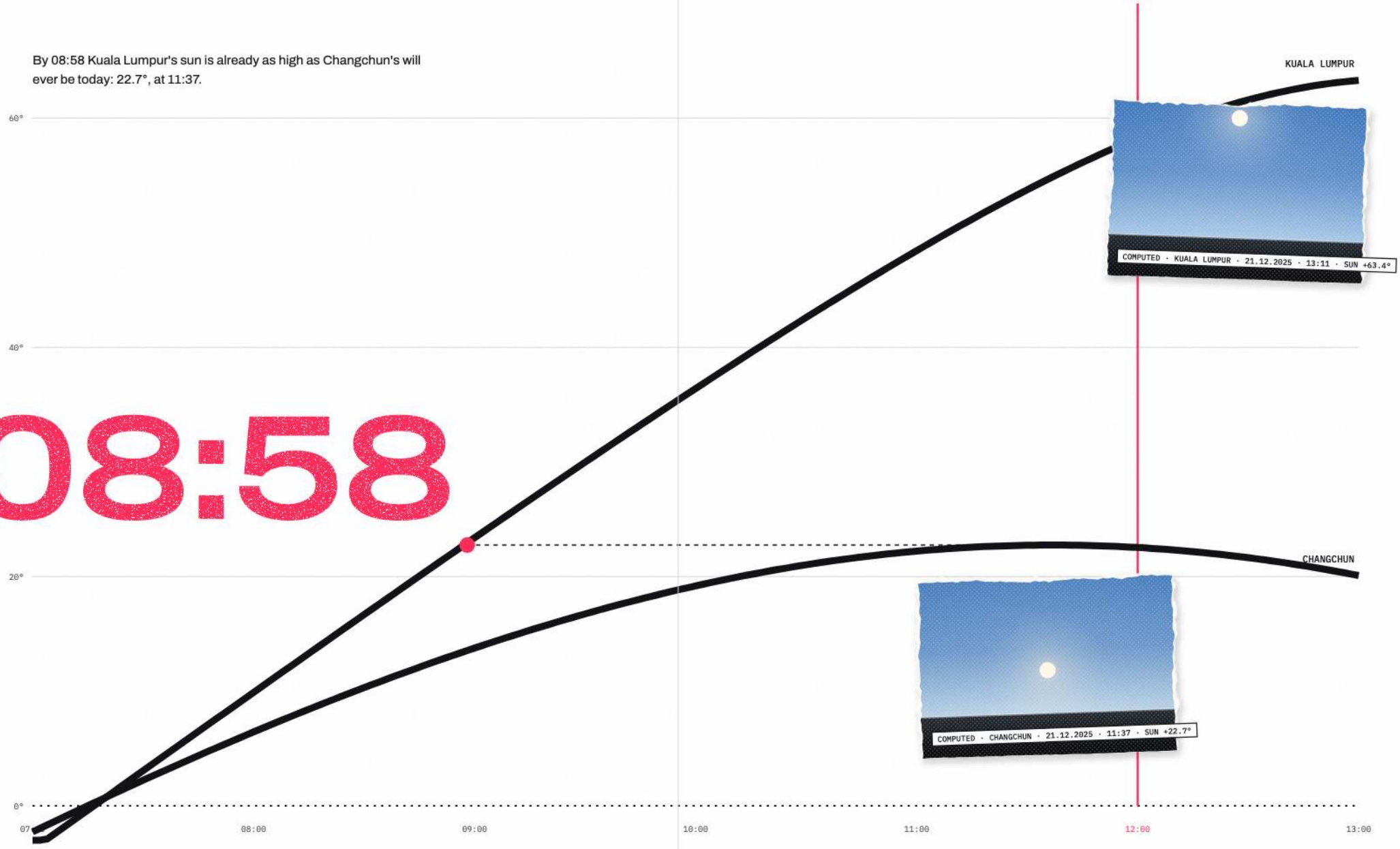
"I usually wake up at 10am and sleep at 2am. Normally staying at hometown I will be sleeping and waking up earlier."

P05 · GREW UP IN KUALA LUMPUR
SURVEY, NOVEMBER 2026 · WRITTEN ANSWER

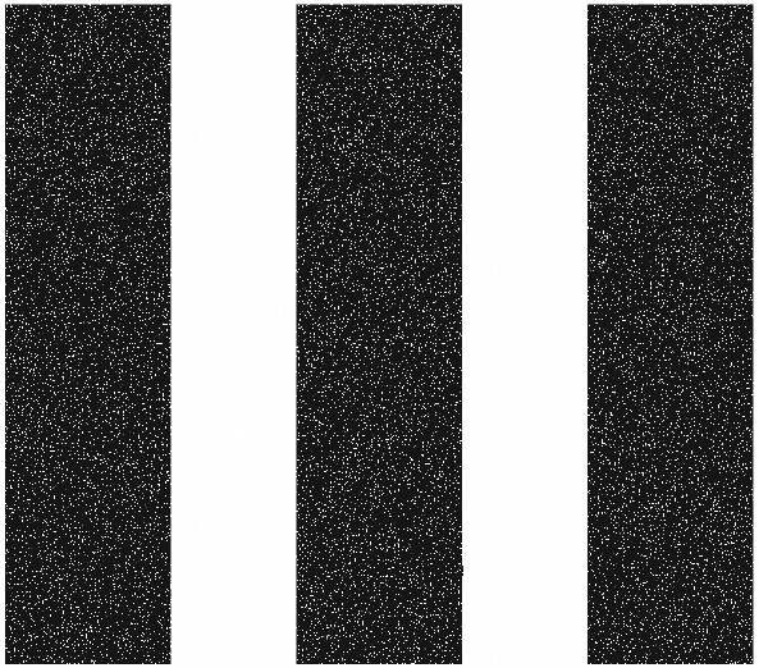
"Usually get up at ten, go to sleep at one in the morning. Compared with home, my routine is irregular."

P02 · GREW UP IN SONGYUAN, CHINA · TRANSLATED FROM CHINESE
SURVEY, NOVEMBER 2026 · WRITTEN ANSWER

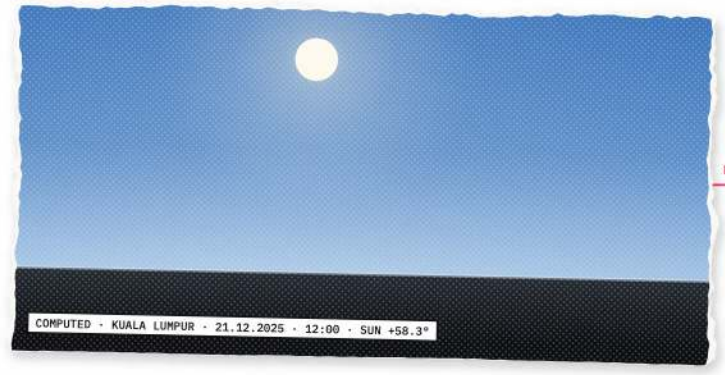
By 08:58 Kuala Lumpur's sun is already as high as Changchun's will ever be today: 22.7°, at 11:37.

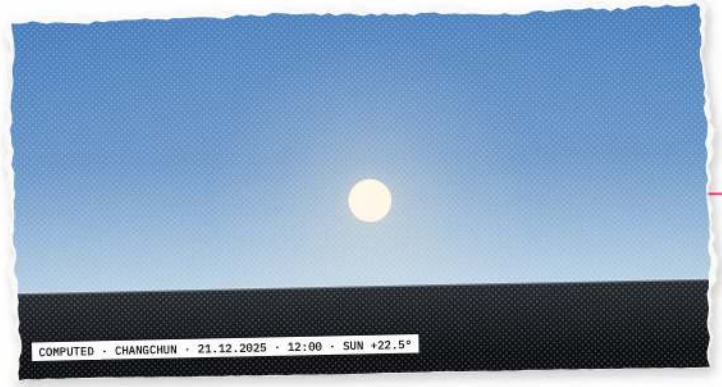


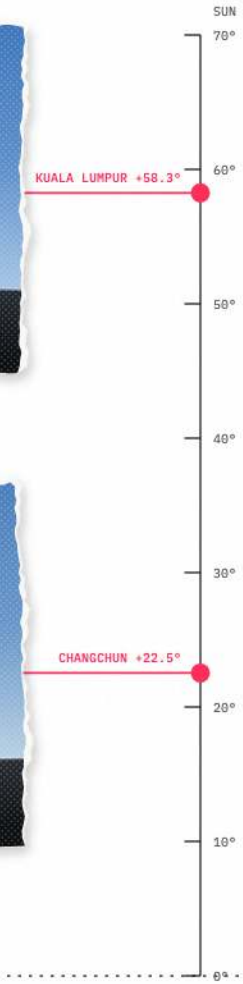
08:58



AT 12:00 THE SUN STANDS 22.5° OVER CHANGCHUN, 58.3° OVER KUALA LUMPUR





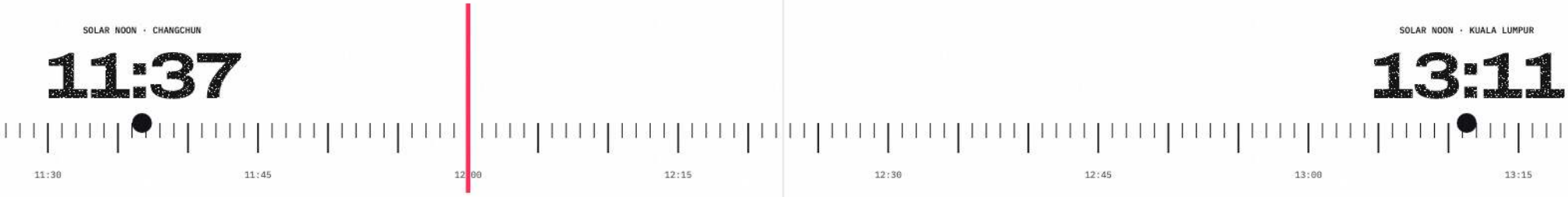


SOLAR NOON · CHANGCHUN

11:37

SOLAR NOON · KUALA LUMPUR

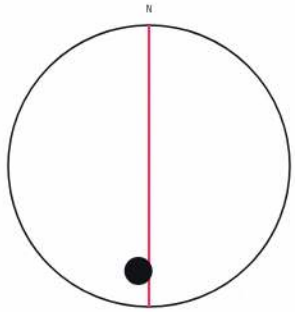
13:11



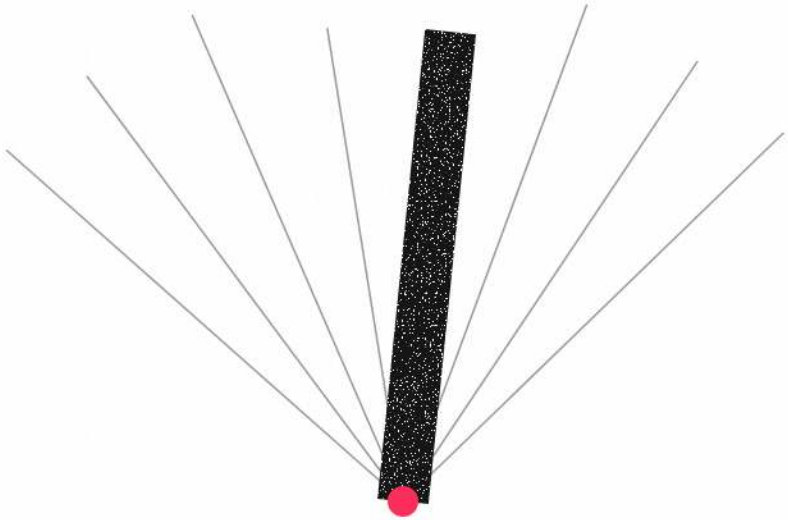
95 minutes

A PERSON 1.7 M TALL · SCALE 1 M = 18 MM · NORTH UP

Thick: the shadow at 12:00 on the clock. Thin: every other full hour. The red line in the small maps is the meridian; at 12:00 Changchun's sun has already crossed it, Kuala Lumpur's has not.

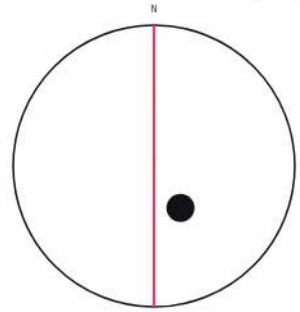


SUN AT 12:00 · AZ 186°

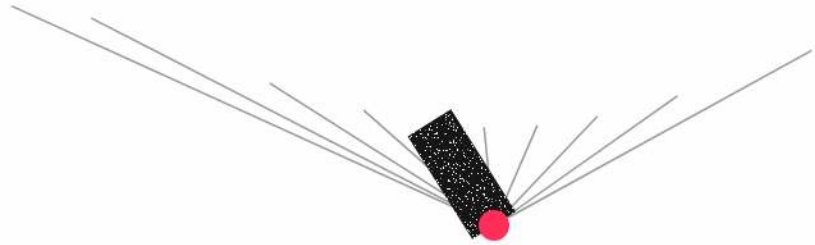


4.10 M

CHANGCHUN · SHADOW AT 12:00 · SUN 22.5°



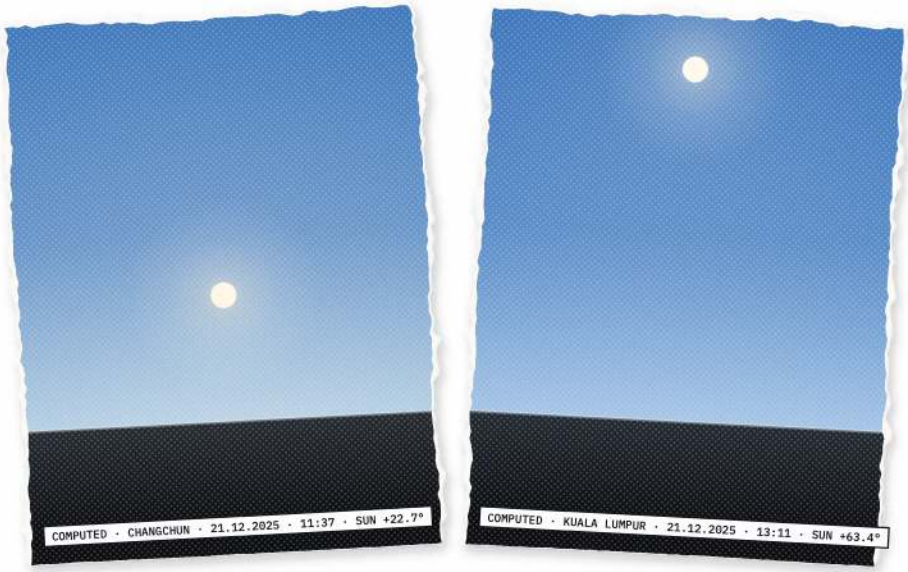
SUN AT 12:00 · AZ 148°



1.05 M

KUALA LUMPUR · SHADOW AT 12:00 · SUN 58.3°

> *"Waiting for the bus at school at noon, the sun was really beating down and it felt so hot."*
>
> P01 · GREW UP IN JIAN'OU, CHINA
> SURVEY, NOVEMBER 2026 · WRITTEN ANSWER



EACH CITY AT ITS OWN SOLAR NOON · COMPUTED

> *"The sun in my hometown is softer, while the sun here is much stronger"*
>
> P01 · GREW UP IN JIAN'OU, CHINA
> SURVEY, NOVEMBER 2026 · WRITTEN ANSWER

SOFTER

STRONGER

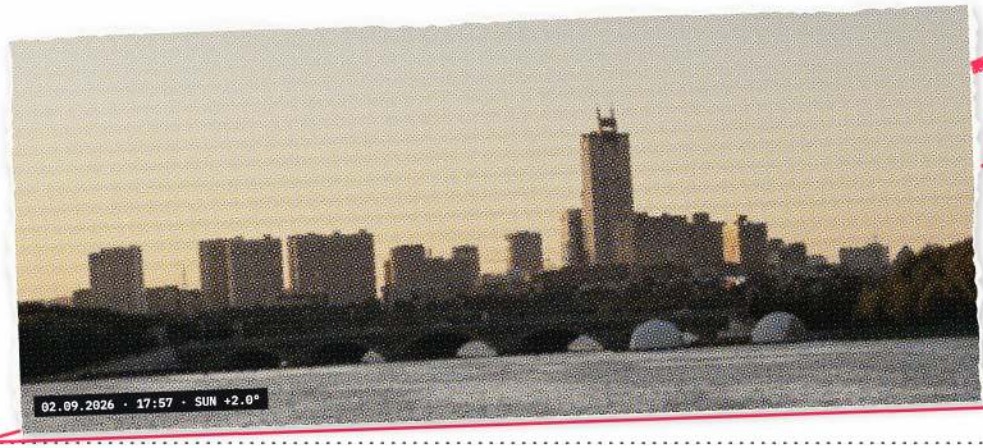
TWO WORDS FROM P01'S ANSWER: THE SUN AT HOME, THE SUN HERE

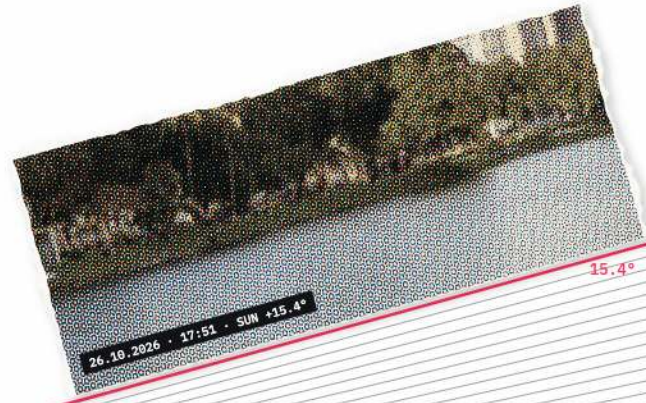
IV

ACT IV · DIVERGENCE

16:04 → 19:10

Photographs now, not computed skies: same clock, different days, different suns. The two red lines leave the horizon at the real angle of the sun when each photograph was taken: 2.0° over Changchun at 17:57, 15.4° over Kuala Lumpur at 17:51. The hatched wedge between them is the gap this act is about.





17:51

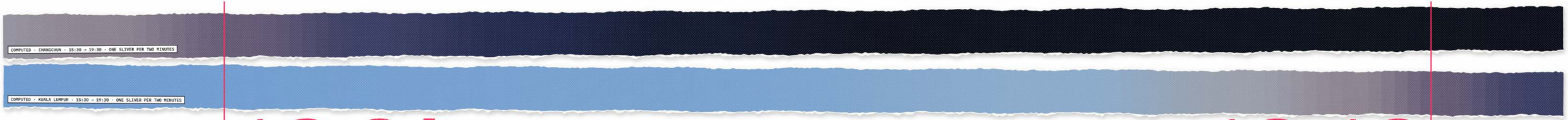
15.4°

KUALA LUMPUR · 26.10 · SUN +15.4° · 67 MIN OF DAY LEFT

17:57

2.0°

CHANGCHUN · 02.09 · SUN +2.0° · SETS IN 17 MIN



16:04

SUNSET · CHANGCHUN

186 MINUTES

19:10

SUNSET · KUALA LUMPUR

DAYLIGHT

DAYLIGHT

16:00 17:00 18:00 19:00

Blue stops when Changchun's sun sets; yellow runs on for three more hours. One city's evening is the other's afternoon.

17:00

CHANGCHUN

SUN DOWN, −9.8° · SET 16:04

−9.8°

KUALA LUMPUR

SUN UP, +28.4° · SETS 19:10

+28.4°

"In coastal cities, the evening glow often takes on various, distinct colors—such as pink or purple—due to the effects of light refraction."

P04 · GREW UP IN CHONGQING, CHINA
SURVEY, NOVEMBER 2026 · WRITTEN ANSWER

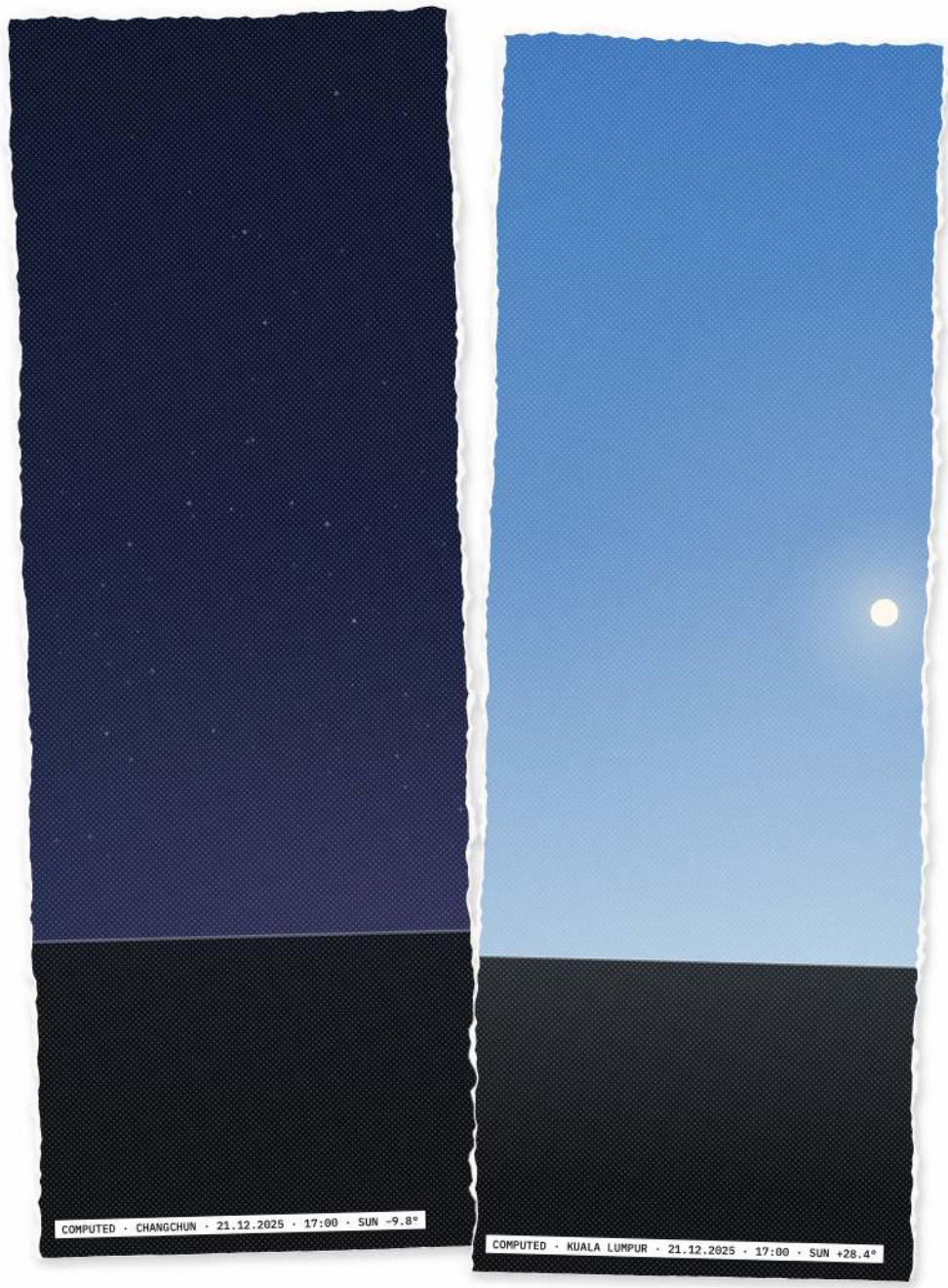
ASKED: DOES THE CLOCK MATCH THE SKY HERE?

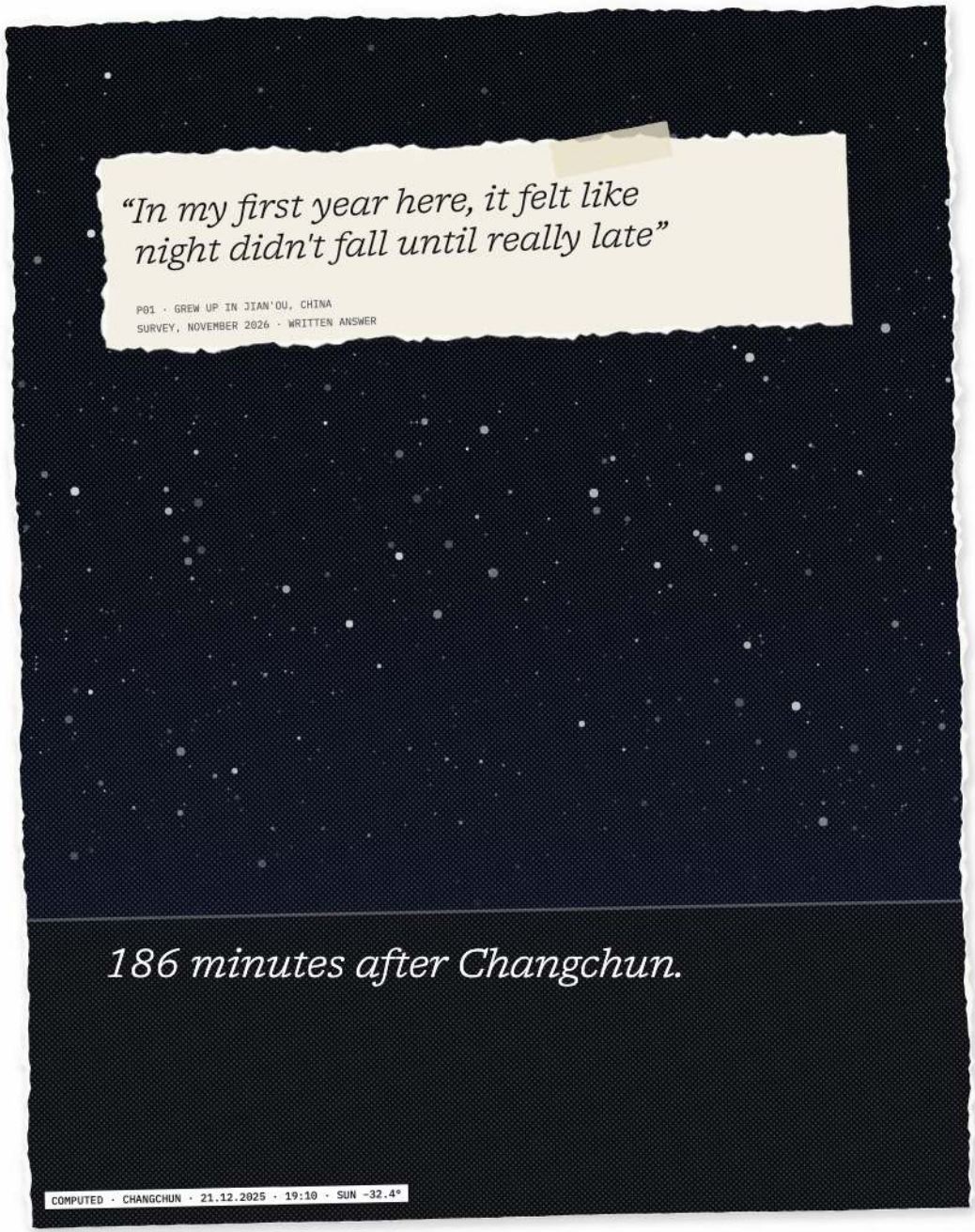
●●○○○ They roughly match

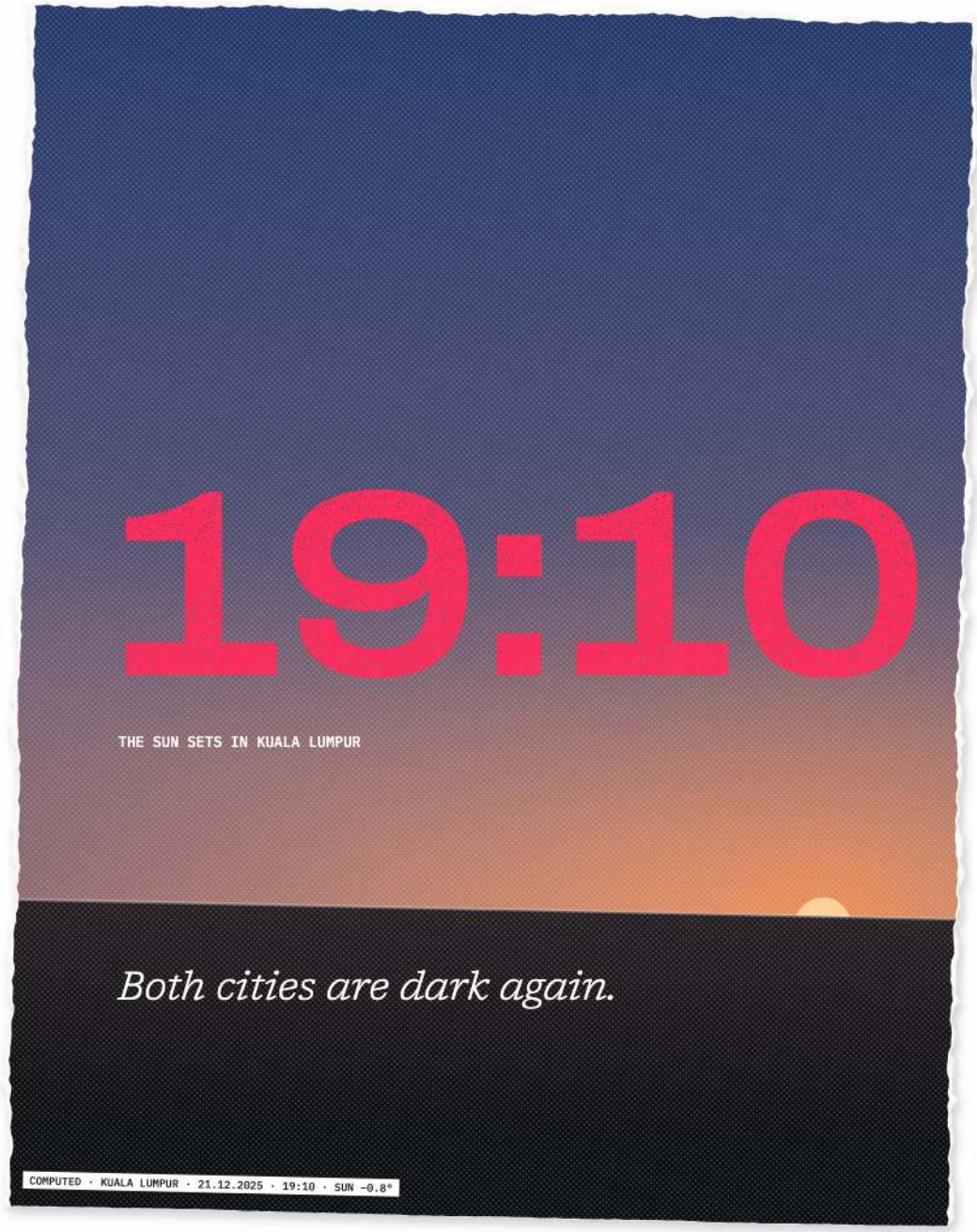
●●○○○ It gets dark later than I expect

●○○○○ It gets dark earlier than I expect

FIVE PEOPLE, ONE DOT EACH · COUNTS, NOT PERCENTAGES




"In my first year here, it felt like night didn't fall until really late"
P01 · GREW UP IN JIAN'OU, CHINA
SURVEY, NOVEMBER 2026 · WRITTEN ANSWER
186 minutes after Changchun.
COMPUTED · CHANGCHUN · 21.12.2025 · 19:10 · SUN −32.4°


19:10
THE SUN SETS IN KUALA LUMPUR
Both cities are dark again.
COMPUTED · KUALA LUMPUR · 21.12.2025 · 19:10 · SUN −0.8°

CHANGCHUN · 26.08 · SUN −4.4° · SET 20 MIN AGO

18:46



THE DAY'S ACCOUNT · 21 DECEMBER 2025 · 24 H = 140 MM

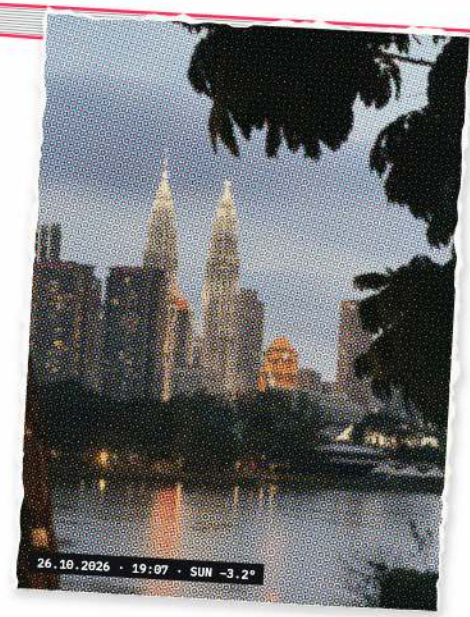


KUALA LUMPUR · 26.10 · SUN −3.2° · SET 9 MIN AGO

19:07

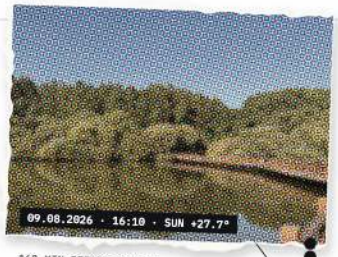
-3.2°

-4.4°



After sunset in both cities, on different days. The red lines fall below the horizon, at the depth of the sun when each photograph was taken: 4.4° under Changchun, 3.2° under Kuala Lumpur. On the shortest day Kuala Lumpur had 3 h 02 min more daylight.

37



162 MIN BEFORE SUNSET



147 MIN BEFORE SUNSET

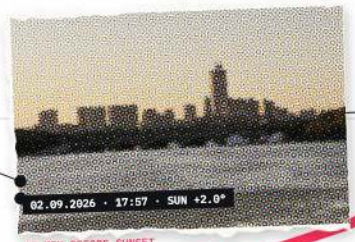




56 MIN BEFORE SUNSET



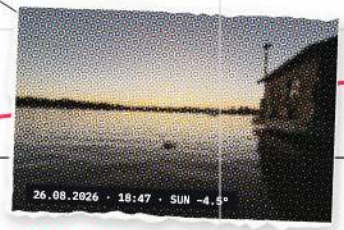
36 MIN BEFORE SUNSET



17 MIN BEFORE SUNSET

SUNSET · CHANGCHUN

SUNSET · KUALA LUMPUR



21 MIN AFTER



9 MIN AFTER

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

19:00

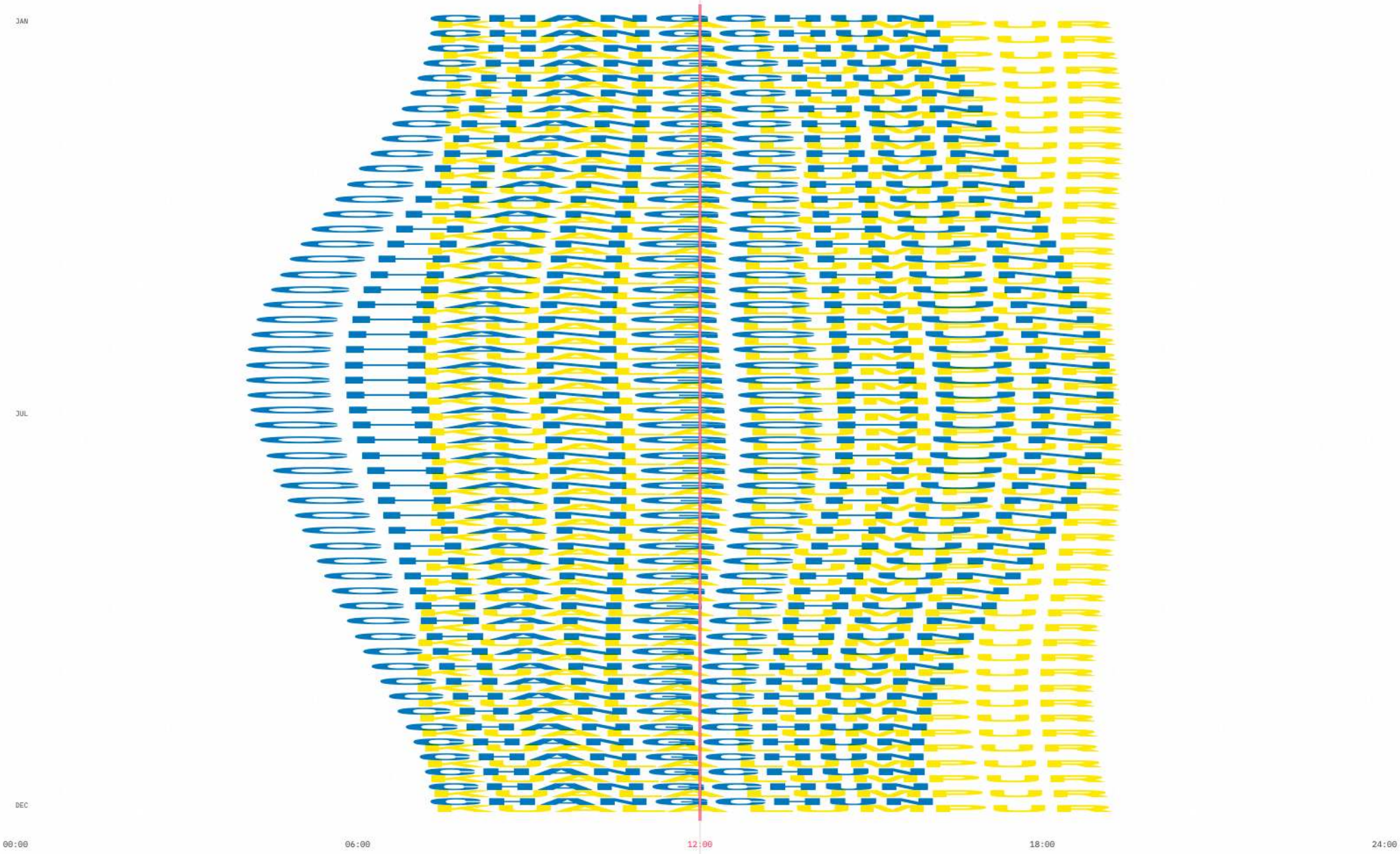
AUG

OCT

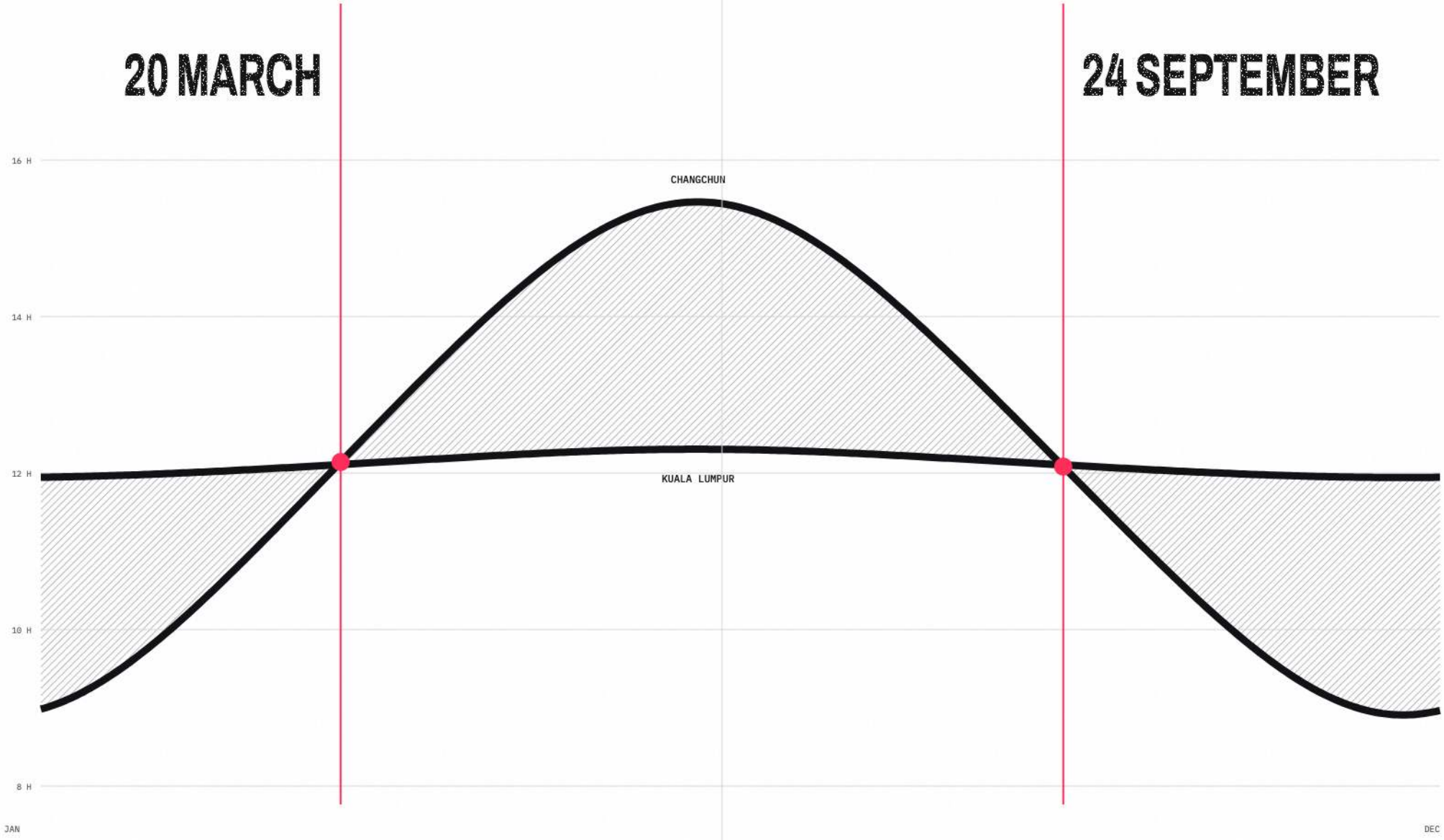
NOV

● CHANGCHUN ○ KUALA LUMPUR (ONE DAY)

Each dot is one photograph, at the date and minute in its file. 20 of the 37 were taken in the last two hours before sunset: the pictures chase the red line down the season.



Each name runs from sunrise to sunset, one row per week of 2025. Blue: Changchun. Yellow: Kuala Lumpur.



Day length through 2025. Twice a year the two cities have the same length of day. Hatched: the months when Changchun has more light; for the rest of the year Kuala Lumpur does.

95 MIN

between the two solar noons on 21 December (94.5–94.6 min all year): longitude, not season.

4 MIN

between the two sunrises on the shortest day.

186 MIN

between the two sunsets on the same day.

-9.8° / +28.4°

the sun at 17:00, Changchun / Kuala Lumpur.

4.06 / 0.85 M

noon shadows of a person 1.7 m tall.

2 DAYS

of equal day length: 20 March and 24 September.

AN ANONYMOUS ONLINE SURVEY, NOVEMBER 2026 · N = 5

Five people answered; all agreed to be quoted. They grew up in Songyuan, Changchun, Chongqing, Jian'ou and Kuala Lumpur. A small, self-selected sample: it describes these five people, not a population.



5/5 The colour of the sky struck them most



4/5 Looked into the daylight before moving: not at all



4/5 Use blackout curtains or an eye mask



3/5 Would most like to know "what my day would look like there"



3/5 Feel the clock does not match the sky

In the written answers the clock is noticed when it disagrees with the sky: night falling late (P01), a sky too bright for 2 a.m. (P05).

INTERVIEWS: TWO PEOPLE AGREED TO A VOICE INTERVIEW; NOT YET HELD.

ANSWERS ARE SET EXACTLY AS WRITTEN; CHINESE ANSWERS ARE TRANSLATED.

PHOTOGRAPHS · METHOD

EVERY MINUTE IS FROM THE FILE.

37 photographs by the designer: 27 in Changchun (28 July – 17 September 2026) and 10 in Kuala Lumpur (26 October 2026). The date and minute of each come from the file itself; for 33 of them the phone's GPS timestamp agrees, the rest use the camera clock. The sun's altitude at that minute is computed with the same NOAA routine as the rest of the book.

Every photograph has the same grade (blacks lifted a little, contrast softened, saturation –12 %). No sky is replaced, nothing is composited inside a photograph; pieces sit side by side as visible collage, and the dot screen is how they are printed, not what they show.

8 photographs that show recognisable people are left out of this dummy until their use is confirmed. Two blue-hour images from Kuala Lumpur have no time in their files and are not used. Place names come from GPS and are still to be confirmed.

INDEX · 29 OF 37 SHOWN · IN ORDER OF DATE



01 CC 28.07 17:53
SUN +11.6° · 75 MIN TO SET



02 CC 28.07 17:59
SUN +10.6° · 69 MIN TO SET



03 CC 28.07 18:01
SUN +10.3° · 67 MIN TO SET



04 CC 28.07 18:02
SUN +10.2° · 66 MIN TO SET



05 CC 08.08 17:30
SUN +13.4° · 83 MIN TO SET



06 CC 09.08 15:53
SUN +30.8° · 179 MIN TO SET



07 CC 09.08 15:56
SUN +30.3° · 176 MIN TO SET



08 CC 09.08 15:56
SUN +30.2° · 176 MIN TO SET



09 CC 09.08 16:10
SUN +27.7° · 162 MIN TO SET



10 CC 09.08 16:11
SUN +27.6° · 161 MIN TO SET



11 CC 10.08 18:15
SUN +5.3° · 36 MIN TO SET



12 CC 10.08 18:19
SUN +4.6° · 32 MIN TO SET



13 CC 10.08 18:39
SUN +1.2° · 12 MIN TO SET



14 CC 26.08 18:46
SUN −4.4° · 20 MIN AFTER SET



15 CC 26.08 18:47
SUN −4.5° · 21 MIN AFTER SET



16 CC 02.09 17:57
SUN +2.1° · 17 MIN TO SET



17 CC 02.09 17:57
SUN +2.0° · 17 MIN TO SET



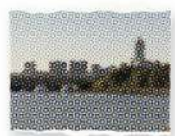
18 CC 03.09 17:06
SUN +11.0° · 66 MIN TO SET



19 CC 03.09 17:06
SUN +10.9° · 66 MIN TO SET



20 CC 09.09 17:05
SUN +9.2° · 56 MIN TO SET



21 CC 09.09 17:05
SUN +9.2° · 56 MIN TO SET



22 CC 17.09 15:20
SUN +25.0° · 147 MIN TO SET



23 CC 17.09 15:59
SUN +18.4° · 108 MIN TO SET



24 CC 17.09 16:00
SUN +18.2° · 107 MIN TO SET



25 CC 17.09 16:04
SUN +17.4° · 103 MIN TO SET



26 KL 26.10 16:47
SUN +30.8° · 131 MIN TO SET



27 KL 26.10 16:47
SUN +30.8° · 131 MIN TO SET



28 KL 26.10 17:00
SUN +27.6° · 118 MIN TO SET



29 KL 26.10 19:07
SUN −3.2° · 9 MIN AFTER SET

COMPUTED, NOT INVENTED.

Sun positions, sunrise, solar noon and sunset were computed with the NOAA solar position algorithm for both cities, every minute of 21 December 2025 and every day of 2025, and checked against Open-Meteo (day length within ±1 minute). Sky colours map the computed altitude to keyframes; they describe the sun and are not photographs, and every computed sky in the book is labelled so.

SOURCES

NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory — Solar Calculator (after J. Meeus, Astronomical Algorithms).

Open-Meteo Historical Weather API — daylight duration (cross-check).

Coordinates: Changchun 43.8171°N 125.3235°E; Kuala Lumpur 3.1390°N 101.6869°E.

Photographs: the designer's own; times from each file (see the index).

Voices: anonymous survey, November 2026, five written answers, quoted with consent.

BETWEEN LATITUDES

11:37 · 12:00 · 13:11

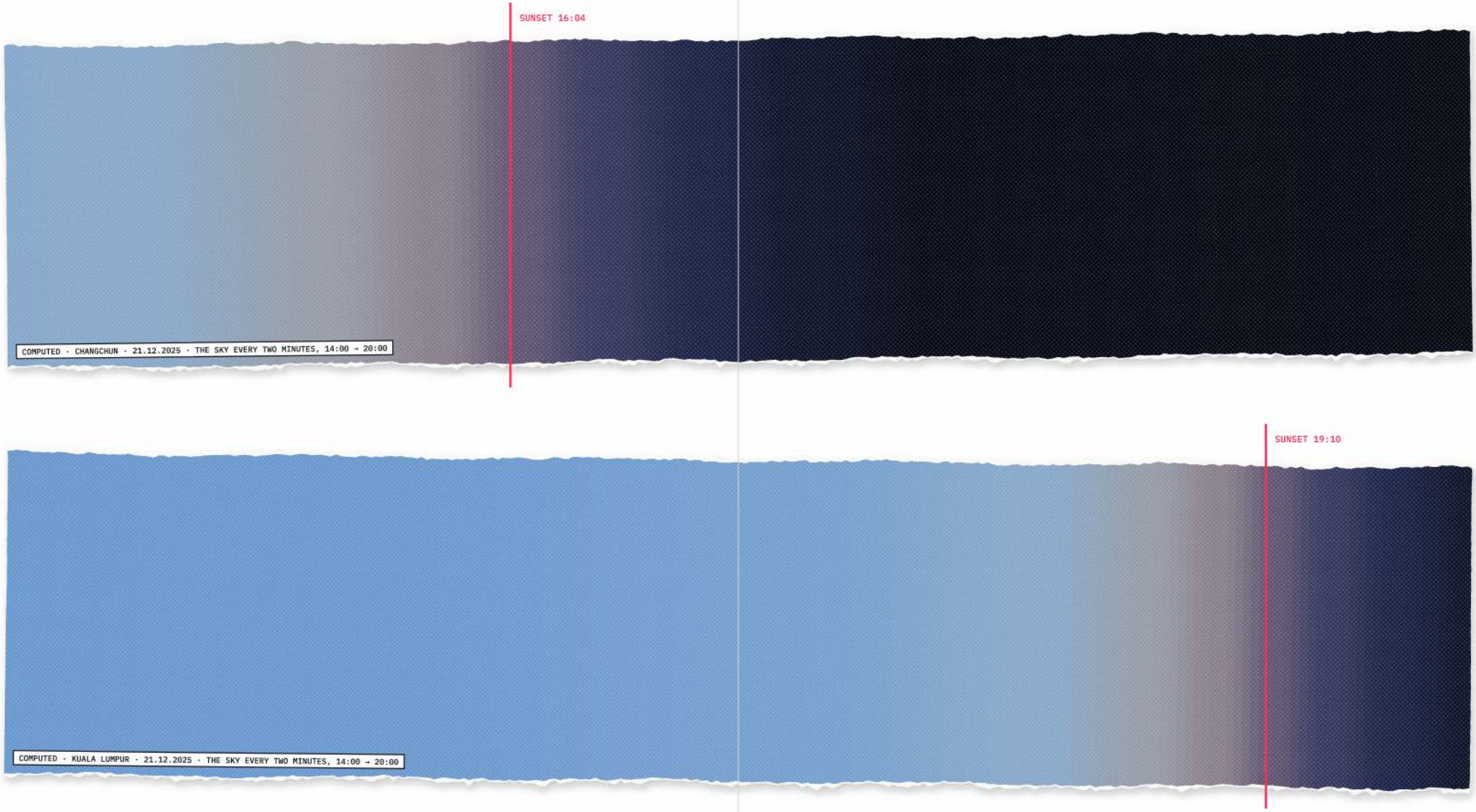




00:00

ONE CLOCK · CHANGCHUN −69.1° · KUALA LUMPUR −63.4°

The clock starts again.


SUNSET 16:04
COMPUTED · CHANGCHUN · 21.12.2025 · THE SKY EVERY TWO MINUTES, 14:00 → 20:00
SUNSET 19:10
COMPUTED · KUALA LUMPUR · 21.12.2025 · THE SKY EVERY TWO MINUTES, 14:00 → 20:00
14:00
15:00
16:00
17:00
18:00
19:00
20:00

COLOPHON

DESIGN	Wang Jiheng
EDITION	Dummy v0.5 — November 2026
FORMAT	170 × 240 mm, 48 pages (three signatures of 16), one four-page fold-out
TYPEFACES	Archivo, Archivo Expanded, IBM Plex Mono, Newsreader
INKS (PROPOSED)	Four-colour process for the photographs and skies; Signal red for the clock; blue and yellow overprint on two spreads
SKIES	Computed for 21 December 2025 and labelled COMPUTED.
PHOTOGRAPHS	The designer's own, Changchun and Kuala Lumpur, July–October 2026; date, minute and sun altitude on each. One shared grade; nothing composited.
VOICES	Anonymous survey, November 2026: five written answers, quoted with consent.