

Going Places

TAKE ME HOME Everyone who flies gets a copy

FEBRUARY 2025



A city of endless charm:
fall in love with captivating

Shanghai

SCAN ME



malaysia 

MASwings



firefly

Visit Malaysia 2026 *Truly Asia*[®]

Tourism Malaysia is proud to unveil the **Visit Malaysia 2026** campaign logo. A bold new look, an intricate and colourful design, reflecting the finely woven, multi-ethnic and cultural fabric that makes our nation an amazing destination. And to welcome everyone, we have two very special and precious hosts, **Wira & Manja, the adorable and friendly sun bears!**



Join us in making 2026 a year to remember!

Let's welcome the world with the unique charm of where the best of Asia can be discovered in **one extraordinary destination – Malaysia.**



www.malaysia.travel



FEBRUARY 2025

Contents

38

**Breakfast
of champions**

Discover how seriously locals take the first meal of the day in Bengaluru



30

**To Shanghai,
with love**

Prepare to be smitten by this modern metropolis' most enchanting spots

IMAGE: SAMEER BAICHUDE

9 12 reasons to love Malaysia

Good brews, blissful boutique hotels, a magical omakase and more

25 A perfect weekend in...Perth

Enjoy a few days of heritage walks, artisan shopping and sumptuous local bites

47 This is Malaysian Hospitality

News and updates from MAG Airlines

58 Our network

Travel around Malaysia and the world with Malaysia Aviation Group

65 Now showing

Be entertained with the latest in-flight movies, television shows, podcasts and music



22 A Malaysian in London
Malaysian journalist and TV presenter Nick Kwek takes us around his favourite dining spots



About the cover
A view of Shanghai's futuristic skyline from across the Huangpu River. Photo: Shutterstock.

Editorial
Senior Group Editor
James P Ong
Contributing Editor
Tara FT Seong
Subeditor
Arin Alycia Fong
Branded Content Coordinator
Stephanie Boey

Design
Senior Art Director
Jessica Santos
Photo Director
Aaron Low

Sales
For advertising enquiries, please contact
sales.malaysia@ink-global.com

Publishing Director
Shahid Khatran
Account Managers
Daniel Williams
Daniel Mohamed
Aliyahmathi Asohan
Zuleia Hareeah
VP Travel Partnerships, APAC
Marie Yeo

Production
Head of Advertising Operations, APAC
Omar Mohamad Kassim

Ink
CEO
Michael Keating
Chief Operating Officer
Jim Campbell
Managing Director, Ink Studio
Jonny Clark
Director of Strategy and Innovation
Ric Stockels
Creative Director
Tan Parmar
Country Head, Malaysia
Lingesh Thayala



Goody Pages is published on behalf of Malaysia Aviation Group by Ink Publishing Pte Ltd. All articles and photographs published herein are created by the authors and photographers at their own discretion and do not necessarily represent the views of the organization. Malaysia Aviation Group holds no responsibility or liability arising out of the publication of such articles and photographs. All material is strictly copyrighted and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, without the prior written permission of the copyright holder. All prices and fees are correct at the time of publication. Malaysia Aviation Group does not accept responsibility for advertising content.

Ink Publishing Pte Ltd 48 Craig Road, Singapore 08864.
Tel: +65 6461 4888, +65 9 2098 0344
www.ink-global.com

MDR3508600004

Printed by United Mission Press Sdn Bhd.
Business Registration Number: 7152274

Paper recycle or pass on to a friend

Our friends at Malaysia Airlines

Lau Yin May
Khairunnisak Dean Nairin
Norahshah Mohammad Shamsudin

Nik Nabillah Mohd Azren
Ainul Nazifah Abdul Rahman
Aidra Sarah Binti Abdul Razak

Nuraina Safwa Mohd Shahr
Darshini Leshchimenan
Purni Arina Abdul Aziz

WE ARE HIRING! Contact us at sales.malaysia@ink-global.com

KAPTEN BATIX

折り紙

ORIGAMI



Discover the ORIGAMI collection via this QR code & apply KBOFF15 for 15% off.

PUBLIKA SHOPPING GALLERY || ISETAN KLCC ||
THE CURVE || THE DATAI LANGKAWI ||
ISETAN THE GARDENS MALL || GURNEY PARAGON PENANG ||
BANGSAR SHOPPING CENTRE || KL EAST MALL || KLIA TERMINAL 1



Dear guests,

As we celebrate Thaipusam this month, a festival that embodies devotion, strength and unity, we are reminded of the resilience and rich cultural heritage that makes Malaysia unique. Just as our nation thrives on its diversity and shared values, Malaysia Aviation Group remains committed to blending the best of Malaysian Hospitality with world-class service. Your continued trust motivates us to continually enhance your travel experience, ensuring that each journey reflects the excellence that defines our airline.

This February also marks a significant milestone as Malaysia Airlines celebrates its 12th anniversary as a proud member of the oneworld alliance. Over the past 12 years, our partnership with oneworld has expanded our global reach, providing you with seamless connections to over 900 destinations worldwide. As part of this prestigious network, you now have access to 15 member airlines and more than 600 airport lounges globally, offering greater flexibility and comfort when you travel. Additionally, our oneworld membership allows you to earn and redeem frequent flyer points across all member airlines, further enhancing your travel experience and offering more opportunities for you to explore the world.

We take pride in our role as Malaysia's flag carrier, showcasing the beauty of our nation to the world. In conjunction with the upcoming Visit Malaysia Year 2026, we recently unveiled our thematic aircraft livery which features iconic Malaysian landmarks that showcase the beauty and pride of our

nation. From the stunning Petronas Twin Towers to the awe-inspiring Merdeka 118, the architectural brilliance of Tun Razak Exchange (TRX), and the breathtaking Mount Kinabalu, this special livery serves as a tribute to Malaysia's heritage and vibrant culture. It represents our commitment to connecting global travellers to Malaysia, inviting them to experience the rich heritage, diverse culture and stunning landscapes that define our country. As the airline that bridges Malaysia to the world, we aim to drive tourism, foster economic growth and inspire travellers to discover the unique charm our country has to offer.

We also acknowledge the importance of our responsibility to the communities and environment we operate in. We recently had our first-ever group-wide Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme in collaboration with Zoo Negara Malaysia. This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to education, social responsibility and environmental conservation. Through this programme, we have created meaningful engagement opportunities for our employees to actively contribute to the preservation of our national heritage. This collaboration not only supports Zoo Negara's conservation initiatives but also mirrors our ongoing commitment to partner with local NGOs and raise awareness about sustainability, both in the skies and on the ground. We hope to continue this momentum moving forward by enhancing our sustainability initiatives throughout our operations and deepening our engagement with local communities.

Thank you for choosing to fly with us. It is our privilege to serve you, and we look forward to welcoming you on board, ensuring your journeys are truly memorable.

On behalf of everyone at Malaysia Aviation Group, we wish you safe travels and enriching journeys ahead, where every moment is filled with warmth and the true essence of Malaysian Hospitality.

Izham Ismail

Group Managing Director
Malaysia Aviation Group

15% Discount
for KL Tower Observation Deck,
Sky Deck, & Tower Walk



KL Tower

10% Discount
for RPP hall tour package
15% Discount
for RPP concert tickets



Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS

15% Discount
for MPO concert tickets



Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra

Exclusive Deals Worth Over
RM500

KL Trip Ideas

Unlimited Rides Unbeatable Discounts

From City Views to Exclusive Deals.
Explore KL with Ease and Excitement!

Unlimited Rapid KL bus and train rides

Exclusive Partner **Discounts & Deals**

Price starts from
Malaysian : RM20
Non-Malaysian : RM40



Scan here to buy now
myrapid
shop



Scan here to find
out more

*Terms & conditions apply

- Available now at all LRT, MRT Monorail, and BRT Customer Service Counters, selected bus hubs or online via MyRapid Shop and MyRapid PULSE app.
- Partner discounts valid for 7 days after activation. Price excludes the Touch 'n Go card and minimum wallet balance.

Love is in the air, and this month we're leaning into it, starting with longtime Shanghai expat Sophie Steiner's love letter to her adopted city (p30), a sprawling and modern metropolis. Shanghai can be a lot to take in, unless you know where to begin. Our cover feature doubles as a tour of the city's showpiece district, the Bund, and its many charming and romantic corners.

Next stop: Bengaluru, India, where food is a love language effusively expressed at breakfast. Ruth Dsouza Prabhu explores the city's many darshinis, where filter coffee and rice meals come with a hefty serving of community (p38). In London, a city that Malaysian BBC presenter Nick Kwek once called home, he shows us the spots that helped imprint the British capital in his heart (p22).

It goes without saying that travel is one of our favourite love languages. We escape somewhere romantic with our significant other; we take our families on trips to show how much we care for their enjoyment and growth; and when we need a moment to ourselves, a chance to retreat from regular programming and feel renewed, we book a flight to somewhere exotic or comfortably familiar.

As with previous editions, this month's curation of stories is designed to inspire your next adventure, including a soulful stay at Tokyo's glitzy new district, Azabudai Hills (p17) and a nature immersion with a twist of luxury in Sri Lanka (p20). Got a few free days? Let Smriti Daniel show you how to spend a weekend in Perth (p25). And if you're flying across Malaysia, there's plenty to love here (p9).

Happy travels.

This issue's contributors



Sophie Steiner
Writer, "To Shanghai, with love", p30

Sophie is a writer and photographer covering food and beverage, and travel. She has been based in Shanghai for almost a decade.



Ruth Dsouza Prabhu
Writer, "Breakfast of champions", p38

Ruth is a journalist, food writer and author based in Bengaluru. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Al Jazeera*, *Nikkei Asia* and other international and Indian publications.



Raul Ariano
Photographer, "To Shanghai, with love", p30

Raul is an award-winning photographer based in Shanghai. He specialises in portraits and documentary work and has been published in *The Economist*, *The British Journal of Photography* and *Le Monde*.

A man and a woman are laughing joyfully on a balcony. The woman is wearing a blue jacket and has her arm raised. The man is wearing a blue patterned jacket. In the background, a hot air balloon is visible against a sunset sky. The balcony railing is in the foreground.

Unwind wherever your heart

(((*beeps*)))

#TravelWithVisa

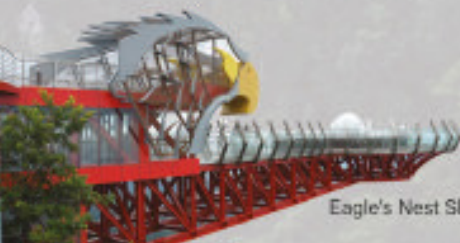
VISA everywhere
you want to be



A ride on the SkyCab takes visitors from the Base Station to the Top Station, where the iconic Langkawi SkyBridge awaits. Suspended 650 metres above sea level, this curved single-pylon suspension bridge offers breathtaking views of the rainforest and Telaga Tujuh Waterfall. It's a thrilling experience for nature lovers, photographers, and adventure seekers alike.

The SkyCab journey also includes the Eagle's Nest SkyWalk at the middle station - a 38-metre-long glass cantilever platform inspired by Langkawi's eagle. Visitors can enjoy a "walking on air" sensation, with combo tickets available online or at counters.

Nearby, the Oriental Village offers shops, cafes, and attractions like Malaysia's largest 3D art museum, Asia's first outdoor 6D Cinemotion and SkyRex, an immersive simulator ride. Visitors can also explore Telaga Tujuh Waterfall, Machinchang Petland, or take a SkyATV ride through Machinchang GeoForest Park for an unforgettable adventure.



Eagle's Nest SkyWalk



SkyGlide



SkyRex



SkyDome



Telaga Tujuh Waterfall



SkyATV



3D Art Museum



6D Cinemotion

12 REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places



1

Kuala Lumpur

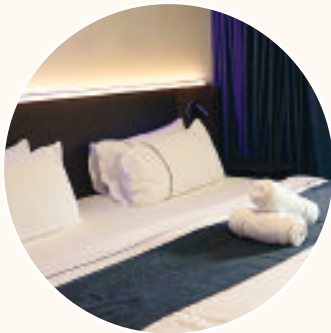
A little movie magic

With suites called Moonrise and Rushmore, **The Très Hotel** captures all the whimsical charm of Wes Anderson's movies, complete with distinct retro stylings, like en suite open bathtubs, funky wallpaper and vintage vinyl TVs and turntables to set the mood. Located in the Bukit Bintang district, just a stone's throw away from Mid Valley Megamall and Little India, The Très Hotel certainly lives up to its tagline of making every stay feel like a movie. thetreshotel.com

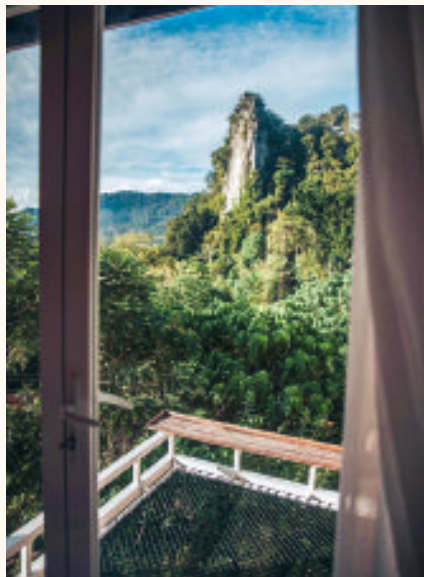
2

Kuala Lumpur

Going downtown



B Hotel styles itself as the gateway to KL's Golden Triangle, with its prime location along the historic Petaling Street. The hotel brings the energy of its surroundings within, with nods to Chinatown's past in the art on its walls alongside bursts of neon. B Hotel also boasts the B Spa and Upper House, the exclusive rooftop dining destination that combines modern Asian cuisine with stunning views of the KL skyline. [instagram.com/bhotel.chinatownkl](https://www.instagram.com/bhotel.chinatownkl)



3

Selangor

One with nature

The idyll of Templer Park is transformed with **Villa Takun**, which truly puts the glamour in glamping. Against the backdrop of the limestone monolith Bukit Takun from which it takes its name, and the lush greenery of the forest reserve, Villa Takun's glamping units provide an intimate luxury experience, complete with private bathtubs and courtyards. For those wanting to taste luxury indoors, choose the Moroccan-inspired Fez, Marrakech and Casablanca suites, with exclusive access to the infinity pool the opulent Aman Takun Lounge. Besides the cozy caravan café Kore, Villa Takun also features a luxury degustation experience at The EDible, where Chef Edwin Eiap YL masterfully elevates dining to a celebration of all the senses. [villatakun.com](https://www.villatakun.com)

4

Selangor

Brewed different



Initially operating out of a house in Bangsar, **Hétam+** found a new home last November, with the brutalist blacks and browns of its décor matching the industrial minimalism of the PJ Trade Centre. Hétam+ prides itself on brewing coffee differently, evident in the Mentari, which matches a bold espresso with lychee and orange, and the signature Aliah, a fusion of vanilla and espresso with a bubbly ginger ale finish. [instagram.com/jamhetam](https://www.instagram.com/jamhetam)

5

Melaka

Prehistoric paradise



Since last April, Melaka Raya's **Trex** has successfully pulled off perhaps the most unexpected pairing imaginable – North Indian fare and dinosaurs, or where the *jalfrezi* (stir-fried curry) meets the Jurassic. Enjoy staples like butter chicken masala and Hyderabad mutton biryani alongside naan and Kashmiri pulao rice against a backdrop of prehistoric ferns and fossil replicas, and for lucky patrons, a T-rex roaming about as you enjoy your tikka. [instagram.com/trexxmalaysia](https://www.instagram.com/trexxmalaysia)

6

After Sarah Shah Nor – the founder of modest fashion label Modvier – was diagnosed with postpartum eczema, she pivoted to skincare that puts skin health first. Sarah's label, **Cuura** has risen quickly to become among the most lauded local skincare brands – now with a second outlet in KL East Mall – with a curated selection of cleansers, toners, serums, moisturisers, sunscreen and even edible skincare made from painstakingly sourced ethical and organic ingredients. [cuuraofficial.com](https://www.cuuraofficial.com)

Malaysia

Putting skin first

7

Malaysia

Vision for the future

Optimax has undergone a 30-year journey from a lone clinic in Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur to one of the most sought-after eye care pioneers in Southeast Asia, and it was all down to the foresight of founder Tan Sri Dato' Dr Tan Boon Hock. "Our founder identified a gap in Malaysia's eye care sector in the 1990s," says Optimax chief executive officer Sandy Tan Sing Yee. "His unwavering belief in serving the community and restoring vision with the right intention has been at the core of our philosophy – New Vision, New Life.

Since then, Optimax has kept apace with the evolution of eye correction technology, from offering advanced surface ablation (ASA) (or photorefractive keratectomy, PRK) at its inception to Lasik and now Zeiss Smile Pro, with each iteration becoming less invasive, promising quicker recovery and better results. This, coupled with Malaysia blossoming as a hub for medical tourism, meant that growth soon followed – Optimax now has 24 branches across the country, one in Cambodia, and further regional expansion is on the cards. Optimax has even ventured into aesthetic treatments and plastic surgery, leveraging on its reputation for high-quality care.

Of course, there are basic steps that you can take to protect your eyes in your daily life, especially when travelling and taking in new sights. Here's what the experts have to say:



Keep your shades on

Choose sunglasses with UV protection to shield your eyes from harmful rays, especially during extended outdoor activities," says Sandy. UV light penetrates eye tissue more easily than visible light, with too much exposure possibly leading to problems down the line.

Tearing up

Your eyes are prone to dryness in air-conditioned environments, like hotel rooms and

airplanes, especially on long-haul flights. Sandy suggests keeping your eyes hydrated for these situations using artificial tears or eye drops.

Wearing contacts with caution

To prevent dry eyes when flying, travellers who use contact lenses should also exercise caution. "Use artificial tears, as well as daily disposable lenses or remove them during the flight to avoid eye irritation due to prolonged wear," says Sandy.

Get enough sleep

Sleep is always absolutely critical, and more so when you're on the road or in the air. "Adequate rest helps reduce eye strain and puffiness, keeping your eyes refreshed during your journey."

Take charge of your eye health

Regular eye check-ups are crucial to maintaining your vision and overall eye health. If you haven't done one in a while, make an appointment, especially if you wear prescription glasses or contact lenses. optimax2u.com



8

Kuala Lumpur

The art of indulgence

Minimalist wood and stone décor sets the stage for the ultimate omakase experience at the Parkroyal Collection Kuala Lumpur's **Sushi Qubey**. Since late 2023, Sushi Qubey has been serving a range of sets such as a lunchtime offering called Tsuki, a selection of sumptuous nigiri sushi alongside Miyazaki wagyu steak, sukiyaki and a *don* (rice bowl) with *uni* (sea urchin). The Chef's Special is reserved for those who want to discover the true meaning of omakase – a scintillating journey of flavours curated entirely by the chef. [sushiqubey.com](https://www.sushiqubey.com)

9

Selangor

Sweet and savoury

Spoon & Spark brings a touch of East Asia to Klang, with its charming, panelled exterior and windows echoing traditional Chinese architecture, and desserts inspired from around the region with a touch of home – from both savoury and sweet *taiyaki* (fish-shaped cake), a *bingisu* take on the local *cendol* with coconut-saturated shaved ice, scallion pancakes and flaky, buttery egg tarts. [instagram.com/spoonandsparkdesserts](https://www.instagram.com/spoonandsparkdesserts)





10

Malaysia

Natural beauty

Olumes, which means “beautiful” in the Kadazan-Dusun language, is founder Aerin Gabor’s homage to the natural beauty of Borneo and the timeless skincare remedies of its people. Olumes’ award-winning cleansers, toners, serums and moisturisers – like its popular Satin Cream and the recently launched Advanced Eye Concentrate – are sourced from the heart of Borneo’s forests with respect for nature in mind, even as we draw from it. olumes.com

11

Malaysia

Making change

Soapan Santun’s Anna Lee, already making soap at home during lockdown, decided to turn used cooking oil into household soap because of her father’s eczema. Just a few short years later, Lee and her co-founder Louis Koh turned Soapan Santun into a purpose-driven venture that upcycles food waste into a range of shampoos, soaps and balms, and conducts workshops with students, inmates and refugees, making the world a better place in more ways than one. soapansantun.com





12

Malaysia

All lit up

With a host of award-winning authors, and now two literary festivals on the calendar – Kalam in KL and the George Town Literary Festival in Penang – the Malaysian literary scene is roaring once again. Here are some standouts from the past year:

Kaki Lima

Fresh from the publication of the short story collection *Bone Weight and Other*

Stories, Shih-Li Kow pens *Kaki Lima*, inspired by the titular five-foot ways across Malaysia. The story, interspersed with Malek Hue's arresting photos, is about what ensues when a group of shop owners react to a municipal council's decision to clear clutter on the walkways. fixi.com.my

The Cry

KS Maniam's oeuvre is concerned with the fundamental need to have a spiritual centre, which is continued in the posthumous *The Cry*, his fourth novel published four years after his passing. Sweeping, bold and experimental in parts, *The Cry* also meditates on the nature of storytelling and the pain of articulating truth. bigtree.sasbadionline.com/maya-press-sdn-bhd

King of the Sea

Initially published to acclaim in 2012, this new edition of *King of the Sea* from Clarity Press features three new stories from Dina Zaman on her home state of Terengganu. The collection shows how the east coast state seems like a country unto itself, animated by the spirit and sensuality of the sea. clarity8.com

Tapau: The Best of Malaysian Food Writing 2000–2022 Anthology

Nothing brings Malaysians together like food, which is why the Malaysian Writers Society (MWS) put out a buffet of previously published poems, short stories and non-fiction essays to celebrate the diversity of the nation's palate and explore just how much food shapes our identities. malaysianwriterssociety.org



Heavy luggage? We are your new best friend!

Our **KLIA Ekspres VIP Service** is ready
to ease your travel, door-to-door!



Meet & Greet | Dedicated Porter | Priority Seating | Chauffeur Service
Book from www.KLIAekspres.com or via the KLIA Ekspres app.



ELEVATE

A global guide to uplifting updates for work, rest and play




HOTELS

Find your zen

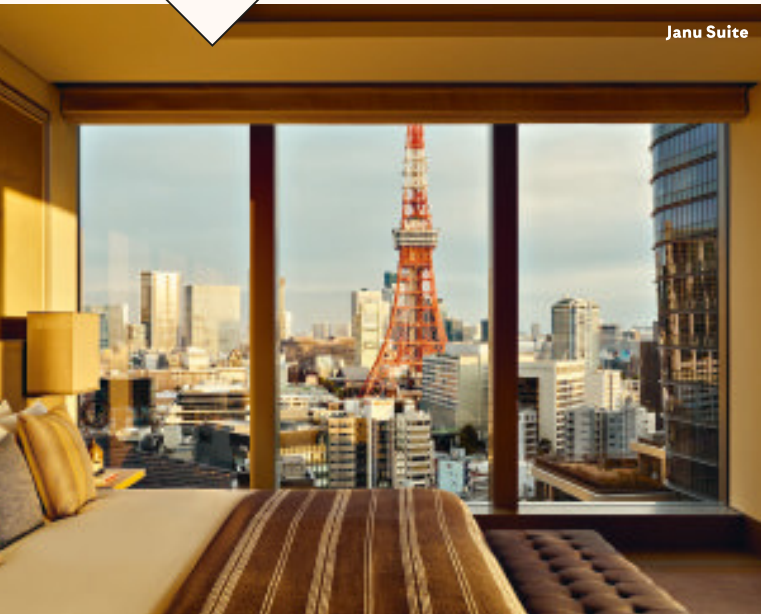
Peek inside Tokyo's newest luxury wellness hotel **BY KISSA CASTAÑEDA**

You'll certainly know where you are when you arrive at Janu Tokyo, the first property of the much-anticipated sister brand of Aman that opened last year. When you walk to reception, you're greeted by an imposing view of the Tokyo Tower framed by the triple height windows.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Janu Suite



It's a view I enjoyed from various angles when I stayed: I saw it up close while tucking into a beautiful Japanese breakfast at Janu Grill and admired it all lit up while enjoying a glass of bubbly at Janu Lounge.

Janu is located in Azabudai Hills – a landmark development by Mori, the group behind Roppongi Hills and Toranomon Hills – and is the only hotel in this new sustainable and wellness-driven neighbourhood. It fits in perfectly, being a hotel anchored in wellness and connection, with a name that means “soul” in Sanskrit.

Its commitment to wellness is on full display at the 4,000sqm wellness centre with an expansive gym fitted with Technogym and Outrace equipment, respective spin and yoga studios, a standalone boxing ring and even a golf simulation room. The piece de resistance is the light-filled 25m indoor lap pool encircled by loungers, the epitome of an “urban resort”. The indulgent spa treatments are as good

“

[Janu fits Azabudai Hills perfectly], being a hotel anchored in wellness and connection, with a name that means “soul” in Sanskrit”

as in any Aman property, especially the 90-minute signature massage that begins with sound bathing rituals and employs lymphatic drainage techniques.

Tokyo hotels are usually short on space but the opposite is true at Janu, which even during a busy weekend looked like it could handle more guests. This generosity of space extends to the 122 rooms and suites, some of the largest in the city.

I stayed in a corner suite on the top floor, which came with its own balcony – a private perch to enjoy sweeping views of Azabu-Juban and

Roppongi. The interiors were done by longtime Aman collaborator, Jean-Michel Gathy of Denniston Architects, who married Japanese minimalism with European details like wall mouldings and accent fireplaces.

The rooms are swathed in 50 shades of neutrals, and intentionally woven in are Japanese elements such as a *sakan* (traditional plasterwork) artwork hanging above the bed, *shoji* screen-like partitions and *washi* paper details.

While the hotel feels like a tranquil retreat, Janu also hopes to foster connection – an easy feat given its location in buzzy Azabudai

Hills. It also houses eight convivial dining concepts ranging from the casual Janu Mercato on the ground floor to Hu Jing, a Cantonese restaurant focusing on roast duck.

One of my favourites was Figura, an intimate Edomae-style sushi restaurant helmed by friendly chef Kunihiro Shinohara. Featuring dishes like tender ika with yuzu and two varieties of uni in a single gunkan, it's one of the best sushi meals you can have in Tokyo sans the complicated reservation process. This perhaps sums up Janu's approach: luxury without the fuss, exactly how many of us want to travel nowadays. janu.com

Hu Jing



Experience Tokyo's captivating attractions with one convenient pass. Book now on Journify.



HOTELS

Bold and beautiful

Singapore welcomes a new property for the stylish travelling set **BY JAMES PONG**

It doesn't happen very often, but every now and then a compelling new hotel comes along and makes you sit up and book that flight. The much-awaited **The Standard, Singapore** along Orange Grove, an easy stroll from Orchard Road, is one of them.

The Standard has 143 rooms – much more than the usual room count of a boutique hotel – and exudes the outsized charm of an independent. It's a style-forward tribute to the glamour and fun of 1970s Hollywood: wall-to-ceiling wood panels, marble and terrazzo surfaces, bouclé fabric. The bold design choices are everything but standard, from the quirky chairs both inside the hotel and outside in the garden area to the designer lamps (you can't miss the stunning fixture in the lobby). Even the lift is a social media moment with its red lighting. The hotel also collaborated with artists to create site-specific pieces that reflect Singapore's "garden city" vision: a terrarium at the check-in counter welcomes guests upon arrival, while

floral wallpaper with embroidered details adds charm to the second-floor restaurant. If you're looking for the perfect backdrop for your jetsetting outfits, you've come to the right place.

Beyond its look and feel, the hotel promises a great stay. The rooms are compact and cosy but nevertheless feel spacious, thanks to smart design and glass window walls with a view. Right next to the pool with a swim-up bar, perfect for splashy sundowners, is an outdoor lounge area with tiered pocket gardens, enveloped by walls of greenery. The hotel's dining outlet, Kaya, is an elegant if not uber-fancy take on the Japanese izakaya, and the more casual coffee-to-cocktails Café Standard, which serves classic American comfort bites and drinks named after movies filmed at the original Standard hotel in Hollywood

(now defunct). Best of all, the hotel is a hop-skip from the Botanic Gardens; if you're the sort of high-energy traveller who needs a morning run, look no further.

As a chain, The Standard is a relatively new one. It traces its roots to Hollywood, where the first property opened in 1999. The hotel brand then popped up in fashionable US neighbourhoods such as New York's Meatpacking District and Miami Beach, before hopping over the pond into London's King's Cross and the Maldives. The Standard Singapore opened last December and is the brand's third property in Asia – there's one in Bangkok, where it made a splashy debut in the Tetris-inspired skyscraper King Power Mahanakhon in 2022, and another in the seaside resort town of Hua Hin. [standardhotels.com](https://www.standardhotels.com)

“

[The Standard, Singapore] is a style-forward tribute to the glamour and fun of 1970s Hollywood”



This side of paradise

A luxury retreat south of Colombo is perfect for nature lovers

BY TARA FT SERING

Nothing nourishes the heart and soul quite like nature, so if you're thinking of a holiday with your significant other, plan for a long, soul-feeding adventure in Sri Lanka. Here, where Ayurveda has been practised for thousands of years, regular folk are so attuned to the gifts of nature they can rattle off the healing properties of roadside flora. It's a country with a whopping 28 national parks, where large wild animals – including the Asian elephants, leopards and sloth bears – roam free.

A stay at the luxurious and dreamy **Anantara Peace Haven** in Tangalle, a 22-acre resort along the country's sun-soaked southern coast, keeps the holiday on-theme. Walking into the airy and light-filled property feels like a deep exhale – perched on a rugged promontory, the sounds of crashing waves and hissing froth are as constant as the gentle breeze and distant bird calls. Although it's a large resort, it feels like an intimate retreat: glass-walled villas open out into private plunge pools and lounge decks with sweeping views of towering coconut trees or the Indian Ocean.



An assigned host makes sure you never want for anything; amid the languorous pace of a tropical holiday, you'll get your queries to the host answered within minutes.

Nature is front and centre at the resort, and running into gorgeous, wild peacocks supervising the grounds is everyday fare. Its restaurants highlight the freshness of ingredients. Dine on seasonal produce – hand-picked from



Tropical vibes at Anantara



the resort's zero-waste garden – and just-caught seafood at Harvest Table; savour sumptuous Ceylonese curries that highlight Sri Lankan herbs at Verala; or indulge in fine Italian cuisine at Il Mare, which comes with a priceless evening vista of the cobalt sea. Take your culinary adventure even further and learn how to make curries from scratch with a private cooking class, taught by a local mama, in a traditional kitchen set in a paddy field within the resort grounds.

Nature's medicine cabinet, meanwhile, is the main draw at the resort's spa,

where treatments are based on Sri Lankan Ayurveda, the island's version of the ancient holistic approach to wellness that began in the Indian Subcontinent. Book a single treatment or sign up for a couple's wellness programme that begins with a consultation with an Ayurvedic doctor, followed by an ocean-side yoga session. The traditional medicinal practice uses herbs and spices to cure all kinds of ailments, and the programme includes a tour of the property's Ayurveda Herbal Dispensary Garden, where guests are coached through herb-picking to make bespoke healing oil.

From here, you can embark on daily expeditions to the south's majestic national parks and forest reserves, including the famed Yala National Park, Udawalawe National Park and Sinharaja Forest Reserve. There are no guarantees you'll be able to see everything on your list, but one thing is for sure: the shared moments, surrounded by primeval foliage and the possibility of encountering majestic creatures, will be something to talk about well into the future. anantara.com

The Tangalle coast



On safari



INSIDER TIPS

A Malaysian in... London

Television presenter and journalist Nick Kwek moved to the Big Smoke to pursue his television dream and now hosts BBC's *Discovering the World's Table*. Here, he shares why the city is a foodie paradise

BY NICK KWEK



I grew up with the smells and sounds of scorching woks, sizzling ginger and fiery chilli, as my Sabahan father cooked in our family's Malaysian restaurant, The Rickshaw, in Fife, Scotland. It was joined to our home and each day was a reminder of my heritage – I am what happens when East meets West. Intrigued by exotic lands and driven by my passion for storytelling, I chased the bright lights of London to pursue my master's degree in Broadcasting. I immediately fell in love with the city. The intoxicating energy, the feeling that anything is possible – it was like unlocking a secret level in the game of life. It was daunting, yet so thrilling. And I still think it's pretty amazing how everything is a mere tube ride away. After a few months, I soon found myself working with A-list stars on huge productions.

Fast forward 14 years, we recently shot an episode of *Discovering the World's Table* in Borneo, filming with rice wine-making tribes in Keningau, spearfishing with the Bajau Laut community off the coast of Kota Kinabalu and cooking with exciting young chefs reimagining Malaysian cuisine.

“When a man is tired of London, so he is of life,” said Samuel Johnson – widely believed to be the author of the first English dictionary – and I couldn't agree more. The capital is electric. London marches to the beat of its own drum – its decorated hospitality industry, culinary pedigree and sheer plethora of places to enjoy make it the perfect playground.

Spaces that ignite creativity

As a media man, nowhere beats Soho in terms of the hubbub and its addictively artsy vibe – home to numerous stages, members' clubs, hidden doors and late-night speakeasies like **Trisha's** on Greek Street. One of my new go-to spots for fresh inspiration is **All Is Joy Studios** at 75 Dean Street – the former



Soho



Hideaway Coffee

Warner Brothers editing house is run by artists JP Levack and Phil Tidy, and now hosts diverse pop-up events at the scene's fringes, from photography exhibitions, workshops, film premiers to underground raves. **instagram.com/trishas.soho; allisjoysoho.com**

A toast to romance

In London, you're never too far from a watering hole. Established in 1890, **Gordon's** is one of the city's oldest wine bars. The



are luxuriously divine, and the truffle fries are generously coated.

Another hot ticket in town is **The Devonshire**, off Piccadilly Circus. Rapidly making its name as the most famous pub in Britain. The food is sublime, starting with the shellfish, langoustines, crab and potted shrimp. From the grill, Scottish steaks and lamb chops are seared and seasoned so very well. It's constantly packed to the rafters so book well ahead. The spirit is celebratory and victorious – like attending an epic party, thrown just for you. bobbobricard.com; devonshiresoho.co.uk



or you'll miss it – this tiny gem hiding in plain sight serves Cantonese classics such as Peking duck alongside Malaysian specialities like char kway teow and curry laksa. Their legendary meat and aubergine clay pot is one of my all-time favourite dishes. Owner Rex, originally from Hong Kong, is the expert host, ushering you in like VIPs to an exclusive club. And the best part – it's open later than most – a sensational late-night supper spot. cafetpt.com

Oasis in the city

For me, there are two types of coffee shops – the ones for hanging out in and the ones that serve good coffee. **Hideaway Coffee** in Soho is a rare refuge for a pause and a sip of a lovingly crafted brew. Tucked away within a courtyard, it's a sanctuary of serenity. I like to go and take stock of the day ahead, or more often than not, of the night before. The staff are refreshingly unpretentious about the beans, the milk, the cups. Free from distraction, it's ideal for meetings. But if you're looking for a meaner cup of joe, head straight to **Kaffeine** in Fitzrovia. [instagram.com/hideawaycoffee](https://www.instagram.com/hideawaycoffee); kaffeine.co.uk

Worth the air miles

There are few restaurants that are destinations in their own right – the opulent **Bob Bob Ricard** is one of them. The blue leather booths make intimate conversation easy and each table has a special button that you press for champagne. Oysters? Yes, please! Smoked salmon? Go on then! Once you've exhausted the bubbles button, indulge in several grades of caviar and subzero vodkas. Their magnificent beef wellington is a masterpiece – glistening golden pastry encasing the juiciest pink fillet – the best I've eaten. The silky-smooth mashed potatoes

whimsical and romantic, candlelit subterranean cellar is an ideal Valentine's Day destination (mind your head, the cavern ceiling is low). Come summer, arrive early to grab an alfresco seat and sip a crisp rosé, accompanied by build-your-own charcuterie boards, gorgeous cheeses and pickles. gordonswinebar.com

Bites of Asia

Whenever I'm craving eastern flavours, I always return to **Café TPT** in Chinatown. Don't blink



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and London 14x weekly



© Perdana Botanical Garden
Kuala Lumpur City Centre

World's **Largest**
free-flight walk-in aviary

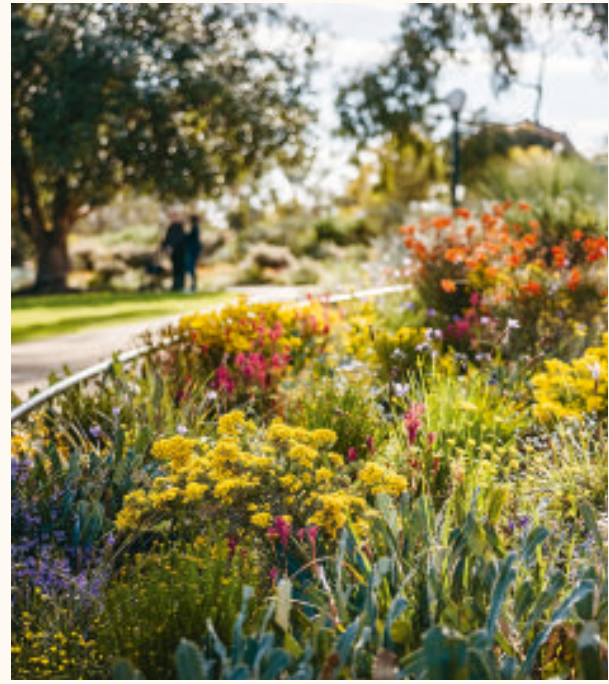
A PERFECT WEEKEND IN

Perth

Words Smriti Daniel

Western Australia's capital is a sprawling city
with a cosy heart and plenty of surprises

Start here at Kings Park and Botanic Garden and behold a stunning view ahead – Perth’s tall, glass-clad buildings shimmering under a summer sun,



with the magnificent Swan River curling through the city. It’s easy to see why this great waterway holds such immense cultural and spiritual significance to the Whadjuk Noongar people. They call it Derbarl Yerrigan, and their Dreamtime stories tell of Waugal, the rainbow serpent who carved the river, its creeks and valleys, on its journey to the ocean.

There’s so much to do in Perth, you’ll be struggling to fit it all in. Though day trips to Rottnest Island, Margaret River or the Pinnacles Desert are tempting, the city itself deserves your attention. It’s a place where sleek skyscrapers rub shoulders with weathered churches, leafy parks bloom within busy neighbourhoods, and life revolves, inevitably, around the water.

Many who visit will find their way up to this same lookout. It is perched on one edge of the sprawling green of Kings Park, which stretches across 400 acres of protected bushland. This is one of the world’s largest inner-city parks, a sanctuary where trails wind through towering trees and native flora. High above the river, the air feels cooler, perfumed by eucalyptus and wildflowers. It’s the perfect spot to linger and even catch a movie. Nearby, May Drive Parkland offers Moonlit Cinema nights under the stars.

From that vantage point, high above the city, you see Elizabeth Quay with its striking pedestrian bridge and the iconic Bell Tower, home to the immense, 6,500kg ANZAC Bell, the largest swinging bell in the country. The monument, dedicated to Australian



IMAGES: TOURISM WESTERN AUSTRALIA (KING’S PARK), SHUTTERSTOCK (BELL TOWER), WA MUSEUM BOOLA BARDIP)

Previous page:
Kings Park

Clockwise from top:
Blooms at Kings Park; the WA Museum Boola Bardip; dining institution Fibber McGee’s; global flavours at Hifumiya; the Perth Bell Tower

and New Zealander servicemen and women who have served in wars and peacekeeping operations around the world, was installed in 2018.

After you've mastered the ancient art of bell ringing, hop over to Gusto Gelato for a cold treat. Handcrafted in small batches using traditional artisan production techniques from Bologna, Italy, this beloved gelateria is my personal kryptonite. I can't walk past Gusto without stopping for a scoop of their cold, creamy stracciatella, a cheesy delight familiar to burrata lovers everywhere.

I'M DISCOVERING PERTH'S FOOD scene is as diverse and inviting as the city itself. With influences from around the globe and a focus on fresh, local ingredients, it rewards the curious eater.

No visit to Australia is complete without a visit to the pub. Start your culinary journey at Fibber McGee's. This charming Irish pub is tucked away in leafy Leederville, not too far from another Gusto Gelato. Their grass-fed beef, aged to perfection, is cooked with an expertise that highlights its luscious, robust flavour. Paired with a pint of Guinness or an Irish cider, it's a meal to savour.

Perth's multicultural dining options extend across the city. In Northbridge, you'll find everything from handmade Italian pasta to Korean barbecue, while suburban Subiaco boasts a mix of trendy brunch spots and intimate fine-dining venues.

For contrast, and to immerse yourself in the lunch rush, consider getting in line outside Hifumiya. The punters are here for a bowl of smooth, glistening udon noodles and an interior straight out of a little laneway in Tokyo. It works canteen style and is both efficient and delicious.

Walk off all the hearty meals with some shopping. Hay Street Mall is an oasis on a hot day, lined with tall trees and featuring cosy, paved lanes. Stroll through London Court, an atmospheric retail arcade built in 1937 in the mock-Tudor style of architecture, making you feel as though you might bump into a young William Shakespeare.

On the culture front, the WA Museum Boola Bardip is unmissable – your \$15 membership ticket ensures you can visit as often as you like for a whole year. The area itself brims with culture:

Looking for gifts to take back home?

The **AGWA Design Store** stocks accessories from standout Perth designers and international brands alike. designstore.artgallery.wa.gov.au

FISH features a beautifully curated collection of Indigenous products, art and books. shop.fish.asn.au

Homegrown brand **Sue Lewis Chocolatier** uses ethically sourced ingredients. suelewischocolatier.com



Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA) offers cutting-edge contemporary art; the Blue Room Theatre and State Theatre Centre showcase thrilling productions; and the Art Gallery of WA's Brutalist design and rooftop bar provide city views worth toasting.

SAVE A DAY FOR THE PORT CITY OF Fremantle, a suburb within the Perth metropolitan area. Locally nicknamed Freo, its streets hum with energy – grand old buildings lean into each other, softened by time, while buskers enliven the markets brimming with crafts and local food. At Fremantle Prison,



Where to stay in Perth

For a river view
Perched along Perth's waterfront Esplanade, **Quay Perth Hotel** is a chic boutique hotel that offers sweeping vistas of the Swan River. quayperth.com

For long stays
Quest Mounts Bay Road is a contemporary apartment hotel at the base of the iconic Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Its spacious rooms feature kitchenettes. questapartments.com.au

For a central location
The beautifully refurbished 98-room boutique hotel **Pensione** sits at the heart of Perth, with many of the city's top attractions within walking distance. pensione.com.au



a former prison that’s now a Unesco World Heritage Site, the past resonates in quiet cells, a stark contrast to the vibrant streets outside. Feeling brave? Explore the tunnels dug out by former convicts with the Fremantle Prison Torchlight Tour.

If you’re looking to pick up something interesting, consider dropping into Common Ground Collective. This high street store showcases over 50 locally owned brands selling everything from art and jewellery to homeware.

The market can get a bit noisy and overwhelming, in which case wander down Collie Street until you find Bun Mi for takeaway sandwiches. Their Pho Bahn Mi is a mouthwatering combination of the clear, fragrant broth served alongside a crisp baguette filled with pickled vegetables, pâté and layered with spices, thinly sliced beef and fresh herbs. It’s a dish that warms from the inside out.



“
[Perth is] where sleek skyscrapers rub shoulders with weathered churches, leafy parks bloom within busy neighbourhoods, and life revolves, inevitably, around the water”

Clockwise from far left: Fremantle Prison, a jailhouse converted into a museum; shopping arcade London Court; Cottesloe Beach; artisan wares at Common Ground Collective; the buzzy Fremantle Market

And of course, there’s the water. The soft sands and turquoise waters of Cottesloe Beach are nearby, while Scarborough’s waves draw surfers and Trigg’s rock pools invite discovery. Stroll any shore here at sunset, and you’ll see why this coast is special. The sun dips into the Indian Ocean, painting the sky with streaks of orange, pink and purple.



Directory

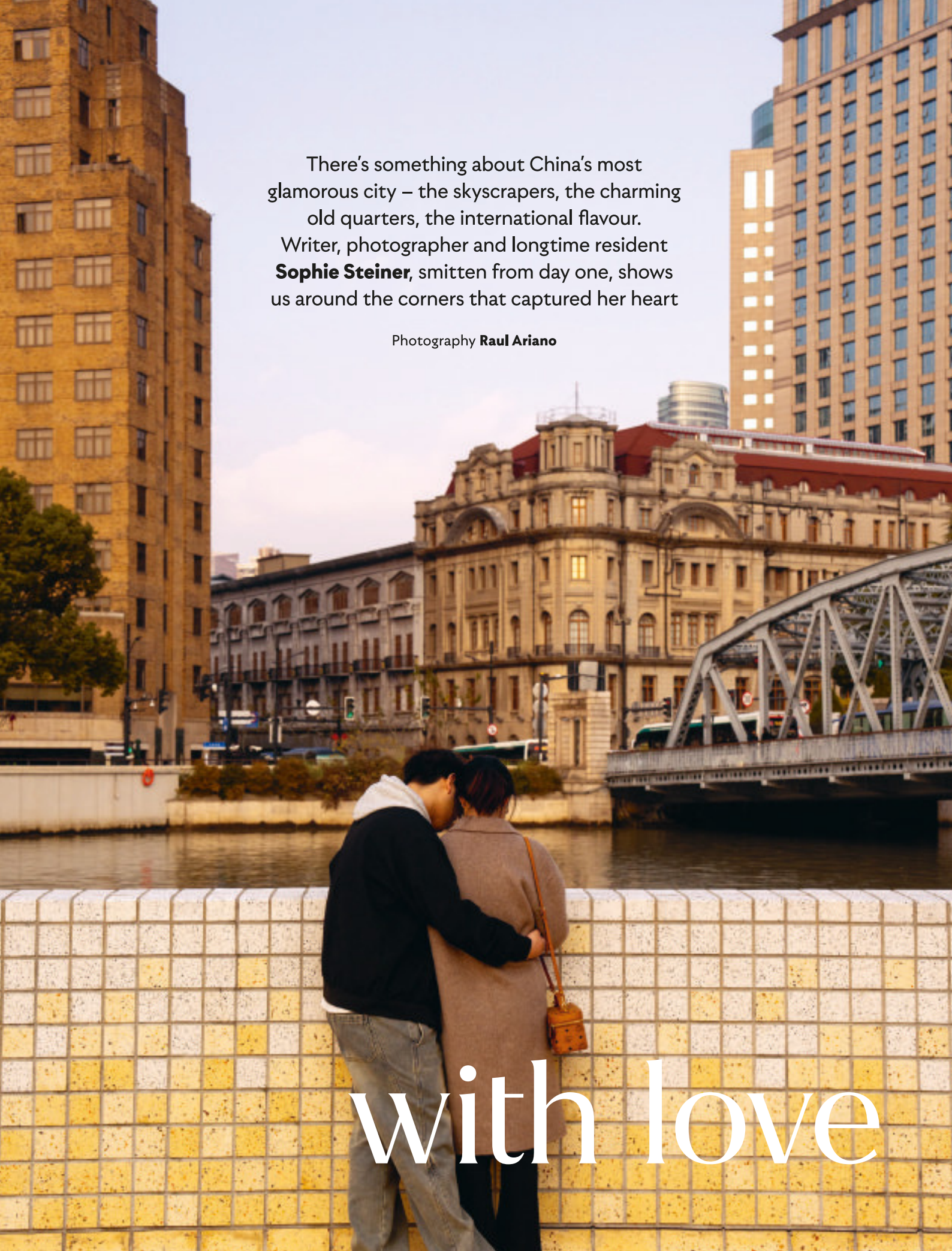
- Moonlit Cinema**
perth.moonlight.com.au
- The Perth Bell**
thebelltower.com.au
- Gusto Gelato**
gustogelato.com.au
- Fibber McGee’s**
fibbermcgees.com.au
- Hifumiya**
hifumiya.com.au
- The WA Museum Boola Bardip**
visit.museum.wa.gov.au
- Fremantle Prison**
fremantleprison.com.au
- Common Ground Collective**
commongroundcollective.com.au
- Bun Mi**
[instagram.com/bunmi_subi](https://www.instagram.com/bunmi_subi)



Malaysia Airlines flies from Kuala Lumpur to Perth 12x weekly.

To Shanghai,



A romantic couple is seen from behind, embracing on a stone wall that overlooks a river. The man is wearing a dark jacket and light-colored pants, while the woman is wearing a long, light-colored coat and a small brown bag. In the background, a mix of architectural styles is visible: a tall, modern skyscraper with a grid of windows on the left, a large, ornate historic building with a red roof in the center, and another modern building on the right. A bridge with a metal truss structure spans the river. The scene is captured in the soft light of late afternoon or early morning.

There's something about China's most glamorous city – the skyscrapers, the charming old quarters, the international flavour. Writer, photographer and longtime resident **Sophie Steiner**, smitten from day one, shows us around the corners that captured her heart

Photography **Raul Ariano**

with love

Like so many good love affairs, mine began with a fling.

A decade ago, I arrived in Shanghai with a short-term contract in hand. This year-and-a-half sabbatical was an opportunity to work and travel abroad, expand my Chinese vocabulary beyond *ni hao*, and taste some real Chinese food (not the Americanised kung pao chicken in white takeout pails I had grown up with, always accompanied by a crushed fortune cookie prophesying that 'An exciting opportunity lies ahead'). It was supposed to be a temporary blip on my life's radar and I assumed that, afterwards, I would return home.

But, as I drove into the city for the first time, the pulsing glow emanating from the endless sprawl of futuristic skyscrapers enchanted me. It was love at first sight. Shanghai, home to 24 million people, is intensely exciting, widely regarded as China's most international, progressive and modern city. It evolves at a tiger's pace, thanks in part to the second-largest intra-city train system in the world, and the fact that it attracts a younger generation from all corners of the country. It has a uniquely east-meets-west flavour, a youthful vibe and an energy that's palpable – and very hard to resist.

DESPITE ITS OVERWHELMING MODERNITY, THE CITY still exudes the charm of bygone eras, its long history baked into the cityscape. Situated at the terminus of the Yangtze River along East China's coastline, Shanghai has welcomed an international influence since the end of the First Opium War, a conflict that resulted in ceding Hong Kong to Britain and the opening of several ports to British trade.

The showpiece of such influence is The Bund, a 1.6km stretch on the western side of the Huangpu River lined with dozens of opulent landmarks. It houses international banks, elite hotels, world-renowned restaurants and museums, all outfitted in a mix of Art Deco, Baroque and Gothic architectural styles. It's one reason the city is often compared to Paris, both for the glamour and the built heritage that lends itself well to a backdrop for romance.





Previous spread:
The Bund's east-meets-west charm

This spread from left: Tree-shaded lanes; Huangpu River; morning tai chi along the river; colonial-era architecture





This spread from left:
Kite-flyers on the Bund;
a pre-nuptial photo
shoot

Across the river, the majestic Lujiazui in Shanghai's newer half, Pudong, provides a contrasting backdrop to the Bund. Lujiazui is a heart-on-the-sleeve ode to architectural prowess, marked by four of the country's tallest buildings – the Jin Mao Tower, Shanghai World Financial Centre, Shanghai Tower and the iconic Oriental Pearl Tower. Glittering brazenly in neon hues of purple, red, blue and pink, the lights electrify the Huangpu River in a stunning display that would make Paris' Seine blush.

Shanghai may seem overwhelming, but in some ways it reveals itself slowly. Over the years, I've uncovered new corners of the Bund. First, by land: a riverside walking and biking trail that traverses a 25km stretch of the city. Next, over water: a Huangpu River cruise that offers simultaneous views of both banks.

The lavish rooftop bars that flank both borders of the river take full advantage of this spectacular setting. Here, veteran mixologists serve up sundowners with a side of stunning architecture and a spritz of cultural heritage. East of the river, in glitzy Pudong, you'll find ritzy shopping complexes, towering office buildings and cloud-reaching luxury hotels. Among them is the celebrated Ritz-Carlton Shanghai, home to the city's highest and arguably most spectacular bar called Flair Rooftop on the 58th floor. During the warmer months, the bar plays host to weekend parties hosted by international DJs.

The west side of the river, Puxi, brims with remnants from the city's past, such as the Waldorf Astoria, housed in the building once home to Shanghai Club, a premier men's club for British nationals, with a history dating back more than a century. At the time, the venue's Long Bar – with its 34m bar top – claimed to be the longest in the world. (When famed English playwright Noël Coward visited the establishment, he pressed his cheek against the bar and exclaimed that he could



“

Shanghai, home to 24 million people, is intensely exciting, widely regarded as China's most international, progressive and modern city”

Date night in the city



Mr & Mrs Bund

Chef Paul Pairet's retro French eatery serves up family style brasserie fare, recast for a modern table. Don't miss the terrace with its sweeping Bund views. mmbund.com

Fu He Hui

The restaurant's menu, under the guidance of chef Tony Lu, honours seasonal and regionally sourced produce from across China. [instagram.com/FuHeHui](https://www.instagram.com/FuHeHui)

Highline

The restaurant and lounge within the Ascott Hotel offers a spacious 360-degree patio overlooking the Xintiandi and a cool mid-century modern setting. discoverasr.com

Coquille

One of the city's most elegant, exclusive yet fun restaurants, Coquille is a seafood bistro offering Shanghai Golden Age flair coupled with drool-worthy French fare. coquille.com.cn

“

For a truly romantic day out, drive out to Zhujiajiao, a 1,700-year-old water town [in the outskirts of the city that offers] a glimpse of ancient Shanghai”



see the curvature of the earth.) What stands today is an exact replica of the glamour and glitz of what's often referred to as Shanghai's Golden Age, a period of great international influence and wealth, coupled with an ample spread of cocktails, canapés, Cuban cigars and live music.

And for dining establishments such as PINK OYSTER, China's only oyster omakase experience with just eight coveted seats, the view is a large part of the menu. It's as intimate and romantic as it gets. Created by Brian Tong, the area general manager of Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts, PINK OYSTER was conceived as a place "where guests can enjoy a starry-eyed evening filled with fine oysters [and] soaking in the enchanting Bund nightscape for the ultimate sense of romance the city can provide".

You might fall in love with someone here, but first you'll fall in love with the city.

WHILE SHANGHAI OFFERS A SPARKLING NIGHTLIFE, daytime is when it really shines, particularly on a sunny stroll along the leafy, tree-lined streets of the former French Concession. For nearly a hundred years until 1943, this area was a French settlement.

Now it's an eminent residential area of Shanghai. Along Wulumuqi Road and the similarly buzzing parallel avenues of Anfu Road and Wuyuan Road is where I've spent countless leisurely afternoons, sipping coffee at many of the trendy cafés – Shanghaiander for Australian-quality coffee and Chinese ingredient-influenced confectionaries, or Azabuya for a Japanese tea-inspired gelato. I've spent afternoon dates dining at international bistros (like sandwichery Paopao Deli or casual Italian eatery Alimentari), or perusing curio and craft stores (Dutch designer Kate Wood sells one-of-a-kind wooden sunglasses, watches, bamboo bike parts and locally made clothes and bags).

There's even more to love in the outskirts of the city. For a truly romantic day out, drive out to Zhujiajiao, a 1,700-year-old water town located in Qingpu District. It's a glimpse of ancient Shanghai: a cluster of riverside settlements and farming villages, twisting canals and cobblestone alleys. One of the oldest settlements in China, with archaeological findings dating back 5,000 years, is home to the country's most well-preserved ancient streets, Bei Dajie.



IMAGES: SOPHIE STEINER (WATER CANAL, OLD VILLAGE)



Down a small side street off of Bei Dajie, I have fallen head over heels for Jing Ting, a cultural relic from the Qing dynasty that's been refurbished and converted into an upscale bed and breakfast. The property's trio of courtyards offer a four-season experience, with sakura trees blossoming in spring, lotus flowers blooming in summer, the scent of sweet osmanthus buds filling the air in autumn and a plum blossom tree sprouting in winter. The adjacent 700-year-old teahouse offers one of the widest tea selections in South China, presented alongside local snacks like *youdunzi* (fried radish cakes) and *chou doufu* (a version of the China-famous street snack, stinky tofu).

The town's showstopper – the Fangsheng Bridge – is the largest, longest and tallest stone arch bridge in all of Shanghai. The best way to view it is from a private ingot boat cruise that slowly winds through the maze of waterways and bridge-covered channels. The cruise, a meander back into the olden days, is leisurely and unhurried. It is at once nostalgic and transcendent.

This spread from left:
A cosy courtyard in Zhujiajiao; a river cruise from an ingot boat



Modern romance

At Shanghai's Marriage Market in People's Square Park, the largest of its kind in the country, parents of single adults congregate to share details of their unmarried child – age, job, salary, height, Chinese Zodiac sign and other equally poignant figures – in hopes of finding a suitable spouse. Posters taped to tree trunks, popped against open umbrellas or hung from lampposts feature credentials but, interestingly, not a single photo.




Malaysia Airlines flies from Kuala Lumpur to Shanghai 14x weekly.



Breakfast

of

champions

A waiter in a striped shirt is holding a tray with four plates of food and several small metal cups. The food appears to be a rice-based dish, possibly a traditional South Indian meal. The waiter is standing in a kitchen or food service area.

Bengaluru's first meal of the day is a hefty serving of tradition and innovation, featuring the iconic *darshini*, – a kiosk that offers filter coffee and rice meals – and globally inspired menus at modern eateries

Words **Ruth Dsouza Prabhu** Photography **Sameer Raichur**

Step out in the early hours of the morning in Bengaluru



and it's not uncommon to see serpentine lines of walkers and joggers waiting patiently outside *darshinis* – restaurants where you order-stand-eat-leave – for a cup of filter coffee and some fluffy white *idlis* (local rice cakes) served with hot sambar-chutney. *Dose* (savory crepe), *vada* (deep-fried lentil fritters), *uppittu* (savory semolina) and *kesari bath* (a semolina sweet) are standard fare at these quick service outlets. Buying a token, standing in line and scoring one of the stainless steel tables to stand around, all while animatedly discussing politics, family, inflation and Bengaluru's infamous traffic is a ritual that many cannot do without.

“The early morning walking culture has always been big, especially among old Bengalureans, and invariably a darshini would spring up close to walking spots offering a quick, healthy breakfast,” says Hemamalini Maiya, third-generation owner of the century-old Mavalli Tiffin Rooms (MTR). This legendary casual dining restaurant, located close to Lalbagh Botanical Garden, is popular among walkers.



And it's not just among old Bengalureans. Locals like 35-year-old Tapash Kumar Sahu, a technology professional, are early risers whose morning routines include going to the gym. He says, "I don't diet and prefer home-cooked food, but I also like indulging in a good South Indian or an English breakfast, especially over the weekends after my workout. Darshinis use a lot of ghee or oil, but they do have healthier alternatives like uppittu and fresh, sugarless juices."

Since their appearance in the early 1980s, darshinis have grown to become quick and reliable places for simple, pocket-friendly traditional local fare. Aslam Gafoor, a hospitality professional and columnist who has called Bengaluru home for the past 27 years, says he's noticed how Bengaluru's breakfast culture uniquely blends tradition with innovation.

"Darshinis have embraced modern culinary innovations, introducing dishes infused with *podu* (chutney powder) and expanding their menus to cater to diverse palates. The ghee podu idli and masala dose at The Rameshwaram Café have gained widespread acclaim, alongside IDC Kitchen's ghee masala *thatte* (plate) idli. Seating arrangements have now transformed darshinis into inviting hangout spots to savour South Indian breakfast delicacies alongside a filter coffee," Aslam says.

Previous spread:
A cosy nook at Monkey Bar; rice cakes at MTR

This spread from left: The recently renovated Monkey Bar; the morning rush at MTR; outdoor seating at Monkey Bar; Hemamalini Maiya, owner of MTR





ALTHOUGH DARSHINIS HAVE LONG BEEN

the cornerstone of the city's breakfast scene, globalisation and an expanding multi-cultural Indian and expat population have spurred demand for more contemporary approaches to flavours. As a result, the breakfast culture in the city is transforming, incorporating wellness trends and offering a mix of timeless regional dishes, alongside global favourites, in upscale environments.

Take Monkey Bar and its weekend breakfast for instance. Chef Ashley D'Souza says that instead of going continental with their offerings, they incorporate a lot of Indian fare like *dahi* (yoghurt) sourdough toast, *chole bhature* (chickpeas with deep-fried puffed bread) and Kerala paratha with egg *burji* (spiced scramble). "Additionally, we have several healthy options like our bowls with homemade granola, yoghurt, fruits, nuts and berries," Ashley adds. In stark contrast to the busy, yet easy-going retro vibe it normally exudes, breakfast at Monkey Bar is a quiet experience, best enjoyed at the al fresco section, under the retractable canopies with a cup from their artisanal coffee menu.

"With flexible working hours and awareness about healthier eating, breakfasts are a popular choice for work-socialising and even catching up," says Ashish D'abreo, co-founder and partner of Maverick & Farmer, adding that when they conceived their breakfast menu, it was about creating a brunch selection that pairs perfectly with long conversations and coffee, rather than just a functional meal.

Chef Shamsul Wahid, group executive chef at Impresario Entertainment & Hospitality and the man behind meals at the brand's restaurants SOCIAL (nine outlets in Bengaluru currently) and Smoke House Deli (three outlets in the city), puts the breakfast menus at these two diversely different restaurants into perspective. "At Smoke House Deli's outlets, breakfast is curated in an authentic European style

“

With flexible working hours and awareness about healthier eating, breakfasts are a popular choice for work-socialising and even catching up [in Bengaluru]”



This spread from left:
A spicy dish at Monkey Bar; the gastropub's chef Ashley D'Souza

“

The breakfast culture in Bengaluru has evolved today to be a delightful blend of South Indian fare and a smorgasbord of the Indian and global”



but for a truly Indian audience – which means our food is always served hot and in hearty quantities. Some of our popular dishes include the good ol’ eggs benedict, banoffee deep pan waffles, French toasts and the classic *akuri bun maska* (cream buns). SOCIAL is all about the hyper-local vibe of the neighbourhood.” The all-day breakfast menu here often introduces a local special. For example, the *muttur matter guru* (spicy crisp peas) and local egg-tastic masala (a take on street-style eggs)”, says Shamsul.

Bengaluru loves its Asian food and it’s no surprise that Kopitiam Lah, positioned as India’s first Malaysian kopitiam, enjoys a full house most days. Breakfast options include the classic kaya toast, soft boiled eggs, radish *koay kak* (pan-fried rice flour cake), *appam balik* (Malaysian pancake) and wantan mee, both the soup and dry versions. Similarly, breakfasts at Muro Café introduce guests to the richness of Asian breakfasts, making each dish a journey





IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (APPAM BALIK, SIDEBAR)

This spread, clockwise from left: Appam balik at Kopitiam Lah; Kopitiam Lah, touted as India's first Malaysian kopitiam; hardy bhai breakfast at Social; drinks at Maverick & Farmer; co-founder Ashish D'abreo

through different culinary traditions such as Thai and Cantonese. There is the *khao man gai* (Hainanese chicken rice), cooked three ways as a twist on *gai yang* (grilled chicken). Rich and creamy crab omelettes, French toast with pandan custard, Danish pastry filled with *kra pao* (basil stir-fried meat) and chicken satay also make an appearance.

The breakfast culture in Bengaluru has evolved today to be a delightful blend of South Indian fare and a smorgasbord of the Indian and global. From classic ghee-smearing idlis and filter coffee to experimental renditions like eggs Kejriwal on an appam and restaurants offering house-smoked sausages, artisanal coffees and more, there is just so much to explore. And for those who take their breakfasts seriously – there is a whole world of 5am biryani breakfasts to try too.



Malaysia Airlines flies from Kuala Lumpur to Bengaluru 10x weekly.

Explore Bengaluru, one darshini at a time

Café Amudham

Its large menu and fresh, quality food is a hit with families and is comfort for the soul. With all the classic South Indian fare on offer, do try their *thatta idli* and their garlic-tossed *masala button idlis*.

Multiple locations

Bengaluru Café

The food here is served in areca nut plates, a touch of sustainability while partaking of some *sabbasige* (dill) *uppittu*. The *masala dose* here is served with a thick chutney that you might want seconds of.

9th Main Rd, 2nd Block, Jaya Nagar East

CTR

CTR or Shri Sagar restaurant has been around since the 1920s. It was the meeting point of famous poets and writers and continues to serve arguably the best *doses*, *idlis* and *vadas* in the city.

7th Cross Rd, Mallechwaram

Taaza Thindi

Start with crisp *vada* and chutney, and then a *chow chow bath* (a combination of *uppittu* and *kesari bath*). Don't miss their crisp, brown *masala dose*. Round it all off with a cup of coffee. **1004, 26th Main Rd, 4th T Block East, Jayanagara 9th Block**



February

BEST SPOTS IN MALAYSIA

2025

The best restaurants to dine in across Malaysia this month



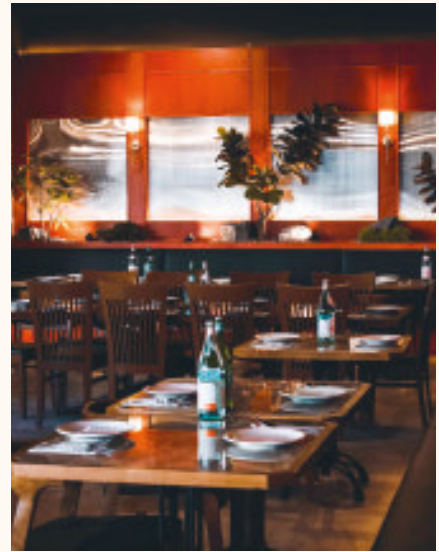
All about steaks at Firewood in Penang

Looking for a sizzling date idea this February? Head to Firewood in George Town, Penang. Set in a charming heritage building, this 2025 Michelin Selected Restaurant offers an intimate vibe and perfectly charred steaks, seafood and vegetables cooked over an open-fire grill by chef Ker Yang Hao. Romance and flavour, all in one. firegroup.my



One-of-a-kind dining at Rock Salt in Kuala Lumpur

Turn up the heat this month of hearts at Rock Salt in Kuala Lumpur's Mont Kiara area. Share an unforgettable experience as dishes are cooked tableside on 260°C Himalayan salt blocks, creating the perfect blend of warmth and flavour. Indulge in Tokushima A5 wagyu steak, Mongolian fried rice and a Caesar salad like no other, served on a rock salt slab. rocksalt.com.my



Date night at Fire Pitz in Johor Bahru

Celebrate love with Fire Pitz's Valentine menu for two at RM599. Savour fresh Irish oysters, crab croquettes, premium Australian wagyu, grilled squid salad and lime-mint sorbet. Located in Johor Bahru's upmarket Horizon Hills enclave, Fire Pitz promises a romantic, open-flame dining experience crafted by chef Lew Jia Jiun. Reserve now and indulge in unforgettable flavours. instagram.com/firepitz_restaurant

Want to advertise with us?

For advertising and partnership opportunities, contact sales.malaysia@ink-global.com

THIS IS MALAYSIAN HOSPITALITY



Welcome aboard Malaysia Aviation Group's (MAG) airlines. This month, see what we have on offer to ensure safe, seamless and fuss-free journeys.

48

**Inside
our airlines**

News and updates
from MAG Airlines

58

**Discover our
network**

See where
MAG Airlines can
take you, around
Malaysia and around
the world

65

**Onboard
entertainment**

Keep yourself
entertained with
our latest releases of
Hollywood movies,
TV shows and music



Enrich launches exclusive sustainable fashion collection in partnership with Kapten Batik and Alunan Coral Project to support coral reef restoration

Enrich, the travel and lifestyle loyalty programme of Malaysia Airlines, has joined forces with Kapten Batik and the Alunan Coral Project to launch an exclusive sustainable capsule collection.

This eco-friendly line of fashion and lifestyle pieces draws inspiration from the *Montipora foliosa* and *Stylophora* coral species, reflecting a shared commitment to environmental conservation and marine restoration.

Crafted with conservation at its core, the collection features eco-certified materials such as GOTS-certified organic cotton, as well as REPREVE® fabric made from recycled plastic bottles for swim shorts and rash guards.

Designed to support ocean health and combat climate change, the collection combines sustainability with functionality. For every item purchased, a baby coral will be planted at the Alunan Coral Project reef nursery located on the Perhentian Islands, contributing directly to rebuilding marine ecosystems.

Enrich members can also earn 1 Enrich Point for every RM4 spent, with items redeemable from 7,920 Enrich Points. The full collection is available for purchase exclusively through Journify (Airlines Exclusives), Kapten Batik's online store and select outlets, as well as the Alunan Resort store.

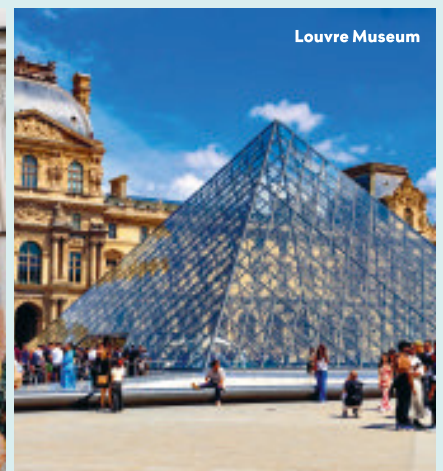
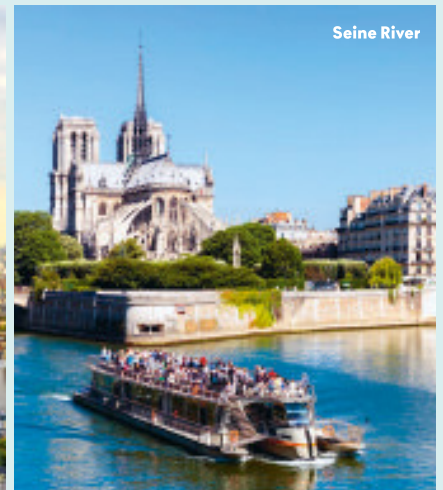
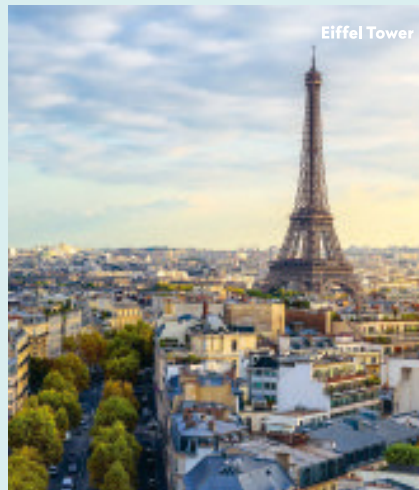
Malaysia Airlines and Uzbekistan Airways team up for seamless adventures across Asia

Malaysia Airlines and Uzbekistan Airways have reinstated their codeshare partnership to bring travellers closer to the wonders of Southeast and Central Asia, offering stunning destinations with unmatched ease and comfort. Malaysia Airlines now proudly places its MH code on flights between Tashkent and Kuala Lumpur, inviting you to explore Central Asia's rich history and breathtaking landscapes. Meanwhile, Uzbekistan Airways' HY code unlocks tropical paradises such as Langkawi and Kota Kinabalu via Kuala Lumpur – destinations where pristine beaches, lush rainforests and awe-inspiring sunsets await. With streamlined baggage check-in, perfectly timed schedules and shorter layovers, your journey is smoother than ever. Tickets are available through both airlines' websites, sales offices and authorised agents.



Visit Paris with Journify: one pass, countless iconic attractions

Experience the essence of Paris with the Journify's Paris Explorer Pass. Tailor your adventure by selecting from a carefully curated list of iconic landmarks, modern wonders or enjoy exclusive access to top attractions, guided tours and hidden gems with a convenient day pass. Discover these amazing cities on your terms with Journify. Choose from up to seven attractions and personalise your experience with the Go City Explorer Pass. Your fully digital pass is valid for 60 days from your first visit, giving you the freedom to explore at your own pace. For more details, visit shop.myjournify.com and start planning your next adventure!



List of attractions include:

- Eiffel Tower Guided Climb
- Aquarium de Paris
- Ballon de Paris Generali
- Bateaux Parisiens – Seine River Cruise
- Musée Grévin – Wax Museum
- Louvre Ultimate Experience
- Notre Dame and the Archaeological Crypt Experience
- Parc Astérix (Theme Park)
- Perfume mini workshop by Fragonard
- The Choco-Story Experience (Gourmet Chocolate Museum)

Unlock unlimited adventures with MHflypass ASEAN: three return trips across the region!

Explore the ultimate travel freedom with MHflypass ASEAN, a convenient pass that lets you enjoy up to three return trips (or six quotas of one-way trips) across any of our exciting ASEAN destinations. From the vibrant streets of Bangkok and the tropical beauty of Bali to the stunning beaches of Phuket, your next adventure is just a flight away. Whether you're heading to Jakarta, Singapore or any of our other destinations, MHflypass ASEAN offers unmatched flexibility and ease for your travel plans. MHflypass ASEAN is grouped into three zones, so you can choose the one that works best for you.



Beyond the cabin: love and friendship in flight

MAG crew members Arianna Balqish, Fazlinda Sakariah and Nur Khalisa Kalid share stories of heartfelt connections and unique bonds – with colleagues, with loved ones and with passengers – formed through the experience of making every journey special

Flying high with my family's love by Puteri Arianna Balqish Binti Megat Arizal Izram

When I was six years old in 2008, I travelled with my father, a pilot with Malaysia Airlines, to Paris on a Boeing 777. It was then I first noticed the Malaysia Airlines cabin crew. Their elegance and professionalism left me in awe, inspiring my lifelong dream to wear the Malaysia Airlines *kebaya*. That dream became a reality in 2022 when I attended MAG Open Day. What started as simple curiosity turned into a leap of faith as I applied for the role with nothing but my family's unwavering support.

The past three years have been filled with countless memorable moments, but two remain especially precious. I experienced my supernumerary flight (where trainees shadow experienced cabin crew members) to Dhaka, Bangladesh, alongside my father. As a new crew member still learning the ropes, sharing that flight with him was unforgettable. Months later, I had the privilege of flying to Auckland, New Zealand, with my mum as a passenger. Serving and caring for her onboard was a deeply meaningful experience.



Arianna Balqish with her father

Family has always been my greatest source of love and strength. Growing up in a supportive household taught me kindness, patience and understanding – essential qualities for interacting with passengers from diverse backgrounds. My parents instilled these values in me, while my sisters taught me teamwork and communication, shaping me into a better team player on board.

No matter how far I fly, whether to New Zealand or London, nothing compares to returning home to my family. Their love has been the foundation of my personal and professional growth, making me the dedicated cabin crew I am today.

When friendships turn challenges into triumphs by Fazlinda Binti Sakariah

I joined Malaysia Airlines in 2005, and after nearly 20 years, flying with this beautiful airline

has been one of my greatest joys. One of the most special bonds I've formed is with my colleague and closest friend, Yasmin Cornelia.

One memorable flight was when we were rostered together to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Her wisdom and humour lightened tough moments, making challenges easier. As a result, we had fun serving passengers and the flight went smoothly. Afterward, we both found out that we were expecting. What wonderful news!

Working for an airline is about connecting with people in unexpected ways. Yasmin demonstrated this perfectly when she stepped in to ease a passenger's disappointment when their preferred meal wasn't available. Her calm and reassuring manner always lightens the mood.

This career path can be challenging, but with Yasmin by my side, every flight feels like an adventure. While we don't always fly together now, our friendship continues to soar. I've learned that some friendships take off, defy borders and remind us we're never truly alone, even in the vast skies.



Nur Khalisa Khalid

Making a difference with kindness

by Nur Khalisa Khalid

As a leading stewardess, I've always believed that every journey is an opportunity to make a difference. One particular flight stands out when a passenger approached me and recognised me from her last flight many years ago. She gave me a warm smile during boarding, recalling a previous journey where I had gone the extra mile to make her and her family feel at home. She said, "You treated me and my family like your own family." This deeply touched me.

What motivates me is knowing that kindness transcends language and barriers. As crew, we often become part of our passengers' cherished memories. I never seek appreciation or recognition; my aim is to treat my passengers as part of my extended family and ensure they feel comfortable throughout the journey.

The passenger's positive response was both humbling and rewarding. She mentioned how small gestures, like remembering her preferences and ensuring her comfort, made the flight memorable.

This experience perfectly embodies Malaysia Airlines' values of heartfelt service, warmth and the true spirit of Malaysian Hospitality. It wasn't just about the service, it was about connecting and inspiring trust. Moments like these remind me of the privilege I have to elevate the journey beyond expectations.



Fazlinda Sakariah and Yasmin Gopalita

MAG redefines travel and comfort with Mercedes-Benz

Malaysia Aviation Group is thrilled to announce its partnership with Mercedes-Benz, launched on 16 January. Combining luxury travel, lifestyle and sustainability, the collaboration offers Enrich and Mercedes-Benz members exclusive privileges such as private product launches and previews. Premium passengers can enjoy the Malaysia Airlines Private Terminal Transfer service for unmatched convenience and comfort. Focused on growth through targeted marketing and sustainability, the partnership promises extraordinary experiences for loyal customers of both brands.






Your amazing Shanghai trip begins with enrichhotels.com

 Pick a hotel, airport or landmark



 Pudong, Shanghai



Book with Enrich.
Sign up for free with promo code ENRGP25
or learn more at enrich.malaysiaairlines.com
Follow us on Instagram @enrichbymh

Turn every perfect stay into your world of rewards and privileges.



Tap into the power of Points.

Choose to earn up to 15,000 Enrich Points, or redeem from 5,800 Points for your Shanghai stays.



Boost your Elite Status.

Automatically get 1 Elite Point for every 8,000 Enrich Points earned through your bookings.



Over 600,000 hotels worldwide.

Choose from boutique stays to luxurious resorts and heritage hotels wherever you travel.



BENEFITS OF FLYING AS AN ENRICH MEMBER

01

Earn more Points as you fly.

Booking Malaysia Airlines, partner or **oneworld**® airlines can greatly boost your Enrich Points which you can use for future travels.



02

Redeem for flights.

With your accumulated Points, you can redeem them for a flight to any domestic or international destination of choice.

03

Earn Elite Points with each flight.

The more you fly, the more you earn, and the quicker you reach your next Elite Status - from Blue to Silver, Gold, and Platinum.



04

Upgrade to Business Class with Points.

Indulge in the premium comforts and exclusive privacy of Business Class on your next domestic or international flight.



Book with Enrich.
Sign up for free with promo code ENRGP25
or learn more at enrich.malaysiaairlines.com



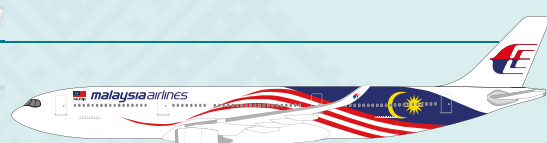
Follow us on Instagram
[@enrichbymh](https://www.instagram.com/enrichbymh)

THIS IS MALAYSIAN HOSPITALITY
Our fleet



A350-900 MHconnect

No. of Aircraft **7** | Passenger Seating **286**
Length **66.80m** | Wingspan **64.75m** | Height **17.05m**
Max. Cruising Speed **980km/h**
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



A330-900 MHconnect

No. of Aircraft **1** | Passenger Seating **297**
Length **63.689m** | Wingspan **64m** | Height **16.788m**
Max. Cruising Speed **980km/h**
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



A330-300 MHconnect

No. of Aircraft **15** | Passenger Seating **290**
Length **63.66m** | Wingspan **60.30m** | Height **16.79m**
Max. Cruising Speed **980km/h**
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



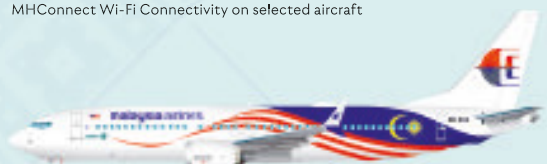
A330-200 MHconnect

No. of Aircraft **6** | Passenger Seating **287**
Length **58.82m** | Wingspan **60.30m** | Height **17.39m**
Max. Cruising Speed **880km/h**
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



B737-800 NG

No. of Aircraft **42** | Passenger Seating **160, 166, 174**
Length **39.5m** | Wingspan **38.5m** | Height **12.50m**
Max. Cruising Speed **857km/h**



B737-8

No. of Aircraft **5** | Passenger Seating **174**
Length **39.52m** | Wingspan **35.90m** | Height **12.30m**
Max. Cruising Speed **976km/h**



ATR 72-500

No. of Aircraft **9** | Passenger Seating **72**
Length **27.05m** | Wingspan **27.17m** | Height **7.65m**
Max. Cruising Speed **510km/h**



B737-800 NG

No. of Aircraft **5** | Passenger Seating **189**
Length **39.5m** | Wingspan **38.50m** | Height **12.50m**
Max. Cruising Speed **857km/h**



A330-200F

No. of Aircraft **3** | Maximum Cargo Capacity **65 (70) tonnes**
Length **58.82m** | Wingspan **60.30m** | Height **16.88m**
Max. Cruising Speed **1,021km/h**



ATR 72-500

No. of Aircraft **8** | Passenger Seating **68**
Length **27.05m** | Wingspan **27.17m** | Height **7.65m**
Max. Cruising Speed **510km/h**



Viking DHC-6 Twin Otter Series 400

No. of Aircraft **6** | Passenger Seating **19**
Length **15.77m** | Wingspan **19.80m** | Height **5.94m**
Max. Cruising Speed **337km/h**

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS POP

Anytime you think your holiday can't get any better, think again!



Have an unforgettable sakura season in Japan,

where cherry blossoms bloom in shades of pink, white, and yellow, transforming landscapes into dreamlike spectacles.

During this time, join hanami, a cherished tradition of gathering with loved ones for flower-viewing picnics. For a magical twist, try yozakura—nighttime viewing under illuminated trees.

Some of the best places to experience sakura in full bloom include Ueno Park, Meguro River, the Philosopher's Path, Mount Yoshino, Hirosaki Castle, and Fuji Five Lakes.

This fleeting beauty, peaking from late March to early April, is not to be missed.

Plan your holiday early with Journify Enrich members can redeem or earn Points.



Flight + Hotel
Save up to 30% with great flight perks.

Tours & Attractions
Discover tickets & packages to the best experiences.

Airport Services
Book lounge passes, fast track privileges & more.

Beyond the blossoms,

explore activities that leave lasting impressions.

Whether racing through city streets in cosplay go-karts, savouring saké on guided tours, discovering whimsical museums, or soaking in panoramic views from open-air observatories—these are just a glimpse of the excitement waiting to be discovered.

At its heart, Japan is not a destination for living vicariously.

Dive in firsthand and create memories that are uniquely yours.

Ready to book or looking for more info?

Start here!





BANYAN TREE
KUALA LUMPUR

 **TORiTO**
PERUVIAN JAPANESE KITCHEN

Lunch 12.00pm - 4.30pm | Dinner 6.00pm - 10.00pm

Torito, Level 53, Banyan Tree Kuala Lumpur
2, Jalan Conlay, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur

 +603 2113 1823  torito.kl@banyantree.com



Want to advertise with us?

For advertising and partnership opportunities, contact
sales.malaysia@ink-global.com | +60 1277 03791

ON-TIME PERFORMANCE
Our check-in counters close 60 minutes before departure. Please allow at least 45 minutes for immigration and security clearance. Boarding gates will close 30 minutes prior to departure.

CABIN LUGGAGE HANDLING
Passenger and crew safety on board our flights are our highest priority. In compliance with the airline's policy and in observing Occupational Safety and Health Regulation requirements, cabin crew are no longer required to stow passengers' hand luggage in the overhead stowage compartments. This is to minimise occupational hazards and ergonomic risks faced by cabin crew in the aircraft. Cabin crew on duty will, however, assist passengers travelling with infants, young passengers travelling alone, the elderly and passengers with reduced mobility. Passengers who are fit and in good health must carry, stow and secure their hand luggage on board. Hand luggage exceeding the 7kg weight limit must be checked in before boarding.

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PEDs)
For safety reasons, in line with the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia guidelines, mobile phones and small PEDs can be used throughout your journey in "Flight Mode". Large devices with screen size above 12 inches are not allowed to be used during takeoff and landing. Whilst cruising, all devices can be used in "Flight Mode". Devices transmitting cellular signals to satellites must remain switched off throughout the flight, until disembarkation. The Captain may prohibit the use of devices if there is any interference with the aircraft's system.

LITHIUM BATTERIES
Lithium metal or lithium ion cells or batteries for portable electronic devices (PEDs), including medical devices, must not exceed 2g for lithium metal batteries and 100Wh for lithium ion batteries. All spare batteries, including lithium metal or lithium ion cells or batteries for PEDs, must be carried in passengers' carry-on baggage only. These batteries must be individually protected to prevent short circuits. PEDs containing non-spillable batteries must be 12V or less or 100Wh or less. Passengers are allowed to carry a maximum of two spare batteries onboard. These batteries must be individually protected to prevent short circuits.

NO-SMOKING & VAPING POLICY
Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes, is prohibited on all flights. Electronic cigarettes must be carried in carry-on baggage only. Recharging of the device inflight is not permitted.

COMFORT & CARE
Personal care, baby paraphernalia and first-aid treatment are available upon request.

BAGGAGE FOR TRANSIT PASSENGERS
Transit passengers in KLIA are encouraged to reconfirm their final baggage destination at the Transfer Desk to ensure that their checked luggage is identified and loaded accordingly. Just present your baggage identification tag at the desk.

ZERO TOLERANCE OF ABUSE
We value courteousness. Any form of threat, verbal abuse or violence towards our staff will be taken seriously. We are committed to supporting anyone who has been the victim of an assault.

IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT
Movies, TV and Music On-Demand are available on selected flights either on seatback inflight

entertainment systems or streaming via personal electronic devices. Unlimited complimentary Wi-Fi internet service is available on selected aircraft regardless of cabin class or loyalty tier.

ONBOARD CHARGING
Laptop power points are fitted on Business Suite, Business, Premium Economy and selected Economy Class seats. USB charging is available on selected aircraft.

FOOD & BEVERAGE
All food served onboard is halal. Special dietary meals can be prepared with 24-hour notice through "Manage My Booking" on malaysiaairlines.com. Business Suite, Business and Economy Class passengers may use the Chef-on-Call service to pre-book their meals 24 hours prior to departure on selected flights. Alcoholic drinks are available on flights above three hours for passengers above the age of 21. Our cabin crew reserves the right to decline serving and selling alcohol to any passenger who appears intoxicated. Consumption of personal alcoholic drinks is prohibited.

FRESH & FROZEN SEAFOOD
Fresh and frozen seafood is strictly not permitted in check-in baggage. It may be accepted in cabin baggage, subject to the destination's

quarantine regulations. It must be properly packed and should meet the cabin baggage weight and size requirements. If dry ice is used, a maximum of 2.5kg per passenger is allowed. We reserve the right to refuse carriage if the items are not properly packed.

PEANUT & NUT ALLERGIES
Meals containing nuts may be served throughout the aircraft. We cannot accommodate requests for peanut/nut-free zones in the aircraft and strongly encourage those with allergies to take the necessary medical precautions before flying, including travelling with medications in their hand luggage.

WHEELCHAIR ASSISTANCE
Wheelchair requests must be made through the Global Customer Contact Centre, the Ticket Office and/or Malaysia Airlines appointed travel agents at least 48 hours prior to departure. Contact the call centre at 1-300-88-3000 for more information.

UNACCOMPANIED MINOR (UMNR)
We provide assistance to children aged 5 to 15 years old travelling alone, with a 24-hour advance request.

+ For more information, visit malaysiaairlines.com

IN ADDITION TO AIRPORT CHECK-IN,
HERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS*



WEB
Check in online at malaysiaairlines.com and self-print your boarding pass.



WEB-TO-MOBILE
Check in online. Your boarding pass will be sent to your mobile phone. Mobile boarding passes can be scanned at airport security and at the boarding gate.



MALAYSIA AIRLINES APP
Visit malaysiaairlines.com to download the Malaysia Airlines App to perform mobile check-in.



FAST-CHECK SELF-SERVICE KIOSK
Check in online at malaysiaairlines.com and self-print your boarding pass.



CITY CENTRE COUNTER CHECK-IN
Available at KL Sentral in Kuala Lumpur.

*Terms and conditions apply, which are correct at the time of printing. Visit malaysiaairlines.com for more information.



London
Amsterdam

Medina
Jeddah
Doha

SOUTH
ATLANTIC
OCEAN

OUR NETWORK

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELEN WINATA

Malaysia Airlines, Firefly and MASwings have an average of 436 daily flights to 79 destinations around the world from their hubs in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kota Kinabalu



Kuala Lumpur

- Malaysia Airlines
- ◆ Firefly
- MASwings
- Amal
- ▲ MASkargo

*THE ROUTE MAP IS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (KUALA LUMPUR, PENANG)



Malaysia Airlines offers a **Bonus Side Trip** to one of seven destinations in Malaysia, when you make an extra stop to/from your holiday destination

EXPLORE MALAYSIA



Connect and travel to more than 900 destinations in 170 territories across the globe when you travel with Malaysia Airlines, a **oneworld** member since 2013



- Malaysia Airlines
- ◆ Firefly
- MASwings
- ▲ MASkargo



Asia



Americas



Europe, Turkey and Russia



Africa and Middle East



Southwest Pacific

● one world destinations

📍 Louvre Museum, Paris



It's time to say *oui* to Paris

Immerse yourself in timeless wonders, from iconic landmarks to rich history and culture. Experience Malaysian Hospitality on board Business Class and earn Enrich Points on every booking.

Explore Paris with up to 30% savings

BEST PRICE
GUARANTEED



Think holidays,
think **MH**olidays



Scan to book now or
visit [holidays.malaysiaairlines.com](https://www.holidays.malaysiaairlines.com)



TIME FOR PARIS

Fly from MYR 3,699 all-in return,
starting 22 Mar 2025.



Your Gateway to
Asia & Beyond



Book now at malaysiaairlines.com

T&Cs apply.

malaysia 
airlines



Stay connected with **MHconnect**

Experience unparalleled Malaysian Hospitality with unlimited complimentary Wi-Fi* for a seamless and hassle-free journey. Whether you're flying Economy Class, Business Class or Business Suite, stay connected with loved ones, work from the sky or keep up-to-date with the latest news.

Stay connected in 5 easy steps:



Step 1

Switch to
"Flight Mode"



Step 2

Connect to **MHconnect**
iOS: You will be directed to the home page**
Android: Enter the URL
mhconnect.malaysiaairlines.com
to be directed to the home page



Step 3

Click on the "**Go Online**" tab
(not applicable for A330-900)



Step 4

Click on the
"Connect" tab



Step 5

Enter your email address and click the
"Continue" tab (not applicable for A330-900)



You are connected

You can now surf the
web with **MHconnect**

*MHconnect Wi-Fi service is available on selected A350 and A330 aircraft operated by Malaysia Airlines.

**If iOS is not automatically redirected, enter URL mhconnect.malaysiaairlines.com to be directed to the homepage. Other T&Cs apply.



Enjoy in-flight entertainment with **MHstudio**

Enjoy over 150 movies, 400 TV shows and more on our in-flight entertainment system with the convenience of using your own headphones. Available on selected aircraft.

Stay connected in 3 steps:



Step 1

Switch to
Flight Mode



Step 2

Connect to
MHstudio



Step 3

Scan the QR code or enter the URL (as per decal)
<http://mhstudio.malaysiaairlines.com> or
<http://mhstudio.streamonboard.com>

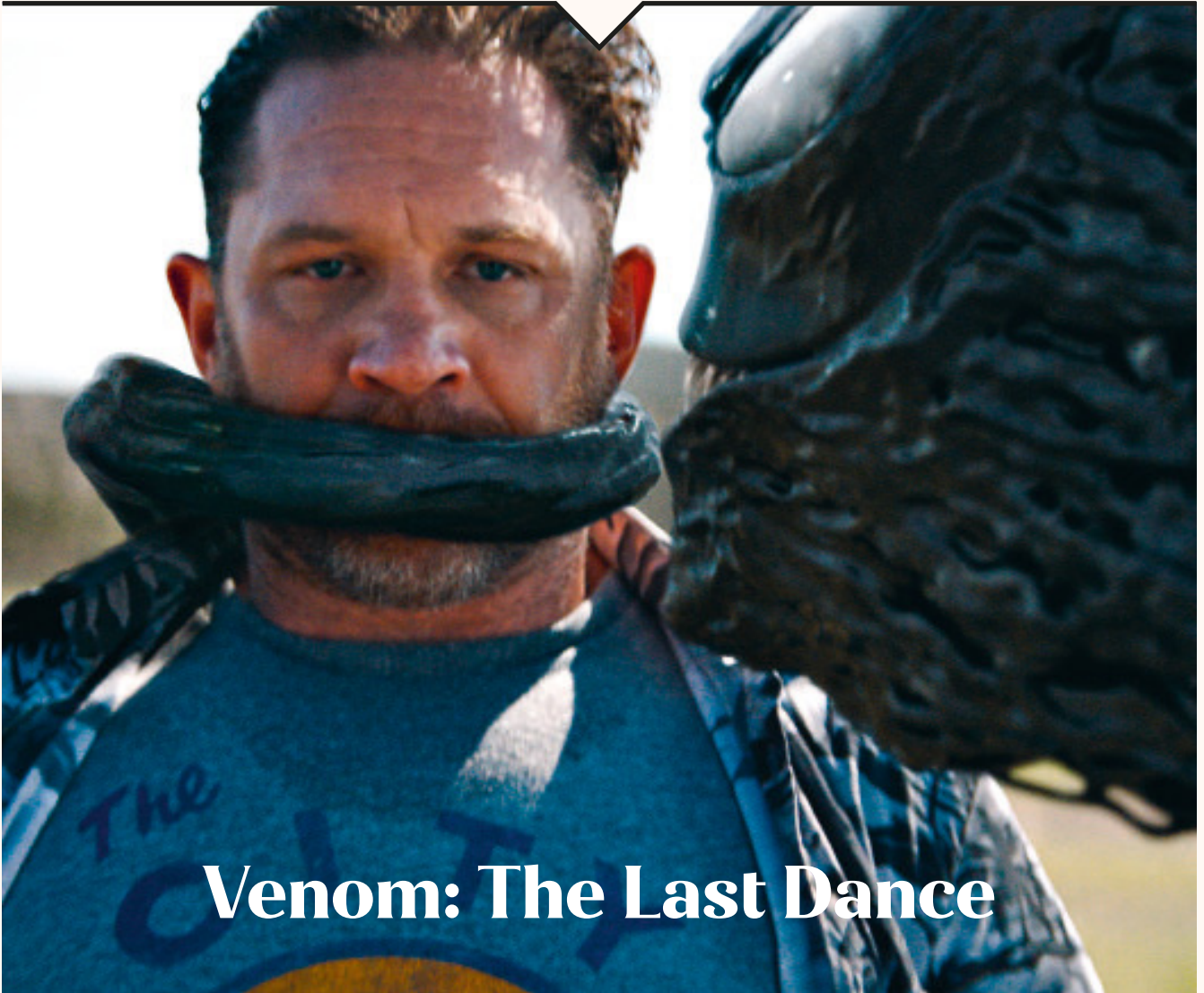
*Wi-Fi service (with internet connectivity) is available on B737-8 aircraft operated by Malaysia Airlines.

**The availability of in-flight entertainment (IFE) programmes will vary depending on the aircraft model, flight routes, and current availability. Please note that these offerings are subject to change without prior notice.



NOW SHOWING

MOVIES p66 TELEVISION p77 AUDIO p78



Venom: The Last Dance

Check out our **Valentine's Day** Special on page 70!



Gone with the Wind



Flipped



Casablanca



Crazy, Stupid, Love

DISCLAIMER: IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT IS EXCLUSIVE TO MALAYSIA AIRLINES PASSENGERS



Venom: The Last Dance

Eddie Brock returns for a thrilling and emotional conclusion to the series

Tom Hardy, who stars as Eddie Brock, returns with his symbiote counterpart, Venom, for their most personal battle yet. As Eddie grapples with his dual identity, a powerful new adversary emerges, threatening to destroy everything he holds dear. With breathtaking action sequences and intense character development, this installment explores the deeper bond between Eddie and Venom, pushing them to their limits. Directed by Andy Serkis, the film delves into themes of redemption and sacrifice, delivering a thrilling and emotional conclusion to the saga.

Hollywood Latest



Juror #2

In Juror #2, Clint Eastwood directs Nicholas Hoult as Justin Kemp, a juror in a tense murder trial facing a moral crisis that could change the verdict.



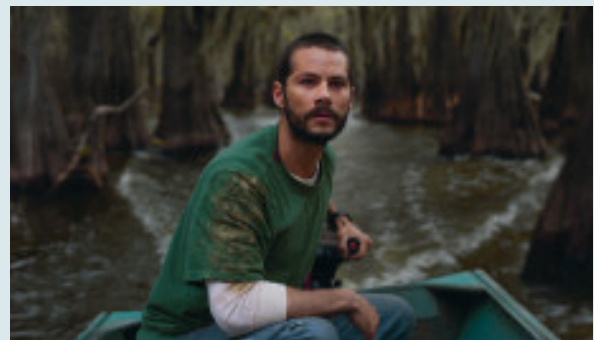
The Apprentice – The Trump Story

This biopic examines Trump's rise in the New York real estate scene and his complex mentor relationship.



Lee

Kate Winslet stars as Lee Miller, who transitions from Vogue model to World War II photographer. The film showcases her bold journey through the war.



Caddo Lake

A gripping tale, Caddo Lake follows the search for an 8-year-old who mysteriously disappears and the community races against time to find the child.



Conclave

Cardinal Lawrence uncovers a conspiracy during the secretive papal election after the Pope's sudden death, exploring power dynamics within the Vatican.



Brothers

Twin brothers Moke and Jady embark on a heist road trip, facing legal troubles and family drama, testing their bond and quest for redemption.



Looking for Dr Love

Love blooms between a divorcee and her college sweetheart

Looking for Dr Love, directed by Peter Foldy, is a charming romantic comedy about a young, divorced woman named Jenny (Anna Marie Dobbins) who sets out to reconnect with her college sweetheart, only to discover that he has been a part of her life all along. As Jenny navigates her feelings and unexpected sparks fly, the film blends humour and heartfelt moments, exploring the journey of finding love when you least expect it.

amal
BY MALAYSIA AIRLINES



Experience

The Privilege of Elevated Pilgrim Services with Amal by Malaysia Airlines

Embark on a memorable journey with our A330 to Jeddah and Madinah for Hajj and Umrah. Discover exceptional Malaysian Hospitality and elevate your pilgrimage experience onboard.



Caring, experienced, and pilgrim-friendly crew.



Islamic audiovisual content for guidance and knowledge.



Amal Kit for enhanced comfort and convenience.



Du'a
Musafir



Miqat
Announcement



Azan

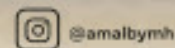
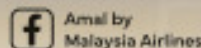


Tazkirah



Talbiah

Follow us on social media

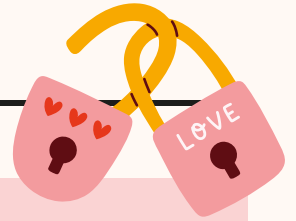


For booking and information,
please visit

iflyamal.com



MOVIES



• VALENTINE'S SPECIAL •



Gone with the Wind

A cinematic masterpiece from 1939 that follows the headstrong Scarlett O'Hara through the American Civil War and Reconstruction and her turbulent romance with the mercurial Rhett Butler.



Crazy, Stupid, Love

A romantic comedy where Cal, after a divorce, teams up with suave Jacob to navigate dating. The film blends heartfelt moments and comedy, exploring love, heartbreak, and self-discovery.



The Notebook



Flipped



BLENDED



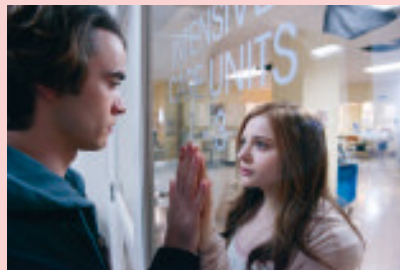
Casablanca



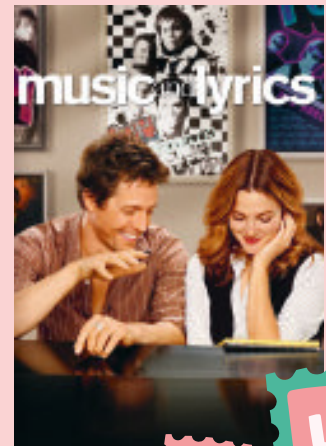
The Time Traveller's Wife



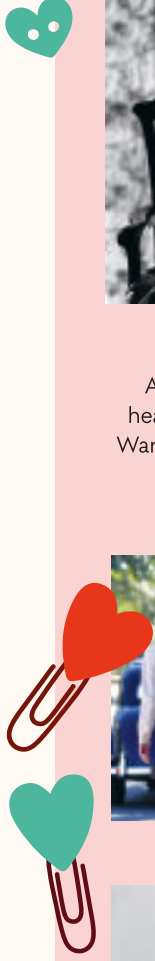
The Wedding Singer



If I Stay



music & lyrics



DISCLAIMER: IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT IS EXCLUSIVE TO MALAYSIA AIRLINES PASSENGERS

MHinsure



Scan this QR code to learn more or visit mhinsure.malaysiaairlines.com

Have total peace of mind when you travel.
Protect your trips, and yourself, with the right plan.

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE



24-Hour Medical & Travel Assistance



Cashless Medical Care benefit



Flight Delay, Cancellation & Curtailment benefit of up to the Trip Value



Emergency Evacuation & Repatriation benefit of up to MYR 250,000 (domestic) & Unlimited (international)



Emergency Medical Expenses benefit of up to MYR 35,000 (domestic) & MYR 1,000,000 (international)



Luggage & Personal Effects benefit of up to MYR 3,000 (domestic) & MYR 7,500 (international)

EXCLUSIVE FOR TAKAFUL



Shariah Compliant



Badal Hajj & Korban/Ihsar only applicable for international travel

T&Cs apply. MHinsure Travel PA (Insurance) is underwritten by Etiqa General Insurance Berhad & MHinsure Travel PA (Takaful) is underwritten by Etiqa General Takaful Berhad. The benefits payable under eligible products are protected by PIDM up to limits. Please refer to PIDM's TIPS Brochure or contact Etiqa or PIDM (visit www.pidm.gov.my).



malaysia 
AIRLINES

eTiqa



joey

**Wonder what it's like to
sleep on the clouds outside
your window?**

Order your Joey Mattress now and find out!

Use 100CLOUDS for RM 100 OFF

Now Showing

MOVIES

Hollywood Favourites & Kids



The Death of Stalin



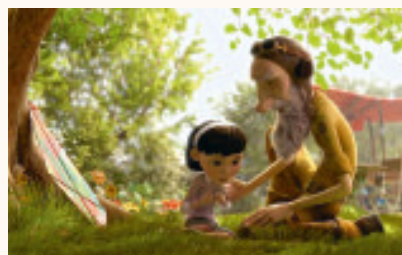
Focus



The Bodyguard



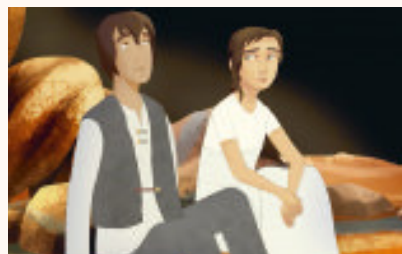
Tenet



The Little Prince



Hugo



Layla's Poem



Mia and the White Lion



Gravity

Two astronauts are stranded in space after a catastrophic accident. As they struggle to survive, the film captivates with stunning visuals and intense storytelling.



Teen Titans Go! To the Movies

Teen Titans head to Hollywood for their own movie, facing comedic challenges and a villainous threat, offering playful humour and superhero parodies.

DISCLAIMER: IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT IS EXCLUSIVE TO MALAYSIA AIRLINES PASSENGERS

MHexplorer

Empowering dreams with extraordinary values,
more than any other student programme.



UP TO
30% OFF
FLIGHTS



UP TO
45 KG
BAGGAGE



Complimentary
date change



Family & Friends
Promo



Up to 10% off on
selected products
on Temptations



Enrich benefits
and privileges



Birthday Treat*



20% off Firefly
Air Cargo*



**EXCLUSIVELY
FOR STUDENTS**
AGED 13 TO 26 YEARS OLD.



SIGN UP NOW.

Scan the QR Code or visit
malaysiaairlines.com/MHexplorer

*Applicable to members based in Malaysia only.
Other terms and conditions apply.



Now Showing

MOVIES

150+

more movies on
your IFE player

Chinese



Viva La Vida



Welcome to My Side

Malay



Kau Takdirku

Korean



She's from Another Planet

Hindi



Zara Hatke Zara Bachke

Japanese



Detective Conan vs. Kid the Phantom Thief



Evil Does Not Exist

Tamil



Maharaja

Malayalam



Anweshippin Kandethum

Telugu



Nindha

Indonesian



Srimulat Hil Yang Mustahal Babak Pertama

DISCLAIMER: IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT IS EXCLUSIVE TO MALAYSIA AIRLINES PASSENGERS



A330neo



THE FLIGHT OF YOUR DREAMS AWAIT

Embark on your next journey in the **all-new A330neo**.
Now flying from Kuala Lumpur to Melbourne.



Find out more at malaysiaairlines.com

T&Cs apply.

malaysia 
airlines

Now Showing

TELEVISION

Comedy

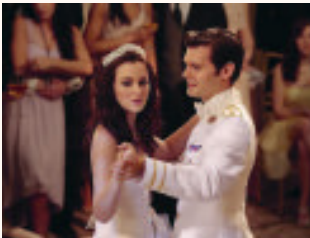


The Big Bang Theory



Fuller House

Drama



Gossip Girl



The Middle

Korean



Dancing Queens on the Road

Hindi



The Kapil Sharma Show – Season 2

Tamil



Chinese



Japanese



Durioo Special

Durioo+ is a streaming platform dedicated to providing meaningful, Islamic-aligned content for Muslim children. Launched in 2022 by the creators of the beloved Omar & Hana series, it aims to nurture an Ummah grounded in faith (Eeman), good character (Akhlaq) and knowledge (Ilm). Featuring exclusive originals such as Little Ammar, Mina Mila, Bubu Lala and more, Durioo+ seamlessly blends entertainment with Islamic teachings. More than just a streaming service, Durioo+ is a trusted partner for Muslim families, delivering safe, inspiring and values-driven digital experiences for children worldwide.

Now, Malaysia Airlines passengers can enjoy a selection of Durioo+ content through the Kids, Religious, and Malay categories in the airline's inflight entertainment system.



DISCLAIMER: IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT IS EXCLUSIVE TO MALAYSIA AIRLINES PASSENGERS

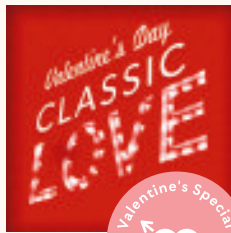


The Hits

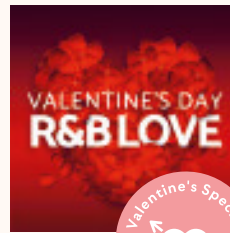
Smash Hits Winter Love is a heartwarming album filled with romantic tracks perfect for the winter season. It features a mix of classic love songs and new hits, creating a cosy and delightful listening experience during the holidays.



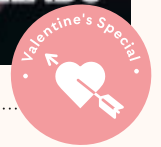
Memories



R&B



Club



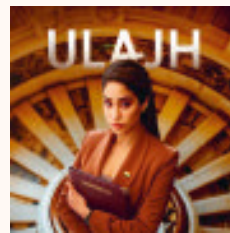
Japanese



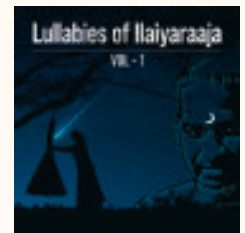
Korean



Hindi



Tamil



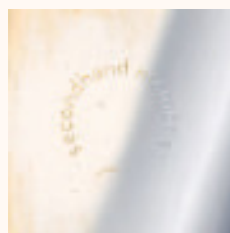
Malay



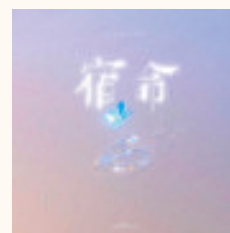
Indonesian



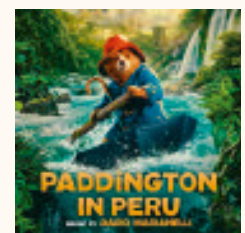
Cantonese



Mandarin



Kids



Fly, Earn and Redeem
Your Corporate Enrich Points

MHcorporate 

Find out more at malaysiaairlines.com/mhcorporate

Image is for illustration purposes only. Product features may differ from aircraft to aircraft and is dependent on the flight route. Other T&Cs apply.


Your Gateway to
Asia & Beyond



Step into love

This Valentine's Day, take a luxurious stroll down love lane at Wah Chan's LED Rose Garden, located at the renowned local jeweller's showroom in Petaling Jaya. The LED Rose Garden, a hidden gem which opened to the public last June, comes to life every Saturday night to reveal a magical field of roses in white, red and orange against the bedazzled trees that surround the enchanting centrepiece: an arched walkway of pink roses forming four giant hearts, reminiscent of romantic, fairytale journeys. The walkway leads to the Wah Chan showroom, which houses its most exquisite jewellery to express your individuality or to show love for your special someone – from opulent pearls, diamonds and gemstones to intricately designed pendants, bracelets and earrings, as well as timeless rings to commemorate endless love. wahchan.com.my



A white Mercedes-Benz S-Class sedan is shown on a stage, illuminated by several spotlights from above. The car is positioned on a circular platform. The background is dark blue with light rays from the spotlights. The text "YOUR JOURNEY, ELEVATED" is prominently displayed in the upper half of the image. The car has a blue and white logo on the side and a license plate that reads "S 500".

YOUR JOURNEY, ELEVATED

Business Suite and Business Class passengers, and Enrich Platinum members can experience seamless luxury with Malaysia Airlines' Private Terminal Transfer, powered by Mercedes-Benz.

EQ

breathtaking ~

SKY51

EQUATORIAL.COM



WATCH THE FULL VIDEO