



# Going Places

TAKE ME HOME *Going Places* is regularly refreshed, so everyone who flies can have a copy

OCTOBER 2023

# Mumbai

Take a multisensory journey to the city's colourful flower markets

# in bloom

**A MALAYSIAN IN JAKARTA**  
Leading logistics co-founder reveals his favourites of the city

**24 HOURS IN MIRI**  
Parks, wildlife and seafood await in Sarawak

**+**  
**13 reasons**  
to fall in love with Malaysia



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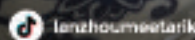
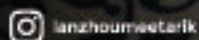
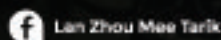
# 兰州拉面

LAN ZHOU MEE TARIK

*Best  
Mee Tarik  
in Town!*

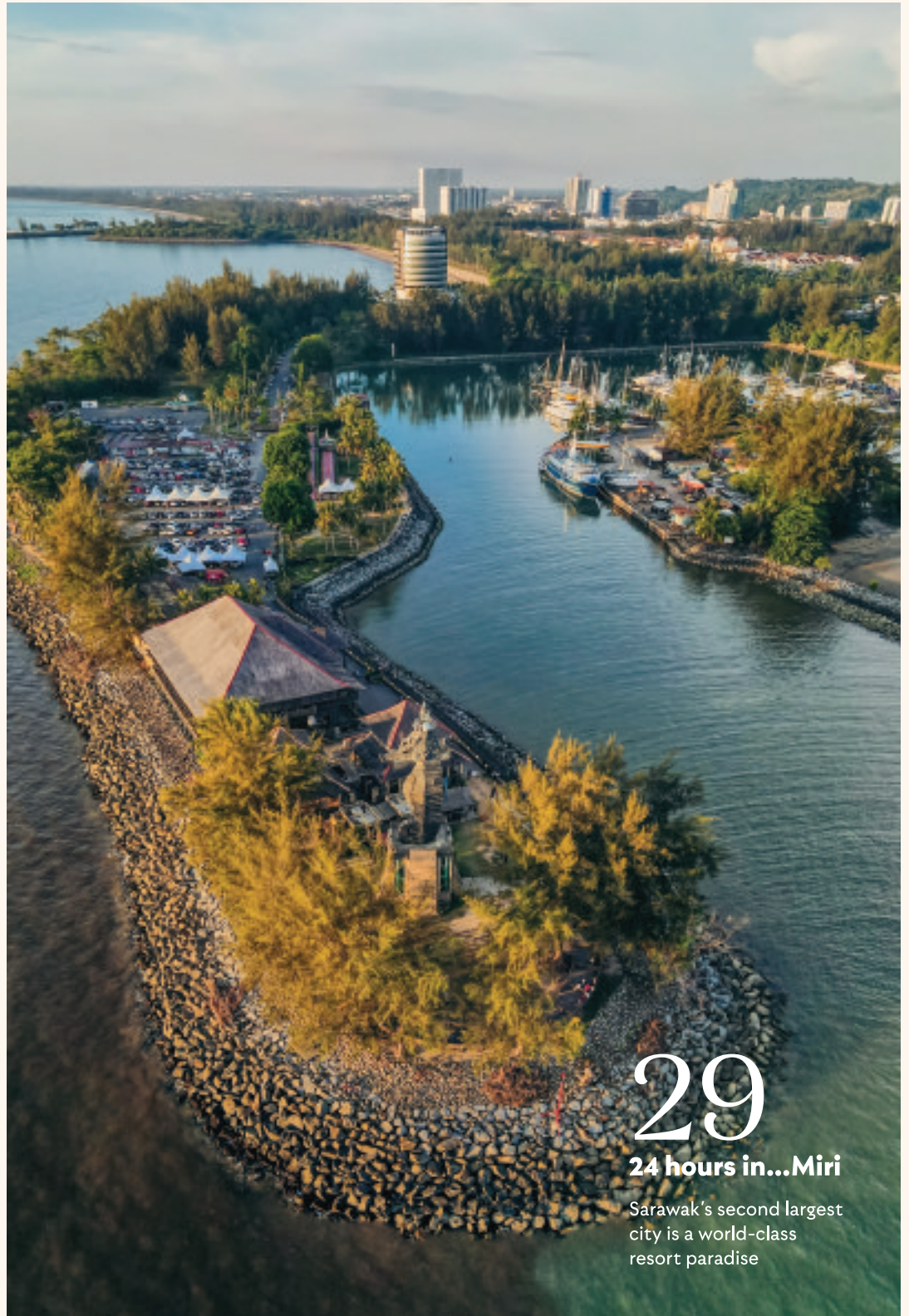


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OCTOBER 2023

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IMAGE: THINNESS KUMAR

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Double exposure shot of Walkeshwar temple and marigolds  
Photo: Pankaj Anand

#### **Editorial**

##### **Senior Group Editors**

James P Ong  
Mrigaa Sethi  
**Editor**  
Sherman Lim

##### **Design**

**Senior Art Director**  
Jessica Santos  
**Photo Director**  
Aaron Low

##### **Production**

**Senior Production Manager**  
Omar Mohamad Kassim  
**Production Executive**  
Wahab Arfendy

#### **Sales**

For advertising enquiries, please contact  
[ads.mh@ink-global.com](mailto:ads.mh@ink-global.com)

##### **Publishing Director**

Shalini Krishnan  
**Account Managers**  
Vivandra Jaisi  
Liz Yunus  
Tinaratchagi Krishnamoorthy  
Danial Mohamad  
Alishamathi Asohan  
**VP Travel Partnerships, APAC**  
Marie Yeo

#### **Ink**

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Michael Keating  
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Khairunnisak Dzun Nurin  
Noraishah Mohammad Shamsudin

Nik Nabilah Mohd Azmin  
Ainul Nazifah Abdul Rahman  
Putri Arina Abdul Aziz

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MANDARIN ORIENTAL  
KUALA LUMPUR



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## Dear guests,

I hope this message finds you in good health. I extend my sincere gratitude for choosing to fly with us today onboard Malaysian Hospitality.

As we kick into high gear on the last quarter of 2023, I am sure many of you are taking this time to travel and make the most of the remainder of the year with your family and loved ones. With many seeking to explore the world once again, I wish to reassure you that our top priority remains in ensuring a smooth end-to-end journey for our passengers; from the moment you book your flights with us right up to your arrival destination. Whether you travel domestically or to international horizons, we are committed to ensuring that your journey with us is a safe and seamless one.

In our continuous pursuit of extending our Malaysian Hospitality service across the globe, we have announced three new routes to provide enhanced connectivity to one of the key destinations within Malaysia Airlines network: India. We will begin commencing our new direct services between Kuala Lumpur (KUL) to Amritsar (ATQ), Trivandrum (TRV) and Ahmedabad (AMD) effective 8 November, 9 November and 1 December 2023 respectively, which will be operated by our

Boeing 737-800NG aircraft. This will bring our point-to-point connectivity from Malaysia to India to nine key hubs, thereby providing passengers with unparalleled flexibility and options when travelling between the two countries. This is in addition to our current direct flights to India, which includes New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi. Additionally, with increasing demands for travel, the airline will also increase its flight frequencies to other key markets including Australia, China and ASEAN beginning December 2023.

To ensure convenience prior to your arrival at the airport, we are also pleased to share that we have resumed our check-in and baggage drop services at the KLIA Ekspres Departure Hall. Passengers can now check in, drop their baggage and have it seamlessly transferred directly to their flight at KLIA Terminal 1. With the resumption of this service, our passengers can now squeeze in last-minute errands or shopping in the city before boarding the train straight to the airport! This is in addition to other alternative check-in and baggage drop services provided online and at the airport.

In every effort and decision that we make, customer experience remains paramount to us. Some of you travelling today may not be having the usual onboard experience you are used to with Malaysia Airlines, and I deeply regret the inconvenience. I assure you that this is only temporary, and I give you my commitment that we will provide you with a much better offering in the near future. As travellers ourselves, our priority remains in ensuring a seamless experience for all while maintaining the highest standards of safety and comfort. We value your feedback and remain steadfast in our commitment to address customer pain points to further elevate the delivery of Malaysian Hospitality.

We thank you for your continued trust and support for our brand, and hope to see you onboard again soon.

### **Izhah Ismail**

Group Managing Director  
Malaysia Aviation Group



ريزب هيدوقن ليارتشكو حسنال

TENGGU HASSANAL  
WILDLIFE RESERVE

Step into the enchanting realm of the Tengku Hassanal Wildlife Reserve! The pristine gem of Pahang

Prepare to be captivated by breathtaking photographs related to the beautiful haven, unveiling the cherished secrets of Pahang's pristine wildlife sanctuary. Behold the lush forests and captivating wildlife, each image a portal to curiosity and wonder.

This sanctuary's essence will seep into your soul. So delve deep, and let your heart guide you on this extraordinary journey through the wonders of the Tengku Hassanal Wildlife Reserve.



Tourism  
**PAHANG**  
MALAYSIA

October beckons, and we invite you to embark on more travel adventures with us, exploring the beauty and creativity that the world has to offer. Whether you're planning a visit to a luxurious Himalayan haven in Mustang, a secluded district in Nepal (p19) or looking for family-friendly things to do in Jakarta (p26), this month's edition is full of captivating journeys.

It's the start of autumn in many parts of the world, while in others, it's the beginning of preparations for Deepavali, one of the most significant festivals in Indian culture, where flowers play a significant role in temple rituals and bringing good energy into the home. What better way to embrace the spirit of the season than immersing yourself in the kaleidoscope of colours at Mumbai's Dadar Flower Market (p34)? This bustling and labyrinthine market, nestled in the heart of India's financial capital, is where flower vendors from across the country converge to sell their colourful wares. The symphony of marigolds, roses and jasmine will awaken your senses and leave you invigorated.

Meanwhile, Malaysia, with our diverse culture and vibrant festivities, beckons you to explore its unique charm this month. Some compelling reasons to fall in love with Malaysia in October include: The Borneo Jazz Festival, where rhythms of jazz fill the air in Miri, Sarawak, as international and local artists come together for this soulful music festival (p16); The Kuala Lumpur Design Festival, where art and design converge to showcase Malaysia's innovative spirit (p11); and Anantara Desaru Coast, where you can escape to the pristine beaches and luxurious resorts of Desaru Coast for a blissful seaside retreat (p9).

Pack your bags and prepare to be enchanted this month.



*Shermian Lim*

**Shermian Lim**  
Editor

## This issue's contributors



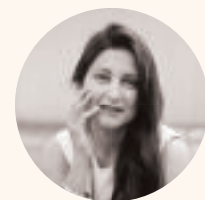
**Victoria Khroundina**  
Writer, "Inside scoop", p22

Based in Melbourne, Australia, Victoria has written for publications like *National Geographic*, *Time Out*, *Cornucopia*, *Mabuhay* and *Roam* magazines.



**Pankaj Anand**  
Photographer, "Flower power", p34

Lifestyle and travel photographer Pankaj Anand is a regular with travel magazines. For over a decade, he has been working on international features.



**Karthika Gupta**  
Writer, "Flower power", p34

Karthika Gupta is a travel photographer, freelance writer and podcaster based in Chicago. Through her storytelling and photography, she aims to bring cultural narratives to the forefront.





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# 13 REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

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**Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places**

1

Johor Bahru

## Give back to nature

---

The Dollars for Deeds programme at Anantara Desaru Coast opens the door to experiencing the untouched beauty of the surrounding rainforest, inviting you to go beyond the luxurious, kampung-inspired villas and residences within the resort's premises. Plant fruit tree saplings, collect seeds from the forest floor, or join rangers as they monitor wildlife in a nearby natural reserve, all for matched donations that will go towards rewilding Desaru Coast. The Anantara also offers nature walks with its resident naturalist to spot native plants and flowers, birdwatching with a birding expert, and beach walks across the golden coastal sands that line the edge of the South China Sea. [anantara.com/en/desaru-coast](https://anantara.com/en/desaru-coast)





## 2

Kuala Lumpur

### Green and clean

Hijau puts its own plant-based, whole-food spin on Malaysian and Indonesian classics, from *lei cha* (thunder tea rice) to *lontong* (rice cakes served in a vegetable gravy), nasi padang to nasi kerabu, and even otak-otak made from tofu, seaweed and candlenut. The standout is undoubtedly the nasi lemak, served with vegan sambal, fried tofu and mushroom “anchovies”. [hijaukl.com](http://hijaukl.com)



Want to know more homegrown brands? Scan to browse and shop on Journify.

3

George Town

## Leap of faith

On the ninth lunar month, the streets of Penang welcome the Nine Emperor Gods for nine days – from 15 to 23 October – with feasts from devotees, such as spear-skewering and walking over hot coals, as well as processions from the Nine Emperor Gods temples in Butterworth and on the island.

[mypenang.gov.my](http://mypenang.gov.my)



4

Kuala Lumpur

## Florentine inspirations

The famed *bistecca alla Fiorentina* or Florentine steak – gloriously thick cuts of beef seared to smoky perfection on the outside, and *al sangue* on the inside – comes to KL's The Row with Florentine La Bisteccheria.

The earthy tones and terracotta-tiled floors lend the grill house a rustic Tuscan appeal.

[instagram.com/florentinekl.my](https://www.instagram.com/florentinekl.my)



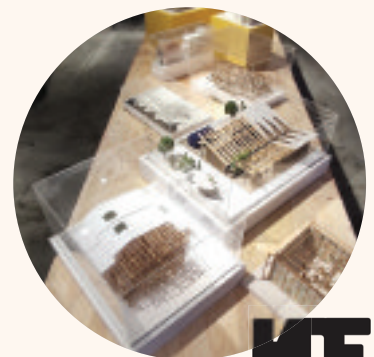
5

Kuala Lumpur

## A design for life

From 6 to 15 October, the Malaysian capital teems with creativity thanks to the Kuala Lumpur Design Festival. With a massive line-up of programmes, exhibitions and a trade fair around the city, this year's festival will explore the intersection of design, technology and sustainability.

[kldesignfestival.com](http://kldesignfestival.com)



KDF

# 6

Kuching / Penang / Kuala Lumpur

## Bringing people together

“When people think about the food industry, they think about the food and the chefs, but there’s actually a huge number of people behind that,” says travel journalist Leisa Tyler. “Kita Food Festival (KFF) is about giving a voice to the industry as a whole.”

Co-founded by Tyler, Dewakan head chef Darren Teoh and Tiffin Culinary founder Adrian Yap, Kita aims to address pressing issues in the food industry as well as foster a sense of community among its practitioners. As Teoh says, Kita – which means “us” in Malay – is about “bringing people together.”

At the forefront of Kita is a mammoth series of dining events throughout October that spans four cities and features collaborations with top chefs. It begins at Roots Bistronomy, Kuching, then moves to Penang for two dining events in Au Jardin and Gēn. Other events include Malcolm Lee from Candlenut in Singapore taking over the Communal Table kitchen, and a grand, eight-chef barbeque party at ChinaHouse.

The festival then heads across the Causeway to Marguerite, Fico, Underdog Inn, Fiz and Kubo for dining events curated by Nouri’s Ivan Brehm, before concluding in Kuala Lumpur with five dinners at Mano, Entier, Dewakan, Hide and Ignis, and a Big Sunday Barbecue.

But the heart of the festival is Kita Conversations, a series of talks about the entire food chain – from its history to its production and consumption – that will bring together chefs, producers, suppliers, historians and



Darren Teoh, Leisa Tyler and Adrian Yap of Kita Food Festival

“

**At the forefront of Kita is a mammoth series of dining events throughout October that spans four cities ”**

even anthropologists. The Conversations this year will feature, among others, restaurateur David Thompson, MasterChef Australia season 9 winner Diana Chan and food historian Khir Johari.

“Kita Conversations was really at the core of what we wanted to achieve,” says Teoh. “We have to start talking about sustainability, food futures, food security, food history and other issues [affecting the industry] that the public may not be aware about.”

These themes also inform Kita’s Horizons, where young chefs embark upon a journey of culinary experiences under the mentorship of KL’s top chefs. Horizons culminates in the mentees preparing a special dinner using ingredients considered surplus. As Tyler says, “We want to prove that what most people classify as throwaway does have value and can be really delicious.” [kitafoodfestival.com](http://kitafoodfestival.com)

IMAGE: IMRAN SULAIMAN (KITA FOOD FESTIVAL)



# 7

Kuala Lumpur

## Choc-full of delights

Cocoa isn't always associated with Malaysia, but that could change with Kedai Coklat, which opened its second outlet in Bangsar in August. All the cakes, cookies, tarts and drinks at this chocolate café are made from cocoa beans sourced from the states of Perak, Pahang and Kelantan. [instagram.com/mykedaicoklat](https://www.instagram.com/mykedaicoklat)



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8

Kuala Lumpur

**A dance of fire**

The exquisite Kikyo brings the premium *warayaki* (straw-fired grill cooking) experience to Malaysia, where the entrancing flames lend a delicate smokiness to the seafood sashimi and Wagyu beef cuts on the menu, alongside the sweetness of Sakura wood-smoked meat. [kikyo.com.my](http://kikyo.com.my)



Malaysia

**Elevating heritage**

Eartheories specialises in the “agri-sanal” – supporting local agriculture by using home-grown ingredients to craft artisanal aromacare products inspired by Malay heritage remedies. While it’s famous for its lemongrass series, Eartheories carries over a hundred blends of aromacare products – from diffusers to body wash – and a green tea reed diffuser that won a 2023 Beauty Insider aromatherapy award. [eartheories.com](http://eartheories.com)





10

Kuala Lumpur

Glowing up

Self-care has never been easier with GlowHouse KL, a wellness destination that opened in April and brings together three brands under one roof. Start off with an invigorating Pilates workout at Tòne, get a glamorous blowout at COCODry, before treating yourself to coffee and cake at the bright and cheery Lumi Café. [glowhouse.club](http://glowhouse.club)

Miri

Jungle beats

The celebrated Borneo Jazz Festival returns to the Coco Cabana in Miri on 27 and 28 October. Curated by jazz club-turned-promoters No Black Tie, this year's *Jazz in the Jungle* features musicians from the US, Hungary, Singapore, France and Malaysia, including the state's very own Sarawak Symphony Orchestra (SONS).

[jazzborneo.com](http://jazzborneo.com)





Serene moments by the tranquil waters of Setia Alamsari Canal Park.

# Shaping a Greener World For Generations to Come

Green spaces in Setia's developments to mitigate the urban heat island (UHI) effect while serving as a communal hub for communities and nature to thrive together.

Though residing in a tropical country with year-round summer, temperature in cities tend to be significantly warmer than the surrounding rural areas. These pockets of heat are commonly known as Urban Heat Islands (UHI), primarily formed due to the dense concentration of built structures, human activities and lack of natural landscape. Warmer temperatures not only bring discomfort but also pose serious health risks to people and inadvertently lead to increased energy consumption, higher air conditioning costs, greater greenhouse gas emissions, and more.

One of the initiatives that Setia has implemented to mitigate the heat island effect is to ensure that its developments have ample green landscape. Setia minimised the cutting down of trees and conserved the existing trees during the construction and planning stages. As of 31 December 2022, Setia has planted and transplanted up to 11,187 trees throughout our projects. To advocate biodiversity and enrich ecosystems within its communities, Setia has seamlessly integrated nature into its projects through features such as gardens, pocket parks, water features, and waterways.

Its lush green landscapes serve a purpose far beyond aesthetics. They play a crucial role in reducing the urban heat island effect, acting as nature's own ther-



Setia Ecohill Adventure Park stands as one of Setia's vibrant parks, welcoming its communities to connect with both one another and the beauty of nature.



Tree transplantation while preserving its root system for a seamless relocation.

mostat amidst the urban sprawl, while creating an ideal ecosystem that sustains native flora and fauna. Not only that, in

line with Setia's development philosophy, its communities are able to live, learn, work and play in the green spaces Setia has created. Via this harmonious coexistence, both humanity and the environment find a space to thrive and flourish.

Through the adoption of sustainable practices and the incorporation of cutting-edge technologies, Setia is committed to keep its developments cool and safe for its communities, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and Goal 13: Climate Action.

# 12

Kuala Lumpur

## Channelling genius

On 21 October, pianist Lilya Zilberstein (pictured), conductor Michał Nesterowicz and the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra take on Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, the orchestral work inspired by the diabolical genius of Niccolò Paganini's *Caprices*.

[mpo.com.my](http://mpo.com.my)



George Town

## Making a splash

Orcabrew started life as a pop-up but the popularity of its aromatic brews led to them setting up a brick-and-mortar café in August on Hutton Lane. Specialising in beans from Brazil, Ethiopia and Kenya, the coffee beans here are roasted by hand and served as drip coffee or cold brews. The charming, pet-friendly café also serves cookies and waffles from Vanilla Bean. [instagram.com/orcabrew\\_coffee](https://www.instagram.com/orcabrew_coffee)

# 13

# ELEVATE

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



SPOTLIGHT

## Himalayan haven

Intrepid wanderers with a taste for refined luxury now have a compelling reason to explore the district of Mustang, a secluded realm within Nepal. Perched at 2,800m above sea level, the 29-suite **Shinta Mani Mustang** by Bangkok-based American architect Bill Bensley serves as a gateway to Upper Mustang – an ancient trade route between Nepal and Tibet known as the “Forbidden Kingdom” and closed to foreigners until 1992.

Here, guests will find Bensley’s signature narrative-driven design throughout the property – from

warm coloured fabrics that reflect the surrounding landscape to gorgeous artwork of the region’s vernacular architecture. Bensley also used recycled materials and transformed them into new furniture. The palatial rooms offer sweeping vistas of the Nilgiri mountain range. At the Wellness Center, guests can partake in a Tibetan-inspired wellness experience using traditional herbal medicine, or take part in activities such as trekking, horse riding and archery led by a team of Bensley Adventure Guides. [shintamanimustang.com](http://shintamanimustang.com)

ELEVATE



SUSTAINABILITY

# A fresh lease

In **Sydney**, a wool store, a Baptist church and a hospital staff building have been transformed into stunning travel venues for the public to enjoy **BY TATYANA LEONOV**



Eternity Playhouse

seats 200 at full capacity, and transforms into an intimate 48-seat cabaret space that hosts a range of music and comedy shows such as fan-favourite event *Thirsty Thursdays*. [darlinghursttheatre.com](http://darlinghursttheatre.com)

## The Joynton Avenue Creative Centre

**Past life** The Esme Cahill building was part of South Sydney Hospital and housed the nurses' accommodation block.

**What it is now** The Joynton Avenue Creative Centre now houses artists' workspaces, galleries and start-ups, and supports creative endeavours through events and interactive activities like jewellery-making. Much of the original building has been left intact as part of the refurbishment, such as the roof, brickwork, joinery, floors, plastered walls and ceilings. A stunning arched canopy constructed from seven flat arches – part of the original façade – elevate the look. [107.org.au/joynton](http://107.org.au/joynton)



The Woolstore 1888 Balcony

## The Woolstore 1888 by Ovolo

**Past life** As you can guess, this space used to house Sydney's oldest wool store.

**What it is now** The Woolstore 1888 by Ovolo underwent a AUD30 million facelift opening in 2013. The team behind the redevelopment was careful to keep the building's history front and centre. A stone's throw from Darling Harbour, the luxury hotel has features like carefully restored ironbark beams, pillars, period windows and exposed brick walls that are juxtaposed with striking Australian pop art and colourful furniture. The result is a space where guests linger to enjoy the Ovolo Hotels' unique touches in a place that celebrates its heritage roots. [ovolohotels.com](http://ovolohotels.com)

landmark Baptist church, with beginnings stretching back to 1887. Former soldier Arthur Stace was inspired to start chalking the word "Eternity" on the streets of Sydney after attending church here.

**What it is now** The church fell into disrepair soon after its closing in 1996 but was acquired by the City of Sydney in 2004 and later transformed into a theatre and creative arts centre. Named Eternity Playhouse as a tribute to Stace and his calligraphic "Eternity", the community hub opened in 2013. The AUD7.9 million refurbishment was a major undertaking, with restoration works concentrated on highlighting the heritage building's features. It

## Eternity Playhouse

**Past life** For over 100 years, Burton Street Tabernacle was a



The Woolstore 1888 Junior Suite



The Joynton Avenue Creative Centre

IMAGES: DESTINATION NSW (ETERNITY PLAYHOUSE), KATHERINE GRIFFITHS / CITY OF SYDNEY (JOYNTON AVENUE CREATIVE CENTRE)



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DESSERT

# Inside scoop

Whether it's tofu soft serve, brioche ice cream buns or a taste of Fuji apple, ice cream shops in **Melbourne** have your cravings covered

BY VIKTORIA KHROUNINA

**Maybe it's due to the** city's sizeable Italian diaspora or maybe it's because Melburnians are such avid foodies – whatever it is, ice cream is the perfect dessert as it taps into the fundamental human affection for all things sweet and creamy. We scoured the coolest new spots for the tastiest scoop.



## Kōri Hawthorn

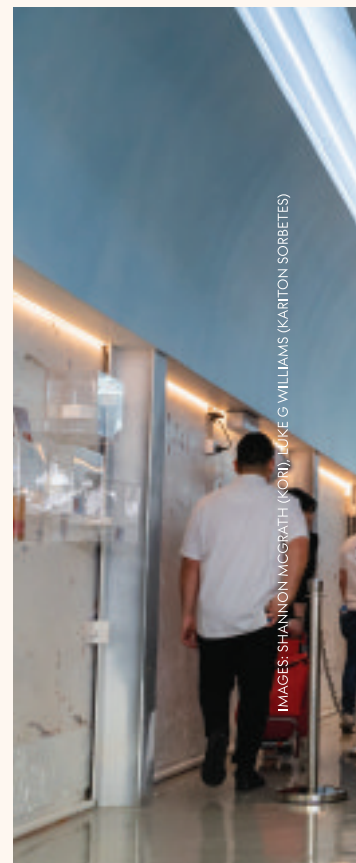
Japanese desserts are all the rage in Melbourne, but the city is surprisingly bereft of Japanese-inspired ice cream stores. Kōri – opened in August 2022 by ex-Coda chef, Joane Yeoh, and co-founder of patisserie LuxBite, Bernard Chu – aims to fill the gap. Inside the Hawthorn store, the two-tone walls and ceiling evoke the street

art of Tokyo, while the precise service gives a glimpse into Japanese hospitality. The shop is designed to be a haven in which to escape daily life and “mindfully savour a carefully crafted dessert,” says Chu. The light and crisp Fuji apple is a bestseller, or be transported to the north of Japan with the Hokkaido cheesecake. [kori-icecream.com.au](http://kori-icecream.com.au)



## Sweethearts Preston

Ellie Marin endeavoured to change the plant-based dessert game and provide delicious gelato made using high-quality ingredients to vegans, people with dairy and lactose allergies, or anyone who wants a dairy-free treat. In February 2023 she did just that by opening Australia's first plant-based gelato store in Preston. Marin deftly churns classic flavours and interesting combinations that taste as good as the dairy versions. Go for the velvety smooth biscoff or the panna cotta raspberry, an instant palate refresher. They also do cloud-soft vegan donuts and thick shakes. [instagram.com/sweetheartsgelato](https://www.instagram.com/sweetheartsgelato)



IMAGES: SHANNON MCGRATH (KORI), LUKE G WILLIAMS (KARITON SORBETES)





## ELEVATE



### Fluffy Torpedo Fitzroy

For couple Cherry Rainflower and Adam Semple, their Fitzroy shop isn't just about the ice cream. The outdoor sign filled with multicoloured balls beckons you inside a dizzying wonderland of playful textures and natural materials. "We wanted to make the physical shop so fun and inspiring that people get ideas about how to renovate their homes," Adam explains. The "berserk" interior extends to the menu. Go for the Kalamata, in which the humble olive takes the spotlight, or the crowd-pleasing miso soup, Turkish cinnamon and white chocolate. With 20 percent of profits donated to charities, this is feel-good ice cream in every sense of the word. A second store is set to open in Brunswick in late 2023. [fluffytorpedo.diamonds](http://fluffytorpedo.diamonds)



### Kenny Lover Thornbury

For a dose of Aussie nostalgia, catch the 86 tram from Waterfront City Docklands to Thornbury, where pastry chef Michael Baker and industrial designer/cocktail maker Daniel Mason have made the dessert of our after-school dreams: in the jaffle, vanilla ice cream and raspberry jam are sandwiched in a hot brioche bun dusted with cinnamon sugar. Other must-try flavours include the quintessentially Melbourne pairing of soy sauce and vanilla caramel; and the curry leaf and coconut, which pays homage to native ingredients. And if that doesn't unleash your inner child, there are hot chips on the menu for some sticky dipping. [kennylover.com.au](http://kennylover.com.au)



### Kariton Sorbetes CBD, Footscray and Glen Waverley

Starting as a home-delivery service during the pandemic, fine-dining chef John Rivera's gelato empire has grown to three brick-and-mortar stores. Don't miss the signature Ube Halaya, a riff on the Philippines' most popular dessert that's made with purple yam. The vegan Taho, a silken tofu soft serve with soymilk panna cotta and tapioca pearls in a warm oolong syrup, hits the trifecta of sweet, warm and chewy. [karitonsorbetes.com](http://karitonsorbetes.com)



ESCAPE

# Stay for the night

Rooms with a view of Shinjuku's bright lights and an infinity pool overlooking Yoyogi Park are what to expect from **Tokyo's** newest luxury hotels **BY MICHELLE TCHEA**

## Bellustar Tokyo Hotel Shinjuku

This property offers plenty of wide, open spaces and natural light, with earthy finishings like stone and wood for a touch of nature. Opened in May, BELLUSTAR TOKYO, A Pan Pacific Hotel is located on the upper floors of Tokyu Kabukicho Tower, the new 48-storey mega complex in the heart of Shinjuku. At Restaurant Bellustar, chef Shinji Omaki blends French cooking with ingredients from Japan's various regions to create mouthwatering works of art. Think Hokkaido venison, cheese from Nagano, or savarin made with Yamanashi peaches. [panpacific.com](http://panpacific.com)

## Hotel Groove Shinjuku Shinjuku

Inspired by the neon-lit nightlife of Shinjuku, HOTEL GROOVE SHINJUKU, A PARKROYAL Hotel has four types of suites, plus three Groove rooms featuring eclectic art installations from local artists Yoshiaki Kaihatsu, Takuro Tamayama and Tomoyuki Washio. Also located within the Tokyo Kabukicho Tower, guests can spend the night sipping on several rounds of the delicious Mr Miyagi cocktail (Awamori, Kokuto and cold brew coffee) while foodies will appreciate JAM17's signature stone-oven grilled delicacies like wagyu loin. [panpacific.com](http://panpacific.com)

## Trunk Hotel Yoyogi Park Tomigaya

With an enviable location in Tomigaya, a neighbourhood known for its fancy fashion boutiques and trendy cafés, this 20-room boutique hotel opened to much fanfare in September. Featuring Japandi interiors and tasteful furnishings, the hotel's warm and inviting spaces also showcase artwork by contemporary artists Ido Yoshimoto and Maru Michinori. At Trunk Kitchen, the rooftop bar and dining space, choose from local sake, shochu and hojicha tea in between dips in the hotel's infinity pool overlooking the lush Yoyogi Park. [trunk-hotel.com](http://trunk-hotel.com)



Trunk Hotel Yoyogi Park

IMAGE: COURTESY OF TRUNK HOTEL



## COMMUNITY

## Fine art for good

On your next flight to **Colombo**, travel south to a fine arts academy to commission a portrait as a one-of-a-kind travel souvenir **BY KAREN TEE**

**Eyes trained with laser sharp focus** on their easels, the apprentices sit in deep concentration as they make tiny, precise brush or pencil strokes on paper. The beginners practising their basics while advanced students are using charcoal, pastels or oil paints to create hyper-realistic images – a blend of portraiture and their own imaginations. Interestingly, this art academy is not in a global city but in the remote coastal town of Dikwella, about three hours by car from the Sri Lankan capital.

Welcome to Ani Art Academies, founded by 56-year-old Tim Reynolds, a retired Wall Street trader turned philanthropist and arts patron. The non-profit organisation sponsors a rigorous, multi-year art skills education to aspiring artists in some of the most far-flung corners of the globe. “When



students of Ani Art Academies graduate, the goal is for them to have a full toolbox of skills. From photorealism to abstract painting, they can paint anything; their artistic development has been supported through learning,” says Reynolds.

There are six art academies worldwide, including outposts in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Anguilla and the Dominican Republic. The Sri Lanka campus, which was launched in 2017, is a 15-minute tuk tuk ride away from the exclusive Ani private resort. This all-inclusive luxury beachside resort is intended specifically for single group bookings of anywhere between six to 30 guests. It was built to support the Art Academy, with proceeds channelled towards running the school.

Most recently, to ensure more synergy between the art school and the resort, a new gallery space was launched within Ani Private Resort to display the apprentices’ artwork and for portrait drawing demonstrations. While the gallery is open only to guests, there are plans to launch an art exhibition in Colombo in 2024.

Meanwhile, travellers may also make an appointment to visit the Academy’s campus to commission their own artwork. Prices start from US\$400 and all proceeds go directly to the artists. [aniartacademies.org](http://aniartacademies.org)

### 3 must-visits in Sri Lanka’s southern coast



#### Galle Fort

A Unesco World Heritage Site, this charming historic fort features Dutch colonial-era architecture. Explore the fort’s ramparts and the iconic Galle Lighthouse then wander the cobblestone streets to browse its many boutique shops and cafes.



#### Hikkaduwa coral reefs

Renowned for its vibrant coral reefs and marine life, this is one of the best destinations in south Sri Lanka to go snorkelling and diving. There are also glass-bottom boat rides for those who wish to stay out of the water.



#### Yala National Park

Go on a jungle safari at one of Sri Lanka’s most famous national parks, about four hours drive from Colombo, for a high chance of spotting a diverse variety of wildlife including elephants, crocodiles and the elusive leopard.



INSIDER TIPS

# A Malaysian in... Jakarta

Entrepreneur and family guy Nadhir Ashafiq reveals his favourite places to eat, work and play in Indonesia's buzzing capital

BY SHARON CROWTHER



**I've been in and out of** Jakarta every month since 2018, when we launched TheLorry, a logistics platform to book professional movers and drivers. Earlier this year, my business partner and I realised that Indonesia presents a huge opportunity for growth, so I decided to move here in June with my family to support business development.

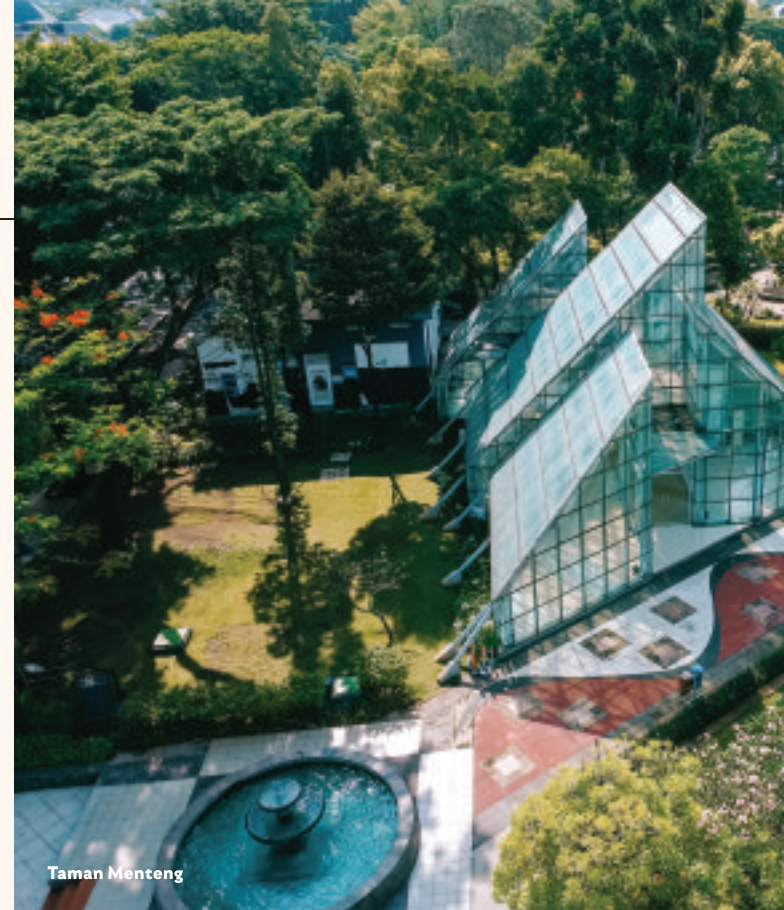
Living in Indonesia is similar to living in Malaysia in a lot of ways – apart from the infamous traffic. I use rideshare as much as possible to avoid driving. It's amazing how much work you can get done in the back of a car.

It's interesting being an expat because my first entrepreneurial

venture, which I started in 2012, was a social network for expats. It didn't work out but the process of starting my own business eventually led me to start TheLorry. Prior to that, I had worked in investment banking and aircraft cargo logistics. Outside of work, my wife, Shazwani, and three little girls (ages 10, 7 and 3) keep me busy. We still feel like tourists here in Jakarta, so we often spend our weekends exploring the city. Here are some of our favourite places to visit.

## Getting in the swing

A surprising thing about Jakarta is that it has great golf courses right in the city, which is one of the reasons I took up the sport when we moved here. It's also a wonderful way to network and meet new people. **Senayan Golf Course** is quite unique because you can play golf up until 11pm, under the floodlights. As a beginner golfer, evenings are the perfect time for me to play without feeling under pressure, or like my swing isn't up to par. And



Taman Menteng



Tanah Abang Textile Market

if I lose a few balls along the way, it's no big deal. *Jln Asia Afrika Pintu IX, Central Jakarta;* [fb.com/senayannational](https://fb.com/senayannational)

## Green spaces

With three daughters to entertain, parks and playgrounds are always high on our agenda for the weekend. We get a lot of tips from TikTok, which has become our favourite way to find child-friendly spots. In fact, that is how we recently



Nasi Goreng Kambing Kebon Sirih

away in an alley in central Jakarta, it's a bit hard to find so just keep an eye out for the long queue. Outside, they have an open kitchen with two huge woks, piled high with spicy and fragrant fried rice. I've eaten a lot of nasi goreng in Malaysia but this one tops it all. It has the perfect balance of spice, pepper and mutton fat that is truly out of this world. I usually order the jumbo size. Add the *kecap manis* (Indonesian sweet soy sauce) for more local flavour. **Jln Kebon Sirih, Central Jakarta**



Pagi Sore

## Wake up and smell the coffee

I always joke that I cannot live without caffeine so, thankfully, Jakarta has coffee shops on every street. Local chains and independent micro-roasters have good brews for half the price of a Starbucks coffee. Personally, I only drink espresso, so flavour is important. There's an incredible coffee shop right beside my office – **Voyage of Coffee** – where they make great artisanal coffee. They grind their own beans in small batches, for each individual order. The space itself is flooded with natural light from huge windows and is a great spot to do work in. I like to start my Monday mornings there, strategising for the week ahead. **Jln RC Veteran Raya, Bintaro; [instagram.com/voyageofcoffee](https://www.instagram.com/voyageofcoffee)**

## Famous food stalls

Jakarta is full of roadside food stalls that typically open in the afternoon and close around midnight or 1am. One of the most famous ones in the city is **Nasi Goreng Kambing Kebon Sirih**, which has been serving its legendary mutton nasi goreng for more than 60 years. Tucked

## Market browsing

On weekends, my family and I enjoy exploring shopping destinations but one bazaar we find ourselves returning to is the loud and colourful **Tanah Abang Textile Market**. As the largest market in Indonesia and the largest garment and textile market in Southeast Asia, this is where you can find everything from handbags and fabrics to local produce and spices. **Jln KH Mas Mansyur, Central Jakarta**

## Local delicacies

Indonesia is famous for *nasi padang*, which is white rice served with a selection of local dishes and sambals. Traditionally, it is served all at once on small plates. **Pagi Sore** is a very established and popular chain of nasi padang restaurants, local to Jakarta, which we really enjoy as a family. The *gulai tunjang* – cow's feet in a creamy curry sauce, is one of our favourite dishes. **Multiple locations; [pagisore.id](https://www.pagisore.id)**

discovered **Taman Menteng** (Menteng Park). Menteng, in south-central Jakarta, is one of the city's oldest districts and is home to plenty of characterful Dutch colonial buildings and wide, well-lit boulevards. The sprawling 30ha park includes a playground, pathways to ride bikes and scooters, basketball courts and an outdoor gym, and it's a fun place for people-watching. **Jln Hos Cokroaminoto, Menteng, Central Jakarta**



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta 28x weekly.

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24 HOURS IN

# Miri

Words **Marco Ferrarese** Photography **Thinnesh Kumar**

**Miri's economy boomed at the beginning of** the 20th century, when the discovery of oil wells brought riches and development to this coastal city in northeastern Sarawak. Today, Miri has become the second-largest city in the Malaysian state – boasting laid-back low buildings and shophouses spread along the azure coastline.

Right off Miri's Marina Bay Jetty is the Miri-Sibuti Coral Reefs National Park, which is best visited between late March and November. It is studded with boat wrecks and beautiful coral walls, and offers

some of the best diving in the region. Miri is also a veritable crossroads of cultures – its neighbour to the east is Brunei, and the city is also near the estuary of the mighty Baram River, a lifeline for the many *orang ulu* indigenous communities that live in the Kelabit Highlands bordering Indonesian Kalimantan.

While most visitors come to Miri en route to the Unesco World Heritage-listed caves of Mulu National Park, the city's own hidden charms definitely need at least a full day of your time.

# Saturday

🕒 6am

## Pay respect to the Grand Old Lady

Rise early to hike or drive up Canada Hill, named after the nationality of its first driller, Charles McAlpine. There you can see the **Grand Old Lady**, Miri's first oil well, opened by Royal Dutch Shell in 1910. It started the city's fortunes and still stands as a symbol of its future; after being headquartered in Kuala Lumpur for many years, Shell decided to move operations back to Miri in 2022. Next to the Grand Old Lady is the Petroleum Museum, a compact exhibition where you can learn more about the city's inception by oil.

Soaring behind Miri's old town centre, Canada Hill is a perfect viewpoint to watch the blazing sunrise paint the coast in golden hues. If you are fit and craving an early morning workout, rent a bicycle from Hiap Ho Cycle Works at Boulevard Mall, and try to pedal up here before the crack of dawn. *Canada Hill, 98000*



🕒 7.30 am

## Man up for breakfast

To regain some calories, have a *roti jantan*, one of Miri's most acclaimed breakfasts. It is essentially a spin on Malaysia's traditional *roti canai* with egg, but using two sunny-side-up eggs instead of one. **D'Aroma Cafe** in Saberkas Commercial Centre also makes a mean *roti jantan banjir*, flatbread "flooded" in a thick layer of curry, that's hailed as one of the best in town. *Lot 2164, Saberkas Commercial Centre; closed on Mondays.*



Facts about Miri, the cradle of Malaysia's petroleum industry and gateway to a Unesco heritage site



**28**  
Estimated number of indigenous groups in Sarawak

**8**  
Sarawak is home to eight of the world's 54 species of hornbills

 A simple line drawing of a hornbill, showing its long, pointed beak and crest.

**47**  
Number of dialects in Sarawak, of which one, Seru, is now extinct



**8.30 am**  
**Meet Sarawak's early people at the Niah Caves**

Approximately 80km to the southwest of Miri – a 90-minute drive – lies **Niah Caves Park**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Southeast Asia. A collective name for several caves located in the Niah-Subis limestone massif, it is the earliest known human settlement in Sarawak, dating back over 40,000 years. Bones found here include the oldest human skull outside of Africa, and prove the existence of continuous human settlement in the region, from the late Pleistocene and early Holocene periods. Niah Park also boasts Palaeolithic and Neolithic burial sites as well as ancient rock paintings. From the park headquarters, day visitors (from 8am to 3pm) can cross the Niah River in a motorised boat and then trek through a picturesque 3.1km jungle trail to reach the caves. Exploration starts at the entrance of the Great Cave – at 60m high, 250m wide and a floor area covering 10.5ha, it is one of the world's largest caverns. *Niah National Park; niahnationalpark.my*

**4pm**  
**Visit an old Chinese temple**

Return to Miri and ease back into modern history at the local **Tua Pek Kong** temple. Built in 1913 as the main shrine of the local Chinese community, it's one of the oldest Chinese Taoist shrines in the whole of Borneo and survived Japanese bombings during World War II. *Jalan Bendahara*



**5pm**  
**Train your eagle eye at Piasau Nature Reserve**

**Piasau Nature Reserve** is a well-kept secret of Miri locals. Situated just 5km north of Miri City Centre, visitors

often miss out on this green lung and birdwatching haven simply because they don't know about it. Two main walking trails – the 2.1km-long Faridah Loop and the 900m-long Community Trail – are usually dotted with ornithology enthusiasts who flock to the reserve in the early mornings (7am) or evenings (5pm) to try their luck in spotting as many of the 30 bird species found here.

Lot 1274, Jalan Peninsula;  
[piasaunaturereserve.com.my](http://piasaunaturereserve.com.my)

① **6.30pm**  
**Sunset activities at  
Coco Cabana**

Miri's stunning, purple-turning-blue sunsets are best seen from the shores

“  
**With so much  
coastline,  
coming to  
Miri and not  
trying its  
fresh seafood  
is a rookie  
mistake**”

of **Coco Cabana**, a sea-facing, open-air event space perched on a crest sheltering Miri's Marina Bay. Once the sun sets, turn your attention to the venue itself, which hosts a variety of events throughout the year. Check their social pages for upcoming events like artisan markets, music festivals and even a bikers convention, all happening under the watchful eyes of a giant seahorse statue, Miri's mascot, a gentle and gracious creature. Lot 2260, Jln Bandaraya; [fb.com/cococabana.miri](https://fb.com/cococabana.miri)

④ **7.30pm**  
**Indulge in Miri's  
famed seafood**

With so much coastline, coming to Miri and not trying its fresh seafood is a rookie mistake. **Apollo Seafood Centre** is among the city centre's heavyweight seafood stalwarts and is famous for pairing tank-to-table steamed fish dishes with stir-fried indigenous wild vegetables such as *midin*, a type of fern.

To dine closer to a beach, head to Tanjong Lobang and visit the popular **Meng Chai Seafood**, which is well-known for its tom yam *udang galah* (giant freshwater prawns), fried calamari and fried chicken feet.

For a sumptuous meal with hip vibes, get back to the centre at Container City, an upper-market, container-themed food court, where **Berbara Stall** serves yummy Indonesian-style *geprek* chicken – smashed fried chicken with sambal and served with a side of fragrant rice. Don't miss **Captain's Catch**, tucked in the last container at the back, a popular spot for seafood feasts. *Apollo Seafood Centre, Jalan Yu Seng; Meng Chai Seafood, Taman Selera Tanjong Lobang; Container City, Jalan North Yu Seng*

① **9.30pm**  
**Country road,  
take me home**

Among all of Miri's curious cross-cultural concoctions, the **Ship Café** deserves the attention of music lovers. On most nights, this is where orang ulu songwriters don cowboy hats and climb on stage to croon and strum their unending love for the American South. Country nostalgia lives on in the unlikely tropical home of Miri. *10 Jln Taman Piasau, Garden Shophouse*





### 3 hotels to stay

**Kingwood Boutique Hotel** is central and vintage-chic, with 49 rooms, a lobby café and restaurant, as well as a lively rooftop bar to while the night away. [kingwoodmiri.com.my](http://kingwoodmiri.com.my)

**Borneo Tropical Rainforest Resort** offers accommodation right inside the Lambir Hills National Park. [borneorainforestresort.com](http://borneorainforestresort.com)

**Pullman Miri Waterfront** has an infinity pool, beautiful sea and Miri River views, and is close to all the action. [pullmanmiriwaterfront.com-malaysia.com](http://pullmanmiriwaterfront.com-malaysia.com)



# Sunday

## 🕒 9am Shop local

Before you leave, pay a visit to **Tamu Muhibbah** – and don't be fooled by this market's unassuming appearance. This is where indigenous sellers from the many tribes living in the upper reaches of the Baram River come to sell their rare produce. From Bario's prized aromatic rice and rare plants to unlikely concoctions such as *gambir* (a local root with medicinal properties), a trip here always warrants some great finds.

For traditional arts and crafts souvenirs, the **Miri Handicraft Centre** is a showcase of hand-made products from northern Sarawak, including Melanau woven baskets, pottery and orang ulu beadwork. *Tamu Muhibbah, Jalan Padang; Miri Handicraft Centre, Jalan Brooke*

## 🕒 12pm One final lunch

**The Summit Café** is a great spot to try orang ulu food without having to fly to the Kelabit Highlands. Run by a Sa'ban owner, it functions like an economy rice joint with an ample choice of creatively cooked and piquant wild Borneo vegetables, and fermented, strong-scented meats that include the local *kijang* (a type of wild deer).

For something less exotic but no less popular, the super-central **Ming Café** is a well-loved local hangout. This laidback bistro and bar serves a wide variety of finger foods, pizzas and Asian classics, as well as a large selection of bottled and craft beers. *Corner of Jalan North Yu Seng and Jalan Merbau*



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Miri 24x weekly. Firefly flies from Kuching to Miri 7x weekly.



Scan to book a guided tour in Miri or more places in Sarawak with Journify.

# Flower

A large, vibrant arrangement of orange and yellow marigold flowers is the central focus, set against a bright blue background. The flowers are densely packed and arranged in a somewhat circular pattern. In the foreground, a ball of white thread is visible, suggesting the traditional craft of marigold garlands. The overall scene is festive and colorful, typical of the Deepavali celebration.

Take a multisensory journey to Mumbai's colourful flower markets and discover the special role they play in the celebration of Deepavali

Words **Karthika Gupta** Photography **Pankaj Anand**



power

**Previous spread:**  
Yellow and orange  
marigolds; inside  
Babulnath Temple

**W**ith over 21 million people living in Mumbai, the bustling megalopolis is a city that never sleeps.

Even as the city continues to expand outward and upward – with over 200 skyscrapers and counting – there are still places where tradition remains alive and well. One such example is the city’s vibrant flower markets. Apart from being oases of fragrant blooms and vibrant hues, they are also a feast for the eyes and a testament to the city’s rich heritage and diverse community.

There are many flower markets all over Mumbai, but the large wholesale ones, known as Phool Bazars, can be found at Dadar and Matunga. Dadar, Mumbai’s first planned area, is centrally located and regarded as the heart of the city. Matunga, an area predominantly inhabited by South Indians, is less than five kilometres away. Both flower markets are easily accessible via train, bus as well as taxis.

The best time to visit either of the markets is when it comes alive in the early hours of the morning, as truckloads of blooms from various corners of the city and across the state of Maharashtra arrive. Be ready to encounter large crowds of people who are there to make their livelihoods. Amidst the throng, you might experience jostling, pushing and a bit of yelling, particularly if you find yourself in their way. When you need a break from the hustle and bustle, there are plenty of food stalls scattered throughout the market where you can indulge in local delights. Treat yourself to a cup of masala tea and *chai aur nashta*, a traditional breakfast of delicious *poha* (flattened rice), *idlis* (savoury rice cake) and hot tea.

**NOTHING QUITE PREPARES YOU** for the almost kaleidoscopic vision that unfolds before your eyes when you duck into Dadar flower market’s main building. Just minutes from Dadar train station, this single-level warehouse houses up to 200 vendors selling all kinds of flowers, herbs and even banana leaves. More makeshift stalls line the small by-lane next to the building, adding to the cornucopia of sounds and smells all around. Boxes of flowers are unloaded amidst the lively chatter of wholesalers and middlemen haggling over daily rates. Nearby,



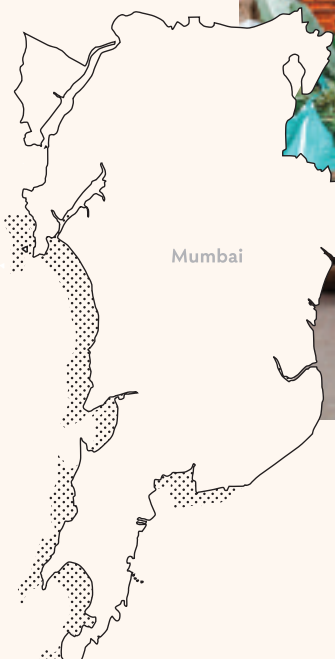


IMAGE: KARTHIKA GUPTA (PORTRAIT OF NARESH GOVARDHAN)

**This spread**  
**(clockwise from left):**  
 Early morning at Dadar Flower Market; hibiscus for sale; a garland of marigolds at Sri Ventatesh Balaji Temple; birds in flight at Walkeshwar Temple; flower vendor Naresh Govardhan at Dadar Flower Market

### This spread:

A street vendor sells roses in various colours

skilled flower vendors, known as *phoolwalas*, create flower garlands while exchanging smiles, friendly gossip and conversations about their day's plans.

It is inside Dadar flower market that we meet Hitesh Solanki, a second-generation flower merchant affectionately known as Hitesh *bhai* (brother), during a visit before the pandemic. He sits in a stall inside the main building, surrounded by huge wicker baskets filled with blooms, and some empty ones behind him, indicating a productive morning. "We start at 3.30am and sell out most mornings by 4.30am," he says. For Hitesh, flowers are not just a trade; they are his life and legacy. Inheriting the stall from his father, a Dadar local, Hitesh has been operating from the same location for almost 30 years now and jokes that he will continue to be immersed in this world of jasmine and marigolds until his final days.

"The market is as old as I am," says Naresh Govardhan, a 70-something immigrant from Agiaon, a small village in the Bhojpur district of Bihar. Wearing a crisp white shirt, long pants, a sweater vest and beanie on his head to ward off the morning chill, he reminisces about his move to Mumbai in 1963. Naresh set up shop at Dadar the flower market in 2018. Today, he sells everything from *tulsi* (holy basil) to jasmine garlands that his wife weaves, as well as large stalks of banana leaves. "I don't have any children to carry on my trade so eventually my wife and I will move back to Bihar, but for now, being surrounded by all these flowers makes my day," Naresh shares.

The consensus among another group of flower vendors is that the market is much older. Established between 1899 and 1900, Dadar has seen the growth of this marketplace for generations, making it an integral part of the city's rich cultural heritage.

**FLOWERS PLAY AN INTEGRAL ROLE** in Indian culture, often adorning temples, homes, businesses and even automobiles. Religious ceremonies are enriched with blooms that signify purity, devotion and auspiciousness. Women of all ages embrace the tradition of wearing flowers as accessories, adding a touch of grace and elegance to their



## Get in a festive mood

### Things to do in Mumbai during Deepavali

#### Follow the lights

Head out to LJ Road in Mahim, where makeshift stalls are set up hawking beautiful lanterns and clay *diyas* (lights) that are a must for Deepavali. The whole road is converted into a street market where you can buy anything from the smallest lamp to the biggest lantern.

#### Sate that sweet tooth

Stop by one of the many local Maharashtrian restaurants in town – such as Shiv Sagar in Vile Parle East or Gokuldas Gathiawala in Dadar West – for treats like *shrikhand* (sweet yogurt) and *puri* (deep-fried bread) or *chakli* (seasoned chickpea, rice flour and black gram snack).

#### Stroll along Bombay's Juhu Beach

Catch the cool sea breeze blowing off the Arabian Sea and, as dusk turns to night, head to Marine Drive or Charni Road for an impressive display of fireworks.









**This spread (clockwise from top left):** Garlands on a vehicle; vendors at Dadar Flower Market selling roses and jasmine; Hitesh Solanki; shops at Matunga Flower Market

IMAGE: KARTHIKA GUPTA (PORTRAIT OF HITESH SOLANKI)



“  
**Mumbai's flower  
 markets are a  
 captivating spectacle  
 where the beauty of  
 nature mingles with  
 the spirit of trade and  
 commerce, making it a  
 unique experience”**

attire. Blooms like marigolds, jasmine, lotus, roses and countless other local varieties are grown and used daily here.

During Deepavali, also known as the Festival of Lights and one of the most significant and widely celebrated festivals here, a variety of flowers are used in different ways to enhance the festive atmosphere.

Among the most used blooms are *genda* (marigolds) as their bright orange and yellow hues are considered auspicious, symbolising prosperity and happiness. Throughout Deepavali, genda garlands and flower arrangements adorn homes, temples, buildings and hotel entrances, creating a visually enchanting atmosphere.

Another beloved flower during Deepavali is *mogra* (Indian jasmine), with its sweet and alluring fragrance believed to attract positive energy and create a calming aura. Indians frequently string jasmine flowers into delicate garlands, using them to embellish religious idols in their homes. Roses also find their way into Deepavali celebrations. They are used in *rangoli* (colourful patterns made on the floor) and in floral arrangements. Chrysanthemums add splashes of vibrance to rangoli patterns and floral displays because of their longevity and vivid colours.

However, the favourite and most expensive – especially during the festive season – is

*kamal* (lotus flower). Apart from being India's national flower, it holds immense cultural and spiritual significance. During Deepavali, lotus flowers are used as decorations, to symbolise purity, beauty and enlightenment. In Hinduism, the lotus represents the divine beauty and purity of the gods. “All our gods – Lord Vishnu, Brahma, Lakshmi and Saraswathi – are often depicted seated on or holding a lotus. Bringing lotus flowers home during Deepavali is like inviting the gods into the house,” says Kamala Devi, a flower vendor who comes to Dadar every morning to buy flowers wholesale and sell them to homes in the area, especially lotus flowers, which are her best-selling product during this time of year. “No matter how much I plan ahead, I always run out,” she adds.

Mumbai's flower markets are a captivating spectacle where the beauty of nature mingles with the spirited energy of trade and commerce, making it a unique experience. For amidst the haggling, the laughing and the yelling comes a crescendo of peace: a surety that the vibrance and culture of India will never die out. ■



Malaysia Airlines flies between  
 Kuala Lumpur and Mumbai 10x weekly.



## We now connect you to more of India

New Malaysia Airlines routes from Kuala Lumpur to:

Amritsar  
 2x weekly starting 8 November, 2023

Trivandrum  
 2x weekly starting 9 November, 2023

Ahmedabad  
 4x weekly starting 1 December, 2023

# SABAH HEBAT!

Unforgettable adventures, wildlife encounters and bucket-list attractions – Sabah has it all

## A state of greatness

Located on Borneo, Sabah is renowned for its blend of nature and culture, making it a truly *hebat* (great) destination. Stunning landscapes abound, from the majestic Mount Kinabalu to centuries-old rainforests alongside the Kinabatangan River, which teem with wildlife such as orangutans, sun bears and proboscis monkeys.

Sabah is also home to Sipadan Island, which has some of the world's best-loved diving spots, such as Barracuda Point and Hanging Gardens.

Sabah's welcoming people contribute to the state's greatness. Indigenous groups like the Kadazandusun, Bajau and Murut love to share their languages and customs with those keen to explore.

Moreover, Sabahan ingenuity combines traditional know-how and modern entrepreneurship, as you will see in this special section. Sabahans' drive to create opportunities in modern economic sectors, such as food and hospitality, contribute to the prosperity of Malaysia.

## Unique stays in Sabah



### For a lush escape: Bungaraya Island Resort

Set on a jungle-swathed hillside perch on Gaya Island, Bungaraya Island Resort is a luxury getaway that promises seclusion. Its collection of 48 villas take design cues from traditional Bornean architecture and offer stunning coastal views.

The Bungaraya Island

Resort provides a haven for nature and adventure lovers. During your stay, you may be lucky to spot the elusive proboscis monkeys who inhabit the surrounding jungle or encounter a whaleshark during a diving trip off the island.

**Polish Bay, Gaya Island, Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, Kota Kinabalu | [echoresorts.com](http://echoresorts.com) | IG: @bungarayaresort | +60-88 380 390**



### For contemporary interiors: Signel Poshtel

Set in the heart of Kota Kinabalu, Signel Poshtel is a splendid base from which to explore this lively city. The surrounding neighbourhood – and Jalan Gaya area – is home to a wide array of street food vendors and bustling weekend markets. After your

explorations, retreat to the hotel's chic, modern rooms inspired by Parisian flair. Conveniently located, it's just a 20-minute drive from Kota Kinabalu International Airport. Whether you're travelling solo, on business or with your loved ones, you'll enjoy your stay at this rare gem of north Borneo.

**Levels 1 to 4, Lot 120, Jalan Gaya, Kota Kinabalu | IG: @signelposhtel | +60-88 221 168 | +60-1 1587 2391**



## Rustic retreat

Experience luxurious tranquility within the Bornean rainforest at Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Resort



A visit to Sabah means an unforgettable encounter with Borneo's most treasured resource: the tropical rainforest. And when it comes to a luxurious home base in the middle of the jungle, it doesn't get better than the rustic yet modern Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Resort.

Nestled within the untouched wilderness of the Sepilok rainforest, the resort is a green haven where tranquility and adventure come together. Not only is it conveniently located less than 10 minutes away from the world-famous Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, Borneo Sepilok

Rainforest Resort offers captivating encounters with nature and wildlife right at your doorstep.

### A fit for everyone

Whether you're seeking private seclusion or an affordable stay with a group of friends, the resort has comfortable lodgings for every type of visitor. The private and spacious wood-panelled chalets offer modern bathrooms and balconies from which to soak in the surroundings – some even come with private bathtubs and jacuzzis. On the other hand, the dormitories present a more laid-back and affordable option, perfect for solo travellers, budget adventurers or large groups. Both options come with air-conditioning, toiletries and other amenities.

Whichever you choose, peace and tranquility are a constant companion. After a day of exploring, recharge at the resort's in-house restaurant, and marvel at the symphony of birds and the gentle rustle of leaves just beyond.

**For more information on Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Resort, visit [borneosepilok.com](http://borneosepilok.com)**

## Choose your adventure

### Thrill seekers

Satisfy your adventurous spirit by exploring the untamed wilderness of Borneo. Trek through rainforest trails, encounter exotic wildlife and embark on guided expeditions with expert tour guides available upon request.

### Nature enthusiasts

Want to commune with nature but don't want to hike? You can sit back and explore the wilderness with river cruises and wildlife safaris that take you through the beauty of Sandakan and the surrounding rainforest.

### Wildlife explorers

Make the most of the resort's location, and let the front desk book you a trip to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre. Don't forget to bring your camera!



# Empowering local communities

The Sabah Land Development Board strives to uplift rural residents through agricultural initiatives

For many decades, the Sabah Land Development Board (SLDB) has remained steadfast in its mission to promote socio-economic development in rural Sabah. It has empowered some 7,000 settlers across Sandakan, Tawau, Kunak, Semporna, Lahad Datu, Beaufort, Keningau and Nabawan.

The board leads this charge with government-initiated programmes in commercial land development using modern agricultural technologies. In 2021, SLDB's palm oil production experienced a significant growth of 22%. During the same year, RM21 million in income and dividends were handed over to the smallholders and participants involved in the project.

SLDB's developing project SHAPE (Sipitang Halal Agri Plantation Economic Development Hub) covers 2,000 hectares in Kampung Iburu, Sipitang and is deemed to offer a solution to food security concerns, enhance GDP growth and decrease the state's import reliance. Besides its economic impact, the initiative is expected to create new

jobs and agropreneurship opportunities, benefiting about 2,500 local residents.

SLDB has an unwavering commitment to becoming the leading catalyst and executor of rural land development in Sabah, with a focus on the food industry. Apart from its successful ventures in palm oil, dairy farming and food production, SLDB has also diversified its businesses into other agricultural food-based products such as chillies, Bentong ginger, stingless bee honey, MD2 pineapple, pandan, coconut and peppers. This diversification enriches the community with new income opportunities and fosters a resilient agricultural landscape for sustainable growth.



For more information on Sabah Land Development Board's efforts, visit [sldb.com.my](http://sldb.com.my)

## SLDB's impactful ventures

### Palm oil plantation

SLDB manages over 20,000 hectares of land, including joint ventures and communal land development, as well as commercial palm oil estates operating under Keningau Agro-Venture Sdn Bhd (KAVSB).

### Palm oil processing

Palm oil processing has been part of the portfolio since the 1970s, under Pandewan Palm Oil Mill Sdn Bhd (PPOM) and Keningau Palm Oil Mill Sdn Bhd (KPOM), with advanced facilities for mid-stream production and high-quality oil extraction.

### Dairy farm

A 40-hectare intensive dairy cattle farm in Binakaan, Sook produces fresh milk and is looking to expand into downstream dairy and meat product processing.

### Rice

Led by SABARAS Sdn Bhd (SSB) with an aim to strengthen its local brand and generate more income through rice trading, cooking oil, and other essentials in the retail market.





*Chef DR. Alan Voo*

**蒸好食** FISH MARKET RESTAURANT

FISH MARKET SDN BHD  
No. A-G-2, Ground Floor, Block A Phase 1, Lorong Sutera,  
Sutera Avenue sembulan, 88100, Sutera Avenue,  
88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
Tel: +6012-803 5757 / +6088-252 255



# Time to feast

The best spots to eat while in Kota Kinabalu



## Happy Place Restaurant

Long beloved for its food and top-notch coffee, Happy Place Restaurant is also an ideal spot for your special event. The newly refurbished function hall offers 200m<sup>2</sup> of space that can be set up for milestone birthdays, corporate events and even weddings. And because an event is only as good as the food, Happy Place Restaurant brings years of catering experience to offer local, Western and Oriental dishes – with vegan options too! – either on-site or at your venue around Kota Kinabalu.

**Kompleks BSA, Off Miles 5.5, Jalan Tuaran Kolombong, Kota Kinabalu | FB: @happyplacebsa | +60 11-3668 7552**



## Souq Garden Restaurant

Set within the Raia Hotel Kota Kinabalu, in an ornately designed space, Souq Garden will entice you with a lavish selection of Middle Eastern dishes. The halal restaurant is open for lunch and dinner, and offers speciality dishes like biryani and mandi served with ample portions of chicken or lamb shank. You'll also find Malaysian favourites like a slow-cooked asam pedas oxtail served with fragrant jasmine rice, Tawau curry mee and Tuaran fried noodles.

**Raia Hotel, Jalan Sembulan Lama, Kota Kinabalu | raiahotels.com.my | IG: @raiahotelkotakinabalu | +60 88-230 777**



## Times Three Café

From hearty breakfast sandwiches and sourdough burgers to lighter salads, Times Three Café is a great spot in Kota Kinabalu to recharge between your jaunts into the city. Must-try dishes here include the deeply flavoured balsamic smoked duck linguine and their unique fusion-style asam pedas prawn pasta. In addition to robust coffees and delicately flavoured tea, you'll find refreshing beverages like matcha lattes and desserts like the indulgent chocolate tart and classic tiramisu.

**G-06, Ground Floor, JQ Central, Jalan Tun Fuad Stephens, Kota Kinabalu | IG: @timesthree\_ | +60 88-746 739**



October

# BEST SPOTS IN MALAYSIA

2023

The best hotels and restaurants to stay and dine in across Malaysia this month



## Pan Pacific Serviced Suites, Kuala Lumpur

With spacious suites and a central location in the city, this property is perfect for business trips and family vacations. Check into ultimate comfort with luxuries including a rain shower and Balmain Paris bath products. After a long day, travellers can take advantage of PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur's facilities and enjoy a rejuvenating massage at St. Gregory Spa, a hearty meal at Thyme or a refreshing beverage at The Botanist Lounge & Bar.

[panpacific.com](https://panpacific.com) | +60 3-2706 8688



## The Kasturi, Pahang

Forest bathers, take note. A highlight of The Kasturi's five-star beachfront property is the elevated walkway that connects all 23 villas from the arrival pavilion to the restaurant and bar at the Kachapuri main building. Masterfully engineered to leave the forest floor undisturbed, this walkway offers endless opportunities to bathe in the green light of the trees, and spot coastal birds like pied hornbills and giant sea eagles, as well as tiny forest species like sunbirds and the shy blue flycatcher.

[the-kasturi.com](https://the-kasturi.com) | +60 9-582 5000



## Le Méridien, Petaling Jaya

Bundle relaxation and adventure into one memorable getaway at Le Méridien Petaling Jaya. The five-star hotel offers guests free admission to Escape Petaling Jaya indoor park, located just a two-minute walk away. Jump, climb, fly and scream your way through a dozen obstacle activities before relaxing back in your elegant room, featuring marble bathrooms with MALIN+GOETZ bath products. Don't forget to refuel at PJ's Bar & Grill, located by the infinity pool on the 30th floor.

[lemeridienpetalingjaya.com](https://lemeridienpetalingjaya.com) | +60 3-7682 0000



## Mangala Estate, Boutique Resort (formerly Mangala Resort & Spa)

Taking inspiration from the Sanskrit word for auspicious well-being, the Mangala Experience thrives as an independent, boutique resort that offers guests mindful tranquillity, echoing its intimate landscape. Enjoy personalised service in 67 private villas, savour nourishing cuisine and embrace holistic wellness to balance the mind, body and soul. Surround yourself in a flourishing ecosystem that invites you to relax and rejuvenate.

[frankyhotels.com/mangalaestate](https://frankyhotels.com/mangalaestate) | +60 9-505 7788



#### **For a taste of two continents: Luca**

Luca at Bangsar Shopping Centre offers an inspired menu of European and Indian delicacies, ranging from burgers and Tomahawk steaks to delectable tandoori dishes – all in a sophisticated, sun-drenched space with wood panelling and blue velvet chairs. While each dish is mouth-watering, don't miss the best-selling whole seabass. Simply put, it's a seafood lover's dream come true: The delicately pan-fried fish is tender and flaky, seasoned with aromatic herbs, and served atop a bed of perfectly sautéed quinoa, accompanied by a medley of kale, pickled onion and tomato confit. Pair your meal with one of Luca's premium wines for a satisfying and elegant culinary experience.

**Bangsar Shopping Centre, 285, Jalan Maarof, Bukit Bandaraya, Kuala Lumpur | IG/FB: @luca.bsckl | +60 3-2011 1399**



#### **For Southeast Asian fusion: Manja Kuala Lumpur**

Led by culinary innovator Navin Karu, Manja's menu showcases dishes inspired by cherished family recipes and the vibrant food cultures of the region. Nestled within a gracefully restored colonial building on Lorong Raja Chulan, the ambiance blends the charm of old Malaya with the modern allure of Kuala Lumpur. Don't miss the tamarind chilli barramundi, a proudly Asian dish that delivers five tastes for ultimate satisfaction: sweet coconut cream, sour smoked tamarind, spicy chilli, bitter ulam raja and salty garlic dust. Also be sure to try the bumba cauliflower steak, a dish that pays tribute to vegetarians but has been created to tempt and delight the meat lovers.

**6, Lorong Raja Chulan, Kuala Lumpur | manja.com.my | IG: @manjakualalumpur | +60 12-373 7063**



#### **For solid Italian in a modern setting: Alta Pizza**

Chef Christian Recomio, who helms Alta Café, Alta Burger and modern dining establishment Studio with business partner Jenifer Kuah, now has a brand new eatery, this time focused on the joys of simple pizzas, handmade pastas and delicious vegetables. But beware, this isn't an old-timey red and white checkered tablecloth kind of pizza parlour. Alta Pizza is a modern, sun-drenched, pork-free space in bustling Bangsar with a beautiful Stefano Ferrara pizza oven taking pride of place. The Neo Neapolitan-style pizzas are a beautiful canvas for made-fresh-daily cheese and seasonal local produce, while the drinks list comprises natural wines, classic cocktails and a house-made limoncello, distilled from Amalfi lemons.

**38, Jalan Kemuja, Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur | altapizza.co | IG: @alta\_pizza\_ | +60 16-425 0773**



#### **For modern Thai cuisine: Ekkamai**

Named after a heritage-packed food street in Bangkok, Ekkamai serves top-notch Thai cuisine with a modern twist. Its location in posh Damansara Heights is mirrored by the sleek, spacious interiors accented by lattice wood and plush, jewel-tone sofas – ideal for date night, work lunch or family dinner. The real highlight is the menu, of course, developed by award-winning Chef Aya, who balances authenticity with innovation. A recent revamp means even longtime fans have new dishes to try, such as the oxtail curry and sweet corn fritters. Seafood lovers shouldn't miss the luxurious new crab curry with whole crab and crab nuggets, and grilled dishes such as the charcoal hamachi collar with Thai chilli dip.

**8, Jalan Batai, Plaza Batai, Bukit Damansara | ekkamai.com.my | IG: ekkamai.my | +60 3-2011 1029**



# Take me to the water

Located in Ipoh, The Banjaran Hot Springs Retreat is Malaysia's most unique wellness getaway

Wellness experiences are par for the course at luxury resorts. But The Banjaran Hot Springs Retreat reinvents the very idea of a wellness getaway. In addition to its 44 luxury villas and spa, what sets this award-winning hideaway apart is its deep symbiosis with nature.

Managed by Sunway Hotels & Resorts, The Banjaran is built in harmony with the tropical rainforest, as well as 260 million year-old Paleozoic limestone hills, offering not just hot springs, but a getaway that puts guests in nature's embrace at every turn.

## In nature's embrace

The highlight of The Banjaran is the geothermal bounty that run through the property. An underground hot spring is naturally fed by rainwater percolating through limestone hills, picking up health-giving minerals and dissolved ions. This water powers not just the hot spring pools and the geothermally heated swimming pool but features such as the Thermal Steam Cave – a natural sauna with temperatures of 65-70°C.

Guests seeking deep healing will find no better place than the Meditation Cave – lined with grey limestone – and the Crystal Cave, whose amethyst and quartz crystals are the perfect site for energy healing treatments such as Reiki.

## Otherworldly villas

An extension of The Banjaran's natural setting, the 44 Garden, Water and Lake villas have been built within a secluded cove,



surrounded by limestone cliffs – without compromising any trees. Guests can choose from villas hidden behind a veil of foliage, perched over waterways or overlooking a pristine lake.

This communion with the natural world is matched with thoughtful luxury, such as feather-bed topped mattresses, indoor and outdoor rain showers and geothermally heated hot tubs. To top it off, personalised butler service anticipates guests' needs and comfort.

## Memorable meals

Mealtimes at The Banjaran are also a chance to savour exclusive natural locations. Don't miss Jeff's Cellar, one of the world's most unique fine-dining destinations. The cave chamber setting and medieval décor deliver an unparalleled space to sip rare wines. Alternatively, On the Rocks lounge is also built within a cave, with upper and lower decks overlooking a hot springs lake.



## Spa Day

Day visitors to Ipoh can also take advantage of The Banjaran's award-winning spa and other wellness facilities for a nominal day rate. Additionally, guests and visitors alike can choose from 40 types of Malay, Ayurvedic and TCM treatments that use pure and natural ingredients, as well as consult with yoga instructors and personal trainers. Call ahead to inquire.



thebanjaran.com  
@thebanjaranhot springs  
+60 5-210 7777



# Kapten Batik makes retail fun again

The Malaysian fashion label's new boutique in Penang merges art and functionality to deliver a new shopping experience

With the rise of online shopping in recent years, brick-and-mortar retail has taken a back seat. But homegrown contemporary batik label Kapten Batik is set to reverse the trend with its stunning new boutique in Gurney Paragon, Penang.

With several retail spaces across Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, Kapten Batik aims to rejuvenate the joy of shopping with its first boutique located in the heart of George Town's heritage core. The 1,488ft<sup>2</sup> space, designed by award-winning firm Matthew Lim Associates, is more than just a showcase of the brand's creative collection; it's a combination of inspiring interior design, local art and hi-tech touches.



**A space for contemporary heritage**  
Visitors will experience Kapten Batik's "urban luxury" concept right away with the open-concept space and accents such as wooden crafts, bamboo ceilings and rattan pendant lamps. Curated by landscape artist Tze Chin from Stardust Trinket, the handcrafted elements across the boutique reflect the motifs found in Kapten Batik's pieces.

**Art meets functionality**  
In the centre of the boutique, you can't miss the first-ever batik tree, created by renowned sculpture artist Pamela Tan from Poh Sin Studio. Mirroring Kapten Batik's brand ethos, the Batik Tree sculpture blends batik heritage and contemporary design. It draws inspiration from the intricate custom designs of Kapten Batik's shirts, resembling a palm tree with a KB monogram and delicate patterns.  
At the base of the sculpture, a display table in the shape of petals enhances the shopping experience by

incorporating art and functionality. On your visit, pay attention to the enchanting shadows of the intricate patterns cast on the ceiling.

**Come one, come all**  
Shopping can be stressful, especially when you're with the entire family. In Kapten Batik's family-friendly boutique, comfortable seating ensures that your loved ones have a space to lounge as you shop with ease. The boutique also boasts a large fitting room with artificial daylight to showcase your outfit in the best light.

With these thoughtful touches, artful décor and of course a fantastic collection, Kapten Batik's boutique engages all the senses to deliver an exciting shopping experience.

Visit the new Kapten Batik boutique at **2.27A, Level 2 Gurney Paragon Mall 163-D, Persiaran Gurney**  
[www.kaptenbatik.com.my](http://www.kaptenbatik.com.my)



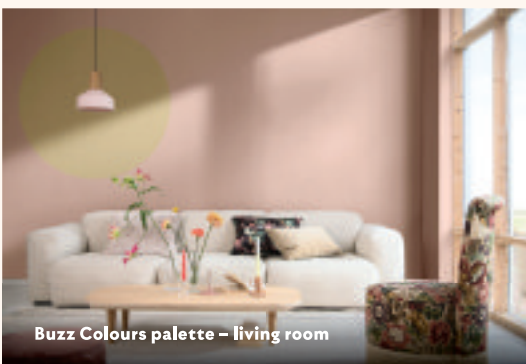
Raw Colours palette – kitchen



Lush Colours palette – dining room



Flow Colours palette – bedroom



Buzz Colours palette – living room

## The colours of nature

A craving for nature has inspired our décor choices for 20 years – AkzoNobel's expert designers offer ways to bring it into our homes

The impact of colour cannot be overestimated. When designing living and working spaces, the colour of our walls has a bigger impact than any other design choice. After all, colours have the power to impact our mood, outlook and productivity.

That's why every year since 2004, AkzoNobel's Global Aesthetic Center – led by creative director Heleen Van Gent – has produced the Trend Forecast. Global experts from different fields and geographies meet to share insights about where the world is headed in the next year. AkzoNobel's designers then take these insights – a mix of cultural, design, economic and social trends – and translate them into living colours that will feel right for living and commercial spaces.

For the past 20 years, AkzoNobel Trend Forecast, through its brand Dulux, has proposed a Colour of the Year and related palettes that express the mood of the moment.

### Our enduring values

Though trends come and go, what lies underneath are eternal human values such as empathy, play and balance. These have come up again and again in the Trends Forecast, with the most enduring being nature.

In 2023, with issues such as climate change dominating public discussion, our obsession with nature reached new heights. That's why AkzoNobel's Global Aesthetic Centre have chosen Seeds of Wonder as the Theme of the Year, and Wild Wonder (Winter's Silence 50YY 49/191) as the Colour of the Year.

### Nature's many shades

Of course, there are countless ways to translate nature's magic into our living and working spaces. Wild Wonder can be used on its own for a monochrome feel, or as part of four related colour palettes to achieve different moods.

The shades of green in the Lush Colours palette soothe the mind by bringing hues of trees and foliage into the home. The Raw Colours palette, on the other hand, borrows from warm harvest shades to bring an earthy, grounded feeling to any room. The Buzz Colours palette delivers energy and positivity by celebrating the shades of wildflowers, while the seashore shades of the Flow Colours palette are inspired by the tides and bring balance and fluidity to your space.

**For more colour themes and expert tips on using them in your home or commercial space, download the 20 Years of Colour Futures e-book at [dulux.com.my](https://dulux.com.my)**



# NEVER MISS A TRAVEL TIP

Go to [goingplaces.malaysiaairlines.com](https://goingplaces.malaysiaairlines.com)



# THIS IS MH

(MALAYSIAN HOSPITALITY)



Welcome on board MAG Airlines!  
This month, see what we have on offer  
to ensure that you have a safe, seamless  
and fuss-free journey with us.

**54**

**Inside  
our airlines**

News and updates  
from MAG Airlines

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**Discover our  
network**

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

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**Onboard  
entertainment**

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



Amritsar Golden Temple

## Malaysia Airlines expands connectivity in India with three new routes

Malaysia Airlines sets forward a new Commercial Elevation journey to expand its footprint to India with the commencement of three new services between Kuala Lumpur (KUL) and Amritsar (ATQ), Trivandrum (TRV) and Ahmedabad (AMD) effective 8 November, 9 November and 1 December 2023 respectively. The expansion will bring Malaysia Airlines' point-to-point connectivity from KL to India to nine key hubs, thereby providing passengers with enhanced options and flexibility for travel between the two countries. MH currently operates direct flights to New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi. The new routes will be operated by the Boeing 737-800NG aircraft, equipped with 160 seats, comprising 16 seats in Business Class and 144 seats in Economy Class.



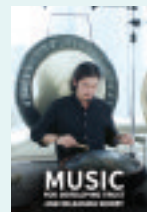
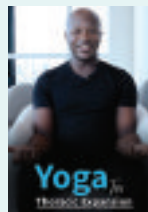
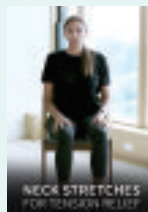
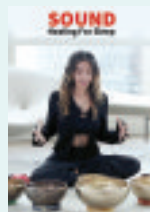
Padmanabhaswamy temple in Trivandrum



Bhadra Fort in the walled city area of Ahmedabad



### Caravan Wellness partners with Malaysia Airlines to bring curated mindfulness content



Malaysia Airlines' passengers can now gain access to Caravan Wellness' mindfulness, stretching, meditation and sound healing content via MHstudio, the airline's in-flight entertainment system, making travel more peaceful and revitalising. Malaysia Airlines customers have access to wellness content such as Sound Healing for Sleep,

Neck Stretches for Tension Relief, Yoga for Thoracic Expansion, Breathing for Calm and Inner Peace and Music for Releasing Worry and Developing Trust. By integrating their high-quality content into Malaysia Airlines' offerings, Caravan Wellness aims to prioritise wellbeing for all and make wellness resources accessible to all travellers.



## Flight check-in at KL Sentral



Are you in a hurry to make it to the airport to complete your flight check-in? Checking in for your flight at KL Sentral offers a significantly more convenient option. It's a straightforward and speedy process. By doing this, you not only alleviate your concerns and drop off your luggage earlier but also guarantee a swift and dependable transfer via the KLIA Ekspres train from KL Sentral to the airport. All you require is a valid ticket for KLIA Ekspres or KLIA Transit.



## Malaysia Airlines introduces MHsports and MHcruise

The airline has launched new product offerings MHsports and MHcruise to further enhance the overall traveller experience while further enhancing a suite of their existing commercial products. MHsports provides groups of five or more people travelling for sporting purposes to enjoy unbeatable perks including special fares, extra 10kg baggage allowance, flexible date and time changes, and the convenience of extending your journey with a flexible return date. Meanwhile, MHcruise

features special discounted fares tailor-made for selected travel trades to seamlessly integrate with their cruise packages. Designed to cater to a wide spectrum of travellers, MHcruise ensures convenience for all with discounted fares, including special fares for kids under 12, extra 10kg baggage allowance, preferential fares on both Business and Economy Class seats, and the freedom to choose one-way or return trips to various destinations within the Malaysia Airlines network.

## Journify enhances the travel experience with Tourplus and Flowerchimp

The partnership between Journify and Tourplus, an online marketplace for travellers, enables them to seamlessly organise their trips. Customers can instantly access Tourplus' vehicle pricing, pre-select their preferred ride and date, and secure a dedicated driver all through the Journify platform. This service complements MH travellers and passengers of other airlines operating at both KLIA Terminal 1 and 2.

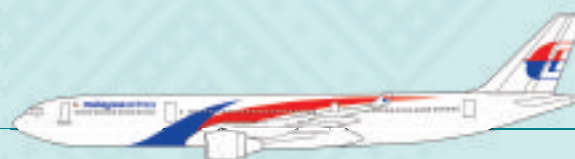
Meanwhile, Flowerchimp, Malaysia's premier online flower and gift delivery service, offers customers the opportunity to go the extra mile to surprise not only friends, family, and loved ones but also welcome esteemed business associates with the delivery of fresh flower bouquets directly to their arrival gate, even before immigration and baggage claim. Through Journify, this pioneering flower delivery service is the first and only of its kind at Malaysia's arrival gates.





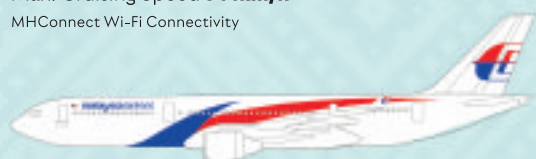
**A350-900**  MHconnect

No. of Aircraft **6** | Passenger Seating **286**  
Length **66.80m** | Wingspan **64.75m** | Height **17.05m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **944km/h**  
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity



**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



**B737-800NG**

No. of Aircraft **39** | Passenger Seating **160, 166, 174**  
Length **39.5m** | Wingspan **38.50m** | Height **12.50m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **857km/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**



**B737-800NG**

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**  
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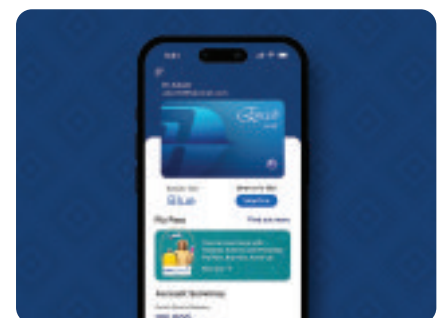


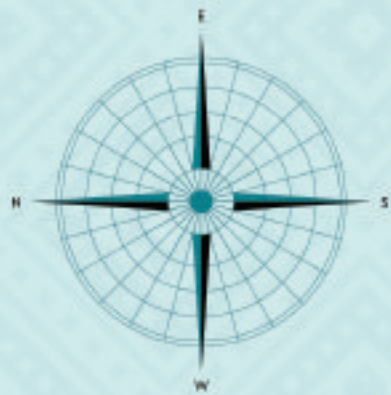
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# NOW SHOWING

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## The Flash

Check out our **Halloween Special Movies** on page 68 and **Indian Movie Collection** on page 73!



**Insidious**



**Varisu**



**Lights Out**



**Selfie**

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## The Flash

DC's latest film about the superhero speedster delivers action, humour, heartfelt moments and mind-bending time travel

*The Flash* presents an enthralling and multifaceted narrative that skillfully weaves together the intricate threads of time travel, alternate realities and the indomitable spirit of heroes facing unimaginable challenges. Barry Allen, portrayed with captivating determination by Ezra Miller, races against the relentless march of time to rectify the unintended consequences of his actions and prevent the grim future he has inadvertently set in motion, but is confronted with a profound and existential question that lies at the heart of the story: Is he prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice, plunging himself into the unknown to reset the very foundations of the universe? The movie promises a cinematic experience of unparalleled excitement and

intrigue, catering to both the die-hard fans of the superhero genre and those seeking an engrossing narrative that transcends the boundaries of time and space. With a stellar cast, a gripping storyline that navigates the complexities of temporal manipulation, and visual effects that breathe life into every action-packed sequence, *The Flash* stands as a testament to the boundless possibilities of modern filmmaking.

Ezra Miller's portrayal of Barry Allen stands as a magnetic centrepiece, deftly capturing the character's determination, vulnerability and the immense weight of the choices he must make. Michael Keaton's return as Batman not only injects a nostalgic element into the film but also brings a fresh perspective to the iconic character.

## Hollywood Latest



*Insidious: The Red Door* is a 2023 American supernatural horror movie. Patrick Wilson makes his directorial debut with a script by Scott Teems, based on a story by Leigh Whannell and Teems. The film, a direct sequel to *Insidious: Chapter*

2, is the fifth in the franchise. James Wan and Jason Blum produce. The cast includes familiar faces like Wilson, Ty Simpkins, Rose Byrne and Lin Shaye, with new additions. The story follows Josh Lambert as he takes his son Dalton to school, only for their past demons to resurface and turn their lives into a terrifying ordeal.



Facing daunting missions and odds, Dom Toretto's family has consistently outsmarted foes. But a new vengeful enemy emerges, threatening all Dom holds dear. *Fast X* (or *Fast & Furious 10*), a 2023 action film directed by Louis Leterrier, follows *F9*. Vin Diesel stars as Toretto, joined by Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson and John Cena.



Drawn from a real-life account, this narrative follows a husband and wife who navigate the highs and lows of existence when they unexpectedly inherit a struggling farm due to a heartrending loss. The movie stars Alicia Kelley, Austin Chunn, Tamika Reed-Newman, Carter Barley and Mary Rachel Francis.



Eleanor (played by Shailene Woodley) is a youthful and gifted yet internally conflicted officer within the Baltimore Police Department. Her past troubles weigh heavily on her as she's called upon by Lammark (portrayed by Ben Mendelsohn), the chief investigator of the FBI. Lammark seeks her assistance in creating a killer's profile.



A rookie in the world of race-car driving seizes the opportunity to directly compete against the reigning champion. With the mentorship of a former driver, he must skillfully navigate difficult terrains, rival contenders and unexpected obstacles to showcase his abilities. Directed by Ross Venokur.



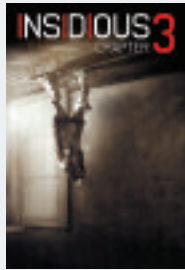
The plot centres on Violet Morton, a 32-year-old film executive who follows her fears, known as "The Voice," when making life choices – romantic, familial and professional. These fear-driven decisions intend to avoid worst-case scenarios but have led her away from her true self. Stars Olivia Munn and Justin Theroux.



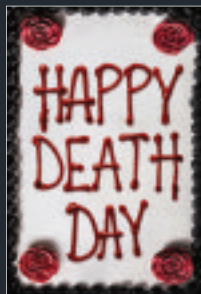
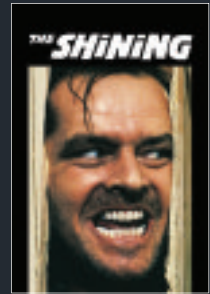
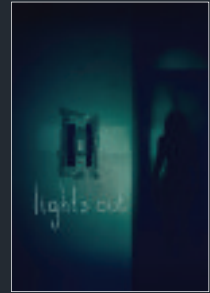
Based on Robert Sheckley's 1973 short story *The Robot Who Looked Like Me*, where advanced androids serve as labourers in the year 2023. Wealthy suburbanites Elaine and Charles use android duplicates to avoid dating challenges. Starring Shailene Woodley and Jack Whitehall, this movie is co-directed by Ant Hines and Casper Christensen.



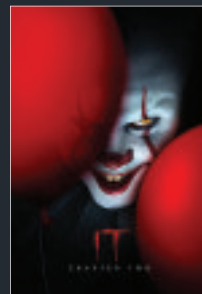
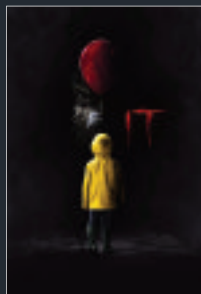
## Halloween Special



Dive into the *Insidious* horror series, co-crafted by Leigh Whannell and James Wan. From the bone-chilling "Insidious" (2010) to the eerie "Chapter 2" (2013), the saga evolves with supernatural pulse, enigmatic depths and forthcoming mysteries. Each chapter weaves eerie tapestry, shaping horror through fear.



In a world where horror and humour entwine, the *Happy Death Day* series is a thrilling rollercoaster of frights and laughter. With heart-pounding suspense and surprising comedy, it has audiences screaming in terror and laughing in surprise.



The *It* series delves into supernatural fear, adapted from Stephen King's novel. Beginning with "It" (2017) and "Chapter Two" (2019), it hauntingly portrays a malevolent entity preying on children's fears in a town called Derry.



The *Hotel Transylvania* film series offers a delightful and comedic twist on classic monster lore. Centred around Count Dracula's lavish resort for monsters, the series boasts a lighthearted charm that appeals to audiences of all ages. With a perfect blend of humour, heart and a touch of spookiness, the films follow Dracula's misadventures as he navigates fatherhood, friendships and unexpected guests.

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# MOVIES

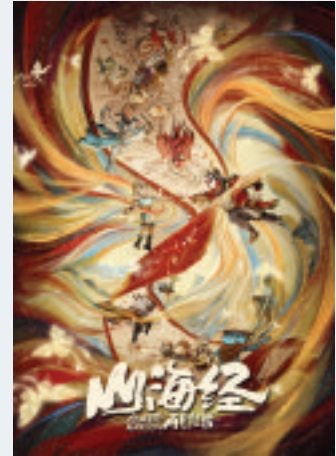
## Korean



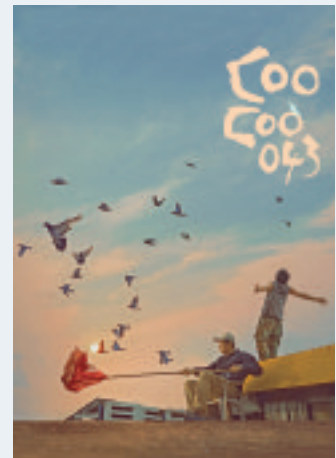
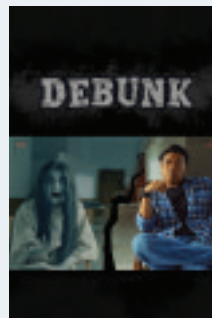
## Thai



## Chinese



## Malay



## Japanese



Embark on a romantic journey with *Gold Kingdom and Water Kingdom*, a Japanese movie directed by Kotono Watanabe. Starring Kento Kaku, Minami Hamabe and Banjô Ginga, the film follows Sara and Naranbayar,

two individuals from different realms. Chance brings them together, compelling them to pose as a couple for the sake of harmony. Amid their charade, love blossoms unexpectedly, weaving a heartwarming tale.

Step into the enchanting tale of *Coo-Coo 043*, a 2022 Taiwanese drama penned and helmed by Chan Ching-lin. Unfolding in the realm of pigeon racing, the narrative orbits around a resilient family that hinges on this sport for livelihood. In the shadows of financial decline and the vanishing of their son, their story resonates. This cinematic gem took the spotlight as the opening act at the esteemed 2022 Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival. It soared further, clinching the Best Narrative Feature accolade at the 59th Golden Horse Awards.



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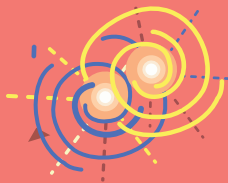
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## Indian Movie Collection



**Varisu** (meaning heir) is a 2023 Tamil action drama directed by Vamshi Paidipally. Co-written by Hari and Ahishor Solomon, it's produced by Dil Raju and Sirish. With Vijay, R. Sarathkumar, Rashmika Mandanna and others, it revolves around an entrepreneur's youngest son unexpectedly becoming chairman, straining relations with his brothers.



**Selfie** (2023), a Hindi comedy-drama directed by Raj Mehta and produced by Dharma Productions, Magic Frames, Prithviraj Productions and Cape of Good Films, with Star Studios distributing. Starring Akshay Kumar, Emraan Hashmi and Diana Penty, it's a remake of *Driving Licence*, revolving around an RTO Inspector's rivalry with a famed actor.



This World Mental Health Day, delve into the touching drama **Ho Ja Mukht**. Guided by Sumeet Nagdev, the cast, including Shibani Bedi and Krishna Chaturvedi, embodies the journey of 21-year-old Vicky. Navigating inner illusions and parental disconnect, the film spotlights mental health battles, urging empathy and awareness.



**The Eken: Ruddhaswas Rajasthan** (translating to The Eken: the breathless Rajasthan) is a 2023 Bengali detective crime film directed by Joydip Mukherjee. Produced by Shrikant Mohta and Mahendra Soni for Shree Venkatesh Films, it's the second instalment in the Ekenbabu franchise, following the 2022 film *The Eken*. Anirban Chakrabarti takes on the starring role.





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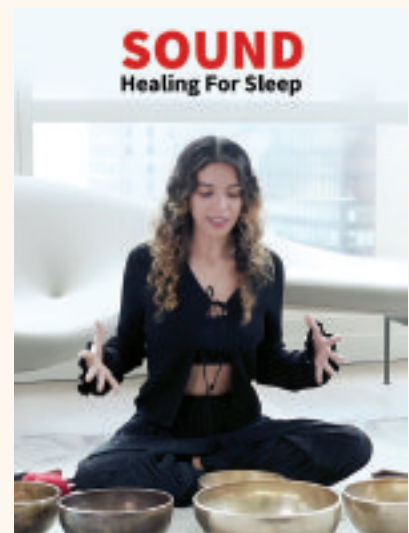
## History



## Business



## Lifestyle



## Comedy



*The Kominsky Method* is a Chuck Lorre comedy-drama series starring Michael Douglas and Alan Arkin. It humorously explores ageing and relationships through Sandy Kominsky, a former actor turned coach, and agent Norman Newlander, as they navigate life's challenges with humour and depth.

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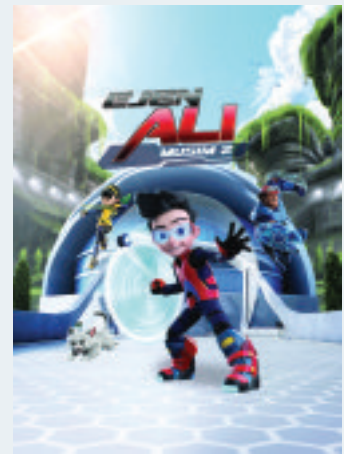
### Chinese



### Japanese



### Malay



### Korean



### Hindi



### Tamil



### Kids



In the vibrant Malay drama *Lecturerku, Oppa!* the spotlight shines on Hwang Jung-Hyun, a fresh-faced Korean lecturer setting foot in a Malaysian university. Amidst his alluring charm and admiration from students and colleagues alike, his gaze remains steadfast on Sara, a final-year student in his class. With stars Hanbyul and Sweet Qismina, the tale unfolds, weaving a web of emotions and connections in the academic realm.

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### Tamil

The *Pathu Thala* album, crafted by the maestro A.R. Rahman, graced the scene in 2023. This musical journey features a stellar cast including Silambarasan, Gautham Karthik, Priya Bhavani Shankar and Gautham

Vasudev Menon. The lyrical prowess of Vivek, Kabilan, Snehan and Naattu Raja Durai adds depth to the melodies. With tracks like "Namma Satham", "Ninaivirukka", "Nee Singam Dhan" and "Raawadi", the album harmonises seamlessly with the director Obeli N. Krishna's vision. In the heart of Tamil, *Pathu Thala* weaves its enchantment.

### Indonesian



### Malay



### Memories



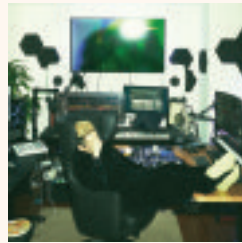
### Mandarin



### Hindi



### Japanese



### Soundtrack



### Club



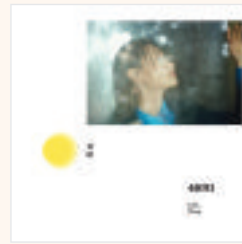
### Korean



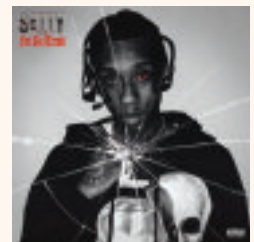
### Relax



### Cantonese



### R&B



### The Hits



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## Chasing waterfalls

**In the heart of Datai Bay rainforest** lies Langkawi Island's captivating Temurun Waterfall – the tallest on the island. Beloved by nature photographers for its wild beauty, it boasts three tiers of pools, with a striking, 40m-long vertical stream at the middle tier flowing unencumbered. A tranquil pool at its base adds allure, urging observers to embrace nature's splendour. Despite great weather, Andy Pua, a hobbyist photographer and father of two, faced challenges photographing it during a recent family vacation. "Reaching Temurun [with photography gear] is tough due to the challenging stairs. Because I needed strong GPS to safely fly my drone, I launched it at the car park near the main road. I struggled for a signal around the waterfall but managed to grab this shot." Pua got lucky as there weren't that many visitors that day. The resulting image captures the cascade's unobstructed flow, transporting viewers to a state of relaxation. [instagram.com/andy\\_pua](https://www.instagram.com/andy_pua)

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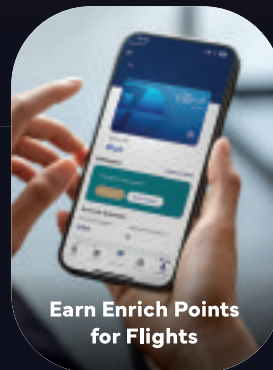
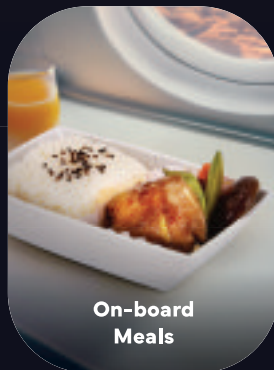
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