



Going Places

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

DECEMBER 2023

Seoul searching

A K-drama tour to soothe
mind, body and spirit

RETURN TO BANGKOK'S OLDEST STREET

Hip and trendy dining on
Charoen Krung Road

24 HOURS IN SIBU

Nature trails and
Bornean heritage in
central Sarawak



17 reasons
to fall in love
with Malaysia

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12 KEY
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DECEMBER 2023

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About the cover

Gyeongbokgung Palace in winter.
Photo: Nghia Khanh / Shutterstock

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MANDARIN ORIENTAL
KUALA LUMPUR



LUXURY BREAKS

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Kelab Tani, a clubhouse exclusively curated for residents of Wetlands Estates

THE EDGE Top Property
Developers Awards
2022



 
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Bandar Gamuda Cove

gamudacove.com.my
03 9212 0431



Dear guests,

It is my pleasure to welcome you onboard with our Malaysian Hospitality.

As the year draws to a close, it is only natural for us to reflect on our endeavours from the past year. It has certainly been an exciting journey for us, especially as we are seeing air travel taking flight again, both domestically and internationally. As a Group, we are looking to restore our pre-Covid-19 capacity in 2024, aligning with the global targets where air traffic is expected to recover in the same year. As the flag bearer of our home nation, Malaysia, we remain steadfast in our role to provide seamless connectivity whether you are seeking to explore the beauty of your own backyard in Malaysia, or embark on a trek across the globe – and we wish to thank you for your continued loyalty and trust in our airlines.

In 2023, we strengthened our presence in key markets with the introduction of new routes, while also reinstating and increasing our flight frequencies. In quarter four alone, Malaysia Airlines commenced three new Indian routes and reinstated flights to Indonesian city, Kertajati; signifying our commitment to our expansion strategy and meeting demands from the market. Meanwhile, Firefly has commenced its

second jet operations into Thailand with the launch of the Penang-Bangkok route. As part of our commitment to enhance your onboard experience, Firefly unveiled a new cabin look onboard its Boeing 737-800 aircraft, equipped with modern seats and a fresh cabin ambience. I invite you to experience this yourself the next time you travel from Firefly's Penang or Kota Kinabalu hub for your next holiday within Malaysia or across ASEAN.

We acknowledge that this recovery journey is not without its challenges. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any shortcomings you may have experienced throughout the various touchpoints during your journey and assure you of our continuous dedication to ensuring your travel experience with us is uncompromised on quality, comfort and safety.

We will continue to invest in your comfort and convenience by strengthening our product and service offerings, with exciting initiatives in the pipeline including the introduction of new seat types on our first A330neo, expected to arrive in September 2024. Our dedication towards innovation and sustainability will only grow stronger, and we will work diligently to ensure that whether you travel with us for leisure or business, you will experience unparalleled service underpinned by our inimitable Malaysian Hospitality.

As we gear up for the holiday season and the beginning of a new year, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to you, our loyal customers, for being with us on this journey. Whether this is your first flight, or you have flown many flights with us, your unwavering trust and steadfast support have been the cornerstone of our journey and growth. We value every feedback you have given us and trust me when I say it does not go unnoticed. I assure you of our continuous initiatives to enhance every aspect of your experience with us in the coming years ahead and beyond.

Happy New Year and hope to see you onboard again soon.

Izham Ismail

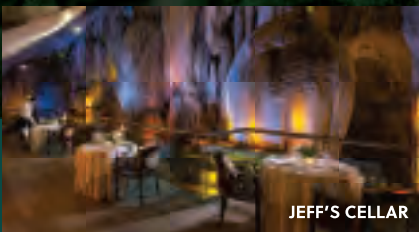
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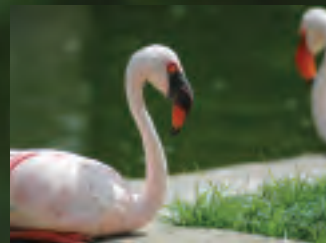
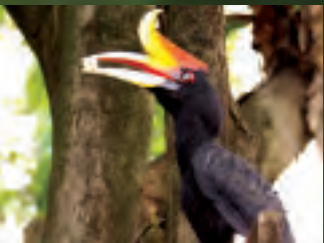




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Kuala Lumpur

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

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*Discover this exciting world
of feathered friends!*

Welcome, readers, to the December edition of our in-flight travel magazine, where we embark on an exhilarating journey through some of MAG's vibrant destinations. Whether you're looking for the latest hot spots to shop, eat, stay and play around Malaysia (p15), finding inspiration on a 24-hour itinerary in Sibu, central Sarawak (p53) or checking out a fine dining experience in Pasteur, Bandung (p36), turn the pages and pick your adventure.

Our cover story this month takes us into the heart of Seoul to unravel the world of Korean television dramas. More popularly known as K-drama, it's grown into an unstoppable global sensation – perhaps it's the fusion of traditional Korean values with modern storytelling that makes it so relatable worldwide. But often, the level of K-drama popularity has been especially enlightening to the Korean diaspora like Marie Myung-Ok Lee, this month's cover story contributor, author and overseas Korean whose parents were displaced by wars. For Marie, returning as a tourist to Seoul, arguably one of today's top cities to visit in the world, has been enlightening and uplifting – read her story on p60.

Shifting gears to Bangkok's Charoen Krung Road, we invite you to experience a pulsating lifestyle along the city's oldest boulevard. Lined with trendy cafés, pushcart food stalls, innovative fine dining and avant-garde art galleries, this historic road narrates the tale of Bangkok's evolution into a modern metropolis while preserving its cultural heritage. Flip to p82 and join us as we wander through the vibrant street life, indulge in delectable cuisine and explore the area's thriving arts and entertainment scene.

Happy travels, I hope you'll be inspired to try something new this month.



Sherman Lim

Sherman Lim
Editor

This issue's contributors



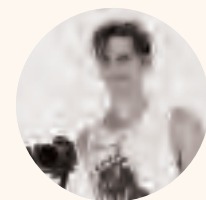
Parisa Pichitmarn
Writer, "Renaissance road", p82

Based in Bangkok, Parisa makes her way with words as a lifestyle and culture writer for various newspapers, magazines and fashion houses across Asia.



Marie Myung-Ok Lee
Writer, "Good for your Seoul", p60

Marie is a New York-based writer who teaches fiction at Columbia University. She mostly travels and keeps up her Korean language skills by watching K-dramas.



Chris da Canha
Photographer, "Good for your Seoul", p60

Chris is a South African skateboarder and photographer living in South Korea. He's also the co-founder of Polite Company Press, a bespoke print shop.



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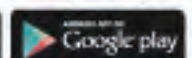
Whether you're planning to immerse yourself in local cultures at Chinatown and Kampung Baru, take a selfie in front of the Petronas Twin Towers, or hunt for souvenirs at Central Market, the KL TravelPass is great for tourists looking to explore Kuala Lumpur using public transportation.

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17 REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places



1

Kuala Lumpur

A celebration of labour

The exclusive Potager in Bamboo Hills is where gastronomy meets the arts, promising an experience that engages all the senses. Potager – French for 'garden' – opened in September and is a celebration of craft, informing everything, from the commissioned art pieces and botanical installations to the open kitchen that allows diners to watch the culinary artistry of the multi-course French dégustation menu unfold. Potager also consists of wine lounge Oeno, with an extensive selection of curated French-focused wines, and test kitchen Espace, where guest chefs work together on seasonal menus. potagerkl.com



2

Kuala Lumpur

For your reading pleasure

Tsutaya Bookstore, which opened in Intermark Mall in late October, is the scaled-down version of its premium counterpart Tsutaya Books in Pavilion Bukit Jalil but with the same discerning eye for the best fiction and humanities titles. Every Tsutaya has its own distinct style, with this store opting for the refined simplicity of wood and concrete touches. Catering to the working crowd, Tsutaya Bookstore also comes with its own in-house café, which serves freshly brewed coffee and its signature lemonade. [instagram.com/tsutayabookstore_intermarkmall](https://www.instagram.com/tsutayabookstore_intermarkmall)

3

Malaysia

All hail the king

The Conference of Rulers has picked His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar of Johor as the next Yang di-Pertuan Agong for the next five years. His Majesty begins his reign on 31 January 2024, and is the second Johor sultan to take the throne after 34 years. [instagram.com/theroyaljohor](https://www.instagram.com/theroyaljohor)

4

Malaysia

Getting into the spirit



Stock up on gifts for the whole family this festive season with four choice events in Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur, with a little sprinkle of everything from local artisanal crafts to teas from around the world.

IMAGE: FIRDAUS RAHMAN / SHUTTERSTOCK (UJHOR FLAG)



5

Kuala Lumpur

Fiery perfection

Ignis, like its name suggests, specialises in the mastery of fire, with almost everything on its menu flame-grilled to perfection. But beyond fine dining, the Bangsar South steakhouse likes to keep things fresh with updates to the menu every few months. Ignis embraces the modern farm-to-table concept, with much of its produce sourced from local growers – like the *pucuk manis* (sweet leaf) that accompanies the slipper lobster with laksa sauce, and the pandan oil and coconut foam that comes with its exquisitely grilled *percik* (aromatic spicy sauce) chicken wings. igniskl.com



Urban Tamu: Christmas Edition

The ever-popular Urban Tamu returns to The Walk, Riverson in Kota Kinabalu with a special Christmas edition from 2 to 3 December, featuring over 60 vendors selling a variety of all-local arts, crafts and food. instagram.com/urbantamu



Sunny Side Up Market Christmas Edition

Slate at The Row hosts the Sunny Side Up Market Christmas Edition from 2 to 3 December, with local vendors like Niah + Co batik, Saffron & Serai food wraps and Fourjei leather goods. instagram.com/sunnysideup_market



Comic Fiesta

On 23 and 24 December, join tens of thousands of anime fans as they throng the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre for Comic Fiesta, Southeast Asia's largest and longest-running animation, comics and games event. comicfiesta.org



Da Hong Hua International Tea and Cultural Expo

Tea-aholics, find that perfect cup from over 100 types of teas available at the Da Hong Hua International Tea Expo, from 23 to 25 December at the Setia City Convention Centre in Shah Alam. fb.com/dahonghuainternationalteaxpo

6

Malaysia

Sweet dreams

Wustler specialises in timeless and luxurious sleepwear, loungewear and essentials to give every woman what she needs for all the hours of rest in between her daily hustle. Wustler's signature blend of wood pulp Silky Rayon and Viscose, is now joined by two newly launched fabrics: Buttery Bamboo and Pure Mulberry Silk, complemented by environmentally friendly fabric dyes. A monogramming service adds a personal touch.

wustler.co



7

Kuala Lumpur

Tea the way it was meant to be

The founders of Beca Tea, which opened in Damansara Uptown in September, come from a nearly century-old tea dynasty, and infuse that rich legacy with modernity. Tradition comes in the form of staying true to the natural flavours of the five base teas – white, green, oolong, pu'er and black – without the mask of sugars and additives; while the modern manifests in the ultra-minimalist décor and the embrace of newer forms, like nitro-infused teas, pure milk teas and Beca's own spin on the national drink *teh tarik* (pulled milk tea).

becatea.com

8

Langkawi

Where legends come alive

The wonderland of Dream Forest Langkawi – a nighttime, mythical themed multi-sensory adventure walk – offers a mesmerising trail through the island’s prehistoric forest. Who might visitors meet along this fantastical journey? dreamforest.com.my



Giants of Langkawi

Visitors will also get to see the fight – in full 360-degree glory – between the giants Mat Raya and Mat Chinchang. This battle, according to legend, led to the creation of many famous places on the island, including the titular mountains we know today.



The legend of Tasik Dayang Bunting

Follow legendary prince Mat Teja on his quest to win the heart of the sprite Mambang Sari. Follow our hero through the Gua Cerita (Cave of Legends) where mantras of the wise sage Tok Dian will ring out, to the shores to collect mermaid tears, before the beautiful sprite appears.



Tales of Merong Mahawangsa

The mythical tale of how Langkasuka came to be springs to life, with visitors helping the legendary warrior king Merong Mahawangsa aim his mighty Ayun-ayunan bow in his fight against Garuda, a mythical bird-like creature.

IMAGE: TINI HARYANI / SHUTTERSTOCK (TRX)



Kuala Lumpur

Redefining luxury

Newly opened at the end of November is The Exchange TRX, the long-awaited lifestyle hub located in the heart of KL’s financial district. The Exchange TRX completely redefines the luxury retail experience, with anchor tenant Seibu making its Malaysian debut, along with Gentle Monster eyewear, Maison Kitsuné fashion and the first ever Drunk Elephant skincare physical store. Beyond retail, The Exchange TRX is an integrated experiential environment, linking the TRX City Park sanctuary, TRX Residences and boutique Kimpton hotel. theexchange.my



10

Kuala Lumpur

An otherworldly experience

Rex Cinema once served as the cultural hub of Petaling Street; its successor, Rexperience (RXP.KL) keeps hold on the mantle *Other World*, a transcendent digital experience that redefines the very nature of art-viewing with its wall-to-wall immersion. *Other World*, which runs till 20 January 2024, consists of Colas Fizman and Jonas Margraf's merging of dance, technology and music in "Annihilation", the intricate geometric fractals of Julius Horsthuis and Ben Lukas Boysen's in "Foreign Nature", as well as the reconfigurations of traditional Japanese art in Fahmi Hosnan and Ashish Khilnani's "Yume". rxpkl.com



11

Malaysia

Smooth like butter

Mentega releases its new Muddy Hair Clay, which has the highest hold in its range of handcrafted hair styling products, locking in even the most dramatic styles with a matte finish. Mentega, which also runs the barbershop The Oven Cuttery in Damansara Utama and coffee corner Ellipsis within, is known for their range of pomades and hair clays – as well as a moustache wax and beard oil – that works well in the humidity of Malaysia’s tropical climate. mentega.co

12

Kuala Lumpur

A sip of history

Bacha Coffee traces its origins to the legendary Dar el Bacha palace in Morocco that hosted luminaries such as Charlie Chaplin, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. After reopening in the restored Dar el Bacha Museum of Confluences, Bacha Coffee has since expanded worldwide – opening a store in Suria KLCC in September. bachacoffee.com



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Developer: MCL Land (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. | Company Registration No. 198301013518 (108912-M) • Developer Address: Lot G-93A, Wangsa Walk Mall, Wangsa Avenue, No. 9, Jalan Wangsa Perdana 1, Bandar Wangsa Maju, 53300 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Tel: 603 4142 8888 Fax: 603 4142 6900 • Developer's License No.: 3097/08-2026/1440(R) • Validity Period: 7 August 2006 - 6 August 2026 • Advertising & Sales Permit No.: 3097-11/03-2026/0231(N)-(S) • Validity Period: 3 March 2023 - 2 March 2026 • Approving Authority: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur • Building Plan Approval No.: BP U2 OSC 2022 0301 (38) • Expected Date of Completion: March 2026 • Tenure of Land: Leasehold (Expire on 19 April 2104) • Land Encumbrances: NIL • Restriction In Interest: This land cannot be transferred, leased or pawned without prior approval by Land Works Committee of the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur • Total No. of Units: 494 • No. of Units by Type: Type A: 112 Units, Type B: 196 Units, Type C: 168 Units, Type CP: 18 Units • Property Type: Apartment Suite • Total 233 Units (Tower A) Selling Price: RM529,800.00 (Minimum) - RM1,256,800.00 (Maximum), Total 261 Units (Tower B) Selling Price: RM497,800.00 (Minimum) - RM1,285,800.00 (Maximum) • Total No. of Car Park for Each Unit: 1 (Type A & B), 2 (Type C & CP) • Bumiputera Discount: 5% • THIS ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY NATIONAL HOUSING DEPARTMENT

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At MCL Land, one of our hallmark offerings is a well-rounded living experience within a strategic location. Wangsa Maju, with its natural beauty, convenient connectivity and vibrant lifestyle choices, is the new corridor for our latest projects.

This high-growth township incorporates the elegance of nature with modern living. Our ongoing developments have brought transit-oriented convenience and green sustainability to the area.

As the premier developer in Wangsa Maju, we are committed to building better quality and creating more vibrant lifestyles for its residents today and in the future.



Kuala Lumpur

All work, all play

Malaysia's first Hyatt Place opens in Bukit Jalil and is the perfect workcation spot for the on-the-go traveller. With its understated elegance accented with bright pops of colour, Hyatt Place Kuala Lumpur offers a seamless transition between rest, work and play – exemplified by the cosy corner sofa-sleepers in all its 250 guestrooms, convivial social spaces and all-day dining at Kuang's Café. [hyatt.com/brands/hyatt-place](https://www.hyatt.com/brands/hyatt-place)



Malaysia

Roaring again

It is no secret that the national symbol, the Malayan tiger, is facing extinction, with just over a hundred left in the wild. MyCat offers volunteers the opportunity to get hands-on with conservation through their anti-poaching, anti-deforestation guided Citizen Action for Tigers (CAT) Walk through the Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor in Pahang. MyCat now offers a CSR CAT Walk package for corporations, in which teams led by staffers and local Batek guides patrol the forest to deactivate snares, rewild degraded forest, check camera traps and more. "The CAT Walk has gotten members of the public and nature lovers involved in real conservation work," notes conservation officer Muna Noor. "It has created real impact." mycat.my





Kuala Lumpur

Natural wonders

To complement the SplashMania Waterpark and Paya Indah Discovery Wetlands, Gamuda Cove introduced the Wetlands Arboretum Centre in September – a research centre and seed bank focused on endangered wetlands plant species, which also features attractions inspired by the indigenous knowledge of the local Orang Asli community. gamudacove.com.my

Experiential workshops

The Wetlands Arboretum Centre is now integrated into the Jungle School Programme, with nature-based experiential workshops that allow schoolchildren to learn more about the flora and fauna of the wetlands.

Camping

Families looking to go the extra mile can even choose to pitch their own tents in the lush landscapes of the wetlands, while enjoying the many activities on offer, such as the safari tour, guided trekking, animal feeding, bird watching and more.

Safari tour

Visitors can also choose the Nature Wanderlust package, which includes a guided safari tour of the picturesque Bamboo Trail, the Rumah Melayu replica kampung house, as well as a leisurely boat ride across Lake Sendayan.

15

16

Kuala Lumpur

New look, old elegance

Brasserie Fritz at Troika Sky Dining gets a vibrant new look and menu of French fare with a global touch. The famed *fruits de mer* platters remain, and feature an assortment of crabs, mussels, prawns, oysters and clams flown in from around the world. Hokkaido scallops and pan-seared foie gras with quail are among the new entrées, topped off with a flambéed crème brûlée.

fritzdining.com

17

Kuala Lumpur

Join the ARMY

BTS are on hiatus, but the ARMY – the moniker given to fans of BTS – can still get their dose of the K-pop megastars with the B-Verse (BTS, Singing the Stars) Immersive Exhibition World Tour, making its first regional stop in Pavilion Bukit Jalil. Running until March 2024, B-Verse brings to life the band's meteoric rise as captured in *The Face BTS Photobook Special Edition*. The exhibition includes: a VR room recreating the band's 2021 and 2022 The Fact Music Awards (TMAs) performances; a "7 Planets Experience" with seven rooms representing each member; and a projection mapping stage that highlights past winners of The Fact Music Awards. [instagram.com/bversemalaysia](https://www.instagram.com/bversemalaysia)





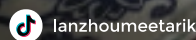
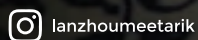
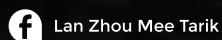
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IJM Land prioritizes environmental sustainability as a top operational agenda, making it a present-day imperative, not just a future aspiration, by placing eco-friendliness and sustainability at the forefront of their designs and concepts.

Aligned with its efforts to create offerings that are Distinctively IJM, IJM Land takes an integrated approach to achieving sustainable development.

IJM Land properties incorporate passive sustainable features benefiting both occupants and the environment. Over the years, the developer has increased the use of solar technology, installing 750 photovoltaic panels at The ARC in IJM Rimbayu, which has received numerous environmental awards for its green features. These panels generate energy to power the sales gallery and project office. The ARC also boasts a self-sustaining rainwater harvesting system, and 95 terrace units at the Permatang Sanctuary development in Bukit Mertajam feature solar panels as part of the product offering.

Other efforts include the use of environmentally friendly methods and materials, renewable energy and rainwater harvesting systems where possible.

Taking this a step further, every IJM Land home is now designed to achieve a GreenRE Bronze certification or higher. At the core of its commitment to sustainability is achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Sanctuary Terrace, Permatang Sanctuary, Penang



Rallying Local Communities to Bring Impact

IJM Land recently launched its “Make A Difference” (MAD) campaign to celebrate IJM Corp’s 40th anniversary and promote sustainability through its “Say Yes to 4R” initiative. This supports its core principles of reducing, repairing, reusing, and recycling across all IJM Land projects and townships.

Prospective homeowners can join the MAD campaign until December 31, 2023, through immersive eco-centric events with the goal of collecting over 40,000kg of recyclables. The entire IJM community is also committed to taking 40 million collective steps to reduce their carbon footprint, and IJM Land distributes 4,000 plants to promote a greener future.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) takes centre stage as well, with the community rallies to contribute 4,000 hours to clean-up efforts, organise blood donation drives, visit welfare homes and orphanages, and refurbish homes for low-income families.

To express gratitude to its customers, IJM Land offers exclusive savings, deals and packages on the developer’s sustainably designed properties across the Klang Valley, Penang, Seremban, Johor, Kuching, and Sandakan. During the campaign period, the developer plans to reimburse a cumulative sum of RM40 million to new homeowners, along with four supplementary benefits.

For more information about the MAD campaign, visit <https://www.ijmland.com/40th-Anniversary/>

IJM Rimbayu, Selangor



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ELEVATE

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

OWO's penthouse



HOTELS

Crown jewel

The OWO, London's first Raffles Hotel, is a sparkling example of adaptive reuse

BY KISSA CASTAÑEDA

Throw a stone in any direction in London and you're sure to hit a historical building, but few can rival the pedigree of the Old War Office in Whitehall, located around the corner from 10 Downing Street, not far from Buckingham Palace and St James's Park. A centre of influence and power since its completion in 1906, the birthplace of MI5 and MI6 is best known in recent times as Winston Churchill's headquarters, from where he led Britain to victory

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →



"Poppies", an installation by Lasvit



Cafe Lapérouse

during World War II. As a building that has borne witness to hundreds of war strategies and state secrets, it's no wonder it was an inspiration for Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond. The building served as a setting for Bond films *Octopussy* (1983), *A View to a Kill* (1985) and *Skyfall* (2012).

After a six-year renovation, the Grade-II Edwardian Baroque building has been reborn as the first Raffles Hotel and Residences, which opened to much fanfare in late September. It's been called "the opening of the century", among other superlatives; not surprising as the Hinduja Group had spared no

expense in refurbishment – £1.2 billion to be exact – in transforming it into a world-class lifestyle destination.

Made from 26,000 tonnes of choice Portland stone and once home to 1,000 rooms linked by two-and-a-half miles of corridors, the OWO is imposing to say the least. Its characteristic grandeur was beautifully preserved by the late designer Thierry Despont, who managed not only to marry old and new but give it a fresh lustre befitting this legendary building. The passion poured into its (re)creation is palpable in each of the 120 rooms and suites, 85 luxury residences, and the rest of the storied spaces.

Boutique Britannia

Cool and cosy heritage-homes-turned-hotels to warm up your winter visit

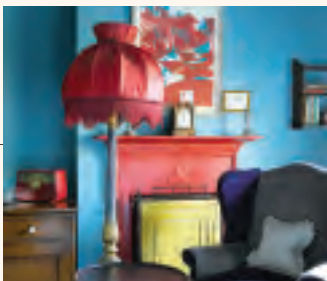
WORDS: TATYANA LEONOV (SIDEBAR) IMAGES: LASVIT (POPPIES ART INSTALLATION), JEFFERSON SMITH (THE ZETTER CLERKENWELL)



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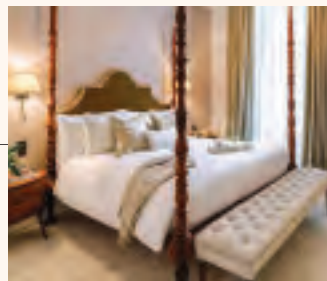
The OWO's characteristic grandeur was beautifully preserved by the late designer Thierry Despont, who managed not only to marry old and new but give it a fresh lustre befitting this legendary building”

Given its scale, there's ample space for everything – from ballrooms the size of superyachts to a subterranean 20m swimming pool and London's first Guerlain Spa. And in a bid to shift the reputation of Whitehall from government to glam, it also unveiled nine new restaurants and three bars, including three concepts by acclaimed chef, Mauro Colagreco. This includes Colagreco's eponymous fine-dining restaurant and an all-day outlet in the building's light-filled former library. When you visit, make your way to the OWO's Grand Courtyard to get a full view of “Poppies”, a bespoke installation crafted by glass experts Lasvit. Depicting the poppy flower in motion, the abstract sculpture is a symbol of tribute to those who fought for freedom and honours the building's rich past. *thewo.london*



The Zetter Clerkenwell
49-50 St John's Square

The 13-bedroom Georgian townhouse prides itself in offering a quintessentially British stay: tea in the parlour, suites with plush sitting areas and views of historic St John's Square, one of London's oldest squares. Collectibles from around the world decorate the many nooks and crannies, along with bespoke wall murals and quirky taxidermy. Location is one of this property's best features – you're within walking distance of The British Museum and the Tate Modern. *thezetter.com*



The Adria
88 Queen's Gate, South Kensington

The exterior of this Victorian townhouse in leafy South Kensington doesn't scream hotel; instead, it projects all the promise of a fabulous but homey mansion, butler included. Kick back in one of 24 lavishly appointed guest rooms – four-poster beds, marble bathrooms and Nespresso machines – as you mull over what you can do nearby: shopping at Harrods, a spin around the Natural History Museum, or a show at the Royal Albert Hall. The hotel has a spa and a 24-hour gym. *theadria.com*



Henry's Townhouse
24 Upper Berkeley Street

Named after Jane Austen's brother, Henry, who once resided at the property, this six-room boutique accommodation has only recently been opened to hotel-style room bookings (it functioned as an exclusive buyout previously). Among the charming antiques and interesting artworks that create the hotel's unique ambience are prized first editions of Jane Austen novels. Curl up in the Carriage Snug, a cosy nook that's perfect for tea and a really good read. *henrytownhouse.co.uk*

Must-visit dining spots in Kuala Lumpur

Here's a selection of the best restaurants and cafés to check out this festive season

Whether you're looking for IG-worthy cafés, quality pizza or prime cuts of grilled meat, Malaysia's capital city has it all

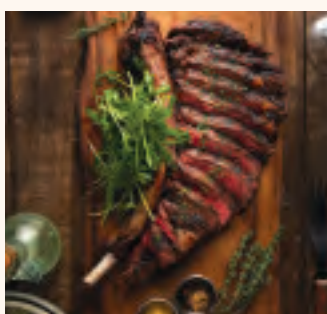
Present your Malaysia Airlines flight ticket to enjoy 10% off your total bill!



Tickets Bar

Set in the enclave of Damansara Heights, Tickets Bar is a unique destination that promises enticing themed experiences as well as impeccable hospitality. The entrance is disguised as an unassuming office space and guests will have to solve a puzzle to gain entry into this clandestine bar. Once inside you'll find yourself in a modern, softly lit space. The theme for 2023 is "Surrealism" so expect plenty of whimsical drinks.

ticketskl.bar



Maillard Grill

At Maillard Grill, ageing steak is elevated to an art form. The meat-focused restaurant places an emphasis on regionally sourced ingredients. The grill's kitchen is also entirely charcoal-powered, with almost all dishes cooked in an imported cast iron Mibrasa oven from Spain. This imparts a unique flavour that truly shines, especially on Maillard Grill's premium cuts. Must-tries include the dry-aged Sabah seaweed steak which offers unique oceanic flavour notes.

maillardgrill.asia



CCB

A playful, laidback space, CCB – or Call Carol Back – is all about embracing the laughter, joy and more playful side of life. Here, guests are encouraged to explore an intriguing drinks menu featuring craft beers and hop cocktails. The bar's space is warm and convivial, a perfect spot for friends to hang out. There's also a selection of small bites that include familiar American classics like jalapeño poppers, pizza pockets and chilli con carne.

ccbkl.my



Good News Pizza

Housed within a charming pre-war building on Petaling Street, Good News Pizza specialises in Neapolitan pizzas with a crunchy, airy crust that hits the sweet spot of flavours and textures. They also use a high-temperature wood-fired oven to create their signature "leopard crust" that's reminiscent of the animal's spots. Opt for your favourite classic toppings or try Malaysian-inspired specials like "The Borneo".

goodnews.pizza



Tapestry

Tapestry is a café that draws inspiration from the Chow Kit neighbourhood's vibrant past as a textile trading hub. Its brunch selection is a specialty, highlighting classic dishes with Malaysian inflections, as well as local ingredients such as free-range kampung eggs. The café resembles a greenhouse and features an indoor garden. Keep your eyes peeled for the gorgeous hanging tapestries.

tapestrydining.my

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DINING

The Indonesian table

Meet Joongla, a **Bandung**-based dining collective that combines the archipelago's flavourful regional cuisines with captivating storytelling – all in one sitting **BY EVE TEDJA**

It's a tough job bringing the flavours of such a diverse country to one table, but Joongla is up to the task. Founders Farah Mauludynna, Dimas Putra Pratama and Steven Adidarma launched the dining collective in 2022, and since then Joongla has quickly garnered attention and praise for its accessible approach to “fun” dining. The name Joongla is a riff on the Spanish word *la jungla*, which captures the essence of a forest teeming with life. With a mission to document and introduce Indonesia's lesser-known ingredients and regional cuisines – and shine a light on hidden gems in the large, lush forest of Indonesian cuisine – Joongla's first pop-up dining experiment opened last year at Cihapit Market, a modern wet market known for its vibrant street food stalls, hip eateries and, most recently, a bakery and coffee spots. The meal featured a Sumatra-focused five-course tasting menu, served in a four-by-two-metre stall with six seats.

Joongla's first season lasted three months and featured mod takes on dishes from Aceh, Palembang, Riau and West Sumatra. Its second season was all about Javanese cuisine – an exploration of culinary techniques and ingredients from Pandeglang in Banten to Banyuwangi in East Java – while showcasing Indonesia's up-and-coming chefs. “We want Joongla to become a platform for nurturing new talents and creating impactful collaborations across professions,” says Mauludynna, a brand strategist and whole foods advocate.

After the success of its third Lombok-focused season, Joongla is now open in a new location and accepting reservations for its fourth season, which will run from 3 November until the end of January 2024. With a meticulous 192 hours of research and development in Lombok, the team is proud to welcome you to savour the flavours of Nusa Tenggara Barat. Expect a culinary journey across Lombok and Sumbawa through an ingredient-driven, eight-course tasting menu that begins with a tangy salad of sliced fruit as palate opener; an appetiser of crispy tapioca-starch chips with two dips – fried cabbage and blue cheese puree as well as a salty chutney; mains of scallop and grilled eggplant, as well as beef cheek skewer, and more.

There is no signage to mark the presence of Joongla in Pasteur, Bandung. Hidden in a hotel, the eight-seater progressive dining destination is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday with two seatings. Bookings can be made through the website. joongla.id



Enjoy complimentary shuttle service from Kertajati International Airport to Bandung city until 31 December 2023



BEACHES

Here comes the sun

It's not the first place that springs to mind when you think of Australia's beaches, but **Melbourne**, when it sizzles, has plenty of sandy gems to explore **BY VICTORIA KHROUNDINA**



Bells Beach

Half Moon Bay, Black Rock ⌚ 32 mins

In the eastern beachside suburb of Black Rock – where glass-and-concrete design-forward homes line Beach Road – this pretty bay is a favourite among the locals. Forgo the main stretch in favour of a hidden cove heading towards Red Bluff Lookout. If you get here early enough, you might be treated to total serenity that feels as though you've been transported somewhere far away from the city. End the day with a burger at the charming Cerberus Kiosk.

Rye Front Beach ⌚ 1 hr 10 mins

Mornington Peninsula has many impressive beaches, but the town of Rye – with its gin-clear waters and gentle waves – is especially suited to families. If you're looking to spend a day sunbathing, the expansive stretches of soft sand are perfect. Kick off your shoes, relax and take in the salty sea breeze as it intermingles with the aroma of fresh fish and chips frying in nearby cafés. Take your dinner to the beach for a sunset view as the sun casts an ethereal glow on the water and pier.

Fingal Beach, Cape Schanck ⌚ 1 hr 20 mins

This beach is a must for adventurous types. Start at the Fingal Picnic Area, which has BBQ and toilet facilities, located on Cape Schanck Road. Then, hike down more than 400 steps to get your heart rate up and be rewarded with views of the rugged coastline, richly vegetated hills and a lighthouse dating from 1859. The beach is not patrolled so swimming is not recommended but a walk along the white sand is the magical main attraction.

Bells Beach ⌚ 1 hr 25 mins

An easy drive from Melbourne, Bells Beach rivals its wilder and more remote counterparts. Sweeping cliffs provide a dramatic backdrop to 300m of pristine sand and its swells attract surfers all year round. Catch professional surfers rip it up at the Rip Curl Pro event around Easter. Meanwhile, remnants of shell midden provide a glimpse into indigenous food preparation, as this was once an important meeting ground of the Wadawurrung people.

⌚ **Approximate drive time from Melbourne CBD**

Discover KLCC, the heart of Kuala Lumpur

Its unbeatable location, stunning landmarks and premier lifestyle offerings make Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) an icon that captivates visitors from around the world



The view of KLCC Precinct from The Binjai on The Park



Key attractions

KLCC (Holdings) Sdn Bhd is the master developer of the 100-acre prime land in the commercial hub of Kuala Lumpur which is home to the 452-metre PETRONAS Twin Towers, the world's tallest twin towers and distinctive international-standard buildings. The KLCC Precinct in Kuala Lumpur is home to a variety of must-visit attractions including the iconic PETRONAS Twin Towers, which offer breathtaking views from its observation deck. KLCC Park provides a serene escape with lush gardens and a picturesque lake, while modern architectural marvels like high-rise The Binjai on The Park and Permata Sapura Tower dot the skyline. Adding to the area's allure is

the sprawling Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Aquaria KLCC, PETROSAINS and the ample green spaces that are perfect for jogging.

World-class shopping, dining and entertainment

Suria KLCC, a shopping mall within the district, offers a vibrant retail experience that caters to every taste from luxury brands to homegrown boutique finds. Myriad dining options allow visitors to savour Malaysian delights amidst global culinary offerings. You can also catch a movie at the cinema within Suria KLCC or enjoy live performances at the Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS. Come nightfall, the precinct lights up with vibrant bars, clubs and rooftop lounges.

Accommodations fit for every traveller

Guests staying in the district have an array of options, from luxurious five-star hotels like the Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur and Traders Hotel Kuala Lumpur to serviced apartments – all a short distance from the KLCC Precinct's attractions.

Unbeatable accessibility

Getting here is convenient, as KLCC is well connected by public transport. The MRT Persiaran KLCC and LRT KLCC stations provide convenient access to the precinct, and taxi and ride-sharing services are also readily available.

Lush living in KLCC

The development of The Binjai on The Park within KLCC means you can also choose to live within this stunning district. The lavish condominium is geared towards an international standard of living and offers spectacular views of the neighbourhood. Each of the units features a stylish, modern design, and the condominium is replete with amenities including a swimming pool, tennis court and a function room. You'll also have direct access to KLCC Park.

More importantly, The Binjai on The Park's view of the KLCC skyline isn't just an assortment of buildings – it's the embodiment of Kuala Lumpur's modern spirit. The breathtaking views from here define the character of the city and create a stunning backdrop for luxury urban living.

Don't miss your chance to live in the heart of Kuala Lumpur! Visit thebinjaionthepark.com or contact groupmarketing@klcc.com.my or +60 03-2163 3102/2812 for more information.

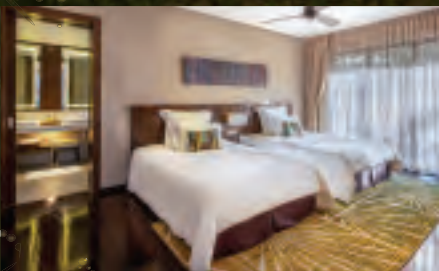
You can also visit our website at klcctheplace.com.my

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temperatures are cooler and silkworms thrive. It then travels 400km southwest to Tan Chau to undergo the intensive dyeing process and become *lanh my a*. This exquisite material has started to attract and inspire local fashion houses.

One such company is Metiseko (metiseko.com), a sustainable clothing brand established in 2011. Metiseko's flagship shop, a bright boutique with lacquered furniture and tropical foliage, is at 101 Dong Khoi Street, near the Ho Chi Minh City Opera House.

Late last year, Metiseko launched its Verticale Hanoi collection, an homage to Vietnam's capital that incorporates *lanh my a* into the designs. Notable pieces include the lacquer pelican, a blazer dress with invisible snap buttons, and the lacquer fantail, a loose-fit, wide-collared blazer.

"It is a challenge to defend Vietnamese craftsmanship on a high-end level," says Audrey Charles, Metiseko's creative director. Perhaps with the continued elevation of traditional crafts like *lanh my a*, that is set to change. Metiseko already has plans to release a capsule collection that blends their original print designs with *lanh my a*.



FASHION

Fabric reborn

With the help of a Ho Chi Minh-based brand, an exquisite, all-but-extinct Vietnamese silk fabric enjoys a revival **BY JOSHUA ZUKAS**

Dubbed "the queen of silk", *lanh my a* is sought after for its inky aesthetic, achieved after a weeks-long dyeing process using the fruit of *mac nua* (*diospyros mollis*) trees. It's said to have dandified Vietnamese elites from the early 20th century.

The fabric caught the attention of the international design community in the 1950s, and it soon became a lucrative export. Unfortunately for the craft – and the artisanal community that produced it – synthetic materials crowded it out in the 1970s, forcing ateliers to close shop.

Fast forward to the 1990s, French designer Rose Morant, who used to live part-time in Vietnam and is an advocate of Vietnamese craftsmanship, got wind of the outmoded silk. As an artist, Morant works with a variety of materials, from lacquer and gold leaf, to metal, wood, fabric and flower powder. She travelled to Tan

Chau in the Mekong Delta – west of Ho Chi Minh City and the ancestral home of *lanh my a* – in search of artisans that could still produce it.

There, Morant found that much like lacquer, *lanh my a* is labour intensive and time-consuming. It involves a meticulous process of layering colour to create a beguiling mirror-like sheen. Still, she was able to convince the local artisanal community to restart the ateliers. Soon, boutique designers across the world were putting in orders for the fabric, which took on the name lacquer silk.

These days, Vietnam's premium silk is produced in Bao Loc in the Central Highlands (north of Ho Chi Minh City) where

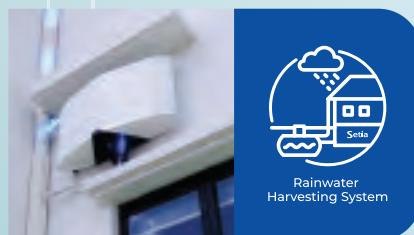
“

Lanh my a has started to attract and inspire local fashion houses”

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Afternoon in Kowloon

Spend a day in **Hong Kong's** Sham Shui Po district, a labyrinth of old-school eateries and mom-and-pop shops sidling up against newer specialty stores, trendy cafés and shoe box-sized cafés **BY ANA KALAW**



Vegan delights

Whether you're a carnivore looking for some help with meatless Mondays or a full-time vegan, **The Park by Years** is doing some of the tastiest plant-based fare in the city. The menu takes cues from Southeast Asian and Western food, and does playful meat-free renditions of burgers, satay skewers and bento boxes. [instagram.com/years.hk](https://www.instagram.com/years.hk)

Bite-sized goodness

The family-run **Homey Dumpling 2.0** focuses on handmade dumplings with classic fillings (either steamed or pan-fried) and xiao long bao – all tasty, affordable and conveniently portioned out for sharing. End your meal on a sweet note with the shop's take on Basque-style cheesecake, said to be one of the best in HK. [instagram.com/homey_dumpling](https://www.instagram.com/homey_dumpling)

Pastry all day

Milk Bar's sleek and minimalist interior is only matched by its equally photogenic neon-coloured soda drinks and croffles (croissant-waffle). Milk Bar's signature croffle pastry is toasted to a honeycomb crispiness in a waffle iron. Choose from sweet flavours such as cinnamon and Nutella or go for the savoury ham and cheese. [instagram.com/milkbarcafe](https://www.instagram.com/milkbarcafe)

Raise the bar

Savon Workshop offers an assortment of its own skincare products, including plant-based serums and moisturisers, and deliciously fragrant soap and shampoo bars. This Sham Shui Po fixture also stocks everything you need to make your own artisan soap, from essential oils and dried herbs to soap moulds and butters. [instagram.com/savonworkshop](https://www.instagram.com/savonworkshop)

Modern Asian

Ppalli Ppalli serves Korean flavours through a contemporary fusion lens. This trendy space age-styled spot highlights dishes such as smoked salmon crab roe pasta and crispy chicken bites. The soju selections are one of the underrated parts of dining here, so be sure to ask the server for some fun pairings. [instagram.com/8282hk](https://www.instagram.com/8282hk)



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**Actual image taken at Serenity Park, superimposed with artist's impression of Serenia Aqila*

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ELEVATE



ARTS

A brighter picture

From new takes on Cambodian archetypes to experiments in video art, **Phnom Penh** emerges as a wellspring of the arts **BY ALDEN JONES**

Phnom Penh has experienced massive growth in the past decade, surfacing as a vibrant cultural hub with a bold and burgeoning arts scene. As young art-makers and their collaborators experiment with mixed media in collective spaces, Phnom Penh's established cultural institutions amplify artistic expression to ensure Cambodia's history is honoured with an eye on a hopeful future. Studio-galleries, cultural institutes as well as trendy, repurposed urban spaces make up some of the best places to see art in the capital city right now.



Sa Sa Art Projects



DinArt

underwater, reading a handwritten letter from the sea floor on the border of Thailand and Cambodia. **47, Street 350, Phnom Penh**

Pteah Chas
For spending an artsy afternoon

Pteah Chas, or “old house,” is a multi-level 1950s-era shop house repurposed as a community space in 2020. Now a favourite spot among aesthetes looking to escape the din of city streets, this charming, greenery-filled space includes creative businesses, an art gallery, coffee and tea shop, and a plant boutique. Hem Chan Sopheak, Pteah Chas’ 30-year-old founder, organises multimedia group exhibitions that showcase young local talents in media like photography, painting and digital printing. Stick around for watermelon margaritas and fermented beef sausage upstairs at Midori Rooftop Bar. **91, 110 Road, Wat Phnom Commune, Daun Penh**

Meta House
Best art for the activist

Founded as a German-Cambodian cultural center in 2007, the team at Meta House has spent the last 16 years working to support “the reemergence of Cambodia’s art and

film scene after almost 30 years of unrest,” says founder Nicolaus Mesterharm. Poetry festivals, documentary showings, workshops and cross-cultural discussions are all part of Meta House’s mission. Says Mesterharm, “Contemporary artists are starting to focus on optimism and change – while always remembering the past and all those who were lost.” Meta House promotes socio-political dialogue for artists and community members who want to engage with the art and politics of Cambodia on a more active level. **48, Street 228, Phnom Penh**

Bophana Center
For history buffs

Founded by Oscar-nominated filmmaker Rithy Panh, the Bophana Center is a rich collection of audiovisual archives, photographs, film and oral histories that endeavours to safeguard Cambodia’s collective memories and traditions while providing resources to the next generation of filmmakers. In addition to free documentary viewings on Cine Saturdays, you’ll find other media at Bophana, such as Sou Sophy’s

recent visual art exhibit “Life Trap”, exploring the connection between humans and animals using recycled paper waste and pigment. **64, Street 200, Phnom Penh**

DinArt
Up close and personal

Visit DinArt, where Teang Borin or “Din” creates Apsara paintings that offer a fresh take on one of Cambodia’s most recognisable cultural symbols: the traditional dancer, with her impossibly curved hands, golden headwear and controlled grace. Din’s wispy renditions of boldly-coloured Apsara dancers, often floating on monochromatic backgrounds, capture their mesmerising combination of motion and tranquility. Din Art is a working studio; you might arrive to find the affable artist painting or sketching and he will happily discuss his work (in English or Khmer) with visitors. **126, Street 19, Chey Chumneas, Daun Penh**

“**Contemporary artists are starting to focus on optimism and change – while always remembering the past and all those who were lost”**

Sa Sa Art Projects
For cutting-edge art

A pioneer of Phnom Penh’s art scene, Sa Sa began in 2007 as an artists’ collective, providing a platform for emerging artists to experiment with various media and engage in critical discussions about art and society. Since then, Sa Sa has been instrumental in nurturing a new generation of risk-taking contemporary Cambodian artists. Multimedia exhibitions showcase edgy visions of contemporary life, such as Sa Sa co-founder Lim Sokchanlina’s 2022 showing of *Letter to the Sea*, a video of the artist



Bophana Center

More than skin deep

Discover the power of Nutribear collagen supplements



As frequent travellers, maintaining health and wellness on the go can be a challenge. That is where collagen supplements come into play, offering a convenient and effective solution to the toll that constant travel takes on our bodies. Collagen, a vital protein found in our bodies, is the key to maintaining supple skin and flexible joints.

The benefits of collagen
Apart from improving skin health, collagen also offers a plethora of health benefits. For example, it's not always easy to eat balanced meals while travelling. Taking a collagen supplement ensures your body gets the collagen it needs, regardless of your location. Nutribear, a

leading brand in the health and wellness sector, has harnessed the power of collagen in its star product – the Nutribear Essential Fish Collagen. It comes with a quick-mix formula that dissolves quickly in any drink, making it a convenient and useful travel companion.

Why do I need collagen supplements?

Long flights and hours of walking while exploring new destinations can strain your joints. Collagen supplements aid in maintaining joint flexibility and reducing discomfort, allowing you to keep up with your adventures pain-free.

Jet lag, varying climates and exposure to different pollutants can wreak

havoc on the skin. Collagen supplements promote skin elasticity and hydration, helping you maintain a healthy, radiant complexion despite the stresses of travel. A good collagen supplement also helps keep your hair and nails strong and beautiful, so you're always ready for that close-up photo.

The piscine power of Nutribear

Nutribear Essential Fish Collagen stands out from the crowd thanks to its scientifically backed formulation. A team of expert nutritionists and biotech scientists meticulously tested the formula to ensure the produce delivers uncompromised quality and proven results.

Nutribear's collagen supplement not only enhances skin radiance and joint flexibility, but also contributes to overall vitality and wellness. What's more, it's free from additives, GMOs, sugar, fat, gluten, dairy, soy and other artificial flavours – ensuring purity and potency.

Odourless and tasteless

Some people may have reservations about taking fish collagen because of its strong smell or taste. But Nutribear's unique formulation is odourless and tasteless, making it a more versatile ingredient to pair with your favourite food or drink.

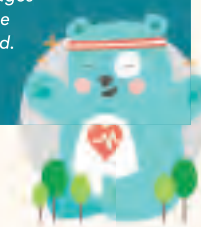
The next time you embark on a trip, be sure to pack a tub of Nutribear collagen with you!



For more information on Nutribear, visit nutribear.co

Order Nutribear today!

Purchase Nutribear at RM225 for a single tub, RM388 for two and RM518 for three. Nutribear is an excellent Christmas gift to your loved ones, or yourself if you want a kickstart on your healthy 2024 goals. Gift messages can also be customised.



Unlocking Wellness: The Promising Role of Cellular Therapy in Transforming Health



Embark on a transformative journey more so in this time and age, where wellness is of paramount importance, as health and wellness converge. The world awakens to the importance of holistic well-being, and the spotlight shines brightly on the groundbreaking advancements in cellular therapy.

This innovative approach to healthcare is revolutionising not only the way we treat and manage chronic and regenerative disease and illnesses, but also the way we rejuvenate and embrace life.

Imagine a gateway where you can revitalise both your body and spirit. Cellular therapy, with its regenerative potential, offers a beacon of hope for those seeking a holistic approach to wellness. Through harnessing the body's own healing mechanisms, this cutting-edge treatment holds the key to addressing various health concerns, from chronic conditions to ageing related challenges.

Unveiling the Science Behind ZÉLL-V Cellular Therapy

Delve into the scientific marvels that underpin the potential of cellular therapy. From regenerating damaged tissues to bolstering immune responses, this dynamic treatment approach is at its forefront of modern medicine.

1. Regenerative Potential: stimulate your body's inherent regenerative capabilities, fostering renewed sense of vitality and vigour.

2. Holistic Rejuvenation: Stimulate a holistic approach that targets the root causes of fatigue, aging, and overall decline promoting a comprehensive sense of well-being.

3. Personalised Treatment Plans: Benefit from tailored treatment plans, customized to address your specific health goals and optimize your individual wellness journey.

4. Scientific Innovation: Embrace the forefront of scientific advancement as our expert team utilizes state-of-the-art techniques to ensure safe and effective cellular therapy delivery.

The Road Ahead: Nurturing Wellness on a Global Scale

Cellular therapy can bring about better health span to live a longer life span, paving the way for a future where individuals can own and prioritise their health, with a focus on safe, effective, and scientifically backed practices.

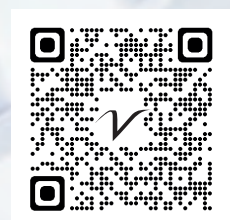
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This article is contributed by Dominic Tan, COO of ZÉLL-V Wellness



INSIDER TIPS

A Malaysian in... Bali

Ewe Jin Low, renowned architect behind the award-winning Green School and advocate for sustainable bamboo-based designs, shares his tips for seeing Bali beyond the usual **BY CRAIG SAUERS**



I was a conventional architect until I accepted a job in Bali. It changed the trajectory of my life and pushed me to simplify the way I live. My wife and I stayed in a little place just outside Ubud and we went around the island on our motorbike. It was like being in our teens again. Then I started working with bamboo. I had worked in England, Australia and Kuala Lumpur, and I was in the twilight of my career when I saw this job with Ibuku, a sustainable architecture firm in Bali. I ended up working with the firm as lead architect for five years and was involved in 50 bamboo buildings, including the Green School and Green Village. The whole experience changed me. I love working with bamboo – it's a sustainable resource we should be using

more of. It has a positive impact on the environment and the possibilities of bamboo architecture are endless. Now we have an amazing opportunity to bring bamboo into the mainstream. I'm trying to do that across Asia, from Malaysia to the Philippines, with my firm, Tenten Design, and Better Bamboo Buildings. Although my home base is Melbourne these days, I always make time for Bali. Here are some of my top picks.

Ride for inspiration

I love driving around or riding my bicycle. Rather than going to places designed for Instagram, seek out the less trodden areas. Hop on a motorbike and ride from **Keramas beach** towards the interior and to places like Ubud. Or you can ride along the eastern coast all the way to the city of **Singaraja** in the north, maybe get lost along the way. That's how you find the real Bali. **Keramas beach, Gianyar**

Indulge in the good stuff

Dapur Usada in Ubud is my current favourite. They serve



Begawan



Bandido



Mount Agung



Dapur Usada

Ayurvedic-inspired vegetarian food and every dish is a perfect harmony of flavours. Then there's **Alchemy**, one of Ubud's leading vegetarian restaurants. I love the unique veggie options, from pizzas and pastas to protein bowls. alchemybali.com

Recharge and refuel

Monsieur Spoon is a wonderful French-style café for coffee, croissants, tarts and light meals. They have several outlets across the island but there's one near the Monkey Forest in Ubud

that I used to frequent. It gets quite crowded with café-goers but if you go in early, you might be able to enjoy a quiet cuppa. monsieurspoon.com

Reconnect with nature

I love going to the village of **Kusamba**, where I rent a *jukung* (a traditional Balinese outrigger) and set off toward **Nusa Penida**, off Bali's southeast coast. Once I'm in the middle of the sea, I'll drop a line 300m down and wait for the fish to bite. It's not just about fishing, though – it's about just being out in the open sea and watching the sun rise over **Mount Agung**.

See sustainability in action

To see what humans can do with bamboo, visit **Green Village** and the **Green School**. With Green Village, Ibuku made these spectacular, million-dollar homes out of the humble bamboo. The Green School, on the other hand, offers a different perspective on education. Students don't wear uniforms, there's no fixed syllabus and kids learn how to plant rice, play

native sports – they have mud wrestling as a subject – and practise yoga.

Make sure to visit **Begawan** too. They're a private estate retreat that also offers training programmes in the areas of education, health and the environment. Some initiatives include reviving ancient rice variants by buying up rice fields and training farmers, so these varieties don't disappear. greenvillagebali.com; greenschool.org; begawan.life

Witness the community spirit

Every month, there's at least one ceremony that the whole community participates in. There's one called *tumpek landep*, which happens every six months, where spiritual leaders bless your iron objects. It used to be your knives, for example, but nowadays they can bless your car, your laptop, your motorbike. The Balinese are very friendly and if you're walking past, they'll often invite you in. It's an amazing example of what community means on the island.

Go further

Hideout is a lovely chain of boutique properties set in the rice fields. These jungle huts are made of bamboo so they're sustainable. This is an adult-only property, making it perfect for a romantic weekend. They're so popular that you must book up to six months in advance.

I also love **Bandido** in Uluwatu, which is built with bamboo, recycled wood and local stone. I worked on these with my friend, Javier Díaz, who's also an architect. Surrounded by lush tropical gardens, this nature-inspired property puts you at the doorstep of Bali's best waves. hideoutbali.com; bandidobali.com



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Bali 21x weekly.



Specialist advice

One of the biggest problems travellers face when seeking out medical care overseas is language barrier. When you don't speak the local language, describing something as simple as a migraine can be a challenge that could result in a misdiagnosis. Miscommunications like this can also lead to more serious trouble when it comes to ensuring doctors are aware of any drug allergies you may have.

To solve this, MiAid connects users to a language-matched customer care representative who will put them in touch with a suitable healthcare provider. If necessary, your consultation will include real-time translation from a MiAid representative.

Easy access to hospitals and clinics

For more serious ailments that require a hospital or clinic visit, the app includes a Health Map that offers up-to-date information on reputable hospitals, clinics and pharmacies near your location.

Through the app, you can also access an E-Shop to purchase prescription medicine as well as essential travel products.

Sign up now

Together with Kantha Medical Group and Wellcome Pharmacy in KL, MiAid invites you to scan the QR code to sign up for their welcome package. This includes two free teleconsultations over four weeks and will safeguard you on your trip to Malaysia. Upon signing up, you'll receive a welcome email with a unique username and password. Simply download the app and sign in to be connected.



Scan the QR code to sign-up for the MiAid Malaysia welcome package.

Telemedicine on the go

The innovative travel app MiAid keeps you connected with doctors wherever your adventure takes you



No matter how careful you are, there's always a chance that you'll suffer from an injury or ailment while you travel. Whether it's something as mild as the flu or more serious like heatstroke, these mishaps can ruin your holiday – which is why the last thing you want to deal with is the hassle of finding a clinic in a foreign country. With the MiAid travel app, you'll always be in reach of medical help wherever your travels take you.

Fuss-free consultations

Depending on where you're travelling, finding a reputable clinic that's nearby can be an ordeal. With MiAid's convenient travel app, you'll be connected to a global network of healthcare professionals with just one click. Currently, MiAid offers coverage in Singapore as well as major cities in Australia, Malaysia and China, with expansion planned into the UK, US and India.



CHILDHOOD IS CRUCIAL, CHEERFUL INNOVATIVE CLASSROOM

At the core of CIC Where Leaders Are Born is a unique and defining value that drives our enrichment centre a success. We unlock every child's potential by fostering a culture of innovation and teamwork. For our Young Leaders, prioritise safe, enjoyable, dynamic environment values that enable children to develop the highest potential in their intellectual, emotional and spiritual capabilities.

Childhood Is Crucial is CIC's campaign to emphasise the importance of the childhood phase. Childhood is the foundation which flies away and never comes back. It is during childhood that a child is moulded as an individual for the rest of their life. This golden period of life has made us who we are today and that's why it is so important to make sure that the child witnesses as many positive things as possible.

Cheerful Innovative Classroom in CIC is an innovative classroom that plays a major role in our teaching approach. Our environment promotes learning and gives students a feeling of comfort and happy. Innovation starts with a question, not with an answer. Innovative classrooms don't wait for problems to appear to them, they actively seek out problems in the classroom, in their learning, and in the world.

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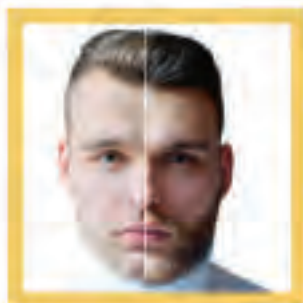
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Glojas stands as a global beacon of excellence, renowned for our award-winning clinic and an expert team of highly qualified doctors with extensive proficiency across diverse disciplines, including Hair Transplants, Plastic Surgery, Aesthetics, and Dental treatments. Patients worldwide entrust us with their care, assured of world-class solutions adhering to the highest international standards. Our impressive track record boasts multiple entries in the Malaysia Book of Records and global accolades.

Our team of experts include the Founder of Glojas, Professor Dato' Dr. JasG, Malaysia's first Pioneer Hair Transplant Doctor and a Fellow of The International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (FISHRS), accredited by The American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery (ABHRS). CEO Datin Selwin is a respected and widely recognized judge for Miss Universe and Miss Tourism International. Dr. Mohd Ali, a renowned Plastic Surgeon with full accreditation from the Ministry of Health Malaysia and holds registration as a Plastic Surgeon under the National Specialist Register (NSR) and the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC), ensuring exceptional surgical expertise.

Dr Navin Mann MBBS (Malaya) MS (UKM) Fellowship in advanced laparoscopy & bariatric surgery (India). Dr Navin Mann holds a Fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopy & Bariatric Surgery and a surgeon that holds a full accreditation from the Ministry of Health Malaysia.



Glojas promotes self-confidence and world-class services in hair loss treatments, hair transplants, eyebrow, beard, burn scar, and lower hairline solutions for all genders. We deliver stunning results and are known as Malaysia's pinnacle for top-tier hair restoration doctors. With Glojas' skilled professionals, cutting-edge technology, and techniques, we ensure that our customers can confidently embrace their desired look and experience natural-looking results at an affordable price.



Glojas sets the gold standard for plastic surgery and aesthetics, delivering unmatched excellence. Our wide-ranging services tackle diverse skin concerns – from uneven tone to acne, pigmentation, and beyond – employing cutting-edge methods like laser therapy and chemical peels, custom-tailored for every individual. We provide an array of procedures, from liposuction to double eyelid creation and gynecomastia treatment, sculpting bodies to perfection, igniting self-assurance and holistic wellness. At Glojas, we place customer contentment and safety above all else.



GLOJAS revolutionizes dental care with state-of-the-art equipment, providing a comprehensive spectrum of treatments, from root canals to dental implants. Recognizing the pivotal role of dental health, our commitment to excellence not only enhances smiles but also bolsters self-assurance, fostering thriving personal and career connections.

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24 HOURS IN

Sibu

Words **Nova Renata** Photography **Joseph Law**



Strategically positioned on the banks of the majestic Rajang River, Sibu beckons travellers with its unique blend of rich cultural heritage, natural beauty and warm hospitality. Located in the central region of Sarawak and known as the gateway to the vast interior of the island of Borneo, Sibu offers a glimpse into authentic small-town Malaysian life.

Home to a large number of ethnic groups, the town is a melting pot of cultures, especially evident in its bustling markets, where you can explore a wide variety of cuisines, crafts and traditions. Much of its charm lies in its vibrant festivals, such as the colourful Borneo Cultural Festival, celebrating the region's indigenous cuisine, music and cultures. There are architectural gems, like the Tua Pek Kong Temple and the Sibu Heritage Centre, to help visitors understand the local history. Then there are the nearby rainforests, home to diverse wildlife and lush landscapes, for a large, restorative dose of nature.

Whether you're exploring the bustling Central Market, indulging in local delicacies or cruising the picturesque river, Sibu offers an immersive experience of northwestern Borneo.

Saturday

🕒 9am

To the market we go

The **Sibu Central Market** is easily the city's socioeconomic heart. It's a lively hub that locals and tourists frequent for fresh produce, seafood, traditional handicrafts and local snacks that highlight the flavours of Sarawak.
Jalan Channel



🕒 11am

Dig into a hearty brunch

Sibu is most famous for its delicious fusion of Foochow Chinese, Malay and Iban cuisines. Must-eats include the *kampua mee* (a type of local dish known for its flavourful broth and al dente noodles), red wine chicken and *kompia* (a bread snack made of flour, minced meat, onions and salt).

Foochow Chinese dishes are mainly of the non-halal variety. Locals love **Soon Hock Café and Restaurant** especially for their *kampua mee*, while those looking for pork-free or halal alternatives like to visit **YS Cafe**. *Soon Hock Cafe & Restaurant (non-halal), 55-59, Jalan Dr. Wong Soon Kai, Taman Seduan 8; YS Cafe (halal), Kampung Nangka*



🕒 1pm

Stroll along the esplanade

Burn off those brunch calories with a stroll or a bike ride along the idyllic **Sibu Rejang Esplanade**.

This scenic waterfront walkway features jogging paths, gardens and seating areas, in addition to postcard-perfect views of the river and surrounding town. And because Sibu locals are known to be very friendly, you might even find yourself striking up a conversation with a fellow trekker.
31, Jalan Maju



Get to know Sibü, a multicultural city surrounded by natural beauty

Maling

was Sibü's old name before 1873. It was inspired by Tanjung Malim, a bend in the Rajang River

160k+

people live in Sibü. Majority of the population is Chinese, followed by Malays, Ibans, Orang Ulu and Melanau

Dr Lau King Howe

was a local doctor who helped develop Sibü. The Lau King Howe Hospital Memorial Museum is dedicated to him



🕒 2.30pm Visit a famous landmark

Head to **Eng Ann Teng Tua Pek Kong Temple**, a Sibü landmark that was built around the 1800s with materials – glazed tiles, stone dragon and phoenix statues – shipped from China. The term *tua pek kong* translates to "grand uncle" and represents prosperity. Many Chinese communities, especially in Southeast Asia, have temples such as this one in Sibü dedicated to *tua pek kong*, where devotees offer prayers and seek blessings for health and good fortune. Within the temple grounds is the Goddess of Mercy Pagoda, a seven-storey tower that was constructed in the 1980s as part of a revitalisation project for the temple. Overlooking the tranquil sea, it's become a symbol of peace for locals. *Jalan Temple*

🕒 3.30pm Fuel up with an afternoon snack

For a mid-afternoon caffeine fix, make your way to **The Coffee Code**, one of the most popular coffee establishments in town. The minimalist interiors help create a relaxing atmosphere, perfect for spending a chilled-out afternoon over fluffy waffles and a solid cup of joe.

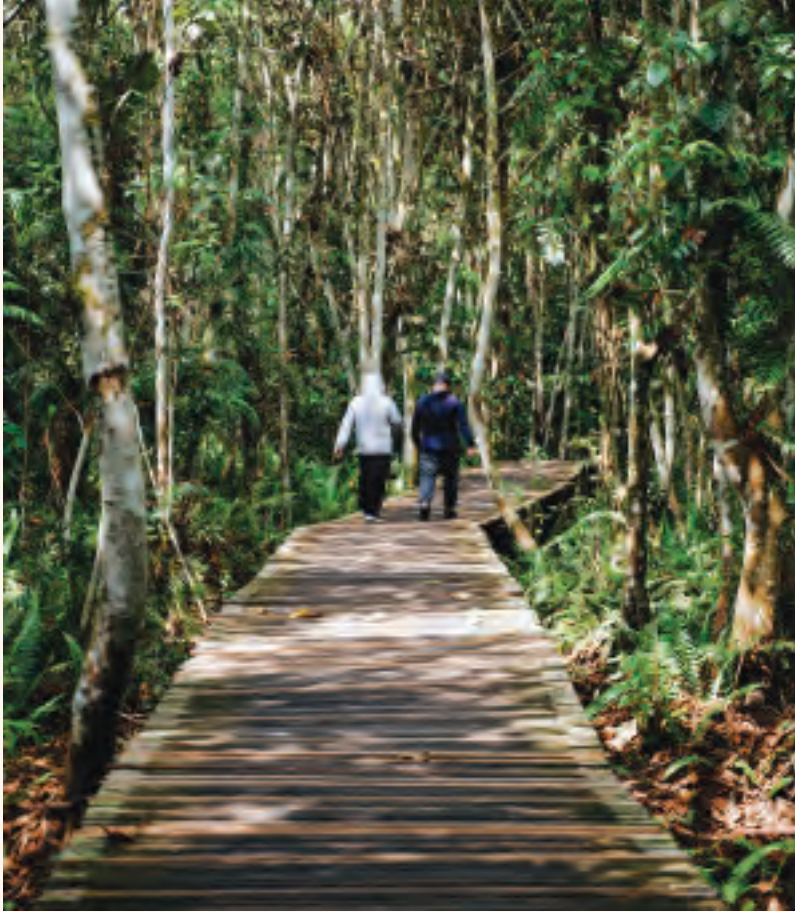
Se7en Café is another popular café with modern and airy interiors. Sip on milk-based espresso beverages and tuck into their delicate pastries and desserts. *The Coffee Code, No 1, Jalan Bintang Selatan; Se7en Cafe, No.38, G/F, Jalan Aman*

🕒 4.30pm Go on a nature walk

Spanning over 8.7 hectares, **Bukit Lima Nature Reserve** encompasses diverse ecosystems: forests, wetlands and wildlife habitats. Located in the heart



IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (SIBU REJANG ESPLANADE, ENG ANN TENG TUA PEK KONG TEMPLE)



of Sibü town, this sprawling urban park gives nature enthusiasts easy access to well-maintained trails where you can spot indigenous plant species and diverse birdlife.

If a city scene is more your stride, head to **Sibü Town Square**, a bustling civic space ringed by modern buildings and commercial establishments. This is where various big celebrations such as the annual Borneo Cultural Festival are held. It's also where residents like to hang out in the late afternoon while people-watching and digging into cups of *gula apung* (Sarawak palm sugar) ice cream from nearby shops. *Bukit Lima Nature Reserve, Lorong Sentosa 5; Sibü Town Square, 16, Jalan Ramin*



🕒 6pm

Savour the local seafood

Ultra-fresh and delicious seafood is a staple in most coastal Bornean cities and Sibü is no different. Out of Sibü's many seafood establishments, **Hong Fu Seafood Restaurant** is a local favourite to enjoy fresh catch dishes like salted egg crab and steamed fish, as well as other popular delicacies like dim sum and seafood porridge. The **Fisherman Restaurant** is also highly rated by locals. It offers specialities like lamb chop, clams and the traditional Sarawakian fish *umai*, a dish of sliced raw fish mixed with onions, chilli and lime. *Hong Fu Seafood Restaurant (non-halal), Jalan Wong King Huo; Fisherman Restaurant (halal), 4, Jalan Chew Geok Lin*

More things to do in Sibü



Located along Jalan Market, the **Sibü Night Market** is known for its wide range of street food like crispy fried bread, crushed peanut pancake and smoked fish. Opens every evening from 5 to 10pm.



Bukit Aup Jubilee Park is 9.7 hectares of low hills with an observation tower, which provides visitors with panoramic views of the surrounding plantations, longhouses and the Igan River.



The **Rajang River** is the longest river in Sarawak and teems with wild creatures, including crocodiles, monkeys and birds. You can also visit traditional Iban longhouses along the river.



Sunday

🕒 8am

Shop for souvenirs

The **Sibu Heritage Centre** serves as a cultural hub preserving the town's rich heritage. This museum and gallery showcase the history and diverse cultural tapestry of the Sibu people, predominantly the Chinese community. Through interactive exhibits, artifacts and multimedia presentations, it chronicles the town's evolution from a small village to a bustling modern city. The centre highlights the contributions of various ethnic groups, emphasising their traditions, customs and lifestyles. If you missed out on souvenir shopping at the Sibu Central Market the day before, you could pick up Sarawakian souvenirs ranging from wooden crafts and accessories to local woven fabric here. *18 2, Jalan Central*



🕒 12pm

A final taste of Sibu

For your farewell meal, indulge in a feast of local favourites such as *kampung* noodles, *ba kui* (rice cakes that are stir-fried with ingredients like eggs), *mani cai* (a type of "sweet" local veggie with meat slices) and *ding bian hu* (soup noodle dish). **Wow Wow West Sibu** is a popular dining establishment known for its delicious Malay and Chinese fusion cuisine and is a good spot for your final meal in town.

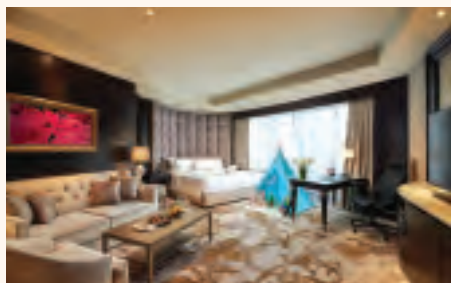
Cabe Ijo, which serves Indonesian-inspired cuisine, is another popular lunch spot. Order *ayam penyet* (Indonesian fried chicken) and *sotong sambal petai* (squid with spicy bitter bean). If you're feeling adventurous or have a high tolerance for spicy food, ask for seconds of their famous green chilli to go with your choice of lunch. *Wow Wow West Sibu Restaurant, 24 & 26, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman; Cabe Ijo Restaurant (halal), Lorong Kuda 2, 71 & 73, Jalan Kuda*



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



Scan to book nature and wildlife tours and more in Sarawak with Journify.



A luxury stay in Jakarta's business hub

Welcome to AYANA Midplaza Jakarta, the ultimate destination for discerning business travellers

Discover exceptional luxury and hospitality at AYANA Midplaza Jakarta, affiliated with Preferred Hotels & Resorts a global collection of independent luxury hotels, resorts, and residences. AYANA Midplaza Jakarta, a premier five-star business hotel, has recently introduced its refurbished 366 rooms and suites, offering a luxurious lifestyle hotel experience that combines a stylish stay with exquisite dining, award-winning spa treatments, heartfelt hospitality, and a range of indoor and outdoor event venues.

Prime location

Located in the heart of Jakarta's Central Business District, AYANA Midplaza Jakarta is a mere two-minute stroll from Setiabudi Astra MRT Station and a convenient 45-minute drive from the airport. Its proximity to Grand Indonesia and Plaza Indonesia malls means that guests can enjoy easy access to the city's finest shopping, dining and entertainment options.

Home away from home

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kitchenette, perfect for extended stays or business meetings.

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A tasteful stay

AYANA Midplaza Jakarta spoils you with a variety of culinary options. RASA Restaurant offers a delectable multi-cuisine buffet with live cooking stations in an open-plan kitchen for a more interactive dining experience, while JimBARan Lounge is the ultimate meeting place for business and social networking. Book a casual business lunch at Blue Terrace and don't miss B1 Bar, the latest bar concept on Jalan Sudirman, which offers cocktails and delicious bites.

Finally, after a long day of meetings, indulge in the AYANA Spa, which marries modern massage techniques with Indonesia's wellness heritage. Whether you're in town for business or leisure, AYANA Midplaza Jakarta offers an urban escape in the heart of the city.

To book your stay and find out more about AYANA Midplaza Jakarta, visit their official website ayana.com/jakarta/ayana-midplaza-jakarta.



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As Korean dramas continue to captivate audiences worldwide, an author tours Seoul's most popular filming sites and reconnects with her Korean identity

Good for the Seoul



Words Marie Myung-Ok Lee Photography Chris da Canha

Something happened on my way to Yeouido Hangang Park, a popular picnic spot along the Han River in Seoul.

Previous spread: A visitor in traditional garb at Gyeongbokgung; a wall adorned with pictures of K-drama filming scenes at Panjajib

This page: A couple on the steps of Yeouinaru fountain and the promenade at sunset, both at Yeouido Hangang Park



It was a beautiful crisp autumn evening in the South Korean capital, and as I walked towards Wonhyo Bridge, one of 27 bridges that traverse the river, I noticed a small crowd. It was a serendipitous moment straight out of a K-drama: I had come to the South Korean capital on a group tour designed around K-drama locations and there I was, on the fringe of a film set, soaking up an unplanned item on the itinerary and watching an actress drive into a parking spot over and over again. Finally, after what seemed like a dozen takes, the director yelled “Cut!”, and the actress changed out of her heels and into a pair of decidedly less glamorous slippers, and everyone dispersed into the night. Everyone, including my group – 17 of us, mostly Americans plus a woman from Malaysia and another from Canada – that had travelled from far away, all for the love of K-drama.

Tours of K-drama shooting locations aren’t new; such excursions feel more like part of the myriad of things you can do in Korea. But this eight-day tour, organised by Noona’s Noonchi, an internet community that promotes the use of K-drama to explore issues of mental health, felt more like what we’d say in Korean, a *mo-im*, a meeting of kindred spirits.

What exactly brought us here? While the group initially seemed disparate – with some travelling solo and others as a group – we soon learned many of us were at a transition point in our lives. Tracey Lewis was a typical participant, a newly retired school principal who’d stumbled on K-dramas during the pandemic and found that many of the themes of conflict, uncertainty and then growth resonated with her new situation. She would watch K-dramas late into the night, baffling her family, who often found her on the couch in tears or laughing uproariously. But no one shared her new obsession. On this tour, she hoped to connect with others who shared her passion.

Jo-Lene Mahon from Malaysia certainly did. She had recently lost her husband to cancer. “It’s been a tough few years to say the least, and K-dramas helped me through the darkest of moments,” she told us. “When I felt like I couldn’t cope, I’d watch shows like *Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha* to give myself hope, *My Liberation Notes* to remind me that just five minutes of happiness a day is achievable, or just lose myself in beautiful dramas like *Hospital Playlist*.”

For many of us, K-dramas provided a relaxing break from hectic, demanding lives; for others, the themes of family, conflict, communication, and repressed trauma gave them a framework to inspect their own lives. There is a Korean saying, people don’t die from crying but from an inability to cry. Many participants said they found themselves in cathartic heaps of tears watching K-dramas.

Then there were the enthusiasts who came with actual spreadsheets of titles they’d watched and those they anticipated. They came with encyclopedic knowledge of which actors starred in which shows and when. It was a level of fandom – of K-dramas, and by extension, Korean culture – I’d never seen before.





Plot twist

There are many K-drama-themed tours, but Nooná's Noonchi (*nunchi* is a Korean term for, loosely, being able to use nonverbal cues to size up a room), has a unique twist: operated by Jeanie Chang, a Korean-American family therapist, the eight-day tours visit filming sites in Seoul and elsewhere, but the schedule includes time for the participants to discuss various K-drama scenes portraying depression, trauma, generational conflict and many similar topics. noonasnoonchi.com



“

It's been astonishing to see my homeland take the world stage as a cultural giant. K-beauty products are all over TikTok, Hollywood stars like Emma Stone say they're obsessed with BTS”

AS A KOREAN-AMERICAN, THE TOUR HAD AN EXTRA PERSONAL pull. My parents were both born in what would eventually become North Korea but were separated from their families after World War II. Eventually they left South Korea for America, and I grew up in a household that did everything it could to assimilate into mainstream American culture. That meant scrubbing the past clean. As a child I was forbidden from learning Korean – they were worried I would acquire an accent or be confused.

Many years later, around the late 1990s, K-dramas began gaining international attention. They were known then as *yeong sok guk*, or serial dramas. I was living in Korea in 1998 as a US Fulbright fellow and had started watching to brush up on my Korean, but soon became addicted to the characters and storylines that often had unexpected, moving twists. K-dramas, intentionally or not, became a backdoor way for me to learn about the culture my parents left behind.

Because K-drama shows are highly specific, including the jokes and tropes – such as the tenderness with which adult children tuck in their ageing parents – it never occurred to me that any of my non-Korean friends would want to watch these with me, even with subtitles.

As such, it's been astonishing to see my homeland take the world stage as a cultural giant. K-beauty products are all over TikTok, and Hollywood stars like Emma Stone say they are obsessed with K-pop boyband sensation, BTS. Even the Oxford English Dictionary, arguably the most authoritative arbiter of the English language, added 26 transliterated Korean words in its most recent (2021) update.

But perhaps nothing has exported Korean culture to the world more than K-dramas (this transliterated word is one of the OED additions), multipart TV series of any genre – horror, thriller, comedy, romance – whose format allows unhurried plot lines: rags to riches, lovers never quite meeting, time travel plots, police procedurals. The launch of the 2021 TV series *Squid Game* on Netflix was watched by an astonishing 111 million people in its first 28 days – pushing the period drama *Bridgerton* off the number one most-watched spot – quickly followed by *Extraordinary Attorney Woo*, which also broke viewing records and is currently a nominee for a Global Emmy.

AS AN ORGANISING PRINCIPLE FOR TRAVEL, K-DRAMA IS all encompassing. Everything that's appeared onscreen is fair game. Our first meal together, for example, was delicious *samgyetang*, which appeared in *Descendants of the Sun*, among the most popular shows in the past decade. *Samgyetang* is a delicacy that Koreans believe balances the body. Ours was served traditionally in a bubbling earthenware crock, a tiny, whole chicken stuffed with glutinous rice, garlic and a red jujube. Most importantly, it had a whole ginseng root, which, even after being boiled for hours, retained its

earthy bitterness that contrasted perfectly with the delicate herby broth, slightly sweet from the jujube. The meal came with some bracing radish kimchi and was finished with *sujung-gwa*, a delightful punch made of dried persimmon, jujubes and cinnamon – sweet, soothing and reportedly good for digestion.

It happened to be Hangul Day, marking when Joseon-era King Sejong invented a phonetic alphabet in 1443 to extend literacy beyond the province of the elites who could read Chinese characters. So before the meal we trooped to the imposing King Sejong statue right in Gwanghwamun Square, a public square with a wide promenade.

We also explored Cheonggyecheon stream, the nearby famous natural waterway that was covered in concrete during the post-Korean War development. It was then uncovered in 2005 as part of a green urban renewal project and has become a favourite place for strolling among locals and tourists. It's also a popular site of K-drama shoots.

Clockwise from top left: The photogenic Deoksugung Doldam-gil, the stone wall along Deoksugung Palace; high schoolers at the Sinchon Graffiti Tunnel; Namsan Tower through the autumn foliage



Left to right: Perfect photo spots around on the grounds of Gyeongbokgung; love padlocks – and a sweeping view of the city – at Namsan Tower's Proposal Deck



“
At [N Seoul Tower on
Namsan], we enjoyed
a stunning 360-degree
view of Seoul”



Throughout the tour, we followed our affable Korean tour guide as she led us around landmarks such as the futuristic needle-shaped N Seoul Tower on Namsan (South Mountain). It's one of the most recognisable edifices in the city and its second highest point. At its observation deck, we enjoyed a stunning 360-degree view of Seoul. We could see everything from the presidential palace (the Blue House) and the numerous mountains within the city limits. Not surprisingly, this unique location appears in dozens of K-dramas as a meeting spot. Even the restrooms are outfitted with clear glass so you wouldn't miss a minute of the view.

Book your way to Seoul



Hallyu:
The Korean Wave
Rosalie Kim's book starts from the Joseon Dynasty up to the current time, looking at Hallyu from a nation-building perspective.



Crying in H Mart
Michelle Zauner's bestselling memoir explores a young woman's discovery of her mother's homeland.



The Birth of Korean Cool: How One Nation Is Conquering the World Through Pop Culture
A fun and informative read on the origin story of Korea as a global pop culture superpower.

This page: A visitor dressed in hanbok at Gyeongbokgung

Our tour of the capital also took us to Yonsei University in the busy college neighbourhood of Sinchon, another favourite spot on the tour. Established by American Presbyterian missionaries, the ivy-covered stone buildings in the distinctive main campus stand in as various universities in K-dramas, so of course there were people angling to pose for photos. Later, we traipsed through ancient shrines cosplaying in Joseon-era *hanbok*, the traditional Korean dress, and explored traditional markets. I marvelled at the sheer number of tourists from around the world, many of them gobbling up street food that once made non-Korean friends gag. Jannie, a.k.a. Noona's Nunchi, mentioned she used to stealthily throw out Korean goodies like kimbap and bulgogi that sometimes appeared in her lunch box. Even at the airport lounge on my way back home, I'd filled up on as much Korean food as I could but then also stood back in awe watching all the non-Koreans similarly dig into spicy tuna kimchi. When did Korea become super cool?

My parents, who had been displaced by wars and fled for survival, would have found the country unrecognisable. I, too, worried that, having lived elsewhere most of my life, I would come off as a fumbling overseas Korean with rusty language skills. But, being tucked into this tour group that had been brought together by a common love for K-dramas took the pressure off. I could just be myself: a K-drama fan and a tourist in a country that has transformed itself. ■



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November

BEST SPOTS IN MALAYSIA

2023

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



For delicious Italian-ish fare: Alta Pizza

More than just a pizza spot, Alta Pizza offers a varied menu that also includes handmade pastas and vegetable-forward sides with an emphasis on rustic flavours. Helmed by chef-owner Christian Recomio, its Neo Neapolitan-style pizzas focus on simplicity and best in-season local produce. Their fresh, daily made in-house cheese and homemade limoncello, featuring juicy Amalfi lemons, highlight the restaurant's dedication to quality and freshness. Its bright, inviting space, accentuated by striking cobalt blue, embodies the laidback vibe of the Amalfi coast during summertime. Alta Pizza is the perfect all-day dining destination for daytime sips and bonding over good food.

38, Jalan Kemuja, Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur
| altapizza.co | IG: [alta_pizza_](https://www.instagram.com/alta_pizza_) |
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For a delightful dining experience in Bangsar: The Social

Located in KL's trendy neighbourhood of Bangsar, The Social is a charming spot that offers delicious all-day dining. This award-winning bar has been recognised as one of the best in the industry, receiving accolades such as HAPA Awards' Best F&B Personality and Malaysia's Top 30 Bars. With its vibrant atmosphere and delectable food and drinks, The Social is the perfect place to enjoy a delightful meal. It's serving up a festive feast this holiday season: don't miss out on their special Christmas offerings, including succulent stuffed turkey rolls, chocolate mousse cranberry cake and Yule log. Experience the holiday spirit and warmth in this local gem of KL.

57-59, Jalan Telawi 3, Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur | thesocial.com.my |
+60 3-2282 2260



For a Southeast Asian and European fusion: Manja at Old Malaya Kuala Lumpur

The atmosphere at Manja Old Malaya is one of sophistication and charm. Whether you're inside the restaurant, surrounded by its historical artefacts and tasteful décor, or dining in its alfresco area, taking in the fresh air and city views, you'll find yourself in an enchanting setting that elevates your dining experience. Begin your immersive journey with the coconut Borneo tuna, beautifully presented in a fresh coconut shell, or the hearty kopi-spiced beef, accompanied by a tantalising sauce infused with local coffee and served alongside creamy mash. End your meal on a sweet note with kaya cheesecake and assorted coulis.

6, Lorong Raja Chulan, Kuala Lumpur | manja.com.my | IG: [manjakualalumpur](https://www.instagram.com/manjakualalumpur) |
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Young, gifted and in vogue

One reinvents traditional wear by marrying centuries-old skills with cross-cultural designs, the other specialises in a modern aesthetic that is gaining an international fanbase. Meet homegrown fashion labels that are putting Malaysian talents on the map

Words **Sharon Crowther**

No Name Polo
and Rosey Trousers
by motoguo



Behati's modern take on the baju Melayu, with an oversized top and palazzo pants



At the heart of Kuala Lumpur's shopping district in Bukit Bintang early this year, models paraded in billowing rainbow-coloured *baju Melayu* (traditional male outfit) to mark the launch of fashion label Behati's 2023 Raya collection. The striking looks – with shades of marigold and magenta, emerald green and indigo – was completed with dark sunglasses and vinyl *terompah* slides, a modern take on traditional wooden Peranakan slippers.

Behati reinvents traditional wear – Chinese, Malay, Indian and indigenous – for new audiences. Founded in 2018 by designer Kel Wen, its signature piece is an oversized *baju Melayu*, a dramatic and excessive scaling up of the traditional Malay shirt, which dates to the 15th century. Wen had originally designed it to wear to a friend's Raya open house, where it turned heads all evening. His clothing line grew from there.

"In traditional wear, often the only options are in colour or pattern, but I wanted something more modern, something to make a statement," recalls the 27-year-old creative director, who is originally from Muar, a historical town in the state of Johor. "It was controversial – the first oversized collection went viral on social media. People said I was destroying tradition and I was accused of cultural appropriation. But it's still one of our bestsellers every year."

Since then, Wen has continued to divide opinion with corseted and ripped denim cheongsam, the traditional Chinese samfu updated as a bomber jacket and track pants, a cropped kebaya, a shirt sari and even a military print batik.

While his creations may appear to be a dramatic departure from the original inspiration, Wen argues that tradition remains at the core of every piece. "Often people don't know what makes traditional wear traditional. They just know that it doesn't look the same, so they decide they don't like it. But the tradition is always there in my designs," he says. "For example, in Malay traditional wear there is a certain way of constructing pieces like *baju Melayu* called *kekek* and *pesak*. We use these methods, regardless of whether it is oversized or not, because that is the traditional way."

Kekek and *pesak* refer to the two pieces of fabric sewn under the sleeves to join the

front and back panels of certain traditional garments and increase comfort under the arms.

"Another example would be our batik, which is traditionally made using wax, dye and metal plates," Wen continues. "Batik is the method, not the pattern. You can choose flowers, or you can choose a military design. Just because it doesn't look a certain way, doesn't mean it isn't honouring tradition."

Wen, who is of Malay-Chinese heritage, believes his openness to creating in a cross-cultural way resonates with many younger Malaysians. "Growing up in a modern multi-racial country, you have a lot of cultural influences, and it has always been important that Behati reflects that."

ANOTHER HOMEGROWN LABEL

that is a rising star on Malaysia's fashion scene is KL-based motoguo. Wildly experimental and totally unique, the brand was founded in 2015 by visionary trio Moto Guo, Kinder Eng and Perry Jay Ang. The label is known for its androgynous styling and surreal aesthetic. Recently, motoguo's heart-covered, high waisted Paula Tsui skirt was worn by Lily Collins on Netflix's *Emily in Paris*. Their Mirage Knit top also appeared in HBO's *Euphoria*. It's exposure like this, says Guo, that is garnering the label valuable international attention.

"We don't seek out to disrupt but rather invite everyone to view clothing in a less restrictive manner," Guo says. "Right from the start, the idea behind the brand has been to spark emotion and create a space for like-minded people to connect," he adds, sharing how many found it initially hard to believe that such avant-garde designs were coming from Malaysians. "It certainly felt like we were living in our own niche. As the mainstream gradually caught on to maximalism and fashion designed to fit both men and women, people are now more receptive towards our designs," Guo adds.

Before the pandemic, motoguo's sales was gradually growing, with many fashion travellers and tourists from Asia and the States dropping by its pop-up in Isetan Lot 10. "[Since then], we have moved most of our retail operations online and we are seeing significant brand awareness, thanks to social media and celebrity TV-show appearances," Guo says. ■

Marbleous Mac shirt
with Pink Rose Wagyu
Marble shorts and
Lucy Loose stockings
by motoguo



A batik-print beach dress by Behati



Behati's oversized parka made with songket, a handwoven fabric



Trail blazers

More homegrown labels that are cutting their own pattern in Malaysian fashion

Whimsigirl

Intentionally designed everyday attire in natural tones with clean lines, Whimsigirl is a womenswear label founded by entrepreneur Syazana Sukiman. Unashamedly feminist, Whimsigirl seeks to empower women with apparel made with sustainable materials and in flattering cuts. You can find Whimsigirl at Bangsar Village II, Kuala Lumpur. whimsigirl.com

Eric Choong

Using clothing as a canvas, haute couture designer Eric Choong's latest collection creates handmade, wearable masterpieces with bold patterns and vibrant colour palettes. Inspired by the ancient batik textiles of Malaysia and Indonesia, Choong even creates his own plant dyes as part of his artistic process. ericchoong.com

Fern

Sustainable, luxury resort wear brand Fern modernises traditional batik patterns with

muted tones and modern fabrics. Founded by entrepreneur Fern Chua, the label takes inspiration from the natural world to create elegant silhouettes and calming colour palettes. In addition to their ready-to-wear collection, they also provide made-to-order custom pieces. fern.gallery

Anaabu

Minimalist, muted and androgynous are the key features of sustainable independent Malaysian apparel label, Anaabu. Using ethically sourced cotton and linen, they produce capsule wardrobe pieces designed to be worn again and again. anaabu.co

Caro Chia

Blurring the lines between fashion and sculpture, Caro Chia designs evocative and ethereal pieces that drape and gather fabrics in harmony with the body. The designer and artist works from her studio in Kuala Lumpur and ships her collections worldwide. carochia.com



Anaabu



Eric Choong



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The story of Charterhouse Malaysia is a testament to the power of collaboration and unwavering commitment; Charterhouse, a prestigious UK-based educational institution, has made impressive strides in establishing a presence in Malaysia. Thus, the establishment of Charterhouse Malaysia was not just the inauguration of a new school, but the manifestation of a shared dream.

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Record university placements

A significant testament to Charterhouse Malaysia's success is its exceptional record in university placements. The first cohort of Carthusians secured admission to prestigious universities worldwide, mirroring the achievements of Charterhouse UK. This underscores the commitment of both institutions to prepare students not only for academic success, but also for their future roles as global citizens and leaders.

The story of Charterhouse Malaysia is one of shared values and aspirations. The two schools, although separated by thousands of miles, are united in purpose. They work collectively to create an environment where students can excel academically, grow personally and become responsible global citizens.

Looking ahead, Charterhouse is optimistic that its partnership will continue to inspire, empower and transform the lives of the students it serves, bridging continents and shaping a brighter future in the spirit of educational excellence.

For more information on Charterhouse Malaysia, visit charterhouse-htms.edu.my



Bridging continents: the Charterhouse story

Two institutions, Charterhouse UK and Charterhouse Malaysia, have worked hand in hand to create a world-class educational journey for students in Kuala Lumpur



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A photograph of a rustic outdoor cafe. A large, gnarled tree trunk is on the left, with its roots spreading across the wall of a building. The building has a tiled roof and a wall of exposed brick and plaster. A string of warm-toned lights hangs from the roof. In the foreground, there is a wooden table and four chairs on a gravel patio. A large potted plant sits near the entrance of the building.

Renaissance road

A photograph of a dining table set with Thai food, drinks, and a candle in a restaurant. The table is dark wood with a light-colored top. On the table are several plates of food, including a large piece of fried fish, a bowl of rice, and a plate of vegetables. There are two glasses of beer, one tall and one short, and a small glass with a lit candle. The background is a wall with a patterned curtain. The lighting is warm and focused on the table.

A charming street of ageing buildings, Bangkok's Charoen Krung Road is in the midst of a revival thanks to photogenic cafés, trendy restaurants and cool night spots

Words **Parisa Pichitman** Photography **Natthawut Taeja**



Walking down Charoen Krung Road means walking past the sights, sounds and smells that encapsulate the essence of Bangkok: time-worn shophouses, the ceaseless putter of tuk-tuks, the aroma of piping-hot noodle soups. Built in 1862 – on the request of Western consuls who needed somewhere to ride their horses – the thoroughfare was the capital’s first modern paved road, passing through Chinatown and running parallel to the Chao Phraya River.

A century later, the centre of commerce and culture moved eastward into the more spacious Sukhumvit and Sathorn. What remained in the Old Town were modest family businesses and their sturdy shophouses dating back to King Rama V’s reign, alongside the multi-cultural landmarks ranging from the first bank (Siam Commercial Bank) to first embassy (Embassy of Portugal). From the city’s buzzy main street, Charoen Krung became a sleepy stretch of faded buildings.

But since 2017, Charoen Krung has been expanding beyond historical enticements. When the Thailand Creative and Design

Center (TCDC), a design library and co-working space, relocated into the Grand Postal Building on Charoen Krung six years ago, young entrepreneurs and artists followed – a creative exodus driven by cheaper rent and a more peaceful locale, akin to what you’d see anywhere in the world, from Brooklyn in New York to Fitzroy in Melbourne.

Soon the Charoen Krung area – Bang Rak, Khlong San and the neighbourhoods around the Chao Phraya – came to be known as the Creative District, home of annual events like Bangkok Design Week and Awakening Bangkok, a light installation and digital art festival.

Today, travellers seek out Charoen Krung for its third-generation street food eateries, its riverside grand dames such as the storied Mandarin Oriental and the Shangri-La, as well as shinier chic hotels like the Capella. More daring dining concepts and polished eateries are also setting up shop here – modern glitz gently creeping into these old-time quarters – making Charoen Krung the perfect place to taste Bangkok’s fascinating duality: a glossy capital made more intriguing by all the grunge. Here’s how to make the most of your visit.

Previous spread: The River Room and outdoor seating at Hong Sieng Kong; sharing plates and mocktails at Jua

This page: A street food pushcart along Chareon Krung; Popular street art en route to Talad Noi; Delicacies at Araksa Tea Room; Its location within a retrofitted townhouse in Charoen Krung







HONG
SIENG
HONG

Left to right: The riverside courtyard at Hong Sieng Kong; Talad Noi Orange coffee and custard tart; Chet Adkins and a bowl of Creamy Poke



“

Charoen Krung Road is peppered with Michelin stars, but it's the refined and fearlessly inventive menus...that'll feed your senses”

TEA AND ANTIQUES

Start with an afternoon stroll past the brutalist Grand Postal Building, antique shophouses and gemstone shophouses, and into **Araksa Tea Room**, an elegant oasis with earth-toned furniture and sharp bamboo weave accents. Araksa opened in July and brings Chiang Mai's finest brews to the capital. Skip the usual orange Thai tea for their award-winning version, which infuses English breakfast tea with aromatic vanilla and caramel. The tea-based desserts are also a must-try; go for the Thai tea panna cotta with fresh mango for that East-meets-West flavour.

If you prefer a riverside view, head towards Chinatown and into the Talad Noi neighbourhood, to the antique café **Hong Sieng Kong**. After snaking past narrow alleys, rows of junkyards and auto-part shops, spot the Chinese temple Chow Sue Kong Shrine and a bright indigo blue entrance to confirm that you've arrived at what might be the most majestic restoration spectacle in the area.

In 2021, a compound of six dilapidated buildings – former rice mills and houses over 150 years old and deserted for at least 40 – were revived into a bare-bricked coffee shop with trees sprouting from its walls. Not only is this the best riverside spot to view a pink-hued sunset, it's also home to an eclectic array of large-scaled antiques such as Teochew carved wooden doors and colonial-era spiral staircases from Myanmar. After taking in the resplendent surroundings, quench your thirst with their zesty Talad Noi Orange Coffee, a refreshing Americano topped with kumquat juice and soda.

DINNER IS THE NEW THEATRE

This street is peppered with Michelin stars, but it's the refined and fearlessly inventive menus served in an elegant shophouse setting that'll feed your senses. For dinner, commit to some of the shiniest showcases of creativity and top-notch ingredients cooked with exceptional finesse.

From Talad Noi, walk into the backstreets of Soi Charoen Krung 28 to **Jua**, where a slick, fusion izakaya decked with humongous photographs of kabuki has risen from the remnants of a gambling den. “I let ingredients shine rather than pile 120 seasonings on top,” explains chef and co-owner Chet Adkins. “We do good food, good drinks, good art and good music...you can stop by casually in your shorts.” The food includes tasteful skewers and inventive small plates that are

a mishmash of French techniques, a love of Japanese food and Adkins' previous years in Hawaii. Their popular grilled jumbo prawn with durian butter features the chef's happy discovery of Malaysia's *tempoyak* (a Malay condiment made with fermented durian), while raw picks like Creamy Poke dress juicy bursts of tobiko and diced tuna in a delicious Sriracha sauce.

Among the more recent additions to the neighbourhood is **Small Dinner Club**, which opened last year, across the street and a dozen doors down from Jua. The fine-dining experience deconstructs and reinterprets Thai ingredients over a 10- to 12-course tasting menu. In this upscale black box, the reservations-only, 11-seater counter is a stage where food isn't limited to the usual savoury or sweet palate. Here, pink guava is grilled like steak ("medium rare, burnt-not burnt"). "We create new perspectives on food and have a different way of doing things to simple, local ingredients that people may overlook," says chef and owner Sareen Rojanametin. "It's fun and fascinating to turn ingredients I've seen since I was a kid into something amazing that surprises even the locals."



Best quick bites

Pressed for time? Here are some of the best street food in Charoen Krung

Jok Prince

Bowls of congee served with meatballs, offal, egg yolk and century egg. Add crunch with fried noodles or *patongko* (fried dough sticks) toppings. **Across the street from Robinson Mall, before the corner Café Amazon**

Prachak

Whether topped on rice or thin, delicate egg noodles, their roasted duck, Chinese sausages and shrimp wonton consistently impress. A family-run operation since 1909. **Across the street from Robinson Mall, 55m from Jok Prince**

Khun Pu Curry Puff

Their golden puffs are fried fresh with new oil every day. The chicken curry filling is a must, but coconut and pineapple bring a sugary kick to your munchies. **Soi Charoen Krung 22, a narrow alley best reached by foot**

Tumrub Thai

Their *kanom krok* – tiny, half-sphere rice flour and coconut milk pancakes – stands out for the crunchy bottom, side crust and a pudding-like centre. **Dragon Roundabout in Talad Noi, next to Siam Commercial Bank**

IMAGE: KITTIPOONG CHARAROJ / SHUTTERSTOCK (JOK PRINCE)



END ON A HIGH NOTE

Since Small Dinner Club opened in 2022, its block of two-storey shophouses has turned into one of the best nooks for a casual-yet-cool night out. Pop by next door if you'd like to hear live jazz in shoulder-to-shoulder intimacy at **Bangkok Mojo**; shop for some vinyl and groove to the DJ's spins at **Have You Heard? Records**; or swill organic wine at **Madi**. Exiting from SDC's back door will bring you to the courtyard connecting all these establishments, where creative types hang out amid leafy potted plants and warm fairy lights.

While it might be tempting to linger in the courtyard, one last nighttime marvel worth visiting is **Siwilai Sound Club**. It draws audiophiles with live performances and a vinyl listening room, but the building itself is something to see. The converted shophouse was originally the site of the first Central department store from the 1950s. Now it emits an inviting glow from within, hinting at satisfying musical entertainment.

Outside, the 'uncles' and 'aunties' hawk fruit in pushcarts and fry roti at roadside stalls as they've done for decades. And it's this charmingly stark contrast – of new and old, of grunge and gloss, of age-old local culture and new creativity – that gives this side of Bangkok its irresistible edge. ■

Left to right:

The courtyard behind Small Dinner Club; grilled pink guava steak; Sareen Rojanаметin's conceptual tasting menu is designed to delight and surprise diners



Malaysia Airlines flies from Kuala Lumpur to Bangkok 42x weekly.

Firefly flies from Penang to Bangkok 5x weekly.



The advertisement features a central image of Chef Alan Voo, a man in a white chef's uniform and tall white hat, smiling broadly and holding a bottle of dark liquid with a yellow label. The background is a large Malaysian flag. Surrounding the chef are several plates of seafood: a large platter with a lobster, a plate with a crab, a plate with a fish, and a plate with a shrimp. The text '蒸好食' is written in large, stylized characters, and 'FISH MARKET RESTAURANT' is written in a smaller font below it.

蒸好食

FISH MARKET RESTAURANT

Chef Alan Voo

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
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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 takes design cues from traditional Bornean architecture and offers 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 | IG: @bungarayaresort | +60-88 380 390



For contemporary interiors: Signel Poshtel

Set in the heart of Kota Kinabalu, Signel Poshtel is a splendid base to explore this lively city. Gaya Street and its surrounding neighbourhood are home to a wide array of street food and bustling weekend markets. The Crème de la Crème family room

is the pinnacle of modern luxury, and is ideal for families and big groups. Featuring exquisite amenities and elegant décor, this spacious and comfortable retreat is perfect for creating quality and memorable time with your loved ones.

Levels 1 to 4, Lot 120, Jalan Gaya, Kota Kinabalu | IG: @signelposhtel | +60 88-221 168 | +60 11-5877 2391



Back to nature

Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Resort is a haven for travellers looking to embrace the great outdoors



Nestled within the heart of one of the world's oldest rainforests, Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Resort offers the perfect blend of natural beauty and modern comforts. Surrounded by wild, tangled greenery and conveniently located less than 10 minutes away from the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, this resort is the perfect base for those seeking a true Bornean adventure.

Nature at your doorstep

You'll be spoiled for choice when it comes to nature activities. Guided jungle treks reveal diverse wildlife and a unique perspective of the rainforest's beauty, while birdwatchers will delight in the

chance to spot rare and colourful avian species in their natural habitat.

Creature comforts

At the resort, guests can choose from a range of accommodations, from spacious dorms to luxurious villas. Its deluxe chalets even come with a private balcony so you can unwind while drinking in the sumptuous beauty of your surroundings. Modern amenities such as air conditioning, Wi-Fi connectivity and well-equipped bathrooms ensure guests enjoy a restful retreat after a day of exploring. You don't have to stray far for food either as the resort has a massive on-site restaurant that offers a wide variety of cuisines, including traditional Bornean flavours, with vegan and vegetarian options available.

Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Resort is more than just a place to stay; it's an invitation to explore and connect with the incredible natural wonders of Borneo. Whether you're an avid nature enthusiast or are simply in search of a tranquil escape, this rustic retreat has something special to offer every visitor.

3 day trips to take

Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre

Learn more about orangutan conservation efforts and why it's so important to preserve these endangered species.

Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre

Home to 44 orphaned and rescued ex-captive sun bears, this rescue and rehabilitation facility offers visitors a chance to witness these bears on the road to recovery.

Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary

Located a 25-minute drive away from the resort, this sanctuary is home to "the biggest nose in Borneo" along with other displaced wildlife such as Silvered-Leaf Langurs and Oriental-Pied Hornbills.

For more information on Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Resort, visit borneosepilok.com



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 change with government-initiated programs 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

SLDB's 2023 team-building initiatives

Sabah Land Development Board is dedicated to fostering a cohesive, high-performing team by enhancing leadership, teamwork and interpersonal skills among managers, executives and non-executive staff through team-building programs. In the past year, they've conducted three sessions: SLDB Managers Retreat 2023, SLDB Executives Team Building and SLDB Comrades Team Building 2023. The primary goal of the team-building sessions is to promote a sense of belonging, strategic thinking, effective communication and cross-functional collaboration, thereby creating a workplace culture that values personal growth and mutual support.

SLDB Manager Retreat 2023
12-13 May 2023
Shangri-La, Rasa Ria Resort

SLDB Executive Team Building
16-17 June 2023
Beringgis Beach Resort & Spa, Papar

SLDB Comrades Team Building 2023 (Non-Executives)
18-19 August 2023
Beringgis Beach Resort & Spa, Papar





Time to feast

The best spots to eat while in Kota Kinabalu



Happy Place Restaurant & Bar

Enjoy a gastronomic feast with Happy Place Restaurant & Bar's three new menu specials. Enjoy the show-stopping Beef Wellington, a succulent 1kg fillet of beef that's perfect for sharing; or savour the traditional Roast Leg of Lamb, marinated to perfection and slow-roasted to ensure juiciness. Seafood lovers shouldn't miss the Baked Salmon, expertly seasoned and served with a light dill cream sauce. These delicious large-format dishes, ideal for group gatherings or special occasions, promise an unforgettable meal.

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



Times Three Café

From hearty breakfast sandwiches and sourdough burgers to lighter salads, Times Three Café is a great Muslim-friendly spot in Kota Kinabalu to recharge between your jaunts into the city. Must-try dishes include the deeply flavoured balsamic smoked duck linguine and their unique fusion-style asam pedas prawn pasta. More than a just a dining venue, its light-filled, minimalist space is also perfect for special occasions. 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



Souq Garden Restaurant

Located within the Raia Hotel in Kota Kinabalu, Souq Garden invites you with its lavish selection of Middle Eastern dishes, served in an ornately designed space. This halal restaurant, open for both lunch and dinner, offers specialty dishes such as biryani and mandi, accompanied by generous servings of chicken or lamb shank. It also features Malaysian favourites like slow-cooked asam pedas oxtail, Tawau curry mee and Tuaran fried noodles. This December, celebrate the festive season with the restaurant's enticing Christmas & New Year's Eve high tea buffet (RM68) alongside your friends and family.

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

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Welcome on board the Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) group of airlines! This month, see what we have on offer to ensure that you have a safe, seamless and fuss-free journey with us.

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Onboard entertainment

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



Malaysia Airlines welcomes new 737-8 aircraft

The first batch of 737-8 aircraft arrived in November 2023, with 25 new airplanes embodying modernity and Malaysia’s rich heritage through its striking livery design and inviting cabin interior, all aimed at enhancing the overall customer experience. The livery of the new 737-8 aircraft has undergone a significant transformation, representing Malaysia Airlines’ vision and aspirations as the national carrier. The iconic *wau* logo, symbolising Malaysian pride, has been artfully repositioned to reflect the airline’s determination to move forward with optimism and energy. Adorned with an exquisite *songket* motif in elegant gold hues, the logo pays tribute to Malaysia’s vibrant cultural heritage, underscoring the airline’s unwavering commitment to proudly represent the nation and its progressive spirit.

Malaysia Airlines commenced inaugural flights to Ahmedabad on 1 Dec 2023

Following the introduction of two new routes in November, Malaysia Airlines has further expanded its service to India by announcing a new route between Kuala Lumpur (KUL) and Ahmedabad (AMD) effective 1 December 2023. With this addition, Malaysia Airlines now offers direct flights to nine major Indian cities, including New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi. The flights to Ahmedabad will be operated by the Boeing 737-800NG aircraft, featuring 160 seats in total, with 16 in business class and 144 in economy class.



Route	Flight No.	Departure Time	Days of Operation
KUL-AMD	MH106	6:50pm	Tuesday, Friday
AMD-KUL	MH107	10:40pm	Tuesday, Friday
KUL-AMD	MH208	11:00pm	Wednesday, Saturday
AMD-KUL	MH207	02:55am	Thursday, Sunday

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Experience incredible savings of up to 40% on holiday packages with MHolidays, where one child can travel and stay for free! Whether it’s a school holiday or family vacation, this offer provides an affordable solution to explore exciting destinations, create lasting memories, and have a fantastic time – all while staying within your budget. MHolidays packages also include complimentary perks such as a 30kg baggage allowance, onboard meals, seat selection, and the opportunity to earn Enrich Points for your flight. Please enquire about the terms and conditions.



IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (AHMEDABAD, MODEL)



Malaysia Airlines offers free wi-fi across all classes

In its continuous efforts to enhance the onboard experience, Malaysia Airlines is providing unlimited complimentary Wi-Fi service to all passengers travelling on selected widebody aircraft, regardless of cabin class or loyalty tier. Passengers, including those travelling in Economy Class and non-Enrich

members, will no longer be required to subscribe to the airline's pay-per-use Wi-Fi. Passengers can simply connect their devices to the 'MHconnect' network to enjoy the airline's free in-flight Wi-Fi to keep in touch with their loved ones or for browsing the internet.

Journify x CIMB: #PayDayDeals

Exclusively for CIMB Malaysia debit and credit cardholders – time to make your payday extra special with this limited-time #PayDayDeal! (valid until 29 December 2023). Explore Journify by Malaysia Aviation Group to discover a wide array of activities and attractions for a fantastic day out with family and friends, including Legoland, Aquaria KLCC, KidZania KL, SplashMania, Zoo Negara and more. If you have upcoming travel plans, consider the MHflypass, allowing up to three return trips within Malaysia or ASEAN with Malaysia Airlines. CIMB cardholders can enjoy RM30 OFF for a minimum spend of RM100 (limited to the first 100 redemptions monthly) or RM100 OFF with a minimum spend of RM580 using CIMB 0% Easy Pay (capped to the first 300 redemptions monthly). Simply select your payment option and enter your card number to access these offers. CIMB 0% Easy Pay instalment plans are also available. Please enquire about the terms and conditions.



Firefly expands jet services with direct flights from Penang to Bangkok

Firefly, a subsidiary of Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), has expanded its Penang hub by introducing direct flights to Bangkok via Don Mueang International Airport (DMK) on 3 November 2023.

Operating five times a week, the flights utilised retrofitted Boeing 737-800 aircraft with 189 seats in Economy Class, offering features such as ergonomic seats, ample legroom, personal device holders and USB type A and C power outlets for passenger convenience. This new route, the second one to Thailand after the launch of direct flights to Phuket last year, enhances connectivity between these popular tourist destinations and solidifies Firefly's presence in the region.

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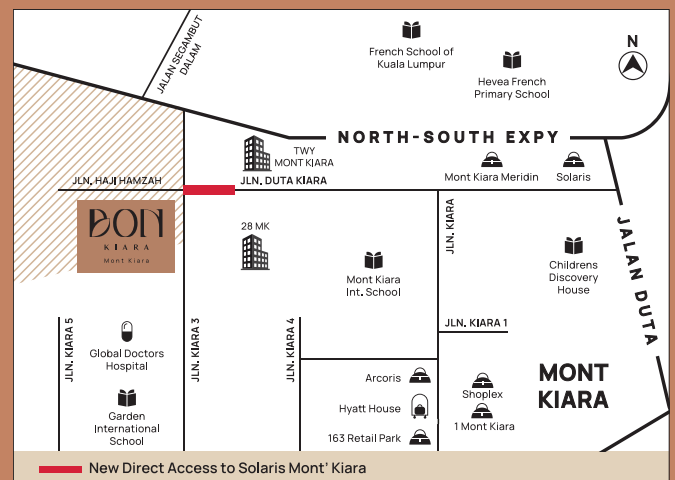
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• Advertising Permit No.: 30079-1/02-2026/0158(N)-(S) • Validity Period: 21/02/2023 - 20/02/2026 • Land Marker Sdn Bhd, 57, Jalan Penaga, Taman Bandaraya, 59100 Kuala Lumpur. 03-22026566 • Freehold • Land Encumbrances: Maybank Islamic Berhad • Total: 410 units • Min 2 carparks each unit • Bon Kiara Condominium • Expected Date of Completion: March 2027 • Size: 2,081 sf - 6,226 sf • Selling Price: RM1,623,000 (Min) - RM5,029,000 (Max) • Type A - 64 units • Type B - 136 units • Type C - 68 units • Type D - 136 units • Type E - 1 units • Type F - 1 units • Type G - 1 units • Type H - 1 units • Type I - 1 units • Type J - 1 units • Approving Authority: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur • Building Plan Approval No.: (16) dlm. BP T1 OSC 2021 1694 • Bumiputera Discount: 5%

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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



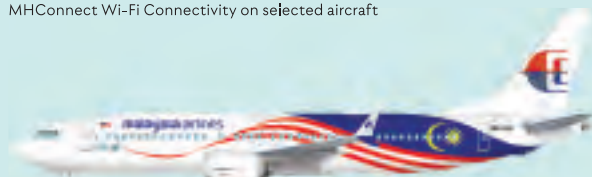
A330-200 MHconnect

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 **42** | Passenger Seating **160, 166, 174**
Length **39.5m** | Wingspan **38.5m** | Height **12.50m**
Max. Cruising Speed **857km/h**



B737-8

No. of Aircraft **1** | Passenger Seating **174**
Length **39.5m** | Wingspan **35.90m** | Height **12.30m**
Max. Cruising Speed **839km/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**
Max. Cruising Speed **337km/h**

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

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

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

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

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Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes, is prohibited on all flights. Electronic cigarettes must be carried in carry-on baggage only. Recharging of the device in-flight is not permitted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Beaming brilliance

Enjoy brighter, more beautiful smiles with Stellar Dental

One of the best parts of travelling is looking through your travel snapshots, reliving the exhilarating moments from your trip. Similarly, nothing takes you away from the moment more quickly than the sight of a less-than-perfect smile. Whether it's stained or yellow teeth, crooked or even missing teeth, dental issues often impact a person's confidence and make them self-conscious about their smile.

Stellar Dental, a five-star dental clinic in Kota Damansara and Setia Alam, believes that a radiant smile can do more than just enhance your appearance. A smile makeover goes beyond cosmetic improvements; it can spark a transformation from within.

What is a smile makeover?

A smile makeover involves a combination of cosmetic dentistry procedures tailored

to enhance the appearance of the teeth and gums. From teeth whitening and porcelain veneers to orthodontic treatments and dental implants, these procedures are designed to address a myriad of dental issues. While the aesthetic improvements are evident, the impact of a smile makeover goes far beyond surface beauty.

When you feel good about your smile, you exude confidence, which influences your personal and professional life in a positive way. Embracing a smile makeover isn't just about aesthetics; it's a journey towards enhanced self-confidence and a happier, healthier you.

Why Stellar Dental?

With over 30 years of combined experience and more than 7,000 satisfied clients, Stellar Dental lives up to its reputation for providing top-quality dental services. Apart from general dentistry and restorative dentistry, the clinic also specialises in cosmetic dentistry, offering services such as teeth veneers and teeth whitening. The latter is a non-invasive method of brightening your teeth by at least two shades in just one visit, while veneers help to change the colour, shape and length of your teeth.

In addition, Stellar Dental has recently introduced a state-of-the-art "3D smile simulation technology", which allows patients to visualise their post-makeover smile before undergoing any procedures.

If you're concerned about the cost, you'll be pleased to know that Stellar Dental offers comprehensive smile makeover packages that address all your aesthetic concerns in a single, streamlined treatment plan. This ensures a more cost-effective and convenient solution to achieving your ideal smile.

Exclusive for Going Places readers

Stellar Dental is offering a limited-time free consultation and 3D digital scanning (worth RM500). Simply quote this article when scheduling an appointment.



For more information, visit Stellar Dental's website at stellardental.my



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BODY



HAIR



STYLING

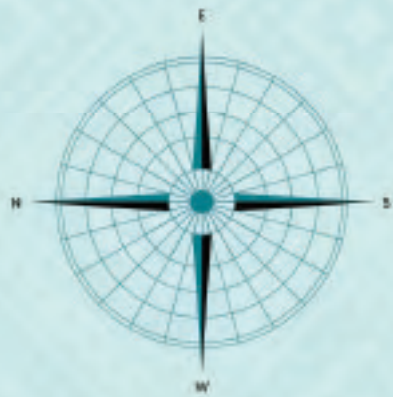


FACE



DEO





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Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One

Check out our Christmas Special on page 116!



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Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One

Ethan Hunt returns to save humanity from a mysterious, all-powerful enemy

Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One, a 2023 American spy action film directed by Christopher McQuarrie and co-written with Erik Jendresen, serves as the sequel to 2018's 'Mission: Impossible – Fallout' and the seventh entry in the franchise. Tom Cruise reprises his role as Ethan Hunt, leading a star-studded ensemble featuring Hayley Atwell, Ving Rhames, Simon Pegg, Rebecca Ferguson, Vanessa Kirby, Esai Morales, Pom Klementieff, Mariela Garriga, and Henry Czerny. The story follows Hunt and his IMF team as they confront 'the Entity,' a formidable rogue AI. The film's production, which

began in Italy in February 2020, faced disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic but successfully wrapped in September 2021, with shooting locations spanning Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates. Notably, this installment deviates from the involvement of J. J. Abrams and marks the first in the series not produced by Abrams' Bad Robot Productions since 'Mission: Impossible III' in 2006. Boasting a staggering estimated budget of \$291 million, it ranks among the most expensive films ever created.



Hollywood Latest

In 2023, *Gran Turismo* emerges as an electrifying American sports drama, with Neill Blomkamp at the helm and a script crafted by the talented duo of Jason Hall and Zach Baylin. The narrative unveils the remarkable real-life odyssey of Jann Mardenborough, a teenage Gran Turismo virtuoso who metamorphosed into a professional racecar driver. The cast boasts Archie Madekwe as the enigmatic Mardenborough, alongside David Harbour and Orlando Bloom.



In the whimsical world of cinema, 2023's *Barbie* is a masterpiece by director Greta Gerwig and writer Noah Baumbach. Inspired by Mattel's iconic dolls, it brings Barbie into live-action, starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling in a self-discovery journey, enriched by a stellar ensemble cast.



In 2023, *Blue Beetle* graces the big screen, a DC superhero film featuring Jaime Reyes as Blue Beetle. Produced by DC Studios and The Safran Company, it's the 14th entry in the DC Extended Universe. Directed by Ángel Manuel Soto and written by Gareth Dunnet-Alcocer, the film stars Xolo Maridueña as Jaime Reyes, with a stellar ensemble cast.



During a schoolteacher's peaceful holiday break, her world transforms with a dash of excitement when she enthusiastically accepts her sister's spirited challenge: the *12 Dares of Christmas*. Simultaneously, she prepares her town for a Christmas exchange programme with a confident and charming French teacher. This heartwarming and entertaining 2023 comedy-drama film stars Brittany Underwood, Sean Yves Lessard, and Marnie Mahannah in leading roles.



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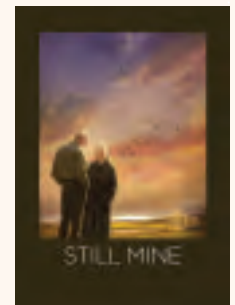
Christmas Special



As the holiday season draws near, a captivating charm fills the air, igniting the world with twinkling lights, festive decorations and an irresistible sense of delight. To fully embrace this festive spirit, embark on an in-flight movie marathon. With heartwarming films such as **Something from Tiffany's**, **Last Christmas**, **Four Christmases**, **Elf**, **Arthur Christmas** and **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, you'll be transported to the heart of the holiday magic. These films showcase love, family dynamics, spreading cheer and wonder, encapsulating the essence of Christmas.



Hollywood Favourites



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Korean



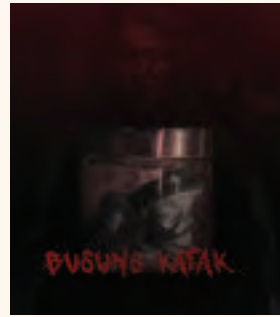
The Roundup: No Way Out is a 2023 South Korean action-crime flick helmed by Lee Sang-yong, featuring Ma Dong-seok, Lee Joon-hyuk and Munetaka Aoki. As the third chapter in the Crime City series and a sequel to *The Outlaws* and *The Roundup*, it continues the saga. Seven years post-Vietnam, Ma Seok-do joins a fresh team to probe a murder case.

Chinese



The 2023 Malaysian comedy **Little Sunshine** follows the hilarious journey of Xiao Pang, a youngster who flees home after his parents confiscate his smartphone. Directed by Tai Min Hwee, it's based on the popular 2009 DVD film. The story centres on Xiao Pang, a food-loving, academically disinterested child. In exchange for good grades, his parents promise him a phone.

Malay

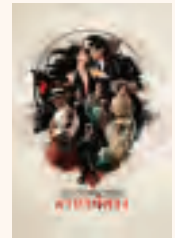


Busung Katak, a 2022 Malaysian horror film helmed by director Azmir Affand and starring Kodi Rasheed, Emma Maembong, and Fiza Thomas in pivotal roles, delves into a tale of dark sorcery. Kak Wan's life is marred by frog swelling enchantment, igniting a mysterious conflict. The identity of the malevolent sorcerer remains a mystery.

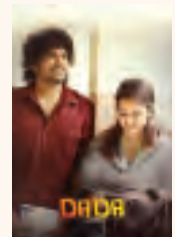
Japanese



Thai

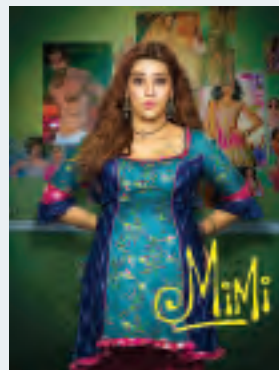


Tamil



Hindi

Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva is a 2022 Indian Hindi fantasy-action epic directed by Ayan Mukerji. It marks the initial chapter in a planned trilogy, forming part of the Astraverse cinematic universe. The star-studded ensemble, including Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Mouni Roy, Akkineni Nagarjuna and Shah Rukh Khan, embarks on an extraordinary journey inspired by Hindu mythology. It narrates the story of Shiva, a gifted musician with fire-controlling abilities, who learns of his true identity as an astra, a potent weapon. Shiva's quest is to safeguard the formidable Brahmastra from dark forces entwined with his past.



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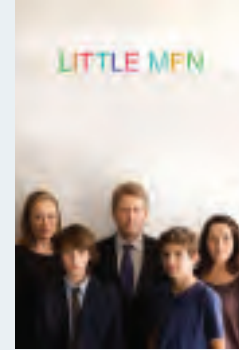
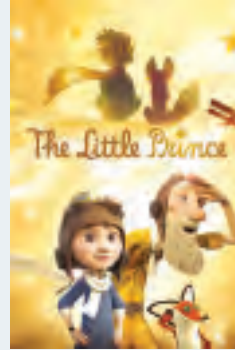
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Hollywood Kids



In the season of holiday, a medley of heartening narratives graces our screens. ***E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*** unfolds the tale of a resilient child aiding a benevolent alien's journey back home, a poignant reflection of courage and compassion synonymous with the holiday ethos. ***The Little Prince*** transports a girl into a realm of boundless possibilities, capturing the essence of holiday enchantment. ***Chicken Run*** depicts plucky poultry seizing an opportunity for freedom, emblematic of the unity and liberation emblematic of festive jubilation. ***Little Men*** delves into the tenacity of friendship amidst parental discord, while ***Pokémon Detective Pikachu*** explores the magic of unforeseen alliances, resonant with the serendipitous connections kindled during holiday merriment. Lastly, ***The House of Magic*** weaves a whimsical narrative as an abandoned cat discovers a magical refuge during the enchanting holiday season.

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Education on the Go by the Universiti Malaya Centre for Continuing Education (UMCCed) offers flexible courses that can be accessed anytime, anywhere, catering to the mobile lifestyle of modern learners. These courses cover a range of topics, from self-development topics to business and entrepreneurship topics, empowering individuals to enhance their knowledge and abilities conveniently. UMCCed's collaboration with Malaysia Airlines, providing free learning sessions in-flight, demonstrates their commitment to accessible education. This initiative reflects UMCCed's dedication to lifelong learning and Universiti Malaya's mission to impact the world through knowledge dissemination, making education convenient and empowering for all.



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Drama and Comedy

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delivering laughs and heartwarming moments. For fans of superheroes, **Gotham Knights** offers thrilling adventures in the world of Batman and DC Comics characters. And in **East New York**, explore the dedication of the NYPD's 74th precinct as they become an integral part of the Brooklyn community. Best of all, all episodes of these shows are available for your in-flight enjoyment.



Kids



Smurfs, created by Belgian cartoonist Peyo, features beloved small, blue creatures in animated shows, offering entertainment during school holidays, including inflight entertainment with your kids. **Bluey**, an Australian series, provides heartwarming stories for family bonding, and **Ejen Ali**, a Malaysian show, offers thrilling adventures for older children and teens, making them perfect holiday choices.

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Malay



Hindi



Korean



Japanese



Chinese



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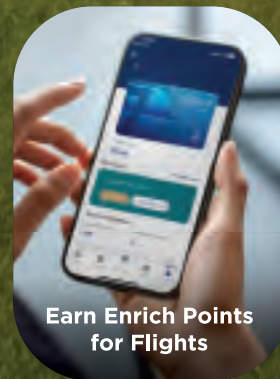
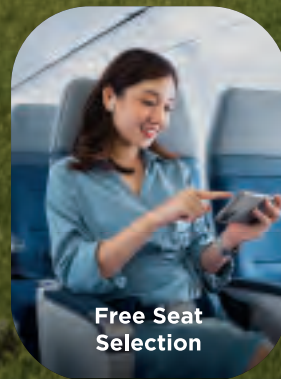
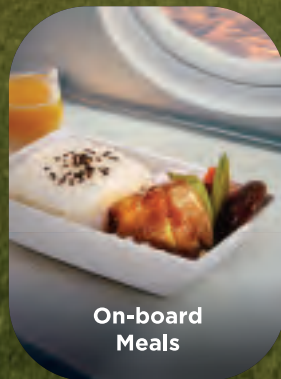
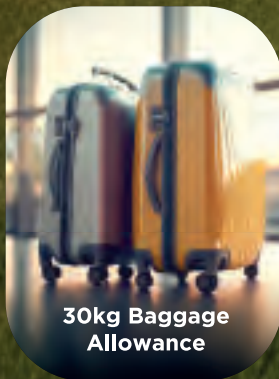
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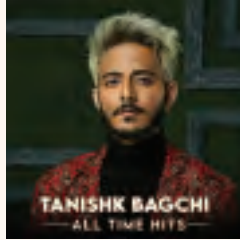


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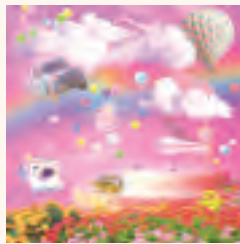
Memories



Club



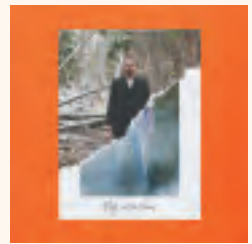
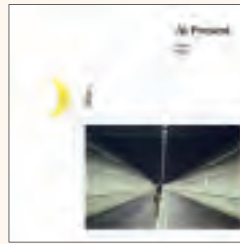
Korean



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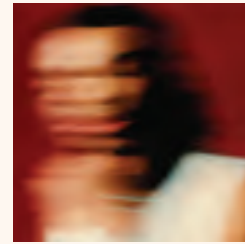
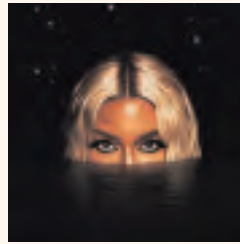
Indonesian



Malay



R&B



The Hits

Michael Patrick Kelly is a versatile Irish-American artist, formerly part of the iconic group, The Kelly Family, which achieved remarkable European success, selling over 20 million records. He ventured into a solo career, introducing *In Exile*. His 2021 album, *B.O.A.T.S*, now comes alive in *B.O.A.T.S Live*, offering listeners an impressive collection of 27 tracks. This live rendition has earned Kelly the esteemed BVMI: Gold and IFPI SWI: Gold accolades.

Cross country

If the idea of braving freezing

winter holidays doesn't appeal to you, consider embarking on a scenic train adventure that transports you to a lush green paradise. The Jungle Railway, officially known as the East Coast Line, spans about 526km from Tumpat, near Malaysia's north-eastern border with Thailand, to Gemas in the southern state of Negeri Sembilan. Sit back in comfort within a KTMB train carriage and marvel at the stunning views passing by your window: limestone ranges, verdant rice fields, historical landmarks and tropical jungles paint a bucolic landscape along the approximately 11-hour journey. Originally constructed by the British in the early 20th century for tin and rubber transportation, the Jungle Railway now serves as a commuter train for adventurous souls. You can also opt for sleeper cars, which allow for the flexibility to embark on a hop-on and hop-off exploration of the delightful small towns – see the classic red train head in Gua Musang or eat a picnic by Jelawang Waterfall in Dabong – along the route. ktmb.com.my



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