



Going Places

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

JANUARY 2024

Kota Kinabalu gets creative

Meet the forces behind the city's blooming public art scene



16 reasons to fall in love with Malaysia

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JANUARY 2024

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Art mural by Kenji Chai on Wisma Sabah in Kota Kinabalu.
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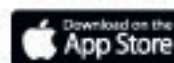
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This year, we will continue to intensify our focus on growth and connectivity to ensure your travel experience is as seamless as possible. This month, we will be increasing our frequency to Amritsar, a route we only launched in November 2023, from two times weekly to four times weekly following strong demand and load factor performance. In addition, just last month, Malaysia granted travellers from China and India with 30-day visa-free entry, providing you with added convenience to explore the beauty of what Malaysia has to offer.

As the flag bearer of Malaysia, we understand that the journey starts with us and shapes part of your whole travel experience. We remain committed to ensuring that our service delivery sets the benchmark for excellence, which will create a

lasting impression of Malaysian Hospitality that resonates with all our guests – regardless of age, background or nationality.

We will be doubling down our efforts to enhance your experience with us, and we have outlined three core value propositions which will steer our focus in ensuring that your journey with us is not just confined within the metal walls of the aircraft but also a holistic experience through to your destination. We are placing high-priority and investments in creating a practical and comfortable cabin space, elevating our in-flight dining offerings by providing uniquely Malaysian and destination-inspired dishes, through to delivering a personalised and premium service to ensure you feel at home with us throughout your journey.

In addition, 2024 will see our aircraft grow in numbers as part of our fleet modernisation plans. Just last month, we took delivery of our second Boeing 737-8 narrowbody aircraft, with seven more expected to be delivered throughout this year. We are also excited to induct the first of 20 Airbus A330neo widebody aircraft at the end of Q3 2024, which will gradually replace our existing A330 aircraft and operate our network throughout Asia, Oceania, and the Middle East. This expansion is not just about increasing our inventory in numbers but also to introduce new seats and experiences that prioritise customer safety, comfort and overall satisfaction.

As we venture into the new year, we will continue to make investments in ensuring your journey with us is seamless, comfortable and enjoyable. We look forward to serving you throughout 2024 and beyond while creating lasting memories for you and your loved ones.

We look forward to welcoming you onboard again soon.

Izham Ismail

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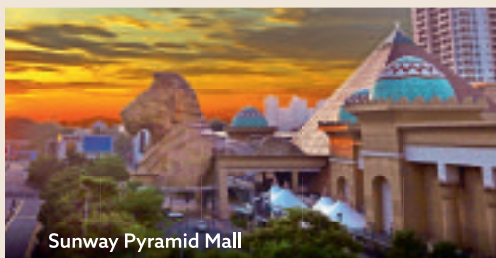
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Sometimes all it takes is a different perspective to make something feel fresh. Take our cover destination this month: during pre-pandemic times, Kota Kinabalu saw over four million tourist arrivals eager to experience Sabah's natural landscapes and ecotourism offerings. But lately it's the city's street artists who are making waves, using their talent to beautify the city, spread awareness of environmental issues and slowly but surely helping to create a solid arts scene in KK. That kind of indomitable pioneering spirit is infectious, and inspiring – on p44, read about how KK-born street artists like Jared Abdul Rahman and Crig Francis are giving the city an artsy sheen.

This month, we also introduce our first photo-driven feature. Photographer Jilson Tiu transports us to his hometown of Manila in a set of images taken at sunset. Turn to p52 and witness everyday scenes – commuters on the streets, groups of children playing by the water – almost magically turn into golden, dream-like images.

And of course, we have more travel inspiration to kickstart the year. Over in Melbourne, we explore some of the city's tastiest food trends on p63 – from Cuban sandwiches to Negroni chocolate tarts. Tash Aw, the Man Booker Prize-long-listed Malaysian author who wrote his acclaimed first novel in London, shares his favourite spots around the city (p36). Discover exciting finds in Hong Kong's fine dining scene in the new year (p28) and while in KL, regain your zen in a new spa inspired by the four seasons (p39).

Happy travels and welcome to 2024 – a whole new year for new adventures.



Sherman Lim

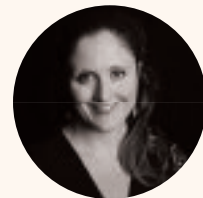
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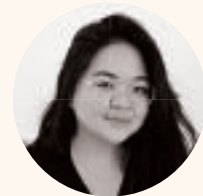


Jilson Tiu
Photographer, "Golden canvas", p52

Jilson Tiu is a freelance photographer and photojournalist. He contributes to various international corporations and NGOs across print and online platforms.



Claire Knox
Writer, "Green dreams", p34
Claire Knox is a multi-awarded editor, writer and journalist with wide-ranging interests, from travel and design, to development, gender equality and the climate crisis.



Tracia Goh
Photographer, "Strokes of change", p44

Tracia Goh is a visual artist from Sabah who photographs Borneo's charming landscapes and cultures as inspiration for her art.

TOP 3

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(ischooladvisor.com, 2020)

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16 REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places

1

Penang

History in the making

Opened in October 2023, The George Penang by The Crest Collection is among the few developments approved within the Unesco Heritage Zone of George Town, and with good reason. Sitting magisterially at the confluence of four historic streets, The George fully embodies the charismatic mix of heritage charm and modern splendour of the state capital. The colonial-style exterior of the hotel seamlessly transitions into the modern luxuriousness of its 92 rooms, with wood finishings alongside unmistakably Penang-inspired touches of turquoise and orange. The aesthetic is perhaps realised most vividly in the Art Deco stylings of the hotel's George Bar and the hand-painted Peranakan tiles of the Saffron Dining café. thegeorge.com.my



2

Malaysia

Ties that bind

Talee – a play on the Malay word for ‘rope’ and the family name of designer Lorraine Lee – consists of statement pieces featuring a variety of knot earrings. Since 2017, Talee’s nautical knot designs, made from sustainable organic linen and cotton threads, have been suffused with meaning: apart from a poignant ode to Lee’s relationship with her own father, these gorgeous accessories also serve as a reminder to the ties that bind us to our loved ones. [instagram.com/talee_studio](https://www.instagram.com/talee_studio)



3

Kuala Lumpur

A taste of Tsukiji

Relive the wonders of the Tsukiji Outer Market in KL with Yatai in LaLaport Bukit Bintang City Centre. Everything about Yatai, which opened at the end of 2022, recalls the magic of the iconic Tokyo landmark, from the tables held up by crates, to the succulently charred *kushiyaki* skewers and *tamago* (egg) sticks and the Hokkaido scallops with a generous helping of *mentaiko* (pollock roe) sauce. [instagram.com/yatai.my](https://www.instagram.com/yatai.my)



4

Kuala Lumpur

A royal treat

On 27 January, the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra presents *The Father, The Queen and the King*, with Junichi Hirokami conducting Joseph Haydn’s *Symphony No. 85* – popularly called *La Reine* because it was a favourite of Queen Marie Antoinette – alongside the thundering sounds of the “king of instruments”, the organ, in Camille Saint-Saëns’ *Symphony No. 3*, and Ottorino Respighi’s *Ancient Airs and Dances Suite No. 2*. mpo.com.my

Kuala Lumpur

Flavours of Lisbon

Aside from the Malaysian favourite *pastel de nata* (egg tarts), Bartolo Lisboa Bakehouse transports you to the streets of Lisbon with its Madeiran flatbread *bolo do caco*, heavenly *pão de deus* (coconut buns) and a selection of *petiscos* (roughly, Portuguese tapas). The bakery-café, which opened last August, maintains a laid-back vibe with a striking yet playful mural on the tiles behind the counter, perfectly complementing its location in the Central Market Annexe cultural hub. [instagram.com/bartolobakehouse](https://www.instagram.com/bartolobakehouse)



6

Kota Kinabalu

Putting Sabah on the food map

Sabah, renowned for its ecotourism appeal and abundant seafood, is actively striving to solidify its status as a premier gastronomic destination within the country.

In 2022, Tourism Malaysia supported that effort by introducing the SeeEatFood map, a comprehensive guide highlighting various seafood restaurants across key locations such as Kota Kinabalu, Kudat, Sandakan, Lahad Datu, Semporna, Tawau and Labuan. Among the featured establishments is the well-loved Fish Market Restaurant in Kota Kinabalu, founded by Alan Voo, a seasoned chef with experience in kitchens across Asia and numerous accolades to his name.

Voo's culinary journey began with a visit to Hong Kong. "After one of my *sifu* (teachers) brought me to Hong Kong, I was convinced that Cantonese-style cuisine needed to come to Sabah as the locals would love it."

Now, he's on a mission to elevate Kota Kinabalu to a top destination for seafood enthusiasts in Southeast Asia. Recognising



“
We want people to know that beyond its islands and mountains, Sabah offers exceptional seafood”

the exceptional quality of seafood caught in Sabah's clear waters, Voo founded Fish Market in 2017, aiming to showcase the true essence of the region's catch. Opting for a minimalistic approach, he relies on the natural flavours of local seafood such as white clams, *tung fung lo* (sea snails) and red grouper cooked using the sauna-steam hot pot method with no salt, oil or MSG.

Sabah's ambition to become a premier seafood destination is also reinforced by the state's increased authority over deep-sea fishing in its waters, granted by the Malaysian government. "More so now than before, we want people to know that beyond its islands and mountains, Sabah offers exceptional seafood," says Voo. fishmarketrestaurantkk.com; malaysia.travel



7

Kuala Lumpur

Green is the colour

Fresh from the success of his Tiba Masa showcase at Istana Budaya, local music legend Datuk Zainalabidin returns with *Sound Spirit Zainalabidin: The Legacy of Sound* at KLPAC on 20 January. More than just a concert, Sound Spirit will bring together music industry players and students, and feature the 'Hijau' ("green in Malay") singer accompanied by local jazz pianist, Michael Veerappen. [instagram.com/soundspirit.zainalabidin](https://www.instagram.com/soundspirit.zainalabidin)



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9

Malaysia

Seeds of hope

A subsidiary of social enterprise Biji-biji Initiative, Biji Biji the fashion brand is a pioneer in sustainable design, upcycling chic handmade bags and accessories from materials that would otherwise end up in landfills. These materials include those unconnected to fashion, like vehicle seatbelt offcuts, used tarpaulin banners and needle punch carpeting from exhibitions, alongside surplus vintage kimono from famed Japanese textile manufacturer Nakakoma Orimono. bijibiji.co



8

Kuala Lumpur + Penang

Stars shining bright

A total of 127 eateries made it to the Michelin Guide Kuala Lumpur and Penang 2024, with the celebrated Dewakan becoming the first two-star Michelin restaurant in the country, and Beta joining Au Jardin, Auntie Gaik Lean's Old School Eatery and DC by Darren Chin with its first star. The Michelin Selected tier has 25 new entries – 16 in KL, nine in Penang – alongside the 14 Bib Gourmand entrants announced earlier. guide.michelin.com/my/en

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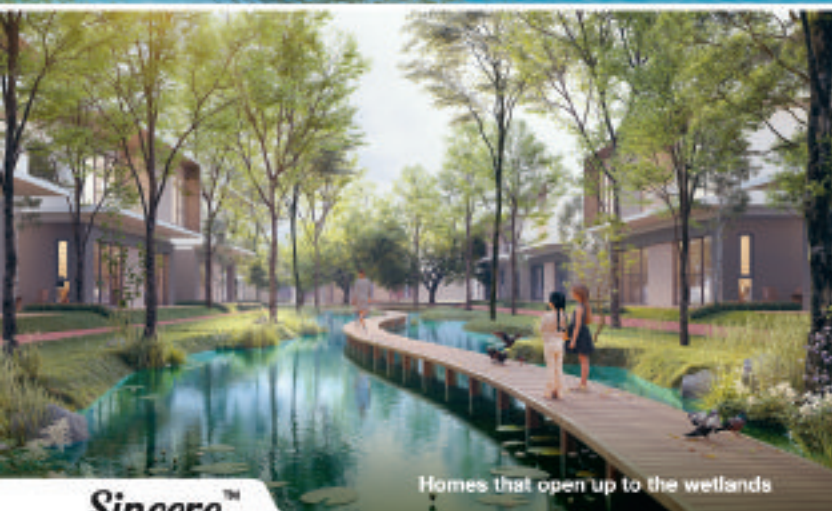
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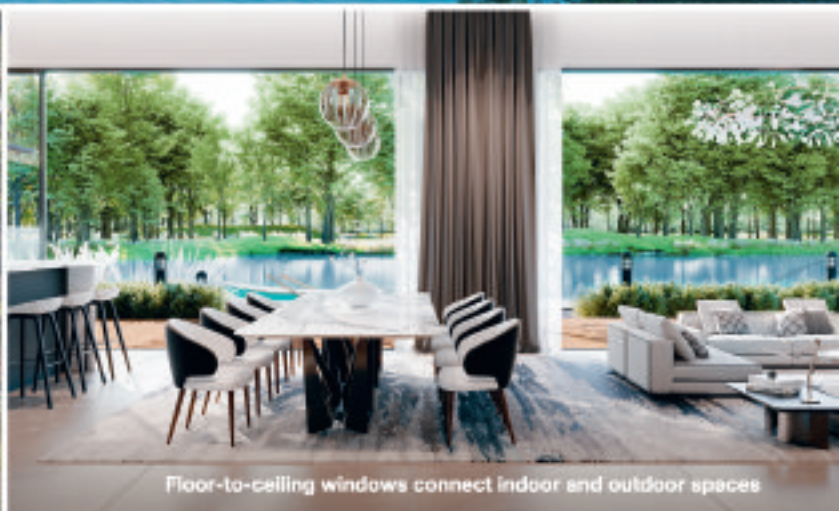
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10

Malaysia

Putting Earth first

Since 2020, Terrae has been living up to the motto “work out, look good and feel great without costing the planet” with its activewear, loungewear and accessories that aren’t just chic and designed for real bodies, but are also made from materials recycled from plastic bottles and fishing nets. Each piece is made to last and crafted with a commitment to ethical trade. shopterrae.com



Penang

Beyond intricate

Komorebi Dining brings the *kappo*-style – literally “to cut and to cook” – *omakase* experience to George Town. Komorebi, which opened its doors last November, has two carefully assembled *omakase* menus, with a seven-course lunch building up to the *binchotan* (white charcoal-grill) unagi and *sawara* (Spanish mackerel) *ochazuke* (tea-poured rice), and an eight-course dinner featuring premium A5 Miyazaki tenderloin, all with seasonal ingredients flown from Japan.

[instagram.com/komorebidining](https://www.instagram.com/komorebidining)



12

Kuala Lumpur

Onsen oasis in the city



Onsen spa Hanami expands from Puchong to KL with its Hanami Reserve Onsen Spa, featuring Zen-inspired gardens that accompany you on your journey of calm and relaxation. Aside from a variety of onsen rooms infused with scents inspired by the four seasons in Japan, Hanami is perfect for those seeking a momentary but essential escape from the bustle of city life.

friendsofhanami.com



GLOJAS HAIR TRANSPLANT & HAIR LOSS CLINIC

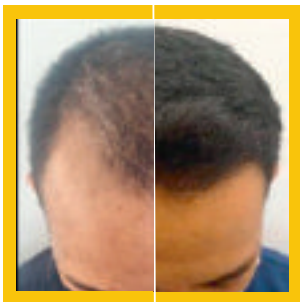


GLOJAS is a global leader known for its award-winning clinic and a team of highly qualified doctors proficient in diverse disciplines such as Hair Transplants, Plastic Surgery, Aesthetics, and Dental treatments.

The team is spearheaded by its founder, Professor Dato' Dr. JasG, Malaysia's First Pioneer Hair Transplant Doctor, who brings 26 years of experience and is recognized both by the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (FISHRS) and the American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery (ABHRS). Datin Selwin, the CEO, ensures high standards of patient care, drawing from her extensive experience as a respected judge for Miss Universe and Miss Tourism International. The clinic also boasts Dr. Mohd Ali, a renowned plastic surgeon with full accreditation from the Ministry of Health Malaysia, and Dr. Navin Mann, a surgeon with expertise in Advanced Laparoscopy and Bariatric Surgery.

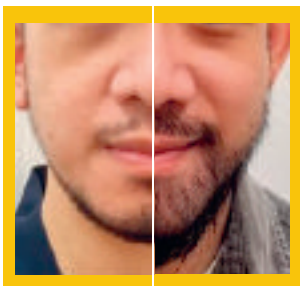


Hair loss is a prevalent issue that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, impacting individuals worldwide. Its effects on physical appearance and psychological well-being make it a matter of considerable concern. Female-pattern hair loss is a common condition characterized by gradual hair thinning, particularly in the crown and frontal regions. The causes of female pattern hair loss are multifactorial, involving genetic predisposition, hormonal fluctuations, a lack of vitamins, blood-related issues like iron deficiency and thyroid disorders, and aging. Treatment options for female-pattern hair loss typically include topical and oral minoxidil, which promotes thicker hair growth. Addressing underlying health conditions, adopting a healthy lifestyle, and considering injectable Platelet-Rich Plasma treatments are among the comprehensive approaches to managing and treating female pattern hair loss.



Male pattern hair loss, or androgenetic alopecia, is primarily driven by genetic predisposition and the influence of dihydrotestosterone (DHT) on hair follicles. Non-surgical treatments include medications like Minoxidil and Finasteride, as well as Platelet-Rich Plasma injections aimed at slowing hair loss and promoting regrowth.

Hair transplantation offers a surgical solution for both male-pattern hair loss and female-pattern hair loss. This procedure involves extracting healthy hair follicles from a donor area, typically from the back of the scalp, and transplanting them to the areas affected by thinning or baldness. Two primary techniques are Follicular Unit Transplantation (FUT), which involves removing a strip of skin for follicle extraction, and Follicular Unit Excision (FUE), which individually extracts follicles using a micro-punch tool. The transplanted follicles are strategically placed to mimic natural growth patterns, resulting in a fuller and more aesthetically pleasing appearance. These advanced methods ensure precision and effectiveness in achieving reinforced hairlines and enhanced hair density, contributing to natural and aesthetically pleasing results.



Facial hair transplant procedures are not limited to addressing scalp hair loss. They can also enhance the appearance of eyebrows and beards. Eyebrow transplants can address thinning or reshaping, while beard transplants are beneficial for achieving fuller, more even beard growth. These procedures require precision and an understanding of natural hair growth patterns, and success depends on the surgeon's skill and experience.



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Malaysia

Empowering artisans

A crucial aspect of sustainability is empowering the marginalised, which is exactly what Earth Heir has specialised in for a decade, with a range of products – bags and clutches, jewellery, accessories and home décor – crafted by artisans from local indigenous communities and displaced refugees in Malaysia. Earth Heir is also World Fair Trade Organisation-certified, ensuring maximum impact for the underserved. earthheir.com

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Johor Bahru

Nimmies Pastry Café

Nestled among the multitude of cafés in Taman Melodies is Nimmies Pastry Café, which shot to fame after its opening in 2022 with its Hoe Lemak Croissant – everything you’d find in a nasi lemak but between flaky layers of croissant – as well as its crab stick cheese

croissants and green grape tarts. Of equal note is the ambience at Nimmies, with its Parisian exterior complementing the artful mosaic tiles and showpiece sculpture with Grecian-style busts and a croissant half-submerged into the wall. [instagram.com/nimmies.pastrycafe](https://www.instagram.com/nimmies_pastrycafe)



16

Malaysia

Modesty blazing

Modesty is often equated with restriction, but The Modest Brand wants to show that it can be a form of liberation – because choice matters. Since 2022, The Modest Brand’s range of athleisure has included ultra-stylish hijabs, outerwear, sets, bottoms and tops that are suitable not just for the gym, but also for the street. Style mavens will love the ATH Bat T-shirt, a play on the local staple *baju kelawar* (bat shirt). [themodestbrand.co](https://www.themodestbrand.co)



15

Melaka

From on high

Singapore’s Wildseed Café made its Malaysian debut last July in I-Altitude Melaka, becoming at 195m, the highest café in the state, commanding a bird's eye view of the historic Strait. The Wildseed staples, like the Wagyu beef burger, bagel eggs Benny, and the prawn and scallop pizza remain, alongside local delights like *mee soto* (noodle soup) and nasi lemak.

[wildseed.my](https://www.wildseed.my)

Giving Power to Smiles

The founders at Stellar Dental are helping change-seekers achieve more in life through healthier, brighter and more confident smiles



Welcome to a world where smiles are not just a part of your personality, they are a work of art. At Stellar Dental with two branches in Klang Valley, our clinic is renowned for transforming smiles and lives. Let's dive into the world of Smile Makeovers through an in-depth Q&A.

What is a Smile Makeover?

A Smile Makeover is not just a dental procedure; it's a journey towards the smile of your dreams. It's a comprehensive approach, combining various dental techniques like veneers, whitening, and orthodontics to create the perfect smile. Every treatment is tailored to the individual, considering factors like facial symmetry, skin tone, and personal preferences. Our goal is not just to enhance smiles, but to boost confidence and improve overall quality of life.

Who is the ideal candidate for a Smile Makeover?

Smile Makeovers are for anyone who wishes to improve their smile. We cater

to a wide range of clients - from those looking to fix minor imperfections like staining, to those in need of a complete dental overhaul. It's perfect for people who feel self-conscious about their teeth and want to make a lasting impression. Our team ensures each treatment plan is suited to the individual's lifestyle, oral health, and aesthetic goals.

What drives the passion for performing Smile Makeovers at Stellar Dental?

Our passion for Smile Makeovers stems from the belief that a smile is more than just a physical attribute; it is a reflection of one's spirit and confidence. Witnessing the transformation in our patients, both aesthetically and emotionally, is incredibly rewarding. It's not just about the teeth; it's about bringing joy and renewed self-confidence to our patients. Every smile we create is a story of personal triumph and happiness, and being a part of that journey is what motivates us every single day.

How have Smile Makeovers impacted the lives of Stellar Dental's patients?

The impact of a Smile Makeover extends far beyond aesthetics. We've witnessed incredible transformations in our patients' self-esteem and overall happiness. One of our most memorable cases involved a middle-aged man who avoided smiling due to severe tooth loss and misalignment. Post-treatment, not only did his smile radiate, but his entire demeanor changed. He became more outgoing and confident, which positively affected his personal and professional relationships. Another young patient, previously felt so insecure of her dental issues, found a new lease on life with her radiant smile. These stories are testaments to the profound, life-changing power of a Smile Makeover.

How does one start their Smile Makeover journey at Stellar Dental?

Beginning your Smile Makeover journey is as simple as booking a consultation. During this initial visit, we discuss your aspirations and conduct a thorough oral assessment. We use advanced imaging to show you potential outcomes, making sure you are an integral part of the planning process. Our team then develops a personalised treatment plan, considering your schedule and budget. From there, we embark on a step-by-step journey to craft your new smile, offering support and guidance at every stage.

To view Stellar Dental's Smile Makeover works and hear real testimonies by actual patients, scan the QR code.



For more information on Stellar Dental, visit www.stellardental.my or call us at +60 11-3996 4469



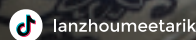
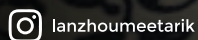
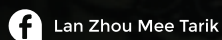
兰州拉面

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ELEVATE

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



ARTS

Flower powered

Osaka lights up with a botanical art attraction **BY TOM MIYAGAWA COULTON**

If you've looked up must-dos in Japan lately, you'll no doubt have seen teamLab's highly Instagrammable flagship museum in central Tokyo, teamLab Planets TOKYO DMM. Since this international art collective formed in Tokyo in 2001, it has spearheaded some of the most innovative and immersive digital art exhibitions in the world, from Seoul to New York, Geneva to Macau.

Last year, they added a new exhibition to their portfolio: the teamLab Botanical Garden Osaka, a permanent night installation in the city's Nagai Park.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





Opened to much fanfare in July 2022, teamLab Botanical Garden Osaka takes a different tack to its Tokyo counterpart. Notably, the installation is outdoors, using Nagai Park's botanical garden as its canvas. It transforms the shadowy silhouettes of trees and plants into waves of colour, sound and movement. Following teamLab's concept of "Digitized Nature", the exhibition explores ways of incorporating nature into art without impacting the natural environment.

Whether it's starry night swirls evocative of Van Gogh shaped by the movement of flying birds, teamLab's signature colour-changing ovoids, or an ethereal brushstroke flying through the trees, the experience of walking through teamLab Botanical Garden Osaka is to discover a true synthesis of art, technology and nature.

This multi-disciplined team, with expertise ranging from art and architecture to engineering and

“

It's a mind-blowing, multi-sensory experience that cannot be missed”

mathematics, creates artworks that push the boundaries of perception. They transform often familiar spaces into mesmerising multi-sensory installations through ingenious uses of light, reflections and cutting-edge technology.

It's a mind-blowing, multi-sensory experience that cannot be missed, so make sure to plan your visit as tickets have set admission dates and times (check the website for blocked dates, book well in advance, and we recommend showing up at least half an hour before your slot). Once you're in, there's no limit on how long you can stay in the museum after admission, but re-entry is not allowed. teamlab.art

Tranquility beckons

Dhawa Yura Kyoto from the Banyan Tree Group is the perfect spot for couples or business travellers looking for a modern luxury-meets-Japanese heritage stay. Opened in June, it has 138 guestrooms outfitted with cloud-soft beds, Nespresso machines, 55-inch LCD televisions and luxurious toiletries by wildlife welfare-conscious brand Sundari. Located beside the iconic Sanjo Ohashi Bridge in the heart of Kyoto, it's within easy walking distance of Nishiki Market, Yasaka Shrine and Gion's nightlife. While the hotel's concierge can recommend the best places in Kyoto to dine, those staying in for the evening can savour Wagyu steak or succulent eel at Grill 54th before heading to the lobby lounge bar for cocktail drinks. The 8lements Spa offers deep tissue massages, body scrubs and refreshing facials that leave guests reinvigorated after a full day of exploring the city. dhawa.com/japan/dhawa-yura-kyoto



Flora Rosa

PUTRAJAYA

Garden-city Living

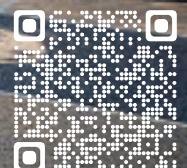
Discover the allure of Putrajaya, adorned with lush landscapes, pristine lakes, and the tropics' largest man-made wetlands. Located in the heart of Putrajaya's Precinct 11, Flora Rosa, a low-density development by Putrajaya Holdings, beckons you with its award-winning greenery, embraced by meticulously landscaped gardens.

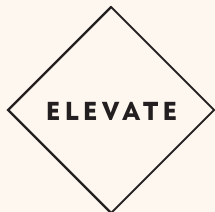
Indulge in breathtaking views and seamless connections to Kuala Lumpur City and Kuala Lumpur International Airport. At Flora Rosa, experience the perfect blend of tranquil escapes and urban convenience.

Immerse yourself in genuine garden-city living, where Flora Rosa, with its charm, invites you to elevate your lifestyle. Engage in outdoor activities, unwind in the serene surroundings, and embrace a harmonious balance of nature and accessibility. Your new chapter begins at Flora Rosa—a haven designed for those who seek the best of both worlds.

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Scan here to view





DINING

Great eats

Eyeing **Hong Kong** for CNY? Make space on your eat-list for these gems

Parades, lion dances, extended shopping mall hours – you’re going to want to be in Hong Kong next month as it welcomes the Year of the Dragon, the most auspicious creature in the Chinese zodiac. But between celebratory Cantonese meals and bites of glutinous rice cakes called *nin gou*, squeeze in time to check out these inventive new restaurants.

1 Feuille
198 Wellington St,
Central

For classic French fine dining with a nature-inspired concept, there’s no better place to go than chef David Toutain’s new restaurant, just upstairs from Whey. *Feuille* means leaf or foliage in French, and the restaurant describes its menu as “vegetal-focused”, or neatly organised

according to the life stages of a plant. While not vegetarian, those inclined can opt for a meat-free menu. Standouts include their green pea dish served with local clams and almond milk, as well as Toutain’s signature scrambled egg with caramelised cumin seeds and sweet corn foam. Despite its popularity, it is still possible to snag a reservation. feuille.hk





2 Whey
*Upper Ground Floor,
 The Wellington,
 198 Wellington St,
 Central*

Singaporean and Southeast Asian pride ring loud and clear at this one-Michelin-star spot in Wan Chai. Incorporating familiar local ingredients like the earthy seed called buah keluak as well as laksa leaf, Singaporean chef Barry Quek proves that he knows his way around umami – and isn't afraid to play with it, too. If you're feeling bold or are just a fan of the notoriously pungent fruit: the Maoshan Wang durian ice cream with kristal caviar and milk crisp is a pitch-perfect ending to this gastronomic marriage of cultures. whey.hk

3 Mono
*5/F, 18 On Lan St,
 Central*

It's arguably rare to find modern Latin American cuisine done well this side of the globe, which makes chef Ricardo Chaneton's cosy 30-seater in Central a must-visit. With rigorously prepared dishes such as the 21-ingredient *mole* (a Mexican sauce), roasted Peruvian mashua prepared three ways and house-made cacao

dessert platter, it won't be unfair to say that a meal at Mono is a transcendental experience. Choose a seat at the kitchen-side counter to catch the chefs in action as they prep your plates with precision and care. mono.hk

4 Graceland
*Lisa House, Shop B,
 G/F, 12-14A Yim Po
 Fong St, Mong Kok*

This Kowloon-side restaurant in bustling Mong Kok serves comfort American diner fare. Its brunch specials evolve from time to time, but you can always expect hearty Southern flavours along the lines of maple syrup-coated chicken with waffles, and seafood. [instagram.com/gracelandmk](https://www.instagram.com/gracelandmk)



Keep it fab

Hotels to splurge on in the Fragrant Harbour



The Hari
 This design-forward boutique hotel in the heart of Wan Chai is an ideal choice if you're seeking close access to the harbour cruise, or simply looking to explore this historic neighbourhood that's replete with heritage architecture, good eats and indie boutique finds. Feeling splashy? Spring for a suite, where floor-to-ceiling windows suffuse the rooms with light – perfect for an indulgent morning bath. thehari.com



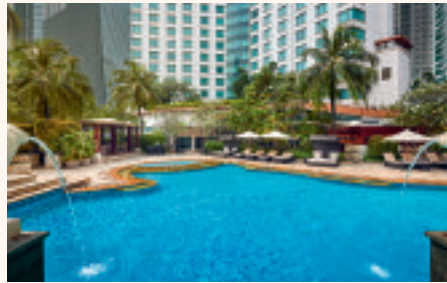
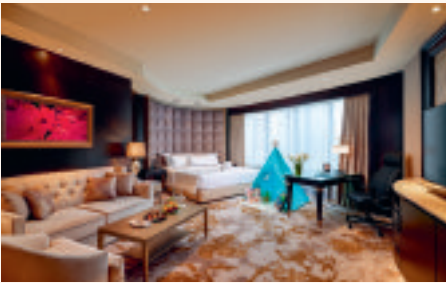
Cordis
 If you love art, this five-star stay in the heart of Mong Kok is for you. Every turn reveals a masterpiece by celebrated contemporary Chinese artists like Wang Guangyi, Yue Minjun and Jiang Shuo. The spectacular views of the harbour and Hong Kong Island are nothing to sniff at either, while those seeking a taste of authentic Cantonese cuisine will find their fix at Michelin-starred Ming Court. cordishotels.com



KL Bird Park
MALAYSIA

© Perdana Botanical Garden
Kuala Lumpur

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



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

Guest comfort is paramount at AYANA Midplaza Jakarta. Each room type, from the deluxe rooms to the opulent AYANA Suite, is designed to provide a homely feel with comprehensive amenities. The one-bedroom Suite offers an apartment-style setting, complete with a spacious living room and a well appointed

kitchenette, perfect for extended stays or business meetings.

If you're hosting an event, the hotel offers 21 meeting rooms and an expansive Grand Ballroom that can accommodate up to 1,500 guests, equipped with the latest technology. The ballroom space is elegantly attached to a serene garden, providing a picturesque setting for memorable corporate events.

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 blends 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.

Nurturing Communities, Enriching Lives

A 50-Year Journey of Enduring Impact



Located within the larger flagship township of Setia Alam, Setia City stands as a testament to S P Setia's commitment to creating sustainable and thriving communities.

Since its inception in 1974, S P Setia has been at the forefront of the property industry in Malaysia, consistently delivering projects that transcend conventional boundaries and innovation. This momentous occasion not only commemorates 50 years of building structures but also celebrates the enduring legacy of transformative environments that S P Setia has created for its communities.

Building a Legacy Beyond Brick and Mortar

Over the course of 50 years, S P Setia has etched its mark in the annals of the property industry by going beyond the mere construction of buildings. With over 11,000 trees transplanted across its projects to create ample green spaces, S P Setia has demonstrated a commitment to environmental sustainability. Moreover, S P Setia has embraced green technology and energy systems, setting new standards for eco-friendly development. Through the incorporation of innovative features in its projects, S P Setia consistently reflects its dedication to creating not just homes, but holistic and sustainable communities.

A Renewed Sense of Purpose

As S P Setia embarks on the next chapter of its journey, there is a palpable sense of excitement and a renewed sense of



S P Setia's Setia4Malaysia Unity Run 2023 witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over 3,000 individuals at LakePoint Park @ Setia Alam Impian



Excited Setia homebuyers had the chance to personally meet Ella during the meet-and-greet session.

purpose. S P Setia looks forward to the future with optimism, eager to continue shaping the landscapes of tomorrow. The 50th anniversary is not just a celebration of the past but a testament to S P Setia's

commitment to evolving and meeting the ever-changing needs of its community.

Expressing Gratitude and Celebrating Together

S P Setia recognises that its journey would not have been possible without the unwavering support of its community. To express gratitude for the trust and support received over the years, S P Setia has curated an exciting lineup of activities for its communities. S P Setia initiated its 50th-anniversary festivities with the annual Setia4Malaysia Unity Run, symbolising the collective spirit of Malaysians and local communities. This event brings together people from all walks of life, fostering a culture of inclusivity and support that unites Malaysians. The celebrations continue with an exhilarating concert headlined by Malaysia's rock queen, Ella, prior to an exclusive 'Meet & Greet' with Setia's homebuyers at Setia SPICE Arena. This remarkable collaboration captivated a

full-house audience of 14,000, rendering the celebration truly unforgettable. These celebratory events promise to be a unique and unforgettable experience, reflecting S P Setia's commitment to making its 50th anniversary celebration truly exceptional.

The legacy of sustainable communities and enriched lifestyles that S P Setia has built over the last 50 years serves as an inspiration for the property industry and beyond. As the celebrations unfold, S P Setia invites everyone to join in the festivities, expressing heartfelt gratitude for the continuous support that has fueled its journey of shaping the future for half a century and counting.



Jama Masjid



Sabarmati Riverfront



Malaysia Airlines flies from Kuala Lumpur to Ahmedabad four times a week



Teen Darwaza



HERITAGE

Historic pitch

Last year's Cricket World Cup put the spotlight on Ahmedabad's centuries-old marvels **BY MANASI NENE**

Major sporting events drive tourism, and last November, it seemed as though all of cricket-dom had checked in to Ahmedabad, in India's western state of Gujarat. While the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 had gathered some of the sport's biggest stars for the finals between India and Australia at the Narendra Modi Stadium, it had a double effect of

reminding the world that there's plenty of visual history and architecture lessons to soak up here.

For a day of heritage hopping, start with a whole morning at **Old Ahmedabad**, which dates back over 600 years, and is India's first Unesco World Heritage City. It's surrounded by 12 main gates, among the best known of which is the exquisitely ancient citadel called **Teen Darwaza**. Within these walls are *pols* (clusters of traditional community-living structures), many of which are still standing today and have been converted into homestays. Sample the local street eats at the market square called **Manek Chowk**, or stop for a Gujarati Thali – a large plate with an assortment of local dishes – at one of the nearby restaurants.

Ahmad Shah's reign has been preserved quite poetically in the mausoleums of **Rani no Hajiro and Badshah**

no Hajiro (which translates to “tomb of the queen” and “tomb of the king”). Some other notable structures of this period are the **Bhadra Fort, Sarkhej Roza** and the **Jama Masjid**, which merge elements from Islamic, Hindu and Jain architecture.

During the reign of the Mughal kings in the 17th century, Ahmedabad was an important city on the historic trade route between Delhi and the port city of Khambhat. Some of the structures built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, like the **Moti Shahi Mahal** (now a museum), are believed to have served as early prototypes of the Taj Mahal in Agra.

Afternoons in Ahmedabad are the perfect time to cool down in one or two of its many museums. The **Calico Museum of Textiles** is an interesting spot to spend a couple of hours learning about India's long textile tradition. Then head over to **Sabarmati Ashram**, one of the most iconic areas of Ahmedabad, established by Mahatma Gandhi in 1917. The historic Dandi March, the 24-day march of nonviolent civil disobedience led by Gandhi, began at this ashram. Today, it houses an archive, a library, an art gallery and a museum dedicated to Gandhi's contributions to the freedom movement.

Finally, end the day at the newly renovated **Sabarmati Riverfront** and enjoy a sunset stroll or a spot of birdwatching at one of the many riverside parks. Talk about enduring marvels: at least 120 species of native and migratory birds have been spotted here, from Purple sunbirds and Lapwings to eagles and Rosy starlings. gujarattourism.com



DESIGN

Green dreams

The new, nature-inspired Pan Pacific Orchard is the latest success story in **Singapore's** campaign to be one of the world's smartest cities

BY CLAIRE KNOX

Opened in June, this foliage-covered, otherworldly hotel along Orchard Road is the latest flagship property for the Pan Pacific group – and a striking symbol of Singapore's relentless push to green the city in innovative ways.

The 23-storey Pan Pacific Orchard – stacked into four Jenga-like, interlocking landscaped “terraces”: forest, beach, garden and cloud – is the work of the pioneering, Singapore-based architecture practice WOHA, perhaps best-known for its use of lush vertiginous gardens and organic tropical features.

Founded in 1994 by Richard Hassell and Wong Mun Summ, the practice has always championed a philosophy that revolves around the social and environmental impacts of design, as well as the localised tenets of climate and culture.

The firm is already acclaimed for some of the Lion City's most sustainable and smart designs such as the green-swaddled “tripod” of the School of the Arts (SOTA), innovative train stations and public housing complexes. WOHA is also behind a host of design-forward hotels such as the award-winning PARKROYAL on Pickering (which features a staggering 15,000m² of vertical gardens and leafy terraces and is a masterpiece when it comes to natural, tropical ventilation) and Oasia Hotel Downtown, cocooned in a striking perforated red shell, furry greenery and 30m-tall sky gardens.

Located on the famed shopping belt of Orchard Road, with its glittery,



gargantuan shopping malls, Pan Pacific Orchard is part of the country's Urban Redevelopment Authority's (URA) vision to bring back and populate its high-rise architecture with the lush greenery that formed its namesake: in the not-too-distant past, the area was covered in fruit orchards as well as nutmeg and pepper farms.

“There is a plan for the area to be much more than a shopping destination, to make it a lifestyle destination through a 6km-long, lush, green corridor that will stretch from the Botanic Gardens through to Orchard Road. We are very excited to be a part of this vision,” says the hotel's director of marketing and communications Teresa Koh.

Pan Pacific Orchard takes things to the next level, from its sustainability credentials (it is certified BCA Green Mark Platinum) to its aesthetics and

“

There is a plan for the area to be much more than a shopping destination, to make it a lifestyle destination through a 6km, lush, green corridor that will stretch from the Botanic Gardens through to Orchard Road”

WORDS: SHERMIAN LIM (ALOFT SINGAPORE NOVENA) IMAGES: DARREN SOH (PAN PACIFIC)



functionality. Greenery drapes the building – most noticeable from street level is its four, Supertree-like columns festooned in vines and vegetation, but also across its four vast terraces, each planted with dense tropical gardens.

The voids on each terrace are also a masterclass in smart cross-ventilation, creating passive cooling for the hotel and helping to reduce its energy load. Rainwater is collected to irrigate the gardens, while the property’s roof is made up of solar panels that generate enough energy to supply the common areas with power, and all 347 rooms feature an in-room filtered water system (no plastic here). The hotel also has a bio-digester system that transforms food waste into cleaning water.

The high-ceiling open-air “forest” lobby is a photographer’s dream, centering around a cascading water feature. The second terrace includes a state-of-the-art spa and gym and jaw-dropping, outdoor “beach” swimming pool. The terrace ceiling is ingeniously covered in polished stainless steel “mirrors” – making for a surreal visual trick when floating on one’s back in the lagoon-sized pool.

Across the island, Singapore’s impressive Green Plan 2030 features an ambitious target over the next seven years to strengthen the country’s commitments under the UN’s Sustainable Development Agenda. Just some of the targets include planting one million more trees and developing 130ha of new parks by 2026, quadrupling solar energy deployment by 2025 and reducing waste sent to landfill by 30% by 2030. [instagram.com/panpacificorchard](https://www.instagram.com/panpacificorchard)



Family chic

Located near Balestier Road – lined with alluring heritage buildings – the new Aloft Singapore Novena by Marriott Bonvoy feels designed for family group huddles: snug rooms (equipped with ultra-chic comforts like wireless charging and Sealy bedding), a spacious rooftop pool for quality family time, and a slew of dining options. There’s a halal-certified buffet at 21 on Rajah, as well as mouthwatering Chinese cuisine at Yue. Zhongshan Park and Mall, which are integrated into the hotel, expands the gastronomic experience with more options like Thai cuisine, Hokkaido-style *donburi* (bowls) and kaya toast.

Walk off the calories at the nearby attractions, including Balestier Road’s Heritage Trail, which features the Shaw Brothers’ former film studio on Jalan Ampas. Many of the well-loved films starring Malaysian actor legend P. Ramlee were filmed here. The hotel also offers complimentary shuttle service to the Novena MRT station. [marriott.com](https://www.marriott.com)





INSIDER TIPS

A Malaysian in... London

Acclaimed novelist **Tash Aw** wrote his Man Booker-prize-nominated debut novel, *The Harmony Silk Factory*, in the British capital. Here, he takes us around the city he called home for many years



I first came to the UK to attend university after growing up in Petaling Jaya, near Kuala Lumpur. I had no idea what to expect of Britain and spent most of the first few years being depressed about the weather – something that still gets me down. After university, I moved to London and worked in a variety of jobs while starting to write my first novel.

In those days, I had a lot of time on my hands and explored the city very widely, alone and with friends. It's true that London is really a collection of villages, each with its own character and ambience, which is what makes it interesting both for the visitor and for people who live there. Now that I have moved away from London, I miss its cosmopolitanism, and the way everyone is able to find their own space in such a vast city.

Most of the things I enjoyed then – the bookstores, the parks and the restaurants – are still around and I make sure I call in on as many of them as possible whenever I'm in the city for work or to catch up with friends. Some of these spots are well-known, but rarely touristy. I'd recommend them to anyone wanting a taste of everyday London life.

Book heaven

There are countless bookstores in the city, many of them independent sellers, but my favourite one is **Daunt Books** in Marylebone, right on the high street. Independent bookstores have had a tough time in recent years but Daunt goes from strength to strength. It's certainly the most attractive bookstore in London: oak-panelled shelves, wood parquet floors and a lovely skylight. It also has its own publishing arm. dauntbooks.co.uk

Parks and inspiration

London is one of the greenest cities in Europe, with parks in almost every neighbourhood. There are also lovely walks along the river or just



Hampstead Heath



British Museum

IMAGES: TARA SOSROWARDYOYO (HEADSHOT), SHUTTERSTOCK (HAMPSTEAD HEATH), DAUNT BOOKS, BRITISH MUSEUM, CHRIS KEELING (GAMBAL SHOOK)



Daunt Books



Rochelle Canteen



Sambal Shioek

wandering through the streets. Whenever I needed to be inspired, I'd go to **Hampstead Heath** and walk without any particular aim. It's such a vast expanse of wilderness to be found in the middle of a big city, and it's full of poetry and romance.

Whenever friends came to visit, I'd take them for a walk along the South Bank and end up admiring the view from **Waterloo Bridge**, which allows you to look at the **Thames** stretching in both directions.

I could spend many hours wandering **Bloomsbury**, my favourite neighbourhood. It's so quiet, old-fashioned and picturesque, full of beautiful Georgian townhouses and interesting spots for coffee and eating, for example around Lamb's Conduit Street. It's partly pedestrian-friendly so it's great for a stroll. It's also within easy walking distance to the **British Museum** or **Sir John Soane's Museum**, a hidden gem of a museum. britishmuseum.org; soane.org

Evening coffee

For my caffeine fix and a spot of people-watching, I'd go to **Bar Italia** on Frith Street, obviously! It's also open very late, which is handy for me as I'm a night owl. It's been around for ages (it opened in 1949) and is something of an institution. It's got a great old-school vibe and yes, excellent coffee. baritaliasoho.co.uk

Great grub

My favourite breakfast spot was **Dean Street Townhouse** in Soho in the West End, particularly in the winter, when it feels

especially snug. You can have everything from a traditional English breakfast to a fruit salad and coffee with oat milk.

For long, leisurely lunches, I always go back to **Rochelle Canteen** in Shoreditch. They have a constantly changing menu – nothing is ever the same, but everything is always great. The setting – brick walls, garden setups – is beautiful too, especially in the summer.

Sometimes, when I get a craving for food from home, I would make my way to Islington, a tiny residential neighbourhood with lots of small, owner-run businesses, and into **Sambal Shioek**. Best laksa in town, and a welcoming homely atmosphere. sohohouse.com; rochellecanteen.com; sambalshioek.co.uk

Downtime

London is such a big, busy city, and there's always something on – a new show, a new restaurant to try, a music gig to catch. Whenever I needed to relax or decompress, I'd go for a swim at the **Central YMCA** on Great Russell Street. Or, in the summer, **Hampstead Heath Ponds**, these natural bathing ponds within Hampstead Heath that are perfect for outdoor swimming. ymcaclub.co.uk; cityoflondon.gov.uk



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24 HOURS IN

Kuala Lumpur

Words **Shermian Lim** Photography **Ryan Chin**



Originally a trading post in the 1800s, Kuala Lumpur, or simply KL to locals, has come a long way since it first attracted traders and travellers seeking their fortune in the tin trade. Over time, the city has evolved organically from miners' settlements along the Gombak and Klang rivers to the glittering cityscape we see today, one alive with creative communities and modern infrastructure. While KL's population of nearly two million keeps growing, its hospitality offerings are also multiplying. Discover insider tips on the city, from the best nasi lemak and trendiest Western cafés in town, to the hippest district for retail therapy and must-visit cultural hotspots.

Saturday

🕒 7am

Calorie-burning with a cultural twist

Combine a workout with a bit of sightseeing and climb the 272 steps leading up to a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Murugan at **Batu Caves**. The steps captured the world’s attention after it underwent a colourful repaint in 2018. Aerial images of the steps, along with the ever-imposing figure of Lord Murugan’s 42.7m tall golden statue, went viral. Set within a high limestone karst said to be around 400 million years old, the cave temple is only one part of a series of caves in this limestone outcropping that’s also popular among adventure-seekers for spelunking.

Something else to get your heart rate up: a visit to **Thean Hou Temple**, a six-tiered Chinese temple built in the 1980s over 0.68ha of land by the Selangor and Federal Territory Hainan Association. At first sight, the temple could be a palace straight out of Chinese folklore. Towering bright red pillars and vintage yellow roof tiles bedecked with mythical creatures in shades of jade green, offset by carved white walls, greet guests from the far end of the road entering the temple grounds. From the tortoise pond and giant-sized Chinese checkers board to iconic rows of red lanterns suspended over an open-air courtyard with a giant incense burner, every tier has something for visitors to explore. *Batu Caves, Gombak; 65, Persiaran Endah*



🕒 9am

Breakfast like a local

If Malaysians were to debate on where to find the best nasi lemak – Malaysia’s national dish – in KL, there would be no conclusion, but one that generally receives a thumbs up is **Nasi Lemak Tanglin**. While the original stall is in a humble food court minutes away from attractions like KL Bird Park and the National Mosque, their Bukit



Get to know
Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia's capital

1972

KL officially gained city status with a mayor's office, 15 years after Malaya gained independence from the British

KL-ite

is how KL residents sometimes refer to themselves

Muddy estuary

KL's location at the confluence of the Gombak and Klang Rivers is how the city derived its name (*lumpur* means mud)



INSIDER TIP

Other activities in the area include the **Museum of Illusions** for fun mind-bending illusions or **ABC Cooking Studio** for a cooking class.

Damansara branch was recently added to the 2024 Michelin Guide. Regulars will vouch for both the chicken fried with assorted spices as well as the spicy sambal squid.

Western-style brunches are a big favourite amongst KL-ites too. Pay a visit to **Kenny Hills Bakers**, a popular café and bakery with multiple locations, including Bukit Tunku and Lorong Nibong off Jalan Ampang. Savour the tantalising aroma of fresh-baked croissants and sourdough loaves, before chowing down brioche toast with corned beef and sunny side egg, or a turkey ham croque monsieur. *Multiple locations*

🕒 10:30am

Escape the tropical heat

KL's shopping malls offer a ready escape from the heat and humidity when midday approaches. **Jalan Bukit Bintang** is one of the city's busiest thoroughfares with a variety of modern shopping and entertainment malls clustered within short walking distances. Browse the latest reads at Eslite Books in the upscale and exclusive Starhill Gallery or explore six floors of lifestyle and fashion products at Isetan the Japan Store in Lot10. For affordable street fashion, visit Sungei Wang, or to get a little bit of everything, check out Pavilion, the largest mall in the area.

You can also spend the morning visiting museums around the city. Bank Negara Malaysia Museum and Art Gallery on Jalan Dato Onn is free to enter and offers three floors of exhibits and interactive displays about Malaysia's economic history and financial system; the Kuala Lumpur City Gallery at Merdeka Square has a mini diorama of KL, alongside exhibits that depict the city's history. **The Islamic Arts Museum** has 12 galleries with masterpieces and art objects from Central Asia, Spain, Persia, India and the Malay archipelago. *Jalan Bukit Bintang; Jalan Lembah*





🕒 2pm Leisurely repast

When it's time to refuel, grab a taxi or rideshare to Brickfields. Also known as Little India, the area has a plethora of Indian restaurants. **Oh Yeah Banana Leaf** serves banana leaf lunches where a sumptuous helping of briyani or plain long grain rice is presented on a piece of banana leaf along with curries and meat dishes of your choice.

For Bengaluru-inspired South Indian vegetarian dishes, try the *masala dosa* (crispy crepes filled with spiced potatoes), *rava idli* (steamed savoury semolina cakes) and frothy almond milk at **MTR 1924**. 192, *Jalan Tun Sambanthan*; 69, *Jalan Thambipillay*



🕒 4pm Coffee o' clock

Head back to Bukit Bintang for a spot of coffee at one of the area's newer cafés. **Solace Café** serves a menu of open-faced sourdough sandwiches, espresso-based drinks and Niko Neko matcha drinks. Tucked away from the main bustle of Jalan Bukit Bintang, the café's calming pastel yellow interior allows visitors to seek – as the name suggests – solace.

Another café worth visiting is **Kita Coffee**, which is tucked away in a hidden corridor on the first floor in Fahrenheit88 mall. Owned by Rain Lee, winner of the 2022 Malaysia Barista Championship, the café serves Japanese rollcakes and vegetarian dishes, in addition to creative caffeinated drinks. 39, 39A & 41 *Jalan Sahabat*; D7, *First Floor, Fahrenheit88*

🕒 6pm That Twin Towers glow

Although they've been surpassed in height by the newer TRX Exchange and Merdeka 118, neither can rival the glorious night view of the **Petronas Twin**

Go on a Michelin Guide food trail

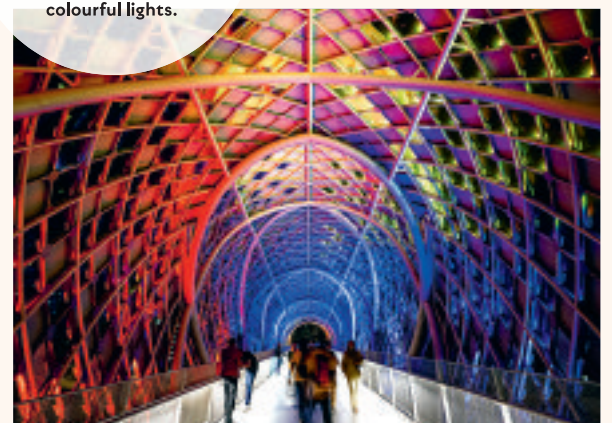
Café Café
Fine French dining in a romantic setting. Serves classic French fare like buttery escargot, foie gras and juicy duck confit. cafecafe.com.my

Nadodi
Fine South Indian and Sri Lankan cuisine. Their vegetarian Timeless Signatures menu features pineapple brulee, fenugreek curry and white asparagus. nadodikl.com

Bōl
Nyonya restaurant set within a pre-war colonial house. Reimagined favourites include rojak tarts, cured buah keluak seed, lamb shank and rendang Wagyu. [instagram.com/bol_in_kl](https://www.instagram.com/bol_in_kl)



INSIDER TIP
Walk from KLCC to the pedestrian and cyclist-friendly Saloma Bridge, a popular photo spot thanks to the bridge's architecture and colourful lights.



Towers. When the sky darkens over the city, the 452m tall Twin Towers light up like supercharged neon light sticks, casting its fluorescent aura to the area around it. Down below is the idyllic **KLCC Park**, where a musical fountain dances on the man-made Lake Symphony by shooting sprays of water up, down and around the lake. *City centre*

🕒 7pm Malaysian favourites for dinner

When the hunger pangs strike again, **Serai's** menu of Malaysian and Western favourites include fusion dishes like oxtail asam pedas and beef rendang penne, served in a casual fine dining experience. Of their nine locations, the most convenient ones to indulge these dishes would be at Suria KLCC or Pavilion malls.

Or check out **Jalan Alor**, a gentrified area near Bukit Bintang that's popular for street food. Stalls open by 5pm and operate throughout the night. Try popular dishes like curry noodles at Mi Fun House, roasted chicken wings at Wong Ah Wah and street food snacks like *putu piring* (steamed rice cakes with thick brown sugar syrup). *Multiple locations; Jalan Alor*



Sunday

🕒 8am - 1pm Souvenir pit stop

Before leaving Kuala Lumpur, drop by the morning market at **Petaling Street** just beyond the Chinese arches, for souvenir shopping and breakfast of congee or *chee cheong fun* (flat rice noodle) at one of the street stalls. Nearby is **Kwai Chai Hong**, a hidden back alley that is Lorong Panggung, which underwent a revitalisation – now, bright and cheerful street murals depict the area's history, whilst several speakeasy establishments populate the alley.

Another great option for souvenir hunting is **Central Market**, a baby blue and white shopping complex that opens at 10am. Also known as Pasar Seni, the name literally translates to “market of art” – it started as a wet market but has evolved into a centre to admire and buy traditional handcraft, art pieces and gourmet food gifts, as well as for bazaars and cultural events. With over 300 shops here, you're bound to find a beautiful piece of Malaysia to bring home with you. *Jalan Petaling; Jalan Hang Kasturi*



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Better known as an island-hopping,
nature and wildlife destination,

Kota Kinabalu
is coming into its own as a
hotspot for visual arts

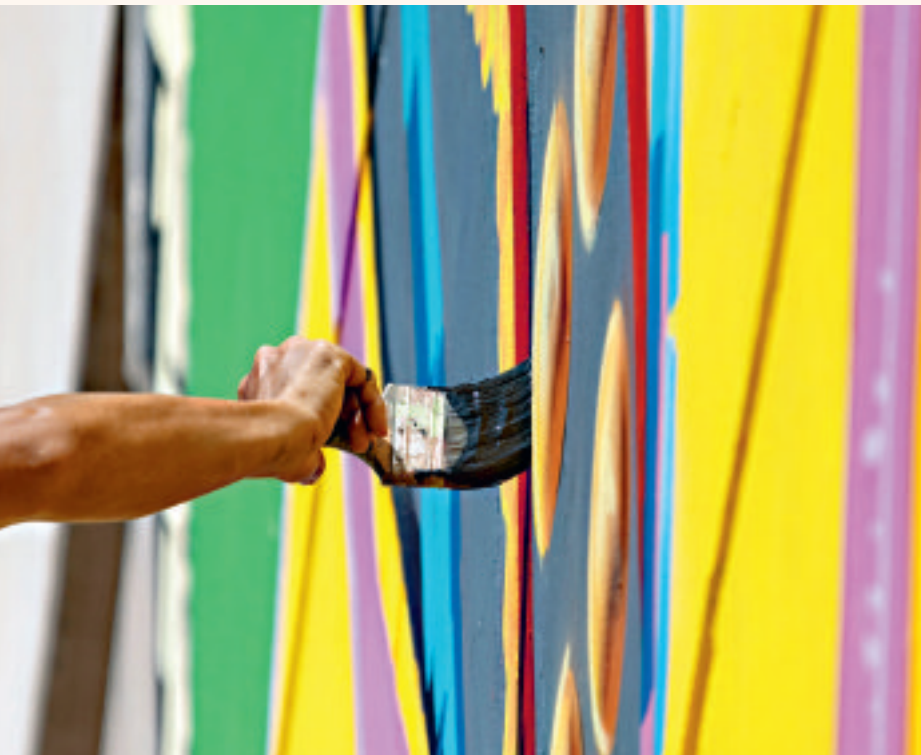


Strokes of change



Words **Nova Renata** Photography **Tracia Goh**

It's a pleasant November morning in Kota Kinabalu, and I'm standing outside the four-stories tall Wisma Sabah,



staring up at the art mural that fills one side of the building with vibrant colours. The painting, entitled *Only the Strong Survive*, was conceptualised by Sandakan-born street artist sensation Kenji Chai and depicts a falcon, a black marlin and a leopard, symbolising Sabah's diverse natural resources and promoting wildlife conservation. Chai's attention-grabbing mural is one of several high-profile street art projects that have caught the public's attention, putting the spotlight on KK's potential as an arts-led city.

This hasn't always been the case. Growing up in 90s-era Kota Kinabalu, I can barely recall any instances of high-quality street art. Except for the occasional graffiti-scribbled wall, public art could only be found painted on school buildings.

Over the years, I've witnessed my home grow from a humble coastal city into a metropolis of over half a million in population and along with that growth, an evolving identity as a city fast becoming a must-visit destination unto itself – for recreational

**Previous spread:**

Crig Francis, or Cracko Art, painting on a mall wall in Penampang; an art installation of recycled plastic at the Sabah Art Gallery

This page (clockwise from bottom left):

Francis adds details to his mural; Kenji Chai's *Only the Strong Survive* mural at Wisma Sabah; art installations at the Azman Hashim Gallery; a Petronas-commissioned mural, also by Francis

activities by the coast, for its tantalising array of seafood, for hip and trendy cafés along Gaya Street and much more.

The city's public art has evolved as well, from school-building murals to monumental graffiti masterpieces like Chai's work on the Wisma Sabah building. Most of these are self- or privately-funded mural art projects by individuals or artist collectives. However, as street art projects gain the attention of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment for their potential to revitalise areas of the city in need of a sprucing up, more are popping up all over KK.

MALAYSIANS MIGHT REMEMBER

the widely publicised community art project called Pillars of Sabah, one of the earliest of these high-profile street art initiatives in KK. The project utilised 30 pillars, remnants of the colonial Land and Surveys building (now converted into the Sabah Art Gallery Outdoor Art Space) to showcase the work of 30 artists. Featuring paintings of prominent Sabahans, each pillar showcased portraits of both the artist as well as the inspiring personality of their choice. The response from the community was overwhelming, making #pillarsofsabah a trending topic on social media.

Led by KK-born and raised artists Jared Abdul Rahman and Red Hongyi, the first edition of the project kicked off in September 2018. The second edition of Pillars showcased endangered animals from the state and was launched in conjunction with Earth Hour 2019, even receiving sponsorship support from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Nippon Paint. Pillars returned for a third and final edition in 2020 before the Sabah Art Gallery, the current owners of the land, gazetted it for an ongoing exhibition called the *Wonders of Wilderness – The Ocean*.

For Jared, the Pillars of Sabah project aimed to make art more accessible to the public. "There's still a constraining notion that art isn't art unless it's displayed in a gallery," says Jared, who also leads art walks around the city. "We wanted to demonstrate that a neglected urban space can be turned into a safe and welcoming public space, and that process in itself can be a work of art."



Pillars of Sabah has now evolved into a not-for-profit organisation to promote the arts scene beyond Sabah's borders. While the project no longer uses its original location, the artwork from all three editions can be viewed on their Instagram account (@pillarsofsabah).

LIKE ALL SUCCESSFUL GRASSROOTS initiatives, Pillars of Sabah has fuelled and inspired other local street artists to start similar projects. Some, like 45-year-old Crig Francis and his team of street artists at Cracko Art Group, have leveraged the popularisation of street art into big sponsorships from brands like Hotlink, a telecommunications company, and national energy group, Petronas.

"This is a good thing for the local art community, as until recently, art has been thought of as more of a hobby and most artists would tell you they have day jobs to supplement their passion. Not many have the privilege of making art a full-time job," says Francis.

Known colloquially in the art scene as Cracko Art, Francis started his career in the arts as a graphic designer before taking the plunge to be a full-time painter in 2006. According to Francis, the best part about working on street art in KK is getting stopped by random people curious to know about a piece of work in progress. Some request to take photos while he's working on an artwork. "It shows their appreciation for my art, and it gives me a wonderful feeling," he says.

Francis is also the lead graffiti artist who worked on Street Strokes – a volunteer, collaborative art project between Francis and the Kota Kinabalu City Council aimed at beautifying public areas earmarked for gentrification.

The two-day event held this past October was officiated by Datuk Christina Liew, the state minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment of Sabah, and brought together 30 top graffiti artists from as far as the United States to KK. All were assembled to give the backstreet of Kampung Air – an area not typically considered tourist-friendly – an artsy refresh. During the event, the artists braved the sweltering



Clockwise from top left: Jared Abdul Rahman, co-founder of Pillars of Sabah; a mural by Kenji Chai displayed at the Azman Hashim Gallery, UMS; a charity art activity during the Ewan Lane Festival 2023; the *Wonders of Wilderness – The Ocean* installation by main artists Japson Wong Yun Hueng and Rosmaini Sunarjo at the former Pillars site; a mural of the Sama-Bajau tribe of Sabah at Hyatt Regency Kinabalu



“

KK's public art has evolved as well, from school-building murals to monumental graffiti masterpieces like *Chai's* work on the Wisma Sabah building”

heat, humidity and rain to complete their works of art. Australian artist Colin McKinnon or Digital Profet collaborated with fellow Aussie artist Ink Hunter to create an anime-themed visual story about the fight against plastic waste. Nearby, Francis spray-painted a Rastafarian-style orangutan sitting on a row of music speakers, while others worked on a variety of styles, from surrealist to wildstyle and poster art.

Although Street Strokes was a one-off volunteer project, the city council was so pleased with the results that plans are underway to revitalise similar areas with repair works and street art. “I'm excited to see more people acknowledging the transformative power of art and appreciating our work,” says Francis.

Discovering sophisticated street artwork around KK, including hidden gems like painted garbage bins and flowerpots, is a far cry from the days of messy wall scribbles from my youth. I'm especially proud to know that Sabah has a growing community of talented artists; some of whom I'm honoured to call friends.



Artsy KK

Creative dining, stays and galleries to visit in Kota Kinabalu

GALLERIES

Although art galleries in Sabah are still few and far between, the past few years have seen a growing number of art exhibits and new local artists

.....

The octagonal-shaped **Sabah Art Gallery** building is representative of its role as the patron of the arts for Sabahan artists. Decorated with distinctive Sabahan traditional motifs that are used by many ethnic groups such as the Murut, Iranun, Bajau, Lotud and Rungus people, it's a prominent location where art exhibitions of local artists' artwork take place. sabahartgallery.com

For a celebration of Sabah's nature and culture, the **Nature Inspiration Art Gallery (NIAG)** is a gallery set up by the University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF) to promote indigenous artists and highlight the endangered wildlife of Borneo. Artwork featured here are also available for sale. ucsf.edu.my/nature-inspiration-art-gallery

The **Azman Hashim Gallery** is located on the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) campus, approximately 20 minutes' drive from the centre of KK, and five minutes' drive from the underrated UMS ODEC Beach. The gallery houses over 200 contemporary artworks of local artists and students of UMS's faculty of arts. Don't forget to check out the unique structure known as the Beriu Tower, which

is modelled after a *bubu ikan* – a traditional fish trap used by local fishermen. Climb all 83 steps to the top of Beriu Tower and you will be rewarded with a breathtaking panoramic view of Sepanggar Bay. ums.edu.my/gah

The **Tanjung Aru Marine Ecosystem Centre (TAME)** features exhibitions of upcycled items and unique marine sculptures using plastic waste and other discarded materials. They also organise upcycling workshops and collaborate with local authorities to raise awareness of marine conservation. ecocastle.com.my

DINING

As more street and public art pop up, F&B establishments are offering patrons a visual art experience on top of a gastronomic treat

.....

The **Rasta Room KK** is a reggae-themed bar complete with Jamaican-inspired decor and walls covered in paintings of Augustus Pablo and other Jamaican icons. Try popular Jamaican dishes such as ackee and saltfish, Jamaican beef patty and jerk chicken here. tinyurl.com/4c3k7baz

The murals, as well as the painting of a Mexican girl with Day of the Dead makeup, at **Mamasita Mexican Restaurant & Tapas Bar**, are courtesy of Crig Francis. This lively establishment is covered in vivid Mexican-

themed black, red, blue, green and orange-hued paintings from top to bottom. Patrons swear by its tapas, burritos and flautas. instagram.com/mamasita.kk

CREATIVE STAYS

Until the early 2010s, hotels in KK used to only be either of these two categories: luxury resorts or business hotels. Now, more stylish lifestyle hotels are opening in the city

.....

Hyatt Centric Kota Kinabalu has played a prominent role in promoting local arts since it launched in 2022, collaborating with local tourism board authorities for its music and arts-focused Ewan Lane Festival and the Urban Tamu creative pop-up market. instagram.com/hyattcentrickotakinabalu

Slightly further from the city centre, **Monocolo Boutique Hotel** commissions local artists

for its interior decor and provides up-and-coming artists a platform to exhibit their art. monocolohotel.com

The **Toojou Kota Kinabalu** is a "poshtel", an upscale hostel that showcases yet another larger-than-life mural by Kenji Chai – a girl in a tribal headdress – on the property's exterior wall. toojou.com

SHOPPING

Looking for something to remember your arts-themed visit to KK?

.....

An art and lifestyle concept store, **The Art Attic** sells the work produced by local artisans, from porcelain sculptures and painted tote bags to jewellery and woven baskets. Here, you can also learn how to make your own scented candles, soap and batik design. instagram.com/the_artattic



Azman Hashim Gallery UMS



Hyatt Centric

“

KK has evolved into a destination unto itself – for recreational activities by the coast, for its tantalising array of seafood, for hip and trendy cafés along Gaya Street and much more”



Toojou



Sabah Art Gallery



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Golden



Light show
(This page) A sunset flare at an LRT stop
(Opposite page) Magenta skies over Manila and the Sierra Madre mountains

canvas

Photographer Jilson Tiu loves going around his sprawling hometown of Manila to capture its various quarters and its many moods, turning daily life into magical moments during sunset hour in the city





Last light of the day
(Clockwise from top)
Cargo ships in Manila
Bay; urban cyclists
enjoying the daily nature
show at the Binondo-
Intramuros Bridge

“

**When I take pictures around Manila,
I feel at home, seeing people's smiles,
warm as the light”**



Remains of the day
(Clockwise from this page) City pigeons take flight; children play with fishing boats in Manila Bay; rush hour in monsoon season





MANILA



Gold rush

The busy Skyway, above the South Luzon Expressway, a major highway south of Manila



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Halal surf & turf redefined

Prime cuts and fresh seafood take centre stage at Kay's Steak & Lobster, a halal-certified restaurant in the Klang Valley



When it comes to celebratory meals, few things are quite as lavish as a prime cut of steak paired with a juicy, sweet lobster – and that just happens to be Kay's Steak & Lobster's *raison d'être*. The halal-certified restaurant is run by husband-and-wife duo Athiqah Teo and Aizuddin Khalid, who've had no prior experience in the food industry but have thrived in the business and opened a total of three outlets in the Klang Valley area.

Prime cuts and stunningly fresh seafood

Naturally, steaks and lobster take centre stage, and particular care is taken in sourcing quality ingredients. For beef, expect prime cuts

like Australian Wagyu tomahawk steaks and the award-winning Kagoshima A5 Wagyu from Japan. They also fly in live Atlantic lobsters for the utmost freshness.

Foremost among their offerings is the Surf & Turf selection that pairs your preferred cut of steak with half a lobster. You can also enjoy new additions like the Signature Beef Wellington, made with Flinders Natural Tenderloin coated in a layer of savoury mushroom duxelles and wrapped in a delightfully flaky puff pastry. This decadent dish comes served with generous helpings of blackcurrant jus, creamy mashed potatoes and a salad on the side.

Other classic dishes include roasted bone marrow, onion soup and a decadent Lobster Thermidor. Its 2024 menu now features a new addition – the Hanwoo beef, a perfect blend of Wagyu and Prime Beef. Enjoy it with roasted garlic, kimchi and ponzu sauce alongside daikon.

Fine-casual dining without the pretentiousness

The décor and atmosphere at all three of Kay's outlets aren't a mere afterthought. The Putra Heights restaurant (**The Tropics**) is the most spacious venue, offering two private rooms for intimate gatherings as well as modern interiors with touches of timber and

steel. The Ampang restaurant (**The Coastal Bay**) leans fully into its coastal environment, with cool dark blue hues and stainless-steel elements. The final restaurant in Putrajaya (**The Valley**) takes full advantage of its lush surrounds and is built around a preserved moss centrepiece. The layout emphasises intimacy, making it a perfect spot for date nights and family get-togethers.

The trio of restaurants owes its stunning design to SYARAWI Architect, one of Malaysia's 40under40 Emerging Architects.

Planning a special family meal or an intimate dinner date? Make a reservation at kaysteaklobster.com

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Celebrating Threads of Tradition With Kapten Batik's "Shapes of Life" Collection

Since 2017, Kapten Batik has consistently infused a contemporary essence into the art of batik while honoring its traditional roots. Each batik collection and series bears its unique message and interpretation, showcasing an array of designs infused with vibrant inspiration. The "Shapes of Life" collection stands out as an eccentric ensemble, weaving its narrative around the boldness, cultural richness, and mystical essence of the Chinese New Year celebration into meticulously crafted prints.

This prominent festival is celebrated worldwide and represents a new beginning with blessings, prosperity and togetherness. The rich tradition, serving as the very bedrock of this celebratory collection, is interwoven into the tapestry behind the "Shapes of Life".

A TALE OF CELEBRATION

The designs in this collection vividly embody the rich heritage and symbolic essence found in Chinese mythology and folklore. Drawing profound inspiration from timeless tales passed down through generations, these designs encapsulate celestial elements such as the legendary Dragon. "Shapes of Life" pays homage to the vibrant colours and meaningful contrasts entrenched in the culture. Whether your preference leans towards a striking ensemble or a softer colour palette, there's a design tailored to suit your taste.

The design of every Kapten Batik shirt is infused with a profound artistic ingenuity that draws from a culturally rich heritage. These symbols, emblematic of strength, power, and guardianship in Chinese culture, speak volumes about the preservation and reverence for heritage and roots. "Shapes of Life" is a dedicated celebration of this significant occasion, where the designs carry a deeper significance beyond mere fashion statements.

HERITAGE UNVEILED

The "Shapes of Life" collection is an ode to the timeless, deep roots that have been growing for generations through practices, beliefs and artistic representation of a heritage. The composition of a Chinese New Year batik collection creates a symphony of the pride and glory of its culture at the same time gives a uniquely vivid and versatile style beyond this celebration.

In the fabric of tradition, Kapten Batik's Chinese New Year collection, "Shapes of Life," weaves a perfect blend of elegance and cultural richness that can be appreciated beyond racial identities. Each design not only honours threads of the heritage but also stitches together stories, fostering cultural resonance and timeless connections for everyone to relate to.

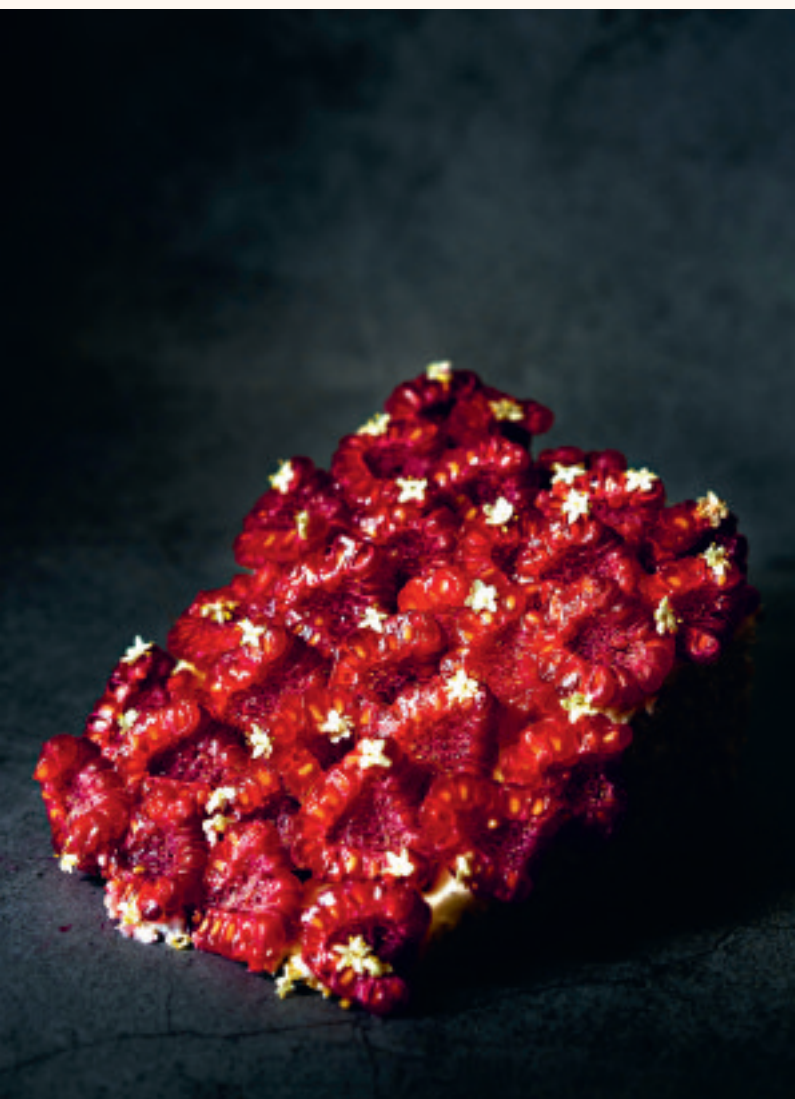


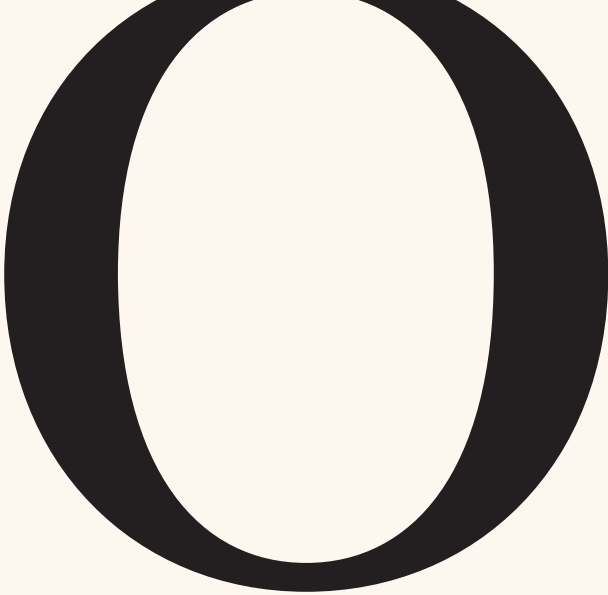
Fantastic feasts...



And where to find them in Melbourne. From Cuban sandwiches to artisanal cakes and Japanese-inspired cafés, here's what's trending in the local dining scene

Words **Victoria Khroundina**





n a rainy and uncharacteristically chilly spring late morning, I'm in Prahran, a suburb 8km from Melbourne's CBD known for its eclectic dining and nightlife scene.

Inside Little Havana, which opened in September 2023, neon pinks and blues intermingle with warm wood to create a Miami-inspired Art Deco diner, a much-needed dopamine hit in this weather. I'm here to try the Cuban sandwich.

"I live my life in the fast lane and love to adventure around the world seeking new food experiences," owner-chef Charlie Carington, who's also behind fine diner Atlas Dining down the road, tells me. "I was fortunate enough to visit Miami twice last year where I tried Cubans, and they're the best sandwiches in the world."

The Cuban sandwich is believed to have originated in Florida, invented for migrant workers as a cheap and filling meal that could be eaten on the go. Little Havana's Cuban sandwich sticks to tradition – the mouthfeel is rich, tangy and creamy, creating a flavour that's more than the sum of its parts.

Sandwich shops, a trend buzzing in Melbourne for a while now, reached a fever pitch last year. But whereas collective nostalgia previously drove the trend, 2023 saw travel as the main influencer.

Trips to Italy, specifically Milan, also spurred local hair salon owners Jamie Georgopoulos and Meika Khong to open Spazio Paradiso in November 2023, in the inner-north suburb of Carlton North, a vibrant neighbourhood that was lacking a good sandwich bar.

It's barely ticked over midday, and they're almost sold out of the Italian-deli panini flavours scribbled on brightly coloured paper adorning the white concrete-wash walls. I grab the last Mortadella (the crowd favourite), an airy ciabatta decked out with stracciatella, green split olives and crushed pistachio. It's a similar combination to one I've had in Sicily where pistachios are dubbed "green gold" and added to everything from pizzas to seafood. Vegetarians don't get left behind with a moreish combo of silky marinated eggplant and capsicum, creamy fior di latte, basil pesto and spinach. No frills, no gimmicks, yes delicious.

Coming from families with strong hospitality backgrounds, opening a food business was a no-brainer, Georgopoulos tells me.

But a sandwich shop specifically? That was born out of love for the ritual of making the "perfect" panini at home. "Meika and I both like to be in the kitchen and believe a sandwich is something simple but can bring a lot of joy," he says. "Both the making and the eating part."

Bringing people joy was also what inspired pastry chef Rosemary Andrews to start her dessert box business during the Covid lockdowns. Melburnians turned to baking as the ultimate comfort activity during the world's longest lockdowns, and since then the obsession with artisanal cakes and pastries hasn't eased up. Last month, Andrews opened her first brick-and-mortar store Mietta in the south-east suburb of Malvern, a 25-minute drive from the CBD.

Browsing Mietta's centrepiece cake display is an experience in itself – each cake looks like a work of art. My eyes want it all, my stomach tells me I need to show restraint. Should I go for the signature honey-miso eight-layer cake or a decadent Negroni chocolate tart? I settle on the Instagram-worthy sponge bejewelled with raspberries, but it's so pretty I almost hesitate to eat it.

It is the visual appeal of artisanal cakes that's also intrinsic to the trend, explains Rong Yao Soh, one-half of the duo behind Madeleine de Proust. "At a time when food's aesthetic is almost as important as its taste, beautifully crafted desserts are a form of edible art."

Lygon Street, the inner-city artery connecting Melbourne's CBD to the inner north, gained Madeleine de Proust in November.

Previous spread:
The food at
Onigiri Kitchen

**This page clockwise
from left:** A meal at
Miyama; Little Havana's
Cuban sandwich;
edible art at Madeleine
de Proust; Mietta's
raspberry sponge

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In the heart of Malaysia's vibrant hospitality scene, Raia Hotel extends a warm invitation to travellers, promising more than just a place to stay but an immersive journey through the nation's diverse culinary landscape. With its tagline "Hotel For All," Raia Hotel seamlessly integrates accessibility, comfort, and halal gastronomic excellence across its five strategically located establishments.

A Culinary Tapestry

Central to Raia Hotel's allure is its unwavering dedication to a diverse dining experience. The culinary journey within Raia Hotel extends beyond conventional boundaries, featuring a thoughtfully curated menu inspired by the rich culinary traditions of Kedah, Terengganu, Pulau Pinang, Sarawak, and Sabah, where its hotels are located. Venture into Souq Garden at Raia Hotel Kota Kinabalu, where a lavish selection of Middle Eastern dishes awaits, adding cultural richness to the dining experience.

Raia Hotel's commitment to inclusivity is further demonstrated through its enticing dining promotions. For example, the weekly Hi-Tea Buffets, hosted across all five hotels, not only cater to the senses but also offer a variety of themes, catering to a diverse range of palates. Whether you're a culinary explorer or someone seeking familiar flavours, these buffets and other promotions stand as a testament to Raia Hotel's commitment to providing an affordable and diverse dining experience.

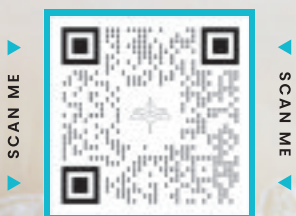


Culinary Artistry Unveiled

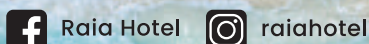
Behind the scenes, Raia Hotel takes pride in its culinary artisans. Chefs in Raia Kuching and Raia Alor Setar are not just chefs; they are distinguished award-winners, having secured medals at prestigious culinary challenges. Their expertise infuses each dish with excellence, ensuring that every meal is a work of culinary art. Whether you're a business traveller in search of efficiency, a family embarking on a leisurely getaway, or simply an enthusiast of fine dining, Raia Hotel invites you to a world where hospitality transcends boundaries, and each dining experience tells a story.

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Raia Hotel

An interior palette of black, white and yellow conjures nostalgic milk bars of our childhoods, but the madeleines on the menu are a much more adult offering.

Soh and chef-partner Hyoju Park are indeed artists of sorts. The corn madeleine is a delicate brown butter cake filled with cream cheese and corn and topped with a popcorn ganache to resemble corn kernels. My love for pistachio is gratified with one jammed with stone-ground pistachio paste, cream and raspberry, and covered in white Valrhona chocolate. It's nutty, tart and slightly floral, and doesn't come cheap at \$14 for a two-bite pop. But then joy shouldn't come with a price tag.

"Happiness found amid sips and bites" is similarly the ethos behind Chiaki, a café-by-day, izakaya-by-night venture from friends Kantaro Okada, Alicia Feng and Mo Zhou.

Opened in July in the backstreets of Collingwood, a 15-minute tram ride from the CBD, Chiaki exemplifies the magic that happens when Japanese comfort food collides with Australian native ingredients and Melbourne's obsession with coffee.

"Japanese cuisine still has a lot to offer to Melbourne," says Okada, when I ask him why he thinks so many new niche Japanese cafés sprung up in 2023. "We have been missing a tier between very cheap Japanese restaurants and fine diners. Chiaki aims to fill the gap with what we call 'affordable luxury'."

As I watch Zhou make the broth for *chazuke* (essentially translating to "broth over rice"), I understand what Okada means. This is a dish seldom heard of in Melbourne, but one that already has tongues wagging. Zhou tops the various bowls of *chazuke* with the likes of creamy wagyu tataki or pickled Davidson plum, drizzling

“

Sandwich shops, a trend buzzing in Melbourne for a while now, reached a fever pitch last year. But whereas collective nostalgia previously drove the trend, 2023 saw travel as the main influencer”

This page: Little Havana's Charlie Carrington holds up one of his sumptuous creations

it with native pepperberry or smoky hay oils. They smell and taste incredible—a medicinal umami hit that warms the insides.

Although Japanese cuisine has been woven into Melbourne's culinary tapestry for decades, there has never been such a proliferation of Japanese cafés with an appreciation for how the right drink can enhance a meal.

Take Miyama, which opened in September at Melbourne Central Station. A place that throngs with students, workers and tourists seems a strange location for a café focused on the Japanese concept of *omotenashi*, but it's actually kind of genius.

Omotenashi roughly translates to "open-hearted hospitality" and entering Miyama's glass doors, I immediately feel welcome. Lights are soft, interiors are muted pinks while towering fiddle-leaf trees provide an almost forest bathing experience. The perfect place to escape the chaos of the city with a *teishoku* (pre-selected) brunch set or a brioche bun filled with kimchi, garlic or egg. I wash my sandwich down with a hojicha, or roasted green tea characterised by its earthy flavour. Bridging the gap between Melbourne's affection for caffeine and a lack of options other than coffee is Miyama's *raison d'être*, owner Monica Nguyen explains, as I peruse the extensive menu of matcha, genmaicha and yuzu drinks.

On the east side of the CBD, a stone's throw away from Parliament Station, Onigiri Kitchen is a new purveyor of Japan's





This page: Daytime at Chiaki, which turns into an izakaya by night; a bento offering at Onigiri Kitchen

favourite snack. *Onigiri* (seaweed-wrapped rice balls) is often eaten on the go in Japan, but Onigiri Kitchen’s cosy interior evoking a Tokyo-style eating house beckons me to pause and savour my lunch.

I go for the salmon and chicken karaage onigiri, and they’re top-notch: the fillings are generous and the nori, is crisp and crunchy. I try a beer brewed by a young couple who operate a curry shop underneath the train track in Tokyo, while manager Robert Clifford gushes about a saké from Niigata made by one of the first female saké brewers. Add the softly playing jazz and I’m transported from bustling Little Collins Street to the pages of a Haruki Murakami novel – and a reminder that, above all, food is about the joy it evokes and the comfort it brings. ■



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Melbourne 14x weekly.

Directory

Little Havana

99 High St, Prahran 3181
littlehavana.com.au

Spazio Paradiso

709 Nicholson St, Carlton North 3054
[instagram.com/spazio_paradiso](https://www.instagram.com/spazio_paradiso)

Mietta

23 Glenferrie Rd, Malvern 3144
miettabyrosemary.com.au

Madeleine De Proust

253 Lygon St, Carlton 3053
madeleinedeproust.com.au

Chiaki

49 Peel St, Collingwood VIC 3066
chiaki.com.au

Miyama

Melbourne Central Station, Level 2/300 Lonsdale St, Melbourne 3000
miyamamelbourne.com.au

Onigiri Kitchen

15 Little Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000
onigiri.au



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January

BEST SPOTS IN MALAYSIA

2024

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



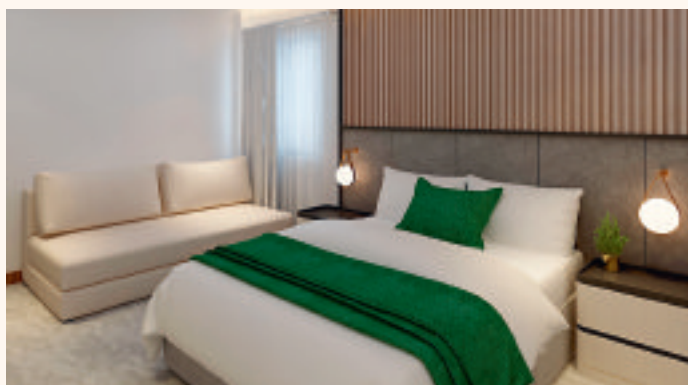
Avani Sepang Goldcoast Resort

This five-star, Polynesian-inspired resort is Malaysia's only palm tree-designed, over-water resort. Situated just 40 minutes away from KLIA, it is an ideal destination for a romantic or family weekender. Each of its 315 over-water villas features a private balcony, allowing guests to enjoy breathtaking sunsets. Use the code **GOINGAVANI** to save up to 25% on website bookings, and sign up for the free GHA Discovery loyalty programme to enjoy worldwide privileges. avaniresorts.com/en/sepang | **+60 3-3182 3600**



Angsana Teluk Bahang

This beachfront resort boasts spectacular sunset views of the Andaman Sea across its 231 rooms and suites. Enjoy a variety of amenities, such as an expansive infinity pool and a dedicated kids' club. Guests can participate in thoughtfully curated local experiences, like an interactive batik painting session, through its Stay for Good programme. Book at least three days in advance to enjoy 20% off daily room rates. angsana.com/malaysia/penang | **+60 4-817 0888**



Signal Poshtel

Set in the heart of Kota Kinabalu and a mere 20-minute drive from the airport, Signal Poshtel is a splendid base from which to explore this lively city. Jalan Gaya and its surrounding neighbourhood are home to a wide array of street food vendors and bustling weekend markets. After your explorations, retreat to the hotel's chic, modern rooms inspired by a Parisian flair. Perfect for both solo and group travel, you'll enjoy your stay at this rare gem of northern Borneo. [L/1 to L/4, Lot 120, Jalan Gaya, Kota Kinabalu](https://l/1-to-l/4,lot-120,jalan-gaya,kota-kinabalu) | **+60 11-5877 2391**



DoubleTree by Hilton Putrajaya Lakeside

Nestled in the heart of Putrajaya's lush landscape, this five-star hotel welcomes families to a peaceful retreat located just 25 minutes away from the city. Relax by the serene pool or in the spa and stay active in the modern fitness centre. Little ones can delight in the dedicated Kids' Club and Splash Pool. The DoubleTree by Hilton Putrajaya Lakeside's culinary offerings, family-friendly activities and enriching events promise guests a taste of "The Malaysian Experience". putrajayalakeside.doubletreebyhilton.com | **+60 3-8890 0000**





For a charming afternoon tea: Lisette's Café & Bakery

Nestled in a serene corner of Bangsar, Lisette's serves delightful dishes made from natural and fresh ingredients. From scrumptious breakfast options to delicious dinner mains and seasonal buffets, their nourishing and wholesome meals will leave your tastebuds fully satisfied. Stop by for their afternoon tea set, available daily between 2:30pm and 5pm. A charming assortment of mini cakes, freshly baked scones, sandwiches and samosas with chilli chutney is the perfect daytime repast for two friends meeting for a catch-up.

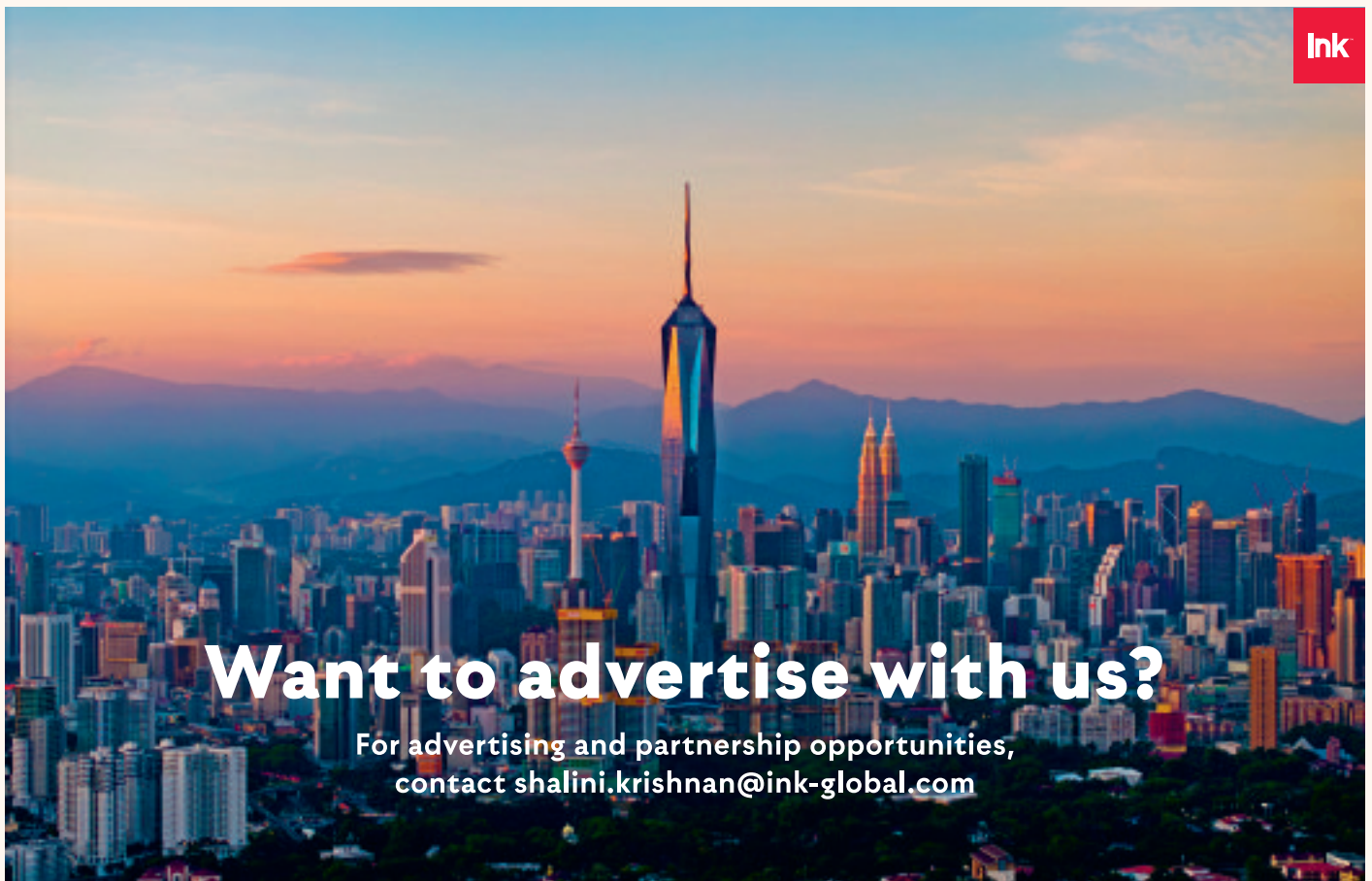
lisettes.com.my | +60 3-2201 7772



For stellar Chinese delicacies: Hai Sang Lou

“Hai Sang Lou”, which translates to “restaurant above the water”, is aptly named for its breathtaking coastal location and scenic sea view. It is recognised as the best Chinese restaurant in the Sepang District by TripAdvisor and renowned for its fresh, tasty and high-quality Muslim-friendly Cantonese cuisine. Indulge in its famous dim sum lunch and savour its many speciality dishes. Whether you're dining with family and friends or enjoying a business gathering, Hai Sang Lou offers a one-of-a-kind dining experience.

avanihotels.com/en/sepang/restaurants/hai-sang-lou-restaurant | +60 3-3182 3600



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Good News Pizza

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Petaling Street standouts

Explore the vibrant dining scene in KL's Chinatown district

Kuala Lumpur has no shortage of dining-focused destinations, but among them, Petaling Street in Chinatown is certainly a standout. Amidst a backdrop of bustling night markets and street-food stalls, you'll also find upscale dining spots serving up international cuisine as well as stylish cocktail bars. If you're keen on eating and drinking your way through this heritage neighbourhood, here's a guide to the top spots to check out.



PS150

Good News Pizza

Housed in a lovingly restored pre-war building, Good News Pizza is the spot to be if you're craving a classic wood-fired Neapolitan pizza. The secret to their spectacular pizzas is their airy dough that's crisp on the outside and delightfully chewy within. The restaurant also makes a point of sourcing locally when possible, ensuring supremely fresh ingredients. While you can certainly opt for classic toppings, there's also a selection of contemporary creations that take inspiration from



CCB

surrounding regions. The signature "Borneo" is made with locally sourced Kulim oil – a prized ingredient known for its pungent garlic and truffle aroma – with a hit of Sarawak black pepper. [goodnews.pizza](#), 1/F, Lot 152, Jalan Petaling

CCB

At the cheekily named CCB, a concept by the same team behind PS150 (see below), craft beer and cocktail craftsmanship come together in the form of the bar's unique hop cocktails. These intriguing creations merge the flavours of beer and kombucha with classic cocktail ingredients to create lighter concoctions. Its interiors are just as irreverent as its menu, featuring playful designs and bold pops of colour. Adding to the laid-back vibe is a playlist of '60s and '80s classics with a dash of disco. [ccbkl.my](#), 152 Jalan Petaling

PS150

One of the first cocktail bars to hit the scene in Kuala Lumpur, PS150 is housed in what was once a neighbourhood stationery shop beneath the bustling Merchant's Lane coffee shop. The drinks menu is presented in five sections, each representative of different eras of cocktail making: Vintage, Prohibition, Tiki, Disco and Contemporary. Enjoy these themed drinks in the bar's shophouse-inspired interiors, which channel cinematic Wong Kar Wai-esque vibes that will put you in the mood for love. [ps150.my](#), 150 Jalan Petaling

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

76

Inside our airlines

News and updates from MAG Airlines

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Discover our network

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

89

Onboard entertainment

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



Arrival of MOTOTOK SPACER 8600NG: remote controlled electric powered pushback tug

AeroDarat (ADS) has purchased 12 units of Mototok Spacer 8600NG with three years of maintenance by Dynaron. The Spacer 8600NG model is an improved version of the classic line and represents a significant advancement. MAG is the first in Asia to experience a pushback operation using the NG model, and second in the world after Liberia. On top of the proven oversteering protection, the prominent features on the NG are the improved power capacity, faster-loading automation, onboard charger (CEE plug – charge anywhere, anytime), integrated towbar, IOT interface and enhanced safety features that will improve and protect manpower and assets during pushback. On the compatibility of the unit to MH's current and upcoming fleet, Boeing has issued a service letter about towbarless towing by Mototok for the 737 family (CL and NG).

Malaysia Airlines reinstates in-flight service offerings, elevates onboard dining experience

In addition to the full restoration of its in-flight service offerings, Malaysia Airlines has also introduced enhanced meal offerings and refreshed menus across sectors as it seeks to elevate the onboard dining experience. The full resumption comes following the delivery of the remaining 10 hi-lifts, which commenced operations at the end of October 2023. With this, the airline was able to progressively commence its full in-flight service offerings since 1 November 2023. As part of its catering business continuity plan, the airline established a temporary distribution centre – the MAG Catering Operations (MCAT) – to manage the assembly of F&B items and the uplifting of meals onboard via hi-lift trucks. The MCAT facility strictly complies with safety standards set by the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) and local health authorities. With this enhancement, the MCAT operations have strengthened significantly, with a fleet of 24 hi-lifts, six freezers, two chillers and two ware wash machines – enabling the airline to service previously affected routes more efficiently and promptly. The airline is now self-handling an average of 18,000 meals daily, collaborating closely with its partners to maintain the highest standards of quality and service.

From left: Mr. Sun Shuqiang (Minister Counsellor of the Economic and Commercial Office, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia), Datuk Captain Izham Ismail (Group Managing Director of Malaysia Aviation Group), Mr. Haibing Ma (Chairman of Jiangsu Tianyi Aviation Industry Co. Ltd)





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MAG accelerates digital transformation journey with enhanced technological integration

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) is strengthening its commitment to digital transformation by expanding its partnership with Microsoft in Malaysia. This strategic move aims to enhance MAG's offerings, improve user experiences and bolster its technology platforms through Microsoft's technologies. MAG is focusing on innovation in autonomous vehicle products, data analytics, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, robotics and security in formulating robust tools for seamless digital integration. By appointing Microsoft as its preferred cloud provider, MAG has achieved significant cost savings and reduced carbon emissions. This extended collaboration has allowed MAG to increase productivity and operational efficiency. By leveraging Microsoft platforms, including Microsoft Power Apps and Power BI among others, MAG has effectively transitioned manual processes into streamlined digital formats, while simultaneously upskilling its workforce to thrive in the digital era.

From left: Andrea Della Mattea, President Asia Pacific of Microsoft, K Raman, Managing Director of Microsoft Malaysia, Clarence Lee, Group Chief Digital and IT Officer of MAG, Datuk Captain Izham Ismail, Group Managing Director of MAG



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promote skin elasticity and hydration, helping us maintain a healthy and radiant complexion despite the stresses of travel. But the benefits don't stop there. Collagen supplements also contribute to the strength and beauty of our hair and nails, ensuring you're always looking your best for that close-up travel photo.

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For more information on Nutribear and to experience the benefits of collagen supplements yourself, visit their website at nutribear.co.

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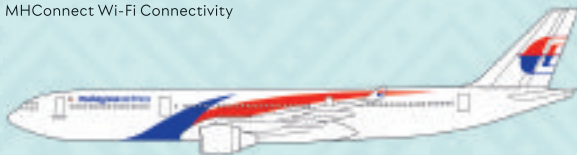
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MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity



A330-300 MHconnect

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Max. Cruising Speed **980km/h**
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



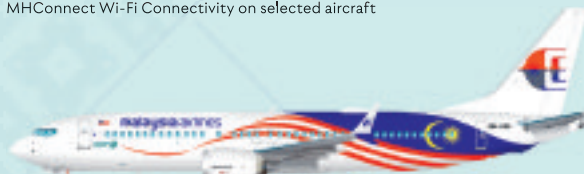
A330-200 MHconnect

No. of Aircraft **6** | Passenger Seating **287**
Length **58.82m** | Wingspan **60.30m** | Height **17.39m**
Max. Cruising Speed **880km/h**
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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 **2** | Passenger Seating **174**
Length **39.52m** | Wingspan **35.90m** | Height **12.30m**
| Max. Cruising Speed **976km/h**



ATR 72-500

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



B737-800NG

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**

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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 inflight is not permitted.

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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.

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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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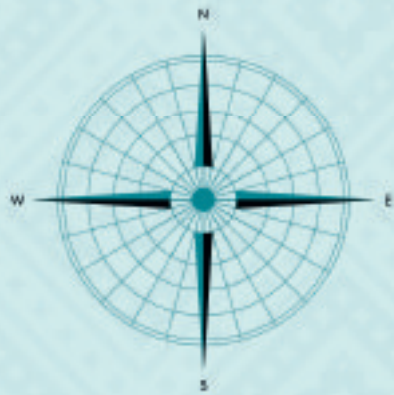
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OUR NETWORK

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELEN WINATA

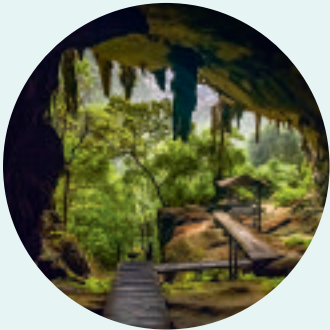
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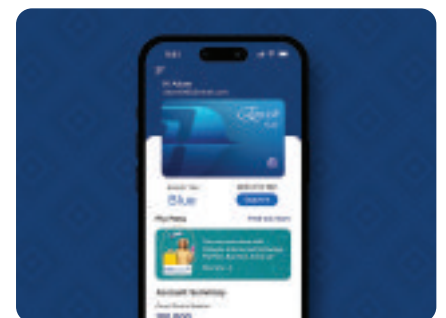
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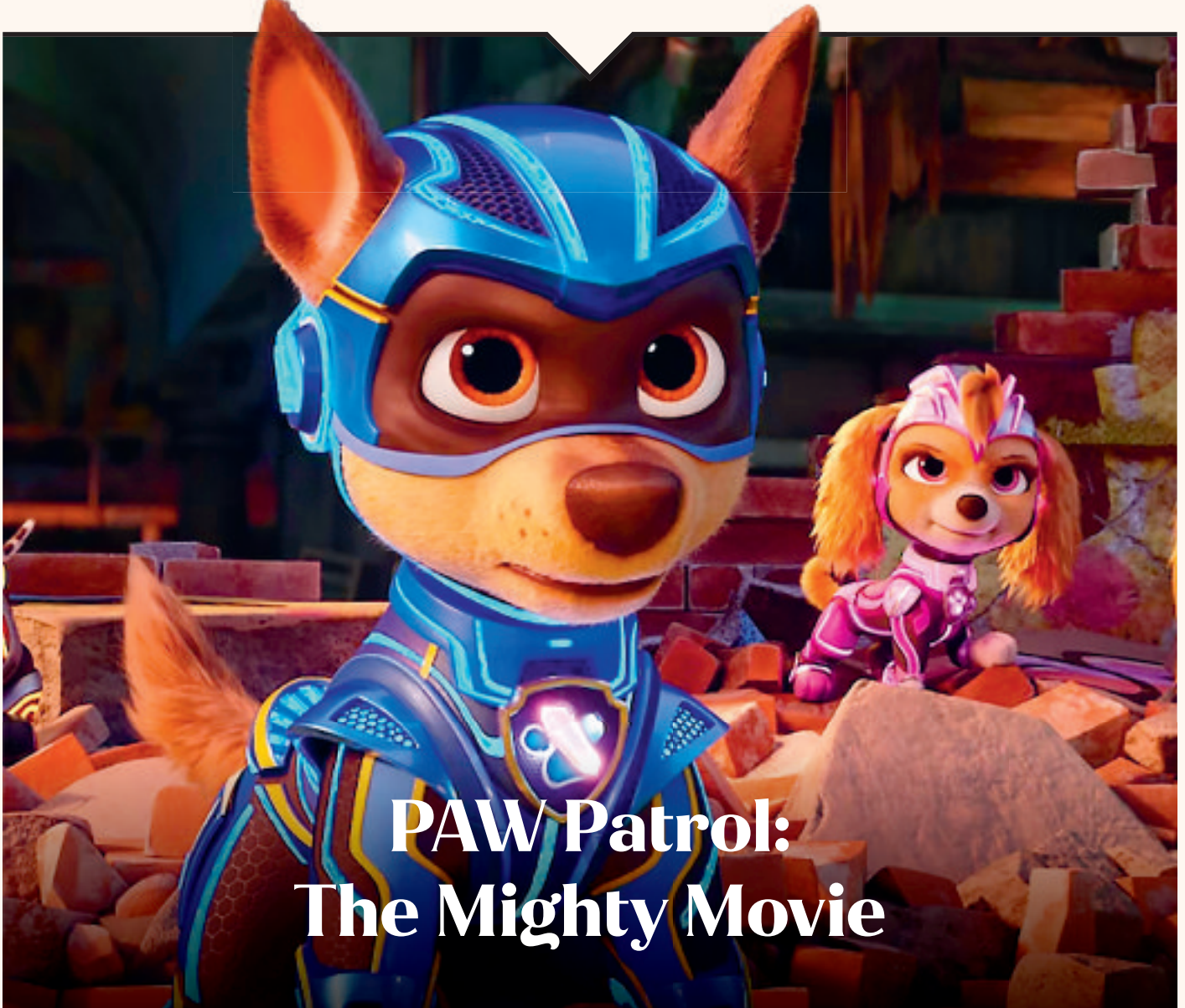
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PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie

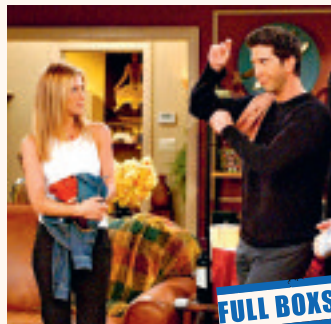
Check out our **New Year Special** on page 93 and **Boxset Special** on page 101!



New Year's Eve



When Harry Met Sally



Friends



You



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PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie

When Adventure City is thrown into chaos, it's up to the magical PAW Patrol pups to save the day

PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie, a 2023 Canadian animated superhero comedy, emerges as a dynamic sequel to its 2021 predecessor, both drawing inspiration from Keith Chapman's beloved TV series. The visionary Cal Brunker directed this animated extravaganza, collaborating with Bob Barlen on the screenplay, fuelled by a captivating narrative crafted by Brunker, Barlen and Shane Morris. The familiar voices of the original series cast, including Christian Corrao (Marshall), Luxton Handspiker (Rubble), Callum Shoniker (Rocky) and Ron Pardo (Cap'n Turbot and Mayor Humdinger), blend seamlessly with the ensemble of talents, featuring Mckenna Grace (Skye), Taraji P. Henson, Marsai Martin, Christian Convery (Chase),

Kim Kardashian, Chris Rock, Lil Rel Howery, Serena Williams, North West, Saint West, James Marsden, Kristen Bell and the cinematic debut of Finn Lee-Epp as Ryder.

The heart of the film pulsates with the PAW Patrol pups harnessing superpowers from mystical crystals, compelling them to thwart Mayor Humdinger and his newfound ally, Victoria Vance, as they threaten to plunge Adventure City into chaos. The narrative unfolds two years post the initial rescue mission, with Ryder and the PAW Patrol diligently safeguarding the metropolis. Amidst this heroic endeavour, Skye, the petite yet spirited team member, grapples with a sense of underappreciation, yearning to showcase her prowess and prove her indispensability.

Hollywood Latest



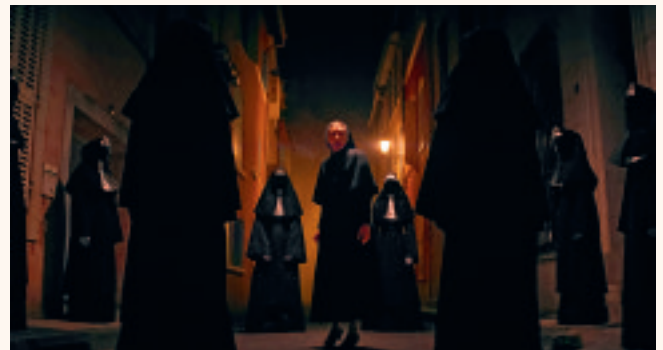
In Tim Realbuto's powerful narrative, he skillfully intertwines the moving story of **Bobcat Moretti**, a resilient MS warrior, with his own weight loss journey. Realbuto, both writer and protagonist, transforms tragedy into triumph, blending the gritty realism of boxing with a touch of magic. The film features Tim Realbuto, Vivica A. Fox and Taryn Manning.



A Million Miles Away is a 2023 biographical drama that orbits the remarkable life of Mexican-American astronaut José M. Hernández, portrayed by Michael Peña. Directed by Alejandra Marquez Abella, the film unfolds Hernández's journey from fieldwork in Mexico to co-developing digital mammography and ultimately, his Space Shuttle mission, the STS-128.



Dumb Money, a 2023 American comedic drama directed by Craig Gillespie and penned by Lauren Schuker Blum and Rebecca Angelo, adapts Ben Mezrich's 2021 book, *The Antisocial Network*. The film humorously narrates the GameStop short squeeze of January 2021, boasting a star-studded cast that includes Paul Dano and Shailene Woodley.



The Nun II, also titled *The Nun: Chapter Two*, is a 2023 American gothic supernatural horror directed by Michael Chaves. Set in 1956 France, it unravels a sinister plot as Sister Irene investigates a priest's brutal murder, confronting a malevolent force once again. Stars Taissa Farmiga, Jonas Bloquet, Bonnie Aarons, Storm Reid and Anna Popplewell.



Miranda's Victim



The Miracle Club



Cat Person

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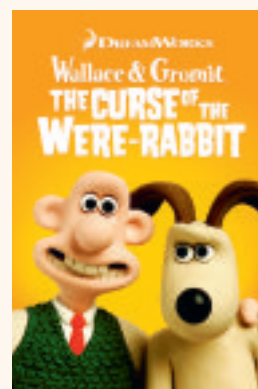


New Year Special

The Great Gatsby, *New Year's Eve* and *When Harry Met Sally* intertwine tales of love and longing against the backdrop of New Year's celebrations. In *Gatsby*, the Jazz Age revelry frames unattainable dreams. *New Year's Eve* explores diverse characters' resolutions and transformations. *When Harry Met Sally* uses multiple New Year's Eves to mark evolving relationships, all encapsulating the universal themes of hope, reflection and the promise of new beginnings as the calendar turns.



Hollywood Kids



Hollywood Favourites



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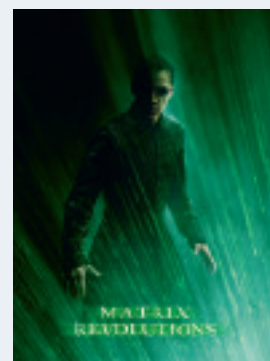
Sequel Special



The Conjuring series, renowned for its spine-chilling tales, comprises three main films: "The Conjuring", "The Conjuring 2", and "The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It". Following paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren, these movies delve into real-life cases of supernatural horror. The latest installment, "The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It", explores a chilling courtroom drama involving a murder trial with demonic implications, adding a unique twist to the franchise's spectral narratives.



Space Jam and its sequel, **Space Jam: A New Legacy**, are cinematic celebrations that blend live-action and animation. The original, starring Michael Jordan, showcased Looney Tunes characters in a basketball adventure. **A New Legacy** brings LeBron James into a digital realm, where he teams up with the iconic characters for a high-stakes game. Both films capture the spirit of fun, sportsmanship and the timeless appeal of beloved animated figures, creating a slam dunk legacy for audiences of all ages.



The Matrix, a groundbreaking sci-fi film, introduced audiences to the concept of a simulated reality. The sequels extended the philosophical dimensions of the original's narrative, delving into the battle between man and machine. While **The Matrix Revolutions** concluded the trilogy with epic battles, **The Matrix Resurrections** rekindled the story with a fresh perspective, exploring the consequences of choice and reality.



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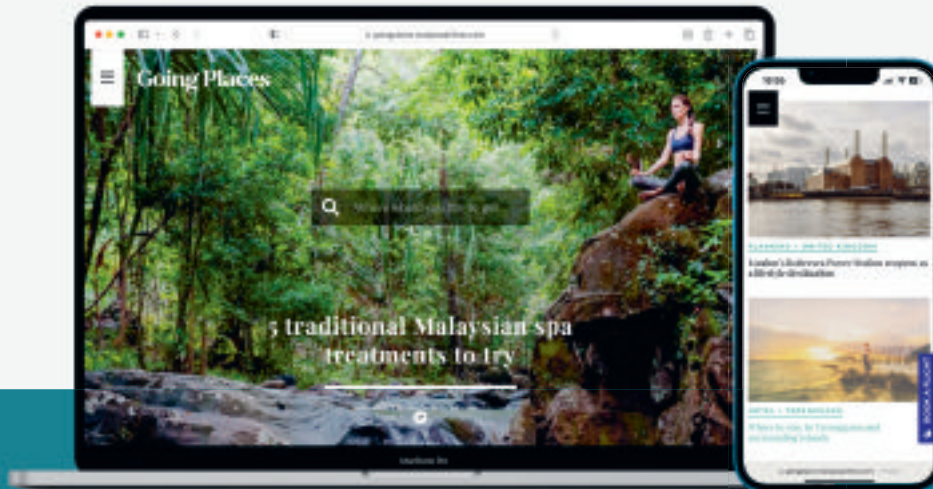
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Hindi

Pathaan, a 2023 Bollywood thriller directed by Siddharth Anand and produced by Aditya Chopra, is the fourth installment in the YRF Spy Universe. Starring Shah Rukh Khan as the titular character, alongside Deepika Padukone and John Abraham, the film follows exiled RAW agent Pathaan collaborating with ISI agent Rubina Mohsin to thwart Jim, a former RAW agent planning a devastating virus attack on India. Breaking numerous box office records, Pathaan emerged as India's highest-grossing Hindi film and also made waves internationally.



Japanese



Thai



Tamil



Korean



In Woo-cheol Lee's 2023 Korean romantic comedy, **My Worst Neighbor**, the story unfolds with humour and heart as two neighbours, divided by a lone wall, embark on a charming journey. Seung Jin, a hopeful singer, discovers a mysterious cry on his first night, leading to a daily life shared anonymously. Starring Seung-Yeon Han, Ji-Hoon Lee and Kim Yool-ho, the film beautifully weaves an enchanting tale of subtle emotions.

Chinese



Lost in the Stars, a 2022 Chinese crime, drama and mystery film directed by Rui Cui, unfolds the perplexing tale of He Fei and his wife Li Muzi. During their anniversary trip, she vanishes, only to return, but He Fei denies her identity. As top lawyer Chen Mai delves into this enigmatic case, a web of mysteries deepens. Starring Yilong Zhu, Ni Ni and Janice Man, the movie captivates with its suspenseful narrative.

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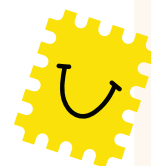
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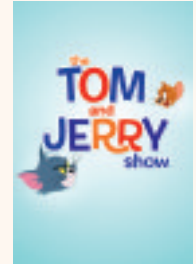
Established in 1996, the Universiti Malaya Centre for Continuing Education (UMCCed) is a key Academic Responsibility Centre fostering lifelong learning. Their **Education on the Go** initiative provides flexible courses, aligning with modern learners' mobile lifestyle. Collaborating with Malaysia Airlines, they offer free in-flight learning sessions, exemplifying a commitment to accessible education and Universiti Malaya's mission of impacting the world through convenient and empowering learning experiences.



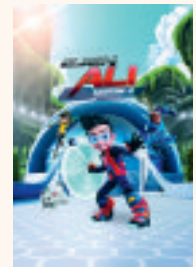
Korean

In the delightful 2018 Korean drama **What's Wrong with Secretary Kim**, corporate charisma clashes with personal revelations. As vice chairman Lee Young-joon faces his indispensable secretary Kim Mi-so's sudden resignation, a tale of professional pride and hidden affections unfolds, revealing that sometimes, what's wrong might just be the key to discovering what's right. The show stars Park Min-Young, Park Seo-joon and Lee Tae-Hwan in the lead roles.

Kids



Malay



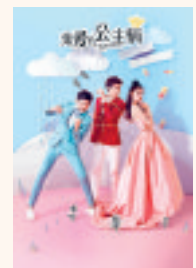
Hindi



Japanese



Chinese



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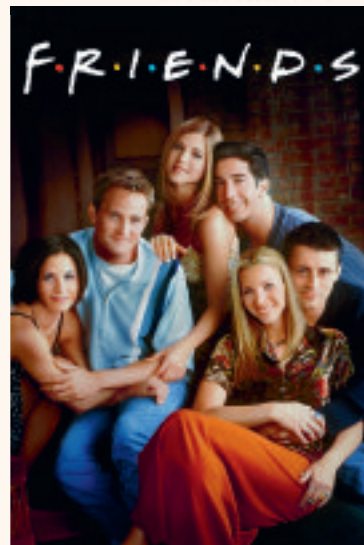
Comedy



Dive into the whimsical world of **Young Sheldon season 5** with the full box set available now. This sitcom chronicles the childhood of Sheldon Cooper, the eccentric genius from *The Big Bang Theory*. Join young Sheldon as he navigates high school, family dynamics and the challenges of being a prodigy in East Texas.



Indulge in the delightful world of **Call Me Kat season 2** with the complete box set now available. Starring Mayim Bialik, this charming sitcom follows Kat, a quirky woman who opens a cat-themed café and redefines her life on her own terms. Enjoy the laughter, friendships and feline fun in this heartwarming series.



Relive the timeless hilarity of **Friends season 10** with the complete box set available, a tribute to the comedic genius of Matthew Perry, our beloved Chandler Bing. This iconic sitcom follows the lives of six friends – Rachel, Ross, Monica, Chandler, Joey and Phoebe – as they navigate the humorous complexities of love, work and friendship in New York City.

Drama



Embark on a poignant journey with **Maid**, inspired by Stephanie Land's best-selling memoir. This powerful series delves into the life of a single mother navigating poverty, homelessness and bureaucracy by turning to housekeeping. Told through her perspective, *Maid* is a beautiful, gritty and inspiring exploration of the challenges faced by many in America. The full box set of **season 1** is available for an immersive viewing experience.



Dive into the twisted world of **You season 3** with the complete box set now available. This psychological thriller follows Joe Goldberg, a charming but obsessive bookstore manager, as he navigates dangerous obsessions with those he desires. Filled with suspense and unexpected twists, *You* explores the dark side of modern relationships in an intoxicating and chilling manner.

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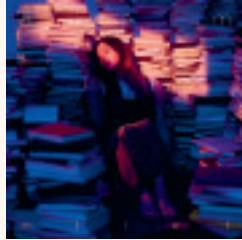
Mandarin



Hindi



Japanese



Tamil



Memories



Club



Korean



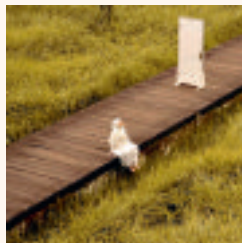
Light & Easy



Cantonese



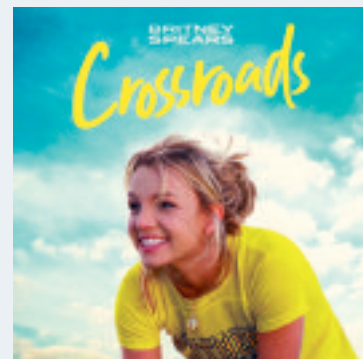
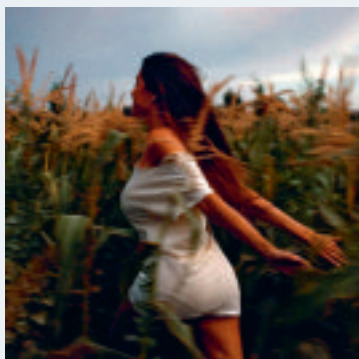
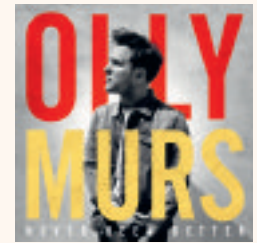
Indonesian



Malay



R&B



The Hits

Silence Between Songs, *Losers* and *Crossroads: Special Edition* excel as hit albums, offering diverse sounds perfect to energise you in and out. From soothing melodies to dynamic beats, these albums promise an engaging and memorable experience even to people with varied musical tastes.

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Walking on air

Thrill-seekers will love the heart-pounding experience at Sabah's newest attraction – the Glass Bridge at Bungalio Hill, Tamparuli. Located just an hour from Kota Kinabalu, this 120m-long, all-glass and steel structure suspends visitors far from the ground, offering a spine-tingling experience as they traverse its entirely transparent surface. It's a daring adventure with a view – sweeping vistas of the countryside, including the meandering Tamparuli River and the charming town itself. Even the faint of heart might find it worth shuffling across just for that spectacular photo op – focus on the gorgeous landscape and don't look down. [fb.com/bungalio.hill](https://www.facebook.com/bungalio.hill)

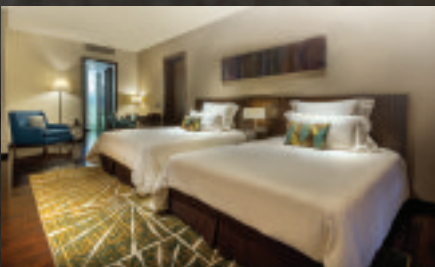


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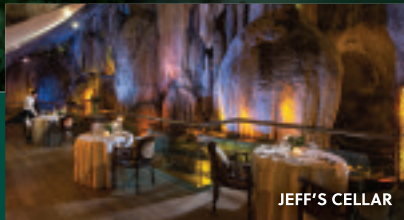
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