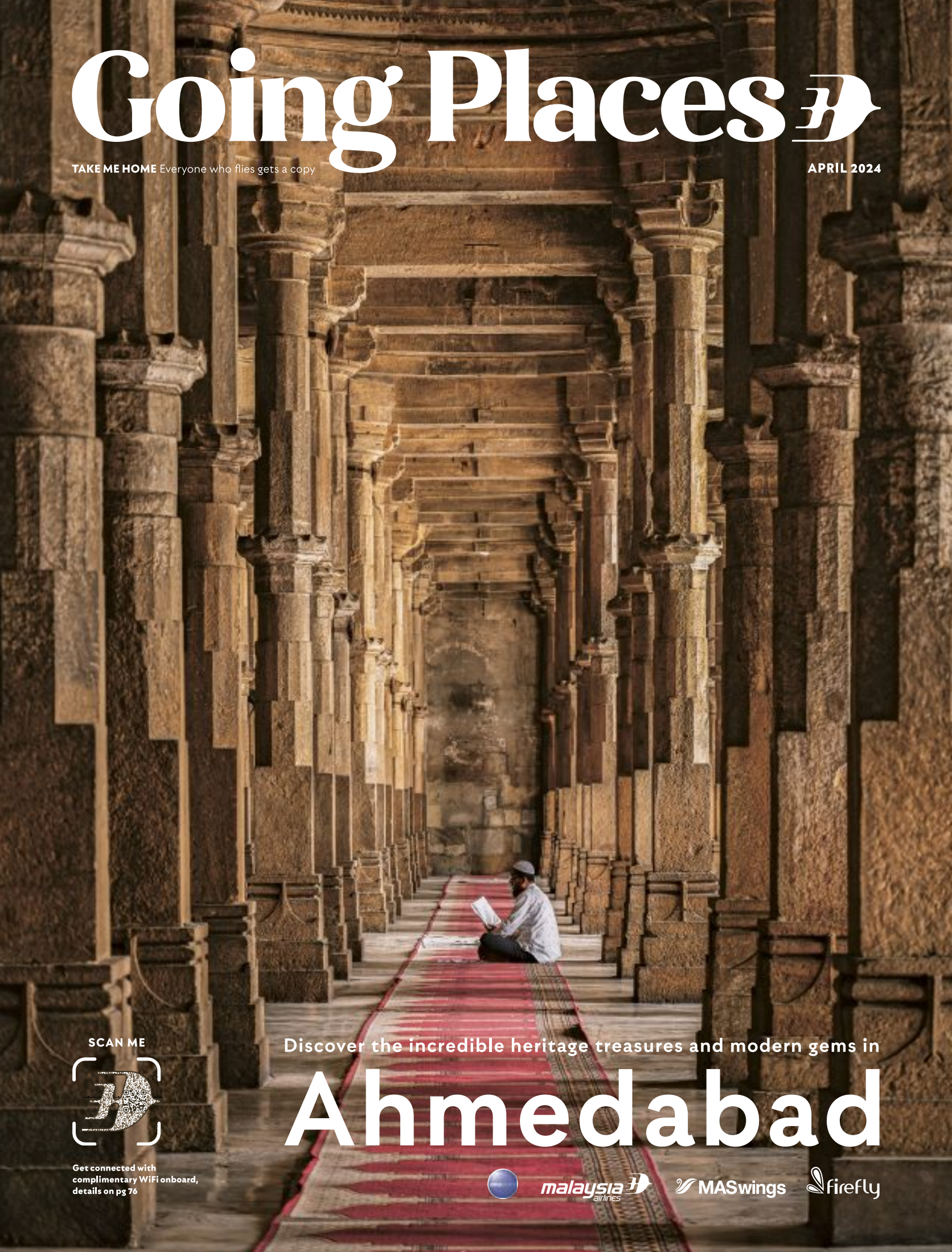


Going Places

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Escape the intricacies of city life in the idyllic small town of Sekinchan



IMAGE: RAZLAN YUSOF

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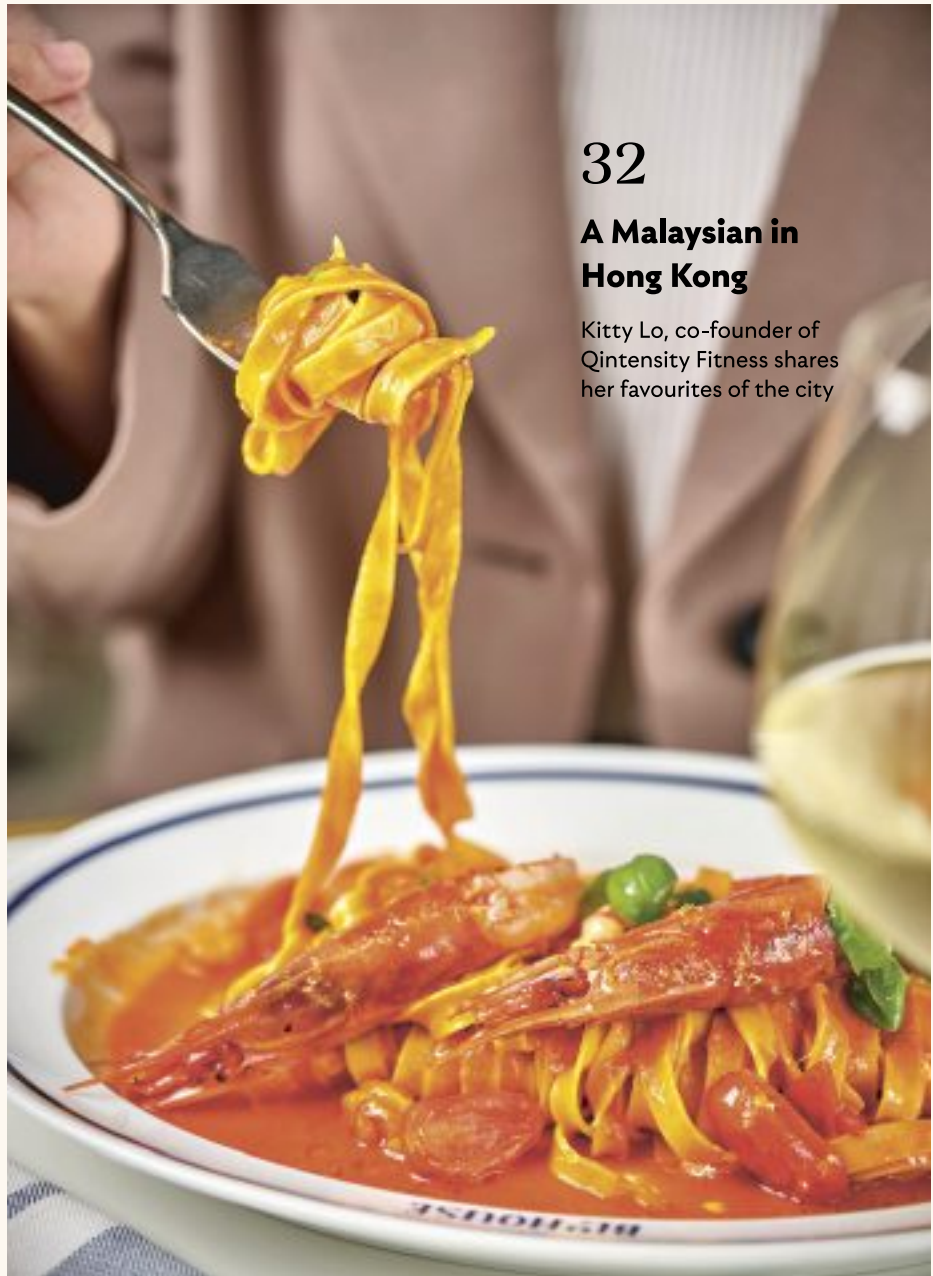
MAG to grow fleet in 2024, Trivandrum flight frequencies to double and other news from MAG

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About the cover
A moment of quiet contemplation at Jama Masjid.
Photo by Atik Bheda.

Editorial

Senior Group Editor

James P Ong

Editor

Shermian Lim

Editorial Consultant

Tara FT Sering

Branded Content Editor

Sarah Khan

Subeditor

Arin Alycia Fong

Design

Senior Art Director

Jessica Santos

Photo Director

Aaron Low

Production

Senior Production Manager

Omar Mohamad Kassim

Sales

For advertising enquiries, please contact ads.mh@ink-global.com

Publishing Director

Shalini Krishnan

Account Managers

Vivandra Jaisi

Liz Yunus

Danial Mohamad

Alishamathi Asohan

Muhaimin Fudzail

Advertising Director

Zurina Hamzah

VP Travel Partnerships, APAC

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Ink

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Dear guests,

April ushers in a month filled with excitement and anticipation for us. For the global Muslim community, it's a time of celebration as we observe Eid al-Fitr, known as *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* in Malaysia, marking the end of a month-long period of fasting. It is during this time that we get to see the unique diversity of Malaysia in full force – enjoying each other's food and company regardless of race or religion, embodying a spirit of togetherness and harmony within our various communities.

Embracing these values, we are thrilled to announce enhancements in our ground and onboard offerings. As Malaysia's flag bearer serving global destinations, we take pride in curating an experience that not only envelops you in the warmth of Malaysian Hospitality but also celebrates diverse, destination-inspired cuisines. We have begun introducing a refreshed menu to elevate the in-flight dining experience, featuring nearly 40 delectable Asian dishes. These enhancements allow Malaysia Airlines passengers travelling to and from various destinations across Asia to embark on a culinary journey like no other. From *murgh makhani* (butter chicken masala) with pulao rice to nasi padang with *ayam kalio* (chicken with spiced coconut gravy), *bergedil* (fried potato patties), and *terung balado* (eggplant with sambal), our menu is crafted to tantalise your taste buds and showcase the rich culinary heritage of the region. We will continue to invest in the food and beverage offerings onboard and at

our Golden Lounges to provide a diverse selection of cuisines that cater to the global culinary palate.

In addition to enhancing the in-flight dining experience, we are committed to ensuring your comfort and convenience onboard. This month sees us commencing our double daily flights from Kuala Lumpur to Doha with our flagship Airbus A350-900 aircraft on both services. This strategic decision underscores the strong demand we have witnessed on this route since its launch in May 2022. With this upgrade, you will enjoy enhanced comfort with state-of-the-art seats and an innovative in-flight entertainment experience, promising a seamless and pleasant journey infused with Malaysian Hospitality.

Additionally, we are doubling our frequencies to Trivandrum, India from two times weekly to four times weekly. The increase in services will bring our direct connectivity into the country with 71 weekly flights from nine major hubs, including New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Amritsar and Trivandrum. With the 30-day visa-free policy in effect for Indian visitors travelling to Malaysia, this poses a great opportunity for you to explore the best of what Malaysia has to offer.

In our continued commitment to enhancing connectivity, we are also providing a seamless avenue for you to explore neighbouring cities from air to rail. Through our latest product offering, MHrail, you can now book flights and train tickets within a single itinerary. Passengers travelling to London Heathrow or Incheon International Airport can now book train tickets to travel within domestic destinations in the United Kingdom and South Korea all via the Malaysia Airlines website. This offer enhances the booking of air-rail connectivity, ensuring that all your needs are taken care of before you take off. We look forward to introducing more exciting enhancement initiatives designed to elevate your experience with us.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish my fellow Muslims a blessed Eid al-Fitr. Whether you are on your way to balik kampung to your loved ones or embarking on your own adventure, we thank you for choosing Malaysia Airlines and hope you enjoy our Malaysian Hospitality to your onward destination. We look forward to welcoming you on board again soon.

Izham Ismail

Group Managing Director
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With World Heritage Day celebrated on 18 April, it's only fitting that we visit two Unesco World Heritage sites in our pages this month. While each offers a unique glimpse into the history and culture of two distinct regions of the world, both serve as a vibrant reminder of why we should celebrate and preserve the world's cultural gems.

Our exploration begins in Ahmedabad (p40), the first city in India to be recognised as a Unesco World Heritage Site. Many of Ahmedabad's architectural treasures are centuries old and provide a fascinating glimpse into India's history. Historical sites like the beautifully preserved 11th-century Rani-ki-Vav and 15th-century Jama Masjid speak to its storied past and modern structures like the Mill Owner's Association by Swiss French architect Le Corbusier indicate the continued evolution of the city's aesthetics. For history buffs and parents keen to teach their children about the importance of heritage preservation, Ahmedabad could not be a more perfect, off-the-beaten-track destination to put on your travel list.

Next, embark on a past-meets-present adventure through another Unesco World Heritage Site, the historic city of Melaka (p35). Wander the bustling streets of Jonker Walk, taste flavourful Peranakan dishes and get a glimpse of the city's Dutch colonial past in the form of landmarks that dot the city's landscape.

Finally, we invite you to explore the picturesque town of Sekinchan in Selangor, where lush paddy fields and seaside activities offer a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of city life (p48). In a month when Muslims worldwide are also celebrating Eid, or Hari Raya Aidilfitri as we call it in Malaysia, Sekinchan conjures dreamy, *balik kampung* (city folk returning to small hometowns for festive celebrations) vibes that we look forward to when it's the holiday season.

Are you excited for the festivities? We are – scan the magazine cover for a surprise and let us know your thoughts by tagging @goingplacesmagazine. On behalf of the editorial team, here's wishing our Muslim readers, Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri, maaf zahir dan batin.

Happy travels,



Sherman Lim
Editor



This issue's contributors



Atik Bheda
Photographer, "Monumental Ahmedabad", p40

Atik is an architect turned architectural photographer based in Ahmedabad. He aims to understand the interaction between buildings, surroundings and users through images.



Ho Zi Le
Photographer, "Back to basics", p48

Ho Zi Le, or Harry, is a photographer from Kuala Lumpur currently based in Scotland. He specialises in street, portraiture and human documentary photography.



Yi Peng Yap
Writer, "24 hours in Melaka", p35

Yi Peng is a freelance writer and trend researcher. In her free time, she enjoys trying new restaurants, reading books recommended on TikTok and finding pre-loved gems in thrift shops.

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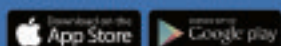
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13 REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places

1

Selangor

Home in the woods

Live out your cottagecore dreams in The White Cottage by IO Homes, a luxury homestay tucked away in the idyll of Templer Park, just a short drive from Kuala Lumpur.

Straight out of a storybook, The White Cottage houses up to eight guests and comes equipped with a private plunge pool under dreamy fairy lights, a spacious backyard for hosting picnics and barbeques, as well as a porch to escape the city and take in the natural beauty

of one of Selangor's most beloved forest reserves.

Besides Templer Park's famous waterfalls, you can enjoy the tranquillity of gliding across the river on a transparent canoe or a leisurely cycle around the cottage grounds. And to fully immerse yourself in the lush greenery of the forest, embark on a private jungle trek or even hop on an ATV to whizz through the trail of the nearby Commonwealth Forest Park. iohome.my/whitecottage



REASONS TO LOVE



2

Selangor

Creativity and craftsmanship

The **Tukang Design and Craft Festival** returns to celebrate artists and artisans from 24–28 April at The Spine-PJKita in Kelana Jaya, with five full days of vibrant music, poetry, art, crafts and food. Organised by Tourism Selangor, the festival will also host the **Tukang 2.0: Reka Lestari** art showcase, focusing on the intersection of art, cultural heritage and the environment, curated by performance artist **Intan Rafiza**. [instagram.com/tukangfestival](https://www.instagram.com/tukangfestival)



Kuala Lumpur

Dive into flavour

A new sea-to-plate restaurant specialising in authentic Kerala seafood dishes has entered the food scene in Kuala Lumpur. Located in The Starhill mall, diners can embark on a culinary journey to the Malabar Coast at **Coast by Kayra**. Each dish is crafted using recipes passed down through generations and fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Don't miss the **Snapper Chuttulli** and **Lobster Ulartiyath**. [coast.kayra.com.my](https://www.coast.kayra.com.my)



4

Kuala Lumpur

Something borrowed

Hotel Indigo is bringing back the lost art of borrowing to forge greater connections between guests and the neighbourhoods they are in. Borrowed by Hotel Indigo encourages guests to borrow items unique

to the destination, like boxing gloves in Phuket, tiffin carriers in Singapore and surfing rash guards in Bali. Over here in KL, guests can borrow binoculars for visits to KL Forest Eco Park, or a sarong to blend in with locals. [instagram.com/hotelindigokualalumpur](https://www.instagram.com/hotelindigokualalumpur)



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REASONS TO LOVE

5

Malaysia

Gearing up for the run

Edan Syah, crowned Malaysia's Fastest Marathoner in 2016 and a two-time Boston Marathon finisher, broke a Guinness World Record last year when he finished the London Marathon in a full baju Melayu, somping and all. With dozens of races happening across Malaysia in the upcoming months, Edan shares his four tips for running a good marathon. sacrun.coach



1 Have a well-structured plan

To boost endurance and speed, a good and progressive plan includes slowly increasing weekly distances and tapering off in the weeks before the run. Add in long runs, tempo runs, speed workouts and rest days.



2 Come up with a race strategy

"Pacing goals should be based on the frequency of your training and how fit you are," says the marathoner. And if possible, Edan adds, get to know the racecourse, because it may have sections that require a change of pace.



3 Get the right gear

Of course, running shoes that fit well are essential, but as Edan says, make sure they're worn in and not new. Weather-appropriate clothes are a must, along with anti-chafing cream, sunglasses, a GPS watch and a hat or visor.



4 Visualise your goal

"During your training, use effective visualisation to make your mind stronger," Edan says. "Picture yourself finishing the race, despite some problems, and keeping up a strong, steady pace."

6

Malaysia

Raya fashion ready

Founded by three sisters in 2010, homegrown fashion brand, CalaQisya, has opened a new concept store in TRX Exchange. Get ahead of your Raya shopping by checking out their latest Calaraya collection, Nyawa. The collection features shawls and matching sets for the entire family in an array of beautiful colours to fit any theme to your heart's desire. calaqisya.com



MANGALA ESTATE

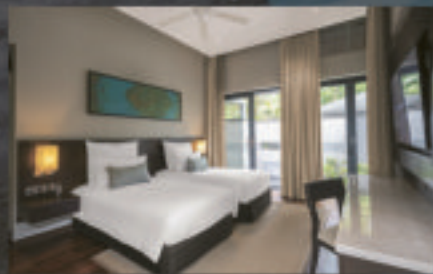
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7

Penang

From the high seas to the stage

The legendary Battle of Svolder will be transported from the Baltic Sea to Wawasan Open University on 20 and 21 April with *Forkbeard: A Viking Musical Odyssey*. After a successful KL debut, an all-new cast led by producer

Nancy Jenster – a descendant of Forkbeard – will tell the tale of the epic clash between the forces of Sweyn Forkbeard of Denmark and Olaf Tryggvason of Norway in 1000 AD. [instagram.com/forkbeardmusical](https://www.instagram.com/forkbeardmusical)



8

Kuala Lumpur

Sipping and shopping

Malaysians can now experience a slice of Ginza with the first Uniqlo Coffee in-store kiosk, a concept first introduced in the brand's flagship store in Japan in 2021. The Uniqlo Coffee in the refurbished Fahrenheit88 Bukit Bintang outlet opened last November and serves a basic selection of drinks, along with six types of cookies, including a red velvet with macadamia and dried marshmallow. [uniqlo.com/my](https://www.uniqlo.com/my)



9

Selangor

Step into style

Beloved shoe brand Machino has teamed up with contemporary cultural fashion brand, Behati, to launch the Double Chinese Knot Heels in four colourways: black suede, white leather, light denim and dark denim. Handcrafted in Malaysia, each heel has a thick foam insole and a low block heel to ensure all-day comfort. Available online and in-store at the SS2 Showroom, Rumah Behati. [machino.com.my](https://www.machino.com.my)

IMAGE: @CONNIESIMPLELIFE (UNIQLO COFFEE)



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10

Malaysia

Tiny trendsetters

Apparel brand, Motherchuckers, has launched the first collection of Motherchucker Kids with their signature Waffle Set. Designed with soft breathable fabric, the sets are made with Malaysia’s humidity in mind, giving the right amount of warmth while wicking away moisture. The buttons and elastic waistband will allow your little ones to dress themselves and explore the world with ease.

chuck-s.co



11

Kuala Lumpur

Taste of indulgence

Already with an ornate architectural marvel in Ampang and an outlet in Chulan, YaHala is now bringing its brand of exquisite Middle Eastern fare to Glo Damansara in Taman Tun Dr Ismail. The third outlet, which opened its doors in

January, features the same dedication to quality and opulence, perhaps most evident in YaHala’s signature mix grill – a half or 1m-long plate of lamb and chicken kebabs, skewers, ribs and *maryeh* (meat encased in bread). yahalares.com



Malaysia

Dragon's brew

Artisanal soy sauce company, MU Artisan, believes in naturally brewed soy sauce under the Malaysian sun. Their method has been passed down for three generations with a mission to keep the ancient art alive. With label designs inspired by Chinese porcelains, their limited edition Mu Seven Dragons Series features unique blends such as Gula Melaka Soy Sauce and Pomelo Soy Sauce. musees.com.my



13

Malaysia

Beat the heat

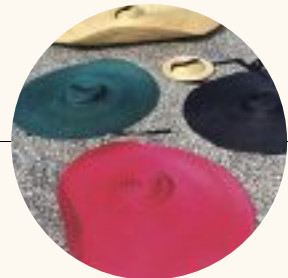
Best beach weather hats made and designed in Malaysia



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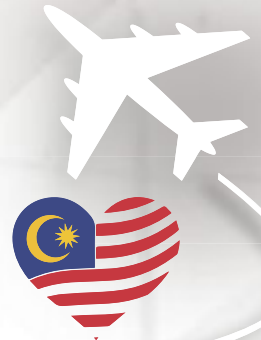


Big hats, big style
Turn heads with a Hanna B straw hat, perfect for days lounging on the beach. The larger-than-life luxury hats come in a variety of colours and sizes range from small to XXL. [instagram.com/gethanna_b](https://www.instagram.com/gethanna_b)



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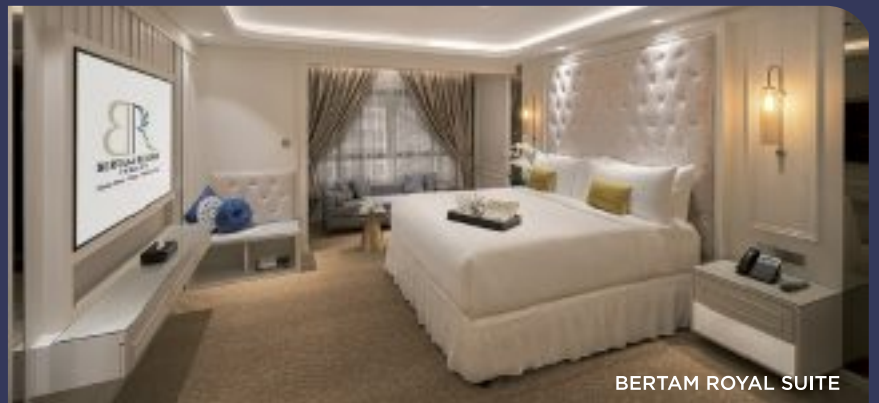
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SCAN TO SHOP



ELEVATE

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



HOTELS

Calling all style fans

Singapore's hotel boom continues as another luxe property opens on the site of the former Singtel Telephone House **BY CLAIRE KNOX**

Singapore is certainly no stranger to stylish, sustainable and plush properties, but post-pandemic, luxury hotels seem to have been sprouting by the day in the Lion City. The last year in particular has seen a boom in spectacular and highly anticipated openings, from the Singapore EDITION to the green-swathed Pan Pacific Orchard to the trendy Mondrian Singapore Duxton, with a few of the newcomers boasting celebrated architectural credentials, stellar locations, celebrity chef-designed menus and outstanding facilities.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





Another new property pulling out all the stops is the railway-inspired Pullman Singapore Hill Street – the latest in the Accor Group’s portfolio – located right in the heart of Singapore’s historic, civic district and built on the heritage site of the former Hill Street Telephone House, once owned by telecom giant Singtel.

The Pullman brand originated as an up-market train service, its first ever coach entering service in 1874 and setting the standard for luxury train travel in America. Fittingly, nods to the brand’s rail history are woven throughout Pullman Singapore Hill Street, from the original Pullman sleeping cabin stationed at the entrance (a clever storage facility for luggage), the installation of vintage suitcases decorating the lobby, through to the playful map of Singapore adorning the carpets throughout the property and its 350 rooms and suites – all designed as elegant, 19th-century private train cabins featuring brass and polished, dark wood accents.

It’s not only trainspotters who will revel in this property – designed by the award-winning DP Architects – the hotel is a study in smart, sustainable design, with all rooms equipped with in-room sensors, water filter systems (no plastic here!) and Murphy beds that can transform lounge rooms into bedrooms. The property’s largest pool is framed by two lush, vertiginous garden walls, and

“

...post-pandemic, luxury hotels seem to have been sprouting by the day in the Lion City”

there’s a state-of-the-art fitness centre replete with standing punching bags and TRX suspension trainers.

Signature restaurant Madison’s serves up a spin on classic, New York-style comfort fare, while next door is the new izakaya and speakeasy MOGA, where top-notch mixologists shake up some of the most sumptuous cocktails in the city – try the herby and fruity, gin-based *inochi no mizu* (water of life). The hotel’s fun rooftop swim-up bar El Chido also offers a sweeping, jaw-dropping skyline vista that overlooks Singapore’s iconic Marina Bay.

Best of all, it’s a mere hop, skip and jump from major attractions such as the National Gallery, Raffles City, Fort Canning Park and Chinatown, an area of town teeming with some of the best eats. pullmansingaporehillstreet.com



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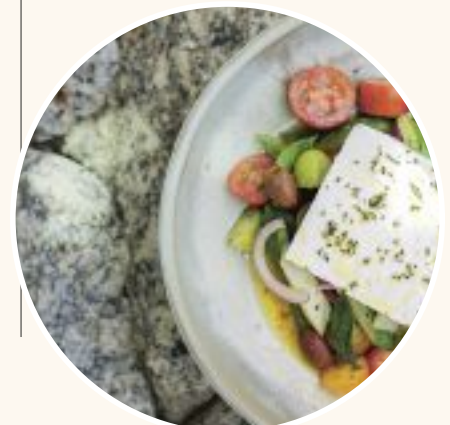


DINING

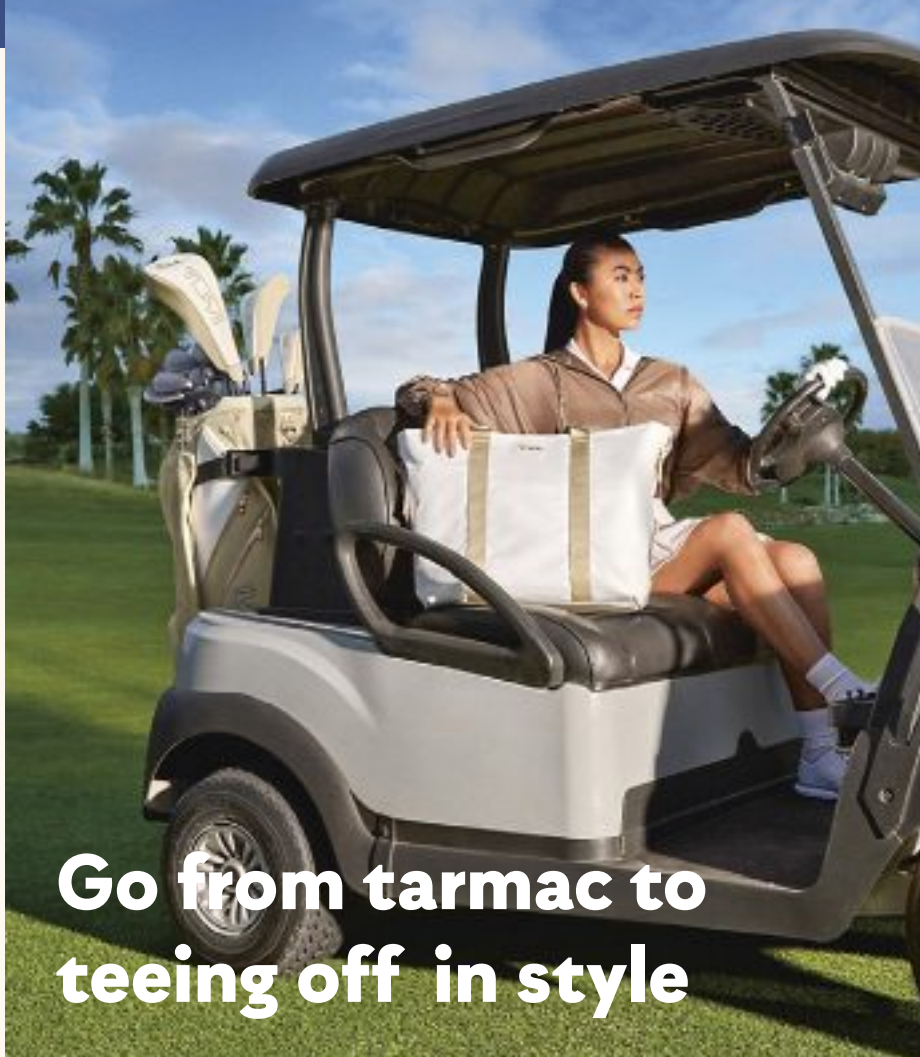
Mediterranean by the Andaman Sea

Post-Songkran, indulge guilt-free in Mediterranean goodness in Phuket

When seaside luxury resort Trisara was mulling over a concept for their new all-day dining restaurant, the answer came easily: Mediterranean cuisine, widely credited as the reason behind the region’s Blue Zone status, and trending as the world’s healthiest. The result is Cielo, which opened late last year, where you can savour light and heart-healthy dishes – fresh seafood (think grilled sardines with Provençal olive oil, lemon and parsley), fruits and vegetables, nuts and plant oils – with a postcard-perfect view of the Andaman Sea. Dining here is good for both the heart and the earth – the hotel group is committed to sourcing ingredients locally, so vegetables served at Cielo are mostly from homegrown, smallholder farms and from Trisara’s very own working farm, Pru Jampa. trisara.com



TEXT: TARA FT SERING IMAGE: COURTESY OF TRISARA



Go from tarmac to teeing off in style

As the Official Luggage of the PGA and LPGA Tour, TUMI's new golf collection will thrill casual weekend golfers and serious linksmen alike

Golf has skyrocketed in popularity in recent years. It's no surprise – after all, is there anything more satisfying than the crisp sound of a well-struck golf ball? If you love networking on the green or playing a few rounds with friends, it's time to upgrade your game with TUMI. Its new Golf collection, an extension of TUMI Sport, is as sleek and functional as the travel luggage it's famous for.

This collection runs the gamut of golf bags designed with thoughtful touches like USB-C ports and accessories like monogrammable club covers.

Performance meets panache

The stars of the collection are no doubt the **Golf Stand Bag** and **Golf Cart Bag**. Available in black and off-white, these chic golf bags are crafted with TUMI's signature protective FXT ballistic nylon. Both bags offer ample room for 14 clubs and plenty of interior and exterior pockets for gear, plus USB-C charging ports and protective covers to keep the equipment dry in the unpredictable tropical rain.

If you prefer to walk the greens, the stand bag is a great option that ticks all the important boxes of comfort and quality. It's difficult to carry your clubs around without a golf bag, so this is a game essential as soon as you start buying your own clubs. It comes with removable padded backpack straps, perfect for the player who switches between walking or carting the course.

For players in travel mode, the **Golf Hardside 2 Wheeled Travel Case** accommodates both bags with room for other golfing essentials. Crafted with an ultra-durable polycarbonate shell, the case is well-equipped to take on the hard knocks of air travel while remaining easy to transport.

Other highlights of the collection include the **Golf Duffel**, which can be converted into a backpack and a **Three Pack Golf Club Cover Set** (made to fit a Driver, Wood and Hybrid club) that can be customised with your monogram.

Shop the new Golf collection at TUMI stores worldwide and TUMI.com. Keep up with the latest TUMI releases on Instagram at @tumitravel.

Hit the links in style

Shop chic duffels, divot tools and more, designed to enhance your golfing experience while on the go



Golf Divot Tool in Gold, RM700



Golf Duffel in Black, RM3470



Golf Cart Bag in Off-White/Tan, RM7970

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Asaba



HOTELS

Gold standard

In **Kyoto** and throughout Japan, a stay in a storied, luxury ryokan is a precious travel experience not to be missed **BY KISSA CASTAÑEDA**

A ryokan is not just a traditional Japanese inn, it's the oldest form of hotel in the world. And among hotel lovers in the know, the 200-year-old Hiiragiya in Kyoto, is revered for the extremely welcoming *okami* (the landlady or proprietress), is a bucket-list classic: a shining example of a ryokan that writers, artists and dignitaries wax lyrical about.

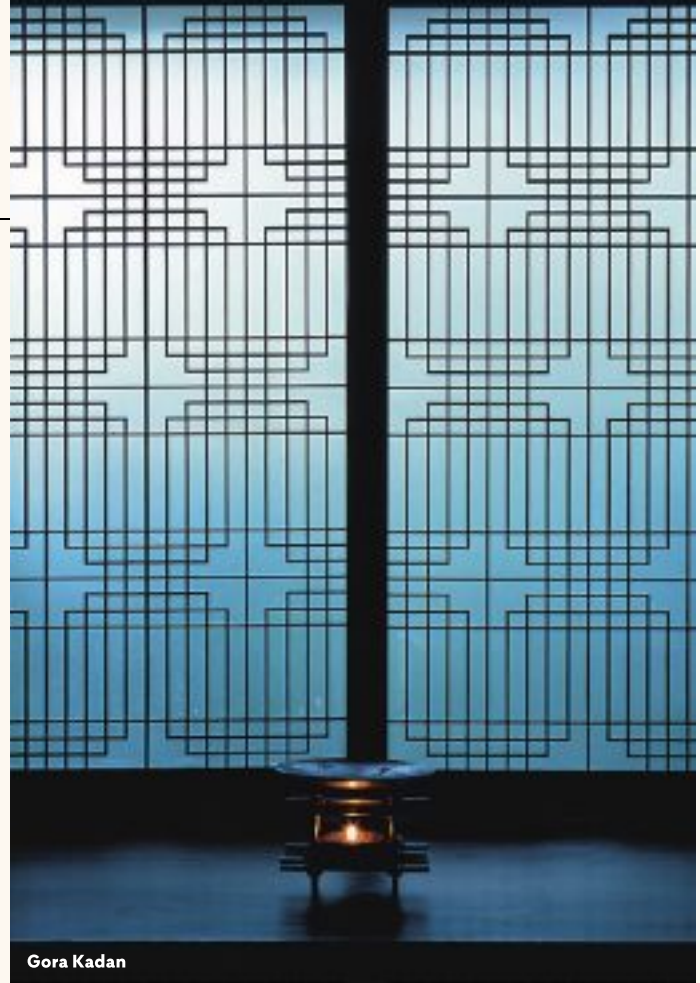
Hiiragaya is one of about 50,000 ryokans operating in Japan, a country widely acknowledged for setting standards in hospitality (there's a reason the new Michelin Keys, a guide to hotels, is launching here).

In the West, a ryokan is commonly thought of as an upscale bed and breakfast but it's much more than that. It's a portal to *omotenashi* – the Japanese word for hospitality that goes beyond usual service to offer intuitive warmth. Unlike a B&B, a ryokan is honour-bound to serve dinner, which is traditionally a *kaiseki* (a multi-course meal). “The food is a really important element because historically Japanese people used to travel by foot and they would stay in

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →



Hiragiya



Gora Kadan



Asaba's entrance

ryokan as they travelled through, so most Japanese people didn't tend to stay for more than one night. Ryokan are places where you eat and then relax right after," says Naomi Mano, founder of Luxurique, a high-end travel agency and event management company.

Ryokans come in all stripes. There's Nishiyama Onsen Keiunkan, widely considered the first example of a hotel, which was founded in 705 CE and remains open to this day. And there are others from cosy, family-owned properties in small onsen towns to legendary inns etched in history like the almost 400-year-old Ichinoyu Honkan in Hakone, (which was depicted by famous artist Hiroshige) to modern renditions such as the Zaborin luxury ryokan in Niseko. What unites them is their passion for service and ability to be flexible based on their guests' needs. "It's different from the hospitality experience in a hotel in which you would go and ask for service by calling reception. In a ryokan, they anticipate what you want.

“

...a luxury ryokan is characterised by an outstanding location and an impeccable approach to service, food and amenities; an onsen is also more often than not expected”

It's understood that if you just arrived that day and you missed dinner, they may ask if you want an onigiri, or offer you food because you've arrived from a different time zone. A good ryokan should be as accommodating and flexible as the clients want," stresses Mano.

While the price point is an obvious consideration, a luxury ryokan is characterised by an outstanding location and an impeccable approach to service, food and amenities; an onsen is also more often than not expected at these venues. According to Mano, top-notch ryokans usually have historical significance like Asaba in Shuzenji, on the Izu Peninsula, famous not only for its picturesque lake with a *noh* (classical Japanese dance-drama) theatre but for an ambience and environment you can't find anywhere else. Another beautiful luxury ryokan worth staying at is Gora Kadan in Hakone National Park, situated on the grounds of Kanin-no-miya, the former summer villa of the Imperial Family. Housed under the Relais & Châteaux brand, Gora Kadan is renowned for serving kaiseki cuisine by chef Makoto Kobayashi. And among the newer properties, The Shinmonzen, designed by Tadao Ando, stands out for its location in Gion, the elegant and atmospheric heart of Kyoto.



50 years of excellence in cancer care and beyond

Celebrating half a century of unwavering commitment, Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur (PHKL) stands as a global healthcare icon

Embodying five decades of unparalleled excellence since 1974, PHKL has gained international recognition, leaving a significant mark on the global healthcare stage.

From a modest beginning with 68 beds and 20 consultants, PHKL has transformed into a tertiary hospital with a 450-bed license, featuring 10 Centres of Excellence and over 200 specialised consultants covering diverse medical and surgical disciplines.



A notable achievement is the establishment of the Cancer Centre in 1981, providing a spectrum of services seamlessly guiding patients from early detection to treatment and survivorship care. Through collaboration among specialists, including oncologists, interventional radiologists, surgeons, and palliative care experts, personalised treatment plans are developed to ensure effective and compassionate care.

A holistic approach

The Cancer Centre's dedicated patient navigator team plays a crucial role, offering emotional support, counselling, and guidance throughout the entire cancer journey. This approach addresses not only the physical aspects of treatment but also the emotional and



psychological well-being of those affected by cancer, fostering a supportive environment.

In addition to these accomplishments, PHKL has established a Clinical Research Centre (CRC) led by a Senior Research Scientist, supported by experienced study coordinators and research assistants. The CRC team tirelessly plans, designs, and implements research and innovation efforts on clinical services, collaborating with various stakeholders to improve the quality of care and clinical outcomes.

PHKL's differentiating factor lies in its unwavering

dedication to prioritising patients, focusing on personalised care driven by a dedicated team of professionals with expertise and empathy.

Looking ahead, PHKL commits to creating an adaptable and sustainable healthcare system, ensuring personalised care for future generations. As PHKL embarks on a transformative project, it emphasises an enduring commitment to innovation and a legacy cherished for generations in the diverse landscape of Malaysian healthcare.

For enquiries or appointments at PHKL, call +603-2296 0888 or email my.phkl@pantai.com.my.



BOOKS

Novel ideas

Manila's indie publishers are sharing stories differently and fuelling a reading boom

BY PIERRA CALASANZ-LABRADOR

Print's not dead, and books in particular are enjoying a boom in the Philippine capital. Thanks to large crowds at recent book fairs, enthusiastic #bookhaul posts – social media helping to break down literary gatekeeping – plus a distribution system greatly aided by online shopping platforms, there's a growing demand for locally published books among readers in the region. Here are three independent publishers feeding a growing public appetite for quality storytelling and local stories.

Good Intentions Publishing

Its artful covers opening up to award-winning writing, relative newcomer Good Intentions is upping the game with coveted titles and end-to-end publishing solutions. Launched in 2018 by writers Angelo "Sarge" Lacuesta and Ana Maria "Mookie" Katigbak-Lacuesta – a husband-and-wife team – Good Intentions aims to publish fresh narratives, as well as explore alternative techniques, channels and platforms in publishing.

How exactly? It begins with their HQ-slash-free library at Comuna Building, a new creative hub along Pasong Tamo Extension in Makati,

Good Intentions Publishing's *Assembling Alice* by Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta



Milflores Publishing's *Even Ducks Get Liver Cancer* by Wilfredo Liangco



Istorya Studios' illustrated tribute to stray cats by Archie Oculos

where visitors can hang out and pick up tomes such as *Luna: A Journal of New Filipino Writing*, which features young and contemporary Filipino writers, and *A Death Foretold: The Ninoy Aquino Assassination*, a collection of essays about the assassinated hero that also recalls a pivotal moment in Philippine history. The space also stocks books authored by Mookie and Sarge and published by Penguin Random House SEA, including Katigbak-Lacuesta's *Assembling Alice*, about her grandmother, the pianist Alice Feria – who also became one of the country's first female journalists – and a love triangle set against the Battle of Manila. fb.com/goodintentionsbooks

Milflores Publishing

Originally founded in 1999 by writers Antonio Hidalgo and Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, indie publishing house Milflores was acquired and rebooted in 2020 by publisher and author Andrea Pasion-Flores, who brings her experience as a literary agent and former government technocrat – she once helmed the country's National Book Development Board of the Philippines – to the table. Aiming to empower authors, make publishing dreams come true and bring quality reads to a wider audience, Milflores keeps a rigorously curated and diverse catalogue of books that range from literary fiction and non-fiction to young adult and reference titles.

Current bestsellers include the National Book Award winner *Even Ducks Get Liver Cancer* by oncologist Wilfredo Liangco, a hilarious and sometimes heartbreaking account of life as an intern at the state-owned Philippine General Hospital.

“

Milflores has also cast a wider net, looking around the Southeast Asian region for books to introduce to its Filipino audience

Then there's *Rizal in Saga: A Life for Student Fans* by the late, esteemed journalist Nick Joaquin, a comprehensive analysis of the life, loves and motivations of José Rizal, the national hero credited with inspiring a revolution that won the Philippines its independence from Spain.

Miflores has also cast a wider net, looking around the Southeast Asian region for books to introduce to its Filipino audience. It recently licensed Indonesian writer Ratih Kumala's *Cigarette Girl* (aka *Gadis Kretek*), which has been adapted into a Netflix series. miflorespublishing.com

Istorya Studios

Rooted in the belief that play is powerful, this one-of-a-kind “narrative design studio” fosters a joyful love of Filipino history and culture for kids and kids-at-heart. The company is the pandemic brainchild of husband-and-wife team Rodel Tapaya and Marina Cruz, both of whom are also renowned Filipino artists and champions of local culture. Istorya Studios offers art books, imaginative publications, original games, toys and collectibles crafted by the couple, as well as fellow artists such as Doktor Karayom and Archie Oculos.

Beyond books and toys, keep an eye out for the silk scarves featuring Marina Cruz's nostalgic paintings, which typically sell out as soon as they drop online. istoryastudios.ph



Manila by the book

Filipino journalist and author Marga Ortigas – author of the sweeping saga *The House on Calle Sombra* and recent memoir, *There Are No Falling Stars in China*, both by Penguin Random House SEA – recommends a reading list on her hometown

Manila, My Manila by Nick Joaquin

You can't truly experience Manila without reading Joaquin – he's the magic and grandeur of the city personified. He lived and breathed Manila, exhaling wonderfully on the page.

The Descartes Highlands by Eric Gamalinda

The book isn't entirely set in Manila, but certain scenes vividly capture in lyrical prose the grit and dynamism of this complex city.

Ghosts of Manila by James Hamilton-Paterson

Sometimes it takes an “outsider's view” to shine a light on shadowy corners that may be overlooked by city dwellers for being par for the course.



INSIDER TIPS

A Malaysian in... Hong Kong

Kitty Lo, a pharmacist, health and wellness entrepreneur and mother of two shares her tips for hitting the town in Hong Kong **BY CRAIG SAUERS**



I'm very passionate about health and fitness, and I enjoy everything I do. For starters, I'm a registered pharmacist in three countries – Malaysia, the UK and Hong Kong – and I'm also a health and wellness entrepreneur. As the co-founder of Qintensity Fitness, I organise sports events, ranging from HIIT to yoga to our Fit and Well Festival, which is happening in Wan Chai in May and at the Central Harbourfront in July this year. Our aim is to bring people together through fitness, exercise and laughter – and also to encourage a sustainably healthy lifestyle. My other company, ActiveWay Health, bridges my work as a pharmacist with fitness. We provide diet and lifestyle interventions so that people diagnosed with chronic diseases, like pre-diabetes, can

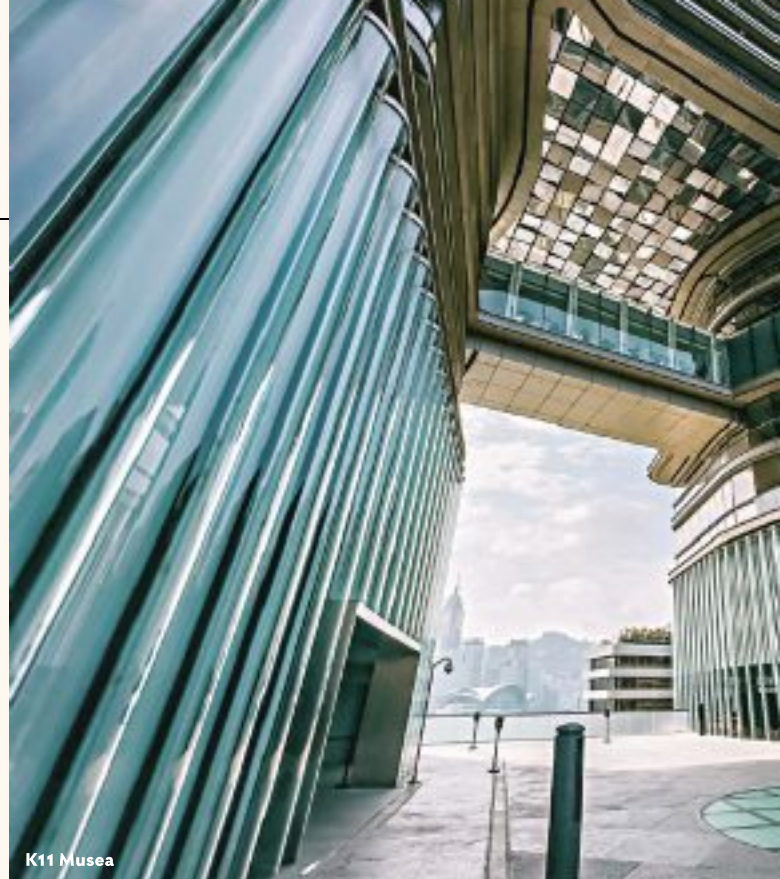
stop whatever ails them from getting worse. I also build health programmes for the underprivileged through the Hong Kong Jockey Club's Neighbourhood Kitchen and host a podcast, also called *ActiveWay Health*. Being a mum of two kids, a six-year-old and two-year-old, also keeps me busy. But I'm quite adventurous, and I still find time to explore Hong Kong. Here are some of my top picks.

Let the kids run wild

I live in Kowloon, so I often take my kids to the **King's Park** playground. There are basketball courts and a cave-themed playground. But my kids are really active. After the playground, we'll go to **Verm City** in Quarry Bay. It's a clip-and-climb gym with kid-friendly bouldering routes. They have affordable drop-in passes too. I also love West Kowloon Park for cycling. vermcity.com

Reconnect with nature

When there's time, like on the weekends, I love to hike to the **Silvermine Waterfall** from the Mui Wo ferry pier on Lantau.



K11 Musea



BluHouse

It's an easy hike for kids and families, and you can reach the pier from Central Ferry Pier in about an hour by boat. sunferry.com.hk

Blow off some steam

Right now, I'm into Muay Thai. I do it at a boutique gym called **Badger** in Mong Kok. The coach works with my company when we have clients who want to try Muay Thai classes. He owns



Chart



Silvermine Waterfall

a studio and I go to him for an energising workout every Monday. It releases so much stress. Afterwards, I'm so much more patient – especially with my kids. [instagram.com/badger_muaythai](https://www.instagram.com/badger_muaythai)

Have a taste of home

I was born and raised in Kuching. There aren't any restaurants serving Kuching-style food in Hong Kong, but

when I miss Malaysian food, I go to **Kedai Kopi Semua Semua**. They serve a very good *assam laksa*, thick rice noodles in an aromatic, tamarind-based broth topped with mackerel fish, sliced cucumber, pineapple and onions. They have a few branches now, but I only go to the one in Mong Kok. The interiors are quintessentially Malaysian and I really enjoy it. **618 Shanghai St, Mong Kok**

Have a pick-me-up

I'm not a coffee expert, but I do love **Chart**. It's in the Central Market, which was refurbished a few years ago, so now it's very hip and trendy. The barista has won a bunch of awards, but for me that's not the point. They have great flavoured drinks and specials that change each season. Some of their recent specials were inspired by the "Before" movies [*Before Sunrise*; *Before Sunset*; *Before Midnight*]. They also make a lovely Spanish latte and other non-coffee items. [instagram.com/chartcoffee](https://www.instagram.com/chartcoffee)

Gear up for my workouts

I usually stick with the crowd favourites for my intense workouts: Lululemon, Alo Yoga

and Sweaty Betty, which is a brand we work with for our Qintensity events. For low-impact workouts [like yoga], I like **Flexi Flow**. It's a local brand we've worked with before. Their designs are very pretty, very clean. [instagram.com/flexiflow_apparel](https://www.instagram.com/flexiflow_apparel)

Dining with the family

We eat very healthy at home; when we go out, it's to treat ourselves. **The Rosewood** is a great spot. It's big and airy, and the outdoor area by K11 Musea nearby is wonderful. I like to go to their **BluHouse** restaurant if I'm having brunch with friends because the service for kids is really good. They also have an outdoor ice cream bar. So after we have Italian food, we chill by the harbour with some ice cream. You can then take the Star Ferry across to Central. Very simple. [rosewoodhotels.com](https://www.rosewoodhotels.com)

Hit the town with friends

I love the city's modernised *dai pai dong* (street stalls). At **Tung Po Kitchen** in North Point, you drink beer out of ceramic bowls. When it gets late, the owner puts on music and starts dancing. When people want a local experience with good, casual dining on the Kowloon side, **Ladies' Street Sik Faan** is the place to go, or **Mui Kee** in Tsim Sha Tsui. You can really taste the *wok hei* [smoky wok flavour] in the congee. I always take my friends to these places on their first night or two in the city, and they have a great time. **303 Jaffe Rd; Room B, 1/F, Witty Commercial Building; 11–12 Cooked Food Centre, 3/F Municipal Services Building**



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Telemedicine on the go

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



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

Fuss-free consultations

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

Specialist advice

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

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

Easy access to hospitals and clinics

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

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

Sign up now

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



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



24 HOURS IN

Melaka

Words **Yi Peng Yap** Photography **Razlan Yusof**

A Unesco World Heritage Site, Melaka is a historical city rich in culture with no shortage of delicious cuisines to savour. Due to its strategic location at the narrowest point of the Strait of Malacca, it was one of the most vital trading centres in Southeast Asia in the 16th and 17th centuries. Traders from Asia, Europe and the Middle East gathered in this cosmopolitan hub, creating a melting pot of cultures. As you roam the streets of the oldest Malaysian city on the Strait of Malacca, try spotting the different influences – from the Portuguese forts to the vibrant Peranakan shophouses – there's much to discover and explore.



MELAKA

🕒 7am

Fort-ify your Dutch adventure

To kick off the day, work up an appetite by exploring the **A'Famosa**. This Portuguese fort was built between 1511 and 1512, which comes as no surprise that it's the oldest European fort in Southeast Asia. Most of the original structure was destroyed when the Dutch and British tried to seize power of the city. However, the remaining Porta de Santiago gateway and the Middelburg Bastion are historical landmarks that offer visitors a glimpse into Melaka's past.

From the top of St. Paul's Hill, make your way to the **Dutch Square**, a remnant of the Dutch colonial past between the 17th and 18th centuries. The red-painted buildings are known as stadthuys, which served as the former Dutch administrative building. In the centre of the square is Queen Victoria's Fountain which was built in 1901 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. *Jln Parameswara; Banda Hilir*

🕒 9am

Ballin' breakfast

Head over to **Hoe Kee Chicken Rice**, a three-minute walk away from the Dutch Square. This restaurant is a popular spot for a very iconic Melaka dish – chicken rice balls, a unique variation of the popular Hainanese chicken rice dish. The fragrant rice is moulded into mini golf balls as a convenient way to eat alongside the sliced chicken. Be sure to add the chilli sauce for an extra punch. *468, Jalan Hang Jebat*



Three facts
about Melaka



Melaka
is the third smallest
state in Malaysia

Kampung Hulu Mosque

one of the the oldest mosques in
Malaysia, was built between 1720
and 1728 in Melaka

In 2008,
Melaka was recognised
as a Unesco World
Heritage Site



🕒 10am Peranakan past

Pay a visit to the **Baba & Nyonya Heritage Museum** for a unique look into the lives of a Peranakan family. Peranakans emerged from the first waves of Southern Chinese settlers in Melaka through the mingling of Chinese heritage with Malay, Indian and other indigenous influences. *Baba* refers to a Peranakan male, whereas *Nyonya* refers to a Peranakan female. Once home to four generations of the Chan family, this three-terrace house opened its doors to the public in 1985. As you step into the museum, you are instantly transported into the late 19th-century and early 20th-century Malaya. The home of Baba Chan Cheng Siew is rich in Peranakan culture, blending European and Asian influences with furniture and architectural designs that reflect the essence of many pre-World War II Peranakan homes. *48-50, Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock*



🕒 12pm Soup-erb eats

One of the main reasons people visit Melaka is to eat. **Jonker88** is a beloved spot best known for its Peranakan assam laksa. If you prefer a spicier and tangier laksa, opt for the Nyonya Assam Laksa. If you're a fan of creamier soups, the Baba Laksa is for you. Both come with prawns, a dollop of tuna and half of a hard-boiled egg paired perfectly with deep-fried bean curd skin, cucumbers and red onions. For dessert, the Baba cendol, an ice dessert with gula melaka, rice flour jelly and *santan* (creamy coconut milk) is the best way to end the meal.

Perhaps you're an advocate of breakfast for lunch, in which case you need to try the pancakes at **The Daily Fix Cafe**. You can't go wrong with their signature pandan pancakes served with a side of gula melaka. *88, Jalan Hang Jebat; 55, Jalan Hang Jebat*

MELAKA



🕒 2-4pm

Temples, tails or ATV trails?

The next stop is the oldest functioning temple in Malaysia, **Cheng Hoon Teng Temple**. The temple was built with the principles of feng shui in mind, ensuring the complex has a view of the river and high ground on either side.

Adventure seekers should go on a mid-day safari tour at the **A'Famosa Safari Wonderland**. Take a ride in a caged truck to get up close and personal with some wild animals, like orangutans and tigers.

Pet lovers can visit **The Huskitory**. This award-winning showroom of Siberian Huskies is RM45/pax per hour. Each ticket comes with a complimentary lemonade or blackcurrant drink.

Thrill seekers can go ATV riding at **Pantai Klebang**, a new attraction now available to the public. Klebang is known for its white dunes, so go early for the best photo opportunities. *25, Jalan Tokong; Jalan Kemus; 27, Jalan Taman Asean; Pantai Klebang*

🕒 5pm

Oasis in the city

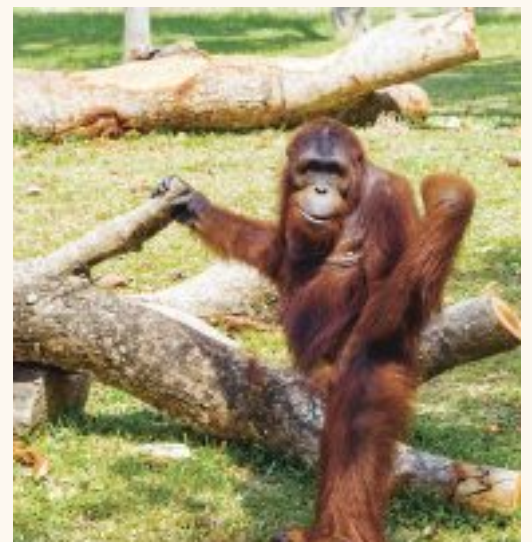
Take a refreshing break with a coconut shake, Melaka's signature dessert drink. **Klebang Original Coconut Shake**, a roadside stall highly rated on Google reviews, is a good bet. Each drink comes with fresh coconut slices and juice blended with lots of ice. The coconut shake special includes a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

As the day winds down, check out **Sin Hiap Hin**, possibly the oldest social gathering establishment in Melaka that closes at 5.30pm. This family-owned place is currently tended by its fourth generation. Ask the friendly owner for recommendations on different types of local drinks. *Lot 130, Solok Kampung Bahagia; 5, Kampung Jawa*



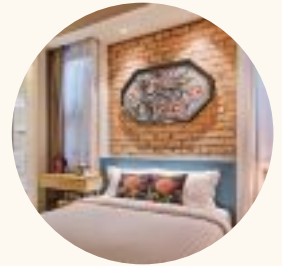
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**When in Melaka,
it is an unspoken
rule to have
at least one
Peranakan meal”**





Three unique hotels in the city



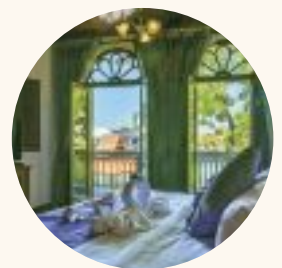
Timez Hotel Melaka

Housed in a pre-war building in the heart of Jonker Street, Timez Hotel offers five room concepts based on Melaka's rich history for an authentic experience. timezhotel.com



Rosa Malacca

Rosa is an award-winning lifestyle hotel with industrial charm and a beautiful plant-filled courtyard. Spacious rooms are fit for a romantic escape or family trip. rosa.com.my



5 Heeren

This luxurious boutique hotel is a tribute to Peranakan culture. Each room is furnished with antiques, allowing guests to experience the Peranakan way of life. 5heeren.com

🕒 7pm Flavours galore

When in Melaka, it is an unspoken rule to have at least one Peranakan meal.

Nancy's Kitchen is a popular spot, so do make reservations ahead of time. The fan favourites are the pie tee, *ayam buah keluak*, and *otak-otak*. If you're looking for something different, try **McQuek's Satay Celup**. Dip your choice of meat and vegetable skewers into a pot of satay sauce for a delicious time. For a Chinese Muslim option, visit **Satay Celup Abdullah Lim**. *No 13, Jalan KL 3/8; 288, Jln Parameswara; Jalan Kenanga 3/8*

🕒 9pm Chill out with a view

Catch the sunset from the viewing gallery at the new **1-Altitude Melaka**, where at 195m above sea level, a panoramic view of Melaka city and the Strait of Malacca is bound to be impressive. The new multi-lifestyle destination, which opened last year, also has an array of new restaurants, including a rooftop fusion gastro eatery with a mouthwatering menu of small bites. *Level 43-45, ElementX Mall, Jalan Melaka Raya*

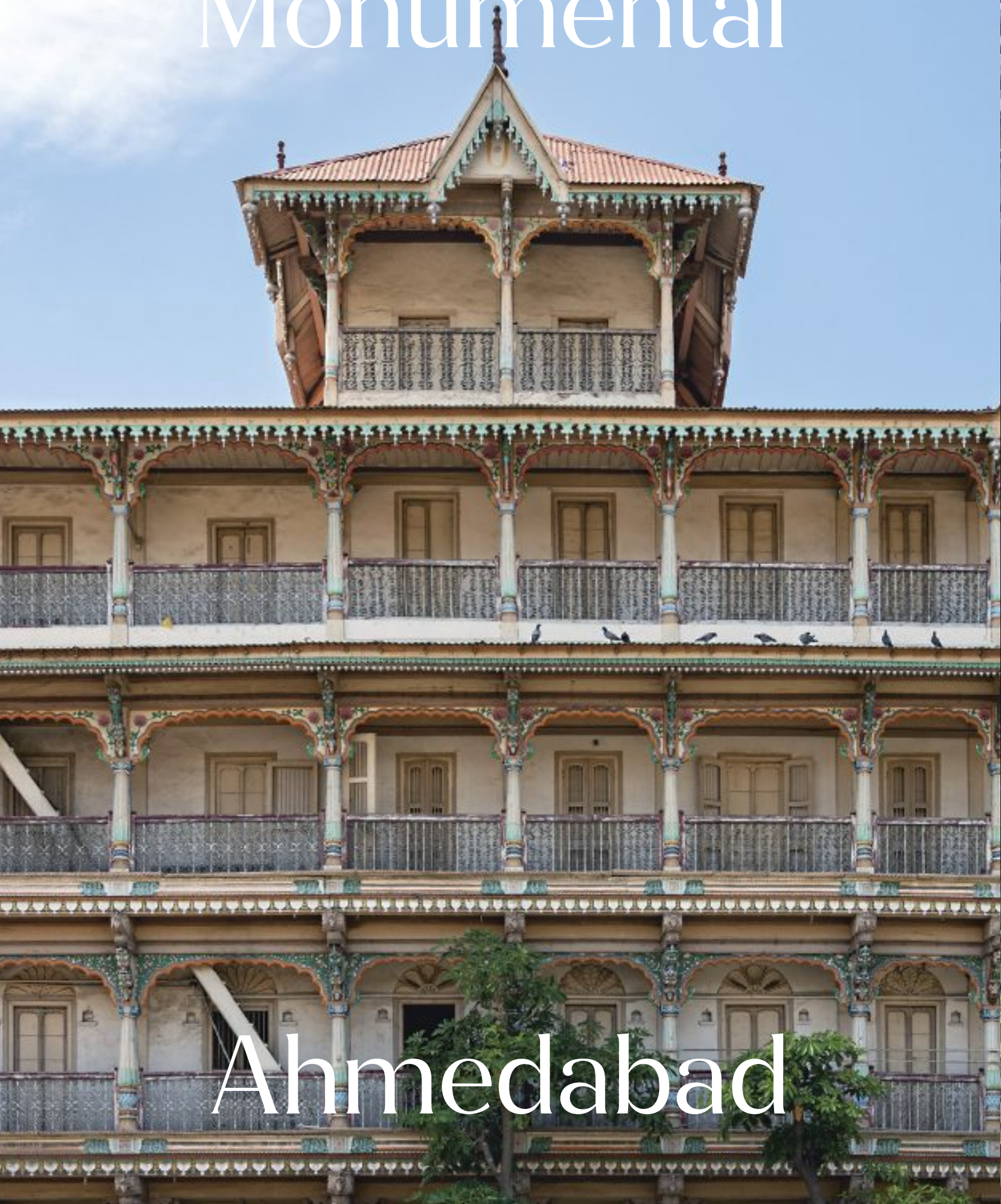


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Scan to discover and book exciting things to do in Melaka with Journify.

Monumental



Ahmedabad



In India's first World Heritage City, a weekend walking tour of venerable monuments and architectural gems offers a peek into its long and fascinating history

Words **Meenakshi J**
Photography **Atik Bheda**

You can tell a lot about a city by the way it keeps its old buildings, and here's what I found on a recent visit to Ahmedabad –



while the modern metropolis is moving at full throttle towards the future, it knows where its true charm lies: in all things old and storied. India's western state of Gujarat is home to a staggering 42 Unesco heritage sites, and the 600-year-old Ahmedabad – with its centuries-old mosques, Jain and Hindu temples with magnificent spires, ancient stepwells and palatial mansions – has the distinct honour of being the country's first Unesco heritage city, a title it was bestowed in 2017.

Old is what keeps visitors like me riveted. Eager to know more, I sign for up for a walking tour with Urvashi Panchal, a freelance guide specialising in heritage and textile tours. Urvashi's passion for Ahmedabad's cultural treasures and for preserving the city's built heritage runs deep. She and her husband Nirav, share over four decades of combined tour guiding experience and had worked closely with the Unesco committee on Ahmedabad's inscription as a heritage site.

Urvashi's walking tour begins in the morning, at the centuries-old Dabgarwad market. The row of shops, many of them selling musical instruments and kitchenware, leads to the 19th-century Swaminarayan Temple in Kalupur, the first-ever temple of the Swaminarayan Hindu sect.

We leave our footwear outside and step in to gawk at the intricately carved arches and pillars featuring striking sculptures of dancing women, religious icons and deities, all chiselled in Burmese teak. Although it's faintly abuzz with families paying respect, the atmosphere is hushed and filled with the sweet aroma of incense sticks and striking garlands of fresh marigolds. The sheer splendour of it all leaves me speechless, a sure sign the tour is off to a great start.

WITH A FAINT SCENT OF INCENSE ON MY CLOTHES, we make our way to the old town. Ahmedabad as it's known today was founded by Ahmed Shah I in 1411, centuries before the current geographical concept of India was formed. Ahmed Shah built a wall – punctuated by 12 gates known as darwazas – around the city. Call it the founding era of Ahmedabad: as the Sultanate of Gujarat's capital, it was where the most influential power players of the time held court.

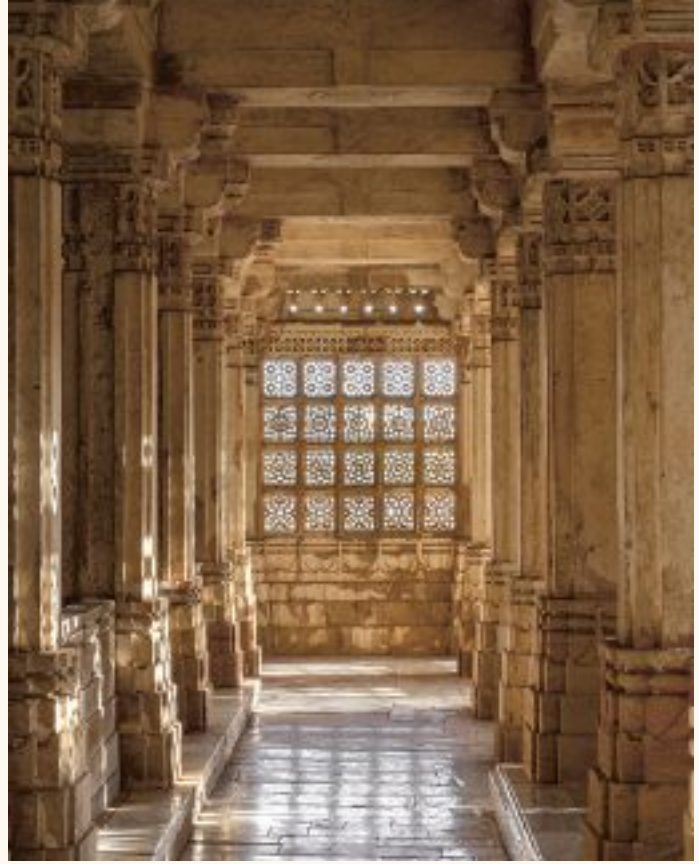
Today, the old-walled town is alive with the sounds of street markets and the aromas of everyday fare like *fafda*, a crispy snack made with chickpea flour, and *dhokla*, a spongy savoury fermented cake made of split yellow lentils.

Urvashi and I beeline for the beautifully maintained Jama Masjid, or Friday Mosque. Built in 1423, during Ahmed Shah's reign, the mosque is made of yellow sandstone and was the largest in the Indian subcontinent at the time. Six centuries later it has kept its sense of grandness and serenity. Its central courtyard houses an ablution tank for rituals and is flanked by a prayer hall of 260 columns and 15 domes, some of them featuring lotus-inspired carvings, subtle traces of Hindu and Jain architectural influences.



Previous spread:
The ornate details of the Swaminarayan temple; the quiet courtyard at Gandhi Ashram

This spread: A bustling market in the old town (left); the stunning interiors of the Swaminarayan temple



Sarkhej Roza, the Sabarmati River in Makarba, is another 15th-century structure worth the walk. Dedicated to Ahmed Shah's spiritual mentor Shaikh Ganj Baksh Khattu, the complex has an expansive reservoir, mausoleums and pavilions. Both the Sarkhej Roza and the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque are fine examples of Indo-Saracenic architecture encouraged by the Sultanate.

Later, in the 18th century, traditional residential clusters called *pols* – from the Sanskrit word *pratoli*, meaning gate – were built during a period of heightened communal tensions and societal upheaval. There are 600 of these *pols*, designed as mini-fortresses, across six neighbourhoods within the walled city. They feature secret passages, narrow lanes and a shared, enclosed courtyard, ensuring security and privacy to its residents, typically people of similar caste, religion and occupation. The *pols* also feature havelis or palatial mansions, markets, temples, intricately-carved bird feeders known as *chabutras*, and community wells – hallmarks of self-sustaining gated communities.

“The Unesco heritage city tag has helped in attracting tourists to these residential communities like never before,” Urvashi says.

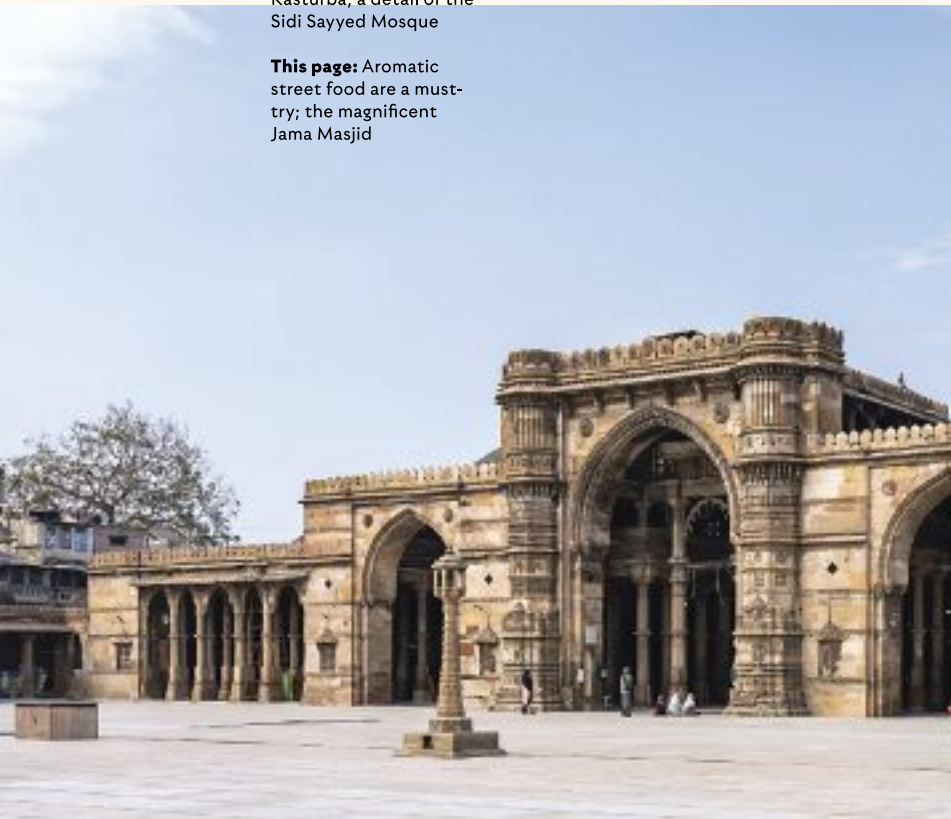
True enough, we walk through labyrinthine alleys connecting various *pols*, past sandstone Jain temples with exquisite carvings, past swarms of tourists gazing up at the havelis, taking photos and looking transfixed by the details: stone masonry structures adorned with intricate wooden facades, windows and doors. It's a sensory overload in the best way. Amidst all of these, Art Deco mansions evoke the city's more recent colonial heritage.

MORE RECENT BUILDINGS CHAMPIONED BY LOCAL philanthropists and global visionaries add texture to the city's overall look and feel. There's the home of Mahatma Gandhi, the iconic leader of India's independence movement, at Sabarmati Ashram. Built in 1915 on the banks of its eponymous river, it was expanded over time with an interactive museum and library by Indian architect and urban planner Charles Correa.

Mr Correa is widely credited with defining the modern architectural style of post-independence India, and the museum features vernacular elements like wooden doors, stone floors, an open

Opposite page (from top): Intricate carvings inside Sarkhej Roza; the Gandhi Ashram, originally the residence of Gandhi and his wife Kasturba; a detail of the Sidi Sayyed Mosque

This page: Aromatic street food are a must-try; the magnificent Jama Masjid



courtyard, a library, spacious functional rooms and a rather enthusiastic use of brick.

In the hut-like structure that was Gandhi's actual ashram, I try my hand at the *charkha*, the spinning wheel that became a symbol of India's defiance of British rule. Spinning the charkha feels unexpectedly meditative, and I feel a profound sense of reverence for the thousands of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to liberate the country.

IF I HAD TO NAME A FAVOURITE ERA, IT WOULD be the one immediately following India's independence from British colonial rule in 1947. According to architectural historian Ishita Shah, a wave of enthusiasm for nation-building swept through the ranks of the city's prominent business clans, many of whom wholeheartedly invested in shaping Ahmedabad's architectural and cultural landscape.

One fine example is the Calico Museum of Textile, founded in 1949 by Gira Sarabhai and her brother Gautam (another sibling, Vikram, is the founder of India's space programme). Gira, an architect and designer as well as the museum's curator, fused functionality with aesthetics in its design, symbolising the city's dominance as the textile hub of India.



Family-friendly fun

Luxe stays in Ahmedabad with something for everyone



ITC Narmada

The 291-room ITC Narmada takes architectural inspiration from Gujarat's celebrated stepwells, fusing grandeur and history into its design, from the towering lobby ceiling to the gilded details in carvings on the walls. itc-hotels.com



Taj Skyline

The five-star Taj Skyline features 233 rooms (with 82 more on the way) and is strategically located on Sindhu Bhawan Road. Stay for the hotel group's signature J Wellness Circle that offers a luxurious take on ancient Indian healing therapies. taj-hotels.com



The House of MG

At this meticulously restored 20th-century boutique hotel, each of the 38 rooms is adorned with handcrafted furniture and textiles. Kids aged 4 to 12 will love Gammat Kids Cafe, with its supervised kids' zone, games and craft-making facilities. houseofmg.com



This spread: Rani-ki-Vav, also called the Queen's Stepwell, in nearby Patan; the gate at the Calico Textile Museum

Post-independence, the influential Sarabhai family, whose patriarch was a major industrialist, branched out into several fields, from real estate and pharmaceuticals, to textile manufacturing and the arts. Philanthropy was a family affair, and the museum stands out as Ahmedabad's first modernist architectural space.

Other prominent business clans also began engaging renowned architects to shape modern landscapes. The works of Swiss-French visionary Le Corbusier epitomised functionalism by using a modular grid system and climate-responsive architecture in layouts, as well as bold sculptural expressionism in projects like the Mill Owners' Association and Sanskar Kendra City Museum.

Meanwhile, the Estonian-born Louis Kahn, among the greatest American architects of the 20th century, collaborated on the sprawling Indian Institute of Management (IIM) campus at the invitation of architect Balakrishna Doshi. According to Ishita, Kahn – hired by Vikram Sarabhai and Kasturbhai Lalbhai, another industrialist and philanthropist – designed the campus buildings with expansive arches and circular openings, and other such architectural juxtapositions, intertwining aspects of decolonisation and Indian culture.

Today, the latest addition to the city's evolving architectural landscape is the 300m Atal pedestrian bridge that connects the eastern and western banks of the Sabarmati. The design is inspired by the city's love for kites.

I spend the evening on the beautiful Sabarmati riverfront, where an urban regeneration and environmental improvement project has been unfolding since 2012. Before the makeover, the river had been hampered by encroachments and silt that had accumulated over the years. The river had dried up, and the land was being used by circus companies and as a playground. Now it's been rejuvenated, and its manicured riverbank lawns and entertainment facilities are already a popular hangout among locals.

ON THE LAST DAY OF MY TRIP, I drive three hours out of Ahmedabad and into Patan, to visit the 11th-century Rani-ki-Vav, a Unesco World Heritage Site. Commissioned by Queen Udayamati to honour her husband Bhimdev, the seven-storey Queen's Stepwell resembles an



“
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inverted temple, beautifully embodying the Māru-Gurjara architectural elements of lavish sculptures and functional spaces built in sandstone.

It's one of Gujarat's oldest-built structures, and yet it remains one of its most visually arresting and photogenic. The cascading flight of stairs through multiple levels reveal intricately carved pillars and over 800 sculptures depicting natural elements, geometric patterns and deities of the Hindu pantheon. The fourth level, the deepest, leads to a majestic rectangular reservoir plunging to 23m.

Urvashi tells me that these stepwells in and around Ahmedabad show how these ancient cultures placed importance on water management – a community effort – and that they had the foresight to prepare for hot and dry seasons. They're a timely reminder, in this age of climate emergencies, of the architectural wisdom of the past, and how it might still serve us well to this day.

When it's finally time to leave the wonders of Ahmedabad, I learn something new about Urvashi: her daughter was born on 18 April, World Heritage Day. It feels oddly reassuring, and I imagine that she too might be a champion of such a rich culture in the future. ■



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Back to basics



Known for its fresh-catch seafood lunches, rolling rice fields and beach activities, Sekinchan is a renowned seaside town in Selangor, popular with Malaysians seeking a day away from the complexities of city life. Discover this idyllic village, an hour and a half away from Kuala Lumpur, through the lens of photographer Harry Ho



The colours of rice
(Opposite page) Verdant rice plants, which ripen and turn golden yellow in May, June, November and December, are a favourite photo spot among visitors

Make a wish
(This page) The Sekinchan Wishing Tree holds the dreams of many, with hundreds of red strings bearing wishes handwritten by those who come to the nearby temple to pray



Paint by numbers
Many colourful fishing boats create a striking contrast against the grey waters



Top catch
Red sea prawns, shellfish
and a myriad of fish like
white pomfret represent
the best of Sekinchan's
freshest daily catch





Mystic veil
A foggy morning creates
a dreamlike state in the
quiet fishing town and
its paddy fields



“

**For me, documenting life in
Sekinchan serves as a reminder to
appreciate simplicity and beauty
in the smallest things”**

Homeward bound

A fishing boat carrying
the day's bounty returns
to shore at twilight



Firefly flies 246x weekly to
Subang from 7 domestic and
international destinations.

Stellar steaks and lobsters

This halal establishment pulls all the stops with its premium selection of steak and lobster dishes

When it comes to celebratory meals, few dishes are quite as appropriate as a perfectly cooked steak or a fresh lobster prepared your favourite way. At Kay's Steak & Lobster, a homegrown halal establishment with three outlets in Kuala Lumpur, these two lavish dishes take centre stage.

Prime cuts and air-flown lobsters

Kay's Steak & Lobster takes particular care in sourcing premium halal cuts from some of the best beef-producing regions across the globe. Their menu features a selection of prime cuts, including Australian tomahawk, Korean Hanwoo beef and award-winning Kagoshima A5 Wagyu from Japan. In addition to classic steak preparations, you can also enjoy dishes like their signature Beef Wellington that's made with 300g of tenderloin, mushroom duxelles and puff pastry drizzled with blackcurrant jus.

Their seafood offerings are given just as much attention – only live Atlantic lobster is used and air-flown to the restaurant thrice a week. Diners can opt for their lobster prepared in a variety of ways including grilled, steamed and served in a classic lobster roll. A speciality here is the decadent lobster thermidor made with a creamy mix of locally produced mozzarella, cheddar and smoked paprika.

And if you can't decide between steak and lobster, opt for the Surf & Turf which allows you to pair your steak of choice with half a lobster.

Fine-casual dining for the whole family

While each of Kay's three branches features distinct themes, all of their restaurants offer a casual and relaxed ambience with modern aesthetics. Its elegant design paired with thoughtful and attentive service makes Kay's the perfect spot for unforgettable celebrations, business events and even a romantic date night with a special someone.

For more information on Kay's Steak & Lobster, visit kaysteaklobster.com.



Where to savour the flavours

With three outlets across Kuala Lumpur, a sumptuous steak and lobster meal is never out of reach.

The Tropics

Located at Putra Heights, this outlet is the establishment's most spacious restaurant and offers a pair of private rooms for special functions.

The Coastal Bay

Set in Ampang, The Coastal Bay outlet is inspired by the seashore and features cool shades of oceanic blues.

The Valley

Kay's third outlet in Putrajaya is shaped by the region's lush evergreen valleys. The ambience here inspires intimacy, making it the ideal location for date nights.

April

BEST SPOTS IN MALAYSIA

2024

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



**For delicious Latin American flavours:
La Boca Latino Lounge**

La Boca Latino Lounge is a must-visit for anyone seeking a slice of Latin American flavours in Kuala Lumpur. It launched its third outlet at the Mandarin Oriental KL last year, a chic addition to the hotel. Offering the same full menu as their other outlets, this upscale restaurant, bar and lounge serves up delectable dishes and refreshing drinks, along with daily live music from the city's top DJs and bands. This Ramadan, tuck into its special menu, which features clever fusion dishes like rendang tacos and murtabak quesadillas.

Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur Basement Level 2, Kuala Lumpur City Centre | labocamalaysia.com | +6012 446 4588



**For a modern take on Thai food:
Ekkamai Thai Kitchen**

Helmed by a HAPA award-winning Thai chef, this restaurant in the heart of Damansara is renowned for its authentic Thai cuisine with a modern twist. Indulge in its new seasonal spread (RM288+) which features seven of their bestselling dishes and staples like the beloved beef massaman curry, pla tod barramundi with tamarind sauce and refreshing red ruby. After your meal, enjoy the *bandung cincau bingsu*, a local spin on the popular Korean shaved ice dessert. Available from 10 March to 30 April, this specially curated feast comfortably serves between three and four people, making it perfect for a family meal.

8 Jalan Batai, Bukit Damansara | ekkamai.com.my | +60 3 2011 1029

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Diversity Takes Center Stage

"Mainan" embraces diversity with open arms, serving as a vibrant celebration that unites traditional games from all corners. It's a rallying cry for unity and shared cultural appreciation, inviting individuals from every walk of life to connect with their roots.

In a Raya Festive Celebration Extravaganza

Prepare for an extravagant journey because "Mainan" is more than just a collection—it's the spark for an exquisite Raya celebration like never before! Kapten Batik invites you to immerse yourself in the splendour of tradition, with each piece symbolising sophistication and shared festivities. It's not merely fashion; it's a Raya revolution.

Kapten Batik isn't just a brand; it's a beacon of style and tradition. Renowned for its bold interpretation of traditional batik, Kapten Batik invites you to join the hyperbolic revolution, where fashion intertwines with the fantastical celebration of culture and heritage.

This collection can be found at our boutique in Publika Shopping Gallery, Bangsar Shopping Centre, The Curve, Gurney Paragon Mall Penang, KL East Mall, ISetan KLCC, and ISetan The Gardens Mall.



Infusing the spirit of Eid with nostalgia & playfulness

As the festivities of Lebaran draw near, Kapten Batik unveils its latest offering: the enchanting "Mainan" collection. Seamlessly blending classic batik with the nostalgic allure of traditional games, this lineup isn't just about clothing—it's a vibrant celebration of heritage and culture, promising attire perfectly suited for the joyous occasions ahead.

In a Symphony of Traditional Games

Prepare to be captivated as "Mainan" whisks you away into a mesmerising realm of traditional games! From the rhythmic beats of 'Congkak' to the dizzying spin of 'Gasing,' each piece in this collection is a masterpiece in its own right. The designs aren't merely intricate—they're a visual symphony, a batik ballet of epic proportions. Envision yourself adorned in these ensembles; it's not just a fashion statement but a proclamation of festive exuberance!

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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.

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Discover our network

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

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Onboard entertainment

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



Members benefit from Enrich-TGI Fridays partnership

Enrich, Malaysia Airlines' travel and lifestyle loyalty programme, has partnered with TGI Fridays to offer enhanced privileges to its members. Enrich Blue, Silver, Gold and Platinum members can now redeem up to 10 TGI Fridays e-vouchers per month, entitling them to discounts of up to 50% and other daily promotions at all TGI Fridays outlets in Malaysia. The partnership was officially launched on 30 January 2024, at TGI Fridays The Curve, marking the beginning of a collaboration aimed at enhancing the rewards experience for Enrich members.



Malaysia Aviation Group to grow fleet in 2024; first A330neo set for Q3

As part of its ongoing fleet modernisation plan, Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) is set to induct 12 new aircraft in 2024, including its first Airbus 330-900 (A330neo) which is scheduled to arrive in Q3 2024. The Group is looking to receive four of the new aircraft type this year, alongside eight of the Boeing 737-8 aircraft to support its network growth requirements. The A330neo is set to provide improved operational efficiency to the MAG fleet while also allowing it to address environmental targets by offering up to 25% reduction in fuel consumption and emissions. With a 1-2-1 configuration, the newly designed Collins Aerospace Elevation Business Class seats will be a first for the Group, featuring an all-suite cabin with individual privacy

doors which prioritises cabin comfort and practicality. The seat covers will feature the signature *songket* motif, a homage to Malaysia's cultural heritage seamlessly infused with a modern touch, creating a harmonious blend of tradition and contemporary style. With an all-aisle access layout, the seats ensure a comfortable and fully flat experience, incorporating luxury design influences and optimal styling flexibility. The A330neo will comprise 297 seats (28 in Business Class and 269 in Economy Class, of which 24 seats come with extra legroom). The aircraft will also be fitted with Wi-Fi connectivity, ensuring that passengers can experience a practical cabin space along with Malaysian Hospitality.



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Malaysia Airlines to deploy flagship A350 aircraft between Kuala Lumpur and Doha effective 1 April 2024

As part of its continuous commitment to enhance customer experience and cater to increasing demand on the route, Malaysia Airlines has deployed its flagship Airbus A350-900 aircraft on both its daily nonstop services between Kuala Lumpur and Doha effective 1 April 2024. Since November 2023, the airline has deployed the A350 aircraft on one of its daily services, complemented by its A330-300. With the upgrade to the A350 aircraft on both daily flights, passengers will experience enhanced comfort with the state-of-the-art seats in all cabin classes and an innovative in-flight entertainment experience, ensuring a seamless and comfortable journey. As part of this upgrade, the A350 boasts a seating capacity of 300, including 40 in Business Class, 32 in Economy Comfort – featuring larger seat pitch and width – and 228 in Economy Class.



Malaysia Airlines introduces MHrail in Seoul and London

Malaysia Airlines has introduced a new service called MHrail, providing passengers seamless rail connections via a single booking. In line with this initiative, the airline also announced the expansion of its partnership with AccesRail, the world’s leading provider of air-rail intermodal solutions. This collaboration allows customers to seamlessly book onward train journeys when travelling with the airline. Malaysia Airlines customers can now book Korail KTX train tickets for routes to and from Incheon International Airport in South Korea, or train tickets between London Heathrow in the United Kingdom and destinations along the

East Coast via the London North-Eastern Railway (LNER) and the West Coast with Avanti West Coast. This expansion complements the existing rail route offered through this partnership on the Great Western Railway. Tickets are available for purchase on Malaysia Airlines’ official website and all Global Distribution Systems (GDS) travel agencies. Through this partnership, Malaysia Airlines customers can seamlessly connect to and from their international flights onto rail routes operated by these railways and various railways facilitated by AccesRail’s “9B” carrier code.



Malaysia Airlines doubles frequencies to Trivandrum in India

Malaysia Airlines doubled the frequency of its Trivandrum to Kuala Lumpur route on 2 April 2024, following positive load factor performance and increasing demand. The route had commenced in November 2023 with two weekly flights, which then increased to four weekly flights. The decision came after a recent frequency increase between Amritsar and Kuala Lumpur from 15 January 2024. With this expansion, Malaysia Airlines offers a total of 71 weekly flights to India from nine major hubs, including New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Amritsar and Trivandrum.

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A350-900

No. of Aircraft **7** | Passenger Seating **286**
Length **66.80m** | Wingspan **64.75m** | Height **17.05m**
Max. Cruising Speed **944km/h**
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity



A330-300

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



A330-200

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



B737-800 NG

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



B737-8

No. of Aircraft **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**



B737-800 NG

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



A330-200F

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



ATR 72-500

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



Viking DHC-6 Twin Otter Series 400

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

Story of KOPEL's Excellence in Community-Based Ecotourism Co-operative: The Secret Behind Kampung Batu Puteh's Recognition as Best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

by Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission (SKM)

INTRODUCTION:

In the heart of Borneo's magnificent landscape, where Sabah's longest river (the Kinabatangan River) flows its snake-like path through the tranquility of rich biodiversity with stretches of palm oil tress, never-ending riverine forest, densely tangled green mangrove swamps and majestic limestone caves, lies a hidden gem. Kampung Batu Puteh helmed by KOPEL (Koperasi Pelancongan Mukim Batu Puteh Bhd). Kinabatangan is the epitome of sustainable ecotourism, cultural richness and a unique community.



Photo: Orang Sungai in traditional costume.

Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO:

KOPEL being recognised by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and granted one of the Best Tourism Villages in 2021. Kampung Batu Puteh fulfilled UNWTO's rigorous evaluation where the main objectives focus on rural development of the 3Ps - people, prosperity and planet.



Photo: Chairman of KOPEL Bhd., Abdul Sanih Nasri with Dato Sri Hajah Nancy Shukry (previous Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture) receiving the award for Best Tourism Villages 2021 held during the 24th UNWTO General Assembly in Madrid, Spain.

Another destination highlight recommended by Mr. Abd Sanih, born, raised and currently dedicatedly working in Kampung Batu Puteh is staying at the Tungog Rainforest Eco Camp (TREC). Here, you will have a chance to see an abundance of wildlife daily as the wild fruit trees surrounding the camp attract a variety of species such as hornbills, kingfishers, other rainforest birds, civets, macaques and the famously shy pygmy elephants and orangutans.

In the last decades, KOPEL and its small community have a combined a strong passion for their ecosystem, cultural heritage and collective interdependence to promote Kampung Batu Puteh. This co-operative movement has helped generate income and open job opportunities for the community, as well as provide exposure to sustainable forest management based on citizen science. KOPEL Bhd. Kinabatangan has been a catalyst for change - an example to other community-based ecotourism co-operatives specifically in the advancement of remote rural villages in Malaysia and around the world. KOPEL and its MESCOT Initiative have prosperously empowered the local Orang Sungai people of Lower Kinabatangan from a community that used to only rely on natural resources for survival to one that is more environmentally conscious while forging a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Community-based ecotourism co-operatives

When a destination is awarded as one of the Best Tourism Villages - the only one in Malaysia so far by UNWTO - you definitely need to include this in your bucket list! Mr. Mohd Hasim Abdul Hamid one of the early pioneers of MESCOT emphasised that both local and international visitors who come to Kampung Batu Puteh will enjoy an Authentic KOPEL community-based ecotourism experience.



Photo: Environmental Education Program sponsored by Yayasan Hasanah for the younger generation at Tungog Rainforest Eco Camp.

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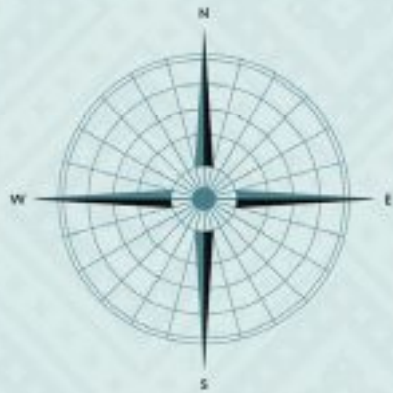
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IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (KUALA LUMPUR, LANGKAWI)



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IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (SHANGHAI)



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Step 4

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address and click the
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NOW SHOWING

MOVIES p78 TELEVISION p86 AUDIO p87



Killers of the Flower Moon

Check out our **Raya Special** on page 82!



Raya Heist



Doh



The Story of Luke



Please Stand By

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Killers of the Flower Moon

Mollie Burkhart, a native of the Osage Nation, struggles to save her community from greed-fuelled murders by battling unspeakable betrayal.

Killers of the Flower Moon is a 2023 American epic western crime drama film co-written, produced, and directed by Martin Scorsese. The film stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro and Lily Gladstone.

Eric Roth and Scorsese based their screenplay on the 2017 non-fiction book by David Grann.

Set in 1920s Oklahoma, it focuses on a series of murders of Osage members and relations in the Osage Nation after oil was discovered on tribal land. The tribal members had retained mineral rights on their reservation, but a corrupt local political boss sought to steal the tribal members' wealth.

Killers of the Flower Moon premiered at the 76th Cannes Film Festival on 20 May 2023. It was theatrically released in the United States on 20 October 2023 by Paramount Pictures and Apple Original Films.

It won Best Film at the National Board of Review and was named one of the top 10 films of 2023 by the American Film Institute. It was also nominated for 10 Academy Awards (including Best Picture), seven Golden Globe Awards (including Best Motion Picture – Drama, and with Gladstone winning Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama), and nine British Academy Film Awards (including Best Film).

Hollywood Latest



The Color Purple is a 2023 American coming-of-age musical period drama film directed by Blitz Bazawule. Marcus Gardley's screenplay is based on the stage musical of the same name.

Torn apart from her sister and her children, Celie faces many hardships in life, including an abusive husband. With support from a sultry singer named Shug Avery, as well as her stander-ground stepdaughter, Celie ultimately finds extraordinary strength in the unbreakable bonds of a new kind of sisterhood.



Fast Charlie is a 2023 American action thriller film directed by Phillip Noyce and written by Richard Wenk, based on the 2001 novel *Gun Monkeys* by Victor Gischler. It stars Pierce Brosnan, James Caan and Morena Baccarin.

For 20 years, Charlie Swift has been a fixer and hitman for a mob boss named Stan. After a rival boss puts a hit on Stan and his crew, Charlie is the sole survivor. Charlie avenges his friend and teams up with Marcie, the ex-wife of a mobster he killed.



The Burial is a 2023 American legal drama film directed by Maggie Betts and written by Betts and Doug Wright. It is loosely based on the true story of lawyer Willie E. Gary and his client Jeremiah Joseph O'Keefe's lawsuit against the Loewen funeral company, as documented in the 1999 New Yorker article of the same name by Jonathan Harr. Gary helps Jeremiah Joseph O'Keefe, a funeral home owner with financial troubles, save his family business from a corporate behemoth. Stars Jamie Foxx and Tommy Lee Jones.



Origin is a 2023 American biographical drama film written and directed by Ava DuVernay. It is based on the life of Isabel Wilkerson – played by Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor – as she writes the book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*.

Over the course of the film, Wilkerson travels throughout Germany, India and the United States to research the caste systems in each country's history, all while coping with a personal tragedy. The film premiered at the 80th Venice International Film Festival on 6 September 2023.



The Appleton Ladies' Potato Race



King Of Killers



Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom is a 2023 American superhero film based on the DC character Aquaman. It is the sequel to *Aquaman* (2018), and the 15th and final film in the DC Extended Universe (DCEU).

The film is directed by James Wan from a screenplay by David Leslie Johnson-McGoldrick, and stars Jason Momoa as Arthur Curry/ Aquaman, alongside Patrick Wilson, Amber Heard, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Randall Park, Dolph Lundgren, Temuera Morrison, Martin Short and Nicole Kidman.

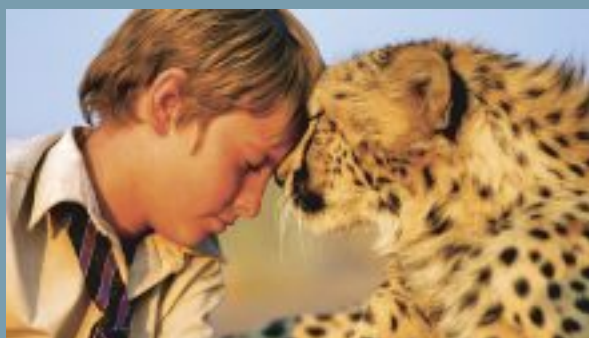
After failing to defeat Aquaman the first time, Black Manta wields the power of the mythic Black Trident to unleash an ancient and malevolent force. Hoping to end his reign of terror, Aquaman forges an unlikely alliance with his brother, Orm, the former king of Atlantis. Setting aside their differences, they join forces to protect their kingdom and save the world from irreversible destruction.



Earth Day Special



Dark Waters is a 2019 American legal thriller film directed by Todd Haynes and written by Mario Correa and Matthew Michael Carnahan. It stars Mark Ruffalo, along with Anne Hathaway, Tim Robbins, Bill Camp, Victor Garber, Mare Winningham, William Jackson Harper and Bill Pullman. Robert, a defence lawyer, goes up against a corporation to stop it from polluting a water source and endangering the lives of the people. However, he is forced to jeopardise his life to expose them.



Duma is a 2005 American family drama adventure film about a young South African boy's friendship with an orphaned cheetah, based on the children's book *How It Was with Dooms* by Carol Cawthra Hopcraft and Xan Hopcraft. It was directed by Carroll Ballard and stars Alexander Michaletos, Eamonn Walker, Campbell Scott and Hope Davis. Xan, a young boy, finds a cheetah cub on the road, convinces his father to bring it home and they become the best of friends.



World Autism Awareness Day



Mozart and the Whale is a 2005 romantic comedy-drama film directed by Petter Næss and starring Josh Hartnett and Radha Mitchell. The film is loosely based on the lives of Jerry and

Mary Newport. Gerald Newport, better known as Jerry Newport, and Mary Newport were authors, advocates and public speakers who had been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome. Their written works include self-help books related to autism and Asperger's, as well as their 2007 memoir *Mozart and the Whale: An Asperger's Love Story*.

Please Stand By is a 2017 American comedy-drama film directed by Ben Lewin and based on the 2008 short play of the same name by Michael Golamco, who also wrote the screenplay. The film stars Dakota Fanning, Toni Collette, Alice Eve, River Alexander and Patton Oswalt, and was distributed by Magnolia Pictures. Wendy, a young woman with autism, runs away from her caregiver and embarks on a journey of a lifetime in order to submit her manuscript to a screenwriting competition.



The Story Of Luke



Rain Man

MOVIES & TELEVISION

Malay Movie



Raya Heist is a 2023 Malaysian film starring Nora Danish, Hazama Azmi, Fad Bocey and directed by A. Razak Mohaideen. The film follows the story of five friends who used to be thieves in the '90s. They reunite 24 years later to pull off one last heist against a corrupt businessman.



Indonesian Movie



Hindi TV Show



Religious TV Show



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MOVIES



Chinese

Leslie Cheung Kwok-wing was a Hong Kong singer and actor. Throughout a 26-year career from 1977 until his death, Cheung released over 40 music albums and acted in 56 films. He was one of the most prominent pioneers who shaped the identity of Cantopop during the 1980s and became known for his flamboyant, often outrageous stage appearance. In a tribute to the great cultural star, we bring to you two out of his many iconic films, namely **The Eagle Shooting Heroes** and **The Bride with White Hair**.



Japanese



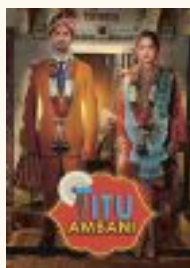
A modern action adventure story where a 17-year-old girl named **Suzume** helps a mysterious young man close doors from the other side that are releasing disasters all over Japan.

Korean

In **The Moon**, a spaceflight leaves astronaut Sun-woo stranded in space. Facing catastrophe, the Naro Space Center turns to its former director, Kim Jae-guk, to help bring Sun-woo back home.



Hindi



Tamil



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Lifestyle

In **Are You Autistic?** Anna Richardson and campaigners Georgia Harper and Sam Ahern, who both have autism, uncover the true face of autism in the UK today.

Kids



Dragons: Race to the Edge



The Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries

Japanese

Go-chan, the Prince of the Planet Expanda, is on his journey to find the "Heart Plasma" to restore peace to his home planet.



Korean



Hindi



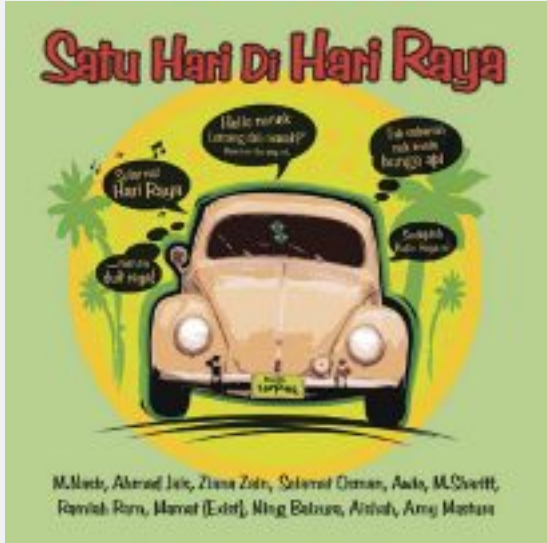
Comedy



Drama



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Malay

Various artists come together to commemorate the joyous occasion of Hari Raya Aidilfitri with **Satu Hari Di Hari Raya**. Released in 2013, this album features 18 tracks that encapsulate the festive spirit.

Club



Japanese



The Hits



R&B



Memories



Korean



Hindi



Tamil



Indonesian



Cantonese



Mandarin



Relax



Whimsical escape

Just outside Kulai, a half-hour drive from Johor Bahru, lies Putuo Village, a scenic 17.4ha cultural village set within a bamboo forest. Here, visitors are welcomed to explore serene grounds where traces of Chinese culture abound, such as the Wishing Tree adorned with red ribbons knotted with coins. Part of the village includes a meditation sanctuary that houses a temple with possibly the largest indoor statue of Zhunti Bodhisattva in Southeast Asia.

For families, the main highlight of Putuo Village is the Purple Bamboo Valley, offering an amusing afternoon for picture-perfect moments amidst a bamboo forest grove. Discover hanging nests, swings, bubble domes and even giant inflatable pandas. Walk or race down the tree-lined, rainbow-coloured pathway for added fun, or strike your best pose under a canopy of hanging umbrellas before stopping for a bite of charcoal-fired glutinous rice and refreshing sea salt charcoal ice cream served in a bamboo cup. putuovillage.com.my



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