

Going Places

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MAY 2024



Whispers of wanderlust:
The tranquil havens of

Bali

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malaysia 
airlines

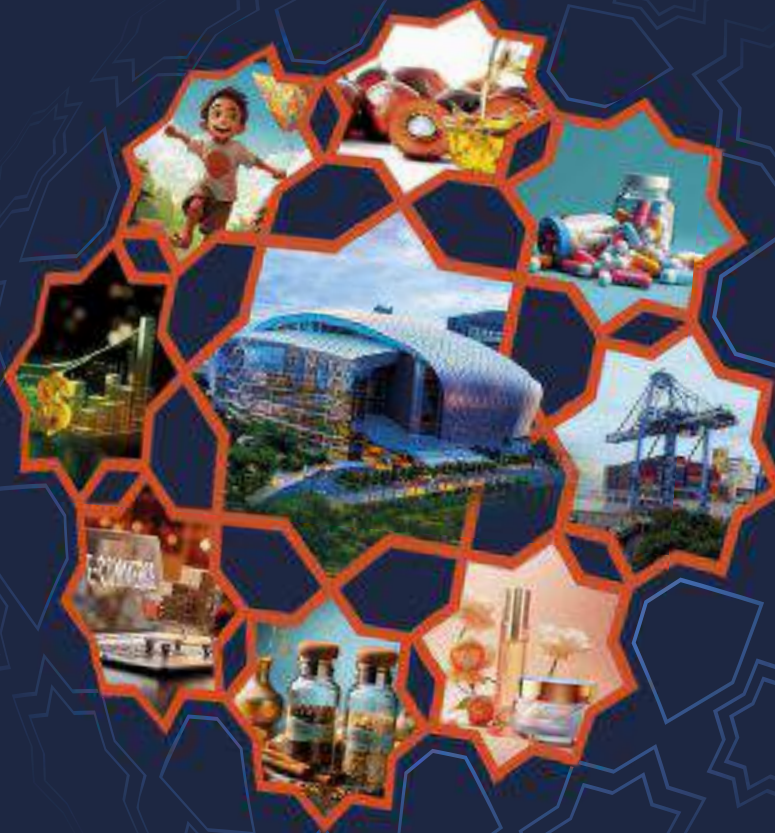
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Contents

27

24 hours in... Kuala Terengganu

A mosque straight from a fairytale, frothy milk tea and pristine island destinations

32

This side of paradise

From luxury bungalows to seaweed farming communities – Bali's Nusa Islands has everything you need to experience slow travel

41

A walk to remember

Take a community-led jungle walk in Pahang to rewild endangered tiger habitats



IMAGE: THINNESS KUMAR

CONTENTS

9 14 reasons to love Malaysia

Shadow puppetry at REXKL, RWMF artists preview and indoor dining in JB by moonlight

24 A Malaysian in Manila

Steven Tan, president of Mazda Philippines, shares his favourites in and around the city

53 This is MH

MAG partners with Manchester United, new "Best of Asia" menu, shop with Journify and other news from MAG

62 Our network

Travel around Malaysia and the world with Malaysia Aviation Group

67 Now showing

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

19

Elevate

Hanoi's artisan shops, Tokyo's Azabudai Hills, Guangzhou's Shamian Island and Design Doha 2024



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Pura Besakih temple on the slopes of Mount Agung.
Photo: Shutterstock.

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Dear guests,

Welcome aboard Malaysia Aviation Group airlines. Whether you're flying with us for business or leisure, we strive to create memorable end-to-end experiences so you may enjoy our Malaysian Hospitality throughout your journey.

As you may have heard, Malaysia Airlines recently forged an exciting partnership with the Manchester United Football Club as their Official Commercial Airline partner. This collaboration promises a range of exciting initiatives that are sure to delight both fans and travellers alike. You can look forward to immersive co-branded experiences as we seamlessly bring together our passion and dedication to enhance travel experiences for our global customers.

Excitement is also mounting as we eagerly anticipate the arrival of our first A330neo aircraft, scheduled for delivery in September 2024 and poised to take flight in November 2024. You may have already seen a sneak-peek of our new state-of-the-art cabin, which will be fitted with the Collins Elevation Business Class seats featuring an all-suite cabin with individual privacy doors and innovative amenities such as wireless charging pods available at each of the 28 seats.

Meanwhile, the Economy Class seats also showcase our commitment to prioritise cabin comfort and practicality as we are set to become the first carrier in Southeast Asia to utilise the award-winning Recaro CL3810 seats. These seats are designed with ergonomic precision and innovative features to ensure optimal comfort and functionality. Every detail has been carefully curated to ensure a seamless and enjoyable journey akin to a long-haul aircraft. This exemplifies our commitment to investing in your experience as we continuously improve our product and service offerings driven by innovation.

In addition to a fresh cabin experience, we are committed to ongoing growth and expansion, providing you with the opportunity to explore the beauty and adventures the world has to offer. With tickets now on sale for our new routes to the Maldives and Chiang Mai starting in August, followed by Da Nang in September, we invite you to seize the opportunity and plan your travels to these captivating destinations.

We firmly believe in the power of fruitful partnerships to enhance our global presence and are thrilled to collaborate with IndiGo to provide you the ability to explore even more cities beyond the nine hubs we currently operate in India. This complements Malaysia Airlines' participation as a member of the oneworld alliance, where we facilitate seamless connections to over 900 destinations across the globe.

As we continue to explore new horizons and introduce exciting initiatives, we're grateful for your unwavering support to our brand. Your trust inspires us to push boundaries and redefine the essence of travel with Malaysian Hospitality.

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Izhah Ismail

Group Managing Director
Malaysia Aviation Group

TRX eats

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THE
EXCHANGE
TRX

This month, we're embracing a slower pace in and around Bali. Despite its reputation as the ultimate beach vacation spot, Bali still offers opportunities for slow travel. Look southeast of Bali, towards the Nusa Islands. Just a half-hour boat ride from Sanur beach, this trio of islands – Penida, Lembongan and Ceningan – provides an experience reminiscent of Bali before it became so popular. Picture diving in uncrowded waters or spreading out your picnic mat on a quiet, white sand beach. It's pure bliss! Consider booking your trip soon, as the Nusa archipelago is gaining popularity.

While we're taking the slow route, it's also a great opportunity to engage with the local community. In recent years, activist organisations like MYCAT have been raising awareness about endangered Malayan tigers and involving communities in efforts to rewild the tigers' habitats in Pahang. To bring this story to life, we collaborated with Southeast Asian nature and wildlife illustrators to showcase Malaysian wildlife.

With only 150 Malayan tigers left in the wild, learn how you can contribute on (p41).

Enjoy the rest of our issue, whether you're checking out events sponsored by Tourism Perak (p14) or diving into artisan workshops in Hanoi (p22). Don't forget to explore our AR content on the magazine cover and tag us on Instagram: @goingplacesmagazine.



Safe travels,

Shermian Lim
Editor

This issue's contributors



Eve Tedja
Writer, "This side of paradise", p32

Eve is an Indonesia-based writer who loves to explore food writing from the lens of culture, history, identity and tradition. She is currently writing her first book about food.



Agung Parameswara
Photographer, "This side of paradise", p32

Dr. Agung Parameswara is a Bali-based documentary photographer and researcher who explores cultural economics, sustainability and creative industries.



Thinnesh Kumar
Photographer, "24 hours in Kuala Terengganu", p27

Thinnesh picked up photography in 2019 for the pleasure of chasing lights and seizing moments. Based in Kedah, he focuses on nature landscapes and street scenes.



MPOGCF

THE OTHER MALAYSIANS

The Other Malaysians slogan refers to **wildlife and biodiversity** campaigns launched in 2022 by the Malaysian Palm Oil Green Conservation Foundation (MPOGCF) to promote co-existence between wildlife and oil palm plantations.

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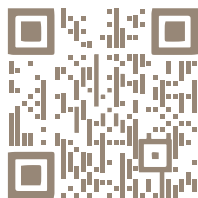
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14 REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places

1

Kuala Lumpur

Technicolour dream

Art and design collective Danny Rose Studio collaborates with the Temple of Light and the Ma Family Shadow Play Troupe to bring you “**Piyong Dream**”, a magical exhibition that transforms the intricacy of Chinese shadow play into a dazzling, immersive digital experience. Running until 6 September at REXPERIENCE in REXKL, “Piyong Dream” is a journey of the senses that will dazzle. rxpkl.com/piyong-dream



2

Kuala Lumpur

And then sum



Halal dim sum maestros Canton Boy has launched a new spot in Avenue K. **Peony by Canton Boy** features a mouthwatering range of Malaysian Chinese dishes like Hainan steamed chicken rice, Mummy's Boy curry laksa and mapo tofu. Meanwhile, fans of Canton Boy's halal dim sum offerings will rejoice to see favourites like Shanghai Xiao Long Bao, Black Truffle Siu Mai and Salted Egg Lava Charcoal Bao available from 9am to 5pm. [instagram.com/cantonboy.my](https://www.instagram.com/cantonboy.my)

3

Malaysia

Catch that glow

CUURA prioritises skincare over makeup, crafting their skin essentials locally with ethically sourced ingredients. Their new sunscreen, Glow Defense, is perfect for your next music festival or beach vacation, offering SPF 50+ protection against UVA, UVB and UVR rays. Its dewy finish ensures protection without leaving a white cast. cuuraofficial.com



Malaysia

Cosy creations

4



Tucked inside Zhongshan Annexe is **Takos**, a lifestyle concept brand founded in 2016. The brand is infused with playfulness and vigour to create pieces that spark joy. Add a splash of vibrancy to your daily outfits with their latest collection of crochet bags and bucket hats offered in an array of bright colours. Each piece is handmade to order. takosstore.co



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Kuching

Effortless genius

Belle Sisoski, a one-woman dynamo who combines ethnic instruments with EDM, will perform at the Rainforest World Music Festival in June. The TikTok star's been seen playing a baffling number of instruments, from Sarawakan sape' and topi to the piano and violin; the ongklung and guzheng to the jaw harp. Just how many can Belle play? "Over 30, at different levels of mastery," she says. "It usually takes a few hours to learn the basics of a new instrument. But to truly master a new instrument takes a few weeks."

Belle was trained in piano, violin and vocals, then picked up everything else herself – even Mongol-Tuvan throat singing – after discovering her mother's Master's thesis on ethnomusicology. Now, she's producing her own music, including originals like "Stop Your Games", which

was among the finalists of last year's Commonwealth Song Contest.

Belle says, "In the world of EDM, using live traditional instruments is quite rare. It was an experimental improvisation and has become a unique niche with the right combination."

She has certainly got the combination right, having racked up over a million followers each on TikTok and Instagram, where she creates videos breaking down her creative process. What's next for Belle? "I'll be releasing an album this year using Southeast Asian instruments, combined with cinematic orchestral elements and EDM," she says. "It will not only help to promote traditional cultures but also connect with native roots to help preserve long-forgotten ethnic instruments that are at risk of going extinct." [instagram.com/bellesisoski](https://www.instagram.com/bellesisoski)



Keeping culture alive

Catch these three artists live at next month's Rainforest World Music Festival, represented by Tuyang, a Miri-based arts management company supporting indigenous artists' livelihoods and cultural preservation. [thetuyang.com](https://www.thetuyang.com)



Salomon Gau
Celebrated traditional dancer and musician from Long Ilang, near the Baram River. He's also skilled in the making and repair of the sape' and jatong utong (wooden xylophone).



Mathew Ngau Jau
From the Kenyah Ngorek tribe, Mathew is one of the few remaining National Heritage Living Persons (WAKOH), recognised for preserving the art of playing and making sape'.



Adrian Jo Milang
A Kayan traditional oral art practitioner who studied under his grandfather to perform parap, a form of impromptu poetic cappella between a tukang parap (lead) and a tukang habe (chorus).



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Whether you're visiting for business or leisure, this integrated destination offers an amazing array of amenities tailored to your every need. Take comfort in Sunway Resort Hotel's reimagined new rooms while you discover the city's most sought-after dining experiences at Gordon Ramsay Bar & Grill and Black Tap Craft Burgers & Shakes. Indulge in retail therapy or enjoy an adrenaline rush at the theme park, and with more than 360,000 square metres of world-class spaces and vibrant venues, it's no wonder some of Asia's most outstanding events are created in this multi-award-winning destination.



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Perak

Perak beckons

This is the year to visit Perak. The state offers a taste of everything Malaysian – the heritage of Ipoh, Taiping and Teluk Intan; the natural beauty of the Royal Belum State Park, Gua Tempurung and the ‘lost world’ of Lenggong Valley; the sandy beaches of Pangkor; and of course, the delicious food. The **Visit Perak Year 2024** (VPY 2024) campaign, themed “Promising Perak”, invites travellers to experience all the state has to offer alongside a packed schedule of events every month of the year. Some

6

highlights of VPY 2024 include the Perak Triathlon on 29 and 30 June on the manmade Marina Island off Pangkor; Festival Kraf Perak (Perak Craft Festival), which will gather artisans from all around Malaysia at the iconic Leaning Tower of Teluk Intan from 23 August to 1 September; Zoorama 2024 at the Taiping Zoo and Night Safari in September, with activities for children to appreciate the state’s biodiversity; and even a Scare Fest at Kellie’s Castle to usher in Halloween. tourismperakmalaysia.com

Kuching

Touch of class

A new entrant to Kuching’s burgeoning culinary scene is **Ember Café**, which styles itself as more than a café – which is no exaggeration, with its dark, rustic wood accents tied together with its grey interior by the mesmerising glow of rattan lanterns. That touch of class extends to Ember’s menu, from the beautifully plated nasi lemak to the filet mignon topped with chimichurri sauce and fried onions. [instagram.com/embercafe/kch](https://www.instagram.com/embercafe/kch)



7

Malaysia

8 Dare to be different

Ghostboy draws inspiration from those who strive to subvert the status quo. The spirit of rebellion can be seen in their SS24 collection which will turn heads while ensuring comfort. Their dragon claw dress is a modern take on the cheongsam, made from durable denim and perfect for all-day wear. ghostboy.club



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (LEANING TOWER OF TELUK INTAN)



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Step into the enchanting realm of Putrajaya, where fairy tales come to life amidst grandeur halls at Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC), serene lakeside vistas at Marina Putrajaya and Cruise Tasik Putrajaya, and lush garden settings at Pulse Grande Hotel. For those looking for an exclusive venue with charm, we have Putrajaya Seafood Restaurant for registration of marriage (ROMs) or small events.

With its majestic architecture and picturesque landscapes, Putrajaya is the perfect canvas for crafting your dream wedding story. Capture timeless moments against the backdrop of breathtaking sunsets reflected in tranquil lakes. And for a touch of whimsy, let your love story unfold like a modern-day fairy tale with a photoshoot featuring majestic horses at Taman Ekuestrian Putrajaya, echoing the magic of Cinderella's journey.

In Putrajaya, every corner whispers tales of love and enchantment, making it an unforgettable destination for your happily ever after.

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Kuala Lumpur

Swirl city

Just when you thought ice cream parlours were starting to feel a little bit “same same but different”, chef Elwyn Boyles adds a generous heap of excitement by launching **Söfte**, a gourmet dessert bar, earlier this year. Located in Ilham Tower, the interior’s metallic walls, LED displays and eye-catching posters transport you into a futuristic space. Chef Boyles – whose pastry chef credentials include stints at Michelin-starred restaurants, The French Laundry and Per Se – has curated a menu that blends nostalgia and innovativeness with playful flavours such as curry leaf madeleines with banana soft serve and shaved salted egg yolk on vanilla ice cream. [instagram.com/keepitsofte](https://www.instagram.com/keepitsofte)



10

Malaysia

Skincare done right



Gentle Reminder makes caring for your largest organ, the skin, fuss-free. With COSMOS-certified (natural and organic certification for cosmetics) ingredients, their products are formulated without parabens and fragrances. The Soothing Aloe Body Balm is a standout, convenient for your everyday routine. Use it as a lip balm or to tame flyaway hairs. [gentlereminder.co](https://www.gentlereminder.co)

11

Kuala Lumpur

Timeless grandeur

Arguably the most well-known ballet in history, **Swan Lake** comes to the KLCC Plenary Hall on 22 May. The St Petersburg National Ballet Theatre, featuring soloists formerly of the Mariinsky Theatre will bring the timeless tale of Siegfried and the swan princess Odette to life. [myticket.asia](https://www.myticket.asia)





12

Tawau

Island paradise

Sisipan Island Resort promises an island getaway truly like no other – water bungalows on an island off the coast of Semporna (less than one hour from Tawau) with an unparalleled panoramic view of the turquoise waters of the Celebes Sea. The beautifully constructed chalets, with slivers of sunlight peeking through the wooden boards, come with either three twin beds or a king-size bed. Enjoy a relaxing soak in a balcony bathtub as you gaze into the horizon. Heading out, you can have your pick of which island to explore. Hike to the top of Bohey Dulang Island to view its majestic lagoon; encounter Sabah's marine life around the islands of Mantabuan, Mabul and Kapalai; or unwind on the pristine beaches of Sibuan, Matakang, Timba-Timba and Pom Pom. ***sisipan.sempornaresorts.com***

13

Johor Bahru

Bringing the outdoors in

OutLine Café has all the attractions of glamping, except the outdoors. The café, which opened last June, recreates almost every part of the glamping experience, from the gravel-covered floor, fold-up chairs, cinder block tables and fairy lights, alongside a striking feature piece – a backlit close-up of the moon. The menu features chicken roulade and pastas, alongside visually stunning handcrafted drinks like the Bleeding Matcha and Blueberry Sparkle. ***instagram.com/outline_cafe_***



14

Malaysia

Reinvented classics

A reimagination of everyday essentials, **Nelissa Hilman's** ready-to-wear collection, "CHAPTER 2", blends minimalism with effortless elegance. The collection, made with natural fabrics, consists of cotton dresses, poplin shirts, denim midi skirts and knit trousers, great for Malaysia's tropical climate.

nelissahilman.com





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ELEVATE

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



FESTIVALS

Warm up to winter

Mark your calendars for a **Melbourne** country festival as Australia snuggles up for winter

BY CLAIRE KNOX

Flying to the Australian south next month? Be sure to pack your woollies and rug up –there’s certainly a chill in the air with winter around the corner. Catch the family-friendly (and free!) Eynesbury Winter Festival, held on 23 June for two weeks at the historic Eynesbury Homestead just a 40-minute drive west of Melbourne’s central business district. Last year’s event featured an ice-skating rink, giant bonfires to cosy up around and roast marshmallows, night markets, circus performers, magicians, live music and food trucks serving plenty of moreish food and warm drinks. The festival’s highlight is its Winter Solstice spectacle, a special evening event including fire twirlers, African drummers and fireworks. The festival is open from 10am–8pm Monday to Thursday and 10am–9pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. eynesbury.com



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ELEVATE



SIGHTS

Small wonder

In **Guangzhou**, Shamian Island features historical charm and riverside Michelin-starred dining

BY STEPHEN O'CONNELL



Shamian Island's South Street

It may be home to the Canton Fair – China's largest and oldest trade exhibition – but Guangzhou is not just about business.

China's southern megacity, home to mouthwatering Cantonese cuisine and a major stop in what's now called the Greater Bay Area, is thick with charming walkable districts such as Shamian Island, one of Guangzhou's most

captivating and historically significant neighbourhoods. This 19th-century British and French quarter features broad, tree-lined avenues lined with heritage buildings and is best enjoyed in the spring, when temperatures are a mild 26°C in the daytime and can drop to sweater weather by night.

Surprisingly, Shamian is not technically an island at all. This part of Guangzhou

was separated from the city by a canal dug by the British after acquiring the area as a concession from the Qing Dynasty in 1859. During its heyday, Shamian was a bustling hub for international banks, trading firms and consulates. There's a charming French Catholic church at one end of the island, and a British Protestant church at the other, a distance just shy of a kilometre. Now, the district

is a popular leisure spot among residents, and on any given day you're likely to see soon-to-be-married couples on photo shoots at different spots on the island.

Come for the period architecture and stay for tea and delicious bites at one of numerous waterside restaurants and cafés. You can also indulge in dim sum and other classic Cantonese dishes beside the spectacular man-made carp pond at White Swan Hotel's Michelin-starred Jade River. The hotel itself is an island classic; one of China's first five-star luxury hotels, White Swan opened in 1983 and has hosted a gallery of bigwigs, from heads of state to the late Queen Elizabeth II. The hotel features views of the Pearl River from one side and the charming streets of old Shamian from another. **Nearest metro stop: Huangsha Station**

Guangzhou with a side of Shenzhen

Despite a pandemic-induced hiatus, the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed rail system is once again firmly spurring traffic between the megacities of the Greater Bay Area. A mere 30 minutes by high-speed rail from Guangzhou South Station, China's tech hub of Shenzhen offers a clutch of newly developed attractions worth checking out.



Upperhills

Far from a cookie-cutter mall, Upperhills features a rooftop "loft" level with coffee shops, restaurants and trendy boutiques, all enveloped in warm reds, oranges and yellows. The area also boasts a Muji flagship store and – wait for it, a Muji Hotel – to tempt you to stay even longer. **5001 Huanggang Road, Futian District. Nearest metro stop: Donggualing Station**



OH Bay

At 128m tall, the "Bay Glory" Ferris Wheel in Qianhai is part of OH Bay, a newly developed tourist area where shopping, dining and cultural zones are connected by a futuristic parkland waterfront. Don't miss the Zhongshuge bookstore with its whirling bookshelves. **Intersection of Haitian Lu and Baohua Lu, Bao'an District. Nearest metro stop: Linhai Station**



The MixC

Fancy a bit of luxury shopping? A springtime spin on an Olympic-sized ice-skating rink? Or perhaps an afternoon at the movies? Spread over three blocks and six floors, the MixC shopping complex in the city's central Luohu area has all the luxury brand names, and then some. **1881, Baoan South Road, Luohu District. Nearest metro stop: Grand Theatre Station**

IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (MAIN, OH BAY, MIXC)



ART

Design of the times

The new biennale in **Doha** presents the city as a hub for Middle Eastern and North African creativity

BY **ULRIKE LEMMIN-WOLFFREY**

Move over Milan, a new creative centre is making our design-loving hearts beat faster. The Qatari capital has long been a champion of art and design by fostering regional talent and pouring eye-watering resources into building showpiece museums. The inaugural Design Doha 2024, a biennial festival celebrating design and creativity across the Middle East and North Africa, is the bow that neatly ties all these efforts together.

If you want to soak up the energy and creativity of the region, or brush up on the latest design and art world trends, the ongoing Design Doha is a must-see. It opened in February at M7, a new fashion and design complex in Msheireb Downtown Doha, and showcases the works of more than 100 regional artists, with exhibitions that delve into a range of subjects, from traditional weaving to modern architecture.

Although some shows have closed, the biennale's main exhibition, "Arab Design Now", will run until August this year. "Arab Design Now" is a peek at the wealth of new designs across numerous artistic disciplines, from regional creative powerhouses such as Lebanese furniture maker Studio Nada Debs



Geometric patterns abound at the M7

and Moroccan wood artist Hamza Kadiri for Les Ateliers Courbet. There are covetable pieces of furniture (like the whimsical, toadstool-inspired lamps by Lebanese designer siblings Mary-Lynn and Carlo Massoud), artworks and modern twists on culturally significant items such as traditional wedding chests.

Make sure to also catch the "100/100 Hundred Best Arabic Posters" exhibition that originated in Cairo. Every two years, a jury selects the top 100 posters from over 7,400 submissions spanning 23 countries in the region. The fourth and current edition includes dazzling posters from art retrospectives and jazz

festivals, and showcases the importance of script, image and styles.

The venue itself is an exhibition highlight. Inspired by a traditional Qatari courtyard house, M7 is a gallery and an architectural landmark designed by British architecture firm John McAslan + Partners. Having opened with a Dior show in 2022, followed by a Valentino show in the same year, M7's high-profile and design-led programming makes it worth visiting any time of the year. Completed in 2021, the M7, along with other buildings in the quarter, has elevated the previously neglected neighbourhood into the modern design hub it is today. designdoha.org.qa



Mary-Lynn and Carlo Massoud's Shiitake floor lamps



Delicate matters

If you hurry, you can still catch "Shattered, 2023", a beautiful and thought-provoking exhibition of glass birds by Turkish artist Feleksan Onar, highlighting the fragility of life, referring to the recent earthquakes in Turkey. Not officially part of Design Doha 2024, but running alongside it in the exquisite Damascus Room of the Museum of Islamic Art, it is worth taking a closer look. mia.org.qa

IMAGES: ULRIKE LEMMIN-WOLFFREY (TOP RIGHT), COURTESY OF QATAR MUSEUMS (M7), COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART (SHATTERED, 2023)



WORKSHOPS

The well-crafted break

Arts and crafts classes are experiencing a boom across **Hanoi** as residents and visitors look for fun ways of slowing down

BY NGA HOANG

From pottery to fragrance making, craft classes are all about honing new skills, socialising with like-minded people and enjoying moments of focus in a highly distracted world. We found three worth trying in this Vietnamese city with a rich artisan tradition.



^ Bottle a signature scent

Talala

Tucked away in a renovated 1960s French colonial villa (formerly a sought-after Airbnb residence) in an unassuming alleyway off Da Tuong Street, Talala Aromatherapy Workshop is an Aladdin's cave of brightly coloured DIY candles shaped like mouth-watering cupcakes redolent of sweet orange, peach and cinnamon. What started out as a refill station promoting eco-friendly beauty products has now been transformed into an aromatherapy workshop.

Whether it's a spicy aroma that reminds you of a family kitchen or the leafy scent of freshly cut grass that recalls a childhood spent outdoors, the class explores the unique relationship between scent and psyche.

The class kickstarts with a welcome drink of hot tea before an attendant leads you through a ritual: standing before a table lined with playing cards facing down, you'll be asked to pick a random card. You and your attendant will both dissect the picture featured on your card before moving to another table where you will sample and concoct the scents that match the visual and sensory details on your card. The resulting product is a unique scent in a mini oil roller or candle to take home.

"Our class size is small, limited to just five to six people, most of whom don't know each other," said co-founder Giang My Khanh. "Our classes are intimate, so everyone feels secure enough to share." Talala is also a shopper's haven for fragrance products including scented candles, diffusers and body wash. **The shop is open from 9am until 6.30pm and advance booking is required. 2 Da Tuong Alleyway, Hoan Kiem**

IMAGES: LIEM TRAN



Paint a personal masterpiece

D16

The brainchild of Ngoc Dao, a former magazine editor and creative director, D16 is a workshop space that hosts a suite of classes designed to help unleash your creative spirit. Classes include silk painting, ikebana and origami to Vietnamese-themed classes on Tet floral arrangements or Moon Festival lantern making.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, Dao hatched

the idea of opening an art workshop that combines her passions for art and education. Then she found the perfect space: the third floor of an old, colonial-era villa once owned by a Chinese who served the Nguyen dynasty.

She has since turned the space into a light-filled, cottage-style studio where the clock seems to tick slowly. It's a place where you can spend hours creating flower arrangements with piano music playing softly in the background, where you can embrace your inner Van Gogh as you paint on a terrace adorned with potted plants and flowers.

D16 also doubles as an exhibition space for paintings and a mini concert venue. **165 Bui Thi Xuan Street, Hai Ba Trung District**



Mould your own homeware

Gom Chi

Roll up your sleeves and craft a small decorative vase or a mug at ceramic specialists Gom Chi.

Beginning in 1970 as a humble coal kiln on Nguyen Du Street, specialising in firing jars and vases for Tet decorations, the business has evolved into an heirloom ceramic brand spanning more than 50 years and three generations. It's also one of Hanoi's pioneering pottery workshops. Classes are held in the brand's showroom at the



swanky new West Lake Lotte Mall. Within three hours, you'll get hands-on lessons on how to create naturalistic pottery and unique shapes, as well as a crash course on various ceramic painting techniques.

"In an era dominated by digital mediums and stressful work environments, our classes provide an opportunity to connect with nature and allow yourself to pick up a new skill," says Nguyen Hong Tan, belonging to the founding family's third generation.

Showroom 2, Room 409, Floor 4, Lotte Mall West Lake; 272 Vo Chi Cong Street, Tay Ho District

“

Our classes provide an opportunity to connect with nature and allow yourself to pick up a new skill”



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INSIDER TIPS

A Malaysian in... Manila

Steven Tan, one of the top automotive executives in the Philippines, has called bustling Metro Manila home for over a decade. Here's why he loves living in the city, where he goes for great grub, and how it's the perfect springboard for scuba diving adventures

BY BERNARD SUPETAN



The National Museum of Natural History



A sumptuous platter at Mantra



I was born in Petaling Jaya, a suburb of Kuala Lumpur, and attended Methodist Boys School up to my O-Levels. I completed my tertiary education in Toronto, Canada. My first overseas posting was in Bangkok with the Ford Motor Company in 2000, covering various roles within the Asia-Pacific region.

All this culminated in my move to the Philippines 12 years ago when I took the helm of CEO of Mazda Philippines. My family and I have made a home in Makati City, the country's financial hub, right amongst its

many developments and clusters of high-rise buildings. Metro Manila is one giant sprawl of 16 cities – including Manila itself – and is quite cosmopolitan, so you'll always have something fun and interesting to do here.

A global foodie haven

As a Malaysian, food is a big thing for me of course. Thankfully, it's also a big deal for Filipinos, and you'll never run out of food choices in Metro Manila. There are a lot of restaurants serving classic and modern takes on traditional Filipino food, but the options have also become so diverse thanks to the influx of expats and tourists, not to mention well-travelled locals hankering for international cuisines.

Many of these restaurants are located at the Ayala Center in Makati and the nearby Bonifacio Global City, two upscale districts for commerce, executive residences, luxury hotels, bars and restaurants, signature boutique shops and

family recreation. For a taste of home, my family and I often visit **Mamak Malaysian Kitchen** for nasi lemak, curry laksa and the comfort food we grew up with. Another must-try spot is **Tiong Bahru**, Singapore's Michelin Bib Gourmand Awardee for the past six years, which has several branches in the city and is famous for its Hainanese Boneless Chicken Rice.

We also frequent **Mantra Indian Kitchen & Bar** for authentic North Indian cuisine. It's one of the best



The underwater wonders at Anilao

Drive and dive

Diving is how I decompress from work, so I'm in the perfect location for indulging in my favourite hobby. One of my favourite things to do on weekends is to head out to Batangas, a two-hour scenic drive south of Manila. I drive all the way to **Anilao**, a small village that's in the apex of the Coral Triangle, the centre of marine biodiversity. This makes for an excellent diving spot, with some 40 dive sites that are home to species like the nudibranch. There are several cosy accommodations – like the rustic **Planet Dive**, a pet-friendly, intimate resort – that are perfect for dining, beach bumming or unwinding with family and friends, even if you don't dive.

fb.com/PlanetDiveResort

Scuba country

Manila is a great gateway to the oceanic beauty of the Philippine archipelago – over 7,600 tropical islands of crystal-clear waters, powdery white beaches and rich marine biodiversity, making it one of the world's best diving destinations. Other top diving hotspots are in the towns of Dauin, Moalboal, Panglao and Sablayan (Apo Reef), in the central part of the country.

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park in Palawan, a Unesco World Heritage Site and a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, is a legendary dive expedition because of its wondrous underwater world of megafauna: whale sharks, sea turtles, manta rays, hammerheads and tiger sharks. Plus, the experience of a liveaboard, where you spend days in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by nothing but the ocean, is something really special. tubbatahareefs.org



Manila's Chinatown

Soul of Manila

Although I live in an urban centre, I like exploring historic quarters. For a glimpse of the capital's cultural heritage, tour the Spanish-era Walled City of Intramuros and the adjacent Rizal Park, where you'll find a monument to Jose Rizal, the country's national hero who inspired the revolution against the colonial Spanish government. Just outside Intramuros is the **National Museum Complex** which has three buildings, each one with impressive exhibitions on art, archaeology and natural history (this one is a must-see).

If time allows, immerse yourself in Binondo, widely acknowledged as the world's oldest Chinatown, established in 1594. It's a great foodie destination where you can feast on tasty Chinese treats, especially at the well-loved **Lord Stow's Bakery** from Macau, known for its bestselling egg tart. intramuros.gov.ph; nationalmuseum.gov.ph; lordstow.com

Indian restaurants in the city and they have awards to show for it.

For inexpensive Thai street food, swing by Krapow in Poblacion, the former city centre of Makati. Poblacion has become a quaint food hub and nightlife spot. This little district by the Pasig River, which cuts through the metropolis, has managed to preserve its retro charm despite the urbanisation around it. fb.com/mamak.ph; tongbahru.ph; mantragroup.ph



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24 HOURS IN

Kuala Terengganu

Words **Atikah Wahid** Photography **Thinnesh Kumar**

Kuala Terengganu, which lies at the confluence of the Terengganu River and overlooks the South China Sea, was once a bustling 12th-century trading port. Now, travellers visit for access to beautiful islands, undulating coastlines of white sand and a taste of slower life.

The city's Islamic influence is highlighted prominently in the presence of mosques throughout the city. The Crystal Mosque, located in the Islamic Heritage Park is the most renowned one for its unique aesthetics. The mosque's fairytale-like exterior is crafted from glass, steel and crystal, sparkles under the sunlight and glows magically when illuminated at night.

Before heading off for a grand tour of Terengganu's most beautiful islands, make time to explore Kuala Terengganu itself. With our recommendations, 24 hours in this city is time well spent.

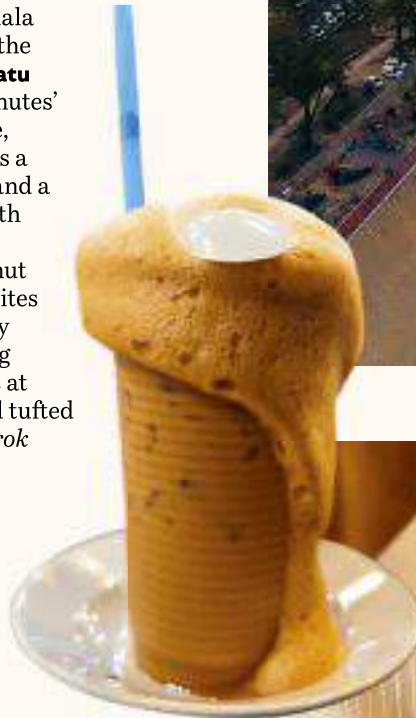


Saturday



🕒 **7am**
Break from city life

Begin your journey in Kuala Terengganu by taking in the sunrise on the sands of **Batu Burok Beach**. Just five minutes' drive from the city centre, this beautiful beach offers a quick escape to serenity and a sweeping view of the South China Sea's azure waves. Stroll past swaying coconut and casuarina trees, fly kites along the fine white sandy shoreline, enjoy a relaxing horse ride or snap photos at the quaint swing sets and tufted gazebos. *Pantai Batu Burok*



🕒 **8am**
A meal worth the wait

A visit to Terengganu would be incomplete without sampling *nasi dagang* (fragrant rice served with tuna curry), the state's signature dish. **Nasi Dagang Atas Tol** restaurant is a breakfast joint so popular among locals and tourists alike that you can expect a queue by 7.30am. Apart from their speciality dish of nasi dagang, they serve other Malaysian favourites such as the *crispy keropak lekor* (fish sausage) and nasi lemak. Their generous serving of *teh tarik* (pulled milk tea) – named *Teh Peng Ombak Rindu* after the local blockbuster film for its fluffy, overflowing froth – is also a must-try. *Hadapan Surau Tanah Lot*



INSIDER TIP
Thanks to their popularity, they have now expanded to four locations in Kuala Terengganu: Kampung Atas Tol, Padang Negara, Padang Hiliran and Bandar.

IMAGE: COURTESY OF JOMO EATERY (JOMO)

Three facts about
Kuala Terengganu

Seven

of Peninsular Malaysia's top islands, which include Redang, Perhentian, Lang Tengah and Kapas are accessible via Kuala Terengganu

10,000

sea turtle nest locations were found on the beaches of Terengganu in 2023

Prehistoric fossils

were found (dinosaur bones, fossilised teeth and several dinosaur footprints) in 2014 on Mount Gagau, near Kenyir



🕒 10am Written in stone

Marvel at Terengganu's culture and history when you visit the **Terengganu State Museum**. The museum itself is a sight to behold with its intricate traditional Malay architecture reminiscent of old Terengganu palaces. With RM5 per entry, visitors can access nine galleries in four interconnected buildings. View rare artefacts, such as the *Batu Bersurat*, a famous 14th-century Jawi-inscribed stone widely acknowledged by local historians as the earliest evidence of Islam in the Malay Peninsula. This sprawling, 27ha cultural institution also has a vast outdoor space that houses fascinating displays such as reconstructed traditional Malay homes. *Bukit Losong*

🕒 1pm Local flavours with a Western twist

For lunch, visit **Jomo Eatery Kuala Nerus**, a cosy café that serves mouthwatering Western Asian fusion cuisine. Indulge in their delectable offerings such as Chicken Roulade, Salted Egg Prawn Pasta or the crowd-favourite, Smoked Beef Carbonara.

If a laidback picnic by the beach sounds like your ideal meal, **Nyir Cafe Pantai Sauh** is your next destination for a rustic beachside dining experience. Try the Roti Kapal, the café's version of *roti john* (beef omelette sandwich) that uses premium Australian beef, or fried *kway teow* (stir-fried noodles). Eat on picnic mats with a view of the beach. *PT33845 Ground Floor, Taman Tembesu Perdana; PT102870 Pantai Sauh*





INSIDER TIP
 Fishing in Kenyir Lake is available all year round, but local fishing enthusiasts recommend avoiding the monsoon season between November to March for better weather conditions.



🕒 5pm
Retreat from the heat

Explore the Terengganu rainforests around **Kenyir Lake**, the biggest man-made lake in Southeast Asia. Created alongside the opening of Kenyir Dam in 1985, it has since flourished as an ecotourism destination, welcoming more than 200,000 visitors annually. Just an hour's drive away from the city, Kenyir Lake is sure to thrill with activities such as showering under the refreshing cascades of Lasir Waterfall, exploring prehistoric, crystal cave formations within Bewah Cave or freshwater fishing in the lake itself. *Tasik Kenyir*



🕒 9pm
A rare experience

Have an exclusive dining experience at **KBB Burger & Steak**. This homegrown steakhouse prides itself as the first kitchen on the East Coast to utilise a charcoal oven imported from Spain, which only uses charcoal and wood, for all its premium steaks. Sate your hunger with their impressive menu ranging from their bestselling 32-hour, slow-cooked Hickory Backribs to their Jospir Grilled Wagyu Burger, which uses 100 percent wagyu beef patty made in-house. *LOT 4063, Jalan Sultan Zainal Abidin, Kampung Tanjung*

IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (LANG TENGAH ISLAND)



Sunday

🕒 9am
For keepsakes

Cap your Kuala Terengganu holiday with a shopping spree at the **Pasar Besar Kedai Payang**. This massive, newly renovated bazaar is a bustling haven for mementoes of traditional handicrafts and goods. The stylish traveller would be spoiled for choice with hand-painted batik silk kaftans, gleaming woven songkets (brocade) and even traditional metallic belts. For those wanting to replicate local flavours at home, be sure to pick up some *keropok* (dried fish crackers), *serunding* (savoury beef floss) and even *dodol daun palas* (chewy palm sugar dessert).



Covert getaway

Around Kuala Terengganu, the Perhentian Islands and Redang Island often overshadow other equally enticing islands off the coast of Terengganu, but this might not be a bad thing. Those seeking a secluded island getaway will love exploring Lang Tengah Island, where only a few upscale resorts are available across four pristine stretches of beaches. Located 30–40 minutes by boat from Merang Jetty in Kuala Terengganu, activities on Lang Tengah include jungle trekking at sunrise, diving to spot bamboo sharks, volunteering with turtle conservation group Lang Tengah Turtle Watch or a fresh sushi dinner at the Summer Bay Resort. terengganutourism.com



Malaysia Airlines flies between KL and Kuala Terengganu 13x weekly. Firefly flies between Subang and Kuala Terengganu 27x weekly.



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This side



An aerial photograph of a village with numerous red-tiled roofs and lush greenery. In the background, a large mountain range is visible under a hazy sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Bali's charming Nusa Islands – Penida, Lembongan and
Ceningan – offer a refreshingly slow and unhurried
experience of the Island of the Gods

Words **Eve Tedja** Photography **Agung Parameswara**

of paradise



Bali isn't as small as it often appears on a map.

Nearly the size of Brunei Darussalam and eight times bigger than Singapore, it takes roughly four hours by car to get from the east to the west. In the central region, where the sea is nowhere in sight, the hilly, jungle-draped surroundings make it easy to forget that you're still on an island.

It can also be easy to forget that before becoming a regional dining destination and a favourite roost among jet-setting global digital nomads, the island was the textbook definition of a tropical paradise. Bali's main offering was a kind of stop-the-clocks barefoot getaway. There were thousands of temples to explore, waves to surf, markets to visit and incredible local charms: the Balinese deftly assembling *canang sari*, daily floral offerings to the gods to show gratitude for the blessings. Blazing sunsets to mark

another day. Before ubiquitous Wi-Fi made disconnecting from the world a challenge, Bali presented a satisfying way of unplugging. All you had to do was bury your phone deep into your suitcase, then pick a beach or a little village among the rice paddies.

But as the slow pace of life gradually disappears on the main island, especially in bustling areas like Kuta, Canggu and Ubud, attention is turning to parts of Bali that still offer a gear shift to an almost languorous pace. If this is what you've been daydreaming about, set your sights on the three Nusas: Penida, Lembongan and Ceningan. Just 30 to 45 minutes by fast boat, Bali's three neighbouring islands are easily accessible from the new Sanur Harbour, a modern facility that opened in 2022.

The Sanur Harbour – whose design is a nod to the *jukung*, a traditional wooden fishing boat, and is adorned with the enormous head of a mythical elephant – has made these small islands much more accessible. Handled by more than a dozen operators, boats depart every 15 minutes to Nusa Lembongan and every 30 minutes to Nusa Penida.

In these islands, time walks like a sarong-clad grandma with a basket of fruit offerings on her head. Wi-Fi connection is still spotty in some areas and there are power cuts



Previous spread:
A view of Sea La Vie resort Nusa Penida island; Mount Agung and Jungut Batu village, Lembongan

Clockwise from top left: Jungut Batu beach during sunset; aerial view of Kelingking Beach on the Nusa Penida Island; A Balinese woman carries a basket of seaweed on her head; a priest prays during the Ngaben ceremony at Jungut Batu Village; surfboards in Nusa Lembongan



“

Nusa Penida begs to be explored again and again. There’s always a new spot to discover...”



from time to time, but it won’t matter; this isn’t the place to check e-mails or take work calls. Days are lazy, marked by sunsets and the number of pages left on the thick paperback you’ve been meaning to read all year. Nights are made of barefoot dining on the beach while looking at the main island’s blinking infinity of lights. In other words, the perfect retreat. Here’s how to make the best of it.

YOU’LL NEED TO PACK A PAIR OF STURDY sandals and a sense of adventure when visiting Nusa Penida, the biggest of the three islands. Jaap Wannigen, a Dutch traveller who has been coming to the island since 2022, sums it up nicely when he says, “Nusa Penida begs to be explored again and again. There’s always a new spot to discover whenever I go there for a visit.”

Spend a few days exploring the craggy mass on a scooter (hiring a car with a driver is also an option), cruising the mostly empty roads at sunset, past miles and miles of stunning coastline and untamed forest. The western coast of the island is where you find famous sites such as the iconic Kelingking Beach and its dramatic T-Rex-shaped cliff. Because of its newfound fame on social media, it tends to get busy, although most of the crowd are happy to just have their pictures taken on top of the cliff. But if you hike down from the clifftops, you’ll be rewarded with stretches of made-for-brochure white sand and a refreshingly different view of the landscape. This is also the case at the eastern coast’s Diamond Beach and Atuh Beach.

Accommodation on this island tends to be quaint. There are simple guesthouses, wooden bungalows, and only a handful of boutique hotels. Sea La Vie, a 19-room boutique hotel near Toyapakeh Harbour, is a dreamy place to return to after a day of exploring. From the infinity pool, you can watch the comings and goings along the picturesque harbour. Nearby is Penida Colada, a Balinese-owned beachfront all-day restaurant, where delicious Indonesian dishes like *soto ayam* and grilled octopus, are made more enjoyable by the restaurant’s warm and friendly service.

Apart from beach hopping, the island’s 22 dive spots are guaranteed to bewitch avid divers while Gamat Bay’s plateau of coral reefs, brightly-coloured fish and turtles



Opposite page:
Boutique suites
at Morin Resort
Lembongan

This page: Enjoying
food and sunset
at Penida Colada;
grilled octopus at
Penida Colada

BALI

This spread (clockwise): The Yellow Bridge connecting Nusa Lembongan and Nusa Ceningan; Jungut Batu beach; Amarta Penida, a lounge and bar on Nusa Penida, features a Hindu temple gate that frames Mount Agung; tacos and smoothies at The Deck

make it ideal for snorkelling. You can swim, snorkel or scuba dive with manta rays in at least two spots. Try diving with the prehistoric sunfish called mola mola from July to October, when the huge, flat fish comes up from the deep.

IF YOU'RE TRAVELLING WITH FAMILY, Nusa Lembongan and Nusa Ceningan are ideal holiday settings. Most visitors from Sanur arrive either at Jungut Batu Beach or Mushroom Bay ports. The former boasts a long coastline and a calm azure-coloured sea while the latter is surrounded by crystalline waters you just want to dive into. Unlike Penida, most beaches on these two islands are easily accessible and safe for swimming.

It takes one hour to circle Nusa Lembongan, and half an hour to go around Nusa Ceningan, by scooter. If you have kids in tow, rent a golf cart or a custom pickup truck. The sea, patched with plots of seaweed farms and dotted with floating boats, is never far away. Only one gas station serves both islands and most of the time, the residents fill their motorbike tanks with gasoline from vodka bottles sold on roadside stalls called *warungs*.

“For us, Nusa Lembongan is the perfect island paradise, [there’s] so much natural beauty and a relaxed village vibe, similar to Bali’s years ago,” says Tania Walker, who’s originally from Australia. Tania and her family have called the island home for the last six years. “We feel so privileged being immersed in a community that has a rich culture and that’s focused on their faith. It’s a truly special place to live in.”

In Lembongan’s Jungut Batu, boutique hotels and private villas dot the surrounding hillside, offering incredible views of the mighty Mount Agung and the sprawling harbour. Three surf breaks – Shipwrecks, Lacerations and Playgrounds – are accessible by paddling from the shore or via a short boat ride.



“

Nusa Lembongan is the perfect island paradise, [there's] so much natural beauty and a relaxed village vibe, similar to Bali's years ago”



Park the family at places such as Morin Resort, which has spacious bungalows with a view of the ocean and access to two beaches. Sleep with the doors wide open to feel the gentle, lulling sea breeze, then wake up to a lazy-day itinerary: breakfast at The Deck, one of the restaurants located along the boardwalk above Jungut Batu Beach. After a morning of lounging on the sand, troop to Ohana's for lunch, a laid-back beach club with boho-chic vibes, tasty food and a dipping pool. End the day with a dinner of tuna and seafood risotto at nearby Indiana Kenanga restaurant.

Neighbouring Coconut Beach is a popular spot among families with kids. Nestled between Jungut Batu Beach and Tamarind Bay, the waters are safe for swimming, standup paddleboarding and kayaking. Hop on a rubber boat and head to The Pontoon at Lago, a solar-powered floating bar moored next to the Playgrounds surf break, where you can lounge with a cool drink.

For a slight change of atmosphere, head over to Nusa Ceningan, across the scenic Yellow Bridge, the sole connector between the two islands, open only to pedestrians and two-wheeled vehicles. The daredevils among us will find the Blue Lagoon and Mahana Point, where there are two high cliff-jumping spots, hard to resist. The latter is also perfect for watching surfers riding the waves.

Most establishments on both islands close by 10pm, some even earlier. But it doesn't matter. Stars shine brighter here. Crashing waves, in a cadence that's both meditative and entrancing, are the only sound. Sure signs that you've disconnected from the world.

Worth a detour

Bali's dining scene has always been a top draw – be sure to squeeze in time to experience these three new restaurants in Ubud and Canggu



Locavore NXT, Ubud

The award-winning restaurant recently reopened on the outskirts of Ubud. Expect to discover a massive space that houses the chefs' vision, from a food forest rooftop and a mushroom fruiting chamber in the basement. locavorenxt.com



Syrco BASÈ, Ubud

Chef Syrco Bakker just launched his first foray in Indonesia after the closure of the two-Michelin restaurant, Pure C, in the Netherlands. The two-floor dining destination features a garden, a restaurant, a bar and a shop. syrcobase.com



Lulu Bistrot, Canggu

Featuring contemporary French cuisine as the mainstay, Lulu Bistrot draws its design inspiration from the grand cafes of Paris. Guests are welcome to start with an aperitif at the chic bar before starting their meal. A jazz band livens up some evenings. lulubistrot.com



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Georgetown
15 km | 25-mins drive



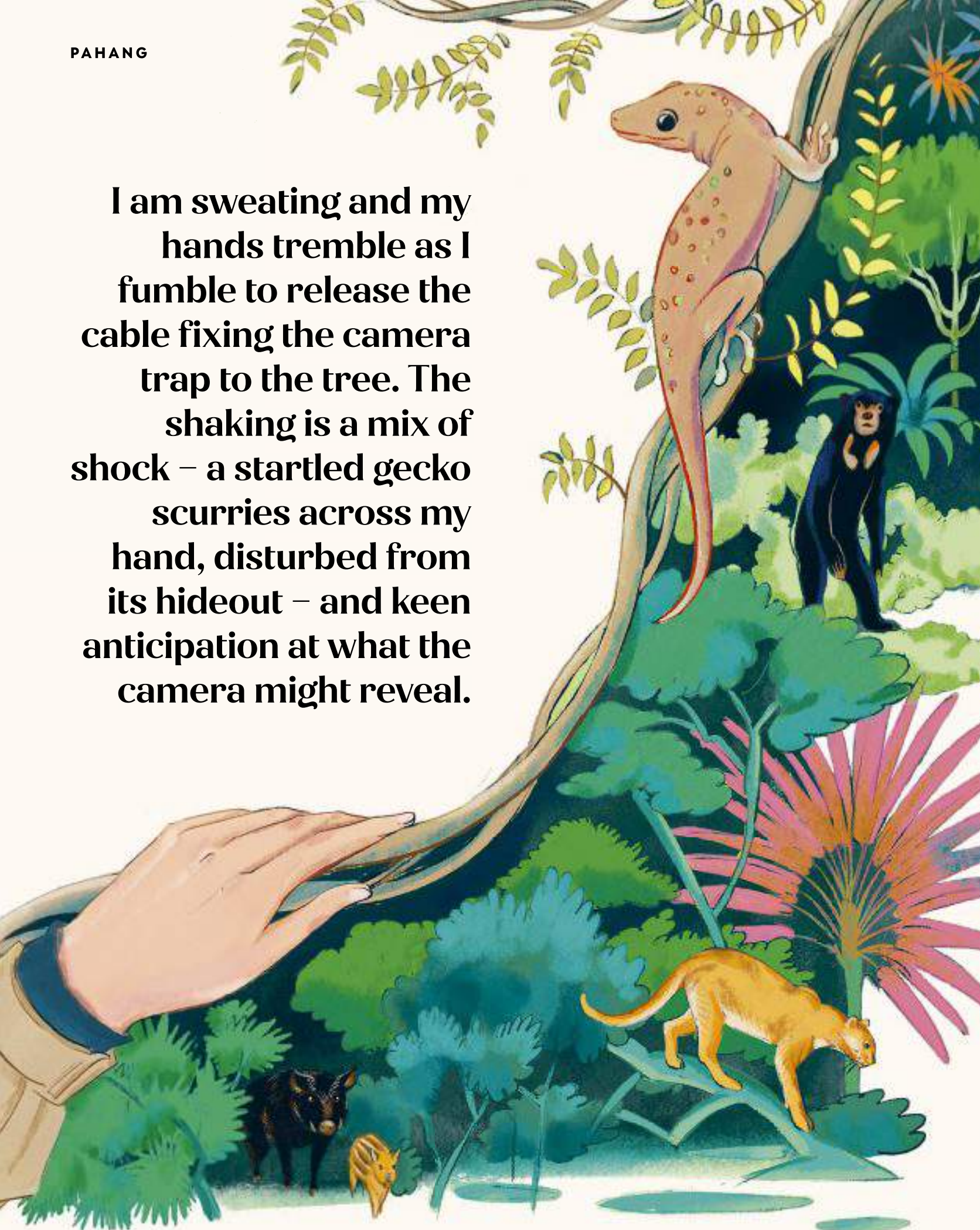
A walk on the wild side

A citizen volunteer project lets you enjoy the beauty of the forest
while protecting Malaysia's endangered tiger population

Words **Nick Measures**

Illustrations **Tan Sze Yan, Bui Thi Ngan and Raxenne Maniquiz**

I am sweating and my hands tremble as I fumble to release the cable fixing the camera trap to the tree. The shaking is a mix of shock – a startled gecko scurries across my hand, disturbed from its hideout – and keen anticipation at what the camera might reveal.





The tree in question is clinging to the ridgeline at the edge of an overgrown trail, deep within a patch of dense secondary woodland. The drone of a forest teeming with insects throbs around us, occasionally interrupted by the calls of unseen birds. We've reached this spot after walking for the last few hours through open grassland, bamboo thickets, sun-dappled clearings and up steep, slippery tracks.

I am on a CAT Walk, a citizen conservation programme set up by the Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT). Our aim is to look for evidence of poaching and check a series of camera traps dotted along a route made of animal trails and disused logging tracks that meander through the Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor, a narrow stretch of state land forests located in the heart of Peninsular Malaysia.

Having removed the camera from its metal casing, I pop out the SD card and pass it to Suzalinur Manja Bidin, deputy director of MYCAT. Better known as Man, the gently spoken conservationist scratches his wispy beard and pushes up his black-

rims glasses before connecting it to the iPad we've brought with us.

Our group of six volunteer walkers huddle closer to the small screen, eager to see what the camera has recorded. As we scroll through the series of grainy shots, we are treated to the diverse range of species that inhabit this region.

PORCUPINES, SUN BEARS, TAPIR, muntjac deer, pig-tailed macaques, wild boar, golden cats, leopards and even elephants have all passed along the same logging trail we've just trekked, some just within a few hours of our arrival. It's a thrill to know we're sharing the same space as these wild creatures, and they could be watching us as we walk by.

That reality is brought further to life by our guide, Adi. Shy and unassuming, but with an infectious grin, he is a member of the indigenous Batek community, which used to enjoy a nomadic lifestyle living off the forest. Now relocated to settlements outside of Taman Negara, members of the community are employed by MYCAT to go on regular patrols through the corridor. Adi is one of the longest-serving community rangers and, having grown up in the forest,



can read its many imperceptible signs better than anyone.

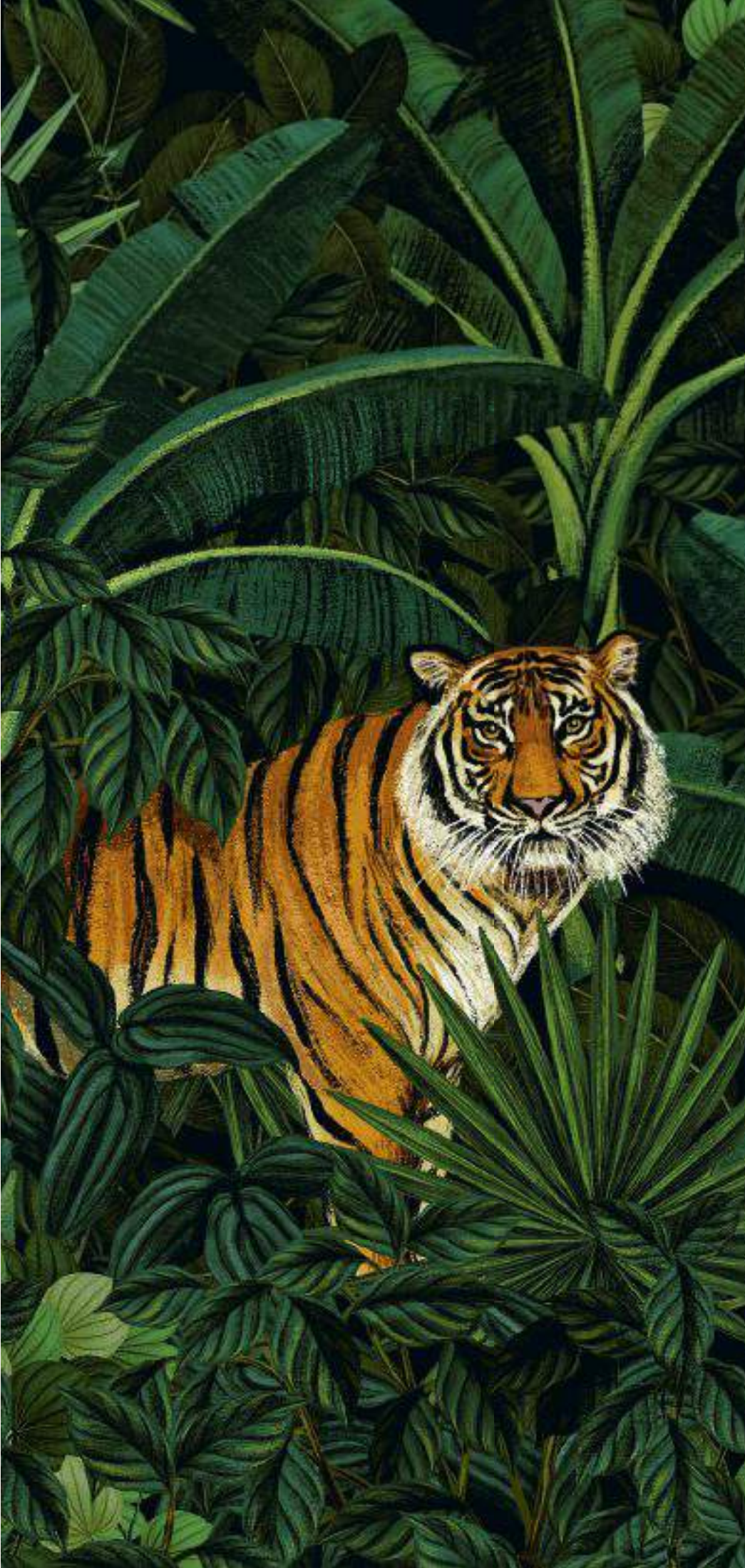
His knowledge of the jungle is vast and he's happy to share. A muddied tree trunk indicates an elephant scratching post; claw marks on bark reveal a sun bear hunting for bugs; the faintest hoof prints in the red soil, proof that potential tiger prey is active in the area.

Even with Adi's and Man's expertise, our sightings are mostly limited to bees, spiders, butterflies and the blood-sucking leeches that see us as a rich source of food. The flash of a startled fruit bat, a half-glimpsed smooth-coated otter and the disappearing limbs of a gibbon are tantalising highlights. Disappointingly, though unsurprising, there's no sign of the animal that inspired the walk.

It's unsurprising due to the few Malayan Tigers that remain. A four-year nationwide survey completed in 2020 estimated that only 150 Malayan Tigers, a sub-species of the world's largest cat, were left in the Malaysian wild. For perspective, that number was supposed to be closer to 3,000 as recently as the 1950s. Even Man, who has been with MYCAT since 2007, admits he has yet to spot a tiger in the wild, though he does recount some of his close encounters while on patrol in the corridor.

Thankfully, there is a concerted effort by the national government, regional authorities and MYCAT's alliance of local and international NGOs to reverse this trend. The Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor is just one such example of these efforts. Straddling both sides of the busy Central Spine Road, which bisects the diverse landscape of forests, plantations and privately-owned farmland, it encompasses three specially constructed viaducts.

These elevated sections of the motorway provide a crucial pathway for wildlife, including the tigers, to move safely between the primary forests of Taman Negara National Park in the east and the Titiwangsa Mountains to the west of this major thoroughfare. These areas represent



“

...[estimates show that] only 150 Malayan Tigers, a sub-species of the world's largest cat, were left in the Malaysian wild”

two of Malaysia's largest forested regions and serve as critical habitats for some of the country's last remaining tiger populations.

MYCAT has been working in the corridor since the creation of the alliance in 2003. They now have around 30 camera traps dotted throughout the area and these, coupled with routine community ranger patrols, allow them to monitor wildlife populations, as well as look for evidence of illegal logging and poaching activities.

The CAT Walks are a crucial part of these efforts. Taking place around 20–25 weekends annually, they're open to anyone over 18 and of reasonable fitness. During our initial briefing session, Man explains over 2,500 volunteers from 38 countries have already taken part in these trails, helping to spot and remove over 326 snares and traps since the walks started back in 2010.

The impact has been positive, with evidence of poaching declining sharply in recent years. I am happy to say we saw no signs of illegal activity during our trek and it's incredibly satisfying to know that just being there in the forest has made a difference.

As we grudgingly start to head back towards civilisation, we receive one final reward for our day's efforts, the chance to cool our feet as we wade across the shallow but fast-running stretch of Sungai Yu, the river that gives the corridor its name.

Our base for the weekend is a simple, cosy guesthouse in Merapoh, a sleepy settlement that stretches along the railway and is

Meet the artists

Wildlife protection is a global project. To bring this story to life, we gathered top talent from across the region



Tan Sze Yan, also known as barbarianflower, is a digital illustrator from Malaysia. She frequently incorporates elements of flora into her work, and her illustrations have appeared in international publications such as *Refinery29* and *Vice*.
@barbarianflower



Bui Thi Ngan calls Ho Chi Minh City home. Much of her art – scenes of everyday life – conveys the delight and joy of small, simple things. Her work has appeared in publications such as *The Guardian* and *Elle Decoration Vietnam*.
@buingann



Raxenne Maniquiz is a Manila-based graphic designer and illustrator. Her passion for Philippine flora and fauna shows up in her work for global brands such as Nike, Adobe and Uniqlo. In 2021, she received the Young Guns award by The One Club for Creativity, a prestigious global community of creatives. **@raxenne**

“

The impact [of MYCAT] has been positive, with evidence of poaching declining sharply in recent years”

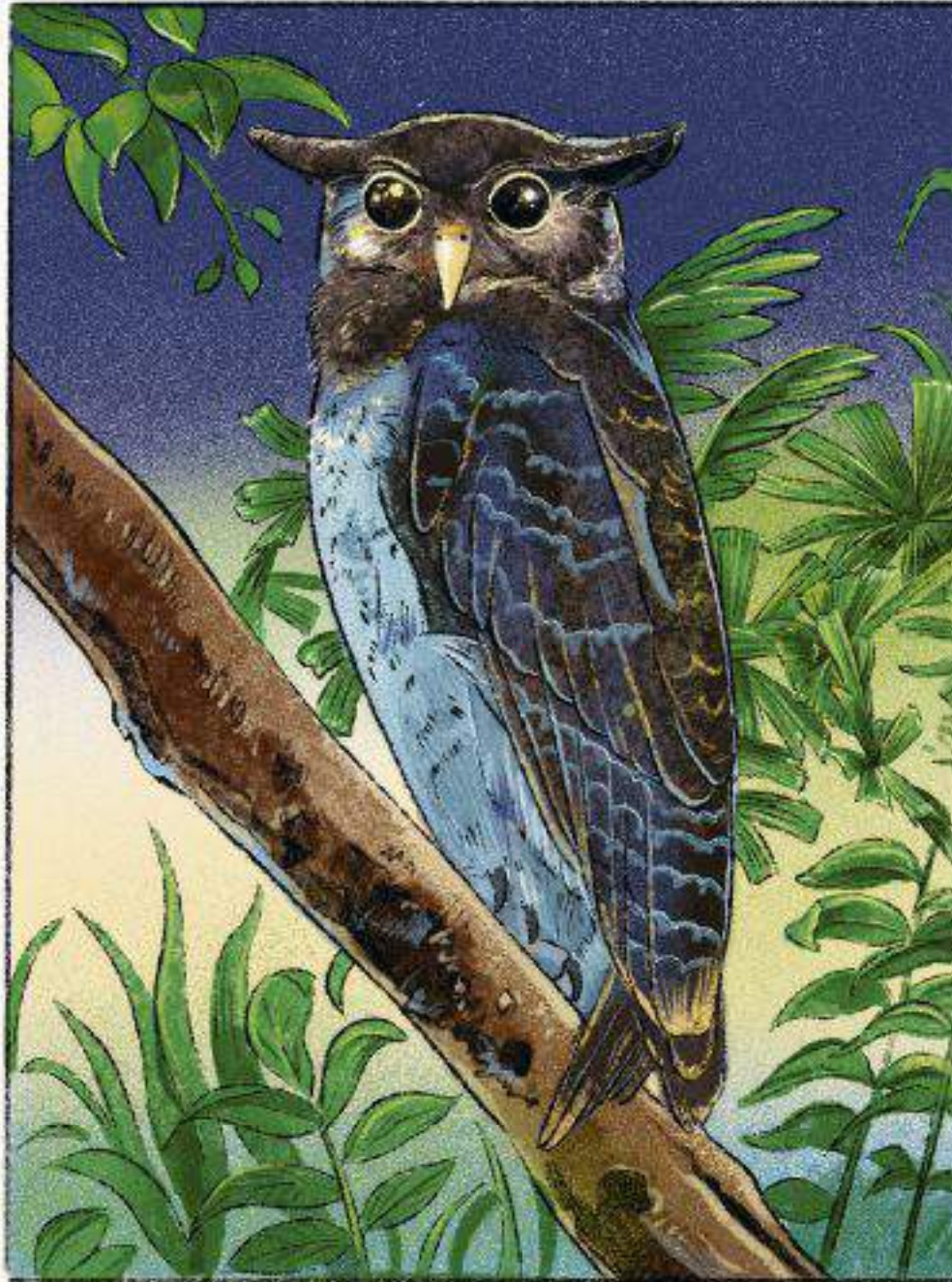
surrounded by towering limestone karsts. These natural landmarks make the area popular with climbers and cavers, while it also offers access to the Sungai Relau entrance of Taman Negara National Park.

Situated in Pahang State, Merapoh is about a three-and-half-hour drive from Kuala Lumpur, though the adventurous can also catch an overnight train via Jerantut. For the CAT Walk Plus weekends, such as the one I experienced, MYCAT takes care of all transport during your stay in Merapoh.

On top of the five-to-six-hour patrols, our three-day-two-night stay also includes a morning session planting fig and pulai saplings within the corridor. Female members of the local community are involved in this important rewilding process, helping to collect the necessary seeds from the forest and tend them in the MYCAT nursery.

Separate from the CAT Walk, for an additional charge, we also embark on a two-night safari. Heading out from our guesthouse on the back of a pick-up truck that glacially takes us through a nearby palm oil plantation, we scan the night for the tell-tale glints of eyes. We spot palm civets, owls and leopard cats, even a bemused herd of cows.

Chatting with Man and Alex Jack, MYCAT's field manager, over a tasty evening meal of nasi lemak at a roadside eatery, they also highlight an additional benefit of our presence. From paying for rangers to buying dinner at nearby restaurants, MYCAT



participants are showing the community the economic value of protecting the local wildlife.

The next morning, as we head up the road for a breakfast of crispy roti canai at the nearby mom-and-pop stall, we are treated to the chattering of hornbills and the distant calls of siamangs as they welcome the start of a new day. It serves as a timely reminder of the area's rich ecosystem and how the CAT Walks protect not just the tigers, but all its wondrous wildlife.

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your dime
or time**

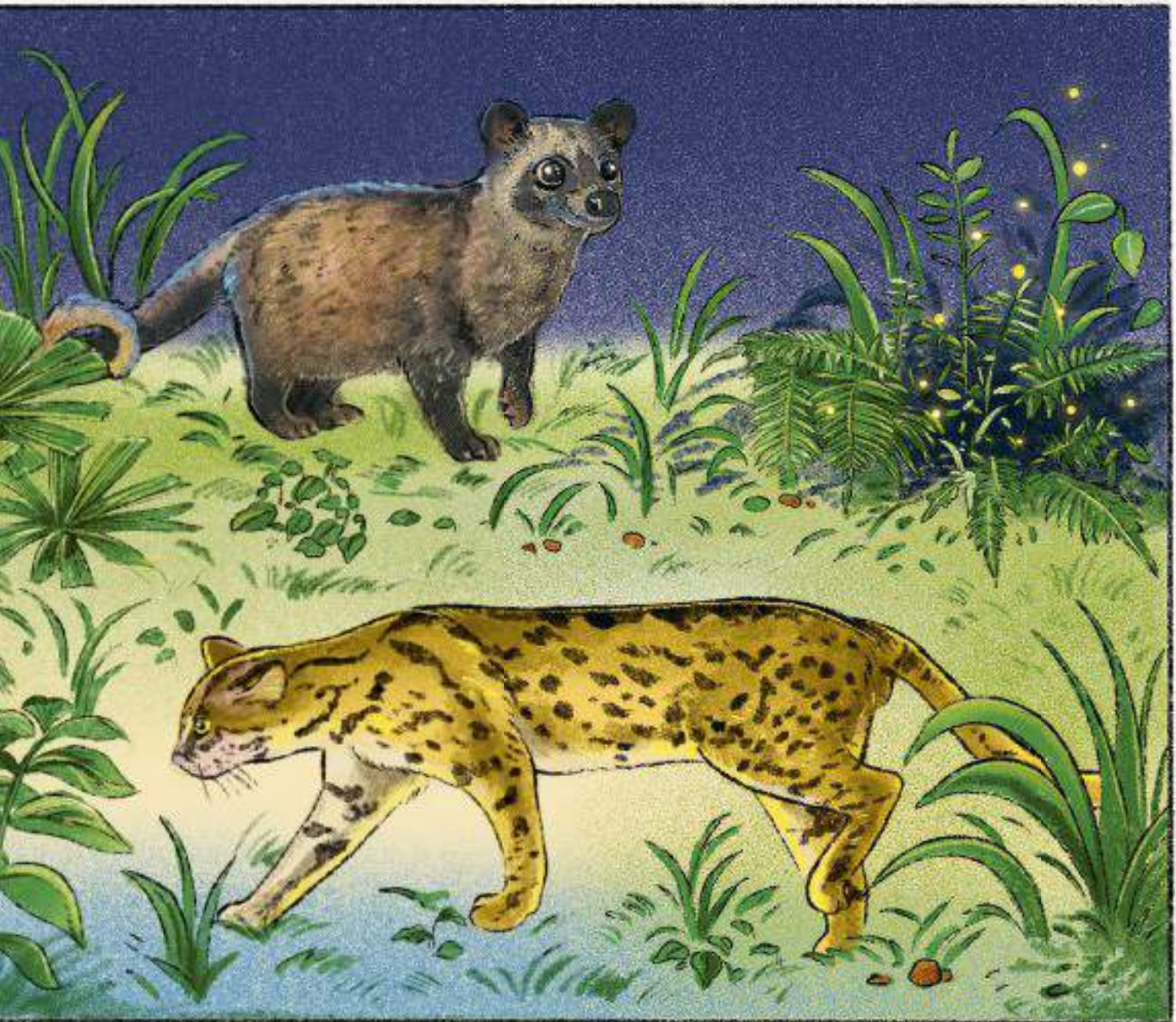


ILLUSTRATION: TAN SZE YAN

Rimau

Founded by documentary filmmaker Lara and her husband Harun Rahman, Rimau finances Orang Asli community members to act as rangers in Royal Belum State Park, Amanjaya and Korbu Forest Reserves. They've also developed an education programme to support villages. rimau.ngo

Perhilitan

The Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) has been running the "Save the Malayan Tiger" campaign since 2019 to mobilise conservation efforts. They are calling on corporate and individual volunteers to get involved in fundraising and awareness campaigns. harimau.my

WWF Malaysia

The NGO conducts intensive patrolling in Belum-Temengor in Perak State, the largest continuous forest complex in Peninsular Malaysia. They monitor poaching hotspots and work closely with enforcement agencies to reduce the threat to the region's tigers. wwf.org.my



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BEST SPOTS IN MALAYSIA

2024

The best restaurants to visit across Malaysia this month



**For Latin flavours and live beats:
La Boca Latino Lounge**

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



**For delicious cakes and pastries:
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Located just a brief stroll away from KL Sentral station, this charming cafe is a lovely spot to eat or relax during your layover in KL. Enjoy a delightful selection of freshly made cakes, sandwiches, salads and delectable pastries. Look out for the wildly popular Parisian food sensation *crookie* – a tantalising chocolate chip cookie and croissant – the perfect accompaniment to your warm cup of joe.

Plus, guests presenting their Malaysia Airlines boarding pass will be treated to complimentary selected coffee.

LG25, Nu Sentral, Shopping Centre, Jalan Tun Sambanthan, Kuala Lumpur | [instagram.com/lizzie.bake](https://www.instagram.com/lizzie.bake) | +60 3-2776 0672



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Halal surf & turf redefined

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



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

Prime cuts and stunningly fresh seafood

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

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

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

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

Fine-casual dining without the pretentiousness

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

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

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

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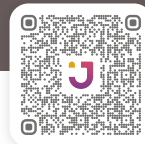


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Welcome aboard Malaysia Aviation Group's (MAG) airlines! This month, see what we have on offer to ensure that you have a safe, seamless and fuss-free journey with us.

54

Inside our airlines

News and updates from MAG Airlines

62

Discover our network

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

67

Onboard entertainment

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



Malaysia Airlines announces strategic global partnership with Manchester United

Malaysia Airlines signed a strategic, multi-year partnership with the Manchester United Football Club as its Official Commercial Airline. Through this partnership, Malaysia Airlines is poised to extend its renowned Malaysian Hospitality to Manchester United's

vast community of over 1.1 billion fans and followers worldwide by leveraging co-branded marketing initiatives to boost brand recognition to a diverse global audience, while delivering quality service and immersive experiences associated with both brands.



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MAG progresses towards 25by2025 goals, achieves 50% female representation in senior management

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), the parent company of Malaysia Airlines, is proud to announce significant progress in advancing female representation within its workforce. Since committing to the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) 25by2025 initiative in 2021, MAG has exceeded its target, achieving 34% overall participation of women in its workforce. The Group has also seen significant increase in the representation of women in key leadership positions. Currently, women hold 50% of senior management roles and 44% of middle management positions, showcasing the Group's dedication to empowering women in decision-making capacities and underscoring its dedication to creating an inclusive and equitable workplace environment. 25by2025 is a voluntary initiative for all aviation stakeholders to strengthen and improve female representation in the industry by 25%, or up to a minimum of 25% by 2025.

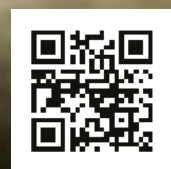
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Malaysia Airlines introduces “Best of Asia” menu for an elevated in-flight dining experience

Malaysia Airlines has introduced the “Best of Asia” menu, which is available on selected flight sectors, promising an enhanced in-flight dining experience for its passengers in both Business and Economy Class. The menu features nearly 40 Asian dishes inspired by a range of destinations and their local cuisines. The enhanced in-flight dining experience, which commenced earlier this year, features Pad Krapow Gai, widely known as Thai Basil Chicken, and Murgh Makhani or Butter Chicken Masala with Pulau Rice on flights. This gastronomic adventure extends to Indonesia, where passengers can savour Nasi Padang with Chicken Kalio, Bergedil and Terung Balado. This selection will be served on selected flights and to Domestic Crossing (Sabah and Sarawak), Regional, Indonesia, Doha and London sectors from 1 May to 30 June 2024.



Malaysia Airlines elevates its sustainability initiatives with the launch of its corporate carbon programme

Malaysia Airlines is elevating its commitment to sustainability with the launch of the Malaysia Airlines Corporate Carbon Programme, making it the first airline in Malaysia to introduce such an initiative. This innovative initiative is designed to empower corporate customers, focusing on business travellers, by providing a comprehensive platform to understand and offset the carbon emissions associated with their travel. In a strategic move towards fostering environmental responsibility, Malaysia

Airlines continues to work with climate tech company CHOOOSE to power the Corporate Carbon Programme. The Malaysia Airlines Corporate Carbon Programme goes beyond traditional carbon offsetting by offering corporate clients the opportunity to support certified climate projects. Soon, the programme will extend its offerings to include Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) credits, allowing corporate clients to actively contribute to sustainable aviation practices.

Top: From left Achille Mileto, Andreas Slettvoll and Philip See

COOPKILIM ERADICATES POVERTY THROUGH CO-OPERATIVES

KILIM GEOFOREST PARK

By Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission (SKM)

coop
Kilim



Before the establishment of the Community Co-operative Kg Kilim Langkawi Berhad (COOPKILIM), the Sungai Kilim jetty was under the management of Kumpulan Ekonomi Nelayan (KEN). For operational purposes, KEN has established KEN Makmur Enterprise. This enterprise was regulated by the Department of Fisheries from 2000 until 2010.

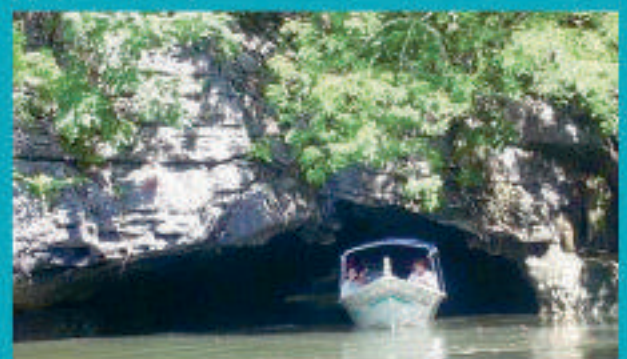
Due to high poverty in the area, the societies have decided to start a small-scale business in the form of a co-operative and they finally agreed to form a co-operative named Community Co-operative Kg Kilim Langkawi Berhad or COOPKILIM. Prior to this establishment, the management and the operation of the Sungai Kilim Jetty was handed over to the co-operative.

COOPKILIM was formed to combat poverty by creating and offering business activities and employment to the Kilim society. This is to escalate the standard of living of the communities in the tourism industry. The co-operative was established to overcome poverty among the society. The other purpose is to produce more tourism entrepreneurs and to position Kilim as one of the best models of tourism co-operatives. As of today, there are 102 local boatmen who are members of COOPKILIM.

COOPKILIM is a tourism co-operative, and it was established on 8 July 2010. Due to its success story in Kilim, COOPKILIM received a development grant of RM1 million for Desa Lestari Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development in 2015.

The Malaysia Co-operative Societies Commission has approved an infrastructure fund of RM70,000 to COOPKILIM and an e-marketing fund of RM18,000 to promote the services online.

Today, COOPKILIM is one of the most successful co-ops in Malaysia and has become one of the tourism mentors in the northern region, especially in the tourism industry. COOPKILIM offers various tourism activities within the Kilim Geoforest park. Among them are cruising along the Kilim River, visits to *Gua Kelawar* (Bat Cave) and *Gua Buaya* (Crocodile Cave), and wandering around the Andaman Sea. Tourists may also experience feeding the flying eagles on a boat while admiring the beautiful sunset, followed by a great dinner on a floating restaurant. For more information, visit <https://app.ikoop.com.my/coopkilim/contact.php>.




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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 on selected aircraft



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 **3** | 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**

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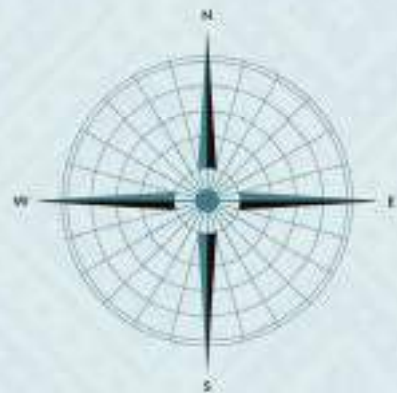
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- MASwings
- Amal
- ▲ MASkargo

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IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (KOTA KINABALU, MIRI)



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NOW SHOWING

MOVIES p68 TELEVISION p78 AUDIO p79



Check out our **South Asian Movies Special** on page 76!



The Blind Side



Lion



Mom, Is That You?!



Zero to Hero



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Napoleon

Starring Joaquin Phoenix as Napoleon Bonaparte and Vanessa Kirby as Joséphine Bonaparte, the movie depicts Napoleon's rise to power and his relationship with his wife.

Directed by Ridley Scott and written by David Scarpa, this 2023 historical drama encapsulates the gripping narrative of French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte's rise and fall, intricately woven with the complexities of his passionate relationship with Josephine. With Joaquin Phoenix masterfully portraying Napoleon and Vanessa Kirby bringing Josephine to life, the film offers a captivating cinematic experience that transcends

the confines of the aircraft cabin. As passengers settle into their seats, they can now traverse through the corridors of history, witnessing the ambitions, triumphs and tragedies of one of the most iconic figures in world history. Whether soaring through the skies or cruising at altitude, Malaysia Airlines passengers can now embark on a cinematic journey through time, enhancing their inflight experience with this acclaimed epic.

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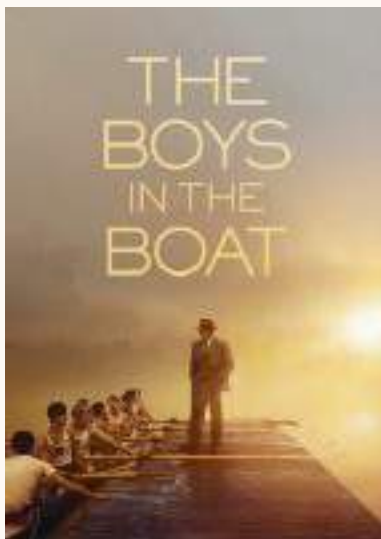
Hollywood Latest



Race for Glory: Audi vs. Lancia portrays the fierce rivalry between Audi and Lancia in the 1983 Rally World Championship, depicting Lancia's determined fight for redemption against Audi's dominance.



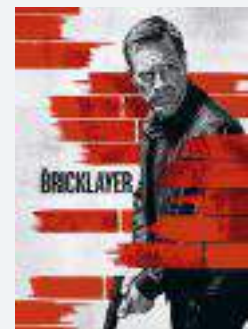
A Million Days follows an astronaut's dilemma: to pursue his life's work or sabotage it for a greater cause. Directed by Mitch Jenkins, starring Hermione Corfield, Simon Merrells, Trevor Dion Nicholas and more.



The Boys in the Boat is a 2023 American biographical sports drama directed by George Clooney, depicting the University of Washington's rowing team journey from the 1930s Depression era to Olympic gold in 1936 Berlin.



Ellissia, a college student, seeks solace in a Mexican horse riding event to flee her troubles. However, she confronts health issues that thwart her passion. **Centurion: The Dancing Stallion** (2023) features Amber Midthunder and Billy Zane.



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MOVIES

Hollywood Favourite Movies



The Blind Side



20th Century Women



Lion

Celebrate Mother's Day with heartwarming films like *The Blind Side*, *20th Century Women* and *Lion*. These movies beautifully portray the complexities of motherhood, showcasing love, sacrifice and resilience. Passengers flying with Malaysia Airlines can enjoy these touching movies, immersing themselves in stories that honour the strength and beauty of maternal bonds.



Embark on a thrilling cinematic journey with DC's special movies available for in-flight entertainment on Malaysia Airlines. Explore the depths of Atlantis with *Aquaman*, witness the antics of antiheroes in *Suicide Squad* and its reboot *The Suicide Squad* and join Harley Quinn's girl gang in *Birds of Prey*. Plus, get ready for the electrifying origin story of *Black Adam*. Buckle up and immerse yourself in these action-packed adventures during your flight.

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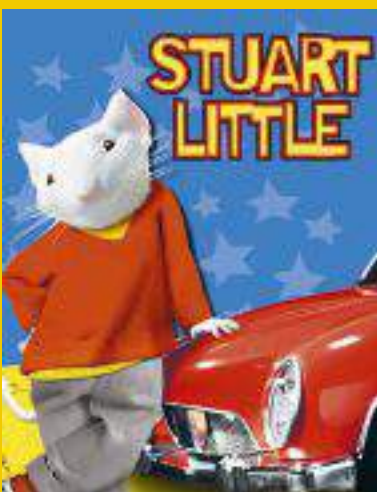
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Kids Special



Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald and **Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore** are sequels to the special **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them**. These films delve deeper into the wizarding world, following Newt Scamander's adventures. Featuring magical creatures and battles against dark forces, they offer enchanting tales of bravery and friendship. Passengers travelling with Malaysia Airlines can now enjoy these captivating movies during their flight, adding a touch of magic to their journey.



Get ready for a delightful adventure with the sequel special, **Stuart Little 2**. Join the tiny but brave Stuart Little as he embarks on a thrilling journey filled with friendship and courage. Directed by Rob Minkoff, this heartwarming film stars Michael J. Fox as the voice of Stuart. Plus, don't miss out on the original **Stuart Little** film, capturing the charming tale of Stuart's adoption by the Little family. Passengers flying with Malaysia Airlines can enjoy both of these beloved movies during their flight.



Mummies

TV Shows



Scooby Doo And Guess Who?



The Tom and Jerry Show



MOVIES

Malay



Pagari Bulan, released in 2023, unfolds against the backdrop of the Japanese invasion of Malaya in World War 2. It centres on Bulan, a Malay girl, and her Chinese neighbour, captured by Japanese forces to serve a general. Directed by Raja Mukhriz Bin R. Ahmad Kamaruddin and starring Nazeera Sardi and Trisha Ooi, the film explores their harrowing journey. Experience this gripping tale on IFE now.



Japanese



In the 2022 Japanese film **Mom, Is That You?**, Akio Kanzaki, amidst work stress and a looming divorce, uncovers a new perspective of his mother, Fukue. Directed by Yôji Yamada and starring Sayuri Yoshinaga and Yo Oizumi, the movie showcases Fukue's transformed life and the supportive community around her. Passengers aboard Malaysia Airlines flights can now immerse themselves in this heartwarming tale.

Chinese



Zero to Hero, a 2021 Chinese film directed by Jimmy Wan, portrays the inspiring journey of Paralympian So Wa-wai, emphasising his remarkable achievements and close relationship with his mother. Starring Sandra Ng and Leung Chung Hang, this heartfelt story is now available for passengers onboard Malaysia Airlines flights.



Korean



In the gripping Korean thriller **Limit** (2022), Officer So-eun infiltrates a harrowing kidnapping case, only to confront a ruthless captor. Directed by Lee Seung-joon and starring Lee Jung-hyun and Moon Jeong-hee, this intense film delves into her agonising dilemma when her own son becomes a target. Passengers travelling with Malaysia Airlines can now delve into this captivating tale through their inflight entertainment.

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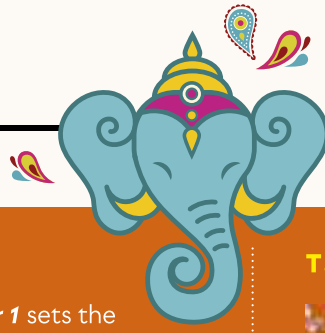
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Hindi



KGF - Chapter 1 sets the stage for the epic saga, while **KGF - Chapter 2** continues the thrilling journey of power and revenge. Passengers on Malaysia Airlines can now relish both chapters of this action-packed series through their inflight entertainment.

Tamil



In the 2023 Indian film **Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar**, Mickey aids couples in splitting up for money. However, complications arise when he falls for Tinni, an independent career woman. Directed by Luv Ranjan, starring Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor. Passengers aboard Malaysia Airlines can now indulge in this movie through their inflight entertainment.

The highly anticipated sequel to *Ponniyin Selvan*, **Ponniyin Selvan 2**, continues the enthralling saga with new twists and turns. Passengers aboard Malaysia Airlines flights can now immerse themselves in this epic tale through the airliner's inflight entertainment.



Malayalam



Telugu





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TELEVISION



Travel



Destination Celebrity

Japanese



In the 2022 Japanese comedy drama *Ishiko and Haneo: You're Suing Me?*, Ishiko, a legal assistant at her father's firm, is taken aback by lawyer Habio's unusual behaviour towards clients. Now available on Malaysia Airlines' inflight entertainment.

Showbiz



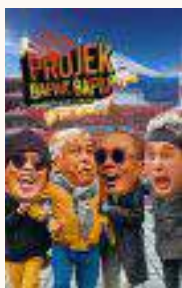
Hollywood On Set

Korean Variety



Earth Arcade - Season 1

Malay



Hindi



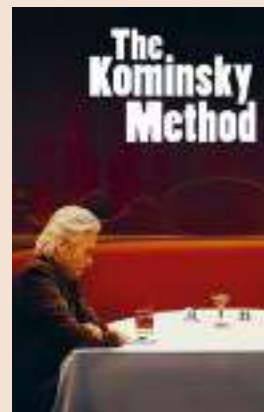
Turkish



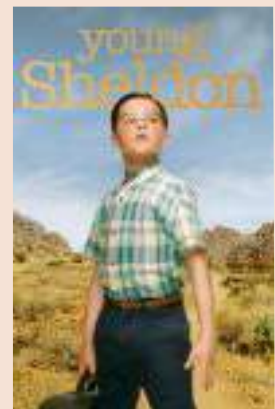
Comedy



Mom is an American sitcom that delves into the lives of a mother and daughter navigating through addiction recovery. Lauded for its humour and heartfelt moments, it offers a poignant portrayal of familial bonds. Now available for viewing on Malaysia Airlines' inflight entertainment.



Drama



AUDIO



The Hits

Get ready for a sonic journey with **Bravo Hits, Vol. 124**, **Confessions** by Jade LeMac and **Bitter Sweet Love** by James Arthur. These albums offer a mix of chart-topping hits, heartfelt confessions and bittersweet melodies. Now available on Malaysia Airlines' inflight entertainment for passengers to groove to at 30,000 feet.

Memories



R&B



Club



Japanese



Korean



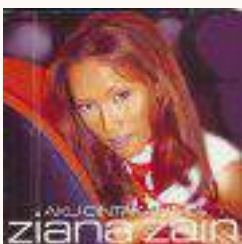
Hindi



Tamil



Malay



Indonesian



Cantonese



Mandarin



Relax



A perch in paradise

The Kuala Lumpur Bird Park is a must-visit eco-tourism attraction located in the heart of Malaysia's capital. Covering approximately 8.5ha of greenery, the park just might be the "world's largest free-flight walk-in aviary", as its tagline states. The park is divided into several zones, including the Hornbill Park, the Flamingo Pond and a zone to witness daily feedings and attend talks about bird habitats, conservation and awareness on illegal trading.

Home to over 3,000 birds from 200 species, both local and foreign, ornithophiles will be heartened to see several endangered feathered friends – such as the black crowned crane – living their best lives here.

Amidst the many beautiful birds here, Minah, a rhinoceros hornbill, captivates everyone who encounters her, especially with her shiny jet-black feathers and wings as wide as 150cm. Estimated to be between 30–35 years old, her distinguishing characteristic is a large, horn-like casque adorning her bill.

Minah turns up on time for feedings at 11.30am and can sometimes be seen posing as a living sculpture in front of the Hornbill Restaurant. Although her human handlers describe her as shy, does she secretly love the attention from visitors? Visit Minah and friends in their relaxing abode and find out for yourself. klbirdpark.com



IMAGE: RYAN CHIN (A BLACK CROWNED CRANE AT KL BIRD PARK)

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