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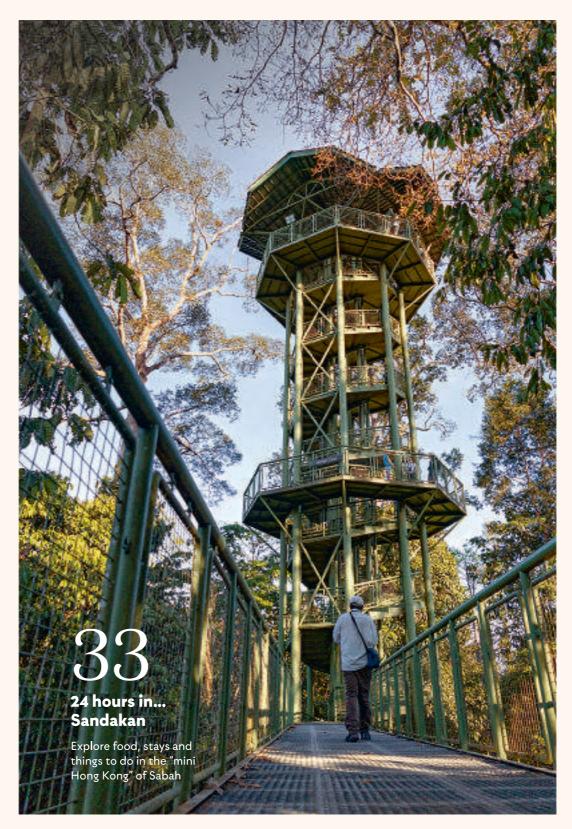
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### **AUGUST 2024**

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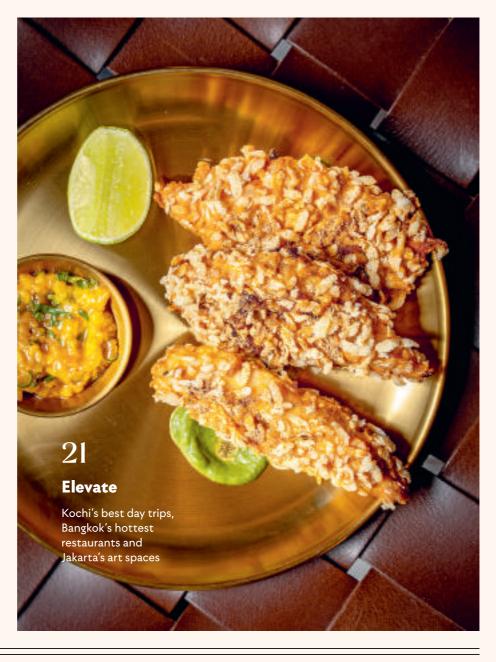
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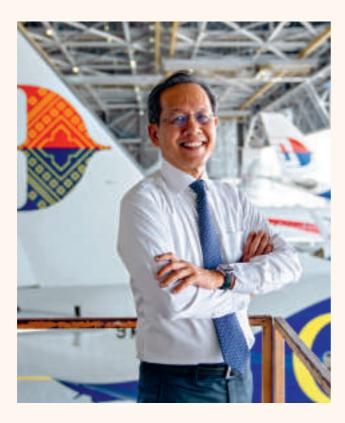












### Dear guests,

August marks a special month as Malaysia celebrates its 67th Independence Day or "Hari Merdeka" on the 31st of August. This month serves as a reminder of our nation's diversity, progress and unity; and how our collective efforts have driven us forward.

As Malaysia's flag carrier, we are proud to play our role in connecting travellers across the globe via our central hub in Malaysia, embodying the spirit of Malaysian Hospitality on every journey. From our humble beginnings, we have grown significantly, and like our nation, our story is one built on resilience, dedication and continuous improvement.

Today, we are in a stronger position, thanks to your unwavering support. At the recent Skytrax World Airline Awards 2024, we were ranked among the Top 10 World's Best Airline Cabin Crew, an impressive rise from our previous ranking of 17 in 2023. This accolade is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team, who consistently strive to deliver unparalleled service and hospitality, ensuring your journey, whether a short one-hour or 13-hour flight, is as seamless and comfortable as possible. We are also committed to enhancing every facet of our operations, ensuring we meet and exceed your expectations whilst continuing to improve Malaysia Airlines' overall ranking in the World's Top 100 Airlines.

While these recognitions are a source of pride and reflect our growth and transformation over the years, they also motivate us to strive for even greater achievements. As the aviation industry is constantly evolving at a rapid rate, we acknowledge the pressing need to stay ahead by continuously innovating products and services to be more personalised and aligned with the preference of our valued customers. Over recent months, we have introduced several initiatives to make your end-to-end experience with Malaysia Airlines more comfortable and enjoyable. Among this includes the on-arrival access to our Golden Lounges (Satellite, Regional and Domestic) at KLIA Terminal 1 for Business Suite and Enrich Platinum members, curated lounge menu offerings, as well as the introduction of luxury private transfer services at KLIA Terminal 1 for departing and arriving passengers.

Onboard, we continue to introduce new in-flight dining offerings, taking you on a culinary journey to enjoy local and destination-inspired dishes. Following the introduction of our Best of Asia menu earlier this year, our passengers have enjoyed the local flavours of Thailand, India and Indonesia. We are continuing the culinary journey and you can look forward to more diverse offerings through to the end of the year, including Sogogi Japchae (stir-fried beef and sweet potato noodles) from Korea, Vietnamese Chicken Rice and Zhajiangmian (fried sauce noodles) from China; applicable on selected flights. In addition, we have also introduced upgraded amenities such as special giveaways for our young travellers, refreshed amenity kits, and enhanced soft furnishings including larger blankets and redesigned duvets and mattress covers.

In addition to our offerings, we are continuously seeking opportunities to enhance your travel experience with a wider range of destinations. This month, we are thrilled to launch our much-anticipated flights to Maldives and Chiang Mai, expanding our network further and ensuring seamless connectivity for all our passengers.

Our priority remains in ensuring that every aspect of your journey is as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. We look forward to introducing more innovative and exciting initiatives, focusing on delivering the highest standards of service for your comfort and convenience.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming you onboard again soon.

Thank you.

#### Izham Ismail

Group Managing Director Malaysia Aviation Group



Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival in style with Mooncakes by Mandarin Oriental, available for purchase from 15 July to 27 September 2024 at The Mandarin Cake Shop.



any of us will reflect on the milestones we've achieved together as Malaysia turns 67 this month, and there is much to celebrate. Modernisation, innovation and especially the spirit of the Malaysian people have made our journey unique.

It's this spirit that has made many of our industries stand out on the world stage and this month, we're exploring the growth of agrotourism in Malaysia (p38). We are blessed with skilled farmers who provide us with an abundance of world-class agricultural produce – fresh vegetables, lovely flowers, juicy coconuts and to-die-for durian – all cultivated on Malaysian soil. With a growing interest in agrotourism, travellers now have plenty of opportunities to experience life in the country and learn how some of our local food is grown. The best part is you don't even have to give up your creature comforts. More and more farm destinations like Talula Hill Farm Resort in Johor and The Coco Journey in Melaka offer luxurious villas, eco-domes and ultra-cosy rooms to call home at night, while you immerse yourself in farm activities during the day.

This month is also an opportune time to consider what freedom means to us individually. Take the example of the surfing community in Cherating (p46), where women are increasingly taking to the waters. While it might seem like a straightforward sport, surfing has always been a male-dominated arena. These

> women are challenging traditional norms and carving out a space to express themselves.

> As we celebrate National Day around Malaysia (p9), let us also celebrate the indomitable spirit of these women who are redefining Malaysia's cultural and sporting landscape. Their journey is a symbolic reminder that the fight to freely pursue our best lives continues. Here's to a Malaysia that embraces the courage and determination of all its people.

Happy travels,

Therman Lin

**Shermian Lim** Editor

### This issue's contributors



Sharon Nelson Writer, "For love of the country", p38

Sharon Nelson is a KL-based writer and editor who enjoys observing how language evolves as tech opens new spaces for communication.



Andrew Deloso Illustrator, "A neighbourhood guide to Fitzroy", p30

Dru is a Manila-based creative who tells diverse stories through illustrations and animated shorts. He lives with his landlord, a domestic short-haired cat named Ticat.



Nana Safiana Photographer, "Freedom on the waves", p46

Nana is an independent documentary photographer, happily balancing freelance projects and her passion for surfing and the arts.

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# REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places



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Selangor

### Jurassic fantastic



Recalling the magic of Mimaland in Gombak, Dino **Desert** in Kajang, which opened in May, features lifesize animatronic dinosaurs like stegosauruses, pterosaurs and frilly dilophosauruses, sauropods that tower over you, and of course, a T-rex that roars as you walk past. Situated in Monkeys Canopy Resort atop Sungai Long Hill, Dino Desert is perfect for kids and those who want to feel like kids again. instagram.com/ monkeyscanopy



Kuala Lumpur

## Kuih redefined



As a student, Yeoh Hooi Hoon turned her drawings of *kuih* into physical creations – like the fish-shaped *kingu chai kuih* (steamed dumplings), teddy bear *bao* and glistening *angku* (red tortoise cake) shaped into sushi – that made **Floccus Floccus** an online sensation. Now Floccus Floccus gets more physical with a store in Chinatown that soft-launched in May, boasting an aesthetic that embodies the marriage of tradition and modernity with its whimsical kuih – exemplified by the angku knob on its front door. *instagram.com/floccusfloccus* 





Kuala Lumpur Latin flair

La Boca – named after the brightly coloured Buenos Aires neighbourhood and home to Boca Juniors – is now serving Cuban sandwiches, Argentinian sorrentinos (ravioli), Peruvian patarashca (freshwater fish) and other

dishes from the length of Latin America to Pavilion Damansara Heights and Solaris Mont Kiara, adding to its well-loved outlets in Pavilion Kuala Lumpur, Persiaran Ampang and Mandarin Oriental. *labocamalaysia.com* 



# A sanctuary of wellness and tranquility in the heart of Ipoh, Malaysia

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Kuala Lumpur

### Homage to our land

As a young boy growing up in Fukuoka, it was chef Masashi Horiuchi's mother that ignited his passion for Western cuisine, and his father's rice and vegetable farm that fostered his love for local produce. Both influences take their final form in Masashi's Entier and Potager, restaurants that embody the three 'P's - precision, perfection and passion.

"Joël Robuchon taught me the three 'P's," Masashi says, referring to the celebrated late chef who was once named "Chef of the Century" by the Gault Millau and is considered one of the greatest of all time. Masashi served as a sous chef under Robuchon at the two Michelin-starred



L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon in London, after two decades of working across Europe, including in Switzerland, Paris, and Alsace and Burgundy in France.

In both Entier and Potager - the former with its 'nose-to-tail' French fine dining cuisine and the latter an almost conceptual intersection of gastronomy and art - Masashi marries those three 'P's with the Japanese philosophy of kokoro (the heart of things). As he says, "Everything we do must come from the heart."

And it was this heart that was won over by Malaysia. "It was the warmth of the people here and the amazing produce," he says. "The land is fertile and there are plenty of opportunities to work directly with farmers and producers." Masashi has since forged intimate connections with producers around the country, from vegetable farmers in Cameron Highlands, chocolate farmers in Pahang, to duck farmers and local caviar producers from Perak.

These connections are paramount because Masashi views his craft as a celebration of the "hands that laboured", the grit of local producers that makes his exquisite culinary creations possible. "With a keen interest in presenting the best of the Malaysian terroir and our region, my approach towards French fare is to be creative." Safe to say that the best of Malaysian produce could not be in better hands. entierfrenchdining.com; potagerkl.com



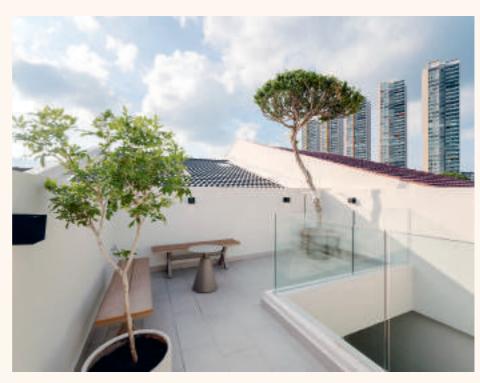
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Negeri Sembilan

### Fun for the whole family

Famed for its beaches, Port Dickson also contains wonders further inland. like the sprawling **Sky Ladder Pineapple** Farm, with over 60,000 pineapple trees. A popular destination on Instagram with its titular staircases that stand out against fields of green, the farm boasts a host of activities for the whole family, from a guided tour that explains the life cycle of the crop, to a mini petting farm, ATV rides and even archery. instagram.com/











George Town

# The perfect escape

With dreamy backlit arches, soothing cream-coloured walls and stylish touches of wood and rattan inspired by Scandinavian minimalism, **Mint Villa** by Double L Villa is the perfect contrast to the colour and bustle of George Town. The villa is an ideal getaway for couples, groups and families, with three bedrooms that can fit up to eight guests and an indoor private pool with a jacuzzi that opens up to the night sky. **mintbydoublelvilla.com** 

### MANGALA ESTATE

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Kuala Lumpur

### Independent spirit

National Day is undoubtedly the highlight of every August, with this year's celebrations culminating in thousands parading in Putrajaya again for the 67th year of Malaysia's independence. The theme for both National Day and Malaysia Day, the latter celebrated in September, is "Jiwa Merdeka" or independent spirit, which aims to foster social and economic integration and form a harmonious and progressive unity among all Malaysians. merdeka360.my





#### Malaysia

### Films for freedom

Every year, the FreedomFilmFest showcases emerging filmmakers who create social documentaries that promote human rights and freedom of expression, pointing the lens at subjects unseen and stories untold. For its 20th edition, themed "Why

Freedom?", FreedomFilmFest will screen its entries around the country, from Petaling Jaya, Langkawi to Ipoh; Johor Bahru, Melaka and George Town in the peninsula; and Kota Kinabalu, Kuching and Miri in East Malaysia from 3 to 25 August. freedomfilm.my



Kuala Lumpur

### **Icy delights**

After a series of pop-up stores in Singapore, Tokyo's Sakanoue Café brings its famed kakigōri (shaved ice) to LaLaport **Bukit Bintang City** Centre. Sakanoue's kakigōri – with its fluffy texture coming from a special variety of ice that is frozen over days - is served in six signature flavours, namely the strawberry shortcake, sakura mochi, grape cheese honey, Uji matcha, mango passion custard and the wildly popular cheese berry panda. instagram.com/ . sakanouecafe\_kul





"Never smooth sailing," says **Tiara**Jacquelina on her transition from superstar actress to chief dream maker of Enfiniti.
"Smooth sailing would be too easy." Tiara, who cemented her name in popular culture with films *Ringgit Kasorgga* and *Puteri Gunung Ledang*, now oversees the Enfiniti Creative Universe, which produced the critically acclaimed, award-winning *Puteri Gunung Ledang the Musical*, *P Ramlee: The Musical* and *Ola Bola The Musical*, the latter of which she directed. "It was really challenging because it was a story about football," she says. "I really love a challenge."

That desire for challenge was the push that expanded Enfiniti's roster beyond theatre production into glamping with Tiarasa Escapes and the multi-sensory mythical adventure Dream Forest Langkawi. "I'm constantly creating, it's how I'm wired," she admits. "I'm always looking at things and thinking how it can be brought to Malaysia."

This was the genesis of Tiarasa Escapes, a dreamy, luxurious glamping retreat with

66

I wanted to create something that would blow everyone's minds" safari-style tents and treehouses in the lush rainforests of Janda Baik, each uniquely designed and bearing the mark of Tiara's creative genius. "Things that I enjoy, like watching movies under the stars with your family, why can't we do it here?" she asks. "We want to create unforgettable

memories for everyone."

The same pioneering streak is also visible in the interactive Dream Forest Langkawi, a fantastical adventure walk through the island's prehistoric forest that brings to life its myths and legends, like Mat Teja and Mambang Sari, the warring giants Mat Raya and Mat Cincang and warrior king Merong Mahawangsa. "I wanted to create something that would blow everyone's minds."

The creative drive that has turned everything Tiara touches to gold isn't slowing down soon, with more Tiarasa Escapes and interactive experiences in the works. "I will do something that will make a difference, then I can say I've done something for my country." Tiara is certainly redefining what is possible in Malaysia. enfiniti.com.my; tiarasaescapes. com; dreamforest.com.my

# Discover the allure of İstanbul and Cappadocia

Live like a local with these five Istanbul experiences



#### Begin with a classic Turkish breakfast

A typical Turkish breakfast is a flavourful and textured symphony, inviting travellers to savour various delicacies showcasing the country's fresh produce and culinary heritage. Imagine starting your day with a freshly baked simit - a sesame-crusted bread ring and a staple of Turkish street food. Pair it with menemen, a savoury blend of eggs, tomatoes and green peppers simmered to perfection. Each table is usually adorned with an array of local jams, fresh fruits and assorted nuts, satisfying both sweet and savoury cravings. For truly gastronomic delights, be sure to visit quaint neighbourhoods like Balat or Moda, where charming cafés exude character and warmth. Here, locals gather to share stories over a leisurely breakfast, and the ambiance is as inviting as the flavours. For a meal with panoramic views, consider a Turkish breakfast in the coastal neighbourhoods of Cengelköy, Bebek or Rumelihisarı along the

Boğaziçi (Bosphorus), the 30km-long strait running through the heart of İstanbul.

### Cross the Bosphorus by ferry

Picture yourself on a commuter ferry, traversing the waters connecting Europe and Asia. On this pleasurable 20-min journey across the Boğaziçi, from the main hubs of Kadıköy and Üsküdar to Karaköy and Beşiktaş, locals take comfort in the simple act of breaking simit as the city's iconic seagulls gracefully swoop overhead. For a deeper exploration, take a weekend Bosphorus Cruise and witness the verdant hills and picturesque coastal neighbourhoods as the fresh breeze from the Black Sea greets you on your way.

### Get lost in İstanbul's oldest shops

Embarking on a shopping excursion in the **Spice Market** and **Grand Bazaar** is a journey into both the city's history and its very essence. Amidst the labyrinth of shops and lanes, the Spice Market

offers an olfactory feast with exotic spices, teas and culinary delights that have tempted traders and locals since the days of the Ottoman Empire. The aroma of saffron, cumin and freshly ground Turkish coffee creates an intoxicating, timeless atmosphere. Similarly enthralling, the Grand Bazaar, with its sprawling complex of covered streets and hidden courtyards, is a testament to İstanbul's vibrant community and enduring commercial spirit. Here, shoppers can peruse an array of treasures, from intricately woven textiles to timeless kilims, fragrant hamam (Turkish bath) merchandise and exquisite jewellery – each handiwork a testament to the city's rich craftsmanship heritage.

### Art – and more shopping – in Tophane

Galataport, a burgeoning, multi-faceted development, has quickly become a favourite for city dwellers seeking diverse, pleasurable experiences during their leisurely weekend strolls. Visitors can browse the latest collections of local designers, dine in waterside

restaurants and enjoy stunning sunsets over the Old City. Beyond its retail appeal, Galataport is a cultural nexus, home to the recently reopened İstanbul Modern, a structural marvel designed by esteemed architect Renzo Piano. This museum in Tophane features modern art across both permanent and temporary exhibitions.

### Explore a night out in Beyoğlu

İstiklal Street is the city's main European-style pedestrian promenade, buzzing with culture and nightlife, offering eateries, cinemas, art galleries, bars and clubs. Sit in a classical meyhane (Turkish tavern) located on the lively streets of Nevizade or Asmalimescit to sample *mezes* and  $r\alpha ki$ , the cold appetisers and aniseflavoured spirit favoured by locals. At the far end of İstiklal Street, Taksim Square is the city's cultural heartbeat, thanks to the renovated Atatürk Kültür Merkezi, a vanguard palace for the performing arts. Attend a show at the centre's













İstiklal Street, İstanbul

Swords Valley, Cappadocia, Nevşehir

Hot Air Balloons over Cappadocia, Nevşehir

main Opera Hall, designed in the shape of a giant sparkling-red globe, which welcomes operas, symphonies and performing arts extravaganzas year-round.

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### **BEYOND ISTANBUL:**

### A dream escape to Cappadocia

While the biggest metropolis is your gateway to many of the unmatched experiences Türkiye has to offer, Cappadocia promises unrivalled memories when venturing beyond İstanbul. Here is how to ensure the best discoveries while in the "Land of Fairytales."

#### **IN THE SKY**

#### Ride a hot air balloon at dawn

As the sun casts a golden glow over Cappadocia's expansive terrain, colourful hot-air balloons take flight on an epic journey in the sky. As you ascend, you'll be awed by a breathtaking view as you gracefully glide above these extraordinary land formations.

#### Discover the pigeon nests

The enchanting 6km **Pigeon Valley**, connecting the

charming towns of Uçhisar and Göreme, introduces the truly incomparable sight of many of the region's renowned fairy chimneys that have been intricately carved into avian abodes. Residents have long valued pigeon droppings as powerful fertilisers, contributing to the flourishing vineyards that underpin the region's rich wine-making tradition.

#### **ON THE GROUND**

### Visit UNESCO-recognised rock churches

Step into the reverent interiors of 10th- and 11th-century churches, carved meticulously into the soft rocks of the Göreme Open Air Museum, part of the Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia which are recognised by UNESCO as cultural and natural (mixed) World Heritage sites. On these walls, biblical stories come to life through intricate mural paintings - a mesmerising canvas that attests to the lasting impact of Eastern Roman (Byzantine) art.

### Cycle along the valleys of Cappadocia

The region's volcanic landscape provides challenging and enticing routes for cycling enthusiasts. Guided tours in Cappadocia offer a good taste of remote, wilderness biking and a selection of Türkiye's very best single-track MTB and gravel biking routes led by expert local riders. Görkündere Valley, Swords Valley, Love Valley, Rose and Red Valleys, as well as Gomeda and Üzengi valleys are among the locations that make Cappadocia the pinnacle of off-the-beatenpath biking escapades.

### **UNDERGROUND**

### Embark on a subterranean world

Delve into Cappadocia's architectural history by exploring its multilevel underground cities. Among these subterranean wonders, the two largest, **Derinkuyu** and **Kaymaklı**, offer a glimpse into the ingenuity of Cappadocia's residents of yore. These two marvels reveal extensive labyrinths of passages and chambers, once

housing many thousands seeking refuge and survival in times of conflict.

### Escape to luxurious cave retreats

In Ürgüp and Göreme, you can stay in the ancient abodes restored today as opulent boutique hotels. These transformed dwellings offer lavish cave suites and panoramic terraces with infinity pools, perfect for watching the daily dance of hot air balloons rising at sunrise.



### How to get to Cappadocia

A 90-min direct flight from İstanbul lands you in Nevşehir or Kayseri, gateways to the vast Cappadocia region. From the airport, a 40- to 60-min car ride will take you to your hotel.



SABAH INTERNATIONAL BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE 2024

SYNERGY, INNOVATION AND BLUE ECONOMY CONVERSATION

**2-4 SEPTEMBER 2024** 



SABAH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (SICC), KOTA KINABALU, SABAH

**Sabah** is at the forefront of advancing economic sustainability through a visionary approach known as the **Blue Economy**, which focuses on maximising the potential of its marine and aquatic resources. This strategic framework is designed not only to foster economic growth but also to uphold environmental conservation and promote social inclusivity throughout the state.



Scheduled from **September 2nd to 4th** at the prestigious Sabah International Convention Centre in Kota Kinabalu, this event will gather experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss and shape the future of sustainable development in Sabah.



Discover the forefront of sustainable blue innovation at the **Sabah International Blue Economy Conference (SIBEC) 2024,** featuring ground-breaking discussions, visionary leaders, and transformative strategies shaping the future of our oceans and rivers economies.

Sabah Maju Jaya Secretariat welcomes everyone to take part in SIBEC 2024. There will be interesting topics to be discussed as well as Countries Benchmarking Session by Ambassadors/High Commissioners of respective countries, pavilion exhibition, networking luncheon and parallel session.

The registration of SIBEC 2024 can be accessed via the QR Code. For further information, visit our official website at https://blueeconomy.sabah.gov.my/sibec2024. Book your spot now for SIBEC 2024 before it's too late! We hope to see you there.

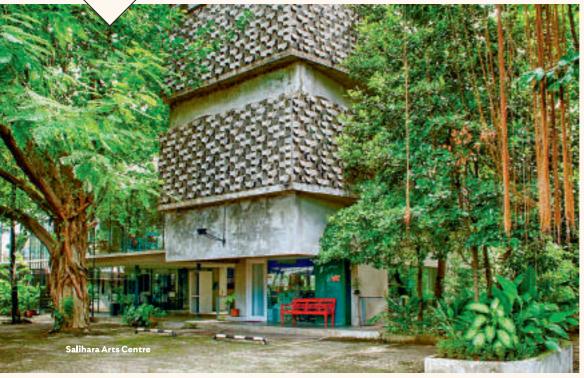


## ELEVATE

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









66

Salihara Arts Centre is a space for showcasing contemporary art and exchanging ideas "

#### Global and contemporary

After letting go of artworks by Indonesian and European masters during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, Indonesian businessman and avid collector Haryanto Adikoesoemo, rebuilt his collection, this time with an eye on contemporary art. Many of these form the permanent collection at Museum MACAN, which he founded in 2017, and which has since become one of the city's premier exhibition halls for modern and contemporary art from Indonesia, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The museum has so far displayed works by Jeff Koons, Robert Rauschenberg, Gerhard Richter, Yayoi Kusama, Park Seo-Bo and many others. A recent large-scale group exhibition called Voices Against Reason featured 24 artists across Asia Pacific. museummacan.org

#### Edgy and thoughtprovoking

Although **ROH** opened in 2014, it moved to its current home in the heart of the city in 2022. The new location, in a colonial-era, mid-century house along Jalan Surabaya, makes the gallery three attractions in one - it's near a vintage market and an atmospheric enclave of similar storied mansions from a bygone era, perfect for an evening stroll back in time.

ROH has consistently promoted Indonesian art and culture by introducing thought-provoking works, both in its Jakarta space and in big art events such as Switzerland's Art Basel, to the local public. In June this year, the gallery staged Ziggurat, a solo exhibit of works by Bandung-born Agus Suwage, one of the country's most acclaimed contemporary artists. rohprojects.net

#### Art in action

There's more to the Salihara Arts Centre in South Jakarta than its modular black-box Teater Salihara. Founded by a group of artists, journalists and intellectuals, and previously known as Komunitas Utan Kayu, this arts hub functions as an educational facility where many established masters mentor young and up-and-coming talent. It's also a space for showcasing contemporary art and exchanging ideas.

Located in South Jakarta, Salihara features a range of facilities – including a rehearsal studio, guesthouse and amphitheatre - that allows it to host public performances, from theatre plays and dance showcases to art exhibitions. Every two years, the venue hosts the Salihara International Performing Arts Festival and the Literature and Ideas Festival. salihara.org



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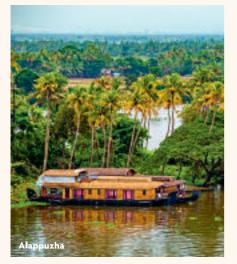




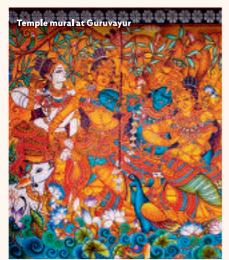


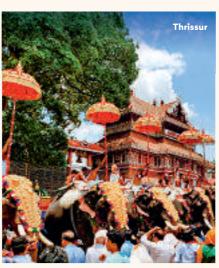














### Country stars

Drive out of Kochi for Kerala's greatest hits BY PUNITA MALHOTRA

#### It's easy to spend the entire weekend in

Kochi, the Indian port city along the Malabar Coast that was once a hub of trade and cultural exchange, where spices, silk and gold flowed in abundance. Across the centuries and through various name changes, merchants and explorers, along with colonial troops, have left their mark on the city in storied winding lanes and old forts, in churches and synagogues, and in Chinese fishing nets and bustling spice markets.

But Kochi, now a rapidly growing IT and arts centre, is also considered the gateway to India's southern state of Kerala, best known for pristine tropical landscapes - palm-fringed backwaters, forest-draped hills, wide beaches and pilgrimage sites. Here are three easy road trips you can take from Kochi for a glimpse of the stunning Keralan countryside.

#### Alappuzha's blissful **backwaters**

② About 1.5 hours by car

Picture a maze of tranquil backwaters, where a system of canals is lined with swaying coconut groves, rustic villages and vibrant paddy fields. The idyll of rural Kerala unfolds here, with traditional wooden boats gliding past, fishermen casting their nets and locals doing their daily chores.

**Insider tip** Book an early morning houseboat cruise to witness a spectacular sunrise over the backwaters. Dig into an authentic Kerala meal including fish curry, avial (mixed vegetable curry) and payasam (sweet rice pudding flavoured with cardamom and garnished with nuts) served on a banana leaf.

### Nature's roar at **Athirappilly Falls O** About 2 hours

by car

As the Chalakudy River cascades from a 24m height, the roaring sound and misty spray create a mesmerising spectacle. Kerala's largest waterfall is often compared to the mighty Niagara. The surrounding Sholayar Forest is a biodiversity hotspot,

home to native flora and fauna, including endangered species like the Great Hornbill. Hiking trails lead to stunning viewpoints overlooking the falls and verdant wilderness.

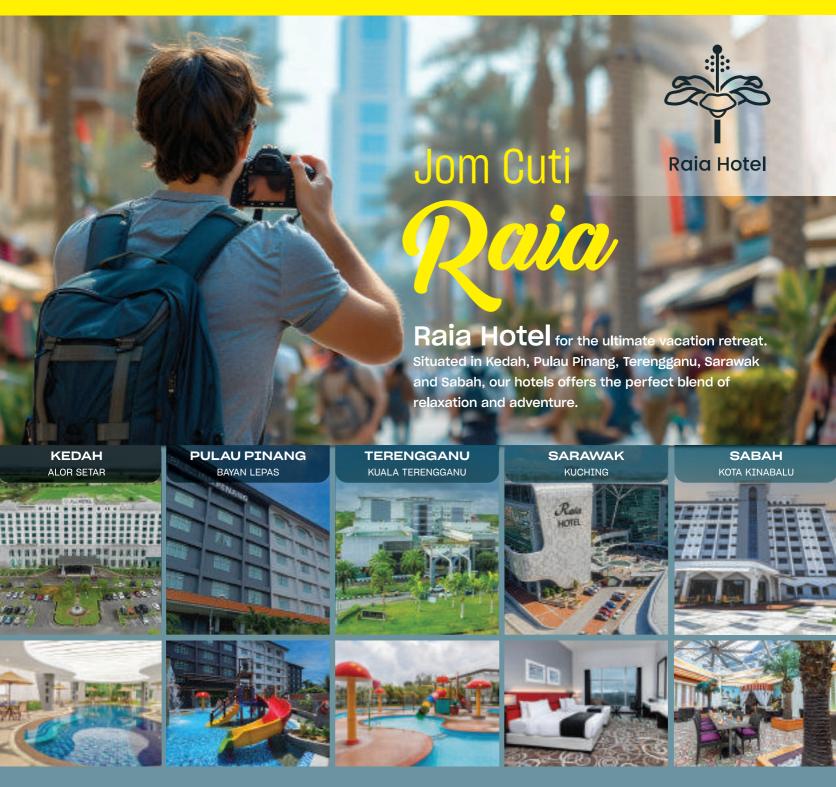
**Insider tip** Visit during the monsoon season (June to September) when the falls are at their most powerful. Adventure seekers will love the trek to the base of the falls.

### Spiritual encounters in Guruvayur and **Thrissur**

① About 2.5 hours by car

Guruvavur, home to one of India's most revered Krishna temples, attracts pilgrims from far and wide. The temple's serene ambience and intricate architecture showcases the region's profoundly religious roots. Nearby, Thrissur, known as the cultural capital of Kerala, houses the grand Vadakkunnathan Temple, adorned with ancient murals.

Insider tip Plan your visit during a temple festival like Guruvayur Ekadasi (around November to December) or Thrissur Pooram (around April to May) to experience ancient traditions and festivities. Morning is the best time to partake in temple rituals and avoid the crowds.



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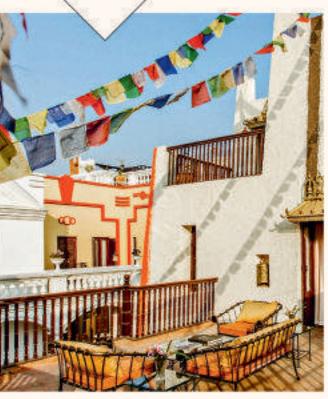


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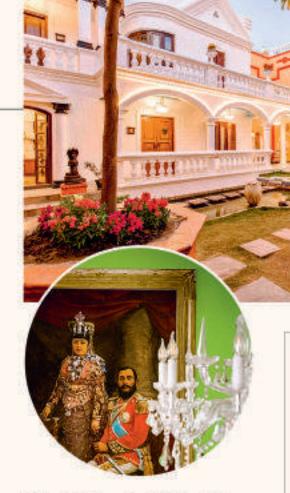
### The royal treatment

A storied boutique property in Kathmandu offers a refined take on local life BY RACHELLEES

Anyone who's walked the streets of

Nepal's capital will tell you it's a visual feast, an epic kaleidoscope of humanity. By contrast, stepping into Baber Mahal Vilas is like entering another world, an oasis of calm that offers an instant introduction to Nepal's history. The 33-room boutique hotel feels, at least in terms of design, like a microcosm of Nepali communities.

For more than a century, the Ranas were the de facto rulers of Nepal. Arguably the most successful among them was Maharaja Chandra Shumsher, the country's longest-ruling prime minister, who served for 28 years until



his death. In the early 1900s, he built Baber Mahal durbar (palace) for one of his sons.

By the mid-1990s, its crumbling main building housed government offices, and Shumsher's descendants had transformed the palace stables and guard house into Baber Mahal Revisited, an elegant labyrinth of fine restaurants and boutiques stocking Nepali brands. Its centrepiece, in the main courtyard, is a scaled-down reconstruction of the original palace façade. The hotel was added in 1997.

Built predominantly in the Neoclassical Rana Durbar style, the hotel delivers an unexpectedly delightful mishmash of design references. Highlights of its main courtyard alone include Tibetan prayer flags, Nepali stone goddesses and caryatids - stone columns carved in the shape of female

Meanwhile, its room categories nod to distinct Nepali designs. Traditional rooms feature hand-carved wood that is a hallmark of the Newar, the historical inhabitants of Kathmandu Valley. In the Mustang section of the property, Buddhist symbols such as tigers appear in artworks and on cabinets, while the distinctive, brightly coloured florals that feature in Terai traditional dress are splashed across cushion covers and beds in the suites. babermahalvilas.com

### lust beyond border...

Five kilometres southeast of Kathmandu, across the murky Bagmati River, the ancient kingdom of Patan is renowned for its metal crafts but most travellers come to see the exquisite palaces and temples of World Heritage-listed Patan Durbar Square.

A two-minute stroll from the square, Traditional Stay's red-brick façade and shuttered windows are inspired by Newar houses from the Rana and Shah periods. The hotel's 16 airconditioned rooms are small but modern. with furniture crafted by local artisans and bed linens hand-sewn by Kiran Namaste. a foundation supporting single mothers and street children. traditionalstay.com



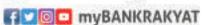




















FOOD AND DRINK

### To dine for

Four crowd favourites spice up Bangkok's sizzling restaurant SCENE BY PARISA PICHITMARN

#### It's hard to argue with the Thai capital's

reputation as the top dining destination in Asia. Fine dining restaurants? Check. Local cuisine? Iconic. Street food? Legendary. Hot on the heels of the recently unveiled World's 50 Best Restaurant list, where Bangkok logs the highest number of entries - tied at the top with Paris - we offer our alternative list of buzz-worthy dining experiences.

#### The flavours of home, with a twist

American-Thai chef Dylan Eitharong, the force behind supper club HAAWM, has always eschewed the idea of cliquish restaurant lists. Not that he needs it - his casual chef's table. where he serves authentic Thai cuisine with fiery flavours, has been the talk of Bangkok ever since it launched during the pandemic.

Enjoy homestyle Thai dishes like fish innards curry in a cool setting - located in the residential area of On Nut, just outside the city centre, the restaurant features a dining room with two six-seater tables, purple neon lighting. a retro magenta floral tablecloth and a Green Day playlist. instagram.com/ haawmbkk





# ELEVATE

#### spearheaded over 100 F&B establishments, pulls out all the stops for this latest venture, hauling snap-worthy art from India to spruce up Tapori. Everything looks divine, from appetisers like the Sindhi brunch masterpiece dal pakwan (lentils with crispy flatbread) and the restaurant's peacock mirror mosaic to a 200-year-old wooden door from Rajasthan. taporibkk.com

### The royal treatment

Fancy a bit of flash? At KHAAN, chef Sujira "Aom" Pongmorn, who received the inaugural Michelin Guide Young Chef Award in 2021, serves innovative Thai food that showcases complex dry-ageing and fermentation techniques. Across the 11-course tasting menu, Chef Aom interprets Thai royal cuisine and the country's street food favourites in fresh ways - think galangal soup that replaces chicken with a fat, creamy oyster, or lamb shank with Bumbai curry the way King Rama V liked it. Set in a refurbished house in Soi Somkid, KHAAN features ruby-red velvet chairs that give the otherwise elegant and understated interiors a welcome pop of colour. khaanbkk.com

#### Sake and spice

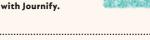
There's no shortage of Indian restaurants in Bangkok, but

one-Michelin star restaurant Inddee, set in a century-old white house surrounded by mango trees on Lang Suan Road, sets itself apart for a remarkably creative seven-course tasting menu. Chef Sachin Poojary brings his decades-long stint at an upscale Japanese restaurant to the table, lending nuance to obscure delicacies from far-flung corners of India. Coal-kissed scallop tartare from Kerala, anyone? You'd also be hard-pressed to find another Indian restaurant in the city that offers food

pairings with sake and umeshu, both of which pleasantly complement the spices. *inddeebkk.com* 

#### A passage to India

At **Tapori** in Sukhumvit, there are no generic Indian dishes like butter chicken; instead, you'll find lesser-known fare like kheema ahotala (minced lamb with egg and the world's most buttery bun) from Maharashtra in western India and other delicacies from across India's 28 states. Owner-chef Rohit Sharma, who has



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exciting things

to do in Bangkok

lan Eitharong of HAAWM



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#### Room for dessert?

At Bangkok's **Oyatsu no Jikan**, upscale dessert shop Azuki to Kouri's first branch outside Japan, a favourite summertime treat called *kakigōri* (light and fluffy shaved ice dessert) is made like fine art. The purveyor of sweet, dreamy, icy concoctions by chef Hiroyasu Kawate – of two-Michelin star restaurant Florilege in Tokyo's Azabudai Hills – is

renowned for their savoury kakigori flavours. Think flakey, featherlight sheets of ice topped with a heavenly Camembert cheese cream, chickpea compote and crunchy potato chips. The menu changes regularly and features seasonal ingredients. Bookings are required. oyatsubk.com







#### Fitzroy Swimming Pool

This beloved community spot – with its nostalgic palette of pastel blue and mustard yellow – oozes retro charm as swimmers and leisure-seekers take a dip in the cool, inviting waters of an Olympic-sized pool. Leafy trees surround the pool, providing shade as people dive in or hop out on a sun-soaked day. *leisure.* yarracity.vic.gov.au

#### 2 Archie's All Day

Textured cream walls and honey-hued tabletops create a bright and airy vibe to this upscale, all-day diner on Gertrude Street. Here, no one bats an eyelid if you order the grass-fed Juicy Lucy cheeseburger with ice-cold handcrafted soda for breakfast, or if you swap dinner fare for smashed avocado toast and a cup of single origin filtered coffee. *archiesallday.com* 

#### 3 Nico's Sandwich Deli

Fresh ingredients and inventive combinations make this walk-up artisanal sandwich deli a standout. Regulars rave about the tuna melt and Cubano sandwiches, but the vegetarian roasted veggie delight is equally enticing, packed with crisp greens and tons of flavour. As seating is limited, expect to grab and go during peak times. *nicos. melbourne* 



#### 4 Street art

Stroll along laneways like Rose Street to admire an ever-evolving outdoor gallery of street art. Large murals are also peppered throughout the area, including "Fitzroy Faces", seven detailed portraits of local residents on Cecil Street, and the monochromatic "Welcome to Sunny Fitzroy" mural by the Everfresh street art crew on the side of The Night Cat live music venue. Don't miss the late pop artist Keith Haring's mural on Johnston Street in the nearby Collingwood neighbourhood. localingtours.com

#### **5** Industry Beans

This roastery, brew bar and café, started in 2013 by brothers Steve and Trevor Simmons, quickly gained fame and expanded to seven venues across Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney. Their



Fitzroy location remains a neighbourhood staple; they celebrated 10 years of coffee purveying last year by relocating to Westgarth Street, just one street away from its original spot. *industrybeans.com* 

#### **6** Moon Bakery

Opened by the same team behind the wildly popular Lune Croissanterie, light and airy crullers – rings of deep-fried pastry – are expertly crafted with a perfect balance of crispiness, a light vanilla glaze and a melt-in-your-mouth interior. Flavours like classic cinnamon sugar and seasonal varieties (known as wildcards) keep locals and visitors hooked. mooncruller.com

#### Rose Street Market

Held every weekend, Rose Street Market features handmade artisan goods ranging from ceramic pots, paintings, quirky enamel pins to handcrafted jewellery. Despite its small size, the market is packed with plenty of vendor booths to keep you browsing for hours while enjoying live music and its vibrant community spirit. rosestmarket.com.au

#### 8 Vintage shopping

Start at Brunswick Street, home to standout shops like Lost and Found Market, a sprawling warehouse space filled with retro clothing, vinyl records and quirky homeware. Nearby, Vintage Garage and Hunter Gatherer offer curated collections of apparel and collectibles from past decades. Iostandfoundmarket. com.au; vintagegarage. com.au; instagram.com/huntergatherer\_stores



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# Sandakan

Words Nova Renata Photography Tracia Goh

#### Sandakan is Sabah state's

second-largest city and administrative centre of the Sandakan Division. It once served as the capital of British North Borneo from 1884–1946. The now-bustling city was also the site of a World War II Japanese airfield, which was built in the early 1940s.

Sandakan is renowned as the gateway for unique eco-tourism destinations, namely the Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary, the Turtle Islands Park, Sukau Proboscis Lodge and the archaeological Gomantong Caves, the largest limestone outcrop in Lower Kinabatangan and home to many endemic species of bats and swiftlets. While 24 hours is too short a time to soak up all that Sandakan has to offer, here are some must-dos and must-visits in its city centre.



Saturday

### ① 6am

### Fuel up with a Sandakan breakfast

Known to some as "Little Hong Kong", locals believe that Sandakan's lifestyle and overall vibes are identical to that of olden-day Hong Kong. Start your morning right with a strong cup of kopi nai (Sandakan's version of a latte) and local cakes – the most popular being the iconic UFO tart. This tart features a crumbly butter crust, a rich and creamy custard filling and a light and fluffy meringue topping. If you fancy something more than pastries for breakfast, the handmade fish noodles at **Kedai Makan Kong Teck** is a must-try. Jalan Pak Tak

### **7am**

### Explore art on the street

When you've had your fill of breakfast, you can now begin your exploration of Sandakan city.

As with Kota Kinabalu and other parts of Malaysia, the Sandakan art scene has begun to blossom. Exploring on foot, you will encounter stretches of beautiful murals and street art covering the buildings around town, which also make for a beautiful, photogenic background. The newly minted **Sandakan Creative**Lane is one of the latest artsy spots in Sandakan that is reminiscent of Penang's Armenian Street. Jalan Perkhidmatan

### **Ø8am**

### A stroll with a side of history

The Sandakan Memorial Park sits on the former site of the Sandakan Camp. The park is dedicated to the camp's prisoners of war who perished during the Sandakan-Ranau Death March during World War II.

Today, this memorial park serves as the venue for the annual Anzac Day and Sandakan Memorial Day when fallen heroes are honoured with a solemn









# North Borneo

Between 1884-1946, Sandakan was the capital of Sabah (known as North Borneo then)

# **Orangutans**

That are orphaned or injured are cared for at the Sepillok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre before being released

# **Agnes Keith** House

A historic home and museum named after an American writer who chronicled her life here during World War II











ceremony. The park is open to the public to learn more about Sandakan's precolonial history. Jalan Labuk

# @9am

# Journey along the Sandakan Heritage Trail

After a visit to the Sandakan Memorial Park, it's time to get to know this historical city better by way of the Sandakan Heritage Trail, a pre-ordered walk connecting several historical sites in the city.

The Sandakan Heritage Trail begins at the over 100-year-old Masjid Jamik, to the William B. Pryer Monument and up a colourful 100-step stairway that leads to a breathtaking bird's eye view of Sandakan town and bay. This trail also covers major historical sites of Sandakan such as the Agnes Keith House, the St. Michael's and All Angels Church, the Sam Sing Kung (Three Saints) Temple and the Goddess of Mercy Temple. Jalan Tiga, Third Avenue

# ① 11am

# Break for coffee

San Da Gen Kopitiam has probably been covered exhaustively by Sandakan foodies and travel bloggers visiting for the first time, and for good reason. Some of their bestsellers are the durian and salted egg custards and signature nasi lemak. Come for the mouthwatering fusion delicacies, stay for the unique old-world ambience typical of Sandakan

kopitiams. Lebuh Dua

# **12pm**

# **Encounter Bornean wildlife**

A visit to Sandakan won't be complete without a visit to the **Rainforest Discovery Centre (RDC)**, approximately a 40-minute drive away from the Sandakan city centre

Regarded as one of the best environmental education centres in Sabah, RDC is located within the Kabili-Sepilok Forest Reserve. The RDC lets visitors experience nature up close while educating them on the importance of rainforest conservation. You may spot wildlife such as civets, slow lorises, flying squirrels, tarsiers, various birds, mouse deer and even orangutans here. Just a stone's throw away is the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Sanctuary (look out for the 3pm viewing session at the feeding platform) and the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre (BSBCC). Jalan Fabia

# **7pm**

# Seafood feast at Buli Sim Sim Water Village

Don't leave Sandakan without having a seafood meal at this historic village known for its traditional stilt houses and waterfront views. Try **D72 Sim-Sim Seafood Restaurant** where dishes are mainly prepared in Cantonese style. Crowd favourites include sweet and sour grouper fish, steamed tiger prawns with garlic and stir-fried sayur manis or Sabah vegetable, a type of leafy greens that are native to the state. 72, Jalan Sim Sim

# **9pm**

# Supper and nightcap with a view

In Sandakan, **Ba Lin** is a must-go for social hour with a sweeping view of Sandakan Bay. This rooftop bar and restaurant is built above the now-defunct Nak Hotel, built in the 1960s. It reopened recently after a hiatus during the pandemic. Try their signature *Gula Melaka* (caramelised sugar) NZ Lamb Racks and the Valrhona Chocolate Lava Cake. *Jalan Pelabuhan Lama* 















# **INSIDER TIP** Sunday Sandakan's UFO tart is a popular souvenir to bring home. This light and buttery dessert is so popular that 5 May has been declared "UFO Tart Day" in the city. Visit Mee Ngar Bakery for some of the best tarts in town. Batu 8. Jalan Labuk

# **Ø** 8am

# Souvenir-hunting and thrift shopping in the city

Sandakan is full of thrift boutiques selling second-hand "bundle" items and **Empayar Bundle Sandakan** is a crowd favourite. If you're willing to spend a few hours browsing, you'll be surprised with the rare gems you'll stumble upon, from limited edition rock band t-shirts to vintage ceramic vases. The city also hosts the Sandakan Bundle Fest annually at Padang Bandaran Sandakan, where thrifters from all over Sabah gather for a three-day treasure hunt. The festival has historically been held on a weekend between late January till the end of February, so stop by if you're in town during this period. Jalan Persiaran Bakau



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Scan to discover & book tickets to the best things to do in Sandakan.

# Jungle escapes



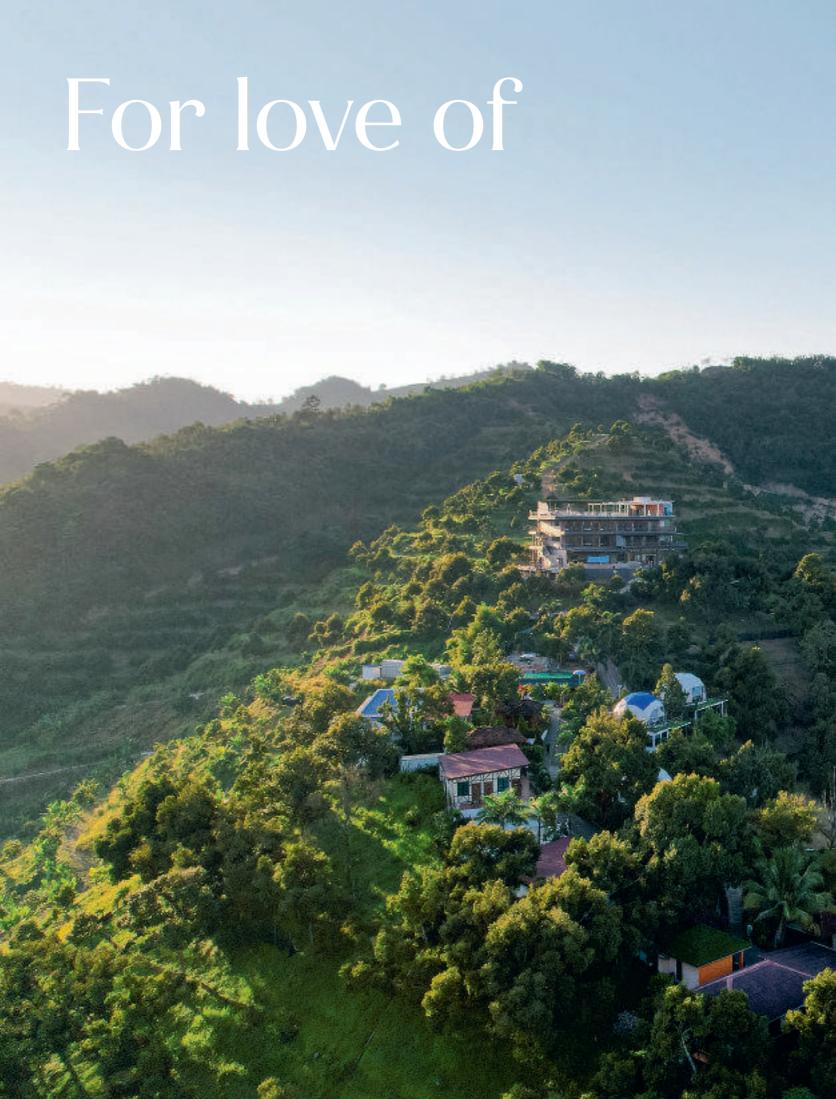
Sukau Rainforest Lodge Immerse yourself in an authentic rainforest dwelling experience, complete with local cultural exposure, in this former National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World. sukau.com

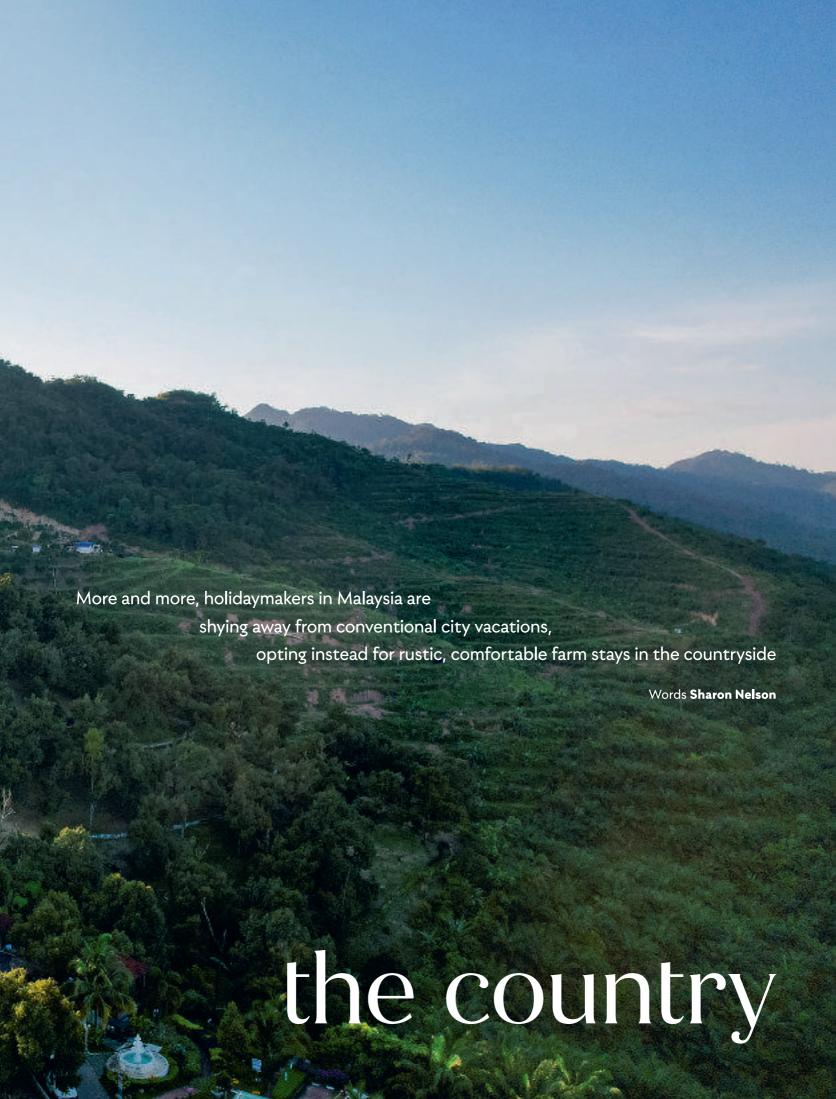


Sepilok Nature Lodge Experience tranquillity in newly-renovated chalets conveniently located in the Sepilok Jungle. Call for reservations +6089-673 999/674 999/675 999



Paganakan Dii **Tropical Retreat** Stay in budget-friendly wooden duplexes and traditional longhouses. Perfect for experiencing local community living. paganakandii.com







and glamping homestay in Klebang, northwest of Melaka's city centre. Christine Koh, the plantation's director, is telling me a story about two of her children. "They love racing their remote-controlled boats here," she says. "They run around the canals following their boats and laughing." That full-throated joy is a welcome reminder of how the simplest things in life give us our best memories, in the simplest of settings.

The plantation is owned by Christine's parents, former chartered accountant Owen Koh and his wife. The Coco Journey began with Koh acquiring 10ha of farmland in the area where he was born and raised. He plantation, The Coco Journey came to life.

Here, homestay guests and visitors like myself are surrounded by greenery, fresh air and activities that lend well to life in the country. For agriculture enthusiasts, there is a guided farm tour to learn about coconuts and other fruits grown on the plantation, such as avocados, pineapples and passion fruit; for group bonding time, there is kite-flying, cycling and paddling around the plantation in a rubber kayak.

The latter is a whimsical activity that came about by serendipitous accident. The plantation land, previously a rice field, was waterlogged. After hours of research, Christine found a solution by creating canals in the plantation to divert the water. The trees are planted on the land ridges in between. When coconuts are cut down, the water ensures a soft landing. The canals are also used as a transport channel: coconuts from far ends of the plantation float to the

a coconut plantation







### Previous spread:

Bilut Hills, a durian farm and resort stay in Raub, Pahang

Clockwise from top left: The main building at Talula Hill Farm Resort; glamping domes at The Coco Journey; interior of a room at Talula Hill Farm Resort

collection point – the same waterways where toy boats race.

Naturally, there is ready access to sweet and fresh coconut water for all. Coconuts are cut down upon request and guests can then use a mechanical device to punch a hole in the nut. I take a long, nourishing draught, and my body and soul feel rejuvenated. As I observe the leisure activities on the plantation with my freshly harvested coconut, I find myself pondering how travel patterns have shifted - for decades, travellers in and to Malaysia have enjoyed beaches, tranquil hill stations and storied heritage sites. Now, it seems that more holidaymakers seek vacations in green surroundings. From fruit-prolific states like Johor and Pahang, and coffee plantations in Sarawak to flower gardens like Flora Park and dairy farms in Sabah, agricultural producers have seen an uptick in interest from visitors keen to immerse in farm life. As a result, agrotourism stays like The Coco Journey, with all the comforts of city living in rural serenity, have grown in popularity across the nation.

But why has travel deviated from the usual crammed itineraries and city hotel accommodation? "It was the pandemic," answers Christine. Not long ago, we were grappling with the "new normal" brought on by Covid-19. As we adapted to spending more time at home, the world turned to the internet not just for news and updates, but to stay connected with the latest trends. Among a flood of viral baking videos and crocheting tips, balcony and backyard gardens emerged as much-needed oases and provided lessons in wellness and balance. Post-Covid-19, it's unclear how many of those balcony gardens are still thriving, but the idea of slowing

down and connecting with nature seems to have taken root.

"The movement control order (MCO) confined us within concrete walls," Christine adds. "But we also had the attraction of a slower-paced life – that is what we now look for on holidays."

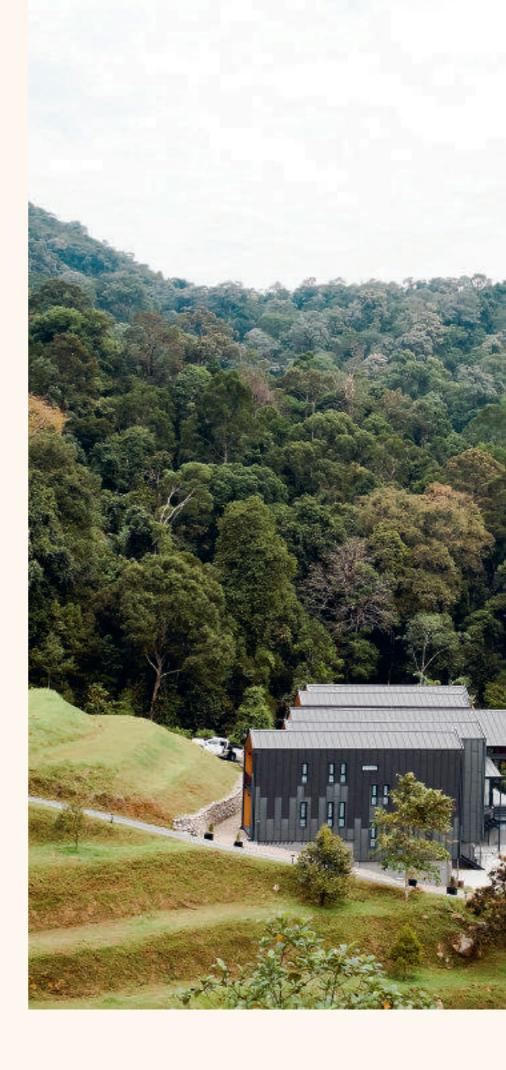
Just a 20-minute drive from Melaka's city centre, The Coco Journey is perfect for city denizens yearning for a dose of farm life without having to venture too far from home or give up too many creature comforts. Celestial-themed rooms, a jacuzzi and a swing bed evokes imagination and attention to every detail, while the villa is perfect for enjoying outdoor views. Glamping accommodation consists of arch-shaped tents and transparent, igloo-shaped sanctuaries called eco domes. Both are equipped with sofa-beds, airconditioning and Wi-Fi. Each unit has its own barbecue pit, private bathroom and toilet. In the eco domes, these are en suite.

"It is so relaxed and calm here. We wanted families to come and enjoy all of this," says Christine, gesturing to the lush plantation with sunlit palm trees, their fronds gracefully dancing in the breeze.

# TUNING INTO A SLOWER-PACED LIFE has

made me more conscious about sustainability too. I suspect that I'm not alone in wanting to adjust how I live and travel, and if everyone else is exploring ways to reduce their carbon footprint, then agrotourism destinations can teach us a lot about being more ecoconscious. Further south of Kuala Lumpur and approximately one hour from Johor Bahru by car, is Talula Hill Farm Resort in Kluang, Johor, nestled in a terraced valley at the foot of Gunung Lambak. This luxe farm stay is owned by Singaporean interior designer Lynn Tan. Talula Hill has 15 cabins offering Wi-Fi, room service and air-conditioning. Tan's interior design background is evident - the aesthetic of the farm is bright, clear and tinged with local flair, thanks to its generous use of rattan and wood. An avid gardener, Tan also bought the land for her retirement but soon realised that it could accommodate a hospitality venture.

The main philosophy at Talula Hill is to be self-sustaining, says manager Eunise Him, which explains the farm's focus on its kitchen garden concept. Guests will find a mouthwatering array of fresh vegetables and herbs, including pumpkin, French beans, curly kale, carrots, dill, rosemary and tarragon. This yield is at the heart of the nutritious





66

For decades, travellers in and to Malaysia have enjoyed beaches, hill stations and storied heritage sites. [Now, more and more] seek vacations in green surroundings"

This spread:
The main
accommodation
buildings at Talula
Hill Farm Resort;
claw foot bathtub in
the villa at The Coco
Journey; Talula Hill
Farm Resort staff

harvest greens grown on-site









# This page:

Distant view of Bilut Hills' orchard, glass chalets and glamping dome suites

# Opposite page:

A hearty spread at the resort café; fresh harvest from the kitchen garden; ducks perch on a fence, all at Talula Hill Farm Resort

meals served at its large, airy resort café. Their dedicated refreshment stand serves fresh juices made from the farm's produce. The star of the show is the dragon fruit soda, a revitalising, thirst-quenching drink after a long walk in nature.

There is plenty to do here, including daily farm tours and craft-making classes. The resort also keeps plants at different stages of growth, and guests can take part in any stage from planting to harvesting. Animal lovers can rejoice knowing that the farm is a forever home to goats, chickens, ducks, guinea fowl and turkeys. Naturally, feeding them is a hugely popular activity. Each animal has a name and the in-house guides are happy

to describe their distinct personalities.

For some quiet time, bring along your fishing rod and try your luck at the well-populated pond. If you are a keen swimmer, there is a chlorine-free pool filled with spring water diverted from Gunung Lambak. The farm is designed so that guests of any age can sample a comfortable, sustainable lifestyle. "Parents nowadays are very conscious about this," says Him. "There is also more awareness of the link between mental health and a connection to green spaces and nature."

# IT'S THE END OF JUNE, BUT THE SEASON

is just starting for one of Malaysia's most beloved agricultural treasures: durian. I make my way to Raub, Pahang, just over an hour's drive along the Karak highway out of Kuala Lumpur, to visit Bilut Hills, a durian orchard and farm stay.

Ten years ago, engineering colleagues Wee Mun Tong and Lee Chai Thiam, went looking for land in the Malaysian countryside. "We were both in the construction sector," says Wee. The endless piling of concrete on concrete eventually started taking its toll.

They soon identified 3.64ha in Raub, well known for being a durian district. It was initially a green getaway to host durian

# A brew with a view

Probably one of the oldest Malaysian agrotourism examples, the iconic Boh Tea plantation in Cameron Highlands, has been attracting visitors for decades. In between huge spectacular swathes of sloping green are perfectly manicured rows of tea bushes. With basket on back, pickers trawl through, looking for leaves that are ready to be harvested. It's highly recommended that travellers factor in some time to visit the Sungei Palas Tea Garden and the café, where they can sample a range of fine teas and confectionery.

bohtea.com



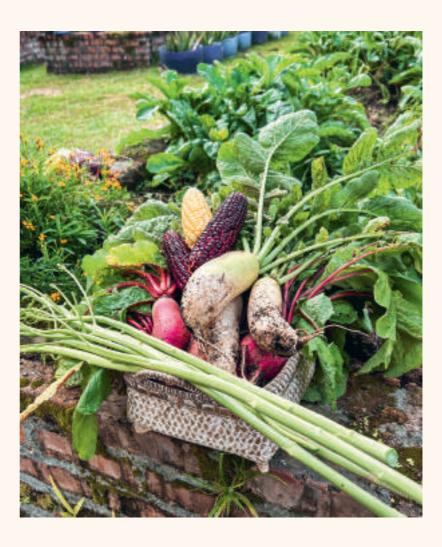
IMAGE: RAZLAN YUSOF (BOH TEA)





parties for family and friends. Soon after the land acquisition, durian prices shot up at least five-fold and Lee identified a business opportunity: to provide a space where, surrounded by durian trees, paying guests could feast on the fruits together.

After some social media marketing, bookings soared. They have since added more accommodation, a pool and an enclosure where guests can feed rabbits. At the foot of the hill is the Bilut Extreme Park offering horse riding, ATV riding, ziplining and archery, activities popular with companies looking for team-building exercises.



The Extreme Park exemplifies the positioning of Bilut Hills - a comfortable agrotourism resort with the vibrancy of city living. "Enjoying a rural setting does not come easily to everyone," says Wee. Still, the resort is full nearly every weekend, and during durian season, there are guests nearly every day. Walking around, one can't help but notice that music is everywhere. There are currently four operational karaoke rooms, with more being added. In the evenings, a live band plays at the café. "I am a music lover," declares Wee. And in this moment, if he were seated at the resort, surrounded by family and friends, what song would be playing in his head?

With no hesitation, Wee answers: "How Deep Is Your Love?" adding, "I don't just mean romantic love. It's love for your family, your friends. It's also love for your country."



Malaysia Airlines flies from Kuala Lumpur to 15 domestic and 40 international destinations.



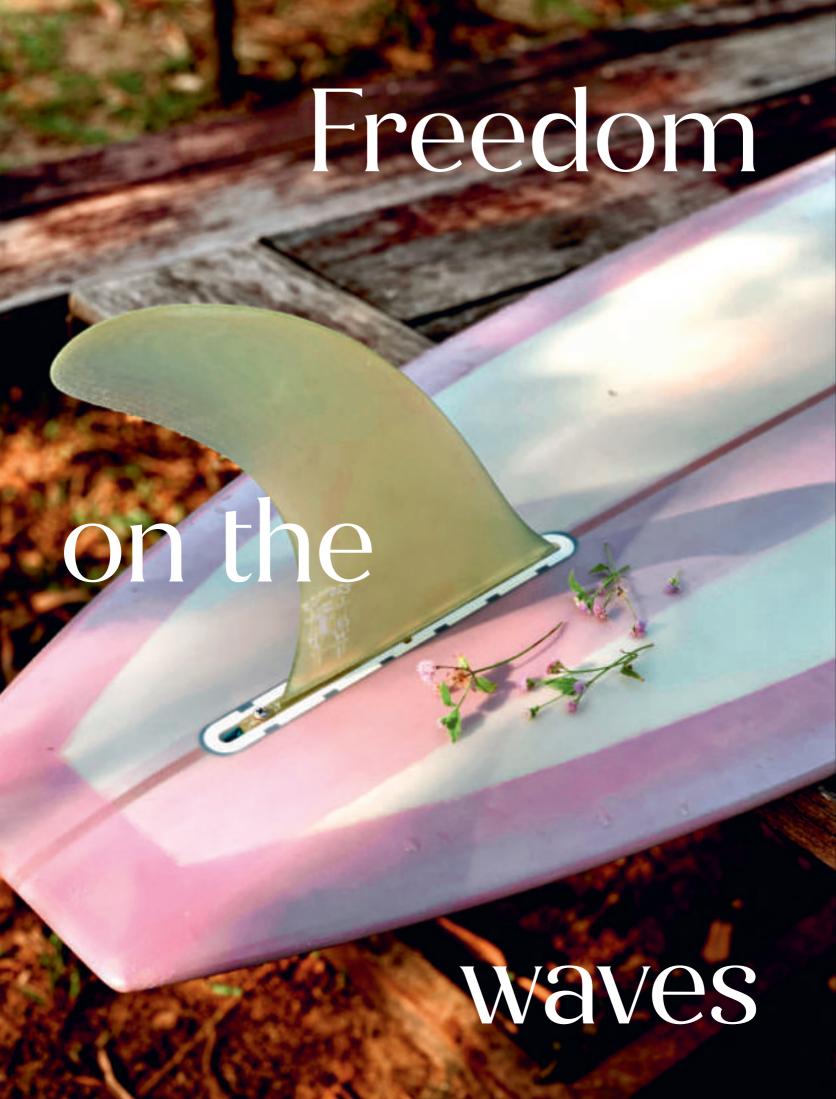
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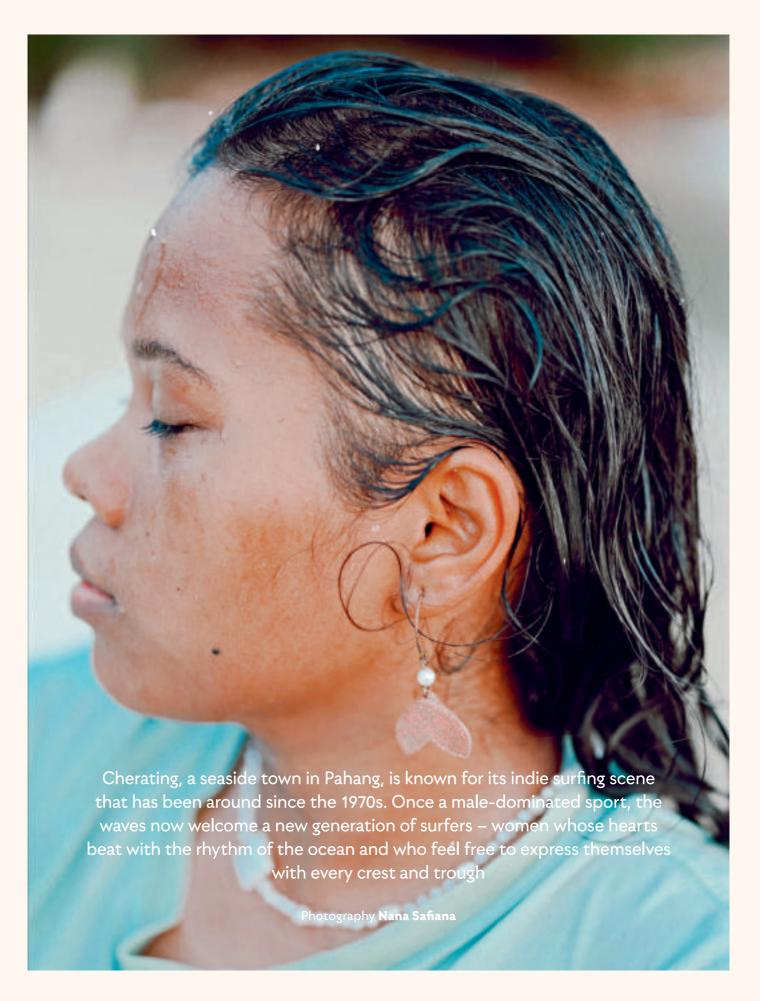
**Directory** 

The Coco Journey thecocojourney.com

Talula Hill Farm Resort talulahill.com

Bilut Hills biluthills.com





# Grace and grit (Previous spread) Single-fin longboards offer stability and speed; Noris Kasmaliza, surfer and head chef at Ombok Cherating Surf Café, embraces the sea and sand-swept life

Swell time
(This spread) A woman surfer finds her groove along the gentle rhythm of Cherating's waves. For bigger waves, the best time to visit is in December, peak in December, peak monsoon season

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Ink, the world's leading travel media agency (and publishers of the magazine you're holding right now!) are conducting a global survey to learn more about today's travellers.

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Go to www.ink-global.com/travelsurvey2024 to enter the quick and easy survey - and be in with a chance to win some great prizes.

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# THIS IS MALAYSIAN HOSPITALITY



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. 58

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News and updates from MAG Airlines

68

Discover our network

See where MAG Airlines can take you, around the country and around the world 75

Onboard entertainment

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









Malaysia Airlines has always been passionate about enriching its brand and achieving commercial objectives through strategic sports partnerships. The airline collaborates with local and international partners to prioritise customer needs and leverage the unifying power of sports to bring communities together.

# **Promoting local sports**

Malaysia Airlines' long-standing collaborations with the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM), the Malaysian Football League (MFL) and Johor Darul Ta'zim F.C. (JDT) highlight its dedication to promoting local sports. These partnerships aim to inspire and unite Malaysians through a shared passion for football, fostering national pride and community spirit.

The airline's commitment is evident in events like the recent match between Malaysia and Chinese Taipei, where Malaysia triumphed 3-1. Malaysia Airlines actively contributes to the development of Malaysian football by enhancing the fan experience through

initiatives like creating a special "Fan Zone". These efforts go beyond brand visibility; they empower local athletes and cultivate a strong sporting culture that embodies the values of perseverance, teamwork and national pride synonymous with Malaysian sports.

As National Day on 31 August and Malaysia Day on 16 September approach, Malaysia Airlines' partnerships with FAM, MFL and JDT resonate deeply with the spirit of Merdeka, celebrating Malaysia's independence and national unity. By leveraging sports as a unifying force, Malaysia Airlines plays a crucial role in uplifting the nation and fostering a sense of belonging among Malaysians.

# Global reach with Manchester United

On a global scale, Malaysia Airlines' partnership with Manchester United represents a strategic move to grow its business. This collaboration allows the airline to tap into Manchester United's extensive fan base, expanding its reach and solidifying its position as a carrier of choice. Aligning with a globally recognised football club places Malaysia Airlines in front of a massive worldwide audience, significantly boosting brand recognition, especially in the UK and Europe.

The association with Manchester United enhances brand visibility and drives commercial success. This exposure is pivotal in reinforcing Malaysia Airlines' presence in key markets, ensuring the airline remains top-of-mind for travellers.

# Commitment to unity and excellence

Through strategic sports partnerships, Malaysia Airlines remains dedicated to bringing people together. Its involvement in sports not only elevates the brand but also strengthens commercial goals.

By championing sports, Malaysia Airlines embodies the spirit of unity and excellence, creating a brighter future for all and celebrating the national pride that defines Malaysia.

# **Journey in** style with Malaysia Airlines' awardwinning A330neo

Join us on an adventure aboard Malaysia Airlines' soon-to-be unveiled A330neo. winner of the "Cabin Concept of the Year" Bronze Award presented by Onboard Hospitality Awards. Discover unparalleled comfort, cutting-edge technology and the essence of Malaysian Hospitality in this exceptional travel experience.

As you settle into your seat aboard the new Malaysia Airlines A330neo, you can't help but feel a wave of excitement wash over you in anticipation of experiencing this award-winning cabin design. A familiar songket motif, elegantly displayed on the cabin ceiling and seats, creates warmth and sophistication.



passengers can look forward to many improvements, such as the innovative Recaro CL3810 seats. Malaysia Airlines is the first airline in Southeast Asia to offer these state-of-the-art seats. Ergonomic design and layered foam cushions promise an extra comfortable journey. With the six-way adjustable headrest and the Comfort+ seat bottom, even a long flight seems less daunting.

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As the flight begins, the advanced technology on board will truly impress

you. In Business Class, the 17.3-inch 4K Rave Ultra IFE screen is a marvel, allowing for Bluetooth pairing and wireless charging. In Economy, the 13.3-inch screens are no less impressive, with 4K content and a dedicated kids mode for families

Mid-flight, take advantage of the self-service area in Business Class. Stocked with premium snacks and beverages, it's a delightful touch that elevates the dining experience. These snacks and beverages are in addition to on-demand food service (available on selected sectors), making it easy to satisfy your cravings during your journey.

The flight's environmental efficiency is another highlight. The conscious traveller will be reassured to know that the A330neo reduces fuel consumption and emissions by up to 25%. The lightweight yet robust composite construction of the Elevation seats is also a testament to the airline's green goals.

As you arrive at your destination, you reflect on the journey. Malaysia Airlines' A330neo has not only transported you comfortably but has also showcased a blend of modernity, practicality and the unique warmth of Malaysian Hospitality. This flight, with its exceptional features and thoughtful design, has set a new standard in air travel.





A familiar songket motif, elegantly displayed on the cabin ceiling and seats, creates warmth and sophistication"



# Malaysia **Airlines** increases daily flights to Amritsar for enhanced connectivity

Following the positive performance on the Amritsar-Kuala Lumpur route, Malaysia Airlines has increased its flight frequency from four to seven times weekly effective 1 August 2024. This decision follows the airline's earlier doubling of frequency to Amritsar from two to four times weekly in January 2024, signifying the confidence in this booming market. The increase in flight frequencies from Amritsar will elevate Malaysia Airlines' total weekly flights to India to 71. Amritsar, introduced in November 2023, joins Ahmedabad and Trivandrum as one of three new India routes introduced last year. The airline has also recently increased frequencies on the Trivandrum route to four times weekly since 3 April 2024. Malaysia Airlines boasts an extensive India network, offering flights from nine major hubs: New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Amritsar and Trivandrum. Serving as the gateway to Asia and beyond, the airline offers seamless onward connections to Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam and other key destinations in Asia Pacific.

# Firefly refreshes inflight dining experience and neighbour-free seat options

Firefly, a subsidiary of Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), is thrilled to announce exciting upgrades to its passenger experience. Enjoy a refreshed menu of prebooked meals and snacks available on all Firefly jet operation routes. The menu showcases an extensive selection of culinary delights, from beloved classics like nasi lemak and chicken rice, to exciting new additions such as ginger beef udon, nasi goreng chicken satay, Thai basil chicken, sweet and sour fish, vegetarian mapo tofu and mac and cheese (Junior Meal). Additionally, Firefly's Economy Class passengers can now opt for the Neighbour-Free Seat option, allowing them to reserve up to two adjacent empty seats for extra comfort during their flight on selected routes. Passengers will have the opportunity to bid on available seats in their cabin through a dedicated portal up to 72 hours before departure.





# Malaysia Airlines strengthens role as main sponsor of the Football Association of Malaysia

Malaysia Airlines Berhad (MAB) is pleased to announce the enhancement of its partnership with the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) and the national team, Harimau Malaya, as its main sponsor until December 2026. This strategic move aligns with MAB's commitment to nation building and sports excellence, with the aim to elevate local sports to the global stage. As the Official Main Partner and Official Airline Partner for the National Teams and FAM, Malaysia Airlines is dedicated to enhancing brand visibility, fostering customer loyalty through partnership activations and supporting national sports. Additionally, Malaysia Airlines will provide ongoing support for grassroots football development, promoting local talent on the international stage and nurturing national pride.





# MuzArt International and Enrich announce winners of the ART FLIES HIGH competition

MuzArt International and Enrich, the travel and lifestyle loyalty programme of Malaysia Airlines, revealed the winners of the "ART FLIES HIGH" competition, which invited children aged 4-12 from across Malaysia to showcase their creativity, and unveiled the top 50 designs at its launch event. These winning designs, featuring vibrant and imaginative artwork, were showcased in a collective doodle art mat. They introduced the Enrich x MuzArt Eco Colouring Mat - a special sustainable product that combines MuzArt's creativity with their commitment to the environment. It is available exclusively at temptations. malaysiaairlines.com for RM69 and Enrich members can earn 2 Enrich Points for every RM1 spent. Parents can easily bring these mats on flights, ensuring their children are engaged and entertained throughout their journey. The mats provide an excellent way for children to focus and express their creativity, turning travel time into a productive and fun experience.

# Qatar Airways Cargo and MASkargo sign MOU for joint cargo business operations

Qatar Airways Group and Malaysia Aviation Group have further expanded their long-standing relationship as **one**world partners by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Qatar Airways Cargo and MASkargo - the cargo airline and subsidiary of Malaysia Aviation Group – to deliver an enhanced product offering to cargo customers and help achieve operational synergies. With this strategic joint cargo business agreement, MASkargo customers will gain access to Qatar Airways Cargo's extensive global network, while Qatar Airways Cargo customers will benefit

from expanded access to the APAC market. Both airlines will utilise their respective hubs, Hamad International Airport (DOH) and Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL), to serve the combined network. This partnership is supported by Qatar Airways Cargo's new and expanded Cargo Terminal in Doha. Additionally, both airlines are aligned in their growth strategies: Qatar Airways Cargo has purchased 34 Boeing 777-8 freighters and has options for 16 more. Malaysian Airlines has obtained 20 new A330neo aircraft for passenger flights with a belly-hold capacity suitable for cargo purposes.









# A350-900 RIM MHconnect

No. of Aircraft 7 | Passenger Seating 286 Length 66.80m | Wingspan 64.75m | Height 17.05m Max. Cruising Speed 944km/h





No. of Aircraft 15 | Passenger Seating 290 Length 63.66m | Wingspan 60.30m | Height 16.79m Max. Cruising Speed 980km/h



## 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

# A330-200 SIM MHconnect

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

MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



## B737-8

No. of Aircraft 4 | 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











asi Lemak Saleha began its extraordinary journey in 2013 as a simple roadside stall in Kampung Pandan. With just a table and an umbrella, the family-run business offered an authentic nasi lemak recipe passed down from the family matriarch. This humble start quickly won the hearts of locals, propelling the business to new heights with the opening of restaurants in Ampang and Sri Rampai. Within a few years, Nasi Lemak Saleha expanded further, establishing 3 kiosks at Light Rapid Transit (LRT) stations and supplying their delicious nasi lemak to 40 petrol stations across the Klang Valley.

Today, Nasi Lemak Saleha is a shining example of success, producing between 8,000 and 10,000 packets of nasi lemak daily, using two tons of rice each week. With a dedicated team of 107 employees, the business efficiently meets the growing demand of its loyal customers. Despite the logistical challenges, the company remains committed to tradition, continuing to use banana leaves for packaging and demonstrating their remarkable ability to prepare up to 15,000 packets within an hour.

A unique and inspiring aspect of this family business is the unwavering dedication of Puan Saleha's children. In an extraordinary display of commitment, they left their professional careers to support and elevate the family business. Dr. Rizal Isa, in particular, made a significant sacrifice by leaving his medical career and the dream of opening a clinic to become the Chief Operating Officer of Nasi Lemak Saleha. Under his astute leadership, the business has seen remarkable growth.

Dr. Rizal attributes their success to relentless family effort and invaluable governmental support. A pivotal moment in their journey was their participation in the INSKEN Bumiputera Business Coaching (IBBC) programme, organised by the National Entrepreneurship Institute (INSKEN), an agency under the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives (KUSKOP). The four-month coaching programme catalysed a significant surge in sales and Dr. Rizal has since become an Industry Coach for the IBBC programme for Café and restaurant industry, giving back by sharing what he has learned.

Nasi Lemak Saleha's journey from a simple roadside stall to a flourishing enterprise is a testament to the power of tradition, family dedication, and strategic support. It stands as an inspiring example of how vision, hard work and community can transform humble beginnings into thriving success.

Experience the legacy and taste the triumph at Nasi Lemak Saleha – where tradition meets excellence.

For more info Nasi Lemak Saleha & Institut Keusahawanan Negara Berhad (INSKEN):

# Nasi Lemak Saleha Sri Rampai Branch (1263724-V)

No. 8, Jalan Seri Rejang 5, Taman Sri Rampai, 53300, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

# Nasi Lemak Saleha Ampang Branch (1263724-V)

No. 3, Jalan Pandan Prima 1, Dataran Pandan Prima, 68000 Ampang, Malaysia



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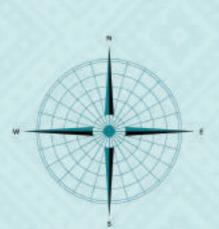
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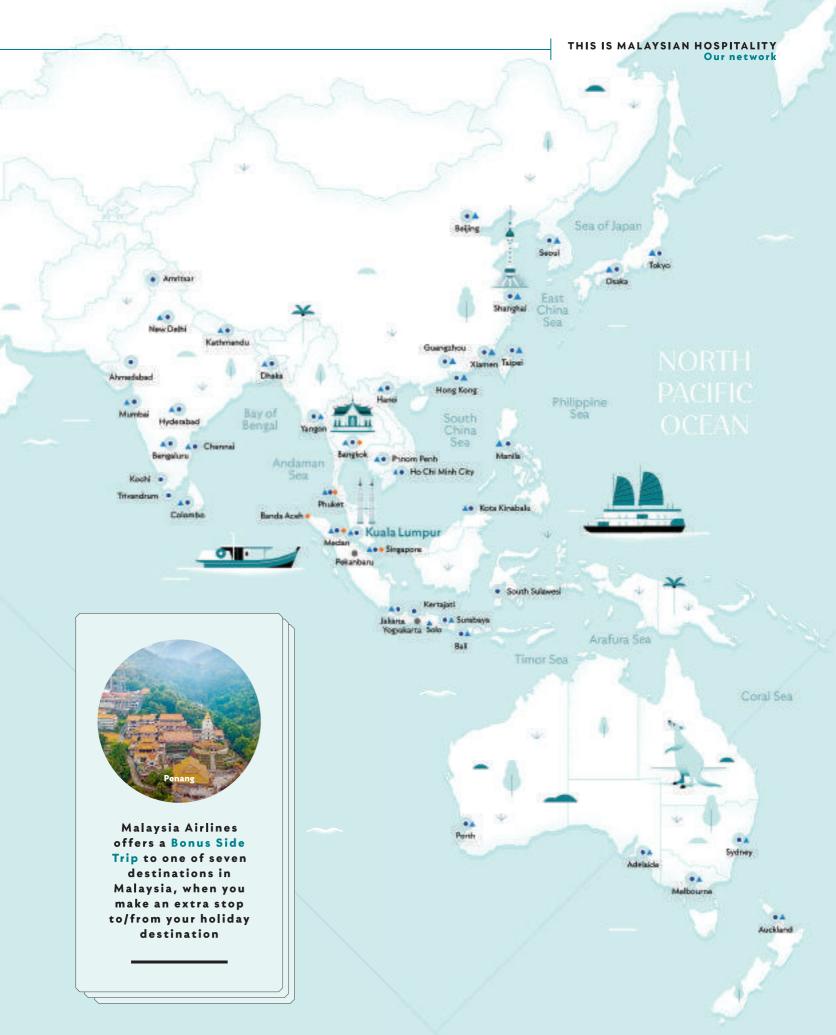
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Malaysia Airlines

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Check out our Merdeka Special on page 78!



Air Force the Movie Bukit Kepong Selimut Merdeka

# IF (Imaginary Friends)

A girl discovers that she can see everyone's imaginary friends and embarks on a magical journey to reconnect them. IF (Imaginary Friends) is the 2024 latest Hollywood release, a perfect addition to the library for Malaysia Airlines passengers. Get ready to connect with your inner child as you stream and enjoy IF during your journey. The star-studded film offers an emotional storyline to its viewers while approaching the old-school characters to present itself as a family entertainer. Since its release, the film has grossed over \$160 million worldwide, and is continuing to rack up numbers at the box office. Owing to its well-crafted and family-friendly plot and a huge line-up of the cast, there are no reasons to skip *IF*.

The film stars Ryan Renolds, Cailey Fleming, John Krasinski, Fiona Shaw and more.

Meanwhile, the voices for the animated characters are given by Steve Carell, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Emily Blunt, Bradley Cooper, Matt Damon, Bill Harder, Blake Lively and many others.

# **Hollywood Latest**

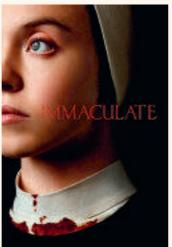


The 2024 action-packed thriller has arrived for Malaysia Airlines passengers. To keep viewers on their toes, *Damaged* offers a stunning plot encompassing mystery, crime and nail-biting suspense.



One of the most popular movies, *Challengers* has arrived for the Malaysia Airlines passengers. Witness complicated relationships, love, madness and sports in this latest hit. Starring Zendaya.















Ezra Funny Birds Musica



#### MERDEKA SPECIAL



Experience pride and soaring emotions this Merdeka Day while flying with Malaysia Airlines. Air Force The Movie follows the search-and-rescue mission of a plane shot down in the fictional Namburi Island.



A recipient of multiple accolades and a splendid film to celebrate Malaysian Independence Day? Of course. Passengers flying with Malaysia Airlines can watch Bukit Kepong to ignite a feeling of gratitude and joy.





With pride and love for family overflowing this Merdeka, celebrate Malaysia's Independence Day with the specially picked film Selimut Merdeka for passengers flying with Malaysia Airlines.



Learn about Malaysia this Merdeka in Ceria Megastar, featuring historical places around Kuala Lumpur. Also, witness the nation's success with Di Puncak Dunia as it showcases Malaysia's Paralympics victory.







**Pacific Rim** 



**Edge of Tomorrow** 



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**Rush Hour** 



**Rush Hour 2** 



**Rush Hour 3** 

Enjoy the collaboration between Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker in the action comedy franchise *Rush Hour* about two cops from different worlds. Watch all three installments – "Rush Hour", "Rush Hour 2", "Rush Hour 3" – and be tickled by the dynamic duo's hilarious antics.











A Star is Born



Catherine Called Birdy



# **MOVIES & TELEVISION**

# Kids Special





Based on a true story, experience a warmhearted tale of heroism and suspense until the end. So, keep yourself engaged and entertained while travelling with Malaysia Airlines with Max and Max 2.

Max

Max 2















Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: Justice League Gotham City Breakout

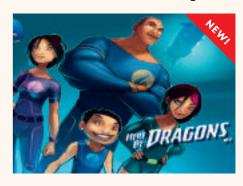
#### TV Show



Dragons: Race to the Edge



The Adventures of Little Penguin



The Deep

O Chao Phraya River, Bangkok

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# **MOVIES**

# Hindi

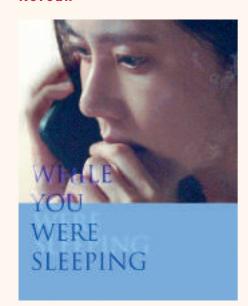






Three of Us

# Korean





# Chinese





Malay





Thai



Japanese





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# **TELEVISION**



#### Korean



**Dancing Queens on the Road** 

#### Tamil





A whole list of new and exciting TV shows has arrived for Malaysia Airlines. Ranging from Korean to Tamil, passengers flying can now get engaged with popular series like Dancing Queens on the Road, Kanniraasi and Comedy Gajana.

#### Travel



**David Rocco's Dolce** Southeast Asia

# Music & Soundstage



Raiders of the **Symphony** 

#### Drama



**Riverdale** 

# Comedy







**Shining Vale** 



**Powerless** 

# **AUDIO**









The Hits

Elevate your flying experience with Malaysia Airlines by grooving to the latest albums like including You Promised a Lifetime, Chasing Feelings, The Essential Eartha Kitt and Oh Yes.

Memories





R & B





Club



Japanese



Korean



Hindi



Tamil



Malay



Indonesian



Cantonese



Mandarin



Jazz







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