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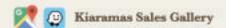




A Bootique Development by:



Kiaramas Development Sdn. Bhd. S, Wisma AsisQuest, 2, Jalan Dess Kinra, Mort Kinra, 50400, Kaala Lumpur



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kiaramasdedaun.com.my

Developer: Kiararna Development Sch. Bbd. (220486-K) \* Address: No. 3, Wiena AsiaQuest, 2, Jahr Desa Kiara, Most Kiara 50480 Knala Lampur \* Tel No.: 03-62061898 \* Developer License: No.: 8164-706-2025/1244(A) \* Validity Period: 18706-72025 - Limit Tenure: Freehold \* Expected Completion: May 2028 \* Type of Property: Condominium \* Unit Selling Price: Block A, 223 Units, 40 Floors Condominium, RM1, 113, 100.00 (Minimum) - RM4, 170, 200.00 (Maximum) - RM4, 186, 313 units, 40 Floors Condominium, RM1, 986, 600.00 (Minimum) - RM4, 186, 300.00 (Maximum) \* Total Units: Type A - 148 units, Type B - 252 units, Type C - 2 units, Type C - 2 units, Type E - 28 units, and Type F - 2 units \* Approxing Authority: Devent Banduraya Knala Lampur \* Building Plan Reference No.: RP T2 OSC 2022 1003 | THIS ADVERTISEMENT HAS BREN APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL HOUSING DEPARTMENT

#### SEPTEMBER 2024

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# Dear guests,

As we approach the final quarter of the year, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your continued trust in Malaysia Aviation Group's airlines. Your support has been vital to our journey, and we hope you continue to enjoy your travel experience with us.

Ensuring your comfort and safety remains our top priority. I am delighted to share that both Malaysia Airlines and Firefly have recently achieved the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) accreditation, valid until 2026. This marks the 10th year of registration for Malaysia Airlines and the first successfully completed audit for Firefly as an IOSA-registered airline. This achievement reaffirms our commitment to the highest standards of safety and operational efficiency across our airlines, ensuring we can continue providing safe and reliable service to the global communities we serve.

In addition to this significant milestone, Firefly recently commenced its jet operations from Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport, Subang (SZB) to Kota Kinabalu International Airport (BKI) on 29 August 2024. This development enhances its regional connectivity and offers more convenient travel options for passengers to fly to Kota Kinabalu and Penang. These routes will be served by Firefly's retrofitted Boeing 737-800 aircraft, which are equipped with 189 seats in Economy Class, featuring ergonomic plush leather seats, personal device holders and USB Type A and C power outlets for charging your devices comfortably.

As you may know, Firefly has been a key operator in SZB since 2008, initially offering turboprop flights to seven destinations including Alor Setar, Johor Bahru, Kota Bharu,

Kuala Terengganu, Langkawi, Penang and Singapore (via Seletar Airport). With the introduction of the jet services from SZB, the airline now offers over 2,100 weekly flights to eight destinations, combining both turboprop and jet services. We are excited about the new opportunities this brings and look forward to serving you with even more travel options and convenience.

Furthermore, we are set to launch Malaysia Airlines' first daily flights to Da Nang, Vietnam on 24 September. Da Nang offers a unique chance for you to explore its rich culture, stunning beaches, historical sites and vibrant culinary scene. As part of our ongoing efforts to expand our network and provide diverse travel options, we are thrilled to introduce more flights to new destinations. Watch this space!

In addition to our expanding destinations, we continually strive to enhance your end-to-end travel experience with the introduction of the new AmBank Enrich Visa Credit Cards. Cardholders can enjoy up to 10% discounts on Malaysia Airlines flights throughout the year, earn Enrich Points with every purchase and gain access to the Malaysia Airlines Golden Lounges at KL International Airport. Additional benefits include fast-track upgrades to Enrich Elite Status and comprehensive travel insurance covering personal accidents, flight delays and luggage issues. Visit enrich.malaysiaairlines.com to learn more.

On this note, I must take a moment to acknowledge the operational challenges we have been facing lately. Many of you, our loyal guests and frequent flyers, may have encountered flight delays or cancellations, which disrupted your travel plans. I regret these unpleasant experiences, and I assure you that we are doing everything we can to fix this situation. I seek your continued support and trust as we commit to restoring the premium travel experience you deserve.

Thank you for your continued support and patience, as we strive to deliver excellence in every aspect of your journey. We look forward to welcoming you on many more journeys with our Malaysian Hospitality.

#### Izham Ismail

Group Managing Director Malaysia Aviation Group





As we celebrate Malaysia Day on 16 September commemorating the formation of Malaysia in 1963 when Sabah and Sarawak joined Malaya – we turn our spotlight to Sabah, a destination renowned for its warm people, food, wildlife and sea adventures.

Speaking of the latter, there's something magical about diving in Sabah, where the underwater world bursts with vibrant corals and marine life. From the iconic Sipadan Island, renowned for its steep wall dives and swirling schools of barracuda, to the lesser-known but equally stunning Mataking and Kapalai, Sabah

> offers an underwater paradise that reminds us why this region is a must-visit for marine enthusiasts (p38).

> Shifting from the ocean's depths to the cultural richness of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, you'll find a city that is captivatingly frenetic. The capital's tumultuous history is etched into its streets and monuments, yet, amid its past, Phnom Penh pulses with a vibrant energy, offering travellers a chance to explore bustling markets, sample delicious Khmer cuisine and witness a city in the midst of renewal (p46). It's bound to be an inspiring visit!

Happy travels,

Therman Com

Shermian Lim **Editor** 



**Nick Sells** Photographer, "Capital gains",

Nick takes photos, shoots videos and pilots drones. Based in Cambodia, he has been capturing images since 2005. His work spans street photography, studio shoots and documenting NGO projects.



**Nurul Yazid** Photographer, "Blue crush",

Nurul is an award-winning, professional underwater photographer from Malaysia, whose work has been featured in several magazines. She is also a co-owner of Triton Bay Divers in West Papua, Indonesia.



Sharon Crowther Writer, "Blue crush", p38

Originally from Glasgow, Sharon recently swapped living in Kuala Lumpur - her home for five wonderful years - for the skating rinks and ski slopes of Calgary.





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# REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places





# Not just skin deep

Sulie Lungkan Abell's struggles with her own skin led her to form a social enterprise Sluvi, which uses natural ingredients for its skincare products including many from her own home state of Sarawak, like the huma rice face mask and kelulut (stingless bee) honey face and body soap. Sluvi's sourcing of these local ingredients also empowers local farmers, primarily single mothers, elderly widowers and unemployed young adults. instagram.com/ sluvinatural



A moment of serendipity occurred when chef Yogesh Upadhyay's wife, Natasha Ng, suggested **FLOUR** as the name for their maiden restaurant in Bukit Damansara; it echoed what his father once told him. "Everything in Indian food is *shwet* (white)," said Yogi's father, from whom he learned his mastery of spices. "Bread, dosa and idli are white; India is a country of bread." Now in Jalan Imbi, FLOUR features a degustation menu that seeks to transform how we think of Indian food.

Yogi's French-Indian fare is a journey through thousands of years of India's history, a culmination of his meticulous scouring of historical texts to find out what people ate, prince and pauper alike. In the eyes of many, Yogi says, "India is a land of spices and herbs, but that does not equate to 'spicy'." Beyond what was eaten, Yogi also considers the

considers the why. "They had clear reasons why they made food, and if those reasons do not apply today, I change it," he says.
This is evident in FLOUR's amazing new degustation menu named Parivartan - Adya – translating to 'transformation' and 'first' or 'original' – which features a pigeon tandoori and kebab recalling the clay ovens of northern India; Bengali golda chingri (river prawns) served with a smooth chilli butter; Kerala valiya chemmeen moilee, a coconut-heavy lobster tail curry with a fluffy roti; wazwan from Jammu and Kashmir, a mutton rogan josh the way it was meant to be made; and most daringly, a reimagined mango

lassi served with caviar.

But perhaps the most
memorable part of the FLOUR
journey is the chance to
experience first-hand what Yogi
terms the three "music notes"
of spice – aroma, play and base –
which unlock powerful aromas

that allow you to drift across time and space and envision India, in all its resplendent immensity.

flourrestaurant. com.my





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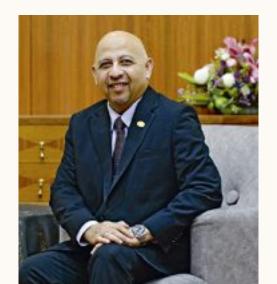


Kuala Lumpur

# More than the capital

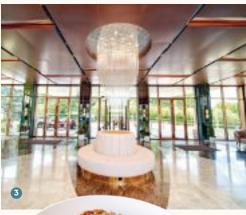
"It was a challenge," says Mahmad Anuar Othman on trading in his chef's apron for the boardroom as CEO of PULSE Group.
"My wife and family were very supportive. They asked me how long I want to be in the kitchen, since chefs work long hours," he adds. "I work long hours here too, but it is a different ballgame."

The transition was certainly an undertaking. PULSE Group, a subsidiary of Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPJ), oversees the operations of the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC), Pulse Grande Hotel, Taman Ekuestrian Putrajaya, Cruise Tasik Putrajaya, Marina Putrajaya and Putrajaya Catering Services. Daunting as it was. Mahmad Anuar has taken it in his stride with a keen sense of discipline. In his own words, "There is no shortcut to success. You have to be tough, you have to be alert." Putrajaya is a marvel of wonders with something for everyone, and who better than Mahmad Anuar to offer his personal recommendations for the city's best spots. pulsegroup.com.my, ppj.gov.my











### 1 Putrajaya International Convention Centre

The Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) features a striking, futuristic design inspired by traditional Malay elements. Enjoy state-of-the-art facilities for conferences, exhibitions and events. *picc.com.my* 

#### 2 Cruise Tasik Putrajaya

Take in the vastness of Putrajaya – especially the grand Putra Mosque – by water. The sightseeing cruise is either by boat or the traditional *perahu* dondang sayang. Also visit Marina Putrajaya, which has an Olympic-sized swimming pool. *cruisetasikputrajaya*. *com, marinaputrajaya.com* 

#### 3 Pulse Grande Hotel

Offering luxurious and elegant rooms and stunning views of Malaysia's administrative capital, this five-star hotel is a perfect getaway. Enjoy exquisite dining, a relaxing spa and access to nearby attractions. *pulsegrande.com.my* 

#### 4 Putrajaya Seafood Restaurant

Besides feasting on halal grilled stingray and assam fish head, customers can also take in the serene view of the Putrajaya Lake, including the iconic Seri Perdana Bridge, which lights up in the evenings. facebook.com/PutrajayaSeafoodRestaurant





Alena Murang will bring her distinct sound to the music, art and food celebration Ombak Festival, happening in Desaru Coast from 13 to 15 September, featuring a diverse lineup that includes

the legendary Nile Rodgers & CHIC, Grace Jones, Macy Gray and The Cardigans. Here Alena tells us about being the first woman to play the sape' professionally.

#### How did you first become interested in the sape'?

When I was six, my cousins and I wanted to make our own tunes for the traditional Kelabit dance, and learned to play the sape', which was once taboo for women to touch. The legendary Mathew Ngau Jau became our teacher, and we were taught via oral tradition - we didn't read notes or write anything down. I'm grateful I could make a career out of this because no woman had charted the path before.

#### What inspires your creative process?

Nature influences me, as it did the music of our ancestors. My last album Sky Songs was inspired by elements of the sky - the wind, mist, clouds, different sounds of thunder - while our folk stories also inspire the lyrics of songs.

#### What can we expect from your performance at the **Ombak Festival?**

As a people with a history of seafaring - 8,000 years old - we say that the ocean doesn't separate us, it connects us. The waters off the Desaru Coast are at the heart of my performance at this festival and I hope my music connects with both locals and travellers alike. ombakfestival.com, alenamurang.com





Kota Bharu Pure indulgence Coffee and croissants take centre stage in Kota Bharu's **Sogno Coffee**. Since August last year, the pâtisserie café has taken Kelantan's capital by storm, with buttercream, coconut and a host of other indulgent lattes paired with croissants in all colours and shapes - including crispy dipped flat croissants that are all the rage on TikTok and Insta-worthy cream-filled ribbon croissants perched atop your coffee of choice. instagram.com/sognocoffee

# Mangala Estate

BOUTIQUE RESORT

# A Sanctuary of Eco-Conscious Luxury

Set on the serene east coast of West Malaysia, Mangala Estate Boutique Resort is a unique blend of luxury, sustainability, and mindfulness. The resort, inspired by the Sanskrit word 'Mangala' which means auspicious well-being, is a haven of ecological balance and restorative tranquility.

What was once a barren mining site, Mangala Estate has undergone a remarkable two-decade-long transformation. The land has been revitalised into a thriving sanctuary with a zero-deforestation policy, advanced water irrigation, and solar energy systems, a testament to our commitment to sustainability and ecological restoration.

Mangala Estate boasts a sanctuary for over 100 species of birds, tranquil lakes, unspoiled wetlands, and a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Every element of the guest experience is thoughtfully designed to coexist with nature, offering a blend of sustainability and conscious living.







#### Experience Mangala Estate:

- Private Villas: Retreat to one of our 67 villas with a lake view, garden view or private pool selection, where stunning vistas and eco-friendly amenities await.
- Dining with a Touch of the Farm: Enjoy unique dining experiences where dishes spotlight fresh fruits and vegetables from our farm. With every bite, you'll get a taste of the estate and reinforce our commitment to sustainability.
- **Spa Experiences**: Immerse yourself in a rejuvenating spa journey with our holistic treatments, which use natural, eco-friendly products to ensure a sustainable pampering experience.
- Recreational Activities: Delight in the estate's natural beauty with guided AM/PM nature walks, birdwatching, and eco-friendly water sports.

Mangala Estate Boutique Resort is a testimony to ecological restoration and mindful living, offering a legacy of tranquillity and sustainable luxury.





When you head upstairs at La Boca Ampang, you'll discover our versatile and vibrant event space, ideal for a range of celebrations and gatherings. Whether you're planning for a birthday bash, a corporate dinner, a private party, or any special event, our venue offers everything you need to make your occasion memorable. Exclusive private space with a private bar. The party will not be complete without some fun and entertainment. We have a fuseball table, karaoke system and DJ console available (upon request) to set the mood and to make your event uniquely yours. Buffet style-serving are available too!

Contact us now.

### The Ultimate Venue for Any Occasion









Malaysia **Giving back**  Changgih goes beyond empowering artisans all over Sabah with its Give IO to Sabah programme, that ensures 10% of proceeds from the sale of its handbags, wallets, accessories, scarves and clothing goes back to the community. The items themselves are a celebration of the state's diversity, with its Laing, Binabo Sopuan and Banat fabrics inspired by the shared Murut and Rungus stories of old. changgihdesigns.com



Kuala Lumpur

#### The future of dessert

Multi-storey dessert hub **Nucre Patisseries**, which opened its doors in May, bills itself as "the future of dessert". This is evident in its hip futurist aesthetic, with lines as immaculate as its creations, from the delicate presentation of red bean soup topped with matcha foam, to the artistic matcha and black sesame plated dessert Zen – made using Kyoto's famed Itoh Kyuemon matcha, for which it is also the sole Malaysian distributor.

instagram.com/nucre\_patisseries



Kuala Lumpur

### Lunar luxuries

Just in time for the Mid-Autumn Festival,

Mandarin Oriental launches its mooncakes
from the award-winning Lai Po Heen that come
in a luxurious box that depicts the story of the
Jade Rabbit's selflessness and sacrifice. Besides
traditional mooncakes filled with lotus paste and
egg yolk, and pumpkin with melon seed, this year's
selection also includes Musang King and pistachio
cream cheese snow skin mooncakes, as well as
chocolate mooncakes – most notably the coconut
pandan ganache with streusel. kualalumpur.
mandarinorientalshop.com







# Kuala Lumpur Adventures: Save Big, Travel Together





Embark on an unforgettable journey with KLIA Ekspres, the only airport train offering fantastic travel deals for families and friends exploring Kuala Lumpur's hidden gems. Our Family Package and Group Saver ensures that your travel adventures with loved ones begin with comfort and savings.

# BIGGER FAMILY TRIPS WITH BIGGER SAVINGS!

Travelling as a family with KLIA Ekspres just got more affordable with our Family Package that offers up to 25% off regular fares. Kids aged from 6-15 years qualify, enabling you to save more on tickets for your whole family. Whether you're getting off from KL Sentral or Bandar Tasik Selatan, our flexible package offers one-way or return trips by simply adding extra adults or children as needed. Book your family's next adventure together and enjoy the savings!

#### TRAVEL IN A PACK, SAVE BIG!

Gather your friends for an epic travelling adventure and enjoy the Group Saver! With at least three adults, each of you pays only RM40 for a one-way KLIA Ekspres ticket. This offer is available for both one-way and return trips from KL Sentral or Bandar Tasik Selatan to KLIA. Whether it's a weekend getaway or a longer adventure, travelling together not only adds to the fun but also helps you save more with the crew!

#### AMAZING GEMS AND BEYOND IN KUALA LUMPUR!

Kuala Lumpur offers an exciting mix of attractions perfect for friends and families. Admire the iconic Petronas Twin Towers and soak in the vibrant atmosphere at the bustling Central Market and Petaling Street marketplace. A day at Aquaria KLCC or the Kuala Lumpur Bird Park offers a fun and educational experience for children of all ages. For a cultural experience, explore the colorful Batu Caves or the serene Islamic Arts Museum. Thrill-seekers can enjoy a day of fun at Sunway Lagoon, while foodies will delight in the diverse culinary scene at Jalan Alor.

With these fantastic packages and so much to see and do in Kuala Lumpur, there's no better time to plan your next family holiday or group trip. Enjoy the comfort and convenience of KLIA Ekspres, and make the most of your travel savings while discovering the city's many wonders. Find out more about Family Package and Group Saver at www.kliaekspres.com



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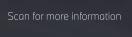


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# ELEVATE

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









What are the young creative minds of the Middle East thinking? You'll find some answers at the Wusum Gallery, in the grounds of the St Regis Doha Hotel. It's the perfect place for art that showcases traditional Arab heritage and values, explored in contemporary ways and through various artistic disciplines, from visual storytelling and sculpture to mixed media and interactive installations. The gallery, founded in 2023, has shown the works of experimental Qatari artists such as 29-year-old Ameena Alboinin, whose works feature traditional palm-frond weaving, and Maryam AlTajer, whose many pursuits include creating pictures through heat etching on canvas and challenging the rules of Arabic calligraphy.

With regularly changing exhibitions, Wusum Gallery's three rooms within Eiwan Al Gasser - an innovative community art space opposite the main hotel entrance

- often showcase collaborations between artists, solo exhibitions or various artists' works coming together to explore rich themes such as womanhood in Arabia. wusumgallery.com

#### The female gaze

Right in the heart of Old Doha is Liwan Design Studios and Labs, featuring a warren of art galleries, co-working quarters, artist workshops and its own prototyping lab. The creative hub is housed in a stunning, repurposed mid-century building that was once Qatar's first all-girls school, Banat El Doha.

As a tribute to its roots, Liwan features a permanent exhibition that traces the history of female education in Qatar. Banat El Doha, later renamed Umm Almo'mneen, was founded by the pioneering educator Amna Mahmoud Al Jaida, Qatar's first female teacher who, earlier in her advocacy, had opened the first dedicated study space for girls in her home in 1938.





#### On the horizon

Combining old and new, the Art Mill Museum, set to open in 2030, will be housed in the former flour mill on Doha Bay, near the modern Cruise Terminal. The museum is designed by Chile-based firm Elemental, led by its Pritzker Prize-winning head architect Alejandro Aravena, known for championing education and housing projects. The design will juxtapose the historic mill silos with modern galleries and spaces, generating a creative environment that will focus on Arab modern art and design. qm.org.qa



66

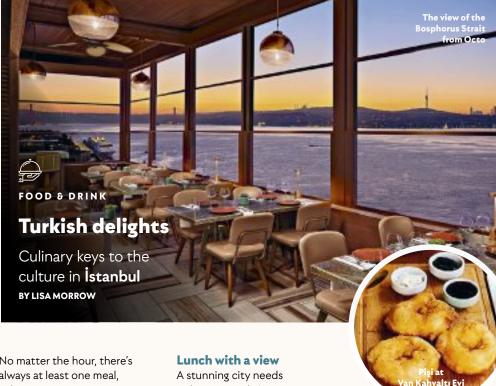
Come [to Liwan] for the storied architecture, stay for the engaging design conversations"

Banat El Doha ushered in a sea change in girls' education in the country. For five decades, the school provided progressive education, and many of the students later became teachers themselves.

Come for the storied architecture, stay for the engaging design conversations. Liwan is Arabic for courtyard, a central feature of traditional buildings in the region that facilitates airflow and functions as a gathering space for community and collaboration. The arts centre operates in a similar way. Beyond the physical space, Liwan publishes Al Journal, an online publication that features local voices offering a variety of perspectives on Arab design. liwan.org.qa

#### The creative hub

M7 was the axis for the inaugural 2024 Design Doha Biennale, which showcased design disciplines such as furniture, architecture, poster design and more. From September 2024, a new exhibition will be showcasing the results from the Zwara Programme, which has seen local interior, furniture and interdisciplinary designers work with the German Vitra Design Museum, learning new furniture design processes. m7.org.qa



No matter the hour, there's always at least one meal, culinary experience or gastronomic masterpiece to sample in İstanbul. Add these three to your must-try list.

#### **Breakfast of champions**

Rich in variety, Turkish breakfasts last well into the afternoon. Crunchy bread and flavoursome sesame coated sourdough rings called simit, with recel, chunky real fruit jams; kaymak, thick cream, with sweet kovan bali, comb dripping with honey; savoury otlu peyniri, wild garlic studded cheese made from sheep's milk. Try thin slices of pastırma or cured beef with menemen, eggs and tomato cooked in olive oil. At Van Kahvaltı Evi, they also serve regional specialties like lush kavut, made from barley flour and grape molasses. instagram.com/ vankahvaltievi

to be savoured. Octo in Galataport serves up quality food and striking views of the Bosphorus Strait. Their seafood menu combines the ocean's bounty - shrimp, crabs and mussels with seasonal Aegean greens. Located on the 9th floor of the JW Marriott hotel, the dining room looks over at Topkapı Palace, once home to Ottoman Sultans. Bookings are recommended for this Michelin Guide restaurant. instagram.com/ octoistanbul

#### **Sweet treats**

Baked until golden brown, Turkish baklava comes full of ground pistachios sprinkled over layers of chiffon-like pastry brushed with butter and bathed in a honeyed syrup. There are many shapes and sizes, like the carrot-like wedges of havuç dilim. The small rounds of saray sarma are fit for a palace and the pistachio granules atop bülbül yuvası, nightingale's nest, shimmer a luminous green. Head for Ali Usta Burma Kadayıf & Baklava where the mesmerising window display looks as delicious as their baklava tastes. aliustabaklava.com

anastabakiava.com









CREATIVE HUBS

# Too cool for school

Singapore's latest lifestyle destination offers a lesson in placemaking BY SUREKHA RAGAVAN

#### In case you haven't noticed,

the Little Red Dot has quite a gift for reinvigorating flagging neighbourhoods and reinventing entire districts. Among the latest examples is **New Bahru** – a hip lifestyle destination in a former allgirls high school - that's home to restaurants, artisanal handicraft stores and even a set of trendy serviced apartments. It appears poised to bring fresh energy to quaint, centrally located River Valley.

New Bahru - inspired by spaces like Daikanyama in Tokyo, Songshan in





Taipei and King's Cross in London, where interesting architecture and creative local businesses come together - is the brainchild of The Lo & Behold Group. The company is known for carving out trendy spaces within richly storied sites including The Warehouse Hotel, along a historic stretch of the Singapore River, and Claudine, a French finedining establishment in the place of a former 1930s Ebenezer chapel.

For New Bahru, the team retained much of the school's original architecture, such as the breezeblock facade against the school hall, the barrel vaults on the roof and the cascading steps in the old science labs. "Originally designed by James Ferrie and Partners in 1969, the school's brutalist architecture was a marked departure from the other contemporaneous Chinese institutions then, and certainly strikingly different from much of the city's

landscape today," says Venice Lee, associate marketing director for New Bahru. "The school had such beautiful bones, so we adopted a minimalist approach that respects the heritage of the site and to keep the space as open as possible."

Then there's the rising number of young Singaporean entrepreneurs that can no longer be ignored. "This inspired us to create a space that would enable our own local talent to live up to their fullest potential, to create bold expressions of a brand that would defy the confines of a traditional mall and to co-exist alongside like-minded individuals.' adds Venice. Some of these homegrown brands include homeware store Sojao, kids' brand The Sea Apple Create Store and jewellers Curious Creatures. And let's not forget the range of local-name restaurants including nasi lemak haven The Coconut Club, granola specialists

Dearborn and mezze-concept restaurant Artichoke.

For the wider River Valley neighbourhood, New Bahru hopes to organise more activities, programmes and events within the space to inject more vibrancy to the area. "River Valley is home to a large cosmopolitan population and equidistant to the famed Orchard Road shopping belt and the CBD," says Venice. "But for all that the neighbourhood had, it still lacked an epicentre and a communal gathering place that could anchor the neighbourhood and give it soul. We hope for New Bahru to be exactly that." Full marks for the sheer effort. newbahru.com



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ARTS & CULTURE

# **Kowloon** calling

Enjoy a mid-autumn museum crawl this side of Hong Kong BY STEPHEN O'CONNELL

#### Autumn is a fantastic

time to be in the Fragrant Harbour - the weather cools down, a mountain of mooncakes appear for the Mid-Autumn Festival and the scenic hiking trails start to get busy again. It's also the perfect season to explore Hong Kong's burgeoning museum scene. Here, three art havens within walking distance of each other on the Kowloon side, highlight the ever-changing cultural face of Hong Kong.



1 Kick off at one of the city's newest museums, the **Hong** Kong Palace Museum, opened in 2022, which showcases the imperial treasures of Beijing's Palace Museum in its permanent galleries. You can also catch special themed exhibitions, such as "The Adorned Body", which traces the evolution of fashion in France, open until mid-October.

While shows are riveting, don't forget to look outside. There are some stunning views of Hong Kong island's classic skyscraper skyline from various viewing decks and atriums in and around the Palace Museum, with spaces for visitors to relax and enjoy the incredible view. hkpm.org.hk

2 It's no surprise that Asia's first contemporary visual culture museum, M+, is among the top 20 most-visited art museums in the world, according to The Art Newspaper. The museum's programming has been topnotch since opening in 2021. One of its current exhibitions, "Life is Architecture" (running until 2025), offers deep insights

into the work of I.M. Pei, the world-renowned Chinese-American architect behind such iconic structures as the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong and the Louvre Pyramid in Paris. If you're connecting to the MTR in Elements Mall, pop by OZONE on the 118th floor of the Ritz-Carlton for an unforgettable experience in the world's highest rooftop bar. *mplus.org.hk* 

3 The newly renovated **Hong** Kong Museum of Art on the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront has made a name for itself with its popular exhibitions at relatively affordable entrance fees. This month, catch "Fragrance of Time - In Search of Chinese Art of Scent", organised in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club, which runs until mid-October.

If you're in town on 1 October (National Day of the People's Republic of China), all museums run by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, including the Hong Kong Museum of Art, are free to enter. hk.art.museum



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የሞ DINING

# **Maximum** flavours

Mumbai's menu of global restaurants just got bigger and better BY PUNITA MALHOTRA

#### Mumbai's culinary scene - eclectic,

experimental, deeply diverse - mirrors a globally conscious palate. From Mediterranean delights and Hawaiianthemed tiki bars to zesty Latin-American flavours, new establishments give hungry travellers plenty to indulge in. Here's where to go for specific cravings in Maximum City.

#### Viva Latino

Latin American cuisine is gaining traction in Mumbai, with Otra as a noteworthy addition. Celebrating chef Alex Sanchez's Puerto Rican heritage, this sultry venue delights with ground corn dough tostadas and inventive cocktails. Order the red snapper aguachile, an exquisite fish served sashimi-style in a clam-based chilli broth, garnished with refreshing avocado slices, pickled onions and a drizzle of celery leaf oil. Tangy, zesty and dripping with flavour, it's a treat you'll be talking about well after dinner. For a more tranquil dining experience - where you can enjoy a conversation without bending your ear - visit in the early evening. Reservations are highly recommended, especially on weekends. otrabombay.com

#### Licence to grill

Mumbai's latest place to be, Waikiki, is a Hawaiian-themed dining and tiki bar that blends Polynesian and flame-grilled cuisines with signature tiki cocktails. Think





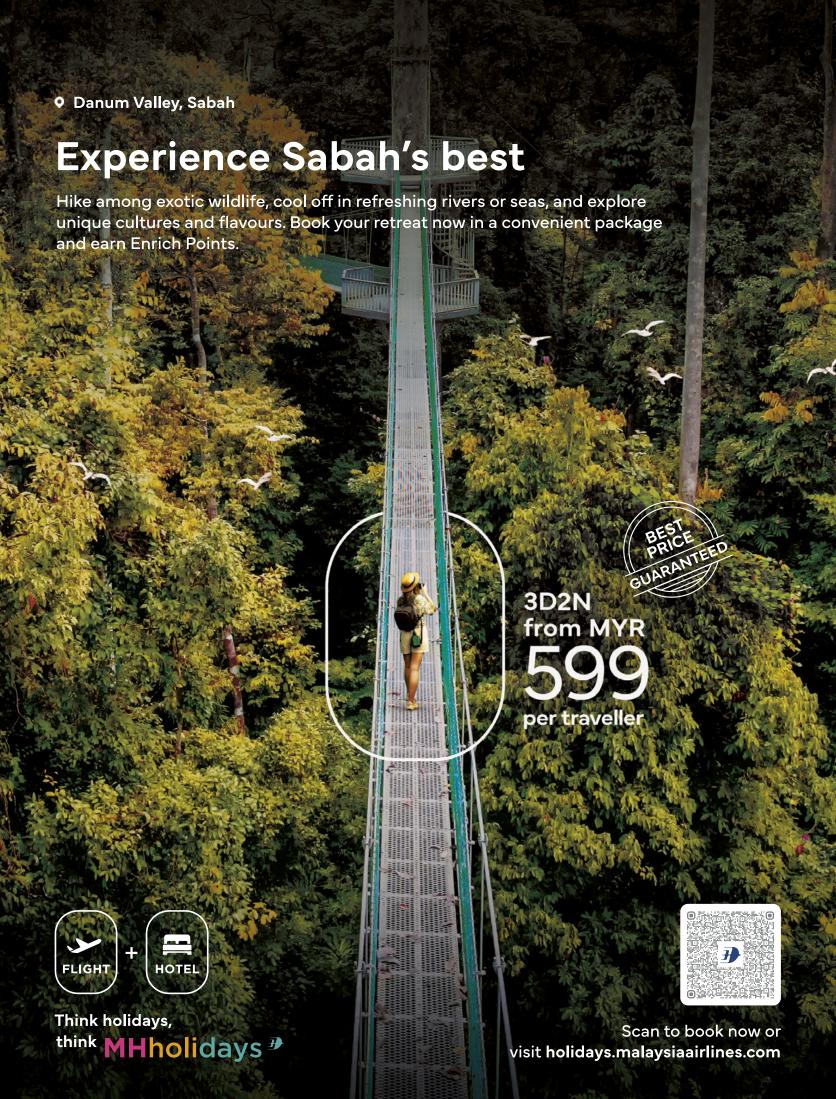
island-inspired exotic presentations, from sambal oelek (spicy, tangy Indonesian chilli paste) and avocado tartar to a tropical Hawaiian panna cotta. The Hawaiian sliders are the highlight, featuring soft milk buns filled with coconut-marinated chicken, spicy butterfish, prawns and lamb kebabs. Step in during off-peak hours for a prime spot at the teppanyaki grill. Reservations are recommended to secure your table. waikikiexperience.com

#### Around the world

Not sure what you're looking for? Luuma House is a lively, casual dining spot with a globe-trotting menu of European, Asian, Indian and Mediterranean dishes. Dive into tantalising options, from sushi rolls and bowls of aromatic pho, chicken

wings and crunchy Caprese salads, to tacos and indulgent pastas. The matcha tiramisu is a must-try – it reimagines the classic Italian dessert with a vibrant matcha twist, creating a standout finale to your meal. For a more relaxed dining experience, visit during lunch or early evening. Reservations are recommended for dinner. instagram.com/luumahouse

empanadas







# A Malaysian in... **Auckland**

Reshma Martin, a multi-hyphenate, singersongwriter-teacher who now calls the City of Sails home, shares why worth it's visiting BY SUDESHNA GHOSH



#### I'm an accidental migrant

to New Zealand. I was born in Klang city, in the state of Selangor. I moved to Auckland with my parents when I was seven years old. My love for music also started here, when I used to spend a lot of time in the music room at school. When I was 12, I became the youngest person to win the Mayor's Award in New Plymouth; my song was endorsed by Malaysian artist Sasi The Don and it was featured on an album featuring international stars such as Dr Alban and Apache Indian.

This really kickstarted my desire to work in commercial music, and I threw myself into it after I moved back to Malaysia for secondary school. In 2016, I placed third on the Akademi Fantasia show, which skyrocketed my career - I signed on with Astro, released multiple records, performed on TV and continued to write my own

In 2020, I travelled back to New Zealand to visit my sister who lives in Whanganui. What was meant to be a three-month trip became a long-term stay, and I decided to pursue a postgraduate course in teaching.

It wasn't easy leaving my music career behind in Malaysia and starting over as a secondary school teacher in New Zealand. But I have released two singles and am about to release an EP of five or more singles soon. The Malaysian community here has been very supportive and I want to keep making music that resonates with people – check out previews on my Instagram @reshmamartin.

While I miss a lot of things about Malaysia, I love how diverse Auckland is, and the opportunities here. These are some of my top picks of the city.

#### Musical meetings

I mainly spend my time networking at MoveSpace which brings together a range of musos and creatives at different stages of their careers with art, events and workshops. I have





recorded music, played at a gig and made many new connections here. Ponsonby Social Club is another space that hosts gigs regularly. I have performed at their intimate bar. It's a great place for up-andcoming musicians to showcase their work. movespace.nz: ponsonbysocialclub.com

#### For trendy shopping

I always hit Ponsonby Street, which has an unbeatable mix of high-end fashion and local boutiques. My favourite store is Caitlyn Crisp – her







pieces, especially her dresses, are elegant and timeless and all created with longevity and versatility in mind. Her use of fabric is stunning. *caitlincrisp.com* 

# The best night out in Auckland is at...

Viaduct Harbour. There are plenty of bars here overlooking the beautiful waterfront. **Holey Moley** is one of my favourites – it has mini golf and a wide range of drinks, from beers and wine to cocktails (even non-alcoholic ones) and

crowd-pleasing food like burgers and pizza, so I find it incredibly unique. They also do karaoke! *holeymoley.co.nz* 

#### Spice central

I'm a sucker for good restaurants with spicy food. When you step into Kiss Kiss, its neon signs and colourful décor make you feel like you are eating on the streets of Thailand. They have a variety of authentic Thai dishes and drinks. The pad thai is really good here - the portions are huge! - and so is the Thai milk tea. Hot & Spicy Pot has a reputation for being one of the spicier hotpot meals in Auckland. I always go for a combination of seafood and mushrooms, and order extra spicy, which I can honestly say is truly fiery. kisskisseatery.com; 605 Dominion Road

# An artsy neighbourhood

Karangahape Road, known as K Road, has such a vibrant feel to it – it's popular with creatives and music aficionados, my kind of people. Anyone who loves

nightlife with a musical edge should come here. There are street performers, street art and eclectic street style, plus great food, music venues and cultural heritage. **The Tuning Fork**, a small, intimate live music venue, is a great space for discovering up-and-coming artists. *tuningfork.co.nz* 

# Malaysian food in Auckland

I always find that eating Malaysian food sends me on a nostalgic journey and one of my favourites is **Uncle Man's**, which has a few outlets around the city, so it's convenient. You can find a variety of mamak food to feast on here. My favourite Malaysian dishes to order are nasi lemak with sambal prawn and *petai* (bitter bean), wan tan mee, *roti tisu* (thin flatbread) and *kopi tarik* (aerated coffee). *unclemans.com* 

#### Beach bum

I find that the sound of the crashing waves, my feet embedded in warm sand and the feeling of salt spray against my skin helps me de-stress. My favourite beach in Auckland is **Piha** – a black-sand beach nestled in the Waitākere Ranges. It's beautiful – the blue waters and amazing surf against the black sand surrounded by rugged mountain ranges with native rainforest. It's also quite a large beach, so it never feels crowded. **piha.co.nz** 

#### A locals' secret bard

iTi Restaurant and Bar $\,\mathrm{in}$ 

Titirangi is a cute and intimate spot overlooking nature. They do amazing craft ciders and their Lamb Pappardelle and Mushroom Arancini is to die for. They also offer bottomless brunch, cocktail happy hours, Taco Tuesdays and lots of other deals. weareiti.co.nz



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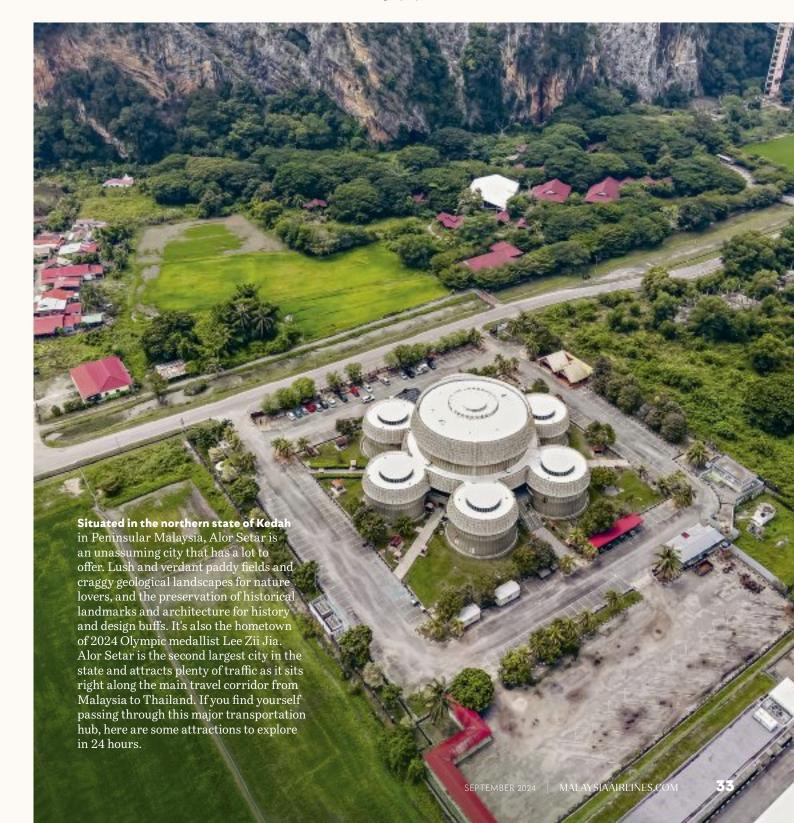






# Alor Setar

Words Mabel Ho Photography Thinnesh Kumar



Saturday

#### **7am**

#### A limestone giant among paddy fields

Get your heart pumping with an early morning mountain hike up Gunung Keriang, affectionately called Bukit Batu Gajah (Elephant Hill Rock) due to its shape resembling an elephant's head. Believed to be 250 million years old at 218m above sea level, the hike to the top takes only about an hour or less. Make sure to wear proper hiking shoes, as the trail includes steep climbs over rocky terrain. Rails, ropes and clear markers will help you during the ascent and descent. The reward at the top is the breathtaking scenic view, which can be seen on the way up.

If you fancy yourself a caver, veer off towards the **Gua Terus** trail at checkpoint 2 instead, once a hot spot for calcite crystal excavation. Don't miss the shops at the Gunung Keriang **Recreational Park** right next to the mountain, selling crystals mined from one of the cavernous karst systems. There is also a children's playground and a small pond to relax and picnic at. Gunung Keriang Recreational Park, trailhead is behind the row of shops and hidden behind a small Muslim cemetery.

#### **9am**

#### Rice to meet you

The paddy fields that cover much of Alor Setar are arguably the city's main attraction. It's no wonder that the cultivation process, along with the tools and equipment used for harvesting, has been gathered and displayed at the Muzium Padi. This museum also showcases the history and culture of Kedah, celebrating the region's pride in rice cultivation. The three-storey building, designed to resemble bushels of harvested rice stalks, features a stunning 360-degree mural at the start of the tour. Standing 8m in height and 103m in length, this mural was created by 60 North Korean artists and captures a panoramic view from Gunung Keriang, depicting Alor Setar's landscape in impressive detail. 58RG+9H, Jalan Gunung Keriang, Gunung Keriang. Museum opening hours are from 9am to 5pm, Sat-Thurs; closed at 12.30pm to 2.30pm only on Fridays.





Three facts about Alor Setar

# Although

it is the state capital of Kedah, Alor Setar is the secondlargest city in the state after Sungai Petani

# The birthplace

to two Malaysian Prime Ministers: Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first Prime Minister, and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the fourth and seventh Prime Minister

# Its name

is derived from two Malay words: alor meaning 'small stream' and setar meaning 'plum mango' (also known as gandaria)





# ① 11am

# Spoilt for choice at brunch

Walk through the gates of **Kafe Adik Kakak** and the first thing to catch your eye would be the aesthetics. Ample greenery surrounds old car frames and other rustic structures with bright joyful splashes of colour amid communal style tables and al fresco dining areas. Take your pick of satay, kaya toast, *ayam penyet* (smashed fried chicken), grilled fish and more. 30, Jalan Langgar

# ① 12pm

# A museum crawl for architecture and history

Escape the high noon heat with a visit to some indoor attractions such as the Kedah Royal Museum which was formerly the palace of the Kedah royal family. Entrance is free. Nearby is Masjid Zahir, one of Malaysia's grandest and oldest mosques. Built in 1912, it is worth exploring for its architecture alone. Just a 15-minute walk away is Rumah Kelahiran Tun Dr Mahathir, a museum dedicated to the life and achievements of Malaysia's longest-serving prime minister. The museum showcases his journey from the medical profession to his distinguished political career, all within the house where he grew up. Medan Bandar; Jalan Kampung Perak; 18 Lorong Kilang Ais



# © 3pm A coffee break

Chill out at some Instagram-worthy cafés such as Mansion 28, a refurbished 1950s colonial manor near Alor Setar train station which has maintained its high ceilings and antique light switches. Serving mostly Western-style cuisine, their Nyonya flavoured cakes, like the cendol cake, are worth trying. For vegans and vegetarians, check out the Art Nature Gallery Café, a great spot for coffee in a plant-filled space that feels like a tranquil garden. 28 Jalan Stesen; 46 Jalan Sultan Muhammad Jiwa





# **⊕5pm**

# More views from the top

Take it easy as the day winds down and catch more views of the city from Menara Alor Setar. Also known as Kedah Tower, the 165.5m telecommunication tower has many different levels to look out from: an observation deck at 88m or the open deck at 105m. There is also a revolving restaurant Starsky at 94m. Lot 99 Darul Aman Highway

# **07pm Delicious delicacies** for dinner

As Kedah is close to the Thai border, local delicacies are known to include flavours from The Land of Smiles. Medina Thai Palace Alor Setar serves generous portions of authentic Thai cuisine. Order the tom yum seafood, ikan siakap 3 rasa (seabass with three flavours) and sotong celup tepung (battered squid).

If you're craving Northern Malaysian cuisine, try Nasi Lemak **Royale**. They serve a dish of the same name, which is a Kedah version of Penang's nasi kandar. The rice is bright yellow, cooked with ghee instead of coconut milk, and topped with a variety of sauces, curries and sambals. You can also choose your favourite side dishes to accompany it. 2 Wisma Koperasi; 424A, Sultan Abdul Halim Highway



# **Elegant stays**

# Frazel Heritage Hotel

Previously known as the Grand Jubilee Hotel, Alor Setar's first hotel was built in 1951. Chandeliers and marble floors in common spaces add elegant touches to its traditional heritage architecture. frazelheritagehotel.com.my

# **38PC Boutique Hotel**

Housed in a pre-war building in the heart of the city, 38PC features clean, cosy and modern rooms, a rooftop wading pool and a foosball room. 38pc.my

### Raia Hotel & Convention **Centre Alor Setar**

With unparalleled views of paddy fields, this four-star hotel is right by the airport and boasts spacious rooms. raiahotels.com.mv





# **10am**

# Souvenir central

Pekan Rabu Complex is the perfect place to buy gifts – specifically traditional Malay crafts. Known all around Kedah state as the go-to market for any traditional handcrafted items, local snacks, textiles and authentic Malay preserves, there are plenty of stalls to explore. There is a food court here where you can also pack a lunch before hitting the road. Bandar Alor Setar

# **12pm**

# One more for the road

If time permits, have a taste of authentic Malay food at **Restoran Sri Pumpong**, a favourite among the locals. This no-frills establishment is consistently packed during lunchtime with customers who enjoy dishes such as *ikan keli goreng* (fried catfish), *ayam goreng kampung* (free range fried chicken), *ulam* (mixed greens) and a variety of curries. 5B Belakang Pekan Pumpong

# SideTrip

destinations where Malaysia Airlines offers a free stopover (Bonus Side Trip). To explore two cities for the price of one, scan the QR and find out more.





Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Alor Setar 14x weekly. Firefly flies between Kuala Lumpur and Alor Setar 24x weekly.





Mesmerising manta rays, swirling barracuda, gigantic whale sharks, scalloped hammerheads and hawksbill sea turtles; Sabah's underwater Big Five entice thousands of scuba divers to take the plunge each year.

> Located at the heart of the Coral Triangle, a region in the western Pacific Ocean which boasts more marine biodiversity than anywhere else in the world, Sabah's yearround diving scene has grown from a wellkept secret in scuba circles to a bucket-list experience for adventure travellers.

> In 2023, diving tourism generated RM500 million for Sabah's economy, with sharks and rays named as the region's underwater star attractions. Now is the perfect time to appreciate the wonders of Sabah's waters, and to recognise the importance of diving responsibly in protecting the region's thriving marine life.

# SIPADAN ISLAND MARINE PARK, MABUL AND KAPALAI ISLANDS

Thirty-five kilometres off the southeast coast of Sabah lies Sipadan, Malaysia's only oceanic island, rising 600m from the seabed and crowned with 15ha of white sand and pristine rainforest. This small volcanic cone, covered in living corals, is

surrounded by oceanic currents that bring marine creatures, great and small, to the island's 12 world-famous dive sites.

"People travel to Sipadan from all over and they come for the big stuff," says Suzette Harris, owner of Seaventures, the world's only dive rig, a decommissioned oil rig which has operated as a floating dive hotel near Sipadan since 1997. "There aren't many places in the world where you can experience being at the centre of a barracuda tornado, have an up-close encounter with a shark and watch a huge school of bumphead parrotfish, [gregarious reef fish which grow up to 1.5m long] in one dive."

Harris says Sipadan's reputation for incredible underwater encounters has made it Malaysia's most in-demand dive destination.

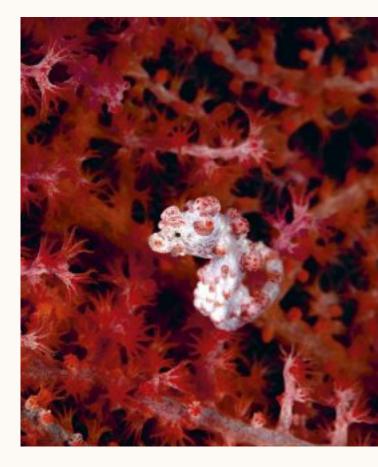
"Twenty-seven years ago, there were fewer divers and more fish," admits the business owner. "But it's still an amazing place to dive. Social media has introduced Sipadan to a new generation of open-minded adventure travellers who seek out extraordinary experiences and unique places to stay - as well as incredible diving."











Previous spread: A healthy coral reef at the Garden of Eden; the stunning view from Gaya Island Resort

Clockwise from top: Seaventures Dive Rig; a pygmy seahorse; Willan's chromodoris, a type of sea slug



66

Around Mabul is where you'll find venomous blue-ringed octopus and surreal giant frogfish while the coral gardens of Kapalai are frequented by adorable pygmy seahorses, lionfish and blue-spotted stingrays"



In recent years Sabah Parks, the organisation that protects the state's jungles and marine parks while promoting tourism, has introduced several new measures to safeguard Sipadan's marine life against the influx of underwater explorers. While all divers in Sabah must have their PADI Open Water Diver certification, an Advanced Open Water Diver certification is required to dive in Sipadan, to protect the fragile coral ecosystem. This two-day certification can be taken at many of the resorts in Sabah. A daily dive permit is also required and allows two dives per day.

Due to its protected status, you can't stay on Sipadan Island, but you can stay on Seaventures Dive Rig, which offers a oncein-a-lifetime opportunity to sleep offshore. Homey accommodation, rustic buffet dining and a games room complete with pool and table tennis make for a laid-back vibe where travellers quickly become friends. Relax in hammocks on the sun deck, perfect for star gazing, or try the famous rig jump - a 20m leap into the Celebes Sea below that's not for the faint-hearted.

Seaventures offers easy access to Sipadan and the surrounding dive destinations of Mabul and Kapalai Islands where shallow reefs are ideal for beginner divers and macro photography. Around Mabul is where you'll find venomous blue-ringed octopus and surreal giant frogfish while the coral gardens of Kapalai are frequented by adorable pygmy seahorses, lionfish and blue-spotted stingrays.



# Opposite page:

The Matakina 1 shipwreck and underwater post. It was once a cargo ship that sent supplies to the resort

This page clockwise from top: The house reef under Seaventures; photo attractions at Mataking Reef Resort; an anemone hermit crab

# Overwater bliss

Looking for more luxurious quarters? Sipadan Kapalai Dive Resort is an overwater retreat on stilts, built on the tidal sandbar of Kapalai Island, Spot green sea turtles or snorkel with colourful reef fish from your water bungalow before enjoying sundowners on the spectacular floating sundeck. Both Seaventures and Kapalai Dive Resort have a quota of Sipadan dive permits. instagram.com/ sipadankapalaidiveresort







Northeast of Sipadan, the Tun Sakaran Marine Park, also known as Semporna Islands Park, encompasses a chain of islands and 21 dive sites which offer a more secluded, but no less impressive, diving experience than busy Sipadan.

The park's shallow coastal waters attract barracuda, eagle rays and turtles in abundance while vast coral walls teem with rainbow-coloured sea slugs called nudibranchs. Bodgaya Lagoon, a sweeping arc of turquoise waters fringed with coral reefs, attracts snorkellers to explore from the surface. Above water, visitors will find the Bajau Laut, an indigenous community of seafaring nomads who live in stilt houses and house boats on this remote archipelago.

In April, the Regatta Lepa water festival in Semporna celebrates the customs of the Bajau Laut with a floating parade of wooden lepa – single-mast, wooden ships traditional to the indigenous people of the region. Hundreds of elaborately decorated boats take part in the festivities which include a tug-of-war between ships and a small dugout boat race.

Just outside the park boundary, Mataking Island and Mataking Reef Resort offer a private island retreat for those wishing to dive in and explore the region in style. This decadent spa resort offers beach massages, seafront dining, beach bonfires and a turtle hatchery. The resort runs Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes where guests can participate in activities like beach cleanups. It even has its own incredible dive sites including a shipwreck and Malaysia's only underwater postbox where postcards can be placed in waterproof envelopes ready for an underwater postmark.









# TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN MARINE PARK AND GAYA ISLAND

Off the northern coast of Borneo, three kilometres north of Kota Kinabalu, Sabah's capital city, lies Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, a collection of five palm-fringed islands and an impressive 50 dive sites. The park's vast coral jungles are home to snapper, spiky scorpion fish and no less than seven types of Nemo-like clownfish.

You can also enjoy night diving here, a unique experience for any diver looking for lesser spotted marine life such as mimic octopuses and moray eels, which come out to hunt after dark.

Gaya Island Resort is a luxury resort within the park with a focus on marine and reef conservation, including coral propagation and turtle rescue and rehabilitation.

"With record tourism numbers and an influx of divers discovering Sabah's underwater treasures, the need for marine conservation has become more critical than ever," says Scott Mayback, the resort's resident marine biologist.

He cites ghost pipefish, dwarf lionfish, blacktip reef sharks and an incredible array of coral varieties as big attractions but admits that migrating whale sharks, on their journey through the Sulu Sea to the Pacific, steal the show when they're in town. These plant-eating gentle giants, the fourth largest fish in the world, can reach 18m in length and 20 tonnes in weight.

"The whale shark season around Gaya Island Resort typically occurs from February to March, coinciding with the abundance of krill, their primary food source. During this period, sightings of whale sharks become more frequent as they follow the krill," explains Mayback. "On a few occasions, whale sharks have ventured into the resort's waters and divers and snorkellers have had the incredible opportunity to swim alongside these gentle giants."

But, for Mayback, the beauty of Sabah's seas lies in the sheer abundance of life they contain.

"Sabah is home to 75 percent of the world's coral species and more than 2,000 different types of reef fish," he says. "It is an irreplaceable biodiversity hotspot that is well worth conserving for future generations."

#### This spread (clockwise):

Gaya Island Resort villas overlook the South China Sea with views of Mount Kinabalu in the distance; Bajau Laut community; exterior of one of many Mataking Reef Resort's accommodations; Gaya Island Resort Marine Centre where guests can learn about turtle rescue and coral reef restoration

# How to get there

To reach the Islands of Kapalai and Mataking, fly into Tawau Airport, which has daily connections from Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu. From Tawau Airport, it's an hour's drive to reach bustling Semporna Town, the gateway to diving off the east coast of Borneo. Semporna to Sipadan Kapalai Dive Resort is 45 minutes by speedboat and Semporna to Mataking Reef Resort is 1 hour. To reach Gaya Island, fly to Kota Kinabalu and enjoy a 10-minute speedboat ride to Gaya Island Resort.



Malaysia Airlines flies from KL to Kota Kinabalu 71x weekly. Firefly flies from Penang to KK 12x weekly and from Subang to Kota Kinabalu 7x weekly.



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# It's Friday night in the city and there's an electric vibe in the air.

Previous spread: The Chaktomuk Theater, an example of New Khmer Architecture This page: Sisowath Quay; street artist and muralist FONKi Opposite page: The gilded Royal Palace against gleaming skyscrapers

I'm standing at the confluence of French brasserie and wine bar Le Manolis, popular European diner Khéma and a spruced-up Sisowath Quay, running parallel to the Mekong riverside, and everyone is heading somewhere - to dinner, to drinks, to a river cruise with dinner and drinks. There's an intoxicatingly fresh élan and vivaciousness to this city, where before there was merely a sense of urban chaos and downbeat resignation.

Wind back the clock a decade ago, and Phnom Penh felt far from glamorous. The Royal Palace, Wat Phnom and Central Market provided isolated historical points of interest, with only a handful of New Khmer Architecture buildings - a tropical modernist style fused with vernacular elements - surviving from this seminal movement of the 1950s and '60s. A grungy, traffic-choked city characterised by decaying tenement blocks and dingy backstreets offered few reasons for the average tourist to return.

When the Vattanac Capital tower opened near the train station in 2014, it proved a turning point for the Cambodian capital. Only the second skyscraper in Phnom Penh, its angular architecture although its shape is inspired by the dragon - felt revolutionary for this developing country. It would provide not only a headquarters for Vattanac Bank but a luxury mall, serviced apartments, office space and, in 2018, 15 storeys devoted to luxury hotel Rosewood Phnom Penh.

What followed was little short of remarkable, as the city underwent a radical transformation from low-rise terrace patchwork to Southeast Asia's fastest-growing metropolis, strewn with highrise towers, pristine thoroughfares, spotless parks and upscale hangouts. The icing on the cake was Cambodia's selection as host venue for the 2023 SEA Games, the country's biggest sporting event ever. The metamorphosis was crowned by the unveiling of the grandiose Morodok Techo Stadium in out-of-town Chroy Changvar, which hosted the opening and closing ceremonies, and is now the national football stadium.

There's more to the glow-up: this now-prestigious peninsula also hosts many tourist attractions and swanky condominiums, including the super-luxe integrated resort Morgan EnMaison which comprises five soaring towers (one of which is Cambodia's tallest building) that incorporate residences, a mall, a luxury hotel, helipad and yachting marina. It's an all-embracing makeover that has brought not just cosmetic improvements, but a stylish look and confidence to every conceivable facet of lifestyle, from the arts and dining to retail and entertainment.

Street artist and muralist FONKi's (Fonki Yav) designs, for instance, are emblazoned across city spaces, telling the story of Cambodian culture and history. "We believe Cambodia can be a place for cultural discovery, and travellers can be drawn here by its open-air museums and thriving art scene," says the artist, who also heads FT Gallery, which specialises in urban contemporary art. He calls his gallery "a space where art breathes and tells stories, much like the vibrant streets of Phnom Penh."



FONKi has collaborated with hospitality brands like Rosewood Phnom Penh, which is increasingly spearheading the city's artistic and cultural renaissance, and which styles itself as a "canvas for creativity" for Cambodia's evolving arts landscape. The luxury hotel is a patron of the Khmer Literature Festival, has just hosted Phnom Penh Designers Week in June, supports non-profit arts school Phare Ponleu Selpak and curates quarterly exhibitions, displaying work from artists Chan Dany and Leang Seckon. Along with ArtSpace, the country's largest gallery, the hospitality brand is teasing out the creative impulse innate to so many Cambodians.

"I believe Cambodia aims to be recognised not just for its past challenges, but as a vibrant, forward-looking country that honours its rich heritage," says Rosewood's managing director Daniel Simon, recently voted the country's best general manager. "Phnom Penh's rapid transformation reflects this vision. The influx of international investment – in architecture, hospitality and the arts – signifies a strategic effort to promote the country, while urban-planning initiatives demonstrate a commitment to sustainable development."

# THE CAPITAL'S RECENT DEVELOPMENTS - WHICH MAY BE TAKEN

as signs of growing prosperity – has undeniably been boosted by foreign investment, but it's also heartening to know that many desirable locales in Phnom Penh are locally owned and run, particularly in the food and beverage industry.

Restaurants are often the first cultural point of entry into a city, and two of Phnom Penh's finest are overseen by Kimsan Pol and Mariya Un Noun – at Sombok and Restaurant Un respectively. Commanding a prime position on Sisowath Quay, Sombok's all-female team rustle up inventive, artfully presented Khmer dishes in an arresting dining space. At Restaurant Un, chef Mariya's Nouvelle Khmer Cuisine re-invigorates Khmer cooking's rich flavours with European gastronomy. For both, the subtext in the experience is that Cambodian cuisine, although not as globally renowned as its neighbours', is right up there with the best of them.

Not that we require further proof of this, but the city's best-known celebrity chef – Ros Rotanak, aka Chef Nak – clinched the top prize at the 2023 Gourmand World Cookbook Awards for *SAOY: Royal Cambodian Home Cuisine*, in which she creatively reimagines dishes from the pre-war years. At her luxurious, century-old wooden residence by the Mekong, Chef Nak hosts home-dining evenings, cooking classes and visitors staying overnight in the adjoining wooden house: an immersive exposure to Cambodian cuisine, heritage and community.

There's a palpable alignment of vision across cultural sectors, and all these efforts in the F&B space echo how FONKi describes his own endeavours in the arts: "I'm digging into my roots; the city's really developing in its own way. So, there's room now for contemporary art and for our new generation to get back our history and recreate our narrative."

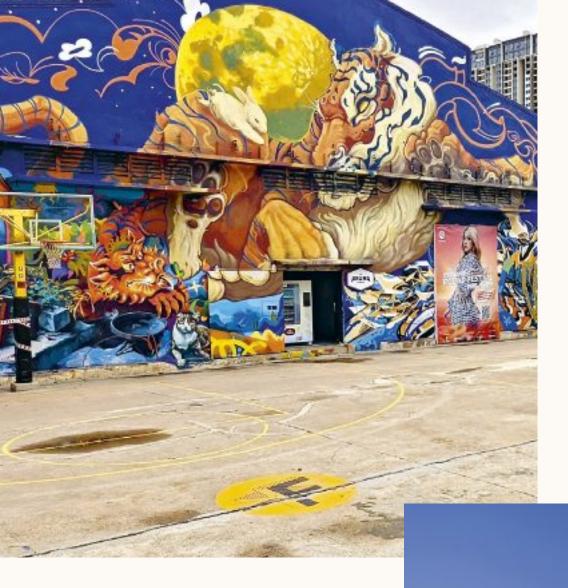
# THE ONWARD MARCH SHOWS NO SIGN OF SLOWING - NOW,

work is under way on an ambitious, 57ha urban-regeneration and ecotourism initiative that aims to enhance the lifestyles of those perusing the Mekong riverside in Daun Penh district. Phnom Penh Pedestrian Street comprises three zones; the first juxtaposes stores selling Cambodian crafts and international brands with restaurants serving cosmopolitan cuisines. In the dynamic second



Clockwise from top:
One of FONKi's murals
at Factory; the dragoninspired Vattanac Capital
tower, which houses
Rosewood Phnom Penh;
Chef Ros Rotanak;
gorgeous plating at

Restaurant Un



66

Cambodia aims to be recognised not just for its past challenges, but as a vibrant, forwardlooking country that honours its rich heritage"





From top: Morodok Techo Stadium; a buzzy street with Central Market in the background

zone, contemporary pop-up stores and bars make for potentially exciting nightlife. But the third zone will be most welcome in this space-challenged capital: an area of lush greenery with landscaped gardens and comfortable seating, ideal for unwinding near Sisowath Quay. Due for completion later this year, Pedestrian Street could be the most transformative project yet seen in Phnom Penh.

Elsewhere in the city, new developments are springing up that are raising eyebrows with their audacious design credentials and ingenuity. Architectural pioneers, Urban Living Solutions (ULS) are making waves across Cambodia for their community-focused, eco-savvy "live-work-play" projects. In Phnom Penh, the firm's sprawling Factory – a textile manufacturing and creative business hub – is joined nearby by spectacular residential high-rise Urban Village. Another project called Odom, an avant-garde, mixed-use "vertical city" incorporating 8,000sqm of green space, is under construction and aims to bring the traditional feel of Khmer villages into the future.

"We believe urban development should not only cater to tourists but also fundamentally improve residents' quality of life," says Corbett Hix, ULS's community and creative director. "Skyscrapers, modern infrastructure and commercial areas have sprouted, changing the skyline. [But] these developments alone don't create a vibrant, liveable city; it's their integration with community-centric spaces that makes the difference. The new pedestrian-only zone is a perfect example of how urban planning can reshape and beautify the city."

A century ago, Phnom Penh's French colonial architecture earned it the moniker Pearl of the Orient. Now, almost 50 years after war and conflict had decayed Cambodia, there are many more reasons for the capital – affordable, attractive, culturally rich and exciting – to reclaim its exalted standing within Southeast Asia.



Malaysia Airlines flies from Kuala Lumpur to Phnom Penh 14x weekly.

# Chic stays

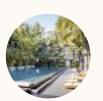
Homegrown brands of sophisticated hotels, both luxurious and mid-range, have been on the upswing in Phnom Penh in recent years



**Baitong,** designed by Asma Architects, is a lush, beautiful sanctuary in the bustling BKK1 district, and flaunts wide-open spaces and clean lines that are the firm's calling card. **baitonghotel.asia** 



**Penh House** – with its wow-factor foyer and rooftop – arrived in 2018 around the corner from Street 240's numerous fair-trade stores crammed with artisanal craftsmanship. *penhhouse.asia* 



# **Plantation Urban Resort and Spa,** looking brighter and airier after last year's sweeping renovation, is a calm downtown oasis and is ideal for families with kids. **theplantation.asia**



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# Travelling back to the dawn of civilisation



There are so many historical tales to unravel in Türkiye, a country sitting at the crossroads of civilisations, filled with the remnants of human history, in all the significant stages of its fascinating evolution. Next time you are making travel plans, make sure that one of the country's Unesco World Heritage Sites is on your shortlist.

Every corner of Türkiye has its famous historical remnants, quietly telling tales of powerful civilisations that once spread their influence. Out of these hotspots, 21 have been listed as Unesco World Heritage Sites.

# The land of great transformation

The historical journey through Anatolia begins in the Neolithic period with Göbeklitepe, the world's first known sacred site, going back to around 9,600 BCE. At the foot of the majestic Taurus Mountains, overlooking the slopes of the Harran Plain, this is one of the most important sites of the Neolithic Age, predating both Stonehenge and the

Egyptian pyramids. The collection of circles formed by T-shaped stone pillars with intricate carvings expresses the mystic power of a site of worship older than history itself.

At the heartland of Türkiye, Çatalhöyük is another famous Neolithic excavation site where the world's first urban settlement was unearthed. It is here that visitors can travel back in time to the beginnings of human history through the remnants of rooms believed to have been temples, elegantly decorated houses and elaborate artifacts that clearly signal the sophistication of this ancient society. Even though statues of the Anatolian Mother Goddess and fragments of elaborate wall paintings can be found at the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. it is the excavation site itself that is so enthralling because of its immediacy the act of walking through spaces where such early signs of human life once thrived.

# Ancient kingdoms of Anatolia

The Arslantepe Mound is another Unesco World Heritage Site with ties to the Mesopotamian world and, later, the Hittite civilisation, with an unearthed king's palace that acts as an open-air museum today. One of Anatolia's greatest civilisations, the ancient capital city of the Hittites is yet another discovery that's essential for any history enthusiast. Hattusha is a Unesco World Heritage Site filled with the beautiful ruins of temples, palaces, monumental sculptures and enormous fortification walls with ceremonial gates and tunnels – stunning visual evidence that this was the centre of a mighty empire.

Another new participant of the Unesco WHL is Gordion, in Ankara, the ancient capital of the Phrygian civilisation. Gordion stands as a remarkable archaeological site providing insights into the Phrygian civilisation and its accomplishments. The structures within its Early Phrygian citadel, along with

the burial mounds of the city's rulers, serve as exceptional examples of monumental architecture in the Iron Age of the Near East. The citadel's entrance showcases the most well-preserved fortified gate complex from the Iron Age (10th–8th centuries BCE) that has been unearthed to date.

Of course, no act of time travel through Anatolia would be complete without a hike up to Mount Nemrut, soaring up to 2,400m above sea level, which is utterly rewarding with the monumental tomb sanctuary of King Antiochus I Theos of Commagene (69-34 BCE), the most famous ruler of the Kingdom of Commagene. The colossal statues of this sanctuary, unmatched in the ancient world, make one feel present in another realm entirely, on top of a mountain, away from everything else, alone with history.

# Cultural blossoming of the Classical Period

North of İzmir, the remnants of the Hellenistic period unveil themselves in the form of Pergamum, once







Göbeklitepe, Şanlıurfa

Mount Nemrut, Adıyaman

Ephesus, İzmir

a political and intellectual centre, a city of learning and culture, and the home of The Library of Pergamum, which contained almost 200,000 volumes of books. The city's Asclepium (Sanctuary of Asclepius) was also one of the oldest and the largest healing centres in the ancient world. More beauty from antiquity can be found at Aphrodisias, once famous for its Temple of Aphrodite and its outstanding highquality marble sculptures. The Aphrodisias Stadium is the best-preserved ancient stadium of the Aegean in antiquity.

Of course, most notable on the list is the city of Ephesus, certainly the most well-preserved and the largest archaeological site in the eastern Mediterranean. The remnants of the Temple of Artemis, which was recognised as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Library of Celsus, the Great Theatre and the Basilica of St. John are some of the main sights that have left many visitors from all over the world in awe. There's also the ancient spa city of Hierapolis in Pamukkale, founded as a thermal spa and known for its hot springs in classical Phrygia and Xanthos-Letoon, the capital of Lycian civilisation. Anatolia is also home to the legendary Troy, mentioned in Homer's epic Iliad,

where a symbolic wooden Trojan horse commemorates the legendary war at the waterfront of Canakkale.

# Anatolia in the medieval times

Like a fairy tale world that rises out of the natural landscape, Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia and its Christian monasteries, dating back to the 8th through the 11th centuries, are a site of pilgrimage and wonder. Another important archaeological site, Ani, was a great metropolis that was once known as the city of a thousand and one churches. A true Muslim stronghold, the Great Mosque and Hospital of Divriği, is one of Anatolia's most important works of architecture, especially the three-dimensional ornamentation of the two entrances, which leaves a lasting impression on everyone who sets eyes upon them. The city of Divarbakır hosts many treasures of history, including the Divarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape and the Tigris River, unforgettable in its exceedingly well-preserved state.

Recently, the Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Medieval Anatolia became new additions from Türkiye to the Unesco WHL. This serial property comprises five hypostyle mosques built in Anatolia between the late 13th and mid-14th centuries, each located in a different province of present-day Türkiye. The mosques' distinctive structural system integrates an outer masonry building envelope with several rows of interior wooden columns (referred to as "hypostyle"). These columns support a flat wooden ceiling and the roof. These mosques are renowned for their expert woodcarving and craftsmanship, evident in their structures, architectural components and furnishings.

# The seats of the Ottoman throne

A historical journey through Türkiye is never complete without seeing the splendour of the Ottoman Empire. Bursa and Cumalıkızık are on the list as they showcase the heritage from the Birth of the Ottoman Empire. Bursa was the first capital of the Empire between 1335 and 1363, and nearby Cumalıkızık is also a showcase of Ottoman civic architecture, a village of colourful wooden houses, which can also be found in the City of Safranbolu, one of the best-preserved Ottoman cities.

Yet, the Ottoman era cannot be discussed without mentioning the chief Ottoman architect and civil engineer, Mimar Sinan,

one of the most important representatives of the classical period of Ottoman architecture, who built more than 300 significant structures. The Selimiye Mosque and its Social Complex are among his most notable achievements - a true masterwork that leaves its visitors in awe in Edirne, the second capital of the Ottoman Empire. The true beauty and influence of the Ottoman era began when İstanbul became the seat of the Ottoman rulers. One of the world's richest open-air museums, the Historic Areas of İstanbul (Historical Peninsula) is not only home to exquisite Ottoman monuments like Topkapı Palace, Sultanahmet Mosque (the Blue Mosque) and Süleymaniye Mosque but also to the Eastern Roman marvels like the Hagia Sophia, Hagia Irene, Little Hagia Sophia, Zevrek Mosque (Pantokrator Monastery) and Walls of Constantinople. So much history, dating back to the beginning of humanity, is scattered around the country, waiting to be discovered and never forgotten.





Dr Firdausi Suffian CFO of Invest Sabah Berhad

# Why Sabah is the next hotspot for savvy investors

Strategically located in Southeast Asia, Sabah is rapidly emerging as a prime investment destination. As a gateway to the ASEAN market and beyond, here's why investors should seize the opportunity to invest in Sabah now

# **Diverse opportunities**

"Over the next decade, Sabah is poised to become a prime investment destination by attracting quality investments that drive structural change," shares Dr Firdausi Suffian, CEO of Invest Sabah. He reveals key areas of investment opportunities which include sectors like manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, human capital, infrastructure, utilities and renewable energy. "The next wave of investment in Sabah will focus on sophisticated downstream industries, achieving net-zero carbon emissions through the expansion of renewable energy," he explains.

# A strategic gateway

Sabah's location in Southeast Asia positions it as a crucial

gateway to the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). Well-connected to major markets in East Asia, its proximity to Indonesia's new capital in Kalimantan enhances its trade and investment appeal. This strategic location, combined with robust infrastructure such as an international airport, enables seamless trade and travel across a market of approximately 23.88 million people in Borneo.

### Favourable business climate

Initiatives like the Sabah Development Corridor aim to boost key sectors, creating a business-friendly environment that welcomes both domestic and international investments. Dr Firdausi emphasised that

competitive landscape.

# Thriving tourism sector

heritage, Sabah is a premier

tourist destination, drawing millions of visitors each year. The thriving tourism industry offers numerous investment opportunities in hospitality, eco-tourism and related sectors, further enriching the local economy.

this supportive framework is essential for businesses aiming to succeed in a

With its stunning natural landscapes and rich cultural

When: 19-20 October 2024 Where: Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC),

Sabah-China Business Summit 2024

When: 22-24 November 2024

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Kota Kinabalu

Kota Kinabalu

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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. 60

Inside our airlines

News and updates from MAG Airlines

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Discover our network

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

Onboard entertainment

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



# **Malaysia Airlines celebrates** the first batch of Orang Asli cabin crew graduates

Malaysia Airlines proudly welcomed its first batch of Orang Asli cabin crew members. In December 2023, in partnership with the Department of Orang Asli Development, Malaysia Airlines commenced the recruitment outreach in Pahang, Perak, and Johor, covering diverse ethnic groups. The cabin crew members, completed comprehensive training modules covering grooming, public speaking, hospitality, first aid, hazardous materials handling and

aircraft familiarisation. The airline also continues to ramp up efforts to recruit international cabin crew to promote diversity and personalise its service for its global customers, including recruitment of cabin crew from key markets such as India, Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia. Malaysia Airlines recently earned a spot on the Top 10 World's Best Airline Cabin Crew at the Skytrax World Airline Awards 2024, a significant climb from its previous number 17 ranking in 2023.



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# Launch of **Malaysia Aviation Group's 2023** Sustainability Report

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) has launched its 2023 Sustainability Report, highlighting a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion. With women comprising 34% of the workforce and holding 50% of senior management positions, MAG is leading the charge for gender equality and robust leadership representation. In tandem with its diversity initiatives, MAG is making impressive strides in sustainability. The company proudly sources 17% of its energy from renewable resources and has replaced over 4.5 million units of single-use plastics with biodegradable materials. Additionally, MAG's ground handling arm, AeroDarat Services, has adopted fully electric pushback operations using the Mototok Spacer 8600NG, further enhancing its environmental efforts. The 2023 Sustainability Report reflects MAG's dedication to fostering an inclusive workplace while advancing sustainable practices within the aviation industry. The report was officiated by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, YB Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.



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# **China Southern Airlines** and Malaysia Airlines expand codeshare flights

China Southern Airlines and Malaysia Airlines have expanded their codeshare partnership to include the Guangzhou-Penang (CAN-PEN), Kuala Lumpur-Beijing Daxing (KUL-PKX), and Kuala Lumpur-Shanghai Pudong (KUL-PVG) routes. This expansion follows the successful launch of their codeshared Guangzhou-Kuala Lumpur route on 6 July 2023, enhancing connectivity and offering more diverse travel options between the two countries. China Southern Airlines endeavours to increase its capacity in the Malaysian market to 73 flights per week to meet the various travel demands. Meanwhile, Malaysia Airlines currently operates 54 weekly flights to China, covering Guangzhou (CAN), Shanghai Pudong (PVG), Beijing Daxing (PKX) and Xiamen (XMN). The codeshare expansion provides both airlines with the opportunity to offer enhanced connectivity and flexibility for passengers travelling for business or leisure.





# Malaysia **Airlines hosts** inaugural global trade elevation **summit 2024**

Malaysia Airlines recently hosted the largest airline trade event in collaboration with Tourism Malaysia and the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB). The Malaysia Airlines Trade Elevation Summit 2024 brought together 300 delegates, including over 200 international attendees from 48 cities and 21 countries. This summit. marked a significant milestone for Malaysia Airlines as it advances the goals of Visit Malaysia Year 2026 and positions Kuala Lumpur (KUL) as a key gateway to Asia and beyond. Key decisionmakers from global trade companies participated, fostering collaboration, strategising future initiatives and enhancing the country's role in global tourism. The summit also featured the inaugural prestigious Golden Wau Awards, recognising top sales agents for their exceptional contributions to Malaysia Airlines' growth and for setting new industry standards.

# **Enrich shines at the Loyalty and Engagement Awards 2024**

Enrich, the travel and lifestyle loyalty programme of Malaysia Airlines, was recognised for outstanding achievements at the Loyalty & Engagement Awards 2024 at the Shangri-La Singapore. The event recognises success stories in customer-centric practices and celebrates innovation, vision and game-changing strategies that have reshaped the customer relationship landscape. Enrich proudly received three notable accolades, underscoring its commitment to delivering exceptional value and experiences to its members.

- Best Customer Retention Strategy Gold
- Best Loyalty Strategy in Travel & Hospitality Silver
- Best Partnership in Loyalty Programme Silver



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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



# A330-200 Rill 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 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



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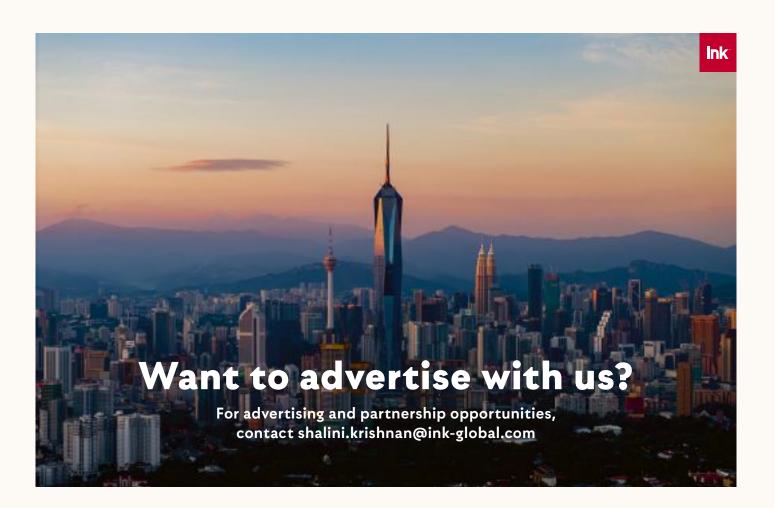
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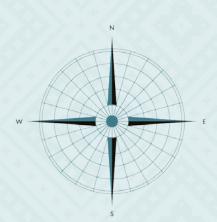












# OUR NETWORK

**ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELEN WINATA** 

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Malaysia Airlines

\*THE ROUTE MAP IS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE IMAGES, SHUTTERSTOCK (KOTA KINABALU, LANGKAWI)

Jeddah

- Firefly
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The Enrich Points Guide to unlocking rewards in

## MALAYSIA



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iOS: You will be directed to the

home page\*\*

Android: Enter the URL

mhconnect.malaysiaairlines.com to be directed to the home page



Click on the "Go Online" tab



Enter your email address and click the "Continue" tab



Step 3

Click on the "Connect" tab



You can now surf the web with MHconnect

\*MHconnect Wi-Fi and mobile roaming services are available on selected A350 and A330 aircraft operated by Malaysia Airlines.
\*\*If iOS is not automatically redirected, enter URL mhconnect.malaysiaairlines.com to be directed to the homepage. Other T&Cs apply.



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Step 2

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Step 3

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The availability of in-flight entertainment (IFE) programmes will vary depending on the aircraft model, flight routes, and current availability. Please note that these offerings are subject to change without prior notice.





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## NOW SHOWING

⊕ MOVIES p76 ☐ TELEVISION p86 ♠ AUDIO p87



Check out our Malaysia Day Special on page 78!



Sepak Takraw Losers Titi Kayu Akil & Juan





#### **Furiosa:** A Mad Max Saga

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga is a highly anticipated prequel in the popular Mad Max series, directed by George Miller.

The film explores the early life of Imperator Furiosa, who was originally played by Charlize Theron in Mad Max: Fury Road. Anya Taylor-Joy stars as the young Furiosa, showing her journey and rise in the harsh, post-apocalyptic world. Viewers can expect the same thrilling action, deep characters and stunning visuals the series is known for, offering a new look at one of its most fascinating characters.

#### Hollywood Latest



The Last Stop in Yuma County

In *The Last Stop in Yuma County*, a suspenseful Western thriller, a group of outlaws faces off against a determined sheriff in a lawless town. As tensions rise, the battle for control turns into a dramatic showdown that tests loyalties and courage. With intense action and gripping storytelling, this film keeps viewers on the edge of their seats.

The Idea of You follows a 40-yearold woman who finds a new lease of life and love when she starts a relationship with a younger man. Based on the bestselling novel by Robinne Lee, this romantic drama explores themes of self-discovery, desire and the challenges of navigating love in unexpected places. It's a heartfelt and poignant journey of reinvention and passion.



The Idea of You



The Dead Don't Hurt

The Dead Don't Hurt is a gripping drama set in the aftermath of a tragic event that shakes a small community. As the characters grapple with their grief and seek justice, the film uncovers deep personal and emotional struggles. With powerful performances and a compelling narrative, it explores the impact of loss and the quest for closure.

#### . MALAYSIA DAY SPECIAL

#### Malay Movies



In **Sepak Takraw Losers**, a struggling sepak takraw team fights to overcome their challenges and prove their worth. This sports drama blends humour and heart, showcasing their journey from underdogs to champions.

.....



TITI KAYU

Akil & Juan is a buddy comedy about two unlikely friends who embark on a wild adventure that tests their friendship and resolves. Their journey is filled with laughs, mishaps and heartfelt moments.

Titi Kayu follows a young girl's dream of becoming a celebrated dancer while navigating personal and cultural obstacles. This inspiring tale highlights resilience, family ties and the pursuit of passion against the odds.





Sudirman Chow Kit Road '86



Sudirman Chow Kit Road '86 is a nostalgic look back at 1980s Kuala Lumpur, focusing on the vibrant street life and cultural shifts. It's a vibrant exploration of the era's social and personal dynamics.



Incorporated on 11 January 2005, Haji Ismail Group Sdn Bhd emerged from a vision to elevate a modest family-run enterprise into a nationally recognised leader in the retail industry. This transformation marked the evolution of Haji Ismail Enterprise, a private company that laid the foundation for an enduring legacy of business success.

Rooted in strong family values, Haji Ismail Group seized the opportunity presented by Langkawi's declaration as a Duty-Free Island. This pivotal moment aligned with the company's aspirations and ignited a journey of remarkable growth. With unwavering determination and the collective effort of all family members, the company expanded its footprint, establishing a network of branches that now spans across Malaysia.

A cornerstone of this success has been the strategic partnership with Bank Rakyat, which has served as a crucial pillar in supporting the company's financial needs. Bank Rakyat provided the financial backing that enabled Haji Ismail Group to scale its operations, manage cash flow and seize new opportunities. The Bank's support has been instrumental in the company's expansion of its retail presence and diversification of its product offerings.

Haji Ismail Group offers a diverse range of products, including luggage, tableware, batik fabric, sarongs, towels, chocolates, kitchen essentials and various other duty-free goods, most of which are self-imported. To ensure product availability and meet demand, the company operates three stores in Kuah Town centre and one store in Pantai Cenang, further solidifying its business presence in Langkawi Island.

Today, Haji Ismail Group stands as a testament to what can be achieved through vision, hard work and a commitment to excellence. The company's story is not just one of business success, but of a family's dedication to growing a legacy that continues to prosper, with the steadfast support of partners like Bank Rakyat.



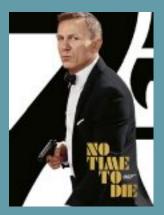








**Hollywood Favourite Movies** 







Skyfall



Casino Royale

The James Bond series, with Daniel Craig, unfolds a thrilling saga: Casino Royale reboots Bond's mission, Quantum of Solace explores vengeance, Skyfall reveals his past, Spectre links a global threat and No Time to Die



Mad Max: Fury Road



**Prisoners** 













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#### **MOVIES & TELEVISION**

#### Kids' Specials



















Batman vs. Two-Face



Tom & Jerry

#### TV Shows



Shaq's Garage

**Shaq's Garage** is a captivating reality series where NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal showcases his impressive car collection and restoration projects. Each episode reveals his passion for automobiles and the stories behind his prized vehicles.



Thomas Edison's Secret Lab

Thomas Edison's Secret Lab is an educational series that combines adventure with invention. Kids follow Edison's fictional lab, solving problems with creative experiments and exploring science, technology and innovation in an engaging, hands-on way.



Teen Titans Go!



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#### More discoveries await in Korea.

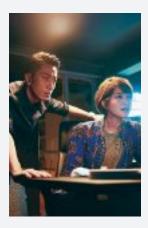
Embark on a seamless journey across Korea with the excellent connectivity provided by our partner, Korail. Explore the beaches and seafood in Busan, immerse in Gwangju's vibrant art scene, or enjoy the panoramic vistas and history in Ulsan.

Busan | Dongdaegu | Gwangju-Seongjeong | Jinju | Mokpo | Pohang | Ulsan | Yeosu-Expo





#### Chinese



Crypto Storm



Money No Enough 3

Money No Enough 3 continues the comedic saga of three friends grappling with financial woes and personal dilemmas, blending humour with heartfelt moments as they navigate life's challenges.

#### Japanese



The Innocent Game



**Lovesick Ellie** 

Lovesick Ellie is a romantic drama following a young woman's quest for love and self-discovery, filled with emotional twists and charming encounters.

#### Korean



12:12: The Day



Deadman

**Deadman**, a gripping thriller about a man who, after a near-death experience, finds himself entangled in a web of mystery and danger, uncovering hidden truths.

#### Hindi



Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani



Jawan

Jawan is an action-packed film featuring intense drama and gripping performances as the protagonist seeks justice and battles adversaries in a high-stakes storyline.

#### Tamil



**Annapoorani** 

#### Malayalam



**Valatty** 

#### Telugu



Vimanam

#### Indonesian



Puspa Indah Taman Hati

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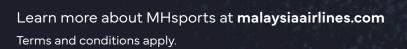
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#### **TELEVISION**

#### Korean



#### **M Count Down**

M Count Down is a dynamic music show featuring live performances, interviews and behind-the-scenes glimpses of popular K-pop artists. It's a vibrant showcase of the latest hits and emerging trends in music.

#### Hindi



The Kapil Sharma Show - Sesaon 2

The Kapil Sharma Show - Season 2 continues the comedic fun with Kapil Sharma's witty humour and engaging celebrity interviews. This season promises more laughter, entertaining skits and lighthearted entertainment.

#### Chinese



Half Bright and Half Rain

#### Malay Religious



Tazkirah Malam Jumaat Season 7

#### Comedy



**B Positive** is a heartwarming comedy about a man needing a kidney transplant and forming an unexpected friendship with a donor. The show blends humour with touching moments in a unique, uplifting narrative.



**Horrible Histories** 

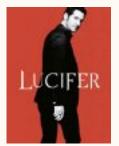
Drama

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The Vampire Diaries is a supernatural drama series following the lives of two vampire brothers and their entanglements with a human girl. It combines romance, suspense and supernatural intrigue in a captivating storyline.



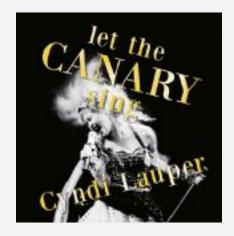


Travel



David Rocco's Dolce Southeast Asia

#### **AUDIO**



sector topic to, but a 15th annionary relies





#### The Hits

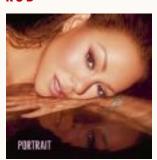
This special collection brings together four standout albums. Let The Canary Sing is packed with lively pop-rock tunes that lift your spirits. **Beautifully Ordinary** offers soothing melodies and thoughtful lyrics that celebrate the beauty in everyday life. The **On The 6** (25th Anniversary Edition) revisits a classic album with updated sound and extra content, proving its lasting impact. Lastly, **Dragon In Harmony** blends epic sounds with imaginative themes, creating a captivating musical adventure. This compilation showcases a rich variety of memorable and beloved hits.

Memories





R & B





Club



Japanese



Korean



Hindi



Tamil





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