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*Learn more at [myasean2025.my](https://myasean2025.my)*



JUNE 2025

# Contents

## 28

### **A Malaysian in Paris**

YAM Tengku  
Zatashah binti  
Sultan Shafaruddin  
Idris Shah shares  
her favourite spots  
in the City of Lights

---

## 31

### **A perfect weekend in... Amritsar**

Savour tradition  
and history in the  
heart of Punjab's  
second-largest city

---

## 36

### **Out and about**

This vibrant  
Queensland capital  
invites you to explore  
its best angles

## 44

### **A spiritual quest in Yogyakarta**

Follow the trail of myth  
and mysticism that work  
in harmony with the land  
and its culture





## CONTENTS

### 10 **12 reasons to love Malaysia**

Treat dad this Father's Day, discover new places to eat and enjoy a dose of art and culture this month

### 54 **Walk on the wild side**

Hit the trails and fall for Auckland's stunning views and cinematic scenes

### 65 **This is Malaysian Hospitality**

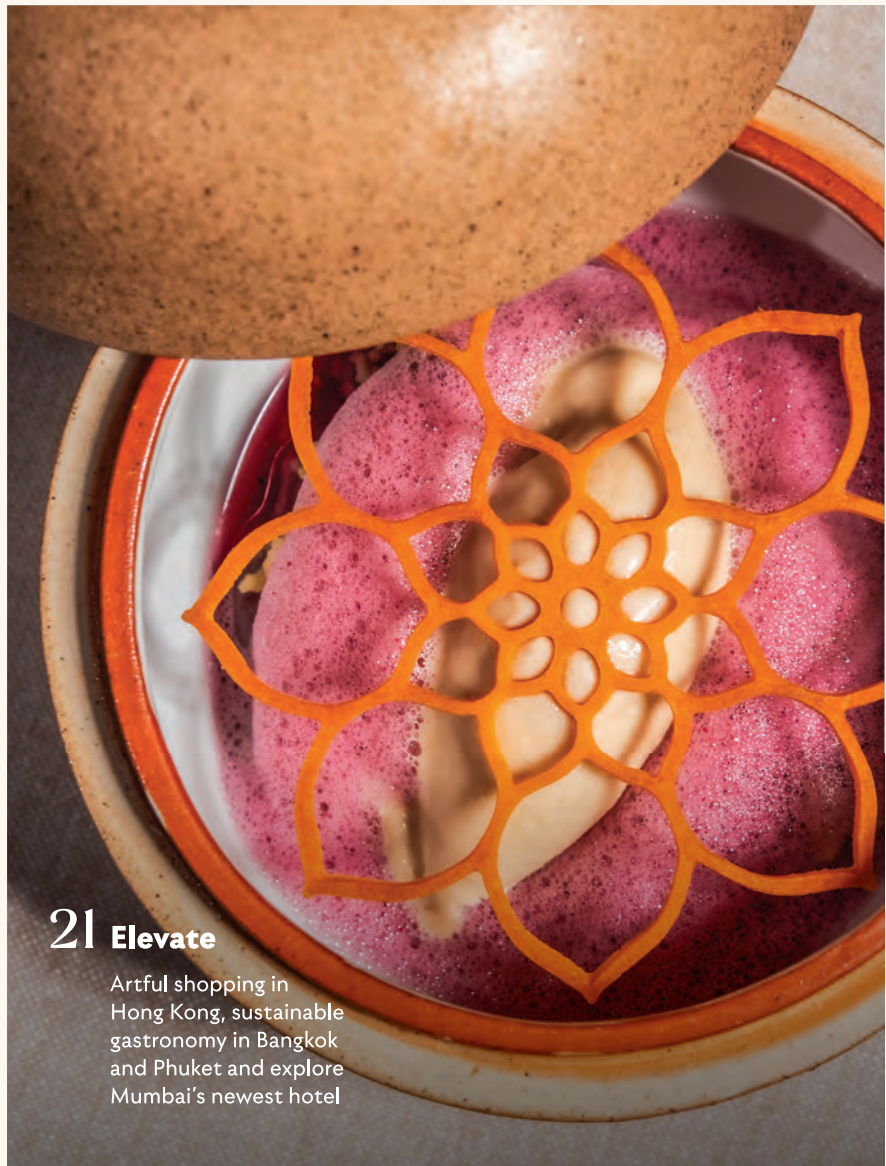
Savour Asia's finest flavours, fly direct to Brisbane and enjoy more personalised, value-packed journeys

### 76 **Our network**

Travel around Malaysia and the world with Malaysia Aviation Group

### 81 **Now showing**

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



### 21 **Elevate**

Artful shopping in Hong Kong, sustainable gastronomy in Bangkok and Phuket and explore Mumbai's newest hotel



#### About the cover

Mount Barney in Brisbane is a natural wonder worth exploring  
Photo courtesy of Nathan McGee

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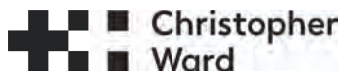
# locommotion?



Every mechanical watch has a balance wheel, but not all balance wheels are created equal. The C12 Loco's 'free sprung' balance wheel (and hairspring) isn't merely a part of the watch. It's the star. Placed below the time-telling dial, on the artfully coloured and stepped platine, its mesmeric oscillations are driven by a new in-house movement – Calibre CW-003, whose hand-wound, hand-finished architecture delivers a six-day power reserve and chronometric accuracy. And because we want to tell the story of how we got here – and because we're a little loco ourselves – we've made a feature-length documentary about it. Just make sure you're sitting down when the price is revealed.

Scan the QR code for the full (com)motion picture.

Do your research



[christopherward.com](http://christopherward.com)





## Dear guests,

As we reach the halfway mark of another year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) has charted thus far. The past few months have been marked by significant milestones and meaningful progress – each playing a vital role in shaping who we are today and where we aspire to be in the future.

As the Hajj season draws near – a time of profound reflection, faith and unity – MAG is honoured to support this sacred journey. This year, Amal by Malaysia Airlines, the Hajj and Umrah pilgrimage arm of Malaysia Airlines, is proud to support the 2025 Hajj season with a total of 110 flights across two phases, facilitating the journey of 15,620 pilgrims. Phase 1 will see 55 flights transporting pilgrims to Madinah and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, while Phase 2, beginning 14 June and concluding by 10 July 2025, will bring them safely home.

I am also pleased to share that MAG recorded its second consecutive positive Net Profit After Interest and Tax (NIAT) of RM54 million and an operating profit of RM113 million – marking the third consecutive year of profitability. This was achieved despite the operational headwinds we faced, attributed to delayed deliveries of new aircraft and persistent supply chain bottlenecks. As we chart our path towards Destination 2030, we remain firmly focused on commercial sustainability and nation building – driving long-term strength, competitiveness and meaningful contributions to Malaysia's economic development.

As part of our connectivity strategy, we are increasing flight frequencies on several key routes to further enhance our network expansion and offer improved travel options for our passengers. Beginning this month, travellers can enjoy greater convenience as we will be increasing flights to Trivandrum (from four to five times weekly) effective 6 June 2025 and Surabaya (from 11 to 14 times weekly) starting 16 June 2025. We will also increase frequencies to cities like Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland and Phuket and are pleased to mark our return to Brisbane from 29 November 2025. This strengthens connectivity, supports rising travel demand and reinforces our presence in key markets.

This expansion underscores Malaysia Airlines' role in positioning Malaysia as the gateway to Asia and beyond – strengthening Kuala Lumpur's status as a key regional hub that connects passengers to major cities across Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and the wider global network.

Beyond connectivity, we are committed to enriching the onboard experience. After launching our Best of Asia menu in 2024, we continued this culinary journey in the first quarter of 2025, during which passengers in both Business and Economy Class savoured the bold and authentic flavours of Thailand and South Korea. In the second quarter, the culinary journey continues with the rich, comforting taste of China through a new feature dish: braised chicken with red dates in superior sauce. This dish draws inspiration from Cantonese cuisine, renowned for its refined braising techniques and emphasis on freshness, balance and the natural sweetness of ingredients.

Whether you're travelling to reconnect with loved ones, discover new horizons or simply enjoy a well-earned escape, we hope your journey is filled with comfort, warmth and meaningful moments.

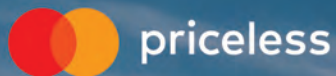
From the bottom of my heart, terima kasih for your unwavering support as we continue to pursue excellence in every aspect of your travel experience.

We look forward to welcoming you on many more memorable journeys with our Malaysian Hospitality.

### **Izham Ismail**

Group Managing Director  
Malaysia Aviation Group





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📍 Mount Kinabalu, Sabah

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**A**s we delve into the warmth of June, it feels only fitting to embrace the theme of discovery, not just of places but of experiences that leave lasting impressions on our hearts and minds.

First, we're excited to take you on a journey to Queensland's sunny capital, Brisbane. With Malaysia Airlines flying direct to the River City starting 29 November, we highlight the best of its dynamic landscape, capturing its essence through stunning visuals that truly paint a thousand words (page 36).

Next, we venture to Yogyakarta, where writer Cheryl Marella brings us closer to the land of myth and magic (page 44). Her story reveals a different side to this popular destination, one rooted in sacred rituals, spiritual energy and a profound connection between people and nature. Through witnessing deeply symbolic practices, she uncovers the quiet strength and soul of a place often viewed through the lens of tourism.

Then, we turn to Amritsar, the jewel of Punjab, where tradition and old-world charm intertwine (page 31). Here, we explore the deeply humbling experience of volunteering at the Golden Temple's community kitchen, an act of kindness that feeds thousands and leaves you with a renewed sense of gratitude.

As we journey through these diverse destinations, we are reminded of the immense beauty in both the seen and unseen – in the landscapes, the rituals and the human connections that make our world so richly textured. May this edition inspire your own adventures, wherever they may lead.



*Elizabeth Soong*

**Elizabeth Soong**  
Editor

## This issue's contributors



**Cheryl Marella**

Writer, "A spiritual quest in Yogyakarta", p44

Cheryl is a journalist who has worked in radio, TV and magazines. Based in Bali, her work has appeared on CNA and CNN Indonesia, and she now runs her own digital publication.



**Rameshinder Singh Sandhu**

Writer, "A perfect weekend in Amritsar", p31

Based in Amritsar, India, Rameshinder covers travel, food and culture. His work has appeared in *Conde Nast Traveller*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Hindustan Times* and several other publications.



**Anandhi Gopinath**

Writer, "A Malaysian in Paris", p28

Anandhi covers luxury lifestyle – watches, wheels and whiskies – with a sharp eye for what discerning readers seek, but she's always up for a good story.

# 21 MIHAS

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## TWICE THE RECOGNITION. ONE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT.

The Setia standard is hard to quantify or explain – yet it is seen clearly in every project that we touch. With all our endeavours, we strive to ensure this intangible touch is one that continues to raise the bar.

The **2025 FIABCI World Prix d'Excellence Awards** marks a proud moment for us - one grounded in collaboration, trust, and a commitment to excellence. Receiving two prestigious awards is a true honour with **Sapphire by the Gardens** in Melbourne being awarded the **World Gold Winner** in the **Residential High-Rise Category** and **Amantara of Setia Eco Templer**, Selangor being recognised as the **World Silver Winner** in the **Residential Low-Rise Category**.

To our dedicated team and our supporters, thank you for being part of this journey. These accolades belong to all of you.





# 12

# REASONS

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1

Sarawak

## Rhythm of the rainforest

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One of Malaysia's most anticipated music events, the **Rainforest World Music Festival (RWMF)** in Kuching, Sarawak, is happening from 20–22 June at the foot of Mount Santubong. This award-winning festival brings together 20 music groups from 20 countries, with 184 performers lighting up the stage. Expect a vibrant mix of world music alongside cultural workshops and markets. [rwmf.net](http://rwmf.net)

# TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places



Selangor

## A taste of Italy

Created by owner-chef Simon Phillips, **d'Alti Gusti** (AG) is a private fine dining kitchen in a Petaling Jaya (Section 21) bungalow that brings people together over good food, fine wine and

warm hospitality.

Guests are treated to an intimate, five-course Italian tasting menu – each dish reimaged with Phillips' creative take on the classics and served with stories from the chef himself. Want to get hands-on? Book a masterclass to recreate AG's dishes or learn pasta-making. [altigusti.com](http://altigusti.com)

# 3

Pahang

## Birder's paradise

Save the dates: 20–22 June marks the return of the 36th Fraser's Hill International Bird Race – Malaysia's oldest birding competition.

Drawing birders, photographers and nature lovers from around the world, the event challenges participants to spot and record as many bird species as possible within 24 hours, with categories for pros, novices and students.

There's also a photo race, photography contest, guided birdwatching tours, talks, exhibitions and booths to explore – all set against the cool, misty charm of Malaysia's popular highlands. [pahangtourism.org.my](http://pahangtourism.org.my)







4

Penang

## Stylish escape to Dioriviera

With its blend of colonial-era charm, golden beaches and vibrant city sights, Penang has long been a favourite destination for both local and international visitors.

Now, there's an extra reason to plan a getaway: Dior Malaysia brings its dreamy **Dioriviera Pop-up** to the island from 13 June to 11 August.

First launched in 2018, the Dioriviera capsule collection reimagines the luxury brand's classic motifs. This season, expect entrancing shades of turquoise and pink. An exciting new variation, Toile de Jouy Palms, depicts a lush jungle.

The Dioriviera Pop-up in Penang comes on the heels of a successful showcase in Desaru. [dior.com](http://dior.com)

5

Negeri Sembilan

## Straight from the garden

The phrase "farm to table" takes on a literal meaning at **Aunty Aini's Garden Café** in Nilai.

Located at 16th Mile, Jalan Sepang (Kampung Chelet), this home-based restaurant is set within the eponymous owner's edible garden, where ingredients like hibiscus petals, sawtooth coriander and chilli leaves are grown and used in the kitchen.

The setting – a typical Malay kampung – adds to the experience. Negeri Sembilan cuisine is served with pride and a deep respect for heritage. Dishes feature a menu of traditional recipes such as *gulai masak lemak cili api* (spicy turmeric coconut curry), *rendang itik* (duck rendang) and *pucuk paku kerabu* (fiddlehead fern salad). [instagram.com/auntyainisnilai](https://www.instagram.com/auntyainisnilai)



WORDS: PATSY KAM IMAGE: © KERRY J DEAN (DIOR), PATSY KAM (ASYLUM COFFEEHOUSE)



# 6

Kuala Lumpur

## Fashionable art

Footwear brand **Skechers** has teamed up with Kedah-born artist Haris Rashid, turning nature into wearable art. Featuring tees and totes adorned with local

flora, fauna and cultural motifs, the limited-edition SkechVibe Collection blends Haris' bold, heritage-inspired style with everyday comfort. Available at select Skechers stores across KL and online via Shopee and Lazada. [skechers.com.my](https://www.skechers.com.my)

# 7

Kuala Lumpur

## Good coffee, chill vibes

An offshoot of **Asylum Coffeehouse** in Singapore, this new Bangsar outpost is attracting coffee lovers with its signature Keluak espresso-based blend, roasted right across the Causeway. Set in a bright and cheery space with an inviting patio, the pet-friendly café also stocks tins of roasted beans and quirky merchandise. Don't miss the PB&J Latte – a made-for-Malaysia blend of peanut butter, milk and jelly jam espresso. [instagram.com/asylumcoffeemy](https://www.instagram.com/asylumcoffeemy)





8

Penang

## Art for everyone



Making art more accessible, the **Kecik-Kecik Group Show** returns to Hin Bus Depot in George Town from 6–9 June. Works are priced under RM2,000 – an ideal entry point for new collectors and a boost for local talent. First launched in 2007 by KL-based art lovers and now run by Penang Art District, the show features a vibrant mix of contemporary works from both emerging and established Malaysian artists. This year, each artwork comes with a Certificate of Authenticity from Arteesan.

[penangartdistrict.com](http://penangartdistrict.com)



Malaysia

## Shine bright like a candle

Two Malaysian brands are bringing their own unique glow to the art of home fragrance.

### Youzenan

Founded by former interior designer Catherine Lai, Youzenan merges art, spirituality and nature. Each soy wax candle is hand-poured with luxe oils from perfume house Drom and adorned with crystals or natural minerals – no two are alike.

[youzenan.com](http://youzenan.com)

### Cahaya Candles

From Melbourne to KL, Sheena Teo champions modern self-care with clean-burning candles made from botanical wax and plant-based scents. With eco-friendly packaging and globally sourced ingredients, each candle is a mindful escape. [cahayacandles.com](http://cahayacandles.com)







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Kedah

## Time for a reset

Unplug, unwind and reconnect at an exclusive yoga retreat in Ambong-Ambong Langkawi from 29 June to 3 July. Set in a serene rainforest resort, this intimate experience welcomes all levels – from first-timers to seasoned yogis – for a rejuvenating blend of yoga, meditation and cleansing rituals. Deepen your practice while soaking in the sights and sounds of the island's lush tropical surroundings. [ambongpoolvillas.com](http://ambongpoolvillas.com)

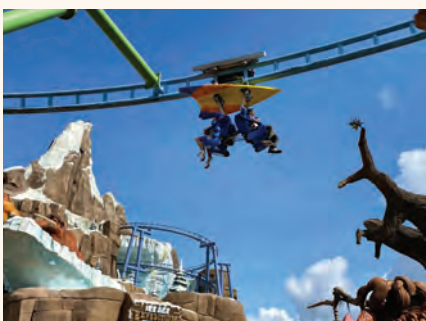
11

Malaysia

## Freeflow fun

According to Trip.com's latest booking data, Malaysia's **Genting SkyWorlds** and **Sunway Lagoon** rank among Asia's five most-booked attractions, right up there with Universal Studios Japan, Shanghai Disney Resort and Hong Kong Disneyland.

If you have yet to visit, Genting SkyWorlds in Pahang offers movie-themed rides, immersive attractions and plenty of photo-friendly spots. Meanwhile, in Selangor, Sunway Lagoon packs in seven themed zones of non-stop fun, from splashy water rides to wildlife encounters and spine-tingling haunted attractions. [gentingskyworlds.com](http://gentingskyworlds.com); [sunwaylagoon.com](http://sunwaylagoon.com)



12

Kuala Lumpur

## Tops for the pops

Looking for a special gift for dad this Father's Day? **Kapten Batik** has you covered. Founded by two Malaysians passionate about preserving heritage, the brand reimagines classic motifs with bold colours and tailored cuts – perfect for both casual and formal wear. Beyond menswear, the brand offers styles for women and kids, too. Find them in stores across the Klang Valley, Penang and KLIA Terminal 1. [kaptenbatik.com.my](http://kaptenbatik.com.my)



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (GENTING SKYWOLDS)



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**KMI**  
TAWAU  
Medical Centre





# Charting ASEAN's tomorrow

ASEAN Malaysia 2025 in Kuala Lumpur marks a moment to reflect, realign and shape the region's next chapter



**Above:**  
Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim received the ASEAN Chairmanship gavel from the Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, during the Closing Ceremony of the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, and Handing Over Ceremony of the ASEAN Chairmanship

## A decade of progress

In 2015, Southeast Asia was on the cusp of change. The global economy was slowly recovering but challenges with development gaps, infrastructure and unresolved disputes still lingered. It was then that ASEAN leaders gathered in Kuala Lumpur to launch the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, signalling a unified commitment to regional progress.

Ten years on, that vision has translated into high-impact growth. ASEAN's combined GDP has grown from around USD\$2.6 trillion to over USD\$4.3 trillion. Trade within the

region has strengthened, digital links have expanded and a new generation is growing up with a stronger sense of ASEAN identity. It's a story of progressive integration and of strength found in togetherness.

## A moment to realign

Now, in 2025, Malaysia once again takes the chair as ASEAN leaders return to Kuala Lumpur for ASEAN Malaysia 2025. Beyond just a ceremonial gathering, it's a timely opportunity to pause, reflect and realign.

With the world navigating climate shifts, digital acceleration and rising geopolitical complexity, ASEAN is sharpening its focus on long-term resilience. Conversations around sustainability, inclusion and innovation are front and centre. What began a decade ago as a shared roadmap

is now evolving into an ambitious vision.

## A vision for what's next

That future is being shaped in real time through the upcoming ASEAN Community Vision 2045: a bold, long-term plan designed to guide the region over the next 20 years.

From climate action to social equity and technological advancement, the priorities are clear – to build a region that's agile, inclusive and ready for change, and to ensure that no member state is left behind.

As Malaysia steers this next chapter, one thing remains constant: ASEAN's quiet power lies in its ability to build trust, foster dialogue and keep moving forward together.

**For more information on ASEAN Malaysia visit [myasean2025.my](https://myasean2025.my)**







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# ELEVATE

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



HOTELS

## All that jazz

A dazzling Art Deco-inspired hotel opens in **Mumbai**

BY TARA FT SERING

**Talk about a grand welcome. The new Fairmont Mumbai,** which opened in April beside the city's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Airport, looks designed to bowl you over. It's a luxury hotel of monumental scale – 446 guest rooms, a 21,000ft<sup>2</sup> ballroom and a whole floor dedicated to wellness facilities – whose gilded, gleaming lobby harks back to an opulent age of jazz, Art Deco and luxury travel. Beyond the bells and whistles, the hotel feels brilliantly international – its five dining outlets serve a variety of world cuisines, from Indian and Indo-French to Mediterranean and Cantonese. The hotel's all-day dining restaurant, The Merchants, features six live kitchens to satisfy almost any craving and is a nod to ancient traders as well as to Mumbai as a maritime hub, then and now. [fairmont.com](https://www.fairmont.com)





Jaras' rice noodle curry



Jaras' Chalermwut Srivorakul (left)



Electric Sheep



## DINING

# Clearing the plate

Trend alert: two creative restaurants – in **Bangkok** and in **Phuket** – deliver full flavour with zero waste

BY PARISA PICHITMARN

### Great chefs create tantalising menus

from humble ingredients. The truly exceptional ones turn waste scraps or nature's pests into fine dining delicacies, all in the name of reducing food waste. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), food waste contributes to roughly 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is nearly four times larger than the airline industry.

In Thailand, this has sparked above-and-beyond eco-conscious commitments in restaurants, whether by working directly with farmers or re-imagining waste. And a couple of standout innovators are leading the way. Situated in an old shophouse just a few minutes away from Bangkok's Chinatown, **Electric Sheep** serves Mediterranean tapas made with 100% Thai produce. The duo in charge – Michelin-starred chefs Yoan Martin and Amerigo Tito Sesti – take a rather radical approach to sustainability. To reduce their carbon footprint, for instance, none of the ingredients they use are imported. They also work exclusively with local distilleries that don't use foreign

ingredients. Inspired by the sci-fi film *Blade Runner*, the restaurant has a retro-futuristic, dystopian ambience – think bare cement walls splashed with pink neon lights and video projections. Adding to the grunge-chic eeriness is a fermentation lab displaying dozens of pickle jars, as well as multi-coloured dining tables made from repurposed plastic. The fun part is going through the menu, which must be viewed with a slide viewer. Images of steampunk animals give a rough idea of what to expect from the seasonal sharing plates.

"Our concept forced us to readdress our





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“

**As the first restaurant in Thailand to be endorsed by WWF, Jaras champions zero-waste cooking and closes the waste loop by bringing their compost to the local farms they source from”**

creativity,” explains Italian chef Sesti. “When you lack the main ingredient, you have to find something different and it becomes exciting. Sometimes, we forget to look around us to see there are plenty of things that we can play with or transform into something that didn’t exist before.”

Despite operating without any gas lines and cooking only with wood fire and electricity from their solar panels, the squid roe and mushrooms are grilled to luscious softness. Bites like prawn skewers with sweet chilli brasucade and fried soft-shell crab aglio olio pack a flavourful punch. A guava sorbet with vanilla wraps up this inventive meal.

Over on the island of Phuket, **Jaras**, a beachfront restaurant in InterContinental Phuket Resort, serves seafood and southern dishes made from “nature’s menaces” and invasive species. Set against a wall of dark pine logs, diners are invited to the rear of the restaurant to view a food map showcasing where the finest ingredients were sourced from all over the country. As the first restaurant in Thailand to be endorsed by WWF, Jaras champions zero-waste cooking and closes the waste loop by bringing their compost to the local farms they source from. Not that much is left for the trash cans. Even coffee grounds and oyster shells are sent to pottery studios, and aromatic menus are printed on leftover lemongrass bark.



Electric Sheep's prawn skewers

Over a nine-course tasting menu, award-winning chef Chalermwut Srivorakul has injected authentic Thai flavours into plants and animals that disrupt local ecosystems, such as water mimosa, black chin tilapia and golden apple snails. The menu revolves around what produce is available during the season.

Their star main course, *khanom chin*, a rice noodle with curry, fashions noodles out of the flesh of black chin tilapia – a formidable African fish that has been competing with indigenous species for sustenance. Last year, the Thai government committed 450 million baht to combat this fish’s environmental impact. “It may seem like you’re just having dinner, but it’s not just a meal,” insists chef Srivorakul. “It helps with climate change and supports the local farmers and fishmongers, whether directly or indirectly. They may be selling humble vegetables, but when they see how their produce turns into fine dining dishes, they are immensely proud and want to elevate their crops. If you want to work in sustainability, do it well. It’s not about being lazy and taking the easy way out.”

Trash can clearly turn into treasure in the right hands. As Douglas McMaster of Silo, the world’s first zero-waste restaurant in London, says: “Waste is a failure of the imagination.” [electricssheepbangkok.squarespace.com](http://electricssheepbangkok.squarespace.com); [phuket.intercontinental.com](http://phuket.intercontinental.com)



Yoan Martin and Amerigo  
Sesti of Electric Sheep





K11 Musea's opera theatre



The Bruce Lee statue along the Avenue of the Stars



## SHOPPING

## The new muse

Hong Kong's design-forward destination mall is a paradise for art fans **BY STEPHEN O'CONNELL**

**Hong Kong has long been celebrated** as a shopper's haven, but one destination is redefining the very essence of retail. Located in the heart of the revitalised Victoria Dockside waterfront district in Tsim Sha Tsui, along Hong Kong's Avenue of the Stars and just steps away from the Bruce Lee statue, **K11 Musea** blends luxury retail with art, culture and sustainability.

It's an architectural marvel developed at a staggering US\$2.6 billion and built in collaboration with over 100 global artists, architects and designers, including firms such as Rotterdam-based OMA, landscape designers James Corner's Field Operations (known for their work on New York City's High Line) and Hong Kong-based architecture practice LAAB Architects.

Clad in elegant Portuguese limestone, its exterior features 50,000ft<sup>2</sup> of lush vertical greenery. Inside is a breathtaking centrepiece: the Theatre





K11 Musea

Oculus, an expansive golden sphere chamber that serves as both a creative hub and a visually striking focal point within the mall's grand atrium. Designed with a dynamic organic vault structure and programmable lighting, it transforms into an immersive environment for exhibitions, pop-up events and performances.

Art is at the core of the K11 Musea experience. The mall showcases a collection of works by internationally acclaimed talents such as Chinese contemporary master Tianzhuo Chen and Austrian artist Erwin Wurm. While some pieces are permanent, new installations and special collaborations keep the artistic landscape evolving. For a deeper appreciation of what's on display, consider signing up for one of K11 Musea's curated experiences. The K11 Koncierge on the ground floor offers guided tours across the property, a complete museum experience in a lively retail setting. Keep an eye out for K11 Ecoast in Shenzhen – set to be twice the size of its Hong Kong counterpart and only 45 minutes away. [k11musea.com](http://k11musea.com)



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## A day at the mall

### 11am

K11 Musea isn't just about art and shopping – the mall will house **CR7® Life**, Asia's first museum dedicated to Cristiano Ronaldo's legendary career. On show from July 2025 until July 2026.

### 1pm

Grab lunch at **Glasshouse Greenery**; with its iconic terrace on the rooftop garden, it's a great spot for cocktails and all-day dining.

### 3pm

Fancy a coffee? Housed inside the Kube, a cube-shaped kiosk designed by acclaimed Dutch architecture firm OMA, **% Arabica** serves flat whites along with unobstructed views of Victoria Harbour. For a touch of elegance, head to **181 at Fortnum & Mason**, where you can indulge in the restaurant's renowned English Afternoon Tea while enjoying one of the best harbour views.

### 4pm

Shop till you drop at exclusive retail concepts, such as the **MoMA Design Store** and **Fortnum & Mason's** largest flagship outside London.

### 7pm

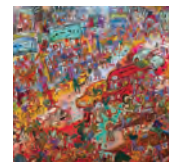
End the day with panoramic views of the **Symphony of Lights** – the nightly lightshow on Hong Kong island – while enjoying a satisfying meal at one of the rooftop garden's dining outlets. For authentic Cantonese dishes, there's **Yung's Bistro** – don't miss their signature roasted goose.

## UR—MU

Urban Museums Of Contemporary Art

UR-MU is a trio of art museums in Kuala Lumpur's city centre, showcasing the region's largest private collection of unique contemporary art. Housed in refurbished heritage buildings with sculptures and rooftop gardens, it offers an inspiring, entertaining and insightful experience into Malaysia's dynamic art scene and evolving architectural landscape

[www.ur-mu.com](http://www.ur-mu.com)



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**+n by UR-MU @Tun HS Lee**  
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Scan here for Tickets & Information



Raffles Sentosa's two-bedroom villa



100,000m<sup>2</sup> of lush tropical greenery, the all-villa resort – designed by interior design studio Yabu Pushelberg – is a serene sanctuary for those seeking respite from the concrete jungle.

How fancy does it get? Each of the 62 villas comes with its own private pool and terrace, but the real dose of quiet luxury is the brand's inimitable dedicated butler service, offering guests the kind of privacy and personalised care that the original Raffles Hotel in the city is known for.

True to the city-state's reputation as a foodie paradise, you won't have to travel far for gourmet pleasures. The hotel itself is packed with highlights, including the upcoming Japanese omakase restaurant Iyasaka by Hashida, helmed by acclaimed chef Kenjiro Hashida, whose father runs a Michelin-starred outfit back in Tokyo. Meanwhile, the hotel's signature restaurant, Empire Grill, serves modern Italian cuisine and Royal China offers refined Cantonese feasts.

Don't skip the legendary Raffles Afternoon Tea in the elegant Raffles Room. Decadent and delightful in equal measure, be there to see and be seen – with your pinky firmly up, of course.

[raffles.com](https://www.raffles.com)



The presidential villa



## EXPERIENCES

# Fantasy island

Singapore's favourite holiday spot gets a swish upgrade **BY KAREN TEE**

**Singapore's leisure island Sentosa – which** means “peace and tranquillity” in Malay – has long been a playground for both locals and travellers. Home to sandy beaches, award-winning golf courses and popular attractions like Universal Studios Singapore and SEA Aquarium, this is where Singapore lets its hair down.

Now, Singapore's grand dame Raffles is upping Sentosa's luxury game with the much-awaited launch of the **Raffles Sentosa**. Set within



## More to explore on Sentosa



### Back with a splash

Tanjong Beach Club, Singapore's pioneer in cool urban beach culture, is back after a four-month revamp. Now styled as a mid-century modernist beach house, it serves wood-fired coastal dishes like Tajima Wagyu Denver steak. [tanjongbeachclub.com](https://www.tanjongbeachclub.com)

### Absolutely bananas

Universal Studios Singapore (USS) just got a whole lot more mischievous with Illumination's Minion Land. Inspired by *Despicable Me*, the new zone features the Buggie Boogie dance party carousel and a real-life version of the Super Hungry Food Stand – so you can live your best Minion life. [rwsentosa.com](https://www.rwsentosa.com)

### Secret flower garden

1-Flowerhill is a hidden dining gem located in a centuries-old conservation house. The pet-friendly space features a café, grill and a French-Japanese restaurant. Enjoy local treats at Wildseed Bar & Grill or dine al fresco at Camille with panoramic views of the Singapore Strait. [1-flowerhill.sg](https://www.1-flowerhill.sg)



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## Tee off in Thailand

Thailand continues to shine as the region's premier golfing destination, offering a wealth of courses that promise unforgettable experiences.

About a 45-minute drive south from Bangkok's vibrant city centre, **Muang Kaew Golf Course** delivers an immaculate layout that balances accessibility with a championship-level challenge.

**Riverdale Golf Club** offers a peaceful sanctuary north of the city, with a beautifully sculpted course framed by lush greenery, ideal for those who seek serenity.

Down south in Phuket, the award-winning **Red Mountain Golf Club** attracts players with dramatic elevation changes and postcard-worthy vistas – a



true jewel in Thailand's golfing crown.

## Grace the greens of Vietnam

Venture further into Southeast Asia where more golfing gems await. In Vietnam, **Laguna Golf Lăng Cô** enchants with sweeping coastal views and a Sir Nick

Faldo-designed course that tests both skill and spirit.

Nearby, the renowned **Montgomerie Links Golf Club** marries Scottish links tradition with the warm charm of Da Nang, creating a playing experience unlike any other.

## Golf and unwind in Indonesia

For those seeking a blend of challenge and relaxation, head over to **Imperial Klub Golf**, located just outside Jakarta, Indonesia. Designed to challenge and delight, with its world-class fairways and serene water features. Whether you're perfecting your swing or looking to

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INSIDER TIPS

# A Malaysian in... Paris

Alliance Française KL president and social advocate **YAM Tengku Zatashah binti Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah** shares her favourite spots in Paris and beyond

BY ANANDHI GOPINATH



**Paris has truly become my** second home, and every time I go back, it's great to revisit old places – my former *quartiers* (neighbourhoods) where I lived, studied and worked for five years – and reconnect with my friends. It always feels like I never left, even though it has now been 16 years since I returned to KL. My husband, who's French, often jokes that I am more French than he is because of my love for the food, culture and history. From the bustling markets to the quiet corners of the Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris will always hold a special place in my heart – and I am constantly inspired by how much it continues to evolve.

## Green living

Since my time in Paris (I left in early 2009), the city has become so green and eco-conscious,

it's absolutely amazing! I see everyone using electric vehicles, with charging stations everywhere. Furthermore, I noticed that Place de la Concorde as well as many other zones have become pedestrianised. Paris has definitely made big changes to become a green city. You won't see plastic water bottles or plastic straws anywhere. Recycling bins are within easy reach. A lot of people take public transport or use the city's rental electric vehicles. Even during my time there, Paris was always clean as there were electric street sweepers that cleaned the streets early in the morning.

## Market haven

The best part of Paris is the French markets found in every neighbourhood. You can buy literally everything fresh and organic – from fruits and vegetables to meat, fish, ready-cooked meals, cheese, desserts, flowers, home goods and more. The vendors are always super friendly and you're guaranteed to experience a typical French marché. My favourite local markets are Marché des Sablons in Neuilly and Mouton-Duvernét in the 14th arrondissement, but you'll need to check which days they're open.



Jardin du Luxembourg



Musée d'Orsay

## Must-do Parisian experiences

Of course, I love the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre – these are must-visits in Paris – but of all the museums, my favourite is the Musée d'Orsay, which houses impressionist paintings in a former train station. It's breathtaking, with masterpieces by Monet, Manet, Degas, Renoir, Van Gogh and Cézanne. I also enjoy visiting the Musée Picasso and Musée Rodin.

Other must-visit landmarks are the Notre-Dame, Arc de Triomphe,





Opéra de Paris, Sainte-Chapelle and La Conciergerie where Marie-Antoinette was imprisoned before her execution. More recently, I discovered the newly refurbished Hôtel de la Marine. This is really a gem, located at Place de la Concorde. Advance bookings are a must for all of these places.

If I had just one free day in Paris to show someone around, I would definitely book a trip to Versailles, just outside the city. It is spectacular, and you'll want to take your time exploring the interiors, gardens and fountains. If you have

more free time, consider visiting Chantilly or Fontainebleau; their châteaux are also very beautiful.

When it comes to classic Parisian indulgences, breakfast is a must with café crème and a croissant or pain au chocolat at a café. You must visit the Jardin du Luxembourg, where Parisians like to sit and relax, walk around, sunbathe and admire the scenery.

## Get outside Paris

My favourite places for a getaway are Normandy, and a little farther away, the Loire Valley. In Normandy, you can visit the iconic Mont Saint-Michel and eat the best omelette in the world at La Mère Poulard. There are also the D-Day beaches, Giverny (where Monet lived and painted his breathtaking lily pond masterpieces), the stunning cliffs of Étretat and Honfleur, a picturesque port town.

The Loire Valley is known for its many châteaux, and it's worth visiting these in particular: Chenonceau, Chambord, Blois, Amboise, Azay-le-Rideau and Villandry. You can even take a beautiful hot air balloon ride at sunset for incredible views.

## Quickfire Q&A



### Croissant or kuih lapis?

Oh no, I love both! But croissant wins as I eat that every day in Paris.

### Favourite Parisian arrondissement?

The 8th arrondissement for shopping and hotels; great for walking around.

### Best beach or nature spot you've visited in France?

Côte d'Azur.

### Your go-to café in Paris?

Le Café Marly.

### Best view of Paris – day or night?

Night. It's called City of Lights (La Ville Lumière) for a reason.

### One French word you overuse?

Ça va. (Means "how are you?" Also means "I'm fine, okay.")

### Cheese or pastries – what wins every time?

Cheese!

### What's always in your tote bag?

My phone, my Navigo pass (metro pass).

### Describe your perfect Parisian picnic.

Picnic in Les Jardins de Bagatelle (16th arrondissement): cheese, baguette, éclair au café (coffee éclair), salade Niçoise, Fauchon biscuits, taboulé (couscous salad), Orangina.



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# A PERFECT WEEKEND IN Amritsar

Words Rameshinder Singh Sandhu

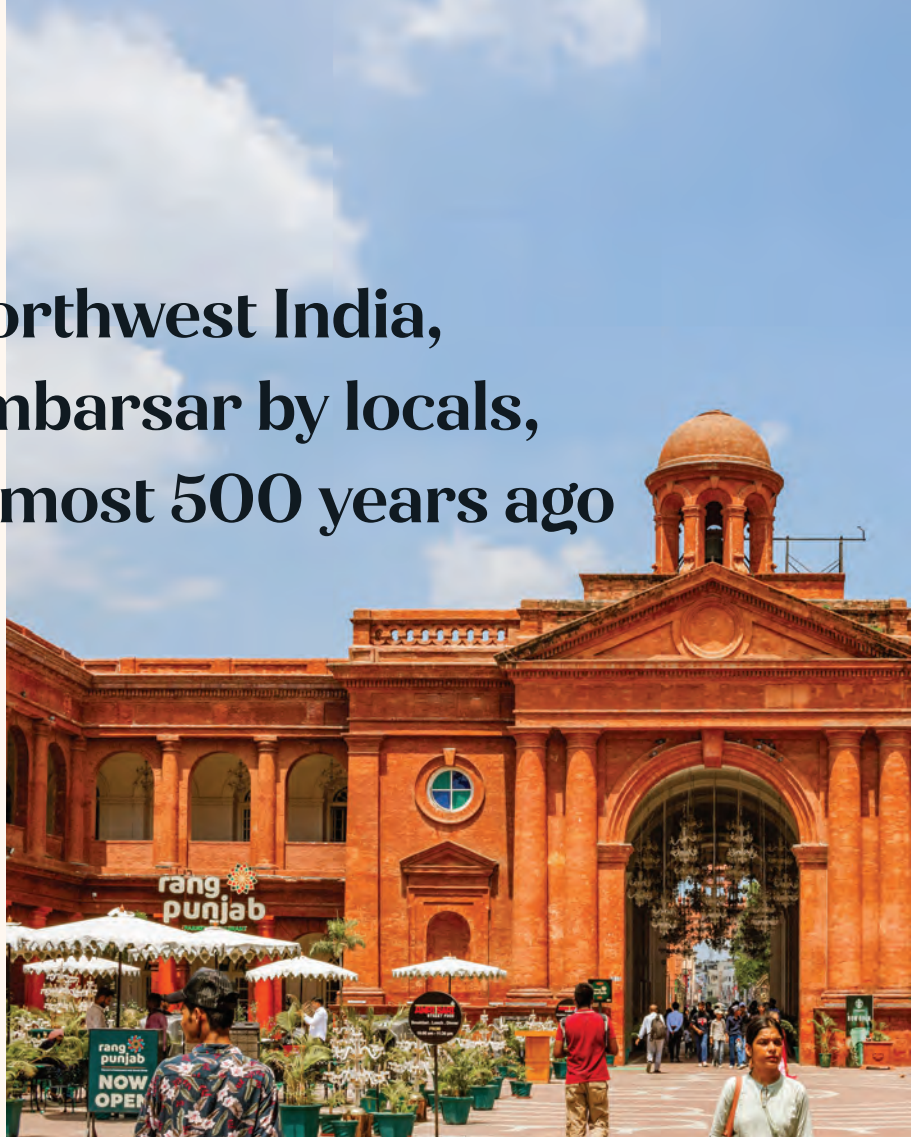
The city known for its Golden Temple,  
delightful cuisine and rich history  
oozes a warm, intriguing vibe that will  
entice you to keep coming back



# Punjab's gem in Northwest India, called Ambarsar by locals, was established almost 500 years ago

by the fourth guru of Sikhs, Ram Das, who also laid the foundation of the Golden Temple here, considered to be the largest Sikh shrine in the world. "Amritsar has come a long way – from the reign of the Mughals followed by rule of the Sikh empire to the colonial times," says historian Surinder Kochar. "It's also called a holy city because of its many shrines, but the Golden Temple stands out."

Today it's a city of modern shopping malls, luxury hotels and creative coffee, but the city's heart remains in the old quarter, an ancient walled city where you'll find the best traditional eats with a side of history. There's no better way to start a weekend tour but right here, in Ambarsar's heart.



## Day 1 Walled city wonders

**Morning.** Start with breakfast of *kulcha*, clay oven-baked spicy flat bread stuffed with mashed potatoes and vegetables and served with chickpea curry, at **Pehalwan Kulcha** near Chatiwind Gate. At this small, old-fashioned place that's been serving kulcha meals since 1953, you can watch cooks prepare your meal in the open kitchen.

Then head to the **Partition Museum** in the colonial-era Town Hall, the world's first museum dedicated to the partition of Pakistan and India in August 1947. The museum, opened in 2017, documents the largest forced mass migration in modern history, during which at least 15 million Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims were displaced. There are video interviews with the survivors, artefacts including newspapers announcing the partition and personal items – from trunks and clothes to books

**Previous page:**  
The Golden Temple,  
also known as  
Harmandir Sahib

**Clockwise from top:**  
The Partition Museum;  
a woman serves water  
to pilgrims at the  
Golden Temple's langar;  
a sumptuous meal at  
Kesar Da Dhaba; *kulcha*,  
or oven-baked flat bread  
stuffed with potatoes  
and vegetables







and utensils – that people brought along as they scrambled to meet the midnight deadline. The gallery that spotlights how the borderline was finalised is quite illuminating, if not confronting.

**Afternoon.** The **Golden Temple**, also known as the Harmandir Sahib, was completed in 1604. As the name suggests, its inner sanctum is decorated in gold and sits in the middle of a large pool, locally known as the *sarovar*. Visit the Central Sikh Museum and Digital Sikh Museum, both part of the Golden Temple complex, to learn about Sikh history through artworks, artefacts and documentaries. Its free community kitchen (called *langar*), which feeds thousands of visitors every hour, is a warm, soul-touching space. People from all corners of the world and from diverse faiths partake in these simple vegetarian meals. Feel free to volunteer peeling vegetables, preparing food and serving meals for a more enriching experience at the temple.

**Evening.** Stroll down the lively Heritage Street, lined with fine examples of Sikh, Mughal and colonial-era architecture. As a pre-dinner treat, sample street food such as aloo tikki, golgappa and kulfi. End the day with a sumptuous meal at **Kesar Da Dhaba**, located in Chowk Passian. The restaurant is over a century old, yet its lentil curry, slow-cooked for the entire day, is a classic staple.



## Day 2 A glimpse of rural life

**Morning.** Enjoy breakfast at **Giani Tea Stall**, a traditional tearoom on Cooper Road, where locals like to gather for morning socials after a walk at the nearby Company Garden. Giani Tea Stall's *kachori* – a fried pie filled with lentil powder and spices – tastes best with their masala chai. The classic omelette with toasted bread and butter buns are also a big hit.

Walk it all off at the **Company Garden**, also known as Ram Bagh, spread over 84 acres. Built in 1831 by the Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the chief of the Sikh empire, the highlight here is







the grand museum: Maharaja Ranjit Singh Summer Palace. If you've always wondered how a maharaja lived, this museum – which houses mannequins, paintings and rare collections of the maharaja's arms, manuscripts and coins – paints a pretty vivid picture.

**Afternoon.** Visit **Gobindgarh Fort** on old Cantonment Road, a historic military fort with a theatre that showcases an animated 3D movie on the life and times of Maharaja Ranjit Singh; a Turban Museum which presents the history of turbans along with a wide variety of styles; and two resident camels, popular among visitors for rides.

**Evening.** Head to **Haveli**, a Punjabi restaurant in Jandiala Guru, just a 20-minute drive from the city centre. It's also a living museum inspired by rural life, the centre of attraction being the village street with replicas of homes, a post office, jeweller and schools. There are outdoor food stalls, but for dinner, take a table indoors to soak up the grandeur of the restaurant's soaring ceilings. The extensive menu takes you on a tour around India, from north to south, as well as side trips to China. Pizzas, burgers and fries are also available.

### Day 3

## Bazaars and borders

**Morning.** Catch the sunrise at **Ram Tirath** on Chogawan Road, about 15 minutes' drive from the city centre. According to Hindu mythology, this was once the



hermitage of Lord Valmiki, poet and author of the epic poem *Ramayana*. It's also said to be the birthplace of Luv and Kush, sons of the epic's protagonist and Hindu goddess Sita. In the last decade, the government turned it into a huge temple complex, renovating its sacred and historic pool and constructing a Valmiki shrine in the middle of it. Meditate by the tranquil waters bathed by the first rays of the sun.

Back in Amritsar, indulge in a popular local ritual of eating *chole puri*, an aromatic chickpea curry served with flat bread, at one of the Hindu temple canteens. One of the best places is the canteen of **Shri Durgiana Mandir** near Hathi Gate. This temple sits close to the walled city – home of many bazaars – so it's a perfect opportunity to shop for clothes and footwear at Chitta Katra, Dharam Singh Market and Katra



## The guide

**Pehalwan Kulcha**  
[instagram.com/pehalwankulchaamritsar](https://www.instagram.com/pehalwankulchaamritsar)

**Partition Museum**  
[partitionmuseum.org](https://www.partitionmuseum.org)

**Golden Temple**  
[goldentempleamritsar.org](https://www.goldentempleamritsar.org)

**Gobindgarh Fort**  
[instagram.com/qilagobindgarhasr](https://www.instagram.com/qilagobindgarhasr)

**Haveli**  
[instagram.com/haveli.official](https://www.instagram.com/haveli.official)

**Durgiana Mandir**  
[durgianamandir.in](https://www.durgianamandir.in)

**Crystal Restaurant**  
[instagram.com/crystalrestaurantamritsar](https://www.instagram.com/crystalrestaurantamritsar)

**Punjab Tourism**  
[amritsar.nic.in](https://www.amritsar.nic.in)





**Clockwise from top left:** A serving of *kachori*, or fried lentil pie; Ram Tirath, claimed to have been the home of Valmiki, author of the epic *Ramayana*; the sprawling Gobindgarh Fort; refreshing lassi

Jaimal Singh. On the lookout for some jewellery? Head over to Guru Bazaar. Fuel up with an Amritsari lassi, a yogurt drink available at nearly every turn.

**Afternoon.** Head to the India–Pakistan border (about a 40-minute drive from Amritsar) to catch a special parade at 5pm. During the parade, which has been held daily since 1959, the Indian Border Security Force and Pakistan Rangers open the border gates for a quick handshake and a flag lowering ceremony. The synchronised high-kicks and marching is riveting to watch. After the show, visitors can get close to the gates for pictures with soldiers.

**Evening.** Enjoy a final meal in the city at **Crystal Restaurant**, a storied establishment that opened before the partition in 1935. It began as an open-air restaurant with a limited menu. Today, it's a premium fine dining spot that offers a multi-cuisine menu with a European vintage vibe. Go for the Indian specialties, such as Shahi paneer and malai kofta. End the night on a sweet note and wander over to **A-One**, just a few steps away from Crystal, for a satisfying serving of traditional ice cream called *kulfa*.



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Amritsar 7x weekly.

## Where to stay

### Ramada by Wyndham

Just steps away from the Partition Museum and other attractions, this European-inspired hotel also offers panoramic views from its rooftop pool. [wyndhamhotels.com](http://wyndhamhotels.com)

### Taj Swarna

Conveniently located next to a shopping mall and just 5km away from the Golden Temple. This luxury hotel also has a separate floor reserved for solo women travellers. [tajhotels.com](http://tajhotels.com)

### Radisson Blu

One of the most popular airport hotels, it provides free shuttle service to the walled city. Host a grand event in their elegant ballroom or verdant gardens. [radissonhotels.com](http://radissonhotels.com)





Queensland's capital **Brisbane**, a thriving metropolis on the country's eastern coast, is an ideal springboard to adventures in the great Australian outdoors. Ready for action? Here's a peek at what's waiting to be explored.



# Out and about

Photography **Nathan McGee**

## **Peak fitness**

The majestic Mount Barney, just a little over two hours from the city, features steep trails for experienced hikers.





**Trail to the top**

Challenge yourself to an uphill mountain bike ride along fully marked trails at Hidden Vale Adventure Park in Grandchester, an hour's drive west of Brisbane.





IMAGE: TOURISM AND EVENTS QUEENSLAND (HIDDEN VALE ADVENTURE PARK)

#### **Breathing space**

Drive south or west for an hour and a half out of Brisbane and you'll arrive at the bucolic and aptly named Scenic Rim, a group of rolling hills and mountain ranges.

#### **Golden hours**

The Summit Café at the Mount Coot-tha lookout offers an easy trek plus stunning sunset views of the city.





**Parks and recreation**

For a satisfying hike and a refreshing dip, plan a trip to Purling Brook Falls at Springbrook National Park in the Gold Coast hinterland.



**Sacred sites**

The magnificent Glass House Mountains, a group of 13 peaks formed by volcanic eruptions millions of years ago, are a culturally significant site to the Aboriginal people of Southeastern Queensland.



### **Mirror image**

The breathtaking Lake Samsonvale, about an hour's drive from the city, features a long and scenic walking trail along the water's edge. Although swimming in the lake is prohibited, you can do other water-based activities such as sailing, kayaking and fishing.



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# Firewood Penang's success starts before the first bite

**Chef Ker Yang Hao** shares how simple ingredients and a hands-on philosophy shapes every plate at his Michelin Selected restaurant in George Town

At Firewood Penang, a Michelin Selected restaurant, fire isn't just a cooking method, it's the soul of the kitchen. And for its founder, 31-year-old chef Ker Yang Hao (*pictured above*), it represents everything he values in the restaurant business: honesty, patience and connection.

Chef Ker's career began in fine dining, but it was the humble, open-air eateries of Bali that sparked his true passion. "They were alive – busy, generous, full



of heart. That stayed with me," he says. This spirit of sincerity and simplicity now guides Firewood Penang's flame-forward philosophy.

At Firewood Penang, each dish is kissed by open fire – from the MB6-7 Sirloin with house-made chimichurri to the smoky grilled prawns on a Nyonya-inspired coconut risotto.

And while Firewood Penang is best known for its steaks, its menu is designed to suit all ages and dietary preferences. "I always ask myself what would my parents enjoy? What would kids eat?" says Ker.

This people-first mindset runs deep. Staff are hired not just for their skills, but also for their warmth and fondness for families.

"We're not a formal steakhouse. We're a place where people come to celebrate, to relax, to feel at home," says Ker. Young chefs are also encouraged to contribute to the menu and take creative ownership. "I'll guide them, but I want them to grow," he adds.

Transparency is another cornerstone of Firewood Penang. When it comes to



steaks, the team takes time to educate diners about the different cuts of meat available – even showing it to them before they are cooked. "Seeing newer restaurants adopt the same approach tells me the industry is moving in the right direction," says Ker.

**Firewood Penang is at 15 Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, George Town, Penang. To explore the menu or make a reservation, visit [firegroup.my](http://firegroup.my) or call +60179899246.**







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# A spiritual





# quest in

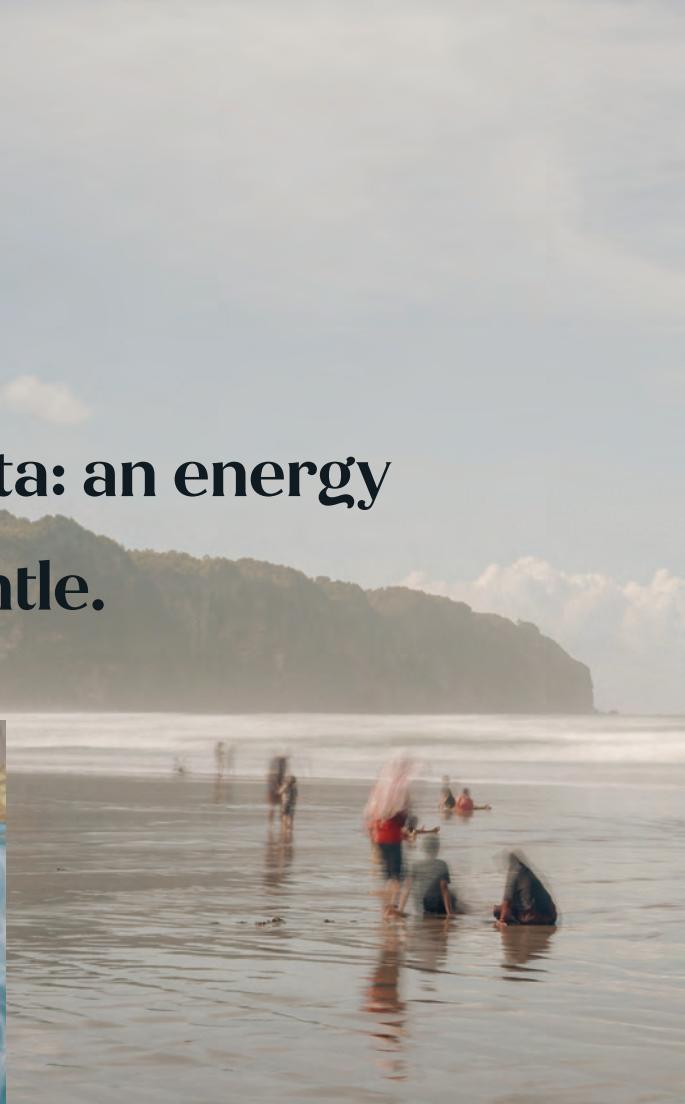
On the trail of myth, mysticism and one magnificent mountain, **Cheryl Marella** falls in step with the natural rhythms of the land and its people

Photography **Muhammad Fadli**

# Yogyakarta



I felt it as soon as I  
landed in Yogyakarta: an energy  
both grounding and gentle.



It invites you in with the scent of cloves in the air, the rustle of banyan leaves and the warm nods of strangers who look you in the eye and smile, acknowledging your presence.

Located in Central Java, Yogyakarta – or Jogja, as it's affectionately called – is Indonesia's cultural capital. It's a city shaped by ancient kingdoms and active volcanoes, by royal palaces and surf-washed shores. It's also a gateway to the Unesco-inscribed sites of Borobudur Temple, one of the greatest Buddhist monuments in the world, and Prambanan, a cluster of ancient Hindu temples, the largest in Indonesia.

Home to 3.7 million people, it feels more like a giant village than a metropolis. To the north, Mount Merapi, one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, rumbles with fiery energy. To the south, the Indian Ocean's waves break against the mystical shores of Parangtritis, long believed to be the domain of Nyi Roro Kidul, the legendary Queen of the Southern Sea from Javan mythology. She is said to command the tides, protect the southern coast and demand respect





**Previous spread, left to right:** Horse-drawn carriages decorated with symbolism; Mount Merapi, a powerful symbol in local culture

**Clockwise from left:** A depiction of Nyi Roro Kidul, Queen of the Southern Sea; Parangtritis beach; a participant about to attempt a walk between the sacred banyan trees



from those who visit. Locals often avoid wearing green – her sacred colour – at the beach, out of fear they’ll be swept away by her waves. Between these two forces of nature and myth, Jogja thrives in perfect balance.

That first evening, just behind my hotel in Prawirotaman – a trendy neighbourhood of stylish boutiques and hip cafés – I stumbled upon a *selametan*, a centuries-old Javanese communal feast and prayer gathering that draws neighbours seeking blessings, safety and spiritual balance. It’s a ritual that marks important life events, from births and deaths to marriages and even a good harvest.

The group of families and neighbours sat cross-legged on woven mats, passing around plates of *nasi kuning* (turmeric rice) and *opor ayam* (chicken in coconut milk curry) under the soft buzz of streetlamps. I stood at the edge, unsure if I should approach, until an older woman patted the mat beside her. No words were exchanged. As I watched children serve elders, I began to understand that this was a quiet ritual of harmony, a way to honour the invisible threads that connect people, the land and something greater.

**AFTER SUCH A TENDER WELCOME, I MADE** my way to Alun-Alun Kidul, and at night the square pulsed with that peculiar Jogja energy, part carnival, part sacred space. Teenagers posed for selfies with neon light toys, vendors sold sticky rice wrapped in banana leaves, tricycles rigged with booming speakers blasted music that sailed through the air. I spied twin banyan trees at the square’s centre, where a small crowd had gathered to watch blindfolded walkers attempt the space between them.

On impulse, I joined the queue. The attendant tied a red cloth over my eyes, and suddenly the cheerful noise of the square faded. With outstretched arms, I took my first shuffling steps forward, bare feet on warm pavement. Someone in the crowd giggled as I veered sideways. The darkness amplified every sensation: the humid night air, the distant scent of fried tempeh and tofu, the palpable anticipation of onlookers.

Then my fingertips brushed rough bark. A collective “Ooooh” rose from the crowd as I corrected the course. Three more steps and – smack! – my shoulder hit the second tree. Laughter erupted as I pulled off the blindfold to see I’d missed the path completely. The attendant winked and handed me a small amulet anyway. “The trying matters more than the succeeding,” he said.









It was profound how spirituality revealed itself here. No grand ceremonies or ornate temples, just an old woman whispering to a banyan tree before passing beneath its branches. Or laughter and prayer mingling effortlessly at a street-side *selamatan*.

#### THE NEXT DAY I WENT TO SEE A SHAMAN AT

Parangtritis Beach. It's one of Java's most spiritually charged places. Located about 30km south of Yogyakarta, its charcoal-black sand meets the Indian Ocean, where locals believe the mythical Nyi Roro Kidul rules. More than legend, she's a living part of local belief, commanding tides and tempests from her unseen palace.

I wanted to understand why spirituality is such a big part of daily life in Jogja. I'd heard of beachside rituals that people quietly undertake when they feel unsettled, seeking balance, blessings or a sense of clarity. And so I went, not to chase the mystical, but to meet it where it lives.

Mbah Purwo guided our ritual. He's a *kunthen*, a royal shaman of the *Keraton*, the Sultan's palace, where centuries of Javanese tradition, mysticism and royal lineage still pulse with authority. Mbah Purwo was calm yet commanding, his demeanour carrying deep, unquestionable wisdom.

We began at Cepuri Parangkusumo, two massive black rocks believed to be Nyi Roro Kidul's throne. I was instructed to kneel and place offerings of flowers, rice, bananas and incense between them, whispering prayers for protection and guidance. The rocks radiated an eerie but powerful energy, as if charged with centuries of devotion.

Only after paying respects to the throne could we approach the shoreline. The wind howled as Mbah Purwo lit the incense, its smoke curling into the salt-heavy air. We sat in silence, meditating as he chanted in low, rhythmic Javanese, his voice merging with the surging waves. One by one, we waded into the shallows, releasing our offerings – petals and banana-leaf boats – into the tide.

Then the ocean, unpredictable and fierce, suddenly stilled just long enough to draw our gifts into its depths.



#### Clockwise from left:

Alun-Alun Kidul square's centre; Cepuri Parangkusumo, believed to be Nyi Roro Kidul's throne; flower offerings to Nyi Roro Kidul





“

**Villagers speak in hushed tones of ancestral guardians and mythical creatures like the sacred *macan putih*, a white tiger said to roam the slopes of Mount Merapi”**

“She accepts,” Mbah Purwo murmured.

As tradition dictated, we cupped the cold seawater in our hands and washed our faces in purification, sealing the ritual. I expected to feel relief, but instead, a quiet awe settled over me. The waves resumed their fury, as if nothing had happened. Yet something had shifted. This is how people in Jogja have always lived – where deep respect guides even the smallest actions.

**IF PARANGTRITIS HUMBLING ME WITH ITS** unseen forces, Merapi would shake me with its power. Towering at nearly 2,930m, Mount Merapi is Indonesia’s most active volcano, its jagged peak often veiled in mist and smoke. The landscape shifts dramatically as you approach: lush rice fields give way to blackened lava rocks, skeletal trees and ghostly remnants of past eruptions.

Villagers speak in hushed tones of ancestral guardians and mythical creatures like the

sacred *macan putih*, a white tiger said to roam the slopes. These animals are revered as spiritual custodians. To harm them would violate taboos older than the Keraton itself, a disrespect to the mountain’s invisible caretakers.

This reverence manifests in the annual Labuhan Merapi ritual, where the Sultanate’s offerings – a traditional rice dish (*nasi tumpeng*), heirlooms, flowers and handwritten prayers – are carried into the crater. It’s a delicate pact between humans and spirits, maintained through gifts that acknowledge Merapi’s dual role as destroyer and life-giver.

Beyond its spiritual significance, Merapi offers more visceral thrills. I experienced this firsthand on the Merapi Lava Tour, where local guides turn volcanic history and Javanese folklore into a heart-pounding off-road adventure. Our modified jeep bounced over hardened lava flows, each jolt a reminder of the mountain’s raw power. The point of







the tour isn't just the thrill; it's to trace the scars of Merapi's past eruptions, to witness how life returns after devastation and to honour the guardians who've protected the mountain for generations.

The jeep lurched forward, tires spitting volcanic gravel as we charged into Merapi's shadow. "Hold tight!" yelled our driver Pak Yudi, grinning as we hit a dip that sent us bouncing against the roll bars. Swerving past massive lava boulders, he pointed to steaming vents where the earth still breathes. "See how alive she is?" he shouted over the engine's roar. Then, cutting the engine near an unmarked turnoff, his voice grew reverent: "Before we go deeper, you should understand who protected this mountain."

Twenty-four dusty minutes later, I stood at Museum Petilasan Mbah Maridjan, its wooden walls weathered by mountain winds. Just steps from where the legendary *juru kunci* (the gatekeeper) once kept vigil, a larger-than-life photo of Mbah Maridjan in his signature all-black attire greeted visitors.

Inside, the caretaker served thick Javanese coffee in the very spot where Mbah Maridjan would receive villagers. The humble collection spoke volumes: a cracked shortwave radio he used to monitor quakes, mud-caked boots, binoculars that had seen countless sunrises over the crater. During Merapi's devastating 2010 eruption, Mbah Maridjan chose to stay behind. He ignored evacuation orders, believing it was his duty to remain and carry out sacred responsibilities. Some say he died protecting the village. Others believe he was simply fulfilling his role. Either way, his presence still lingers. The caretaker glanced at the photo of Mbah Maridjan and said, "He wasn't just watching the mountain, he was listening to it."

My final hours in Jogja unfolded with quiet symmetry. At a jamu stall near Malioboro, the elderly vendor handed me a glass of

*beras kencur*. The ginger rice tonic burned pleasantly down my throat, its earthy sweetness a farewell gift. She pressed a tiny bottle into my palm – "*Untuk di jalan*" (for the journey) – her fingers yellowed from decades of grinding turmeric roots at dawn.

My last stop was a small art gallery near the Tugu monument in Malioboro, where a young artist unfurled a batik scroll. The design mesmerised me: indigo waves colliding with charcoal smoke, their dance framed by Javanese symbols. "*Ini Rwa Bhineda*," he explained – Bali's philosophy of opposites, reimagined by Javanese hands. As I rolled the fabric into my carry-on, I realised it was a map of the balance Jogja had imprinted on me – where fire and water, loss and renewal, exist not as opposites but as partners in an endless dance.

## Luxury retreats in Jogja



### Amanjiwo

This luxury resort (pictured), less than an hour's drive from the city centre, features a stunning view of Borobudur. [aman.com](http://aman.com)

### Garra Bianti Yogyakarta

A contemporary take on traditional Javanese architecture, set in the lush countryside. [garra.com](http://garra.com)

### The Phoenix Hotel Yogyakarta

This centrally located, historic property is about 1km from the Tugu Train Station and the Malioboro mall. [accor.com](http://accor.com)



#### Clockwise from top:

The majestic Mount Merapi; a jamu stall near Malioboro; downtown Jogja



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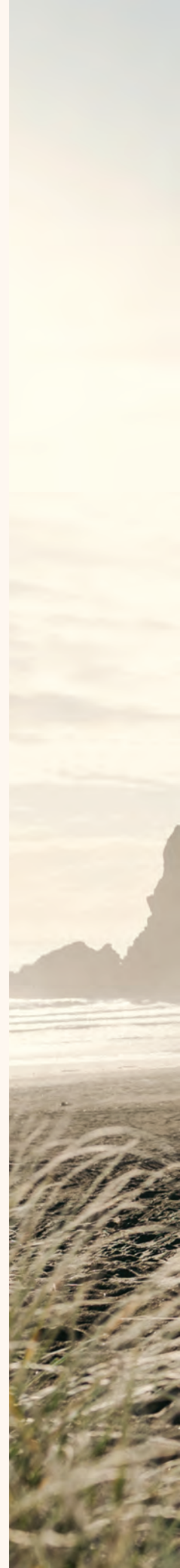


# Walk on

The best way to explore Auckland's heritage, hidden narratives and volcanic history is on foot. So hit the trails and prepare to fall in love with picture-perfect views and cinematic sites

Words **Maya Calica Collins**

Photography **Josh Griggs**





# the wild side





**Auckland is relatively young. Originally inhabited by Maori tribes who called it Tāmaki Makaurau**







**Previous spread, left to right:**  
City views from Mount Eden; Piha Beach

**This spread:**  
Maungawhau, otherwise known as Mount Eden, is a popular hiking spot

(or “Tāmaki desired by many”), it was formally established as a modern city in 1840 and declared New Zealand’s capital a year later. But for all its youth, it’s a city with captivating stories. “There’s an enormous amount of history in Auckland, especially when tracing back to pre-European times,” says Terry Hobin, operations director and senior guide at Auckland Walks, a company that’s been telling the city’s tales through engaging heritage tours and themed walks for over 20 years.

Perhaps the most interesting story lies beneath it: Auckland’s volcanic field – 600m<sup>2</sup> that’s home to more than 50 dormant volcanoes. Over the last 100,000 years, geologists claim that outbursts from these volcanoes have dramatically shifted the terrain, creating the stunning and varied landscape it is today.

For this reason, Auckland has a lot to offer visitors who choose to explore it on foot. Where else can you climb to the summit of a dormant volcano less than 15 minutes from the central business district? Or drive less than an hour from the city centre to walk on coastal cliff sides shaped by volcanic activity? Whichever trail you choose, you’ll be rewarded with wild, spectacular views you’d only dream of seeing in the movies.

## **Maungawhau (Mount Eden)**

Standing at 196m tall, Maungawhau is Auckland’s highest volcanic cone. About 28,000 years ago, it erupted for the





**Clockwise from top:** The crater atop Mount Eden is a well-known sight; Auckland Art Gallery; the black sands of Piha Beach

**Opposite page:** The iconic Lion Rock stands guard at Piha Beach



first time, leaving a large mound with a 50m-deep crater in its wake. The mount was a Maori *pā* (fortified village) before the Europeans arrived. Today, it's one of Auckland's most-visited mountains, drawing a million visitors to its summit each year. On a clear day, you'll see its well-preserved bowl-shaped crater as well as the impressive Auckland city skyline, the Waitākere Ranges and Rangitoto Island. You might also recognise the mountain as a location for Netflix's *Sweet Tooth* series.

To honour the sacred nature of the summit and ensure pedestrian safety, vehicle access to the top is limited. There are several ways to walk to the crater and some trails can be stony and steep, so stay on designated paths. The primary route commences at the entrance on Puhi Huia Road, which takes you on a scenic 2km trek along the old summit road, and connects you to the crater rim track.

Want to get to the summit in less time? From Puhi Huia Road, climb the 300m ascent to the crater. This route can be rather steep, so make sure you can handle the incline.

## Piha Beach

Recognised as the birthplace of modern surfing in New Zealand, Piha Beach is one of the country's foremost surf spots and a hiker's dream. Standing guard on its black sand shores is the iconic

## Out and about

Sign up for walking tours of Auckland's laneways, historic landmarks and hot spots



### For art's sake

The Art & The City Walk lets you get to know Auckland through its heritage buildings and modern structures that have diverse art spaces and collections. Learn more about Maori and Pacifica art and craft, and gain insight into public art installations around the city. Held on Saturdays.

[aucklandwalks.co.nz](http://aucklandwalks.co.nz)

### Free and easy

This free walking tour of downtown Auckland gives you a quick intro to the city, with knowledgeable guides taking you around iconic locations in the Downtown area. There's no charge but guests are encouraged to make a donation.

[aucklandfreewalkingtours.com](http://aucklandfreewalkingtours.com)

### Sea the sights

The Waterfront Auckland Walk offers insight into a city that was created by seafaring people. Discover sites of early Māori settlements, learn how the waterfront has been transformed through the years and revel in the nation's yachting victories.

[aucklandwalks.co.nz](http://aucklandwalks.co.nz)

### Historic sips

The Auckland Historic Bar Tour is an entertaining guided tour around the city that combines storytelling and sightseeing with your choice of tipples. It offers non-alcoholic options as well as craft beers and New Zealand wines.

[aucklandhistoricbartour.co.nz](http://aucklandhistoricbartour.co.nz)



“

**Recognised as the birthplace of modern surfing in New Zealand, Piha Beach is one of the country's foremost surf spots and a hiker's dream”**





“

**This West Coast beach has ‘wild’ written all over it – from the consistent swells sought out by surfers and black volcanic sand to the rugged pillow-shaped cliffs hewn from hot lava”**

Lion Rock, a majestic landmark that’s actually the eroded neck of a volcanic eruption 16 million years ago. This iconic beach set the scene for Amazon’s *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*. And just off Piha Road lies Karekare Beach, the stunning location for Jane Campion’s 1993 Oscar-winning film *The Piano*.

Here, the Karekare Falls trail is an easy, 600m trail that leads you to the 30m-tall Karekare Falls in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. It takes about eight minutes to do the walk and is perfect for groups with very young kids or elderly family members with mobility issues. Make sure to pack a swimsuit and take a dip in the falls.

For a more challenging hike, the Mercer Bay Loop Track is a 2.1km trail set high above Piha’s cliffs, providing an excellent vantage point for dramatic coastal views. The path provides good traction, with gentle descents and inclines through native forests. Take your time and enjoy panoramic views of the Tasman Sea.

## Muriwai Regional Park

Less than an hour’s drive from Auckland’s city centre, this West Coast beach has “wild” written all over it – from the consistent swells sought out by surfers and black volcanic sand to the rugged pillow-shaped cliffs hewn from hot lava that erupted underwater and then rapidly cooled. Muriwai Beach is home to the gannet, a large seabird known to swoop into the water at up to 100kmph, and the kororā (little blue penguins). It’s a natural stunner and also served as a filming location for *The Rings of Power*.

The area offers plenty of hiking options. For beginners, the Muriwai Gannet Colony Walk is a 1km round-trip hike along gravel paths and wooden steps. This leisurely route features subtle inclines that take you to a spot overlooking the windswept beach and Muriwai’s well-known gannet colony.







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## Rangitoto Island

Considered one of New Zealand's youngest volcanic islands, Rangitoto's most recent eruption occurred just 600 years ago. This pest-free island has a flourishing ecosystem, where native flora and feathered creatures like the tūī, saddleback, bellbird and fantail thrive. To get there, board a 25-minute ferry ride from either the Downtown Auckland Ferry Terminal or Devonport Ferry Terminal.

The Rangitoto Summit Track starts at the Rangitoto Wharf and is a 7km hike on gravel paths and volcanic scoria, which are sharp jagged rocks that can be slippery, so proceed with caution. Depending on your pace, it will take one to two hours. Tramp through lava fields, native scrub and forests of Pōhutukawa trees (aka the New Zealand Christmas tree whose red flowers bloom in December). It's an otherworldly scene that provided the backdrop for *Under the Mountain*, a New Zealand film starring Sam Neill of *Jurassic Park* fame.

As you move closer to the top, you'll climb wooden stairs that lead to a viewing deck, giving you sweeping panoramic views of Auckland's impressive harbour. If you're up for a challenge, take a 15-minute detour about two-thirds of the way to check out the lava caves. Make sure to pack a flashlight.

**From top:** The gannet colony on the rugged coastline of Muriwai Regional Park is a sight to behold; the Pōhutukawa tree is distinguished by its unique red flowers

## Hiking guide

### Maungawhau

Tūpuna Maunga Authority  
[maunga.nz](http://maunga.nz)

### Piha Beach

Waitākere Ranges Local Board  
[piha.co.nz](http://piha.co.nz)

### Muriwai Regional Park

Auckland Council  
[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### Rangitoto Island

The Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust  
[rangitoto.org](http://rangitoto.org)





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Welcome aboard Malaysia Aviation Group's (MAG) airlines. This month, see what we have on offer to ensure safe, seamless and fuss-free journeys.

**66**

**Inside  
our airlines**

News and updates  
from MAG Airlines

**76**

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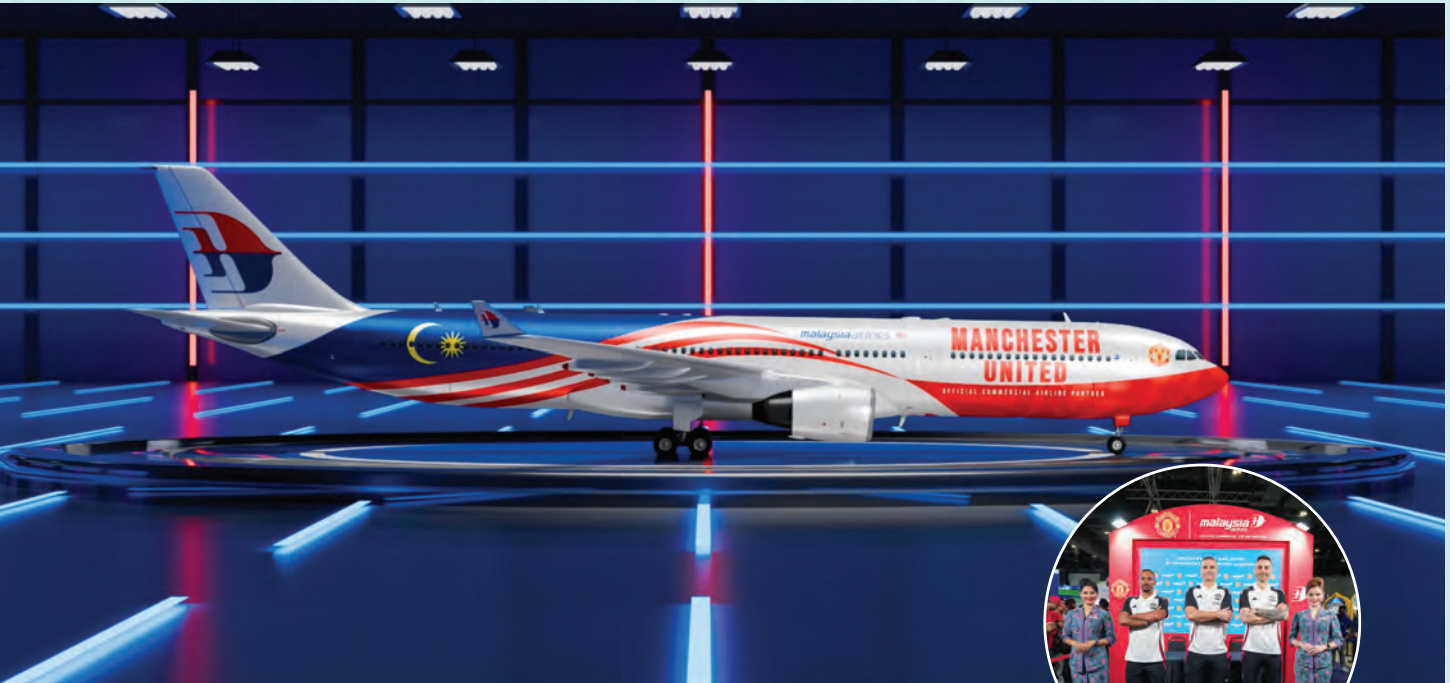
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## Watch out for the new Malaysia Airlines x Manchester United aircraft livery

Malaysia Airlines has unveiled a brand new livery in an exciting collaboration with English Premier League club Manchester United. The design features the Malaysian flag wrapping the rear of the airline's A330-300 aircraft, with its dynamic red lines flowing into the Manchester United's name and logo at the front. As the official commercial airline partner for

Manchester United, Malaysia Airlines' special livery symbolises harmony, strength and unity between aviation and sports – seamlessly bringing together two forces that inspire and connect people around the world. Adding to the excitement, Manchester United legends Dimitar Berbatov, Nemanja Vidić and Luís Nani made a special appearance at the unveiling to mark the momentous occasion.



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This June, Malaysia Airlines is proud to present the latest edition of our Best of Asia inflight dining series. As part of our ongoing commitment to showcasing the diversity and richness of Asian cuisines, we've introduced a signature dish: braised chicken with red dates in superior sauce.

Paying tribute to Cantonese culinary traditions, this hearty creation features chicken slowly braised in a rich, umami-packed sauce. Red dates add natural sweetness and a touch of symbolism, representing good fortune, prosperity and happiness in Chinese culture.

Served with rice and a medley of steamed vegetables including carrots, pak choy and shiitake mushrooms, this dish offers comfort and a satisfying balance of flavours, textures and nourishment.

In Chinese tradition, chicken symbolises unity, prosperity and success – no family gathering or festive occasion is complete without it. By offering this meal on board, we hope to bring a sense of warmth, familiarity and celebration to your journey.

It is available throughout June in all cabin classes on selected routes departing from Kuala

Lumpur to China, Sabah, Sarawak and other regional destinations.

At Malaysia Airlines, we believe that meaningful journeys start with memorable meals. We invite you to savour this special dish and stay tuned for more exciting flavours in the months ahead as we continue to bring the best of Asia to your table in the sky.

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◆ Besakih Great Temple, Bali

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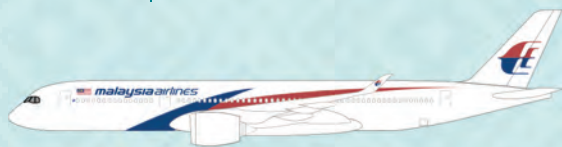
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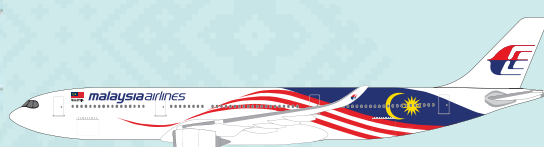
Book with Enrich or learn more  
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#### A350-900

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



#### A330-900

No. of Aircraft **3** | Passenger Seating **297**  
Length **63.689m** | Wingspan **64m** | Height **16.788m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **980km/h**  
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



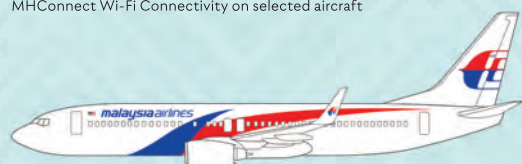
#### A330-300

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



#### A330-200

No. of Aircraft **4** | Passenger Seating **287**  
Length **58.82m** | Wingspan **60.30m** | Height **17.39m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **880km/h**  
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



#### B737-800 NG

No. of Aircraft **42** | Passenger Seating **160, 166, 174**  
Length **39.5m** | Wingspan **35.8m** | Height **12.50m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **857km/h**



#### B737-8

No. of Aircraft **11** | 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 **35.8m** | Height **12.50m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **857km/h**



#### A330-200F

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



#### ATR 72-500

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



#### Viking DHC-6 Twin Otter Series 400

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





#### ON-TIME PERFORMANCE

Our check-in counters close 60 minutes before departure. Please allow at least 45 minutes for immigration and security clearance. Boarding gates will close 30 minutes prior to departure.



#### CABIN LUGGAGE HANDLING

Passenger and crew safety on board our flights are our highest priority. In compliance with the airline's policy and in observing Occupational Safety and Health Regulation requirements, cabin crew are no longer required to stow passengers' hand luggage in the overhead stowage compartments. This is to minimise occupational hazards and ergonomic risks faced by cabin crew in the aircraft. Cabin crew on duty will, however, assist passengers travelling with infants, young passengers travelling alone, the elderly and passengers with reduced mobility. Passengers who are fit and in good health must carry, stow and secure their hand luggage on board. Hand luggage exceeding the 7kg weight limit must be checked in before boarding.



#### PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PEDs)

For safety reasons, in line with the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia guidelines, mobile phones and small PEDs can be used throughout your journey in "Flight Mode". Large devices with screen size above 12 inches are not allowed to be used during takeoff and landing. Whilst cruising, all devices can be used in "Flight Mode". Devices transmitting cellular signals to satellites must remain switched off throughout the flight, until disembarkation. The Captain may prohibit the use of devices if there is any interference with the aircraft's system.



#### LITHIUM BATTERIES

Lithium metal or lithium ion cells or batteries for portable electronic devices (PEDs), including medical devices, must not exceed 2g for lithium metal batteries and 100Wh for lithium ion batteries. All spare batteries, including lithium metal or lithium ion cells or batteries for PEDs, must be carried in passengers' carry-on baggage only. These batteries must be individually protected to prevent short circuits. PEDs containing non-spillable batteries must be 12V or less or 100Wh or less. Passengers are allowed to carry a maximum of two spare batteries onboard. These batteries must be individually protected to prevent short circuits.



#### NO-SMOKING & VAPING POLICY

Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes, is prohibited on all flights. Electronic cigarettes must be carried in carry-on baggage only. Recharging of the device inflight is not permitted.



#### COMFORT & CARE

Personal care, baby paraphernalia and first-aid treatment are available upon request.



#### BAGGAGE FOR TRANSIT PASSENGERS

Transit passengers in KLIA are encouraged to reconfirm their final baggage destination at the Transfer Desk to ensure that their checked luggage is identified and loaded accordingly. Just present your baggage identification tag at the desk.



#### ZERO TOLERANCE OF ABUSE

We value courteousness. Any form of threat, verbal abuse or violence towards our staff will be taken seriously. We are committed to supporting anyone who has been the victim of an assault.



#### IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Movies, TV and Music On-Demand are available on selected flights either on seatback inflight

entertainment systems or streaming via personal electronic devices. Unlimited complimentary Wi-Fi internet service is available on selected aircraft regardless of cabin class or loyalty tier.



#### ONBOARD CHARGING

Laptop power points are fitted on Business Suite, Business, Premium Economy and selected Economy Class seats. USB charging is available on selected aircraft.



#### FOOD & BEVERAGE

All food served onboard is halal. Special dietary meals can be prepared with 24-hour notice through "Manage My Booking" on [malaysiaairlines.com](http://malaysiaairlines.com). Business Suite, Business and Economy Class passengers may use the Chef-on-Call service to pre-book their meals 24 hours prior to departure on selected flights. Alcoholic drinks are available on flights above three hours for passengers above the age of 21. Our cabin crew reserves the right to decline serving and selling alcohol to any passenger who appears intoxicated. Consumption of personal alcoholic drinks is prohibited.



#### FRESH & FROZEN SEAFOOD

Fresh and frozen seafood is strictly not permitted in check-in baggage. It may be accepted in cabin baggage, subject to the destination's

quarantine regulations. It must be properly packed and should meet the cabin baggage weight and size requirements. If dry ice is used, a maximum of 2.5kg per passenger is allowed. We reserve the right to refuse carriage if the items are not properly packed.



#### PEANUT & NUT ALLERGIES

Meals containing nuts may be served throughout the aircraft. We cannot accommodate requests for peanut/nut-free zones in the aircraft and strongly encourage those with allergies to take the necessary medical precautions before flying, including travelling with medications in their hand luggage.



#### WHEELCHAIR ASSISTANCE

Wheelchair requests must be made through the Global Customer Contact Centre, the Ticket Office and/or Malaysia Airlines appointed travel agents at least 48 hours prior to departure. Contact the call centre at 1-300-88-3000 for more information.



#### UNACCOMPANIED MINOR (UMNR)

We provide assistance to children aged 5 to 15 years old travelling alone, with a 24-hour advance request.

+ For more information, visit [malaysiaairlines.com](http://malaysiaairlines.com)

### IN ADDITION TO AIRPORT CHECK-IN, HERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS\*



**WEB**  
Check in online at [malaysiaairlines.com](http://malaysiaairlines.com) and self-print your boarding pass.



**WEB-TO-MOBILE**  
Check in online. Your boarding pass will be sent to your mobile phone. Mobile boarding passes can be scanned at airport security and at the boarding gate.



**MALAYSIA AIRLINES APP**  
Visit [malaysiaairlines.com](http://malaysiaairlines.com) to download the Malaysia Airlines App to perform mobile check-in.

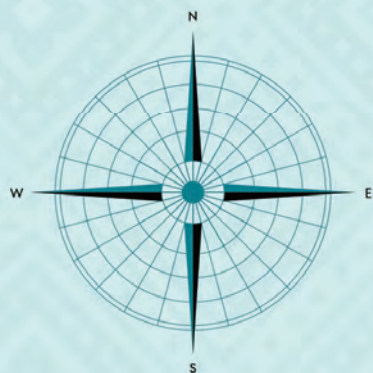


**FAST-CHECK SELF-SERVICE KIOSK**  
Check in online at [malaysiaairlines.com](http://malaysiaairlines.com) and self-print your boarding pass.



**CITY CENTRE COUNTER CHECK-IN**  
Available at KL Sentral in Kuala Lumpur.



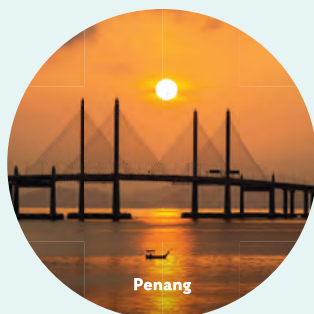


# OUR NETWORK

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELEN WINATA

SOUTH  
ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

Malaysia Airlines,  
Firefly and MASwings  
have an average of  
244 daily flights to 70  
destinations around the  
world from their hubs in  
**Kuala Lumpur, Penang**  
and **Kota Kinabalu**



- Malaysia Airlines
- ◆ Firefly
- MASwings
- Amal
- ▲ MASKargo

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





Malaysia Airlines  
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Malaysia, when you  
make an extra stop  
to/from your holiday  
destination



# EXPLORE MALAYSIA

Malacca  
Strait

South China Sea



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Connect and travel  
to more than  
900 destinations in  
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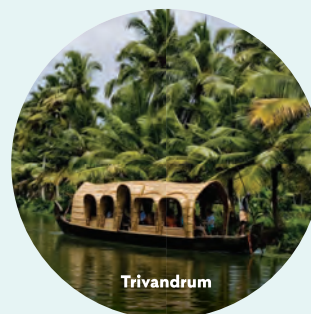


IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (TRIVANDRUM)





THIS IS MALAYSIAN HOSPITALITY  
Our network

Asia

Americas

Europe, Turkey and Russia

Africa and  
Middle East

● oneworld destinations

Southwest  
Pacific





# Stay connected with MHconnect

Experience unparalleled Malaysian Hospitality with unlimited complimentary Wi-Fi\* for a seamless and hassle-free journey. Whether you're flying Economy Class, Business Class or Business Suite, stay connected with loved ones, work from the sky or keep up-to-date with the latest news.

## Stay connected in 5 easy steps:



### Step 1

Switch to  
"Flight Mode"



### Step 2

Connect to **MHconnect**  
**iOS:** You will be directed to the home page\*\*  
**Android:** Enter the URL  
**[mhconnect.malaysiaairlines.com](http://mhconnect.malaysiaairlines.com)**  
to be directed to the home page



### Step 3

Click on the "**Go Online**" tab  
(not applicable for A330-900)



### Step 4

Click on the  
"Connect" tab



### Step 5

Enter your email address and click the  
"Continue" tab (not applicable for A330-900)



### You are connected

You can now surf the  
web with **MHconnect**

\*MHconnect Wi-Fi service is available on selected A350 and A330 aircraft operated by Malaysia Airlines.

\*\*If iOS is not automatically redirected, enter URL [mhconnect.malaysiaairlines.com](http://mhconnect.malaysiaairlines.com) to be directed to the homepage. Other T&Cs apply.



# Enjoy in-flight entertainment with MHstudio

Enjoy over 150 movies, 400 TV shows and more on our in-flight entertainment system with the convenience of using your own headphones. Available on selected aircraft.

## Stay connected in 3 steps:



### Step 1

Switch to  
Flight Mode



### Step 2

Connect to  
MHstudio



### Step 3

Scan the QR code or enter the URL (as per decal)  
**<http://mhstudio.malaysiaairlines.com>** or  
**<http://mhstudio.streamonboard.com>**

\*Wi-Fi service (with internet connectivity) is available on B737-8 aircraft operated by Malaysia Airlines.

\*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.





# NOW SHOWING



MOVIES **p82**



TELEVISION **p91**



AUDIO **p94**



Check out our **Father's Day Special** on page 84 & 89!



★ 17 Again



Fathers' Day



Deiva Thirumagal



Papa

DISCLAIMER: IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT IS EXCLUSIVE TO MALAYSIA AIRLINES PASSENGERS





### The Last Showgirl

Pamela Anderson shines as Shelly, a Las Vegas showgirl facing an uncertain future after her long-running revue comes to an end. A poignant exploration of reinvention, identity and the enduring spirit of performers, ***The Last Showgirl*** is a gem to watch.



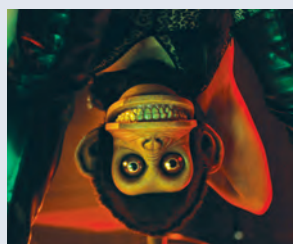
### The King Tide

After a mysterious child with healing powers washes ashore on an idyllic island, its once-peaceful community unravels, torn between hope, fear and control. A gothic supernatural thriller that explores the darkest corners of human nature.



### A Working Man

Levon Cade (Jason Statham), a former black ops soldier turned construction worker, is forced to return to his old ways when his boss' daughter is kidnapped. Expect hard-hitting action and non-stop thrills.



### The Monkey

Based on Stephen King's short story, twin brothers (Theo James) discover a cursed toy monkey that brings death, tearing them apart. Many years later, the killings begin again, forcing the siblings to confront the nightmare once more.



### Trigger Happy

In this dark comedy, a frustrated husband dreams of running away to the Bahamas while his wife dreams of becoming a TV star. Tired of his life, he plots to kill her for the insurance money but things take an unexpected turn.



150+

more movies on  
your IFE player

HOLLYWOOD  
LATEST

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPECIAL



When a meteor crash turns zoo animals into zombies, a brave wolf and a mountain lion team up to save their fellow creatures. **Night of the Zoopocalypse** is a fun animated adventure where the fur flies and the stakes couldn't be wilder.



In **The Mountain**, Sam sets out on a journey to reconnect with her Māori roots, guided by the sacred Taranaki mountain and her loyal friends. A powerful coming-of-age story about identity, ancestry and the courage to find your place in the world.



### The Day The Earth Blew Up: A Looney Tunes Movie

Daffy Duck and friends are Earth's last hope against a sticky alien invasion involving chewing gum. This zany adventure blends classic *Looney Tunes* humour with sci-fi antics, proving that slapstick never goes out of style.



### Sneaks

When designer sneakers Ty and Maxine are separated during a robbery, Ty races through New York City to find his sister. With voiceovers by Anthony Mackie and Chloe Bailey, this fun adventure delves into loyalty, taking risks and finding your stride.



## FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

## Hollywood Favourites



What if you could fix your past by reliving your youth? In this heartwarming comedy, **17 Again** follows a disillusioned father who magically becomes 17, gaining a new perspective on family, fatherhood, his choices and the power of being present. Starring Zac Efron and Matthew Perry.



In **Father Figures**, twin brothers set off on a comedic quest to find their biological father after learning their mother's long-held secret, leading to unexpected encounters and revelations about identity, fatherhood and what truly defines a family. Starring Owen Wilson, Ed Helms and Glenn Close.



In sci-fi thriller **Frequency**, a son connects with his long-deceased father through a mysterious radio signal, bridging 30 years as they work to prevent a tragedy and heal their bond. A must-watch gem starring Dennis Quaid and Jim Caviezel.



In **Fathers' Day**, when a teenager runs away, his mother tricks two former boyfriends into believing they might be his father. As the men team up to find the boy, they uncover unexpected common ground. Starring Billy Crystal and Robin Williams.



The Elephant Man



The Terminator



Terminator 2: Judgment Day



Fracture

## WORLD MUSIC DAY SPECIAL



Elvis



Blinded by the Light



# MHinsure



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**Have total peace of mind when you travel.**  
Protect your trips, and yourself, with the right plan.

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Cashless Medical Care benefit



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Emergency Medical Expenses benefit of up to MYR 35,000 (domestic) & MYR 1,000,000 (international)



Luggage & Personal Effects benefit of up to MYR 3,000 (domestic) & MYR 7,500 (international)

## EXCLUSIVE FOR TAKAFUL



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Badal Hajj & Korban/Ihsar only applicable for international travel

T&Cs apply. MHinsure Travel PA (Insurance) is underwritten by Etiqa General Insurance Berhad & MHinsure Travel PA (Takaful) is underwritten by Etiqa General Takaful Berhad. The benefits payable under eligible products are protected by PIDM up to limits. Please refer to PIDM's TIPS Brochure or contact Etiqa or PIDM (visit [www.pidm.gov.my](http://www.pidm.gov.my)).





# MOVIES



KIDS SPECIAL

Hollywood Kids



Shaun the Sheep takes centre stage in two hilarious adventures that charm both kids and grown-ups. In **Shaun the Sheep Movie** (2015), he heads to the city to rescue the Farmer in this heartwarming silent comedy. In **Farmageddon** (2019), Shaun befriends a lost alien in a cosmic caper that's truly out of this world. Pure, clever fun from start to finish!



**Teen Titans: Trouble in Tokyo**

When a high-tech ninja attacks their city, the Teen Titans track him to Tokyo, diving into a world of myth and mystery. As they battle Brushogun, Robin and Starfire share a heartfelt moment in this action-packed, emotional series finale.



**Son of Bigfoot**

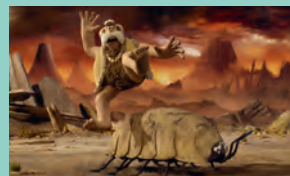
Teenager Adam discovers that his missing father is the legendary Bigfoot. As he grapples with newfound powers and a corporate threat, he learns valuable lessons about family, identity and embracing his uniqueness.



**August Rush**



**Little Men**



**Early Man**



**Mummies**



# MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS POP

Collect adventures,  
not souvenirs.

Think about your last holiday. What made it unforgettable? It's the feeling that lingers – the joy of the moment, the warmth of shared laughter, the quiet peace found far from home.

Tap into that feeling: the full immersion of new surroundings, worries melting into bliss. Remember those pre-holiday butterflies at the boarding gates, knowing the escape you'd longed for was finally beginning.

Sometimes, the most memorable part isn't the trip itself, but the tiny, unexpected moments of happiness that spark a desire for even more adventures.

Life's too short for "what ifs". Those holidays you remember, the ones that make you smile, they happened because you took the chance and said "yes" to the unknown.



## Flight + Hotel

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Discover tickets & packages to the best experiences.

## Airport Services

Book lounge passes, fast track privileges & more.

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filled with heart-pounding adventure, vibrant discovery, and that insatiable craving for something new.

Whether it's wandering through the intricate temples in Bangkok, savouring bold flavours in Ho Chi Minh's lively night markets,

or stargazing under the Parisian moonlight, the world is a tapestry waiting to be explored—again and again.

So, what feeling are you chasing next? Let your wanderlust be your compass, guiding you to a new chapter of adventure.

Relive memories and make new ones with our wide range of packages, services and more today!

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**+5kg extra  
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## Malay

**Dendam Hantu Viral**

Blending supernatural elements with a fresh take on village folklore, the peaceful village of Kampung Lompat Katak is disrupted by a viral ghost, sabotaging Tok Hashim's plans for a thanksgiving ceremony.

## Chinese

**Honey Money Phony**

An insurance worker scammed in a romance con teams up with a seasoned con artist to plot revenge. Set in Macao and Guangzhou, this romantic comedy sparks an unexpected journey towards healing and love.

## Korean

**Yumi's Cells: The Movie**

Based on the popular webtoon, this animated film follows office worker Yumi on her journey to become a writer, as her internal "cells" – emotions, logic and more – reveal the complexities of personal growth and self-discovery.

## Hindi

**Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya**

Robotics engineer Aryan falls for Sifra, unaware she's a humanoid robot created by his aunt. Introducing her to his traditional Indian family sparks comedic chaos, challenging ideas of love, identity and what it means to be human.

## Tamil

**Kanguva**

Tracing two timelines, this fantasy film links a tribal warrior in 1070 with a bounty hunter in 2024. As their stories converge, the film delves into themes of destiny, legacy and the enduring spirit of heroism across ages.

## FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

## Chinese

**Papa**

## Japanese

**Amalock**

## Hindi

**Joram**

## Tamil

**Deiva Thirumagal**

## Indonesian

**Two Blue Hearts**



The Ink logo consists of the word "Ink" in white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red square.The MAG3 logo features the text "mag3" in a stylized, italicized blue font, with a blue swoosh element to the right. Below it, in a smaller font, is the text "malaysia aviation group".

# Travel the world

For advertising and partnership opportunities, contact  
**[sales.malaysia@ink-global.com](mailto:sales.malaysia@ink-global.com)**





Now Showing

# TELEVISION

150+

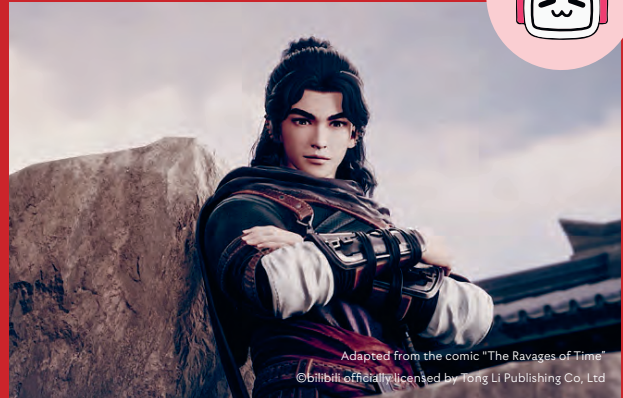
more movies on  
your IFE player

## Chinese



### Link Click Season 1

In this gripping Chinese animated series, Cheng Xiaoshi and Lu Guang operate the "Lighttime Studio", using supernatural abilities to enter photographs and relive past moments. Tasked with helping clients resolve regrets, they must carefully navigate the delicate balance of altering events without changing the past. The series masterfully blends emotional storytelling with suspenseful twists, making it a standout in the time-travel genre.



### The Ravages of Time Season 1

Set during the tumultuous Three Kingdoms period of ancient China, this series offers a fresh perspective on historical events. Focusing on Sima Yi and the enigmatic Handicapped Warriors, the narrative delves into political intrigue, strategic warfare and the complexities of loyalty and betrayal. With an intricate plot and rich character development, this animated comics series created by Chan Mou reimagines classic tales with a modern sensibility.



## Chinese Drama



### In Between

## Japanese Drama



### Worst to First: A Teen Baseball Miracle

## Korean Drama



### The Queen Who Crows

## Malay Religious



### Geng Ngaji Season 5

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**Momentum does not  
stop here, it connects.**



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at every transit without missing a beat.**

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Terms & conditions applied.



Now Showing

# TELEVISION

## Comedy



**The Big Bang Theory**

## Drama



**ER**

## Kids



**Bluey**

## Kids



**Sonic Prime**

## History



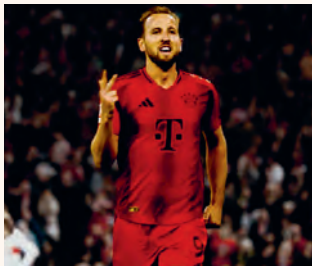
**Mysteries Decoded**

## Travel



**Bettany Hughes' Grand Tour:  
From Paris to Rome**

## Sports



**Bundesliga Mid-Season  
Review 2024/25**

## Showbiz



**Who Do You Think You Are?**

## Comedy



**Growing Pains**

This beloved sitcom follows Dr Jason Seaver (Alan Thicke), a psychiatrist and dedicated father balancing work and family life. A heartwarming tribute to the joys and struggles of being a dad.

## Lifestyle



**Jungle Dads**

This reality series places fathers and children in the jungle, where they must work together to survive. A raw, adventurous celebration of fatherhood, focusing on teamwork and father-child relationships.

## Drama



**Found**

This gripping drama follows Gabi Mosely (Shanola Hampton), a former kidnapping victim turned crisis manager, as she leads a team to find missing persons using unorthodox methods.

## Music & Soundstage



**5 Seconds of  
Summer: So Perfect**

This documentary follows the meteoric rise of Australian pop-rock band 5 Seconds of Summer, featuring behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with their supporters.





### The Hits

Tate McRae's *So Close to What* is a bold, pop-driven album blending 2000s nostalgia with modern flair. Featuring hits like "Miss Possessive" and "I Know Love" (with The Kid Laroi), it explores love, identity and heartbreak. The album debuted at No 1 on the Billboard charts, cementing McRae's place in the pop spotlight.

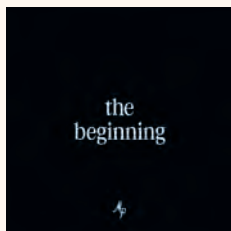
### Club



### Japanese



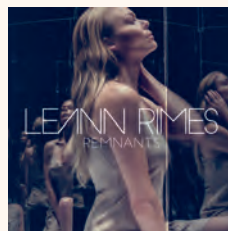
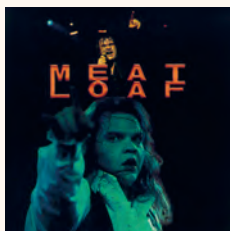
### The Hits



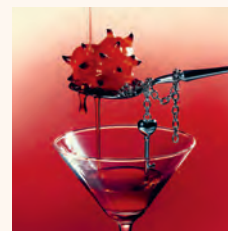
### French



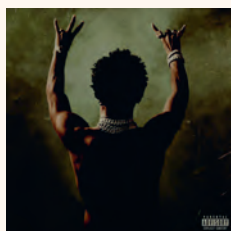
### Memories



### Korean



### R&B



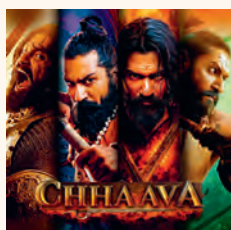
### Malay



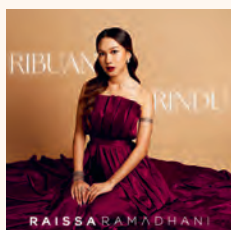
### Tamil



### Hindi



### Indonesian



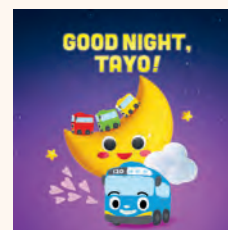
### Cantonese



### Mandarin



### Kids







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illusion, in which the legendary magician used a massive turntable to subtly rotate the audience, making the statue "disappear" through clever misdirection and stagecraft.

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A cultural destination in its own right, a visit to Encore Melaka is a must when you're in town. Be sure to check its official website for the latest shows and ticket information. [encore-melaka.com](http://encore-melaka.com)





# SUNWAY CITY KUALA LUMPUR

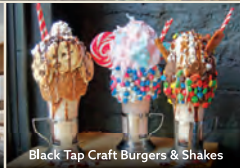
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