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# Chengdu

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OCTOBER 2025

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The iconic Anshun Bridge in Chengdu's Jinjiang district  
Photo by Philippe Lejeanvre

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# JEFF'S CELLAR – AN ICON REIMAGINED

Deep within the 260-million-year-old limestone caves of Ipoh, Jeff's Cellar at The Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat has redefined fine dining with an inspiring transformation. Marking the retreat's 15th anniversary, this multi-award-winning restaurant now unveils refreshed interiors, new tasting menus and an elevated wine experience, all set in a softly lit subterranean world of stalactites, stalagmites and gentle streams.

Under the vision of Ipoh-born Executive Chef Lee Choon Boon, three meticulously curated menus celebrate the finest locally sourced and hand-selected imported ingredients, transporting guests on an unforgettable multi-sensory journey.



Scan the QR code to contact us  
[WWW.THEBANJARAN.COM](http://WWW.THEBANJARAN.COM)







## Dear guests,

As we approach the final quarter of the year, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued trust and support in Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG).

Building on the strong momentum of recent months, our airlines continue to expand their networks to meet growing travel demand and strengthen our presence in key markets. Beginning 9 January 2026, Malaysia Airlines will commence direct daily flights between Kuala Lumpur (KUL) and Chengdu Tianfu International Airport (TFU). This expansion reinforces the airline's presence in one of the region's fastest-growing markets for both business and leisure travel, further supported by the recent introduction of reciprocal visa-free entry between Malaysia and China. Malaysia Airlines currently operates flights to Beijing (PKX), Shanghai (PVG), Guangzhou (CAN), Xiamen (XMN), Hong Kong (HKG) and Taipei (TPE).

Meanwhile, Firefly will introduce new jet services from KUL to Krabi (KBV), Siem Reap (SAI) and Cebu (CEB) from November 2025. These additions will further enhance connectivity across ASEAN and beyond, supporting tourism, business and regional ties.

Beyond new routes, we will also increase frequencies across our key networks beginning October 2025. Malaysia Airlines will add services to Australia, New Zealand, China, India, the Maldives and Bangladesh, while Firefly will strengthen connections to Singapore, Kota Kinabalu, Kuching, Penang

and Johor Bahru. These enhancements will offer travellers greater choice, flexibility and convenience – furthering our mission to connect people, places and opportunities across Asia and the world.

At MAG, we are equally focused on elevating the travel experience onboard. Guided by our signature Malaysian Hospitality, we continue to innovate and curate experiences that reflect the warmth and richness of Malaysia. This includes our newly introduced vegetarian satay, crafted with Lion's Mane mushrooms and infused with our signature marinade – offering Business Suite and Business Class passengers on selected routes the opportunity to savour the authentic flavours of Malaysia.

This month, we are delighted to showcase our latest Best of Asia in-flight menu, celebrating the diverse culinary heritage of South Asia. From now until 31 October, guests travelling from Kuala Lumpur to selected South Asian destinations can enjoy jeera rice with butter chicken masala – a hearty, flavourful dish inspired by regional traditions. In October, the offering will be extended to more destinations in conjunction with Deepavali, sharing the festive spirit with even more of our guests.

These initiatives are a testament to our unwavering commitment, not only to broaden our network, but also to ensure every journey with us is marked by care, excellence and memorable experiences. Whether you are travelling for business, leisure or to reunite with loved ones, we are truly honoured to accompany you on your journey.

Every flight is an opportunity for us to share the pride and hospitality of Malaysia with the world. As we reflect on how far we have come and look ahead to the opportunities before us, we remain inspired by your support to continue delivering with heart.

Once again, terima kasih for choosing to fly with us. To those celebrating, we wish you and your loved ones a joyous Deepavali.

We look forward to welcoming you on board and sharing many more journeys with you in the spirit of Malaysian Hospitality.

**Izham Ismail**

Group Managing Director  
Malaysia Aviation Group





PRESENTS

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[www.klparkfestival.com](http://www.klparkfestival.com)



SCAN HERE

**O**ur cover story on Chengdu has me reflecting on something many of us grapple with: the choice between hustle culture and a slower, more meaningful pace of life. In a world that glorifies long hours and constant motion, Chengdu feels like a breath of fresh air – a city that prioritises quality of life over busyness and non-stop work.

As the story unfolds, this philosophy becomes clear. Locals sip tea in centuries-old teahouses, stroll through beautifully landscaped parks and enjoy boat rides on the river – a vivid expression of living in the moment. Yet Chengdu is far from static. Reinvention thrives here; former factories have transformed into creative hubs, and the city's contemporary art scene is buzzing. Read the full story on page 48.

Old favourites like vinyl records are making a comeback too – those timeless grooves are spinning once again. In Chiang Mai, we've curated a list of record-friendly cafés and eateries where music lovers can indulge their nostalgic side (page 27).

And speaking of music, London is calling. This issue, we share an itinerary for a cultural pilgrimage through the city's most iconic music landmarks, starting from the newly opened David Bowie Centre at V&A East to the Southbank Centre. Read the story on page 56.

Finally, as Hindus, Jains and Sikhs in India, Malaysia, Singapore and around the world celebrate Deepavali on 20 October, we shine a spotlight on three Malaysian artisans whose age-old crafts – clay lamps,

kolams and sarees – keep the Festival of Lights glowing (page 21).

Here's to slowing down, soaking in culture and celebrating creativity this October.



Go forth and wander!

*Elizabeth Soong*

**Elizabeth Soong**  
Editor

## This issue's contributors



**Ryan McLaughlin**

Writer, "Hit the pause button", page 48

Ryan is a UK-based writer and travel blogger passionate about exploring cultures and the human experience. His journeys take him to uncover stories and connections that inspire his writing.



**Lucie Grace**

Writer, "London's greatest hits", page 56

Lucie is a culture and travel writer featured in *The Independent*, *The Guardian* and *Lonely Planet*. Her book *An Opinionated Guide to Music London* was published in September.



**Renyi Lim**

Writer, "Shine bright", page 21

Renyi is a Kuala Lumpur-based journalist covering travel, luxury, wellness and dining. A keen foodie, her modus operandi is to go where her stomach leads her.



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# 16 REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places



1

Kuala Lumpur

## Five-star stay

**Kimpton Naluria Kuala Lumpur**, IHG's first Kimpton in Malaysia, opens at the TRX financial district with 466 rooms designed for stylish, modern living by Hassell Studio. From skyline views and lush textures to witty brand touches like social hours and the "Forgot it? We've got it!" amenities kit, it's a fresh reminder that KL is constantly reimagining how we travel and stay.

[@kimptonnaluriakl](#)

# 2

Malaysia

## Save the forests

What keeps Malaysia's rainforests green and thriving? Behind the scenes, the **Malaysia Forest Fund** (MFF) is driving conservation through its Forest Conservation Certificate (FCC), tailored to the unique needs of different ecosystems to ensure lasting impact. Six FCC projects are currently underway in Kedah, Selangor, Pahang, Negeri Sembilan, Sabah and Sarawak.  
[myforestfund.com.my](http://myforestfund.com.my)



Kuala Lumpur

## Tutus and pirouettes

**Swan Lake** glides into KL on 11 October, performed by the Saint Petersburg National Ballet Theatre at Plenary Hall, KLCC. Featuring soloists from the legendary Mariinsky Theatre, it's a must-see for ballet fans.  
[megatix.co.id](http://megatix.co.id)



# 4

Kuala Lumpur

## Let's get loud

From 17 to 26 October, KL turns into Southeast Asia's creative hotspot with **RIUH x ASEAN 2025**. Think 200 brands, 100 food stalls, 40 performances, 30 workshops and 20 cool activations. It all kicks off early with Rihuh Gallery on 1 October, popping up around Klang Valley with indie music, comedy and art. Don't miss the first-ever FrequenSEA ASEAN Music Conference on 21 October. [@riuhinthecity](https://www.riuhinthecity.com)



5

Kuala Lumpur

## Run for a good cause

The **KL Standard Chartered Marathon** returns 4 & 5 October with a new route from the city centre to Stadium Merdeka. Join the “Run For a Reason” initiative and support charities with every step. [kl-marathon.com](http://kl-marathon.com)



6

Kuala Lumpur

## Minimalist dining, rich flavours

On the 37th storey of Ilham Tower, **K** takes Japanese kaiseki and gives it a Malaysian twist, with local gems like Bario rice and turmeric buds alongside precise, elegant plating. Every dish tells a story of respect for produce – from charcoal-grilled Sabah lobster to hand-peeled Highland corn with biodynamic century egg. With only 12 seats, it's a rare, refined way to taste how Malaysia's ingredients shine on a global stage. [@kkualalumpur](https://www.instagram.com/kkualalumpur)





# Discover the Soul of Jakarta: A Two-Day Cultural Adventure

Jakarta, Indonesia's dynamic capital, blends history, culture, and modern energy. From street food in Glodok to the iconic Welcome Monument of Jakarta (Bundaran HI).

enjoy  
jakarta



## Day 1: Heritage, Healing & Wayang Magic

Start in *Kota Tua*, where Dutch-era buildings now house museums and quirky cafés. Visit the Jakarta Historical Museum, then ride a colourful bicycle through the old streets. Head to Glodok Chinatown for a taste of *soto betawi* or *kue ape*.

In the afternoon, dive into Javanese myths at Museum Wayang with a live *wayang kulit* (shadow puppet) show. Sip *Acaraki Jamu*—a modern take on ancient herbal drinks.

As night falls, explore House of Tugu, a boutique hotel filled with antiques and revolutionary spirit. Dine at Jajaghu Restaurant or soak up the colonial charm of Café Batavia.

## Day 2: Monuments, Museums & City Pulse

Start your day on top of Monas (National Monument) for city views and independence exhibits. Then stroll to Lapangan Banteng, framed by the grand Catholic Cathedral and Istiqlal Mosque.

In the afternoon, visit the National Museum (Museum Gajah) for a journey through Indonesia's rich heritage. Stop by Sarinah, a revamped local shopping landmark, and enjoy *nasi goreng sapi* on its rooftop. Wrap up your trip at Pasar Santa, a hip night market with *martabak manis* and vinyl stalls—or sip *es kelapa muda* at a hidden bar in Senopati.

“

Jakarta isn't just a stopover—it's where legends live, jamu flows, and every corner tells a story.




[jakarta-tourism.go.id](http://jakarta-tourism.go.id)

Cultural Carnival in Front of National Monument / Immanuel / COI 2025







# 7

**Kuala Lumpur**

## A decade of great food

---

**Nobu Kuala Lumpur** marks 10 years with a special menu prepared by the legendary chef Nobu Matsuhisa himself on 9 & 10 October. The next day promises an unforgettable dining experience, priced at RM522 nett per person. [noburestaurants.com](http://noburestaurants.com)

# 9

**Sabah**

## Birds of a feather

---



**The Borneo Bird Festival** at Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Centre is both a competition and a celebration of biodiversity. The 24-hour Bird Race challenges teams to spot the most species, but it's the guided walks, talks and photo contests that truly highlight how rich and fragile Malaysia's ecosystems are. [borneobirdfestival.com](http://borneobirdfestival.com)

# 8

**Kuala Lumpur**

## For meat's sake

---

**Maria's SteakCafé** now serves certified Kobe beef – a big milestone for their 25-year journey. Meanwhile, steak lovers can now head to Culina, Four Seasons Shoppes, for a slab of Korea's prized

**MiGyeongSan Hanwoo** beef. The halal-certified premium meat, prized for its buttery texture and deep flavour, is brought to Malaysia by Plan New. [@plannew.my](http://marias.com.my)



10

Selangor

## Rave it up

Before the Petronas Grand Prix of Malaysia (23 to 26 October), party hard at the **MotoGP** pre-event on 18 & 19 October. HardTech and Transmission take over the Sepang Circuit Helipad with acts like Sub Zero Project and Tweekacore. [ticketmelon.com](http://ticketmelon.com)



Kuala Lumpur

## Where couture dreams are made of

Fashion lovers, head to **Rizman Ruzaini**'s new flagship at Shangri-La KL. Known for red-carpet glam and Dubai Fashion Week looks, their two-and-a-half-floor space is a haven for bespoke couture. [@rizmanruzaini](https://www.instagram.com/rizmanruzaini)





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# 12

Kuala Lumpur

## Dancing in the moonlight

Five top spots for mooncakes to make your Mid-Autumn Festival reunions special



Li Yen, The Ritz-Carlton, KL



W Kuala Lumpur



Mandarin Oriental KL

**1. Oversea** upholds its tradition of crafting mooncakes from recipes passed down since the 1980s. Think Lotus, Shanghai, Golden Starlight and the indulgent Musang King Durian flavours. [overseamy.com](http://overseamy.com)

**2.** Four exquisite flavours comprise **Imperial Lexis Kuala Lumpur's** limited-edition mooncake set:

White Lotus with Single Yolk, Momoyama Green Tea with Red Bean Coconut, Jade Custard and Citrus Red Bean. [@imperiallexiskl](https://www.imperiallexiskl.com)

**3.** Dim sum chef Tan Tiong Guan crafts a refined selection of baked and snow skin mooncakes for **Li Yen** at The Ritz-Carlton, KL. [ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com)

**4.** Choose four among eight available flavours from **W Kuala Lumpur's** mooncake collection. We like the Shanghai Pandan Lotus and Chocolate Lotus with Sea Salt. [w-hotels.marriott.com](http://w-hotels.marriott.com)

**5. Mandarin Oriental KL** introduces new flavours such as Dubai Chocolate, Red Velvet Avocado and Milky Pecan Nuts & White Lotus Paste along with an expanded selection. [mandarinoriental.com](http://mandarinoriental.com)





13

Sarawak

## High-stakes race

Catch the **Sarawak International Dragon Boat Regatta** from 25 to 27 October at Kuching Waterfront. Teams from around the world race to the beat of the drum, with cultural shows and local eats adding to the festive vibe. [regatta.sarawaktourism.com](http://regatta.sarawaktourism.com)



14

Kuala Lumpur

## Live the magic

Hong Kong-born singer **Jackson Wang** hits KL on 25 October as part of his MagicMan 2 World Tour. With his latest album breaking Billboard records, expect a high-energy show at Axiata Arena, Bukit Jalil. [@teamwang](https://twitter.com/teamwang)

15

Malaysia

## Ready, jet-set, shop!

At KLIA, even duty-free shopping comes with perks. Spend RM450 with a **Maybank** credit card from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia and Brunei at Eraman and get RM45 back – a savvy reason to linger longer at Malaysia's international gateway. [maybank.my/eraman](http://maybank.my/eraman)





16

Terengganu

## Coastal gems

*Terengganu keeps its traditions alive through festivals that mix culture and community. Ahead of Visit Malaysia Year 2026, **Tourism Terengganu** director Hilman bin Hajijan tells us about the state's must-visit attractions and cultural experiences.*

Join the locals in the age-old tradition of squid jigging at the **Candat Sotong Carnival**, held between April and August when squid spawn near the shore. After nightfall, fishermen lure them with bright lights before catching them on special hooks – a ritual now celebrated with live music, food stalls and cultural performances.

Equally anticipated is **Karnival Pantai**, which draws over 150,000 visitors annually. Browse stalls selling traditional kuih and handcrafted goods, and enjoy the festive vibe with cultural showcases and themed-stall competitions. This event is a platform for local entrepreneurs to showcase their products.

Next Ramadan, experience the magic of **Pelita Raya** as it lights up the season with rows of glowing lamps arranged in intricate patterns – a nod to the traditional kerosene lamps used to decorate lawns during the holy month.

Add riverside charm to your trip at **Dataran Batu Putih** and the **Marang Floating Market**, where you can watch artisans make nisang coffee, dodol and nipah roofs – an authentic glimpse into local traditions.

And don't leave without seeing **Kuala Terengganu's iconic drawbridge**, the first in Southeast Asia and inspired by London's Tower Bridge. Adorned with Islamic motifs, it's at its most breathtaking during sunset. [terengganutourism.com](http://terengganutourism.com); [beautifulterengganu.com](http://beautifulterengganu.com)

### Hilman's hot tips



Rent a bicycle to explore the kampungs, stopping to chat with local vendors and experience everyday life.



Ask locals for the best spots to try Terengganu's famous nasi dagang, keropok lek and laksam.



Respect reef and coral conservation – avoid damaging marine life while snorkelling or diving, and always choose licensed eco-operators.





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# MALAYSIAN ICONS

A celebration of cultural pride, heritage and timeless Malaysian craftsmanship



Ruben's 2022 kolam design of The Humble Horse at The Gardens Mall in Kuala Lumpur

## Shine bright

This Deepavali, meet the artisans behind the clay lamps, colourful kolams and handwoven sarees that continue to illuminate the Festival of Lights in Malaysia

BY RENYI LIM

**A major Indian festival symbolising the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil, Deepavali – as it's known in South India and called Diwali in the North – is celebrated as the Festival of Lights.**

Its name comes from the Sanskrit word *dīpāvalī*, meaning “row of lights”, marked by the tradition of lighting *diyas* (oil lamps) around homes. The festival follows the Hindu lunisolar calendar, usually falling between October and November, with the main festivities held on the year's darkest night.

This year, as Malaysians of Hindu, Jain and Sikh faiths prepare to celebrate on 20 October, *Going Places* speaks to three local artisans who each bring their own touch of light to the season. ➔





#### **Ananth Arumugam: Let there be light**

It is common to see diyas lit during Deepavali, a tradition linked to the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya, the rebirth of the goddess Lakshmi and Lord Krishna's victory over the demon king Narakasura.

"We see a surge in demand as families prepare their homes for the Festival of Lights," says Ananth Arumugam, a fourth-generation claypot maker and founder of KS Pottery in Kuala Selangor, which specialises in producing diyas and *vilakkus* (Tamil for lamp). "Many believe that only a clay diya carries true authenticity and sacredness."

Diyas are often lit at dawn and dusk, placed at entrances, altars or in front

of deities to invite blessings. Some use a single wick to symbolise unity, others multiple wicks for prosperity. Lamps are usually filled with sesame oil or ghee – considered pure and auspicious – though mustard and coconut oil are also used in different regions.

"Lighting a diya or vilakku is a symbolic act of inviting wisdom, peace, prosperity and spiritual energy into one's home. It represents light, purity and the removal of darkness, negativity and ignorance," says Ananth.

#### **Ruben Prakash: Kolams of art**

Deepavali's most striking visual is the *kolam* – a traditional Indian art form where intricate geometric patterns decorate floors and entrances.



## **Indian restaurants you need to try on Deepavali**

**Kaara Saaram  
Claypot**  
Multiple branches  
including Brickfields,  
Kajang; @kaara  
saaramclaypot

**Maroush**  
Landcon Resort,  
Jalan Pantai  
Cenang, Langkawi

**The Spice Kitchen**  
Wisma SP Setia,  
Taman Bukit  
Indah, Johor Bahru;  
thespicekitchen.  
com.my

**Pakeeza**  
15 Jalan Dato' Seri  
Ahmad Said, Ipoh;  
@pakeezarestaurant

**Sardaarji**  
6 Lebuhr China,  
George Town,  
Penang; @sardaarji\_  
flavoursofpunjab



**Clockwise from left:**  
 Ruben Prakash and his  
 kolam display at The  
 Gardens Mall; Jansri  
 Sarees' vibrant designs; Sri  
 Shangari Subramaniam;  
 intricate diya lamps;  
 Ananth Arumugam at work

contemporary touches, such as luggage-themed designs for Malaysia Airlines' Golden Lounges, 3D embossed kolam and rotating elements.

"I like to base my work on Indian culture, whether it is our traditional dances, architecture, food or epics. Our culture is so rich, and I love sharing that," says Ruben.

“

**During Deepavali, we celebrate everything that is good – and what better way than with new clothes? They symbolise prosperity and blessings”**

#### **Sri Shangari Subramaniam: Garments of tradition**

Two to three months before Deepavali, orders pour in from customers eager to buy sarees – 6m garments of woven cloth draped around the waist and shoulder, paired with a blouse. Jansri Sarees, which has stores in KL and in Kuantan, the capital of Pahang, has become a favourite for its handloom-woven organic silks and cottons, sourced directly from India.

"During Deepavali, we celebrate everything that is good – and what better way than with new clothes?" asks founder Sri Shangari Subramaniam. "They symbolise prosperity and blessings: elders gift them to younger family members and newlyweds receive clothes from their parents for a happy married life."

The saree remains the most popular choice for Malaysian Indian women during Deepavali, while men often opt for new shirts and *dhotis* (ankle-length trousers) in bright, festive colours. "Younger people might choose *salwar kameez* Punjabi suits, *lehenga* skirts or even black or darker shades, which were once thought unlucky," says Sri Shangari. "Still, traditional clothes connect us to our roots and remind us of where we come from."

"A kolam welcomes visitors and brings prosperity to the house. It is also meant to feed birds and insects as an offering to nature," says Ruben Prakash, the Kuala Lumpur-based director of S4SKY Rangoli Kolam Malaysia, who is in high demand in the weeks leading up to the festival for his designs created using dyed rice grains.

Traditional motifs feature peacocks, flowers and elephants, but Ruben's creativity shines through in his large-scale commissions for malls and corporate clients. His largest kolam to date, created in 2017, stretched 240ft by 8ft across Gateway@KLIA2 and took his team four days to complete. (By comparison, a small, simple kolam can be finished within an hour.)

Ruben has also experimented with

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# ELEVATE

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



MUSEUMS

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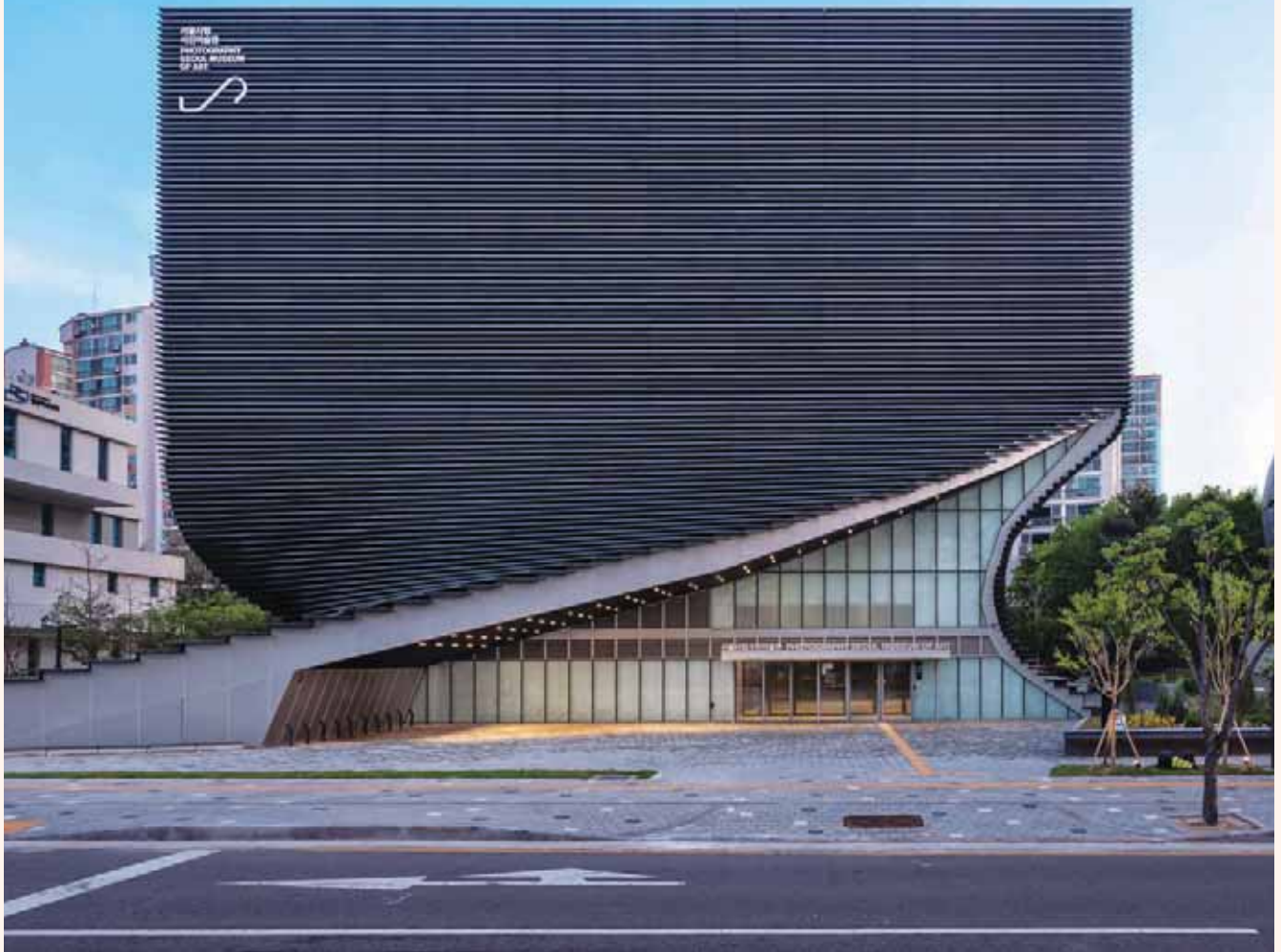
**Seoul's** newest museum frames the country's history through photography

BY MAE YOUNG

### In Seoul's Dobong district, the new Photography

Seoul Museum of Art (Photo SeMA) is South Korea's first public space dedicated entirely to photography. Opened in May and set in Chang-dong neighbourhood – once a granary village, now a cultural hub – the museum explores photography's role in documenting human and social change.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →



IMAGES: YOON JOONHWAN, COURTESY OF PHOTO SEMA

“

## Photo SeMA is South Korea's first public space dedicated entirely to photography”

The architecture is as striking as the exhibits. Designed by Austrian studio Jadric Architektur and Korean firm 1990uao Architects, Photo SeMA is a black cube with interesting linear flourishes that resemble the ends of film rolls. You can happily spend a whole afternoon here – inside the four-storey building are exhibition galleries, a photo library, learning studios where workshops are held, a darkroom and a café.

Twin powerhouse opening shows hint at the high standard of programming we can expect from the museum. “The Radiance” highlights Jung Haechang, who staged Korea's first photo exhibition in 1929, alongside Park Youngsook's bold feminist works from the mid-1970s. “Storage Story” presents six contemporary artists, including Won Seoung Won, who

transformed construction-site materials into imaginative photographic works.

Beyond exhibitions, the museum offers classes through Photo SeMA Academy and preserves over 20,000 archival images from the 1920s to the 1990s. A fourth-floor library stocked with rare volumes completes the experience. [sema.seoul.go.kr](http://sema.seoul.go.kr)



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Storage Story



Storage Story

## Dobong-gu delights



### The Seoul Robot & AI Museum

(RAIM), right next to Photo SeMA, is filled with interactive robotics and AI exhibits that blend technology and creativity for a futuristic adventure. [@seoulraim\\_official](https://seoulraim_official)



### Buk-Seoul Museum of Art, 18

minutes from Photo SeMA (via Town Bus Number 15), is an eco-friendly museum showcasing modern Korean sculptures and paintings set within a serene, lush garden. [@seoulmuseumofart](https://seoulmuseumofart)



**Seoul Dream Forest** is a great outdoor escape that's popular among locals. Take a 22-minute ride on Town Bus 14, followed by Bus 1124 and be treated to breathtaking views from its observatory. [parks.seoul.go.kr](http://parks.seoul.go.kr)





# Listen up, audiophiles

Five fab vinyl bars and cafés in **Chiang Mai**

BY LUCIE GRACE

**Thailand's "capital in the north" is a creative powerhouse** – the mountainside city is home to art schools, music colleges and now, a flourishing vinyl scene. From hole-in-the-wall cafés to buzzing weekend dance floors, Chiang Mai's new clutch of listening bars and record-friendly eateries are giving music lovers plenty to spin about. Here are five spots to check out.

## Deaf Shop

Chiang Mai's premier vinyl listening bar might pass for a record shop at first glance, but the racks belong to husband-and-wife duo Oomboi and Mum, who opened this hub for music lovers in 2022. Pick an album from the eclectic LP collection and they'll cue



Street Coffee Crew

it up; the soundtrack could veer from hip-hop and funk to indie and punk. On weekends, expect a packed dance floor. **36 Prapokklao Rd, Phra Sing; @deaf.shop**

## The Toys Club

A laid-back café by day and speakeasy by night, this collector's dream is packed full of retro toys, games and stacks of vinyl. Owner DJ Bird's record collection is a treasure trove of jazz, funk, hip-hop, house and electro, and the bar has a "sit back and relax" vibe – so pull up a stool and enjoy the DJs at work here every night of the week. **46/1 San Pa Koi Rd, Wat Kad; @thetoysclubth**



Fung Record Bar



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Deaf Shop

## Street Coffee Crew

Opened eight years ago by DJ and record collector Khun OG, this coffee-and-vinyl spot was ahead of the curve. The small café's walls are lined with street art and shelves of OG's hip-hop, soul and funk LPs, which he often spins in the mornings while baristas brew locally grown, house-roasted coffee. **144/55, Yu Yen Rd; @streetcoffeecrew**

## John Lemon

"Food! Drink! Vinyl!" reads the sign outside this fresh new joint in the old city. Founder Khun Pik moved his record collection into the restaurant, where staff take turns at the turntable. Dine in the leafy garden while analogue sounds drift from the speakers. **33 Samlarn Rd, Si Phum; @mrjohnlemon**

## Fung Record Bar

A relaxed spot for Beatles-themed cocktails and low-key conversation, Fung usually leaves the playlist to its resident DJs. On quieter weekday evenings, they might dip into the in-house record stash for requests. **46 Pra Pok Klao Rd Soi 1, Phra Sing; @fung.record.bar**



John Lemon

ELEVATE



COUTURE

# Limited edition

Experience the meticulous craft of Chanel first-hand in a rare travelling exhibition in **Tokyo** BY KISSA CASTAÑEDA



**To reinvent something, first you must understand the basics.** This is exactly how Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel rose from being a seamstress with a big dream to a visionary who radically transformed fashion. From the beginning, she placed extreme importance on the power of craftsmanship – taking the sewing skills she learned at an orphanage and eventually weaving masculine codes into womenswear that offered a breath of fresh air in the 1920s.

Over a century later, this philosophy continues to influence the luxury maison. At the heart of Chanel is its close collaboration with numerous *métiers d’art* (specialist artisans), such as the world-renowned Lesage, an embroiderer celebrating its centenary this year. In 1985, Chanel started buying local partner workshops and manufacturers to ensure they could continue to thrive, creating an ecosystem unique to the fashion house.

In 2021, Chanel established le19M in Paris, a physical manifestation of its commitment to preserving and advancing traditional craftsmanship. Named after Chanel’s favourite number – a reference to her birthday and the 19th arrondissement where the boutique is located – this purpose-built destination holds a workshop, a school and a gallery that “aims to showcase the savoir-faire of artisans and creators”.

The gallery arm provides insider access that was previously reserved for top clientele and media guests. Today, the public can admire what goes on behind the scenes.

From 30 September to 20 October, la Galerie du 19M travels to Tokyo, marking the second international edition after Dakar, Senegal in 2023. For over three weeks, the 52nd floor of Mori Tower in Roponggi is more

than just a place to take in sweeping city views – it is a temple of craft and a creative incubator. Normally working quietly in the background, the artisans step into the spotlight with live demonstrations and hands-on workshops that invite visitors into their world.

The Tokyo residency unfolds as a three-part experience anchored by The Festival, an installation by acclaimed architect Tane Tsuyoshi and ATTA.

Another notable exhibition is “Beyond Our Horizons”, which sees the participation of 30 French and Japanese artists and artisans. Specialists from maisons like Maison Michel (millinery) and Massaro (shoemaking) work alongside Japanese counterparts in textiles, ceramics and lacquer, together creating a cultural and talent exchange like no other. [le19m.com](https://www.le19m.com)

“

**Live demonstrations and hands-on workshops invite visitors into the artisans’ world**



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ELEVATE

"Temple jewellery and Chennai are inseparable. For me, **Vummidi Bangaru** embodies that perfectly. Established in 1900, the brand honours its history in every design. Even if you don't wear jewellery, picking up a gold coin here feels like owning a piece of Chennai's legacy." [vummidi.com](http://vummidi.com)

"With my label, the goal has always been to tell Chennai's story through design. **Vivek Karunakaran** handcrafted silk "shackets" (a thick shirt worn as a jacket) blend heritage with motifs inspired by Tamil script, jasmine blooms and temple patterns. Versatile silhouettes make them perfect for wearing and travelling." [vivekkarunakaran.com](http://vivekkarunakaran.com)

SHOPPING

## Old soul, new style

Chennai's craft legacy gets a stylish update

BY PUNITA MALHOTRA

**Chenna's craft legacy** stretches from handlooms and temple art to centuries-old techniques. That tradition remains vital today, and has been updated with a contemporary twist. Fashion designer and style maven **Vivek Karunakaran** shares his top picks.

"Housed in a colonial-style building, **Kanakavalli** is a haven for saree lovers. You can also pick up an embossed notecard set inspired by Kanjivaram motifs." [kanakavalli.com](http://kanakavalli.com)

"To feel the true soul of Chennai's textile heritage, start with Kanchipuram silk – one of the world's finest. **Tulsi Weaves** has a fantastic archive spanning hundreds of years and I love how they honour traditional motifs and weaves while keeping them fashion-friendly and globally appealing." [tulsiweaves.com](http://tulsiweaves.com)

"**Amethyst** is an immersive experience, complete with lush gardens and a café. Spend hours browsing accessories, bags and scarves or discover Indian contemporary wear with a strong craft-rooted sensibility." [amethystchennai.com](http://amethystchennai.com)





# Two tables, one island

Two restaurants in **Bali** bring global flavour and personal stories to its evolving food scene **BY MOIRA LANG**



**Bali's food game has moved beyond** smoothie bowls and beach-bar burgers. Now it's less about what's photogenic and more about what's personal. Two of the island's trending dining spots are doing just that: serving up East-meets-West stories with serious style (and a very good sambal on the side).

First stop: the quiet hills of Ubud, where renowned designer Jonathan Rachman – known for his gorgeous interiors in San Francisco – has come home to open **Di Sini Di Sana**.

The name means “here” and “there” in Bahasa Indonesia, and that's exactly the idea. Part restaurant, part shop, part memory box, the space is filled with pieces from Rachman's own journey – a Javanese royal pavilion gilded in gold leaf, colonial-style chandeliers and colourful tiles that nod to his Peranakan roots.

The menu reads like a passport: nasi goreng and Singaporean laksa from his childhood, side by side with creamy carbonara and burrata salads from

**From top row:** Di Sini Di Sana in the quiet hills of Ubud; Santanera in the vibey Canggu area, with chefs Andres Becerra and German Rincon

his life in the West. Over at Di Sana – the boutique and café – you'll find homeware and fabrics from Rachman's own line, plus a peaceful spot for an espresso or light lunch after a massage.

Meanwhile, down in Canggu, **Santanera** is all fire and flair. Perched above the beach clubs, it's a three-storey restaurant by Colombian chefs Andres Becerra and German Rincon, who've brought Latin American flavours to the island and turned up the heat – literally.

Dishes like woodfired baby squid with black garlic mole and hamachi ceviche with plantain crackers are big on bold flavours and clever technique, but still casual enough for a night out with friends. The rooftop bar's a hit too, especially with cocktails made using local fruit like tamarillo.

**@disinidisana.bras, @santanerabali**

## 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 sculpture and rooftop gardens, it offers an inspiring, entertaining and insightful experience into Malaysia's dynamic art scene and evolving architectural landscape

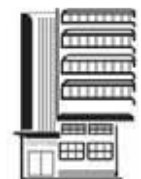
[www.ur-mu.com](http://www.ur-mu.com)



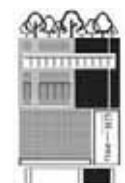
**UR-MU @ Bukit Bintang**  
A Quirky Contemporary Art Museum



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Thought-provoking; conversation-sparking



**+n by UR-MU @Tun HS Lee**  
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# Guiding the region forward

## The future of ASEAN takes shape in Kuala Lumpur this October

In a year marked by shifting global dynamics, October marks a defining moment for Malaysia. Hosting the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) summit alongside the 47th ASEAN Summit further solidifies the nation's role as more than a diplomatic leader guiding the region through a time of uncertainty and opportunity.

### A nation at the centre

Malaysia's role as host is more than ceremonial. The presence of a number of world leaders in Kuala Lumpur underscores the international community's recognition of Malaysia as a credible voice in Southeast Asia.

This elevated attention reflects the trust placed in the country to balance national interests with the broader goals of unity, growth and cooperation across the ASEAN bloc.

### Leadership with vision

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has a clear vision for Malaysia's diplomatic posture: principled, pragmatic and people-focused.

Under his leadership, Malaysia is demonstrating that the nation is ready to steer discussions on pressing issues from economic resilience to security and sustainability. In doing so, Malaysia is helping to define ASEAN's path in the

years ahead, with a leadership style that places emphasis on dialogue and consensus-building.

### Kuala Lumpur as the capital of diplomacy

Beyond its political significance, Kuala Lumpur offers a stage worthy of a global gathering.

The city embodies Malaysia's identity that is modern and dynamic, yet deeply rooted in heritage.

For delegates and visitors alike, the capital not only provides the setting for dialogue but also an experience of Malaysia's hospitality, innovation and cultural vibrancy.

As the nation welcomes the world this October, the 47th ASEAN Summit marks the culmination of its leadership. A brighter ASEAN future is taking shape, with Malaysia at the forefront.

***Visit [myasean2025.my](https://myasean2025.my) to explore ASEAN's role in peace and Malaysia's leadership.***





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INSIDER TIPS

# A Malaysian in... Manila

Now based in Siargao with a Malaysian eatery of his own, actor and model **Ben Amir** maps out his go-to places in the surfing island and in the Philippine capital

BY ANANDHI GOPINATH



**I've recently moved to Siargao,** where I opened a Malaysian eatery, but Manila was my first base in the Philippines – the city that introduced me to the country and still draws me back for work, friends and food.

I often fly out from Manila to experience the Philippines' many destinations: Cebu's waterfalls, El Nido's beaches and, of course, Siargao, which has become home. What makes Siargao special is not just for the surf or the sand, but the island's slower rhythm of life.

In Manila, my life is high-energy. I start with an early gym session and coffee, then plan around the city's notorious traffic. Meetings fill the day, while evenings are for friends and food.

Some of my favourites include Thai-Filipino fusion at **Basil** (*One Bonifacio High Street, Taguig*;

*basilphilippines.com*) – a cosy, halal-certified gem serving comforting dishes like Pad Thai; and familiar Asian flavours at **Pamanganan House of Malaysian Halal Food** (*G/F Saimah II Hotel, 310D Elizondo St, Quiapo; fb.com/pamanganan*). I also like **Spices** (*The Peninsula Manila, 1226 Makati Avenue, Makati; peninsula.com*) for its upscale Southeast Asian flavours.

When I want to show visitors Manila's diversity, I take them to the "Muslim Town" near the **Golden Mosque** in downtown Manila (*892 Globo de Oro St, Quiapo*). Wandering through its streets, you'll find everything from smoky grilled meats to syrupy sweets – a food crawl that feels like a cultural deep dive.

## To see and buy

For those drawn to history and art, I recommend the **National Museum of Fine Arts** (*Rizal Park, Padre Burgos Ave, Ermita; @natmuseumph*). The building is an elegant neoclassical landmark, housing treasures like Juan Luna's *Spoliarium*.

Shopping in Metro Manila has its own charms. **Divisoria** (*Claro M Recto Ave, Tondo*) is a maze of wholesale stalls, perfect for bargain hunters looking for everything from fabrics to accessories. For retro finds and local creativity, **Cubao**



Bonifacio High Street



Bravo Restaurant

**Expo** (*General Romulo Ave, Cubao, Quezon City; @cubaoexpoph*) is a haven of vintage shops, galleries and cafés with an indie vibe. If you're after pearls, gadgets or traditional Filipino handicrafts, go to **Greenhills Shopping Centre** (*1502 Ortigas Ave, San Juan, Metro Manila; @greenhillsp*).

For something more polished, head to **BGC**, with its modern, walkable layout. There, you can hop between malls – **Uptown Mall**, **SM Aura Premier**, **Market! Market!** and the open-air **Bonifacio High Street** – enjoying art walks, weekend markets and café stops along the way.





## Small moments, big impact

When I need to unwind, I look for life's smaller moments. Cycling along coastal roads, pausing at *sari-sari* stalls (tiny convenience kiosks selling everything from snacks to shampoo) or playing basketball beneath swaying coconut trees helps clear my head. With friends, it's always music and laughter over home-cooked meals. For a date night, I don't need anything elaborate – just a tucked-away corner with warm lighting and good food. A refined option I often choose is **Hossein's Persian Kebab** (*Serendra Mall, BGC*,

*Taguig*; @hosseins.ph), which brings Persian, Indian and Mediterranean cuisine into an elegant, halal-certified setting.

## A perfect day in Siargao

Just a two-hour domestic flight from Manila, Siargao is a teardrop-shaped island off Mindanao's northeastern coast and the surfing capital of the Philippines. With no traffic lights or strict schedules, life here flows to the rhythms of community, nature and breathtaking sunsets. It's the kind of magic that explains the so-called "Siargao Curse": you come for a week but end up staying for a year.

## Roam around Tourism Road

Start your morning with coconut coffee at **Coco Frio** (@cocofriosiargao) before pedalling through dappled village streets. Stop for lunch at **Wild Restaurant** (@wild.siargao), where fresh ingredients meet inventive Filipino flavours. Pause mid-afternoon for coffee at **Don Macchiatos** (@donmacchiatos.official), then island-hop or head to **Sunset Bridge** for golden skies. End with dinner at **Roots**

(*Kaimana Resort*; @roots.siargao) – toes in the sand, stories shared, hearts full.

## More shops

I'm a big fan of **Bravo Restaurant** (*Tourism Rd*; @bravosiargao), right by the beach. The tacos and ceviche at **CEV: Ceviche & Kinilaw Shack** (@cevsigao) are staples, while my own place, **Rasa** (*General Luna Rd*; @rasa.siargao), serves halal Malaysian comfort food like nasi lemak and sambal-grilled fish – rare finds on the island.

I'm soon opening **Raket**, the first badminton lifestyle space in Siargao. Located right next to Rasa, Raket will also be home to **Rasa Kitchen** and **The Juice Shack** – a self-serve juicery and juice bar. It's a space built around food, play and community, and we're hoping it brings people together the same way Siargao always has.

You can enjoy a game of badminton, sip on fresh juices and tuck into your Malaysian favourites all in one place. I'm really excited – and I hope you guys can visit us soon!

Stay on Tourism Road for a bit of shopping. I love visiting **The Concept Store** (@theconceptstore.ph), where you'll find locally made, curated tees, bags and island-inspired jewellery with an elevated design sensibility.

Nearby, **Côte Femme** (femmecote.com) carries elegant and sustainable linen. If you're on the hunt for holiday mementoes, there are charming souvenir stalls around General Luna. I also recommend **Komunidad Siargao** (@komunidadsiargao), a community workshop and store selling island-made crafts.

The Philippines is often thought of as just beaches and surf. But what truly stays with you are the people – their warmth, humour and resilience. Arrive with an open heart, and the country will open its heart to you.



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# No borders, just connections

From UAE to Taipei, meet the communities connecting Malaysians overseas, opening doors, forging friendships and keeping the spirit of home alive

**From left:**  
Malaysians in Taiwan's talent carnival; Malaysian Business Council UAE exco team



Across the globe, Malaysians are building connection, collaboration and culture. Leading the way are the Malaysian Business Council UAE (MBC) and Malaysians in Taiwan (MIT) – shining examples of MyHeart partners uniting Malaysians worldwide under TalentCorp.

## A platform for Malaysian talent

For Izwan Adnan, vice president of MBC, the motivation was clear. “Malaysian talent has always excelled internationally, but often without the recognition it deserves. That underappreciation drove me to connect and empower our professionals abroad,” he says.

Since its founding in 2008, MBC has grown into an influential non-profit

registered with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce, organising high-level networking sessions, cultural events like the Ambassador's Cup Golf Tournament and strategic dialogue sessions to foster bilateral business opportunities.

One highlight? EXPO 2020 Dubai, where MBC worked with the Malaysian Green Technology Corporation to help members secure real opportunities.

## A blog that became a movement

When Isaac Yong arrived in Taiwan in 2008 as a student, he never imagined he'd lead the country's largest Malaysian community. What started as a simple blog to share tips on studying and working in Taiwan grew into MIT, an online network of 20,000 members.

From career talks to festive gatherings, MIT became a lifeline for



Malaysians in Taiwan, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. “In 2020, when many Malaysians couldn't return home, over 300 of us gathered for National Day, sharing nasi lemak, char kway teow and teh tarik. As we sang “Negaraku”, memories of home filled the air,” recalls Isaac, who was named one of TNL's (*The News Lens*) “Future Icons” in 2023.

Today, MIT collaborates with Taiwanese companies to create jobs and host career workshops. Isaac says, “Together with MyHeart, we connect Malaysians abroad and build a global, empowered community.”

Through MyHeart, associations like MBC and MIT don't just bring Malaysians abroad together, they become part of a larger movement. By collaborating on outreach initiatives, joint events and cross-border programmes, they showcase Malaysian talent and amplify their impact, ensuring that Malaysians everywhere can contribute their knowledge, expertise and resources back to the nation.



Register on [myheart.my](https://myheart.my) to be part of the global Malaysian community. Follow IG: @myheart.malaysia, Twitter: myheartmsia, LinkedIn: malaysia @ heart (MyHeart)





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“

**It's not just about running events. It's about empowering Malaysians abroad to lead, connect and give back”**

**– Ung Pei Juin, MASCA Victoria**

& meet” corners and casual networking meals, while alumni engagement offered direct access to professionals and long-term opportunities through MyHeart and LinkedIn.

The impact was tangible: students from different cities formed teams with remarkable spirit. Alumni have since taken on leadership roles, often citing RENTAP as a turning point.

Both events were proudly supported by the YGL programme, not merely with resources, but with mentorship, visibility and a sense of belonging to something greater. By connecting student associations with the right tools, networks and shared goals, MyHeart empowers the next generation to lead with confidence and cultural pride.



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## Shining beacons of student leadership

Young Malaysians abroad are creating ripples of change – one empowering event at a time

Across continents, Malaysian students are stepping up as leaders and changemakers. Through MyHeart's Young Global Leader (YGL) programme by TalentCorp, these passionate individuals are building communities, hosting impactful events and keeping the Malaysian spirit alive – no matter where they are in the world.

In August, the Malaysian Students' Council of Australia (MASCA), Victoria – representing Malaysian students in

Melbourne – hosted Corporate Insight & Empowerment (CIE) 11.0. The event drew students and professionals for a day of dialogue on ambition, adaptability and career building. “It was more than just panels and speeches,” says Ung Pei Juin, one of the organisers. “It was a platform to spark long-term connections and personal growth.”

Beyond networking, CIE aimed to equip students with real-world skills: marketing themselves to employers, asking informed questions about paradigm shifts and industry trends and sharpening their critical thinking, quick responses and communication skills. The result? A day that challenged students while preparing them to thrive in tomorrow's workplaces.

Meanwhile in Germany, the Malaysian German Students' Society (MGSS) was preparing for RENTAP, a spirited two-day sports event. “We wanted to create something that brought people together beyond academics,” says Farhan, a committee member. “RENTAP wasn't just about winning – it was about showing up for one another, like Malaysians do.”

The programme went beyond just games. There were mentorship “match

CIE in session







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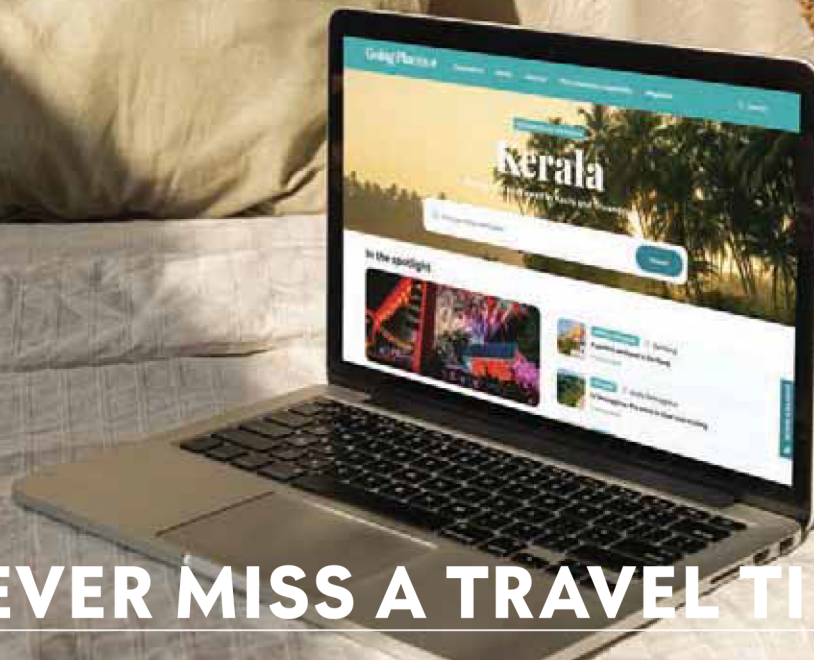
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# A PERFECT WEEKEND IN Mumbai

Words **Anurag Mallick & Priya Ganapathy**

From colonial-era landmarks and Unesco-listed architecture to bustling markets, sacred temples, hip cafés and fine dining – plus the favourite Gujarati snack of Asia’s richest man – here’s how to explore Maharashtra’s capital

IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK





# India's financial capital has evolved from a Koli fishing village into a restless megalopolis, shaped by centuries of colonisation.

Under the Portuguese, its seven islands were called “Bombay” – from *Bom Bahia* (Good Bay). In 1661, Bombay was passed to the British as part of Princess Catherine of Braganza’s dowry to King Charles II. Renamed Mumbai in 1995 after *Mumba Aai* (mother), the patron goddess of fishermen, the city remains deeply rooted in its Marathi heritage.

Extensive 19th- and 20th-century reclamation transformed the fortified trading post into a textile hub and India’s first city, home to the world’s second-largest collection of Art Deco buildings after Miami. To understand its energy, weave through its bylanes, markets, shrines, monuments and thriving food scene.

**Clockwise from top left:** Gateway of India; Café Mondegar; Crab Rockefeller dish at The Table; the Shiva temple at Elephanta Island; Bombay Sweet Shop & Café

**Previous page:** Taj Mahal Palace



## Day 1 SoBo Icons

**Morning.** Start in SoBo (South Bombay) – comprising the genteel enclaves of Colaba, Malabar Hill and Cuffe Parade. Have breakfast at **Kala Ghoda Café** (10 Rope Walk Ln; [kgcafe.in](http://kgcafe.in)) before taking a one-hour boat ride from Apollo Bandar to **Elephanta Island** to explore its rock-cut Shiva temple.

Back on shore, visit the **Gateway of India** – an arch monument built for King George V and Queen Mary in 1911, and (ironically) the exit point for British troops in 1948 – then step into the legendary **Taj Mahal Palace** (Apollo Bandar; [tajhotels.com](http://tajhotels.com)), built by JN Tata after being turned away from a “whites-only” hotel.

**Afternoon.** Grab a Continental lunch at **Leopold Café** (Colaba Causeway; [leopoldcafemumbai](http://leopoldcafemumbai)), a Mumbai institution immortalised in *Shantaram*, the 2003 best-selling novel by Gregory David Roberts. Next door is Irani-owned **Café Mondegar** ([cafemondegar](http://cafemondegar)) with Mario Miranda murals and a jukebox.

Post lunch, browse Indian antiquities at **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya** (159–161 Mahatma Gandhi Rd; [csmvs.in](http://csmvs.in)) or visit other nearby art spaces such as the **National Gallery of Modern Art**, **Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation** and **Jehangir Art Gallery**.

Book lovers should stop at **Kitab Khana** (47 Mahatma Gandhi Rd; [kitabkhana.online](http://kitabkhana.online)) before walking along **Oval Maidan**, flanked by Victorian Neo-Gothic buildings, as well as Marine



IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (GATEWAY OF INDIA, ELEPHANTA ISLAND); THE TABLE, MUMBAI (DISH)





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Drive's Art Deco promenade – a Unesco World Heritage site.

End at **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus**, a Victorian Gothic railway marvel – some say it's the greatest train station ever built by the British – with its own heritage museum.

**Evening.** Feeling peckish? **Bombay Sweet Shop & Café** (*Seksaria Chambers; bombaysweetshop.com*) in Kala Ghoda serves elevated Indian sweets and snacks – think kulcha Margarita, mango-passion fruit pani puri, avocado papdi chaat, tiramisu rasgulla and gulab jamun churros.

Grab a drink at **Colaba Social** (*B K Boman Behram Marg; socialoffline.in*) or **The Table** (*Kalapesi Trust Building; foodmatters.in*), Gauri Devidayal and Jay Yousuf's spot for 'Frisco-style global fare.

The coast gives Mumbai the freshest seafood, best savoured at **Trishna** (*Sai Baba Mandir Marg; @trishnamumbai*), a Mangalorean restaurant that has served presidents and Bollywood stars.



Friendly stewards entice you with live crabs (sold by weight) to convince you to try their signature butter garlic pepper crab.

## Day 2 Temple run

**Morning.** Fascinated by temples? Start at **Shree Siddhivinayak Temple** (*SK Bole Rd; siddhivinayak.org*), dedicated to the wish-fulfilling Lord Ganesha. Visit at dawn on weekdays to escape the rush. Next, make your way to **Mahalakshmi Temple** (*Bhulabhai Desai Marg; mahalakshmi-temple.com*), which honours the goddess of wealth and prosperity, along an alley lined with flower stalls. Finally, head to **Babulnath Temple** (*16 Babulnath Rd; babulnath.com*) known for its ornate carvings.

Near Chowpatty Beach, **Mani Bhavan** (*19 Laburnum Rd; mkgandhi.org/museum/mumbai.php*) was Gandhi's Mumbai base from 1917 to 1934, with historic photos and a letter to Hitler. Nearby, **Swati Snacks** (*Karai Estate, 248 Tardeo Rd; swatisnacks.com*) serves Gujarati favourites like *panki* (steamed pancake made of rice flour and yogurt in banana leaf), a Sunday favourite of business tycoon Mukesh Ambani, the richest person in Asia.

**Afternoon.** The often-overlooked **Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum** (*Rani Baug; bdlmuseum.org*), once known as the Victoria and Albert Museum, chronicles Bombay's evolution through lithographs, documents and models.







Nearby, **Nine Fish Art Gallery** (*The New Great Eastern Mills; ninefish.in*) occupies a 177-year-old textile mill while **The Bombay Canteen** (*Kamala Mills; thebombaycanteen.com*) in Lower Parel serves inventive twists on regional dishes like sea bass sev puri and thepla tacos.

**Evening.** Go for a sunset stroll along **Marine Drive**, often referred to as the Queen's Necklace, the iconic crescent-shaped promenade along the Arabian Sea or skip the crowds to explore **47-A Art Gallery** (*Khotachi Wadi, @47a.design*) for design-led exhibitions blending art, craft and contemporary culture (it closes at 7pm).

Treat yourself at **Masque** (*Shree Laxmi Woollen Mills; masquerestaurant.com*) with its 10-course tasting menu showcasing locally foraged, seasonal produce. At 6,500 rupees (US\$74) per head, it's worth the splurge.

## Day 3 Bandra and beyond

**Morning.** Get your caffeine fix and breakfast at **Subko Cacao** (*subko.coffee*) at Mary Lodge on Chapel Road in Bandra. Then, visit **Sanjay Gandhi National Park** (*sgnp.maharashtra.gov.in*), an hour's drive from Bandra to Borivali, and take an AC bus from the park gate to **Kanheri Caves** (closed on Mondays), a rock-cut Buddhist cave complex with 2,000-year-old sculptures.



IMAGES: TAIRICHITLAW (MASQUE); NITAIKUKESHI (KAMBAI CULTURAL CENTRE (KAMAL KUNJ) (2019-20) BY RAJGHUNANAN SHARMA AND PCHWA (ARTISTS FROM NATHDWARA); SHUTTERSTOCK





**Afternoon.** Hit Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) – Mumbai’s central business district – for lunch. **O Pedro** ([opedromumbai.com](http://opedromumbai.com)) serves Goan-Portuguese dishes like custard tarts, choriz *pulao* (rice) and sourdough *poe* (bread). Then, check out **Art House** at the

**Clockwise from top left:** Posh restaurant Masque; Kamal Kunj artwork at the Art House; Mani Bhavan museum; panki at Swati Snacks; Babulnath Temple

Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre. You can also sign up for a three-hour guided **Bombay Express Street Food Tour** ([achefstour.com](http://achefstour.com)), which includes over 15 tastings and a local train ride from Churchgate at 3.30pm.

**Evening.** **Bandra Born** (*Rose Minar, 87 Chapel Road; @bandraborn*), by chef Gresham Fernandes, serves small plates of nostalgia. Order the Kamina Karpaccio and the posh Hearsch puff, both nods to the iconic Hearsch Bakery. Take the Bandra–Worli Sea Link back to SoBo to end a whirlwind three-day tour.

If you’re up for a late-night jaunt, take a Victoria. Not the vintage horse-drawn carriages (which were banned in 2015) but an e-Victoria sans the horse. **Khaki Tours** ([khakitours.com](http://khakitours.com)) will take you around heritage spots by e-carriage, giving you a taste of both old and new Mumbai.

## Where to stay in Mumbai



### Abode Bombay

Boutique hotel housed in a former 1910 residence of industrialist David Sassoon, with 25 rooms and vintage furniture. Enjoy breakfast till noon and heritage tours from Dhobi Ghat to Dadar flower market. [abodeboutiquehotels.com](http://abodeboutiquehotels.com)



### Gordon House Hotel

The 28-room 1900s boutique hotel on Battery Street offers Scandinavian, Mediterranean and English Country-themed floors, Asian street food at All Stir Fry and a retro bar – a legendary disco venue. [ghhotel.com](http://ghhotel.com)



### SOHO House Mumbai

The 11-storey townhouse overlooks Juhu Beach, with 38 rooms, a rooftop pool, screening room, gym, Cecconi’s Italian restaurant and locally sourced furniture. Rooms cost more for non-members. [sohohouse.com](http://sohohouse.com)





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# Grilled goodness, served with heart

Every meal at Firewood Penang tells a story – one that's charred, shared and unforgettable



Whether you're a steak lover or looking for a family-friendly steak house, this Michelin Selected Restaurant – Malaysia's first to rank 68th in the World's 101 Best Steak Restaurants – serves an open-flame experience in Unesco-listed George Town that feels just like home.

From the moment you step into the steakhouse, the warm glow of flames, the inviting aroma of charred meats and the hum of lively conversation sets the stage for a memorable meal.

At the heart of it all is 31-year-old chef Ker Yang Hao, whose passion for wood-fire cooking was sparked by the humble, open-flame eateries he encountered while holidaying in Bali.



These weren't fancy restaurants, but cosy neighbourhood joints where food brought people together. Inspired by that same homely spirit, he created Firewood Penang – a place where great food and heartfelt hospitality go hand in hand.

The attentive staff ensures every guest feels welcome, striking the perfect balance between warmth and professionalism. What sets Firewood apart is its family-friendly ethos – every staff member is great with kids, making it an ideal spot for those dining with children.

If you're visiting in a group, Ker recommends ordering from Firewood's à la carte menu – the perfect way to share an array of flame-grilled dishes. Although the restaurant specialises in steaks, the menu is designed with variety in mind, reflecting what Ker's own parents or young children might enjoy.

From the Nyonya-inspired Firewood

Risotto, cooked in rich coconut cream with lemongrass and French beans and topped with grilled prawns, to the signature Firewood Sirloin MB6-7 seared to perfection and the indulgent Japan A5 Miyazaki Ribeye that melts in your mouth – each dish is a journey into the magic of open-flame cooking. If you can't decide which steak to sink your teeth into, the hosts will happily help you choose the perfect one.

Beyond the food, the atmosphere is unmatched. Guests can watch the chefs working the flames, transforming ingredients into dishes that are both rustic and refined. At Firewood Penang, every bite tells a story, and every guest is treated like family. Because here, fire isn't just for cooking – it's for bringing people together.

**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 +60 17-989 9246.**

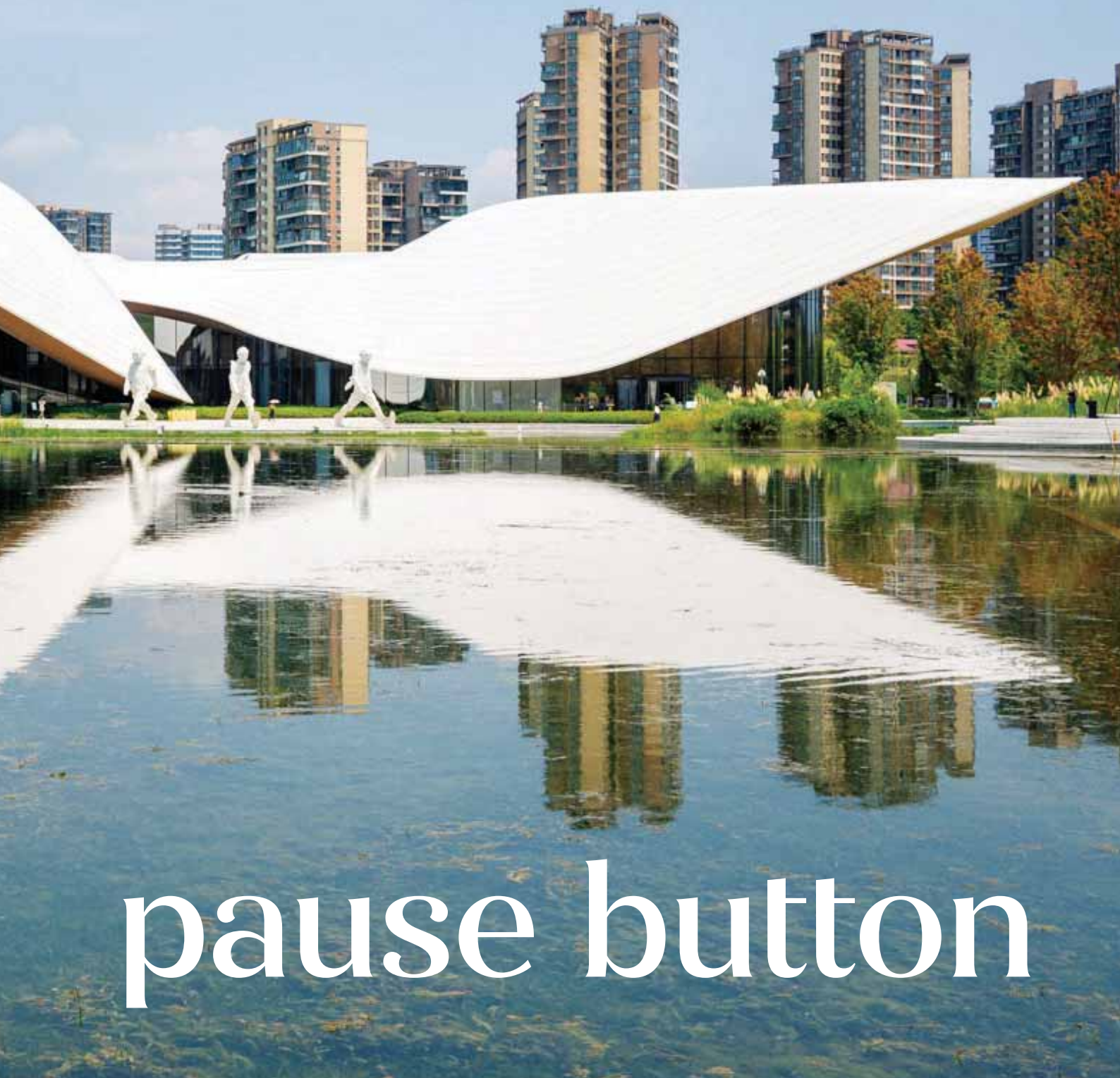
# Hit the



Words **Ryan McLaughlin** Photography **Philippe Lejeanvre**



In a country often defined by speed, Chengdu takes life at its own pace –  
where centuries-old temples, tea rituals and opera coexist with art parks,  
riverfront bridges and factory-turned-creative hubs,  
making it one of China's most liveable cities



pause button





## The capital of Sichuan province in southwest China, Chengdu is a metropolis of more than 20 million people.

**Previous page:**  
Chengdu Art Museum and Su Xinning's sculptures

**This spread:**  
Scenes from Heming Teahouse, located within People's Park

That number alone might suggest a city as relentless as Beijing or Shanghai. But Chengdu moves differently. Where Beijing projects political weight and Shanghai hums with financial speed, Chengdu takes its time. Its defining reputation is for its liveability – a city that protects leisure as carefully as it builds infrastructure.

That priority comes into focus at Heming Teahouse, a century-old institution within the 11ha People's Park downtown. Beneath pagodas and towering trees, tables stretch endlessly, packed with families, retirees and mahjong players whose tiles clack in a steady rhythm.

"Here, quality of life is valued more. People prefer to prioritise rest over stressful long hours at work," says my taxi driver, a stocky Tibetan man in his mid-40s, before dropping me off. A lake glimmers, koi fish surfacing occasionally as if on cue. I order yellow bud tea on the recommendation of a waitress who has worked here for decades. It is indeed delicious.

Later, I come across a classic Chinese opera in another courtyard nearby, where masked figures perform on stage in a burst of colours. A young waitress, dressed in turquoise traditional attire, seats me outside and recommends the flower tea. The natural beauty and relaxed tea culture create a genuinely peaceful environment.

Leaving the park behind, I head to Taikoo Li, an open-air shopping complex lined with outposts of European luxury brands. The polished glass façades and immaculate walkways could belong to any global city, but at its centre stands Daci Temple, more than 1,600 years old. Here, incense curls through the air, its presence threading an ancient rhythm into the sleek commercial heart of modern Chengdu.

Inside the grounds, sunlight falls through the trees, catching the smooth stone of a floral courtyard worn down by centuries of footsteps. Within the temple's walls, a small Sichuan restaurant operates almost unnoticed, its wooden beams weathered and its tables simple yet inviting. At the counter, a smiling elderly woman serves me a basket of *baozi* – steamed buns filled with fragrant vegetables. I sit beneath an umbrella while locals gather at nearby tables, sipping tea and laughing softly. The scene feels timeless, like stepping into a painting.













**Clockwise  
from left:**

Taikoo Li with a view of Daci Temple; a repurposed building in Eastern Suburb Memory; a book shed on Yulin Road; a mural in Eastern Suburb Memory; scenes from Yulin Road



This habit of lingering extends to Chengdu's younger quarters as well. On Yulin Road, immortalised in Zhao Lei's 2016 song "Chengdu", taverns spill out onto the streets, murals brighten the walls and shops brim with curiosities. At Oasis, a gallery-like boutique, the owner, Blue, shrugs when I ask about prices. "Nothing has a tag," she explains. "Customers decide what to pay. Everyone is relaxed here." Her philosophy is echoed in the items on display – a Native American doll beside a Catholic icon, artefacts pulled from different worlds but set down easily side by side.

**IF THE FIRST IMPRESSION OF CHENGDU IS LEISURE,** the second is reinvention – the city has a talent for reshaping what it inherits. The clearest example is

Eastern Suburb Memory, a former industrial site that has become one of Chengdu's most dynamic cultural hubs.

Warehouses once filled with heavy machinery now host live music venues, design studios and cafés. Murals creep across brick walls, while young artists unpack canvases under converted skylights. The atmosphere is laid-back by day, electric by night – proof of Chengdu's ability to turn industry into art.

By midday, I arrive at Tianfu Art Park, an immense new cultural complex with three museums, including the hibiscus-shaped Chengdu Art Museum, which recently hosted an exhibition of works by the artist Su Xinping – including his iconic *Walking Man* sculptures which still stand outside the building.



**Clockwise from right:**  
Anshun Bridge; inside  
Chengdu Art Museum;  
lakeside cafés in CPI  
District



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Within Tianfu Art Park are two more museums, and exhibitions range from cutting-edge installations to works celebrating Sichuan's artistic lineage. Families wander across broad lawns, students sketch by the water, elderly couples stroll quietly. It is ambitious yet intimate – a park that makes culture part of daily life rather than a distant pursuit.

By evening, I find myself by the Jin River at Anshun Bridge. Marco Polo once stated that it was “one of the most impressive bridges in China.” As I stand before it now, I can understand the explorer's heavy praise.

Anshun Bridge is hardly colossal, yet its grandeur is revealed through the richness of its details. Intricate carvings of plum, orchid and bamboo adorn the railings, while emerald-green tiles and vermilion-red walls combine to create a scene that radiates the spirit of China. As darkness falls, the bridge glows with warm amber lights – yet another example of Chengdu's unique ability to turn historic sites into modern spectacles.

Anshun literally translates to “peace and smoothness”, a feeling that is unmistakable as I watch the now-lit-up river boats sail underneath. Along the picturesque riverbank, bars and restaurants line the water. I take a stroll in search of the ideal spot to relax and observe Anshun in all its glory.





“

**Here, quality of life is valued more. People prefer to prioritise rest over stressful long hours at work”**

There is a slightly livelier vibe around the bridge, though not to the point of being overwhelming. A gentle hum of chatter drifts from nearby groups, accompanied by the occasional clinking of glasses. I spot various couples and families relaxing by the river – some enjoying a drink, others lining up to take one of the frequent boat tours.

Eventually, I find the perfect seat. Situated right next to the river, I have a stunning view of Anshun Bridge in all its splendour.

Taking a sip of a smooth whisky sour, I can't help but appreciate how Chengdu manages to maintain such a rich history with modern flavour. The following morning, in the CPI district, minimalist lakeside cafés offer one last perspective. When a light rain begins to patter against a glass roof, the entire district feels suspended in time. Leisure here is not an indulgence but the very rhythm of Chengdu's daily life.



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## Where to stay



### Niccolo Chengdu

Chic, fashion-inspired rooms and suites with skyline or temple views, an indoor pool and fitness centre. They also offer a personalised shopper experience with access to high-end luxury products.  
[niccolohotels.com](http://niccolohotels.com)



### Rhombus Park Aura Chengdu

Overlooking the Daci Temple, the stylish all-suite hotel oozes low-key luxury with spacious suites, a separate living area and cloakroom as well as personalised amenities tailored for both him and her.  
[en.rhombuschengduhotel.com](http://en.rhombuschengduhotel.com)



### Four Points by Sheraton

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# London's

*greatest*

# hits





This month, as the British capital  
unveils the grand opening of the David Bowie Centre,  
we trace the city's musical heritage that  
shaped the rock star and countless other icons



Words **Lucie Grace**



**“Everyone’s in Brixton, there’s a street party,” came the call.**

On a cold January day, David Bowie had just passed. Without hesitation, I jumped on a bus to the south London town where my hero, Ziggy Stardust, Aladdin Sane, The Thin White Duke, aka David Bowie, was born and raised. I was met by thousands of other fans having sing-alongs, bonding in an outpouring of communal love, grief, joy and loss in the square outside the local cinema, which had changed its sign to read: “David Bowie, Our Brixton Boy. RIP.” He didn’t have a funeral, but we held our own. It felt cathartic to celebrate the otherworldly genius who had released his 26th studio album just months earlier, on his 69th birthday.

Now, nine years later, the illustrious Victoria and Albert Museum, an institute that’s the epitome of multifaceted creativity, is opening up David Bowie’s





**Previous spread:**  
The Southbank Centre; David Bowie's Aladdin Sane costume, designed by Freddie Burretti

**This spread from left:** Bowie's Ziggy Stardust catsuit, designed by Kansai Yamamoto; David Bowie Centre at V&A East; contact sheet for "Dead Man Walking" music video; lithograph of Self-portrait (Mustique) by David Bowie, 2002



personal archives, a colossal collection donated to the V&A and housed at their new East Storehouse in Stratford.

Madeleine Haddon, curator at V&A East explains, "Bowie embodied a truly multidisciplinary practice – musician, actor, writer, performer and cultural icon – reflecting the way many young creatives today move fluidly across disciplines and reject singular definitions of identity or artistry. For Bowie fans and those discovering him for the first time, we hope the centre can inspire the next generation of creatives."

I can't help but wonder – could such an artist have come from any other city? Through the ages, London has been centrifugal to musical talent, with world-famous events, streets and venues pumping out scene after scene of cutting-edge genres.

I covered this legacy and how it lives on today in my new book, *An Opinionated Guide to Music London* (published in September by Hoxton Mini Press), selecting over 50 sites of importance in the capital. Whittling them down to a manageable few was a challenge, but if you have a few days for a musical pilgrimage across the city, we've got you covered.

We must start with the David Bowie Centre, which opened on 13 September at V&A East Storehouse. The exciting public-access archive is a must for all culture vultures – a collection of over 90,000 artefacts spanning the diversity of Bowie's interests and influences, his output and inspirations.

Legendary musician and Bowie collaborator Nile Rodgers has selected treasures for the inaugural exhibition, including the suit worn by Bowie during the Serious Moonlight tour for the *Let's Dance* album; photographs by Chuck Pulin of Bowie, Rodgers and guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan working on the recording of *Let's Dance* in New York; and personal letters between Bowie and Rodgers from 1993.

To visit the David Bowie Centre, book a ticket in advance. Mega fans can also book one-to-one sessions with archivists to request viewing up to five objects







**This spread from left:**  
Handel Hendrix House  
in Mayfair; guitar  
jamming session at  
Hendrix's den; one of  
the rooms in Handel's  
house

from the vast collection, which includes costumes, instruments, awards, notebooks, diaries, letters and much more.

From Stratford, take the Tube to north London to visit Abbey Road, home to the internationally renowned recording studios and one very famous zebra crossing – this one's for The Beatles fans.

Originally from Liverpool, the band put this address in the history books when they named their 11th studio album after the street, with a photo of the “Fab Four” walking over said crossing on the cover.

Some visitors recreate the scene (while being careful of traffic), but it's the studios that hold the real history, as the site where, over the course of seven years, more than 200 songs forming 12 albums were produced.

You don't have to be Beatle-mad to enjoy this place though; acts like Adele, Amy Winehouse and Oasis have also recorded here. It's a fun place to visit; you can leave your mark on the studio's graffiti wall and peruse the gift store for merchandise.

Next, head down to Mayfair to visit the elegant Handel Hendrix House that's dedicated to the lives and works of two very different geniuses: baroque composer George Frideric Handel and rock icon Jimi Hendrix, who lived at 25 and 23 Brook Street respectively, over two centuries apart.

A ticket gives you access to both houses, which couldn't be more different in décor, yet both give you a sense of the musicians who once lived there and the colossal impact they made on their respective music scenes. Visit Hendrix's house on a Friday lunchtime to experience live guitar performances adding another dimension



## London's best record shops

### Reckless Records, Soho

Established in 1984, Reckless has survived the highs and lows of vinyl's popularity for over 40 years and is a trusted treasure trove for collectors, selling rare LPs of every genre imaginable. **30 Berwick St;** [reckless.co.uk](http://reckless.co.uk)



### Rough Trade East, Brick Lane

Rough Trade has four London stores, but the Brick Lane branch stands out for its stellar in-store gigs, which regularly feature performances by big-name acts. **Old Truman Brewery,** [roughtrade.com](http://roughtrade.com)



### Sounds of the Universe, Soho

Owned by the Soul Jazz Records label, this eclectic store has been specialising in rare grooves and multinational music since the 1990s and is still thriving today. **7 Broadwick St;** [soundsoftheuniverse.com](http://soundsoftheuniverse.com)



to the ambience, or Handel's house on Saturdays for classical pianists doing the same.

Spend the following day in London's West End, starting your endeavours at Denmark Street, just off Charing Cross Road.

Known in the 1960s for its swathe of music industry offices, the likes of David Bowie, The Rolling Stones and mod godfathers The Kinks would hang out in the cafés of this iconic address.

Nowadays, it's lined with instrument shops selling just about any musical equipment you can imagine. Hank's Guitar Shop, Rose-Morris and Wunjo Guitars, to name just a few, are staffed by technicians who can help you browse new and vintage equipment.

The heritage is brought alive by gig venues like The Lower Third and record stores such as Rough Trade, which recently opened on this prestigious street that's truly back in fashion.

A short walk up to Oxford Street leads you to the 100 Club, whose walls have certainly seen some action since it opened in October 1942.

From jazz icons like Louis Armstrong playing here in the 1950s to its rebirth as a key venue in the punk scene of the 1970s, the 100 Club has seen it all.

Photos of past performances line the walls, with bands like The Who and The Clash captured in full swing. Over 80 years into its story, the 100 Club remains relevant in the 21st century, hosting early Libertines gigs and secret shows from the likes of Green Day.

If you're a savvy planner, book yourself a show at the Southbank Centre; this complex, perched on the Thames, is an unmissable destination.

The sprawling site includes the Royal Festival Hall – its largest space – as well as sister venues the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Purcell Room.



**Clockwise from top:**  
Abbey Road's famous crosswalk; Southbank Centre; Royal Festival Hall's riverside terrace

IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (ABBAY ROAD), THE SOUTHBANK CENTRE, INDIA ROPER-EVANS (ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL)





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The RFH's wooden interiors regularly host the London Philharmonic Orchestra, playing a cross-section of traditional and contemporary classical suites.

The huge hall also hosts titans of rock, pop and alternative music throughout the year, with the highlight being the annual Meltdown festival season, which sees a different artist select fellow musicians and bands to take the stage for 10 days. This year, British rapper and actress Little Simz leads the way, programming yet another brilliantly eclectic lineup.



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## The best of the rest

Live music venues  
worth checking out



### Ronnie Scott's

Open since the 1960s, this internationally renowned jazz bar has hosted legends like Ella Fitzgerald and Sonny Rollins – and the calibre remains just as high today. Expect soul singers, hip-hop and funk artists. Advance booking is recommended. **47 Frith St; [ronniescotts.co.uk](http://ronniescotts.co.uk)**

### The Lexington

The Lex is a bourbon bar downstairs, nightclub and gig space upstairs. The latter saw Charli XCX swing by to throw her *Brat* album release party, plus you can catch gigs by acts on the rise. **96–98 Pentonville Rd; [thelexington.co.uk](http://thelexington.co.uk)**

### Jumbi

This lively listening bar in buzzy Peckham serves excellent Caribbean cuisine by day and DJs spinning afrobeats and bougie cocktails by night. Expect a thriving dance floor on a Saturday evening. **133 Copeland Rd; [jumbipeckham.com](http://jumbipeckham.com)**



# One glance, one stroll, and Paris will surely steal your heart

There's something about Paris that lingers long after you've left. It stays with you - not in grand gestures, but in fleeting moments that catch you off guard and steal your breath.

It might begin with the quiet thrill of standing before a **Louvre** masterpiece, or the way morning light spills over the cobblestones in **Montmartre**. Perhaps it's the flake of a perfect croissant, still warm from a corner bakery, enjoyed as the city slowly stirs awake.

From there, the day carries you gently - through the stillness of **Jardin du Luxembourg**, where even time seems to pause, to the hum of the **Marché Bastille** market, where ripe peaches and fresh herbs mingle with laughter and chatter in the air. There's a rhythm here, unhurried and unmistakably Parisian.

Wander further and you'll find yourself under the stained-glass dome of **Galleries Lafayette Hausmann**, where elegance lives not just in fashion, but in every detail.

A short walk away, the **Champs-Élysées** calls - bold and brilliant. Slip into a boutique and try on something unexpected. In this city, fashion isn't just worn, it's lived - with confidence, grace and a dash of *je ne sais quoi*.



As the afternoon wanes, follow your senses to a hidden bistro. Picture a buttery quiche and oysters at golden hour. In Paris, food is more than a meal - it's a celebration of living well. And every café offers a front-row seat to the art of everyday life.

As evening draws near, make your way to the **Jardin du Trocadéro**. Here, children's laughter rings from the vintage carousel, and fountains dance in rhythm beneath open skies. Across the square, the **Eiffel Tower** rises - graceful and iconic, its iron latticework catching the last light of day. It stands not just as a landmark, but as a quiet reminder that beauty endures, even in a world that's always rushing forward.

Lastly, as twilight begins to colour the skyline, climb the steps of the **Sacré-Cœur**.

Watch as the city unfolds beneath you, glowing softly in the dusk. And when night falls, let the Seine lead you. Drift beside its glowing bridges and quiet banks, where every ripple seems to carry a memory in the making.

It's in these quiet discoveries that a truly memorable journey unfolds - one where you breathe differently, notice more deeply and fall in love with the world all over again.

It's time for your Paris moment of wonder.

Let your story begin here - with **7x weekly direct flights** and the warmth of Malaysian Hospitality awaiting you on board.

Book now at [malaysiaairlines.com](https://malaysiaairlines.com)



From left: Climb the iconic steps of the **Sacré-Cœur** in Montmartre; take in the views from the green chairs of **Jardin du Luxembourg**; marvel at the stained-glass dome of **Galleries Lafayette Hausmann**; pick out the freshest oysters at bustling markets; enjoy a quiet moment with a good coffee at a corner café.



# THIS IS MALAYSIAN HOSPITALITY



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**

**Discover our  
network**

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

**81**

**Onboard  
entertainment**

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



## MAG expands horizons with new routes

Malaysia Aviation Group is strengthening its role as Asia's gateway with new routes and added frequencies across its network.

Starting November 2025, Firefly will launch new jet services from Kuala Lumpur to Krabi, Siem Reap and Cebu. In January 2026, Malaysia Airlines will begin direct flights to Chengdu. Both airlines will also boost services to Australia, New

Zealand, China, India, the Maldives and Bangladesh, giving travellers more choice and flexibility.

The expansion is backed by MAG's fleet modernisation, including the new A330neo, designed to deliver greater comfort and sustainability on long-haul journeys. With these initiatives, MAG continues its mission to connect people, places and experiences around the world.

## Pocket Rocketman joins Malaysia Airlines as MHsports ambassador

Malaysia Aviation Group has named national cycling hero Dato' Azizulhasni Awang, better known as the Pocket Rocketman, as the new MHsports ambassador. The partnership reinforces Malaysia Airlines' commitment to supporting sporting excellence and inspiring the next generation.

As the first Malaysian cyclist to win an Olympic medal – silver at Tokyo 2020, bronze at Rio 2016, plus multiple World Championship titles – Dato' Azizulhasni brings grit and global recognition to the brand. "His determination and resilience mirror the values we uphold at Malaysia Airlines, making him the ideal figure to inspire future generations," says Datuk Captain Izham Ismail, Group Managing Director of MAG.

Through this collaboration, Malaysia Airlines will back Dato' Azizulhasni's international training and competitions while he features in campaigns and outreach programmes to foster youth development and national pride.

MHsports continues to offer perks for sports travellers, including discounted fares, extra baggage for equipment and flexible bookings – making every journey as smooth as a ride to the finish line.



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (KRABI)



# LET TRIVANDRUM WRAP YOU IN QUIET MAGIC, AS TIME SLOWS INTO A GENTLE EMBRACE

Welcome to Trivandrum. Officially Thiruvananthapuram, this vibrant coastal city is the capital of Kerala - a place where nature, culture, and wellness live in harmony.

Here, golden beaches stretch into the horizon, ancient palaces whisper stories of dynasties past, and centuries-old Ayurvedic traditions continue to restore and rejuvenate both body and soul.

Whether you seek calm or curiosity, Trivandrum offers a journey that awakens the senses and soothes the spirit.

## Cliff by the Leela

Perched along the cliffs of Kovalam, Cliff by the Leela blends natural beauty with understated sophistication. The resort offers sweeping views of the Arabian Sea, refined dining experiences, and tranquil spaces that invite you to slow down and unwind. It's the perfect coastal retreat after a day of exploring.

## Munroe Island

Tucked away in Kerala's backwaters, Munroe Island is a peaceful haven that offers a glimpse into the rhythms of rural life. Glide along narrow canals by canoe, watch traditional coir weaving in action, and enjoy the heartfelt hospitality of the locals. It's a place where simplicity becomes a lasting memory.



Information is accurate at the time of printing.



## Jatayu Nature Park

An experience for all ages, Jatayu Nature Park is home to the world's largest bird sculpture, inspired by the mythical eagle of the Ramayana. Beyond its dramatic centrepiece, the park features lush trails, adventure zones, and panoramic viewpoints that showcase Kerala's rich natural landscape.

## Ayurvedic spas

Trivandrum is one of the best places to experience the time-honoured healing of Ayurveda. Choose from authentic wellness retreats or serene urban spas, where expert therapists use traditional techniques and herbal remedies to restore balance and well-being. Whether you're here for a full retreat or a short treatment, the journey to rejuvenation begins here.

Enjoy increased flights to Trivandrum starting **12 September 2025**, with **5x weekly** direct services from Kuala Lumpur. Now, there are more opportunities than ever to discover Kerala's rich culture, stunning landscapes and wellness traditions on your schedule.

Book now at [malaysiaairlines.com](https://www.malaysiaairlines.com)



## Firefly takes off from KLIA with first jet service to Tawau

Firefly has launched jet operations from KLIA Terminal 1 with its inaugural flight to Tawau, Sabah on 19 August 2025. The move strengthens connectivity between Peninsular and East Malaysia, following the airline's relocation from Sultan Abdul Aziz Airport.

Apart from daily return flights to Tawau, expect upcoming expansions to Sibu, Kota Bharu, Kuala Terengganu, Johor Bahru as well as new regional routes to Krabi, Siem Reap and Cebu.

Travellers can enjoy perks like 10kg complimentary checked baggage, in-flight snacks and flexible flight changes, with additional hot meal options available for pre-purchase.

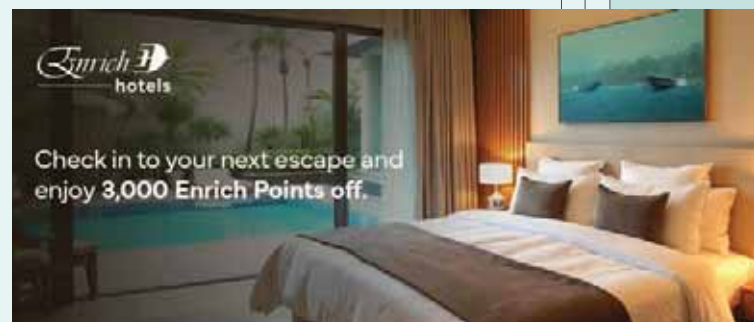
### Book your dream stay and earn big with Enrich Hotels

Turn your next getaway into a rewarding experience with Enrich Hotels. For a limited time, enjoy exclusive deals on rooms and suites at over 600,000 properties worldwide, and earn up to 15,000 Enrich Points per stay.

Members also enjoy extra perks: 1

Elite Point for every 8,000 Enrich Points earned, plus 10% off redemption bookings for Gold and Platinum members and up to 20% more Points on reservations.

From city escapes to beach retreats, make every stay count and let your dream holiday take you even further.







# MHrail

Enjoy seamless rail connections with MHrail

With AccesRail, we offer an extensive network for our passengers to go beyond London and Seoul, from air to rail in one booking



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



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Oxenholme | Carlisle | Manchester

Find out more at [malaysiaairlines.com](https://malaysiaairlines.com)

T&Cs apply.

Your Gateway to  
Asia & Beyond



## Menu highlight: Deepavali specials

cumin, coriander and fenugreek. For vegetarians, paneer butter masala offers soft cottage cheese cubes in the same rich, aromatic gravy. Both are paired with jeera rice, fragrant with cumin seeds and gobi tandoori, roasted cauliflower marinated in yoghurt and spices.

In Economy Class, the menu highlights South Indian flavours with chicken *varuval*, a bold dish infused with curry leaves and roasted spices, served with fluffy steamed rice and peas *poriyal*, a light stir-fry of peas with coconut and mustard seeds. The vegetarian alternative, paneer *varuval*, delivers the same punch of flavour with *paneer* (cottage cheese) taking centre stage.

By uniting North India's comforting butter masala and South India's fiery *varuval*, Malaysia Airlines celebrates Deepavali as a feast of diversity and joy, proving that festive traditions taste just as good at 30,000 feet.

Selamat menjamu selera!

**This October, Malaysia Airlines brings the flavours of Deepavali on board, serving festive dishes on selected flights from Kuala Lumpur to Sabah, Sarawak, Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila, Mumbai, Chennai, Colombo, Australia and New Zealand.**

In Business Suite and Business Class, the star of the season is butter chicken masala – tender chicken simmered in a creamy tomato and butter sauce, delicately spiced with



▲  
**TASTE THE BEST OF  
ASIA WITH MALAYSIA  
AIRLINES. BOOK NOW!**





Get swept up in the beauty of

# KRABI



## Let Thailand's tropical paradise take your breath away.

Limestone cliffs, turquoise waters, islands scattered across the horizon. Krabi is a sun-soaked haven of possibilities – adventure and tranquility.

Set along Thailand's picturesque Andaman coast, this resort town is a place you'd visit just to stay outdoors. Nature's splendour can be found along every sandy street, the crash of waves in the background, crystal clear turquoise waters, and more. You just have to explore.

From the pristine sands of the world-famous Railay Beach to the glittering gem of the Emerald Pool and the awe-inspiring Tiger Cave Temple, every sight is nothing short of spectacular.



### Scale iconic heights

The limestone cliffs of Railay Beach present a thrilling adventure for climbers of every calibre. Surrounded by shimmering waters and jungle, the experience at the top is unmatched.



### Kayak through serenity

Paddle across a picture-perfect postcard of clear blue waters, into hidden lagoons, caves and coves. Marvel at the beauty of Hong Island from right on the water.



Fly to Krabi with Malaysian Hospitality on board, starting November 2025.

Scan to book now or visit [holidays.malaysiaairlines.com](https://holidays.malaysiaairlines.com)



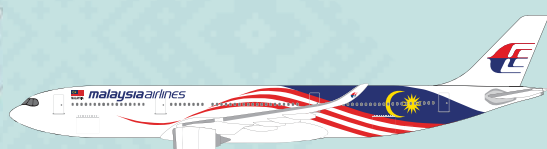
Think holidays,  
think **MH**olidays





#### 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 **7** | 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 **40** | Passenger Seating **160, 166, 174**  
Length **39.5m** | Wingspan **35.8m** | Height **12.50m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **857km/h**



#### B737-8

No. of Aircraft **14** | 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.

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Board earlier flights on the  
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Book exclusive fares on Malaysia Airlines,  
Firefly or with any of our codeshare partners.



**Earn both Corporate and  
Individual Enrich Points**

Enjoy more rewards with both Corporate  
and Individual Enrich Points.



**Dedicated Corporate  
Relationship Manager**

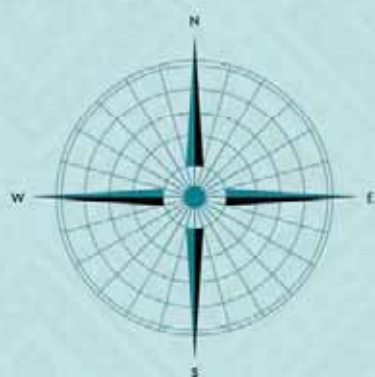
Our Corporate Relationship Managers  
will carefully oversee your company's  
travel requirements, offering  
additional privileges.



Scan here to find out more or visit  
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Your Gateway to  
Asia & Beyond





# 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 (KOTA KINABALU, KUANTAN)





Kuantan

Malaysia Airlines  
offers a free **Bonus  
Side Trip** to one of  
seven destinations in  
Malaysia, when you  
make an extra stop  
to/from your holiday  
destination

# EXPLORE MALAYSIA



- Malaysia Airlines
- ◆ Firefly
- MASwings
- ▲ MASkargo

Connect and travel  
to more than  
900 destinations in  
170 territories across  
the globe when  
you travel with  
Malaysia Airlines,  
a **oneworld** member  
since 2013



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (KIEV)





● oneworld destinations



# 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**  
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**



## How to Train Your Dragon

Check out our **Deepavali Special Movie Picks** on page 86!



**Laapataa Ladies**  
(Lost Ladies)



**Jigra**



**Amaran**



**Deepavali Bonus**

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



## How to Train Your Dragon

The beloved tale of Hiccup and Toothless spreads its wings from animation to live action, preserving the spirit of adventure and heartfelt storytelling that made the original a classic. Gerard Butler returns as Stoick, Berk's fearless leader and Hiccup's dad.



**Audrey's Children**



**Lilly**



**Sovereign**

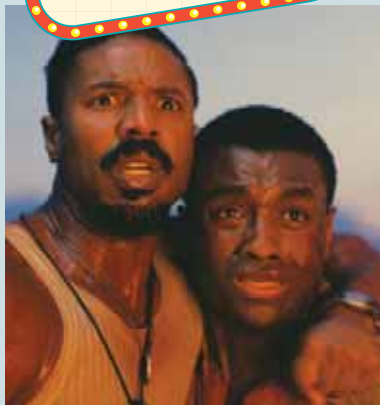


## Hollywood LATEST



### Heads of State

Idris Elba and John Cena star in a political comedy where a US president and a British prime minister team up to tackle a global conspiracy.



### Sinners

Starring Michael B Jordan, this Southern Gothic horror follows twin brothers returning home, only to face an ancient evil haunting their town.



### F Plus

In this high school heist comedy, a straight-A student and his mischievous friend plot to steal a test after he gets his first F.



### Salvable

A former boxing champion returns to underground fights to save his daughter, risking everything as he's pulled back into the dangerous world he thought he'd left behind.



### Guns Up

In this action-packed thriller, a mob henchman races through one chaotic night to save his family as a dark secret threatens to tear them apart. Starring Kevin James and Christina Ricci.



### Between the Lights

A skeptical scientist falls for a reluctant medium in this romantic drama. But can their love survive when science is pitted against the supernatural?



### The Order

A wave of violent heists grips the Pacific Northwest, but one FBI agent (Jude Law) suspects a hidden domestic terror network behind the crimes.



### Tim Travers and the Time Traveller's Paradox

A narcissistic scientist creates a time machine to kill his past self, leading to a hilarious paradox. This sci-fi comedy stars Joel McHale and Danny Trejo.



## HALLOWEEN SPECIAL



**The Conjuring**



**The Conjuring 2**



**The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It**



**Malignant**



**Scream 4**



**It**



**It Chapter Two**

### Kids



**Dark Shadows**



**Tim Burton's Corpse Bride**



**Beetlejuice Beetlejuice**

### Kids



**Happy Halloween, Scooby-Doo!**



**The Addams Family**



**The Addams Family 2**



**The Canterville Ghost**



# THE JOURNEYS YOU TAKE NOW WILL BECOME THE STORIES YOU TELL FOREVER



Your student years are more than classes and lectures. They are a time when curiosity runs high, when friendships are forged in unexpected places and when the world feels wide open, inviting you to step out and see more of it.

**Because learning is not confined to textbooks or lecture halls.** Every trip you take teaches you something new: how to navigate a city you have never been to, how to share stories with people from different cultures, how to see yourself in ways you never did before. These are the lessons that shape not just your IQ but also your EQ – the wisdom, empathy and

perspective you will carry into the future.

Travelling during these years gives you stories worth sharing, moments that sharpen your independence and memories that will colour the chapters of your life long after graduation. From chasing the sunrise over mountain peaks to coming home for festive reunions, each journey becomes a classroom of its own.

And this is where MHexplorer comes in – designed with students in mind to make these journeys possible. With up to 30% off fares, up to 45kg baggage allowance, flexible date changes and Enrich Points

on every flight, we understand your needs, support your ambitions and give you the freedom to keep exploring. Even better, the people closest to you can share in the benefits too, with exclusive promo codes for family and friends.

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DEEPAVALI SPECIAL  
MOVIE PICK

Hindi

**Laapataa Ladies (Lost Ladies)**

From director Kiran Rao, this social satire follows the hilarious chaos that unfolds after two brides are accidentally swapped on a train. A must-watch for a good time!

**Jigra**

Don't miss Alia Bhatt in this high-octane action film! When her brother is framed for a crime he didn't commit, she goes on a relentless mission to break him out of a foreign prison.

Tamil

**Amaran**

Sivakarthikeyan and Sai Pallavi star in this powerful tribute to real-life hero Major Mukund Varadarajan, bringing a soldier's valour to the big screen.

**Deepavali Bonus**

A working-class family in Madurai faces financial struggles as Deepavali approaches. Can they overcome their hardships to celebrate together?

Hindi

**Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video****Hum Saath-Saath Hain****Mohabbatein****Oru Jaathi Jaathakam**

Malayalam

Tamil

**Kingston****Panchatanthiram****Theri****Ghatikachalam**

Telugu



# HOW FULL IS YOUR JAR OF MEMORIES?



Don't wait to explore.

**LIFE'S BEST MOMENTS ARE READY WHEREVER YOU ARE.**

Think back to a holiday or excursion that made your heart swell with joy and put a grin on your face. Here's a friendly nudge to create more of those moments, plus simple tips to make the most of it all.



## ITINERARIES MADE EASY WITH TRAVEL PASSES

A little prep goes a long way. Pick a pass that keeps your flights flexible all year, or one that bundles top attractions in Chiang Mai, London, or Tokyo, so you can dive right into the fun.



## AIRPORT SERVICES FOR COMFORT AND EASE

Whether you realise it or not, the airport is the start of your adventure. Relax in lounges, breeze through priority lanes, or recharge in a sleeping cabin to make your time more enjoyable.



## UNLOCK MORE EXCITEMENT WITH TOURS AND ATTRACTIONS

Not every escape needs to be a week-long affair. Spontaneous outings, quick city breaks, or curated local experiences can be just as rewarding, helping you recharge and discover something new.

Discover more





# A City Written in Tea and Spice, Chengdu



Time moves a little differently in Chengdu. There's a phrase that the locals love "bā shì dé hěn", which loosely translates as "life is very comfortable". And despite having grown into a metropolis of over 21 million inhabitants, Chengdu has somehow refused to rush.

Perhaps this is why teahouses remain the heartbeat of the city, where an afternoon can slip by without anyone noticing. At **Heming Teahouse**, a century-old institution in **People's Park**, the choices are simple but satisfying. Tea harvested from nearby Mount Emei are paired with refreshing desserts, where you are welcome to slide into a bamboo armchair and take your time. In the background, mahjong tiles clack in a steady rhythm, as if keeping time for a city that is in no rush to move forward.

For over 2,000 years, the city has remained in the same location and held the same name, a feat only a few places in the world can claim. Once the heart of the ancient Shu Kingdom, Chengdu was also a vital departure point along the Southern

Silk Road. Today, history continues to live in the kitchens and streets, shaping how Chengdu eats, drinks and celebrates daily life.

In Chengdu, food is never far. The air carries the prickle of Sichuan peppercorns, drifting from kitchens and alleyways, greeting you with the city's most irresistible calling card: a delightful scent. Whether it's a nest of cold Dan Dan noodles placed on a hot and numbing chilli-oil base topped with minced meat and scallions or a simmering hotpot with paper-thin beef, fiery remains the flavour of choice.

While these flavours can be found almost everywhere, **Kuanzhai Alley** is where they all come together. One of the largest surviving streets from the Qing dynasty, it is now buzzing with teahouses, noodle stalls and dumpling shops. Nearby, **Jinli Ancient Street** adds its own chorus of snacks, from dried sweet persimmons to san da pao – sweet, sticky rice tossed and rolled before being coated in soybean flour and finished with molasses syrup.



Beyond its flavours, Chengdu is also equally defined by its icons. Just half an hour away from the city centre lies the **Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding**, offering you a chance to watch China's most beloved animals in their natural habitat.

Back in the city, catch the legendary bian lian performance in **Jinjiang Theatre**. In a swift motion, masks change colour and expression before your eyes, a dazzling illusion that reflects Chengdu's flair for surprise and drama.



In less time than a leisurely lunch, the high-speed rail can transport you from the heart of Chengdu to the feet of the **Leshan Giant Buddha**. Carved into the cliff face of red sandstone during the Tang dynasty, this 71-metre-tall UNESCO World Heritage site sits at the meeting of three rivers. Seeing it up close, you can feel the craftsmanship that continues to define this region, and a reminder that time here is not measured in speed, but in depth.



Teahouses and fiery dishes, ancient wonders and modern ease, Chengdu is a city that invites you to slow down and unwind. And when it's time, allow Malaysian Hospitality to bring you there. Fly with Malaysia Airlines from Kuala Lumpur to Chengdu with **7x weekly flights starting 9 Jan 2026**.

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## Thai



### Oh...My Wife

After a prank turns tragic, a party-loving man becomes possessed by his late wife's spirit, setting off a hilarious and spooky adventure as he and his friends try to handle her ghostly presence.

## Malay



### Mechamoto Movie

When a prison spaceship plummets to Earth, unleashing destructive robots, young Amato teams up with MechaBot, a unique automaton, to save humanity from chaos.

## Cantonese



### The Lucky Guy

Stephen Chow stars in this comedy about three friends working at Lucky Coffee Shop. When the café faces closure, they band together to save their beloved hangout.

## Hindi



### Munjya



### Bhediya

## Malay



### Ombak Rindu

## Mandarin



### Octopus with Broken Arms



### The Uniform

## Indonesian



### Risky Business

## Japanese



### 1st Kiss



### Under the Big Onion

## Korean



### You Are the Apple of My Eye



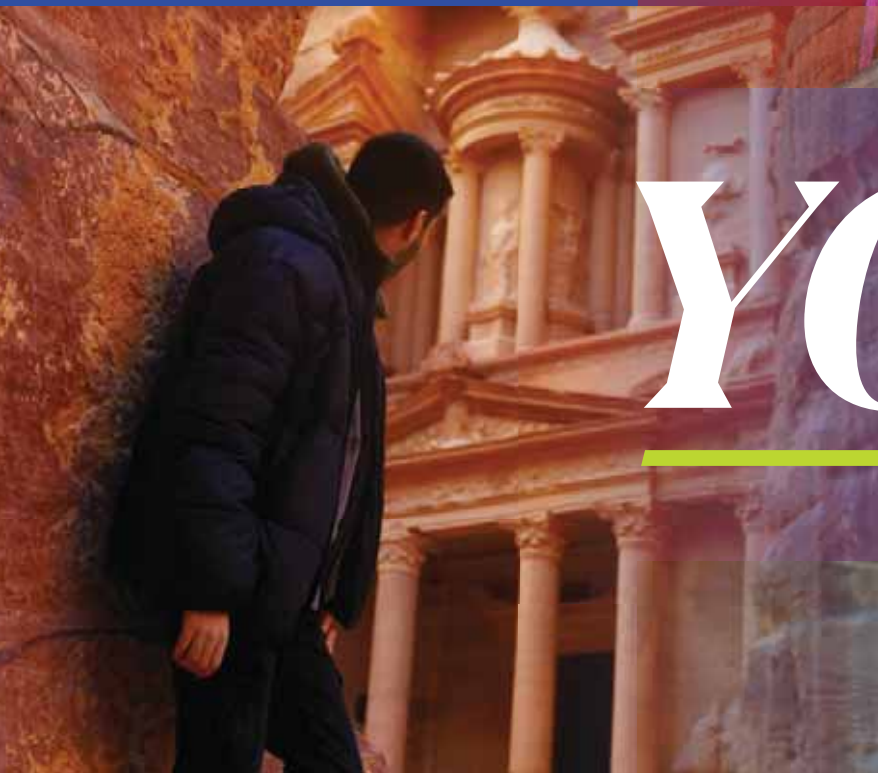
### Secret: Untold Melody

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# TELEVISION

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## Japanese



**Worst to First: A Teen Baseball Miracle**

## Chinese



**In Between**

## Tamil



**Padikathavan**

## Malay



**Cerita-Cerita Didi & Friends**

The lovable Didi and his friends are back for new adventures! This colourful animated series is perfect for little ones, packed with catchy songs and positive messages about friendship and learning.

## Chinese



**So Young So Good**

A romantic drama about self-discovery. A woman who spent her youth chasing boys meets them again as an adult. Now, she must decide between reliving the past or finding her own path to happiness.

## Korean



**EXchange: Another Beginning**

In this reality dating show spin-off, past participants from the hit series get a second chance at love – this time with no exes. Can they leave the past behind and find a real connection in this fresh start?

## Hindi



**Tyohaar Ki Thaali (Season 1)**

Join the beloved Sakshi Tanwar as she celebrates India's festivals! This unique show blends rich, cultural stories with delicious, heirloom recipes – a delectable mix of tradition and inspiration for your kitchen.



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Now Showing

# TELEVISION

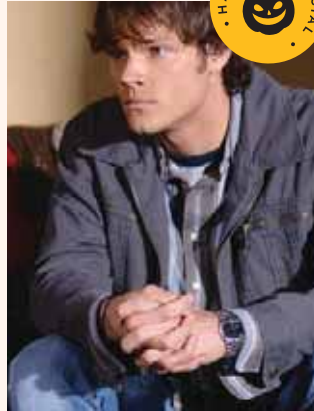
## Comedy



**People of Earth**



## Drama



**Supernatural**



## Kids



**Scooby-Doo and Guess Who?**



**Bluey**

## Science & Technology



**We're All Plastic People Now**

## Sports



**The Evolution of Football**

## Comedy



**Shining Vale**

The stellar Courteney Cox stars in this darkly comedic horror series. When a family moves into a haunted house, the mother's sanity is questioned as she grapples with the possibility of being possessed – or simply depressed, since the symptoms are the same.



## Drama



**Chilling Adventures of Sabrina**

This spellbinding series – a darker take on the iconic character – follows Sabrina as she navigates her half-witch, half-mortal identity. She must choose between her mortal friends and her dark destiny.



## Lifestyle



This spine-chilling documentary uncovers the real story behind *The Conjuring*, investigating the haunting of the Perron family and the terrifying truth of the malevolent spirit tormenting them.



## Travel



Join a group of British celebrities for a wild ride in the Costa Rican jungle! Hosted by Holly Willoughby, this reality series pushes them to their limits in a survival challenge, with Bear Grylls' help.



### Tamil

This compilation album features 20 of music composer Harris Jayaraj's most popular Tamil film songs, including hits from *Engeyum Kadhal*, *Ko* and *7 Aum Arivu*, highlighting his acclaimed collaborations with prominent artists.



### Hindi

This compilation album showcases AR Rahman's most significant songs, featuring hits from *Roja*, *Bombay* and *Lagaan*, demonstrating his innovative blend of genres that defined modern Indian film music.

### Club



### Japanese



### The Hits



### Memories



### Korean



### R&B



### Malay



### Light & Easy



### French



### Mandarin



### Indonesian



### Cantonese



### Kids







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## Mangrove adventures

**Longing to get away from** the city and immerse yourself in nature? Kayaking through the Sepang River's mangrove forest is an experience like no other. Imagine gliding across calm waters, surrounded by arching roots and lush greenery while spotting wildlife along the way such as monitor lizards, otters, mud skippers, eagles and kingfishers. Ideal for families or groups, the best time to go is at sunrise or sunset,

when the sky is painted in shades of orange and pink. Just over an hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur, OutdoorGate Solutions offers a fun and scenic tour of the mangroves, complete with a knowledgeable guide eager to share insights about this unique ecosystem. If you'd like to stay overnight, they have a floating house on site, so you can wake up right on the water with a cup of coffee in hand. [outdoorgate.asia](http://outdoorgate.asia)



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