

Going Places

TAKE ME HOME Everyone who flies gets a copy

NOVEMBER 2025

Creativity finds its renaissance in

Chiang Mai

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PHOTO: PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE



ASEAN
MALAYSIA 2025
INCLUSIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

“ Malaysia's relationship with Timor-Leste goes beyond official diplomacy, reflecting deep personal friendships built over decades of shared struggles. ”

DATO' SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime Minister of Malaysia

Learn more at www.myasean2025.my

NOVEMBER 2025

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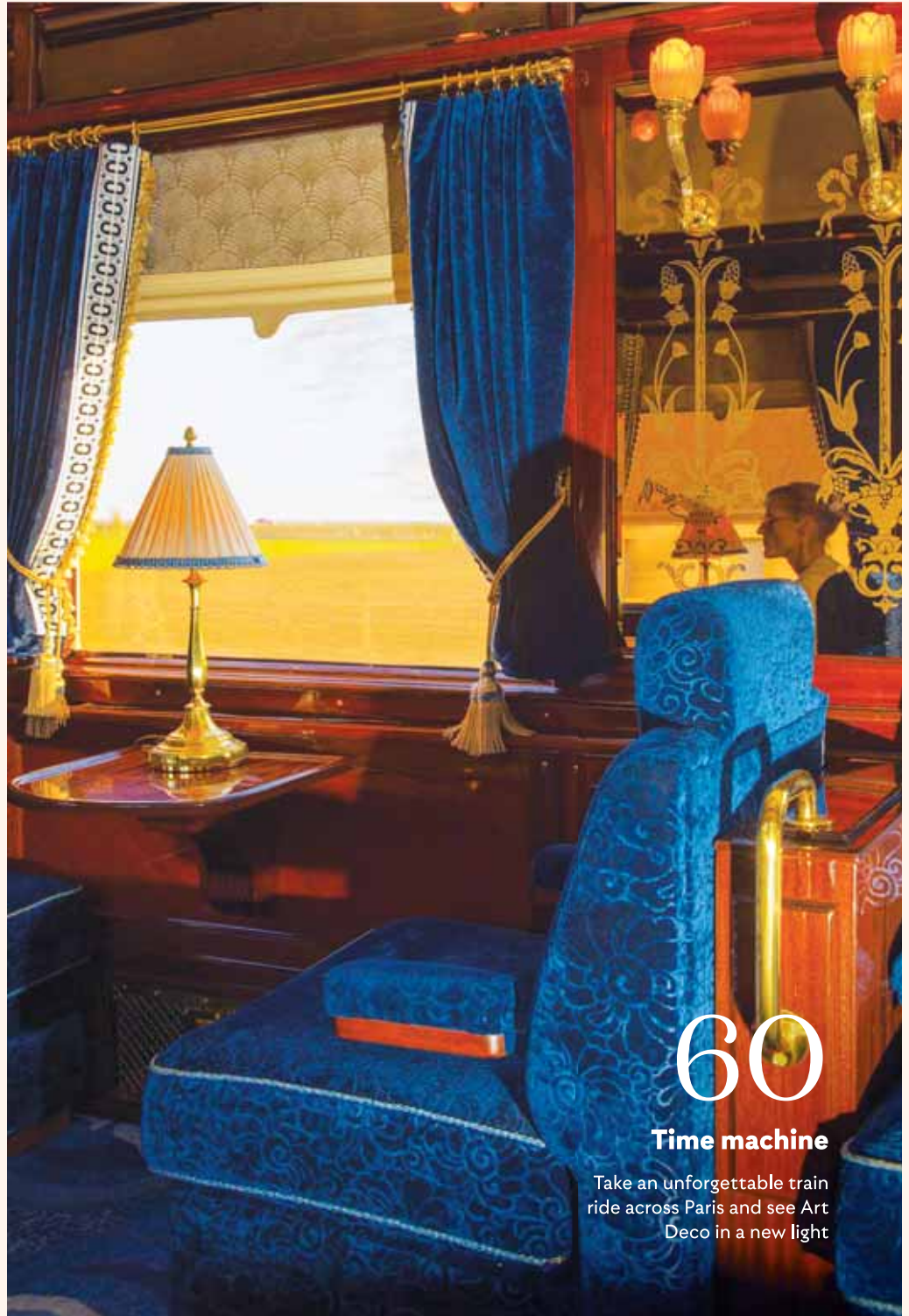
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Kalm Village in Chiang Mai
Photo by Lek Kiatsirikajorn

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naturallyLangkawi.my





Dear guests,

As we enter the final quarter of the year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued trust in Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG). Your support inspires us to continue serving with passion, connecting communities and making every journey with us truly memorable.

This month holds special significance as Malaysia Airlines resumes flights to Brisbane, reconnecting families, friends and businesses between Malaysia and Australia. This forms part of our broader commitment to the Australian market, alongside increased frequencies to Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Auckland, designed to better serve both leisure and business travellers. We are equally excited to introduce our all-new A330neo fleet on more Australia and New Zealand routes, offering quieter cabins, enhanced comfort and cutting-edge features that elevate your travel experience while improving fuel efficiency.

This is also complemented by our new codeshare partnership with fellow oneworld member Qantas, opening up more destinations across both networks and making every trip smoother and every connection easier. Through this partnership, Malaysia Airlines will place its “MH” code on 18 Qantas-operated domestic routes across Australia, providing seamless onward connections from key international gateways to cities such as Canberra, Darwin, Hobart and Launceston.

Closer to home, our sister airline Firefly is launching new jet services from Kuala Lumpur to Krabi and Siem Reap, bringing you closer to two of ASEAN’s most beloved destinations. Whether it’s the pristine beaches and island escapes of Krabi or the awe-inspiring temples and cultural treasures of Siem Reap, these new routes make it easier than ever to explore, unwind and immerse yourself in the region’s rich heritage. This expansion reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthening regional connectivity and making travel across ASEAN seamless and convenient.

I am also pleased to share that Malaysia Airlines has been recognised as the 9th best airline globally in the Condé Nast Traveller UK Readers’ Choice Awards 2025, within the Airlines category – a prestigious ranking based on travellers’ experiences across service, comfort and reliability. In addition, we have once again been named an APEX Four Star Major Airline, the industry’s first airline rating programme based solely on certified passenger feedback. Using a five-star scale, passengers rate their travel experience across nearly 600 airlines worldwide, with feedback independently verified and covering areas such as seat comfort, cabin service, food and beverage, in-flight entertainment and Wi-Fi connectivity. These achievements are a testament to your trust and loyalty, which inspire us to continuously deliver the signature warmth of Malaysian Hospitality.

Thank you for choosing to fly with us. Wherever your travels take you this month, we hope your time on board with us feels truly special, effortlessly comfortable and leaves you with the warmth of being right at home.

We look forward to welcoming you again soon and to creating more unforgettable journeys, enriched by the heartfelt care of Malaysian Hospitality.

Izhah Ismail

Group Managing Director
Malaysia Aviation Group

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The year's winding down, and I don't know about you, but my head's already halfway into holiday mode. There's something about this time of year – maybe it's the cooler weather in some parts of the world, or just the anticipation of the festive

break – that makes us all start daydreaming about where to go next. Hopefully, this issue gives you a few ideas for your year-end plans.

In Thailand, cooler breezes draw locals to Chiang Mai for respite. You can do the same, and while you're there, check out a new wave of craft and cultural spaces designed to spark creativity and imagination (page 50).

Over in Paris, the city is celebrating 100 years of Art Deco – and what better way to immerse yourself in the era than aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express? Think of it as stepping into a glamorous time capsule (page 60).

Foodies, we didn't forget you. This issue takes you on a weekend itinerary across Medan. I've never been, but sign me up for a foodie trail. I have fond memories wandering through Hong Kong for great eats years ago, and I can only imagine the treats Medan has in store (page 43). Coming from Penang, I'm especially curious to see how their kway teow goreng compares. We've also rounded up Friday brunches in Doha and ice cream with a twist in Shanghai, if you're looking for something fresh to try.

If music's more your beat, then Brisbane's iconic jazz club is where you'll want to be (page 30).

So whether travel plans are already locked or you're still deciding, I hope these stories spark a little inspiration and excitement for the journeys ahead. Here's to ending the year with memorable adventures.

Go forth and wander!



Elizabeth Soong
Editor



This issue's contributors



Lek Kiatsirikajorn

Photographer, "Ready, (re)set, go in Chiang Mai", page 50

Trained in London, based in Bangkok. Full-time photographer, part-time cyclist – becoming the opposite. Chiang Mai is his residence-to-be, where he'll settle and build a home near the mountain.



Rina Ahmad Sapiuddin

Writer, "Roast of the town", page 21

A lifestyle journalist and editor, Rina chronicles the human experience one word at a time, finding stories not just in headlines but also in the spaces between places and the people who fill them.



Kissa Castañeda

Writer, "Time machine", page 60

Kissa is a lifestyle journalist covering design, travel and food. A former editor-in-chief of *Tatler Singapore*, she's lived in six cities, visited over 60 countries and loves adaptive reuse hotels and city strolls.

Kuningan, COJ 2025

Jakarta Flavours For The Year-end Holidays

Jakarta is more than just a bustling metropolis – it is a city of flavours, perfect to explore during the year-end holidays



Bruu by Hai Dudu, Kuningan City, COJ 2025



Water Fountain PIK / Areza Taqwin / COJ 2025



MBloc

From traditional street food to modern dining, the capital offers a culinary adventure that reflects its cultural diversity. Start your journey with authentic local tastes like *soto Betawi*, *kerak telur*, or *gado-gado*, often found in heritage markets and food corners across the city. For those who love sweet treats, festive favourites such as *kue lapis* and *onde-onde* bring warmth to the holiday season.

As the city lights up for the year's finale, Jakarta also invites you to experience its modern gastronomy. Water fountains and trendy cafés in Pantai Indah Kapuk (PIK) serve fusion menus with seaside views, while rooftop restaurants in Sudirman Central Business District (SCBD) and Menteng combine international cuisine with sparkling skylines. Night markets, like those in Sabang or Glodok Chinatown, offer endless culinary choices that keep the holiday spirit alive until late. For an even wider taste of the city, visitors can explore the culinary variety in Blok M – from the creative bites at M Bloc Space to diverse international flavours in Little Tokyo, making every meal part of the festive celebration.

This year-end, celebrate in Jakarta through its flavours – where tradition meets innovation, and every dish tells a story worth remembering.



Malaysia's Gift to the World

Royal Selangor Visitor Centre is a must-visit destination in Kuala Lumpur

Experience Malaysia's living heritage and immerse yourself in Royal Selangor's rich history at the height of colonial Malaya's tin rush. Witness the evolution of arts, culture and craftsmanship through stimulating exhibits, live demonstrations and pewter crafting workshops.

There's something for everyone at the visitor centre. Here are all the reasons why it belongs on your must-visit list.

Learn & Explore



The Museum of Pewter

Enjoy a complimentary museum tour, where you will learn about the rise of Royal Selangor and tin mining in Kuala Lumpur through artefacts from as far back as the 1800s.

Kids can learn and play at the Science Discovery Gallery and learn through engaging hands-on exhibits.



Live demo

Visit the live pewtersmithing demonstration stations, where you will witness time-honoured techniques of creating handcrafted pewterware.

Get Crafty



The Foundry

Unleash your creative genius at The Foundry workshop. Craft accessories from molten pewter using pre-set moulds, or, for the more adventurous, try your hand at freehand designs. Suitable for adults and teenagers aged 15 and above.



School of Hard Knocks

Be a pewtersmith for a day and craft a pewter bowl using traditional tools and a wooden hammer, similar to those used by pewtersmiths more than 100 years ago. You will receive a certificate of completion.

Create Memories



The Café

Tease your taste buds with a variety of bistro-style dishes at The Café. For those who enjoy live music, look out for the music weekends that feature live jazz performances.

Other seasonal activities also feature exciting school holiday fun for kids – and parents too.



Insta-friendly moments

There are plenty of interesting photo opportunities at the visitor centre, from the World's Largest Pewter Tankard to a replica of the Twin Towers, made with over 7,062 tankards. Capture your happy moments, share them on social media and tag @royalselangor.



Royal Selangor
Visitor Centre

Visit the Royal Selangor Visitor Centre
at 4 Jalan Usahawan 6, Setapak Jaya,
53300 Kuala Lumpur.



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16 REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places



1

Kuala Lumpur

Short and suite

For the best perch in the city, head skyward. Book a suite at the **Mandarin Oriental, Kuala Lumpur** and save up to 15% off when staying two nights or more. The extras are suitably indulgent: limousine transfers, flexible check-in/out and access to the MO Club Lounge for breakfast, afternoon tea and cocktails. The real draw, though, is vertical. Suites between the 24th and 30th floors frame the city's most coveted view: the Petronas Twin Towers. mandarinoriental.com

2

Selangor

Hit the dance floor



The **World Bachata Festival** takes over the Bentley Music Academy in Mutiara Damansara from 28 November to 1 December. Expect workshops, performances and parties with international artists, DJs and dancers. worldbachatafestival.com



3

Pahang

Royal detour

The **Sultan Abu Bakar Museum** in Pekan, housed in a former colonial residence for British officials, showcases royal heirlooms from the royal family, traditional Malay weaponry and ancient Chinese porcelain – a rare glimpse into the cultural exchanges that shaped the East Coast.

heritage.gov.my





4

Malaysia

Concerts to watch this month

Michael Learns to Rock ("25 Minutes", "Take Me to Your Heart") brings their Encore All the Hits tour to Arena of Stars in Genting Highlands on 9 November. rwgenting.com

Craig David's TS5: Live in Kuala Lumpur show is on 10 November at Mega Star Arena. Get ready to sing along to "7 Days" and "Fill Me In". myticketempire.com

Rock legends **Deep Purple** ("Smoke on the Water") return after 15 years for a one-night-only show on 23 November at Mega Star Arena. ticket2u.com.my

5

Kuala Lumpur

Time to shine

The 11th edition of **Art of Time** transforms Pavilion Kuala Lumpur's centre court into a playground for watch lovers from 29 October to 9 November, featuring prestige brands such as Tudor and Breitling. swisswatchglobal.com



6

Pahang

Cartoon legacy

Founded by cartoonist Abdul Razak Sofhi (aka Aza), the **AZA Cartoon Gallery** in Jerantut is Malaysia's first dedicated cartoon and caricature gallery. Visitors can see original drawings, rare publications as well as rotating exhibits and workshops that nurture young talent. [@azaartsgallery](https://www.instagram.com/azaartsgallery)

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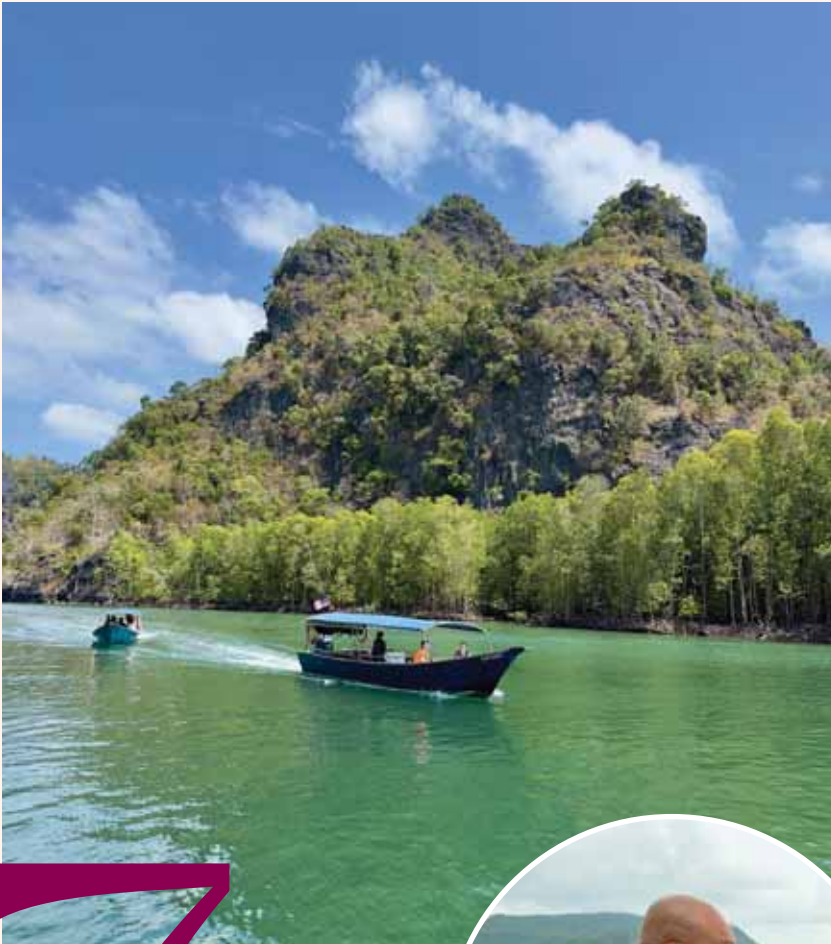
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As **Langkawi** gears up for Visit Malaysia 2026 (VM2026), **Datuk Seri Haji Iskandar bin Datuk Mohd Kaus**, chief executive officer of the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), envisions an island experience that is ambitious yet authentic.

"The VM2026 campaign aims to create immersive, sustainable and high-value experiences," says Datuk Seri Haji Iskandar. New state-level packages will highlight geo-ecotourism, cultural heritage, agro-tourism, health and wellness, gastronomy and Muslim-friendly travel.

To attract global visitors, Langkawi is forging partnerships with airlines, hotels, media and key opinion leaders, supported by incentives such as digital marketing campaigns, travel grants and charter flight promotions.

Visitors can soon enjoy luxury cruises linking Malaysian ports with neighbouring countries, private island escapes at Pulau Singa Besar and year-round water sports including jet skiing, kayaking and snorkelling.

Connectivity is expanding, with tailored itineraries, cruise-focused experiences and premium wellness offerings. The island also offers hidden treasures such as Telaga Tujuh waterfall, Kilim Karst Geoforest Park and the Kubang Badak BioGeo Trail.

Yet, the true magic of Langkawi lies in its people. As Datuk Seri Haji Iskandar notes, "This spirit of welcome is not merely part of the tourism experience, it is the very soul of Langkawi, turning every visit into a lasting friendship." naturallylangkawi.my

Kedah

Island in the spotlight



8

Perak

Coveted cup

From 22 to 29 November, Ipoh's Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium hosts one of Asia's top hockey events, the **Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**, drawing world-class teams. tms.fih.ch



9

Selangor

Opera opus

On 15 and 16 November, **KL City Opera** stages *Ravel 150* at PJ Performing Arts Centre, marking Maurice Ravel's 150th birthday with a double-bill of piano works and *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, featuring young performers, the Dignity Foundation and the KLCO ensemble. onetix.com.my



10

Penang

Ready to get lit



The **George Town Literary Festival**, Malaysia's largest international literary event, runs from 28 to 30 November. Its 5th edition, themed *Urban Myths and Memories*, features writers such as Lize Spit, Madeleine Thien and Omar Musa. georgetownlitfest.com

Selangor

Sail the open sea

The **Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta** sets sail from Port Klang's Royal Selangor Yacht Club from 14 to 22 November. Spanning over 300 nautical miles, the course includes offshore and harbour races around Penang and Langkawi. rmsir.com

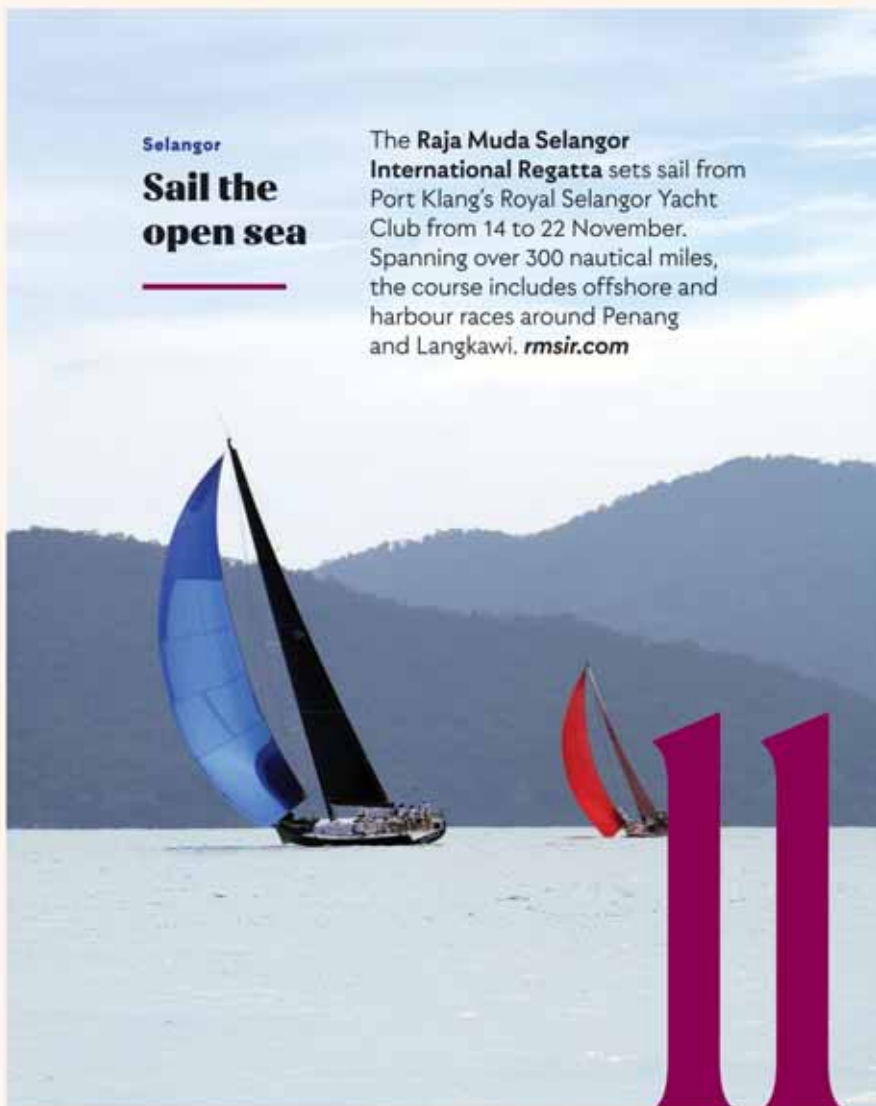


IMAGE: COURTESY OF RAJA MUDA SELANGOR INTERNATIONAL REGATTA (YACHT)

NOBU

KUALA LUMPUR

Discover the World of Nobu

Founded by world-renowned Chef Nobu Matsuhisa, in partnership with Robert De Niro and Meir Teper, the Nobu brand has become synonymous with innovative cuisine, timeless elegance, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. From Tokyo to New York, London to Dubai, Nobu's global presence has redefined contemporary fine dining — blending Japanese precision with bold Peruvian influences to create flavours that are both refined and unforgettable.

Nobu Kuala Lumpur: A Culinary Landmark

Perched high above the city at Four Seasons Place, Nobu Kuala Lumpur embodies the essence of the brand's global legacy while celebrating the vibrant energy of Malaysia's capital. With breathtaking views of the iconic KLCC Park and an ambiance that fuses modern sophistication with warmth, every visit offers an extraordinary experience. The menu features Nobu's signature creations such as Black Cod Miso, Yellowtail Jalapeño, and an array of exquisite sushi and sashimi, all crafted with the freshest seasonal ingredients.

An Unforgettable Experience

Whether for a business luncheon, an intimate celebration, or a luxurious evening out, Nobu Kuala Lumpur promises an experience beyond the ordinary. Every dish tells a story of artistry and passion, elevated by impeccable service and a serene, elegant atmosphere. Here, every moment is designed to delight the senses — a true journey through the art of fine dining, right in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.



www.noburestaurants.com/kuala-lumpur



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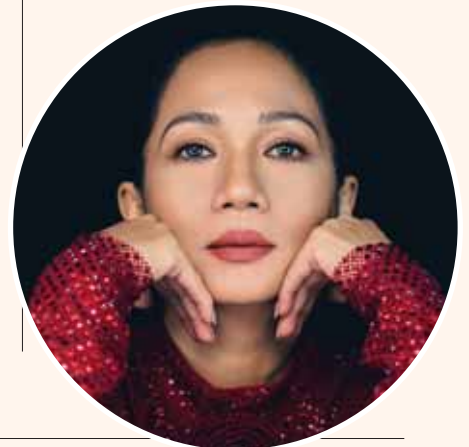
13

Kuala Lumpur

Legendary night

On 8 November, Malaysia's revered "Queen of Jazz" Datuk **Sheila Majid** celebrates four decades of music at Axiata Arena with timeless hits like "Sinaran" and "Legenda".

ticket2u.com.my



Kuala Lumpur

Distinctive art

At **+n by UR-MU** on Jalan Tun HS Lee, the highlight exhibition "Strategies of Dissent" showcases over 70 works from Ng Sek San's collection, tracing protest art from the 1990s to today. Visitors can

explore sections such as the intense "Tunjuk Perasaan" and playful "Jangan Main-Main", along with floors on hidden histories and everyday struggles. Open Tuesdays to Sundays, 11am–7pm. ur-mu.com



14

Perak

Secret to share

True to its name, **Rahsia** – meaning "secret" – is a hidden café on the second floor of a shophouse in Ipoh's Canning Garden. Minimalist interiors and natural light make it a cosy spot for coffee, cakes and conversation. @rahsia.ip



15

Selangor

Art of placemaking

SP Setia is renowned for its LiveLearnWorkPlay philosophy, which is reflected in its award-winning developments. Its projects blend Malaysian culture with modern design, winning hearts and accolades.

Case in point: Setia Eco Templer clinched the Silver Award at the FIABCI World Prix d'Excellence Awards 2025 for Residential Low Rise.

Beyond architecture, parks like Setia Utama Park in Setia Alam and LakePoint Park in Setia Alam Impian tell their own stories.

Future-focused projects include Carabella at Setia Alamsari with smart locks and EV-ready conduits, and Nadi 3 at Setia EcoHill 2 with 26-ft frontages and green spaces. Award-winning Setia Safiro highlights thriving eco-friendly communities. spsetia.com

16

Selangor

Luxe escape in the city

If a luxurious stay with world-class dining is on your weekend agenda, **Sunway Resort Hotel** is the place to be. Book a 2D1N stay at their one-bedroom pool villa and start your morning with a floating breakfast by your private pool or opt for an indulgent spread at Sunset Terrace. Come evening, enjoy an exclusive



three-course dinner for two at Gordon Ramsay Bar & Grill, then unwind at Sunway MediSpa with a RM200 voucher (valid with a minimum spend of RM400). The package includes complimentary late check-out until 6pm. All this at RM2,300+, available until 31 March 2026. sunwayhotels.com/sunway-resort





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MALAYSIA

@ Perdana Botanical Garden
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Advancing an inclusive ASEAN

As Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship enters its final months, the region welcomes Timor-Leste in a spirit of unity and shared growth

This year, Malaysia has worked to strengthen unity and deepen cooperation across ASEAN, advancing the region's vision of an inclusive and resilient community.

Strengthening regional cooperation

A defining milestone is Timor-Leste's continuing integration as ASEAN's 11th member. The country's participation reflects the region's confidence in its growing democracy and commitment to shared prosperity. It also signals ASEAN's enduring openness by expanding its reach and relevance across Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Deepening economic and social ties

Malaysia has underscored the practical benefits of inclusion, from new avenues for trade and investment to collaboration in energy, education and sustainable development. These initiatives strengthen not only ASEAN's economic foundation but also its role as a force for peace and stability in the region.



A shared future of unity and progress

As Malaysia's Chairmanship comes to a close, Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN is a reminder of what ASEAN was founded upon: partnership, mutual respect and progress through cooperation. The welcoming of Timor-Leste marks both an achievement and ASEAN's commitment to greater unity.

Inclusivity remains at the heart of ASEAN's path forward by guiding the region toward lasting peace, shared prosperity and a stronger sense of community.

Learn more about ASEAN's key milestones at myasean2025.my

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Roast of the town

Creamy, aromatic and proudly local – Ipoh white coffee started as a local morning ritual in Perak and has since gained recognition across Malaysia and beyond **BY RINA AHMAD SAPIUDDIN**

IMAGES: AARON LIN

Tucked between Kuala Lumpur and Penang, Ipoh is the capital of Perak state and an easy two-and-a-half-hour drive north of Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Once a tin-mining hub, the city has reinvented itself as a destination known for limestone hills, street food and, above all, its distinctive white coffee.

Walk through the old town and you'll always find a *kopitiam* (coffee shop) ready to serve a steaming cup. This local favourite traces its roots to the early 20th century, when Hainanese migrants began roasting robusta beans with margarine to soften the bitterness, then adding condensed milk for creaminess and a lighter hue – giving the drink its name, “white coffee”.

The coffee stalwarts

A taste of Ipoh white coffee often begins at **Kedai Kopi Sin Yoon Loong** (15A Jln Bandar Timah), a no-fuss kopitiam where regulars line up even before it opens at 6.30am. Founded in 1937 by brothers Wong Poh Chew and Wong Poh Ting, it is widely recognised as a pioneer of the city's signature brew.

Today, 25-year-old Wong Shin Ee carries on the family legacy alongside her parents. “We inherited the business from our great-grand uncle, and I'm



NOW BREWING

Tourism Perak's *Coffee Trails* guidebook maps out 81 kopitiams and cafés across the state, offering visitors an easy way to explore its rich coffee culture. “Perak has a serious passion for coffee,” says development executive officer Zulhymi Effendy bin Zakaria.



the fourth generation,” she says. “Ipoh white coffee is different from other states like Penang or Melaka because of how we roast our beans. We roast Arabica and Liberica with sugar and margarine and we've kept the taste as close as possible to the original.”

Her father, 63-year-old Wong Kee Chor, is usually the first to arrive each morning. “I've been doing this my whole life,” he says. “The business has changed a lot, but even with rising costs, we make sure our customers always get the best cup.”

Another landmark is **Kedai Makanan Nam Heong** (2 Jln Bandar Timah), famous for coffee as well as egg tarts and dim sum. The Goh family has run it for 67 years, now into its third generation. They've also introduced machinery to ensure consistent quality and to make Ipoh white coffee more widely available overseas.

“Using the Hainanese roast style with Arabica, Robusta and Liberica gives our coffee a good aroma, stronger body and pleasant aftertaste,” says Mu Kar King, who is in charge of the coffee shop.





Previous page:
Chang Jiang
White Coffee

**This spread, clockwise
from bottom left:**
Wong Shin Ee with
her parents; Kedai
Kopi Sin Yoon Loong;

Kedai Makanan Nam
Heong's famous
egg tarts; Old
Town White Coffee
Experience Centre;
Chang Jiang's pulled
coffee; white coffee
beans from Kedai
Makanan Nam Heong

Blending tradition with innovation

From the 1980s to the 2000s, a slew of coffee brands helped transform Ipoh white coffee into a drink enjoyed far beyond the city and Malaysia.

One such brand is **Chang Jiang White Coffee** (7 Jln Windsor; @changjiangwhitecoffee), founded in 1988 by Kong Kin Loong. In past interviews, Kong shared how he experimented with adding margarine, condensed milk and evaporated milk during brewing, then “pulled” the coffee back and forth to create its signature frothy finish. Today, Chang Jiang’s range includes the 2-in-1 White Coffee, Mini Kaw Kaw 3-in-1 and the Wangher 3-in-1.

Another familiar name is **OldTown**, launched in 1999 by four friends who turned white coffee into powdered mixes, recreating a winning recipe with a three-bean blend and their own brewing techniques. The brand now exports across Southeast Asia and to more than 25 international markets.



“

Hainanese migrants began roasting robusta beans with margarine to soften the bitterness, then adding condensed milk for creaminess and a lighter hue”

In Ipoh, OldTown has gone back to its roots with **White Coffee Experience Centre** (2 Jln Panglima; www.oldtown.com.my) – a three-storey space with an art gallery showcasing local works, a farm-to-table café and a gift shop.

Where to get your white coffee fix in Ipoh and beyond

Toh Soon Café

Enjoy freshly brewed coffee and traditional treats in an old-world, rustic ambience. *Lebuh Campbell, Penang*

OO White Coffee

Pair your white coffee with soft-boiled eggs, toast and polo buns. *262–264 Lebuh Carnarvon, Penang*

Calanthe Art Café

Known as the “13 States Coffee” café, it serves traditional and modern fare. *11 Jln Hang Kasturi, Melaka*

Thean Chun

Popular for caramel custard and hor fun, this kopitiam also serves classic white coffee. *73 Jln Bandar Timah, Ipoh, Perak*

Discover Malaysia's eco-tourism frontiers

A new tourism era where world-class adventures meets authentic local experiences



Lush Bornean rainforest



Rhinoceros hornbill



Scenic Sabah coastline

Malaysia is stepping into a bold new chapter with the 13th Malaysia Plan (2026–2030) – RMK13, a national development plan that places sustainability and innovation at its core. Backed by RM611 billion in strategic investments, the Plan prioritises clean energy, digital growth and a fresh vision for tourism.

From ocean depths to rainforest heights: Malaysia's eco-tourism journey

When the morning sun rises over the turquoise waters of Terengganu, fishermen cast their nets as they have for generations. Thousands of kilometres away, the dense Sarawak rainforest comes alive with the calls of the hornbills and the rustle of ancient trees. These are not just scenes of natural beauty – they are the frontlines of Malaysia's bold eco-tourism vision under RMK13.

Malaysia's Blue Frontier

Malaysia's islands and coastal regions are being reimagined as centres of sustainable growth. In Terengganu, island tourism is expanding with eco-friendly resorts and marine protection programmes. In Sabah, the Semporna and Sipadan reefs are jewels of marine biodiversity, attracting divers worldwide while placing conservation at the heart of development. More than just a destination, the Blue Frontier gives coastal communities new opportunities – from eco-tour guides to sustainable fisheries.

Malaysia's Green Frontier

Sarawak is opening new horizons through the Sarawak Tourism Integrated Zone (STIZ). Here, eco-lodges, rainforest canopy walks and wildlife adventures merge seamlessly with cultural authenticity. Indigenous

communities are at the heart of this frontier, offering homestays, handicrafts and performances that honour centuries of tradition. Visitors leave not only with memories but also with a deeper appreciation of Malaysia's cultural and ecological richness.

A nation reimagined

Malaysia is no longer just a stop on the tourist map. It is carving out a reputation as a world leader in eco-tourism, where marine and rainforest treasures are preserved, celebrated and shared sustainably. With RMK13's commitment, Malaysia ensures that every dive, every trek and every cultural experience contributes to both economic empowerment and environmental conservation. Malaysia is ready, and the best is yet to come.



Male orangutan



Scan the QR code or visit rmk13.ekonomi.gov.my for more information on RMK13.

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ELEVATE

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



DINING

Brunch bunch

From dim sum delights and poolside spreads to Mediterranean charm, Italian finesse and Latin flair, the brunch scene in **Doha** is giving weekend vibes

BY ULRIKE LEMMIN-WOOLFREY

Friday brunches have become a local institution in the Qatari capital – long, leisurely meals with international menus, free-flowing drinks and often live entertainment. Here are some of my favourite places to start the weekend, as an expat living in Doha. →

Kai's Songbird

ELEVATE



Mediterranean chic

Housed in the Ritz-Carlton's former Admiral's Club, **B-Lounge** has reinvented itself with a St Tropez-inspired Mediterranean brunch menu, accented by pan-Asian flavours and outstanding cocktails. The setting – surrounded by the turquoise waters of the Persian Gulf – enhances the laidback, lounge-style atmosphere. bloungedoha.com

Latin festive flair

Curiosa by Jean-Georges brings a Latin-inspired menu to Doha's seaside terrace. Expect fish tacos, sizzling shrimp, guacamole and churros, with cocktails and live Latin music. As the afternoon progresses, the energy often builds into dancing between the tables – a lively option for families and groups alike. curiosadoha.com



Playful Chinese plates

Expect sophisticated Chinese cuisine in a spectacular setting at **Kai's Songbird**, the little sister of Michelin-starred Kai Mayfair in London. Right in the heart of the marina on Doha's The Pearl Island, sit outside and watch the boats go by, or stay indoors and enjoy the quirky yet elegant décor. Highlights include playful baos – the mushroom bao looks like real fungi – along with pulled crispy duck, lettuce wraps and chilli prawns, followed by beautifully crafted desserts. kaisongbird.qa



Poolside spread

The "brunchcation" at The Ned hotel's **Malibu Kitchen** pairs a relaxed ambience with one of Doha's most photogenic pools. The spread includes everything from lobster and steak to local mezze, tacos and fresh seafood. A live singer sets the mood, making it a leisurely afternoon affair. thened.com



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Doha 14x weekly.



The Red Bari



COMMUNITY

Past forward

Kolkata's historic homes find new life as creative hubs, boutiques and gathering spaces

BY ZINARA RATHNAYAKE

A city steeped in centuries of history and cultural legacy, the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal is seeing a new wave of creativity. Young residents are finding fresh ways to reimagine identity, restoring age-old Bengali homes into vibrant third spaces and speciality boutiques that bring community and commerce together.

Crafts and cuisine

Almost everyone who visits Kolkata makes their way to **Sienna** (49/1 Hindustan Park; siennastore.com). The brand began as a pottery label, named



The Red Bari co-working space

after the red soil of Santiniketan, the neighbourhood 166km northwest of the city where its ceramic workshop is based. Today, Sienna has evolved into a multi-layered institution: a crafts boutique offering brass jewellery, fabric neckpieces and handlooms, alongside a café, a Bengal-forward dining room and an intimate eight-seater chef's table, all within a restored century-old home.



Sienna's café

Inside, the building retains its ornate iron staircase railings, with arches added to create an illusion of openness. For founder and creative director Shuli Ghosh, spaces like these are vital. "Young Kolkatans want to belong to places that tell stories," she says. "Hybrid spaces like Sienna will define how the next generation engages with the city."

Heritage meets community

With its striking red façade offset by green teakwood *khorkhori* (louvred windows), **The Red Bari** (18 Sadananda Rd; [@theredbarikolkata](http://theredbarikolkata)) reflects the city's eclectic blend of old and new. Founder and director Avantika Jalan transformed the 90-year-old home of barrister Pareshnath Banerjee into a coffee shop, bed and breakfast, and a multilevel co-working and events venue.

Her vision was to create a collaborative hub – "a cultural space where architecture, food, design and conversation intersect in a way that feels natural and lived-in," she says.

This month's calendar includes pottery workshops, a book launch with Ukrainian poet Iryna Vikyrychak and a sitar session for children. Guests can stay in one of its two bedrooms, complete with mosaic tiles, antique furnishings and a terrace overlooking the city.



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



LIVE MUSIC

All that jazz

The fun always flows in **Brisbane's** iconic riverside venue for big band music

BY MAYA CALICA COLLINS

Who knew a small gathering of jazz musicians in the late 1960s would evolve into Brisbane's premier jazz venue? With its vintage red-and-black velvet interiors, the Brisbane Jazz Club evokes the golden age of jazz, when Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington were all the rage. The venue may seat just 100, but it has already earned an international reputation for its role in churning out quality jazz and making it accessible to everyone. American jazz icon Herbie Hancock recently gave a glowing endorsement of the club's International Jazz Day Festival.

The BJC (as locals call it) boasts a resident 18-person band, and it's

where Australian jazz legends like John Morrison and Jacki Cooper regularly perform. What makes it even more special is its location inside an 80-year-old building on the banks of the Brisbane River. "You can literally enjoy afternoon drinks on the back deck with stunning city views," says Mandy Woodend, who regularly performs at the club with her act, Miss Mandy Swings. "It's easily accessible by water on our CityCats [ferries]." The club features live jazz music five nights a week and is run by volunteer jazz lovers, adding to its intimate vibe. The best part? "The audiences are my favourite," says Woodend. "They're so appreciative of fine musicianship and great entertainment."

BJC also hosts the Brisbane Big Band Festival at the Brisbane Multicultural Arts Centre – a yearly event music lovers shouldn't miss. Check their website for dates and showtimes. brisbanejazzclub.com.au



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Brisbane 5x weekly beginning 29 November.



F&B

Late-night delights

A new spot in Auckland for daring desserts and creative concoctions

Award-winning mixologist

Theodore Tjandra has been making waves with his bespoke cocktails at **Truth/Dare** since it opened in June.

Located on Snickel Lane – a stylish laneway in Auckland's central business district that is gaining a reputation for its trendy eateries and hidden gems – the bar has become a favourite venue to grab dinner or cap the evening with late-night treats.

Interesting savoury items on Truth/Dare's menu include the lamb skewers and the burrata with caramelised onion purée.

The signature dessert is an Asian-flavoured take on the Kiwi classic, the pavlova. Conceived by head chef and co-founder Yovin Sius, it features a crisp meringue base generously filled with matcha mousse and topped with a strawberry compote.

Truth/Dare's creative libations are so visually appealing they'll tempt even teetotalers – but don't worry, they'll happily whip up a mocktail version just for you. truthordarebar.com



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Auckland 10x weekly.





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The year-end holds a certain magic – twinkling lights, cheerful music filling the air and the thrill of finding the perfect gift for your loved one or a little treat for yourself. This is the season to celebrate in style.

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Celebrate in style

Located in the heart of KL, head over to Pavilion Kuala Lumpur and take in a sophisticated setting for festive shopping and dining. Explore its mix of luxury

boutiques, designer labels and elegant restaurants, all dressed for the holidays. Whether finding the perfect gift or enjoying a special meal, Maybank Cardmembers can enjoy exclusive rewards and festive gifts when they spend and redeem throughout the season.

Where variety meets vibrance

For those who love choice and excitement, Mid Valley Megamall and The Gardens Mall invite you to explore the best of both worlds. Wander through a vibrant mix of high-street favourites, premium labels and lively eateries while making the most of exclusive Maybank Card promotions and

spend-and-redeem offers that make every visit even more rewarding.

A festive escape down south

In Johor Bahru, The Mall, Mid Valley Southkey invites you to join the celebration with its vibrant mix of shopping, dining and entertainment. It's the perfect spot to unwind with loved ones while enjoying exclusive Maybank Card discounts and redemptions.

Wherever your travels take you this season, Maybank Cards make it easy to celebrate the joy of giving and savour rewarding moments that make the journey truly memorable.

For more information, visit maybank.my/midvalley or maybank.my/pavilionkl



DESSERT

Melting borders

A Malaysian chef in **Shanghai** is rewriting the rules of ice cream flavours **BY SAMMI SOWERBY**

"One scoop of the foie gras, please."

Not exactly your standard ice cream order – unless you're at **Di-solve**, the new Shanghai ice cream parlour from Cheras-born chef Leafy Ng, former executive pastry chef at one-Michelin-starred **Obscura**.

Since opening right by the dry deck fountains at Park Avenue Central Shopping Mall (688 Changde Rd, near Wuding Rd, Jing'an) in May 2025, the swimming pool-themed ice cream parlour with iridescent tiles and a lifeguard's chair for photo ops has been making a splash in Shanghai.

Ng's creations take ice cream lovers on a journey with unconventional flavours. The foie gras scoop uses Maison Rougié duck liver from Quebec, sous-vided and blitzed with apple brandy from The Gingi Project in Penglai. Palo Santo

Churn it till you make it

Head to **Wulumuqi Zhong Lu**, affectionately known as "Ice Cream Street", where speciality ice cream parlours populate the tree-lined street about a 15-minute drive from Park Avenue Central Shopping Mall. At early pioneer **Bonus**, the salted egg yolk flavour is a must-try. Shanghai's love affair with gelato has been having a moment, with artisanal shops churning out bold flavours that incorporate traditional Chinese elements such as herbal medicine and unique local ingredients.



from Peru perfumes his mango sorbet. Perilla oil, which Ng first tasted in Seoul, mimics the mung bean popsicles of his Malaysian childhood.

"Of course, I seized the opportunity to introduce my customers to Malaysian flavours," Ng says. There's kaya toast ice cream ribboned with salted duck yolk, creamy chocolate sorbet brightened by kaffir lime leaf and curry leaf ice cream with a subtle hint of the fragrant herb and coconut water. It's the kind of menu that makes sense especially if you grew up with a pantry full of pandan, soy sauce and Milo tins.

IMAGES: ROBIN TOMAS ANDERSSON (DI-SOLVE), STUDIO WOO (BONUS)



And because it's Shanghai, seasonality dictates the flavours on display. Summer is fruit-forward, but when the plane trees start shedding, Ng pivots to fat and crunch – nuts, seeds, dried fruit. In the cooler season, watch for Chinese torreyia from Shaoxing in Zhejiang province and olive kernels, one of the classic Five Nuts Mooncake's star ingredients.

Imitation is the best form of flattery, and so popular is Di-solve that some of its bestsellers are reportedly being replicated in other ice cream parlours. "How do I know? Well, they use the exact same name as my flavours," laughs Ng.

Customers can count on finding 14 non-alcoholic ice cream flavours in the front case and six spiked ones in Di-solve's back room, making it a delightful discovery for customers with restless, roving taste buds. [@disolve_sh](#)



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Shanghai 14x weekly.

Here's the scoop

More ice cream shops to try in Shanghai



Zhong Yao Tang

Once the stuff of bitter brews and poultices, Traditional Chinese Medicine ingredients get a glow-up here. Watch out for flavours like Happy Wild Chrysanthemum (meant to cool the body and calm the nerves) and Guizhou Black Glutinous Rice (said to fortify Qi).

267 South Xiangyang Rd or 3 Hunan Rd, both in Xuhui; @zhongyaotang_gelato



Mimilato

Best friends Ruomi and Zhen Yi built Mimilato as a love letter to China's seasons. Spring means mugwort mochi, summer brings blushing rhubarb, autumn ushers in porcini gelato and December is all about strawberries dressed for Christmas. **1251 Changle Rd, Xuhui; Hengshan Garden Hotel, Wanping Rd; @mimilatomimilato**



Sarawak's next landmark

Opening in 2028, the expansion of the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching doubles capacity and elevates the city's status on the global business events map

For the past 16 years, the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK), managed by Hemisphere Corporation, a subsidiary of the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), has been at the heart of Sarawak's business events scene. From high-profile and

international conferences to trade exhibitions and star-studded banqueting, it has earned a reputation for reliable service and top-notch professional event management delivery.

Certified to global standards, BCKK has welcomed tens of

thousands of delegates, contributing significantly to Sarawak's economy while establishing Kuching as a recognised destination for business gatherings.

A future-ready venue targeted for completion in early 2028

BCKK is expanding into the future with BCKK2, which began construction this year and is targeted for completion in March 2028. Inspired by its tranquil riverside setting, the new development has been designed to harmonise with its natural surroundings while offering the scale and flexibility that modern events demand.

BCKK2 will feature a sprawling main hall capable of accommodating up to 9,500 guests, a multi-purpose hall for mid-scale events and a suite of 34 breakout rooms across both venues. A climate-controlled link bridge will connect the two centres, offering panoramic views of the Sarawak River. Its sustainable design reflects a thoughtful approach to growth.

The next big stage

Prestigious conferences such

“

BCKK2 isn't just an expansion, it's where ideas ignite, communities connect and meaningful change begins.”

– Rayner Simon, BCKK's Chief Operating Officer

as the World Veterinary Poultry Association Congress 2025, Asia Pacific Green Hydrogen Conference and Exhibition (APGH) 2026 and more, are set to bring international delegates to Kuching, underscoring its growing reputation as a global business destination.

For organisers seeking a venue that blends world-class infrastructure with Bornean character, BCKK and the upcoming BCKK2 offer integrated, future-ready spaces for events of all scales, continuing BCKK's mission to elevate Sarawak on the international stage.

This progress is made possible through the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts (MTCP), Business Events Sarawak (BESarawak), Sarawak Tourism Board, Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) and BCKK's valued partners, whose collaboration drives the state's business events growth.

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INSIDER TIPS

A Malaysian in... Melbourne

From weekend markets to hidden lookouts, **Anna May**, a multi-talented Malaysian creative, shows us why Australia's cultural capital feels like home

BY CATHERINE BOUCHER



I was born and raised in

Kuala Lumpur, but I always knew I would live elsewhere.

My mother had encouraged me to move to Melbourne early on. We first visited when I was 16, our first family trip outside of Malaysia. I eventually moved here in 2017 to train as a pastry chef. I had finished design college back home but I had been baking since my teenage years.

When the pandemic hit, I was working as a graphic designer. During lockdown, many of my hospitality clients asked me to work on their social media.

By the time restrictions lifted, the content had gained momentum. This led to work with Visit Melbourne, Victoria's official travel site, as well as ongoing freelance work with *What's On Melbourne*, the city's official guide to events, dining and local culture.

These days, I work as a full-stack content creator (@aurevoirdarling), handling the whole design process, from ideation and production to editing, publishing and strategy.

Glorious food

Melbourne's cultural mix is most visible in its food. **Dröm Bakery** (1/19 Scoresby Rd, Bayswater; drom.melbourne) experiments boldly with flavour. I recently tried their spherical Thai milk tea moonrock croissant and the macadamia Dubai chocolate fullmoon – both standouts. The team is multicultural and inclusive, and you can watch the bakers at work through the large glass windows.

Another favourite is **Sonido** (69 Gertrude St, Fitzroy; sonido.com.au). The café is small, cosy and filled with eclectic décor. They serve *aguapanela* – a hot South American raw sugarcane drink in which you melt cheese. It's unexpectedly delicious.

EatAlley (Shop 11, Level 2, QV Square, Lonsdale St; eatalley.qv) has just opened, bringing Malaysian hawker classics to the city. My brother and I always order the KL-style signature Hokkien mee from Hong Lai. The place is casual, lively and full of flavour.



Hosier Lane



Sonido

Market time

Melbourne's weekend markets are always worth exploring. At the **Rose Street Artists' Market** (60 Rose St, Fitzroy; rosetmarket.com.au), I love meeting vendors and hearing their stories. Many started out with a hobby or side project that grew into a craft. I often pick up paintings or ceramics and enjoy bringing friends along.

When I first arrived in Melbourne as a student, I shopped at **Camberwell Sunday Market** (Market Place, Camberwell; camberwellsundaymarket.org). I used to go right before closing



Carlton Gardens



Block Arcade



Dröm Bakery

and grab a bag of clothes for only AUD\$5. Now I go more for the atmosphere – wandering around with a coffee in hand and stopping at the nearby bakery.

Showing off

When friends visit Melbourne, I take them on a walk that captures the city's energy, heritage buildings and street art – ending with a skyline view.

We start at **Carlton Gardens** (9 Nicholson St, Carlton), stroll through the **Royal Arcade** (335 Bourke Street Mall; royalarcade.com.au) and **Block Arcade** (282 Collins St; theblock.com.au), then head to **Degraves Street** and **Hosier Lane**. Finally, we cross Princes Bridge by the Yarra River to a secret lookout on top of **Hamer Hall** (100 St Kilda Rd; artscentremelbourne.com.au). From there, we get a panoramic view of the skyline and watch Melbourne's trams crossing the bridge.

To find the lookout, follow the path between Hamer Hall and the black lawn sculptures, then take the short staircase to the balcony. A loop around the building reveals views from every angle.

Further afield

Whenever possible, I take weekend trips outside the city. Some favourites include relaxing on the beach at **Venus Bay**, skiing at **Falls Creek**, dipping into the **Mornington Peninsula** hot springs and kangaroo-spotting in the **Yarra Valley**. Living in Melbourne has pushed me out of my comfort zone – in the best way.



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Melbourne 21x weekly.



Char kway teow



Where the heart is

From Sydney to Malaysia, chef Junda Khoo shares how food connects him to home – one dish at a time

From the set of *MasterChef Australia* to the bustling dining rooms of Sydney and Melbourne, chef-proprietor Junda Khoo has built a culinary empire that brings the bold, layered flavours of Malaysia to Australia. Today, the Ho Jiak Group boasts eight restaurants, including Ho Jiak Haymarket, Ho Jiak Town Hall, Amah in Chatswood, Da Bao in Melbourne and soon, Tam Jiak at the new Sydney Fish Market.

Scaling up has not been without challenges. For Khoo, the hardest part was maintaining authenticity and consistency across outlets. “When you only have one location, it’s easier to manage everything yourself – the food, the service, the experience,” he says. “But once you start expanding, you need systems and a team that believes in the same vision.”

Adapting to different markets was another challenge. Each neighbourhood has its own food

scene, so the team tailored menus and marketing to local tastes while staying true to the Ho Jiak experience.

At the heart of Ho Jiak’s success is Khoo’s unwavering commitment to Malaysian cuisine, shaped as much by memory as by tradition. Many of his signatures – laksa simmered for hours and wagyu rendang rich with spice – draw inspiration from his late grandmother’s cooking. His darker wok-charred version of char kway teow, once dismissed as “inauthentic”, has since become the restaurant’s most beloved dish. “I wasn’t trying to be authentic. I’m not trying to be original. I’m just trying to make food that means something,” he says.

For Malaysians abroad, his restaurants offer comfort and belonging. Khoo remembers being

constantly homesick when he first came to Australia at age 16. “The best way to cure that was to eat Malaysian food,” he says, “and that’s why I started Ho Jiak.” Here, every plate introduces international diners to Malaysia’s unique cultural blend – Chinese, Indian, Malay and Nyonya influences all woven together in one cuisine. “Every dish is like an ambassador. It tells the story about who we are,” he adds.

Khoo is now reconnecting with home through TalentCorp’s MyHeart platform, which links Malaysians abroad with opportunities to give back. He envisions collaborations with fellow Malaysian chefs and restaurants, creating experiences that celebrate the nation’s culinary diversity.

“From the top of my head, there are so many things I’d love to do,” he says. “Maybe a collaboration with another Malaysian restaurant or even a guided food tour where I can bring people to the places I love to eat and show them the beautiful parts of Malaysia. I’d also love to do a cooking show that explores the different regions, cultures and food that make Malaysia so special.”

Through MyHeart, Khoo hopes to turn these ideas into reality. “I only discovered MyHeart recently,” he adds, “but it’s already opening doors for me to reconnect and contribute back.”



Laksa

Strengthening Malaysia through its global talent

MyHeart by TalentCorp empowers Malaysians abroad to stay connected, share their expertise and proudly give back



Wherever life and opportunity may lead, the spirit of home remains. For Malaysians abroad, MyHeart (Malaysia at Heart) is the bridge that keeps that connection alive by creating a space to exchange ideas, share expertise and

rediscover the power of belonging to a place.

A platform for connection and collaboration

Developed by TalentCorp, MyHeart is more than a networking portal. It is a one-stop space where professionals, entrepreneurs

and students abroad can connect, collaborate and co-create with Malaysians worldwide. From Singapore to San Francisco, London to Kuala Lumpur, MyHeart unites Malaysians under one digital roof.

Staying engaged, wherever you are

MyHeart members can expand their professional networks, share knowledge and contribute to Malaysia's growth from anywhere in the world. The platform also offers access to events, inspiring stories of Malaysians abroad and a monthly newsletter to keep you connected and informed.



Providing support for returning Malaysians

For those considering a return home, MyHeart offers support through TalentCorp's Returning Expert Programme (REP), with incentives such as a flat 15% income tax rate, vehicle duty exemptions and facilitating a smooth and rewarding journey for foreign spouses and children.

To be part of MyHeart is to belong to something larger – a network of Malaysians with strong roots at home, with a shared purpose to shape Malaysia's future.



Register on myheart.my to be part of the global Malaysian community. Follow us on:

- IG: [myheart.malaysia](https://www.instagram.com/myheart.malaysia)
- X (Twitter): [myheartmsia](https://twitter.com/myheartmsia)
- FB: [MyHeart by TalentCorp](https://www.facebook.com/MyHeartbyTalentCorp)
- LinkedIn: [@Malaysia@Heart \(MyHeart\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MyHeart)



Into the wild at Belum Rainforest Resort

A serene retreat where nature, culture and purpose come together

When the year's end calls for calm, Belum Rainforest Resort beckons with quiet splendour. Nestled on Pulau Banding in Perak, this lush eco-luxury hideaway is a five-hour drive from Kuala Lumpur – a rare sanctuary where comfort and conservation meet in the ancient Royal Belum Rainforest.

Where comfort meets the canopy

Surrounded by misty emerald hills and the still waters of Lake Temenggor, the resort blends modern design with natural charm. Timber accents, earthy tones and panoramic views

invite rest and reflection, while private villas and lakefront rooms offer quiet intimacy. Every detail, from locally inspired cuisine to eco-conscious touches, is crafted to complement the rhythm of the forest.

Adventure, discovery and connection

Days here unfold at your own pace. Families and explorers alike can trace jungle trails to hidden waterfalls, glide across the lake by kayak or bamboo raft and visit nearby Orang Asli villages to discover their deep connection to the rainforest. Guided boat rides reveal hornbills overhead,

while night drives offer the rare thrill of spotting elephants along the forest edge. Each experience is enriched by the warmth of local guides and supported by the meaningful work of Yayasan EMKAY and the Pulau Banding Foundation, whose initiatives in conservation, education and community empowerment help Belum and its people thrive.

Nature is not just a backdrop in Belum – it's a way of being. Whether you're exploring deep within the rainforest or simply unwinding beneath the canopy, every moment restores something within.



The guardians of Belum: where purpose meets preservation



Yayasan EMKAY

- Founded in 2001 to uplift communities nationwide
- Focus: education, health, religion & social welfare
- Provides toy libraries and school programmes for Orang Asli children
- Conducts women's workshops, creating skills and income opportunities
- Holds "Green Ranger Malaysia" camps to reconnect youth with nature



Pulau Banding Foundation (PBF)

- Established in 2007 to protect the 130-million-year-old Belum-Temenggor Rainforest
- Documented 500+ species through research and expeditions
- Partners with universities and conservation bodies
- Empowers Orang Asli communities through eco-tourism and stewardship
- Promotes harmony between people and the rainforest



Brice

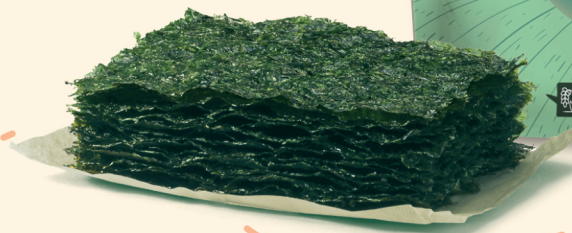
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A photograph of a two-story colonial-style building with a central courtyard. The building has a light yellow facade, white columns, and arched windows with green shutters. The courtyard is paved with grey stones and features a central tree, yellow flowers, and other greenery. The sky is blue with some clouds.

A PERFECT WEEKEND IN

Medan

Words Cheryl Marella

Sumatra's cultural and culinary hub tells Asia's story through its food and markets, best savoured over three days

A gateway to Lake Toba and Sumatra's lush jungles, Medan is Indonesia's fourth-largest city.

Also known as the Kitchen of Asia, it has been shaped by centuries of migration, trade and empire.

From Batak highland villages and Chinese shophouses, to Malay courts and Indian temples, each community has added spice to the pot. The result is a city whose food tells Asia's story.

Spend three days here and you'll see how Medan brings food, history and identity together – you'll be rewarded for lingering rather than just passing through.

Day 1 Old Medan, old flavours

Morning. Begin in Kesawan, Medan's historic district, where the past lingers in crumbling shophouses and grand colonial façades. At its heart stands **Tjong A Fie Mansion** (105 Jln Jend Ahmad Yani; tjongafiemansion.org), a former home of the Hakka merchant who helped shape Medan in the early 20th century. His legacy of philanthropy, trade and cultural diplomacy is etched into the teak staircases and stained-glass windows.

Step outside and cross the street to **Tip Top Restaurant** (92A-B Jln Jend Ahmad Yani; tiptop-medan.com), a colonial-era institution that has barely changed since the 1930s. Dutch planters once lingered over coffee here, and today locals still come for buttery



Previous page:
Tjong A Fie Mansion in Kesawan, Medan's historic district

Clockwise from top:
Tjong A Fie Mansion's second-floor ballroom; Pasar Petisah; fruits like durian are sold at Pajak Sukaramai; kway teow goreng





spekkoek (layer cake) and *nasi goreng* (fried rice) special. The tiled floors, revolving cake display and attentive service make it feel like a time capsule.

Afternoon. To understand Medan, head to its markets. At **Pasar Petisah** (3 Jln Kota Baru), traders sell everything from batik to bowls of chilli paste so fiery they sting the air. Try *soto* Medan, a coconut milk soup bright with turmeric and spiced with nutmeg, served with beef or chicken – a reminder that Sumatra once anchored the global spice trade.

Stroll towards **Pajak Sukaramai** (Jln Arief Rahman Hakim), where rows of tropical fruits gleam like jewels: rambutan, mangosteen, salak and the notorious durian. Medan takes pride in its durian – creamier and sweeter than its rivals – and locals will tell you the city smells best in durian season.

Evening. Medan comes alive after dark at **Merdeka Walk** (Jln Balai Kota, Kesawan), a bustling food court beneath banyan trees. Order *kway teow goreng* (stir-fried flat noodles) with Chinese-Sumatran flair, then follow with *martabak mesir*, an Indian-influenced pancake stuffed with egg and spiced meat. End with *es campur* Medan – shaved ice layered with jackfruit, palm fruit, syrup and condensed milk. Chaotic, sweet and unmistakably Medan.



Day 2 Migration on a plate

Morning. Begin with Malay flavours at **Rumah Makan Tabona** (17 Jln Mangkubumi; tabona.co.id), a Medan favourite famous for its fragrant *kari kambing* (goat curry) and *kari sapi* (beef curry). Order them with *roti jala*, the delicate netted pancakes made for soaking up curry. This dish captures centuries of trade – Indian spices folded into Malay kitchens, becoming something uniquely Medanese. Over



Clockwise from left:
 Rahmat International Wildlife
 Museum & Gallery; Great
 Mosque of Medan; Vihara
 Gunung Timur, Southeast
 Asia's largest Taoist temple;
 Kampung Madras, the Little
 India of Medan



this humble yet historic breakfast, you begin to understand why Medan is called the Kitchen of Asia.

Walk off breakfast at the **Great Mosque of Medan**, also known as **Masjid Raya Al-Mashun** (*Jln Sisingamangaraja*), built in 1906. Its domes blend Moroccan, Indian and Malay styles, just as Medan itself blends diverse influences. Nearby stands the **Maimun Palace**, a relic of the Deli Sultanate, where golden halls recall the days when Malay sultans ruled this port city.

Afternoon. For lunch, surrender to the abundance of nasi Padang at **Garuda Restaurant** (*8 Jln Gajah Mada; restorangaruda.com*). The ritual is almost theatrical: waiters place plates onto the table until it overflows – spicy rendang sapi, chilli-laced ayam pop, tangy jackfruit curry and crisp cassava leaves. The communal style of dining, with countless small plates, reflects both Padang's Minangkabau roots and Medan's appetite for plenty.

Next, head to **Kampung Madras** (*Jln KH Zainul Arifin*), Medan's Little India. Here the air is fragrant with curry leaves and cardamom. South Indian traders and Tamil workers who arrived a century ago left their mark in temples, sari shops and spice stalls. Sip *teh tarik* (pulled tea) at a streetside stall and nibble on fritters – banana or lentil (*vadai*) dipped in chickpea batter.





Evening. Dinner belongs to Batak flavours. At **Rumah Makan BPK Horas** (*Jln Medan-Pematang Siantar*), you'll find dishes that carry the spirit of Lake Toba's highlands. Try *ikan arsik* – golden carp simmered with torch ginger, turmeric and andaliman, the Batak pepper that tingles like Sichuan. Pair it with the vegetarian-friendly *daun ubi tumbuk*, pounded cassava leaves with chilli. Bold and earthy, Batak cuisine invokes volcanic soil and a fierce spirit.

Day 3 Colonial legacies

Morning. Start with a strong cup of *kopi tubruk* (hot water poured over ground coffee without filtering) at **Kedai Kopi Ong** (*83A Jln Tangguk Bongkar*), a humble Chinese coffeehouse where regulars have gathered for decades. Pair it with *bakpao* (steamed Chinese buns) or *cheong fun* (rice noodle rolls) to taste the enduring influence of Medan's Chinese community.

Then head to **Vihara Gunung Timur** (*16 Jln Hang Tuah*), Southeast Asia's largest Taoist temple, where incense coils toward painted dragons. The temple reflects the deep roots of Medan's Chinese diaspora, whose kitchens gave the city dumplings, noodles and herbal broths.

Afternoon. Medan's sweet tooth has its own history. Don't miss **Bika Ambon Zulaikha** (*Jln Gagak Hitam*) for its

honeycomb-textured cake that was perfected here. Another classic is *lapis legit*, a thousand-layer cake of Dutch origin, baked for colonial elites but now embraced by locals. These cakes are more than desserts; they're edible archives of migration and empire.

To walk it off, head toward **Jalan Zainul Arifin**, one of Medan's busiest thoroughfares. Here, the city's contrasts come alive: gleaming malls and gold shops sit beside traditional restaurants and decades-old coffee houses, while new cafés and F&B outlets buzz with young crowds. It's a snapshot of modern Medan – a city constantly reinventing itself while staying rooted in tradition. While there, visit the **Rahmat International Wildlife Museum & Gallery** (*309 Jln S Parman*; rahmatgallery.com), a quirky collection that reflects the city's eccentric character.

Evening. End your weekend with a feast at **Jala Jala Nelayan** (*30 Jln Gatot Subroto*; restoran-nelayan.id), renowned for its seafood and dim sum. Step inside and you'll find families gathered over round tables, the air filled with the buzz of steaming baskets being opened and plates of fresh dishes arriving in quick succession. There's no rush here; meals are meant to be shared and savoured. Raise a glass – or a fresh coconut – to toast Medan, a city whose strength lies in blending differences into something communal, and inviting you to taste its soul.

Where to stay



Hotel Deli River

A serene retreat with Batak-inspired décor and tropical gardens, just outside the heart of Medan. Rooms are housed in three separate cottages, each with its own private veranda. hotel-deliriver.com



JW Marriott Medan

The city's luxury address with fine dining and panoramic views of Sumatra's capital. On top of six restaurants, it houses a spa, whirlpool, outdoor pool, hair salon, fitness centre and on-site laundry. marriott.com



Aryaduta Medan

Centrally located with a rooftop pool, ideal for first-time visitors. It features modern rooms with elegant furnishings and a restaurant serving Indonesian and European cuisine. aryaduta.com



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rich, immersive audio. A 12.3-inch digital cluster and heads-up display keep vital information in view and the 360° camera with parking assist simplifies manoeuvring.

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READY, (RE)SET, GO IN

A man wearing a dark t-shirt, shorts, a baseball cap, and glasses is sitting on a concrete bench. He is playing an acoustic guitar and singing into a microphone on a stand. To his right, on the bench, are a small amplifier and a black electronic device. The background features a building with a sign that reads "GRAPH COFFEE CO." and a large tree with hanging ferns. String lights are strung across the scene.

Beyond its ancient temples and misty peaks, Thailand's northern capital boasts a new wave of craft and culture spaces where travellers can stretch their imagination and reconnect with their spark

CHIANG MAI

Words **Parisa Pichitmarn** Photography **Lek Kiatsirikajorn**

For the creatively inclined and artsy types, Thailand's northern capital, Chiang Mai,

has always beckoned those in search of an ambience conducive to producing their magnum opus. Countless nationally famous Thai pop bands have originated from Chiang Mai, and the box-office hit and classic film *Dear Dakanda* (2005) immortalised the pains of an art student who gets friend-zoned while studying at Chiang Mai University.

Two decades ago, I had even fantasised about going to college there, as opposed to the mainstream names in Bangkok, so I could be seen as “indie” and “cool”. Those college plans never materialised, but Chiang Mai continues to attract those seeking inspiration and a creative reset.

The city is known for its moss-covered forest temples and hiking routes on verdant mountains, but these days it has become a hotbed of creative enclaves likely to inspire an epiphany. Designed to bring heritage, community and contemporary flair together, these spaces refashion Chiang Mai's reputation as a city of makers into one-of-a-kind destinations that meet modern needs (and my appetite for a striking trinket). Many Thais, seeking the mild chill of cooler weather, begin their escape here in November.

ONE SUCH HUB IS THE 91-YEAR-OLD ANUSARN Building, located on the eastern fringe just beyond the square block of the Old City. The two-storey Lanna colonial building was built by modernist businessman Luang Anusarn Suntorn during an era when steel rods had to be brought in by train from Bangkok. In its former life, the commercial premises included the family's office, a salt storage shed, agricultural equipment retail and one of the first auto repair garages for foreign cars such as Land Rovers.

“You won't find this building aesthetic anywhere else in Chiang Mai because Luang Anusarn designed this building himself,” says the founder's great-great-granddaughter, Arisa Nimmanahaeminda. “It looks like a townhouse in the front, but the back of the building is completely different, with a roof that has a dramatic slant. Even locals who have never come here before are astonished to see that and the big court in the back.”

Nimmanahaeminda revived her family's heritage building in 2022, turning it into a hub for young local businesses, workshop studios and cultural events. Today, visitors can easily find floral bouquet workshops, ramen,





Previous spread:
A scene from Baan Kang
Wat Artist Village

**This spread (clockwise
from bottom left):**
Anusarn Building's
façade; Building A
café; Daily Delight
café; Luang Anusarn's
great-great-
granddaughter Arisa
Nimmanahaeminda;
Withee Laab eatery



craft coffee, choux pastries and everything from vintage finds to traditional Lanna costumes in pastel colours.

An old-world charm and the mercantile past of one of Chiang Mai's most prominent families surround you at every turn, from the antique steam locomotive in the back court to vintage typewriters in the cafés. You'll find real industrial grunge while sipping on a Coconut Milk Dirty at Building A café, or a historically dense atmosphere while tucking into *laab* (minced meat salad) at Withee Laab.

"That wooden shed used to be a salt storage, as Chiang Mai is landlocked and we needed to get salt supplies from Bangkok back in the day," explains Nimmanahaeminda. "It's fitting that it's now a laab restaurant!"







This spread:
Scenes from Baan Kang
Wat Artist Village



“

I stumbled upon clay figurines piled from floor to ceiling, and artisans at work in open studios and cafés that made it easy to spend an entire afternoon here”

The defining draw of Anusarn Building, however, is its role as a community magnet. Crowds come together every first Sunday of the month for Sanpakoi Street Market to trawl for homemade crafts and bites. You may also chance upon completely offbeat events such as the Baltic Summer Solstice Festival, where visitors from as far as Estonia, with floral headbands in their hair, come to dance around campfires.

“Just walking around in Chiang Mai already chills you out because of the [cool] weather and the atmosphere, where people are not in a hurry,” laughs Nimmanahaeminda. “It’s suited to creatives who want to spend time with their thoughts and talk to other people who like art too.”

I KNEW I HAD TO HEAD TO BAAN KANG WAT ARTIST Village to see more of Chiang Mai’s arts and crafts. At the base of Doi Suthep mountain, on the city’s western edge, a cluster of low-rise Thai homes made of wood, concrete and corrugated metal roofs has been transformed into open-air studios and shops selling all manner of handmade curiosities.

These humble structures are far from architectural showpieces, yet with smiling traffic mirrors, bursts of colourful paintings and hand-painted signs, they take on an irresistibly quaint appeal. I happily snapped away until my attention was stolen by a storeowner’s turtle shuffling past in a Santa hat.

Baan Kang Wat is the place to find some of Chiang Mai’s quirkiest creations. At Kaptor Store, stationery is emblazoned with a hilarious, deadpan duck character, while Note a Book tempts with handmade journals bound in old maps and magazine collages.

Better still, you can make your own keepsakes. Pottery painting, woodcut printing, jewellery beading – there’s something inherently soothing about the process of crafting. As I wandered the maze of shops, I stumbled upon clay figurines piled from floor to ceiling, and artisans at work in open studios and cafés that made it easy to spend an entire afternoon here.

AFTER MY FILL OF PROVINCIAL WHIMSY – AND enough stickers shaped like bowls of khao soi to last a lifetime – I was ready for something sleeker. Back in the Old Town, Kalm Village offered exactly that. Since 2021, this art, craft and culture centre has grown into a complex of nine buildings arranged around two courtyards, their contemporary Asian design enough to make architecture enthusiasts pause in admiration.

Despite its newness, Kalm Village is far from generic. Upcycled teak and grey bricks, patterned to resemble woven textiles, root it in history while pointing towards a more sustainable future. “If we want arts and crafts to continue, we must admit that it may not serve our modern needs anymore,” says co-founder Achariyar Rojanapirom, who developed the project with her brother Araya. “We reference history and our roots, but materials, colours and design must evolve. A few

CHIANG MAI

years ago, we showcased a master weaver's furniture made with recycled plastic but still featuring traditional designs."

Inside, the pace slows. I drifted from a permanent textile museum to rotating exhibitions, from lifestyle shops to a restaurant serving the founders' grandmother's recipes. The standouts for me were the light-filled library and the Glass Pavilion on the rooftop, a space with sweeping views of terracotta roofs and Chedi Luang temple. Here, sunrise yoga sessions and workshops on weaving or hairpin-making bring creativity into daily life.

"Chiang Mai is such a special place because it was once the Lanna Kingdom, with its own history and remnants you can still see," Rojanapirom explained. "Many artisans continue to produce their work and are very open to sharing their knowledge. It's easier to connect here than in bigger cities."

The pandemic, she added, was a turning point. Returning home during that period gave her the chance to start Kalm Village. "It was a catalyst that made people see value in community and connectivity. Craftwork itself is tangible and so is community building. A physical space that houses people, craftwork and culture will never die, because humans need that no matter how digital our lives become."

As I listened, I realised how much I needed this kind of recharge myself. Visiting these spaces felt as invigorating as trekking the mountains or stepping into a centuries-old temple. It was a relief to know that while I never studied art or design at university, wandering through Chiang Mai's creative enclaves made me feel as though imagination can be sparked at any point in life. Sometimes, the right setting is enough to coax new ideas to the surface.



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Chiang Mai 7x weekly.



“

A physical space that houses people, craftwork and culture will never die because humans need that no matter how digital our lives become”



This spread (clockwise from bottom left):
Scenes from Kalm Village – a crafts workshop; rooftop yoga class; Kalm co-founders Achariyar Rojanapirom and her brother, Araya; Museum of Makers; view of the Glass Pavilion

Where to stay in Chiang Mai's Old City



99 The Heritage Hotel

A short walk from Chedi Luang temple, this charming colonial-style hotel has 26 well-appointed rooms with balconies, a poolside bar, a garden and a restaurant, and offers free bicycles and a hot tub. 99theheritagehotels.com



Phor Liang Meun Terracotta Arts Hotel

Just steps away from the Chiang Mai Gate Market, this boutique hotel features hand-carved terracotta design, lavishly decorated rooms and a saltwater pool. terracottahotelcm.com



El Barrio Lanna

Close to major temples and markets, this boutique hotel has a charming, oasis-like environment with serene rooms and a swimming pool. It also offers private check-in/out and free airport transfers. elbarriolanna.com



Firewood Penang is a real flame-changer

With Ker Yang Hao as chef, this steakhouse in George Town is *the* place for quality steaks and chargrilled goodness

The heart of Penang's culinary identity may lie in its traditional street food scene, but the city's new crop of restaurants offers another compelling reason to visit Malaysia's Pearl of the Orient. One such spot which has been earning praise is Firewood Penang, tucked away in Unesco-listed George Town and led by 31-year-old chef Ker Yang Hao.

Ker honed his craft in Singapore's prestigious kitchens, including at The St. Regis and Gordon Ramsay's Bread Street Kitchen at Marina Bay Sands, before returning home to Malaysia. He owes his inspiration to Ramsay, "It's not

about his culinary skill. It's about how he managed 70 restaurants all at once and managed to do it so successfully," Ker says.

Housed in a nearly decade-old building, Ker's 2025 Michelin Selected Restaurant elevates the art of cooking over open flames, creating meaningful connections between people through food and fire, and paying homage to Penang's heritage.

"Before we opened, there were a lot of different cafés and fine dining establishments, so not many people were running casual dining restaurants with good food. Over at Firewood Penang, you'll see people bringing their kids, but also suit-wearing corporates who just want to relax, savour quality food and bond over wine. It's a good environment," Ker says. "It's rare to find but casual dining is picking up and positioning is very important, so when you think of Firewood Penang, you think steaks."

That success has fuelled Firewood's next chapter – the steakhouse will soon fire up its grills on the mainland in

Kuala Lumpur, opening a new location at Star Boulevard KLCC this December.

Firewood Penang's menu is extensive, spotlighting steaks, heartwarming dishes and chef specialities. Even the appetisers embrace the flame, from the smoky Charcoal Burnt Caesar to delicately charred dishes like Miso Eggplant, Garlic Shrimp with Charred Cabbage, Firewood Truffle Mushroom Soup, Crabmeat Tagliatelle Pasta, a selection of Certified Australian Angus and not forgetting the Japanese A5 Miyazaki Wagyu Ribeye.

While Ker prioritises quality and cooking methods, when asked about his all-time favourite ingredient to use in his cooking, Ker says he keeps it as simple as possible.

"I'm a steak-lover; I only use salt and pepper for steak as it brings out a really good flavour. We also use fresh ingredients for the other dishes on the menu."

Firewood Penang is at 15 Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, George Town, Penang. For reservations, go to firegroup.my or call +60 17-9899246.



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A photograph of a luxurious train interior. The space is filled with plush blue patterned armchairs and small yellow upholstered ottomans. The ceiling is high with a series of arched wooden beams and ornate light fixtures. Large potted plants with white flowers are placed throughout the room. In the background, a bar area and a piano are visible.

Time

machine



In Paris, life takes an elegant turn aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express – a living showcase of Art Deco splendour that celebrates 100 years of timeless glamour in 2025

Words **Kissa Castañeda**

You could feel the anticipation as the legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express (VSOE) pulled into the platform.

Everyone, from random passers-by to excited passengers, had their phones at the ready, like paparazzi with their roving lenses.

Walking up close, the first thing I noticed was the train's sparkling navy façade – each of the 15 carriages was polished to perfection. The wheels were so pristine that Catherine, our escort from Belmond, joked that “you could lick them”.

I had expected the VSOE to be beautiful, but I wasn't quite prepared for just how much of a showstopper it was in person. With white-gloved porters buzzing around the platform and immaculately coiffed stewards leading guests onto the train, it felt like being in a scene from *The Great Gatsby*.

“Everyone knows about it, but not everyone is aware that it's still running,” says renowned French artist JR, who



Previous spread, left to right: The Venice Simplon Express bar; the train awaits passengers on the platform

This spread: Lavish interiors, immaculate service and a journey across five countries make the VSOE unforgettable





designed an opulent sleeper carriage for the VSOE, called L'Observatoire, which launched in April. "The train is the biggest celebrity of all. Have you seen how many people take pictures when it stops at a station?"

As the setting of a movie adaptation of an Agatha Christie novel, and multiple references in films such as *Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning*, its storied reputation precedes it. How does it compare to real life? I was about to find out.

Past perfect

Our steward Antonina stood in front of Carriage H and led my husband and I to Le Lac – one of the four suites with interiors styled in the mould of René Lalique, the father of Art Deco, as well as Maurice Dufrene, a decorative artist behind the Maîtrise workshop at Galeries Lafayette in Paris during the 1920s.

The train is a time capsule to the glamour of the Art Deco period, and it felt fitting that I was on board during its centenary. Introduced at the Paris Expo in 1925, Art Deco (short for Arts Décoratifs) flourished in the Roaring Twenties and its influence hasn't waned to this day. For anyone who has an interest in the movement, a journey on this train from Paris to Venice is the ultimate immersion.

The original 1920s and 1930s hand-restored carriages are an ode to that era – my suite was furnished with handsome wood marquetry with mother-of-pearl inlay, furniture swathed in sumptuous velvet and gold fringes and



IMAGES: BOBY (VIEW OF PORTOFINO), COURTESY OF KISSA CISTANEDA (TRAIN STEWARD)

“

With white-gloved porters and immaculately coiffed stewards leading guests onto the train, it felt like being in a scene from *The Great Gatsby*”



This spread:
Savour sumptuous dining as you admire the breathtaking landscape

an en-suite bathroom clad in marble, with heated mosaic flooring too.

The other carriages carried the same look and feel, with wood so shiny you can see the scenery outside reflected on it. Ensconced in this decadent Art Deco bubble felt like being in a living, breathing and moving museum.

A moveable feast

The sound of popping champagne corks filled the carriage as the train pulled away from the station. Even the most jaded traveller would find it hard not to be swept away by the level of luxury on board. Only minutes in, it was clear that this would be a journey of a lifetime.



I had barely digested the welcome snacks and it was already time for lunch. We headed to the L'Oriental, a stylish restaurant car dressed in rich green, and I was served a glass of Veuve Clicquot as soon as I sat down. I tucked into sea bream with roasted vegetables and enjoyed another side dish: a mesmerising view of the mountains.

The signature overnight journey from Paris to Venice (or the other way around) traverses five countries: France, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Austria and Italy. Crossing borders in Europe is second nature for most of us now, but a similar trip was extremely difficult, perhaps even dangerous, in the past. It brings into focus how much travel has progressed over the century, connecting us largely for the better.

Not long after lunch, Antonina came to the cabin bearing tea, coffee and a tiered tower stocked with petite sandwiches and dessert. There was a slight drizzle as we passed rolling hills of coniferous pine trees – a quick check on Google Maps showed we were crossing a ski resort – which explained why my ears were popping. You could easily get lost just looking at the dreamy, bucolic scenery,



which is my excuse for why I barely read the book I brought for the trip.

Soon it was time for dinner and we headed to L'Etoile du Nord, one of the three original dining cars of the VSOE. While elsewhere we would be overdressed in an evening gown and a tuxedo, finery is par for the course aboard the Orient Express. There were guests in flapper ensembles and custom-made suits; going all out was positively encouraged.

Fog began to shroud the trees, making for a romantic start to the four-course meal. I was still in awe of how they serve – let alone cook – on a train moving at full speed. Not a plate out of place nor a drop of wine spilt by our server, Andrea, who, like everyone else we met, really seemed to love their work.

As we were enjoying the cheese course, a singer and live guitarist suddenly entered the restaurant car playing Nat King Cole's "L-O-V-E", with some of the servers joining in. When they arrived at our table, they serenaded us with Frank Sinatra's "Somethin' Stupid", which coincidentally was my parents' favourite song.



Clockwise from left: Send postcards of your trip – a signature VSOE touch; the gleaming perfection of the interiors; immaculately plated snacks on board

A shared connection

Aside from the set mealtimes – and there are plenty of them – there is nothing else on the itinerary. That's exactly the point: reliving the Golden Age of travel means embracing the slower pace of the past, which includes sending postcards via snail mail (a special old-school touch aboard the Orient Express). This is the kind of relaxation that comes when the journey is your actual destination.

A pleasant surprise is the notable absence of people staring at their mobile phones. Yes, guests were using their devices to take pictures but no one had their eyes glued to a screen. As a result, conversations flowed as smoothly as



“

The train is a time capsule to the glamour of the Art Deco period, and it felt fitting that I was on board during its centenary”

the champagne was poured. This train is more than a luxurious journey – it offers a momentary escape from reality.

When I woke up the next day to flaky croissants and freshly brewed coffee in bed, everything that had unfolded the night before felt like a dream sequence. More than the exquisite meals curated by chef Jean Imbert, more than the incredible Art Deco interiors, more than the musicians sending us off with a song, what I’ll remember most is how I felt like a better version of myself – that alone is priceless.



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



Explore Paris’ top attractions with a single pass.

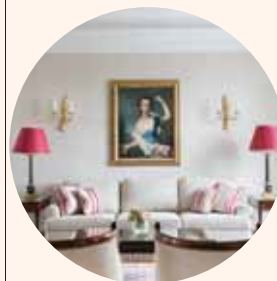
Deco dreaming

Paris is a living tribute to the Art Deco movement. Here are three must-stops for every enthusiast



VISIT

Palais de Tokyo, Europe’s largest contemporary art centre, stands as a bold Art Deco landmark echoing the Jazz Age. For deeper immersion: the **Musée des Arts Décoratifs** has permanent galleries dedicated to the movement, while the **Musée des Années 30** overflows with treasures that capture the daring spirit of the 1930s.



STAY

For Gatsby-esque indulgence, few addresses rival **Le Bristol Paris**, a grande dame turning 100 in 2025. Its creamy limestone façade, a study in Art Deco elegance, stands out along Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré. Inside, you’re transported further into the past: gilded salons, antiques and tapestries evoke the grandeur of 18th-century France, complemented with warm service to make you feel at home. Aside from relaxing in your palatial room, savour Michelin-starred cuisine at Epicure, explore the formal gardens or slip upstairs to the rooftop pool with sweeping views across the Parisian skyline.



EAT

Credited for inventing the modern oyster bar, the iconic Parisian caviar house **Prunier** opened its doors in 1924. Just steps from the Arc de Triomphe, its Avenue Victor Hugo maison – now Prunier by Yannick Alléno – dazzles with a teal mosaic façade and sumptuous Pierre Frey fabrics, an Art Deco jewel reimagined for modern indulgence.

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THIS IS MALAYSIAN HOSPITALITY



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

70

**Inside
our airlines**

News and updates
from MAG Airlines

80

**Discover our
network**

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

85

**Onboard
entertainment**

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

Malaysia and Australia closer than ever with new codeshare flights

Malaysia Airlines and Qantas, both members of the oneworld alliance, have joined forces with a new codeshare partnership, making it easier than ever to hop between Malaysia and Australia. Travellers can now enjoy seamless connections from Kuala Lumpur to Australia's hubs – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane – and onward to gems like Darwin, Hobart, Canberra and Launceston. Meanwhile, Qantas passengers gain smooth access to Malaysia's tropical islands and cultural hotspots, from Langkawi and Kota Kinabalu to Penang and Kuching. The news comes as Malaysia Airlines prepares to ramp up its Australian services from this quarter onwards, including the return of Brisbane flights and added frequencies to Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Adelaide. With the comfort of the new A330neo and perks through Enrich and Qantas Frequent Flyer, this partnership opens the door to more choice, flexibility and unforgettable journeys.

Malaysia Airlines partners with domestic tourism boards ahead of Visit Malaysia Year 2026

Malaysia Airlines is teaming up with state tourism boards to showcase the country's diverse attractions ahead of Visit Malaysia Year 2026. Building on its "Time For" campaign and Bonus Side Trip programme, the airline is encouraging travellers to look beyond gateway cities and explore destinations like Langkawi, Sarawak and Penang.

From Langkawi's Unesco-listed geoparks to Sarawak's rainforests and Penang's world-renowned food and heritage, the partnerships highlight the country's cultural and natural treasures while driving new opportunities for tourism growth.

As the national carrier, Malaysia Airlines remains committed to delivering seamless journeys that carry the nation's pride across the skies and inspire travellers to experience the best of Asia.



Experience thrills and spills in the SNOW



Chase new adventures in Asia's best winter destinations.

📍 Hakuba Valley, Japan

See pristine Japanese slopes from above in well-known destinations like Hakuba Valley, which once hosted the Winter Olympics. Just a 3-hour train ride away from Tokyo, the valley boasts stunning alpine views, relaxing onsens and cosy stays, perfect for both adventure and zen.

The year-end brings endless possibilities, with many countries entering the cool embrace of winter. Every adventurous soul starts looking for ways to see the best of snowy slopes, and the best one? Snowboarding.

Whether you're a beginner finding your balance or an expert carving your way through fresh snowfall, Asia offers world-class snowboarding spots that promise a combination of excitement and scenery, giving you the most unforgettable holiday yet.

📍 Yongpyong Resort, Korea

Winter in Korea is an exciting affair. From snowboarding to sledding, there are activities for everyone, especially in beautiful places like Vivaldi Park or Yongpyong Resort – which also hosted the Winter Olympics – just one to two hours away from Seoul by car or train.



📍 Harbin, China

Step into a winter wonderland the likes of which you've never seen before, in the awe-inspiring Harbin. Fly from either Beijing or Shanghai, or choose to take a scenic 5-6 hour train ride from Beijing. With towering ice castles, unique snow sculptures and more, Harbin is an unparalleled destination for not only views but also for some thrilling snow activities.



Experience your next winter adventure with Malaysian Hospitality on board.

Scan to book now or visit holidays.malaysiaairlines.com



+



Think holidays,
think **MH**olidays



Malaysia Aviation Group takes off with all-women crew flight

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) recently marked another significant achievement in its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) journey with flight MH2610 from Kuala Lumpur to Kota Kinabalu – powered entirely by women. From check-in and ground handling to engineering, cabin crew and pilots, every part of the journey was led by its female workforce.

The special flight on 17 September highlighted MAG's commitment to inclusivity while celebrating the expertise and leadership of women across aviation.

Through initiatives like Women@MAG, the Group continues to inspire future generations to pursue careers in aviation and STEM, proving that Malaysian Hospitality soars higher when everyone has a chance to lead.



Fly, stay and save with Langkawi Special Deals!

Langkawi is calling – and now it comes with exclusive savings. The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) and Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) have launched the Langkawi Special Deals campaign, offering up to 30% off hotels, attractions, dining, duty-free shopping and more.

With MHHolidays, travellers can enjoy

Flight+Hotel packages with savings up to RM400, while Journify adds an extra RM30 rebate on tours and attractions.

Running from 1 October to 31 December 2025, the campaign makes it the perfect time to rediscover the Jewel of Kedah with seamless travel, unforgettable stays and the warmth of Malaysian Hospitality.





Fly, Earn and Redeem
Your Corporate Enrich Points

MHcorporate 



Find out more at malaysiaairlines.com/mhcorporate

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Your Gateway to
Asia & Beyond



Special menu highlight: Gà Kho Tàu (Vietnamese braised chicken)

Every dish tells a story, and

this November, Malaysia Airlines invites passengers to savour a cherished Vietnamese classic.

Gà Kho Tàu is a beloved comfort dish where tender chicken is slowly braised in a caramelised blend of soy sauce, fish sauce and spices. A gently simmered egg soaks up the sweet and savoury sauce, adding richness and depth to every bite.

As part of our Best of Asia menu, this homestyle favourite will be served on selected flights from Kuala Lumpur to Sabah and Sarawak throughout the month, and on regional routes until the end of December.

In Business Class, the dish is elevated with fragrant steamed rice, blanched bok choy and a crisp side of pickled daikon and carrot.

Economy Class guests will enjoy the same accompaniments, with half a boiled egg to complement the braised chicken.

What makes Gà Kho Tàu special is its simplicity: the slow braising

process transforms humble ingredients into a dish that is both flavourful and deeply satisfying – a reminder that travel isn't just about where you go, but also the tastes that stay with you along the way.

The Best of Asia menu celebrates the region's diverse culinary heritage, turning every meal into a story worth savouring at 30,000ft. So sit back, relax and enjoy this journey of flavours.

Selamat menjamu selera!



▲
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AIRLINES. BOOK NOW!**



WHEN THEY TRAVEL, THEY GROW – AND SO DOES YOUR PEACE OF MIND



As parents, you want the best for your children – not just in their studies, but in the experiences that shape who they become. University years are not only about textbooks and exams. They are about independence, curiosity and friendships that stretch across borders. And often, the most meaningful lessons come when they step out into the world on their own.

Every trip they take brings them closer to the adults they are becoming. From learning to navigate a new city, to sharing stories with people from different cultures, travel teaches them responsibility, resilience and empathy – qualities every parent hopes to see flourish in their child. The skills they gain on the road can be just as valuable as those gained in the classroom, preparing them for life beyond graduation.

Of course, letting them spread their wings comes with its own challenges. You want to know they are supported and making choices that make sense – for them and for you.

Questions about affordability and flexibility often come to mind. After all, peace of mind is just as important as adventure when your child is thousands of miles away.

MHexplorer understands that supporting students also means reassuring parents. Specially designed for students, this programme makes travel more affordable, reliable and parent-approved. With up to 30% off fares, up to 45kg baggage allowance, flexible date changes and Enrich Points on every flight, it gives your children the freedom to explore, while giving you peace of mind. Even better, the benefits extend to family too, with exclusive promo codes so you can visit or welcome them home, more easily.

Whether it is a semester abroad, an internship opportunity, or a well-deserved break with friends, MHexplorer ensures your child has access to the right support as they take their first independent steps into the wider world.



Each journey becomes part of a bigger story – one of growth, connection and new perspectives that will last a lifetime.

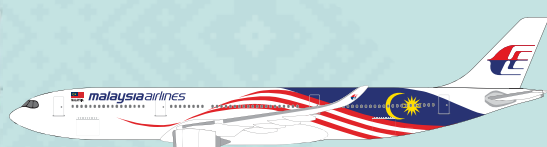
Because every journey is more than a trip – it is a chance for your student to grow, learn and bring home stories that will stay with them long after graduation. And with MHexplorer, you can feel confident knowing those journeys are supported by an airline that understands both students and parents.

Start their journey at malaysiaairlines.com/MHexplorer



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**

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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.

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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.



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.



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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.



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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.



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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.



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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.



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

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All food served onboard is halal. Special dietary meals can be prepared with 24-hour notice through "Manage My Booking" on 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)

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+ For more information, visit malaysiaairlines.com

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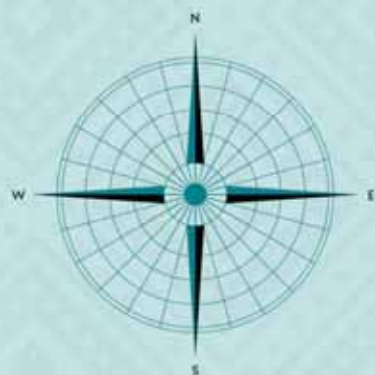
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OUR NETWORK

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELEN WINATA

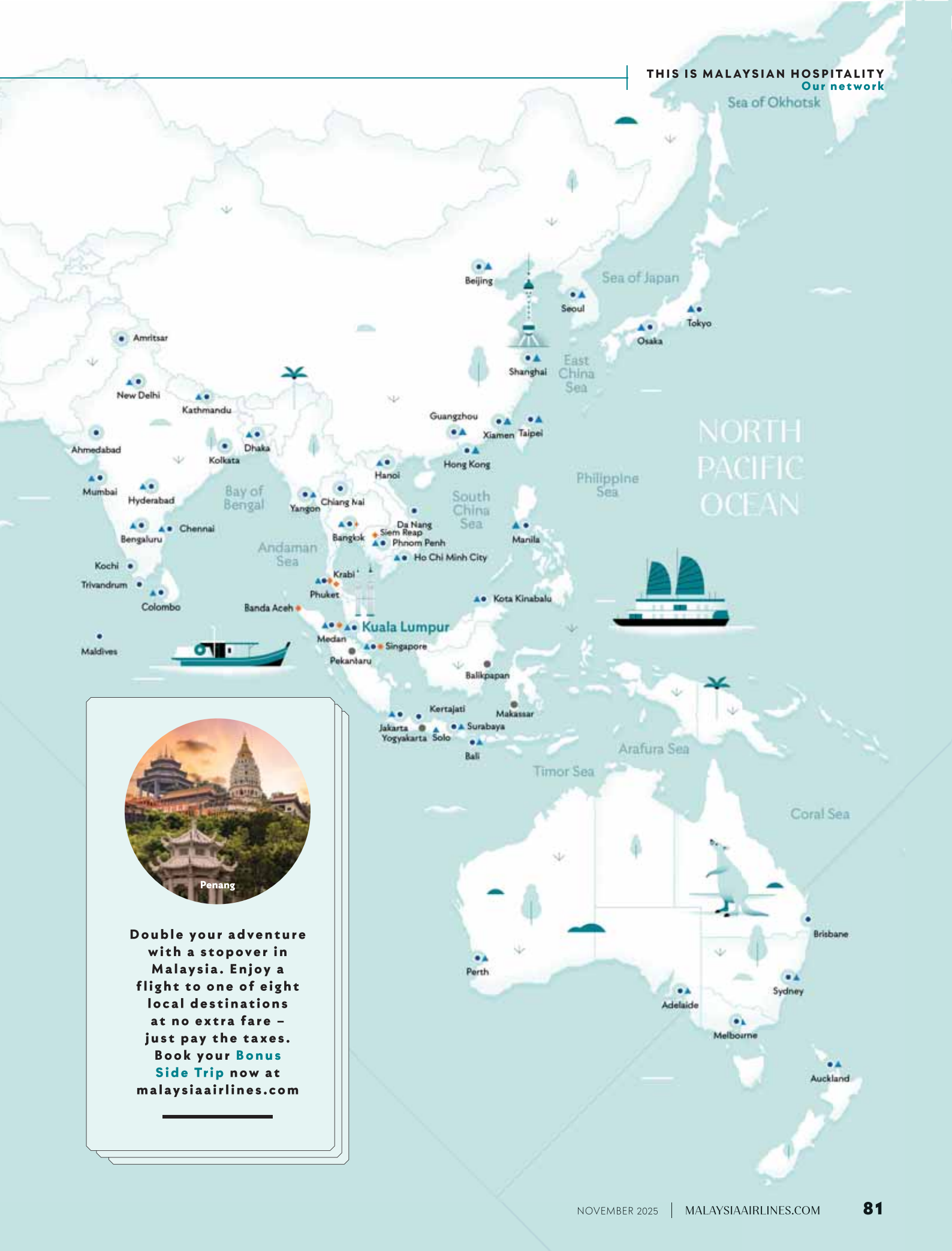
SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

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
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a **oneworld** member
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IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (BRISBANE)



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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)



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You can now surf the
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*MHconnect Wi-Fi service is available on selected A350 and A330 aircraft operated by Malaysia Airlines.

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Step 2

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*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



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Superman

Check out our World Children's Day Collection on page 90!



Smurfs



Panda Bear in Africa



Spider-Man:
Across the Spider-verse



Upin & Ipin

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

MOVIES



Superman

From director James Gunn comes this highly anticipated blockbuster, a reboot of *Man of Steel*. The film follows Superman's journey to reconcile his Kryptonian origins with his human upbringing as Clark Kent. To defend a world not yet ready for him, he must learn to harness his incredible powers, shaping him into the hero we know.



Under Fire



Dangerous Animals



Asian Persuasion



Sharp Corner

150+

more movies on
your IFE player

Hollywood LATEST



Final Destination: Bloodline

A college student, tormented by recurring nightmares foretelling her family's gruesome end, races home to find the one person who holds the key to saving them.



The Way, My Way

Based on a true story, this Australian drama chronicles the spiritual journey of a man who decides to walk the 800km Camino de Santiago in northern Spain.

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY



Smurfs

In this family comedy, the Smurfs flee their village from the evil wizard Gargamel, stumble into New York City and must find a way home before he tracks them down.



Panda Bear in Africa

A young panda goes on an unexpected journey to the African plains, making new friends and learning about courage and companionship along the way.



Four Letters of Love

Starring Pierce Brosnan and Helena Bonham Carter, this romantic drama spans two decades, weaving an epic tale of fated love, spiritual connection and the heart's mysterious power.



The Pickup

Directed by Tim Story, this action-comedy stars Eddie Murphy and Pete Davidson in a chaotic cross-country chase after a man wrongly accused of being a fugitive.



My Fault: London

In this steamy UK adaptation of the Spanish hit, a young woman clashes with her rebellious stepbrother, only to find herself drawn into a forbidden, passionate romance.

Hollywood Favourite Movies

The Equalizer Trilogy



The Equalizer

Denzel Washington stars as Robert McCall, a former black ops commando who exacts vengeance and justice after crossing paths with a young girl controlled by Russian gangsters.



The Equalizer 2

Denzel Washington reprises his role as Robert McCall in this action-packed sequel, where a murdered friend forces him to confront old foes and test his deadly skills.



The Equalizer 3

In the franchise's finale, Denzel Washington's Robert McCall finds peace in southern Italy, but when his friends fall under mafia control, he uses his ruthless skills to protect them.



The Departed



Empire of the Sun



Source Code



Total Recall



Dirty Rotten Scoundrels



Horrible Bosses



Yes Man



Get Hard



Rumor Has It...

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



WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

Kids Movie



Spider-Man: Across the Spider-verse

In this Oscar-winning franchise, Miles Morales journeys across the Multiverse, teaming up with Spider-People as he learns what true heroism is.



Kit Kittredge: An American Girl

Based on a beloved book series, this family film follows a Depression-era girl, played by Abigail Breslin, whose journalistic skills uncover a mystery.



Sonic Prime

After battling with Dr Eggman, Sonic is hurled into a parallel universe, racing across dimensions to reassemble the Prism Paradox and save his world.



Smurfs: The Lost Village



Tom and Jerry: Robin Hood and His Merry Mouse



Gigi & Nate



Tom and Jerry Tales



Scooby-Doo! & Batman: The Brave & the Bold



The Pink Panther

Malay Kids Show



Upin & Ipin

This beloved Malaysian animated series follows five-year-old twins Upin and Ipin and their friends, blending humour, heart and fun lessons about family and friendship.



Omar & Hana Series

A fun kids' show with colourful animation and lively stories, teaching values, good manners and life lessons while making screen time a joyful learning experience.

Kids Show



Bunnica

MHinsure

A Family's Guide to Worry-free Travel

“
WHAT IF
our luggage gets
lost? What if one
of the kids falls
sick overseas?”

The trip had been a dream for months, but for Emily, a mother of three, the excitement was real. She planned every detail, from securing the flights to crafting the perfect itinerary for a week of family fun. She knew that covering every detail meant planning for both the fun and the unexpected.

For many parents, questions like “What if our luggage gets lost? What if one of the kids falls sick overseas?” can trigger real anxiety. But Emily had already answered those questions. She had taken proactive steps to ensure that these unknowns were managed.

Knowing she had a safety net in place allowed her to focus on the joy of the trip—making incredible memories, not the possibility of a travel hiccup.

*Peace of mind,
found in the pages of
a magazine*

Emily recalled that she had seen an MHinsure ad that spoke directly to her concerns, highlighting how their travel protection plans could cover those “what ifs” that had kept her up at night.

Knowing that her family was covered **up to MYR 1 million** in medical care instantly removed her biggest overseas fear.

Similarly, the generous luggage and personal effects coverage of **up to MYR 7,500** quieted her worry about lost bags. She immediately decided to buy the policy.

Months later, when an unexpected illness required a doctor's visit mid-vacation, Emily experienced the true value of her decision. The peace of mind offered by MHinsure wasn't just a concept—it became a tangible reality when the medical bills were seamlessly covered under their policy.

For Emily, this was proof that she had made the right decision and would continue this practice for all future trips.



Inspired by Emily's
foresight?

Scan to explore MHinsure's range
of travel protection plans.



Because armrests are overrated



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Terms and conditions apply.

Now Showing

MOVIES

150+

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your IFE player

Malay



Ayah Jangan Nangis



Saat Hilang Cintamu

Chinese

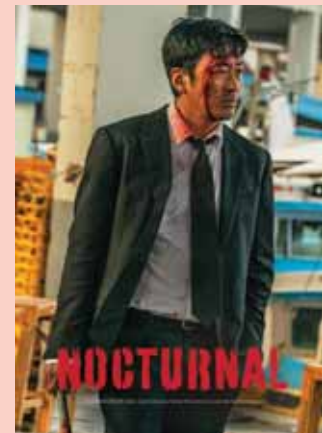


In **Fake Dad**, an ageing singer learns that his identity is being used in a scam. His son investigates, only to join the impersonator in comedic misadventures.



Set in 1920s Shanghai, **Burning Stars** follows young student activists facing political turmoil in a tense spy mission to save an important figure.

Korean



In this 2025 South Korean neo-noir, a former gangster returns to the criminal underworld to uncover the truth behind his brother's death.

Japanese



As For Me



**The Supernatural Sweet Shop:
The Movie**

Korean



The Old Woman with the Knife

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

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**.

Book now at malaysiaairlines.com

Hindi



Vanvaas

After being abandoned by his sons, an elderly father with dementia finds an unlikely companion in a resourceful thief, who takes on the mission of reuniting him with his family, proving that kindness prevails.



The Storyteller



Golmaal Returns



Jab We Met

Thai



Long Live Love!

Tamil



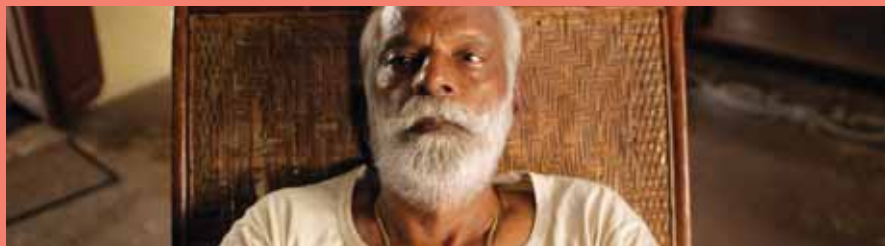
Kudumbasthan

Naveen hides his unemployment from his family and his pregnant wife as he embarks on desperate and comical schemes to make money. The film is a humorous exploration of the financial pressures and modern middle-class family dynamics.



Avvai Shanmugi

To be close to his daughter after a bitter divorce, a man disguises himself as an elderly woman to work as a nanny for his ex-wife. A series of hilarious events ensues as he tries to maintain his disguise while attempting to win back his family.



Perusu

Telugu



Balagam

In rural Telangana, a family is brought together by the unexpected death of their patriarch. The grandson, Sailu, who is in debt, sees the funeral as a chance to secure a dowry. The film is a poignant and humorous look at how the family is forced to confront rivalries and traditions.

Indonesian



172 Days

After a near-death experience, a young woman, Zira, abandons her wild lifestyle. On her spiritual journey, she falls in love with the compassionate Amer Azzikra. As their bond deepens, trials from Zira's past and Amer's sudden health decline test their faith and love.



FROM SKIES TO RAILWAYS – EVERY MILE BRINGS A NEW DISCOVERY

There is something special about watching the landscape unfold through a train window after stepping off a flight – quiet villages, rivers winding through valleys, towns with histories whispered through their lanes. These are the parts of travel that linger in the heart, not just the arrival, but the journey between.

You land in a major city, suitcase in hand, but your destination is somewhere off the beaten path – a coastal town, a university city tucked away, a place where the pace slows and every corner feels like a discovery. Perhaps you meet locals in a station café or share stories with fellow travellers as the countryside passes by your window. These moments remind us that travel is more than airports and scheduled flights, it is about the surprises between the hubs.

For students, for travellers hungry for culture, for families seeking authentic stories, there is joy in every mile of the path less travelled. **The changing landscapes, the different dialects, the switch from air to rail, all of it**

opens your senses in ways that only travel can.

MHrail understands this longing to explore beyond the obvious. It is designed for people like you who want more than just a connection between two airports. With MHrail, your journey does not stop at the runway – it continues on the rail, beyond the borders of big cities, into hidden gems and places with character. It is a unique Malaysia Airlines service that connects your flight to trusted rail partners like Avanti West Coast, London North Eastern Railway (LNER), Great Western Railway (GWR) and KORAIL, giving you access to over 100 towns and cities across the UK and South Korea – all with just one ticket.

So the next time you book with Malaysia Airlines, don't just stop at the city. Go further, see more and let every mile of the journey tell its story.

Begin your journey beyond the airport at malaysiaairlines.com/MHrail

Now Showing

TELEVISION

Comedy



Young Sheldon

Drama



ER

Showbiz



Bring the Drama

Nature & Wildlife



Coral City

Tamil



Try Panrom

Chinese



Nothing But You

Comedy



Selfie

A modern take on *My Fair Lady*, this short-lived 2014 American sitcom stars Karen Gillan as Eliza Dooley, a self-obsessed social media star. After a public and humiliating breakup goes viral, she learns her online persona doesn't equate to real-life friendships.

Drama



The 100

Set 97 years after a nuclear apocalypse, this sci-fi series follows 100 juvenile delinquents sent from a failing space station to Earth, where they must survive a hostile world and uncover hidden truths.

Malay



This Malaysian TV series follows a woman's journey to happiness as she overcomes trials and tribulations in pursuit of true love and a peaceful, fulfilling life, making for an emotional and relatable story.

Hindi



Hosted by Kamiya Jani, this popular YouTube series features candid celebrity interviews where guests discuss their careers, lives and favourite foods, giving viewers a glimpse into their favourite stars.



Club

Rudimental's fifth studio album, *Rudim3ntal*, is a vibrant return to their drum and bass roots. The album is a celebration of the genre, blending uplifting, soulful melodies with intricate breakbeats.



Tamil

This album is a curated compilation celebrating the legendary collaboration between music composer AR Rahman and filmmaker Mani Ratnam, featuring their most iconic and celebrated hits, primarily from Tamil cinema.

Hindi



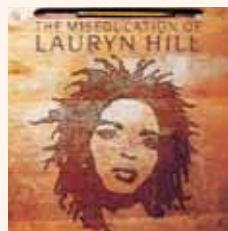
Japanese



The Hits



Memories



Korean

R&B



Malay



Light & Easy



French



Mandarin



Indonesian



Cantonese



Kids



FUEL



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Shire magic

If you're planning an escape from Kuala Lumpur to the cool climes of Cameron Highlands this month, consider a stopover at **Hobbitoon Village**. Just 30 minutes from the Simpang Pulai exit of the North-South Expressway, the family-friendly themed attraction is about 46km to Cameron Highlands Resort. Opened early last year, it reimagines JRR Tolkien's Shire with grassy slopes, hobbit-sized

homes with round doors, vegetable patches and stone pathways. Most of the miniature dwellings are for photographs, but one cottage lets visitors step inside to explore its cosy interior. The experience ends at Hobbitoon Café, which serves both local and Western fare alongside cheekily named drinks like Dwarven Draught. cameronhighlandsresort.com



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