

Going Places

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DECEMBER 2025

Auckland

Island dreams come to life in the Hauraki Gulf

KDN: PPI9848/07/2025 (035566)

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malaysia 

MASwings

firefly 

The background is a solid deep red. At the top, two large round ornaments hang from thin gold chains: a white one on the left and a dark green one on the right. In the center, a pair of earrings is displayed. Each earring has a gold-colored post and a diamond-encrusted ribbon that hangs down to a five-pointed star, also encrusted with diamonds. On the left side, a large green ceramic Christmas tree ornament is visible. On the right side, a smaller dark green ceramic Christmas tree ornament is visible. The overall theme is Christmas and luxury jewelry.

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IMAGES: KEVIN MAK

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Tiritiri Matangi, one of the storied islands in the Hauraki Gulf
Photo by Miles Holden / Tourism New Zealand Visual Library

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Dear guests,

As the year draws to a close, I'd like to thank you, our valued customers, for your continued trust and support of Malaysia Aviation Group. Whether you're travelling for business, reuniting with loved ones or taking a well-deserved holiday, thank you for making us part of your journey.

This year has been a meaningful one for the Group, as we expanded our network and strengthened our services to serve you better. Malaysia Airlines launched flights to Paris in March and Brisbane in November, with new flights to Chengdu set to further enhance our presence in one of the region's most dynamic markets.

Meanwhile, Firefly has expanded regionally with new Boeing 737-800-operated routes to Krabi, Siem Reap and Cebu from KLIA Terminal 1 – complementing Malaysia Airlines in strengthening our regional network. We've also introduced our state-of-the-art A330neo on key routes to Australia, New Zealand, Bali and Japan, offering greater comfort and an elevated onboard experience that embodies our signature Malaysian Hospitality. As we receive more new aircraft, we continue to increase capacity and flight frequencies to meet growing travel demand across the network.

We're also proud to enhance our training and infrastructure capabilities at MAB Academy with the addition of a new Boeing 737-8 full-flight simulator (FFS) from CAE – an agreement witnessed by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. The facility houses our existing simulators, including the Boeing 737-800, A330neo and ATR 72-500. The simulator is scheduled to be operational by July 2026, increasing our pilot training capacity and supporting the Group's operational growth, long-term sustainability and talent development.

Your feedback has been instrumental in helping us enhance every aspect of your travel experience – from seamless

connectivity to thoughtful touches that reflect our signature Malaysian Hospitality. Starting next month, our Travel & Lifestyle Programme, Enrich, will roll out a refreshed structure with improved Points and Miles earning, revised tier requirements and added benefits, offering greater value and privileges for our members' continued loyalty.

2025 has been a remarkable year of recognition and pride for the Group, reflecting the unwavering dedication of our people and the trust of our customers. Enrich was once again named Best Frequent Flyer Programme at the Business Traveller Asia-Pacific Awards, reaffirming our commitment to delivering meaningful rewards and memorable experiences for our loyal travellers. Malaysia Airlines also continued to shine globally, ranking 9th Best Airline in the World in the Condé Nast Traveller UK Readers' Choice Awards, while retaining our APEX Four Star Major Airline status for 2026 – a testament to our consistent excellence in safety, service and hospitality.

This spirit of progress was also reflected in Malaysia Airlines' performance at the 2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards, where we climbed 12 places to 27th among the World's Top 100 Airlines, up from 39th last year. We also achieved Top 10 global rankings in several categories, including 6th for World's Best Airport Services, 8th for World's Best Airline Cabin Crew, 7th for Best Airline Staff in Asia, 9th for Best Airlines in Asia and 10th for Best Economy Class Airline Seats. These honours underscore our growing strength in service and operational excellence – the hallmarks of Malaysian Hospitality.

Each step we take today lays the foundation for the journeys of tomorrow. As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with optimism and determination to keep improving, innovating and delivering exceptional experiences in the air and on the ground.

On behalf of everyone at Malaysia Aviation Group, I extend my deepest gratitude for standing by us through calm and challenging skies alike. Your trust – through our toughest times and proudest moments – remains our greatest strength.

Thank you for being part of our journey, and for allowing us to be part of yours.

Izham Ismail

Group Managing Director
Malaysia Aviation Group

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.



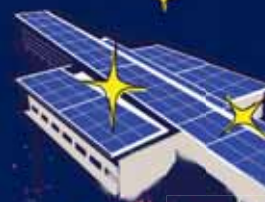
Royal Selangor
Visitor Centre

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



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As the year comes to a close, December always feels like an exhale – that brief pause before a new chapter begins. It's a moment to look back, take stock and be present with the people who matter most. A time for unhurried meals, shared stories and perhaps a little adventure together.

If you're planning your next family getaway, set your sights on New Zealand's Hauraki Gulf (page 52). With Auckland as your jumping-off point, the surrounding islands offer idyllic days of wildlife encounters, scenic trails and a touch of local history – experiences that bring every generation together and give you plenty of lasting memories.

For those drawn to creativity and culture, Hong Kong's reimagined neighbourhoods tell a story of transformation (page 60). Previously industrial spaces or old police compounds, areas like Wong Chuk Hang, Tai Kwun, PMQ and West Kowloon Cultural District have evolved into vibrant hubs for art and design – proof that cities, like people, are always capable of reinvention.

With the year-end holidays around the corner, it's the season to be jolly. Enjoy a festive meal in Paris (page 32) or Shenzhen (page 30) or take a quick break in Manila (page 34), where the holidays are celebrated with true exuberance. And if you're thinking about gifts, our story on pewter craftsmanship (page 21) is a quiet

reminder that the most meaningful pieces are often those made with patience and heart.

Wishing all our readers a truly wonderful holiday season and may you step into 2026 with gratitude and a renewed sense of wonder.



Go forth and wander!

Elizabeth Soong

Elizabeth Soong
Editor

This issue's contributors



Maya Calica Collins
Writer, "Into the blue",
page 52

Auckland-based writer and illustrator Maya finds inspiration in her travels and the people she meets. As an art teacher, she encourages kids to see and sketch the world with wonder.



Andrea Lo
Writer, "Art in progress",
page 60

Andrea is a Hong Kong-based journalist and editor. She was previously *Tatler Hong Kong's* executive editor and her work has appeared in *CNN*, *Business Insider* and *The Independent*.



Sophie Steiner
Writer, "Eat your way down the Seine", page 32

Sophie is a Shanghai-based food, travel and lifestyle journalist and photographer. Her work has appeared in *Travel + Leisure*, *LUXE City Guides*, *Business Insider* and the *World's 50 Best*.

A bird's eye view of
Monumen Bundaran HI
in Central Jakarta/
Photo courtesy of
Jakarta Tourism/
Credit: Pakindro

Jakarta Lights Up with Christmas & New Year Festivities



Clockwise from top
left: Mall Artha
Gading/Christmas
Carol/Christmas
Creative Week; Mall
Artha Gading/
Christmas Market;
Urban Forest/Urban
Forest Christmas

Jakarta lights up the festive season with Christmas carols and New Year's Eve countdowns across six iconic spots. In the city centre, Bundaran HI and Lapangan Banteng sparkle with towering decorations. A quick ride south leads to Blok M Hub, where street performers and live music fill the night with youthful energy.

To the north, Ancol's waterfront hosts seaside carnivals and fireworks, while the east's Taman Mini Indonesia Indah highlights cultural richness. Historic Kota Tua in the west offers old-world charm, and Pulau Pramuka in the Thousand Islands brings celebrations by the sea.

From carols to cultural shows and dazzling fireworks, each destination offers a unique celebration as Jakarta unites to greet 2026 with light, music, and joy.



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SHOPPING DESTINATION
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16 REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places



1

Kuala Lumpur

Walk the talk

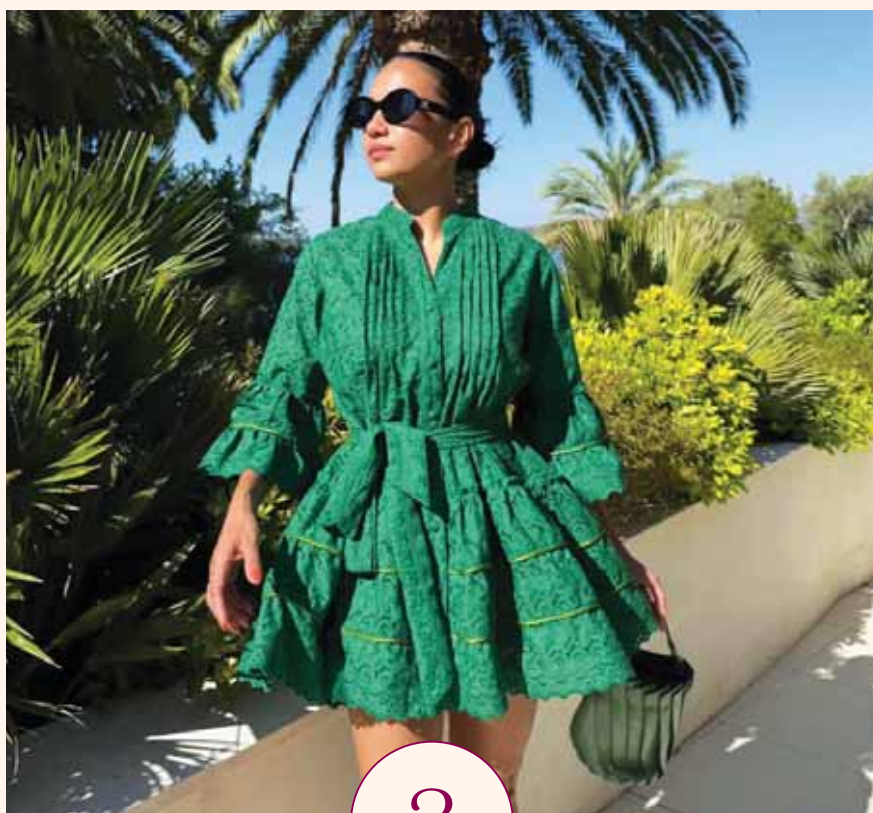
Explore Kuala Lumpur's most eclectic neighbourhood on the **Chow Kit Walking Tour** with local guide Fuad Fahmy. Starting from The Chow Kit – An Ormond Hotel, which reflects the charm of old KL, the 90-minute walk uncovers bustling markets, hidden alleys and beloved food stalls. thechowkit.com

2

Kuala Lumpur

Star of your story

Turn travel memories into art with Stories Lifestyle x makchic's **The Flight of Imagination** – a personalised photo storybook that blends real studio portraits with whimsical illustrations, placing your family in Malaysia's iconic scenes, from Melaka's Jonker Street to George Town, Penang.
stories.my/flight-of-imagination



3

Kuala Lumpur

Styled for takeoff

Get your holiday wardrobe sorted with designer **Shaleen Cheah**'s Summer Edit capsule – breezy, well-made pieces that mix and match effortlessly, taking the stress out of packing. Complete the look with a stylish pair of Pott Sunnies from homegrown label **Pott Glasses**. And don't forget to protect your skin from UV rays with **B&B Labs**' Auto-Tone CC Suncare, a multitasking, microbiome-friendly sunscreen powered by E-Cology Plus+.

shaleencheah.com; pottglasses.com; bb-labs.com

4

Kuala Lumpur

**Locally
brewed**



Luckin Coffee and Malaysian fashion house **Fiziwoo** unveil a batik-inspired concept store at Pavilion Damansara Heights. Take home a cup of joe with a batik design sleeve – even the counter flaunts the same chic motif. [@fiziwoo](#); [@luckincoffee.msia](#)

5

Kuala Lumpur

**Bon
appetite!**



Foodies, it's time to discover culinary hotspot **TUAH 1895** at Bukit Bintang City Centre with **Maybank Cards**. Enjoy up to 50% off at participating restaurants – Chef Kecik Boulangerie, Hock Kee Kopitiam, Ministry of Crab, Pak Tok and Ting Shan Cuisine – when you pay with your Maybank Card. [maybank.my/rasatuah](#)

Penang

**Ride in
comfort**



Launched early in 2025, **Denza D9** brings a fresh take on luxury travel – sleek, quiet and all-electric. The 7-seater MPV features a lounge-like cabin with Nappa leather upholstery, a panoramic sunroof, plush captain's chairs and a handy beverage cabinet. See it up close at Gurney Paragon Mall, Penang. [denza.com/my](#)

6

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+ Eraman shopping spree worth **RM10,000**

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7

Kuala Lumpur

**Hello
2026!**

Dataran Merdeka's annual countdown transforms the historic Independence Square into a lively sea of lights, music and celebrations, with performances by Malaysian artists, dazzling pyrotechnics and a festive energy bidding farewell to 2025.

8

Pahang

Let it snow

Experience a White Christmas at **Resorts World Genting**, where 14°C mountain air, twinkling lights, cheerful carols and snowfall create a festive highland wonderland – free for all. rwgenting.com





Kuala Lumpur

Sunset sips

Enjoy crafted cocktails and sunset views at **Le Comptoir**, Alila Bangsar Kuala Lumpur's 41st-floor bar, recently reopened to the

delight of its fans. Order from the citrus-inspired Sunset Collection and pair with bites such as beef tartare. [@alilabangsar](#)

10

Johor

Start your engines

Legoland Malaysia Resort debuts Asia's first **Lego Ferrari Build & Race**, where visitors design, build and test their own Lego Ferraris on real and virtual tracks – alongside a life-sized Lego Ferrari F50. [legoland.com.my](#)



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11

Kuala Lumpur

A taste of heritage

Since opening in 2022, **Bōl** has redefined modern Peranakan dining in Kuala Lumpur. Chef Kian Liew's new tasting menu, Trove: Heirlooms, pays tribute to tradition with

dishes like Tamarind Ocean Breeze (cured red snapper), Royal Ocean Nectar (tiger prawn, crab royale) and Verdant Shadow (aged duck with acar relish). [@bol_in_kl](#)



12

Kedah

Island charm, Spanish soul

Perched above the sea, **Tapaz Langkawi** at Tubotel near Cenang Beach serves artisan breads by morning and favourites like mahi-mahi crudo, seafood paella and Langkawi octopus by sunset. Owner Alex Mark handpicks the day's catch and oversees every loaf from the oven. [@tapaz.langkawi](#)



The art of giving well

THE FESTIVE GIFT GUIDE

From decadent treats to luxurious treasures, this season celebrates the joy of indulging others and yourself

Bring joy to every note

BOSE

For travellers who crave calm and clarity, the new Bose QuietComfort Ultra Headphones (2nd Gen) redefine the listening experience. Engineered with cutting-edge Immersive Audio and world-class noise cancellation, these headphones don't just play music, they place you inside it.

Every note feels closer, every voice clearer, every journey quieter. Whether you're on a long-haul flight, deep in work mode or winding down at home, Bose transforms sound into an experience that moves with you.

It also features a refined fit, intuitive touch controls with

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A season made sweeter

ROYCE'

The art of thoughtful gifting begins with chocolate. Born in Hokkaido, ROYCE' has perfected the harmony of flavour and texture, creating premium Japanese chocolates that turn every occasion into a moment to savour.

Discover an exquisite selection made to delight every palate – from the velvety smooth Nama

Chocolate to the crisp, delicate Prafueille Chocolat and the timeless, elegant Chocolate Wafers. Each creation embodies the precision and purity that define Japanese artistry, wrapped in packaging as refined as the chocolates within.

Perfect for travellers heading home for the holidays or those seeking a touch of luxury in every bite, ROYCE' transforms gifting into a shared experience of joy, a sweetness that lingers long after the season ends.

Visit the nearest ROYCE' store or
shop online at royce.com.my

  [roycemalaysia](https://www.facebook.com/roycemalaysia)

The art of giving well

THE GIFT GUIDE

Julie's Biscuits

The festive season isn't complete without the familiar crunch of Julie's Love Letters: the original wafer rolls that have graced Malaysian celebrations for generations. Each delicate swirl, filled with velvety cream and wrapped in golden crispness, carries the taste of community and the sweetness of home. Whether it's the classic Chocolate, the fragrant Strawberry or the indulgent

Vanilla, every bite tells a story of love, laughter and cherished memories shared with family and friends. This year, open a tin of nostalgia and let the aroma of Julie's Love Letters fill the room with warmth and joy – just like it always has.

Available at all major supermarkets and hypermarkets nationwide.

 [juliesbiscuits](https://www.instagram.com/juliesbiscuits)



Minimalist Lab x Zee Avi

Celebrate the season with Minimalist Lab, Malaysia's most loved modern jewellery brand. Each piece is thoughtfully crafted to capture life's moments – from the everyday to the extraordinary. In collaboration with Malaysian songstress Zee Avi, **From the Heart** features an iconic hibiscus flower design, created exclusively in limited quantities and priced from RM89. From the waterproof MNML Elements series to the refined MNML Moments in 925 sterling silver, every design is made to be worn and remembered. Discover the joy of meaningful giving at Minimalist Lab boutiques in TRX and Pavilion KL, and receive an exclusive candlelight gift set with purchases above RM250.

Visit Minimalist Lab at TRX or Pavilion KL.

 [minimalist_lab](https://www.instagram.com/minimalist_lab)



13

Kuala Lumpur

Creature feature

Godzilla fans, listen up. **EQ** hotel has teamed up with Japan's legendary Toho Studios to celebrate the monster's 70th anniversary with limited-edition merchandise and a signature drink, King of Monsters, served at its rooftop bar, Sky51.

@eqkualalumpur



14

Pahang

Weaving a tale

Perkampungan Kraf Diraja Tunku Azizah celebrates the enduring art of Tenun Pahang Diraja weaving and traditional crafts. Located in Pekan – the royal capital of Pahang – it stands as a living museum and hub for cultural education and regal heritage. pahangtourism.org.my



15

Kedah

Intentional travel

"Experience Kedah" – as the tourism campaign goes – invites travellers to see the state through fresh eyes, genuinely connecting with its people, culture and charm. Chief Minister **Dato' Seri Haji Muhammad Sanusi bin Md Nor** encourages visitors to really experience Kedah, not just to snap photos and move on, but truly engage with its stories, its spirit and its beauty.

This new chapter focuses on travel that's immersive and community-driven. Beyond the usual sights, Kedah is opening up new tourism clusters in

Kulim and Yan, while the ever-iconic Gunung Jerai stays front and centre.

The state's collaboration with Japan's Kyoto Sangyo University also keeps local culture alive through student exchanges and village homestays in places like Kampung Sungai Sedim.

Rooted in five pillars – nature, history, culture, arts and gastronomy – Kedah's tourism is about travel that's meaningful, sustainable and proudly local. To spread the word, a wave of creative campaigns is giving social media storytellers the chance to share Kedah's

hidden gems, from the ancient Sungai Batu site to its golden paddy fields and laid-back kampungs.

To get a taste of Kedah, take a cue from the chief minister himself: his go-to dish is *gulai ikan kembung* (Indian mackerel curry) at Kak Yang Gulai Temenung, which perfectly captures Kedah's warmth and flavour. experiencekedah.my



16

Kuala Lumpur

Dreams come true

Catch K-pop sensation **NCT Dream** at The Dream Show 4: Dream the Future in Axiata Arena on 13 and 14 December – a night of pure energy and dazzling visuals. livenation.my



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (GUNUNG JERAI)



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MALAYSIAN ICONS

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Lustrous hits

Two Malaysian manufacturers are keeping the timeless art of pewter craftsmanship alive **BY RENYI LIM**



Prized for its beauty and versatility,

pewter has been crafted and traded since the Bronze Age, with the earliest examples found in an Egyptian tomb dating to around 1450 BC. This metal alloy, made primarily of tin mixed with antimony, bismuth, copper or lead, has historically flourished in Malaysia.

The discovery of vast tin deposits in Perak and Selangor in the mid-19th century laid the foundations of the local pewter industry. By 1904, the country was producing over 50,000 tonnes of tin annually – more than half the world's supply – driven by booming demand for tinplate cans in Europe and America.

Among the many Chinese migrants who came to work in the mines were skilled tinsmiths. One of them, Yong Koon from Shantou, arrived in Kuala Lumpur in 1885 and later founded Royal Selangor, now Malaysia's most renowned pewter manufacturer. When tin prices fell in the 1930s, Yong Koon pivoted to crafting pewter ashtrays, vases, teapots and European-style cigarette boxes.

Though tin exports fell sharply in the late 1990s – accounting for less than 1% of the country's gross export earnings – pewter craftsmanship endures. Royal Selangor, headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, remains the world's largest manufacturer and retailer of pewter. Alongside it, smaller companies, such as Penang-based Pewter Art Malaysia, uphold their own proud pewter-making traditions, collectively preserving and advancing Malaysia's long-standing heritage in the craft.

WORTH ITS METAL

Although pewter was historically made with lead, modern formulations are lead-free and safe for contact with food, beverages and skin.



How is it made?

Every pewter creation begins with casting. Molten pewter, heated to around 250°C, is poured into a preheated iron or rubber mould. Once cooled, the piece is filed, polished to a silvery sheen, and – if made from multiple parts – soldered together with temperature control, timing and precision.

Beyond its distinctive lustre, pewter's true beauty lies in the artistry behind it. "We still believe in the human component involved in the design, creation and retailing of our products," says Dato' Yong Yoon Li, managing director of Royal Selangor and a fourth-generation member of the family business. "We take influences from the arts and cultures of this region and make them accessible for our customers to have in their homes [through our range of home products] – it's a reminder of what Malaysian culture is all about."

At Royal Selangor's Setapak factory, artisans assemble and solder each





piece by hand. Techniques such as hand-polishing, scotching (creating a smooth sheen), hammering (adding a dimpled texture) and hand engraving give every item its unique character.

Royal Selangor continues to push creative boundaries through collaborations with international designers and museums, including Taiwan's National Palace Museum. Its Autumn/Winter 2025 release features 10 new collections timed perfectly for the gifting season. A highlight is the Silk Road series, inspired by murals of the Flying Apsaras from the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, China. The ethereal figures – symbols of divine beauty, music and blessings – are intricately sculpted across vases, tumblers and tea caddies.

Pewter's future in Malaysia

Safeguarding Malaysia's pewter heritage remains an ongoing challenge, particularly for manufacturers with small artisan teams. "Our workshop has only 15 highly skilled pewter craftsmen, with our most senior boasting over 35 years of experience," says Ng Shi Ling, creative director of Pewter Art Malaysia. "With fewer young people taking up the craft, every piece created today becomes even more meaningful, carrying the legacy of a rare and cherished tradition."

Even for a long-established company like Royal Selangor – which employs around 150 pewter craftsmen – attracting new talent is a continual effort. "Smithing isn't everyone's cup of tea; it involves cutting, filing, sanding and fitting – very tedious



Previous page:
Royal Selangor's
Keepsakes collection

This spread, clockwise from top left: Learn hammering techniques at Royal Selangor's School of Hard Knocks; the making of pewter; Royal Selangor's Woodland coaster set and special edition Melon teapot with matching batik coaster by Pink Jambu; Pewter Art Malaysia's home collection; a Flying Apsara figurine from the Silk Road series

“

Beyond its distinctive lustre, pewter's true beauty lies in the artistry behind it”

work,” says Dato' Yong. “But after the pandemic, many young people have realised they enjoy hands-on, creative work, so we've seen a steady stream of apprentices. They train for 10 weeks, then choose to specialise as solderers, casters, polishers or hammerers. After two or three years, they become quite skilled. Our pewter artisans typically stay with us for 30 to 40 years.”

At the Royal Selangor Visitor Centre, visitors can experience pewter-making through interactive workshops such as the School of Hard Knocks and The Foundry, where they learn to craft pewter pieces by hand. Who knows? A few budding talents might even find their calling in pewter.





Reset in Belum Rainforest Resort

Start the new year with clarity and calm, guided by the beauty of nature

Just a five-hour drive from Kuala Lumpur, the journey to Pulau Banding feels like a slow exhale from city to serenity. Crossing the bridge into Royal Belum State Park, travellers enter a different pace entirely – one shaped by misty mornings, emerald waters and the deep calm of the forest.

Belum Rainforest Resort is Malaysia's only four-star eco-resort within

this protected, 130-million-year-old rainforest. Here, comfort does not compete with nature; it coexists with it.

Design in harmony

The resort's architecture tells a story of respect. Built with timber, bamboo and stone, its low-slung structure rests gently on the land, open to the lake breeze and shaded by canopy

greens. Interiors blend simplicity with warmth through wooden textures, earthy hues and wide windows that frame the living wilderness beyond.

Each room offers a different rhythm of retreat: Garden and Lakeview Rooms for those seeking calm, Rainforest Villas for greater privacy and Houseboats for guests who wish to drift between solitude and adventure.



Wherever the stay, dawn always feels personal with sunlight filtering through leaves, mist curling over the water and the world awakening at its own pace.

Adventure with intention

Every experience at Belum deepens one's connection with the land, its people and the balance that sustains



both. Guests can glide across Lake Temenggor on a nature cruise as hornbills wheel overhead, trek through the rainforest with guides who reveal stories in footprints and flora or visit Orang Asli villages for a glimpse of a culture interwoven with the forest's heartbeat.

Each stay contributes directly to the EMKAY Foundation and Pulau Banding Foundation, whose initiatives support wildlife research, reforestation and education for the Orang Asli community. Belum ensures that every visit plays a part in protecting what makes this place extraordinary.

A mindful start to 2026

As the year folds into the next, Belum offers the rare luxury of stillness: an evening bonfire beneath a canopy of stars, the hush of the jungle before dawn and the quiet awareness that renewal does not always mean doing more. Sometimes, it simply means listening to the hush of nature.

Among ancient trees and timeless waters, a stay at Belum is more than a retreat – it is a gentle reset and a reminder that new beginnings often stem from the most enduring places of all.

Visit belumrainforestresort.com to book a stay and be part of an eco-tourism journey.



Vision in the canopy

Dato' Hj H Fazwinna Tan Sri Mustapha Kamal, Executive Chairman of EMKAY Group, on the legacy and future of Belum



What makes Belum unique?

Belum is part of a 130-million-year-old rainforest. We've developed only a small part of the island, keeping the rest untouched because real luxury lies in preserving what already exists.

How does your father's legacy live on at Belum?

My late father, Tan Sri Mustapha Kamal, believed that progress should always honour nature. The Pulau Banding Charter, which he introduced before the resort was built, continues to guide everything we do.

How do guests make a difference?

Every stay supports conservation, research and Orang Asli education. Some guests even plant gaharu trees that grow long after their visit ends.

What's your hope for Belum's future?

To make Belum a global example of sustainable travel, a place that inspires renewal for both people and the planet.



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ELEVATE

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



HOTELS

Real deal

At this resort in the **Maldives**, luxury isn't about opulence, it's about attention that feels effortless **BY KAREN TEE**

In the Maldives, where private pools and overwater villas are standard, **Soneva Fushi** in the Baa Atoll stands out for a quieter kind of luxury. The 71-villa resort, a 30-minute seaplane ride from the airport, has just won the SeiBellissimi Art of Hospitality Award at The World's 50 Best Hotels 2025, making it the first Asian property to receive the honour. →





Previous page:
Sandbank dinner at
Soneva Fushi

From top:
The resort's water
retreats and organic
gardens; one of its
private villas

The award recognises something that can't be measured: empathy, attentiveness and the kind of timing that makes a gesture feel both spontaneous and inevitable. "Luxury here isn't defined by gold-plated service," says general manager Antony Paton. "It's defined by care that feels deeply personal and naturally warm."

Since opening in 1995, Soneva Fushi has set the template for what's now called barefoot luxury. There's no formal butler protocol, no rehearsed greetings. The resort's Barefoot Guardians, as they're known, listen and observe – then act. That might mean leaving you your favourite fruit at breakfast or arranging a dinner under the stars that feels like your idea.

The service philosophy is simple: anticipate, don't intrude. Staff learn guests' preferences not from digital notes but through quiet observation. "We empower our hosts to take ownership of every interaction," Paton says. "It's about curiosity, not choreography."

Soneva Fushi's whimsical details reinforce the same ethos. There's an open-door chocolate room, an ice cream parlour stocked with rotating flavours and a "no menu" dining concept where chefs improvise dishes based on mood rather than order.
soneva.com



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flies between
Kuala Lumpur and
Male 11x weekly.





Terracotta Warriors exhibit



WA Museum Boola Bardip



ARTS & CULTURE

The empire rises again

The world's most famous terracotta army has arrived in **Perth** BY MAX BREARLEY

Often teased as the world's most isolated major city, Perth has found creative ways to overcome what Australians call the "tyranny of distance": its vast separation from other big cities and cultural centres. The result is a self-sustaining arts scene.

In the Perth Cultural Centre at Northbridge, the **WA Museum Boola Bardip** is one of Western Australia's key cultural landmarks. Boola Bardip means "many stories" in the language of the Whadjuk Noongar people, the traditional custodians of Boorloo (Noongar name for Perth).

True to its name, WA Museum Boola Bardip has housed bold exhibitions

exploring diverse, ancient cultures. In an Australian first, the museum presents "Terracotta Warriors: Legacy of the First Emperor", an immersive experience tracing the reign of Emperor Qin Shi Huang, running until 22 February 2026.

The world has been enthralled by the terracotta army since its discovery by farmers near Xi'an, Shaanxi Province in 1974. Over 8,000 life-sized soldiers and horses, spread across over 51km², lay buried for 2,000 years – a demonstration of the emperor's power in life and protection in death.

The warriors are just one part of the 225 artefacts on display, some shown for the first time and nearly half never exhibited outside China. In collaboration with the Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Centre and Emperor Qin Shi Huang's Mausoleum Site Museum, the exhibition uses projections and interactive elements to bring history to life.

While exploring the museum's collections, look out for *Illuminate*, a permanent digital display projected onto the Old Gaol, a heritage-listed building within the complex. This multisensory kaleidoscope of light draws inspiration from the museum's exhibits and the state's natural beauty. visit.museum.wa.gov.au



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

More cultural must-sees in Perth



Art Gallery of WA (AGWA)

AGWA's Brutalist building is a landmark housing Western Australian and First Nations art. Its rooftop features *Targets* (2021), a large-scale work of light and paint by Christopher Pease. artgallery.wa.gov.au



Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA)

For over three decades, PICA has been a hub for creativity, hosting music, dance, experimental theatre and live art. Located near Boola Bardip and AGWA, it proves Perth's cultural scene is anything but barren. pica.org.au

ELEVATE



DINING

Eat like a 'glocal'

An inventive restaurant is putting **Shenzhen** on the culinary map **BY SOPHIE STEINER**



Over the past

year, Fumée in Shenzhen's Nanshan District has become one of southern China's most talked-about restaurants, drawing diners eager to experience its inventive cuisine. A visit here brings a refreshing discovery: a world of flavours that feels both global and unmistakably Chinese.

Founded in 2022 by visionary restaurateur David Pan, Fumée champions traditional Chinese flavours through creative modern techniques led by chef Reina Chen. The latter's stint at Mugaritz in San Sebastian (one of the world's most experimental fine dining institutions) and her former career as a Kunqu Opera singer has shaped her belief that food should engage all five senses and tell a story.

Located in the city's tech and dining hub, Fumée welcomes guests into a warmly lit space where a rustic counter, adorned in greenery, frames an open



kitchen. Here, Chen infuses her dishes with a "glocal" perspective – blending global technique with local tradition to create a "province-less" Chinese cuisine that reflects the cultural exchange and migration shaping China's culinary heritage.

Her 11-course seasonal tasting menu is paired with four cocktails, each designed to heighten the sensory experience. Expect surprising yet moreish flavour compositions: a quenelle of Chaoshan sweet olive ice cream balanced by pickled nectarine and a plump French oyster; 10-day aged duck piped with prawn mousse below puckering skin to resemble a layer of glossy fat; and Dongbei glutinous rice layered with jamón ibérico, Jinhua ham and Dalian sea urchin. **@fumeerestaurant**



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong 14x weekly, with transfers to Shenzhen by train or bus.

More Shenzhen must-visits



Ensue

Chef Jeff Wu transforms Guangdong ingredients into inventive dishes, including a radish puff disguised as a carrot "harvested" from edible soil. **@ensue_sz**



The Bay by Chef Fei

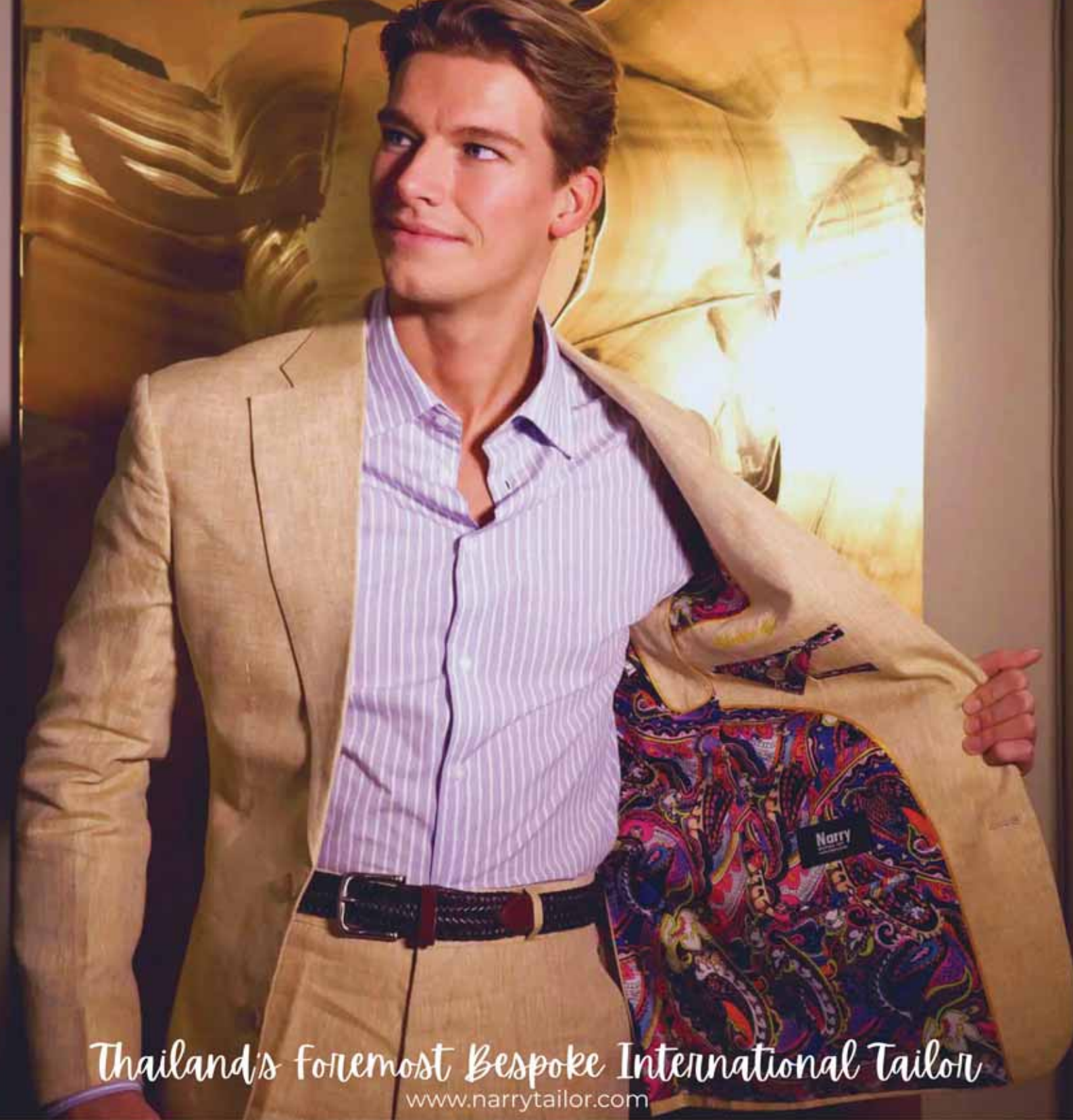
This restaurant at the Mandarin Oriental Shenzhen serves classic dim sum and modern dishes like crispy eel with osmanthus and roasted chicken fried in flax and sesame seeds. **@thebaybycheffei**



SanYou

This leading cocktail bar bridges traditional *baijiu* (a Chinese distilled spirit) with modern mixology, serving over 400 varieties with locally sourced ingredients and live music. **@bar_sanyou**

IMAGES: SOPHIE STEINER



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ELEVATE



DINING

Eat your way down the Seine

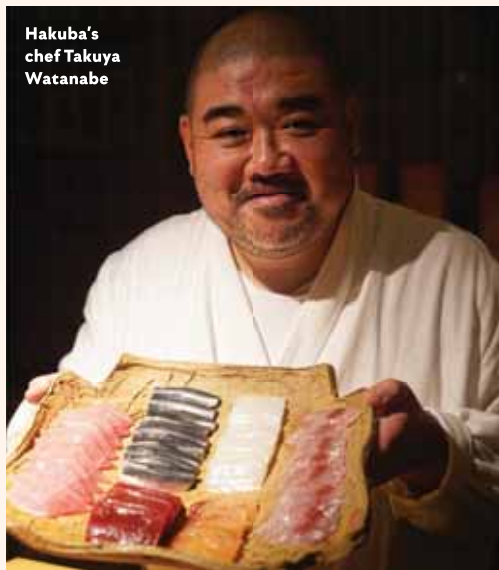
The riverside dining scene of **Paris** flows with Michelin-starred brilliance

BY SOPHIE STEINER



Plénitude

Hakuba's chef Takuya Watanabe



Paris wears many crowns – the city of love, the city of light, the city of culture – but none shines brighter than its reign as the city of food.

These Michelin-starred restaurants – all near the Seine

River and with views of the city's most famous landmarks – showcase Paris at its most delicious.

Plénitude: art of sauces

At the five-star Cheval Blanc Paris hotel, Plénitude is helmed by

celebrated chef Arnaud Donckele, renowned for his masterful command of sauces.

Like a perfumer, he begins each dish with the *jus* (dressing) before building the seasonal components around it.

Service unfolds like a choreographed performance – from a visit to the wine cellar to a private course at the chef's table and a stop at the cheese cave. [@plenitude.paris](https://www.plenitude.paris)

Hakuba: Japanese culinary sanctuary

Also within Cheval Blanc Paris, Hakuba, led by chef Takuya Watanabe, immerses diners in refined Japanese gastronomy.

Renowned for his artistry in sushi and kaiseki, Watanabe's signature 17-course omakase showcases

the finest fish, rice and seasonal produce. Expect sake-flambéed, glazed eel over glutinous claypot rice and a briny kaki oyster nigiri.

Designed by Peter Marino, the tranquil Japanese forest-inspired interiors set the stage for Watanabe's artful presentations and inventive collaborations. [@hakubaparis](https://www.hakubaparis.com)

Restaurant Kei: French-Japanese connection

In Paris' first

arrondissement, Restaurant Kei fuses French artistry with Japanese discipline.

Born in Japan's Nagano prefecture, chef Kei Kobayashi trained under Alain Ducasse and alongside Gilles Goujon before opening his eponymous restaurant in 2011.

Signature dishes such as sautéed monkfish with butter, curry and foam or the perfectly lacquered pithivier of pigeon and foie gras showcase his mastery of balance and texture. [restaurant-kei.fr/en](https://www.restaurant-kei.fr/en)



Restaurant Kei

IMAGES: SOPHIE STEINER



**AGENDA
REFORMASI**
PERKHIDMATAN AWAM
Reformasi Gafar Kemestian

“

Complacency holds us back. To drive ARPA forward, we must build a public service that is bold, adaptable and ready for continuous reform.”

– Tan Sri Shamsul Azri

Malaysian hospitality through seamless journeys

Malaysia's immigration services powered by the Public Service Reform Agenda (ARPA) is redefining how the nation welcomes the world, turning every arrival into a gesture of efficiency, warmth and world-class hospitality

Travel through Malaysia is evolving. From faster immigration to smoother digital systems, the nation is quietly transforming the way it welcomes the

world one smart reform at a time. Behind these improvements lies a renewed commitment to service excellence that is reshaping the traveller experience.

A new first impression

At the heart of this progress is the Public Service Reform Agenda (ARPA), the national reform agenda reshaping how Malaysia serves both citizens and guests. Through digital innovation, streamlined procedures and enhanced coordination at key entry points, the country puts forth an impression of progress, precision and a new expression of Malaysian hospitality.

Hospitality reinvented

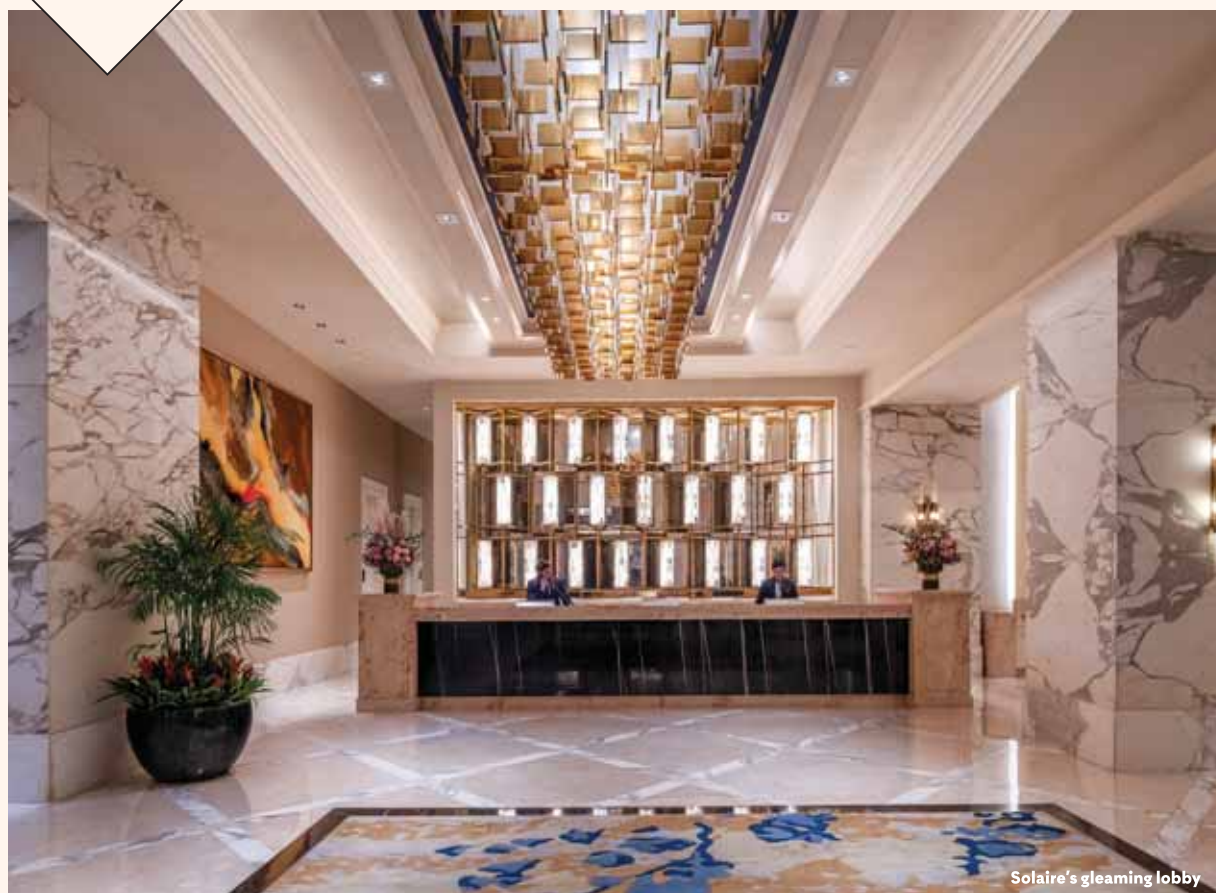
Technology may drive change, but humanity remains at the heart of it. Guided by Malaysia MADANI principles, ARPA empowers public servants to serve with integrity and empathy, proving that friendliness and efficiency can coexist.



Where efficiency meets experience

Every step of the traveller's journey now reflects a Malaysia that is open, responsive and ready to welcome the world with confidence. Behind every smooth arrival and friendly face is ARPA, helping Malaysia deliver a welcome that feels effortless and genuine. A steady hand at the helm, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia, Tan Sri Shamsul Azri bin Abu Bakar, supports the Prime Minister's call for a modern and service-driven Malaysia.

Discover how Malaysia is redefining the art of arrival at arpa.gov.my



Solaire's gleaming lobby



The Chairman's Suite overlooks Manila Bay



HOTELS

Grand gestures

World-class suites, dining and entertainment make this **Manila** escape one to remember

BY ELIZABETH SOONG

For travellers who like variety – a mix of action, entertainment, food and culture – Solaire Entertainment City has it all. Explore hidden bars, catch a theatre show, join an art tour and dine at some of Manila's best restaurants, all in one long, indulgent weekend.

As the first luxury integrated resort to break ground in the reclaimed Manila Bay area of Parañaque in 2010, it has since paved the way for the district's rise as a premier leisure and gaming destination. Just a 10-minute drive from Ninoy Aquino Airport and 30 minutes from Bonifacio Global City or Makati, it remains an unbeatable location.

From the moment you step in and stride past gleaming walkways lined with upscale restaurants and boutiques, it's hard not to marvel at the artworks and installations scattered across the 8.3-ha property. Clive Miners' *Foo Dogs* guard the entrance, Katarina Kudejova Fulinova's *Dramatic Leaf* chandelier dazzles in the main lobby and Norman



Yakumi's chefs at work

“

Explore hidden bars, catch a theatre show, join an art tour and dine at some of Manila's best restaurants, all in one long, indulgent weekend”

Dreo's *My Little Museum* spans an entire wall at the theatre foyer. Art enthusiasts should consider a guided tour to explore more of the resort's vast, eclectic collection.

Departing from the opulence of the gallery walkways, the Sky Tower lobby is a welcoming light-filled oasis filled with palm trees, fresh blooms and an indoor waterfall. The sleek 17-storey tower has held a Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Rating for nine consecutive years, and after settling into the Sky Studio – a spacious 65m² suite with a living area and a generous bathroom featuring a bathtub, twin sinks and Acca Kappa toiletries – it's easy to see why. Other rooms include the Chairman's Suite, a lavish 395m² retreat on the top floor.

A food lover's haven, there are 19 restaurants and bars ranging from casual to fine dining on site. If there's no time to try them all, visit these: Italian restaurant Finestra for steak Florentine and homemade pastas; Red Lantern for braised short ribs or its lauded dim sum buffet; Oasis Garden Café for Filipino favourites like salmon sinigang; and Yakumi for premium sashimi and sushi flown in from Tokyo's Toyosu market.

Spend happy hour at Waterside Restobar with a cocktail or beer on tap while looking out over the pool. For a nightcap, head downstairs to the BRB Baccarat Room and Bar, where warm wood, plush seating, moody lighting and a crooning jazz singer recall a vintage speakeasy. It's a popular hangout for locals, even on weeknights.

If you can, try to time your visit with a show at Solaire. Designed with a state-



A production of *Burn the Floor* at The Theatre

of-the-art acoustic system, The Theatre has hosted Broadway productions, concerts, and ballet performances by local and international artists. This New Year's Eve brings a special performance by Broadway icon Lea Salonga and Filipino legend Raymond Lauchengco, while *Les Misérables: World Tour Spectacular* opens on 20 January 2026.

Sky Range Shooting Club, one of Asia's most advanced five-star indoor shooting ranges, offers a rare chance to unleash your inner action hero.

Before you leave, try your luck at the slot machines or unwind at the spa to cap off your stay. sec.solaireresort.com

 **Malaysia Airlines**
flies between Kuala Lumpur and Manila 21x weekly.



A dish from Finestra



Shah Alam line, coming soon!

A new journey awaits with the upcoming Shah Alam Line (SAL), which is Rapid KL's latest rail expansion connecting the western corridor of the Klang Valley. Spanning from Bandar Utama, SAL links key cities including Shah Alam and Klang, creating smoother connections across the region.

More than just a line, SAL connects people, places and possibilities. Discover vibrant destinations along the route from i-City Theme Park and Wet World Water Park to the colourful streets of Little India Klang and local cultural attractions that showcase the city's charm. Experience a smarter, greener and more connected way to move, where every stop leads to something new.

Moving people while sustaining the planet

Every ride with Rapid KL tells a bigger story. One of progress, purpose and care for the planet we share. Each journey helps move Malaysia forward, reducing congestion, cutting emissions and creating a cleaner way to connect.

Beyond operating public transport, Prasarana plays a vital role in shaping Malaysia's green mobility future. Currently operating five urban rail lines covering 204 km and 149 stations, Prasarana is also on track to fully electrify its bus fleet by 2037. Guided by the National Energy Transition Roadmap, Prasarana is paving the way for a cleaner and smarter way to move.

Visit any Rapid KL counter to purchase Rapid Kembara and Rapid Kota passes.

Rapid Kembara & Rapid Kota passes

Discover Kuala Lumpur effortlessly with the Rapid Kembara and Rapid Kota passes. These all-in-one passes offer unlimited rides across Rapid KL's rail and bus networks, connecting you seamlessly to every corner of the city.

Enjoy the convenience of cashless travel with just a tap and go for unlimited rides. Perfect for tourists exploring new sights or locals rediscovering familiar places. With Rapid Kembara, unlock exclusive perks and discounts from partner attractions, food & beverages and lifestyle brands, adding more value to every journey.

Every line leads somewhere

From LRT, MRT and Monorail to Rapid buses, BRT and Rapid KL On-Demand (ROD), Rapid KL connects you seamlessly across the Klang Valley, linking communities, workplaces and destinations that matter most. Every service is thoughtfully designed to make public transport more accessible, inclusive and reliable for everyone.

Whether you're commuting to work, exploring the city or connecting between rail and bus lines, Rapid KL ensures a smooth journey from the first to the last mile, making urban travel easier, smarter and truly Malaysian.

Rapid KL moves you forward

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INSIDER TIPS

A Malaysian in... Taipei

Between neon streets and mountain teahouses, versatile performer **Soo Wincci** found not just her voice, but the city that defined her artistic journey

BY ANANDHI GOPINATH



I went to Taipei in 2011, just as my music began gaining traction in Taiwan. Between 2012 and 2015, it went viral across the region, and I ended up being based there for nearly five years. I recorded three albums during that period – an incredibly exciting time in my career, while juggling work and studies at the same time.

Life in Taipei

My first impression of the city was how peaceful and safe it felt – even late at night. I'd often head to 24-hour cafés after work to write my PhD thesis, something I couldn't imagine doing elsewhere. If you haven't been to **Eslite Bookstore Songyan** (88 Yanchang Rd; eslitecorp.com), open all day and night, you must!

My days were structured: I'd wake up at 7am, hit the gym

and be at my recording label office by 10. From there, it was a whirlwind of meetings, rehearsals and appearances.

I lived near **Taipei 101** (7 Xinyi Rd; taipei-101.com.tw), which was incredibly convenient – shops, restaurants and the MRT were all within walking distance.

What I loved most were the people. Taiwanese are warm, polite and genuine – there was always kindness in every interaction. The cost of living was reasonable and everything worked so efficiently.

I've since moved back to Malaysia after my stint there, but these spots remain on my must-visit list whenever I return.

Incredible food scene

First-time visitors should visit **Shilin Night Market** (101 Jihe Rd; shilin-night-market.com). It may be touristy but it's worth it – giant crispy chicken cutlets, juicy grilled oysters, candied sweet potatoes, stinky tofu and milk teas in every flavour. It's the perfect introduction to Taiwan's vibrant street food culture.

Looking for a good breakfast spot? Go to **Good Cho's** (54 Songqin St; @goodchos_tw) for handmade bagels. The nasi lemak at Malaysian eatery **Mr Chee Kopitiam** (385 Section 2,



Ximending



Eslite Bookstore Songyan



Taïrroir



Fuxing S Rd; @mr.cheekopitiam) will surely hit the spot.

For lunch, the hearty beef noodles at **Chang's Halal Beef Noodle Shop** (21 *Yanping S Rd*) are simple and comforting. If you're looking for vegetarian options, **Loving Hut** (247 *Songde Rd; lovinghut.com*) offers affordable vegan fare while **Yang Shin Vegetarian Restaurant** (128 *Songjiang Rd; ysvege.com*) serves dim sum so realistic you'd never guess it was meat-free.

Foodies should also explore Taipei's Michelin dining scene. Book a table at **Tai'rror** (299 *Lequn 3rd Road; tai'rror.com*) which offers

elevated Taiwanese cuisine in a luxe setting. Make sure to book ahead.

For a soulful recharge, nothing beats **Maokong** in Wenshan District, near Taipei Zoo station. Ride the cable car into the misty hills to find teahouses overlooking lush valleys. Try tea-infused dishes like tea oil noodles or chicken, fried rice with tea leaves, tea-roasted eggs or tea-essence tofu – simple and delicious.

Tucked into quiet alleyways, Taipei's hidden cafés are perfect for unwinding or getting a bit of work done. Go to **Ogawa Coffee** (39 *Wuxing St; @ogawa.coffee*) for its relaxed outdoor seating, **After5** (34 *Linsen N Rd; @after5_coffeetail*) for industrial charm or **Mountain Kids Coffee Roasters** (126 *Zhongxiao W Rd; @mkcrtw*) for some quiet work time.

For a quick pick-me-up in between shopping and sight-seeing, Taiwan's fresh fruit culture means you're never far from a juicy guava or mango cup on the go.

Avenues of discovery

Ximending Night Market (127 *Hanzhong St*) is Taipei's fashion haven. It's trendy, fast-paced and perfect for scoring affordable, stylish outfits in a heartbeat.

Experience the thrill of finding pieces you love.

Beauty lovers will be captivated by Taiwanese skincare. Chains like Watsons and Cosmed stock an incredible range of sheet masks, creams and beauty gadgets.

As an artiste, I love Taipei's creative pulse. The city's live houses buzz with music ranging from indie rock to jazz. **Riverside Live House** (177 *Xining Rd; @riversidelivehouse*) and **Blue Note** (171 *Roosevelt Rd; bluenotetapei.com*) are two of my go-to spots.

If you only have one day

Start with Taiwanese breakfast such as *youtiao* (fried dough) and soy milk at **Yong He Soya Milk** (102 *Fuxing S Rd*). Visit Taipei 101 for the city views, some light shopping and a quick lunch at its food court. Take the MRT to Maokong for a tea-infused meal with hillside views, then head to Shilin Night Market for snacks and souvenirs. End your night in Ximending, where Taipei's youth culture truly comes alive.



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

Malaysians at heart

Building bridges between our country and its people around the world



Fireside chat with Nazrul Aziz and YB Steven Sim Chee Keong, Minister of Human Resources



Batik artist Shirlyn Low with YB Steven Sim Chee Keong at the Salam Dari Malaysia event in London

When TalentCorp launched MyHeart, the idea was not to create another platform – it was to build a living, breathing community of Malaysians around the world. “From the start, the inspiration came from the diaspora themselves,” says Nazrul Aziz, group chief strategy officer at TalentCorp. “Their voices, stories and hopes shaped what MyHeart is today.”

Designed to connect, collaborate and celebrate Malaysians abroad, MyHeart – short for “Malaysians at Heart” – gives the global Malaysian community a digital home that goes beyond geography. “Even while building new lives overseas, they never lost their love for home,” Nazrul shares. “MyHeart

gives that feeling a place to grow.”

At its core, MyHeart is about connection with purpose. Members can link up with fellow Malaysians worldwide, explore professional return opportunities through programmes like the Returning Expert Programme (REP) and support students abroad through mentorship. “It’s a space where the Malaysian diaspora can stay close to their roots while growing globally,” Nazrul explains. “Even if they are thousands of miles away, they remain part of Malaysia’s story.”

In a world where identity often transcends borders, MyHeart reflects a more modern definition of belonging. “Being Malaysian isn’t defined by where

you live. It’s about how you connect, contribute and care,” says Nazrul.

Through MyHeart, users can collaborate on research, cultural or community projects, or simply celebrate shared heritage. In this way, Malaysians abroad can give back without physically returning. “Home is where your heart – and impact – is,” he adds.

MyHeart’s community spirit is best seen through real-world connections. Nazrul recalls an initiative, Salam Dari Malaysia – London 2024, where Malaysian batik artist Shirlyn Low hosted a workshop that brought Malaysians together through art. “It reminded them of home and sparked new creative collaborations that continue beyond the event,” he says. “That’s the spirit of MyHeart – celebrating who we are, wherever we are.”

For TalentCorp, the most valuable insight from MyHeart’s journey has been about listening. “True engagement is built on trust, respect and shared purpose. It’s not about telling the diaspora what to do but about listening to how they want to contribute and create meaningful pathways for it to happen,” says Nazrul.

Ultimately, MyHeart is a digital embodiment of Malaysia’s greatest strength: its people. “Our borders don’t define us,” says Nazrul. “It’s our people, wherever they may be, who carry the Malaysian spirit forward. MyHeart is the manifestation of that.”

Join the global Malaysian community by registering on myheart.my.

Home for the holidays

MyHeart by TalentCorp brings Malaysians around the world closer together, especially this festive season



Dr Kenneth and Dr Melissa, REP alumni



Gamelan musicians at Nine Arts Festival

gatherings to cultural celebrations and community meetups, create spaces where Malaysians can reconnect, make new friends and celebrate familiar traditions. These shared moments turn faraway cities into warm reminders of home.

Your link to home

If you can't attend an event or want to stay connected from afar, MyHeart serves as a digital home base. With cultural updates, inspiring diaspora stories and opportunities to engage with Malaysia from abroad, the platform keeps you close to what matters – community, information or a touch of festive nostalgia.

For many living abroad, "home" isn't a place on the map but a feeling carried in their hearts. MyHeart keeps the Malaysian spirit alive, uniting its global community and reminding us that no matter how far we wander, Malaysia is always with us.



MyHeart healthcare networking session in London

December always feels like an invitation home, a time when Malaysians abroad think of family, familiar flavours and the comfort of shared traditions.

As the holiday season can be a mix of celebration and longing, that's where MyHeart by TalentCorp steps in, helping Malaysians reconnect with their roots and with each other so they can feel the warmth and togetherness, even from afar.

Staying close, no matter the distance

Whether you're wrapping up the year in Singapore, studying in Melbourne or braving winter in Toronto, MyHeart helps Malaysians abroad feel the festive spirit together. Its on-ground events, from year-end



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



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*Please refer to the makeup artist for free samples. Terms & conditions apply. Subject to stock availability.

SCAN TO SHOP



A PERFECT WEEKEND IN Phnom Penh

Words **Tara FT Sering**

Cambodia's capital teems with intriguing art and architecture, memorable dining and endless shopping. Here's how to make the most of it



IMAGE SHUTTERSTOCK

Over the past several years, and throughout the pandemic, Phnom Penh has been rapidly transforming



from a low-slung sprawl of shophouse blocks into a cosmopolitan hub of towering buildings housing global retail and hospitality brands. Like all busy urban hubs, it can be overwhelming, but a thoughtful itinerary – a blend of classic attractions, well-established favourites and new must-visits – holds the key to a satisfying weekend in the city.

Friday

Morning. Shopping on the first day of the trip gives you time to scan the scene for what's available and mull over pricier items. At **Psar Thmey**, also known as the Central Market (*St 142*), housed beneath a photogenic Art Deco dome built in the 1930s, you'll find a tumble of affordable goods, including Cambodia's must-buy pantry essentials: black, red and white pepper from Kampot; coffee grown in the eastern highlands of Mondulhiri; and wild honey from Siem Reap and Kampong Thom.

Afternoon. Stroll down Street 240, lined with some of the city's finest independent boutiques for artisan-made crafts. Begin at **The Weaver's Tale** (*29 Oknha Chhun*

St 240; @the_weavers_tale) for legitimately fair-trade pieces from social enterprises such as **Fair Weave** (*fairweave.com*), makers of handloomed blankets, scarves and kimonos. Among the best items to take home or give as gifts are the colourful, handwoven bags and mats by **Maya Handicrafts** (*@mayahandicraftscambodia*), jewellery made from bullet casings by **Ammo** (*ammojewellery.com*) and knitted toys by **Cambodia Knits** (*cambodiaknits.com*).

While in the Chaktomukh neighbourhood, pop into the **National Museum** (*Preah Ang Eng St 13; cambodiamuseum.info*), a russet-hued, temple-inspired building housing one of the largest collections of Khmer artefacts. Beside it, the **Royal Palace**, King Norodom Sihamoni's official residence, offers limited access, with only the Silver Pagoda's Throne Hall – used for ceremonial events – open to visitors.

Evening. Few sunset viewing spots offer the same panoramic sweep as **Sora** (*Vattanac Capital Tower, Preah Monivong Blvd; @sora_phnompenh*), Rosewood Phnom Penh's 37th-floor sky bar. Through its glass walls, you



IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (ALL LANDMARKS), COURTESY OF SOMBOK (FOOD)



can watch the Tonle Sap and Bassac rivers merge with the mighty Mekong, Southeast Asia's longest river.

Prefer something more low-key? **Juniper Gin Bar** (*The Point Hotel, St 130; @juniper_gin_bar*) is a classic alternative for sparkling sips, open-air dining and fiery sundowners.

For dinner, celebrate your first day with a multi-course meal at **Sombok** (*1 St 154; sombok.asia*), the riverside restaurant helmed by chef Kimsan Pol, one of the talents behind Siem Reap's much-lauded tasting restaurant Embassy. Expect attentive service, distinctly Cambodian flavours and a lively atmosphere along Sisowath Quay.

Saturday

Morning. Make arts and culture the theme of the day, starting with a leisurely breakfast at the new flagship outlet of **Brown Coffee** (*107 Mao Tse Toung Blvd; browncoffee.com.kh*), set in the former home of Vann Molyvann, Cambodia's most prominent architect and urban planner.

After your meal, explore the upper floors, originally built in 1966 and restored by HKA+Partners. Molyvann, who led the New Khmer Architecture movement of the 1950s and 1960s, was a defining figure of Cambodia's Golden Age under King Norodom Sihanouk. His restored home offers a glimpse into that era's thriving music, film and literary scene before the shadow of genocide.

Continue the theme with a guided tuk-tuk tour of Molyvann's works with **Khmer Architecture Tours** (*fb.com/KhmerArchitectureTours*). Led by a local architect, highlights include the Royal University of Phnom Penh, the 100 Houses social housing project and the

“

Make arts and culture the theme of the day with a tour of Van Molyvann's works, the Sosoro Museum, Factory and the National Museum”



Previous page:

The Royal Palace on Samdach Sothearos Boulevard

Clockwise from top:

The National Museum; dishes from Sombok; Independence Monument; interior of the National Museum; Royal Palace grounds





The extra good EV

The new GWM ORA GOOD CAT and ORA GOOD CAT GT add extra flair, performance and confidence to every drive

The newly launched **GWM ORA GOOD CAT** and **GWM ORA GOOD CAT GT** bring a fresh sense of style and confidence to electric driving. With refined design and upgraded features, they embody a new era of smart mobility. For professionals who value both flair and sustainability, these models move seamlessly from weekday commutes to weekend escapes – proving that driving electric can be as beautiful as it is intelligent.

Extra good looking

Eye-catching yet refined, the **GWM ORA GOOD CAT** blends retro-inspired curves with contemporary

detailing. Its sportier sibling, the **GWM ORA GOOD CAT GT**, stands out with a two-tone Aqua Grey and Sun Black finish, sculpted bumpers and an 18-inch alloy wheels with yellow trim. Inside, a sporty, black interior with yellow detailing, ventilated and massaging front seats, a 10.25-inch infotainment touch screen and an electric panoramic sunroof create a cabin that's bright and dynamic.

Extra good driving

Smooth, responsive and quietly powerful, the **GWM ORA GOOD CAT** delivers an effortless, efficient drive. The **GWM ORA GOOD CAT GT** adds an extra burst of power with a tuned

motor for sharper acceleration. It also offers an electric hands-free tailgate and Vehicle to Load capability, turning it into a mobile power station for devices and weekend adventures.

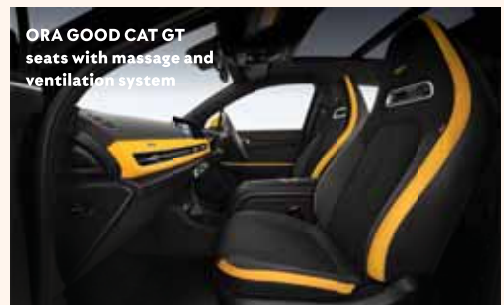
Extra good safety

Both models feature advanced driver assistance technologies and one of the world's safest batteries, built with Dimensional Heat and Safety Design for lasting confidence and protection while on the road.

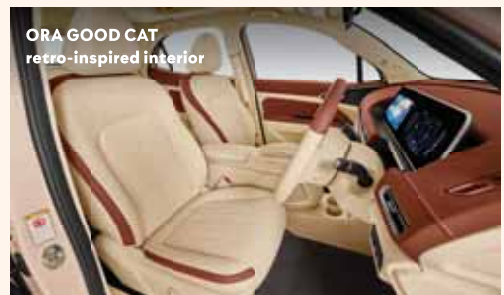
Stylish, smart and safe, they bring a touch of extra to every drive.

Find out more at gwm.com.my

ORA GOOD CAT GT seats with massage and ventilation system



ORA GOOD CAT retro-inspired interior



18" sporty black alloy wheel with GT-exclusive yellow trim





From top: Fonki murals at the mixed-use Factory complex; an exhibit of Cambodia's history at the Sosoro Museum

fine mix of international fare. Try tasty, steaming pho at **Bún** (@bun.phnompenh), seafood specials such as grilled lobster and baked scallops at **Clams** (@clams.seafood.club) or modern French cuisine at **Le Langka** (@le_langka).

Among Phnom Penh's many Japanese restaurants, **Oyakata** (54 St 57, BKK 1) shines for its excellent ramen and grilled mackerel.

Sunday

Morning. Have a traditional breakfast of *num banh chok* (fermented rice noodles in fish curry topped with flowers and vegetables) at **Psar Tuol Tompoung** (off Monivong and Mao Tse Toung Blvds), nicknamed the Russian Market in the 1980s for its popularity among Russian expats. The market also serves as a landmark for the hip Tuol Tompoung neighbourhood, a residential district peppered with trendy boutiques.

Head across town to one of this year's hottest openings, **Tsutaya** (1F, Aeon Mall 1; @tsutayabookstorekh), the Japanese bookstore chain known for its curated mix of books and crafts. Its Phnom Penh outpost in Aeon Mall 1 is a full-fledged lifestyle destination, with a café (serving matcha, of course), a community event space and shelves of Cambodian books and international titles spanning literature, history, art and cookbooks.

The bookstore also puts the spotlight on some of Cambodia's finest crafts. Take home rattan baskets by **Manava** (manava-cambodia.com), a social enterprise employing over 70 women



National Sports Complex (Olympic Stadium). En route, look out for the **Independence Monument** – a lotus-inspired stupa built in 1958 at the roundabout where Norodom and Sihanouk boulevards meet.

Afternoon. See Cambodia's history from a different lens at the **Sosoro Museum** (16 Preah Moha Ksatreyani Kossamak Ave; sosoro.nbc.gov.kh), which traces 2,000 years of the country's monetary evolution, from the Funan period and the Khmer Empire to the French Protectorate and the present day.

Then head to **Factory** (1159 National Rd 2, Khan Mean Chey; @factory_phnompenh), a mixed-use complex of tech offices, co-working spaces, art galleries and creative enterprises. It hosts regular weekend markets and one-off events, so check their social channels for what's on.

Evening. **Langka Lane** (St 51), an atmospheric alley with a don't-blink-or-you'll-miss-it entrance, offers a

Time for Techo

The new **Techo International Airport** (KTI) opened in September this year and it's a stunner: the US\$2 billion-dollar project, by global firm Foster + Partners, is designed to handle 13 million travellers annually. Among the highlights is a Brown Coffee outpost featuring large art installations inspired by seed pods, created by renowned Cambodian artist Sopheap Pich.





weavers from villages around Siem Reap practising long-held Khmer weaving techniques, or hand-crafted Cambodia-inspired perfumes by independent brand **Saarti** (saarti-cambodia.com).



Clockwise from above: Manava artisan with a custom-made placemat; Chef Nak's duck salad and culinary art centre; Saarti's handcrafted perfumes

Where to stay

Shangri-la Phnom Penh

The hotel's gleaming glass towers opened at the end of 2024, marking the brand's debut in Cambodia. Some of its 303 rooms feature fantastic views of the Tonle Sap, Bassac and Mekong rivers. shangri-la.com

Hyatt Regency

It doesn't get more strategic than this – located just across the National Museum, along a street lined with art shops and galleries, the 247-key luxury property features a spa and a 24/7 fitness centre. hyatt.com

Hotel KVL Phnom Penh

This sleek and stylish 76-room hotel is conveniently located along Sisowath Quay. The rooms' understated elegance and soothing, muted colour palette is perfect for minimalist fans. hotelkvlgroup.com

Afternoon. No visit to the capital is complete without a meal at **Cuisine Wat Damnak** (*St 228; cuisinewatdamnak.com*), housed in a 1950s villa and serving Cambodian flavours prepared with French techniques. Unlike the original Siem Reap restaurant, once listed among Asia's 50 Best Restaurants, chef Joannès Rivière's Phnom Penh outpost offers an à la carte lunch, while dinner is served as tasting menus with vegan and vegetarian options.

Work off your midday indulgence with several rounds of pickleball at **Pickle Monster** (picklemonsterkh.com), which has outdoor courts at Hotel Cambodiana along Sisowath Quay. The best part? The gorgeous sunset backdrop.

Evening. For your final dinner in Cambodia, splash out on a private meal by Rotanak Ros, best known as **Chef Nak** (chefnak.com), one of the country's top chefs and advocates for Cambodian cuisine. Author of two award-winning books preserving nearly lost Khmer recipes, Chef Nak's private dining takes place in a traditional wooden house outside the city. Pre-booking is required, but the experience offers both exceptional food and a lesson in the resilience of the Cambodian people.



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Phnom Penh 14x weekly.



BCKK2, coming soon

Where events create a legacy

In this season of reflection, Sarawak offers a reminder of what gives work purpose and meaning

There's a certain clarity in flying at year's end. Between the clouds and the quiet, we find space to reflect, not only on where we're going but on the purpose that guides us there. For those who lead, build and inspire through events, this quiet moment reminds us that progress begins with purpose.

A land that inspires connection

Wherever the journey begins, it leads to a land that honours its roots while embracing the future. Here, business gatherings become more than meetings, transforming into exchanges of ideas shaped by culture, collaboration and care for the world we share.

At the heart of this is the **Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK)**, built as a meeting place between knowledge and nature,

ambition and authenticity. Its upcoming expansion will transform Kuching's riverfront into a vibrant hub for global dialogue, doubling capacity while staying true to its sustainable values.

Legacies that last beyond the event

Every gathering creates impact beyond the conference hall. Ideas inspire initiatives, while partnerships turn into projects that move communities forward, from advancing rainforest science to strengthening public health and pioneering renewable energy.

In Sarawak, progress is rooted in balance where technology meets tradition and growth aligns with sustainability. Here, delegates find purpose in every handshake and a sense of home in every conversation.



A journey that begins with meaning

As the year ends, it's a time to reflect on progress and purpose. Every event here is meaningful, nature-inspired and lasting in impact.

This journey is made possible by those who share Sarawak's vision for purposeful growth – Business Events Sarawak; Sarawak Tourism Board;

Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau; the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Sarawak; the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia; and industry partners who continue to champion the state as a place where ideas take root and legacies grow.

For enquiries or early bookings, email sales.bckk@bckk.com.my

Brice
by ecoBrown's®



The rise of Firewood Penang

A standout year sets the stage for Firewood Penang's expansion to Kuala Lumpur, along with the arrival of a new chef leading its next evolution



Firewood Penang has long been driven by ambition, but 2025 elevated that spirit to new heights. With milestones that include Michelin Selected recognition, a place among the World's 101 Best Steak Restaurants and an entry in the Malaysia Book of Records, the year marked a defining moment for Chef Ker Yang Hao and his team.

Now, that momentum continues with the opening of **Firewood KLCC** at **Star Boulevard KLCC** at the end of December. For Ker, expanding beyond Penang feels



like a natural next step. "Firewood is a company, not just a restaurant," he reflects. "Growth creates opportunities for the people who grow with us."

The KLCC outlet introduces a new face to the Firewood family: Chef Qaia, a Malaysian returning home after more than a decade in Singapore's acclaimed kitchens, including time with Gordon Ramsay and Wolfgang Puck. Known for her steady leadership and high standards, she aims to guide Firewood KLCC toward its own Michelin recognition while nurturing a strong team.

The menu will offer something new as well. About half of the dishes from Penang will make the journey south, while the other half will debut exclusively in Kuala Lumpur as the team explores new ideas. What remains consistent is Firewood's philosophy on open flame cooking that shapes flavour, texture and the overall experience.

Guests can expect the same personalised touch that defines the Penang flagship, from its signature fragrance to its thoughtful presentation.

On the fifth floor of Star Boulevard KLCC, the new restaurant blends city views with a slightly more elevated setting while preserving Firewood's approachable charm. Prices will remain consistent with Penang.

As Firewood steps into the new year, Ker hopes to shape the brand into an iconic Malaysian dining destination, drawing travellers to flavours rooted in home – from bakau wood to Nyonya-inspired notes and rendang butter.

With Visit Malaysia 2026 ahead and hero dishes like the Stone Axe steak, Firewood KLCC marks the beginning of a confident new chapter.

Visit firegroup.my or call +60 17-9899246 for reservations.



Into



the

Step beyond Auckland's marina to explore the Hauraki Gulf's most storied islands – the birdsong of Tiritiri Matangi, the gardens of Kawau's Mansion House and the creative calm of Waiheke – all ideal spots for a family adventure

Words **Maya Calica Collins** Photography **Jamie Bowering**

blue



Previously a working dockyard filled with fishing boats and warehouses, Auckland's Viaduct Harbour

was reinvigorated in the late 1990s to prepare for the 2000 America's Cup. Today, it's one of the city's most popular waterfront spots, with a lively mix of restaurants and yachts.

But look past the marina and out towards the water, and you'll see Auckland's true beauty. The Viaduct opens into the Waitematā Harbour, a sheltered waterway that flows east into the Hauraki Gulf, a vast marine park with over 50 unique islands to explore.

My husband and I have spent years sailing around these waters and keep finding ourselves drawn back to three in particular: Tiritiri Matangi, Kawau and Waiheke. Maybe it's the clear turquoise waters, the enchanting forests or the chance to see rare wildlife. Whatever it is, these islands always pull us back, with loved ones in tow, and every visit is filled with exciting adventures and precious memories.

The best part? They're all just a short ferry ride from the mainland, yet each offers a different experience, perfect for a day trip where families of all ages can explore and connect.

Tiritiri Matangi: feathered paradise

It's hard to imagine that Tiritiri Matangi was once a barren farmland. Today, it's an island sanctuary where there are more birds than people. As the Tiritiri Matangi Island Ferry pulls up to the jetty after an 80-minute ride from the Viaduct Harbour, you can already hear the chatter of birds carried over the water, a hint of what waits ashore.

Strolling beneath a lush forest canopy with a constant bird concert to echoing around us, Tiritiri feels like entering another world. It's the perfect place for families to unplug from screens and reconnect with nature – not only because Wi-Fi coverage is limited but because there's so much to see in real life. The walking trails are well marked with benches along the way for older family members to rest and take in the views. Toilet facilities are available at Hobbs Beach, the Visitor Centre and the wharf.



Previous spread:
Scenes from
Tiritiri Matangi

This spread: Gentle
walking trails and
bird watching at
Tiritiri Matangi





For the best experience, head up to the Visitor Centre beside the historic 1864 lighthouse and join a guided walk with the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi. Mosey along gently winding forest trails and look out for the *pōhutukawa* trees (known as New Zealand's Christmas tree) which bloom with red flowers in summer, from December to February.

Grandparents will love learning how to identify bird calls and hearing stories of how this land was brought back to life. Once a Māori settlement blanketed in dense native forest, Tiritiri Matangi was cleared for farming by the Europeans in the mid-1800s – a move that drove away much of its wildlife. But in 1984, the Department of Conservation and hundreds of volunteers launched a reforestation project on the island, planting 250,000 trees and reintroducing endangered bird species such as the *tīeke* (saddleback), *hihi* (stitchbird), little spotted kiwi and *korimako* (bellbird).

Parents will want to keep their cameras ready – this is one of the best places in New Zealand to photograph native birds up close, particularly the elusive *kōkako* (also known as the “ghost of the forest”) and the endangered *takahē*, a large, flightless, jewel-coloured bird. Kids will be beside themselves if they're lucky to spot the reptilian *tuatara* sunning itself on a rock – a real-life “dinosaur” with a third eye that dates back 250 million years.

There's no café or food service on the island, so it's best to pack food in sealed bags or containers. The island has a strict Pack In, Pack Out rule – whatever you bring, you take back with you. The Visitor Centre offers complimentary tea and coffee and sells cold beverages and bird-themed souvenirs in the gift shop.



Kawau: island of Victorian curiosities

Just a short trip north of Auckland, this island once belonged to Sir George Grey, who served twice as governor of New Zealand. In the mid-1800s, Grey purchased Kawau as his private retreat, envisioning it as a living menagerie. He brought in exotic plants and trees and imported animals such as wallabies, peafowl, kookaburras and monkeys to bring his dream to life.

Today, that eccentric vision remains. Arriving here in the summer feels like you've wandered onto the set of a period film, with the Victorian-era Mansion House at its heart. Surrounded by camellias and hydrangeas in full bloom, and with peacocks strutting across the lawns, it's hard not to be charmed. For a small entry fee of NZ\$4, you can wander through the beautifully restored parlours and dining spaces furnished with Victorian décor, filled with curiosities that hint at Grey's fascination with nature and the exotic.

Comfortable shoes and a sunhat are a must when exploring the island. From the Mansion House gardens, follow the shoreline trail on a 20-minute walk through native bush to Lady's Bay, a secluded beach cove perfect for a family picnic or a refreshing swim. Tell the kids to keep an eye out for wallabies, the smaller hopping cousins of kangaroos, or the cheeky *weka* – curious, flightless birds that often loiter for scraps under picnic tables.

For parents and older kids seeking a bit more adventure, the Coppermine Track to the stone engine house ruins is a two-hour return walk rich in history, with native bird sightings of tūi, *pīwakawaka* (fantail), *kererū* (New Zealand wood pigeon) and sweeping ocean views.



Grandparents who prefer a gentler pace can wander through the Victorian gardens around the Mansion House, enjoy the flowers and watch for peacocks.

When it's time for a bite, the whole family can regroup at the Mansion House Café. Open during the summer months from 10am to 4pm, the café serves lunch along with coffee, salads, sandwiches and Maree's scones, a local favourite.

Getting to the island is easy and a scenic experience. From Auckland's city centre, drive about 50 minutes north to Sandspit Wharf, where you can park and board a ferry to Mansion House Bay. Kawau Cruises operates a quick 20-minute ferry with five departures throughout the day during summer. For a more scenic journey, the Royal Mail Run Cruise takes a longer 40- to 50-minute route and offers the chance to spot gannet birds diving for food and the occasional penguin or dolphin along the way. Check the website for timetables and book your tickets at least two hours ahead.

This spread: Scenes from Kawau Island, including the historic Mansion House, peacocks roaming about and the engine house ruins



Close encounters of the cultural kind

Whether you have a full day or just a few hours to spare, explore these Māori heritage experiences across Auckland

For a captivating Māori performance

Catch the Māori Experience at Auckland Museum, where indigenous artists and orators bring Māori culture to life through music, storytelling and dance. Tickets are priced at NZ\$35 for adults and NZ\$17.50 for children aged 5–15. aucklandmuseum.com



For a full-day cultural immersion

Join a guided tour with local operators such as Cheeky Kiwi Travel for a day steeped in Māori heritage. Highlights include live cultural performances, a buffet lunch and a visit to Te Puia to experience its geothermal wonders. cheekykiwitravel.com



For a walk on the wild side

Explore New Zealand's wildlife and landscapes along the Te Wao Nui track at Auckland Zoo. Learn about unique native species such as the tuatara, a prehistoric reptile older than the dinosaurs. aucklandzoo.co.nz

“

Waiheke’s Mediterranean-like climate makes it ideal for vineyards and olive groves”



Waiheke: art and behold

A place where laidback beach life meets artistic flair and a taste for the finer things, Waiheke Island is just a 35-minute ferry ride from downtown Auckland. Once a bohemian haven for struggling artists and dreamers in the 1970s, it now boasts a prominent art scene and some of New Zealand’s best boutique wineries and restaurants.

Getting around the second-largest island in the Hauraki Gulf is simple, even for families with young children or older relatives. Most areas are stroller- and wheelchair-friendly, with paved paths and easy access to buses and taxis. Oneroa Village, the island’s main township, is just a 15-minute stroll from Matiatia Wharf. The main street, Ocean View Road, is lined with cafés, art galleries and boutique shops selling everything from handmade jewellery to home décor by local artisans.

Start with a leisurely brunch at Wai Kitchen while admiring sailboats anchored on Oneroa Bay. Packed a picnic basket? Follow the sloping path from Ocean View Road down to Oneroa Beach, where kids can build sandcastles and paddle safely in shallow waters while parents unwind on a blanket under shady trees.

The Waiheke Community Art Gallery is a five-minute walk from Ocean View Road, where local talents exhibit their work. If you’re there between 5 December 2025

IMAGES: COURTESY OF MUDBRICK RESTAURANT, ALLPRESS OLIVE GROVES



and 1 February 2026, buy and collect a piece of original Waiheke art to take home from the “Jostle-Waiheke Small Things” exhibition. Summer is also the best time to go on the Oneroa Art Trail, an easy 3km walk past public art installations and local art galleries.

Waiheke's Mediterranean-like climate makes it ideal for vineyards and olive groves, and even those who don't drink will find plenty to appreciate. Foodies can head to Allpress Olive Groves on Gordon Road for a NZ\$10 tasting session that lets them sample a selection of extra virgin olive oils, learn about the milling process and even pick up a bottle or two to take home.

If you prefer something more thrilling, EcoZip Adventures offers an unforgettable way to see the island from above. After a quick pick-up from the Matiatia ferry terminal, the three-hour experience will have you soaring over treetops and vineyards.

Cap your island adventure at the iconic Mudbrick Restaurant on Church Bay Road, a three-minute taxi ride from Oneroa's main street. Order light bites – perhaps flatbreads, crispy calamari or shiitake mushrooms – sit back and admire views of the water and Auckland city in the distance.

To get here, board the Fullers360 ferry for a 40-minute trip to Matiatia Wharf from Auckland's Downtown Ferry Terminal at Pier 2 on Quay Street, within walking distance of the Viaduct Harbour. You can purchase tickets at the terminal on the day itself, but it's best to book ahead during summer.

Clockwise from left: Allpress Olive Groves; dine at Mudbrick Restaurant; take a scenic walk up to Mudbrick



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

Where to stay



JW Marriott Auckland

This new hotel boasts luxurious suites in an unbeatable location in the central business district, with amenities like an indoor pool and spa. marriott.com



Hotel Indigo Auckland

A stylish boutique hotel on Albert Street, just steps from the NZ Convention Centre, Aotea Square and the Civic precinct. auckland.hotelindigo.com

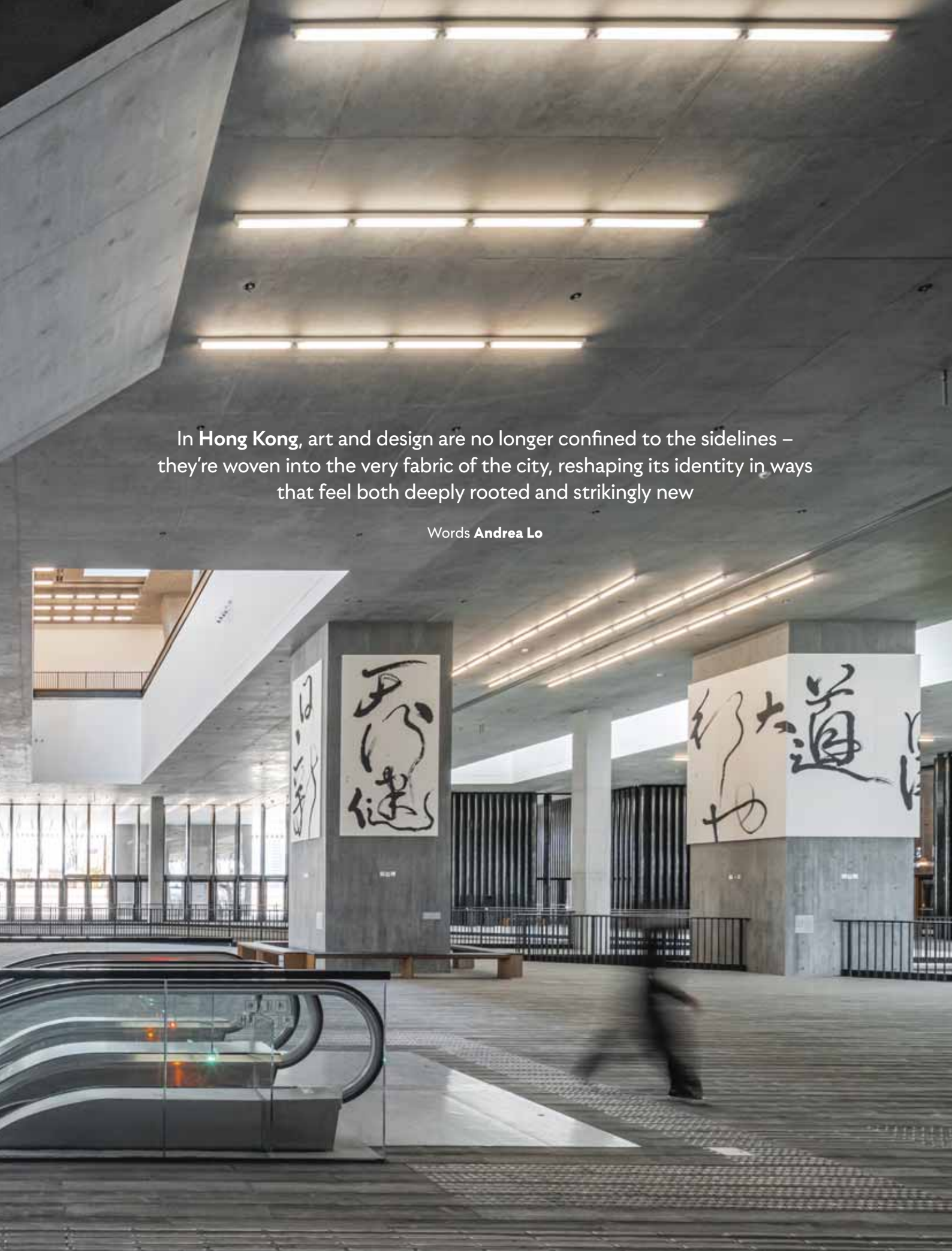


Grand Central Serviced Apartments

Set in the iconic Auckland Railway Station, they offer affordable studio suites in a prime location. grandcentralhotel.co.nz

ART

in progress



In **Hong Kong**, art and design are no longer confined to the sidelines – they're woven into the very fabric of the city, reshaping its identity in ways that feel both deeply rooted and strikingly new

Words **Andrea Lo**



Long defined by its commercial prowess, Hong Kong might surprise you with just

how profoundly creativity is reshaping its urban soul. Across neighbourhoods, art and culture are reclaiming and reimagining forgotten spaces, turning them into canvases for new kinds of storytelling.

Tucked between the glass and steel skyscrapers of the central business district, Tai Kwun feels like a portal into another world. The moment you step through its gates, the city's frenetic buzz fades away. Slate-grey paths curve around shady courtyards; red-brick façades glow warmly in the afternoon light. Balconies with wrought-iron railings overlook open spaces alive with art-lovers, school groups and curious wanderers.

Once a symbol of law and order, the former police compound – Tai Kwun, meaning “big station” in Cantonese – has been transformed into a cultural landmark. Spread across 16 restored colonial-





era buildings, the site is a masterclass in preservation and reinvention. Today, it's a place of reflection and exchange, where visitors come for its exhibitions, performances and dining experiences.

What captivates most is the interplay between old and new. From one corner stands JC Contemporary, Tai Kwun's main art gallery designed by Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron. Its cast-aluminium façade shimmers subtly with the changing light, and inside, a concrete staircase spirals elegantly through the building's three floors, anchoring the space with sculptural presence.

A SHORT CLIMB UP HOLLYWOOD ROAD

brings you to PMQ – another reinvention of the past. Previously the Police Married Quarters, this clean-lined modernist complex now hums with the creative energy of Hong Kong's independent design scene. Twin white blocks are connected by breezy open-air corridors where sunlight filters through potted plants and the aroma of fresh coffee drifts from corner cafés. Behind glass-fronted storefronts, designers sketch and stitch, their studios doubling as boutiques and workshops.

Along the walkways, visitors peek into shops and pop-up galleries, where displays change with the seasons. At B'in Select, the shelves pay homage to Hong Kong's visual language – accessories shaped like mahjong tiles and table lamps inspired by the city's red-and-white taxis. Cheongsam brand For a Change reimagines the traditional dress in



Previous spread:
Inside M+ Museum

Clockwise from top left: Scenes from Tai Kwun in Central, including JC Contemporary; PMQ's open courtyards invite moments of reflection (left)



Clockwise from above: Axel Vervoordt Gallery; Hong Kong Palace Museum; riveting installations by Isaac Chong Wai at Blindspot Gallery

bold, contemporary forms with asymmetrical cuts and unexpected fabrics. At Oscary Art studio, brushes swirl in paint jars as visitors join in art-jamming sessions.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND'S SOUTHSIDE, creativity takes on a grittier texture. Wong Chuk Hang, once an industrial zone of factories and warehouses, has evolved into a dynamic artistic enclave. The buildings still bear the marks of their utilitarian past – concrete columns, cargo lifts, metal shutters – but behind unmarked doors and up freight elevators lie some of the city's most compelling galleries.

Blindspot Gallery was among the first to champion photography and video art and now stages boundary-pushing exhibitions that explore identity and memory. A few steps away, SC Gallery celebrates Hong Kong artists through an unfiltered, local lens, set amid whitewashed walls, exposed beams and concrete floors. Across the road, Axel Vervoordt Gallery brings a contrasting calm with its minimalist aesthetic, hosting exhibitions that feel like serene, visual meditations.



IMAGES: COURTESY OF HONG KONG PALACE MUSEUM, ISAAC CHONG WAI AND BLINDSPOT GALLERY



“

Wong Chuk Hang, once an industrial zone of factories and warehouses, has evolved into a dynamic artistic enclave”



What sets Wong Chuk Hang apart is its sense of openness. Even when visits are by appointment, the atmosphere remains welcoming rather than exclusive. Visitors are free to explore, observe and engage in a neighbourhood that feels more like a living creative ecosystem than a curated district.

ACROSS VICTORIA HARBOUR, THE WEST Kowloon Cultural District rises as Hong Kong's boldest artistic statement yet. At its centre is M+, a museum of visual culture that has become a beacon for the city's creative identity.

"M+ helps tell stories of Asian contemporary arts that are not fully reflected in any existing museums in the West," says Suhanya Raffel, the museum's director. It marks the first time "we have in Asia an institution comparable to the Centre Pompidou in Paris or the MoMA in New York, both in scale, ambition and purpose," she adds. "It's like Hong Kong itself."

The museum's design – sleek and horizontal – echoes the city's skyline while subverting its vertical obsession. Inside, exhibitions span graphic design, sculpture, architecture and everything in between. And just outside, the Art Park stretches along the waterfront, dotted with joggers and amateur photographers chasing golden hour.



Clockwise from bottom left: Suhanya Raffel, museum director of M+; the Xiqu Centre's façade recalls the Chinese moon gate motif; Art Park along the waterfront; M+ in West Kowloon Cultural District



IMAGES: MO FEI CHEUNG (XIU CENTRE), WINNIE YEUNG @ VISUAL VOICES (PORTRAIT), KEVIN MAK / WEST KOWLOON CULTURAL DISTRICT AUTHORITY (ART PARK)



Nearby, the Hong Kong Palace Museum offers a different kind of cultural immersion. Its vast galleries open like cinematic frames, displaying imperial robes, bronze artefacts and ancient scrolls. The space feels expansive, with wide sightlines and thoughtful lighting that bring centuries-old treasures into sharp contemporary focus.

A few steps away, the Xiqu Centre honours Chinese opera as a living, breathing tradition. Performances of Cantonese opera and other regional genres unfold in its grand, state-of-the-art theatre while workshops and behind-the-scenes tours reveal the craft and discipline behind the spectacle. Outside, the building's flowing, silk-like façade reinterprets the traditional Chinese moon gate motif – fluid, inviting and symbolic of passage.

For visitors, these places reveal a different Hong Kong – one where art is not just decoration but a driving force for change. For those who come with open eyes, it offers a powerful new way to experience the city: not just as it is, but as it's becoming.



**Malaysia Airlines flies between
Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong 14x weekly.**

Design-driven stays for art lovers



Rosewood Hong Kong

Set along the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront, the ultra-luxury hotel houses over 400 artworks across its suites and public spaces – blurring the line between hospitality and gallery, just a short drive from West Kowloon's cultural core. [rosewoodhotels.com](https://www.rosewoodhotels.com)



The Hari Hong Kong

Tucked away in a quiet part of bustling Wan Chai, The Hari blends sleek design with a passion for emerging creatives. Its annual Art Prize supports rising Hong Kong talents, adding a sense of purpose to its boutique-luxe aesthetic. [thehari.com](https://www.thehari.com)



The Arca

This design-forward boutique hotel in Wong Chuk Hang mirrors the neighbourhood's creative energy and features a collection of works by celebrated and emerging Hong Kong artists, including the late Fan Ho. [thearca.com](https://www.thearca.com)



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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.

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from MAG Airlines

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network**

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MAG Airlines can
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the world

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**Onboard
entertainment**

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entertained with
our latest releases of
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MAB Academy enhances pilot training with new flight simulator

MAB Academy, the training and development arm of Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), is reaching new heights in aviation training excellence with the acquisition of a new state-of-the-art Boeing 737-8 full-flight simulator (FFS) from CAE – an agreement witnessed by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. This milestone marks 15 years of collaboration dedicated to shaping world-class pilots and advancing aviation training standards.

The simulator will be installed at MAB Academy's new Sepang facility, with training scheduled to commence by July 2026. It will further expand MAB Academy's training capacity

and help build a strong pipeline of skilled pilots to support MAG's growing fleet.

"This investment underscores our commitment to safety, innovation and continuous improvement in pilot training," said Datuk Captain Izham Ismail, Group Managing Director of MAG. "The new simulator will elevate our in-house capabilities and strengthen our position as a leading, trusted aviation training centre."

MAB Academy already operates certified simulators for the ATR 72-500 and A330neo (certified in September 2025), reinforcing MAG's focus on building long-term capability and advancing aviation training standards.

Malaysia Airlines strengthens commitment to the China market

Malaysia Airlines is deepening its ties with China, enhancing connectivity and travel experiences for Chinese passengers through strategic partnerships and expanded services. In the first half of 2025 alone, the airline carried close to 250,000 passengers from China, achieving load factors above 80%.

Malaysia Airlines will commence flights to Chengdu on 9 January 2026, expanding its network to seven gateways and up to 60 weekly flights across Greater China.

To make travel even smoother, the airline signed four Memoranda of Understanding with leading partners, including Trip.Biz, Alipay+, UnionPay and Chengdu Spring Travel. These collaborations focus on digital innovation, seamless payment solutions and travel distribution, ensuring passengers can book, pay and engage with the airline across multiple platforms effortlessly.

"China remains a cornerstone of our international strategy," said Dersensih Aresandiran, Chief Commercial Officer of Airlines, Malaysia Aviation Group. "These partnerships and network expansions reaffirm our role as the gateway of choice for Chinese travellers, connecting through Kuala Lumpur to Southeast Asia, Australasia and beyond."



Embrace the thrills and tales of ADVENTURE

Welcome the year in Southeast Asia's most vibrant destinations

📍 Bali

Welcome the new year in a literal paradise on earth. Soak in the festive countdown vibes in Kuta with vibrant street parties, high-energy nightlife, and dazzling coastal fireworks at midnight. Start the year with a sunrise trek to Mount Batur, then enjoy a traditional Balinese blessing at Pura Besakih, the island's Mother Temple. Thrill-seekers can also ride the powerful black-sand waves of Canggu.

Step into the new year with the sights, sounds, and energy of Southeast Asia. From lively countdowns to hidden temples and lush landscapes, the region offers endless ways to begin 2026 with adventure and wonder. Are you ready to chase experiences that will set the tone for an unforgettable year?

📍 Hanoi

Vietnam's most romantic city is also its most vibrant. Hoan Kiem Lake is the heart of Hanoi's New Year's Eve celebrations, drawing crowds with live music and a spectacular fireworks display at midnight. For a laid-back New Year's Day, explore the Old Quarter, where narrow lanes buzz with life, colour, and timeless tradition.

📍 Ho Chi Minh

A New Year's celebration in Ho Chi Minh City is as mesmerizing and energetic as the city's irresistible charm. Join thousands of locals and visitors at Nguyen Hue Walking Street for a spectacular outdoor countdown with fireworks. The next day, step back in time at the historic Cu Chi Tunnels or navigate the winding waterways of the Mekong Delta, dotted with floating villages, for an adventure you won't forget.



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Malaysia Aviation Group soars to global recognition

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) continues to make its mark on the world stage, with Malaysia Airlines and MAB Engineering Services (MABES) earning prestigious accolades for excellence, innovation and leadership in aviation.

Malaysia Airlines has been named

an APEX Four Star Major Airline in the 2026 Official Airline Ratings, reaffirming its commitment to safety, comfort and reliability. Travellers have also voted the national carrier the 9th Best Airline in the World in the Condé Nast Traveller UK Readers' Choice Awards 2025.

"Our people's passion for delivering exceptional experiences with Malaysian Hospitality shines through in every journey," said Datuk Captain Izham Ismail, Group Managing Director of MAG.

The airline also celebrated regional recognition, including two awards at the Asian Experience Awards 2025 for its commercial transformation

project and a Big Bang Award at the YouTube Works Awards Malaysia 2025 for its creative travel documentary, *Epicurean Journey to Chiang Mai*.

Meanwhile, MAB Engineering Services was honoured at the Aviation Week Network MRO Asia-Pacific Awards 2025 in Singapore, winning Marketing Campaign of the Year for its inspiring Second TakeOff campaign – a bold showcase of the company's transformation journey.

These accolades reflect MAG's commitment to safety, service quality and innovation, reinforcing Malaysia's standing in the global aviation landscape and delivering a consistently high standard of travel for its passengers.

Enrich rolls out a refreshed programme structure

Enrich, Malaysia Airlines' travel and lifestyle loyalty programme, is taking rewards to the next level with a refreshed structure launching 1 January 2026. Members can look forward to greater value and flexibility, earning more Enrich Points across tiers, with Platinum members earning 2.5 points for every RM1 spent, and revised Elite Points that make it easier to reach higher tiers when flying with Malaysia Airlines, Firefly and oneworld partners.

The update also brings enhanced Elite Status benefits, including priority baggage for Silver members and new ways to earn points through seat upgrades, Points + Cash bookings, Enrich Hotel stays and the AmBank Enrich Visa Credit Card.

"We're making it easier for members to earn meaningful rewards faster, in the skies or across our lifestyle offerings," says Philip See, CEO of Loyalty & Travel Services, Malaysia Aviation Group.





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Your Gateway to
Asia & Beyond



Enjoy the magic of the season with a festive Christmas menu in the skies

Throughout December, Malaysia Airlines invites you to embrace the holiday season in the skies with a specially curated Festive Menu that captures the spirit of Christmas – a time of togetherness, warmth and joy – served exclusively on selected routes.

Travellers departing from Kuala Lumpur can enjoy this seasonal treat on flights to Sabah and Sarawak, visiting families and friends in Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan, Tawau, Kuching, Miri and Sibul. Guests flying to Australia (Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Brisbane) and New Zealand, as well as to Europe via London and Paris, can also indulge in this

special holiday experience.

In Business Suite and Business Class, guests will be treated to the season's highlight – roasted chicken breast stuffed with creamy spinach. It's served with potato au gratin alongside blanched asparagus, carrot, yellow zucchini and cherry tomato – all brought together by a silky, savoury chicken gravy.

For those travelling in Economy Class, the holiday cheer continues with roasted chicken breast slices drenched in gravy, paired with steamed potato wedges tossed in parsley, roasted carrot, broccoli and cherry tomato. A dollop of cranberry jam adds the perfect festive touch – a hint of sweetness that captures the joyful essence of the season.

Guests travelling from London to Kuala Lumpur will find a taste of home in the skies as Malaysia Airlines serves up a classic British Christmas feast. Business Suite and Business Class guests are treated to Christmas turkey with sage shallot, apple and cranberry stuffing, roasted root vegetables and buttered Brussels sprouts. In Economy Class, the festive meal features roasted chicken thigh

with gravy, roasted root vegetables and buttered Brussels sprouts.

From Paris, the celebration continues with a menu that brings warmth and refinement to the table. Business Class guests can indulge in roasted turkey breast with gravy, sage and onion stuffing, roasted root vegetables and buttered Brussels sprouts. Economy Class guests can enjoy roasted chicken thigh with herbs and classic gravy, served with roasted root vegetables and buttered Brussels sprouts.

Across Australia-bound routes, festive flavours shine with a summery twist. Business Class guests can savour roasted chicken breast with turkey gravy and cranberry sauce, served with roasted root vegetables and blanched green beans. In Economy Class, the meal features roasted chicken thigh with turkey gravy and cranberry sauce, served with roasted vegetables and green peas.

Celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with Malaysia Airlines, where festive flavours and heartfelt service make every journey a memorable one.

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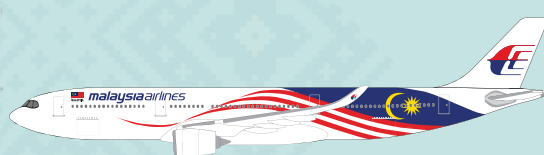


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A350-900

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



A330-900

No. of Aircraft **8** | 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**



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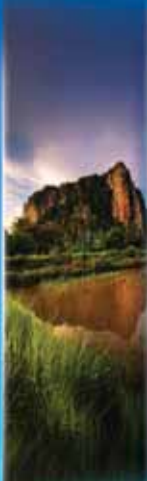
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Personal care, baby paraphernalia and first-aid treatment are available upon request.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

+ For more information, visit malaysiaairlines.com

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



WEB
Check in online at malaysiaairlines.com and self-print your boarding pass.



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



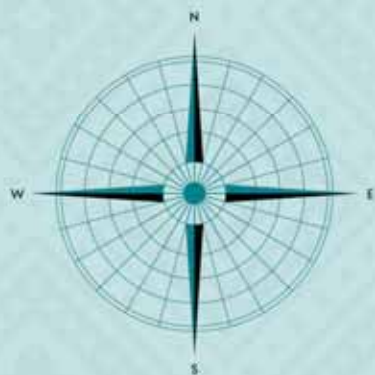
MALAYSIA AIRLINES APP
Visit malaysiaairlines.com to download the Malaysia Airlines App to perform mobile check-in.



FAST-CHECK SELF-SERVICE KIOSK
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CITY CENTRE COUNTER CHECK-IN
Available at KL Sentral in Kuala Lumpur.



OUR NETWORK

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELEN WINATA

SOUTH
ATLANTIC
OCEAN

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



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

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



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you travel with
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since 2013



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (MAURITIUS)





Stay connected with MHconnect

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

Stay connected in 5 easy steps:



Step 1

Switch to
"Flight Mode"



Step 2

Connect to **MHconnect**
iOS: You will be directed to the home page**
Android: Enter the URL
mhconnect.malaysiaairlines.com
to be directed to the home page



Step 3

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



Step 4

Click on the
"Connect" tab



Step 5

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



You are connected

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

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

**If iOS is not automatically redirected, enter URL mhconnect.malaysiaairlines.com to be directed to the homepage. Other T&Cs apply.



Enjoy in-flight entertainment with MHstudio

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

Stay connected in 3 steps:



Step 1

Switch to
Flight Mode



Step 2

Activate Wi-Fi and
select **MHstudio**



Step 3

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

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

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



NOW SHOWING



MOVIES **p86**



TELEVISION **p97**



AUDIO **p98**



Jurassic World Rebirth

Check out our **Christmas Special** on page 88!



Christmas Eve in
Miller's Point



The Santa Class



Red One



Tinsel Town

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





Jurassic World Rebirth

A research team searching for a heart disease cure becomes stranded with a family on a dinosaur-infested island, forced to survive the terrifying Distortus Rex in the seventh *Jurassic World* instalment.



150+

more movies on
your IFE player



Sunlight

A suicidal radio host meets a woman in a full monkey suit coping with past trauma. Together, they embark on a darkly comic road trip, discovering unexpected love and healing along the way.



Daruma

A wheelchair user's road trip with his young daughter becomes a moving journey of connection and growth – an indie gem brimming with emotion and genuine performances.



Grand Prix of Europe

To save her family's park, talented mouse Edda secretly enters the Grand Prix with mentor Ed Euromaus, facing sabotage and high-speed thrills in this animated sports comedy.



Murder at the Embassy

Cairo, 1934. Detective Miranda Green (Mischa Barton) investigates a murder at the British Embassy where a top-secret document was stolen and the mystery threatens to destabilise global peace.



The Map that Leads to You

Heather's perfectly planned life changes when a chance meeting with Jack sparks a whirlwind romance while travelling through Europe. Based on the JP Monninger novel.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Hollywood Latest

**Christmas Eve in Miller's Point**

As four generations of the Balsano family come together for Christmas in their ancestral home, cousins Emily and Michelle search for freedom in the suburbs. A lively look at family chaos and connection.

**The Santa Class**

When Kate North inherits her father's struggling Santa school, she and colleague Dan find an amnesiac man claiming to be Santa. They enlist him in training to restore his memory – and maybe save the school.

**Red One**

The head of North Pole Security (Dwayne Johnson), teams up with a hacker (Chris Evans) to find a kidnapped Santa Claus (JK Simmons) before Christmas is ruined in this action-comedy.

**Tinsel Town**

A washed-up Hollywood star (Kiefer Sutherland) is reluctantly cast in a small English village's Christmas play, where he butts heads with its no-nonsense choreographer (Rebel Wilson) in a battle of egos.

Hollywood Favourites

**Four Christmases****The Polar Express****How to Ruin the Holidays**

Kids

**Arthur Christmas**

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our commitment.

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Your Gateway to
Asia & Beyond



Hollywood Favourites



Two Weeks Notice

A liberal lawyer (Sandra Bullock) works for a self-absorbed billionaire developer (Hugh Grant) but quits after his endless demands push her to resign.



Napoleon

Ridley Scott directs Joaquin Phoenix in an epic retelling of the ruthless rise of Napoleon Bonaparte, his conquests and his tumultuous relationship with Josephine.



Maverick



We're the Millers



You've Got Mail



The Curious Case of Benjamin Button



Uncharted

Kids



Surf's Up

Young penguin surfer Cody Maverick leaves Antarctica to compete with the pros, finding friendship and guidance from a laid-back veteran who may be the legendary Big Z.



The Lego Batman

The overconfident Batman must overcome his fear of working with others when The Joker attacks. He teams up with Robin and Alfred in this hilarious animated comedy hit.



The Mitchells vs the Machines

Young Katie Mitchell heads to film school with her family, but when electronic devices revolt, she and her loved ones, aided by two robots, must save each other – and the planet.

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



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.

The benefit(s) payable under eligible product is(are) protected by PIDM up to limits.

Please refer to PIDM's TIPS brochure or contact Etiqa General Insurance Berhad or PIDM (visit www.pidm.gov.my).



Underwritten by
eTiqa
General Insurance

Now Showing

MOVIES

150+

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your IFE player

Indonesian



October Rhapsody

Terminally ill, K hides his condition to find a husband for Cream, the woman he loves, sacrificing his feelings as he watches her fall for another man.

Thai



Taklee Genesis

Haunted by her father's 30-year disappearance in a warp-speed experiment, Stella contacts him by radio and time-travels through three eras to bring him home.

Chinese



The Girl Who Stole Time

A village girl gains power over time and journeys through a perilous, magical city with friends.



My Dad is an Alien

Believing her father has superpowers, a girl uncovers a secret that changes everything.

Korean



A Man of Reason

Ex-con Su-hyuk quits the syndicate to protect his daughter, but his boss sends assassins to eliminate him.

Malay



Setia di Hujung Ingatan



6 Jilake

Japanese



Frontline: Yokohama Bay

Japan's DMAT responds to the Diamond Princess quarantine and the first Covid-19 crisis.



Principal Examination

A vice principal returns to teaching, facing the challenges of Japan's changing education system.

Korean



The Noisy Mansion

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we keep business moving.**

Find out more about our product and services at [MASkargo.com](https://www.MASkargo.com).
Terms and conditions applied.

Hindi

**Pushpa 2: The Rule**

Pushpa's ruthless rise in the red sandalwood trade pits him against deadly rivals. Available in Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu on our in-flight entertainment.

**Costao**

In 1990s Goa, renowned customs officer Costao Fernandes kills a drug lord in self-defense, triggering a chain of events that turn the respected hero into a fugitive.

**Kaushaljis vs Kaushal****Golmaal: Fun Unlimited****Hum Aapke Hain Koun...!**

Malayalam

**Alappuzha Gymkhana**

Jojo and his classmates take up boxing for college credit. Under a tough coach, they transform from novices into fierce rivals, fighting for identity, pride and redemption.

French

**Un P'tit Truc En Plus (A Little Something Extra)**

A father and son on the run from the law hide in a camp for adults with disabilities and rediscover the meaning of humanity.

Tamil

**Tourist Family**

Seeking refuge in a small town, Das and his family endure hardships but find unexpected kindness.

**Raayan**

A North Chennai food truck owner fights to protect his family after they're caught in a violent gang war.

**Nandhan**

An upper-caste leader schemes to retain power after his village council becomes a reserved constituency.



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

Travel



Christmas at the Biggest Sweet Store in the World

Japanese



Light of My Lion

Drama



Kids

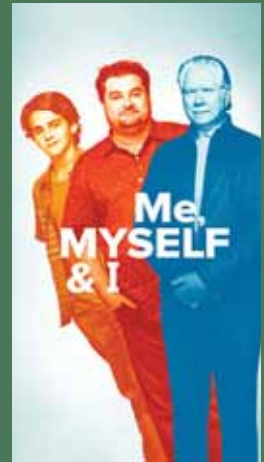


Comedy



Full House

Widowed sportscaster Danny Tanner enlists brother-in-law Jesse and friend Joey to help raise his three daughters.



Chinese



Monster But Wild - Season 1

In this Bilibili animated series, gamer Dundun is trapped as a weak "Skeleton" in his game and must find a way back to his own world.

Korean



The Queen Who Crowns

Queen Wongyeong navigates politics, marriage and family rivalries alongside Yi Bang-won in this Joseon K-drama.

Kids



Inspector Gadget Saves Christmas

When a heat wave hits the North Pole, Santa enlists Inspector Gadget, along with niece Penny and dog Brain, to stop Dr Claw.

Hindi





French

French pop icon M Pokora's tenth album delivers a high-energy blend of electropop and R&B, featuring tracks about love, confidence and dance, designed for both immersive listening and large-scale performances.



The Hits

Henry Moodie's debut pop album *mood swings* offers a raw, emotional look at his mental health struggles and insecurity, exploring personal chaos, beauty and heartbreak through reflective, honest tracks.

Club



Japanese



The Hits



Memories



Korean



Malay



R&B



Hindi



Light & Easy



Tamil



Mandarin



Indonesian



Cantonese



Kids





Travel the world

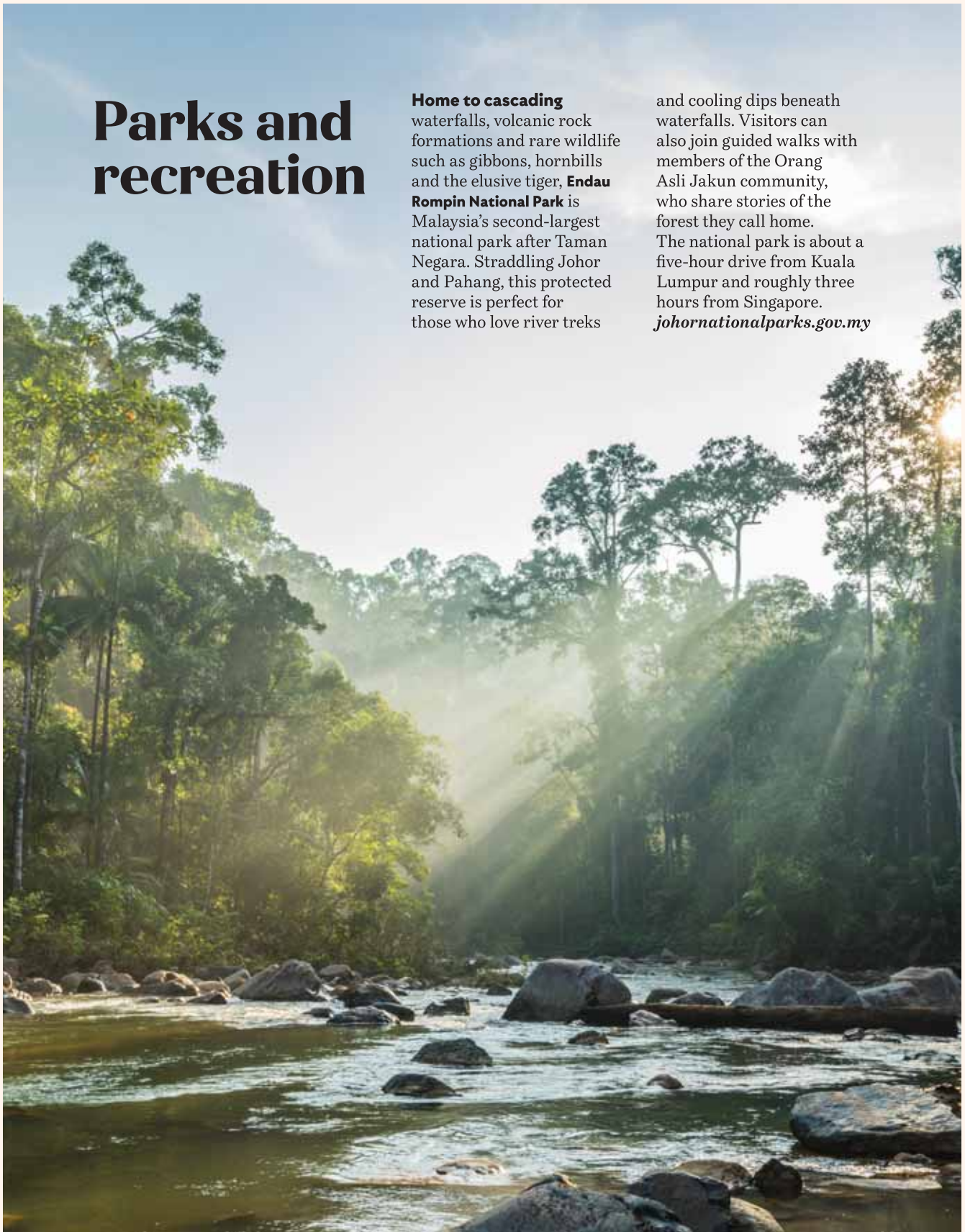
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Parks and recreation

Home to cascading waterfalls, volcanic rock formations and rare wildlife such as gibbons, hornbills and the elusive tiger, **Endau Rompin National Park** is Malaysia's second-largest national park after Taman Negara. Straddling Johor and Pahang, this protected reserve is perfect for those who love river treks

and cooling dips beneath waterfalls. Visitors can also join guided walks with members of the Orang Asli Jakun community, who share stories of the forest they call home. The national park is about a five-hour drive from Kuala Lumpur and roughly three hours from Singapore. johornationalparks.gov.my



WORDS: ELIZABETH SOONG IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK



ALL ABOARD THE CHRISTMAS JOURNEY AT SUNWAY RESORT HOTEL



Step aboard a whimsical adventure, where wonder sparkles at every turn this December. Follow the festive trail through lavish holiday buffets, indulgent sweet delights and seasonal experiences that celebrate togetherness.

At the heart of the journey awaits Gordon Ramsay Bar & Grill, the season's star destination, where a traditional European celebration takes centre stage, and **KIDS DINE FOR FREE** throughout the season.

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NIGHT RAINFOREST
EXPERIENCE

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IMMERSIVE OUTDOOR
EXPERIENCE

NORTH GOLDEN HORSE AWARDS
2023



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EXPERIENCE

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ATTRACTION

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2024



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MARKETING
CAMPAIGN

TRIPOLLA EXCELLENCE AWARDS
2024

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