

# Going Places

MAY-JUNE 2026



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MAY-JUNE 2026

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IMAGE: RUPERT SINGLETON



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Rhinoceros hornbills  
Image courtesy of Sarawak Tourism Board

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## Dear guests,

As we approach the halfway point of 2026, it is timely to reflect on the resilience demonstrated by Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) amid an increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape. Even in this challenging climate, we continue to make steady and meaningful progress, achieving key milestones in line with the strategic direction set out in our Long-Term Business Plan 3.0 (LTBP3.0).

With the Hajj season approaching – a time defined by devotion and togetherness – MAG is honoured to support pilgrims undertaking this meaningful journey to the Holy Land. In 2026, Amal by Malaysia Airlines, the Group's dedicated Hajj and Umrah arm, will operate 55 flights from Kuala Lumpur to Jeddah and Madinah between April and June, facilitating the journey of 16,620 pilgrims.

I am also pleased to share that MAG maintained its positive momentum in the 2025 financial year, recording a Net Income After Tax (NIAT) of RM137 million – more than double the RM54 million achieved in 2024. This also marks the Group's fourth consecutive year of operating profit, reflecting disciplined execution, strong cost management and operational efficiency. Building on this strong foundation, MAG will continue to drive growth through enhanced connectivity and network expansion.

As part of our strategy to expand our global footprint through partnerships and targeted initiatives, Malaysia Airlines is strengthening its presence in East Asia with the recent announcement of its return to Fukuoka, Japan, and the launch of new services to Shenzhen and Changsha, China. With these routes set to commence between July and September 2026, the airline will expand its presence in China to nine destinations, reinforcing its position as its second-largest international market.

While rebuilding and strengthening the airline has required discipline and continuous effort, we are deeply grateful for the continued support of our passengers and stakeholders. Your trust has been instrumental in strengthening our global standing, as demonstrated by our recent ranking among the top 20 in Airline Ratings' World's Best Airlines. We are also honoured to receive the inaugural Grand Prize in the Airline category at the Dong-A Ilbo-hosted 2026 KCAB (Korea Consumer Appraisal Brand) – Best Brand Award by Korean consumers. These recognitions reflect the confidence our customers place in our service quality, brand integrity and overall travel experience, while underscoring our continued commitment to delivering a seamless, customer-centric journey.

This May and June, our Best of Asia series continues with a refined dining offering inspired by the depth and diversity of Chinese cuisine. In June, the experience returns to local roots with a Best of Malaysia showcase featuring the distinctive flavours of Kelantan. Highlights include umami-forward dishes such as shacha chicken and chicken in black bean sauce served across cabins, offering a balance of depth, comfort and familiarity. The experience then evolves into a tribute to Kelantan, featuring iconic Malaysian dishes like nasi kerabu daging bakar and nasi beringin ikan percik, bringing the vibrant heritage and flavours of the East Coast to guests in a memorable and culturally immersive way.

Whether you are travelling to fulfil your spiritual pilgrimage, reconnect with loved ones or explore new destinations across our network, terima kasih for placing your trust in Malaysia Airlines, Firefly and Amal to bring you safely to your destination.

On behalf of MAG, I wish everyone celebrating Eid-ul-Adha a season filled with abundant blessings, joy and prosperity. We look forward to welcoming you on many more journeys, where our signature Malaysian Hospitality awaits.

**Nasaruddin A Bakar**

President and Group CEO  
Malaysia Aviation Group



# KAPTEN BATIK



## ORKES: A Symphony in Batik

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[kaptenbatik.com.my](http://kaptenbatik.com.my)

**S**ummer is soon upon us, and it's the perfect season to celebrate music, travel and a little bit of adventure. Speaking of music, there's nothing quite like the Rainforest World Music Festival in Kuching's Sarawak Cultural Village, happening 26–28 June. If you're a music lover, this is one for the bucket list. Listen to world music performed by artists from across the globe, from mesmerising throat singers to vibrant ensembles, all set against a relaxed, laid-back atmosphere. Try to catch the daytime workshops too, led by the performers themselves; they're a brilliant way to learn about craft and gain a deeper appreciation for the art.

While you're there, our Kuching cover story will show you how much there is to explore around the region, from historic archeological sites in Santubong and rare wildlife spotting at Kuching Wetlands National Park and Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, to cave adventures in the gold-mining town of Bau.

For those looking to completely unplug this summer, our Maldives feature is a must-read. Resorts there are taking wellness-led journeys to the next level, offering a chance to step away from screens, reset and truly be present.

Japan fans know Tokyo and Kyoto, but Fukuoka in the south offers a quieter charm, where scenic sights, Hakata culture and lively yatai food stalls await. We asked three locals to share their insider tips for first-time visitors to make the experience unforgettable.

And if you're wondering where else to venture to, our pages are packed with inspiration: take a weekend in Phuket; explore ancient Newar traditions in Kirtipur; recalibrate your nervous system with tuning forks at Mi Sol Spa in Da Nang; wander Paris, the City of Light, like a local; enjoy a vegetarian journey in Murshidabad near Kolkata; or partake in Sichuan's bold flavours in Chengdu.

While travel today requires a bit more planning and flexibility, the world is ready to be explored. Here's to a summer of adventure, connection and a touch of magic everywhere you go.

Go forth and wander!



*Elizabeth Soong*

**Elizabeth Soong**  
Editor

## This issue's contributors



**Rina Ahmad Sapiuddin**  
Writer, "The rhythm of the wild", page 44

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



**Thinnesh Kumar**  
Photographer, "The rhythm of the wild," page 44

Thinnesh is a Penang-based landscape and travel photographer passionate about capturing light and atmosphere, crafting compelling visual stories through his lens.



**Kissa Castañeda**  
Writer, "The off switch", page 64

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

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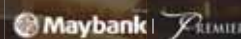


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[sunwayuniversity.edu.my](http://sunwayuniversity.edu.my)



# 9

# REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places



1

Johor

## Luxe getaway

A first for the brand, **Mandarin Oriental, Desaru Coast** marks its debut beach resort in the region. Inspired by the Malay translation of Desaru, “village of soft palms”, the resort feels blissfully removed from reality, tucked between rainforest and sea and shaded by 300-year-old banyan trees. With just 44 expansive suites and a showstopping four-bedroom Pool Villa, each stay comes with a private plunge pool and a dreamy veranda.

It’s big on family time too, from Junior Chef sessions to nature adventures. At sunset, sip Straits-inspired cocktails at Dusky Monkey or take a buggy to Ember Beach Club for Asian barbecue and laid-back beachside moments.

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



Chef Kian Liew

# 2

Kuala Lumpur

## Designing taste

Executive chef Kian Liew traded a 15-year corporate career as a London-trained interior architect to pursue his culinary dreams, eventually opening **bōl** in 2022. A self-taught cook, he blends his designer's eye with a deep appreciation for local flavours, creating Peranakan dishes that are both thoughtfully curated and layered.

### How did you end up falling in love with Peranakan cuisine?

I didn't grow up in a professional kitchen; my understanding of food began at the dining table. Peranakan cuisine was among the first to show me how layered and expressive local cooking could be – in flavour and in memory.

It's a cuisine shaped by migration, adaptation and time. There's restraint in some dishes, generosity in others, but every recipe carries a story. That emotional dimension drew me early on and eventually became the foundation for how I approach cooking today.

### What is it about Peranakan food that keeps you coming back to it?

Peranakan cooking is incredibly nuanced. It's often described as bold, but what interests me more is the balance – how acidity, sweetness, spice and aroma are layered in ways that feel both comforting and precise.

Many dishes are seasonal and resourceful, built on what's grown nearby, foraged or preserved. That sensitivity to produce and environment resonates with how we cook at **bōl** today.

### If someone tasted your food without knowing the backstory, what would you want them to understand about your take on Peranakan cuisine?

Peranakan food has always evolved through movement and exchange. At **bōl**, we respect the intent behind the flavours – the balance, the use of local produce, the care in preparation – while presenting them in a way that reflects how we eat today. If a dish feels familiar but not entirely expected, then we've probably found the right balance.

### What's the story behind your current menu, and where did the inspiration come from?

From February to June 2026, we present *From The Ground*, developed in collaboration with LocalPasar.

While still influenced by Peranakan flavours, the menu shifts focus to their origins; locally grown, raised and foraged ingredients take the lead.

Many traditional Nyonya dishes are shaped by what was available locally. *From The Ground* revisits the relationship between land and kitchen, with provenance and seasonality guiding each course. [@bol\\_in\\_kl](#)



# 3

Kuala Lumpur

## Serve's up

More than a pickleball court, **The PxP** in Pavilion Damansara Heights is KL's latest hub for sports, wellness and social interactions. Serve and smash on custom-built courts, refuel at the restaurant and bar, relax in recovery lounges or work in cosy nooks. An immersive interactive room adds a playful twist for events. [thexp.playbypoint.com](http://thexp.playbypoint.com)

# 5

Malaysia

## Dish it up

**Dôme's** Nasi Lemak Malaysiana is a soulful homage to a beloved classic for Visit Malaysia 2026. Savour slow-cooked coconut basmati rice, signature ayam berempah, house sambal, sambal sotong and a specially prepared pindang egg, then wash it down with teh tarik. Available throughout 2026. [@domecafe.malaysia](https://www.domecafe.com.my)



# 4

Kuala Lumpur

## Heads up

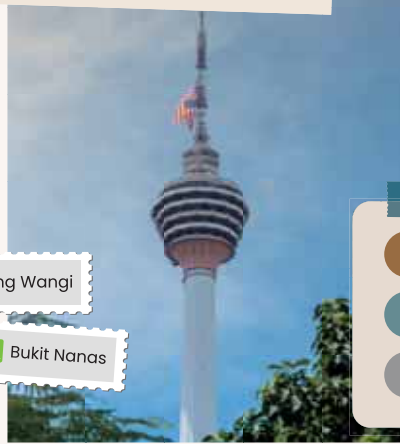
**Goyo** has opened its first Korean head spa at KLGCC Mall, blending neuroscience-driven wellness with a hanok-inspired aesthetic. Misted lighting, soothing aromatherapy and a circuit-style layout feature six single suites, couple rooms, scrub chambers and a luxe lounge. Signature Head Spa treatments include AI scalp scans, personalised rituals and Japan-imported Takara Belmont seats. [goyo.my](http://goyo.my)

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I LOVE KUALA LUMPUR

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@ KL Tower



Dang Wangi

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@ Jadi Batik

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so i'll always remember  
@ AZ Loft

Cochrane



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Bukit Bintang

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@ Kakatoo



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Newly renovated Deluxe Room

Pool Bar, after-hours drinks at The Junction bar lounge or linger over Culina's curated all-day menu.

With Kuching's largest pillarless ballroom, 13 advanced meeting rooms and a history of hosting high-profile events, it's a space where lifestyle comforts and business efficiency coexist in a central, polished property. [pullmankuching.com](http://pullmankuching.com)

6

Sarawak

Reinventing an icon

Set against an evolving skyline, **Pullman Kuching** reimagines a 16-year-old icon, blending Sarawak's soul with modern global energy. The 389 redesigned guestrooms are calm, Borneo-inspired spaces, with soft tones and smart workspaces offering a seamless balance of focus and rest, with views of the Sarawak River or the city.

Days drift by easily: a leisurely swim by the Liquid



Poolside view

7

Kuala Lumpur

Soup for the soul

**Modu**, Malaysia's first premium Samgyetang (Korean ginseng chicken soup) specialist, has opened at The Exchange TRX. Diners can choose from six 12-hour, slow-simmered broths – Beauty Collagen, Black Sesame and more – drawn from Korea's restorative boyang-sik tradition, followed by tofu-based gelato for dessert. [modu.com.my](http://modu.com.my)



# 8

Penang

## Neighbourhood guide: George Town

This well-positioned hotel makes a perfect base for exploring George Town's Unesco heritage district on foot, with our hit list of dining and shopping spots nearby



Pan-seared French foie gras at Firewood Penang



Soori Penang

### 2 Khoo Kongsi

Ask Soori Penang's concierge to take you on a tour of Khoo Kongsi, one of the grandest clan temples in Malaysia. Built in 1906, its elaborately carved beams, murals and gilded rooflines reveal the wealth and cultural influence of the Khoo Clan.

**18 Cannon Square;**  
[khookongsi.com.my](http://khookongsi.com.my)

### 3 My Own Café

Directly opposite the hotel, this family-run coffee shop draws regulars and tourists alike for their signature asam laksa and Nyonya laksa, which have earned it a Michelin Bib Gourmand nod

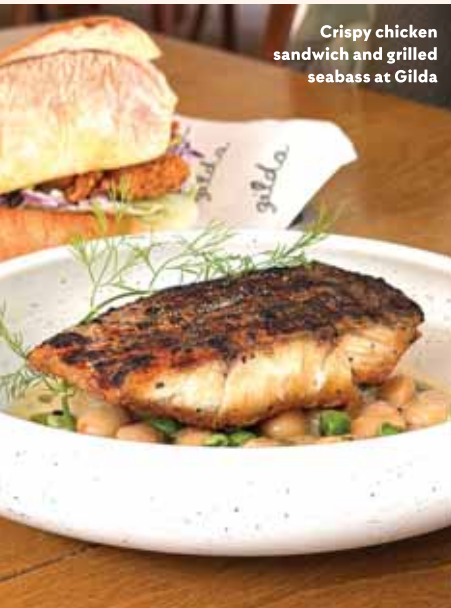
### 1 Soori Penang

Located within the historic Khoo Kongsi compound and just steps from Armenian Street, Soori Penang houses tranquil, contemporary suites set inside restored heritage shophouses – a calming sanctuary amid the bustle of nearby

tourist streets. Designed by architect Soo K Chan, who grew up here, the boutique stay is a sister property to Soori Bali. Warm, attentive staff and thoughtfully curated breakfasts make it an inviting base to unwind and experience the area at a relaxed pace. **48 Lebuah Aceh;** [sooripenang.com](http://sooripenang.com)



Firewood Penang



Crispy chicken sandwich and grilled seabass at Gilda

for three consecutive years since 2024. Order additional crispy vegetable spring rolls for a satisfying meal.

**2 Cannon St; @myown\_cafe**

**4 Gilda**

A cosy warehouse-turned café run by chef Suffian Salim and Aim Aris, Gilda serves neo-style comfort food with excellent coffee. Don't miss the Dijon mayo-brined crispy chicken sandwich, prawn linguine, grilled seabass and indulgent flourless chocolate torte.

**81 Lrg Soo Hong; @gilda.penang**

**5 Firewood Penang**

Behind its colonial-style shophouse façade, Firewood presents sleek interiors and bold flavours from the grill. The only Malaysian entry on the World's 101 Best Steak Restaurants 2026 list, highlights include Australia

Stone Axe full-blood wagyu, pan-seared French foie gras with black sesame sauce, dry-aged Norwegian sea trout and a refreshing lemon posset brûlée to finish. **15 Jln Masjid Kapitan Keling; @firewood\_penang**

**6 Clan Jetties**

A short stroll away, the Clan Jetties are wooden stilt villages built over the water by Chinese immigrant clans in the 19th century. Today, several remain inhabited, offering a glimpse of George Town's working waterfront and community life. **Pengkalan Weld**

**7 Maha House and Sixth Sense**

These aesthetic stores feature slow-fashion clothing and accessories. If you're into linens, soft pastels, neutrals and understated silhouettes, they're perfect



Maha House

keepsakes that echo George Town's relaxed, tropical vibe. **13 Armenian St; 157 Beach St, @sixthsensestores**

**8 Gerakbudaya Bookshop**

Literary lovers shouldn't miss Gerakbudaya, an independent bookstore specialising in Southeast Asian writing. It carries fiction, poetry, political essays and hard-to-find titles from regional independent publishers. There's also a pre-loved book section for more affordable finds. **226 Beach St; gerakbudayapenang.com**



Kuala Lumpur

## Learning beyond borders

Set within Malaysia's thriving capital, Universiti Malaya occupies a rare position: a campus steeped in history yet fully attuned to the present. Established in 1905, it is the country's oldest university, with a global outlook that attracts students from across the world.

More than 4,400 students from over 85 countries study here, creating a multicultural campus environment where ideas, cultures and conversations extend well beyond the lecture hall.

The university offers more than 200 programmes across foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Flexible pathways, such as double majors and major-minor combinations, allow students to shape their degree



around both academic interests and career goals. Beyond the

classroom, the experience is just as dynamic. Internships, mobility programmes and industry collaborations give students real-world experiences, while partnerships with leading universities worldwide open doors to dual degrees and international exposure. Its embrace of digital learning, from online modules to micro-credential programmes, also keeps education accessible and future-ready. With its wide range of programmes, a multicultural environment and

hands-on learning opportunities, students are equipped with the skills and experience needed to compete in a global job market.

Consistently ranked among the world's top universities – 58th globally and 15th in Asia in the QS Rankings – Universiti Malaya is also a premier research institution.

Additionally, its strategic location between Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya puts students close to transport, housing, food and city life, while remaining relatively affordable compared with other major study destinations. [um.edu.my](http://um.edu.my)

# MALAYSIAN ICONS

A celebration of cultural pride, heritage and timeless Malaysian craftsmanship



## The wau factor

In a village outside Kota Bharu, a master wau-maker works to preserve Kelantan's time-honoured kite tradition and pass it on to younger hands

BY DIAN PASQUINAL KAUR

**About 3km outside Kota Bharu, in the village of Kampung Pintu Geng, Haniff Salleh is working hard to keep an old craft alive. He is one of the few remaining wau-makers in Kelantan – and among the youngest at 42 years old – practising an art form that demands years of patience →**

IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

to master, at a time when modern, fast-paced lifestyles leave little room for the attention and dedication it requires.

His gallery and workshop space, Basawa, sits next to his family's 1970s wooden house, one of the last still standing in a neighbourhood that's increasingly rebuilt in brick. It is here that he builds the intricately decorated kites, receives visitors and speaks about a tradition he fears may not survive him. Founded in 2019 and named after the Kelantanese shorthand for a wau hut, the space also gathers young apprentices and travellers curious about the craft.

"I learned to make the wau, A to Z, from my late grandfather when I was still in primary school," Haniff recalls. By then, the elder Ideris was already a respected figure in the village, known not only for his kites but also for leading community sports and traditional pastimes such as *gasing pangkah*, a form of competitive top-spinning in which players strike an opponent's top.

He was especially famous for crafting giant kites that drew attention wherever they flew. Haniff smiles at the memory, pride softening his voice. His grandfather, he says, was strict; he insisted on *minat*, a deep, abiding interest, and *ketelitian*, an almost obsessive attention to detail. Without genuine passion, he would remind Haniff, "*dok boleh nok berjuang seni wau*": there could be no fighting for the art, no carrying it forward.

There are more than 10 types of wau found across Malaysia, the best known ones being Wau Bulan, Wau Kucing, Wau Jala Budi and Wau Puyuh. "When Wau Bulan was designated the national kite," Haniff explains, "Wau Puyuh was elevated as Kelantan's emblem. The kite is called such because its tail is shaped like the face of a quail, while the tips of its wings resemble the bird's tail in full spread. When flown, it produces a humming sound and requires real skill to keep it in the air."

### The art of making wau

Haniff has been making Wau Puyuh all his life. The process begins with sourcing bamboo for the frame, a material that has grown increasingly



difficult to find near his village. These days, he pays to have it brought in from Kuala Krai, about 70km from the village, then leaves the stalks to dry for about a month before they can be shaped.

With the frame complete, he turns to the motifs, often inspired by creeping plants. This process can take weeks. Using *teknik sobek*, a cut-and-layer method in which material is shaped with a special tool and arranged to create texture and depth, he builds the

decorative elements on plastic or, at times, paper. Plastic withstands the elements better and has become the more practical option.

Yet tradition governs every stroke. "I can't simply draw the motifs," he says. "I have to follow the art and its rules." Symmetry, refinement and harmony of colour are not mere preferences; they are the hallmarks of high Malay aesthetics and the measure by which a wau-maker's skill is judged.



“

**Haniff Salleh is one of the few remaining wau-makers in Kelantan practising an art form that demands years of patience to master”**

For Haniff, survival of the craft rests in younger hands. During school holidays, he runs workshops for children. “It is a tedious process, and kids today don’t always have the patience,” says the father of three. Among his own children, only his youngest has shown genuine interest. “But we must introduce it to them. That is how it continues.”

Events like the annual Kelantan International Wau Festival bring families together to experience wau-making up close. Haniff hopes every child who flies a kite or watches one soar will develop a curiosity strong enough to keep the wau – along with its skills, stories and Kelantanese identity – alive for generations to come.

**This spread:** Haniff Salleh with his Wau Puyuh; the wau-maker at his base in Kelantan

Haniff works on his kites full-time, often starting at 2am, after friends drift home and Basawa grows quiet with the tinkling of tools and the aroma of coffee. He gave up his full-time job as a car salesman during the pandemic when interest in traditional wau began to grow. After sharing videos of his craft online, he quickly began receiving enquiries. Today, he produces around five kites a month, sometimes more, depending on demand.

His clientele is largely made up of urban professionals from all walks of life, many from the Klang Valley and other parts of Malaysia. He has a fair share of clients from abroad too, including the United Kingdom, China, Japan, Korea and Thailand. Brands, too, have taken notice. In a 2025 Malaysia Day campaign with GWM Malaysia, a GWM Tank 300 launched a 10ft wau crafted by Haniff into the sky at Pantai Bagan Lalang in Selangor. The spectacular feat earned him recognition in *The Malaysia Book of Records*.





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- Google Review



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# ELEVATE

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



WELLNESS

## On a different frequency

Move over, singing bowls – tuning forks are the main star at Mi Sol Spa in

**Da Nang**, Vietnam BY PARISA PICHITMARN

**It's not every day that you encounter a spa with** treatment pavilions that resemble airplane hangars. This striking concept, designed by maximalist “starchitect” Bill Bensley, makes an immediate impression with its bold originality. Tucked away on central Vietnam’s Son Tra Peninsula, the InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula [→](#)

“

**Every treatment begins and ends with tuning forks, which help relieve tight muscles and release tension”**

Resort is home to **Mi Sol Spa**, where turquoise structures are framed by a green lagoon and lush rainforest.

Its concept is more intentional than quirky. A hangar is, after all, a place of stillness – a respite from



Tuning forks used during a session

the bustle of motion, scrambling crowds and frenetic noise.

What distinguishes Mi Sol Spa is its emphasis on sound healing. Every treatment begins and ends with tuning forks; their vibrations and sound waves are applied to the body or activated near the ears. These gentle frequencies help relieve tight muscles and release tension.

“With normal massages alone, you will feel relaxed, but with tuning forks, you’ll feel an even deeper relaxation,” explains spa director Desak Ambarwati. “With all the stress and tension people feel these days, sometimes massages aren’t enough; they need something that can connect directly with the brain to calm it down.”

Paradoxically, these tuning forks are a fast track to slowing down. Placed on key nerve points and joints, such as the sternum and palms, the subtle vibration steadies the heartbeat and calms the nervous system.

Before my Blissful Marma full-body massage began, the warm 136.1 Hz vibration from the tuning fork on my shoulder seeped deep into my muscles, coaxing knots to loosen. Compared with the enveloping, layered tones of Tibetan singing bowls, tuning forks offer a more targeted precision. When

the therapist activated the fork near my ears and hair, I felt as though an alien presence hovered around my head – but in a welcoming way, as the deep hum seemed to abduct my frantic thoughts. Who knew such a low vibration could reach the deepest recesses of my mind so quickly?

Beginning a session this way helped to ease me into a receptive state. In contrast, a grounding, 54 Hz vibration awakened me from a pampered stupor and gently returned me to the real world. One can only hope more spas take note (literally) and let the invisible yet deeply felt resonance of tuning forks become a staple of wellness destinations. [danang.intercontinental.com](http://danang.intercontinental.com)



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Da Nang 7x weekly.

## Tuning into the science

Hz (Hertz) measures the frequency of a sound wave: the higher the Hz, the higher the pitch. Human hearing typically ranges from approximately 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz.

### 136.1 Hz

A deep, low tone believed to restore balance and support healing. Lower vibrations travel through tissue more easily.

### 81 Hz

Used during tea ceremony treatments, this vibration makes sound visible, creating a mesmerising dance of minuscule ripples across the surface of tea.

### 54 Hz

The lowest frequency used at the end of sessions. This heavy, earthy tone has a grounding quality that helps cultivate a steady, calm mind.



A treatment room with a view



Hot pot



Sweet water noodles



Red oil wontons



FLAVOURS

# Sichuan heat

For those who crave spice, these dishes define Chengdu's fiery palette

BY SOPHIE STEINER

**Most famous for turning the spice dial to 11,** Chengdu delivers Sichuan peppercorn flakes and other sumptuous bites that linger on your lips. In steamy street stalls and bustling neighbourhood eateries, these Chinese spice-laden dishes are guaranteed to engulf you in heat and flavour.

### Hot pot

Prepare to spit hot fire from the mind-blowing heat of Chengdu-style hot pot. Following in the footsteps of its

sister city, Chongqing, Chengdu's hot pot base is built on a richly spiced broth infused with aromatic oils, imbuing everything it touches with an intense, layered heat. Mala is the predominant flavour, thanks to the numbing sensation of Sichuan peppercorns coupled with fiery dried chillies. Ingredients range from sliced meat to tofu and seafood, all swished through the roiling pot before being dragged through dipping sauces heavy on sesame oil and garlic. It's communal, chaotic and unapologetically intense. *Try it at: Xiaolong Kan Huoguo (2/F, No 36 Dong Da Jie)*

### Red oil wontons

While wontons are ubiquitous throughout China, only in Chengdu will you find red oil wontons (*hongyou chaoshou*). Coated in glistening chilli oil, these crescent-shaped pockets of joy appear on nearly every street corner, where each shop tweaks the recipe just enough to inspire fierce loyalty among the regulars. As you stir, the warmth of the just-boiled wontons loosens the sauce, coating each morsel in silky oil, dried chillies, sweet soy sauce, garlic and tongue-tingling peppercorns. The result is deceptively simple yet deeply addictive. *Try it at: Chun Yang Guan Yuxiang Paigu Mian (No 2, Blk 8, Jixiang St)*

### Sweet water noodles

Sweet water noodles (*tianshuimian*) spotlight Sichuan's signature "strange flavour" (*guaiwei*) – a deft balance of spicy, salty, sour, sweet and sesame. Rope-like al dente noodles are swaddled in soy sauce, chilli oil, sesame and garlic pastes, crushed peanuts, Sichuan peppercorns and brown sugar syrup, creating a slick gravy that varnishes each strand with lip-tingling spice. *Try it at: Shen Tang Tian Shuimian (No 5, Blk 2, Xinneng Ln, Fangcao St)*

### Mapo tofu

Cast-iron skillets bubble with custardy cubes of soft tofu that melt on the tongue yet hold their shape just enough to be deftly lifted with chopsticks. Slathered in a chilli-oil stew enriched with minced meat, the dish delivers layers of heat and savoury depth – perfect with rice. Beloved across the country, mapo tofu traces its origins to a humble Chengdu mom-and-pop shop, where bold seasoning turned simple ingredients into a national classic. *Try it at: Chen Mapo Doufu (No 10–12, Blk 10, Qinghua St)*



Mapo tofu

IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK



Bagh Bhairab Temple



CULTURE

# Heights of heritage

In Kirtipur, a hilltop town outside Kathmandu, ancient Newar traditions still thrive **BY RIDHI AGRAWAL**

**Kirtipur – the “City of Glory” – sits** on a ridge southwest of Kathmandu, just a 15-minute drive away. Founded between the 11th and 12th centuries, this ancient Newar settlement is a living showcase of indigenous culture. Its red-brick houses, tiled roofs and carved wooden windows echo stories of the past.

To peel back the layers of time, join a heritage walk with Duluwa Outdoors ([duluwaoutdoors.com](http://duluwaoutdoors.com)), through Kirtipur’s coexisting Hindu and Buddhist shrines.

The journey begins at the hilltop Chilanco Stupa, one of Kirtipur’s oldest monuments. Local tradition holds that it was founded by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE. Look for its large central white dome and gilded spire topped with

## Pro tips

### Best time to visit

September to November, when the weather is pleasant and Kirtipur’s lively chariot festivals take place.

### How to get there

Kirtipur is about 12km (about a 30-minute drive) from Kathmandu’s Tribhuvan International Airport. Cabs can be booked via the Pathao or inDrive apps.

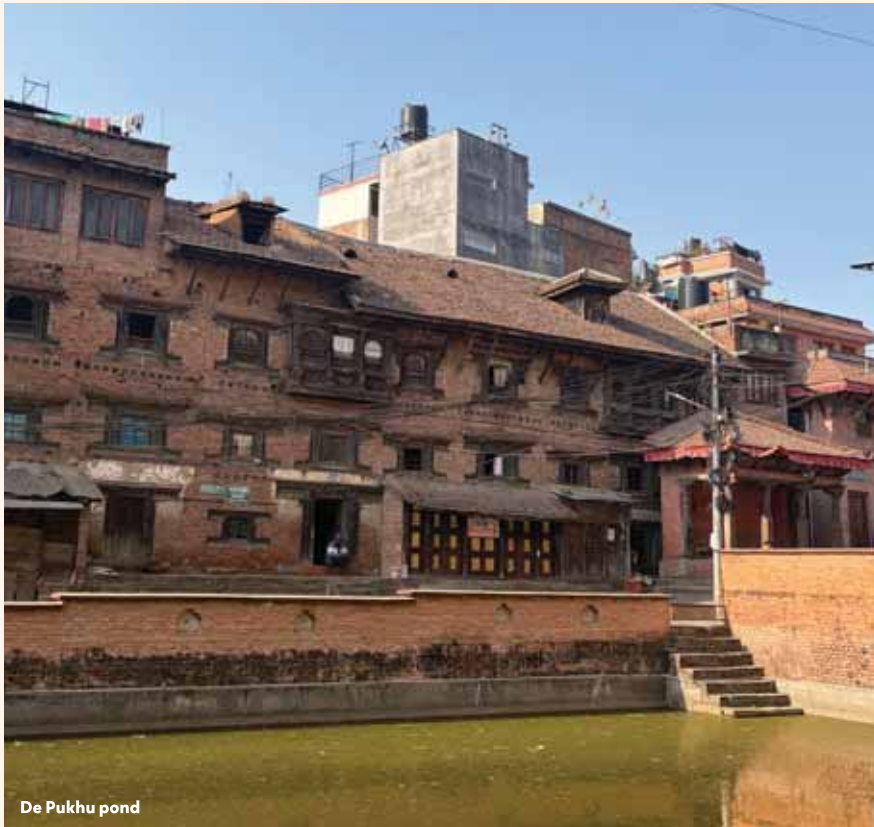


Indigenous script-writing workshop

13 concentric rings symbolising the heavens leading to enlightenment.

Nearby stands Lon Degah. Built in the 17th century in the *sikhara* style – a curving form that tapers like a mountain peak – it contrasts with Kirtipur’s tiered wooden structures. At the town’s heart is De Pukhu, a greenish rain-fed pond that comes alive during Kirtipur’s chariot festivals: Bagh Bhairab Jatra in August and Indrayani Jatra in November and December.

The Bagh Bhairab Temple is Kirtipur’s main draw. Look closely at the upper tiers of this three-storey



De Pukhu pond

experiences through Community Homestay Network. At a Ranjana Lipi class, where you learn the indigenous script of the Newars, try writing your name with bamboo pens and frame it as a keepsake. Alternatively, join local women for a momo-making class to learn the art of folding dumplings, then dress in a *haku patasi*, the traditional black-and-red two-piece ensemble.

As the sun sets, head to Taudaha Lake. This ancient water body attracts over 100 species of migratory birds from Siberia and Mongolia, offering a tranquil end to a day in the City of Glory.



Momo-making class

structure to spot knives, swords and shields captured from Prithvi Narayan Shah's army during the 18th-century siege of Kirtipur. For panoramic views of the Kathmandu Valley and surrounding peaks, visit the 17th-century Uma Maheshwar Temple, a classic three-tiered pagoda.

End your walk with Newari gastronomy. At Newa Lahana (*Thambahal-1; @newalahana*), a community-run eatery, try *samay baji*, a traditional platter of beaten rice, egg, soybeans, greens and grilled meat. Pair it with *aila*, a local fermented spirit poured from a height into clay cups. For a more rustic setting, Sasa Twa (*Sagal Tole Kirtipur Ring Rd; @sasatwa*) features mud-and-brick cottages and serves meals in traditional brass dinnerware.

Afternoons in Kirtipur are the perfect time for hands-on cultural



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

## Where to stay to live like a local

### Kirtipur Community Homestay

offers accommodation across a network of six local homes. Run by a community of more than 22 women, the programme provides authentic cultural experiences while directly supporting local livelihoods. [communityhomestay.com](https://communityhomestay.com)

**Joshi Nani Heritage Home** is a 100-year-old house that blends historic wooden architecture with modern comforts, offering four rooms (double and triple occupancy) for a unique stay amid the iconic surroundings of the Chilancho Stupa. [Facebook/Joshihomes](https://facebook.com/joshihomes)

ELEVATE



CUISINE

# Flavours of Murshidabad

Discover Sheherwali vegetarian cuisine near **Kolkata**, steeped in 300 years of culinary tradition

BY KHURSHIED DINSHAW



Bari Kothi

**Nestled along the banks of the** Bhagirathi River, Murshidabad is a city alive with history. Its narrow lanes, bustling markets and grand palaces tell stories of its time as the capital of Bengal. The air is fragrant with spices, and every street echoes centuries of trade, culture and culinary tradition.

Murshidabad is also the birthplace of Sheherwali cuisine, a 300-year-old vegetarian tradition known for its creative use of seasonal ingredients, bold spice combinations and strict Jain culinary principles.

Step into the kitchen of **Bari Kothi** and Murshidabad's culinary history comes alive. About four hours from

Kolkata, this 18th-century heritage hotel was first built and also restored by the Dudhoria family, one of the most prominent members of the Sheherwali community. The hotel's marble floors, Burma teak pillars, hand-painted tiles and Belgian glass chandeliers provide the perfect backdrop for the Oswal Jain community's vegetarian cuisine, brought here centuries ago from Rajasthan.

Start with *kheera ki kachori*, a deep-fried pastry filled with spiced grated cucumber and hung curd, served at the hotel. The cucumber is salted and drained in muslin cloth, then combined with curd that has been hung for five hours. Dough made from wheat flour, semolina, ghee and salt is shaped into circles, stuffed with the cucumber and curd mixture before frying. Served hot with fresh coriander chutney, it's a snack that has shaped the Sheherwali palate for generations.

For a complete culinary experience at Bari Kothi, try a Sheherwali thali: a platter of *goba rooti*, a delicately hand-pinched bread, served alongside *milao ka dal*, a five-lentil mix; *masala patta gobi*, sautéed cabbage; *kheera khatta meetha*, a sweet-and-sour cucumber dish; and *kela ka akra*, crispy banana chips.

Sheherwali kitchens elevate simple vegetables into dishes full of depth and texture. Spiced cucumber and green capsicum make a wholesome side dish, while curries – always made without onion or garlic – are infused with *panch phoran*, a fragrant five-spice blend of

nigella, cumin, mustard, fennel and fenugreek seeds. Curries are paired with *tikka*, a simple wheat roti with ghee and salt, rounding out a satisfying meal.

The cuisine also surprises with inventive treats. From powdered stone apples mixed with spices that act as a digestive to a rare, chilled dessert of black-eyed bean flour, sugar syrup and *kewra* water (a fragrant pandanus flower extract), each dish highlights the creativity and skill behind Sheherwali cooking.

## Where to eat



### Bari Kothi

Jainpatty, Jiaganj Azimganj;  
[barikothi.com](http://barikothi.com)

### House of Sheherwali

Ward No 12, Jainpatty,  
Jiaganj Azimganj;  
[houseofsheherwali.com](http://houseofsheherwali.com)



Sheherwali thali



Sama-Sama Hotel KL International Airport



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Lobby



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

## A seamless blend of connectivity, excellence, and five-star comfort at KL International Airport

Beyond the movement and momentum of KL International Airport (KLIA) lies a quieter way to travel, one defined by ease, discretion, and unhurried elegance.

At KLIA, this refined experience comes to life through thoughtfully designed services that elevate the airport journey. Here, efficiency feels effortless, comfort is intuitive, and every transition is carefully curated.

For travellers who value ease and exclusivity, Airport FastTrack offers a private passage through airport formalities. From a discreet kerbside welcome to expedited immigration clearance, personalised baggage assistance, and access to exclusive lounges, every step unfolds smoothly, away from queues, crowds, and haste. It is travel as it should be: calm, composed, and impeccably managed.

A short distance from the terminal, Sama-Sama Hotel KL International Airport extends this sense of tranquility. Directly connected to KLIA Terminal 1 via a covered sky bridge and supported by a complimentary 24-hour buggy service, the five-star hotel offers comfort and convenience just steps from the terminal.

Guests enjoy round-the-clock international dining, an outdoor swimming pool, a fully equipped gym, spa, jacuzzi, sauna, and steam room, complemented by thoughtful services including room service, laundry, private parking, and complimentary Wi-Fi, ensuring a relaxing stay at any hour.

Together, Airport FastTrack and Sama-Sama Hotel transform KLIA into more than a point of arrival or departure. They create a seamless, sophisticated passage, where the airport becomes a place of calm, and the journey itself becomes part of the experience.



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# Drive the future of ambition

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The all-new Mercedes-Benz CLA represents a bold new expression of modern luxury, where striking design, intelligent technology and progressive performance converge. Through Maybank Mastercard's Spend & Win campaign, cardmembers have the opportunity to make this vehicle their own.

Ambition today moves in different forms. It is shaped by innovation, confidence and the drive to keep moving forward.

The all-new Mercedes-Benz CLA captures that spirit effortlessly. With its sleek coupe-inspired silhouette, aerodynamic lines and dynamic proportions, the CLA commands attention while reflecting the progressive character of Mercedes-Benz design.

## Where luxury meets intelligence

Step inside and the experience becomes even more compelling. The cabin blends contemporary luxury with advanced digital intelligence, featuring intuitive displays, seamless connectivity and smart voice interaction that transform the cockpit into a refined digital environment.

It is a space designed for the driver who values innovation and elegance, whether travelling for business, exploring new destinations or simply enjoying the road ahead.

## A rewarding opportunity

That spirit of ambition now meets an exciting opportunity through Maybank.

From 1 April to 31 July 2026, Maybank/Maybank Islamic Mastercard Credit Card/-i cardmembers can participate in this campaign, where everyday spending brings them closer to driving away in the all-new Mercedes-Benz CLA.

Each month during the campaign period, 1x Grand Prize of a Mercedes-Benz CLA will be given away, with four Grand Prizes in total.

Cardmembers can also look forward to additional rewards. Every month, 90 winners will receive RM500 Trip.com vouchers, perfect for planning their next getaway.

## Spend more, win more

Spend a minimum of RM1,000 per month\* using a Maybank Mastercard Credit Card/-i to start earning entries. Accumulate more entries with every RM100 spent. The more you spend, the more entries you earn.

**Register online at [maybank.my/cla](https://maybank.my/cla) or SMS CLA to 66628.**

**\* Valid 1 April – 31 July 2026. Terms and conditions apply.**





## Postcards from Paris

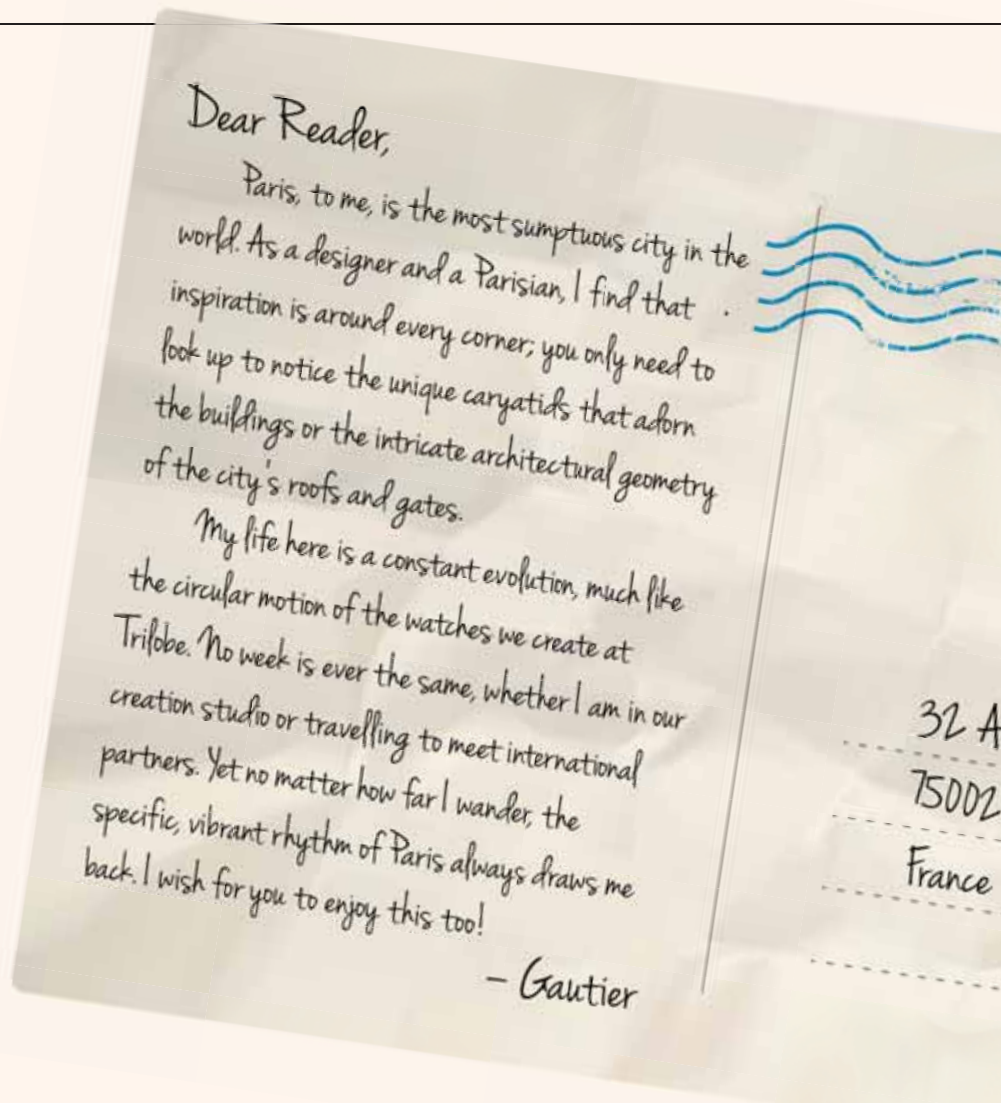
For Trilobe founder Gautier Massonneau, the French capital is an endless source of inspiration, shaped by history, design and global flavours **BY ANANDHI GOPINATH**

**As the founder of Trilobe, an independent watchmaker focused on design and innovation, I am constantly inspired by my surroundings, and nowhere more so than in Paris.**

Though I was born on the Left Bank, the Marais has been my home for many years. It is a vibrant cultural district that still feels like the perfect place for a slow walk to clear the mind.

I often suggest a stroll through **Hôtel de Sully** (62 Rue Saint-Antoine; [hotel-de-sully.fr](http://hotel-de-sully.fr)), which leads unexpectedly into the iconic **Place des Vosges**. For a moment of quiet reflection, I visit the **Church of Saint-Paul-Saint-Louis** (99 Rue Saint-Antoine; [spsl.fr](http://spsl.fr)) to admire Eugène Delacroix's rare religious painting, *Christ on the Mount of Olives*.

What I tell anyone eager to skip the usual tourist routes, and what I do





Luxembourg Garden



Rodin Museum



Galerie Vivienne



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

myself when I need some inspiration, is to visit the **Luxembourg Garden** ([jardin.senat.fr](http://jardin.senat.fr)) or wander through the narrow streets of the Latin Quarter just a 12-minute walk away. There is a certain magic in these areas, where the architecture seems to breathe alongside the people.

**The architecture of ingenuity**

Design in Paris is woven into the very fabric of the city, shaping how we live and work. I am always fascinated by its hidden passages, such as **Passage des Panoramas** (11 Boulevard Montmartre) and **Galerie Vivienne** (4 Rue des Petits Champs; [galerie-vivienne.com](http://galerie-vivienne.com)). These are intimate worlds where you can find everything from artisan workshops to rare bookstores.

For visual and technical inspiration, I return frequently to **Musée des Arts et Métiers** (60 Rue Réaumur; [arts-et-metiers.net](http://arts-et-metiers.net)). Its horology section is especially captivating, tracing the evolution of French watchmaking – a true journey through human ingenuity. For a more poetic experience, the gardens of the **Rodin Museum** (77 Rue de Varenne; [musee-rodin.fr](http://musee-rodin.fr)) never

fail to cast their spell, offering a masterclass in form and movement.

**A global palate**

Paris is a paradise for food lovers, and what I love most is its global culinary diversity. While I enjoy the excellent French options in the 7th arrondissement, I am always exploring new flavours that challenge the palate.

I've discovered a wonderful Armenian restaurant in the 5th arrondissement called **Hébé** (15 Rue Frédéric Sauton; [heberestaurant.com](http://heberestaurant.com)), as well as a shop near the Institut du Monde Arabe, **Cow – Cheese of the World** (30 Boulevard Saint-Germain; [c-o-w.fr](http://c-o-w.fr)) which carries an impressive selection of international varieties – just not French, funnily enough.

My absolute favourite place for coffee in Paris is **Kiji** (5 Rue Gaillon; [@kijiopera](https://www.instagram.com/kijiopera)) in the Opéra district, a Japanese spot where I truly discovered the depth of coffee. Of course, the quintessential Parisian experience remains the simplest: sitting on a terrace all year round, watching the world go by – one of the few rituals in the city that never loses its charm.

# Advancing science without borders

Driven by curiosity and collaboration, Marina Mishar is propelling nuclear science globally, while championing diversity, talent and the power of perspective



Marina in her office at IAEA

At the intersection of science, diplomacy and global impact, Marina Mishar has carved out a career that feels as purposeful as it is pioneering. Now a section head at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), her journey into nuclear science began with a curiosity that steadily grew.

Growing up in Malaysia, Marina was drawn to the unfamiliar. “Nuclear science was one of the options, and it really caught my attention,” she says of her school days at MRSM Kulim. At the time, it was a field few were venturing into, but that novelty deepened her interest. What began as an academic choice soon became a calling, as she discovered the tangible applications of nuclear science – from healthcare and environmental protection to broader development challenges.

Her multicultural upbringing continues to shape how she navigates



Marina with peers at the Vienna International Centre, where IAEA is based

the world today. Exposure to different cultures and perspectives early on made it “very natural to work in diverse, international environments”, she shares. It’s a mindset that aligns seamlessly with her role at the IAEA, where collaboration across borders is central to her work.

There’s no typical day for Marina. She coordinates programmes, engages global experts and supports education in nuclear science and technology. What defines her work is its real-world impact. “Whether it’s improving radiation safety, expanding access to cancer treatment, strengthening food security... these are tangible outcomes,” she says, finding fulfilment in helping communities worldwide.

This global perspective also underscores the importance of keeping Malaysians engaged with one another, wherever they are. MyHeart by TalentCorp plays a key role in bringing the Malaysian diaspora together while maintaining ties to home. Marina sees the impact of such networks firsthand: “There’s a strong pool of Malaysian talent and expertise globally, but we don’t always give ourselves enough credit. MyHeart by TalentCorp brings visibility to what Malaysians have achieved and creates opportunities

for collaboration, mentorship and knowledge sharing.”

That outlook was particularly evident during the Covid-19 pandemic, when challenges birthed innovation. One initiative was the International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO), a global student competition in nuclear science and technology. Marina sees it as “an investment in future talent”, helping students recognise the field’s relevance while introducing them to an international community.

As a woman in a traditionally male-dominated field, Marina has witnessed encouraging shifts. “There’s now much greater awareness of the importance of diversity and inclusion,” she notes, adding that leadership is becoming more collaborative and communicative. “The more diverse a team is, the better the solutions tend to be,” she adds.

Looking ahead, Marina believes initiatives by MyHeart are vital in strengthening ties among Malaysians worldwide – a reminder of the country’s global potential. “Malaysia Boleh!” she says. Her message to the next generation is equally grounded: “Stay curious, confident and do not limit your ambitions.”



# Wherever life takes you, Malaysia stays with you

The first *Salam Dari Malaysia* session in Auckland, New Zealand

## MyHeart by TalentCorp helps Malaysians abroad stay connected to home through community, stories and opportunities

Life moves quickly. One moment you're starting a new year, the next you're halfway through it, settling into a new city, a new role or a new rhythm of life abroad. While some Malaysians return home during the spring or summer holidays, others mark these moments from wherever they are.

Distance does not have to feel like disconnection. **MyHeart by TalentCorp** is an online platform designed specifically for Malaysians abroad, helping you stay engaged with home in meaningful, practical ways wherever life takes you.

### Different journeys, one platform

Whether you're studying in Australia, building your career in the UK, working

in Singapore or raising a family in the Middle East, MyHeart brings Malaysians together through a shared sense of identity and belonging.

Through the platform, you can discover Malaysian community events happening near you, grow your personal and professional networks, read stories from fellow Malaysians and explore opportunities to stay in touch with home, wherever you are on your journey. You can also stay updated on initiatives, collaborations and programmes that keep you linked to Malaysia's evolving landscape.

### A community that moves with you

MyHeart makes staying engaged simple and meaningful. From career fairs and seminars to cultural celebrations and industry collaborations, the platform offers ways to stay involved while building your life abroad. It also supports students, entrepreneurs and working professionals with programmes designed to help you grow,

build networks and contribute.

Whether you're planning to remain overseas, relocate or eventually return to Malaysia, MyHeart supports you at every stage, making it easier to stay connected not just emotionally, but actively and purposefully.

More than a platform, it is a gateway to a global Malaysian community, one that keeps you informed, engaged and involved, no matter the distance.



Register at [myheart.my](https://myheart.my) or scan the QR code to join a global Malaysian community. Follow us on:

-  [talentcorpmalaysia](#)
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A PERFECT WEEKEND IN

# Phuket

Words **Soumya Gayatri**

From gorgeous white-sand beaches and turquoise-coloured bays to gleaming temples and a rich mining heritage, Phuket offers a wonderful mix of nature, culture and history



IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK



Unlock five of Phuket's best attractions with one pass. Available now on Journify.

# Phuket, Thailand's largest island, was once a prosperous tin-mining hub in the Andaman Sea,

drawing Arab, Indian, Chinese and European traders whose influences continue to shape the island today. Now, it's a vibrant beach destination with sun-kissed shores, world-class luxury resorts, chic restaurants and trendy beach clubs. Here's a thoughtfully curated itinerary that blends the island's modern energy with its ancient heritage for a rewarding long weekend.

## Friday

**Morning.** Begin your adventure at **Wat Chalong** (70 Moo 6 Chaofa Rd, [Chalong:wat-chalong-phuket.com](http://Chalong:wat-chalong-phuket.com)), the island's grandest Buddhist temple. Here, golden shrines, colourful frescoes, serene gardens and a soaring 60m stupa enshrining a sacred Buddha relic set the mood for discovery. Then make your way to **Promthep Cape** (Rawai, *Mueang Phuket District*), at the island's southern

**Previous page:**  
Phang Nga Bay

**Clockwise from top left:**  
Wat Chalong Buddhist temple; the scenic Promthep Cape; seaside views at Michelin restaurant L'Arôme by the Sea; Patong Beach; Khao Phing Kan, the famous James Bond island

tip, to soak in sweeping, postcard-perfect views of the Andaman Sea extending to the horizon.

**Afternoon.** Hop between Phuket's beautiful white-sand beaches lining the west coast. Start at **Karon** (*Karon, Mueang Phuket District*), a crescent-shaped beach known for its relaxed and laid-back vibe, crystal-clear waters and gently swaying palms – the perfect place to unwind with a beach massage.

Continue to **Patong Beach** (*Pa Tong, Kathu District*), once a quiet fishing village and now Phuket's liveliest hub for water sports and entertainment. Stretching over 3km, it offers everything from kayaking and parasailing to jet skiing and beach volleyball.

Enjoy a surfing adventure at **Phuket Surf House** (162/8–11 Thaweewong Rd; [phuketsurfhouse.com](http://phuketsurfhouse.com)) or join a beachside party at **Barra Cuda Beach Club** (43 Thaweewong Rd; [barracudaphuket.com](http://barracudaphuket.com)).

End the afternoon with a shopping stop at **Jim Thompson** (*Central Patong, Soi Rat Uthit 200 Pi 1*; [jimthompson.com](http://jimthompson.com)), the iconic 75-year-old brand known for its stylish Thai silk scarves, apparel and accessories that celebrate the craftsmanship of local weavers.

**Evening.** Few places capture Phuket's famous nightlife quite like **Bangla Road** (*Pa Tong, Kathu District*), located in the heart of Patong Beach. An ordinary thoroughfare by day, it turns into a lively, pedestrian street in the evening, buzzing with beer bars, nightclubs, restaurants and night markets, all vying for your attention.

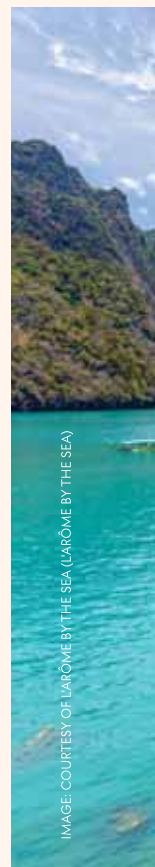


IMAGE: COURTESY OF L'ARÔME BY THE SEA (L'ARÔME BY THE SEA)



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



Firefly flies between Penang and Phuket 4x weekly.



Whether you want to listen to live music at **New York – Live Music Bar** (68 Bangla Rd; @newyork\_livemusicbar), groove to hip-hop beats at **Sugar Club** (70/3 Bangla Rd; sugarclub-phuket.com) or catch a thrilling Muay Thai fight at the **Boxing Stadium** (74/21 Soi Banzaan, Pa Tong; @banglaboxingstadium.phuket), Bangla Road has something for everyone.

Wrap your first day with an elegant, multi-course dinner at **L'Arôme by the Sea** (247, 5 Phrabaramee Rd; @laromebythesea), a Michelin-starred fine-dining restaurant set on the picturesque shores of Kalim Bay, where French culinary craftsmanship blends beautifully with the fresh, vibrant flavours of the Andaman Sea.

### Saturday

**Morning.** Start your day with a hearty breakfast at **Holey Artisan Bakery & Café** (Porto de Phuket, Choeng Thale,

*Thalang District; @holeybakery*), a cosy spot known for its fresh-baked breads, craft sandwiches, buttery croissants and indulgent cakes.

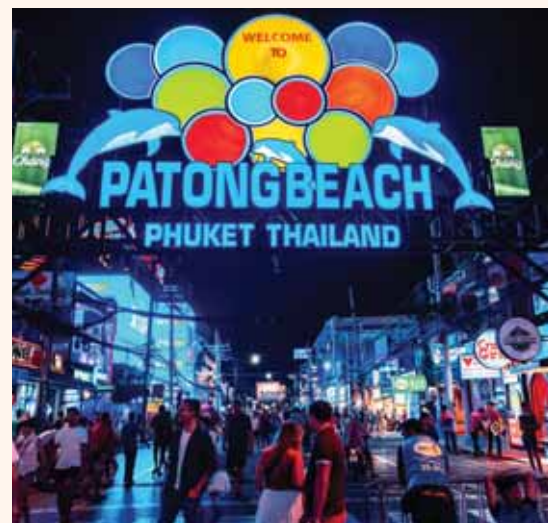
Hop on a traditional Thai longtail boat for a leisurely, full-day cruise through scenic **Phang Nga Bay**, a Ramsar national park known for its dramatic limestone karsts, sandy shores, dense mangroves and incredible biodiversity.

Stop by **Khao Phing Kan**, an island with striking rock formations, underwater caves and quiet beaches. From here, capture views of the iconic **James Bond Island** – the mushroom-shaped limestone tower made famous in the 1974 movie, *The Man with the Golden Gun*.

Canoe through the hidden sea caves and mangroves of Phang Nga Bay, learning all about stalactites and stalagmites, while keeping an eye out for herons, macaques, fruit bats and water monitors.

**Afternoon.** Arrive at **Koh Panyi** (*Mueang Phang-nga District*), a 300-year-old stilted fishing village and home to Thai Muslim communities who trace their lineage to three Javanese families that settled along Thailand's Andaman Coast in the 18th century.

Enjoy a Thai buffet lunch at the day-tripper restaurant, then wander through the narrow wooden walkways of this historic village. Chat with locals, browse dried seafood and shell jewellery stalls, admire the village mosque or join a friendly game at the floating football pitch.



## PHUKET



Conclude your tour at **Wat Suwan Kuha** (*Takua Thung District*) – also known as the Monkey Cave Temple – where golden Buddha statues sit within caves and grottoes shared with cheeky resident monkeys.

If you're visiting in October, be sure to experience the annual **Phuket Vegetarian Festival**, a nine-day celebration of spiritual cleansing marked by vibrant dragon dances, lively street processions, meat-free feasts and ritualistic piercing displays, making it one of the island's most unmissable cultural events.

**Evening.** Back in Phuket, end your day with an unforgettable dining experience 50m above ground at **Dinner in the Sky** (*487 Patak Rd, Karon, Mueang Phuket District; @dinnerinthesky.phuket*). Savour a three-course gourmet meal as you take in stunning sunset vistas and twinkling nighttime views over the city.

### Sunday

**Morning.** Feast on a variety of freshly steamed dim sums for breakfast at **Dimsum House Phuket** (*Amphoe Thalang; Facebook/Dimsumhousephuket*), a cosy local eatery on your way to Mai Khao Beach, the longest in Phuket. Stretching over 11km north from Sirinath National Park, this pristine shoreline remains wonderfully unspoilt.

Find yourself a comfortable spot at the **Mai Khao Beach Flight Viewing Point** (*Thalang District*) and watch planes descend dramatically low overhead as they land at Phuket International Airport.



IMAGE COURTESY OF HOLLEY ARTISAN BAKERY & CAFÉ (HOLLEY ARTISAN BAKERY & CAFÉ)



Then venture off the beaten path to the **Phuket Mining Museum** (*Kathu District*), where interactive dioramas and vintage mining equipment bring the island's rich tin-mining history to life. Don't miss the immersive old-town experience, complete with a charming street of shops, a traditional shrine and a nostalgic café.

**Afternoon.** Continue tracing Phuket's mining heritage in **Old Town**, where colourful Sino-Portuguese shophouses – blending Chinese and European architectural elements – stand alongside hidden shrines.

Try the famous stir-fried Hokkien noodles at **Mee Ton Poe** (214, 7–8 *Phuket Rd, Tambon Talat Yai, Mueang Phuket District*; [Facebook/meetonpoe](#)), a beloved 80-year-old family-run institution, or sample classic Thai favourites like massaman curry, pad Thai and mango sticky rice at the charming **China Inn Garden Restaurant** (20 *Thalang Rd, Tambon Talat Yai, Mueang Phuket District*; [@chinainnphuket](#)).

Step into **Thai Hua Museum** (28 *Krabi, Talat Nuea, Mueang Phuket District*; [Facebook/ThaihuaMuseum](#)), housed in a 92-year-old mansion that was once

**Clockwise from top left:** Craft sandwiches at Holey Artisan Bakery & Café; Soi Romanee's photogenic mansions; Lard Yai Sunday Walking Street Market; fishing villages at Koh Panyi

a Chinese language school, for a quick peek into the island's ethnic history.

Spend the afternoon strolling through **Soi Romanee**, a photogenic street lined with some of Phuket's most beautiful Sino-Portuguese mansions, many of them dating to the 19th century.

**Evening.** On your final night, explore the island's local culture at the **Lard Yai Sunday Walking Street Market** (150 *Thalang Rd, Talat Yai, Mueang Phuket District*).

Every Sunday, from 4pm until late, this lively street transforms into a colourful maze of food stalls, craft vendors and street performances.

Follow the irresistible aromas of grilled seafood, barbecued meats, roti pancakes and edible mini fruit sculptures known as *kanom look choop*. Take home a handcrafted souvenir and pause to enjoy live music.

## Where to stay



### The Slate

Set on Nai Yang Beach, this luxury retreat honours Phuket's tin mining past through a striking mix of industrial décor and traditional Thai architecture, reflected in its suites, spa and curated experiences. [theslatephuket.com](#)



### Twinpalms Surin Beach

Located a short stroll from Surin Beach, this small luxury hotel offers opulent suites and penthouses set around a tropical lagoon pool, complemented by an indulgent dining experience at its Michelin Guide-listed Wagyu Steakhouse. [twinpalms-hotelsresorts.com](#)



### The Naka

A member of Design Hotels, this 90-key luxury resort features stylish villas with minimalist décor and private pools set on a secluded beach in Kamala Bay, offering unobstructed views of the Andaman Sea. [thenakaphuket.com](#)

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Some moments  
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Tanjung Rhu



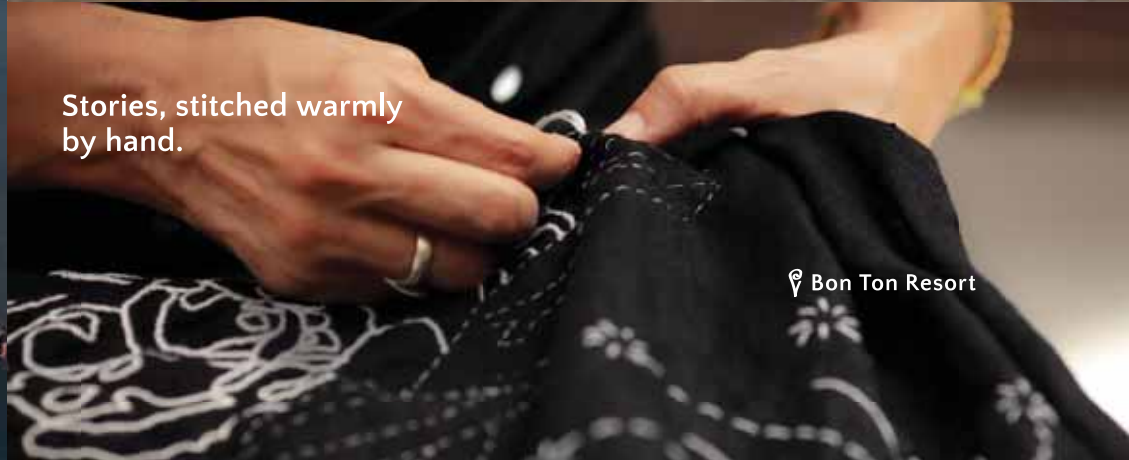
Nothing to rush.  
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Pantai Kok



Small creatures.  
Big energy.

Fiddler Crab



Stories, stitched warmly  
by hand.

Bon Ton Resort

# Crafted over the grill

Firewood's refined, grill-led approach to modern dining can be experienced in both Penang and KLCC



The action inside Firewood KLCC's open kitchen



Stone Axe full-blood wagyu sirloin, expertly grilled

Cooking over the grill is one of the oldest techniques in the world, but at Firewood, it is elevated through a distinctly modern lens. The restaurant's philosophy is rooted in restraint and precision, where heat is applied with intent to draw out the best in each ingredient. The result is cooking that feels elemental yet considered, allowing natural flavours to come through with clarity and depth.

At the helm is Chef Ker Yang Hao, whose approach is defined by discipline and a deep respect for produce. The menu highlights premium cuts of meat, fresh seafood and seasonal vegetables, each thoughtfully sourced and carefully prepared over wood-fired grills using locally sourced bakau charcoal from Taiping, Perak. This imparts a gentle smokiness and complexity that enhances, rather than overpowers, the ingredient's natural profile.

First established in Penang, Firewood has built a reputation for its focused culinary point of view. This philosophy now extends to Kuala Lumpur, where its KLCC location brings the same level of precision and craft to the heart of the city. While each space reflects its surroundings, both share a commitment to ingredient-led cooking and a quietly confident dining experience.

Each dish reflects a balance of confidence and control. Steaks

arrive with a beautifully charred crust and a tender, flavourful centre, while seafood is delicately cooked to preserve its sweetness and texture. There is a quiet sophistication to the menu, where boldness is tempered with restraint, and every element on the plate has a purpose.

The spaces echo this philosophy. Centred around open kitchens, both restaurants invite diners to observe the craft behind each dish, from the steady rhythm of the grill to the final touches before serving. In Penang, the setting feels bright and relaxed, with an easy, family-friendly charm, while the KLCC outpost takes on a more elevated tone, making it well-suited for group dining and special occasions. Across both, the atmosphere remains warm and understated, offering a setting that feels both intimate and welcoming.

Whether in Penang or Kuala Lumpur, Firewood offers a compelling dining experience for travellers seeking thoughtful, ingredient-driven cuisine, best experienced firsthand at the grill.

#### **Firewood Penang**

**15 Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, George Town;  
+60 17 989 9246**

#### **Firewood KLCC**

**SR-05-05 Star Boulevard KLCC, Jalan Yap Kwan Seng, Kuala Lumpur;  
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Open-kitchen dining at Firewood Penang

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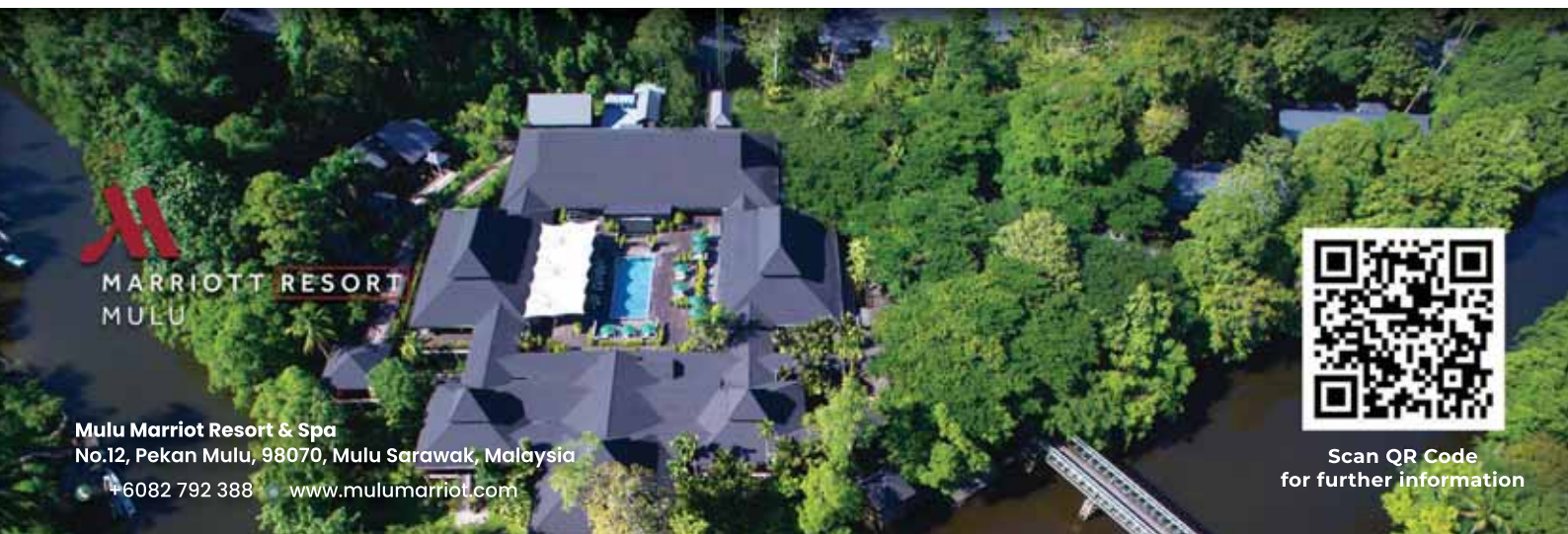


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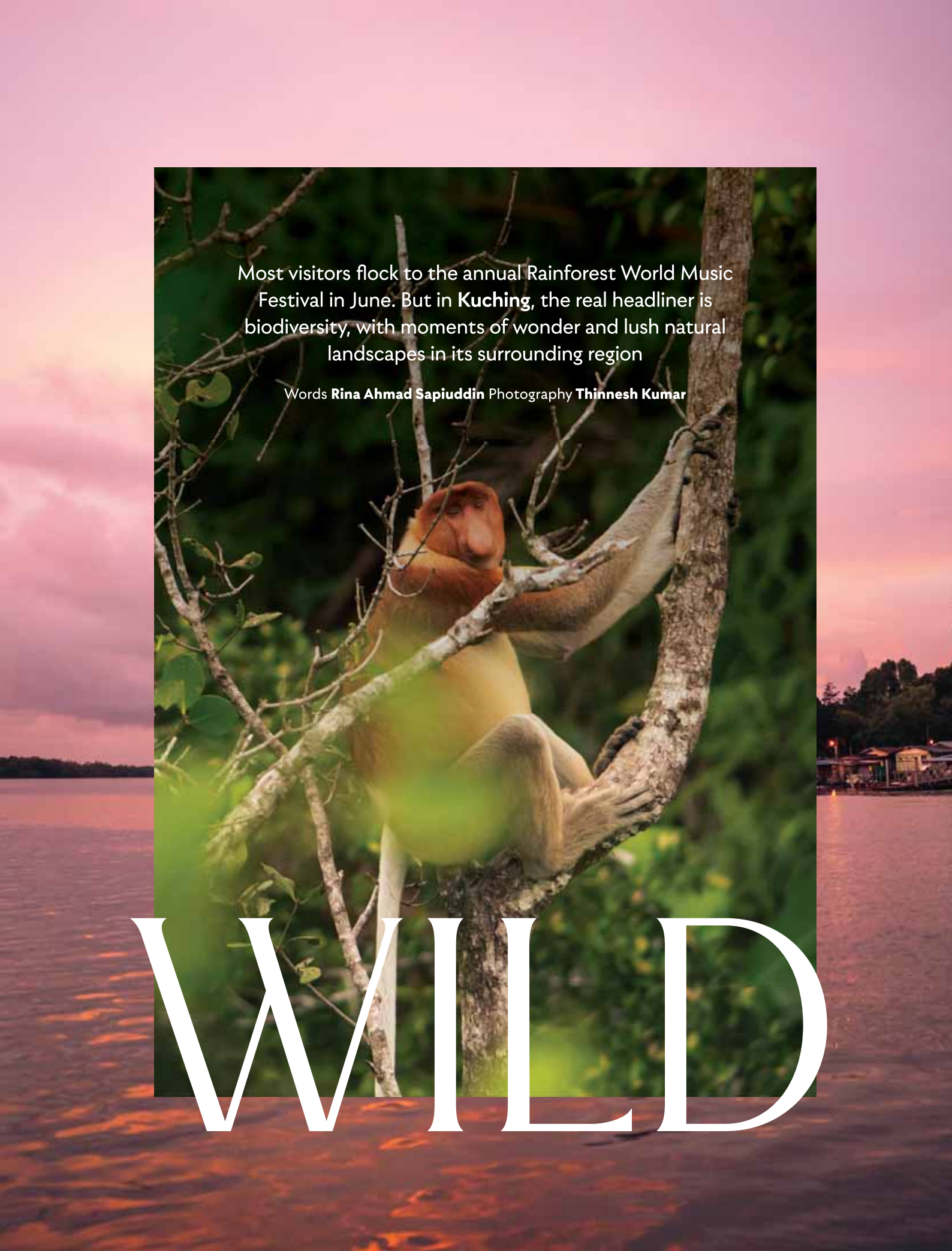


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The rhythm



of the



Most visitors flock to the annual Rainforest World Music Festival in June. But in Kuching, the real headliner is biodiversity, with moments of wonder and lush natural landscapes in its surrounding region

Words **Rina Ahmad Sapiuddin** Photography **Thinness Kumar**

# WILD



**As the day cools  
and evening  
settles over Mount  
Santubong, a  
low, steady hum  
drifts through  
the forest.**

It feels elemental, like a heartbeat, but the source is human: the opening chords of the Rainforest World Music Festival. Returning from 26–28 June 2026, the festival plays out at the Sarawak Cultural Village, a 40-minute drive from Kuching, where thousands gather to see global fusion acts perform against a lush forest backdrop.

But the setting is as compelling as the music. By day, the same grounds offer a deeper introduction to Sarawak’s cultural and natural heritage. Skip the general stroll and head straight for the Bidayuh *Baruk* (headhouse). Inside, the air is thick with the scent of woodsmoke and *penganan* – traditional kuih available to taste for a small fee.

A few steps away, the main theatre stages cultural shows daily at 11.30am and 3.30pm. Don’t watch from the back; sit near the stage to hear the sharp twang of the sape





and watch dancers move in sync. It's here, amid the traditional dwellings of Sarawak's seven major ethnic groups, that you realise this isn't a static display of heritage but a living culture.

The annual music festival, meanwhile, offers a gateway to the rich biodiversity of Kuching and its surrounding landscapes.

### Legacies of Santubong

Just beyond the festival grounds, the Santubong Archaeological Park reveals a deeper past. Recent excavations at Sungai Jaong have uncovered evidence of a 10th-century global trading hub that predates many known regional empires. Encompassing Sungai Jaong, Bongkissam, Bukit Maras and the Wallace Centre, these preserved sites offer insight into Santubong's early days as an India-China trading port.

Stand before Batu Gambar at Sungai Jaong and look closely at the spread-eagle human figure carved into the sandstone – an eerie, tactile connection to a maritime civilisation that smelted iron here a millennium ago.

Nearby, the Wallace Centre, housed in a restored colonial bungalow, marks the spot where pioneering British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace drafted his 1855 "Sarawak Law" paper. It's a thrill for science buffs: Wallace beat Darwin to the punch on several key ideas of natural selection right here on this hillside! Pro tip: admission is free but go before 11am to beat the midday Santubong heat.



**Find the best deals on Flight + Hotel packages to Kuching with MHHolidays.**

**Previous spread:** Bamboo rafting down the Sirin River; catch sight of wildlife like the proboscis monkey at Kuching Wetlands National Park

**This spread:** Scenes from the Sarawak Cultural Village



**From left:**  
Cruising through Kuching Wetlands National Park; Mount Santubong; the lush, sun-dappled gardens within Fairy Cave

### The silent waterways

To see Kuching at its most elemental, head back towards Santubong’s coast. Sunset mangrove tours depart from the Santubong Boat Club, a small jetty 35 minutes from the city. Operators such as Borneo Adventure run 3–4-hour excursions in specialised, quiet-engine boats that glide through Kuching Wetlands National Park without disturbing wildlife.

Watch the muddy banks for endangered proboscis monkeys and saltwater crocodiles. These waterways also provide sanctuary



to the Irrawaddy dolphin – blunt-nosed, charcoal-grey and shy. You won’t see them leaping; instead, look for a subtle “rolling” break in the water. Spotting one is a rare privilege, as they tend to avoid boats and move in small, tight-knit groups of two or three.

As dusk falls, the boatman cuts the engine near the berembang trees. This is when the fireflies begin their synchronised dance, a rhythmic pulse of green lights that makes the trees feel as if they are breathing.

### Caverns of time

An hour from Kuching, the gold-mining town of Bau anchors one of the region’s most adventurous day trips. Here, rising from limestone hills, the Fairy Cave and Wind Cave – just five minutes apart by car – offer more than stalactites and stalagmites.

Fairy Cave begins with a steep stair climb into darkness before opening into a vast, cathedral-like chamber where filtered sunlight sustains a lush vertical garden. The interplay of light and humidity creates a rare, almost otherworldly microclimate. Wear sturdy shoes with good grip for a safer, more comfortable climb.

Wind Cave, by contrast, is cooler and enclosed. Named for the constant breeze flowing through its tunnels, it forms a subterranean labyrinth. While it lacks Fairy Cave’s dramatic light, its shaded entrance supports rare plant life, while swiftlets and bats inhabit the darker recesses. The paths eventually lead to riverbanks, offering an easy photo op.

On the return, detour to Siniawan Old Town. By day, it’s a sleepy row of 19th-century wooden shophouses dating back to the 1840s; on weekends, it transforms into a lantern-lit street market with a faintly wild-west atmosphere.





# KUCHING



**From left:** Find pratuokng musician Arthur Borman at Annah Rais Longhouse; Kuching city's historic streets; Borneo Cultures Museum; Fort Margherita

## Guardians of the forest

Around half an hour from the city, the Semenggoh Wildlife Centre offers a different kind of encounter. This is not a zoo, but a rehabilitation site for orangutans rescued from captivity or deforestation.

Arrive for the 9am feeding and listen closely to the ranger's briefing; he often points out which "celebrity" resident is nearby. If Ritchie, the 140kg alpha male, appears, the forest falls noticeably still – even the birds go quiet.

Sightings aren't guaranteed. "If they don't come to the platform, it's a good sign," the ranger explains. During fruiting season (November to March), sightings drop by 50%, making any encounter feel like a hard-earned reward.

Another way to experience the jungle is to float down the Sirin River, near Peraya village, a limestone area surrounding Kuching about 45 minutes to an hour from Semenggoh. Bamboo rafts, made from 10 sturdy poles tied together, carry you through quiet rainforest and past local villages, just as they did in the old days. Over two hours, you navigate mild rapids and turquoise pools, pausing at a pebble bar for a Bidayuh jungle lunch. Guides stuff chicken, ginger and tapioca leaves into fresh bamboo tubes to make *manuk pansuh*, slow-roasted over a driftwood fire. The flavour is smoky, botanical and impossible to replicate in a kitchen.

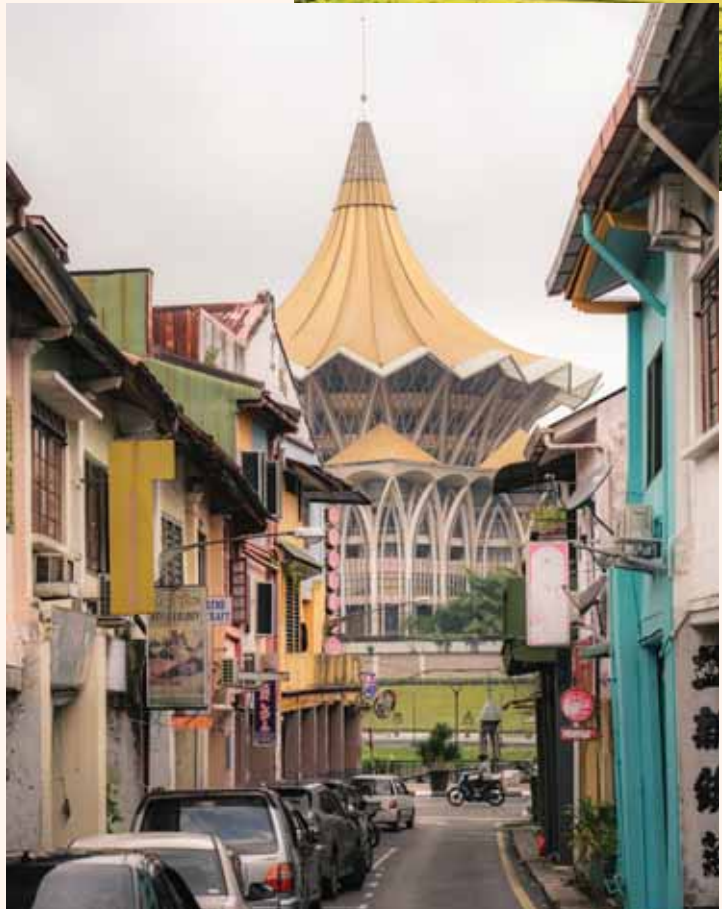
For true immersion, head an hour inland to Annah Rais Longhouse, where bamboo architecture blends seamlessly with the surrounding rainforest. This is a living



**Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Kuching 56x weekly.**



**Firefly flies between Kuala Lumpur and Kuching 11x weekly.**





Bidayuh longhouse where 100 families still reside. If you're lucky, you may encounter Arthur Borman, a local musician and famed master of the *pratuokng*, a traditional Bidayuh bamboo zither crafted from a single piece of bamboo. Hearing his music is a profound reminder that the most beautiful moments aren't planned but found in the simple sharing of culture.

### Journey through history

Back in the city, Kuching's heritage core is best explored on foot. Start at the Borneo Cultures Museum, where the third floor delves into Sarawak's indigenous groups, anchored by a full-scale Bidayuh Baruk, complete with actual skulls on display.

Continue on to the Raneë Museum at the Old Court House. Many know of the former Rajah of Sarawak Charles Brooke, but fewer are familiar with his wife, Raneë Margaret. Fluent in local dialects and a champion of Sarawakian weaving, she engaged deeply with local communities, whose traditions and craftsmanship remain central to Sarawak's identity. Across the river, Fort Margherita offers a subtle reminder of this era.

From here, wander to the Kuching Waterfront, overlooking the Darul Hana Bridge, a venue for the Sarawak Regatta, first held in 1872, and the Sarawak International Dragon Boat Regatta. These thrilling races reflect unity, tradition and cultural pride, and draw paddlers worldwide.

## Soulful bites in Kuching



### Little Hainan

On historic Padungan Road, husband-and-wife team Julian and Lynda's vintage-styled kopitiam serves authentic Hainanese chicken rice and hearty dishes that honour family traditions. Each meal is a fragrant celebration of Sarawak's Hainanese heritage. **207 Jln Padungan**

### The Lamin

At The Lamin, dishes like ayam pansuh, nasi goreng trio and local midin capture authentic Sarawakian flavours. Located in Telang Usan Hotel, it's a warm spot for both traditional and vegetarian options. **345 Jln Ban Hock**

### The Junk

This award-winning restaurant feels like a step back in time, where colonial-era charm meets candlelit warmth. Its Western-Italian menu, from seared steaks to handcrafted pasta, makes each meal intimate and memorable. **80 Wayang St**



# Where business events leave an impact

In Sarawak, business events are designed for ESG impact long after the final session ends

The conference concludes. The delegates depart. The venue is cleared and readied for the next gathering. By most measures, a successful event has taken place. But in Sarawak, a different question is asked: what has this event actually achieved?

It is a question that shapes everything about how Sarawak approaches business events. With an ambitious vision to become the Legacy Capital of Business Events in Malaysia and Borneo, the state has built its entire business events strategy around a single conviction, that the most valuable outcome of any gathering is the impact that quietly compounds. From knowledge transferred to local professionals, research collaborations

initiated, industries strengthened and finally to communities better equipped for the future.

## **The legacy in numbers and beyond them**

Since 2006, Sarawak has hosted over 1,289 events, welcomed more than 478,000 delegates and generated RM3.9 billion in total economic impact. But behind those figures lies a more deliberate story.

Every major convention hosted in Sarawak is evaluated not only for its economic contribution, but for its alignment with Sarawak's development priorities – renewable energy, healthcare, sustainability, digital innovation and advanced materials. The goal is not simply to fill



Darul Hana bridge in Kuching, the capital city of Sarawak



Rajang River in Kuching, the longest river in Malaysia

the venues, but to ensure that what happens inside it ripples outward into industries and communities that continue the conversation long after the closing remarks.

This approach is formalised in Sarawak's Post Covid-19 Development Strategy 2030, which places innovation, global partnerships and sustainability at the centre of the state's future. And business events are the primary instruments to realise this vision.



The iconic seahorse statue, mascot of Miri, on Marina Bay

### Three cities, three kinds of impact

The legacy model plays out differently across Sarawak's three business event cities. In Kuching, it is most visible in the depth of collaboration between the Sarawak government, associations and the local community, a city where the distance between a convention centre and a research institution is rarely great.

In Miri, a coastal city anchored by the oil and gas industry, it takes the form of technical knowledge and industry standards exchanged at energy and engineering conferences, in a setting that also connects delegates to the UNESCO World Heritage landscapes of Gunung Mulu National Park.

In Sibü, where an entrepreneurial culture and strong community networks define the city's character, legacy looks like regional associations leaving behind stronger professional ties, more capable organisations and a city visibly invested in what happens next.

### What it means to choose Sarawak

For event organisers and associations weighing their next destination, Sarawak presents a proposition that is not easily replicated: a modern, well-connected business events ecosystem – with serious venues, reliable access and a professional hospitality sector – in service of an outcomes-led philosophy that few destinations have articulated as clearly or delivered as consistently.

Choosing Sarawak truly aligns with what a business event is for. It is a decision to measure success not just in delegate days, but in the mark left on a place and its people.

Some events simply happen. In Sarawak, they are designed to create enduring impact.

**Find out how your next business event can change the future. Visit [sarawakconventionbureau.com](http://sarawakconventionbureau.com) to connect and begin planning.**

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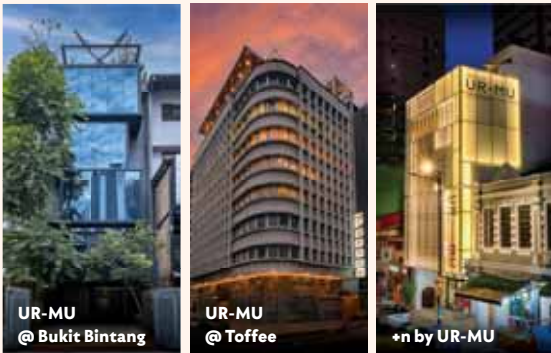
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GOING PLACES x UR-MU

# Three spaces, one contemporary vision



UR-MU @ Bukit Bintang

UR-MU @ Toffee

+n by UR-MU



Rooftop view of UR-MU @ Bukit Bintang

The **Urban Museum (UR-MU)** is a pioneering, private contemporary art museum offering diverse experiences across three distinct venues in bustling downtown Kuala Lumpur.

**UR-MU @ Bukit Bintang** opened in 2022 and housed within a restored 1950s modernist building, ten themed galleries showcase an eclectic collection of regional art dating back to the 1980s. Over at **UR-MU @ Toffee, Raja Chulan**, the experience unfolds across two levels, with Level 5 presenting immersive, modernist-inspired

exhibitions, while Level 6 features "TUBUH", a showcase of figurative Malaysian art from the 1990s and 2000s. Completing the journey, **+n by UR-MU** at Jalan Tun HS Lee explores socio-political themes through exhibitions such as "Strategies of Dissent" which examines protest art, colonisation and everyday resistance.

Together, they reflect Malaysia's cultural identity, history and contemporary life.

**Visit [ur-mu.com](http://ur-mu.com) to explore UR-MU's exhibitions and cultural offerings.**

# Fukuoka magic





IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (TAKACHIHO GORGE, NOKONOSHIMA ISLAND PARK)

This southern port city is more than meets the eye, where historic streets, lively yatai food stalls and scenic views make for a destination rich with flavour and charm

Words **Leandra Beabout**



When it comes to Japan, most people picture Tokyo's neon buzz or Kyoto's serene temples.



**Previous spread:**  
Nokonoshima Island;  
Takachiho Gorge

**This spread, clockwise from bottom left:**  
Ohori Terrace is filled with interesting cafés; Hakata textiles; Hakata Machiya Folk Museum; Ohori Park

But don't overlook Fukuoka, a relaxed, ever-evolving port city on Kyushu's northern coast. With an appealing blend of old-school craftsmanship, food culture and urban revitalisation, it's no wonder Fukuoka is one of Japan's fastest-growing cities.

To get the lay of the land, I asked three locals where they'd take a first-time visitor. They began with an important geography lesson: Fukuoka is both the prefecture and the city, and many locals still refer to the city's historic side as Hakata.

In 1889, the city of Hakata, Japan's largest trading port from the 12th to 16th centuries, merged with the former castle town Fukuoka to form the capital city it is today.

"The actual culture is Hakata culture," explains Bruce Haendel, a long-time resident and food tour guide. It is this culture, not a specific landmark, that defines Fukuoka.

"I think our biggest attraction, and I hope we never lose this, is we're a mid-tempo



IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (OHORI PARK), RUPERT SINGLETON (HAKATA MACHIYA, OHORI TERRACE)



city,” says Luis Matos, owner of Fukuoka’s first foreign-style bar, Off Broadway. It’s a city meant for exploring, not conquering.

For Mitsuko Atsusaka, a government-licensed guide with Kyushu Journeys travel agency, the perfect day showing a friend around Fukuoka sounds less like sightseeing and more like savouring the distinct flavours and traditions of Hakata’s 2,000-year history.

### **Hakata heritage**

A perfect first day in the capital might begin with a visit to Kushida Shrine, where the Hakata Gion Yamakasa festival takes place every July. Teams hoist one-ton floats and charge through Hakata’s streets as part of a 15-day celebration that draws around three million visitors.

In town for the festival? “Wake up at 4.30am,” Atsusaka advises with a laugh. “If you arrive at 5am, you’re too late.”

If you miss the festival, the nearby Hakata Machiya Folk Museum offers footage and exhibits on daily life in historic Hakata. Its shop is one of the best places to buy items made from authentic Hakata textiles. “It’s thick and striped,” Atsusaka says of the pattern once reserved for feudal lords.

Next, wander towards Kawabata Shopping Arcade, Hakata’s oldest retail street. Here, you “feel the lives of ordinary locals,” Atsusaka says. Don’t miss a shop called Kadota Chouchin-ten, where artisans still make traditional paper lanterns.

For lunch, tuck into regional specialities: tonkotsu ramen at Hakata Noodle Street, connected to JR Hakata Station; grilled eel at the 150-year-old Yoshizuka Unagiya; or *goma-saba* – mackerel sashimi – at a neighbourhood eatery.

After filling your belly, head to Ohori Park. Locals jog around the lake, visitors row swan-shaped boats and all gather under



cherry blossoms in late March or admire autumn leaves in November. The park's Japanese garden offers a quiet pause. Grab a matcha at &Locals Ohori Koen at Ohori Terrace before heading towards bustling Tenjin for Fukuoka's old-school flavours and trendy nightlife.

**Fukuoka rising**

Two decades of redevelopment, dubbed “the Big Bang”, have reshaped Fukuoka's skyline.

“There is an avenue called Meiji-dori, and that's where the renaissance is most visible,” Matos says. He loves introducing his visitors to what he calls “sky-hopping”: think pub crawling, but with bird's-eye views from chic rooftop bars. These days, non-alcoholic options flow freely too.

Begin at The Roof, an open-air café and bar perched atop the One Fukuoka Hotel, before heading to the rooftop of the Gate Hotel by Hulic. At the Ritz-Carlton Fukuoka, Bay offers unparalleled panoramas of Hakata Bay. “It's the tallest building in town right now,” Matos says. “They have a DJ every night rocking the house.”

“After happy hour, we bolt – we're getting the munchies,” he adds, suggesting we head back down to street level to discover why Fukuoka is considered the yatai capital of Japan.

**Street food heaven**

By evening, Fukuoka performs a magic trick: more than 100 food stalls, called *yatai*, appear, filling the air with the aromas of simmering ramen, grilled chicken and



**This page:** Yoshizuka Unagiya is a 150-year-old establishment that serves grilled eel

**Opposite page:** The Gate Hotel's Terrace Lounge offers sweeping Fukuoka views



**Where to stay in Fukuoka prefecture**

**The Ritz-Carlton, Fukuoka**  
Fukuoka's first five-star hotel offers a sleek 24-storey tower with bay and skyline views. Elegant rooms and suites pair with top-tier dining, impeccable service and a refined spa experience.  
[ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com)

**Nishitetsu Grand Hotel**  
Established in 1969, the city's landmark hotel exudes classic ambience. Spacious rooms, six restaurants, a hair salon and concierge services ensure comfort, and its central Fukuoka location is a bonus.  
[grandhotel.nnr-h.com](http://grandhotel.nnr-h.com)

**Daimaru Besso**  
Open since 1865, this cosy ryokan is a 30-minute drive from Hakata Station. Hot spring baths, tatami rooms and seasonal multi-course dining create an authentic stay just outside the city.  
[daimarubesso.com](http://daimarubesso.com)

IMAGES: RUPERT SINGLETON (YOSHIZUKA UNAGIYA)

# FUKUOKA

other mouthwatering dishes. They can be intimidating—tight quarters, limited English menus – so consider a local guide on your first night.

Haendel, aka the “Hakata Foodie”, says each yatai is “an individual world”, seating no more than 10 people eating shoulder-to-shoulder. Some yatai are casual; others feel like speakeasies, with staff in bow ties. No matter the vibe, Haendel says they’re clean, cosy and serve amazing food.

First up, squeeze into Takachan, a beef-forward yatai Haendel has frequented for decades. The chef is great at accommodating



**Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Fukuoka 5x weekly, effective September 2026.**

**This page:** Savour grilled meat skewers and Hakata ramen at Barakamon, a traditional yatai

**Opposite page:** Telas & Mico serves gourmet bites like ratatouille bruschetta

IMAGES: RUPERT SINGLETON



It's also worth noting that the Nakasu riverside yatai row is Insta-famous, but it's not where locals eat. Atsusaka calls it a "picture-only" place.

### Kyushu calling

Fukuoka City is no island unto itself. Locals say that in many ways, it's a gateway to the rest of Kyushu, Japan's southern island best known for Beppu's scalding hot springs, serene coastal stretches and the rugged cliffs of Takachiho Gorge, a volcanic chasm carved by the Gokase River.

If there's no time to explore the broader region, Matos suggests at least a day on Nokonoshima Island, a quick ferry ride from Fukuoka. "You're a world away," he says. "Immediate beauty." Barbecue with a view of the sea, explore Shimaya, a Meiji-era shop with authentic traditional crafts and amble towards Nokonoshima Island Park, famous for its sprawling flower fields. Visit in autumn when the park blooms with about 30,000 cosmos flowers.

At dusk, check into an overnight villa to watch the stars come out or take the ferry back for one more night wandering from yatai to yatai. Whatever you choose, it's clear that the old and new Hakata coexist in harmony. Maybe next time there will be a new high-rise, or a new chef hanging their shingle at a new yatai. But if locals have their say, Fukuoka's spirit will stay the same. "We like being mid-tempo," Matos says. "The pace is nice."

“

**The perfect day showing a friend around Fukuoka sounds less like sightseeing and more like savouring the distinct flavours and traditions of Hakata's 2,000-year history”**

dietary requests, including meatless and halal options. "I would take my own mother there," Haendel says. Nearby is Genkai, the second-oldest yatai in Fukuoka, if not the country, where you can get expertly fried seafood tempura.

At the more traditional Barakamon, diners slurp Hakata ramen with flying fish broth or sink their teeth into glistening meat skewers. Telas & Mico helmed by Kensuke Kubota, a former Nobu chef, offers a more contemporary spin: the bright teal stall serves gourmet bites such as ratatouille bruschetta and Basque cheesecake.

Then there's Yatai Keiji, an atmospheric "one-man show" run by a former shrine carpenter – and one of the few stalls that accepts bookings.

Once you snag a seat, remember that yatai are social spaces. Order a drink – soft or hard – and say hello to your neighbour. It's the only place in Japan where you're supposed to talk to strangers, Haendel says.

The OF





# F switch

In an always-on world, a growing number of travellers are choosing to log off. From remote island hideaways to ocean-led wellness immersions, the **Maldives** is at the forefront of unplugged travel

Words **Kissa Castañeda**

Imagine the velvety sand beneath your feet, the slow wade into sun-warmed



waters, then the natural surrender of floating in the middle of the sea – your body slack as the gentle waves lull you into complete relaxation. Experiencing this blissful scene is what makes the Maldives one of the most popular destinations in the world, and why it welcomed over two million travellers in 2025.

While the archipelago nation is synonymous with the classic fly-and-flop holiday, more travellers are heading to this slice of paradise for one reason: to unplug. In a hyperconnected world, luxury is increasingly defined by the freedom to opt out.



This explains the rise of unplugged travel – the conscious decision to step back from screens and become more attuned to oneself and one’s surroundings. Instead of documenting every moment or doomscrolling in a hammock, the focus is on limiting the use of devices and practising “appstinence”. With 26 atolls scattered across the sparkling Indian Ocean and tropical weather all year round, the Maldives offers an ideal setting to untether from both the real and digital world.

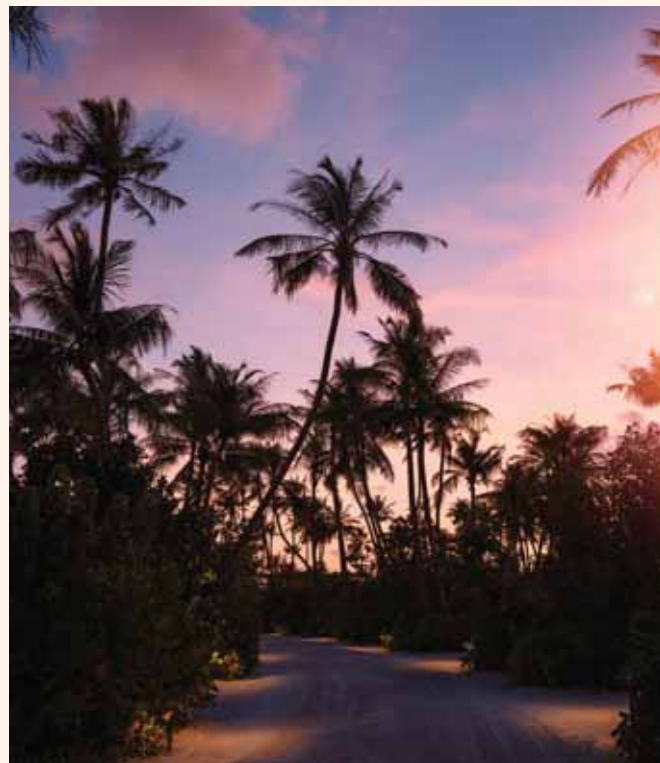
“Across Asia Pacific, and particularly in markets like Singapore, luxury travel is increasingly defined by wellbeing rooted in nature. Our Intentional Traveller Report shows that 90% of high-net-worth travellers now cite wellness as a key booking driver, with 80% planning to spend more on wellness-led journeys,” says Oriol Montal, regional vice president of Luxury, Asia Pacific (excluding China) at Marriott International. “Importantly for our region, 67% are choosing to travel within Asia, where access to oceans, jungles





**Previous spread:**  
A private-pool villa  
at Patina Maldives

**From left:** Four  
Seasons at Landaa  
Giraavaru; The  
Ritz-Carlton,  
Fari Islands (top  
and bottom);  
Patina resort



and remote natural landscapes allows wellness to feel instinctive rather than prescribed.”

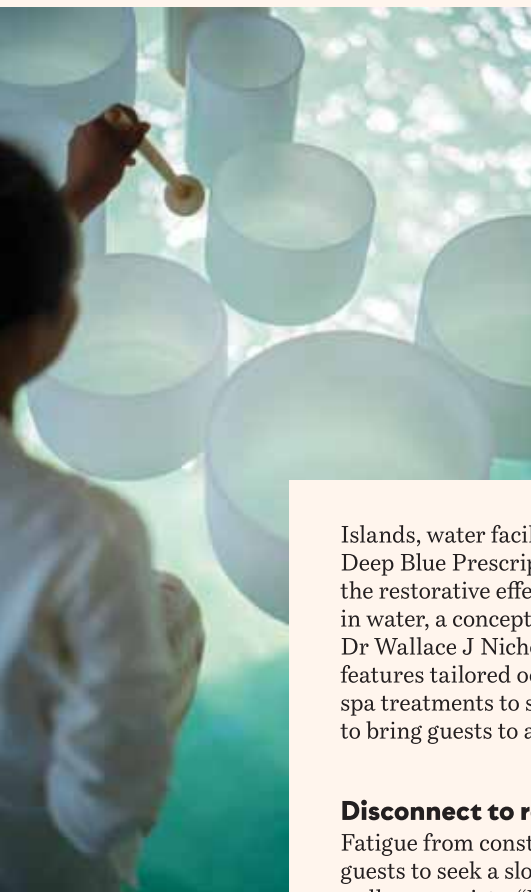
Yet anyone who has tried to leave their phone untouched for a day knows that disconnecting is easier said than done. “Digital addiction is real,” says Dervla Louli Musgrave, founder of the wellness travel platform Compare Retreats. “Withdrawal is real and it takes three to four days until many people stop reaching for their phone out of habit.”

### A balancing act

Many guests who arrive in the Maldives are hyper-connected, high-performing individuals. Here, their goal is not just to switch off, but to recalibrate – to reconnect with nature, their bodies and with loved ones.

“Unplugged travel is less about removing technology and more about rebalancing attention. Guests are choosing moments where phones naturally disappear – sunrise breathwork, art immersion or simple water activities – because those experiences are compelling enough to hold them,” says Kushal Kejriwal, associate director of marketing & communications at Patina Maldives, Fari Islands. “The most meaningful disconnection happens when guests are deeply engaged, not when they’re told to disconnect.”

At neighbouring resort The Ritz-Carlton, Fari



**From bottom left:**  
Crystal singing  
bowls at Four  
Seasons Voavah;  
Beach Hideaway villa  
at Soneva Secret;  
island paradise at  
Patina

Islands, water facilitates this detachment. Their Deep Blue Prescription programme draws on the restorative effects of being near or immersed in water, a concept popularised in *Blue Mind* by Dr Wallace J Nichols. The wellness initiative features tailored ocean-based experiences, from spa treatments to snorkelling excursions, designed to bring guests to a state of calm and clarity.

### Disconnect to reconnect

Fatigue from constant stimulation often drives guests to seek a slower pace – and it's not just wellness purists. "We see families, couples, founders, creatives and younger travellers all valuing time that feels unstructured and genuinely restorative. Lengths of stay are

increasing, with guests prioritising sleep quality, time in nature and meaningful shared moments over packed itineraries," says Abhishek Sharma, chief operating officer of Soneva.

It's no wonder there's an enduring demand for remote islands that give travellers that much-needed distance from daily life. One such place is Soneva Secret, a private island resort 30 years in the making. A 75-minute seaplane ride from Malé brings guests to Makunudhoo Atoll, a marine life sanctuary in the Maldives.

Here, guests can retreat to standalone overwater villas, especially the Crusoe-style residences set apart in the lagoon and accessed only by boat. By day, they can go off-grid with castaway island picnics; by night, an in-house astronomer maps out constellations in the sky. The resort's resident marine biologist also leads snorkelling excursions where guests may encounter manta rays and dolphins.

A similar ethos shapes Four Seasons Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru in Baa Atoll, a Unesco Biosphere Reserve. Since opening in 2004, the hotel has pioneered luxury wellness through its in-house spa AyurMa. "Overseen by Ayurvedic physicians and yoga doctors, guests commit to seven- to 14-night stays that include dosha diagnostics, Panchakarma detoxification, yoga therapy for structural or emotional imbalances and longevity-focused nutritional planning," says Dr Arun Tomson, senior director of AyurMa.



**PraMā at Ayurma Spa, Four Seasons, Landaa Giraavaru**

Exclusive to Ayurma, PraMā is an evidence-based screening programme that builds a detailed picture of each guest's health before any treatment begins. Conducted over a two-hour consultation, it includes Ayurvedic assessment (pulse, gut, allergies), postural and joint mobility review; naturopathic evaluation (iris and tongue diagnosis, analysis of lifestyle habits) and biomarker testing. The result is a personalised blueprint for optimal wellbeing, grounded in data and traditional practice. [ayurma.life](http://ayurma.life)

A short boat ride away is Four Seasons Voavah, a 5-acre private island with seven bedrooms, its own beach house, a 19m yacht, a fully equipped dive centre and The Ocean of Consciousness Spa. "It's perhaps the most radical evolution of the unplugged concept. Previously positioned as a celebratory private island [for milestone parties and reunions], Voavah is increasingly being used as a fully bespoke wellness enclave," adds Tomson.

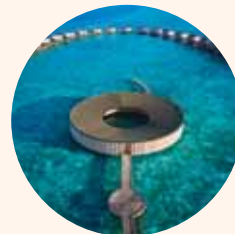
**A quiet place**

For Louli Musgrave, unplugged travel is about memorable experiences that bring a deeper sense of transformation. "At Compare Retreats, we take a more inventive approach for clients who need a break from digital devices. Polo holidays, ski and spa breaks, equine retreats and horseback safaris are exciting alternatives for our fit clients."

Whatever the pursuit, hotels and resorts are no longer mere backdrops to unplugged travel. "Luxury properties will become custodians of mental and emotional space, not just physical comfort," says Kejriwal. "The most successful destinations will be those that curate environments where guests can recalibrate without sacrificing sophistication or cultural richness. Travellers are telling us that this is no longer a niche desire, it is becoming a universal expectation."

Now, who ever said you can't buy peace of mind?

**WELLNESS, UNPLUGGED**



**Deep Blue Prescription, The Ritz-Carlton, Fari Islands**

The restorative power of water, long recognised across cultures, entered the mainstream with *Blue Mind* by Dr Wallace J Nichols, which shows that proximity to water induces a lightly meditative state. "Blue mind retreats" now embrace water's ability to relax, regulate the nervous system and boost wellbeing. This philosophy underpins Deep Blue Prescription, a curated four-night wellness programme designed to ease stress through immersive, ocean-based experiences. [ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com)



**Tranquil Sleep Programme, Joali Being**

Spanning five to 10 days, this wellbeing programme aims to regulate and restore healthy sleep patterns by addressing the underlying imbalances that disrupt rest. The focus goes beyond short-term improvement, aiming to help guests sleep better during their stay and long after they return home. As deeper, more consistent rest takes hold, body and mind begin to heal – bringing a renewed sense of lightness that becomes the ultimate holiday souvenir. [joali.com](http://joali.com)



**Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Malé 11x weekly.**



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# BUSINESS TRAVELLER

IDEAS THAT MOVE YOU



## BLUE-SKY THINKING

ARE REMOTE ECO-RETREATS THE FUTURE OF CORPORATE OFF-SITES?



# Off the grid

From Bhutan's monasteries to Bali's jungles, companies are rethinking leadership gatherings by taking strategy sessions into the wild



**THE BRIEF**  
**SOUNDED** routine enough: gather 60 senior leaders from a global foundation, fly them to Marrakech,

and spend six days hashing out a long-range strategy.

But when the convoy stopped at the mule trail beneath Morocco's High Atlas Mountains, it was obvious this would be no standard off-site.

The team was heading for Kasbah du Toubkal, a remote lodge accessible only by foot. By sunset, overlooking Mount Toubkal washed in gold, something subtle but critical had shifted: people spoke more slowly; silence felt welcome.

The result? Leadership cohesion strengthened noticeably and measurable improvements followed in the speed of decision-making and cross-regional cooperation.

Executive teams are increasingly choosing remote eco-retreats because they offer the opportunity "to think clearly and connect meaningfully", says Kasbah du Toubkal's co-founder Mike McHugo.

A combination of environmental, social and governance (ESG) pressure, distributed workforces and

a collective burnout has redirected teams away from city boardrooms and into remote venues. These are not back-to-basics; they are intelligently engineered ecosystems where nature plays a part in the facilitation.

### The new playbook

Today's companies are prioritising purposeful environments over conventional conference convenience. Mathieu Sneyers, director of marketing and communications at JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort & Spa in Thailand, explains: "Today's executive teams are seeking environments that promote clarity, reconnection and mindful collaboration – settings that mirror their organisational values."

In Norway, Norrøna Canvas Telemark rejects the boardroom entirely. Groups gather in yurts, beside lakes or in the wood-fired sauna. "Leaders want opportunities for deeper conversation, many times without screens, to make real decisions and get past superficial box-ticking," says CEO Christian Schmidt. "By removing the traditional hierarchy of a conference table, the dynamic shifts."

### Regeneration as a meeting room

In Canada, Siwash Lake Wilderness Resort & Ranch – rebuilt after

a wildfire – has become a living classroom in resilience. Solar-powered infrastructure and zero-waste systems sit beside more than 4,000 hectares of regenerated wilderness. It has hosted executive retreats for tech firms such as Ooyala and business networks such as the Young Presidents' Organization.

"Our ideal group size is 6 to 12 – these groups will always have the ranch entirely to themselves, generating a rare sense of privacy and the opportunity for a truly bespoke hospitality experience with minimal distraction," says COO Marshall Fremlin.

Himalayan Echoes in Bhutan anchors retreats in cultural philosophy rather than adrenaline: monastery circles, tree-planting sessions and forest-pavilion dialogue structured around Bhutan's Gross National Happiness values. For one global professional services firm, the outcome was stronger

alignment and more grounded ESG conviction.

Over in Indonesia, Capella Ubud offers EarthCheck-certified tented luxury, where jungle strategy walks and Balinese cultural workshops replace screen-led presentations. In Thailand,

Rosewood Phuket grounds retreats in environmental architecture: solar energy and net-zero water systems paired with activities supporting local women's programmes and schools.

Meanwhile, Portugal's Vinte Quinta da Boavista boasts six sustainably designed bungalows and slow-thinking sessions in a Zen Pavilion running primarily on natural light.

### What's driving the shift?

Sustainability is now a KPI, silence is strategic and space is intellectual currency. Leaders are choosing depth over convenience – unplugging to tap into powerful insights. Urban hotels are unmatched for scale and efficiency, but for decisions that shape the future, the most valuable meeting room may now be in the rural outskirts.



**PREVIOUS PAGE:** Lakeside talks at Norrøna Canvas in Norway

**FROM TOP LEFT:** Forest walk at Capella Ubud; Mike McHugo outside Kasbah Du Toubkal

IMAGES COURTESY OF CANVAS/NORRØNA ADVENTURE; KASBAH DU TOUBKAL/MADALIN T

## PERSONAL BRANDING

# MORE THAN A BEAUTY INFLUENCER

A battle with acne led Chayadhorn “Ing” Kitiyadisai to shake up the beauty industry in Thailand and, to his surprise, the region

**IN A COSMETICS** market crowded with celebrity endorsements and instant hype, Thai beauty influencer Chayadhorn “Ing” Kitiyadisai, 29, wants to arm consumers with the ability and facts to cut through the noise. Ing’s grandfather founded Thailand’s first hair pomade brand. His father subsequently expanded the business into a cosmetics original equipment manufacturer. Yet Ing’s foray into skincare didn’t begin until he was trying to understand why the creams he was using weren’t healing his acne. This led the University of Southern California and business administration graduate to take a cosmetics formulation course at Kasetsart University in Bangkok while consulting at one of the world’s Big Four accounting firms.

Having amassed a large number of followers through his online channel, *Flip the Box with Ingck* – in which he breaks down skincare science into accessible language – Ing entered Thailand’s multibillion-dollar beauty and personal care industry with the launch of his own skincare brand, Ingu Skin, in 2022. Here, he describes his journey.

### See for yourself

When I started my YouTube channel, I wanted to talk to my younger confused self, because there was so much marketing everywhere. Beauty content in Thailand was either doctors giving dry textbook knowledge or beauty bloggers showing before-and-after looks. I approached it with a business perspective and saw a

blue ocean where I could make science fun and approachable for everyone by using simpler language. I taught people to look at the label on the back and decode the ingredients. I went viral since my first YouTube video for directly pointing out the gap between the ingredients listed on a product and what the marketing says. People were refreshed by how direct it was.

### T-Beauty to the world

I started creating content in English last year because I want the world to see that T-Beauty is well researched and meets global standards, too. Foreigners are so interested in Thainess. People were so supportive at my recent fan meet in Singapore. They say this is what they are looking for in the world of beauty where everything’s become generic – at least we have a different angle, and celebrate our heritage and where we are from. The Global South is three-quarters of the world’s population, but we are so under-represented in the beauty space. It’s like I’m building from scratch [compared to J-Beauty and K-Beauty], but I love the challenge and feel we are on the cusp for T-Beauty to take off.

BY THE  
NUMBERS

2.1M  
FOLLOWERS  
ACROSS  
YOUTUBE,  
INSTAGRAM,  
FACEBOOK  
AND TIKTOK

### Scaling the business

It’s hard to balance growing the business and staying true to your values, but it all starts with being genuine and honest with yourself. What do I believe is good skincare? I believe in simplicity, so we did not create sheet masks, even though it would be a quick win and we could grow two to three times if we did. Whenever I start from, “How can I help people? How can I share my unique angle on this problem in the world?” it turns out well. I don’t want profit to be my compass.

### Staying true to roots

There’s always going to be someone who disagrees – even some of our core values can be seen as controversial. But these days, for people to pay attention, you need to stand for something. You cannot shy away from controversy. Even if what you truly believe in creates conflict, you will have created change for the better. I think that’s the key to success. You can’t just be everything for everyone.

‘Whenever I start from, “How can I help people? How can I share my unique angle on this problem in the world?” it turns out well’



# Building destinations

Berjaya Property Berhad Group  
 CEO **Syed Ali Shahul Hameed** shares how property development, integrated destinations and placemaking are shaping how people live, work and experience place



where property, hospitality, infrastructure and environment are considered together. By empowering our teams and fostering collaboration, we create destinations that are both functional and emotionally engaging, and able to remain relevant over time.

**What is the strategic thinking behind integrated developments?** Integrated developments are about creating complete, seamless environments. By bringing together hospitality, residential, retail and lifestyle components, we deliver convenience, connectivity and a richer overall experience.

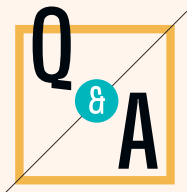
From a property perspective, this strengthens placemaking by activating spaces throughout the day and supporting diverse user needs. For visitors, it creates destinations that encourage exploration and longer stays, while for residents, it enhances quality of life through accessibility and well-designed spaces.

**In many cities, developments can become landmarks or lifestyle hubs. How important is placemaking in your development philosophy?**

Placemaking is central



IMAGES COURTESY OF BERJAYA PROPERTY



**What makes a destination truly compelling for travellers today?**

A compelling destination goes beyond scenic views or iconic landmarks. It is about creating an ecosystem where hospitality, lifestyle and convenience come together seamlessly. Travellers are looking for more than just a place to stay; they seek a holistic, immersive experience.

At Berjaya Property Berhad, we focus on shaping destinations that deliver this integrated lifestyle. Whether it is an urban hub or a highland retreat, we aim to create places people return to, places where meaningful memories are made. Developments such as



Berjaya Times Square Hotel in Kuala Lumpur combine hospitality, retail and entertainment in one location, while Berjaya Hills offers a contrasting experience centred on nature, wellness and family connection.

**How does your leadership philosophy influence the way you develop destinations?**

My leadership philosophy is rooted in long-term value creation and purpose-driven development. Our developments

**BIOGRAPHY**

**Syed Ali Shahul Hameed leads Berjaya Property Berhad with a focus on integrated development and long-term value creation. With extensive experience across property, hospitality and lifestyle, he champions placemaking that brings together communities and experiences, shaping destinations across Malaysia and beyond.**

are commercially viable, but also meaningful, sustainable and enriching for the communities they serve.

This informs how we approach development as a cohesive whole,

to how we approach development. We focus on creating environments that people are naturally drawn to, spaces that are vibrant, engaging and meaningful.

A successful place fosters interaction, creates identity and evolves with its users. When done well, it transforms a development into a destination that people connect with and return to over time.

**How do you ensure your developments enhance the identity of a place?**

We approach each development with sensitivity to its context. This includes thoughtful design that respects the natural landscape, cultural elements and existing character of the location.

Equally important is community engagement. By incorporating local insights, we create developments that are authentic and blend into their surroundings. Our goal is to enhance the destination while preserving what makes it unique.

**What factors determine whether a location has long-term potential?**

We take a holistic and forward-looking approach when evaluating new sites. Key considerations include accessibility, infrastructure readiness, market dynamics and the unique character of the location.

A strong destination often has a distinctive identity that can be developed into a compelling offering. Long-term potential lies in a project's ability to remain adaptable and continue delivering meaningful experiences over time.

**What key tourism trends are shaping development today?**

There has been a clear shift towards more meaningful and responsible travel. Travellers are seeking deeper connections with the places they visit and are increasingly conscious of their environmental impact.

This requires a rethinking of how destinations are developed. The focus is now on creating sustainable environments where tourism growth is balanced with environmental



**'Placemaking turns developments into destinations people return to'**

preservation and community well-being.

**How do you balance commercial success with preserving a destination's character?**

Achieving this balance requires a disciplined and responsible approach. While commercial viability is important, it should not come at the expense of a destination's identity or natural environment.

We ensure that developments complement their surroundings through thoughtful design and careful planning, while engaging with local communities to preserve authenticity. Destinations that retain their character are ultimately more sustainable and continue to attract travellers.

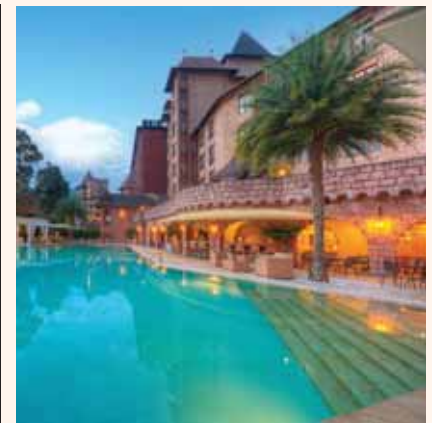
**How is sustainability shaping your**

**developments today?**

Sustainability is embedded in how we approach development. This includes responsible planning, efficient resource management and environmentally conscious design.

We incorporate green building practices, optimise energy and water usage, and aim to minimise environmental impact. At the same time, we support local communities through employment and meaningful engagement, ensuring long-term value creation.

We also see growing demand for integrated developments that support both living and leisure, with greater emphasis on connectivity, wellness and community. Developments must remain adaptable and human-centric to stay relevant over time.



**Looking ahead, how do you see Malaysia's tourism and property landscape evolving?**

Malaysia's tourism industry is entering a strong phase of growth, supported by initiatives such as Visit Malaysia Year 2026. We expect continued momentum across both urban and resort destinations, driven by demand for experiential, wellness and culturally immersive travel. For Berjaya Property Berhad, this presents an opportunity to develop distinctive destinations that strengthen Malaysia's position as a leading tourism hub in the region.

**FROM LEFT:** Jesselton Courtyard in George Town, Penang; Times Square 2 in Kuala Lumpur; Four Seasons Hotel in Kyoto; The Chateau Spa & Wellness Resort in Pahang



# Every second matters at Malaysia's premier heart specialist centre

From national institution to regional player, **Institut Jantung Negara** is saving more lives through geographical expansion, data-driven care and its growing role in Southeast Asia's medical tourism landscape

**IN CARDIAC CARE, A** matter of minutes can make the difference between life and death.

Prof Dato' Sri Dr Mohamed Ezani Md Taib, the institution's group chief executive officer,

tells Going Places this in an exclusive interview at IJN's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

He says, "If you arrive at Institut Jantung Negara (IJN) with a heart attack, we can open a blocked artery within

**ABOVE:** IJN is located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur

45 minutes. That is half the 90-minute benchmark set by leading American hospitals and a reflection of the system IJN has spent more than three decades refining"

A surgeon by training and at heart, Dr Ezani has been steering IJN towards a future defined by efficiency, data-centric care and accessible, high-quality treatment.

IJN was established in August 1992 to address a national crisis which saw long waiting lists for cardiac procedures stretching up to eight years. Today, the government-owned institution has evolved into a training institution, a research hub and increasingly, a regional healthcare player.

That shift has accelerated in the post-pandemic years.

IJN is growing beyond its Kuala Lumpur base, with new services in the Klang Valley and plans to expand into Sabah, Johor and the east coast.

"Meeting the people's health needs is not purely for the sake of business growth itself. Cardiovascular disease remains the number one cause of death in Malaysia, and access to timely treatment should not depend on where you live," says Dr Ezani.

To this end, IJN's footprint across Southeast Asia has deepened significantly within the decade. It collaborates with hospitals in Indonesia, Myanmar and Cambodia, and has trained more than 50 Indonesian doctors, which forms the largest cohort of foreign

## ‘We are not a cheap option. But we offer first-world standards at a cost that is still accessible’

trainees at the institution. These partnerships position IJN not just as a care provider, but as a regional knowledge centre in cardiovascular medicine.

That reputation underpins its growing role in medical tourism. While Indonesia remains its largest market, IJN is seeing increasing patient inflows from across Asia and the Middle East. Its appeal lies in its ability to provide

internationally benchmarked clinical standards at comparatively lower costs.

“We are not a cheap option,” Dr Ezani emphasises. “But we offer first-world standards at a cost that is still accessible.”

IJN is accredited by American medical standards and tracks nearly 300 clinical performance indicators. The 437-bed facility handles over 320,000 patient visits and



18,000 admissions annually, including more than 23,000 cardiology procedures and 4,500 cardiothoracic surgeries. It is also one of Malaysia's four flagship hospitals under the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council, tasked with anchoring the country's medical tourism ambitions.

Over the past three years, the institution has invested more than RM65 million to become fully digital, allowing real-time monitoring of clinical operations, from bed availability to surgical workflows.

“Data has changed how we manage efficiency, productivity and outcomes,” shares Dr Ezani.

Digitalisation is also laying the groundwork for

artificial intelligence (AI). IJN has begun deploying AI-powered risk stratification tools to predict surgical outcomes, guide treatment decisions and optimise intensive care usage as part of a broader push towards data-driven, precision medicine.

Beyond treatment, the institution is also pivoting towards prevention, deploying predictive analytics to identify patients at risk before disease sets in.

“If we can prevent heart disease, we should – even if it means fewer surgeries,” says Dr Ezani.

Looking ahead, IJN is planning a major physical expansion slated for completion by 2030. This includes constructing a new 200-bed facility with 50 additional intensive care units on the hospital's open car park grounds.

“The real challenge is human capital,” he says. IJN University College, which recently attained university status, is intended to address that gap by training the next generation of specialists and allied health professionals.

For all its scale and sophistication, IJN's mission remains grounded in saving lives.

“Recently, I saw a patient I operated on two years ago,” Dr Ezani reflects. “His children have since gone to university. We gave him two more years of life. That's what matters.”

In a field measured in seconds, those reclaimed years are everything.

**Find out why patients across the region trust Institut Jantung Negara at [ijn.com.my](http://ijn.com.my)**

**FROM TOP:** IJN Group CEO, Prof Dato' Sri Dr Mohamed Ezani Md Taib; IJN Wellness Centre reception area; International Patient Centre (IPC) at IJN, designed to support patients from around the world





# *Special Invitation* for Responsible Corporates to Champion **Malaysia's Forest Conservation Efforts.**

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corporate@myforestfund.com.my



OPINION

# FORESTS AS THE FUTURE

Protecting Malaysia's forests means safeguarding biodiversity, climate resilience and long-term economic value



**MALAYSIA'S FORESTS** have long been seen as natural treasures. Increasingly, they are being recognised as something more: strategic national assets that underpin the country's environmental resilience, economic growth and global competitiveness.

**From protection to value creation**  
This shift in perspective is critical. According to Suhaini Haron, officer acting on behalf of the chief executive officer of Malaysia Forest Fund, forests are no longer simply areas to be protected at a cost, but assets that create long-term value for the country. They play a vital role in regulating climate change, storing carbon and support biodiversity, while also

enabling tourism and aviation sectors to evolve more sustainably. In a region where nature is central to the travel experience, healthy forests are fundamental to ensuring destinations remain viable in the long term.

**A foundation for sustainable travel**  
As global travel recovers, sustainability is moving from a niche concern to a core expectation. Forest ecosystems play a central role in this transition. They stabilise local climates, protect landscapes and enhance the resilience of destinations to environmental stress.

For travellers, this presents a more meaningful proposition: experiences that not only showcase nature but actively contribute

to its preservation. **Where conservation meets capital**  
The growing intersection between conservation and finance is also reshaping the landscape. Practices such as forest carbon offsets provide practical pathways for industries, including aviation, to address residual emissions while supporting measurable conservation outcomes. When structured with transparency and credible standards, these instruments enable environmental responsibility to align with operational realities.

**Impact that can be seen and measured**  
On the ground, impact must be tangible. Healthier ecosystems, stronger biodiversity and benefits for local communities are the true

## 'Forests are no longer a cost to protect, but assets that create shared value for travellers, communities and future generations'

**HOW MALAYSIA FOREST FUND DRIVES IMPACT**

**FOREST CARBON OFFSETS (FCO)**  
Supports carbon markets and low-emission pathways

**FOREST CONSERVATION CERTIFICATE (FCC)**  
Ensures transparency, verification and measurable outcomes

**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS**  
Aligning government, corporates and communities

**COMMUNITY INCLUSION**  
Embedding local and Indigenous participation in conservation efforts

indicators of success. Achieving this requires coordinated action across government, corporates and communities, particularly Indigenous groups whose knowledge and stewardship are integral to forest ecosystems.

**A shared responsibility for the future**  
Looking ahead, success will depend on building trusted systems that channel sustained investment into conservation, while ensuring visible, transparent outcomes.

For travellers, this will be reflected in destinations that are not only rich in natural beauty but are clearly protected and responsibly managed.

In this future, Malaysia's forests are actively valued as part of a broader, shared commitment to sustainability.



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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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**Inside  
our airlines**

News and updates  
from MAG Airlines

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**Discover our  
network**

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

**99**

**Onboard  
entertainment**

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



## Malaysia Aviation Group is flying high with four years of strong operating profit growth

Malaysia Aviation Group recorded a Net Profit After Interest and Tax (NIAT) of RM137 million for FY2025, marking its fourth consecutive year of operating profit and the successful execution of its Long-Term Business Plan 2.0 (LTBP 2.0). EBITDA rose to RM1.6 billion and revenue to RM14.5 billion; this growth is supported by capacity expansion, sustained travel demand and disciplined cost management.

Available seat kilometres grew by 16%, with passenger load factor improving to

81% and on-time performance reaching 81% by year-end, reflecting consistent gains in operational performance across the Group.

As MAG moves forward with LTBP 3.0, the Group remains focused on agility, financial resilience and operational sustainability, while keeping safety at the core of every decision. With stronger fundamentals in place, the Group is well positioned to accelerate its next phase of growth and deliver long-term value to customers and stakeholders.

### More flights, smoother connections across the region

Keeping pace with growing demand, Malaysia Airlines adds more flights to key cities including Brisbane, Manila and Colombo between April and October 2026.

The increased frequencies enhance connectivity across ASEAN, South Asia and Australia, while reinforcing Kuala Lumpur's role as a well-connected hub linking the region to the wider world.



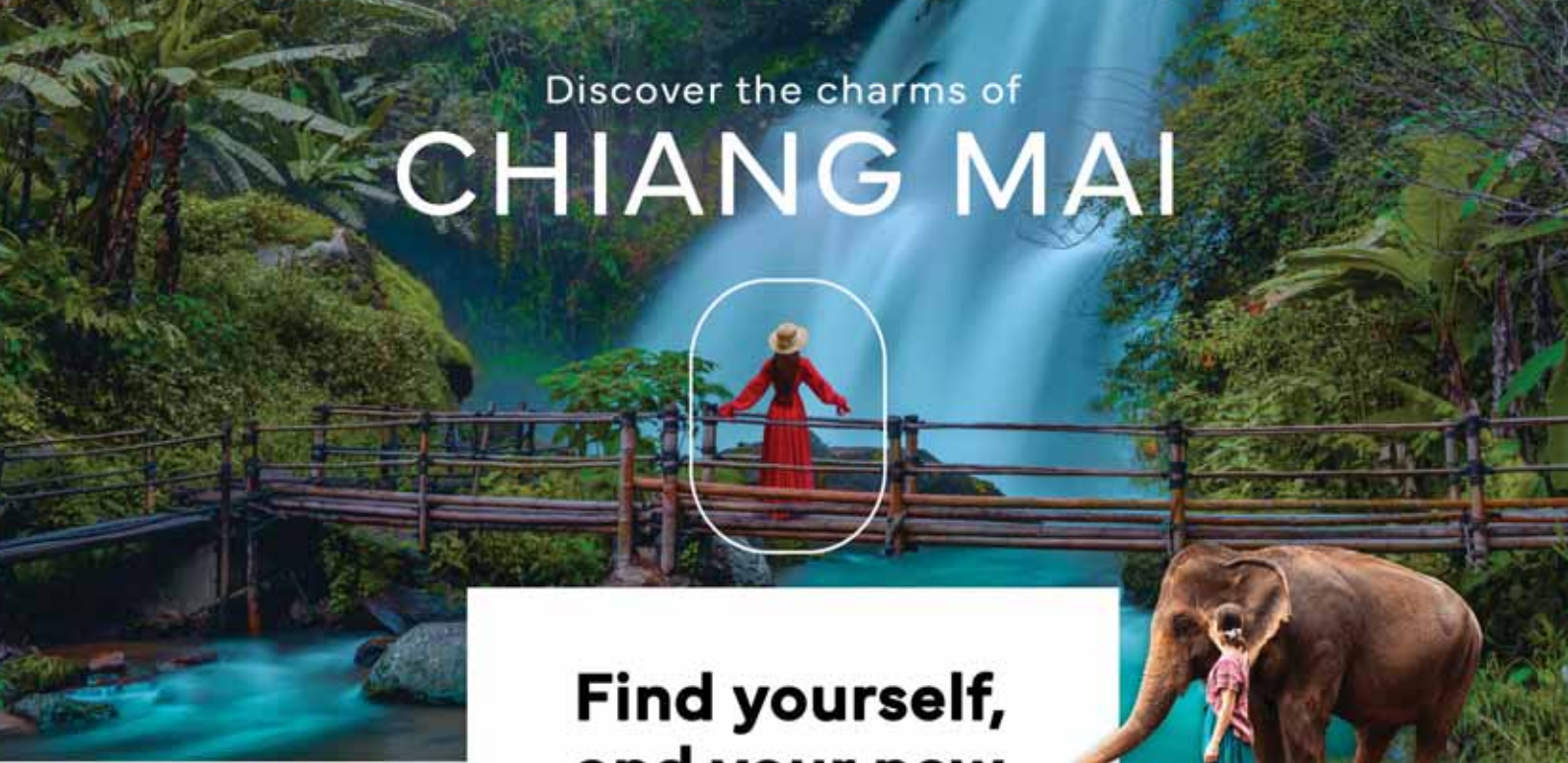
### Fukuoka returns as Malaysia Airlines expands East Asia links

Expanding its regional footprint, Malaysia Airlines is opening up more ways to stay connected across East Asia. New direct flights to Shenzhen and Changsha will launch in July 2026, alongside the long-awaited return to Fukuoka this September, bringing back a non-stop link to southern Japan after nearly two decades. With these additions, the airline now reaches nine cities in China and three in Japan, while strengthening Kuala Lumpur's position as a key gateway in the region, making cross-border connections feel that much more seamless.



Discover the charms of

# CHIANG MAI



## Find yourself, and your new favourite city, in Thailand.

Imagine being in the embrace of cool, mountain air, surrounded by lush mountains, temples steeped in history and markets bustling with food and culture.

This is Chiang Mai. Nestled in Thailand's beautiful northern highlands, this city offers a rewarding, relaxing escapade brimming with first-time experiences.

Visit Doi Inthanon National Park to see an iconic skyline that promises to amaze, with even more to offer within, like waterfalls, scenic hikes and wildlife spotting.



### Walk among giants

Have the privilege of visiting gentle elephants at home in ethical sanctuaries like Kanta Elephant Sanctuary, as they roam free and cared-for in a sustainable environment.



### Witness the sacred glow of the North

Join the locals in placing floral offerings to celebrate Chiang Mai's Inthakin Festival. A spiritual tribute to the city's guardian spirits, this week-long ritual fills the air with jasmine and the glow of a thousand candles.



Fly with Malaysian Hospitality on board and earn Enrich Points.

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



+



Think holidays,  
think **MH**olidays



## Meet Pilot Parker, bringing Malaysian Hospitality to life

Malaysia Airlines brings real passenger stories to life with its 80-second film, *Pilot Parker: A Story of Malaysian Hospitality*. Featuring the airline's beloved mascot, Pilot Parker, the campaign highlights the thoughtful touches that define the Malaysia Airlines travel experience.

As part of Malaysia Aviation Group's broader brand initiatives, the film captures the warmth and attentiveness at the heart of the airline's signature Malaysian Hospitality, reinforcing its commitment to creating meaningful connections with travellers through authentic, service-led experiences.



## Flying greener with a new SAF partnership

Sustainability is taking a more practical turn as Malaysia Aviation Group teams up with DHL Express to reduce emissions from international shipments.

Through DHL's GoGreen Plus service, the collaboration taps into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to lower the environmental impact of air cargo.

The initiative is expected to cut around 300 tonnes of lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 2026 on key routes across the US, Europe and Asia Pacific. This makes a meaningful step towards cleaner operations while supporting broader efforts to scale SAF adoption across both passenger and cargo travel.



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# A culinary passage through Asia and Malaysia

Every journey with Malaysia Airlines is designed to be more than a passage between destinations. It is an experience shaped by detail, care and a deep appreciation for culture. Throughout May and June, the Best of Asia series continues with an elevated dining experience inspired by the richness of Chinese cuisine, while the Best of Malaysia celebrates wholesome Kelantanese fare in June.

## Serving the Best of Asia

In May, Business Class travellers can enjoy shacha chicken with fragrant egg fried rice, topped with kailan and carrots, offering a harmonious interplay of flavour and texture. Tender boneless chicken is wok-fried in aromatic *shacha* sauce, with notes of seafood, garlic and spice that create a layered umami profile.

In Economy Class, chicken in black bean sauce offers a comforting yet robust option. The depth of fermented black beans enhances the chicken's succulence and is served with steamed rice and vegetables in a simple, well-balanced composition, allowing guests to enjoy a familiar taste elevated by thoughtful preparation.

In June, the journey continues with equally compelling dishes. Business Class features fish in black bean sauce with garlic fried rice, combining delicate textures with bold flavours, while Economy Class serves shacha

chicken, a lighter interpretation that retains the signature richness of wok-fired cooking.

## Indulge in the Best of Malaysia

June continues with a journey into the rich heritage of Kelantan. Business Class passengers travelling from Sabah and Sarawak to Kuala Lumpur can enjoy *nasi kerabu daging bakar*, a vibrant expression of Malaysia's East Coast cuisine. Fragrant herb-infused rice is paired with fresh ulam-ulaman, aromatic sambal and tender grilled beef, creating a dish that is as visually striking as it is flavourful.

In Economy Class, *nasi beringin ikan percik* provides a warm and familiar finish. Delicately grilled fish is enveloped in a rich, spiced coconut gravy and served with rice and sambal vegetables, delivering comforting flavours that resonate beyond the plate.

Together, these menus are more than just meals; they celebrate the places we connect with, the cultures we share and the stories that shape every journey in the skies. Wherever you are headed, each bite is meant to add something memorable to your journey. Selamat menjamu selera!



Nasi beringin  
ikan percik



Nasi kerabu  
daging bakar



Shacha chicken with  
egg fried rice



Fish in black bean sauce

# Place an offer for an elevated travel experience with MHupgrade



Take your journey to new heights with MHupgrade. Whether you're moving from Economy Class to Business Class or from Business Class to Business Suite, enjoy greater comfort and priority privileges when your upgrade is successful.



## Golden Lounge access

Escape the terminal rush and enjoy the comfort of the Golden Lounge. Complete with buffet dining, barista-made coffee, shower facilities and restful corners to recharge.



## Chef-on-Call

Indulge in a delightful culinary experience with signature dishes inspired by the flavours of Asia. From regional favourites to exquisite international meals, pre-book your dish and savour every bite.



## Elevated comfort

Step into a space that offers room to think, rest and simply be. Whether you're catching up on work or unwinding in privacy, enjoy generous storage and space to stretch out in a restful atmosphere.




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Visuals shown are for advertising purposes only. Cabin upgrade features may differ from aircraft to aircraft and is dependent on the flight route. Other T&Cs apply.






**A350-900**  MHconnect


No. of Aircraft **7** | Passenger Seating **286, 300**  
Length **66.80m** | Wingspan **64.75m** | Height **17.05m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **910km/h**  
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



**A330-900**  MHconnect

No. of Aircraft **10** | Passenger Seating **297**  
Length **63.69m** | Wingspan **64m** | Height **16.79m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **880km/h**  
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



**A330-300**  MHconnect

No. of Aircraft **15** | Passenger Seating **290**  
Length **63.66m** | Wingspan **60.30m** | Height **16.79m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **880km/h**  
MHConnect Wi-Fi Connectivity on selected aircraft



**A330-200**  MHconnect

No. of Aircraft **3** | 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 **39.47m** | Wingspan **35.79m** | Height **12.62m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **840km/h**



**B737-8**  MHconnect

No. of Aircraft **15** | Passenger Seating **174**  
Length **39.5m** | Wingspan **35.92m** | Height **12.45m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **840km/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 **39.47m** | Wingspan **35.79m** | Height **12.62m**  
Max. Cruising Speed **840km/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**

# 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](http://www.pidm.gov.my)).



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**ON-TIME PERFORMANCE**

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



**CABIN LUGGAGE HANDLING**

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



**PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES (PEDs)**

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



**LITHIUM BATTERIES**

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



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



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**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.

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

# 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



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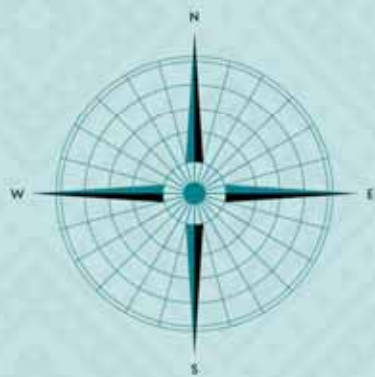


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# OUR NETWORK

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELEN WINATA

SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

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



Penang

- Malaysia Airlines
- ◆ Firefly
- Amal
- ▲ MASkargo

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



Kuantan

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# EXPLORE MALAYSIA



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- Malaysia Airlines
- ◆ Firefly
- ▲ MASkargo

IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (CAPE TOWN)



● oneworld destinations



# Stay connected with **MHconnect**

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

## Stay connected in 5 easy steps:



### Step 1

Switch to  
"Flight Mode"



### Step 2

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



### Step 3

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



### Step 4

Click on the  
"Connect" tab



### Step 5

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



### You are connected

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

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

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



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### Step 1

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

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# NOW SHOWING

+ INSIDE

MOVIES  
TELEVISION  
ALBUM  
HIGHLIGHTS

MAY



JUNE



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**Mercy**

In a future where crime is out of control, a detective is framed for a crime he didn't commit. On the run to stay alive, he searches for evidence to clear his name. This is a fast-paced thriller about a man fighting to protect his family and uncover the truth in a corrupt world.

**Wuthering Heights**

Two star-crossed lovers share a deep and troubled bond on the wild, windy moors of England. Their intense connection leads to a lifetime of passion and heartbreak, affecting everyone around them for generations. This dark, classic story portrays how love can sometimes turn into a powerful need for revenge.



**Dead Man's Wire**

Desperate for justice, Tony Kiritzis traps a banker with a wired shotgun and drags him through the streets in a tense standoff. The entire ordeal was broadcast live on television, shocking the nation and changing news reporting forever. This gripping film is based on a true story of a man pushed to the edge and the media circus that followed.



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# TOP MOVIE PICKS

**150+**  
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**Hollywood Favourite**

## Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga

A young woman is kidnapped and must survive a brutal desert ruled by warlords. Battling harsh terrain and deadly foes, she fights to return to her family in this gripping tale of survival.



**Hollywood Favourite**

## Guns Up

A group of unlikely partners attempts a high-stakes robbery that goes wrong. They must outwit police and rival criminals in this action-packed story, where trust is hard to find.



**Kids**

## A Monster Calls

A young boy coping with his mother's illness is visited by a giant tree monster whose stories help him face his fears and say goodbye.

**Hollywood Favourite**

## Aftermath

A veteran's attempt at a normal life is shattered when he and his sister are caught in a hostage crisis on Tobin Memorial Bridge. He must confront a unit of ex-soldiers and ensure his sister makes it off the bridge alive.



**Kids**

## Cats & Dogs 3: Paws Unite!

Former enemies unite when a tech villain pits cats against dogs. Using gadgets and clever tricks, they save the world in this family comedy.



### INTERNATIONAL HARRY POTTER DAY

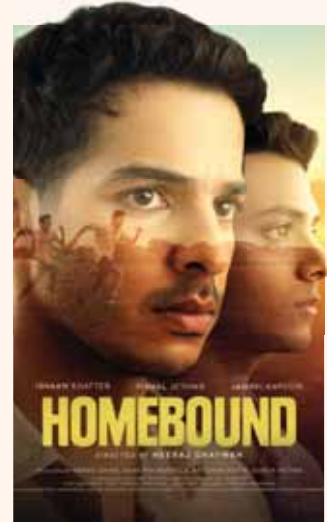


Malay

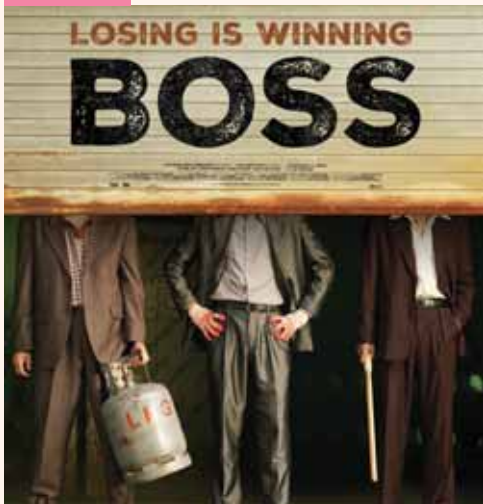
THE ETERNAL LEGACY OF P RAMLEE



Hindi



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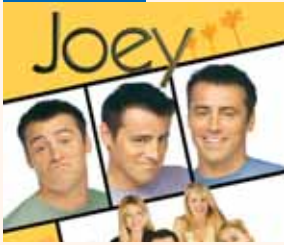
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Comedy



Drama



Kids



Malay



Hindi



Tamil



Hits



Tamil



Club



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### Shelter

A reclusive exile is forced out of hiding after rescuing a young girl from a deadly storm, triggering a violent hunt by his old enemies. To protect her, he must survive a high-stakes odyssey that offers a final shot at redemption.

### Grow

A whimsical family adventure centred on a young girl who discovers a hidden talent for cultivating massive, record-breaking pumpkins. Amid a cast of eccentric characters, her journey becomes a heartfelt celebration of growth and community.



### The Bride!

In 1930s Chicago, a resurrected young woman, created to be a companion for Frankenstein's Monster, finds her own voice. Her arrival sets off a radical social movement that changes the world around her.



### The Bluff

A former female pirate living a quiet life in 19th-century Caribbean must defend her family when her past returns. She takes up arms against a vicious group of buccaneers to protect her home.

# TOP MOVIE PICKS



**Hollywood Favourite**

## Tomb Raider

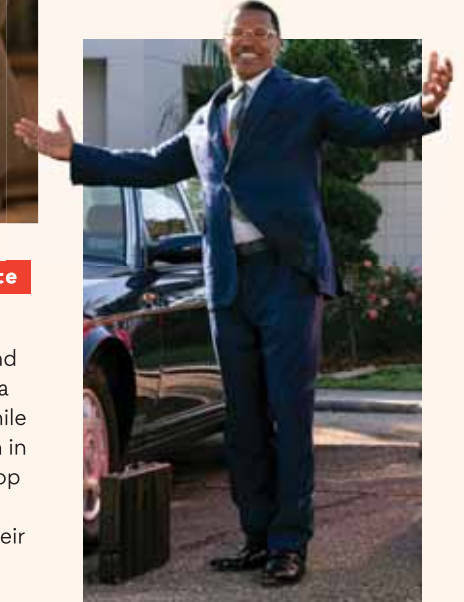
Lara Croft travels to a mythical island to solve the mystery of her father's disappearance years earlier. She must use her survival skills to outwit a shadowy organisation and survive the island's many traps.



**Hollywood Favourite**

## The Burial

A charismatic lawyer helps a funeral home owner save his family business by taking on a massive corporate giant. The legal battle exposes systemic corruption and the lengths corporations will go to for profit.



**Hollywood Favourite**

## Mortal Kombat

An MMA fighter discovers his ancient heritage and joins a team of champions to defend Earth from an otherworldly invasion. They must win a high-stakes tournament to save humanity from total destruction.

**Hollywood Favourite**

## Palm Springs

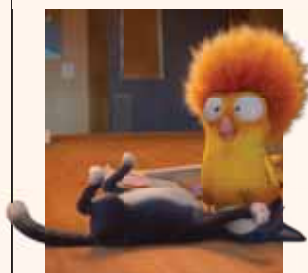
Two wedding guests find themselves trapped in a repetitive time loop while attending a celebration in the desert. They develop a unique bond as they navigate a life where their actions have no lasting consequences.



**Kids**

## 10 Lives

A selfish cat is granted a second chance at life after losing his ninth, but with a twist: he is reincarnated as different animals. Through these various lives, he learns empathy and the importance of loving others.



**Kids**

## Sneaks

A pair of designer sneakers gets lost in the bustling streets of New York City and must find their way home. They team up with a group of diverse footwear to navigate the dangers of the urban landscape.

FATHER'S DAY: TIMELESS CLASSICS

**DADDY DAY CARE**

**FATHER'S DAY**

Korean



In *The Woman in the White Car*, a distraught woman arrives at a small-town hospital with her stabbed sister, but a policewoman soon realises the story doesn't add up. Conflicting accounts from others turn the investigation into a tangled web of trauma, lies and hidden identities.

Mandarin



When the Land of Light is consumed by a "heart of despair", traditional rivals Pleasant Goat and Big Big Wolf must unite to restore the sun. Their perilous journey through a mysterious foreign country forces them to overcome dark magic and rediscover the power of hope.

Malay



Japanese



Thai



French



Tamil



Hindi



Telugu



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The Ink logo consists of the word "Ink" in white, lowercase letters inside a red square.The MAG3 logo features the text "MAG3" in a stylized blue font with a white swoosh, and "malaysia aviation group" in a smaller, lowercase blue font below it.

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## On the water's edge

**Standing at the entrance** to Telaga Harbour Park on Pantai Kok, the Perdana Quay Lighthouse is a striking reminder of Langkawi's colonial past and maritime heritage. Though it's closed to the public, its real charm lies in the surrounding scenery: luxury yachts moored in the marina and a waterfront dotted with boutique shops, restaurants and bars. Visit at sunset, when the lighthouse becomes a dramatic silhouette, then linger for dinner as the harbour lights shimmer across the water. It's a simple, elegant way to experience Langkawi at its most atmospheric.

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