

Going Places

JULY-AUGUST 2026

CHANGSHA

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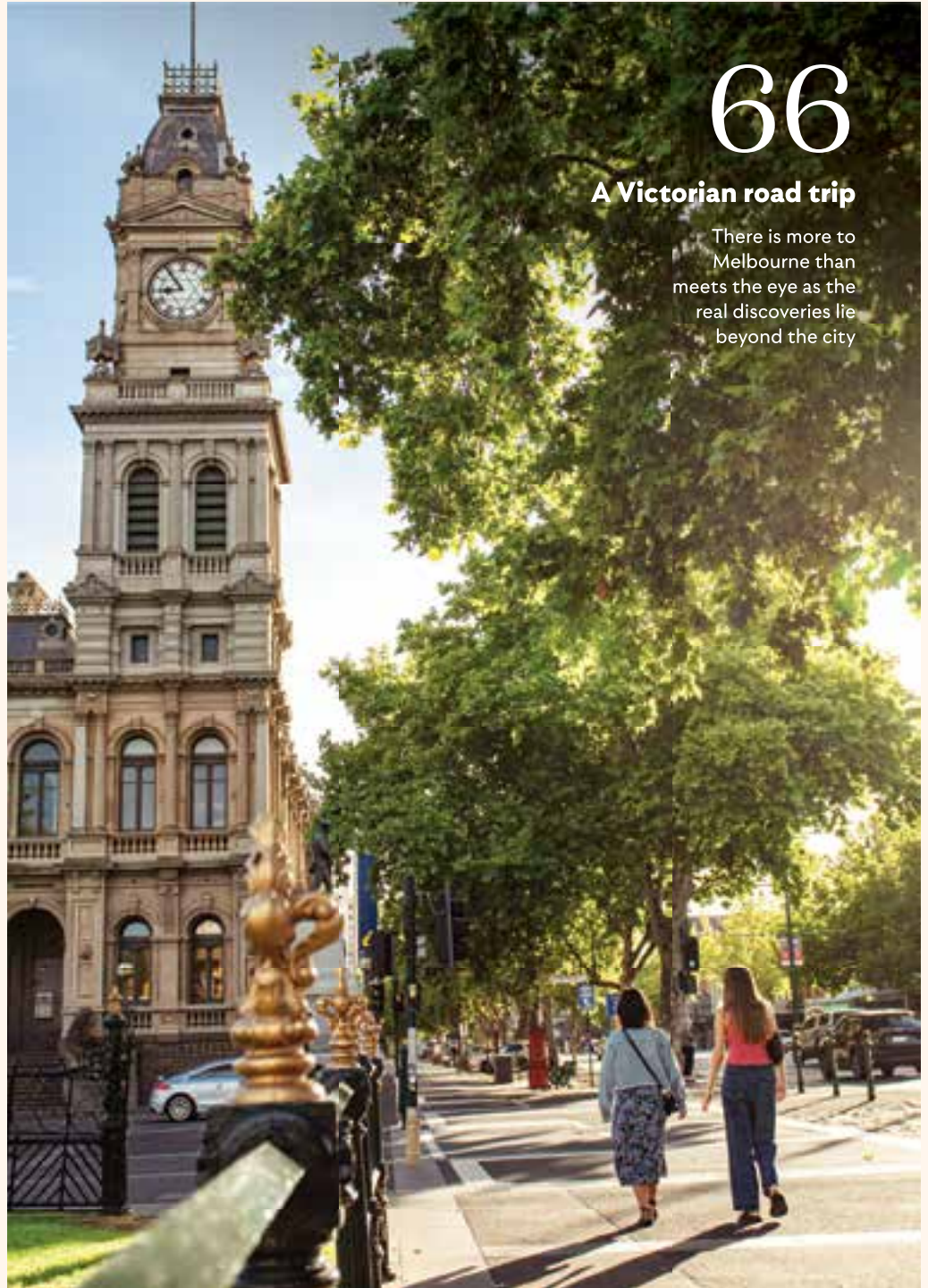


IMAGE: VISIT VICTORIA

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About the cover

The stunning Changsha Meixihu International Culture and Art Centre on Meixi Lake
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Dear guests,

As we move into the second half of the year, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our passengers for your continued trust in Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG). In conjunction with National Day, I also extend my warmest wishes to all Malaysians as we celebrate the unity, resilience and progress of our nation. Whether reuniting with loved ones or returning home, we remain committed to ensuring you travel safely, comfortably and with confidence at every touchpoint of your journey.

The trust you place in us continues to drive our progress. This is reflected in our recent recognition by Brand Finance, where Malaysia Airlines recorded the strongest brand value growth among Malaysian airline brands, with brand value rising 27% to US\$771 million. This performance, set against a broader 19% growth in Malaysia's airline sector, speaks to the positive momentum within the industry as we strengthen our premium positioning through enhancements across our network, fleet and overall travel experience.

As part of our commitment to elevating the passenger journey, we continue to invest in products and services that enhance comfort, convenience and connectivity, including our ongoing fleet modernisation efforts. We recently celebrated the delivery of our 200th Boeing aircraft, marked by the arrival of our 18th Boeing 737-8, reflecting the continued evolution of our fleet and our commitment to modern, efficient operations that better serve our passengers.

Alongside these investments, we remain focused on delivering a consistently reliable travel experience through sustained operational improvements. In June 2026, the airline maintained on-time performance above 90%, building on the strong operational performance achieved in recent months.

This focus on connectivity and customer experience also extends to our role in supporting Visit Malaysia 2026 (VM2026), where MAG continues to strengthen international linkages through strategic global

partnerships that reinforce Malaysia's position as a preferred travel destination. As the premium carrier offering direct connectivity between Kuala Lumpur and Auckland, our collaboration with Tourism New Zealand further enhances travel between Malaysia and New Zealand, enabling more seamless access and improved travel experiences for customers across both markets.

MAG's engagement with industry stakeholders also forms part of its broader contribution to Malaysia's tourism and connectivity ambitions during VM2026. This is reflected in initiatives such as the Trade Elevation Summit 2026, which brought together more than 300 delegates, including trade partners, tourism stakeholders, key decision-makers and top leadership from 60 cities globally, creating an exceptional platform for collaboration, innovation and strategic dialogue.

Complementing this, we are also strengthening the capabilities that support our operations. The expansion of MAB Engineering's Hangar 4 at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport (SZB) in Subang enhances our maintenance capacity and operational resilience, increasing our ability to support fleet readiness as we continue modernising and expanding our operations, while also supporting the growth of our third-party MRO business.

At the same time, MAG continues to make progress across its broader sustainability journey, as highlighted in our latest 2025 Sustainability Report, now available on our website. During the year, the Group reduced more than 103,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions through fuel efficiency initiatives, resulting in total fuel savings of 30,036 tonnes across our operations.

On behalf of MAG, it is a privilege to be part of your journey and we hope our Malaysian Hospitality continues to make every experience with us a memorable one. Thank you for flying with us and we look forward to welcoming you on board again soon.

Nasaruddin A Bakar

President and Group CEO
Malaysia Aviation Group



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Some cities simply have a way of stopping you in your tracks. Changsha is one of them. With Malaysia Airlines launching its new route this July, our cover story on Hunan's ancient capital feels perfectly timed. If writer Sammi Sowerby's first encounter is anything to go by, this is a city that thoroughly rewards the curious traveller. From the heritage block of Taiping Old Street, largely unchanged for over 2,000 years with its traditional Ming and Qing dynasty architecture, to the massive, multi-storey Wenheyong Market with a retro 80s cyberpunk vibe, it's a place that keeps surprising you at every turn. If it's not already on your radar, consider this your sign.

Elsewhere, we revisit Melbourne, but not the Melbourne you think you know. If you have visited the city centre before, this issue takes you further out, where hot springs, a vintage talking tram tour, a candle-making workshop and a privately owned Sculpture Park offer a slower, more meaningful way to experience a destination that still has plenty left to give.

We also turn our attention to luxury travel and what it really means to seek out the extraordinary. Our "Personal effects" feature looks past the glossy Instagram photos and star ratings to uncover the hidden stories in Penang and Maebashi, Japan that make a stay truly memorable. After all, the best travel experiences have always been the ones that linger long after you have checked out.

And as always, there is plenty more to explore in these pages: a buzzing neighbourhood in Bangkok, a new wellness park in Osaka, halal-friendly eateries in Hong Kong, a post office-turned-lifestyle block in Medan, cool spots in Bali and more.

Closer to home, as Malaysia celebrates National Day on 31 August, it feels like the right moment to rediscover the buildings whose corridors have witnessed some of the nation's most historic and defining moments. Flip to page 11 for a walk down memory lane with Warisan KL's heritage trail.

Wherever these pages take you, I hope they inspire your next adventure.



Go forth and wander!

Elizabeth Soong
Editor

This issue's contributors



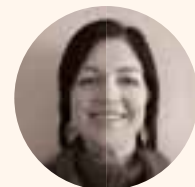
Sammi Sowerby
Writer, "China's next hot ticket", page 56

Sammi is a Kuala Lumpur-born writer-editor who moved to Shanghai, China to better understand her Chinese roots. She will try almost anything at least once, for the plot.



Tara FT Sering
Writer, "Personal effects", page 78

Tara is a writer and editor based in Siem Reap, where she's currently working on her next book.



Catherine Boucher
Writer, "A Victorian road trip", page 66

Catherine is a Melbourne-based freelance writer who is happiest when exploring the world or plotting the next adventure. She is driven by a desire to share stories that inspire others to travel.

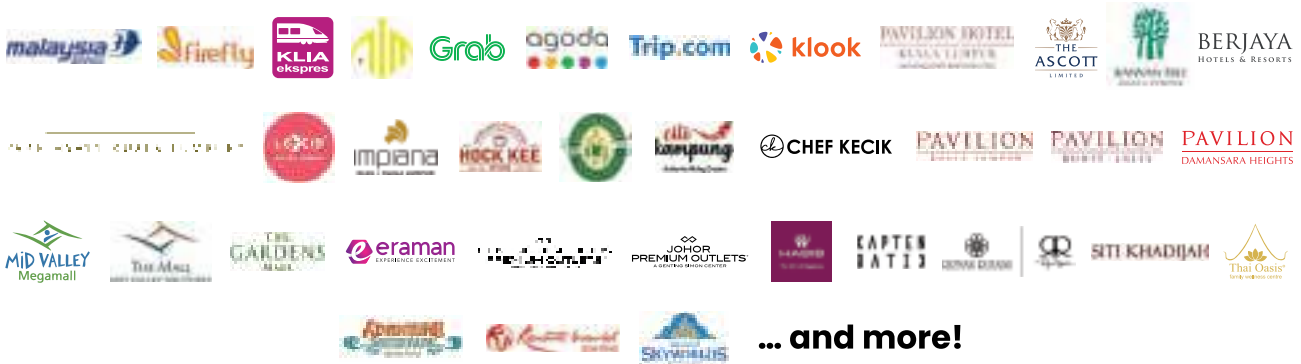
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15

REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places

1

Kuala Lumpur

The biggest show on wheels

After wowing crowds across North America, Europe and Latin America, **Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live: Glow-N-Fire** is roaring into Asia, and Malaysia has the distinct honour of kicking things off. Catch it 16–18 October 2026 at Unifi Arena, Bukit Jalil, with show times at 1pm and 8pm. Tickets start from RM118 on Tri-Tix, with special kids' pricing available, making it a roaring good time for the whole family. hotwheelsmonstertruckslive.com

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2

Kuala Lumpur

Padel it up



Club Med Malaysia has taken its signature resort spirit off the beach and into the city, partnering with **House of Padel** at The Campus Ampang for its first urban padel collaboration. It's a natural fit as sport, community and good vibes are very much in Club Med's DNA. On the courts, expect junior padel programmes, kids' coaching, city tournaments with holiday prizes, wellness retreats and the Malaysian debut of the Club Med Padel Cup. clubmed.com.my



4

Kuala Lumpur

Sensory pause

In a city that never slows down, **Trove Haven** is your permission to pause. The spa offers intentional hands-on treatments from Ayuna and Natura Bissé, two of Spain's celebrated beauty brands. Expect facials and body rituals done right, making it worth every minute. **Bangsar Shopping Centre and The Starhill; @trovehavenmy**

3



Kuala Lumpur

Luxe KL Escape

Fresh off earning its first Michelin Key, **The RuMa Hotel and Residences** is leaning into what it does best: quiet luxury with real Malaysian soul. The Kuala Lumpur Escape is a curated stay package for discerning Asean travellers, which includes Twin Tower views, bespoke afternoon tea served on traditional congkak boards, wellness rituals at UR Spa, guided heritage walks, cocktails at Seven Lobby Bar and leisurely dining at Atas and Santai, all tied together with thoughtfulness that's hard to fake. theruma.com



5

REASONS TO LOVE



Merdeka 118



Central Market A KL institution since 1888, Central Market has evolved from wet market to cultural heartbeat. In 2026, it's busier than ever, with batik, handicrafts, themed bazaars and festive programming, making it a dynamic community gathering space. centralmarket.com.my

Kuala Lumpur

Living heritage trail

Kuala Lumpur's history isn't tucked away in textbooks; it's alive, woven into the streets, buildings and neighbourhoods you pass every day. **Warisan KL**, a national heritage-led initiative bringing together government agencies, private partners and local communities, is making sure it stays that way, breathing new life into the capital's most storied landmarks for a new generation to discover.

Use the Warisan map (right) as your starting point for a self-guided trail across the city. Short on time? These five stops are where to hit first.

warisankl.my



Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad

Merdeka 118 Rising next to where independence was first declared at Merdeka Stadium, this is the world's second-tallest building, home to Southeast Asia's highest observation deck and 118 Mall, the city's newest address for history, shopping, local craft and food culture. merdeka118.com

Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad Facing Dataran Merdeka where the Malayan flag was raised on the eve of independence in 1957, this building has been restored by Khazanah Nasional into a vibrant creative and cultural precinct, bringing together six heritage landmarks. bsas.com.my

KL Old Railway Station Before KL Sentral, this was the city's grand gateway. AB Hubback's Neo-Mughal masterpiece is being restored into a cultural hub with heritage events and local brands. rac.gov.my

Seri Negara This heritage house is where Malaysia's independence was negotiated behind closed doors. Today, relive those stories through the Seri Negara Exhibition: Charting the Course of Merdeka, browse Galeri Khazanah's local art collection and dine at its café and restaurant. serinegara.com.my



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6

Penang

Meet the original Penangite

Long before George Town's shophouses and street art, there was the "Penang Woman". The **Guar Kepah Archaeological Gallery** introduces visitors to Malaysia's first complete Neolithic skeleton through sleek, immersive displays that trace ancient lives, prehistoric crafts and the island's deep-rooted human story. It's the kind of place that makes history feel alive, equally rewarding for school groups, archaeology buffs and curious travellers alike. Open daily 8am–5pm (closed on public holidays); RM10 for locals, RM20 for tourists. **Facebook/ Galeri Warisan Arkeologi Guar Kepah**



7

Kuala Lumpur

Brunch, but make it izakaya

Forget the predictable buffet spread. Every second Saturday at **Ensō Izakaya & Bar** inside Hyatt Regency at KL Midtown, the Roaming Bar Brunch turns the afternoon into a full-blown Japanese flavour festival. Executive chef Masami Okamoto serves up refined izakaya-style plates while award-winning bartender Ivon Soon works the room with tableside cocktail pours. **@enso.izakaya.kl**

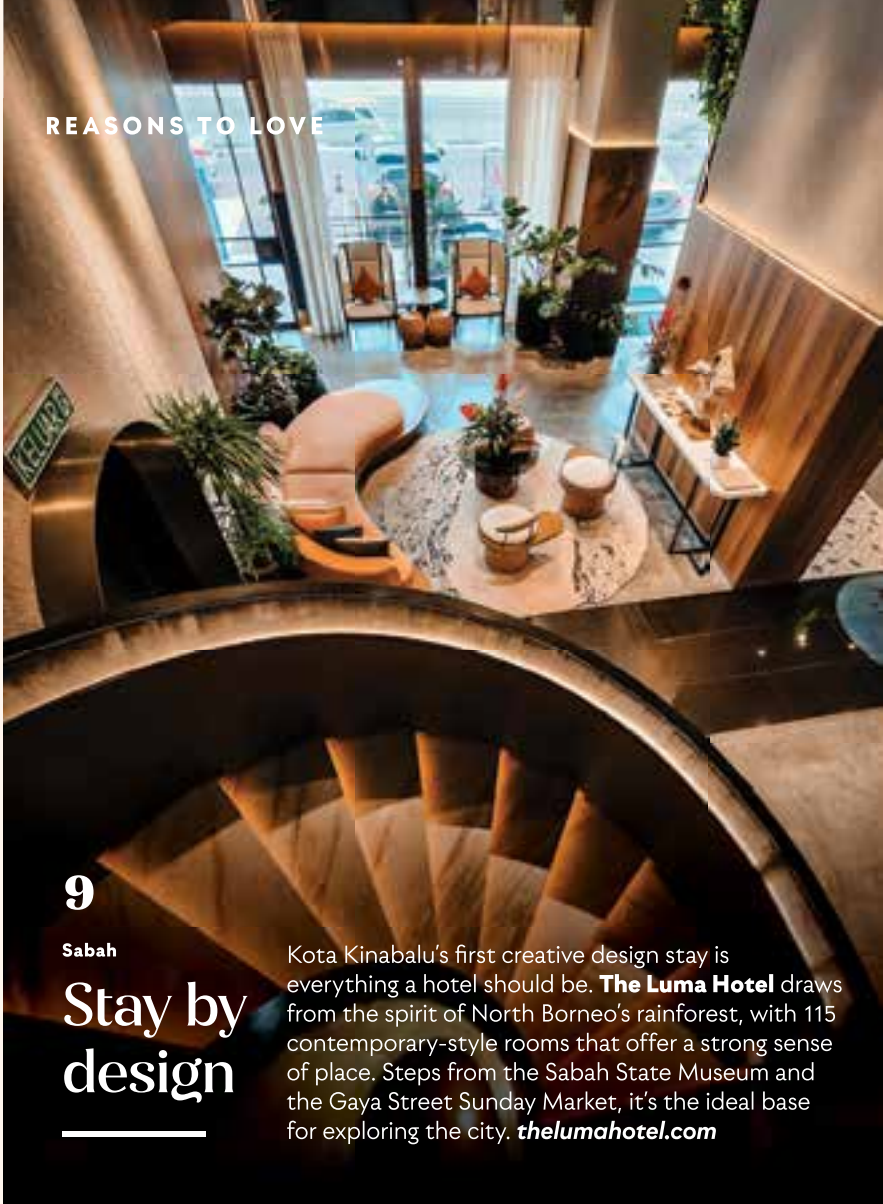
8



Penang

Soak it all in

Penang-born wellness brand **The Overthink Co** brings Japanese-inspired bath and skincare rituals to The Edison George Town on Leith Street, one of the city's most beloved heritage stays. Think essential-oil-infused baths – the kind of unhurried wind-down you actually want on holiday. Still can't get enough? The brand's flagship boutique (pictured here) is just a stroll away on Beach Street. **@theoverthink.co**



9

Sabah

Stay by design

Kota Kinabalu's first creative design stay is everything a hotel should be. **The Luma Hotel** draws from the spirit of North Borneo's rainforest, with 115 contemporary-style rooms that offer a strong sense of place. Steps from the Sabah State Museum and the Gaya Street Sunday Market, it's the ideal base for exploring the city. thelumahotel.com

11

Sarawak

Enter the dragon

Not all landmarks announce themselves; this one lets its scale do the talking. Believed to be Sarawak's largest dragon sculpture, the **Musi Dragon** in Kampung Musi, Bau is the work of local artist Edwin Goh, blending community pride with raw imagination.

An unexpected cultural stop.

Facebook/Persatuan Penganut Dewa Lung Hua Kong Musi



IMAGE: ESTHER SIAW / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY 4.0 (MUSI DRAGON)



10

Selangor

Holistic wellness

Malaysia's next wellness destination is here. Set against a tranquil lake, **Ren Wellness Retreat** takes a whole-body approach. Partnered with the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, it brings together personalised consultations, TCM therapies, rehabilitation, counselling, fitness, resort stays and mindful dining under one roof. Prevention, recovery, balance: everything you need, exactly where you need it. renwr.com



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12

Kuala Lumpur
**C'mon let's
celebrate**

KL nights out just got a whole lot more interesting, and the **HaveFun Live Show** at The Arch Galleries on Jalan Tun Razak is why. With plush private suites and terrace views upstairs and a live entertainment floor below pulsing with more than 20 performers every night, any special occasion becomes one worth remembering.
@havefunliveshowmy

13

Kuala Lumpur

Flow state



Alo Yoga's second Malaysian outpost at The Gardens Mall is every bit the sleek, calm sanctuary the brand is known for. The 223m² space stocks performance activewear and everyday essentials for men and women. Also available at The Exchange TRX. **@alomalaysia**



Sabah

A treasured trail

Kota Kinabalu's **Atkinson Clock Tower Square and Signal Hill Trail** is a huge reason to explore the city on foot. Beginning at the iconic 1905 clock tower, the route winds through a leafy canopy walkway, landscaped terraces and viewing decks before arriving at the Signal Hill Observatory Tower. The tower is currently closed for renovation, but you can still enjoy panoramic views of the city skyline along the trail. **sabahtravel.com**

IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (CLOCK TOWER)



CHEONG FATT TZE
THE QING SUITES

GEORGE TOWN'S BEST NEW BOUTIQUE ESCAPE

Situated across from the iconic Blue Mansion, The Qing Suites present thirteen contemporary suites for a tranquil stay in the heart of Penang.

After exploring the city, find rest and renewal at Virtue TCM, the region's first heritage hotel spa rooted in Traditional Chinese Medicine.



cheongfattzemansion.com

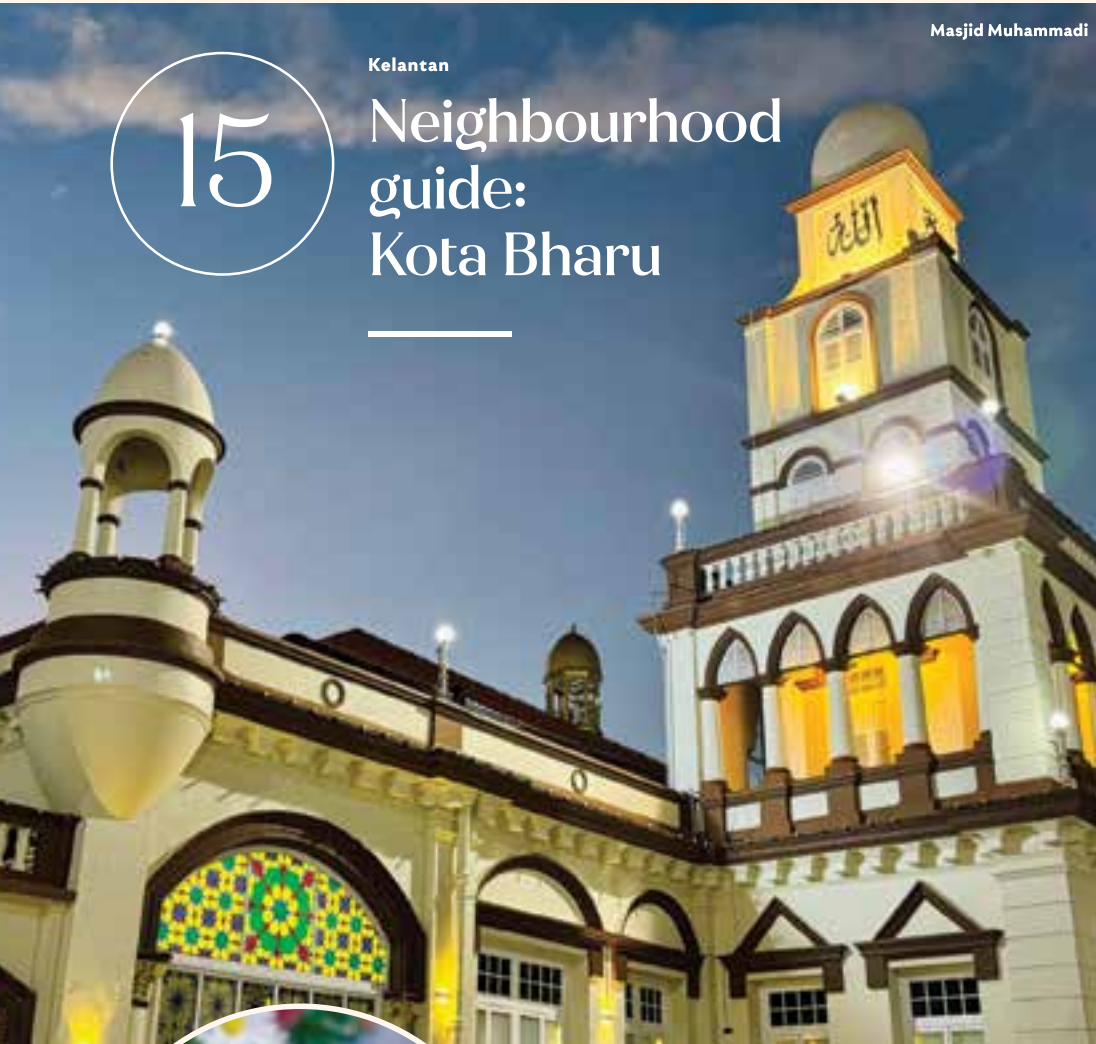


15

Kelantan

Neighbourhood guide: Kota Bharu

Masjid Muhammadi



Kampung Laut Mosque

2 Spiritual landmarks

Kampung Laut Mosque

is one of Malaysia’s oldest mosques, believed to date back to 1676 and admired for its classic timber architecture. Equally striking is **Masjid Muhammadi**, the state mosque known for its elegant British-influenced design and historic significance. Please dress modestly and respectfully when visiting. *Jln Tok Nek; D1, Bandar Kota Bharu*



Ayam percik

1 Day and night markets

No visit to Kota Bharu is complete without exploring its market scene. Begin at **Siti Khadijah Market**, the city’s iconic institution and a sensory feast of spices, batik textiles, traditional kuih and local delicacies. After dark, make your way to **Pasar Malam Buluh Kubu** for wallet-friendly fashion finds and souvenirs. For a livelier late-night scene, **Wakaf Che Yeh Night Market** is a local favourite. *Jln Buluh Kubu; Jln Maahad; Jln Kuala Krai*



Siti Khadijah Market

Making your way here with Malaysia Airlines’ Bonus Side Trip programme? Here’s how to do **Kota Bharu** right



Senok Beach



Istana Jahar

3 Royal detour

Step back into Kelantan's regal past at **Istana Jahar**, a beautifully carved wooden palace turned museum, now home to exhibits on royal traditions and customs. **Jln Sultan**

4 Eat like a local

Seek out classics like nasi kerabu, nasi tumpang and an irresistible spread of traditional kuih. Check out **Restoran Capital** or **Yati Ayam Percik**, known for getting local favourites

just right. **Jln Tengku Besar; Jln Long Yunus**

5 Culture fix

At the **Kelantan State Museum**, local artefacts, mesmerising wayang kulit and dance-drama bring the state's heritage to life. For something more tactile, **Handicraft Village and Craft Museum** (Rumah Kraf) is where tradition gets hands-on. Watch artisans at work as batik blooms, songket shimmers and intricate

silver pieces take shape right before your eyes. **Jln Hospital; Jln Merbau**

6 Beach days

When it's time to slow things down, **Pantai Cahaya Bulan** delivers breezy coastal charm. Think long sandy stretches, kite-filled skies and seafood by the shore. For a more unexpected scene, **Senok Beach** swaps palm trees

for dreamy rows of pines, earning it the nickname "Kelantan's Nami Island".

7 Green escape

If you're craving a nature-forward stay, **Min House Camp** offers a rustic riverside escape complete with timber houses, bee farms and kayaking adventures. **Lot 1287, Kampung Pulau; minhousecamp.com**

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Malaysian universities are climbing the global tables, with 27 institutions appearing in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026, while 24 sit within the QS World University Rankings Top 1,000.

Degrees are taught in English, recognised internationally, and offered across everything from medicine and engineering to business and the creative arts. For families weighing the cost of the UK, Australia or the US, the cost factor is compelling: comparable quality at a fraction of the tuition, with a cost

of living that lets students focus on learning rather than budgeting.

What students remember most, though, is rarely a ranking. It is the feeling of belonging. With more than 160,000 international students from over 180 countries, Malaysian campuses resemble a global gathering of cultures and languages. "We've seen 19% growth in student applications from 2024 to 2025, and that momentum continues to build," says Novie Tajuddin, CEO of Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS).

For students from Southeast Asia, South Asia, MENA, Central Asia, East Asia and Africa, the country offers something rare: somewhere genuinely new that still feels familiar. Halal food is easy to find, faiths are respected, and the centralised ASEAN location puts the rest of the region within short, affordable flights.

Behind every international student's smooth arrival is EMGS, the official body under the Ministry of Higher Education. Its online Student Application and Registration System (STARS) is among the fastest visa

"Malaysia gave me more than a degree. It gave me lifelong friends, incredible food and people who made me feel welcome every single day. From *roti canai* to late-night *mamak* sessions, the variety here is unreal. Even far from home, I never once felt alone."

Htet Oo Lwin (Howard), Myanmar
 • Diploma in Information Technology (Software Engineering)
 • Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU)



platforms in the world, and EMGS runs the International Student Arrival Centre (ISAC) at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the first of its kind anywhere. New arrivals are met at dedicated immigration lanes and welcomed with a SIM card, a cold drink and a friendly face.

The technology behind the scenes reassures anxious parents too: an Electronic Visa Approval Letter system has trimmed turnaround times, while the EMGS Hub app gives every student a secure digital identity throughout their stay.

And even after graduation, international students can expect support and opportunities. Through the Study in Malaysia Graduate Pass, students can stay for a year to travel

and gain work experience, while the Malaysia Edutourism Gateway opens up everything from culinary trails to nature-and-adventure programmes beyond the lecture theatre.

For a generation looking for a degree that travels globally, Malaysia has the answer.

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“The warmth started the moment I landed. ISAC greeted us with coffee and *teh tarik*, and it’s been that way ever since. Studying here has taught me to challenge myself, build meaningful connections and grow through an exchange of cultures. Truly life-changing.”

Mei Takeuchi, Japan

- Bachelor of International Relations
- Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU)



“Super amazing! I truly experienced the warmth and hospitality of the Malaysian people. Malaysia is safe, Muslim-friendly and full of life. I had the best time exploring cultural activities like *batik canting*. I would definitely come back.”

Melisa Reyhan Akin, Germany

- Participant of myEdutourism FAM Trip

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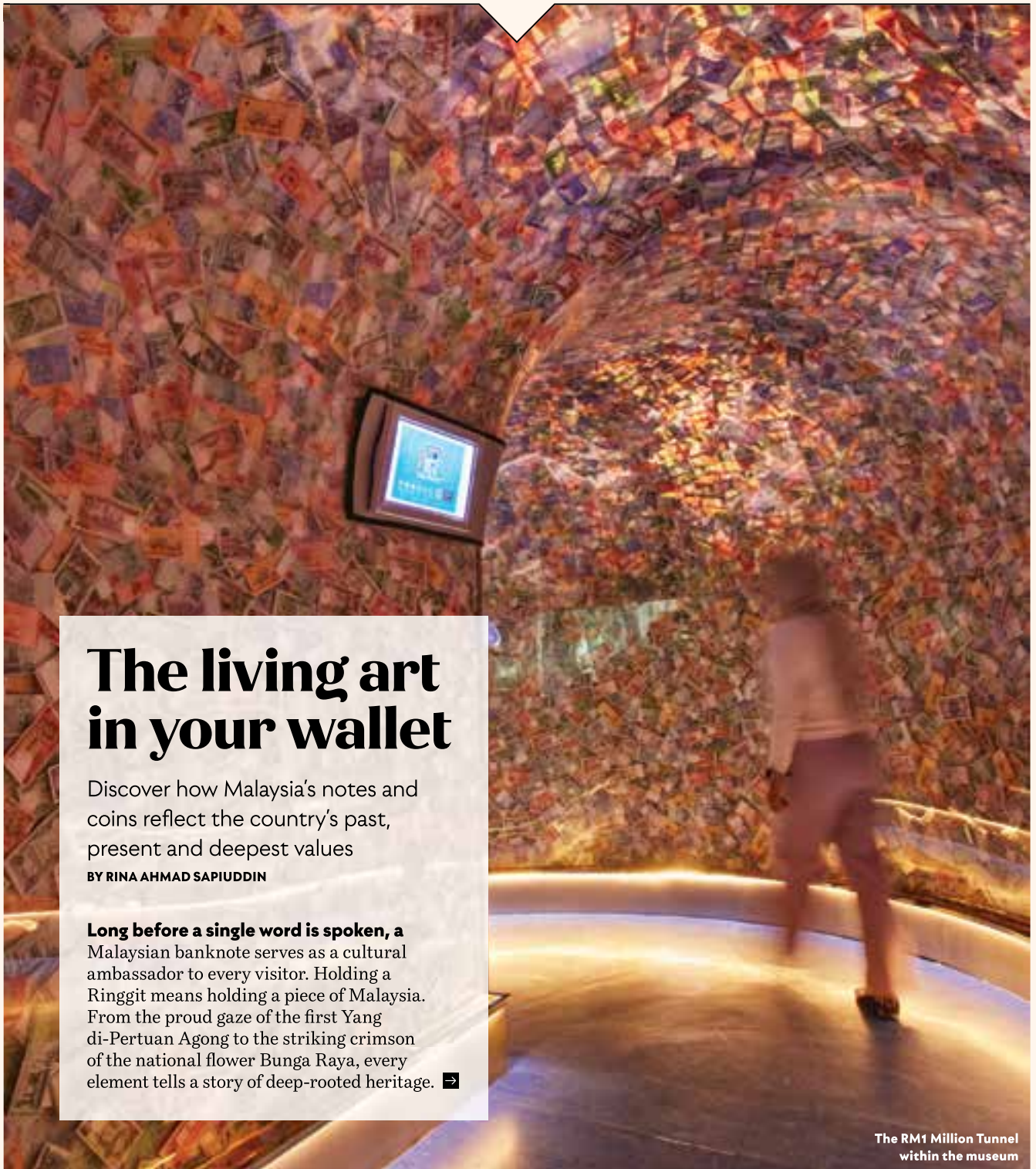
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MALAYSIAN ICONS

A celebration of cultural pride, heritage and timeless Malaysian craftsmanship



The living art in your wallet

Discover how Malaysia's notes and coins reflect the country's past, present and deepest values

BY RINA AHMAD SAPIUDDIN

Long before a single word is spoken, a Malaysian banknote serves as a cultural ambassador to every visitor. Holding a Ringgit means holding a piece of Malaysia. From the proud gaze of the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong to the striking crimson of the national flower Bunga Raya, every element tells a story of deep-rooted heritage. →

The RM1 Million Tunnel within the museum

IMAGES: LAW SOO PHYE AND COURTESY OF BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY (2026 COMMEMORATIVE COINS, SASANA KIJANG)



The Numismatics Gallery

Yet the Ringgit is also a modern visual map, showcasing the country's rich biodiversity, innovation and economic progress. As these banknotes pass from hand to hand at markets, cafés and travel counters, they do more than settle a bill; they reassure every traveller that they have arrived where timeless tradition and a confident future coexist.

A masterclass in nation-building

According to Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), banknotes are evolving beyond simple currency into keepsakes that capture Malaysian history. Despite living in an era of instant taps, QR codes and soaring e-payments, the physical Ringgit is far from fading away.

As the country's sole authority responsible for issuing Malaysia's currency, BNM ensures each banknote remains secure and widely accepted. Motifs are carefully selected to reflect geographical breadth, celebrating the biodiversity and cultural tapestry of both Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia.

Each note is a distinct chapter of Malaysian identity. On the front,

you will see intricate songket-inspired geometric grids, the Bunga Raya and the portrait of Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first Yang di-Pertuan Agong. It is the back, however, that is unique per denomination. For instance, the RM1 features the traditional *wau bulan* (moon kite) while the RM20 features hawksbill and leatherback sea turtles.

Malaysia's banknotes serve three distinct roles: daily circulation notes, limited commemorative pieces and the Kijang Emas gold bullion coins for investment. While daily notes are made to be spent, commemorative issues are collectors' keepsakes – pocket-sized pieces of history that locals and foreign visitors alike can appreciate.

Over the years, BNM has issued commemorative currency to celebrate the nation's achievements and significant events. Among the latest issuances are the ASEAN-Malaysia Chairmanship 2025 and Malaysia's Treasures to the World series, celebrating the country's Unesco World Heritage Sites, launched this year.

A piece of living art

For a deeper understanding of Malaysia's banknotes, head to the Bank Negara



Behind every currency is a carefully designed piece of national storytelling

Museum and Art Gallery (BNM MAG) in Kuala Lumpur, in Sasana Kijang on Jalan Dato' Onn. Free to enter and worth an unhurried hour, the museum helps visitors see money as art and history rather than just cash to spend.

The best place to experience this is the Numismatics Gallery, one of six main areas within the museum, where commemorative issues are displayed alongside coins and notes from across the ages.



“
Yet the Ringgit is also a modern visual map, showcasing the country’s rich biodiversity, innovation and economic progress”



Among the surprising displays is animal-shaped money made of tin



The 2026 Malaysia’s Treasures to the World commemorative coins

“The gallery presents Malaysian and world currencies alongside contextual explanations of their design, materials, symbolism and evolution. This encourages visitors to view currency with the same care and attention usually reserved for fine art,” says Wan Muhammad Danial Wan Omar, curator of the Numismatics Gallery.

He shares that international visitors are frequently amazed by Malaysian banknotes, describing them as visually rich, mini masterpieces. “Many are drawn to the elegant songket patterns and detailed background designs, praising how traditional crafts are transformed

into a modern aesthetic that stands out against the world’s currencies,” he says.

“Each note is like a small canvas that tells the story of who we are,” he adds. “By printing our rainforests, shared values and history onto every note, our money proves that national pride lives in the most ordinary objects.”

According to him, these banknotes are also symbols of unity. The front bears the portrait of Malaysia’s first King, a steady reminder of where the nation began. Turn it over and you find its greatest aspirations: a bright future, rare wildlife worth protecting and living crafts worth preserving. BNM MAG helps us see everyday cash for what it truly is: a visual diary of a nation.

Did you know?

It’s common for banknotes to become worn or damaged through daily use. This does not necessarily mean it has lost its value. Here’s how to tell if your banknotes are still usable:

- At least two-thirds of the original banknote is intact.
- The portrait of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is not defaced or marked.
- The banknote does not carry political messages or other defacing writings.

When these conditions are met, commercial banks are generally able to process the replacement immediately and the exchange is carried out free of charge. Some banknotes may require closer inspection and will be sent to BNM for verification.

A table worth travelling for

Kay's Steak & Lobster brings premium halal dining for the well-travelled, with a new combo, exclusive rewards, and a little something extra for those with a boarding pass

There are restaurants you visit out of convenience, and then there are restaurants you plan your evening around. Kay's is one of the latter. Known for its premium surf-and-turf and warm, unhurried atmosphere, it has earned a loyal following among diners who simply refuse to settle.

At Kay's, premium halal dining is what they do best. A menu built around quality, craft and flavour, served with the care and assurance every guest deserves.

The real deal, on every level

Kay's is fully halal certified, which means every plate that leaves the kitchen meets the highest halal standards. For halal-conscious diners, that assurance matters as much as the meal itself.

Kay's is also proud to launch the Wagyu Striploin and Lobster Surf & Turf, a brand new combo pairing a premium cut of wagyu with fresh, succulent lobster on a single plate. Expertly prepared and generously served, it is the kind of meal that turns an ordinary evening into a proper occasion. This is the combo you order without hesitation.

Earn rewards every time you dine

Kay's runs its own loyalty programme, rewarding guests who keep coming back for more. Members earn cashback with every visit, redeemable on your next dining experience. The more you dine, the more you earn.



The kind of meal you'll still be thinking about long after you've touched down

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Present your boarding pass at any outlets in Putra Heights, Ampang, Putrajaya, Elmina and Johor Bahru and enjoy 10% off your total bill. Simply spend at least a minimum of RM300 to qualify. Consider it a warm welcome and a good reason to make Kay's part of your travel plans.

Premium halal dining, a brand new combo, loyalty rewards and a treat for travellers. Kay's Steak & Lobster is ready to welcome you.



Scan the QR code to reserve your table or visit kaysteaklobster.com. Remember to present your boarding pass at the counter to enjoy your exclusive dining privilege*.



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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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ELEVATE

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



WELLNESS

Urban reset

A new green heart in **Osaka** brings together open space and modern wellness **BY CINDY BISSIG**

Osaka is slowly transforming and nowhere is this shift more visible than in Umekita. Just steps from JR Osaka Station, this former freight yard has, in recent years, been reimagined as one of the city's most ambitious urban developments. At its core is Umekita Park, an expansive, unexpected green space in central Osaka. Locals gather here to relax and picnic. And on weekends, the park becomes a shared urban living room as the space comes to life with food markets, pop-ups and community events. →



Onsen room



Entrance to Umekita Onsen Ren

Surrounding the park is the Grand Green Osaka complex, a mixed-use development with retail and dining. One of its most intriguing features, however, lies hidden above: **Umekita Onsen Ren Wellbeing Park**, a modern, 24-hour facility that reinterprets the traditional Japanese bathhouse, combining it with a contemporary fitness and wellbeing concept.

Divided into two distinct zones, the onsen area remains at the core. Designed to evoke a traditional bathing setting, it offers a calm contrast to the buzzing pace of the city below. For fitness lovers, the state-of-the-art gym and wellness zone is a genuine highlight. A full body composition check is included on entry, offering a data-driven starting point while keeping the atmosphere relaxed rather than clinical. Ease into your own routine or join one of the many classes on offer, such as silk yoga or Zumba. Everything can be booked in advance via the centre's app – ideal if you like to plan ahead while travelling.

Dining, of course, is part of the experience, and this is far from a Spartan wellness approach. The extensive menu balances flavour with function, with dishes designed to support specific health goals while still being delicious. A dedicated sushi counter is part of a broader culinary setup, alongside a range of health-focused drinks and more indulgent options.

The pool area is a particular surprise. At its centre is an infinity-



Fitness lovers enjoying a class

“

Still relatively under the radar, Umekita Onsen Ren Wellbeing Park offers a glimpse into Osaka's evolving identity, where tradition meets modern wellbeing”

style pool designed as much for relaxation as for exercise, complete with an in-pool bar and a poolside counter offering stunning views of Umekita Park and the surrounding skyline. The bar menu ranges from teas, juices and protein shakes to champagne and local sake. A deliberate contrast defines the space: wellness without austerity, where treating yourself is part of the philosophy.

Feeling fancy? Private suites offer a more secluded experience, combining onsen-style baths, sauna facilities and comfortable lounge spaces into a self-contained retreat. With prices starting at ¥12,000 per suite for two hours, they present a surprisingly accessible option for an intimate, high-end escape.

Still relatively under the radar, Umekita Onsen Ren Wellbeing Park offers a glimpse into Osaka's evolving identity – one that balances tradition with a modern approach to living well. umekita-onsen.jp



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When cuisine tells the story

This Visit Malaysia 2026, Cili Kampung invites you to experience the expert hallmark of authentic Malay cuisine at their restaurants

Every delicious food story begins somewhere modest. Cili Kampung began in Kampung Kedawang, a village in Langkawi, where a family kitchen earned a following for cooking Malay food the way it's meant to be made: by hand and using fresh local produce.

Their commitment to authenticity has taken the brand far beyond its island beginnings. Today, Cili Kampung can be found in landmark locations from Suria KLCC to Hartamas, each carrying the same warm, homemade character for which it is known. Its latest home is now in Kota Bharu, the cultural heart of Kelantan, a city famed for its bustling markets, traditional crafts and one of the most celebrated food cultures in Malaysia.

At Cili Kampung, distinctly Malaysian flavours run deep with these hearty dishes: the signature *masak lomak* (coconut milk gravy) with smoked beef, simmered in turmeric and chilli; fragrant *sambal petai* prawns (prawns in fiery chilli with stink beans) with their aromatic kick; tender *ayam masak kicap* (soy sauce chicken) and ladies' fingers fried with spicy, aromatic *belacan* (shrimp paste).

This is the kind of homegrown experience that gives Malaysian travel its character and fittingly, it has found a champion. As the nation welcomes the world for Visit Malaysia 2026, Maybank has been supporting local brands like Cili Kampung, investing in the family kitchens and entrepreneurs who keep the country's food culture alive and help travellers discover it for themselves.



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Spend a minimum of RM250 in a single receipt and pay with your Maybank or Maybank Islamic credit or charge card to enjoy a complimentary 'Mama Cendol'.

Offer runs from 17 January 2026 to 17 January 2027, when you dine in at these participating Cili Kampung outlets: Alamanda Shopping Centre (Putrajaya), AEON Mall Kota Bharu, Hartamas Shopping Centre, One Utama Shopping Centre, Sunway Pyramid and Suria KLCC.

Experience Malaysia, one plate at a time at Cili Kampung outlets nationwide.

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Cuisine Cuisine at The Mira



Chinesology

DINING

A more welcoming table

Hong Kong's halal-friendly dining scene is growing – and Cantonese fine-dining is part of the movement **BY ANDREA LO**

Until recently, finding a halal-friendly Cantonese restaurant in Hong Kong felt like a scavenger hunt, let alone one that serves fine-dining fare. Now, the landscape is shifting: more restaurants are getting certified – nearly doubling from early 2024 to mid-2025.

Chinesology (3101 IFC Mall, 8 Finance St, Central; chinesology.com) leads the charge as Hong Kong's first Cantonese fine-dining restaurant to earn halal-friendly certification. A top pick from their halal menu is the deep-fried king crab claw with garlic and chilli. "The dish pays homage to Hong Kong's 1970s typhoon-shelter era," says chef and culinary director Saito Chau. The garlic and spices make it bold, bittersweet and utterly moreish.

At **Cuisine Cuisine** (118 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; themirahotel.com), the much-loved Cantonese restaurant at The Mira Hong Kong, a halal-friendly menu of 15 hearty dishes is available. An absolute standout is the crispy chicken stuffed with minced shrimp, sliced almond and lemon sauce, says Alexander O Wassermann, head of hotels and serviced apartments at Miramar Group.

They also offer an eight-course halal degustation menu, showcasing the diverse flavours, textures and cooking techniques of Cantonese cuisine. Don't miss the highlight: stir-fried, fresh Australian lobster with spicy preserved vegetables.

Both restaurants hold halal-friendly certification from local Islamic trustees, with dedicated kitchens and halal-certified ingredients used for their halal menus. As offerings may vary, guests are encouraged to request the halal menu when making a reservation or upon arrival. Booking ahead is always a good idea.



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

Try our picks of Hong Kong's restaurants with halal options

Punjab Warriors

A new addition to Central's bustling dining scene, Punjab Warriors, an Indian-inspired chophouse, offers halal-certified meat and seafood dishes, including lamb chops with spinach yoghurt dip and pepper masala salmon tikka with dill dip.

punjabwarriorshk.com

Yurt

The recently opened Yurt brings the flavours of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to Hong Kong. Dishes include lamb rack, dolma and beshbarmak, a Central Asian classic consisting of finely chopped meat, noodles and onion broth. yurthk.com

Islam Food

A long-time Kowloon City favourite, Islam Food brings Xinjiang and northwestern Chinese dishes to the fore. The pan-fried beef buns and hand-pulled noodles are not to be missed.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD GUIDE

Side quests

Spend an afternoon wandering the alleys of one of **Bangkok's** hippest neighbourhoods

BY ERIN HALE

One of the greatest lessons I've ever learned about Bangkok is that, as overwhelming and busy as it may feel, you can find a completely different atmosphere on its smaller side streets, known locally as *sois*. For this reason, the neighbourhood of Ari, with its many winding side streets and alleys, has become one of my favourite places to visit each time I'm in the Thai capital.

Originally known as a residential area for wealthier Thais, Ari has earned a reputation over the past 15 years as one of the city's hipster districts, blending trendy cafés with more low-key traditional restaurants and evening food stalls.

Ari 4 Fang Nua Alley, a 10-minute walk from the Ari BTS sky train station,

has become ground zero for young, trendy Thais to visit on the weekend thanks to its many cute cafés like **Matcha People** (46/1 Phahon Yothin 7; @matchapeople.bkk) and **Roots at Ari** (50/2 Phahon Yothin 7; @roots.bkk). The strip can get crowded on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but **Bay.aree** (111 Phahon Yothin 7; @bay.aree) on the main road is a great place to people-watch with an iced latte or an Aperol Spritz.

Ari is also home to a few cute stores like **Vintage.bytida** (4 Alley, Samsen Nai; @vintage.bytiidaa), where you can find a selection of high-end second-hand bags, clothing and accessories, or **Unformed** (36/7 Phahon Yothin 7; @shop_unformed) for a collection of casual women's clothing and small gift items like pottery and perfume.

Ari gets less crowded by the time evening rolls around, which makes it a great place for dinner, whether you're in the mood for Thai, pan-Asian or even Italian. One of my favourite spots is the ultra-casual outdoor **Nong Max Thai Food** (2/32 Soi Ari 1, Samsen Nai; Facebook/ Nong Max's Larb and Som Tum Restaurant), where you can order Thai milk tea and a selection of traditional dishes for a very reasonable price. If you're craving a hearty local meal or just want air conditioning, the Michelin-rated **Ongtong Khaosoi Ari**

Branch (31 Phahon Yothin 7; @ongtongkhaosoi) around the corner specialises in the famous *khao soi* northern Thai coconut curry served with noodles and meat or tofu.

Ari also has its share of trendy international dining options like the seafood bar **Fishmonger Ari** (10/6 Ari 4 Alley; @fishmonger.bkk), which serves fish and chips, fresh squid and fish steak from lunchtime until late. Try the restaurant and bar **Salt** (111/2 Phahon Yothin 7; @saltaree) around the corner if you're in the mood for a glass of organic wine and pizza against a chic backdrop or out on their open-air terrace.

Getting there: take the BTS sky train to Ari station (N5) and head towards exit 1.



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Fishmonger Ari

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sunwayuniversity.edu.my



ELEVATE



Remnants of the building's past



Al fresco hangout



DINING

Bloc party

In this Indonesian city, Pos Bloc Medan turns a historic building into a creative hub

BY CHERYL MARELLA

Ever wondered what happens when a 115-year-old building becomes the coolest hangout in the city? At **Pos Bloc Medan**, in Indonesia's third-largest city, the past doesn't fade away, it gets a bold, creative revival.

Originally built in 1911, the former Medan Post Office has long been one of the city's landmarks. Designed by Dutch architect Simon Snuyf, the building blends European colonial style with local architectural touches. For decades, it stood as a symbol of connection, sending letters across distances. Today, that same

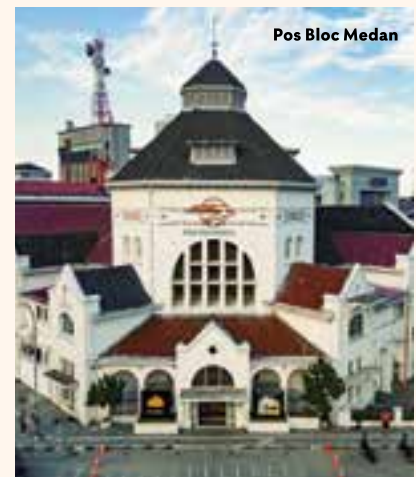
spirit of connection lives on, just in a very different form.

After more than a century, the space has been reimagined into a lifestyle creative hub, part of a bigger movement inspired by M Bloc Space Jakarta. The idea is simple but powerful: reclaim historic buildings and turn them into spaces where culture, business and community thrive. In Medan, this transformation feels especially alive.

Step inside, and the vibe is instantly clear. Industrial, creative and youthful. High ceilings and vintage details meet buzzing crowds, music and the smell of fresh coffee. It's the kind of place where creators, entrepreneurs and hipsters alike come to work, hang out and ideate. There's Wi-Fi, open seating, and a sense that anything can happen here, from casual meetings to creative collaborations.

The tenants reflect that energy. Titik Temu Café is a favourite for work-from-café days, offering indoor and outdoor seating with views facing Jalan Balai Kota. The menu is comforting and familiar, with highlights like nasi goreng rempah and soto Betawi. For something lighter, Huta Fresh Market serves fresh, healthy juices for an uplifting boost.

Beyond that, the space is filled with UMKM (micro, small and medium enterprises) tenants across food, fashion and creative industries, giving local brands a platform to grow. More than just a curated mall, the block is a living ecosystem of Medan's young entrepreneurs.



Pos Bloc Medan

There are plenty of opportunities to explore the building's deep history. A mini museum inside the complex tells the story of the building's past, reminding visitors that this trendy spot once played a key role in the city's history. Meanwhile, nearly every corner doubles as a photo spot: from the grand Rotunda to the open central garden, making it naturally Instagram-friendly without trying too hard.

In Medan, Pos Bloc's creative reclamation is proof that history can evolve and that old spaces can become the heartbeat of a new generation.

[@posblocmedan](#)



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IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK

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Slow travel starts here

On Pulau Tuba, nature, local flavours and community come together at a gentler pace

From left: Pulau Tuba's limestone landscape; visitors can explore the island by buggy; local businesses add character to village life

little longer, rustic overwater chalets accessible only by boat offer a glimpse into a slower, sea-bound way of life.

For travellers seeking a different side of Langkawi, Pulau Tuba offers something increasingly rare: a chance to experience island life shaped by community, culture and nature. With no petrol station and little sign of modern bustle, everyday life still sets the pace.

Discover Desa Kirana destinations at rurallink.gov.my/desa-kirana

Just off the coast of Langkawi lies Pulau Tuba, a quiet island where village life unfolds at its own pace.

Now recognised under the Desa Kirana initiative by the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (KKDW), Pulau Tuba is among 25 rural destinations nationwide selected for their tourism potential, showcasing experiences rooted in local culture, natural heritage and everyday village life.

A journey through island life

The experience begins long before arriving on shore. Travellers weave through mangrove-lined waters by boat, passing floating fish farms and limestone formations before reaching Pulau Tuba's modest jetty, where daily life still revolves around the sea. Along the way, visitors may encounter one of Langkawi's most iconic sights: eagles swooping across

the water during feeding sessions.

Instead of large tour buses or resort transfers, visitors explore the island via ATV, buggy or motorcycle, winding through quiet village roads framed by colourful homes, grazing buffaloes and stretches of greenery. Attractions such as Gua Kelawar (bat cave) and Gua Wang Buluh offer another way to experience the island's natural heritage.

Community, culture and flavours

Supported through KKDW's Desa Lestari programme, local cooperative Koperasi



Komuniti Kepulauan Tuba dan Selat Berhad plays a key role in developing experiences that benefit residents while preserving the island's identity.

From *gotong-royong*, a tradition of neighbours coming together to help one another, to small businesses such as Bestuba Kroop and Lekoshow, Pulau Tuba's strong community spirit is evident throughout the island. Combined with warm hospitality and local food traditions, it offers visitors a more meaningful connection to the destination and its people.

Stay a little longer

Visitors can sample locally made snacks and village favourites before settling in by the beach for hearty meals including *ayam kampung* (free-range chicken) and *mee udang* (prawn noodles). For those looking to stay a



DISCOVER DESA KIRANA

- A KKDW initiative celebrating rural Malaysia
- Showcases 25 destinations nationwide
- Part of Visit Malaysia 2026
- Showcases heritage, nature, local food and crafts
- Pulau Tuba is among its featured destinations



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Postcards from Kochi

Artist and sustainable consultant Ambika Balraj turns to Kerala's seaside city for inspiration, where history, art and diverse flavours are woven into daily life **BY ZINARA RATHNAYAKE**

Though I was born in Chennai and grew up in Delhi, both my parents hail from Kerala, and we would pay a visit every summer. Around 2021, my husband and I packed up our house and moved to Kochi.

While I'm still a sustainability consultant, Kochi constantly inspires my work as an artist specialising in traditional Indian art forms, especially Kerala mural painting. In Kochi, art is everywhere, and you try to understand where it all comes from.

Art meets everyday life

There's a big art scene right now. Many local artists use their work to talk about the larger society, which is interesting as a creative person, to really see the different ways people represent themselves and what's happening in Kerala and the world.

You'll see part-gallery, part-café spaces where local artists display their work, like **David Hall** in Fort Kochi (1/264 Napier St;



IMAGES: NUJEEB PADIKKA (DAVID HALL, ITHA, ROCHAS), KOCHI BIENNALE FOUNDATION; PORTRAIT ILLUSTRATION: CHERYL OWEN



David Hall

@davidhallartgallery_cghearth). While they do great desserts and brunch, I love it because you can just sit, draw, chat with artists, and be around people who encourage art. At most of these places, the food is decent, the coffee is great, but the conversations are even better.

The **Kochi-Muziris Biennale** (kochimuzirisbiennale.org) has brought global attention to this city and has given local artists a platform. And Fort Kochi truly comes alive when the biennale is on. Outside the fort, there's this cute hub in Panampilly Nagar with new-age, funky fashion and I love the small-batch silk organza sarees at the boutique **Itiha** (56/3274A Main Ave; itiha.co.in). It's almost like you're walking into someone's house, and they'll drape the sarees for you.

Local flavour

For me, food is a huge part of my life. Luckily, it's hard to find a place that doesn't have good food here because it won't sell. Traditional food doesn't always look pretty, but it always tastes good. One restaurant I really love but people don't seem to talk about is **Grand Entree** (*Chalikkavattom, Vytilla; grandentree.in*). They roll out a table filled with seafood, so the whole family can enjoy it, and it's insanely affordable.

My go-to is **Karthiyayini** (14/407 Kundannoor – Willingdon Island Rd; [@karthiyayini.kochi](http://karthiyayini.kochi)) for a simple lunch: rice with *sambar* (lentil-vegetable stew), one or two vegetables and fish curry served on a banana leaf. Over in the northern suburb Aluva, **Sulthan Veedu** (17/136 Choornikkara; sulthanveedu.in)



Rochas Café

does mouthwatering *chatti choru*, a rustic meal served in a clay pot that demands you to get messy with mixed rice, curries, veggies, pickles and fish or meat. There's so much flavour packed in there and you need to mix everything together with your fingers.

Global gastronomy

I see a lot of young kids who learned their craft overseas returning to Kochi. The food scene is growing and now everyone wants to know more about other cuisines. I love **Café De Bangkok** (54/1285 MP Pylee Rd; [@cafedebangkok.kochi](http://cafedebangkok.kochi)) for their lobster, and they organise Thai festivals and Korean bingsu parties.

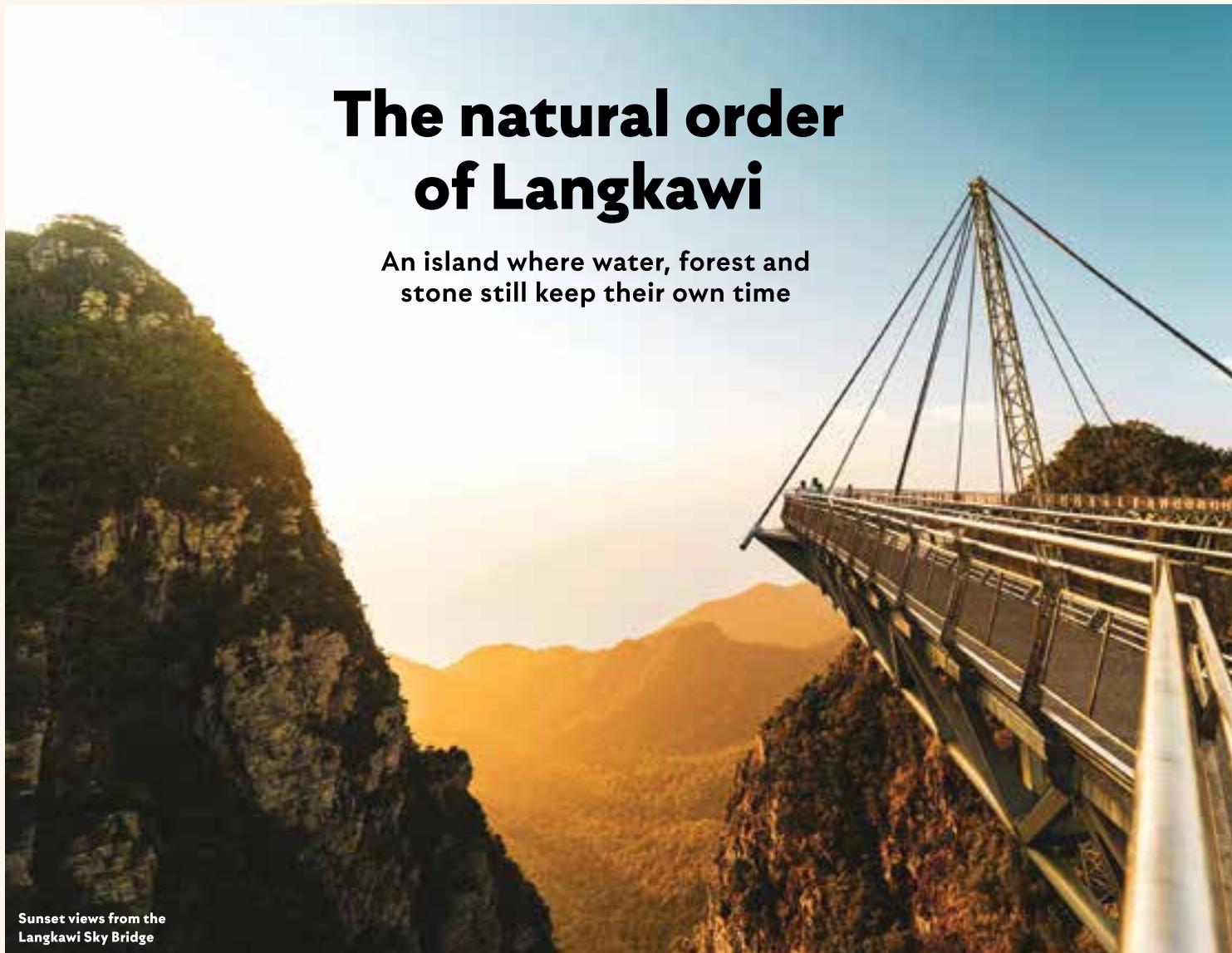
I've also discovered this amazing Portuguese grill house called **Rochas Café** (*Kakkanad Pallikara Rd; @rochascafenbistro*), which blends ancestral heritage and modern culinary practices. Chef Zerita Rocha makes her own beef brisket. Just remember to pre-order because smoked meat takes time.



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

The natural order of Langkawi

An island where water, forest and stone still keep their own time



Sunset views from the Langkawi Sky Bridge



The Great Hornbill, one of Langkawi's most iconic birds

Set in the Andaman Sea off the coast of Kedah, Langkawi is an archipelago of 99 islands and one unmistakable sense of scale. In 2007, it became Southeast Asia's first Unesco Global Geopark. A designation that places it among a global network of places where the geological story of the Earth is still legible in the landscape, and where that story actively shapes how a place is protected, lived in and visited.

Langkawi earned its place in that network not through a single dramatic feature, but through the full range of what it contains: ancient rock, living forest, tidal mangrove. All of it connected, all of it still intact.

By the water

Begin in the mangroves of Kilim, where a boat moves at little more than walking pace past limestone walls shaped by water over countless centuries. The channels are alive: a brown-winged kingfisher darting low, a brahmyn kite turning overhead, a white-bellied sea eagle holding its line against the breeze. At dusk, trade the engine for a kayak around the quiet reaches of Kubang Badak, where the water turns to glass and the mangroves close in around you.

In thick rainforest

The island's interior is older still. Beneath a canopy that ranks among



Ancient rock formations rising from the Andaman Sea



Colourful homes brighten one of Langkawi's island communities

the most ancient on the planet, footpaths climb the flanks of Gunung Raya into cooler, greener air. Here, a great hornbill might pass between the trees at daybreak, unmistakable in silhouette and sound, while dusky leaf monkeys move through the branches overhead. Little is signposted, and most travellers prefer it that way.

Or to gain further understanding of Langkawi's geology, wildlife and cultural heritage, explorers can engage a certified nature guide or local expert. From cycling guides to certified naturalists, there are plenty of options to delve deeper.

Over ancient rock

Out among the islets, the Machinchang Range tells the grandest story of all: its sandstone, more than 550 million years old, is the oldest exposed rock in Southeast Asia. Drift beneath those weathered ridges and the ordinary measures of time – meetings, messages, the week ahead – start to lose their hold.

There are faster islands, and louder ones. Langkawi offers something rarer: the chance to move at the pace of the natural world, and to feel the difference. Stay a while longer and experience it yourself.

Discover the island where nature leads. Follow @naturally_langkawi for slow island stories or explore experiences at naturallylangkawi.my to plan your visit.



Langkawi's waters are home to several dolphin species



Evenings arrive in a blaze of colour



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A PERFECT WEEKEND IN

Bali

Words **Erica Fong**

From Uluwatu's cliff-top temples and Ubud's jungle treks to Canggu's legendary beaches and surf breaks, Bali delivers sun, sand and soul in one complete package



Bali is one of those destinations that feels like a dream.

For centuries, this sunny island has been the spiritual heart of Indonesia, shaped by Hindu-Buddhist kings, ancient water temples and a cosmology that sees the divine in every rice grain and volcano.

Known as the Island of the Gods, Bali is where three entirely different worlds collide: the dramatic clifftop temples of Uluwatu, where the Indian Ocean crashes hundreds of metres below; the misty jungles and rice terraces of Ubud, sacred and slow; and the sun-kissed beach clubs of Canggu, where sunset drinks and thumping basslines carry on late into the night.

You could spend weeks exploring the island, but with three focused days, you can still get a feel for Bali's contrasting personalities. This three-day itinerary takes you from cliff to coast: think temple visits, jungle walks, farm-to-table dining and sundowners by the beach. Ready to explore? Let's go.

Friday

Morning. Start your weekend in Uluwatu, home to surfers and sun-seekers alike, who flock to its beaches by day and clifftop clubs by night. Grab a towel and head to **Padang Padang Beach** for soft white sand and easy surf breaks, or **Bingin Beach** for rustic cafés and more of a laid-back, bohemian vibe. If a VIP beach club is more your scene, ride the inclinator down to **Sundays Beach Club** (*The Ungasan Cliffside Resort*; @sundaysbeachclub) for elevated sundecks and bungalows with front-row views of the beach – watersports included.

Afternoon. Scoot your way over to **Lola's Cantina Mexicana** (10 Jln Labuansait; @lolasbali) for awesome tacos and margaritas or **Warung Local** (10A Jln Labuansait; @warunglocal) for some delicious *nasi campur*, with





over 40 different dishes to make your own mixed rice plate. For something sweet to finish off your meal, cross the road to **Mamada's Café and Bakery** (42 Jln Labuansait; @mamadasbali) for the best sticky toffee pudding on the island. Continue walking down the street to check out the many day spas and shops, including **What's Good x SoSo Swim** (62 Jln Labuansait; @whatsgood.store), a thrift store and café selling chic, sustainable swimwear.

Evening. First-timers to Bali should be at **Uluwatu Temple** (Pecatu, South Kuta, Badung Regency; uluwatutemple.id) by dusk to catch the nightly kecak fire dance at 6pm, a mesmerising performance of men chanting against the backdrop of the Indian Ocean. Afterwards, grab a romantic meal at **Mana Uluwatu** (Jln Pantai Suluban, Pecatu; @manauluwatu) or head to **Single Fin** (Jln Pantai Suluban, Jln Labuansait; @singlefinbali), a legendary surfer bar with a cliffside terrace and great tunes. End (or rather, start) your night at **Savaya** (Jln Belimbing Sari, Banjar Tambiyak; @savayabali), Bali's hottest day-to-night club, with stunning ocean views and a roster of world-class DJs.

Saturday

Morning. It's about an hour's drive to Seminyak from Uluwatu, but trust us, it'll be worth it when you arrive at **Bread Yard** (12 Jln Kayu Aya; @bread_yard) for some of Bali's best pastries (get the pistachio almond croissant) and strong cups of joe. Next, stop by **John Hardy Boutique & Gallery** (Jln Petitenget, Kerobokan;



Previous page:
Uluwatu Temple

Clockwise from top left:
Evening kecak dance at Uluwatu Temple; Sunday's Beach Club at The Ungasan Cliffside Resort; delicious tacos at Lola's Cantina Mexicana; John Hardy Boutique & Gallery



@johnhardybali) for an eclectic mix of silver and gold jewellery inspired by Balinese heritage and handmade by local artisans in Ubud. In need of a massage after the long ride? **Jari Menari's** (21 Jln Raya Basangkasa; *@jarimenari_semyak*) "dancing fingers" technique will get those knots out in no time.

Afternoon. Continue on to Canggu for a healthy lunch at **The Shady Shack** (53 Jln Tanah Barak; *@theshadyshack*), a haven for the veggie-friendly, with rainbow-coloured salads, smoothie bowls, wraps and more. Carnivores can head next door to **Santanera** (55–57 Jln Tanah Barak; *@santanerabali*) for Latin-infused, meaty dishes made for sharing. Work off lunch with a Lagree class or a game of padel at **Bali Social Club** (188 Jln Raya Kayutulang; *@bali.socialclub*) or head to **Desa Kitsuné** (9 Jln Munduk Catu; *@desakitsunebali*) for some cold drinks and quintessential beach lounging.

Evening. After sunset, head 10 minutes north to Pererenan, Canggu's new and happening district for authentic Balinese comfort food at **Home by Chef Wayan** (92 Jln Pantai Pererenan; *@home.by.chefwayan*) or dig into European bistro fare paired with fine wines at **Bar Vera** (84 Jln Pantai Pererenan; *@bar.vera.bali*) across the street. Finish the evening with a few scoops of creamy Italian gelato at **Ettore** (88 Jln Pantai Pererenan; *@ettoregelato*).

Sunday

Morning. Catch an early 45-minute car ride to Ubud and head straight for **Tegallalang Rice Terraces** for that must-have Instagram shot (jungle swing, optional). Alternatively, stay closer to Ubud proper with the **Campuhan**



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



From left: Shady Shack favourites; Ettore gelato; farm-to-table dining at Begawan Biji; Alchemy Yoga; Sacred Monkey Forest Ubud Sanctuary

Ridge Walk (*Jln Raya Ubud, Kelusa; campuhanridgewalk.com*), an easy 2km walking trail overlooking lush green valleys, ideal for nature and bird lovers. Feeling bendy? Stretch it out afterwards with an invigorating Power Flow yoga class at **Alchemy Yoga** (*Jln Penestanan; [@alchemyyogaubud](https://www.instagram.com/alchemyyogaubud)*).

Afternoon. Fuel up at **Zest** (*7 Jln Penestanan; [@zestubud](https://www.instagram.com/zestubud)*), a barefoot haven for healthy, vegan eats accompanied by live music on most days, or venture further up the hill to **Yellow Flower Café** (*Jln Raya Campuhan; [@yellowflowercafe](https://www.instagram.com/yellowflowercafe)*), a hidden gem with stellar volcano views. Serious foodies should head to **Hujan Locale** (*5 Jln Sri Wedari; [@hujan_locale](https://www.instagram.com/hujan_locale)*) for modern Indonesian cuisine, including juicy lobster dumplings alongside *sate buntel* (minced lamb sausage), then try some local coffee around the corner at **Seniman Coffee** (*5 Jln Sri Wedari; [@senimancoffee](https://www.instagram.com/senimancoffee)*). Walk it off at **Ubud Palace** (*8 Jln Raya Ubud*), the official residence of the Ubud royal family, grab some souvenirs at the **Ubud Art Market** and continue shopping down the street towards the **Sacred Monkey Forest Ubud Sanctuary** (*monkeyforestubud.com*).



Evening. For an authentic farm-to-table dining experience, **Begawan Biji** (*Melinggih Kelod, Payangan; [@begawanbiji](https://www.instagram.com/begawanbiji)*) is a fully sustainable restaurant just outside of Ubud that promotes regenerative farming in support of the local community. There, chef Andrew Fahludza prepares nature-inspired dishes from his mother's recipes using local ingredients, many of them grown right on the farm.

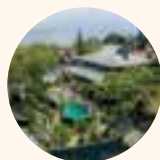
Have a sweet tooth? Start – and end – with dessert by trying the iconic 15-course tasting menus at **Room4Dessert** (*Jln Raya Sanggingan; [@r4d_room4dessert](https://www.instagram.com/r4d_room4dessert)*), a sweet and savoury way to close off the weekend.



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IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (SACRED MONKEY FOREST UBUD)

Best of the boutique stays



The Asa Maia, Uluwatu
Wellness meets luxury at this intimate, 10-suite resort with daily contrast therapy, yoga and spa. theasamaia.com



Desa Hay, Canggu
Solar-powered eco-luxury resort with six nature-inspired pool villas, surrounded by a lush, private garden in Pererenan. desahay.com



Stone House, Ubud
Rustic-chic stay with reclaimed teak wood houses, a safari-style lodge, jungle pool and vegetable garden. stonehousebali.com

From Penang to the world's stage

Chef Ker Yang Hao of Firewood on earning a place among the world's top 100 steakhouses and why he's just getting started

In the historic heart of George Town, Penang, Firewood has done something few expected: claimed the No 76 spot on the World's 101 Best Steak Restaurants 2026 list, standing alongside restaurants from New York, Sydney and Buenos Aires. The ranking recognises a restaurant where Malaysian character, disciplined fire cooking and contemporary technique come together with rare coherence, working with beef sourced from Australia and Japan, dry-aged and finished over charcoal.

At the helm is Chef Ker Yang Hao, whose journey from a Gordon Ramsay kitchen to the grills of George Town is as compelling as the food he serves.

Your journey began long before Firewood. How did that shape the chef you are today?

Seven years with Gordon Ramsay's organisation in Singapore gave me the foundations I still build on: discipline, consistency and an obsession with getting things right. But what truly changed me was going deeper into steak than most people ever bother to. Most see a cut of beef. I see genetics, farming, feed, aging and the grill.



When Firewood was named one of the world's top 100 steakhouses, what went through your mind?

Pride, honestly, but also a real sense of responsibility. Nobody expected a restaurant from Penang to stand alongside steakhouses from New York, Sydney and Buenos Aires. For me, this recognition belongs to every member of the team. My hope is that through Firewood, more people will discover the quality, talent and potential of Malaysian dining.

How does a steakhouse from Penang earn a place among the world's best?

Excellence doesn't have a postcode. At Firewood, we've never tried to copy other steakhouses. We focused on building our own identity through open-fire cooking, deep sourcing knowledge and Malaysian hospitality. Great restaurants can come from anywhere when they're driven by passion and relentless improvement.

You're well known for your approach to sourcing. Why does it matter so much?

If I wanted to cook the best steak, I had to understand it long before it reached my kitchen. That meant learning about breeds, farming methods, feed programmes, marbling and ageing. Every decision before the cooking stage affects what ends up on the plate. Sourcing, to me, is about understanding the full journey and the people behind it.

Where does Firewood go from here?

Awards and rankings are moments in time. What matters is what we do next. My ambition has never been simply to build a successful restaurant. This recognition isn't the destination. It's motivation to keep pushing forward.



Firewood Penang
15 Jalan Masjid
Kapitan Keling,
George Town;
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Firewood KLCC
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China's



Changsha has long shaped China's future – first as the launchpad for a young Mao Zedong's political awakening and now as a place where modern youth are rewriting the meaning of "Chinese cool"

next



hot

ticket

By **Sammi Sowerby**
Photography by **Raul Ariano**





Red, yellow and green; stout, smooth and slim. They arrive in relentless succession.

Chillies of every conceivable shade and shape are woven into dish after dish at fine-dining restaurant Xinchangfu in Changsha, Hunan. Moreover, smartly dressed servers constantly emerge with platters of different chillies in their raw form, all the better for guests to appreciate Changsha's most cherished commodity.

Timid diners might tap out upon seeing the sheer quantity of chillies on the menu, but not this Malaysian, for whom Hunan – or Xiang – cuisine strikes many familiar flavour notes, from smoky wok aromas to the unmistakable fragrance of garlic. If anything, each ensuing dish laced with peppers – whether fresh, fermented or pickled – further awakens my senses.

Just 28 years old, executive chef Duan Xiaoguang is a wunderkind who lives and breathes Xiang cuisine. He confirms something I had long suspected: although chillies are deeply embedded in Hunan cooking, their ancestral homeland is, in fact, South America.

“They first arrived in Hangzhou before spreading westwards to Hunan,” explains Duan. “At first, the chilli plant was purely ornamental. It wasn't until the early Qing Dynasty that people began cooking with it. It took hold because Hunan's climate is humid and chilli helps dispel dampness, which causes all kinds of ills in Traditional Chinese Medicine.”

Acclaimed author Fuchsia Dunlop's 2019 cookbook *The Food of Sichuan* mirrors this sentiment: “The best way to restore a healthy equilibrium is to eat foods that drive out moisture and dispel the cold.”

It is this very equilibrium that I find myself chasing on my very first trip to Hunan's spice-laced capital.

Previous spread:
CMYK drink; Du Fu Pavilion; Wenheyu Market

This spread clockwise from bottom left:
Xinchangfu restaurant; Folk Culture Park on Orange Isle; a chilli-laden dish at Xinchangfu; Mao Zedong's granite visage on Orange Isle

“

If the museum and Mawangdui reveal how Changsha’s blue bloods once lived, the Xiang River waterfront reflects how the city has long inspired China’s poets and thinkers”

This spread, clockwise from bottom right:
Futuristic high-rise development facing Meixi Lake; spicy salted duck; bustling Taiping Old Street

Timeless Changsha

Predating the arrival of chillies in China, the Changsha Kingdom (202 BC–AD 33) was among the Han Dynasty’s largest and most enduring realms. I enjoy experiencing a place chronologically, so I start at the Hunan Museum (previously the Hunan Provincial Museum) in Kaifu District, wandering among spectral mummies and poring over silk manuscripts from the Changsha Kingdom. Some cite the nearby Mawangdui Mausoleum as an essential archaeological attraction, but most of its treasures are now housed in the museum.

If the museum and Mawangdui reveal how Changsha’s blue bloods once lived, the Xiang River waterfront reflects how the city has long inspired China’s poets and thinkers. A leisurely hour-long walk brings me to the water, where I pay my respects to two figures who continue to loom large over Changsha in very different ways: Tang Dynasty poet Du Fu, whose namesake pavilion rises above the east bank in tiers of traditional eaves; and Mao Zedong, whose youthful visage – complete with dramatically windswept hair – has been immortalised in granite on Orange Isle, located in the middle of the river. The two figures feel like opposing pillars of the city’s identity: one literary, the other revolutionary, both united by the steady flow of the Xiang.

Speaking of Chairman Mao, I had been told to seek out his favourite fare. Come lunchtime, I head to Taiping Old Street, an ancient thoroughfare turned bustling tourist hotspot not far from the Xiang River waterfront, in search of proper Hunan home cooking. The street is dotted with *sifang cai*, or private kitchens, where every local has their favourite, and where you’re bound to find the Chairman’s favourite red-braised meat, glistening in a sweet soy glaze, and other Changsha staples like spicy salted duck and impressively large crayfish swimming in chilli oil.

The best way to wash down a meal is with a pot of Chinese tea, so I do as the locals do: while away the afternoon at a teahouse sipping what they’re sipping. It’s easy to see how Junshan Yinzhen, with its unusually long, needle-like leaves shimmering pale silver, earned its poetic moniker: “silver needles of Junshan Island”. Counted among China’s famed “Ten Great Teas”, the rare yellow tea is the sort of souvenir worth making room for in a suitcase.





青

瓦

閣

茶馆
汉服

春弦

长沙我来

免福火塘

XX
健身会所

黑色经典臭豆腐

爆烤肘子

桔子舟
桔饼

胡

U

长沙辣酱

工匠精神

頭家
族

湖南

珍





This spread, clockwise from top: Wenheyoun Market; inside CMYK; Snack Kingdom's colourful Snack Tunnel



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Changsha 7x weekly, from 8 July 2026.



Save up to 30% on your Changsha getaway when you book Flight + Hotel packages with MHHolidays.

The New China cool

While old Changsha lingers in historic streets and heritage teahouses, its younger alter ego emerges through viral milk tea chains, neon-lit retro food courts and cavernous snack megastores.

Yesterday saw me straining traditional loose-leaf tea; today, I'm sipping stylised milk tea. Chayan Yuese, a cult-favourite Changsha chain, channels local culture through its flavours (from floral oolongs to robust black teas) and its aesthetics, with Chinese opera and classical watercolour paintings adorning cups and branding.

Next, it's time to immerse in contemporary culture at two *wanghong*, or "internet-famous", attractions. Spread across five immersive storeys, Wenheyoun Market is a wildly entertaining cyberpunk fever dream that proves as wondrous as it appears in viral videos. Easily reached from Wuyi Square or Huangxing Square stations, and conveniently close to both Pozi Street and Taiping Old Street, it is the kind of place that rewards getting lost. Pretending to be a character in *Blade Runner*, I happily wander the dystopian space while sampling Changsha's famous street foods like black stinky tofu, silky rice noodles and chewy sugar-oil *baba* (glutinous rice cakes).

Also nearby at Fu Rong Square, Snack Kingdom, the Guinness World Record-holder for the world's largest snack store, spans roughly the size of 30 basketball courts and stocks some 35,000 treats from over 70 countries. Jumbo-sized snacks tower over the average person, and the surreal sight makes for fun photo ops.

Come nightfall, I discover how Changsha's creative energy is distilled in different ways. Located inside a leafy compound on Zhongshan West Road, CMYK is widely regarded as the city's premier destination for inventive drinks. I could happily polish off several glasses of the namesake CMYK cocktail with clarified yogurt, but it is the Super Fresh, spiked with Hunan's beloved peppers, that leaves a lasting impression.

As the chilli-laced drink lingers on my palate, I recall a conversation with maître d' George Guo back at Xinchangfu: "Inherit the past without being bound by it. Innovate without losing sight of one's roots." It is the restaurant's philosophy, he explained, but one he believes also captures the spirit of Changsha itself.

If something once foreign like the chilli pepper can become part and parcel of Hunan identity, it's little surprise then, that instead of resisting change, Changsha can lay claim to being one of China's most open cities.

"The people of Hunan are just like its cuisine," said chef Duan. "Full of passion and warmth. Welcome to Hunan, China. We are a very inclusive region."

Three great Hunan escapes

All within reach from Changsha, these places are well worth the trip

Zhangjiajie

The dramatic scenery here inspired the sci-fi epic *Avatar*, and must be seen to be believed. Dare you tread across the glass-bottomed Grand Canyon Bridge or ride one of the world's longest alpine cableways? **4-5 hours from central Changsha**

Furong Ancient Town

A roaring waterfall lies at the heart of this ancient town that's easily one of Hunan's most photogenic escapes. Pro tip: look for the pathway that allows you to walk behind the waterfall. **5-6 hours from central Changsha**

Fenghuang Ancient Town

Lantern-lit stilt houses and bridges reflected upon the shimmering Tuojiang River make this town feel like a flight of fantasy. It's no wonder the place was named after the mythological Chinese phoenix. **5-8 hours from central Changsha**

IMAGE COURTESY OF CMYK (INTERIOR SHOT)



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UR-MU: The pulse of Kuala Lumpur's contemporary art

Discover **UR-MU (Urban Museum)**, pioneering private contemporary art museums breathing new life into repurposed buildings across downtown Kuala Lumpur.

This trio of museums offers a layered reflection on identity, heritage and modern life. The first branch, **UR-MU @ Bukit Bintang**, is housed in a restored 1950s

modernist building featuring the founder's eclectic personal collection. Its newest space, **NX**, serves as a dynamic hub for rotating exhibitions and features new acquisitions including *Maneater*, a hanging hybrid sculpture. **UR-MU @ Toffee (Raja Chulan)** offers a two-level experience interrogating modernist art and social and political commentary, while **+n by UR-MU** serves as a

dedicated space for subversive discourse exploring political resistance through the "Strategies of Dissent" exhibition.

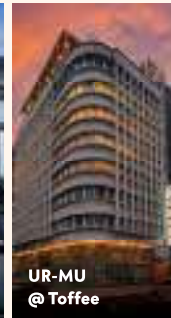
Visit ur-mu.com to explore UR-MU's exhibitions and cultural offerings.



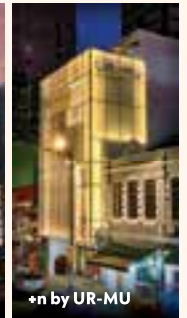
Maneater (2026) at NX @ UR-MU Bukit Bintang



UR-MU @ Bukit Bintang



UR-MU @ Toffee



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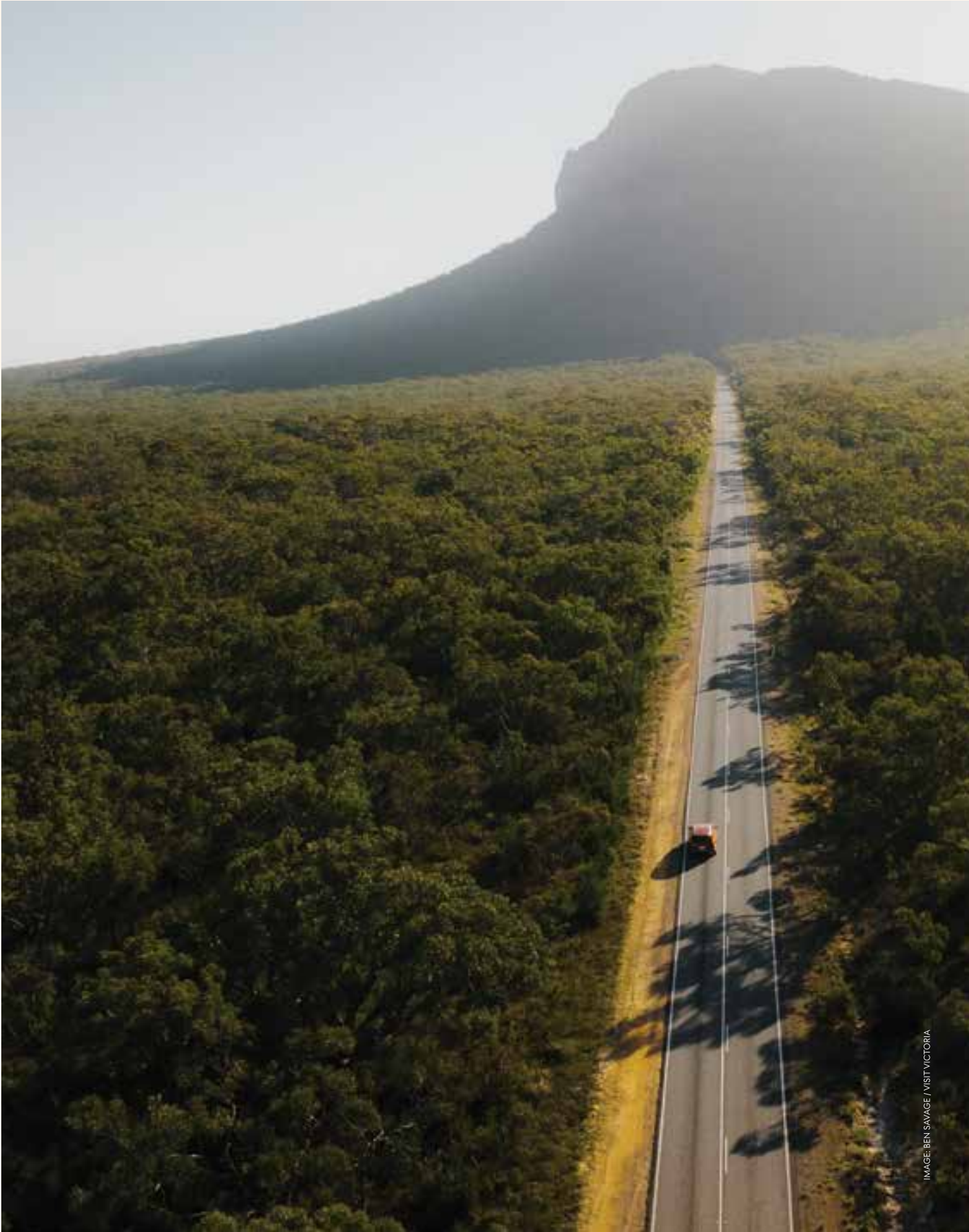
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An aerial photograph of a vast, dense green forest covering a valley. In the background, a range of mountains is visible under a hazy, overcast sky. The overall tone is natural and serene.

A

Victorian

road

Australia's most liveable city is just the beginning. Venture beyond **Melbourne** and the surprises keep coming

Words **Catherine Boucher**

trip

A rush of warmth envelops my back as gas hisses and the balloon slowly rises.



Peering over the edge of the basket, I take in the sprawling city below. Riders cycle alongside the snaking, espresso-hued Yarra River. Trams trundle to and fro, the ding of their bells drifting up from the streets. Sporting shrines synonymous with the metropolis pass below in a patchwork of manicured green.

Melbourne is one of few major global cities you can fly over in a hot air balloon, and my ride with Global Ballooning gives a gentle introduction to the land: a sprawling coastal city threaded by the Yarra, ringed by bayside suburbs, and within striking distance of some of Victoria's finest regional destinations. Once my feet are back on solid ground, it's time to trade the panoramic view for a more intimate look at what makes this city tick.

In Melbourne, the fastest way to the city's heart is through its stomach, and options abound at all price points. South Melbourne Market, the city's oldest operating market, is a haven for food lovers, and a 90-minute guided tour with Flavourhood delivers some of the country's best seafood, new cheeses and Spanish pastries straight from the oven.

Tucked among the mature elms of the Fitzroy Gardens, a short tram ride east of the city centre, is Yiaga, meaning "to seek and find" in the local Woi wurrung language

of the Wurundjeri people. The restaurant entrance, covered in 13,000 handmade tiles to mimic the bark from surrounding trees, leads into a quiet antechamber that hints at the elevated journey ahead. Within months of opening in October 2025, the restaurant was awarded three hats – the country's highest culinary honours – recognising chef Hugh Allen's extraordinary talent and vision.

The kitchen champions local Australian produce and native ingredients on an ever-evolving menu. I'm guided through a 12-course degustation that surprises and delights at every turn. Non-alcoholic pairings are given an impressive level of consideration, made daily by chefs (my chilled infusion of brioche and Granny Smith apple is sublime). Be prepared and book three months ahead to partake in the experience.

That evening, I retreat to my city base and prepare for the next chapter: exploring regional Victoria for its coastal experiences, grounding hot springs, impressive gardens and creative artisans.

Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula

I hit the road early for Geelong, Victoria's second-largest city and an underrated gem. It's an hour's drive southwest of Melbourne, or a scenic ferry crossing with Port Phillip





Clockwise from left:
Hot air ballooning over Melbourne with Global Ballooning; Yiaga's kitchens; a kangaroo and maitake dish at Yiaga; South Melbourne Market; oysters at Aptus Seafood, South Melbourne Market

Previous spread:
A scenic view of the Grampians, a nature reserve in Victoria



“

Melbourne is one of few major global cities you can fly over in a hot air balloon”







“

An hour south of Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula is the city's playground: a picturesque escape rich in natural beauty, history and bespoke artisans”



Opposite page:
Rare Hare Wine &
Food Store

From top: The House
of Jack Rabbit, a café
and wine tasting
venue; Peninsula Hot
Springs' hilltop pool

Ferries between Docklands and the seaside town of Portarlington.

The region is renowned for its quality producers and the most unique way to experience their wares is aboard the Q Train, with its restored carriages that rock gently along the Bellarine Railway. I spot the train from the car window and make a mental note to book its award-winning five-course degustation on my next visit.

All is not lost on the food front. Pulling up at Jack Rabbit vineyard, I'm tempted by the smell of fish and chips drifting from the café but opt instead for their fine dining restaurant. I am amply rewarded when dishes so fresh they could leap from the table emerge from the kitchen. I linger over empty plates, gazing at the sparkling water beyond.

I am bathed in sunlight as I board the Portarlington Mussel Tours boat, *Valerie*. Grateful for calm seas, I get a hands-on lesson in mussel farming and the area's history. It must be said: the taste of plump mussels eaten straight from the ocean is incredible.

Mornington Peninsula

An hour south of Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula is the city's playground: a picturesque escape rich in natural beauty, history and bespoke artisans. It's the artisans that lure me here first. I blend scents that sound good enough to eat – chocolate, coconut, lime – during a candle-making workshop at Red Hill Candle Co. While the candle sets, I pop down the road to Red Hill Lavender Farm to indulge in lavender scones and ice cream in stunning gardens. Fortunately, I got here just in time before their seasonal closure from May to September, when they tend to their fields before reopening in Spring.

I then experience artistry on a grander scale at Pt Leo Estate, home to Australia's foremost privately owned Sculpture Park. I wander around the outdoor gallery, marvelling at works by KAWS, Yayoi Kusama and dozens of other artists. All that creativity works up an appetite, and the menu at Rare Hare in Jackalope Hotel more than hits the spot. Hot tip: their woodfired chocolate chip cookie is even better than it sounds.

An afternoon of relaxation follows. Peninsula Hot Springs offers a bracing fire and ice workshop. Stepping into the sauna for the first time, I feel as though my breath has momentarily left my body,



Clockwise from left:
 KAWS sculpture at Pt Leo Estate, Mornington Peninsula; Chancery Lane in Bendigo; The Vintage Talking Tram by Bendigo Tramways; Portarlington Mussel Tours

Handpicked retreats

Why rush back? These premium stays turn a day trip into a decadent getaway



1 Hotel Melbourne
 Michelin Key-awarded and sustainability-focused, this beautifully restored heritage shed on the Yarra waterfront offers river-view rooms, a wellness spa and an ingredient-first restaurant. 1hotels.com



Lon Retreat & Spa
 An adults-only retreat with seven individually designed suites, an award-winning mineral spa and 250 acres of conservation land on the Bellarine Peninsula. lonretreat.com.au



Peninsula Hot Springs
 Eco lodges and glamping tents with private geothermal baths, nestled within the award-winning hot springs and wellness destination on the Mornington Peninsula. peninsulahotsprings.com



Hotel Ernest
 Ten art-filled suites in a heritage building in the heart of Bendigo, with hatted restaurant Terrae serving a seasonal menu straight from the hotel's own farm. hotelbendigo.com.au



“

The Vintage Talking Tram Tour is the perfect introduction to this goldrush city, with tales unspooling as the tram trundles past impressive buildings and manicured gardens”

before being instantly calmed by our guide Jodie. “You’re here to build your health, happiness and strength,” she says. Emerging more invigorated than I’ve ever felt in years, I concur wholeheartedly.

Directly across the road, the newer Alba Thermal Springs and Spa is too good to skip. From a private pool on The Terrace, I catch the technicolour sunset accompanied by birdsong. Dinner at the in-house restaurant Thyme is the perfect punctuation to a day of pure serenity.

Bendigo

Bendigo, Australia’s first Unesco Region of Gastronomy, lies under two hours northwest of Melbourne, or a breezy 90-minute train ride from Southern Cross Station. Either way, the journey is worth every minute.

The Vintage Talking Tram Tour is the perfect introduction to this goldrush city, with tales unspooling as the tram trundles past impressive buildings and manicured gardens. I stop for tea at Peppergreen Farm, a social enterprise on the site of historic Chinese market gardens, before continuing to Lake Weeroona, where a shaded deck table at Whitby café makes for an early lunch with a side of waterside people-watching.

A post-lunch stroll through Chancery Lane and the Bendigo Visitor Centre showcases the local creative spirit and illuminates the area’s Aboriginal history. And the day culminates at Langley Estate, where an organ performance, a delectable high tea and a property tour sum up Bendigo’s particular magic: a living history lovingly kept.



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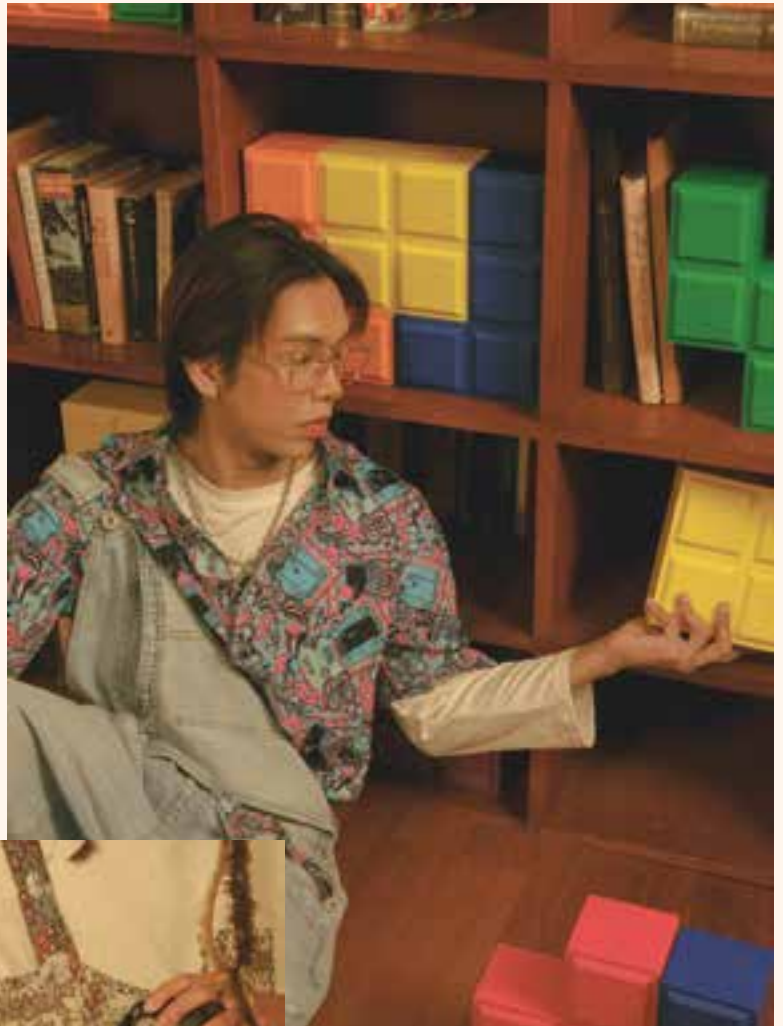
Inspired by one of gaming's most defining titles, Kapten Batik transforms childhood nostalgia into contemporary Malaysian craftsmanship

There are games you play, and then there are games you carry with you. For an entire generation, Tetris® was the latter: a deceptively simple puzzle of falling blocks that quietly became the rhythm of countless childhoods. Now, that childhood staple finds an unexpected new home: woven into the motifs of one of Malaysia's most celebrated batik labels.

Kapten Batik x Tetris™ is the brand's first-ever cross-border collection, and it arrives with quiet confidence. The premise is straightforward yet resonant: both Tetris® and batik are built on the logic of the block. One arranges geometric shapes into satisfying order; the other assembles individual motif elements into something larger and more beautiful. The parallel is not forced; it simply fits.

The collection spans nine designs across Kapten Batik's signature series: the limitless-print Nusantara, the copper-stamped Masterpiece and the wooden-block crafted Maharaja, each reimagining Tetrimino shapes through a batik lens. Motifs developed by designers Syahirah and Sofeana bear names born from the crossover: Game On!, Bloom and Build, Daylight City, Urban Wildscape and Tetris City. A range of supporting accessories including T-shirts, tumblers and tote bags rounds out the collection.

Shot at Timestamps Studio, the campaign imagery places Tetriminos within a late '70s American-inspired interior, framing the familiar shapes as warm, domestic artefacts rather than digital relics. Less museum piece than a beloved object you might still find in a drawer somewhere, the visual world of the campaign feels as nostalgic as the collection itself.



From top: A game reimagined, one block at a time; Drawstring bag and tumbler from the accessories range

“

This collaboration is purely a tribute to the millennials who went through the Tetris® days of the early '90s”

- Fadli Muhsin, head of creative, Kapten Batik

Nostalgia, after all, is not about looking backwards. Some things, like the satisfying click of a piece finding its place and the slow build of a pattern from individual elements, never really go out of style. In bringing Tetris® into the language of batik, Kapten Batik has found a genuine point of connection between two forms of making that reward patience, craft and the quiet pleasure of things coming together.

Shop the Kapten Batik x Tetris™ collection now at all boutiques and online at kaptenbatik.com.my
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Where Malaysian creativity comes to life

In the heart of Kuala Lumpur, GMBB is where artists and artisans open their doors and their craft tables to you



Bukit Bintang is known for many things, but tucked along Jalan Robertson is a ten-storey building that does something the rest of the strip doesn't. At GMBB, the making never stops.

Where Kuala Lumpur's creatives and creators convene

As a creative community mall on Jalan Robertson, in Bukit Bintang, GMBB contains more than 100 artists, artisans and independent creatives, with galleries, studios and shops stacked close to each other. Each floor opens onto something different, and the whole building thrums with the everyday business of making.

Wander in with no fixed plan and let the place pull you along; with installations and exhibitions that are constantly changing, no two visits are ever the same.

Art-filled discoveries

Begin with the galleries, which roam freely across fine art, craft, new media and pop culture. A single afternoon might take you from a thoughtful collection of paintings to an immersive new-media piece to an indigenous craft installation. Because the line-up, which draws from both local and international artists, is always shifting, there's a real pleasure in not knowing what



you'll find around the next corner.

It's refreshingly accessible; you don't need to know anything about art to enjoy it, just bring out your innate curiosity and be open to the experience.

Create with your own hands

The making here is open to everyone, with more than 40 on-demand workshops running daily and no experience required. Try your hand at batik painting, traditional shadow puppet making, beaded keepsake weaving on a loom, terrazzo decor-making, crafting a glowing lantern or pouring your own resin art.

The range spans generations of Malaysian craft with heritage techniques alongside playful modern forms, where a local artisan is always on hand to guide you through each step. There's something quietly joyful about losing an hour to a single, absorbing task. You may just walk away with a lifelong new hobby or a memorable, one-of-a-kind keepsake made by you.

Meet the makers

Many of GMBB's artisanal shops – independent bookstores, photography stores, indigenous crafts and design studios – are run by the makers themselves. Browse long enough and a casual chat soon becomes a story about how something was made, told by the hands that made it. Take your time over the shelves, ask where a piece came from, and the answers tend to arrive with warmth and pride. It's just that kind of place.

No starving artists here

When hunger or tired feet catch up with you, there's no need to head out. GMBB's cafés and family-run eateries offer plenty of delicious options, from local favourites to more adventurous flavours, all under the same roof. Getting there is easy too, with a ten-minute stroll from Bukit Bintang MRT, Plaza Rakyat LRT or Hang Tuah Monorail.

Come for the art, stay for the food and leave wondering when you can return.

GMBB is at 2 Jalan Robertson, Bukit Bintang. Open daily from 11am to 8pm. Admission is free. Visit gmbb.com.my or follow [@gmbb.kl](https://www.instagram.com/gmbb.kl) to find out more.





Personal effects

Words **Tara FT Sering**



The ultimate luxury escape? Experiencing a place through the memories, aspirations and vision of a design-minded, hands-on hotelier. Two passion projects – in Penang and in Maebashi, Japan – prove our point



“

As cultural artefacts, Penang’s clan houses are treasure chests heaving with stories, from the grand arcs that shaped society to the most intimate personal narratives of grit, ambition, family and belonging”

There's nothing like a hotel steeped in personal history and imbued with an outsized vision for the destination.

In Penang's capital city of George Town – a low-slung, coastal district of century-old buildings and snug, atmospheric streets – clan houses and jetties dot the Unesco-listed heritage district. From the 18th to the 20th century, hordes of young men left their villages in famine-ravaged China, arriving in Malaysia to seek better fortunes in ports, tin mines and rubber plantations. Finding kinship, they banded together in clan houses, each wave bringing the flavours and customs of a faraway home.

As cultural artefacts, the clan houses are treasure chests heaving with stories, from the grand arcs that shaped society to the most intimate personal narratives of grit, ambition, family and belonging. As local attractions, they are rabbit holes into the colourful, layered Peranakan culture.

This is exactly how the new Soori Penang on Lebuh Aceh Street – which runs parallel to the bustling Armenian Street – operates. The luxury boutique hotel is a 15-shophouse conversion conceived and designed by architect Soo K Chan, founder of Singapore-based SCDA. Located in an alley leading to the Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi – arguably the country's grandest, most ornate clan temple – its unbeatable location is only the beginning of its charms.

That it's a project close to its architect's heart is another. Chan was born in Penang and spent his earliest years in these shophouses. "They are quite atmospheric spaces," he says. "Long and narrow, with air wells that bring light and rain into the centre of the house. As a child, you become very aware of those sensory moments – reflections on the floor, sudden shafts of light entering from above." Rather than recreate a Peranakan shophouse to historical detail, his goal was to "preserve the spatial DNA of the shophouse".

The hotel has 13 guest suites, each one effectively the entire ground floor of a shophouse and a finely crafted sanctuary amid the downtown chaos. There's something temple-like in its calm, earthy palette; the elemental textures of wood, stone, fabric and water; the light pouring down the air well; and the soothing gurgle of an indoor fountain designed as a traditional stone rice grinder set in a shallow pebble pond.

Soori feels committed to the aesthetic of quiet luxury: alabaster double sinks, Byredo bath products, bespoke furniture and all that space. But it also inspires deeper musings on home as refuge and community as safe haven. By the end of the 19th century, the Khoo clan had become the wealthiest and most powerful Chinese clan in Malaysia. For the multitudes in Southeast Asia who trace their roots to this period of the Chinese diaspora, the world of Soori and the Khoo Kongsi ignite this imagination.

Soori isn't a portal to a gilded past but an experience that tells the story of modern Penang. The restaurant's menu, for instance, features a curated list of classic dishes from long-standing neighbourhood shops that Chan personally endorses.

"What I particularly enjoy is the experience after hours," he says. "When the crowds have gone, the Khoo Kongsi courtyard becomes very quiet. Guests are able to experience that moment in a way that most visitors never do."

Previous spread:
Shiroiya Hotel; inside Soori Penang's guest suite, featuring a calming indoor fountain and a light-filled airwell

Left: Soori's graceful façade along the alley that leads to Khoo Kongsi temple, open to the public from 9am to 5pm

BOUTIQUE STAYS







IMAGES SHINYA KIGURE, SHOKO TAKAYASU, KATSUMASA TANAKA (SHIROIYA HOTEL)

Previous spread, clockwise from right: Shiroiya the Lounge; a guest room adorned with minä perhonen textiles; Gunma Prefecture's seasonal offerings at Shiroiya the Restaurant; Soori Penang's lounge and wine bar, with cheeky art from Soo K Chan's personal collection

Left page, from top: Soori's al fresco Courtyard Restaurant and main entrance; Shiroiya's airy, industrial-chic atrium

ACROSS THE CONTINENT, A SIMILAR VISION IS TAKING SHAPE IN JAPAN.

Two hours outside Tokyo, the once-sleepy city of Maebashi has become a hub of international art, architecture, design and food. At the centre of it all is the five-year-old Shiroiya Hotel.

The 25-key hotel is a collaborative piece of art, with a backstory that's the stuff of feel-good cinema. Once an Edo-era ryokan, it was an important social hub for 300 years, welcoming a parade of notable artists, writers, celebrities and generals. In 1978 it became a hotel, but by the time it closed in 2008, much of the city's downtown core was in significant decline, its high street marked by shuttered storefronts and abandoned buildings.

Shortly after the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, a group of concerned citizens – artists and creatives worried that big developers would swoop in and build soulless complexes – reached out to Maebashi native and JINS eyewear founder Hitoshi Tanaka.

Initially skeptical – he was a retail entrepreneur, not a hotelier – Tanaka bought the property in 2014 anyway. When no hotel operators would come on board, he decided to do it himself as a personally funded passion project, calling on a vast network of people whose work he admired.

He enlisted architect Sou Fujimoto, known for striking designs including Expo 2025 Osaka's spectacular Grand Ring, who renovated the original Heritage Tower and built a new eight-room tower alongside it.

"It was that sunlight coming through the rawly exposed beams and pillars of the four-storey atrium that first inspired me," says Fujimoto on the Shiroiya website. Later, the finished look surprised him. "Adding plants and furniture transformed the space into something much more profound. We built bridges and stairs to make it feel like walking around the city in three dimensions. It's both an interior and an architectural space, but it looks more like an urban square than just an atrium."

The sense of happy discovery and creative chemistry are characteristic of how Shiroiya was made. A casual visit by Argentinian artist Leandro Erlich, who saw the old building being gutted, led him to create a tone-setting lighting installation in the lobby. Guest rooms have been crafted as collaborations with designers Jasper Morrison and Michele De Lucchi. Shiroiya the Restaurant, helmed by head chef Hiro Kitayama, spotlights produce sourced from Gunma Prefecture and has been listed in the Gault&Millau guide for five consecutive years.

Both hotel and city have become an evolving creative project, attracting even more acclaimed talent – among them architect Keiji Ashizawa, who designed the hotel's Blue Bottle Coffee outlet, and Yuko Nagayama, behind the JINS Park retail store and community space.

Now, Maebashi is drawing visitors from far and wide. "When we started, a lot of people came for Shiroiya Hotel as a destination," says general manager Masaki Hiriguchi. "But these past two years, more people come for Maebashi. Apart from galleries and museums, you can find the lexicon of architecture here in the many interesting buildings by famous architects."

The hotel also organises experiences for guests: visits to a nearby 150-year-old kimono workshop or private curator-guided tours of the Hara Museum ARC 30 minutes away, which houses original vintage Yayoi Kusama.

Although the city has become primarily an art destination, dining is a big part of the appeal. "When you go to bars or restaurants, you get to meet the locals. That's the interesting part about visiting Maebashi today," adds Hiriguchi.

From the beginning, the city has been guided by a vision captured in the phrase *Mebuku* – Japanese for "to sprout" – or, where good things grow. The story of Shiroiya is proof that if you grow it, good will come.

Mark your calendars

August in Penang. Time your visit from 1–9 August for the George Town Festival, an annual extravaganza of art and culture celebrating the city's World Heritage inscription.
georgetownfestival.com

September in Maebashi. The Maebashi Biennale, chaired by Hitoshi Tanaka, will debut this year, running from 19 September to 20 December. Expect the art world to congregate here for exhibitions, walking tours and community gatherings.
maebashi-biennale.com



Malaysia Airlines flies between Kuala Lumpur and Penang 45x weekly and to Tokyo 14x weekly.



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WHY SELANGOR



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DOSM



> 4 Million
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(Skilled & Multilingual),
DOSM (2024)



> 1,900,000
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Lloyd's List (2025)



2
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READ THE ROOM

Studies suggest that up to 70% of cross-border deals underperform. If the numbers work but the arrangement fails, the issue may be cultural, not commercial

WORDS ROSE WINTER ILLUSTRATIONS JILL TRAN





A

fter leaving my career to become a freelance writer (an audacious move, with just one commission in hand), I entered a season of collecting “how to do life” books. My shelves quickly amassed self-improvement manuals, each titled by single, untranslatable nouns. The

Japanese concept of *ikigai* promised to affirm my purpose in writing, and the Swedish *hygge* justified buying candles I couldn’t afford.

When I picked up *The Power of Nunchi*, by Euny Hong, I gained insight into something far more strategic. *Nunchi*, a Korean concept often translated as “eye-measure”, is the ability to read a room in seconds – to register hierarchy, mood, alliances and tension. It’s an astute calibration of perception, challenging Western ideas that equate power with charisma. It asserts that what happens around the meeting matters more than the meeting itself, as opposed to Western “success” culture, which tends to worship the cult of personality.

THE POWER OF OBSERVATION

In some corners of the world, arriving with the strongest opinion signals confidence; think an erratic billionaire live-tweeting market-moving impulses at 2am. We obsess over these personae and often strive to emulate them, believing that spectacle and unconventionality are a good strategy. But *nunchi* suggests the opposite: that the person who observes first often wins later.

South Korea’s ascent in international business, from Samsung’s scale to the global reach of “K”-everything, illustrates the point. The nation’s industrial strategy and innovation is now widely respected, but, during the Joseon period of 1392–1897, the West considered it the “Hermit Kingdom” – a Confucian society shaped by boundary-keeping. Later forced open by imperial powers, colonised by Japan, divided by war and perpetually positioned between geopolitical giants, attentiveness became survival. Euny Hong argues that South Korea’s situational intelligence became a national asset.

LESSONS IN PHILOSOPHY

Culture is strategy, and understanding unspoken dynamics can be as valuable as possessing technical expertise. In Japan, the governing instinct is *wa* (“harmony”). Consensus is often built through *nemawashi* – informal groundwork laid before any formal presentation. By the time a meeting takes place, the decision has frequently been shaped privately. Arriving in Tokyo with a fully formed strategy but no prior alignment can leave you with little more than courteous nods and zero traction. This aversion to open friction is risk management, and underpins the approach taken by companies such as Toyota, which has been studied globally for its efficiency and resilience.





‘Cultural intelligence is the new due diligence. Just pay attention’

The UAE, meanwhile, is home to over 40 free zones and more than 200 nationalities, with business built almost entirely on cross-cultural negotiation. The Arabic term *wasta* is often reduced to “favouritism”, but in practice it’s closer to visible social capital. In an ecosystem built on sovereign wealth, family conglomerates and joint ventures, reputation travels faster than a contract, so a well-placed introduction can remove the need for months of market-entry strategy. Relationships are the transaction, and “cutting to the chase” could signal impatience and instead cut you out of a deal. Dubai’s extraordinary capacity for reinvention, from desert entrepôt to global innovation nexus, rests on enduring networks that survive sector pivots. *Wasta* is deeply cultural and powers one of the world’s most futuristic skylines.

In Nairobi, the Swahili term *harambee* (“all pull together”) positions success as collective, and the entrepreneurial ecosystems in East Africa’s commercial centre, from mobile banking to agritech, thrive on collaboration. M-PESA, Kenya’s pioneering money-transfer platform, is an example of this, driven as it is by grass-roots adoption and community networks.

Over in Europe, start-up tech hub Lisbon has its own cultural code. Shaped by Portugal’s maritime past and subsequent contraction, *saudade* signals a nostalgia for what has been lost. Silicon Valley bombast has little meaning in a culture where memory tempers ambition, so pitch decks heavy on disruptive rhetoric may not land as they would in Palo Alto.

PAY ATTENTION TO GET PAID

Peter Drucker’s oft-quoted line “culture eats strategy for breakfast” still rings true today. Given a few clever prompts, AI can draft a decent business strategy in minutes, but misreading cultural cues risks a slow erosion of trust that could derail a deal.

Reducing cultural concepts to etiquette tips (wait your turn in Seoul, accept coffee in Dubai) trivialises the point. For the business traveller, cultural intelligence is the new due diligence. It doesn’t require fluency in five languages; just pay attention.

Global business may often be conducted in English and denominated in pounds and dollars, but it’s dictated by untranslatable, yet decipherable, rules. Become an expert at reading those rooms, and you’ll be invited back. In any market, that’s the only metric that counts. **BT**

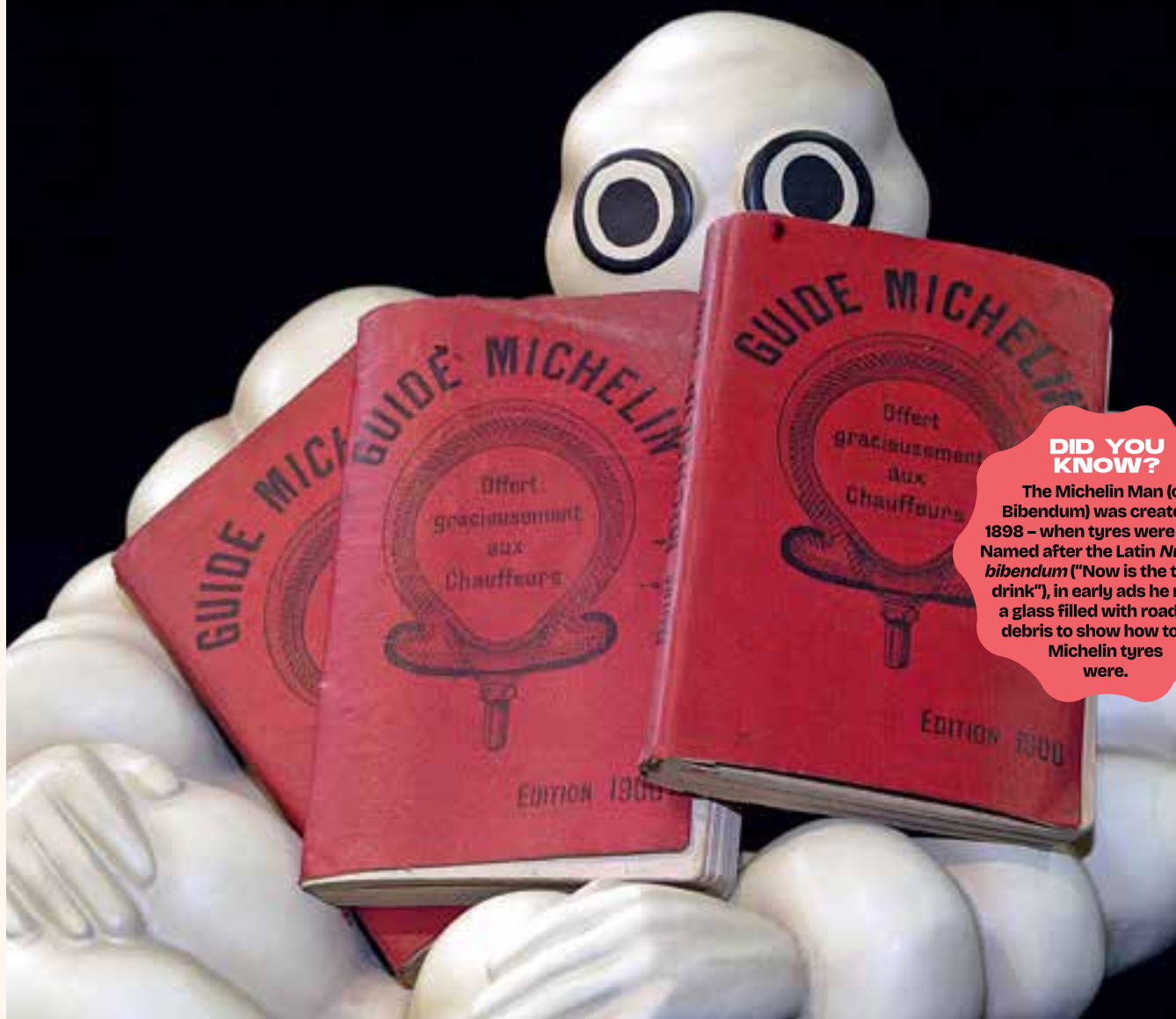
TOP TIPS TO MASTER THE ROOM

Keep these in mind for your next meeting

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1
ARRIVE to the meeting room early enough to understand who speaks to whom before the meeting begins.</p> <p>2
NOTICE who is never contradicted, and whether a disagreement is aired or deferred.</p> <p>3
DON'T conflate speed with efficiency, and avoid forcing immediate agreement. Ask instead, “Who else should weigh in?”</p> | <p>4
BUILD time for informal conversations – an unstructured dinner may be the best setting for a negotiation.</p> <p>5
LET silences linger or flowing conversations stretch, and watch who else watches. It’s astonishing how much information circulates through this alone.</p> <p>6
SEND follow-up notes that reinforce relationships rather than action points.</p> |
|---|--|

A STAR IS BORN

Michelin bestowed the first of its highly coveted awards a century ago



DID YOU KNOW?

The Michelin Man (or Bibendum) was created in 1898 – when tyres were white. Named after the Latin *Nunc est bibendum* ("Now is the time to drink"), in early ads he raises a glass filled with roadside debris to show how tough Michelin tyres were.

E

XACTLY 100 YEARS ago, hungry drivers making their way around France gained a new tool to help them decide where to eat: Michelin stars.

The *Michelin Guide* itself was already long established, having first been published in 1900 by tyre manufacturers André and Édouard Michelin in the small French town of Clermont-Ferrand.

Their inspired marketing idea saw them distribute 35,000 free copies of the compact red handbook to motorists, with roadside information including maps and repair tips, plus details of mechanics, hotels and restaurants across France. The goal was to encourage drivers to spend longer behind the wheel – and therefore wear out their tyres more quickly.

The idea quickly gained traction, as dining establishments reaped the benefits of recognition. The brothers leaned into the success, introducing anonymous reviewers, and in 1926 the first Michelin stars appeared in the guide, highlighting 46 notable French fine-dining establishments.

The now-familiar hierarchy of one, two, and three stars was later introduced in 1931, while 1936 saw Michelin publish the criteria for its rankings, which remain to this day: One star denotes “High-quality cooking, worth a stop”; two spotlight “Excellent cooking, worth a detour”; and three are reserved for “Exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey”.

Today, the *Michelin Guide* covers 28 titles in more than 25 countries. From Rio de Janeiro to Tokyo, San Francisco to Stockholm, it remains the undisputed arbiter of global gastronomic excellence.

Whether highlighting stalls in Singapore hawker markets or praising extravagant Parisian dining rooms, Michelin stars have turned restaurants around the world into sites of culinary pilgrimage.

For those in the fine-dining industry, the stakes are enormous. Almost overnight, the awarding of a star can impact reservations, menu prices and the ability to attract and retain staff. The drama is captured in *Knife Edge: Chasing Michelin Stars*, the eight-episode docuseries produced by Studio Ramsay Global (yes, *that* Ramsay) and hosted by Jesse Burgess, co-founder and presenter of *TopJaw*, an Instagram sensation that consists of snappy interviews with culinary and cultural figures about their favourite places to dine.



ABOVE
Joël Robuchon
BELOW
André and Édouard Michelin



Knife Edge visits cities including Los Angeles, London and Mexico City, tracking chefs as they seek, keep and even lose their Michelin stars. Openly emotional and beautifully shot, it shows the stress and skill involved in cooking at the highest level to meet Michelin's exacting standards.

Offering insight into the mechanics of Michelin stardom, the show's credibility comes from a rigorous inspection process, judging restaurants on five criteria: quality of ingredients, mastery of flavour and cooking technique, personality of the chef in their cuisine, value for money and consistency between visits.

Michelin highlights

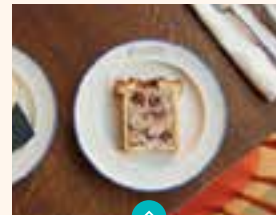
Which city comes out on top? Tokyo has the most Michelin-starred restaurants, followed by Paris and Kyoto. Hong Kong is also renowned for its Michelin-garlanded dining landscape, with Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong holding seven stars across French, Cantonese and Italian cuisines.

The hotel's general manager, Charles Fisher, says, "There is this almost intangible benefit where people associate that if you have seven stars under one roof, this is a hotel that exudes quality and is focused on excellence."

While Michelin stars are awarded to restaurants, the prestige is often attributed to chefs. The late Joël Robuchon holds the record for the most Michelin stars, peaking at 31 across his global restaurant empire.

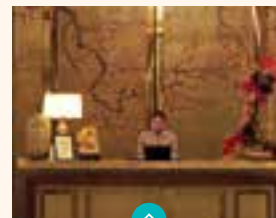
WORTH
A STOP

Three global spots
on our culinary radar



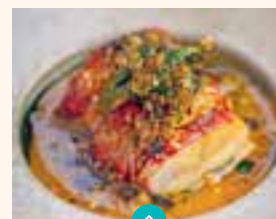
BAVETTE, LEEDS

Bavette already has a Bib Gourmand – a Michelin designation recognising “high-quality food at great value” – but many have tipped chef Sandy Jarvis’s relaxed neighbourhood French bistro for greater accolades.



CANTON ROAD, MANILA

Manila’s dining scene is white-hot, and a recently launched regional *Michelin Guide* confirms it. Head to Canton Road at Shangri-La at The Fort for enticing contemporary Cantonese, especially the Guangdong fire-roasted duck.



VRAIC, GUERNSEY

Thanks to Vraic, the Channel Island of Guernsey recently claimed its first-ever Michelin star in more than a decade. Chef Nathan Davies focuses on exceptional local seafood cooked on a Basque-style fire grill, all in a sublime coastal setting.



‘Jay Fai suggested she wanted to return her star, due to the influx of visitors – and tax officials’

In the UK, Tommy Banks became the youngest-ever chef to win a Michelin star, at just 24, for The Black Swan in Oldstead, Yorkshire. He also holds a star for his restaurant Roots, in York.

Speaking on the subject of Michelin stars, Banks says, “It’s a testament to how relevant it is, at a time when everything’s available on social media, that Michelin still means a lot. Chefs really care about it. ‘Michelin-starred chef’ gives you a lot of clout and relevance.”

Banks also holds a third Michelin accolade, in the form of a Green star, reflecting The Black Swan’s efforts to either grow or forage the majority of its ingredients.

Michelin introduced the Green star in 2020, as a way of recognising restaurants at the forefront of sustainable gastronomy. It was seen by many as an effort to resonate with a younger dining public, especially in the wake of competition such as The World’s 50 Best Restaurants. Frankfurt’s Seven Swans became the first vegan restaurant to receive a Michelin star, in 2020.

Michelin mishaps

The *Michelin Guide* and its stars have, however, raised eyebrows over the years. Some have said that the award perpetuates a Francocentric approach to dining, led by tweezers and never-ending tasting menus.



Others were up in arms when Michelin awarded stars to food stalls, such as Hawker Chan, in Singapore, for its £3 soy-sauce chicken, or crab-omelette icon Jay Fai, in Bangkok.

Jay Fai even suggested she wanted to return her star, due to the influx of visitors – and tax officials – to her stall. She is not the first chef to have reacted negatively to the pressures a Michelin award can bring. Marco Pierre White “gave back” his stars upon retiring, in 1999, while, in 2019, chef Marc Veyrat sued Michelin after they took his third star away. (The court ruled against him.)

But, 100 years on from awarding its first star, the *Michelin Guide* is arguably more important than ever. In an incessantly digital world, with opinions offered at every turn, the little red book still carries serious clout. **BT**

FROM TOP
Jai Fai;
Tommy
Banks

OPINION

MAKING THE ESSENTIAL ACCESSIBLE

At the heart of medicine accessibility is a commitment to better patient care

BEHIND EVERY medicine is a vast network of people working tirelessly to ensure it reaches those who need it.

For more than three decades, Pharmaniaga has been a part of Malaysia's healthcare ecosystem, supporting the nation's healthcare needs through pharmaceutical manufacturing, logistics and distribution as well as research and development.

Strengthening medicine security

Building local capabilities in manufacturing, logistics and pharmaceutical

innovation plays an increasingly important role in strengthening long-term healthcare resilience.

Operating across the healthcare value chain, Pharmaniaga provides a wide range of pharmaceutical products through its state-of-the-art Halal-certified manufacturing facilities, including capabilities to manufacture insulin, vaccines and biosimilars.

"Healthcare security begins with medicine security. The ability to produce essential medicines locally enhances preparedness and helps ensure continuity of supply when

it matters most," says Pharmaniaga Managing Director Dato' Zulkifli Jafar.

Delivering beyond the last mile

Manufacturing medicines is only one part of the equation. Delivering to the people who need them is equally important.

From major urban centres to remote and hard-to-reach communities, Pharmaniaga's extensive logistics and distribution network serves thousands of healthcare facilities, helping to provide reliable access to medicines and continuity of care across the country.



HOW PHARMANIAGA DRIVES ACCESS

Local Manufacturing
Four manufacturing facilities, producing medicines to global standards

Skilled Workforce
Over 200 scientific and technical professionals driving innovation in R&D

Nationwide Distribution
Over 250 vehicles and 14 strategic warehouses supplying nearly 9,000 institutions

Medicine Security
Enhancing local capabilities to strengthen long-term resilience

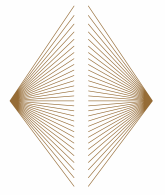
Every delivery is part of a broader commitment to supporting patient care, public health and community well-being.

Advancing healthcare resilience

Looking ahead, Pharmaniaga remains focused on strengthening healthcare resilience and expanding access to quality medicines, while deepening its presence in Indonesia and exploring opportunities across the ASEAN region.

One principle continues to guide Dato' Zulkifli, "Ultimately, medicine security is about people and ensuring every patient has reliable access to the medicines they need, when they need them."

As Malaysia continues to strengthen its healthcare ecosystem, Pharmaniaga remains committed to supporting a healthier and more resilient future for the nation and the region.



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Where the Skies Meet the SEA



Let Australia's finest cities broaden your horizons.

📍 Sydney

Home to one of the prettiest harbours in the world. Stroll from Circular Quay to the city's iconic Opera House, where white billowing sails rise against an open winter sky. Come July, the annual Bondi Festival fills the city's most famous coastline with art and music, while August brings the enchanting Sydney Cherry Blossom Festival to Auburn Botanic Gardens.

As the season turns and the air cools, locals and tourists alike flock to Australia's captivating shores. Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane each offer breathtaking waterfront views and a side of the city worth exploring at every turn.

Think harbour walks in the cool air, wandering down riverside precincts, exploring an inner-city beach, or taking a stroll down a windswept promenade.



📍 Brisbane

Cool, crisp, and full of surprises, the winter season in Brisbane holds great promise for those who love the outdoors. Explore the rugged trails of D'Aguilar National Park, catch the sunrise from the summit of Mount Coot-tha, and make your way to Kangaroo Point Cliffs for breathtaking views of the glittering Brisbane river.



📍 Melbourne

Follow the Yarra River into Southbank, where the cool season brings Melbourne's riverfront promenade to life with open-air dining, cosy laneway cafés, exquisite art galleries, and a celebrated culinary scene that rivals any city in the world. After a lazy riverside afternoon, make your way to Queen Victoria Market to enjoy the annual Winter Night Market, filled with artisan food stores, fresh local produce, and exciting live performances.



Discover Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane with Malaysian Hospitality.

Scan to book now or visit holidays.malaysiaairlines.com



+



Think holidays,
think **MH**olidays

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

113

**Onboard
entertainment**

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

Malaysia Airlines and Mumbai Indians take to the skies

Malaysia Airlines and Mumbai Indians have unveiled a new aircraft livery that brings one of cricket's most iconic franchises to the skies. Wrapped across an A330-300, the bold blue-and-gold design fuses the energy of Mumbai Indians with the warmth of Malaysian Hospitality, turning a commercial aircraft into a flying tribute to sport, culture and connection.

The collaboration marks a meaningful milestone in Malaysia Airlines' growing presence in India, reinforcing its commitment to connecting fans, passions and destinations across Asia and beyond.



Malaysia Airlines marks its 200th Boeing aircraft delivery

Malaysia Airlines has reached a landmark moment in history: the arrival of its 200th Boeing aircraft, a Boeing 737-8 now joining the carrier's expanding next-generation fleet.

The journey began in 1972 with the airline's first Boeing aircraft. More than five decades on, that relationship has spanned some of aviation's most iconic widebodies, with each aircraft representing a chapter of the airline's story – from the Boeing 747 and the Boeing 777 that once defined the airline's long-haul golden era to today's modern, fuel-efficient narrowbody fleet.

The latest addition, registered as 9M-MVR, completed a nearly 20-hour journey from Seattle to Kuala Lumpur International Airport with stops in Honolulu and Guam.

As part of MAG's fleet modernisation programme, the Boeing 737-8 brings improved fuel efficiency, greater reliability and an enhanced onboard experience to the airline's regional network.

With further deliveries scheduled through 2030, Malaysia Airlines is firmly on course, building a modern premium carrier ready to serve guests across Asia and beyond for decades to come.

Nurturing the next generation with MADANI School Adoption Programme

Malaysia Aviation Group is strengthening its community commitments through the government's MADANI School Adoption Programme, supporting SK Taman Pantai Sepang Putra in Sepang and SMK Dato' Syed Omar in Alor Setar.

Guided by its CSR pillars of Education, Humanity and Environment, MAG has introduced initiatives including leadership and soft skills training for teachers, career and motivational talks for more than 240 SPM students and the donation of over 30 desktop computers to enhance digital learning.

The impact is already evident, with SMK Dato' Syed Omar achieving its best SPM results in four years. MAG plans to expand its support through educational visits and continued teacher development programmes.





Seamless planning of meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions globally

MH corporate

EVENTS

From regional conferences to incentive trips, Malaysia Airlines helps organisations manage group travel to events across over 70 destinations. Experience elevated journeys with group fares, dedicated check-in services and our signature Malaysian Hospitality.



Tailored solutions for maritime and energy sector mobility

MH corporate

MARINE

Keep offshore personnel moving with benefits including preferential fares, additional baggage allowance for long-term assignments, priority privileges and Golden Lounge access, all delivered with the warmth of Malaysian Hospitality.

Your Gateway to Asia & Beyond 



Scan to learn more or visit malaysiaairlines.com/mhcorporate

For direct enquiries, kindly contact us at mhbiztravel@malaysiaairlines.com





Less fuel, more firsts: MAG's 2025 Sustainability Report in focus

Malaysia Aviation Group has released its 2025 Sustainability Report, and the numbers are worth paying attention to.

On the environmental side, MAG reduced more than 103,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions through fuel efficiency initiatives, achieving fuel savings of over 30,000 tonnes across its operations. The Group's fleet modernisation programme continues to gain momentum with the progressive introduction of next-generation aircraft, including the A330neo and Boeing 737-8, replacing older, less fuel-efficient models.

A notable milestone was also reached with MAG's first Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) uplift on the Kuala Lumpur-London route. Undertaken in collaboration with Petronas, this marks a significant step in the Group's decarbonisation journey.

The report equally highlights MAG's progress on people and governance. Women accounted for 51% of more than 1,000 new hires in 2025, reflecting the Group's commitment to workforce inclusion and its active efforts to encourage greater female participation in aviation and engineering careers.

On the governance front, MAG became the first Malaysian airline group to achieve ISO 37001 Anti-Bribery Management System certification, a recognition that underscores the Group's dedication to transparency, accountability and responsible business conduct.

Together, these milestones reflect a Group that is building sustainability into the core of its operations, positioning MAG as a more resilient and future-ready aviation organisation.

Malaysia Airlines takes its biggest trade summit to Sabah

Malaysia Airlines brought together over 300 delegates from 60 cities worldwide for the third edition of its Trade Elevation Summit (TES) 2026, hosted in Kota Kinabalu in collaboration with the Sabah Tourism Board.

The four-day summit served as a platform for global trade partners, tourism stakeholders and aviation leaders to forge stronger partnerships and explore new opportunities, all in support of Visit Malaysia 2026.

Delegates experienced Sabah at its finest: island activities at Manukan Island, sunset cruises, local culinary showcases and the MH Trade Elevation Cup golf tournament. It was a programme designed as much to inspire as

to engage, giving guests a genuine taste of what makes Sabah a compelling destination.

The summit concluded with an exclusive gala evening hosted by MAG's leadership team, featuring strategic updates and the presentation of the Golden Wau Awards, which recognised outstanding trade partners and collaborations from across the network.

As Malaysia's largest airline trade summit, TES continues to reinforce Malaysia Airlines' commitment to championing the country as a preferred global travel destination, and to strengthening the tourism and connectivity partnerships that make it all possible.



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





Nasi Beriani
Gam Ayam

Nasi Beriani
Gam Daging



A taste of Indonesia and Johor in the skies

Some of the most memorable parts of a journey are the flavours discovered along the way. This July and August, Malaysia Airlines invites guests to experience just that, with Indonesian-inspired dishes under its Best of Asia series and the rich culinary heritage of Johor featured in the Best of Malaysia.

Discover the flavours of Indonesia

Throughout July, guests travelling from Kuala Lumpur to London, Paris, Sabah, Sarawak and selected regional destinations can savour dishes inspired by Indonesia's vibrant food culture.

In Business Suite and Business Class, the Chicken Rica-Rica with Nasi Uduk is a highlight not to be missed. Tender chicken coated in spicy rica-rica sambal is layered with fragrant notes of chilli, garlic and herbs, while nasi uduk brings a creamy coconut aroma that balances the spice perfectly. Finished with fried cabbage for texture, it is a dish that captures the comfort and boldness of Indonesian home cooking in every bite.

In Economy Class, the Ikan Pepes Indonesia with steamed rice offers a lighter yet equally flavourful option. Fish is prepared in the traditional pepes style – infused with aromatic herbs, spices and sambal – accompanied by *oseng sayur pelangi*, a colourful stir-fried vegetable medley that rounds out the dish beautifully.

The Indonesian culinary journey continues in August for guests travelling from Kuala Lumpur to regional destinations, as well as to Australia and New Zealand. Business Class guests can look forward to Ikan Pepes Indonesia with Nasi Uduk, delicate fish prepared with fragrant herbs and spices, served alongside coconut-infused rice and fried cabbage for a meal that feels both wholesome and satisfying.

In Economy Class, the Chicken Rica-Rica with steamed rice brings bold sambal flavours together with comforting accompaniments for a hearty and memorable in-flight meal.

A tribute to Johor's culinary heritage

Closer to home, August also celebrates the culinary heritage of

From top: Chicken Rica-Rica with Nasi Uduk, Ikan Pepes Indonesia with Nasi Uduk, Ikan Pepes Indonesia with steamed rice, Chicken Rica-Rica with steamed rice

Johor through the Best of Malaysia menu, available on flights from Sabah and Sarawak to Kuala Lumpur.

In Business Class, the Nasi Beriani Gam Ayam combines fragrant basmati rice, aromatic *rempah* (spices) and tender chicken with refreshing *acar rampai* (a sweet-spicy vegetable pickle). It is a dish deeply rooted in Johor's culinary identity.

In Economy Class, the Nasi Beriani Gam Daging features slow-cooked beef infused with rich spices, served alongside fragrant beriani rice, bringing the flavour and comforting familiarity of a cherished Malaysian classic.

Together, these curated menus offer more than a meal in the skies. They provide a taste of cultures, traditions and stories that shape the region, bringing the flavours of home and beyond closer to every journey. Selamat menjamu selera!

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.



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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 **13** | 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 **38** | 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 **19** | 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**

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

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

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

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

NO-SMOKING & VAPING POLICY
Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes, is prohibited on all flights. Electronic cigarettes must be carried in carry-on baggage only. Recharging of the device in flight is not permitted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (KOTA KINABALU, KUCHING)



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Okinawa

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IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK (OKINAWA)



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to be directed to the home page



Step 3

Click on the "Go Online" tab
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Step 4

Click on the
"Connect" tab



Step 5

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

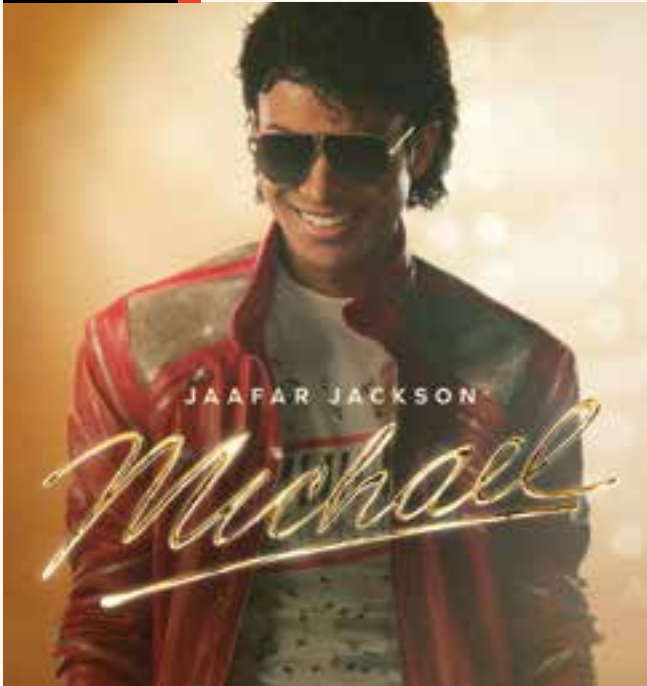


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HOLLYWOOD'S LATEST



Michael

A sweeping biopic chronicling the complicated life and career of Michael Jackson, from child stardom to his rise as the global King of Pop. It explores the extraordinary fame he achieved and the personal struggles that defined his legacy as a musical icon.



Desert Warrior

In 7th-century Arabia, a princess and a mysterious bandit team up to unite rival tribes against a ruthless, power-hungry emperor. Together, they navigate the treacherous desert landscape to secure their people's freedom and escape a forced royal marriage.

Project Hail Mary

An amnesiac scientist wakes up on a spacecraft as Earth's sole hope for survival, tasked with solving a cosmic threat to the sun. With the help of an unexpected alien ally, he must use his scientific ingenuity to save two civilisations from total extinction.



They Will Kill You

A young woman must survive The Virgil, a sadistic apartment complex filled with lethal traps and a demonic cult. This darkly comedic thriller follows her desperate fight to escape before becoming the cult's next sacrifice.



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Hollywood Favourite

Heads of State

The US President and UK Prime Minister must set aside their mutual loathing when an assassination plot thrusts them into a global chase. The rival world leaders race across international borders to expose a shadowy conspiracy that threatens the world order.

Hollywood Favourite



Hollywood Favourite

Don't Worry Darling

In a 1950s experimental community, a housewife suspects her husband's company is hiding disturbing secrets. As she digs deeper, her life unravels, revealing the dark truth behind her seemingly perfect life.



Hollywood Favourite

Interstellar

With Earth facing environmental collapse, a team of astronauts travels through a wormhole in search of a new home for humanity. Their journey pushes the limit of time and space, and the power of a father's love.

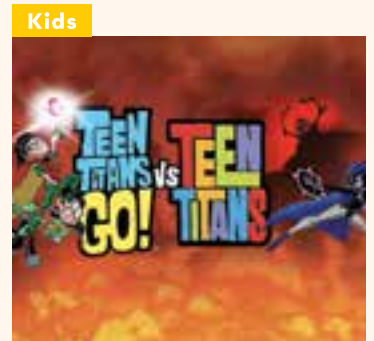
Hollywood Favourite

Juror #2

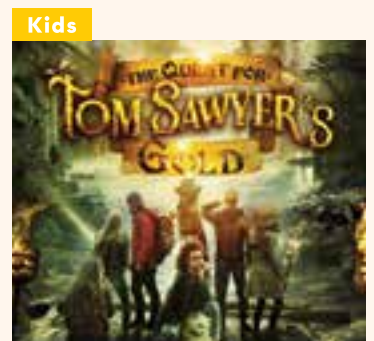
A family man serving on a high-profile murder jury realises he may be responsible for the victim's death. He faces a moral dilemma as he struggles to protect himself without sending an innocent man to prison.



Kids



Kids



Kids

FRIENDSHIP DAY SPECIAL

Kids

Hollywood Favourite

In the *Hitman's Bodyguard*, an elite protection agent is forced to keep alive a notorious hitman set to testify before the International Criminal Court. The mismatched duo must survive a relentless army of mercenaries before they reach The Hague.

Malay



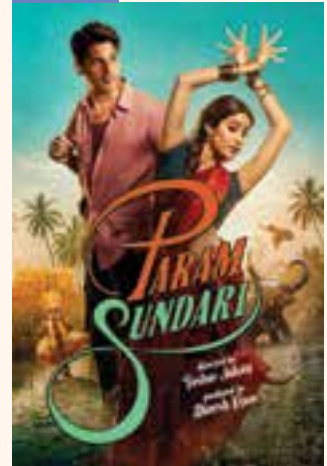
Cantonese



Mandarin



Hindi



Japanese



After an attack on the Prime Minister by a man protesting a disastrous crisis response, the Kintori special interrogation unit is called in for one last mission. As lead interrogator Yukiko Makabe probes the suspect's motive, a high-stakes "war of words" uncovers a shocking truth involving the Prime Minister himself.

Korean



The World of Love

Join, a 17-year-old student, navigates adolescence and hidden trauma while reclaiming her narrative. After an outburst causes chaos, she and her family confront past pain to shape a purposeful future.



War 2

When the legendary Agent Kabir goes rogue and is branded a traitor, the Indian government unleashes its deadliest operative, Agent Vikram, to take him down. What follows is an explosive, globe-trotting game of cat-and-mouse that pushes both men to their limits as they uncover a global conspiracy.

Tamil



Metro Kadhal

A chance encounter on a city metro sparks a tender, teasing bond between strangers Saran and Vinutha as they continue to cross paths. Their budding romance is tested when one suddenly disappears, leading to a search through a city of millions.



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Comedy



Drama



Kids



Malay



Showbiz



Hindi



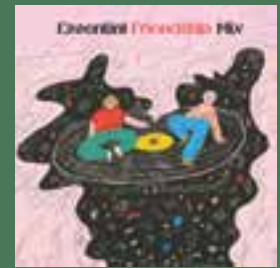
Tamil



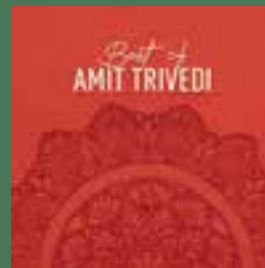
Hits



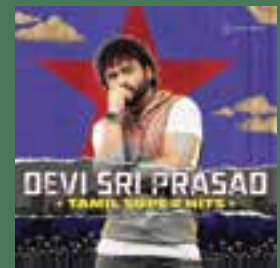
Memories



Hindi



Tamil



Kids



Korean



Cantonese



Malay



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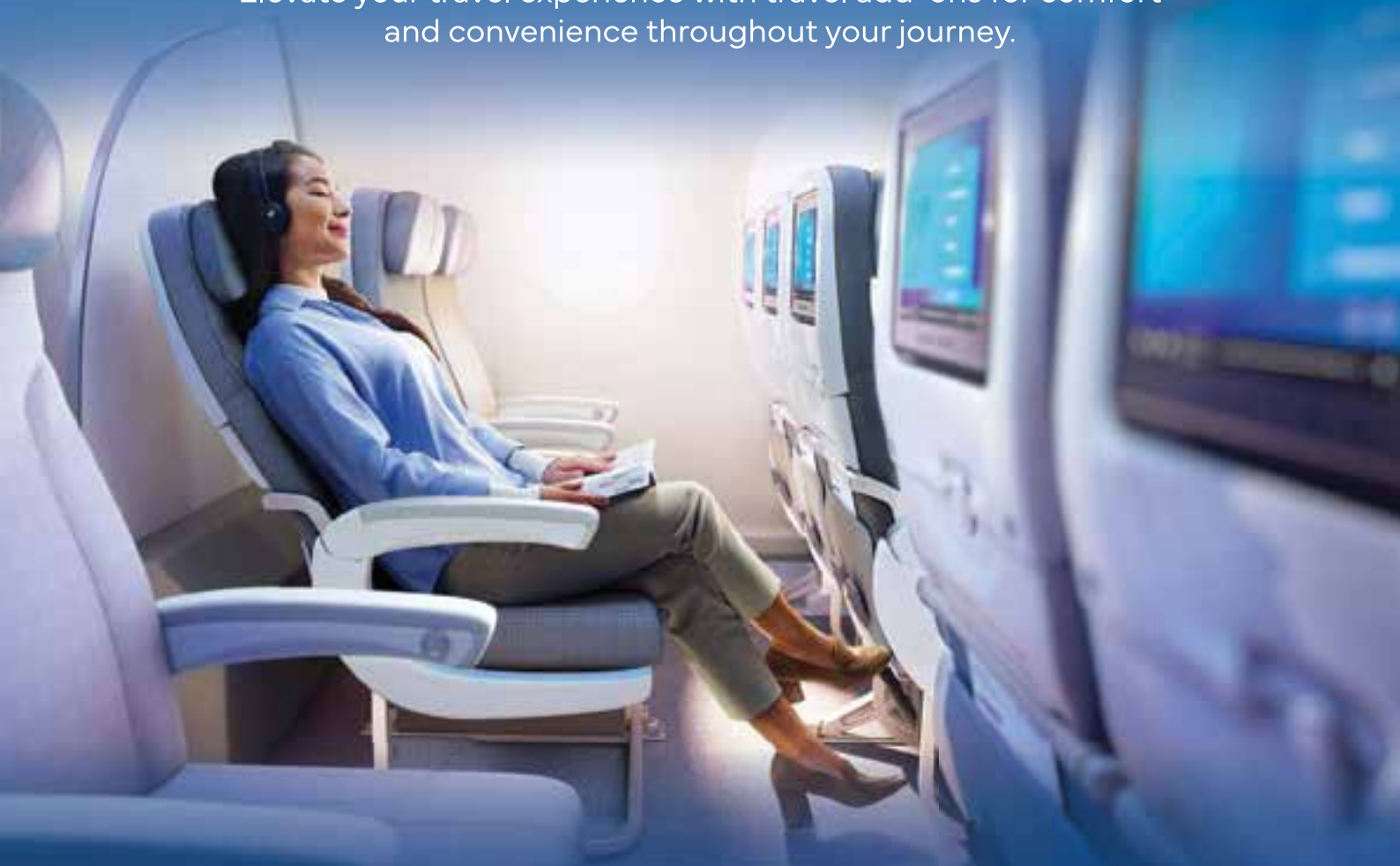
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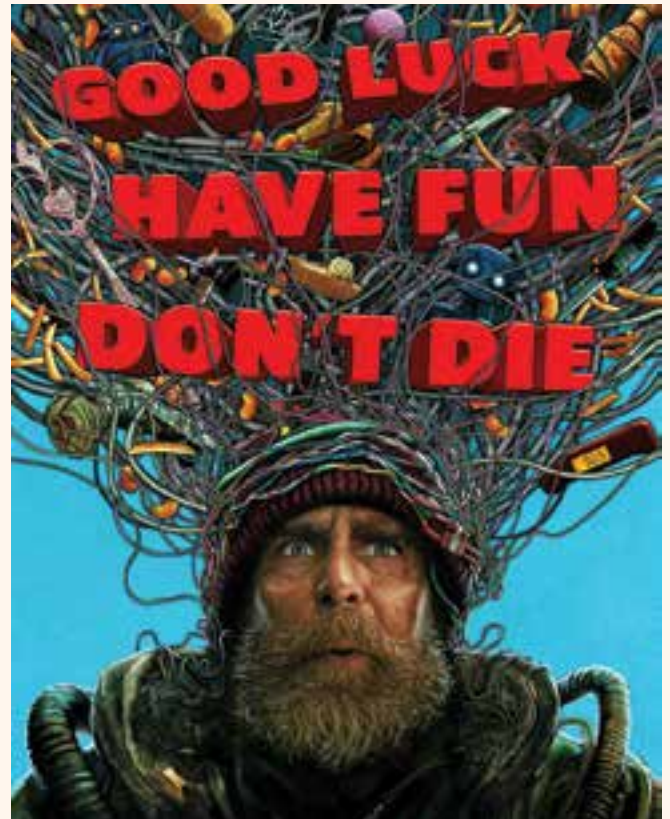
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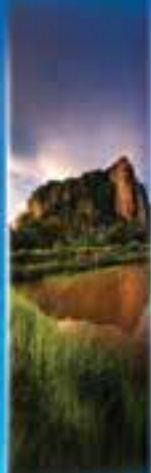


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Hollywood Favourite

Mickey 17

A disposable worker on a dangerous space colonisation mission is cloned every time he dies, but chaos begins when one version survives and encounters his next replacement. The discovery forces him to question his identity, purpose and the system controlling his existence.



Hollywood Favourite

You're Cordially Invited

Two families accidentally schedule weddings at the same island resort for the same weekend, leading to escalating chaos and hilarious confrontations. As the celebrations spiral out of control, both sides are forced to rethink love, family and what truly matters.

Hollywood Favourite

G20

When terrorists seize control of the G20 summit, the US President must protect world leaders while preventing a global political disaster. Trapped in a rapidly collapsing situation, she relies on strategy, courage and survival instincts to fight back.



WORLD DOG DAY

Hollywood Favourite



Kids



SUPERHERO & FANTASY

Hollywood Favourite



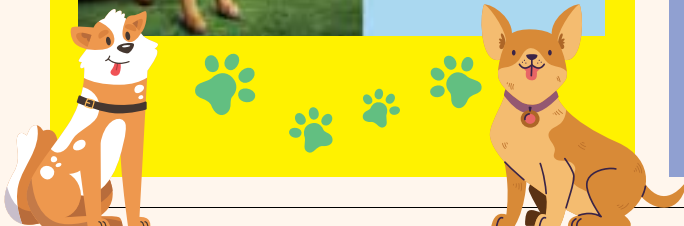
Hollywood Favourite



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Malay



MERDEKA SPECIAL

Kanang Anak Langkau: The Iban Warrior

Based on the true story of Sergeant Kanang Anak Langkau, this film follows one of Malaysia's most decorated heroes during the Communist uprising, highlighting the bravery of an Iban warrior turned national icon.



Ola Bola

Inspired by real events, *Ola Bola* tells the story of a Malaysian football team striving to qualify for the Olympic Games in the 1970s. Through challenges on and off the field, the team discovers unity, determination and the spirit of representing a nation together.

Japanese



Korean



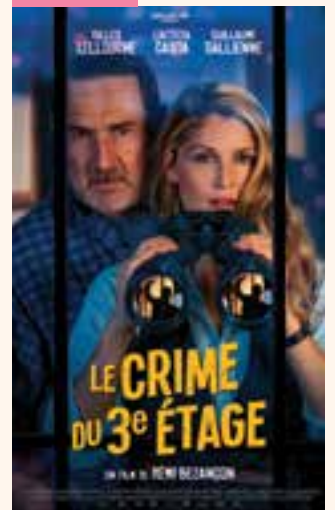
Mandarin



Cantonese



French



Hindi



Tamil



Malayalam



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Comedy



Drama



Travel



Showbiz



Business



Japanese



Kids' Shows



Korean



Chinese



Hits



Mandarin



Memories



Malay



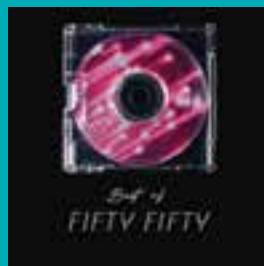
Tamil



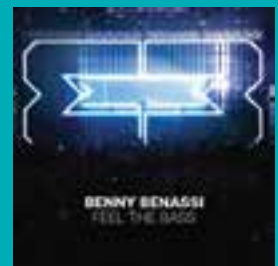
Hindi



Korean



Club



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Jungle zen

Did you know KLIA has a jungle? Tucked within Terminal 1's Satellite Building, just steps from the Aerotrain, Rimba is a 970m² open-air sanctuary conceived as a living tribute to Malaysia's tropical rainforest. Mosey along an elevated boardwalk past mature trees, orchids, Rafflesia replicas and a man-made waterfall, all lit by the glow of rattan lanterns, and take a rest on garden seating designed for lingering. To add to the experience, head up to the timber mezzanine walkway to view a curated collection of works by Malaysian artists. It's the perfect spot to recharge between flights, marking a most unexpected send-off or a warm welcome home. *Facebook/KL International Airport*

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