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SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2026

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SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2026

Contents

25

Drawn to detail

Watercolour sketches of Malaysian heritage buildings invite you to slow down and appreciate the details

58

City of arrivals

How centuries of migration shaped multicultural Mumbai

68

Built to last

Explore storied London landmarks that have been reimagined for a new era

76

Into the wild

These five operators across Asia blend adventure travel with real conservation impact

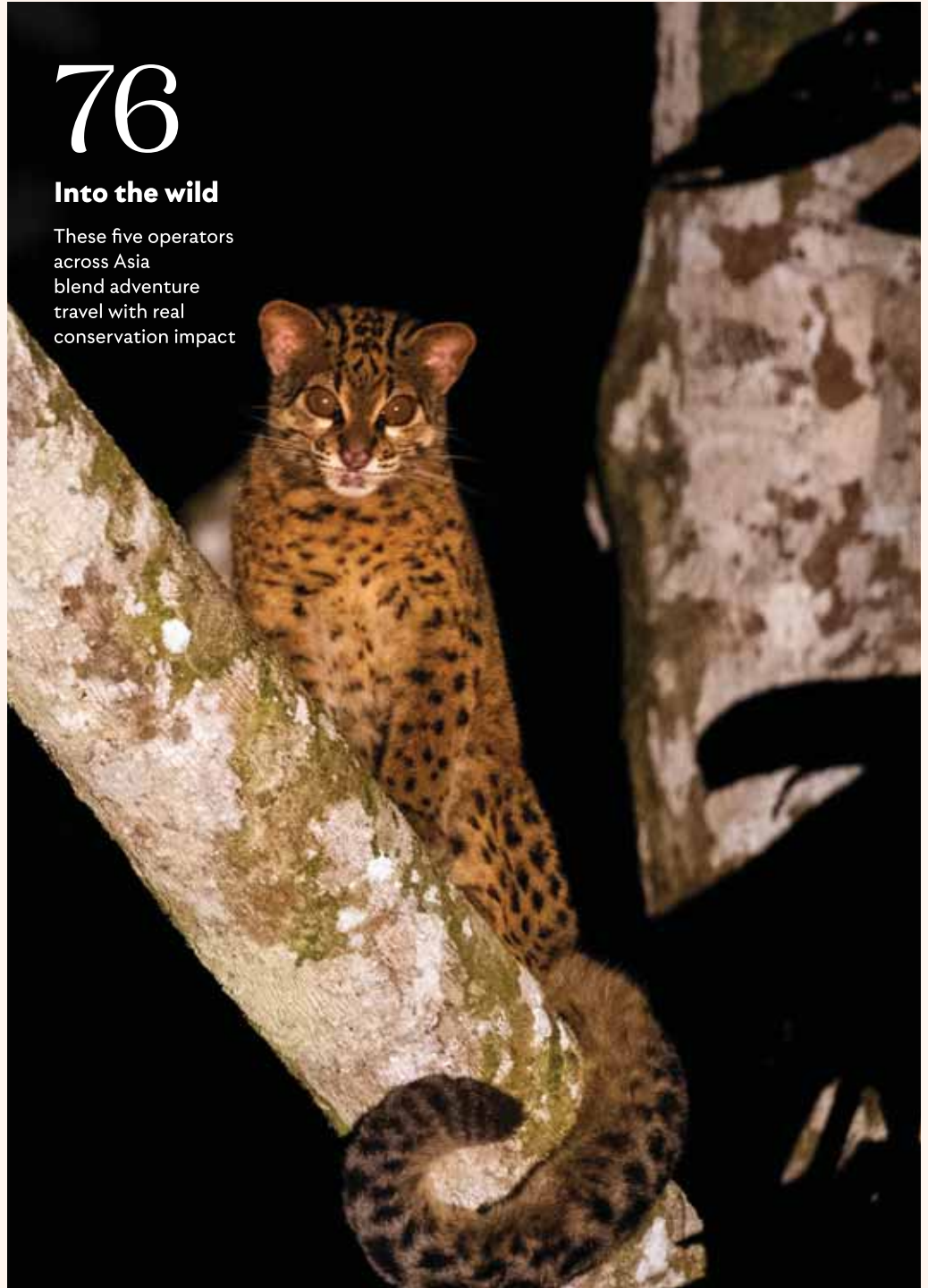


IMAGE: COURTESY OF BORNEO ECO TOURS

CONTENTS

9 Reasons to love Malaysia

A roundup of the latest events, food and places to check out

42 Postcards from Hong Kong

A travel curator talks about the city's sensory layers and hidden corners

49 A perfect weekend in Da Nang

Unpack the best of central Vietnam for an unforgettable escape

87 Business Traveller

James Dyson talks innovation and AI, Bianca Bustamante breaks barriers in motorsport and Colin Chee rethinks small-space living

97 This is Malaysian Hospitality

The latest airline updates from Malaysia Aviation Group

108 Our network

Travel around Malaysia and the world with Malaysia Aviation Group

+ INSIDE

MOVIES
TELEVISION
ALBUM
HIGHLIGHTS

113 Stay entertained on board

Explore a wide selection of in-flight shows, podcasts and music

31

Elevate

Venture off the beaten track in Adelaide, discover an ancient city in modern Shenzhen and find the quiet in Jakarta



About the cover

The General Post Office in Mumbai's Fort district
Image by Shutterstock

Editorial

Senior Group Editor
James P Ong
Editor
Elizabeth Soong
Subeditor
Arin Alycia Fong
Branded Content Editor
Alisha Shaharuddin

Design

Senior Art Director
Jessica Santos
Contributing Art Director
Christian Subrata
Photo Director
Aaron Low

Sales

For advertising enquiries, please contact
sales.malaysia@ink-global.com

Account Managers
Danial Mohamad
Zurina Hamzah
Shu Ching Ng
VP Travel Partnerships, APAC
Marie Yeo

Production

Head of Advertising Operations, APAC
Omar Mohamad Kassim
Advertising Operations Manager
Tinaratchagi Krishnamoorthy

Ink

CEO
Michael Keating
Managing Director, APAC
Denise Jaschke
Managing Director, Ink Studio
Jonny Clark
Director of Strategy and Innovation
Ric Stockfis
Managing Director, Travel Partnerships
Shalini Krishnan
Creative Director
Tan Parmar
Country Head, Malaysia
Lingesh Thayala



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Common Ground, Damansara Heights, Penthouse 16-1
Level 16, Wisma UOA Damansara II, No 6, Changkat
Semantan, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur,
Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: +60 12-770 3791; Web: ink-global.com

Go Getters Solution
No 15 & 17, Jalan BS 9/10, Perindustrian BS 9, Taman Bukit
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Dear guests,

As we welcome September, we join the nation in celebrating Malaysia Day. It is a time to reflect on the unity, diversity and shared values that continue to shape our country, while taking pride in how far we have come and the opportunities that lie ahead.

At Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), our role extends beyond connecting people and places. We bridge communities, support businesses and contribute to stronger links between Malaysia and the world. Guided by this purpose, we continue to strengthen our network, build strategic partnerships and enhance the travel experience for our passengers, while upholding the warmth of Malaysian Hospitality.

Malaysia Airlines is also strengthening its presence across East Asia through targeted network expansion across China and Japan. Following the launch of services to Shenzhen and Changsha in July, the airline will further enhance its regional connectivity with the resumption of flights to Fukuoka from 2 September 2026, after a hiatus of two decades. These developments reflect our commitment to expand our network across key markets while creating greater opportunities for tourism, trade and cultural exchange.

Growth, however, must be underpinned by operational strength. Safety remains fundamental to everything we do, and we continue to invest in the standards, capabilities and technology that support safe and reliable operations across our airlines. I am pleased to share that Malaysia Airlines and Firefly continue to maintain their International Air Transport Association (IATA) Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) registration, reflecting our dedication to uphold the highest safety standards across our operations. Malaysia Airlines has also been awarded the Seven Star PLUS Safety Rating by AirlineRatings.com, while

Firefly received its Seven Star Safety Rating. While these recognitions are a testament to the work of our people, our focus remains on continuously strengthening our safety culture and operational capabilities.

Technology is an important part of this ongoing effort. Through initiatives such as our participation in IATA's Turbulence Aware Platform, we are using real-time turbulence data to support better-informed operational decisions, improving both flight efficiency and the passenger experience.

Our connectivity also extends beyond passenger travel. MASKargo's expanded partnership with Qatar Airways Cargo, supported by dedicated twice-weekly freighter services connecting Kuala Lumpur, Bengaluru and Doha, further strengthens Kuala Lumpur's position as an important cargo gateway between Asia and global trade lanes. Beyond enhancing our cargo network, this partnership facilitates the movement of goods and creates greater opportunities for businesses across the region.

These developments reflect our broader focus at MAG: strengthening our network, building operational resilience and enhancing our role in connecting Malaysia with the world. Ultimately, our ability to do so is made possible by the trust of our passengers, partners and stakeholders.

We remain committed to earning that trust by continuing to strengthen the fundamentals of our business – safety, reliability, service and connectivity – while ensuring that Malaysian Hospitality remains at the heart of the experience we offer.

On behalf of everyone at MAG, thank you for choosing to fly with us. We look forward to welcoming you on board again soon as we continue connecting you to the people and places that matter most.

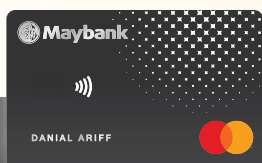
Nasaruddin A Bakar

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Every city is, in some way, a collection of people who chose to stay. That thought stayed with me while editing Soumya Gayatri's cover story on Mumbai this issue. She traces how generations of arrivals – from fishing communities to refugees, traders and dreamers – left behind pieces of themselves in the city's architecture, neighbourhoods and even its food. Each layer adds to the flavour of what Mumbai is today. Wandering its streets now means peeling back that history, one corner at a time.

If London is on your radar for Design Festival season this 12–20 September, Kissa Castañeda's story is worth a read before you go. She looks at how four architectural landmarks have been reimagined for a new era, and how this revitalisation has rippled outward, giving fresh energy to the neighbourhoods around them.

Closer to home, Dato' Azman Hashim, president of the Malaysian Board of Architects, tells Rina Ahmad Sapiuddin something that struck me. While architecture demands precision, watercolour teaches the opposite lesson: to embrace the unpredictable – and imperfections. It's an unusual thought to sit with this Malaysia Day on 16 September, as we take a fresh look, through his hand-drawn artwork, at the country's built heritage.

Elsewhere, Erica Fong looks at ethical wildlife tourism, a market set to top US\$338 billion by 2033, and rounds up five operators across Asia worth booking for your next trip. Alisha Shaharuddin uncovers Jakarta's quieter corners, Jolene Knight takes us to Murrays Bay in Auckland's North Island, Catherine Boucher reports from Adelaide on the latest stays, eats and activities, and CM Yee discovers old Nantou hiding inside hypermodern Shenzhen.

Wherever you're headed next, we hope these pages point you towards somewhere less expected.



Go forth and wander!

Elizabeth Soong
Editor

This issue's contributors



Soumya Gayatri
Writer, "City of arrivals",
page 58

Soumya is a travel writer who loves exploring local heritage, culture and cuisine. A former Big Four consultant, she now contributes to *BBC*, *Smithsonian* and *Condé Nast Traveller*.



Kissa Castañeda
Writer, "Built to last",
page 68

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



Rina Ahmad Sapiuddin
Writer, "Drawn to detail",
page 25

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

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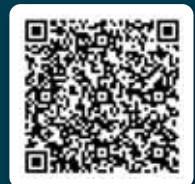


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15 REASONS TO LOVE MALAYSIA

Bold flavours, inspiring people and unforgettable places



1

Selangor

Roaring good time

For petrolheads, nine years is a long time to wait for Sepang to get some F1 action, but that changes this year. From 2–4 October, the Malaysian circuit will host the rescheduled **Bahrain Grand Prix**, bringing back the same 5.5km of unpredictable weather, passionate crowds and racing that has tested drivers since 1999. Have you gotten your tickets yet? formula1.com

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Malaysia

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Kuala Lumpur

3

A Japanese odyssey like no other

Kampachi Restaurants' 47in27 campaign takes diners on a 27-month journey through Japan's 47 prefectures across Kampachi, Sabayon, Étoile, Ippudo and Maisen. Enjoy exclusive menus with premium ingredients like Saga wagyu, Nagasaki bluefin tuna and Okinawan mozuku seaweed, plus collectible prefecture pins. kampachi.com.my

4

Kuala Lumpur

Stamp of pride

In line with Visit Malaysia 2026, **Pos Malaysia** has launched a commemorative stamp collection celebrating the country's landmarks, culture and wildlife. Unveiled at the historic Pejabat Pos Besar Lama in Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad precinct, the set features Langkawi, Penang Hill, the Petronas Twin Towers and East Malaysia's proboscis monkey. Die-cut details, heart-shaped perforations and spot UV finishing round it off – a treat for collectors and travellers alike. pos.com.my



5

Malaysia

Wear it proud

It started with a teenager selling T-shirts in boarding school to fund a photography hobby. Today, Azzim Zahid Azmi's **Bulan Bintang** is one of Malaysia's leading modest fashion labels. "I am proud that I have a product that represents my culture," says Azzim, who has sponsored a runner in the London Marathon wearing a baju Melayu and staged a record-breaking drone show in 2023. Now, he's steering the brand beyond Raya into batik, kurtas and everyday womenswear, for a customer base that's grown from young shoppers to whole families. bulan-bintang.com.my



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6

Sabah

Sandakan
escape

After three or four days in Sandakan, it's easy to fall for this city; its unhurried pace, friendly locals and wildlife discoveries leave an indelible impression. **Ormond Sandakan** makes for an ideal base, just steps from the town centre, local markets and the harbourfront.

Comfortable rooms frame picturesque coastal views. Start mornings slow with breakfast at Rise, and enjoy lunch or dinner at Rasa, where the Taste of Sandakan set menu brings local specialties like *paku pakis* (fern), seagrapes, rendang and mango *kerabu* (salad) to the table. Even the grilled Sabah flounder and king prawns cooked in *berlada bambangan* (spicy wild mango) sauce are worth returning for. Then pair sunset swims at the infinity pool with refreshing bites and drinks from Bayu, and cap the night off at Brew over coffee, craft beer and live music.

The hotel arranges adventurous excursions outside the town. Knowledgeable guides from Sepilok Tropical Wildlife Adventure bring priceless experiences that let you observe orangutans and sun bears in their natural habitat, while a river

cruise on the iconic Kinabatangan River tracks down Borneo's big five, including pygmy elephants, proboscis monkeys and saltwater crocodiles. Also, get to know Sandakan's interesting colonial history with a guided heritage trail, which includes visits to a memorial park for prisoners of war and one of Sabah's oldest churches.

ormondsandakan.com



Kuala Lumpur

Crafting time

A collaboration between a Malaysian watchmaker and a royal pewterer, the **MING 37.06 Royal Selangor** is a 38mm titanium timepiece with a hammered pewter dial, powered by the Swiss automatic Sellita for MING SW300.M1 with a 50-hour power reserve. The crystal is engraved and filled with SuperLuminova X1. Finished with a Jean Rousseau leather strap and presented in a special pewter box, this keepsake is limited to 88 pieces. [@mingwatches](#); [@royalselangor](#)



7

9



Kuala Lumpur

Back to school

For Lisette Scheers, founder of pattern design boutique **Nala**, the brand's presence at The Campus in Ampang is deeply personal. The development stands on the site of her former school, where she graduated in 1988, and she and the Nala team shaped its branding. Today, her boutique sits within one of KL's liveliest lifestyle destinations, surrounded by cafés, shops and community spaces. [naladesigns.com](#)



8

Malaysia

In a kampung, nobody eats alone

The chilli at **Cili Kampung** is pounded, not poured – and the rest of the place follows the same rule. The name means "village chilli" and the restaurant takes both halves literally: bold, hand-pounded flavour and kampung spirit at the table, where sharing comes first and nobody's keeping score. Pass around plates, from creamy masak lomak beef to punchy sambal petai prawn. Better still, kids eat for free. [cilikampung.com](#)

THE Five

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10



Kuala Lumpur

Art of identity

What if the mask you'd only ever seen in a museum or a stage performance turned up on a shirt you'd wear to work? That's the idea behind **Kapten Batik**'s new Persona collection. Textile designers Syahirah and Sofeana spent months studying Malaysia's cultural elements: the handcrafted hair of Mah Meri's Moyang Bajos, the expressive eyeliner curves of Chinese opera, accessories from Mak Yong performances and ceremonial motifs from the diverse cultures of Borneo. They then translated those details into batik prints across the brand's signature collections. Each piece comes in modern and slim fits, short and long sleeves, cut from breathable premium cotton for everyday comfort. The campaign was shot at Mah Meri Cultural Village in Pulau Carey, with mask-maker Diaman, inheritor of the Topeng Moyang Bajos tradition, joining to share the craft's history. kaptenbatik.com.my





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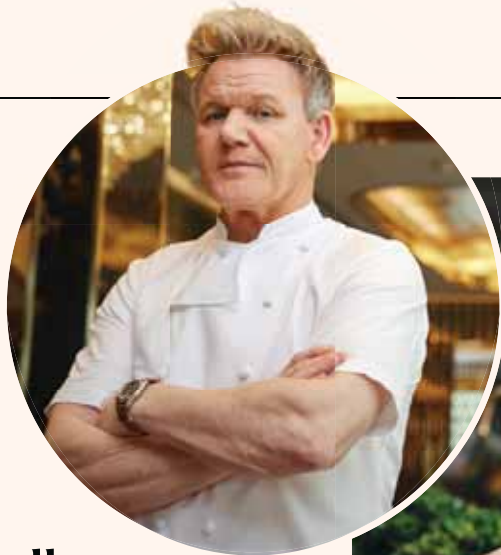
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11



Kuala Lumpur

Quintessentially British

Gordon Ramsay Bar & Grill remains Malaysia's only destination for the chef's acclaimed British steakhouse concept, tucked within Sunway Resort Hotel. Signatures include tableside beef Wellington, dry-aged steaks and refined seafood, alongside all-day dining, afternoon tea and the quintessential Sunday Roast. Interiors channel London's timeless elegance with rich hues, walnut finishes and brass accents, rounded off by a stylish cocktail bar and private dining spaces.

@gordonramsaybarandgrillkl



12

Pahang

Highlands in bloom

Perched 1,000m above sea level in the cool air of Genting Highlands, **Eufhoria Gardens & Sculpture Park** pairs nature with art. Home to Malaysia's largest floral glasshouses, it offers botanical displays, garden trails, towering sculptures and cascading waterfalls. Beyond the scenery, Eufhoria champions conservation and environmental awareness through interactive experiences and educational programmes, reason enough to slow down and reconnect with nature. **euforiagardens.com**





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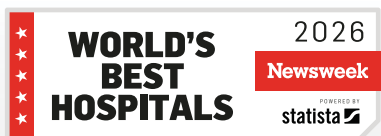
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13

Kedah

More value, more memories

From now till 31 October, **Naturally Langkawi** is giving Malaysians the chance to reconnect with loved ones through its Cash Back Mai Langkawi, "Bayaq Sorang, Free Sorang!" campaign. Buy-one-get-one-free ferry tickets to Pulau Tuba plus 50% cashback on RoRo ferry travel make it easy to island-hop, enjoy family adventures and create unforgettable moments. naturallylangkawi.my



14 **Kuala Lumpur** Lanterns and lights

The Exchange TRX celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival and Deepavali this September and October. Shoppers can enjoy exclusive offers and privileges across participating retailers, plus gift redemptions with qualifying spend. Between festive décor, cultural experiences and premium retail and dining, it's the perfect place in the heart of Kuala Lumpur to experience two of Asia's most cherished festivals. theexchange.my

Made in Malaysia, made to last

Two decades on, consistency and discipline has built Village Park Restaurant into a Malaysian institution



Dato Sri Shamil serving the morning crowd

“

No franchise plan. No outside money. Just one man, one kitchen and a nation's favourite dish, cooked the same way it always has been”



Village Park's signature nasi lemak

Since 2002, what started as a modest neighbourhood eatery has become one of the most recognised nasi lemak destinations in the country, the kind of place tourists from Beijing to Sydney seek out on purpose. Ask around and most Malaysians have a Village Park story of their own.

At the centre of it all is founder Dato Sri Dr Mohd Shamil Ngoh Abdullah, whose *ayam goreng berempah*, fried chicken coated in a blend of local spices, has become the dish people plan trips around. His path here wasn't a straight line, he ran a music company in Singapore before returning home to build something entirely different. What hasn't changed is the model: one outlet, one kitchen, nothing outsourced, nothing diluted.

That kind of patience doesn't usually make headlines, until this year. Dato Sri Shamil received the Recognition of Lifelong Learning Excellence and a Professional Doctorate in Business Administration at the EIU-Paris Convocation, a rare, formal nod to a career built almost entirely on instinct and hard work.

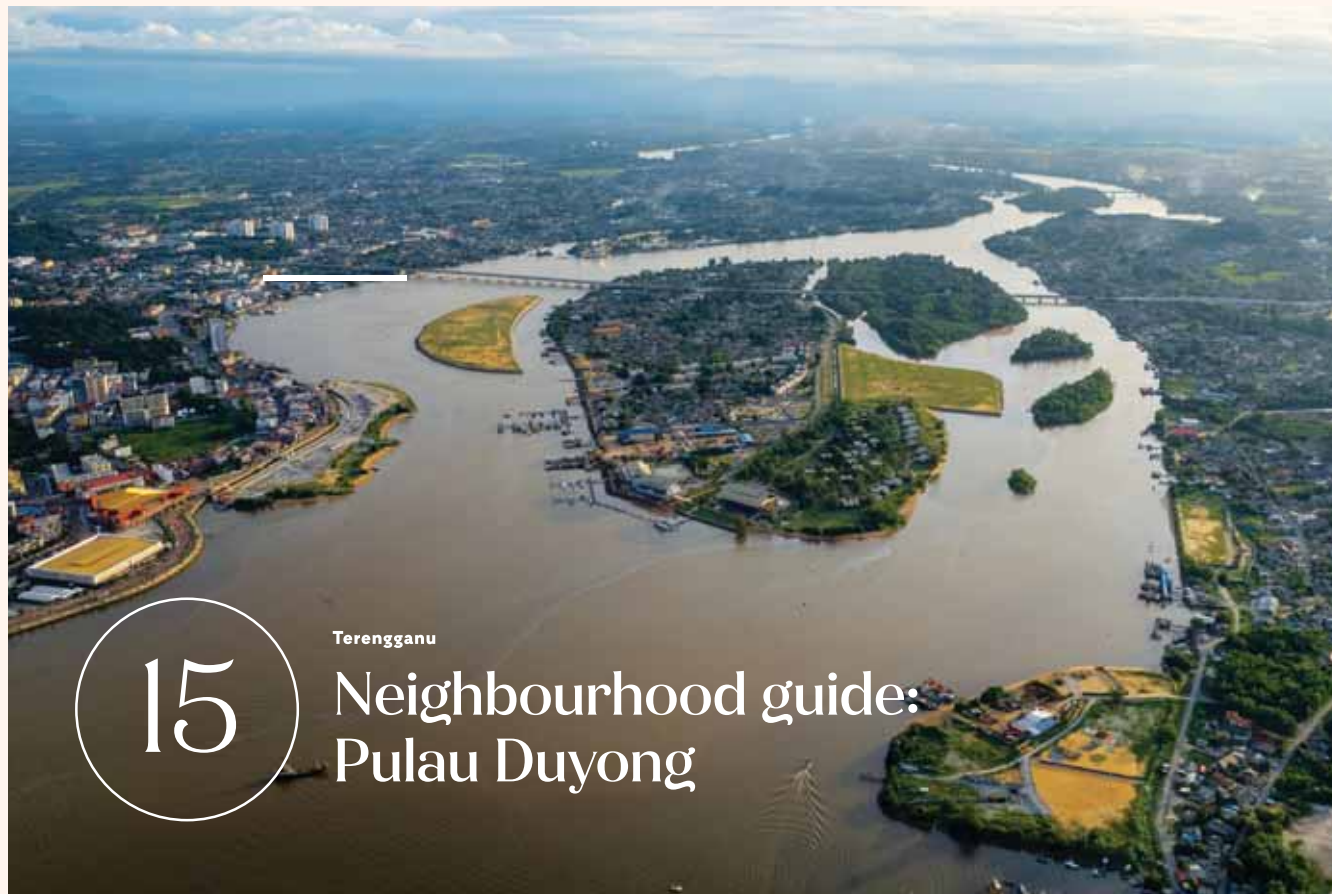
Investors have come knocking, more than once. The answer has been no every time, because staying authentic has always been the plan. Quality is never compromised; cucumbers are still hand-picked for freshness, anchovies are still first grade. A plate still costs less than a bowl of instant noodles at a hotel.

Dato Sri Shamil still makes the sambal himself, every day.

The one thing he'll let travel beyond the kitchen is the jar. Village Park has started bottling its signature kaya and sambal, and packing its noodles and vermicelli for instant bowls, for Malaysians abroad who miss the taste of home, or for travellers to take a piece of it with them.

No franchise plan. No outside money. Just one man, one kitchen and a nation's favourite dish, cooked the same way it always has been. This might be the most Malaysian success story there is.

Village Park Restaurant is open daily from 6.30am–5.30pm; 5 Jln SS 21/37, Damansara Utama, Petaling Jaya, about a 20-minute drive from KL city centre.



15

Terengganu

Neighbourhood guide: Pulau Duyong

Ash Raja, co-founder of Small Towns Malaysia, an award-winning video-sharing platform uncovering Malaysia's hidden gems, shares what makes **Pulau Duyong** special



Kota Lama Duyong

"This is where I go when I want to see a side of Terengganu that most people miss," says Ash Raja, co-founder of Small Towns Malaysia (@smalltownsmys). He's talking about Pulau Duyong, a river island at the mouth of the Terengganu River, just minutes from Kuala Terengganu, where wooden boats are still built by memory alone and old kampung houses face the water.

❶ Kota Lama Duyong

Once home to the respected religious scholar Tok Syekh Duyong, this old fort blends traditional Malay timber architecture with European and Egyptian



An artisan crafting miniature boats



Roti canai

influences in its carved pillars and lattice work. The compound survived a major flood in 1986 and now stands as a quiet reminder of the island's role as a centre of learning.

2 Traditional boat making

Pulau Duyong's boat builders work entirely from memory, a skill passed down through generations without ever needing a blueprint. Using cengal wood and traditional gelam bark for waterproofing, they still take on orders for full-sized vessels today. Watch the process up close at one of the riverside workshops and pick up a handcrafted miniature to take home.

3 Duyong Craft Centre and Art Gallery

Run by Wan Nordin Wan Abdullah, this jetty-front gallery doubles as a workshop where he hand-carves miniature replicas of traditional Terengganu vessels – pinis, payang, bedar and more – each one built entirely from memory and skill. His pieces have found their way into the homes of Malaysian political leaders, and visitors can purchase one directly from him. The space also hosts art

exhibitions and workshops, and was once home to the Duyong Art Festival.

4 Wau and about

Come late afternoon, before Maghrib calls everyone home, the island's open fields fill with wau, Malaysia's traditional ornamental kite. It's often a family affair, parents and kids out together, and the kites themselves are homemade, passed down and patched up rather than store-bought.

5 Breakfast on the main road

Come morning, the main road into the island is where most locals grab breakfast. Rows of stalls serve up nasi dagang, nasi lemak, roti canai and other kampung favourites, cheap and unpretentious. Just follow the smell of frying and the crowd of regulars.

6 River views over Kuala Terengganu

The island sits right at the mouth of the Terengganu River, offering unobstructed views of the city skyline across the water. It's an easy contrast: the quiet of kampung life on one bank, the city going about its business on the other.

Boat builders



Flying a wau





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Ar. Azman

Drawn to detail

Between our daily rush and endless to-do lists, it's easy to overlook the beauty of the spaces we live in. Discover how these watercolour sketches invite us to slow down and appreciate the buildings that quietly shape our lives **BY RINA AHMAD SAPIUDDIN** ➔



MALACCA
HISTORICAL CITY

True architectural beauty lives in the subtle, hand-crafted details that visitors so often overlook. While grand skylines and towering façades capture immediate attention, the soul of a heritage building only reveals itself when one slows down to observe precise timber joints, hand-laid bricks and weathered stones, shares Dato' Ar IDR Azman Md Hashim, president of the Malaysian Board of Architects and deputy director general of Public Works.

These elements preserve the human touch of long-passed master craftsmen, allowing their stories to resonate across generations. By shifting focus to a single window, column or textured surface, we begin to truly understand its character.

"Perhaps that is what I hope visitors will experience as well. Slow your pace. Put your phone down for a moment. Walk closer. Look upward. Run your eyes along the textures, the craftsmanship and the small details that most people overlook. Because in the end, architecture is

not only about the buildings we see; it is about the stories we discover when we learn to observe," he adds.

Preserving our national chapters

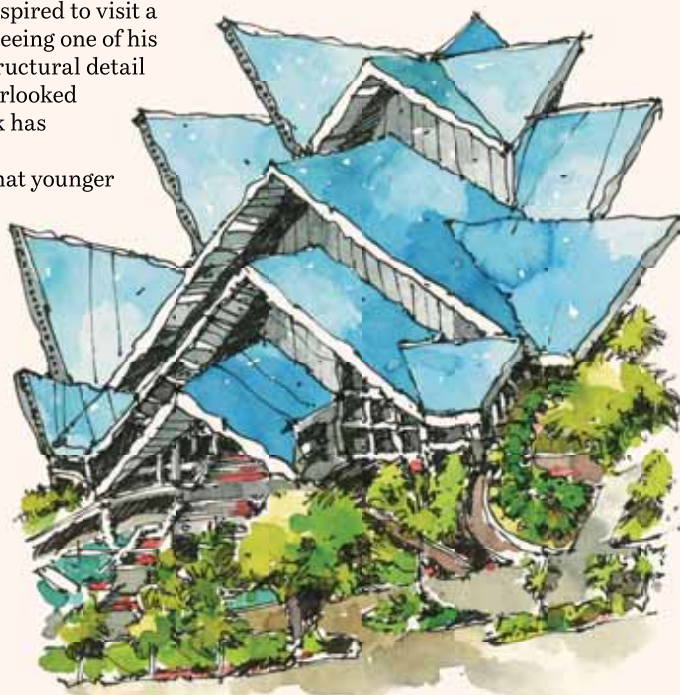
Malaysia possesses a rich architectural heritage that reflects a vibrant tapestry of cultures, traditions and historical eras. Dato' Azman channels this heritage into detailed sketches of the country's most storied buildings. If a young student or traveller is inspired to visit a heritage building after seeing one of his sketches, or notices a structural detail they had completely overlooked before, then the artwork has served its true purpose.

Dato' Azman hopes that younger architects and students realise that sketching is an essential exercise in learning to observe carefully, understanding spaces on a deeper emotional

level and learning to love architecture far beyond the technical constraints of blueprints and digital drawings.

Architecture is a profession ruled by absolute precision, where every line is analysed and refined. Watercolour, however, teaches the exact opposite lesson. Using fluid and spontaneous paint, Dato' Azman learned to embrace total unpredictability. His philosophy is simple: neither people nor sketches are perfect, and it is often those very imperfections that give a drawing its unique personality.

Before his pen touches the paper, Dato' Azman spends a long time walking around a building to study it from different angles or studying the place through a photograph if he can't be there in person. This allows him to visualise the entire composition and colour palette. To guide his hand, he places a single, tiny reference dot at the centre of the page as an anchor for balance. Because he sketches entirely in watercolour, without pencils, rulers or erasers, every line is both his first and final decision. This strict discipline means



ISTANA BUDAYA
KUALA LUMPUR

“

Because in the end, architecture is not only about the buildings we see – it is about the stories we discover when we learn to observe”

DATO' AR IDR AZMAN HASHIM

finding the right viewpoint often takes longer than the drawing itself.

As Malaysia marks another year of nationhood this 16 September, Dato' Azman shares seven buildings that hold a special place in his sketchbook – each one a chapter in the country's ongoing story of identity, memory and craftsmanship.

Stadthuys, Melaka

"The greatest challenge is understanding that conservation is not about making an old building look new, it is about allowing it to continue telling its story. Every repair, every replacement and every intervention should respect the building's authenticity rather than erase the traces of time," says Dato' Azman.

As one of Southeast Asia's surviving examples of Dutch colonial architecture, the Stadthuys remains an iconic landmark.

It has witnessed colonial rule, independence, changing communities and generations of visitors. Its weathered walls, uneven textures and subtle imperfections are not defects; they are chapters of history. "Our responsibility is to strengthen the building where necessary while preserving the evidence of its long journey. A heritage building should never become a replica of itself. It should continue to age gracefully while remaining meaningful to future generations," he adds.

Istana Budaya, Kuala Lumpur

According to him, age alone does not determine heritage value. A building

becomes worthy of preservation when it represents the aspirations, identity and achievements of a nation.

Istana Budaya is a contemporary national landmark that celebrates Malaysian culture through architecture. The nation's premier venue for the performing arts features a striking blue roof inspired by the folded form of the traditional *sirih junjung* flower arrangement, beautifully blending contemporary architecture with traditional Malay identity.

"Conservation should not begin only after a building becomes 50 or even 100 years old. If a building has already shaped our collective memory and continues to inspire future generations, then its preservation should begin today," says Dato' Azman.

Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, Kuala Lumpur

Standing proudly at the heart of the capital, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, with its magnificent Moorish Revival architecture, symbolises an important chapter in the journey towards independence.

Most visitors admire its iconic clock tower and copper domes, but few stop to appreciate the extraordinary craftsmanship that gives the building its character. The carefully proportioned arches, finely detailed brickwork, handcrafted plaster ornamentation and the rhythm of its arcades reveal a level of precision that is difficult to replicate today.



Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad

These details were created by skilled artisans whose work deserves as much recognition as the building itself.

In his sketch, Dato' Azman deliberately frames this historic clock tower directly against the modern skyline, illustrating how Malaysia's rich heritage continues to coexist with contemporary progress. "Architecture is often appreciated from a distance. Heritage, however, is discovered when we slow down and notice the details," says Dato' Azman.

This appreciation is matched by a broader, ongoing effort to preserve it. The building's restoration falls under the care of Dana Warisan, a vehicle set up by Khazanah Nasional to redevelop eight nationally significant heritage buildings, among them Seri Negara and the full Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad (BSAS) KL collective. The entire project is part of Warisan KL, a national urban rejuvenation initiative to revive Kuala Lumpur's built heritage as a driver of tourism, community enterprise and civic pride.

Seri Negara, Kuala Lumpur

Perched high above the Perdana Botanical Gardens, Seri Negara is a silent witness to Malaysia's diplomatic and political history. Within its walls,



Seri Negara

important conversations took place, distinguished guests were received and decisions that influenced the country's development were made. Architecture becomes heritage not only because of its design, but because of the human stories it has sheltered, shares Dato' Azman.

"When we preserve places like Seri Negara, we are protecting both the physical building and the memories attached to it. Without these places, history becomes something we only read about rather than something we can still experience," he says.

Masjid Jamek, Kuala Lumpur

Preservation is about careful management: maintaining historic materials, upgrading facilities sensitively and ensuring that modern interventions never overwhelm the original architecture. Masjid Jamek remains a living place of worship, and its continuous use is part of its significance. Located at the historic confluence of the Klang and Gombak Rivers, the mosque has always fascinated him with its elegant arches and slender minarets.

Kellie's Castle, Perak

One of Malaysia's most romantic and mysterious architectural landmarks, Kellie's Castle was built with roaring ambition, yet construction stopped



before it could be fully realised. Its weathered textures and impressive scale are set beautifully within the tranquil landscape of Batu Gajah, Perak. Dato' Azman readily admits that, given the chance, he would leave it exactly as it is.

"Its unfinished state is precisely what makes Kellie's Castle historically significant. It tells a remarkable story of ambition interrupted by unforeseen circumstances, making the building far more powerful than if it had been completed," he says.

"Conservation is not about finishing someone else's dream. It is about preserving the authenticity of what history has left behind. Sometimes the absence of completion tells a richer story than completion itself."



Lebuhraya Pantai Fire and Rescue Station, Penang

Holding the proud distinction of being Malaysia's oldest operational fire station, the Lebuhraya Pantai Fire Station's striking red-and-white façade reflects the confidence of colonial civic architecture. It represents public service, civic responsibility and the evolution of urban development – a reminder of how a city functioned and how communities were protected.

Because it continues to actively serve the community today, it stands as proof that heritage buildings are not merely dead monuments of the past but living institutions that continue to protect society every day.

Heritage should celebrate ordinary places because ordinary people have created extraordinary histories within them.





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ELEVATE

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



CITY GUIDE

Jakarta's hidden calm

Everyone warns you about the traffic in Jakarta first. But three days moving between Kota Tua's colonial rooms, a batik atelier and a hotel built like a sanctuary taught me to listen for the quiet

BY ALISHA SHAHARUDDIN

Jakarta announces itself before you've even left the airport road. Gridlock. Density. The sprawl outsiders always mention first. None of that's untrue, exactly. It's just not the whole story. Spend a few days here moving through the city's interiors instead of its intersections, and something else starts to surface. A Jakarta built on rooms, not roads. →



A batik workshop

Fatahillah Square is where I first felt it. Step inside the 18th-century walls of the Jakarta History Museum and the square's noise just falls away. Batavia-era maps, old furnishings, a stillness that has nothing to do with what's happening outside the door. A short walk further, the Textile Museum's batik gallery slows things down even more. *Canting* (a wax-filled pen used to draw batik patterns) in hand, a thin trail of wax dragging across cotton, there's no rushing. This, I realised, might be Jakarta's real secret: its actual pace lives behind closed doors, not out on the avenues.

That logic followed me back to where I was sleeping. At The St Regis Jakarta, dusk doesn't simply arrive, it's performed. Each evening in the lobby, the *Sound of Light* ritual plays out in a composed run of light and sound, before tipping into the St Regis Sabrage, when a butler draws a sabre across a champagne bottle. Down the hall, an Indonesian feast unfolds beside a Betawi dance performance. Later still, a jazz bar tuned to 1920s New York feels like a second city tucked inside the first, one you'd never find from the street.

Across town, The Ritz-Carlton Jakarta, Pacific Place, does something similar, only quieter. One evening, a sound healing session has guests floating in the pool while the vibrations from crystal bowls hum across the water. The next day, a curated Indonesian lunch at the Glass House

Kehidupan Sosial
Batavia mural on display

“

Jakarta's chaos, I learned, is entirely a street-level condition. Everything worth finding happens once you've stepped through a door”

turns, almost without warning, into a live cooking demonstration. Spices laid bare under open, sun-filled ceilings.

By my last morning, I thought I had the city figured out. Then Sunday happened. The road outside the hotel, usually packed with cars, had been handed back to the people who actually live there. Joggers. Families on bicycles. A kid on rollerblades weaving past a food stall that hadn't been there the day before. For a few hours, Jakarta's chaos wasn't gone, it had simply changed shape. The street itself had become a living room.

The gridlock is real. Turns out, so is everything sitting quietly on either side of it.

Car-free Sunday in
central Jakarta

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ELEVATE



EXPLORE

Beyond the beaten track

New Zealand's South Island gets all the glory, but North Island has plenty of its own magic waiting to be discovered

BY JOLENE KNIGHT



Bluff oysters

Auckland has been on my mind for a long time. Three things finally pushed me to make the trip a reality: a great Business Class promotion on Malaysia Airlines and a taste of the new A330neo; a dear friend's decade-long pleas to visit since emigrating there; and lastly, the promise of Bluff oysters.

Cast your sights a little further than the central business district when you touch down in Auckland. A short drive north across the Auckland Harbour Bridge will take you to **Murrays Bay**, a quaint, coastal suburb in the East Coast Bays area with a distinct beach-retreat vibe. Think lovely beaches, long nature walks and local restaurants and cafés to while away a lazy afternoon. A convenient public bus service will get you to the city centre for the obligatory shopping and sightseeing.

Murrays Bay Beach is a wonderful place to spend a sunny day, with a long sweep of sand for sunbathing, calm waters for canoeing and swimming, and a Sonder Sauna hut to warm up in after a bracing



El Greco's signature dish

dip in the sea. The wharf at one end of the beach is a popular spot for fishing and jetty diving.

During low tide, **Murray's Gauntlet** turns into a 1.4km coastal walkway leading to Mairangi Bay. The views out to the Hauraki Gulf are stunning as you walk along exposed waterfront pipelines flanked by interesting rock formations. A scenic track along the clifftop runs perpendicular to this, giving you elevated views of the coast as you walk amid lush coastal bush and plants.

My first food stop in Murrays Bay was for the award-winning pies at **Mairangi Bay Bakery**. Their mince & cheese pies won Gold at the 2023 Bakels New Zealand Supreme Pie Awards. A great place for dinner after a beach walk is **El Greco**, a family-run Greek Italian restaurant at Campbells Bay, with a relaxed alfresco setting and cosy indoor seating when the evenings get cool.

Seafood lovers can keep an eye out for local oyster varieties, including the elusive Bluff oyster. Widely considered as one of the world's finest delicacies, "bluffies" as they're affectionately known are seasonal and rare. Elegantly round, its meat is thick and creamy with a definite punch of saltiness. For a reliable year-round option such as Mahurangi oysters, one of New Zealand's finest, head to the **Queens Rooftop & Wineshop** on Queen Street, a classy spot overlooking the Waitematā Harbour.



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

“

During low tide, Murray's Gauntlet turns into a 1.4km coastal walkway leading to Mairangi Bay”



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Adelaide Central Market



CITY GUIDE

Unpacking Adelaide

This city packs in more than a short trip can cover. We narrow down where to eat, play and stay to make the most of it

BY CATHERINE BOUCHER

Blending a vibrant food scene, world-famous festivals and stunning city beaches, Adelaide shines in every season. Whether you are a passionate foodie chasing exceptional flavours or an urban adventurer seeking open-air thrills, our curated guide reveals the city's best places to eat, play and stay.

1 Where to eat

An oldie but a goodie

Ranked as the #3 market in the world, **Adelaide Central Market** has been serving the city since 1869. Visit Tuesday to Saturday and be dazzled by the array of options. From fresh local fruit and vegetables to Algerian paella, there's something for everyone. Unsure where to begin? A free, 50-minute self-guided audio tour shares stories about the vendors and their wares. **44-60 Gouger St; adelaidecentralmarket.com.au**

A taste of the Himalayas

Diners are singing the praises of Adelaide's first Bhutanese restaurant, **Paro & Co.** Situated northeast of the city, it serves favourites including *ema datshi* (chilli and cheese stew) and *shakam datshi* (an eye-catching combination of dried beef, chilli and cheese) in a modern setting. Momo dumplings span savoury and sweet, with a cherry version garnering rave reviews. **1/3 Darley Rd, Paradise; paroco.au**

Produce-driven dining

Hotfoot it to Hackney, where old and new meet in a delightful juxtaposition that's sure to impress. Set within a restored heritage hotel, **Esmay** takes the best of South Australian produce and showcases it in dishes that range from creative (emu pastrami donut, anyone?) to comforting (order the decadent blue cheese potatoes). **95 Hackney Rd; esmay.com.au**

Adelaide Marriott





Paddling with Dolphin Sanctuary Kayak Tours



A shop at Adelaide Central Market

ELEVATE



Climbing the Adelaide Oval

“

Blending a vibrant food scene, world-famous festivals and stunning city beaches, Adelaide shines in every season”



Esmay

Head for the hills

Set within a historic 1868 church, newcomer **Restaurant Aptos** wows even well-travelled diners with a theatrical 16-course tasting menu. Hosting just 14 diners per session, it's perfect for special occasions and those with deep pockets. The set menu costs A\$495 / RM1,420 (drinks extra). **147 Mount Barker Rd, Stirling; restaurantapto.com**

2 Out and about

Only in Adelaide

Familiar with Fruchocs, fritz and frog cakes? If not, take the two-hour **F Factor Adelaide Food Walking Tour** for a fun look at South Australia's quirky food culture. **Meeting point at Haigh's Chocolates, Adelaide Arcade, Grenfell St; flamboyancetours.com.au**

Venture beyond the greenery

Join **Bookabee Australia** for a 90-minute guided walk through Adelaide's Botanic Gardens, where an Aboriginal guide shares stories of Aboriginal peoples' social history and shows how the gardens provide medicine, food and tools for these communities. **Grange, South Australia; bookabee.com.au**

Paddle power

Spend three hours paddling mangrove-lined waterways with **Dolphin Sanctuary Kayak Tours** for a rare chance to see these aquatic mammals in their own habitat, and, weather permitting, semi-submerged shipwrecks. Suitable for ages 10 and above. **Angas Inlet Boat Club, Port Adelaide; dolphinsanctuarykayaktours.com.au**

High and mighty

For unparalleled views over the city, sign on with **RoofClimb Adelaide Oval**. Be guided up and across the stadium while being regaled with tales of Adelaide's rich history. Sports fans can catch match day tours to watch football or cricket from the world's first rooftop stadium seats. Height restrictions apply. **War Memorial Dr, North Adelaide; roofclimb.com.au**

Get close to native wildlife

A lush, green oasis in the heart of the city, **Adelaide Zoo** is home to a dizzying collection



Feeding kangaroos at Adelaide Zoo

of more than 2,400 exotic and native animals. For a truly Australian experience, book ahead to hand-feed kangaroos and wallabies, learn about resident koalas and meet Whitney the echidna.

Frome Rd; adelaidezoo.com.au

3 Where to stay

Beach beauty

In the heart of Adelaide's favourite seaside suburb, newcomer **The George Glenelg** is designed with relaxation in mind, with rooms that feature sumptuous beds and soothing tones. Just steps from dozens of dining options and a short 30-minute tram ride from Adelaide's centre, guests are never far from the action.

Colley Terrace, Glenelg; georgeglenelg.com.au

Stamped with class

Set within the city's heritage-listed General Post Office, the **Adelaide Marriott** is centrally located near myriad attractions. But with quality on-site dining, an indoor pool and curated art collections throughout the property, you may find it difficult to drag yourself away from the hotel. **141 King William St; marriott.com**

Oval oasis

Australia's only stadium stay, **Oval Hotel** isn't just for sports fans. Facing outward into the surrounding gardens, it's a destination in its own right, with sleek rooms, fabulous food and impeccable service earning rave reviews. **King William Rd, North Adelaide; ovalhotel.com.au**



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

Nantou has a thriving
coffee scene



CULTURE

Nantou's glow-up

With centuries-old courtyards and cutting-edge cafés, Nantou Ancient Town is **Shenzhen's** unlikeliest creative playground **BY CM YEE**

Shenzhen's past and
present sit on either side
of this stone arch tunnel



The entrance sets the tone: a stone and grey brick fortress wall dating back to the Ming Dynasty stands imposingly against a modern high-rise. I was struck by this old-meets-new juxtaposition that makes **Nantou Ancient Town** such an unexpected discovery in hypermodern Shenzhen.

A military fortress in its heyday, Nantou has repackaged its 1,700 years of history into a creative and lifestyle hot spot for today's trend-seeking traveller. The transformation began in 2019 under a renewal project built around a "micro-renovation" philosophy of no wholesale demolition, just careful restoration that kept the old town's original nine-street grid intact. Stroll Nantou's storied streets and you'll notice courtyard houses and low-rise homes built in the Lingnan tradition, with grey brick walls, arcaded *qilou* fronts and sloping tiled roofs.



South Gate, one
of two remaining
entrances to Nantou
Ancient Town



A mural of the walled landmark at Nantou's metro station



From among the ancient walls, creative energy springs forth in unexpected forms: a laundry concept boutique here, a tarot reading studio there and a three-storey Starbucks boasting a terracotta-teal façade that feels retro yet futuristic next to its neighbours. Step into a side lane and you might stumble upon a temporary art installation. Deep inside an alleyway is Namiya General Store, a knick-knack shop inspired by Keigo Higashino's whimsical novel of the same name.

Nantou's main talking points are found in its warren of quiet lanes. Cafés and small eateries hide in corners and along narrow paths or perhaps tucked into what could be someone's weekend home. Coffee culture runs deep here, from pour-over specialists to tiny bar-seat-only cafés with more personality than square footage.

The food scene is just as varied. A Thai kitchen serves up fiery tom yum one alley away from a Yunnan-Dai restaurant decked out in full tropical flair. Nearby, a French-style steakhouse proves that the old town can do fine dining with equal finesse. Then there's Tibetan Coffee Shop, hard to miss with its canary-yellow façade strung with prayer flags and marigold garlands, inviting you to sip butter tea and saffron cold brew.

Along the main avenues, speciality boutiques hold court. Soarin showcases vintage menswear and antique travel trunks amid warmly



Retro fashion meets whimsical art at Soarin

“

Soarin showcases vintage menswear and antique travel trunks amid warmly lit interiors styled with the flourish of a film set”

lit interiors styled with the flourish of a film set. Mumo, a solid-wood furniture and lifestyle store, sits inside a beautifully restored residence – proof that Nantou's transformation isn't just a coat of paint over old bones, but a dialogue between the two.

In the evenings, as its ancient walls glow amber against a violet sky, Nantou hums with an energy that's hard to pin down. It's equal parts creative hub, chilled hangout and historic gallery.

I'd arrived expecting just a quick look around. I left half a day later, feeling like I'd barely scratched its surface, yet comforted by a sense of having found my place.

Come with no fixed plan. Nantou rewards those who wander.



Modern talismans crafted using jima, a traditional woodblock printing technique

Three fun facts about Nantou Ancient Town

- 1 Over 20,000 residents still call this home. Past the coffee bars and stone walls, life quietly unfolds behind gated alleyways.
- 2 Long before Hong Kong, Macau or Dongguan existed as we know them today, Nantou governed all three, making this town the site of their shared roots.
- 3 As one of China's national-level nightlife hotspots, Nantou draws 8 million visitors a year with its night markets, live gigs and rooftop bars.



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

Working with IAEA member states takes Dr Norasalwa around the world



Waste not

For Dr Norasalwa Zakaria, radioactive waste is the science; trust is the real work, built one conversation at a time



Dr Norasalwa at the 69th IAEA General Conference 2025

Not many people choose a career in radioactive waste management. Dr Norasalwa Zakaria did, and today she heads the Waste Technology Section at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Her path had begun elsewhere, in research on incinerators and thermal technologies for waste management. Then, in 2010, she was asked to join the radioactive waste management group by her then director at the Malaysian Nuclear Agency. What started as a shift in focus became a calling. “I saw the critical need to be focused and determined to help Malaysia meet international standards and best practices,” she recalls. It was a new dimension for her, but one full of opportunity and purpose.

Fast forward to today, her role at the IAEA gives her an opportunity to work on a global level with 181

member states. She also oversees projects on legacy waste management and radium recycling for cancer treatment. Apart from established platforms and channels to deliver technical assistance to member states, her department established the DSRS Peer Review Service in 2022, and more recently, the Radioactive Waste Advisory Service.

Working in a global scientific organisation requires her to continuously broaden and deepen her knowledge beyond the national context. This includes developing an understanding of complex topics such as high-level radioactive waste, the management of spent nuclear fuel and staying current with emerging discussions. “Active exchanges with subject-matter experts and regular discussions with my team and peers help me widen this knowledge base,” she says.

What keeps her going is community and the stories of people like her. “I am always inspired and motivated when I read about the successful journeys of fellow Malaysians,” she says, reflecting on TalentCorp’s role in her own story.

This is where Malaysia@Heart, or MyHeart, comes in. Set up by TalentCorp to connect with Malaysians overseas, it helps professionals like Dr Norasalwa to stay connected to home while building a career abroad. Its value, she says, lies in visibility. “Sometimes, we are just unaware of the opportunities before us, and MyHeart helps bridge the gap, enabling individuals to see new possibilities and make connections.”

For someone whose work depends on international collaboration, that connection matters. MyHeart gives Malaysians overseas a shared space to exchange ideas and stay engaged with national developments. Dr Norasalwa sees it as part of a bigger picture: to showcase what Malaysians can achieve globally and widen the horizons of the next generation, who might not yet see fields like hers as a path open to them.

She hopes that her story might be a spark for someone else, just as others’ stories were for her.



The launch of MyHeart Global Connect in Singapore

Belonging doesn't need a postcode

MyHeart by TalentCorp connects Malaysians abroad with a sense of home that no border can dissolve

Boarding your flight back to Singapore, Toronto or London after visiting loved ones at home can bring mixed emotions. As you step back into work, study or business abroad, adjusting to new circles and daily routines is part of the package. Yet, what stays constant is the Malaysian in you: the knack for weaving three languages into one sentence, the instinct to use “the hand” in traffic and the craving for proper *roti canai* (pan-fried flatbread).



Dato' Sri Ramanan flanked by TalentCorp GCEO Biruntha Mooruthi and deputy chairman Mohd Khuzzan Abu Bakar

That enduring connection is exactly what **MyHeart by TalentCorp** is built to support. For 15 years, it has given global Malaysians a way to stay deeply involved in Malaysia's story, wherever life takes them. This was reinforced by the recent launch of MyHeart Global Connect, a global advisory council of Malaysians based across 10 countries formed to channel diaspora expertise into national development.

The platform where you belong

There are close to 1.9 million *anak-anak Malaysia* (Malaysians) scattered across the globe. Spot one abroad and that “Eh, Malaysia!” pride kicks in instantly. But busy schedules, brutal time zones and fragmented updates can leave you feeling out of the loop when it comes to maintaining professional networks and opportunities back home.

MyHeart bridges that gap without you needing to pack your bags or pause your life overseas. With over 11,000 members across 96 countries, you can connect with local diaspora groups, discover events nearby and stay informed on national developments and policies that matter to you.

From MyHeart to yours

The platform is also a space to give back on your own terms. Through MyHeart Stories, career fairs and partnerships with 109 academic institutions and 165 industry partners back home, you can mentor rising talent or lend your international experience to high-impact projects.

Your experience abroad is a premium asset and your heritage is a lifelong bond. After all, you can take the Malaysian out of Malaysia, but you can't take Malaysia out of the Malaysian.



Register on myheart.my or scan the QR to discover collaboration opportunities, events and connect with other Malaysians around the world.



Building connections at the event



TalentCorp



@TalentCorpMsia



Malaysia@Heart (MyHeart)



Postcards from Hong Kong

Jacqueline Tsang, journalist turned travel curator, finds inspiration in the city's delightful contradictions, sensory layers and hidden corners

BY ANANDHI GOPINATH

Hong Kong means fragrant harbour, and there is a distinct combination of scents that characterises the city. Think top notes of warm, rich fragrances that suffuse luxury stores and malls, mingling with the smoky, spicy scents of Sichuan, Korean, Lebanese or Turkish restaurants. The heart notes, depending on where you are, could smell like concrete warmed by the sun, or wet bark and green leaves in the countryside. All of this is grounded by the briny bottom notes of the sea. I'm not sure if it's a fragrance anyone would want to wear, but it's a scent with ample character that I love.

Sensual exploration

It can also be good fun to take the city's name literally and explore local scent experiences, be it creating your own bespoke perfume at **Intime Artisan de Parfum** (KSF Business Centre, Queen's Rd

Dear Reader,

I am biased, but Hong Kong is one of the most unique cities in the world. It's a city of continual contradictions and incongruity. The mountains, the city centre and the harbour are all within 20 minutes of each other. Lamborghini Huracans rumble next to wheezing Toyota Crown taxis that have likely been around longer than I've been alive, and the lady around the corner who sells you your morning fishballs will gush over your hair one day and chastise you the next. It's a city that keeps you guessing, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

— Jacqueline

I Happy
Hong Kong



Drinks at
The Old Man



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

Central; intimeperfume.com), visiting **Shiu Shing Hong** in Sheung Wan (*Wah Hei Building, 130 Jervois St; shiu-shing.com.hk*), which crafts scents modelled after your favourite hotel fragrances, or spending a luxe hour at **Henry Jacques** (*1 Austin Rd W; henryjacques.com*) exploring its scent library.

My weekend refuge

Weekends for me are about recalibration. Weather permitting, and if I'm outside before the midday scorching sun, I'd walk along the waterfront until I reach Sai Ying Pun, where there are many charming cafés. One of which is **Two-and-a-Half Street** (*1 David Ln; [@twoandahalfstreet.hk](http://twoandahalfstreet.hk)*), which serves up a life-changing Turkish egg croissant.

When I lived in the Sai Kung countryside, my favourite morning activity was running 5km from home to the pier to watch the sunrise. Nights are for cocktails – I like **Popinjays** (*The Murray, 22 Cotton Tree Dr; [@popinjayshk](http://popinjayshk)*) for the décor and ambience, or the tucked-away **The Old Man** (*37–39 Aberdeen St; [@theoldman_hk](http://theoldman.hk)*) for their creative cocktails.

The editor's table

Hong Kong has no shortage of restaurants, local and high-end alike. My favourite haunt of late is **Kinsman** (*65 Peel St; [@kinsman.hk](http://kinsman.hk)*), which celebrates old-world Chinatowns from Bangkok to Kolkata, each with its own distinct flavours. Try the dumpling crisps with whipped feta mousse, drizzled with Sichuan mala sauce.

The off-script excursion

There is something fascinating about Hong Kong's markets, where you can find everything from fresh flowers and eight different kinds of eggs to live chickens and lingerie. If you go to the Causeway Bay one, you'll end up at the Canal Road Flyover, under which old ladies will beat a piece of paper representing your most hated enemy for a fee (don't ask me how it works, just trust the process).

In Sai Kung, you can enjoy the tranquil seaside views right by historical shops and independent boutiques. **Sai Kung Café & Bakery** (*6–7 Kam Po Court*) has the best pineapple buns (best enjoyed with a slab of cold butter in the middle) and **Law of Yoghurt** (*Ko Fu Building, Fuk Man Rd; [@lawofyogurt](http://lawofyogurt)*) serves amazing froyo with oodles of toppings and sauces. On Sundays, stalls along the pier sell everything from essential oils to organic pet snacks.

The parting gift

Give yourself an agenda-free day and just walk. Start from Tin Hau and head west to Kennedy Town, alternating between the inner streets and the harbourside promenade. It's not far (under 8km) but you'll still get to experience some of the city's most traditional shops and cafés as well as its soaring modern skyscrapers. To this day, I still discover nooks, businesses and spaces that I didn't know about before.

The heart of Malaysia's kopitiam culture

From signature coffee to egg tarts, Hock Kee Kopitiam shows why tradition still matters

If there's one thing Malaysians know, it's that the best moments happen over coffee. Not in some big-name chain or hipster café, though. In Malaysia, it's in the kopitiam (*kopi* meaning coffee; *tiam* meaning shop), and **Hock Kee Kopitiam** is right at the centre of it.

The brand was born from founder Nick Ng's deep love for Nanyang heritage and as a tribute to the flavours and spirit of old-school Southeast Asia. Step into any outlet, and that sense of wistfulness is undeniable: bentwood chairs on herringbone flooring, retro décor on the walls and that robust aroma of coffee in the air.

Nostalgia spills into the signature brews and flavourful spreads. There's the *nasi lemak banjir*, coconut rice drenched in sambal with curry chicken. And hearty plates of salted egg yolk chicken rice or satay fried kuey teow, stir-fried flat rice noodles with grilled skewers. Comfort is always on the menu.

Nick himself developed every dish, driven by his love for food and people. This love is reflected in Hock Kee's core values, *fu qi* (blessings) and *an kang* (well-being).

Every meal becomes a small act of hospitality, extending to retirees, young families and old friends alike. Plus, halal certification means nothing stands between anyone and a seat. Fitting, then, that they embrace *muhibbah*, the Malay word for goodwill and unity.

The brand has earned a reputation



Authentic nasi lemak banjir



A feast of Hock Kee Kopitiam favourites



Nick Ng with the Highly Recommended Brand Award

that has travelled well beyond home. China's HunanTV named it one of Malaysia's must-visit food destinations for travellers, and it's easy to see why. The nostalgia, the food and everything this place stands for all trace back to one thing: the heart of Malaysia's kopitiam culture.

Make your way to any Hock Kee Kopitiam near you and pull up a chair. There's always room for one more.

Scan the QR code to find your nearest Hock Kee Kopitiam and learn more.



The signature satay fried kuey teow

"You go ahead. I'll just wait here."

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For years, Madam Lau carried the bags while her family explored without her. She feared she'd never climb the steps of the Forbidden City. She started Movt360® OVO and kept going. Today she isn't waiting at the bottom of the hill. She's the one saying, "Keep up."



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Newest LRT line: Shah Alam Line



All aboard the Shah Alam Line

Explore more of the Klang Valley with Rapid KL's newest LRT line and the Rapid Kembara Pass, making every journey easier and more rewarding



Little India, Klang

Malaysia is set to welcome 47 million international visitors this year, and Kuala Lumpur is ready to showcase its vibrant city experience. Here, centuries-old shophouses stand alongside modern skyscrapers, while street food stalls thrive next to fine dining restaurants. This is the true spirit of Visit Malaysia 2026.

Exploring these attractions is easier than ever with Rapid KL. The **Rapid Kembara Pass** offers unlimited rides across Rapid KL's rail and bus network, together with exclusive offers at more than 30 partner outlets covering dining, shopping and entertainment. Travellers can also look forward to a new seven-day pass launching in September.

The recently opened **Shah Alam Line**, Rapid KL's third LRT line, brings even more of the Klang

Valley within reach. Spanning 37.8km across 20 stations in Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam and Klang, it connects seamlessly with existing LRT lines and destinations including Bangsar, KL Sentral, Pasar Seni and KLCC, where the iconic Petronas Twin Towers await.

Begin your journey at Bandar Utama, home to 1 Utama Shopping Centre, the largest mall in Malaysia. Rapid Kembara Pass holders can also enjoy exclusive offers at TGI Fridays, WORQ and the nearby Chocolate Museum.

Continue to Seksyen 7 Shah Alam and discover i-City, a 72-acre theme park featuring WaterWorld, SnoWalk, AI World Experience Centre, Red Carpet's wax

museum and VR attractions. After dark, the City of Digital Lights transforms the area into a glowing spectacle. Nearby, the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque, Malaysia's largest mosque, welcomes visitors to admire its magnificent blue dome.

Further along the line, Pasar Klang and Jambatan Kota offer a glimpse into Klang's rich royal heritage. Explore Pasar Besar Klang, wander historic shophouses and Little India, and visit the Sultan Abdul Aziz Royal Gallery.

Whether discovering Kuala Lumpur's urban attractions or Selangor's cultural gems, Rapid Kembara makes every journey simpler and more rewarding. Choose from the 1-Day, 3-Day or upcoming 7-Day Pass and start planning your Visit Malaysia 2026 adventure today.

Visit myrapid.com.my to explore the full range of passes available.



i-City, Shah Alam



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A PERFECT WEEKEND IN Da Nang

Words **Soumya Gayatri**

From golden beaches and lantern-lit avenues
to a thriving café scene, Da Nang packs
the best of central Vietnam into
one unforgettable city



One of Vietnam's coastal cities, Da Nang is a beguiling mix of modern metropolis and tranquil tropical escape.



Majestic mountains rise to the north and west. A glistening coastline stretches to the east. And the Han River winds through the centre of it all, giving the city its particular mix of nature, culture and urban energy. Da Nang's history spans the ancient Champa Kingdom, French colonial rule and the Vietnam War, leaving behind a destination rich in stories and cultural influences. Let this three-day itinerary lead you from scenic peninsulas and sandy shores to historic trading ports, buzzing night markets and unforgettable culinary experiences.

Friday

Morning. Begin your weekend at **Da Nang Museum** (31 Tran Phu; @danang_museum). Housed in an elegant, 120-year-old Neoclassical building, the museum traces the city's history and culture through exhibits that range from ancient artefacts to more recent chapters in Da Nang's history.

From there, it's a short stroll to **Da Nang Cathedral** (156 Tran Phu), known locally as the Pink Church for its pastel-pink façade. Admire its imposing Gothic silhouette, 70m bell tower and medieval stained-glass windows.

Once you've worked up an appetite, head to **Mi Quang Ba Mua** (44 Le Dinh Duong; Facebook/ MonNgonMyQuang)



Previous page:
Hoai River in Hoi An

Clockwise from top left: Phin Coffee Class; Da Nang Cathedral; Mi Quang noodle dish; shops along Nguyen Thai Hoc street; Hoi An Old Town



for a steaming bowl of *Mi Quang*, Da Nang's signature noodle dish. Made with yellow rice noodles, meat, fresh herbs, crunchy rice crackers and a small amount of broth, it's central Vietnam in a dish.

Afternoon. Da Nang takes its coffee seriously, and café hopping is as much a local ritual as sightseeing. Start with a cup of *ca phe trung* (Vietnamese egg coffee) at **Nam House Café** (15/1 Le Hong Phong; Facebook/ NAMhouseCoffee), a vintage coffee house packed with memorabilia, including pre-war South Vietnamese antiques and artwork.

From there, head to **Ca Phe Muoi Hue** (254 Tran Phu; Facebook/ caphemuoionline), known for its unique *ca phe muoi* (salted coffee) and the bolder, refreshing *ca phe dua* (coconut coffee).

Want to take the ritual home with you? Join a hands-on workshop at **Phin Coffee Class** (25 Tran Khanh Du; phincoffee.class.com) and learn to brew with a traditional Vietnamese phin filter.

Evening. Take a leisurely stroll along **Bach Dang Street**, a 1.2km-long riverside promenade known for its scenic river views, striking modern architecture and atmospheric cafés. Open daily from 3pm until midnight, the pedestrian-friendly boulevard picks up energy after dark with live music, street performances and stalls selling everything from snacks to trinkets.

For a different vantage point, hop aboard the five-star **Poseidon River Cruise** (Ben Du Thuyen Song Han; poseidoncruise.net) and watch Da Nang's skyline and bridges light up from the water.

End the day at **Sky36 Bar** (34–36 Bach Dang; sky36.vn), the city's highest rooftop bar, where good food and DJ sets come with sweeping views of the city.

Saturday

Morning. Escape the city for a day and discover **Hoi An**, a Unesco World Heritage-listed trading port just under an hour from Da Nang.

Wander through the charming **Old Town**, where hundreds of timber-frame buildings and yellow shophouses reflect a blend of Vietnamese, Chinese and Japanese architectural influences.



Don't miss the beautiful **Quan Cong Temple** (24 Tran Phu), an ornate 17th-century Chinese shrine adorned with intricate carvings and colourful artwork, or the iconic 400-year-old **Japanese Covered Bridge** (Nguyen Thi Minh Khai), an enduring symbol of Hoi An's multicultural identity and one of Vietnam's most photographed landmarks.

Afternoon. Make your way to **Banh Mi Phuong** (2b D Phan Chu Trinh; Facebook/ banhmyphuongha), Hoi An's legendary sandwich shop. Layers of meat, pâté, crunchy pickled vegetables and a few secret sauces go into every sandwich here, prompting Anthony Bourdain to describe it as a "symphony in a sandwich".

Later, join a workshop at **The Lantern Lady** (3/6 D Phan Boi Chau; Facebook/ LanternMakingWorkshopHoiAn) and learn how to craft your own colourful bamboo-and-silk lantern from scratch. Along the way, discover the history and cultural significance of these handcrafted lanterns, one of Hoi An's most recognisable symbols and a meaningful souvenir to bring home.



Clockwise from top left: Son Tra Peninsula; Linh Ung Pagoda; browse food stalls at Son Tra Night Market; My Khe beach



Evening. As dusk falls, take a walk along **Nguyen Thai Hoc**, a centuries-old street lined with boutique shops, historic houses and artisanal cafés.

Then hop on a traditional wooden sampan for a ride along the **Hoai River** (31 *Nguyen Phuc Chu*) and take in the beauty of the lantern-lit town. The experience is especially magical during the monthly Lantern Festival, when thousands of lanterns light up the Old Town and traditional Bai Choi performances add to the festive atmosphere.

End the day at **Hoi An Night Market** (3 *Nguyen Hoang*), browsing stalls for handcrafted lanterns and jewellery, and sampling *cao lau* noodle soup, grilled meats and local snacks.

Sunday

Morning. Set off to explore the natural beauty of **Son Tra Peninsula**, a lush coastal reserve often called Da Nang's "green lung".

Start at **Linh Ung Pagoda** (472H+435 *Vuon Lam Ty Ni, Hoang Sa*), home to Vietnam's tallest Buddha statue and sweeping ocean views.

Next, visit the **Dong Dinh Art Museum** (*Hoang Sa; dongdinhmuseum.vn*), a hidden cultural oasis tucked within the Son Tra Nature Reserve. Spanning more than 10,000sqm, the museum holds an impressive collection of antiques, pottery and ethnographic artefacts, offering a window into the lives and culture of central Vietnam's Indigenous communities.

Stop at **Monkey Point** (3 *Le Van Luong*), a lookout known for uninterrupted ocean views and, if you're lucky, a glimpse of the endangered red-shanked douc langur,

which lives in the surrounding mountains.

Afternoon. Feast on fresh seafood at **Moc Quan Seafood Da Nang** (26 *To Hien Thanh; @haisanmocquandanang*), a Michelin Guide-listed eatery that serves the best grilled scallops and garlic butter shrimp.

Spend the afternoon relaxing on **My Khe Beach** (Vo *Nguyen Giap, Hoa Hai*), one of Da Nang's most popular stretches of sand. For something quieter, head to **East Sea Park Beach** (Vo *Nguyen Giap, An Hai*), a favourite among locals for its laid-back atmosphere and picture-perfect promenade.

Evening. On your last night, dive into Da Nang's food and shopping scene at **Han Market** (119 *Tran Phu, Hai Chau*), the city's oldest traditional marketplace. Dating to the French colonial era, its aisles are stocked with local specialities such as dried seafood, shrimp paste, fermented fish sauces and rattan handicrafts.

Then make your way to **Son Tra Night Market** (74 *Mai Hac De, An Hai*), the largest in the city, where colourful stalls sell everything from Vietnamese folk paintings and conical leaf hats to coffee beans and locally sourced nuts.



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



Discover the beauty of
Da Nang and other top
attractions in Vietnam
on Journify!

Where to stay



InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort

Tucked into a secluded bay on Son Tra Peninsula, this luxury resort is known for Bill Bensley-designed architecture fusing Vietnamese culture with contemporary style. Rooms and villas offer sea views, plus access to a private beach.

danang.intercontinental.com



Signature by M Village

Set in the heart of Da Nang, right by the Han River, this boutique hotel occupies a century-old villa and features 33 elegantly furnished rooms that pair vintage architecture with modern amenities.

modernvillagelifestyle.vn



M Hotel Danang

This 199-key luxury hotel on My Khe Beach offers stylish ocean-view rooms. Known for its biophilic design, it weaves tropical plants, creepers and balcony gardens into its façade, creating a space that feels connected to nature. mhotel.vn

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D Empire, the essential KL culinary destination

Why this award-winning European steakhouse belongs at the top of every Kuala Lumpur food itinerary



D Empire has built its reputation the way it builds every plate: through its steak. Each cut is dry-aged in-house, with temperature and humidity carefully controlled. The result is a crust that caramelises deeply enough to crackle under the knife and meat tender enough to barely need one.

They are shaped by the kind of care that wins a World Top Gourmet Award and keeps D Empire a highly rated steakhouse destination by diners on TripAdvisor.

Rooted in French and Italian cuisine

The story goes back to 2007, when D Empire opened as a small European kitchen in Mont Kiara. Now housed in Pavilion Kuala Lumpur and Pavilion Damansara Heights, it offers fine dining without the formality.

A crown emblem greets you at the door, but it's the quiet luxury inside that wins you over. From the velvet banquettes to the warm brass lighting fixtures, the atmosphere exudes an unhurried pace that invites you to stay.



Business lunches run long without anyone checking their watches, families spread out over shared plates and couples linger over dessert on an ordinary Tuesday. The best part is that this laid-back ambience doesn't ask you to dress up for any occasion.

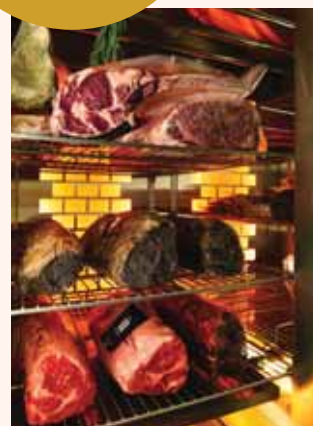
The details behind every plate

Bordelaise sauces are reduced from scratch and every ingredient is sourced close to home for peak freshness. The full menu offers guilt-free dining with halal-certified food free of MSG and artificial preservatives.

Behind it all is chef Dallan Tan, whose two decades of experience shape D Empire's French and Italian cuisine. His expertise earned him the Master Chef Award at the 2025 World Top Gourmet Awards. His rule is simple: let the

READER SPECIAL:

Snap a photo of this page and present it at your table to redeem a mystery treat worth RM40.



ingredient speak for itself; season just enough to bring out what's already there.

It's a standard you can taste on every visit. Whether you are visiting Kuala Lumpur or already call it home, D Empire is a non-negotiable destination.

D Empire locations:

Pavilion Kuala Lumpur, Lot 6.33, Level 6
For reservations: +60 11 2942 0244

Pavilion Damansara Heights, Lot 5.32, Level 5 For reservations: +60 11 3328 6357





Where the rainforest speaks

Belum Rainforest Resort offers you a rare chance to slow down, pay attention and listen



But Royal Belum's real story isn't only about what grows here. It's about who takes care of it. Through its partnership with the Pulau Banding Foundation, BRR supports conservation research, environmental education and the Orang Asli, Malaysia's indigenous communities, whose knowledge of this forest runs deeper than any guidebook. Guests who trek its trails or cruise its waters step into a relationship between people and place that has lasted generations.

A stay here moves at the forest's pace. Mornings begin on the water, tracing Tasik Temenggor by boat. Afternoons lead into the rainforest, on trails shaded by ancient canopy. Evenings settle into something quieter: the jungle waking up after dark, its sounds you can hear from your balcony, when you have nowhere else to be.

It's easy to travel and see a great deal. It's rarer to travel and feel something. Royal Belum offers a journey shaped by reconnection: with nature, with each other and perhaps with a version of yourself revealed only by slowing down.

Belum Rainforest Resort isn't a place you simply visit. It's a place that asks you to pay attention and rewards you for it.



Some places are built for a weekend getaway. Royal Belum has stood for over 130 million years, and it isn't in a hurry to impress you.

Set on the still waters of Tasik Temenggor in northern Perak, **Belum Rainforest Resort (BRR)** is the doorway into one of the world's oldest rainforests, a living landscape that predates the Amazon itself.

Step off the boat and the forest takes over: mist curling low over the lake at dawn, hornbills tracing the canopy, and somewhere beneath the green, the promise of a Rafflesia in bloom. All 10 hornbill species found in Malaysia have been recorded here, a rare distinction that makes every morning at BRR feel like a small event.

Scan the QR code or visit
belumrainforestresort.com to
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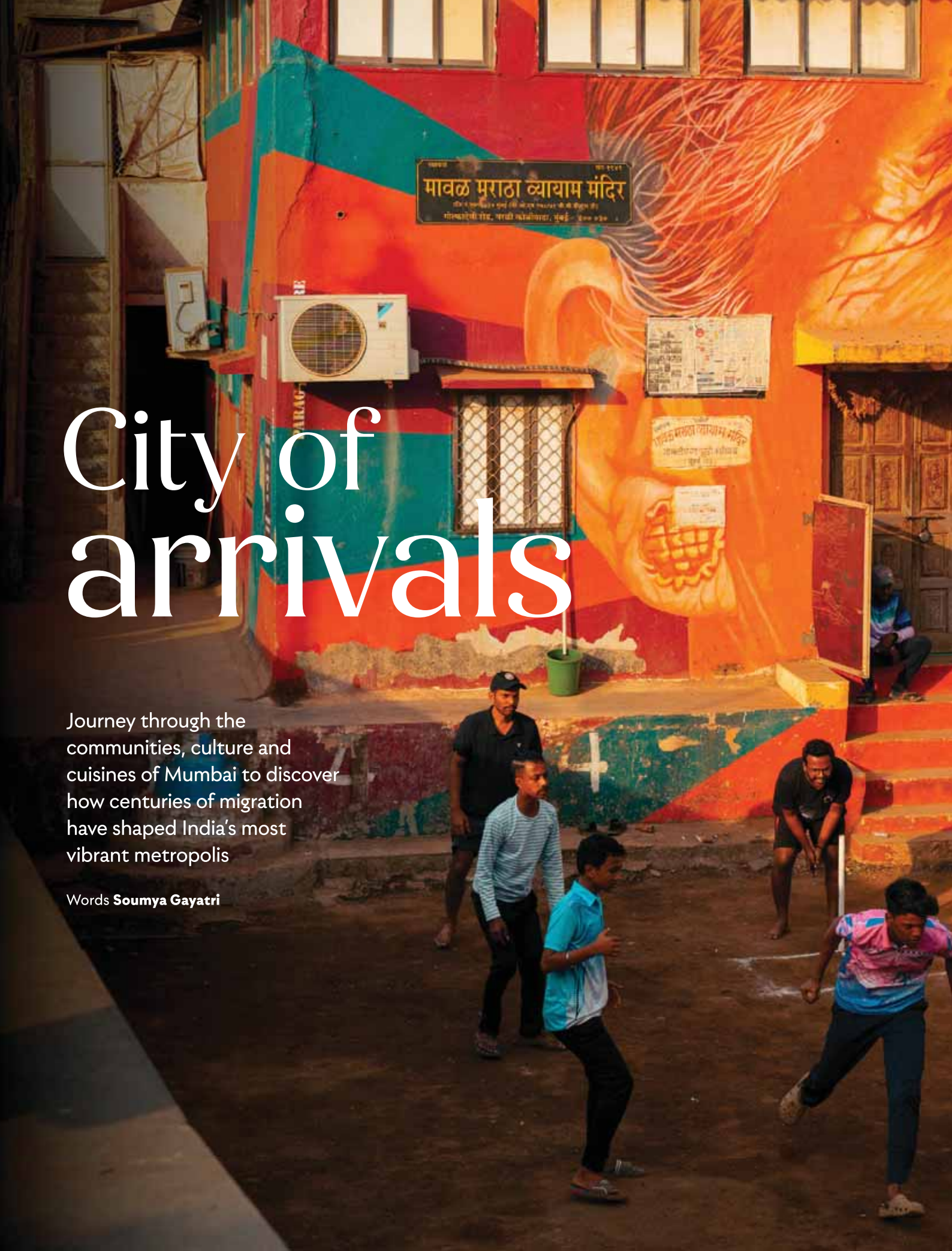
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Contraindicated in infants below 2 years of age. Caution must be exercised when older children are treated. KKLJU 3583 / EXP 31.12.2027. This is a medicine product advertisement.



City of arrivals

Journey through the communities, culture and cuisines of Mumbai to discover how centuries of migration have shaped India's most vibrant metropolis

Words **Soumya Gayatri**



It is just before sunrise, and the fish market at Mumbai's Sassoon Dock is already brimming with activity.

Previous spread:

A scene at Worli Koliwada, featuring a mural by Parag Sonarghare titled *Aai*

This spread from far left:

Sassoon Docks, with murals by Paola Delfin (*Humanity*) and Riot Games (promoting its video game *Valorant*)

Women in brightly coloured nauvari sarees, draped in the traditional kashta style, move swiftly through the crowds, balancing baskets of white pomfret and silver mackerel on their heads. Auctioneers call out prices over the cries of seagulls as buyers jostle for the morning's best catch. The air is redolent of fresh fish and alive with the din of a bustling marketplace.

Yet beyond the clamour of the dock and a forest of noisy trawlers lies the quiet, glittering expanse of the Arabian Sea, an indomitable force that has shaped the city's history for centuries. These waters have carried fishermen, merchants, missionaries, refugees and dreamers, each finding a home on Mumbai's shores and leaving their imprint on the city's neighbourhoods, architecture, cuisine and culture.

Standing here, I realise that every corner of Mumbai, formerly Bombay, tells the story of someone who arrived from somewhere else. From the Koli fishermen who first settled in these islands and the Parsis who sought refuge, to the British administrators, the Bohri merchants, and, more recently, artists, entrepreneurs and dreamers from all over the subcontinent, Mumbai has always welcomed people and given them a reason to stay.

To wander through the city today is to peel back centuries of history, one neighbourhood at a time, each revealing a different layer of Mumbai's endlessly evolving identity.





THE OLDEST MUMBAI

I begin my journey at the historic Worli Koliwada, one of Mumbai's oldest fishing villages and home to the Koli fishing community for over 800 years. Its narrow lanes feature pastel homes and magnificent murals. At the waterfront, a fleet of brightly coloured fishing boats stands in stark contrast to the sleek silhouette of the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, a beautiful reminder of how old Mumbai continues to coexist with the new.

Outside the homes, rows of fish dry under the morning sun, while the aroma of fried prawns and spicy crab masala drifts from kitchens inside. "The sea is deeply embedded in Koli life, food and culture," says Mumbai-based cookbook author Abigail Rebello. "And the best way to experience this is in these home kitchens or at Mumbai's annual seafood festivals, where food and community come together in the most vibrant way."

From the fishing village, I head south to leaf through another chapter in Mumbai's story of arrivals. In tranquil Parsi colonies, centuries-old temples and nostalgic cafés, I trace the journeys of Zoroastrians who sought refuge in India over a millennium ago and of later Iranian migrants who brought with them the tradition of the Persian coffeehouse. These establishments, known as Irani cafés, have become an integral part of Mumbai's social fabric.

The most iconic among them is the 120-year-old Kyani & Co. Regulars linger here over hot cups of sweet Irani chai and the café's signature *bun maska*, a soft, warm, buttery bread served on chequered tablecloths set against Bentwood chairs and vintage glass display cabinets that almost transport me back in time.

THE CITY TAKES SHAPE

My next stop is Khotachiwadi, a quaint colonial neighbourhood in Girgaon, where the legacy of the Portuguese, Mumbai's earliest European settlers, lives on in colourful cottages featuring ornate wrought-iron balconies, sloping tiled roofs and shuttered windows.

The Portuguese, however, left behind more than just colonial architecture. Their proselytising efforts gave birth to the East Indian community, one of India's oldest Christian groups, whose culture is a beautiful blend of Maharashtrian roots and Portuguese traditions. "We carry over five centuries of Portuguese influence in everything from our surnames and spice blends to our homemade wines and chocolate marzipan eggs," says Rebello, an East Indian herself.

Another short drive brings me to the Fort district of South Mumbai, where the city changes again with monumental Indo-Saracenic masterpieces, a fusion of Indo-Islamic and Victorian-Gothic architectural styles. Standing before the magnificent Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, the historic General Post Office and the imposing University of Mumbai, I am awestruck by the elegant pairing of bulbous domes and scalloped arches with soaring turrets and stained-glass windows.

Outside these grand edifices, the streets pulse with officegoers sipping tiny glasses of special Bombay "cutting" chai and family-run Gujarati restaurants serving elaborate vegetarian thalis laden with fragrant curries, snacks, pickles and fresh rotis.

The narrow lanes of Bohri Mohalla whisper yet another story. Here, the aromas of slow-cooked mutton nalli nihari, smoky seekh kebabs and crispy keema samosas waft from hole-in-the-wall eateries, showcasing the culinary traditions of the Dawoodi Bohra merchant community, which has long called Mumbai home.



“

To wander through the city today is to peel back centuries of history, one neighbourhood at a time, each revealing a different layer of Mumbai's endlessly evolving identity”

IMAGES: FARAH SAYYED (TOP, BOTTOM); SHUTTERSTOCK (LEFT, RIGHT)



Clockwise from bottom right: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, topped with the symbolic *Statue of Progress*; scenes from Worli Koliwada – the city, the Bandra-Worli Sea Link bridge and the docks





“

Perhaps that is Mumbai’s greatest gift: no matter where you come from, there is always room for you to stay and become part of its story”

Clockwise from left:
Marine Drive; Bai Pirojbaï Dadabhoy Manekji Vatcha Agiary, a Parsi temple known for the winged horses at its entrance; Bohri Mohalla street food; offerings at The Bombay Canteen

IMAGES: ANSLENT MESHAK (MARINE DRIVE, STREET FOOD); FARAH SAYYED (VATCHA AGIARY); COURTESY OF HUNGER INC HOSPITALITY (BOMBAY CANTEN)



THE CITY THAT NEVER STOPS ARRIVING

As the sun dips below the horizon, I make my way to Marine Drive, Mumbai's iconic 3.6km-long seaside promenade that's home to one of the world's largest collections of Art Deco buildings. Built in the early 20th century, these elegant residences with sweeping balconies, porthole windows and ziggurat rooflines became the architectural language of a city embracing modernity, progress and reinvention.

That spirit defines Mumbai even today. And nowhere is this more evident than in Bollywood, the Hindi film industry that has earned Mumbai the sobriquet of India's City of Dreams. Every year, thousands of aspiring actors, writers, musicians and entrepreneurs arrive here with little more than ambition. Some leave, others stay, but each adds another layer to the city's ever-evolving identity.

"Mumbai has an incredible ability to accept people for who they are. That makes strangers fall in love with the city," says travel content creator Divyakshi Gupta, whose family moved to Mumbai in 1981. "It's a city that lets you be yourself and pursue your dreams, no matter how big they seem."

This openness is also transforming Mumbai's culinary landscape. "Restaurants are unearthing forgotten recipes and reinventing them with contemporary techniques and novel storytelling," says Gupta.

At The Bombay Canteen, housed in a restored old bungalow in the Lower Parel neighbourhood, I experience how chefs apply this philosophy. From butter-garlic crab kulchas and prawns "Ali-Yolio" to coffee rasgulla sundaes, the food is unmistakably modern yet deeply rooted in Mumbai's past, inspired by the flavours of its many communities.

Back on the city's busy streets, I am reminded of all the people who have arrived in Mumbai over the centuries. Today's chefs, entrepreneurs and actors are simply the latest. And like the Koli fishermen, Parsi refugees and Gujarati traders before them, they are adding another layer to a city that has never stopped reinventing itself. Perhaps that is Mumbai's greatest gift: no matter where you come from, there is always room for you to stay and become part of its story.



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Where to stay



The Taj Mahal Palace

Welcoming guests since 1903, The Taj remains one of Mumbai's most iconic landmarks, blending Indo-Saracenic, Moorish and Rajput architecture with impeccable service and Arabian Sea-view suites for guests. tajhotels.com



ITC Grand Central

This Luxury Collection hotel wears Mumbai's colonial-era architecture well, with sumptuous rooms that feel timeless and restaurants that celebrate the city's deep culinary heritage. itchehotels.com



Abode Bombay

This 25-key boutique hotel is set within a beautifully restored 115-year-old heritage building in Colaba. Anti-chain and stylish, it features vintage furniture, handmade Art Deco tile flooring and original artwork by local artists. abodeboutiquehotels.com

Great steak, greater pride

For chef Ker Yang Hao, building Firewood was never about representing Malaysia. But somewhere between the fire, the beef and a national anthem, it became exactly that



When we started Firewood, honestly, we never planned for it to become a place that represents Malaysia. We simply wanted to build a great restaurant. To cook good food. To work with great ingredients. To create an experience that people would remember.

But somewhere along the journey, I started to realise that Firewood could be more than that.

I remember sitting at an award dinner when the national anthem, “Negaraku”, began to play. As everyone stood and sang together, I felt something that was difficult to put into words. I felt proud.

At that moment, I looked at Firewood differently. I realised that every day, we have guests walking through our doors from all over the world. They come to Penang and Kuala Lumpur looking for a great dining experience. And Firewood has an opportunity to let them experience a little bit of Malaysia. Not only through what they see, but through what they taste.

“

**Kita anak Malaysia.
We are all Malaysian”**

We cook over Malaysian *bakau* wood, a mangrove hardwood prized for its intense, long-burning heat, allowing the fire to create the smoke and flavour that belongs to us. We bring Malaysian sauces, spices and familiar flavours into our cooking, while working with some of the finest beef from around the world. The beef may come from Australia, Japan or Korea. But when it meets our fire, it becomes Firewood.

And perhaps, when a traveller leaves Firewood, they take home more than just a memory of a great steak. Maybe they take home a little taste of Malaysia.

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Built to last



Some cities keep their history at arm's length. London builds with it. These four architectural landmarks have each been reinvented for a new era, and in doing so, have only grown more essential to the story of the city

Words **Kissa Castañeda**

Walking around London is a form of time travel, with the past, present and future merging right on the street. Look in any direction and you'll find traces of nearly every chapter of the city's incredible story.



Victorian townhouses that look straight out of a Charles Dickens novel. Old industrial buildings left over from when the Thames was once a busy port. In Mayfair, Art Deco hotels from the 1920s, built just as London was becoming a truly cosmopolitan capital. Brutalist structures showcasing post-war reconstruction. And finally, gleaming skyscrapers that cement London's status as a financial hub.

That's the beauty of walking this city: the buildings do most of the talking, through Portland stone, red brick, glass and steel. Over the past few years, several of London's most storied addresses have been given a second life, not just restored but reimagined, and in the process, they've breathed new energy into the neighbourhoods around them. Here are four landmark buildings worth exploring.

Previous spread
from left: Olympia Way entrance; Battersea Power Station

Clockwise from top: The Whiteley's restored glass dome; the courtyard; one of the residences at The Whiteley





THE WHITELEY LONDON

The city's first luxury department store with a new lease of life

Shopping may be a matter of swiping nowadays, but rewind to the early 1900s, when everything happened within a physical store. Back then, the place to be seen was The Whiteley, London's first-ever luxury department store, which opened its doors in 1911 and paved the way for the likes of Harrods, Selfridges and Liberty, all still going strong today.

Walking through its doors was meant to be inspiring, and that ambition shows in the grand Edwardian architecture and Art Deco detailing. Now the building has been reimagined by Valouran, a £1.2 billion transformation eight years in the making that preserves its history while breathing new life into the somewhat overlooked Bayswater neighbourhood.

Award-winning firm Foster + Partners took on the job of retaining the building's character, restoring the Grade II-listed façade, the original glass dome and clock tower, and relocating the grand staircase. Since reopening this year, the building hums with activity once again, with lifestyle outlets like Everyman Cinema, 3812 Gallery, Guillam Coffee House, along with 60,000sq ft of amenities including a padel court.

The Whiteley is also home to the UK's first Six Senses hotel, and the luxury hospitality brand picked this address to introduce Six Senses Place, a wellness-driven private members club. Perhaps the most compelling additions, though, are the 139 residences built into the scheme, offering a rare chance to live in a place with so much history behind it.





Opposite page:
Olympia's canopy
area

**This page, from
top:** Snapshots
of Olympia –
Emberton Walk,
roof terrace and
office block

OLYMPIA LONDON

A historic exhibition hall reimagined into a creative and cultural district

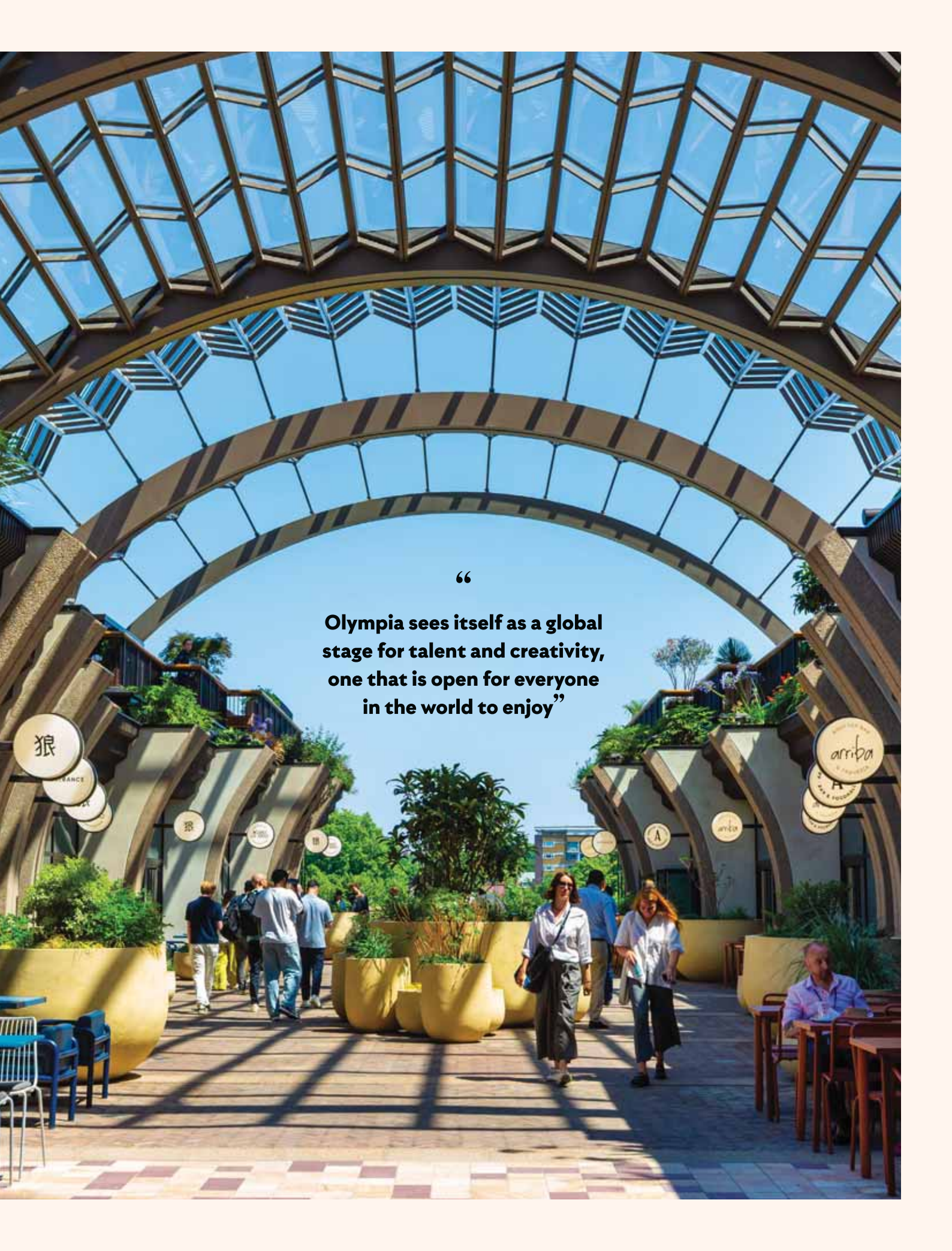
Anyone who has been to Olympia probably has a story to tell: an epic concert or an exhibition they never forgot. Opened in 1886, it's been one of London's foremost creative stages for the last 140 years. Vivienne Westwood staged her runway debut in these Victorian halls in 1981. Jimi Hendrix played here. So did Pink Floyd.

Now Olympia wants to do more than host creativity, it wants to cultivate it. Yoo Capital and Deutsche Finance International are behind the £1.3 billion redevelopment turning the 14-acre site into a proper mixed-use district, due to fully open by the end of 2026. There's plenty to look forward to: London's first new theatre in nearly 50 years, a 4,000-capacity live music venue, more than 30 bars and restaurants, workspaces, education space and everything in between. In the coming months, it will feature a five-night residency by Van Morrison in September, two large conventions – Animecon and Decorex – in October, and the much-awaited Ideal Home Show Christmas at the end of November.

With most of us glued to our phones these days, Olympia is betting that's exactly why in-person experiences matter more than ever. A live concert with friends. An interactive exhibition with family. Face-to-face conversations.

Olympia may sit in West Kensington, but it doesn't think small. It sees itself as a global stage for talent and creativity, one that is open for everyone in the world to enjoy.





“

Olympia sees itself as a global stage for talent and creativity, one that is open for everyone in the world to enjoy”

”



BATTERSEA POWER STATION

An industrial landmark turned dynamic lifestyle destination

For decades, Battersea Power Station stood empty on the banks of the Thames, a monument to Britain's industrial past. At its peak, it generated a fifth of London's electricity, powering everything from Buckingham Palace to the Houses of Parliament. Its imposing brick structure and four chimneys have loomed over the skyline for so long they've become part of the city's imagination, immortalised on Pink Floyd's *Animals* album cover and in countless films and television shows.

The Grade II-listed structure has been reborn as the centrepiece of one of Europe's largest regeneration projects, finally opening its doors in 2022. Following a £9 billion investment, the 42-acre riverside district now features a range of residences (some built within the chimneys themselves), offices, including Apple's UK headquarters, as well as 170 shops, bars and restaurants, creating an entirely new neighbourhood around it.

It's a huge redevelopment, but what really sets it apart is how seriously it takes its heritage. The power station itself remains the anchor, its original turbine halls and control rooms painstakingly restored, so that the over 40 million visitors who've come through since it opened can actually experience a piece of that industrial past.

Community matters here too. The lifestyle destination hosts Celebrasia, London's largest Southeast Asian, free-to-attend festival, happening 11–13 September, along with a Christmas at Battersea tradition that draws people across the river every year.

What's next for Battersea? There's still over half the site waiting to be developed, so its story isn't finished yet.



Clockwise from far left:

Celebrasia at Battersea Power Station; Ladbroke Hall; Luciano Giubbilei-designed garden; a seafood dish at Pollini; Battersea Power Station Turbine Hall B and Control Room B

**LADBROKE HALL****A Beaux-Arts manufacturing hub reborn as a stage for the arts**

Ladbroke Hall was built in 1903 as the headquarters and showroom of the Clément-Talbot Motor Company. Commissioned by Charles Chetwynd-Talbot, the 20th Earl of Shrewsbury, the Grade II-listed, Beaux-Arts landmark was designed to look more like an English country house than a factory, though it certainly functioned as one when it turned out military vehicles during the First World War.

More than a century later, it's making things again, just not cars. Restored by Loïc Le Gaillard and Julien Lombrail, the founders of Carpenters Workshop Gallery, they turned it into something Notting Hill didn't quite have before: a single address where art, design, music, performance and food all happen under one roof.

They call it a "stage for the arts", and they mean it literally. On any given day, visitors can find museum-quality collectible design, art and sculpture on show at Carpenters Workshop Gallery. Ladbroke Hall also hosts Friday jazz nights, while poetry and live music take place at Pollini, the Italian restaurant housed under the building's soaring ceilings.

The garden, designed by RHS Chelsea Flower Show winner Luciano Giubbilei and home to the 1944 Prouvé House, is open to guests during spring and summer.



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



Exploring London? Plan your trip with ease by browsing airport transfers, city attractions and more on Journify!

Second life**Meet the hotels reviving London's most historic structures****Waldorf Astoria London Admiralty Arch**

Admiralty Arch has framed the ceremonial approach to Buckingham Palace for over a century. Now, the Grade I-listed monument, commissioned by King Edward VII, has been turned into the Waldorf Astoria London Admiralty Arch: a 114-room hotel with restaurants by Clare Smyth and Daniel Boulud. [hilton.com](https://www.hilton.com)

**Six Senses London**

Set inside The Whiteley, this is Six Senses' first UK hotel, offering a rare look inside the Edwardian landmark. EPR Architects and Foster + Partners led the restoration, while AvroKo revived its Art Deco interiors. It also features Six Senses Place, built around wellness and connection. [sixsenses.com](https://www.sixsenses.com)

**The Chancery Rosewood**

Eero Saarinen designed this 1960 building as the US Embassy. Now, David Chipperfield Architects has turned the Grade II-listed, Modernist landmark in Grosvenor Square into The Chancery Rosewood. Joseph Dirand designed the 144 guestrooms and suites as sleek, calming cocoons. [rosewoodhotels.com](https://www.rosewoodhotels.com)

Into

the

wild





No cages, no chains. Meet Asia's
wildest icons through five operators
that put the animals first

Words **Erica Fong**

For animal lovers, real magic doesn't happen behind cages. It happens in the wild.



With a little planning, you can witness some of the world's most remarkable creatures live exactly as they should: free, undisturbed and thriving in their natural habitats. It's an experience that feels more honest and far kinder to the animals themselves.

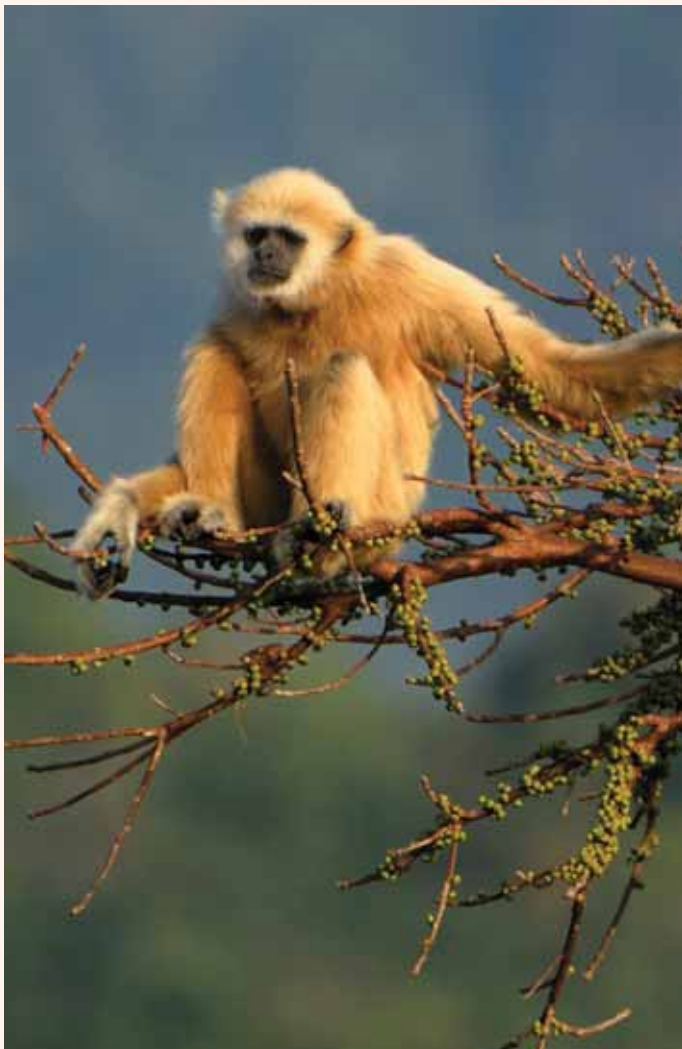
The global market for eco-wildlife tourism is projected to top US\$338 billion by 2033, as travellers increasingly prioritise responsible experiences over staged ones. From blue whales and other gentle giants under the sea to orangutans swinging through the treetops, these ethical operators across Asia prove that conservation and adventure can go hand in hand.

THAILAND'S SANCTUARY FOR THE RESCUED

Founded in 2001, Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (wfft.org) is one of Southeast Asia's largest animal sanctuaries based in Phetchaburi province, about 160km southwest of Bangkok. It shelters nearly 900 rescued animals across 60 species, giving lifelong refuge to victims of the illegal wildlife trade and tourism exploitation, including elephants, gibbons, bears, tigers and over 300 primates that now roam freely in spacious, natural enclosures.

WFFT runs as a strict "hands-off sanctuary". No riding, bathing, petting or selfies with the animals are allowed. Knowledgeable guides lead half-day and full-day tours and share each animal's rescue story along the way. For something more immersive, stay overnight at the I Love Phants Lodge, where you'll wake up near free-roaming rescued elephants or hear the chatter of rescued gibbons. Those thinking of becoming a veterinarian could also join WFFT's wildlife hospital's volunteer programme to get hands-on experience with animal care.

Best time to visit: February through May, when temperatures are cooler and more comfortable.



Previous page photo:
Tigerwala expedition

This spread: Animals roaming free at the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand sanctuary, such as the black bear, gibbon and tiger; I Love Phants Lodge (bottom right)



“

Tigerwalah curates bespoke wildlife safaris that maximise sighting opportunities while respecting the animals' space”

INDIA'S WILD CARD

Seeing a Bengal tiger in the wild is a bucket-list moment for most travellers and India offers the best odds anywhere. With over 50 tiger reserves across the country, visitors can choose from destinations like Ranthambore in Rajasthan, Bandhavgarh and Kanha in Madhya Pradesh, Pench and Tadoba in Maharashtra, and the legendary Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand.

Each reserve has its own unique landscape and its stellar cast of wildlife: not only tigers, but leopards, sloth bears, wild dogs and plenty of exotic birds. To keep your tiger safari both ethical and memorable, go with a reputable eco-tour operator like Tigerwalah (tigerwalah.com).

Founded in 2010, Tigerwalah curates bespoke wildlife safaris that maximise sighting opportunities while respecting the animals' space, with a firm policy of no off-road driving, baiting or disturbance to natural animal behaviour. From securing permits to arranging eco-friendly accommodations, their team makes sure your trip supports both conservation and local communities.

Best time to visit: *October to March for first-time visitors, February to April for the best photography conditions and highest tiger sighting probabilities, and January to March for snow leopard expeditions to Ladakh and Spiti Valley.*

BORNEO'S BIG FIVE

Sabah in East Malaysia holds one of the world's oldest rainforests, dating back over 140 million years, with the biodiversity to match. Here you can spot endemic species like the Bornean sun bear (the world's smallest bear species), over 600 recorded bird species, nocturnal animals like the slow loris, saltwater crocodiles, plus green turtles and reef sharks off the renowned dive site Sipadan.

For travellers who want a genuinely responsible experience, Borneo Eco Tours (borneoecotours.com) has been a leader in sustainable wildlife tourism for years. Its best-selling Borneo Big 5 wildlife tour package gives you the chance to see the pygmy elephant, orangutan, proboscis monkey, estuarine crocodile and rhinoceros hornbill, luck and weather permitting.

Highlights of the tour include early morning or afternoon cruises along the Kinabatangan River, five nights of stays split between Sukau Rainforest Lodge in Kinabatangan's Unesco Biosphere Reserve and Borneo Rainforest Lodge in the misty Danum Valley, as well as a visit to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in Sandakan, which cares for and prepares orphaned, injured orangutans for their eventual release back into their natural habitat.

Best time to visit: *March to May for the start of the dry season and ideal jungle trekking conditions, and June to September for river safaris, turtle nesting season and clear skies for wildlife spotting.*

Clockwise from top left: A tigress named Shakti, frequently sighted at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve; elephants spotted on a Tigerwalah wildlife tour; a blue-headed pitta, endemic to Borneo; a proboscis monkey sighting at Sukau Rainforest Lodge

SRI LANKA'S GIANTS OF THE DEEP

Just off Sri Lanka's south coast, you can spot the blue whale, the largest animal on Earth at 24 to 30m long, alongside fin whales, sei whales, sperm whales, orcas, pilot whales, humpbacks, Bryde's whales and several dolphin species.

Just don't expect to jump into the water with them. At least not with Raja & the Whales (rajaandthewhales.com), the original operator in Mirissa, Sri Lanka, about 150km south of Colombo. This local, family-run business was founded in 2009 by a former fisherman and is now led by a captain who is also a doctoral student in whale conservation. Today, the crew is made up of family members and friends who share a deep knowledge and love for the Indian Ocean.

Unlike many whale-watching tour operators, Raja & the Whales strictly prohibits swimming, snorkelling or diving with the gentle giants. Instead, they follow international regulations, keep a respectful distance, never chase or stress the animals, and contribute research data to global conservation organisations. Ironically, this slower, hands-off approach often brings the whales closer than the speed-and-chase style used elsewhere.

Best time to visit: November to early May, with the peak viewing season in February and March when there's up to a 90 per cent chance of blue whale sightings.

“

Just off Sri Lanka's south coast, you can spot the blue whale, the largest animal on Earth at 24 to 30m long”

INDONESIA'S DRAGONS

For a more ethical and intimate Komodo dragon encounter, choose Rinca Island over Komodo Island, about an hour's speedboat ride from Labuan Bajo. While both are located inside Komodo National Park, Rinca sees fewer daily visitors, which means better viewing opportunities on quieter, less crowded treks. Go with a locally owned operator like Bintang Komodo Tours (bintangkomodotours.com), founded by Gregorius “Doddy” Dodikardi, a Labuan Bajo local with over a decade of experience.

Led by people who truly know and love these islands, Bintang Komodo Tours runs on a commitment to safe, sustainable tourism, supporting local communities and protecting the surrounding environment. Respecting the dragons means staying on the official, marked paths with certified park rangers, who can read animal behaviour and keep you at a safe distance from the giant lizards (at least 3–5m away). Other ethical basics: never feed or interact with the animals and use reef-safe sunscreen to protect the surrounding marine life.

Best time to visit: Early mornings, April to October, with the shoulder seasons (April–May and September–October) offering the best conditions.

Clockwise from top left: Komodo dragon; aerial view of Komodo National Park; feeding time for a Bryde's whale





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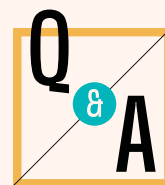
— SIR JAMES DYSON —

FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF DYSON



‘We want to solve problems others ignore’

Best known as the inventor of the bagless vacuum cleaner, the business magnate talks to Allegra Isert about travel tech, the rise of AI and his love of strawberries



How has your definition of success evolved?

As an engineer, success is about solving problems in new and creative ways. That hasn't changed. I'm always focused on the next problem to solve, and there is rather a lot of failure on the way, which is part of the process of invention.

How do you decide which innovation is worth pursuing?

It's a combination of factors. But essentially, the most important question is: does it solve a problem?

How do you define a worthwhile problem?

I enjoy solving problems that others might deem mundane or "boring", and I always want to make a dramatic improvement.

How does product design change when you're designing specifically for people who travel a lot?

Designing products for travellers is about making technology smaller, lighter and easier to carry, without sacrificing performance. Lean engineering has always been a part of Dyson's DNA – from our original bagless vacuum to the world's slimmest vacuum, PencilVac. Portable devices like the Supersonic Travel and the HushJet Mini Cool fan

Continued from previous page

are the next chapter for us – a very exciting one, too. One significant issue we've solved with the new Supersonic Travel is personal global voltage compatibility which means travellers can use their machine anywhere.

The demand for hairdryers in hotels is huge. How important is that market for you now?

Our beauty technology is engineered to deliver a salon-level experience at home. It's wonderful that our products, including the Supersonic hairdryer and the Airwrap, found their way into hotels because people wanted that experience whether travelling for work or on holiday.

Have companies like Boeing or Airbus sought your input on aircraft engineering?

My feet are firmly on the ground, but our HushJet nozzle technology [used in Dyson's air purification systems] was inspired by the aerodynamic and silencing principles of jet engines which gives it a high-velocity airflow with minimal noise. We also have a Harrier Jump Jet on our Malmesbury campus in the UK, which I can see from my desk, and an English Electric Lightning jet suspended in our café. These aircraft are some of the design icons that I use to inspire our engineers.

What made you establish your global headquarters in Singapore?

Our decision to establish Singapore as our first global headquarters was about future-proofing the business to be closer to Dyson's supply chain and



main customer base in a dynamic and growing part of the world. Singapore is a fantastic hub for innovation and talent, and it connects us directly to Dyson's fastest-growing markets.

Tell us about the American market for Dyson. What are the most popular items?

We find that Americans are quick to embrace new innovations, and when they see something they like,

they act fast. For example, our HushJet Mini Cool fan has sold out several times since its launch. Our beauty products are also very popular in the US and generate a lot of excitement on social media – especially the Airwrap Co-anda 2x. We've already seen a strong response for the smaller Supersonic Travel hairdryer.

Of all the technologies you've worked on, which is your favourite?

BIOGRAPHY

An inventor, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Sir James Dyson was born in Norfolk, England, and studied furniture and interior design at the Royal College of Art before moving into engineering. In 1982, he invented the first dual-cyclone vacuum cleaner, inspired by the centrifugal dust extractors used in sawmills. His eponymous, multi-billion-pound company is now present in 85 markets around the world.



IMAGES: MAX LANCASTER/ COURTESY OF DYSON AND THE JAMES DYSON FOUNDATION

I couldn't possibly pick a favourite. However, we've had great fun growing strawberries through circular farming. They are deliciously sweet and beautifully ripe all year round because they are grown in a 10.5-hectare glasshouse [using a Hybrid Vertical Growing System, AI-powered decision-support software, smart sensors and robotic harvesters]. The glasshouse is

heated using the waste heat which comes from renewable energy production at our anaerobic digester. Farming lets us apply our problem-solving mindset in a different field. There is huge potential, and supporting Britain's food security has become a passion for me and my engineers.

Do you see AI as a tool that will accelerate innovation, or one that will accelerate imitation?

A bit of both. I have always thought AI can't be that creative. So, the role of the engineers and the Dyson graduates is really important, because they can bring the kind of creativity that AI can't.

How do you protect genuine innovation in a world where ideas spread instantly?

With some difficulty. People are shameless in copying ideas and it is morally repugnant. Why would anyone go through the heartache, expense and risk of making something when it will be ripped off. At school you are expelled if you copy someone's work – this should be treated with similar severity.

Tell us a bit more about the data collected by Dyson's smart pollution-sensing backpacks, used in countries across Africa.

Our backpacks provided a much clearer picture of air quality all around the world. Working with leading universities, we tracked school children's exposure across several cities in 2021 – including in Blantyre (Malawi), Durban (South Africa), Harare

DYSON IN NUMBERS

Data from decades of devising devices

5,127

Prototypes needed to perfect the first Dyson bagless vacuum cleaner

79

Age of Sir James Dyson on his most recent birthday, May 2, 2026

£600m

Operating profit reported in Dyson's 2025 financial results, up £80m YoY

16,000

Global patents filed by the Dyson company

85

Total number of markets where Dyson products are sold, with more than 425 Dyson direct retail stores worldwide

'Ignore the so-called experts who say that it can't be done'

(Zimbabwe), Kumasi (Ghana), Lagos (Nigeria) and Moshi (Tanzania). We found that only a fifth of the monitored days met global air quality standards.

If you were a young engineer now, what problem would you be looking to solve?

I always encourage young engineers, wherever they are, to look for problems that are being ignored and to apply what I call "wrong thinking" to solve them. This means not being afraid to look at something differently, from the ground up, and ignore the so-called experts who say it can't be done. **BT**

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Dyson's Hybrid Vertical Growing System; the Polyformer plastic recycling system, used in Rwanda



PERSONAL BRANDING

THE MAN WHO MADE SMALL LIVING BIG

Colin Chee transformed a niche YouTube channel about compact homes into a global media brand spanning books, events and a growing design movement



N

EVER TOO SMALL began with Colin Chee's own small-space problem: his 37sqm Melbourne apartment did not work.

The Malaysian-born filmmaker moved to Australia in 2004 to finish his multimedia design degree.

After years of saving, he bought a studio apartment off the plan. The layout was awkward, the fittings made little sense and there was no room for how he actually lived – including space for his beloved piano (growing up, he dreamed of being a classical pianist).

That frustration became the seed for *Never Too Small*.

In 2017, Chee turned his search for better small-space ideas into a YouTube channel. It has since grown into a global design platform that includes books, magazines, exhibitions and live events.

With more than 3.3 million YouTube subscribers as of press date, Chee tells us how a personal design problem became one of the world's most recognisable voices in small-space living.

Small homes, real lives

When I started *Never Too Small* in 2017, I was fascinated by how people made small homes work. At first, I was drawn to the polished stuff: clever joinery, minimalist interiors, Marie Kondo, Scandinavian and Japanese design.

But the more homes I visited, the more my view changed. I saw that design is not universal, it is deeply cultural.

In Southeast Asia, homes are open. You hear neighbours. You smell cooking. In Japan, even tiny apartments make room for an entrance. In Australia, many new apartments open straight into the kitchen, with nowhere to put your shoes.

Never Too Small has never been about chasing one version of "good design". We show architect-designed homes, clever everyday spaces – and everything in between.

In dense cities like Tokyo, Singapore and Hong Kong, small-space living is not niche. It is just life. In places where larger homes are more common, the channel can feel more like a curiosity.

But even sceptical comments are useful. When people ask, "Where do the kids go?" or "How could anyone live like that?", they are not just watching. They are testing the idea against their own lives. That's why *Never Too Small* resonates: audiences can see their own constraints, choices and possibilities in the spaces we feature.

Building trust before growth

In the beginning, it was hard to get access to homes. Architects were busy, clients' homes were private and nobody knew who we were. As the channel grew, people understood what we were trying to do. Architects started taking us more seriously, and submissions began coming to us.

We grew without outside investors. *Never Too Small* began inside New Mac Video Agency, where founder James McPherson backed the idea with time, salary, equipment and resources. That was investment in a very real sense – just not venture capital.

OPPOSITE:
Colin Chee
in his
Melbourne
apartment

THIS PAGE:
The *Never
Too Small*
franchise
now includes
coffee-table
books and
a quarterly
magazine



**Print is not
a dying art**
Video is
powerful, but
print does
something
different. It
slows people
down. You
can hold it,
smell the
paper, turn
the page,
sit with it
over coffee,
and come
back to a

Asian design is often hard to find in international design media. Maybe I'm biased because I'm from Malaysia, and yes, sometimes I put a Malaysian on the cover. Representation matters.

The next issue focuses on Singapore. For me, the opportunity is bigger than interiors. When you live in a small space, the city becomes part of your home.

I'd also love to grow our exhibitions and events. In 2025, we started the live panel Small Living Support Group. The idea came from my own experience. When you live in a small space, you often can't afford professional advice. This gives people a way to access professionals.

Someone might ask, "I have a tiny laundry. How can I make it more functional?" And then the professional gives advice on the spot. It's playful and tongue-in-cheek – as if we are all living in small spaces together, so let's form a support group.

This is where accessibility becomes a business idea, not just a design value. When we asked our audience what mattered most in small-footprint living, affordability was the

Since becoming its own company in 2019, we have stayed experimental but realistic. We are not wildly profitable, but we are not losing money either. We keep asking what can grow the brand without stretching the team or the finances too far.

I'm open to the right investor one day, but it would need to fit. We've built this by being resourceful, sharing what we have and learning what the audience values. Any growth has to protect that.

Turning a channel into a platform

The move beyond video began in 2019, when Smith Street Books approached us about doing a book.

My first reaction was, "I can't write a book. My English is not good enough." But they explained I didn't need to write it all. I could curate the projects, explain what made them worth sharing, and work with writers and architects on the words and floor plans.

At first, we thought it would be a beautiful object to have – maybe even a little ego boost.

But the book sold well globally. That told us something important: people wanted more than inspiration. They wanted useful, beautiful and considered design thinking they could hold on to.

That gave us the confidence to keep going. The books came out in 2021 and 2024. The magazine launched in November 2024.

floor plan or photograph without an algorithm pushing you elsewhere.

Print also gives us room to tell stories that would be too expensive to make as video. We can explore urban life, art, furniture, emerging designers and different design cultures in a faster, more flexible way. You can put a thousand pictures on Instagram, but in a magazine, every picture is curated.

'When we asked our audience what mattered most in small-footprint living, affordability was the biggest concern'

And print has a different energy. The YouTube channel is calm, almost meditative. The magazine is more chaotic. I sometimes say they are like sisters: one went to private school, the other went to public school. Same family, very different energy.

Designing what comes next

I want *Never Too Small* to keep expanding what small-space living can mean. YouTube will remain central, but the business cannot rely on one channel.

We want to keep building the magazine and telling stories that go beyond what people expect from design media. I'm also trying to feature more Asian and Southeast Asian content. Southeast

biggest concern. Not storage. Not how to make a space feel bigger. Not sustainability. Affordability. Many people living in small spaces cannot afford to hire an architect.

If we can create useful, thoughtful ways for them to access good advice, that feels like the right direction.

We are also exploring television and product ideas – but carefully. We have learned the hard way that if we make something, it has to be genuinely useful and affordable. Otherwise, what is the point?

The goal is not to become louder than everyone else. It is to become clearer about what we stand for. For me, it always comes back to one thing: helping people live better in the space they have. nevertoosmall.com

BY THE NUMBERS



3.3 million
YouTube
subscribers



363 million+
Total
YouTube views



363,000
Instagram
followers



2
Coffee-table
books published



7
Magazine issues
(quarterly) released

How did you get into motor racing?

I grew up in the Philippines, where Formula 1 isn't really a household sport. But my dad was an avid racing fan, so I got into it early on. By the age of three, I was already watching Formula 1 and driving a tiny go-kart with a 60cc engine.

How did you shift from go-karting to racing cars?

It's a very difficult jump. Normally, you make your way up through the hierarchy of kart racing. You compete as a cadet, then juniors, seniors and, finally, shifter karts, which prepare you for single-seaters. You hone your craft, place on the podium, win championships, attract sponsors and build your brand.

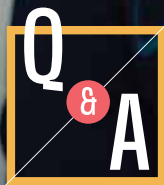
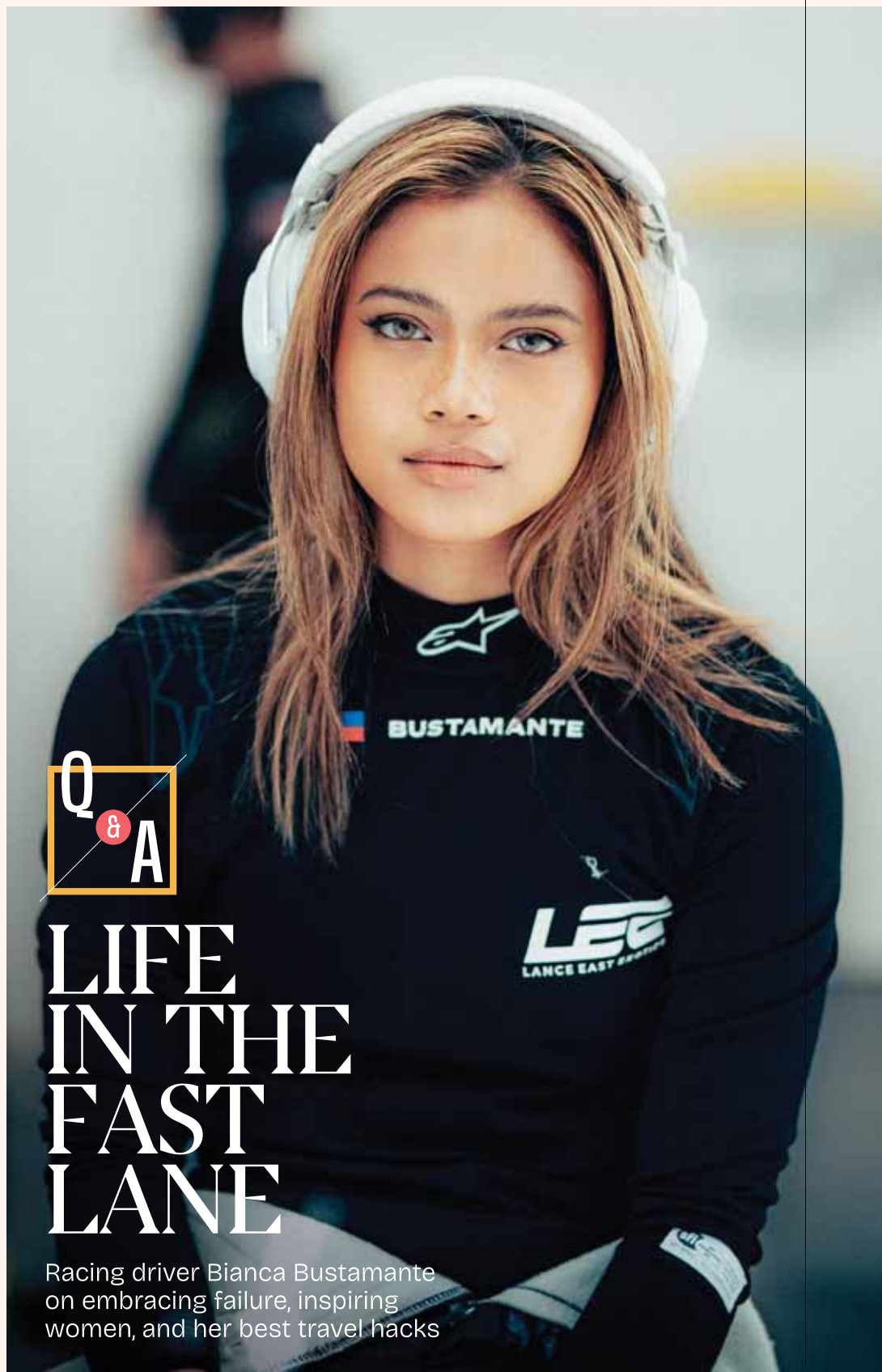
The pandemic happened when I was supposed to make the switch. I'd won my junior karting championship and multiple championships in Asia, and I was driving for the Kart Republic factory team. It was certain I was going to go to single-seaters because we had sponsors. But then all travel ceased and racing in Asia stopped. That put a halt on my career. I thought it was over, but then I had the opportunity to try out for the W Series in 2022. I put in a lap time that was needed for the qualifiers, and I've been racing ever since.

Is your goal to make it to F1?

I'd say every race driver is striving to make it to Formula 1. I also want to make it because there isn't a female driver in F1 and, right now, I'm one of the closest to being in that grid. I'm competing in the Eurocup-3 this year, and, if the season's good, I have a real shot of making it to the F3 Championship. From there, I'll hopefully make it to F2. I'm trying everything I can. There's a big chance it might not happen, but I also value my success by everything I've achieved and the obstacles I've overcome. I'm living my dream life. To me, that's success.

Why do you think there are so few women racing drivers?

There aren't many role models to look up to or get advice from, so it makes it a very difficult sport to consider going into. I think that comes down to pre-existing stigmas from the



LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Racing driver Bianca Bustamante on embracing failure, inspiring women, and her best travel hacks

minute you're born. We're divided by colours: boys are blue, girls are pink; boys play with cars, girls play with dolls. It creates an invisible barrier, where boys are introduced to the more adrenaline-filled activities and rougher, tougher sports from an early age. If girls can't see it, they can't be it. That's why I've made it a point to post on social media, take videos, show all the training and the hardship, and put myself out there. You never know who will come across my videos. I was constantly told to dream small so that I'll achieve something in life. That's not something I want little girls and future racing drivers to hear.

How do you prepare for a race?

You either prepare to win or to lose. I've always had that mentality. I make sure to leave absolutely nothing behind by the time I arrive on track – I'm as mentally prepared and confident as I can be. That includes making sure I have my make-up kit and nice outfits, because that makes me feel empowered.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

My manager taught me everything I know, from racing to morals. One of the first things he taught me was to never fear failure. If you fear it, you will stop yourself from reaching greater heights. That helped me become this person that was never afraid to tap into my potential, to go after things and to not take "No" for an answer. I was able to break down barriers and get into a male-dominated sport, even though it felt impossible. Having doubts is inevitable; but even though you're afraid, you're still doing it. My manager would always say, "Do it afraid, do it scared, but never let that hold you back from your goals."



What lessons from racing can translate to the business world?

Learning how to cope with failure. We grow up in a system where we're taught to think that failing is the enemy. It's always result-oriented: If you don't get a C at school, then you fail. If you don't get that job, you're not good enough. It correlates to self-worth, but we shouldn't think of it that way. It's just that at that moment in time it wasn't meant to be.

For the longest time, whenever I lost a race I didn't feel as though Bianca the racing driver lost, I felt as though Bianca the person had failed. I wasn't able to put that boundary between my professional and personal life. I took every hit, and it would absolutely destroy me.

'If girls can't see it, they can't be it. That's why I've made it a point to post on social media'

What is the most challenging aspect of your sport?

Racing is very physical – we drive a car that has no power steering, and we experience a lot of G-force – but aside from that, I would say it's the travel. The sport demands a lot of travel, and adding around 90 flights a year on top of the physicality makes it very difficult. The margins for success are so small, and can be down to your travel, sleep, airport experience or diet. Travelling can be a deal-breaker,

so we have to make sure it doesn't hinder our performance. It's probably that gap between leaving home and arriving at the track that makes the most difference.

How do you manage that travel experience?

A lot of people prepare themselves to have a good trip, but not a good travel experience. They pre-book activities and dinners, but not fast-track or lounge access at the airport. Those things make a huge difference. Who wants to stand in a security line for hours? Absolutely no one. Lounges are a must. After I've done 120 laps on the track, I'm sweaty, stinky, dehydrated, cramping, hungry and irritated. In a lounge, I can shower, my physio can work on my muscles, and I can eat something. That's a game-changer.

What would you like to see in airports of the future?

A racing simulator! Just kidding. Probably more recovery options. A hyperbaric chamber might be a bit much, so perhaps things like red-light therapy or compression boots.

What are your travel essentials?

Lip oil. Flying dries your eyes, your lips, your whole body – anything hydrating is really important.

What's the best place you've ever visited?

Apart from home, probably Portugal. Lisbon is one of my favourite cities in the world. The culture is brimming with passion: you've got people dancing in the streets and playing music, and there's great food – not the flashy Michelin-star kind, but traditional, home-made food.

What's your dream destination?

I'd love to go to Greece. I love that kind of climate.

Tell us your pick for inflight entertainment.

I'm usually working – reviewing onboard footage, looking at data or writing a report. If my work is done, I like rewatching old films from the 1990s. And if it's a long-haul flight then I might watch the whole *Harry Potter* series.

TRACK STAR
Bustamante has her eyes set on Formula 1

BELOW:
Attending the UK premiere of *F1: The Academy* – available on Netflix





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Explore Malaysian and regional art at UR-MU

UR-MU (Urban Museum) is a private contemporary art museum in Kuala Lumpur dedicated to showcasing Malaysian and regional art. Founded as an alternative cultural institution, it invites visitors to engage with works that explore Malaysian history, culture, politics and urban heritage.

The museum features private



UR-MU @ Bukit Bintang



UR-MU @ The Toffee



+n by UR-MU

collections from three Malaysian collectors across three locations:

- 1 UR-MU @ Bukit Bintang
- 2 UR-MU @ Toffee
- 3 +n by UR-MU

In mid-September, UR-MU @ Toffee will unveil “Tubuh 2”, an updated edition of its figurative-themed exhibition featuring works from the Pakha Sulaiman Collection.



Ahmad Fuad Osman; *Syhhh....! Dok Diam Diam, Jangan Bantah. Mulut Hang Hanya Boleh Guna Untuk Cakap Yaaa Saja. Baghu Hang Boleh Join Depa...Senang La Jadi Kaya* (1999)

Plan your visit from Tuesday to Sunday between 11am to 7pm. Tickets are available at ur-mu.com, and walk-ins are also welcome.

Ink

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DAN HARI MALAYSIA 2026**



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THIS IS MALAYSIAN HOSPITALITY



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

98

**Inside
our airlines**

News and updates
from MAG Airlines

108

**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 now has nine gateways in China

Malaysia Airlines has expanded its China network with new direct flights from Kuala Lumpur to Shenzhen and Changsha, offering travellers greater connectivity to two high-growth regional hubs. Both routes fly daily on the Boeing 737-8 aircraft, bringing the airline's China footprint to nine gateways and strengthening business, tourism and people-to-people connections between Malaysia and China. The expansion reinforces Kuala Lumpur's role as a strategic gateway to Asia and beyond, supporting Malaysia's tourism growth under Visit Malaysia 2026.

MASkargo and Qatar Airways Cargo expand ties

MASkargo has expanded its strategic partnership with Qatar Airways Cargo through dedicated twice-weekly freighter operations connecting Kuala Lumpur, Bengaluru and Doha. Operated by Boeing 777 freighters, the service adds 200 tonnes of weekly cargo capacity across key segments including general cargo, perishables, pharmaceuticals and valuables. The collaboration strengthens access to major markets across Asia, Europe and North America, further cementing Kuala Lumpur's role as a regional cargo gateway.



"Kids Fly & Stay Free" with MHolidays

MHolidays has brought back its popular Kids Fly & Stay Free campaign, giving families more value and convenience on domestic holidays. Children aged two to 11 can enjoy complimentary flights and hotel stays on selected packages, with savings of up to 45% across destinations including Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Langkawi, alongside added perks through the MH Junior Explorer programme, Enrich Points and Journify.



MHinsure

A Family's Guide to Worry-free Travel

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Inspired by Emily's
foresight?

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

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

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



Underwritten by
eTiqa
General Insurance

Malaysia Airlines and Singapore Airlines deepen ties



Malaysia Airlines and Singapore Airlines have introduced joint fare products under their strategic partnership, offering customers greater flexibility with a wider selection of fare options and easier access to both airlines' combined networks. Building on their existing codeshare, the collaboration also paves the way for future upgrades, including reciprocal lounge access, coordinated schedules and corporate travel solutions.



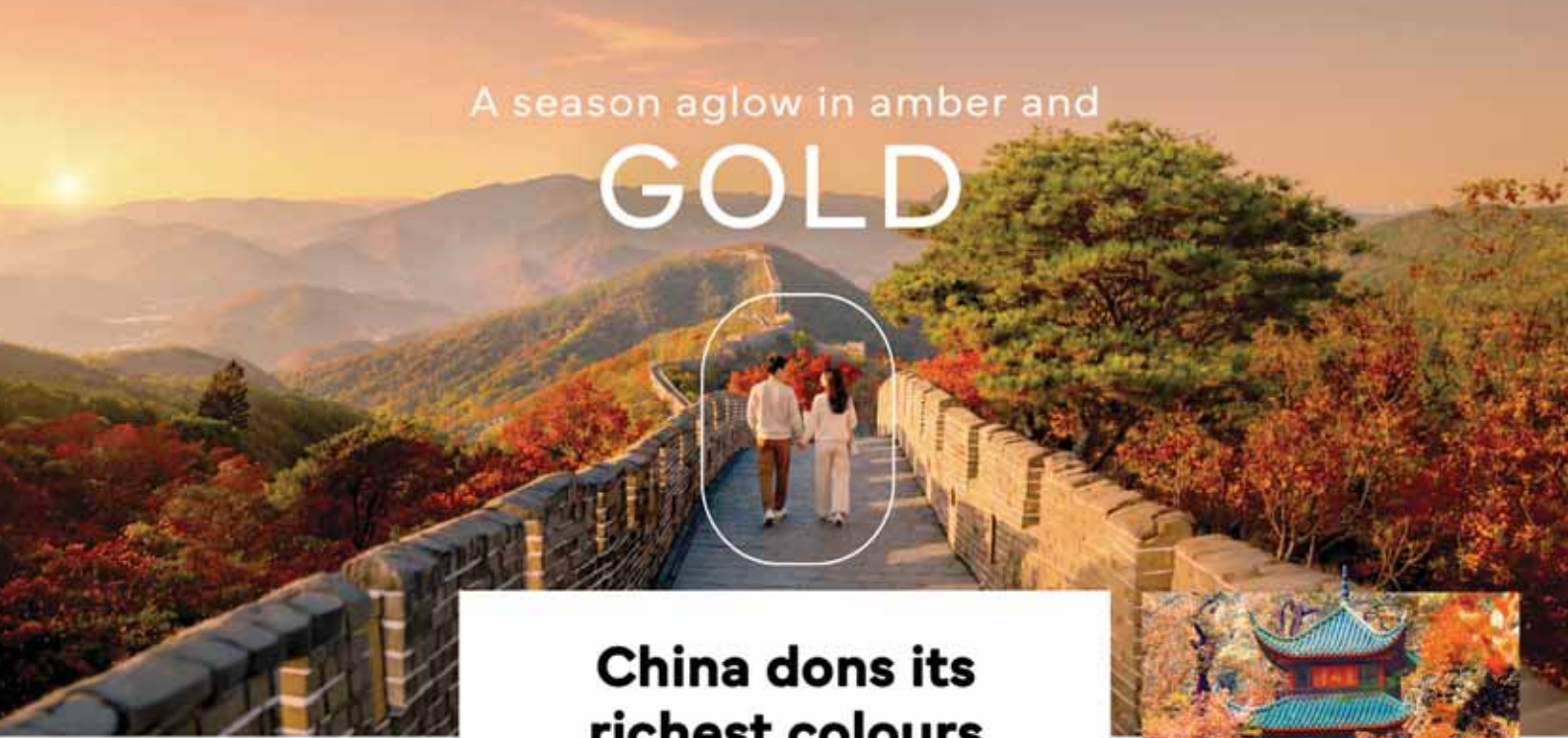
Malaysia Airlines adds train links to European journeys

Malaysia Airlines is expanding its intermodal travel offering through a new codeshare partnership with SNCF Voyageurs, France's national rail operator. Customers travelling through Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport can now connect seamlessly to 28 rail destinations across France with a single booking and coordinated journey. Building on the MHrail initiative, the partnership reflects Malaysia Airlines' continued push to integrate air and rail travel across key markets.



A season aglow in amber and

GOLD



China dons its richest colours in autumn

Every year, China's cities and mountains take on a vivid, warm hue as autumn settles in. Beyond the maple-coloured skyline and streets scented with blossoms lies a season steeped in tradition, one shaped by centuries-old harvest festivals and quiet nights spent moon viewing.

Whether it's a mountain view, a riverside walk, or a lantern-lit garden, autumn has much to discover for those who wander a little further. Let the season lead you to your next destination.



Q Changsha

Drift along Orange Isle at dusk, the world's largest inland river island, as autumn light settles over Xiang River. Beyond the shimmering waters, ascend Yuelu Mountain to take in a forest ablaze in autumn's richest crimsons, then wind down at the city's night markets for a taste of Hunan's fearless, chilli-laced cuisine.

Q Beijing

Few sights capture Beijing's autumn quite like the Mutianyu Great Wall, where the surrounding hills turn deep shades of red and gold, framing the watchtowers in gleaming foliage. Closer to the city, narrow lanes lined with persimmon trees and the scent of roasted chestnuts make for a slower kind of afternoon, best spent with a warm drink at a courtyard teahouse.



Q Shanghai

Come September, Shanghai's Yu Garden glows with Mid-Autumn Festival lanterns, with exquisite mooncakes and traditional performances marking the season's most celebrated night. By day, wander the French Concession instead, where sweet osmanthus blossoms drift through leafy canopies, and the Bund stands sharper against a sky free of summer's haze.



Discover Beijing, Shanghai, and Changsha with Malaysian Hospitality.

Scan to book now or visit holidays.malaysiaairlines.com



MHolidays



Flavour, heritage and home

Every journey offers a chance to discover something new. Sometimes it's a destination, and sometimes it's a meal that tells the story of a place before you even arrive. This September and October, Malaysia Airlines brings two specially curated menus on board, celebrating flavours both close to home and across the region. In conjunction with Hari Malaysia, guests can savour a tribute to Johor's rich culinary heritage, while the Best of Asia series turns to Vietnam, showcasing the country's vibrant and distinctive flavours through authentic regional cuisine.

A tribute to Johor's culinary heritage

In September, guests travelling from Kuala Lumpur to Sabah and Sarawak, as well as to London, Paris, Doha, Madinah and Jeddah, can enjoy a menu inspired by one of Johor's most cherished culinary traditions.

In Business Class, Nasi Beriani Gam Daging features fragrant beriani rice infused with traditional *rempah gam* (spice mix), served alongside succulent slow-cooked beef and refreshing *acar rampai* (sweet-spicy vegetable pickle), finished with toasted white sesame seeds and fresh red chilli slices. Rich and aromatic, the dish pays tribute to

the flavours that unite Malaysians together.

In Economy Class, Nasi Beriani Gam Ayam offers an equally satisfying experience, with tender chicken, fragrant spiced rice and refreshing *acar rampai* coming together in a wholesome meal that captures the same rich, aromatic flavours.

A taste of Vietnam

Also in September, the Best of Asia menu turns to Vietnam, bringing its vibrant and distinctive flavours on board selected regional flights from Kuala Lumpur.

In Business Class, Vietnamese grilled lemongrass chicken combines smoky grilled chicken with fragrant lemongrass, steamed rice and stir-fried spinach, complemented by the brightness of *nuoc cham*, Vietnam's signature dipping sauce.

In Economy Class, Vietnamese caramelised chicken with ginger features tender chicken braised with fresh ginger, served with steamed rice, spinach, pickled *daikon* (radish) and carrot for a beautifully balanced meal.

Clockwise from left:

Vietnamese caramelised chicken with ginger; Vietnamese grilled lemongrass chicken; Nasi Beriani Gam Ayam; Nasi Beriani Gam Daging

The journey continues into October, reaching more destinations across Sabah, Sarawak and the region, this time with the dishes swapped between cabins.

Business Class guests can savour the richness of Vietnamese caramelised chicken with ginger, while Vietnamese grilled lemongrass chicken is served in Economy Class with steamed vegetables and *nuoc cham*.

Whether celebrating the familiar flavours of home or discovering the traditions of a neighbouring country, these specially curated menus invite guests to explore Asia one memorable meal at a time. Selamat menjamu selera!



A second chance at the skies

Noririyani Othman, a leading stewardess with Malaysia Airlines, shares how a cancer diagnosis reshaped her outlook on life and what it truly means to care for others

For nearly 34 years, Malaysia Airlines has been more than my workplace; it has been my second home. When I attended my cabin crew interview in 1991, I was simply a young woman captivated by the thought of travelling the world. I had never flown before. My very first training flight was also my first time on an aircraft, and from that moment, I knew I had found where I belonged.

In March 2016, life took an unexpected turn when I was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. The months that followed tested me in ways I had never imagined. Major surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy brought changes I struggled to accept. Losing my hair and returning to the skies wearing a wig in January 2017 tested my confidence in ways I had never thought possible.

Like many people facing a cancer diagnosis, fear came first. I questioned whether I would survive, whether I would ever wear my uniform again or return to the skies that had become such an important part of my life. Throughout that journey, my husband, family, relatives and friends became my greatest source of strength. Around the same time, my elder sister was also diagnosed with colon cancer. Together, we encouraged one another through every setback and every small victory. Today, we are both cancer survivors – a



blessing I never take for granted.

Returning to the skies felt like being given a second chance at life. The first time I put my Malaysia Airlines uniform back on, I was overwhelmed with emotion. I had overcome more than I ever thought possible, and standing there in the uniform I have always been proud to wear reminded me just how precious life is.

My journey has changed the way I connect with people. It taught me to be more patient, more compassionate and more present. Kindness has become my guiding principle, whether I am caring for our guests or supporting my colleagues. One of the moments closest to my heart was visiting the mother of a former cabin crew colleague who had also been diagnosed with cancer. By sharing my

own journey, I was able to offer her hope during one of the most difficult chapters of her life and our friendship continues to this day.

Malaysian Hospitality has always been at the heart of what we do, but my experience has given those values an even deeper meaning. Every interaction is an opportunity to make someone feel seen, heard and cared for.

To anyone facing a cancer diagnosis, know that there is hope. Trust your doctors, lean on the people who love you and be patient with yourself. Healing is rarely a straight path, but every day is a step forward. Cancer may become a chapter in your story, but it should never define who you are. Keep believing, keep fighting and never lose hope.



A350-900



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



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



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



A330-200



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 **37** | Passenger Seating **160, 166, 174**
Length **39.47m** | Wingspan **35.79m** | Height **12.62m**
Max. Cruising Speed **840km/h**



B737-8



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.



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



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



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



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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.



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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.



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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.



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

+ For more information, visit malaysiaairlines.com

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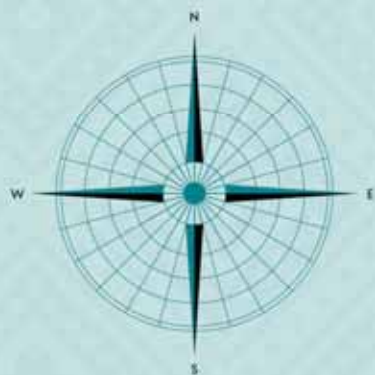


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 CSMVS Museum, Mumbai



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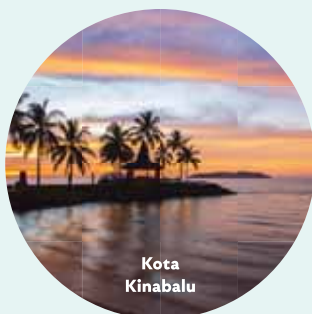


OUR NETWORK

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELEN WINATA

SOUTH
ATLANTIC
OCEAN

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



- Malaysia Airlines
- ◆ Firefly
- Amal
- ▲ MASKargo

*THE ROUTE MAP IS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
IMAGES: SHUTTERSTOCK (KOTA KINABALU, JOHOR BAHRU)



Johor Bahru

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

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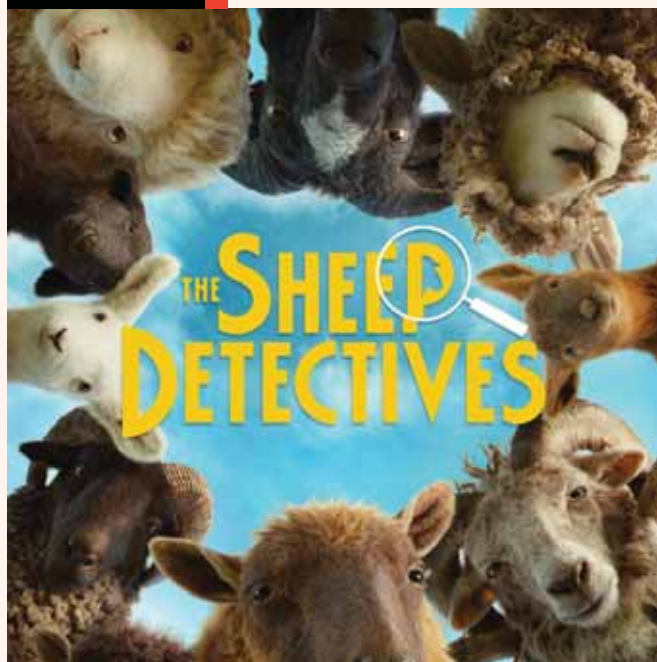
+ INSIDE

MOVIES
TELEVISION
ALBUM
HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



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The Super Mario Galaxy Movie

Mario and Luigi embark on a fun-filled galactic adventure, joining friends old and new to tackle unexpected challenges, protect the Mushroom Kingdom and save the day.



In the Grey

An elite covert team undertakes a dangerous mission to recover a stolen fortune, only to become trapped in a deadly battle of strategy, deception and survival.

Mortal Kombat II

Johnny Cage and Earth's champions face Shao Kahn in a fierce, high-stakes battle to save Earthrealm from total destruction.



Carolina Caroline

A young woman seeking escape from her small-town life is drawn into a crime spree with a charismatic con man, changing both of their lives forever.



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Hollywood Favourite

The Lord of the Rings Collection

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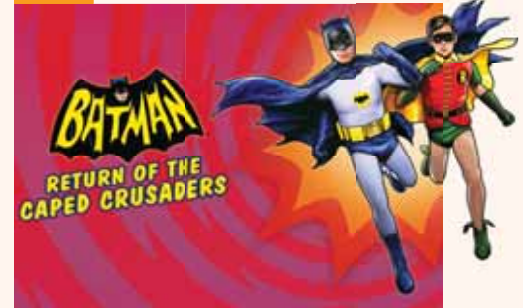
Hollywood Favourite



Kids



Kids



Hollywood Favourite



Hollywood Favourite



Kids



Malay

MALAYSIA DAY SPECIAL



Mandarin



Indonesian



Japanese

**Rhapsody, Rhapsody**

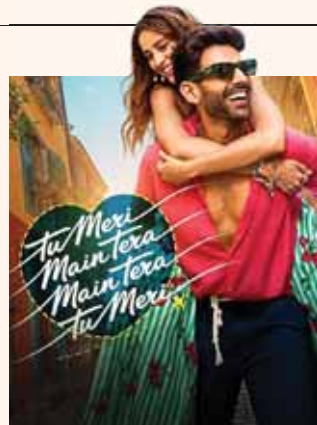
After discovering he's unknowingly been married for months, Mikio tracks down his mysterious "wife" and the two strangers gradually form an unconventional and unexpected bond.

Korean

**Mad Dance Office**

After setbacks at work and home, a disciplined civil servant finds renewed purpose through flamenco, forming an unlikely friendship with a fellow dancer that helps both women rediscover their confidence.

Hindi



Tamil



Telugu



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Streamlining travel for growth-oriented SMEs

Agility is key to the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises. Whether it's making key business decisions or managing daily operations, streamlining processes helps organisations stay focused on what matters as they pursue growth.

MHcorporate SME by Malaysia Airlines helps them do just that for business travel. It is a self-managed corporate travel portal, where member organisations can access a range of benefits to streamline their journeys across Malaysia Airlines' network of over 70 destinations.

Benefits include **preferential corporate fares** that help businesses manage travel costs, while every eligible booking earns **Corporate Loyalty Points** that can be redeemed for Malaysia Airlines flights, helping organisations get more value from their travel spend.

MHcorporate SME also gives eligible

travellers **priority privileges**, including priority check-in, baggage handling and boarding. When plans change, there is peace of mind with **unlimited date changes and easy refunds** for selected fare types, so travellers can focus on what matters most: doing business.

Extending value beyond business travel

The benefits of MHcorporate SME extend beyond the work trip, giving employees added value for their personal journeys as well.

Employees who sign up through their member organisation can access **preferential fares for their personal leisure travel**, while also earning **Enrich Points** on eligible bookings.

For organisations, this creates an additional benefit they can offer employees and their families, while earning Corporate Loyalty Points on eligible leisure bookings. It extends the value of the programme beyond business travel, for both organisations



and their people.

From managing corporate travel to providing meaningful travel benefits for employees, MHcorporate SME brings organisations greater value with every journey, complemented by the warmth of Malaysian Hospitality.

Get more out of business travel for your organisation today. Discover the full range of MHcorporate SME benefits and enjoy a complimentary sign-up: malaysiaairlines.com/mhcorporate-sme

Comedy



Drama



Kids



Business



Malay Kids Animation



Hindi Variety



Tamil Drama



Hits



Club



Hindi



Tamil



French



Japanese



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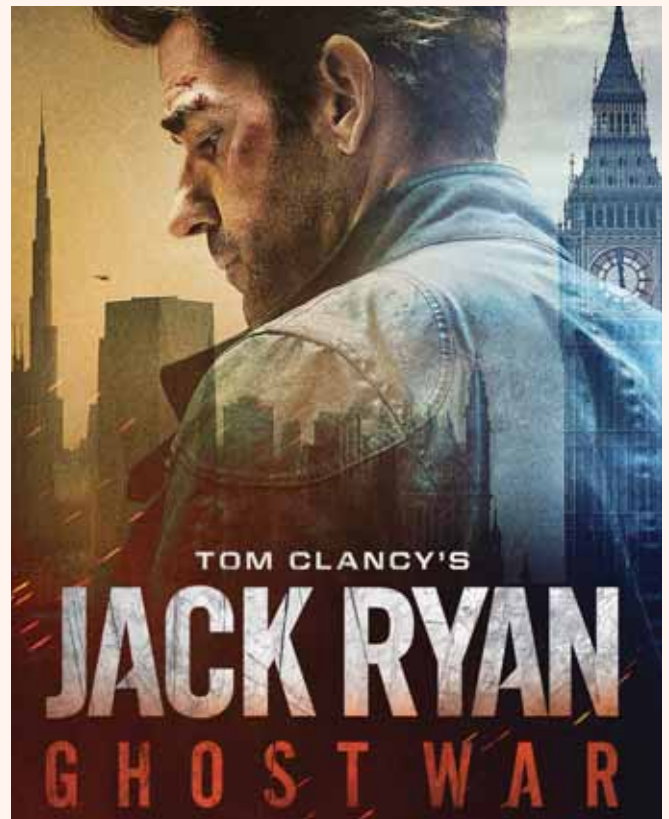
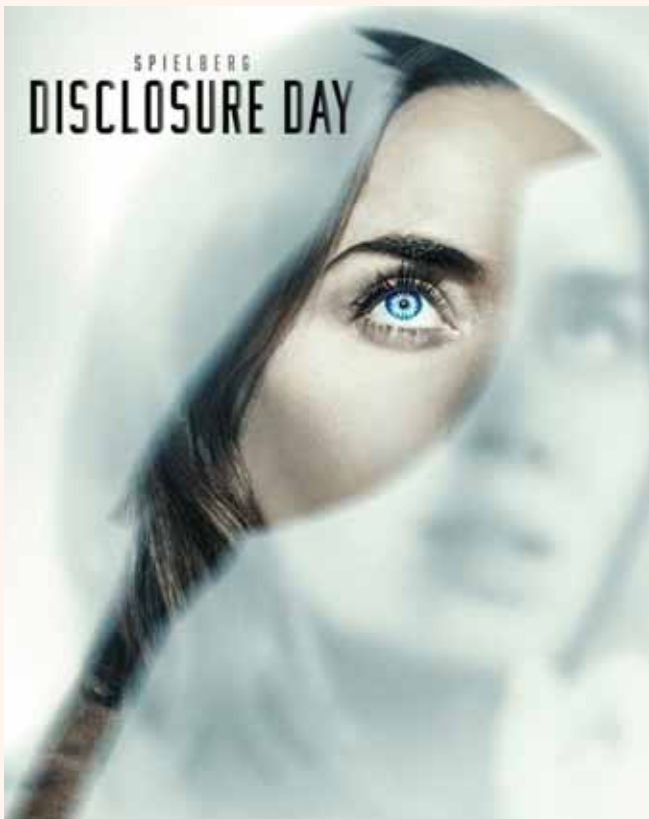
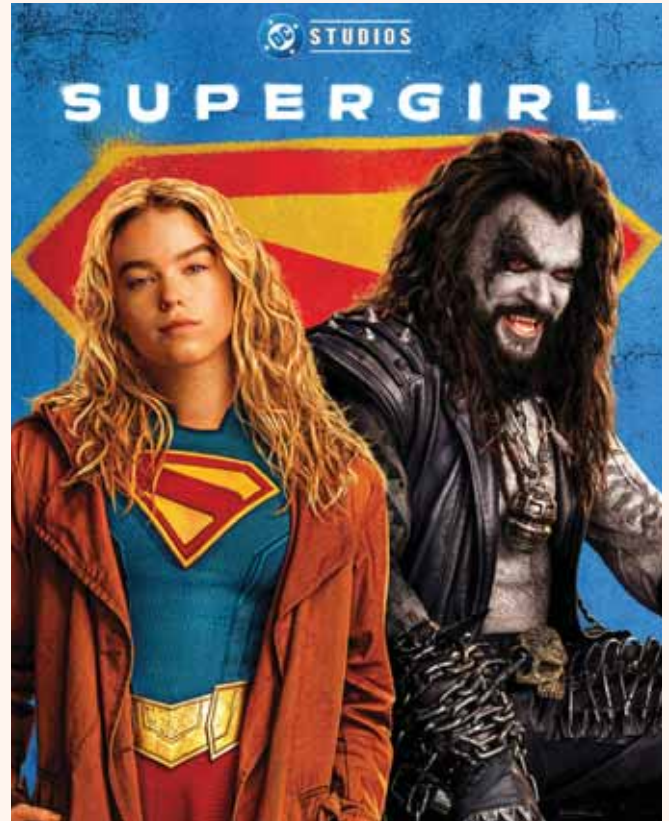
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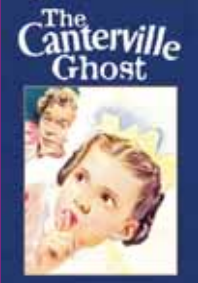
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Kids



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F1 COLLECTION

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F1 The Movie

Former Formula 1 prodigy Sonny Hayes returns after a career-ending crash, partnering with a fearless rookie to save a struggling team and seek redemption.

Grand Prix

A daring Grand Prix driver lives life on the edge, risking everything on the world's fastest circuits, where every race is a split-second battle between glory and disaster.

Ferrari

Set in 1957, Enzo Ferrari faces financial ruin and personal loss as he stakes everything on the legendary Mille Miglia to save his company.

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Japanese



Hindi



Kantara: A Legend Chapter-1

Set during the Kadamba dynasty, the origins of the sacred Bhuta Kola tradition intertwine with the rise of Kaadubettu Shiva, laying the foundation for an epic tale of faith, destiny and power.



Indonesian



Mandarin



Unexpected Family

A retired landlord's mistaken identity brings together a group of unlikely strangers, who gradually become a family through compassion, understanding and shared experiences.

Korean



The King's Warden

After a coup forces a young king into exile, he is sent to a remote mountain village where an unlikely bond with the local chief helps him rediscover hope, resilience and the will to live.

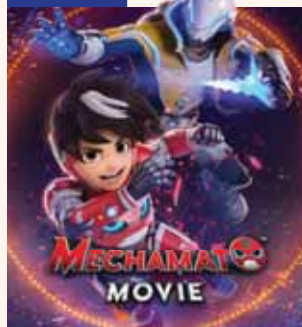
Malayalam



Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra

A young woman with extraordinary mystical powers must overcome personal struggles and embrace her destiny as a growing darkness threatens to reshape her world.

Malay



Tamil



French



Comedy



Drama



Sports



History



Japanese



Kids



Korean



Chinese



Hits



R&B



Malay



Club



Tamil



Hindi



Cantonese



Malay



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All aboard

Kuching's waterfront just got a compelling new reason to linger. The Brooke Dockyard Industrial Heritage Museum traces Sarawak's industrial and river history through immersive storytelling and carefully preserved artefacts. The undisputed star: a full-scale replica of the royal vessel *HHY Zahora*, a majestic 155ft ship once used by Sarawak's rulers to navigate the state's vast river networks. History and grandeur in one grand package. museum.sarawak.gov.my

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