

ISSUE 194

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WEEKLY INSIGHTS

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



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Sabah's Batu Puteh is among UNWTO's Best Tourism Villages

Kampung Batu Puteh in Kinabatangan has been recognised as one of the Best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

The Community Based Tourism village by Batu Puteh Community Tourism Co-operative, KOPEL Bhd, was selected from over 170 candidate villages from 75 countries, as it demonstrated its outstanding values and actions towards the development of rural tourism.

Among the criteria for the award includes low population density with less than 15,000 inhabitants, located in a landscape with an important presence of traditional activities such as agriculture, forestry, livestock, fishing, and the sharing of community values and lifestyle. [READ MORE](#)

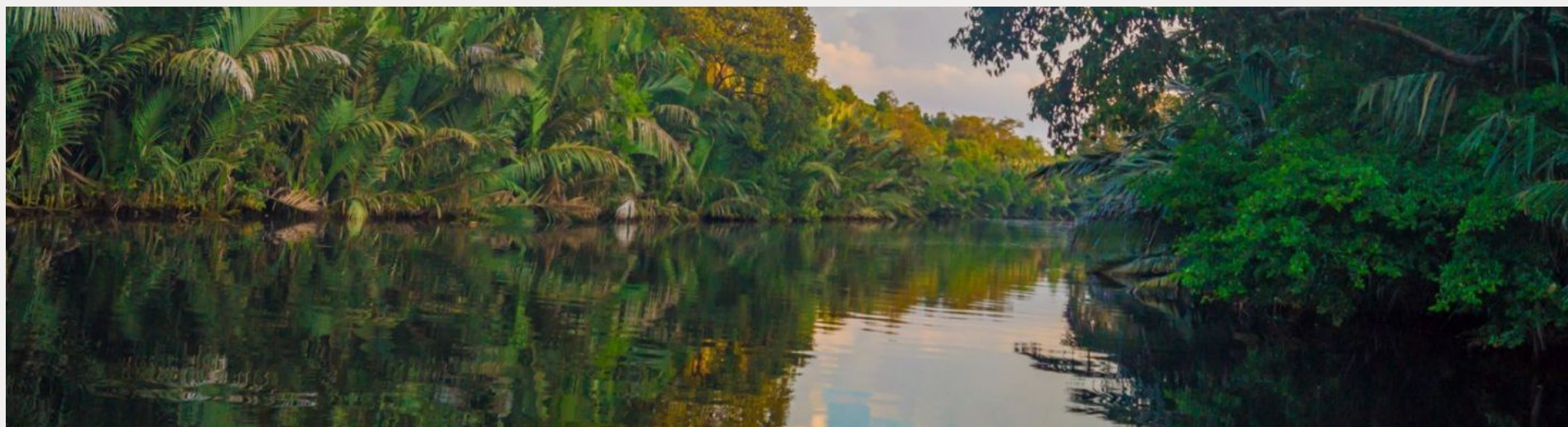


Sabah to launch TSA to collate data on state's tourism sector

The Sabah government will launch its Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) which will provide integrated data on the state's tourism sector.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor said TSA would enable the administration to measure and determine domestic and international tourist spending, as well as the tourism industry's contribution to the state gross domestic product including employment data.

He said among the focuses of its ongoing strategy are developing and enhancing rural community-based tourism, intensifying marketing and promotion as well as strengthening and attracting business events. [READ MORE](#)



Genting Cruise Lines restarts operations in Malaysia on Dec 22

Genting Cruise Lines, together with Penang Port Commission (PPC) and Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB), announced that the government has granted approval for Star Cruises to restart operations in Malaysia on Dec 22, with Star Pisces offering safe cruises from Penang.

As the first international cruise line to homeport and resume commercial operations in Malaysia, Genting Cruise Lines said in a statement that Star Pisces will have five departures every week, offering a series of roundtrip itineraries from Penang, including a two-night 'Langkawi Escape'. This is in addition to its one-night 'Straits of Malacca' cruise itinerary as another seasonal option for Malaysians to celebrate a joyful Christmas and New Year during the school holidays, it said. [READ MORE](#)

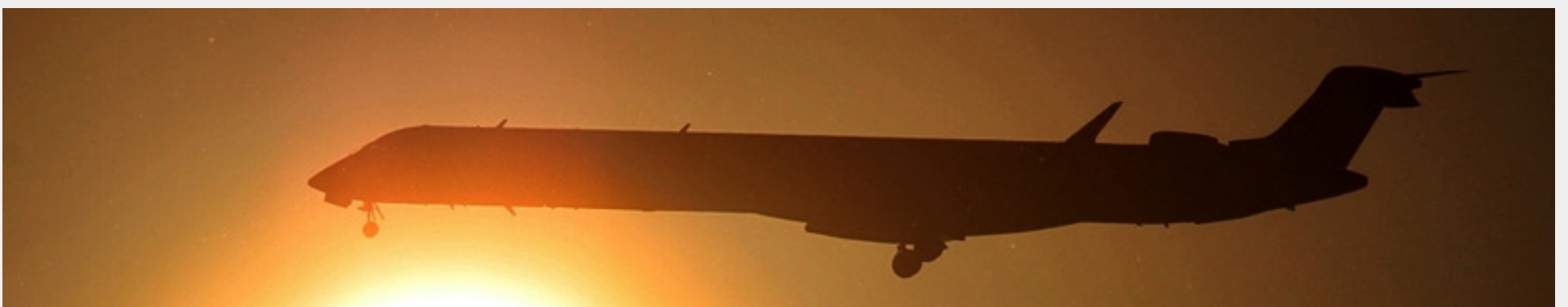


Malaysia's Hornbill Skyways to set up Sarawak state airline

State-owned charter carrier Hornbill Skyways (Kuching) is to set up a boutique airline in the Malaysian state of Sarawak, located in northwest Borneo Island, to provide air access, drive tourism, and boost agricultural exports, according to Sarawak's caretaker chief minister, Abang Abdul Rahman Johari Abang Openg.

Popularly known as Abang Johari, the minister said Sarawak needed its own small airline – with aircraft carrying about 100 to 200 passengers – in order to not be dependent on other commercial carriers to meet its demand for export of agricultural products, and the promotion of travel and tourism.

He added the airline's operations would be hub focused. The initial plan was to provide direct flights from Sarawak to Kuala Lumpur Int'l, Singapore Changi, Thailand, Indonesia, and Hong Kong Int'l. [READ MORE](#)

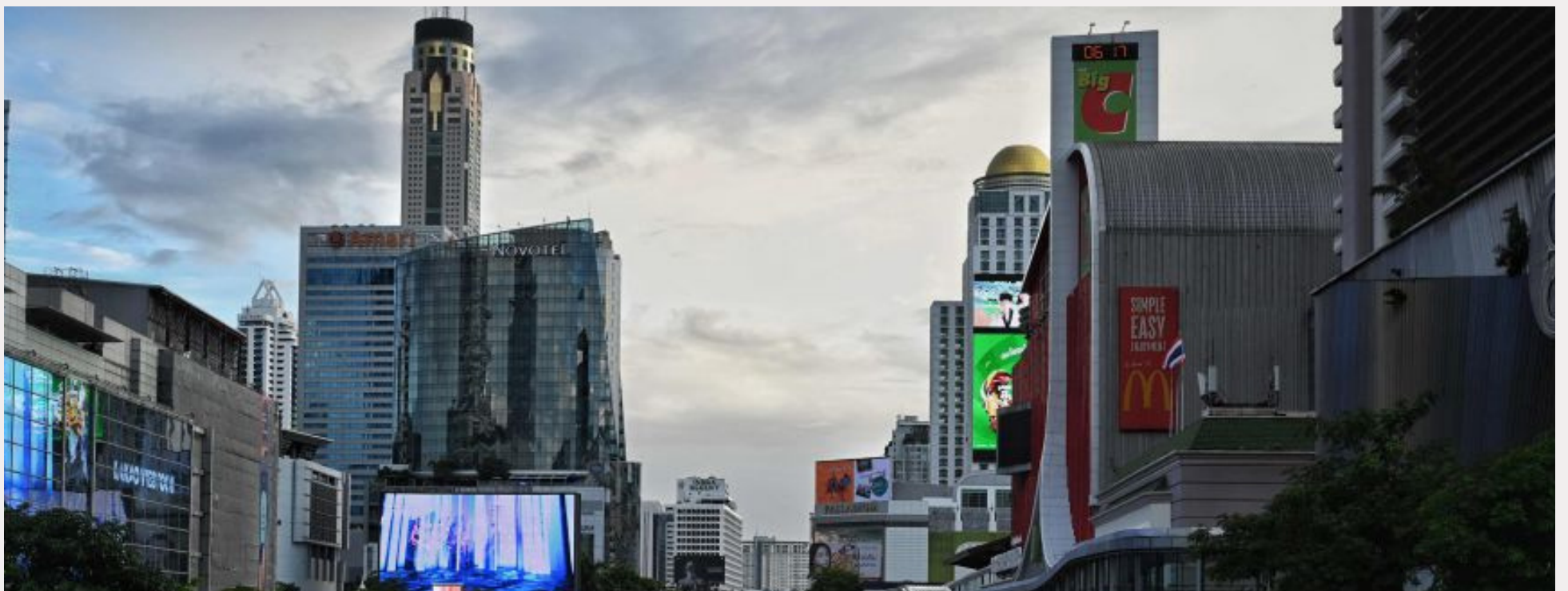


Thailand to consider opening Thai-Malaysia border

Thailand will consider reopening the Thai-Malaysia border as proposed by parliament members from the southern region.

Its Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA)'s forward command dealing with Covid-19 in the southern region is expected to discuss and make a decision on the matter this week.

According to a Bangkok Post report, deputy government spokeswoman Rachada Dhnadirek said the CCSA previously agreed in principle with the proposal and had instructed its forward command to study the details. [READ MORE](#)



Regent Phu Quoc to open next spring

Opening its doors next spring, Regent Phu Quoc will be an ultra-luxury all suites and villas resort set in an unrivalled private beachfront location in Long Beach on Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam.

Ushering in a new era for this much-loved luxury legacy brand, Regent Phu Quoc will be the first resort to open following its acquisition by IHG Hotels & Resorts in 2018.

The resort promises to bring a new level of service, comfort and experience to this idyllic Vietnamese island.

Each of the 176 suites and 126 villas have been elegantly designed to create sanctuary-like spaces, with calming interiors and floor-to-ceiling glass windows offering perfect vistas onto the sunset. [READ MORE](#)

