

ISSUE 200

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Melaka Set To Open 3 Gorgeous 'Premium' Islands For Tourism This Year

Three islands in Melaka which have a rich and diverse marine life, including coral reefs will be opened to snorkeling and scuba diving enthusiasts this year.

Melaka Islands Development Council (MPPM) chief executive officer Azhar Yaacob said the various marine species in Pulau Nangka, Pulau Dodol and Pulau Undan which were categorised as 'premium' islands were comparable to islands in Sabah such as Semporna.

The three islands will not only be gazetted as marine parks soon but also to be turned into new tourist destinations in Melaka. Currently, Pulau Layar in Langkawi was the only island in the Straits of Melaka that has been gazetted as a national marine park. [READ MORE](#)



MAHB: Pulau Pangkor STOLport will boost island's tourism, economy

The commencement of scheduled commercial flight operations at Pulau Pangkor Short Take Off and Landing Port (STOLport) is set to heighten tourism demand for the island and contribute to the local economy.

Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) said the airport, on Tuesday (Jan 25) welcomed inaugural flight KI6357 by SKS Airways flying in from Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport, Subang.

Daily SZB-PKG-SZB flights will start from Jan 26, 2022 using the DHC6-Twin-Otter aircraft which can carry up to 19 passengers on board. [READ MORE](#)



AirAsia Berhad : celebrates inaugural flight connecting Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Terengganu

AirAsia remains committed to connecting people, especially with more new domestic routes as it celebrates its inaugural flight between Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Terengganu.

Apart from the latest Kota Kinabalu–Kuala Terengganu route, AirAsia has earlier in January launched Kuching–Langkawi, Johor Bahru–Bintulu and Penang–Sibu as part of its efforts to help rejuvenate domestic tourism.

Riad Asmat, CEO AirAsia Malaysia said: "These new routes will strengthen our tourism footprint in Malaysia and set the scene to prepare for the return of international travel soon, as it provides more options for international visitors to travel between various tourism hotspots in Malaysia." [READ MORE](#)



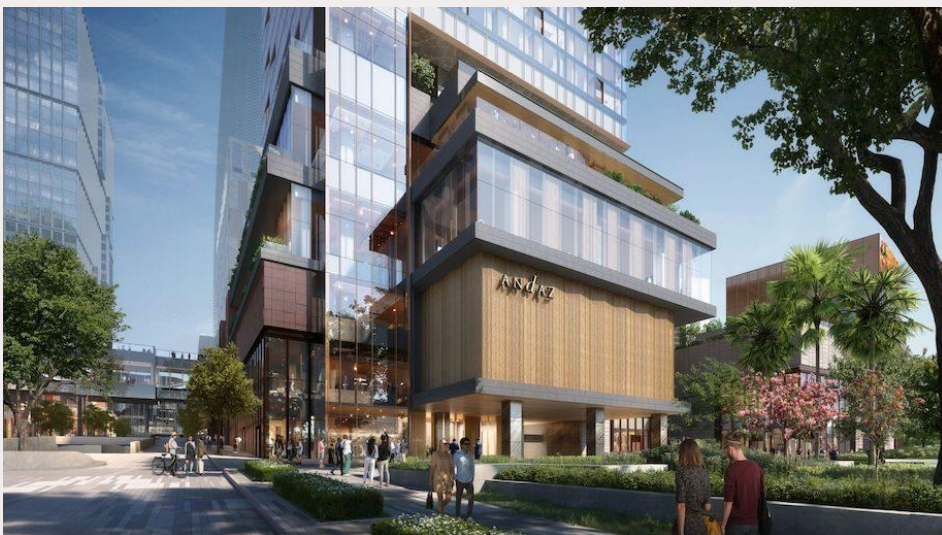
AirAsia

Hyatt to open first Andaz property in Bangkok

Hyatt has entered into a management agreement with One Bangkok Co., Ltd to bring its Andaz brand to the Thai capital.

The 244-room Andaz One Bangkok will open in the fourth quarter of 2023 as part of the city's One Bangkok development, the largest integrated development in the central business district.

The hotel will be one of the first projects to open in the One Bangkok development, with the first phase set to be complete in the second half of 2023. Once fully complete in 2026, the development will include five Grade A office towers, four retail precincts, four additional luxury and lifestyle hotels and three residential towers along with art and cultural spaces. [READ MORE](#)



Thai hotel group Minor targets 100 openings in China in 5 years

Thai hotel giant Minor International intends to open and operate 100 hotels in China amid efforts to diversify growth by shifting from investing, owning, and operating hotels to taking on contracted operation.

The group entered a strategic partnership with Funyard in January 2021 to bring its forte in luxury travel to China.

Minor operates roughly 530 hotels or 76,000 rooms in 56 countries and territories. It runs its signature five-star luxury hotels under the Anantara brand in Thailand's major cities, as well as resort destinations in other parts of Asia.

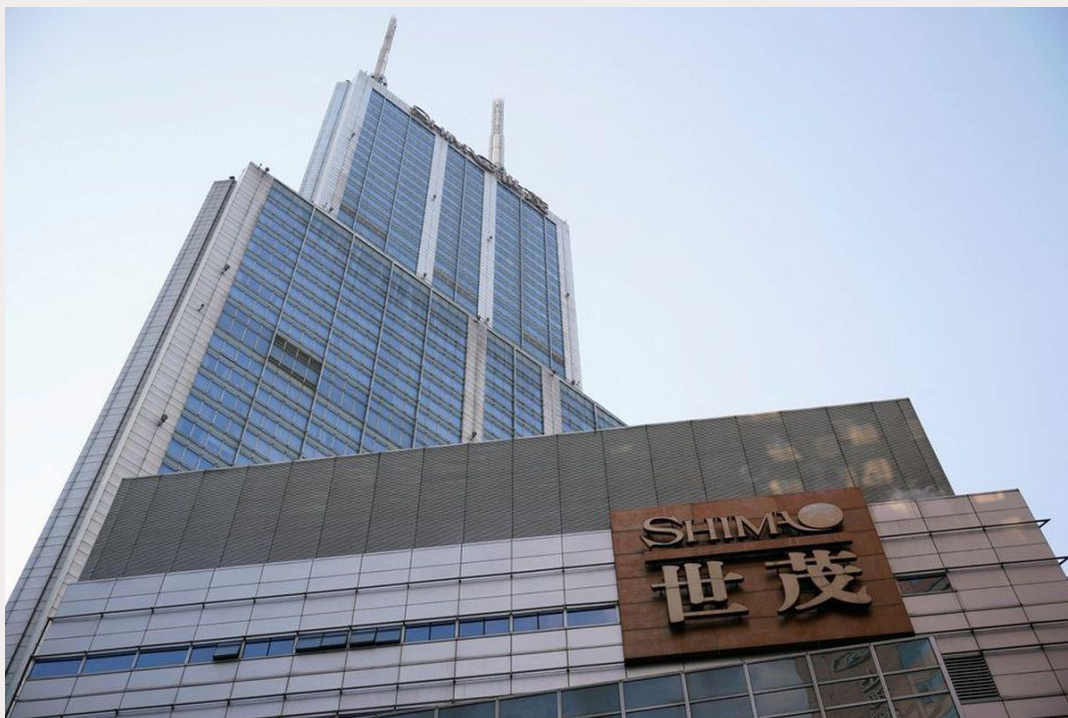
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China's Shimao sells Shanghai hotel for US\$708 mil to state-owned firm

Chinese property developer Shimao Group said on Friday (Jan 28) it would sell a hotel in Shanghai to state-owned Shanghai Land Group for 4.5 billion yuan (US\$707.83 million), as it seeks to reduce its debt amid a crisis in the country's property sector.

The deal is part of the Chinese government's push to buy assets from cash-strapped private developers, as Beijing steps up efforts to stabilise and tighten control over a beleaguered sector that accounts for a quarter of its economy. [READ MORE](#)



Casino operator Wynn plans resort with gaming facilities in UAE

Wynn Resorts, the Las Vegas-based hotel and casino operator, plans to develop a multi-billion-dollar resort off the coast of the United Arab Emirates which is set to include a "gaming area."

The project on Ras al-Khaimah's Al Marjan Island comes as the emirate's Tourism Development Authority, known as RAKTDA, formed a new division to regulate what it called "integrated resorts" which are set to include gaming facilities, according to an e-mailed statement from the authority.

The new government authority will set the rules for "licensing, taxation, operational procedures, and consumer safeguards" needed to regulate gaming in those resorts. [READ MORE](#)

