

ISSUE 201

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WEEKLY INSIGHTS

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



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Iran to bolster tourism diplomacy with Malaysia

Iran is committed to expand bilateral relations with Malaysia in various fields, particularly in tourism, said its Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

In a statement ahead of Iran's National Day on Feb 11, which marks the 43rd Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the embassy said senior officials of both countries have been looking into a number of opportunities to strengthen bilateral tourism between Malaysia and Iran.

It pointed out that tourism with cultural and comprehensive dimensions creates common understanding among nations and Asian integration is a source of more initiatives for creating a bright future. [READ MORE](#)



Berjaya Land hopeful of 2022 tourism turnaround

Berjaya Land Bhd (BLand) believes 2022 will be a recovery year for the domestic tourism industry, although it is cautiously optimistic about the pace of the recovery.

BLand chief executive officer Syed Ali Shahul Hameed said signs of recovery had been seen since late last year, with increased bookings from October 2021 compared to the previous year.

Island destinations such as Redang, Langkawi and Tioman continued to be key destinations for international visitors, mainly tourists from Europe and China, who were always looking for unique beaches in Southeast Asia which fitted well with what Berjaya Hotels & Resorts (BHR) has to offer.

BLand's island resorts in Tioman, Redang and Langkawi are undergoing upgrading and facelifts exercise in phases. Berjaya Tioman Resort will reopen in the second quarter of 2022.

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Melaka to collaborate with Indonesia to fill vacancies in hospitality, health tourism sectors, says state exco

The Melaka government will foster cooperation with the provinces of Pekanbaru and Dumai in Indonesia to obtain manpower to fill vacancies in the hospitality and health tourism sectors in the state.

State Tourism, Heritage and Culture Committee chairman Datuk Muhammad Jailani Khamis said the two sectors were experiencing a shortage of manpower, especially among locals.

“We have four private hospitals and Melaka is known for health tourism apart from having many hotels. However, we are facing some problems as the local workforce shunned the minimum wage. [READ MORE](#)



Japan rail group Seibu to sell hotels, assets to Singapore's GIC

Japanese railway and hotel conglomerate Seibu Holdings has entered final talks with Singaporean sovereign wealth fund GIC to sell about 30 properties in Japan, including some of its Prince brand hotels and leisure facilities, Nikkei has learned.

The deal is expected to total about 150 billion yen (\$1.3 billion). More than 10 hotels, including the Prince Park Tower Tokyo, Prince Hotel Sapporo and Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima, are on the chopping block. Seibu will continue to operate the hotels and other facilities after the sale.

As the COVID-19 pandemic depresses its railway and hotel businesses, Seibu is looking to unload assets and improve efficiency, a trend that is spreading across the sector.

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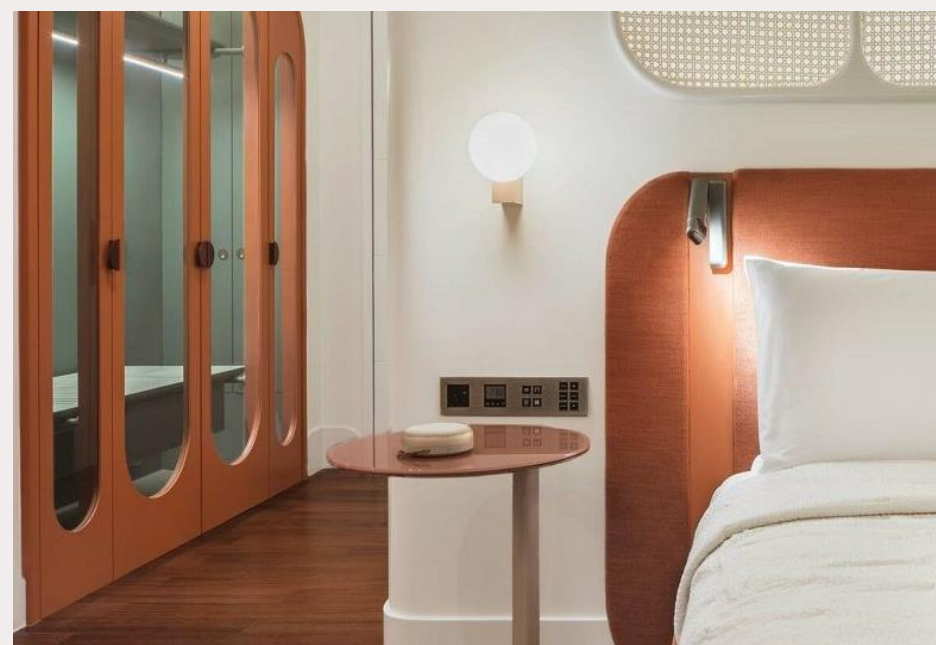
The Standard to open Bangkok property in May

Standard International will open its first property in Thailand later this year, housed within the 78-storey King Power Mahanakhon Building in Bangkok's central business district.

The 155-room hotel will be the brand's first in Southeast Asia, and is now taking reservations for stays from May 11, 2022.

The Standard, Bangkok Mahanakhon has been created by Spanish artist and designer Jaime Hayon in collaboration with The Standard's in-house design team.

The Standard hotels brand launched in 1999, and currently has seven properties, in New York, LA, Miami and the Maldives, as well as The Standard London which opened in 2019. [READ MORE](#)



Marina Bay Sands expansion to be completed in 2026; S\$1.35b hotel renovation in progress

The US\$3.3 billion expansion of Marina Bay Sands will be completed in 2026, one year after an original 2025 deadline, according to parent company Las Vegas Sands.

A US\$1 billion (S\$1.35 billion) renovation of Marina Bay Sands' hotel properties was also announced by Las Vegas Sands CEO and chairman Rob Goldstein.

Las Vegas Sands president and COO Patrick Dumont said the company had decided to reinvest in the hotel while it was experiencing "downtime" to enhance the quality of its suites and amenities. [READ MORE](#)

