

ISSUE 214

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WEEKLY INSIGHTS

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



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Emirates Airlines to increase Dubai-KL flight frequency

Emirates Airlines plans to increase its flight frequency between Dubai and Kuala Lumpur and further boost tourist visits to Malaysia from its extensive global network.

Emirates will be adding three additional flights a week from the airline's hub in Dubai to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) starting from June 24.

The flights will fly to Kuala Lumpur on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Emirates currently flies 11 times weekly between Kuala Lumpur and Dubai.

Recently, Emirates clinched a deal with Tourism Malaysia to boost inbound visitors from the latter's 130 global destinations into the country. [READ MORE](#)



Accor debuts first Mercure property in Langkawi

Accor made its debut in Langkawi with the opening of the four-star, 164-key Mercure Langkawi Pantai Cenang. This is the only international hotel brand on Pantai Cenang, a popular public beach on the western shoreline of Langkawi.

With the newly opened Mercure Hotel, Accor now has a total of 21 properties in Malaysia including six Mercure hotels.

Mercure Langkawi Pantai Cenang's general manager, Jasmine Keh, shared that forward bookings were promising during the promotional period up to June 30 with opening rates from RM448 (US\$103) per night including breakfast for two.

Guests are predominantly locals as Malaysia had only recently reopened its borders to international tourists. Keh opines that towards year-end, international tourists will form the bulk of guests as Langkawi, especially Pantai Cenang Beach, has always been popular with foreign tourists..

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Google: International travel demand among Malaysians at 90% pre-pandemic levels

Demand for international travel among Malaysians has increased so much it is almost on par with pre-pandemic levels, said Google.

The technology company, through its Google Search trends, found that travel demand has picked up following the reopening of the country's borders on April 1.

Google Malaysia managing director Marc Woo said the trends indicated a revival of travel among Malaysians now that many borders around the region are open again.

“In Malaysia, we’re seeing a steady recovery of international travel demand which has already climbed to 90% of pre-pandemic levels, and an explosion of domestic travel demand as Malaysians rediscover the country’s destinations,” he said.

“Malaysians have been increasingly searching for staycations (three times as compared to 2019) and transit bus services (51% year-on-year growth), as well as exploring theme parks, heritage towns and other destinations such as George Town, Langkawi and Cameron Highlands,” Google said in a statement. [READ MORE](#)



IHG signs fifth Holiday Inn Express in Singapore

IHG Hotels & Resorts and partner Marlow Hotels & Resorts today announce the signing of Holiday Inn Express & Suites Singapore Novena.

With four Holiday Inn Express properties in Clarke Quay, Katong, Orchard Road and Serangoon, this will be the fifth property under the brand in Singapore, expanding IHG's portfolio to 14 hotels across seven brands.

Scheduled to open in 2023, the hotel will be rebranded from the former Quality Hotel Marlow. Currently closed, the property will undergo an extensive renovation that will commence this year to introduce Holiday Inn Express' clean, consistent and comfortable stay experience to business and leisure travellers.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Singapore Novena will have 231 rooms including 34 suites specifically catered to families, extended stay guests and large groups. [READ MORE](#)

IHG[®] Hotels
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AWC signs agreement with IHG to manage Kimpton Hua Hin Resort

Asset World Corporation (AWC), Thailand's leading integrated lifestyle real-estate group, has signaled confidence in the country's tourism industry by further expanding its diverse portfolio of hospitality and lifestyle destinations through a new hotel management agreement with IHG for Kimpton Hua Hin Resort.

Opening in 2024, the 124-room resort will be the fourth Kimpton hotel in the Kingdom.

Part of IHG's Luxury & Lifestyle portfolio, the Kimpton brand's popularity and growth in Thailand has accelerated at pace since its debut in Bangkok in 2020, thanks to its heartfelt service, boldly playful design and award-winning dining offers. [READ MORE](#)



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Airbnb gives up on China as it shifts focus to outbound travel

Airbnb is shutting down its domestic rentals in China, where a "zero-Covid" policy has meant lockdowns are ongoing. All listings for homes and experiences in the country will be removed from the company's website by summer, a source familiar with the matter told the BBC.

Stays within China made up only 1% of Airbnb's revenue over the last few years.

The company is expected to instead focus on Chinese residents travelling abroad to other destinations.

Before the pandemic, Chinese travellers heading abroad had tripled in less than a decade, reaching 155 million journeys in 2019, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation. But since 2020, China has had some of the toughest Covid restrictions in the world, making travel into and around the country extremely difficult. [READ MORE](#)

