

# ISSUE 223

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## WEEKLY INSIGHTS

## HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



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# Penang, Langkawi listed among Top 10 islands in Southeast Asia 2022

Penang and Langkawi have earned the Top 10 spot in the first ever Asia's Best Awards 2022 - Top 10 islands in Southeast Asia for 2022.

The list was published by Travel + Leisure, a resource for trip ideas, hotels, flight sales, city guides, and travel tips.

Penang came in at 8th place and Langkawi, 5th.

Heading the list was Phuket, Thailand. Koh Samui, also in Thailand and Bali, Indonesia came in at second and third spots respectively.

Others are Phu Quoc, Vietnam (4th); Lombok, Indonesia (6th place), Palawan, The Philippines (7th place), Koh Phi Phi, Thailand (9th place) and Con Dao, Vietnam (10th place). [READ MORE](#)



## ASIA'S BEST AWARDS 2022

### Best Islands in South-East Asia

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Phuket    | 6. Lombok      |
| 2. Koh Samui | 7. Palawan     |
| 3. Bali      | 8. Penang      |
| 4. Phu Quoc  | 9. Koh Phi Phi |
| 5. Langkawi  | 10. Con Dao    |

# Anantara Desaru Coast Residences will welcome owners this year

Anantara Desaru Coast Residences, a boutique collection of 20 luxury seaside villas facing the South China Sea in Johor, will welcome the first owners into its exclusive residential community this year.

Micah Tamthai, Minor International's chief operating officer for lifestyle and real estate, said that with the majority of beachfront units now sold or reserved, he is optimistic about the future of luxury real estate on the Desaru Coast. Anantara Desaru Coast Residences offers ownership starting at RM7.5 million.

Anantara Desaru Coast Residences, as a branded residential development, combines the comfort and permanence of home with world-class management, maintenance, and services provided by the five-star Anantara Desaru Coast Resort & Villas.

"Significant public- and private-sector investment has raised Desaru Coast's profile as an international tourism and investment destination, and we are proud to be pioneering luxury hospitality and real estate in this integrated development," he said in a statement.

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# Three Melaka islands in final process to be gazetted as marine parks, says deputy minister

Three islands proposed to be gazetted as Melaka Marine Parks are currently in the final stages of the gazetting process which is expected to be completed by the end of this year, said Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries I Datuk Seri Ahmad Hamzah.

He said the gazetting of Pulau Undan, Pulau Nangka and Pulau Dodol under Section 41 of the Fisheries Act 1985 (Act 317) had been brought to the federal level following the approval by the state government recently. He said the process was taking a while as it involved various processes and laws.

“The move to gazette the islands is important to guarantee the sustainability of fisheries resources and the diversity of marine biodiversity around the area in addition to making the marine parks as a special protection area for aquatic flora and fauna,” he told reporters after launching the operation to plant nine artificial reefs in the waters of Pulau Nangka. Ahmad said the three Melaka Marine Parks also have the potential to become **new tourism products** for the state since they have more than 150 species of coral reefs and marine life. [READ MORE](#)



# Tourism Malaysia realigning programmes to attract tourists

Tourism Malaysia is realigning its programmes to reposition Malaysia back on the world travel destination map.

Tourism Malaysia strategic planning senior director Syed Yahya Syed Othman said these measures were necessary as the country had revised its expected tourist arrivals to 4.5 million visitors with RM11.1 billion in revenue for this year.

"Our focus is on reviving the country's economy through domestic tourism and promoting the country as one of the top holiday destinations.

"We have been actively promoting domestic tourism through various campaigns in an effort to encourage Malaysians to travel for the local hospitality sector," he said at the launch of 'World Top Gourmet Awards 2022' at Berjaya Times Square Hotel in Jalan Imbi. [READ MORE](#)



# Malaysia Airlines to Double Capacity Between Kuala Lumpur and Doha, Qatar

Malaysia Airlines has confirmed that it will double capacity between Kuala Lumpur and Doha with a second daily nonstop flight commencing 10 August 2022.

The additional daily service, MH164, is scheduled to depart from Kuala Lumpur at 02:55, while the return leg, MH165 from Doha, is timed to leave at 08:05.

The airline's existing daily service, MH160, departs Kuala Lumpur at 21:20, while MH161 is slated to leave Doha at 01:30.

The twice-daily flights will be operated by the A330-300 aircraft with 27 seats in Business Class, 16 seats in Economy with extra legroom, and 247 seats in Economy Class.

Ticket sales for the additional daily service will open on 25 July and will include Qatar Airways codeshare in both directions.

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# Motac looks for multiple entry visas for Indian tourists

THE Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture (Motac) is looking to attract tourists from India to Malaysia in exchange for tourists from China who are currently in lockdown due to the Covid-zero policy.

Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Dr Santhara Kumar said the ministry is working with the Home Affairs Ministry (KDN) and other relevant government agencies on the matter.

“We are also in the process of working with KDN, where we have already sent a letter to KDN specifically for tourists from India to allow multiple entries,” Santhara said in a press conference during the grand launch of the VIP Pass today.

The VIP Pass is targeting 2,500 membership purchases for the Visit Malaysia Pass to help restore travel to Malaysia.

The RM600 value-for-money membership is valid for two years offering six free nights from over 137 hotels nationwide.

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# Singapore Hotel Room Rates Hit Six-Year High as Tourism Recovers

Singapore's hotel room rates surged last month to the highest in almost six years as tourism makes a recovery in the city-state after the government eased coronavirus measures.

The average rate in June was S\$238.32 (\$171), the highest since September 2016, according to data from the Singapore Tourism Board. That represents a 63% increase from a year earlier, when quarantine rules were still in place.

A revival of conferences and major events have attracted visitors, and STB data showed a nearly 12-fold increase in arrivals in the first half of 2022 compared with the same period a year ago.

Singapore expects to receive 4 million to 6 million visitors in 2022, although tourism flows will face some headwinds for the rest of the year because of the volatile global political and economic environment, as well as the evolving health situation, STB said last week. [READ MORE](#)



# Banyan Investment Group Announces Full Subscription of Banyan Lodging Enhanced Value Fund, LLC (BLEV, or “Believe”)

Banyan Investment Group (BIG), a vertically integrated hotel investment company that acquires select-service hotels in the United States, today announced its Banyan Lodging Enhanced Value Fund, LLC, a fund vehicle that offers investors an opportunity to purchase hotels that have been impacted by the on-going COVID-19 crisis, now is fully subscribed. The final participants were made up of domestic and foreign family offices.

BLEV is structured to provide a superior return profile to investors versus a typical co-mingled fund. The fund purposefully was created as a revolver, creating the ability to move and purchase quickly and backfill with external capital post-closing.

The fund is being used to form joint venture partnerships with institutional investors and/or syndicates of retail investors, implying total investible equity in the range of \$350,000,000. BLEV focuses on high-barrier-to-entry hotel locations, targeting properties with significant discounts to replacement costs and/or historical sale prices. [READ MORE](#)



# TDF, Ennismore and Al Rajhi capital sign an agreement to establish SAR 1.5bln investment fund in hospitality sector

The Tourism Development Fund (TDF) today announced the signing of a tripartite agreement with Ennismore, the world's largest and fastest-growing lifestyle hospitality company, and Al Rajhi Capital, one of the leading Asset Managers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The agreement aims to establish a hospitality investment fund that will advance lifestyle hotels with a capital of SAR 1.5 billion, enhancing promising sector-leading opportunities in various tourist destinations within the Kingdom.

This partnership now achieves the signing of the fund establishment agreement, which compliments the initial endeavor where TDF and Ennismore signed an MoU to launch an investment fund focused on developing lifestyle hotels in the Kingdom, as announced during the 5th edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) in October 2021. [READ MORE](#)



# LG, Marriott partner for hotel tech solutions

LG Business Solutions USA announced a groundbreaking a three-year alliance with the Marriott Design Lab to jointly develop and test advanced new technologies and solutions for the hospitality industry.

“Working with Marriott on groundbreaking R&D supports LG's efforts to bring more innovative technologies to the hospitality industry,” said Richard Lewis, vice president of technology and research, LG Business Solutions USA. “This collaboration reflects our shared passion for innovation, customer service and sustainability, and our three-year commitment underscores our common dedication to reimagining hospitality experiences and operations through new technologies.”

The Marriott Design Lab will serve as a research and development hub working at the leading edge of design and innovation. The Lab will provide a proving ground for technology products and services that can be integrated into daily hotel operations to save energy, reduce costs, increase operational efficiency, and encourage customer loyalty through enhanced experiences. [READ MORE](#)

