

# ISSUE 231

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## WEEKLY INSIGHTS

## HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



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# Two thirds of foreign airlines have resumed ops at Malaysia's five international airports: MAHB

Fifty-five out of 89, or 62 per cent of foreign airlines have resumed operations at all five international airports in Malaysia, said Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB).

The airports are KL International Airport, Langkawi International Airport, Penang International Airport, Kota Kinabalu International Airport and Kuching International Airport.

MAHB said the airlines that had introduced new international destinations last month included Batik Air Malaysia, which commenced Phuket from KUL with seven flights weekly, and Malaysia Airlines.

The national carrier started two new direct services, KL–Haneda with two flights weekly and Bangkok–Singapore with three flights weekly.

Other than resumption of flights and introduction of new routes, other factors that contributed to the increase were relaxation of visa requirements by Saudi Arabia leading to more Umrah flights and easing of travel entry requirements for foreign travellers into Malaysia.

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# Better utilisation rate for healthcare sector as medical tourism picks up, says RHB Research

RHB Research believes the return of local and foreign patients seeking medical treatment in Malaysia will gradually result in better utilisation rates for the healthcare sector from the third quarter (Q3) of 2022 onwards.

The bank-backed research firm said that despite the soft first half of 2022 (1H22) earnings, the domestic healthcare sector saw encouraging patient visit growth during the period, while industry players are poised to leverage on the arrival of international patients post the reopening of international borders in April.

The research firm said IHH Healthcare Bhd and KPJ Healthcare Bhd posted a solid recovery in operating metrics in their recent second quarter (Q2) 2022 results. "Post border reopening in April, the firm said IHH's Malaysia and Singapore operations recorded increases of 17% and 1.5 per% in the number of returning medical tourists," it said.

RHB Research said IHH Healthcare should fare better in terms of medical tourism, reflecting its modern medical facilities and strategic geographical presence in meeting the needs of affluent patients. Regarding medical tourism revenue contribution, IHH has higher exposure than KPJ (15% versus 7%). [READ MORE](#)



# Kerjaya Prospek Property gets RM100mil in green financing from AmBank for a hotel in the Old Klang Road area

Kerjaya Prospek Property has secured an RM100 million green financing arrangement with AMMB Holdings Bhd (AmBank) to develop the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Bloomsvale, a mixed-use project along Old Klang Road.

Bloomsvale sits on 5.2 acres of freehold land and includes the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, two blocks of serviced apartments, office suites, and a shopping mall. It has a gross development value (GDV) of RM1.2 billion.

The first component of Bloomsvale, a service apartment block, was launched in 2019. GreenRE will award the project a platinum certification for its residential area and a gold rating for its commercial structures.

The Courtyard by Marriott Hotel is a collaboration between the developer and Luxury Hotels International Management, a subsidiary of Marriott International. This 4-star hotel will have a total of 276 rooms. [READ MORE](#)



# Santubong identified as Muslim-friendly tourism spot

The tourism, arts and culture ministry will promote Santubong as one of the Muslim-friendly tourism destinations to visit in the country.

Minister Nancy Shukri said based on research, Sarawak was the second oldest Malay state in the world with the mausoleum of Sarawak's first and only sultan, Sultan Tengah, also located in Santubong.

“(Santubong) is also an attraction because of its archaeological sites. Prehistoric burial grounds in Tanjong Kubor, prehistoric iron industry in Sungai Jaong, and stone carvings from previous civilisations – all these provide an interesting narrative for Muslim tourists,” she said when opening the Islamic Tourism Entrepreneurship and Leadership Seminar (ITELS) here.

In an effort to develop the Muslim-friendly tourism and hospitality sector, Nancy said the ministry has made it easier for the registration of homestay operators to enable them to benefit from the Malaysian Homestay Experience Programme. [READ MORE](#)



# Oyo Hotels seeks to resurrect IPO as growth resumes

Oyo Hotels, the once high-flying Indian startup, is reviving plans for a stock-market debut after cost cuts and a recovery in travel helped it reduce losses.

The hotel-booking company filed fresh financial documents on Monday and is now targeting an initial public offering in early 2023 provided that India's stock market continues to hold up and economic conditions improve, according to people familiar with the matter.

Oyo, formally known as Oravel Stays Ltd, is internally working toward a January IPO as executives are encouraged by a pick-up in demand, they said, asking not to be named discussing confidential plans.

Oyo had filed preliminary IPO documents in 2021, only to shelve the listing plan earlier this year after the prolonged pandemic hurt its growth and forced the company to cut thousands of jobs.

The startup is now focusing on four main regions: India, Malaysia, Indonesia and Europe, where it manages vacation homes. It has cut down operations in markets it previously considered crucial, such as the US and China, where its employees now measure in the single digits, one of the people said. [READ MORE](#)



# Leisure Travel Demand Fuels Hyatt's Rooms Growth in Asia Pacific

Hyatt Hotels Corporation announced plans for the continued growth of its brand portfolio in Asia Pacific with a robust pipeline of landmark luxury and lifestyle hotels and resorts that are expected to open in late 2022 and 2023, ideally timed to coincide with the emerging rebound of leisure travel in the region.

This includes the strategic entry of several brands into new markets, such as the arrival of The Unbound Collection by Hyatt brand in Japan, the Andaz brand in Thailand, and the Hyatt Centric brand in Southeast Asia with a new hotel in Malaysia.

“Following the relaxation of travel restrictions across much of Asia Pacific, we remain confident in the region’s path to recovery,” said Carina Chorengel, Senior Vice President, Commercial, Asia Pacific, Hyatt. “As people seek to reconnect, explore new destinations, or revisit reliable favorites, we are seeing greater demand for premium accommodations and longer stays at Hyatt hotels.

With nearly 70% of our global portfolio classified as Luxury and Upper Upscale, we are well positioned to meet the growing demand from high-end travelers in each segment we serve.” [READ MORE](#)

