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WEEKLY INSIGHTS

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New ferries ready by June next year, says Penang Port Commission

The Penang Port Commission (PPC) revealed that the construction of new ferries that will serve commuters travelling between Penang Island and the mainland, has been progressing well at two shipyards in Vietnam.

PPC chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng said the 40 per cent progress on components of the ferry and design has already taken shape and is expected to be completed by June 2023.

Tan said once the building is completed, the ferries would be first tested in May, before their arrival in Penang by June 2023.

PPC believes the rejuvenation of the Penang ferry service will provide a new impetus for consumers who use the ferry service to travel between Penang Island and the mainland. [READ MORE](#)



Penang exco aiming to promote local street food via Michelin Guide

The Penang government said today it plans to bring the Michelin Guide to the state to promote its well-known street food scene.

Penang state exco for tourism and creative economy Yeoh Soon Hin said he is now working on bringing the Michelin Guide to Penang.

"Penang is a well-known food paradise of Malaysia which has been continuously recognised by the international media," he said in a statement.

He noted that the Penang assam laksa was ranked seventh in CNN's World's 50 Best Foods 2020 while the state's char koay teow, cendol and nasi kandar are just as popular among visitors from other states and countries.

"Bringing the Michelin Guide to Penang is a very strategic move to align with the Penang State Tourism Master Plan 2021-2030," he said. [READ MORE](#)



126 business events planned by Motac in 2022 with RM734 mln ROI: Nancy

The Tourism, Arts and Culture (Motac) Ministry plans to organise 126 business events through the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB) this year, with a potential return on investment worth RM734 million to rebuild the country's tourism sector.

Its minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri (pix) said Motac has approved 141 applications for Tourism Sector Matching Grants (GSSP) and another 167 Cultural Sector Matching Grants (GSSK) applications amounting to RM20.5 million and RM20.75 million respectively to date.

“A total of 23 tourism events and programmes worth RM1 million and 29 Voluntourism programmes are being offered nationwide,” she said at the launch of the new Voluntourism logo in Padang Sentral. [READ MORE](#)



Tourism Malaysia & Traveloka Collaborate To Showcase Malaysia As Preferred Holiday Destination

Tourism Malaysia is collaborating with Traveloka on a smart partnership campaign to promote the country as the holiday destination of choice.

The four-month campaign, which invites individuals to enjoy Malaysia's multicultural attractions, scenic locations, diverse cuisine and renowned hospitality, will exclusively harness Traveloka's innovative travel and lifestyle platform, which offers one of the most comprehensive, seamless and personalised user experiences in the industry.

The campaign, which ends 31 December 2022, will also provide holidaymakers redeemable offers and promotions from Traveloka, to enable them to book memorable holidays.

Aimed at increasing the number of holiday bookings and supporting tourism recovery efforts, the collaboration comes at an opportune time as Malaysia sees an uptick in domestic and regional post-pandemic travel after the lifting of international border restrictions. [READ MORE](#)



Langkawi remains Malaysia's top holiday destination for all travellers

The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) revealed that Langkawi has been recording an encouraging number of tourist arrivals.

CEO Nasaruddin Abdul Muttalib said Langkawi has recorded over 200,000 visitors a month recently and is currently on track to achieve the target of 2.5 million inbound travellers by year-end. “This number is a huge rise from our initial projections, with the highest number of travellers recorded during the school holidays or long weekend at 172,623,” he said.

Responding to the recent news where the tourism industry in Langkawi is still struggling and witnessing a decrease in tourist arrivals, he insisted that the number of inbound travellers on the island has been steadily increasing since the reopening of borders in April 2022.

“Some netizens have raised concerns that the expenses to travel to Langkawi are costly. However, Langkawi offers more than just food and entertainment,” Nasaruddin said. [READ MORE](#)



Japan opens borders to tourists as last pandemic travel restrictions eased

Japan has fully opened its doors to visitors after more than two years of pandemic isolation.

On Tuesday, the country reinstated visa-free travel to dozens of countries, ending some of world's strictest Covid-19 border controls. Japan has also lifted the 50,000-person entry cap and ended the requirement for tourists to travel as part of tour groups, Kyodo news agency reported.

Prime minister Fumio Kishida is counting on tourism to help invigorate the economy and reap some benefits from the yen's slide to a 24-year low - but hopes for a tourism boom face tough headwinds: a shortage of hospitality workers, lingering pandemic concerns, and predictions from economists that tourist returns would be gradual.

Kishida said last week the government is aiming to attract 5tn yen (\$34.5bn) in annual tourist spending. That goal may be too ambitious for a sector that has withered during the pandemic. [READ MORE](#)



Hong Kong to give away 500,000 airline tickets next year as part of global campaign to revive tourism

Hong Kong will give away 500,000 airline tickets worth HK\$2 billion (US\$254 million) as part of an effort early next year to entice travellers to visit the city once authorities remove all coronavirus restrictions for arrivals.

Dane Cheng Ting-yat, executive director of the Tourism Board, on Wednesday said his organisation would be handling the advertising campaign for the scheme, which was expected to launch in early 2023, while the Airport Authority would distribute the tickets.

“Once the government announces it will remove all Covid-19 restrictions for inbound travellers, we’ll roll out the advertising campaigns for the free air tickets,” he said.

“The Airport Authority will finalise the arrangement with airline companies. The free plane tickets are not all for inbound tourists. Some of them will be given to outbound travellers, while some will be distributed via travel agents.” [READ MORE](#)

