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WEEKLY INSIGHTS

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Post-Covid: Malaysia records high rise in foreign tourist arrivals

Malaysia has recorded a high rise in foreign tourist arrivals after the reopening of the border last April, according to Tourism Malaysia director-general Datuk Zainuddin Abdul Wahab.

As such, he said Tourism Malaysia is optimistic to achieve the government's target of getting 9.2 million foreign tourists visiting Malaysia in 2022.

“Although it is predicted that an economic recession may occur in 2023, Tourism Malaysia has anticipated the situation and will plan strategies by focusing on specific markets,” he told reporters at the launch of Northern Malaysia Coffee Experience on Friday (Dec 2).

He said that the main focus of tourist arrivals will be on the domestic, regional and medium-haul markets. “China was the main contributor in 2021, but it has not opened its borders yet and we are focusing on other countries such as Asian countries, the Middle East and so on,”.

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Special Report: Malaysia looks to Indian and Indonesian tourists to replace the Chinese

Uncertain about when Chinese tourists, one of the country's largest source of tourist revenue before the Covid-19 outbreak will return to the market, hospitality players are turning to tourists from countries like India and Indonesia to fill the gap.

Pre-pandemic, China had been a major tourist market globally as 10% of its 1.41 billion population travelled internationally. The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) in its International Tourism Highlights, 2020 Edition, said that in 2019, China was the world's top spender in international tourism, spending US\$255 billion.

MAH's Toh says Malaysia is fortunate to have a large domestic tourism market, which has to a certain extent helped to cushion the impact of the loss of Chinese tourists. "Domestic tourism has given an opportunity for less-travelled destinations to be discovered and they have drawn bigger crowds," she adds.

However, hotels that relied heavily on the China market have been affected. As such, they are now turning to the Indian and Indonesian markets [READ MORE](#)



TOURISM MALAYSIA

Top tourist arrivals and receipts 2018-2022

COUNTRY	2018		2019		2020	2021	2022 (Jan-July)
	ARRIVALS (MIL)	RECEIPT (RM BIL)	ARRIVALS (MIL)	RECEIPT (RM BIL)	ARRIVALS	ARRIVALS	ARRIVALS
Singapore	10.62	27.26	10.16	20.55	1,545,255	16,308	1,809,837
Indonesia	3.28	11.07	3.62	12.94	711,723	11,025	435,156
China	2.94	12.3	3.11	15.33	405,149	7,701	59,928
Thailand	1.91	3.82	1.88	3.96	394,413	59,607	199,129
Brunei	1.38	3.44	1.22	2.81	136,020	773	15,423
India	0.6	2.77	0.735	3.62	155,883	3,916	109,377

THE EDGE

Hospitality 360 inks partnership with Wyndham Hotels and Resorts to expand portfolio

Hotel management and consulting company, Hospitality 360 Sdn Bhd has inked a strategic partnership with Wyndham Hotels and Resorts (Wyndham) to expand their portfolio of hotels, resorts, and serviced apartments nationwide.

Under the terms of their partnership agreement, H360 will deliver at least 15 hotels signed as franchises under various Wyndham-owned brands over the next six years.

The memorandum of understandings (MoUs) was signed between Wyndham and the developers of the hotel properties, namely, Jesselton Newcity Development Sdn Bhd and Sumbangan Aru KK Sdn Bhd, for the properties that will, in turn, be managed as Wyndham Grand, Dolce by Wyndham, and Ramada by Wyndham brands.

Construction of these hotels, which totalled more than 2,000 rooms, will commence in phases starting in 2023 and is expected to complete by 2027. [READ MORE](#)



Pan Pacific Hotels Group Expands Malaysia Footprint

Pan Pacific Hotels Group, a Singapore-listed UOL Group Limited member, proudly unveils Pan Pacific Serviced Suites Kuala Lumpur.

The 25-storey high-rise brings 210 elegant suites to the prime address of Bukit Bintang, joining the Group's global expansion that will double its serviced suites portfolio by 2023, spanning ten properties in eight cities including Bangkok, Hanoi, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

Pan Pacific Serviced Suites Kuala Lumpur offers a luxuriously spacious selection of one- and two-bedroom layouts, ranging from 47 sqm to 80 sqm. Architecture firm FDAT brings a touch of luxe to the property, using rich marble and plush fabric finishes to complete its graceful design. FDAT is renowned for its refreshing work on sister properties PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur and PARKROYAL COLLECTION Marina Bay, Singapore. [READ MORE](#)



Impiana Hotels' unit escapes winding up petition over unpaid sum relating to resort redevelopment

Impiana Hotels Bhd has announced that the winding up petition served by Axventure Sdn Bhd over an unpaid sum amounting to RM2.26 million relating to a resort redevelopment has been amicably resolved.

In a bourse filing on Friday (Dec 2), Impiana said Axventure on Friday (Dec 2) filed a notice of discontinuance to discontinue the petition against Impiana's wholly-owned subsidiary Impiana Cherating Sdn Bhd with liberty to file afresh. It comes just days before a case management via e-review on the matter, which had previously been fixed on Dec 13.

Last month, Impiana obtained legal advice besides announcing its intention to contest the winding-up petition vigorously, having noted that Impiana Cherating is able to settle the amount claimed and that there is no need to liquidate the assets of Impiana Cherating to settle the amount.

Impiana Cherating had earlier this year been served an adjudication claim from Axventure for work done until 2020 relating to Phases 1 and 2 of the redevelopment of Impiana Resort & Residences Cherating. [READ MORE](#)



Malaysia's newest low-cost carrier MYAirline makes its debut

Low-cost carrier MYAirline marked its entry into the air travel market on 5 December 2022 with its inaugural flights touching down in Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Langkawi, from Kuala Lumpur.

The flight to Kota Kinabalu recorded a load factor of over 80%, showing encouraging demand for low-cost travel.

MYAirline CEO Rayner Teo said the flights cemented its official presence as an airline. "MYAirline believes our entry into these destinations will help boost tourism in Malaysia and accommodate increasing travel demands." He said since its route announcements, the airline has seen encouraging response from travellers.

The carrier will operate two daily flights to Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Langkawi with the Airbus A320-200 aircraft with a single class, 180-seat configuration. From Dec 23 onwards, flight frequency to Kuching will increase to three times daily. [READ MORE](#)



No merger of AirAsia's aviation business, says Fernandes

There will be no merger of AirAsia's aviation arm businesses into one new entity, but instead all aviation operations will be injected under one existing structure, said Capital A Bhd chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes.

He said this implies that four airlines under Capital A, namely AirAsia Malaysia, AirAsia Thailand, AirAsia Philippines, and AirAsia Indonesia, and AirAsia X Bhd (which operates AAX Malaysia and AAX Thailand) will be operating separately under AirAsia Aviation Group (AAG).

"We are just injecting AirAsia airlines into AAX's listing status...there is no merger. AAX will be renamed as AAG, and there will be six airlines under it. "As one company, we can take out a lot of costs, but there will be separate operations by each individual airline," he told the media after launching the AirAsia SUPER+ Unlimited subscription package here on Monday (Dec 5).

Citing an example, Fernandes said the new separate operations will be of the same structure as International Airlines Group (IAG), which owns British Airways, Iberia Airlines and Aer Lingus. [READ MORE](#)

