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Tourist arrivals to Malaysia poised to rise four-fold

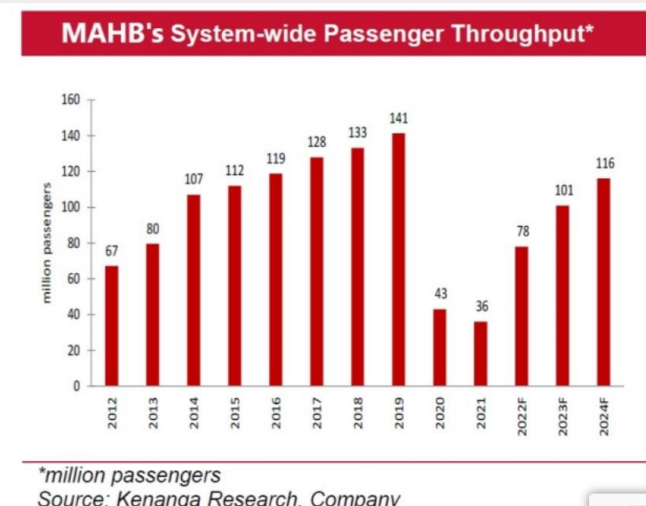
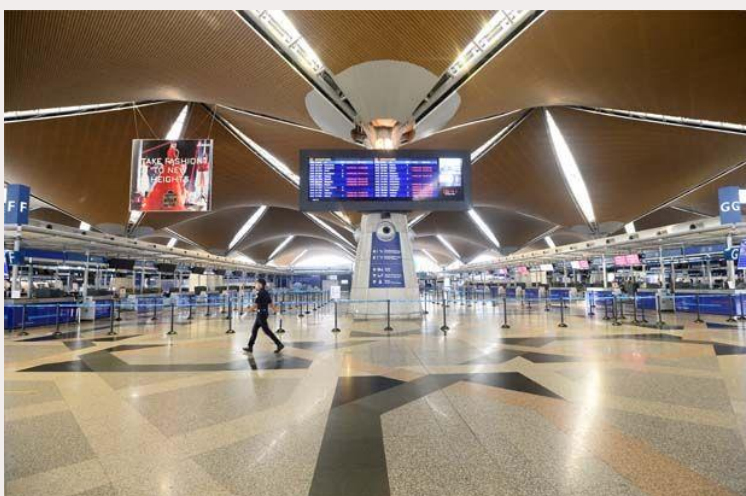
Tourist arrivals in the country is projected to jump four-fold to 9.6 million in 2023 from an estimated 2.5 million a year ago on the back of the reopening of international borders, according to Kenanga Research.

The increase, according to the research house, would be driven by the return of both business and leisure air travel globally.

Other factors include the revocation of all on-arrival quarantine and testing requirements in Malaysia as well as the gradual reopening of China.

It notes that China has historically accounted for an estimated 12% of the total tourist arrivals in Malaysia.

The factors should underpin growth in Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd's (MAHB) passenger throughput and Capital A Bhd's passenger demand in 2023, it added. [READ MORE](#)



A million Chinese expected - Tourism players anticipate influx as China scraps curbs

The impending opening up of China will benefit the Malaysian tourism industry, says the Malaysia Inbound Tourism Association (Mita).

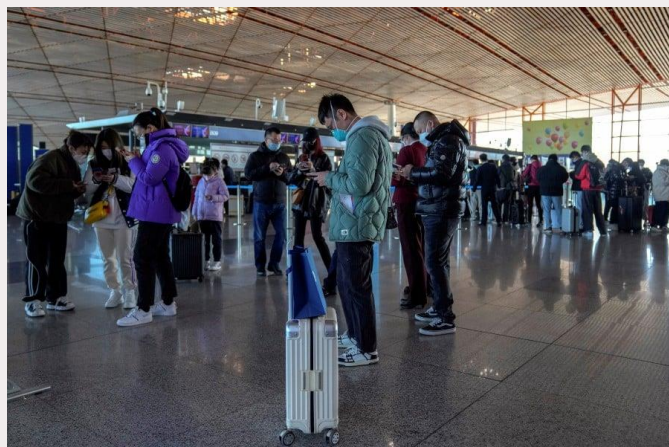
Its president Uzaidi Udani said a million Chinese tourists are expected to come to Malaysia in 2023.

“Based on Tourism Malaysia data, around three million Chinese tourists arrived in 2019, so we expect a million Chinese tourists to visit Malaysia next year,” he said yesterday.

Uzaidi said the expected figure was smaller because of some unresolved problems.

“High airfares are one of the main concerns for us. Of course, we won’t compromise on the country’s security, but we urge the government to ease visa restrictions for tourists, such as visa on arrival,” he said.

Uzaidi said the current frequency of flights between Malaysia and China is still low, at only 40% of its pre-pandemic frequency in December compared to 2019. [READ MORE](#)



A stronger, more positive comeback for Malaysia's medical tourism

Malaysia's health tourism sector, which has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, is showing signs of a stronger comeback as the nation heads into 2023, propelled by the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Industry Blueprint 2021-2025.

Malaysia has built a strong reputation as a safe and trusted global destination for healthcare over the past 10 years, with visitors from across the world coming for a range of treatments.

In the next phase, this segment will continue to focus on treatment services such as in vitro fertilisation (IVF), cardiology, oncology, orthopaedic, neurology, dental, aesthetics and general health screening, while unleashing the full potential of the industry, covering the areas of preventive treatments and healthcare.

Currently, Malaysia is ranked among the top medical tourism destinations in Asia, alongside India, Thailand, Singapore and South Korea. [READ MORE](#)



New chapter in hospitality

G HOTEL Gurney in Penang has reopened after an extensive renovation, ready to provide new levels of comfort and sophistication.

The 10-month makeover project has transformed all common areas and facilities while giving its 312 rooms a refreshed look.

G Hotel general manager Michael Hanratty said the makeover heralded an exciting new chapter. We're delighted to provide top-notch hospitality for both business and leisure guests," Hanratty said at a ceremony to mark the reopening.

Work is still ongoing at the ground and first floors of the hotel. When completed by the first quarter of next year, the area will become Central@Gurney, a new food, beverage and lifestyle nexus.

G Hotel Gurney has recently been named in the Michelin Guide. It is one of just four hotels in Penang to be featured. [READ MORE](#)



Penang cable car project good to go

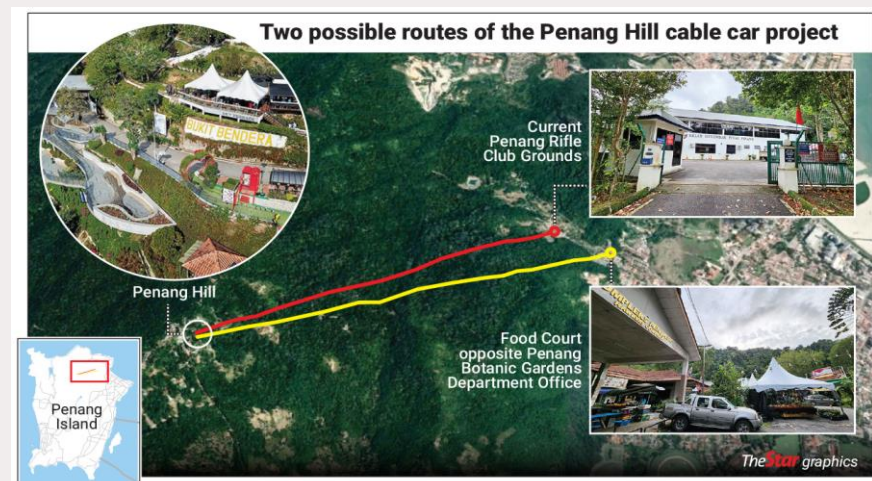
The Penang cable car project is good to go and set to be operational in roughly three years.

Penang Chief Minister and Penang Hill Corp chairman Chow Kon Yeow recently announced that leading integrated rolling stock and rail services company, Hartasuma Sdn Bhd, has secured the design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DBFOT) contract for the Penang Cable Car project in Penang Hill.

It beat six other bidders during the call for request for proposal to solicit the best proposal, which commenced on Jan 13, 2021, and extended to Nov 30, 2022, due to the pandemic.

This project requires an investment of some RM245mil by Hartasuma to be done via a public-private partnership initiative with the state government.

Hartasuma will own the concession for this tourist attraction over the next 30 years, where it will be responsible for the DBFOT throughout the period. [READ MORE](#)



Penang inks MoU with Indonesia's Citilink airlines to boost medical tourism

Penang Centre of Medical Tourism (P.MED), an initiative of the Penang state government, has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Citilink Airlines operator PT Citilink Indonesia to bolster medical tourist arrivals from Indonesia to the state.

P.MED chairman Yeoh Soon Hin said Indonesia has always been a major source market for Penang's medical tourism given its language and cultural similarities with Malaysia.

Yeoh, who is also the state executive councillor for tourism and the creative economy, said the total revenue for Penang's medical tourism has increased exponentially from RM66 million in 2021 to RM285 million in 2022 after the reopening of the country's international borders.

“In the first 11 months of 2022, Penang welcomed 144,975 international medical arrivals, of which Indonesia contributed 54 per cent, followed closely by Bangladesh and India. [READ MORE](#)



CNN Travel revelation gives Ipoh a boost

With Ipoh mentioned as the first destination in the list of 18 of Asia's Most Underrated Places by the CNN Travel portal, the Perak state government is further intensifying promotions to attract as many tourists and investors as possible to the state capital.

State Housing and Local Government Committee chairman, Sandra Ng Shy Ching said the committee will continue to utilise various platforms to introduce Ipoh so that more people have the opportunity to visit and experience the city's special features.

"Ipoh has always been known for its unique history, charm, food and atmosphere.

The list of 18 of Asia's Most Underrated Places gives exposure and recognition to each destination that is deemed to have good tourism value, but still lacks the attention it deserves. [READ MORE](#)

