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PPHG to Open Parkroyal Langkawi Resort on 15 February

Pan Pacific Hotels Group will this month expand its portfolio of hotels in Malaysia, with the opening of the Parkroyal Langkawi Resort.

Scheduled to welcome guests on 15 February, the 301-room beachfront resort is located along Pantai Tengah beach, a short drive from Langkawi International Airport (LGK) and in close proximity to local attractions such as Underwater World, Langkawi Sky Bridge, Langkawi Wildlife Park & Bird Paradise, and many more.

The property features a collection of six room types, eight different suites and seven villas – all of which feature a private plunge pool and direct access to the beach, while facilities include a choice of F&B outlets, a spa, swimming pool, gym and variety of meeting and event spaces.

Langkawi, an UNESCO Global Geopark, is a popular holiday destination for both the domestic and international markets.

The island off the north west coast of Malaysia, approximately 230 kms from Phuket, Thailand, welcomed 1,871,905 visitor arrivals in 2022, up from 1,093,937 in 2021 and 1,804,556 in 2020, but still considerably down from the pre-COVID19 highs of 3,924,326 in 2019 and 3,628,951 in 2018.

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Subang Airport to become regional aviation hub — Anthony Loke

The proposed Subang Airport Regeneration Plan (SARP) prepared by Malaysia Airport Holdings Berhad (MAHB) has been approved by the Cabinet on Feb 2 after careful consideration, said Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook.

He said it will focus on the development of the aerospace ecosystem, general aviation/business aviation and city airports (city airport/secondary airport).

Loke said among the main changes proposed in the plan is the reintroduction of scheduled passenger flights and belly cargo flights by using narrow-body jets up to the size of A320/B737 or equivalent aircraft, at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Subang Airport.

“The plan aims at the premium and business passenger market segment by taking full advantage of LTSAAS' strategic location in the heart of Greater Kuala Lumpur.

“Scheduled flights using turboprop aircraft will be maintained as market demand for these services is expected to continue and be positive,” he said. He added that through SARP, Subang Airport will be transformed into a regional aviation hub with a maximum capacity of eight million annual passengers, in addition to generating thousands of high-value job opportunities for Malaysians. [READ MORE](#)



SalamAir to Fly Kuala Lumpur from July 2023

Oman's value-for-money airline SalamAir has announced the introduction of a direct flight between Muscat and Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia, with two flights per week beginning on July 3, 2023.

Flights from Muscat to Kuala Lumpur are scheduled for Monday and Friday. The route serves both sides' high demand for leisure and business tourism.

Kuala Lumpur, SalamAir's first destination in Malaysia, marks the airline's further expansion into Southeast Asia. For people living in Oman and those wanting to take connecting flights, it's a convenient non-stop flight to Southeast Asian country for leisure, shopping, or business purposes.

Captain Mohamed Ahmed, CEO of SalamAir, said, "The new service marks another milestone in our network expansion strategy. We are delighted to launch flights between Muscat and Kuala Lumpur, providing our customers with a perfect value-for-money product that allows them to be flexible, save on airfare with our competitive pricing, and add services they prefer. [READ MORE](#)



AirAsia X aims to increase Busan flights by year-end

AirAsia Aviation Group's medium-haul affiliate airline, AirAsia X Bhd (AAX), plans to have seven flights to Busan per week by year end to strengthen its foothold in South Korea.

In a statement on Friday (Feb 3), AAX Malaysia chief executive officer Benjamin Ismail said the carrier, which recommenced its operation in the largest coastal city in the country on the same day, currently operates three direct flights weekly from Kuala Lumpur to Busan.

“Busan play a vital role in stimulating new demand and strengthening AAX’s market leadership in North Asia through providing best-value fares and driving greater competition in the market since the inception of the route in 2013.

“Hence, we target to bring more than 200,000 guests to and from Busan, much better than the pre-pandemic level in 2019, following the reopening of international borders,” he said in conjunction with the resumption of AAX’s flight to Busan at the Gimhae International Airport.

As travel demand rebounds, he said several new destinations will be introduced, particularly involving the North Asian region, including major cities in China, South Korea and Japan. [READ MORE](#)



Pahang eyes 13m tourists this year with slew of new tourism events

As the tourism industry in Pahang slowly recovers, the state government is targeting the arrival of 13 million tourists to visit holiday destinations here this year.

Pahang's tourist arrivals totaled 10.18 million as of Dec 31 last year compared with 2 million in 2021 when the country's borders were closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

State Unity, Tourism and Culture Committee chairman Leong Yu Man said as post-pandemic tourism initiatives move into top gear, the Pahang government was looking at marketing strategies and programmes to lure domestic and international visitors.

"Last year, tourists spent about RM9.14 billion in Pahang compared with only RM1.9 billion in 2021. I am confident holidaymakers will return this year. We can achieve our target as we have attracted some 10 million visitors last year despite the country's borders only opening on April 1, 2022. [READ MORE](#)



SplashMania water park to open in Gamuda Cove on Monday

The 16-acre (6.47 ha) SplashMania water theme park (pictured), built by Gamuda Land in Gamuda Cove here, will open its doors to the public on Feb 6.

Its operations head, Suresh V Kumaran said the water park, offering 39 attractions including 24 water slides, can accommodate a total of 4,000 visitors at a time.

He said among the must-try attractions is the 'Wild Rush' water slide which plunges into a 2.74 metre (m)-deep pool.

"Apart from this, we also have the 'Shaka Waka', a 78-m-long multimedia and audio water slide that is fitted with various coloured LED lights as well as another slide called 'Atlantis VR', which requires visitors to wear a virtual reality (VR) device while going down the slide. This attraction is the first of its kind in Southeast Asia.

Suresh said promotional tickets go on sale at RM79 for adults and RM63 for children from Feb 6 to March 31. [READ MORE](#)



Kuching Waterfront-Siniawan river cruise set to be eco-tourism booster

Sarawak may offer river cruise from Kuching Waterfront to Siniawan, Bau once a study on the Sarawak River navigation along the river route is complete and deemed safe for boat travels.

Deputy Minister of Transportation (Maritime and Riverine) Dato Henry Harry Jinep said this when met after the closing of the one-day workshop on Hazard Identification and Impact Review at a hotel here yesterday.

“We need to go to the ground to test the route from one waterfront to another. We need to study the natural attractions we have along the route as well as the obstacles we may face, especially the small boats,” he said.

“I think the studies on these are important – safe navigation and nature attractions. I have suggested sometime on Feb 23, we (the ministry together with Sarawak Rivers Board) to go on a boat cruise from Satok Bridge to Siniawan.

This route, he added, has already been included in the Bau Tourism Report, and a study on a tour package has been made. [READ MORE](#)



Three Sabah rural tourism operators get prestigious Asean awards

Three rural tourism operators in Sabah have been bestowed prestigious 2023–2025 Asean Tourism Standard Awards.

Padas Farmstay and Mari–Mari Cultural Village were given the Asean Community–Based Tourism award while Homestay Taun Gusi picked up the Asean Homestay Standard award.

Padas Farmstay managing director Tham Yau Kong, Mari–Mari Cultural Village base manager Jeremiah Jamson and Homestay Taun Gusi coordinator Ismail Muile received the awards in conjunction with the Asean Tourism Forum in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on Sunday (Feb 5).

State Assistant Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Joniston Bangkuai said the awards strengthen Sabah's growing international reputation for rural tourism.

"The accreditation of three Sabah rural tourism products with the Asean Tourism Standard Awards is a major boost to the international profile of Sabah's rural tourism offerings," said Bangkuai, who led the Sabah Tourism Board (STB) delegation at the tourism forum, held from Friday (Feb 3) to Sunday. [READ MORE](#)



World's leading hotel groups including IHG Hotels & Resorts to double down on investment in Vietnam

Accor Vietnam and IHG Hotels & Resorts – the world’s leading hotel businesses operating in Vietnam announced that they intend to double the number of international-standard hotels in the Southeast Asian nation in the next five years.

Representatives of Accor and IHG said Vietnam is a very attractive country to invest in, and foreign investment has been quite robust over the past few years. There is huge potential for developing the hotel sector in the Southeast Asian nations.

Xavier Cappelut, Vice President of Operations of Accor Vietnam, said the firm has plans to welcome 41 more hotels and resorts in its chain in Vietnam within the next five years.

The hotel market received a great number of domestic visitors from the first half of 2022 due to the loosening of pandemic regulations, he said, adding that the demand has increased in both the resort and business segments.

The corporate market has returned with some vigour, so definitely both Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi have relatively good corporate demand since August, 2022. [READ MORE](#)

