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Renaissance KL & Four Points by Sheraton To Launch As Marriott's First Dual-branded Hotel In Malaysia

Travellers will soon have more reasons to stay in Kuala Lumpur as the first Marriott's dual-branded hotel will be launching in Malaysia later this year. The two properties in question? Renaissance Kuala Lumpur Hotel & Convention Centre and Four Points by Sheraton Kuala Lumpur, City Centre.

For those who aren't too familiar with the term "dual-branded", this model comprise of two similar hotels under the same group. The two-in-one hotels concept has been on the rise over the past few years internationally, where they open in the same building. In Renaissance Kuala Lumpur's case, the two brands will share the same address at Jalan Sultan Ismail and Jalan Ampang.

406-room Renaissance Kuala Lumpur Hotel & Convention Centre is scheduled to reopen in early quarter three of 2023, while 513-room Four Points by Sheraton Kuala Lumpur, City Centre will likely launch by end of quarter three this year. [READ MORE](#)



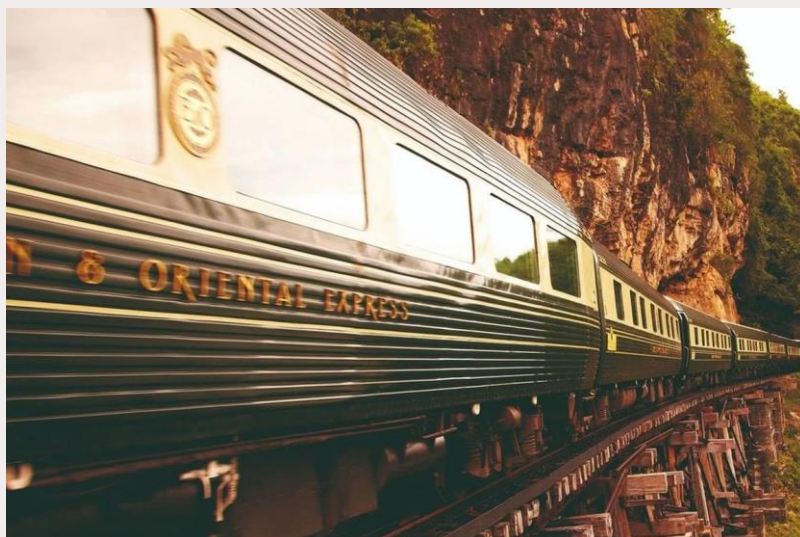
KTMB to collaborate with London-based Eastern & Oriental Express to boost tourism, rail industry

Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB) on Tuesday signed an agreement with London-based leisure and luxury train service company Eastern & Oriental Express Limited (E&O) to strengthen the rail industry and revive tourism in the country.

In a statement, KTMB said this agreement includes improvements to the existing agreement from a commercial aspect for E&O to use the rail route in Malaysia starting from Woodlands, Singapore to Padang Besar in Perlis before continuing to Bangkok, Thailand.

"Both companies have reached an agreement to improve on the previous transport agreement to promote the connection of the land and rail sector as well as turn Malaysia into one of the preferred destinations by offering the luxury train service.

"In 2019, a total of 2,500 passengers were recorded with the offer of 39 services that brought tourists from the United Kingdom, United States and around Asia. The service stop locations included Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Kangsar and Butterworth," said the statement. [READ MORE](#)



NCER identifies six destinations to promote tourism investment opportunities

The Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) has identified six investment destinations to implement programmes and incentives that will promote more tourism investment opportunities.

In a statement today, NCER said these locations are namely Langkawi, Kedah; Penang; Ipoh, Pangkor Island, Royal Belum Natural Park in Perak, and Perlis.

"The tourism investment opportunities include hotel development, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions), healthcare tourism, themed attractions, commercial and retail, family entertainment, ecotourism, lodging facilities and niche tourism.

"NCER is dedicated to fostering the expansion of the tourism industry and has implemented various programmes to bring in more investments to the region as a popular tourist region," according to the statement.

Meanwhile Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) chief executive Mohamad Haris Kader Sultan said tourism is a key focus area in NCER as the industry is a key driver of economic growth in the region. [READ MORE](#)



Tourism players welcome expanding visa-on-arrival for all countries

Tourism players in Penang have welcomed the call by Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing for Malaysia to consider providing visa-on-arrival for all countries to remain competitive in the global tourism industry.

Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH) Penang Chapter chairman Tony Goh and Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) Penang chapter chairman Vergis Mathews said such news was highly encouraging as the country, in general, and Penang, in particular, were seeing resilient rebound of the tourism industry.

Goh told the New Straits Times that MAH supported such a move as it would encourage more visitors into the country, with easy access.

"Numerous travel requirements were imposed on visitors during the Covid-19 pandemic, and after the pandemic, many visitors are still unsure of these requirements in place.

"With the visa-on-arrival, all these issues can be addressed promptly and visitors will find it easier to enter the country," he said. [READ MORE](#)



Malaysia-India air links need to grow, says Deputy Tourism Minister

Air links between Malaysia and India need to grow to revive tourism to pre-pandemic levels, says Deputy Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan.

He said that presently, Malaysia Airlines, Batik Air, AirAsia and IndiGo operate 170 weekly flights, offering 29,000 seats from India to Malaysia.

"The connectivity between Malaysia and India is below par," Khairul told Bernama in an interview in New Delhi on Wednesday (Feb 8) evening.

With tourist numbers growing, airlines should consider adding capacity on the route, he said.

Tourism Malaysia is making a strong push this year to boost arrivals from India, a key market, with promotional activities in major cities.

The Malaysian travel industry is strongly represented at the three-day SATTE (South Asia Travel and Tourism Exchange) tourism fair, which began in Greater Noida near New Delhi on Thursday. [READ MORE](#)



AirAsia set to relaunch seven international destinations in China

AirAsia is set to relaunch seven international destinations in China, namely Macao, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Kunming, Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Chengdu as its strong rebound continues post-pandemic.

AirAsia Malaysia chief executive officer Riad Asmat said China is an integral market for AirAsia Aviation Group, “where we were the largest international low-cost carrier by capacity pre-pandemic.”

“Based on the impressive load factor of our inaugural flight to/from Guangzhou, the restart of our services will not only provide greater value and accessibility to essential travellers from Malaysia and tourists from China but will significantly boost tourism, trade and economic growth in both countries,” he said in a statement today.

AirAsia Malaysia is set to restart four China destinations from two hubs – Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu to Macao, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Kunming 10 flights weekly, with the plan to increase the frequency by up to 27 flights weekly in March. [READ MORE](#)



More flights from Senai will boost Johor tourism, say industry players

Having direct flights from Senai International Airport to India and China will help Johor grow as an aviation hub in southern Peninsular Malaysia and increase more tourist arrivals into the state.

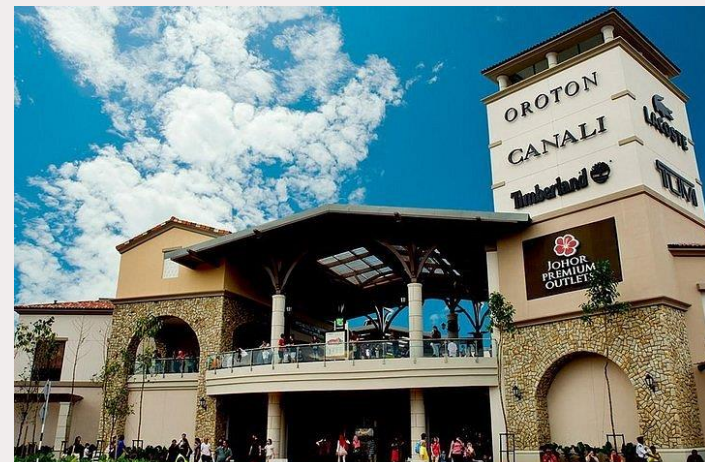
Malaysia Tour Guides Association president Jimmy Leong said that having more international flights from Senai should be looked at positively as it could help elevate Johor as a major tourism destination.

“Right now, we are the ugly duckling as we are located in between two major airports, which is the KL International Airport (KLIA) and Singapore’s Changi Airport.

“When foreign tourists want to come into Johor, they will usually fly into Changi and leave the country via KLIA, or vice versa. “If Senai International Airport receives the approval for direct flights to India and China, then more tourists will fly directly to the state,” he said here yesterday.

Leong added that Indian and Chinese tourists are desirable as they are known to be generous spenders, while Johor has a lot to offer.

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Japan's HMI Group To Invest Rs 7200 Crore In Hospitality Industry In UP, Inks MoU At UPGIS

Japanese company Hotel Management International Company Limited (HMI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday to build 30 new hotels at an investment of Rs 7,200 crore.

The MoU was signed on the second day of the 3-day Global Investors Summit in Lucknow.

At the signing event, HMI Group Director Public Relations Takamoto Yokoyama said, "UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's efforts to realise and develop the state's tourism potential have created immense possibilities for the hotel industry. Varanasi has seen a significant increase in tourism after the development of the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor. For us, this is a great chance."

HMI Group operates more than 60 hotels in major cities in Japan.

Yokoyama said UP's industrial policies are encouraging, adding that HMI Group will expand its hotel chain in 30 major cities, including Agra, Varanasi, and Ayodhya. [READ MORE](#)



Jumeirah Acquires Luxury Hotel in Geneva, Switzerland

Jumeirah, a member of Dubai Holding, has acquired Le Richemond hotel in Geneva, the group's first property in Switzerland.

Founded in 1875, the hotel is located on the banks of Lake Geneva in a prime location at the heart of the city's business district and a short walk from the city's luxury designer boutiques.

The art deco hotel features 109 keys with 87 rooms and 22 suites, boasting views across Lac Léman and the mountain peaks of Mont Blanc.

Expected to soon undergo extensive renovations, Jumeirah has plans to introduce its signature wellness, fitness and F&B concepts to the property.

The acquisition signals Jumeirah's appetite for investment in key cities that support the diversification of its portfolio and its goal of becoming one of the world's top five luxury hotel brands. [READ MORE](#)

