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Malaysia outperforms regional peers in 2022 tourism recovery, says StanChart

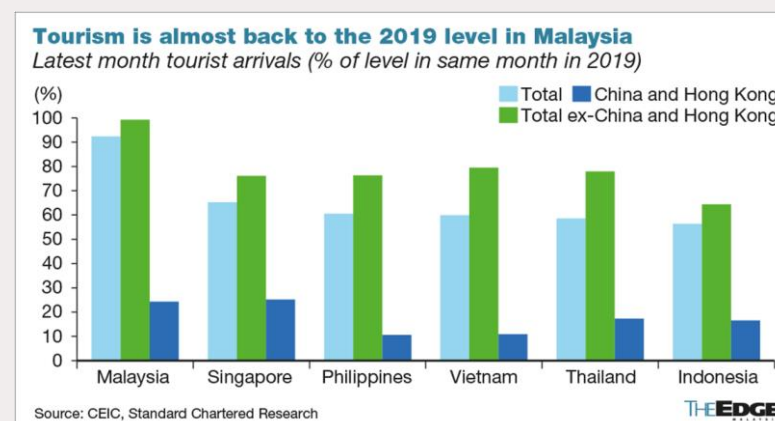
Malaysia had the quickest tourism recovery among its regional peers last year, recovering 92% of tourist arrivals compared to 2019 levels, driven by visitors from Singapore, according to a report by Standard Chartered Global Research.

Excluding Malaysia, tourist arrivals to Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have recovered to an average of about 60% of 2019 levels, following a broad resumption of international travel in 2022, said Standard Chartered in the report, which was co-authored by Asean and South Asia chief economist Edward Lee and Asia economist Jonathan Koh.

Nonetheless, they noted that the return of China and Hong Kong tourists was slower at about 18.4% of pre-pandemic levels due to the world's second-largest economy's border control policies.

From a current account perspective, the researchers expect Thailand to record the largest improvement in its travel balance this year, followed by Malaysia.

Lee and Koh said Malaysia's travel balance improved to -0.1% of gross domestic product in 2022 from -0.9% in 2021, but remains below the 2017-2019 average of 2.2% of GDP. [READ MORE](#)



Accor partners Crowne Estate to bring Swissôtel resort to Genting Highlands

Genting Highlands is set to welcome the world-class Swissôtel resort following the Accor and Crowne Estate Malaysia partnership.

The resort will be located at an altitude of 914.4m, and will be part of King's Park in a development by Highlands ParkCity in partnership with Yuk Tung Group and Crown Estate.

Crowne Estate chief operating officer Sean Chen said he was excited about the strategic alliance with Accor. "It is a huge step forward for Highland ParkCity and Crowne Estate in their goal to make the King's Park in Genting Highlands an eco-friendly tourist destination."

Meanwhile, Accor for South and Southeast Asia, Japan, South Korea and India chief executive officer Garth Simmons said the Swissôtel Genting Highlands would enhance Accor's position in the country.

The Swissôtel Genting Highlands will be a 300-room property featuring conference facilities, a grand ballroom, executive lounges, bars, a heated swimming pool, sundeck, fitness centre, spa, jogging tracks and a kids' club. The hotel is set to open in the third quarter of 2028. [READ MORE](#)



Sarawak minister urges private sector to build more hotels as tourism peaks

Sarawak Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah told the private sector to venture into building more hotels to accommodate the growing number of international tourists coming to the state.

He said soon it will be harder to accommodate tourists with the expected influx of visitors from China

“I am quite confident that the number of tourists coming to Sarawak will shoot up very high, from next year,” he told reporters at his Hari Raya Open house here.

He said a monthly average of between 300,000 and 400,000 arrived in Sarawak since the middle of last year. “This is why I say the time has come for the private sector to build more hotels,” he said, adding that it does not matter whether the hotels are rated three stars or five stars.

He said locals may not be able to afford high-end hotels and this was something that needs to be considered as well. “But those that come for the convention or business, they are expected to stay in higher end star hotels and those that come for sports tourism or medical tourism, they may want to stay in two or three stars rated hotels,” he said. [READ MORE](#)



Ample accommodation for tourists during Visit Melaka Year 2024, says exco man

There are sufficient hotel rooms available to host tourists during the Visit Melaka Year 2024 (TMM 2024) said Melaka tourism, heritage, art and culture committee chairman, Datuk Abdul Razak Abdul Rahman.

He said the ample number of hotels in the state is able to cater for those heading to the city during the TMM 2024.

“We have enough rooms to accommodate the tourists,” he said after launching the Tourism Melaka mobile Tourism Information Centre (TIC) truck and handing over goody bags to motorists heading back for the Hari Raya celebration at the Ayer Keroh archway here on Wednesday (April 20) night.

Melaka has an estimated 23,000 hotel rooms available and also has several starred hotels.

He also noted there was a 126.76% increase with the arrival of more than six million tourists in 2022 compared to 2.6 million people for the same period in 2021. Out of the total, he said 5.6 million were domestic tourists. Melaka is targeting 8.2 million visitors for this year. [READ MORE](#)



Government to review MM2H programme, says Tourism Ministry

The government is set to review the present Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) requirements to make it more flexible, says the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry.

It said the decision was reached after a meeting between its minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing and Home Ministry secretary-general Datuk Ruji Ubi on Tuesday (April 18).

The ministry added that Tourism Malaysia would promote and provide recommendations for applications via a filtering process through MM2H one-stop centre. "The centre would help process applicants for the programme and gather all the information needed to be forwarded to the Home Ministry and Immigration Department for processing and issuing the MM2H pass," it said in a Facebook post on Wednesday (April 19).

It added that visa on arrival facilities (VOA) for tourists from China and India were discussed, and said that the Home Ministry has agreed that it is beneficial and should be continued.

The ministry added that Tiong said that Asean countries like Indonesia have opened VOA facilities for other countries, and that this must be expedited so Malaysia can make the most of the opportunity. [READ MORE](#)



Mirah Investment and Development Partner with Sunset Hospitality Group to Bring Four New World-Class Dining Experiences to Bali

Scheduled to launch in Q2 and Q3 of 2023, the two companies will partner initially on four new venues in Bali, bringing two highly successful international restaurants Attiko and Folie, as well as two new brands, Santana and Mamasita.

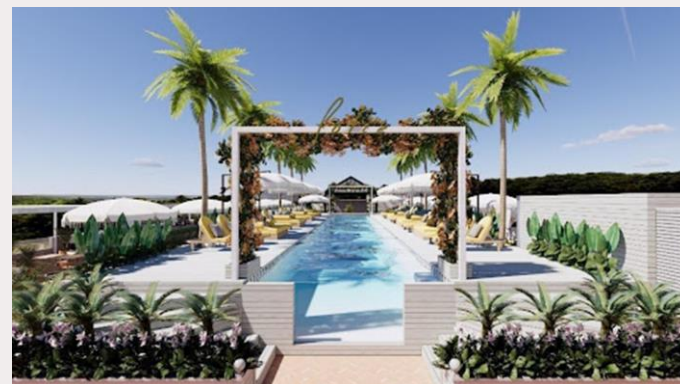
Mirah Investment and Development is the leading property developer in Bali. The partnership is a continuation of the company's long-term expansion plans and is set to grow its portfolio of Bali's top hospitality & lifestyle venues, enhancing the island's F&B offerings.

The company's portfolio includes a diverse range of projects from luxury resorts and residential villas to commercial use and mixed-use developments. One of Mirah Investment & Development's most notable projects is the highly anticipated Secana Beachtown.

Secana Beachtown - With private pool villas, loft-apartments and beachside lifestyle facilities are set to open later this year.

Known as the ultimate lifestyle residence, it is located beachside in Bali's most popular neighbourhood, Berawa, Canggu. With luxurious private pool villas & loft -apartments available for short-term & long-term rentals.

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Japan hotel prices surge as domestic and inbound travel rebound

Room prices at Japanese hotels are soaring on a rebound in domestic travel and foreign tourism, though the country's ongoing labor shortage raises concerns about the supply of available rooms.

Nikkei surveyed 50 hotels with more than 100 guest rooms in five major Japanese cities: Sapporo, Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Fukuoka. Hotels were asked to compare the average daily rate (ADR) for April 29, the first day of the upcoming annual Golden Week holiday period, with a year before.

Each city showed a strong rise in the rate, with no respondents reporting a drop. About 20% of hotels report an increase of 10% to 40%, with 60% saying ADR will climb at least 50%.

The rise was particularly notable in Tokyo, with ADR increasing by 50% or more at all seven facilities that responded to the survey.

A survey by U.S. hospitality research firm STR shows that Japan's nationwide average room rate in March was 21% higher than before the pandemic in 2019, and up 59% on the year.

The rising prices are underpinned by the upswing in occupancy rates. The number of reservations increased at each surveyed hotel, with many saying they expected an occupancy rate of 70% or more, or were almost fully booked. [READ MORE](#)

