

ISSUE 265

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WEEKLY INSIGHTS

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Malaysia announced best Muslim-friendly destination by OIC

Malaysia was announced as the 'Best Muslim-friendly destination' by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the 'Best Muslim women-friendly destination' by CrescentRating and Mastercard at the Halal in Travel Awards held in Singapore on Thursday (June 1).

Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing said it was also confirmed at the event that Malaysia has retained the top position in the 'Best Muslim-friendly destination' chart in the Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI) 2023 report.

Tiong said the achievement further strengthens Malaysia's position and branding as a leader in the Muslim tourism and Muslim-friendly tourism and hospitality (MFTH) segments at the regional and international levels.

"Muslims are now a fast-growing segment of the tourism industry and the Muslim population is estimated to have reached two billion worldwide. "The recovery rate of Islamic tourism at the global level has also been encouraging when 110 million Muslim tourist arrivals were recorded last year," he said in a statement on Thursday.

"It was also a proud achievement for Malaysia when it managed to attract 2.12 million Muslim tourists to the country last year and their total expenditure was RM5.37bil," he said. [READ MORE](#)



IGB's hotel segment to do better with reopening of Boulevard Hotel

IGB Bhd's hotel segment is anticipated to recover further, supported by the reopening of the 390-room Boulevard hotel, set amidst Mid Valley City, in July 2023.

The segment will also benefit from a full-year contribution from the St. Giles Southkey hotel in Johor Bahru, which opened on August 31, 2022.

St. Giles Southkey is located within Mid Valley Southkey, which contains a mall, an exhibition hall, and commercial towers. The hotel, which has 575 modern and spacious guest rooms, is managed locally by Cititel Hotel Management Sdn Bhd and is part of the UK-based St. Giles Hotels group.

The hotel segment's revenue climbed by more than 100 per cent y-o-y to RM58.5 million, owing to considerable improvements in occupancy and room rate in the current quarter.

IGB owns 53.4 per cent of IGB Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) and 52.8 per cent of IGB Commercial REIT. The group also owns a portfolio of hotels and land bank primarily in Malaysia, with some in Australia and the UK.

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Shangri-La Hotels back in the black in 1Q amid travel rebound

Shangri-La Hotels (M) Bhd posted a net profit of RM8.27 million in the first quarter ended March 31, 2023 (1QFY2023) versus a net loss of RM12.94 million a year earlier, bolstered by stronger results across its hotel operations on the back of more favourable business environment.

“Throughout the quarter, the group’s hotels and resorts witnessed a continued rebound in market demand, leading to good improvements both in rooms and food and beverage business,” the group, whose brands include Shangri-La Hotels Kuala Lumpur, Rasa Ria Resort and Hotel Jen Penang, said in a bourse filing.

Quarterly revenue saw a more than two-fold increase to RM116.31 million, from RM57.12 million in 1QFY2022.

The group said the outlook for its hotel operations remains encouraging with travel demand recovering at a resilient pace.

Meanwhile, it said the operating environment for its investment properties in Kuala Lumpur continues to be challenging amid subdued demand conditions. [READ MORE](#)



Melaka partners with Philippine travel agencies to attract 120,000 tourists for Visit Melaka Year 2024, says state tourism chairman

The Melaka state government has partnered with 80 Philippine travel agencies to attract about 120,000 tourists from the country next year in conjunction with the Visit Melaka Year 2024 (TMM 2024).

State Tourism, Heritage, Arts and Culture Committee chairman Datuk Abdul Razak Abdul Rahman said this was done through the TMM 2024 campaign in Manila and Davao from May 21 to 26.

“We will work with 50 travel agencies in Manila and 30 agencies in Davao,” he told reporters last night.

Elaborating, he said various attractive tourism packages would be offered by industry players in the state to the foreign travel agencies involved to attract tourists from the Philippines.

Abdul Razak also said that the campaign to promote TMM 2024 in South-east Asia would be extended to Brunei and Indonesia in addition to European and Middle Eastern countries to reach the target of 8.4 million tourists to Melaka next year. [READ MORE](#)

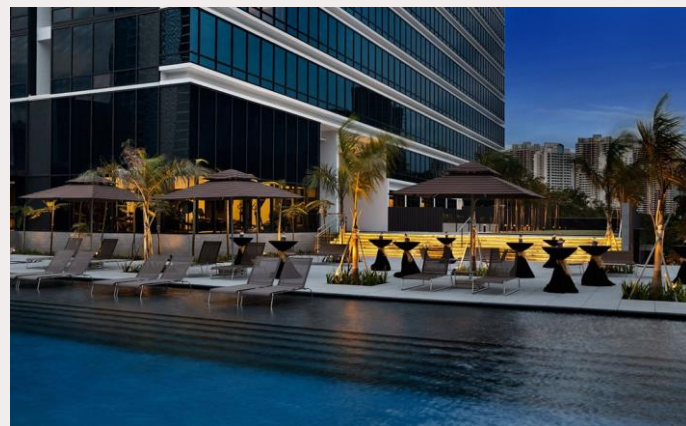


Marriott International Signs Agreement With Hiap Hoe Limited To Bring The Aloft Hotels Brand To Singapore

Marriott International, Inc. today announced it has signed an agreement with Hiap Hoe Limited, through HH Properties Pte. Ltd, to bring the design-forward Aloft Hotels brand to Singapore. Following a strategic conversion, the signing of the 785-room hotel expects to open in in Q3 2023, marking the Aloft brand's debut in Singapore and the largest Aloft hotel in the world.

"We are thrilled to announce our third collaboration with Marriott International as we venture and introduce the first Aloft hotel in Singapore," said Mr. Teo Ho Beng, Chief Executive Officer, Hiap Hoe Limited. "Aloft Singapore Novena expects to feature a contemporary and dynamic space that caters to the needs of design-savvy, next-generation travelers and locals.

Aloft Singapore Novena will be comprised of two towers and is strategically located in Zhongshan Park, a mixed-use development in the cultural district of Balestier. This area is renowned for its rich heritage and is situated along the Balestier Heritage Trail, surrounded by an array of famous local eateries and linked to the integrated dynamic healthcare precinct, Healthcity Novena. [READ MORE](#)



Marriott Executive Apartments debuts in Kuwait

Marriott Executive Apartments has debuted in Kuwait with the opening of Marriott Executive Apartments Kuwait City.

Owned by Assima Real Estate Company, a company wholly owned by Salhia Real Estate Company, Marriott Executive Apartments Kuwait City features 164 residential apartments.

The property is a 15-minute drive from Kuwait International airport and close to Kuwait Towers. It is also adjacent to Al Assima Mall, Kuwait's new shopping complex which is also certified by the Guinness Book of Records featuring the world's largest pearls chandelier.

The apartments include studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with views of the city's skyline and the coast. The serviced apartments feature separate living, sleeping and working areas, flatscreen TVs, complimentary wifi, and housekeeping.

Marriott says that the hotel is the first luxury serviced apartments brand of its kind in the country and is one of three hotel brands in Kuwait owned by Assima Real Estate Company in collaboration with Marriott International. [READ MORE](#)

