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WEEKLY INSIGHTS

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Wyndham to manage over 3,000 new hotel rooms in Malaysia

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts is set to open over 10 hotels with 3,000+ rooms in Malaysia in the coming years, focusing on its strategic partnership with Hospitality 360 (H36) Sdn Bhd.

The partnership aims to deliver at least 15 franchised hotels under Wyndham-owned brands in the next six years, with construction starting this year and completion by 2027.

The properties, managed under Wyndham Grand, Dolce by Wyndham, and Ramada by Wyndham, result from agreements with developers Jesselton Newcity Development Sdn Bhd and Sumbangan Aru KK Sdn Bhd.

The recent opening of Wyndham Grand Bangsar Kuala Lumpur, formerly Pullman Kuala Lumpur Bangsar, marked Wyndham Grand's entry into Malaysia, featuring 513 rooms and a grand ballroom for up to 2,000 people. Matt Holmes, VP for business development, highlights Malaysia's significance for the hotel chain's mission to make travel accessible to all. [READ MORE](#)



Gamuda Land to develop RM150mil hotel in Gamuda Cove, to be managed by Dusit International

Gamuda Bhd's property division Gamuda Land had allocated an investment of up to RM150 million to develop a mid-scale lifestyle hotel at Gamuda Cove slated to be opened in the first quarter of 2026 (1Q 2026).

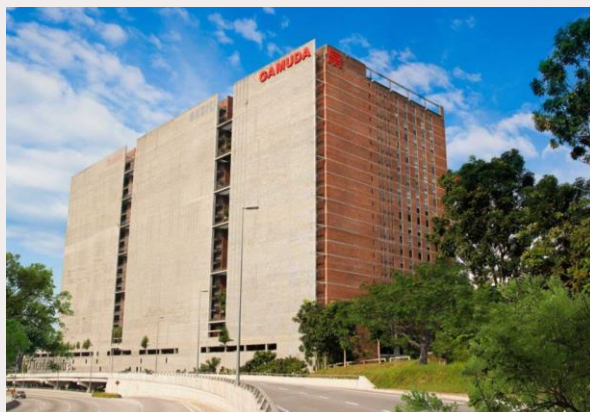
Gamuda Land chief executive officer (CEO) Chu Wai Lune said the hotel will be managed by Dusit Hotels and Resorts, the hotel arm of Dusit International, one of Thailand's leading hotel and property development companies.

"The hotel will have 280 rooms, will be operating under Dusit's distinctive locally focused lifestyle brand, ASAI Hotels, which promises to uniquely link curious travellers with authentic local experiences.

"ASAI Gamuda Cove hotel will enjoy the distinction of being the first hotel signed under Dusit's expanded 'ASAI Tropical' model, specifically tailored for properties located in areas of outstanding natural beauty," he told reporters after signing the hotel management agreement in conjunction with the ground breaking ceremony.

Chu said expanding into the hotel line is part of the company's strategy to complete its ecosystem by providing a new service to its township.

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Acacia, a new senior living concept opens in Klang at the site of the former Merrida Hotel

Pacific Senior Living (PSL) Sdn Bhd, a part of the Columbia Pacific Management Group (CPMG), has inaugurated Acacia, a pioneering assisted and independent living community within the Merrida Hotel building in Klang, Selangor.

Formerly a four-star hotel forced to close during pandemic-related restrictions, Acacia now offers 136 rooms with modern medical facilities, ranging from 312 to 592 square feet, in a resort-like environment. Specialized services include in-house physiotherapy and hobby workshops.

The opening ceremony was officiated by the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah. PSL's CEO, Carl Nicholas Isaac, highlighted the facility's response to Malaysia's changing demographics, with projections of over 20% of Malaysians being 65 or older by 2056.

CPMG's global managing director, Nate McLemore, praised Malaysia's investment climate and the collaboration with Columbia Asia hospitals in providing high-quality senior living services. [READ MORE](#)



Visa-free agreements set to propel air passenger traffic growth

Air passenger traffic in Malaysia is expected to see a further boost with the anticipated reciprocal visa-free entry agreement between China and Malaysia starting from December 1.

A similar arrangement will also be unilaterally extended to India and the Middle East by Malaysia. MIDF Research notes that the fourth quarter of 2023 will receive additional support from the gradual full fleet reactivation of Malaysia AirAsia (MAA), scheduled for completion in December 2023.

The research firm maintains its passenger traffic projections at 75% of its full-year estimate, with an expected stronger performance in December 2023. October 2023 already witnessed a recovery, with Malaysia's local airports recording 6.8 million passenger movements, marking an 80% recovery.

International seat capacity grew by +3.3% year-on-year, with Northeast Asia experiencing the highest growth in passenger movements at +12.2% month-on-month. [READ MORE](#)



Sarawak sets new tourist arrival for four million in 2024 after crossing three million target

The Sarawak government is optimistic about attracting four million tourist arrivals in 2024, surpassing its initial post-Covid target of three million visitors.

State Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah reported that Sarawak recorded 3.18 million visitors in the first 10 months of the year, generating RM7.6 billion in revenue.

With tourism receipts at RM8.07 billion, contributing 5.75% to Sarawak's GDP, the minister expects the sector to grow exponentially, aiming for four million visitors and an estimated RM9.76 billion in revenue in 2024.

He expressed confidence in the state's tourism industry, set to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels by 2025, with the completion of tourist attractions and infrastructure projects like the Pan Borneo Highway. [READ MORE](#)

