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Ascott Malaysia's bold takeover reveals Fox Glenmarie as premier destination

Ascott Malaysia, a CapitaLand Investment Ltd subsidiary, rebrands The Glenz Glenmarie to **Fox Glenmarie**, aiming to elevate luxury hospitality standards. Mondri Mecja, Ascott's Country GM for Malaysia, sees Fox Glenmarie as a flagship project, redefining urban living. Maria Malik, the owner representative, highlights Fox Glenmarie's state-of-the-art meeting facilities, promising seamless corporate events or private celebrations.

Strategically located near Kerjaya Station LRT 3, Fox Glenmarie offers accessibility, being 15 minutes from Sultan Aziz Airport and 40 minutes from KLIA. With 117 meticulously designed guest rooms, including Deluxe and Suite options, the property ensures comfort and sophistication.

Ascott Malaysia's robust expansion plan includes upcoming properties like Citadines Connect Cecil and Lyf Georgetown Penang, catering to diverse accommodation needs. The evolving landscape of hospitality assets in Malaysia suggests stable demand for mid to long-term corporate stays, showcasing the sector's resilience and potential in 2024 and beyond.



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Additional flight routes being discussed to boost tourism for Visit Johor 2026

The proposal for additional flight routes from Daegu, South Korea; Taichung, Taiwan; and Kunming, China is currently being discussed in efforts to further boost the tourism sector in conjunction with Visit Johor Year 2026.

Tourism Johor director Sharil Nizam Abdul Rahim said this matter is being studied together with the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry (Motac), Tourism Malaysia, Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA), and Senai International Airport (LTAS). All proposals for direct flights to Johor will be presented to the state government after information related to this plan is received from all relevant parties.

Sharil Nizam said that efforts to introduce these routes also involve enticing tourists from the respective countries, with a particular focus on places like Daegu and nearby cities such as Busan in South Korea. These areas had frequently chosen Johor as a destination before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Perak welcomes investors to boost hotel sector and tourism, says exco man

Perak's tourism committee chairman, Loh Sze Yee, advocates for more high-standard hotels to stimulate investment in the region's tourism sector.

He emphasizes that these hotels need not be five-star but should prioritize comfort, cleanliness, and a pleasant ambience. Loh suggests repurposing existing buildings for boutique or theme hotels and even proposes the establishment of glamping sites.

He envisions a collaborative effort between investors and the state to promote these accommodations effectively. "The state can help them promote their hotels and this can be a win-win situation," he added.

Loh aims to elevate Perak's tourism industry to attract visitors throughout the week, not just on weekends or holidays, by offering diverse accommodations suitable for couples, groups, and families.



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IHH to maximise bed capacity at its hospitals

IHH Healthcare Bhd, focusing on expanding its operations and maximizing capacity, aims to cater to the growing demand for private healthcare, particularly from medical tourists in Malaysia.

CEO Jean-Francois Naa highlights plans to increase bed capacity by 1,000 to 1,500 beds over five years, with recent acquisitions like Timberland Medical Centre reflecting this strategy. In Singapore, the focus is on enhancing technology capabilities to address the needs of sicker patients, especially amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, in India, Fortis Healthcare anticipates growing its bed count by 2,200 beds in three years through recent acquisitions, enhancing its economies of scale and potentially attracting more medical tourists. These strategies underscore a concerted effort to meet the evolving demands of medical tourism across different regions.



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Budget hotels' rate increase will hurt tourism industry, says Abdul Karim

The Malaysian Budget and Business Hotel Association's proposal to raise hotel rates by up to 40% in the next three months has drawn concern from Sarawak Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts, Datuk Seri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah.

He believes that this measure, aimed at addressing rising operational costs and perceived threats to their businesses, would disrupt the equilibrium of the tourism industry. Abdul Karim stressed the importance of alternative solutions, cautioning against potential long-term harm.

He highlighted efforts by his ministry and the Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Arts to attract tourists through organizing over 200 events annually, benefiting the hotel industry. Despite challenges such as unlicensed operators and increasing operational costs, Abdul Karim expressed confidence in the industry's resilience. He pledged collaboration with local authorities to regulate operators and address concerns regarding market integrity.



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Motac urged to address S-MM2H agent licenses renewal issue quickly

State Tourism, Creative Industry, and Performing Arts Minister Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah urges the federal Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture (Motac) to swiftly address the non-renewal of licenses for Sarawak–Malaysia My Second Home (S–MM2H) program agents.

He emphasizes the potential damage to Malaysia's tourism image due to bureaucratic delays, noting regional competition for second home programs. Abdul Karim highlights the plight of affected Sarawakian agents who have received deposits from prospective S–MM2H applicants but cannot renew licenses.

He appeals for Sarawak's exemption from recent policy changes or a nationwide resolution. Currently, over 2,000 S–MM2H applications have been approved, with 400 pending. Abdul Karim stresses the program's economic benefits and emphasizes the need for genuine applicants.

Motac Minister Dato Sri Tiong King Sing acknowledges complaints and states the ministry's efforts to regulate MM2H agents.



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