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## Marriott International collaborating with SKS Group to develop four-star hotel in Subang

Marriott International is collaborating with local property developer SKS Group to develop a four-star hotel known as Courtyard Marriott Subang in Selangor.

This will be SKS Group's third collaboration with Marriott International, following the successful launch of Four Points by Sheraton Desaru in 2021 and the opening of Sheraton Johor Baru next year. "We are thrilled to partner with the SKS Group to expand our Courtyard by Marriott brand in one of Malaysia's most dynamic commercial and cultural epicentres," Hotel Development, Asia-Pacific, Marriott International senior director Andree Susilo said in a statement.

A signing ceremony was held here recently between both parties. The 280-room hotel is slated to open in 2026. The facilities include a restaurant, a state-of-the-art rooftop pool, versatile event spaces, a 10,763 sf/ft ballroom and four meeting rooms.



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## Fairfield by Marriott opens new hotel in Terengganu

Fairfield by Marriott announced the opening of its third hotel in Malaysia in a press statement on Wednesday (July 31). Located in Kuala Besut, Terengganu, Fairfield by Marriott Kuala Besut offers 98 standard, deluxe and premium rooms as well as a Solo's Traveler's Pod to cater to business and leisure travellers who are keen on exploring the East Coast region of Peninsular Malaysia.

"With the arrival of this new hotel, we reinforce our commitment to growth in the East Coast region of Peninsular Malaysia. We are positive that Fairfield by Marriott Kuala Besut will complement our existing portfolio of over fifty Marriott Bonvoy hotels in the country," said Marriott International area vice-president for Malaysia and Indonesia Ramesh Jackson.

The hotel is accessible from the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport in Kota Bharu and the Sultan Mahmud Airport in Kuala Terengganu, and offers return ferry transfers to Perhentian Marriott Resort & Spa on the Perhentian Kecil island via a private jetty.



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## i-City unveils SkyCity Tower, Malaysia's tallest glass water slide

i-City, Malaysia's premier digital city, has unveiled SkyCity Tower, the country's highest glass water slide, standing 60 meters tall. Set to open on December 11, 2024, this new attraction is expected to draw around five million local and international tourists in 2025, supporting Selangor's goal of surpassing seven million visitors during Visit Selangor Year 2025.

Tengku Datuk Seri Ahmad Shah, chairman of i-City Selangor, emphasized i-City's longstanding role in advancing urban development and tourism in Selangor. He noted that i-City's "One Shah Alam, One Destination" initiative showcases Shah Alam's best attractions and supports local businesses by creating a vibrant tourism hub.

Recognized by CNN Travel for its City of Digital Lights, i-City's attractions, including SkyCity, DoubleTree by Hilton i-City, Best Western Hotel, and Central i-City Mall, are set to make it a major contributor to Visit Selangor 2025.



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## Malaysia On Track To Become Top Global Destination For Medical Tourism By 2025

Malaysia is poised to become the world's leading medical tourism destination by 2025, with the industry generating over RM2.25 billion in revenue in 2023.

This success comes as the Malaysian Healthcare Industry Action Plan 2021–2025, aimed at positioning the country as a top global provider of medical tourism services, progresses.

The Malaysian Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) reported over half a million medical tourist arrivals in the first half of 2023, contributing to the one million medical tourists recorded for the year—a 15% increase from 2022. Indonesian tourists represent 70–80% of this total.

MHTC has set a revenue target of RM2.4 billion for 2024, with the industry already nearing RM1 billion in the first half. Malaysia's success is driven by high-quality healthcare, competitive pricing, and strategic location. The government and private sector continue to invest in infrastructure and technology, ensuring Malaysia remains a top choice for medical tourists worldwide.



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## Visit Perlis Year: 1.5m visitors recorded as of May

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC) Perlis branch reported 1.5 million visitors as of May, said state Youth and Sports Development Committee chairman Wan Zikri Afthar Ishak. He highlighted the success of large-scale events like Pesta Angin Timur, which attracted 376,269 attendees in 2024, as key to boosting tourism.

In response to a question from Abu Bakar Hamzah (PN-Kuala Perlis) about measures to enhance tourism, Wan Zikri outlined the state's focus on improving main entry points for a welcoming and sustainable tourist experience.

He also mentioned the introduction of new tourism icons, such as local handicrafts, traditional food, and cultural music, to spur tourism development. The state government plans to strengthen tourism by addressing weaknesses, incorporating innovative elements, upgrading tourism centers, enhancing the tourism network, and promoting attractions on relevant platforms, all within the framework of Visit Perlis Year 2024.



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## Malaysia aims to hit one million Indian tourist arrivals by year-end

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (Motac) announced that it was aiming to hit one million tourist arrivals from India by the end of this year. The move is further strengthened after AirAsia launched new direct flights connecting Guwahati and Kozhikode (Calicut) to Kuala Lumpur.

According to Motac, India is a key tourism market for Malaysia. In April 2024, Indian tourist arrivals to Malaysia increased by 80.2 per cent to 295,000 visitors compared to the same period in 2023.

Tourism Malaysia director-general Manoharan Periasamy said the direct flights underscores the ministry's commitment to promoting tourism and strengthening bilateral relations. The new AirAsia routes will operate thrice weekly, where travellers from Guwahati and Kozhikode can now enjoy direct access to Kuala Lumpur without visa or flight transfers, allowing for seamless travel.



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## China visitors to Malaysia already up 194pc in May, tourism minister says

Malaysia received 1,185,050 visitors from China as of May 2024, a 194% increase compared to the same period last year, according to Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing.

He attributed this surge to the visa-free travel arrangements between the two countries. Tiong encouraged airlines to expand connectivity between Malaysia and other nations to capitalize on this trend. He also announced the launch of AirAsia's direct flights from Ningbo, China, to Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, operating three times a week. These routes are expected to attract more Chinese tourists, especially from Zhejiang Province.

In November 2023, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim introduced a 30-day visa exemption for tourists from China and India, effective from December 1. China reciprocated by extending the visa exemption for Malaysian tourists from 15 to 30 days, marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries on May 31, 2024.



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