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The Light City to Host JdV by Hyatt and Galaxy Minyoun Hotel

Penang's hospitality landscape is poised for a significant upgrade with the upcoming launch of two prestigious hotels, JdV by Hyatt and Galaxy Minyoun Penang The Light City Hotel, within The Light City's 34-storey mixed-use development.

Developed by IJM Perennial Development—a joint venture between IJM Corporation Berhad and Perennial Holdings Private Limited—the project integrates office spaces, meeting venues, restaurants, and leisure facilities, creating a seamless environment for business and leisure.

JdV by Hyatt, debuting in Malaysia, will feature 156 boutique-style rooms, while Galaxy Minyoun Penang, with 303 rooms, marks the brand's first venture into Southeast Asia.

The project also includes a tripartite MoU for 5G-ready infrastructure with Maxis Broadband and GlobalComm Telecommunications, aiming to transform The Light City into a smart, future-ready community.



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Abandoned warehouses near Penang cruise terminal to be redeveloped

The historic but abandoned warehouses near Penang's Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal are set for revitalization after being idle for 50 years. Built in 1826 as part of the port's docks, the seven warehouses, spanning 21,000sq m along Weld Quay, have remained unused since Penang Port expanded operations to Butterworth.

Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB) CEO Datuk Sasedharan Vasudevan announced that three of the eight applicants have been shortlisted in an open tender exercise for the redevelopment project. The selected company will undertake the project, which includes constructing a shopping complex, hotel, and outdoor dining facilities near the colonial clocktower in the Esplanade.

The redevelopment is expected to be completed within 24 months and will complement the upgrade of the adjoining marina. Sasedharan highlighted the potential of this project to enhance the cruise industry and increase the commercial value of the historic pier, transforming it into a major tourism attraction in Penang.



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Lexis Hotel Group Launches Imperial Lexis, KL's Latest Iconic Landmark

Imperial Lexis Kuala Lumpur by Lexis Hotel Group has officially opened its doors, setting a new standard for opulent living and world-class hospitality, and is poised to become the city's latest iconic landmark.

In a statement, the group said that the 53-storey hotel is the only one in Kuala Lumpur to feature a private pool in each of its 275 serviced rooms and suites.

The property integrates eco-friendly materials in its amenities and packing, while also incorporating energy-efficient technologies. The hotel champions the use of technology in its daily operations, offering seamless mobile check-in via tablets and mobile devices, effectively reducing the reliance on printed materials.



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Hotels in Subang, PJ and Shah Alam to see higher occupancy rates

Hotels near Subang, Petaling Jaya, and Shah Alam are expected to see higher occupancy rates as six airlines, including FireFly, AirAsia Malaysia, and Scoot, resume operations at Subang Airport starting August 1.

Malaysia Association of Hotels president Datin Christina Toh stated that this move would boost intra-Asean travel, medical tourism, and family travel, benefiting nearby hotels. Toh urged hotels to expand services, offer specialized packages, and enhance amenities to cater to the increasing demand. Additionally, she emphasized the need for improved transportation options, such as rail services, to accommodate the expected influx of travelers.

Fariz Victor, general manager of Mercure Kuala Lumpur Glenmarie, highlighted the importance of local businesses capitalizing on the increased flight frequency. He noted that Subang Airport's revitalization would attract both business and leisure travelers, making it a key hub for regional travel and enhancing Malaysia's appeal as a top travel destination in Southeast Asia.



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MATTA, MAH Sign MoU, Focus On Malaysian Tourism Industry

The Malaysian Association of Tour & Travel Agents (MATTA) and the Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation and drive growth within Malaysia's tourism sector.

This strategic partnership aims to create significant business opportunities for members of both associations and contribute to the development of the country's tourism industry. Key areas of collaboration include joint efforts on major projects like the MATTA Fair, talent development initiatives, and promotional roadshows supporting Visit Malaysia 2026 (VM2026).

The partnership also focuses on sustainable tourism, sharing information, and supporting each other in national and international tourism events. MATTA President Nigel Wong highlighted the potential to enhance the tourism industry by leveraging collective strengths, while MAH President Datin Christina Toh emphasized the partnership's role in elevating travel experiences and promoting innovation, sustainability, and growth.



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Tourism Ministry anticipates further rise in tourists from Gulf countries this year

The number of big-spending tourists from four Gulf countries—Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates—visiting Malaysia is expected to exceed 55,000 this year, significantly boosting tourism revenue.

Last year, 40,384 tourists from these countries visited Malaysia, spending RM428.84 million. This year, the Tourism Ministry anticipates a further increase, contributing additional millions to the local economy.

Federal Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing is currently on a 10-day working visit to these Gulf nations to promote Malaysia. During his visit, Tiong is not only highlighting Malaysia's tourist attractions but also exploring opportunities for cross-border cooperation in sectors like air linkages, trade, and investments.

Additionally, he is promoting the Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) program to potential Gulf investors. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to strengthen Malaysia's ties with Gulf countries and enhance the nation's appeal as a premier destination for high-spending tourists.



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