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Hyatt Regency to Open in KL Midtown, Elevating Convention Appeal

Hyatt Regency Kuala Lumpur at KL Midtown will officially open on August 26, bringing 410 upscale units to Mont Kiara. Of these, 306 are hotel rooms and 104 are serviced residences, designed to support both business and leisure travellers. The hotel is located at 7 Jalan Dutamas 2, directly across from MITEC and near Matrade, anchoring KL Midtown's positioning as a convention and lifestyle hub.

The property features a wide array of facilities including 16 function rooms, a pillarless ballroom, diverse dining outlets, a poolside bar, and a fully equipped Core Fitness Centre. Families and long-stay guests will benefit from amenities such as the Kidz Club, an infinity pool with a lounge on the 32nd floor, and one- or two-bedroom serviced apartments equipped with kitchenettes and dedicated lobbies.

Designed by acclaimed Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, the development blends modern hospitality with refined craftsmanship, reflecting Hyatt's confidence in Malaysia's tourism and MICE market growth.



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Park Hyatt to Open at Merdeka 118, Elevating KL Luxury Market

Park Hyatt Kuala Lumpur will begin operations next month, occupying levels 100 to 112 of Merdeka 118, the tallest tower in Asia Pacific. The hotel offers 252 luxurious guest rooms, including 27 suites, combining Malaysian cultural heritage with modern elegance. Room rates start around RM2,455 per night, rising to RM3,165 for corner rooms. Guests can expect panoramic city views through floor-to-ceiling windows.

The hotel's standout culinary offerings include three dining venues on the 75th floor and Kuala Lumpur's first chocolate-themed Cacao Bar, the highest in the city. With refined interiors and curated experiences, Park Hyatt aims to attract affluent leisure travellers seeking authenticity and sophistication in urban hospitality.

This opening forms part of Hyatt's broader regional expansion. With nearly 90 new properties planned across Asia Pacific, Hyatt is reinforcing its luxury and lifestyle presence. As of Q1 2025, 64% of its properties in the region fall within the luxury and upper-upscale segments.



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Quest Hotel Debuts in Port Dickson, Boosting Regional Tourism Growth

Quest Hotel Midport Port Dickson has officially opened, marking the entry of Jakarta-based Archipelago International's Quest brand into Malaysia. The hotel offers 413 rooms and suites, and houses Port Dickson's largest convention centre and a waterpark. This launch follows a 2018 management deal for the 700-room development and supports Archipelago's broader regional expansion strategy.

The new hotel enhances Port Dickson's appeal as a leading coastal destination. Known for its family-friendly attractions, the town is expected to benefit from increased domestic and international tourist traffic. The development is also part of the Malaysia Vision Valley masterplan, which aims to stimulate regional economic growth while prioritising sustainability and community wellbeing.

Archipelago CEO John Flood reaffirmed the group's commitment to delivering quality service and consistent value across its expanding footprint. With over 45,000 rooms in more than 300 hotels globally, the group continues to strengthen its presence in strategic growth markets.



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Eastin KL Sold for RM200 Mil, To Reopen as Marriott Hotel

Eastin Hotel Kuala Lumpur has been sold for RM200 million and is set to reopen under a Marriott brand. The buyer is linked to Datuk Lim Kheng Yew, founder of KYM Holdings, while the seller is CP Group, a Malaysian–Australian firm active in hospitality and property development. The acquisition price translates to around RM515,000 per room, making it a favourable deal compared to recent transactions in the Petaling Jaya hotel market.

Industry observers highlight the asset's value, given its prime location and limited supply of upscale hotels in the area. However, capital expenditure will be needed for refurbishments, as the hotel is over 25 years old. Renovation works are already underway. Marriott has not confirmed the rebranding but noted ongoing expansion across Malaysia, with three new hotels scheduled for opening in late 2025.

Marriott's Malaysia strategy targets high-growth secondary cities and diverse traveller segments, backed by strategic local partnerships and demand-driven location selection.



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New Hotels in Semporna Signal Confidence in Sabah's East Coast

New hotel openings in Semporna, including Seafest Regency and Pearl Bohey Dulang Resorts, reflect growing investor and tourist confidence in Sabah's east coast. These additions aim to meet the rising demand for quality accommodations in the region's island destinations.

The Sabah government attributes the sector's continued growth to enhanced security in the Eastern Sabah Security Zone. From January to May 2025, Sabah recorded 1.44 million visitor arrivals, including 559,150 international tourists, contributing RM3.3 million in tourism receipts. The absence of kidnapping-for-ransom cases in recent years has strengthened Sabah's reputation as a safe and appealing destination.

China remains the top international source market with 243,688 arrivals, followed by South Korea. European arrivals grew 25.6 percent, with strong numbers from the UK, Ireland, Germany, and France. During a site visit, senior officials and foreign diplomats toured islands in the Esszone, further underscoring Sabah's potential in eco-tourism and international hospitality.



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SIA–Malaysia Airlines JV Secures Approval with Competition Safeguards

Singapore Airlines and Malaysia Airlines have received conditional approval from Singapore’s Competition and Consumer Commission (CCCS) for their proposed commercial cooperation. The collaboration includes joint scheduling, pricing, marketing, codesharing, and prorated arrangements to enhance connectivity between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

To address competition concerns, both airlines committed to maintaining current weekly seat capacity, scaling up based on demand, and reporting annual data for their low-cost carrier operations. An independent auditor will oversee compliance. These safeguards were accepted by CCCS, especially with Jetstar Asia’s planned exit from the route.

No objections were raised during the public consultation. CCCS CEO Alvin Koh said the partnership could improve travel options and pricing. The agreement applies only to full-service carriers, excluding Scoot and Firefly. CCCS will continue monitoring market developments to ensure the collaboration supports competition and benefits consumers over the long term.



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Malaysia Airlines Expands A330neo Fleet to Strengthen Premium Position

Malaysia Airlines is reinforcing its premium carrier strategy with an order for 20 additional A330neo aircraft, bringing its total commitment to 40. This move positions the airline among the largest A330neo operators in Asia-Pacific, supporting growth across high-potential markets including Asean, China, India, and Australasia.

The new aircraft feature modern cabin enhancements such as all-suite Business Class with sliding privacy doors, aligning with the airline's focus on passenger experience. The jets are already operating on premium routes like Auckland, Melbourne, and Bali, showcasing Malaysia Airlines' commitment to delivering elevated service.

Group Managing Director Datuk Captain Izham Ismail said the order supports a future-ready fleet, aimed at sustainable growth and long-term competitiveness. With Asia-Pacific emerging as a high-growth travel region, the A330neo's fuel efficiency and flexibility will strengthen Malaysia Airlines' position in both regional and long-haul segments while delivering consistent value to its customers.



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Loong Air Launches Xi'an–KL Route, Boosting Tourism and Connectivity

Malaysia welcomed Loong Air's inaugural Xi'an–Kuala Lumpur flight at KLIA Terminal 2, strengthening bilateral ties with China. The new service operates three times weekly using a 174-seat Airbus A320, offering more direct access for tourists, business travellers, and cultural exchanges.

Flight GJ8721 departs Xi'an at 8.35 pm and arrives in Kuala Lumpur at 1.55 am, while the return flight GJ8722 leaves at 2.55 am and lands in Xi'an at 7.55 am. Tourism Malaysia officials, Malaysia Airports representatives, and Loong Air executives gathered to mark the launch, highlighting its alignment with the Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign.

From January to April 2025, Malaysia saw 1.44 million Chinese tourist arrivals, a 37.8% increase year-on-year. Visa-free entry for Chinese nationals until December 2026 is expected to sustain this momentum. The route reflects Loong Air's strategic expansion and supports broader aviation, trade, and cultural collaboration between both nations.



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Malaysia Targets More South Korean Arrivals Ahead of VM2026

Malaysia welcomed 553,165 South Korean tourists in 2024, generating RM2.9 billion in tourism receipts. This momentum is expected to grow further in 2025 as Tourism Malaysia intensifies efforts in the lead-up to Visit Malaysia 2026 (VM2026).

Tourism Malaysia Seoul is increasing collaborations with major Korean travel agencies, enhancing airline partnerships, and expanding media outreach. These efforts aim to boost Malaysia's visibility and attract more South Korean visitors, positioning the country as a key regional destination.

Malaysia is also promoting beach and island experiences in Johor and Sabah, alongside educational and halal tourism. South Korea is Malaysia's seventh-largest international source market. The country is also being actively positioned as a Muslim-friendly destination, supported by initiatives from the Malaysian Muslim Travel Agency Association. A recent programme in Myeongdong brought together 41 Malaysian operators and 50 Korean agencies to strengthen travel partnerships ahead of VM2026.



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Labuan Promotes 5S Tourism and Islamic Cruise in Uzbekistan

Labuan was featured in Malaysia’s tourism roadshow in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, aimed at expanding ties with Central Asia. A 20-member delegation promoted Malaysian tour packages, highlighting Labuan’s “5S” attractions—Sea, Sun, Sand, Ship, and Seafood—as key tourism assets. The event also introduced the Islamic Cruise, tailored for Muslim travellers seeking faith-friendly travel experiences.

The initiative included a tourism seminar with Uzbek travel agents and tour buyers, showcasing Malaysia’s diverse offerings in halal-friendly destinations and niche tourism products. The presentation underscored Malaysia’s position as a preferred destination for Muslim and nature-based tourism.

Organisers believe the roadshow will open new opportunities for collaboration in tourism between Malaysia and Central Asia. Labuan’s inclusion signals a push to diversify inbound tourism markets while leveraging its natural beauty and emerging travel products. The Islamic Cruise concept adds a unique offering, aligned with Malaysia’s growing appeal among Muslim travellers.

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Melaka to Host World Tourism Day 2025, Showcasing Malaysia's Leadership

Malaysia will host World Tourism Day 2025 in Melaka, a strategic move to position the country as a global leader in cultural, sustainable, and values-driven tourism. The event will coincide with the World Tourism Conference 2025 and highlights Melaka's role as a heritage destination. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi stated that this is an opportunity to inspire global audiences and reinforce Malaysia's readiness to shape the future of tourism.

The announcement was made during a pre-launch in Banda Hilir, which also celebrated Melaka's 17th year as a UNESCO World Heritage City. Melaka welcomed 15 million visitors in 2023, generating RM12.68 billion under the Visit Melaka Year 2024 campaign. Looking ahead, Visit Malaysia 2026 aims to further strengthen tourism's role in sustainable and inclusive development.

Strategic talks in London with trade and airline partners are expected to raise UK arrivals. Public-private partnerships will drive innovation and elevate Malaysia's global standing.



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Tourism Malaysia Strengthens Hotel Data Ahead of Visit Malaysia 2026

Tourism Malaysia, through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, held its first 2025 Hotel Data Refinement Session with Sarawak's hotel industry at Hilton Kuching. The event united key stakeholders, including hotel associations and tourism boards, to review findings from the quarterly Paid Accommodation Survey. This survey tracks critical metrics like Average Occupancy Rate, Average Room Rate, and guest arrivals, helping ensure data accuracy and consistency.

Deputy Director General Shahrin Mokhtar highlighted the session's importance in preparing for Visit Malaysia 2026, stressing reliable data's role in supporting national tourism policies and investments. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to hotel operators for their commitment to data submission, reflecting strong industry cooperation.

Malaysia's tourism sector continues its robust recovery, with 38 million international visitors in 2024—a 31.1% rise from 2023 and exceeding 2019 levels. Visitor arrivals grew 21% year-on-year in early 2025, led by key markets such as Singapore, Indonesia, and China.



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Tourism Selangor Launches RM300,000 Grant to Boost Visit Selangor Year 2025

Tourism Selangor has introduced a RM300,000 grant to support programmes aligned with Visit Selangor Year 2025. The grant is open until October 31 to private firms, government-linked companies without government promotional funding, state-affiliated bodies, and NGOs. It is divided into three tiers: RM30,000, RM20,000, and RM10,000 grants. The initiative aims to increase tourist arrivals, promote local tourism products, and stimulate the economy through community involvement.

The state targets eight million visitors in 2025, expecting RM11.7 billion in transactions, supported by over 60 programmes focusing on ecotourism, agrotourism, arts, and culture. Tourism Selangor has also actively promoted the campaign in international expos in Indonesia, Japan, and China, while increasing domestic outreach with events like the Selangor Travel Fair and MATTA Fair.

Additionally, partnerships with private firms aim to boost health tourism, especially targeting Indonesian visitors, following successful engagements at the Malaysia Healthcare Expo in Makassar.



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Perak Invests RM2 Million to Boost Tourism for Visit Malaysia 2026

The Perak State Government, in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, has allocated nearly RM2 million to upgrade tourism infrastructure ahead of Visit Malaysia Year 2026. Between January and July 2025, RM1.97 million funds key projects across Kuala Kangsar, Sungai Siput, and Karai, focusing on enhancing tourist sites and community engagement.

Major initiatives include RM850,000 to upgrade Laman Budaya square and public facilities, RM300,000 for restoring the Royal Museum, and RM250,000 for mural art and urban beautification in Kuala Kangsar. Karai will see RM200,000 for Victoria Bridge maintenance and RM20,000 for murals, while Sungai Siput receives RM70,000 for rural tourism infrastructure development.

Additionally, the 80km cycling route from Kuala Kangsar R\&R to Intan Suraya is nearing completion, with the first phase done and the second phase 90% finished, reinforcing Perak's push to attract tourists and boost the local economy.



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Pesta Kuantan 188 Set to Drive Tourism and Cultural Unity

Pesta Kuantan 188 will take place from July 25 to 27 at Kuantan 188 Tower, celebrating the Sultan of Pahang's birthday with a vibrant mix of culture, sports, and entertainment. Organised by Infiniti Indah Sdn Bhd, the event is expected to attract over 60,000 visitors and generate more than RM20 million in local economic impact. The festival aims to unite the people of Pahang through shared traditions and pride while promoting tourism and small business development.

Key attractions include the K118 Towerthon featuring national champion Soh Wai Ching, the Royal Pahang Dragon Boat Regatta, and extreme sports like BASE jumping and paramotor rides. Visitors can also enjoy a concert by top Malaysian artistes, followed by a 350-drone light show and fireworks. Community outreach includes activities for orphans and a gala dinner honouring the royal birthdays.

Tourism Malaysia supports the festival as a model of grassroots events with international appeal, aligning with its strategy for Visit Malaysia Year 2026.



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Malaysia Fest 2025 Eyes RM15 Million Sales and 180,000 Visitors

Malaysia Fest 2025 will return to the Singapore Expo from July 31 to August 3, aiming to attract 180,000 visitors and RM15 million in sales. Organised by MegaXpress International in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security through FAMA, the event will showcase 321 booths featuring Malaysian agrofood products, tourism offerings, and health and beauty items. FAMA will also present 10 tonnes of tropical fruits, including new varieties like limau susu, Pitaya Twin, and Abiu fruit, alongside 1,500 stock keeping units.

FAMA Chairman Aminuddin Zulkipli emphasised that the expo offers entrepreneurs a platform to promote their products, build networks, and explore export opportunities. Malaysia's High Commissioner to Singapore, Datuk Dr Azfar Mohamad Mustafar, highlighted the growing demand for Malaysian products, particularly fruits, supported by increased trade volumes.

The expo will also promote Visit Malaysia Year 2026 and feature 16 tourism companies, celebrity appearances, and cultural activities. It supports micro and small businesses while strengthening Malaysia's footprint in the Singaporean market.



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Sunway to Host 49th Bon Odori, Celebrating Japan-Malaysia Ties

Sunway City Kuala Lumpur will host the 49th Bon Odori Festival on July 12 and 13, co-organised with The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur, The Japanese School of Kuala Lumpur, and the Embassy of Japan. The event celebrates Japanese traditions while promoting cultural appreciation and strengthening the friendship between Japan and Malaysia.

Held at the open-air car park next to Sunway Resort, the festival offers free entry and will feature over 100 booths selling Japanese street food, snacks, crafts, and souvenirs. Food options for Muslim and non-Muslim visitors will also be available, ensuring inclusivity and wider community engagement.

The festival will run from 4pm to 11pm on both days, with highlights including a lively taiko drum performance and the signature Bon Odori dance. For added convenience, AirAsiaRide users can enjoy a promo code, BONODORI25, encouraging easy access and broader participation.



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Resorts World Genting, Trip.com Partner to Strengthen Malaysia Tourism

Resorts World Genting (RWG) has signed two strategic memoranda of understanding with Trip.com Group to boost Malaysia's inbound tourism. The agreements tap into Trip.com's global reach and digital expertise, setting the stage for stronger connectivity, innovative marketing, and targeted engagement. A key feature is the first-ever direct integration between RWG's hotel and theme park booking systems with Trip.com, ensuring seamless, real-time access to availability and pricing.

This collaboration enhances customer experience by enabling instant bookings, real-time updates, and exclusive offers. It supports growing regional travel demand and aligns with Malaysia's Visit Malaysia Year 2026 agenda. Both parties will jointly run marketing campaigns, focusing on the Asian market, through data-driven insights and engaging promotions.

Trip.com, a pioneer in live-streaming travel products, will showcase RWG's diverse offerings to wider audiences. By working with Tourism Malaysia, the partnership aims to attract more global tourists, reinforcing Malaysia's position as a premier travel destination.



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Klook Malaysia Aims to Elevate Australian Tourist Numbers Ahead of Visit Malaysia 2026

Klook Malaysia is boosting efforts to attract more Australian tourists ahead of Visit Malaysia Year 2026. The launch of the new AirAsia Darwin-Kuala Lumpur route is expected to improve connectivity and support this goal. By offering Australians easier access to Malaysia, Klook aims to increase tourist arrivals while supporting the country's tourism ambitions.

The partnership leverages Klook's digital platform to create seamless booking experiences, real-time promotions, and curated travel packages. This initiative works closely with airlines and tourism stakeholders to enhance convenience for travelers and attract higher-spending tourists, aligning with Malaysia's strategy to grow inbound tourism.

Klook's focus on digital innovation, combined with better air links and close collaboration with Tourism Malaysia, positions the country as a preferred destination for Australian travelers. This effort reflects Malaysia's readiness to welcome more international tourists, boost tourism revenue, and strengthen the economy as the nation prepares for Visit Malaysia Year 2026.



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US Firm to Build USD40 Million Collagen Plant in Kuching

A US-based regenerative medicine and wound care company will set up a high-tech collagen plant in Kuching, Sarawak. The facility, valued between USD20 million and USD40 million, was selected over Selangor and aims to supply both local and international markets. This investment is expected to attract related industries, paving the way for a broader biomedical ecosystem in the region.

The move addresses the rising demand for advanced wound care in Sarawak, where diabetic ulcers often lead to amputations. State leaders emphasize that collagen-based regenerative treatments are key in modern healing. The project aligns with Sarawak's vision to build a comprehensive medical ecosystem that integrates healthcare services, research, and manufacturing, strengthening its role in the sector.

Sarawak has excelled in clinical trials, particularly in early-stage studies, contributing significantly to Malaysia's research income. The collagen plant and the upcoming Infectious Disease Centre will further position Sarawak as a hub for medical innovation and economic growth.



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MUI Properties Invests in UK Hotel Subsidiary's Repositioning Strategy

MUI Properties is subscribing to £1 million (RM5.75 million) in preference shares in London Vista Hotel Ltd, a wholly-owned unit of Malayan United Industries. The shares, representing 18.7% of the total CRNCPS issued, carry a 6% annual dividend, payable after two years, and are redeemable upon maturity or earlier if asset disposals occur.

LVHL owns Corus Hotel Hyde Park in London and holds 61% of Burnham Beeches Hotel in Buckinghamshire. Proceeds from the issuance will support working capital and repositioning plans. A full redemption will be triggered if the Corus Hotel is sold. The transaction is a related party deal as MUIB holds a 72.27% stake in MUIP, though governance standards were maintained throughout.

LVHL is actively repositioning its assets. Corus Hotel Hyde Park will be rebranded under an international luxury name, targeting higher rates and returns. Burnham Beeches Hotel, now under Imerso Hotels, is expanding into the weddings and spa market.



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