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Magma and KLCC Holdings Unlock Value Through RM315 Million Hotel Sale

Magma Group Bhd and KLCC Holdings Sdn Bhd have agreed to sell the 519-room Impiana KLCC Hotel for RM315 million to Harum Aspirasi, a company largely owned by the Valiram family, known for its luxury retail ventures. The transaction confirms earlier reports and surpasses the property's market value of RM300 million, signalling solid investor confidence in Kuala Lumpur's prime hospitality assets.

Under the deal, Magma will dispose of its 20% stake in Heritage Lane Sdn Bhd, the hotel's holding company, while KLCC Holdings sells its 80% interest. Magma will receive RM63 million in cash, using RM45 million to repay loans, fund operations, and cover related expenses. This will save RM3.9 million in interest and strengthen its balance sheet.

The divestment allows Magma to unlock value from a non-core asset, reduce debt, and refocus on growth segments. The sale, pending shareholder approval, is expected to complete by early 2026.



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Temple Tree Langkawi: Heritage Hospitality Built on Sustainability

Temple Tree Resort in Langkawi has evolved into an award-winning boutique property that blends heritage preservation with modern sustainability. Since its acquisition in 2019, the resort has invested in structural and environmental upgrades, including rainwater harvesting tanks that secure water supply during dry periods. It has also eliminated single-use plastics, introduced refillable glass bottles, and built a hydroponic garden that supports farm-to-table dining.

Beyond environmental goals, Temple Tree integrates sustainability into its community engagement. Monthly pop-up markets promote local vendors, with part of the proceeds channelled to charitable causes and animal welfare initiatives. Composting facilities and solar panel assessments are underway to enhance efficiency and reduce the resort's carbon footprint.

Driven by rising demand for responsible travel, occupancy has increased by 30-40% in recent years. With five new suites planned for completion in mid-2026, Temple Tree aims to expand while preserving its cultural and environmental integrity.



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JOMhotel.com Reinvents Last-Minute Bookings with Smarter Tech and Fairer Model

Malaysian hospitality tech start-up JOMhotel.com is redefining last-minute hotel bookings through a platform built by hoteliers for hoteliers. Formerly known as JustTonight.com, the rebranded site retains its same-day stay focus while introducing smarter technology, faster transactions, and a stronger Malaysian identity. The leadership team, comprising experienced hotel managers, OTA specialists, and developers, aims to help hotels optimise revenue while offering travellers great-value stays.

Unlike global OTAs, JOMhotel.com operates on a lean commission structure and transparent ranking system that ensures equal visibility for all hotel partners. Its six dynamic rate tiers allow hotels to manage distressed inventory effectively, while instant payment features provide immediate cash flow. Travellers benefit from verified, same-day stays at non-refundable rates and attractive deals.

Targeting Malaysia's 30% same-day booking market, the platform will launch a mobile app and rewards programme in 2026, supporting hotels ahead of Visit Malaysia Year 2026.



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Malaysia Strengthens Tourism with RM700 Million Allocation in Budget 2026

The Malaysian government has allocated over RM700 million under Budget 2026 to revitalise the nation's tourism sector, reflecting strong commitment to positioning Malaysia as a leading global destination. Of this, RM500 million will fund the Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign, aiming to attract 47 million visitors and generate RM329 billion in revenue.

Another RM60 million is channelled into tourism promotion and cultural events, while RM50 million supports art and heritage entrepreneurs in crafts, batik, and weaving. To boost air connectivity, RM50 million in matching grants will encourage international and charter flights. Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd has already secured new routes from airlines such as British Airways, Hong Kong Express, and Jiangxi Air.

Additionally, RM25 million is earmarked to upgrade tourism facilities and conserve UNESCO heritage sites, while RM20 million will strengthen medical tourism through the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council. These initiatives signal broad economic opportunities across local and rural communities.



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RM1,000 Tax Relief to Drive Domestic Tourism and Local Spending

The proposed RM1,000 income tax relief for local travel and cultural spending under Budget 2026 is set to revitalise Malaysia's domestic tourism and strengthen local economic activity. Industry leaders believe the initiative will spur Malaysians to rediscover local destinations, support small businesses, and create a positive ripple effect across hotels, restaurants, and attractions.

Tour and travel associations note that the incentive aligns with preparations for Visit Malaysia 2026, promoting closer collaboration between the public and private sectors. Industry players are upgrading facilities and developing new products to cater to growing demand, while hoping the spillover effects will also attract more workers to the sector.

The measure is expected to particularly benefit middle- and low-income groups, making travel more accessible nationwide. It may also revive hotel occupancy and encourage visits to secondary destinations such as Muar, Kluang, and Temerloh, reinforcing Malaysia's tourism growth momentum ahead of 2026.



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Malaysia's Tourism Surges 14.5% Ahead of Visit Malaysia 2026

Malaysia recorded a 14.5% year-on-year rise in international tourist arrivals in the first eight months of 2025, reaching 28.2 million visitors compared to 24.7 million a year earlier. Singapore remained the largest source market with 14 million arrivals, marking an 18.1% increase. It was followed by China with 3.3 million visitors, Indonesia with 2.9 million, Thailand with 1.6 million, and India with 1.1 million, reflecting strong regional demand.

Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing said the ministry will intensify promotional and marketing initiatives, especially in markets where visitor numbers have declined. These efforts aim to sustain Malaysia's growth momentum in the competitive regional tourism landscape.

Tourism remains the nation's third-largest GDP contributor, underscoring its strategic economic importance. The government targets 31 million international arrivals and RM125.5 billion in tourism receipts this year, rising to 47 million visitors under the upcoming Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign.



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Labuan Waterfront Project to Revitalise Tourism and Economic Growth

The federal government has approved the RM38 million Waterfront Development Project Phase One in Labuan, a move expected to strengthen the island's duty-free economy and tourism sector. Announced under Budget 2026, the project will redevelop Victoria Harbour Beach, featuring promenades, event spaces, bazaar precincts, sea-sport facilities and improved infrastructure. Labuan Corporation will oversee implementation to ensure effective execution and lasting benefits.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa said the initiative aligns with the Labuan Local Plan 2040 and the Development Blueprint 2030, both emphasising smart tourism, green growth and better public amenities. The project is also expected to attract private investment and create job opportunities for local communities.

Dr Zaliha added that the revitalised waterfront will enhance Labuan's liveability, investor confidence and visitor appeal, helping transform the island from a quiet duty-free destination into a vibrant coastal economic hub.



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Selangor Hosts Six Major Expos to Drive Investment and Industrial Growth

Selangor is hosting six major industry exhibitions this week, led by the Selangor Investment and Industrial Park Expo (SPARK) 2025, as part of efforts to strengthen investment, business, and industrial development. The event unites industrial park developers, financial institutions, utility providers, logistics firms, and government agencies from across Malaysia and Asean. Invest Selangor CEO Datuk Hasan Azhari said SPARK serves as a key catalyst for partnerships, innovation, and sustainable growth.

Running from Oct 8 to 11, SPARK is a central feature of the Selangor International Business Summit, which last year attracted 50,000 visitors and generated nearly RM14 billion in potential deals. Alongside SPARK, Selangor also launched the International F&B Expo and Aerospace Summit.

The F&B Expo targets RM350 million in transactions, while the Aerospace Summit reinforces Selangor's regional leadership with 36 confirmed participants, including AirAsia, Airbus Helicopters, and GE Aerospace Subang Malaysia.



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Airlines Expand Regional Routes and Launch Travel Promotions Across Asia

Malaysia's aviation sector is entering a new phase of growth, with airlines unveiling expanded routes and travel incentives across the region. Firefly has launched a joint campaign with the Tourism Authority of Thailand to promote its new Kuala Lumpur-Krabi service, offering fares from RM138 for travel between November 2025 and August 2026. Meanwhile, AirAsia will resume key domestic routes from Cebu in mid-November and strengthen regional connectivity with new flights to Kuala Lumpur and Macao.

Batik Air continues its expansion from Subang Airport with new routes to Singapore, Jakarta, Langkawi and Johor Bahru starting December 8, alongside new connections from Penang and Ipoh to regional destinations.

Complementing these developments, Malaysia Airlines is offering premium-class promotions and adding Kuching to its Bonus Side Trip programme. The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia also secured re-election to the International Civil Aviation Organisation, reinforcing the country's position in global aviation.



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China's Sanya Expand Regional Routes and Launch Travel Promotions Across Asia

Sanya has expanded its international air connectivity with the launch of three new routes, including a key link to Kuala Lumpur operated by Malaysia's Batik Air. The Kuala Lumpur-Sanya route, which began operations on October 11, runs twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays, offering travellers from Southeast Asia easier access to China's Hainan province.

The new connection strengthens Malaysia's aviation ties with China while supporting the rising flow of leisure and business travellers between both markets. It also reinforces Batik Air's growing regional network from Kuala Lumpur, complementing Malaysia's broader strategy to deepen tourism and trade engagement across Asia.

With the addition of the Sanya-Kuala Lumpur route, Sanya now operates 38 international air links to 29 global destinations. Supported by visa-free entry for citizens from 86 countries, the expanded network is expected to boost inbound tourism and encourage more collaborative tourism development between Malaysia and China.



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