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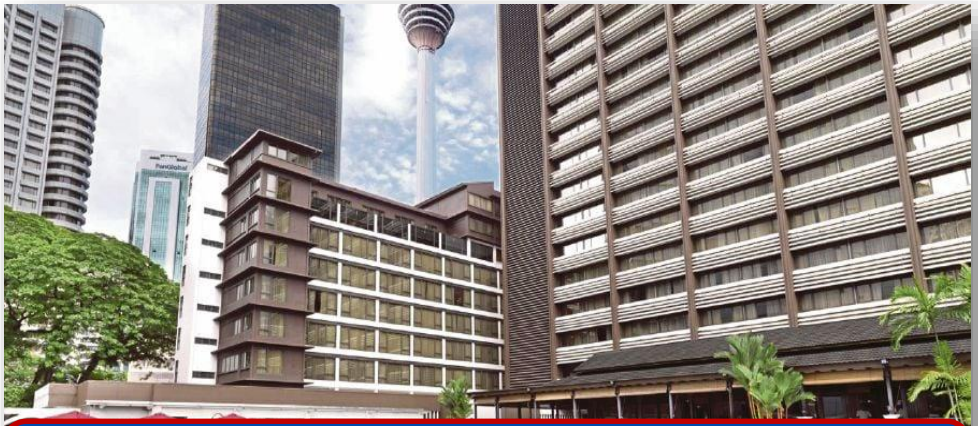

Concorde Hotel KL up for sale

Concorde Hotel Kuala Lumpur, owned by Singapore-based Malaysian tycoon Ong Beng Seng, is on the market for nearly RM700 million, including adjacent freehold land covering about 4.5 acres.

Situated on Jalan Sultan Ismail, the 581-room four-star hotel is expected to be demolished for a multibillion-ringgit integrated development if a buyer is found. While several investors have shown interest, Ong and his partners are in no rush to sell unless an exceptionally attractive offer is made. The hotel, a landmark since its days as the Merlin Hotel from 1957 to 1990, has been a fixture in Kuala Lumpur's hospitality scene.

Additionally, Ong is selling the Concorde Hotel & Shopping Centre in Singapore, located at 100 Orchard Road, with a guide price of S$820 million. The Singapore property, completed in the mid-1980s, is open to foreign buyers and is suitable for mixed-use development. The public tender for this sale closes on October 16, 2024.

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New lease of life for Heritage 1926 Hotel

The Heritage 1926 Hotel on Jalan Burmah, one of Penang's heritage buildings, is set to resume operations in 2026, coinciding with its 100th anniversary. The refurbishment, costing over RM20 million, will be carried out by JetBlue Sdn Bhd, which has secured a 15-year lease with an additional 15-year option from the Penang Development Corporation (PDC).

The hotel's aesthetic and cultural value will be preserved, with renovations focusing on interior spaces only. The project aims to turn the hotel into a modern landmark while retaining its original elements. The management will be handled by Ascott Hotels, known for their hotel management services in Kuala Lumpur. The hotel, which ceased operations in 2020, will reopen with 78 rooms, down from its previous 96.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow expressed confidence that the collaboration between PDC and JetBlue will create a successful model for tourism projects that respect heritage and drive economic growth in Penang.

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AirAsia Boosts Regional Travel With New Kuala Lumpur To Labuan Bajo Route

AirAsia has expanded its regional network by launching direct flights from Kuala Lumpur to Labuan Bajo, enhancing tourism and trade between Malaysia and Indonesia.

The inaugural flight, operated by AirAsia Malaysia (AK), landed in Labuan Bajo, marking the airline's 28th direct route between the two countries. This new service offers three flights per week, providing over 4,000 seats weekly and boosting visitor growth to Labuan Bajo, a gateway to Komodo National Park and Flores Island. AirAsia's Fly-Thru service further improves accessibility, allowing travelers to reach Labuan Bajo with just one stopover in Kuala Lumpur.

Dato' Captain Fareh Mazputra, Managing Director of AirAsia Malaysia, highlighted the significance of this route in supporting Indonesia's tourism goals, particularly for Labuan Bajo, a top priority destination aiming to attract 500,000 visitors in 2024.

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Danang tourism hub to boost investment, tourism with Malaysia

Danang is actively seeking investment from Malaysia in areas such as its international finance centre, free trade zone, tourism, digital transformation, and healthcare. A new air route between Danang and Kuala Lumpur will launch on September 24, operated by Malaysia Airlines with seven weekly flights, increasing total flights on this route to 28 per week.

At a recent meeting, Vice Chairman Nguyen Thi Anh Thi expressed Danang's interest in collaborating with Malacca, particularly in finance and healthcare. The city plans to establish Vietnam's first municipal authority with a free trade zone and international finance centre. A tourism promotion event in Danang saw participation from 100 travel agencies, highlighting the growing interest in exchange tours.

Malaysian tourists rank among the top 10 international visitors to Danang, with 75,000 arrivals in the first seven months of 2024. Currently, Malaysia receives 146 flights from Vietnam weekly. Danang has attracted 18 Malaysian investment projects, totaling US$222 million, and aims to further connect with UNESCO heritage sites in central Vietnam.

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KLCC precinct aims to become global SDG hub for leisure and business

The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre precinct (KLCC precinct) is positioning itself as a global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) hub for both leisure and business, according to KLCCH Group CEO Datuk Md Shah Mahmood.

KLCCH is dedicated to creating vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable urban ecosystems, reflecting Malaysia's aspirations on the global stage. At the launch of Sustainable September 2024, a campaign focused on community engagement, healthy living, and collaboration, Md Shah highlighted the theme "Healthy Planet, Healthy You." The campaign aligns with seven United Nations SDGs and includes a coastal mangrove restoration project in collaboration with the Selangor Maritime Gateway. This effort is part of the broader KLCC Sustainability Plan 2030.

Md Shah emphasized the importance of ongoing community-driven sustainability efforts and collaboration with partners like the KLCC Business Events Alliance and hotels including Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur, Impiana Hotel, Traders Hotel Kuala Lumpur, DoubleTree by Hilton, and Everly Hotel in Putrajaya. KLCCH also aims to blend modernity with cultural heritage, redefining city planning and enhancing urban environments in line with national aspirations.

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KPRJ leverages sports tourism to boost Johor's international appeal

Kumpulan Prasarana Rakyat Johor (KPRJ) aims to leverage sports tourism to elevate Johor as a global sports destination. As a key state investment arm and major player in Iskandar Malaysia's development, KPRJ built the infrastructure for the 2020 Malaysian Games (Sukma), which was cancelled due to the pandemic.

CEO Datuk Lukman Abu Bakar highlighted KPRJ's involvement in co-hosting the L'Etape Malaysia cycling event, which introduced Johor to international participants. Now, KPRJ is co-hosting the Johor Golf Expo 2024 (JGE2024) with Champions Golf, aiming to attract golf enthusiasts and tourists while tapping into the Singapore golf market.

The expo, scheduled for October 18, will feature over 70 exhibitors and various activities, including fishing, walking, cycling, footgolf, and a music festival. Additionally, over 600 amateur and professional golfers will compete in tournaments, with a Turf and Club Management Seminar endorsed by the Malaysian Golf Association.

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