

TANJONG JARA RESORT

Unmistakably Malay

BY HIRANMAYIL AWLI MOHANAN



Bumbung Sea View Room

In dire need of respite for the body, mind and soul, we found ourselves at Tanjung Jara Resort, Terengganu. Cradled by the turquoise waters of the South China Sea and idyll, verdant backdrop, this resort is a sanctuary of traditional luxury and well-being steeped in age-old Malay traditions. The Malay architecture trope of 17th century palaces is revealed as soon as you sink into its gateways and continues as you are swept through its sprawled, tree-fringed grounds. Centred around the concept of suci murni which emphasises purity of spirit, health and well-being, this secluded hideaway encourages true rejuvenation.

Hushed pathways lead from the lobby to the accommodations, restaurants, spa and other facilities. If you tread the grounds further and follow the call of crashing waves, you will find yourself a sweeping view of the emerald ocean, as far as the eyes can see. Furnished in local timber and rich fabrics, each of Tanjung Jara Resort's rooms commands a view of the South China Sea or the resort's tropical landscaped gardens. Warm hues and wooden panels bedeck the interior of the rooms. Expect plush bedding, a day bed to relax on, a large open en-suite bathroom with an oversized bathtub, separate shower and two vanity units, and an outdoor verandah to soak in the scene.

It's a rare thing to discover a resort that embraces and practises the local culture as rigorously as Tanjung Jara Resort. Robust with weekly activities, each day offers an exciting adventure. We delved into the Secrets of Malay Kitchen which gave us insight into the wonders of traditional Malay home cooking with a trip to the local wet market and subsequently, cooked up a storm with the guidance of a local culinary master. Another ritual practised here every Saturday evening is the Kampong Sucimurni Lifestyle – a true festival for the senses. Tantalising aromas fill the air as local delicacies are doled out for guests to indulge and discover the rich traditions offered by Terengganu.

Di Atas Sungei and Nelayan, Tanjung Jara's resident restaurants will whet your appetite with their offerings of traditional local fare and a medley of Western cuisine. Translated to over the river, Di Atas Sungei literally sits over a river, under the East Coast skies. Its buffet of local delicacies allows an experience of flavours from every part of Terengganu. Nelayan, on the other hand, is helmed by Chef Wai who focuses on sustainable fishing practices and freshest ingredients. The romantic, seaside setting makes for a perfect date night or to culminate a beautiful day.



Swimming Pool overlooking Nelayan Restaurant



Di Atas Sungei Restaurant

Batu 8, Off Jalan Dungun, 23000 Kuala Dungun, Terengganu.

Tel: 09-845 1100



Dining Vertigo

BANYAN TREE KUALA LUMPUR

An Urban Oasis

BY HIRANMAYII AWLI MOHANAN

You might live in the city, but a staycation within Kuala Lumpur is a different experience altogether — one that gives the weary and the jaded a respite from all the hustle and bustle. Sitting in the heart of the Golden Triangle of Kuala Lumpur, Banyan Tree Kuala Lumpur serves as an urban oasis that overflows with Malaysian hospitality.

This elegant, cool and contemporary facade towers at 60 storeys and reflects the quiet luxury of 21st century interiors. Featuring 55 well-appointed rooms and suites from a spacious 51 sqm Banyan Retreat to the 200 sqm Banyan Tree Suite, the rooms are filled with a generous amount of sunlight, vanilla cream hues, unobtrusive vistas of the KL skyline and technology. It makes for a seamless blend of modern comfort with a lavish air that ensures this hotel tops the list of KL's offerings.

If you're staying in its Signature Sky Retreat, you can expect to unwind completely in Banyan Tree Kuala Lumpur's chromotherapy shower. After a hot shower, jump into the heavenly goose-bedding king-sized bed and get lulled into sweet slumber instantly. Come morning, wake up to ample sunlight streaming in, cueing for sun salutations. Otherwise, work up a sweat in the state-of-the-art fitness facility. Be it morning or evening, dive in the hotel's open-air swimming pool and witness as the skies are painted with a dusty pink and orange.

To dust away the stress and tension of the mind and body, the Banyan Tree Spa offers Sanctuary for the Senses — a place for physical, mental and spiritual renewal. To achieve this, the spa focuses on a non-clinical and holistic approach based on traditional Asian healing therapies. Allow yourself to be treated with the Royal Banyan — the confluence of Eastern and Western massage techniques to improve blood circulation and ease muscle aches. Featuring a warm herbal pouch dipped in sesame oil, this signature treatment presents the quintessential Banyan Tree Spa experience like no other.

Banyan Tree Kuala Lumpur impresses with its offering of five dining outlets, leading with Horizon Grill — serving hearty a la carte breakfast, executive lunches to gourmet dinner menu with fresh seafood and premium steaks. Count your blessings at Altitude where afternoon tea and fine wine are met with a magnificent view of KLCC and the rest of KL. When the sun dips and night falls, dance the night away at Vertigo — a stylish bar helmed by a creative mixologist who will create personalised cocktails to complement the Southeast Asian-inspired tapas.

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Spa Kasuri Treatment Room



Facilities Open Air Pool