

# KL lifestyle

APRIL 2025

## Anthony Poon

THE PRECISION OF ABSTRACTION OF SINGAPOREAN ART

**KLAS PRIVATE SALE**

**NOW OPEN**

150, JALAN MAAROF BANGSAR, KUALA LUMPUR

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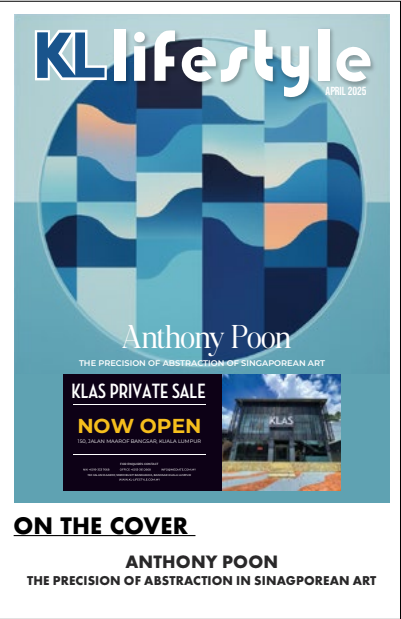
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HEALTH & BEAUTY

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80 BE THE FIRST TO TRY





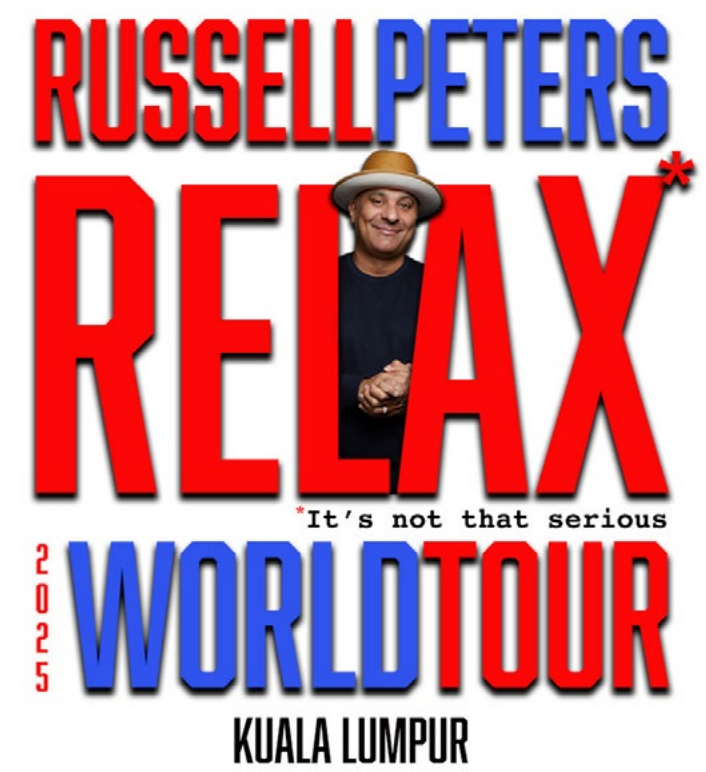
# Exciting Events Happening in April 2025



## The Music of Pink Floyd

After performing the music of renowned groups such as ABBA and The Beatles, the MPO continues its classical pop music exploration with a concert to relive the sounds of renowned British rock group Pink Floyd. Amplified by a full rock band and accompanied by Randy Jackson's fabulous vocals, creator Brent Havens guest conducts the MPO as they capture Pink Floyd's ethereal flow of music and effects while churning out new musical colours. Prepare to be transported back to the psychedelic era as we celebrate the iconic music including Money, Learning to Fly, Comfortably Numb and selections from The Wall album.

Date: 12 April 2025  
Price: RM288 RM348 RM408 RM468  
Venue: Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra



## Russel Peters Relax World Tour

Speaking of comedy greats, award winning Canadian comedian Russell Peters is coming to town. With limited tickets left to catch his Relax: It's Not That Serious show, you may want to act fast and get yours. Known for his satirical and observational comedy, and with over 35 years in the game, it's hardly a gamble—you're almost guaranteed a good time at this point—provided that you heed his word that it is, in fact, "not that serious." But if you missed this window of opportunity to catch him in the flesh, he has several other outings across Southeast Asia, including Singapore and Thailand. Otherwise, there's always his comedy specials available on Netflix and Amazon Prime Video.

Date: 13 April 2025  
Price: RM 258  
Venue: Hall 5, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, 50088 Kuala Lumpur

## Enter Fantasia

Have an egg-citing adventure at Easter Fantasia on April 12-13 at The School, Jaya One! Tenants like Tedboy, Salad Atelier, La Chica PJ, Koppiku, and more are all set to bring you an Egg-stravagant line-up of fun Station Games and activities for kids of all ages! Hop into the Bunny Barnyard Petting Zoo, decorate some delicious cookies, or try your hand at the Shrink Plastic Workshop with adorable spring and Easter designs! Don't miss out on "Tales of Easter" for a bit of festive storytelling, and get ready for an epic Carnival with games like Bunny's Card Flip, Egg-cellent Memory Match, Spot the Hidden Difference, Bunnyland Hole Golf, and many more. Complete the carnival games and you might just walk away with awesome Easter gifts! Plus, explore a vibrant bazaar featuring delicious treats and unique Easter-themed goodies from local vendors.

Date : April 12 -13, 2025  
Time : 10:00am - 6:00pm  
Venue : Block J, The School, Jaya One, No. 72A, Jalan Universiti, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia



## SLAYER Espresso Rally @ The Campus Ampang

Coffee lovers, this one's for you. The SLAYER Espresso Rally is making a stop in Malaysia, bringing a thrilling barista competition where top talents go head-to-head for a chance to compete at the World of Coffee Jakarta. The grand prize? A brand-new SLAYER Steam Single espresso machine. Come witness the action and enjoy some top-tier brews.

Date: 13 April 2025  
Venue: Lot 7706, Jalan Kolam Air Lama, Mukim, Hulu Kelang, 68000 Ampang, Selangor







## Violin Masterclass with Charles Yang

GRAMMY Award-winning artist and recipient of the 2018 Leonard Bernstein Award, Charles Yang has been described by The Boston Globe as one who “plays classical violin with the charisma of a rock star.” The Juilliard graduate began his violin studies with his mother, Sha Zhu, in Austin, Texas, and has since studied with world-renowned pedagogues Kurt Sassmanshaus, Paul Kantor, Brian Lewis and Glenn Dicterow. He has performed as soloist with orchestras and in concert throughout the United States, Europe, Brazil, Russia, China and Taiwan. On June 9th of 2005, the Mayor of Austin presented Mr. Yang with his own “Charles Yang Day.” In 2016 Mr. Yang joined the multi-genre string-band Time for Three as violinist and lead singer.

Date: 17 April 2025

Price: RM 25

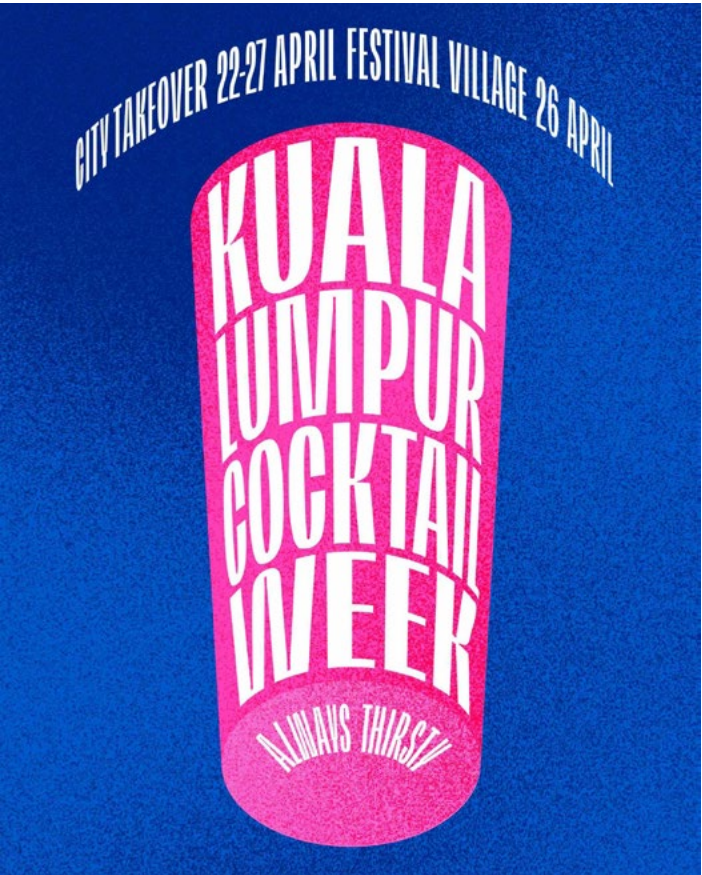
Venue: Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra

## Kuala Lumpur Cocktail Week

Kuala Lumpur Cocktail Week is returning for its second edition following its smashing debut last year. 27 international bars (the likes of Bangkok's BKK Social Club, Mexico City's Handshake Speakeasy, Hong Kong's Bar Leone, and more) will be heading to our city for guest shifts at iconic watering holes such as Here & Now, Bar Trigona, Penrose, and 23 others haunts across the Klang Valley. In this mixology spectacular, you can expect not only incredible tipples made in the hands of renowned professionals—for those who are keen to learn from these masters, a couple of them are hosting Olfactory Mixology and The Art of Hospitality. Aside from that, you can also book splendid cocktail pairing dinners at some of the city's finest restaurants like Akâr, Barkar, Ignis, and many more.

Date: 22 to 27 April 2025

Venue: across Bangsar, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Damansara Heights, Chinatown, and Kuala Lumpur City Centre



## PEEJAY PEEPS Community Market @ ATWATER

Get ready to chill, shop and vibe because the PEEJAY PEEPS Community Market is officially kicking off!! This twice-a-month market is specially created for the Petaling Jaya community, giving everyone a chance to gather, connect, and add more good energy to our neighborhood!

Expect awesome local brands, handmade crafts, mouthwatering food, and all the good vibes! Grab a bite, take a stroll, and soak in the laid-back, happy atmosphere. And of course, it's pet-friendly, so bring your furry sidekicks along for a fun day out!

Date: 11 to 13 April 2025 & 18 to 20 April 2025, 12 PM to 10 PM

Venue: Jalan Profesor Diraja Ungku Aziz, Seksyen 13, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor



## Pingmin Weekend Night Market @ Pingmin Hub

Unknowingly, we have been stationed at the civilian base camp for more than half a year, experienced a period of violent rain and “water clean flying”, and experienced good weather, good business days, no matter how high and low, the night view of the city is always left after the break.

As the only long-term fixed market in the city center, we co-exist with this love and hate city, and hope to bring local friends to know the scenery. Almost every weekend in the future, we will gather high quality creative and interesting brands here to create a love for Kuala Lumpur, while also making our youth culture and life a destination for travellers.

Please don't run away at will, the city is beautiful too, welcome to enter Kuala Lumpur's view and check in with us throughout April.

Date: Open every Friday to Sunday from 11 April to 4 May 2025, 5 PM to 12 AM

Venue: Lot 7706, Jalan Kolam Air Lama, Mukim, Hulu Kelang, 68000 Ampang, Selangor



# Big Screen Thrills

APRIL MOVIE PREMIERES



## A MINECRAFT MOVIE

APRIL 3

Four misfits are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination. To get back home, they'll have to master this world while embarking on a quest with an unexpected, expert crafter.

Genre:

Action/Adventure

Cast:

Jennifer Coolidge, Jason Momoa, Jemaine Clement, Jack Black, Emma Myers, Kate McKinnon, Danielle Brooks



## IBLIS DALAM KANDUNGAN 2: DECEPTION

APRIL 3

After her husband left, Amelia decided to return to her old house with her two adopted children, Alani and Vito.

Genre:

Horror/Thriller

Cast:

Denira Wiraguna, Widi Mulia, M. Adhiyat, Munggaran, Ananda George



## BLOOD BROTHERS: BARA NAGA

APRIL 10

A group of close-knit men working in an 'elite security' organization providing protection for powerful men and organized crime leaders is tested when betrayal lurks within the brotherhood.

Genre:

Action/Crime

Cast:

Sharnaaz Ahmad, Syafiq Kyle, Shukri Yahaya, Amelia Henderson, Syazwan Zulkifli, Wan Hanafi Su



## QODRAT 2

APRIL 17

After losing his child, Ustadz Qodrat must face an even more difficult test. Now the Devil is targeting his wife, Azizah, to destroy Qodrat's faith so that he will bow down to the devil and leave Allah.

Genre:

Action/Horror

Cast:

Vino G. Bastian, Acha Septriasa, Della Dartyan, Donny Alamsyah, Hana Saraswati, Septian Dwi Cahyo, Norman R. Akyuwen



*“Untitled, 1984” Acrylic on canvas 182 x 182 cm*

# Anthony Poon

THE PRECISION OF ABSTRACTION IN SINGAPOREAN ART

Anthony Poon Kin Soon was born in 1945 in Singapore, during a period of dramatic political and social change in the region. The post-war years and the rise of national consciousness provided a complex backdrop to his early artistic growth.

From canvas to monumental public sculptures, his career spanned over four decades, and his legacy endures as a cornerstone of Southeast Asian modernism.

Initially, Poon attended the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), an institution known for fostering a generation of artists who would come to define Singapore’s modernist movement.

At NAFA, he was exposed to the Nanyang Style, characterized by a fusion of Chinese ink traditions with Western techniques and Southeast Asian themes.

While many of his contemporaries embraced figurative painting and depictions of local scenes, Poon would chart a different course. He had a distinct affinity for structure and order — elements that would later dominate his artistic vision.

Determined to broaden his horizons, Poon furthered his studies at the Byam Shaw School of Art in London from 1968 to 1971. This time in the UK was instrumental in shaping his formalist sensibilities.

Immersed in the theories of European abstraction and exposed to the works of constructivists and color field painters, Poon became increasingly interested in the purity of line, the rhythm of form, and the play of light and shadow. His London years catalyzed his transition into the realm of non-representational art.

Upon returning to Singapore in the early 1970s, Poon embarked on what would become his most iconic body of work — the Wave Series.

This series was a radical departure from conventional painting at the time. It introduced sculpted reliefs made from shaped canvases, meticulously constructed and painted to create the illusion of undulating movement.

Using primary colors and clean geometric lines, Poon’s wave paintings were visually rhythmic, bordering on optical illusion.

The works invited the viewer to move, to interact with the changing perception of depth and surface. The sculptural quality of the shaped canvas challenged the traditional notion of two-dimensional painting, placing Poon squarely at the forefront of Southeast Asian abstraction.

Unlike some contemporaries who shifted toward more politically driven or narrative art forms, Poon remained resolutely abstract. His commitment to non-representation was not a retreat from social engagement but a philosophical stance. In Poon’s worldview, beauty, structure, and discipline were inherently meaningful. His work offered a refuge of calm and clarity, a counterpoint to the chaos of modern life.

Over the years, Poon exhibited widely in Singapore, the region, and beyond. His works were shown in the 1973 São Paulo Biennale, and he represented Singapore at the 1983 Venice Biennale, a significant moment that placed the country on the global art map.

By the 1980s and 1990s, Poon expanded his practice beyond canvas. His exploration into three-dimensional forms and public sculpture further cemented his role as a leading figure in contemporary Southeast Asian art.

Sculpture, for Poon, was a natural extension of painting. Just as his wave paintings had a tactile, sculptural quality, his freestanding works maintained a strong connection to geometric purity. Works like *Success* (1995), situated in front of the UOB Plaza, exemplified his ability to translate abstraction into monumental form. Here, sweeping curves and interlocking shapes conveyed motion and growth, aligning perfectly with the corporate and civic ideals of modern Singapore.

Another notable work, *Harmony* (1990), located at the National Library (former location), used interlaced forms to symbolize balance and unity. Poon’s public sculptures were not just decorative embellishments — they were thoughtful, site-specific interventions that engaged with their environments and communities.

Poon’s work is often described as “mathematical” — not in a sterile or formulaic way, but in its pursuit of precision and order. He approached each composition as a carefully calculated equation, where color, form, and space needed to achieve perfect balance. His mastery of the shaped canvas and his architectural awareness gave his works a timeless, almost meditative quality.

In the story of Singapore’s modern art development, few names stand as prominently as Anthony Poon. Known for his disciplined exploration of geometric abstraction and his seamless blending of form, color, and structure, Poon was a pioneer whose art echoed the evolution of a young nation striving to define its own identity.

Anthony Poon passed away in 2006 at the age of 61, but his legacy lives on in more than just his artworks. His disciplined approach to abstraction paved the way for a new generation of Southeast Asian artists to embrace non-figurative forms. In a region where much of the earlier art was narrative or didactic, Poon’s work offered a new vocabulary — one based on formalism, aesthetics, and the sublime power of order.

The Singapore Art Museum and other institutions have preserved his legacy through retrospectives and archival work, ensuring that his contribution to the nation’s cultural development is not forgotten. Younger artists who now experiment with installation, kinetic art, or digital forms continue to find inspiration in Poon’s clarity of vision and technical rigor.

In today’s increasingly noisy and fractured world, Poon’s commitment to purity and order feels almost radical. His art invites viewers to slow down, to observe the nuances of form and color, and to find meaning in simplicity. As contemporary art increasingly grapples with complexity, identity, and disruption, revisiting Poon’s work offers a reminder of the meditative and contemplative power of abstraction.

Anthony Poon’s journey was one of dedication, innovation, and quiet mastery. In a career that defied trends and resisted easy categorization, he developed a body of work that continues to resonate with audiences across generations.



# KLAS Art Auction

A PREVIEW OF EXCEPTIONAL ARTWORKS AT KLAS

Get ready for an extraordinary auction at KLAS, where a curated selection of remarkable paintings will take center stage. This exclusive event showcases a diverse range of masterpieces, each with its own unique story and artistic significance. Whether you’re a seasoned collector or an art enthusiast, these highlights offer a glimpse into the stunning works that will soon be up for bidding. Stay tuned as we unveil the captivating pieces that define this highly anticipated auction.



**YUSOF GHANI**  
Siri Wayang-Ketulan II, 1997/98  
Oil on canvas 122 x 92 cm

Latiff Mohidin, a prominent Malaysian artist, has explored the theme of landscapes throughout his illustrious career, producing several notable series that delve into the abstraction of natural forms. His “Landscape” series, for instance, reflects his analytical studies of plant life, mountains, and beaches, translating these elements into abstract compositions. One such work, “Landscape (2),” exemplifies this approach by presenting an abstract interpretation of nature without a definite reference point.

In 2014, Latiff introduced the “New Landscape Series,” marking a continuation of his exploration into abstract landscapes. This series was showcased in a solo exhibition at The Edge Galerie, further cementing his reputation for innovative interpretations of natural scenery.

Following the “New Landscape Series,” Latiff unveiled the “Seascape Series” in 2014 and “Modern Sculptures” in 2016, both presented in solo exhibitions at The Edge Galerie.

The Wayang series by Yusof Ghani is a powerful exploration of identity, tradition, and the theatrical essence of human existence. Deeply rooted in Southeast Asian cultural motifs—particularly wayang kulit (shadow puppetry) and traditional theatre—this evocative body of work captures the spirit of performance and ritual through abstract expressionist forms. Created between 1996 and 1998, Wayang marks a dynamic evolution from Yusof's earlier Topeng (Mask) series. While Topeng emphasized the static symbolism of identity through masks, Wayang steps into a more fluid, expressive dimension, where gesture and movement take center stage.

The term wayang, meaning “shadow” or “imagination” in Malay, refers to a traditional form of puppet theatre widely performed across Southeast Asia. Drawing inspiration from this age-old art, Yusof reimagines it with bold brushwork, layered compositions, and vivid color palettes. His paintings feature totemic, abstracted figures in motion—often appearing to interact, clash, or perform—mirroring the emotional complexity and layered roles that define human nature and social dynamics.

Employing a non-linear narrative style, Yusof allows form, color, and gesture to speak louder than literal storytelling. The works showcase elongated limbs, swirling lines, and overlapping silhouettes that evoke the fluidity of identity and the performative roles we adopt in life. This series also highlights the artist’s long-standing interest in theatre, film, and traditional performance, fused seamlessly with his background in modern abstraction.



**ABDUL LATIFF MOHIDIN**  
Green Landscape II, 2019  
Oil on canvas 122 x 153 cm



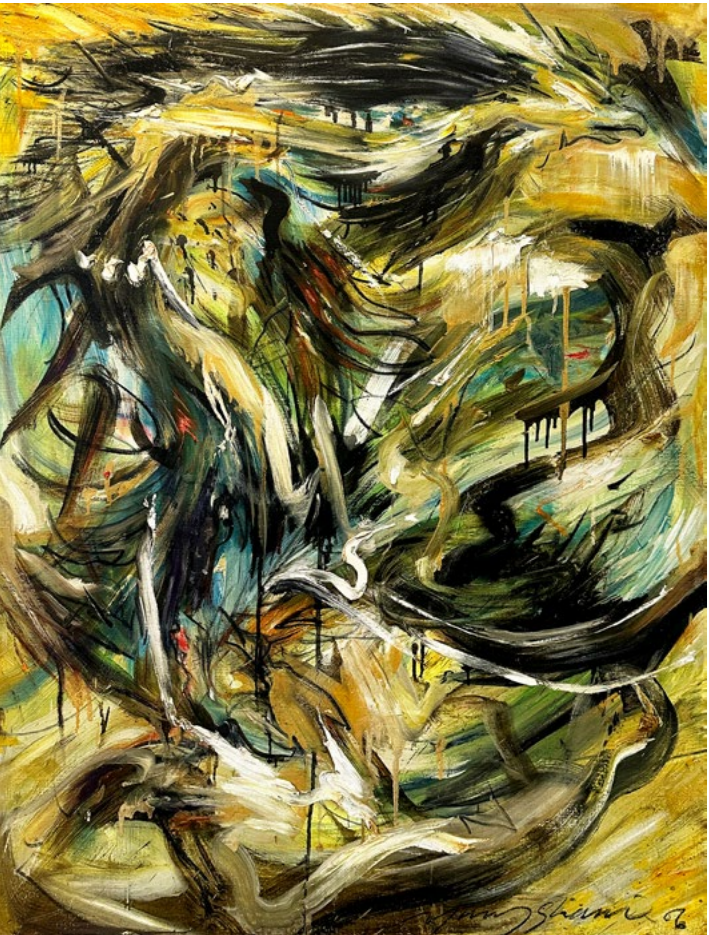
**KHOO SUI HOE**  
4 Clouds Landscape, 1971  
Oil on canvas 87 x 100 cm

Yusof Ghani's Biring series is a powerful exploration of movement, energy, and emotion, drawing inspiration from the spirited nature of gamecocks (biring in Malay). Known for his abstract expressionist style, Ghani captures the essence of struggle, power, and survival through bold brushstrokes, dynamic compositions, and layered textures.

The Biring series is often interpreted as a metaphor for human conflict, resilience, and the raw energy of life itself. The depiction of gamecocks in motion suggests combat and competition, reflecting both the physical and psychological battles individuals face. Through a mix of chaotic yet controlled strokes, Ghani conveys a sense of tension, aggression, and survival instincts.

The use of sweeping, gestural strokes creates movement and intensity, a signature of Ghani's artistic approach. Deep earthy tones—browns, yellows, greens, and blacks—are contrasted with vibrant accents of red and white, enhancing the painting's visual impact. The buildup of paint, drips, and overlapping forms adds depth, giving the artwork a raw and organic quality.

Ghani's Biring series shares thematic similarities with his earlier Siri Tari (Dance Series), where he explored the fluidity of movement and human expression. While Siri Tari focused on the grace of dance, Biring shifts toward a more intense and primal representation of struggle. The artist's journey through various series—ranging from socio-political commentaries to explorations of culture and identity—demonstrates his evolving artistic vision.



**YUSOF GHANI**  
Biring Series XI, 2006  
Oil on canvas 122 x 91 cm

Khoo Sui Hoe is a prominent Malaysian contemporary artist known for his distinctive, dreamlike style and significant contributions to Southeast Asian modern art. Born in 1939 in Port Weld, Perak, Malaysia, Khoo studied at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore before furthering his education in the United States at the Pratt Graphic Center in New York.

His work is often characterized by vivid colors, abstract human figures, and poetic landscapes that evoke emotional depth and philosophical reflection. Khoo's paintings blend elements of surrealism, expressionism, and symbolism, often portraying themes of solitude, childhood, memory, and the human condition. His visual language is uniquely his own, marked by a quiet introspection and a lyrical, almost meditative quality.

Khoo Sui Hoe has held numerous solo exhibitions across Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and the United States, and his works are part of many esteemed public and private collections. He is considered one of Malaysia's leading modernist painters and continues to be an influential figure in the region's art scene.





**CHUAH THEAN TENG, DATO**

Penang Malay Kampong Scene, 1970's  
Batik 87 x 39 cm

This exquisite batik painting by Dato' Chuah Thean Teng captures the vibrant and rustic charm of a traditional Malay kampong (village) in Penang. Rendered in rich earth tones, warm browns, and deep reds, the composition presents a detailed and lively portrayal of rural life, showcasing the daily activities of the villagers.

At the center, a large tree with intricate patterns spreads its roots and branches, symbolizing nature's connection to the community. Surrounding it are various figures engaged in traditional practices—tapping rubber, harvesting coconuts, tending to livestock, and socializing under the shade of stilthouses.



**KHALIL IBRAHIM**

1987  
Watercolour on paper 19.5 x 20 cm

This delicate watercolor painting by Khalil Ibrahim, created in 1987, beautifully captures a coastal scene infused with his signature impressionistic style. The composition portrays a group of figures engaging in daily activities on a sandy beach, set against a backdrop of swaying palm trees, distant boats, and an inviting seascape.

The artist's use of soft, translucent washes creates a sense of lightness and atmosphere, giving the painting a dreamlike quality. The figures, dressed in traditional attire with bright headscarves and sarongs, appear to be fishermen preparing for their work, possibly setting up or returning from a day at sea. Their poses and interactions convey camaraderie and a deep connection to their environment.

Khalil Ibrahim, known for his depictions of rural Malaysian life, often celebrated the harmony between people and nature. This piece exemplifies his mastery of watercolor, where fluid brushstrokes and a warm, earthy palette bring life to an everyday moment. The scene evokes a sense of nostalgia, reflecting the simplicity and beauty of traditional coastal life in Malaysia.



**CHEW TENG BENG**

At Dusk, 1966  
Oil on canvas 61 x 88 cm

“Siri Segerak – Nightwalkers II” (2005) by Yusof Ghani is a powerful chalk and charcoal on canvas composition, measuring 125 x 110.5 cm, that captures movement, tension, and emotion through abstracted figuration. Rendered almost entirely in shades of black, white, and gray, the piece exhibits Ghani’s signature energetic linework and gestural strokes, which together create a dynamic interplay of motion and form.

The artwork presents fragmented, overlapping human figures—likely dancers or performers—caught in the midst of expressive, almost chaotic movement. Their limbs twist and intersect with raw, angular lines that blur the boundaries between bodies and space.

The dark background, streaked with vertical textures and layered shading, enhances the sense of depth and urgency, while the luminous white highlights carve out forms and suggest momentum. Despite the abstraction, there’s a visceral sense of physicality—bodies strained, lunging, collapsing, or rising—imbued with a dramatic intensity.

The title, “Nightwalkers II,” adds a poetic undertone, suggesting figures emerging or moving through darkness, possibly navigating inner or collective struggles. It ties closely with the broader Siri Segerak (Movement Series), in which Ghani explored themes of conflict, resistance, and the human condition through kinetic abstraction.



**YUSOF GHANI**

Siri Segerak - Nightwalkers II, 2005  
Chalk & Charcoal on canvas 122 x 107 cm

“At Dusk” (1966) by Chew Teng Beng is a deeply atmospheric oil-on-canvas painting, measuring 59 x 87 cm. The artwork captures the quiet, reflective mood of twilight through a rich blend of abstract forms and expressive brushwork. The composition transitions smoothly from warm, earthy tones on the left—rich reds, yellows, and ochres—to cooler hues of blue and green at the center and right, creating a visual journey that mirrors the fading light of dusk. Above, deep blues and greys suggest the onset of nightfall, setting a contemplative tone across the canvas.

The painting is marked by a sense of fluidity and emotional depth. Chew Teng Beng's technique blends abstraction with subtle figuration. On the right side, faint outlines of a boat or ships are delicately sketched, floating on what appears to be a glowing body of water. The use of thin, linear strokes gives these elements a ghostly, transient feel. To the left, loosely defined shapes may represent figures or architectural forms—perhaps a dock or shoreline—imbuing the scene with a subtle human presence.



Previous Auction Results

We are pleased to share the results from our most recent auction, which took place on 23rd March 2025. The event brought together an enthusiastic group of collectors, art lovers, and bidders, resulting in a dynamic and successful sale. Below are the highlights and outcomes from this memorable auction.



**ABDUL LATIFF MOHIDIN**  
Blue Pogo Pogo - New York, 1969  
Mixed media on paper 16 x 16 cm  
**SOLD RM 31,360**



**TAJUDDIN ISMAIL, DATO**  
Balinese Garden, 2003  
Acrylic on canvas 188 x 182 cm  
**SOLD RM 56,000**



**YUSOF GHANI**  
Siri Tari III 1984/85  
Oil on canvas 163 x 219 cm  
**SOLD RM 806,400**



**CHUAH THEAN TENG, DATO**  
Mother and Child, 1960's  
Batik 55 x 43.8 cm  
**SOLD RM 42,560**



**SYED AHMAD JAMAL, DATUK**  
Hijrah/Hegira, 1999  
Acrylic on canvas 122 x 213 cm  
**SOLD RM 414,400**



**KWAN CHIN**  
Sunday Afternoon, 2002  
Batik 85 x 142 cm  
**SOLD RM 10,080**



**AWANG DAMIT AHMAD**  
Iraga Jejak Waktu (Siri II), 2010  
Mixed media on canvas 120 x 120 cm  
**SOLD RM 42,560**



**SHARIFAH FATIMAH, DATO'**  
Image SF 2, 2012  
Acrylic on canvas 72 x 56 cm  
**SOLD RM 23,520**



**YEOH JIN LENG**  
Human Rot, 1969  
Oil on canvas 100 x 100 cm  
**SOLD RM 112,000**



# The Renaissance of Malaysian Art

A NEW WAVE OF CREATIVITY

Malaysia is experiencing a cultural and artistic renaissance, with a new wave of creativity sweeping through its art scene. From bustling street murals in George Town to avant-garde digital art exhibitions in Kuala Lumpur, the country is witnessing a fusion of tradition and innovation like never before. This revival is not just confined to galleries; it is spilling into urban spaces, digital platforms, and even the international stage. The art scene in Malaysia is evolving rapidly, driven by a dynamic mix of emerging talents and seasoned maestros who continue to redefine the country's artistic identity.

## A Legacy of Artistic Excellence

Malaysia's art history is deeply rooted in tradition, with influences from indigenous craft, Islamic calligraphy, Chinese ink painting, and Indian temple carvings.

Icons such as Datuk Syed Ahmad Jamal, known for his pioneering abstract works, and Latiff Mohidin, a leading figure in the modernist movement, set the foundation for contemporary Malaysian art. Their legacies continue to inspire today's generation of artists, who merge heritage with modern storytelling.

Among the luminaries shaping Malaysia's art narrative are Cheong Soo Pieng, whose Southeast Asian modernist works remain highly sought after, and Yong Mun Sen, often regarded as the father of Malaysian painting.

The meticulous strokes of Khalil Ibrahim, who masterfully depicted rural Malay life, and the avant-garde works of Redza Piyadasa, known for his conceptual art, demonstrate the diverse artistic approaches that have defined Malaysia's visual landscape.



Khalil Ibrahim "Form XXIII, 2000"

The current wave of artists in Malaysia is pushing boundaries, experimenting with unconventional media, and addressing social, environmental, and cultural themes through their works. Among them, contemporary artist Yee I-Lann has gained recognition for her multimedia approach, blending photography, film, and installations to explore post-colonial narratives. Similarly, Nini Marini has embraced digital technology, integrating AI and NFTs into her artistic expressions, making waves in Malaysia's growing digital art space.



Yee I-Lann exhibition on NGV Triennial



Kenji Chai Malaysian Graffiti Artist

Malaysia's rich heritage continues to inspire contemporary artists who are reinterpreting traditional motifs in new and unexpected ways. For instance, renowned batik artist Fatimah Chik has modernized batik techniques, infusing them with abstract expressionism.

Meanwhile, the late Ismail Latiff's ethereal, dreamlike paintings reflect a fusion of traditional Malay aesthetics with contemporary abstraction.

Seah Kim Joo, known for his intricate batik paintings, and Tew Nai Tong, whose whimsical depictions of Malaysian life capture the nostalgia of bygone eras, remain influential figures in bridging the past with the present.

Tay Chee Toh, another established name, continues to evolve his artistic journey, blending surrealist and figurative elements into his work.



Sabahan artist Yee I-Lann

The street art movement has also played a pivotal role in revitalizing public spaces. Artists like Ernest Zacharevic, whose interactive murals in George Town turned Penang into an outdoor gallery, have inspired a new appreciation for urban art. Kenji Chai's signature blue dog, Chaigo, and Fritilldea's surrealist murals add a vibrant energy to the cityscape, transforming blank walls into thought-provoking canvases.



Fritilldea Mural at Kiehl's store in Malacca



Fatimah Chik "Blue Sequence"



# The Digital Revolution: Art in the Age of NFTs and Virtual Galleries

As the digital landscape expands, Malaysian artists are embracing technology to reach global audiences. The rise of NFTs has provided artists with a new medium for expression and financial sustainability. Digital artists such as Red Hong Yi, known for her unconventional use of materials, have leveraged blockchain technology to present their work in innovative ways.

Virtual galleries, augmented reality installations, and interactive art experiences are becoming more prevalent, especially in the wake of the pandemic. Platforms like Artemis Art and The Back Room KL have facilitated digital exhibitions, ensuring that art remains accessible to a wider audience. The democratization of art through digital means is allowing Malaysian artists to gain international recognition, transcending geographical limitations.



Art in Malaysia has always been a reflection of the country's multicultural identity. Contemporary artists are using their work to spark conversations about national identity, environmental issues, and societal change. Hasanul Isyraf Idris, for instance, infuses pop culture and mythology into his intricate works, while Chong Kim Chiew's politically charged pieces challenge historical narratives.

Artists such as Anurendra Jegadeva use their paintings to explore themes of migration and displacement, offering visual storytelling that resonates deeply with Malaysia's diverse populace. The late Ibrahim Hussein's work, characterized by dynamic movement and social commentary, continues to inspire younger generations to use art as a medium for activism.

## The Future of Malaysian Art

As Malaysia's art scene continues to evolve, the future looks promising. Young artists are blending tradition with technology, creating immersive experiences that challenge conventional artistic boundaries. With increased government and private sector support, art education programs, and initiatives that promote cross-cultural exchanges, Malaysia is poised to become a significant player in the global art community.

The renaissance of Malaysian art is more than just a movement; it is a testament to the country's resilience, creativity, and ability to adapt to changing times. From traditional batik to cutting-edge digital art, Malaysia's artistic journey is one of innovation, passion, and a deep-rooted appreciation for cultural heritage.



Red Hong Yi's Dodge Banknote NFT Sold For Over RM 320,000

## The Role of Art in Cultural Identity and Social Commentary

Art in Malaysia has always been a reflection of the country's multicultural identity. Contemporary artists are using their work to spark conversations about national identity, environmental issues, and societal change. Hasanul Isyraf Idris, for instance, infuses pop culture and mythology into his intricate works, while Chong Kim Chiew's politically charged pieces challenge historical narratives.



Hasanul Isyraf Idris at 2024 Prize Giving Ceremony



Eastern Europe is often misunderstood. It is neither the stark, gray remnant of the Cold War that some imagine nor the over-commercialized tourist playground that parts of Western Europe have become.

Instead, it is a rich tapestry of history, culture, and landscapes that remain, in many ways, untouched by the mass tourism that floods the likes of Paris, Rome, and Barcelona.

It is a place where the past lingers in cobblestone streets, where folk traditions still whisper through village festivals, and where the wilderness stretches, unspoiled, beyond city borders.

To travel here is to step into a world that feels both timeless and fleeting, shaped by centuries of resilience and change.

And while the usual suspects—Prague, Budapest, and Kraków—have rightly earned their fame, true Eastern Europe lies beyond them, in the shadowy forests of the Carpathians, the silent monasteries of Romania, the pastel-hued towns of Slovakia, and the wind-swept Baltic coastlines.





# The Beauty of Slow Travel

Traveling off the beaten track in Eastern Europe is not about rushing from one Instagram-famous landmark to the next. It is about slowing down, allowing the rhythm of the land and the people to seep into your bones. It is about lingering in a roadside café in a Bulgarian village, where time seems irrelevant, or about wandering aimlessly through the alleyways of a town whose name you can barely pronounce.

In a world obsessed with curated travel experiences, where itineraries are packed with “must-see” sights, the true beauty of this region lies in its unpredictability. You may set out to visit a medieval castle and end up being invited into a family home for homemade rakija and stories of a bygone era. You may board a rickety train expecting discomfort and find yourself in deep conversation with an old woman who recalls the days before the Iron Curtain fell.



## Forgotten Towns and Hidden Histories

The magic of Eastern Europe often lies in its forgotten towns—places that once thrived in the Austro-Hungarian or Ottoman Empires but have since faded into obscurity. Cities like Pécs in Hungary, with its Turkish ruins and vibrant artistic soul, or Kuldīga in Latvia, where waterfalls carve through a town frozen in time. These places do not demand attention, nor do they clamor for tourists. Instead, they reveal themselves slowly, to those patient enough to listen.

Then there are the abandoned relics of history: Soviet-era buildings reclaimed by nature, silent battlefields where empires once clashed, and Orthodox monasteries clinging to cliffsides in Serbia and Montenegro. History is not polished here; it is raw, etched into the crumbling facades of buildings and in the stories of the elderly who remember a time before globalization swept through.



## The Call of the Wild

Beyond the towns and cities, Eastern Europe’s wilderness remains one of its greatest secrets. The towering peaks of the High Tatras in Slovakia offer solitude that is increasingly rare in Europe. Here, mountain trails lead to crystalline lakes, and wooden huts serve up steaming bowls of garlic soup and bryndzové halušky, the national dish.

In Romania’s Maramureș region, time seems to have stopped. Wooden churches with impossibly high spires rise from misty valleys, and horse-drawn carts still outnumber cars. Further east, the Danube Delta in Romania and Ukraine is a labyrinth of waterways, home to pelicans, wild horses, and a way of life dictated by the ebb and flow of the river.

And then there is Albania, the last frontier of European wilderness, where the Accursed Mountains live up to their name—dramatic, untamed, and breathtakingly beautiful. Trekking here feels like stepping into a forgotten world, where eagles circle above and villages remain unchanged for centuries.

# The Pulse of the Streets

While nature provides a place for solitude, the streets of Eastern European cities offer a different kind of rhythm—one that pulses with creativity and reinvention. Cities like Belgrade, Vilnius, and Lviv are shedding their pasts and embracing a bold, new future.

Belgrade, in particular, is a paradox. It is both gritty and glamorous, where brutalist architecture coexists with floating river clubs that dance until dawn. It is a city that refuses to be defined, where history and hedonism walk hand in hand.

Lviv, on the other hand, is a place of quiet charm, where cobblestone streets are filled with the scent of freshly baked syrnik (cheesecake) and coffee culture rivals that of Vienna. Meanwhile, Vilnius, with its baroque skyline, has a rebellious artistic spirit, best seen in the self-declared Republic of Užupis, a bohemian enclave with its own constitution and flag.



## A Journey, Not a Destination

Traveling off the beaten track in Eastern Europe is not about finding the “best” place—it is about the experience itself. It is about the conversations had over home-brewed plum brandy, the feeling of standing alone in a vast landscape untouched by modernity, the moments of serendipity that cannot be planned.

For those willing to go beyond the guidebooks and embrace the unexpected, Eastern Europe offers a depth and richness that is often missing from more popular destinations. It is not always easy—trains may run late, roads may be rough, and English may not always be spoken—but therein lies its charm.

This is a place for travelers, not just tourists. A place for those who understand that sometimes, the best journeys lead not to the grandest sights, but to the quiet moments in between—the ones that linger long after the journey ends.



# The Language of the Land

To truly experience Eastern Europe, one must be willing to listen—not just to its music and languages, but to the stories embedded in its landscapes. Language here is a bridge, and even the most basic attempt to speak a few words of Polish, Slovak, or Bulgarian can unlock doors. A simple “Dobrý deň” in Slovakia or “Mulțumesc” in Romania can turn a transactional moment into a genuine connection.

And then there is the unspoken language of the land itself—the rolling vineyards of Moldova, where some of the world’s oldest wineries still operate in underground labyrinths; the haunting stillness of the Białowieża Forest, home to Europe’s last wild bison; the eerie, uninhabited streets of Pripyat, a frozen monument to the Chernobyl disaster.





# Hottest New Restaurants

Looking for the latest dining hotspots and must-try seasonal menus in Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya? Whether you're a foodie on the hunt for bold new flavors or just looking for the perfect spot for your next meal, we've got you covered. From trendy cafés to fine dining experiences, these newly opened restaurants and limited-time menus promise to tantalize your taste buds. Get ready to explore the best culinary gems in town!

## Benihana



The legendary Benihana has made its Malaysian debut at Suria KLCC, bringing with it the flair and flavour of Japanese teppanyaki. Originating in New York, this internationally celebrated restaurant is known for its interactive dining style—where chefs dazzle guests with sizzling skills right at the table. Expect bold, authentic Japanese tastes paired with the energy of live cooking performances.



## Amici Ristorante Italiano



Italian hospitality thrives at Amici Ristorante Italiano, a new eatery in Subang Jaya led by Bari-native Chef Angelo. This cosy spot focuses on Italian comfort food done right—especially its pizzas and handmade pastas. The gnocchi with butter, sage, and parmesan is a must-try, while their seafood pizza pairs beautifully with a house-made spicy chilli cream for a bold bite.



## Kailash Parbat



Vegetarian fare is often misrepresented by those unfamiliar as a cuisine built upon some degree of compromise and substitution. Of course, that makes the (erroneous) assumption that bold flavours don't inherently exist in meat-free recipes. Indian cuisine will deftly disprove any such suggestions, regardless of whether your penchant leans further up North, or embroiled in Southern spice. And nowhere is this more readily apparent than when dining in one of the country's most prominent Northern restaurant chains, Kailash Parbat.



## CHARR



Experience a baptism by fire through a kiln lined in brick and emerge on the other side, primed and ready to indulge in the newest addition to Kuala Lumpur's increasingly burgeoning assortment of grill-forward restaurants. Meet the aptly-named CHARR, which espouses the best facets of raw, elemental cooking with the time-honoured Chinese technique of 'wok hey', that seals in moorish flavour by combining intense heat on a wok. Located along the affluent neighbourhood of Persiaran Stonor barely 5 minutes from KLCC, the restaurant beckons with a fresh facet of open-fire dining.







The food scene around the Bangsar Telawi area is like a chameleon, constantly changing hands with different cuisines. The latest to join the Bangsar gang is Nasi Campur Pagi Malam with their masakan Ngori.

Located next to Pelita Restaurant, it's a sibling of the super popular Lomak Salai from Tampin, Negeri Sembilan. Both the restaurants are owned by entrepreneur Sharifuddin Bujang, popularly known as "Pakdin", who is famous for his vape products sold under the Nasty brand.

In their hands, they have spruced up the unpretentious no-frills nasi campur eatery into a place that celebrates Malaysia through visuals of Malaysian history and icons like Sudirman, P Ramlee and even Lee Chong Wei.

There's also old fashioned framed mirrors with quirky sayings in Malay, like "Tak perlu kejar kaya, planta dengan gula sudah memadai". Most of the wordings are in Negeri Sembilan dialect, transporting you to Tampin. There's also a line from the Blues Gang's song Apo Nak Di Kato, "Kalau boleh nak bising-bising macan pokan Tampin".

Once you have admired all of the memorabilia, it's time to hit the spread to pick out your favourites. Grab a tray and get serious. Prices vary for each dish depending on whether you're adding it to your individual plate or dining "hidang" style, where the food is enjoyed communally.

Itik Salai Masak Lomok (one piece for RM18) was an unexpected joy purely due to the tender meat, absent of any strong gamey flavour. For a smokey flavour, the Daging Salai Masak Lomak (RM12) hit the spot perfectly. Compared to the duck, this masak lemak was a little spicier leaving your tongue tingling a little.



The asam podoh dishes may look red and fierce but they're rather mild tasting as it's rich with coconut milk. It's also not as zingy as I expected too. There's daging tetel and ikan tenggiri but the day I was there, they had the rarely seen Asam Podoh Tolo Mayong where mayong fish roes were used,

This type of sea fish egg is coveted as it's not readily available. It's huge in size, resembling bubbles that pop when eaten, releasing creamy juice. It's RM15 for a scoop or RM25 for a portion to share. At the end of the row, there's the Ikan Patin Lomak Tempoyak. Depending on the part you take, if it's the body, it's RM15 while the tail or head portion is RM28.

The smooth flesh paired beautifully with the gravy with an underlying fermented durian aroma. It's not too overwhelming but dancing on the edge of your tongue, making it easy to enjoy.

Hanging above the ulam and sambal spread, there's even a humorous reminder, notifying you, "Dilarang Diet" or diets are disallowed with a cheeky reference that it's based on the fictitious Akta Lelaki Kacak 1988.

Maybe it's a reminder to eat more of the healthier ulam with a choice of sambal belacan, sambal gesek, sambal hijau, sambal merah, sambal tempoyak, sambal kicap or cencalok.

You're not finished yet as there's still stir fried vegetables to add to your plate. Each item is RM4, ranging from Kailan Goreng, Kacang Buncis Goreng or even a Terung Sambal.

Other goodies to add on to your meal include Pekasam, Tempe, Begedel or Paru Dendeng. The Tempe stood out as it's a thick slice of fried tempe with whole soy beans, while the Begedel (RM2.50) was soft with the mashed potatoes.







## Okaju Japanese Grill

Okaju is a Japanese fine dining & omakase restaurant in KL specialising in Robatayaki, a culinary concept originating from Hokkaido, Japan. Our dishes are slowly smoked over charcoal & wood fire to retain their bold & inherent flavours, giving you a unique smoky taste that will tantalise your taste buds. Our menu is inspired by the extensive culinary experience our Executive Chef has in serving omakase, sushi, sashimi, aged meat & cooked food. At Okaju, we are committed to providing an unforgettable gastronomic experience using only the freshest & finest ingredients air-flown directly from Japan & US.

A dining space with neutral tones that is inspired by nature. Their rammed earth feature wall, contemporary floral arrangement, modern lighting and burnt wood furniture are all custom made to create a one-of-a-kind atmosphere for diners to enjoy.

The restaurant is the first in Malaysia to focus on the concept of Robatayaki Omakase, in which the food is cooked over a fire using mangrove wood. Diners can feast not only with their tastebuds, but also with their eyes, thanks to their open kitchen counter seating.



The restaurant is led by Malaysian Chef Eddie, who curates the menu with inspiration from his extensive culinary experience in different countries.

Okaju Japanese Grill is a contemporary restaurant that skillfully blends traditional Japanese cuisine with a modern flair. The menu offers a fresh and artistic interpretation of Japanese flavors, providing an omakase-like experience.

Each dish is a visual and culinary delight, showcasing precision and creativity. Notable dishes include the Sake Souffle, which perfectly balances delicate texture with subtle sweetness from sake.





# Terra Dining

Chong Yu Cheng was many things before he became a chef, and now chef patron at Terra Dining in Taman Tun Dr Ismail (TTDI). An accountant by profession, he was also an aide to local politician Tony Pua, before he developed an interest in wine—which marked his entry into the F&B industry.

He started Above Gastrobar in Ipoh, but wanted to do more after the pandemic caused a shift in the restaurant's operations. Chong then applied for Restaurant Frantzén in Stockholm, one of the World's 50 Best Restaurants, and the rest was history.

Until he returned to Malaysia to start Terra Dining, that is. This is my review of the latest modern Malaysian restaurant in the city, Terra Dining.

Located along Jalan Aminuddin Baki in TTDI, the restaurant's exterior nearly blends in with its minimal terracotta facade. A single lopsided "T" identifies the restaurant, with a heavy wooden door at the entrance. Ring the doorbell to be invited inside, a quiet enclave that seems miles away from the city traffic outside.

We are ushered into the lounge area where the lighting is dim and the sounds hushed. This is all intentional, as the restaurant team wants you to relax in the lounge area instead of being rushed to your seats.

Here, you'll enjoy some welcome drinks and a trio of canapés while you view your menu and take a look at the key local ingredients that will be part of your dinner, arranged neatly in a wooden cart.

Once you're ready, enter the main dining room through the curtains. My first impression was the feeling of comfort. Warm, woody interiors carry throughout the space with repressed lighting for mood, leading your line of sight towards the bright, open-space kitchen where you can see the entire kitchen crew at work.



True to its name, which means "Earth" in Latin, Terra Dining's menu reflects all the goodness that the Malaysian provenance has to offer. As of now, there is only one menu at the restaurant, which is the 11-Course Tasting Menu (RM398++), with the option to add on the 5-Course Carte Blanche Wine Pairing (RM238++). We begin with the trio of canapes, starting with Beras Rumie, an heirloom black rice grown by the indigenous Lun Bawang farmers in Long Semadoh Valley, Lawas, in Sarawak. The rice is mixed with yogurt, dehydrated, and then deep-fried for a crisp texture.

A mixture of bambangan and tiger prawns sits above the rice—in one bite, you get earthy, green, and herby flavours with the sweetness of Sabah tiger prawns. The next canape is a personal favourite, inspired by an oyster omelette—locally known as orh chien—from Penang. But this version contains no egg.

Instead, breadfruit batter creates a fluffy texture, with Penang oysters ensconced within. As it's cooked, oyster juice is released into the batter, resulting in a creamy mouthful of oyster goodness, combined with the sambal mayonnaise topping. The third canape pays homage to the Indian puri.

A papadam tart is deep-fried and a concoction of onion jam, sugar, and tamarind is spread at the base, then salted egg mungbean curry mousse over it. Topped with cauliflower, this piece tasted like dahl but sweeter, and with a crunch.

Moving on to the mains, we start strong with three back-to-back dishes of seafood. I've had caviar many times prior, but I can't say I've had the fish that bore these eggs. Chong has artfully started with aged sturgeon from T'lur, farmed right here in Tanjung Malim.





# Must-Try New Cafés in KL & PJ

KL and PJ's café scene is buzzing with exciting new spots, each offering unique vibes, artisanal coffee, and delicious bites. Whether you're after the perfect pour-over, a cozy brunch spot, or an Instagram-worthy dessert, these newly opened cafés are worth checking out. Here's where to get your next caffeine fix!



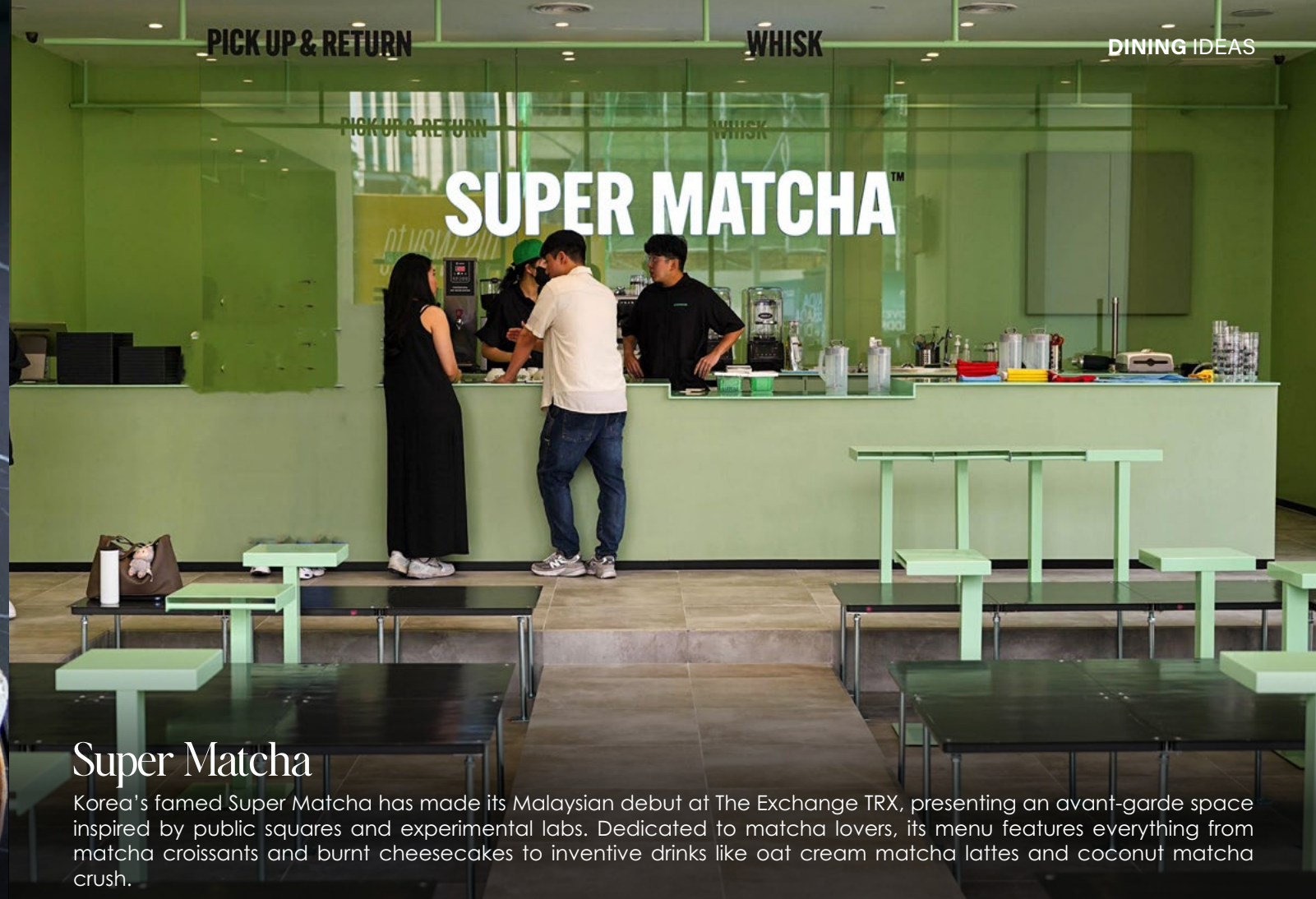
## ALLO Cafe

ALLO Cafe has relocated within Arte Mont Kiara, unveiling a fresh new look infused with Parisian charm. The menu remains a haven for comfort food lovers, offering signature waffles, pastas, and hearty donburis. For breakfast, don't miss the soft scrambled egg muffins served with crispy hash browns—perfect for a morning pick-me-up



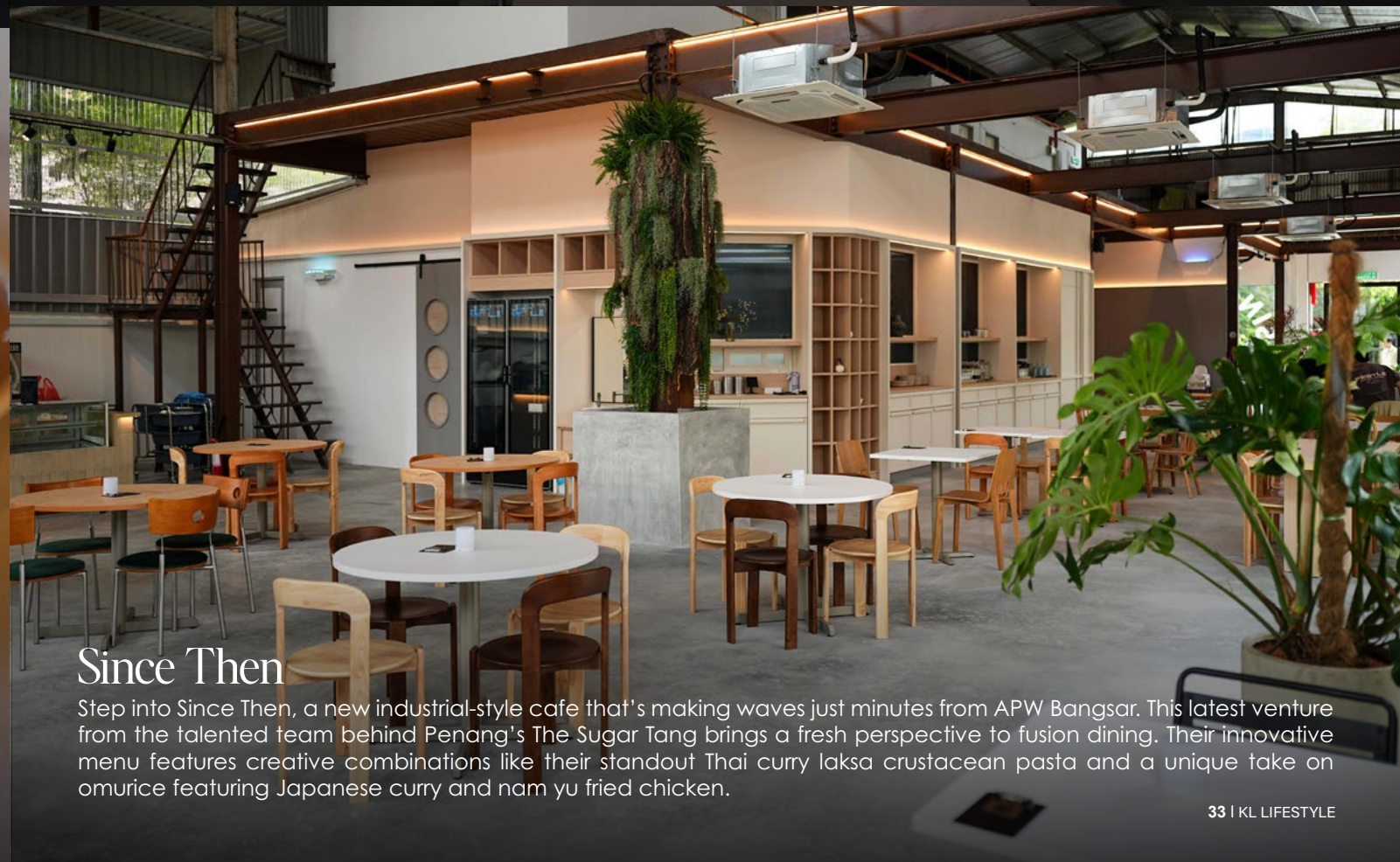
## Nuo Cafe

Tucked away in Taman Desa Aman, Nuo Cafe blends nostalgic aesthetics with modern cafe treats. Think sourdough toast slathered with rich pistachio spread and a cup of creamy matcha latte. This new cafe is ideal for those who appreciate both old-world allure and contemporary flavours.



## Super Matcha

Korea's famed Super Matcha has made its Malaysian debut at The Exchange TRX, presenting an avant-garde space inspired by public squares and experimental labs. Dedicated to matcha lovers, its menu features everything from matcha croissants and burnt cheesecakes to inventive drinks like oat cream matcha lattes and coconut matcha crush.



## Since Then

Step into Since Then, a new industrial-style cafe that's making waves just minutes from APW Bangsar. This latest venture from the talented team behind Penang's The Sugar Tang brings a fresh perspective to fusion dining. Their innovative menu features creative combinations like their standout Thai curry laksa crustacean pasta and a unique take on omurice featuring Japanese curry and nam yu fried chicken.





## Clato KL

Discover a unique fusion of coffee culture and jazz at TTDI's latest hotspot, Clato. This cosy establishment has found its perfect home in the neighbourhood, where it serves as a morning sanctuary where coffee, cuisine, and music harmoniously blend together. Their menu shines with hearty offerings including a generous breakfast platter featuring eggs, crispy hashbrowns, and premium breakfast meats like sausages and bacon. Don't miss out on their signature dishes: a delectable baked egg florentine and rendang melt.



## Dico Brew

This trendy new establishment, helmed by local celebrity Datin Intan Najuwat, brings a fresh energy to Jalan Tun H S Lee. Conveniently positioned near Pasar Seni MRT, Dico Brew offers a welcoming space for various occasions – whether you're seeking a post-workout refreshment, a pre-work energy boost, or simply a relaxing cafe experience. The menu showcases an impressive array of beverages and light bites, from coffee and smoothies to delectable pastries and their signature matcha creations.



# AIRLINK

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**Routes Asia 2025,  
Another Impactful Event for Malaysia Airports**

Routes Asia 2025 held in Perth, Australia, which concluded on 27 March, saw air connectivity expanded across the Asia Pacific (APAC) as this premier three-day aviation event brought together over 110 airlines and 160 airports from the region's route development community.

Malaysia Airports, which met with 18 targeted airlines to strengthen its network and connectivity, aimed to increase the number of airlines operating in Malaysia, particularly at its flagship Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), the country's busiest gateway.

Its Senior General Manager of Strategy, Megat Ardian Wira Mohd Aminuddin said the company also engaged in invaluable networking with both existing and potential airlines as well as gained insights into the latest market trends and challenges affecting the aviation industry from the conference.

Featuring international experts not just in aviation but also in tourism, the conference also saw Megat Adrian as one of the panel speakers in the session on Airport Development and Sustainable Design: Shaping Airports for Future Demand and Environmental Considerations.

According to Routes' Director of Events, Steven Small, airports in the previous host destinations experienced network growth of about 5.7% higher within three years.

"The event has made, and continues to make, a significant impact on the region's air connectivity. Over half of the region's air services in the past three years have been linked to meetings at the event."

Langkawi, the jewel of Kedah and host venue of Routes Asia 2024, not only posted higher total tourism numbers of 2.9 million last year and generating improved receipts of RM7.03 billion, but also saw its international arrivals of 1.7 million tourists, with tourism receipts of RM5.16 billion, the highest in 2024. They surpassed the 2018 records of 1.54 million international arrivals which brought RM4.64 billion to its coffers.

At Routes Asia 2025, Malaysia Airports' entry for the event's Marketing Awards saw KLIA and Penang International Airport (PEN) being shortlisted under the categories of more than 20 million passengers per annum (mppa) and 5 to 20 mppa capacity respectively.

Data from the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia on 19 January 2025 showed that PEN has risen to become the country's second busiest airport last year.

With aircraft movements totalling 64,507, PEN solidified its status as a key aviation hub for both tourism and business in the northern region of Peninsular Malaysia in the post-pandemic era.

PEN's passenger volume totalled 7.67 million in 2024, up 13% from 6.97 million passengers in 2023. PEN also witnessed another milestone with its increased weekly flight frequencies of 565 597 in 2024, up from 523 in 2023. International flights rose 17.37% 21.2% higher to 304 314 flights a week in 2024 from 259 in 2023.

**Two Airport Service Quality Accolades in 2024**



KL International Airport (KLIA), which retained its top spot with 366,895 aircraft movements, has achieved a near-perfect score of 4.99 out of five, securing a spot among the world's top 10 airports in Airports Council International (ACI)'s 2024 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey for airports handling over 40 million passengers annually.

This recognition validates KLIA's ongoing efforts and commitment towards service excellence, innovation and operational efficiency in reinforcing its position as a leading global aviation hub.

Highlighting KLIA's consistent placement in the ASQ top 10 airports since 2022, Malaysia Airports Managing Director, Dato' Mohd Izani Ghani said this is a testament to the airport's commitment to continuous improvement to enhance passenger comfort and convenience.

"KLIA's strong performance reflects our focus on enhancing airport experience through innovative solutions and improved facilities. We also like to thank KLIA's dedicated airport community and stakeholders who are the driving force behind our progress."

Among the key elements that contributed to KLIA's success are a welcoming ambience, expanded seating area, upgraded charging stations as well as fast and reliable Wi-Fi.

Passengers also rated highly the airport's exceptional cleanliness, particularly in its washrooms, which enhances the travelling experience.

Beyond its amenities, KLIA's dedicated staff were praised for their warmth and attentiveness, showcasing Malaysia's hospitality at its best.

In preparation for Visit Malaysia Year 2026, KLIA is undergoing key upgrades to further improve passenger experience. These include expanded terminal seating, refurbished prayer rooms besides providing next-generation baggage trolleys.

Travellers can also look forward to improved buggy services, self-service check-in and bag drop kiosks. Likewise, new family-friendly features such as the Orangutan Playground Kids Zone, wheelchairs, baby strollers, heritage walls, and family parking lots.

He added, "With our new shareholders placing strong

emphasis on service excellence, we are confident these efforts will further elevate our standing in future global rankings."

ACI's ASQ serves as the leading, data-driven benchmark for airport excellence, measuring passenger satisfaction across key areas such as safety, services, facilities, and cleanliness.

The ASQ Awards, based on real-time passenger feedback, assess crucial aspects of the airport experience, including efficiency, cleanliness, comfort, and overall service quality.

Additionally, Langkawi International Airport (LGK) was named the Best Airport in APAC in the 2 to 5 million passengers category at the 2024 ASQ Awards by ACI for the fourth consecutive time.

LGK's consistent success reflects Malaysia Airports' strategic efforts to optimise passenger experience, accelerate digital transformation and uphold world-class standards.

Malaysia Airports Managing Director, Dato' Mohd Izani Ghani said, "This award reaffirms our commitment to creating exceptional airport experiences at key gateways such as LGK, which plays a vital role in driving Malaysia's tourism and economic growth.

"As a UNESCO Global Geopark and premier travel destination, Langkawi attracts millions of visitors, supported by strong air connectivity and government initiatives.

"We will continue investing in facility upgrades, digital innovations, and strategic partnerships to further enhance service excellence and strengthen Malaysia's aviation landscape."

Congratulating LGK's outstanding commitment to passenger satisfaction, ACI World Director General Justin Erbacci remarked, "Your airport is one of the best airports globally for customer experience—as chosen by passengers themselves. Keep raising the standards!"

In 2024, LGK recorded 2.5 million total passenger movements, reflecting a 1.8% increase from 2023. This growth was largely driven by a 27.9% surge in 280,601 international passenger traffic.

LGK currently serves eight airlines operating 198 scheduled flights weekly.

Dato' Mohd Izani remarked, "Looking ahead, LGK is poised to further expand its connectivity by leveraging the extensive global presence of Malaysia Airports' new shareholders.

This enhanced network potential positions LGK to attract new airline partners and unlock additional travel markets, ultimately reinforcing the island's status as a premier travel destination."

Through continued investments and collaboration, Malaysia Airports remains committed to strengthening the airport's role as a pivotal gateway to Malaysia's thriving tourism sector.





Green Light for Capital A to Complete Restructuring

Capital A Berhad's proposed Regularisation Plan has been approved by Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad, marking a significant step towards the company's exit from Practice Note 17 (PN17) status and setting the stage for a stronger and more sustainable future.

With the approval granted on 7 March 2025, Capital A is now poised to finalise the implementation of its plan, including capital reduction to set off accumulated losses and the reorganisation of its business units to unlock long-term value for shareholders.

*"This is not just about numbers or regulatory approval, it is about resilience, proving that we can come back again, stronger than ever. The best is yet to come!"*

**TAN SRI TONY FERNANDES**  
Chief Executive Officer  
of Capital A

Capital A, the parent company of AirAsia Malaysia (AK), recently announced it will relocate the low-cost carrier's domestic flights after seven months of operating at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport (SZB) in Subang, Selangor to KL International Airport Terminal 2 (KLIA T2) on 7 April 2025.

This is to optimise the airline's capacity, improve its operational efficiency and elevate overall guest experience.

Dato' Captain Fareh Mazputra, Chief Executive Officer of AK said, "Given the increasing demand for our Kota Kinabalu and Kuching routes, consolidating our services at KLIA T2 is the optimal way forward.

*"While SZB provided valuable proximity and easier access for city dwellers, KLIA T2's infrastructure supports connectivity needs at scale, particularly during peak travel periods.*

*It also offers the capacity required for continued growth as we mount more flights to serve the rising demand across East Malaysia routes.*

**DATO' CAPTAIN FAREH MAZPUTRA**  
Chief Executive Officer  
of AirAsia Malaysia (AK)

He added, "To ensure a smooth transition, we will continue operating from SZB through the high-demand Eid week and also put in place comprehensive Service Recovery Options, including complimentary flight changes, credit accounts, or full refunds, to minimise any inconvenience.

"KLIA T2 has been instrumental in strengthening Kuala Lumpur's position as a leading regional mega hub, and we are proud to reinforce our presence there as the dominant carrier.

According to Capital A's financial year (FY) results for 2024, its total fleet stood at 224 aircraft, with 187 available for operations, including spares. This contributed to 63 million passengers carried in FY2024, up 28% year-on-year.

Moving in tandem with its aggressive expansion, AirAsia Aviation Group Ltd said it will be receiving 14 new aircraft deliveries in 2025, of which four are directly from aircraft manufacturer Airbus and the rest from lessors.

For more information, visit [www.capitala.com](http://www.capitala.com)

AIRLINE OF THE YEAR



Two Aviation Achievement Awards 2025 for flydubai

Dubai-based flydubai has been named Airline of the Year for the second time besides receiving the Trailblazer Award for Outstanding New Service Launch at the recent Aviation Achievement Awards 2025.

Francois Oberholzer, Chief Financial Officer at flydubai said, "We are dedicated to innovation and our focus remains on being customer-centric."

He was joined by Rashid Albashri, Vice President of Cargo at flydubai, and Diana Sinclair, Vice President of Inflight Experience at flydubai, who received the awards on the carrier's behalf at the awards ceremony held in Dubai.

The carrier recently reported its strongest annual results in its 15-year history with a record-breaking profit before tax of US\$674 million for the year ending 31 December 2024.

The new milestone was driven by the strength of flydubai's diverse network of 131 destinations across 55 countries, 97 of which were underserved markets, as well as its strong and agile business model.



*"Its business model is built on solid foundations and an unwavering commitment to supporting Dubai's economic and tourism vision.*

*Forging invaluable air links to underserved markets has supported Dubai's thriving aviation hub, making Dubai one of the most accessible and connected cities in the world.*

**HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH AHMED SAEED AL MAKTOUM**  
Chairman  
of flydubai

flydubai carried 15.4 million passengers in 2024, up 11% compared to 2023. Overall capacity, measured in Available Seat Kilometres, rose by 10%, driven by increased demand for both business and leisure travel around its network.

Its business class recorded an 18% uptake across its network, carrying almost half a million passengers in 2024.

Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai said, "Our record-breaking financial performance, for the fourth consecutive year, demonstrates our continued ability to grow our business and navigate difficult economic and geopolitical challenges through forward planning, drawing on our strength to adapt and evolve to the changing market and customer needs.

"Our collaborative approach with our key stakeholders and agility remain key drivers to this success, as well as the collective effort of our people who have been instrumental to it."

Served by 88 aircraft, with an average fleet age of 5.3 years, he added that flydubai will receive 12 new Boeing 737s in 2025 to continue growing its fleet, replace some of its existing aircraft and support its network expansion plans.

For more information, visit [www.flydubai.com](http://www.flydubai.com)





## Off-Airport Check-in Service in Makkah for Qatar Airways' Hajj and Umrah Passengers

**Q**atar Airways (QR) has partnered with Saudi Ground Services (SGS) to introduce off-airport check-in service in Makkah or also known as Mecca in the Western world, providing Hajj and Umrah passengers undertaking this sacred journey with a seamless and hassle-free travel experience.

Effective since 1 March 2025, this new service offers full check-in formalities, boarding pass issuance and baggage collection at Makkah Clock Royal Tower, a Fairmont Hotel.

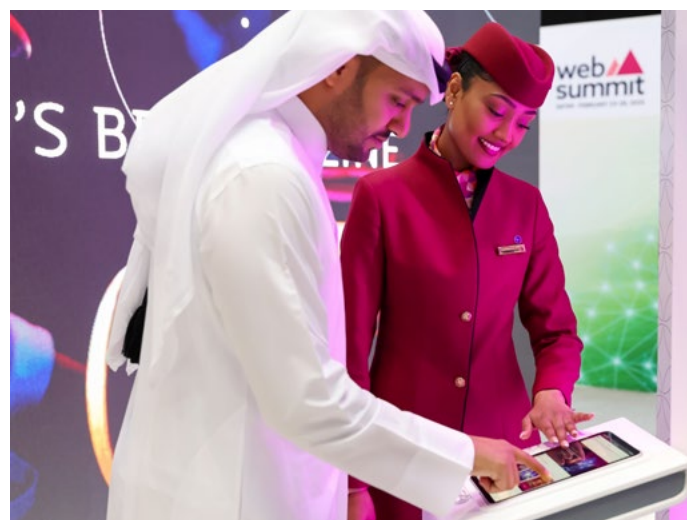
This service is part of QR's award-winning offerings to provide the highest levels of comfort, reliability, and care for passengers travelling from Jeddah (JED) in Saudi Arabia, where it has 35 weekly flights to this gateway for pilgrimages to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

As the World's Best Airline voted by Skytrax in 2024 for an unprecedented eighth time, QR remains committed to elevating every aspect of the passengers' travel experience.

As the sponsor of the recent Web Summit Qatar for the second consecutive year, the airline debuted revolutionary travel artificial intelligence (AI) tools and announced its four-year commitment as the Official Lifestyle and Travel Partner of this annual event.

Its Sama's AI Booking, a world-first AI booking experience with Sama, makes booking personalised as this AI-powered digital human cabin crew interacts with the travellers through voice and chat on flight queries.

Available around the clock, Sama can even curate a tailored itinerary or plan your family trip, offering family-friendly destination suggestions and refine your itinerary in real time.



Following Dream Destination – The Pulse, another of QR's innovations successfully launched at Web Summit Qatar 2024, the latest version of this world's first AI promptless experience can now interpret user emotions to assist travellers in discovering their ultimate holiday destination.

This significant advancement into the emerging field of emotionally aware AI complements previous innovations launched within the QR's digital ecosystem and in its Privilege Club loyalty programme.

Via QR's AI Menu Recommendations, another industry first by the airline, Sama can assist its business class passengers with recommendations, presenting the chef's specials and curating specific dietary meals, on the onboard menu before their flight by using QR application.

For more information, visit [qatarairways.com](https://qatarairways.com)



## First Direct Route from Xinjiang to Malaysia by China Southern Airlines

**T**he recent maiden arrival of China Southern Airlines' (CZ) flight from Urumqi (URC), the capital of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, with a stopover in Guangzhou (CAN) to Kuala Lumpur (KUL), marks a significant step forward in strengthening tourism and enhancing connectivity between Malaysia and China.

Operating twice weekly on Boeing 737 with 152 seating capacity, plans are afoot to expand this route to daily flights in April 2025.

Besides complementing CZ's existing five-times weekly CAN to KUL service, this new route from Northwestern China also allows Malaysians to connect to other parts of China.

According to OAG data, CZ remains the leader among the top 10 domestic airlines in China with 10.2 million seats in March 2025, enjoying a 15% share of the domestic capacity.

CAN is also the fourth busiest Chinese city by airline capacity with 3.1 million seats in March 2025.

Its international capacity to Malaysia, Vietnam and Japan has been recovering most strongly, OAG added.

Lauding CZ's new URC to KUL route with a stopover to CAN, Datuk Manoharan Periasamy, Director General of Tourism Malaysia said it elevated Malaysia's appeal as a top-choice travel destination, underscoring the country's commitment to strengthening its global tourism footprint and providing seamless travel experiences to visitors worldwide.

Aimed at reinforcing the relationships with the industry players in CAN and beyond, Tourism Malaysia's first consumer event, held from 7 to 9 March 2025 in CAN since the COVID-19 pandemic, represents part of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture's ambitious goal to attract seven million tourists from China in 2026.

Apart from maintaining the momentum leading up to Visit Malaysia 2026, this event also aimed to position Malaysia as a top, safe, and attractive travel destination for this key Chinese market.

For more information, visit [www.csair.com](https://www.csair.com) or call **+603-2163 9977**



## IndiGo's Roadmap for Future Growth

**I**ndia's biggest airline with a record market share of 65.2% in January 2025, IndiGo (6E) expects its long-term outlook to remain intact, led by its traditionally strong domestic network and increased international network expansion.

With strong passenger growth projected for the first three months of 2025, 6E management expects robust demand to continue in the coming months.

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, the low-cost carrier's (LCC) operator, plans to add an aircraft a week until 2030, taking its total capacity to over 600 units.

Plans are afoot to expand 6E's international capacity from 25% to 40% by its financial year (FY) 2030 and to

enlarge the airline's fleet with widebodies and extra long range aircraft by FYs 2025 and 2026 respectively. This will allow the LCC to take more international and mid long-haul routes and position itself as a preferred airline for international travellers.

Earlier this year, 6E earned the recognition as the World's Youngest Aircraft Fleet 2025 for the third consecutive year by ch-aviation among airlines operating over 100 aircraft. This achievement highlights its commitment to operational efficiency and environmental responsibility.

Currently, it has a fleet of 437 aircraft serving over 125 destinations. The airline was also ranked fourth in Asia for having a modern and efficient fleet with an average age of 4.38 years.

6E's roadmap for FY 2030 includes plans to carry 118 million passengers in FY 2025, with double-digit growth and expansion to 14 new domestic and international destinations in FY 2026

Meanwhile, India's Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Murlihor Mohol said 6E, which currently employs 5,463 pilots, will require over 11,000 over the next decade.

Armed with strong cash reserves, the airline will be able to invest in new ventures, digital transformation, global expansion and its people.

For more information, call **+603-2145 8533** or visit [www.goIndiGo.in](https://www.goIndiGo.in)





## Malaysia Airlines Teams Up with Hong Kong Tourism Board

Malaysia Airlines (MH) and Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) have joined forces in the national carrier's Time For destination campaign, inspiring travellers to explore Hong Kong's dynamic mix of modern attractions, rich cultural heritage and stunning cityscapes via its 14 times weekly direct flights from Kuala Lumpur.

Liew Chian Jia, HKTb Regional Director of Southeast Asia said Hong Kong, which welcomed 405,508 arrivals from Malaysia in 2024, is enhancing its appeal as a Muslim-friendly destination.

She told the media and travel agents in Kuala Lumpur that Hong Kong has 153 halal-certified and Muslim-owned eateries and 55 Muslim-friendly hotels as of 7 March 2025.



Additionally, three attractions and two MICE venues have obtained the accreditation rating for their Muslim-friendly services and facilities.

In the Global Muslim Travel Index 2024, Liew added that Hong Kong ranked second in terms of safety for Muslim women travel and fourth among the top 20 non-Organisation of Islamic Cooperation destinations.

Dersensih Aresandiran, Chief Commercial Officer of Airlines from Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) said, "We are excited to showcase Hong Kong's vibrant attractions while delivering enhanced value to our customers with tailored products and exclusive promotions."

Strengthening its role in enhancing regional connectivity across key markets, MAG recently announced the acquisition of 30 new aircraft from The Boeing Company as part of its fleet modernisation strategy.

The order includes 18 Boeing 737-8 and 12 B737-10 powered by the CFM International's LEAP-1B engines, with an option to purchase 30 more B737 aircraft circa 2027.

The introduction of the B737-10 marks a significant milestone as it will be the first narrowbody aircraft in MH fleet to feature lie-flat business class seats, aimed at elevating the premium travel experience on regional routes.

With these new additions, MAG will gradually phase out the older generation B737 800 aircraft operated by MH, aiming for a modernised narrowbody fleet of 55 B737-8 and B737-10 aircraft by 2030.

"These next-generation aircraft offer greater fuel efficiency, extended range and enhanced passenger comfort.

They also enable us to future-proof our fleet, ensuring we remain competitive, adaptable and well-positioned for sustainable growth."

**DATUK CAPTAIN IZHAM ISMAIL**  
Group Managing Director  
of Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG)

MAG has an existing order for 25 B737-8 aircraft via a long-term lease with Air Lease Corporation, with 11 already delivered and the rest scheduled for delivery by 2027.

The Group's current fleet of 113 aircraft includes 42 B737 800s under MH and five under Firefly (FY).

For more information, visit [www.malaysiaairlines.com](http://www.malaysiaairlines.com)



## Busy 2025 for Etihad Airways with New Route Launches

Etihad Airways (EY) recorded a strong performance for its full year 2024 results with its US\$476 million of profit after tax (PAT) driven by US\$5.7 billion of passenger revenue and US\$1.1 billion of cargo revenue alongside significant operational efficiency improvements.

This was the third consecutive year of profitability for the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, with its PAT more than three times that of 2023.

EY carried 18.5 million passengers in 2024, a 32% increase from 2023, reflecting sustained demand across its network of 80 destinations.

This growth was supported by a 28% year-on-year (YoY) increase in Available Seat Kilometres and an improved passenger load factor (LF) of 87% compared to 86% in 2023.

EY's latest traffic results for February 2025 saw 1.6 million passengers carried, up from 1.4 million YoY, from its operating fleet of 98 aircraft.

"Our passenger numbers in February saw a strong 14% growth compared to the same period last year as we continue to be among the world's fastest-growing airlines.

As our capacity continues to grow, we maintained a robust passenger LF of 89% year-to-date as we prepare for a busy 2025 with the launch of 14 new routes."

**ANTONIOALDO NEVES**  
Chief Executive Officer  
of Etihad Airways (EY)

They include Southeast Asian destinations such as Chiang Mai and Krabi in Thailand, Medan in Indonesia and Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

He added, "I am delighted to report continued growth in guest approval, with February setting another new record for customer satisfaction."

EY's largest-ever approved retrofit programme in 2024 is expected to further elevate cabin comfort and inflight experience, among other things.

Leveraging artificial intelligence to boost productivity, the airline's dedicated premium call centre managed to deliver faster and more personalised service for premium travellers.

Over 200 enhancements were also made last year to EY's website and app to further improve the guest experience, resulting in its loyalty programme, Etihad Guest, reaching a milestone of 10 million members.

Meanwhile, EY's Abu Dhabi (AUH) to Kuala Lumpur (KUL) was among its top 30 busiest long-haul routes in 2024, with a 6.5 Market Outlook and eXpansion Index (MOXI) score, having gained 101,000 segment passengers and maintaining 100% share.

Its other top routes were led by AUH to Phuket (HKT) with a MOXI score of 7.2 followed by Bangkok (BKK) and Jakarta (CGK) with a MOXI score of 7.1 and 6.9 respectively, showing how significant its Middle East (ME) to Asia segment is with 34% market share after ME to Europe, which garnered 37% market share.

For more information, visit [www.etihad.com](http://www.etihad.com)





## Emirates' Impact at ITB Berlin 2025

At the recently concluded ITB Berlin 2025, Emirates (EK) had a successful run with 11 strategic agreements signing with national tourist organisations (Austria and Malta), cruise liners and online travel agents.

The airline also held 270 high-level meetings and received during 6,000 visitors at its stand over the three-day event.

Additionally, EK showcased its latest-generation A350 business class seat and other cabin products, including the signature Onboard Lounge and Shower Spa as well as its sustainability initiatives, reinforcing the airline's commitment to the world's largest travel trade show.



Earlier, on the sidelines of Aviation Festival Asia 2025, Dr Nejjib Ben Khedher, Divisional Senior Vice President of Emirates Skywards and Ima Rahmaniar, Miles and Ancillary Group Head of Garuda Indonesia (GA) signed an agreement to expand their partnership to offer reciprocal loyalty benefits.

A joint loyalty programme, unlocking new benefits for the frequent flyer members of both carriers across their combined network of more than 200 destinations, was launched.



With more than 34 million members worldwide, Emirates Skywards members can earn and redeem Miles while travelling with GA across 37 destinations in the archipelago and to more than 15 destinations worldwide.

EK operates double daily flights to Jakarta and Bali in Indonesia with its Airbus A380 and Boeing 777 aircraft, connecting Indonesian customers to more than 140 destinations across six continents.

Its loyalty programme offers four tiers of membership - Blue, Silver, Gold and Platinum - where members can also earn Miles with partner hotels, car rentals, retail, lifestyle and more globally.

Miles' reward redemptions include flight tickets on partner airlines, flight upgrades, gift cards, hotel stays, hospitality at sporting and cultural events, tours, and money cannot buy experiences.

EK's loyalty programme was recognised as the World's Leading Airline - Rewards Programme at the World Travel Awards 2024, an accolade it won for the last 11 years out of 13 years. It also won the Best Earning and Redemption Ability at the 2023 Frequent Traveler Awards.

For more information, visit [www.emirates.com](http://www.emirates.com)



## Batik Air Malaysia Plans for Increased Presence at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the government's Subang Airport Regeneration Plan, Batik Air Malaysia (OD) is seeking prompt cooperation from airline regulators to consider expediting the allocation of additional flight slots at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport (SZB) in Subang, Selangor.

These regulators include the Ministry of Transport, Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia, Malaysian Aviation Commission and Malaysia Airports.

Supporting the government's efforts to transform SZB into a premier regional hub for both business and leisure

travellers, OD plans to expand its presence by increasing flight frequencies and launch more routes in the coming months.

OD Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Chandran Rama Muthy said, "SZB holds immense potential as a modern city airport. Facilitating this process would allow us to enhance connectivity, introduce more services efficiently and contribute to its continued development.

"OD is fully committed to its transformation. Our expanded presence will offer travellers greater choice besides strengthening Malaysia's aviation ecosystem."

Since taking to the skies in March 2013 with domestic flights in Malaysia, the airline has spread its wings to Asia, Australia, Central Asia and the Middle East, operating 1,400 weekly flights.

To boost travel between Australia and Malaysia, and expand access to other Southeast Asian countries, OD will be turning its seasonal flights to year-round services between Melbourne (MEL) and Kuala Lumpur (KUL), its other main hub.

Operating four-times weekly on the 377-seater Airbus 330-300, which has 12 business class and 365 economy seats, Airlink was informed that OD's MEL to KUL year-round service will start on 12 July.

Besides six A330-300 aircraft, OD fleet also includes 46 Boeing 737-8/800 NG aircraft. The airline carried 6.6 million passengers last year, up from 4.5 million in 2023.

For more information, visit [www.batikair.com](http://www.batikair.com)



## Menzies Aviation Malaysia to Bring International Elements to Its Operations

A key part of the operations at KL International Airport (KLIA), United Kingdom-based Menzies Aviation Ltd's joint-venture (JV) ground handling company in Malaysia with MMAG Sky Services, is serving more than 30 flights weekly in 2025.

Its first customer is a private aviation company, MJets. Established in August last year, Menzies Aviation Malaysia was granted a 12-month ground handling licence from the Malaysian Aviation Commission (Mavcom) effective Nov 1, 2024 to deliver passenger, ramp and cargo services at KLIA.

Its JV partner, MMAG Sky Services, is a wholly owned subsidiary of MMAG Aviation Consortium Sdn Bhd, the

aviation arm of MMAG Holdings Bhd, a supply chain management company.

At the recent launch ceremony of Menzies Aviation Malaysia, Transport Minister Anthony Loke said, "Menzies Aviation is a company with a long history. We hope they can bring international elements to our aviation sector. We also look forward to their business growth here and the improved services they will bring."

Established in 1833, Menzies Aviation, whose services include air cargo management and aircraft fuelling, operates in over 265 airports across 55 countries, serving more than 500 customers globally.

Menzies Aviation Executive Vice President for Oceania and Southeast Asia, Darren Masters said the company would be investing in new equipment at KLIA to provide more consistency across its network.

On the expansion of its operations here, he said Malaysia stood out as one of the Tier 1 countries because of its good infrastructure, language capabilities, skilled workforce and the positive attitude of its people.

Menzies Aviation Group Chief Executive Officer, Phillip Joeinig said its Malaysian operation underscores the Group's determination to increase its presence in Southeast Asia while delivering high quality and safe aviation service standards.

For more information, visit [www.menziesaviation.com](http://www.menziesaviation.com)





Having emerged as one of the world's most dynamic tourism markets, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) aspires to be a quality tourism destination offering a unique, diverse regional experience by 2025 via its commitment to responsible, sustainable, inclusive and balanced tourism development.

ASEAN is a regional bloc of 700 million people and it is expected that an ASEAN Leader's Declaration on Quality Tourism will be adopted at the 47th ASEAN Summit to be held this October.

With Malaysia as the ASEAN Chair this year adopting the theme, Sustainability and Inclusivity, ensuring that the values of being environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive are integrated into the economic and social initiatives of a broader collaboration among the 10 member countries takes on greater significance.

Hosting the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2025, which returned to Malaysia after it was first organised here in 1981, this annual event was earlier scheduled to be from 19 to 25 January at the proposed Forest City in Johor before its change of dates to 15 to 20 January.

The forum's theme this year is Unity in Motion, Shaping ASEAN Tourism Tomorrow.

“Events like this provide an invaluable opportunity to build bridges and strengthen ties across borders, aligning our collective efforts for a brighter tourism future.”

**DATO SRI TIONG KING SING**

Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture

A key component of ATF 2025, the ASEAN Travel Exchange (TRAVEX) took place at the Persada Johor International Convention Centre (JICC) from 15 to 17

January, participated by 221 sellers-cum-exhibitors showcasing the best of ASEAN tourism offerings, 323 buyers from 42 countries, as well as 100 foreign and local media from 35 countries.



Singapore Tourism Board had a destination update and networking session at the start of the three-day ASEAN Tourism Conference (ATC) 2025, which was held concurrently with TRAVEX.

With topics touching on tourism trends affecting the region, sustainable practices, artificial intelligence, and more, the conference was attended by over 250 participants, comprising policymakers, key industry leaders and academicians.

This year's TRAVEX and ATC were organised by the ASEAN Tourism Association (ASEANTA) in partnership with Tourism Malaysia, the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents and the Malaysian Association of Hotels.

ASEANTA President, Eddy Krismeidi said, “ATF 2025 demonstrated the power of collaboration in achieving remarkable results for ASEAN tourism,” adding that TRAVEX saw 10,000 business appointments conducted, fostering intra-ASEAN and global collaborations.

**High-level Meetings**

Besides Persada JICC, DoubleTree by Hilton Johor Bahru Hotel was the other venue used, mainly for tourism ministerial and national tourism organisation (NTO) high-level discussions.



They include the 61st ASEAN NTOs Meeting, 46th ASEAN Plus Three NTOs Meeting with China, Japan and South Korea, 28th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM) and other related meetings, including with Russia for stronger tourism ties.

At the 61st ASEAN NTOs meeting chaired by Malaysia on 16 January 2025, the report said the ASEAN tourism sector showed 30.6% year-on-year growth in 2024, welcoming over 123 million visitors.

Reaffirming its commitments to the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2016-2025, with 64% of its activities completed, the 28th M-ATM on 19 January 2025 discussed plans for 2026-2030 focusing on sustainability and resilience.

The meeting also proposed standardising ASEAN tourism performance metrics using visitor data to generate a more accurate and comprehensive analysis of its economic contributions.

To strengthen the growing ASEAN-Australia relationship over the past few years since the COVID-19 pandemic, Malaysia suggested establishing a structured ASEAN-Australia Tourism Mechanism to boost further growth, enhance visitor experiences and create investment opportunities in tourism infrastructure, among other things.

The formal adoption of this mechanism, which also aims to drive socio-economic recovery and cultural exchanges, is expected during the 29th M-ATM in January 2026.

During the 12th Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers on 20 January 2025, the discussion touched on air and maritime links, cruise tourism and sustainable tourism, with the preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of community-based tourism as key priorities highlighted by the ministers.

This year marks the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism, aimed at strengthening cultural ties and connectivity. To determine the connectivity gaps in ASEAN's second and third-tier tourist spots, the ASEAN NTOs will work through the ad-hoc task force on tourism and transport. India's US\$5 million support for the ASEAN-India Tourism Work Plan 2023-2027 was acknowledged during the meeting.

During ATF 2025, dialogues were also conducted with international tourism bodies such as the United States-ASEAN Business Council to discuss policy frameworks, share insights on best practices and explore new ways to strengthen regional tourism cooperation.



Meanwhile, four projects have been proposed to be implemented in 2025 using the ASEAN NTOs Fund. Among them is the development of a handbook for rebuilding rural tourism in ASEAN using regenerative tourism by Malaysia.

Other key priorities this year include developing the ASEAN Tourism Sectoral Plan 2026-2030, which will be done by the Philippines, the host of the next ATF, with support from the Asian Development Bank. This plan will be adopted at the 29th M-ATM next year.



Moving towards 2030, the ASEAN NTOs will address key challenges such as connectivity limitations and inadequate infrastructure affecting the tourism sector, a skilled labour shortage, climate change and sustainability concerns.

ASEAN member states are recommended to invest in modernising their transportation infrastructure and reskilling of manpower besides encouraging public-private partnerships for sustainable accommodation.

To prevent overtourism in the region, which exacerbates environmental issues, the ASEAN NTOs also united in calling for the implementation of an Action Roadmap for Sustainable Tourism.

Ensuring that tourism remains a driving force for prosperity and cohesion among its members, ASEAN will balance economic development with environmental stewardship and social equity under Malaysia's stewardship.



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# Sliq Clinic

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD LIFESTYLE AESTHETIC MEDICAL CLINIC

Sliq Clinic is established in 2014, by Dr Steve Chia, whom is no stranger in the aesthetic medical industry, as he's trainer for numerous international brands throughout his years of experience.

From being a neighbourhood medical aesthetic clinic, serving the local community here in Subang Jaya, we have now expanded our workforce. In 2018, we established our second branch in KL Eco city Mall, situated in Jalan Bangsar.

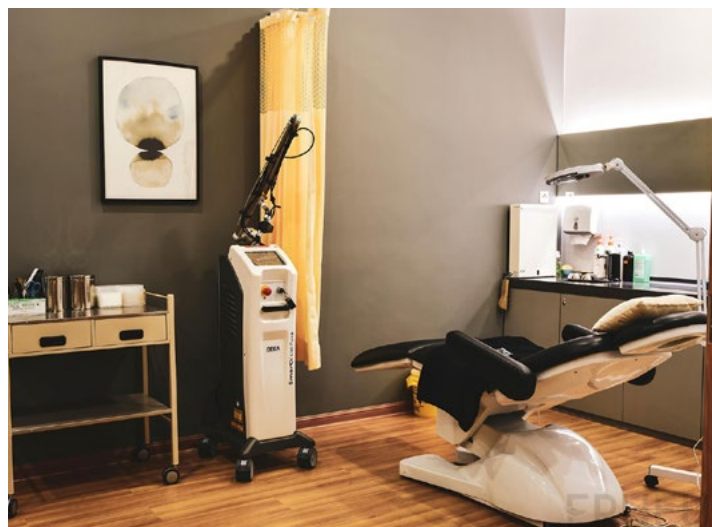
As a health and beauty practitioner, we are registered under Ministry of Health. Our centre is KKM (Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia) compliant and is run professionally by a group of experienced doctors.

We strive to make your experience with us will be a pleasant one. Our clinic interiors were designed to provide a relaxing, cozy and warm ambience so that every visit to the doctor's clinic is an experience our clients will enjoy.

We are fully registered under the Malaysian Ministry of Health since 2014. Our centres are run by a group of enthusiastic and experienced teams and our team consists of LCP Certified doctors.

As our doctors are always kept up to date with international standards, you can be assured that you are being treated by the best of hands. We also emphasises using only top quality products to provide our client with the safest and most effective treatment available in market.

Since every person's need is unique, we carefully study each case to plan a personalised course of action for you. We work closely with everyone coming to Sliq Clinic, to make our services meet your expectations and also budget.





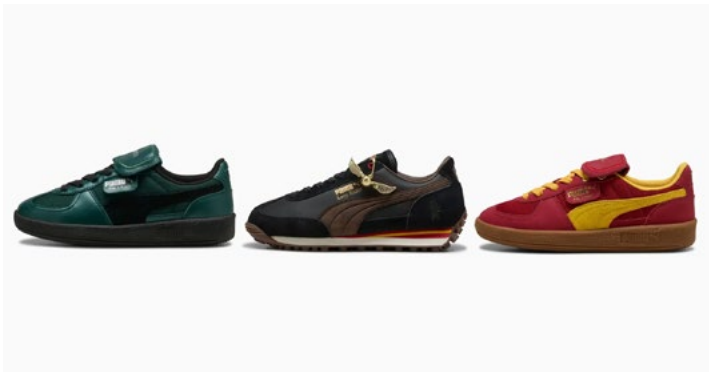
# New Arrivals Alert

FASHION MUST-HAVES



## PUMA's 'Harry Potter' Collab Is For Witches, Wizards, and Muggles

PUMA is taking the Hogwarts Express from Platform 9 3/4 straight into the Harry Potter universe with an all-new apparel, footwear, and accessories collaboration designed around two of the wizard school's houses: Gryffindor and Slytherin. The collection is led by a suite of PUMA Palermo models, all of which have been transformed to reflect the colors of the rival Hogwarts flags. The shoe is available in both "Scarlet/Gold" (Gryffindor) and "Green/Silver" (Slytherin), with a removable lace shroud signed with the name of each house. The sneaker also includes debossing of the Gryffindor lion and the Slytherin serpent.



## HUF and TRD Return With Baja-Inspired Racing Collection

After dropping their inaugural engine-revving collaboration two years ago, HUF and Toyota Racing Development (TRD) are back with a second serving of motorsport-inspired streetwear titled "Go Big, Go Fast."

Inspired by Baja colors and patterns, the collection includes a range of cut-and-sew outerwear, hoodies and T-shirts with "Going Big, Going Fast" signage. Much of the line is defined by dual-branded illustrations, signature camouflage, flannel prints, and official artwork from some of TRD's most popular trucks — all in homage to Toyota's racing heritage.



## The North Face x Naohiro Fujisaki Redefine Urban Exploration in SS25 Capsule Collection

The North Face has unveiled its first-ever capsule collection with Japanese independent designer Naohiro Fujisaki, extending its Urban Exploration Spring/Summer 2025 theme of "Urban Evolution." Under Fujisaki's creative direction, the SS25 collection revamps iconic silhouettes such as the Himalayan Suit, Hard Shell Mountain Jacket and Denali Jacket. These designs incorporate signature elements from The North Face classics while introducing contemporary enhancements such as detachable components, tailored cuts and large utility pockets.



## GORE-TEX x Aimé Leon Dore Goes 90s Nautical for SS25

Building on their previous partnership from 2024, GORE-TEX and Aimé Leon Dore are back for a nautical take on 90s New York City classics. Launched in conjunction with the Spring/Summer 2025 lookbook early last month, each piece captures both the lightweight ease of sea-bound athletic wear and the vintage palette of generations past.

Designed with function and fashion, the collaboration emphasizes waterproof materials, mobile silhouettes, and classic nautical motifs. Standout pieces include the Off-Shore Shell Jacket and Pants, which boast "GORE-TEX GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOU DRY" product technology.





# Men's Must-Haves

THIS SEASON'S HOTPICKS



**Nike**  
*Air Max Plus "Grey University/Blue Black" sneakers*  
RM 896



**ASICS**  
*Gel-1130 "White/Rainy Lake" sneakers*  
RM 559



**MM6 Maison Margiela**  
*Graphic-print T-shirt*  
RM 1,332



**Moncler**  
*Cotton sweatshirt*  
RM 2,464



**Stone Island**  
*Logo-patch polo shirt*  
RM 1,274



**Carhartt WIP**  
*Irwin jacket*  
RM 1,336

# Women's Essentials

THIS SEASON'S HOTPICKS



**Valentino Garavani**  
*60mm County embroidered sandals*  
RM 4,616



**Jacquemus**  
*100mm Les Doubles Tresses mules*  
RM 4,404



**Jil Sander**  
*Floral printed-bib shirt*  
RM 10,682



**JW Anderson**  
*Fine-ribbed tank top*  
RM 852



**Burberry**  
*Trench dress*  
RM 9,429



**Jean Paul Gaultier**  
*Asymmetric denim midi skirt*  
RM 2,623



# Indulge in Elegance

THE BEST IN LUXURIOUS ACCESSORIES



**Saint Laurent**  
*Cassandra thin belt*  
RM 1,886



**Versace**  
*Medusa '95 quilted long wallet*  
RM 2,605



**Vivienne Westwood**  
*Logo plaque bracelets*  
RM 590



**Givenchy**  
*4G-charm bracelet*  
RM 1,545



**Gucci Eyewear**  
*Oval-frame sunglasses*  
RM 1,802



**Polo Ralph Lauren**  
*Polo Bear twill ball cap*  
RM 452



**Chloé**  
*Charms ring*  
RM 1,527



**Jacquemus**  
*Rond Carré earrings*  
RM 3,072



**Cartier**  
*Pre-owned Tank MC 34mm*  
RM 25,185



**Versace**  
*Medusa '95 leather bracelet*  
RM 839



**Prada**  
*Logo-embossed cotton cap*  
RM 3,595



**Prada**  
*Re-Nylon triangle-logo clutch bag*  
RM 4,323



# Luxe Automobile



## Denza Z9 GT – The Future of Electric Grand Touring

The Denza Z9 GT is a striking electric grand tourer that results from a collaboration between BYD and Mercedes-Benz. Positioned as a high-performance luxury EV, the Z9 GT boasts a sleek, aerodynamic body with aggressive styling. Inside, the cabin is an oasis of high-end materials, ambient lighting, and advanced infotainment systems. Powered by a high-capacity battery pack, it delivers an impressive range, making long-distance travel effortless. The Z9 GT is aimed at executives and enthusiasts looking for an elegant yet eco-conscious driving experience.



## Honda Prelude – A Modern Icon Returns

Honda is reviving the legendary Prelude as a hybrid sports coupe, combining nostalgia with modern technology. The 2025 Prelude features a sleek two-door coupe design with a low-slung profile and aggressive LED lighting. Under the hood, Honda is expected to equip it with a hybrid powertrain that enhances both efficiency and performance. The interior is designed with a driver-centric cockpit, featuring a digital display, premium seating, and a sophisticated infotainment system. As a fusion of sportiness and luxury, the new Prelude will appeal to both enthusiasts and those looking for a stylish daily driver.



## MG 7 – A Sports Sedan with British Heritage

MG is making a bold statement with the MG 7, a luxury sports sedan that blends premium comfort with dynamic performance. This car is equipped with a turbocharged engine, offering a thrilling driving experience while maintaining refined handling. Its distinctive fastback design, premium leather upholstery, and digital cockpit create an atmosphere of exclusivity. With advanced driver-assistance systems, the MG 7 positions itself as an affordable alternative to traditional European luxury sedans, appealing to buyers who seek performance with an elegant touch.



## Volvo EX90 EV – Redefining Luxury Electric SUVs

Launched in Malaysia on February 20, 2025, the Denza D9 is a premium electric MPV introduced by BYD's sub-brand, Denza. Imported from China, the D9 is available in two variants: Advanced with front-wheel drive and Premium with all-wheel drive. This luxury MPV offers a spacious interior, advanced technological features, and a range suitable for long-distance travel, catering to families and business professionals seeking comfort and performance in an electric vehicle.





Nepal is more than just a country; it is an experience, a spiritual calling, a breathtaking adventure waiting to unfold. Nestled in the lap of the mighty Himalayas, this landlocked nation is a paradise for travelers, offering a rich blend of history, culture, natural beauty, and spirituality. From the towering peaks of Everest to the tranquil plains of the Terai, Nepal is a land of contrasts, where every turn brings a new surprise and every moment etches itself into memory.

The journey into Nepal begins with the arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. The city, the nation's capital, is a bustling hub of life and energy, where ancient temples stand alongside modern buildings, and the scent of incense mingles with the aroma of street food. Kathmandu is a city that overwhelms the senses in the best way possible.

The heart of the city is Durbar Square, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where intricately carved temples and palaces speak of Nepal's glorious past. The living goddess, Kumari, resides here, and a glimpse of her is considered an auspicious blessing. Walking through the narrow alleys of Thamel, a vibrant neighborhood filled with shops selling trekking gear, prayer flags, and handcrafted souvenirs, offers a true taste of Nepalese hospitality.

Just a short drive from Kathmandu lies Bhaktapur, an ancient city frozen in time. Known for its exquisite architecture, Bhaktapur is a haven for lovers of history and art. The Nyatapola Temple, with its towering five-tiered pagoda, stands as a testament to the craftsmanship of the Newar artisans. Every corner of this medieval city offers a picturesque setting, whether it is the pottery square where artisans mold clay into beautiful earthenware or the lively markets selling Juju Dhau, a sweetened yogurt that is a local delicacy.



Beyond the urban sprawl of Kathmandu Valley, Nepal's natural beauty unfolds in breathtaking splendor. Pokhara, often called the gateway to the Annapurna region, is a city that captivates with its serene lakes, majestic mountains, and laid-back charm. The sight of Machapuchare, the fishtail-shaped peak, reflecting on the surface of Phewa Lake at dawn is a sight that remains imprinted on the heart. Adventure seekers flock to Pokhara for paragliding, zip-lining, and boating, while those seeking solace find peace in the many lakeside cafes that line its shores.

For those who yearn for the ultimate challenge, Nepal offers the legendary Everest Base Camp trek. The journey to the foot of the world's tallest mountain is one of endurance, determination, and sheer willpower. The trek begins in Lukla, a tiny mountain town with an airstrip perched on the edge of a cliff. As trekkers ascend through lush forests, suspension bridges adorned with prayer flags, and high-altitude villages, they encounter the resilient Sherpa people, whose stories of bravery and hospitality are as inspiring as the mountains themselves. Reaching Everest Base Camp is not just a physical accomplishment; it is a spiritual awakening, a moment where one stands humbled before nature's grandest creation.

Nepal is not just about the mountains; its spiritual side is just as profound. Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, is a pilgrimage site that draws devotees from across the globe. The Maya Devi Temple, marking the exact spot where Buddha was born, radiates an aura of peace and contemplation.





# Luxury by the Waves

## THE WORLD’S MOST BREATHTAKING OCEAN ACCOMMODATIONS AND COASTAL ESCAPES

There is something profoundly calming about the ocean. The rhythmic crash of waves, the salt-laden breeze, and the endless horizon stretching into eternity evoke a sense of peace and adventure all at once. Across the globe, some of the most stunning accommodations have been built to embrace the beauty of the sea, offering guests unparalleled luxury and immersion in nature. From overwater bungalows in the Maldives to rugged cliffside retreats in Santorini, these destinations redefine the art of oceanfront living.

Here’s a journey through some of the greatest ocean accommodations and the hottest coastal destinations in the world.



### The Overwater Utopia : Soneva Jani, Maldives

If there were ever a place that perfectly captured the fantasy of oceanfront luxury, it would be Soneva Jani in the Maldives. A collection of stunning overwater villas spread across the crystalline waters of the Noonu Atoll, Soneva Jani takes barefoot luxury to new heights. Each villa is an architectural marvel, complete with retractable roofs that let you stargaze from your bed, infinity pools that spill into the sea, and waterslides that spiral directly into the turquoise lagoon below.



### Santorini's Cliffside Wonder : Canaves Oia, Greece

Perched high above the Aegean Sea, Santorini’s Canaves Oia is the definition of Grecian romance. The resort is carved into the island's dramatic caldera cliffs, offering guests panoramic views of whitewashed villages cascading down to the deep blue waters below. Here, the infinity pools seem to merge with the sky, and private cave-like suites offer a cool refuge from the Mediterranean sun.



### The Great Barrier Reef’s Ocean Escape : Qualia, Australia

On the secluded Hamilton Island in Australia’s Whitsundays, Qualia is a luxurious gateway to the Great Barrier Reef. Designed to blend seamlessly with the surrounding nature, this adults-only retreat offers breathtaking ocean views from every angle, with pavilions that open directly onto the Coral Sea. The infinity pools, spa treatments, and private beach access make it a sanctuary of relaxation, but the real adventure lies beneath the water.



### The Caribbean Jewel : Jade Mountain, St. Lucia

For travelers seeking a blend of tropical beauty and architectural brilliance, Jade Mountain in St. Lucia is unrivaled. Each suite, or "sanctuary," is designed with an open fourth wall, meaning there is no barrier between you and the breathtaking views of the Piton mountains rising from the Caribbean Sea. The infinity pools here are carved from stone, their waters reflecting the endless blue beyond.





# Raffles Sentosa Singapore

A NEW BENCHMARK IN LUXURY HOSPITALITY



Raffles Sentosa Singapore, the latest addition to the renowned Raffles brand, has set a new standard for luxury resorts in Southeast Asia. Opened in early 2025, this all-villa retreat is an opulent sanctuary nestled on Sentosa Island, offering a seamless blend of heritage, modernity, and tranquility. With its stunning private villas, world-class dining, and impeccable service, Raffles Sentosa promises an unforgettable experience for discerning travelers seeking the finest in hospitality.



Located just a short 15-minute drive from Singapore's bustling Orchard Road and Central Business District, Raffles Sentosa feels like a world apart. The resort's lush, tropical surroundings provide a tranquil escape from city life while offering easy access to Singapore's vibrant cultural and entertainment scene. Whether guests seek relaxation, fine dining, or immersive wellness experiences, the resort caters to every indulgence.

The design of Raffles Sentosa pays homage to the legendary Raffles Hotel in the city's heart, but with a contemporary twist. The property boasts 62 exclusive villas, each designed to offer privacy, comfort, and elegance. Ranging from 210 to 650 square meters, these expansive villas are some of the largest in Singapore, making them a perfect choice for travelers who value space and exclusivity.



Each villa at Raffles Sentosa is a private retreat, featuring a spacious living area, elegant furnishings, and floor-to-ceiling windows that invite natural light and offer breathtaking views of the lush gardens or the South China Sea. The interiors exude timeless sophistication, with a blend of modern aesthetics and colonial-era charm that Raffles is known for.

One of the standout features of these villas is the private pool, where guests can unwind in complete seclusion. The outdoor terraces, equipped with plush loungers and dining areas, provide the perfect setting for a leisurely breakfast or an intimate evening under the stars. The bathrooms are equally impressive, featuring marble finishes, deep soaking tubs, and premium amenities for an indulgent spa-like experience.



Raffles Sentosa takes gastronomy to new heights with its array of world-class dining options. Guests can indulge in a variety of culinary experiences, from refined Cantonese cuisine to classic Tuscan fare. The resort also features an elegant lounge for afternoon tea, an intimate omakase dining experience, and a sophisticated bar serving handcrafted cocktails.

For those who prefer a more private experience, in-villa dining is an exquisite affair, with personalized menus curated by the resort's talented chefs. Whether it's a romantic dinner by the pool or a leisurely brunch on the terrace, every meal is crafted to perfection.



# Explore The Look

GET INSPIRED WITH FRESH, FASHION-FORWARD IDEAS



A cosy living room is the heart of a home, offering warmth, comfort, and elegance. With the Salamanca sofa, Bolzano chair, and Nawabari footstool, you can create a welcoming retreat that blends style and functionality. Thoughtfully designed cosy living room ideas ensure a cosy living room that feels inviting, with soft textures, warm colours, and well-curated furniture.



Creating a modern living room that aligns perfectly with your lifestyle involves exploring various modern living room ideas. BoConcept specialises in offering sophisticated and contemporary living room designs tailored to meet your individual tastes and functional needs.



In this relaxing living space that invites you to unwind, clean lines, soft curves and elements of nature work together. A simple yet sleek look is achieved with the Osaka sofa and Madrid coffee table, as well as the Calgary storage unit.



Sophisticated living room featuring the Amsterdam corner sofa and the Madrid coffee table. The Amsterdam corner sofa is the hero of this minimalist living room. Styled in our dusty green Velvet fabric, this timeless sofa invites warmth with a sense of eye-catching drama.







# Decluttering for Mental Clarity

A cluttered home can lead to a cluttered mind. Studies have shown that excessive mess can increase cortisol levels, leading to stress and anxiety. Decluttering is not just about aesthetics; it's about creating an environment that fosters clarity and focus. Start by adopting the “one in, one out” rule—whenever you bring in a new item, let go of something that no longer serves you. Storage solutions such as floating shelves, multifunctional furniture, and woven baskets can keep everyday items neatly organized while maintaining an open, airy feel.

Incorporate mindful decluttering practices by asking yourself whether each item in your home brings joy or serves a purpose. By curating your space intentionally, you cultivate a sense of order and harmony that positively impacts your daily life.

## Sustainable Living : Eco-Friendly Choices for a Greener Home



Sustainability is an essential aspect of slow living. Choosing eco-friendly materials and reducing waste contribute to a healthier home and planet. Sustainable choices do not have to compromise style; in fact, they often add unique character and depth to a space.

Opt for furniture and decor made from reclaimed wood, recycled metal, or organic fabrics. Replace synthetic home fragrances with essential oils or natural soy candles for a toxin-free environment. Investing in energy-efficient lighting and appliances not only reduces your carbon footprint but also enhances the longevity and functionality of your home.

A tranquil home should cater to all five senses—sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell—creating an immersive atmosphere that soothes the mind and body.

### Sight

Soft, warm lighting enhances relaxation. Swap harsh overhead lights for dimmable lamps, Himalayan salt lamps, or candles to create a cozy ambiance.

### Sound

Background music or nature-inspired sounds such as rainfall, ocean waves, or birdsong can set a peaceful mood. A small indoor fountain can also add a gentle, calming sound element.

### Touch

Incorporate different textures such as velvet cushions, knitted throws, or natural linen bedding to create a tactile experience that promotes comfort.

### Taste

Keep a selection of herbal teas, fresh fruits, and nourishing snacks readily available to enjoy moments of mindful indulgence.

### Smell

Aromatherapy can significantly impact mood. Essential oils like lavender, eucalyptus, or sandalwood can be diffused to promote relaxation and well-being.



## Technology & Wellness: Smart Living with Purpose

Technology has become an integral part of our lives, but intentional usage is key to maintaining a peaceful environment. Smart home devices, when used mindfully, can enhance wellness rather than disrupt it.

Consider using smart thermostats to regulate indoor temperature for comfort, air purifiers to improve air quality, and sunrise alarm clocks that mimic natural light to promote healthy sleep patterns. Limiting screen time, especially before bedtime, and creating tech-free zones in the home can also help maintain a balanced lifestyle.

Slow living is not about rejecting modern life; rather, it is about embracing a more intentional, balanced approach to how we design and inhabit our spaces. By incorporating elements of minimalism, nature, sustainability, sensory engagement, and mindful technology use, we can transform our homes into sanctuaries that nourish our well-being.

A home designed for slow living is more than just aesthetically pleasing—it becomes a place where we can truly pause, reflect, and find peace in the everyday moments. In a world that constantly pushes us to move faster, our homes should remind us to slow down, breathe, and simply be.







# The Grace of The East

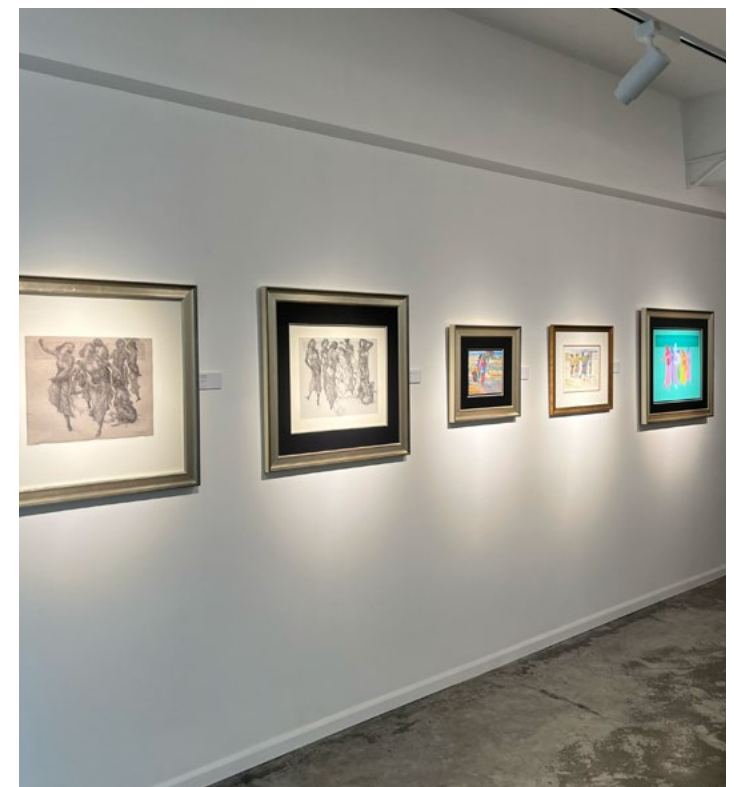
SOARING FORM ECHOES THE SPIRIT OF THE EAST COAST

HARTA Space, in collaboration with KLAS Gallery, proudly unveils The Grace of East, an evocative art exhibition running from 12 to 27 April 2025. This exhibition pays tribute to the rich artistic heritage of Malaysia's East Coast—a region renowned for its deep-rooted traditions, skilled craftsmanship, and vibrant storytelling culture.

Timed to coincide with the Hari Raya festivities, The Grace of East offers a heartfelt celebration of heritage and unity—values that lie at the very heart of Hari Raya. As families gather and age-old customs are observed, visitors are invited to reflect on the enduring beauty and cultural legacy of the East Coast, brought to life through expressive brushwork and bold artistic vision.

Central to the exhibition are iconic works by some of Malaysia's most revered artists—Khalil Ibrahim, Dato' Mohd Hoessein Enas, Ismail Mat Hussien, and Mohamed Zain Idris—each capturing the spirit of the East Coast through their distinctive and powerful styles. From figurative explorations to abstract interpretations of everyday life, their pieces celebrate movement, freedom, and cultural identity.

Curated in harmony with HABIB's Hari Raya 2025 campaign, Rantaian Kasih—which this year focuses on the exquisite craft of the wau, or traditional kite—The Grace of East is more than an exhibition. It is a tribute to connection: across generations, between past and present, and between the artist and the land.





ART FEATURES

We are delighted to present highlights from the exhibition, showcasing a curated selection of standout works that reflect the depth, creativity, and diversity of the artists on display. Each piece captures the spirit of the exhibition and offers a glimpse into the compelling narratives and artistic expressions featured throughout the show.



**Untitled** – A refined expression of femininity and grace by Hoessein Enas, reflecting the quiet strength of traditional womanhood.



**Wau** – A vibrant reinterpretation of the iconic East Coast kite by Ismail Mat Hussin, symbolizing elegance and freedom through intricate design.



**Paddy Farmers** – A graceful gouache-on-paper portrayal of women harvesting rice, capturing the harmony and rhythm of rural life.



**East Coast Girl** – A serene portrait of a young woman that echoes the beauty, dignity, and simplicity of kampung life.

ART FEATURES



**Temerloh Girl** – Captures a young girl seated against a muted, pale background, drawing all attention to her poised figure and expressive face.



**Imaginary East Coast Landscape** – Drawn from Khalil's emotional and sensory memories of the East Coast—perhaps an idealized fusion of places from Kelantan, Terengganu, or Pahang.



**From The Well** – The painting depicts a group of women, likely villagers, engaged in the act of fetching water from a well.



**Pantai Irama, 1970** – Generally depict coastal life with a strong emphasis on human figures and the natural environment of Kelantan's eastern seaboard.

"Inspired by the spirit of Rantaian Kasih, The Grace of East is a powerful reminder of our roots and cultural essence," said **Mirsham Meer, Director of HARTA.**

"This Raya, as we honour love, generosity, and tradition, we welcome all to experience the enduring grace of the East Coast through the eyes of our greatest artists."

The Grace of East will be on view from 12 to 27 April 2025 at HARTA Space. Admission is free and open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday, 10AM to 5PM. For more details, visit **[www.hartaspace.com](http://www.hartaspace.com)** and follow **@hartaspace** on Instagram for the latest updates.





In the age of hyperconnectivity, our relationship with technology has become both a blessing and a burden. Social media, in particular, has reshaped how we communicate, work, and even perceive ourselves. While these platforms offer unprecedented access to information and connection, they also pose significant challenges to our mental well-being. From the constant pressure of online validation to the addictive design of digital platforms, many are beginning to question whether our reliance on social media is doing more harm than good.

As awareness of these concerns grows, so does the movement toward reclaiming control over our digital lives. Concepts like “dopamine detox” and digital minimalism have gained traction, offering a counterbalance to the constant flood of notifications and content. But is stepping away from the digital world a sustainable solution, or do we need a more nuanced approach to managing our mental health in this ever-connected era?

### The Double-Edged Sword of Social Media

Social media has become an integral part of modern life. It allows us to stay in touch with loved ones, discover new ideas, and even build careers.

For many, it is a tool for self-expression and creativity, a space where voices that might otherwise be unheard can find an audience.

Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter have revolutionized communication, giving individuals the power to shape narratives and movements.

However, beneath this surface of connectivity lies a more complex reality. Studies have shown that excessive social media use is linked to increased anxiety, depression, and loneliness.

The carefully curated highlights of others' lives often lead to unhealthy comparisons, making people feel inadequate about their own experiences. The pressure to present a perfect online persona can be exhausting, blurring the line between reality and illusion.



### The Rise of “Dopamine Detox”

In response to the overstimulation of the digital world, a growing number of people are turning to “dopamine detox” as a way to reset their minds. The concept, popularized by self-improvement circles, suggests that reducing or eliminating activities that provide instant gratification—such as social media, gaming, or binge-watching—can help rewire the brain for greater focus and motivation.

The idea is rooted in neuroscience. Dopamine, often referred to as the “feel-good” neurotransmitter, plays a crucial role in the brain’s reward system. When we engage in pleasurable activities, dopamine is released, reinforcing those behaviors. However, when we are constantly bombarded with high-dopamine stimuli, our brain’s sensitivity can decrease, leading to diminished motivation for everyday tasks that require sustained effort.

### Digital Minimalism: A More Sustainable Approach?

While dopamine detox offers a temporary reset, digital minimalism advocates for a long-term, sustainable approach to technology use. Coined by author Cal Newport, digital minimalism is based on the principle of using technology intentionally rather than compulsively. Instead of eliminating digital tools altogether, the goal is to optimize their use in a way that aligns with personal values and well-being.

Digital minimalists engage in practices such as setting boundaries for screen time, disabling non-essential notifications, and consciously curating their online experience. They prioritize quality interactions over mindless scrolling and seek alternatives to digital distractions, such as reading, engaging in hobbies, or spending time in nature.

### Finding Balance in the Digital Age

As we navigate the complexities of the digital age, the key to mental well-being lies not in complete disconnection but in mindful consumption. Social media and digital tools are neither inherently good nor bad—it is how we use them that determines their impact on our lives.

For those feeling overwhelmed by digital noise, small but intentional changes can make a significant difference. Setting designated “offline hours,” engaging in activities that foster real-world connections, and being mindful of emotional triggers online can help create a healthier relationship with technology.

At its core, the movement toward digital well-being is about empowerment. It is about recognizing that we have a choice in how we interact with technology rather than being at the mercy of algorithms designed to keep us engaged.

Whether through a short-term dopamine detox or a long-term commitment to digital minimalism, the goal remains the same—to cultivate a life where technology serves us, rather than the other way around.







# Skin Longevity

THE SCIENCE BEHIND AGELESS BEAUTY

In a world obsessed with anti-aging, a new movement is emerging—one that focuses on skin longevity rather than simply reversing wrinkles. The goal is no longer just looking younger but maintaining healthy, resilient skin at any age. Advances in epigenetics, cellular health, and dermatological science are reshaping how we think about skincare, moving beyond quick fixes to long-term strategies that nurture the skin’s natural ability to regenerate.

In this article, we'll explore how science-backed skincare, lifestyle choices, and breakthrough ingredients can help you achieve long-lasting skin health.



## Understanding Skin Longevity

Longevity isn't just about extending life—it's about extending quality of life. The same principle applies to skin. Rather than chasing temporary youthfulness, skin longevity is about preserving skin function, elasticity, and radiance over the years.

This concept is deeply rooted in epigenetics, which studies how external factors influence gene expression. Your DNA sets a foundation, but lifestyle habits—such as diet, sleep, stress, and skincare—can activate or suppress certain genes related to aging

Factors that accelerate skin aging include:

- Oxidative stress from pollution and UV rays
- Inflammation from poor diet and stress
- Glycation, where excess sugar stiffens collagen
- Loss of skin barrier function, leading to dehydration and sensitivity

By addressing these factors proactively, we can extend the youthful lifespan of our skin.



## Breakthrough Ingredients for Skin Longevity

NAD+ Boosters: The Future of Cellular Rejuvenation

NAD+ (nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide) is a coenzyme essential for cell repair and energy production. As we age, NAD+ levels decline, leading to slower skin regeneration and increased damage.

How to boost NAD+ levels:

- Topical nicotinamide riboside (NR) and nicotinamide mononucleotide (NMN)\*
- Oral NAD+ supplements
- Lifestyle habits like fasting and exercise



## Bakuchiol: The Gentle Alternative to Retinol

Retinol has long been a gold standard in anti-aging, but it can be harsh. Bakuchiol, a plant-based alternative, offers similar benefits without irritation.

Benefits:

- Increases collagen production
- Reduces fine lines and pigmentation
- Enhances skin firmness without dryness



## Peptides : The Building Blocks of Youthful Skin

Peptides are short chains of amino acids that signal the skin to produce more collagen, elastin, and hyaluronic acid.

Notable peptides for longevity:

- Copper peptides: Enhance wound healing and stimulate collagen
- Matrixyl 3000: Reduces fine lines and improves elasticity
- Argireline: A peptide that mimics Botox-like effects for smoother skin



## Polyglutamic Acid: The Next-Gen Hydrator

While hyaluronic acid (HA) is well-known for hydration, polyglutamic acid (PGA) can hold four times more moisture and helps prevent water loss from the skin's surface.

Why it's important:

- Maintains skin elasticity
- Strengthens the moisture barrier
- Works well with other hydrating ingredients





# Travel Workouts

EASY FITNESS ROUTINES FOR HOTELS, AIRPORTS, AND OUTDOOR SPACES

For many travelers, maintaining a fitness routine while on the move can feel like an uphill battle. Whether you’re stuck in an airport during a layover, staying in a hotel room with limited space, or exploring a new city, finding the time and means to exercise can be challenging. However, staying active while traveling doesn’t require a gym. With the right mindset and a few simple exercises, you can maintain your fitness routine anywhere. Here’s how you can incorporate effective workouts into your travel schedule—no equipment required.

Staying fit while traveling doesn’t have to be complicated. By incorporating these simple exercises into your journey, you can maintain your fitness routine no matter where you are. Whether you’re in a hotel, at an airport, or exploring the great outdoors, movement is always possible. Prioritize your health, stay active, and make every trip a healthier one.

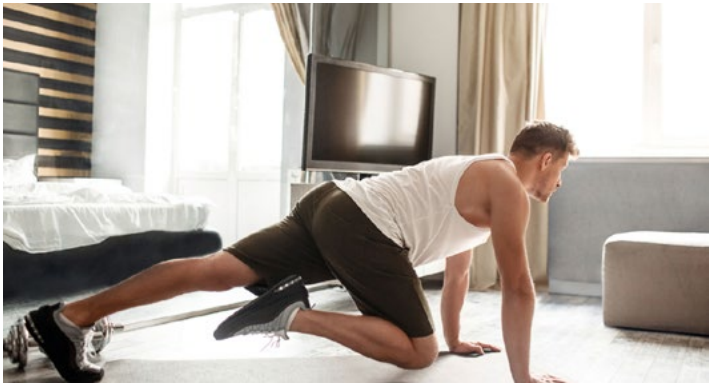
## Hotel Room Workouts : Maximizing Small Spaces

Hotel rooms might not have a gym, but that doesn't mean you can't get a solid workout. Bodyweight exercises are perfect for small spaces and can provide a full-body workout in just 20-30 minutes.

### Full-Body Circuit (Repeat 3 Rounds)

- Jump Squats (30 seconds): Engage your legs and glutes while getting your heart rate up.
- Push-Ups (10-15 reps): Work your chest, shoulders, and arms with this classic move.
- Lunges (10 reps per leg): Strengthen your lower body while improving balance.
- Plank (30-45 seconds): Build core strength and endurance.
- Tricep Dips (10-12 reps): Use a chair or bed to target your arms and shoulders.

This routine can be completed in under 30 minutes, making it ideal for a quick morning workout before starting your day.



## Airport Fitness: Staying Active on the Go



Airports can be a test of patience, with long security lines and extended layovers. Instead of sitting at the gate, use this time to move your body.

### Walking and Stair Climbing:

Most airports are massive, offering plenty of opportunities for walking. Instead of taking the escalator, opt for the stairs to engage your legs and burn extra calories.

### Standing Calf Raises (15-20 reps):

While waiting in line, raise your heels off the ground, hold for a second, and slowly lower them. This simple exercise strengthens your calves and improves circulation.

### Seated Leg Lifts (10 reps per leg):

While seated at the gate, straighten one leg and hold it for a few seconds before lowering it back down. Repeat with the other leg to engage your core.

### Shoulder Rolls and Neck Stretches:

Long flights can cause stiffness, so take a moment to roll your shoulders and stretch your neck to relieve tension.

Staying active at the airport not only keeps your body engaged but also helps reduce the fatigue that comes with prolonged sitting.

## Outdoor Workouts: Making the Most of Open Spaces



Exploring a new destination offers an exciting opportunity to integrate exercise into your travels. Whether you're at a park, beach, or city street, outdoor workouts can be refreshing and effective.

### Park Bench Workout:

A sturdy bench can serve as the perfect workout tool.

**Step-Ups (10 reps per leg):** Use the bench to step up and down, engaging your legs and glutes.

**Incline Push-Ups (10-15 reps):** Place your hands on the bench and perform push-ups for an upper-body challenge.

**Bulgarian Split Squats (10 reps per leg):** Rest one foot on the bench behind you and lower into a squat for a deep leg workout.

**Tricep Dips (10-12 reps):** Use the bench edge to target your arms.

### Beach Workout:

If you're lucky enough to be near a beach, take advantage of the sand for an extra challenge.

**Barefoot Jogging (5-10 minutes):** Running on sand engages more muscles than running on pavement.



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