

KL lifestyle

MAY 2026

The Azure Frontier

REDEFINING THE SOUTH AMERICAN COASTAL ESCAPE

KLAS ART AUCTION
MALAYSIAN & SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART

SNEAK PREVIEW

NOW OPEN FOR CONSIGNMENT JUNE | JULY

OPEN DAILY : MONDAY TO SUNDAY | 10 AM TO 7 PM

KLAS 31, Jalan Utara, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Tel: +603 2201 7668 Enquiries: +6019 333 7668



Awang Damit Ahmad
Estetika Timur - Perisai, 2022
Mixed media on canvas
122 x 122 cm
RM 65,000 - 100,000



RM9.80

Contents

May 2026

65

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH?

- 4 GOINGS ON
- 8 BIG SCREEN THRILLS
Let us reel you in with our recommendations for your viewing pleasure.

COVER STORY

- 10 THE AZURE FRONTIER

FEATURES

- 16 MODERN LABOUR DAY
- 19 DEVOTION IN THE MODERN CITY

CORPORATE NEWS

- 22 A STRATEGIC STEP FORWARD
- 24 BURSA MALAYSIA
- 26 THE RISE OF RYT BANK

MAKAN-MAKAN

- 28 ANNABELL KL
- 30 CICCİ ITALIAN KITCHEN

MAKAN-MAKAN

- 32 THE ART OF THE WHOLE AT ENTIER
- 34 DUALITY OF SUN AND MOON KL
- 36 THE BEST GELATO SPOTS IN KUALA LUMPUR 2026

AIRLINK

LUXE BY KL LIFESTYLE

- 55 LA JUNG CLINIC, KUALA LUMPUR
- 56 THE SPIRIT OF BIARRITZ



33

CONTENTS

MAY 2026

62

LUXE BY KL LIFESTYLE

- 58 THE BODY AS CANVAS
- 60 MEN'S MUST-HAVES
- 61 WOMEN'S ESSENTIALS
- 62 MCLAREN RETURNS

LUXE TRAVEL

- 64 THE OCHRE MAJESTY
- 66 BUCHAREST AND TRANSYLVANIA

HOTEL FEATURES

- 68 SIX SENSES ZIL PASYON

ART FEATURES

- 70 A TRIUMPHANT SHOWCASE OF HERITAGE
- 74 KLAS ART AUCTION

HEALTH & BEAUTY

- 78 THE MIND-BODY DIET CONNECTION
- 80 THE GUT RESET REVOLUTION
- 82 THE POWER OF SUNGLASSES



66

59



CONTENTS | MAY 2026



Airport Talk

Asia Pacific Air Travel Growth Remains Strong in 1Q2026 Despite Middle East Disruptions **42**

Aviation News

Thai Airways Introduces First Airbus A321 neo, Enhancing the Passenger Experience **44**

Ethiopian Airlines, The Spirit of Africa Turns 80 **45**

Spring Airlines to Offer More Affordable China-Malaysia Flights **46**

Multiple Awards for Saudia's Guest Experience Excellence **47**

Vietjet Air Leads Emissions Efficiency, Gains Global Recognition and Expands Network **48**

5-Star Rating for Japan Airlines for Ninth Consecutive Year **48**

SriLankan Airlines Drives Revenue Growth with Next-Gen AI Pricing Platform **49**

Philippine Airlines Reports Revenue and Profit Growth in 1Q2026 **50**

Continuous Drive for Malaysia Aviation Group Towards the Roadmap to 2030 **51**

Special Coverage

Another Huge Success for Malaysia Airports' Licence To Win 2025 **52**

CONTENTS

Contents MAY 2026

EDITORIAL

Managing Editor / Publisher
DATUK GARY THANASAN
gary@mediate.com.my

Creative/Business Development Executive
MYA RIDZUAN
mya@mediate.com.my

Writer
AIMAN RAKEEM

Designer
SKANDHA ROOPAN
roopan.mediate@gmail.com

AIMAR RAHMAN
aimar@mediate.com.my

Aviation News / Airlink
MEDIATE COMMUNICATIONS
airlink@mediate.com.my

Editorial
LAURA LEE
laura@mediate.com.my

ANTHONY TAN
anthony@mediate.com.my

How to reach KL Lifestyle
For letters to editor, subscriptions, advertising, news releases and reproduction permission:
mediate
COMMUNICATIONS

31, Jalan Utara, Section 11,
46200, Petaling Jaya, Selangor

Tel : +019 333 7668
Tel: +603 2201 7668
Email: info@mediate.com.my
www.kl-lifestyle.com.my

Printer
Spiral Ecoprint
44, Jalan PBS 14/11,
Taman Perindustrian Bukit Serdang,
43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor
KDN:PP13691/07/2013(035571)

Endorsed by



HEALTH & BEAUTY

78 THE MIND-BODY DIET CONNECTION

80 THE GUT RESET REVOLUTION

82 THE POWER OF SUNGLASSES



ON THE COVER :
THE AZURE FRONTIER
REDEFINING THE SOUTH AMERICAN COASTAL ESCAPE

COVER IMAGE :
COLOMBIA'S CARIBBEAN COAST

What's On This May 2026

YOUR GUIDE TO THE HOTTEST HAPPENINGS IN MAY 2026

Concerts



Vertical Horizon Live in Kuala Lumpur

American alternative rock band Vertical Horizon returns to Malaysia for a nostalgic yet powerful live performance. Best known for timeless hits such as Everything You Want and You're a God, the band continues to resonate with audiences through their melodic sound and emotive songwriting. The concert offers fans a chance to relive classic anthems in an intimate live setting.

Date : 22 May 2026

Venue : Zepp Kuala Lumpur

Price : RM 322, RM 271, RM 220, RM 209



Vijay Antony Live in Concert

Indian composer, actor and playback singer Vijay Antony brings his electrifying live show to Malaysia, delivering a powerful mix of cinematic hits and crowd favourites. Known for chart topping tracks such as Nakka Mukka and Ival Dhaana, Vijay Antony has built a reputation for high energy performances that blend music, emotion and stage spectacle.

Date: 2 May 2026

Venue : EduCity Sports Complex, Johor Bahru

Price: RM 2,477, RM 1,551, RM 1,293, RM 1,036, RM 829, RM 252, RM 211, RM 170, RM 139



Daniel Caesar - Son of Spergy Tour

American singer songwriter Anson Seabra brings his emotionally driven music to Kuala Lumpur as part of his global tour. Known for heartfelt tracks such as Welcome to Wonderland and Robin Hood, his music blends introspective lyrics with delicate melodies. The concert promises an intimate and moving experience for fans drawn to his honest storytelling.

Date : 24 - 26 May 2026

Venue : Idea Live Arena, Kuala Lumpur

Price : RM 758, RM 498, RM 458, RM 398



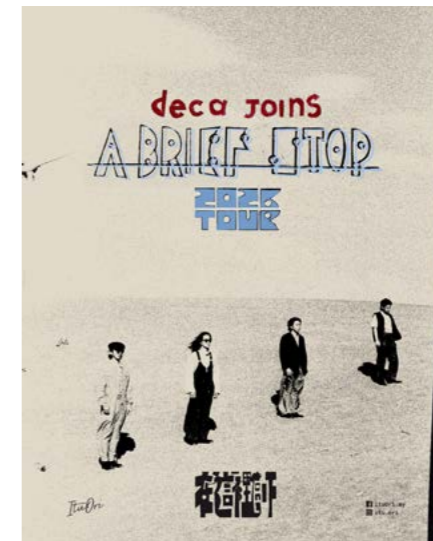
Anson Seabra The I Must Be Dreaming Tour

American singer songwriter Anson Seabra brings his emotionally driven music to Kuala Lumpur as part of his global tour. Known for heartfelt tracks such as Welcome to Wonderland and Robin Hood, his music blends introspective lyrics with delicate melodies. The concert promises an intimate and moving experience for fans drawn to his honest storytelling.

Date : 31 May 2026

Venue : Zepp Kuala Lumpur

Price : RM 598, RM 578, RM 238



Deca Joins Live in KL

Indonesian alternative band Deca Joins brings their distinctive sound to Malaysian fans, blending indie, rock and electronic influences. Known for their atmospheric compositions and expressive vocals, the band has built a growing following across Southeast Asia. The concert promises a captivating live performance filled with moody soundscapes and fan favourite tracks.

Date : 17 May 2026

Venue : Zepp Kuala Lumpur

Price : RM 3,688, RM 398, RM 338, RM 258



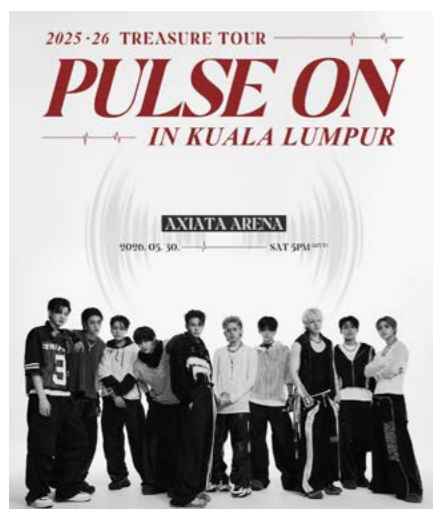
Wali Live in Kuala Lumpur

Popular Indonesian band Wali returns with a lively performance featuring their signature mix of pop rock and Malay influences. With well loved songs such as Cari Jodoh and Baik Baik Sayang, the group continues to enjoy strong regional popularity. The show promises an entertaining evening filled with sing along hits and energetic crowd engagement.

Date: 1 May 2026

Venue : National Hockey Stadium, Kuala Lumpur

Price : RM 777, RM 327, RM 237, RM 177, RM 157, RM 137, RM 127, RM 77



TREASURE Tour "PULSE ON"

K pop sensation TREASURE brings their highly anticipated "PULSE ON" tour to Kuala Lumpur, showcasing their signature high energy performances and polished choreography. Since debuting under YG Entertainment, the group has gained international acclaim with hits such as JIKJIN and BOY. Fans can expect a visually stunning production combined with powerful vocals and dynamic stage presence.

Date : 30 May 2026

Venue : Axiata Arena, Bukit Jalil

Price : RM 1,088, RM 1,088, RM 888, RM 788, RM 688, RM 599, RM 499, RM 399



Hanumankind 2026 OTW Asia Tour

Rising hip hop star Hanumankind leads an exciting urban showcase, bringing his distinctive blend of sharp lyricism and contemporary beats to the Malaysian stage. Known for his global breakout presence and energetic performances, the show promises a dynamic night highlighting modern hip hop culture, supported by a strong lineup of regional acts.

Date : 12 May 2026

Venue : JioSpace, Petaling Jaya

Price : RM 248

Festivals & Expo



International Cafe and Beverage Show 2026

The International Cafe and Beverage Show 2026 gathers industry professionals, cafe owners and beverage innovators under one roof to explore the latest trends in coffee, tea and specialty drinks. The exhibition features product showcases, barista competitions, live demonstrations and networking opportunities, highlighting innovation and creativity within the growing cafe and beverage industry.

Date : 7 – 9 May 2026

Venue : Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

Time : 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM (7 – 8 May), 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (9 May)



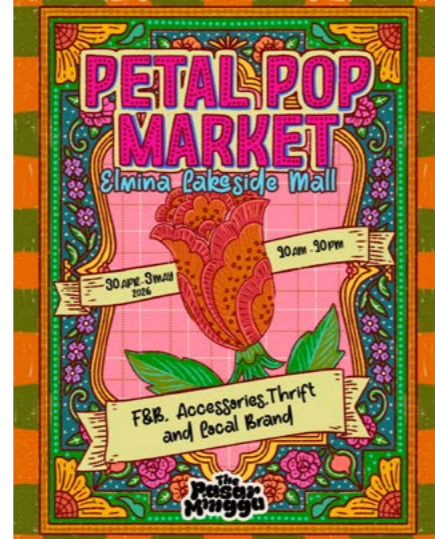
Baby Expo Malaysia 2026

Baby Expo Malaysia returns as a comprehensive event for parents, families and expecting couples, offering a wide range of products and services tailored to childcare and early development. The expo features baby essentials, parenting solutions, educational resources and expert advice, creating a convenient platform for families to explore trusted brands and make informed decisions.

Date : 30 April - 3 May 2026

Venue : Mid Valley Exhibition Centre, Kuala Lumpur

Time : 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM



Petal Pop Market Elmina Lakeside Mall May 2026

Petal Pop Market arrives at Elmina Lakeside Mall with a vibrant community driven pop up that brings together local vendors, small businesses and lifestyle brands. Positioned as a family friendly and sports oriented market, the event offers a diverse mix of retail, food and interactive experiences, creating an engaging environment for visitors of all ages. With a strong weekend turnout expected, the market continues to provide a platform for emerging entrepreneurs while contributing to the growing culture of curated pop up events in the Klang Valley.

Date : 30 April – 3 May 2026

Venue : Elmina Lakeside Mall, Selangor

Time : 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Rain Rave Water Music Festival 2026 Kuala Lumpur

Rain Rave Water Music Festival brings a high energy celebration to Bukit Bintang, combining music, water themed experiences and urban lifestyle culture into a dynamic city event. Featuring a mix of regional DJs and local talents, the festival creates an immersive atmosphere where live performances meet interactive elements, street food and creative pop up markets. As part of Visit Malaysia 2026, the event showcases Kuala Lumpur's vibrant nightlife and cultural diversity in a lively city-centre festival.

Date : 30 April – 2 May 2026

Venue : Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur

Time : 6:00 PM onwards



ITEX 2026 International Invention Innovation and Technology Exhibition

ITEX 2026 returns as one of the region's leading platforms for invention, innovation and technological advancement, bringing together inventors, researchers and industry professionals from across the globe. The exhibition showcases a wide range of emerging technologies, creative solutions and breakthrough ideas, offering insight into future trends across multiple industries. With a strong focus on innovation and collaboration, the event provides a valuable space for discovering new concepts while connecting with forward thinking creators and organisations.

Date : 18 – 19 May 2026

Venue : Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

Time : 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM



KLPJ Wedding Fair Malaysia 2026

KLPJ Wedding Fair returns as one of the largest wedding exhibitions in Malaysia, bringing together an extensive lineup of bridal vendors, designers and event specialists. Featuring over 300 exhibitors, the fair offers couples a comprehensive platform to explore every aspect of wedding planning, from gowns and photography to venues, décor and catering services. With a wide range of showcases and exclusive offerings, the event provides both inspiration and practical solutions for creating personalised and memorable celebrations.

Date : 22 – 24 May 2026

Venue : Mid Valley Exhibition Centre, Kuala Lumpur

Time : 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM



Metaltech and Automex 2026

Metaltech & Automex returns as one of Malaysia's leading industrial and manufacturing exhibitions, bringing together technology providers, engineers and industry professionals from across the region. The event showcases advanced machinery, automation solutions and precision engineering innovations, while providing a platform for networking, knowledge sharing and business development within the manufacturing sector.

Date : 20 – 23 May 2026

Venue : Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC)

Time : 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM (20 – 22 May), 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (23 May)



Private and International School Fair Malaysia 2026

The Private & International School Fair returns with its 24th edition, bringing together a wide range of local and international institutions under one roof. Designed for families exploring education pathways, the event offers direct access to school representatives, programme information and enrolment guidance. Visitors can gain valuable insights into curricula, learning environments and future academic opportunities, making it a key event for those planning long term educational decisions.

Date : 16 – 17 May 2026

Venue : Mid Valley Exhibition Centre, Kuala Lumpur

Time : 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Big Screen Thrills

MAY MOVIE PREMIERES

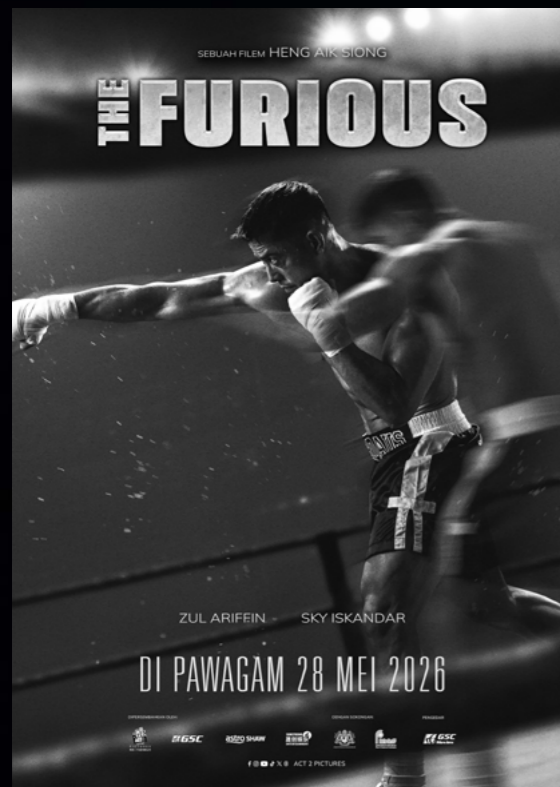
MORTAL KOMBAT II

MAY 15

Mortal Kombat II continues the saga of Earthrealm's defenders as a new wave of conflict pushes the champions into their most dangerous challenge yet. With the arrival of Johnny Cage joining the fight, the warriors are forced to face both familiar and new threats in a battle that tests their strength, unity and survival. As the forces of Shao Kahn rise to expand his dark dominion, the fate of Earthrealm hangs in the balance, leading to an all out confrontation between realms.

Genre: Action / Adventure / Fantasy / Sci-Fi

Cast: Karl Urban, Ludi Lin, Jessica McNamee, Joe Taslim, Hiroyuki Sanada



THE FURIOUS

MAY 28

The Furious follows a determined working class father whose life is shaken when his daughter goes missing. Teaming up with a troubled journalist, he is drawn into a dangerous criminal underworld as they uncover a web of corruption. Driven by urgency and emotion, the film explores resilience, sacrifice and the pursuit of justice.

Genre: Action / Crime / Drama / Sport

Cast: Zul Ariffin, Sky Iskandar, Ikmal Amry, Marisa Yasmin, Zamarul Hisham



THE SHEEP DETECTIVES

MAY 8

The Sheep Detectives delivers a fresh and playful take on the mystery genre, combining humour with an inventive narrative centred on an unlikely group of investigators. The story follows George, a shepherd who routinely reads detective stories aloud to his flock, never suspecting that they are quietly absorbing every detail. When an unusual incident disrupts the calm of the farm, the sheep begin to piece together the situation on their own, stepping into the role of detectives. Through careful observation and surprising intuition, they navigate a series of clues while watching the behaviour of the humans around them, unfolding a light hearted yet engaging mystery that highlights wit, curiosity and unexpected intelligence.

Genre: Action / Comedy / Mystery

Cast: Bryan Cranston, Nicholas Galitzine, Hugh Jackman, Emma Thompson, Brett Goldstein



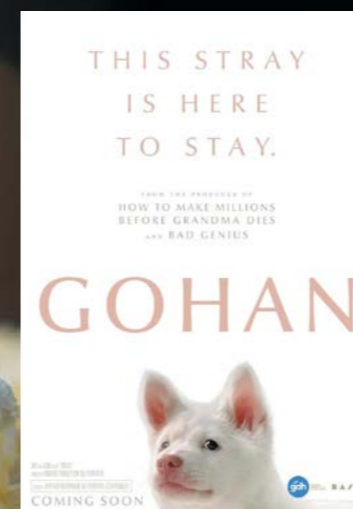
DEEP WATER

MAY 1

Deep Water is a high tension survival thriller set in the aftermath of a catastrophic flight emergency. When a passenger aircraft travelling from Los Angeles to Shanghai is forced down into open ocean waters, a group of survivors find themselves stranded far from help. As chaos settles, they realise the wreckage has drawn dangerous predators, turning the sea into a deadly trap. With time running out and conditions worsening, the passengers must rely on one another to stay alive and find a way out of the rising threat beneath the surface.

Genre: Action / Horror / Thriller

Cast: Aaron Eckhart, Ben Kingsley, Angus Sampson, Lucy Barrett, Molly Belle Wright



GOHAN

MAY 21

The bonds between humans and animals following a stray dog named Gohan as it moves through life with temporary owners over a decade, through good times and bad times, joy and sorrow, hellos and goodbyes. Each chapter of his journey reveals how fleeting connections can leave lasting emotional imprints, as the people he encounters are quietly changed by his presence. Through moments of comfort, loss and companionship, Gohan becomes a silent witness to the complexities of human life, reflecting resilience, loyalty and the unspoken understanding that often exists between humans and animals.

Genre: Drama

Cast: Jaonaay Jinjett Wattanasin, Tu Tontawan Tantivejakul, Poe Mamhe Thar, Kitachima Yasushi, Kori

THE AZURE FRONTIER

REDEFINING THE SOUTH AMERICAN COASTAL ESCAPE



THE EMERGENCE OF A QUIET LUXURY COASTLINE

South America has always been described in superlatives. The Andes rise with theatrical drama, the Amazon stretches with almost mythic density, and its cities pulse with an energy that rarely sleeps. Yet along its edges where land dissolves into ocean another narrative has begun to form. It is quieter, slower, and far more intentional.

The coastline of South America is not a single identity but a mosaic of micro worlds. Each stretch of sand, cliff, and lagoon reflects a different cultural memory shaped by colonial histories, indigenous heritage, and contemporary global influence. What is emerging today is not a reinvention of these places but a refined rediscovery.

Luxury here has shed its traditional language. It is no longer about scale, opulence, or spectacle. Instead, it is about proximity to nature, architectural sensitivity, and emotional stillness. It is found in barefoot mornings on empty beaches, in homes that breathe with the wind, and in hospitality that feels indistinguishable from friendship. This is the Azure Frontier, a ribbon of coastline where the ocean becomes both setting and philosophy.



BRAZIL: TRANCOSO AND THE CULTURE OF DISCREET PARADISE

Trancoso exists in a state of carefully preserved duality. On one hand it is a global destination frequented by designers, artists, and international travellers drawn to its understated glamour. On the other it remains deeply rooted in its Bahian origins where life continues to orbit around community, tradition, and nature.

At the centre of this world is the Quadrado, a wide grassy square bordered by centuries old casas painted in faded tones of coral, indigo, mint, and sun washed yellow. The small white church at its edge stands as a quiet sentinel overlooking the Atlantic beyond. There is no sense of urgency here, only continuity.

By day the light is almost cinematic in its softness. The air carries a blend of salt, fruit, and floral notes drifting in from surrounding vegetation. Local artisans work slowly in open studios carving, weaving, and painting with an unhurried precision that reflects generational craft.

As evening arrives Trancoso transforms. Lanterns flicker to life casting golden pools of light across uneven stone paths. Conversations spill from restaurants into the square where tables are arranged loosely beneath the trees. Music emerges not loud or performative but ambient blending with the natural soundscape of insects and distant surf.



Beyond the village, the coastline surrounding Trancoso unfolds into an atmosphere that feels almost hidden from the outside world. Long stretches of untouched beach, dense tropical vegetation, and narrow sandy pathways create a sense of isolation that appears carefully preserved rather than developed. Villas and private residences are designed not to assert dominance over the landscape but to disappear quietly within it. Rooflines remain intentionally low, materials are drawn directly from the natural environment, and architecture prioritises ventilation, shade, and openness over enclosure or grandeur.

Hospitality in Trancoso follows the same philosophy of understated refinement. Service is deeply intuitive and rarely intrusive, shaped more by attentiveness and atmosphere than visible formality. Meals revolve around seasonal ingredients and locally sourced produce, often prepared with simplicity that allows flavour and freshness to remain central. Time itself feels elastic, stretching gently across long afternoons and unhurried evenings where schedules lose importance.



URUGUAY: JOSÉ IGNACIO AND THE ARCHITECTURE OF RESTRAINT

If Trancoso is expressive and organic José Ignacio is its opposite, precise, restrained, and architectural in its calm. This small peninsula on Uruguay's Atlantic coast has become one of the most quietly influential design destinations in the Southern Hemisphere.

The landscape is elemental to the point of abstraction. Wind carved dunes shift constantly while the ocean stretches outward in uninterrupted force. Vegetation is sparse shaped by salt and weather rather than cultivation. Everything feels exposed yet balanced.

Architecture responds accordingly. Buildings are composed with discipline, clean horizontal lines, exposed concrete softened by timber, floor to ceiling glass framing endless horizon views. There is a deliberate absence of ornamentation. Beauty is derived from proportion, light, and context.

Life in José Ignacio is structured around slow repetition. Morning light arrives across the dunes drawing residents toward the beach for long walks or solitary swims. Afternoons are often spent in shaded terraces reading, resting, or sharing unhurried meals that extend well beyond expectation.

The culinary culture is central yet never theatrical. Dishes are rooted in simplicity, grilled seafood, seasonal vegetables, local olive oil, and wines from nearby vineyards. The emphasis is not on innovation but on clarity of flavour and respect for ingredients.



Social life in José Ignacio remains intentionally discreet, shaped by an atmosphere that values privacy, restraint, and authenticity over spectacle. Gatherings unfold quietly within secluded homes, intimate beachfront spaces, or low profile establishments designed to blend seamlessly into the surrounding landscape rather than dominate it. Conversations extend late into the evening beneath soft lighting and open skies, accompanied by the constant presence of ocean wind and distant waves rather than excessive music or theatrical displays. Even during peak travel seasons, José Ignacio resists the performative energy often associated with luxury coastal destinations. There are few signs demanding attention and little desire to impress through excess.



Colombia's Caribbean coast is often associated with vibrancy and Isla Barú embodies this energy while offering a more secluded, refined interpretation of tropical life.

Located near Cartagena yet separated by water and mangrove systems the island exists in a liminal space between accessibility and isolation. The journey itself becomes part of the transition as urban density slowly dissolves into open sea and horizon.

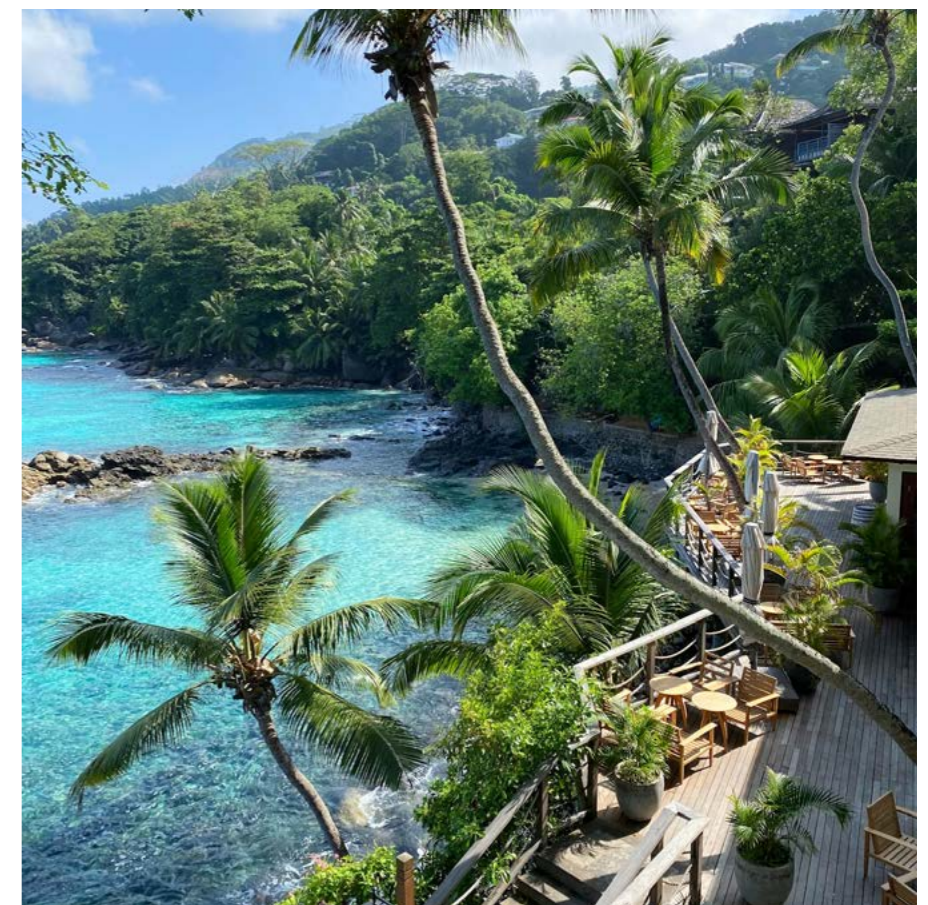
The water here is striking in its clarity. Shades of turquoise, jade, and deep cobalt shift constantly with the movement of light. Coral ecosystems thrive beneath the surface creating a living underwater landscape that feels both delicate and vast.

Architecture on the island reflects its environment with careful intention. Structures are open and porous designed to maximise airflow and natural light. Thatched roofs, wooden frameworks, and stone foundations root buildings in local tradition while allowing modern comfort to flow through them.

COLOMBIA: ISLA BARÚ AND THE CARIBBEAN OF DEPTH AND COLOUR

Yet Isla Barú is not defined by stillness alone. It is animated by movement and sound, where the rhythms of everyday Caribbean life unfold naturally against a backdrop of turquoise waters and swaying palms. Boats glide effortlessly between the surrounding islands, fishermen navigate the early morning tides with practised ease, and faint melodies drift across the sea from distant shores as the sun begins to set. The Caribbean here is not silent, it is expressive, rhythmic, and alive with culture, warmth, and human connection. Markets bustle gently in nearby coastal villages, while the scent of grilled seafood and salt air lingers along the shoreline, creating an atmosphere that feels both vibrant and deeply authentic.

Luxury on Isla Barú reveals itself not through excess, but through deeply immersive experiences that foster a sense of escape and intimacy. Private boat journeys wind through mangrove forests rich with wildlife, candlelit dinners are arranged on secluded beaches beneath starlit skies, and long afternoons are spent suspended between hammock and sea breeze with little urgency to move. The environment encourages travellers to reconnect with life, where every moment feels connected to nature.





PERU: MÁNCORA AND THE MINIMALISM OF DESERT LIGHT

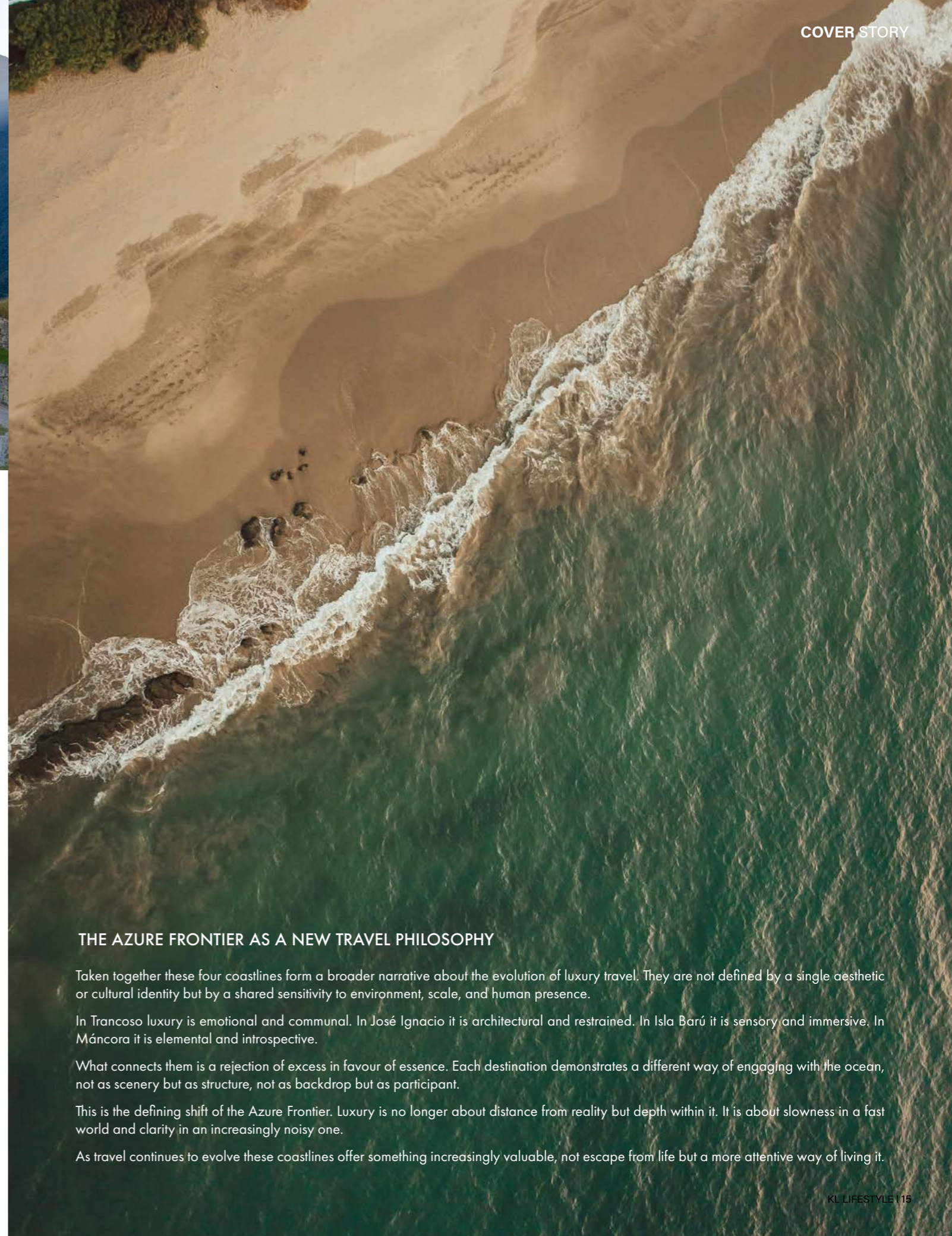
On Peru's northern coast, Máncora presents a dramatic shift in atmosphere and visual identity. The lush density commonly associated with tropical destinations slowly disappears, replaced by a vast arid coastline where desert and ocean exist in striking contrast. Here, the landscape feels stripped back to its purest elements. Endless stretches of sand meet the Pacific in a dialogue defined by texture, light, and silence, creating an environment that feels both raw and deeply contemplative. Unlike more densely built coastal towns, Máncora embraces openness, allowing nature itself to dictate rhythm, proportion, and pace.

The visual language of the region is rooted in reduction and restraint. Sand extends uninterrupted toward the shoreline while vegetation appears only in sparse, resilient clusters shaped by heat, wind, and salt. Palm trees stand isolated against expansive skies, and the coastline unfolds with an almost cinematic minimalism. Light dominates every surface, shifting continuously throughout the day across tonal gradients of gold, ochre, ivory, and deep blue. Sunrise introduces soft muted warmth while midday sharpens the landscape into high contrast clarity. By evening, the desert terrain absorbs amber and copper tones that transform the coast into something almost surreal. These subtle transitions in colour and atmosphere become central to the identity of Máncora, influencing not only its visual appeal but also the emotional experience of being there.



Architecturally, Máncora has embraced a quiet and highly intentional form of modernism shaped by climate and geography. Spaces are designed to dissolve boundaries between interior and exterior living. Walls open into framed views of the sea, courtyards replace traditional corridors, and roofs are often reduced to light structures that encourage ventilation and natural movement. Materials such as stone, unfinished wood, textured concrete, and woven fibres reflect the surrounding environment rather than compete with it. The architecture avoids excess, instead prioritising calmness, openness, and sensory connection to nature. Shadows cast by slatted structures become part of the aesthetic experience, while the constant presence of ocean breeze and sunlight turns even simple spaces into immersive environments.

This distinctive landscape has also cultivated a strong wellness culture rooted in simplicity and environmental awareness. The climate naturally encourages outdoor living and slower routines aligned with daylight and seasonal rhythm. Early mornings are often dedicated to yoga overlooking the sea, meditation sessions on elevated terraces, or long walks along quiet beaches before the heat intensifies. Surfing, breathwork, holistic therapies, and restorative practices have become deeply integrated into daily life, attracting travellers seeking clarity, stillness, and disconnection from urban intensity. The ocean functions as a constant emotional and visual anchor, shaping the mood of the town while reinforcing a collective sense of calm. In Máncora, wellness is not presented as luxury alone but as a lifestyle informed directly by geography, light, and the elemental relationship between desert and sea.



THE AZURE FRONTIER AS A NEW TRAVEL PHILOSOPHY

Taken together these four coastlines form a broader narrative about the evolution of luxury travel. They are not defined by a single aesthetic or cultural identity but by a shared sensitivity to environment, scale, and human presence.

In Trancoso luxury is emotional and communal. In José Ignacio it is architectural and restrained. In Isla Barú it is sensory and immersive. In Máncora it is elemental and introspective.

What connects them is a rejection of excess in favour of essence. Each destination demonstrates a different way of engaging with the ocean, not as scenery but as structure, not as backdrop but as participant.

This is the defining shift of the Azure Frontier. Luxury is no longer about distance from reality but depth within it. It is about slowness in a fast world and clarity in an increasingly noisy one.

As travel continues to evolve these coastlines offer something increasingly valuable, not escape from life but a more attentive way of living it.

Modern Labour Day

A REFLECTION ON WORK, CULTURE AND MODERN CITY LIVING IN 2026

As the dawn of May 1, 2026, breaks over the shifting silhouette of the Tun Razak Exchange, Kuala Lumpur pauses. For the professional urbanite, Labour Day has long been a welcome intermission, a sanctioned sanctuary from the relentless rhythm of a city that rarely sleeps. Yet, as we navigate the mid-point of this decade, the very definition of "work" is undergoing its most radical transformation since the Industrial Revolution. This year, the holiday demands a deeper reflection than a mere long weekend; it is a moment to examine how we build our lives in an era where productivity is being completely redefined.



The Historical Pulse

The origins of Labour Day are etched in grit and the nineteenth-century struggle for the eight-hour day. In Malaysia, the holiday found its official footing on May 1, 1972, announced by the late Tun Dr. Ismail Abdul Rahman as a tribute to the backbone of a developing nation. But the "worker" of 1972, typically found on the factory floors of Shah Alam or the estates of the Klang Valley, would scarcely recognize the landscape of 2026.

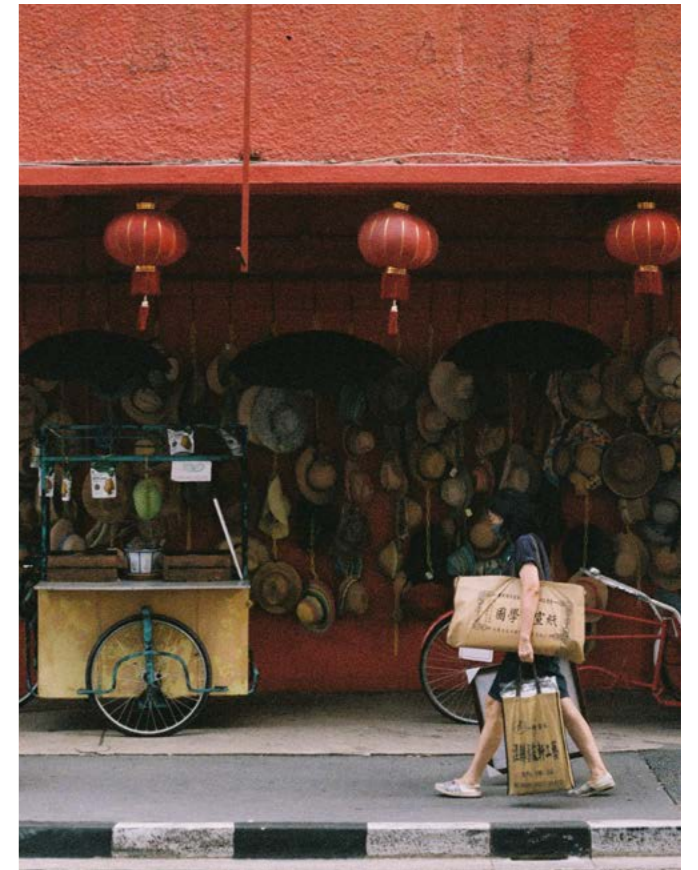
Today, the "noble soul of the nation" (as echoed in the Pekerja Kesuma Bangsa national theme) is as likely to be an AI-adjacent creative strategist in a Bangsar loft as a corporate executive in a glass-walled tower. The 2026 workforce is no longer defined by physical presence, but by intellectual and emotional output. With the recent implementation of the Employment of Gig Workers Act, we have officially entered an era where the "office" is a concept, not a coordinate. We are witnessing a transition from a nation of laborers to a nation of "human-centric innovators," where the ability to collaborate with artificial intelligence is becoming as fundamental as literacy.

Rise of the Soft Economy

In the high pressure corridors of Kuala Lumpur a quiet rebellion is brewing. For the past decade the dominant lifestyle goal centred on optimisation with individuals refining every aspect of their routines in pursuit of peak performance. Productivity became a personal benchmark and efficiency a defining trait while rest was often treated as something secondary. However 2026 marks a clear turning point with what the Global Wellness Summit has described as an over optimisation backlash beginning to take shape. There is a growing recognition that constant output carries a cost and that mental fatigue emotional strain and burnout are no longer acceptable sacrifices in the pursuit of success.

In this new landscape the most sophisticated status symbol in the city is no longer material but deeply personal. It is autonomy. The ability to control time attention and energy has become a defining marker of modern success. We are seeing the rise of soft productivity a movement that moves away from the relentless pace of hustle culture in favour of focused high impact work periods balanced with meaningful recovery. Professionals are becoming more intentional choosing depth over volume and clarity over constant activity allowing space for both performance and restoration within the same rhythm of life.

This Labour Day the shift is especially visible among the urban elite who are increasingly drawn towards neurowellness as a core lifestyle priority. High end developments in TRX and Mont Kiara are no longer defined solely by skyline views or prestige addresses but by environments designed to support cognitive wellbeing.



Sensory repair suites circadian aligned lighting and spaces that encourage stillness and recalibration are becoming integral to modern living. At the same time the holiday itself is being redefined as a moment of digital fasting where stepping away from constant connectivity is seen not as absence but as a form of luxury. In a city that thrives on movement and momentum the true indulgence now lies in the ability to disconnect and simply be unreachable.

The Experience Economy and the Surreal Metropolis

Kuala Lumpur in May 2026 is a city in peak creative form. As the cornerstone of the Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign the city is leaning into its Surreal Experiences theme. This is not just for tourists it has fundamentally altered the lifestyle of the local resident. The Rain Rave Water Music Festival in Bukit Bintang exemplifies this shift. It is not just a concert it is a multi sensory retail and digital art activation.

It represents the experience economy where work and play are not separate silos but a fluid curated lifestyle. For the modern professional these third spaces including cafes rooftops and co working lounges have become the new boardrooms. These are the spaces where networking happens through shared cultural immersion rather than stiff formal exchange.

Furthermore the influence of the global costume art movement spurred by the Met Gala in early May is visible on the streets of Kuala Lumpur. We are seeing a maximalist rebellion in urban fashion. The drab uniformity of traditional corporate attire has been replaced by sculptural silhouettes and bold colour blocking. It is a visual protest a way for the modern worker to say I am an individual not a cog.



The Office Renaissance, Beyond the Cubicle

As we look at the evolution of our city the physical workplace is experiencing a renaissance. The mono function office is no longer relevant. In its place 2026 has introduced the mini campus model. Modern office design in Kuala Lumpur now prioritises workspitality a blend of high functionality with the warmth and comfort of luxury hospitality.

Instead of choosing between home or office workplaces are now designed to provide everything employees need in a single environment including restorative quiet pods movement encouraging circulation routes and even communal herb gardens within breakout areas. These spaces are no longer built around attendance but around human performance.



The Horizon of 2030

As we look toward the remainder of the decade the narrative of Labour Day begins to evolve into something far more forward looking. The focus shifts toward raising the floor a broader ambition that reflects a commitment to improving quality of life across all levels of society. This government driven direction centres on human centric development placing wellbeing dignity and long term sustainability at the core of national progress. For the lifestyle connoisseur this signals a meaningful change in how value is defined within the urban environment. It is no longer solely about prestige or access but about liveability balance and the ability to thrive within a system that supports both personal and collective growth. The city itself becomes a reflection of these priorities where infrastructure design and community spaces are shaped to enhance everyday living rather than simply accommodate it.

At the same time we are witnessing a decisive move toward human AI symbiosis where technology is no longer viewed as a threat but as an essential collaborator in modern life. The professional of 2026 approaches artificial intelligence as a tool that absorbs repetitive and time consuming tasks allowing more space for higher level thinking and creativity. This shift creates room for what sociologists describe as insaniah values including intellectual excellence creative exploration and genuine human connection. As efficiency becomes increasingly automated the emphasis returns to distinctly human qualities such as empathy intuition and imagination. The challenge for the modern Kuala Lumpur urbanite is to maintain balance and preserve the human element as we move toward 2030.



Devotion in the Modern City

EXPLORING THE BALANCE BETWEEN TRADITION, SPIRITUALITY AND MODERN LIVING

As the lunar calendar shifts into the auspicious month of Dhu al-Hijjah, the frenetic energy of Kuala Lumpur undergoes a subtle, sophisticated recalibration. In a city defined by its glittering skyline and its status as a global crossroads of commerce, the arrival of Hari Raya Aidiladha, the Feast of Sacrifice reintroduces a steadying rhythm of spiritual introspection and communal responsibility.

For the modern urbanite, Aidiladha is more than a momentary pause in the corporate calendar; it is a profound engagement with the concepts of altruism, heritage, and the "experience economy" of faith. It serves as a vital bridge between Malaysia's deep-rooted traditional values and its aspirations as a forward-looking Islamic hub.



The Morning Call, Architecture, Atmosphere, and the Solat Sunat

The dawn of Aidiladha in the Klang Valley carries a distinctive serenity that feels almost suspended in time. Long before the tropical sun begins to reflect off the glass facades of the Tun Razak Exchange the air is filled with the rhythmic resonance of the Takbir Raya echoing across neighbourhoods and high rise skylines alike. The sound travels through quiet streets and dense residential blocks creating a shared atmosphere that gently pulls the city away from its usual urgency. From the historic arches of Masjid Jamek Sultan Abdul Samad to the modern grandeur of the Federal Territory Mosque the visual contrast of old and new mirrors the deeper harmony between tradition and progress. In these early hours Kuala Lumpur adopts a slower more reflective rhythm where movement is deliberate and the presence of faith becomes deeply felt within the urban landscape. This transition transforms the city into a space of quiet unity where individual routines give way to a shared sense of purpose.

The Solat Sunat Aidiladha marks one of the most significant communal moments of the celebration and stands as a powerful display of unity within the city. Across Kuala Lumpur large congregations gather in mosques open fields and prayer grounds forming rows that stretch beyond physical boundaries. The gathering becomes a quiet statement of equality where individuals from all walks of life stand shoulder to shoulder in shared devotion. Industry leaders public figures and families alike come together without distinction reflecting the egalitarian essence of the occasion. In a city often defined by status and structure this moment dissolves hierarchy and replaces it with collective presence. It reinforces the idea that beyond titles and professions there is a shared identity rooted in faith humility and belonging. This collective experience strengthens a sense of connection that extends well beyond the day itself. It is a moment of shared stillness and quiet reflection that lingers long after the prayer.

The sermons delivered during this time often extend far beyond ritual guidance. They explore the story of Prophet Ibrahim with a depth that resonates strongly within a contemporary context drawing connections between sacrifice and modern responsibility. The narrative is reframed not simply as an act of devotion but as a call to prioritise long term communal wellbeing over immediate personal gain. In a fast moving city where ambition often drives decision making these reflections encourage a pause and a reassessment of values. They remind individuals that success is not measured solely by achievement but also by the capacity to contribute meaningfully to others. Through these messages Aidiladha becomes not only a religious observance but a moment of alignment where personal intention is recalibrated towards empathy resilience and collective strength. It leaves a lasting impression that shapes how individuals carry these values into their daily lives.



The Ritual of Ibadah Qurban A Blueprint for Social Care

At the heart of Aidiladha lies the practice of Ibadah Qurban a ritual that carries both spiritual and social significance. In contemporary Kuala Lumpur the process is carried out with structured organisation and careful adherence to religious and hygiene standards across mosques and community spaces from Kampung Baru to Bangsar and Damansara.

While the ritual is rooted in ancient tradition its modern expression reflects a sophisticated model of social distribution. It functions as a form of structured generosity where sustenance is shared across different layers of society reinforcing both spiritual intention and social responsibility.

At the same time Kuala Lumpur's evolving food culture introduces subtle modern interpretations that continue to reshape the festive dining experience. Artisan bakeries and contemporary patisseries reimagine traditional flavours through refined presentation incorporating pandan gula melaka and coconut based elements into curated festive offerings that appeal to a more design conscious palate. These creations often balance nostalgia with innovation presenting familiar tastes in forms that feel elevated yet approachable. This blending of heritage and innovation reflects the city's broader cultural identity where tradition is preserved while continuously reinterpreted through a modern lens. It highlights a generation that values authenticity yet embraces change allowing culinary practices to evolve without losing their cultural essence.



The philosophy behind the distribution of Qurban meat reflects a balance between personal reflection community connection and social support. It strengthens ties within families and neighbourhoods while extending care towards those in need. In an urban environment shaped by visible economic contrast this act becomes a seasonal reminder of shared responsibility and collective empathy.

More than a ritual of sacrifice it becomes a framework for social cohesion ensuring that compassion flows beyond private spaces into the wider fabric of the city. It transforms faith into action and intention into tangible support for the vulnerable.



The Return to Roots

For many residents of Kuala Lumpur Aidiladha also signals the annual Balik Kampung journey. This migration away from the urban centre is more than a logistical movement. It represents a psychological and emotional return to origins where family bonds and ancestral ties are reaffirmed.

In quieter towns and rural homes the pace of life shifts dramatically. Conversations replace notifications and presence replaces urgency. The act of seeking forgiveness and blessings from elders known as Maaf Zahir dan Batin becomes central to the day reinforcing values of humility reconciliation and respect. Even in the city many reconnect with their identity and values.



Culinary Heritage and the Festive Table

Unlike the exuberant celebrations of Hari Raya Aidilfitri which are marked by open houses and festive gatherings Aidiladha often carries a more intimate atmosphere centred on the home. The culinary traditions of the day reflect this tone with dishes that require time patience and cultural knowledge.

Staples such as ketupat and lemang form the foundation of the festive table symbolising continuity and heritage. These dishes are complemented by richly prepared curries and rendang made from freshly prepared Qurban meat slow cooked with spices such as galangal turmeric leaf and kerisik. The flavours reflect a deep sense of tradition.

The Enduring Legacy of Grace

As evening settles over Kuala Lumpur and the lights of the city begin to glow the essence of Hari Raya Aidiladha becomes more apparent. It is a celebration that encourages reflection beyond the self and connection beyond immediate circles.

Within the context of a modern global city Aidiladha highlights that true sophistication is not defined solely by material progress but by the depth of compassion and the strength of community. It reinforces the idea that growth must remain anchored in humanity ensuring that development does not come at the expense of empathy. As Kuala Lumpur evolves the values embodied in Aidiladha remain essential.



OPENING SPEECH BY

AMAN CHOWLA

COUNTRY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
FWD MALAYSIA

A Strategic Step Forward

STRENGTHENING WEALTH AND PROTECTION THROUGH BANCATAKAFUL

In an evolving financial landscape where customers increasingly seek security and long term growth, strategic collaborations are becoming more important in shaping resilient financial ecosystems. A recent partnership between MBSB Bank and FWD Takaful marks a milestone in Malaysia's Islamic finance sector, bringing together complementary strengths in banking and takaful to deliver accessible and comprehensive financial solutions. The collaboration reflects a broader shift towards integrated financial services, where institutions work in tandem to meet changing customer expectations across protection, savings and investment needs.

Announced in Kuala Lumpur, the 10-year bancatakaful agreement reflects a shared ambition to enhance the way Malaysians approach wealth accumulation and protection. By combining MBSB Bank's customer base and distribution network with FWD Takaful's expertise in protection solutions and digital innovation, the partnership aims to create a more seamless and customer-centric financial experience.

The alliance also strengthens MBSB Bank's position as a progressive Islamic financial institution, reinforcing its focus on innovation and customer growth. By expanding its portfolio with more protection offerings, the bank continues to move beyond traditional banking services, positioning itself as a provider of simple financial solutions that respond to changing customer needs in a financial landscape.

This development also reflects a broader shift within the industry, where financial institutions are increasingly expected to deliver end-to-end solutions rather than standalone products. As customer expectations evolve, banks and takaful operators are moving towards more integrated models that combine savings, protection and long term planning, ensuring greater value and continuity across the financial journey.



A New Journey of
GROWTH TOGETHER



For FWD Takaful, the partnership marks a significant opportunity to extend its reach and deepen its impact within Malaysia's evolving financial landscape. By leveraging MBSB Bank's established ecosystem, the takaful provider is able to connect with a broader customer base, reinforcing its mission to make protection more accessible, relevant and seamlessly integrated into everyday financial planning. At the same time, the collaboration underscores the growing importance of digital innovation in simplifying financial solutions, enabling customers to navigate their choices with greater clarity and confidence.

A key highlight of the launch is the introduction of Takaful SmartGain, a family takaful savings plan that captures the core intent of the partnership. Designed to support customers in building wealth progressively while safeguarding their financial progress, the plan reflects a balanced and disciplined approach to long term financial security. It responds to rising demand for solutions that go beyond protection alone, offering a structure that also supports future aspirations, stability and growth within a single framework. It also strengthens financial planning for long term.

Held at The St. Regis Kuala Lumpur, the launch event brought together senior representatives from both organisations, reflecting a shared commitment to reshaping the financial services landscape. Beyond its formal presentation, the event conveyed a broader vision centred on empowerment, where Malaysians are encouraged to take greater control of their financial wellbeing through accessible, transparent and Shariah compliant solutions. It highlighted a collective ambition to move the industry towards more inclusive and forward looking practices.

Over the next decade, the partnership is expected to generate impact that extends well beyond individual product offerings. It signals a long term effort to strengthen financial resilience within communities, encouraging individuals to adopt a more proactive and informed approach to managing both protection and wealth. In doing so, MBSB Bank and FWD Takaful are contributing not only to their own growth but to the continued development and maturity of Malaysia's Islamic finance ecosystem. It sets a benchmark for collaborations, encouraging institutions to pursue integrated and customer focused financial solutions.

Ultimately, this collaboration reflects a forward thinking approach to financial services, placing emphasis on adaptability, innovation and customer centricity across both banking and takaful. It highlights a clear shift towards more integrated financial solutions that are designed to respond to evolving customer expectations in a structured, practical and meaningful way. By aligning strengths and capabilities, both institutions are able to deliver services that are not only more comprehensive but also more accessible and relevant in a rapidly changing financial landscape.

As Malaysians navigate an increasingly complex financial environment, such partnerships are set to play a vital role in shaping a more secure, resilient and sustainable future. They also reinforce the importance of collaboration in building a stronger, more inclusive financial ecosystem, where long term financial wellbeing is prioritised alongside growth and innovation. Over time, this approach is expected to support greater financial awareness and confidence among individuals, contributing to a more stable and forward looking society. It further reflects the growing importance of trust and transparency.

Bursa Malaysia

STRONG FIRST QUARTER SIGNALS CONFIDENCE IN THE MARKET

Bursa Malaysia has opened 2026 with a strong set of first quarter results, reinforcing confidence in the resilience and competitiveness of the country's capital market. The exchange reported profit after tax of RM72.8 million for the quarter ended 31 March 2026, marking a 6.4 per cent increase compared with the same period last year. Operating revenue also rose significantly by 16.4 per cent to RM206.9 million, reflecting stronger participation across several key market segments.

The encouraging performance points to renewed momentum in Malaysia's financial markets at a time when investors continue to balance global uncertainty with selective opportunities in regional economies. Bursa Malaysia's results suggest that domestic market activity remains healthy, supported by improving sentiment, stable fundamentals and continued interest from both retail and institutional investors.

A major contributor to the quarter's growth was the stronger performance of the securities market. Average daily trading value for on market trades increased by 27 per cent to RM3.3 billion, indicating a notable rise in investor activity and liquidity. Increased trading volumes often reflect greater confidence in market direction, as well as stronger engagement from investors seeking opportunities in equities across multiple sectors.

The positive trend is especially meaningful as it highlights Bursa Malaysia's role as a central platform for capital formation and wealth creation. Stronger turnover in the equities market generally benefits not only the exchange itself, but also listed companies, investment firms and the broader financial ecosystem that depends on active market participation.

Another encouraging sign came from the primary market, where fundraising activity remained robust. During the first quarter, Bursa Malaysia recorded 16 initial public offerings across the Main Market, ACE Market and LEAP Market. This steady pipeline of new listings demonstrates continued confidence from businesses that view the exchange as an effective avenue for expansion, visibility and access to growth capital.

A healthy IPO environment is often seen as an indicator of broader economic optimism. Companies tend to pursue listings when they believe market conditions are supportive and when investors are willing to back new growth stories. The diversity of listings across Bursa Malaysia's various boards also reflects opportunities for companies at different stages of maturity, from emerging enterprises to larger established businesses.



The overall value of Malaysia's listed market also moved higher. Total market capitalisation rose 11.4 per cent year on year to RM2.1 trillion, underlining the strength and scale of the country's corporate landscape. Rising market capitalisation not only signals stronger valuations, but also enhances Malaysia's standing as an investment destination within the region.

Beyond the equities segment, Bursa Malaysia's derivatives market delivered steady progress. Average daily contracts traded increased 5.2 per cent to more than 107,000 contracts. This was largely supported by stronger activity in crude palm oil futures, one of Bursa Malaysia's globally recognised benchmark products. Increased derivatives trading suggests that participants are actively managing price exposure and risk in a changing economic environment.

The continued relevance of Bursa Malaysia's derivatives platform also highlights the sophistication of the market, where investors, producers and institutions utilise a broad range of instruments for hedging and strategic positioning. This diversification of revenue streams is important for long term sustainability and resilience.

Bursa Malaysia's Islamic market segment also continued to expand, further strengthening Malaysia's leadership position in the global Islamic finance space. Bursa Suq Al Sila' recorded an average daily value of RM50.7 billion during the quarter, while its international reach widened to 29 countries following expansion into Sri Lanka. This reflects continued international demand for Shariah compliant liquidity management and commodity trading solutions.

In addition, Shariah compliant exchange traded funds reached a record RM1.05 billion in assets under management. The milestone reflects rising investor appetite for products that combine ethical principles, diversification and long term investment potential. As sustainable and values based investing continues to gain traction globally, Malaysia remains well positioned to lead in this segment.

While operating expenses rose during the quarter, driven by regulatory related fees and continued investments in technology, infrastructure and talent development, these expenditures are widely viewed as strategic commitments rather than short term pressures. Investments in digital systems, cybersecurity, regulation and talent are essential for exchanges to stay competitive.



One card. *Two ways to pay*

Switch anytime 

Pay now

 DEBIT

Ryt PayLater

 CREDIT

Ryt

Malaysia is experiencing a major shift in the way people manage their finances and digital banking is at the centre of this transformation. One of the newest players in the industry, Ryt Bank, has quickly emerged as a major force after surpassing 1.2 million users in just over seven months since its launch in August 2025.

The milestone reflects more than impressive growth. It highlights a broader change in consumer behaviour as Malaysians increasingly embrace mobile technology to manage their money. From everyday payments to financial planning, digital solutions are becoming an essential part of modern life.

Backed by YTL Group and Sea Limited, Ryt Bank has positioned itself as one of the most innovative additions to the country's financial ecosystem. Its rapid adoption suggests that customers are ready for a different kind of banking experience. Instead of long queues and paperwork, users are seeking convenience, speed and intelligent digital tools that simplify everyday financial tasks.



Traditional banking has long relied on physical branches and structured processes that can feel slow and outdated. Digital banks operate differently. Built entirely for mobile platforms, they allow customers to open accounts, transfer funds and manage finances directly from their smartphones.

Ryt Bank has taken this concept further by integrating artificial intelligence into its core banking experience. At the centre of the platform is Ryt AI, an intelligent assistant designed to help customers complete everyday transactions through simple conversations within the mobile application. Instead of navigating through multiple menus, users can request actions in a natural way such as transferring funds, paying bills or checking account details. The application can also process bill payments through image recognition.

This approach reflects a growing shift towards technology that feels more intuitive and human centred. By simplifying complex banking processes, Ryt Bank aims to make financial management easier and more accessible for everyone.

The numbers behind the bank's growth highlight how quickly Malaysians are adopting digital banking services. Since its launch, the platform has processed more than 25 million transactions across a wide range of services. Daily engagement continues to grow as more users rely on the platform for payments and transfers in their everyday routines.

Bill payments in particular have increased significantly as customers integrate the application into their regular financial habits. Card usage is also rising steadily as many users rely on the Ryt debit card for routine spending such as groceries, dining and retail purchases. Another notable trend involves the use of artificial intelligence within the platform. Nearly half of Ryt Bank's users have interacted with the AI assistant.

The feature is being used not only by younger customers but also by individuals aged fifty and above, demonstrating the accessibility of the platform across different generations.

Data from the bank also shows that customers who engage with the AI assistant tend to open the application more frequently. This suggests that conversational banking may play an increasingly important role in shaping the future of financial services.

Artificial intelligence is already transforming industries around the world and the financial sector is no exception. Banks have long used technology to improve security, detect fraud and automate certain processes. Ryt Bank takes this concept further by making artificial intelligence a central feature of the customer experience rather than simply a background tool. Through its AI assistant, the bank aims to create a more personalised and responsive form of banking. Such systems are capable of analysing user behaviour and financial patterns in real time. In the future this could allow the application to provide insights into spending habits and savings strategies.

Beyond convenience and innovation, digital banks also play an important role in expanding access to financial services. By simplifying account opening procedures and removing the need for physical branches, digital banks can reach a wider range of users including those who may have previously found banking difficult to navigate.

Ryt Bank is also expanding its ecosystem with new financial services designed to give customers greater flexibility. Upcoming features include Ryt PayLater, which will allow users to decide whether to pay immediately or defer payment using a single card. Another future offering known as Ryt Invest aims to make investing more accessible by allowing customers to begin building investment portfolios directly through the application. The rise of digital banks in Malaysia follows the decision by Bank Negara Malaysia to introduce digital banking licences in order to encourage innovation and improve financial inclusion. Several digital banks entered the market, creating a more competitive landscape.



Annabell KL

THE ZENITH OF URBAN REFINEMENT

Annabell KL
 Level 11, TSLAW Tower, 39,
 Jalan Kamuning, Imbi,
 55100 Kuala Lumpur
 Tel.: +6011-2050 1888

In the competitive landscape of Kuala Lumpur's high-end gastronomy, a venue must offer more than just a menu; it must offer a manifesto. Since its inception, Annabell KL has positioned itself as the definitive answer to the city's craving for a multi-dimensional luxury space.

Nestled within the prestigious skyline of the Circular Tower, it has rapidly become the "see and be seen" epicenter for the capital's discerning epicureans and socialites. This establishment does not merely follow international trends; it sets a new local standard for what it means to blend world-class dining with high-octane social theater.

The architectural journey of Annabell KL begins the moment one steps through its threshold, where the design language serves as a bold masterclass in Modern Art Deco.



Bone Marrow



Devasa Rib Eye

Utilizing verticality to create a sense of infinite space, the soaring ceilings are draped in custom-engineered acoustic panels and avant-garde lighting fixtures that mimic a starlit canopy, casting a soft, flattering glow over the elite clientele. Materials have been chosen with tactile luxury in mind, from the cool, timeless permanence of green onyx and marble surfaces to the plush velvet and suede seating designed for prolonged comfort.

The layout is a strategic triumph, offering a vibrant main dining floor where the energy is palpable, alongside discreet VIP mezzanine levels and private suites for those requiring total anonymity and bespoke service.

At the heart of the experience is a culinary identity that avoids the trap of being "fusion" for the sake of novelty, practicing instead a philosophy of ingredient-centric innovation. Under the guidance of a world-class kitchen brigade, the menu acts as a sophisticated dialogue between European finesse and the bold profiles of the Pacific Rim.

The dining experience is structured to cater to both the traditional three-course purist and the modern communal diner, moving from a dedicated Cold Bar, focused on the purity of Hokkaido scallops and hand-dived oysters to the primal intensity of the charcoal grill. The signature Wagyu Tomahawk remains a theatrical masterpiece, carved tableside and seasoned with proprietary salts, while the patisserie team focuses on "low-sugar, high-impact" creations that utilize local tropical fruits like calamansi to cut through the richness of French chocolate.

Complementing the kitchen is a liquid program that views mixology as a form of high chemistry. The central bar is staffed by award-winning specialists who utilize molecular techniques, foams, clarifications, and wood-smokes to elevate classic spirits into complex narratives. For the traditionalist, the wine cellar is a curated map of the world's most prestigious terroirs, ranging from the mineral-heavy whites of the Loire Valley to the structured reds of Bolgheri. Annabell's collection offers rare aged spirits.



Grilled Galician Octopus



Truffle Cream Fettuccine

As the evening matures, Annabell KL undergoes a seamless metamorphosis from a refined dining room to a high-octane social lounge. The transition is handled with surgical precision; the lighting shifts to deeper ambers and violets, and the state-of-the-art sound system begins to pulse with a curated sonic identity.

Ultimately, the soul of Annabell KL lies in its commitment to anticipatory service, where the staff are trained in the "old world" style, knowing exactly when to be present and when to disappear. Every guest is treated with a level of personalization that remembers preferred vintages and seating nuances, ensuring that the experience feels exclusive regardless of the crowd. It is a venue that understands the modern diner's desire for versatility, providing a holistic lifestyle destination that defines the contemporary spirit of Kuala Lumpur. For the sophisticated traveler or the local elite, Annabell is more than a recommendation; it is an essential entry in the diary of anyone seeking the pinnacle of urban refinement.



Cicci Italian Kitchen

A MASTERCLASS IN AUTHENTIC ITALIANITY



Cicci Italian Kitchen

Unit 1-3A & 1-5, Level 1, Menara KEN TTDI, 37, Jalan Burhanuddin Helmi, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, 60000 Kuala Lumpur
Tel.: +6012-889 4022

In a city where the culinary landscape is often dominated by high-concept fusion and transient trends, there is a profound elegance in the return to tradition. Cicci Italian Kitchen, located in the vibrant enclave of Subang Jaya, has emerged as a beacon for those who seek the unadulterated essence of the Italian table. It is an establishment that eschews the superficial in favor of the substantial, offering a dining experience that is as much about the warmth of Mediterranean hospitality as it is about the technical precision of its kitchen. For the readers of KL Lifestyle, Cicci represents a necessary pivot toward authenticity, a space where the soul of Italy is felt in every hand-rolled strand of pasta and every carefully curated vintage. The aesthetic philosophy of Cicci Italian Kitchen is one of "rustic sophistication." Upon entering, guests are greeted by an environment that balances the industrial chic of its urban setting with the soft, inviting textures of a classic trattoria.



Fettuccine al Nero di Seppia



Gnocchi con Salsiccia

The interior design utilizes an honest palette of exposed brickwork, warm timber, and subdued lighting, creating an atmosphere that is both intimate and authoritative. The open-kitchen concept serves as the restaurant's focal point, offering a transparent view of the culinary craft in motion. This visual access creates a rhythmic energy throughout the room, allowing diners to witness the transformation of raw, premium ingredients into finished masterpieces, a testament to the restaurant's commitment to culinary integrity.

The menu at Cicci is a curated journey through the diverse regions of Italy, executed with a level of finesse that suggests a deep respect for heritage. Rather than attempting to reinvent the classics, the culinary team focuses on the elevation of simplicity. The handmade pasta program is, without question, the cornerstone of the experience. From the silken texture of their signature pappardelle to the structural perfection of their ravioli, each dish serves as a reminder that true luxury lies in the quality of the flour, the freshness of the eggs, and the patience of the artisan. The sauces deliver pure flavour, using San Marzano tomatoes, DOP cheeses, and cold pressed olive oils.

Beyond the pasta, the "Secondi" offerings showcase a mastery over fire and seasoning. Whether it is a slow-braised osso buco that yields at the mere suggestion of a fork or a perfectly seared Mediterranean sea bass accompanied by seasonal greens, the proteins are treated with a lightness of touch that preserves their natural character. The wood-fired oven, a central character in the Cicci narrative, produces pizzas characterized by a leopard-spotted crust and a delicate char, achieving that elusive balance between a crisp exterior and a light, airy crumb.



Pappardelle Bolognese



Risotto ai Frutti di Mare

The beverage program at Cicci Italian Kitchen is designed to be a harmonious extension of the plate. The wine list is a thoughtful compilation of Italian viticulture, moving from the crisp, mineral-driven whites of Friuli to the bold, tannic structures of Piedmontese Nebbiolo. Each bottle has been selected not only for its individual merit but for its ability to enhance the specific acidity and richness of the menu. For a contemporary pairing, the bar offers Italian inspired aperitivos and digestivos, encouraging a slower dining pace that Cicci promotes.

What truly elevates Cicci Italian Kitchen to a premier status within the Kuala Lumpur metropolitan area is its unwavering commitment to the "human element" of service. In an era of automated hospitality, the staff here operate with a level of intuitive grace that is increasingly rare. They possess a deep technical knowledge of the menu, able to navigate guests through the nuances of regional olive oils or the aging process of their cheeses with professional ease.



Trofie al Pesto



The Art of the Whole at Entier

A MODERN FRENCH DINING PHILOSOPHY

Entier
 Level 41, Alila Bangsar, 58, Jalan Ang Seng,
 Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur
 Tel.: +603-2268 3819



Fish quenelle

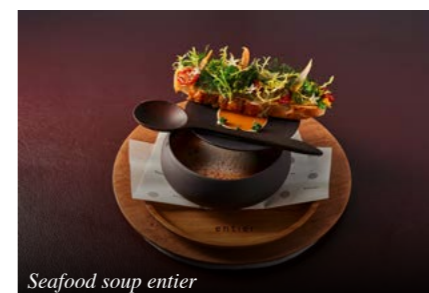
In the rapidly maturing culinary ecosystem of Kuala Lumpur where global trends often flicker and fade with the seasons Entier French Dining has established itself as a monumental fixture of substance and soul. Perched with an air of understated authority on the 41st floor of Alila Bangsar the restaurant offers a vantage point that is both literal and metaphorical providing diners with a breathtaking panoramic sweep of the Klang Valley while simultaneously elevating the city's discourse on modern European cuisine. The name Entier the French adjective for whole or entire serves as the foundational pillar of the restaurant's identity signalling a departure from the fragmented ego driven plating of traditional fine dining toward a more holistic respectful and ultimately more profound engagement with the natural world. This is an establishment that does not merely serve food it curates an exhaustive exploration of the ingredient championing a nose to tail and root to stem philosophy that challenges the wasteful excesses of modern gastronomy while honouring the centuries old French traditions of resourcefulness.



Prawn avocado entier

The intellectual and creative engine behind this ambitious project is Chef Masashi Horiuchi an artisan whose pedigree includes over two decades in the high pressure environments of Europe's most storied Michelin starred kitchens.

Chef Horiuchi brings to the Malaysian capital a rare synthesis of perspectives the disciplined minimalist precision of his Japanese heritage and the rigorous technique heavy foundations of classical French cooking. At Entier he has successfully dismantled the ivory tower of French dining the stiff collars the hushed whispers and the intimidating silver service and replaced them with a vibrant communal energy that encourages curiosity. By focusing on the whole Horiuchi forces his audience to confront the reality of the ingredient. Whether it is a whole bird fish or vegetable the presentation reflects the life and labour behind it.



Seafood soup entier

By encasing the vegetable in a seasoned dough and slow roasting it the kitchen achieves a concentrated nutty sweetness that defies the vegetable's modest origins serving as a masterclass in the power of controlled heat. This same reverence is applied to the animal proteins the Dry Aged Duck for example is a study in patience and precision with skin rendered to a glass like crispness and flesh that hums with the deep mineral complexity that only time can bestow. Even the bread service is a deliberate statement featuring artisanal sourdough paired with a house made kombu butter that has become so beloved it is frequently requested as a standalone take home item. Each dish is an exercise in transparency a value reinforced by the striking open kitchen that anchors the dining room allowing guests to witness the rhythmic almost monastic focus of the culinary team as they manipulate fire.

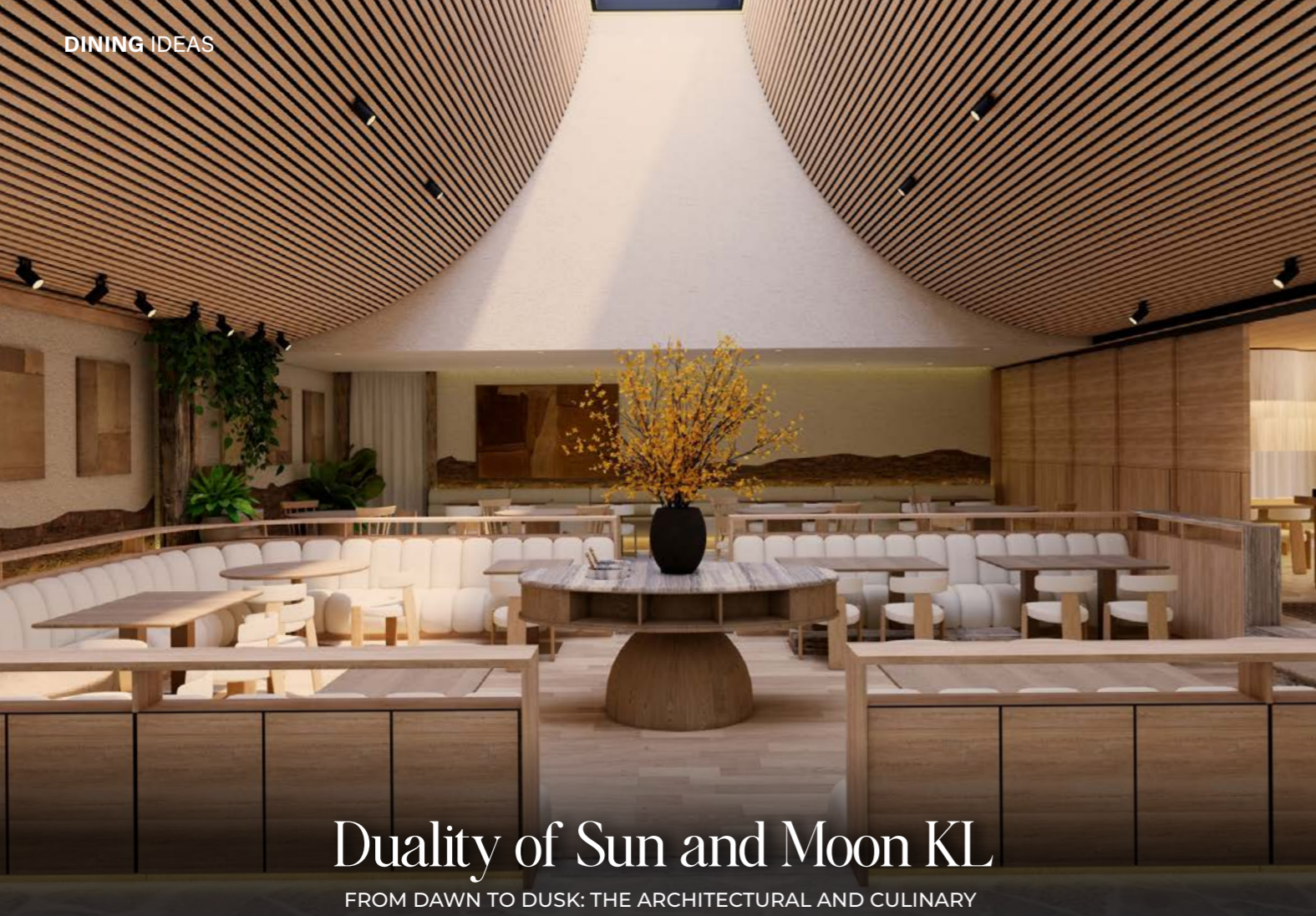


Souffle

Ultimately Entier's significance lies in its ability to educate as much as it entertains. In an era where sustainability is often used as a marketing buzzword Entier practices it as a core culinary discipline proving that the parts of the ingredient usually discarded by others are often where the most profound flavours reside. It is a restaurant that demands we pay attention to what we consume inviting us to appreciate the whole story of our food. As Kuala Lumpur continues to cement its reputation as a premier global destination for gastronomy Entier stands as a lighthouse of excellence reminding us that the most memorable meals are those that nourish the spirit as much as the palate.



Pistachio entier



Duality of Sun and Moon KL

FROM DAWN TO DUSK: THE ARCHITECTURAL AND CULINARY

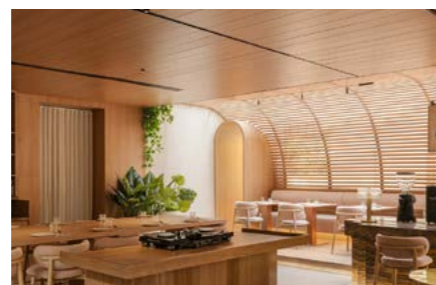
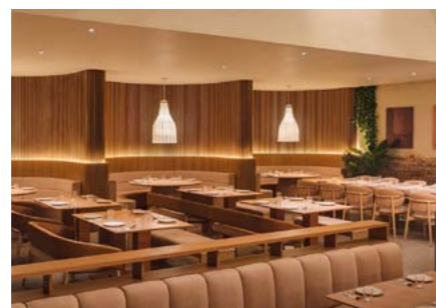
Sun and Moon KL

10, Jalan Delima, Imbi, 55100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur
Tel. : +6012-311 9953

In the rapidly evolving landscape of Kuala Lumpur's Imbi district, where the gleaming silhouettes of The Exchange TRX now dominate the skyline, a quiet revolution in hospitality is unfolding. Housed within a meticulously reimaged colonial-era bungalow on Jalan Delima, Sun and Moon is not merely a restaurant; it is a temporal experience designed to mirror the passage of time itself.

As the latest and most ambitious venture from the acclaimed founders of Eat and Cook, Lee Zhe Xi and Soh Yong Zhi, the establishment seeks to honor the circadian rhythms of the city. It transitions seamlessly from a restorative, light-filled brunch sanctuary in the morning to a sophisticated, high-fidelity nocturnal lounge as the stars emerge. The architectural genius of Sun and Moon lies in its spatial narrative, masterfully crafted by the visionaries at Spacemen Studio.

The design philosophy centers on the "patina of memory," a concept that seeks to preserve the original structure's rugged, exposed brickwork while layering it with a minimalist palette of light oak, reclaimed timber, and cool silver travertine. The heart of the space is a sunken pit inspired by mid-century modern design.



By day, a linear skylight precisely cut into the roof bathes this area in natural luminosity, casting shifting, rhythmic shadows across vertical timber slats and a sentinel-like ebony tree that guards the entrance. This is a space that breathes, offering a sense of tranquility and hygge amidst the frantic urban fervor of the surrounding financial district.



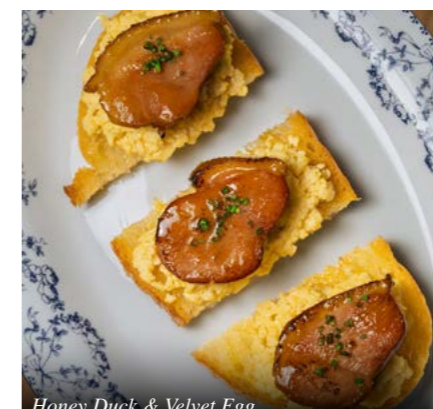
Prawn Galette



Signature Lobster & Egg sandwich



Vongole Pasta



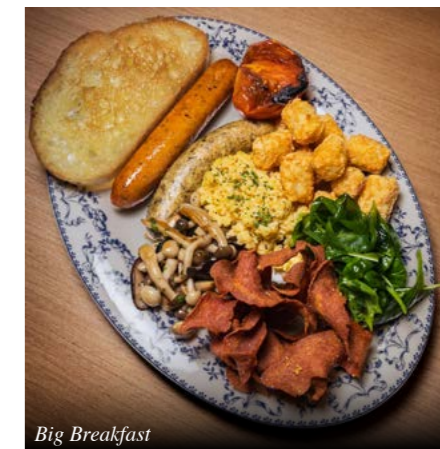
Honey Duck & Velvet Egg



Beef Ragu Penne Pasta

The menu is a thoughtful curation of crowd-pleasing fare, refined through the lens of superior ingredients and inventive execution. For the brunch aficionado, the Tiger Prawn Galette stands as a testament to this balance, a delicate, nutty buckwheat pancake topped with velvety scrambled eggs and succulent, butter-poached prawns. Another highlight is the Honey-Glazed Duck Bacon and Egg, a clever pork-free iteration of a brunch classic that utilizes house-smoked duck to provide a rich, gamey depth that far surpasses its traditional counterparts.

As evening descends upon the capital, the "Sun" yields gracefully to the "Moon." The atmosphere undergoes a dramatic, almost cinematic metamorphosis; the sharp, clean architectural lines of the afternoon soften under the influence of warm, integrated amber lighting and deep red backlighting that pulses with a low-frequency energy. The venue transitions from a bright café into a premier listening bar, a concept popularized in Tokyo where high-fidelity audio systems and curated DJ-led ambiance transform the serene dining hall into an energetic social nucleus.



Big Breakfast

The Best Gelato Spots in Kuala Lumpur 2026

A TASTE OF ITALY WITH A MALAYSIAN SOUL ACROSS THE CITY

KL's gelato scene has developed into a confident mix of Italian tradition, modern café culture and local creativity. What was once a simple dessert option is now part of the city's lifestyle experience, found in luxury malls, creative neighbourhood cafés and boutique dessert spaces. From classic pistachio scoops to pandan infused Malaysian inspired flavours, these six gelato spots define where to go in Kuala Lumpur in 2026.



Venchi

Venchi is one of the most established names in premium Italian chocolate and gelato, bringing a sense of heritage and luxury to Kuala Lumpur's dessert landscape. Originating from Italy, the brand is known for its rich chocolate craftsmanship and carefully balanced gelato recipes that focus on quality ingredients rather than excessive sweetness. In KL, Venchi has become a popular stop for shoppers and city dwellers looking for a refined dessert break.

Address: G.32, 0, Persiaran TRX, Tun Razak Exchange, 55188 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur

Tel.: +603-3051 1399



Paolo Paolo Gelato

Paolo Paolo Gelato represents the new wave of artisanal gelato culture in Kuala Lumpur. It focuses on small batch production, freshness and creativity, with flavours that rotate regularly depending on season and inspiration. This approach gives each visit a slightly different experience, making it feel personal and handcrafted.

The texture of the gelato is notably dense and creamy, a result of traditional Italian techniques combined with a modern approach to flavour development.

Address: E-GF-01, The Five @ KPD, 49 Jalan Dungun, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur



Whimsical Gelateria & Caffè

Whimsical Gelateria & Caffè brings a distinctly Malaysian identity into the world of Italian gelato. Instead of focusing solely on traditional European flavours, Whimsical explores local ingredients and cultural influences, creating a bridge between heritage and modern dessert craftsmanship. A standout is Vanilla of the East, blending pandan vanilla and gula Melaka into a smooth gelato.

Address: FF-17, The Waterfront, 5, Persiaran Residen, Desa Parkcity, 52200 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur

Tel.: +603-2729 7591



TUG Gelato

TUG Gelato takes a different direction by focusing on sustainability and creative food reuse. The brand transforms surplus ingredients and imperfect produce into thoughtfully crafted gelato flavours, making it one of the more experimental dessert concepts in Kuala Lumpur. Flavours can vary depending on ingredient availability, which adds a sense of unpredictability and innovation.

Address: 7, Jalan Telawi 5, Bangsar Baru, 59100 Kuala Lumpur

Tel.: +60 19-457 1105





Jersey Jack Gelato

Jersey Jack Gelato is one of the more established artisan gelato brands in Malaysia, known for its consistency and strong commitment to traditional Italian methods. It has built a reputation for delivering reliable, high quality gelato that focuses on flavour clarity and texture. The menu features classic favourites such as pistachio, chocolate, vanilla and fruit sorbets, alongside more indulgent options inspired by popular desserts. The textures are smooth and well balanced, making it a dependable choice for those who prefer timeless flavours over experimental combinations.

Address: 49, Jalan Berangan, Bukit Bintang, 50200 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur

Tel.: +603-2110 3346



Piccoli Lotti

Piccoli Lotti is one of Kuala Lumpur's most respected artisanal gelato brands, known for its small batch production and strong focus on ingredient quality. It delivers a more authentic Italian gelato experience, with dense textures and carefully developed flavours. The menu often features classics such as pistachio, chocolate and fruit based sorbets, alongside more creative seasonal offerings like pulut tai tai and chrysanthemum inspired gelato.

Address: 45, Jalan SS 20/11, Damansara Kim, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor





A Monthly Publication of Malaysia Airports ©

Managing Editor
Zainuddin Mohamed

Editorial & Concept
Mediate Communications Sdn Bhd

Editorial & Advertising
Noor Hafiza Ruslan
Nurul Farehah Norsam

Design & Distribution
Mediate Communications Sdn Bhd

Editorial Enquiries
airlink@mediate.com.my

MALAYSIA AIRPORTS HOLDINGS BERHAD
Reg. No: 199901012192
(487092-W)

Aviation Marketing and Development Division
Level 3, Arrival Hall (Domestic)
Main Terminal Building, Terminal 1
KL International Airport
64000 Sepang
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
marketing@malaysiaairports.com.my

AIRPORT TALK

Asia Pacific Air Travel Growth Remains Strong in 1Q2026 Despite Middle East Disruptions 42

AVIATION NEWS

Thai Airways Introduces First Airbus A321 neo, Enhancing the Passenger Experience 44

Ethiopian Airlines, The Spirit of Africa Turns 80 45

Spring Airlines to Offer More Affordable China–Malaysia Flights 46

Multiple Awards for Saudia’s Guest Experience Excellence 47

Vietjet Air Leads Emissions Efficiency, Gains Global Recognition and Expands Network 48

5-Star Rating for Japan Airlines for Ninth Consecutive Year 48

SriLankan Airlines Drives Revenue Growth with Next-Gen AI Pricing Platform 49

Philippine Airlines Reports Revenue and Profit Growth in 1Q2026 50

Continuous Drive for Malaysia Aviation Group Towards the Roadmap to 2030 51

SPECIAL COVERAGE

Another Huge Success for Malaysia Airports’ Licence To Win 2025 52

EVITATE

RASP NATURE

ING OF THE HILL



MORE THAN AN ISLAND, A GATEWAY TO LEGENDARY TREASURES.

LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, THE GATEWAY TO GETAWAYS

It all begins at Langkawi International Airport (LGK). Journey into the laidback archipelago of 99 islands and get lost in the wonders of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. Plan your route to a world of rich experiences and natural splendour.



Family Moments Made Memorable

Create meaningful memories with the ones who matter most through our Family Moments room promotion, which includes privileges such as complimentary parking, exclusive F&B discounts, and two "Buy 1 Free 1" GL Play Theme Park vouchers by Gamuda Land, perfect for a fun-filled family getaway.

Book now for stays between 1 May - 30 June 2026
Malaysian citizens only

Terms & Conditions apply

Scan the QR code to BOOK NOW



 sama·sama
Hotel
KL International Airport

Sama-Sama Hotel KL International Airport
Jalan CTA 4B, 64000 KLIA,
Sepang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.
Tel: +603 8787 3333 Fax: +603 8787 5555
www.samasamahotels.com

WORLDHOTELS™
Elite



Asia Pacific Air Travel Growth Remains Strong in 1 Q2026 Despite Middle East Disruptions

A total of 33.9 million passengers travelled on Asia Pacific (APAC) carriers, representing an 8.5% year-on-year (YoY) increase, based on preliminary March 2026 traffic figures released by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA).

This performance comes against a backdrop of ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East (ME), which continue to pose challenges for the global aviation industry. These disruptions have led to flight adjustments and cancellations, driven by a sharp increase in jet fuel prices and higher operating costs.

While several Middle Eastern carriers have been impacted by restricted operations and airspace closures across key hubs and transit points, APAC airlines have responded swiftly by adjusting their networks accordingly.

These measures have included increasing capacity on key Asia-Europe routes, while rationalising or trimming less profitable services.

As a result, demand, measured in revenue passenger kilometres rose by 11.3%, reflecting not only the strength on longer-haul routes but also significantly outpacing the 1.9% YoY expansion in available seat capacity, AAPA said.

Additionally, the average international passenger load factor achieved a record high of 87.6% in March 2026.

Wong Hong, Director General of AAPA appointed on 1 April 2026, said this robust growth in international passenger traffic, reflecting healthy travel demand, brought first quarter growth of 2026 (1Q2026) to 6.2%, with 102 million international passengers carried and a 5.7% increase in air cargo demand.

Supply chains disrupted by the war in the ME resulted in cargo flight cancellations and subsequent rerouting of the Asia to Europe cargo flows away from key ME hubs.

Despite uncertainty to the global economic outlook created by the ME conflict, Wong said that APAC airlines will continue to be vigilant over cost controls while maintaining international connectivity and the highest safety standards.

According to Airports Council International (ACI) Asia Pacific and Middle East Director General Stefano Baronci, airports in these two regions are maintaining a cautious stance on potential fuel supply disruptions.

However, despite the near-term uncertainty, Baronci said APAC will continue to be the epicentre of global aviation, with the region accounting for 37% of the global passengers and projected to handle about 10 billion passengers annually by 2054 based on ACI data.

Malaysia is no exception, with its airport operator continuously improving the ambience and facilities across its local network to enhance both passenger comfort and operational efficiency.

“ We have been working closely with the airline partners and authorities to support flight continuity, network connectivity and smooth operations. ”

DATO’ MOHD IZANI GHANI
Managing Director of Malaysia Airports

Malaysia Airports has recently introduced upgraded baby care rooms at Langkawi International Airport (LGK) and Kuching International Airport (KCH), as well as refreshed the check-in counters at Alor Star (AOR), Kuantan (KUA), Labuan (LBU) and Lahad Datu (LDU).

It recently completed phase one of the washroom refurbishment at Miri Airport (MYA) in Sarawak. At Kota Kinabalu International Airport (BKI) in Sabah, Malaysia Airlines (MH) passengers can now benefit from early baggage drop-off that offer greater flexibility and a smoother pre-departure experience.

Meanwhile, data released by Tourism Malaysia showed a 40.3% decline to 4,398 visitor arrivals from the Middle East to Malaysia in March 2026, following the crisis in the Middle East.

This represented a small share of its total 2.84 million international arrivals, with the majority 2.09 million coming from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region. The was followed by East Asia (407,771) and Europe (124,824).

At the same time, Dato’ Mohd Izani said, “Growth across our local network of airports continues to be driven by expanding connectivity and the increasing relevance of our airports as regional gateways.

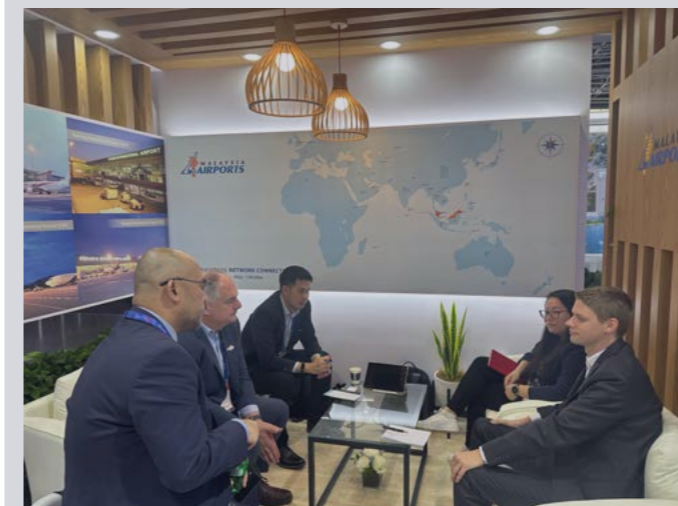
“Our priority is to match this momentum with the right capacity, seamless operations, and targeted improvements on the ground, ensuring we remain competitive while unlocking further growth opportunities for Malaysia.”

KUL recorded 16.9 million passenger movements, a 14.4% increase YoY in the 1Q2026. In March 2026 alone, it contributed 5.6 million to the 9.1 million total passenger movements by the local airports managed by Malaysia Airports.

Successful Engagements and Win at Routes Asia 2026

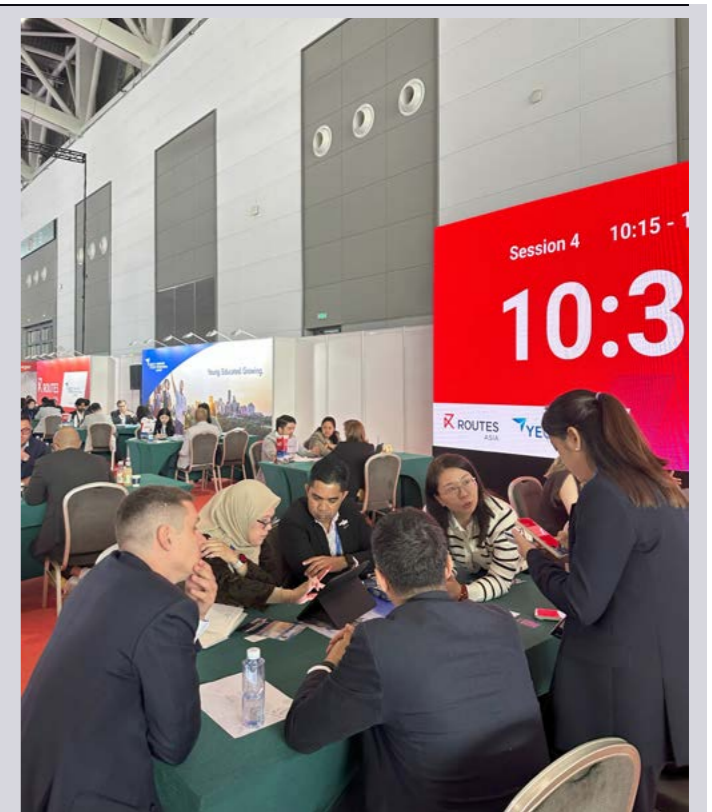
At the recent Routes Asia 2026 held in Xi’an, China, Malaysia Airports once again participated in this key regional platform connecting airlines, airports and tourism authorities.

Meeting were successfully held with over 30 airlines and 12 airports, providing airline partners with vital information such as the incentives and support that are available to help reduce costs as they plan and launch their routes.



As part of its action plan, the airport operator will work with its stakeholders to address challenges such as high fuel costs and immigration delays, in order to make travel smoother and more cost-effective.

These efforts will be aligned with the country’s Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign, which has been extended to 2027 to attract more travellers and maximise the benefits visa-free policies.



It was a proud moment for Malaysia Airports when LGK won the Routes Asia 2026 Awards in the under five million passengers category, recognising its strong performance in route development marketing.

The award also reflects LGK’s continued growth in air connectivity and its position as an emerging aviation and tourism hub in the region.

Voted by airline network planners, the Routes Asia 2026 Awards are among the industry’s most prestigious accolades, recognising excellence in airport and destination marketing and highlighting the partnerships that support route growth and connectivity.

Presented on 15 April 2026, the awards recognised the enhanced airline partnership and development support delivered by airports to their airline partners throughout 2025.

The Routes Asia 2026 Award for LGK was received by Malaysia Airports’ Chief Airport Officer, Byron Thompson, alongside the General Manager of Aviation Marketing and Development, Zainuddin Mohamed, and team members.





Thai Airways Introduces First Airbus A321 neo, Enhancing the Passenger Experience

Thai Airways International (TG) has introduced its first Airbus A321neo, marking a significant step in its fleet modernisation strategy while enhancing the overall passenger experience on short- and medium-haul routes.

The new aircraft forms part of TG's broader effort to improve operational efficiency and elevate onboard comfort, supporting the airline's long-term growth and sustainability objectives.

The A321neo is also among the first 10 aircraft under its operating lease agreements with AerCap, one of the world's leading aircraft lessors.

Equipped with next-generation engines that enhance sustainability by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and supporting the use of sustainable aviation fuel, this aircraft also features other advanced aviation technologies that improve fuel efficiency and lower noise levels.

Chai Eamsiri, TG's Chief Executive Officer said, "The recent introduction of the A321neo reinforces our commitment to enhancing and elevating the passenger experience through modern, comfortable cabin design and in-flight products."

The aircraft features new livery elements and exterior design details reflecting TG's brand identity.

Its A321neo logo, designed under the Thai Contemporary concept, incorporates a neon violet tone symbolising innovation and progress, while maintaining consistency with the airline's Airbus family branding.

The aircraft's cabin offers 16 Business (Royal Silk) Class seats, comprising four single Throne Seats and 12 Double Seats, featuring fully flat beds with 180-degree recline and increased seat pitch.

The Economy Class seats, meanwhile, are ergonomically designed with a 110-degree recline and six-way adjustable headrests.

Passengers will also benefit from an advanced in-flight entertainment system with 4K-resolution touchscreens and Bluetooth headphone connectivity. Additional enhancements include Airspace XL overhead bins, providing up to 40% more storage capacity, as well as welcome ceiling and cabin mood lighting designed to create a more comfortable inflight atmosphere.

Earlier in February, Thailand's national flag carrier had announced plans to operate flights to 62 destinations worldwide for its Summer 2026 schedule starting from 29 March to 24 October.

This includes the resumption of its Bangkok (BKK) to Amsterdam (AMS) service from July 2026 after 28 years and plans to increase flight frequencies to destinations in China and India.

TG carried a total of 16.46 million passengers last year, up 2% year-on-year.

Currently, the airline operates a fleet of 80 aircraft, comprising 59 widebodies and 21 narrow-bodies, including the first of its 32 A321neo.

Meanwhile, amid rising fuel costs and shifting global travel demand linked to ongoing United States-Iran tensions, Thai Airways has announced a reduction in flight frequencies for May 2026, affecting certain key destinations in Asia and Europe.

For more information, call **+603-20346999** or visit **www.thaiairways.com.my**



Ethiopian Airlines, The Spirit of Africa Turns 80

Africa's largest aviation group, Ethiopian Airlines (ET) Group, has built a global footprint connecting key markets across Asia, Europe, North America and South America, as it celebrates eight decades of operational excellence, network growth and aviation innovation.

Enquanhone Minyashal, ET's Regional Manager of Singapore, Australia and New Zealand said, "Our 80th anniversary is not only a milestone, it reflects the partnerships that have shaped ET since 1946."



The airline anticipates strong growth in Southeast Asia (SEA), further reinforcing Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa (ADD), as the key gateway linking Africa to this region and beyond.

Under its Vision 2035, ET is committed, among other things, to strengthening the Asia-Africa corridor that underpins long-term network growth and expansion in passenger and cargo connectivity.

Gebeyehu Masrie, ET's new Area Manager for Malaysia, who came on board at the end of March 2026, recently invited the travel trade to a reception to celebrate the airline's 80th year of operations at its Kuala Lumpur office.

Filip Filipov, Chief Executive Officer of the aviation data firm, OAG, said in his regional overview at WiT Africa 2026 that Eastern Africa has been a success, with ET as the dominant carrier driving sustained growth at an average annual growth rate of 5.6% over the past decade.

Data from OAG's April 2026 report showed that ET operates nearly two million seats, representing a 6.9% year-on-year increase.

The Star Alliance member is currently the leading airline in Africa in terms of the number of aircraft, destinations served, revenue, number of passengers and other parameters.

A true African success story, Ethiopian Airlines operates flights to over 160 domestic and international passenger and cargo destinations across five continents, placing it among the world's top 10 airlines.

As the fastest-growing and most profitable airline group in Africa, it operates a young fleet that includes ultra-modern and environmentally friendly aircraft such as the Airbus A350 family, Boeing 787 Dreamliner, Boeing 777, and Boeing 737 MAX.

Meanwhile, ET's loyalty programme, ShebaMiles, has recently partnered with Marriott Bonvoy, Marriott International's award-winning travel programme, in a strategic collaboration to give travellers more opportunities to earn and redeem points and miles across both hotel stays and flights.

To access the benefits, members need to be enrolled in both programmes. No account linking is required.

For more information, call **+603-2022 0168** or visit **www.ethiopianairlines.com**



Spring Airlines to Offer More Affordable China–Malaysia Flights

China’s private carrier, Spring Airlines (9C), continues to optimise its route network, offering travellers more diverse and economical new options for their journeys.

Between 29 April and 6 May 2026, the airline increased its Kuala Lumpur (KUL)–Shanghai (PVG) service from two to three daily flights, leveraging the Labour Day Golden Week national holiday period.

Besides this route, 9C will focus on its two other direct services from Malaysia to China for the summer-autumn season this year, namely KUL to Guangzhou (CAN) and Penang (PEN) to PVG.

The five-times-weekly Kuala Lumpur–Guangzhou service offers high-frequency connectivity to meet the essential business and family travel needs of passengers in the capital and surrounding areas.

9C’s daily PEN to PVG service leverage the latter’s status as an international hub, offering connections to the wider markets of China and Northeast Asia (NEA).

All three direct routes will remain in operation until 24 October 2026.

These services reflect 9C’s long-term commitment to provide reliable travel options for business, tourism and family visits between the two countries.

Yu Jiali, its General Manager for Southeast Asia said, “9C will continue to operate its route network in Malaysia steadily, deploying high-frequency and highly reliable capacity to serve the China-Malaysia market.

“The airline has always adhered to the philosophy of ‘making flying accessible to more ordinary people,’ focusing on offering affordable and safe air services.”

“ Our low-cost operating model effectively reduces travel costs and time for passengers, providing efficient and stable travel choices for both business and leisure travellers. ”

YU JIALI

General Manager for Southeast Asia

As of March 2026, 9C operates a fleet of 134 Airbus A320 aircraft, serving over 210 domestic and international routes across Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand as well as other key cities in Southeast and NEA.

9C is ranked the eighth largest domestic airline in China, with 2.69 million departing seats for April 2026, up 11.1% year-on-year, according to OAG latest data.

Additionally, China and Malaysia, with a long-standing friendship of 52 years, are not only key source markets for each other, but are also indispensable partners within ASEAN and Asia Pacific region.

For more information, visit www.ch.com



Multiple Awards for Saudia’s Guest Experience Excellence

Saudia (SV) has emerged as the most awarded airline at the World Travel Catering and Onboard Services Expo 2026, securing 12 international accolades.

At the TravelPlus Airline Amenity Awards 2026, Saudi Arabia’s national flag carrier received six recognitions.

Of these, five were Gold awards for Economy Class Amenity Kit, Economy Class Blanket/Comfort Item, Business Class Meal Serviceware, First Class Sleeper/Lounge Suit, and Business Class Amenity Kit in the Middle East (ME).

SV also received a Highly Commended distinction in the First Class Ladies Kit category. It was among a select few airlines worldwide to be awarded the TravelPlus Passenger Amenities Five Star Rating 2026.

Widely regarded as a global benchmark for excellence in onboard comfort and design, the 2026 Onboard Hospitality Awards honoured the airline with Best First Class Food Service (Lunch and Dinner), Best Amenities: Economy, and a ‘Highly Commended’ distinction in the Best Wearable Textiles category.

Additionally, the PAX International Readership Awards 2026, reflecting the voice of the global aviation industry, recognised SV for its continued progress in in-flight entertainment (IFE) and onboard innovation in the ME under two categories: Best IFE and Connectivity as well as Best Children’s Amenity Kit.

As these award-winning products continue to roll out, they introduce new levels of comfort and refinement, while reflecting Saudi Arabia’s identity and hospitality.

ROSSEN DIMITROV

Chief Guest Experience Officer at Saudia (SV)

Meanwhile, the SV Group, which continues to invest in national capabilities as a foundation of its long-term growth strategy, has graduated over 1,000 trainees into its aviation workforce within a single year.



His Excellency Engineer Saleh Al-Jasser, Minister of Transport and Logistics Services and SV Group Director General said, “Developing national talent is fundamental to achieving the ambitions of our National Aviation Strategy.”

SV, which has also invested significantly in upgrading its aircraft, currently operates one of the youngest fleets, totalling 149 aircraft.

The airline’s extensive global route network covers around 100 destinations across four continents.

For more information, call +603-2166 0088 or visit www.saudia.com



Vietjet Air Leads Emissions Efficiency, Gains Global Recognition and Expands Network

Cirium's Flight Emissions Review 2025 has recognised Vietjet Air (VJ) as the most emissions-efficient airline in its intra-Southeast Asia (SEA) rankings, leading with 64.5 grams of carbon dioxide per available seat kilometre (CO₂/ASK).

The ranking is based on Cirium's EmeraldSky methodology, where the leading global aviation data and analytics provider measures the amount of fuel an airline burns relative to its passenger capacity.

VJ's ability to maintain the lowest emissions intensity highlights its strength in optimising operations across the entire value chain, from aircraft configuration and network planning to load management.

Its emissions performance can be attributed to its new-generation fleet, as the airline primarily operates Airbus A320 and A321 aircraft, including the latest neo variants, which offer approximately 15% to 20% fuel savings compared to the previous-generation models.

With one of the youngest fleets in the region, VJ, headquartered in Hanoi (HAN), is well-positioned to optimise fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions per flight.

Additionally, VJ was named the World's Best Ultra Low-Cost Carrier and ranked 10th among the Top 10 Best Low-Cost Airlines in 2026 by AirlineRatings.com, recognised for its highly competitive fares, including zero dollar promotions and rapid network expansion.

The airline continues to stimulate demand across emerging markets while positioning for long-haul growth, including Europe. VJ is reportedly pushing ahead with its plans to expand into Europe from HAN via Almaty (ALA) in Kazakhstan, as it navigates fuel supply disruptions and rising prices amid geopolitical crisis in the Middle East.

Earlier in January 2026, VJ was once again recognised as the World's Safest Airlines, having consistently maintained a 7/7 safety rating from AirlineRatings since 2018.

VJ operates a modern, fuel-efficient fleet with a technicality rate of 99.72%, among the highest in the region, according to the global airline safety and product rating organisation.

For more information, visit www.vietjetair.com

JL's heartfelt professionalism, exceptional world-class hospitality upheld by its cabin crew and consistent safety standards delivered across all touchpoints from the airport to the sky were also evaluated by the United Kingdom-based organisation that audits and rates airline websites, as well as airport and inflight services.

Earlier in March 2026, the JL Group unveiled its new corporate brand slogan, Soaring Together, which focuses on building a future of sustainability and personal well-being by providing encounters and experiences that resonate with customers.

JL, which aims to be the world's most empathetic airline group, carried eight million international passengers for the financial year ended 31 March 2026, up 105.6% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) with a load factor of 85.8%.

According to JL's March 2026 international passenger traffic data, the largest numbers came from Southeast Asia (199,851, +108.4% Y-o-Y) followed by East Asia (169,482, +96.4% Y-o-Y) and America (164,325, +110.9% Y-o-Y).

Meanwhile, JL has renewed its mobile application for booking and boarding on 15 April 2026, focusing on improved usability and a simpler design to enhance the customer experience from pre-trip preparation through to arrival at the final destination.

For more information, call +603-2287 6888 or visit www.jal.co.jp/my/en



5-Star Rating for Japan Airlines for Ninth Consecutive Year

Japan Airlines (JL) has been named a 5-Star Airline by Skytrax for the ninth consecutive year, the highest rating achievable in its World Airline Star Rating assessment.

The recognition reflects JL's ongoing commitment to provide authentic experiences that excite the senses of its customers.

The airline was evaluated on the harmony of Japanese aesthetics and comfort of its First and Business Class cabins in its Airbus A350-1000 aircraft, featuring suites that prioritise personal space and privacy.

Other key evaluation points included JL's superior dining experience, particularly its refined First Class dining with expertly paired beverage offerings that deliver a highly sensory experience.



SriLankan Airlines Drives Revenue Growth with Next-Gen AI Pricing Platform

SriLankan Airlines (UL) recorded a 13% revenue increase in the first three quarters of its 2025/2026 financial year following the implementation of a next-generation, artificial intelligence (AI) and Machine-Learning (ML) powered Origin and Destination (O&D) revenue management platform.

Industry benchmarks show that O&D-based revenue optimisation models typically deliver a 3% to 5% increase in passenger revenue, underscoring this new revenue management system as a key driver of growth for Sri Lanka's national carrier.

Kshanaka Saparamadu, UL's Head of Revenue Management said, "We are not only refining our current processes but also positioning ourselves for long-term success in modern airline retailing, ensuring we stay ahead in a rapidly changing industry."

"Embracing this latest revenue management technology is a testament to our commitment to continuous innovation and digital transformation."

The system enables dynamic pricing and smarter inventory optimisation, while delivering a superior passenger experience across all sales channels through real-time seat availability and predictive analytics.

“ This transition to a dynamic, integrated revenue management system reflects our strategic focus on remaining agile in an increasingly competitive and fast-evolving airline industry. ”

CHAMARA PERERA

SriLankan Airlines Group Head of Information Technology

"As the aviation sector undergoes rapid digital transformation, UL is enhancing its ability to respond swiftly to market fluctuations and meet the evolving demands of today's travellers," he added.

These capabilities enhanced scalability, boosting yield and positioning UL at the forefront of digital transformation in a dynamic global aviation market.

This transformation also enabled the airline to secure two awards, the Growth Catalyst Award at the Outperformer Customer Awards 2025 in Las Vegas by PROS and the Silver Award in the AI and Data Science category at the National Project Management Excellence Awards 2025 in Colombo by the Project Management Institute Sri Lanka Chapter.

Meanwhile, UL recently established a new interline partnership with Maldivian (Q2), the Maldives' national carrier, to expand seamless access to 17 destinations across the Maldivian archipelago via Colombo (CMD).

The oneworld Alliance member, which reportedly flies to over 114 destinations in 62 territories, also partnered with low-cost carrier, flynas (XY), in April 2026 to expand connectivity between Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia.

Earlier in February 2026, UL and Jetwing Travels hosted a business-to-business networking event, Sri Lanka: A Journey Beyond, in Kuala Lumpur, with the latter showcasing curated travel packages targeted at the Malaysian market with emphasis on luxury and adventure, among other things. Sri Lanka is eyeing three million tourist arrivals in 2026.

For more information, visit www.srilankan.com



Philippine Airlines Reports Revenue and Profit Growth in 1Q2026

Philippine Airlines (PR) reported a 2.6% increase in net income to USD78.55 million on total revenues of USD895.7 million, up 9.7% for the first quarter of its 2026 (1Q2026) financial performance ended 31 March compared to the previous corresponding period.

This performance was driven by sustained passenger demand, stronger cargo yields, and continued growth in ancillary revenues.

PR's passenger revenues grew 8.7% to USD759.65 million as the airline carried 4.3 million passengers, up 6.1% year-on-year, with its growth supported by post-holiday travel demand and a resilient network.



In line with demand, the capacity of Philippines's flag carrier expanded, with available seat kilometres increasing 7.2% and flights operated rising by 8.4% for the 1Q2026.

PR's cargo revenues rose 22.5% to USD43.21 million amid tight global airfreight capacity, particularly on lanes affected by Middle East (ME) disruptions, while ancillary revenues increased 11.2% to USD83.56 million, driven by higher uptake of value-added and personalised travel services.

“Our first quarter results reflect both the strength of demand for Philippine travel and the disciplined execution of our team. However, these results only partially reflect the impact of the escalation in the ME late in the quarter, which has introduced volatility in fuel prices and disrupted parts of the global aviation network.”

RICHARD NUTTALL
President of Philippine Airlines (PR)

Additionally, the airline's total operating expenses rose 7.1% to USD793.85 million in 1Q2026.

Its flying operation, the largest cost component, increased 9.2% to USD447.08 million, reflecting higher flight activity, late-quarter fuel price pressures linked to developments in the ME, as well as increased depreciation and amortisation from fleet expansion.

Nuttall added, “We are actively managing our network and costs to protect margins and liquidity.

“While near-term headwinds remain, we are confident in the strength of our fundamentals and are taking prudent steps to sustain our momentum.”

PR's sustained net profitability generated strong operating cash flow during the quarter, allowing the airline to fund capital expenditures, service debt, and strengthen its cash position, while maintaining the liquidity needed to manage near term disruptions and support investments in fleet and passenger experience.

For more information, visit www.philippineairlines.com



Continuous Drive for Malaysia Aviation Group Towards the Roadmap to 2030

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) is on track with its long-haul fleet renewal, with its fleet modernisation continuing to be a primary growth lever as it transitions into its Long-Term Business Plan (LTBP) 3.0. This transition is supported by a stronger operational base and clearer strategic priorities under its 2030 roadmap.

The Group's national flag carrier, Malaysia Airlines (MH), welcomed its 15th Boeing 737-8 aircraft on 8 April 2026, the first arrival for the year.

MAG has placed an order for 30 new narrowbodies, including the Boeing 737-10 and additional Boeing 737-8, and exercised options for an additional 20 Airbus A330neo aircraft to support its future growth and product competitiveness.

Its President and Group Chief Executive Officer, Captain Nasaruddin A. Bakar, who assumed his current position in February 2026, said the Group has gone through nine crises and shown its ability to adapt, recover and move forward with strength and purpose.

“MAG's near-term priorities are clear: placing people first, a resilient network and strong financial discipline, with customer trust at the heart of everything we do.”

CAPTAIN NASARUDDIN A. BAKAR
Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Aviation Group (MAG)

The ongoing Middle East crisis, particularly fluctuations in fuel prices and foreign exchange rates have significantly impacted the profitability of airlines, the aviation industry's route network, cost and safety.

Captain Nasaruddin maintained, “The current crisis does not change our direction, we remain focused on prioritising groupwide strategic initiatives that drive the ambitions of our LTBP.”

Reviewing MAG's performance for the financial year ended 31 December 2025, he said it recorded a net profit after interest and tax of RM137 million, more than double the RM54 million achieved in 2024.

This marked its fourth consecutive year of operating profit, reflecting disciplined execution and continued focus on cost management and operational efficiency.

Additionally, MAG's total revenue for 2025 grew to 6% increase year-on-year RM14.6 billion, driven by sustained travel demand, network optimisation and disciplined commercial performance.

The passenger revenue improved by 6% to RM11.6 billion, while its cargo revenue rose by 7% to RM1.62 billion, driven mainly by higher capacity.

The Group's available seat kilometres rose by 16% while total passengers carried increased by 12% to 18.6 million with a load factor of 81% in 2025, reflecting strong demand across international and domestic segments.

For more information, visit www.malaysiaairlines.com



Another Huge Success for Malaysia Airports' Licence To Win 2025

Licence to Win (LTW) 2025, the flagship airport sales campaign by Malaysia Airports, which ran from 21 July to 31 December, attracted the highest number of entries and generated over RM200 million in total sales.

With a lower minimum entry spend of RM100 compared to RM200 previously at participating outlets across the country's five major international airports in Kuala Lumpur (KUL), Penang (PEN), Langkawi (LGK), Kota Kinabalu (BKI) and Kuching (KCH), entries increased, particularly from lower-spend categories such as food and beverage (F&B), gifts and souvenirs.

The ease of entry, with a minimum spend of RM100 either in a single receipt or across two same-day receipts, was one of the contributing factors for the highly successful LTW 2025.

Additionally, purchases made at Eraman outlets, or travellers who are members of Traveloka, Southeast Asia's leading travel tech platform, for aspirational travel rewards and seamless digital integration, qualified to double contest entries.

LTW 2025 also revealed some interesting insights and travellers' trends. The highest single receipt submitted was a remarkable RM93,000 spent at a premium retail store, while the average spend per entry stood at RM447.

“The LTW 2025 campaign reflects the strength of our evolving retail strategy and our continued focus on elevating the airport experience for travellers.”

HANI EZRA HUSSIN
Malaysia Airports Senior General Manager of Commercial Services

“Strong participation and sustained sales demonstrate our ability to create more engaging and rewarding retail experiences across all touchpoints while supporting our partners in driving visibility and growth.”

Underscoring Malaysia Airports' efforts to deliver greater value for travellers while supporting a more seamless and enjoyable journey, the LTW 2025 initiative also supports the broader objectives of Visit Malaysia 2026, now extended to 2027, to position the country's airports as welcoming gateways that showcase the best of Malaysia to both domestic and international travellers.

This proves to be more so as our airports evolve beyond transit hubs into vibrant lifestyle destinations reflecting the warmth, vibrancy and hospitality of Malaysia.

At the spectacular grand finale of Malaysia Airports' LTW 2025 held recently at the iconic Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, four semi-finalists competed in high-stakes games challenging their speed, focus and precision skills.

It was an adrenaline-charged night from the first game segment, Reflex Rush to the second segment, Can You Catch Faster than Max?, which saw the contestants narrowed to only two for the last segment, Unlock the Dream.



The final segment comprised two rounds. Round one, Rapid Fire (Trivia), required the finalists to be the first to press the buzzer and answer questions.

The second round, The Final Unlock, involved the finalists picking the correct key to unlock the box for the grand prize, a Porsche 911 Carrera.



It took several attempts before Raenita Santoso, the wife of James Robert from Indonesia, who acted as his proxy in the games, emerged as the grand prize winner. Her selection of the number 10 key helped her beat her rival to win the coveted and stunning red Porsche.

The other finalist, Abu Ashraff, won the first prize worth RM80,000, comprising a Traveloka travel package to Switzerland worth RM50,000 and an Eraman shopping spree worth RM30,000.

The second prize, consisting of a Traveloka travel package to Australia worth RM30,000 and an Eraman shopping spree valued at RM20,000, went to another Malaysian, Woon Hooi Yin.

The third prize winner, Mohammad Hashim bagged the third prize, which comprised a Traveloka travel package to Japan worth RM20,000 and an Eraman shopping spree valued at RM10,000.

Stevens Hendrajaya, Traveloka's Head of Partnership; Md Fadzwin Abdul Rahim, General Manager of Eraman Malaysia and Zeid Abdul Razak, Chief Financial Officer of Malaysia Airports, were present at the LTW 2025 grande finale and prize giving ceremony.

A BMW R1300 GS motorbike was also presented to Ang Mei See on behalf of the winner, Ang Hock Lai.



As Hani summed up in her speech, “Tonight, we are not only celebrating winners but also a campaign made possible by the support and trust of our travellers, tenants and partners.”



She recalled that the LTW campaign previously gave away a Lamborghini in 2017, an Aston Martin the following year, and a McLaren 570S Coupe in 2019. In 2024, the prize was a RM1 million shopping spree.

“The vision behind LTW has always been to make the airport experience more memorable and to turn everyday travel moments into something exciting and experiential.”

LTW 2025, built around the theme, Own the Dream, was something very real for its passengers. It was either a long-awaited holiday, a special reward or turning a routine moment into a memorable one, she remarked.

“For our tenants and partners, the dream is about growth, seeing your brands ignite, your stores come alive and your efforts translate into real results.

“For Malaysia Airports, we see ourselves as more than just a base. We are here to create an environment where passengers feel inspired to explore, discover and engage more deeply what we have to offer,” she added.

Overall, Malaysia Airports recorded more than 44 million transactions across its network and saw strong growth in key categories such as F&B, which grew by more than 19%, while gifts and souvenirs rose by 42% to become the fastest-growing category, supported by increased participation from the lower minimum spend.



THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Need assistance? We are here to help. 'The Butterfly Effect' initiative is designed to provide a calm and supportive airport experience.

Through small gestures and thoughtful assistance, 'The Butterfly Effect' helps create a more relaxing journey for passengers.

- Look out for our **CARE Ambassadors** in orange uniforms, ready to assist you.
- Visit any **Information Counter** at KLIA Terminal 1 or Terminal 2 for any enquiries.

Scan the QR code to learn more



An inclusive airport experience for all.





La Jung Clinic, Kuala Lumpur

MODERN AESTHETIC CARE ROOTED IN PERSONALISATION AND NATURAL ENHANCEMENT

La Jung Clinic is a contemporary aesthetic and wellness clinic in Kuala Lumpur that reflects the city's evolving appreciation for refined, non-invasive beauty treatments. Situated in a premium urban setting, the clinic is designed with a minimalist, calming interior that immediately conveys a sense of privacy, professionalism and modern sophistication. Its approach to aesthetics is centred on enhancing natural features rather than altering appearance, aligning with today's preference for subtle, balanced and long-lasting results.

The clinic offers a comprehensive range of treatments, including skin rejuvenation, anti-ageing solutions, laser therapies, pigmentation correction, acne management and facial contouring. Each procedure is supported by advanced medical technology and carried out under professional supervision to ensure both safety and effectiveness. What distinguishes La Jung Clinic is its highly personalised approach, where every client undergoes a detailed consultation before any treatment plan is designed. This allows practitioners to understand individual skin conditions, concerns and lifestyle needs, ensuring that results are tailored rather than generic.

Beyond corrective treatments, La Jung Clinic places strong emphasis on preventive skincare and long-term skin maintenance. Clients are guided towards sustainable routines that help improve skin health over time, rather than relying solely on short-term solutions. Minimally invasive treatments reduce downtime, improving skin tone.

The overall experience at La Jung Clinic is carefully structured to feel both clinical and comforting, striking a balance between medical precision and a welcoming, reassuring atmosphere. From the initial consultation through to treatment and aftercare, every stage is thoughtfully considered and carefully guided, ensuring that clients feel informed, supported and at ease throughout their aesthetic journey. Consultations are designed to be detailed and personalised, allowing practitioners to understand individual concerns, skin conditions and desired outcomes before recommending tailored treatment plans.

As part of Kuala Lumpur's growing aesthetic landscape, La Jung Clinic represents a broader shift towards science driven beauty that places emphasis on authenticity, balance and individuality. Rather than promoting drastic change, the clinic embodies a modern philosophy of care where enhancement is achieved through subtle refinement, guided by medical expertise and an understanding of natural facial harmony. Treatments are designed to work with each individual's unique features, supporting skin health and long term results rather than temporary transformation. This approach allows clients to look refreshed.





The Spirit of Biarritz

REVISITING CHANEL'S ORIGINS FOR A NEW GENERATION

Chanel unveiled its Cruise 2027 collection in the storied seaside town of Biarritz, marking a defining moment in the house's history. For the first time ever, the brand presented a runway show in the very place where Gabrielle Chanel established her first couture house in 1915. Set against the backdrop of the Atlantic coast, the show served as both a homecoming and a reawakening of the spirit that shaped Chanel into a symbol of modern femininity. Under the direction of Matthieu Blazy, the collection revisited the codes of freedom and movement that defined the brand's earliest years, translating them into a contemporary wardrobe that feels instinctively relevant today.

More than a century ago, Chanel's decision to expand her vision beyond Deauville and open a couture house in Biarritz signalled a turning point not only for her career but for fashion as a whole. Situated within the elegant surroundings of Villa Larralde, her boutique attracted an international clientele drawn to both the glamour of the coastal town and the ease of her designs. This move secured her financial independence and established her in a male dominated industry worldwide and beyond.

The show took place at Casino Municipal, an architectural landmark that echoed the refined yet relaxed atmosphere of the region. Despite the deep historical ties between Chanel and Biarritz, this marked the house's first ever runway event in the city, adding a sense of occasion that resonated throughout the presentation. The collection reflected a dialogue between past and present, where heritage was not preserved as a static reference but reinterpreted through a modern lens.



For Blazy, the location held a personal connection, having spent time in the Basque region during his youth. That familiarity translated into a collection rooted in the idea of freedom, both physical and emotional. Opening with a reinterpretation of Chanel's iconic 1926 black dress, Blazy revisited the simplicity that once redefined elegance. Drawing from original archival concepts, he introduced subtle yet impactful changes, transforming a historical silhouette into something newly expressive. Once a symbol of understated sophistication, it was reimagined with depth while retaining its identity.



Textures played a central role in bringing this vision to life. Lightweight silks, airy knits and tactile tweeds created a sense of movement, while intricate embellishments introduced moments of visual intrigue. Elements inspired by the ocean appeared throughout, from shimmering surfaces that evoked light reflecting on water to details reminiscent of shells and marine life. The collection carried a sense of fluidity, as though each piece was designed to shift effortlessly with the rhythm of the wearer's life.

Throughout the collection, traditional garments associated with everyday labour were elevated into expressions of luxury. The sailor's striped knit, the utilitarian work jacket and relaxed tailoring in washed cotton were all refined with precision and craftsmanship. This approach echoed Chanel's original philosophy of dissolving class boundaries through clothing, allowing women to adopt styles that prioritised comfort without compromising elegance.





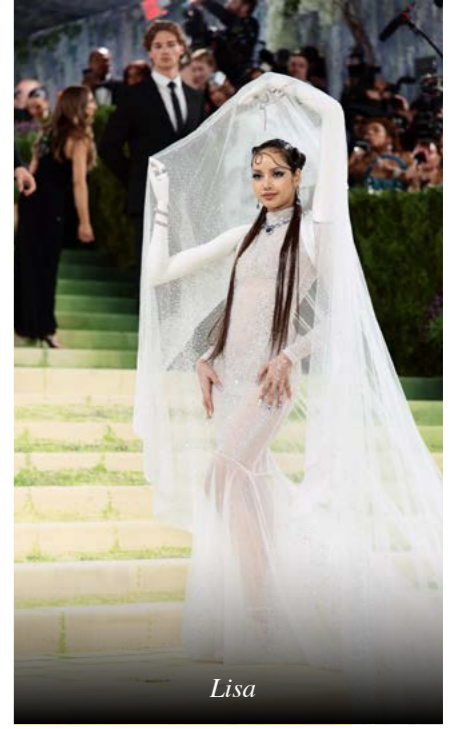
The Body as Canvas
UNVEILING THE 2026 MET GALA'S "COSTUME ART"



Venus Williams



Paul Anthony Kelly



Lisa

The first Monday in May remains the definitive pivot point for the global fashion industry, and the 2026 Met Gala has arguably surpassed all previous iterations in both intellectual ambition and sheer sculptural audacity. This year, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute has unveiled "Costume Art," a theme that transcends the traditional boundaries of a fashion retrospective to position the garment as an equal to the masterpieces of the classical and contemporary art worlds, redefining cultural perception entirely.

The exhibition, which officially inaugurates the new Condé M. Nast Galleries, is a curated dialogue between nearly 400 objects. Curator-in-Charge Andrew Bolton has paired contemporary couture with ancient statuary, historical paintings, and modern sculpture to illuminate the connection between clothing and the human form. By organising the display into body types ranging from the "Classical Body" to the "Pregnant Body" and "Aging Body", the museum has created a narrative that is inclusive as it is avant-garde.

The evening was led by a powerhouse trio of cultural icons, Beyoncé, Nicole Kidman and Venus Williams as co-chairs, with BLACKPINK's Lisa adding Asian creative influence to the host committee. The dress code "Fashion is Art" delivered structural looks that pushed material limits, with Beyoncé's return to the Met steps becoming a highlight as she arrived in an embellished Olivier Rousteing ensemble that felt like an unearthed relic rather than a contemporary garment, commanding global attention instantly.



Teyana Taylor



Dwayne Johnson



Nicole Kidman

Men's Must-Haves

THIS SEASON'S HOTPICKS



Dolce & Gabbana
logo and stripe-print
jacquard shirt

RM 8,273

This logo and stripe print jacquard shirt from Dolce and Gabbana showcases the brand's bold approach to pattern and texture. Crafted from richly woven jacquard, it offers a refined structure with a smooth, elevated finish. The interplay of logo and stripe motifs creates a dynamic visual contrast, adding depth while maintaining a polished look.



Prada
nappa leather jacket
RM 33,027

This nappa leather jacket from Prada reflects the brand's refined approach to modern luxury. Crafted from supple nappa leather, it offers a smooth, polished finish while maintaining a structured silhouette. The clean design is enhanced by precise tailoring and subtle detailing, delivering a look that is both contemporary and timeless.



TOM FORD
button-fastening denim
jacket
RM 6,318

This button-fastening denim jacket from Tom Ford elevates a classic staple with the brand's signature sense of refinement. Crafted from premium denim, it offers a structured yet comfortable fit that retains its shape while allowing ease of movement. The clean lines and precise construction are complemented by subtle detailing, giving the piece a polished, modern edge.



Dolce & Gabbana
striped double-breasted
two-piece suit
RM 14,591

This striped double-breasted two-piece suit from Dolce and Gabbana reflects the brand's sharp approach to modern tailoring. Expertly crafted, it features a structured silhouette with defined shoulders and a tailored fit that enhances the form. The classic stripe pattern adds depth and sophistication, while the double-breasted design brings a timeless sense of authority.



SATOSHI NAKAMOTO
hooded graphic bomber
jacket
RM 14,804

This hooded graphic bomber jacket from Satoshi Nakamoto delivers a bold fusion of streetwear attitude and contemporary design. Crafted with a structured yet comfortable fit, it offers ease of movement while maintaining a defined silhouette. The graphic detailing adds a striking visual edge, while the hooded element introduces a functional, urban appeal.



Brunello Cucinelli
suede outerwear jacket
RM 33,783

This suede outerwear jacket from Brunello Cucinelli exemplifies the brand's commitment to understated luxury and impeccable craftsmanship. Crafted from supple suede, it offers a rich texture and a refined finish, while maintaining a structured yet comfortable silhouette. The clean design is enhanced by precise tailoring and subtle detailing, creating a look that is both polished and effortless.

Women's Essentials

THIS SEASON'S HOTPICKS



Brunello Cucinelli
zip-up hoodie
RM 12,222

This zip-up hoodie from Brunello Cucinelli redefines casualwear through a lens of refined luxury. Crafted from premium materials, it offers a soft, comfortable feel while maintaining a clean, structured silhouette. The minimalist design is elevated by subtle detailing and precise construction, ensuring a polished finish that goes beyond everyday basics.



ETRO
paisley-print leather coat
RM 40,228

This paisley print leather coat from ETRO embodies the brand's signature fusion of heritage and bold expression. Crafted from smooth leather, it offers a structured silhouette that delivers both presence and refinement. The iconic paisley motif is reimagined across the surface, adding rich visual depth and an artistic character.



Burberry
Waterloo Heritage belted
trench coat
RM 11,128

This Waterloo Heritage belted trench coat from Burberry reflects the brand's enduring legacy of British craftsmanship and timeless design. Expertly tailored, it features a structured silhouette with a defined waist, enhanced by a classic belt that offers both function and elegance. Crafted from durable, weather resistant fabric, it delivers practicality without compromising on style.



Alaïa
cotton T-shirt with print
RM 12,309

This cotton T-shirt from Alaïa captures the house's signature balance of precision and modern femininity. Crafted from soft, breathable cotton, it offers a clean, structured silhouette that feels both comfortable and refined. The printed detail introduces a subtle yet distinctive visual element, adding depth without overpowering the design.



DRIES VAN NOTEN
embroidered blazer
RM 15,412

This embroidered blazer from Dries Van Noten reflects the brand's distinctive approach to artistry and tailoring. Expertly crafted with a structured silhouette, it offers a refined fit that balances sharp lines with effortless wearability. Intricate embroidery adds depth and visual richness, elevating the piece with a sense of individuality and texture.



ETRO
lace paisley maxi dress
RM 21,458

This lace paisley maxi dress from ETRO showcases the brand's rich heritage of intricate patterns and bohemian elegance. Crafted with a flowing silhouette, it drapes beautifully while offering a sense of lightness and movement. The delicate lace construction is elevated by the signature paisley motif, adding depth and artistic character to the design.



McLaren Returns

A RENEWED PUSH TO RECLAIM PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP THIS SEASON

McLaren is preparing for one of the most closely watched repositioning moments in its modern history as the brand moves towards a major strategic reveal scheduled for summer 2026. Following a period of restructuring, leadership refinement and product recalibration, the British performance manufacturer is now entering a phase that is widely seen as a reset of its long term direction. The upcoming announcement is expected to define not only its next generation of vehicles, but also how McLaren intends to position itself within a rapidly evolving global performance car landscape.

At the core of this comeback strategy is a renewed emphasis on identity. McLaren has built its reputation on lightweight engineering, aerodynamic precision and uncompromised driving dynamics, and these principles remain central to its future direction. While many competitors are expanding aggressively into full electrification and multi segment portfolios, McLaren is taking a more focused path, prioritising driving engagement and performance authenticity over broad market diversification. This approach reflects a deliberate decision to protect brand purity in an industry increasingly shaped by technological convergence. It reinforces a commitment to staying true to its philosophy.

A key area of development lies in the evolution of next generation performance platforms. These architectures are expected to form the backbone of future McLaren models, offering improved structural rigidity, reduced weight and enhanced aerodynamic efficiency. Engineering priorities continue to focus on optimising power delivery, chassis responsiveness and vehicle balance, ensuring that driving feel remains at the centre of every product. At the same time, hybridisation is expected to play an important transitional role, allowing McLaren to meet global emissions requirements while maintaining its signature performance character.



Unlike many luxury performance manufacturers that are rapidly shifting towards full electric lineups, McLaren is adopting a more measured approach to electrification. The integration of hybrid systems is not positioned as a replacement for traditional performance, but rather as an enhancement layer designed to improve responsiveness and efficiency. This strategy reflects the brand's belief that emotional driving experience remains a defining factor in the supercar segment, particularly among enthusiasts who value mechanical engagement and feedback.



Interior development is also undergoing transformation, with a stronger focus on digital integration and driver centric ergonomics. Future cabins are expected to feature streamlined layouts, advanced digital interfaces and configurable driving environments that adapt to different performance modes. This shift reflects a broader industry trend where supercar interiors are becoming more technologically advanced while maintaining a clear focus on driving engagement rather than excessive luxury ornamentation.

The timing of McLaren's summer comeback is particularly significant given the broader transformation taking place within the global automotive industry. Electrification, regulatory pressure and shifting consumer expectations are forcing manufacturers to rethink traditional performance definitions. In this context, McLaren's strategy stands out as a more conservative yet focused interpretation of future mobility, one that prioritises continuity of driving experience over rapid structural change.



Beyond powertrain development, McLaren's comeback strategy is also closely linked to potential product expansion. While the brand has historically maintained a tightly focused range centred around mid engine supercars, industry speculation suggests that future direction may involve selective diversification. This could include models designed to broaden usability while retaining performance credibility, allowing McLaren to strengthen its commercial positioning without diluting its core identity.

Design evolution also plays a critical role in this next phase. McLaren continues to refine its aerodynamic language, with future models expected to feature more advanced airflow management systems, active aerodynamic components and increased use of lightweight composite materials.





The Ochre Majesty

THE ELEVATED ALLURE OF MARRAKECH

In the evolving landscape of global luxury, Marrakech remains a destination that defies the conventional, offering a sensory tapestry that balances ancient heritage with a contemporary, avant-garde spirit. Known as the "Ochre City" for its distinct terracotta-hued ramparts, Marrakech has matured into a sanctuary for the discerning traveler seeking "transformative isolation." In 2026, the city's appeal lies in its ability to offer a profound architectural dialogue between the bustling energy of the Medina and the serene, expansive stillness of the surrounding Palmeraie. For the KL lifestyle reader, Marrakech represents more than a destination; it is an immersive study in craftsmanship, where the traditional zellige tilework and hand-carved cedar meet the refined minimalism of modern design. This synergy is most evident in the city's thriving arts district, which continues to draw international collectors to its galleries and the iconic Musée Yves Saint Laurent, a testament to the city's long-standing relationship with high fashion and creative expression.



The true essence of Marrakshi luxury is found within the "architecture of the interior." Beyond the nondescript wooden doors of the Medina lies the world of the Riad, stately traditional homes centered around lush, open-air courtyards. These private sanctuaries offer an intentional escape from the external world, where the sound of trickling fountains and the scent of orange blossoms replace the city's vibrant pulse. In 2026, the Riad experience has been elevated through the integration of sophisticated wellness technologies and bespoke concierge services that prioritize intellectual engagement.

As the luxury traveler looks toward the horizon, the city's perimeter offers a different, more expansive form of grandeur. The Palmeraie, a sprawling palm grove on the outskirts of the city has become the preferred enclave for those seeking the "silence and stone" aesthetic. Here, grand estates are set within hectares of olive groves and rose gardens, offering an unobstructed view of the snow-capped Atlas Mountains.



This landscape facilitates a unique form of leisure, where each experience is shaped by the vastness and quiet drama of its surroundings, from private hot air balloon expeditions at dawn that drift above rolling plains and distant mountains bathed in soft morning light, to sunset horse riding across the Agafay Desert where warm hues stretch endlessly and time appears to slow. These moments are less about activity and more about immersion, offering a rare connection to space, silence and natural beauty.

The wellness narrative in Marrakech has also undergone a biological renaissance, moving beyond the traditional hammam as the city's elite retreats now offer diagnostic wellness programmes that blend ancestral Moroccan botanical knowledge with modern science. From rhassoul clay treatments enriched with locally sourced minerals to personalised aromatherapy derived from the Rose Valley, the focus is on a holistic reset of the nervous system. This commitment to well being is mirrored in the city's dining scene, which in 2026 has embraced a farm to table philosophy with a North African twist, where the finest experiences unfold in candlelit garden settings and organic ingredients from the Ourika Valley are transformed into refined interpretations of Moroccan classics, paired with an atmosphere of effortless elegance. Together, these elements position Marrakech as a destination where restoration, gastronomy and cultural heritage exist in seamless harmony, offering a refined sense of balance and timeless cultural sophistication.



Madeira's charm extends beyond its landscapes, with Funchal's historic centre offering cobbled streets, colonial architecture and vibrant markets like Mercado dos Lavradores. Private tours of vineyards and villages reveal centuries-old traditions, while quieter April festivals provide an intimate glimpse into local culture.





Bucharest And Transylvania

THE DUALITY OF ROMANIAN LUXURY

Romania is currently undergoing a remarkable cultural and creative rebirth, gradually shedding the lingering mystique that once defined international perceptions of the country to reveal a destination of extraordinary elegance, depth, and complexity. Across its cities and countryside, traces of layered history coexist with a growing contemporary confidence, creating an atmosphere that feels both timeless and newly awakened. For the discerning traveller, Romania offers the increasingly rare opportunity to encounter a world where Belle Époque grandeur, Orthodox heritage, and untamed natural beauty exist in compelling harmony. Grand boulevards lined with ornate facades, historic theatres, and aristocratic villas speak of a sophisticated European past, while the surrounding landscapes remain raw, expansive, and emotionally powerful. In Bucharest, often called the “Little Paris” of Eastern Europe, historic palaces and nineteenth century architecture stand beside galleries, hotels, and dining spaces.



Bucharest

The Romanian capital remains the epicentre of the country's high society, where wide boulevards and neoclassical architecture whisper stories of a gilded past. Known historically as the Little Paris of the East, Bucharest has successfully reclaimed its title through a masterful blending of historic restoration and avant garde design. Today, the city serves as a hub for luxury seekers who appreciate the juxtaposition of gritty urban energy and refined classical grace. The city is a patchwork of eras, where glass towers sit comfortably alongside 19th century villas, all connected by a shared appreciation for the arts and a blossoming café culture.



The Suter Palace Heritage Boutique Hotel stands as a pinnacle of exclusivity. Perched atop the highest point in the city, this former palace is a sanctuary of crystal chandeliers, grand interiors and bespoke service tailored to the global elite. Each suite is a masterclass in heritage design, blending old world elegance with contemporary comfort while offering sweeping views across the city skyline towards the Palace of the Parliament. For those drawn to the vibrant energy of the Old Town, The Marmorosch Bucharest delivers a truly cinematic experience. Housed within a former legendary bank, the hotel preserves its historic grandeur through soaring ceilings, polished marble details and refined Art Deco interiors. Guests can enjoy a signature cocktail inside the original vault, surrounded by an atmosphere that rivals some of the finest luxury hotels in Western Europe. They reflect Bucharest's growing identity as a city where heritage and modern luxury exist together.

Transylvania

Beyond the capital lies a region of ancient Saxon villages and breathtaking mountain ranges. Transylvania has moved far beyond its folklore roots, establishing itself as a premier destination for slow luxury. This movement focuses on heritage, privacy, and an intimate connection with nature, offering a reprieve from the fast paced modern world.



Matca Hotel Relais & Châteaux near Bran represents the new face of Romanian hospitality. It is a minimalist masterpiece that draws inspiration from traditional farmhouse architecture while providing world class spa facilities overlooking the Bucegi Mountains. The experience here is one of profound stillness, where the crisp mountain air and panoramic views provide a natural therapy for the soul.



For a more secluded affair, The Bethlen Estates in Criş provides a collection of impeccably restored manor houses. Here, the experience is entirely bespoke, offering private chefs and curated expeditions through the rolling hills of Transylvanian countryside. Guests can stay in ancestral homes that have been updated with contemporary interior design, ensuring that every modern comfort is available while preserving the historical integrity of the estate. Whether it is horse riding through wildflower meadows or enjoying a private wine tasting in an 800 year old cellar, the focus is always on authentic, unhurried experiences. Luxury in Romania is not merely about the destination but the exclusive access to its hidden treasures. For motoring enthusiasts, a private chauffeur driven journey across Transfăgărăşan offers breathtaking vistas.

For those with an interest in conservation, private guided tours into the Virgin Forests allow for ethical encounters with the continent's largest population of brown bears. These journeys provide a profound insight into the region's biodiversity, led by expert wildlife rangers who share their deep knowledge of the Carpathian ecosystem.





Six Senses Zil Pasyon

A SECLUDED ISLAND WHERE NATURE AND LUXURY ALIGN

In the global cartography of travel, the Seychelles has long occupied a position of mythic status, a granitic archipelago scattered across the Indian Ocean like a handful of emeralds. Yet, even within this rarefied context, the private island of Félicité stands as a geographical anomaly. Defined by massive, weather-sculpted boulders that appear as prehistoric monoliths, the island serves as the dramatic stage for Six Senses Zil Pasyon. For the modern urbanite, particularly those navigating the high-density professional and editorial spheres of Kuala Lumpur, this resort offers a necessary departure from the traditional luxury hotel. It is a masterclass in "stealth architecture," where the man-made world does not merely occupy the landscape, but actively surrenders to it.

The design philosophy of Zil Pasyon is rooted in the concept of surgical precision. Rather than clearing the land to accommodate structures, the resort's thirty-three pool villas and expansive residences were engineered to fit within the existing crevices of the granite outcrops and the dense tropical canopy. This results in a sanctuary that is virtually invisible from the sea, preserving the island's iconic, rugged silhouette. For the guest, this architectural invisibility translates into a profound sense of "transformative isolation." Each villa blends timber stone and glass, opening to the surrounding turquoise waters.



The accommodations themselves are less like hotel rooms and more like private estates, each strategically positioned to maximize the theatricality of the Indian Ocean sunsets. The one and two-bedroom villas feature vaulted ceilings and hand-crafted furnishings that reflect a sophisticated, "island-chic" aesthetic, yet the true centerpiece is the private infinity-edge pool accompanying every unit. These pools are designed to appear as if they are spilling directly into the horizon, creating a seamless visual transition from the domestic space to the deep sapphire of the sea. This sense of fluidity is a recurring motif; the architecture encourages a lifestyle that is perpetually half-indoors and half-exposed to the salt-tinged breeze, a luxury of space and air that is increasingly rare in urban centers.

For the traveler whose requirements extend toward the palatial, the resort's multi-level Residences represent the zenith of the avant-garde tropical living. Perched on the island's highest ridges, these three and four-bedroom structures offer 360-degree vistas of the neighboring islands of La Digue, Praslin, and Marianne. The design is daringly contemporary, moving away from the thatched-roof vernacular toward a clean, geometric silhouette. Master suites feature transparent bottom pools that cast shimmering light below, merging water and living space.



Wellness at Six Senses has always been a pillar of the brand, but at Zil Pasyon, it is elevated by the primal energy of the terrain. The Six Senses Spa is famously situated among towering boulders, with treatment pavilions linked by timber walkways that snake around the rock face. The sensory experience of receiving a treatment while suspended above the crashing surf is unparalleled. However, the approach here transcends traditional pampering; the facility is a center for high-performance health, offering technologically driven Wellness Screenings and personalized Sleep Programs.

The culinary narrative is equally rigorous, governed by a "garden-to-fork" ethos that celebrates the island's own bounty. The resort's extensive organic gardens and on-site sustainability lab are not merely back-of-house operations; they are the heart of the gastronomic experience. At Island Café, the flavors of the historic spice trade routes are reimagined through a Seychellois Creole lens, while the Ocean Kitchen operates as a sophisticated, no-meat venue focusing on the daily catch from the surrounding reefs. For the epicurean, Lakanbiz offers a moody, wood paneled retreat for sampling infused rums and cigars, providing a masculine, club like atmosphere that serves as a perfect evening counterpoint to the equatorial sun.



Six Senses Zil Pasyon

Address: Felicité, Seychelles

Tel.: +248 4 671 000

Website: www.sixsenses.com



The KL Lifestyle Art Space KLAS recently celebrated a significant milestone with its latest Malaysian and Southeast Asian Art Auction, held on Sunday, 19 April 2026. Returning to its purpose built flagship gallery in Petaling Jaya, the event drew a strong presence of seasoned collectors, investors and art enthusiasts, creating a lively atmosphere defined by confident and competitive bidding. The auction showcased an extensive lineup of 56 artists, spanning both established names and emerging talents, ultimately achieving a notable total realised price that reflects the continued strength, resilience and growing confidence within the regional art market. The success of the event also underscored KLAS's role as a key platform for promoting Southeast Asian art, further reinforcing its reputation within the collecting community while signalling sustained momentum in the market's development.

Leading the Market: High Value Masterpieces

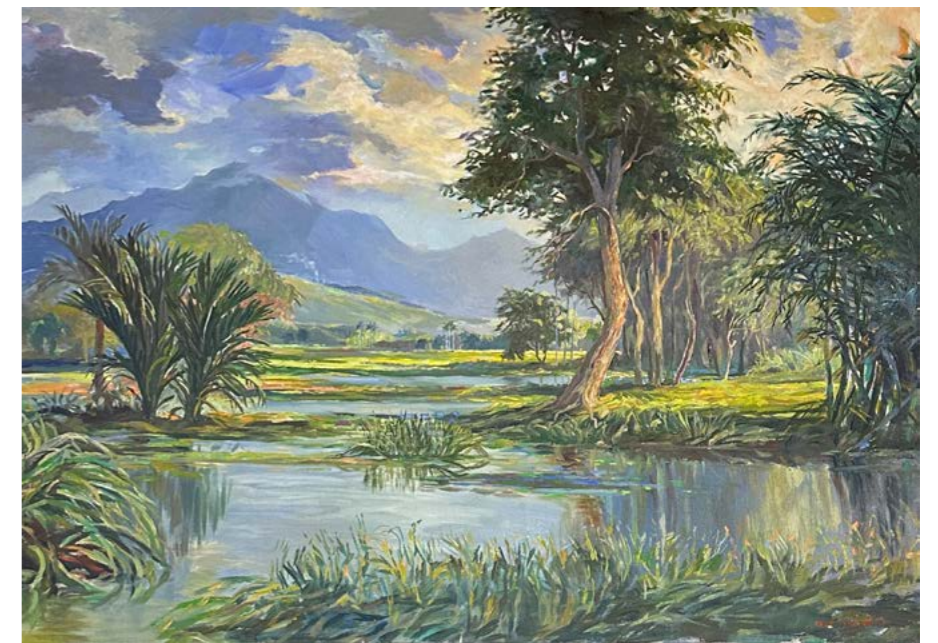
Yusof Ghani, Datuk: Demand for Datuk Yusof Ghani's work remained notably strong, reinforcing his position as a key figure in Malaysian contemporary art. His *Siri Tari IV* 1988 achieved RM 180,000, reflecting continued appreciation for the expressive movement and intensity that define his celebrated *Tari* series. Meanwhile, *Senggarang – Hijau Series* 1999 also realised RM 190,400, highlighting sustained interest in his later explorations of colour, texture and layered composition. Together, these results underscore the enduring appeal of his dynamic visual language and the confidence collectors continue to place in works that carry both artistic depth and historical significance, while also signalling a broader recognition of his contributions to the evolution of abstract expressionism within the Southeast Asian art landscape and the lasting relevance of his work among both seasoned collectors and a new generation of buyers.

YUSOF GHANI (DATUK)
Senggarang - Hijau Series, 1999
Mixed media on canvas 163 x 203 cm
SOLD RM 190,400



Khalil Ibrahim: The legendary Khalil Ibrahim stood out during the auction, demonstrating enduring appeal across multiple mediums and subjects. Celebrated for his ability to capture the quiet beauty of everyday Malaysian life, his works continue to resonate with collectors drawn to their warmth and narrative depth. His *Landscape* series attracted steady interest, with a nostalgic 1993 piece selling for RM 5,040, reflecting appreciation for his serene depictions of natural surroundings. At the same time, his iconic *East Coast Series – Fishermen* (1987) achieved RM 5,824, highlighting ongoing demand for works that portray the rhythms and livelihoods of coastal communities. These results highlight his versatility and reaffirm his place in Malaysian art history, with continued collector interest in his storytelling and style.

KHALIL IBRAHIM
Imaginary East Coast Landscape, 1997
Oil on canvas 60 x 73 cm
SOLD RM 78,400

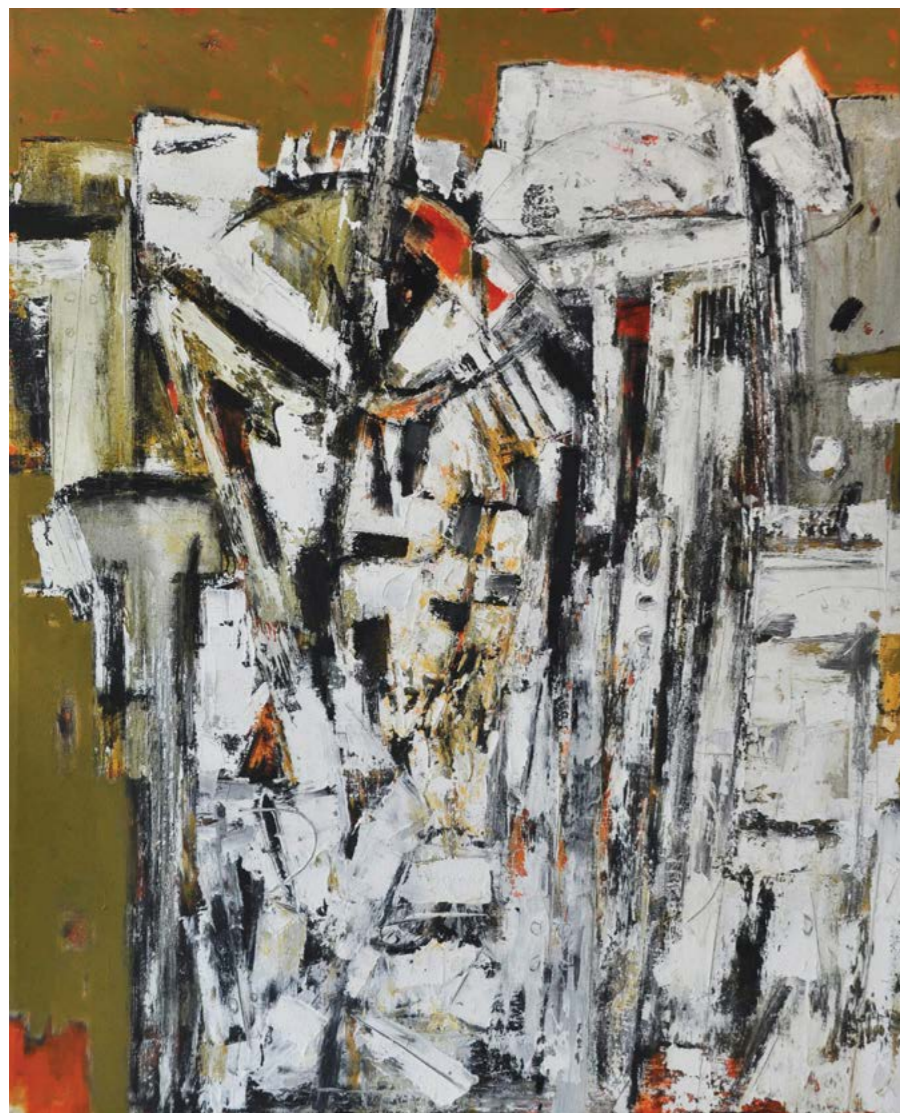


Building on the strong results achieved during the session, the auction further underscored the enduring market strength of Datuk Yusof Ghani and Khalil Ibrahim, two figures who continue to anchor collector confidence within the Malaysian art landscape. Both artists sustained demand across different periods of their careers, reflecting a market that values both legacy and consistency, with Yusof Ghani's dynamic and expressive works standing out as key highlights.

Khalil Ibrahim's results reinforced his versatility and lasting appeal, from the fluid elegance of his batik pieces to the quiet charm of his landscapes. His works continue to resonate with collectors who value cultural depth and refined execution, further strengthening his position within Malaysia's modern art scene.

A Triumphant Showcase of Heritage

KLAS ART AUCTION RESULTS



Awang Damit Ahmad: Demand for Awang Damit Ahmad's evocative and symbolic landscapes remained notably strong, further cementing his reputation as one of Malaysia's most respected contemporary painters. Renowned for his richly textured surfaces and deeply introspective visual language, his works often explore themes of memory, place and cultural identity through layered abstraction, creating compositions that feel both personal and universal. His *Iraga Belatik Rapuh II* (2007), a significant piece from his acclaimed *Iraga* series, achieved RM 140,000, reflecting continued collector confidence in this defining body of work and its importance within his wider artistic journey.

Further reinforcing this momentum, his *Payarama Series – After Harvest* (2013) realised RM 85,000, highlighting sustained interest in his exploration of rural narratives and the rhythms of landscape, while his later piece, *Garis Mega – Terus Menyala* (2019), sold for RM 95,200, demonstrating ongoing demand for his evolving visual language. These results illustrate not only the enduring appeal of Awang Damit Ahmad's practice, but also the depth and consistency that collectors value across different phases of his career. His ability to continuously refine his abstraction while maintaining a strong sense of identity has positioned his works as both culturally significant and highly collectible, reflecting the growing appreciation for Malaysian modern masters within the regional art market.

AWANG DAMIT AHMAD
Iraga Belatik Rapuh II, 2007
Mixed media on canvas 204 x 173 cm
SOLD RM 140,000



Ibrahim Hussein, Datuk: A cornerstone of Malaysian modernism, Ibrahim Hussein's works once again demonstrated their enduring strength in the market, reflecting his lasting influence and significance within both regional and international art circles. Widely recognised for his distinctive "printage" technique and fluid visual language, his compositions bridge traditional sensibilities with a progressive modernist approach, making his works instantly recognisable and highly valued among collectors. His *Untitled* (1974) achieved an impressive RM 95,200, exemplifying the dynamic energy and refined execution that define his earlier practice, a period often regarded as pivotal in shaping his artistic identity.

Another work from 1980 realised RM 89,600, further reinforcing his position as a highly sought after figure among serious collectors. This continued demand highlights the consistency of his market performance across different phases of his career, with collectors drawn to both the historical importance and aesthetic strength of his works. Ibrahim Hussein's ability to fuse cultural narratives with experimentation and technical innovation has ensured his lasting relevance, while his contributions to Malaysian modern art continue to be widely celebrated. Together, these results reaffirm his status as a blue chip name within the regional art market, with works that hold both enduring artistic value and strong long term investment appeal.

IBRAHIM HUSSEIN (DATUK)
Untitled, 1974
Acrylic on canvas 60 x 50 cm
SOLD RM 95,200



Chuang Che: Representing the strength of the international abstract market, Chuang Che's *Landscape #1* (1970) saw a successful hammer price of RM 145,600. His ability to merge traditional Chinese landscape sensibilities with Western abstraction continues to make him a favourite among top tier collectors.



IBRAHIM HUSSEIN (DATUK)
Untitled, 1980
Acrylic on canvas 38 x 38 cm
SOLD RM 89,600

CHUANG CHE
Landscape 1, 1970
Acrylic and collage on canvas
129.5 x 167.5 cm
SOLD RM 145,600



HOESSEIN ENAS (DATO')
Portrait of a Malay Woman, 1949
Oil on canvas 61 x 48 cm
SOLD RM 84,000

Mohd Hoessein Enas, Dato': One of the most historically significant sales was the *Portrait of a Malay Woman, Datin Siti Zahara* (1949). As the earliest known portrait by the artist painted during his formative years in Indonesia this rare work achieved a strong hammer price of RM 84,000.

Bui Huu Hung: International interest remained strong for Vietnamese master Bui Huu Hung, whose lacquer on wood piece, *Mandarin Daughter* (2001), fetched a significant RM 64,960.



BUI HUU HUNG
Mandarin Daughter, 2001
Lacquer on wood 122 x 121 cm
SOLD RM 64,960



Klas Art Auction

SNEAK PREVIEW OF UPCOMING JUNE | JULY AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

The Klas Art Auction will be held at KLAS @ 31 Jalan Utara, Petaling Jaya, bringing together collectors, enthusiasts and art investors for one of the most anticipated events in the regional art calendar. As the Southeast Asian art market continues to gather momentum, the upcoming June and July auctions present a carefully curated selection of works that reflect both cultural heritage and strong investment appeal. This season's line up places particular emphasis on leading Malaysian artists whose works remain highly sought after in both private and institutional collections. Among the highlights are significant pieces by Awang Damit Ahmad, one of Malaysia's most respected contemporary painters. Known for his richly layered abstractions and emotionally charged surfaces, works such as *Estetika Timur - Perisai* (2022), *Belatak Rapuh* (2010), *Garis Mega Hanya Desir Angin...Biarkan* (2018) and *Payarama Series After Harvest* (2013) are expected to attract strong bidding interest from serious collectors.

AWANG DAMIT AHMAD

Belatak Rapuh, 2010
Mixed media on canvas 91 x 91 cm
RM 35,000 - RM 68,000



Building on the strong results from the previous auction, this season will also feature two portraiture works by Dato' Mohd Hoessein Enas, whose refined depictions of Malaysian identity and character have consistently performed well among collectors. His portraits are widely recognised for their technical precision, graceful composition and strong sense of cultural narrative, capturing not only the likeness of his subjects but also the social and historical context in which they exist. This layered approach to portraiture has ensured his works remain highly regarded within both private and institutional collections, with continued interest from seasoned buyers. Celebrated for their cultural depth and enduring relevance, his works continue to resonate strongly within the market, reflecting a sustained appreciation for classical figurative art in Malaysia. This ongoing demand reinforces his position as one of the most important portrait artists in the country, while also adding further weight to the auction's already compelling line up.

AWANG DAMIT AHMAD

Garis Mega _Hanya Desir Angin.. Biarkan.., 2018
Mixed media on canvas 91 x 91 cm
RM 35,000 - RM 68,000





RAFIEE GHANI
Oriental Shades IV, 1998 Oil on canvas 90 x 99 cm
RM 12,000 - RM 25,000

Collectors drawn to figurative and narrative expression will find compelling works by Rafiee Ghani, whose bold compositions and distinctive visual language continue to resonate within the Malaysian art scene. Featured works including Oriental Shades I, Oriental Shades IV, Pahlawan and The Wait demonstrate his dynamic approach to colour, form and storytelling.

The auction also pays tribute to modern Malaysian masters, with works by Khalil Ibrahim, whose poetic depictions of East Coast life remain enduring favourites among collectors. His East Coast Fishermen Series reflects a lyrical sensitivity that continues to define his legacy. Alongside him, Ismail Mat Hussin is represented through his celebrated batik works, preserving the traditions and cultural identity of Kelantan through his iconic visual language.

Ismail Mat Hussin has consistently demonstrated strong auction performance in recent years, with his batik works achieving notable results across multiple sales at KL Lifestyle Art Space. His celebrated piece Mengirakan Ikan Tangkapan (2007), for instance, was successfully sold for RM95,200.



RAFIEE GHANI
Oriental Shades I, 1998 Oil on canvas 90 x 99 cm
RM 12,000 - RM 25,000



RAFIEE GHANI
The Wait
Oil on canvas 122 x 122 cm
RM 8,000 - RM 15,000

Across the January and April 2026 auctions, his works such as Wayang Kulit (2009) and Wau (2003) were featured prominently with strong estimate ranges, reinforcing his continued presence in the secondary market. His consistent performance is driven by his reputation as one of Malaysia's foremost batik artists, known for elevating the medium into fine art through intricate layering techniques and richly detailed depictions of East Coast village life

ISMAIL MAT HUSSIN
2010 Batik 63 x 78 cm
RM 18,000 - RM 25,000

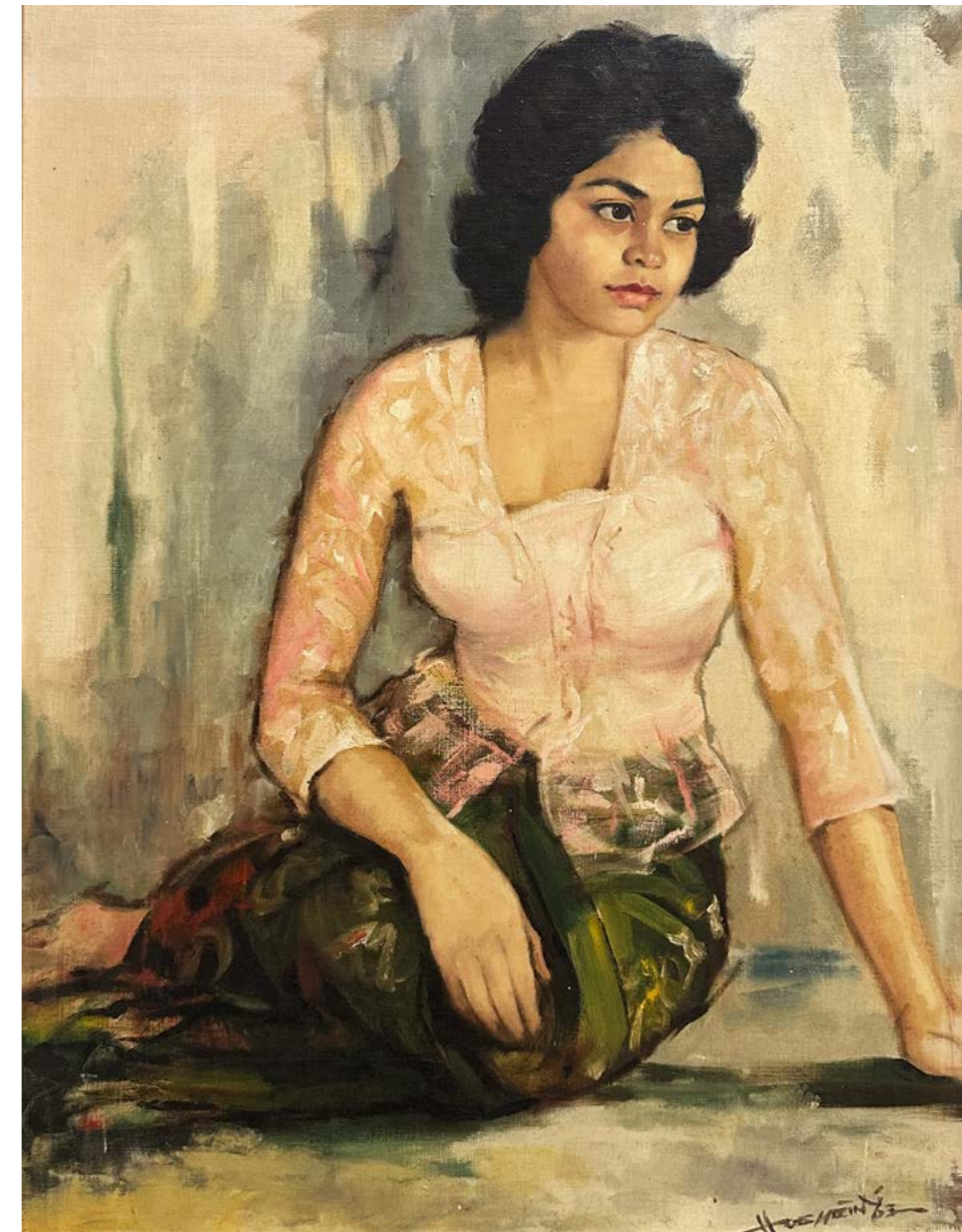
The catalogue also expands its regional appeal with works by Han Snel, Kamchorn Soonpongsri and Sjafrî, offering collectors a broader perspective beyond the Malaysian art landscape and into Southeast Asia's wider creative dialogue.

Among the works still pending final confirmation are pieces by Fatimah Chik and Ong Kim Seng, both of whom consistently attract strong market attention. If included, these works are expected to become standout lots within the auction.

With a thoughtful balance of established masters, contemporary innovators and regional voices, the Klas Art Auction June and July editions promise a compelling showcase of artistic excellence. Collectors can anticipate a season rich with opportunity, spanning museum quality works, decorative highlights and long term investment pieces, all presented within one of Petaling Jaya's key cultural venues.



MOHD HOESSEIN ENAS, DATO'
1964
Oil on canvas 60 x 49.5 cm
RM 26,000 - RM 45,000



MOHD HOESSEIN ENAS, (DATO')
1963 Oil on board 73 x 54 cm
RM 40,000 - RM 70,000



RAFIEE GHANI
Pahlawan, 2007
Oil on canvas 101 x 75 cm
RM 8,000 - RM 15,000

GEORGE KEYT
Untitled, 1943
Oil on paper 37 x 29 cm
RM 3,000 - RM 7,000



LIM CHENG HOE
Village in the Forest, Singapore 1972
Watercolour on paper 37 x 50 cm
RM 12,000 - RM 25,000



The Mind-Body Diet Connection

HOW FOOD SHAPES MOOD AND MENTAL CLARITY

The relationship between diet and mental health has become one of the most important areas of focus in modern wellness as research continues to highlight how closely nutrition and emotional wellbeing are connected. Beyond physical health and weight management food choices are now understood to have a direct influence on mood cognitive performance and long term mental resilience. This growing awareness is shifting public perception encouraging a more holistic approach to health where the mind and body are viewed as deeply interconnected rather than separate systems.

At the centre of this connection is the communication between the gut and the brain often referred to as the gut brain axis. This complex network allows signals to travel between the digestive system and the central nervous system influencing emotional regulation and mental state. The gut microbiome which consists of trillions of microorganisms living within the digestive tract plays a crucial role in this process. These microorganisms assist not only in digestion but also in the production of neurotransmitters that help regulate mood including those associated with feelings of wellbeing and stability. This highlights the link between digestive health and wellbeing.



A balanced and nutrient rich diet is increasingly linked to improved mental health outcomes. Whole foods such as fruits vegetables, whole grains lean proteins and healthy fats provide essential nutrients that support brain function and energy regulation. Certain nutrients including omega 3 fatty acids B vitamins and magnesium are particularly important as they contribute to the production of brain chemicals that influence mood and concentration. When consumed regularly, these nutrients support cognitive performance and emotional balance.

Hydration also plays an important role in mental clarity and emotional regulation. Even mild dehydration can affect concentration alertness and mood making adequate fluid intake essential for maintaining optimal brain function throughout the day. This simple yet often overlooked factor highlights how basic lifestyle habits can significantly influence mental performance and wellbeing. Maintaining consistent hydration levels supports sustained focus and overall cognitive efficiency.

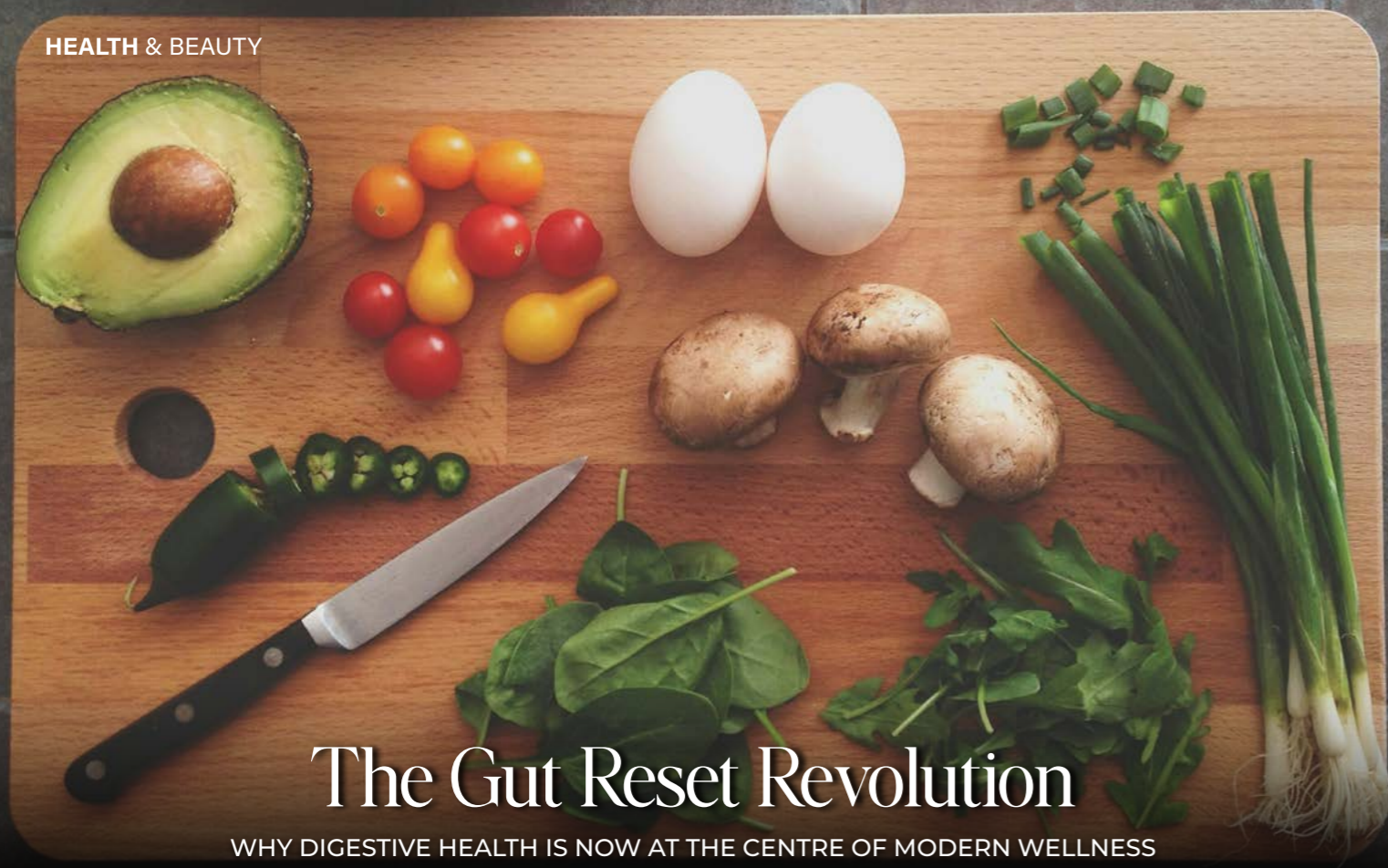


The gut microbiome has become a key area of interest in understanding the diet mental health connection. A healthy and diverse microbiome supports not only digestion but also the production of chemicals that influence emotional states. When this balance is disrupted by poor dietary habits, stress or lack of fibre it can affect both physical comfort and mental wellbeing. On the other hand diets rich in fibre fermented foods and plant based nutrients help promote a healthier gut environment which may contribute to more stable mood regulation over time. Lifestyle factors also play a significant role in shaping the relationship between diet and mental health. Stress is one of the most influential elements often affecting eating patterns and food choices.

Physical activity complements nutritional habits by supporting both brain and body health. Regular movement encourages the release of endorphins which are natural chemicals that help improve mood and reduce stress. When combined with a balanced diet physical activity contributes to a more stable mental state and improved overall wellbeing. This combination reflects a growing understanding that mental health is influenced by biological nutritional and lifestyle factors working together.

As awareness continues to grow there is an increasing shift towards viewing nutrition as a form of preventive mental health care. Rather than focusing solely on treatment after issues arise more attention is being placed on how everyday dietary choices can support emotional resilience and cognitive function over time. This approach reflects a broader change in modern wellness culture where health is understood as a continuous process shaped by consistent habits rather than isolated interventions.





The Gut Reset Revolution

WHY DIGESTIVE HEALTH IS NOW AT THE CENTRE OF MODERN WELLNESS

Digestive health has rapidly evolved from a background medical concern into one of the most influential pillars of modern wellness. As people become more conscious of how lifestyle choices affect long term wellbeing, digestion is increasingly being recognised as a central system that impacts energy levels, immunity, mental clarity and even skin health. This growing awareness has shifted gut health into mainstream conversations, positioning it as a foundation for overall physical and emotional balance. It also highlights the growing connection between internal health and visible wellbeing.

At the heart of this movement is the gut microbiome, a complex ecosystem of trillions of microorganisms that live within the digestive tract. These microorganisms play a vital role in breaking down food, absorbing nutrients and supporting immune function. When the microbiome is balanced, the body operates more efficiently, resulting in improved digestion and better overall health. However, when this balance is disrupted, it can lead to common issues such as bloating, fatigue, irregular digestion and general discomfort, highlighting just how sensitive and responsive the gut environment can be. This makes maintaining gut balance an essential part of everyday health management.



Nutrition and the Foundation of Gut Health

Diet remains one of the most powerful influences on digestive wellbeing. Foods that are rich in fibre, such as fruits, vegetables, legumes, whole grains and nuts, provide essential fuel for beneficial gut bacteria. These bacteria rely on plant based nutrients to thrive, helping maintain a stable digestive system and promoting microbial diversity. A varied diet that includes a wide range of whole foods is increasingly seen as essential for supporting long term gut health. Fermented foods also play an important role in maintaining balance within the digestive system. Items such as yoghurt, kefir, kimchi and similar cultured products contain live beneficial bacteria that help strengthen the gut microbiome.

Hydration is another key factor often overlooked in digestive wellness. Water supports the breakdown of food, aids nutrient transport and ensures smoother movement through the digestive tract. Without sufficient hydration, the digestive system can become sluggish, often leading to discomfort and reduced efficiency. Maintaining consistent fluid intake throughout the day is therefore essential for keeping digestion functioning optimally.

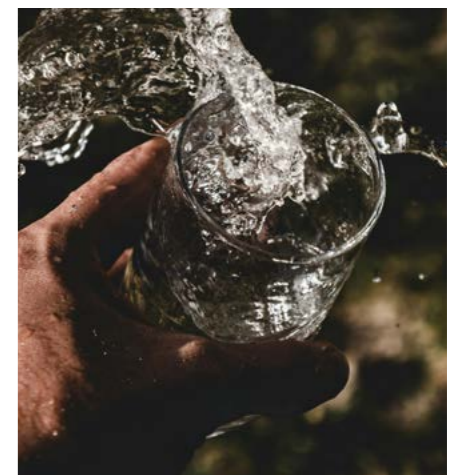


The Mind Body Connection and Digestive Balance

Beyond nutrition, lifestyle factors have a significant impact on digestive health, particularly stress and emotional wellbeing. The gut and brain are closely connected through what is known as the gut brain axis, meaning that psychological stress can directly influence digestive function. High stress levels can disrupt normal gut activity, often resulting in symptoms such as cramps, bloating or irregular bowel movements.

This connection highlights the importance of emotional regulation in maintaining physical health. Practices that reduce stress, such as mindfulness, relaxation techniques and balanced daily routines, can positively influence digestive performance. As awareness of this connection grows, more people are beginning to view mental wellbeing as an essential part of gut health rather than a separate concern.

Physical activity further enhances digestive function by stimulating intestinal movement and improving overall metabolic health. Even simple habits such as walking after meals can support smoother digestion, while regular exercise contributes to long term gut motility and microbial balance. These factors support digestive health overall.



A Shift Towards Preventive and Personalised Wellness

Modern health culture is increasingly focused on prevention rather than treatment, and digestive health sits at the centre of this shift. Instead of addressing symptoms after they appear, individuals are now encouraged to adopt consistent lifestyle habits that support gut balance over time. This includes mindful eating, balanced nutrition, stress management and regular sleep routines, all of which contribute to long term digestive stability. At the same time, digital education has played a major role in shaping public understanding of gut health.



The Power of Sunglasses

PROTECTING VISION WHILE ELEVATING PERSONAL STYLE EVERY DAY

Sunglasses have become far more than a seasonal fashion accessory. Today, they are recognised as an essential part of everyday health protection and personal styling. In countries with strong and consistent sunlight such as Malaysia, where ultraviolet exposure is present throughout the year, sunglasses play an important role in maintaining both eye health and skin wellbeing while also enhancing overall appearance.



From a health perspective, the primary function of sunglasses is to protect the eyes from harmful ultraviolet radiation. Prolonged exposure to UV rays has been linked to a range of eye conditions, including cataracts, macular degeneration and photokeratitis. These conditions often develop gradually over time, making prevention especially important. A well designed pair of sunglasses with full UV protection helps to filter out these damaging rays, reducing long term risks while ensuring greater comfort in bright outdoor environments.

In addition to UV protection, sunglasses also reduce glare, which can significantly improve visual clarity in everyday situations. Whether driving under strong sunlight, walking through open city spaces or spending time near reflective surfaces such as water or glass, glare can cause discomfort and eye fatigue. Polarised lenses reduce glare and improve clarity.



Sunglasses also contribute meaningfully to preventative skincare. The skin around the eyes is one of the most delicate areas of the face and is highly susceptible to premature ageing. Frequent squinting in bright light can lead to the development of fine lines, crow's feet and wrinkles over time. By reducing the need to squint, sunglasses help ease facial muscle tension and protect the skin from unnecessary strain. When combined with regular sunscreen use and proper hydration, they form part of a comprehensive approach to maintaining healthy, youthful looking skin.



Technological advancements in eyewear have further elevated their functionality. Modern lenses now offer a variety of enhancements designed to suit different lifestyles. Gradient lenses provide a smooth transition in tint for varying light conditions, while photochromic lenses adjust automatically to changing brightness levels. Anti reflective coatings and scratch resistant finishes also improve durability and visual comfort, ensuring that sunglasses remain both practical and long lasting. These innovations have helped transform sunglasses into a sophisticated blend of fashion and function. Another important factor is their versatility across different environments and occasions. Sunglasses are no longer limited to beachwear or holiday settings. They are now a year round essential for commuting travel and leisure, bridging practicality and style.

Beyond their health benefits, sunglasses have established themselves as a key element in modern beauty and fashion. They are one of the few accessories capable of transforming an entire look instantly. The right pair of frames can enhance facial structure, balance proportions and add definition to facial features. Oversized designs often create a sense of glamour and confidence, while sleek, minimal frames offer a more contemporary and understated elegance.

In the beauty world, sunglasses are also closely associated with confidence and personal expression. They offer a sense of subtle privacy while allowing individuals to maintain a polished and composed appearance. This makes them suitable for a wide range of settings, from casual everyday wear to more curated fashion moments.





K.M. OLI MOHAMED

ROYAL JEWELLERS SINCE 1914



K.M. OLI MOHAMED

F 2, 1ST FLOOR, BANGSAR SHOPPING CENTRE, 285, JALAN
MAAROF, BANGSAR, 59000 KUALA LUMPUR, WILAYAH
PERSEKUTUAN KUALA LUMPUR



THE MIND CONSULTANT

Therapy from the comfort of your home



The Mind Consultant - a brand comprising professionals in the mental health field provide easy, specifically-tailored online counselling service. Seek online counselling from the comfort of your home today.



Like and follow our facebook page
[themindconsultant.my](https://www.facebook.com/themindconsultant.my)



Contact us now:
[themindconsultant.com](https://www.themindconsultant.com)



MALAYSIA



*Drive —————
Beautifully*

THE STUNNING NEW GIULIA AND STELVIO
ARE YOURS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH.

NOW WELCOMING REGISTRATIONS

 alfaromeomalaysia.com

 [alfaromeomy](https://www.instagram.com/alfaromeomy)

 [alfaromeomalaysia](https://www.facebook.com/alfaromeomalaysia)