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Centara Grand Osaka wins 2024 honours



Langkawi welcomes IndiGo flights



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## Top destinations for Agoda's flight bookers

Bangkok leads Agoda's tally of its top five international flight destinations during 2024 based on bookings sold on the digital travel platform.

Thailand's capital city, Bangkok (two airports — DMK and BKK), topped the list for international flight destination bookings transacted via Agoda. Singapore followed with...

## Amadeus: Festive season's hot destinations

As the holiday season approaches, hoteliers are preparing for a surge of travellers seeking warmer climates this year.

Amadeus' forward-looking business intelligence data reveals the destinations currently recording the...

## Air India confirms 2025 network changes

Air India has confirmed significant updates this week scheduled for its international route network starting January 2025.

The changes will see Air India deploy its newest aircraft to key gateways in Southeast Asia and Europe, complementing the earlier deployment...

## Asia Pacific dominates busiest route rankings

OAG, a data platform for the global travel industry, released the 2024 Busiest Routes in the World Report on Wednesday that shows Asia Pacific dominates the top 10 busiest domestic and international routes.

OAG's Global Airline Schedules Data powered the analysis and provides...

## Trip.com Group hosts summit in Abu Dhabi

Trip.com Group's latest data indicates hotel and flight bookings have grown by over 60% year-on-year, reflecting robust global demand, according to the group's presentation at its annual summit in Abu Dhabi last week.

The Asia-Pacific region demonstrated a robust performance, with a more than 70% year-on-year increase...

## HKIA reports strong November traffic

Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) released air traffic figures for Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) for November 2024 last week.

During the month, HKIA handled 4.44 million passengers and 31,105 flight...



TTR Weekly is a reliable source of news for Asia's travel planners. Established in 1978, TTR Weekly is the property of Ross Publishing Co Ltd registered in Bangkok, Thailand. TTRW is an abbreviation of the original name Travel Trade Report.

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# Sarawak and Indonesia scale up tourism ties

In a significant step toward strengthening cross-border tourism, the Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) partnered with AirAsia to host the Sarawak Gateway to Borneo Roadshow

collaboration highlights the importance of enhancing connectivity and tourism partnerships to boost regional travel.

Indonesia consistently

Sarawak's role as a central hub for Indonesian travellers eager to experience Borneo's diverse cultural and ecological landscapes.

The roadshow highlighted Sarawak's appeal as a multi-faceted destination offering authentic cultural experiences, breathtaking nature, and meaningful community interactions.

Representatives from AirAsia, the Association of the Indonesian Tours and Travel Agencies (ASITA), Tourism Malaysia Jakarta, and the Indonesian Travel Agents Association (ASTINDO) collaborated with Sarawak's tourism, hospitality, and event stakeholders to spotlight its diverse travel offerings.

Key Sarawak partners participating in the roadshow included travel agents and tour operators such as Cat City Holidays, Ping Sing Travel & Tours, and Great Leap Tours. Hotel representatives from Hemisphere Corporation and Imperial Hotel showcased premium accommodations with thoughtful services tailored to travellers' comfort and convenience.

Business Events Sarawak also participated in, presenting Sarawak's rising profile as a sought-after destination for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions

[Read more...](#)



in Jakarta and Balikpapan last week.

The initiative strengthened ties with Indonesia, reflecting a shared commitment to creating seamless travel experiences for visitors from both destinations.

The roadshow underscores Sarawak's strategic positioning as the Gateway to Borneo — a launch pad for travellers to explore the entire Borneo Island, including Kalimantan, Sabah, and Brunei.

As the main entryway to Borneo, Sarawak offers a blend of travel experiences, from cultural heritage and natural wonders to adventure and business tourism. This

ranks among Sarawak's top three source markets for visitor arrivals, making it a vital tourism partner. With the increased frequency of AirAsia flights from Jakarta to Kuching — from three times weekly to daily — travel between the two destinations has become more accessible and convenient.

Additionally, cross-border connectivity from Kalimantan Barat via land checkpoints further strengthens Sarawak's accessibility, enabling Indonesian travellers from neighbouring provinces to explore Sarawak by road and vice versa. This expanded connectivity cements

# GATEWAY TO BORNEO

Explore the unique charm of Sarawak, where nature, culture, and adventure come together in harmony. Discover the enchanting Three Sisters Keluan Waterfall, a symbol of natural beauty and serenity. Nestled deep in the forests of Miri, this cascading wonder invites you to immerse yourself in the tranquillity of Sarawak's pristine landscapes. Find peace and wonder in the heart of nature's embrace.

 Three Sisters Keluan Waterfall, Long San, Miri  
[www.sarawaktourism.com](http://www.sarawaktourism.com)

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# Centara Grand Osaka wins 2024 honours

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, is proud to highlight an exceptional year for Centara

Design Award in the Interior Design – Hotel & Resort category. The property's first design accolade celebrates its

breathtaking aesthetics and originality, with judges also recognising the hotel's ability to enhance the community, underscoring its transformative approach to modern hospitality.

Further adding to its achievements, the

hotel received seven wins across the Hotel, Spa, and Restaurant categories at the World Luxury Hotel Awards, including Luxury New Hotel – Continent Winner: Asia, Luxury Traditional Thai Spa – Global Winner for SPA Cenvaree, and Innovative Cuisine – Continent Winner: Asia for Innovative French KUNSEI. Based on votes from over 300,000 industry

professionals and guests, these prestigious awards acknowledged the property's seamless fusion of Thai and Japanese cultural elements, impeccable service, and commitment to excellence.

The hotel's innovative steakhouse, Steakhouse WhiskeyNova, also earned a spot on the shortlist for the AHEAD Asia 2024 Awards in the Bar, Club or Lounge category. Renowned for celebrating excellence in hospitality design, AHEAD highlighted Steakhouse WhiskeyNova's captivating interiors, panoramic city views, and unique guest experience.

"We are incredibly proud of Centara Grand Hotel Osaka's achievements in its first full year of operation. These accolades are a testament to the creativity and dedication of our team, as well as our commitment to delivering [Read more...](#)

Grand Hotel Osaka, the brand's debut property in Japan.

The 33-storey landmark has quickly established itself as a standout destination in Osaka's vibrant Namba district, achieving global recognition with multiple prestigious awards, including its design accolade.

Centara Grand Hotel Osaka was honoured with the Sky



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# Langkawi welcomes IndiGo flights



The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), in collaboration with Tourism Malaysia, Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB), government agencies and local tourism industry stakeholders welcomed the inaugural flight of IndiGo from Bengaluru, India, to Langkawi, Malaysia, 16 December.

This new service marks the third direct flight to Langkawi, following those from Scoot Air, Singapore and FlyDubai, UAE.

IndiGo's daily flight departs from Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR), to Langkawi International Airport (LGK). The airline deploys an Airbus A320 aircraft with a capacity of 186 passengers. The inaugural flight landed at 1025 on 16 December with 192 passengers, including crew.

Introducing this route should bring economic benefits to

Langkawi's economy through an influx of tourists from India. LADA estimates that 300,000 tourists will visit Langkawi in December 2024.

As of the second quarter

of 2024, Langkawi welcomed 124,203 Indian visitors. LADA is confident that the IndiGo direct flight will enhance accessibility for Indian tourists, leading to increased arrivals compared to

2023, which recorded 132,000 Indian tourists.

The Malaysian government has announced a 30-day visa exemption for Indian nationals, effective from 1 December

2023 to 31 December 2024. This exemption, which includes the waiver of visa fees, facilitates easier travel for tourists from India, especially by air.




# Langkawi

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 Red Rock Beach, Rebak Island

# BWH relaunches Best Western Plus Hotel Subic



BWH Hotels, a global hospitality network comprised of WorldHotels, Best Western Hotels & Resorts, and SureStay Hotels, continues to expand its footprint in the Philippines with the relaunch of Best Western Plus Hotel Subic.

Part of the BWH Hotels' portfolio since its opening in 2018, Best Western Plus Hotel Subic will return to the group on 31 March 2025, following an extensive renovation that will re-establish it as one of the leading places to stay in Subic.

Nestled on the west coast of Luzon, this freeport zone is a popular destination for business and leisure travellers alike, with sandy beaches

and various attractions. Clark International Airport is just 50 km away, and Manila is a 2.5-hour car drive.

Upon reopening, Best Western Plus Hotel Subic will feature a collection of contemporary rooms and suites, a sea-facing rooftop pool and deck, a well-equipped fitness centre, and a choice of two restaurants. The hotel's dedicated events hall sets the stage for business and social gatherings, including weddings.

Best Western Plus Hotel Subic will join BWH Hotels' existing portfolio of eight hotels and resorts in the Philippines across a wide range of vibrant cities and resort destinations.

The Best Western Plus® brand is already well known and loved among the country's travellers, with four properties currently operating in the Philippines.

To book a stay with BWH Hotels in Asia, visit [bestwesternasia.com](https://bestwesternasia.com) and [worldhotels.com](https://worldhotels.com).

# Your Sabah Bucket List

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