

YTL

# Life

TREASURED PLACES, TREASURED MOMENTS

## renewed elegance

The refreshed Li Yen at  
The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur

## the house of the rising sun

Hinode Hills in Niseko Village  
brings new skiing luxury

## the other side of bath

Insider secrets at  
The Gainsborough Bath Spa

HOW LONG IS FOREVER?



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TIME INSTRUMENTS  
FOR URBAN EXPLORERS

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**I**n Niseko, Hokkaido, where some of the world's finest powder snow is found, our premier skiing destination – Niseko Village – welcomes its newest addition to the family. The highly anticipated luxury apartment hotel Hinode Hills occupies a prime position, offering direct ski-in ski-out access to Mount Niseko-Annupuri's famed trails, as well as a host of ski services available at the property. Strategically located adjacent to the Upper Village Gondola, it provides the convenience of mobility around the mountain with easy lift access. At Hinode Hills, we are delighted to offer guests a truly integrated and seamless experience. As part of the Niseko Village resort, guests will enjoy a wide variety of diverse dining and retail venues, world-class facilities and indoor and outdoor attractions.

Over in Australia, lazy days by the beach, delicious barbecues and the great outdoors, beckon. Take a road trip from the Melbourne Marriott to The Great Ocean Road in a convertible, or perhaps indulge in a night of gastronomy at the Sydney Harbour Marriott's chef-hatted Silvester's. At The Westin Perth, you may luxuriate in the hotel's stylish award-winning aesthetics, with its inviting contemporary interiors recalling Western Australia's diverse natural landscape.

Equally exciting experiences are found across our portfolio of Malaysian properties. The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur welcomes a refreshed Li Yen, the award-winning Chinese restaurant of 22 years which now boasts an exquisite redesign, reminiscent of a gracefully blossoming garden. The restaurant continues to be the epitome of fine Chinese cuisine, with its reimagined collection of authentic Chinese classics curated in harmony with the seasons. At the private island getaway that is Pangkor Laut Resort, the secluded Emerald Bay promises sun, sea and romantic candlelit dinners framed by kaleidoscopic sunsets. Should your travel itinerary take you eastwards, you may retrace *Dame Judi Dench's Wild Borneo Adventure* at Gaya Island Resort in Sabah where she explored the wonderful marine life off the shores of the tropical island and took great interest in our conservation programmes on land and sea.

We look forward to welcoming you to a YTL Hotels property soon.



# growing strong



## marriott international and ytl hotels sign agreements for new developments in kuala lumpur, malaysia.

**A**n extension of the Happening Hotel – JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur – and a new development – Moxy KL Chinatown – are currently in development after an agreement between Marriott International and YTL Hotels. “Our 24-year relationship strengthens with each deal and there are certainly more in the pipeline. We have immense commitment and dedication to make an even greater mark on the world when it comes to Malaysian hospitality,” said Dato’ Mark Yeoh, YTL Hotels’ Executive Director. The new Moxy KL Chinatown will feature 368 chic and contemporary rooms, bars and lounges, a swimming pool, fitness centre and meeting rooms catered to young travellers. JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur, on the other hand, will see the addition of 162 rooms, making for a grand total of 740 rooms after completion. YTL Hotels and Marriott International will also introduce AC Hotels for the first time in Malaysia, strategically converting Vistana Hotels’ current portfolio across the country – Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kuantan. The urban lifestyle brand embraces European design and style.



Right: the official signing ceremony of AC Hotels – Craig Smith, Dato’ Mark Yeoh and Rajeev Menon.  
Below: the official signing ceremony of Moxy KL Chinatown and JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur’s extension.  
Facing page: Moxy KL.





# all aboard the tiger express

the eastern & oriental express teams up with save wild tigers to create a memorable art-inspired journey.



Above: Jacky Tsai, Ping Coombes, Victoria Tang-Owen, Simon Clinton, Kim Jones, Mel Blatt and Jaime Winstone.  
Facing page: Tiger Express crossing the River Kwai Bridge.

**L**uxury train Eastern & Oriental Express partnered with the global charity initiative Save Wild Tigers to create Tiger Express, with two carriages given a tiger flair by British-Chinese artist Jacky Tsai. The artist, who created Alexander McQueen's iconic floral skull, used a design that fused traditional Eastern artistic techniques with Western imagery, creating an original style that speaks of balance and harmony. Guests travelled from Bangkok to Singapore over six days, visiting the River Kwai Bridge, Kuala Kangsar and the Lion City, ending with an art auction by Tsai and a YTL Hotels-hosted art exhibition of 14 photos from the Eye on the Tiger exhibition held at Royal Albert Hall in London in 2018.



Life on the cover

Life on the cover

# house of the rising sun

hinode hills, niseko village's  
latest luxury hotel addition, offers  
direct ski-in and -out access to some of  
the world's most breathtaking  
powder slopes.

Words by TIEN CHEW





Hinode Hills' Lobby Lounge provides welcome respite after skiing on the world-famous slopes. Facing page: immerse yourself in therapeutic waters at the hotel's in-house onsen.

There's something magical about Niseko Village, Japan's premier ski paradise which attracts domestic and international travellers by the droves. As the snows fall on the slopes, the skiing cognoscenti head for the allure of Niseko's tailored trails, snowpacks, naturally formed halfpipes and white forest glades. In winter, every climb and descent on Mount Niseko-Annupuri (1,308 metres) offers stunning views of the dormant neighbouring volcano Mount Yotei, Hokkaido's equivalent of Mount Fuji.

The greater Niseko United area – of which Niseko Village is a part – boasts 2,191 acres of skiable terrain. Here, some of the lightest and driest snow in the world can be found, originating from snow clouds transported by the Eurasian continent's seasonal winds and warm currents off the Sea of Japan.

#### STAY

At the base of Mount Niseko-Annupuri lies new luxury accommodation. Named Hinode Hills in homage to the rising sun ('*hinode*' means 'sunrise'), this 79-room hotel has been configured to offer direct ski-in and -out access to Niseko Village's famed trails. The property is strategically located adjacent to the Upper Village gondola, providing guests with easy lift access around the mountainside. Hinode Hills realises

the Japanese *wabi-sabi* philosophy in aesthetics, where one discovers an organic beauty in imperfections and the wisdom of nature. The result is an elegant setting that is contemporary yet retains an authentic Japanese charm.

Its luxurious rooms come in five variants – deluxe, studio and one-, two- or three-bedroom suites – all providing picturesque views of the beautiful Niseko countryside. Room sizes range from the 38-square-metre deluxe room to a sprawling 148-square-metre three-bedroom suite. Each bedroom has its own en-suite bathroom. Suites include living, dining and kitchen spaces for guests looking for a home away from home, complete with a dishwasher, washing machine and tumble dryer. All rooms are also equipped with high-speed wireless Internet, high definition TV and Bluetooth music speakers.

At Hinode Hills, the wide range of on-site amenities includes an in-house onsen, restaurant, lobby lounge with feature fireplace, car park and complimentary scheduled shuttle transfers to Hirafu and Kutchan. For a fee, overnight ski and snowboard waxing services, in-room physiotherapy and child-minding services can be provided. For those partial to cooking, Hinode Hills can provide a fully stocked kitchen throughout your stay. Should you like to venture beyond Niseko Village, the 24-hour concierge will assist with ground arrangements and sightseeing tours.





### PLAY

There's much to do at Niseko Village. First-timers and those needing a refresher in all things ski- and snowboard-related may head to Niseko Village Snow School for private lessons. The little ones aren't left out either with the Niseko Kids Snow School tailored to provide daycare and ski lessons to children aged one to six.

Niseko Village is part of Niseko United – a veritable wonderland of four interlinked resorts. This skiing mecca is spread out across 48 kilometres of groomed slopes, 70 runs, 29 lifts and gondolas, 11 gates to the backcountry and an additional 30 square kilometres of unofficially marked terrain.

Niseko Village's carved trails cater to beginner, intermediate and advanced skiers and snowboarders, all directly accessible from Hinode Hills. Beginners are able to ski on certain bends and inclinations named after staple Japanese foods: the short 250m Jagaimo (potato) decline, the 500m Konbu (edible kelp) tilt at the top, and the longer yet gentler 850m Misoshiru (miso soup) gradient. Advanced skiers in turn will find a 650m deep plunge that is Namara (Hokkaido dialect for 'extreme') and the cheekily named 250m Don't Blink dip to get the adrenaline pumping.

While skiing may take up a majority of your winter vacation in Niseko Village, Hinode Hills' concierge can arrange for equally stimulating alternatives. Explore the pristine mountain on a fast-paced snowmobile tour or subscribe to a more laidback view on the back seat of a snow raft. You may also opt to be whisked across the shimmering snow on a reindeer-led sled or embark on a guided snowshoe tour.

### REST

For après-ski relaxation, take a cue from the Japanese and head to the hotel onsen to let the warm mineral-rich waters rejuvenate your aching muscles. Guests of Hinode Hills may also avail themselves of the onsen at neighbouring Hilton Niseko Village and The Green Leaf Niseko Village, both with their respective charms. The Hilton's is the more modern of the two, with two bathing areas: an indoor bath on the upper level and a spacious outdoor bath. The Green Leaf's, on the other hand, is more traditional, set against boulders and pine trees covered by snow. In a nation with approximately 30,000 onsen, there's plenty to explore, with a tour of famous local hot springs via scheduled shuttle bus transfers originating from The Green Leaf from December to March.

For a more hands-on experience, there's Wakka Spa at the Hilton, which has achieved a top 10 placing among spas in Japan. The spa's name is derived from the native Ainu language meaning 'water' and specialises in relaxing therapies and massages as well as beauty and facial treatments. The beauty of Hinode Hills is that guests may cross-sign and charge therapies and their meals at either The Green Leaf or Hilton in Niseko Village to their own accounts.



### RELAX

Hokkaido's famed produce and ingredients take centre stage at the village – a collection of restaurants, bars and designer boutiques which forms the social nexus of this destination. Dine on the freshest seafood at The Crab Shack, named for its prominent marketplace display and restaurant vibe which imitates a Hokkaido boathouse. Here, grilled or steamed Japanese snow crabs and juicy scallops from nearby waters are served alongside the local delicacy – *jingisukan* (Genghis Khan) – a grilled lamb dish with meat so fresh you eat it rare, with an array of vegetables and a dipping sauce of soy, fruits and garlic.

Another must-try Hokkaido speciality is soup curry – a hearty broth of herbs and spices cooked with meat and vegetables. At Two Sticks, the village's modern izakaya, this local staple receives a sub-continental twist, with Indian spices infused into a mixture of local potatoes, eggplant, peppers, pumpkin, mizuna leaf and egg in the creation of its tandoori chicken soup curry. Miso ramen – which originated from the island of Hokkaido and is now famous the world over – and yakitori skewers, paired with a glass of hot sake, are also fantastic options.

Yang Shu Ten, a casual family restaurant serving classic Japanese fare, is your best bet for all things sushi, sashimi, tempura and teppanyaki. Multi-course meals are a speciality here, giving you a culinary snapshot of produce from the local terroir.

Retail therapy is also available in the form of Boot Solutions and Otaru Taisho Glass Palace. The former sells an extensive range of ski- and snowboard-related merchandise, and also offers custom boot fitting, premium rental packages and winter footwear. The latter is equipped with intricate glassworks that hail from the nearby port city of Otaru, which turned to mastering glassware after the herring industry declined in the 1950s.

For a dose of local art, two destinations – The Green Leaf Niseko Village and Hilton Niseko Village – provide creative insight. Sapporo-based artist Emi Shiratori's hand-drawn graphic murals, inspired from the natural beauty of the region, grace the rooms and public spaces of The Green Leaf. At the Hilton, the Hokkaido Art Gallery in the lobby displays uniquely designed products from local skilled craftsmen, supported with art events throughout the year.



Cosy up with a book and a coffee in a one-bedroom suite while you soak in the surrounding beauty.





Life feature

# of timelessness and grandeur



introducing the canopy, a new chapter in the majestic hotel Kuala Lumpur's long history of celebrations.

Words by SHALINI YEAP



**F**ew places know how to host a celebration or throw a party quite like The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur. Its long list of events, dating all the way back to 1932, is testament to this reputation. For generations, the iconic building has witnessed many a celebration, each spectacular in its own right. The opening of its glamorous Roof Garden event space, The Canopy, marks another chapter in a long-standing history of celebrations done right.

Bathed in natural light on Level 4 of the Tower Wing, the versatile and highly customisable venue overlooks the beautiful historical mile of Kuala Lumpur with the city's classic landmarks. The sheer elegance of the entire space – from its art deco-inspired design and fluted glass to the subtle shades of cream – renders it perfect for weddings, parties and gala receptions. Beyond its air of sophistication, it is also technologically equipped to host corporate meetings, conferences and product launches.

Here, the unrivalled attention to detail that is synonymous with The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur is a given, down to the floral selections. After all, what is a celebration without beautiful blooms to commemorate the occasion? Working with florists who take great pride in every creation, the flowers for each event will be customised to the most exacting brief, staying true to the hotel's reputation of coming up with legendary floral displays. The Canopy can comfortably seat between 50 and 200 guests with seating options from theatre, banquet and classroom to cluster. Guests will be served an array of exceptional cuisine that entices the senses through the flavours of colonial Malaya. A bespoke colonial-inspired menu influenced by history and an East-West mix of palates can be crafted to suit any need; presented in this charming venue it is truly the icing on the cake.

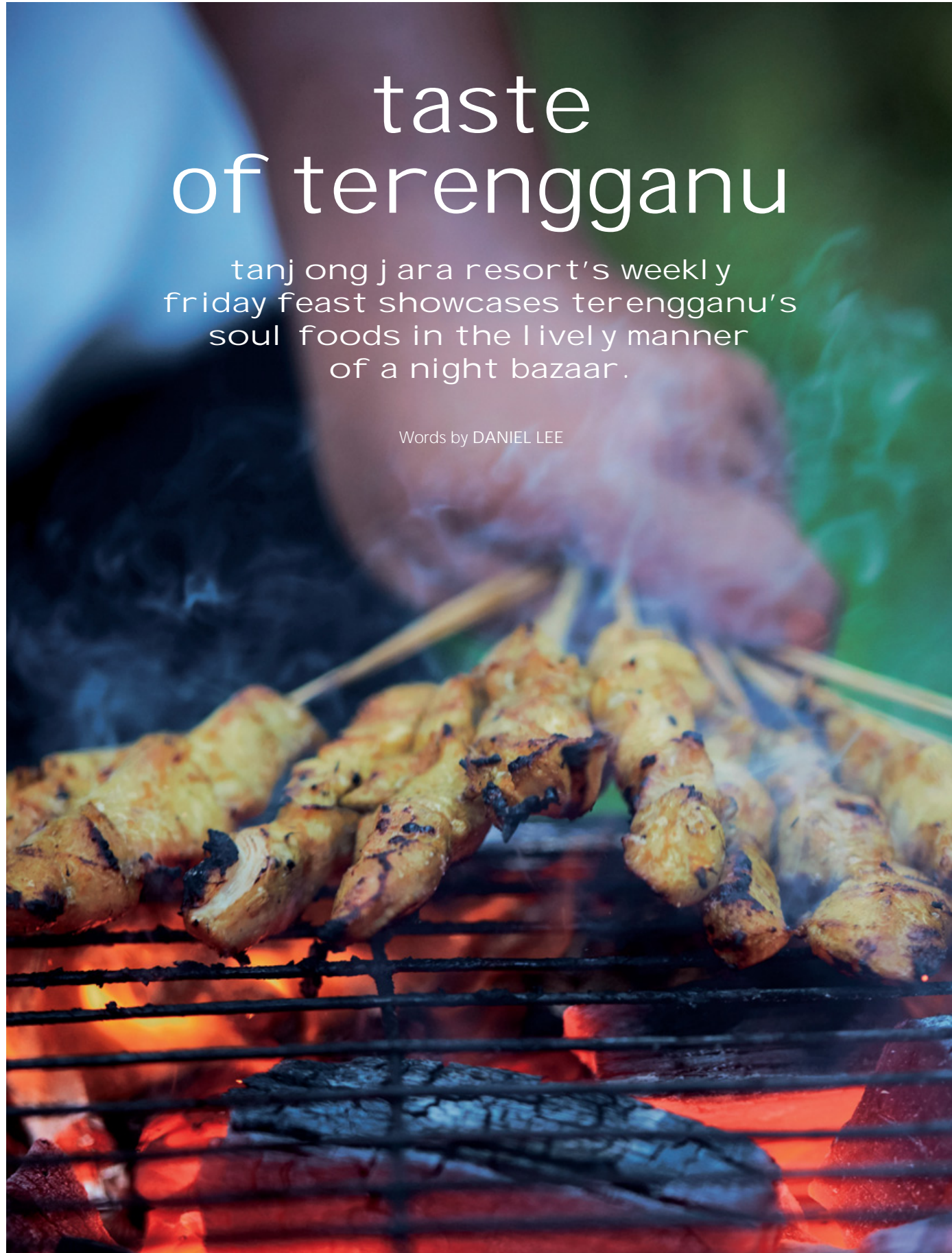
When it comes to hosting a celebration, The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur's approach is akin to weaving an intricate tapestry. Each detail, from the hospitality and decor to culinary delights and flowers, is an important thread and together they form a rich tapestry of unforgettable moments. This commitment enables guests to focus on what truly matters – enjoying the celebrations worry-free and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

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

# taste of terengganu

tanjongjara resort's weekly  
friday feast showcases terengganu's  
soul foods in the lively manner  
of a night bazaar.

Words by DANIEL LEE







*Nasi minyak* (ghee-flavoured rice) with an assortment of dishes.  
Facing page: gamelan music sets the mood.

The Anjung Garden, a verdant stretch which lies between Tanjong Jara Resort's private beachfront and the resort's plush Anjung Rooms, springs to life every Friday evening. This spacious garden becomes a veritable bazaar for the Taste of Terengganu gastronomic experience, replete with heavenly aromas of curries, barbecue and local delights. The pop-up food extravaganza curates the best of Peninsular Malaysia's east coast specialities with live food stations set against the soothing strains of gamelan music.

Here, its *kerabu* salad station is a promising and healthful start, with a refreshing Malay-style mix of greens featuring four-angle beans, chillies, chopped onions and lime dressing. Next, *mee rojak* will whet the appetite for more with a rendition of egg noodles, grated turnip, hard-boiled eggs, onions, tofu and potato smothered in a creamy nutty sauce.

The satay station serves a selection of the local culinary gem – charcoal-grilled skewered chicken, beef or fish, best paired with roasted ground peanut sauce. *Otak-otak*, another flame-grilled delicacy, draws delicate flavours from its banana leaf-wrapping and infuses it into the fish cake within, comprising chunks of fish, spices and leek.

For mains, a robust selection of traditional Malay dishes served in earthenware pots showcases local recipes, running the gamut of seafood such as *sotong sumbat* (stuffed squid

with glutinous rice and herbs cooked in coconut milk), to hearty dishes like *daging kerutuk*, a dry coconut milk beef curry. *Udang masak lemak* – prawns cooked with ghee, scallions, raisins, star anise and cloves – offers a melange of flavours that hark back to the east coast's pastoral heart. These mains are even more flavourful with classic white rice or the more savoury *nasi minyak* – rice cooked with spices and ghee.

At the *char kway teow* (stir-fried rice noodles) station, the Terengganu take on this Malaysian favourite applies a quicker stir-fry to produce a thicker sauce base. Diners may then choose their level of spiciness to go with a mix of bean sprouts, spring onion, egg, prawns, chicken, carrots and rice noodles.

For all things sweet, there's the *goreng* (fried) station and dessert bar, with the former offering a choice of sweet potato, *tapai* (fermented rice) and banana deep fried à la minute for greater crunch. At the dessert bar, an assortment of freshly cut local fruits, Malay *kuih* (pastries) and the ubiquitous Malaysian heat-buster known as *ais kacang* – rose syrup-anointed shaved ice packed with corn, peanuts, red beans and jelly – provides a sweet ending to a sumptuous feast.

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



Photographs by Soo Phye.



# seaside bliss

emerald bay, nestled at one end of the private island getaway that is pangkor laut resort, offers a haven of powder-fine sand, glistening waters and a two-million-year-old rainforest.

Words by TIEN CHEW



Above: fish and chips.  
Below: Mango Mania sundae.  
Facing page: Kaliamas' banana leaf rice curry.



Serenity comes in the form of Emerald Bay, a slice of beach heaven situated on the western shore of the 300-acre private island that is Pangkor Laut Resort. With its breathtaking view of the Straits of Malacca, you are afforded all the pleasure in the world to enjoy a truly peaceful holiday.

Only paces away from the beach lies Chapman's Bar, named for the heroic British colonel-cum-naturalist Spencer Chapman, known for behind-enemy-lines exploits on the island during World War Two. To honour his memory, Pangkor Laut Resort organises an annual race called The Chapman's Challenge, encompassing a 3.8-kilometre road run, a 2.4-kilometre sprint through the rainforest and a one-kilometre swim around Emerald Bay's shimmering waters. For a more relaxing immersion into Mother Nature, guests may join the resident naturalist who will guide them through the bay's adjacent rainforest in search of long-tailed macaques and oriental pied hornbills.

Open from 11 in the morning until eight in the evening, Chapman's Bar serves a mix of casual Asian and Western specialities. There's the option to dine al fresco at tables in the shade, though the most popular choice for many are the tables on the inviting beachfront. Order Kaliamas' banana leaf rice curry for a taste of Malaysia, a hearty meal featuring a selection of curries, rice, vegetables, and pickles named after the resort's veteran chef who has served in its kitchens for two decades, right up till today. Other crowd pleasers include a zesty seafood pad thai, an English-style beef burger, and fish and chips made using freshly caught local sea bass. To beat the heat, Chapman's Mango Mania – fresh mango, coconut ice cream, toasted coconut and passion fruit sauce – provides a frosty, flavourful relief.

To experience Emerald Bay's natural splendour more intimately, private dining experiences are available on request. Couples looking for a romantic escapade will appreciate the five-course seafood sunset dinner on the beach, with a nearby bonfire and tiki torches setting the scene.

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



Photographs by Soo Phye.

# where eagles soar

gaya isl and resort offers a vignette of dame judi dench's wild borneo adventures.

Words by KENNETH TAN



Tucked amidst protected mangroves, sheltered coral reefs and curled around the pristine sandy coast of Malohom Bay rests Gaya Island Resort.

**A**ctress, artist and author Dame Judi Dench has left an indelible mark on the entertainment industry, running the gamut of British theatre, television and film. The latter has included, memorably, a glass ceiling-shattering turn as M, the head of the Secret Intelligence Service and superior to a certain Mr Bond, a role she held with distinction in eight Bond films across two decades from *Goldeneye* to *Spectre*. Along the way, she has also picked up an Academy Award for best supporting actress for *Shakespeare in Love* and numerous BAFTAs, while parlaying her fame to become patron of over 180 charities.

Her recent two-part ITV documentary, *Judi Dench's Wild Borneo Adventures*, takes a decidedly different spin in her storied career, as she journeyed to the state of Sabah – located on the north-eastern tip of Borneo – to discover its myriad natural wonders. Describing it as “the most extraordinary time of my life”, Dame Judi explored rainforests which have stood in place for 130 million years, from when dinosaurs still roamed the Earth.

The same age-old rainforests also exist on Gaya Island, a quick 15-minute hop from Jesselton Point at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah's capital. Over 80 per cent of the island is gazetted as a national park as part of the larger Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park which, as a result, has helped preserve its native populations of flora and fauna. On its easterly shores, Gaya Island Resort – a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World – became a stopover for Dame Judi, where she participated in the resort's various conservation programmes.

Stepping off the boat at the Gaya Island Resort pier, guests will quickly fall into the jungle's rhythmic pace, with the morning warbling of birdsong, afternoon riffs from mangrove cicadas and an evening cacophony of wildlife which occupies the rainforest canopy. All around the resort, a sense of theatre pervades: a monitor lizard doing languid laps in the stream as its speckled band is flecked by sunlight, a mother long-tailed macaque grooming her youngling as it impatiently waits to rejoin its monkey friends at play. Up overhead, a white-bellied sea eagle soars towards its treetop eyrie, with its white breast indicating its relative youthfulness (adults develop brown patches).

“This jungle is beyond my wildest dreams. Around every corner there's always an extraordinary creature,” Dame Judi remarks in her documentary. At the nearby mangrove forests, where the resort's senior naturalist Justin Juhun leads morning mangrove kayak tours, one is likely to spot the great egrets, horseshoe crabs and even the Oriental pied hornbill. The entire experience is almost surreal, with the journey into the mangroves taking guests through a natural amphitheatre carved out by running streams and time. In here, the air is cooler and richer as mangroves have proven to be 10 times more effective at recycling carbon and producing oxygen versus the rainforest.

Juhun also leads the morning nature walks which take guests deep into the “mother forest” of Gaya Island, where the shy and endangered proboscis monkeys are occasionally spotted. The trail winds through towering hardwood trees and a diversity of flora from strangler figs and elongated rattan to vermilion-coloured fungi.

## Life feature



Back at the resort, hourly boat transfers to Tavajun Bay – a tranquil strip of beach nearby – reveal the Gaya Island Resort Marine Centre helmed by the resort's marine biologist Scott Mayback, who specialises in coral restoration and turtle rescue. Over the past six years since the centre's establishment, Mayback and his team have overseen 20 turtle rescues and undertaken the planting of over 1,200 coral slabs on the seabed.

The coral planting which Mayback conducts kicks off with a guided snorkelling exploration for guests who will then emerge from the waters with bits of coral that will become the foundation of new reefs. These fragments – which grow at a pace of two centimetres per year – are then attached to a concrete slab to encourage greater multiplication of the reefs over time – one of the most important breeding habitats for fish, providing refuge for over 25 per cent of all marine life. With the crystal clear waters of Gaya Island conducive to the growth of corals, Mayback is also experimenting with micro-fragmentation of corals to accelerate reproduction rates up to 47 times to re-establish reefs around the island.

At one end of the resort, the Spa Village Gaya Island, enrobed by the rainforest's greenery, is a great way to let all of the outdoor adventures sink in, with massages and natural therapies designed to soothe and relax. And, of course, there's the plethora of dining options at the resort ranging from its Feast Village, where one is served a perfectly grilled tuna steak with hints of pepper and salt, to the Japanese-styled Omakase, which offers a chef's table and shabu-shabu under the evening skies. At the Pool Bar and Lounge, lazy afternoons are ably complemented by the bossa nova sounds of Cecilia Dale and a choice of international and local favourites, from pizzas and tuna tataki to a curry laksa and banana fritters, paired with a deliciously cold glass of wine.

Gaya Island Resort's seven-night Wild Borneo Adventure package showcases the multifaceted elements of these incredible outdoor adventures inclusive of accommodation in one of its charming villas with daily breakfast, two 50-minute couple's massages, a mangrove kayak excursion, snorkelling exploration and coral planting with the resident marine biologist, guided nature walk and night walk with the resident naturalist, and scheduled speedboat transfers as well as an additional return transfer for a day trip to Kota Kinabalu.

For more information or to make a dining reservation, please visit [www.gaya-islandresort.com](http://www.gaya-islandresort.com)



Dame Judi Dench and conservationist David Mills stayed at Gaya Island Resort during the filming of *Judi Dench's Wild Borneo Adventure*.

This photo was shot during filming of "Judi Dench's Wild Borneo Adventure" © Atlantic Productions"



# an acoustic affair

good vibes are all around at hotel stripes kuala Lumpur's man tao bar where the libations are handcrafted, the mood laid-back and the living is easy amid acoustic band performances at its fortnightly man tao unplugged.

Words by SHALINI YEAP





A selection of creative cocktails are available at Man Tao Bar.

**W**hen it comes down to the nitty-gritty that sets a nightlife venue apart from the rest, Man Tao Bar at Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur ticks all the boxes. From its unobstructed views of downtown Kuala Lumpur – best enjoyed with a carefully crafted drink in hand – to live acoustic music setting the mood, this nook-inspired rooftop bar has all the makings of a relaxing urban escape and then some.

Live bands take the stage twice a month for what is known as Man Tao Unplugged, upping the ante of this chic hangout spot that exudes a laid-back charm. These acoustic performances are anticipated as much as the bar's weekly happenings, which are Ladies Night on Thursday, Thank G[in] it's Friday and The Longest Hour on Saturdays. Come 9pm every second and fourth Saturday of the month, live acoustic music complements the relaxed atmosphere as guests settle in for a nightcap, to raise a tippie (or two) to the weekend or simply to kick back for the evening.

At each event, guests can look forward to hearing fresh, new sounds belted out by up-and-coming talents. The musical performances further accentuate the relaxed ambience at Man Tao Bar while guests indulge in some delicious concoctions by expert mixologists – making it the preferred venue in which to unwind with friends or for entertaining.

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





# a couples' therapy

the majestic malacca's unique his and hers spa treatments.

# unlike any other

Words by GWEN ONG



**T**he Majestic Malacca is a sight to behold with its colonial façade and nostalgia-tinged courtyard. It occupies one end of the quaint Jalan Bunga Raya in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Malacca City, on the banks of the famous Malacca River which enabled this city to become a bustling 15th-century entrepot of great importance, a crossroads between India, the Arab world and China in a world gone by.

Step through The Majestic Malacca's doors and you'll be hit by a wave of the past, that of the 1920s, when Malacca famously hit its zenith as a Straits Settlement with the rise of the Straits Chinese or Peranakan, and their belle époque of culture, cuisine, architecture and language.

The careful restoration of this 1920s Straits Settlement mansion has ensured it still bears the original porcelain tile flooring and teakwood fittings today. Venture a little further in and you'll find yourself in the modern wing where the guestrooms and suites are located. But first, an award-winning spa beckons.

It's been said that a visit to The Majestic Malacca is not complete without a trip to Spa Village Malacca. With your partner, you may indulge in a unique couple's spa session unlike any other. Called Peranakan Signature Experiences, the therapies here draw on the healing heritage of the local Baba-Nyonya culture. Treatments are prescribed according to a person's cool or warm energies with an assessment done based on a questionnaire to determine what your body lacks. It's a great three-hour escape when both of you are in need of a relaxing pick-me-up.

The Peranakan Signature Experiences' Suam Suam Panas is meant to soothe 'cool' bodies, while the ShioK ShioK Sejuk has warming properties – both essentially to help balance out your energies. It is believed that the age-old practices and the use of indigenous ingredients can do wonders to cleanse, replenish and reinvigorate the body and mind.

Each treatment begins with a pre-spa custom that takes inspiration from the elaborate Peranakan wedding ceremony in which guests are soothed with a calming hair care ritual. Sit back and enjoy as the therapist indulges you with a hair wash, scalp massage and hair combing; a prelude of the pampering to come.

The warming Suam Suam Panas experience starts off with a body scrub using Malacca palm sugar and honey, followed by a hair mask infused with fragrant pandan coconut. The relaxing factor goes up tenfold with the nutmeg-rice rolling massage which helps to reduce body aches and 'wind'. The rolling motions are especially good in easing the tension from the back and shoulders. A bird's nest facial with tapioca mask ensures you leave the spa with glowing skin.

For the ShioK ShioK Sejuk experience, the treatment entails a body scrub with yoghurt and guava leaves and a hair mask with limau kasturi and yoghurt. Then comes the unique egg rolling therapy in which you will undergo a form of deep tissue massage as the therapist rolls warm hard-boiled eggs over you. This helps to loosen tight muscles, release excess heat from the body and relax the mind. The session ends with a bird's nest facial with starfruit mask.

After the treatment, take a moment to unwind at the relaxation lounge and sip on hot Malacca fruit tea. The traditional Peranakan Chinese daybeds bathed in sunlight streaming in from the floor-to-ceiling windows provide the perfect respite for a lazy afternoon together with your other half.

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



Photograph by Luca Tettoni.

life feature



life feature

# a repast amid the rolling hills

on mist-strewn hills, one finds an invitation  
to savour an exemplary smorgasbord at  
Cameron Highlands Resort.

Words by TAN JYY WEI



**S**traight out of a storybook, the delightful Cameron Highlands Resort provides guests with a cosy highland getaway for all seasons and occasions. Its colonial air and artful touches charm you with nostalgic elegance. The cherry on top? The multi-faceted dining options, which take you on a voyage of the senses, from British fare of English roast and fish and chips to a medley of Asian flavours, including that perennial cold weather favourite – hot pot.

**HOT POT AT GONBEI**

Cool evening air and a steaming hot pot filled with delicious ingredients makes dinner at Gonbei the right meal for the right place. Cooking around a heated pot of broth at the resort’s semi-al fresco restaurant is a delight, particularly on rainy days and cool highland evenings.

Start by personalising your hot pot broth to your liking, choosing from the vegetarian, Japanese seafood or Tom Kha Gai base, the latter comprising chicken, coconut milk, lemongrass and chilli. Once the pot starts to bubble, add your selections from the buffet of the freshest local produce featuring vegetables harvested from the adjacent farms, succulent seafood, prime meats and noodles. And of course, there are a variety of condiments and garnishes for you to season your meal as desired, and a fine selection of desserts for a sweet ending.

**THE JIM THOMPSON TEA ROOM**

Named after the American who helped revitalise the Thai silk industry, the Jim Thompson Tea Room is famous for its old-world charm that harkens back to a colonial plantation lifestyle decades ago. While the restaurant does serve a tempting à la carte lunch menu, many come for afternoon tea. The essentials are made fresh to order: delicate finger sandwiches, oven-baked scones served with clotted cream and strawberry jam made from the highlands’ famous berries, and your selection of the finest teas from the area.

**THE ROAST REVIVAL**

The Dining Room serves a hearty roast on Saturdays, perfect to warm you up in the lush highlands. It’s an elevated experience as roasts go and in true fashion of honouring tradition, the resort’s kitchen team prepares a quintessential English roast carved by their expert chefs right by your table. Enjoy this classic meal with the usual trimmings – roast potatoes, greens and puddings – incorporating the finest produce for which Cameron Highlands is known.

**PRIVATE DINING EXPERIENCES**

Picture this: being whisked away to a secluded spot in the verdant BOH tea plantation, where a sumptuous picnic spread awaits you. Here, you will enjoy both savoury and sweet treats amid fragrant tea bushes, with a personal butler topping up your glass while you gaze out onto the endless rows of greenery.

Perhaps an intimate four-course dinner set in the privacy of the garden gazebo is more your fancy? Savour the fresh highland air and tranquillity as each course is served which, depending on the season, could include signature delights such as seafood terrine or prawn bisque.

You could also choose to dine by the crackling fireplace or even in the comfort of your room balcony.

For more information or to make a dining reservation, please visit [www.cameronhighlandsresort.com](http://www.cameronhighlandsresort.com)

# Li yen blossoms with renewed elegance

the relaunched Li yen at the ritz-carlton,  
kuala Lumpur unveils an exquisite  
redesign reminiscent of a graceful  
blossoming garden.

Words by TIEN CHEW





Steamed crab claw with egg white and Chinese rice wine.  
Facing page: steamed siew mai with BB abalone and caviar.

**L**i Yen, The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur's award-winning Chinese restaurant of 22 years, introduces a fresh new look and concept curated around four pillars: quintessential Chinese cuisine, the finest Hong Kong dim sum, authentic Chiu Chow dishes, and classic barbecued roast specialities. The 170-seat restaurant offers seven stylish private rooms that can accommodate groups of between eight and 30 diners. An elegant livery of gold, bronze, brown and cream with jade highlights forms Li Yen's new colour scheme, embracing stylish chinoiserie aesthetics. Scattered throughout the restaurant are floral motifs of cherry blossoms, magnolias and peonies reaching towards the heavens, evoking a calming oriental ambience. This sense of tranquillity is especially evident during lunch, when glass panes draw in natural light to lend warmth to the dining hall.

The kitchen is led by executive chef Alex Au, a Hong Kong native who hails from the city's renowned Pak Loh Chiu Chow restaurant. To seek inspiration for Li Yen's new menu, chef Au visited his hometown, collaborating with celebrated chef Paul Lau's two Michelin-starred Tin Lung Heen Chinese restaurant at The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong.

"I learnt the art of creating a few of Tin Lung Heen's speciality dishes and incorporated them into our new menu, especially the roasted barbecued specialities," says chef Au. "All dishes featured in the new menu are carefully thought out, tried and tested to perfection by my team and me. We only use the freshest and most premium ingredients to ensure we deliver

exceptional dishes each time, reflective of our aim of serving authentic Chinese classics."

New signatures from Li Yen, while they may look deceptively simple, are actually laboriously crafted. Take the steamed crab claw with egg white and Chinese rice wine for example, where small changes in timing and temperature are meticulously measured and adjusted to ensure a silky steamed organic egg custard base. The claw of a Vietnamese mud crab (selected for its sweetness and meatiness) is then gently cooked and served with its shell removed, crowning the egg.

Another favourite, the double-boiled chicken soup with fish maw and young coconut, uses a 30-day-old coconut to create a nourishing symphony of sweet and savoury. The coconut's inherent sweetness complements Li Yen's superior soup stock (a closely guarded secret recipe) and is boiled for hours to achieve its desired flavours.

The Hong Kong dim sum here is also praiseworthy, with inventive dishes such as steamed Wagyu beef siew mai with dried scallops and crispy rice nest wrapped in cheong fun (rice roll) making excellent additions to the menu. "I take great pride in ensuring that every piece is perfectly crafted with attention to detail," says chef Tan Tiong Guan, Li Yen's dim sum chef. "I'm always monitoring the culinary scene and changing trends to see how we can introduce unique dishes in our monthly dim sum specials, where unique and seasonal dishes are only available for limited periods."

For more information, please visit [www.ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur)



Photographs by Sean Wong

On her: wedding dress by Anovia SS18 collection.  
On him: white tuxedo suit by Anovia Men's Classic collection.



Life feature

## samui sensations

the island and paradise that is the Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui is the ultimate getaway on the eastern coast of Thailand. Here, lavishly designed suites and villas, secluded beaches, a spa village and more await.

Words by TIEN CHEW  
Photography by ANOVIA BRIDAL  
Styling by ANOVIA BRIDAL



Evening gown by Anovia  
Designer collection.

On her: wedding dress by Anovia Designer collection.  
On him: burgundy suit by Anovia Men's Tailored collection.



On him: white tuxedo suit by Anovia Men's Classic collection.  
On her: evening gown by Anovia Designer collection.





On her: evening dress by Anovia SS18.  
On him: black tuxedo suit by  
Anovia Men's Classic collection.

life feature

On him: shirt and pants by  
Anovia Men's Classic collection.  
On her: wedding dress by Anovia SS18 collection.



life feature



The secluded Ultimate Pool Villa highlights Thai aesthetics, with luxuriously appointed contemporary and elegant interiors. Enjoy panoramic views of the Gulf of Thailand from a cliff-top location as you relax with your beloved in your own private pool.

# in search of dolphins

a trape through books to  
the black sand beaches  
of spa village resort tembok, bali.

Words by JASON TAN



**O**n the northeastern coastline of Tembok in Bali, you find the bucolic Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali, tucked behind a thicket of bamboo fronds. A little way in, before the rays of the sun warm the waters which lap at the resort's coastline, you climb into a wooden two-seater *jukung* and push off from the volcanic black sand beach of Tembok, Bali.

If lady luck is on your side, you will sail close to creation in more ways than one. With the *jukung* almost motionless as the dawn's rays colour the sea, you spot a dolphin pod in its home, popping from the water in quiet choreography, as if just for you, and feel serene and complete. It must be the kind of experience for which explorers once quested the world.

Does eastern literature tell stories of the sea creatures of the Indonesian archipelago? Probably in oral rather than written form, and almost surely told in one of the hundreds of indigenous languages of the Nusantara. The English reader muddles along in the western literary canon in search of dolphins in this part of the world. By default of history, English literature's stories of seafaring life emerge from their cultural and economic context. Our relationship with nature is described as between man and beast (or terrible mermaid) such as in Herman Melville's parable of *Moby Dick*.



But in looking for dolphins among Indonesia's 17,000 islands, we turn to one of the great western works of original travel and science writing, *The Malay Archipelago*, by Alfred Russel Wallace. A naturalist, geographer, anthropologist, socialist and polymath, Wallace dedicated *The Malay Archipelago* to Charles Darwin, whom he considered a friend and a genius. He actually came up with a similar theory before *The Origin of Species* was published, but took a total of 14 years, from the start of his eight-year expedition in 1854, to complete his own book. Understandably so because it wasn't easy to categorise "125,660 specimens of natural history in all". (Darwin worked on his theory for 20 years.) Thankfully for scientific discovery, vacuous Internet time had yet to be invented. Wallace was otherwise a prolific writer and, boldly, a seeker of the origin of consciousness, which western materialist science such as evolutionary theory could, and still does not explain.

Exploring what is now Malaysia, Indonesia, Borneo and Papua, Wallace noted that animals differed in their features depending on which half of the archipelago they called home,

Asia or Australia. He drew a line – the Wallace Line – that runs from between Bali and Lombok to the south, and Borneo and Sulawesi to the north. While dolphins aren't directly mentioned in *The Malay Archipelago*, there are references to whalers, and Wallace must have been aware of them because we know dolphin pods still regularly appear in the unpolluted waters off Tembok, Bali.

One needs only to speak to the many knowledgeable members of staff at Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali – many of whom are native to the area – to understand their close relationship to these capricious marine mammals. They counsel "good intent" before setting out on your *jukung*, a certain purity of the heart which leads you to bear witness to nature at her rollicking best – in the dance of dolphins, emerging joyfully to greet the day, and you.

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

# delightful days by the thames

drift on a cloud of romance  
in the english countryside at  
monkey island estate.

Words by DANIEL LEE



**M**onkey Island Estate, located in the quaint village of Bray on Thames, enjoys the sort of setting you might imagine for lovers. On the picturesque seven-acre private isle, two Grade 1-listed heritage pavilions hold several centuries' worth of history and memories, having been a favoured retreat for monarchs, nobility and artists.

With this property lovingly restored and revived by New York-based Champalimaud Design and YTL Hotels, the scene is set for a dreamy couples' getaway with the evocative Island Romance package, tailored around the estate's exquisite location in the countryside.

Upon checking in to their choice of room the couple could ostensibly let the magic of the estate take over – with a complimentary bottle of champagne waiting to commence festivities. One could also pull out the stops and book The Wedgewood Suite, the grandest accommodation on the estate, with a historic ornate Wedgewood blue ceiling and views of the Thames. It comprises a master bedroom with a separate seating and dressing area and en-suite bathroom.

As evening descends, cosy up to a pre-dinner gin-spiked hot chocolate at one of the estate's fire pits along the river with ready-to-roast marshmallows. For dinner, guests may dine at The Monkey Island Brasserie and savour classic British fare such as an aged sirloin steak from the grill or Fisherman's Pie – a hearty smoked haddock, salmon, béchamel cooked mussels, tiger prawns and mash dish that truly gratifies. By virtue of location, guests are also in walking distance of two of the four restaurants in the United Kingdom that have three Michelin stars – Heston Blumenthal's Fat Duck and the Roux brother's Waterside Inn – should they fancy a night out.

Guests may also choose to add a couples' therapy session at the hotel's one-of-a-kind Floating Spa, moored off the island. Then, perhaps a private boat tour to visit nearby landmarks. Among these are Windsor Castle and its namesake Great Park – ideal for a leisurely afternoon stroll. A little bit further and you are rewarded by the charming market town of Henley-On-Thames, home of the highly anticipated annual Henley Regatta and Henley Festival.

For more information, please visit [www.monkeyislandestate.co.uk](http://www.monkeyislandestate.co.uk)

Below: The Floating Spa.  
Facing page: The Wedgewood Suite.



# the place to meet

the hague marriott – the largest hotel in den haag – is ideally primed to host international conferences for the likes of global leaders.

Words by GWEN ONG



Above: the hotel's meeting rooms are designed to draw in natural light. Facing page: The Hague Marriott.

**T**he Hague, or Den Haag, is one of the Netherlands' most culturally diverse cities with a population of 500,000 composed of over 100 ethnic groups. Its distinct and stately character is drawn from its position as the home to the royal family and seat of the Dutch government. The Hague is also best known as the International City of Peace and Justice, and Binnenhof lays claim to being the world's oldest House of Parliament still in use, with its origins as a 13th-century Gothic castle. Since the late 19th century, this coastal city has played an integral role in diplomacy and international affairs, hosting a number of peace conferences and court hearings.

In the midst of this illustrious atmosphere dedicated to international relations and world order is The Hague Marriott – the largest hotel in the city. Located between the city centre and Scheveningen beach, the hotel's enviable location allows guests to take in the beautiful views of the city's skyline and coast. There are 306 rooms on the property, including 31 suites; each bedecked with lavish amenities befitting a modern traveller.

When it comes to hosting conferences, The Hague Marriott has 24 adaptable meeting spaces spanning over 2,200 square metres, including a ballroom and numerous meeting rooms and suites. Whether it's a gathering for 12 or a conference for 500 delegates, the hotel delivers stylish, commodious spaces and professional service. Its private garden provides the perfect backdrop for receptions, corporate parties, lunch or tea breaks, while its executive lounge on the ninth floor offers a panorama of the nearby beach.

With its excellent facilities and attention to detail, the hotel has gained a reputation for being the perfect venue for professional events, having also played host to a series of high-profile United Nations meetings. Post-conference, The Great Room Lobby & Bar is the de facto venue to socialise with fellow delegates and colleagues over handcrafted cocktails, while The Gallery Restaurant offers international and local choices.

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



# into the heart of literary bloomsbury

the academy recommends this  
writers' walk for guests to  
discover the squares, gardens  
and streets of bloomsbury.

Words by JUNE MONG-LOFTIN

**M**y two favourite rooms at the Small Luxury Hotels property The Academy are the Alchemy Bar and the Library. Both are beautifully moody and designed by New York-based designer Alexandra Champalimaud, whose dark green tropical leaf walls and monkey wallpaper is inspired by the Bloomsbury set.

The neighbourhood of Bloomsbury – in which The Academy is situated – was developed by an aristocratic family as an upper-class residential neighbourhood. It soon became an intellectual hub based around the British Museum, British Library and London's first university. Here, The Academy hotel recommends the Writers' Walk for guests to discover the squares, gardens and streets which attracted pioneers, radicals and reformers as well as poets and artists such as Charles Dickens, Virginia Woolf, painter John Millais, suffragist Emmeline Pankhurst, biologist and the author of *The Origin of Species* Charles Darwin and eminent economist John Maynard Keynes.



**BLOOMSBURY WRITERS' WALK**

Start at Gower Street where The Academy is located. The street is named after Lady Gertrude Leveson-Gower, who in 1737 became the second wife of Bloomsbury landowner Lord John Russell. Look for 110 Gower Street, which Charles Darwin rented in 1838 for his young family. He nicknamed the property Macaw Cottage because of the gaudy colours of the walls and furniture. Darwin developed his theory of natural selection in this house and his children, William Erasmus and Anne, were born here.

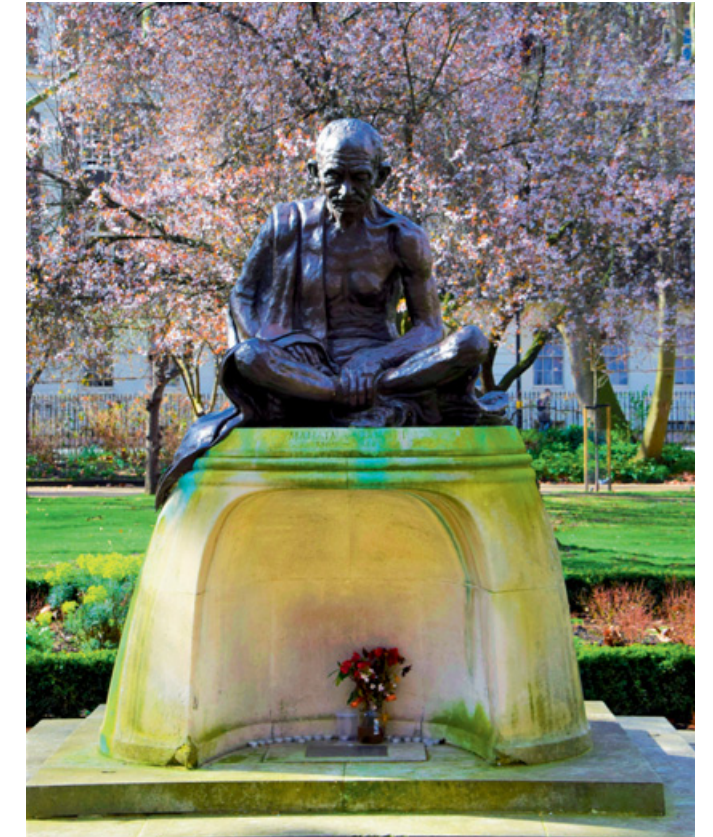
Ten years later in 1848, the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood was founded by John Millais (together with Dante Gabriel Rossetti) in his parent's house on Gower Street as a reform movement to counteract the current artistic style of the period.

Next, pop down to number 44 Bedford Square where the socialite Lady Ottoline Morrell – lover of Bertrand Russell and

friend of Virginia Woolf, Lytton Strachey, Aldous Huxley and DH Lawrence – held regular 'Thursday evenings' here in the years following 1908. These gatherings were attended by many members of the Bloomsbury Group.

Nearby is the imposing art deco Senate House, which was used as the 'Ministry of Information' by George Orwell in his dystopian novel *1984*. During World War Two, Bloomsbury suffered severely in the Blitz of the autumn of 1940. Senate House was hit nine times by bombs but withstood the onslaught.

From Bedford Square, make your way to Gordon Square where number 46 was the childhood home of Woolf, Vanessa Bell, Adrian Stephen and Thoby Stephen from 1904 to 1907. Like Lady Morrell, they too, held Thursday evenings of recitals attended by Thoby's Cambridge friends such as Leonard Woolf, Lytton Strachey, Clive Bell, Duncan Grant, Keynes and



A statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Tavistock Square. Facing page: Russell Square Park.

students in spring and summer. But its association with Oscar Wilde is a melancholic one. Wilde was born in Dublin in 1854 and moved to London in 1878 determined to achieve stardom. The stunning terraced building at 31 Russell Square was where Wilde spent his final night in London before moving to Paris, never to return to England again. Stand and take it all in before retreating to the shady trees of Russell Square garden to read one of his famous plays.

End your Writers' Walk on Lamb's Conduit, a partly pedestrianised stretch of Bloomsbury which has nothing to do with woolly lambs. It is named after the wealthy William Lambe, who built a conduit, or pipe, here to supply the City with spring water. The street became fashionable in the 19th century when Charles Dickens was a local. Today there are two Victorian pubs, one called The Lamb and the other The Perseverance, both pulling pints to this day. The Lamb still has 'snob screens' which are frosted glass partitions at eye-height so prudish middle-class drinkers in the 19th century could drink in privacy without being judged.

After such a long but lovely walk you might want a nice long drink yourself, either here or back at the Alchemy Bar at The Academy. If it's the latter, best call a black cab to whisk you back.

For more information, please visit [www.theacademyhotel.co.uk](http://www.theacademyhotel.co.uk)





# piping the haggis

scotland's national poet robert burns is celebrated on 25 january with haggis, poetry and whisky.

Words by JUNE MONG-LOFTIN

**H**e may have lived 200 years ago but there's no denying that Robert Burns is the poster boy of Scottish identity. He grew up in the Scottish countryside in Alloway and this helped him to write evocatively about nature and to speak eloquently to the common person. He began writing as a young lad while working on his father's farm, penning love odes to local farm lassies. But it was his first collection of poetry, called *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, that took the Scottish literary world by storm. It was published in 1786 and was sold out within a few weeks. He wrote in the Scottish vernacular and chose themes like love, family and everyday life which anyone could identify with, inspiring writers like Irvine Welsh (of *Trainspotting* fame) and singers like Bob Dylan. Today his face graces banknotes and his writings have been translated into 40 languages.

As the national poet of Scotland, Burns is celebrated on 25 January in the famous Burns Supper which revolves around haggis, whisky and recitals of his work. It is traditional at a Burns Supper for his poem *A Toast to the Lassie* to be recited where he writes that although Mother Nature created men first, she perfected the process with women.

The Glasshouse Edinburgh is putting on a celebration for the bard's birthday to salute his life and poetry with an evening of festivities in the hotel's Brasserie, complete with Scottish bagpipers and traditional haggis.

As your host for the evening, The Glasshouse will serve a three-course dinner in the Brasserie, regale guests with traditional speeches and haggis piping, and toast the poet with

a dram of single-malt whisky selected to complement the main course of the evening.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the time-honoured tradition of 'piping' the haggis. Guests are invited to stand as the haggis is brought in, usually by the chef on a large dish, while a bagpiper leads the way to the main table where the haggis is laid down. It is traditional for the bagpiper to play *A Man's A Man for A' That*, *Robbie Burns Medley* or *The Star O' Robbie Burns* while the haggis is brought in. Burns loved haggis so much he wrote a long poem dedicated to the dish and it ends with these lines:

'You powers, who make mankind your care,  
And dish them out their bill of fare,  
Old Scotland wants no watery stuff,  
That splashes in small wooden dishes;  
But if you wish her grateful prayer,  
Give her [Scotland] a Haggis!'

At The Glasshouse the haggis will be paired with the finest local whisky from the hotel's extensive collection of almost 160 Scotch whiskies. After dinner guests will be invited for an evening of Ceilidh dancing in the Calton Suite, which has breathtaking views across the city.

Burns would approve of dancing and music to celebrate his birthday; after all he wrote *Auld Land Syne*, that evergreen New Year's Eve song that is still sung today.

For more information on The Glasshouse Edinburgh and Burns Supper, please visit [www.theglasshousehotel.co.uk](http://www.theglasshousehotel.co.uk)

# the quintessential english afternoon

Let the hustle of London's historic financial district fade away with a decadent afternoon tea served by Wheeler's of St James's at Threadneedles hotel, an autograph collection hotel.

Words by TIEN CHEW

**T**he Dome Lounge, the former Victorian banking hall and beating heart of Threadneedles, has witnessed its share of power lunches and tête-à-têtes since its revival as a discreet boutique hotel. From the moment of entry, the five-star property's grandeur is palpable, given that it has played host as a banking hall to the City of London's power brokers and business elite since its inception in 1856. In the present day, natural light envelops the lounge through its iconic hand-painted stained glass dome, revealing low leather chairs, Corinthian pillars and ornate decorative mouldings.

Between the hours of 12 and five in the afternoon, many partake in the great British tradition at the Dome Lounge – afternoon tea – created by Marco Pierre White's Wheeler's of St James's. The restaurant, situated adjacent to the lounge, is known throughout London for its rigorous focus on the finest British ingredients, keeping to its reputation as "the world's oldest and finest fish brand", also dating back to 1856.

All tea sets come with the essentials; at the bottom of this three-tiered throne are a selection of traditional sandwiches, available on white or granary loaf with unsalted butter. The classics are all present: tuna and mayonnaise, Wiltshire ham with Colman's mustard, cucumber and cream cheese, egg and cress, and coronation chicken.

Move up a tier and you'll find freshly baked scones, served with clotted cream and berry preserves. A selection of pastries – macarons, Sachertorte and carrot cake – crown the top, finished with lemon cheese cake and seasonal fruit on the side. Although your choice of tea or herbal infusion will mellow things out, an optional flute of Veuve Clicquot champagne also serves as a highly effervescent refreshment.



For more information, go to [www.hotelthreadneedles.co.uk](http://www.hotelthreadneedles.co.uk)



Photograph by Harumi Suzuki.



# tapping into secret bath

this english city has lots of sublime stories to tell beyond its top attractions.

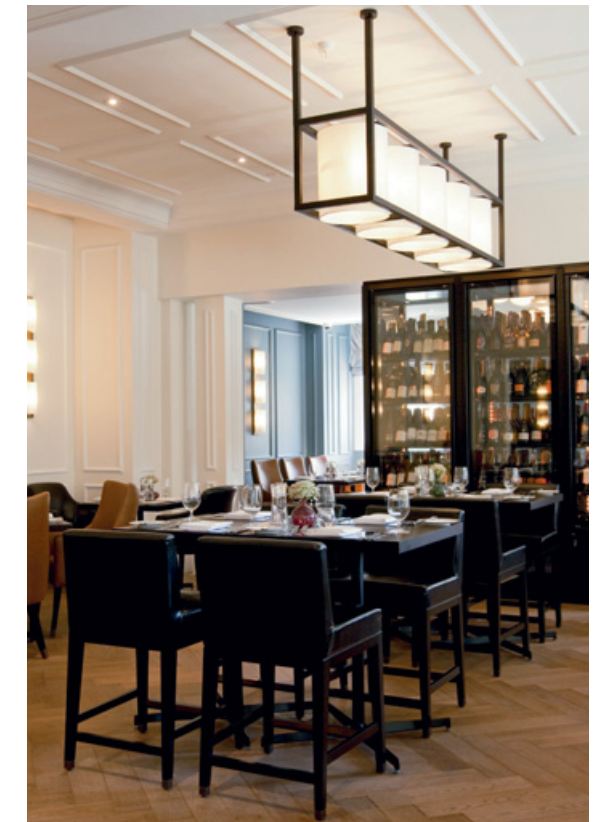
Words by JUNE MONG-LOFTIN

**B**ath is easily one of the prettiest cities in England, an Anglo-Saxon bauble with links to Roman history and set with stunning Georgian architecture like gems on a jewelled map. Most visitors to the city would have bookmarked its top attractions to visit as soon as they arrive. Give it time and Bath becomes all the more wondrous, yielding insider secrets that will make your interlude in the city extremely worthwhile.

When the famous 18th-century English painter and

portraitist Thomas Gainsborough moved to Bath with his family, he set up home in the Royal Crescent and lived next door to the Duke of Bedford. Named after the artist, The Gainsborough Bath Spa Hotel is perfectly situated on the cusp of the city centre, making it easy to explore the little-known gems of Bath and just as easy to nip off in a chauffeured car to visit Somerset Lavender Farm 30 minutes away. But more about this later.

Below is our thumbnail guide to our favourite places in Bath – all deliciously diverse.



Above: The Gainsborough Bath Spa classic room and The Gainsborough Restaurant.  
Facing page: Pulteney Bridge.

## MUSEUM

Owned by YTL Hotels, The Gainsborough upholds the heritage of the hospitality company. This is reflected in the eclectic menu crafted by executive chef Dan Moon, as well as the soft-touch hospitality and the orient-inspired spa menu. So it makes perfect sense that the boutique-sized Museum of East Asian Art should be your first stop in your exploration of the hidden sights of Bath. The museum's curator is Nicole Chiang, who has worked at the Fitzwilliam in Cambridge and the National Palace Museum in Taipei. Based near the Royal Crescent, the Museum of East Asian Art is very likely the only museum in Britain dedicated to the arts and cultures of eastern and Southeast Asia. It opened in 1993 as an education charity and features thousands of objects from the region. Some of its Chinese art dates back to 5000BC, many of which belonged to its founder Brian Elney, a long-time resident of Hong Kong who started collecting in 1955.

## HISTORY

On Claverton Down overlooking Bath is an 18th-century folly which looks like a castle but is really just a beautiful façade of two circular turrets and a pointed stone arch built in 1762. Called Sham Castle, it is an ideal spot from which to admire the spires of the city.

Do make a stop at Bath Abbey and climb the 200-plus steps of the tower to see the various levers and pulleys as well as the bells that ring the hours in Bath.

## SHOPPING

There are countless bookshops dotted around this city of learning and one of the best independent booksellers is Topping & Company Booksellers, with more than 45,000 titles on the handmade wooden shelves set on oak floors and reachable by rolling ladders.

## NATURE

Near The Gainsborough Bath Spa Hotel is Pulteney Bridge and Beazer Garden Maze. When the late former diplomat, and alleged spy, Randoll Coate designed the garden in 1984,

he was inspired by Brunel's railway, Georgian architecture and Roman history. Coate was one of Britain's most prolific labyrinth designers.

If you are in Bath between May and September, hire a car to visit Somerset Lavender Farm for its Healing Garden, Rose Arbour and over five acres of lavender blooms. It is an unforgettable sight to see bees humming over 50,000 lavender plants as they collect pollen to make honey. The farm shop and café is also open from November to the middle of December.

## TASTE

If you want to taste the 'gelato of dreams' then pop over to Swoon Gelato in Kingsmead Square in the historic centre. It won the top prize at Great Taste Awards 2019 for its nocciola gelato made from hazelnuts grown at a small property in Piedmont, Italy.

You may not associate the city with hops Bath-based Electric Bear Brewing Company makes craft quaffs such as IPAs, pale ales, sour beers, stouts and porters. You have to try the coffee- and chocolate-infused beers as well as the mango sour beers. The taproom is open every Friday and Saturday, and on Sundays in spring.

For more information please visit [www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk](http://www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk)

Life feature

# the gift of the great ocean road

feel the summer wind in your hair as you cruise along the great ocean road, an australian national heritage-listed 243-kilometre stretch of road along the south-eastern coast of victoria.

Words by JASON TAN

**A**re we there yet? Yes, we are. On the Great Ocean Road, the journey is the destination. Spectacular natural beauty beckons you out of your vehicle at every other turn to inhale the views. How rare; a road well-travelled that leads to a rediscovery of the old ways, on foot.

This 243-kilometre ribbon of tarmac between forest and sea is carved from the rugged coast of southwest Victoria, Australia. It runs from Torquay near Melbourne to the town of Allansford in the Western District of Victoria.

It was built, astonishingly with no use of heavy machinery, by soldiers who had fought in World War One as part of their rehabilitation into civilian life. Sometimes suspended from ropes, they chiselled away at sheer cliffs in chill wind and rain with handheld tools in honour of fallen comrades. The Great Ocean Road has been aptly described as “a permanent memorial to those who died while fighting in World War One, carved in rock”.

It is a testament to the enduring foundations of a public-spirited infrastructure project (and akin to a not-for-profit, crowd-funded, social enterprise, once a function of government). Like the Internet today, the Great Ocean Road connected Victoria's remote coastal communities with the rest of the country. It was made toll-free just four years after it opened, in 1936, when it was handed over to the state government by the eponymous trust set up to fund it.

Alderman Howard Hitchcock, then mayor of Geelong, the city near where the road begins, is credited as the road's prime mover. With a director's vision, he ran the project in service of the repatriated ex-servicemen and saw in Australia's great outdoors a tourist destination to rival the French Riviera's urbane charms and California's iconic coastal routes, then also being built.

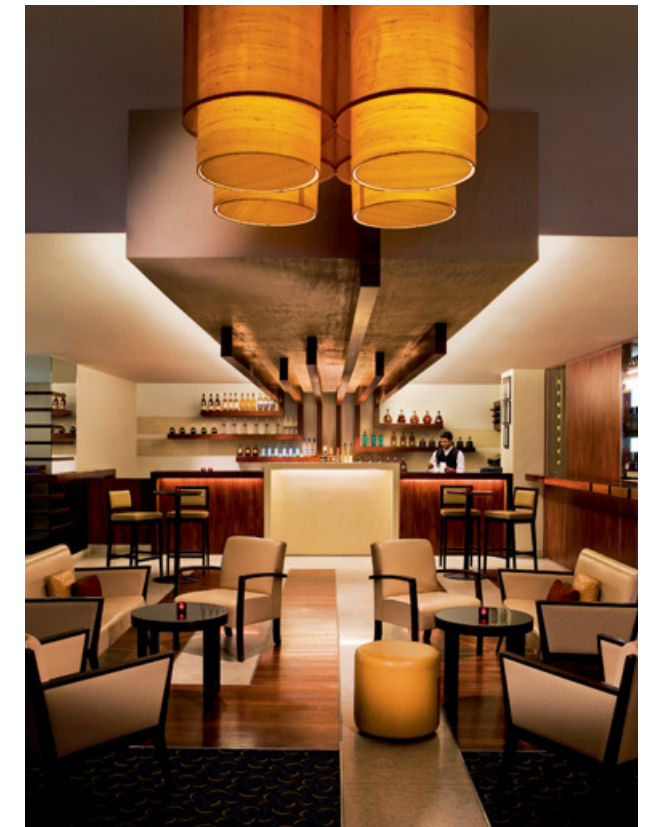
Thus the ex-soldiers' gift to the community that welcomed them back is one that keeps on giving. Call it the multiplier effect. The Great Ocean Road stands remarkably intact against the weight of domestic and international tourists.

We suggest to walk, bike or surf softly this way:

- Book a stay at Melbourne Marriott Hotel, a luxurious property ideally set in the heart of the CBD. Take some time to explore Melbourne's iconic landmarks, fashion hub, gastronomy nexus and nightlife hotspots, then rent a car in the heart of the city to embark on your Great Ocean Road adventure. Ask the hotel to pack you a picnic for the road.
- Once you're on the road, stop between Lorne and Apollo Bay; there are sheer drops from the road into the Bass Strait and Southern Ocean, with waves from the Antarctic to match.
- The Great Otway National Park's temperate rainforest has waterfalls, gorges and bridges across treetops.
- The Great Ocean Walk is 91 kilometres of beaches, forests and some of Australia's highest sea cliffs.
- Sow and Piglets is what the 12 Apostles used to be called. Their fewer-than-12 limestone formations, up to 15 stories high, were carved out and collapsed by the sea.
- This explains how Shipwreck Coast came to be called, where some 200 vessels came to grief.
- Get to Lake Elizabeth at dawn to spot elusive platypuses from the boardwalk that runs around the lake.



Right: Elements Bar at Melbourne Marriott Hotel and Triplet Falls.  
Below: Shipwreck Coast.





# a heavenly stay

the westin perth's tasteful  
interiors marry inspirations  
of western australia's  
natural beauty with  
cosmopolitan sensibilities.

Words by TIEN CHEW



The colours used throughout the property are a soothing mix of warm neutral tones – beige, cream and sandstone – contrasted by darker detailing such as leather and mahogany, a nod to the state's landscape. Designed by Melbourne-based BAR Studio to express the philosophy of a Perth residence, the hotel's aesthetics intentionally forsake the modish vibes of an international hotel to instead create a homely feel with cosmopolitan sensibilities. Enhancing that original feeling of Western Australian casual luxe at The Westin Perth are over 2,000 pieces of artworks, curated by Art Duo consultants Ilana Rabinowitz and Sonja Brouard. A majority of these works depict dramatic landscapes of Western Australia and there are original pieces from local artists.

The entry-level deluxe rooms at The Westin Perth are generously sized, even by five-star hotel standards, measuring a spacious 42 square metres. All rooms come with The Westin's signature Heavenly Bed, designed with a plush, pillow-top construction for comfort and support. In the bathroom, a walk-in rain shower and bathtub, replete with PABA-, paraben- and dye-free White Tea amenities, promise relaxation and reinvigoration after a long day.

At the upper end of the spectrum is the one-bedroom Executive Suite, which comes with lounge and study areas, with a cavernous 152 square metres in which to luxuriate. Guests of the Executive Suite and Club floors may also avail themselves of the Executive Club Lounge for gourmet breakfast spreads, evening cocktails and canapés, as well as a selection of wines and beers as they enjoy a splendid view overlooking the pool.

Hibernian Place, a 2,000-square-metre communal space in the CBD that The Westin Perth calls home, further extends this architectural artistry. A rooftop garden, manicured lawns, stylish stone and timber furniture, and a host of attractive amenities make the location a multi-faceted hotspot for private and corporate functions. Hibernian Place is also home to trendy eateries, such as the Middle-Eastern rooftop restobar Hadiqa, Offshoot coffee roastery by Mary Street Bakery and Japanese whisky bar Goody Two's.

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



Above: the executive suites are modern and spacious.  
Facing page, below: deluxe double room.

Photographs by Michael Choo, Peter Bennett.

**A**s you enter The Westin Perth, the hotel's commitment to living well becomes immediately evident. This emphasis on well-being and restoration is communicated through thoughtfully designed spaces, with Western Australia's beauty personified through the design and décor of its public areas, and each of its 368 guestrooms. Whether you're seeking a moment of respite at Bodhi J spa or sitting down to contemporary Roman cuisine at Guy Grossi's Garum, the ambience is one that easily complements your moment.



# under one roof

in a city renowned for its feats of gastronomy, the sydney harbour marriott hotel offers three spectacular establishments in one location.

Words by TIEN CHEW



Sydney'siders have it good, thanks to the city's buzzing culinary scene bolstered by the presence of numerous world-renowned chefs. The Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel, located in the tourist hotspot of Circular Quay, is home to three of the city's gastronomic finds: Silvester's serves modern Australian fare from breakfast to dinner, Three Bottle Man is café by day and cocktail bar by night, and Customs House Bar is one of Sydney's oldest pubs.

Award-winning Silvester's, run under the Bocuse-trained Parisian chef Raphael Szurek, boasts high ceilings, grand spaces and an open kitchen, orchestrating fresh takes on modern

Australian cuisine. Szurek brings with him Michelin-starred sensibilities from his time across Europe, Asia and Oceania, incorporating international influences into locally sourced produce to create exciting dishes. On the lunch and dinner menu, creations such as squid carbonara and house-smoked hiramase king fish vie for attention, with the former made using house-made guanciale and quail egg and the latter with Yarra Valley salmon roe and crème fraiche. The restaurant also commands a robust wine list, featuring over 100 sommelier-curated premium Australian and international vintages.

Three Bottle Man offers a trendy café scene and an al fresco laneway dining experience. The restaurant's name comes from

Australian architect and politician William Pitt, a nod to the three bottles of liquor he was known to take with him on his travels. Here, at LUX Restaurant & Bar Awards 2018 "best all-day dining destination", custom-blended coffee and healthy breakfast and lunch options are served under sunny blue skies. At night, the ambience segues into a more sophisticated space, one that speaks of bespoke cocktails made using Australian spirits, local craft beers, charcuterie boards and sharing platters.

The Gastropub Customs House Bar, extending into Macquarie Place Park, lays claim to over 160 years of history. Here, in the open-air beer garden replete with hanging gardens and

communal tables, you can enjoy shared plates of beer-battered fries and buttermilk fried chicken, the ideal companions to a frosty pint. Over 20 beers (from boutique to international) are available on rotation. The three cheese and bacon burger – Angus beef, Brie, blue, Emmental and chipotle aioli on a brioche bun – is best paired with a tart cocktail like Let Me Entertain Yuzu, a mix of tequila and agave with yuzu and passion fruit.

[www.sydneyharbourmarriott.com.au](http://www.sydneyharbourmarriott.com.au)



Three Bottle Man.



Customs House Bar.

# waltz of THE FLOWERS

thailand's native flowers play a starring role in the ritz-carlton, koh samui's signature spa village treatment, blessed flowers.

Words by RENYI LIM





Blessed Flowers.  
Facing page: Spa Village Koh Samui.

**W**oven into the fabric of Thailand, especially its customs and traditions, is the language of flowers – a charming form of communication that’s reflected at The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui. Newly arrived guests at the resort, for instance, are greeted with an intricately crafted wristlet of magenta frangipani blossoms and white jasmine, while an expert team of on-site gardeners ensures that topiaries and brightly coloured flowerbeds remain pleasing to the eye.

Within the extensive domain of Spa Village Koh Samui, the island’s native flora takes centre stage in one of its signature treatments, reverentially referred to as Blessed Flowers. Not only is it a celebration of Koh Samui’s abundant natural gifts, but it also highlights the vivid colours and sensory fragrances of Thailand’s traditional blooms – from the piquant torch ginger flower to the headily scented ylang-ylang – and their vital role in local rituals and beauty regimens.

Blessed Flowers takes place in one of the Spa Village’s eight treatment suites. Outstretched upon a tiled, cushioned bed designed specially for water-based wellness treatments, guests are gently scrubbed with a paste of flower petals, aloe vera gel and papaya-based fruit enzymes – all mixed together on the spot by the spa therapist to allow for maximum efficacy.

Applied directly to the skin, the concoction exfoliates and moisturises simultaneously, leaving guests petal-soft and ready to be cleansed beneath the horizontal shower. Then comes a

short – but refreshing – surprise: the Songkran Shower ritual inspired by the annual Songkran festival, which takes place during the Thai New Year. Mirroring the joyful throwing of water for which the festival is famous, guests are liberally splashed with flower-scented water, into which jasmine buds, frangipani tendrils and rose petals have been strewn.

Having awakened the skin, rendering it taut and smooth, the last traces of exfoliating scrub are washed away and the treatment shifts to the massage bed at the opposite end of the suite. The application of heat plays an equally strong role in Thai healing practices and the Blessed Flowers treatment makes full use of this holistic approach by introducing warm flower-infused compresses as a way of further hydrating travel-weary skin and soothing tired muscles.

Strong, rhythmic strokes guide the final (and most relaxing) part of the treatment – the flower balance massage – following the path paved by the hot poultices as the spa therapist works away at each guest’s knots and sore spots. With the focus falling squarely on the body’s energy meridians, guests emerge with a newly discovered feeling of harmony – one that has opened up within them like a flower in full bloom.

For more information, please visit [www.ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui)



Photographs by Soo Phye.

# 12 things to do around jw marriott kuala Lumpur

the jw marriott kuala Lumpur, famously known as the happening hotel, is located close to a plethora of exciting attractions, foods and sights in Malaysia's capital. here's everything you need for a memorable stay at the bustling entertainment, food and retail district of kuala Lumpur.

Words by CHRISTOPHER TUCK



## 1. DISCOVER THE CITY'S BEST HAWKER FARE IN ONE PLACE

Less than a five-minute walk from the hotel is Lot 10 Hutong, which features a diverse collection of stalls with the best heritage hawker fare in the Klang Valley and beyond. Classic Malaysian brands range from Soong Kee, a Hakka-style Kuala Lumpur beef noodle stall dating back to 1945, to Penang biscuit legend Ghee Hiang, with over 150 years of experience baked into each flaky pastry. And that's only the tip of the iceberg.

## 2. DIY BATIK

Batik, the traditional craft of decorating cloth by using wax and dye to create vibrant patterns, has a timeless appeal in Malaysian fashion. At Ainna Artwork in Central Market, a handicraft and souvenir hub built as a wet market in 1888, visitors can try their hand at learning the art of batik painting, keeping the result of their labours.





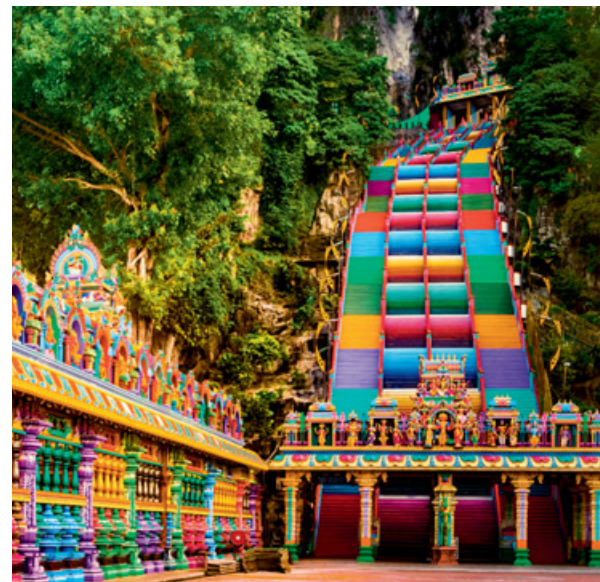
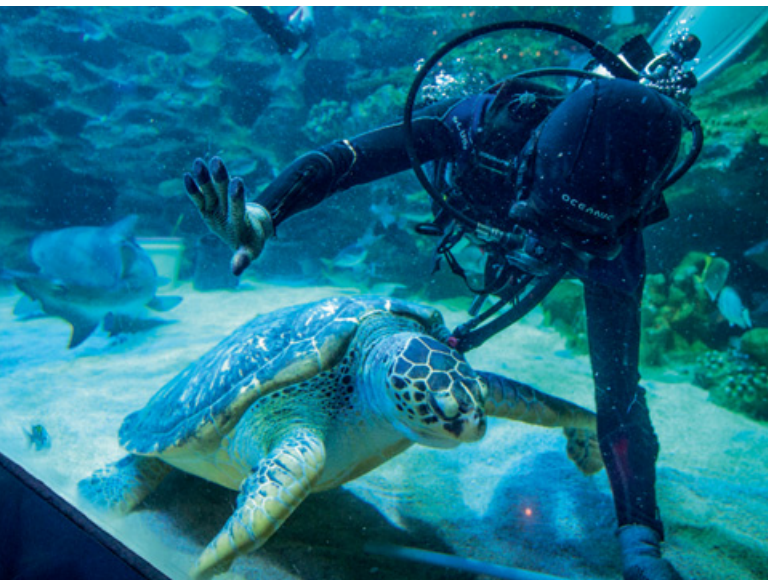
**3. UNCOVER CHINATOWN'S HIDDEN GEMS**

Look past the hustle of Petaling Street's Chinatown buzz and you'll find a collection of contemporary establishments, with two places standing out — Merchant's Lane and PS150. The former is an Asian fusion restaurant and café, adding Malaysian flair to international favourites such as nasi lemak pancakes and chicken satay tortillas. The latter is a cocktail bar that infuses the charm of Chinatown and bold South East Asian flavours into alcoholic potions.



**4. SWIM WITH THE FISHES**

Under the iconic Petronas Twin Towers lies Aquaria KLCC, a 60,000 square-foot oceanarium with over 5,000 different aquatic and land creatures. If you're a certified diver, you can enrol for a special dive every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday in a 2.5 million litre tank, putting you in the thick of five different species of sharks and various deep-sea creatures.



**5. CLIMB CRAGS NEAR A HOLY HINDU TEMPLE**

Batu Caves, the limestone outcrop that serves as the site of a Hindu temple and shrine, doubles as a rock climbing destination. A variety of extreme sports companies offer climbing tours at Batu Caves, with courses crafted and supervised by certified instructors, ideal for both beginners and skilled climbers. After a rigorous climb, don't forget to stop at the temple to admire paintings of Hindu Gods in Ramayana Cave.

**6. DINE IN A MIDDLE-EASTERN BAZAAR**

Aromas of spices and meats invitingly waft through the doors of Tarbush Gourmet, a restaurant designed to imitate the feel of a Middle-Eastern bazaar. Located on the upper ground floor of JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur, diners can enjoy a large assortment of dishes, such as biryani, baba ghanoush, falafels, sambosas and more, buffet style.

**7. DISCOVER KL'S INDIE ART SCENE**

The old Zhongshan building in Kampung Attap has been refurbished to house a gallery, trendy cafés and an independent arts and research hub. Here, you'll find gems like music store Tandang Records, bread haven Tommy Le Baker, and all manner of knick-knacks and artworks sprawled across various lots.





**8. HIKE IN THE CITY'S FOREST RESERVE**

For a dose of greenery, the Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve is perfect for a morning stroll. Positioned right next to another city icon — KL Tower — the renamed KL Eco Forest Park is one of the oldest rainforest reserves in the country. Entrance is free and a mix of canopy walks and hanging bridges make for great snapshots.



**11. SWAY TO THEATRICAL SPLENDOUR**

The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPac) is home to the city's vibrant arts community, situated in the 35-acre private community park of Sentul. Here, live performances such as dance, theatre, plays, opera and musical acts come to life.

**12. END THE NIGHT WITH A DRAM AND A CIGAR**

JW Firehouse is an opulent yet casual space which speaks of leather-upholstered furnishing, dark wood panelling, warm lighting, and a marble bar top, evoking classic bar vibes. A robust list of premium spirits and classic cocktails — including a house Mezcal — are best enjoyed with a cigar in hand, available from the outlet's own curated collection.

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

**10. VISIT THE WORLD'S LARGEST FREE-FLIGHT WALK-IN AVIARY**

KL Bird Park, found in the heart of the city, contains over 3000 local and foreign birds across 200 species. The park is divided into four zones over 20.9-acres of valley terrain and is built to encourage close-up encounters with a variety of birds, from peacocks to hornbills.



**9. TASTE AUTHENTIC XIAO LONG BAO**

Shanghai restaurant at JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur celebrates 20 years as one of the city's finest places to sample the Shanghainese delicacy xiao long bao. Helmed by a bona fide Shanghainese chef, the restaurant's extensive menu contains over 200 dishes and dim sum, offering the promise of repeated visits to sample the entire list.

Photographs by The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre, Aquaria KLCC, Tommy Le Baker, and PS150.





**GAYA ISLAND RESORT**  
DISTINCTIVELY BORNEO



**PANGKOR LAUT RESORT**  
ONE ISLAND. ONE RESORT



**TANJONG JARA RESORT**  
UNMISTAKABLY MALAY



**CAMERON HIGHLANDS RESORT**  
TRAILS, TALES AND TRADITIONS



set within tunku abdul rahman marine park, gaya island resort is a jewel located off the capital of sabah, kota kinabalu. golden sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters teeming with marine life are compelling attractions, while its spa village offers opportunities to sample authentic borneo-inspired therapies.

[www.gaya island resort.com](http://www.gaya island resort.com)

this luxurious resort is set on a private tropical island on the straits of malacca. villas either fringe the hillside or are gracefully balanced on stilts over water. an award-winning spa village offers world-class treatments derived from chinese, indian and malay healing traditions.

[www.pangkor laut resort.com](http://www.pangkor laut resort.com)

tanjong jara resort on the east coast of peninsular malaysia embodies the essence of malay culture and traditions. facing the south china sea and surrounded by the lush green beauty of the local countryside, tanjong jara resort reveals a quieter but equally attractive side to malaysia.

[www.tanjongjararesort.com](http://www.tanjongjararesort.com)

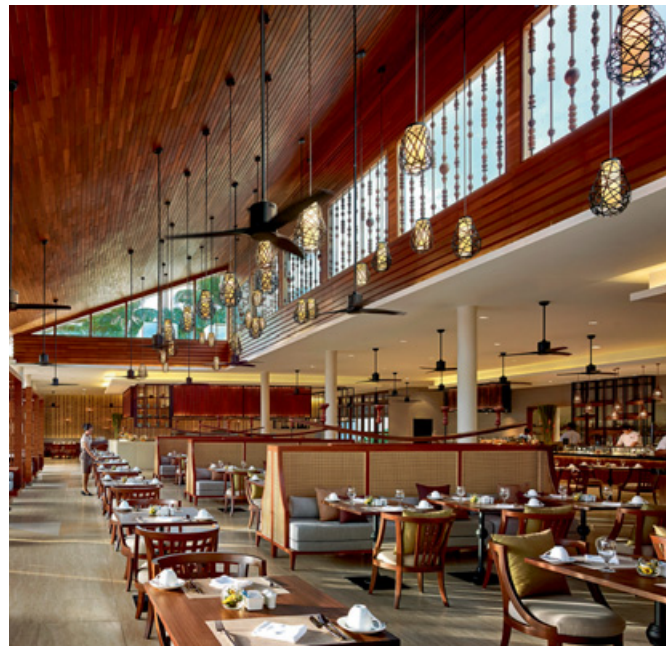
evoking the splendour, the romance and the nostalgia of one of malaysia's oldest hill stations and its grand colonial heritage, cameron highlands resort with its luxurious rooms and award-winning spa village is the best place to take in the area's rolling hills, tea plantations, rose gardens and strawberry farms.

[www.cameronhighlandsresort.com](http://www.cameronhighlandsresort.com)



**THE RITZ-CARLTON**

KOH SAMUI



**THE RITZ-CARLTON**

KUALA LUMPUR



**JW MARRIOTT**

KUALA LUMPUR



**HOTEL STRIPES**  
KUALA LUMPUR

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION<sup>®</sup>  
HOTELS



nestled within the embrace of a private sun-kissed bay, the ritz-carlton, koh samui is surrounded by oceanfront beauty and quintessential experiences that artfully reflect the samui way of life. this makes the beautiful property an ideal setting to embark on wellness programmes, cultural immersions or culinary journeys.

[ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui](http://ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui)

located in kuala lumpur's golden triangle business district, this stylish luxury hotel is conveniently positioned for upscale shopping, dining and entertainment. it is home to an award-winning spa, and gourmands will be delighted by the indulgent afternoon tea experience as well as li yen's stellar cantonese cuisine.

[ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur](http://ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur)

located along bukit bintang road at the heart of kuala lumpur, jw marriott is ideal for business and leisure travellers. with world-class shopping malls nearby, this conveniently located hotel with its extensive range of facilities is one of the city's finest.

[jwmarriottkualalumpur.com](http://jwmarriottkualalumpur.com)

hotel stripes is the second autograph collection hotel in malaysia. it combines a modern vibe and historical references to its location, one of kuala lumpur's oldest neighbourhoods. with contemporary guestrooms and suites, the hotel is a convenient base to explore the malaysian capital's many attractions.

[www.stripeskl.com](http://www.stripeskl.com)



# THE SURIN PHUKET



situated on pansea beach, one of phuket's most private stretches of sand, the surin offers a perfect slice of thai beach life. the cottages and suites are built into a carefully conserved landscape. from sumptuous cuisine to watersports, the surin combines idyllic tropical charm with the warmth of thai hospitality.

[www.thesurinphuket.com](http://www.thesurinphuket.com)

black volcanic sand, the majestic mount agung, the deep blue of the indian ocean and the mystical balinese way of life come together in style at spa village resort tembok, bali. located in the north of the island, the resort is a haven of wellness, where guests can enjoy all the benefits and pleasures of spa life in tranquil surroundings.

[www.spavillageresort.com/tembokbali](http://www.spavillageresort.com/tembokbali)



regarded as the cradle of malaysian history, malacca in its heyday was a port-city that welcomed spice traders, sultans and warriors. soak up the magic and the history at the majestic malacca, the city's finest hotel, built in the 1920s, and furnished with interiors indicative of the city's rich culture.

[www.majesticmalacca.com](http://www.majesticmalacca.com)



fully restored to its former glory, this elegant 1930s property marries history with world-class hospitality. dining options include hainanese favourites at colonial café as well as an interactive dining experience at contango, while the rooms are a blend of contemporary style and old-world finesse.

[www.majestickl.com](http://www.majestickl.com)

# THE GLASSHOUSE

EDINBURGH

# THREADNEEDLES

LONDON

# THE ACADEMY

LONDON



this luxury boutique hotel is considered one of the best places to stay in edinburgh, with cosy contemporary interiors, warm scottish service and consistently spectacular views of the city centre and cal ton hill from the hotel's two-acre rooftop garden.

this former victorian bank has been transformed into a discreet, boutique-style hotel, crowned by an elegant stained glass dome, an unexpected find in the city's heart. the hotel exudes grandeur in a thoroughly modern way, while service is polished; it's also unpretentious amid the bustle of square mile.

situated in bloomsbury, the academy hotel london comprises a collection of five georgian townhouses combined into one charming luxury hotel. this rejuvenated 50-guestroom/suite boutique hotel juxtaposes timeless glamour and a contemporary take on townhouse living.

monkey island estate is located on a picturesque island in the river thames in the historic village of bray, berkshire. set across seven acres, the property features 41 exquisite rooms designed by the award-winning new york-based champalimaud design as well as six private residences.

[www.theglasshousehotel.co.uk](http://www.theglasshousehotel.co.uk)

[www.hotelthreadneedles.co.uk](http://www.hotelthreadneedles.co.uk)

[www.theacademyhotel.co.uk](http://www.theacademyhotel.co.uk)

[www.monkeyislandestate.co.uk](http://www.monkeyislandestate.co.uk)

THE  
GAINSBOROUGH  
BATH SPA



the gainsborough bath spa offers the only natural thermal spa within a hotel in the uk. the hotel is a moment's stroll from bath abbey, the high street stores on milsom street and the roman baths, which makes it a choice location from which to explore the city and its nearby attractions.

[www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk](http://www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk)

a glamorous and private hideaway in the south of france, muse saint tropez is all about the high life. located in ramatuelle and surrounded by forests of umbrella pines, this boutique property features just 15 suites, each of which is named after famous 'muses'.

[www.muse-hotels.com](http://www.muse-hotels.com)

NV Niseko Village  
Always in Season



the heart of the village is niseko village's main pulse where paved intimate walkways are flanked by contemporary shopping and dining options. just moments from niseko village's award-winning hotels, residences and lifts, its slopeside location allows for seamless ski-in, ski-out access between mountain adventures and indoor diversions. both modern and traditional interweave, evoking a genteel lifestyle at the village with its authentic japanese machiya architectural setting. après-ski is excitingly redefined at niseko village.

[www.niseko-village.com](http://www.niseko-village.com)



the spa villages celebrate the healing culture of the region in which each is built. each spa village has its own character and authenticity, honouring local healers and traditions that have been passed down the generations.

PANGKOR LAUT | TANJONG JARA | KUALA LUMPUR | CAMERON HIGHLANDS | MALACCA  
GAYA ISLAND | TEMBOK, BALI | HANGZHOU | BATH | STARHILL | KOH SAMUI

[www.spavillage.com](http://www.spavillage.com)



the eastern & oriental express epitomises the grandeur, luxury and romance of rail travel from a bygone era. journey amid the trappings of old-world opulence across three countries, through the entire length of peninsular malaysia, on a route connecting the southeast asian metropolises of singapore and bangkok.

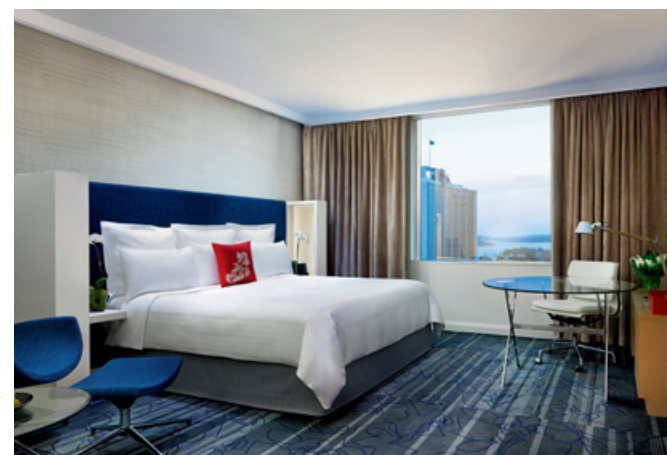
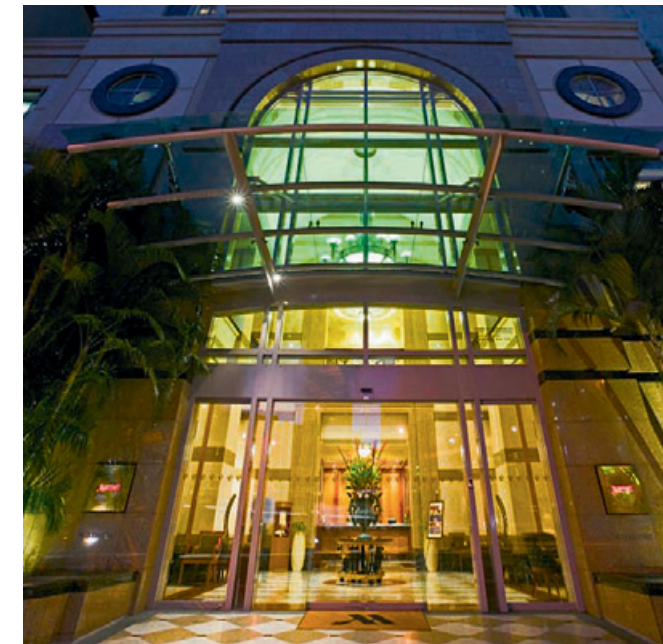
[www.ytlhotels.com](http://www.ytlhotels.com)

## THE WESTIN PERTH



the 368-room westin perth is located in the revitalised east end of perth known as the historic heart of the city, close to shopping malls, elizabeth quay and the vibrant swan river precinct. the hotel is the cornerstone of hibernian place, featuring a lively and eclectic mix of bars, cafés and restaurants.

[www.westinperth.com](http://www.westinperth.com)



the melbourne marriott is centrally located, close to the city's theatre precinct, shopping districts and chinatown. featuring world-class service, all 186 well-appointed rooms and suites are modern and elegant. facilities include a heated indoor pool, gymnasium, signature restaurant and vibrant lounge.

[marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

the 563-room sydney harbour marriott is set in the heart of circular quay, overlooking the harbour bridge and opera house. guests will find themselves near dining, fashion and entertainment hotspots. the sydney harbour bridge, opera house, the rocks and hyde park are all moments away.

[marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

the brisbane marriott, with 267 rooms and suites, is ideally placed between brisbane's cbd and the fortitude valley hub. with a stunning backdrop of the brisbane river, story bridge, kangaroo point cliffs and city skyline, the hotel is close to shopping, riverside dining, the commercial district and cultural attractions.

[marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

centrally located near the hague city centre and the north sea coast, the hague marriott hotel features contemporary style with a warm ambiance. 306 comfortable and spacious rooms and suites are thoughtfully appointed with stylish design accents and complimentary wi-fi. many of the city's attractions are located nearby.

[www.thehaguemarriott.com](http://www.thehaguemarriott.com)

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