

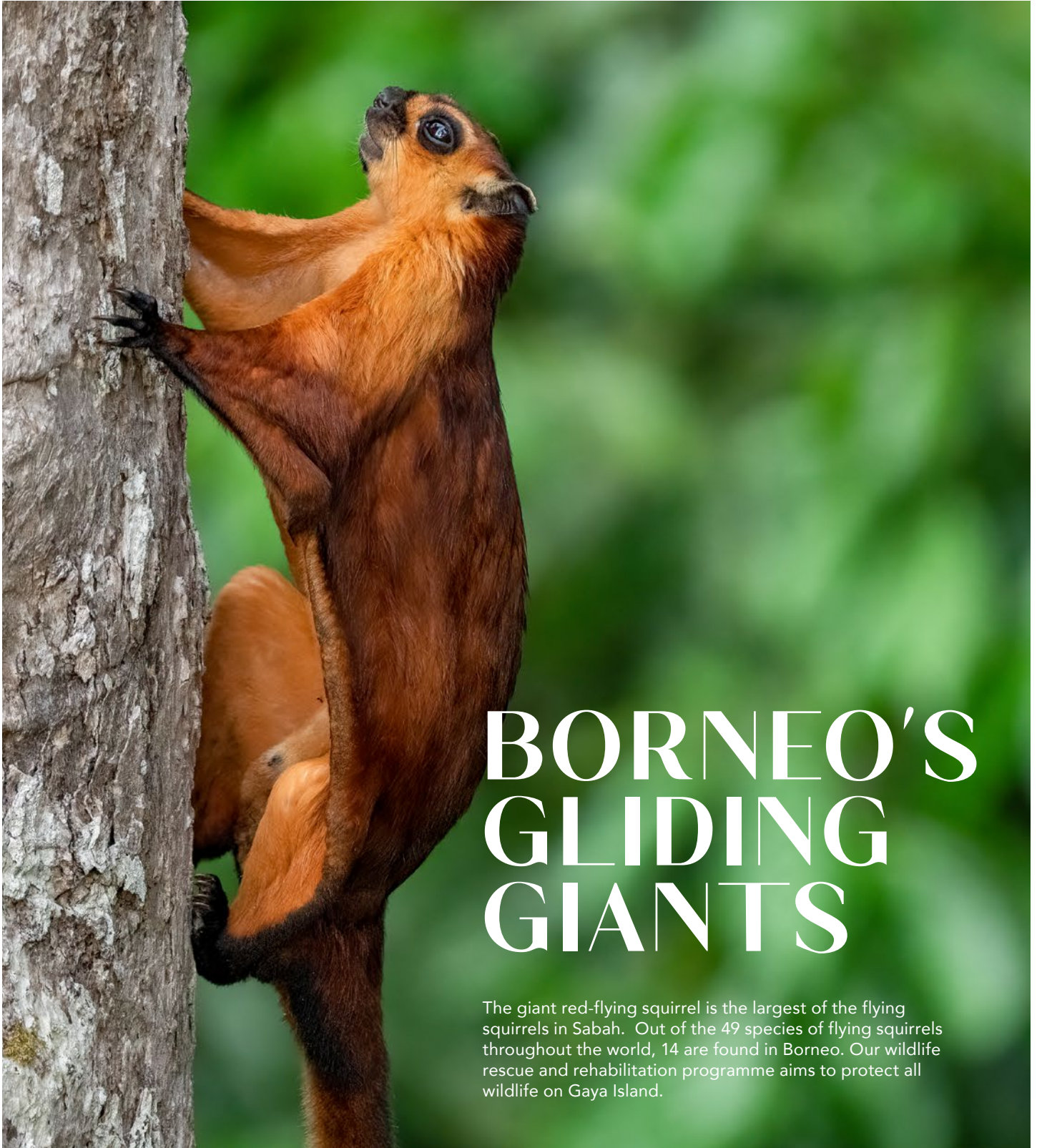
YTL'S

NATURAL WONDERS

Nº.3

VOICE OF CONSERVATION

MAR '24



BORNEO'S GLIDING GIANTS

The giant red-flying squirrel is the largest of the flying squirrels in Sabah. Out of the 49 species of flying squirrels throughout the world, 14 are found in Borneo. Our wildlife rescue and rehabilitation programme aims to protect all wildlife on Gaya Island.

A WELCOME MESSAGE

FROM JUSTIN JUHUN



Dear guests,

Welcome back to the pages of Natural Wonders - The Voices of Conservation, now in its third volume of collating and curating updates on YTL Hotels' key sustainability and environmental initiatives. With travel and life resuming at pre-pandemic norm now, we are pleased to also see the same encouraging progress with our conservation efforts that gained its biggest traction during the global lockdowns.

On the West coast of Malaysia, Pangkor Laut Resort's many wildlife and ground surveys allowed us to get an overview of the diversity of our forest and seas so we can paint a solid picture of what we're working with. The efforts are heightened with the materialisation of Nature Conservation Centre, serving as our headquarters to do more for our flora, fauna and coral reefs. The lifeline of our forests is not

forgotten with the establishment of our Tropical Botanical Garden, where we have successfully cultivated rare species of plants native to the island, such as the Triangular Clubmoss. We are excited to be expecting more good news as the teams for both the centre and garden expand and, along with the headcount, the conservation work that they are able to do.

On the East Coast of the Peninsula, a survey of the four different topographical zones of Tanjong Jara Resort and its grounds has also yielded highly fruitful findings. We have identified a diversity of wildlife species, diurnal and nocturnal, so as to be able to plan proper trails, immersive programmes and sustainable encounters for nature enthusiasts. By educating and building awareness among staff and locals, we are able to offer harmonious human and nature experiences that do not jeopardise the natural balance of the ecosystems. Our protected beach and its turtle conservation programme is one such stellar example, where we are able to offer up close spectacles of the natural cycle of life of endangered turtles between April and October each year.

We also have heartwarming news from Gaya Island Resort, where rescued sea turtle Covid is making leaps and bounds in recovery and is soon expected to return to sea. The same is being observed with the red giant flying squirrel Yoma, who is now soaring to new heights with its rehabilitation and is also on track to be released back to its natural habitat.

I hope you find as much fulfillment as we do in learning more about the nature that surrounds us. One day, may you also have the opportunity to be part of the many delightful nature experiences that our conservation team has put in place. From the warm seas to lush forests, it has long been our mission to protect our natural landscapes and all the beauty it has to offer.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Juhun
Director of Conservation
YTL Hotels



SOARING WITH THE HORNBILLS OF PANGKOR LAUT RESORT

At any time of your stay, it is not uncommon to look up from the unbreaking seaviews of Pangkor Laut Resort and spy the majestic black feathered kings with golden beaks and crowns that are our resident Oriental Pied Hornbills. Their frequent sightings are thanks to our internship programme with the University College of Sabah Foundation to study the birds' behaviour, breeding patterns and, more importantly, conducive habitual environments as to ensure a healthy and sustainable population.

After staking out various sites, monitoring their diets and studying their behavioural patterns, the team learned crucial information about the birds, such as that they monogamous, oviparous, omnivorous and dimorphic.

This input allows our wildlife warriors to create more advantageous environments for existing and future birds to not just survive, but thrive.





RIDDING THE GHOST NETS OF PULAU PANGKOR



The vibrant marine life around Pulau Pangkor makes for one of the biggest attractions and source of life for the locals and holiday-makers alike. During a chance deep dive into a nearby shore to survey the seabed of Pangkor Laut Resort, a menacing nest of ghost nets was found by the reef, tangled by one of the building pillars. Ghost nets are particularly deadly for marine animals like dolphins and turtles that can get entangled in them and drown when they cannot surface for air.

Our team launched an endeavour to remove the mass of ghost nets, the startling size of which indicated that it might have been accumulating for years. The effort took a month to complete, being possible to execute only during low tide. Moving forward, the team will be conducting frequent scouts and checks to eradicate future ghost nets before they claim any more innocent lives.



CELEBRATING NEW LIFE AT OUR TELUK KETAPANG TURTLE HATCHERY

Not just a hatchery but a sanctuary for all turtles.

Collaborating with MareCet (a non-profit NGO that is dedicated solely to the Marine Mammal Conservation and research in Malaysia) and Teluk Ketapang turtle hatchery by providing technical support in terms of wildlife care, rescue, rehabilitation and release.

Since the first day of Pangkor Laut Resort's and the Teluk Ketapang collaboration program was established, we have rehabilitated six injured and sick turtles. Through our dedication and intense treatment programmes, five out of the six turtles have been released back into its natural habitat.

To ensure that the program continues to operate professionally, we have established a collaboration project with the local veterinarians through sharing of our experiences.





ECO-TOURISM AT ONE WITH NATURE AT TANJONG JARA RESORT



Since its conception, Tanjong Jara Resort was carefully planned to encroach on as little as possible of its lush surrounding nature so as to exist as one with the forest and wetlands it calls home.

Developers identified four zones of development to ensure minimal disruption – two of them are forested sites that today serve as vital conservation landmarks that also double as the resort’s in-house attractions.

The wetlands and coastal forests are home to the resort’s natural mangroves and trekking sites respectively. The hotel group chose to lean in to the existing bounty of these landscapes and use them as they are meant to be – as natural sites for prized visits and studies for nature enthusiasts and researchers.

Guests who go on a river cruise down the mangrove or trek through the forest will have high chances of spotting a myriad of wildlife here, undisturbed, untouched and unadulterated in all their full glory.





ADOPT A NEST OF TURTLE HATCHLINGS AT TANJONG JARA TURTLE WATCH

This year marks eight strong years since the establishment of Tanjong Jara Resort's Turtle Watch, an effort first created in exclusive partnership with Lang Tengah Turtle Watch in 2016.

The effort is a personification of the resort's commitment to live harmoniously with its natural surroundings and to protect and conserve its local fauna by incubating turtle nests in the hatchery to protect them from poachers and predators, thus increasing their hatching success rate.

On top of learning about these majestic creatures and witnessing the emergence of hatchlings by night, visitors can now also adopt a nest from the programme for a monetary pledge.

The pledges will save a nest from poachers and entitle donors to receive regular email updates with photographic progress reports, including an invitation to return to the resort to witness the hatching of their nest.





THE TRIALS & TURBULATIONS OF COVID THE SEA TURTLE



Visitors of Gaya Island Resort will be familiar with the tale of Covid the sea turtle, who was found floating off the shores of Gaya Island on the second day of the first nationwide Movement Control Order in early 2020.

It had a fractured carapace as the victim of an unfortunate boat strike, resulting in a floating syndrome that rendered it unable to sink to depths to feed. Over the last three years, it received daily treatment and weight therapy at Gaya Island Resort Marine Centre as part of its rehabilitation processes.

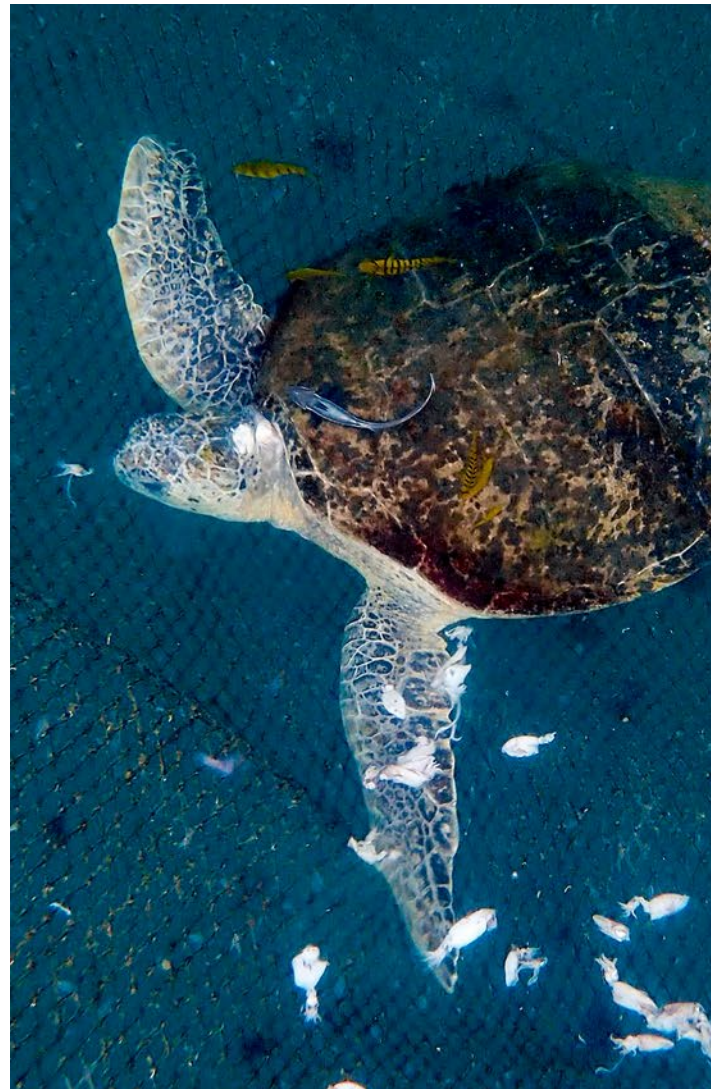




This year, reintroduction to the sea has begun for Covid, beginning with the building of a sea cage to help it acclimatise to water submergence and relearn how to dive deeper. A 20 feet x 20 feet x 15 feet sea cage was built specially for this purpose, installed just by the resort's guest jetty for ease of access and monitoring.

Following careful watch and with some help from dive weights, Covid showed encouraging behaviour where he was able to dive to depths of more than five metres, explore his periphery and stay at the bottom of the cage for extended periods of time.

Most recently, the assisting dive weights have fallen off and Covid is submerging to new depths without them. Release seems very possible and, more importantly, soon.





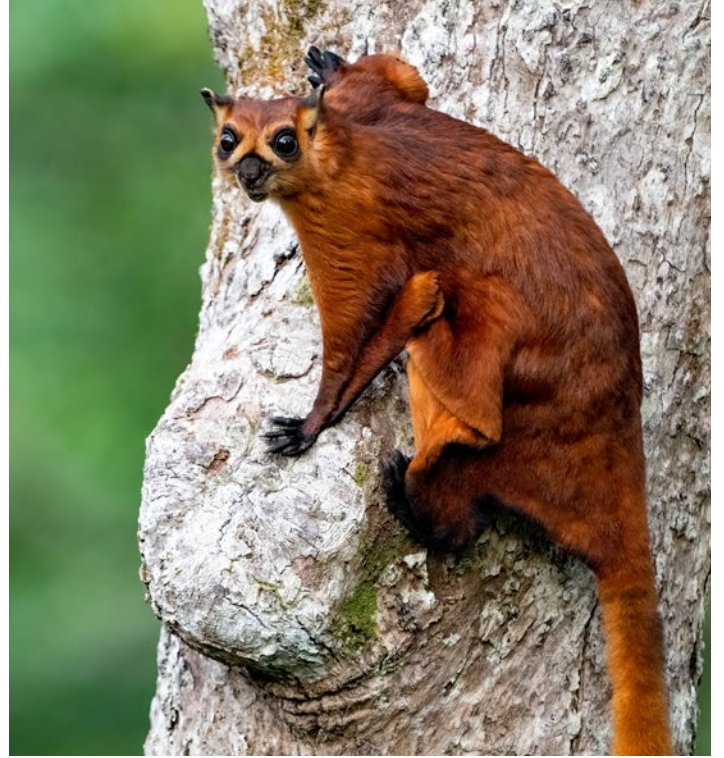
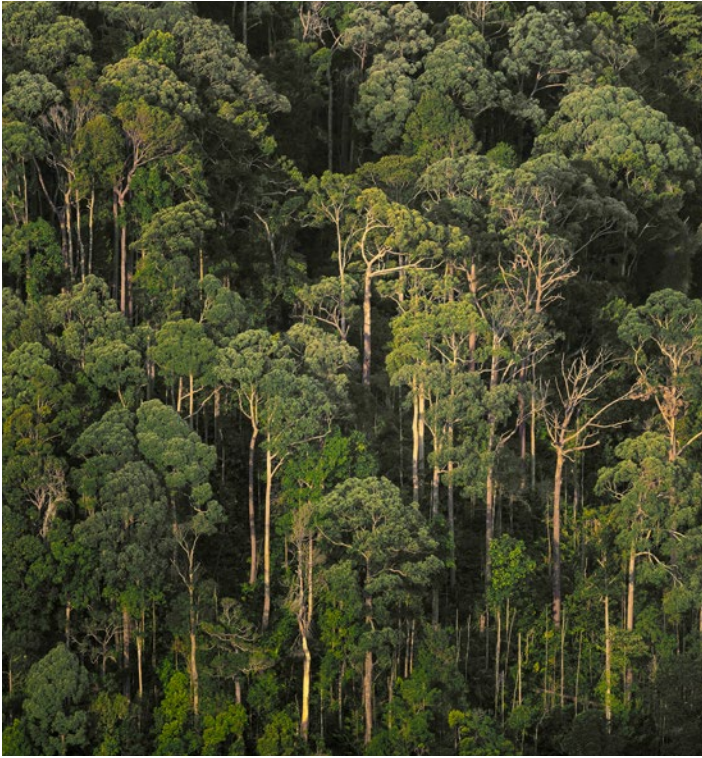
SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH YOMA THE RED GIANT FLYING SQUIRREL



True to the resort's reputation as a haven for many creatures winged, furry and more, a young red giant flying squirrel was found in the tail end of 2023. Yoma went through 100 days of rehabilitation to make sure it was in the pink of health before being reintroduced to the wild.

Under the careful care of the rehabilitation team, Yoma grew a total of 7cm in length, and gained more than 250g in weight, all positive signs of health. Feeding only on milk three times a day initially, it soon moved on to vegetables, favouring green beans over the rest.





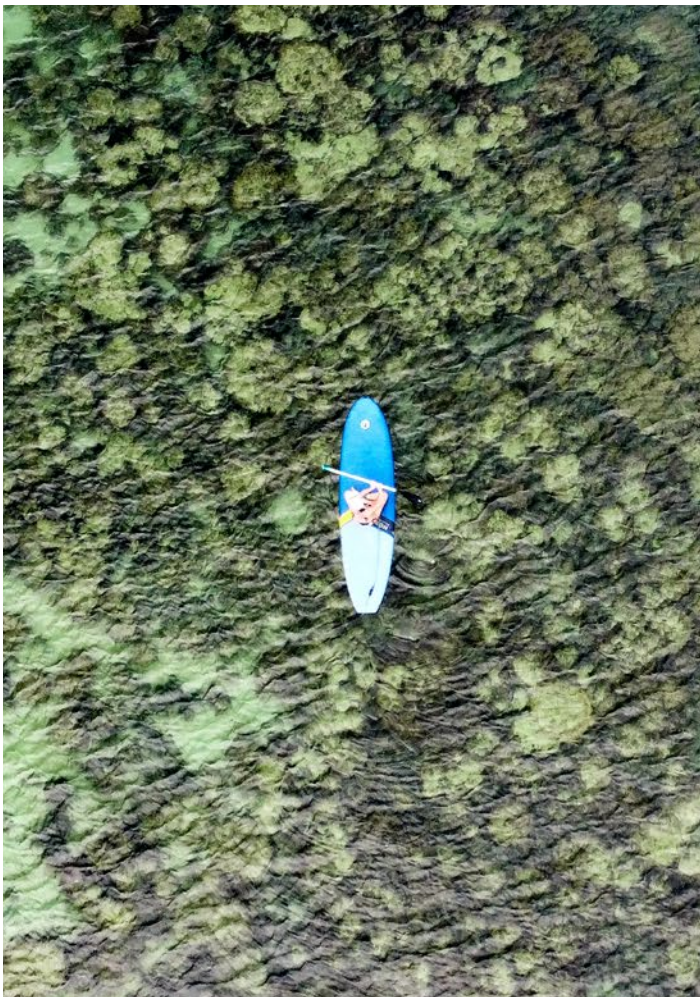
As its 100 days drew closer, it also began showing signs of curiosity and mischief, becoming active at night and leaving telltale signs of droppings inside the rehabilitation centre for his caretaker to find. Yoma has been out and about!

This year, Yoma finally displayed the behaviour that the team has long been awaiting – it deftly hopped off the top of its nesting box, soared through the air and glided gracefully to the ground, signs that it is ready to take on new heights among the trees of home.





CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AT GAYA ISLAND



Repopulating the surrounding coral reefs, for a biodiverse legacy inherited by nature.

To ensure that the myriad marine life inhabiting the waters of Gaya Island continues to thrive, we invite guests to participate in our Coral Planting sessions. At these sessions, we offer insights into the miraculous lives of coral, how the reefs support over 30 percent of sea life and flourish into some of the most fantastical seascapes known to man.

All the proceeds from this activity will be reinvested into the Gaya Island Resort marine centre's continual efforts to repopulate the surrounding coral reefs, a biodiverse legacy inherited by nature and preserved for generations yet to come with your support.



YTL HOTELS

Treasured Places, Treasured Moments

The Natural Wonders - Voice of Conservation aims to share the latest conservation news from our collection of Luxury Resorts in Malaysia.

Discover the infinite variety, complexity, sheer beauty of the natural environment and the passion of its people that make each resort an exceptional experience.



YTL Hotels Travel Centre, Level 2, YTL Plaza,
55 Jalan Bukit Bintang, 55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

travelcentre@ytlhotels.com | +60 3 2783 1000

ytlhotels.com
