



# APPENDICES

## Appendices

### Appendix 1

TRAVEL • NEWS

## East Nusa Tenggara preps digital library to promote tourism

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 1, 2019 / 05:02 am

As the country doubles its efforts to attract more tourists through various avenues, the East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) administration has prepared a digital library dedicated to resources on local tourism.

The region's Creative Economy and Tourism Agency head, Watan Darmawa, said such a move was expected to provide easy access to people looking to learn more about NTT's natural wonders, which, in turn, would boost local tourism.

"We are in the process of establishing a digital tourism library, which will be filled to the brim with various detailed information about tourism in NTT," Watan said on Tuesday as quoted by Antara.

He added that the potential of rapid digital development had to be harnessed to promote tourism more effectively.

The digital library would be ready available to potential tourists through internet-enabled smartphones or computers, Watan said.

"Tourists flying to NTT will have access to a treasure trove of information on natural and cultural highlights in the region."

**Read also:** [Six festivals to watch out for in East Nusa Tenggara](#)

He said the digital library would also serve as an information center promoting various handcrafted products unique to the region. For instance, information about Nemberala Beach in Rote Ndao regency will promote handcrafted souvenirs in the area such as traditional fabrics and food.

Watan added that the digital library was expected to improve the experience of exploring and discovering natural and cultural gems in the region, following complaints from tourists about the lack of references.

"The digital library initiative will complement our continued efforts to promote local tourism at various international events."

NTT Governor Victor Laiskodat expressed his optimism about tourism prospects as Labuan Bajo in West Manggarai regency was touted as a "new Bali". He believed that tourism was the only sector that could give development in the province a huge boost.

In addition to Labuan Bajo, the province is home to many other destinations, including Kupang, Alor, Rote, Ende and Sumba, as well as the popular Komodo National Park. (rfa/kes)

### Appendix 2

TRAVEL • NEWS

## Klook highlights the trending fandom travel destinations

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 1, 2019 / 07:04 am

Just in time for the final season slated to hit screens in mid-April, Klook highlights Dubrovnik, Croatia, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Those interested can book a [Game of Thrones Filming Locations Tour](#) which includes visits to the streets of King's Landing, sitting on the iron throne and riding aboard Daenerys Targaryen's ship while feasting one's eyes on the Adriatic Sea with a dragon blood cocktail in hand.

GoT fans might also like to book Cathedral, Alcazar and Giralda guided tours in Seville, Spain, for a glimpse of the fantastical world of the kingdom of Dorne. Another option would be the Myvatn Hike and Bath Tour in Northern Ireland, to revisit the moment when Jon Snow broke his celibacy for a romantic encounter with Ygritte. Finding inspiration for your vacation destination can be as easy as watching a TV series or a movie. Travel company Klook recorded double-digit growth in the number of page views for television and movie-inspired activities from February 2018 to February 2019.

Offering travel activities such as thematic tours and culinary trips, Klook has now also taken a cue from the rise of fandom travel.

Anita Ngai, Klook's chief revenue officer expects to see growing demand for fandom travel, adding that movie settings mesmerized travelers and influenced their journeys.

"We're delighted to expand our offerings to cater to fandom travel and to continue to give Klook users seamless access to unique destinations and inspiring experiences," said Anita in a statement sent to *The Jakarta Post*.

## Appendix 3

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Youth group brings ecotourism to East Nusa Tenggara's Detusoko

HENGKY OLA SURA  
THE JAKARTA POST

Detusoko, East Nusa Tenggara / Mon, April 1, 2019 / 09:01 am

Ferdinandus "Nando" Watu was born in the Detusoko subdistrict, Ende, East Nusa Tenggara, but he moved to the United States, graduating from Miami Dade College in Florida after studying hospitality and tourism management. In 2015, he chose to go back to Detusoko to develop ecotourism in his hometown.

The 32-year-old said that Detusoko was situated strategically close to Mount Kelimutu, which attracted 80,000 tourists in 2017. With such close proximity, he sensed that tourists could be lured to explore the village after visiting Kelimutu.

With the aim of conserving nature, ecotourism also emphasizes the empowerment of the local economy and its cultures.

Nando, along with his friends in the Independent Teenagers Community founded Detusoko Ecotourism, aka Decotourism.

"We ask tourists to enjoy the attractions of Detusoko. That way, they could experience something unique and interact directly with the locals," Nando told *The Jakarta Post*.

Nando teamed up with several farmer groups in the subdistrict to combine farming and tourism, as well as with residents that provided their houses as lodgings. He also facilitated youth to gain scholarships to study tourism.

**Read also:** [Karanganyar market strives to attract visitors as ecotourism destination](#)

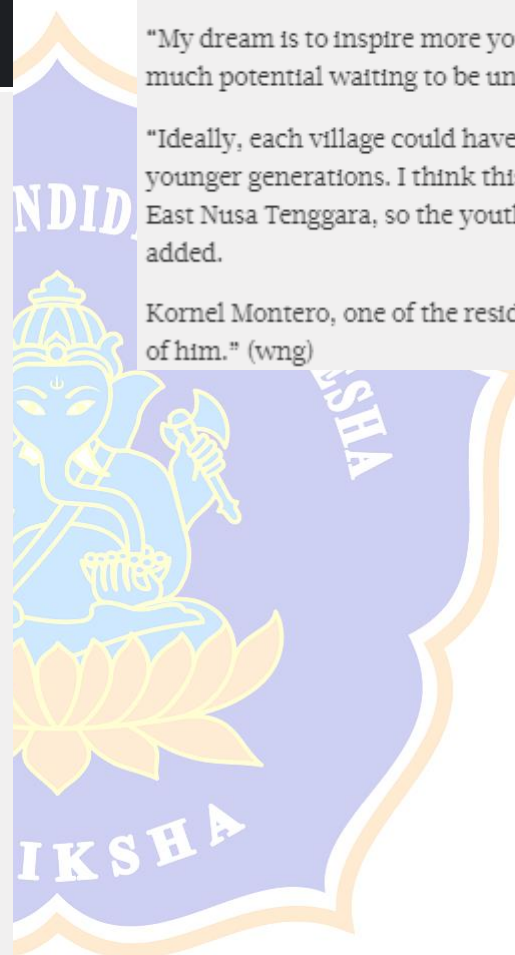
As things to remember Detusoko by, tourists are able to buy local products as souvenirs, such as coffee, peanut butter, orange marmalade and chili.

For the group's efforts, Nando was often invited to speak and participate on national and international forums, including the British Council's Active Citizens Social Enterprise in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in August 2018 and the Seoul International Handmade Fair in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2018.

"My dream is to inspire more youth to go back to their hometowns. There is so much potential waiting to be uncovered in our villages," said Nando.

"Ideally, each village could have an exceptional product to be organized by the younger generations. I think this movement is vital for the next 10 or 15 years of East Nusa Tenggara, so the youth won't feel foreign in their own lands," he added.

Kornel Montero, one of the residents, said of Nando: "We are immensely proud of him." (wng)





## Appendix 4

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Sleman seeks to welcome 10 million tourists this year

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 1, 2019 / 11:04 am

Sleman regency in Yogyakarta has set a target of 10 million domestic and foreign tourist arrivals this year.

Sleman Tourism Agency head Sudarningsih said she was confident the administration would meet and even surpass the number as it had achieved last year's target of 8 million arrivals.

"We recorded 8.5 million domestic and foreign tourist arrivals in 2018, surpassing the 8 million target," she said on Sunday, as quoted by [Antara](#).

The number of domestic and foreign tourist arrivals has grown steadily over the years, she said. The 8.5 million arrivals in 2018 represented a 18.06 percent increase from the 7.2 million arrivals in 2017.

"Various repairs to infrastructure in Sleman have spurred recent growth in tourist arrivals," Sudarningsih said, citing maintenance of tourist destinations and additions to existing amenities as the main factors.

Read also: [Merapi coffee shop draws tourists to Sleman](#)

She went on to say that the regency had launched the "2019 Calendar of Events" detailing upcoming events and attractions held in Sleman throughout the year to attract more tourists.

"We plan to hold around 19 cultural events this year. The Tourism Ministry's team of curators will include one of the events – the Jogja International Heritage Walk – in this year's edition of 'Top 100 Calendar of Events'," she said. (rfa/kes)

## Appendix 5

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Snow-themed park opens in Bekasi

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 1, 2019 / 03:37 pm

Often humorously dubbed as a much hotter city compared to sunny Jakarta, Bekasi in West Java has opened an indoor park filled with snowflakes and a ski arena, called Trans Snow World.

Located on the third floor of the Transpark Mall Juanda property complex, the 2,000-square-meter park offers plenty of activities for families, including snowboarding, snow ball making, skiing and riding on ski chair lifts. Visitors can rent various items to complement their activities, among them are snow scooters, ski gear, double snow tubes and sledges with prices starting from Rp 30,000 (\$2.11).

According to the park's official website, the snowflakes are real and made from "a special machine", while the temperature inside the park ranges from 10 to 15 degrees Celsius.

Having commenced operations on March 25, the park is located around 100 meters from the East Bekasi train station and it can be reached using the commuter line and car. Ticket prices start at Rp 200,000 (\$14.06) on weekdays and Rp 275,000 (\$19.33) on weekends. Visit the park's [official website](#) for more information. (wir/wng)

## Appendix 6

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Marriott Bonvoy lures travelers with Asia-Pacific lifestyle experiences

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 1, 2019 / 05:35 pm

Following the release of a new travel program, the Marriott Bonvoy, in February this year, Marriott International has introduced several new products involving benefits and experiences in the Asia-Pacific region.

Among the products available on the **Marriott Bonvoy Moments** platform are access to the Hong Kong Sevens and the Formula 1 China Grand Prix, as well as opportunities to meet singer Gwen Stefani., train with former table tennis Olympian Wan Nan and explore Art Central Hong Kong.

"With the unveiling of Marriott Bonvoy earlier this year, we are committed to elevating the member experience and giving our members more ways to redeem their points for the experiences they are most passionate about," said Peggy Fang Roe, Marriott International's chief sales and marketing officer for the Asia-Pacific, in a statement.

Boasting a portfolio of travel-related brands across 130 countries, Marriott Bonvoy has replaced Marriott Rewards, The Ritz-Carlton Rewards and Starwood Preferred Guest. Through the Marriott Bonvoy Moments platform, its members can expect VIP access to various events, such as concerts, culinary experiences and sporting events. (sop/kes)

## Appendix 7

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Manhattan's new arts space The Shed opening on April 5

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Tue, April 2, 2019 / 04:01 pm

Artists like Gerhard Richter, Trisha Donnelly and Steve McQueen will show commissions at the \$475 million arts center in the Hudson Yards neighborhood.

For its inaugural season, the 200,000-square-foot arts space -- designed by the firms Diller Scofidio + Renfro and Rockwell Group -- has commissioned more than a dozen exhibitions, performances and lectures.

The lineup features both well-established and emerging artists from the worlds of performance and visual arts --offering a varied interdisciplinary programming. "We wanted this to be a building that could bring parity across pretty much all art forms," said Alex Poots, the Shed's artistic director and chief executive, in a statement.

For The Shed's opening day on April 5, filmmaker Steve McQueen will debut his series "Soundtrack of America." The project consists of five evening performances by emerging African-American musicians, exploring the roots of the art form.

Starting April 6, the center will also display three commissioned artworks: the installation "Reich Richter Part" with art by Gerhard Richter and music by Steve Reich and Arvo Part; Anne Carson's performance piece "Norma Jeane Baker of Troye," starring Ben Wishaw and Renée Fleming; and a film by conceptual artist Trisha Donnelly.

Other much-awaited pieces featured in The Shed's programming include Björk's theatrical concert "Cornucopia"; the documentary "Cinta Amarilla" ("Yellow Tape") about the artist Beatriz Gonzalez's "Auras Anonimas" installation; and the kung fu musical "Dragon Spring Phoenix Rise" -- featuring remixed songs by Sia.

Admission prices will vary depending on the event, but 10% of tickets for all performances will be available for \$10 to low-income families -- as part of The Shed's focus on "equity and democratization."

Additional information about The Shed's programming can be found on the arts center's [official website](#).

## Appendix 8

# Ryanair is first airline to become a top-10 polluter in Europe

WILLIAM WILKES AND MATHEW CARR  
BLOOMBERG

/ Wed, April 3, 2019 / 06:03 am

Ryanair Holdings Plc was one of the 10 biggest polluters in Europe last year, a first for a company that doesn't run coal-fired power plants.

That's the conclusion of analysis of European Union carbon emissions data undertaken by Transport & Environment, a Brussels-based research group. The group found Ryanair's carbon dioxide emissions rose 6.9 percent last year.

The findings underscore the airline industry's rising contribution to the greenhouse gases blamed for damaging the atmosphere. Pollution from airlines has risen by about two-thirds since 2005 and is forecast to keep rising as flying becomes more affordable. That puts the industry on course to become the single-biggest emitter within three decades.

**Read also: [Ryanair bans carry-ons for passengers paying its lowest fares](#)**

Other industries are managing to cut their output of harmful substances. Last year, the EU Emissions Trading System recorded an 3.8 percent reduction in greenhouse gases. Nations from Germany to the U.K. are phasing out coal plants to curb emissions.

Ryanair was ninth on the list of top polluters in Europe. The remaining slots in the top 10 were taken by utilities that generate electricity from coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel.

In a statement, Ryanair said it "is Europe's greenest & cleanest airline" and that "passengers travelling on Ryanair have the lowest CO2 emissions per kilometer traveled than any other airline."

The International Civil Aviation Organization recently moved to address aviation emissions by adopting self-policing guidelines. Those call for offsetting any carbon increases by planting trees or investing in cleaner technologies. Critics of the plan said offsets have already been tried and don't work, in part because they're hard to police.

EU emissions covered by the region's carbon market resumed a decline last year after rising slightly in 2017, according to preliminary data.

## Appendix 9

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Malindo Air's new route to connect Kuala Lumpur and Adelaide via Denpasar

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Wed, April 3, 2019 / 08:33 pm

Malaysian-based airline Malindo Air will open a new route connecting Kuala Lumpur with Denpasar in Bali and Adelaide in Australia on April 16.

A special one-way offer will be available for economy class at RM679 (US\$166.26) and business class at RM2,399.

Flight reservations can be made through Malindo Air's official website *malindoair.com*, ticketing offices, customer care centers and travel agents.

In the initial period flights will be available four times a week every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Monday using Boeing 737-800NG aircraft that can accommodate 12 business and 150 economy class passengers, as well as Boeing 737-900ER offering 12 business and 168 economy class seats.

**Read also: [Citilink after tourists, students with new route from Surabaya to Kuala Lumpur](#)**

"Adelaide is the fourth Australian country flown to by Malindo Air after Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne," Malindo Air CEO Chandran Rama Muthy said in a statement, adding that plans were in hand to increase flight frequency in the near future.

Adelaide Airport managing director Mark Young welcomed the opening of the new route, saying that it would provide more alternatives to connect Bali and Kuala Lumpur.

"This route can be a good alternative for Indonesian domestic connectivity, along with with Batik Air, Lion Air and Wings Air," he said. (gis/kes)



## Appendix 10

TRAVEL • NEWS

# 'Game of Thrones' Studio Tour to unleash interactive Westeros experience in Northern Ireland

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Thu, April 4, 2019 / 11:04 am

"Game of Thrones" fans are in for a treat next spring, when The Game of Thrones Studio Tour opens doors in Northern Ireland -- offering an immersive Seven Kingdoms experience comprising breathtaking imagery, captivating sets, original props and costumes, and other behind-the-scenes items from the hit HBO series.

The Studio Tour -- the first in a series of Game of Thrones Legacy projects announced by HBO last year -- has been created in collaboration with HBO Licensing & Retail and Linen Mill Studios; and will open gates in the spring of 2020 as an interactive experience across 110,000-square-foot within Linen Mill Studios in Banbridge, Northern Ireland -- the original filming location used for many iconic scenes throughout the run of the series.

According to an official announcement released by the organisers today, guests on the Game of Thrones Studio Tour will be treated to an up-close and personal look at a wide selection of items pulled straight from the screen and have the opportunity to walk through authentic set pieces from some of the show's most iconic scenes; with King's Landing, Winterfell, Dragonstone, The Wall and the lands beyond, to kingdoms across the Narrow Sea -- including Mereen and Braavos -- all set to feature on the tour.

Bringing the worlds of Westeros and Essos to life, Game of Thrones Studio Tour will embrace several interactive elements as part of the initiative, such as expansive and fully dressed sets -- all coming together to allow visitors to wander in the very footsteps of Westeros's most prominent residents, inspecting the weapons they used, and re-living key moments from the series while standing right where they took place.

Read also: [The end is near: 'Game of Thrones' releases final season official trailer](#)

Additionally, the Studio Tour will also feature a first-of-its-kind collection of informative displays highlighting the production spaces and the craftsmanship and artistry of the creative teams who brought the epic series to life, with information about Production Design and the Art Department workshops on-hand to further enhance the visitor experience, complete with an interactive Costume Department station, displays about the Make-up and Prosthetics Shop, and The Armoury, among others.

Commenting on the Tour's impending debut, Andrew Webb, managing director of Linen Mill Studios, said the venue is "thrilled, in partnership with HBO, to have this opportunity to offer fans a unique insight into the making of the Game of Thrones series in the authentic setting of one of its foremost filming locations.

"We are committed to giving fans the opportunity to experience firsthand the most comprehensive selection of iconic elements from the show available anywhere in the world," he said.

John McGrillen, Chief Executive of Tourism NI also commented on the The Studio Tour's enviable location in Northern Ireland, which "midway between Belfast and Dublin, can be easily reached by the 11 million people who visit the Island of Ireland each year as well as providing even more reasons for international tourists to visit"; and added: "I have no doubt this investment will deliver a world-class visitor experience."

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

## A walk through Belfast



TUNGGUL WIRAJUDA

A MEDIA PRACTITIONER FOR OVER 10 YEARS IN BOTH TV AND PRINT.

Belfast / Thu, April 4, 2019 / 02:19 pm

Belfast City Hall's Baroque Revival façade has continued to make an impression, more than 100 years after opening in 1896. Sporting a dome similar to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, and the Reichstag in Berlin, the place was the inspiration behind other civic buildings in the Commonwealth, such as the Port of Liverpool building in Liverpool and City Hall in Durban, East Africa.

Belfast's City Hall, however, is more than a formidable edifice. Much like the city it administers, the building has endured more than its fair share of conflicts, including both World Wars and the Troubles, the fratricidal sectarian strife that divided Belfast and the rest of Northern Ireland for three decades from 1969 to 1998. The conflict was between Irish Catholics on one side and Protestants wishing for union with the rest of Great Britain on the other.

"[City Hall] and the rest of the city center were cordoned off during the Troubles. Car bombings and rocket attacks have also been a regular occurrence" said Gavin, a tour bus operator and longtime Belfast resident. His recollections were backed by Belfast's reputation as one of the world's most dangerous cities in the 1970s and 1980s.

The City Hall building is one of the highlights of Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. Long associated with the Troubles, the upheaval is one of a number of cataclysms – among them both World Wars and the sinking of the Titanic – that have affected Belfast since Queen Victoria gave the city its charter in 1888. The visible legacies of these events served to draw more than a fair share of travelers to Belfast, as the city has reinvented itself over the past two decades as an up-and-coming tourist center.

"[The Troubles] would get people who laugh at the same jokes and support the same Premier League teams on each other's throats," lamented Gavin. The images similarly show the turbulence of the times. "Normality for a police officer or prison official was finding a safe route to go to work. It also meant carrying a gun while they're off duty or checking the car every day to make sure it's not booby trapped."

Gavin admitted that much still needed to be done, but he remained optimistic since "a lot has been achieved" over the years.

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Read also: [Retracing England's regal past in Hampton Court](#)

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### A Titanic tribute

The hulking façade of the square building fills one's eyes and grows larger as one approaches the old Harland & Woolf shipyards in Belfast's Titanic Quarter. Standing at 38 meters on its four sides, the edifice resembles a ship's hull and was built to the same measurements. Yet the same structure and its jagged surface reminds one of an iceberg looming out of the open ocean.

The subliminal sensations are no mere coincidence, as the building is none other than the Titanic Belfast monument and convention hall. Built by architectural firm Eric Kuhne and Associates, Titanic Belfast opened in March 2012 on the centenary of the *RMS Titanic*'s doomed maiden voyage. An intricate series of interactive galleries make up the centerpiece of the 12-thousand-square-meter structure. The galleries chronicle Belfast's beginnings in the linen trade and its transition into a shipbuilding center at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Featuring period photos and captions, the galleries hint at the scale of Titanic's construction.



### Chronicling a troubled past

The mural of Provisional IRA militant Bobby Sands and others like it continue to be the draw for Falls Road. Made in 1998 by unknown artists to commemorate his death at the age of 27 during a hunger strike in 1981, the vivid colors and Sands' radiant grin convey a confidence in his cause.

"Our revenge will be the laughter of our children", reads one phrase. The words were validated by the Good Friday Agreement. Signed in 1998, the agreement ended the Troubles and enabled Belfast's Catholics and Protestants to jointly govern Northern Ireland.

Other murals commemorated the IRA's struggles for Irish independence and their more recent fight for equal rights in Protestant-dominated Northern Ireland, as well as activists killed by Protestant militants.

Recognized as an Irish language and cultural center in Belfast, the working-class area is also known for its IRA and left-wing tendencies. A highlight is the Solidarity Wall, which reflects the neighborhood's sympathies with freedom movements around the world. The murals here highlight iconic causes ranging from Palestinian statehood and the late Nelson Mandela's fight against apartheid in South Africa to climate change.

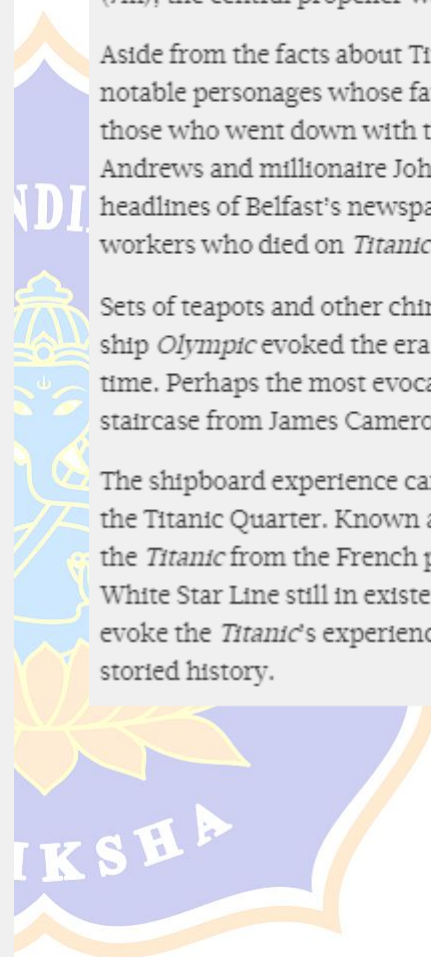
The imagery and causes of the murals on Shankill Road contrast with those on Falls Road. Tributes to gun-toting paramilitaries on the buildings alternate with aggressively patriotic affirmations to Queen and country. Both are interspersed with memorials to victims of IRA militant attacks at places like the Bayardo pub or Frizzel's Fish Shop. The drawings' larger than life dimensions and crude touches give this Protestant Unionist stronghold an edgy menace and besieged atmosphere. Similarly, the rhetoric and imagery show the tragedy of a community caught up in a vicious cycle of revenge and reprisals lasting for generations.

"To keep sailing, Titanic burned around 600 tonnes of coal every day. Over 3000 times the emissions of Titanic Belfast!" reads one caption of the ship, which was run by the White Star Line. "Titanic had three massive propellers which drove the ships. The two wing propellers had a diameter of over twenty-three feet (7m); the central propeller was sixteen feet six inches (5m)."

Aside from the facts about Titanic's construction, the exhibits also features notable personages whose fates were intertwined with the ship. They include those who went down with the *Titanic*, among them the ship's designer Thomas Andrews and millionaire John Jacob Astor. Just as poignant were the period headlines of Belfast's newspapers announcing the names of the shipyard workers who died on *Titanic*.

Sets of teapots and other china as well as linen tablecloth from *Titanic*'s sister ship *Olympic* evoked the era. The sets recall the dignified luxury of travel at the time. Perhaps the most evocative exhibit is a reproduction of the original staircase from James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster *Titanic*.

The shipboard experience can also be found on the *SS Nomadic*, another ship in the Titanic Quarter. Known as the tender that brought passengers who boarded the *Titanic* from the French port of Cherbourg, the vessel was the last ship of the White Star Line still in existence. While a walk on the *Nomadic*'s decks might evoke the *Titanic*'s experience, a walk through Belfast is an eye opener of its storied history.



## Appendix 12

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Garuda launches inflight virtual reality entertainment

NEWS DESK

THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Fri, April 5, 2019 / 10:42 am

National flag carrier Garuda Indonesia has launched an inflight virtual reality (VR) entertainment system to its business class in a bid to enhance passengers' flight experience.

Garuda Indonesia president director Ari Askhara said the new entertainment system was part of the airline's ongoing "The New Flight Experience" campaign to update and improve its range of in-flight amenities.

"Through this VR system, passengers will be able to watch various box-office movies on an immersive wide-angle, 180-360 degree screen," Ari said in a statement, adding that he expected the new entertainment system to enhance passengers' convenience, especially during long-haul flights.

Garuda Indonesia's latest inflight entertainment option is the first VR system in Asia Pacific to have been certified with an international flight safety approval, according to a statement from the airline.

"Based on the positive responses we've been getting from our customers, we will extend the trial period for our new VR system to several domestic and international flights; including Jakarta-Manado [North Sulawesi] from January to February, Jakarta-Denpasar [Bali] from February to March, and Jakarta-Singapore starting in March," Ari said.

He added that the airline had also introduced the VR entertainment system on the Jakarta-Haneda, Tokyo, route on March 28.

He went on to say that, in addition to the in-flight amenity, the airline would also install a similar VR entertainment system in the Garuda Indonesia Executive Lounge at Terminal 3 of Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, Banten.

Garuda Indonesia has partnered with US-based immersive inflight entertainment provider Skylights, whose VR headset – called Allosky – is poised to treat the airline's customers to 3D entertainment content. (rfa/kes)



## Appendix 13

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

### Dubrovnik or King's Landing? Game of Thrones is 'blessing and curse'

LAJLA VESELICA AND NICOLAS GAUDICHET  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Dubrovnik, Croatia / Fri, April 5, 2019 / 02:03 pm



Shepherding tourists through the arches and towers of Croatia's mediaeval walled city of Dubrovnik, Ivan Vukovic spends half his time leading tours of a capital that doesn't exist: the fictional King's Landing from "Game of Thrones".

The two cities now rival each other for fame after Dubrovnik -- already a tourist and cruise ship magnet -- became a set in 2011 for the cult HBO series, whose final season starts on April 14.

Doubling as King's Landing, the capital of Westeros' Seven Kingdoms, "can be a blessing and it can be a curse" for Dubrovnik, said 38-year-old guide Vukovic.

While the "Game of Thrones" stardom has been a boon for his business, it is also bringing a new inundation of visitors to a city already struggling with overcrowding.

"It's an amazing thing because it brings us so many people, but now we don't know what to do with those people," said the guide, describing bottlenecks that choke the city's limestone streets in peak summer season.

More than half of his tours include landmarks from King's Landing, while the others focus on the genuine history of Dubrovnik, a UNESCO site that dates back to the 7th century and features a maze of churches, palaces and fountains perched above the shimmering Adriatic.

Locals no longer bat an eyelid when tourists gather along the old town's baroque Jesuit Staircase to shout "Shame! Shame! Shame!" -- a sight fans recognise as a reenactment of the GoT scene when Queen Cersei is forced to publicly walk naked down the steps after confessing to adultery.

#### 'Overtourism'

Sitting in the terrace of his pizzeria at the foot of the stairs, owner Niko Grljevic says he doesn't mind the GoT fans, though he would prefer guides urged tourists to refrain from stripping down for an even more authentic rendering of the walk of shame.

"We cannot spit in the plate we eat from," says Grljevic.

The bar next to his place offers a "Mojito of Shame" cocktail, while souvenir shops on the main street offer a "Game of Thrones" bottle opener for 40 euros (\$45), T-shirts for 34 euros and mugs for 20 euros.

Grljevic is a native of the city's old town and one of its last holdouts, with most locals renting out their apartments to tourists or selling them for up to 10,000 euros per square metre.

From a population of 5,000 in the early 1990s, the number of residents is down to around "700 of us," he says.

After Dubrovnik's debut in season two, the HBO show attracted more than 244,000 tourists -- who spent some 126 million euros -- to Dubrovnik between 2012 and 2015, according to the Zagreb-based Institute of Economics.

That, plus the normal influx, raised concerns of an "overtourism" crisis last year, when more than 1.2 million people descended on a city that is home to 42,000 locals.

Authorities say they are regulating the timing of cruise ships and have set up cameras in the city to monitor crowd flow.

#### #KingsLanding

But locals are worried about how to strike the right balance.

Gordan Prislic, a 70-year-old pensioner, admits "Game of Thrones" has had some positive effects in boosting the city's popularity but that overcrowding remains a serious concern.

"Even the pigeons... have no place to land" in summer, he says, adding: "I'm afraid that tourism will destroy our ancient town."

Tour guide Vukovic also remarks on how the old city has been turned into a shopping mall for tourists, whose Instagram posts often feature #KingsLanding as the second hashtag after Dubrovnik.

He starts his walks by encouraging people to drink the water from a medieval fountain.

"It's the only free thing here," he quips.

The guide used to wear a "Dubrovnik is much more than King's Landing" T-shirt but now fears it might alienate some fans and earn him bad reviews online.

"For young people, movies and social media became more important than history," he said.

(<https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/05/dubrovnik-or-kings-landing-game-of-thrones-is-blessing-and-curse.html>)



## Appendix 14

TRAVEL • NEWS

### China Eastern Airlines moves to Soekarno-Hatta's Terminal 3

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Tangerang, Banten / Fri, April 5, 2019 / 03:19 pm

Chinese airline China Eastern will move from Terminal 2 to Terminal 3 of Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, Banten, on April 7.

"China Eastern passengers are advised to pay attention to the tickets and videotron information displays, to avoid entering the wrong terminal," senior manager of branch communications and legal of the airport, Febri Toga Simatupang, said in a press release sent to [kompas.com](http://kompas.com).

Febri went on to say that the move was expected to help improve China Eastern's service.

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Read also: [Turkish Airlines moves to Soekarno-Hatta airport's Terminal 3](#)

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Furthermore, according to Febri, China Eastern passengers who check-in in at Terminal 3 would be directed to visit the check-in counter at Island D (D01-D06).

Terminal 3 is the newest terminal at the Soekarno-Hatta airport complex. Its interior is sleek and spacious to ensure convenience for passengers. Parts of the terminal are also used to display the works of Indonesia's prominent artists.  
(gis/mut)



## Appendix 15

### India fights to save its heritage havelis in the desert

BHUVAN BAGGA  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Bikaner, India / Fri, April 5, 2019 / 07:07 pm



The resplendent mansions of Bikaner once hosted royalty and wealthy merchants passing through India's deserts with their caravans, but centuries later these bygone architectural masterpieces are crumbling.

Made from distinctive red sandstone, these once grand residences known as 'havelis' were famed for their vivid facades engraved with intricate patterns.

First built in the 15th century by Bikaner's bygone aristocracy, many boasted multiple levels, large balconies, and grand rooms built around a central courtyard, enclosed to escape the summer heat. But after decades of neglect, a large number lie in ruins.

"Many havelis have vanished in front of our eyes," said Gopal Singh, who runs heritage walks in the old quarter of Bikaner, adding that in its heyday, the city had more than 1000 such residences.

"What exists is unique. Not just for its intricate architecture but just because of the overall concentration in one single place," he explained.

Such decay is not confined to Bikaner, with historic residences falling apart in other major Indian cities where the old quarters have been felled by rapid urban development.

In India's only UNESCO heritage listed city, Ahmedabad, efforts have been made to preserve the clusters of settlements identified as having huge historic value.

(<https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/05/india-fights-to-save-its-heritage-havelis-in-the-desert.html>)

But there has been little cash or interest in saving the havelis of Bikaner, a once fabled desert outpost where the sands of Rajasthan skirt the city's ramparts.

Some 500 kilometres (310 miles) southwest of New Delhi, today it struggles to attract tourist interest and seems largely untouched by India's recent economic success.

"It has been a long struggle for us to get the public and government's attention to the havelis of Bikaner," said Singh.

Read also: [10 tips for first-time visitors to India](#)

#### Years of neglect

A lack of concern about proper preservation has been compounded by overcrowding, poor city planning, as well as inadequate drainage and waste disposal.

Some families have taken matters into their own hands, reconstructing the dilapidated manors and reinventing them as hotels and guesthouses.

"We decided to open this so that others too can experience living in a haveli, and it becomes more manageable for us to maintain this huge property," said Manisha Maloo, whose family manages a popular homestay in the old city.

A few families still reside in their ancestral estates and invite tourists in so they can learn about the heritage and history of the properties and the area.

"They come here and are so amazed and excited at the unique colours, heritage and design of our home," said Rachna Mohta, who greets visitors on walking tours in Bikaner to her palatial 150-year-old haveli home.

"It makes me feel proud," she confessed.

But maintaining the huge, creaking homes saps money and energy. Many buildings have collapsed from years of neglect; others hang on by a thread.

"We opened our haveli for tourists as a way to better protect our heritage, and to let people live our ancestors' experience," Sunil Rampuria, whose family owns Bhanwar Niwas, one of the region's grandest and earliest havelis converted into a hotel, told AFP.

Singh warned that if action is not taken now to preserve and protect the houses, there will be nothing for future generations to see.

He warned: "If things don't change quickly, we may not have any of these havelis in two decades."

## Appendix 16

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

# Hong Kong attracts tourists with 'Gram-worthy residential estates



**YASMIN KAMAL**  
ENGLISH TEACHER AND BLOGGER

According to **Euromonitor International**, a market research company based in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong has been one of the most visited cities in the world for the eighth consecutive year.

One fascinating fact is that the territory's residential estates have peaked interest among its visitors from around the globe, and are fast becoming popular sightseeing destinations.

A relatively small island with a growing population of 7.2 million, Hong Kong's residents depend heavily on public housing projects, also called public housing estates. These residential structures are notorious for accommodating thousands of people, with stacks of apartments shooting into the sky.

Previously stigmatized, the estates were deemed poor or lower-class establishments and often looked down upon. With affordable houses now scarce, local attitudes have done a 180 and these structures have become a symbol of pride today.

Some of these estates have even been highly publicized in music videos and as film locations.

Regardless of their size, location or condition, people are more than happy to belong to these high-rise communities, rather than not having an apartment at all.

Walking around the grounds of an estate provides an insight to these emotions, both visually and in their atmosphere.

This reason alone makes visiting a few of these public housing estates a must for many tourists. As for the rest, the estates have been deemed 'Gram worthy and serve as idyllic backdrops for keen photographers seeking to validate their vacations on social media.

**Choi Hung Estate** is also known by its English equivalent, "Rainbow Estate". This much-loved estate is easily recognizable by its colorful walls, basketball courts and cheerful atmosphere. Be sure to get there early, as it gets busy in the afternoon.

**Lok Wah Estate** owes its popularity to the rooftop of its south garage. Photographers are often seen milling about the garage, as well as the estate's colorful playground. This estate is definitely off the beaten path and is a little trickier to reach, but still worth visiting. Get off the Hong Kong MTR at Ngau Tau Kok and then walk 30 minutes or take the 213 Bus or taxi to the Lok Wah South Estate, where the parking garage stands.

**Montane Mansion** is by far the most widely known residential estate in Hong Kong. It provides insight to the architecture of old Hong Kong. Rich in history, the mansion is also famed for its movie appearances. You will immediately recognize the area if you're a Transformers fan.

Take the MTR to Quarry Bay and take a short 5-minute walk to 1028 King Road.

**Ping Shek Estate** stands close to Choi Hung, but has an entirely different feel. Its distinguishing feature is the internal courtyards at the heart of every tower. Looking up from one of these courtyards offers a view of a vertical spiral or tunnel.

Be sure to stop by Ping Shek while traveling to or from Choi Hung.

### Top Tips:

Hong Kong is rightfully known for its well-regulated mass transit system, the MTR. It is easy to take the city's rail service without a local guide, as all signs bearing station names and directions also provide an English translation directly underneath, making for an extremely tourist friendly service.

Due to its efficiency, the MTR is not as crowded as you might expect. It is definitely a great and reliable transport option for those who are keen to roam around the city for less. An Adult Tourist Day Pass costs HK\$65 and can be purchased at the information desks located in each station. Visit the **MTR website for complete fares**, as it offers special rates for children, students, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Just remember to mind the gap when getting on and off the train!

Don't forget your camera, but be mindful that these buildings are people's homes. Do not photograph residents without their permission and be respectful



## Appendix 17

### Important things to know before riding the new Jakarta MRT

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sat, April 6, 2019 / 11:34 am



The euphoria around the opening of the MRT in Jakarta has attracted Jakartans and residents of its satellite cities to try out the brand new mode of public transportation.

Below are a few tips for newbie passengers for a maximum MRT experience as compiled by [kompas.com](http://kompas.com).

#### 1. Know the stations

The MRT has 13 stations from Bundaran HI Station in Central Jakarta to Lebak Bulus Station in South Jakarta. Between the two stations, there are Fatmawati Station, Cipete Raya Station, Haji Nawi Station, Blok A Station, Blok M Station, Sisingamangaraja Station, Senayan Station, Istora Station, Bendungan Hilir Station, Setiabudi Station and Dukuh Atas Station. Passengers are advised to determine which station is the nearest from their starting point and destination as the train fare will progressively increase the further the ride.

#### 2. What payment methods to use

The MRT accepts electronic cash cards issued by banks such as Mandiri's e-Money, BRI's Brizzi and Tapcash, BCA's Flazz and Bank DKI's Jakcard.

The JakLingko card can also be used to pay for MRT trips.

Another payment method is Jelajah, a payment card issued by MRT Jakarta, sold at ticketing machines and counters at the stations. For a single trip Jelajah, a passenger has to pay Rp 15,000 (US\$1.05). The MRT will soon issue a multi-trip Jelajah card for Rp 25,000. The card is returnable to the MRT after seven days of use as long as it's still in good condition.

To obtain the Jelajah card, passengers will have to stand in line in front of the counter or ticketing machine. For more convenience, passengers are advised to prepare their electronic money prior to entering the station so that passing through the tapping gate will be a breeze.

#### 3. MRT etiquette 101

During the first run of the MRT trial, several photos of people littering at the MRT Station or sitting on the floor in the station went viral. Photos of those striking a pose by hanging on the train's passenger handles also triggered negative reactions from social media users, most saying that not everyone was aware of MRT etiquette.

The MRT has set several standard regulations on how to behave in the stations or inside the train. One of which is that the MRT does not provide any garbage bins, so passengers are encouraged to manage their trash and not litter.

Passengers are also advised not to run in the station or in the train car, as this can endanger yourself and other passengers.

Standing on the left side of the escalator is advised for those who wish to stand still, as the right side of the escalator is spared for those who want to continue walking.

Elevators are only for pregnant women, senior citizens or passengers with children or heavy luggage.

Passengers are also prohibited from eating and drinking inside the train.

**Read also:** [MRT Jakarta opens at half-price fares for April](https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/06/important-things-to-know-before-riding-the-new-jakarta-mrt.html)

#### 4. Know your place

The Jakarta MRT is trying to be an inclusive public transportation mode that is able to serve people of various needs.

The third and fourth car of the train is prioritized for passengers with disabilities, so other passengers are advised to choose the cars accordingly.

There are also priority seats for pregnant women, senior citizens or passengers with children in every car.

#### 5. Ask the officers

Helpful officers are positioned at the stations and inside the train, enabling passengers to approach them should they need information. Passengers are also able to report to these officers should they find any suspicious objects around the stations.

The officers will also help passengers who lose their belongings or if they are victims of crime. (gis/asw)

(<https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/06/important-things-to-know-before-riding-the-new-jakarta-mrt.html>)

## Appendix 18

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Number of domestic tourists in Lombok dwindles

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sat, April 6, 2019 / 05:10 pm

Amid several long weekends and other holidays in the first quarter of 2019, when people are expected to travel out of town, Lombok island in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) does not seem to be a favorite destination at the moment.

Head of the Lombok Tourism Agency, Lalu Moh Faozal, told Tempo.co <https://bisnis.tempo.co/read/1191594/tiket-pesawat-domestik-mahal-wisatawan-ke-lombok-turun-drastis>) that the number of domestic tourists to Lombok had decreased significantly in the first two months of 2019. Compared to the same period last year, the number is 40 percent lower.

"The year-on-year count is decreasing, [and] there are many things that have caused the lower number of [domestic] tourists," said Faozal on Tuesday.

He went on to say that skyrocketing ticket prices played a significant role in the decreasing number of domestic tourists. Plane ticket prices from Jakarta to Lombok had increased 50 percent.

**Read also: [Lombok tourism yet to bounce back after earthquake](#)**

Less frequent flights to Lombok International Airport, especially from Jakarta, has also contributed to the decreasing number. There used to be up to 12 inbound flight daily from Jakarta. However, since January, there were only eight arrivals from Jakarta.

As a result, hotel occupancy has also been affected. Faozal said in January, hotel occupancy in Lombok only reached 20 percent. It indicates a significant loss compared to the occupancy rate in the same period last year, which was 40 percent.

Statistics Indonesia (BPS) noted there had also been a 15.46 percent decrease in the number of domestic flight passengers in February 2019.

According to BPS, the number of air travel passengers in February stood at 5.6 million people.

"The number dropped significantly compared to January, which reached 6.6 million people," BPS head Suharyanto said on Monday. (gts/mut)

## Appendix 19

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Lombok is safe, ASITA assures tourists

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sat, April 6, 2019 / 06:33 pm

The Indonesia Tour and Travel Agency Association (ASITA) has ensured the public that Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), is safe to visit after a series of earthquakes caused a sharp decline in tourist arrivals.

The most recent data from Statistics Indonesia (BPS) shows that international tourist visits to NTB in January and February had decreased 38.14 percent from the same period last year.

According to Dewantoro Umbu Joka, head of ASITA's NTB branch, a similar decline occurred with domestic tourists.

"International tourists are still wondering whether Lombok is safe to visit. It's not easy to persuade people to come here," he said as quoted by KompasTravel on Monday.

Dewantoro also asked the government to reduce the fare for domestic flights so that local tourists would pick Lombok as their holiday destination.

**Read also: [Lombok tourism taking baby steps toward recovery after earthquake](#)**

Separately, ASITA's NTB spokesman, Supratman Samst, said the association fully acknowledged the declining number of visitors to Lombok.

"It's a written fact that we cannot deny. This decline is due to the low season as well as the after effects of the earthquakes," Supratman said.

He added that the rising cost of domestic flights had also contributed to the declining number of domestic visitors.

"We are expecting domestic tourists to come, but at the same time, ticket prices are increasing; it will be more difficult for them to purchase plane tickets," he said. (dpk/mut)



## Appendix 20

### Sabang asks govt to assist with infrastructure development

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sun, April 7, 2019 / 10:01 am



Sabang regency in Aceh has urged the government to assist the region in bolstering various infrastructure projects to boost tourism amid a steady increase of tourist arrivals in recent years.

Sabang Deputy Mayor Nazaruddin said several development plans for the city's infrastructure were underway to support the local economy, including the tourism sector.

"We've been actively developing public infrastructure that will have a direct impact on the improvement of the local economy," Nazaruddin said as quoted by [tempo.co](https://www.tempo.co).

However, he added, the administration still required assistance from the central government as a boost in tourism in the region would also contribute to the growth of the national economy.

The Tourism Ministry named the regency as one of the National Tourism Strategic Areas (KSPN) in 2017, according to the Sabang Tourism and Culture Agency.

More than 29,000 foreign tourists reportedly visited Sabang Island last year, a significant increase from 2017 when only 2,981 people visited, according to data from the agency.

The regency is home to popular tourist spots such as the Weh Island Monument, Zero Kilometer Monument, as well as Iboh and Sumur Tiga beaches.

In January, the government put aside 40 hectares of land for an international airport in Sabang to support local tourism in the region.

The Tourism Ministry's undersecretary for regional development, Lokot Ahmad Enda, said the international airport was expected to be a hub for global airlines that would transport large numbers of tourists. (rfa/mut)

(<https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/06/sabang-asks-govt-to-assist-with-infrastructure-development.html>)





## Appendix 21

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Mona Lisa is your Airbnb host: Sleepover beneath Louvre pyramid

NEWS DESK

THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sun, April 7, 2019 / 12:02 pm

"You've probably heard of me. People say I'm mysterious, but the truth is I'm very friendly," Mona Lisa "introduces" herself at an Airbnb microsite for a contest named "Win a night at the Louvre".

The contest, a partnership between Airbnb and the Louvre Museum, is being held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the museum's glass pyramid designed by IM Pei. According to the microsite, the contest winner and his or her guest will be granted a one-night stay beneath the pyramid, as well as a VIP guided after-hours museum tour, dinner with the Venus de Milo and a private acoustic concert at Napoleon III's apartments.

Those who have Airbnb accounts are eligible to enter the contest, and entries must be submitted by April 12 at the latest. Aside from giving their name, phone number and email address, entrants will be required to explain why they would be Mona Lisa's perfect guest.

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Read also: [Louvre's glass pyramid set for interactive performance for 30th anniversary](#)

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The winner will enjoy the prize on April 30. Following a series of exclusive activities at the museum, the winner and his or her guest will eventually sleep "inside a glamorous bright white tent designed to resemble the Louvre's pyramid", reported CNN.

CNN also reported that prior to this contest, Airbnb launched a similar one in 2018 in which people could win a sleepover at the Great Wall of China. However, the contest was canceled over public concerns that the sleepover might damage the monument.

Art lovers, let's be hopeful that "Win a night at the Louvre" is a successful contest. As Mona Lisa has "said" that if you're the lucky winner, she will be delighted to welcome you to her home.

"I see crowds of visitors every day but the real magic happens when the lights go out." (sop/mut)



## Appendix 22

TRAVEL • NEWS

### 'Dinosaur' made of tempeh marks new green village in East Java's Batu

NEDI PUTRA AW  
THE JAKARTA POST

Batu, East Java / Sun, April 7, 2019 / 05:32 pm

The town of Batu in East Java has welcomed the newly minted Tempenosaurus Green Village.

Located in Beji village, Junrejo subdistrict, the area was developed by communication science students of Malang Muhammadiyah University (UMM) in collaboration with the Jatim Park Group. UMM's rector Fauzan said along with becoming a tourist destination, the Tempenosaurus Green Village is expected to be a tempeh-producing center. Its unique name came from its close proximity to the theme park Jawa Timur Park 3, which has a Dtno Park ride.

The village was inaugurated by East Java Governor Khofifah Indar Parawansa on Saturday, marked by the cutting of a 7-meter-high dinosaur replica made from tempeh.

Read also: [Jatim Park Group in East Java provides free tourist shuttle](#)

"Tempenosaurus Green Village initiated a project of building based on humanity, as the ideal development is people-centered development," she said.

The dinosaur replica was recorded in the Indonesian Museum of Records as the biggest one made of tempeh.

UMM's rector Fauzan said prior to the new project, the university and Indana Paint had worked on the Jodipan Colorful Village in Malang, East Java. What was once a slum is now a wonderful area, while its residents actively take part in keeping the place clean.

"Building a green village does not stop at merely painting. We also have to consider social, economic and educational planning to boost the residents' capabilities," he added. (wng)

## Appendix 23

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Tiny wooden cabin is world's most popular Airbnb

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 8, 2019 / 09:09 am

A **semi-rustic cabin** near San Francisco, the United States, has been revealed as the most popular Airbnb in the world, as reported by [news.com.au](#).

Owners Kitty and Michael first listed their mushroom-shaped house in 2009 and since then have received 1299 reviews from satisfied guests as well as many five-star ratings.

"We have been listing with Airbnb since July '09 and have had the most reservations of any of their listings," says the cabin's description on the Airbnb website.

Located in Monterey Bay, the cabin is just 10 minutes from the beach and the Aptos Village. Guests can go hiking or dirt biking in the redwoods of Forest Nisene Marks State Park or pet the animals on the property, including goats, chickens, cats and a parrot.

The house provides all facilities and tools guests might need for their stay. The bedroom has a queen-sized bed and a 32-inch flat screen TV, while a sofa can be used as a second sleeping area. Wi-Fi access, toiletries, a popcorn maker, a French press coffee machine and several ingredients to make breakfast are provided.

What makes the small wooden cabin special is its glass domed roof, deemed perfect for stargazing.

The most visited Airbnb home is currently booked until October. Friday and Saturday nights are US\$160 each, but due to a minimum stay of two days and extra fees and taxes, the price for one weekend is about \$428. Weekend bookings should be requested about 9 to 11 months in advance. (sop/wng)

## Appendix 24

### 8 reasons to visit Lombok and the Gili Islands



KATHRYN CURZON  
DIVER AND WRITER FOR LIVEABOARD.COM

Jakarta / Mon, April 8, 2019 / 01:19 pm



If you're looking for a laid-back escape with an adventure or two, it would be hard to beat Lombok and the Gili Islands. You can choose to relax on endless white sand beaches, dive remote coral reefs or hike to see panoramic views.

Devastated by the series of earthquakes in 2018, these destinations are bouncing back and hungry for tourists. So pack your bags this coming dry season and go explore paradise.

**Read also:** [Lombok is safe, ASITA assures tourists](#)

#### 1. Hike Mount Rinjani National Park

Lombok's Mount Rinjani National Park is unbeatable for spectacular views and challenging trails. While most of the hiking trails on Mt. Rinjani were damaged in the 2018 earthquakes, [one trail has reopened](#).

Located in Aik Berik village, the trail is lesser known among the mountain's more popular trails, but offers a similar experience for adventurous travelers in search of epic views.

#### 2. Hop around Gili Islands

For a relaxing break from daily life, consider going island-hopping around the stunning Gili Islands. These islands are known for [scuba diving cruises](#) and offers a chance to truly get away from it all.

If you can bear to [tear yourself away](#) from the white sand beaches and turquoise ocean vistas, you'll find vibrant coral reefs teeming with life under the waters.

The Shark Point dive site offers a chance to dive with sharks and manta rays, while Deep Turbo offers overhangs and underwater caves for experienced divers to explore. You might even see a whale shark or two.

#### 3. Experience Bangkang bat cave

A trip to Goa Bangkang will [take your breath away](#) with stalactites and bursts of sunlight through the cave's ceiling. Tucked underground on Lombok, it is a cave like no other.

Descending the stairs into Bangkang, your senses will be struck by the sound and smell of thousands of bats. If you stay in the area until sunset, you can watch the bats exit the cave, covering the sky as they begin their nightly hunt for food.

#### 4. Swim with sea turtles

If you're a fan of sea turtles (who isn't?), be sure to check out the sea turtle conservation initiatives at the Gili Islands.

Green sea turtles, which are classified as endangered, are well cared for at Gili Meno, thanks to Bolong, the local man who set up the Gili Meno Turtle Sanctuary. The sanctuary saves turtle eggs from predators to help release the precious hatchlings into the sea. The sanctuary is fascinating, and your visit will support turtle conservation, as it depends entirely on donations from visitors.

You can swim with sea turtles at various spots around the Gili Islands. Gili Air is especially known for green sea turtles at Han Rock.

#### 5. Slow down, enjoy the silence

No motorized vehicles are allowed on Gili Trawangan, meaning you can escape the noise of the neighboring destinations and rejuvenate in peace and quiet.

The best way to explore the charms of Gili Trawangan is by foot or on a bicycle. [Stop off](#) at beach bars, do some yoga, or just walk the endless sands to reconnect with yourself, one day at a time.

#### 6. Enjoy epic views from Gili Trawangan

There's only one lookout point on the Gili Islands, at the top of Gili Trawangan. [Head off](#) on a hike at sunrise, and you'll start your day off right.

At the peak is a shrine and Muslim burial site, plus the remains of a World War II Japanese bunker to investigate, though the view is the real highlight.

Resting at the top, you can look across the ocean to Mt. Rinjani and capture panoramic views of the other Gili Islands, plus Lombok and Bali.

#### 7. Learn to dive at Sekotong

If you've always wanted to try scuba diving but were too nervous to take the plunge, Sekotong in Lombok is a great place to start. The beautiful reefs there offer easy, sheltered dives, perfect for beginners.

It will be well worth the effort, as you're likely to spot sea turtles. You can even try spotting the tiny pygmy seahorses.

#### 8. Watch the sunset at Semeti Beach

Another Lombok highlight are the rock formations on Semeti Beach, which are not to be missed. These striking pyramid-shaped rocks jut impressively out of the ocean, providing the perfect backdrop to a sunset.

Semeti Beach is an ideal place to end a day of island-hopping, to see the best view of the sun setting that you're ever likely to see.

(<https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/08/8-reasons-to-visit-lombok-and-the-gili-islands.html>)



## Appendix 25

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Giving language skills a 'Boost': Mobile learning for hotel staff

STEFANUS AJIE  
THE JAKARTA POST

Surakarta, Central Java / Mon, April 8, 2019 / 01:30 pm

Good service is key in the hospitality business. While we may say service is synonymous with a human touch, good communication between service providers and the receiver is mandatory. Foreign language skills, particularly English, has become mandatory for those who directly interact and provide services to guests in hotels.

"Anyone from anywhere might stay in a hotel, hence hotel staff must be able to communicate with them," Yudi Alamsyah, general manager of Harris Pop Hotel Surakarta, told *The Jakarta Post*.

Yudi went on to say that hotel staff often avoided communicating with foreign guests and relied on senior staff to interact with the guests.

Regarding language barriers in communication and service at the hotel, Harris Pop hotel and other hotels under Tauzia Hotel Management provide an English learning program that utilizes a mobile learning system. The hotel group uses Boost mobile app, a mobile learning solution that enables hotel staff to learn English from their cell phones.

Boost is used in more than 225 hotels across the Asia-Pacific, including Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and China. Boost has provided learning tools for around 20,000 hotel staff to improve their English language skills.

Boost learning program begins with a simple test to assess the learners' English skills. Learning covers conversation and listening, and concludes with a final test that summarizes improvements in learners' English during the program.

According to Yudi, Boost has helped his team learn English more effectively and efficiently. Unlike learning methods in time-consuming conventional classes, Boost also offers more flexible learning, with the process and result supervised by the company's management team.

"Staff can therefore learn anytime, anywhere, during breaks, after work or during spare time at home, as long as they have internet," said Yudi.

After six months of applying Boost mobile learning in Harris Pop hotel, Yudi was able to see progress on his team.

"Staff members are now more confident in communicating with foreign guests, [as] the key is they understand what the guests are saying, asking for, and the guests also understand what we are delivering."

Yudi is very optimistic that the program will be able to improve the hospitality business as good communication is a crucial part of service. Good communication with no language barrier is key to the effective handling of requests and complaints. (mut)



## Appendix 26

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Tourist numbers double at North Korea marathon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Pvonevang / Mon. April 8, 2019 / 04:07 pm

Twice as many foreigners as last year gathered in Pyongyang Sunday for the city's annual marathon, tour firms said, as reduced tensions see visitor numbers rise in isolated North Korea.

The event -- part of the celebrations for the anniversary of founder Kim Il Sung's birth in 1912 -- is the highlight of the North's tourism calendar and offers the chance to run or jog through the streets of the tightly controlled city.

Around 950 Westerners entered the event, according to market leader Koryo Tours, compared to some 450 last year when numbers slumped.

That brought participation almost back to the levels of 2017, before tensions soared as the North carried out a series of missile launches and leader Kim Jong Un traded threats and personal insults with US President Donald Trump.

The same year, Washington also banned its citizens from visiting the North following the death of Otto Warmbier, a US student jailed for trying to steal a propaganda poster who died in a mysterious coma days after his release.

Several other countries subsequently raised their travel warnings, a combination of events that dealt a significant blow to the North's tourism industry.

The US ban remains in place but more Western tourists signed up for the marathon this time, tour operators said, following a year of high-level diplomacy between Trump and Kim.

"As political tensions have subsided, tourism demand has increased," said Elliott Davies, director at Uri Tours, another operator, adding: "You could plot a graph in this direct relationship."

**'Marathon chasers'**

The vast majority of tourists to the North are Chinese and some 5,000 Westerners a year used to visit the North -- with about 20 percent of those from the US -- seeking unique adventures in one of the most closed countries in the world.

The annual race also attracts so-called "Marathon Chasers" who tick off runs around the world, said Matt Kulesza, a senior tour guide at Young Pioneer Tours.

Angel Arnaudov, a 34-year-old engineer from Macedonia, said Pyongyang came onto his "radar" after finishing more than 30 marathons in cities ranging from Tokyo, New York and Copenhagen.

"I want to experience the life in North Korea myself and see if it is like they say on TV or different," he said, adding he would be posting videos on his YouTube channel.

For third-time participant Jasmine Barrett, the Pyongyang Marathon was an opportunity to interact with ordinary North Koreans who line the streets to cheer on the runners, offering high-fives and posing for selfies.

"I keep coming back because I love to see the smiles on the children's faces," the Australian entrepreneur told AFP.

"I'd definitely recommend it to others because it's a great way to see the city and the people who live there," she added.

Tour operators advise visitors to take extra precautions about "what to do and what not to do" when travelling in the North.

Simon Cockerell, Koryo Tours' general manager, said: "This is vital when visiting North Korea and anyone wanting to travel shouldn't go without a briefing."

## Appendix 27

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Hermawan Kartajaya appointed special tourism adviser for Riau

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 8, 2019 / 06:34 pm

Renowned marketing expert Hermawan Kartajaya has been appointed to be the special tourism adviser to the Riau governor in a bid to boost tourist arrivals in the province.

Hermawan – who serves as the CEO and founder of homegrown marketing consulting firm MarkPlus Inc. and is the current president of the World Marketing Association – said he would approach the Riau tourism project with the principles of positioning, differentiation and branding.

“Marketing is not just a matter of selling; it also includes promoting certain unique attributes that make a product or, in this case, a region distinctive,” Hermawan said on Monday, as quoted by Antara news agency.

Read also: [Historic spots of Pekanbaru](#)

Riau Governor Syamsuar said he expected the newly appointed adviser to provide him with comprehensive suggestions and recommendations regarding the improvement of the region's tourism sector.

“I have known Hermawan for a while. I hope he will be able to share his wisdom and experiences with the Riau administration to help us bolster local tourism,” he said.

He added that although Riau had great potential to become a popular destination among tourists, marketing campaigns had so far been lackluster. Furthermore, the region's tourism infrastructure was considered poor, he said. (rfa/wng)





## Appendix 28

### 'Sambal' and selfie: What nobody tells you about being a 'bule' in Jakarta



SOPHIA HUBER  
MEDIA MANAGEMENT STUDENT AND TRAVELER

Jakarta / Tue, April 9, 2019 / 09:23 am



You just have been to Bali and fallen in love with its friendly people, colorful rice fields, beaches and one-of-a-kind sunsets and now you are considering a trip to Jakarta, the city of millions of people that never sleeps?

Do it. Jakarta is a colorful city, full of smiling people, smells and stray cats. But be aware that Indonesia consists of more than 17,000 islands and each of them is different. Bali is not Java and Java is not Jakarta. Jakarta is a world of its own.

I moved from Vienna, a city with the highest quality of living for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row, to Jakarta, number 142 in the ranking of the Mercer index of most livable cities. Living in Jakarta is an everyday adventure and a great experience to **broaden your horizons**, but there are a few things nobody tells you when you are coming to Indonesia's capital. It might, especially when you do not speak the Indonesian language, feel like you have to learn all the fundamental basics again like a toddler: how to speak, eat, walk.

#### Eating might be challenging

You like spicy food? Forget it. Indonesian chili is different than Europe's. Explore the various red and green spices carefully. Otherwise you might start crying while eating and your hands will burn like fire for hours. Still, there is nothing better than a fresh, homemade delicious *sambal* (chili paste).

Why the hands? Usually you eat with your bare hands or, to be precise, with the right hand. Since the left one is considered to be unclean you should use your right hand for all daily tasks – paying, accepting or offering things and eating. I will never forget the shocked look on a girl's face when I offered her an orange with my left hand.

By the way, eating with hands is not as easy as it looks. Dipping your fried chicken or *tempeh* into *sambal* is no big challenge, but have you ever tried eating noodles or rice or fish without any cutlery? Fortunately, rice in Indonesia has a quite sticky texture that makes it easier to form into small bites. Even though I am still struggling with fish and its bones, you will likely progress quickly and finish your food up to the last rice grain.

Do not forget to wash your hands before and after eating. Usually you will get a small bowl of water and sometimes there is even a piece of lemon inside it to make your hands smell super fresh afterward.

In case you fall sick with food poisoning or salmonella, your doctor might advise you to avoid spicy and greasy food. What sounds easy can be really challenging since it feels like all meals in Jakarta are served fried and with *sambal* – or at least cooked with too much oil as compared to Western food.

The Indonesian cuisine in general is very tasty, although not really versatile – soup, noodles, rice, chicken, fish and *martabak* (sweet or savory pancake). *Nasi campur* (rice with various side dishes) is a welcome and delicious change. Like a buffet, every restaurant serves different dishes to choose from, along with rice, *sambal* and tea. You can pick various kinds of fish and meat, *tempeh*, soups, vegetables and tofu. What is also really fascinating is Indonesia's gusto for instant noodles. Existing in all kind of colors, flavors, and sizes, they are inexpensive and tasty. You can try them all.

Unfortunately, I could not find any good cheese during the 16 weeks I have so far spent in Indonesia. In general, there are very few dairy products compared to in Austria or Germany. Instead you will find countless coconuts and, honestly, is there anything better than enjoying a beautiful sunset with a fresh coconut after a long day?

#### Being *bule* – “Selfie?”

You walk along the street, motorbikes drive past, cats sleep in the shadows, kids play ball and colorful dresses dry in the sun. A man turns around, looks at you from head to toe. He whispers something in his friend's ear, who jogs another guy's elbow. He is shouting something, but all you can understand is the word “*bule*” and suddenly all eyes are focused on you. “Hey babe,” says an old man without teeth, laughing in a friendly manner.

When in Jakarta, try to avoid the fancy malls and huge streets. Rather, escape the big city life for a few hours and stroll around the small alleys. This way you will get to know the other side of Jakarta. It takes no time until someone calls you *bule*, which is commonly used to describe white foreigners, and suddenly it feels like you hear it constantly everywhere.

Even though calling someone by his or her skin color would be perceived as disrespectful in Europe, it seems like people mean well. Having dark hair and fair skin, you become a “Katy Perry celebrity” easily. It might seem like you neither have a name nor nationality -- all you are is *bule*. Most people are deeply interested in white people and try to start a conversation by using body language. They will ask you for a selfie and try to take hundreds of pictures with you. It can be exhausting but also a lot of fun and a good way of meeting new people. Also, back home you can tell stories like: “My picture is on the wall of this Indonesian guy's living room. right next to his wedding photo.”

When one *bule* in Jakarta faces another *bule*, it gets interesting. Always being quite excited, I feel less alone and lost in this big city for a moment and wonder: Who are you? Where are you from? Do you speak my language? Some act uninterested and go on their way. Others smile conspiratorially and wave their hand before disappearing into the crowd.

#### Do not drop a clanger – eight things to consider

1. Compared to touristic Bali, drinking alcohol in public places in Jakarta is prohibited. Also, a quite harsh drug law exists: On the flight to Jakarta, attendants would warn you that it's a serious crime and it has a death penalty.
2. In Indonesia, people drive on the left. It can be difficult for European people to cross the streets of Jakarta that are always chock-full of motorbikes. Even though it seems like there are no traffic regulations and you feel like you are risking your life, do not run but put out your hand to show the drivers you want to cross.
3. Kissing and hugging others in public is inappropriate. Also, in some Indonesian cities it can be difficult to book a room as an unmarried couple.
4. Respect the culture and dress modestly, which means covering both shoulders and knees.
5. Bring your mosquito repellent.
6. Some hotels or public restrooms may not provide toilet paper. Instead they have some kind of water spray. What might be surprising and unusual initially turns out to be quite hygienic.
7. When you are eating some street food, there might be people spitting on the ground. That's normal. However, blowing your nose loudly is not appropriate, especially during eating.

(<https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/09/what-nobody-tells-me-about-coming-to-jakarta.html>)

## Appendix 29

TRAVEL • NEWS

### January 2020 closure of Komodo Island not yet final

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Tue, April 9, 2019 / 04:36 pm

**Plans to close Komodo Island** in East Nusa Tenggara by January 2020 have triggered a sense of unease among tourism businesses in West Manggarai regency, as well as foreign tourists and travel agencies, the Tourism Ministry has said.

According to Labuan Bajo Tourism Authority Board director Shana Fatma, the Natural Resource and Ecosystem Conservation (KSDAE) Directorate General has deployed a team to conduct a study on the closure plans.

"The team [is scheduled to send] a report [on the matter] in August," Shana said in a statement released on April 4.

Komodo Island, which is part of the Komodo National Park, is under the authority of the KSDAE Directorate General and the Environment and Forestry Ministry.

Read also: **Commentary: Keep calm and save Komodo dragons**

"If the government plans to temporarily close certain parts of the park or the entire area, it would need to be thoroughly planned and a sufficient deadline must be provided as [the closure] would have a significant social and economic impact," Shana added.

According to ministry data, the park earned Rp 33.16 billion (US\$2.345 million) in 2018, up from Rp 29.1 billion in 2017, Rp 22.8 billion in 2016, Rp 19.2 billion in 2015 and Rp 5.4 billion in 2014.

Admission tickets to the park are valued at Rp 150,000 for foreigners and Rp 5,000 for domestic tourists.

Aside from Komodo Island, the region is also home to 42 diving and snorkeling spots that have attracted many visitors and brought significant economic growth, particularly for West Manggarai regency and its surrounding areas. (sop/kes)

## Appendix 30

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Indonesians flying abroad as domestic airfares rise

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Tue, April 9, 2019 / 05:29 am

Many Indonesian vacationers are opting to fly overseas as a result of increasing airplane ticket prices for domestic flights, according to the Indonesian Travel Agents Association (ASITA).

ASITA chairwoman Nunung Rusmiati said there had been a significant increase in international departures since domestic ticket prices soared late last year. Domestic tickets had become so expensive that international flights were more affordable in comparison, she said.

"Customers have complained that tickets for Jakarta-Bali flights are more expensive than those for Jakarta-Kuala Lumpur," Nunung said on Monday, as quoted by [tempo.co](http://tempo.co).

According to Nunung, tickets for international flights are now much cheaper than those for domestic routes.

Read also: **New regulations set price floors, ceilings for airline tickets**

She cited full-service airlines now charging Rp 2.5 million (US\$176.76) for Jakarta-Kuala Lumpur round-trip tickets; whereas Jakarta-Bali round-trip tickets start from Rp 4.5 million.

ASITA deputy chairman Budijanto Ardiansyah said there had been a 30 percent decrease in local tourists flying to domestic destinations. Of the 30 percent, 20 percent had chosen to fly overseas, he added.

Budijanto called on airlines to consider adjusting ticket prices for domestic flights to help boost local tourism.

Tourism Minister Arief Yahya said the country would see a steady decline in domestic tourist numbers unless airlines reduced airfares. (rfa/kes)

## Appendix 31

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Asiana Airlines to operate from Soekarno-Hatta airport's Terminal 3 this April

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Tue, April 9, 2019 / 06:37 pm

Seoul-based Asiana Airlines is scheduled to move its operations from Soekarno-Hatta International Airport's Terminal 2 to Terminal 3 on April 15.

According to the airline's official [website](#), its check-in counter will be located on the third floor at the B21 to B26 counters with Gate 2 as the nearest drop-off area.

**Read also:** [Philippine Airlines to operate from Soekarno-Hatta airport Terminal 3](#)

Febri Toga Simatupang, the airport's senior manager of the branch communications and legal division, said Terminal 3 now catered to foreign airlines, including the South Korean carrier. "We're happy to welcome and facilitate the relocation to ensure a smooth process," Febri said in a statement as quoted by [kompas.com](#) on Monday.

Many international airlines have made the move to Terminal 3, including Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways, Malaysia Airlines, Qantas, Turkish Airlines, Japan Airlines and Air China. (wtr/kes)

## Appendix 32

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Muji store, hotel open in Ginza

THE JAPAN NEWS/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

Tokyo / Wed, April 10, 2019 / 03:33 pm

Ryohin Keikaku Co. opened its Muji global flagship store and a Muji hotel in Ginza – Tokyo's iconic shopping district – on Thursday.

The Muji Ginza store and the [Muji Hotel Ginza](#) opened 15 minutes earlier than the scheduled time of 10 a.m. on the day, as more than 100 people were waiting in line outside in Ginza 3-chome in Chuo Ward.

Visitors appeared attracted to the spacious floors filled with household goods, furniture, fresh foods and many other items to bring pleasure and panache to everyday life.

With a total floor space of about 4,000 square meters from the ground floor to the sixth floor, the store is the largest among 990 Muji outlets around the world,

On the ground floor, the shop sells organic fruits and vegetables and also produce cultivated with a reduced amount of agricultural chemicals at farms in the Kanto region and neighboring prefectures.

The Muji Ginza Hotel, on the sixth to 10th floors of the building, has 79 rooms. Each room is furnished with a Muji brand bed and electronic equipment, among other items, so that guests can experience using the products while staying at the hotel.

Breakfast is served at the Muji Diner restaurant on the first basement, which opens at 7:30 a.m.

"I felt the warmth of nature in [the building,] and immersed myself in the world of Muji. Shopping in Ginza will become a lot more fun," a 23-year-old designer from Shibuya Ward, Tokyo, said.



## Appendix 33

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Garuda Indonesia named Asia's Best Regional Business Class by TripAdvisor

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Wed, April 10, 2019 / 04:32 pm

National flag carrier Garuda Indonesia was recently named **Best Regional Business Class in Asia** and Best Airline in Indonesia by independent travel site TripAdvisor's Traveler Choice Airline Awards.

The airline was also included in the awards' Major Airlines list.

Announced on April 2, the awards were based on a worldwide survey of travelers.

Garuda Indonesia service director Nicodemus P. Lampe thanked the Indonesian public and customers from all over the world for their constant support and feedback.

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Read also: **Garuda Indonesia booked US\$809,846 profit in 2018**

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"We are very proud of this achievement. These awards also fuel our spirit to keep improving our customer services," Nicodemus said in a statement.

This year marks the third consecutive year Garuda Indonesia has been acknowledged by TripAdvisor. The airline was first ranked among the top 10 airlines worldwide by the site in 2017. (rfa/kes)

## Appendix 34

TRAVEL • NEWS

### First hotel with sleeping capsules opens in Slovenian capital

REUTERS

Ljubljana, Slovenia / Thu, April 11, 2019 / 09:05 am

Tourists who visit Ljubljana can now stay in the Slovenian capital's first sleeping capsules after the city's Central Hotel put up 10 capsules in a former telephone switchboard room.

"This is a new story in Slovenia," said Matej Rigelnik, chief executive officer of the hotel.

Slovenia, the native country of US First Lady Melania Trump, has seen a surge in tourism since it joined the European Union in 2004 and the eurozone in 2007.

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Read also: **Why traveling to Slovenia is a rewarding discovery**

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The Alpine state's capital has a picturesque medieval center that stretches along the Ljubljanica river and a castle on a hill above the center.

Last year the number overnight stays by foreign tourists in Slovenia jumped by 15.4 percent, with most of them coming from Germany, Italy, Austria, Netherlands and Croatia

## Appendix 35

### Dubai's 'Quranic Park' draws on Islam's holy text

REUTERS

Dubai, United Arab Emirates / Thu, April 11, 2019 / 11:07 am



A new park that uses gardens and landscaping to tell stories from Islam's sacred text has opened in Dubai, offering locals and tourists a **day out** with a religious twist.

Quranic Park attracted some 100,000 people in its first week, officials say, feeding demand for religious attractions in the United Arab Emirates where Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is a top destination for visitors.

The educational park, which seeks to attract Muslims and non-Muslims alike, features 12 gardens, a "Cave of Miracles," and a split lake symbolizing Moses parting the Red Sea.

Trees bearing grapes, figs, pomegranates and olives dot the park's 64 hectares, highlighting the medical and scientific uses of plants mentioned in the Quran and sunnah, the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad.

"My children had learned about these plants, and they had some questions about the Quran and the miracles," said Emirati visitor Omar al-Kaabi.

"Praise God we got some answers," he said, standing inside the greenhouse that holds some of the plants.

## Appendix 36

TRAVEL • NEWS

### JetBlue sets 2021 for first flights to London from NYC, Boston

MARY SCHLANGENSTEIN  
BLOOMBERG

/ Thu, April 11, 2019 / 05:00 pm

JetBlue Airways Corp. said it will use long-range Airbus SE jets with a modified version of its premium cabin as it prepares to join the hyper-competitive market for business travelers flying between the U.S. and Europe.

JetBlue will fly starting in 2021 from its hubs at New York's John F. Kennedy and Boston Logan to an unspecified airport in London using the single-aisle Airbus A321LR, the carrier told employees at a rally Wednesday in New York. The announcement capped months of vows from Chief Executive Officer Robin Hayes that JetBlue could bring new travelers to the market by undercutting "obscene" business-class fares and offering its posh Mint service.

The trans-Atlantic jump is a major gamble for JetBlue, which carved out a domestic business starting in 2000 by offering plush leather seats and innovative seat-back video screens at discount fares. The carrier will immediately face twin competitive threats from entrenched global airline alliances and struggling low-cost operators, while also needing to secure space at crowded airports.

"This is one of the biggest step-changes in growing an airline, going international," said Samuel Engel, head of the aviation group at consultant ICF. "And the Atlantic is not just any international market. The trans-Atlantic is a graveyard for airlines. JetBlue is better positioned to succeed than almost any other airline that has grown into it."

### Long planned

JetBlue has been deliberating trans-Atlantic flights since at least 2016, when it ordered A321 planes with the right to convert some of the aircraft to a version with extra fuel tanks for longer routes. It will switch 13 existing orders to the A321LR, which can fly 4,000 nautical miles -- sufficient to hop from the northeast U.S. to Western Europe -- and can seat 206 passengers. That's similar to a Boeing Co. 757-200.

"London is the largest metro area JetBlue doesn't yet serve from both Boston and New York, and we could not be more thrilled to be changing that in the years ahead," said Joanna Geraghty, president and chief operating officer. "The fares being charged today by airlines on these routes, specifically on the premium end, are enough to make you blush."

Switching to the A321LR does not affect JetBlue's current orders for 85 A321s, its external financial commitments or capital-spending plans, the airline said. JetBlue also retains the right to shift more A321s to the long-range option. The carrier has created an internal team to begin securing U.S. regulatory approval for extended flights over water.

### Rising competition

JetBlue's entry would add to the rise of narrow-body planes plying the Atlantic. Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA already was operating flights with the Boeing 737 Max before that plane was grounded following two crashes of the model within five months. The airline has had to scrap some flights and switch others to bigger aircraft, increasing its costs.

Discount carrier Wow Air Hf, which used single-aisle planes to connect European cities to the U.S. with a stop in Iceland, shut down last month after failing to secure rescue funding.

The tougher challenge for JetBlue is likely to come from the biggest carriers that for years have dominated traffic across the North Atlantic. American Airlines Group Inc. and IAG's British Airways form one alliance, while Delta Air Lines Inc. and Air France-KLM are joined in another and a third includes United Continental Holdings Inc. and Deutsche Lufthansa AG. The incumbents hold the majority of slots, or rights to take off and land.

"There's a difference between going in as a little water skimmer taking off some of the leisure traffic at the bottom," Engel said. "A Wow in that market is annoying but not an existential threat. A JetBlue serving it and going after core business traffic is a real threat to the established players and they are going to fight hard."

### Regulators' role

JetBlue has been calling on regulators in the U.S., U.K. and European Union to force airlines that are members of global alliances to give up some valuable flight slots at congested airports like Kennedy and London's Heathrow airport.

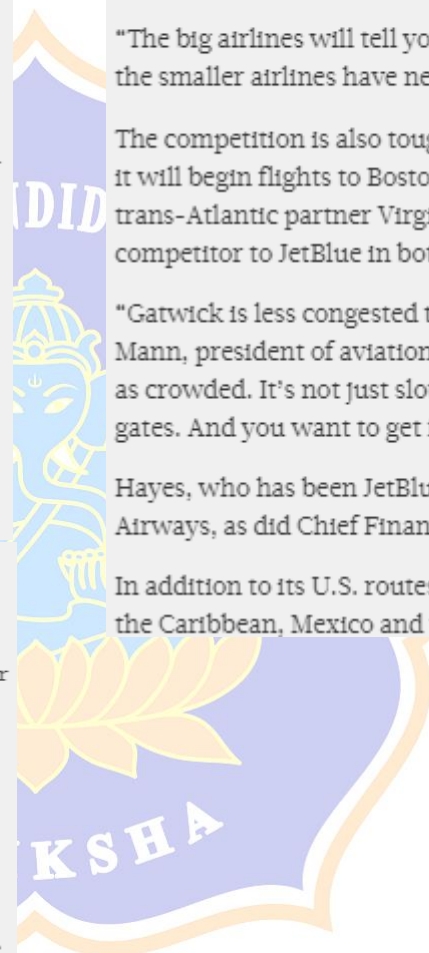
"The big airlines will tell you that competition has never been more robust, but the smaller airlines have never found it harder to get access," Geraghty said.

The competition is also tough at less trafficked hubs. Delta last week announced it will begin flights to Boston and New York from London's Gatwick airport with trans-Atlantic partner Virgin Atlantic starting in 2020. Delta is a major competitor to JetBlue in both of those northeastern U.S. cities.

"Gatwick is less congested than Heathrow" when it comes to flights, said Bob Mann, president of aviation consultancy R.W. Mann & Co. "But the facility is just as crowded. It's not just slots, but ticket counter access, baggage positions and gates. And you want to get flights at commercially attractive times."

Hayes, who has been JetBlue CEO four years, previously worked for British Airways, as did Chief Financial Officer Stephen Priest.

In addition to its U.S. routes, JetBlue has flights to nearly two dozen countries in the Caribbean, Mexico and the northern part of South America.





## Appendix 37

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

### Port city of Yokohama grew up with mixture of Western, Chinese culture

KYODO NEWS

Yokohama / Fri, April 12, 2019 / 03:06 am

Yokohama has developed a unique mixed culture with strong Western and Chinese influences since it became one of the ports Japan opened to the rest of the world in the 19th century.

The small fishing village grew into a main hub of international trade in 1859 at the end of two centuries of Japan's isolation from the rest of the world under the Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868), seeing an influx of foreign goods and residents. Yokohama is now one of the largest cities in the country with a population of 3.7 million.

Yokohama Chinatown is a good place to start your journey into the city's history.

The district with hundreds of Chinese restaurants and shops grew up alongside the expansion of trade. Tourists can also experience various seasonal festivals there throughout the year.

With regular sea lines to the United States, Yokohama was often referred to as "the city of jazz" after importing the music before World War II.

## Appendix 38

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Indonesia intends to attract more Japanese tourists at Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo

NEWS DESK

THE JAKARTA POST

- / Fri, April 12, 2019 / 10:43 am

The Tourism Ministry participated in the Marine Diving Fair (MDF) in Japan to promote the marine tourism sector worldwide. The event took place at the Sunshine City Convention Center in Tokyo from April 5 to 7.

"The ministry's participation in this event is to promote Indonesia as one of the favorite marine tourism destinations, especially for diving," Ardi Hermawan, assistant deputy of marketing development region II, said in a press release.

The promotional effort is expected to increase the number of tourists, thus achieving the target of 20 million international tourists by 2019.

The event, which began in 1993, is the biggest and most popular diving tourism fair in Japan. It attracted 50,598 people in 2018, 82 percent of whom are divers and another 18 percent of whom represent resorts.

The Indonesian pavilion at the event features 15 companies from eight provinces. Most of them are diving locations such as North Sulawesi Travel from North Sulawesi, PT. Indonesia Kaktus Wisata Tirta (Poni Divers Bali) from Bali, Lembah Resort from North Sulawesi, Noah Maratua Resort from East Kalimantan, PT. Putra Papua Baru from West Papua, PT. Bali Ocean Adventure (Blue Season Bali) from Bali, Ena Dive Travel & Marine Adventure from Bali and Cocotinos Hotels & Resorts from North Sulawesi.

Also at the event are Sangalaki Resort from North Kalimantan, Grand Komodo Raja Ampat Dive Lodge from Bali, Siladen Island Resort & Spa from North Sulawesi, Pearl of Papua Indonesia from Central Java, Doberai Private Island from West Papua, Dive Dream from Bali as well as Garuda Indonesia, according to Ardi.

Apart from exhibitions, presentations on the main stage by Indonesian diving experts, spa services and cultural performances were offered by the Indonesian pavilion, as well as business and consumer meetings and a tourist information service.

Furthermore, Indonesia's world-renowned coffee will also be served.

**Read also: [2019 Sail Nias launched in Jakarta, expected to boost marine tourism](#)**

Tourist Minister Arief Yahya describes the MDF as a great opportunity to promote Indonesia's marine tourism to diving enthusiasts in Japan, which would boost the national tourism industry.

"If we discuss marine tourism, I have no doubt Indonesia is the champion. Indonesia's coastline is the longest after Canada. Moreover, two thirds of the world's best reefs are located here. If you want to dive and snorkel, then go to Indonesia. This is what we are offering at the MDF this year," the minister said. (sop/mut)

## Appendix 39

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Marriott International celebrates Global Meetings Industry Day



WENING GITOMARTOYO  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Fri, April 12, 2019 / 11:06 am

The Westin Jakarta recently acted as host to 30 Marriott International hotels across Indonesia with Jakarta-based meeting planners.

The B2B event was held to celebrate Global Meetings Industry Day (GMID) on April 4, which aimed to highlight the impact of the MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) industry on people, businesses and communities.

John Wooley, general manager of Courtyard by Marriott Bali Seminyak Resort and chairman of GMID 2019, said, "Marriott is a big supporter of this event and the meeting industry because it is so important for us hoteliers. A few months ago, we realized there was not an event being planned in Jakarta, and the city is an extremely important venue for Marriott."

"About 20 percent of our business goes to the meeting industry. We're really happy to support the industry whichever way we can," he added.

According to Arun Kumar, general manager of The Westin Jakarta, Marriott also took part in promoting Indonesia's destinations.

"We've had several videos, for instance, showcasing Yogyakarta, Belitung and Lombok. We are interested in how we can amplify the marketing effort to market Indonesia, along with what the Tourism Ministry does. The Wonderful Indonesia campaign is a great one, but we need to further support the destinations. I think Lake Toba is one of the untapped potential destinations," he said.

Puspa Rianti, director of sales and marketing of The Stones hotel in Bali, noted that Yogyakarta had become a very popular destination for the MICE industry.

Wooley concluded that Marriott itself needed to reinvent the hotels as a destination.

"What we can't do is to have simple meeting rooms, boring events. What we need to do is completely enhance the meeting experience. For example, we deliver something different in terms of meetings, such as bringing food trucks next to the meeting room or rather than using chairs, we put bean bags into the meeting rooms," he said.

Kumar added, "Jakarta as a destination is not marketed well enough. Business people usually come on Monday and leave on Thursday. It's still been the same for many years, and that is something we have to look at a little differently and how we are going to help change that perception."

## Appendix 40

TRAVEL • NEWS

### TMII looks to attract more visitors on 44th anniversary

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Fri, April 12, 2019 / 12:09 pm

In celebration of its 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (TMII) in East Jakarta has announced a series of festivities which will run from Apr. 19 to 21.

Head of the TMII 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee, Ery Subada, said he expected the events to attract 400,000 visitors. He predicted that TMII would draw a large number of visitors following voting day on Apr. 17 – which President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo has declared a public holiday – as well as the Easter Holiday on Apr. 19.

“Similar to last year, we expect to welcome 400,000 visitors. We assume the public will want to refresh their minds after this month’s elections,” Ery said on Wednesday as quoted by [kompas.com](#).

He went on to say the committee had originally planned a 10-day celebration, but due to permit issues, they had to condense the events into three days.

“Because of the elections, we were not permitted to draw in large crowds. So we decided to shorten the duration for the sake of public order,” he said, adding that the events had not been altered significantly despite the shorter duration.

**Read also:** [Jakpost guide to Taman Mini Indonesia Indah](#)

According to Ery, the festivities would showcase highlights from various cultures and traditions across the archipelago.

To attract more visitors, TMII will not charge admission fees on Apr. 20. (rfa/mut)

## Appendix 41

TRAVEL • NEWS

### New terminal at Tjilik Riwut Airport ready for operation

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Fri, April 12, 2019 / 01:01 pm

Several routes to and from Tjilik Riwut Airport in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan, will be reopened following the opening of its new terminal.

The airport’s acting executive general manager, Paryono, said the airport would reopen the previously closed routes after considering input from Central Kalimantan residents who wanted more flights to and from the province, as well as to support the local economy and tourism sector.

“Some of the routes that will be reopened are flights from Palangkaraya to Jakarta and Surakarta operated by Batik Air and Citilink,” he said in a statement as quoted by [kompas.com](#) on Wednesday.

Paryono added that the airport also planned to open new routes from Makassar to Palangkaraya, which would be operated by Citilink.

The new terminal is 29,124 square meters and can accommodate up to 2,200 people per day. (dpk/kes)



## Appendix 42

TRAVEL • NEWS

### F&B outlets, waterfall a big draw for visitors at Jewel Changi Airport

LIM MIN ZHANG  
THE STRAITS TIMES/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

/ Fri, April 12, 2019 / 03:01 pm

At 40 meters, Jewel Changi Airport's indoor waterfall is the world's tallest. And it proved the popular choice for snaps and selfies as around 60,000 people became the first members of the public to experience the \$1.7 billion, 10-storey complex.

About half a million people have signed up for free preview tickets to visit the 135,700 sq m complex, up to 10pm next Tuesday, before Jewel fully opens its doors next Wednesday, its official opening day.

Located next to Terminal 1, it is connected to Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 via air-conditioned travelators.

Actor J. Jaikishan, 26, was among those who visited yesterday.

"Jewel is a giant teaser for what Singapore has to offer to the world," he said. "An indoor garden, nightlife, food and water features can all be found here, right where many visitors to Singapore will be."

While Jewel boasts more than 280 shops and food and beverage outlets from Basement 2 to Level 5, for many, the main draw was the waterfall that occasionally emitted mist.

"Even looking at the waterfall can be soothing," said Mr S.P. Yong, 72, a retired Chinese language tutor who was at the fifth-storey garden with his wife.

McDonald's service crew member Doreen Yong, 56, and her daughter Vivien Neui, 22, were among the first group of visitors to the Pokemon Centre - the first one outside Japan.

"We were excited to visit it as both of us are Pokemon fans who play Pokemon Go," said Ms Neui, a Republic Polytechnic student who walked away with a Singapore-exclusive Pikachu plushie.

Food was also big on the visitors' list of things to do.

Read also: [Singapore airport nature dome unveiled in fight for flights](#)

American chain A&W, the first fast-food outlet to open in Singapore in 1966 before it pulled out in 2003, attracted long queues on its return to the country. At 6pm, there were over 50 people in the queue at the 24-hour, 80-seat outlet at Basement 2. A staff member informed customers that the queueing time was about an hour, with about another hour's wait for food to be served.

Restaurant manager Melanie Aquino, 32, gave up as she felt the queue was too long. "It is a pity as the last time I ate at an A&W in Singapore was more than 10 years ago," said Ms Aquino, who had taken half a day's leave to be there with five relatives.

Fans of Shake Shack have to wait longer, however, as it will open to the public only next Wednesday.

The New York burger chain, which will offer exclusive local items such as vanilla frozen custard ice cream blended with pandan and coconut and topped with gula melaka crumble, was open only to the media yesterday.

Three teams from a lion dance troupe were seen performing outside different shops to usher in good luck and prosperity.

Play attractions on the fifth storey were not open, but visitors could stroll through the garden.

Hobbyist photographer Goe Meng Hui, 25, was there to capture a good shot of the indoor waterfall. "This reminds me of the Flower Dome at Gardens by the Bay but yet is unique in its own way," said the undergraduate.

## Appendix 43

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

# Alcatraz: Goosebumps and charm

R. BERTO WEDHATAMA  
THE JAKARTA POST

San Francisco / Fri, April 12, 2019 / 06:18 pm

Alcatraz Island and its infamous prison compound offer an equal amount of history and beauty.

Alcatraz gained a reputation as the most secure and feared penitentiary in the United States soon after it opened in 1933 – one that stayed with it until its closure in 1963. The prison once held 1,576 of America's most notorious criminals, including infamous Chicago gangster Al Capone.

Given its reputation as a harsh and strict facility, Alcatraz served as the main inspiration of a handful of Hollywood movies, including Clint Eastwood's *Escape from Alcatraz* (1979) and *The Rock* (1996) starring Nicolas Cage and Sean Connery.

Built on the rocky Alcatraz Island 2 kilometers off the shore of San Francisco, California, the three-story prison comprises four cell blocks, a prison warden office, guest rooms, a library and a barber shop. Each cell measures 2.7 meters long, 1.5 m wide and 2.1 m high.

Of all the cell blocks, D-Block was the most feared by inmates. It includes isolation cells in which inmates were placed as a punishment for bad behavior, such as attempting to escape or engaging in a brawl. Known as "the hole", each isolation cell was cold, damp and devoid of light.

Though Alcatraz had the most advanced security of the time, 36 inmates tried their luck to escape the notorious prison. Alcatraz also recorded 14 breakout attempts throughout 29 years of its history as a federal prison.

The prison saw a legendary escape attempt by three inmates in 1962, when John Anglin, Clarence Anglin and Frank Morris managed to get out of their cells and leave the island in a makeshift raft. Whether they reached land remains unknown. The men were reported dead although their bodies have never been discovered.

Long before the prison was constructed there, Alcatraz Island has held a significant place in US history. It is the site of the oldest operating lighthouse on the west coast (built in 1854). When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, the island became the largest military site on the west coast and used to imprison Confederate sympathizers and privateers.

It later became a military fort and military detention facility until the US Justice Department turned it into a federal prison in 1934.

After the prison closed down, a group of Native Americans from the United Indians of All Tribes occupied the island for nearly two years, demanding the construction of an Indian education center, ecology center and cultural center by the provisions of the Treaty of Fort Laramie between the US and Sioux tribe in 1868.

The island is also known for its charming gardens, in particular, the Officers' Row and Rose Terrace gardens. Not many visitors realize that the island is a premier spot for viewing western gulls and cormorants.

The island is open throughout the year except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year.



## Appendix 44

### New survey reveals just how much social media impacts travel choices

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Sat, April 13, 2019 / 03:07 am

The results of a new survey show that of a handful of countries, holidaymakers from Italy are most likely to choose their vacation destination based on how good the photos will make them appear on Instagram.

That's according to a poll conducted for online travel agency eDream, which surveyed 8,000 people in Germany, France, Spain, the UK, Portugal, Italy and the US on how social media influences their travel plans.

At 58 percent, Italian travelers are most likely to book their vacation destination based on its "Insta-worthiness" or how good their travel photos will look on Instagram.

Italians came out in front over Spaniards (55 percent) and Americans (52 percent). The country that remains relatively impervious to the pressures of social media? The UK, where only 14 per cent said they care about their destination's social media impact.

While it's become a common strategy for hotels and tourism boards to tap influencers to sell their travel brands on Instagram, only a marginal percentage of respondents said they've booked a holiday destination inspired by an influencer.

Again, Italians emerged the most impressionable with 11 per cent seeking travel inspiration from their favorite Instagrammer, followed by the US (10 per cent), France (8 percent), Germany and Portugal (6 percent), Spain and the UK (5 percent).

The results also revealed that Americans are the most likely to use filters on their photos, saturating colors, brightening exposures and blurring away fine lines.

More than half (51 percent) of Americans admitted to using editing tricks, followed by the French and Italians.

## Appendix 45

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Nepal to send team to clean Mount Everest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Kathmandu, Nepal / Sat, April 13, 2019 / 06:07 am

Nepal will send a dedicated team to Mount Everest this climbing season to collect garbage and retrieve bodies littering the world's highest peak, officials said Thursday.

Decades of commercial mountaineering have turned the mountain into the world's highest rubbish dump as an increasing number of big-spending climbers pay little attention to the ugly footprint they leave behind.

Fluorescent tents, discarded climbing equipment, empty gas canisters and even human excrement pollute the well-trodden route to the summit of the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) peak.

"We take pride in Mount Everest but we are often accused of not being able to clean it... We have now come together to clean the mountain," said Dandu Raj Ghimire, chief of Nepal's tourism department.

The government has joined hands with mountaineering associations, the army and local organisations to coordinate the clean-up effort.

A 14-member team will be sent to Everest base camp from April 25 and aim to bring back 10,000 kilogrammes (11 tons) of trash.

Eight members will then ascend to Camp 2 at 6,400 metres and teams of three will take turns to go up to Camp 4 at 7,950 metres, where they will spend 15 days litter-picking on the snowy slopes.

Climbers and high altitude workers will be given incentives to bring back the bundled trash down to the base camp and the recyclables will be airlifted to the capital.



## Appendix 46

"This is the first time the government has taken initiative to clean the mountain... but it can't be done in just one year. We have to continue this," said Santa Bir Sherpa of the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

Six years ago, Nepal implemented a \$4,000 rubbish deposit per team that would be refunded if each climber brought down at least eight kilogrammes (18 pounds) of waste, but only half of the climbers return with their trash.

In February, China banned non-climbers from accessing its Everest base camp in Tibet in an attempt to clean up its side of the mountain.

Over 4,000 people have climbed Everest so far, and last year saw a record 807 climbers reach the summit.

Melting glaciers caused by global warming are exposing bodies and trash that have accumulated on the mountain since Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay made the first successful summit 66 years ago.

Environmentalists are also concerned that the pollution on Everest is also affecting water sources down in the valley.

TRAVEL • NEWS

## Tour de Bintan 2019 boosts sport tourism in Riau Islands

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

- / Sat, April 13, 2019 / 02:12 pm

Cycling competition Tour de Bintan 2019 was held from March 29 to 31 in Riau Islands, with the three-day annual event attracting 1,100 riders from 48 countries.

Starting at Bintan Lagoi, the route covered several areas in the Bintan Lagoon Resort. The race results are available to peruse [here](#).

Activities included the 108-kilometer Grand Fondo Century and the 55-km Gran Fondo Discovery Class races, with cyclists following courses that wound through Bintan's wild forests, rubber plantations, rivers and mangroves.

Tourism Minister Arief Yahya described the Tour de Bintan as a prestigious event, highlighting that it was part of the qualification process for the world cycling championship UCI Grand Fondo. Thanks to its positive impact on tourism in Tanjung Pinang, the ministry will provide further support.

"Sport tourism is a concept that has managed to attract tourists, both local and international," Arief said.

After the competition, participants were invited to visit other destinations within the region. Rizki Handayani, deputy for marketing development I of the Tourism Ministry, recommended Trikora Beach for marine tourism enthusiasts.

Located 45 km from the city center of Tanjung Pinang, the beach stretches for 25 km and consists of four parts.

"In Trikora 3 and Trikora 4, visitors can find large granite boulders. This type of stone can also be found in the middle of the sea. Tourists can take as many pictures as they want. Children can also safely swim at the beach as there are almost no waves here," Rizki said. (sop/wng)

## Appendix 47

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Agency urged to reopen hiking trail on Mount Rinjani

PANCA NUGRAHA  
THE JAKARTA POST

Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara / Sat, April 13, 2019 / 07:06 pm

Since its closure following a string of earthquakes in July and August last year, a popular hiking trail on Mount Rinjani, Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), has yet to be reopened due to safety reasons.

In charge of the area is the Mount Rinjani National Park Agency (TNGR), which said it was still waiting for the results of a survey on the matter.

"We are still waiting for resurvey [results] to ensure the safety of the hiking track," TNGR head Sudiyono Harjo Puspito told *The Jakarta Post* on Thursday in Mataram, NTB.

Sudiyono said the earthquake had damaged parts of the trail and triggered landslides, including one between Sembalun village and Lake Segara Anak.

"We conducted an initial survey as part of the requirement to reopen the hiking trail. However, we weren't able to finish it because a 5.4-magnitude earthquake hit the region again on March 17," Sudiyono said, adding that the agency had completed around 35 percent of the survey prior to the recent earthquake.

The survey focused on studying the feasibility of the hiking trail as well as mapping damaged areas and disaster mitigation efforts.

Mount Rinjani is one of NTB's most popular tourist destinations. Three entrance gates are available for climbers seeking to hike the mountain, namely Sembalun in East Lombok, Senaru in North Lombok and Air Berik in Central Lombok.

Several parties have urged the agency to open the hiking trail as mountaineering services are the main source of income for residents.

North Lombok administration spokesperson Mujaddid Muhas said the regent had sent TNGR an official request regarding the matter.

Mountaineering service providers under the Senaru Tour Operator Association (ATOS) recommended that TNGR open the Senaru trail as its observation concluded that it is safe if hikers don't go too far.

"We have tried the Senaru track and it is safe, but only if we hike until Pelawangan," said ATOS head Sumatim. (gts/kes)

## Appendix 48

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Riau businesses gear up to support halal tourism

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sun, April 14, 2019 / 01:04 pm

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Riau are rushing to apply for halal certification as the governor plans to develop the province's halal tourism sector.

Wan Helya Rosa, the owner of Kedai Yong Bengkalis in Pekanbaru, said she had applied for halal certification at the Indonesian Ulemas Council's (MUI) Food and Drug Analysis Agency in Riau for her culinary products in support of the plan.

"We support the Riau governor's halal tourism plan. We've finally been certified halal by the MUI in Riau," she said on Tuesday, as quoted by *Antara*.

Wan said she hoped the government would promote businesses that had been certified as halal.

Zamzami, another local business owner, said he was enthusiastic about the administration's halal tourism plan.

"I hope the plan comes with an incentive that allows local businesses to apply for halal certification more easily," he said, adding that he hoped the administration would also push for a policy that reduced single-use plastics.

Riau Governor Syamsuar issued Gubernatorial Instruction No. 18/2019 on halal tourism on April 5.

"I've signed a gubernatorial instruction establishing Riau as a halal tourism destination," Syamsuar told a press conference on Monday, adding that he expected the halal tourism concept to help boost the local economy. "We can at least compete with Thailand, which has more non-Muslim citizens," he added. (rfa/kes)

## Appendix 49

TRAVEL • NEWS

### More train stations to have free coworking spaces: PT KAI

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sun, April 14, 2019 / 04:02 pm

In an effort to accommodate busy commuters who work on-the-go, state-owned railway operator PT Kereta Api Indonesia (KAI) has launched coworking spaces at several train stations across Java.

PT KAI's general director, Edi Sukmoro, said he hoped that the new facilities would help boost productivity among commuters, especially millennials.

"Train stations have become a hub for public activities. It's only right that we build coworking spaces at the stations," Edi recently said as quoted on the company's [official website](#).

The company's coworking spaces are said to offer a range of amenities, including internet connection, 16 seats and work desks.

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Read also: [Jakpost guide to coworking spaces](#)

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"To use a coworking space, commuters will have to show their boarding passes. They will then be granted free access for two hours," Edi said.

PT KAI has so far launched coworking spaces at nine stations, including Gambir, Juanda and BNI City stations in Jakarta as well as Bandung Station in Bandung, West Java, and Semarang Tawang Station in Semarang, Central Java.

The company planned to open coworking spaces at more stations, Edi said.

State-Owned Enterprises Minister Rini Soemarno commended the company's coworking spaces, saying they were the type of innovation that the public needed in the digital era.

"I hope PT KAI will keep providing the public with the best service," Rini said during the launch of the company's coworking space at Bandung Station.  
(rfa/kes)

## Appendix 50

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Indonesian Tin Museum to lure tourists with locally made products

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sun, April 14, 2019 / 05:03 pm

The Indonesian Tin Museum in Pangkalpinang, Bangka Belitung Islands, is set to have a gallery of products from micro, small and medium enterprises to help small businesses sell their goods to tourists.

"This gallery will begin operating soon and allow visitors to buy unique merchandise from the region," said the head of the museum, Muhammad Taufik, in Pangkalpinang on Monday as quoted by [Antara](#).

Taufik said the gallery would showcase signature food and crafts in Bangka Belitung, which is part of state-owned tin mining company PT Timah's program to empower local businesses. Hence museum visitors will not only enjoy the display of tin mining history in the museum but also local products.

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Read also: [Fancy a holiday in mining wasteland?](#)

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"The gallery will be managed and filled by business partners under the supervision of Timah. This is a manifestation of empowerment [that we do] for small businesses in this area," he said.

The Indonesian Tin Museum is a museum showcasing lead mining technology managed by Timah. The museum was established in 1958 to record the history of lead mining on the islands.

The museum's building was once home of Hoofdt Administrateur Banka Tin Winning, the head administration office for a tin mining company owned by the Dutch.

Bangka Island was famous for its tin mining during the Dutch colonial era. After Indonesia declared independence, the new government took over the company.  
(gts/kes)



## Appendix 51

### Biggest 'Game of Thrones' exhibit yet opens in Belfast

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Sun, April 14, 2019 / 06:05 pm



It's here: The largest "Game of Thrones" exhibit to date has opened in Northern Ireland.

"Game of Thrones: The Touring Exhibition" made its grand debut in Belfast this week with the addition of two new exhibits created exclusively for the Northern Ireland stop: the Winterfell Crypt, guarded by stone direwolves featuring six of the Stark ancestors and the ancient dragon skulls.

The touring exhibit recreates the fictional, mystical GoT universe with costumes, props and settings from all seven seasons of the hit HBO series. Exhibits include the wintry landscapes of the North; treelined pathway of the Kingsroad; the home of the Night's Watch, Castle Black; and the showstopping centerpiece, the Iron Throne Room.

The highly anticipated eighth and final season bows April 14.

The exhibition kicked off its worldwide tour in Barcelona in 2017, before moving to Paris and Oberhausen, Germany.

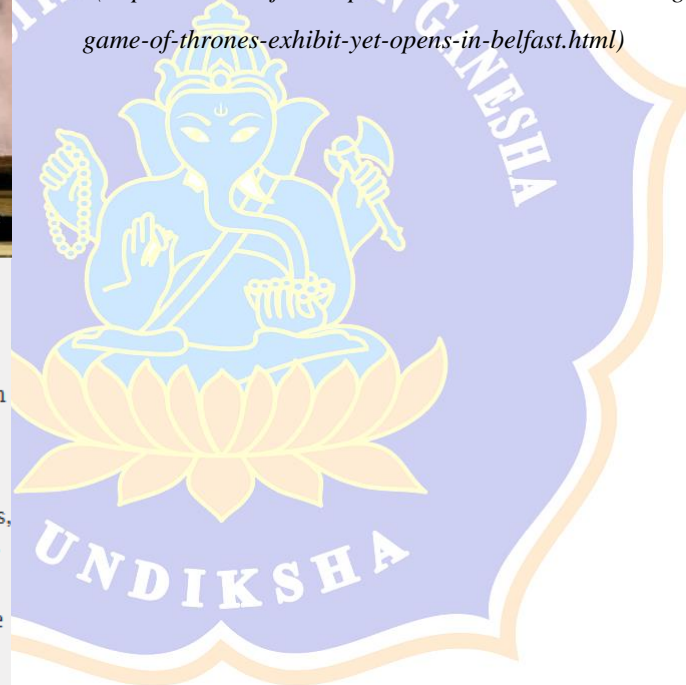
The Belfast show marks the exhibit's largest display yet.

Along with the touring exhibit, the franchise will also be extended into a series of legacy projects that include a "Game of Thrones Studio Tour" set to open next spring in Northern Ireland. The 110,000 square foot Linen Mill Studios is the original filming location for many of the iconic scenes and will be turned into an interactive experience for fans.

For nearly a decade, the dramatic landscapes, coastlines and castles of Northern Ireland have doubled as the fictional setting for Westeros.

"Game of Thrones: The Touring Exhibition" is in Belfast until September 1.

(<https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/13/biggest-game-of-thrones-exhibit-yet-opens-in-belfast.html>)



## Appendix 52

TRAVEL • NEWS

# World's deepest pool coming soon to Poland

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 15, 2019 / 03:05 am

Poland is about to set a new world record with **Deepspot**, which has been hailed as "the world's deepest pool".

Located in Mszczonow, 30 miles from Warsaw, the pool will be 45 meters deep and filled with 8,000 cubic m of water – which equates the volume of 27 average pools of 25 meters, **CNN** reported.

Deepspot will cater to various groups such as beginner divers to the more experienced and even people who are not swimming. The latter can view the divers in action without getting wet thanks to an underwater cave. The "blue hole" plunges down to the pool's deepest point. Conference and training suites, as well as hotel rooms will surround the pool.

The current deepest pool in the world is Italy's **Y-40 Deep Joy**. The star attraction of Hotel Millepini is located at a Terme resort area close to Venice.

However, Deepspots time at the top will not last long as there are plans to build an even deeper pool in the United Kingdom in 2020. Located in Colchester, the Blue Abyss will be 50 m deep. John Vickers, managing director of Blue Abyss, said it would be "more than just a super-sized pool" and would include a "commercial astronaut training center [...] and a human performance center helping people reach the peak of their physical capabilities." (sop/kes)

## Appendix 53

# Ecofriendly Java Mountain Coffee now available at Alila Bali hotels

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 15, 2019 / 05:07 am



Java Mountain Coffee has announced its partnership with Alila Seminyak and Alila Villas Uluwatu in Bali.

The hotels' guests can now expect an in-room selection of certified biodegradable coffee capsules filled with farm-fresh Indonesian coffee. The coffee is sustainably grown by all-female cooperatives in Bali and West Java.

The biodegradable coffee capsules take three months to **break down** into compost after use and are considered an environmentally friendly alternative to plastic and aluminum capsules.

**Read also: Female coffee farmers get empowered in Bali**

"We are excited to be partnering with Alila Resorts Bali in providing a 'circular solution' for their in-room coffee, one that not only contributes to the empowerment of Indonesia's rural women farmers but also leaves a positive impact on the environment. We hope to expand our local partnerships throughout Asia and beyond with our coffee innovations," said Nadine Alexander, spokeswoman of Java Mountain Coffee.

Currently, Java Mountain Coffee is involved with two all-women cooperatives in Indonesia, the Java Mountain Women's Coffee Cooperative in Ciwidey, West Java, and the Bali Mountain Women's Coffee Cooperative in Bali.

The Indonesian social enterprise aims to empower indigenous women farmers and seasonal workers. (sop/wng)

(<https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/13/ecofriendly-java-mountain-coffee-now-available-at-alila-bali-hotels.html>)



## Appendix 54

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Genting Dream cruise returns to Bintan, boosts local tourism

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 15, 2019 / 09:01 am

Luxury cruise liner Genting Dream returned to Bintan, Riau on Saturday, bringing hundreds of foreign tourists onto the exotic island.

Bintan Tourism and Culture Agency head Wan Rudy said he was enthusiastic about the return of the luxury cruise as the arrival of foreign tourists would boost the region's tourism.

"We are proud that Bintan has once again been recognized as a worthy destination for foreign tourists arriving on the luxury cruise. [Their arrival] has fueled our spirit to keep working hard and improve our local tourism," Wan said on Monday, as quoted by [kompas.com](http://kompas.com).

Around 400 of the total 2,679 passengers disembarked the cruise ship to enjoy various tourist destinations on the island, according to the agency.

Those who disembarked mostly flocked to Lagoi Beach, including Bintan Lagoi Resort.

Wan said the vast majority of cruise passengers were from Singapore, with 2,180 tourists.

Meanwhile, 169 tourists were from Malaysia, 164 from India, and 43 are domestic tourists from Indonesia. The rest departed from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand, he said.

Genting Dream is a luxury cruise ship specifically designed for the Asian market. With a capacity of more than 3,300 passengers, the cruise liner is equipped with [onboard facilities](#), such as six waterslide parks, rock climbing wall, a 35-meter zip-line that sways above the open waters and more.

The cruise arrived in Bintan for the [first time last July](#). The Tourism Ministry noted that the ship was carrying 4,000 passengers from various countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, China, India and Australia. Around 2,000 of them visited the island. (rfa/kes)

## Appendix 55

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Garuda Indonesia, Singapore Airlines expand codeshare operations

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 15, 2019 / 04:35 pm

National flag carrier Garuda Indonesia has expanded its codeshare agreement with Singapore Airlines, giving customers traveling between Jakarta and Singapore more options.

Each airline operates nine flights per day between Jakarta and Singapore.

"Indonesia is a very popular tourist and business destination and we are pleased to make the country more accessible to travelers from all around the world. This reflects our continuous efforts to work with our partners to offer more seamless travel experiences for our customers," said Singapore Airlines senior vice president of market planning Tan Kai Ping in a statement.

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**Read also:** [Garuda Indonesia, Sriwijaya Group announce codeshare agreement](#)

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"Southeast Asia is a very important region for Garuda Indonesia, while Singapore in particular is a key growth market. Garuda Indonesia's flights to Singapore have played an important role in improving economic ties as well as cultural exchanges between the two countries," said Garuda Indonesia commercial director Pikri Ilham Kurniansyah.

The codesharing agreement between the two carriers began in 2010 with the Singapore-Bali route. Flights between Singapore and Surabaya were later added to the agreement in 2014.

Additionally, Singapore Airlines regional subsidiary SilkAir also codeshares on Garuda Indonesia's Bali-Surabaya flights. Meanwhile Garuda Indonesia codeshares on SilkAir flights to 10 destinations within its Indonesian network. (sop/kes)



## Appendix 56

TRAVEL • NEWS

# World's largest plane makes first test flight

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington / Mon, April 15, 2019 / 10:08 pm

The world's largest airplane -- a Stratolaunch behemoth with two fuselages and six Boeing 747 engines -- made its first test flight on Saturday in California.

The mega jet carried out its maiden voyage over the Mojave desert.

It is designed to carry into space, and drop, a rocket that would in turn ignite to deploy satellites.

It is supposed to provide a more flexible way to deploy satellites than vertical takeoff rockets because this way all you need is a long runway for takeoff.

It was built by an engineering company called Scaled Composites.

The aircraft is so big its wing span is longer than a football field, or about 1.5 times that of an Airbus A380.

Specifically, the wing span is 117 meters; that of an Airbus A380 is just under 80.

**Read also:** [World's biggest passenger jet starts new life](#)

The plane flew Saturday for about two and a half hours, Stratolaunch said. Until now, it had just carried out tests on the ground.

It hit a top speed of 304 kilometers per hour (189 mph) and reached an altitude of 17,000 feet, or 5,182 meters.

"What a fantastic first flight," said Jean Floyd, CEO of Stratolaunch.

"Today's flight furthers our mission to provide a flexible alternative to ground launched systems," he added.

Stratolaunch was financed by Paul Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft as a way to get into the market for launching small satellites.

But Allen died in October of last year so the future of the company is uncertain.

## Appendix 57

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Shock and sadness in US over Notre-Dame blaze

CATHERINE TRIOMPHE WITH LUCIE AUBOURG IN WASHINGTON  
AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

"Very sad," "shocked:" these were the reactions of Americans to the fire at Paris's Notre-Dame Cathedral, an 850-year-old landmark whose destruction wiped out centuries of heritage.

"When I heard the news, it did strike me at a personal level," said Amy Sapenoff, 33, after attending a mass in the capital Washington.

The high school history teacher, a Catholic, explained she went on a walking pilgrimage last year from Notre-Dame to the Saint James the Great shrine in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, in northwestern Spain.

"I'm extremely grateful, because I was able to go, to see it and to go for mass," she added tearfully.

IT consultant Nicolas Nader, 48, said he was "heartbroken."

"My earliest memory of it is reading Victor Hugo novel about it," he added of the cathedral, which he described as a "Catholic treasure."

Outside Washington's National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception -- one of the 10 largest churches in the world -- Simon Ciccarillo, 24, said he could not "understand" the tragedy.

"I was very sad, I actually started kind of tear up a little bit," the Colombian-American, who works at the Department of Justice, told AFP.

### 'A symbol of Paris'

In New York, 90-year-old writer Judith Gutman recalled the "horror" of seeing Notre-Dame burning in images online.

"I was in Paris many, many times, I have seen Notre-Dame," she said near St Patrick's Cathedral in the heart of Manhattan.

"I am not religious, but as an icon, as a building, a structure that is a symbol of Paris, it is shocking."

For Matt Shrock, in New York on vacation with his wife and two children, it was "horrible" to see images of the tragedy.

"We were shocked, hoping that there was not something terrorist-related... it's unfortunately these days one of the first things that goes to your mind."

On social media, some compared the fire to the images of New York's Twin Towers burning after two planes crashed into them in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

But the comparison was short-lived, since there were no victims in the Notre-Dame blaze and no link to terrorism has been established.

## Appendix 58

### Disneyland Paris cleans up its act, bans plastic straws

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris / Tue, April 16, 2019 / 07:04 pm



Disneyland Paris on Monday announced a series of measures to make Europe's biggest private tourist attraction more environmentally friendly, including banning plastic straws.

The theme park east of the French capital, which draws 15 million visitors a year, is like a small town in its own right, producing 19 tons of waste last year.

It currently recycles paper, glass and 18 other types of materials accounting for around half of all its waste, a level it aims to increase to 60 percent in 2020, said Nicole Ouimet-Herter, the park's environment manager.

Starting Thursday it will bin plastic straws, to be replaced with fully biodegradable paper versions that will be distributed only if patrons request them.

The announcement follows a vote last month in the European Parliament to ban single-use plastic products such as straws, cutlery and cotton buds from 2021.

It comes as pressure mounts on companies and citizens to wean themselves off the plastics blamed for clogging up oceans.

Disneyland Paris, owned by The Walt Disney Company, also announced several other initiatives to clean up its act.

Next week, shops in the park will stop handing out free plastic bags, offering instead the option of purchasing bags made of 80 percent recycled plastic for 1 or 2 euros (\$1.13–\$2.26).

And starting in June several of the park's hotels will no longer stock bathrooms with small bottles of shower gel or shampoo, replacing them with bigger ones that can be refilled.

Euro Disney, the park's operator, said it was also planning to install solar panels on the sprawling 22-square-kilometre site to get more power from renewables.

Currently, renewable energy sources account for only 10 percent of the electricity used.

"We are undertaking concrete actions to reduce our impact on the environment. But we also have the power to dazzle children and want to have a positive influence on them to encourage them to take care of nature," said Mireille Smeets, Euro Disney's director of corporate social responsibility. (<https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/16/disneyland-paris-cleans-up-its-act-bans-plastic-straws.html>)

## Appendix 59

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Luxury hotel launches yoga with lemurs

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Wed, April 17, 2019 / 03:03 pm

Move over goats and cats, there's a new animal-themed yoga in town: It's called lemoga.

A luxury hotel and spa in England is launching yoga with lemurs next month as part of its "wellness" program.

While in downward dog, guests of Armathwaite Hall can befriend one of the lemurs -- described as "perfect yoga buddies" for their outgoing, friendly personalities.

The sessions will be hosted in partnership with the hotel's adjoining Lake District Wild Life Park.

The concept is part of the hotel's wildlife-centered wellness program, which links mindfulness with nature.

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Read also: **Yoga: Indian practice turned global phenomenon**

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The luxury inn is set on 400 acres of private woodland in the Lake District.

The Escape Lemoga Spa Break package includes one yoga session, overnight accommodation, breakfast, full access to the spa, and a three-course dinner.

Rates start at £495 (USD \$650).

Not so much a lemur person? Other programs include walks with alpacas and encounters with meerkats.



## Appendix 60

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Singapore's Changi Airport opens mega mall, boosting air hub status

Singapore's Changi Airport on Wednesday opened a S\$1.7 billion (about \$1.26 billion) retail and nature-themed complex that aims to give it a competitive edge as an air hub in the region.

The 135,700 square meter, 10-story complex, named Jewel Changi Airport, offers 280 retail and food outlets as well as a hotel and is linked to Changi's Terminals 1, 2 and 3.

It is more than just a shopping mall as it houses the world's largest man-made indoor waterfall, surrounded by a lush artificially created rainforest to give shoppers a unique combination of both retail experience and leisure.

Standing 40 meters tall, the gigantic circular water feature has become the main attraction for visitors with its water plunging from a height of about seven stories from an oculus in the huge glass roof of the building. The climate around the waterfall is controlled to appear cool and misty.

The complex, designed by world-renowned architect Moshe Safdie, is aimed at turning the airport into a tourist destination and attracting more transit visitors.

Taking advantage of Singapore's abundant rainfall all-year round, the waterfall uses rainwater that has been funneled into it, with the water also diverted for irrigation of indoor plants.

Japanese firms have carved out a presence at the mall, with cosmetics giant Shiseido Co. having secured the naming rights for the indoor forest around the waterfall. Shiseido Forest Valley has more than 900 trees and palms and about 60,000 shrubs spread over a 4-storey incline.

Pokemon Center Singapore, the first shop outside Japan dedicated to selling merchandise related to the popular video game, is also there, in addition to fashion accessory maker Motherhouse Co. and lifestyle retailers Tokyu Hands Inc. and Ryohin Keikaku Co., provider of Muji brand products.

**Read also: [F&B outlets, waterfall a big draw for visitors at Jewel Changi Airport](#)**

Sabrina Stefani, 33, who visited the complex during a pre-opening preview last week, described the expansion as breathtaking.

"Singapore is always trying to be in the forefront of technology and has its own definition for airports. This is not just an airport but is really like a masterpiece in architecture, and in greenery and landscape," she said.

Changi Airport was voted by air travelers as the world's best airport for the seventh consecutive year this year, with Tokyo's Haneda airport in second place and South Korea's Incheon International Airport coming third.

It is the world's seventh busiest airport for international traffic, with a record 65.6 million passengers passing through last year.

END

DIKSHA

## Appendix 61

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Sales begin for Vietjet's new route connecting Bali to Ho Chi Minh City

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Thu, April 18, 2019 / 06:08 am

Low-cost carrier **Vietjet** has opened ticket sales for a new route that connects Bali with Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City.

Vietjet is the first and only carrier to operate the route, which will be available five times per week, namely on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday starting May 29.

The four-hour flight is scheduled to depart from Vietnam's Tân Sơn Nhất International Airport at 8:05 a.m. local time and arrive at Bali's Ngurah Rai International Airport at 1:05 p.m. Meanwhile, the return flight leaves Bali at 2:05 p.m. and lands in the Vietnamese city at 5:05 p.m.

The Bali-Ho Chi Minh City flight uses the Airbus A320-A320 neo aircraft that can accommodate 180 to 230 passengers.

Read also: **Indonesian domestic carriers among world's cheapest**

"I believe that the new route will not only create opportunities for people to travel by safe, civilized and modern air transportation but also connect two cities known as economic and cultural centers of Vietnam and Indonesia. The route will contribute to promoting tourism and economic integration in the region as well as introduce the images of Vietnam to the world," said Vietjet VP Nguyen Thanh Son in a statement.

Vietjet operates around 400 flights per day with 108 routes covering destinations across Vietnam and abroad including Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia and Cambodia. (sop/kes)

## Appendix 62

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Garuda Indonesia Group now allows passengers to choose preferred currency

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Thu, April 18, 2019 / 09:02 am

National flag carrier Garuda Indonesia alongside its low-cost subsidiary Citilink Indonesia and partner Sriwijaya Air Group has launched a new feature that allows passengers to book flight tickets in their preferred currency.

Applicable on the carriers' website as well as mobile application, among the currencies available to choose from by international travelers during the initial phase are the baht, euro, yen, Hong Kong dollar, British pound, Singaporean dollar, United States dollar and Australian dollar.

More currencies will be added to the list this year.

Read also: **Garuda Indonesia, Singapore Airlines expand codeshare operations**

The new feature will use the Citi InstantFX foreign currency management solution that supports more than 70 currencies.

"This move is part of our effort to increase passenger satisfaction, as well as provide an easier and smoother flight ticket booking service," said Garuda Indonesia CEO Ari Askhara. (dpk/kes)

## Appendix 63

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Entrance to national parks in the US is free this weekend

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Thu, April 18, 2019 / 01:04 pm

Just in time for the spring thaw, national parks across the US are waiving their entrance fees this weekend as part of National Park Week.

From April 20 to 28, parks across the country will be hosting special programs and events like conservation activities, wildlife encounters and junior ranger programs for kids.

On Easter weekend -- specifically Saturday, April 20 -- entrance to all national parks will be free.

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Read also: [Ten reasons to visit Komodo National Park in 2019](#)

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The campaign will also reach social media, with the launch of special National Park Service Facebook frames and Ranger emoji.

To find a special event near you, visit this [website](#).

## Appendix 64

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Passport stamps no longer needed to exit Singapore

TEE ZHUO

Foreigners leaving Singapore will no longer need to have their passports stamped from next Monday.

The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) said yesterday that it would, from April 22, "cease the issuance of departure immigration endorsements", meaning stamps of departure dates on travel documents.

The move is part of ongoing efforts to streamline checkpoint procedures and make it more efficient to clear departure immigration, ICA added.

Since September 2016, foreign travelers whose fingerprints were enrolled via the BioScreen system on arrival in Singapore have been able to use automated lanes when they leave the country. Such travelers do not receive stamps in their passports.

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Read also: [Singapore's Changi Airport opens mega mall, boosting air hub status](#)

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Before that, all foreigners leaving Singapore had to get their passports stamped with the date of their departure by immigration officers at manned counters.

The ICA said it would be informing foreign authorities of its move to cease departure immigration endorsement for foreigners.

More information can be found at [www.ica.gov.sg](http://www.ica.gov.sg).



## Appendix 65

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

# Macau: Charming mix of landmarks, lights

VELA ANDAPITA

THE JAKARTA POST

Macau / Fri, April 19, 2019 / 11:41 am

It was a fine day back in the early 1500s when the first Portuguese sailors landed near A-Ma temple on the southern shoreline of China.

They asked the name of the place, and the locals answered “A ma gao”, which means the place of A Ma the Goddess of Seafarers. The Portuguese adopted the name and later, under the authority of the Chinese emperor, used the area as a port and established a city there.

The name gradually changed to Macau or Macao, as it is now known.

Fast forward to the 21st century, the A-Ma temple is now one out of 22 monuments included in the Historic Center of Macau list. UNESCO inscribed the list as a World Heritage Site in 2005.

The temple was built in 1488 and is still being used as a house of worship. It contains a variety of pavilions that welcome observers of various beliefs:

Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism, among others. As you walk your way from the A-Ma temple to the northern part of the Macau Peninsula, numerous beautifully preserved buildings and monuments displaying a fusion of cultures from East and West are a sight to behold. One example is a row of European pastel colored neo-classical buildings blended with Chinese ornamentation and vibrant colors.

In Senado Square, churches and temples stand close to each other, reflecting Macau’s multicultural identity and religious freedom.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century Na Tcha temple is just a stone’s throw from the 16<sup>th</sup> century St. Dominic’s and “Mater Dei” churches, which was destroyed by fire in 1835 and is currently known as the ruins of St. Paul’s College.

Take your time in the square as it is packed with various stores and a lot of Instagrammable spots. To enhance your experience, rent a Chinese traditional long dress called the Qi Pao from a place named Qi Yuan.

The 338-meter tall Macau Tower offers plenty of memorable experiences, from a sumptuous romantic dinner in Macau’s highest 360-degree revolving restaurant to daring sports like a tower climb, skywalk and taking the world’s highest bungee jump (233 meters).

A seafood platter costs MOP 520 (US\$64.34) per person. The adrenaline-fueled adventures, meanwhile, ranges from MOP 888 for a skywalk to MOP 3,588 for a bungee jump.

The next day, you can start your journey from Macau’s southernmost island, Coloane. It is a quiet coastal village that offers serenity and an array of Portuguese dishes that would amuse your palate.

Take a bite into Macau’s past through the signature Portuguese egg tart at Lord Stow’s Bakery, which is located near St. Francis Xavier’s Chapel. One delicate egg tart only costs MOP 10.

Founded by Englishman Andrew Stow in 1989, the bakery started the egg tart trend that spread across Macau.

For lunch, try a restaurant named Miramar that offers only Portuguese food with an assortment of cheese, codfish, olive oil, wine and beer from Portugal breweries.

Miramar, only a 10-minute drive from Coloane Town Square, offers a balcony dining area overlooking Hac Sa Beach. The restaurant’s signature dishes include octopus salad, clams cooked in cheese sauce, and rice and seafood cooked in sour thick broth.

For the best shopping and nightlife experience, you can head to Cotai, reclaimed land between the islands of Coloane and Taipa. Cotai boasts a number of top-class hotels and fancy malls.

Take the Venetian and the Parisian Macao hotels and shopping malls for example.

A gondola ride down the canals inside the Venetian will take its passengers to the beauty of San Luca and Marco Polo in Venezia. Venetian ambience gets stronger as the gondolier serenades while rowing the boat.

You will get a taste of Paris as you explore the other side of the property. There is an Eiffel Tower replica towering at 162 meters, or half of the real one’s height.

Visitors can ride elevators to reach the tower’s observation deck on the seventh and 37th floors to take pictures with the Eiffel Tower in the background or simply to enjoy Macau’s scenery from up above.



However, if you are craving for a more adventurous experience, then Studio City and Broadway are the answers.

Studio City offers various exciting shows and facilities for adrenaline junkies. One of its shows, *Elektron*, features dramatic, dangerous and daredevil circus acts involving acrobatics, parkour and pyrotechnics.

You may also want to take a ride on Studio City's Golden Reel, the world's first and Asia's highest figure-8 Ferris wheel.

### Macau at a glance

There are approximately 600,000 people living in Macau, 90 percent of whom are ethnic Chinese who speak Cantonese. Macau's official currency is the pataca, with one US dollar equal to roughly eight patacas. However, using the Hong Kong dollar is acceptable.

Located in a subtropical climate zone, Macau has a moderate weather throughout the year with the average temperature ranging from 20 to 26 degrees Celsius. October to December is the best time to visit Macau, as its autumns are warmth with low humidity.

## Appendix 66

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Airbus introduces couch-style plane seat for business class

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sat, April 20, 2019 / 10:21 am

Airbus has introduced new couch-style seating for its business class.

In collaboration with Italian seat manufacturer Geven, the "Settee Corner" design allows passengers to recline lounge-style or sleep as if on a couch, as reported by *Travel and Leisure*.

Based on an economy-class three-seater configuration, the design includes the usual amenities, such as stowage space, overhead locker, entertainment screen and tray table.

Read also: [World's biggest passenger jet starts new life](#)

A safety belt is provided at the end of the seat for takeoff and landing, with a second safety belt to be used during sleeping.

According to *CNN*, the chair is 30 to 50 percent lighter than a traditional business class seat. The mockups for the seat are 185 centimeters in length, the same as traditional business class seats in Airbus planes.

The couch-style seats were first introduced at the Aircraft Interiors Expo 2019 (AIX) in Hamburg, Germany. (sop/wng)

## Appendix 67

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Dutch tulip forecast: brilliant, with a chance of tourists

TOBY STERLING  
REUTERS

Amsterdam, The Netherlands / Sat, April 20, 2019 / 11:43 am

As spring flower fields around the Netherlands burst into bloom, painting the countryside with dazzling swathes of red, white, and blue, a modern-day tulip bubble may be forming: tourists.

More than a million foreign sightseers are expected to visit this country of 17 million people on Easter weekend, a record, the Dutch Tourism Bureau said on Thursday.

Director Jos Vranken said he expects them to spend 300 million euros -- a boon for the national economy. Many are attracted to the country's museums and other cultural offerings, but in April, the flower fields and Keukenhof flower show in The Hague top many "must see" lists.

While flower lovers and the photographs they share on social media are free advertising for the country's tourism, cut flower and bulb industries, it isn't all a bed of roses.

"That has a downside," Vranken said. "Farmers are having increasing damage to their fields from tourists taking photos."

Foreign and Dutch tourists alike have learned to use "Flower Radar" websites to identify where fields are in bloom, especially in the main bulb-growing centre known as the "Bollenstreek" along the coast between Haarlem and Leiden.

#### DO NOT TIPTOE THROUGH THE TULIPS

Signs and barricades -- now printed in Chinese and English -- saying "Enjoy the Flowers, Respect Our Pride" have gone up at the edge of many fields.

They illustrate the concept that taking photos at the edge of a field is okay, but actually walking among the flowers to take pictures ruins them.

Meanwhile, farmers in less-promoted areas of the country sense an opportunity.

In Creil, northwest of Amsterdam, one enterprising group has set up a "Tulip Experience" complete with designated selfie area, hundreds of tulip varieties on display, helicopter tours, food and drinks, and bouncy castles for kids.

## Appendix 68

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Tourists follow 'Game of Thrones' trail in Northern Ireland

JOSEPH STENSON  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Belfast, United Kingdom / Sat, April 20, 2019 / 08:25 pm

Wielding a replica broadsword, Indian tourist Akshay Mannur duels with friends -- re-enacting scenes from "Game of Thrones" on the Northern Ireland pilgrimage trail for devotees of the blockbuster fantasy TV show.

Since the blood and guts series began its rise to prominence in 2011, fans have started to flock to the coastal caves and ruined castles of the British province where much of the HBO television production was shot.

"Every new step is like something new, it's more than my expectations," 23-year-old student Mannur marveled.

"It's a beautiful country -- Northern Ireland is just amazing."

- Multinational tour buses -

Tourism Northern Ireland estimates the magical show -- in its final season -- drew 120,000 visitors to the province in 2016, generating £30 million (35 million euros, \$39 million).

One in six visitors now comes to Northern Ireland to visit shooting locations, according to their estimates.

Along the largely coastal trail, a short drive outside the capital of Belfast, that popularity is clear to see.

A steady hum of buses and coaches are marshaled in and out of parking lots on strict schedules, and sleepy village shops throng with tourists.

"The last week, I think on Saturday past, we had a bus with 24 nationalities on it," said tour guide Patrick Rogan at the mouth of the Cushendun Caves, the site of a pivotal plot point in the series.



"We had people from Patagonia, from New Zealand, from Japan, from Russia, from South Korea and Europe, so I think that tells its own story."

Since 2012 his employer -- the "Stones and Thrones" tour -- has offered daily outings out of Belfast, manned mainly by guides who have acted as extras on the show.

Today they run at least two full buses a day, he said, competing with at least four other companies offering a similar service.

Other more bespoke tour services offer immersive experiences -- axe-throwing, archery, and photo opportunities with a pair of wolves that starred in the epic series.

**Read also: [From Iron Throne to Ice Dragon: 'Game of Thrones' arrives in Jakarta](#)**

- 'The dark history' -

A popular comparison holds that "Game of Thrones" is to Northern Ireland tourism what "Lord of the Rings" has been to New Zealand.

But Northern Ireland's very recent bloody past during the so-called 'Troubles' -- when 3,500 were killed in 30 years of sectarian strife -- makes the boom particularly welcome.

"The dark history that was here is coming out," said Irish actor Liam Cunningham, a stalwart character in the series now feted as the most expensive to ever be filmed for the small screen.

"The place is blooming, and for us to have this show here and be part of that transition is joyful."

- 'This still has longevity' -

Cunningham was speaking at the opening of a touring exhibition of costume and scenery pieces in Belfast, the same week as the new season of the series premiered.

Ranked displays of dragon skulls, intricately crafted weapons and interactive exhibits are preceded by a gallery of landscape prints, depicting the countryside shooting locations.

A caption on one image reads "Views to die horribly for", whilst another reads "Sun, sea and savagery", referring to the show's reputation for bloodily killing off major characters.

They are a testament to the canny local tourist board, making efforts to cement the link between their territory and the series.

"I think our association with such a global success helps to transform the image of Northern Ireland across the globe," said John McGrillen, chief executive of Tourism Northern Ireland.

"In many ways that give you PR that you just simply couldn't buy."

With the final season of "Game of Thrones" underway, the fever pitch devotion to the series may be about to end.

But with spin-off projects in the pipeline and a studio tour development due to open in Northern Ireland next year, the province still hopes for tourism revenues.

"We think this still has longevity," said McGrillen.



## Appendix 69

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Hiking trails to open along Korean demilitarized zone

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sun, April 21, 2019 / 06:28 am

South Korea has approved a budget to build hiking trails in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea.

The project is a follow up to an inter-Korean agreement made in September 2018 with the objective to turn the DMZ into a zone of peace, *Lonely Planet* reported.

The buffer zone separating the two Koreas is 250 kilometers long and 4 km wide. Three hiking trails will be built in Paju, Cheorwon and Goseong in the western, central and eastern part of the DMZ, respectively. By the end of April, outdoor enthusiasts can expect to hit the trails in Goseong.

**Read also:** [Green trail of Ansan embracing Seoulites seeking quick getaway](#)

The area has separated North and South Korea since 1953, and the two countries technically remain in conflict.

Since the DMZ is one of the most heavily fortified borders in the world, safety measures will be implemented. Hikers will be required to wear bulletproof vests and helmets, and they will be accompanied by military personnel.

Visitors wishing to explore the DMZ hiking trails will need to enter a draw available on the South Korean Ministry of Interior and Safety and the Korea Tourism Organization's [websites](#). (sop/wng)

## Appendix 70

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

### Sukamakmur district, Bogor's hidden gem

THERESIA SUFA  
THE JAKARTA POST

Bogor, West Java / Sun, April 21, 2019 / 07:30 am

Bogor regency in West Java has long been a go-to spot for weekend getaways among urbanites. It is indeed home to popular destinations such as the Puncak resort area and Taman Safari Indonesia. However, these famous destinations have overshadowed the hidden tourism gems that the regency has up its proverbial sleeves.

While those who have lived in West Java and Jakarta may be familiar with a short getaway to tea plantations in Bogor, returning to this sport is never a bad idea. Gunung Mas tea plantation, run by PTPN VIII offers relaxing views of the green tea gardens as well as tea tasting that will delight tea lovers. Recently, Gunung Mas tea plantation has also added a batik village that features live batik making and a shop where visitors can buy batik clothes with such motifs as tea leaves, rubber trees and coffee leaves.

East Bogor, particularly Sukamakmur district, is a treasure trove of secluded vacation spots waiting to be discovered. The area serves as a worthwhile alternative for those seeking a quiet retreat, since there are yet to be any public transportation routes through the district.

From waterfalls to cozy villas, those visiting the district are bound to stumble upon memorable locales.

Vacationers looking to take unique selfies may pay Curug Cipamingkis (Cipamingkis Waterfall) a visit, as the area boasts a host of facilities specifically designed for picture-perfect memories such as a Love Bridge and a tree house. Those who wish to stay the night to fully bask in the fresh air can check in to a hotel – entirely made out of bamboo – situated in the area.

Depleted city dwellers may also choose to rest at Villa Khayangan, not far from Curug Cipamingkis, as the family-run lodging is surrounded with green scenery such as traditional rice plantations. Villa Khayangan's owner, Arifin, said the villa was originally intended as a personal getaway spot for his family, but that he eventually made it open to the public since the view from the villa was "too painterly not to be shared".

Sukamakmur district head Zaenal Azhari said he expected vacationers who regularly visited the more popular destinations in Bogor, such as Puncak, to also make time to stop by the district.

He went on to say that he welcomed the Bogor administration's plan to build a new route, dubbed Puncak 2, as it would provide tourists with easy access to the district. (rfa/mut)

## Appendix 71

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Nobu Hospitality announces plans to open second London hotel

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Sun, April 21, 2019 / 09:05 am

Hotelier and Japanese sushi chef Nobu Matsuhisa has announced plans to open a second London hotel in 2020.

Nobu Hotel London Portman Square will open next spring in the city's tony West End, steps from Mayfair and London's theater district.

The property will feature 239 guest rooms and suites along with a Nobu restaurant, ballroom and meeting facilities.

Read also: [Rimowa celebrates 120 years with short films](#)

It's the second London hotel for the group, which was co-founded by actor Robert De Niro. Nobu Hotel Shoreditch opened in 2017.

The West End outpost will be conceptualized by London-based architecture and interior design firm David Collins Studio with Make Architects.

The latest opening marks the group's 18th property. Plans are also afoot to open new properties in Chicago, Barcelona, Riyadh and Warsaw.

## Appendix 72

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Shanghai purrs over new Hello Kitty theme park

WANG YING  
CHINA DAILY

Shanghai, China / Sun, April 21, 2019 / 02:01 pm

The world's only Hello Kitty-themed pavilion brings a fantasy world with a retro decor for fans in Shanghai.

Hello Kitty Shanghai Times was launched by property developer Shimao Group and Japanese animation powerhouse Sanrio on March 29.

By creating an immersive experience of Shanghai during three symbolic periods of the city's history - the 1930s, 1980s and today - the indoor theme park provides a unique experience for visitors with Sanrio's best-known characters, including Hello Kitty, My Melody, Badtz-Maru, Pompompurin, Keroppi and Cinnamoroll.

The time travel-themed attraction is located at Shimao Festival City on bustling East Nanjing Road, and is expected to attract 2 million visitors a year. Spreading across three floors, the play area takes up a total gross floor area of about 6,000 square meters.

"It is such a pleasure to see Hello Kitty and her friends set their home in Shanghai, by perfectly fusing with local culture," said Li Mingxun, chief operating officer of Sanrio Shanghai International Trade, during the launch ceremony at the Le Royal Meridien Shanghai.

One of the most popular areas so far is a 14-meter-high wall that goes throughout three floors and features cute remakes of Shanghai's landmarks including the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, China Art Museum and Garden Bridge.



The indoor play area is one of the latest attempts by Shimao to explore theme park business opportunities. The theme park industry is fast expanding in China, with Ping An Securities projecting it to double its existing volume to 90 billion yuan (\$13.39 billion) in annual revenue by 2022.

"The collaboration with Sanrio started three years ago, and the two parties strive to offer visitors an surrealistic experience with a mix of reality and hyper-reality images," said Peng Yueqi, vice-president of Shimao Commercial and Themed Entertainment.

Shimao Group and International Merchandising Promotions and Services announced in March the launch of the first Smurfs theme park in the Asia-Pacific region at the Shanghai Sheshan National Tourist Resort in Songjiang district.

The Smurfs theme park is planned to start trial operation in late September, and will officially open in October, according to Peng.

International Merchandising Promotions and Services is the official licenser of the Smurfs, a series of comic characters created by Belgian comic artist Pierre Culliford, more commonly known as Peyo.

There are 128 theme parks operating across the nation, and construction on at least an additional 70 is scheduled to be completed by 2025, according to a report from Aecom, a global infrastructure company.

## Appendix 73

TRAVEL • NEWS

### In Notre-Dame's shadow, a 'village' faces uncertain future

JOSEPH SCHMID  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, France / Mon, April 22, 2019 / 07:01 am

Days after the catastrophic fire at Paris's Notre-Dame, around 30 business owners on Thursday gathered at a cafe in the shadow of the burned cathedral.

The owners of restaurants and souvenir stores, flower stalls and gourmet food markets in an area known to residents simply as the "village", they have all been forced to close since Monday's devastating fire at the UNESCO World Heritage landmark.

Few at the gathering Thursday morning in the Quasimodo cafe -- named after the hunchback in Victor Hugo's celebrated novel set at the cathedral -- seemed optimistic about the chances of re-opening in the near future.

Police are letting only residents and business owners onto the River Seine island known as the Ile de la Cite where the cathedral stands, choking off the tourist traffic that is their lifeblood.

"We usually have lots of tourists, more than 500 a day, but now there's nobody," said Virginie Aranda, who has a stall at the flower market on the Ile de la Cite. "We haven't even been able to come and water our plants."

She and others at the meeting say the extended security perimeter set up while inspections are carried out at Notre-Dame could cost them dearly.

"We've already had a tough winter because of the 'yellow vests', and now we have this," said Betty Toullier, another flower vendor, referring to the protests that have shaken central Paris since November.

"We're at risk of losing everything," said Toullier, who has held a stand at the flower market since 1971.

But Patrice Le Jeune, president of the Notre-Dame business alliance, said that based on his meetings with city officials, the island's picturesque streets could remain closed for weeks, maybe months.

"They're not going to take any risks," he tells the group.

Aides to Ariel Weil, the mayor of the Fourth Arrondissement, which includes Notre-Dame, said he was not immediately available for comment.

Read also: [Disney pledges \\$5 million for Notre Dame reconstruction](#)

### 'One coffee'

For many Parisians, the winding streets in the shadow of Notre-Dame are full of nothing but cheap tourist stands and overpriced restaurants claiming to be among the oldest in the city.

It's an image that riles many residents and business owners, some of whom have lived and worked on the Ile de la Cite for decades.

"People forget that there's a church, but there's also a village that surrounds it. The cathedral is our church, our children were baptised there," said one mother, asking not to be identified by name.

"It's a village," agreed Michel Mathieu, whose grandmother opened a store on the Rue d'Arcole in 1921.

That store is still open, offering the souvenirs you won't find from the roving trinket sellers, as is another right down the street owned by his brother. And another by Mathieu's daughter.

Like other businesses, they are hoping insurance policies will cover the lost revenue and merchandise -- the dead flowers, the food going bad in restaurant refrigerators.

But so far officials have not declared the site a disaster zone, meaning insurance won't kick in, and shop owners can't file for state aid for the forced unemployment of their workers.

"There are jobs at stake," said Esther Butel, who runs a restaurant with three employees on the Quai des Fleurs.

"I opened today but this morning all I sold was one coffee. I'm not going to make it with one client paying 2.50 euros," she told AFP.

Le Jeune said he would meet soon with the tourism chief in Mayor Anne Hidalgo's cabinet, to push for a freeze on social charges like payroll taxes and VAT for the affected businesses.

But such help, if it comes, might be too late for some.

"We opened just four weeks ago," said Francois Monville, who chose the Notre-Dame neighborhood for his food shop upon returning to France with his wife after 15 years abroad.

"The idea was to create something for visitors, but for Parisians as well, to reconcile tourists and locals," he said.

But with rent, wages and loan payments, "we can't hold out like this for long."



## Appendix 74

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Garuda Indonesia celebrates Kartini Day with all-male cabin crew

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 22, 2019 / 02:33 pm

National flag carrier Garuda Indonesia celebrated Kartini Day on April 21 by operating special flights featuring an all-male cabin crew.

Among the special Kartini Day flights were GA 2016's Jakarta-Yogyakarta and GA 207's Yogyakarta-Jakarta routes.

**Read also:** [Digital comic immortalizes the story of R.A. Kartini](#)

"To celebrate Kartini Day on April 21 this year, we want to present a bit different atmosphere on our flight by featuring an all-male cabin crew," Garuda Indonesia trade director Pikri Ilham Kurniansyah said in a statement.

Additionally, various gimmicks were given to female passengers such as free vouchers to Taman Sari Royal Heritage spa, flowers and special inflight meals.

"These services are a representation of our appreciation to all great Indonesian women who tirelessly inspire others with their life values," Pikri added. (gis/kes)

## Appendix 75

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Borobudur temple to provide special route for foreign tourists

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 22, 2019 / 05:37 pm

Borobudur Temple Tourist Park in Magelang, Central Java, is planning to open a special route to accommodate foreign tourists.

The park's general manager, I Gusti Putu Ngurah Sedana, said the temple's management was seeking to provide foreign tourists with the best services possible with the new route.

"Foreign tourists do not want to encounter any obstacles or disturbances on their way to the temple. They want a safe and convenient route to and from the temple," Sedana said as quoted by [kompas.com](#).

He added that the management expected the new route to be finished prior to the peak of the tourist period between July and October.

**Read also:** [Borobudur temple hosts new monthly dance performance](#)

The move also aimed to attract more international tourists, he said.

"The special route will allow foreign tourists to immediately head toward the temple from the main gate. They will also be shuttled by electric cars to the parking lot on their way back," Sendana said. (rfa/kes)



## Appendix 76

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

### Celebrate Earth Day at these hotels offering sustainable luxury

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Mon, April 22, 2019 / 08:08 pm

The luxury industry has long been criticized for its heavy carbon footprint. Meanwhile, on April 22, Earth Day will drive home the urgency of preserving our natural resources.

And with a recent survey by Booking.com demonstrating that 73 percent of travelers intend on staying in environmentally-sound accommodations at least once this year, the following four establishments prove that luxury can be reconciled with sustainability.

#### Tetiaroa, French Polynesia

##### **The Brando**

Marlon Brando fell in love with the Tetiaroa-island sanctuary while filming "Mutiny on the Bounty." According to the American film star's wishes, the earthly paradise (located just a 20-minute flight away from Tahiti) has become a leader environmental sustainability. Guests (who must stay for a minimum of two nights), are kept cool using an air conditioning system that draws water 930 meters under the Pacific Ocean.

The five-star establishment is covered in over 4,000 solar panels, which provide over 70% of its electricity, with coconut oil-powered systems handling another part of the complex's energy needs. Guests are given chemical-free sunscreen in order to preserve the cleanliness of the water.

#### **Hotel Manapany**



hotelmanapany

Hotel Manapany By B Signature Hotels & Resorts

[View Profile](#)

Following a 2017 buyout by B Signature Hotels & Resort, the Manapany reopened its doors in March 2018, seven months after Hurricane Irma devastated the islands of Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy. Saint-Barth's sole eco-resort drew from local influences to decorate its 43 rooms and suites, nestled in the Anse des Cayes.

Guests are shuttled around in electric vehicles, which they can also rent to visit the island, and the establishment provides bamboo towels and slippers, while the maintenance staff cleans the rooms using 100° steam.

#### Newnes (Sydney), Australia

##### **Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley**

One&Only Resorts' portfolio can boast Australia's first ultra-luxe, sustainable establishment, which opened in 2009. Nestled in a New South Wales valley, Wolgan Valley is the country's first luxury hotel to have been awarded international carbon-neutral certification.

With its 40 independent villas inspired by traditional Australian architecture, the hotel requires guests to leave their cars outside the perimeter, driving them to their accommodations in a fleet of hybrid and electric cars. Once settled in, visitors draw from their own filtered rainwater reserves to fill reusable bottles.

Water is heated by solar panels, and the establishment has made protecting the surrounding ecosystem its philosophy, planting over 200,000 using endemic seeds harvested on-site, and looking after its wombat neighbors.

#### Cambodia

##### **Alilas Villas Koh Russey**

Alila Hotels & Resorts newest offering, which opened in December 2018, is an eco-resort located on an untamed island 8 kilometers away from the Koh Rong-archipelago Sihanoukville airport, where guests can enjoy a kilometer of sand on a private beach.

Built around 50 pavilions and 13 villas inspired by Khmer culture, the establishment is a one-hour flight away from the Angkor Temples in Siem Reap. In keeping with its environmental goals, the Singapore-based hotel chain built its first Cambodian offering on only 15% of the property's 60 hectares, designing pavilions to integrate fully in nature.

## Appendix 77

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Tourists flee Sri Lanka, as travel industry faces uncertainty

AMMU KANNAMPILLY  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Colombo, Sri Lanka / Tue, April 23, 2019 / 10:31 am

Tourists are scrambling to flee Sri Lanka and cancelling holidays after a string of deadly suicide blasts that have sparked concerns the lucrative tourism industry could be sent into a tailspin.

The attacks on hotels and churches came as Sri Lanka was emerging as a leading tourist hot-spot, named the world's top destination for 2019 by a major guide book.

The Easter Sunday massacre killed nearly 300 people, including 37 foreigners.

German schoolteacher Martin Ewest arrived in the island nation two days ago, hoping for a peaceful holiday with his wife and 12-year-old daughter.

But all that changed when he heard about the attacks.

"We want to leave as soon as possible... but our embassy can't help because they are on holiday, our airline says they can't do anything, and our hotel has not offered us any assistance," the 44-year-old told AFP.

"It's a difficult situation... we are like sitting ducks, waiting until we can leave next week."

Powerful explosions hit three hotels in the capital Colombo -- the Cinnamon Grand, the Shangri-La and the Kingsbury Hotel, all of which have closed until further notice.

For Pakistani executive Kashif Ali, it was a lucky escape. The 33-year-old had been trying to book his family into the Cinnamon Grand only to be told that no rooms were available.

"We had all these plans to travel around the country but now we are scared to go anywhere," he told AFP, adding that the blasts brought back disturbing memories of Pakistan's own history of militant violence.

"We came here to escape all this -- we wanted to relax, not spend all day in a hotel. Now we are just waiting to leave -- it's been a waste of a holiday," his sister-in-law Sobia Samreen told AFP.

At Colombo's international airport, nervous and exhausted travellers lined up to leave the country as heavily armed soldiers manned the entry and exit points.

The sense of anxiety was palpable at hotels lining the capital's famed beachfront, with five-star properties such as the Taj Samudra Colombo and the Galle Face Hotel putting extra security in place, including armed guards who prevented anyone but guests from entering.

Read also: [Danish billionaire loses three children in Sri Lanka blasts](#)

### 'Don't feel safe'

The US has revised its travel advisory for Sri Lanka, warning of further possible terrorist attacks, while other nations such as Australia and Ireland have also advised citizens to exercise caution while in the country.

Sri Lankan travel agent Morris Bernard told AFP his company had recorded "lots of cancellations -- about a quarter of our clients have cancelled or postponed their plans, saying they are scared (to visit)".

Another travel agent Saman Palitha said that "the only group we were expecting later this month has cancelled -- 13 people from India who said that for the time being they don't feel safe travelling here with their family".

A source at the Galle Face Hotel told AFP that while "tourism obviously suffers in a situation like this, we hope it won't have a long-term impact".

While the lasting implications of the bombings are still unclear, the short-term effect is likely to be devastating for a country that counts tourism as a key foreign exchange earner.

A decades-long civil war with Tamil insurgents devastated Sri Lanka's economy, dealing a massive blow to the tropical island's tourism industry.

But the end of the war in 2009 saw a revival emerge, with more than two million visitors per year since 2016, compared to 448,000 in 2009.

Travel guide book publisher Lonely Planet last October named Sri Lanka as its top destination for 2019, praising "its timeless temples, its rich and accessible wildlife, its growing surf scene and its people who defy all odds by their welcome and friendliness".

But for many visitors, including those who have strong ties to the country, the sense of fear will be hard to shake off.

"I normally stay at the hotels that were targeted, so I consider myself very blessed... but this is the first time in all my visits here that I have felt afraid" said Australian Manique Corteling.

"But Sri Lanka will bounce back -- they have gone through terrible times before."

## Appendix 78

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

### Nine literary destinations every bookworm should visit

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Tue, April 23, 2019 / 03:04 pm

World Book Day, celebrated every April 23, is here. Online travel booking platform Agoda has listed nine places in Asia, Europe and the Americas that all bookworms who want to follow in their favorite authors' footsteps should visit.

#### 1. Kobe, Japan

Author Haruki Murakami's hometown Kobe used to appear in some of his stories, including in his debut novel in 1979, *Hear the Wind Sing*. His works, such as *Kafka on the Shore* and *1Q84*, are known for surrealist elements and melancholic themes.

The quiet beauty of Ikuta Shrine, Arima Onsen and Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge in Kobe is often captured in his books. A recommended place to stay in the small, seaside city is [Arimakoyado Hataya Ryokan](#).

#### 2. Camarines Norte, the Philippines

Author Ricky Lee grew up in Camarines Norte in the central Bicol region of the Philippines.

Lee has worked with Filipino directors Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal, and his screenplay manual *Trip to Quiapo* is used in communication colleges in the Philippines.

Camarines Norte has beautiful beaches such as the Calaguas group of islands, Apuao Grande Island and Bagasbas Beach. Enjoy the Philippines at the [One Platinum Hotel](#).

#### 3. Belitung Island, Indonesia

Fans of Andrea Hirata's best-selling novel *Laskar Pelangi* (The Rainbow Troops) should visit Belitung Island in Indonesia. His childhood was spent on the island, as was his path to fulfilling his dream.

Enjoy the picturesque white sands and clear blue waters of Tanjung Kelayang Beach, then stop by at the Traditional House Belitung as well as the literary Museum Kata Hirata, set up in 2010 to inspire people to pursue their dreams. Stay at the [Arumdalu Private Resort](#) in Tanjung Pandan, Belitung.



#### 4. New York, the United States

The Big Apple is always worth a visit. Admirers of the romantic story *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* can see where author Jenny Han started her career as a young adult fiction writer.

The [Jun New York Midtown III](#) apartment is the best place to explore the vibrant city and its attractions, such as the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge and Broadway.

Read also: [Indonesian publishers short-listed for London Book Fair's Excellence Awards](#)

#### 5. Aracataca, Colombia

Renowned author Gabriel García Márquez's hometown of Aracataca, Colombia, inspired him to write the novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

Along with Casa del Telegrafista museum, the Gabriel García Márquez Museum House is a must-see for all fans as it shows the author's reconstructed childhood. The [Agoda Home in Parque Los Novios](#) is located in Santa Marta, close to Colombia's famous Tayrona National Natural Park.

#### 6. Edinburgh, Scotland

Edinburgh was where the *Harry Potter* series of author JK Rowling came to life, even though she is actually from Yates, England.

Feel the magic in cafés where the famous author went to write and see other attractions such as the Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Botanic Garden, Dynamic Earth, Underground Edinburgh and the Scotch Whisky Experience. Spend the night at [Radisson Collection Hotel, Royal Mile Edinburgh](#).

#### 7. Florence, Italy

Italy is well-known for its delicious pizza, *dolce far niente* (the art of doing nothing) and poet Dante Alighieri. It is highly recommended to visit the birthplace of the Renaissance and the capital of Italian culture: Florence.

It is where the poet met Beatrice, the love of his life and person who inspired his most famous works such as *Vita Nuova* and *The Divine Comedy*. Explore the romantic city and stay at [Domux Home Repubblica](#).

#### 8. Istanbul, Turkey

Orhan Pamuk's most notable works are *Snow* and *The Museum of Innocence*, with the latter used as inspiration for a museum in Istanbul. The author was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2006 and holds the prestige of being the first Turkish Nobel laureate.

His works are recognized for hints of politics and Turkish culture. Visit the Hagia Sophia Museum, the Blue Mosque and book your room at [Fer Hotel](#).

#### 9. Dubai, the United Arab Emirates

Plunge into the world of Dubai where award-winning short story-writer Mohammad Al-Murr was born. He has published over 10 collections of short stories. One of them, *Dubai Tales*, captures life in Dubai and its contrasts of modern thinking and pride for tradition.

Visit the Palm Jumeirah and enjoy the view of the Burj Khalifa from your apartment at the [Residences by Emaar](#). (sop/wng)



## Appendix 79

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

# 5 anniversaries in 2019 that will inspire unforgettable vacations

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Tue, April 23, 2019 / 11:01 pm

Looking for vacation inspo? How about checking your calendar for some anniversaries that will highlight unique destination ideas.

Here are five trips that will make a lot of sense in 2019.

### 30th anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin Wall

The fall of the infamous barrier between the two Germanies will be one of late 2019's flagship historical events. The collapse of the "Wall of Shame" will be commemorated on November 9, on which numerous events will take place throughout the reunified capital.

A festival will be held from November 4 to 10, with open-air exhibitions held all over the city. Visitors will be able to retrace the road back to revolution and freedom.

Beyond these events, 2019 will be a perfect year to (re)discover Germany on the occasion of the Bauhaus centenary. The famous art, architecture and design school was opened in Weimar in 1919, giving its name to an entire artistic movement.

### Woodstock festival's 50th anniversary

Fifty years ago, over 500,000 people congregated on Max Yasgur's field in Bethel, New York, to celebrate peace, love and music. The anniversary could be an occasion to head to the Big Apple, and, why not, visit Upstate New York, all the way to the Bethel-adjacent town of Woodstock, a two-hour drive away.

To commemorate the iconic '60s music festival, the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts has set up a more intimate affair, to take place in August. Take the time to visit the Bethel Woods Museum, which will be featuring a retrospective on the musical monument's 50-year legacy.

### Havana's 500th anniversary

There's no better time than 2019 to finally make the trip over to Cuba, as Havana, its capital, celebrates its half-millennial. The biggest city in the Caribbean will no doubt be alive with Cuban rhythms as concerts are set to take over its streets for the occasion.

Visitor will want to head to the Unesco World Heritage site of the Old Town to take in the splendor of what the Spanish Conquistadors built.

### Panama City's 500th anniversary

Let's stay in Latin America a while for another trip idea: all sails set to Panama and more precisely its capital of Panama City. Named the Ibero-American Capital of Culture for 2019, the city will celebrate its 500th birthday through exhibitions and concerts.

The grand finale will take place on August 15, the anniversary of the city's foundation in 1519. The streets of Panama City are sure to be rather lively...

### 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death

While one could head to France for this very occasion (the Italian genie's death is largely commemorated in places such as Amboise and the Château de Chambord), Italy will be doubling down on celebrating the life of its compatriot, a native of Vinci, the village that gave him his last name, a few kilometers outside of Florence.

You may want to head to Tuscany's gorgeous capital, where celebrations have already begun, notably at the Piazzale degli Uffizi. A detour through the Leonardo da Vinci Museum is also a given, for anyone curious to see the prolific inventor's machines up close.

## Appendix 80

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Cambodia and Thailand reconnected by rail after 45 years

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Poipet, Cambodia / Wed, April 24, 2019 / 03:04 am

A railway reconnecting Cambodia and Thailand was officially inaugurated on Monday, April 22 in a bid to slash travel times and boost trade between the South-east Asian neighbors.

Cambodian premier Hun Sen and his Thai counterpart Prayut Chan-O-Cha witnessed a signing ceremony at a Thai border post before riding together to the Cambodian town of Poipet on a train donated by Thailand.

The pair - with Prayut dressed in a bright yellow shirt - stepped from the carriage in Poipet with their clasped hands held high to the cheers of waiting crowds, waving flags of both countries.

Hun Sen described their journey as "historic" and thanked Thailand for its efforts "to reconnect the railway between Cambodia and Thailand".

The railway would also better link his country to other South-east Asian neighbors and boost economy and trade, he added.

Bilateral trade between Thailand and Cambodia currently stands at US\$6 billion.

Read also: [In Thailand, tourists are drawn to Communist relics in deep forest](#)

Cambodia last year re-opened the final stretch of a 370-kilometer railway running from the capital, Phnom Penh, to the Thai border.

The Asian Development Bank bankrolled the reconstruction of the link to the tune of US\$13 million.

Much of Cambodia's railways - built by the French in colonial times - were damaged by the years of bitter conflict that engulfed the country during the Cold War era.

The 48 kilometers section of track near Poipet was destroyed in 1973 while the rest of the track to Phnom Penh had been suspended for over a decade due to its poor condition.

Cambodia has more than 600 kilometers of track extending from its northern border with Thailand to the southern coast.





## Appendix 81

TRAVEL • NEWS

### What causes the flight delays that leave you stuck at airports?

CHESTER CHIN  
THE STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

/ Wed, April 24, 2019 / 05:05 am

Travelers still struggle with the lack of information on delayed and cancelled flights, according to a new global survey.

A study conducted by aviation and data analytics company Cirium revealed that over a third of global travelers (36%) don't get enough information on their flight status.

Cirium president and chief executive officer Christopher Flook said through the results of the survey, the company hopes to work closely with airlines on initiatives to reduce the impact of disrupted flights.

"While our survey reveals well over a third of passengers still have to pay more for alternative travel plans, airlines can proactively issue flight alerts ahead of travel and re-allocate tickets without fees to take the sting out of flight disruption," he said.

The survey revealed nearly two thirds (57%) of those polled only found out about their flight delay or cancellation once they had reached the airport. When asked, 29% said they would prefer to be informed about a delay through a text alert with another two thirds (61%) saying they would use an app which would alert their friends, family or company about the delay.

More than a third of travelers worldwide (35%) who had experienced a delayed or cancelled flight, did not find it easy to change their travel plans, with 40% being forced to pay more to make alternative plans.

Last year, approximately 3.9 million flights – or 10,700 a day – were delayed by over 30 minutes or cancelled globally, affecting more than 470 million passenger journeys around the world.

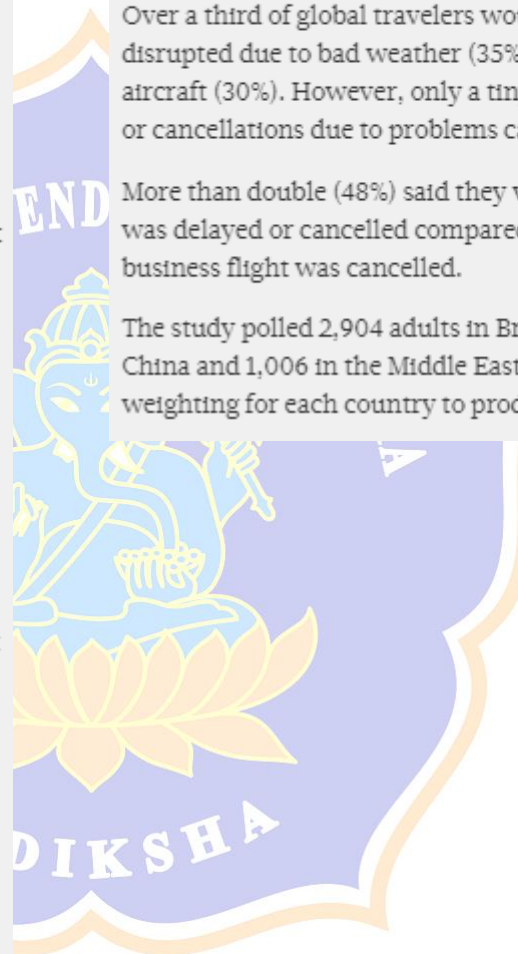
Flight delays and cancellation cost airlines globally US\$30 billion a year in lost revenue, in addition to costs borne by their passengers.

Airline flight delays and cancellations are caused by a wide range of factors, such as technical issues with aircraft, bad weather, air traffic control problems, strikes, medical diversions and congested airports, among many others.

Over a third of global travelers would be most sympathetic if a flight was disrupted due to bad weather (35%) followed by technical issues with their aircraft (30%). However, only a tiny 5% would be most sympathetic with delays or cancellations due to problems caused by air traffic control.

More than double (48%) said they would be most frustrated if their leisure flight was delayed or cancelled compared to the 21% who would be most frustrated if a business flight was cancelled.

The study polled 2,904 adults in Britain, 1,302 in the United States, 1,004 in China and 1,006 in the Middle East. The figures have been given an even weighting for each country to produce an average value.



## Appendix 82

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Theme park based on movies to be built in Hainan

WANG KAIHAO  
CHINA DAILY

/ Wed, April 24, 2019 / 06:05 am

A new theme park based on films from around the world is to be built in Haikou, the capital of Hainan province.

The park will provide galleries for 100 countries to display their cinematic history and regularly screen films from these countries. The facilities will also be used for related film production, investment, and publicity, according to Chen Luxi, the main investor in the project.

This new attraction is planned to be partially opened in 2022.

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Read also: [Shanghai purrs over new Hello Kitty theme park](#)

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Separately, an international short film competition will be launched in June in Haikou.

Film director Jiang Xiaoyu, who is in charge of program, said about 100 short film production teams, of up to five people each, from around the world, will attend the event. They will be given one week to shoot and make a short film in the same location. Ten winners will have their work edited into film, which is to be screened in cinemas later.

## Appendix 83

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Disneyland hotel rooms scarce for 'Star Wars' opening night

CHRISTOPHER PALMERI  
BLOOMBERG

/ Wed, April 24, 2019 / 10:07 am

Walt Disney Co.'s three hotels at Disneyland are selling out, with only \$763-a-night rooms left for the May 31 opening day of the new Star Wars land.

In a first for Disney parks, the company is requiring reservations to enter Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge from opening day until June 23. Guests at the company's hotels in Anaheim, California, will be guaranteed entry at a certain time. Disneyland.com will begin taking reservations for nonhotel guests at 10 a.m. Pacific time on May 2, the company said Monday.

Rooms that sleep up to five were available for \$763 a night at the higher-end Grand Californian Hotel & Spa. No rooms were listed as available for opening day at the Disneyland Hotel or Paradise Pier Hotel. Spots at all three hotels were still available later that weekend for prices starting at \$561.

Some hotel guests complained on Twitter that the company got the date or time wrong for their Star Wars reservations. The company said it's working to solve the problems.

Disney plans to open Star Wars lands, its largest theme-park additions, at the original Disneyland park next month and at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, Florida, on Aug. 29. The 14-acre lands include a ride on the Millennium Falcon space ship and a chance to immerse oneself in Star Wars imagery right down to the blue Bantha milk served at Oga's Cantina.

Disney is taking steps to prevent scalping. Reservations will be void if transferred or sold, the Burbank, California-based company said. Guests over age 18 must show ID that matches their reservation.

It's also taking steps to manage the crowds. A company fact sheet said guests in queues will have access to snacks, restrooms and cast interactions while waiting. The company has added new parking facilities with 7,500 spots, widened walkways and lowered curbs to accommodate the added guests.



## Appendix 84

### An explorer's guide for a one-day tour of Phnom Penh



HARYA DANNIWARA  
WORLD EXPLORER AND WRITER FOR LIFEFOREXPERTS.COM

Phnom Penh / Wed, April 24, 2019 / 01:11 pm



For Westerners, Cambodia is included by default on their must-visit list for touring Southeast Asia. This might not be the case among Asian travelers, who tend to visit more renowned and modern countries such as Japan and South Korea, or even Hong Kong <sup>1</sup> at least at the time of writing.

Over the past few years I've been traveling widely, I never thought about setting foot in Cambodia – let alone exploring it on my own. Now that I have visited the country, I can say with confidence that it is an experience I will always cherish.

Cambodia is truly one of a kind. The country seems to scream uniqueness in its every aspect, from its unusual currency system that combines US dollars and Cambodian riel, to prehistoric temples standing in the middle of the French-influenced metropolis of Phnom Penh, and to the amusing sound of its language. Experiencing this was a little overwhelming at first, even for an Asian guy like me.

The top cities to visit in Cambodia are Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville. For starters, I recommend visiting Phnom Penh first, before making your way through the rest of the country, since it is a perfect gateway for adjusting to Cambodia's ambiance.

However, Phnom Penh is said to have fewer tourist destinations compared to other Southeast Asian capitals like Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh. This is why I decided to take a one-day tour around Phnom Penh in an attempt to visit some of its most famous sites.

If you're interested in a day trip exploring the Cambodian capital, here are some things you might need to know before setting out, based on the experiences I had during my visit to the city.

#### Best transportation modes

I researched the cheapest way to get around Phnom Penh and came across some great recommendations for taking the city bus. In reality, though, I had a hard time finding the right buses and bus stations.

Taking the *tuk-tuk* (motorized rickshaw) might also be somewhat difficult for foreigners, since the fare is habitually determined by relationship and *tuk-tuk* drivers tend to set a higher baseline fare for foreigners – not to mention the greater risk of snatching on public transportation.

In the end, I decided to order through Grab instead. Grab is a widely popular ride-hailing app in Cambodia, and my experience showed it's relatively easy to make a booking and get a driver in Phnom Penh. Even better, you can still experience the joy of riding a *tuk-tuk* by ordering Grab Tuk-Tuk, which I tried once with excitement during my one day in Phnom Penh.

Read also: [Cambodia and Thailand reconnected by rail after 45 years](#)

#### Places worth visiting

Despite the limited options, taking a one-day tour in Phnom Penh can be hectic if you don't sort out the places you want to visit beforehand. Most destinations are temples and landmarks, and most are very pretty so choosing between them could be harder than you might think. I suggest taking into account the travel time between destinations and plan a relatively linear route to avoid going back and forth to save valuable time.

[Wat Phnom](#) is a beautiful temple in the center of the city and a perfect choice. Getting there isn't hard, since it is practically the focal point of Phnom Penh.



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**Wat Phnom** is a beautiful temple in the center of the city and a perfect choice. Getting there isn't hard, since it is practically the focal point of Phnom Penh.

The first pagoda in Wat Phnom was built in 1372. Enter the temple to experience the mesmerizing golden statue – something you won't find anywhere else.

Another place worth visiting is Royal Palace Park. Here, you will see the rare temple-shaped palace that stands in a modern, Western-like area. Lay down on the lawn and have a moment of relaxation while enjoying the chirping birds and the stunning view.

### Stay safe

Phnom Penh in particular is known for being occasionally unsafe for foreigners, which is unfortunate. The most common street crimes are snatching bags and stealing bicycles. It is always advisable to take only one small bag and keep it on your body at all times.

When taking public transportation like *tuk-tuk*, sit in the middle of the vehicle. Another thing I found useful was to look alert and like you know where you're going. Walk straight and fast, even when you're not entirely sure of your direction, and avoid looking at Google Maps for too long. That way, you'll avoid looking like a lost tourist and avoid becoming a target.

If you are Caucasian, take extra safety measures and avoid talking to suspicious people that might try and scam you.

(<https://www.thejakartapost.com/travel/2019/04/24/an-explorers-guide-for-a-one-day-tour-of-phnom-penh.html>)

### What to wear

Planning your journey is good, but be sure to go the extra mile and plan ahead on what you'll wear during your trip.

As it sits near the equator, Cambodia has its own share of direct sunlight, and sunburn can spoil your entire day. So, wear lightweight and sweat-absorbing clothes that will keep you cool while protecting your skin.

Also, do note that most Asian cultures prefer more proper attire, which means it's best to stay away from tank tops and shorts. Heading out in a pair of loose jeans and a light-colored T-shirt is advisable, as this will help you to blend in well yet is still practical to keep your body from retaining excessive heat.

### What to eat

Finally, treat yourself to some great dishes you won't find anywhere else.

The streets of Phnom Penh has a lot to offer, both day and night. Treat your taste buds to the myriad street food you will find easily in the city, and be sure to give traditional dishes a try.

I personally loved Fish Amok, one of Cambodia's national dishes. The full-bodied dish's creamy coconut texture stole my heart. I remember coming across a recommendations online to try red tree ants, which literally has red ants in it. Lots of ants. If you enjoy the *Fear Factor*, go ahead and try it. Don't forget to let us know how it tastes.

All in all, Phnom Penh is a must-visit when exploring Cambodia. While the country is famous for its many temples and ancient structures, including the glorious Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, Phnom Penh is more than the usual fare. Coming here will give you a sense of what it feels like to live in a country rich in history and tradition, yet also contemporary in its own way. (kes)

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Harya Danniswara is an avid traveler and writer for **Life For Experts**, a website for travelers to share their experiences, insights and tips on travel, food and life values. Find him on **Instagram** and **Twitter**.

## Appendix 85

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Sri Lanka may need more IMF help as blasts threaten tourism

REUTERS

/ Wed April 24 2019 / 06:02 nm

Sri Lanka faces a likely collapse in tourism following Easter Sunday attacks on churches and hotels, which would deal a severe blow to economy and financial markets, and potentially force it to seek further assistance.

The International Monetary Fund extended last month a US\$1.5 billion loan for an extra year into 2020, a key step in keeping foreign investment involved in what so far this year has been a top-performing frontier market.

But with growth, and therefore state revenues, now likely to slow, the budget targets agreed with the IMF may have to be reviewed, and a government is expected to resist pressure for any spending cuts beyond what was expected later this year.

There is even a possibility that more IMF money may be needed if foreign investment falls, adding to the hard currency gap left by plunging tourism receipts.

"If growth slows a lot more and the budget deficit assumptions need to be reassessed, then they'll have to sit down and negotiate something more," said Alex Holmes, Asia economist at Capital Economics.

The IMF's Sri Lanka mission chief said on Tuesday that initial financial pressures on Sri Lanka appeared contained after the "horrific" attacks.

"Decisive policy and security measures by the authorities will be important, in particular for tourism, which accounts for 5 percent of GDP, to build on the strong performance of recent years," mission chief Manuela Goretti said in a statement.

The Sri Lankan stock index dived 2.6 per cent on Tuesday in its first trading after the attacks that killed more than 300 people, while the managed rupee held steady.

Tourism is Sri Lanka's third-largest and fastest growing source of foreign currency, after remittances and garment exports, accounting for almost US\$4.4 billion of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2018.

A fall in tourism receipts is bound to weaken the rupee over time. The central bank, whose coffers are too light to defend the currency through interventions, is likely to have to raise interest rates.

This, in turn, would choke lending, hurting consumers and the investment plans of local businesses, while also making it more costly for the government to seek funding from foreign investors via bond markets.

"The central bank may be forced to hike rates again this year," said Win Thin, global head of currency strategy at Brown Brothers Harriman (BBH).

"With foreign reserves very low right now, the central bank cannot actively support the rupee."

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Read also: [Tourists flee Sri Lanka, as travel industry faces uncertainty](#)

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After falling 16 per cent against the US dollar last year to record lows, the rupee had gained 4.6 per cent this year as of last week.

Sri Lankan bonds have been among the best performing globally, only bettered by Argentina and Chile. But the main stock index has lost about 10 per cent.

### Weak finances

Sri Lanka's external position was already precarious.

To help fund a record US\$5.9 billion in foreign loans this year, the country successfully sold US\$2.4 billion in five-year and 10-year US dollar bonds last month, but that was right after the IMF extension and amid bets of looser monetary policy.

In January, Sri Lanka used its reserves to repay debt worth \$1 billion. It had about US\$5 billion left in February, the least since April 2017, and only enough to cover two months of imports and about two-thirds of its short-term external debt, according to BBH calculations.

Colombo also needs to finance a current account deficit of about 3 percent of GDP.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe is already facing heavy criticism domestically for higher taxes, and tight monetary and fiscal policies that have crimped growth to a 17-year low.

Having emerged from a 51-day political crisis in which President Maithripala Sirisena sacked and replaced him with pro-China former president Mahinda Rajapaksa - a decision which was later reversed - Wickremesinghe set an ambitious fiscal deficit goal of 4.4 per cent of GDP, compared with 5.3 per cent in 2018.

But he also boosted spending on state employees, pensioners and the armed forces and promised more funds for rural infrastructure, leading economists to doubt the targets. A presidential vote is expected later this year followed by a general election in 2020.

"Given the fact they have repayments coming up for sovereign bonds, it could lead to more pressure on foreign currency reserves. So, it's a near term negative for the tourism sector and also market sentiment as well," said Ruchir Desai, fund manager at Asia Frontier Capital, who co-manages the \$16 million AFC Asia Frontier Fund.

"Valuations are cheap, no doubt... but until they get some kind of political unity which can result in stable policy-making, we will probably remain underweight (equities) until the elections."

## Appendix 86

TRAVEL • NEWS

### San Francisco set to impose road tolls and reservation system for their iconic 'Crooked Street'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Thu. April 25, 2019 / 11:07 am

Visitors and tourists hoping to capture an Instagram snap while driving down San Francisco's most iconic "Crooked Street" may have to pony up an entrance fee.

After years of putting up with traffic and congestion around Lombard Street, better known as Crooked Street for its steep hairpin turns, a proposal to impose a toll and reservation system is being considered in the California Legislature.

According to the bill, the tourist attraction draws more than two million visitors a year, who queue for up to 10 hours for the chance to drive down the iconic street, snarling traffic and resulting in overcrowding in the residential neighborhood.

During peak periods, traffic can stretch three blocks and even impact traffic on the state highway system.

**Read also: [Tourists swamp San Francisco's famously curvy Lombard Street](#)**

To remedy the situation, the bill proposes implementing a reservation system, in which drivers would have to book a specific time to visit.

Entrance fees being considered range from US\$5 to \$10.

Lombard Street is the latest neighborhood street to become overrun with visitors. In Paris, residents of rue Crémieux in the city's east end asked the city to consider closing their street on evenings and on weekends to reduce the number of tourists descending en masse on their pastel-colored, Instagram-friendly neighborhood.



TRAVEL • TIPS

## Guide to first-time snorkelers in Indonesia



KATHRYN CURZON  
DIVE TRAVEL WRITER

Jakarta / Fri, April 26, 2019 / 11:56 am

Have you tried snorkeling yet? This fascinating hobby is ideal for exploring the beauty of Indonesia's waters.

Snorkeling involves swimming in the ocean, using a mask and breathing tube (or snorkel) so you can see and breathe underwater. Read on to find out more about this activity and the best spots for first-timers.

### Why snorkeling?

Snorkeling is a great way to enjoy the marine life that's on your doorstep in this archipelago, which has some of the richest marine environments on the planet. You can swim with ocean giants like whale sharks or float above coral reefs to gaze at the multicolored fish below.

If you head out to sea, you can even have the rare experience of snorkeling with great white sharks, sea lions, orcas and other large marine animals.

Snorkeling is ideal for people who want to explore the ocean without committing to the gear, training and expense of scuba diving.

### Who can try snorkeling?

Suitable for adults and children, snorkeling is a great activity to try as a family. It also helps adults and children gain confidence in the water.

You can wear a snorkel vest to help keep you afloat, if you're not comfortable in the water.

### What gear do you need?

One of the great things about snorkeling is the few equipment you need. All you really need is a good mask, fins and a snorkel.

That being said, not all gear is equal, and you want to make sure you get the right snorkeling gear for you.

This [guide to snorkeling equipment](#) and what to look for is a great place to start.

Read also: [Seven lesser-known dive areas in Indonesia](#)

### What skills do you need?

Snorkeling is easy to learn, and anyone can give it a try.

It's a good idea to do some preparation to make the most of it. The more you're prepared, the more you can explore and fall in love with the ocean.

#### Go swimming

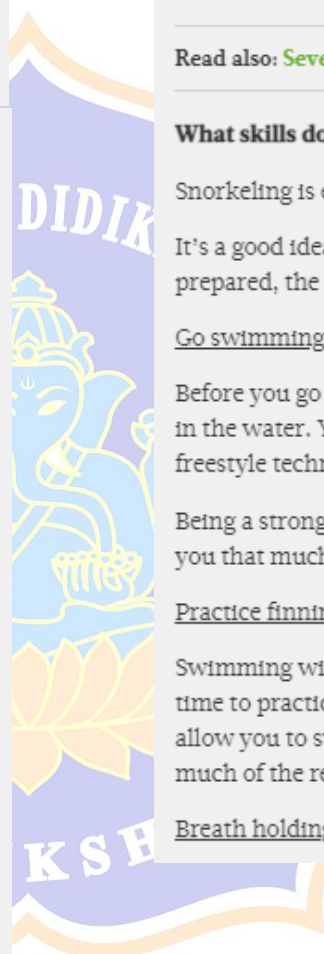
Before you go snorkeling, practice swimming to make sure you're comfortable in the water. You can take some lessons at your local pool or just focus on the freestyle technique: kicking your legs is exactly what you'll do as a snorkeler.

Being a strong swimmer will also mean you won't need a snorkel vest, giving you that much more freedom and ease of movement.

#### Practice finning

Swimming with fins is very different to swimming without them, so take the time to practice swimming with fins. It'll help strengthen your leg muscles and allow you to swim over the reef at a pace that suits you, so you can cover as much of the reef as you want.

#### Breath holding



You don't need to hold your breath when you're snorkeling, as your snorkel allows you to breathe as you swim just beneath the surface of the ocean. If you learn how to dive under the water while snorkeling, you can get closer to the corals and fish below. Being able to hold your breath comfortably will make it easier for you to learn to duck dive.

You can practice holding your breath and even ask your snorkeling instructor to teach you to duck dive. Whatever you decide, the most important thing to remember when snorkeling is to slow down, relax, and let your fins do the work. You want to conserve your energy as much as possible so you can enjoy all that incredible marine life you're seeing.

### **Where are the best places for snorkeling?**

The Coral Triangle has the highest diversity of marine life in the world. Indonesia sits at the heart of this special area and offers some of the best snorkeling on Earth. Don't miss it!

#### Wakatobi, Southeast Sulawesi

Wakatobi has an incredible array of snorkeling opportunities. Shallow house reefs and seagrass beds are literally just off the beaches, where you can go snorkeling with sea turtles and explore reefs teeming with fish.

You can also enjoy dozens of snorkeling spots if you hop on a dive boat and head to the outer reefs. Either way, remember to take your camera. The waters around Wakatobi are absolutely full of life.

#### Cenderawasih Bay, Papua/West Papua

If you want to snorkel with friendly whale sharks, make sure you visit Cenderawasih Bay. The bay is known for its whale sharks that local fishermen feed for good luck. The sharks are very tolerant of snorkelers and divers in the water.

#### Komodo National Park, East Nusa Tenggara

Komodo National Park is another top destination for snorkeling, and you can also see the Komodo dragons there. The waters host a variety of marine species including manta rays, seahorses, dolphins and plenty of big fish.

When you've had your fill of snorkeling, be sure to visit Komodo's stunning pink sand beach – one of only seven pink sand beaches in the world.

#### Raja Ampat, West Papua

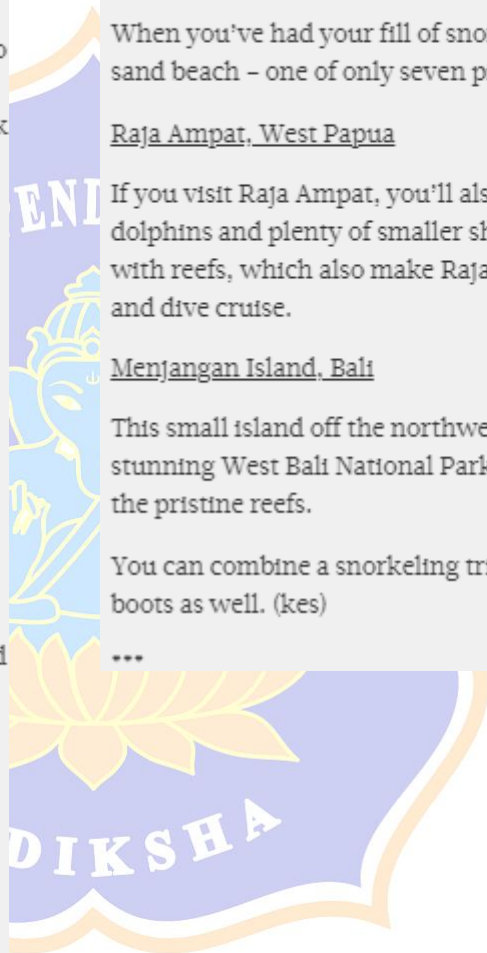
If you visit Raja Ampat, you'll also have a chance to see manta rays, turtles, dolphins and plenty of smaller sharks. The many beautiful islands are dotted with reefs, which also make Raja Ampat an ideal place for taking a snorkeling and dive cruise.

#### Menjangan Island, Bali

This small island off the northwest coast of Bali is a real hidden gem. Part of the stunning West Bali National Park, it is a great place to try snorkeling and enjoy the pristine reefs.

You can combine a snorkeling trip with exploring the park, so pack your hiking boots as well. (kes)

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## Appendix 88

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Sri Lanka halts low season visa-free plan after bombings

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Colombo, Sri Lanka / Fri, April 26, 2019 / 02:01 pm

Sri Lanka's government said Thursday it was suspending plans to grant citizens of 39 countries visa-free entry during the country's tourism low season after deadly Easter bombings that killed hundreds.

"Although arrangements were in place to issue visas on arrival for citizens of 39 countries, we have now decided to hold it for the time being in consideration of the current security situation," Tourism Minister John Amaratunga said in a statement.

"Investigations have revealed foreign links to the (Easter) attacks and we don't want this programme to be abused."

Sri Lanka had announced last month a plan to allow visa-free entry to tourists from 39 countries, including EU members, Australia and the United States, during the low season, from May 1.

The scheme did not include China and India, from where many of Sri Lanka's visitors come.

Read also: [Sri Lanka may need more IMF help as blasts threaten tourism](#)

The devastating Easter Sunday suicide bombings against churches and hotels killed 359 people, including dozens of foreigners.

The blasts have rocked the country's burgeoning tourism industry, which is one of the most important foreign exchange earners for the island.

Sri Lanka received 740,600 foreign tourists in the first three months of the year, up 4.6 percent from the same period a year earlier.

It welcomed a record 2.33 million tourists in 2018, and was named the world's top travel destination for 2019 by the Lonely Planet guide book.

## Appendix 89

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Indonesian citizens can now get 10-year multiple-entry visa to South Korea

NEWS DESK

THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Fri, April 26, 2019 / 05:13 pm

Some lucky Indonesians are now eligible to apply for a 10-year multiple-entry visa to South Korea, an embassy official said on Thursday.

Since last year, Indonesians have been able to apply for a five-year multiple-entry visa, which is valid for 30 days of stay per visit. Compared to a single-entry visa that will take six working days to process, a multiple-entry visa can be obtained in just one day after the application is submitted, reported [kompas.com](#). Visa applicants are required to include a financial statement, either a copy of their bank account statement, tax return or salary slip.

However, South Korean Ambassador to Indonesia Kim Chang-Beom announced that the country now offered a multiple-entry visa valid for 10 years, in addition to the five-year visa, and Indonesian citizens were no longer required to include their financial statement when applying.

"The 10-year multiple visa can be issued at any time with 90 days duration of stay for each visit," said Kim in Jakarta on Thursday.

Read also: [I used my powerless Indonesian passport to apply for UK visa. This is what happened.](#)

Do note, however, that the new policy does not apply to all citizens. For the five-year multiple-entry visa, those eligible to apply by simply showing their proof of employment are civil servants, state enterprise employees and employees of airlines that frequently fly to and from South Korea. Additionally, those who have visited South Korea or other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, or applicants who earn more than US\$8,000 per year, are also eligible and only required to submit a copy of their passport and proof of annual income, respectively.



As for the 10-year multiple-entry visa, those eligible include doctors, lawyers, accountants, lecturers, notaries and other professionals, who need to submit proof of employment and a copy of certification based on their expertise. Bachelor graduates from universities in South Korea or master degree graduates from any foreign university are also eligible and need to show their educational certificate. Also welcome are directors of companies with at least \$500,000 in capital; they will be asked for their work certificate.

The embassy also **announced** that it would no longer accept visa applications. Starting May 2, Indonesians are required to submit their applications at the Korea Visa Application Center in the Lotte Shopping Avenue mall in Kuningan, South Jakarta. (dpk/kes)

## Appendix 90

TRAVEL • NEWS

### EasyJet bans peanuts on flights

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London / Fri, April 26, 2019 / 06:06 pm

British airline easyJet has stopped selling peanuts and will remove all nuts from inflight foods, it said Thursday, to protect passengers with allergies.

The no-frills carrier said passengers will also be asked not to eat nuts on board if fellow customers are allergic.

"The safety and welfare of all of our customers and crew is our highest priority so we have a number of procedures in place to assist customers travelling with a nut allergy," an easyJet spokesman told AFP.

"We ask that any customers with a nut allergy notify us ahead of travel and we will request that other passengers travelling on the flight do not consume any products containing nuts that they have brought with them on board.

**Read also:** [Korean Air stops serving peanuts after teens' flight disrupted by allergy](#)

"We have also stopped the sale of peanuts on board and will be removing the last product from our inflight range which contains nuts in the coming months."

The issue came to prominence in Britain with the death of 15-year-old Natasha Ednan-Laperouse on a British Airways flight from London to Nice.

She had a fatal reaction on board after eating a sandwich bought at Heathrow Airport which had sesame seeds inside its dough.

Her family called for a change in the law on food labelling after the inquest into her death concluded in September last year.

## Appendix 91

TRAVEL • NEWS

### You can now sleep under the stars in a glass igloo in Northern Norway

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

/ Sat, April 27, 2019 / 07:05 am

Intrepid travelers can now book stays inside a glass igloo, built in the hinterlands of Northern Norway against the stunning backdrop of a tranquil river and dramatic fjords.

Located about three hours from Tromso, Norway, the new glass igloos of Lyngen North offer either 180 or 360-degree views of their surroundings, which include the peaks of the Lyngen Alps and the star-studded night sky.

Though they'll be slumbering in the Norwegian wilderness, guests still have their creature comforts. The igloos are heated -- they even have floor heating -- and have ensuite bathroom and showers.

In summer, guests can hike the many trails around Lyngenfjord and sign up for guided river boat tours up the Reisa River. The tour includes a stop at the 270-meter-tall Mollis waterfall.

The midnight sun phenomenon runs from the end of May until the end of July, seguing into another celestial movement, the Northern Lights, which run from the end of August until the beginning of April.

In the day, guests can choose from activities like dog sledding, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. At night, they have front row seats to the aurora borealis.

Rates start at US\$410.

## Appendix 92

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Chic urban resort meets business hotel in Alila SCBD Jakarta



MUTHI ACHADIAT KAUTSAR  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sat, April 27, 2019 / 08:08 am

A boutique hotel at the heart of the city's retail and business district, Alila SCBD, has opened. The abbreviation SCBD after the name Alila that means "surprise" in Sanskrit, stands for Sudirman Central Business District, referring to a 45-hectares business district in South Jakarta with well-maintained infrastructure and lush greenery.

Prior to its official opening in early February, Alila SCBD introduced itself through its two restaurants that opened in advance, namely **Vong Kitchen** and **Le Burger**.

Guests who have dined at Vong Kitchen and Le Burger are likely to have been exposed to the large living room styled lobby. Its contemporary feel, largely reflected by 'Birds, Bats and Butterflies' installation mounted on the wall and suspended from the ceiling, may serve as a teaser to the experience of staying in one of the hotel's 227 studios and suites.

Tucked discreetly next to the lobby is the newly introduced event space Artisan Bar. Spanning 512 square meters with a high ceiling, the space is adorned with artwork from across Indonesia, celebrating the artistic heritage of such regions as South Sulawesi and East Java.

True to its name, although there are no bar stools around, Artisan Bar also serves signature beverages including espresso tonic (bitter tonic paired with a shot of espresso made from medium-dark roasted beans) and JKT Confidential (butterfly pea flower-infused mango vodka, tequila and lime cocktail).

Read also: **Five-star Alila SCBD Jakarta hotel to open on Feb. 6**

A team of youthful hotel staff in smart casual dress greeted *The Jakarta Post* when checking in on the invitation of the establishment. The process was fast and smooth and the *Post* was soon whisked to an XL Studio King room.

The entrance of the *Post*'s room opened to a spacious bed and living room area beside a tall picture window. A desk was not in sight and it felt rather disappointing. However, a corner across from the door opens to a small hidden area where the desk is placed. Alas! We found the sweet little secret workplace with a big view, which is that of the bustling road between the Indonesia Stock Exchange and Pacific Place Mall.

The unique configuration of many rooms in Alila SCBD, apparently, is an effect of the hotel's dynamic architecture dubbed the diamond-shaped tower.

While spending hours in the room –splitting time between the indulgent bathtub overlooking the skyscrapers, enjoying room service in bed watching TV and being productive on the writing desk- sounds like a plan, the temptation to indulge in quality time with friends at Le Burger, Vong Kitchen or **Hakkasan**, each equipped with its own bar, is too high. During the daytime, however, lounging by the catwalk pool or taking a dip into it and the jacuzzi is hard to say no to.

The reason behind the nickname catwalk pool is the layout of the pool area, where two long and narrow pools are placed across each other and a "runway" cut in between.

While the catwalk pool and the jacuzzi on the fifth floor meet the requirements of an urban resort, Alila SCBD undoubtedly makes a good business hotel as its location is in close proximity to Jakarta's business district. The well-maintained infrastructure, including the wide and clean sidewalks – are a rarity in Jakarta – making walking from one building to another within the SCBD comfortable.

One of the most interesting things about staying in this hotel is, however, how its main entrance is located just across from Pacific Place Mall. It means if a guest ever needs to do last minute shopping or grooming for a sudden fanfare at Hakkasan or the bar at Vong Kitchen, he or she will conveniently be in good hands.

## Appendix 93

TRAVEL • NEWS

### New Mexico City airport to go in service by mid-2021: Official

REUTERS

Mexico City / Sat, April 27, 2019 / 03:01 pm

A new Mexico City airport intended to replace a project cancelled by President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador should be ready for use in mid-2021 with a starting capacity of 20 million passengers per year, a senior official said on Friday.

Brigadier General Ricardo Vallejo, head of the military college of engineers, told a news conference the first phase of the airport to be built north of Mexico City by the town of Santa Lucia should be completed by June 2021.

"However, its maximum potential, its development potential, will be over 50 years," Vallejo said.

He said the airport, due to be built by the military, would begin with an annual capacity for 20 million passengers that could eventually rise to 80 million.

The new airport has divided opinion since Lopez Obrador in October abruptly cancelled a \$13 billion partially built hub a few weeks before taking office. He argued that the facility on Mexico City's eastern flank was tainted by corruption and too costly.

Lopez Obrador's decision sparked a major sell-off in Mexican financial assets. Critics of the new project also argue that Santa Lucia's distance from the capital could hurt tourism by complicating travel for connecting flights from Mexico City.

Santa Lucia lies some 29 miles (47 km) north of the current Benito Juarez International Airport. Still, some engineering experts say the two hubs may not be able to operate simultaneously.

Transport and Communications Minister Javier Jimenez Espriu rejects that view. He told the news conference a third terminal would be added to the Benito Juarez airport where the presidential hangar previously stood.

That would raise the current airport's capacity to 50 million passengers a year, Jimenez said.

The government aims to save billions of dollars with the Santa Lucia site. But questions remain about carrying out the plan, in part due to the government's own statements.

In December, Lopez Obrador said construction on the Santa Lucia hub would start in January. Earlier this week he said construction would begin next Monday. At the news conference on Friday he said construction would begin in June, "once we have all the requirements."

## Appendix 94

TRAVEL • NIGHTLIFE

### Jakpost nightlife: Hottest bars in South Jakarta



NI NYOMAN WIRA  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sat, April 27, 2019 / 06:29 pm

South Jakarta never ceases to amaze you with its evolving nightlife. These are the places that are rather new in the area, but they are certainly not to be underestimated:

#### Zodiac Space & Bar

What suddenly pops into your mind when you hear about a bar interior that combines leopard-print sofas with hot pink walls? The newly opened Zodiac Space & Bar will amaze you with how eccentric, yet effortless it is.

Having opened on Dec. 31, 2018, the bar has two areas. The first area displays curated items and installations from different brands, including one from Oltjikko and long-sleeved T-shirt created in collaboration with Studiorama, Oltjikko, and Zodiac, which can be purchased by patrons.

The second area is the mini bar with crystal balls hanging in its corners and a DJ set at the back. Weekends will be different at Zodiac as it removes several of tables and stools to open up space for dancers.



**Taste:** It provides international drinks and light snacks. It is recommended to sample the fresh and citrusy cassis orange, umeshu soda, aperol spritz and zodiac spritz, which has a slight kick thanks to the gin, as well as the rather strong highball.

**Quirks:** Zodiac aims to bring DJ culture into its space, meaning that the role of DJ is more than just making people dance. Besides its interior, the space deserves praise for its selections of beverages that make you a little bit tipsy, but still able to enjoy the atmosphere. It is also best to visit after hours.

**Where:** Jl. Senopati Raya No. 64, South Jakarta (below Colette & Lola)

**Crowd:** Varies from 20 to 50 year olds.

**Music:** The bar usually posts its weekly schedule every Monday on its Instagram account. It ranges from disco to jazz. It also often invites DJs, communities and musicians to take over the DJ set and play music that inspire them. While you are there, you may notice the bar's vintage white speakers that are said to have been used in theaters and cinemas in the past.

**Dress code:** Casual.

**Average bill:** Starting from Rp 350,000 (US\$24.67) per person.

**Read also:** [Jakpost Nightlife: After-hour hangouts](#)

#### **Ding Dong Disko**

Located in Kemang, South Jakarta, Ding Dong Disko intends to transport you to a science-fiction realm. Visitors must take the illuminated stairs to reach the bar to find its retro-futuristic interior comprising sci-fi movie posters plastered on its walls, windows with rounded corners and floor patterns inspired by a scene from *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Though most people see Ding Dong Disko as a bar, it is also a restaurant that opens from 11 a.m.

**Where:** Aksara Kemang Building, Jl. Kemang Raya No. 8B, Kemang, South Jakarta.

**Crowd:** 21 to 38 year olds, Kemang residents and music enthusiasts.

**Music:** The bar always displays its weekly schedule on Instagram and at its entrance. On Mondays, for instance, it has Blank Canvas Day where the bar acts as a platform for unique and creative DJs and musicians. Meanwhile, on Sundays, it has It's Game Time, where customers are encouraged to put down their smartphones and take part in different games, starting from board games to trivia, to win prizes.

**Taste:** Mix of Indonesian, Asian and Italian delicacies. It has *lidah cabe ijo* (black noodles with beef tongue and green chili), Southern fried chicken, Swedish meatballs and Ding Dong fried rice. Recommended dishes are its hearty tagliatelle truffle and *nasi campur* Ding Dong, which is served with various side dishes.

When it comes to beverages, Ding Dong Disko provides beer, cocktails and spirits. It also serves "local disco" or drinks based on local products, namely nona ria (sangria with an anggur putih cap Orang tua twist) and nona sari.

**Quirks:** Apart from its interior and menus, Ding Dong Disko is also involved in a "disco responsibly" campaign in which it minimizes plastic use. Hence, it does not use plastic straws, bags and utensils -- it even uses wooden utensils for take-away orders. It also does not offer mineral water in plastic bottle.

**Dress code:** Casual, but certain dress-code rules apply when there is an event.

**Average bill:** Starting from Rp 200,000 for drinks and food.

**Read also:** [Jakpost Nightlife: Jakarta's speakeasy bars](#)

#### **Slits.**

Sometimes all you need is to have casual conversations with friends after work in a laid-back bar. Established in November 2018, Slits. aims to bring a micro-cocktail bar concept to Jakartans along with its music, specialty cocktails and appetizing food.

Upon entering the bar, customers are welcomed by an intimate, cozy atmosphere with the interior inspired by micro bars abroad with a touch of 1970s but which is still relevant to the present time. Fitting 50 to 60 people, it has glass-covered area and a hallway that leads to the back.

Additionally, the bar has a podcast that is uploaded on Sunday nights on its website, [Slits.tv](#). The podcast has different programs, among them is the *Bar Show* where it airs recorded DJ performance and interviews.

The bar held a cocktail-pairing event where it teamed up with a chef to serve five to six course meals to its customers. During the holy month of Ramadan, it plans to hold pop-up dinners by collaborating with chefs and food collectives.

**Where:** Second floor of Pelaspas Darmawangsa, Jl. Darmawangsa Raya No. 8, Kebayoran Baru, South Jakarta.

**Crowd:** Diverse, but usually employees who want to hang out after work on weekdays.

**Music:** Though it is not limited to any genres, the music played at Slits. is said to complement the bar's vibe, meaning that is not too heavy or loud. It has DJ performances daily and also occasionally invites guest DJs.

**Taste:** Slits. has drinks within the low-ball category, a term invented by the bar that is inspired by the Japanese highball. Served in a short glass, the low-ball consists of alcohol combined with soda and warms you up before moving on to cocktails. The bar's cocktails are a must-try as they have certain twists and their names are based on cult films, songs and film characters, including Mr. Pink from *Reservoir Dogs* (1992) and "Psycho Killer", a song by American band Talking Heads.

**Quirks:** Slits. expects to infuse new culture into Jakarta's nightlife scene, one of them is its no-reservation policy for customers. It does not necessarily mean people cannot reserve their spot at the establishment -- they can, but they have to be on time as space is limited.

**Dress-code:** Anything you fancy.

**Average bill:** Rp 300,000 for purchasing three drinks. (mut)

## Appendix 95

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Tiger Express train to raise awareness of wild tigers

NEWS DESK

THE JAKARTA POST

- / Sat, April 27, 2019 / 10:03 pm

The Eastern and Oriental Express of the Belmond Company and Save Wild Tigers, a global tiger conservation charity, have partnered up to launch the Tiger Express.

To commence on Sept. 7, the railway route aims to raise awareness of the plight of the world's few remaining wild tigers. According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), there are now only 3,800 wild tigers left in the world.

The six-night itinerary takes passengers on a luxury train from Bangkok to Singapore through historic tiger habitats in Malaysia and Thailand. During the journey, passengers visit the River Kwai and Malaysia's Kuala Kangsar. Before departing they stay at the Siam Bangkok and at the end of the trip they stay at Raffles Singapore.

Save Wild Tiger's founder Simon Clinton said, "With potentially as few as 10 years left to save this iconic species from extinction, the clock really is ticking. We are really proud and grateful to be working with the Eastern and Oriental Express once again in providing passengers a chance to experience a trip of a lifetime. Profits from our all of our campaigns go toward creating global awareness campaigns for the cause and funding targeted tiger conservation projects."

The exteriors of the Tiger Express train's cars are to feature tiger elements curated by Chinese artist and Save Wild Tigers ambassador Jacky Tsai. The designs are to be revealed ahead of the journey in September.

Ping Coombes, winner of *MasterChef UK 2014*, is to act as chef for the train's passengers.

Prices start from £3,724 (US\$4,873) per person. That includes meals, accommodations, three nights on board the train, two excursions and transfers to and from the train. Up to 20 percent of the ticket price goes directly to Save Wild Tigers.

For more information, visit [Belmond.com](http://Belmond.com). (wng)

## Appendix 96

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Instagrammable traditional market coming soon to Blitar village

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Blitar, East Java / Sun, April 28, 2019 / 05:11 am

A traditional market in Blitar, East Java is set to offer tourists an Instagram-worthy destination.

Highlighting *bathok* (coconut shell) handicrafts, Pasar Bathok (Bathok Market) is slated to open in September on Blitar's Jl. Kali Glagah, Tanjungsari, Sukorejo.

"The opening date is still tentative since we have to make sure that the venue is 100 percent ready," Zafaya Listia, the coordinator of Generasi Pesona Indonesia (GenPI) Blitar, said as quoted by [Kompas.com](http://Kompas.com).

Other than being Instagrammable, the market is said to also feature a multifunction stage for live music, theater and dance performances.

Interestingly, transactions in the market will use tokens made of coconut shell provided by the management.

Don Kardono, a spokesman of the Tourism Ministry, said Pasar Bathok had great tourism potential.

Read also: [A history of Jakarta's five most popular markets](#)

"There are many experiences offered here. The visitors can get many things related to the creative process of making coconut shell products and many more as Blitar is famous for such items," he said.

Blitar has long exported coconut shell products such as home decorations, masks, fashion items and many more to Malaysia, Thailand and other international markets.

Don added that Pasar Bathok was located in conjunction with Bathok Tourism Village, which is expected to increase tourist accessibility to both attractions.

Pasar Bathok was introduced to the public during a soft launch event in late March, featuring many traditional games such as coconut shell stilts, bamboo stilts and table jump, as well as live music, a culinary festival and coconut shell craft workshops. (gis/kes)

## Appendix 97

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

### From Hamilton to Hobbiton: A New Zealand summer tour



MUTHI ACHADIAT KAUTSAR  
THE JAKARTA POST

Hamilton, New Zealand / Sun, April 28, 2019 / 07:01 am

Although I'd always thought of myself as someone who likes to learn new things and meet new people, I was rather skeptical about spending a summer in New Zealand. The first time I went to visit the land of the Kiwis was August 2014, and I must say it was one of the best winter experiences I've ever had.

When I took my second to New Zealand early this year on a press junket with Emirates, I was worried about heatwaves. I consulted my Instagram feed and found a friend who accompanied her son to settle him in at a university in Wellington, North Island. One of her photos showed my friend looking windswept, clad in an oversized sweater and wool tights. No need to worry about a heatwave, I thought, but what about Auckland?

So I asked a friend who is a chef in Auckland, who said the city was very warm, with temperatures reaching up to 31 degrees Celsius. "People wear T-shirts and shorts here," he messaged on WhatsApp, although he later suggested that I pack a light sweater, cardigan and a few long-sleeved shirts.

The day prior to my departure, I decided to take a down jacket with me, as I was also scheduled to spend a couple days in Hamilton, also on the North Island. I couldn't think of anyone I could ask about Hamilton, but I expected this city might be quite chilly.

Once again, I – who likes to learn new things and meet new people – found myself questioning the New Zealand tour. Why would anyone go to Hamilton? What was so special about the city? And were we going to visit Hobbiton? Could this trip get more touristy?



These questions ran through my head as I reminisced my previous bespoke trip to New Zealand, touring the wineries in Queenstown, staying at boutique hotels and going on an exclusive foodie tour in Queenstown and Auckland.

Long story short, I landed in Auckland on a Sunday morning, excited and refreshed despite the seven-hour flight from Bali – thanks to the Emirates business class seat that allowed me to sleep well in a flat position.

**Read also: [Emirates' direct Denpasar-Auckland flight offers quick summer escape](#)**

After surviving the long queue at immigration among many fit and young Latin American athletes (note: this is *not* a complaint), my group was driven straight to Hamilton.

The trip took about two hours, refreshing us further with a view of green pastures and some cattle that looked content. It was as sleepy as Sunday mornings could get, but Distinction Hamilton Hotel – where we were to stay – felt lively with international cycling athletes getting their breakfast, and I welcomed a second round of "mingling" with these athletes.

We "joined" the athletes at breakfast, and I was very happy with my perfectly poached egg, baked beans, mushroom sauce and mango smoothie that came in a milk bottle with a striped paper straw. If there is one thing I never doubt about New Zealand, it's the country's ability to provide good food.

### **Sunday in Hamilton**

Starting shortly before lunch time, our Sunday in Hamilton rose to the peak of excitement with a visit to Hamilton Gardens. My pre-departure research on the garden didn't come up with a satisfying result, but I realized that my skepticism was misplaced at my first glimpse.

Hamilton Gardens, built on a former waste disposal site, is drop-dead gorgeous. The couple of hours I had there was not enough to enjoy every garden in each category: Paradise, Productive, Fantasy, Cultivar and Landscape.

My exploration started with the Paradise collection, which includes Italian Renaissance, Indian Char Bagh and American Modernist gardens. The first two gardens feature a symmetrical design around water features, graced with a dense cover of colorful flowers and well-manicured greenery.

Slightly hidden passages in the Italian Renaissance garden take visitors to a balcony overlooking a fountain pool and another overlooking a small amphitheater.

Meanwhile, the colors and lines of the American Modernist garden, inspired by the late-20th century style of American West Coast outdoor living, reminding me somewhat of David Hockney paintings, combined with Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroe mural.

Other gardens not to be missed are the Tudor, Tropical, Concept and Mansfield gardens in the Fantasy collection. The highlight of the Tudor garden are the sculptures that top green-and-white striped poles, including a dragon, a phoenix and a unicorn.

Mansfield garden is named after New Zealand author Katherine Mansfield, who wrote the short story "The Garden Party" in 1922. Among the attractive details of this garden is a marquee erected on a tennis court surrounded by a hedge of New Zealand's native karaka. Under the marquee is a long dining table laid with a full mock spread of food and drinks fit for a garden party, among them the sandwiches and cream puffs of James Godber, a prominent baker, confectioner and caterer in 20th century Wellington.



While eating lunch at the Hamilton Gardens Café that overlooks Turtle lake was really tempting, our group decided to head downtown for brunch at Scotts Epicurean on Victoria Street. It was 30 minutes to closing time when we arrived, but the award-winning café welcomed us warmly anyway. Every single one of us ordered the Scott's burger, made with house-made beef patty, caramelized onion relish, Swiss cheese and a vividly colorful salad.

Struggling not to fall asleep after the fulfilling brunch, we moved on to the Waikato Museum, located a short walking distance from Scotts Epicurean. The museum has 13 galleries that holds more than 20 new exhibitions and 100 public events every year, including interactive programs.

In addition to local and regional narratives, the museum's exhibits and collections also showcase works with global perspectives. The museum was hosting the "50 Greatest Photographs of National Geographic" exhibition and another, Katherine Mansfield-inspired "The Garden Party" exhibition during my visit. Viewing them felt like the right activity to follow my filling brunch, although we had to rush because the museum closes at 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Finding something to do in Hamilton on an early Sunday evening was a challenge, especially compared to Jakarta, where many areas are alive 24/7. After some serious googling, we decided to return to Hamilton Gardens for "Gourmet in the Gardens", as none of the very few options seemed appealing.

Although downtown Hamilton was quiet, it turned out that many Hamilton residents had turned out at Gourmet in the Gardens, where there was a line of food trucks and a small stage for live music. Everyone seemed to be enjoying picnic with friends, family and pets of all sizes, sitting on blankets spread out on the grass or in folding picnic chairs, while others brought their own tents.

On observing the crowd of people lining up to buy food or enjoying quality family, I noticed with great interest that nobody was holding a smartphone or taking photos. In fact, my group was likely the only Indonesian group there, and also the only group wielding smartphones and cameras. However, the other picnic-goers didn't seem to be bothered that we never let go of our smartphones – if they noticed at all.

Still feeling full after the brunch burger from Scotts Epicurean, I bought only a boysenberry ice cream from one of the food trucks. The boysenberry ice cream was made to order, and apart from its fresh taste, the ice cream seemed bottomless that it took a while to finish just one serving.

I wondered recently if the garden was still open, now that summer was over, and to my delight, I found that it is, with richly hued autumn leaves everywhere!

### **Monday in Waitomo and Matamata**

Apparently, one of the reasons our accommodation was arranged in Hamilton was it was easier to get to the Hobbiton movie set in Matamata. On the way, we would pass through Waitomo to visit the glowworm caves.

Our first stop was Ruakuri Cave, which is famed for its limestone formations, waterfalls and of course, glowworms. We had to descend a spiral ramp to enter the cave. It was so dark that we could see nothing, but our guide gradually turned on the floor lights and we could finally see the spiraling downward path. We were also reminded not to touch the limestone, as the natural oils in our skin would blacken the limestone and stop its growth.

We marveled at how the stalactites and stalagmites had formed into such natural shapes of different sizes. They looked fresh and damp, with some slowly dripping liquid as they grew, showing that they were carefully protected from human touch.



Our trip inside the cave took us down narrow paths that meandered between tall cave walls, over underground rivers where other travelers were tubing, or along cave walls where glowworms were nestling quietly. The deeper we entered the cave, the colder it became, and the more grateful I was for the down jacket I wore.

While I wondered how it might feel to go cave tubing, I was also glad that I avoided getting wet on that cold day. I did, however, get my share of being close to the water in the next cave.

The glowworm cave in Waitomo has a rather spacious entrance chamber, which reminded me somewhat of the interior of a Gothic cathedral.

The vast chamber is said to have good acoustics, and we might as well hold a dinner party there with a small orchestra. Our guide even convinced us to sing "Happy Birthday" to test the acoustics. The highlight of the glowworm cave was a boat ride beneath the glowworm-laden stalactites. The entire ride was made in complete darkness, except for the muted light of the glowworms, that I fell asleep mid-ride.

Leaving Waitomo for Matamata, we drove past seemingly endless pastures with quaint farmhouses and cattle grazing peacefully, and then suddenly, the Hobbiton visitor center popped up on our left, like it was just another farmhouse. A couple of hours past lunch and starving, we hurried to the Shire's Rest café. I ordered a portion of fish and chips that tasted like the best fish and chips I ever had, but this could have been because of the weather.

The famed Hobbiton movie set with its widely photographed Hobbit houses, is a bus ride away from Shire's Rest. The bus service is arranged by the Hobbiton movie set, and has its own timetable. A guide is aboard each bus, which also screens a documentary video on the movie set during the ride to the Alexander family sheep farm where Hobbiton is located.

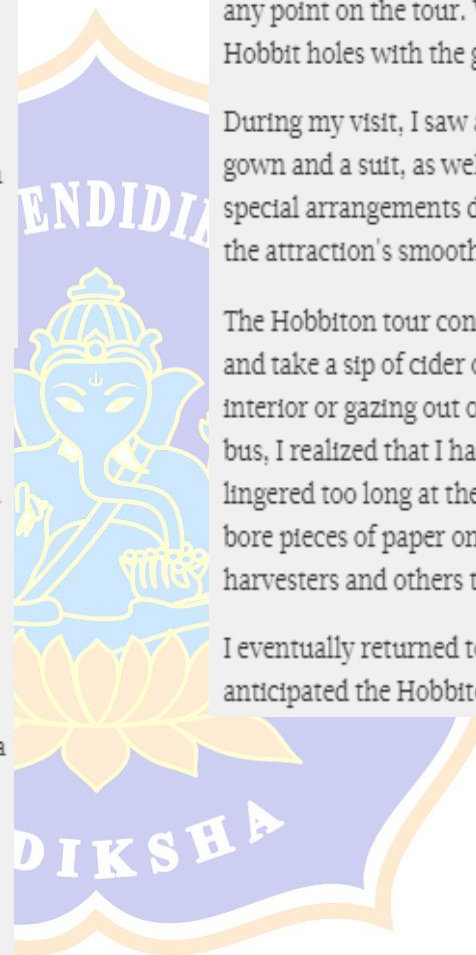
As touristy as I thought Hobbiton was, I was glad for the visit. Hobbiton is a meticulously made tourist attraction that is also run very properly, and it truly deserves the top honors it received in Business Excellence, Tourism Marketing Campaign and People's Choice at the 2016 Tourism Industry Awards.

The Hobbiton movie set is organized so visitors can enjoy the scenery and take photos at ease. Visitors walk in guided groups to stop at several Hobbit holes, houses and other designated points. The guides coordinate with each other to make sure that one tour group does not interfere with another group at any point on the tour. Visitors are given a short time to take photos at certain Hobbit holes with the guide's help.

During my visit, I saw a couple taking wedding photos in a long-train bridal gown and a suit, as well as an elderly couple touring on a golf cart, but these special arrangements did not at all inconvenience my experience because of the attraction's smooth organization.

The Hobbiton tour concluded at The Green Dragon Inn, where we could unwind and take a sip of cider or non-alcoholic ginger beer while exploring the inn's interior or gazing out over the lake. When the time came for us to return to the bus, I realized that I hadn't taken long enough to enjoy the inn. I must have lingered too long at the huge beer barrel cart or the Shire's notice board, which bore pieces of paper on a lost hammer, violin lessons, a vacancy for corn harvesters and others that brought J.R.R. Tolkien's world to life.

I eventually returned to the bus, but a little different from the person that anticipated the Hobbiton tour with skepticism: I plan to visit the Shire again.





## Appendix 98

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Sri Lanka fears up to \$1.5 billion tourism losses

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Colombo, Sri Lanka / Sun, April 28, 2019 / 10:03 am

Sri Lanka fears its lucrative tourism industry could see arrivals drop up to 30 percent, with losses of \$1.5 billion this year, after deadly Easter attacks, the finance minister said Friday.

"Tourism will be the worst affected," Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera told reporters.

"We expect a 30 percent drop in arrivals and that means a loss of about \$1.5 billion in foreign exchange."

Samaraweera said the country could take up to two years to fully recover from Sunday's attacks, which devastated three luxury hotels and three Christian churches and killed 253 people killed, among them many foreigners.

The government has blamed local Islamist extremists for the coordinated suicide bombings that shocked a nation recovering from a 37-year ethnic war that ended a decade ago.

The Islamic State group said it carried out the attack and the government says it believes local extremists were at least inspired by IS militants.

"Typically, countries that suffer isolated IS-style attacks see tourism recovering within one-to-two years, as long as root causes are addressed and security measures taken are well communicated," the minister said.

He pointed to Belgium, France, Spain and Tunisia as countries which recovered their tourism markets within a short time.

Samaraweera said tourism was emerging as Sri Lanka's success story when Sunday's blast shattered hopes of reaching a revenue of \$5.0 billion, up from last year's \$4.4 billion.

Official figures show that tourist arrivals in the first quarter of this year jumped 4.6 percent to 740,600 from a year earlier.

India, Britain, and China were the biggest tourism generating markets for the island, which is known for its tropical beaches and picturesque tea-growing mountains.

The industry was recovering from a severe battering during the 37-year Tamil separatist war that claimed 100,000 lives, but there had been no violence affecting tourists in the past decade.

Samaraweera said he was hoping to unveil a package of concessions to help the tourism sector weather the impact of the suicide bombings.

Most of the deluxe hotels in Colombo have stepped up security and curtailed bookings amid fears of more attacks.



## Appendix 99

TRAVEL • NEWS

# These are most expensive cities for business trips in 2019

NEWS DESK

THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sun, April 28, 2019 / 01:00 pm

This year's ranking of the most expensive cities for business trips has been released by management consultant firm ECA International.

As reported by [CNN Travel](#), the survey revealed that the number one city has not changed, whereas newcomers joined the list and others dropped out.

The ranking itself compares average hotel prices in US dollars for a four-star hotel, as well as transport costs, taxis and meals.

Last year, only two American cities were included on the list, New York in first place and Washington DC at number eight. The Big Apple still leads the list, meanwhile the United States' capital moved to number four in the ranking of pricey cities. Los Angeles and San Francisco on the West Coast ranked ninth and seventh, respectively.

**Read also:** [Paris catches Asian tigers in most expensive city race](#)

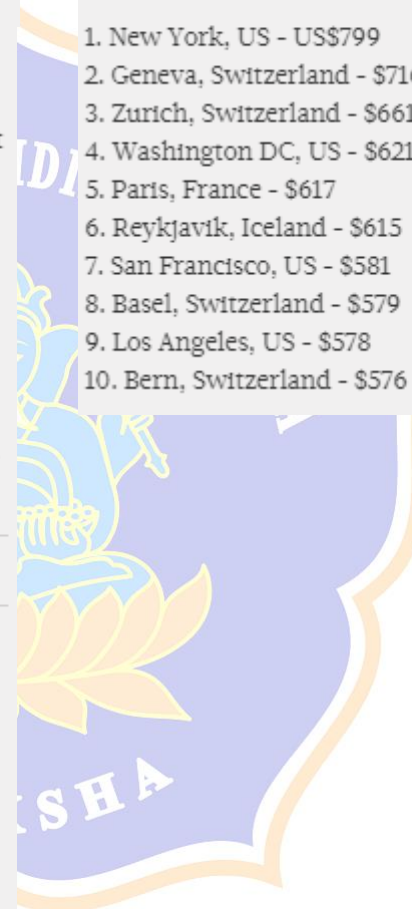
"US cities -- the dollar's being doing quite well -- have moved toward the top of the list," said an analyst at ECA International, Qasim Sarwar, adding that there was a high demand.

Another new entrant is Reykjavik, Iceland, due to the high cost of living and the connection between tourism and business. "Hotel occupancy rates have been improving [in Reykjavik] with less supply -- and demand is high there. So hotel prices have increased and that's a big part of the daily rate allowance," Sarwar explains.

Meanwhile, Geneva in Switzerland maintains its position as the most expensive city in Europe, coming in at number two on the list.

The list of priciest destinations for a traveling executive and the estimated daily rate are:

1. New York, US - US\$799
2. Geneva, Switzerland - \$716
3. Zurich, Switzerland - \$661
4. Washington DC, US - \$621
5. Paris, France - \$617
6. Reykjavik, Iceland - \$615
7. San Francisco, US - \$581
8. Basel, Switzerland - \$579
9. Los Angeles, US - \$578
10. Bern, Switzerland - \$576



## Appendix 100

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Mount Merbabu hikers now required to register online

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sun, April 28, 2019 / 03:05 pm

Hikers are required to register online before scaling Mount Merbabu in Central Java, according to the head of Mount Merbabu National Park, Johan Setiawan.

Johan said the regulation is being trialed to enforce better hiker management on Mount Merbabu.

"The move aims to control hikers' quota and data," he said on Thursday as quoted by [kompas.com](#).

Hikers can book their slots via [www.tngunungmerbabu.org](http://www.tngunungmerbabu.org). The park's management is also preparing a booking app that will be trialed soon.

"Therefore we [the management] do not have to take notes [manually] anymore; [hikers] only have to show their registration number," he said.

He said this method could help monitor and manage the number of hikers entering and exiting the hiking track in order to avoid overtourism.

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Read also: [Planning to hike Mount Ijen? You can now buy tickets online](#)

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The new method is also expected to help the management collect complete data of the hikers and their group, which will allow for easier rescue if an accident occurs.

"When they book online, they have to input the data of their hiking group members; how many people, their hiking schedule, their ID number and emergency contact number. If they input the data at home [before they arrive at the hiking post], they will have a lot of time [to fill in the data]," he said.

The online booking method is being applied on the Selo Lama track. If the trial is successful, a similar policy will be implemented on other tracks on Mount Merbabu. (gts/kes)

## Appendix 101

TRAVEL • NEWS

### St. Regis Hotels partners with storytelling company PAPINEE, reveals new character

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Sun, April 28, 2019 / 08:07 pm

St. Regis Hotels and Resorts has announced its collaboration with PAPINEE and introduced Jak, a new character made exclusively for St. Regis Hotels in the Asia-Pacific.

Through colorful animal characters and storybooks, PAPINEE's partnership aims to educate children about zoology, history, geography and world cultures.

For the collaboration, PAPINEE created Jak, a red deer with "bright eyes and a kind, friendly smile" and world traveler.

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Read also: [Hong Kong to welcome St. Regis in April](#)

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"At St. Regis, we believe that moments spent together turn into special memories forever, and there is no better way for families to spend moments together than over a storybook that opens up windows to the world. We look forward to welcoming families to St. Regis hotels, and to introducing Jak and the charming world of PAPINEE to our youngest guests," said Bruce Ryde of Marriott International Asia Pacific.

St. Regis Hotels and Resorts will launch a variety of programs and events featuring Jak. The "Stay & Play with Jak" room package, for instance, includes a one-night stay in a deluxe room for the whole family, with breakfast and themed gifts such as personalized message cards, name tags and badges, as well as a Jak cookie with milk for bedtime.

The "Gourmet Tour Sunday Brunch with Papinee" provides a culinary experience with Jak-themed dishes, DIY cookie kits and balloons. (sop/wng)



## Appendix 102

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Forum to bring Australia's island tourism experience to Lombok

NI KOMANG ERVIANI  
THE JAKARTA POST

Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara / Sun, April 28, 2019 / 08:46 pm

In a bid to strengthen the tourist industry in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, the Australian government through its Bali consulate general office is set to host the Island Tourism Forum in Mataram on Monday.

The forum aims to bring together government, academics, businesses, NGOs and communities to share experiences, encourage partnerships and explore investment and commercial possibilities related to the province.

At least 150 tourism stakeholders from Indonesia and Australia are scheduled to attend the two-day event, which is said to bring Australia's island tourism experience to Indonesia.

**Read also:** [Lombok dubbed Indonesia's best 'halal' destination](#)

Tasmania's tourism success, for instance, is set to be highlighted as a special feature. Tasmania's international tourism growth was by far Australia's strongest this year, underlining Tasmania as one of the country's most sought after holiday destinations. In 2018, Tasmania entered Australia's National Tourism Hall of Fame after winning gold in ecotourism three years in a row.

The forum will also feature some keynote speaker presentations, panel discussions, workshops, site visits, as well as networking opportunities. An exhibition will also be held, featuring some programs of local communities and NGOs, as well as some initiatives funded by the direct assistance program of the Australian Consulate General.

"As one of Indonesia's new priority tourism destinations and the gateway to the Nusa Tenggara islands, Lombok is the perfect location to engage in an island-based tourism discussion," Australian Consul General Helena Studdert said in a statement.

Studdert added that the initiative was inspired by the growing interest by Australians and Australian businesses in the tourism sector in Lombok. (kes)

## Appendix 103

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

### Koka Beach in East Nusa Tenggara promises thrilling adventure

HENGKY OLA SURYA  
THE JAKARTA POST

Maumere, East Nusa Tenggara / Mon, April 29, 2019 / 06:02 am

Of all the scenic tourist destinations across the archipelago, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) stands out for its seemingly endless wealth of natural beauty.

Although world-famous destinations such as Komodo National Park have rightfully put NTT on the global tourism map, it's the secluded beaches and caves scattered across Sikka regency that have made it a must-visit among vacationers.

Among these beaches is Koka Beach in Wolowiro village, approximately 35 kilometers from Maumere, the capital of the regency.

Koka Beach, popular among tourists as a slice of heaven on earth, is not to be mistaken as the average panoramic destination, as it boasts a host of little-known natural attractions waiting to be discovered by curious travelers.

Rodja and Ndate Sare hills, which bookend the western and eastern wings of the beach, make for a particularly memorable view. The hills make the beach seem even more like a miraculous pocket of paradise.

At the foot of Rodja hill, thrill-seekers may wish to visit a natural cave, dubbed Lia Wio, during low tide. The cave, which goes on for about 500 meters, is filled with icicle-shaped mineral formations called stalactites.

Neighboring Ndate hill is also home to unique locales. Locals have regarded the hill as a sacred place, which only grants entry to a select few. According to locals, there is a derelict Japanese military bunker from World War II at the foot of the hill.

The beach itself is a sight to behold. Astute vacationers will notice that the curves of the shoreline encircling the beach resemble the number three. The pearl-white sands, coupled with the turquoise-blue waters, make for an unforgettable panorama.

Adventurous souls may be intrigued to venture forth, crossing the beach, to visit a small island dubbed Nusa Koka. The island is said to be chock-full of mythical striped snakes. According to local folklore, the snakes are crew members of a ship that got stranded on the beach decades ago. Therefore, locals never hurt the snakes since they are said to be vessels of human souls.

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Read also: [Jakarta to host exhibition, auction of Sikka 'tenun ikat'](#)

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Sikka Tourism Agency head Kensius Didimus said that in addition to Koka, the regency boasted several other exotic beaches such as Kajuwulu, Watara and Pangabatan.

"The beaches around here are still largely untouched [by tourists]; they exude natural beauty," Kensius told *The Jakarta Post*.

He went on to say that the regency had recorded a steady increase in tourist arrivals, both domestic and international, over the years, thanks to the allure of the beaches. (rfa/mut)

## Appendix 104

TRAVEL • NEWS

# Thailand's boutique hotel brand to welcome guests in Bali

NEWS DESK  
THE JAKARTA POST

Jakarta / Mon, April 29, 2019 / 10:06 am

Thailand's luxury boutique hotel specialist Akaryn Hotel Group is set to open its first property in Indonesia in the coming months.

An hour's drive from Ubud, Aleenta Retreat Bali will offer "a spiritual sanctuary" amid the island's lush hills. A spa village and yoga resort, the establishment boasts 50 rooms, Ayurah Wellness center equipped with Balinese massages and natural therapies, an outdoor yoga area and a fitness center. Restaurants including the Pool Bar serve organic ingredients and the Galleria boutique selling local handicrafts will be available also.

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Read also: [What makes Bali hotels so popular among luxury travelers?](#)

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"Aleenta was our first brand and our pioneering resorts in Phuket and Hua Hin have become hugely popular among guests. Every Aleenta property is designed to reflect the timeless charm and character of its destination, featuring large living spaces and world-class facilities while also operating in harmony with the environment," said Akaryn Hotel Group founder and managing director Anchaliika Kijkanakorn in a statement.

"Aleenta Retreat Bali will be a fantastic addition to our portfolio; secluded, spiritual and sensual, this sublime sanctuary will allow guests to discover the true essence of the Island of the Gods."

Additionally, the company will also open a waterfront resort in Hoi An, Vietnam, named Akyra Hoi An, this year. (sop/kes)

## Appendix 105

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Island Tourism Forum seeks to renew interest in post-quake Lombok

PANCA NUGRAHA  
THE JAKARTA POST

Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara / Mon, April 29, 2019 / 05:33 pm

In an effort to bolster local tourism, the Australian consulate general in Mataram, Lombok regency, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) province launched the Island Tourism Forum (ITF) on Monday.

Australian Consul General Helena Studdert said the forum – attended by academics, industry players and members of the Indonesian government – was expected to strengthen ties between Indonesia and Australia, as well as start a discussion regarding investment opportunities in the regency.

“This meeting serves as a platform where academics, members of the government and other related stakeholders could share perspectives and experiences with each other,” she said during the launch of the ITF.

Studdert said the consulate hoped to discuss the state of local tourism in Lombok following the magnitude-5.7 earthquake that hit the region last year.

**Read also: [8 reasons to visit Lombok and the Gili Islands](#)**

“We think it’s about time we held such a discussion to kickstart initiatives and solutions in an effort to renew interest in local tourism in the regency,” she said.

She added that she expected the ITF to push for more partnerships between Australian businesses and the Indonesian government to boost tourism in Lombok.

NTB Governor Zulkieflimansyah said his administration would always ensure that the province remained investor-friendly, particularly in relation to local tourism.

“We have been trying to ensure that the NTB remains an interesting tourist destination for stakeholders to invest in,” he said, while commending the Australian government for its ITF initiative. (rfa/kes)

## Appendix 106

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Korea’s largest cruise terminal opens in Incheon

SHIN JI-HYE

THE KOREA HERALD/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

/ Tue, April 30, 2019 / 01:06 am

South Korea’s largest cruise terminal opened Friday in Songdo, an international business district within Incheon, west of Seoul, port authorities said Sunday.

Since 2013, the Incheon Port Authority had spent 28 billion won (\$24 million) to build the two-story terminal with 7,364 square meters of floor space.

“With the opening of the terminal exclusive for cruises, the port of Incheon has taken a leap forward as a cruise tourism base in Northeast Asia and as a gateway to marine transportation,” Nam Bong-hyun, head of the port authority, said Friday during an opening ceremony.

**Read also: [New to cruising? How to book the right cruise for you in 2019](#)**

On the same day the Costa Serena cruise ship, which can hold 2,800 passengers and 1,100 crew members, left the port for the southern Japanese city of Fukuoka on a six-day voyage that will end in Busan.

Six organizations signed an agreement to cooperate on the promotion of cruise tourism: the Incheon Port Authority, the local governments of Incheon city and Yeonsu district, the Korea Tourism Organization, the Incheon Tourism Organization and Lotte Tour Development.

The new terminal in Incheon is the largest cruise terminal in the nation, with the next-largest found in Busan, Seogwipo, Jeju and Sokcho. It is also the first terminal of its kind near the capital.

*This article appeared on The Korea Herald newspaper website, which is a member of Asia News Network and a media partner of The Jakarta Post*



## Appendix 107

TRAVEL • DESTINATIONS

### Tuscan paradise where da Vinci's genius bloomed

FRANCK IOVENE  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Vinci, Italy / Tue, April 30, 2019 / 06:07 am

Butterflies flutter around centuries-old olive groves in Vinci, the Tuscan village where Leonardo da Vinci was born and honed his inventor skills as a child by studying the local flora and fauna.

Locals preparing to mark the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death say little has changed among the vineyards, lush fields and brooks that appeared in his art.

The Renaissance polymath, whose most famous works include the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper but whose vast range of talents is legendary, drew lifelong inspiration from his humble rural upbringing, according to experts.

"The landscapes, impressions and interests that influenced Leonardo throughout his life remain almost intact," Roberta Barsanti, director of the Leonardian Museum of Vinci, told AFP.

"From his native house, set away from the village, we can still see the view he reproduced in 'Landscape', his earliest-known drawing, which he dated August 5, 1473," she said.

Born on April 15, 1452, from an illegitimate liaison between a notary and a teenage peasant girl, Leonardo was raised by his grandfather and uncle.

It was with them that he explored the surrounding countryside, studying and sketching insects, animals, plants and flowers.

The natural world was a rich source of ideas for the prolific and imaginative inventor, who designed machines that would only be built centuries later -- from tanks to telescopes, flying machines to scuba gear.

#### 'Language of peasants'

Da Vinci was fascinated by the mills around Vinci and the various rivers that fed them.

The Tuscan master, who left Vinci and moved some 30 kilometers (19 miles) away to the city of Florence as a teenager, would go on to study hydraulic energy and its mechanical applications, as shown in his many drawings on this subject.

Da Vinci, who would draw himself in self-portraits with a stern brow and flowing beard, also developed a passion for anatomy, architecture, music, painting and sculpture.

Experts say the rhythms of Vinci life -- and even the colloquialisms of the rural inhabitants -- echo throughout his later works.

Read also: [Picasso in Ivory Coast? A village tells of its brush with the artist](#)

"Leonardo is the expression of a territory. He has internalized many things about this land, starting with the world of peasants," said Nicola Baronti, president of the "Vinci nel cuore" (Vinci in the heart) association.

"When he draws his inventions, he uses the language of Vinci's peasants, and has thus immortalized terms still used in engineering world-wide," he added.

#### 'Secret signature'

Tourists who visit Vinci can walk the paths he trod five centuries earlier, and gaze upon the same waterfalls or vineyards.

Baronti, a local history buff, said numerous devotees had been drawn to Vinci over the centuries, including many eccentric inventors who feel an affinity with the Renaissance pioneer.

A few years ago, he said, an American dressed all in white wandered the streets of the village claiming to be in contact with da Vinci, who died on May 2, 1519.

The village takes its name from the "Vinchio" willow tree, whose soft branches were used by farmers to tie their grape vines.

The pattern of the knots typical in Tuscany since the 11th century is a familiar artistic motif -- plaster peeling off the walls in a nearby church in San Pantaleo recently revealed the ancient design beneath.

"These interlacing threads, which recall the wicker braids specific to Leonardo's native village, can be found in his paintings, even on the corsage of the Mona Lisa," Baronti said.

"It is the master's secret signature, as if he were telling us 'I left, that is true, but this is where I come from'."



## Appendix 108

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Businesswoman wins Uganda's first 'Miss Curvy' beauty contest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Kampala, Uganda / Tue, April 30, 2019 / 10:07 am

Nasasi Belinda, a Ugandan businesswoman, has won the east African country's first-ever "Miss Curvy" beauty pageant, vowing to act as a role model for other women with "plus-size" figures.

"I am going to be an inspiration," an overjoyed Belinda said after winning the title in Kampala late Friday, beating 24 other finalists for the grand prize.

"Being plus-size is not a problem," she continued. "So be happy about yourself and make sure you don't quit. Just keep going."

The pageant was part of a government campaign to attract tourists to the east African nation.

But the campaign caused controversy in February when tourism minister Godfrey Kiwanda suggested Ugandan women's curvaceous beauty was "a product to be marketed along with what we already have as a country ranging from Nature, the language and food, to make it a tourist attraction."

Women's rights activists were outraged by the comments and called for the minister to resign.

## Appendix 109

TRAVEL • NEWS

### Marriott to launch luxury home-sharing platform

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, United States / Tue, April 30, 2019 / 06:08 pm

Hotel chain Marriott International on Monday announced the launch of an online rental platform for luxury homes -- joining the likes of home-sharing giant Airbnb.

Starting next week, the group will offer around 2,000 high-end homes in certain areas of the US, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America, the US firm said in a statement.

"The launch of Homes & Villas by Marriott International reflects our ongoing commitment to innovation as consumer travel needs evolve," commercial director Stephanie Linnartz said.

The launch follows a successful pilot program, she added.

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Marriott, which owns brands including Sheraton and Ritz-Carlton, will allow customers using the new platform to earn loyalty points that can be put toward new bookings.

The firm is the first hotel group to delve into the home-sharing sector, with competitors including Hilton and Hyatt also exploring the industry, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Marriott said users of its new platform can expect to see properties such as a four-bedroom cottage in California wine country, a six-bedroom villa in Sorrento, Italy, complete with an infinity pool -- or even an 18th century Irish castle featuring a private lake.