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MOT!ON

ISSUE 16-OCT/NOV/DEC 2016

BUILDER OF HOMES AND DREAMS

SATISFY YOUR WANDERLUST

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

A publication by



KDN LICENSE NO. PP19043/06/2016(034519)



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B-30-01
The Ascent, Paradigm
No. 1, Jalan SS7/26A, Kelana Jaya
47301 Petaling Jaya
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

Printed by

Sylog Print Systems Sdn. Bhd.
No. 19 & 20, Block C, Lot 757
Jalan Subang 3
Persiaran Subang
47610 Subang Jaya
Selangor, Malaysia.

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Builder of Homes and Dreams

We would love to
hear from you.

Email us at
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To most of us, a house is not just a place to live in. A house is a home where memories are made and dreams are realised. At WCT, we understand that and that is exactly why our developments like The Azure Residences, Paradigm Petaling Jaya and d'Laman Greenville, Bukit Tinggi were the recipients of prestigious property awards. We take great pride in building homes for all walks of life. Read about WCT's 20-year journey as a property developer in our Cover Story in this issue.

In conjunction with the Deepavali celebration, we have also prepared a special feature about the colourful festival of light. Read all about it in our Lifestyle section! In our Focus section, we feature three beautiful destinations in collaboration with GOASIAPLUS, the monthly travel magazine that present you the information on travel, food, shopping and events around Asia. If you need a holiday, this is the section you should head to for inspirations!

We hope that this year has been kind to you and here's to a wonderful holiday season to you and your family.

As this is the last issue of 2016, all of us from WCT would like to wish you a colourful Deepavali celebration, a Merry Christmas, a wonderful end to 2016 and a bright start to 2017!

Till we meet in the next issue!

TONG TONG'S WONDERLAND THIRD ALBUM LAUNCH 5 June 2016

The cast of Tong Tong's Wonderland – Danny, Melissa, Sharon and Stephanie were at Paradigm Mall Petaling Jaya (PJ) for the launch of their third album. Produced by Astro Xiao Tai Yang (XTY), Tong Tong's Wonderland is a critically acclaimed Kids Singing and Dancing album.

The launch drew a large and enthusiastic crowd that comprised of children and their parents and they were entertained by performances by the cast. The winners of Kid's Talent Show 2015 were also there to entertain the crowd with beatbox, keyboard and ballet dance performances.



Tong Tong's Wonderland Third Album Launch



100,000 Fans
and Counting

100,000 FANS AND COUNTING 18 June 2016

Paradigm Mall PJ has achieved 100,000 followers on its Facebook page. To celebrate this milestone, the mall had organised an online campaign that went on for 100 hours. The mall received great response from its followers and the winner of the campaign was awarded with gifts and sponsored items from the mall's tenants.

NEW ADDITIONS TO WCT MALLS June – July 2016

Shoppers at Paradigm Mall PJ and gateway@klia2 were pleased to know that a host of new tenants has opened in the respective malls. In Paradigm Mall, new shops opened in the months of June and July are JDF Juice & Salad Bar, Pho Street, Dunlopillo, Sunday's and Komugi.

Meanwhile, gateway@klia2 welcomed myNEWS.com, PappaRich, KK Supermart and The Zon Duty Free as its latest tenants.



New Additions to WCT Malls





Bola Fever!

BOLA FEVER! 16 – 17 July 2016

It was an exciting day for the finalists at the finale of the 100PLUS Dahagakan Bola contest which took place at the Upper Atrium, Level UG of Paradigm Mall PJ. In order to be qualified and selected as one of the finalists, the participants were required to buy any 100PLUS products, fill up a contest form and submit the form with proof of purchase to 100PLUS.

During the finale, ten lucky finalists came together to battle it out for the grand prize of an all-expense-paid trip to Brazil. Shoppers also joined in the fun and participated in exciting games to win Adidas merchandise.



A BAZAAR OF A NEW KIND 21 – 25 July 2016

Travellers were in for a pleasant surprise when they arrived at Level 2 of gateway@klia2. A special Air Market Bazaar with 15 vendors showcasing unique handicrafts, cookies, cakes, home-made décor items was organised with the intention to provide an interesting and innovative shopping experience to the travellers. The bazaar received great feedback and the handmade products were the best-sellers.



A Bazaar of a New Kind

WCT & KKB JV AWARDED PAN BORNEO HIGHWAY CONTRACT 26 July 2016

WCT Berhad's 30:70 joint venture with Sarawak-based KKB Engineering Berhad (KKB) secured a contract worth approximately RM1.3 billion from Lebuhraya Borneo Utara Sdn. Bhd. for Phase 1 of the proposed development and upgrading of Pan Borneo Highway in Sarawak, Malaysia (WPC-09 for the construction of the 66km dual carriageway Sungai Arip Bridge to Bintulu Airport junction).

The Pan Borneo Highway project involves piling works, civil works which includes demolition and site clearance, earthworks, geotechnical works, drainage works, roads and paving, road furniture, miscellaneous works, lay-by and associated works, interchanges, bridge works, environmental protection and monitoring, traffic management and control, M&E and electrical infra works, relocation of existing utilities and services, routine maintenance during construction and defects liability period. This project is scheduled to be completed in 52 months.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL 30 July 2016

Over 100 hopeful applicants turned up at WCT Land Sales Gallery in Klang for the Open Day of WCT's 'Rumah Selangorku' housing development projects in Bandar Bukit Tinggi, Klang. In collaboration with Lembaga Perumahan Hartanah Selangor (LPHS), WCT Land featured Azaria Apartments, Asteria Apartments, Trifolis Apartments and Aronia Apartments. During the event day, officers from LPHS were also present to verify the relevant documents from the applicants.



Affordable Housing for All



PREMIÈRE HOTEL'S ANNUAL CYCLING EVENT 31 July 2016

Première Hotel, Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) Klang Selatan and Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD) Kuala Langat once again played host to the Klang Première Century Ride (KPCR) which saw 1,200 competitive and recreational cyclists participating in the 135km competitive route and also a 18km Fun Ride route.

The participants were flagged off from the main entrance of Première Hotel and twelve WCT employees joined in the fun by participating in the 18km Fun Ride. This annual event is part of the hotel's on-going initiative to position Klang as a destination of choice for both local and foreign tourists.



Première Hotel's Annual Cycling Event



WCT SHOWCASES AT PROPERTY EVENTS July & August 2016

WCT Land participated in two property showcases which were the Investors' Hot Picks Property Showcase 2016 held at Mid Valley Exhibition Centre from 15 till 17 July 2016 and the Property Insight Property Showcase held at Paradigm Mall PJ from 12 till 14 August 2016.

Properties on display were the Skyz Jelutong Residences, Azure Residences, Aerius Residences and WCT's latest development – Paradigm Garden City. Both events were organised by Property Insights Malaysia and participated by 30 top developers. The organiser had also arranged activities such as seminars by recognised speakers sharing investment tips and information on buying properties and also family-oriented activities such as T-Rex appearance, cotton candy giveaways and many more!



WCT Showcases at Property Events



Just Rock It at Paradigm Mall

JUST ROCK IT AT PARADIGM MALL 13 August 2016

Over 2,000 fans of Taiwanese rock band, Mayday visited Paradigm Mall PJ to purchase tickets for Mayday's "Just Rock It 2016" concert which was scheduled to be held at Stadium Merdeka Kuala Lumpur on 22 October 2016. Paradigm Mall PJ is the Official Mall for the concert. The turnout of fans was extraordinary and some fans even started queuing the night before the ticket launch!



Meeting the Heroes

MEETING THE HEROES 16 August 2016

Actors of Hong Kong action film, "Call of Heroes" – Sean Lau and Eddie Peng as well as Director Benny Chan were at the Upper Atrium, Paradigm Mall PJ to promote the new movie. During this meet & greet session, the actors played games with their fans and shared insights on the movie.



WCT HOSTS Q2 BRIEFING 24 August 2016

Over 50 analysts and fund managers were at the WCT Q2 2016 Analysts and Fund Managers Briefing held at WCT's headquarters. During the briefing, it was announced that WCT registered a net profit of RM32 million for its 2nd quarter ended 30 June 2016 and this marked a notable increase of 11% compared with a net profit of RM28.95 million registered in the same period last year.

Revenue for the quarter under review was also higher at RM581.07 million compared with RM422.3 million recorded in the 2nd quarter of the last financial year. It has been a great year for WCT with an outstanding order book of RM4.3 billion including the recently secured RM1.3 billion contract for Phase 1 of the proposed development and upgrading of Pan Borneo Highway in Sarawak, Malaysia via a 30:70 joint venture with Sarawak-based KKB Engineering Berhad (KKB).



WCT Hosts Q2 Briefing



Running with the Stars



RUNNING WITH THE STARS 28 August 2016

Astro Star Quest, Malaysia's most notable Chinese singing competition is back for another season and Paradigm Mall PJ is the proud sponsor of this annual event.

In conjunction with the singing competition, Astro organised the 5km Astro Star Quest Fun Run. The event started at 7.30am and approximately 2,000 participants were flagged off at the Concourse Entrance, Level CC of the mall.

Past participants of the Astro Star Quest such as Jym 庄靖毅, Danny 许佳麟, Peace 张治博, Apple 邱诗凌 and 赵洁莹 also gave their support by participating in the fun run. Peace 张治博 even came in third at the fun run.





The Official Launch of Waltz Residences

THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF WALTZ RESIDENCES 3 & 4 September 2016

Approximately 1,000 people turned up at the launch of Waltz Residences that was held at WCT Sales Gallery Kuala Lumpur (KL). The Waltz Residences is the first phase of luxury condominiums to be launched from the Paradigm Garden City. This urban residential retreat comprises two tower blocks with 419 units secured by a 5-tier security system.

Apart from viewing the beautifully furnished show units, visitors and children who came for the launch enjoyed fun activities such as magician and clown appearance, colouring contest, a Chinese calligraphy show, mini bouncer, inflatable slide and Première Hotel mooncake tasting session in conjunction with the Mid-Autumn Festival. Light refreshments were served and those who were there also enjoyed ice creams, popcorn and candy floss.



Recognition of Excellence

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE 23 September 2016

WCT's founder and Managing Director, Mr Taing Kim Hwa was recognised by the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) as CEO of the Year at the Malaysian Construction Industry Excellence Awards (MCIEA) 2016. This prestigious annual award is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated excellence in steering, managing, directing and moulding their company to greater heights and contributed significantly to the development of the Malaysian construction industry.

The evaluation for the award is based on the company's financial and business performance, adoption of innovative practices, commitment towards research & development and contribution to the construction industry, sustainable development, nation building and social and community projects.

Congratulations to Mr Taing!



RECOGNITIONS CORNER

Every issue, we dedicate this section in appreciating the efforts and experiences of our staff.



Bowl for Gold!

BOWL FOR GOLD! 17 July 2016

108 participants were at the U Bowl One Utama, 1 Utama Shopping Centre to compete to be the champion of WCT's 7th Bowling Competition 2016. These participants are from various WCT subsidiaries, business units and project sites and were grouped into 27 teams. The team from Première Hotel took the top spot for this annual bowling event and they received their prizes from the Senior Management team of WCT who also graced the event.



HARI RAYA CHEER AT gateway@klia2 21 July 2016

The employees of gateway@klia2 were all decked out in their finest traditional outfits and gathered at the Management Office of gateway@klia2 for a colourful Hari Raya gathering. The employees were treated to a mouth-watering feast of local delicacies and desserts and the highlights of this happy event were lucky draws, game sessions and also July birthday celebration.

Mr Vincent Chong, WCT Malls' General Manager and Mr Tian Keng Swee, gateway@klia2's Centre Manager were also present at this event. The employees enjoyed this simple get-together and it had achieved the objective of fostering team work amongst employees.



Hari Raya Cheer at gateway@klia2



Basic First Aid Training



BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING 26 & 27 July 2016

A two-day first aid training was held at WCT's property development division, WCT Land in Klang. 32 employees were selected to attend this training and they were taught ways to recognise an emergency as well as methods to administer basic first aid. The training was conducted by an external training provider, MSE Academy Sdn. Bhd.



Crime Prevention and City Survival

CRIME PREVENTION AND CITY SURVIVAL 29 July 2016

A Crime Prevention and City Survival Training was held at the Première Hotel, Klang with the aim to educate employees on personal safety measures as well as simple and effective steps to escape criminal attempts. 40 employees from WCT Land attended the training which was conducted by Master Saiful Hamiruzzaman Bin Mohd Hazir from the Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation.

The training also included a demonstration of practical self-defence techniques and the participants walked away with invaluable information and knowledge on how to defend themselves in critical situations.



A FUN DAY AT gateway@klia2 1 June 2016

30 underprivileged children from Ray of Hope Children's Home were invited to an outing at gateway@klia2. The children were transported to the mall by Aerobus, the largest bus network from KLIA/klia2. Upon arriving at gateway@klia2, the children, aged from 4 to 17 and five guardians were greeted by the management team and employees of the mall led by Mr Vincent Chong, the General Manager of WCT Malls.

They were then taken on an exclusive guided tour of the mall and followed by lunch at McDonald's where the children played games and interacted with the employees of gateway@klia2. The children also enjoyed a magic show after the meal. At the end of the event, the management of gateway@klia2 presented a cheque of RM4,000 to the children's home as well as gifts and daily necessities courtesy of the tenants in the mall.



1 SEP'16 – 4 JAN'17

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In the late 1980s, WCT shifted its focus from tin mining to construction and contracted earthwork jobs from private property developers including IOI Properties, Saujana Properties and Talam. WCT's very first project was a residential property development in Taman Mayang, Petaling Jaya. WCT was also the earthworks and building contractor for Putrajaya Holdings Sdn. Bhd. and Guthrie Property, just to name a few. In the years to come, the Group spread its wings and acquired its first plot of 347 acres of plantation land in Klang South. There is no looking back since. Here is a quick look at the Group's journey as a property developer.

1996

Acquired 347 acres of plantation land in Klang South which was later developed into Bandar Bukit Tinggi 1 (BBT 1).

1997

The first property sales launch of the integrated township of BBT 1.

1999

562 acres of land was acquired for Bandar Bukit Tinggi 2 (BBT 2). This township was launched in 2001 to great success.

2002

Property sales of RM1 billion achieved.

2003

Third land bank of 446 acres acquired for Bandar Parklands. Bandar Parklands was subsequently launched in 2005.

The Group's first venture into Property Investment and Management. The Bukit Tinggi Shopping Centre opened on 24 November 2007 and was leased to AEON (M) Berhad, AEON's largest mall in Malaysia at the time. The shopping centre has three levels of retail floors and 5,000 parking bays.



2006

WCT Land Berhad was privatised.

2008



2009

A strategic partnership was formed with Iskandar Investment Berhad (a subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Berhad) to undertake a high-rise residential development in Medini, Iskandar Malaysia.

2004

WCT Land Berhad was quoted and listed on the Main Board of Bursa Malaysia.



2007

The Group expanded its presence in Sabah by the launching of the 22 acres d'Banyan Residency @ Sutera that comprised of bungalow villas, semi-detached homes and superlink villas.



2009

The Group formed a strategic partnership with Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to undertake the development of Paradigm Petaling Jaya.

2010

Première Hotel, a 4-star business class hotel in Klang South opened its doors for business.



1Medini Residences, the Group's first property in Medini, Iskandar Malaysia Johor was launched. This project was fully sold within the same year and was handed over to the owners in June 2015. The two residential blocks are fronted by

- 18 Garden Villas on the 3rd Floor
- Office units on the 1st and 2nd Floor
- 16 retail spaces at the Ground Floor
- The office units and retail spaces forms 1Medini Hub



FEBRUARY

2012

2013

Medini Signature was launched following the success of 1Medini Residences. The project is scheduled to be handed over in end 2016.

APRIL

2014

Skyz Jelutong Residences in Bukit Jelutong, Shah Alam was launched.

SEPTEMBER

2014

The Azure Residences at Paradigm Petaling Jaya, Selangor was launched.

OCTOBER

2014

Four pieces of land totalling 220.7 acres were acquired by WCT in Serendah, Hulu Langat, Selangor. The land is adjacent to the Group's existing Serendah land.

2012

MAY

Paradigm Mall Petaling Jaya, Selangor; the Group's second retail mall was opened.



2014

Q1

Paradigm Johor Bahru commenced construction.

2014

MAY

The Group's third retail project, gateway@klia2 was opened. This shopping mall within the airport is part of the Group's long-term concession with Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad.





**MARCH
2015**

The *Rumah Selangorku* programme in Bandar Parklands and Bandar Bukit Tinggi 2 was launched and officiated.

**MAY
2015**

d'Laman Greenville luxury homes in Klang South was launched.

The Group acquired 1.65 acres of freehold land at the Tun Razak Exchange (TRX) slated for a high-end serviced apartment development.

**OCTOBER
2015**

The confirmation of the LRT 3 linking Bukit Tinggi Shopping Centre (AEON Bukit Tinggi) directly to One Utama Shopping Centre, Bandar Utama further elevates Bandar Bukit Tinggi as prime investment location. This RM9 billion LRT project transformed BBT into a Transit Orientated Township. WCT's BBT and Bandar Parklands integrated townships will be served by Tesco Bukit Tinggi LRT Station, AEON Bukit Tinggi LRT Station and Johan Setia (Bandar Parklands) LRT Station.



**2015
FEBRUARY**

WCT's 13,000 sq ft WCT Sales Village in Medini, Iskandar Malaysia, Johor was officially opened.



**2015
MAY**

The Highly Commended – Residential High-rise Architecture Malaysia for The Azure Residences Paradigm PJ at the Asia Pacific Property Awards 2015 – 2016 was awarded to WCT Land Sdn. Bhd. This is its first award.

**2015
JUNE**

The Ascent, Paradigm Petaling Jaya, the Group's first corporate tower and headquarters, was officially opened. The tower's first anchor tenant, DKSH took up seven floors amounting to 120,000 sq ft. The occupancy rate of The Ascent is 70% to date.



2016



The Top 10 Developers Award was awarded to WCT Land at the Property Insight Prestigious Developers Awards (PIPDA) 2016.

**1 APRIL
2016**



Completion of the 9-storey corporate offices at The Landmark, WCT's corporate hub in Klang.

**JULY
2016**

Waltz Residences, Paradigm Garden City, OUG, Kuala Lumpur was launched.

**SEPTEMBER
2016**

**2016
MARCH**



Opening of the WCT Sales Gallery (KL), a 16,000 sq ft standalone building to complement the Paradigm Garden City development marked the Group's entry in KL South.

**2016
8 APRIL**



WCT Land received two prestigious awards at the Asia Pacific Property Award (APPA) 2016 – 2017 for the d'Laman Greenville, Klang Development. They were the 5-star – Best Residential Development Malaysia and Highly Commended – Architecture Multiple Residence Malaysia.

The Group's achievements as a property developer exceeded expectations and the Group aims to continue expanding its profile in 2017 and beyond.

Property Projects (Launched) 31 Mar 2016

No.	Project	Location	Development Type	Land Area (Acre)	Land Developed (Acre)	Status	GDV (RM'mil)	Sales to Date (RM'mil)
1.	Bandar Bukit Tinggi 1	Klang, Selangor	Integrated Township	347	330	Freehold	2,000	1,100
2.	Bandar Bukit Tinggi 2	Klang, Selangor	Integrated Township	562	542	Freehold	3,000	1,900
3.	Bandar Parklands	Klang, Selangor	Integrated Township	446	361	Freehold	5,700	1,300
4.	d'Banyan Residency	Kota Kinabalu, Sabah	Luxury Homes	22	22	Leasehold	270	260
5.	1Medini Residences	Medini, Iskandar	High-rise Residential	11	11	Leasehold	900	500
6.	d'Laman Greenville	Klang South, Selangor	Luxury Homes	56	56	Freehold	700	190
7.	Skyz Jelutong	Shah Alam, Selangor	High-rise Residential	2	2	Freehold	160	33
8.	The Azure Residences	Petaling Jaya, Selangor	High-rise Residential	2	2	Leasehold	520	100
9.	Waltz Residences	OUG, KL	High-rise Residential	63	2	Freehold	440	80
Total				1,511	1,328		13,690	5,463

Land Bank (Future Launches) 31 Mar 2016

Location	Land Bank (Acre)	Outstanding Land (Acre)	Status
Integrated Township			
Bandar Bukit Tinggi 1 & 2 and Parklands, Klang	1,355	121	Freehold
Rawang, Selangor	609	609	Freehold
Luxury Homes			
Inanam, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah	22	22	Leasehold
Industrial			
Serendah, Selangor	39	39	Leasehold
Rawang, Selangor	50	50	Freehold
Mix-Commercial			
Medini Business District, Iskandar Malaysia	20.8	20.8	Leasehold
A60 – Medini North, Iskandar Malaysia	18	18	Leasehold
OUG, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	62.55	62.55	Freehold
Jalan Skudai, Johor Bahru, Malaysia	12	12	Freehold
TRX, Kuala Lumpur	1.65	1.65	Freehold
Total	2,190	954	



A LANDMARK OF ICONIC LIFESTYLE

Paradigm Garden City is transforming OUG KL into Klang Valley's next lifestyle destination. Poised to be the first 4-in-1 integrated development in OUG, Paradigm Garden City is the first modern lifestyle hub with Paradigm Mall KL as its vibrant epicentre, surrounded by residential, corporate tower and hotel components.

Experience Paradigm Garden City's first lifestyle elegance at Waltz Residences, an iconic freehold residences where 419 units of effortlessly refined luxury are crafted for you at the 38 and 33 floors of the North and South Towers respectively.

Newly Launched

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RESIDENCES

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MALL KL

PROPOSED
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PROPOSED
RESIDENCES

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Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
Tel: +(603) 3324 3255 Fax: +(603) 3324 3257
Email: wctsales@wct.my

www.paradimggardencity.com

WCT Sales Gallery (KL)



Lot PT 15210, Jalan Awan Besar,
58200 OUG, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: +(603) 7971 8333 Fax: +(603) 7971 9898

www.waltzresidences.com

Developed by: WCT OUG Development Sdn Bhd (14216-V) No. 63, Lorong Batu Nilam 1A, Bandar Bukit Tinggi 41200 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia. Developers License: 14379-1/06-2018/0414(L). Advertising & Sale Permit: 14379-1/06-2018/0414(P). Validity Period: 3 June 2016 - 2 June 2018. Approval Authority: DBKL. Building Plan Approval Number: BP 93 OGC 2015 1005. Land Encumbrances: None. Tenure of Land: Freehold. Total Units: 419 Units. Expected Completion: July 2020. Selling Price: Min. RM774,000 - Max. RM3,841,000. Car Park Bay: 1 Unit: 2 Bays. Bumiputera Discount: 5%. Restriction in Interest: NIL. Type of Property: Condominium. Disclaimer: All information contained herein (including all illustrations and all proposed designs, layouts and/or developments) are subject to amendments, variations, modifications and/or substitutions without notification as may be required or recommended by the relevant authorities or developer's consultants and it is not intended to form and cannot form part of any offer or contract. While every reasonable care has been taken in preparing and/or presenting this information, the developer cannot be held liable for any variation or inaccuracy.

Satisfy Your Wanderlust

It is the end of the year and the best season to take a break and travel. Doing research on your travel destination may be a pain but do you know that there may just be a solution to your headaches? In this issue, we share three interesting Asian destinations as featured on www.goasiaplus.com

GOASIAPLUS is a monthly travel magazine featuring stories in the realm of travel, food, shopping and events around Asia. It is available in both print and online. Its printed copies are available in all Aerobus shuttles departing from KLIA and klia2 with an upwards of 200,000 monthly passengers. The magazine can also be found in newsstands around klia2.

GO ASIA PLUS

Busan, South Korea

The port town of South Korea is a charming mix of metropolitan and nature, making it a seaside city reminiscent of San Francisco.

Busan, South Korea.

HOW TO GET AROUND

Air carriers like AirAsia X and Korean Air have flights that land in Gimhae International Airport. There are also frequent flights from Seoul that run every hour and a half. The best way to get around Busan is by subway where a one-day pass will cost 4,500 won per person.

WHAT TO DO

Nature lovers must visit Taejongdae Park which is an hour away from the city. Take the Danubi Train that will pass by five major destinations in the park. The cliffside scenery at the Yeongdo Lighthouse will take your breath away.

A village steeped with history and art is Gamcheon Cultural Village with its tiered layout and colourful houses. Follow the painted fishes on the house walls to find your way and take the time to reach the old hot spring building (no hot springs though) to get the best panoramic view of the village.

WHERE TO STAY

A quaint boutique hotel in the city is Home Hotel which is just a 5-minute walk to the subway station and offers complimentary WiFi and free locker use in the reception area. The location is gold because it is close to shopping havens like Lotte Department Store and First Avenue. Beach bummers can try the Hotel Ciel de Mer Haeundae just a stone's throw away from the beach and a 10-minutes to the Busan Aquarium.

WHAT TO EAT

Port town equals to fresh seafood so head over to Jagalchi Fish Market and then to the Jagalchi restaurant where you choose the freshest catch and see it cooked to your preference. Never doubt the food halls of South Korea and the one at the Lotte Department Store in Gwangbok will have you salivating with dishes like pan-fried mandu (dumplings) with kimchi filling and chapssaltteok (mochi rice cakes).

[TIPS]

- Busan is home to the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) which is the Asian version of Cannes Film Festival. Check their website for dates if you want to rub shoulders with the famous. www.biff.kr
- Visit the Haedong Yonggung Temple by the sea that features stone figures representing the zodiac signs and a golden Buddha.
- Stop at Gwangsan Station at night for a picturesque view of the 7.4km long Busan Gwangandaegyo Bridge decorated with lights suitable to its nickname, Diamond Bridge.

Source of information: www.goasiaplus.com/road-less-taken-busan-south-korea/



Lamma Island

Hong Kong

Set aside the sky grazing high-rises and the bustling bargaining markets as we take a look at a more relaxed part of Hong Kong. Hiking boots are on the ready!

Kennedy Town

If you are looking for a port town with an abundance of chic hipster-like eateries and industrial settings that are totally Instagram-worthy, Kennedy Town is your best bet.

Grab a hefty side of homemade burger and pair them with interesting choices of beer at the Beeper gastropub. Their new restaurant overlooks the water making it a cool hangout spot to shoot some pool and watch some football games. For a light snack in a minimalist space while shopping for some home goods and apparel, Ethos at Hill Road is the place to chill for the artistic soul.

Shutter bugs looking for a scenic view or an Instagram-pretty shot can head to Sai Wan Swimming Shed that looks like a gloomy jetty in a Scorsese thriller but has become quite a photography spot. Another location that doubles as a gorgeous spot to watch the sun down and Kowloon cityscape is Instagram Pier (legitimate name).

Lamma Island

It is hard to believe that Lamma Island off the coast of Hong Kong has absolutely no cars when the main city is bustling with four-wheeled vehicles and fast trains. I guess it's the appeal of the place, a sort of calmer oasis from the metropolis.

The short ferry ride from Central Pier 4 or Aberdeen is a beautiful journey to enjoy the harbour activity as the vessel takes you to the main villages of Lamma Island, Yung Shue Wan or Sok Kwu Wan.

Yung Shue Wan is home to the popular family trail where hikers can take a light four kilometre stroll to see the hidden wonders of the island that includes a pavilion with panoramic viewpoints of the coastline and Mount Stenhouse. You will also pass a scenic cove that lies on the Lo So Shing beach for a quick sunbath.

After all that hiking, the Sok Kwu Wan waterfront will regale you with some of the best seafood in Hong Kong thanks to its neighbouring fishing villages. Try Fu Kee Seafood or Rainbow Seafood Restaurant to get a scrumptious fix of lobster and prawns.

Source of information:

www.goasiaplus.com/6412-2/

www.goasiaplus.com/the-calmer-side-of-hong-kong-part-2/



Sai Kung

Sai Kung

The New Territories of Hong Kong features quaint seaside towns like Sai Kung that offer a host of activities for nature lovers. Sai Kung's Volcanic Region are 140 million years in the making with oddly sharp protruding rocks that you have to see to believe.

The hiking does not stop at Lamma Island as trekkers can take the Tai Long Wan hiking trail that leads to the stunning beach gems like Tai Wan beach where you can get your surf on. Yes, one can surf in Hong Kong.

Further down the Tai Long Wan trail are the Sheung Luk Streams for daredevils that thrive on the adrenaline of cliff-jumping. It will extend the hiking by an addition hour or two but is a must see place during the summer.

If you are not much of a hiker but still want to experience the secluded beaches, try Long Ke Wan beach where you can reach via MTR and then taxi ride.



Kennedy Town

Where It Is

Thale Noi ('Small Sea') is a lake in southern Thailand, famous for its sea of lotus flowers and waterfowl reserve protected under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Thale Noi Waterfowl Park is the largest of its kind in Thailand, covering 450 square km and serves as a habitat for over 180 species of birds and plants. Some birds live here throughout the year but come winter, migratory species from as far away as Siberia begin their long flight to Thale Noi.

How To Get Around

Thale Noi is accessible from both the Songkhla and Phattalung districts- you can rent a car from Ranot, Sathing Phra and Mueang (Songkhla) or Pak Phayun and Khuan Khanun (Phattalung). One option is to take Highway no. 4048 from Muang District to Khanun and onward to Thale Noi, a journey of 32km.

If you want to try the local trains, get down at Pak Khlong station and travel the remaining eight kilometres by taxi to Thale Noi. Once you reach the Thale Noi pier, you'll see boats waiting to take people around the lake. Boats are available for 1-2 hour trips for 450 baht a ride.

What To Eat

Since Thale Noi is located in southern Thailand, you can be sure there will be an abundance of fresh seafood. You'll see plenty of restaurants in Khuan Khanun where Thale Noi is located, as well as in Amphoe Muang Phattalung nearby. Look out for the usual suspects like tom yam goong, fried fish, fried squid and chicken with basil.

What To Do

The Thale Noi Waterfowl Park is open daily from 8am-5pm, for enquiries call +667468 5239. Here you take a boat ride, walk around the lake or visit the surrounding towns.

If you have a particular interest in the waterfowls and would like to conduct research, you will need to hire a guide at the centre.

Thale Noi, Thailand

Hidden gems are those points on a map that few people know about. They're worth a visit yet unknown to many, which is a good thing: You get to see something truly unique without having to deal with the crowds.



Thale Noi



Thale Noi Waterfowl Park



Fried Seafood at Amphoe Muang Phattalung.

Where To Shop

You might have some difficulty finding large stores in this part of Thailand, but that's why you came here, right? Having said that, you will see plenty of family-run souvenir shops, stalls and markets as well as 7-Elevens, attractions in themselves in Thailand. There is a row of shops right in front of the Thale Noi pier, where you can buy souvenirs, food and drinks.

Where To Stay

There are two options - guesthouses or hotels. Guesthouses such as Baan Taweesuuk and Baan Laan Buweh are located along the lakefront, with rooms ranging from 500 baht to 750 baht. If you're looking for something a little more upmarket, head to the Lampam Resort and Hotel in Amphoe Muang Phattalung, a 15-minute drive from Thale Noi. There are various rooms to suit different budgets, priced from 500 baht to 1,800 baht.

[TIPS]

- The months from May to August are the hottest in southern Thailand, so you may want to avoid going to Thale Noi then. As for rain, the months from October to December have the heaviest rainfall and are not recommended for travel in this area.
- The best time to visit appears to be from January to March when the weather isn't too hot and when the lotus flowers at the Thale Noi Waterfowl Park are at their prettiest.
- Note that if you are love photography or interested in studying the wildlife in the area, bird populations expand significantly from November-February.
- A supply of drinking water is essential, as is a good pair of walking shoes or sandals.

Source of information:
www.goasiaplus.com/the-road-less-travelled-thale-noi-

Festival of Lights

Deepavali, or also known as “The Festival of Lights” is observed by Hindus around the world and the term actually means rows of lights or lamps. This colourful festival is celebrated on the Hindu month of Aippasi, the seventh month¹ of the Hindu calendar and while celebrations typically extend over a five day period, the main festival night of Deepavali coincides with the darkest new moon night.²

It is said that there are many different stories about the origin of the festival but in Malaysia, Deepavali is celebrated to remember the day Lord Krishna killed the evil demon Narakasura, symbolising the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.³ Deepavali is usually celebrated between October and November in the Gregorian calendar. This year, Deepavali will fall on 29 October.

Did you know?

Deepavali and Diwali may mean the same thing but Deepavali is celebrated by Southern Indians in remembrance of Lord Krishna's victory of Narakasura and Diwali is celebrated by Northern Indians in remembrance of Lord Ram's arrival to Ayodhya after the victory over Ravana.⁴

Source of information:

¹ www.malaysiasite.nl/deepavali.htm

² en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diwali#Malaysia

³ my.theasianparent.com/celebrating-deepavali-in-malaysia/

⁴ www.quora.com/What-are-the-similarities-and-differences-between-Diwali-and-Deepavali

Preparations of Deepavali



As with all celebrations, a clean and bright house is very important during Deepavali¹ as it is said that a clean house

is important to invite Goddess Lakshmi. It is a common belief that the Goddess Lakshmi, who is also Goddess of wealth and fortune, will grace clean and nicely decorated homes.² This is also why colourful Kolams or Rangolis are found in front of houses and business premises.

Kolams and Rangolis are usually drawn by female members of the family. Kolam designs are geometrical line drawings made of curved loops drawn around a grid pattern of dots using rice flour and chalk.³ Rangolis on the other hand, are simple geometric shapes, deity impressions or flower and petal shapes drawn using coloured rice, dry flour, coloured sand and flower petals.⁴ These colourful patterns are usually passed down from generation to generation and is unique to every family.

Source of information:

¹ vulcanpost.com/444321/8-things-know-diwali-celebrations/

² www.quora.com/What-is-the-significance-of-cleaning-our-houses-in-diwali

³ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolam

⁴ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rangoli

Celebrating The Festival of Lights

On the first day of Deepavali, Hindus wake up before sunrise to perform the first ritual of the festival. *Abhyanga snan*, or an herbal oil bath to represent washing away one's past sins. To perform the *Abhyanga snan*, sesame oil is massaged onto the whole body and is left to be absorbed into the skin. A few drops of sesame oil will also be applied onto the scalp. After half an hour, the oil will be washed off and a concoction known as *ubtan* will be massaged onto the body.¹ The Hindus will then bath as usual after this step. This ritual is also said to help increase blood circulation and give your skin a healthy glow.

After performing the *Abhyanga snan* ritual, devotees will dress in their traditional outfits. Ladies will wear elegant sarees and men will be dressed up in kurtas or dhoti. Ladies will also be decked out in their finest accessories. After getting ready, the family will perform prayers at home and then at the temple.²

After performing the necessary prayers, families will also take the opportunity to visit friends and attend open houses.

Food During Deepavali

Walk into an open house during Deepavali and you will be greeted with an array of delicious Indian sweets and desserts.¹

Prepared before the big day, delicious morsels of sweets also known as *Mithai* (or sweets in wrappers) are nibbled on throughout the day. *Mithai* is usually made from chickpea flour, rice flour, semolina, various beans, lentils, grains and are topped with nuts like pistachios, cashew nuts and almonds. Other favourites include *gulab jamun* which is made from milk solids and cheese and soaked in a rose flavoured syrup; *jalebi*, a deep fried fermented batter of wheat flour and yogurt and then soaked in sugar syrup and *murukku*, a crunchy snack made from rice flour and *urad dhal* flour.²

These tasty treats are a must-have every Deepavali, so do make it a point to give them a try if you have not done so!

WCT wishes all readers a Happy Deepavali or "Deepavali Valthukal"!

Source of information:

¹ www.thehealthsite.com/diseases-conditions/significance-of-abhyanga-snan-holy-bath-during-diwali-b1115/

² www.my.theasianparent.com/celebrating-deepavali-in-malaysia/

Source of information:

¹ www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/wordofmouth/2011/oct/25/whats-eaten-at-diwali

² www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_sweets



happy
deepavali

May this Festival of Lights Bring Love,
Joy, Warmth and Peace

From all of us at



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