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Sabah on tour in Uzbekistan



VIETNAM

PANDAW

Where next? AI comes to the rescue

Harnessing the power of AI and its flight search database of more than 18 million flight routes, global travel app Skyscanner has launched its app-exclusive Savvy Search tool.

Savvy Search is an update to Skyscanner's AI tool, initially introduced last year in beta as 'Dream and Discover with AI'. Following a successful testing phase, it has now been released exclusively as an app feature...

India's IndiGo seals A350 deal

India-based IndiGo has placed a firm order for 30 Airbus A350-900 aircraft, a crucial step in expanding the airline's international network to long-haul destinations.

India, the world's fastest-growing major aviation market, is on the verge of an international travel boom as the economy grows and household incomes rise. The A350 is well-positioned to serve the country's...

Iberojet ready to fly to Bangkok

Spanish low-cost airline Iberojet promotes its new service on Facebook, starting on 30 May between Madrid and Bangkok.

According to the airline's Facebook promotions, sales officially opened on 24 May, but reservations remained closed just days before the launch date end of May. However, a Skyscanner search on the evening of 27...

Steady recovery for airline connectivity

Connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region, which has faced significant challenges, is rebounding swiftly during the first quarter of 2024, ForwardKeys' Director of Intelligence & Marketing, Olivier Ponti, reports in the research company's latest Asia Pacific Travel Trends analysis.

Chinese outbound travel during the recent Labour Day holiday indicates a 16% decrease compared to the levels...

ITB Asia buyer registration opens

Buyer registration has opened for ITB Asia, co-located with MICE Show Asia and Travel Tech Asia, scheduled from 23 to 25 October 2024 at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.

Around 1,300 buyers will qualify to attend, gaining access to pre-scheduled meetings with exhibitors and buyers-only events. They can also attend...

Taylor Swift shakes up hotel revenue

Six Taylor Swift concerts hosted in Singapore delivered the highest March average daily rate (ADR) for hotels and pushed revenue per available room (RevPAR) to a new record, according to preliminary data from CoStar.

CoStar, a leading provider of online real estate marketplaces, information, and analytics in the property markets, released details yesterday...

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Centara Ayutthaya General Manager Sakchai Puiphunhawong emphasised: “Ayutthaya continues to have high potential as a travel and MICE destination with temples and the UNESCO-listed Historic City of Ayutthaya remaining the key tourist attractions. The timeless city of Ayutthaya continues to attract travellers, especially local weekenders, who visit to enjoy a wide range of recreational activities.

Since its launch early this year, the hotel has seen 70% domestic travellers and guests from Asia and Europe. The hotel has seen continuous month-on-month growth in both leisure and MICE segments and anticipates a more diverse international mix of the international market after the fourth quarter.”

To enhance the visitor experience through overnight stays in Ayutthaya, the Centara lifestyle touches are reflected in the interior design and blend with the city’s historical charm. Standing tall as the highest building in Ayutthaya town, the property features a rooftop infinity pool. It offers panoramic skyline views for guests as they unwind in the pool or enjoy the fitness centre’s top-rated gear that caters to serious fitness enthusiasts. At its all-day dining restaurant, guests can enjoy an afternoon tea set, showcasing delectable Thai desserts artfully presented for a taste of Thai culture.

Accommodating a diverse range of guests, the hotel even welcomes pet parents to enjoy a break in Ayutthaya with their furry companions tagging along without their pet having to comply with any weight restrictions. This pet-friendly stance means a dedicated floor with pet-friendly rooms,



an indoor and outdoor pet-friendly café and restaurant, and menus crafted specifically for pets.

With three function spaces, the hotel can accommodate events ranging from board-style meetings to larger gatherings of up to 250 delegates.

Additionally, the hotel’s co-location with the Central Ayutthaya Mall provides guests with direct access to shopping, dining, and lifestyle events on the mall’s doorstep.

Opting for an overnight stay in Ayutthaya enhances the experience beyond a day trip. With rooms featuring day beds ideal for families, an overnight stay in Ayutthaya allows relaxing and



enjoying views of sunrise and sunset over the city, often missed on a day trip. Having ample time to explore the historic city’s attractions without feeling rushed, guests can fully enjoy Ayutthaya.

Historical Treasures and Trendy Pleasures

Ayutthaya offers a perfect photo backdrop that includes historical and lifestyle options. Step into a world of colour and tradition with a traditional costume guaranteed to add a touch of magic to social media snaps. For Thais, the trend took off years ago following a popular Thai period drama, and it has been followed by tourists retracing ‘Lisa’s’ footsteps during her visit to Ayutthaya with family. A snapshot of her wearing Pha Tung, a sarong skirt in an ancient temple, received more than 11.4 million Likes on Instagram...

[Read more...](#)

Exploring Ayutthaya’s charm with Centara



Home to a famous UNESCO World Heritage historical park, Ayutthaya promises an immersive and unforgettable experience for history enthusiasts, temple explorers, Instagrammers, food lovers, and cafe aficionados. Stay for an overnight or more to discover this captivating historical town with its timeless charm.

When exploring Thailand’s rich cultural heritage, the ancient city of Ayutthaya stands out as a must-visit destination. Located just 80 km north of Bangkok on the banks of a Chao Phraya River island, this historical gem is a popular day trip for many visitors. Weekenders often come here to escape Bangkok, have a family lunch, spend leisure time with friends, and capture perfect photo backdrops for their social media accounts.

Enhancing the Ayutthaya experience, the recently opened hotel, Centara Ayutthaya, adds fresh insights and nuances for travellers exploring Ayutthaya, providing modern lifestyle comforts infused with the local charm that creates an immersive experience to enjoy even more of this captivating city.

Situated adjacent to the Central Ayutthaya Mall, Centara Ayutthaya is the first international hospitality brand to open in Ayutthaya. It offers 224 rooms and suites and function rooms catering to family occasions and business events, especially corporate meetings.

Luxury cruise anchors in Langkawi

Langkawi Island extended a warm welcome to the luxury cruise ship, The World, Residences at Sea, which made its inaugural docking at the island's cruise terminal on 15 May.

This highly anticipated visit marks a significant milestone. The World Residences at Sea becomes the 32nd cruise ship to visit Langkawi's waters, contributing to the island's growing reputation as a premier luxury travel destination.

Langkawi stepped up for the occasion by hosting a welcoming ceremony to commemorate the special occasion.

In 2023, Langkawi experienced a remarkable resurgence in tourism, as the resort island witnessed a substantial increase in visitors flocking to its shores. Enhanced connectivity, including improved air and ferry services, has made Langkawi more accessible. Three ports facilitate travel: Telaga Terminal at Telaga Harbour Marina, Pantai Kok, Kuah Jetty, and Langkawi Cruise Terminal, which caters to superyachts and large cruise ships.

Langkawi saw a significant rise in visitors aboard cruise ships visiting the island in 2023. The total number of cruise visitors reached 31,456, with December contributing 21,727 visitors and November 6,969, delivering a substantial increase compared to 3,261 cruise visitors in 2022.

The Langkawi Cruise Terminal, recognised for hosting major cruise lines, serves as a gateway to Langkawi's wonders. While public transport options remain limited, five-star hotels extend



Langkawi cultural welcome for the inaugural The World visit.

chauffeur services to their guests, ensuring seamless transitions from ship to shoreline resorts.

The World is renowned for its super luxury experience, focusing on lifestyle, community and adventure integrated into one luxurious voyage. In its website publicity, it is branded as "the largest privately owned residential mega yacht on Earth."

On arrival at the cruise terminal, residents aboard The World awakened to breathtaking views of Langkawi's 99 magical islands and its UNESCO Global Geopark.

Since its maiden voyage in 2002, The World has redefined luxury travel with its continuous worldwide itinerary, spanning over 1,000 ports of call in more than 120 countries.

With 165 residences onboard

offering spacious living and facilities, the ship features a spa, fitness centre, and multiple dining options.

The World is also visiting Singapore for a four-day stay as part of its Asian journey, which features ports of call in India, Myanmar, and Malaysia. After Singapore, The World will set sail for Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

The World's visit to Langkawi reaffirms the island's status as a must-visit destination for luxury travellers. Langkawi's allure extends beyond luxury; it boasts ultra-cheap duty-free shopping, fascinating legends, and captivating natural wonders. From eagle viewpoints to pristine beaches, every stop promises a unique experience, whether indulging in local cuisine or seeking familiar comforts.



Escape Awaits at Dusit 75th celebration



Dusit Hotels and Resorts, the hotel arm of Dusit International, a leading hotel and property development group headquartered in Thailand, celebrates 75 years of Thai-inspired gracious hospitality by introducing 'The Art of Travel' campaign.

The special features exclusive offers at selected Dusit properties across Thailand, Japan, the Maldives, China, and beyond, supported by a social media contest offering free stays plus pocket money at any Dusit hotel and resort worldwide.

The first offer of the campaign — Delight in Your Getaway — includes up to 10% discount on room rates and up to 30% complimentary hotel credit to spend on dining and spa treatments. The offer is available on direct bookings via dusit.com only from now until 10 June 2024 and for stay dates until 10

July 2024. Rates start from only THB1,290 per night.

Members of Dusit's guest recognition programme, Dusit Gold, enjoy additional privileges when booking the offer, including an extra 10 per cent off their stay, Dusit Instant Delight rewards, and other exclusive benefits. Enrolment to the programme is free via dusit.com/gold.

In addition to the special offer, Dusit has launched an interactive contest on Instagram called Which Escape Awaits? This invites participants to use Dusit's exclusive AR filters and create a public Reel sharing their dream Dusit property and why they want to visit.

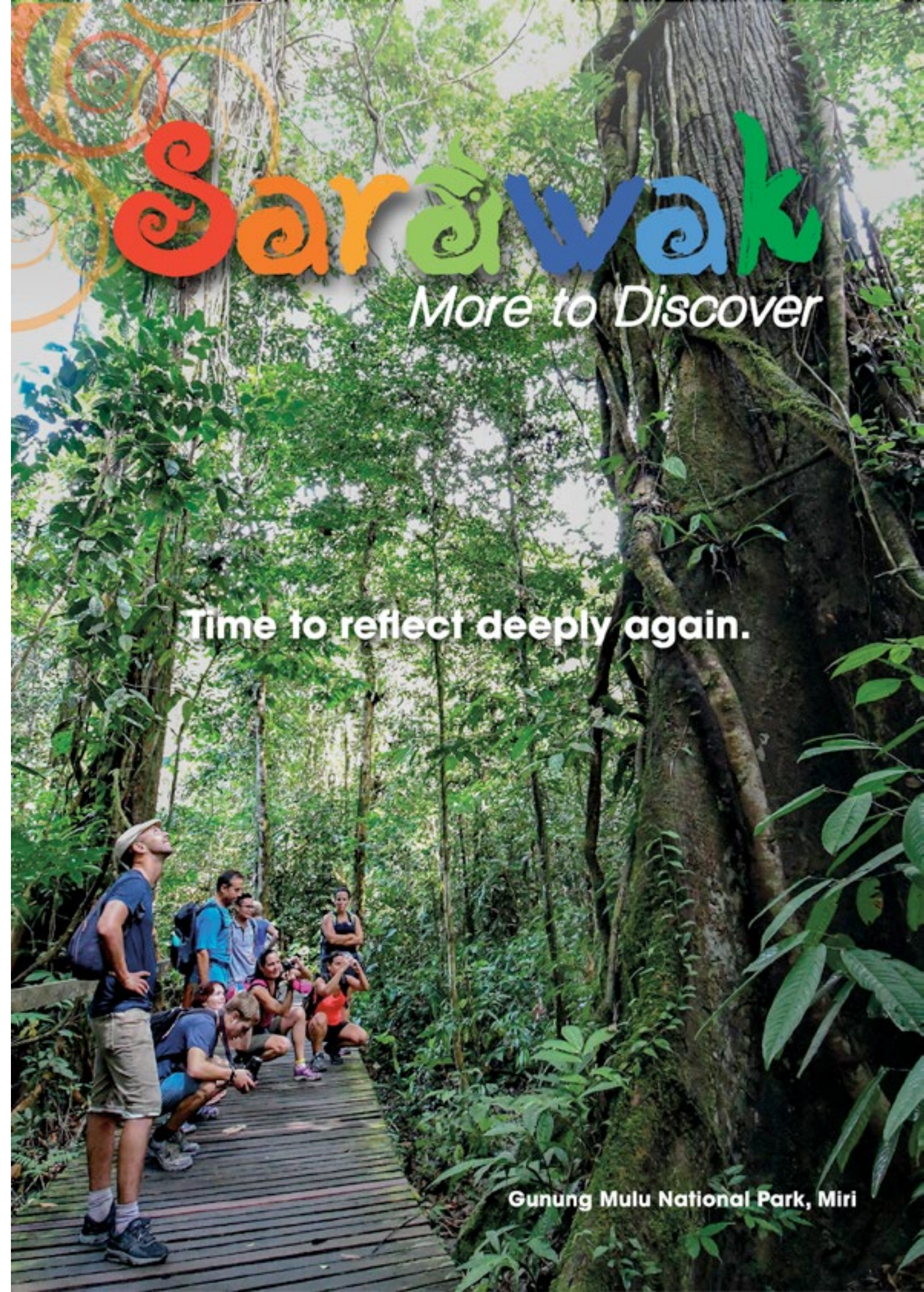
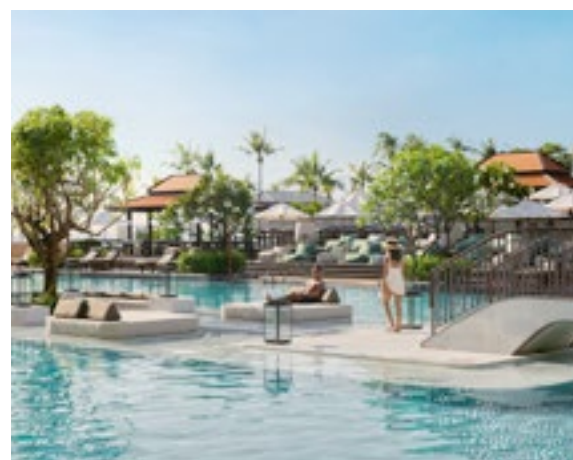
Entry also requires including #DusitEscape and @Dusit.Hotels within the caption. Seventeen winners will be chosen, with the grand prize offering a five-night stay at any Dusit hotel or resort worldwide and USD1,500 in

spending money. The contest runs until 15 July 2024, and winners will be announced on 30 July.

Drawing on 75 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Dusit traces its origins back to 1948, when Founder and Honorary Chairperson Thanpuying Chanut Piyaoui began working on her first hotel, the Princess, which opened on Bangkok's Charoenkrung Road in 1949.

Dusit's portfolio now includes 299 properties operating across 18 countries, including 56 properties operating under Dusit Hotels and Resorts and 243 luxury villas under Elite Havens, the leading provider of luxury villa rentals in Asia, which Dusit acquired in September 2018. More than 60 Dusit Hotels and Resorts are in the pipeline.

Further special offers under The Art of Travel will be introduced throughout the year. For more information, visit dusit.com/hotel-deals.



Sarawak
More to Discover

Time to reflect deeply again.

Gunung Mulu National Park, Miri

Sabah on tour in Uzbekistan



Sabah Tourism Board, in collaboration with Batik Air and Fun Holiday, hosted a roadshow in Uzbekistan, targeting Uzbekistan residents seeking new Muslim-friendly destinations.

The roadshow toured the historic cities of Samarkand and Tashkent, hosting events that drew 250 participants from both cities. Team Sabah promoted the state's top attractions, focusing resorts on islands and near beaches and rivers.

Uzbekistan nationals are exploring fresh holiday destinations beyond the traditional favourites of the past, such as Turkey, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Recognising this growing interest, the Sabah Tourism Board is seizing the opportunity to showcase Sabah's unparalleled beauty and hospitality that awaits Uzbekistan travellers.

With two airlines offering direct flights from Tashkent to Kuala Lumpur — Batik Air and Uzbekistan Airways — accessibility to Sabah has never been easier for Uzbekistan tourists. Furthermore, the Sabah Tourism Board initiated discussions with Samarkand Airways, the Tashkent Tourism Authority, and the Samarkand Tourism Authority to explore avenues for cross-promotion to enhance the visibility of Sabah as a preferred destination among Uzbekistan travellers.

This roadshow marks a significant milestone in Sabah's tourism initiatives. It started with Datuk Joniston Bangkui, Sabah's Assistant Minister of Tourism Culture and Environment and Sabah Tourism Board, who led a delegation to Uzbekistan in October last year that paved

the way to seal partnerships between Sabah and Uzbekistan.

Additionally, Exclusive Travel, an Uzbekistan-based travel wholesaler is partnering with Fun Holiday and Batik Air, to explore the potential for charter flights, offering Uzbekistan tourists a new winter getaway.

Sabah Tourism Board remains committed to fostering meaningful connections and creating unforgettable experiences for travellers worldwide, reaffirming Sabah's position as a premier tourist destination in Southeast Asia.

For more information on Sabah, visit www.sabahtourism.com.

Your Sabah Bucket List

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