

Resort REPORT

What's new in the world
of luxury hotels and resorts

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THE SIAM

Scheduled to open in June this year, The Siam promises to be a delectable place to stay and play in Bangkok. With 2.8 acres of river frontage, this boutique retreat in the heart of the historic palace, temple and museum precinct incorporates four traditional teakwood houses along with the contemporary main building and intimately private pool villas, which have open-air roof terraces. And what resort is complete without a spa? Indulge in some serious pampering in a divine setting. thesiamhotel.com



A True Gem

The Surin Phuket (a member of Design Hotels™) reopened its doors in December after an extensive renovation. Located on the tranquil coast of Pansea Beach, the 108-cottage seafront retreat has been redesigned to give a fresh interpretation to the Thai beach house - the cottages remain connected by elevated walkways and sit under the shelter of coconut palms on landscaped slopes that gently descend to the smooth sandy beach. As a private retreat, each cottage is fitted out with its own veranda and spacious sun deck. designhotels.com/surin_phuket



Sri Lanka

Widely predicted to be one of the hot spots for international travel, Sri Lanka is adding to its natural charms with the recent opening of the extensively renovated Avani Benota Resort and Spa. Formerly the Hotel Serendib Benota, the new look hotel offers relaxed comfort and contemporary style including three bars and two restaurants, and retains the signature style of celebrated architect Geoffrey Bawa, combined with an inimitable Dutch Colonial charm. avanihotels.com



COMING UP

Set to open in early 2012 is the **Anantara Sanya Resort & Spa in Hainan, China**, a luxury resort flanked by two beaches, and located in the serene Luhuitou Peninsula on the southern most point of Hainan Island. sanya.anantara.com

It doesn't get much more secluded than **The Berkeley River**, 150 kilometres from Wyndham in Western Australia and is accessible only by air and water. You'll be surrounded by the silence of one of the most remote places in Australia, and lapped in luxury in the twenty oceanview suites. The Berkeley River opens soon. berkeleyriver.com.au

And if you're looking for luxury, **the Mulia at Nusa Dua in Bali** is the place to bliss out. A stunning beach frontage and superbly designed accommodations are complemented by sophisticated dining options and chilled out bar. themulia.com



WITHOUT PEER

It's taken two years, but after a massive restoration the Pera Palace Hotel reopened in late 2010 - the latest chapter in a story which has been part of Istanbul history since 1892. The challenge was to integrate all the modern technology which is an integral part of any luxury hotel into the grandeur of the original design and decoration of this iconic building.

With the Pera Palace's designation as a 'museum hotel' the exotic enchantment of Istanbul is enhanced by the hotel's historical involvement with the turbulent switch from Ottoman rule ... aahhhh the romance! perapalace.com



Located just off the coast of Kota Kinabalu and set on the shores of Pulau Gaya, the largest island in the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, Gaya Island Resort offers the perfect launching pad to discover Borneo and all that it has to offer; idyllic golden sand beaches, diving sites of spectacular underwater havens and untouched tropical rainforests, offering a home to many rare species, including the orangutan, the proboscis monkey and the pygmy elephant. There will be a vast array of activities to satisfy each adventure, nature and water enthusiast while experiencing Sabah's colorful culture.

Gaya Island Resort's PURE program integrates local culture and the natural environment, offering a range of cultural activities and tours from jungle treks and trails through the natural tropical landscape, marine excursions, and water activities with expert guides, including the resident Naturalist and Marine Biologist. Other activities on offer include scuba diving, island hopping and Mount Kinabalu expeditions, as well as canoeing and paddle surfing. Or you can escape to Tavajun Bay, a private enclave where guests will be able to luxuriate in the pristine aquamarine waters surrounded by lush tropical rainforest.

For those who prefer a more indulgent holistic experience, YTL Hotels' award-winning Spa Village will offer treatments, therapies and healing practices specific to Borneo culture and will be uniquely designed within a mangrove setting offering six treatment rooms with outdoor decks and a yoga retreat space.

Gaya Island Resort will incorporate elements of Sabahan architecture and contemporary design complete with modern amenities and WiFi capabilities. It will comprise 121 spacious stand-alone hill and sea-front villas offering spectacular views of majestic Mount Kinabalu. The luxury resort will offer a selection of dining options plus a Pool Bar Lounge and a 50-metre infinity swimming pool which will provide the ideal place to relax while taking in the picturesque views of Mount Kinabalu from a unique upper deck. The resort is easily accessible from Kota Kinabalu International Airport and is a short 30 minute combined car and speedboat ride from the airport.

Gaya Island Resort, Borneo is due to open in July 2012.
For reservations and enquiries, visit www.ytlhotels.com

