

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GAYA ISLAND RESORT UNVEILS 'THE GAYA WELLNESS & WONDER JOURNEY',
A DISTINCTIVELY BORNEO IMMERSION OF WELLNESS AND WILDLIFE**

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, MALAYSIA – 16 July, 2026 – [Gaya Island Resort](#), the epitome of 'Distinctively Borneo' luxury nestled within the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, is thrilled to announce its signature annual event: The Gaya Wellness & Wonder Journey. The inaugural event takes place from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 September 2027. Carefully curated by Gaya Island Resort's Director of Conservation, Justin Juhun, and the team at the award-winning [Spa Village Gaya Island](#), this transformative weekend getaway package weaves nature, conservation and world-class wellness into a single, seamless tapestry.

Far more than a simple getaway, The Gaya Wellness & Wonder Journey stands as one of the most distinctive and immersive experiences of its kind in the region – a rare synthesis of wild discovery and profound restoration, brought to life through four signature pillars:

- **Gaya Island Wildlife & Marine Encounters** – Witness wonder in its purest form: the graceful flight of hornbills and other exotic birdlife cutting through the canopy, the comical antics of proboscis monkeys, and the vibrant marine life thriving within the protected waters of the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park. As night falls, the rainforest reveals its nocturnal secrets – from birds gliding silently back to their nests to the unfolding symphony of nighttime sounds. Guests can also actively participate in coral planting, contributing directly to the restoration of fragile reef ecosystems and leaving a lasting positive impact on this underwater paradise.

- **The Sabah Scent Adventures** – An intimate healing ritual in which guests craft a deeply personal sensory memory by blending their own unique fragrance using essential oils indigenous to the region. This is not merely a workshop; it is a therapeutic journey of self-discovery, where each scent tells a story of place, memory and emotional resonance.
- **Borneo Healing Cultures** – A bespoke spa treatment at the award-winning Spa Village Gaya Island, where centuries-old Bornean healing rituals are woven into every touch. The journey begins with the Lower Leg Spice Revitaliser – a signature pre-treatment practice designed to ground the senses and prepare the body for deep restoration. Here, wellness is not an afterthought but the ritualistic heart of the personal experience – a profound restoration of mind, body and spirit, guided by therapists whose expertise is rooted in ancestral wisdom.
- **Kinabalu Sunrise Mindfulness** – Each morning, a resident guest artist leads gentle yoga sessions as the sun rises over the South China Sea, inviting guests to arrive fully into their bodies before the day's discoveries unfold. These sunrise practices are designed not only to stretch and strengthen, but to cultivate mindfulness, grounding guests in the present moment as the forest stirs to life around them.

"The Gaya Wellness & Wonder Journey is the ultimate expression of everything we stand for at Gaya Island Resort – a celebration of Borneo's extraordinary natural heritage, woven together with restorative traditions that have been passed down through generations. It is our invitation to guests to not only explore this wild paradise, but to become part of its story."
– Justin Juhun, Director of Conservation, Gaya Island Resort

In every element – from the alchemy of scent to the serenity of movement, from the thrill of wildlife encounters to the deep stillness of a spa sanctuary – The Gaya Wellness & Wonder Journey offers a rare and harmonious balance: wild yet restorative, exhilarating yet deeply calming. It is an invitation to not only explore Borneo's natural treasures, but to rediscover oneself within them.





This 'Distinctively Borneo' immersive experience is available from MYR 1,800++ per Bayu Villa per night for two persons, with a minimum stay of two nights. The Bayu Villa offers serene views over the forest canopy and comes complete with a telescope for personal birdwatching, creating a private window to nature. The package is fully inclusive, covering all meals and return scheduled boat transfers between Jesselton Point Ferry Terminal in Kota Kinabalu and the resort. Guests enjoy three days of nature-themed activities, including exclusive twilight and nature sessions guided by the resident naturalist, and each receives a personalised map and checklist – an adapted version of Justin's Pocket Guide – along with a Natural Wonders passport to collect stamps for every species spotted.

This new annual event firmly establishes Gaya Island Resort as a pioneer in holistic, eco-conscious luxury. Set within the protected marine park, the resort champions active guardianship – nurturing native wildlife and restoring fragile ecosystems. The Gaya Wellness & Wonder Journey allows guests to be active participants in conservation, leaving not as tourists, but as stewards of this wild paradise.

Bookings for the 2027 signature event are now open. For reservations, detailed itineraries and package pricing, please visit www.gayaislandresort.com or contact our dedicated Travel Consultants at travelcentre@ytlhotels.com, who will be delighted to guide you through the programme and tailor every detail of your journey.

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About Gaya Island Resort

Situated on Pulau Gaya in the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, Gaya Island Resort is a natural sanctuary offering a youthful and vibrant escape. The beachfront resort harmonises with its environment, featuring hillside villas with stunning views across mangroves to Mount Kinabalu. Villa interiors offer contemporary eco-luxury, respectfully incorporating traditional Sabahan elements.

Integrated into the coastal mangroves, the award-winning Spa Village Gaya Island provides treatments inspired by the region's heritage. Its programmes draw on indigenous healing traditions, from Kadazandusun rice scrubs to the practices of the Bajau sea nomads. Across this unique landscape, a profound intimacy with nature prevails, creating an immersive and authentically Bornean retreat. Embodying YTL Hotels' ethos of Treasured Places, Treasured Moments, please visit www.gayaislandresort.com to explore more personalised moments, of this treasured place.

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About YTL Hotels

YTL Hotels curates a prestigious portfolio of over 35 award-winning resorts, hotels, and boutique villas and more than 8,000 rooms; across Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, the United Kingdom, Europe, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand. The group is dedicated to redefining luxury through authentic experiences, bringing its promise of "Treasured Places, Treasured Moments" to life by embracing the culture, character, and tradition of its surroundings; including through its renowned Spa Village, found across select destinations across the globe.

Its collection features some of the world's most acclaimed destinations. The iconic Pangkor Laut Resort—once voted the 'World's Best Resort' by Condé Nast Traveller UK—is now ranked among the Top 15 Resorts in Asia in the 2025 Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards. It is joined by The Gainsborough Bath Spa, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, which was listed among the top 15 Hotels in the UK. Further cementing this prestige, both The Gainsborough Bath Spa and Japan's Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, have been consecutively awarded the prestigious Michelin Key in 2024 and 2025.

The accolades continue with The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui, which was not only placed among the Top 15 Best Resorts in Thailand by Condé Nast Traveller but was also voted the 'Best Resort in Thailand' in the DestinAsian 2025 Readers' Choice Awards. Adding to this impressive record, Monkey Island Estate, Gaya Island Resort, and The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui have all been distinguished by their inclusion in the 2025 edition of Fodor's Finest.

YTL Hotels' global footprint is powered by key international partnerships. A long-standing alliance with Marriott International encompasses the ownership and management of distinguished city properties, including The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur; JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur; The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, Autograph Collection; Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur, Autograph Collection; Moxy Hotels and AC Hotels. This partnership also extends to marquee luxury resorts such as The Ritz-Carlton Reserve in Niseko Village and The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui.

YTL Hotels further solidifies its legacy through a major partnership with Hilton, anchoring its presence in the world-class ski destination of Niseko Village. This alliance is represented by three distinct properties: Hilton Niseko Village, The Greenleaf Niseko Village as part of the Tapestry Collection by Hilton, and Hinode Hills Niseko Village from the Curio Collection by Hilton. The group's collaboration with IHG extends its offering in New Zealand with Hotel Indigo Auckland. In a move that diversifies its urban holdings, YTL Hotels, in partnership with BlackRock Investment, has reimaged Singapore's Oakwood Premier Raffles Place, joining the Ascot Hospitality Group portfolio.

YTL Hotels is the hospitality arm of YTL Corporation Berhad. For more information, visit ytlhotels.com or follow #YTLTravels.

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FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Geraldine Dreiser

Vice President – Marketing & Communications
geraldine@ytlhotels.com

Cynthia Peris

PR Consultant
cynthia.peris@ytlhotels.com