

## GAYA ISLAND RESORT

DISTINCTIVELY BORNEO

**PRESS RELEASE**

### **GAYA ISLAND RESORT, BORNEO**

**Sabah, Malaysia:** YTL Hotels, in remaining true to its philosophy of crafting inspired experiences, unveiled Gaya Island Resort, in Sabah, Borneo on July 1, 2012. This world class resort adds to the stellar collection of luxury resorts across Asia and Europe, strengthening YTL Hotels' reputation as Malaysia's premier hospitality group.

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, dive sites of spectacular underwater havens and untouched tropical rainforests, home to many rare species including the endangered proboscis monkey. The resort is easily accessible from Kota Kinabalu International Airport and is a short 30-minute combined car and speedboat ride from the airport.

Ancient rainforest and protected mangroves surround the 121 idyllic villas and suite set in the hills. Spacious, tactile and modern yet respectful of local Sabahan elements, the villas use local materials that blend harmoniously with the natural environment. Villa interiors are designed with a contemporary elegance and offer a variety of views including mangrove, canopy, tropical rainforest and the South China Sea. Each 47 square metre villa features a spacious bedroom, a writing desk, a safe box, a flat screen television with satellite channels, WiFi capabilities, a large open bathroom with an oversized bathtub and two vanity units, and an outdoor verandah.

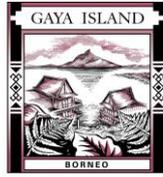
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A YTL LUXURY RESORT

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Set amongst a tropical mangrove on a gently sloping hillside, the Bayu Villas offer a beautiful outlook and are walking distance from the resort's pristine sandy beach. Situated on a hillside amidst lush rainforest, the Canopy Villas offer a peaceful setting with leafy views ranging from the rainforest canopy to the tropical mangroves.

With views stretching across the South China Sea, and where the silhouette of Mount Kinabalu can be seen on a clear day, the Kinabalu Villas provide the best views in the resort. Perched on the sloping hillside, the luxurious 188 square metre two-bedroom Suria Suite elegantly occupies two levels and offers glorious uninterrupted views of the ocean and Mount Kinabalu from a large outdoor verandah with daybeds.

The regional cuisine and exquisite fresh seafood prepared by the chefs is a play on the senses waiting to be explored. Feast Village offers an interactive all-day dining with diverse cuisine from the Asia-Pacific region while Fisherman's Cove features a symphony of seafood themed dishes which focuses on sustainable fishing practices and the freshest ingredients. Omakase, a hillside Japanese restaurant, serves up teppanyaki, shabu-shabu and nabe hot pots for heart-warming dinners while The Pool Bar & Lounge is the perfect place for a casual lunch and sundowners. Tavajun Bay, a private beach located a five-minute boat ride away, offers a delightful set lunch or choose to reserve a personalised gourmet picnic to enjoy on the beach.

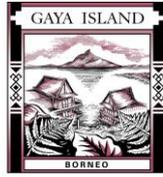
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The bespoke private dining experiences showcase unique cuisines and settings at various locations around the resort and feature intriguing historical and cultural elements. The North Borneo Straits Tiffin served in-villa on the private verandah unveils a timeless feast that showcases the delicious and intricate dishes that highlight the spectacular local and Western influences. The Sinagang Steamboat is set in a private gazebo at Fisherman's Cove overlooking the bay. This hotpot of fish broth complemented by fresh greens, meat, seafood and condiments, is a burst of flavours and is loved by the Kadazans.

The Bajau Laut Beach Barbecue celebrates the cuisine of the sea-faring tribes and even features a telescope allowing guests to explore the night in wonderment. Dine on a feast at Malohom Bay highlighting the bounty of the land and sea, grilled to perfection on skewers over hot coals; accompanied by local vegetables and delicacies.

Reconnect to a PURE world, the resort's activities programme that vivifies the senses; immersing guests in the vibrancy, scents, textures, sounds and tastes of the natural environment and cultural heritage of the region.

The PURE activities will take the curious through land and marine experiences such as scuba diving adventures, island excursions, snorkeling explorations with the Resident Marine Biologist, nature walks with the Resident Naturalist, local craftworks, bespoke tours and The Borneo Culinary Journey to name a few.

Inspired by the powerful harmony of nature, Spa Village Gaya Island brings into play aspects of the environment, culture and wellbeing to create an uplifting and unforgettable experience. The Spa Village is a tranquil hideaway surrounded by distinctive island flora and fauna and its treatments utilise only the finest fresh local ingredients.

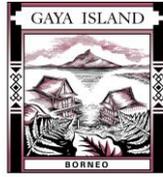
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A rich tapestry of spa programmes reflects the cultural healing traditions of Sabah's many indigenous people.

From the specialised rice scrubs and masques of the Kadazandusun to the age-old practices of the Bajau sea nomads, the Spa Village is uniquely rooted in ancient tradition while seeking to restore balance to the body and soul. The Spa Village is uniquely designed within a mangrove setting offering six treatment rooms with outdoor decks and the Mangrove Theatre, a dedicated space for spa and wellness activities.

Gaya Island Resort is a luxury resort destination where the journey of self-discovery of personalised authentic Borneo experiences awaits all.

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### **About YTL Hotels**

YTL Hotels owns and manages a prestigious collection of award-winning resorts, hotels, boutique experiences and Spa Villages with a hospitality footprint across Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Japan, Australia, France and the United Kingdom, including Pangkor Laut Resort, voted the world's best resort in 2003 by Condé Nast Traveller UK. The group also co-owns the Eastern & Oriental Express luxury train. The Gainsborough Bath Spa, the only hotel in Bath to be part of the Leading Hotels of the World's collection of legendary hotels, was named one of the Top 10 Hotel Spas in Europe. Set in the heart of Bath, a World Heritage Site, this unique heritage gem exclusively offers the only natural thermal spa within a hotel in the United Kingdom.

YTL Hotels' global expansion celebrates its decades long relationship with Marriott International through the ownership management of Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel, Brisbane Marriott Hotel, Melbourne Marriott Hotel, The Ritz-Carlton Koh Samui, The Ritz-Carlton Kuala Lumpur and JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur and recently includes The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur, The Glasshouse Hotel - Edinburgh and Threadneedles Hotel – London in affiliation with the brand's Autograph Collection. The partnership also encompasses the future development of the first Ritz-Carlton Reserve that will complement YTL Hotels' overall master plan for Niseko Village in Japan.

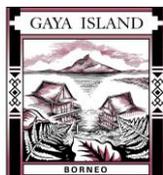
With each new experience that it presents, the company strives to embrace and highlight the natural essence of culture, character and tradition of its surroundings. YTL Hotels is the hospitality arm of YTL Corporation Berhad. Visit [www.ytlhotels.com](http://www.ytlhotels.com) for more information and follow us on our social media platforms for #TreasuredPlaces #TreasuredMoments

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### IMAGES:

For high-resolution images, please visit [www.ytlhotels.com/mediagallery](http://www.ytlhotels.com/mediagallery). For reservations and enquiries, please contact the YTL Travel Centre directly in Malaysia at +60 3 2783 1000 or email [travelcentre@ytlhotels.com.my](mailto:travelcentre@ytlhotels.com.my).

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