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TASHKENT–LANGKAWI: NEW ROUTE SET TO DELIVER A STRATEGIC BOOST TO MALAYSIAN TOURISM AHEAD OF VM2026

LANGKAWI, 15 December 2025 – Tourism Malaysia, in collaboration with Batik Air and the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), is proud to announce the launch of Batik Air's new direct route connecting Tashkent with the enchanting island of Langkawi. This service marks a significant milestone in enhancing international connectivity, **offering more convenient access to one of Malaysia's most iconic destinations: a mesmerizing archipelago of 99 islands.**

The inaugural flight, **OD756, operated by Boeing 737 MAX, touched down at Langkawi International Airport at 9:55 AM carrying 152 passengers on board.** This arrival signifies the commencement of a new weekly service that will connect Uzbekistan and Malaysia, providing travellers with seamless access to the region's tropical charm and world-class hospitality.

Visitor arrivals from Uzbekistan to Malaysia have shown encouraging number, with 12,655 visitors recorded between January and August 2025. The introduction of this new direct route is expected to further boost arrivals from this emerging market, bolstering international connectivity while unlocking fresh opportunities for trade, investment, and cultural exchange. By bringing the two nations closer together, this enhanced air link paves the way for premium travel experiences and fosters a vibrant, long-term tourism partnership between Uzbekistan and Malaysia.

Mr. Mohd Akbal Setia, Head of the Secretariat VM2026, representing Director General of Tourism Malaysia, said, "The launch of the Tashkent–Langkawi flight is an exciting milestone that elevates Malaysia's appeal among long-haul travellers. With Visit Malaysia 2026 approaching, this new connectivity showcases our expanding collaborations and boosts Malaysia's visibility and competitiveness within the Central Asia markets."

Jointly organised with the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), the welcoming ceremony **featured a traditional music performance and captivating cultural**

showcases, embodying Malaysia's signature warmth and hospitality. To commemorate the occasion, Tourism Malaysia presented arriving passengers with curated souvenirs, offering a vibrant introduction to the nation's rich cultural heritage.

Supported by LADA, Kedah Tourism, and key industry stakeholders, Tourism Malaysia remains committed to forging strategic partnerships with both domestic and international airlines to amplify its promotional efforts. This initiative serves as a vital precursor to the VM2026 campaign, which is set to commence in less than a month.

The government's aspiration for VM2026 are twofold: to welcome 47 million international visitors and to stimulate a significant increase in domestic travel, ensuring the campaign's success as a comprehensive strategic framework for the future of Malaysia's tourism industry.

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About Tourism Malaysia

Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, also known as Tourism Malaysia, is an agency under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture Malaysia. It focuses on the specific task of promoting Malaysia as a preferred tourism destination. Since its inception, it has emerged as a major player in the international tourism scene.

The next Visit Malaysia Year, set to take place in 2026, will commemorate the sustainability of the nation's tourism industry, which is also in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG).

Furthermore, Tourism Malaysia actively endorses the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), working towards the realisation of the IMT-GT Visiting Year 2023-2025, with the shared aim of promoting the region as a unified tourism destination. For more information, visit Tourism Malaysia's social media accounts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [TikTok](#).

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