

TOURISM MALAYSIA CELEBRATES TRANSNUSA'S MAIDEN JAKARTA–PENANG FLIGHT

PENANG, 24 NOVEMBER 2025 – Tourism Malaysia warmly welcomes the arrival of TransNusa's inaugural scheduled flight from Jakarta to Penang, marking a significant step in strengthening air connectivity and promoting inbound tourism to Malaysia.

The new Jakarta–Penang service will operate every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with daily flights scheduled to commence in December 2025. With a seat capacity of 174, the airbus A320 departs from Soekarno–Hatta International Airport, Jakarta at 0500 hrs and lands in Penang International Airport at around 0830 hrs. The return flight PEN-CGK leaves at 0930 hrs with flight duration of about 1 hour and 25 minutes.

Mr. Lee Thai Hung, Deputy Director General (Promotion II) of Tourism Malaysia, said that TransNusa's expansion into Penang is an important milestone in increasing connectivity options for inbound travellers, supporting leisure, medical, business and MICE tourism.

"This will open new doors for visitors and bridging Penang's rich heritage closer to Jakarta, the vibrant capital city of Indonesia. As Visit Malaysia 2026 (VM2026) is just around the corner – in just a few weeks from now, this route is expected to play a significant role in facilitating smoother travel and reinforcing the flow of visitors from Indonesia to Malaysia and vice versa," he said.

Dato' Bernard Francis, Group CEO of TransNusa, said:

"Jakarta–Penang is a strategic route which aligns strongly with our goals of expanding to major hubs of connectivity while serving our passengers. This route was also made possible thanks to the Penang International Airport's (PIA) well-structured long-term incentive programme—an advantage that sets it apart from many other secondary airports, which currently lack similar long-term incentive frameworks. The Jakarta–Penang route came to be realised in less than six months as a result of the support, security, and commitment provided by Tourism Malaysia and PIA."

For the record, Indonesia recorded over 4.15 million visitors into Malaysia in 2024, which is a 19% growth in comparison to 2023. From January to August 2025 only, 2.92 million Indonesians visited Malaysia, and this upward trend demonstrates Malaysia's strong appeal to Indonesians. As Indonesia stands as one of Malaysia's most significant tourism markets, this collaboration aims to further strengthen ties and boost inbound

travel from the country, creating new opportunities for cultural exchange and economic growth.

In time with Visit Malaysia 2026 (VM2026) campaign, TransNusa has also strengthened its collaboration with Tourism Malaysia to boost two-way travel and tourism connectivity. This includes providing support for more than 30 Jakarta-based travel agents to attend the Visit Malaysia 2026 conference, showcasing Malaysia as a top destination for leisure, cultural, and medical tourism. The route introduction is further supported by Penang Global Tourism (PGT) and Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB), reflecting a strong multi-stakeholder partnership to strengthen Penang’s tourism landscape.

The Jakarta–Penang route marks a significant step in strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing regional connectivity. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to advancing tourism, economic growth, and cultural exchange between Malaysia and Indonesia. As we move toward Visit Malaysia 2026 (VM2026), Tourism Malaysia will continue collaborating with partners to ensure lasting impacts and benefits for the nation’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](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#), and [TikTok](#).

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