



MANDARIN ORIENTAL

News Release

**MANDARIN ORIENTAL EXPANDS IN MALAYSIA WITH THE DEBUT OF A
BEACHFRONT RETREAT IN DESARU COAST, JOHOR**



Hong Kong, 5 June 2025 – [Mandarin Oriental](#) is delighted to announce its expansion in Malaysia with the upcoming rebranding of an exceptional resort and private residences on the country's south-eastern coast of Desaru Coast, Johor. Nestled amidst 128 acres of verdant rainforest and opening onto a pristine stretch of beach overlooking the South China Sea, the property is anticipated to join the Mandarin Oriental portfolio this month, ahead of a full rebranding in January 2026 as Mandarin Oriental, Desaru Coast.

Desaru Coast is known for its unspoiled coastline, warm year-round climate and tranquil natural beauty. With nearly 17 kilometres of beachfront, the destination offers a compelling blend of coastal serenity and ecological richness. The property will benefit from its close proximity to Mandarin Oriental's well-established hotels in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, and reflects the Group's continued emphasis on expanding its presence in resort destinations across the region.

"Mandarin Oriental, Desaru Coast represents a significant step in our strategic vision to bring the Group's legendary service and crafted experiences, that resonate deeply with today's luxury traveller, to new and exceptional locations," said Laurent Kleitman, Group Chief Executive of Mandarin Oriental.



Mandarin Oriental and Desaru Coast cemented the partnership with a hotel management agreement signed on location at the resort. The Chief Minister of Johor, Dato' Onn Hafiz Ghazi, who witnessed the signing ceremony, said, "Mandarin Oriental has created and defined some of the world's most renowned properties and destinations across the world, and this, being their choice for their second property in Malaysia, is a testament to Johor's immense potential.. There is no better brand to lead the reintroduction of this iconic beachfront resort property as we prepare for Visit Johor Year 2026."

Designed by the late Kerry Hill and his award-winning firm, Kerry Hill Architects, the resort stands as the final completed project in the architect's distinguished portfolio, embedding tropical modernism in his design which has created a sense of harmony between the built space and the surrounding landscape.

The resort features 44 suites and villas, each offering generous space and privacy, all with direct views of the sea or rainforest, and many with private gardens and plunge pools. Guests have a choice of five distinct dining destinations that blend global cuisines with local culinary flavours, including a stylish beach club and a relaxed lounge bar with coastal views.

The *Spa at Mandarin Oriental* will offer a holistic wellness sanctuary, delivering the Group's renowned treatments and authentic rituals rooted in the Orient. Included in the wellness offering is a yoga pavilion, fitness centre, beauty salon and a range of sporting facilities including tennis and padel courts. A thoughtfully designed Kids' Club, complete with indoor facilities, a large outdoor playground and a nature pond, will cater to younger guests providing enriching experiences that celebrate play and discovery.

Elegant event spaces and immersive natural surroundings serve as a striking setting for weddings and private gatherings. Each venue is designed to blend indoor comfort with the beauty of the outdoors, enhanced by panoramic views of the rainforest and coastline.

For golf enthusiasts, the resort provides access to the nearby Els Club Desaru Coast, home to two championship courses designed by golfing legends Ernie Els and Vijay Singh: the 27-hole Ocean Course and the 18-hole Valley Course.

In line with Mandarin Oriental's long-term development strategy, future plans include for an additional 40 branded residences, providing owners an opportunity to enjoy Mandarin Oriental's legendary service within a private, residential context, further enhancing the property's appeal as a year-round destination for luxury living.

Dato' Mohamed Nasri Sallehuddin, Chairman of Destination Resorts and Hotels Sdn Bhd (DRH), owner of the property, commented, "A name synonymous with timeless elegance, impeccable service, and deep Asian heritage, Mandarin Oriental is the perfect partner for



Desaru Coast. We welcome Mandarin Oriental and look forward to embarking on our destination's next phase of growth together."

Karina Ridzuan, (Interim) Group Chief Executive Officer of DRH, said, "This is more than a business alignment; it is a bold cultural handshake between two brands – one an established global icon, the other an emerging destination on the rise – both centred on delivering exceptional guest experiences. We are confident this partnership will set a new global benchmark and firmly place Desaru Coast as a destination for luxury travel."

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About Desaru Coast

Offering The Coast and More, Desaru Coast is a gem by the sparkling blue of the South China Sea in Johor, Malaysia – a multifaceted destination sprawling across 4,000 acres designed for both intimate holidays and grand events.

Whether travel is for business or pleasure, rejuvenating tropical experiences that are appealing to all await leisure and adventure seekers looking for vibrant outdoor living in a natural and authentic environment.

Home to globally recognised resorts including the upcoming Mandarin Oriental, Desaru Coast, Anantara Desaru Coast Resort & Villas, The Westin Desaru Coast Resort, and Hard Rock Hotel Desaru Coast, the destination offers a diverse range of accommodations with a curated Malaysian flair.

Golf enthusiasts can indulge in The Els Club Malaysia Desaru Coast, which boasts 45 holes spread across two exceptional courses: the Ocean Course by Ernie Els, and the Valley Course designed in collaboration with Vijay Singh.

The destination also features Adventure Waterpark Desaru Coast, a major attraction known as one of the world's largest waterparks. Additionally, the Desaru Coast Conference Centre provides top-notch facilities for events, while the Desaru Coast Ferry Terminal provides international connectivity with ferry services directly from Singapore.

Its convenient location in the southeastern region of Johor – easily accessible by road, air, and sea – makes it a sought-after destination for tourists worldwide. Desaru Coast earned recognition as one of TIME Magazine's "World's Greatest Places of 2021", and has received a multitude of industry accolades.



Desaru Development Holdings One Sdn. Bhd. is the master developer of Desaru Coast, and is a subsidiary of Desaru Development Corporation Sdn. Bhd. within the Destination Resorts and Hotel Sdn. Bhd. group of companies. For more information, visit www.desarucost.com or contact:

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About Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group

Mandarin Oriental is the award-winning owner and operator of some of the world's most luxurious hotels, resorts and residences. Renowned for creating outstanding properties, each destination reflects the Group's dual Asian heritage, local culture and unique design. Driven by a passion for the exceptional, every day, everywhere, the Group's mission is to craft time enriching experiences that transform the ordinary to the exceptional and guests to fans through its legendary service. The Group now operates 43 hotels, 12 residences and 26 exceptional homes in 27 countries and territories with many more projects under development. Mandarin Oriental continues to drive its reputation as an innovative leader in luxury hospitality, delivering sustainable growth over the long term.

Further information is available on our Social Media channels and website: www.mandarinoriental.com, including [Media Centre](#). Alternatively, please contact:

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