

GAYA ISLAND RESORT  
YTL HOTELS

## PRESS RELEASE

### YTL HOTELS' FIRST RESIDENT MARINE BIOLOGIST AND RESIDENT NATURALIST AT GAYA ISLAND RESORT

**Sabah, Malaysia:** YTL Hotels' Gaya Island Resort located in Sabah, Borneo, is the latest gem in its collection of fine hotels and resorts. Within the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park off the coast of Kota Kinabalu in Borneo, the 121-villa resort rests along the coast of Malohom Bay, a natural sanctuary nestled in the hillside of an ancient rainforest with a stunning outline of Mount Kinabalu on the horizon.

In its commitment to craft unique and authentic experiences, the resort offers a myriad of specially designed activities through PURE, 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. With the introduction of PURE, brings two extraordinary people who play vital roles in ensuring guests bring home with them unforgettable memories of their visit to Gaya Island Resort and Borneo.

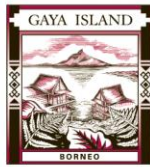
#### **Scott Mayback, Resident Marine Biologist**

The resort's Resident Marine Biologist and the first in YTL Hotels, Scott Mayback, is originally from the United States of America. He has spent the last three years in Sabah to experience hands-on all about coral reef restoration and turtle rehabilitation. He has also gotten off the beaten path and surveyed reefs from Kota Kinabalu to Pulau Banggi, an island off the Tip of Borneo. Scott had his formal education at the University of Oregon, and had spent a year at the university's own marine lab. During his time at the university, he worked and gained invaluable knowledge in local aquarium outlets and in a university laboratory.

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As the Resident Marine Biologist, Scott oversees all aquatic operations and activities at Gaya Island Resort and Gaya Island Resort Marine Centre. He also leads conservation initiatives such as turtle rescue, rehabilitation and release, coral planting and rehabilitation, and educational outreach programmes to preserve a healthy ecological environment.

**Justin Juhun, Resident Naturalist**

Justin Juhun, the resort's Resident Naturalist was born in Tawau, a town located on the south-eastern coast of Sabah, and who is of mixed Kadazan, Indian and Chinese descent. His childhood was spent on the plantations given that he comes from a family of wildlife enthusiasts. They were awarded a license by the Sabah Wildlife Department in 1980 to foster wildlife rescued from within the parameters of the plantations. This was key to igniting his love and interest for wildlife care.

It has always brought him a sense of joy and contentment to witness the healthy growth of the wildlife under his care. He has nurtured more than 50 local wildlife species and amongst them were the Orangutans, Borneo Pygmy Elephants, Borneo Gibbons and Maroon Langgurs. Justin guides guests on nature walks at Gaya Island which are both intriguing and educational. The walks vary in terms of distance and difficulty to satisfy guests' different interests. They will discover a botanic reserve exceptionally rich in endemic plants while he enriches their walk with interesting commentaries.

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**Gaya Island Resort**

Situated on Pulau Gaya within the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park in Borneo, Gaya Island Resort is a natural sanctuary nestled in the hillside of an ancient rainforest. The 121 villas respect Sabahan elements and blend harmoniously with the natural environment while interiors are designed with a contemporary elegance. Integrated within the mangroves is Spa Village Gaya Island offering programmes that reflect the region's healing practices, from the specialised rice scrubs and masques of the Kadazandusun to the age-old practices of the Bajau sea nomads. Discoveries, and authentic experiences with nature all prevail across the YTL Luxury Resort's land and seascape, offering travellers an escape that is all distinctively Borneo. [www.gayaislandresort.com](http://www.gayaislandresort.com)

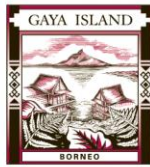
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**About YTL Hotels**

YTL Hotels owns and manages a prestigious collection of award-winning resorts, hotels, boutique experiences and Spa Villages in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Japan, France and the UK, 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.

2014 brought the launch of Kasara, a new brand of luxury accommodation offering bespoke, one-of-a-kind experiences in Niseko Village. The Gainsborough Bath Spa, the group's latest addition, is the only hotel in Bath to be part of the Leading Hotels of the World's collection of legendary hotels and has recently been 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.

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.

**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, call +60 3 2783 1000 or email [travelcentre@ytlhotels.com.my](mailto:travelcentre@ytlhotels.com.my).

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