

GAYA ISLAND RESORT
YTL HOTELS

PRESS RELEASE

SPA VILLAGE GAYA ISLAND

Sabah, Malaysia: On Gaya Island the elements of mountain, forest and sea come together in breathtaking perfection. Inspired by this powerful harmony of nature, Spa Village Gaya Island, the seventh Spa Village in YTL Hotels, brings into play aspects of the environment, culture and wellbeing to create an uplifting and unforgettable experience.

Set amidst the lush mangroves of Gaya Island Resort in Sabah, Borneo, the Spa Village is a tranquil hideaway surrounded by distinctive island flora and fauna. From the warm clear waters of Gaya and its rich lowland forest to the high altitude blossoms of Mount Kinabalu, treatments utilise only the finest fresh local ingredients. A rich tapestry of spa programmes reflects the cultural healing traditions of Sabah's many indigenous people. 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.

Couples can enjoy the spa's signature treatment, **Tadau Kaamatan – A Couples Celebration of Rice**, an experience which pays tribute to the legends and the importance of rice within the local culture. The Unduk Ngadau (For Her) and Papakang – The Odyssey of Seven Brothers (For Him) each includes a body scrub, hair masque, massage and facial, featuring various natural ingredients. Rice has historically played an important and mythical role in Kadazandusun culture. Every year the indigenous people of Sabah offer their thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest to the revered rice spirit Bambaazon during the Tadau Kaamatan or Harvest Festival.

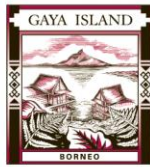
One traditional ceremony observed is the Unduk Ngadau, a beauty pageant to crown the Harvest Queen which celebrates the legend of Huminodun. Papakang – The Odyssey of

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Seven Brothers tells the story of the youngest son of the village chief in Nunuk Ragang or Red Banyan Tree, believed to be the seat of Kadazandusun civilisation. The legend chronicles his epic journey across the land to reunite his brothers and the mystical Papakang stone.

One of the key highlights at Spa Village is the educational **Sabah Scent Adventures** which allow guests to explore the intangible yet powerful realm of scent. Guided by the scent artist, guests can learn the basics of essential oils, their potent benefits and the art of custom blending the indigenous oils of Borneo.

The **Deru Laut** treatment is inspired by the traditions of the indigenous Bajaus whose lives revolve around the sea and coastal areas and brings together the therapeutic properties of products from the ocean's depths such as the body wrap which moisturises the skin with Sea Bird's Nest, an organic seaweed rich in plant collagen, enzymes and vitamins. A facial follows, incorporating the famous Sabah pearls, then a seaweed hair masque and a seawater bath. The treatment concludes with a Rolling Waves massage using Gamat (sea cucumber) oil to ease tense muscles and improve flexibility.

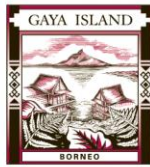
The indigenous massage, **Urutan Pribumi** is a compilation of age-old healing traditions from multiple tribes, traditionally used to restore mobility and flexibility for paddy planters and warriors. The signature blend of Island Spice aroma oil coupled with digital, palm and forearm pressure help with circulation.

The Spa Village offers a wide variety of other rejuvenating experiences such as soothing soaks overlooking the mangroves, yoga, guided meditation and couples stretching.

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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

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 for more information.

IMAGES:

For high-resolution images, please visit 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.

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