



Going Places

TAKE ME HOME *Going Places* is regularly refreshed, so everyone who flies can have a copy

NOVEMBER 2023

Tokyo from the top

Leading luxury hotels serve up exclusive experiences in the city

ULOS REVIVAL
A Sumatran textile gets a fresh, stylish treatment in Medan

24 HOURS IN KOTA BHARU
Markets, museums and tasty meals in Kelantan's capital

15 reasons
to fall in love with Malaysia



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Le Meridien Amritsar's pool



HOTELS

Arty Amritsar

A new luxury hotel in the Golden City wants to be your guide to Punjab's vast cultural riches **BY BINDU GOPAL RAO**

A region that was once along the Silk

Route is bound to be paved with treasures, both ancient and new. Amritsar, near India's border with Pakistan, is one of Punjab's largest cities as well as its cultural heart, home to one of Sikhism's holiest sites, the Golden Temple.

Before the city was founded in 1574, the area was blanketed in thick forest, and horses were the main mode of transport. No surprise then that a colourful horse art installation proudly graces a spacious, light-filled lobby at the new Le Meridien Amritsar, connecting the city's history to its present. The hotel's arts and heritage theme continues in its design – a fusion of European chic with a distinctive local inflection – plus elegant art pieces scattered all over the property.

The luxury hotel, which opened in July, is located about 1.5km from the Sri Guru Ram Das Ji International Airport. With digital kiosks in the lobby offering travel ideas, it aims to be a guide for cultural explorations in the city through its Unlock Art Programme.

Once you're ready to explore Amritsar, all you will need is your Unlock Art room key – a keepsake, artist-designed key card – to gain access to a culture centre partner. Here are a few you shouldn't miss.



Le Meridien Amritsar's lobby



Indian Academy of Fine Arts (IAFA)

Established in 1928, this prestigious art institution has a collection of paintings and sculptures dating back decades before the Partition of 1947. The institution also runs a restoration lab to preserve the region's fine arts heritage. indianacademyoffinearts.com

Partition Museum

Across 14 galleries, the Partition Museum documents the impact of the Partition of 1947 – which created the separate nations of India and Pakistan – had on the lives of ordinary people. It houses artefacts such as utensils, clothes and trunks that were carried by Partition survivors as they found themselves suddenly displaced in one of history's largest mass migrations. partitionmuseum.org

Central Sikh Museum

Started in 1958, the Central Sikh Museum features a rare collection of paintings of Sikh gurus, saints and warriors as well as a collection of coins, arms and ancient manuscripts. Look out for the *kangha* (wooden comb) of Guru Gobind Singh and rare pencil sketches here. <https://bit.ly/46t8cP3>

MH now flies 2x weekly between Kuala Lumpur and Amritsar starting on 8 November 2023.