

**From Rehabilitation to Re-Release:
The Triumphant Return of a Sea Turtle's Journey of Survival and Conservation
at Gaya Island Resort**



Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 14 October 2024 – YTL Hotels is proud to share the inspiring story of Covid, a rescued sea turtle that was rehabilitated and released into the wild at Gaya Island Resort. This incredible journey highlights the dedication of the resort's Marine Centre, whose relentless efforts helped to restore the health of this resilient creature after a lengthy recovery process.

Covid, who was named after the pandemic, was discovered in March 2020 near a water village by Pulau Gaya in a dire state, suffering from malnutrition and a damaged carapace. Thanks to the dedication and expert care of the Marine Centre team, this resilient turtle underwent intensive treatment, including surgeries, medication, acupuncture, and buoyancy therapy. These advanced medical interventions culminated in his recovery, allowing him to be released back into the sea on Merdeka Day this year with a satellite tracker to monitor his well-being and progress.

In a remarkable twist, Covid returned to Gaya Island Resort shortly after his release, perhaps drawn back by the care and attention he received from the Marine Centre team and resort guests. After spending some time at the resort, he was re-released into the sea on October 1, 2024, in excellent health.

Since his re-release, tracking data shows that Covid continues to navigate the waters around Gaya Island, with his most recent location recorded near Police Beach. By closely monitoring his movements, the Marine Centre gains invaluable insights into the behavior, migration patterns, and habitat preferences of sea turtles. This data not only supports ongoing efforts to protect these majestic creatures but also helps shape broader marine conservation strategies. Covid's journey is a testament to the importance of such initiatives and underscores Gaya Island Resort's unwavering commitment to the rehabilitation and preservation of marine life. Covid's journey will be continually tracked and shared through updates on the Gaya Island Resort's [Instagram](#) account.

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About 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

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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 with a hospitality footprint across Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Australia, France, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom, including Pangkor Laut Resort, voted the World's Best Resort in 2003 by Condé Nast Traveller UK and top 20 Best Resorts in Asia in 2023 by Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards US. The Gainsborough Bath Spa, a part of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World's collection of legendary hotels, was named in the 2024 Condé Nast Traveller Awards as the World's 6th top Hotel in the UK as well as the Top Destination Spa Resorts in the World in the 2022 and 2023 Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards. The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui was named in 2023 by Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards US as one of the top 15 best resorts in Thailand. The Gainsborough Bath Spa in the UK and Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve in Niseko Village, both achieved a Michelin Key each.

The portfolio, which embraces the brand promise of Treasured Places, and Treasured Moments, also encompasses the ownership management of Marriott International properties in Australia and Kuala Lumpur as well as properties under the brand's distinctive Autograph Collection banner. Properties under the Marriott International partnership include The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui as well as Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, named in TIME's World's Greatest Places 2021 list and also the first Ritz-Carlton Reserve in Japan, complementing YTL Hotels' master plan for Niseko Village.

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. ytlhotels.com for more information and follow us on our social media platforms for #YTLTravels.

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For high-resolution images, please visit [YTL Hotels Media Gallery](#) For reservations and enquiries, please contact YTL Travel Centre at +60 3 2783 1000 or email travelcentre@ytlhotels.com

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