

31/01/1997

Genting to bar tour, chartered buses from April

RESORTS World Bhd will not allow tour and chartered buses and public coaches to ferry passengers to the summit of Genting Highlands beginning April. Private cars will, however, still be allowed to go up the resort mountain, Resorts World Bhd executive vice president Justin Tan said.

The company, the operator of the five hotels, a casino and theme park, has provided a new RM128 million cable car system, called the Genting Skyway, to facilitate the transportation of guests and patrons.

The skyway, which will begin operations on Saturday, is expected to dramatically ease the traffic flow to and from the resort, especially during peak season.

The skyway comprises 105 gondolas, seating up to 8 passengers each and capable of accommodating more than 2,000 people an hour each way.

The system, the brainchild of Resorts World Bhd chairman and founder Tan Sri Lim Goh Tong, offers an alternative mode that is accessible, convenient and practical for those visiting the resort.

"It is not a money-spinning business," Tan said. "With fees of only RM2 per person per way, the capital investment is expected to be recovered in only 15 to 20 years."

"Rather, it is the latest attraction to Genting Highlands. It gives visitors a scenic ride to the hotel and minimises the need for tour buses to travel all the way to the summit," he told reporters on Genting Highlands yesterday.

He added that another RM3 million will be spent to landscape the cable car route.

Passengers will have to disembark at the foothill cable station at Gohtong Jaya, which is about half an hour bus ride to the top of the mountain. It will take passengers only 11 minutes to go up the mountain via the Genting Skyway.

The seven-storey car park at the Genting Skyway station has bays for tour buses, coaches and cars.

"We expect to ferry about 2 to 3 million passengers in the gondolas a year," Resorts World Bhd senior vice president Mr Y.O. Wong said.

"There will be inter-hotel shuttle buses and taxis for those who do not wish to use the cable cars," he added.

Wong added that the 15-year-old existing cable cars will continue operating, as they provided a link between the Awana Golf Resort and Genting Hotel. They also offered a different scenic route. All methods and procedures of the cable cars comply with the highest Swiss standards and safety regulations. They are also equipped with rescue equipment.

The Genting Skyway is said to be one of the longest in South-East Asia and the one of the fastest in the world. Those taking the cable car beginning Saturday until March 31 will not be charged any fee.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to officially open the Genting skyway on February 21. He will also witness the official handing over of Resorts World's fire service responsibilities on the mountain to the Government.

Dr Mahathir will also open the RM439 million Highlands Hotel.

Resorts World Bhd executive vice president of public affairs and human resources Tan Sri Alwi Jantan said the company has carried out preventive services and security since the beginning of its operations. "The entry of other developers in the area over the last few years has made it necessary

for us to hand over the responsibility to the proper authorities."

The Resorts World Bhd group also has plans to open up a chain of Awana hotels in Langkawi by September this year and Port Klang by next year.

(END)