



PRESS RELEASE

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## MALAYSIA WELCOMES TURKMENISTAN AIRLINES INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO KUALA LUMPUR

**SEPANG, 12 February 2015** – Turkmenistan Airlines commenced its inaugural flight to Kuala Lumpur today. The direct flight to Kuala Lumpur was a result of the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak's official visit to Turkmenistan in June last year.

The Ashgabat-Kuala Lumpur flight, which is operated by the Boeing 777-200 aircraft will fly once a week with a seating capacity of 291 passengers on each flight.

To celebrate this special occasion, the passengers on the inaugural flight were welcomed by the Director of International Promotions Division (America/Europe/Oceania) of Tourism Malaysia Datin Normasila Musa, along with Malaysia's Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Kaprawi and the Turkmenistan Ambassador to Malaysia Yazkuli Mammedov. They were also greeted by a Malaysian cultural group and received goodie bags from Tourism Malaysia.

Deputy Chief Executive of the "Turkmenhovayollary" National State Service of Turkmenistan Tanryguly Gurbanmuhammedov; Deputy General Director of Ashgabat International Eduard Muradov; and Head of the Department of International Relations of the State Tourism Committee of Turkmenistan Abdyrahman Mammetniyazov were also among the passengers on board the inaugural flight.

In addition, Turkmenistan Airlines has also invited 12 Turkmenistan tour agents and two media representatives to participate in this inaugural flight. They will get to experience Malaysia's tourism offerings through a nine-day fam trip to Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Melaka, and Langkawi from 13 to 20 February.

Besides that, they will also be attending a 'Get to Know Malaysia' session organised by Tourism Malaysia at the Saloma Theatre Restaurant, Kuala Lumpur tomorrow, which will give them an opportunity to meet and network with the Malaysian tour agents. The session will also include presentations by Tourism Malaysia, the Malaysian Association of Tour & Travel Agents (MATTA), and the Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH).

### Background on Turkmenistan Airlines

Turkmenistan Airlines is Turkmenistan's national carrier, which was established in 1992.



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This airline company which operates in Ashgabat is one of the most important airlines in central Asia, connecting 14 international destinations across Russia, Europe, and Asia.

For more information, please contact Syaliza Abd Aziz, Assistant Director, International Promotion Division (America/Europe/Ocenia), Tourism Malaysia at +603-8891 8359 or email [syaliza@tourism.gov.my](mailto:syaliza@tourism.gov.my).

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For more media releases, media info and media features on Malaysia's tourism industry, kindly visit the Media Centre of Tourism Malaysia's website at <http://www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my/>

**MALAYSIA TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD OR TOURISM MALAYSIA** is an agency under the Ministry of Tourism & Culture, Malaysia. Tourism Malaysia focuses on the specific task of promoting Malaysia at all levels. Since its inception, Tourism Malaysia has grown by leaps and bounds and it has emerged as a major player in the international tourism scene. In 2013, Malaysia registered 25.7 million tourist arrivals and RM65.4 billion in receipts, making tourism its second largest foreign exchange earner and the sixth highest contributor to its Gross National Income (GNI).

Malaysia is celebrating its fourth **VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR (VMY)** in 2014 with the theme "Celebrating 1Malaysia Truly Asia". The promotion of the country continues with the **MALAYSIA YEAR OF FESTIVALS (MyFEST)** campaign in 2015 with the theme "Endless Celebrations" emphasising the various festivals celebrated by its multicultural society. Both campaigns are key drivers towards achieving the country's target of 36 million tourist arrivals and RM168 billion in receipts by 2020, as outlined in the **Tourism NKEA** (National Key Economic Area).

Through the Tourism NKEA, collaborative efforts between the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, other Government agencies and the private sector have been enhanced to help secure Malaysia's position as a leading tourist destination. The targets set under the Tourism NKEA will be achieved through the implementation of twelve Entry Point Projects (EPPs) clustered under five themes: Affordable Luxury; Nature Adventure; Family Fun; Events, Entertainment, Spa and Sports; and Business Tourism.

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