



#### BINTAN RESORTS

**PATA Gold Awards 2003**  
Bintan Mangrove Discovery Tour – Ecotourism / Travel-Related Project

**1-S Magazine Reader's Choice Awards 2001**  
Best Weekend Getaway  
1-S Magazine, Singapore

**M&C Asia-Pacific Gold Awards 1999**  
Best Golf Venue (Resorts Category)  
M&C Asia-Pacific Magazine

**Most Innovative Linked Product**  
Singapore Tourism Board 12<sup>th</sup> Tourism Awards, 1997

**WTM 1997 Global Awards**  
World Travel Market (WTM), London

**Top 50 Perfect Island Choices**  
The Whole World Year-Round Island Planner  
Conde Nast Traveller 1997

### For Immediate Release

## Visitor Arrivals to Bintan Resorts in 2008 at All Time High

**16<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Singapore** – Bintan Resorts announced today that it saw a significant increase in visitor arrivals for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. The destination saw a total of 397,833 visitor arrivals in 2008, representing a 19.2% increase from the 333,771 visitors in 2007. This significantly higher than expected result is an encouraging sign in the midst of the current economic downturn.

From January to December 2008, 111,985 visitors from Singapore made up nearly a third of all arrivals, a growth of 5.4% over the previous year. Travellers from the rest of Asia accounted for 52.0%. Japan and Korea remained the largest markets after Singapore and Indonesia, jointly contributing 14.4% of all arrivals.

Other major markets include Germany, Australia and the UK, with increases of 21.4%, 11.1% and 7.6% visitors respectively. Emerging markets that showed significant increases over 2007 were China, Russia and India, which saw growths of 49.6%, 24.3% and 19.0% respectively.

The strong performance during the first half of 2008 more than made up for the weaker second half. While the year ahead is expected to be a challenging one, Bintan Resorts is continuing its efforts in product renewal so as to emerge stronger when good times return. These improvements include upgrading of facilities at existing resorts, revamping existing tour programmes, enhancing connectivity via sea and air routes, new resort development, and the establishment of a new “Village Centre” at Lagoi Bay.

Said Mr Asad Shiraz, Director Marketing, Bintan Resorts International: “In the current economic situation, many people will be cutting back on leisure travel, but they may be unwilling to

completely give it up. Because of its proximity to Singapore, Bintan Resorts offers an excellent and affordable beach holiday, as well as an alternative corporate getaway during these more cost-sensitive and trying economic times. We will therefore shift our marketing focus to Singapore, Indonesia and other nearby markets.”

Located just 55 minutes via a comfortable catamaran ride from Singapore, Bintan Resorts offers an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life with its miles of sandy beaches and turquoise waters. Attractions and activities found at Bintan Resorts include a myriad of land and sea sports, cultural and nature tours, including the award-winning Mangrove Discovery Tour. The destination can also be reached via daily direct flights from Jakarta and other cities in Indonesia.

~ *End* ~

#### **About Bintan Resorts**

Bintan Resorts is a multi-award winning, integrated tropical beach resort destination with world-class facilities featuring:

- ✓ Extensive land-bank of prime tropical resort real estate within close proximity to Singapore
- ✓ Indonesian beach resort offering international standards of products and services such as golf, spa, water sports, nature/culture tours and a wide range of accommodation
- ✓ Easy accessibility via fast and comfortable ferries (55 minutes away from Singapore and 35 minutes away from Batam, Indonesia)
- ✓ Ideal getaway for active individuals and couples, families, golfers, corporate and incentive groups, spa lovers and honeymooners
- ✓ Superb twin destination with Singapore (city & beach resort appeal), providing tourists with ‘two destinations in one holiday!’

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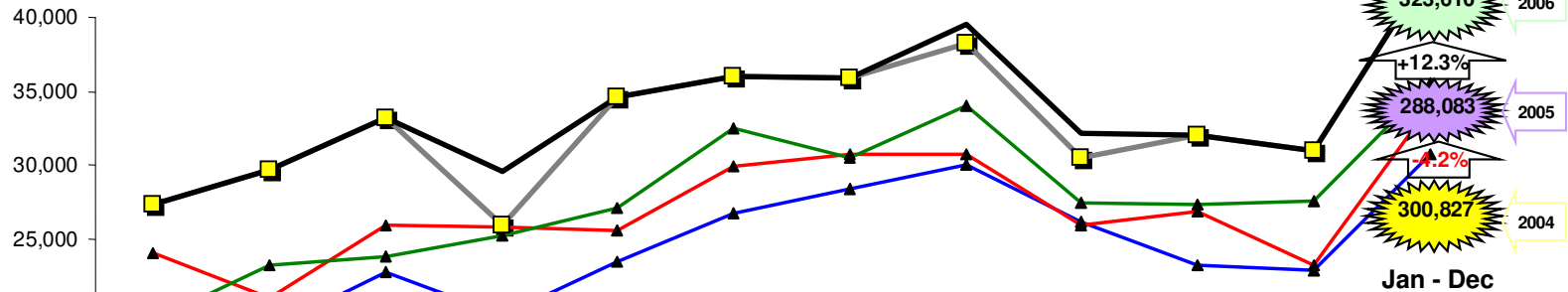
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*Footnote: From 2008, Bintan Resorts’ visitor arrival statistics include Indonesian land arrivals.*

# 2005 - 2008 Visitor Arrivals Comparison

Visitor Arrivals		
<u>Jan - Dec</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>Jan - Dec</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Jan - Dec</u> <u>08vs07</u>
<b>397,833</b>	<b>333,771</b>	<b>+19.2%</b>



Source:  
BRF Pte  
Ltd &  
BBT

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
▲ 2005	15,006	18,857	22,713	19,864	23,470	26,755	28,411	30,065	26,151	23,228	22,829	30,734
▲ 2006	24,011	20,992	25,923	25,804	25,597	29,872	30,698	30,778	25,910	26,814	23,216	33,995
▲ 2007	19,507	23,191	23,775	25,248	27,099	32,455	30,483	34,074	27,417	27,388	27,599	35,535
■ 2008	27,313	29,656	33,191	25,980	34,651	36,031	35,876	38,274	30,440	32,062	30,973	43,386
— HIGH	27,313	29,656	33,191	29,610	34,651	36,031	35,876	39,582	32,155	32,062	30,973	43,386

"HIGH" represents the historical highest since 1996

# 2008 Visitor Arrivals (Jan-December) Breakdown by Nationality of Major Markets

