

THE deep, endless blue waters of Malaysia have long been a secret to those in the know, but now, thanks to a recent recognition from 'Scuba Diving Magazine', the world is finally catching on. In the 2025 Readers Choice Awards, Malaysia emerged as a true diving paradise, winning accolades across multiple categories and cementing its position as one of the top diving destinations on the global map.

For years, the country's underwater treasures have attracted those seeking the thrill of discovery beneath the waves. From its vibrant coral reefs to its diverse marine life, Malaysia has always promised — something special for divers — whether they're beginners taking their first plunge or seasoned veterans seeking their next big adventure.

But this year, the recognition came in waves, surpassing even the most competitive destinations in the region. Malaysia's dive offerings have evolved, and it's clear that the world is starting to take notice.

RARE COMBINATION

The awards aren't just a pat on the back, but highlight the country's commitment to offering accessible, affordable and sustainable diving experiences. Among the most notable accolades were first-place finishes in both the "Beginners" and "Best Value" categories. Malaysia offers a rare combination: world-class dive sites that remain affordable, welcoming not just experienced divers but also families and those just starting out.

The calm, clear waters off islands like Langkawi and the Perhentian Islands invite first-time divers, and the deeper, more challenging sites like Sipadan and Layang-Layang offer something for those looking to push their limits.

Yet, Malaysia's appeal goes beyond

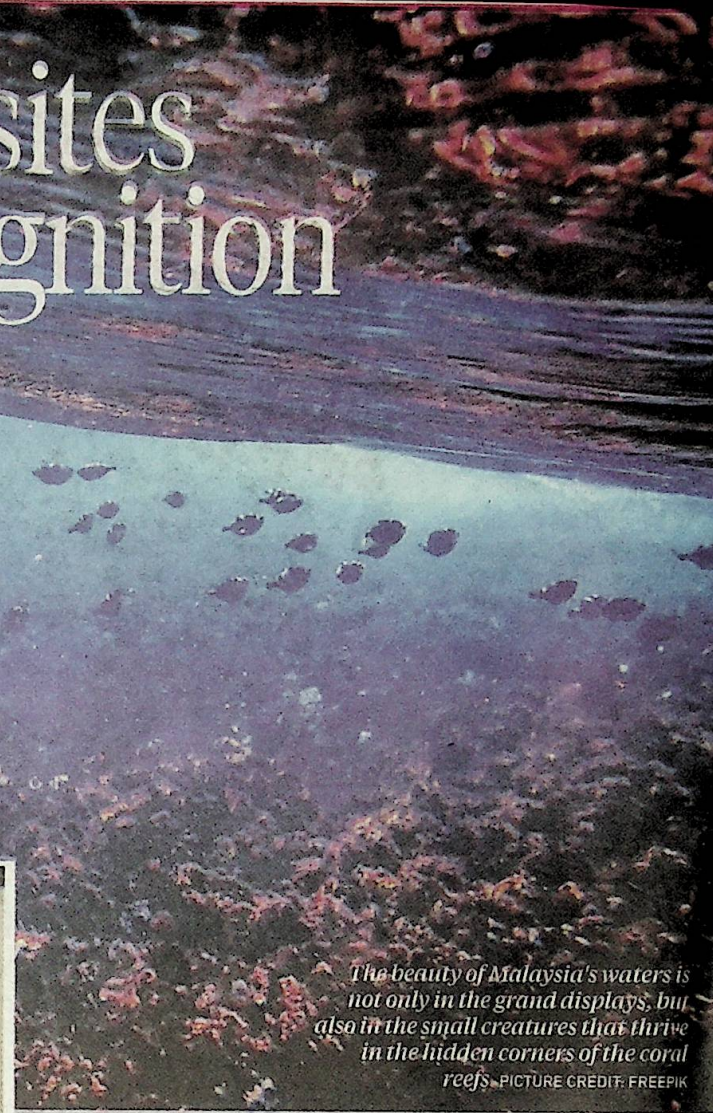
being a great place for beginners. It also ranked highly in the "Snorkelling" and "Shore Diving" categories, and its second-place finish in both highlighted the rich diversity of experiences awaiting divers and snorkelers alike.

But it's not just about accessibility. Our waters teem with life, and the country's rich marine biodiversity has earned it top recognition in the "Best Overall" and "Macro Life" categories. Here, the beauty isn't just in the grand displays, but also in the small, delicate

Malaysia's dive sites gain global recognition



FROM LEFT: Linawati Ismail, deputy director of Tourism Malaysia Los Angeles (centre), says Malaysia is committed to sustainable tourism practices; Malaysia has been recognised as a premier diving destination in the prestigious Scuba Diving Magazine's 2025 Readers Choice Awards. PIX COURTESY OF MALAYSIA TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD



The beauty of Malaysia's waters is not only in the grand displays, but also in the small creatures that thrive in the hidden corners of the coral reefs. PICTURE CREDIT: FREEPIK

creatures that thrive in the hidden corners of the coral reefs.

COMMITMENT TO PRESERVATION

The experience isn't limited to shallow waters either. Malaysia's top 10 ranking in "Wall Diving" speaks to the thrilling vertical drop-offs that define some of its most dramatic dive sites. These towering under-

water cliffs are home to everything — from graceful barracudas to schools of vibrant fish — offering exhilarating dives that are as beautiful as they are awe-inspiring.

But what truly sets Malaysia apart is its commitment to preserving

these underwater wonders for future generations. Says Linawati Ismail, deputy director of Tourism Malaysia Los Angeles: "Malaysia's commitment to sustainable tourism practices and marine conservation initiatives ensures that the breathtaking underwater ecosystems remain vibrant and thriving."

As the country looks towards the future, with the Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign set to draw millions of tourists to its shores, it's clear that its reputation as a dive haven will only continue to grow. Malaysia is ready to welcome those seeking not just adventure, but a deep connection to the natural world beneath the waves.