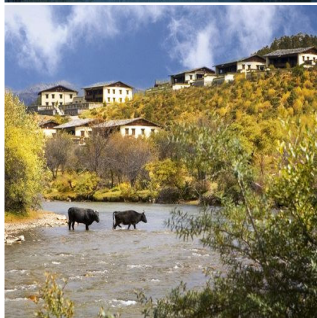


NEWS



Images from top

- Garden Villa, Banyan Tree Lijiang
- Exterior View, Banyan Tree Ringha

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## BANYAN TREE PLANTS ITS FLAG IN THE DESERTS OF DUNHUANG, CHINA

**Singapore, 17 January 2008** - Singapore Main-Board listed Banyan Tree Holdings Limited ("Banyan Tree" or the "Group"), a leading developer, designer and operator of top-tier hotels, resorts, spas and retail galleries worldwide, today announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Dunhuang Government to develop and operate a resort at Dunhuang county, in the northwestern Gansu province in China.

**Banyan Tree Dunhuang** is the latest addition to the Group's growing portfolio of fifteen resorts and city hotels across China, which includes the award winning Banyan Tree Lijiang and Banyan Tree Ringha resorts in Yunnan province. "We are very excited about Dunhuang which will allow us to once again bring the romance of travel to new heights for our guests and is in line with our ethos of creating new experiences wherever we go," said Executive Chairman, Mr. Ho Kwon Ping.

Famous for its endless sand dunes and beautiful desert scenery, Dunhuang has transformed from its days as an essential stop for travelling merchants on the Silk Road to what is today a must see historical and cultural destination for tourists from around the world. Situated close to the Mogao Caves, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Banyan Tree Dunhuang spans across more than 31 hectares of virgin land.

The initial phase of the development will comprise a Banyan Tree resort and an Angsana resort. Later phases will see the addition of up to three more resorts. The Group will also tap into the site's spectacular sand dune features to create unique dining and recreational guest experiences for guests. Both the architectural and interior design aspects of the development will be undertaken by the Group's in-house architectural division, Architrave Design and Planning.

- more -



## NEWS

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The development is slated for completion in 2011.

These new developments are not expected to have any material financial impact on the Group's earnings and its net tangible assets for 2008.

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#### **About Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts**

**Banyan Tree** offers an intimate retreat experience featuring its own signature blend of romance and Asian sensuality. The philosophy behind the hotels, resorts, spas and galleries is based on providing a place for rejuvenation of the body, mind and soul – a Sanctuary for the Senses.

Banyan Tree resorts are found in Phuket, Thailand (1994), Maldives Vabbinfaru (1995), Bintan, Indonesia (1995), Bangkok, Thailand (2002), Seychelles (2002), Ringha, China (2005), Lijiang, China (2006), Bahrain (2007) and Maldives Madivaru (2007). Flagship Banyan Tree Phuket was the first to introduce a tropical garden spa concept.

#### **About Angsana Resorts & Spas**

Launched in 2000, **Angsana** is the sister brand of Banyan Tree, inspired by the exotic Angsana Tree noted for its crown of golden flowers. Angsana resorts are designed as contemporary, chic and vibrant retreats to live life spontaneously and sense the moment.

Angsana resorts are found in Bintan, Indonesia (2000), Great Barrier Reef, Australia (2000), Bangalore, India (2001), Maldives Ihuru (2001), Maldives Velavaru (2006) and Morocco (2007).

In 2003, **Colours of Angsana** joined the Angsana portfolio. This boutique hotel collection appeals to the soft adventurer and cultural tourism sector. The current hotels are Gyalthang Dzong (Shangri-La, China), Deer Park Hotel (Giritale, Sri Lanka) and Maison Souvannaphoum (Luang Prabang, Laos).

**To date, the Banyan Tree Group manages and/or has ownership interests in 23 resorts and hotels, 64 spas and 66 retail galleries and two golf courses.**

[www.banyantree.com](http://www.banyantree.com)