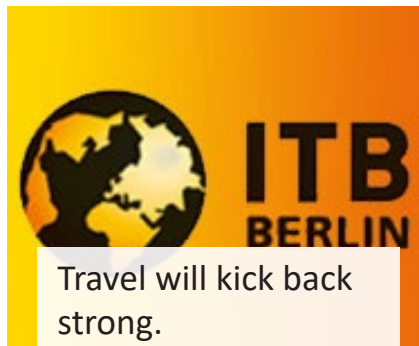




**LiPe a faraway island
worth visiting.**



**Shun Myanmar's mili-
tary, not the people.**



**Travel will kick back
strong.**



**Princess bound Ameri-
cas and Antarctica.**

Shun Myanmar's military, not the people

Be careful who you partner with; a plea for international companies to do due diligence when choosing a joint venture partner in Myanmar.

A hotelier responds to our recent op-ed, adding insights on the need for due diligence to ensure international travel and hospitality companies partner with people in Myanmar who want to make their country a better place.

"I have read with interest your article 'Should hotel brands shed JVs in Myanmar?'"

(<https://www.ttrweekly.com/site/2021/03/should-hotel-brands-shed-jvs-in-myanmar/>)

"I do believe that tourism can bring sustainable development for people in a country. It is indeed important to look at ALL SDG's, so not only the environment and global warming but also the aspects that benefit

the People and includes providing a livable salary, standing up against

their local business partner. Don't choose a person because he/she is

to the military or its cronies anyway. Instead, you will be able to find honest entrepreneurs with integrity who try to make a living while making their country a better place.

Family names don't exist in Myanmar, so it's more difficult to find out to whom a potential business partner is related and how he/she made their money.

"It's also common to appoint a 'proxy', which could be a family member or friend to hide the true identity, so you have to dig a bit deeper and ask around. Many official documents in Myanmar ask for the father's name to identify a person, and it's common to ask the occupation of the parents; start doing the same!"

"Overall, boycotts for the whole country will hurt the very people that are currently standing up for the injustice of stealing the elections."

A Myanmar hotelier



injustice and human rights abuses, especially in a country like Myanmar.

"Based on my experience in the hotel business in Myanmar, I want to emphasise two takeaways in response to your op-ed article."

Beware of connected cash

"International hotels or tour operators should NOT boycott or shun Myanmar (or any country for that matter) but be far more careful when choosing

"well connected" or has loads of cash to co-invest but choose him/her based on attitude, principles, values and character."

Dig deep to find honest partners

"Always search for suppliers (hotels, travel agencies, airlines) that actively try to make their community a better place and take care of People and the Planet.

"By doing so, you will most likely find suppliers that are NOT connected

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Managing editor: Don Ross: donr@ttrweekly.com

EDITORIAL: news@rosstr.com
Editor: Don Ross

MARKETING: sales@ttrweekly.com
Content editor: Danai Stephen Ross
Publishing director: Lars Magnusson

PRODUCTION:
Creative director: Danai Stephen Ross
Graphics: Suradej Chatsomsiri,
Kamolapat Srivirawan

Travel will kick back strong

Planning trips in 2021 back on the agenda, says ITB Berlin and Statista's survey on travel behaviour in Germany, the US and China.

Expect people to spend more on travel again in 2021 and the end of the pandemic will spur an era of long-term growth, ITB Berlin and the market research institute Statista concluded from a study due to be presented in detail at the ITB Berlin NOW virtual trade show next week.

Who is longing to travel far away? Who finally wants to go on a beach holiday again? Who is planning what trips to where this year? And are the long-term impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on travel behaviour? These questions are answered in the recent online survey conducted in Germany, the US, and China to investigate travel behaviour in 2020 as well as travel plans for 2021.

In the mood to plan trips

The survey's findings reflect a positive mood. Around 70% of those surveyed in Germany, the US and China are thinking about private trips this year. Specifically, 37% of Germans, 42% of Americans and 66% of Chinese are planning one or more trips.

Close to 25% of respondents in Germany and the US and over 35% in China also believe they will spend more money on travelling over the next 12 months than during the same period to date. In China, there also appears to be significant pent-up demand for travel, where close to 50% of interviewees think they travel more on an ongoing basis once the coronavirus pandemic has

passed, compared with 25% in the US and 17% in Germany.

Personal safety and well-being

The majority of people not planning to travel this year say this is due to the coronavirus pandemic. It comes as no great surprise that the pandemic still heavily influences holiday planning. However, it is worth noting that perceived personal safety on a trip weighs more than travel choices being restricted. 50% of Germans not planning to travel in 2021 say they feel uneasy about taking trips during the coronavirus pandemic. In the US, the corresponding figure is 34%, and in China, even 56%. By comparison, only 23% of German respondents, 21% of Americans and 45% of Chinese state travel restrictions as to their reason for staying at home. Thus, tour operators this year face the challenge of instilling a sense of safety and well-being among their customers.

Beach holidays and city breaks

A closer look at people's travel plans in 2021 shows a preference for beach holidays in all countries, with 34% of Germans, 36% of Americans and 42% of Chinese taking them into consideration. However, for 37% and 42% of Germans and Americans respectively, visiting family and friends comes first, whereas for 49% of Chinese city breaks are most important.

The majority of respondents in all countries plan to stay in

hotels, although the figures vary significantly from country to country. In China, 86% of private travellers intend to stay in hotels, whereas in the US and Germany the proportion is much lower, at 56 and 42% respectively. In Germany and the US, close to one-third of prospective travellers in 2021 intend to stay overnight with family or friends. In China, the corresponding figure is only 16%. It is presumed that, among other things, the living conditions in the respective countries are responsible for these variations.

Holidaying at home

Questioned as to their long-term plans for the future, 35% of German respondents, 38% of Americans and 50% of Chinese believe their travel behaviour will change long-term. The reasons given were environmental considerations (47% in China) and the coronavirus pandemic (83% in Germany, 64% US, 83% in China). Among those who say their travel behaviour will change in the long run, 76% of Germans, 77% of Americans and 88% of Chinese agree with the statement: "I will take more vacation in my country." This trend also applies to destination planning in 2021. In China and the US, only 29 and 15% respectively of those planning trips are aiming to go abroad. Germany's figure is significantly higher, at 61%, due to its central location in Europe and proximity to many other countries.

ITB Berlin NOW takes place from Tuesday, 9 to Friday, 12 March for trade visitors only and as an entirely virtual event.

Visit www.itb.com/now.

Lipe a faraway island worth visiting

Thailand travellers in the know go beyond popular tourist spots to explore hideaway islands such as Koh Lipe.

Sea. Of all the islands, 562 are in the Andaman Sea and Koh Lipe stands head and shoulders above its neighbours for some excellent

is a favourite choice for visitors looking for a travel base to explore Tarutao National Marine Park ranked as one of ASEAN's Heritage Parks.

A favourite Lipe Island programme for domestic holidaymakers extends for four days and three nights. It gives visitors a chance to explore marine attractions and enjoy a relaxing chill out from a busy routine back home..

From Bangkok, a flight to Satun, the nearest airport town to Lipe, takes around one hour and 25 minutes. From Satun, there are shuttle van services that take travellers to Pakbara Pier to connect with a ferry or speedboat service to the island. The overland trip to the pier takes around two hours, while the speedboat trip to Lipe takes another one hour and 30 minutes.

Before booking the flight to Satun, make sure that you can reach Pakbara Pier, before the last speedboat departs for the island, usually at around 1400.

Double-check with the boat operator as the timetable depends on the season and at present, the island is off-limits to travellers due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are other travel options for

the transfer to Satun such as air-conditioned tour buses and daily train service to Hat Yai. Travellers board the Hat Yai-bound train in Bangkok. Once they arrive in Hat Yai, they join a van service at Kaset market to Pakbara Pier.

If travellers opt to take the Satun-bound bus from Bangkok, they need to disembark at Amphoe La-Ngu



The November to April cool season is the perfect time to enjoy the Andaman Sea coast's beauty. Seas shimmer in the sunlight as smooth as glass sheets reflecting clear blue skies.

Monsoon tropical storms are far away drenching the opposite coastline facing the Gulf of Thailand. It leaves the islands off the Andaman coast serene and sheltered until May when the compass swings dramatically to herald storm clouds blown on the wind from the southwest. No wonder, discerning Thai beachgoers, vote Koh Lipe one of the top-ranked islands in South Thailand.

Thailand is home to 936 islands, located off the coastline of 19 provinces adjacent to both the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman



reasons.

The island is the perfect answer for those who are looking for a hideaway paradise to enjoy natural marine beauty but with resort comforts. Besides its picturesque scenery, the island offers vast choices of tourist accommodation and other supporting facilities such as shops, restaurants and bars. It



where they board the local bus or Song Thaew, to Pakbara Pier.

Although it may sound like quite an effort to reach Koh Lipe, it is worth the effort. The white-sand beaches and crystal-clear seas



in Lipe will revive your energies, and you will quickly forget the exhaustion of the long overland commute and ferry transfer to Koh Lipe.

Lipe beaches

There are three main beaches. The favourite spot is ironically called Pattaya Beach, not a reminder of the popular resort southeast of Bangkok, but rather a Thai language reference to 'gentle breezes.' The 1-km long beach is the social hub of the island where most of the tourist facilities are located, including hotels, shops, and restaurants. It is also a spot for those who enjoy

beach bars after sunset.

Sunrise Beach is an excellent choice for travellers looking for a quieter spot to chill-out. Then there is Sunset Beach, as the name suggests, a favourite spot to enjoy stunning sunset views and the opportunity to capture them with an Instagram post.

As a travel base, Lipe opens up the treasures of Tarutao National Marine Park, where sightseeing tour packages are offered by local operators who curate trips that explore the abundant marine life up close.

For those who arrive on Koh Lipe before 1430, there's a chance to kick start the holiday activities with a sunset snorkelling programme that also includes an introduction to sightseeing activities around the island.

The top sightseeing spots include Jabang – an underwater sea-cave, Koh Hin Ngam – a small island on the south of Adang island known for its shiny black rocks covering the coast, Koh Yang. Travellers can discover soft multicoloured corals while Koh Adang is famed for its unspoiled natural marine beauty and sunset scenery.

Lipe is best suited to travellers who have visited all the famous tourist islands off the coast of Thailand and yearn for a quiet natural environment that has been

carefully protected at Koh Lipe for future generations. This is not your usual mass tourism haunt. Here the emphasis is on exploring a national park and the opportunity to join full-day snorkelling trips covering the inner and outer marine zones of Koh Lipe.

Then there are the sunsets unrivalled on the Andaman Sea coast. They are simply remarkable. Equally attractive are the full-day excursions that unlock the beauty of Koh Hin Sorn – another stunning island known for its rock marvels, and Koh Rok Roy – a small island on the west side of Koh Hin Ngam. Koh Rok Roy is known for its stunning white sand beach. Other favourite snorkelling sites include Koh Dong, Koh Rawi, Koh Pung and Koh Pai which are also well-known for their abundant marine life.

After a full day of sightseeing and snorkelling activities, relax in a beach-side restaurant and sip a well-earned iced drink while you order from an extensive seafood menu. The chef will recommend the Spicy Sea-Food Salad and the Tom-Yum Kung Stir-fried Shrimp with Garlic, courtesy of the fishing village's morning catch. To end your amazing Lipe meal try the local speciality, a 'Roti' dessert that goes well with a glass of sweet milk tea to recharge energy for tomorrow's island adventure.

Princess bound Americas and Antarctica

Princess Cruises announces 2022-2023 South America & Antarctica season.

Princess Cruises has announced the line's 2022-2023 South America & Antarctica cruises and cruisetours onboard Sapphire Princess, on sale 10 March 2021. Guests can delight in South America's vibrant culture and cuisine while exploring some of the world's most dramatically diverse landscapes and breathtaking beauty of Antarctica.

Sapphire Princess will visit 19 destinations in 10 countries on six unique itineraries, including:

Antarctica & Cape Horn

- Four days cruising the Antarctica region and a special holiday sailing which includes both Christmas and New Year's Day
- Antarctica & Cape Horn (16 days): Santiago, Punta Arenas, Ushuaia, Cape Horn scenic cruising, Antarctic Peninsula scenic cruising, Falkland Islands, Montevideo and Buenos Aires
- 19 December 2022, 20 January 2023; reverse itinerary on 4 January 2023

Cape Horn & Strait of Magellan

- Overnight in Buenos Aires, including scenic cruising of the spectacular Amalia Glacier
- (14 days): Buenos Aires (overnight), Montevideo, Puerto Madryn, Falkland Islands, Cape Horn scenic cruising, Ushuaia, Punta Arenas, Amalia Glacier scenic cruising, Puerto Montt and Santiago
- 5 February and 5 March 2023;

reverse itinerary on 19 February 2023



Andes & South America

- Overnight in Lima (Callao), Peru, with an optional overland land tour to UNESCO World Heritage Site, Machu Picchu
- Andes & South America (17 days): Los Angeles, Cabo San Lucas, Costa Rica, Lima (overnight), Pisco, La Serena and Santiago – 2 December 2022
- Andes & South America (18 days): Santiago, La Serena, Pisco, Lima (overnight), Manta, Costa Rica, Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, Los Angeles – March 19, 2023

Grand Adventures

- Overnight in Buenos Aires and Lima
- Andes & Cape Horn Grand Adventure (32 days): Buenos Aires (overnight), Montevideo, Puerto Madryn, Falkland Islands, Cape Horn scenic cruising, Ushuaia, Punta Arenas, Amalia Glacier scenic cruising, Puerto Montt, Santiago, La Serena, Pisco, Lima (overnight), Manta, Costa Rica, Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, Los Angeles – March 5, 2023
- Antarctica, Andes & Cape Horn Grand Adventure (33 days): Los Angeles, Cabo San Lucas, Costa Rica, Lima (overnight), Pisco, La Serena, Santiago, Punta Arenas,

Ushuaia, Cape Horn scenic cruising, Antarctic Peninsula scenic cruising, Falkland Islands, Montevideo and Buenos Aires – 2 December 2022

For guests wishing to combine a land tour before or after their cruise, Princess offers two cruisetours for South America:

- Iguazú Falls Adventure – features the thundering Iguazú Falls, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as a visit to Rio de Janeiro.
- Machu Picchu Explorer – visits the ancient Inca compound, Machu Picchu, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, plus a tour of the historic city of Cusco.

Sapphire Princess showcases the MedallionClass Experience, offering a number of new features that leverage touchless technologies and significantly enhance and personalise the guest experience, as well as support new health protocols.

The cruise line's award-winning OceanMedallion™ wearable device replaces the traditional cruise card to significantly expand touch-free options and personalisation on board, including:

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- Completely touchless commerce
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- Guest service requests via mobile device chat
- Location-based gaming and wagering
- Entertainment content via smart devices

Visit: www.princess.com.

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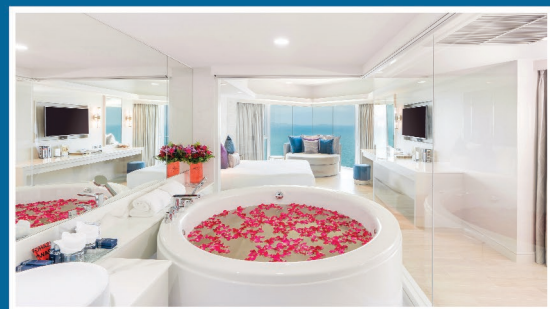


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