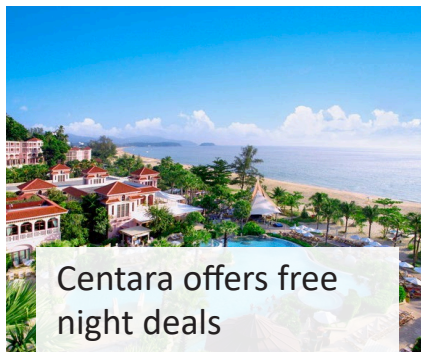




## Princess resumes US cruises



## Banyan takes the UNESCO Pledge



## Centara offers free night deals



## Can airlines find the cash to survive the



# Banyan takes the UNESCO Pledge

Banyan Tree Group joins Expedia Group in the UNESCO Sustainable Travel Pledge.

Banyan Tree Group has joined Expedia Group and UNESCO in the global expansion of the UNESCO Sustainable Travel Pledge.

The group's pledge will see 48 Banyan Tree properties adhere to the



responsible environmental and cultural practices established by the UNESCO Pledge.

The pledge promotes responsible practices such as environmental protection, community resilience and heritage conservation, with the

ultimate goal of changing the nature and impact of global tourism.

Banyan Tree Group was built on sustainability practices and adds a unique contribution in establishing further a global standard for a more sustainable travel future.

"In light of the pandemic and the reductions we've seen in environmental impact during this time, more travellers – and travel companies – are seeking opportunities to be better stewards of the planet," said Expedia Group senior vice-president government and corporate affairs Jean-Philippe Monod.

"Banyan Tree Group has, from its inception 27 years ago, been rooted in sustainability and is taking an exemplary role by being among the first hospitality brands to take the UNESCO Pledge."

Launched in 2019 with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), UNESCO

and Expedia Group, today, more than 4,000 hotels are committed to the UNESCO Pledge globally. Participating hotels support the reduction and elimination of single-use plastics and promote local economy and culture.

"Banyan Tree Group, as part of our culture, is on a mission to amplify sustainability awareness and create impact by sharing our learnings and sustainability measures to help other hotels' kick-start implementation," said Banyan Tree Global Foundation (BTGF) assistant vice president, group sustainability director and coordinating director Steve Newman. "As an industry, we have the ability and power to transform global inequity. As a company, we are committed to helping our partners, and industry colleagues become even more planet-aware and friendly as we 'build back better' post-pandemic."

Banyan Tree Group has received recognition for its commitment to environmental protection and community development through its non-profit arm, Banyan Tree Global Foundation (BTGF), which aligns the group's efforts to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The hospitality company's 'Stay for Good' programme focuses on three core areas of environment, community and responsibility, which includes a target to reduce the resource consumption by 5% year over year. The group also recently awarded the Greater Good Grants to eight external organisations for community and environment projects that contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

To learn more about the UNESCO Pledge, visit the microsite: <https://unescosustainable.travel/>.

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**TTR Weekly** is a controlled circulation newspaper for the travel industry specialising in Thailand and the Mekong region. Published every Wednesday, alternatively in English, the publication is distributed free to travel agents. Available on subscription outside this qualifying category. Published by Ross Publishing Ltd.

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# Centara offers free night deals



Centara invites travellers to rediscover Phuket with free night offers and a quarantine-free stay.

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, invites travellers to rediscover Phuket and explore the island as they've never seen before with free night offers a choice of family-friendly hotels and pool villa resorts.

For every two nights stayed, a third consecutive night is free, so whether travellers enjoy a "Stay 3 pay 2", "Stay 6 pay 4", or all the way up to "Stay 21 pay 14" offer, the longer they stay, the more free nights they receive.

With the "Rediscover Phuket" offer, guests also get free daily hotel

credits redeemable immediately upon check-in for culinary and spa experiences during their stay.

Ideally suited for international travellers returning to Phuket for a quarantine-free stay starting July 2021, the offer is applicable for bookings from now until 31 August 2021 for stays from 1 July to 20 December 2021.

Under Thailand's Tourism Sandbox scheme, the kingdom is gearing up to welcome fully vaccinated travellers from around the world without requiring quarantine on arrival. The island province of Phuket is spearheading the programme, reopening safely to international tourists on 1 July 2021, when at least 70% of the

host province's population has been inoculated.

All eligible staff working in Centara's hotels and resorts in Phuket have already been fully vaccinated, offering guests peace of mind when staying with Centara as their hotels and resorts continue to follow certified health and hygiene procedures with the comprehensive Centara Complete Care programme.

Travellers have a choice of five hotels and resorts on Phuket, including Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket, the perfect place to spend time with family and loved ones, relaxing at the beach club and making memories in the resort's own waterpark. At Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket, international travellers can maximise their vacation with the free nights' offer while also receiving 100% of their room rate back in hotel credit, to be redeemed for room upgrades, memorable meals, refreshing drinks and spa treatments.

Other properties participating in this promotion include Centara Villas Phuket; Centara Karon Resort Phuket; Centara Kata Resort Phuket and Maikhao Dream Villa Resort & Spa, Centara Boutique Collection – all of which are offering THB 500 resort credit daily.

"Rediscover Phuket" offers are available for booking from now until 31 August 2021 for stays from 1 July to 20 December 2021.

For more information about "Rediscover Phuket" offer and to book, visit <https://www.centarahotelsresorts.com/featured-packages/phuket-sandbox/>

Alternatively, contact the Centara reservation centre at [reservations@chr.co.th](mailto:reservations@chr.co.th).



# THE PLACE TO BE



Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Krabi



Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket

## BRING BACK THE LOVE

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At Centara Grand Resort Phuket, your guests can use the hotel credit for a room upgrade, ease into their holiday with a relaxing spa treatment, or indulge in a culinary experience before heading to the resort water park.

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# Princess resumes US cruises

Princess Cruises to resume sailings in the US this September from Los Angeles, San Francisco and Ft. Lauderdale.

Following collaboration with government officials and evolving guidance from the



Princess cruises sailing through 2021 are available for guests who have received their final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days before the beginning of the cruise and have proof of vaccination. Crew vaccinations will be in accordance with CDC guidelines.

## CRUISE WITH CONFIDENCE

Updates to the cruise line's Cruise with Confidence programme are also being implemented, providing peace of mind for booked guests who may encounter an unexpected trip cancellation or interruption due to COVID-19. Guests can cancel for any reason up to 30 days before departure and receive a Future Cruise Credit for any cancellation fees, and a refund of additional funds received to the original payment method. As an enhanced benefit, guests may cancel and receive the same Future Cruise Credit and refund within 30 days all the way to sailing day if they test positive for COVID-19.

## PRINCESS MEDALLIONCLASS VACATION

All Princess ships offer TrulyTouchless experiences with more ways to support physical distancing and personalisation that simplifies the guest experience and delivers next-level service supporting new health protocols. Princess ships offer Wi-Fi at sea through MedallionNet.

[Full Story](#)



U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Princess is announcing its intent to return to service in the United States sailing from Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Ft. Lauderdale this fall.

Starting between 25 September and 28 November 2021, cruises onboard eight Princess MedallionClass ships will once again take guests to the Caribbean, Panama Canal, Mexico, Hawaii and the California Coast.

- *Majestic Princess and Grand Princess: Los Angeles once again provides the springboard to a variety of destinations, including the California Coast and Mexico on seven-day cruises and the Islands of Hawaii on 15-day cruises. Also available are three- to five-day Getaway cruises to the California Coast and Mexico.*

- *Ruby Princess: Sailing out of the iconic Port of San Francisco, Ruby Princess will start with seven-day California Coast cruises before adding 15-day cruises exploring four distinct island jewels in Hawaii and 10-day Mexico cruises to the lineup.*
  - *Enchanted Princess: Begins with two brand new cruises from Ft. Lauderdale to start her current inaugural season of 10-day cruises to the Southern and Eastern Caribbean.*
  - *Sky Princess, Regal Princess and Caribbean Princess: From Ft. Lauderdale, guests can island-hop through the Caribbean with three-, five-, seven- and 14-day cruises, available in the Eastern Caribbean, that visit some of the best-known beaches in the world and the Western Caribbean that allows guests to explore Ancient Mayan Ruins and the beauty of unspoiled coral reefs and underwater caves.*
  - *Crown Princess: Travels to the Panama Canal, from Ft. Lauderdale, on a series of 10-day cruises to this iconic cruise wonder of the world.*
- Dining, entertainment, and shore excursion details are currently being finalised and will be communicated in the coming weeks.



# Be Enchanted!

**Kinabatangan River** is the second longest river in Malaysia.  
The area is known for its remarkable wildlife.



# Can airlines find the cash to survive the

Destinations are relying on their national airlines to bring back the tourists but do airlines are running out of cash to rebuild networks.

Destinations are looking to international airlines to deliver them from the Covid-19 storm, but who will save the airlines from financial collapse?

## **Air India**

Air India is in the throes of “disinvestment” as the government attempts to end decades of heavy losses and state intervention to keep the airline flying.

India’s Economic Times reported this week that disinvestment-bound Air India hopes to raise USD26.9 million to USD40.3 million by selling commercial and residential real estate assets in e-commerce auctions across the country starting 8 July.

A special-purpose business unit – Air India Assets Holding Ltd – has been set up to hold the non-core assets of the Air India group, many of which will be sold off to raise cash.

## **Singapore Airlines**

Singapore Airlines describes its financial year ending 31 March 2021 as the “toughest year in its history.” Singapore Airlines Group slumped to a record SGD4.3 billion full-year net loss for the financial year reversing the SGD\$59 million operating profit it made the previous year. At the operating level, the group was SGD2.5 billion in the red.

## **Vietnam Airlines**

In Vietnam, three banks pledged interest-free loans to prop up



Vietnam Airlines, according to a Reuters report earlier this week. The banks will lend 4 trillion dong (USD173.8 million) to the national airline to weather the impact of the pandemic and avoid bankruptcy, state media reported on Monday.

Media reports identified the Vietnam Maritime Commercial Joint Stock Bank, Saigon – Hanoi Commercial Joint Stock Bank and SeABank, claiming the interest-free loans should be available in July. The airline, which is 86% owned by the government, reported a net loss of 4.97 trillion dong (USD216.5 million) in the first quarter.

## **Garuda Indonesia**

Last Friday, trading of Garuda Indonesia’s shares halted over bond default AFP reported. Indonesia’s stock exchange suspended trading after the country’s national airline missed a key bond payment, fanning fears that the cash strapped airline was heading for bankruptcy.

The Jakarta-based bourse cited Garuda’s default on a USD500 million Islamic bond, known as ‘sukuk’, for suspending share trading “until further notice”.

Garuda received a government rescue package last year and has been offering early retirement to its employees as it scrambles to restructure. The airline posted a loss of more than USD1 billion in the nine months to September. It has yet to report its full-year financial results for 2020.

## **Philippine Airlines**

Philippine Airlines is heading for a major restructuring that local media says could cut some long-haul flights to slow cash burn. The Philippine Daily Inquirer quoted aviation expert and former Philippine Airlines president Avelino Zapanta saying the cuts may include the flag carrier’s flights from Manila to London and New York.

International operations contributed around 80% of PAL revenues from 2018 to 2020, while domestic service accounted for 20%, according to PAL Holdings’ 2020 annual report.

“PAL will have a long way to go for recovery. The uncertainty of the situation still prevails, but news on the availability of COVID-19 vaccine brings hope that passenger traffic will be better than 2020,” the annual report stated.

Local media reports claim PAL intends to file a Chapter 11 creditor protection petition in the US to shield its assets and restructure hundreds of billions of pesos in obligations.

## **Thai Airways International**

The Central Bankruptcy Court of Thailand gave the go-ahead for Thai Airways’ rehabilitation plan earlier this month. The green light means the airline will now embark on the painful tasking of returning to profit. Thai Airways International has been reporting losses since 2013 that ultimately forced the airline to seek protection under the country’s Central Bankruptcy Court last year. That kept creditors at bay until a Business Rehabilitation Plan gained the court’s approval earlier this month.

[Full Story](#)



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