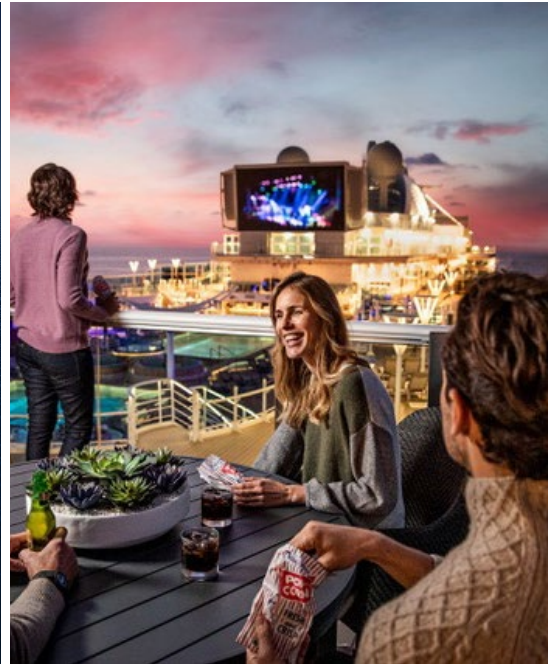




Discovery Princess debuts early 2022



Sarawak updates travel trade



Langkawi could reopen in September



Samui Plus full speed ahead



Sarawak updates travel trade

STB hosts an inaugural Sarawak Tourism Virtual Product Update for travel agents.

Sarawak Tourism Board kicked off its first virtual B2B event with the launch of its inaugural Sarawak Tourism Virtual Product Update (B2B) Thursday.

Running from 14-15 July, the two-day virtual update is a platform aiming to connect 30 sellers mainly from Sarawak's travel and tour services sector, with over 200 buyers from West Malaysia and Sabah.

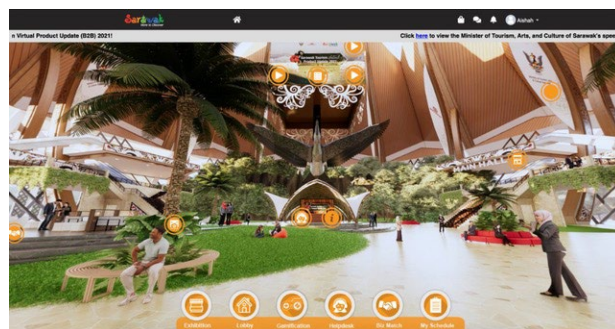
Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture Sarawak Datuk Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, who officiated the event launch virtually, said that the virtual update was an opportunity for all tourism stakeholders to realign their efforts to recover from a decelerated tourism industry in the midst of an ongoing pandemic.

"I am certain that this

will be a very fruitful event for those who are attending a Sarawak Tourism virtual product update. For those of us who are familiar with

in anticipation of a post-pandemic future.

"Virtual updates offer not only a solution to a problem but an opportunity for growth.



Sarawak tourism, it is an opportunity to deepen our working relationships and help to innovate Sarawak's tourism products on the national landscape," Abdul Karim said.

Meanwhile, STB Chief Executive Officer Puan Sharzede Datu Haji Salleh Askor hoped that participants would take full advantage of the Sarawak Tourism Virtual Update and gain a perfect market fit or even formalise a new tourism product strategy

Although buyers may not be meeting sellers in person, virtual events offer a host of other advantages. Through virtual events, sellers and buyers will have the opportunity to have more meaningful conversations, the chance to broaden their reach into untapped markets, as well as being able to follow up more effectively on potential clients and sellers," she said.

Throughout the two-day event, over 200 buyers from West Malaysia

and Sabah have direct access to the 30 sellers' company brochures, a list of tour images, and a brief description of their company's profile during the event. Aside from that, the B2B platform also includes features such as chat and video calls to allow buyers and sellers to exchange ideas and also set up an appointment for tourism-related plans in the near future.

The virtual update is STB's most recent effort in its ongoing mission to promote Sarawak as a must-visit CANFF destination, especially in preparation for when the domestic tourism industry reopens. Since the onset of the pandemic, STB has initiated other campaigns to support the local tourism sector, such as the Sia Sitok Sarawak campaign, Sarawak Tourism Online Ecosystem Fund and the Visitors Incentive Package (VIP) incentives. <https://sarawaktourism.com>.

Follow us on:



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.

Managing editor: Don Ross: donr@ttrweekly.com

EDITORIAL: news@rossttr.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



YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT ALL UNTIL YOU SEE SARAWAK

A UNESCO World Heritage Site. A World
Craft City. PATA Gold awarded Sarawak
Cultural Village. And so much more
to see, to taste, to experience, to captivate.
Discover the many ways you can do more in
Sarawak, Borneo.

Sarawak
More to Discover

Discovery Princess debuts early 2022

Discovery Princess inaugural voyage to the Mexican Riviera and California is scheduled for spring 2022 from the Port of Los Angeles.

sea which comes with exclusive amenities, attentive service and a dedicated Suite Experience Manager. Crowning the heights of

makes it easy for guests to pre-plan and tailor their dining experiences, and pairs with the revolutionary OceanNow-on-demand service to offer the ultimate in onboard dining flexibility and convenience.

In addition to service on demand, Princess MedallionClass Vacations are also marked by touchless embarkation and disembarkation, frictionless commerce, and keyless stateroom entry. Additional contactless capabilities accessible using smartphones and tablets include way-finding, family and friends locator, and interactive fun.

Discovery Princess is being built by Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri and can carry 3,660 guests.

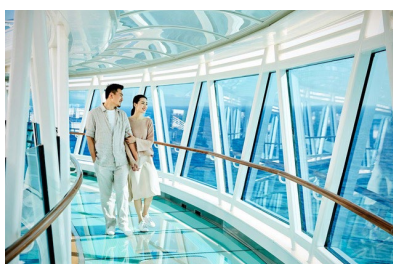


In fewer than 200 days, the newest Princess Cruises ship – Discovery Princess – will debut at the Port of Los Angeles in spring 2022 for an inaugural season of Mexican Riviera and California Coast cruises.

Discovery Princess is Princess Cruises' third vessel designed from the ground up with Princess MedallionClass and the final Royal-class ship. Discovery Princess offers the innovative technology, spectacular style and design features of its sister ships – Royal Princess, Regal Princess, Majestic Princess, Sky Princess and Enchanted Princess.

Enjoy 270-degree sweeping views from the largest balconies at sea, unwind in ultimate comfort at The Sanctuary and indulge in world-class dining options from Michelin-star chefs. Princess Live Entertainment presents spectacular new productions that can only be seen in the state-of-the-art Princess Theater.

The Sky Suites feature the cruise line's largest balconies at



the ship, each Sky Suite hosts up to five guests, offering a 270-degree panorama. Complementing the exquisitely appointed interior living spaces, a luxuriously furnished over the 1,000-square-foot balcony – the largest at sea – allows guests to relax privately or host their own celebrations or catered events.

Princess Cruises has also unveiled Dine My Way, another flexible MedallionClass enhancement that



Captain Gennaro Arma will officially bring the ship into service from the shipyard in Monfalcone, Italy, joined at the launch by an experienced team of executive officers, including Chief Engineer Vincenzo Alfi, Staff Captain Alessandro Genzo and Hotel General Manager Richard Harry.

When Captain Arma is on leave, Captain John Smith will take over the navigation and leadership of Discovery Princess and serve together with Chief Engineer Tomislav Ljoka, Staff Captain PetarLesic and Hotel General Manager Jasper Wolthuis.

Be Enchanted!

Bajau-Sama or West coast Bajau are known for their unique heritage that is authentic only to the district of **Kota Belud** in Sabah, the traditional horse culture.

Langkawi could reopen in September

Langkawi could be the pilot of Malaysia "Covid-19 Free Destination Programme, possibly reopening for visitors by September.

A mass vaccination project gets underway in Langkawi that is part of a plan that could see the island pilot the country's "Covid-19 Free Destination Programme" that would ultimately allow tourists to return to the island on safe holiday packages.



In supporting the acceleration of the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out, The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC) has outlined its National Recovery Plan (NRP).

It starts with the government accelerating vaccinations for residents of Langkawi. The programme has turned Langkawi Craft Complex into a public vaccination centre (PPV) earlier this month as the vaccination drive rolls out.

Authorities in Kedah state believe Langkawi island could be ready to reopen to the first groups of tourists, possibly in September.

To succeed, the island has set

a goal of vaccinating 80% of its population. Rules governing entry for international tourists are under constant review due to the twists and turns of the Covid19 pandemic as new variants emerge, but it is understood the island could reopen to fully vaccinated tourists. Unvaccinated travellers or those jabbed with just one dose, would not be permitted to enter the island.

In Malaysia, the authorised vaccines are Pfizer/BioNTech, CanSino, Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), Oxford/AstraZeneca, and Sinovac.

The ministry is also planning to include Kuching, the capital city of Sarawak state, in the Covid-19 Free Destination Programme and incorporate Malaysia's best islands for holidays such as Redang, Perhentian, Pangkor and Tioman in the second phase.

Meanwhile, Malaysia currently remains under the nationwide lockdown of the first phase of NRP, a four-phase COVID-19 exit plan that will likely see a full reopening of economic and social activities,

including the tourism industry, by the end of this year.

To ease the lockdown measure to a second phase, Covid-19 daily cases in Malaysia need to drop below 4,000 with 10% of its population has to be fully vaccinated, and the intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy rates in hospitals need to return to a moderate level.

Meanwhile, the country's Prime Minister Tan Sri Dato' Haji Mahiaddin Bin Haji Md Yasin has recently unveiled the latest MYR150 billion aid package named PakejPerindungan Rakyat dan PemulihanEkonomi (Pemulihan), which includes MYR10 billion direct fiscal injections by the government to tide Malaysians over the nationwide lockdown.

The Pemulihan package is targeted at assisting households and businesses affected by the pandemic in the form of cash aids, loan moratoriums, tax breaks, grants, wage subsidies and unemployment assistance.

Besides, an additional MYR400 million would be allocated by the government to buy more vaccines to ensure the country's population is covered while extending inoculations to 6.4 million youths age 12 to 18.

Around 30% of Malaysia's population have received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine (Total: 9,570,974), while 13.9% have received two doses (Total: 4,431,350).

Malaysia recorded 10,710 new cases totalling 916,561 cases nationwide as of 18 July. Fatalities reached 7,019.

For more information: <https://naturallylangkawi.my/>

The Best Tropical Karst Island in the World

Naturally Inspired: Langkawi

Naturally
LANGKAWI



Samui Plus full speed ahead

Three Thai islands, Samui, Pha-ngan and Tao, reopen today with the launch of TAT's 'Samui Plus' programme.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand rolled out the Samui Plus programme on Thursday evening, opening the door for fully vaccinated international visitors to explore the three islands of Samui, Pha-ngan, and Tao.

The welcome carpet rolls out for both vaccinated international travellers and domestic tourists with no quarantine requirements, but some of the rules are stricter than

three days (not confined to the room) then they can explore Samui from day four to seven. After the

country within 120 days, or by the end of October.

"Phuket is already open as



the Phuket Sandbox that opened on 1 July.

Two Bangkok Airways flights landed on Thursday bringing in nine foreign and 60 local media from Bangkok. There are no direct international flights to Samui although Bangkok Airways has requested permission from Singapore to reinstate direct services as soon as possible. There is even speculation that Singapore Airlines may start its own direct service to Samui as early as this October.

The Samui Plus programme is for travel between July and December 2021 and gives travellers the option to visit three islands located in Surat Thani province. Initially, travellers must stay in the hotel for the first



week, they have the option to visit the other two islands on day trips during the remaining seven days using authorised travel services. Based on negative RT-PCR test results during their 14-night stay, they are then free to travel elsewhere in Thailand.

General information on the Samui Plus programme and FAQs can be found at <https://www.tatnews.org/2021/07/samui-plus-faqs/>

At the official launch Minister of Tourism and Sports, Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said: "The reopening of Samui, Pha-ngan, and Tao to tourism is another significant step toward achieving the Prime Minister's recently announced policy of reopening the whole

the pilot destination, and other destinations will follow in the scheduled order with carefully planned disease control and public health measures, travel procedures, and the right tourism marketing all being addressed."

While the Phuket Sandbox and Samui Plus are geared to international tourists, the minister hinted that domestic tourists, in the long run, may have to comply with stricter rules and rapid-test requirements similar to the measures for international visitors.

The next destinations due to reopen 1 September 2021 include Krabi (Ko Phi Phi, Ko Ngai, and Railay Beach), Phang Nga (Khao Lak and Ko Yao), Chiang Mai (Mueang District and Mae Rim, Mae Taeng, and Doi Tao Districts), Chon Buri (Pattaya, Bang Lamung, and Sattahip), and Buri Ram (Mueang District and Chang Arena).

The scheduled date for the reopening of Bangkok, Phetchaburi (Cha-am) and Prachuap Khiri Khan (Hua Hin) is 1 October 2021, with the rest of Thailand due to reopen throughout the month of October.

THE PLACE TO BE



Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Krabi



Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket

BRING BACK THE LOVE

Join us as we celebrate the reopening of our hotels in Phuket and Krabi, where your clients can **enjoy up to 100% of the room rate as daily hotel credits**, redeemable immediately on arrival.

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.

Nestled within its own secluded bay, Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Krabi invites travellers to check in and chill out with a choice of four restaurants and rejuvenating spa rituals at SPA Cenvaree.

Rates from THB 3,315 per night



BOOK NOW

CENTARA RESERVE

CENTARA
GRAND

CENTARA

Centara
BOUTIQUE COLLECTION

centra
by CENTARA

COSI

CENTARA
HOTELS & RESORTS

Visit our dedicated trade website centarahotelsresorts.com/b2b

This feeling is waiting for yOU.

feel now
“A deep breath to reach
another level of happiness.”



The best time of the year that lifts up all your senses with amazing feelings from food, savory fruits, lush scenery and amazing things you can't find in any other season.

