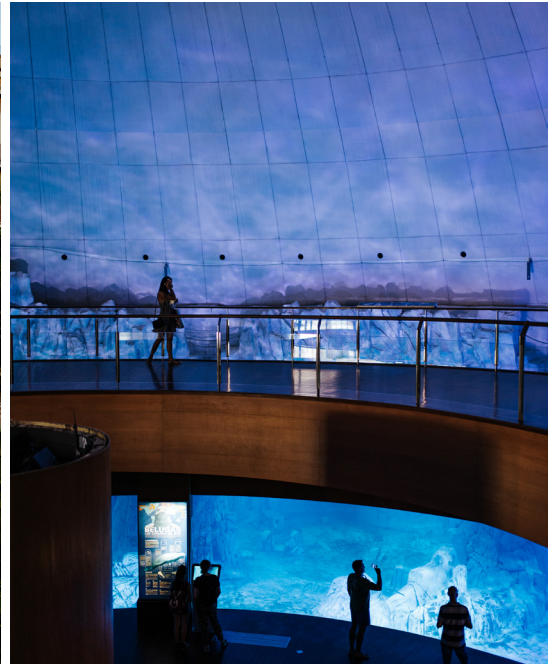




Valencia takes you backstage



Inspirational travel stories



Maldives and Phuket in twin-island escape



Langkawi top choice to reopen



Travel Safe



Xacobeo 21-22

YOU DESERVE
SPAIN

Inspirational travel stories

Booking.com unveils a new Explorers Campaign to spark travel inspiration that retells the stories of privileged travellers.

Booking.com is launching a Booking Explorers campaign that presents stories by leading personalities in the Asia Pacific to re-ignite travel inspiration.

With travel opportunities reopening as national vaccination programmes get underway in Asia, the campaign identifies the trailblazers and explorers amongst us, showcasing how they remained explorers at heart despite challenges brought about by the pandemic. Challenges such as strict quarantine measures encountered at both ends of a trip remain serious pain points on the trail back to travel. Indeed, they need to be resolved if the inspirational travel tales of the privileged few are to rub off on

the rest of us and get us confidently booking travel once more.

Travelling Proud with Tim & Rod for Booking.com.



The campaign showcases Amazing Race Australia winners Tim and Rod, who have travelled the world proudly representing the freedom to love and who advocate making travel more inclusive for the LGBTQ+ community.

Before the pandemic, Indian multiple Grand Slam Champion, Sania Mirza, was a global citizen

that pursued a prosperous professional career in tennis.

Korean alternative pop band, Leenalchi, connected people through

the power of their music, travelling the world to find inspiration for new songs and interacting with global fans.

Rising style icon and global fashion model, Chau Bui, calls Vietnam home but has travelled from Seoul to Paris, New York and Milan to find inspiration for her unique style.

In Paris, famed Japanese illustrator Kaori Watanabe expanded her mental comfort zones through travel and used this new perspective to create art that transports us to faraway lands.

The Explorers campaign is a celebration of their

mindset and spirit of travel – embodying a relentless desire to experience and explore, in spite of the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

“As we begin thinking about a return to travel, this campaign is a heartfelt reminder of its transformational impact and celebrates the spirit of travel through the voices of our Explorers,” said Booking.com managing director and vice president for Asia Pacific Laura Houldsworth.

With a mission to make it easier for everyone to experience the world, Booking.com is committed to helping travellers rediscover the beauty of travel when it’s safe to do so again. Offering the widest choice, great value and the easiest experience so travellers can book their perfect place to stay, Booking.com provides the means to get around from anywhere and on any device.

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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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Valencia takes you backstage

Go Behind-the-Scenes of Valencia's Oceanogràfic: Biggest Aquarium in Europe.

Would you like to know how the largest aquarium in Europe works from the inside?

This summer, the Oceanogràfic de Valencia introduces the Backstage Tour, taking visitors behind the scenes of the facilities and seeing firsthand the care of the animals that reside there. You can visit the quarantine area to see the variety of different species that are waiting to be incorporated into the exhibition tanks. Also, discover how

all the water that comes directly from the sea is filtered on a daily basis – a total of 960,000 litres. And, if you are one of those who enjoy close encounters, this adventure is for you – walk above the shark tunnel with dozens of sharks at your feet. Another of the new experiences for this summer is the private night visit and the Dinners at Lake Vivo. Unique experiences for the whole family.

Read more: <https://www.oceanografic.org/en/actividad/behind-the-scenes-tour/>



Okuda's 'Instagrammable' Art Arrives in Valencia

The popular Cantabrian urban artist has painted his first mural in the capital of Turia. It is one of his popular large-format figures composed of geometric shapes in striking colours, in the style of his works in Las Vegas, Paris or Denver. He already designed the 2018 municipal 'falla' in Valencia, and his work was in an exhibition at the Center del Carme Cultura Contemporània. Now permanent, lovers of urban art will be able to observe and photograph their work with this new mural that occupies 12 floors in the vicinity of the High-Speed Train Station of Joaquín Sorolla.

Read more: <https://www.visitvalencia.com/en/shop/guided-tours/guided-tours-old-city/street-art-tour>



Valencia declared as World Design Capital for 2022

Over the last 100 years, Valencia has been a fountainhead of design and home to several generations of designers who have left their creative mark. For this reason, amongst many others, the World Design Organization (WDO) designated Valencia as the World Design Capital for 2022. This includes everything from the avant-garde architecture of the City of Arts and Sciences and such art nouveau treasures as Colón Market to the urban design that has created unique green spaces like Turia Garden and Central Park.

Read more: <https://www.visitvalencia.com/en/world-capital-design>



Maldives and Phuket in twin-island escape

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, invites travellers on a getaway of a life-time with a 21-night Ultimate Twin Island Escape to two world-famous paradise islands – the Maldives and Phuket.

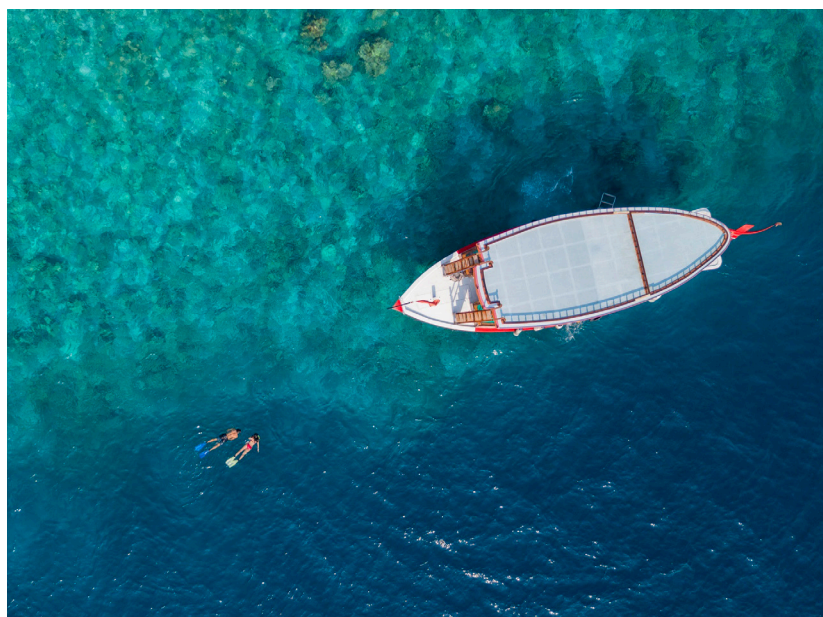
Guests have a choice of an all-inclusive experience with the "Luxury Twin Island Escape" package or a Bed & Breakfast meal plan with "Grand Twin Island Escape" for bookings and stays from now until 20 December 2021.

LUXURY TWIN ISLAND ESCAPE

Luxury Twin Island Escape offers the ultimate all-inclusive getaway in premium accommodations and a full board meal plan with a choice of immersive activities to experience the destination.

Guests arrive at Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives from Male by complimentary seaplane transfer and enjoy a carefree 7-night stay in a Deluxe Overwater Villa perched over the crystalline lagoon. The Grand All-Inclusive Meal Plan includes three daily meals with premium beverages, afternoon tea, and an open bar. Also included is a choice of complimentary excursions, including whale shark snorkelling or sunset cruise, as well as a generous spa credit.

A similarly memorable time awaits at the beachfront Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket, where travellers enjoy a 14-night full-board stay with a Deluxe Suite Private Pool, from which they can take in sublime views of the Andaman Sea from their private terrace. A full board meal plan



includes daily breakfast, set lunch and set dinner, complete with non-alcoholic beverages. Guests are also invited to explore the resort's very own water park and exhilarating water sports and enjoy a choice of complimentary activities such as a Muay Thai lesson, Thai cooking class, spa treatment, or Thai high tea set for two.

GRAND TWIN ISLAND ESCAPE

Ideal for travellers who seek the freedom to explore everything the Maldives and Phuket have to offer, the Grand Twin Island Escape provides all the essentials for a hassle-free holiday, including daily breakfast and roundtrip seaplane transfers in the Maldives.

In the palm-fringed paradise of Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives, guests enjoy a family-friendly getaway in a Beach Suite nestled on the white sand beach and unlimited use

of canoes, pedalos and windsurf equipment, as well as discount privileges on spa treatments. Over in Thailand's favourite island destination, travellers enjoy a 14-night, quarantine-free stay at Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket with complimentary daily hotel credit to redeem for culinary and spa experiences. For both packages, travellers can choose to start their stay in the Maldives or Phuket.

Fully vaccinated travellers can enjoy quarantine-free stays on both islands, provided they show proof of a negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival.

The 21-night Luxury Twin Island Escape and Grand Twin Island Escape experiences are available for bookings and stays from now until 20 December 2021 for USD8,465 net and USD4,085 net, respectively. Up to two accompanying children stay and dine for free.

For more information or booking, visit <https://www.centarahotelsresorts.com/featured-packages/ultimate-twin-island/>

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.

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Langkawi top choice to reopen

Langkawi, a tourism island in north Malaysia, remains the first choice for the country's reopening phase, but the launch date remains pending.

Malaysia's Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri promises Langkawi Island will be the first tourist destination to reopen, but the date remains undecided.

Malaysia is keeping a close eye on Thailand's experiments through the Phuket Sandbox and Samui Plus schemes that introduced a controlled number of vaccinated tourists to the two islands.

Langkawi would be the ideal location to introduce a similar scheme based on the plan to

project following the inclusion of the country on the UK's red list. The UK rule requires returnees to undergo an expensive UKP2,500 hotel quarantine covering 10 days once they arrive in the UK.

According to the Bernama report, the Tourism Ministry had initially targeted 1 September for



achieve herd immunity through vaccination this month. The island has a population of 119,000 registered residents.

"International airlines also fly to Langkawi, so it is a focused and concentrated area for the tourism sector for those who have been fully vaccinated," she told Bernama.

Once Langkawi declares a timeline for reopening, airlines that are keen to open routes to island destinations to help kick-start their own recovery are likely to consider flying charters to Langkawi, mainly from Europe. However, the quarantine issues at both ends of the roundtrip journey would need to be addressed.

If Malaysia continues to be on red alert lists in Europe, then returning home to an expensive quarantine regime would deter arrivals. That scenario is playing out for Thailand's Phuket Sandbox

the tourism sector in Langkawi to reopen to the public. The plan is now on hold until there is clear evidence of herd immunity and the vaccination programme covers around 80% of the population.

"Langkawi residents have achieved herd immunity, so they are ready, but they are now asking for a postponement because Covid-19 cases have risen sharply," she said.

She added that tourism issues needed to be addressed urgently, and there was a need for new strategies in line with current challenges.

"We will set the main criteria for travelling as being vaccination and, God willing, tourists will comply with the new standard operating procedures (SOP) for tourism. So, let's see how the arts and culture tourism sector can help raise the socio-economy of the people," she said.



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Her comments were picked up by Bernama, the national news agency, during a ceremony to swear in cabinet ministers after a recent reshuffle.

She backed proposals that make the resort island the first choice for the tourism sector to make a comeback due to its island location in the northern Malaysian state of Kedah. The minister claimed it would be easier to contain the pandemic and monitor tourists on the island.

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.