



Princess Cruises names new president



PHIST returns with a sustainable theme



Thai PM plots course to quarantine free



Sri Lanka sees uptick in travel bookings

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PHIST returns with a sustainable theme

PHIST 2021, themed Sustainable Asia RE-defined set to convene in virtual space 28 October.

The fourth annual Asian-based sustainability-focused learning event, PHIST 2021, will take place on 28 October in a virtual format.

tourism, environmental education for hotels, as well as advocacy in best practices and education.

This year's theme is 'A Learning Event for Hotels, Tourism, and Travel' and will convene Thursday 28 October 1500 Bangkok Time and 1600 Singapore/Hong Kong.

beyond will undoubtedly change the tourism industry and the travel experience.

PHIST 2021 is an ongoing special event collaboration between the Phuket Hotels Association, Greenview, and C9 Hotelworks, with support from the

in Thailand (AMCHAM), Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce (AustCham), The Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce (TSCC), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Horwath HTL, QUO, Creative Concept AV, and Delivering Asia Communications (DAC).

You can sign up now for this not-to-be-missed special event for hoteliers, travel and tourism businesses, hotel owners, developers and operators, environmental product suppliers, NGOs, hospitality students, and media.

For more information visit:
<https://www.c9hotelworks.com/news/phist-2021-sustainable-asia-re-defined-coming-28-october>

Registration is free
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register>



Organised by Phuket's travel industry the virtual event will draw speakers from across the region. PHIST (Phuket Hotels for Islands Sustaining Tourism) has established itself as a leading forum in Asia for sustainable

The main one-hour plus event rolls out a series of candid virtual conversations with leading sustainability experts. It follows with a deep dive into present-day trends and how the impact of the ongoing pandemic and

Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, The American Chamber of Commerce

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Princess Cruises names new president

Carnival Corporation names John Padgett as president of Princess Cruises.

Carnival Corporation & Plc has appointed John Padgett president of Princess Cruises, effective immediately.



Padgett will oversee all performance and operational functions of Princess Cruises with a global fleet of 14 ships sailing cruise guests to nearly 400 destinations around the world annually.

He will report directly to Holland America Group president Jan Swartz which includes the company's Princess Cruises, Holland America Line, Seabourn and P&O Cruises Australia brands. Swartz has served as president of Princess Cruises since 2013, guiding the brand's strategic growth as the world's leading international premium cruise line and its emergence as a leader in innovating the total guest experience for cruise vacations.

Since July 2014, Padgett has served as chief experience and innovation officer for Carnival Corporation, responsible for guest experience innovation, development, creation and operations integration. Padgett will also retain the leadership of the corporation's innovation unit.

Specifically for the Princess Cruises brand, Padgett has been a key player in the development and

implementation of the Princess MedallionClass® experience delivering a more personalised, simplified and connected onboard experience for all guests and crew that is now available on the entire Princess fleet.

This includes the creation and

transformation, Padgett became connected with thousands of Princess guests, travel agents and destination partners spanning the world.

Prior to becoming chief experience and innovation officer for Carnival Corporation, Padgett



development of the award-winning Medallion® wearable device and the enabling OCEAN® platform that enhances and personalises the overall cruise experience ranging from world-class dining and beverages, entertainment and spas to on-shore excursions, merchandise and hotel guest services. Throughout the fleet

worked for 18 years with Walt Disney Parks and Resorts where he spearheaded the invention, development and implementation of guest engagement innovations that include the MagicBand, FastPass+ and Disney's Magical Express, among others.

VISIT: www.princess.com



Thai PM plots course to quarantine free travel

Thailand will abolish the quarantine rule for fully vaccinated travellers from at least 10 countries by 1 November.

The country's Prime Minister, Prayuth Chan-ocha, painted the broad strokes of a back-to-business schedule in a national TV address on Monday while instructing the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration and the Ministry of Public Health to urgently consider details at its next meeting this Thursday.

that will join the 10-country list giving fully vaccinated travellers quarantine-free entry to Thailand.

He said the list of quarantine free travel countries would be extended beyond the initial 10 by 1 December and then again on 1 January 2022 when a "very extensive list" would be adopted to reopen international travel to Thailand across the country.

"During the last weeks, some of Thailand's most important tourist source countries have begun to ease their travel restrictions

consider allowing the consumption of alcoholic beverages in restaurants as well as the operation of entertainment venues," the PM promised.

To be on the safe side, travellers should wait for the official announcement of the changes in quarantine rules to be published by the Royal Gazette or for the official news release issued by the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Thailand's vaccine campaign accelerated after a very poor start from around 4 million doses in May to almost 12 million arriving in July, then almost 14 million in August, and now running at over 20 million a month until the end of the year.

"As a result, our daily vaccinations shot up threefold in July, from around 80,000 doses a day in May, and kept increasing until Thailand rose to be among the fastest ten countries in the world for administering shots. We currently frequently administer more than 700,000 shots a day, and sometimes even exceeding one million shots a day," the PM explained in the national TV broadcast.

"In the last one-and-a-half years, we have lived with some of the greatest peacetimes' challenges our country has ever faced in its history, brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, and one that has left nobody untouched and no country in the world undamaged."

Officials estimate the pandemic has cost the country more than USD50 billion in tourism revenue since March 2020. Earlier this week, the country reached 1.7 million cumulative cases and recorded 18,000 deaths.

[Full story](#)

on their citizens... With these developments, we must act quickly but still cautiously, and not miss the opportunity to entice some of the year-end and new year holiday season travellers during the next few months to support the many millions of people who earn a living from our tourism, travel and entertainment sectors as well as the many other related sectors."

Restaurants that were hoping the ban on alcoholic beverages would be lifted, 1 November. They will now have to wait until 1 December for a very damaging rule that has hobbled the F&B sector for close to 20 months to be finally scrapped.

"By 1 December, we will also



It leaves some wriggle room for the CCSA and the Ministry of Public Health to modify minor details. At the same time, the PM has made it abundantly clear the country must shed the last shackles holding back the return of international tourism.

Effective 1 November, fully vaccinated travellers arriving by air from 10 countries on Thailand's low-risk list will be able to visit without having to undergo quarantine. They will still need to present a Covid-19 negative test result to board the aircraft and again test negative on arrival in Thailand.

The PM identified just five countries – Singapore, Germany, China, the UK and the USA –

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Sri Lanka sees uptick in travel bookings

Khiri Travel creates new ecotourism experiences in Sri Lanka as travel picks up following the latest easing of health protocols.

Fully vaccinated tourists can now enter Sri Lanka with no need to quarantine on arrival, according to the latest government update released last week.

In anticipation of the easing of restrictions, Khiri Travel Sri Lanka has created four ecotourism tours in Sri Lanka for visitors interested in respecting nature, going local and giving back.

From Mirissa, on the southern tip of Sri Lanka, guests can sail in a catamaran with a marine biologist to spot blue whales and dolphins.

Guests can also help with a seagrass restoration project in the Puttalam/Kalpitiya area in the northwest of the country. The experience involves getting muddy and wet in a lagoon planting seagrass, which is an important breeding ground for sea life. As is often the case, a delicious Sri Lankan lunch follows.



The only major requirement is a PCR test taken within 72 hours of embarkation for Colombo.

Sri Lankan Airlines, Air Canada, Qatar Airways and others currently fly to Sri Lanka from major hubs such as London, Frankfurt, Paris, Doha, Singapore and Toronto.

Tour operators in Sri Lanka see a strong uptick in bookings.

"There has been a noticeable increase since September," said Khiri Travel Sri Lanka acting general manager Mahiru Fernando. "But since the 7 October announcement, enquiries and bookings have picked up at an even faster rate."

The trip includes swimming, stand-up paddling (SUP) and a seafood lunch on board.

In the Cultural Triangle of Sri Lanka, the Trails of Matale trip lets guests talk to villagers and hike through pepper, cinnamon and coffee plantations, followed by a delicious banana leaf lunch.

In the Kandy hill country, Khiri has created an educational tour of herb gardens in the forest to show how spices such as cinnamon are cultivated. The trip includes a mug of locally grown "wild coffee", a forest curry lunch and a donation to a reforestation foundation.



Since January 2021, Khiri has been offsetting guests' holiday carbon emissions by charging USD1.50 per person per day. The process is being carried out in cooperation with ClimateCare, which helps companies such as Khiri Travel with the technical fulfilment of carbon offsetting.

"Khiri Travel is very pleased that Sri Lanka is taking a lead role in Southeast Asia tourism destinations by responsibly easing Covid-related travel restrictions," said Khiri Travel CEO Willem Niemeijer.

"Sri Lanka has thousands of tour guides, drivers and people dependent on tourism. They will all welcome the economic boost that the lighter regulations bring."

Full details of the health protocols for Sri Lanka tourism that became effective on 7 October 2021 are available [here](#).



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