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NEWS FOR ASIA'S TRAVEL PLANNERS

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ALL.NEW. NORWEGIAN NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE Foel Free



Hotelbeds taps IHG wholesale rates

4 March 2022: Hotelbeds has signed a preferred partner deal with IHG Hotels & Resorts to distribute wholesale rates for IHG hotels in Europe and Greater China.

Hotelbeds' network reaches thousands of B2B travel buyers, such as offline tour operators, retail travel agents, airlines and company employee loyalty programmes, across more than 140 source markets worldwide.

Hotelbeds Chief Commercial Officer Carlos Muñoz commented: "Thanks to this collaboration, our client partners worldwide will have access to a leading product portfolio which is fantastic news coming off the back of some very challenging years."

IHG Hotels & Resorts has 17 brands, including InterContinental Hotels & Resorts, Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts and Holiday Inn Express and last year joined Hotelbeds' Green Hotel Programme to further strengthen its commitment to sustainable tourism.

The Green Hotels Programme is a turn-key solution to bring Hotelbeds and its partners

Follow us on:

into the green economy and accelerate the transition of the travel industry towards sustainability – a topic whose importance has increased dramatically in light of the Covid pandemic.

Australians head west to Perth

4 March 2022: Thousands of travellers boarded Qantas and Jetstar flights following the reopening of Western Australia's domestic border, on 2 March, allowing visitors quarantine free entry for the first time in almost two years.

After a false start in February, more than 23,000 passengers booked to travel this week on Qantas and Jetstar flights to and from Perth.

Several of the 31 Qantas and Jetstar flights on day one (2 March) were fully booked with Australians rushing to reunite with friends and family or get back to business in Western Australia. WA was the last Australian state to reopen to visitors.

Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce welcomed the border reopening saying, "Australia is now finally back together...It's a terrific boost to West Australian tourism operators and businesses who will once again benefit from the influx of visitors from the east coast and beyond.

"We had to cancel thousands of flights when the border reopening was cancelled in February, and tens of thousands of travellers had their plans ruined, but while the reopening has been complicated, it's great that Aussies can now travel freely again."

Flights have been added from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Cairns, Gold Coast, Canberra, Hobart and Darwin.

THAI starts bubble flights to India

8 March 2022: Following the approval of the Air Travel Bubble between Thailand and India, Thai Airways International is operating direct flights to and from four cities in India.

Flights are now in place to Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru.

- Bangkok Delhi
- Bangkok Mumbai
- Bangkok Chennai
- Bangkok Bengaluru

THAI also strictly complies with the COVID-19 preventive measures issued by the Ministry of Public Health, the Centre for COVID- 19 Situation Administration (CCSA) and the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) for flight operations.



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Centara Grand Mirage Pattaya SHA certified

15 March 2022: Centara Grand Mirage Beach Resort Pattaya is now certified with SHA Plus and SHA Plus Extra status, offering guests peace of mind and delivering full compliance in health, hygiene and safety.

Nestled on the quiet shore of Pattaya, Centara Grand Mirage offers a wide range of luxury rooms and suites (555 units), all with ocean views from room balconies.

The property's signature attraction is the water park, a gentle jungle of lazy rivers, waterfalls and 12 slides that twist this way and that, providing excitement for all ages. Adults can take a quiet swim while enjoying a poolside cocktail or escape to SPA Cenvaree.

For the active at heart, the adventurer continues to discover The Lost World Adventure Land. Designed for families of all ages, it is located at the edge of the jungle waterpark. The outdoor play area also features an expansive three-level playground with thrilling fast slides, a trampoline zone and a crafts area.

Resort highlights

- Water park with lazy river, swimming pools, lap pool, waterslides, cliff jumping and Monsoon Island; water play area
- Kids' Clubs with Camp Safari and E-Zone
- SPA Cenvaree
- Fitness Centre
- Water sports
- Rock climbing
- Club Lounge & Zulu Family Club
- Lost World Adventure Land, a new haven for excitement and adventure

"Centara Complete Care" programme includes enhanced measures in health, hygiene, sanitation and social distancing. Read more: <u>https://www.</u> <u>centarahotelsresorts.com/</u> <u>centara-complete-care/</u>

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THE PLACE TO BE

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TAT confirms TTM+ 2022 dates

8 March 2022: Thailand Travel Mart Plus (TTM+) 2022 returns 8 to 10 June hosted for the second time in Phuket.

Phuket hosted the event in 2021 after TAT cancelled the 2020 event due to the Covid-19 the evening of 9 June. ON Saturday, 11 June, post tours for buyers and media will give them a chance to experience the scenic beauty, welcoming charm, and famous tropical island atmosphere of Phuket.



About the TTM+

First held in 2001, the TTM+ has gained a well-earned reputation in visitor source markets the world over, and within Thailand's tourism industry itself, as a 'must-attend' event. This year, the TTM+ 2022 is all set to continue the tradition of providing a valuable platform for sellers and buyers to meet with current and potential business partners and to reinforce relationships with global travel specialists and decisionmakers.

pandemic lockdown nationwide.

Registration opened last week at <u>www.thailandtravelmartplus.</u> <u>com.</u>

As the flagship event promoting the country's tourism industry, TTM+ 2022 will showcase travel products, services and experiences from around Thailand under the theme of 'Visit Thailand Year 2022, Amazing New Chapters.

The programme for the TTM+ 2022 features two full days of buyer/seller appointments on Thursday, 9 June and Friday, 10 June, which follow the registration, opening ceremony, TTM Talk, Thailand Product Update, and welcome reception, all scheduled for the first day on Wednesday, 8 June. There will also be a networking dinner for buyers and media, hosted by the Phuket Tourist Association, on



This year's edition is expected to attract 700 participants, including buyers from 50 countries, sellers from across all five regions of Thailand, as well as members of domestic and international media.

The TTM+ 2022 will be held at the Angsana Laguna Phuket beachfront resort, which is part of the Laguna Phuket integrated resort complex. Held Bangkok since its launch in 2001, the TTM+ relocated to Chiang Mai in 2016 and 2017. Pattaya hosted the event in 2018 and again in 2019.



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A trip to rekindle romance

2 March 2022: The Maldives has always been rated as one of the top destinations in the world. With clear turquoise blue waters surrounding you and the idea of being "isolated" on an island resort, it does create a wonderful setting for couples for a getaway and to embark on a journey to rekindling romance.

Gili Lankanfushi Maldives' Crusoe Residence

Find yourself completely secluded at Gili Lankanfushi Maldives' stand-alone Crusoe Residence which is a short boat ride away from the main island of this eco-luxury resort. Soak in the picturesque view at the overwater sundeck, or take a swim to your private water hammock.

Have breakfast delivered to you as you nourish your body and soul with views of the blue, in the comforts and privacy of your own villa.

Spend the rest of your morning exploring the main island together on foot or on your designated bamboo bike.

Try something new together as you tour the organic garden with the chef, learning about the herbs, plants and flowers that grow for culinary use at the resort, and end the tour by indulging your palettes in a vegan experience.

Take a tour of the organic garden and be introduced to a refreshing vegan experience right in the garden.

You can choose to pamper

yourselves with a spa session for couples at the awardwinning Meera Spa and let the professional spa therapists kneed your stresses away.

Enjoy a couple's spa treatment and end it off with a relaxing soak with unending views of the Indian Ocean.

If you're both wine enthusiasts and keen to learn more about it, spend time together at the Underground Wine Cellar and let Gili Lankanfushi's resident sommeliers take you through a wine tasting journey. It's also a great start to selecting the wines that will pair with your meals during your stay at the resort.

As dusk approaches, the myriad of colours at sunset will leave you both mesmerised and in awe. Take a romantic stroll along the beach or hang out at one of the overwater hammocks at the Overwater Bar for a predinner drink.

For an amplified dining experience that gives you privacy outside of the comforts of the restaurant, opt for Gili Lankanfushi's popular Destination Dining that lets you indulge in a bespoke dinner under the stars – just the two of you. With different locations around the island to choose from, these romantic dinners don't need to only happen for

WHERE TO STAY

Gili Lankanfushi Maldives

Book direct exclusive – Enjoy up to 25% savings on villa rates when you book direct. Valid for stays till 26 December 2022. Click here to find out more.

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one night but can be for your entire stay!

Finally, end your day sleeping under the stars at your villa's rooftop terrace. Gaze at the night sky as you share with each other your hopes and dreams and fall asleep to the warm ocean breeze and the sounds of the lapping waves.

Throughout your stay at Gili Lankanfushi Maldives, you will have your trusted host – your Mr Friday – to assist you and to make your stay as memorable as possible.





Is the travel industry isolating Russia?

9 March 2022: Founder of G Adventures, Bruce Poon Tip, thanked Sabre for removing Aeroflot from its fare and travel content distribution system, praising it for stepping up and doing the right thing. Russian nationals from trips to apply internal pressure and invoke change.

"This is what we need to come together in travel to embrace our ability to be a transformational industry. Just a few hours before



But he calls for the travel industry to step up and support sanctions and prevent Russia from using booking sites and tour booking systems.

"The power to have the most dramatic impact in travel right now lies in the hands of one company, and last week it stepped up and did the right thing. Without Sabre, Aeroflot cannot issue tickets, which will cause mass disruption for domestic travel in Russia."

He claimed that all across the travel industry, businesses are uniting and cancelling tours to Russia and, in the case of G Adventures, banning resident the announcement, I was set to click send on an appeal to Sabre, asking them to stop their support of Aeroflot and realise their potential as a key player in the travel industry's fight against this unjust war."

Noting Russia has a thriving domestic travel market, serving leisure and corporate travellers... Having already been cut off from the world of international travel, it is at home that the Russian people will feel the most pressure and become increasingly frustrated with this regime."

Sabre led the charge and was quickly followed by Amadeus

and Travelport, the other two major global distribution systems worldwide to shut down Aeroflot's fares and booking channel.

The Russian government needs to know that every industry, including travel and tourism, stands against its actions and will support all sanctions that seek to protect Ukraine's sovereignty, freedom and independence.

SWIFT has banned Russian banks, historically neutral Switzerland has frozen Russian assets, and even FIFA has stepped up. Industries all around the world are fighting in their own way, wielding their individual power and influence to denounce Russia's invasion of Ukraine, he said.

"It is so important that travel plays its part alongside these movements to drive transformative change."

G Adventures has cancelled all trips to Russia and are no longer allowing Russian nationals residing inside the country on our tours, nor are we taking bookings from Russian travel agencies.

About G Adventures Founded in 1990 by social entrepreneur Bruce Poon Tip, G Adventures is a small group adventure travel operator offering more than 1,000 tours in 100 countries on all seven continents.

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Discovery Princess sets sail to LA

11 March 2022: Discovery Princess delivered 28 January at the Fincantieri Shipyard in Monfalcone, Italy, stopped by Singapore for supplies before sailing across the Pacific Ocean to the Port of Los Angeles, where she will embark on her maiden voyage 27 March.

Discovery Princess will join eight other ships that have resumed service for Princess Cruises.

In conjunction with International Women's Day, Princess Cruises also recently celebrated and honoured the Discovery Princess Madrina – Hotel General Manager Terri Cybuliak – currently serving onboard Sky Princess, leading a team of 1,200 crew members within the hotel department. Her main role is to ensure exceptional guest experience from entertainment to food and beverage, housekeeping and guest services.

Terri first joined Princess in 1998 as a junior assistant purser on the original Crown Princess. As hotel general manager, she helped launch Majestic Princess in China and was heavily engaged in the planning of that ship. With Sky Princess, she became the first female hotel general manager at Princess to launch a new build from a shipyard.

"Terri embodies the Princess Cruises spirit and culture of being a team player, forging strong relationships, learning from her colleagues and mentoring her team to perform at their highest level," said Princess Cruises



president John Padgett. "With gratitude, we proudly honour Terri as the Madrina of our new Discovery Princess, recognizing all of her incredible contributions over her 24-year career with Princess."

"I am honoured to be the Madrina of Discovery Princess. This is a culmination of not only my achievements but also those who have supported me and influenced the leader I've become," said Discovery Princess Madrina, Terri Cybuliak. "Princess has afforded me the opportunity to travel the world, and I am forever grateful for these experiences."

Discovery Princess is the sixth and final Royal-Class ship

The 3,660-guest Discovery Princess is the sixth and final Royal-Class newbuild and shares all of the spectacular style and luxury of her sister ships – Enchanted Princess, Sky Princess, Majestic Princess, Regal Princess and Royal Princess.

With an array of innovative new experiences, guests will enjoy 270-degree sweeping views from the largest balconies at sea in the Sky Suites, unwind in ultimate comfort at The Sanctuary and indulge the senses with world-class dining options. Plus, Princess live entertainment presents mesmerizing Broadwaystyle production shows that can only be seen in the state-of-theart Princess Theater, including the newest show, Spotlight Bar.







Discovery Princess uses the latest technologies to reduce fuel consumption, treat wastewater, and support our environmental compliance efforts.

In addition, Discovery Princess is the newest ship to join the fleet offering Princess MedallionClass Vacations which begins with the Medallion[™] wearable, a quarter-sized device that enables everything from expedited contactless boarding to locating loved ones anywhere on the ship, as well as enhanced service like having whatever guests need, delivered directly to them, wherever they are on the ship. In addition, guests can share their favourite cruise moments using MedallionNet, the best Wi-Fi at sea, as well

as stay connected with friends and family back home, work remotely anywhere on the ship, quickly post content and stream favourite movies and shows.

Discovery Princess is now making make her way to the Port of Los Angeles to sail on a series of Mexican Riviera and California Coast voyages from 27 March to 24 April 2022. She will then head up the Pacific coast to begin a season of seven-day Alaska cruises from Seattle, making her the newest ship sailing in the Alaska region.

More information about Discovery Princess can be found at <u>https://www.princess.com/</u> <u>ships-and-experience/ships/xp-</u> <u>discovery-princess/</u>

