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Inflight mask-wearing on the way out

Good news for travellers; the latest guidance recommends ditching masks when flying within Europe, a move that gained a welcome response from the International Air Transport Association.

However, phasing out mask-wearing in-flight would still depend on whether it is mandatory for other forms of transport and the rules individual countries may impose. Mask wearing on flights in Asia remains compulsory and on public transport and indoor venues, including shopping malls. Singapore is easing the rule but not for public transport and airlines.

Japan on Wednesday said it was no longer necessary to wear masks outdoors to protect against Covid-19 providing social distancing was practised.

A recent report noted that 18 airlines in the US phased out mask-wearing on their domestic flights and international flights to destinations where mask-wearing was deemed optional. However, here in Asia, in-flight mask-wearing remains mandatory in most contexts and is likely to stay that way until Covid-19 is declared an endemic across the region.

IATA said on Thursday it welcomed new guidance from the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), removing its recommendation that masks should be required in-flight.

Carnival names new CEO

Carnival Corporation has announced that effective 1 August, Arnold Donald, currently president and chief executive officer, will be appointed vice-chair and member of the Boards of Directors.

“Josh is a proven executive who is well-respected throughout the company, serving in key leadership roles, driving strong business results during his tenure and playing an integral part in stewarding the company through the global pandemic,” Donald said.

A 20-year veteran of Carnival Corporation & plc, Weinstein has a long history of success in critical senior-level roles for the company. In his most recent assignment for the past two years as Carnival Corporation & plc’s Chief Operations Officer, Weinstein oversaw all major operational functions, including global maritime, global ports and destinations, global sourcing, global IT and global auditing.

Donald was named President

and CEO of Carnival Corporation & plc in 2013. During his nine-year tenure as CEO, he led the company to record results, pre-pandemic — including achieving the company’s highest profits in its history.

Recently, Donald has helped the company and its brands successfully navigate the global pandemic, well positioning the company for the future.

AirAsia rolls out Super+ deal

AirAsia is adding value to its SUPER+ subscription, ranging from domestic and international flights to unlimited free AirAsia food deliveries and even Covid-19 related cancellation cover for up to one full year.

The SUPER+ subscription also delivers one-year unlimited free seat redemption from an increased seat allocation and more available dates. On offer until 15 May, the added value deal kicks in when you purchase a THB5,555 fare.

“The SUPER+ promotion has been very well received, with this latest round aimed at those who missed out during the previous registration period. Promotional seats have been adjusted to be two to 30 per flight, providing even more value,” commented Thai AirAsia CEO Santisuk.

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Banyan Tree in Bali minus walls and doors

Buahan, a Banyan Tree Escape, is set to open in an off-the-beaten-track, natural part of northern Ubud on 14 June.

The brand extension symbolises the Banyan Tree's commitment to creating immersive experiences combining deep nature and sustainable design that pioneers a "no walls, no doors" concept throughout the property and in its 16 villas.

The Open Kitchen and Living Room are at the resort's heart, both open dining and lounge spaces created to evoke a sense of community. Here, guests are invited to learn how the resort reinvents food and drink basics through its zero-waste farm to table concept, local sourcing philosophy, and heritage techniques. The menu concept,

70% of which is plant-based, is sourced locally within a one-hour drive from the property.

This concept was developed by collaborating with Agency X, a local consultant group that houses the acclaimed restaurant Locavore, Nusantara Restaurant, and The Night Rooster Cocktail Bar, creatively enhancing a sense of place.

The Botanist Bar is centred around using local-grown natural ingredients and botanicals infused into its beverages. At the same time, Toja Spa celebrates the well-being traditions of Buahan village and its surrounding areas with a unique "open" garden experience – certified by the award-winning Banyan Tree Spa

Academy.

The property is located in a quiet enclave surrounded by rice paddies and jungle, next to the Ayung River and waterfall. The resort's villas are designed to blend spacious indoor-outdoor living areas with 180-degree panoramic views.

Banyan Tree VP of Brand HQ, Ho Ren Yung commented: "We have owned this piece of land for over 20 years, and the conceptualisation of Banyan Tree Escape started almost five years ago. It is a true labour of love and a bold experience proposition we are excited to see become real."



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NCL completes Great Cruise Comeback



[Norwegian Cruise Line](#) celebrated on Monday the completion of its **'Great Cruise Comeback'** with the sailing of Norwegian Spirit, the 17th and final ship in its fleet to return to service.

NCL's return to service after a 500-day pause began with Norwegian Jade's 25 July 2021 sailing from Athens (Piraeus),

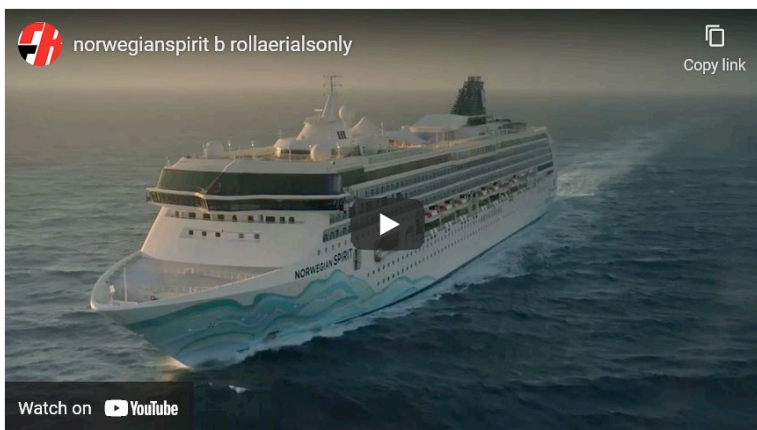
Greece. Since then, NCL has systematically relaunched its ships worldwide, welcoming guests and crew members aboard its award-winning vessels.

"This is an incredibly important day in our history and a defining moment for our future," said Harry Sommer, president and CEO of Norwegian

Cruise Line. "We are moving full speed ahead, having already welcomed more than half a million guests for an exceptional vacation at sea."

Norwegian Spirit, which is sporting an extensive bow-to-stern, over USD100 million upgrade, will be sailing through the South Pacific, visiting eight ports in 12 days, with departures from the beautiful Island of Tahiti.

Itinerary highlights include a journey to Bora Bora, where guests can enjoy snorkelling and discover why the elegantly calm waters are world-famous. They also can venture to Raiatea, which is considered the most sacred island in the South Pacific, where visitors can spend the afternoon exploring lush rainforests and the extinct volcano, Mount Temehani. The itinerary also features other destinations for guests to





experience, such as Nāwiliwili, Kauaʻi, where nature is truly the star. Nicknamed “The Garden Island,” guests can admire scenic views of the Kokee Mountains and stop at the geological wonder, Fern Grotto, a lava-rock cave covered with tropical flora.

This cruise that started from Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia, Saturday, 7 May, ends on Thursday, 19 May 2022, in Honolulu, Oahu.

Norwegian Spirit will also debut in Australian waters for the

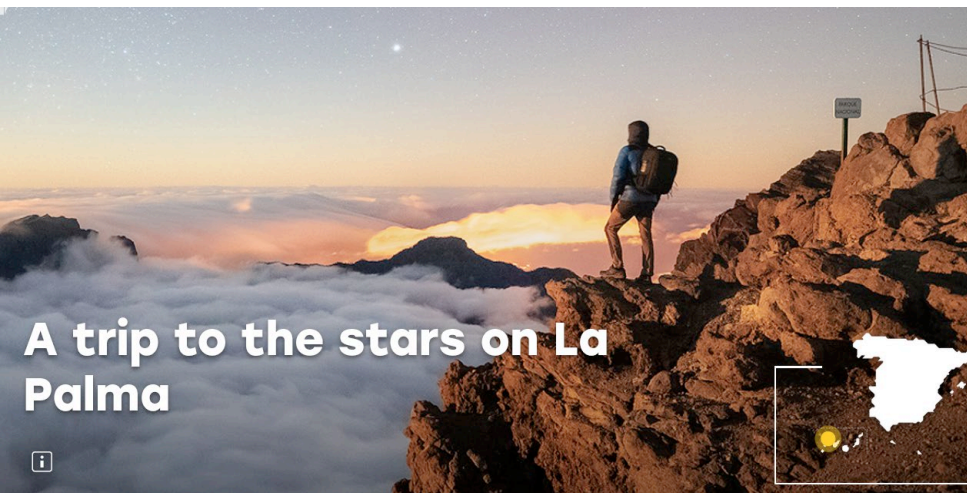
very first time on 22 December 2022 for her inaugural local sailing season. This will mark NCL’s return Downunder after an almost three-year interval.

As part of the most extensive renovation in the company’s history, Norwegian Spirit now showcases 14 new venues, additional and updated staterooms, enhanced public areas and new hull art. Enhancements included a doubled-in-size Mandara Spa that features a new thermal

suite and relaxation areas, an expanded Pulse Fitness Center and the second Onda by Scarpetta restaurant at sea. New complimentary dining venues include an additional main dining room, Taste; the 24-hour eatery, The Local Bar and Grill; the all-day dining outlet, Garden Café; the Great Outdoors Bar; and Waves Pool Bar. Making their debuts are The Social Comedy & Night Club and Spinnaker Lounge, which features the Humidor Cigar Lounge and the adults-only retreat Spice H2O, a daytime lounge featuring two new hot tubs and a dedicated bar, which transforms into an after-hours entertainment venue.

For more information about the company’s award-winning 17-ship fleet and worldwide itineraries, or to book a cruise, please contact a travel professional, call NCL Hong Kong at +852 800 901 951 or visit www.ncl.com.

Stargazers head to La Palma Spain



A trip to the stars on La Palma

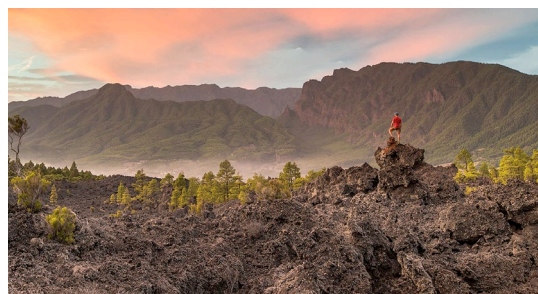
Did you know that the Canary Island of [La Palma](#) is one of the best places to observe the stars on the planet?

The island known as the “*Isla Bonita*” (Pretty Island) is the first Starlight Reserve in the world, and thanks to this, it is protected in order to avoid light pollution. In addition, it has been a Starlight Tourist destination since 2012. What does this mean? That you will be able to carry out a multitude of activities where you contemplate the universe while respecting the environment at the same time.

If you have always dreamed of observing other planets or even other galaxies, or if you want to see inside one of the most important telescopes in the world, La Palma is your destination. Come and check out this Biosphere Reserve, where you'll practically be able to touch the stars with your hands.

Visit the inside of the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory

It is one of the most advanced telescope complexes in the world. You will find it at the highest point of the island, at about 2,400 metres, so the views from there are incredible. You can even see the neighbouring islands of Tenerife, La Gomera and El Hierro. This observatory also organises daytime guided



tours by specialised personnel. They will even show you the inside of a telescope and explain how it works.

Explore trails and astronomical viewpoints

You can choose between several astronomical paths that run through much of La Palma, such as the Roque de los Muchachos route, the route of the stars, the route of the full moon or the route of the sun. These paths pass close to professional telescopes such as the Gran Telescopio de Canarias (the largest optical telescope in the world) or petroglyphs, which could be connected to the way ancient inhabitants related to the sky (solstices, equinoxes, etc.)

Across the whole island, you'll find up to 16 astronomical viewpoints in a wide variety of places, such as Los Guirres beach, the San Antonio volcano or the imposing Caldera de Taburiente National Park. Each viewpoint has panels with a different theme: constellations, planets, the moon... Find information

about each one [here](#) and [download](#) a map that will be useful to you. Always check road access and the state of each path



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before each trip since some may have been cut off due to the last volcanic eruption.

Enjoy astro experiences alongside a professional guide

Book one of your nights in La Palma so you can take a journey to the stars. That's what you'll experience if you book an astronomical tour. It involves an outing to a dark point on the island where a guide will help you identify constellations, recognise other planets, investigate other galaxies... And all with the help of the most up-to-date telescopes.

And it's not the only activity you'll be able to enjoy. You can also sign up for an astrophotography route through the most photogenic landscapes of the island to practise night photography or an archaeoastronomy tour in which you will discover how the first inhabitants of the island (the Awara) worshipped the Sun, the Moon and some stars.

Staying at a Starlight establishment

Enjoying the night sky of La Palma is a unique experience. And doing it from the comfort of accommodation prepared for this purpose is even better. On the island, you will find different "astro-themed" hotels and country house lodges. This means that they have instruments for observing the sky, such as telescopes, binoculars, etc.

In addition, you will see that this type of accommodation is located at points of the island that are far away from any light pollution and from where wide panoramic views of the sky can be enjoyed.

"Eat the sun"

Do you want to eat the sun, see and taste the atmosphere of some planets and the gases of nebulae? This is what a themed menu at some of the island's restaurants that are also committed to astrotourism, will offer you. You will find this type of restaurant in different parts of the island: from a salt farm in



the extreme south of La Palma to terraces with sea views.

Some of them are equipped with telescopes, binoculars, constellation image projections, astrophotos... As a lover of good food, you can also visit a Starlight winery, where they will give you a taste of wonderful typical wine from the island while they explain the night sky to you.

Take a stroll along with the stars of science walk.

It is located in the island's capital, Santa Cruz de La Palma, at the top of Avenida Marítima. Here, the stars do not belong to the world of cinema but instead are a tribute to figures such as Stephen Hawking, Samuel C.C. Ting, Takkaki Kajita and Aleksei Leonov.

Take a minute to observe the sky calmly. Few places in the world offer as many options for enjoying it as [La Palma](#).



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Emirates delivers Dubai holiday deals



From the world's largest theme and waterparks and a museum that transports visitors to the future to an authentic desert safari adventure, a summer in Dubai promises to delight all senses for travellers looking forward to a refreshing vacation.

For a limited time only, travellers from Singapore can enjoy special promotional fares to Dubai when flying with Emirates, with all-inclusive economy class fares from Singapore to Dubai starting at SGD579, business class fares starting at SGD2,529, and first-class fares starting at SGD8,949. Bookings open until 22 May 2022 for travel from 5 May to 31 December 2022, both dates inclusive.

Following the return of "My Emirates Pass Summer Edition", Emirates' customers arriving in or stopping over in Dubai can also unlock special deals and discover

the best of the city's attractions, retail experience, and culinary highlights.

From 1 May to 30 September 2022, Emirates customers can show their boarding pass and a valid form of identification to enjoy exclusive deals at hundreds of retail, leisure, and dining outlets in Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

Here are some of the attractions travellers should not miss when they set foot in Dubai.

Atlantis Aquaventure

Among the world's largest waterparks with over 105 slides,



activities, and entertainment, the Atlantis Aquaventure is home to the world's tallest waterslide, aptly named the 'Odyssey of Terror', as well as the famed 'Leap of Faith' open-air ride, which promises riders a euphoric experience with its speedy near-vertical plummet. Besides the thrills of the rides and slides, visitors can also get up close and personal with hundreds of marine animals inside the underwater world of the Shark Lagoon or suit up for an exhilarating afternoon of watersports at the private beach located within the waterpark. Visitors can take a stroll through the Lost Chamber Aquarium and discover the depths of the sea and the wonders of marine life. With more than 65,000 creatures within the 11-million-litre aquarium and 21 unique exhibits, it is the perfect learning journey for children and adults alike.

With the return of "My Emirates Pass Summer Edition", Emirates customers can simply show their boarding pass and a valid form of identification at the ticket counter to enjoy a 20% discount on general admission to Aquaventure Waterpark and a 40% discount on general admission to the Lost Chambers Aquarium.

IMG Worlds of Adventure

Among the world's largest indoor theme parks and Dubai's first mega themed entertainment destination, the IMG Worlds of Adventure brings together the best-loved cartoon and



superhero themes with state-of-the-art roller coaster rides and adventure zones. Fans of The Avengers can bask in the Marvel Universe at the dedicated Marvel zone and walk in the shoes of their favourite superheroes for a day. Rides include the gravity-defying 'Thor Thunder Spin' and the hyper-realistic 'Hulk Epsilon Base' 3D ride. Meanwhile, visitors can catch characters from the Power Puff Girls and soar high on an adventure with Finn and Jake from Adventure Time at the Cartoon Network zone, which also houses the world's largest Ben 10 retail store. To conclude the day, visitors can wind down by catching a film at the theme park's massive IMAX theatre, which boasts three VIP screens and a seven-star service experience.

Emirates' customers can enjoy a 30% discount on general admission to IMG Worlds of Adventure with "My Emirates Pass Summer Edition".

Desert Safari with Arabian Adventures

A holiday to Dubai will not be complete without an escapade to the deserts. For those who thrive on adrenaline, buckle up, hold on tight, and be whisked off into the endless dunes on a trusty four-wheel drive. For those who prefer to savour the tranquillity of the desert, a plethora of other activities awaits – catch the sunset, ride a camel, enjoy a barbecue dinner, or try out glamping within the pristine dunes.

From 1 May to 30 September 2022, Emirates' customers can enjoy a 15% discount when they book with Arabian Adventures for Exclusive Desert Experience – Private Vehicle, Shared Evening Safari with Premium Beverages, Dune Buggy Driver Experience, and VIP Desert Safari – Sharing.

Marina Sightseeing Cruise

For unrivalled panoramic views of the city's most iconic skylines from the Arabian Gulf,



travellers can hop onto the Marina Sightseeing Cruise, travelling through Dubai in a handcrafted wooden dhow. They can sit back, relax, and enjoy the hour-long tour offering a unique perspective of the city's architecture, culture, and history.

Emirates' customers landing in Dubai from 1 to 31 May can

enjoy a complimentary Tour Dubai Marine Sightseeing Cruise.

Museum of the Future

Touted as 'the most beautiful building in the world, Dubai's Museum of the Future welcomed its first visitors in February this year. Bringing together the best of science, technology, and innovation, the museum explores the endless possibilities and visions for the future of humanity. Visitors can expect cutting-edge multi-sensorial exhibits across seven floors as they journey to the year 2071. The pillarless architectural and engineering marvel stands at 77 meters and invites visitors to an inspiring and immersive experience they can never forget.

Shopping spree at The Dubai Summer Surprises

In addition to an exciting calendar of world-class culture, shopping, and dining, The Dubai Summer Surprises, one of the city's major shopping and entertainment events, will also be running from 1 July to 4 September, with a packed line-up of events and family activities, exclusive shopping deals, fun competitions, and shop and win promotions.

With "My Emirates Pass Summer Edition", Emirates' customers can receive up to a 20% discount on full-price merchandise when they shop at Aldo, Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger.

Details of "My Emirates Pass Summer Edition" offers can be found on www.emirates.com/myemiratespass.

Who's on stage at Jazz in The Jungle?

One of the longest-running jazz festivals in the region, the Borneo Jazz festival is returning to Coco Cabana, Miri, Sarawak, from 24 to 26 June 2022.

Themed "Jazz in The Jungle", the 17th edition, will be held in a hybrid format for the first time

Guaguanco, Samba, Calypso and Salsa, featuring sounds of percussion instruments from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Adding a unique Asian flavour to the sounds of AFRO ASIA will be Kamrul Hussin on Malay percussions and Sesatre Bansuri

Leong on Keyboards, Luke Joseph on Guitar and Zailan Razak on Bass. Sarawakian musician Clinton Chua will also feature as a guest singer. This will be the first large scale performance for ASIABEAT after a two-year hiatus.

In addition, Gecko & Tokage Parade from Tokyo, Japan, will be on stage. The Japanese new-generation instrumental jazz band is led by the composer and pianist Wataru / Gecko, with their band motto "Pursuit of new-generation sound". This four-piece band, with its attractive technique and ensemble playing pop and classical melodies, will appeal to the young generation of the audience seeking a new sonic experience from attending Borneo Jazz.

From Singapore and the US, Alemay Fernandez & Richard Jackson will woo the Borneo Jazz audiences with their refreshing style and unmistakable chemistry.

Bringing Jazz, R&B and hip hop vibes to Borneo Jazz Stage is QSOUND, a graduate of the prestigious Juilliard School in New York City.

Next, MASIA ONE from Singapore. Born in Singapore, she grew up in Canada, where she earned her stripes in America and became inspired by her time in the Caribbean. Now this artist is reconnecting with her roots in Asia.

More names will be revealed in the coming weeks leading to the festival.

For more information on the Borneo Jazz festival 2022, log on to BJ's official website at www.jazzborneo.com.



to reach out to the greater jazz-loving community worldwide. It will be joined by performers from over countries, namely Singapore, Japan, France, Switzerland, USA, and Hungary, not to mention the best names in Malaysian jazz.

Curated by No Black Tie and in keeping with the festival's objectives to bring musicians from cultural backgrounds together in Borneo, this year's edition will highlight cross-cultural musical collaborations from jazz, soul and bossa nova to hip hop in celebration of Jungle Jazz.

Among those featured is renowned percussionist Steve Thornton from Brooklyn, New York, with his band AFRO ASIA.

Jazz and Afro-Caribbean rhythms come together with AFRO ASIA playing Rumba,

on Indian and traditional flutes, teaming up with one of Asia's brightest jazz trios featuring pianist from Shanghai, Eric Li, Malaysian bassist Rozhan Razman and drummer John Thomas.

Another top bill is ASIABEAT featuring celebrated Asian drummer Lewis Pragasam, the founder and moving spirit of the pioneering ASIABEAT project, whose recordings and performances are now legendary in the merging of Asian and contemporary music styles. Since its inception in 1979, ASIABEAT has toured and performed more than 500 performances at concerts and festivals such as Edinburgh Arts Festival, Java Jazz and ASEAN Music Festival.

For the Borneo Jazz Festival edition, ASIABEAT will feature Helga Violin from Hungary, Grace



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