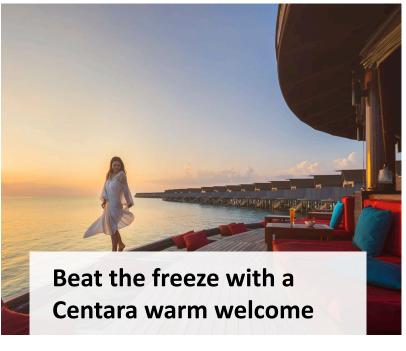


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NEWS FOR ASIA'S TRAVEL PLANNERS

NEWS UPDATES at www.ttrweekly.com















Chinese are back booking travel

Trip.com Group data shows China's outbound flight bookings surging for the upcoming Lunar New Year, which extends at least one week from Sunday, 22 January and heralds the arrival of the Year of the Rabbit.

Less than two weeks after China officially abolishes its quarantine restrictions for inbound visitors....

Hua Hin's Centara Grand marks 100 years

Centara Hotels & Resorts,
Thailand's leading hotel operator,
is getting ready to celebrate
the 100-year anniversary of its
historic Centara Grand Beach
Resort & Villas Hua Hin, home
of the original Railway Hotel
Hua Hin, with a month of
spectacular events, exhibitions
and entertainment lined up at
the stunning seaside retreat.

Festivities began during the New Year with the "Centenary Celebration: 100 Years...

IATA chief blasts 'kneejerk' reaction

IATA criticises nations reintroducing Covid testing for travellers departing China, saying it is a "knee-jerk" response.

The prestigious association representing more than 300 international airlines worldwide said governments should listen to science, particularly the World Health Organisation, which opposes all travel restrictions linked to Covid-19...

flights to China this week after the Civil Aviation Administration of China lifted all restrictions on scheduled international flights. Vietnam's aviation authorities confirmed that airlines could

boosts China

Vietnamese airlines are resuming

Vietnam

flights

confirmed that airlines could resume scheduled flights as specified in bilateral agreements signed between the two countries. Limits on passengers carried have also been removed....

MH resumes Sabah-Japan flights

Malaysia Airlines' flight MH81 made its comeback to Kota Kinabalu from Narita, Japan, recently reviving a vital route to bring Japanese tourists to Sabah after a two-year pause

Malaysia Airlines flies from Narita, Japan, to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, twice weekly, every Monday and Thursday...

Vietject to fly to Melbourne

Vietjet will launch its first service between Vietnam and Australia, connecting Ho Chi Minh City to Melbourne starting 31 March 2023.

The new route's announcement ceremony was witnessed by Tim Pallas – Victorian Minister for Trade and Investment, who heads the Victorian delegation on a working visit to Vietnam, and Dinh Viet Phuong, Vietjet managing director in Ho Chi Minh City...

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TTR Weekly is a reliable source of news for Asia's travel planners. Establised in 1978, TTR Weekly is the property of Ross Publishing Co Ltd registered in Bangkok, Thailand. TTRW is an abbreviation of the original name Travel Trade Report.

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THE PLACE TO BE

The world is yours to explore. Across Thailand, the Maldives, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the Middle East or Japan, find a place where you truly belong. This is the essence of Centara Hotels & Resorts. Whether your clients are planning a family beach holiday, an immersive cultural experience or an exciting urban escape, you can rest assured that they will be well taken care of from the moment they arrive.





Khao Lak on the path to MICE success

The recent THB1.5-billion expansion of JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort & Spa's new luxury facilities puts Khao Lak on the map as an aspiring MICE destination.

Sporting a new JW Grand Ballroom, the property has



increased its venue capacity to 1,000 delegates opening the door to medium to large-scale corporate events. It promises to raise Khao Lak's profile in important incentive and business event sectors.

The new JW Grand Ballroom was officially launched last October as part of the five-star beachfront resort's expansion and complete renovation. The 758-square-metre venue, fully equipped with the latest audiovisual technology, can be divided into three separate spaces for more intimate events, while the pre-function area can also host corporate-style exhibitions.

Located in Phang Nga province, about 80 km north of Phuket, Khao Lak has been long established as a leisure destination, especially for European and Scandinavian travellers. The tourist area is known for its beautiful beaches, lush forests, Takua Pa old town, and National Parks, as well as its proximity to the Similan Islands, a popular destination for diving and snorkelling.

JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort & Spa general manager Abhimanyu Singh believes the new JW Grand Ballroom will offer fresh



and innovative experiences for corporate groups, opening up a new frontier for South Thailand's thriving MICE sector.

"With the new event space, the integrated resort estimates its group customers will grow from 20% to 25-30% next year, he explained.

"For Khao Lak to be promoted as a destination for MICE, the destination needs up its game, and from Marriott's perspective, we definitely use our distribution and network across the world, and we are also working closely with our corporate teams to promote Khao Lak across distribution platforms, showcasing the destination in both MICE and leisure perspectives."

Although Khao Lak may face challenges in terms of MICE infrastructure that includes options for activities to do outside for every kind of group, Abhimanyu is confident the

destination can amplify its strengths and uniqueness for people to consider Khao Lak.

"Khao Lak can be a specialised MICE destination catering to guests looking for certain experiences, and then we'll be the best. And given the low number of hotels, in terms of supply, it would be more than enough for most hotels to benefit from this segment. We can start with small wins first, and when things start to really expand, for example -when the new Phang Nga airport comes up, Khao Lak can be positioned among the top MICE destinations.

"At this stage, everything we do to promote the destination allows us to establish a niche. We see markets for MICE groups, especially those who want a meaningful experience or break away from the standard three-day agenda. Also, groups with a high-rated budget will appreciate the ballroom offers a big opportunity."

JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort & Spa offers activities designed to meet holistic and sustainable expectations that MICE clients have, from nourishing culinary workshops and tasting sessions in the JW Garden to coffee breaks themed like a Thai floating market.

"Coming up in Q1 2023, we will also open a marine conservation centre where visitors can participate in a shark release activity as part of our CSR efforts to protect the marine ecosystems around us," the GM commented.

JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort & Spa director of sales Oliver Full story.







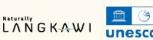








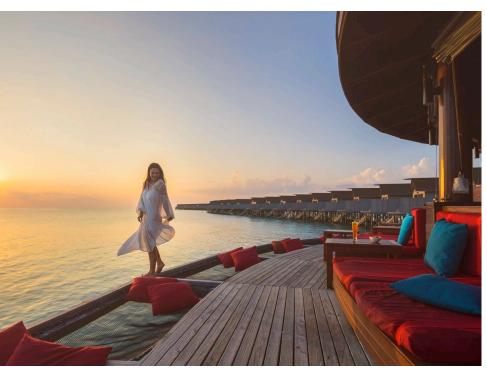








Beat the freeze with a Centara warm welcome





Centara Hotels & Resorts invites European holidaymakers to escape the cold winter weather and soaring energy prices with an extended vacation in some of Asia's dreamiest destinations. The "Linger for Longer" promotion allows everybody to get away from it all and start 2023 in the best possible way, with a choice of world-class resorts in Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and UAE.

Available for bookings and stays from now until 20 December 2023, "Linger for Longer" offers a 35% discount for long-stay vacations, including free accommodation for up to two children and complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the holiday.

Rates start from just THB 640++ per night, and best of all, spending time away from home helps to keep down the gas and electricity bills.

Krabi, Thailand With its breathtaking sandy beaches, idyllic islands, soaring limestone cliffs, and pure turquoise seas, the southern province of Krabi is home to some of Thailand's most iconic scenery. Within this dazzling destination, travellers can immerse their senses in rich Thai heritage, with sublime spa treatments, long-tail boat excursions, snorkelling trips, authentic cuisine and much more, all blessed with a warm, tropical climate and enchanting culture.

Centara Grand Beach Resort

& Villas Krabi is an exclusive upper-upscale retreat in a private sandy cove and accessible only by boat. Stay in a choice of luxurious rooms, suites and villas, including options with private pools and Jacuzzis, dine by the beach, cool off in lagoon pools, or soothe your senses at Spa Cenvaree. "Linger for Longer" rates start from THB5,268++.

Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Krabi is set in a private sandy cove overlooking the Andaman Sea.

Mui Ne, Vietnam Perfectly positioned on Vietnam's sunsoaked southeast coast, just a short drive from Ho Chi Minh







City, Mui Ne is blessed with sandy beaches, fishing villages and fresh seafood. Couples, friends and families can also enjoy exciting water sports such as kite surfing, sailing, paddle boarding and surfing, while the desert-like red and white sand dunes are extraordinary settings for adrenaline-fueled entertainment, such as quad biking and sand boarding.

Centara Mirage Resort Mui Ne is an "Explorer's Playground" themed resort centred around a dramatic water park, complete with a sailing ship, lazy river, pools and slides. With 984 rooms and pool villas, fantastic family facilities, multiple restaurants and separate spas for parents and kids, this is an inspiring destination for all ages. "Linger for Longer" rates start from THB2,947++.

Maldives Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives is a fantastic family option. Set on a pristine island in the South Ari

Atoll, parents and kids can stay in beachfront and overwater villas, dine at six restaurants, bars and lounges, or enjoy water sports and activities such as tennis, kayaking, snorkelling and more. "Linger for Longer" rates start from THB12,047++. Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa is an exquisite adults-only island retreat in the North Malé Atoll featuring beautiful beachfront and overwater villas, seven sensational restaurants and bars, exhilarating water sports, scuba diving, ocean excursions and soothing therapies at SPA Cenvaree, plus an E-Zone and Chill Lounge. "Linger for Longer" rates start from THB15,031++.

Dubai, UAE Dubai is one of the world's most spectacular destinations, filled with an unparalleled array of activities and experiences, from the world's biggest shopping malls and tallest buildings to exhilarating theme parks, exceptional restaurants and much more. Away from the buzz of the city centre, yet still easily accessible – only 15km from the airport – the Deira Islands set the stage for breathtaking beachfront adventures and heavenly family holidays.

Discover a five-star family paradise in the Indian Ocean at Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives.

Centara Mirage Beach Resort Dubai is inspired by mythical Thai and Arabian adventures. The water park features lagoon pools, waterslides, a lazy river, a rope climbing course and more, and wooden walkways lead to the golden beach and Arabian Gulf. Kids will also love a candythemed kids' spa and a unique sweet-themed wellness zone. "Linger for Longer" rates start from THB 3,131++.

Centara Mirage Beach Resort Dubai is perfect for families, with spacious rooms, spectacular views and bunk beds for children.

Bentota, Sri Lanka
Discover warm and heartfelt
Sri Lankan hospitality with
Centara. This enchanting
teardrop-shaped island promises
the perfect blend of natural

Full story.





Sarawak launches eco-tourism promotions

'Sarawak A Journey Awaits'
Business Networking Session
(B2B) was the first B2B event
of the new year organised
by Sarawak Tourism Board
(STB) with 18 agents from
MATTA Perak Chapter and two
representatives from Firefly
together with Sarawak industry
partners.

This year's B2B first-ever session coincided with the MATTA Perak Chapter's Familiarisation Trip to Kuching from 8 to 10 January 2023 that shone the spotlight on Sarawak's unique products, including the biggest museum in Malaysia – the Borneo Cultures Museum, Sarawak River Cruise trip, Semadang Kayaking, trip to Bau for Paku Maze Garden and to the charming town of Siniawan.

STB Deputy CEO Suriya Charles Buas said: "The business networking session today represented an opportunity to come together and exchange ideas on how to promote Sarawak as a unique eco-tourism destination to neighbouring states in West Malaysia. With the tourism sector's recovery underway, STB will focus on conversion and growth from the domestic market."

Domestic visitor arrivals to Sarawak ranked first on the list, with more than 1 million arrivals recorded during 2022. This marked a significant 662.03% growth over 2021, launching promotions to reach the 2023 target of 3 million arrivals.

Sarawak offers a wide variety of attractions for West Malaysian visitors, even more so now with the surge of demand for eco-tourism products following the pandemic. Sarawak has significant potential to offer green travel content to the market focusing on priceless flora and fauna endemic to Borneo, majestic waterfalls, captivating caves and mouth-watering food.

The five pillars of Sarawak's tourism – Culture, Adventure, Nature, Food and Festivals (CANFF) continue to be the main draw for Sarawak. The diversity in ethnicities and culture in Sarawak resulted in a palate of local delicacies merged with international flavours, producing unique food that can only be found in Sarawak. Kuching was also the first city in Malaysia to be named the 'Creative City of Gastronomy' by UNESCO.

Collaborations between Kuching, Sarawak and Ipoh, Perak, should increase Sarawak's visibility and product awareness for travel partners in Perak, helping them to stay connected with the latest content and offerings to "Come back Stronger" and move beyond the pandemic.

For more information visit, www.sarawaktourism.com.

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JUNE 2023





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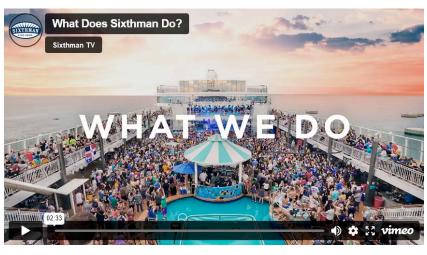
Norwegian Pearl Experiences at Sea

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd announced Tuesday the launch of the "Experiences at Sea" brand, the union of Sixthman Festivals at Sea, a subsidiary of NCL, and the highly curated, elevated cruise experiences with an emphasis on community, connection and journeys that create memories that last a lifetime.

"As we kick off 2023, we are

being recognised for creating custom experiences for their clients by winning both the Prevue Visionary and Northstar Stella Awards for "Best Events and Meetings at Sea" for 2022.

From wrestling to nurses, comedic internet influencers, the LGTBQIA+ community and music genres such as Rock, Americana,



NCLH's Charters, Meetings and Incentives ("CM&I") division.

The newly formed brand will host 13 consecutive events over 66 nights in Spring 2023, showcasing the NCLH's dedication to providing one-of-a-kind, immersive adventures at sea for a range of passionate affinity communities.

The "Experiences at Sea" brand will leverage Sixthman's 21 years of experience from producing over 160 charters focused on creating immersive experiences along with the expertise of the NCLH's CM&I team to further serve the NCLH's corporate, incentive and affinity-focused clients across all three of its award-winning brands — Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

The division aims to bring guests together to enjoy

thrilled to be collaborating with our expansive roster of artists and NCL client partners for a record-breaking 13 back-toback immersive festival-at-sea cruises aboard Norwegian Pearl, bringing guests from an array of like-minded communities together to experience one-ofa-kind vacations alongside their favourite artists, athletes, actors, comedians and others within their lifestyle," said Anthony Diaz, CEO of Sixthman and SVP of Charters, Meetings and Incentives for Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. "Powered by all that the "Experiences at Sea" unit provides, we are committed to going above and beyond to shatter the expectations of what a vacation can be. It's been so rewarding being a part of setting the stage for guests to be able to get away to get together!"

NCLH's CM&I team is already



Country, Pop, Electronic Dance and Blues, and so much more, Norwegian Pearl will serve as host to this record-breaking number of back-to-back themed cruises from 20 January to 27 March 2023. Voyages will sail from Miami, calling to various Caribbean islands, including NCLH's stunning private destinations of Great Stirrup Cay in the Bahamas and Harvest Caye in Belize. The 13 back-to-back cruises on NCL from 20 January to 27 March 2023 include:

Cruise Perfect (20 to 23 January) Miami to Nassau, Bahamas – The five dudes from Dude Perfect host an actionpacked three-day cruise full of trick shots, challenges and fun for the whole family.

The Rock Boat XXII (23 to 28 January) Miami to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic and Nassau, Bahamas – Guests will enjoy a five-day cruise hosted by Sister Hazel and featuring over 30 acts from Need to Breathe, Neon Trees, American Authors, Lit and so much more.

On the Blue (28 January to 2 February), Miami to Harvest Caye, Belize to Costa Maya,

celebrate the 15th anniversary of this Americana journey through song with over 40 artists, featuring Jeff Tweedy, Andrew Bird, Trampled by Turtles, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Patty Griffin, Neko Case, Shovels & Rope and many more.

Sail Across the Sun (17 to 21 February) Miami to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic – Guests will embark on a fourday cruise hosted by Train with Cozumel, Mexico – Celebrating the seventh edition, guests will enjoy performances from over 40 artists, including once-in-alifetime collaborations, featuring The Mavericks, John Anderson, Lucinda Williams, Steve Earle & The Dukes and more.

The Friendship (27 February to 3 March) Miami to Nassau, Bahamas to Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas – Hosted by All My Friends and Gary Richards, DESTRUCTO, the music festival returns for its third year hosting a soon-to-be-announced line-up of artists and schedule of events for electric dance music (EDM) aficionados.

The Beach Boys Cruise (3 to 8 March) Miami to Harvest Caye, Belize to Costa Maya, Mexico – The Beach Boys are not only bringing their good vibrations but also performances by The Isley Brothers, The Temptations, The Righteous Brothers, Mark McGrath and so many more on this five-day cruise.



Mexico – Hosted by Justin Hayward of the Moody Blues, guests will enjoy a five-day classic rock cruise featuring an array of musical performances.

Chris Jericho's Rock N
Wrestling Rager at Sea (2 to 6
February) Miami to Great Stirrup
Cay, Bahamas – Chris Jericho
hosts a four-day cruise featuring
the perfect blend of rock and
world-class wrestling.

Nursecon at Sea (6 to 10 February) Miami to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic – The Ultimate Nursing Conference created by Nurse Blake will provide attendees with the perfect balance of vacation, entertainment, fun with professional learning (including accredited CNE courses) and networking.

Cayamo 15 (10 to 17 February) Miami to Philipsburg, St. Maarten and Tortola, British Virgin Islands – Guests will



performances from over 20 artists, including Fitz and the Tantrums, G. Love & Special, plus comedy from Nick Swardson, wine tastings and more.

Outlaw Country Cruise 7 (21 to 27 February) Miami to Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas to 311 Caribbean Cruise 7 (8 to 13 March) Miami to Harvest Caye, Belize to Roatan, Honduras – 311 hosts 3/11 Day at Sea with featured performances by Arrested Development, G. Love...

Full story.



Pandaw Cruises explores the Sunderbans



Pandaw is offering its loyalty programme members a special one-off repositioning cruise in October 2023 on the RV Kindat Pandaw.



The cruise explores river travel from West Bengal to Assam crossing the Sunderbans and Bangladesh.

Pandaw, in an email post, said the members-only expedition offers an epic 21-night journey from Kolkata, sailing through the heart of Bangladesh and back into India's North-Eastern Assam region.

It promises

to unlock a wealth of cultural, ecological and historical sites on daily excursions during this two-country adventure, including the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, national parks, grand Mosques, and two nights in Dhaka with its exquisite colonial architecture.

Pandaw Cruises adds a postscript: "As always with our reconnaissance cruises, itineraries, timings and excursions are subject to change at short notice, and a sense of adventure is required for those eager to partake."

A Pandaw membership ID is required to book the cruise directly on the company's website or through a travel agent.

Prices for the 21-night trip start at USD10,350 per person.

A 21-night reconnaissance expedition on the Kindat Pandaw through India and Bangladesh, from Kolkata to Guwhati via Dhaka

The 18-cabin Kindat Pandaw will reposition from West Bengal to Assam. Departing from the former capital of Kolkata (Calcutta), the ship crosses Bangladesh in a two-country

reconnaissance expedition that explores the Sunderbans, one of the most ecologically diverse regions on the planet and known for its swimming tigers. Here, the Ganges and Brahmaputra outflow into the Bay of Bengal and has 10,000 square miles of mangrove, the world's largest mangrove forest.

Visits will be made to national parks with trips by tender deep into the backwaters. The expedition will also explore the wealth of Islamic art and architecture in Bangladesh's delta towns and the rich traditions of weaving in the riverine communities of this vast delta.

Dhaka, with its colonial buildings and excellent museums, will be a highlight. Then leaving the delta, the expedition will continue up the great Brahmaputra to re-enter India and continue through Assam to the city of Guwhati with its Hindu temples, the countryside around filled with tea gardens and plantation houses.



Centara Reserve turns one

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, is celebrating the first anniversary of Centara Reserve



Samui, which introduced a new era of personalised, design-led hospitality to Thailand – and the world – when it opened in December 2021.

The inaugural edition of the new Centara Reserve luxury brand, Centara Reserve Samui, is nestled in a stunning seafront setting at the tranquil end of Chaweng Beach. Crafted for discerning travellers who crave meaningful escapes in exclusive settings, this flagship resort is characterised by bespoke experiences that tell the story of their destination.

The creation of the 184room and pool-suite property
was overseen by AvroKO, the
acclaimed architecture and
interior design studio which
previously worked on projects
such as 1 Hotel Central Park in
New York, The Waldorf Astoria
Bangkok, and The Temple House
in Chengdu. It settled on a
concept that pulled inspiration
from both the colonial aesthetic
and the traditional craft of Thai
wood carving whilst blending

it with contemporary style and grace.

From the moment of arrival in the inviting light-filled lobby, which is crowned with a unique wooden sculpted chandelier, to the soothing suites and pool villas, which feature soft white tones, white-washed

one-of-a-kind weddings, Centara Reserve Samui has taken its place alongside Thailand's finest hotels.

It is not only the design and facilities that set it apart from the crowd, however; it is the resort's ability to inspire travellers through storytelling. At Centara Reserve Samui – and all future



oak, antique bronze metalwork and carved wooden screens, every aspect of this elegant resort exudes originality and sophistication. Outdoors, strategically placed pavilions, and alfresco living areas help to frame views of the sparkling sea.

Surrounded by swaying palm trees, the saltwater swimming pool is a spectacular setting to cool off.

With five dramatic dining and social venues such as Salt Society Beach Bar & Kitchen, with its 1,750 pieces of bamboo décor that represent waves, ocean-inspired tableware, and Vitamin Sea, the island's most talked-about Sunday Brunch, as well as a state-of-the-art fitness centre, yoga pavilion, children's zone, the world's first Reserve Spa Cenvaree, and spaces to stage glamorous events and

Centara Reserve properties worldwide – guests will be able to write new chapters in their life story that reflect the heart and soul of their destination through original activities, authentic encounters and memorable moments.

Salt Society Beach Bar & Kitchen is adorned with hanging bamboo to represent the ocean waves.

The success of Centara
Reserve Samui is reflected by
the honours and accolades it has
received in its first 12 months of
operations. This flagship hotel
was named the "Best New Luxury
Resort" in the Luxury Lifestyle
Awards and was a finalist in
the "Best Luxury Guest Rooms"
category in the Gold Key Awards.

"The opening of Centara...

Full story.



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OUTRIGGER SURFING HOLIDAY PACKAGE Starting from THB 4,999 net per room for 2 persons

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- An hour surfing lesson with professionals
- Certificate of participation and photos of surfing
- Travel until 31 October 2022

Private surf lessons and room upgrades are also available, please call our reservation team at +66 (0)76 324 590, email reservations.surin@outrigger.com



