

ASAI Bangkok Sathorn debuts with a party



On ya bike in Spain



Centara deal seals Maldives stays



Kids Stay and Eat Free at OUTRIGGER



Oceania's Vista sets sail in the Med

Oceania Cruises christened its newest ship Vista at a ceremony in Valletta, Malta, ahead of a summer season in the Mediterranean.

The first of the line's Allura Class vessels, the all-veranda ship is 791 feet (241 metres) long and can accommodate 1,200 guests (double occupancy)...

Philippines powers tourism boost

Visitor arrivals to the Philippines passed 2 million for the first five months of 2023, surpassing targets the country's Department of Tourism set.

The Philippines News Agency reported that data released by the Department of Tourism showed the country welcomed 2,002,304 international visitors from 1 January to 12 May, which exceeded the 1.7 million foreign visitors in 2022...

Royal Caribbean returns to China

Royal Caribbean International cruises will return to China in April 2024, with Asia's largest ship, Spectrum of the Seas, sailing from Shanghai.

It will offer four and five-night cruises to a combination of popular getaway destinations like Fukuoka, Okinawa, Nagasaki, Osaka, and Tokyo, Japan. Spectrum will also offer...

Marina Bay Sands deepens MICE ties

Sands Expo and Convention Centre, part of the integrated resort Marina Sands, has deepened its relationship with two MICE professional bodies – Events Industry Council (EIC) and Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA) – to create strategic partnerships that will shape the future of the industry...

Thapanee named TAT governor

Thapanee Kiatphaibool confirmed on Facebook last week her latest success in a long and rewarding career at the Tourism Authority of Thailand; her appointment as the next TAT governor.

She will take over from Yuthasak Supasorn, who completes his second four-year term at the end of August...

Laos welcomes a million visitors

The ASEAN Tourism Forum will be hosted in Vientiane from 22 to 27 January 2024 and has adopted the theme 'Quality and Responsible Tourism-Sustaining Asean Future' according to the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism.

ATF and the accompanying trade mart, Travex, attract around 800 delegates; 200 government officials from 10 nations, approximately 400...

Follow us on:



TTR Weekly is a reliable source of news for Asia's travel planners. Established 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.

Managing editor: Don Ross: donr@ttrweekly.com

EDITORIAL: news@rossttr.com
Editor: Don Ross

MARKETING: sales@ttrweekly.com
Content editor: Danai Stephen Ross
Publishing director: Lars Magnusson

PRODUCTION:
Creative director: Danai Stephen Ross
Graphics: Kamolapat Srivirawan

BE THE FIRST
TO LIVE IT UP

NORWEGIAN
PRIMA
AUGUST 2022

NORWEGIAN
VIVA
JUNE 2023



Meet our newest dream team at sea, Norwegian Prima and Norwegian Viva – the first two ships in a brand-new class designed to elevate every expectation. Stay connected to the ocean with experiences that bring you closer to the horizon. Stretch out, way out, in our most spacious accommodation to date. And look forward to first-rate service so you can enjoy every second. Discover an all-new experience at sea in Northern Europe and the Mediterranean on board NCL's newest ships.

NCL NORWEGIAN *Feel Free*[™]
CRUISE LINE®

THE HAVEN SUNDECK



INDULGE OUTDOOR LOUNGE



UNPARALLELED ACCOMMODATION



BOOK ONLINE AT **NCL.COM**

CALL **INDIA** +91 22 7127 9333 | **SINGAPORE** +65 31 651 680

MALAYSIA +60 3 3099 2294 | **PHILIPPINES** +63 28 6263 209 | **MAINLAND CHINA** 400 842 8361

HONG KONG AND REST OF ASIA 800 901951 | OR **CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL**

FLEXIBLE CANCELLATION POLICY | ENHANCED HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Malaysia promotes niche travel to Filipinos

Tourism Malaysia has conducted its first sales mission to Manila and Davao in the Philippines from 20 to 28 May 2023 to convince Filipinos to return to Malaysia for specialised trip agendas.

The programme focuses explicitly on boosting inbound



tourism through niche segments such as family, MICE, health care and medical tourism, education, and long-stay options for digital nomads.

Tourism Malaysia's director-

general Dato Dr Ammar Bin Abd. Ghapar led the mission comprising 19 organisations, including Melaka Tourism, Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC), Selama District Council of Perak and Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) agency.

In addition, the mission highlighted events such as the upcoming "Visit Melaka" and the "Visit Perak Year 2024." Malaysian states made stage presentations demonstrating some of the attractions tourists will be able to enjoy during the upcoming Visit Malaysia Year 2025.

Malaysia is projecting 23.5m international tourists during the special year earning MYR76.8 billion in tourism receipts.

The Malaysian sellers and Filipino buyers gathered for business sessions and gala

dinners in both cities, apart from two seminars conducted at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City and Dusit Thani D2 Davao, Davao City, respectively, focusing on leisure, shopping, and niche tourism markets.

"The Philippines has always been the top 10 source market for international travel to Malaysia. Our challenge is to move forward after the pandemic and to work together to create a seamless and unforgettable experience for tourists when they visit ASEAN as a single yet diverse travel destination," says Dato Dr Ammar.

In 2022, more than 159,442 tourists from the Philippines visited Malaysia. There are currently 64 weekly flights from Manila to Malaysia on Malaysia Airlines, Philippines Airlines, AirAsia and Cebu Pacific.



Langkawi

99 Magical Islands

**YOU BRING YOUR FAMILY.
WE WILL DELIVER THE MAGIC.**

Langkawi is just perfect for family. With its shimmering waters, pristine beaches, fun adventures and explosions of flavour there's something to see, do or enjoy for everybody! So come make unforgettable memories together, here in Langkawi! Believe us, it's going to be magic!



ASAI Bangkok Sathorn debuts with a party



ASAI Bangkok Sathorn, the second ASAI-branded hotel in Bangkok, celebrated its arrival on the hotel scene with The Hamlet Block Party: ASAI x Aperol Neighbour-Fest – a two-day art, music, and dining festival designed to showcase the property's vibrant neighbourhood and demonstrate ASAI's commitment to collaborating with, and bringing value to, its broader communities.

Held over the weekend of 27 to 28 May 2023, the event brought together various hip venues along Sathorn Sois 10 and 12 near Bangkok's central business district. It featured a wide range of pop-up drinking, dining, entertainment, and arts and crafts experiences at

the hotel and throughout the neighbourhood.

Especially for the occasion, renowned local restaurants and bars such as Le Café des Stagiaires, ModKaew Wine Bar, Kai New Zealand, XII Mediterranean, Bardo, Mezcal, and Cetara offered special promotions on their respective F&B menus. Some venues also hosted live performances by local bands and DJs – including a mesmerising drag performance at Mezcal.

Reflecting ASAI Bangkok Sathorn's intent to become a vibrant community hub, the hotel presented a pop-up burger stall by Little Market, a unique Burmese lunch experience by guest chef Lady GooGoo, an evening cocktail and DJ party

with Aperol, an art exhibition featuring the works of local artists, and a series of interactive workshops, including a latte art workshop by Rocket Coffeebar, a sustainable 'BioPlastic' product workshop by Hutsama, and a creative photography workshop led by Bangkok's renowned ex-motorcycle taxi rider-turned-pro photographer Phichai Kaewvichit.

An exclusive dinner experience by guest chefs Bo Songvisava and Dylan Jones, the masterminds behind ASAI Bangkok Sathorn's exciting restaurant concept, ERR

alike. The resounding success of the Hamlet Block Party is a testament to this community-focused approach, and we are delighted to have provided an unforgettable gathering for all who joined us."

Created by Dusit International, one of Thailand's leading hotel and property development companies, ASAI Hotels is a distinctive lifestyle brand designed to link curious, millennial-minded travellers with authentic local experiences in the world's most vibrant

neighbourhoods. Its operations are built on four key pillars: Thoughtful Essentials, Common Areas, Locally Inspired, and Connected Community.

The first ASAI-branded property, ASAI Bangkok Chinatown, opened in September 2020 in the heart of the city's renowned Chinatown district. It is now one of the top-rated hotels on

TripAdvisor.

ASAI Bangkok Sathorn aims to build on this success by linking guests with another vibrant neighbourhood – this one renowned for its cluster of hip bars and restaurants – just a

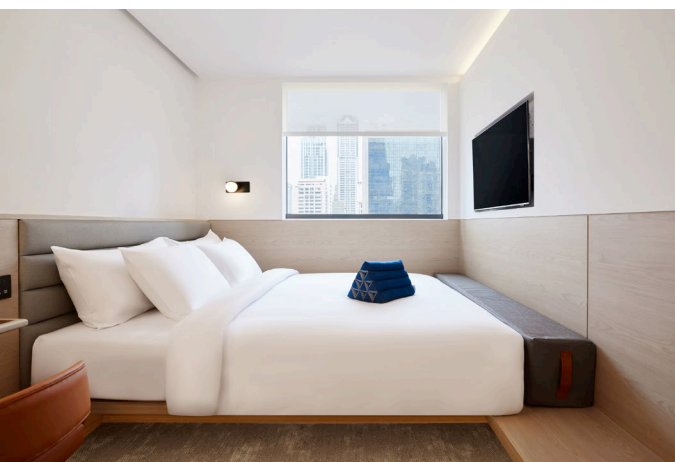
five-minute walk from Saint Louis BTS (Skytrain) Station, and a few blocks away from the buzzing Silom Road, on Sathorn Soi 12.

Alongside 106 thoughtfully compact rooms that focus on the essentials, such as highly comfortable beds, powerful showers, high-quality amenities, and work desks with USB charging stations, the new property boasts a spacious and welcoming communal space that features a cosy neighbourhood bar, a comfortable co-working area, and ERR Rustic Thai Dining, as mentioned above.

Guests also benefit from ASAI's team of 'community ambassadors,' who are on hand to share their in-depth knowledge of the neighbourhood and guide guests towards hidden gems and local treasures, with itineraries tailored to suit individual preferences.

To celebrate its grand opening, ASAI Bangkok Sathorn offers a special room package starting at THB2,500 net per night for a Cosy King or Twin Room, including breakfast. The offer is available for booking until 30 June 2023 for stay dates through 30 September 2023.

For more information, visit asaihotels.com/locations/bangkok-sathorn.



Urban Rustic Thai, also wowed diners with authentic Thai cuisine crafted from seasonal and sustainable ingredients. The duo's former restaurant, Bo.lan earned a Michelin Star for a similar approach.

Food lovers also indulged in an exclusive Trattoria Sunday Brunch, created at the hotel by guest chefs Manueto from Giglio and Miro from Cetara.

"Bringing the community together in events like this embodies the essence of the ASAI experience," said Siradej Donavanik, Vice President – Development Global, Dusit International and Head of Culture for ASAI Hotels. "At ASAI, our commitment lies in enabling our guests to 'Live Local' and forging meaningful connections with our neighbours to craft extraordinary experiences for visitors and locals



On ya bike in Spain

Cycling and holidays are more than just compatible in Spain. They are a perfect match whether you want to cycle between visits or go on cycling excursions for a few hours. You will find perfectly adapted routes and cycle touring and bike hire



companies all over Spain to make the logistics easy and the experience the most memorable.

WHY SPAIN

The excellent Spanish climate makes it easier to go cycling practically all year round. There are numerous routes and trails through the countryside for all levels in Spain. The impressive scenery you will encounter on the routes is worth seeing. Spain is the country with the most Biosphere Reserves (53), not to mention its 16 National Parks, as well as some of the most beautiful and best-signposted routes in Europe (such as the Way of Saint James, where you can even find hostels that are free of charge). Numerous routes run through destinations of immense cultural and gastronomic interest. Spain abounds in charming, easygoing villages to visit by bike (both along the coast and inland).

Accommodation-wise, you have a wide selection:

hotels, country house lodges, campsites, hostels, etc. There are even "Bike-friendly Hotels", particularly in Mallorca, the Canary Islands and around the Pyrenees, which offer various services like video surveillance for bikes, washing areas, special menus for athletes, and bike hire.

BEST TIMES TO BIKE

Even though you can go cycling practically all year round, bear in mind that in summer, the temperatures can get very high in certain areas (even topping the 38°C mark).

Some cycling tourists prefer to travel in the low season (avoiding the peak holiday months of July and August). Fewer people are on the trails, and the temperatures are lower when exploring Spain during Spring or Autumn. Daylight hours are still longer when compared to winter months.

ROUTES

- **Vías Verdes** (Greenways): these are over 3,200 km of old railway lines that have been converted into bicycle tourism itineraries. More than 120 itineraries are available, with distances greatly varying in length (from 1 to 100 km). You can visit the official website.
- **Nature Trails**: there are over 10,300 km of these trails throughout Spain. Among them you will find old railway lines, canals, cattle routes, tracks, etc. On the official website, you can download GPS files for several of the suggested routes.
- **EuroVelo Routes**: A lot of stretches along the Mediterranean coast of Spain are perfectly equipped for bicycle tourism, such as the EuroVelo 8, the Mediterranean Route from Cadiz to Athens, which is about 5,400 kilometres long.
- Besides these routes, you will find other tracks and rural pathways.
- **Saddlebag bicycle touring** is all the rage if you are into cycling routes that take several days to complete. Use a hybrid bike fitted out for transporting packs to carry your luggage.

FAMOUS AREAS

There are particularly famous cycle touring routes you might like to do. Here are a few examples:



- **St James Way**: the famous Camino comprises several different routes ending at Santiago de Compostela Cathedral (Galicia), including the French Way, the Primitive Way, the English Way, etc.
- **The Way of El Cid**: this route follows in the footsteps of El Cid Campeador through Castilla-León, Castilla-La Mancha, Aragon and the Region of Valencia.
- **Canal de Castilla**: once a major transport artery, this canal is now one of the most attractive routes in Castile and Leon.

Magical Holidays and Extraordinary Experiences

at the Royal Cliff Pattaya

Experience the largest and most spectacular infinity edge pool in Thailand!

Featuring an exciting kids' pool along with multiple spots for various activities, including outdoor massages, surf skating, and many more, guests are able to take a refreshing dip while immersing themselves in the awe-inspiring panoramic sea views and the new sensational surrounding landscape! It is the perfect place to bask in the sunshine while enjoying delicious cocktails during the day or experiencing unbelievable sunsets in the evening. Relax in the comfort of utmost luxury with attentive service.



ROYAL CLIFF HOTELS GROUP
THE STATE OF EXCLUSIVITY & FASCINATION
www.royalcliff.com

Royal Cliff Hotels Group

353 Phra Tamnuk Road, Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand 20150

Tel: (+66) 38 250421 | Email: relax@royalcliff.com | Website: www.royalcliff.com

Facebook: [fb.com/royalcliff](https://www.facebook.com/royalcliff)

Centara deal seals Maldives stays



Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, is offering travellers over 30% savings and an array of exclusive privileges when booking stays at Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives and Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa Maldives through its new Paradise Found: Maldives Exclusive offer.

Book from today to 31 July 2023 for stays through 20 December 2023 to experience the ultimate island getaway at Centara's two award-winning Maldivian properties.

Whether looking for a sun-drenched family holiday at Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives or a romantic retreat at Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa Maldives, guests will enjoy 25% off their stay, as well as a further 15% discount when logged in as a CentaraThe1 member, plus special discounts on spa treatments and dining, a refreshing welcome drink upon

arrival, hotel transfer privileges and an unforgettable sunset adventure.

Guests at the exclusive and family-friendly Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives will receive indulgent breakfast setups, a 15% discount on seaplane transfers, spa treatments and dining at six onsite bars and restaurants, as well as a breathtaking sunset cruise in the Indian Ocean, and access to snorkelling, diving, the lively Kids' Club and much more.

Couples and honeymooners opting for an adults-only experience at Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa Maldives will also enjoy an assortment of luxurious privileges hand-selected to make each holiday

genuinely memorable, including complimentary hotel speedboat transfers, 15% off dining and the rejuvenating SPA Cenvaree, and a unique sunset fishing trip, among others. Moonlit strolls on the beach and snorkelling in the house reef are also included.

CentaraThe1 members who make their booking while logged into their member account are eligible for an additional 15% discount. Sign up for the CentaraThe1 loyalty programme is free and takes less than a minute at www.CentaraThe1.com. For more information on Paradise Found: Maldives Exclusive offer, please visit <https://www.centarahotelsresorts.com/paradise-found-maldives-exclusive>

THE PLACE TO BE

The world is yours to explore. Find your next adventure in the place you truly belong. Across Thailand, the Maldives, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the Middle East or Japan, you can find a place you want to be. 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 getaway, you can rest assured that they will be well taken care of from the moment they arrive.

📍 Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives



CENTARA RESERVE

Centara
Signature Collection

CENTARA
GRAND

CENTARA

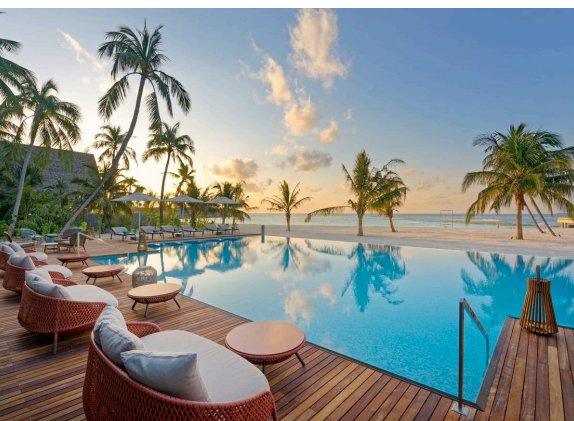
centra
by CENTARA

COSI

CENTARA
HOTELS & RESORTS

Visit our dedicated trade website centarahotelsresorts.com/b2b

Kids Stay and Eat Free at OUTRIGGER Maldives



The award-winning luxury OUTRIGGER Maldives Maafushivaru Resort has launched a Kids Stay and Eat Free promotion for new bookings until 31 October 2023.

It means two children under

12 can stay and eat free as part of their parents' meal plan. Kids can either dine from the buffet or the kids' menu in the resort's five restaurants.

With this offer, all little VIPs can experience the beauty of Maldives' sun and fun whilst the parents enjoy a stress-free vacation, spending less.

Kids can enjoy activities such as snorkelling, stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking and attending the marine biologist's educational presentations on whale sharks, manta rays, coral life and much more. The resort's astronomer also enjoys showing the night sky to families with a powerful telescope.

If holidaying with one child,

the villa options include the chic Over Water Villas or the mesmerising Beach Villas, both of which can be booked with or without private pools.

A very comfortable option could be accommodation for two adults and two children in the spacious 184 sqm Two-Bedroom Beach Villa with a private pool. Its outdoor decks feature a daybed, dining area and private pool with sun loungers.

Varied dining options for all the family include Cuisine Gallery for international breakfast and dinner, Art-I-San for fine dining, Koto for Japanese, Moodhu Grill for the finest meats and seafood, or Koffee n Chill for teas, coffees, ice creams and pastries.

Luxury Lifestyle Awards selected OUTRIGGER Maldives Maafushivaru Resort as one of the Top 100 Hotels and Resorts of the World 2022.

Based on 657 reviews as of mid-May, the resort boasts a 5.0 "Excellent" rating on TripAdvisor, with guest comments praising the property.

The resort is a convenient 25-minute seaplane ride from Male international airport.

To book the Kids Stay & Eat Free offer and for full T&Cs, contact your preferred travel agent or visit OUTRIGGER Maldives Maafushivaru Resort on [OUTRIGGER.com](https://www.outrigger.com).

Your Sabah Bucket List

www.sabahtourism.com

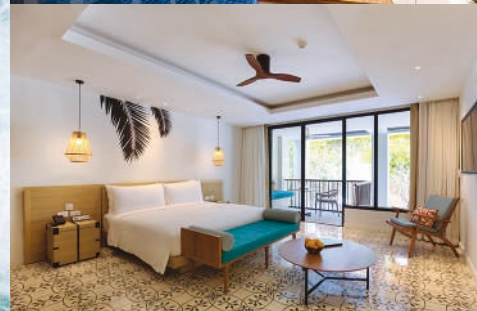


Enchanting
SABAH
Malaysian Borneo

SURFING HOLIDAYS IN PHUKET

Outrigger Surin Beach Resort

Where you enjoy beach life and fun surf



Learn to surf. Get wet. Ride the waves. Chill out in your comfortable and spacious room before hitting the Nalu Bar and Grill to enjoy delectable dining at the end of the day. Outrigger Surin Beach Resort is conveniently located just a 5 minute walk to Surin beach, one of the most popular beach breaks in Phuket. Beginner or experienced surfers grab your surfboard and enjoy!

OUTRIGGER SURFING HOLIDAY PACKAGE

Starting from THB 4,999 net per room for 2 persons

- 2 nights accommodation
- Daily breakfast at Nalu Bar and Grill
- A round trip transfer from the resort to the surf school
- 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

Rate is for 2 nights accommodations for 2 adults per room and inclusive of service charge and government taxes. Rate includes an hour of surfing tuition as well as the use of surfboard for the duration of surfing lesson. Terms and conditions apply.

