



Dusit opens two hotels in Nepal



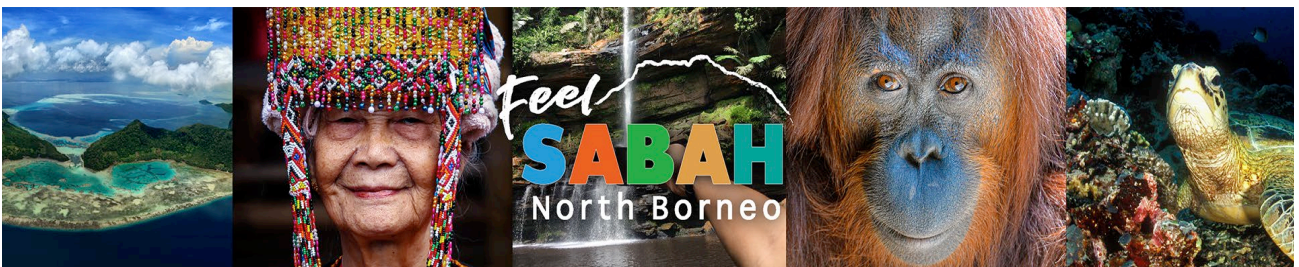
Nine tips for cutting business travel costs



Four Seasons Langkawi launches package



Spain's cliff-hanging trail tempts fearless



Oceania schedules 2024 Med sailings

Oceania Cruises schedules Mediterranean sailings in 2024 with credits allowing guests to enjoy free shore excursions in cultural capitals and lesser-known gems...

Chinese searching for Airbnb stays in Southeast Asia

Latest data from Airbnb reveals that Airbnb hosts and guests are emerging as key drivers of economic activity in destinations and communities across Southeast Asia.

While the pandemic caused unprecedented disruption to global tourism, Airbnb is seeing a strong rebound in international and domestic guest arrivals across the region...

Major shake-up in passport power ranking

Japan has been knocked off the top spot on the Henley Passport Index for the first time in five years and bumped to third place, according to the latest ranking, which is based on exclusive official data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA)...

Vietnam tracks recovery trends

Vietnam estimates it welcomed 5,574,969 visitors for the first six months ending 30 June 2023, according to Vietnam's General Statistics Office.

In June, the tally reached 975,010 visitors, an increase of 6.4% over May 2023 and 527% compared to June 2022. GSO figures indicated that the first six-month tally was up 1,347% compared to the first six...

Facial biometrics speed up passenger checks

Carnival Cruise Line continues to expand the use of facial biometric technology to expedite the debarkation process for more than 3 million guests.

In partnership with US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), nine of Carnival's 14 US homeports use secure, streamlined technology...

Accor inks expansion deal in Japan

Accor is expanding its presence in Japan by adding Daiwa Resorts' 23 properties and over 6,000 rooms to its nationwide network.

As Japan continues to welcome back international travel and experiences a steady tourism industry recovery, Accor is partnering with Ebisu Resort LLC to renovate and rebrand the Daiwa portfolio and reflag them Grand Mercure...

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Nine tips for cutting business travel costs

Business travel continues to grow, with a projected 188% rise forecast over the next five years, but at the same time, costs are expanding

In response to these trends, a seasoned business travel expert

and AI-powered travel assistants. Our team knows that, ultimately, service, efficiency and value are priceless for businesses, which is why many of these hacks will also improve the travel experience and save time,” added Saillet.

demand. Flights that leave on the hour are more costly, as they are booked more frequently. For example, an executive assistant or travel Booker might be instructed by management to book a flight at 0800, and they will simply book a flight at that exact time. By booking flights 15 or 30 minutes on either side of the hour, travel bookers can find a less busy, and therefore more affordable, option.

Book early-week flights. Google Flights data shows that, on average, flights that depart on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday have been 12% cheaper than weekend departures. This hack will be useful for business travellers who have the flexibility to book early-week meetings. Late-week flights, while more expensive, come with other bonuses: a traveller may be paying more for a Friday flight, but they have the added advantage of taking on a weekend away in that destination.

Stick to one or two airline rewards programmes. It’s tempting to sign up for every rewards programme, but FCM Asia recommends maximising just one or two of the major ones and growing your membership status. The most coveted perks in these programs – such as the first pick of seats, additional luggage, and business lounge access – are available for members that reach gold or platinum status, which is difficult to achieve across multiple programs. The major programs, such as KrisFlyer by Singapore Airlines, allow you to accumulate

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offers nine tips – from taking flights on the half-hour mark and early weekdays to booking eight days in advance – to help businesses get more value from their travel in the next financial year.

FCM Asia managing director Bertrand Saillet says: “As travel experts, we know the tricks of the trade to secure the most convenient, cost-effective travel options for corporates that travel regularly. Here are some money-saving hacks that business travellers have tried and tested over the years.”

“FCM Asia has helped more than 7,000 businesses with their travel through a whole suite of offerings, from expert advice through dedicated travel managers and 24/7 support to innovative booking technology

Here are nine travel hacks to cut business costs

Save up to 20% on airfares by booking eight to 14 days ahead. FCM Asia’s experience shows that the cheapest domestic airfares are those booked eight to 14 days before departure. Airlines tend to release cheaper seats around this time to fill their flights. Business meetings are often arranged one to two weeks ahead, so this hack is more useful to businesses than leisure travellers.

Book flights on the quarter-hour or half-hour for cheaper fares. FCM Asia’s veteran business flyers swear by this rule, and they put this down to a classic case of supply and



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Dusit opens two hotels in Nepal

Dusit Hotels and Resorts under Dusit International, one of Thailand's leading hotel and property development companies, is making its Nepal debut with the opening of Dusit Princess Kathmandu (17 July) and Dusit Thani Himalayan Resort Dhulikhel on 24 July.

Focus on wellness

Designed to appeal to business and leisure travellers who appreciate comfort, value, and convenience, Dusit Princess Kathmandu is located in the heart of the capital's Lazimpat neighbourhood, a short walk from Narayanhiti Palace Museum and just 18 minutes by car from Tribhuvan International Airport.

Must-visit attractions such as Kathmandu Durbar Square and Swayambhunath Stupa, one of Nepal's oldest and most revered temple complexes, are just a short drive away.

Designed to reflect local culture and architecture, the property offers an oasis of relaxation amidst the buzz of the city.

Alongside 107 rooms ranging from 28 to 62 sqm and a Presidential Suite set over 159 sqm, the new property boasts a speciality Thai restaurant Soi; a Dusit Gourmet outlet featuring freshly baked pastries, artisanal sandwiches, and deli bites; and rooftop Kibu Sky Lounge with panoramic city views. The rooftop Blue bar also boasts the city's highest infinity pool.

Reflecting Dusit's group-wide focus on wellness, Dusit Princess Kathmandu will soon open its Crest spa offering a wide range of Thai-inspired massage therapies and beauty treatments. A steam room, sauna, and fully equipped

the lobby for informal small gatherings. With a dedicated team of professionals ensuring personalised attention to every detail, the hotel promises an exceptional event experience.

Himalayan foothills

Hot on the heels of the opening of Dusit Princess Kathmandu, Dusit Thani Himalayan Resort Dhulikhel will open its doors in the Himalayan foothills between the Mahabharat range and Alpine highland ridge on 24 July 2023. This beautiful location is approximately one hour's drive from Tribhuvan International

to 57 sqm, and 18 exclusive villas ranging from 124 sqm to 247 sqm, the resort features a wide range of facilities for business and leisure.

At the heart of the property is the exclusive Devarana Wellness. This tranquil space features a traditional Thai healing spa, fitness and movement centre, outdoor infinity pool and Jacuzzi, and dedicated spaces for mindful and energising activities such as Yoga and meditation. Making the most of the resort's stunning location, guests can also arrange multi-day retreats and wellness programmes supported by invigorating activities such as



Crest Club with a gym are also available for guests seeking to pause, refresh, and reinvigorate in the utmost comfort.

Dusit Princess Kathmandu offers a selection of versatile meeting spaces for business functions, weddings, and other special events. Among them is the stunning rooftop venue, 'Vista,' featuring floor-to-ceiling windows and panoramic city views for up to 35 guests. The elegant Princess Ballroom is available to host larger gatherings of up to 250 attendees, while Lumbini 1 and Lumbini 2 are available for meetings and small groups of up to 35-40 guests. The Gallery provides an open space above

Airport and 10 minutes from Namobuddha, one of Nepal's most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites.

The new property provides a tranquil escape amidst nature and is Dhulikhel's first luxury-branded resort. It aims to become a must-visit wellness destination that contributes to the well-being of visitors and the community. From personalised butler service to customised wellness activities to exclusive dining experiences, Dusit Thani Himalayan Resort Dhulikhel has been crafted to deliver a bespoke guest experience.

Alongside 54 spacious and elegantly appointed guest rooms and suites ranging from 47 sqm

bike riding and hiking to local villages Phulbari and Panchkhal, where they can immerse themselves in the area's rich cultural heritage and traditions.

Encompassed by a community-managed forest and paddy fields, the resort is a sanctuary to over 80 rare and exotic species of birds, providing unique opportunities to engage with nature. Dhulikhel Zipline is located nearby, and other adventurous activities, such as rafting and bungee jumping, are available within a two-hour drive. Bhaktapur Durbar Square, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is approximately one hour away.

The resort embraces a farm-

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Four Seasons Langkawi launches events package



Situated between a mile-long private beach and scenic mangrove forests, Four Seasons Resort Langkawi is promoting a special offer to entice meeting groups to book the resort to “connect, collaborate and celebrate.”

Event groups save up to 35% when they book the resort’s latest special package. It includes daily breakfast, complimentary room and upgrades, with rates starting from MYR1,800.

The offer includes special meeting packages starting at MYR320, 20% savings on food and beverages, and 15 savings on Spa treatments.

Groups staying at both Four Seasons Hotel Kuala Lumpur (one-night minimum) and Four Seasons Resort Langkawi (two-night minimum) gain an additional 5% discount off the entire bill.

Offer valid until 22 December 2023. To make a booking, email



res.langkawi@fourseasons.com.

Four Seasons Resort Langkawi is just a 55-minute flight from Kuala Lumpur and a 75-minute flight from Singapore.

With 1,155 square metres (12,432 square feet) of flexible function space, the resort provides a variety of indoor and outdoor venues that can be tailored to suit the occasion and group size.

"We encourage guests to take advantage of our stunning island scenery," says General Manager Ivan Giles. "Spread across 20 hectares (48 acres); our outdoor settings play a key role in creating unforgettable events and unlocking fresh inspiration and energy for teams."

A standout feature of Four Seasons Resort Langkawi is its mile-long private beach, which serves as a spectacular backdrop and doubles up as a versatile function space.

The beach is also a top choice for team-building activities such as volleyball, catamaran sailing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding and sandcastle building.

Along with three modern meeting rooms equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual systems, the resort has a wide selection of outdoor venues — open-air villas, scenic pavilions, and private dining rooms or terraces at all the restaurants.

Add excitement to the

itinerary with team-building activities such as rock climbing, archery and cooking classes. Embark on a bicycle tour and cycle through local Langkawi villages to get a glimpse into local life, pass picturesque waterfalls and paddy fields or explore the

surrounding UNESCO Global Geopark on special excursions such as mangrove safaris, rainforest ziplining, and custom-made group adventures.

Offer valid until 22 December 2023. To make a booking, email res.langkawi@fourseasons.com.



Spain's cliff-hanging trail tempts fearless

This almost 8-kilometre path near Malaga (Andalusia) was once considered one of the most dangerous in the world.

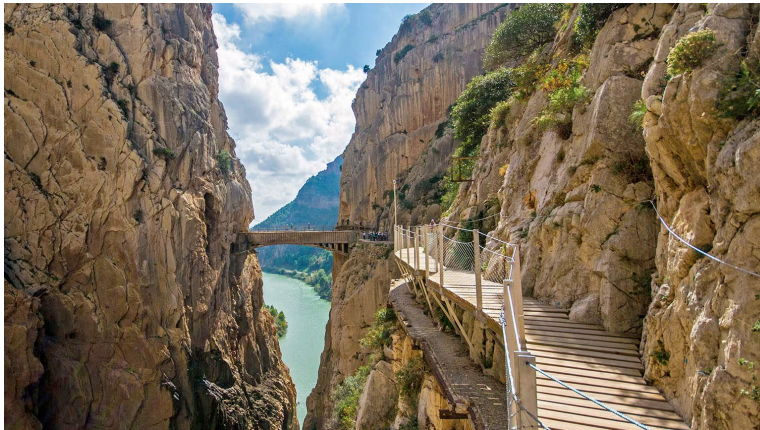
Today the entire route has been carefully restored, but although it's now much safer, one thing hasn't changed – the unique experience of strolling along walkways hanging over 100

in the town of Ardales to the exit in Álora. The reception area at the start has a restaurant and several parking areas and is also the shuttle bus's final stop, which runs between the north and south ends of the trail.

This is the starting point of two paths which lead to the control cabin and the Gaitanejo

At the control cabin, personnel give visitors a protective helmet and check their shoes' suitability. The viewing point on Gaitanejo Dam has views of the cave dwellings of Sierra Parda, which were once home to the staff working at the hydroelectric plant. After reaching the walkways, the trail continues through the Gaitanejo Gorge, the Tajo de las Palomas Canyon, and the Puente del Rey hanging bridge. The landscape gradually changes as you approach the Hoyo Valley with its leafy woodland.

Next, the path enters the spectacular gorge of Los Gaitanes via walkways suspended 100 metres above the ground. The amazing sights on this stretch include a hundred-year-old juniper tree growing among the

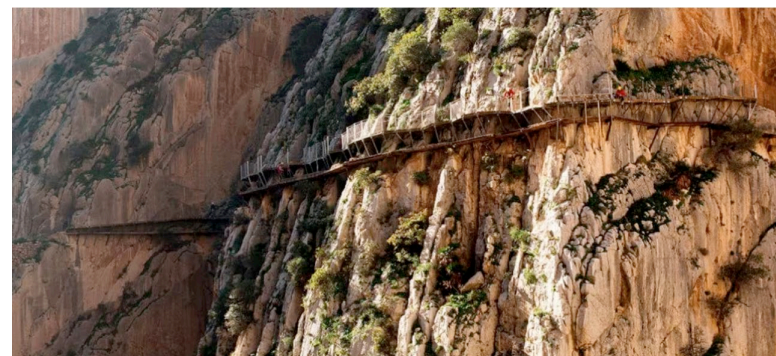


metres on a sheer cliff face.

The Caminito del Rey route is spectacular from beginning to end, running through cliffs, canyons, and a large valley. It crosses the landscapes of Desfiladero de los Gaitanes, a gorge carved out by the river Guadalhorce, with walls 700 metres high. You will need to buy tickets for El Caminito del Rey, and you can reserve them on the official website.

What is the walk like?

The trail is linear and taken one way, going downwards and from north to south, some on mountain paths and some on suspended walkways. It's 7.7 kilometres long and takes about 3-4 hours to walk, from the start



dam, where the official trail of El Caminito del Rey begins. The longer is 2.7 kilometres, starting from Sillón del Rey, a set of stone benches, tables and chairs once used by Alfonso XIII, or through the tunnel next to the restaurant. The other path is shorter, just 1.5 kilometres starting with a smaller pedestrian tunnel 200 metres before the restaurant.

rocks, the "fossil beach" with Jurassic-period fossils, and a glass balcony which sticks out from the walkway for those who feel they need to push their limits. The path continues to the final stretch: after handing back your helmets in the control cabin, there is a 2.1-kilometre walk down the hill to the railway station at El Chorro.

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