



**Centara delivers
Asia's diversity**



**Royal Cliff Grand wins
Kayak award**



**Busan's Unique Venues:
The Face of Korea**



**Pandaw visits the
dolphins**



Princess opens sales for 2025 Alaska cruises

Princess Cruises has unveiled its 2025 Alaska cruise and cruise tours season, featuring three roundtrip itineraries and a new National Parks Cruisetour. Sales and bookings open on 3 August 2023...

THAI restarts direct flights to Sapporo

Thai Airways International resumes Bangkok-Sapporo flights today, 2 August, using a Boeing 787-9, for five weekly flights according to the latest timetable, valid until 28 October

The airline says it is responding to an increase in travel demand, mainly from Japanese travellers waiting for the return of direct flights to Bangkok...

Why cruising is perfect for solo travellers

With solo cruising on the rise, luxury and ultra-luxury cruise retailer Panache Cruises advises solo travellers on making the most of their cruise holiday.

As the popularity of solo cruising continues to rise, cruise lines are responding to demand by fitting more single cabins to new and existing ships, making cruise holidays more accessible for solo travellers...

Tourism Malaysia on a mission in Indonesia

Tourism Malaysia embarked on a sales mission to Indonesia this week, visiting three major cities, Jakarta, Medan and Balikpapan, to present the latest tourism products and packages.

From 30 July to 5 August, Malaysian and Indonesian tourism industry players met for a series of business-to-business sessions in collaboration with the Malaysian Association...

China tourism picks up pace

Chinese tourism recovery is still in progress, but it is advancing swiftly compared to neighbouring Japan, according to the latest air ticketing data by ForwardKeys.

Reporting on the latest travel data and insights ForwardKeys shows that four weeks after the initial lifting of travel restrictions in 2022, both countries showed similar levels of outbound...

Pandaw selects blog competition winners

Pandaw announced the winners of its first blog competition held earlier in the year.

A river cruise specialist in the Mekong River region and India, Pandaw asked for blogs that "evoked strong memories of sailing through the waterways of Asia and the spirit of Pandaw."

Three winners were selected with their blogs featured on Pandaw's website and will be highlighted in the company's future email campaigns...

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

THE PLACE TO BE

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AND BEYOND

As a single drop of water transforms into a breathtaking wave, we, at Centara Hotels & Resorts, have undergone a remarkable transformation over the past 40 years.

Inspired by our rich heritage and devotion to creating extraordinary experiences, Centara stands as the place to be for locally relevant, Thai-inspired experiences. Guided by our family values, our signature service and genuine passion, we offer immersive and memorable experiences at top destinations around the world.

From the award-winning Centara Reserve, to our dazzling debut in Japan at the spectacular Centara Grand Hotel Osaka, we are dedicated to expanding our offerings to provide your clients with a cherished home wherever their travels lead. Let us be your partners in crafting these unforgettable journeys and personalised moments they will never forget.

📍 Centra By Centara Phu Pano Resort Krabi

CENTARA RESERVE

Centara
HOTELS & RESORTS

CENTARA
GRAND

CENTARA

centra
by CENTARA

COSI

40 YEARS
CENTARA
HOTELS & RESORTS

Visit our dedicated trade website centarahotelsresorts.com/b2b

Royal Cliff Grand wins Kayak award

Royal Cliff Grand Hotel was recently awarded the 2023 Kayak Travel Awards by Kayak, a top-of-the-line travel booking platform that is part of Booking Holdings

helping millions of travellers around the globe make confident decisions. With every query, KAYAK searches hundreds of travel sites to show travellers the

information they need to find the right flights, hotels, hire cars and holiday packages.

The hotel group's press statement noted, "Thailand, specifically Pattaya, is one of the most sought-after tourist destinations. Staying in the right award-winning hotel can guarantee a luxurious experience that goes above and beyond the norm."

The Royal Cliff Hotels Group operates four luxury hotels, including the Kayak award-winning Royal Cliff Grand Hotel. Overall, the group has won over 280 national and international awards to date. This is the ideal luxury destination to discover everything you need for an exceptional holiday.

For bookings or more information visit www.royalcliff.com, or email reservations@royalcliff.com.



Photo Caption: Vitanart Vathanakul, CEO of Royal Cliff Hotels Group, together with Thibault Sellier, Hotels Group Manager, Vankamon Athikomkulchai, Marketing and PR Manager of Royal Cliff Hotels Group and Abdulhadee Wayayok, Front Office Manager of Royal Cliff Grand Hotel with the 2023 Kayak Travel Awards awarded to the Royal Cliff Grand Hotel.

Winners were determined based on reviews and ratings from real travellers worldwide, with a minimum overall rating of 80. That alone is a testament to Royal Cliff's consistency in providing excellent hospitality and service as well as its distinguished facilities.

Royal Cliff Hotels Group welcomed the accolade, describing it as a "stamp for travellers to trust that they will receive outstanding service when choosing to stay at the Royal Cliff Grand Hotel."

Kayak processes billions of queries across the platforms each year for travel information,



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



Centara delivers Asia's diversity

Centara Hotels & Resorts understands that the world's beauty lies in its people's diversity. Everybody is different, and travellers have an almost endless choice of attractions to spark their senses and ignite their imaginations.

This is why Centara has created a diverse portfolio of hotels and resorts that cater to the needs of a wide range of guests and interests, from culture-hungry couples and fun-loving families to experience-seeking solo travellers.

Underpinned by heartfelt Thai service and world-class facilities, Centara's extensive collection of hotels and resorts can help every guest create memories that last a lifetime.

Culture seeking in Osaka

Osaka is a historical city with a rich backstory and a unique personality, which makes it a haven for culture seekers. Having emerged as a small fishing village in the 5th Century, it flourished during the Edo period and has become a cosmopolitan global metropolis. Travellers can discover Osaka's heritage at the dramatic Osaka Castle and elegant temples and



shrines, such as Sumiyoshi Taisha and Shitennoji. The city's contemporary vibe comes alive in Namba, the high-energy entertainment district home to Dotonbori, the waterside dining street. For a truly immersive cultural experience, the National Bunraku Theatre showcases the ancient art of Japanese puppetry.

Centara Grand Hotel Osaka is a brand-new five-star hotel that puts travellers in the heart of the city's Namba district.

Set in a gleaming 33-storey tower, the property features rooms and suites suitable for every guest, such as solo visitors, couples and families, plus an eclectic collection of restaurants, a fitness centre and SPA Cenvaree. At the end of a day of discovery, the alfresco rooftop lounge is the perfect place to sip sunset cocktails and listen to live DJs. Rates start from USD 62++/ night.

Underwater Adventures in the Maldives

The Maldives is a dream destination for nature lovers, with vibrant underwater ecosystems that teem with exotic marine life. In the South Ari Atoll, guests can swim, snorkel in crystal-clear seas, and come face-to-face with an amazing

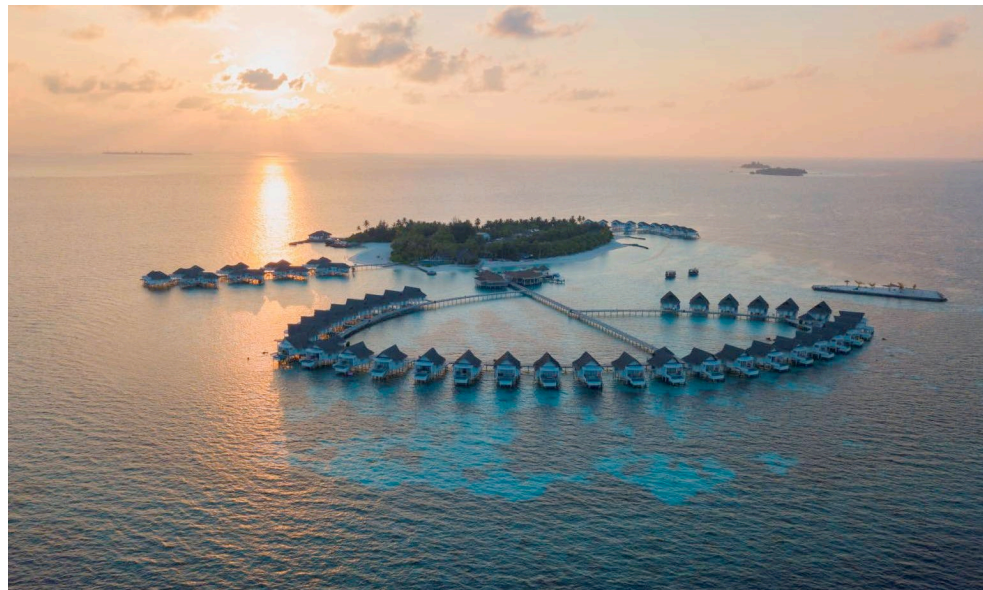
array of tropical fish. For more intrepid excursions, visitors can head out into the cerulean sea to enjoy close-up encounters with oceanic giants such as whale sharks, green sea turtles and manta rays. It is no wonder that Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives won second

exploration.

A selection of beautiful beachfront and elegant overwater villas offer direct access to the lagoon, and all ages can swim, snorkel and enjoy world-class water sports throughout their stay. Six restaurants, bars and lounges provide the perfect settings to unwind and reflect on a day of adventure. Maldives rates start from USD 222++/ night.

Family fun in Dubai

Dubai is a dazzling destination that excites and delights in equal measure. With so many unparalleled attractions and a choice of thrilling theme parks, Dubai is a paradise for fun-seeking friends and families. Guests can fly through the sky on the world's longest zipline, the 170-metre-long XLine,



place in the "House Reefs" category in the Travel + Leisure Luxury Awards Asia Pacific 2023! PADI-certified dive courses are available for explorers as young as eight years old.

Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa Maldives, the five-star island paradise in the South Ari Atoll, celebrates the joy of sustainable travel and underwater

which offers a bird's eye view of the city, and kids can bounce on JumpX, the planet's biggest bouncy castle! Branded theme parks include Legoland Resort Dubai, with over 40 child-friendly rides, Motiongate Dubai, a Hollywood-themed park; and Bollywood Park Dubai...

[Read more...](#)

Busan's Unique Venues: The Face of Korea



A “Unique Venue” by definition is special and distinctive. It is more than just a meeting venue a convention center, hotel, or other conventional MICE venue because it offers exclusive features and represents the city or country in which it is located.

Event planners typically choose a venue based on the theme or purpose of the event, and many planners prefer Unique Venues over hotels and convention centers because they offer a special atmosphere and come with their own special stories.

In Korea, there are many Unique Venues that perfectly convey the charms of Korea. The Korean government recognizes the value of Unique Venues in sharing Korea’s traditions, culture, art, sports, pastimes, pop culture, nature, and other assets with the rest of the world and is always on the lookout for new Unique Venues. Currently, there are 52 venues that have been officially recognized as the Unique Venues of Korea.

Busan Adds to List of Korea Unique Venues in 2023

This year, Busan's Busan X the Sky and P.ark were selected as Korea Unique Venues, which are recognized as the best MICE venues in Korea. In addition to being named a 2023 Korea Unique Venue, Busan X the Sky, an observatory that overlooks downtown Busan and Haeundae Beach, was also named one of the 100 Must-Visit Tourist Spots of Korea for 2023. P.ark, a cultural complex that is ideal for exhibitions and other cultural events, was rated as the top spot among all of this year's new Korea Unique Venues. Both Unique Venues get their main identity from the ocean and have been officially recognized by the Korean government for their infinite potential as MICE venues.

Busan's Unique Venues

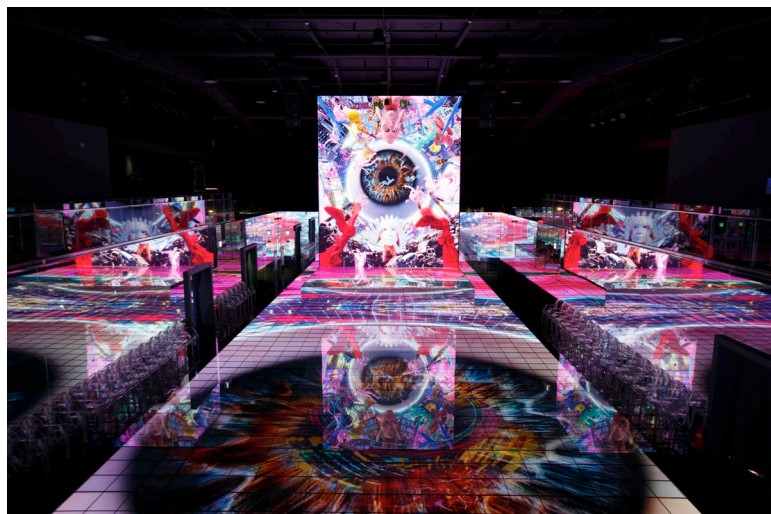
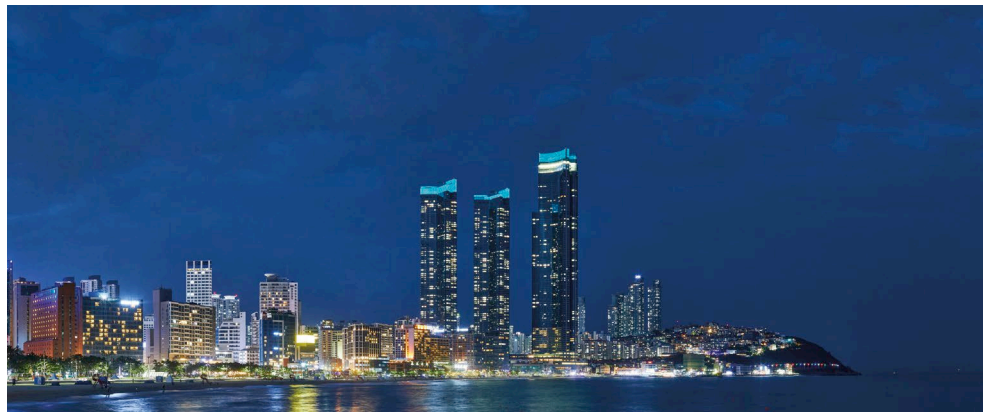
In addition to Busan X the Sky and P.ark, the other Korea Unique Venues in Busan are Busan Cinema Center, Nurimaru APEC House, and Museum 1. Busan Cinema Center features an outdoor theater and indoor exhibition spaces designed for performances and film-related

events. Above the outdoor theater and plaza is a sprawling, double-wide roof that comes to life every night with LED lights, a stunning spectacle for which the Busan Cinema Center is famous. Nurimaru APEC House, where the APEC Summit 2005

took place, is an international conference center surrounded by the natural scenic beauty of Haeundae Beach. Museum 1 is a modern art museum famous for its media art installations that place visitors right at the center of a vortex alive with color and motion.

The Unique Venues of Busan strike a harmonious balance between city and nature and represent the city's unique identity. They embody the beauty and charms of Busan and leave MICE event visitors with lasting memories of the region. Busan's Unique Venues and advanced MICE infrastructure make the city the ideal location for all kinds of MICE events and are ready and waiting for event planners to reach out.

[For more information](#)



Pandaw visits the dolphins



Pandaw, a river cruise specialist in Asia, is offering guests an opportunity to view the Irrawaddy Dolphins in Cambodia's Kratie province as part of a post-tour tagged on to the Classic Mekong seven-day cruise from Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap.

A two-night overland post-tour will be a firm favourite as reports confirm the dolphin population in Kampi district near Kratie has stabilised in recent years due to the efforts of the Cambodian government,

environmental organisations and local communities.

In a preview of its upcoming winter sailings focusing on the Mekong River in southern Vietnam and Cambodia, Pandaw is promoting a trip to view the dolphins that can be tagged to the end of the seven-day Classic Mekong River Cruise. Depending on the water level in the Mekong River, the trip to Kratie is either by the Pandaw cruise boat (Sep to Oct) or tour bus during the remainder of the season.

Pandaw reports that

introducing sustainable tourism increases awareness and support for conservation efforts to ensure the increase in the dolphin population grows and is sustainable once again.

Pandaw collaborates with local communities in Cambodia's Kratie province to offer travellers a chance to witness the dolphins in their natural environment and contribute to their preservation.

"During the high-water months of September and October, our low-draft vessels will take advantage of the water levels and sail up to Kratie, the only overnight passenger vessel to do so, and bookings are still open for sailings during September and October 2023," Pandaw said in an email statement.

For those looking to travel later in the season, [Pandaw](#) offers an overland option, including two nights' accommodation and a full-day trip to the dolphin grounds that can be added pre or post-cruise.



Your Sabah Bucket List

www.sabahtourism.com



Enchanting
SABAH
Malaysian Borneo



fb.sabahtourism.com



@sabahtourism



@sabahtourism



youtube.com/sbhtourism



YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT ALL UNTIL YOU SEE SARAWAK

A UNESCO World Heritage Site. A World
Craft City. PATA Gold awarded Sarawak
Cultural Village. And so much more
to see, to taste, to experience, to captivate.
Discover the many ways you can do more in
Sarawak, Borneo.

Sarawak
More to Discover