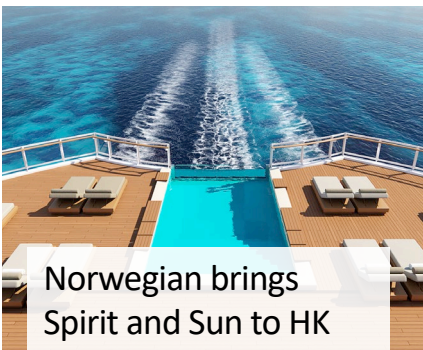




**Celebrate the festive season with Pandaw**



**Norwegian brings Spirit and Sun to HK**



**Holiday deals in the Maldives**



**Discover Sarawak's national parks**



# VIETNAM

 PANDAW

## SriLankan Airlines Colours of Jaffna

SriLankan Airlines launched its latest campaign, 'The Colours of Jaffna,' last week to support tourism expansion through a new video that captures striking architecture and cultural characteristics in the northern city of Jaffna and its famous peninsula...

## THAI switches to A320 on some regional flights

Thai Airways International deploys Airbus A320 aircraft to operate to four regional destinations, formerly flown by its subsidiary THAI Smile Airways, which is being merged back into the parent airline, a process due to be concluded in early 2024.

Services on routes from Bangkok to Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Kaohsiung and Penang are shifting from Thai Smile to THAI during September...

## CX confirms Southeast Asia appointments

Cathay Pacific in Southeast Asia has announced changes to key management roles across the region to oversee the smooth running and expansion of travel, lifestyle, cargo and operations...

## Ethiopian adds new route

Ethiopian Airlines Group will start three weekly services to Bangui in the Central African Republic, effective 15 November 2023.

Bangui is the capital and the largest city of the Central African Republic (CAR). Flights will operate on Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday.

Ethiopian Airlines served the Central African Republic market between 2010 and 2015. The new connectivity will, therefore, give passengers seamless flight options...

## SQ to fly to Brussels in 2024

Singapore Airlines will launch direct flights between Singapore and Brussels, the capital of Belgium, from 5 April 2024.

It marks the return of SQ flights to the city after more than 20 years.

SIA will operate four weekly flights to Brussels with the long-haul variant of its Airbus A350-900s, configured with 253 seats in three cabin classes: 42 in business class, 24 in premium...

## UNWTO tourism data tracks recovery progress

International tourism continues to recover from the worst crisis in its history as visitor arrivals reached 84% of pre-pandemic levels between January and July 2023, according to the latest data from UNWTO.

The Middle East, Europe and Africa lead the global sector's rebound, UNWTO reports...

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# Norwegian brings Spirit and Sun to Hong Kong

Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL), the innovator in global cruise travel, has released a series of immersive, destination-rich itineraries for its 2024/25 season in the region. Highlighting

region as a source market and destination. Cruising is the ideal way to explore the range of fascinating destinations and immersive shore excursions on offer without having to pack

Manila, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo, and Seoul from September 2024 to April 2025.

Norwegian Spirit's new port-rich itineraries with minimal sea days and engaging Go Local shore



this exciting lineup is a 12-day cruise aboard the spectacularly refurbished Norwegian Spirit, which will sail from Manila, Philippines and include a stop in Hong Kong for the first time in four years.

The collection also includes a range of itineraries suitable for traveller preferences, including those who prefer longer, more immersive experiences. This season also signals Norwegian Sun's first foray into the region.

"Having more ships and an expanded selection of itineraries in Southeast Asia underscores NCL's firm commitment to this

and unpack constantly," said Ben Angell, Vice President and Managing Director, NCL APAC. "We know Southeast Asia is a popular choice for local travellers, and we are excited to expand our options in this market for those who prefer to cruise close to home, especially as we make our much-anticipated return to the vibrant destination of Hong Kong."

## **Norwegian Spirit**

Norwegian Spirit's eight-month 2024/25 Asia season will offer 14 itineraries sailing from five departure ports, including

excursions ensure guests can enjoy the country's delectable cuisine, ancient history, dramatic scenery, and vibrant culture in multiple destinations during each captivating cruise.

## ***Southeast Asia highlight voyages on Norwegian Spirit, hand-picked by Ben Angell:***

Departing the lively capital of Manila on 10 December 2024, this inspiring itinerary visits 11 ports in 12 days and includes overnight stays in cities like Shanghai and Hong Kong. Highlights include the magnificent attractions...

[Read more...](#)

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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.



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# Holiday deals in the Maldives

Book Exclusive Maldives Getaway holiday deals and embark on an unforgettable journey to explore unparalleled authentic Maldivian Thai experiences at two Centara resorts in the Maldives

Discover a captivating marine paradise at **Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa**, nestled within the enchanting South Ari Atoll. Your journey to this tropical haven begins with a mesmerising seaplane ride from Male, revealing pristine turquoise waters that invite exploration. Here, a healthy marine life thrives, and the resort boasts the acclaimed 2<sup>nd</sup> Best House Reef in Maldives, as honoured by the Travel + Leisure Luxury Awards for Asia Pacific 2023, located right on the resort's doorstep.

Immerse yourself in the heart of this aquatic sanctuary, where coral-rich depths promise exhilarating experiences for divers and snorkelers. Explore the underwater realm adorned with lively corals and exotic marine species, offering an unmatched encounter with the ocean's captivating denizens. Dive into adventure with accredited Maldivian dive masters, exploring a historic shipwreck. The PADI Dive & Experience Course Centre caters to divers of all levels, offering learning programs and certification opportunities.

**Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa**, a five-star retreat, offers a range of accommodations seamlessly integrated with nature's beauty. From Duplex Beach Villas to Premier Overwater Villas, and Premium Deluxe Sunset Overwater Villas to Two-bedroom Beach Villas with private pools, ideal for families, each design complements the stunning surroundings.

Savour various flavours at diverse dining establishments, from authentic Thai cuisine at Suan Bua to dreamy Italian creations at Azzuri Mare. Aqua Bar offers classic cocktails and sunset views, while our exclusive The Club elevates your stay experience of a resort within a resort. Complete your stay with wellness experiences at Spa Cenvaree, which offers soothing treatments and beachfront yoga. With a



commitment to environmental sustainability, Centara's Coral Restoration Programs and initiatives to preserve the pristine marine ecosystem, you can enjoy spectacular views and crystal-clear waters all year round.

**When:** Available for stays from now until 20 December 2023

**Offer:**

- 35% discount on the best available rates.
- 20% discount on spa

for indulgence, connection, and rejuvenation. An escape offering a world tailored to their desires.

**Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa** transcends the ordinary, inviting you to embrace the extraordinary. It's a place where you can rediscover the joy of spontaneity, create bonds with your partner that last a lifetime, make new friends and immerse yourself in an environment dedicated to your happiness. If you're seeking a true escape, look no further; this is your ultimate canvas to paint your story.

Surrounded by like-minded souls, the opportunities to connect are endless. Share stories over delectable culinary experiences, from contemporary Thai delicacies to Arabic specialities and Italian feasts, all meticulously prepared to tantalise your taste buds. Enjoy exciting refreshments, cocktails, and afternoon tea in a laid-back setting overlooking the oceanic blues for the playful evenings.

Accessed by speedboat, this idyllic island retreat offers an intimate private villa experience complemented by tantalising culinary delights while immaculate white sand beaches and a sparkling lagoon teeming with magnificent marine life lay the perfect setting for resort-wide activities, beach games, snorkelling, water sports, and some of the top dive sites in the Maldives.

To rekindle the flame of connection, whether you are newlyweds or long-time partners, unwind at the award-winning SPA Cenvaree.

Experience a romantic getaway at the enchanting **Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa** Maldives. With an enticing 35% discount on Best Available Rates, this offer promises an unforgettable getaway that blends tranquillity and...

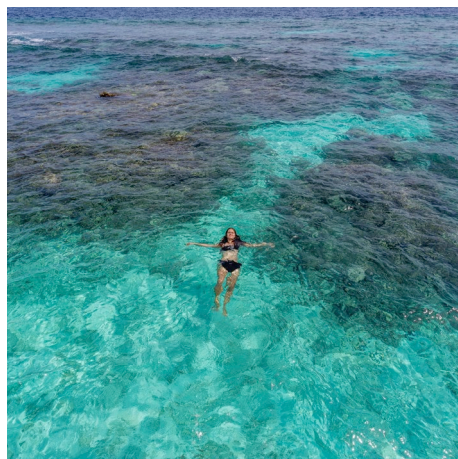
[Read more...](#)



Exclusive Maldives getaway offered by **Centara Grand Island Resort & Spa**. For a limited time, save 35% on the Best Available Rates\*, and if you're a CentaraThe1 member, enjoy an additional 15% discount along with the extraordinary perk of earning triple points on all bookings.

Unwind and rejuvenate with a generous 20% discount on spa treatments and dining, while you can also relish the convenience of a 25% discount on Return Seaplane transfers. As the sun sets over the azure horizon, embark on a complimentary sunset boat excursion, a voyage that encapsulates the magic of the Maldives.

CentaraThe1 members can earn triple points on bookings made between now and 30 September for stays until 20 December 2023.



treatments and dining.

- 25% discount on return seaplane transfers.
- CentaraThe1 members receive a 15% discount on their stay plus triple points on all bookings.
- Complimentary sunset boat excursion.

*\*Terms and conditions apply*

Indulge in the allure of exclusivity and passion at the **Centara Ras Fushi Resort & Spa**, a vibrant adults-only playground

# Celebrate the festive season with Pandaw



Pandaw, a river cruise specialist, introduces special Christmas and New Year sailings in 2023 featuring the Mekong River in Southeast Asia and two rivers in India.

Two festive season cruises are featured on the Mekong River, with bookings open for upstream and downstream cruises. One of the cruises explores the Mekong River in northern Laos, cruising from the Lao capital to Chiang Khong on the Thai-Lao Border. A second Mekong River cruise explores the Mekong Delta, sailing from Ho Chi Minh City to Cambodia and then to the Tonle Sap and the fabled temples of Angkor near Siem Reap.

The Christmas and New Year special sailings have no single supplement for those travelling solo. The cruises come with specially crafted festive menus and onboard entertainment.

## ***The Laos Mekong***

Pandaw's 10-night expedition on the Upper Mekong. Sailing between Chiang Khong on the Thai-Laos border and through Laos to the capital, Vientiane, the trip delivers stunning scenery and opportunities to meet friendly locals and learn more about Laos' national animal, the majestic elephant. The cruise stops for three nights at the UNESCO World Heritage City of Luang Prabang, with its dazzling wood-carved monasteries, before heading through the mountain gorges.



#### VIENTIANE to CHIANG KHONG

- 22 December 2023 – 01 January 2024 Upstream
- 22 December 2023 – 01 January 2024 Downstream

### ***The Lower Ganges & Brahmaputra River***

There can be no river in the world as sacred as the Ganges, and an expedition on the Lower Ganges or Hooghly is one of the prettiest river journeys imaginable. The river winds its way through the lush countryside of West Bengal, with its culturally significant towns crammed with temples and palaces. A rich and vibrant rural life abounds, and there is never a dull moment as we sedately ply this pleasant waterway. Combine this with the mighty Brahmaputra river in Northern India, which originates high in the Himalayas before flowing through the scenic Assam Valley, where UNESCO-protected national parks and remote rural communities provide the traveller with the most wonderful and authentic expedition.

#### COMBO CRUISE

- 20 December 2023 – 03 January 2024

### ***The Classic Mekong***

No tapestry of river life as fascinating and varied as the River Mekong. Indeed, there can be no more striking cultural



contrast than that between the bustling Vietnam delta and the tranquillity of Cambodia. The cruise starts from Saigon port (Ho Chi Minh City) and sails through the vast delta rich in human life and endeavour, along the main channel into the rich countryside of Cambodia. With a full day in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, the cruise explores remoter waterways as it progresses to the great monuments of Angkor.

High water notice: During the months of September to November, water levels may rise significantly, leading to issues accessing the Tonle Sap River. During this time, the itinerary points on the Tonle Sap could be

replaced by sailing north on the Mekong River to Kratie, featuring excursions to view the Irrawaddy dolphins.

#### SIEM REAP TO SAIGON

- 23 December 2023 – 30 December 2023 Downstream

Book online at [pandaw.com](http://pandaw.com) or contact us at [information@pandaw.com](mailto:information@pandaw.com)

# Discover Sarawak's national parks



Sarawak is blessed with more than 124,450 square kilometres of mountainous scapes and forestry, offering amazing opportunities to explore national parks for travellers who would like to enjoy a relaxed retreat and make the most of their time with nature during their time in Sarawak.

The land of hornbills hosts one of the four Malaysian UNESCO heritage sites, Gunung Mulu National Park in Miri. One highly recommended activity is the boat ride through the Clearwater Cave and the Deer Cave of the approximately 60-million-year-old park.

As the most studied tropical

area in the world, which is incredibly wealthy in biodiversity, visitors encounter Sarawak's iconic bat exodus and other incredible flora and fauna around the area. This park also houses The Sarawak Chamber, the largest known cave chamber in the world. With the hot weather, we suggest travellers consider dividing their exploration over two to three days. The various accommodations available within the vicinity make it extremely convenient for guests to make reservations, with options ranging from a five-star hotel to authentic longhouse experiences offered by the locals.

## ***Niah National Park***

Another park you can trek through in Miri is Niah National Park, which has been labelled as one of the world's most significant archaeological sites. This national park was nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site on 30 January 2023, with the results expected to be announced in 2024. This park has the backstory of being the regional birthplace of civilisation and the discovery site for the most dated human remains in Southeast Asia. When you visit this treasured heritage, be sure to allocate some time for the Niah Cave Complex to see ancient artefacts preserved for over 50,000 years and the evolution of the relationship between humans and its lush rainforest. You would also get close-up views of cave paintings and the archaic wooden boat-shaped coffins Niah's prehistoric inhabitants left behind.

## ***Sarawak Delta Geo Park***

If you are touring through the southwest regions of Sarawak, take a chance to roam through the Sarawak Delta Geo Park, the sixth national Geopark under the National Geopark Development Programme. The alluring nature of this Geopark sees it under consideration to receive a nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for 2025. You will surely be entertained as the park has attractions spanning Kuching, Siburan, Bau and Padawan. There is no need to rush as you observe the various...

[\*Read more...\*](#)

# Your Sabah Bucket List

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