



Dusit breaks new ground in Malaysia



Sarawak monitors a rise in UK visitors



Pandaw sails the Brahmaputra



Busan, the Zero Carbon MICE City



AI reshapes the travel experience

Attending the World Travel Market (WTM) 2023 for the first time, Trip.com Group is making inroads, capturing market share in Europe and reshaping the transformative role of artificial intelligence in the booking process.

Held last week in London, the WTM provided a platform for Trip.com Group to articulate its vision of reshaping the travel experience with advanced AI technology and solidifying its...

THAI's financial picture turns brighter

Thai Airways International forecasts rising travel demand during Q4 2023 and Q1 2024, traditionally the high season for travel to and from Thailand...

Dusit signs four Indian properties

Dusit International, one of Thailand's leading hotel and property development companies, has signed HMA and RMA agreements with Ziogreen Private Limited, a distinguished property development firm headquartered in Bangalore, to manage four properties amidst the beautiful landscapes of Karnataka state...

Klook and STB power-up campaigns

Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and Klook, Asia's leading travel and experiences platform, are scaling up efforts to drive inbound travel to Singapore, jointly investing over SGD2 million in marketing initiatives as part of their partnership...

Trip.com Group drives Nihao! China promo

Trip.com Group has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the China International Culture Association to promote inbound tourism.

Trip.com Group co-founder and chairman James Liang and chief marketing officer Bo Sun attended the signing ceremony...

AirAsia Malaysia doubles Perth flights

AirAsia Malaysia (AK) announces a new milestone in its expansion strategy by introducing its first Australian route to Perth.

Starting 11 March 2024, AirAsia will offer more options with great value fares to and from the capital of Western Australia, doubling flights from the current seven weekly...

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



Here, you can bask in the
warmth of tropical weather
and friendly smiles.

Find your home by the sea at Casa del Mar. The sand in your toes and the salt in your hair aren't only things that will put a twinkle in your eyes. There's also the thoughtful service to make you feel at ease. Small and intimate, our beachfront boutique resort has all the right touches to help you unwind, right down to the informal dress code. With your need well looked after, all you have to do is kick back and relax.

ENJOY A TRULY SPECIAL CASTAWAY
PICNIC ON AN UNINHABITED ISLAND

Casa del Mar
L A N G K A W I



Jalan Pantai Cenang, Mukim Kedawang, 07000 Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia. Tel +604 955 2388 Fax +604 955 2388

casadelmar-langkawi.com

Managed by HPL Hotels & Resorts

THE LAKEHOUSE Cameron Highlands, Malaysia **CASA DEL MAR** Langkawi, Malaysia

CASA DEL RIO Melaka, Malaysia **THE BOATHOUSE** Phuket, Thailand

Centara wins investor relations award



Gun Srisompong, (second from right) Chief Financial Officer of Centara Hotels & Resorts, proudly accepts the 'Outstanding Investor Relations Award' on behalf of Central Plaza Hotel PLC (SET: CENTEL) at the SET Awards 2023, marking the group's fourth win.

Presented by Manpong Senanarong (left), Senior Executive Vice President, Head of Issuer and listing Division at The Stock Exchange of Thailand, and Santi Wiriyarangsarit (right), Editor-in-Chief of Money & Banking Magazine, this distinguished accolade reaffirms CENTEL's commitment to exceptional investor relations and Centara's dedication to the well-being of its employees,

guests, and investors as Thailand's leading hotel operator.

Find out more about Centara at www.CentaraHotelsResorts.com



Gun Srisompong, Chief Financial Officer of Centara Hotels & Resorts.


THE PLACE TO BE

DISCOVER A MODERN LIFESTYLE HUB IN HISTORIC AYUTTHAYA

Discover next level comfort and convenience at Centara Ayutthaya, an all-in-one leisure and business destination strategically located one hour from Bangkok, steps from the renowned Central Ayutthaya shopping centre and less than 15 minutes from the city's stunning UNESCO World Heritage landmarks.

With contemporary rooms, modern MICE facilities, and exceptional dining options, Centara's newest hotel is positioned to meet the needs of leisure travellers, families, corporate and government organisations, group tours, and beyond.

Invite your clients to be the first to experience Centara Ayutthaya with introductory rates from THB 2,520++ per night. This special offer is available from now until 31st March 2024 for stays until 30th June 2024, and also includes THB 500 hotel credit, late check-out and an extra 15% discount for CentaraThe1 members.

 Centara Ayutthaya



CENTARA RESERVE

 CENTARA
RESERVE COLLECTION

 CENTARA
GRAND

CENTARA

 centra
by CENTARA

 COSI

40 YEARS
 CENTARA
HOTELS & RESORTS

Visit our dedicated trade website centarahotelsresorts.com/b2b

Sarawak monitors a rise in UK visitors

Leveraging the World Travel Market (WTM) London, which attracts thousands of senior industry professionals, government ministers, and media specialists, Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) unveiled

articles and six one-minute videos on National Geographic Traveller (UK)'s website, leading visitors to a dedicated landing page on TripAdvisor's platform to book their preferred tourism experiences. This campaign is

offering a unique perspective on Sarawak's natural beauty, diverse culture, festivals, and cuisine under the theme "Sarawak – Now More Than Ever."

Abdul Karim added: "Amid the presence of our esteemed local partners at WTM this year, we extend a warm invitation to everyone to explore and savour the diverse array of experiences we have curated to provide you with a true essence of Sarawak. This event is an ideal platform for our local partners to spotlight Sarawak's incomparable attributes, encompassing its rich cultural diversity, thrilling adventures, pristine natural beauty, vibrant festivals, and delectable cuisine, all certain to captivate your interest."

STB's participation also featured the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a Joint Marketing Campaign for 2024 with Malaysia Airlines Berhad. This collaboration will boost interest in Sarawak as a tourism destination from 2024 onwards. Further enhancing the Sarawak experience at the Sarawak Pavilion, cultural dancers performed ethnic dances and traditional musical instruments such as the Sape and nose flute that resonated throughout the venue. A tree bark art demonstration further showcased Sarawak's rich cultural heritage, art, and musical traditions.

In a separate event, Sarawak placed in the top 10 ranking for the Most Desirable Region in the World category in the Wanderlust Reader Travel Awards 2023.



its UK campaign with National Geographic Traveller (UK) and Tripadvisor at the Sarawak Pavilion on 7 November 2023.

Announced by YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts (MTCP) during its participation at WTM London 2023, held from 6 to 8 November, these initiatives are set to further establish Sarawak as a premier eco-tourism destination with international recognition in anticipation of Visit Malaysia Year in 2026.

Aimed at increasing travel bookings from the UK market, Sarawak launched its campaign with National Geographic Traveller (UK) and Tripadvisor. The campaign includes an informative series of eight

articles and six one-minute videos on National Geographic Traveller (UK)'s website, leading visitors to a dedicated landing page on TripAdvisor's platform to book their preferred tourism experiences. This campaign is

slated to run until April 2024. YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim said: "The UK market has played a pivotal role in Sarawak's resurgence. From January to September 2023 alone, we welcomed 18,833 visitors from the United Kingdom. The growth rate of 216.74% in this segment is very impressive, compared to the same period in 2022 when we hosted 5,944 UK visitors. Based on current trends, a total estimation of 25,110 visitor arrivals from the UK to Sarawak is expected for 2023."

STB's participation at this important travel trade event is an opportunity to strengthen its destination branding and provide a platform for Sarawak's industry partners to conduct in-person business. This year, STB is hosting up to ten Sarawak trade partners,



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

Dusit breaks new ground in Malaysia



Dusit Hotels and Resorts, the hotel arm of Dusit International, one of Thailand's leading hotel and property development companies, has signed a hotel management agreement with Gamuda Land to manage ASAI Gamuda Cove – Dusit's first hotel in Malaysia and the first hotel development by Gamuda Land.

Slated to open in Q1 2026, the hotel is situated next to the sprawling Paya Indah Discovery Wetlands within the thoughtfully planned Gamuda Cove. Spanning 1,530 acres, Gamuda Cove will also include residential and commercial areas to complement a range of eco-friendly tourism attractions, such as the already operational SplashMania Waterpark and Discovery Park, all designed with sustainability and a low carbon footprint in mind.

Siradej Donavanik, Dusit International Vice President Development Global, Gilles Cretallaz, Dusit International Chief Operating Officer.

Kuala Lumpur airport is only a 20-minute drive by car and just 40 minutes to the city centre. This strategic location caters to both domestic and international travellers, enhancing the overall accessibility and appeal of the destination.

Operating under Dusit's distinctive locally focused lifestyle brand, ASAI Hotels, which promises to uniquely link curious travellers with authentic local experiences in the world's most vibrant



Photo caption: (from left) Eusoffe Chua, Gamuda Land Chief Commercial Officer, Chu Wai Lune, Gamuda Land Chief Executive Officer, Zuaida Abdullah, MIDA Executive Director, Services Development, HE Lada Phumas, Ambassador of Thailand to Malaysia, Mohd Shahrir Mohd Ali, Tourism Malaysia Senior Director, International Promotion (ASEAN)



neighbourhoods, the 280-key ASAI Gamuda Cove hotel enjoys the distinction of being the first hotel signed under Dusit's expanded 'ASAI Tropical' model, specifically tailored for properties located in areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Like Dusit's operational inner-city ASAI Hotels in Bangkok, Thailand, and Kyoto, Japan, ASAI Tropical hotels will feature thoughtfully compact rooms delivering a distinctive blend of thoughtful essentials, such as plush beds and refreshing showers, complemented by an inviting communal space and locally inspired dining experience. What sets the model apart is providing a broader range of facilities. In this case, an infinity pool, more dining venues, expanded event spaces, and a wider variety of room categories,



including spacious, family-friendly options.

Strategically situated in the southern region of the Gamuda Cove development, ASAI Gamuda Cove will be designed to forge a sense of community by integrating local identity into its design language. Surrounded by lush greenscapes, the hotel will blend seamlessly with the adjacent wetlands and a sprawling 90-acre Wetlands Arboretum, accessible directly from the hotel.

Further highlighting Gamuda Cove's green credentials, an e-tram network – the first of its kind in Malaysia – will seamlessly link guests to hotspots within the development, such as Discovery Park, SplashMania Waterpark, and a pedestrian-only commercial hub, helping to limit the use of motorised

vehicles and reduce carbon footprint. Regular community-based activities and events will give guests a unique taste of local culture and experiences while highlighting the importance of responsible tourism.

ASAI Gamuda Cove is set to cater to both domestic and international tourists who will visit Gamuda Cove's host of eco-tourism activities, such as SplashMania Waterpark, Discovery Park, and Paya Indah Discovery Wetlands – attracting a targeted 1 million visitors annually.

"To be entrusted with the management of the first hotel within the dynamic Gamuda Cove development truly is an honour, and we are delighted to partner with Gamuda Land..."

[Read more...](#)



Pandaw sails the Brahmaputra

This week, RV Kindat Pandaw welcomed its first batch of travellers to India's North Eastern Assam region for the start of a 7-night Mighty Brahmaputra cruise to launch India's prime sailing season.

Exploring this relatively untouched region in the shadow of the Himalayas by river is the only way to explore, and the eight-day adventure, starting and ending in the region's main transportation hub, of Guwahati, offers a unique experience for those seeking a trip beyond the norm.

New combo cruise of India's famous rivers

A grand combo tour of India sails for 19 days along the glorious Ganges and mighty Brahmaputra rivers. Pandaw's newest combo cruise invites you to experience the best of India's waterways aboard timeless colonial river ships.

A packed itinerary includes safaris at two of India's largest national parks, home to tigers, elephants, a myriad of

The Upper Ganges & Brahmaputra River VARANASI / KOLKATA / GUWAHATI

19 nights

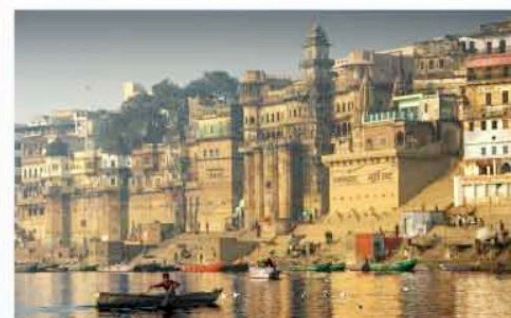
FROM USD9,287

**Inclusive of flights and transfers between
Kolkata and Guwahati.**

birdlife as well as the famous Indian one-horned rhino, plus exploration of the beautiful city of Guwahati, the famous Assam tea plantations and silk villages.

Guests can add one of the pre and post-cruise packages to Dehli & the Golden Triangle to round off a truly 'All India' experience.

Limited cabins remain for early 2024 trips. Book your place today by visiting pandaw.com, or by contacting Pandaw at email: information@pandaw.com





Busan, the Zero Carbon MICE City

Since industrialisation, many business sectors, including manufacturing and transportation, have contributed to the acceleration of global warming, and the MICE industry is no exception.

The Zero Carbon MICE City

Events such as exhibitions and conventions generate large amounts of waste, and carbon dioxide is emitted as visitors travel to event locations, further polluting the environment. Recognizing the harm of these and other human activities, movements to protect the environment have been gaining momentum worldwide.

In the UK in 2021, leaders from MICE industries worldwide met at the Conference of Parties (COP) 26 on climate change and declared their commitment to hosting net-zero events. A total of 137 countries, including Korea, pledged to achieve

carbon neutrality by 2050. MICE industry leaders discussed developing a common method for measuring direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions and pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, to achieve net zero by 2050. The MICE city of Busan is taking environmental issues seriously and implementing eco-friendly policies to protect the environment.

The MICE city of Busan has adopted a climate change response plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The plan covers seven sectors, including industry and waste, and includes 104 specific implementation tasks. The primary objective is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 47% from 2018 to 2030 and to ultimately achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. To raise awareness and support of these efforts towards carbon neutrality among MICE stakeholders and the general public, the city has launched a carbon neutrality

policy website called "Net Zero Busan."

In addition, during last year's COP27, representatives from Busan and the US discussed setting up a green shipping route between Busan and Seattle and linking key port cities along the US West Coast. Busan has also developed an eco-friendly app that allows travellers to enjoy their journeys and contribute to environmental preservation at the same time. The app not only provides tourism information but also helps people's awareness of the values of urban ecology and the importance of carbon neutrality through the completion of "NFT Green Busan Travel" eco-friendly experiences and missions.

Busan Tourism Organization (BTO) continues to operate a diverse range of eco-friendly campaigns. Last summer, the BTO organized an eco-friendly plogging (jogging while picking

[Read more...](#)

Innovators meet in Langkawi

Langkawi is attracting more business events in the post-Covid era, with meeting organisers taking a closer look at the island's convention and accommodation options.

Famed for its duty-free shopping and the UNESCO Global Geopark, Langkawi is attracting more airlines and positioning the island as an attractive destination for corporate incentives.

Supported by Langkawi Development Authority, Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia (YIM) welcomes delegates to the Innovation Forum and Exhibition hosted from 28 to 30 November at Langkawi International Convention Centre (LIICC), Westin Langkawi Resort & Spa.

YIM, an agency under Malaysia's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), is the organiser of the two-day event and is targeting the Langkawi community, students, teachers, community leaders and tourism industry players to join the ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF).

AIGIF is an annual business event focusing on innovation and collaboration between the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI), the Government of India's Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) India.

In February 2024, LADA and the Malaysia Airports are jointly hosting RoutesAsia. This week-long event brings together airline and airport executives and is pivotal in highlighting destinations that could lead



to new airline routes to power tourism expansion. LADA views the event as a crucial element that will help it reach its long-term goal of attracting more airlines to fly to the northern Malaysia island.

Earlier this year, the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 2023) was hosted from 23 to 27 May 2023, marking the return of business tourism to the island following the Covid pandemic.

More than 200 weekly flights serve Langkawi from Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Ipoh, Kota Bahru, Johor Bahru, and Singapore.

In addition, Flydubai will introduce direct flights from Dubai to popular island destinations in Malaysia in

early 2024. The low-cost airline schedules daily service to Penang and Langkawi starting 10 February 2024. The flight will stop in Penang before flying to Langkawi and returning to Dubai via Penang.

Langkawi is renowned for its pristine beaches, lush rainforests and stunning geological formations. Visitors can enjoy activities such as island hopping, cable car rides to the Sky Bridge and exploring the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park.

Royal Cliff racks up more silverware

Royal Cliff Hotels Group tallies its achievements, a remarkable milestone of over 280 prestigious awards and still counting.

Its recent triumph at the World Luxury Hotel Awards

Vitanart continued.

The World Luxury Hotel Awards is an esteemed global organisation providing luxury hotels with recognition for their world-class facilities and service

raising the bar for luxury and innovation. The latest award adds to a growing list of accolades that underscore Royal Cliff's unique offerings, from its bespoke services to its luxurious accommodations and culinary delights. The Group's philosophy of delivering exceptional experiences is woven into the fabric of its operations, and this recognition from the World Luxury Hotel Awards further cements its position as a leader in the industry.

The Royal Cliff Hotels Group, a multi-award-winning Thai hospitality brand established in 1973, stands as a unique destination in a spectacular location with panoramic ocean views. Together with the Pattaya Exhibition And Convention Hall (PEACH), it is heralded as one of Asia's leading resort convention spots, offering an all-in-one convention solution to cater to various meeting needs. Esteemed industry leaders have lauded the venue, recognising it as a forerunner in Thailand's MICE sector. It has over 23,500 sqm of event space and boasts state-of-the-art amenities, impeccable services, and advanced technical support. It is ideal for hosting events ranging from international conferences and exhibitions to product launches and banquets. This timeless luxury destination is considered a leading Asian venue for magical vacations, business events, sports and wellness. The hotel has steadfastly committed to its employees throughout its history, ensuring no one has been laid off. The owners and...

[Read more...](#)



is a testament to Royal Cliff's enduring legacy of excellence in the hospitality landscape.

The award, a symbol of luxury and recognition of world-class service standards, acknowledges the magical resort for its outstanding sports & wellness resort and popular family beach destination.

"We are immensely honoured to receive such distinguished recognition, especially as it represents our long-standing tradition of excellence," stated Royal Cliff Hotels Group CEO Vitanart Vathanakul. "Surpassing this milestone of over 280 awards is a reflection of our dedication to capturing the hearts of every guest. This award is dedicated to our remarkable team, who have been the cornerstone of our success,"

excellence provided to guests. The awards are a celebrated achievement for the luxury hotel industry, offering international recognition as voted by guests, travellers, and industry players.

"We wish to congratulate all our winners. Travelers today increasingly value experiences over possessions and are willing to invest in unique, authentic, and immersive travel experiences. Guests can enjoy this with the unwavering commitment of dedicated staff. We congratulate the 2023 winners, who have worked hard and tirelessly to be successful in a very competitive industry," said the World Luxury Awards executive manager, Jana Stoman.

Royal Cliff Hotels Group has been at the forefront of the hospitality industry, consistently

24 December 2023

Christmas Eve Set Dinner

THB 2,300++
per person

50% discount for
children ages 4-12 years

Royal Grill Room & Wine Cellar
At Royal Cliff Beach Hotel
6:30 - 11:00 PM



Subject to 10% service charge and 7% government VAT.

For more information or to book a table, please contact Guest Relations at
Tel: 038 250421 ext. 2037 email: gro-main@royalcliff.com

Royal Grill Room
& Wine Cellar
Excellence & Heritage

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

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

Princess Peach's Kingdom

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Buffet
31 December 2023

At the poolside of the Royal Cliff Beach Hotel
Time: 7:30 PM Onwards | Dress Code: Formal

THB 5,500++ per person
50% discount for children ages 4 - 12 years

Subject to 10% service charge and 7% government VAT

For more information or to book a table,
please contact Guest Relations at
Tel: 038 250421 ext. 2037 | Email: gro-main@royalcliff.com

Come and enjoy a theme party that the whole family can relate and be transported to Princess Peach's kingdom at the hotel's new infinity-edged pool. With gourmet buffets, live entertainment, a special corner for children, and a grand fireworks display, Royal Cliff ensures you step into 2024 with memories to last a lifetime.



Your Sabah Bucket List

www.sabahtourism.com



Enchanting
SABAH
Malaysian Borneo