



WWW.TTRWEEKLY.COM

VOL 47 ■ ISSUE 01 ■ 2024

NEWS FOR ASIA'S TRAVEL PLANNERS

NEWS UPDATES at www.ttrweekly.com



Pandaw introduces combo cruises



Winning ways debut at Centara Osaka



Langkawi Sandbar Walk 2024



Night Markets in Sarawak



Time to reflect
deeply once more.
Sarawak... Now More Than Ever.

Sarawak
More to Discover

Gunong Mulu National Park
A UNESCO World Heritage Site
sarawaktourism.com

Air travel almost hits 2019 mark

Globally, airline traffic measured in revenue passenger kilometres is now at 99.1% of November 2019 levels, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) reports in its latest data for November 2023.

Total traffic in November 2023 (measured in revenue passenger kilometres or RPKs) rose 29.7% compared to November 2022. That is 99.1% of November 2019 levels...

Check out Bangkok Chinatown ASAI

Dusit International explains the ASAI brand with a new video that playfully teases us with images served up at the brand's property — Bangkok Chinatown ASAI Hotel.

Posted on the Dusit International Facebook page, the video lifts the lid on the vibrant neighbourhood that blends...

Fare deal for China travel

The International Air Transport Association's latest projections suggest airlines will declare strengthening profitability in 2023 and its forecast for 2024 signals the start of balance sheet stability.

However, net profitability at the global level is expected ...

Lufthansa Group return to Tel Aviv in January

Lufthansa Group Airlines plans to resume flights to Tel Aviv starting 8 January 8, 2024, with 20 flights weekly.

Meanwhile, flights to Beirut (Lebanon) resumed on 15 December. Both the Tel Aviv and Beirut flights by the group airlines will use A320s...

Elves wanted for Santa's Post Office

Santa's Official Post Office in Rovaniemi, Finland, is as busy as ever, sorting 30,000 letters daily from children and adults worldwide and recruiting elves for Santa Claus Cabin.

In a bid to attract novice elves, Santa Claus' Cabin has been listed on Airbnb for guests – free of charge – to roll up their sleeves, lend a hand with...

Cunard sets maiden voyage date for Queen Anne

Cunard has announced the first event voyage on Queen Anne with a special British Isles Festival to coincide with her maiden voyage around the British Isles that sets sail on 24 May 2024.

Signalled a new chapter for Cunard, Queen Anne will depart Southampton on 24 May 2024...

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

A person with a backpack is walking across a suspension bridge made of wooden planks and ropes, surrounded by dense tropical forest. The bridge is suspended between two large trees. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking up the bridge towards the person.

Saravak

More to Discover

Time to explore less-travelled roads again.

Gunung Mulu National Park, Miri

Winning ways debut at Centara Osaka

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, is proud to announce its debut property in Japan, Centara Grand Hotel Osaka, received the prestigious Nikkei Asia Award

at The 2023 Nikkei Excellent Products and Services Awards, sponsored by Nikkei Inc.

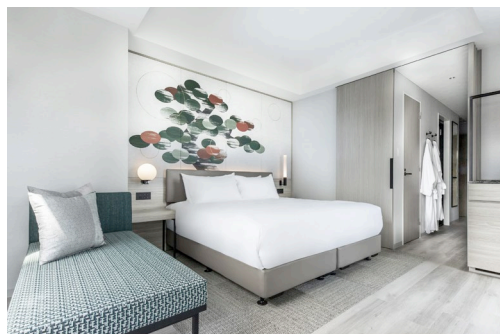
Selecting Centara Grand Hotel Osaka as the winner from a competitive pool of 228 entries,

before its grand opening.

Centara Grand Osaka's strategic initiatives have garnered acclaim, specifically in catering to the burgeoning accommodation demand from Southeast Asia and Chinese tourists. This success owes itself to the hotel's astute responsiveness to market dynamics, capitalising on favourable exchange rates driven by the weakened yen. With this pioneering approach to embracing the Japanese market, the hotel has set itself apart with a steadfast commitment to providing world-class service and industry leadership.

Centara Grand Hotel Osaka is honoured to have won the 2023 Nikkei Asia Award and looks forward to future successes as it continues to offer guests an unforgettable experience through its stunning fusion of warm hospitality, Thai family values, and the beauty of Japanese culture.

For bookings or more information, please visit www.centarahotelsresorts.com/ and seize the opportunity to create lifetime memories with Centara Hotels & Resorts.



this esteemed accolade, now in its 42nd edition, celebrates innovation and excellence in new products and services each year. This recognition underscores the hotel's remarkable performance since its inauguration in July 2023, when a milestone of 50% of reservations had been secured

THE PLACE TO BE

FREEDOM & CONNECTIVITY IN THE HEART OF VIENTIANE

Experience freedom, connectivity, and seamless travel at COSI Vientiane Nam Phu – an affordable, modern hotel hangout located in the heart of the action and minutes from stunning cultural and historic monuments.

With smart-designed rooms and mega-comfy beds, a rooftop pool, the grab-and-go Cafe247, and a vibrant social hub, COSI's first-ever international foray allows modern travellers and adventurers to leave the ordinary behind, and enjoy a new way to stay in Laos.

Welcome your clients to experience COSI Vientiane with up to 30% off bookings until 30th April 2024 for stays from 1st March, inclusive of daily food and drink credit, turbocharged Wi-Fi, and a bonus 15% discount for CentaraThe1 members with the opportunity to earn X3 points.

 Cusi Vientiane Nam Phu



CENTARA RESERVE

 CENTARA
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

CENTARA
GRAND

CENTARA

centra
by CENTARA

COSI

 CENTARA
HOTELS & RESORTS

Visit our dedicated trade website centarahotelsresorts.com/b2b

Pandaw introduces combo cruises

First-time travellers will be able to explore the fascinating sights of northern Vietnam by small river ship and combine the experience with a cruise exploring the upper Mekong River in Laos and Thailand during Pandaw's upcoming sailing season from September 2024 to March 2025.

In northern Vietnam, the cruise traverses the Red River delta and its main tributaries, connecting the wonders of Halong Bay with the excitements of downtown Hanoi and then on into the interior, well off the beaten track where no other tourist craft operators. This combines scenic beauty with the Red River's lively, interesting (sometimes industrial) life and is the latest addition from Asia's specialist river cruise operator, Pandaw.

From the Red River to the Mekong

After exploring northern Vietnam, the combo cruise itinerary moves on a three-country expedition of the upper Mekong River, traversing Laos to touch the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Laos, Thailand and Myanmar meet.

Starting in Vientiane, the old French capital and so redolent of L'Indochine, the cruise of the upper Mekong River visits the UNESCO World Heritage Luang Prabang. Then, it sails



River in Laos.

There is no better way to explore this magical region than sailing Pandaw's small expedition vessels, which feature inclusive flights, hotels and transfers between cruises.

Cruise dates have now been released for the season from September 2024 to March 2025. There are special offers to mark the launch of these fascinating combo cruises, such as no single supplement available on selected dates. Book online to reserve a preferred stateroom with Pandaw in Vietnam and Laos by visiting pandaw.com, or by contacting the sales team at information@pandaw.com

to the Golden Triangle, where the cruise ends in far North Thailand. (There are upstream and downstream itineraries). Pandaw is the first river expedition operator to offer specialised cruises spanning Laos on the navigable stretches of the Mekong River since World War II.

Pandaw's latest and unique combo itinerary takes in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Halong Bay, the fascinating Red River through northern Vietnam, and then explores the remote and untouched Upper Mekong

Langkawi Sandbar Walk 2024



Langkawi's Tanjung Rhu Beach welcomes nature lovers for the annual Sandbar Walk, 11 to 12 February, a popular occurrence highlighting what locals call the Sandbar phenomenon.

This captivating natural marvel materialises as the sea level drops to a minimum of 0.0m, unveiling a sandbar that links Tanjung Rhu Beach with Chabang and Kelam Baya Island.

The sandbank, stretching nearly 1km from Tanjung Rhu Beach to Chabang and Kelam Baya Island, stands out as one of Langkawi's hidden gems and a natural phenomenon.

As the sea level retreats, the Sandbar emerges as a picturesque bridge between land and sea. It unveils a hidden

world, inviting explorers to venture across its sandy expanse and discover the marine life thriving in the shallow pools formed along its route.

Sandbars, recognised as offshore bars or wave-washed ridges, emerge as a configuration of sand and sediment just off the shoreline. Their creation is influenced by ocean waves, resulting in formations that may be partly submerged or entirely visible, contingent upon the tide's ebb and flow.

The Sandbar Walk on Tanjung Rhu Beach is an attraction worth experiencing scheduled this year from 11 to 12 February.

For more information, [please visit](#).

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!



Night Markets in Sarawak

Sarawak's famed night markets come to life as the sun sets, offering visitors a once-in-a-lifetime immersive experience filled with food, entertainment and culture.

Here, we have narrowed down a few of Sarawak's most iconic night markets.

Metrocity Night Market

A 15-minute drive from Kuching's city centre brings you to the Metrocity Night Market in Petra Jaya. The market is open every Wednesday to Saturday from 1600 to 2400. It is one of Kuching's largest and busiest night markets, attracting large crowds comprising tourists and locals. On special occasions like

Sarawak Day, this market will transform into a lively stage with music and entertainment showcasing local talents and traditional tunes.

Siniawan Night Market

Another popular destination for food hunting and sightseeing, Siniawan Night Market is located in a small quaint town in the Bau District, a 25-minute car drive from downtown Kuching. It is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1630 to 2300. Siniawan Night Market is known for its picturesque old wooden townhouses, wall graffiti, and Chinese lanterns hung in zig-zag patterns that line the street. It is a true photographer's paradise at night when it comes to life as the

lanterns light up and illuminate the street in an ethereal glow. A culinary journey awaits you at the hawker stalls that sell varieties of local delicacies such as Bamboo Chicken, kueh, satay, kolo mee, laksa, grilled fish, barbeque chicken wing, 'ais kacang', 'rojak', 'char kueh' and more.

Sibu Night Market

Sibu Night Market, otherwise known as the vibrant night market, is one of Sibu's oldest markets that has been around since the 1960s. Unlike the other night markets, this market is open daily from 5 pm to 10 pm. Here, you can treat yourself to various local delicacies like cakes, steamed buns, dim sum, satay, pastries, dumplings, barbecued pork parts and others. You don't want to miss out on the half-moon pancakes, an all-time Sibu favourite.



the non-halal zones. Miri locals visit this market for barbeque delights sold at the 'rumah asap' barbeque stalls and food and drink stalls.

Saberkas Night Market

Miri's Saberkas Night Market is another popular night market

that brings in visitors from around the area. It opens every Tuesday to Sunday from 1600 to 2130. It is situated near Taman Bulatan Miri and Boulevard Commercial Centre, a strategic location that makes it a convenient go-to for Miri locals. You can shop for various goods such as local handicrafts, clothes and local products to bring home as a keepsake. Discover an incredible range of local delicacies unique to this region, like nasi lemak, murtabak, grilled chicken wings, apam balik, tender and juicy satay and colourful layered cakes.

Sarawak's night markets are more than places to shop and eat; they act as a hub that draws communities from all over together to experience Sarawak's culture to the fullest.

To learn more about Sarawak's food culture scene, visit www.sarawaktourism.com for more information.



Senadin Night Market

Located in Miri, the Senadin Night Market was opened in 2022 and operates every Tuesday to Sunday from 1600 to 2400. This night market is Muslim-friendly and is divided into two zones, separating the halal and



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