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NEWS FOR ASIA'S TRAVEL PLANNERS

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## Dusit Thani Bangkok reopens 27 September



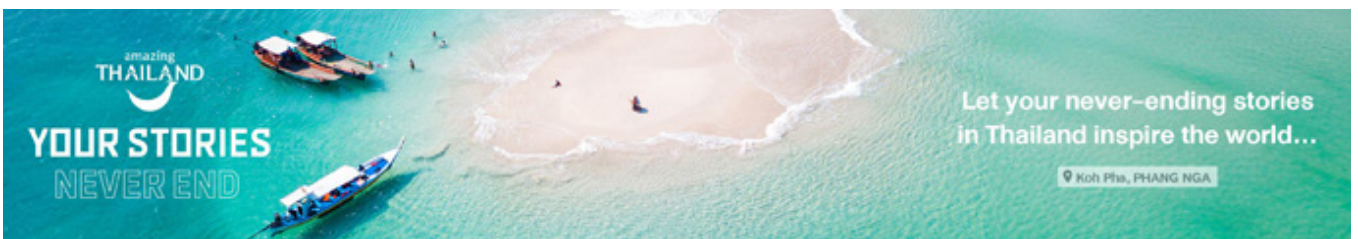
## Centara Mirage confirms opening date



## Deadline fixed for Sarawak BCCT 2



## Pandaw headlines Mekong sailings



amazing  
THAILAND

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Koh Pha, PHANG NGA

## BA unveils top 25 searched destinations

British Airways Holidays has unveiled its list of the 25 most-searched-for destinations for 2025 travel while spotlighting discounts on flights and holiday packages in its 'End of Summer Sale'.

The sale got underway last Thursday, 29 August 2024, as the airline declared New York once more the top spot...

## Air India upgrades Delhi-London service

Air India has introduced its brand-new Airbus A350-900 aircraft on the Delhi-London Heathrow route. The twice-daily service is the first deployment of the airline's 'new Air India' experience on long-haul flights, representing a milestone in the airline's transformation programme...

## Melbourne wins bid to host WSBE 2026

Melbourne is set to host the prestigious World Sustainable Built Environment Conference (WSBE) in 2026, one of the longest-running global scientific and technical conference series on sustainable development in the built environment.

The conference will provide a premier interdisciplinary platform for leading academic...

## Tap in Taipei for a MATTA moment

Taipei will host the 2025 World Masters Games, and the city's delegation attending the MATTA Fair last weekend extended an invitation to sports enthusiasts in Malaysia to participate in the prestigious international event.

The World Masters Games is an international multi-sport event held every four years that attracts tens of thousands...

## Centara Mirage confirms opening date

Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, confirms that 1 November 2024 is the official opening date of Centara Mirage Lagoon Maldives.

This stunning underwater world-themed paradise represents a major milestone in the company's expansion plans. It marks Centara's third property to open in...

## AirAsia links KK to Ho Chi Minh City

AirAsia continues to strengthen its regional presence with the launch of a new route from Kota Kinabalu to Ho Chi Minh City starting 3 December 2024.

Ho Chi Minh City marks the airline's 16th international destination operated by AirAsia Malaysia (AK) from Kota Kinabalu hub...



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# YOUR STORIES NEVER END



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# Dusit Thani Bangkok reopens 27 September

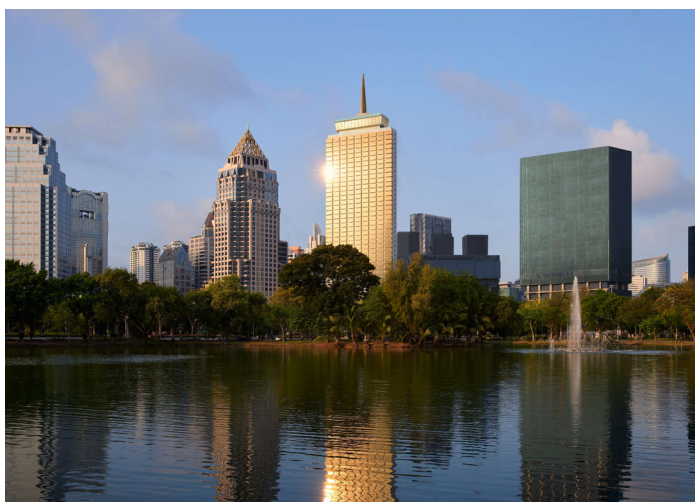
Dusit International's reimagined flagship Dusit Thani Bangkok hotel will officially open to guests on 27 September 2024, signalling an exciting new chapter for the hotel group in Thailand and overseas.

Completely rebuilt from the ground up as part of the Dusit Central Park mixed-use development, the new Dusit Thani Bangkok pays homage to its 50-year legacy while setting a new standard for luxury hospitality.

To complete this luxurious sanctuary, the new hotel features just 257 guest rooms — a thoughtful reduction from its predecessor's 517, prioritising spaciousness. These exquisite rooms, starting at an impressive 50 sqm, were designed by André Fu Studio to blend traditional elegance with modern luxury while uniquely framing the expansive park views beyond.

All of its luxurious guest rooms boast uninterrupted views of Lumpini Park. Elegant, cantilevered window seats extend from each guest room, inviting guests to immerse themselves in the stunning panorama.

In addition to the luxurious rooms, the new Dusit Thani Bangkok boasts a unique urban wellness concept that delivers well-being experiences beyond the spa and ten restaurants and bars created



in collaboration with renowned chefs and mixologists.

The hotel boasts over 5,000 sqm of dedicated meeting and event space for business travellers and event planners. The centrepiece is one of Bangkok's largest grand ballrooms, featuring a dramatic eight-metre ceiling and a panoramic view of Lumpini



Park. Additional meeting spaces cater to both intimate gatherings and large-scale events.

Additional elements of Dusit Central Park, including ultra-luxury residences (Dusit Residences and Dusit Parkside), a state-of-the-art office tower, a high-end retail centre, and an 11,200 sq m Roof Park, are all slated to open in 2025

### ***Honouring a legacy***

Dusit International Group CEO Suphajee Suthumpun emphasised the company's commitment to merging contemporary trends with the timeless spirit of the original Dusit Thani Bangkok, which was the city's tallest, grandest building when it first opened in 1970.

"For over five decades, the original Dusit Thani Bangkok was a beloved landmark, a true ambassador of Thai hospitality for global travellers," said Suthumpun. "As we embarked on its reimagination, we were committed to honouring that legacy while exceeding the expectations of today's sophisticated guests. This meant meticulously preserving elements of the original hotel and seamlessly blending them with a fresh, modern design. Throughout this process, we stayed true to the vision of Dusit's founder, Thanpuying Chanut Piyaoui, and owner, Mr Chanin Donavanik, to showcase Thai culture, art, and gracious service in a way that resonates with contemporary travellers and adapts to evolving preferences. Sustainability

remains a core focus for Dusit, and this commitment is also reflected in the new hotel's design and operations. Ultimately, we aim to deliver an unparalleled guest experience while preserving the warmth and service that have always been synonymous with the Dusit Thani name."

The reimaged Dusit Thani Bangkok goes beyond design to celebrate its heritage. The original hotel's iconic golden spire, a beloved landmark, has returned and is now contained within a new, three-times-larger spire. Guests can also admire paintings and murals from the original hotel's Benjarong Thai Restaurant, including the restaurant's meticulously preserved main pillars, which were carefully removed and reinstalled in the new hotel's main lobby. The intricate carved teak ceiling from the same restaurant has also been meticulously reassembled, giving new life to the hotel's heritage.

There is no other building like it in Bangkok. Inside and out, it is instantly recognisable as the Dusit Thani Bangkok. With just 16 days to go, the countdown to its reawakening begins.

### ***An Icon Returns: Opening Offer***

Reservations opened on 1 May 2024, and bookings for the opening offer will close on 31 October 2024. The stay period runs from 27 September 2024 to 31 March 2025. Rates start at THB10,350, excluding service and tax. (THB12,182 inclusive).

The opening offer includes a hotel credit of THB2,700 net per night for dining and spa services.

# Centara Mirage confirms opening date



Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, confirms that 1 November 2024 is the official opening date of Centara Mirage Lagoon Maldives.

This stunning underwater world-themed paradise represents a major milestone in the company's expansion plans. It marks Centara's third property to open in the Maldives and the fourth resort in the group's portfolio under the renowned family-focused Mirage brand.

Situated within The Atollia by Centara Hotels & Resorts, a multi-island wonderland which grants guests unprecedented access to two Centara properties (Centara Grand Lagoon Maldives will open in early 2025 as the brand's fourth Maldives outpost), the resort offers boundless family fun, engaging activities and unique bonding moments amidst its captivating



theme. From its expansive outdoor water complex, including a lazy river, swimming pool, kids' pool, and water playground, to the exciting kids' club, innovative child-focused Candy Spa, and the acclaimed signature Spa Cenvaree, Centara Mirage Lagoon Maldives is designed to deliver an unforgettable experience for guests of all ages.

The opening of Centara Mirage Lagoon Maldives is part of the company's "Future Growth" strategy, which was announced earlier this year. With construction now

complete, the final flourishes and finishing touches are being applied so guests can soon be welcomed in Centara's inimitable warm and gracious style. This stunning resort underscores the company's commitment to expanding its family-focused hospitality offerings and delivering world-class experiences in key travel destinations.

You can be among the first visitors to experience Centara Mirage Lagoon Maldives. Centara is offering guests special introductory rates, complimentary stays and

meals for up to two children aged 15 and under, and free roundtrip speedboat transfers between Male airport and the resort. CentaraThe1 members will also enjoy an additional 15% discount.

This exclusive 'Me & Centara' offer runs from now until 20 December 2024 for stays between 1 November 2024 and 31 October 2025. However, any guests who complete their stay by 20 December of this year will receive a voucher to enjoy a complimentary return stay of the same duration between May and September next year.

To take advantage of these special benefits and explore this exciting new resort visit: <https://www.centarahotelsresorts.com/centara/cmlm/introductoryoffer>

# LIFE

## FRESH EXPERIENCES & FLEXIBLE STAYS AT SAMUI'S NEWEST ADDRESS



With a focus on elevating the essentials and uplifting everyday travel with daily delights, Centara Life Lamai Resort Samui delivers efficiency, flexibility, and exceptional value for all just steps from the soft sands of Lamai Beach.

Contemporary earth-tone rooms offer a fresh retreat, and each is complete with a daybed to comfortably accommodate 3-4 persons. A glistening outdoor pool, 24-hour fitness centre, and casual all-day dining restaurant serving breakfast until 4pm ensure a fresh and flexible experience for your clients, allowing them to enjoy their stay on their own terms.

From pristine beaches and majestic temples to lush jungles and underwater wonders, Koh Samui offers an array of vibrant experiences for every traveller. Whether seeking adventure or relaxation, Centara welcomes your clients to embrace the warm hospitality of this tropical oasis.

**CENTARA LIFE**  
LAMAI RESORT  
SAMUI

# Deadline fixed for Sarawak BCCT 2

In its latest social media update, BESarawak reports progress on the BCCT 2 project, which will allow the state to host events with up to 10,000 delegates.

BESarawak, which represents Sarawak's business events

press conference to mark the signing of a memorandum of agreement exchange between BESarawak and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).

According to Kirk Architects' website, "the next stage of the Borneo Convention Centre

impact measurement system.

The agreement involves three components to improve the state's assessments and KPIs of its expanding business events community.

**MEconomic Study:** Using the new Sarawak-level economic measurements, the study will now have an accurate overview of how much business events contribute to the economy.

**Legacy Impact Study:** The analysis considers the wider impact of conferences and exhibitions, such as community development, social responsibility, policy influence, and investment opportunities.

**Legacy Impact Measurement System:** Establishes a portal enabling business event planners to track and measure their event impact in a user-friendly system.

Sarawak is powering up its business events to become a major player in Southeast Asia but faces challenges in measuring success accurately and ensuring that the hosting of events benefits the economy while minimising impacts on sensitive environments and communities.

For more information visit: <https://businesseventssarawak.com/>



community, quoted the Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts YB Karim Hamzah on its socials saying: "BCCK 2 will be completed by 2027, ahead of the International Water Association's World Water Congress and Exhibition hosted by Sarawak in 2028."

The international water congress in 2028 should attract 10,000 delegates," double the present BCCT 1 capacity of 5,000 delegates, the minister explained.

He was commenting on the sidelines of a recent

Kuching expansion, BCCK 2, will be a landmark project for Sarawak. Set to be one of the world's most significant single-floor timber structures, at 15,500 m<sup>2</sup> under-roof with a clear span of 42 metres, BCCK 2 has the potential to propel Sarawak's engineered timber industry and significant economic growth for the region."

Meanwhile, BESarawak and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) signed an economic and legacy impact study agreement that will eventually develop Malaysia's first legacy

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# Pandaw headlines Classic Mekong sailings



## INDIA EXPEDITION

Pandaw has confirmed new 2025 peak season sailing dates for its Classic Mekong expeditions, which are linked to the launch of its third ship on the lower Mekong.

Due to increased demand,

Indochina Pandaw will set sail with regular weekly departures. It will join Bassac Pandaw and Mekong Pandaw, offering guests the chance to explore lesser-known areas of Vietnam and Cambodia in comfort and style. The additional ship gives travel agents more sailing dates to offer their clients on Pandaw's most popular Classic Mekong expedition.

Pandaw's Classic Mekong expedition introduced sailings from central Saigon in the 2024 season, making it more convenient for guests to embark and disembark right in the heart of Vietnam's bustling metropolis and close to the city's main attractions and hotels.



Pandaw will launch a third ship, Indochina Pandaw. It will sail the lower Mekong between central Saigon in Vietnam and visit the temples of Angkor in Siem Reap and the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh.

From February 2025, the

The seven-night expedition takes intrepid travellers along the mighty Mekong River through the vast delta, which is so rich in human life and endeavour, to the serene countryside of Cambodia.

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# Beauty queens lead Sabah Purpose Tour



*The initiative, led by Julia Morley CBE, CEO and Chairman of the Miss World Organisation, and Sean Wong, CEO of HyperLive Entertainment, featured the reigning Miss World 2024 Krystyna Pyszkova from the Czech Republic and Miss World Malaysia 2023 Saroop Roshi.*

The recent Miss World Beauty With A Purpose Tour concluded an impactful visit to Sabah, leaving an indelible mark on the community and significantly promoting Sabah tourism.

The initiative, led by Julia Morley CBE, CEO and Chairman of the Miss World Organisation, and Sean Wong, CEO of HyperLive Entertainment, featured the reigning Miss World 2024 Krystyna Pyszkova from the Czech Republic and Miss World Malaysia 2023 Saroop Roshi. They successfully highlighted the mission of Beauty With A Purpose while showcasing Sabah's natural beauty and cultural richness.

During its stay in Sabah, the Miss World team engaged in activities to make a positive difference in the lives of Sabah's residents by raising global awareness about the region's unique attractions.

One of the key highlights of the tour was the 'Sail Malaysia Tuaran Beach Cleaning' event, which Datuk Joniston Bangkuai, Assistant Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Environment Sabah and Chairman of the Sabah Tourism Board, attended.

Volunteers led by Tuaran Rally of Sail Malaysia and teams from Shangri-la Rasa Ria Resort, MOEA, and Discover Sabah Digital collected 402 kg of rubbish, showcasing a solid commitment to preserving Sabah's pristine coastline.

The Miss World team, alongside the 2024 Unduk Ngadau Kaamatan (UNK) winners and the UNK national committees led by Tindarama Joanna Datuk Kitingan, provided crucial disaster relief packages and assisted with home clean-up efforts for flood-affected homes in Kg. Pogunon. This initiative was supported by

generous contributions from Discover Sabah Digital, Media Works Solutions, Everrise Supermarket, and Bataras Sdn Bhd, with the H3ROS 4x4 Club Sabah ensuring timely aid delivery. The Miss World Malaysia Organization has also pledged to raise MYR30,000 to support the affected families.

In their ongoing efforts to promote environmental sustainability, the Miss World team planted trees in collaboration with Kota Kinabalu City Hall (DBKK).

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Environment Sabah, under the leadership of Minister YB Datuk Christina Liew, supported the Miss World team's five-day visit, acknowledging its importance in promoting Sabah and advancing meaningful social causes. The Miss World team's activities and efforts will be featured in the 'Beauty With A Purpose' documentary, highlighting the region's warm-hearted residents, stunning landscapes, and rich cultural heritage.

# Your Sabah Bucket List

[www.sabahtourism.com](http://www.sabahtourism.com)



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 Three Sisters Keluan Waterfall, Long San, Miri  
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