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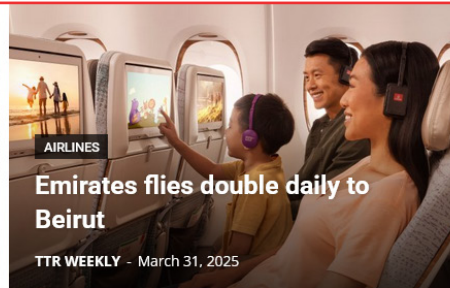
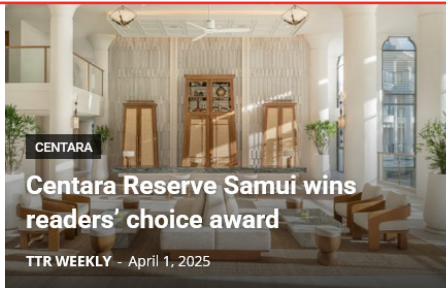
VOL 48 ■ ISSUE 03 ■ 2025

NEWS FOR ASIA'S TRAVEL PLANNERS

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Hong Kong hikes Passenger Departure Tax

Hong Kong will increase its Air Passenger Departure Tax on 1 October 2025 from HKD120 to HKD200, 20 years after it last increased the tax.

The Hong Kong SAR Government said the new tax rate will apply to air tickets purchased on or after 1 October, generating an estimated annual increase of...

Munich Airport sees summer flights surge

Airlines flying to and from Munich International Airport are expanding services during the summer timetable from 30 March to 26 October 2025.

Airport authorities reported this week that 73 airlines have registered over 214,000 flights to 216 destinations in 68 countries during the summer...

Benefit perks: Amex SIA Business Card

The American Express Singapore Airlines Business Credit Card offers improved benefits designed to provide more travel rewards and redemption options for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), effective 23 April.

The enhancements include a higher limit on converting...

KAL introduces new corporate identity

Korean Air introduced its new corporate identity last week, revealing a modernised version of its signature Taegeuk symbol — the first design change in 41 years.

The unveiling presentation convened at the airline's...

Norwegian Aqua embarks on maiden voyage

Norwegian Cruise Line has welcomed the first guests aboard the Norwegian Aqua before embarking on her maiden voyage from Lisbon to Southampton, England.

Marking a new chapter in NCL's fleet evolution, Norwegian Aqua will host over 2,000 invited guests aboard...

Trip.com gains access to MHupgrade directly

Trip.com announced Monday its partnership with national carrier Malaysia Airlines to enhance the travel experience for passengers.

Through this collaboration, Trip.com becomes the first third-party platform to...



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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.



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Eco-friendly footprint at Royal Sands Koh Rong



TravelLife Gold Certification tips the scale in favour of Royal Sands Koh Rong when searching for an eco-conscious holiday destination that gives you peace of mind.



Since it achieved TravelLife Gold Certification in October 2024, Royal Sands Koh Rong is the only hotel in Cambodia to achieve the prestigious accreditation. That's no mean feat for a luxury island resort located off the coast of Sihanoukville province in southern Cambodia. Success required strict compliance to sustainability criteria, including emissions, biodiversity, human rights, fair labour, child safeguarding, and animal welfare, verified by a stringent independent audit carried out by TravelLife-approved assessors and followed by the submission of monthly data.

"Our Gold Certification is valid until

October 2026, after which we will undergo a new audit to retain our status," explained the resort's general manager, Mario Piazza. "The Gold level is the highest certification within Travelife's framework, and achieving and maintaining the Travelife Gold Certification has positively impacted our resort in several ways."

When you stay at Royal Sands Koh Rong, a spectacular view unfurls from the luxury villas — an uninterrupted squeaky-clean beach stretches as far as the eye can see, and clear seas sparkle in the sunlight. It doesn't get better than this for travellers seeking a



getaway, stress-free island sojourn that ticks all the sustainable travel boxes.


As you tuck into Eggs Benedict for breakfast, you'll have peace of mind knowing Travelife certification works in the background to curate a sustainable beach holiday experience without compromising the eco-system.

Back-of-the-house improvements at work: "The TravelLife framework has guided us in refining our sustainability policies, reducing waste, and enhancing energy and water efficiency. We implement best practices in responsible tourism that align with global sustainability standards," the GM explains.

[Read more...](#)

GATEWAY TO BORNEO

Explore the unique charm of Sarawak, where nature, culture, and adventure come together in harmony. Discover the enchanting Three Sisters Keluan Waterfall, a symbol of natural beauty and serenity. Nestled deep in the forests of Miri, this cascading wonder invites you to immerse yourself in the tranquillity of Sarawak's pristine landscapes. Find peace and wonder in the heart of nature's embrace.

 Three Sisters Keluan Waterfall, Long San, Miri
www.sarawaktourism.com

SARAWAK
More To Discover



Dusit Ajara Hua Hin project gets underway

Dusit International is embarking on a new chapter of robust growth as an ultra-luxury residential developer with the launch of its latest venture, 'Dusit Ajara Hua Hin', valued at over THB2 billion.



Image shown is for illustrative purpose only.

It marks a significant step forward in the group's expansion strategy, transforming a historic Hua Hin location to offer ultra-luxury branded residences with an innovative approach to multi-generational living that blends luxury, sustainability, and exclusivity.

Dusit International Group Chief Executive Officer Suphatee Suthumpun said: "Over the years, Dusit International has been a leader in the global hospitality industry, dedicated to elevating service standards and blending Thai elegance with modernity to bring Thai-inspired gracious hospitality to the world.

"Our strategy focuses on enhancing the potential of our assets and businesses to strengthen our competitiveness in both domestic and international markets.

"Therefore, we are delighted and proud to introduce Dusit Ajara Hua Hin. This development reflects our commitment to expanding into the ultra-luxury branded

residences market, tapping into the growing demand for well-being, and fostering a physically and mentally healthy community for all generations – aligning with the rising trend of 'Multi-generational Living' in

Thailand and globally."

Dusit Ajara Hua Hin leverages Dusit International's hotel and hospitality services management expertise, building on the success and experience gained from the soon-to-be-completed Dusit Central Park project in Bangkok. This venture also demonstrates Dusit International's revenue potential by commercialising its land bank in promising locations, aligning with the group's three strategic pillars: balance, expansion, and diversification.

"We chose Hua Hin for this new project because, in addition

to the presence of our Dusit Thani Hua Hin hotel as an integral part of Hua Hin for over three decades, this beach resort town is one of Thailand's top tourist destinations," said Suthumpun. "Hua Hin's charming beaches, serene atmosphere, and the rising demand for real estate present significant development opportunities.

"Furthermore, government investment and promotion under the Smart City initiative, urban expansion, and newly built facilities for short- and long-term tourists are key factors supporting market growth, particularly in the mid-to-ultra-luxury residential segments, which appeal to Thai and foreign buyers.


"Branded residences, have garnered special attention. These factors give us the confidence that Dusit Ajara Hua Hin, valued at over two billion baht, will achieve remarkable success. 'Ajara' branded project."

Langkawi

99 Magical Islands

ASCEND TO NEW HEIGHTS AT MAHA TOWER

Experience the pinnacle of Langkawi's skyline. Framing the panoramic scenery of the island's beauty with the spectacle of this iconic landmark. Gaze out as the land, sea, and sky converge into a breathtaking view.

 Maha Tower

 MAHA
TOWER

Sabah shares SWWICE2025 podum

The highly anticipated Sustainable Wholistic* Wellness International Conference & Expo (SWWICE) 2025 will take place in Sabah, Malaysia, bringing together global experts, wellness practitioners, and sustainability advocates.

wellness and wellness tourism practices.

Sabah Tourism Board hosted a press conference and MOU presentation ceremony on 18 March at the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC).



Sustainable Wholistic Wellness International Conference & Expo (SWWICE) 2025 is an international event happening in two locations: Sabah, Malaysia (24 June to 3 July 2025) and Munich, Germany (10 to 12 May 2025).

Photo caption: Displaying the 10 Pillars flag for the official opening presentation of the Sustainable Wholistic Wellness International Conference & Expo 2025 (SWWICE) Press Conference held last week.

Organised under the theme "Sustainable Wholistic Wellness Tourism", SWWICE2025 will feature distinguished speakers, panel discussions, interactive masterclasses and workshops, and an expo showcasing wellness products, sustainable solutions, and wholistic health,

Leveraging Sabah's natural healing environment and Germany's wellness innovation, SWWICE2025 explores how wellness tourism, cultural traditions, and sustainable practices can transform lives and industries.

Event standouts

1. *Global Experts & Thought Leaders: Featuring medical professionals, wellness entrepreneurs, and sustainability advocates worldwide.*

2. *10 holistic wellness Pillars: These pillars feature topics related to mental health, fitness, nutrition, and environmental sustainability.*

3. *Exclusive Masterclasses & Panel Discussions: Focusing on AI-driven health innovations,*

traditional healing practices, workplace wellness, and sustainable tourism.

4. *Expo & Networking Opportunities: Showcasing wellness-driven brands, sustainable solutions, and the latest wellness technology.*

5. *Transformative Retreat in Sabah: Offering immersive activities like Qi-Gong, mindfulness workshops, and holistic therapies.*

SWWICE2025, Organising Chairperson Cleopatra Lajawai commented: "SWWICE2025 is a dynamic global platform where local and international communities exchange knowledge, share diverse practices, and explore sustainable 'wholistic' wellness solutions."

This year's SWWICE2025 Sabah comprises three components:

- *The Conference at Magellan Sutura Harbour from 24 to 26 June*
- *The Wellness & Lifestyle Expo at the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC) from 27 to 29 June*
- *The Retreat from 1 to 3 July*

The Retreat offers attendees a chance to relax, rejuvenate, and reconnect with nature. Individuals seeking a restorative and energising experience in Sabah can join the curated Retreat.

Your Sabah Bucket List

www.sabahtourism.com



Enchanting
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Malaysian Borneo



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youtube.com/sbhtourism

Centara Grand Lagoon Maldives offers introductory perks



Centara Hotels & Resorts, Thailand's leading hotel operator, is celebrating the upcoming launch of Centara Grand Lagoon Maldives with an exclusive introductory offer.

Opening in April 2025, guests are invited to experience this tranquil island retreat with special privileges and premium benefits, including Stay 4, Pay 3 and Stay 7, Pay 5 packages, upgrades, and more, for a limited time only.

Representing the final piece in Centara's vision of offering extraordinary

experiences across four distinctive properties in the Maldives, each catering to unique traveller preferences, Centara Grand Lagoon Maldives features 142 elegantly designed beachfront and overwater accommodations that perfectly complement the natural beauty of the surroundings. This private island sanctuary seamlessly blends Thai-inspired hospitality with Maldivian allure, inviting guests to indulge in world-class dining across multiple restaurants and bars and experience rejuvenating

wellness journeys at the serene Spa Cenvaree Retreat.

The opening of this stunning property also signifies the completion of The Atollia by Centara Hotels & Resorts, a visionary project set to redefine experiential travel in this breathtaking destination. As part of this exclusive multi-island destination, Centara Grand Lagoon Maldives blends sophisticated tranquillity with immersive experiences, catering to discerning travellers seeking a refined escape while also granting guests unprecedented access to the thrilling water attractions and vibrant facilities of neighbouring Centara Mirage Lagoon Maldives.

"We are thrilled to officially welcome guests to Centara Grand Lagoon Maldives this April," said Centara Grand Lagoon Maldives & Centara Mirage Lagoon Maldives Cluster General Manager Andrew Jansson.

"From our picturesque beachfront and overwater villas to our exquisite dining and holistic wellness journeys, our team has worked tirelessly to ensure every aspect of this magnificent property exceeds expectations. We look forward to offering travellers a truly distinctive experience that captures the essence of both Centara's signature warm hospitality and the beauty of this Maldivian paradise."

To celebrate the grand opening, Centara invites guests to take advantage of its Grand Island Indulgence: Exclusive Introductory Offer. Book until 30 June 2025 for stays between 1 April and 15 October 2025 and enjoy the privilege of staying 4 nights while only paying for 3, or extend your escape with Stay 7, Pay 5.

THE PLACE TO BE

The world is yours to explore. Across Thailand, Laos, the Maldives, Vietnam, the UAE, Oman, Qatar or Japan, you can find a place you want to be. This is the essence of Centara Hotels & Resorts. Whether your clients are planning a family beach holiday, an immersive cultural experience or an exciting urban getaway, Centara's signature hospitality, warm Thai family values and world-class service will be at the heart of their stay anywhere in the world.

Centara Mirage Lagoon Maldives

CENTARA RESERVE

THE
CENTARA
COLLECTION

CENTARA
GRAND

CENTARA

CENTARA
LIFE

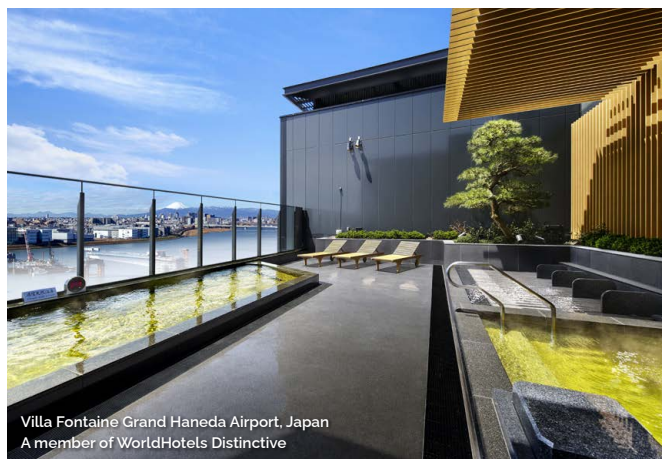
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