

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Australasia & Pacific Islands

The land down under, with cultures and landscapes that seem a world away.



MORE IN...

News

Stay in the loop! **Pg. 4**

Escorted Touring

Your guide to one of travel's most enduring sectors. **Pg. 13**



A dose of #TBShowcases FOMO as we recap the latest instalments of a packed events calendar! **(Pg. 10)**

Travel **bulletin**

SHOWCASES

Invites you to a

CITY BREAKS SHOWCASE

Agent networking evening

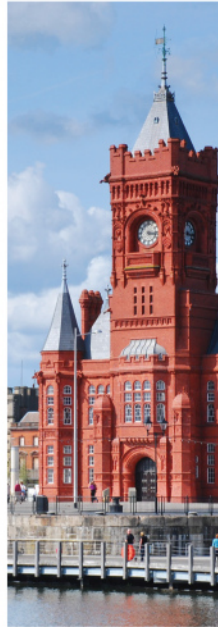
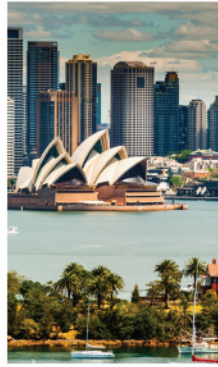
Monday **17TH JUNE** Cardiff

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to our City Breaks Showcase! This is a fun filled evening dedicated to providing you with more knowledge about the diverse range of cultural specialist tours and itineraries available. Look forward to engaging professional networking groups, hot meal and drinks, enjoying the entertainment and being in with a chance to win some truly incredible prizes in our free prize draw!

TIMINGS:

Registration & Drinkst 5:45PM	Travel Bulletin Welcome 6:10PM	Supplier Presentations 6:15PM	
Hot Dinner 7:30PM	Supplier Presentations 8:30PM	Product Quiz and Prizes 9:10PM	Event Ends 9:30PM

FEATURES:



To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Friday 14th June 2024

to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

THIS EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY
and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.

THIS WEEK



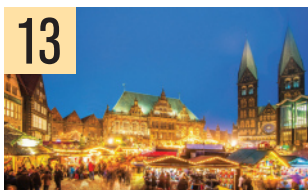
04 NEWS
The latest and greatest from across the travel industry.



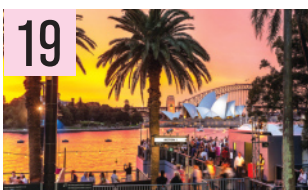
09 PUZZLE BULLETIN
Enter our sudoku for a chance to win a £20 M&S voucher!



10 SHOWCASE PIX MIX
See what we were up to at our Sustainable Travel Showcase!



13 ESCORTED TOURS
Remain sure-footed alongside expert guides and tailor-made tours.



19 AUSTRALASIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS
The latest draws from the land down under.



GENERATION LATE

While Gen Z boast a huge spending market for travel this summer, more than half have yet to book anything as last minute deals are favoured over forward planning.

AS GEN Z get ready to pack up and head away this summer, the latest study by UNiDAYS has revealed that only half of eager travellers have booked their summer getaways – presenting a key opportunity for agents to capitalise on the last-minute rush.

According to the latest Travel Deep-Dive Student Insight Report conducted by student discount network UNiDAYS, more than three in four students are set to travel during the summer holidays this year, representing a projected spend of more than £7.5 billion. However, while the younger generation are a ready source of buying power, they seem to be reluctant to part with it: over half of those wishing to travel have not yet booked.

Sarah Clifford, Category lead for Food, Travel and Leisure at UNiDAYS, stated: “[Students] are the most likely age group to have travel plans in Q3 but the least likely to have tickets in hand... it is not just trips they

leave to the last minute either, they’re the least likely to book vacation activities in advance, with one in three leaving it to the week before or when they get there.”

While the cost-of-living crisis continues to affect spending, Gen Zers are more inclined to spend their money on what is important to them, particularly travel. The study has found that during the months of June to August, Gen Z will make up the majority of long-haul bookings, as well as be the demographic most likely to spend more on train and bus tickets as they would rather explore new places.

Social media plays a highly influential role over Gen Z’s need for experiences and travel, likely due to trends such as the recent ‘the money will return but you will never be 22 in Paris’ viral videos on TikTok.

Clifford continued: “To unlock loyalty, brands must reach them where they’re coming from, align with their calendar, and give them a compelling reason to buy in.”

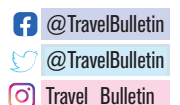


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Holiday Extras acquires parking provider

A 100% acquisition has seen Amsterdam-based Quick Parking's four parking facilities join Holiday Extras' airport portfolio.

6,200 spaces at Amsterdam Schipol, Rotterdam The Hague, Brussels International and Eindhoven airports now join the portfolio, hot on the heels of February's takeover of a multi-storey in Munich and investment in Dutch ground

transportation specialist Transferz in November 2023.

Holiday Extras Group CEO Matthew Pack said he was "delighted" with the acquisition: "We're proud to add Quick Parking to the Holiday Extras Group and are set to turbo-charge the operation with our 'less hassle, more holiday' expertise."

www.holidayextras.com



Visit Orlando thanks the trade after record-breaking growth recorded in 2023

CASANDRA MATEJ, Visit Orlando's president and CEO, took to the stage at IPW 2024 to reveal last year's record-breaking visitation, with an 8% increase in inbound UK visitors, and was quick to attribute growth to "the support from our travel trade partners."

Casandra said the tourist board observed "strong gains from all of our core international markets, including the UK... a testament to the support from our travel trade partners and our emphasis on strategic marketing initiatives." www.visitorlando.com

Houston, we have a bargain: Kennedy's trade-only discount

THE KENNEDY Space Center Visitor Complex has unveiled a discount exclusive to UK agents, inviting Brits to head to infinity and beyond at the attraction this summer.

Typically, kids' admission starts from US\$65: until August 30th, 2024, agents can apply this price to adults' tickets when booking through DoSomethingDifferent.com or Attraction World.

Summer brings with it a packed schedule of space-aged events, including presentations and Q&As with astronauts and a Moon Festival celebrating the 55th anniversary of Apollo 11's moon landing in July.

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex offers a dedicated trade training course, accessible via the *Travel Bulletin* TravelGym. www.kennedyspacecenter.com

'Final call' on Rocky Mountaineer trade discounts

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER'S new promotion offers up US\$1,000 discounts per couple (or US\$500 per solo) on selected packages throughout May.

Savings are applicable on bookings of six nights or more



departing throughout the remainder of the 2024 season in Canada or the USA.

www.rockymountaineer.com



Drink your way around the Silver State

TRAVEL NEVADA has introduced the Sagebrush Saloon Passport, inviting guests to explore the Silver State's storied past and tick off some classic Western saloons along the way.

The free offering allows guests to trace their journey through almost 30 saloons across the state, and earn reward points towards exclusive Travel Nevada goodies.

Locales along the way include Nevada's oldest saloon, the Genoa Bar, and a previous hangout spot for stars like Marilyn Monroe, the Odeon Saloon. www.travelnevada.com

Sunvil nears 50th anniversary of selling Greece with new brochure

SUNVIL'S NEW brochure boasts the largest Greek island portfolio of any UK operator, with 61 choices, alongside a comprehensive range of mainland accommodation and itineraries.

Now available from your Sunvil trade rep or online, the brochure collates returning favourites from the operator's near-50-year history of selling Greece along with new additions.

Kea, in the Cyclades, has joined the comprehensive island range, with several new apartment options on the Ionian island of Ithaca and a new luxury three-bedroom apartment on Skopelos. Island-hopping options in the northern Cyclades (£1,768 per person), North Aegean (£2,430 per person), Dodecanese (£1,448 per person), and Saronic Islands (£1,630 per person) are also on offer. www.sunvil.co.uk

Brand USA notes "clear resurgence" in demand

CHRIS THOMPSON, the current president & CEO of Brand USA, delivered his final press conference after a decade of service at IPW 2024, celebrated the destination's "clear resurgence," and welcomed successor Todd Davidson to the stage.

Statistics showing that the near-67 million visitors to the USA last year contributed US\$213 billion to the US economy were marked as "a clear resurgence in travel enthusiasm, with the United States continuing to lead the world in long-haul travel arrivals," according to Chris Thompson who is due to step down from his role this summer.

Marking a 28% increase in 2022's visitation and spend, Chris reacted: "The industry is strong, and Brand USA is well positioned which gives me the confidence to step aside."

2024 is expected to continue the momentum, with 2025 due to mark the



succession of 2019 visitation levels for the Australian, Brazilian, Canadian, French, German, Italian, and UK markets.

"Brand USA's commitment to inviting international travelers to the United States is a key reason why the USA remains the most aspirational travel destination in the

world," Chris concluded.

Todd Davidson, Brand USA board chair, then welcomed Fred Dixon, current CEO of New York City Tourism + Convention, to the stage: Dixon will succeed Chris Thompson as CEO and president from July 15th, 2024.

www.TheBrandUSA.com

Cruise guests crave a celebration at sea

A SURVEY from cruise.co.uk has uncovered the top calls for a celebration at sea.

Of the near-700 respondents to the survey, the general reception was that guests are around twice as likely to book a celebratory cruise than they were when asked five years ago.



38% suggested they'd like to celebrate a birthday aboard, followed by anniversaries (21%) and weddings or honeymoons (17%).

Retirement (14%) and graduation (5%) comprised the top five calls for a celebration cruise, while the completion of a divorce earned 1% of votes.

In terms of destinations, almost one in three favour the Med, though just 1% splits the Med in first place and the Caribbean in second.

Cruise.co.uk's managing director, Tony Andrews, said it is "easy to see why" guests are heading aboard to celebrate a special event: "Whatever your reason to mark an occasion, cruises offer a huge array of accommodation, entertainment and dining options... a cruise is the ideal choice for raising a glass with friends and family." www.cruise.co.uk

YOU TRAVEL.COM IS shining the spotlight on Türkiye & North Africa in its new brochure, which showcases a wide selection of hotels across both North Africa and Türkiye that are guaranteed to leave a lasting impression. Each property has been cherry-picked to offer the best guest experiences, with distinct features, ratings and meal plans being highlighted within the brochure for easy access. www.youtravel.com

Wizz Air launches experience booking platform

WIZZ AIR'S new platform, developed in partnership with Coras, opens up access to thousands of attractions, tours, sports and live events, and theatre shows to both agents and consumers via a unified booking platform.

Over 10 million tickets in more than 65 countries, 300 cities and 20 languages are bookable through the platform.

WIZZ Experiences is accessible as soon as

flights are purchased, with tickets managed through the same website and app as flights and boarding passes.

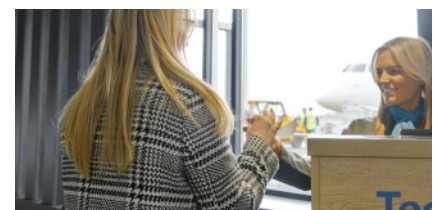
The airline's head of ancillary revenue, James Goodwin, said the team is "delighted to continue expanding our additional services," and promised that the airline will "continue to enhance our offer to make Wizz Air the ultimate caterer for any traveller's needs." www.wizzair.com

Jet2.com inaugurates new Malta service

JET2.COM'S NEWEST service marked the first-ever Maltese departure from Edinburgh Airport for both Jet2.com and Jet2holidays, joining the roster as part of the airline and operator's summer 2024 programme.

Operating weekly on Wednesdays until October 30th, 2024, the service is one of 33 sun and city destinations on sale from Edinburgh Airport for the upcoming summer season.

Steve Heapy, the airline and package operator's ever-present CEO, said: "Feedback from customers and independent travel agents in Scotland has been telling us that flights and holidays to Malta and Gozo are very much in demand for summer 2024." www.jet2.com



Teesside welcomes new boarding concept

GUESTS ENJOYING Teesside's KLM lounge will be offered direct access to boarding, accompanied by a host escorting them to their aircraft. Teesside's introduction of the service makes it the first UK airport to offer lounge-to-aircraft boarding.

www.teessideinternational.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **YOU TRAVEL.COM'S** MAY Mania promotion is officially underway, guaranteeing a £5 Love2shop voucher on every booking to a host of accommodation options. The full list of included properties can be accessed via the [youtravel4agents](#) Facebook page. [www.youtravel.com](#)
- **15 TICKETS** to The Killers' upcoming concert at the O2 Arena are up for grabs for agents registering their Las Vegas bookings throughout May and June at [www.shorturl.at/einyZ](#). Entrants must be free to attend the concert on July 7th, 2024 at the O2 Arena in London. [www.lvcva.com](#)
- **ANY BOOKINGS** made with Just You or Travelsphere by the end of May will earn you entries into a prize draw to win one of six VIP platinum tickets to Mamma Mia! The Party in London and a one-night hotel stay. Winners will be confirmed at the start of June. [www.gtouringpartners.com](#)
- **USING THE** code 'EUSUMMER5' when booking Contiki European breaks will unlock a 5% discount and £75 Lifestyle voucher on every booking. The offer is applicable on bookings made by May 31st, 2024 for departure between June 1st and August 31st, 2024. [agents.ttc.com/login](#)
- **ANY JUST Go!** Holidays or National Holidays winter sun booking made by the end of May includes a £10 Love2shop voucher for every passenger booked. [www.justgoholidays.com](#) [www.nationalholidays.com](#)
- **SELECT AMBASSADOR** Cruise Line bookings made by May 29th could earn you a Christmas party aboard *Ambience*. [www.ambassadorcruiseline.com](#)

AGENT BULLETIN



The South Australian Tourism Commission, Tourism Western Australia and Malaysia Airlines recently held a fam trip, showcasing the destinations as the ultimate Aussie wildlife safari. Pictured here (left-right): Donna Waddington (Travel Counsellors), Antionette Stavrou (Tourism Australia), Tracy Tyler (Trailfinders), Keely Roberts (Wexas), Jim Faulkner (Travel Nation), Stuart Matthews (The Turquoise Holiday Company), Emily Ovens (Flight Centre), JP Griffin (Trailfinders), Charlotte Fennel (Audley Travel) and Ryan Collinsdoyle (Travelbag).

Travel
bulletin

WEBINAR

JOIN A lineup of the finest suppliers in luxury and win a range of indulgent prizes at our Luxury Holidays webinar!

Find out more at [www.travelbulletin.co.uk/webinar](#)

AGENT TRAINING

DESTINATION TRAINING

- **EACH MONTH**, one agent completing three modules on the New Smyrna Beach trade training course wins a £50 shopping voucher. [www.tourismgivesback.com/courses-archive/nsb-insider/](#)
- **BRING THE** Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex to life from the comfort of your desk with the attraction's agent training programme. [www.travelbulletin.co.uk/kennedy-space-center-travelgym](#)

CRUISE LINE TRAINING

- **CARNIVAL CRUISE** Line has confirmed its biggest-ever ship visit programme, with 350 agent places on offer across seven visits throughout the summer. Registration is now open at [www.shorturl.at/birN0](#)
- **WINDSTAR CRUISES** will host up to 450 agents on a schedule of ship visits in Dublin, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Cork, Milford Haven, Portsmouth, London, Holyhead, Belfast, Douglas and Invergordon. Register interest at [www.shorturl.at/kLPT0](#)
- **YOU CAN** win a bottle of Moët when completing the Gold tier of Virgin Voyages' Seacademy training platform this month. [www.travelbulletin.co.uk/virgin-voyage-travelgym](#)

OPERATOR TRAINING

- **NOT ONLY** will you expand your knowledge and your commission-earning power with the Newmarket Holidays training programme, but you can also earn a 15% discount for a tour of your own (with a plus one), a chance to head on a fam trip, and a Newmarket Achievement Award certificate. [www.training.newmarketholidays.co.uk](#)
- **JOIN THE** Rocky Mountaineer team to learn more about the operator's inspiring rail journeys through the Rockies and American Southwest. [www.communities.rockymountaineer.com/agent](#)



AGENT INSIGHT

SANDRA MURRAY

NORMANTON, YORKSHIRE

I HOPE you have all been nice and busy and securing new bookings as well!

I must say I have been to quite a lot of evening events, sometimes as many as a couple a week! They've all been very interesting, a recent one I attended featured Inghams, Blue Diamond, Celestyal Cruises, Driveaway and Yalago to name a few.

I recently met Chris Saunders, a key account manager at Carnival Crew. They're the trade-only UK booking office for tailor-made Carnival fly-cruises, with some very good rates.

As I write this, Travel Bulletin is gearing up for the Youtravel Roadshow in Leeds on May 13th, so I hope many of you attended!

Last time round they were joined by Ajman Tourism, Visit Malta, Dubai, Sharm el Sheikh and many more – I would say the events are worth visiting, and I will, of course, let you know what it was like.

Did anyone take advantage of the 500,000 flights for sale from Leeds Bradford Airport at £12.99? It really was amazing to see them all, there was certainly plenty of choice.

I think, as agents, we could do with a few more offers like that, I must admit I was almost tempted by a Tenerife flight!

Can I just remind you all that the Yorkshire Travel Ball in its 27th year is on July 18th at the Village Hotel, Leeds (Junction 28, M62). Get nattering to your tour operator contacts for tickets and encourage them to get a table! For more details contact me at s.murray922@btinternet.com.



Seven Merlin attractions added to Go City pass

THE RECENT expansion of Go City's partnership with Merlin Entertainments sees the Lastminute.com London Eye, Madame Tussauds London, Chessington World of Adventures Resort, Shrek's Adventure! London, The London Dungeon, SEA LIFE London Aquarium and LEGOLAND Windsor Resort all included with the London Pass.

Go City's CEO, Jon Owen, said: "We're thrilled to build on our global partnership with Merlin Entertainments, by including, for the first time, seven of Merlin's iconic London attractions in our London pass lineups."

www.gocity.com

News Bites

- THE LA Quinta by Wyndham label is set to open its second property in the United Arab Emirates with a 107-room Al Wahda property.
- SOLMAR VILLAS is offering up to 30% off bookings this month with the opportunity to earn a week's free car hire on Crete bookings.



AER LINGUS' direct service from Dublin to Minneapolis-St. Paul has restarted on a four-weekly service, after being paused in March 2020. Not only does the service mark its five-year return, but also the complete restoration of the airline's pre-pandemic North American network. www.aerlingus.co.uk

SUDOKU

WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE *Travel* bulletin SUDOKU PRIZE PUZZLE

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3 x 3 squares contains the digits 1-9. Once you have completed the puzzle, simply identify the numbers that relate to the letters, A, B, C and D then e-mail the solution, with your name, company name, and full postal address plus phone and ABTA number if applicable to:

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is May 30th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

May 3rd Solution: A=2 B=4 C=6 D=1

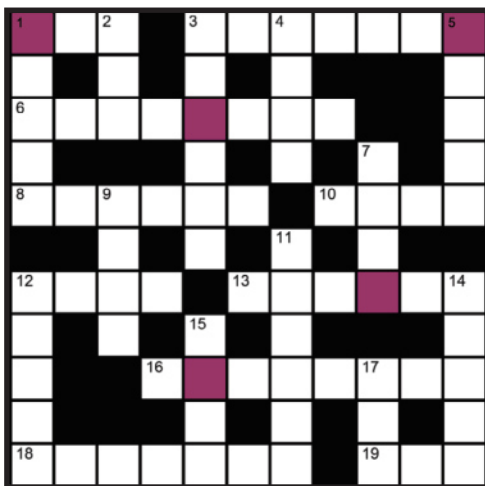
A	8	2		4		9		3
		4	5			6	2	
	3				5			
B	6	9	3	1				
	2			9		8		1
C						2	6	9
				2				6
			2	6			8	7
D	7			5		1		2
								9



WHERE AM I?

NEW ZEALAND'S oldest city, otherwise known as the 'Garden City of the Plains', is devoted to the upkeep of its parks, public gardens and botanical gardens that really make the city bloom.

FILL IN THE CROSSWORD TO REVEAL THE MYSTERY LOCATION HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PURPLE SQUARES.



Across

- 1 The Virtuosa is part of this company's fleet (3)
- 3 One of the Balearic islands (7)
- 6 Classical musician judging those playing on The Piano TV series (4,4)
- 8 Capital of Canada (6)
- 10 TV detective series set in Newcastle and Northumberland (4)
- 12 Major car hire company (4)
- 13 Latvia is on the shores of this Sea (6)
- 16 Mainly an American term for a holiday (8)
- 18 Tennessee city of music (7)
- 19 First name of a British film director who was once married to Madonna (3)

Down

- 1 City host of the recent 2024 Eurovision Song Contest (5)
- 2 Cancun international airport code (3)
- 3 Lilongwe is the capital of this African country (6)
- 4 BBC newsreader, ___ Hill (4)
- 5 P&O ship with a retractable SkyDome (5)
- 7 English county (4)
- 9 Could be an identical sibling or a hotel room (4)
- 11 DFDS operate from this French port (6)
- 12 Indian state, known for its wildlife and tea plantations (5)
- 14 Loved by those with a sweet tooth, especially in the States (5)
- 15 Pulteney Bridge is just one of this city's famous tourist attractions (4)
- 17 Hotels & Resorts company (3)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word: MALTA

Down: 1 MALMO, 2 CUN, 3 MALAWI, 4 JANE, 5 ARVIA, 7 KENT, 9 TWIN, 11 CALAIS, 12 ASSAM, 14 CANDY, 15 BATH, 17 IHG.
Across: 1 MSC, 3 MAJORCA, 6 LANG LANG, 8 OTTAWA, 10 VERA, 12 AVIS, 13 BALTIC, 16 VACATION, 18 MEMPHIS, 19 GUY.



Sustainable Tourism Showcase

WE SHONE a spotlight on the operators and destinations leading the way in sustainability in the capital at the end of April.

Joined by Visit Benidorm, Explore! Worldwide, Austria Tourism, Eurostar, the Santikos Collection and the Spanish Tourist Office, our brilliant agent attendance left with heads full of eco inspiration and sustainable selling tips, plus prizes including free stays and vouchers in our ever-popular prize bingo!



Want to get in on the [#TBShowcases](https://twitter.com/TBShowcases) action? We're bringing a Mediterranean Roadshow to Liverpool and Belfast on June 10th and 11th, respectively. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

Discovery Cove strives to immerse and educate

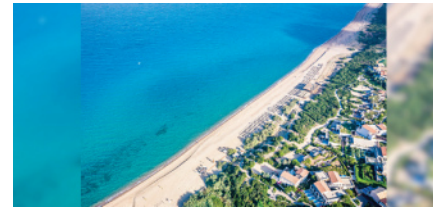
DISCOVERY COVE has opened a new Flamingo Point area, inviting guests to immerse and educate themselves on the unique species. The spacious environment offers the resident flamingos a vibrant and lush landscape. Entry to the new viewing area is included with admission.

Flamingo Mingle experiences, offered throughout the day, offers a more intimate opportunity to learn about the species: 5% of

proceeds will be donated to bird conservation organisation Audubon Florida.

Discovery Cove's park president, Brad Gilmour, said the new enclosure "does double duty as a safe, familiar environment for these beautiful birds, while also serving as an amazing opportunity for our guests to observe and learn the importance of conservation."

www.discoverycove.com



ABTA's earlybird rates for Travel Convention

REGISTRATION IS now open for October's Travel Convention, with earlybird rates from £695 for ABTA members available.

Taking place at the Navarino Dunes resort on the Costa Navarino in Messinia, Greece, 2024's Travel Convention promises "the ideal forum for industry colleagues to connect, do business and look ahead to the future of our sector," according to chief executive Mark Tanzer.

Earlybird rates are available until mid-July.

www.abta.com



MOVERS & SHAKERS



APT & Travelmarvel has appointed Tara Jerrard

as business development manager for the South.

Unforgettable launches cruise division

SIMON LEEMING, formerly of Tripsmiths, Cosmos, and Monarch Holidays, has joined the Unforgettable Travel Group to head up a new dedicated cruise division. As cruise product and commercial manager, Simon will drive the group's 'Cruise 365' vision, aiming to offer agents more choice through a year-round ocean and river cruising programme, specifically focussed on sub-500-guest-capacity vessels.

Over 5,000 guests already enjoy the group's small-ship programme annually under the Cruise Croatia label.

www.unforgettabletravelcompany.com



HERTIGRUTEN HAS bolstered its sales team with the addition

of David Chidley as account manager.

Etihad boosts interline agreements

DEALS WITH five airlines (Kam Air, SKY express, Rex Airlines, Jeju Air and Myanmar Airways International) recently bolstered Etihad's interline network.

Chief revenue and commercial officer, Arik De, said: "We continue to broaden our network reach enabling seamless connection across our



network, giving our guests a broader range of travel options. These five interline agreements make life easier for guests of all the airlines."

www.etihad.com



Record revenue for Icelandair

PASSENGER REVENUE of US\$199 million in Q1 represented a 17% rise on last year: a record report for Icelandic flag carrier Icelandair.

Greater focus on the most profitable markets for the airline saw its passenger network capacity grow by 21%, with around 757,000 travelling in Q1 (14% up on 2023). President & CEO Bogi Nils Bogason said the Q1 results "were in line with our expectations." www.icelandair.com

Swish Swiss: Switzerland Tourism unveils rebrand

AFTER ALMOST three decades of trading under the iconic goldflower logo, Switzerland Tourism has unveiled a new brand identity to fit with the 'modern brand for modern world' theme.

Showcasing a new logo complete with the Swiss flag,



and a more uplifting colour palette to symbolise modernity, diversity and independence, the visual rebrand aims to embody the country's long-standing tourism promise of outstanding nature, hospitality and reliability in the face of today's digital era.

Alex Herrmann, director of Switzerland Tourism UK & Ireland, stated that adapting to the needs of today's industry is of "utmost importance" to the country, and the new brand identity will "serve to reflect Switzerland Tourism's growth and evolution as we continue to diversify our offer beyond better-known Swiss destinations, and emphasise hidden gems, authentic experiences, off-season travel and sustainable tourism."

The full rollout of the rebrand will continue to take place until the end of the year.

www.myswitzerland.com



RAIL EUROPE has announced a partnership with RegioJet, the Czech Republic's private rail provider, to expand its offering across Europe. RegioJet's network through Central and Eastern Europe (particularly in Slovakia, Austria, Croatia, and Hungary) will now be accessible through Rail Europe's platforms. www.raileurope.com

Explora Journeys launches unique offers

LUXURY LIFESTYLE brand Explora Journeys has launched two new offers to allow guests to experience an unparalleled ocean offering.

The 'Unique Escapes' offer invites travellers to sail through the Mediterranean and Caribbean waters and enjoy savings on a select number of cruises with a reduced deposit of 10%. 'Penthouse Dream' offers a complimentary upgrade for Ocean Penthouse bookings to move up to the next category in

order for guests to enjoy the ultimate luxury experience at sea.

Both offers are applicable on bookings made by July 31st, 2024.

Priti Mehta, head of sales in UK & Ireland, highlights how these offers will benefit the trade by "opening up exciting business opportunities" from selling ocean journeys for the first time to offering avid sailors a new experience. www.explorajourneys.com

Railbookers embodies the Italian sweet life

RAILBOOKERS HAS launched a series of Italian itineraries as part of a collaboration agreement with *La Dolce Vita Orient Express*. Travellers will have the opportunity to sit back and relax in the luxurious locomotive set to make its debut from April 2025 while they steam through the picturesque Italian scenery and embark on a number of sightseeing activities through the region.

Each itinerary will feature a journey on board *La Dolce Vita Orient Express*, including one or two nights in luxury accommodation along with food, beverages and offboard experiences for the dream Italian getaway. www.railbookers.co.uk



Dusit set for Maldives expansion

DUSIT INTERNATIONAL has announced the upcoming expansion of the brand in the Maldives with the dusitD2 Feydhoo Maldives resort. The new all-inclusive lifestyle resort is slated to open later this year on a private island near Malé. www.dusit.com

LEGER'S FESTIVE FAVOURITES

Leger Holidays has relaunched its 'Festive Favourites' brochure after a five year hiatus.



YOUR CLIENTS' festive dreams have been answered as Leger Holidays has brought its 'Festive Favourites' escorted tour brochure back to the trade after half a decade.

With a wide array of tours available across the festive season, customers are spoiled for choice whether they decide on a pre-Christmas break, a Christmas

Fred. Holidays expertly crafts new brochure

FRED. HOLIDAYS has launched its biggest-ever brochure harbouring a fresh design and a huge range of specially curated itineraries across seven continents.

The 112-page 'Expertly Crafted' brochure features 79 itineraries centred around short breaks and tours, rail journeys, river cruises, cruise-stay options and the Discover Collection, all of which are able to be tailored to suit the customers' unique preferences.

The brochure now features QR codes which will take agents and their customers to enhanced content, offering a more interactive experience. www.fred.holidays.co.uk

Day getaway or a New Year's Eve celebration to remember.

The brochure features 49 European Christmas Market holidays; three festive Rhine cruises; Solo Traveller options; train tours and a variety of itineraries where the festivities will be in abundance.

Ashley Dellow, Leger Shearings Group's head of retail sales, stated the operator has listened to agent feedback and is "delighted to be relaunching this fantastic brochure" and is pleased that agents "once again can utilise this great booking tool to help sell festive breaks."

Some of the tours showcased within the brochure include the six-day 'Bavarian Christmas Markets, Nuremberg,

Bamberg & Wurzburg' itinerary which will offer guests a truly German Christmas experience, complete with a visit to the world-renowned Frankfurt festive markets. Prices lead in from £799 per person for a departure in November 2024.

For those looking to see in the New Year with a bang, Leger's seven-day 'New Year in Lake Garda, Venice & Verona' itinerary offers a sophisticated take on the traditional celebrations style with gala dinners, city tours, panoramic views and a fun-filled night of music and dancing to toast to the end of the year. Prices for the itinerary lead in from £1,249 per person for a Christmas Eve departure. www.leger.co.uk

Newmarket premieres new collection

TAILORING TO a more intimate, slower-paced experience, Newmarket Holidays has launched its new Premier Collection, featuring a carefully curated assortment of seven premium tours spanning across the globe. Featuring four of the operators existing itineraries alongside three brand new additions for 2025/26, these curated journeys are designed for customers looking for a wish-list escape. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk





Titan Travel: the continent calls

TITAN TRAVEL'S Europe 2025 brochure features three new tours and three new river cruise itineraries which head of trade sales Hayley Morris hopes "our agent partners will really get behind."

The three new escorted tour options feature 'Majesty of the Italian Lakes' which ticks off Maggiore, Como and Garda on a leisurely 12-day itinerary from £2,695 per person. Departures are on offer on October 2nd and 9th, 2025.

www.titantravel.co.uk



Just You & Travelsphere return to China

G TOURING has ended its four-year hiatus on China breaks across both Travelsphere and Just You, with both programmes set to return in May 2025.

Tours featured in the return of the programmes include Travelsphere's 16-day 'Unmissable China and Yangtze Cruise' starting from £3,224 per person.

www.travelsphere.co.uk /

www.justyou.co.uk

Flash Pack makes the most of long weekends

FLASH PACK'S new 'Short Stays' range offers six trips for solo travellers in their 30s and 40s, helping them maximise their annual leave and make the most of long weekends with three- to five-day 'micro-vacations'.

After a social survey uncovered that three- to five-day trips were the perfect way to acclimatise first-time solo travellers, the six new breaks have been introduced for this coming summer.

The 'Undiscovered Georgia' itinerary uncovers the secrets of wine-making at the supposed birthplace of the substance and offers up a dip in the subterranean sulphur baths at Abanotubani. The inaugural departure will take place on June 27th, 2024 with prices leading in at £900 per person.

Other options include a four-day 'Authentic Istanbul' trip from £1,300 per person and four-day 'Escape to Marrakech'



from £980 per person.

CMO and co-founder Lee Thompson said: "[The tours] offer the perfect way to scratch your solo travel itch in a group format, before diving in the deep end with a longer escape."

www.flashpack.com

Globus: reinventing the agent approach

EIGHT MONTHS into his role as sales director for the Globus family of brands (encompassing Globus, Cosmos and Avalon Waterways), Phil Shipman described the ongoing trade strategy as "a bit of a restart" from the group's previous approach.

With three brands under the Globus umbrella, Phil feels that, although "there are a lot of similarities," between the touring and river cruise markets, both sectors "are very independent of each other," and Cosmos and Globus, as touring brands, and Avalon Waterways, as a river cruise brand, deserve "bespoke" approaches: hence the introduction of dedicated account managers for each brand this year.

Phil is optimistic that the Globus brands will not only benefit from its key account managers' more focused approach, but also from "the opportunity to bring in new ideas... when you bring in new team members, they come with a whole host of new ideas and new ways of working."

With the trade team now settled, focused and bedding in, Phil has promised further trade developments for what he described as a "hugely important" base of agent partners, including a new trade portal that is being tested in the North American market, a unified training programme and Avalon Waterways fam trips later this year.

www.globusandcosmos.com



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
 **Stu Newmarket**



Claire

South West & South Wales

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 **Claire Newmarket**





Intrepid reports record-breaking results

2023 WAS a landmark year for Intrepid Travel: a net profit of £11.2 million marks a £24.6 million turnaround from 2022, with £2.4 million contributed to charitable and community causes. 2023's results mark the best financial and impact return in the operator's history.

Earlier this year, Intrepid expanded its 18 to 29s range to cater for guests up to 35 years old: newly-introduced options in that range include 'Essential South Korea' from £1,206 per person. www.intrepidtravel.com



Ffestiniog Travel on track for the 50th

MARKING ITS milestone 50th anniversary of operation, rail tour specialist Ffestiniog Travel has introduced 14 new options for 2024, alongside returning favourites.

New options include 'Rails, Trails & Tracks of the Mid Pennines', travelling through Brontë Country to Carlisle on a six-day itinerary, starting from £1,125 per person. www.ffestiniogtravel.com

Capital city capers from Just Go! Holidays

JUST GO! Holidays' 11 new options span three key product areas: families, experiences, and popular landmarks.

New family-friendly forays include a break with admission to the 'The Paddington Bear Experience,' opening this month, and trips to Madame Tussauds and ZSL London Zoo.

Spooky soirées come in the form of a chillingly comedic journey aboard a Ghost Bus Tour through the city or a trip to the London Bridge Experience.

More relaxed options include an afternoon tea cruise on the Thames or landmark-spotting options ticking off St. Paul's Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London or the London Eye.

Claire Dutton, Just Go! Holidays' trade sales manager, said the tours were introduced following "feedback from both customers and agents alike. They told us they wanted more choice so we've created it for them. These new breaks are great



news for agents as they have an easy-to-book package to promote which is fully commissionable, ensuring they earn on all the included elements."

Prices for the two-day breaks lead in at £169 per person.

www.justgoholidays.com/agents

Latin Routes backs Belize

LATIN AMERICA specialist Latin Routes has added Belize to its portfolio.

Partnering with the Belize Tourist Board, agents can now access a How To Sell guide for the destination, plus marketing assets with the promise of an upcoming incentive.

Senior product manager Cat Davies said the operator is "delighted to introduce Belize... a country filled with incredibly diverse experiences, from Mayan archaeological sites, incredible wildlife spotting, inspiring community visits... our

new range of itineraries showcase all these wonderful experiences and more."

In celebration of the launch, Latin Routes has partnered with the destination's board, offering window posters, social media graphics, and a guide showcasing how agents can hone in their selling on the unique destination.

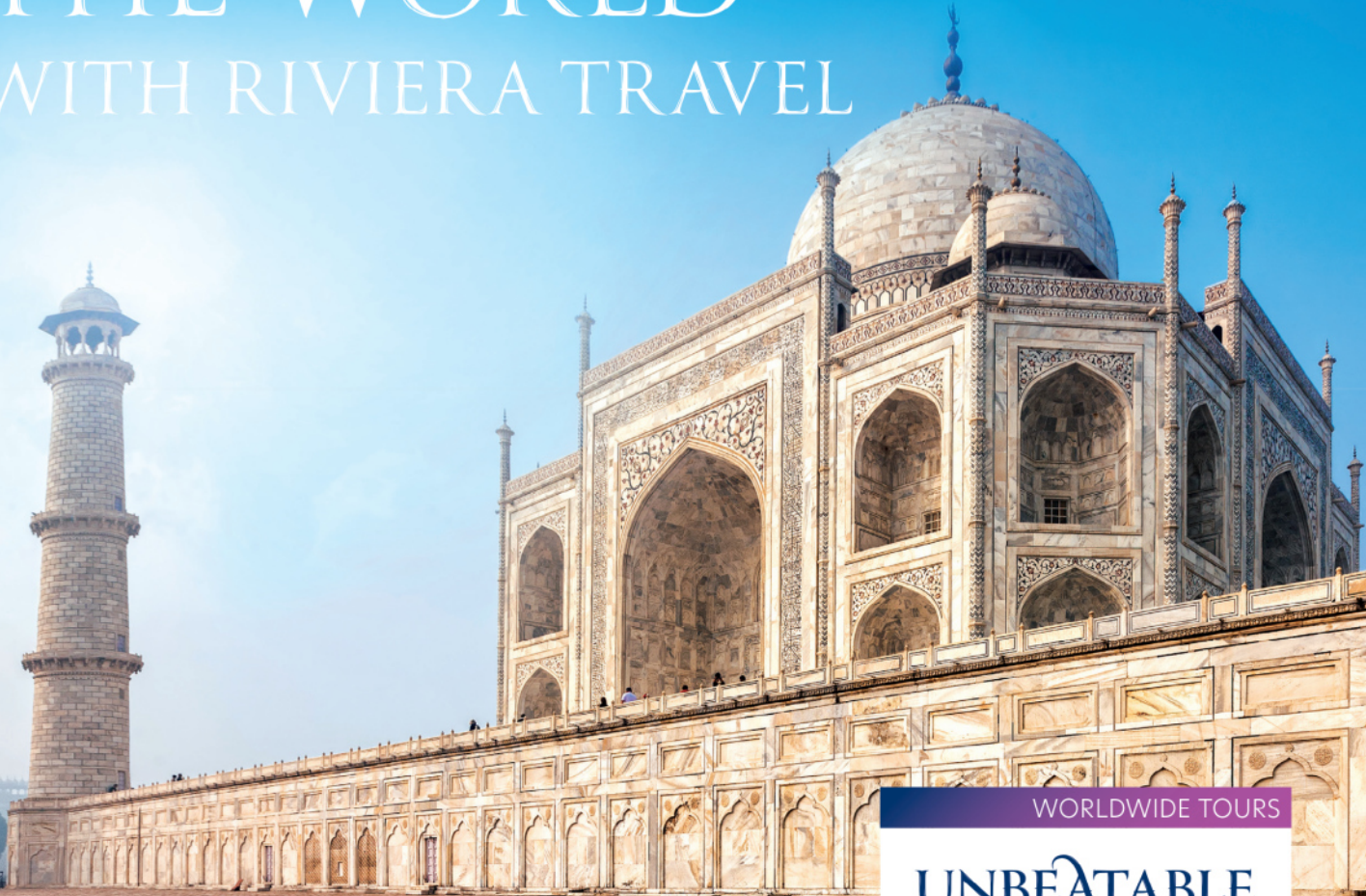
Head of marketing Felipe Francisco added: "To further promote the destination among our valued trade partners we've created bespoke marketing material to help them sell this incredible country, all available on our Trade Marketing Hub."

Additions to the portfolio include 'Highlights of Belize,' a 14-day tour including wildlife excursions in Belize's national parks, a visit to the San Antonio Women's Cooperative, and visit to the Ixcacao Chocolate Factory. Prices lead in at £5,499 per person. www.latinroutes.co.uk













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Train & Gain Day

AFTER BRINGING back our Train & Gain Days for 2024, we were delighted to host the second of the year in Dorking at the start of May.

Supplier partners Expedia TAAP, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., Cap St. Georges Hotel & Resort, Oceania Cruises, Inmood Hotels, Flipflop Hotels and Alula extended their thanks to the impressive agent turnout.



The ever-popular #TrainAndGain format returns to Leeds on July 2nd and Oxford on October 17th. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

STORIES BEHIND SUSTAINABILITY

Cultural Attractions of Australia highlight the importance of remaining sustainable and honouring the stories behind the attractions.



AS THE demand for authentic experiences continues to grow across the world, Cultural Attractions of Australia offers a collection of sustainable tourism experiences featuring some of the nation's most iconic attractions that celebrate the nation's diverse cultural history that is interwoven throughout Australia's day-to-day life.

A special Cultural Attractions of

SNL legend joins Vivid Sydney 2024

GOLDEN GLOBE and Emmy winning actress and comedian Amy Poehler will join Vivid Sydney's illustrious line up this year for a special Vivid Ideas event on May 27th. The actress will front Vivid Sydney Presents – In Conversation with and share an exclusive first-look at Disney and Pixar's *'Inside Out 2'*. Vivid Sydney's festival director, Gill Minervini, said: "Amy Poehler is comedy royalty and the perfect person to join us as part of Vivid Ideas... we're so proud to add her to the growing list of guests set to captivate visitors throughout 23 nights of the festival." www.destinationnsw.com.au

Australia 'Behind the Scenes at Bangarra Dance Theatre' experience, like many attraction tours up and down the country, begins with a personal Acknowledgement of Country and Smoking Ceremony before guests can indulge in traditional canapes and cocktails and learn about the historic production. As part of this experience, guests will also have the rare opportunity to step into the rehearsal room before seeing the final production on stage at the Sydney Opera House.

The aforementioned historic Australian landmark has been awarded a six-star Green Star performance – one of the few UNESCO World Heritage sites to achieve the recognition thanks to its

vast sustainability initiatives.

Other experiences within the collection include the Architectural Tour, Taste of Opera and Badu Gili tours, all-of which celebrate traditional Australian culture and the stories within.

Annabel Sullivan, executive officer of Cultural Attractions of Australia, said: "We recognise that travellers are increasingly making choices about their travel experiences based on their commitment to sustainability ... making the most of the sustainable experiences available is a way of giving back to the communities involved and leaving a positive impact as a result of the tourism footprint."

www.culturalattractionsofaustralia.com

Strong sustainability at the Great Barrier Reef

AS PART of a strong sustainability pledge from Tropical North Queensland, Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel has launched a series of Reef Recovery Days for travellers to assist marine biologists and cultural guides during the Reef Star project. The project aims to help coral rebuild and regenerate in the Cairns and Great Barrier Reef region, with Reef Recovery Days starting from approx. £145 per person. www.tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au



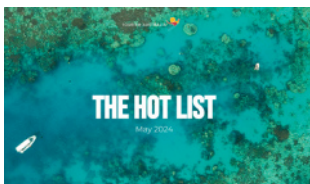


Aranui heads for the Austral Islands

ARANUI CRUISES has recently added the Austral Islands to its roster, offering travellers the chance to explore the untouched lands that few people have seen.

As part of the new 13-day cruise, travellers visit the five inhabited atolls in the Austral Islands with the addition of a port call at the Society Islands of Raiatea and a day spent in Bora Bora. Prices for the itinerary lead in at £4,549 per person including accommodation, meals and excursions.

www.aranui.com



Heating up Down Under

TOURISM AUSTRALIA has launched its monthly Hot List showcasing the latest developments and openings across the country.

The Hot List can be found on the Tourism Australia website and includes a run-down of new products, experiences, accommodations, restaurants and bars, as well as upcoming events and new openings in the months ahead.

www.tourism.australia.com

Crystalbrook Collection expands to Canberra

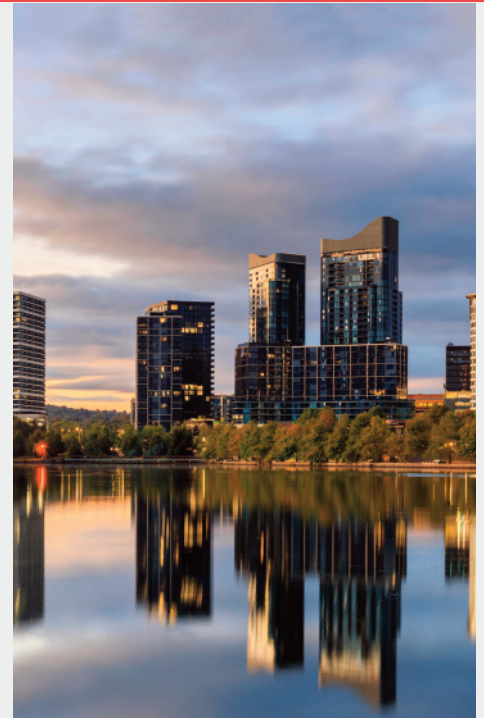
LUXURY HOTELIER Crystalbrook is expanding its portfolio of sustainably led properties to Australia's capital.

Set to open in 2027, the hotel forms a major cornerstone of the transformation of Canberra Civic Centre. Boasting 238 rooms and suites as well as multiple dining options and bars (including a rooftop bar with panoramic views across to Lake Burley Griffin and Parliament House), guaranteeing an opulent addition to the capital.

Guests who are looking to enhance their wellness journey can do so in the Eléme Day Spa which offers a wide array of treatments as well as pool, sauna and gym facilities for all-round use during their stay.

The hotel is located on Bunda Street, ideally positioned opposite the iconic Canberra Centre and will encompass the current Garema Arcade building ready to redefine the city's skyline.

Carrying on Crystalbrook's sustainable



legacy of being the first hospitality group to achieve 100% waste-free bathrooms in Australia, the Canberra property will include initiatives such as recycled coat hangers and key cards, zero waste coffee capsules and the labelling of 'Climate Calories' across all restaurants.

www.crystalbrookcollection.com

Audley adds Australian hotspot to expanded 2024 programme

AUDLEY TRAVEL has expanded its 2024 programme to include a series of new experiences in Australia, as well as in Southeast Asia and Borneo.

Audley is shining the spotlight on Victoria as part of its expanded programme, offering customers a new experience to the Metung Hot Springs overlooking the East Gippsland Lakes.

Travellers can enjoy world-class 'glamping' accommodation nestled within

the hot springs, complete with luxury safari-style tents with an ensuite bathroom, a king-sized bed and a private bathing area on a personal deck overlooking the lagoon.

The addition of the hot springs property opens up the East Gippsland region for travellers, with visitors now able to explore its lakes, 90-mile beach, previously untouched islands, wetlands, the Buchan caves, and much more that makes this lesser-known Australian hot spot into a hidden gem.

Audley is offering a two-night stay at Metung Hot Springs which can be incorporated into a tailor-made Melbourne to Sydney self-drive itinerary. The 12-day itinerary is priced from £4,975 per person based on two sharing, and includes international flights, car hire and all accommodation on a B&B basis.

www.audleytravel.com



A French Polynesia haven with a star-studded claim to fame

FRENCH POLYNESIAN island, Tetiaroa, is home to the first resort to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification, but has an even more glamorous claim to fame: The Brando is the brainchild of actor Marlon Brando.

Designed to minimise environmental impact, the property utilises local, renewable and recycled building materials, and encourages guests to leave little to no trace of their stay on the surrounding Tetiaroa atoll.

An on-site 'ecostation' has been developed by the local non-profit Tetiaroa Society, and hosts visiting biological scientists who conduct critical marine research and conservation initiatives, all the while educating and inviting guests to get involved.

In between educations in sustainability,

guests can decompress at the Varua Te Ora Polynesian Spa for locally-sourced and inspired treatments or head outside for snorkeling, kayaking, and Polynesian outrigger canoeing.

Polynesian culture is front and centre at dance, music and weaving classes.

Stays lead in at £2,790 per night.

www.staybeyondgreen.com/hotels/french-polynesia/brando



Rock art, rivers and red landscapes await

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S northernmost region, The Kimberley, has kicked off its dry season. Its natural wonders, women-only and female-led Aboriginal tours, brand-new Kimberley expedition cruises and more await this season.

www.westernaustralia.com



Image Credits: Left: Beyond Green, Right: Tourism Western Australia



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Scenic Eclipse II sails into Sydney



SCENIC ECLIPSE II sailed into Sydney last month, kicking off its inaugural Oceania voyages.

Upon the yacht's arrival in Sydney, Scenic Group chairman and founder Glen Mahoney said: "We look forward to welcoming *Scenic Eclipse II* in Newcastle, many ports along the East Coast and top end of Australia, then continuing our journey across the Oceania region for this two-year season."

The 114-suite vessel began its two-year programme down under, sailing a

series of Discovery Voyages, spanning the Northern Territory and Western coast, before sailing on to the South Pacific, South East Asia, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, remote East Antarctica and the Ross Sea.

The second leg of its homeport down under features the 'Pure New Zealand: North & South Islands' sailing from Auckland to Queensland.

The 13-day voyage, departing on December 5th, 2026, starts from £8,820 per person.

www.scenic.co.uk



Western Australia: more accessible than ever

WESTERN AUSTRALIA is set to welcome several new international and interstate flights, rendering the region more accessible than ever. Jetstar will introduce a Margaret River to Sydney service from March 2024 (three times weekly) and a Singapore to Broome service in June 2024 (twice weekly). Qantas will introduce a four-weekly Paris to Perth service in July 2024, with Emirates adding a second daily service from Dubai to Perth in December 2024.

www.westernaustralia.com

What was the last book you read?

Jeanette Ratcliffe Publisher

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'The Paper Palace' by Miranda Cowley Heller



Simon Eddolls Sales Director

simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk
'Number 11' by Jonathan Coe



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'Surfing Your Inner Sea' by Raphael Cushman



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