

travelbulletin

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4 new concepts in the best beach destinations.



Cologne crew...

RIVIERA TRAVEL invited 21 independent travel agents to Germany's Cologne to visit the new 'all suite' ship, the *MS Emily Brontë*. Agents travelled to Dusseldorf from airports across the UK and were transferred to Cologne to experience the ship. The five-star ship accommodates up to 169 passengers with 44 in-house trained crew members, giving passengers space and quality service throughout their holiday. Pictured on the trip are, from the left: Ian Warren, Go-Cruise; Jeffery Bilham, Barrhead Travel; Stephen Guy, Premier Travel; Caroline Kyle, Cruise.co.uk; Josephine Wright, Cruise.co.uk; Michelle Stammers, Holidays Please; Chloe Saxon, Riviera Travel; Heather Young, Bluewater; Shelley Davey, Riviera Travel; Paula Stockton, Hays Travel; Jana Money, Riviera Travel; Katie Thomas, Miles Morgan Travel; Rachel Wright, Cruise118; Tom Morgan and Gina Squirrel, Riviera Travel; Julie Bamford, Co-operative PTA; Laura Gent, Riviera Travel; Stephen Fuller, Cruise.co.uk; Sarah Stearn, Trailfinders; Tamir Noam, Cruise.co.uk; Rebecca Smith, Midcounties Co-op; Joseph Grimley, Riviera Travel; Paul Healy, Trailfinders; Myles Alexander, Iglu; Catherine Williams, Holidays Please; Katharine Feely, Hays Travel; Kim Kent, Spear Travels; and Phil Nuttall, The Cruise Village. For details see agents.rivieratravel.co.uk/ships/ms-emily-bronte

APH launches guide on driving rules for Brits heading to Europe this summer

WITH SUMMER now upon us, many British holidaymakers may be planning to pack up their car and head to the continent for a self-drive holiday. However, as European driving laws can sometimes vary significantly when compared to those in the UK, many drivers may feel uneasy at the thought of getting behind the wheel.

To help drivers navigate through foreign road regulations, Airport Parking and Hotels (APH) has launched a comprehensive guide for driving in 20 popular holiday destinations in Europe.

Available at aph.com/driving-abroad, the guide features an infographic highlighting European road signs that British drivers may not recognise. The research also includes a table comparing the driving rules and regulations in 20 European countries, including the regional limits for both speed and drink driving, the minimum age to drive, toll road payment methods and any additional requirements for drivers.

Speed limits in Europe vary from 20km/h in some residential areas of Belgium and Poland, to the 'suggested' speed limit of 130km/h on rural sections of

Germany's famous Autobahn. Drivers should keep in mind that bad weather conditions may result in lowered speed limits in four of the countries researched, including the poor weather speed limit of 110km/h, reduced from 130km/h, on French motorways.

The legal drink driving limit also varies, from a zero-tolerance policy for all drivers in the Czech Republic to 0.8mg/ml in Malta, the same as the UK. New drivers should keep in mind that eight of the countries researched, including Ireland and Spain, also impose lower drink driving limits for those who are under a certain age or have held a licence for less than five, three or two years.

Drivers also need to ensure their car is correctly equipped, with 19 countries legally requiring motorists to carry safety items such as warning triangles and reflective jackets in their vehicle, and ten further stating that drivers should keep dipped headlights switched on at all times, even in daylight. For drivers heading across the Channel to Paris, Grenoble and Lyon, anti-pollution Crit'Air stickers are now required for all British-registered vehicles.

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Business travellers demand stronger connectivity & flexibility across UK rail network

FROM FLEXIBLE booking and an increase in free Wi-Fi access, to adoption of rail operator apps and support for HS2, today's business travellers have stated their views on the current state of the UK rail network.

The findings are detailed in the Business Rail Travel research report published by the GTMC and conducted by Audienecenet, and highlight that whilst there is still a strong appetite for rail travel from corporates, investment is needed to ensure it continues to work as a relevant mode of transport for the modern business traveller.

Online connectivity is top of the agenda for business rail travellers, but so too is connectivity between cities and there is overwhelming support for the development of HS2.

Nearly half of those surveyed (47%) stated that HS2 should be the government's top priority rail infrastructure project, compared to just 14% who expressed support for HS3. In turn, 84% thought London to Manchester would be the route most frequently used, with Edinburgh chosen as the most popular city to extend to.

When it comes to views on the on-board facilities it seems there is still work to do to improve the experience for business travellers. Whilst just less than half (48%) feel that the on-board facilities are adequate, many were



keen to offer suggestions on how it could be improved. More table seating and free Wi-Fi lead the pack in terms of how these improvements can be made, closely followed by the introduction of more charging points. Suggestions also included the introduction of delay repay systems, electrification of the network and the introduction of a loyalty scheme for Business Class passengers.

Paul Wait, the CEO of GTMC, said: "The concerns and demands from business travellers are clear. To support and enable the business travel community to work effectively both Government and the network of UK

rail operators needs to pay due diligence to connectivity. This means investment in Wi-Fi and the intercity links in which HS2 has a crucial role to play, particularly in improving access for those major cities outside of the south east.

"Reassuringly for the rail operators there is demand for rail travel from business travellers but they cannot and must not rest on their laurels. Investment for the entire length of the railway journey experience is essential in safeguarding its future and supporting the future of business travel within the UK."

For further information visit gtmc.org



TAYLOR'S TRIUMPH... Hannah Taylor (right) from Adams Travel in Aylesbury won an exclusive VIP holiday for two staying at BH Mallorca courtesy of Monarch after entering a competition. The prize included flights, seven nights' all-inclusive accommodation, tickets to Craig David live at STAGE, a one-day VIP pass to the beach club, a back stage tour, tickets to Creamfields festival and a Monarch goodie bag. Pictured celebrating with Hannah is Monarch's national account manager, Karen Woods.

Research reveals mini moons on the rise

THE DAYS of newly-wed couples flying to an exotic location for a month-long honeymoon could be on the wane in busy Britain after a survey showed that 'mini-moons' are growing in popularity.

One in six Brits would rather take a short break after their wedding – for two to three days – than book a longer holiday, according to a survey by Red7.

The research found that one in six Brits would prefer to take a short mini-moon of two to three days, which rose to one in five people in London, and that younger people are more taken with the idea – the figure was one in four for 25-34 year-olds.

The company's managing director, Ian Lucas, said: "It's clear from those answers that mini-moons are on the rise. Perhaps it's a reflection of how busy we all are, but it also shows the increasing popularity of short breaks to exciting destinations.

"For example, the top places for people to hold a stag or hen trip these days are not Margate and Blackpool but destinations like Vegas or New York. Modern transportation means you go further for a short break and there are more options."

The survey showed that while honeymoons are getting shorter, stag and hen parties are getting longer – sometimes by up to a week.

Top destinations for a pre-nuptial celebration included Las Vegas, Amsterdam, Barcelona, New York and Benidorm.

Headwater launches walking & cycling on Ireland's Ring of Kerry

HEADWATER HAS released three new holidays where walkers and cyclists can independently discover the contrasting landscapes of the south-western corner of Ireland's County Kerry on the Iveragh Peninsula.

The walking and cycling routes all start in historic Killarney, a bustling town on the shores of Lough Leane, part of the Killarney National Park, and home to Ross Castle, Muckross House, MacGillycuddy's Reeks, Three Lakes and the tumbling 60ft-high Torc Waterfall. From here, walkers can choose either a four-night or a seven-night itinerary and both routes follow an anti-clockwise trail around the Iveragh Peninsula (both include some road transfers to shorten the walks and the four-night trip misses out three walking days).

The four-night self-guided walk departs every two days from July 15 to October 27 and costs from £559 per person, and the seven-night version departs every two days from July 15 to October 23 and costs from £759. Both holidays are graded as moderate level and include breakfast accommodation, luggage transfers, detailed maps, walking route directions and 24/7 support in the UK and overseas.

For clients who prefer to explore on two wheels, the operator's seven-night Unspoilt Ring of Kerry Cycling follows a mix of both coastal and inland off-beat trails to avoid the busy tourist hotspots. The itinerary departs every two days from July 15 to October 23 and costs from £969 including breakfast accommodation, one evening meal, bike hire, luggage transfers, detailed maps and Garmin GPS navigation, plus 24-hour support.



LIANA LAUNCH...*Liana Luxury Travel launched itself to Birmingham's movers and shakers at Ana Rocha Bar & Gallery in the Jewellery Quarter. Honoured guests included Birmingham City Football Club owner, Panos Pavlakis, plus West Midlands soccer legend Cyrille Regis – as well as top businessmen and women, socialites and influencers. Guests savoured luxury canapés and cocktails with a Spanish, Brazilian and Caribbean flavour and were entered into a grand prize draw to win a bespoke spa pool suite break on Ko Racha Yai, Thailand's premier deluxe island hideaway - stopping over via Dubai. Pictured are, from the left: Liana MD Harinder Rai; Julia Regis, juliaregis.com; ex- West Brom and England star Cyrille Regis; and Birmingham City FC owner, Panos Pavlakis.*

Icelandair enrol staff in stage school to entertain passengers

ICELANDAIR HAS launched a new free service, Icelandair Stopover Pass, which aims to defeat wasted time whilst travelling. The service allows passengers to transform their boarding pass into a Stopover Pass, offering them access to series of entertaining performances. These range from a three-act play on a flight from London to New York via Iceland, to gig tickets, trips to Icelandic football matches, backstage passes to a music festival and more.

The launch of the service in celebration of the airline's 80th anniversary is in response to a new trend report revealing the world is changing the way they fly. As such, there is a requirement for airlines to up their game to meet the demands of this new breed of flier. The shift in passenger expectation means they now demand both better customer service and more unique entertainment – which the carrier has set about to serve.

The airline has partnered with an immersive theatre group to lead its stage school and revolutionise in-flight entertainment with a one of a kind, three-act play starring the staff. It will transport

passengers from 1937 right through to the future, all on one transatlantic flight from London to New York via Iceland.

Birkir Hólm Guðnason, the airline's CEO, said: "In our 80th anniversary month we're proud to introduce our free performance series, Icelandair Stopover Pass. The research findings show there is an opportunity for us to transform wasted time into time well travelled. We've always put customer service at our heart, and now we're looking to pioneer a new service to delight and entertain our customers, starring our talented staff."

When on a stopover until March 2018, passengers will be able to transform their boarding pass to a Stopover Pass. This will give them access to a range of performances featuring Icelandic talent and gifted Icelandair staff. Some lucky passengers will be accompanied to these events by a Stopover Buddy - passionate employees who have excellent local knowledge and will provide an authentic experience for passengers.

For further information see icelandair.co.uk/stopover-pass

Summer Sun mini brochure from Travel 2

TRAVEL 2 HAS released its 2017 Summer Sun mini brochure ahead of the busy booking period. The brochure is a 'go-to guide' for agents selling last minute summer holidays and features exclusive deals from £429 per person to a host of destinations.

The operator has teamed up with Virgin Atlantic, Delta Air Lines, Etihad and Walt Disney World Florida for the new brochure which was created to support agents with last minute sales. For the first time, this year it includes package holidays to Vietnam, Indonesia and Europe, as well as a selection of multi-centre holidays to destinations including Asia and the US. For more details see travel2.com

Ritz Carlton Bahrain highlights range of family activities

WITH RECENT research indicating that children spend more time connected to devices instead of family members, The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain is highlighting its range of family-friendly experiences and activities to encourage families to make the most of their holiday.

They range from Go Kart racing on a Formula One track and dune safaris to oyster pearl diving and a wet and wild indoor waterpark.

Families can stay in a private villa and other outdoor activities range from wind-surfing, pearl diving and parasailing to kite surfing, paddle boarding and an exclusive island-hopping boat tour. For more information see ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/middle-east/bahrain



Eating London expands with new tours in the capital

ON THE back of its popular tours in the East End and Soho, Eating London has expanded its offerings in the capital with the launch of two new tours in Brick Lane and the Docklands.

The Brick Lane – Flavors of India & Beyond tour is a two-and-a-half-hour guided walk which focuses on Indian food. Through nine tastings participants will indulge in the different flavours of 'Banglatown', a unique neighborhood that offers a rare insight into the rich South Asian culture. It also includes dynamic street art, visiting an authentic Bangladeshi food shop selling exotic ingredients from South Asia and exploring the link between India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Britain through stories about the vibrant and colourful community.

Tours run daily from 14:30 and cost £46 for adults, £38 for teens and £28 for children.

The London Docks - Historic Pubs and Classic Grub tour takes guests to old pirates and artists' hangouts one historic pub at a time, including the oldest riverside one in London.

The four-hour tour covers tales of pirates, thieves and artists, told in the same places they once called home, and serves up some of London's best craft brews and finest pub grub. Guests will walk through a quieter residential area, lined with cobblestone lanes and old warehouses to see stunning riverside views of London's skyline.

Tours run from Monday to Friday from 12:30 and cost £79 (adults only).

For more information or to make a booking see eatinglondontours.co.uk

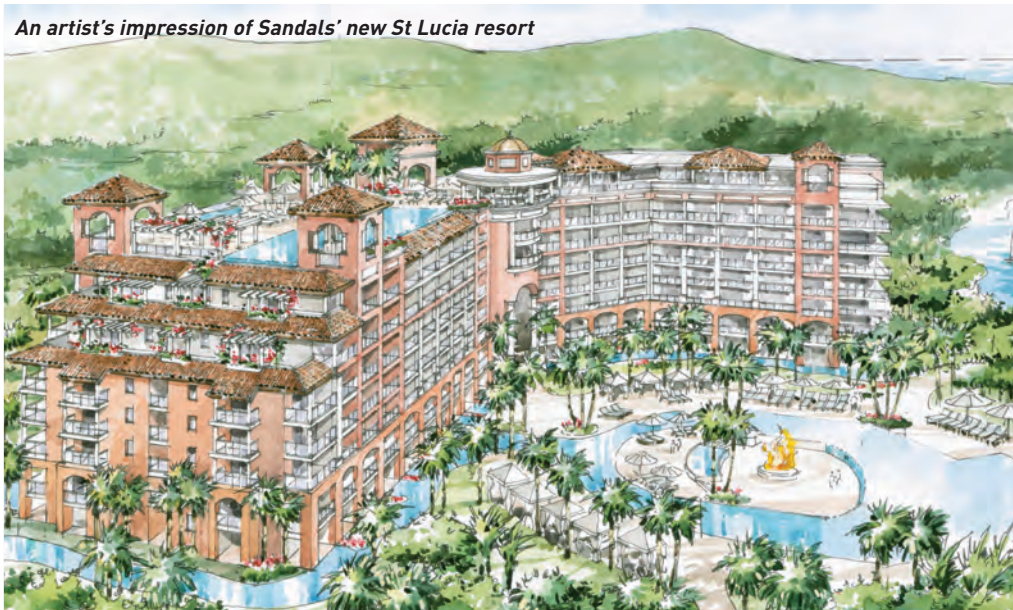


OSPREY HOLIDAYS has added Toronto in Canada to its city break programme. Prices start from £729 per person for a three-night weekend package flying directly from London. Tours such as day trips to Niagara Falls and wine tasting excursions have also been contracted as additions to any Toronto city break. For details see ospreyholidays.com/toronto-city-breaks

MOVERS

- LEEDS BRADFORD Airport has appointed David Laws as its new chief executive.
- REBECCA PETIT-Jean has been appointed by Monaco Tourist Authority as the new regional sales manager for the UK, Ireland and Scandinavia.
- DELTA AIR Lines has appointed Corneel Koster as senior vice president Europe, Middle East, Africa and India.
- CELEBRITY CRUISES has appointed Sam Otter to the role of director of marketing and PR, UK and Ireland.
- GUY WATES has joined Funway Holidays as finance director.
- TOURISM IRELAND has appointed Julie Wakley as head of Great Britain.
- AMANDA FERGUSON has joined Marketing Edinburgh as head of business tourism.
- TRAVELTEK GROUP Ltd has appointed Emma Stebbings to its new Customer Services Delivery (CSD) team as key account manager.
- COLIN CURRIE has been promoted to head of sales B2B for Gold Medal and Travel 2, while Karen Fletcher has been promoted to head of trade support for both companies.
- THE SAINT Lucia Tourist Board has appointed Patricia Charlery-Leon to lead operations in the UK.
- TRAVELPORT HAS appointed Atlyn Forde as regional head of destination marketing in the digital media solutions team, part of its leading hospitality division.
- ROYAL CARIBBEAN has appointed Michelle Nagy as regional sales manager for Scotland.
- CHRIS THORPE has joined apharooms as managing director to lead the expansion of the brand under its new owners, Truly Holdings.

An artist's impression of Sandals' new St Lucia resort



Sandals unveils designs for new all-suite Saint Lucia resort

SANDALS RESORTS has announced plans for its new resort in Saint Lucia – the all-suite Sandals LaSource St. Lucia, which will include the island's first roof top infinity edge sky pool, offering 360-degree views of the island's north coast.

Located along Pigeon Island Beach and adjacent to Sandals Grande St. Lucian, Sandals LaSource St. Lucia will be the fourth Sandals Resorts' property in Saint Lucia, expanding the operator's exclusive exchange programme to 'Stay at One, Play at Four.'

The resort, which breaks ground later this year, will introduce three new restaurant concepts to the brand, the American-inspired Tavern, Greek restaurant Éros and an authentic noodle shop. It is also the first of the brand's properties to have continuous winding river pools surrounding every room block, all with unobstructed access to the main pool.

The resort will feature the destination's first roof top infinity edge sky pool and Jacuzzi, plus two additional pools, including a 9,000sq.ft, curved glass-fronted infinity edge pool featuring a swim-up pool bar, leading to a land-side bar and a sunken fire pit lounge area. Other additions include a new entertainment facility featuring a four lane bowling alley, games room and bar.

A total of 330 suites will be offered including Skypool, Rondoal and Swim-Up suites, as well as the recently introduced Over-the-Water Bungalows. In addition, the resort will feature ten restaurants including three new concepts, but guests will have the choice of 37 dining options through the company's 'Stay at One, Play at Four' exchange programme.

Other amenities include a Red Lane Spa, wedding lounge, beauty salon and departure lounge with lockers and showers so guests can take advantage of the resort up until the moment they depart.

To book or for more information call 020-7590 0210 or visit sellingsandals.co.uk

New wellness programme from AmaWaterways

AMAWATERWAYS HAS launched a Wellness Programme on AmaLyra Paris and Normandy sailings.

The programme – led by Selina, a dedicated sports scientist, features four to six classes daily, including morning stretches, jogging, yoga, cardio, core strengthening and circuit training. Activities are complemented by discussion groups with a focus on healthy eating and relaxation techniques.

The company's executive vice president and co-owner, Kristin Karst, said: "We have been embracing active travel for more than a decade. We believe guests are looking to take steps to ensure that their holiday time is an extension of their wellness-oriented lifestyle, and we are so happy to continue introducing new ways for travellers to remain healthy while on board our ships."

The company also offers an expanded Active Discovery programme with a range of hiking and cycling excursions in many ports of call.

SeaWorld Orlando reveals new Kraken Unleashed virtual reality coaster ride

SEAWORLD ORLANDO'S Kraken Unleashed has opened in time for the summer holidays. It's the first-of-its-kind virtual reality roller coaster in the US and features fully integrated headsets, taking riders on an exploratory journey under the sea.

As riders sail along the powerful coaster track, complete with deep dives, steep turns and seven complete inversions, a fully integrated story unfolds featuring gigantic sea monsters and an encounter with the legendary Kraken sea monster.

Brian Morrow, the theme park's vice president of theme park experience and design, said: "After providing thousands of imaginative and thrilling experiences on SeaWorld's first roller coaster, Kraken, we wanted to give our guests something new. By creating a custom digital overlay and using technology to tell the story, we developed an entirely new virtual reality coaster.

"Our guests can now travel through the depths of the ocean with the mighty Kraken herself. The result is a

seamless and completely unique expedition on a well-loved roller coaster."

All three of Kraken's 32 passenger trains have been equipped with the virtual reality experience. Guests choose their journey when they board the coaster; braving the virtual reality experience or riding the traditional way. The custom designed headsets are fully integrated both mechanically and electronically into each coaster seat. Each seat has also been individually programmed to provide an individual guest experience.

The best value ticket for visiting the park is the Discovery Cove Ultimate Package and the three-park SeaWorld, Aquatica and Busch Gardens Ticket – now including free parking. Alternatively, the three-park SeaWorld, Aquatica and Busch Gardens Ticket offers 14 days' unlimited entry to three parks for the price of two – SeaWorld Orlando, Aquatica Orlando and Busch Gardens Tampa – when guests book and visit before December 31, 2018.

For more information visit seaworldagents.co.uk

£15 Heathrow Express ticket for British Airways' Day Tripper passengers

HEATHROW EXPRESS has launched an exclusive £15 ticket in conjunction with the new British Airways' 'Day Tripper' fare this month.

Saving more than 60% on the turn up and go price, the exclusive day return fares will be available on Saturdays and Sundays for passengers flying into Heathrow from Milan, Paris and Berlin on the British Airways £99 fare in Euro Traveller (Economy) and the £199 fare in Club Europe (Business Class).

In addition, children aged 15 and under travel for free on Heathrow Express at all times.

Fraser Brown, the company's director, said: "This is a first for Heathrow Express and British Airways. We are delighted to launch this exclusive ticket offer and are committed to supporting British Airways in their endeavours to attract more visitors to London for business or pleasure.

"The UK capital has been named the top destination for shoppers this summer, and we know day trippers want to connect to the centre of London as quickly as possible. These fares not only offer the best price but also the fastest route into the heart of the capital."

New 'The Departure Beach' launch in Barbados from Virgin Holidays

VIRGIN HOLIDAYS has unveiled plans for The Departure Beach, a Virgin branded area on Brownes Beach in Barbados that is designed to allow visitors to make the most of the last remaining hours of their holiday until they depart.

The facility will include a private air-conditioned lounge, premium bathroom and showering facilities, a beach-friendly bar and restaurant and a Virgin Atlantic check-in.

With holidaymakers typically required to check out by midday - and having to 'kill time' before they depart, the new facility allows guests to make the most of their break.

A transfer will pick holidaymakers up from their hotel after breakfast, take their hold luggage (straight to the airport) and allow them to check-in on the beach and pick up their boarding pass. Complimentary beach towels are available, along with a plastic bag (to put anything wet in) and premium shower facilities.

Staff will notify travellers when it's time to leave to catch their transfer at the correct time for seamless processing through the airport.

Nicki Goldsmith, the company's head of Caribbean and worldwide product, said: "We believe that a holiday should be a pleasure from beginning to end and have been working hard to ensure we've removed as many pain-points as possible for our customers. We can't wait to launch this very exciting development next year and hope our customers are as excited about it as we are."

Construction for The Departure Beach will commence shortly, with the facility due to open in May 2018. Entry is complimentary for any customers staying at Savannah Beach in Barbados or those on a cruise that terminates in Barbados. Other customers can add The Departure Beach to their booking for an opening promotional price of £20 per adult and £15 per child.

For details call 0344-557 4015 or see virginholidays.co.uk



An artist's impression of The Departure Beach

NEWS BITES

- JACK WILLS, the British fashion and lifestyle brand, has opened its new store at Gatwick Airport. Situated in Gatwick's North Terminal, the 1,060sq ft branch offers travel-friendly products, including swimwear, shorts, footwear and accessories including bags, wallets, belts, jewellery, hats and sunglasses.
- THE THAILAND Travel Mart Plus has ended a successful two-year run in the Northern capital of Chiang Mai, and will move to the resort city of Pattaya in 2018.
- A NEW trail has been developed to mark the history of the Arts and Crafts Movement in Leicestershire and is presented in a new guide, produced by Leicestershire Promotions in partnership with Charnwood Borough Council and the National Trust. The guide provides visitors with highlights of a number of sites and places to visit in Leicestershire, related to the Arts and Crafts Movement. It is available for free from visitor centres, tourist information centres, visitor attractions and museums across the city and county. Copies can also be downloaded from goleicestershire.com/artsandcrafts
- LEEDS BRADFORD Airport is working closely with a range of support organisations across Yorkshire to ensure the airport is as accessible as possible for people with disabilities. They include Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Leeds Autism Services, William Merritt Centre, Little Hiccups, Aspire and AVSED. A range of information tools are available at leedsbradfordairport.co.uk/at-the-airport/special-assistance
- TRAVEL COUNSELLORS has developed and launched a bespoke in-house learning and professional development platform for its global network of Travel Counsellors and 350 support team. Named 'Coach', the international system focuses on both the mindset and skill set needed to build a business based on retention and referrals. It covers content across a range of fields including personal development, technology, products, sales and marketing.
- LONDON BIGGIN Hill Airport reports a significant increase in movements at the airport following the introduction of extended opening hours last month. Since the extended hours (06:30 to 23:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 to 22:00 at weekends and public holiday), the airport has seen a 21% increase in business aviation movements year-on-year.

BOOKING INCENTIVES

- AGENTS BOOKING their clients at hotels in Turkey, Morocco and Egypt with YouTravel.com in July have the chance to win a range of weekly prizes including a GoPro Hero, a Fortnum & Mason picnic set and an Amazon Kindle. One agent (with the most bookings) will also win flights and a stay in a Labranda Hotel & Resort in either Turkey, Morocco or Egypt along with transfers for two. To claim, agents should email their name, booking reference and the hotel name to prizes@youtravel.com before midday every Friday in July.
- TO CELEBRATE the launch of the first direct flight between the UK and Rwanda, RwandAir has launched a new trade competition running until July 14. Agents making any bookings on the carrier's Gatwick to Kigali service by July 14 for outbound travel by the same date can be entered into the prize draw. Agents who make a booking during this period will have the chance to win a trip for two to Rwanda in Business Class. The second prize consists of two return Economy flights from Gatwick to Nairobi via Kigali and the third prize is a £200 voucher redeemable against a RwandAir flight. Agents need to log their sales with the flight directors office in London by emailing tradesales.lon@rwandair.com with the ticket numbers of their bookings along with the company name, IATA number and their contact details.



GOING FOR GOLD...The Gold Medal team hosted an 'Access All Areas' training day for more than 43 agents from across the country. Held in Preston, the day included talks and sessions by the operator's staff, partners and suppliers followed by drinks.

AGENT TRAINING

- THE AMERICAN Queen Steamboat Company, operator of three luxury paddlewheel riverboats cruising the Mississippi and rivers of the Pacific Northwest, is running an agent incentive prize draw, with the chance to win £50 of Love2Shop vouchers each month until August. In addition to the usual commission, every agent booking is entered into the draw, with winners drawn at the end of June, July and August. The more bookings made, the more chance of winning. For details email sales@lightbluetravel.co.uk, call 01223-568904 or see lightbluetravel.co.uk and americanqueensteamboatcompany.com



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Air Canada Rouge launches non-stop Gatwick-Vancouver service

AIR CANADA Rouge has launched its new seasonal non-stop service from Gatwick to Vancouver, which will operate three times weekly until October 7.

Stephen Gerrard, the carrier's general manager sales UK and Ireland, said: "We successfully launched our Gatwick-Toronto service last summer and we are pleased to introduce our second seasonal service from Gatwick."

"Our customers can now fly non-stop with Air Canada Rouge to Western Canada with onward connections to our extensive global network."

All flights have been timed to optimise connectivity through the airline's Vancouver hub and the route is operated by 282-seat wide-body Boeing 767-300ER aircraft.

Customers are offered wireless in-flight entertainment streamed to their own personal electronic devices, modern and stylish cabin interiors, complimentary advanced seat assignment and the ability to earn and redeem Aeroplan miles. Customers are also eligible for the carrier's complimentary checked and carry-on baggage allowance.

In addition to the Gatwick-Vancouver service, the airline is launching new services to four other European destinations this summer, Montreal to Reykjavik and Marseille and Toronto to Reykjavik and Berlin.

For more information or to book visit aircanada.com or call 0871-220 1111.

Agent rates from Go Airport Parking

GO AIRPORT Parking, which sells 24-hour 'meet and greet' parking across five major UK airports (Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted, Edinburgh and Birmingham), is highlighting preferential rates to agents to pass on to their clients.

The secure parking facilities offered by the company are accredited by The Association of Chief Police Officers who have awarded the Park-Mark Accreditation for advanced security measures in place throughout. All parking is also approved by Trading Standards' 'Buy with Confidence' scheme.

As an example of prices, a week in July at Heathrow is available for less than £80.

Agents can find out more by emailing sales@goairportparking.co.uk or visit goairportparking.co.uk

Anniversary offer from Mall of America

THE MALL of America in the US' Bloomington, Minnesota is supporting the UK travel industry by providing a special offer for bookings to Mall of America this year to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Each booking will receive four Nickelodeon Mystery ride tickets per package (value \$36), a Samsonite suitcase, a Mall of America voucher book (value \$9.95) and a Levis Jeans Voucher (value \$75).

To collect the special items, clients should present their gift voucher at the Samsonite store within the Mall on arrival.

Agents wanting to receive the voucher to share with their clients who have booked a visit to Mall of America can email georgina@cellet.co.uk

Itinerary suggestions, logos, banners, brochures and giveaways can all be provided to travel agents (and operators) looking to promote the mall, and a training programme for staff can also be provided.



LADIES THAT LUNCH...Super Break ran an incentive with the Advantage Yorkshire Focus Group whereby every two weeks the stores would be given a Super Break product to try and sell at a target price. The agency that exceeded the target price by the most was awarded a point, and the store at the end of the incentive with the most points was Wallace Arnold Travel Store in Halifax, who won afternoon tea. Pictured enjoying the sweet treats are the agency's Fleur Driver (top left), Sue Brook (top right) and Nicki Tanner.

First hop-on, hop-off sightseeing bus service opens in Orlando

CITY SIGHTSEEING Worldwide has launched City Sightseeing Orlando, the first hop-on, hop-off bus service in Orlando.

The service will connect the main attractions of the city, such as Disney Springs, Universal Orlando Resort and SeaWorld, with one to 14 day combo tickets available.

The 22-stop tour allows travellers to visit the most popular places in the city in an affordable manner while listening to live commentary.

City Sightseeing Orlando will also provide a daily 'Theme Park Express' to provide visitors with affordable and convenient transport to Disney and Universal Theme Parks.

Visitors can choose between the Universal Express, Disney Express or Combo express if they plan on visiting both parks during their Orlando stay.

Additionally, a shopping route is available for those who want to spend the day going from store to store. There will be three stops on the route: the Premium Outlets, the Florida Mall and Gatorland.

Adult tickets start from £22 for a day and £78 for a 14-day pass, while child tickets are from £16 or £62 for a 14-day pass.

For more information see citysightseeing-orlando.com

Win an Amazon Echo every week with

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Complete this Su Doku puzzle and then go to the competition section on travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions and submit the highlighted numbers.

A... B... C... D...

Closing date for entries is **Friday, July 7th 2017**.

The winner for 16th June is Sarah Woods from Affinion Travel in Northants.

Number: 026

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

Where is
#Leiza from
the Jet2Holidays'
Trade team this
week?



Once known as 'The End of the World' this walled old town offered to you by Jet2holidays lies to the far western edge of the Algarve.

For the solution to the Crossword and
Where Am I?
Please see page 22

Crossword

Number: 026

1	2	3	4	5	6
7					
8	9				
10	11				12
13	14	15	16		
17				18	
19			20		

Across

- What is the new Jet2holidays brand launched for \$18, Jet2 ___? (6)
- Continent (4)
- Sign of the Zodiac (3)
- Actress Julie, recently made a Dame (7)
- Jakarta is the capital (9)
- City in the Scottish Highlands (9)
- Composer of The Barber of Seville (7)
- Hawaiian garland (3)
- Kentish house for hops (4)
- Diane, star of the movie, Hampstead (6)

Down

- Capital of Lithuania (7)
- Tennis commentator, John (5)
- Egyptian dam (5)
- Medieval Tuscany city (5)
- Amsterdam airport code (3)
- European mountain range (4)
- Tourist attraction on the Thames, London ___ (3)
- Baku is on the shores of this inland Sea (7)
- Popular Corfu resort (5)
- Colorado ski resort (4)
- Flows by Koblenz (5)
- Popular Red Sea resort (5)
- South American country, in short (3)

Industry Insight by...



Flying High! Andy Stark, MD of The Global Travel Group, suggests how agents can use their specialist knowledge to succeed...

IT'S FAIR to say that air travel has been in the spotlight this year. We have the airline that doesn't like leggings and no one will forget the truly terrible footage of the passenger being dragged from a flight back in March.

The subsequent PR disaster that followed the Chicago incident continues to lurch from bad to worse and I don't mind admitting that I joined the rest of the internet in feeling a little outraged over the leggings incident. Do airlines really believe that the salubrious surroundings of seat 24b require a cocktail dress?

But, even I was left a little lost for words after seeing the story about a particularly amorous couple on a flight from Manchester to Ibiza a week or so ago. Proving that when it comes to air travel we might not have, 'ahem', seen it all...

For most of us, it's hard to reminisce about a time when air travel was synonymous with glamour, indulgence and luxury. If you Google images of air travel in the 1950's and 60's it looks like a glorious boozy, smoky and extravagant affair. It wasn't seen as a means to an end, but rather a part of the holiday experience for those people.

Nowadays I would wager that there is no environment more restrictive than a plane cabin on a long-haul flight. Once that plane hits 40,000ft., niceties are forgotten. Most of us are more concerned with how much the flight has cost, exactly how long we can stand being wedged in economy and why some people insist on taking off their shoes in public.

It got me thinking about the importance of really understanding the experience you are selling. We know that the best agents are increasingly the ones who

specialise in a specific area. They get to know the product from start to finish and can in return offer trusted, personalised and valuable insight to their customers.

Before you start to raise those eyebrows, I'm not suggesting that everyone should try and convince their boss that they need a return first class ticket to the Caribbean for a month to really experience the product and 'secure those deals'. Realistically most business owners are too busy and don't have the luxury to take as many FAM trips as they would like. But, I don't think that means we can afford to skimp on being as knowledgeable on the product, destination, experience and the flights that we are selling. Being informed and up to date is key for any good agent.

I stand by the fact that honesty really is the best policy when it comes to selling something as important as a holiday. Should you have an enquiry for a family with four kids under the age of five, considering a destination with a 15+ hour flight, you may wish to steer them in a different direction. A good agent would know the best airline to help limit mid-flight meltdowns or be able to inspire the whole family to consider another destination closer to home with the same weather, standard of accommodation and experiences they are looking for.

At The Global Travel Group we are continually encouraging our agents to take part in as much training as they possibly can. This includes dedicated themed training days covering cruise, touring and luxury and exclusive FAM trip invites with our trade partners.

Knowledge really does equate to 'sales' when it comes to holidays.

Invites you to attend a

CITY BREAKS SHOWCASE

an agents networking evening

Monday 10th July

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Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to our newest themed agent networking evening. Join us for an informative and fun event which allows you to learn more about the accommodation and flight options available to some of the most sought after cities in the world.

Discover the tailor-made packages, cultural tours, landmarks and activities on offer to you and your clients whilst enjoying delicious food and drinks, exciting entertainment and a fabulous free prize draw with a number of amazing prizes up for grabs.

Registration: 18.00 hours

Networking & Presentations: 18.30 hours

Buffet, Entertainment & Prizes: 20.00 hours

Carriages: 21.30 hours

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the names and job titles of up to

5 staff members by **Tuesday 4th July 2017** to:
oliver.barton@travelbulletin.co.uk or telephone:

020 7834 6661

for more information.

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#TBSHOWCASES

Programme Sponsor



WE RECENTLY hosted our Luxury Showcase at the Hilton Cambridge for the first time to give local agents a taste of some of the luxurious offerings available in some sparkling destinations and through some fabulous hotels and operators. Key travel representatives were on hand to talk with agents throughout the night, as too was the chance to indulge in some fine wine and food and win some incredible prizes!



JACKPOT...Henika Patel (left) of Caesars Entertainment presents prize winner Lynne Stubbings from Light Blue Travel with a three-night stay at Caesars Palace in the Julius Room.



LOVING LA...Hayley French (far right) from the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board presents to, going anti-clockwise, Lynsey Bishop and Michelle Sabin from Distinguished Traveller with Debby Hellewell, Lauren Peck, Charlotte Lawrence, and Helen Hinchliffe all from Co-operative Travel.



CHATTING CYPLON...Discussing all the latest news from Cyphon Holidays are, from the left: Lynne Stubbings, Tracy Marwood and Anna Jerzanova from Light Blue Travel; with a representative from Constantinou Bros and Cyphon's Stephanie Robins; plus Paul Welling and Claire Welling from It's So Travel.



ROCKIN TO TENERIFE...Joanne Peters from Hard Rock Tenerife presents lucky winner Alastair Campbell, Not Just Travel with five nights at the Hard Rock Tenerife in a deluxe silver room for two.



TECH TREAT...Simon Marshall and Daisy Friend (right) from Jet2Holidays present Clare Riola from Premier Travel with an Echo Dot raffle prize.



PREMIER AGENTS...Enjoying the drinks reception are, from the left: Clare Riola, Felicity Turpie, Carrie Tayler, Kelly Brasher and Beth Collins from Premier Travel.



LUXURY RAK...Helen Hinchliffe from Co-Operative Travel wins Ras Al Khaimah's prize of a three-night stay at the Jumeirah from the tourism board's representative, Dimitris Psycharis.

Want to get in on the #TBSHOWCASES action?
Join in the fun at our City Breaks Showcase event in Leeds on July 10 and Cruise Showcase in Birmingham on July 17. Reserve your place now by emailing oliver.barton@travelbulletin.co.uk

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spain & her islands



FOR THE summer season, Sol Beach House Ibiza has launched a unique concept offering guests the opportunity to spend one night of their stay under the stars in a classic VW Campervan. The Campervan Suite package includes breakfast on request with a variety of local fresh produce as well as romantic picnic hampers to be enjoyed on the beach, filled with wine, fruit, salads and local delicacies. It also includes 25 euros to spend at the hotel's SHACK bar and restaurant overlooking the sea and gardens. The Campervan comes equipped with Wi-Fi, iPod docks and plug sockets and the package is available to guests who have already booked a stay in a room or suite at the property for a supplementary cost of 100 euros per night. Visit melia.com

Balearic Islands see 9.3% April increase in UK visitors

A TOTAL of 196,892 UK travellers visited the Balearic Islands this April, an increase of 9.3% compared to the same month in 2016.

There was an 8.3% year-on-year increase of UK visitors to Mallorca in April 2017, an increase of 9.1% to Menorca and a rise of 16.8% to Ibiza and Formentera.

The increase is in line the Balearic Islands Tourism Board's new tourism strategy, which aims to attract more visitors to the island year-round. The 'Better in Winter' strategy places emphasis on the advantages of travelling to the Balearic Islands - Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera - at a quieter, more authentic time of year and promotes the region as more than just a sea and sun destination.

Pere Munoz Perugorria, managing director of the tourist board, said: "The UK market is one of our strongest and it's great

to see such promising tourism arrivals for April 2017, which we are hoping will continue for the remainder of the year. We are looking forward to engaging with the UK travel trade with the 'Better in Winter' campaign and we are very proud to showcase our beautiful islands during the autumn, winter and spring months. It is a wonderful time to visit, with a more relaxed pace of life and fewer crowds, although there are still plenty of activities, festivals and events to enjoy at this time of year."

In total there were 3,699,408 UK arrivals to the Balearic Islands in 2016, an increase of 8.5% on 2015's figures. There was also a 15.6% increase in shoulder season arrivals (March/April and September/October) from the UK last year, with 1,146,268 visitors compared to 991,373 in 2015.

For more information see illesbalears.travel

Simply Luxury by T2 suggests new IBEROSTAR in Mallorca

OPENING LAST month, the IBEROSTAR Grand Hotel Portals Nous Hotel in Mallorca is an adult-only hotel recommended by Simply Luxury by Travel 2 as ideal for a romantic getaway.

Lauren Ross, the operator's product and commercial manager for Europe, said: "The hotel has been stylishly designed by the Dutch designer Marcel Wanders and features state-of-the-art technology. The staff have been trained by the British Butlers Guild to ensure they offer the highest of service to their guests."

"Whilst at the IBEROSTAR Grand Hotel Portals Nous Hotel we would recommend guests dine al fresco on the terrace of the Astir Restaurant. There is the option to enjoy freshly prepared fish and seafood or, for meat lovers, this is the only restaurant in the Balearic islands that offers meat from the exclusive El Capricho. The hotel also offers a choice of more than 110 wines from the wine cellar and the Champagne bar boasts one of the finest selections on the island."

Agents booking through the operator can earn rewards on bookings made via the Simply Luxury department. Visit travel2.com or call 0800-022 4182 for more details.

Malaga's Gran Hotel Miramar reopens

WITH VIEWS over the Mediterranean and surrounded by lush gardens, Malaga's five-star Gran Hotel Miramar was once a place to see and be seen for Spanish royalty and bourgeoisie. Now, 90 years after it was inaugurated by King Alfonso XIII, the hotel has reopened following a 65 million euro overhaul.

The renovation has restored the property to its former glory, preserving or returning many of its original features, including intricate Moorish carved wood arches, a first floor gallery, Andalusian tiling, hand-painted frescoes and ornate stucco ceilings.

Located in the central hub of La Caleta, within easy reach of the Picasso and Carmen Thyssen museums and boasting a seafront location across the bay of Malaga, the hotel is a 15-minute drive from Malaga Airport - reached via direct flights from most UK airports - lending itself well to those seeking a short cultural break.

For more details visit granhotelmiramarmalaga.com



Luxury Nobu Hotel Ibiza Bay opens for summer season

DESIGNED TO be a sophisticated but fun loving beach retreat in Talamanca Bay, Nobu Hotel Ibiza Bay is now open.

Inspired by the colours of the island, the five-star property's 152 rooms and suites rooms are decorated with soft furnishings, natural wood and artisan ceramics, using a colour palette of whites, golds and blues. It offers four restaurants and a pool bar and meals are served at guests' leisure.

Guests can savour Nobu Matsuhisa's signature Japanese fusion dishes, as well as special creations inspired by Ibiza itself at Nobu, the resort's signature restaurant. Meanwhile, the laidback Chambaio offers freshly prepared seafood and a beach vibe.

The Peyote Group is bringing the spirit of modern Mexico City to Ibiza with its contemporary and refined take on renowned Mexican food and, for those looking for healthy fare, the wholesome Celicioso offers gluten-free cuisine, juices and superfood salads.

Rates start at 490 euros per night, based on double occupancy. For more information visit nobuhotelibizabay.com

FANCY PARTYING hard with Attraction World in Ibiza? Agents need to make a 'Party Hard' club booking to either Agia Napa, Ibiza, Kavos, Magaluf, Malia or Sunny Beach to be in with a chance of joining the operator on a two-day fam trip. It takes place from September 18-20 and all expenses are paid. The only condition is that agents must be able to make their own way to the airport.

Fred. Olsen offers authentic escapes

AS PART of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' new 'Authentic Escapes' brochure, guests can explore what the country has to offer on one of four Spanish adventures in 2017.

The trips range from an eight-night 'Scenic Spain' cruise on Balmoral in September, to a 16-night 'Glitz & Glamour of the French Riviera' cruise on Boudicca, also in September, which includes three Spanish ports of call.

Spain has long been a firm favourite with UK holidaymakers escaping for the summer; in 2016, the country saw a 20% increase in the number of British tourists visiting compared to the same period in 2015, according to ABTA's Travel Trends Report 2017.

Justin Stanton, sales and marketing director for the cruise line, said: "There are many reasons why Spain remains so popular with British holidaymakers – sun, sea, sand and tapas all combine with spectacular scenery, architectural wonders and fascinating history for the perfect summer getaway.

"Exploring many captivating destinations in one holiday is very much part of the appeal of a cruise holiday; however, our 'Authentic Escapes' has more to add to our guests' experience. Each holiday featured in the brochure has been carefully created to offer more than just the regular tourist 'crowd-pullers', so as to give guests the genuine essence of the countries that they visit."

For further information visit fredolsencruises.com

'Children of the 80s' summer line up at Hard Rock Hotel Ibiza

RECENTLY KICKED off earlier this month by the kings of disco, the Village People, the weekly 'Children of the 80s' event brings a summer line-up of nostalgic beats to the outdoor Hard Rock Hotel Ibiza stage.

The event, which launched in 2015, brings some of the biggest names from the 80s to the Mediterranean offering fun-filled evenings of dance-floor fillers and sing-along classics every Friday night from 19:00 until midnight.

Guests at the five-star property and venue located on Playa d'en Bossa will have full access to all live events at no extra cost, otherwise tickets to the 'Children of the 80s' events are priced from 20 euros. A full line up and more details can be found at childrenofthe80s.com

Sunvil introduces new Andalucía itineraries & properties to Spain portfolio

LAUNCHED LAST month, Sunvil's new fly/drive and short breaks programme includes a collection of 27 character properties and four itineraries in Andalucía, shortly moving also into Extremadura and Castilla y León.

Accommodation in the new programme to Andalucía varies from the Parador de Jaén, which offers panoramic views of the city of Jaén and traditional interiors, to the small coastal hotel of La Brena Hotel located in the unspoilt village of Los Caños de Meca on the Costa de la Luz. City lovers can enjoy the sophistication of Vincci La Rabida, set in a tranquil street five minutes from Seville's Gothic cathedral, while a completely rural experience can be enjoyed at the Finca Buenvino, a rambling farmhouse surrounded by wonderful landscapes. Cookery courses are available, while walking routes can be explored and jamon tastings can also be arranged.

The new itineraries include 'Pueblos Blancos', which explores the white villages and towns of Andalucía; 'Granada and Jaen', discovering a region of contrasts, from hiking in the mountains and exploring caves to sampling the Arab-influenced cuisine; 'Fortified Spain – The Frontera Towns' with the scenic views in this historic region ideal for exploring on foot; and 'Tarifa and Los Canos de Meca and Cadiz', an area of long sandy beaches, natural parks and historic towns.

Holidays to Andalucía start at £723 per person, based on two sharing including seven nights' breakfast accommodation, London flights and car hire. Call 020-8758 4722 or visit sunvil.co.uk

IBEROSTAR Malaga Playa reopens after six million euro renovation

IBEROSTAR HOTELS & Resorts is continuing to renew its hotels in order to offer products that are in line with the latest market trends and demands. The IBEROSTAR Málaga Playa, a premium four-star establishment situated on the beachfront in Torrox, is the latest hotel to benefit from this strategy with six million euros invested in a complete overhaul and new image.

As part of this investment, the company has renovated and modernised the complex's 319 rooms and 94 apartments.

The buffet area in the restaurant has been extended and the entrance now includes a refrigerated wine cellar. The buffets have also been renewed in

accordance with the latest culinary trends, incorporating show cooking, dishes based on the Mediterranean diet and prepared using fresh, top quality ingredients. In addition, the Snack Bar terrace now has a glass enclosure so that it can also be used in the winter season and has also increased its seating capacity. Finally, the interior and exterior of the hotel have been painted throughout and the fitted carpets have been replaced with vinyl flooring.

The property now boasts a full range of services and facilities for family holidays, including 18,000sq.m of landscaped grounds, a large swimming pool ideal for enjoying the Costa del Sol's



warm climate, children's Splash Pool and slides, spa, entertainment and sports activities.



LA LAGUNA Gran Hotel is the latest hotel opening on Tenerife. The four-star property offers a privileged location in the town centre of La Laguna – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – and is housed within an 18th century building, with 123 rooms including seven suites, a VIP area, gym, events facilities, tapas restaurant and a pool and solarium located on the top floor commanding views over the city. Visit lalagunagranhotel.com

Super Break launches new escorted tours out of Madrid and Malaga

AGENTS CAN now book a new selection of escorted short breaks out of Madrid and Malaga with Super Break.

Ranging from three to eight nights, four tours are available from Madrid and five from Malaga, each offering the chance for clients to see more of the country whilst on a short break. Packages include flights, hotel and all transport in between destinations.

As an example of packages, clients can opt for 'Madrid, Cordoba and Seville', with three nights from £465 per person in September from Stansted. Guests will spend the first night in Madrid before travelling on to Cordoba for the day. It is then on to Seville for the night before exploring the city and a panoramic tour on day three. Then it's on to the high speed train back to Madrid for the final night.

Alternatively, the four-night 'Malaga, Andalucía, Toledo and Madrid' is priced from £501 in November from Gatwick. After time in Malaga to explore the coastal city on the first night, it's onto Granada to visit the Alhambra complex and stay overnight. The next day the tour moves on to the World Heritage city of Toledo before continuing to Madrid for an overnight stay. On day four clients can explore Madrid and all it has to offer before heading back to Malaga by high-speed train for the final night. For more information see superbreak.com/agents or call 01904-436000.

SITUATED ON the Son Bunyola Estate on the Northwest coast of Mallorca, Son Balagueret is the newly-opened villa from Virgin Limited Edition. The new villa follows the opening of Sa Terra Rotja and Sa Punta de S'Aguila villas in the summer of last year. It is spread over three floors and includes a secluded central courtyard, a private heated swimming pool and panoramic views over the estate and the dramatic coastline. The villa sleeps up to six people in three bedrooms, one of which is located in a unique and historic turret dating back to the 13th century. Rates start from 13,095 euros for a seven-night stay. E-mail enquiries@virginlimitededition.com

Classic increases capacity in the Canary Islands

CLASSIC COLLECTION Holidays is recording 'very strong sales' to the Canary Islands with an average year-on-year increase of more than 7% across Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura. La Palma is reported to be the strongest individual performer amongst the islands with summer increases in sales of more than 30%, while Tenerife has recorded a more modest 4% rise.

Gary Boyer, head of purchasing for the operator, said: "We're delighted with the performance of these perennial island favourites. We continue to work closely with our hotel partners in the islands to deliver the best possible value and price to our customers. We are also very thankful to the travel trade for their support and we will continue to go the extra mile to secure a booking on behalf of their clients. At the moment, the summer is shaping up to be busy and many hoteliers

have 'stop sales' in place. However we won't take that at face value and our reservations staff will always ring the hotel at the enquiry stage to see whether or not it is possible to secure a room for agents' clients."

In response to demand, the company has increased capacity throughout the region with the addition of five new properties, on top of 20 further properties introduced last year across Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura, Lanzarote and the lesser known La Palma. These five newest additions debut, alongside no fewer than 80 other properties, in the operator's new Canary Islands' brochure which now includes an events, golf and spa guide in the opening pages. Prices to stay at the Hacienda San Jorge on La Palma start from £761 per person for seven nights. For further information visit classic-collection.co.uk or call 0800-008 7288.

Six Senses to open first resort and spa in Ibiza

TUCKED AWAY on the northern tip of Ibiza, Cala Xarraca Bay is the setting for the newest addition to the portfolio of Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas; Six Senses Ibiza.

Neil Jacobs, chief executive officer of the company, said: "We're very excited to open our first resort, spa and residential project in Ibiza, a project that celebrates wellness, sustainability and community spirit. This third European property complements our sister resort in Portugal's Douro Valley, residential project in Courchevel, France and seven spas in France, Greece, Spain, Switzerland and the UK."

The brand has signed a management agreement with Beach Box Ibiza S.L. to open the resort in 2020. The property will offer 134 guest accommodation across a 25-acre site including fully appointed Townhouse Suites, Deluxe Pool Suites with private decks, Beach Cave Suites and two six-bedroom mansions. Visit sixsenses.com

Valencia highlights range of activity & adventure options

ALTHOUGH THE city of Valencia is a popular holiday choice, the destination is also highlighting the varied activities available to travellers throughout the region for different kinds of holidays.

In the south of the region, travellers will find the mountains surrounding Alicante, which lends itself as the perfect spot for rock climbing, mountaineering and rappelling. The north-west provides similar terrain where the majority of the 5,000km of walking trails are ready to be discovered. Via Ferrata routes and canyoning are also available and can be enjoyed year-round, with the colder months still reaching averages of 17°C each day.

Valencia, Alicante, Benidorm and Castellon can all be found in the region, offering tourists everything from a classic fly-and-flop holiday to vibrant city centre explorations. Meanwhile, the beaches and coves of the Valencia region offer natural beauty and clear Mediterranean waters, whereupon visitors can try sailing and sports activities.

Food tourism is another highlight of the region, devoted to traditional flavours and culinary innovation. As a exponent of Mediterranean cuisine, Valencia's kitchens are characterised by a plethora of healthy recipes, based on fresh fish, seafood, fruit and vegetables, including artichokes from Benicarló, medlars from Callosa and oranges from Valencia.



Aitutaki Beach, Cook Islands

Cook Islands welcomes 17.1% boost in visitor arrivals

THE COOK Islands is currently enjoying record visitor numbers and unprecedented growth. In 2016, the country welcomed a record 146,473 visitors – an increase of 17.1% from 2015, with a 4% increase in visitors from the UK and Ireland. In addition, tourism notched up the 13th consecutive month of record high visitor arrivals since December 2015.

The growth has been attributed to a number of factors, mainly increased air capacity, competitive fares and a new brand

capturing its essence under the tagline 'Love a little paradise', brought forward by a new global website. The site shares unique features of the destination and lists detailed restaurant, tour and accommodation information and offers. More than 50 individual videos can also be viewed, designed to highlight the destination's people, culture and experiences in natural locations. Visit cookislands.travel for more destination information.



RECENTLY OPENED, the adults-only Koheha Kai Resort Maui is a 26-room boutique property located in the heart of Kihei. The resort is steps from the beach, offers ocean views, a rooftop lounge, outdoor pool, complimentary breakfast and a staffed 24-hour check-in reception. The name Koheha Kai translates to serene shore and abundantly relaxing sea in Hawaiian. The name was chosen to tell the story of the resort's location near the ocean and outdoor serenity spaces where the elements of Hawaii can be enjoyed.

UK family chosen as stars for Tahiti campaign

TAHITI TOURISME recently revealed UK family, the Gobbets as the stars of its global destination campaign and digital video series, Two Stories/One Mana, promoting The Islands of Tahiti to audiences worldwide.

The family from Maidenhead were selected from a global casting call that attracted more than 400 auditions from people around the world on social media. The travellers flew to The Islands of Tahiti this month, courtesy of Air Tahiti Nui, for a fully hosted experience and the chance to experience Tahitian culture and adventure and also the chance to 'get away from it all' in secluded luxury.

Activities enjoyed will all highlight the Tahitians' belief in 'Mana', the spiritual life force that connects all living things. Mana is at the heart of Tahiti Tourisme's global brand, and will be promoted heavily in its current video series Two Stories/One Mana, starring real couples.

Paul Sloan, CEO of the tourism board, said: "We've been casting real-life couples and families because we want people to relate to the authentic experiences of real travellers, and be able to picture themselves finding their own Mana in The Islands of Tahiti."

The family stars' travels this summer will be featured in a new video series set for release in 2018.

To learn more go to tahiti-tourisme.co.uk



Faleolo International Airport, Samoa

Samoa's airport to receive three phase makeover by 2018

SAMOA'S FALEOLO International Airport is currently undergoing a makeover.

Located 25 miles west of capital city Apia, the airport was originally built by the US navy after the war broke out in the South Pacific in 1942. With an emphasis on crowd processing efficiency, technological upgrades and increased capacity, Faleolo's refurbishment is in line with the country's mission to meet the growing demands of increasing passenger traffic and improve infrastructure.

The airport refurbishment is being progressively rolled out; phase one will see the upgrade and expansion of the departures building, while phases two and three, due to be completed by early 2018, will see the addition of a new arrivals terminal and public areas.

New aerobridges will also feature at the completion of the project and as the new arrivals hall is built, a temporary terminal, now in operation, will be used to cater for all inbound flights into Faleolo.

Sonja Hunter of the Samoa Tourism Authority welcomed the development as part of efforts towards the establishment of Samoa as a major hub for travel and trade in the South Pacific. She said: "The new airport is a fabulous representation of our country's growth. Samoa is fast becoming a feature on many traveller's bucket lists and an expansion to cope with increasing visitor arrivals will also promote an improved airport experience. It could not have come at a better time and we are ready for greater accessibility and for new carriers to come and consider Samoa as a new destination."

Paul Gauguin Cruises launches 2018 South Pacific brochure

PAUL GAUGUIN Cruises has launched its new 2018 Voyages brochure featuring Tahiti, French Polynesia and South Pacific itineraries.

The brochure features sailings by cruise ship The Gauguin, which offers luxurious accommodation, gourmet dining, Polynesian hospitality and all-inclusive value. Cruise itineraries, The Gauguin experience, adventures by land and sea, private retreats, dining venues, special guests, deck plans and 2018 sailing schedule are also highlighted.

In 2018, it will be the first cruise line to visit the port city of Vairao in Tahiti Iti, which is the smaller of two landmasses that comprise the island of Tahiti and which offers a wild coastline, ancient petroglyphs, marae (temples), Polynesian culture and surfing. Tahiti Iti is scheduled on the seven-night 'Society Islands & Tahiti Iti' voyages and a special sailing of the ten-night 'Society Islands & Tuamotus' itinerary.

The ship will also be sailing its most sought-after itineraries in 2018 including the seven-night 'Tahiti & the Society Islands', ten-night 'Society Islands & Tuamotus', 11-night 'Cook Islands & Society Islands' and 14-night 'Marquesas, Tuamotus & Society Islands'.

Designed specifically to sail the lagoons of these islands, The Gauguin provides an up-close experience of the South Seas. On all sailings, guests will also receive



complimentary access to the line's two exclusive retreats. Off the coast of Taha'a lies the islet of Motu Mahana, where guests can enjoy a day of watersports, Polynesian activities, a barbecue feast and cocktails from full and floating bars. In Bora Bora, guests can relax on a private, white-sand beach and enjoy refreshments, a game of volleyball and snorkelling and paddle boarding.

The line is including round-trip airfares from Los Angeles on all 2018 voyages. Cruise-only prices start from £3,307 per person based on the seven-night 'Tahiti & the Society Islands' voyages departing on December 8 and 15, 2018.

Falling in Love in Fiji

WITH ITS sandy beaches, tropical sunsets and azure oceans, Fiji is highlighting its appeal to those looking for a romantic holiday.

Jane West from Tourism Fiji said: "Fiji is the perfect backdrop for a romantic getaway, whether you're looking to exchange or renew your vows or simply get some much needed quality alone time. From being serenaded on arrival by a traditional Fijian band and conch shell blowers, award winning spa treatments and candlelit dinners on the beach, Fijians are masters at adding a sprinkling of magic to a vacation."

For those looking for a little luxury, Tokoriki Island Resort is an adults-only resort situated in the Mamanuca group of Fijian islands and consists of 12 beachfront bures, 14 beachfront pool bures and ten sunset pool villas. The property offers packages for weddings and honeymoons, and soon-to-be-newlyweds can choose a relaxed barefoot beach wedding, or a traditional ceremony at the onsite chapel.

For romance on a budget, the Viwa Island Resort is a small boutique resort, located in the Yasawa Island Group. It offers 11 bures surrounded by a coral reef, a Bula Bar, fine dining and also offers diving and game fishing excursions.

Nestled into Na Toba o Lakalaka, a private bay on the island of Malolo, is the four-star retreat of Tropica Island Resort. Guests can choose from a beachfront suite, bure or resort room and, for those on their honeymoon and staying for a minimum of four nights, they will receive a complimentary spa treatment per person, a bottle of sparkling wine and his and hers Tropica sulu (sarong).

Visit fiji.travel for details.



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A NEW three-and-a-half-star property is to open on the island of Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, in late 2017. The Moana Sands Lagoon Resort will be located on Muri Beach and will offer 24 Deluxe Lagoon Studios, each decorated with a modern Polynesian flare. The resort is also set to have its own onsite restaurant and bar and will feature a large swimming pool and lounging deck. Visit pacificresort.com

puzzlesolutions

Crossword:

Across: 1. VILLAS, 4. ASIA, 8. LEO, 9. WALTERS, 10. INDONESIA, 13. INVERNESS, 17. ROSSINI, 18. LEI, 19. OAST, 20. KEATON.

Down: 1. VILNIUS, 2. LLOYD, 3. ASWAN, 5. SIENA, 6. AMS, 7. ALPS, 11. EYE, 12. CASPIAN, 13. IPSOS, 14. VAIL, 15. RHINE, 16. EILAT, 17. RIO.

Highlighted Word: Ponta Da Piedade, Lagos, The Algarve

We asked our staff the following question this week:

What's your weakness with food? What do you crave?



Jeanette Ratcliffe

Publisher

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Savouries, pastries, potatoes, bread, crisps and the list goes on...



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Pic n' mix - all day long



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ANY sweet treat



Paul Scudamore

Contributing Editor

Jam doughnuts...and a Full English at lunchtime.



Simon Eddolls

Sales Director

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My weakness is mayonnaise and I crave crab...it's just the best!



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Roast Beef dinner



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Crisps



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Pizza.



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Cheese and bread...hands down.



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Biltong - all day, every day



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Smoked sausage



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It has to be chocolate.



Nelly Mendes

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Bring me a Coffee & Cream Chocolate cheesecake please

Celebrating
21 Years



Travel Bulletin Star Awards 2017 finalists revealed...



**Tickets for the Travel Bulletin Star Awards Gala Dinner on
4th September at London's 5* Langham Hotel are selling fast!
Email jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk to
confirm your place now.**

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TENERIFE

BOOK BY
30 JUNE

5★ The Ritz-Carlton,
Abama B&B

REDUCED RATES

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Departs Gatwick 17 Jul

SAVE
£452

per couple per week



MOROCCO

5★ Fairmont Royal
Palm Marrakech B&B

REDUCED RATES

Book by 21 Aug. For stays until 21 Aug.

7 nights from **£1,129_{pp}**

Departs Gatwick 10 Aug

SAVE
£1,217

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TENERIFE

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30 JUNE

5★ Iberostar Grand
Hotel El Mirador B&B

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7 nights from **£1,569_{pp}**

Departs Gatwick 7 Aug

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£601

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AUSTRIA

5★ Schloss Fuschl B&B

EARLY BOOKING OFFER

Book at least 60 days prior to departure.
For stays 28 Aug-31 Oct

7 nights from **£1,579_{pp}**

Departs Gatwick 26 Sep

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£397

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BOOK BY
30 JUNE

5★ D-Resort
Grand Azur HB

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