

Travelbulletin

Giving agents the edge

Winter Sun

Keep those winter blues away!

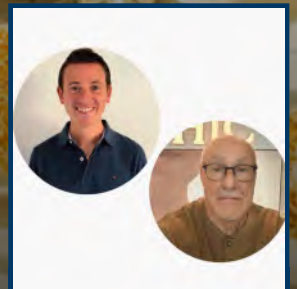
MORE IN...

USA

Stateside staples that keep travellers coming back. (Pg. 11)

Solo Travellers

Going it alone has never been so fun. (Pg. 21)



PATA UK & Ireland experts share advice on how you can book the region this winter (Pg. 19)



*Book your seats and attend the
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THIS
WEEK

04

**NEWS**

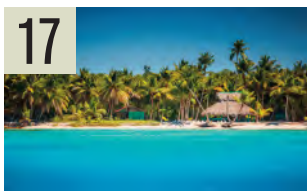
The hottest headlines coming straight to you.

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**USA**

All the latest travel news happening stateside.

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**WINTER SUN**

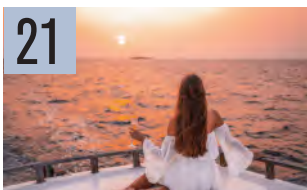
As the temperatures change, help your clients chase the sun.

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**BULLETIN BRIEFING**

PATA UK & Ireland experts share their advice on how to sell the region this winter.

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**SOLO TRAVELLERS**

Everything you need to know about holiday solo-style.

ADVENTURE FURTHER

Adventure specialist Wild Frontiers has revealed the destinations set to define travel in 2027.

ADVENTURE TRAVEL is heading firmly off the beaten track, with rising demand for remote, culturally immersive experiences expected to shape the market in 2027.

According to Wild Frontiers, worldwide searches for 'remote holiday' have risen by 500%, while searches for 'cultural travel experiences' are up 450%. The figures reflect a growing appetite among holidaymakers for destinations offering meaningful experiences, local culture and a sense of discovery beyond traditional resort destinations.

Algeria is emerging as one of the strongest frontier destinations, with bookings up 51%. Its combination of Roman ruins, Saharan landscapes and relatively low visitor numbers is giving the country increasing appeal among travellers seeking authenticity.

Japan is also gaining momentum, with bookings up 95%. As over-tourism strains continues to pressure Tokyo and Kyoto, attention is shifting towards the country's lesser-known regions and 'second cities',

including remote islands, coastal trails and historic rural communities.

In Bhutan, known as one of the most exclusive travel destinations on the planet, bookings have risen 48%. To encourage more visitors, the country has halved its Sustainable Development Fee to \$100 per person per night, but that is set to increase once again on September 1st, 2027, adding urgency for travellers considering a visit.

Georgia and the Caucasus are benefiting from growing interest in local gastronomy and ancient traditions, with Georgia bookings up 40%. Its 8,000-year-old winemaking heritage is adding further international visibility. Meanwhile, Mongolia is set for a significant year as it marks 800 years since the death of Genghis Khan, while Jaipur celebrates its 300th anniversary in 2027.

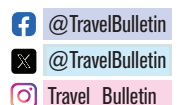
These trends point towards a broader shift in demand, with travellers increasingly seeking destinations that offer cultural depth and authenticity over the 'traditional' beach escape.

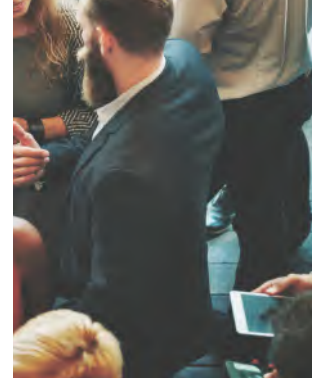
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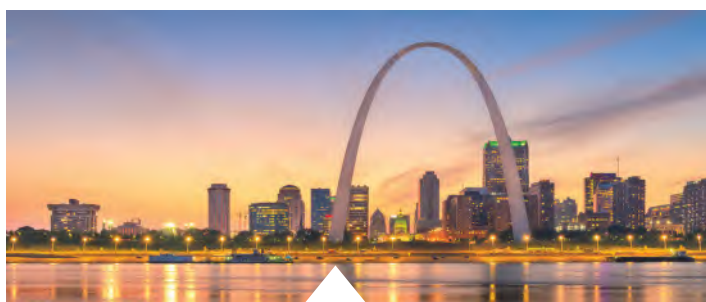
Explore more worldwide adventures in 2027

EXPLORE WORLDWIDE has expanded its global adventure offering for 2027 by unveiling six new tours across Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

These new trips are designed to immerse travellers in each destination through authentic local experiences, combining cultural discovery, iconic landmarks, and carefully-selected accommodation.

Highlights from the latest additions include travelling China's Golden Triangle, exploring the jungles of Sumatra, and discovering the ancient wonders of Mexico.

Prices vary according to each itinerary, spanning from £995 for the eight-day 'Highlights of Sumatra' tour, to the eight-day 'Essential Japan: Tokyo, Mount Fuji and Kyoto' trip leading in at £2,845.



BA to add daily flights to St. Louis

BRITISH AIRWAYS has announced it will be expanding its service between London Heathrow and St. Louis for the 2027 summer season, with the introduction of a daily route. The expanded schedule of the nonstop service represents an 80% increase in total seats

compared to this summer, with more than 35,400 seats added between Missouri and London.

The airline will operate an increased schedule of five flights per week from March 28th, 2027, before further increasing to a daily service from April 19th, 2027.

Newmarket becomes social sensation

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has announced the success of its new Trade Engagement Manager role, designed to drive engagement and awareness among the travel agent audience.

Sas Rowbotham was appointed to the role, and has generated huge growth in reach and engagement across social channels. Newmarket Holidays' TikTok following has increased by around 191% in the past 60 days, almost tripling in size. On Facebook, page views are up 133% and engagement is up 97% over the last month. The company has also recently launched a new Instagram page, which it is posting regularly on.

The business invested in the role to build a two-way engagement with trade partners, turning the company's agent-facing social channels into a proper support resource rather than just a sales tool.

Crikey! Qantas teams up with Robert Irwin to showcase the best of Oz

THE AIRLINE has announced a collaboration with wildlife conservationist Robert Irwin to encourage visitors to Australia with Qantas Explorer fares.

The programme gives customers who book an international Qantas flight to Australia access to discounted Economy and Business fares across more than 45 domestic destinations, booked in the same itinerary as their international flight.

Qantas will also support the 2026 Steve Irwin Gala in Brisbane, Australia, which raises funds for global conservation through Wildlife Warriors.

The announcement came with a campaign image of an entire cabin full of the man himself, as well as a video of Robert and a cabin crew explaining that “nah yeah” means yes, and “yeah nah”, means no.



AAT King expands MAKE TRAVEL MATTER Experiences

THE MAKE TRAVEL MATTER experiences will be featured in 95% of the operator's tours, offering guests in-depth insights into the local communities and cultures of destinations.

Some new experiences for 2027/2028 include the Menindee Lakes and Kinchega National Park, where guests join a local Indigenous guide to learn about Barkindji culture, and the Ōamaru Penguin Conservation Centre, where guests will be introduced to native penguins on a guided colony walk.



Visit Malta 'delighted' to welcome Glasgow route

THE NEW direct Glasgow-Malta route launched by easyJet in August now operates twice weekly.

Flights run every Tuesday and Friday between Glasgow Airport and Malta, strengthening connectivity between Scotland and the Mediterranean island, and providing Scottish travellers with convenient, year-round access to the country. Return prices lead in at £70 and can be booked now for some autumn sun.



Searches for Madrid over Styles' dates increased by a staggering 249%, and by a supersonic 346% increase for Amsterdam for Oasis.

Direct flights between the UK and Zimbabwe make a return

AIR ZIMBABWE has resumed services between the UK and Harare after more than 15 years. The new flights will operate three times weekly, flying direct between Gatwick and the Zimbabwean capital.

Launched in late July this year, the service provides the only direct air link between the UK and Zimbabwe, reducing overall travel time by an average of six hours compared with indirect routing. Overnight flights also operate in both directions to add convenience for business and leisure passengers.

Customers can purchase tickets through the Travelport GDS, with availability through Amadeus expected from early October.

Fans rush to easyJet holidays after concert news

EASYJET HOLIDAYS has seen a 346% increase in searches for European getaways as fans book around Harry Styles and Oasis.

Fans all rushed in one direction to secure holidays around the highly anticipated concerts after both artists announced tours for summer 2027 to popular cities.

SCENIC GROUP has announced a partnership with Assam Bengal Navigation to expand its Indian portfolio with two new luxury ships. The long-term agreement comes following exceptional demand for newly launched India and Sri Lanka journeys. The ships are set to join Scenic's India portfolio by 2029/30 and mark an expansion onto the Brahmaputra River, showcasing distinct aspects of India.



New Icelandic and Egyptian adventures join RGS Collection

TRAVELSPHERE HAS added new departures to its 'Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Collection' for 2027. The additional tours comprise a new itinerary in Iceland, and the existing 'Treasures of Egypt' tour, which has been enhanced and added to the programme. The 'RGS Collection' now consists of 15 itineraries, featuring expert-led insights and an exclusive RGS tour booklet offering destination content.



SILVERSEA HAS refined its suite collection to introduce four distinct categories of comfort across its fleet. Guests can now choose from 17 suite types across four categories – Oceanview, Veranda, Residence, and Villa. Each offers distinct comforts and inclusions, with enhanced benefits for Residence and Villa guests from January 1st, 2027.

CLIA revamps annual conference

CLIA IS set to debut a fresh look and format for the 2027 annual conference. While key elements of the conference will remain, several enhancements have been made to the wider programme, including business sessions being split across two days, extending the day one fair, offering delegates the choice of one of four new themed workshops, and a tour of either *Celebrity Apex* or *Sky Princess*.

Andy Harmer, CLIA UK and Ireland

managing director, said, "The changes we're introducing for 2027 have been shaped by delegate feedback, with more time for our business sessions and trade fair, new practical workshops, and greater choice over how agents spend their time with us."

The conference is set to return to Southampton from May 13th to May 15th, 2027, and is the largest annual travel agent event of its kind in Europe.

MOVERS & SHAKERS



VIRGIN VOYAGES has promoted SJ Walker to Market Director UK, recognising her growing influence across the brand's

commercial performance. In her new role, SJ will play a central role in the brand's commercial growth in the UK.



LISA FITZELL has been appointed as the new Managing Director of Audley Travel for its UK business, as Mark Hanson steps aside after 11 years in the role. Lisa joined Audley in October 2025 as Chief Product and Operations Officer.

RAKTDA and Emirates partner up

RAS AL Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) has partnered with Emirates to drive visitor arrivals to the destination. Under the agreement, RAKTDA and Emirates will work closely to explore implementing promotional activities across select markets, including joint marketing and advertising, and trade and media fam programmes. H.E. Phillipa Harrison, CEO of RAKTDA, said, "As we expand our destination offering and cement Ras Al Khaimah's positioning globally, working with Emirates will help connect the destination with audiences across key international markets [...] we aim to build long-term value for our tourism partners and offer travellers more reasons to visit the UAE and explore Ras Al Khaimah."



Corendon adds summer routes

CORENDON AIRLINES has announced its summer 2027 schedule, featuring new routes to Istanbul and Bulgaria. Travellers will be able to fly to Bulgaria's Black Sea coast for the first time, while up to eight weekly flights are planned to Varna and Burgas.

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **LUXURY TOUR** operator If Only has officially launched its 2026 mini-peaks cruise campaign, aiming to drive significant industry growth by empowering travel agents with show-stopping offers. This promotional campaign features curated Cruise and Stay itineraries across Europe, Southern Africa and beyond. Travel agents looking to capitalise on this initiative have until November 30th, 2026, to secure a qualifying booking and enter the draw to win a £500 luxury spa break.
- **JOURNEY BEYOND** has announced the return of its record-breaking 'Become a Beyonder' global trade incentive. 14 winning advisors will embark on a bespoke, all-inclusive nine-day journey in March 2027, featuring an overnight stay on Rottneest Island, a three-night Outback Spirit tour through the indulgent Margaret River region, and a legendary two-night crossing of the Nullarbor aboard the Indian Pacific from Perth to Adelaide. Agents can earn their place through five distinct entry categories, ranging from top revenue growth to creative campaign activations. Agents must secure eligible 2027 bookings across participating brands before October 31st 2026, to qualify.
- **TRAVEL AGENTS** have the chance to win £20,000 in cash rewards and a Caribbean fly-cruise holiday for six in a new incentive from Celebrity Cruises. Agents can earn points by logging eligible bookings and completing a dedicated training module. One agent will be crowned Quid Quest Champion 2026, winning £20,000 in Celebrity Rewards, along with a Caribbean Celebrity Cruises holiday and Virgin Atlantic return economy flights for themselves and five guests. The competition is now open, with agents able to log qualifying bookings until October 20th, 2026.

AGENT BULLETIN



THE CROATIAN Tourist Board in the UK and the Split-Dalmatia County Tourist Board organised a trip to Croatia for a handful of Travel Counsellors, as well as representatives from Silver Travel and *Travel Bulletin*. During the multi-day tour, participants visited Split, Trogir, Klis, Sinj, Vrgorac, Red and Blue Lakes, and Hvar.

Travel bulletin

COMPETITION

Win a five-star escape to Cyprus at the Imperial Island Resort in Paphos with Louis Hotels and Imperial Island!

Find out more at
www.travelbulletin.co.uk/competitions

AGENT TRAINING



- **UPSKILL IN** selling Australia with the Aussie Specialist Program, designed to help you attract more clients and sell higher value holidays. The Program has enabled agents to sell 25% higher value bookings to Australia, with 62% of leisure travellers returning to the destination within five years, making it easier for a double sale. The Program is easy to complete, with one 90-minute introduction session. Once qualified, the programme offers several ways to continue your learning, from self-paced learning resources to instructor-led face-to-face sessions and short product training videos.
- **JOIN THE** Rocky Mountaineer team to learn more about the inspiring rail journeys through the picturesque scenery of the Rocky Mountains and American Southwest. Learn more about how you can become an Expert and gain access to exclusive discounted rates.
- **VIVA CRUISES** launched a new video-led training platform earlier this year, which can be found on the line's agent portal. The programme will comprise five modules covering an introduction to the operator, the ship fleet, the onboard experiences and shore excursions, and two destination sessions. Each module includes a quiz to help grow agents' knowledge of the river cruise line, with more modules to be added in due course. Agents who complete the course will become a VIVA Cruises Specialist, and will be automatically entered into a prize draw.
- **NEW SMYRNA Beach** offers holidaymakers a lush tropical landscape, 17 miles of white sand beaches, and a friendly welcome to all. Agents can access online courses to learn more about the destination.

Swap walking boots for sandals with new walking itineraries

INVOLVED HOLIDAYS has launched eight itineraries as part of its new touring collection for 2027.

The new tours balance free time, included excursions, and expert guidance, joining Involved's established walking holidays and its recently launched River Cruise Collection.

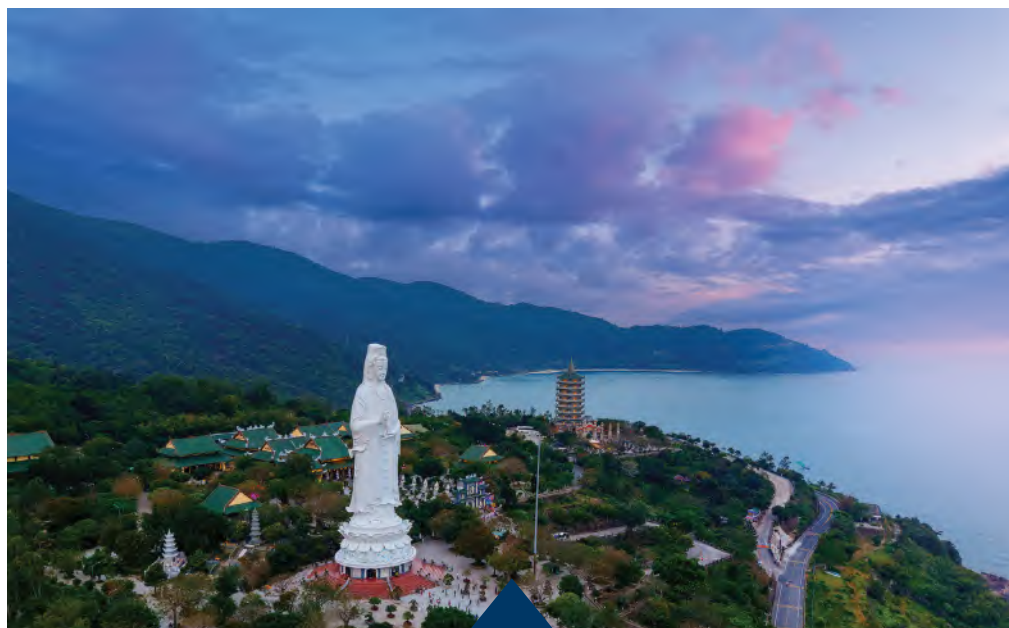


Departing in 2027, the touring collection gives travel agents more choice when matching clients with their ideal European holiday.

Itineraries cover several sought-after destinations with a more traditional touring experience, exploring the culture and scenery of a location without the need for a dedicated walking programme.

Tours are available to book now, covering regions like 'The Islands & Gardens of Lake Maggiore', 'Anadalucia's Eastern Coast, Granada & Almeria', 'Bordighera: The Italian Riviera & Monte Carlo', and more.

New tours offer a seven-night, half board stay and all packages include multiple excursions, in-resort transfers, and luggage as standard. Prices lead in at £1,229 per person.



RAILBOOKERS IS expanding its Southeast Asia portfolio by launching five new locally guided holidays across Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand to provide travel agents with a highly sought-after rail product. The expansion features four newly-developed Vietnam journeys connected by train, visiting destinations like Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Ha Long Bay.

Ambassador Cruise Line launches Trade Portal

AMBASSADOR CRUISE Line has officially launched its new Trade Portal, making it easier for travel agent partners to search, book, and manage sailings.

To build the system, Ambassador reviewed the existing booking journey from an agent's perspective, and made adjustments tailored to their specific needs and requirements.

The final product is a one-stop shop that brings cruise search, booking management,

live campaigns, incentives, training, downloadable marketing assets, ship visit requests, and business support together in one place.

The system has been fully in use since September 30th, with trade partners having access to their own secured accounts to provide more personalised access to the Portal, rather than relying on shared agency logins.

Virgin Voyages' UK ship tour boosts agent confidence

VIRGIN VOYAGES completed its biggest UK and Ireland trade activation to date, welcoming more than 1,000 travel agents onto *Valiant Lady*. The activation – 'Valiant Lady UK Summer Tour 2026' – marked the highest number of ports and ship visits Virgin Voyages has included in a single UK trade initiative ever.

According to feedback, 94% of attendees rated the overall experience a 4 out of 5, which climbed to 96% at Belfast and Glasgow. Overall confidence in selling Virgin Voyages rose from 57% to 91% among agents after the visits, where they took part in ship tours, hands-on product experiences, entertainment showcases, and hosting dining.



'Etihad Escapes' takes the journey beyond the flight

ETIHAD HAS unveiled 'Etihad Escapes', a new travel platform that gives guests an easier way to plan and book their journey in one place. Set to launch in October, it will let guests with an Etihad flight booking add accommodation directly, rather than across multiple platforms.

G Adventures puts local stories at the heart of new launch

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Expeditions and G Adventures have introduced 30 new itineraries which shift the focus to having the most meaningful take-aways from travel.

The launch includes the introduction of six updated trips to the 'National Geographic Family Journeys



with G Adventures' collection, which are led by two dedicated Expedition Leaders: one to keep children engaged, and the other to manage logistics.

Itineraries also feature the new 'Junior Explorers Night', where children get their own evening to connect with other kids, take part in guided activities, and enjoy collaborative crafting.

New additions include an eight-day adventure through northern Thailand, seeing the highlights of the Loire Valley and Bordeaux in an eight-day French journey, the nine-day trip 'Peru Family Journey: the Amazon and Machu Picchu', and a 12-day family adventure through Southeast Asia to visit landmarks like Ha Long Bay and Angkor Wat.

With small groups of up to 22, trips are designed specifically to help curious families discover the world together.



BOOKINGS ARE officially open for Azamara's 2029 World Cruise, inviting guests to embark on a marquee 195-night journey aboard *Azamara Quest* from San Diego to Copenhagen. As part of the offering, the cruise line is introducing three new ways to experience one epic voyage, with two additional journeys of 179 and 139 nights.

ANTOR celebrates the best

LAST MONTH, the Association of National Tourist Offices and Representatives (ANTOR) welcomed leading travel media and destination representatives to the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington to celebrate those making the biggest impact for its members.

The event was opened by José Manuel de Juan in his new role as Director of the Spanish Tourist Office UK, and Chair of ANTOR. He was joined by Isabel Alonso, the

Spanish Tourist Office UK's new Deputy Director. Destination hosts included Czechia, France, Gibraltar, Korea, Montserrat, Samoa, Spain, St Helena, Sweden, Tunisia and Türkiye.

The evening held added significance as ANTOR celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, marking three-quarters of a century of bringing together national tourist offices in the UK.

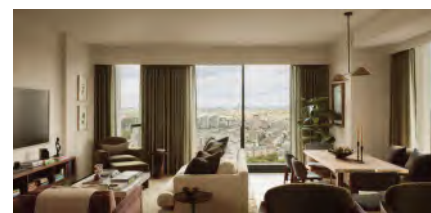
Uniworld to host annual expedition in Vienna

THIS NOVEMBER, the boutique cruise line will host its fourth Ultra Luxury Cruise and Expedition Showcase in Vienna, with more than 100 agents in attendance.

Trade partners will have the opportunity to spend two nights onboard the new *S.S. Emilie* in the three-day fam trip and conference event.

While the guest list remains predominantly invite-only, Uniworld is offering two lucky agents the chance to win a cabin for two, with flights included.

Agents must register every booking made before October 16th, 2026. The two top-performing agents will win their place.



Park Hyatt launches first UK residences

PARK HYATT has entered the UK residential market for the first time, with 103 fully completed residences now launching above London's first Park Hyatt hotel in Nine Elms. The private residences rise above the London skyline in one of the city's most dynamic areas.

CALLING ALL SPORTS FANS

US sports tourism is flying high with the UK market, according to new research conducted by Expedia Group.



MAJOR SPORTING events across the States are emerging as key drivers of travel demand and visitor spending, according to new research from Expedia Group and PredictHQ.

The research examined a selection of major basketball, baseball, tennis, golf and hockey events during summer 2026, forecasting more than four million

attendees and over \$537 million in visitor spending. New York emerged as the leading destination, with four events attracting more than 3.1 million attendees. The US Open alone was projected to generate approximately \$252 million.

The research also highlights the growing 'halo effect' of sports tourism, with travel demand increasing in surrounding counties as visitors stay and explore beyond the host cities. Solano County in California recorded a 180% year-on-year rise in demand, while Contra Costa County saw an increase of around 90%. The rises can be attributed

to the World Cup matches that took place in Santa Monica earlier this year. Over in Texas, Montgomery County saw 95% growth, most likely due to the major baseball finals series. International demand was similarly strong, led by Canada (+20%), Brazil (+475%), Mexico (+65%), the UK (+55%) and Japan (+35%). In 2025, 56% of Expedia Group hotel bookings near major events were made more than 30 days before check-in, with travellers booking an average of 62 days in advance. The data suggests agents should take advantage of the opportunities that extend far beyond host destinations.

California dreaming with ITC

ITC IS offering an adventure into the star-studded tapestry of the Golden State in the 18-night 'California Stars & Scenery' itinerary.

Guests will let their tastebuds lead the way through San Diego's vibrant Baja flavours before heading into an oasis of calm in Palm Springs. Over in LA, guests will experience the glitz and glam of the Hollywood Hills and Santa Monica's iconic beaches. Visits to Santa Barbara, Big Sur, Monterey, Yosemite, Napa Valley, and San Francisco will round-out the bucket-list adventure.

Prices lead in from £6,355 per person.

Newmarket launches 2029 programme

THE OPERATOR has launched its 2029 programme, including a range of destinations across North America, Asia, India, and South Africa. The programme features a range of popular long-haul tours and established favourites, including the 14-day 'America's Golden West & Las Vegas' and nine-day 'Elvis Presley's Memphis, New Orleans and Nashville' tours.





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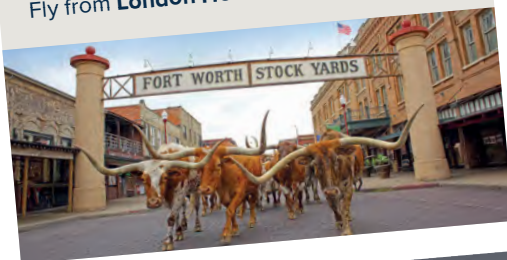


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Experience a New England Autumn in Maine

AS THE leaves turn shades of red, orange, brown, and gold, it's Maine's time to shine. Visitors can enjoy outdoor activities in the crisp weather, and take in the stunning scenery on National and State Park trails or along one of the state's many scenic byways, such as the 40-mile Acadia All-American Road.

From the last week of September to the first fortnight in October, the Pine Tree State's autumnal season sees a stunning display of colours, which visitors can track using the official state foliage tracker. Hikers looking to enjoy this can head to Acadia National Park with miles of trail paths to choose from, with endless coastal views.

Travellers can also visit Camden Hills for epic mountain views, as well as Lily Bay on Moosehead Lake or Bradbury Mountain State Park for family-friendly hiking.

Autumn also marks the perfect time of year to take advantage of the state's fresh apple harvest, and celebrate Halloween in the birthplace of Stephen King. Fans can learn all about how the 'King of Horror's' home state inspired him, through guided tours of where he lived and worked.

Harvest and Halloween activities begin across the state, with apple picking, corn mazes and pumpkin patches, all to enjoy until the end of October.



Universal Orlando marks 35 years of fear

UNIVERSAL ORLANDO Resort has opened the gates to 'Halloween Horror Nights 2026' to celebrate 35 years of fear.

The event features 10 haunted houses, chilling scare zones and street experiences, food and drink, exclusive merch and immersive shopping experiences, and other haunting surprises.

In honour of its 35th anniversary, this year's lineup is one of the most expansive yet, with prices starting at £1,422.57 per person for seven nights.



Visit Alaska with new HX itineraries

HX EXPEDITIONS has launched its 2028/29 season with 26 new itineraries, including two eight-day 'Inside Passage' expeditions between Vancouver and Sitka, replacing 10 and 13-day itineraries.

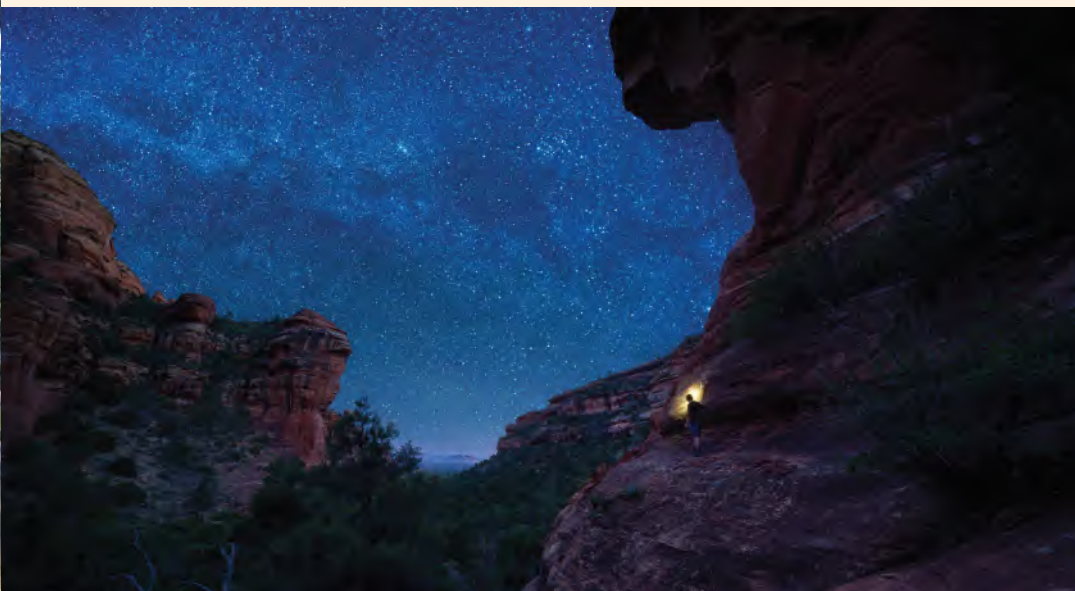
There is also a new 17-day Aleutian Islands voyage between Vancouver and Whittier.

The itineraries build on HX's community-led approach to exploration in Alaska.

Dark skies and Michelin dining: discover more in Arizona

ARIZONA OFFERS ideal conditions for visitors to experience breathtaking dark skies, with 25 designated International Dark Sky places and communities in the state. A new free digital guide, 'Starstruck: Arizona Dark Sky Expedition Passport' helps visitors soak in views of constellations and planets.

But the Grand Canyon State is more than just its scenery, with 19 of its restaurants being selected for the first-ever MICHELIN Guide Southwest. The honours highlight Arizona as a premier dining destination defined by rich cultural roots, regional ingredients, and world-class talent.



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Touring & Adventure Showcase

WE HEADED to sunny Swansea and Stratford Upon Avon last month to bring the very best in Touring and Adventure travel to a whole host of lovely agents!

As always, a huge thank you to our supplier partners: Wendy Wu Tours, Transun, Riviera Travel, Inghams, Travel Iowa, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, Explore Worldwide, Jules Verne, and Travelsphere and Just You.



Want to get in on the [#TBShowcases](#) action? Our next event will be our Train & Gain Day taking place in Gloucester on October 15th. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you, contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

SUN-SOAKED HORIZONS AWAIT

Two new Journey Collections are available for Winter 2027/2028 with Explora Journeys.



EXPLORA JOURNEYS is expanding its Northern Winter 2027-28 programme with two new Journey Collections aboard *EXPLORA I* and *EXPLORA V*, offering sun-soaked itineraries across South America, the Mediterranean and Atlantic Islands.

From December 2027 until March 2028, *EXPLORA I* will chart a course for a Southern Hemisphere summer as the

ship will head to the natural wonders of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, the Falklands Islands, and Chile. Guests will have the chance to spend New Year's Eve on the Brazilian seafront, as well as enjoy overnight stays in Buenos Aires, Puerto Madryn, and Rio de Janeiro. The programme will also unveil 20 maiden destinations, including 12 in Brazil.

From December 2027 to April 2028, *EXPLORA V*'s debut season will begin by exploring the pristine coastlines of Western and Central Mediterranean, and North Africa. Guests will discover Calabria, along with late night departures in Salerno, Livorno, Palma de Mallorca,

Kotor, and Ibiza, and a New Year's Eve spent off the coast of Naples.

In January 2028, the ship will sail into the Atlantic to explore the rugged landscapes of Tenerife, the Canary Islands, and Madeira.

Anna Nash, President of Explora Journeys, said, "We see travel differently at Explora Journeys. It is not simply about how many places you can visit, but about how you experience them. Both collections give guests the freedom to explore further, with every detail designed to create a seamless and enriching experience from one destination to the next."

Egyptian winter sun comes to Gatwick

WIZZ AIR is bringing one of Egypt's most popular destinations to more Brits looking for a winter sun escape as the airline launches a new route from London Gatwick to Hurghada.

The service will take to the skies from January 11th, 2027, and operate once per week with fares leading in from £91.99. The new route builds on the airline's existing service to Sharm El Sheikh from Gatwick, as well as the services from Luton flying to Hurghada, Sharm El Sheikh, and Cairo, giving British holidaymakers even more choice when choosing their Egyptian winter escape.

Oceania unveils 12 segments of Around the World 2028 voyage

OCEANIA CRUISES has opened bookings for the 12 segments of its 2028 Around the World voyage aboard *Oceania Aurelia*. Set to depart in January 2028, the separate segments range from 10 to 19 days, including an 18-day sailing from Los Angeles to Papeete, a two-week voyage from Sydney to Bali, and a 12-day sailing from Taipei to Tokyo.





Celestyal launches almost 200 winter excursions

CELESTYAL HAS unveiled 190 new excursions for its winter deployments in the Eastern and Western Med.

A range of trips with varying lengths are available, providing experiences with local people and attractions.

Highlights include a five-course Spanish lunch, a journey on the Greek mountain railway of Volos, and a flamenco and tapas experience in Cádiz.



MSC Euribia to sail Madeira and Canaries

MSC CRUISES has confirmed that *MSC Euribia* will offer seven-night Canary Islands and Madeira cruises for winter 2027/28.

This marks the fourth season of the programme, giving guests the chance to catch winter sun, explore six island destinations, and experience one of the newest ships in MSC's fleet.

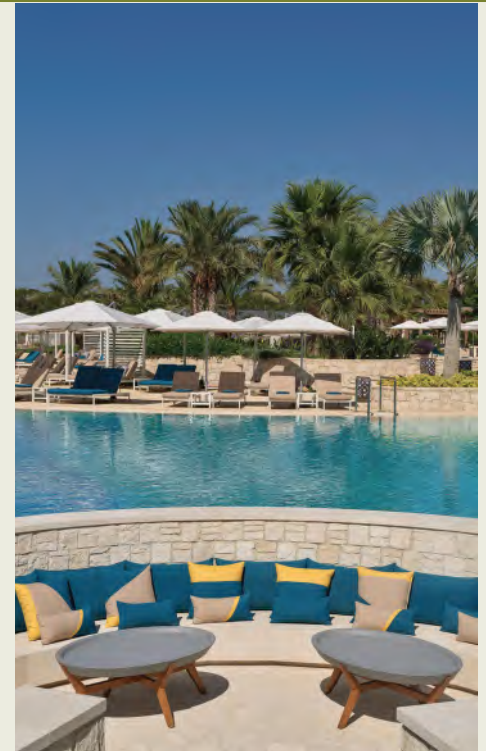
Take a Vegas-style golf trip at City of Dreams Mediterranean

WITH WINTER sunshine, championship golf, and a new wave of luxury hospitality, Cyprus is emerging as an increasingly compelling alternative for golfers looking to escape the cold of the UK over winter.

City of Dreams Mediterranean in Limassol sits at the heart of this. The 500-room resort offers golfers a combination of a five-star, Vegas-style resort experience, with the neighbouring Limassol Greens Championship Golf Course.

In addition to the 18-hole experience, the 30-bay driving range provides a dedicated space to practice, analyse, and improve performance. The course, measuring in at approximately 6.3km, was designed by renowned golf course architect Cabell B. Robinson, who weaved in the natural beauty of the Mediterranean landscape.

After a round, guests can swap the clubhouse and fairways for a luxury spa and premium restaurants, as well as tennis and



padel courts, pools, the Adventure Park, and one of Europe's biggest casinos.

With between 300 and 340 days of sunshine per year, and around six hours per day even in December and January, Cyprus offers the chance to keep playing through the winter.

Winter sun without the crowds

WITH FLORIDA'S average winter temperatures in the mid-to-low 20°Cs, the hidden gem of Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach is well-suited to UK holidaymakers wanting to escape the cold.

The area offers a quieter Gulf Coast alternative for winter sun itineraries, with warm weather, beaches, wildlife, and a range of outdoor experiences.

Just 90 minutes from Tampa and around 2.5 hours from Orlando, the destination works well as both a standalone stop and

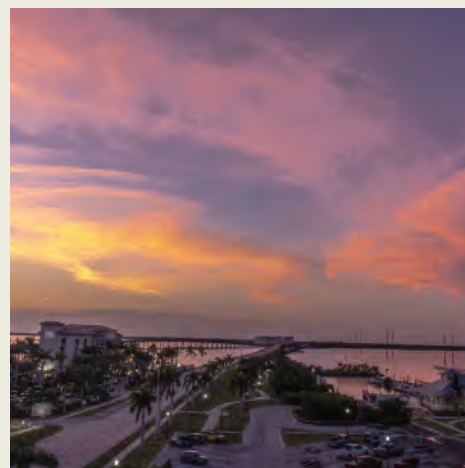
an addition to the theme parks of Orlando or Tampa's city attractions.

Guests can go kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing, dolphin and manatee spotting, whilst Englewood Beach provides space for swimming and beach days.

Inland, the Babcock Ranch Eco Tours offers wildlife experiences, where guests can see exciting native wildlife.

The 'Flavour Coast' also offers fresh seafood and waterfront restaurants among a range of dining experiences, while accommodation ranges from hotels to rentals, giving flexibility when packaging the destination for groups.

Between these exciting activities and the quiet American escape for some much needed winter sun, Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach provides travellers with an opportunity to explore a different side of Florida.





INDUSTRY... *insight by...*



The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), UK & Ireland asked experts David Kevan and John Parker to share their advice on where to look and sell in the region this winter.

“On a worldwide scale, southeast Asia probably offers the very best value for winter sun.”

FOR AGENTS looking to offer clients something beyond the usual winter-sun favourites, Asia provides a great mix of value, variety and lesser-known beach escapes; but the message from the

experts is to start selling them now. “On a worldwide scale, Southeast Asia probably offers the very best value for winter sun,” says David. “The quality on offer, at every level of accommodation and especially at the luxury end, is truly outstanding.”

Thailand’s Andaman coast is an obvious starting point, but that doesn’t have to mean Phuket. David recommends Khao Lak, just 70 minutes away, for equally impressive beaches with a slower pace. John agrees, highlighting newly opened La Solaya for its serene beachfront setting and contemporary comforts.

For clients prepared to venture further, Thailand’s islands offer plenty of alternatives. David recommends Koh Yao Yai, 40 minutes by speedboat from Phuket, where fishing villages and rubber plantations still dominate island life. John points agents towards the east coast, Koh Samet, easily combined with Bangkok. Koh Lipe is increasingly popular from November to April when the dry season brings calm seas and easy ferry connections including opportunities to continue into Malaysia.

Malaysia itself provides several strong winter options. Both experts recommend Langkawi, where secluded resorts range from The Datai to the more

affordable Berjaya. John also suggests Pangkor Laut for clients seeking a private-island rainforest retreat, while those wanting the journey to become part of the holiday can take the Eastern & Oriental Express on its November-to-March Essence of Malaysia itinerary through Penang, Langkawi and Perlis.

Cambodia offers another wildcard. David suggests looking beyond Sihanoukville itself to its offshore islands for “simple chic elegance” still relatively unknown to British travellers. In southern Vietnam, meanwhile, Mui Ne combines easily with Ho Chi Minh City, while Phu Quoc suits clients wanting more development and Con Dao provides the quieter alternative.

The key advice, however, is to book early. David highlights strong repeat winter demand at properties such as The Sarojin, Layana, Pimalai and The Datai, while John recommends securing the client’s priority beach hotel first and building the itinerary around it.

With tactical hotel offers and added-value packages appearing across the region, John expects October to be a particularly strong booking month for winter 2026/27. For agents, now is the moment to turn clients’ familiar ideas for winter sun into somewhere less expected.



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NEW TOURS JUST FOR YOU

Cover Europe, Canada, and India with four new escorted tours departing in 2027 and 2028.



JUST YOU has launched four new escorted tours for 2027 and 2028, covering Europe, Canada, and India. The new itineraries include the eight-day 'Imperial, Bohemia, Saxony, and Berlin', 'Discover Venice & The Veneto', 'Canadian Rockies Winter Adventure', and the 15-day 'India in Colour: The

Deccan Odyssey'.

'Discover Venice & The Venetos' joins Just You's 'Max 20' collection, which limits group sizes to 20 as to offer a more personalised experience.

Prices lead in at £2,699, and include return flights, daily breakfast and select meals, overseas transfers, and accommodation in its new itineraries.

Charlotte Field, marketing director at Just You, said, "We're always looking at how we can keep our collection fresh, whether that's by introducing new destinations, new experiences or expanding the types of holidays we offer.

"These four tours do exactly that, with everything from an iconic rail journey through India to a winter adventure in the Canadian Rockies and new ways to discover Europe."

Charlotte said the addition of another itinerary to Just You's 'Max 20' collection continues their aim to provide more opportunities for travellers to enjoy the benefits of a smaller group, alongside the community-led atmosphere that Just You puts at the heart of its holidays.

The tours will depart across 2027 and 2028, with the earliest itinerary set to operate in June 2027.

Riviera urges agents to book early on 2027 solo travel

RIVIERA TRAVEL has seen a 45% year-on-year rise in trade bookings for its dedicated solo programme.

The company is encouraging agents to capitalise on early demand for 2027 solo departures, as trade bookings continue to deliver impressive growth. This comes alongside early demand for 2027 departures across both river cruises and escorted touring for solo travellers.

Amanda Docherty, Head of Trade Ireland & UK at Riviera Travel, said, "With solo customers booking 8.5 months out on average, starting conversations now is crucial for securing bookings for 2027."

ONYX promises comfort as solo travel grows

ONYX HOSPITALITY Group offers a diverse range of destinations and stays for solo travellers, from exploring the energy of a city and relaxing by the sea to connecting with nature and travelling based on personal interests.

From Bangkok to Koh Samui, ONYX places memorable experiences at the heart of travel to assure customers have confidence in the comfort of their accommodation.



An expanded offering for those flying solo

SOLOS HOLIDAYS is continuing to broaden its portfolio with a strong line-up of new experiences designed specifically for the growing demand of those looking to holiday solo-style.

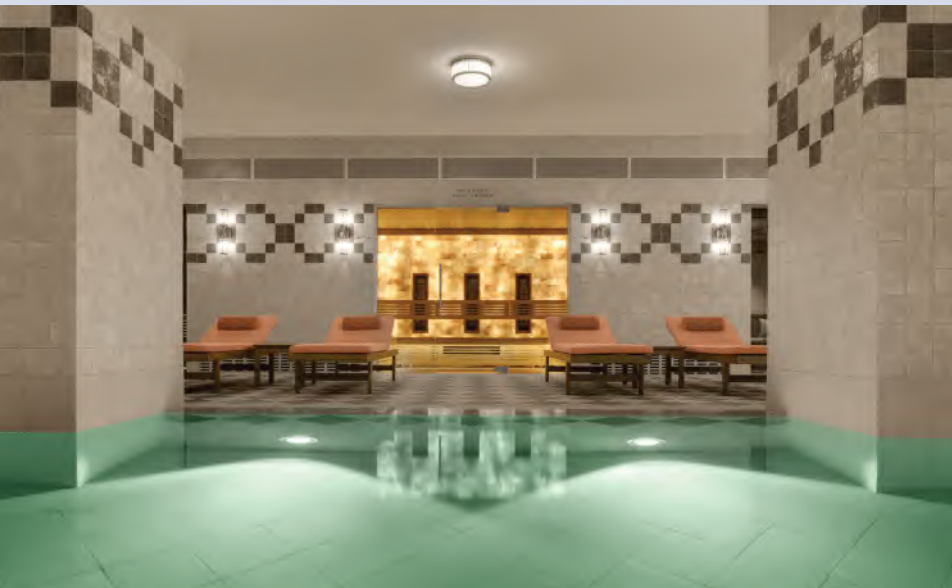
The latest additions span across a diverse range of destinations and holiday styles, giving agents plenty of choice when matching customers with their ideal solo escape.

New options include skiing in Pila, Italy, from £1,675; city breaks in Chicago priced from £3,669; and multi-destination adventures combining Malaysia and Singapore leading in from £6,499.

For those who wish to remain closer to home, the updated programme includes a Comedy Classics getaway in Gloucester, while

those seeking a more active break away from everyday life can enjoy tennis in Halkidiki, priced from £2,379, and golf in Portugal from £3,103.

The operator has also added more specialist experiences, including birdwatching in Northern Greece and a scenic Norwegian itinerary featuring the renowned Flåm Railway.



Women’s wellness in Krakow

AS MORE women decide to take their holidays into their own hands, Stradom House Hotel & Spa, Autograph Collection by Marriott, has launched ‘Her Solo Retreat’, a three-night experience designed to empower women to embrace the serenity of travelling solo. The experience is available for stays between October 1st and November 3rd, 2026, and includes a curated programme of wellness treatments, yoga, cold-water therapy, and time to explore Kraków independently. Private transfers, unlimited spa access, and a ticket to Wawel Castle are also included.

Winter Sun or Coolcation?

Jeanette Ratcliffe
Publisher
jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk
Winter sun!



Simon Eddolls
Sales Director
simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk
Sun always.



Sarah Terry
Account Manager
sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk
Winter sun.



Tim Podger
Account Manager - Far East
tim.podger@travelbulletin.co.uk
Winter sun.



Leah Kelly
Editor
leah.kelly@travelbulletin.co.uk
100% coolcation, I’m sick of the heat.



Melissa Paddock
Events Coordinator
melissa.paddock@travelbulletin.co.uk
Winter sun!



Holly Hopkins
Events Coordinator
holly.brown@travelbulletin.co.uk
Winter sun obviously.



Oliver Terrell
Events Coordinator
oliver.terrell@travelbulletin.co.uk
Coolcation for me.



Molly Farrell
Digital Editor
molly.farrell@travelbulletin.co.uk
Winter sun.



EVENTS

events@travelbulletin.co.uk

PRODUCTION

production@travelbulletin.co.uk

CIRCULATION

circulation@travelbulletin.co.uk

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TRAIN & GAIN DAYS 2026

We are delighted to bring you the next instalment of our highly popular Train & Gain events programme on



Thursday 15th October - Hatherley Manor Hotel & Spa, Gloucester

Inspired with the needs of the busy home based agent in mind, this event will run between 9:30am - 3pm
Involving in-depth presentations from leading industry suppliers, this day-time training opportunity will offer additional time for Q&A sessions and informal networking.

SUPPLIER PARTNERS



TIMINGS

9.30am Agent registration, coffee and pastries	9.30am - 10.15am Marketplace networking	10.15am - 11.15am Presentations from 3 leading suppliers	11.15am - 12noon Marketplace networking	12noon - 1pm Presentations from 3 leading suppliers
	1pm Lunch	1.45pm - 2.45pm Presentations from 3 leading suppliers	2.45pm - 3pm Free Prize Draw	

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To confirm your place at this amazing event, email your name, company, and contact details by
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0207 973 0136

This event is by invitation only and will be booked on a first come first served basis.



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AGENT NETWORKING EVENING

Monday 5th October, Leonardo Royal Hotel Oxford, Oxford

Tuesday 6th October, voco® Manchester - City Centre, Manchester

TIMINGS

5.45pm - 6pm: Agent Registrations and Welcome Drinks

6pm - 8.30pm: Marketplace Style Supplier Presentations

8.30pm: Hot Dinner

9.15pm: Prize draw

9.30pm: Event ends



Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to our Family Holidays Marketplace Event! Connect with top family travel suppliers in a dynamic, marketplace-style setting. Enjoy light appetisers, drinks, and dinner as you explore a wide range of premium holiday offerings. With free-flowing presentations, networking opportunities, and exciting prizes, this is your chance to discover the latest in family travel all in one place.

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and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.