

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Luxury Holidays

Clients keen to loosen their purse strings? Win them over with the latest in luxury



MORE IN...

Tech for the Trade

The latest updates from the platforms behind the products

Pg. 15

Far East

Forays to the region rising on Brits' bucket lists. Pg. 26



Elliott Rouse, a Travel Counsellor, speaks on not getting swept away by the allure of selling luxury in our *Agent Insight* (Pg. 8)



TIME TO TRANSFER YOUR



Maldives
...the sunny side of life

BUSINESS TO JETSET



PART 1 - Free transfers in Vegas as standard!

PART 2 - Now LIVE! All Maldives accommodation includes complimentary land, sea, or air transfers !





travel 



04
NEWS
From product launches to programme expansions, stay in the loop with all the latest.



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



15
TECH UPDATE
The latest platforms and web developments to help you sell.



17
LUXURY HOLIDAYS
Elevate your clients' experiences and indulge them across the globe.



26
FAR EAST
Remote islands, one-of-a-kind accommodations and world-class itineraries await.

TRAVEL TRIUMPHS IN Q1

Travel searches are once again on the up for Q1 2024: marketing agency Adido has uncovered the destinations rising in the ranks – and those playing catch up.

ADIDO'S CEO, Andy Headington has analysed the search data for Q1 2024 to uncover which destinations and sectors are rising in the ranks – and those that are playing catch up.

The good news: travel searches surged during Q1, with more searches globally than ever before. Continental breaks take the lead in terms of search volume, with Asia taking the silver spot. Searches are largely up across the continents, with only South America showing a decrease in demand with 2% fewer searches.

In terms of individual destinations, China has seen a 60% increase in searches. As Austria (up 59%), Pakistan (up 55%) and Malta (up 44%) continue to maintain their strong search presence, Albania is, according to Andy, "proving to be quite the dark horse, thanks in no small part to several media outlets showcasing it as an attractive tourist destination over the past few months."

From the triumphs to the tribulations, Jordan recorded a 42% decrease in

searches to 14,000, Israel to 13,000, Senegal to 11,000, and Iceland to 90,000.

Looking at the sector-by-sector stats, a general uptick in search volume has been seen across the board, with skiing holidays leading the way with a 39% year-on-year incline. Staycations once again proved a popular choice with a 20% search increase in Q1, and luxury escapes continue to rise the ranks, boasting a search growth of 22% and 14% respectively over the last two years. As CLIA anticipates a record-breaking year in 2024, it is no surprise that cruise search volume continues to rise, with an 8% increase in Q1 2024.

Reflecting on the overall travel picture, Andy concluded: "While search volumes increase globally, the ebb and flow of interest across regions and types of holidays in Q1 reveal the next level of insight into how people are searching for travel-related terms.

"One thing's for certain – Q1 2024 has been anything but static. What will Q2 have in store for us I wonder?"



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Youtravel.com parent welcomes new investor

THE PARENT company of YouTravel.com hopes to kickstart the next phase of its growth after confirming a €125 million investment.

The FTI Group will receive the full €125 million, which has been committed to business and digital transformation.

Centares, an investment firm focused on travel and tourism, led the consortium that

invested: it has previous investment history with AmaWaterways, G Adventures, and LATAM Airlines among others.

Karl Markgraf, the FTI Group's CEO, said: "FTI is uniquely positioned for future growth and profitability which benefits all the stakeholders, including our customers, commercial partners and employees."

www.youtravel.com / www.fti-group.com



Tahiti Tourisme strives to redefine inclusivity

TAHITI TOURISME is hoping to address concerns shared by LGBTQI+ holidaymakers seeking safe and authentic tropical getaways while guaranteeing a more inclusive welcome for a broader spectrum of LGBTQI+ guests.

The board recently

introduced 'The Treasured Test', inviting a diverse pool of LGBTQI+ guests to assess just how warm a welcome can be expected on the island. The ensuing campaign spotlights the results:

www.tahititourisme.uk/campaign/lgbt

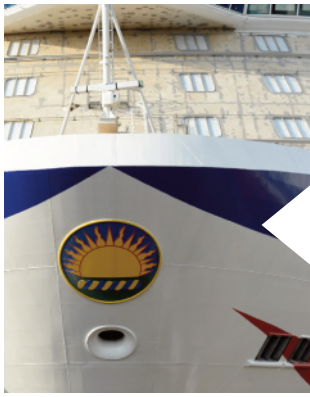
Aberdeen next in line of airports ditching liquid limits

ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL Airport has joined London City and Teesside in installing the new Next Generation Security Checkpoint (NGSC) scanners, which remove the 100ml liquid rule and instead allow up to two litres of liquid in carry-on bags.

Guests will also no longer have to remove electrical items (such as laptops) when checking in.

The airport's security manager, William Wallace, described the integration of the new scanners as "one of the biggest changes in airport security," and reminded guests or agents with clients travelling through the airport to be both patient as the team prepares for the new process and considerate of return journeys where different rules may apply.

www.aberdeenairport.com



P&O flagship refreshed with multi-million refurb

AHEAD OF *Britannia's* 10th anniversary cruise next year, the P&O Cruises flagship welcomed a refreshed colour palette throughout, an extended Loyalty and Cruise Sales area, and dining enhancements. The ship set sail with its new, multi-million-pound look from Southampton last month, borrowing design inspiration from sister ships *Iona* and *Arvia*.

P&O Cruises' president, Paul Ludlow, said: "With [the ship's] 10th anniversary celebration cruise next summer we know the importance of ensuring the ship looks its absolute best to deliver an elevated experience for our new and loyal guests."

Further details on the celebration cruise, including exclusive entertainment and celebrations, are expected in due course. www.pocruises.com

Brits lead the way in bagging early bookings

UK TRAVELLERS are looking ahead and confirming their 2025 travel plans earlier than any other market, according to booking insights from Sabre.

Largely, Brits are looking ahead to long-haul travel next year, with the USA, Thailand, India, Singapore, the Maldives, the UAE, South Africa and Australia all breaking into the top 10 destinations

being booked for the year ahead.

Despite the advance demand peaking for long-haul destinations, holidaymakers in the UK aren't afraid to look further ahead for their short-haul trips, either: Spain and Iceland snuck their way into the top 10 most booked destinations.

Nisha Botevyle, Sabre's director for

strategic development, EMEA, suggested that Brits' willingness to look ahead to future travel plans "is becoming an indicator of confidence and a way to manage travel budgets... it should be taken into account by all in the travel industry since it defines the market dynamics."

www.sabre.com

Image Credits: Top Left: P&O Cruises

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Simply scan the QR code and immerse yourself in the wonders of our brochure. Or, if you prefer a hands-on experience, contact Youtravel at sales@youtravel.com to get a copy delivered.

G Touring notes "phenomenal" start to 2024

JUST YOU and Travelsphere both saw sales exceed targets in the first quarter of 2024, setting the course for a record year for the G Touring group.

March saw the biggest sales contribution since before the pandemic for both brands.

Average booking value from



trade partners neared 20% more than that of direct sales: long-haul destinations making up three of the top five destinations sold helped bolster booking value.

Tom Morgan, trade sales director, described the start of the year as "phenomenal," continuing: "Month on month we have increased our sales thanks to the continued growth in group touring holidays and the exceptional work of our team, led by head of sales Rachel Mould.

"Rachel has done a fantastic job throughout peaks to ensure our agent partners have been fully supported.

"With Jason Kemp and Jasmine Moreton joining the team we are in a robust position to implement our ambitious trade plans to grow to grow both Travelsphere and Just You..."

www.travelsphere.co.uk /
www.justyou.co.uk



JUST GO! Holidays has introduced 11 new coach breaks to the capital, described as "great news for agents" by head of trade sales Claire Dutton. Tours span three key areas: families, experiences, and popular landmarks. Options start from £169 per person for the 'Spectacular St. Paul's Cathedral & London' tour, including one night's accommodation with breakfast, admission to St Paul's Cathedral and free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. www.justgoholidays.com/agents

Blue bloods and silver screen stars heading aboard

RIVIERA TRAVEL'S two new themed itineraries will see TV presenter and gardening expert Charlie Dimmock, Royal Butler Grant Harrold, and Royal Chef Colin Alderson join guests on board.

Charlie Dimmock will head aboard the 'Gardens & Natural Beauty of the Rhône' sailing on October 11th, 2024 to host insightful lectures and join guests on shore visits to botanical marvels including Parc de la

Tête d'Or's botanical garden in Lyon and Jardin des Villes in Vienne among others. Prices lead in at £2,149 per person.

Former butler and chef to the Royals, Grant Harrold and Colin Anderson, will feature on the 'Regal Rhine Cruise to Switzerland', calling at Strasbourg, Koblenz, Rudesheim and Speyer, with a Black Forest drive and rail journey from £1,949 per person. www.rivieratravel.co.uk

West End producer thanks the travel trade as hit show cracks top 10

WICKED, THE 'Untold Story of the Witches of Oz', hosted its 6,762nd performance on April 24th, 2024, making it the 10th longest-running West End show in British history.

Michael McCabe, the executive producer of the show's UK iteration, said: "Part of this success is due to the sales partnerships that theatre owners, ticket agents, and we as producers have with the travel trade."

"All of us at Wicked, and Wicked Direct, offer our thanks to the many travel and tourism companies and individuals who have promoted the show over the past 18 years." www.wickeddirect.co.uk



Blue Diamond swaps Mexico for the metaverse

BLUE DIAMOND Resorts has mapped its portfolio of properties across the Royalton Resorts and Planet Hollywood brands into immersive 3D digital landscapes explorable via the Metaverse. www.royaltonresorts.com
www.planethollywoodhotels.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **FIRST MATE** Loot, Virgin Voyages' new incentive programme, offers cash payouts to 'First Mates' booking this month. £30 per Mediterranean and Northern Europe voyages is included on select dates in 2024 and 2025, with £10 per booking as standard across all other sailings. www.firstmateloot.com
- **UNTIL MAY 20TH**, across all Club Med sun resorts, a £10 Love2Shop voucher will be awarded for every booking made. Bookings for the Club Med Magna Marbella of five nights or more will see the incentive value doubled to £20. www.travelagents.clubmed.co.uk
- **LOGGING SELECT** Playa Hotels & Resorts bookings made through TUI on the brand's rewards platform by June 7th, 2024 could see you win one of 14 tickets to the festival. Any TUI bookings to Jewel Palm Beach, Hilton Rose Hall or Hilton La Romana are eligible for entries. Alongside the prize draw, double reward points on all TUI bookings logged are on offer during the same period. www.playarewards.com
- **YOU'LL EARN** a Pandaw cruise of your own when selling five or more with Fred. Holidays in 2024. Reward cruises can be redeemed against any Pandaw itinerary of seven nights or less and can be redeemed after all five bookings have departed. www.fredholidays.co.uk
- **VIRGIN LIMITED** Edition's most prestigious incentive to date offers up free three-night stays on Necker Island for agents confirming at least three Individual Stay reservations by July 31st, 2024. www.virginlimitededition.com

AGENT BULLETIN



SANDALS' BDM team recently hit the road for a series of Quiz Night events across the UK. Pictured here is Lorraine Adams with the winners of Maidstone's event: Nicola McKenna, Maria Waghorne and Joanne Severn from Hays Travel, Hempstead Valley.

Travelbulletin COMPETITION

Win a three-night stay at a Domes Resort by answering three simple questions!

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

AGENT TRAINING

- **AGENTS COMPLETING** Discover The Palm Beaches' new trade training course by June 30th, 2024 could win a two-night, three-day stay of their own. The first 100 agents to complete the course will be entered into a prize draw for the stay, which includes return airfare and two nights' accommodation for two. Even those who do not win will come away with plenty: including comprehensive insights on the Palm Beaches. Modules span history, tourist attractions, gastronomy and more. www.thepalmbeaches.com/travel-professionals/travel-trade-portal
- **WINDSTAR CRUISES** is hosting ship visits from 11 different ports of call this year, with up to 450 places available on visits between June and August. Both of Windstar's Star Class yachts (*Star Legend* and *Star Pride*) feature in the programme: visits comprise a tour of the respective ships and a brief business update from the Windstar team. www.windstarcruises.com
- **THREE MODULES** on the New Smyrna Beach trade training course will not only give you great insight into the hidden coastal gem just an hour's drive from Orlando, but also the chance to win a £50 shopping voucher each month! www.tourismgivesback.com/courses-archive/nsb-insider/
- **10 BOTTLES** of Moët are up for grabs to agents completing the Gold tier of Virgin Voyages' Seacademy by the end of May: plus swag bags worth £50 for select agents joining the training platform. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/virgin-voyage-travelgym
- **LIMITED TIME** remains on your opportunity to win a £100 shopping voucher when taking the short Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex training course. www.travelbulletin.co.uk/kennedy-space-center-travelgym



AGENT INSIGHT

ELLIOTT ROUSE

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

WHEN WE think about luxury travel, it can be easy to get swept away by the allure of exclusive destinations and lavish accommodation: but there's so much more to booking luxury travel.

In a world brimming with destinations, crafting the perfect luxury holiday requires finesse, attention to detail, and a deep understanding of each travellers' unique requirements. Whether it is privacy, cultural immersion, or wildlife exploration, there are countless ways to experience luxury while travelling.

One big trend is the demand for curated holiday experiences where travellers seek bespoke, meaningful journeys tailored to their interests. This extends to experiential properties that provide the opportunity to become immersed in the wildlife, flora and fauna of the destination, like a safari. That means it falls upon us to build these deep personal connections with our luxury customers to understand their desires even before they do.

Wellness trips are another big trend right now. Beyond traditional spa retreats, travellers are seeking refuge from the bustle of everyday life by reconnecting with nature. Tranquil meditation retreats and immersive wellness experiences such as forest bathing and wild swimming in breathtaking natural settings are emerging as the epitome of luxury. While classic destinations like Barbados, Mauritius, and the Maldives still hold a special draw, luxury travellers are increasingly drawn to multi-centre luxury and even trips that take them off the beaten path. I've noticed that TV programmes like *Race Across The World* are really making people think about the range of experiences on offer in every place. So why not jump on this trend and suggest some lesser-known spots that offer unique and authentic experiences? In luxury travel, taking care of customers and providing a personalised service is key. Keep this in mind and transform luxury holidays into extraordinary journeys that exceed expectations. *Read more about the luxury market on pages 17-24!*



Off-season is back in: Original Travel launches new collection

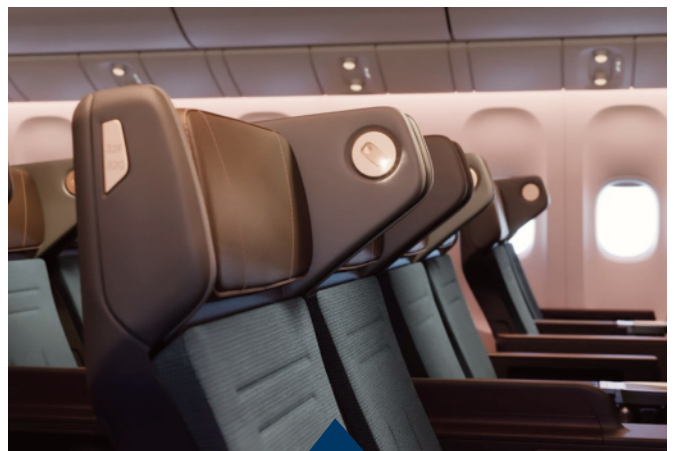
ORIGINAL TRAVEL has launched its unique 'Off-Season Travel' collection featuring 10 itineraries based on travelling outside of the peak season.

Some of the available itineraries include the six-day 'A Winter Escape to Southern Greece' from £2,200 per person; the seven-night 'Winter in Mallorca: Palma and the South Coast' from £1,825 per person; the nine-night 'Green Season in Botswana' from £5,980 per person; and the 11-night 'Spring or Autumn in LA, Las Vegas and the National Parks' from £2,945 per person.

www.originaltravel.co.uk

News Bites

- CELEBRITY CRUISES' latest ship has arrived in Barcelona ahead of its debut European season.
- JET2.COM AND Jet2holidays have reported a 'phenomenal' response to its launch of its 12th UK base at Bournemouth Airport.
- AMSTERDAM, DUBAI and New York topped search rankings last month.



CATHAY PACIFIC is elevating the customer experiences with an enhanced Premium Economy offering coming to its Boeing 777-300ER aircraft later this year. Featuring privacy wings on the headrest, a 4k ultra-high definition screen per seat with Bluetooth audio streaming and upgraded storage solutions, guests can expect a luxurious experience at altitude. www.cathay.com

SUDOKU

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

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

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk
Closing date for entries is May 16th. Solution and new puzzle will appear in the next issue.

The winner for April 19th is

April 19th Solution: A=8 B=6 C=9 D=4

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



WHERE AM I?

THIS MALAYSIAN capital is home to the world's tallest twin towers and has been named one of the New 7 Wonders Cities.

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

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

- Across**
- 1 Ship of the Holland America Line, named for a city (9)
 - 5 English city or football match between local teams (5)
 - 7 Porto-Novo is the capital (5)
 - 9 Currency of Japan (3)
 - 10 A former name for Scotland (4)
 - 11 Glastonbury landmark (3)
 - 13 Indonesia's capital is on this island (4)
 - 15 Doctor, returning soon for a new BBC sci-fi series (3)
 - 17 Car hire company (5)
 - 19 Major hotel group (5)
 - 20 Nickname for the England women's national football team (9)

- Down**
- 1 ITV drama series, sounds like a long overnight flight which might be best avoided (3,3)
 - 2 Capital of the Piedmont region (5)
 - 3 Arrecife international airport code (3)
 - 4 Scottish island and P&O cruise ship (4)
 - 6 City on the Black Sea (5)
 - 8 Many of San Francisco's luxury hotels are found here ___ Hill (3)
 - 10 Oranjestad is the capital (5)
 - 12 Traditional English dance complete with bells, sticks and hankies (6)
 - 14 Antwerp international airport code (3)
 - 15 TV presenter Joe, known as The Body Coach (5)
 - 16 Columbus is the state capital (4)
 - 18 Holiday group with a red smile logo (3)

CROSSWORD

Across: 1 ROTTERDAM, 5 DERBY, 7 BENIN, 9 YEN, 10 ALBA, 11 TOR, 13 JAVA, 15 WHO, 17 HERTZ, 19 ACCOR, 20 LIONESSES.
Down: 1 RED EYE, 2 TURIN, 3 ACE, 4 IONA, 6 YALTA, 8 NOB, 10 ARUBA, 12 MORRIS, 14 ANR, 15 WICKS, 16 OHIO, 18 TUI.
Mystery Word: DEVON

Olympics to oysters: Celestyal meets National Geographic

CELESTYAL HAS launched a series of 'National Geographic Day Tours' across Croatia and Greece offering travellers the opportunity to explore the world through authentic experiences.



The seven new one-and-a-half-day shore-based excursions are led by National Geographic-trained guides who will immerse travellers in an array of topics and local cultures throughout the itineraries.

Guests travelling to Athens can trace the evolution of the Olympic Games with an in-depth tour of the Olympic sites discovering how the performance and work of ancient Greek athletes still inspires the country today.

Over on Rhodes, guests will head off the beaten track in an exploration journey of the island. There will also be the option to visit the Bee Museum and active colony, as well as learn about 'Blutopia'.

In Dubrovnik, guests will embark on a tour of Croatia's Konvale region, learning the art of traditional embroidery, as well as cruise Mali Ston Bay to a working oyster farm and discover the capital's hidden gems. www.celestyal.com



CRUISE CROATIA has launched its 2025 small-ship cruising programme, featuring 105 seven-night departures across five vessels between early-May and mid-October. The itineraries sail between Split and Dubrovnik along the Dalmatian coast and features port calls to well-known favourites Trogir and Hvar, as well as the lesser-known Korcula, Vis and the national parks of Mljet and Krka. www.cruisecroatia.com

MSC introduce summer 2024 'Stay & Cruise' packages

MSC CRUISES has announced its new summer 2024 'Stay & Cruise' programme where guests can elevate their cruise with a new add-on package boasting additional two or three-night accommodation pre- or post-cruise.

Guests can choose to extend their holiday in a four-star hotel in Athens, Venice or Rome, a three-star hotel in Miami or a four-star in New York.

The offer is available across various MSC summer 2024 sailings in the Mediterranean and Caribbean and are now available to book. The package includes private transfers for the duration of the holiday, from the ship to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport, no matter if guests opt for a pre- or post-cruise addition.

www.msccruises.co.uk

Newmarket launches new Silk Road tour

TREADING OFF-THE-BEATEN-TRACK, Newmarket Holidays has launched a new tour of Uzbekistan where guests can follow the footsteps of the traders of the past and follow the Silk Road to uncover an array of hidden gems the destination has to offer.

The 11-day 'Uzbekistan – Ancient Cities of the Silk Road' tour leads in from £2,339 per person and includes four-star accommodation, most meals, guided tours, internal flights, transfers and return flights to London Heathrow. Departures for the tour begin from October 2024 and continue through to November 2025.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk



Jet2Holidays signs Responsible Tourism pledge

JET2HOLIDAYS HAS become the first UK operator to sign Majorca's Responsible Tourism pledge, highlighting the company's commitment to promoting sustainable tourism to and on the island.

www.jet2holidays.com



Discover Canada this summer.

Canada is full of postcard-worthy destinations, but it looks even better in person – and WestJet has a flight for that. With daily direct flights from London Heathrow to Calgary, your clients can explore the breathtaking Canadian Rocky Mountains or easily connect to other popular WestJet destinations in Canada and the U.S.

Or this summer, they can fly to Halifax or St. John's from London Gatwick to discover the stunning landscapes and charm of the Atlantic coast. An unforgettable Canadian adventure awaits, and it all starts with WestJet.

WestJet offers the following direct flights to Canada:

- Calgary from London Heathrow, Dublin and Edinburgh
- Halifax from London Gatwick, Dublin and Edinburgh
- Toronto from Dublin and Edinburgh
- St. John's from London Gatwick

Explore our flight schedule at [westjet.com](https://www.westjet.com).

Schedule subject to change.

WESTJET 



INDUSTRY insight by...



OFF THE back of Post Office Travel Money's Holiday Money Report 2024, PATA spokesperson Helen Wheat explains where the signs are pointing across Pacific Asia.

“

Pacific Asia is an incredible area to secure a bargain trip and many countries offer incredible value for money...”

POST OFFICE Travel Money's Annual Holiday Report 2024 uncovered the top 15 best-value holiday destinations: six of which were across Pacific Asia.

Helen Wheat, destination manager for Asia at Travelbag and PATA UK & Ireland Chapter's tour operator spokesperson, made happy reading of the news: "This year saw the region kick off on a positive note with attractive prices helping to boost sales. All indicators point to travel being a top priority for consumers this year which is reflected in forward sales already."

Not only does this make happy reading for the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)'s tour operator members, but also for agents selling Pacific Asian destinations: many across the region represent an impressive proposition when it comes to value for money, tactical offers from operators and upselling opportunities.

"In today's current economic climate, customers are definitely focusing more on value for money and making every penny stretch as far as possible. With the cost increase of international flights, passengers are choosing to stay in destinations for longer and make the most of their time within the resort."

Vietnam came first place in the report's best-value destinations, with Japan (fourth), Bali (eighth), Malaysia (11th), Thailand (12th) and India (13th)

also claiming top spots.

Largely, the increase in value-for-money has been attributed to a stronger pound: Japan has recorded a 16.2% drop in local prices, with Vietnam's Hoi An seeing prices down 14.4% last year, brewing the perfect storm of value opportunities across the region for Brits on holiday.

"Pacific Asia is an incredible area to secure a bargain trip and many countries offer incredible value for money, especially for local food and drink, arts and handicrafts.

"At Travelbag, we have noticed a marked increase in the average length of stay as well as customers opting for higher room types such as pool-access, suites and villas. This again is because countries such as Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia offer strong tacticals and can be a much more affordable option versus other holiday choices such as Europe and America."

Helen Wheat is the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)'s UK & Ireland tour operator spokesperson, and destination manager for Asia at Travelbag.

www.pata.org.uk /
www.postoffice.co.uk/travel-money/holiday-money-report

LA Tourism celebrates a quarter-century in the capital

FRANCINE SHERIDAN, now regional VP of Europe and the Middle East, joined the Los Angeles Tourism team in 1999 to launch the London office. Originally established to support the UK and Ireland trade, the office's remit now covers Europe and the Middle East.

Celebrating the anniversary, Francine said: "I am proud of all we have achieved in the last 25 years, growing visitor numbers,

length of stay and direct air service from the UK and Ireland to Los Angeles. On behalf of the team, I want to thank all our travel trade, media and industry partners for their enduring support. We truly could not do it without them."

Francine is now joined by a four-person team, including Hayley French, director of travel trade.

www.discoverlosangeles.com/travel-trade



PLAY confirms a Cardiff first

PLAY IS set to launch the first direct service to Iceland from Cardiff: the service will operate on a limited programme between October 10th and November 20th, 2024 between Cardiff and Keflavik.

One-way fares prices lead in from £59 per person, with connections to North American hubs leading in at £179.

The service will operate twice weekly on Mondays and Fridays (except during a special programme for the Iceland/Wales Nations League games).

www.flyplay.com



City Experiences expands close-to-home and continental collections

FROM HARRY Potter-themed days out to an artsy tour around Paris, the new options span London, Italy, Spain, and Greece within City Experience's Walks and Devour tour ranges.

London will host two new options for 2024: the first of which ticks off locations from the Harry Potter series dotted around the capital before a visit to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour on a magical nine-hour day out from £169 per adult and £159 per child. The second option, 'The Royal London Walking Tour with Royal Mews or Buckingham Palace State Rooms by Walks', invites guests for a peek behind the blue-blooded curtain of British royalty on tours of Buckingham Palace's State Rooms or Royal Mews from £69 per person.

Heading across the Channel, an 'Alone in the Duomo: VIP After-Hours Tour with Dome Climb & Private Terrace Access by Walks' is a unique option based in and around the Florence Duomo Cathedral from £143 per person.

www.cityexperiences.com



LVCVA celebrates "pivotal role" of agents

CAMP VEGAS 2024 brought together a host of top Las Vegas resorts and attraction partners with agents from across the UK, celebrating the destination's momentum and trade success. Fernando Hurtado, the Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority's senior director of global sales, emphasised that "travel agents and tour operators play a pivotal role in selling Las Vegas in the UK."

www.lvcva.com

APT Travelmarvel expands small-ship programme to Greece

TRAVELMARVEL'S SMALL ship cruising programme will take to Greece from May 2025, with two 'Greek Island Explorer' voyages inaugurating the programme aboard the *MV Belle de l'Adriatique*.

The recently-renovated vessel will explore Athens, Rhodes and Santorini on the eight-day voyage, along with calls at somewhat less-frequented yet equally-impressive islands of Syros, Milos and Amorgos.

Departures are now on offer for May 14th and 28th, 2025, with prices leading in at £3,195



per person, including return flights, seven nights' accommodation, and select meals. A more comprehensive 'Authentic Greece' option blends the seven-night cruise with a five-day tour of the mainland from £4,995 per person. www.aptouring.co.uk



**LA Tourism Board's London Office
celebrates 25 years in the UK&I.
Thank you for your continued support
and contributions to our success.**



discoverla.com

BEDSONLINE: 20 YEARS ON

2024 marks Bedsonline's 20th anniversary, with much cause for celebration.



BEDSONLINE CAN trace its now 20-year history from catalogues and fax machines to real-time availability and online confirmations. With two decades under its belt, the provider has promised not to rest on its laurels. Recent collaborations with Mastercard and Bahia Principe Hotels & Resorts (to name just two) hope to continue to push the provider's ambition to become the

preferred B2B marketplace both internationally and in the UK & Ireland.

Last year, the provider integrated Insights: an AI-powered tool to craft adapted itineraries and product inspiration, alongside the ability to identify high-opportunity sectors or destinations.

Bertrand Sava, Bedsonline's managing director, heralded the 20-year milestone: "As we celebrate Bedsonline's 20th anniversary, we reflect not only on our history, but on the incredible evolution of travel advisors. We have witnessed remarkable changes in the industry over the past two decades, and our customers have been

at the forefront of this transformation.

"We remain committed to being the unwavering technology partner for travel consultants, enabling them to not only book accommodation, but also create extraordinary curated experiences for the end traveller. This milestone is not only a celebration of our history, but a testament to the enduring partnership between Bedsonline and travel advisors..."

Bedsonline distributes over 300,000 accommodation, experiences, mobility services and fintech products in over 170 countries to its global network of 71,000 travel agencies.

www.bedsonline.com

Holibob sees record growth but sets high hopes for more

AFTER A €10 million fundraising round in 2022, Holibob, a provider of booking tech to the trade, tourist boards and operators, has seen over a 150% increase in booking value, supported by a 213% growth in transactions during last year.

2024 paints an even more positive picture, notably with one partner who has doubled their bookings through the platform in the first quarter.

The bulk of bookings made via Holibob have been for Middle Eastern and European experiences.

www.holibob.tech

Expedia TAAP takes chance to thank the trade

GLOBAL TRAVEL Agent Day saw Expedia Group celebrate its trade partners around the globe. Events from networking breakfasts to quizzes and dinner took place, with Robin Lawther, Expedia TAAP's VP, saying the day was "the ideal opportunity for Expedia Group to show its appreciation for our travel advisors." www.expediagroup.com

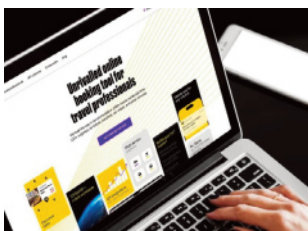




Riviera trade team integrate new app

RIVIERA TRAVEL'S new bespoke app will help the trade team track agent visits and outcomes, co-ordinate schedules, and target partners keen to expand their work with the operator via bespoke content and marketing. Head of trade and partnerships Vicky Billing hopes the app will help the team "stay ahead of the game," and "make it easier for our account managers to do what they do best: getting out on the road and building those key relationships."

www.rivieratravel.co.uk



Record-breaking RateHawk

85% MORE bookings were recorded via the RateHawk platform last year than in 2022, contributing to a total US\$2.6 billion transaction value for the wider Emerging Travel Group.

This marks record performance for the hotel, flight and transfer booking platform, which now serves over 62,000 travel professionals worldwide.

www.ratehawk.com

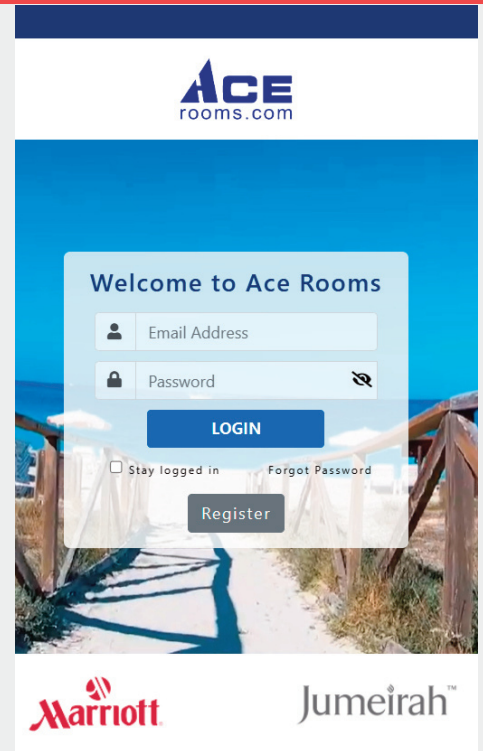
Ace Rooms spurs on after record-breaking Q1

AFTER THE first quarter of the year was a record-breaking one for bedbank Ace Rooms, with the highest quarterly sales volume in its 16-year history recorded, it has confirmed plans to capitalise on momentum and continue to expand globally in 2024.

Recent expansions include strategic partnerships with the Jumeirah Hotels Group (sure to strengthen the bed bank's footing in the Middle East, Europe and Asia) and the Millennium & Copthorne Hotels Group, which boasts a 125-hotel-strong portfolio in 22 countries.

Paul Pau, the bedbank's CEO, said: "As a testament to our supportive agents, we strive to provide them with the most exclusive access, availability and competitive pricing to foster their success."

Alongside the exclusive access, availability and pricing Paul spotlighted, agents can utilise



the self-explanatory 'Book Now Pay Later No Deposits' offer as well as a 24/7/365 customer services team based in London, guaranteeing a bolstered level of communication and convenience when booking.

www.acerooms.com

Worldia: aspirations to redefine 'tailor-made' ahead of UK launch

AFTER A €25 million fundraiser in 2023, Worldia has secured its ATOL licence ahead of its launch to the UK trade.

Dave Pope, the former head of sales and training at Not Just Travel, is spearheading the platform's launch to the UK, and said: "One of the most valuable things we possess is time – our primary focus is to empower agents and help them thrive in an increasingly competitive market."

The solution has already launched in France, Germany, Spain, and the USA, granting agents

access to real-time pricing and availability; create complete tailored trips with various flights, hotels, accommodations, experiences and more; and generate quotes in minutes.

Agents will be served by a dedicated customer service team throughout the booking process on the platform, alongside the peace-of-mind guarantee of ATOL protection.

Worldia's customisable white-label interface also guarantees agents can have their own fully-branded interface up and running within 24 hours.

"With its intuitive interface and cutting-edge features, travel professionals can expect a significant boost in productivity, efficiency, and overall customer satisfaction, all within a fraction of the time it traditionally takes," Dave concluded.

A date for Worldia's launch in the UK is expected shortly.

www.worldia.com



OUT WITH THE OLD

Lusso has ventured away from tradition with its new brochure, focussing on the experiences that elevate a destination into a lifelong memory.



TRADE-ONLY luxury operator Lusso is putting experiences first as it launches its first-ever Europe & North Africa brochure for agents.

Turning away from the brand's signature brochure style of highlighting hotels, the new brochure offering will instead place the spotlight firmly on the experiences and the unique qualities

Domes makes Santorini debut

MARRIOTT BONVOY's Autograph Collection Hotels brand has welcomed Domes Novos Santorini into its growing portfolio of independent hotels. The property marks the luxury brand's first hotel on the island, and its sixth hotel within the Autograph Collection.

Located on the northern tip of the island in the Tholos region, the family-friendly resort will boast 50 suites and two villas, each with a private pool and terrace so guests can take in the beauty of Santorini's renowned sunsets and scenery of the Aegean Sea.

www.domesresorts.com

each destination has to offer travellers.

Helen Brown, senior product manager for Europe & North Africa, highlighted the brand's departure from its traditional style, stating; "It is not a catalogue of hotels – you can find them on our website – but rather a flavour of what the region has to offer, filled with destination guides, don't miss experiences and suggested itineraries.

"Of course we offer the best hotels, but we wanted the brochure to reflect our depth of knowledge and the staggering diversity of travel opportunities that Europe and North Africa have to offer."

Lusso launched its European programme in 2021 in direct response to agent requests, and has since curated a portfolio that includes destinations such as Spain, Portugal and Madeira, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, France and Monaco, Croatia and Montenegro, Malta, Türkiye and Morocco.

While the new brochure continues to showcase luxurious hotels within the destinations and spotlights a select few, agents and their clients can instead discover more about the destinations as a whole and the top unmissable experiences and sights on offer.

www.lussotravel.com

Independent luxury at Sirru Fen Fushi

THE PRIVATE island of Sirru Fen Fushi located in the Maldives' remote Shaviyani Atoll is now operating as an independent luxury resort after six years with Fairmont Hotels and Resorts. Sirru Fen Fushi, Private Lagoon Resort is now a member of the Leading Hotels of the World portfolio and will continue its commitment in offering personalised experiences for all.

www.sirrufenfushi.com

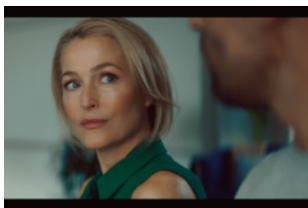


Timeless elegance returns to Mykonos

SET TO open in June 2024, Anandes Hotel has emerged as the latest independent luxury boutique hotel in Mykonos Town, featuring 42 rooms and suites with private pools, a spa and the critically-acclaimed French Riviera-inspired restaurant, LPM Restaurant and Bar.

Completed with the traditional whites and blues that Mykonos is renowned for, the hotel promises to pay homage to timeless Greek elegance and bring intimate luxury back to the island.

www.anandes.com



Gillian Anderson: From Scully to Sofitel

SOFITEL HAS released its latest campaign featuring world-renowned actors Gillian Anderson and Dali Benssalah as ambassadors.

The vibrant short film features the pair at the Sofitel Mexico City Reforma, capturing the essence of Sofitel's new creative vision – where free minds meet in a world of colliding cultures, personalities and ideas.

www.sofitel.com

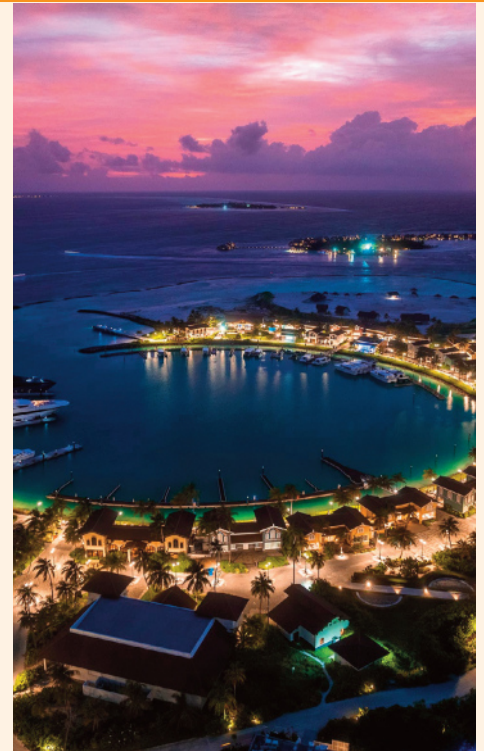
Redefine luxury at CROSSROADS

TAKE AN escape to the Maldives to the next level as CROSSROADS aims to redefine luxury travel with its unique adventures across a multi-island paradise.

Boasting three distinct resorts: SAii Lagoon, Hard Rock Hotel and SO/Maldives, the exclusive island is surrounded by pristine white beaches that are encircled by a 30-berth quay – a rarity in the Maldives – which welcomes cruise lines and private boats.

The separate resorts are connected by a marina, offering a one-stop destination for retail therapy and a range of world-class dining experiences, including the Ministry of Crab (ranked among Asia's Top 50) and the all-day dining restaurant Terra & Mar.

CROSSROADS caters to a diverse range of travellers, from families looking for their next adventure, to couples on a romantic getaway, to party goers seeking their next big bash. The resorts offer different stay



types, including board, full board, all-inclusive and premium all-inclusive. Room rates lead in from £239 per night at the SAii Lagoon, however rates vary depending on the season and the resort.

www.crossroadsmaldives.com

Rixos marks capital centrepiece with 13th property

RIXOS HOTELS has proven that 13 can be lucky for some as the Turkish luxury hotel group is opening its 13th property in Istanbul this month.

Located in the Tersane historical district along the Golden Horn estuary of the Bosphorous river, the hotel will become the flagship property for the brand, boasting a slightly different style and vibe than its existing hotels.

Channelling an eclectic fusion of cultural heritage and cosmopolitan chic, the property boasts 67 luxurious suites, 55 of

which feature an outdoor terrace, and 432 carefully-crafted rooms. The property will be served by public transport as it resides 41km from Istanbul airport, including a local ferry line, and guests will also have access to a local helipad.

For the foodies, Rixos Tersane Istanbul will bring an array of international cuisines to one prime location and transport guests to every corner of the world. The property will offer an all-day dining option, featuring Italian and Asian corners and an outdoor terrace. There will also be a tasting corner featuring a variety of local and international wines paired with delicatessen, and the Cigar Lounge which will be the only of its kind in Istanbul – serving a selection of gourmet light bites and sharing plates paired with whiskey, cognac, bourbon, brandy and wine.

www.rixos.com



Refresh, rejuvenate and relax in paradise

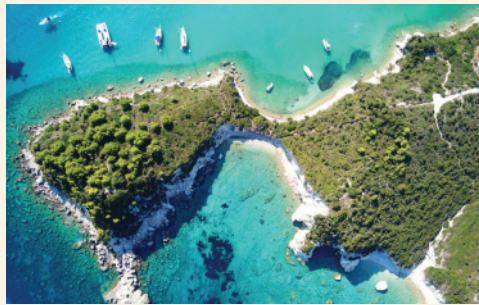
SIT BACK and sell some well-deserved R&R in the Cayman Islands: the destination offers a complete array of hotels and resorts that will melt all your clients' problems away.

The Garden Club at Palm Heights is positioned along the Seven Mile Beach and has recently opened its highly-anticipated spa, the Garden Club. Boasting a 60,000 sq foot area, guests can unwind and rejuvenate in the tropical sanctuary with a series of pamper treatments and wellness packages.

The Ritz-Carlton Grand Cayman captures the embodiment of luxury at a Forbes five-star spa with treatments from the experts at ESPA and 111SKIN within the resort. Guests have the option of healing body therapies, blended facials and more, promising a lavish experience from start to finish.

For rejuvenating treatments from expert physiotherapists, The Well Spa in George Town offers acupuncture, psychotherapy, massages and rehabilitation through a holistic lenses, promising to optimise physical, mental and emotional well-being for all visitors. The resort also offers three Pilates, yoga or barre classes over the course of a stay for US\$36.

www.visitcaymanislands.com



andBeyond announces Suyian Lodge

LUXURY CONSERVATION company andBeyond has extended its lodge presence in Kenya with the announcement of an Exclusive Tourism Concession through the 44,000-acre Suyian Conservancy in partnership with the global conservation charity Space for Giant.

www.andBeyond.com

Image Credits Centre: Cayman Islands, Right: andBeyond

Memories *await* under the Summer Sun!



Ajul Luxury Hotel & Spa Resort
Agia Paraskevi Kassandra Halkidiki Greece
T: +30 23740 47600 E: info@ajulresort.com





Luxury Holidays Roadshow

A TASTE of luxury called to Solihull and Wilmslow last month.

In Solihull, agents were joined by Lindos Hotels, Visit Portugal, Emerald Cruises, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, Domes Resorts & Reserves, SPL Villas, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, Constantinou Bros Hotels, Finolhu Maldives, Oceania Cruises, Louis Hotels, Thanos Hotels and Inmood Hotels in a star-studded, sold-out lineup of the biggest names in luxury!

Six agents won prize stays, while several others left with luxury gift sets, gift cards and more thanks to our prize giveaway!



Want to get in on the #TBSHOWCASES action? We're bringing the best suppliers from the Med to Liverpool and Belfast on June 10th and 11th. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

Travel Bulletin SHOWCASES

Invites you to a

Luxury Holidays Showcase

Agent networking evening

Tuesday 23rd April
Wilmslow



In Wilmslow, we were joined by Thanos Hotels and Resorts, The Seychelles, Emerald Cruises, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, Riviera Travel, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, Minos Collection, Constantinou Bros. Hotels, Al Ula, Oceania Cruises, Louis Hotels, Grecotel Hotels & Resorts and Inmood Hotels for more of the same - including five prize stays and a whole lot of luxury speed networking!





Palladium makes Unexpected arrival in the Middle East

PALLADIUM HOTEL Group's debut in the Middle East comes in the form of a 442-room and residence property on Ras Al Khaimah's Al Marjan Island, scheduled to open in 2026.

Not only marking Palladium's debut in the region, the property will mark the birth of The Unexpected Hotels & Residences brand identity, operating under the Ushuaia Unexpected Hotels umbrella. Two Ibiza properties will operate under the new label from 2025.

www.palladiumhotelgroup.com



Latest Red Sea resort summons all Six Senses

SINCE OPENING in November 2023 amongst the dramatic surroundings of the Hijaz Mountains, Six Senses Southern Dunes, The Red Sea has inspired all six senses to immerse themselves in the desert surroundings, Nabataean architecture and locally-sourced cuisine embodying the 'Eat With Six Senses' philosophy. Stays start from £1,050 per person.

www.sixsenses.com

Sandals Annual Sale: save £500, win £250

SANDALS' ANNUAL sale offers up to £500 off stays at Sandals Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Sandals Dunn's River in Jamaica, or Sandals Royal Curaçao, with bookings earning agents entries to a prize draw for a £250 Love2shop voucher.

The savings are eligible on bookings made until May 14th, 2024 by quoting the code 'SALE' when booking.

Seven- to nine-night stays include savings of £200 per booking, bolstered to £300 for 10- to 13-night stays and £400 on 14-night-plus stays. Select departure dates and resorts are eligible for £500 savings.

Those bookings can then be registered with your local Sandals business development manager to be in with a chance of winning the £250 vouchers, with one voucher up for grabs each week during the sale.

Valid bookings for the prize draw must



be for Butler suite stays of seven nights or more. The more bookings you make, the more entries you earn.

www.sellingsandals.co.uk

Riverside Luxury Cruises extends the indulgence for 2025

RIVERSIDE LUXURY Cruises' relatively recent arrival on the luxury cruise scene hasn't capped its growth: 2025 will see over 170 departures across 52 itineraries between three and 23 nights in length.

Extended options blending voyages aboard both *Riverside Debussy* and *Riverside Ravel* exploring the Rhine and Rhône are also on offer.

Charlie Hewitt Davies, the cruise line's managing director for the UK, promises



"unparalleled luxury on some of Europe's most breathtaking waters," and said the team "look[s] forward to welcoming both new and familiar faces onboard in 2025 and beyond!"

Riverside Mozart will operate a range of Danube itineraries, ranging from three to seven nights. In late May 2025, two three-night segments on the Lower Danube will set sail. Guests can opt to combine the return, four-night journey back to Budapest with both outbound three-night segments for a full seven-night option, with no calls repeated along the way.

In time for the festive period, *Riverside Debussy* will sail onto the Rhine for a programme of German Christmas Markets voyages, concluding with a 10-night 'Christmas and New Year' voyage from Basel to Amsterdam.

www.riverside-cruises.com

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Escape with Jumeirah this half term

LOOKING FOR a touch of luxury this May half-term? Jumeirah's extensive portfolio offers something for everyone, from stylish staycations to relaxation breaks under the Maldivian sun and endless adventures in Dubai.

Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island offers the ultimate family-friendly island escape, with each villa featuring a private rooftop terrace. Experiences on offer include cinema screenings under the stars, stargazing sessions and an extensive kids activity programme ensuring endless fun.

Jumeirah Beach Hotel in Dubai provides the ultimate playground for families to let loose and feel that childhood joy again, all within a luxurious setting. Offering five pools, three squash courts, daily water sport activities and access to the Wild Wadi Waterpark, it is guaranteed fun for all the family in a world-class setting. The resort is also offering a 20% saving if booked before May 31st, 2024
www.jumeirah.com

Silver screen to the seas: Mundy Cruises launches inspired collection

SMALL SHIP luxury cruise line Mundy Cruising has curated a one-of-a-kind collection of voyages inspired by the latest streaming sensations and blockbuster hits.

Featuring itineraries that call to secluded bays and tiny towns as well as hosting bespoke events on board, the 'Inspired By...' collection offers a fresh perspective on small ship cruising.

The Inspired by... Dune: Part Two sailing comprises a 15-night Cape Town round trip with Silversea for travellers eager to visit otherworldly destinations with overnight calls to Walvis Bay on the cusp of the Namib Desert. Prices for this itinerary lead in from £6,995 per person.

The Inspired by... White Lotus brought together a mix of characters in Sicily, and Mundy Cruising offers a three-night pre-cruise package in the town of Taormina with a 10-night sailing from Catania with visits to



an array of Italian delights and historic Croatian towns. Prices for this itinerary lead in from £9,555 per person including three nights in the San Domenico Palace as seen in the hit HBO show.

www.mundycruising.co.uk

The ultimate tropical family getaway

MIX QUALITY family time with luxurious indulgence in the heart of the Saint Lucia rainforest as Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort, calls all families to enjoy an unparalleled summer offering.

Sugar Beach offers a plethora of engaging activities tailored for both adults and children with a backdrop steeped in opulence. For the younger travellers, V Team Kids Club promotes activities to inspire young minds to be creative while

connecting to the community and exploring the local culture.

For the older children, the Spice Club Program offers table tennis, billiards, pinball machines and video games, and for family time, there are activities such as kayaking, paddle boarding, tennis, beach volleyball and snorkelling.

After a fun-filled day of adventure, families can sit back and relax in their luxury villas or beachside bungalows, each boasting amenities such as a private pools and balconies with stunning views of the rainforest.

When it comes to dining, the resort offers a curated menu satisfying every pallet, from delectable gourmet courses to a kids-friendly menu and even a traditional Caribbean BBQ for an authentic taste of Saint Lucia.

www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com



Travel **bulletin**

SHOWCASES

INVITES YOU TO A
LUXURY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE
 AGENT NETWORKING EVENING

Monday
20th MAY Basingstoke

Tuesday
21st MAY Chippenham

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to this informative and fun event, enabling you to learn more about the luxury holidays industry from leading luxury suppliers. These evenings will involve networking and presentations along with a delicious hot dinner, drinks, exciting entertainment and a free prize draw with prizes galore!

TIMINGS:

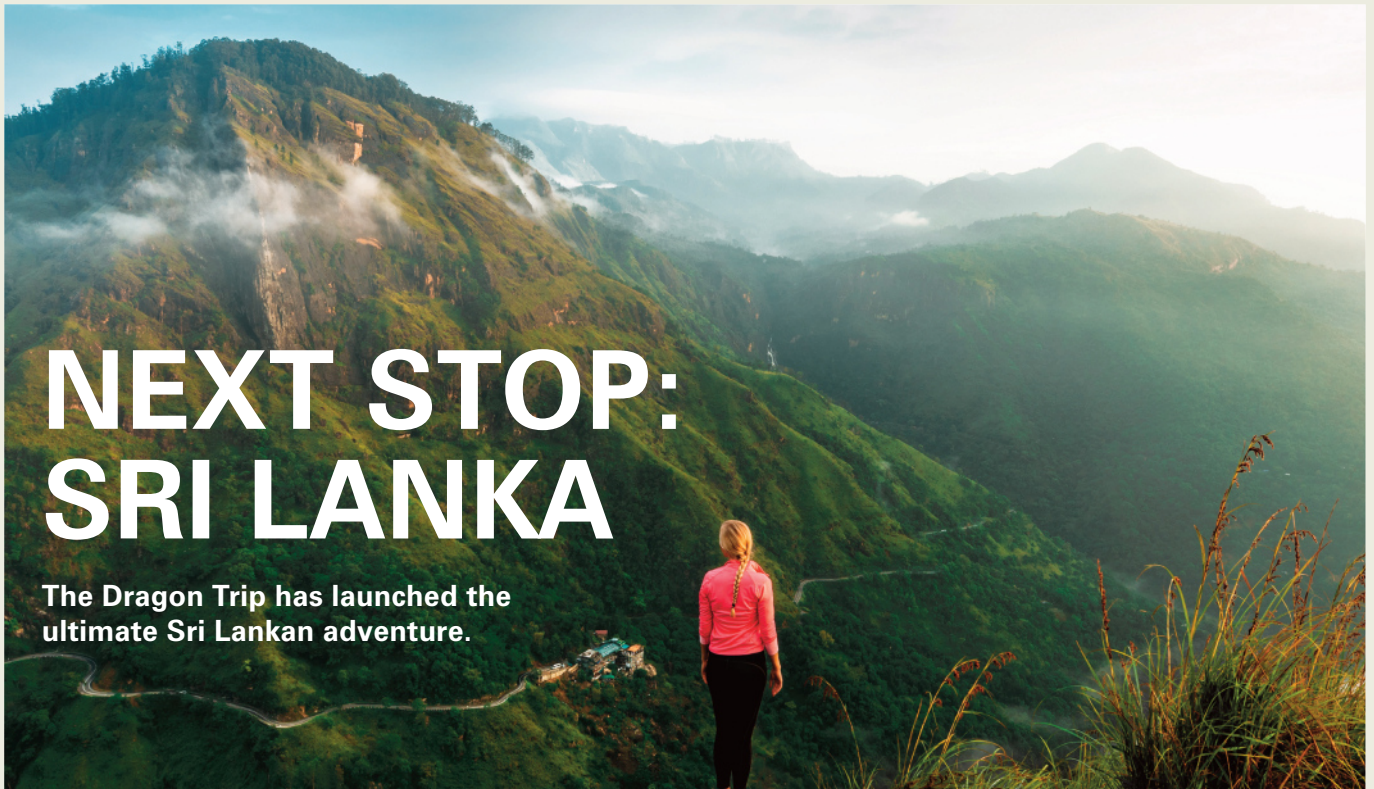
Registration & Drinks 5:45PM	Travel Bulletin Welcome 6:10PM	Supplier Presentations 6:15PM	Hot Dinner 7:30PM	Supplier Presentations 8:30PM	Product Quiz and Prizes 9:10PM	Event Ends 9:30PM
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FEATURES:



To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Thursday 16th May 2024 to: events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.



NEXT STOP: SRI LANKA

The Dragon Trip has launched the ultimate Sri Lankan adventure.

ALLOW YOUR clients to embark on an exhilarating journey through Sri Lanka with The Dragon's Trips brand new active itinerary through the destination.

The 13-day 'Active Sri Lanka Tour: Surf, Raft, Hike' will offer travellers the opportunity to experience a myriad of captivating moments from the mountains of Ella to the serene beaches in the south. Travellers will be transported into the vibrant city of Colombo before trekking through the ancient rock fortresses of Sigiriya and encountering a range of Sri Lankan wildlife on a safari.

Guests will embark on what has been described by some as one of the most

beautiful train rides in the world, a journey that travels from Hatton to Ella and meanders through expansive tea plantations and forests, boasting one of the most picturesque views of rural Sri Lanka.

For those travellers keen to take to the famous rolling waves, the itinerary offers the chance to test out their surf skills along the southern beaches, and for those who want even more excitement, there is the option to hit the white water rapids through the Kitugala rainforest.

To celebrate the new tour, The Dragon Trip are offering a 15% launch discount, meaning prices for the 13-day tour lead

in from £892 per person, including accommodation, a dedicated adventure leader, transportation, meals and activities.

If two weeks is not long enough, the Dragon Trip also offers a 26-day 'India to Sri Lanka' tour from £1,920 per person, offering the same stunning scenery and action-packed itinerary with an added adventure across the subcontinent.

www.thedragontrip.com

Inspiring offers Cambodian private oasis

BECOME ONE with nature at the barefoot luxury rainforest resort Song Saa Private Island. Located in the Koh Rong islands of Cambodia, the all-inclusive resort is home to a private beach, tropical reefs and untouched rainforests.

Inspiring Travel offers seven nights from £4,695 per person based on two adults sharing a Jungle One Bedroom Villa. The price boasts a 35% saving and includes flights, transfers and luggage allowance. Trips must be booked by June 30th, 2024 for travel between April 1st and October 31st, 2024.

www.inspiringtravel.co.uk

ONYX continues Thailand expansion

ONYX HOSPITALITY Group has announced the expansion of its Shama brand with the launch of Shama Rayong: the first Shama property in Thailand outside of Bangkok. The new property is expected to welcome guests in Q12026 and marks a significant milestone for the brand and its expansion across Thailand. www.onyx-hospitality.com



InterContinental makes it a family affair in Thailand

DISCOVER A summer of family fun at the newly opened InterContinental Chiang Mai The Mae Ping resort in the heart of Thailand's northern region.

Offering an alternative to the traditional all-inclusive family package, guests can immerse themselves in the rich cultural heritage of the ancient Lanna Kingdom while enjoying a touch of luxury at every step.

Guests will begin their days in the comfort of their indulgent room or suite before enjoying daily meals at The Gaa Lanna which shines the spotlight on local produce.

In the afternoons, the newly launched signature restaurant Hong's Chinese serves an unforgettable afternoon tea featuring mustard shrimp balls and crispy crab spring rolls as well as violet macarons and crème de banana. The price for this additional offering currently stands at £20 per person.

While adults indulge, kids can play at the hotel's Planet Trekkers kids' club, featuring activities such as bracelet making and umbrella painting.

The all-inclusive package includes a luxurious suite or room, daily breakfasts for two adults and one child, daily three-course dinner for two adults, daily dinner for kids, access to Planet Trekkers and return airport transfers. Flights are not included and prices for the package vary depending on date of departure.

www.ihg.com



Nobu achieves ruby milestone

NOBU HOSPITALITY has announced the opening of Nobu Hotel and Restaurant Ho Chi Minh, marking the brand's second opening in Vietnam, and 40th hotel in its catalogue.

Located in the heart of Ho Chi Minh's District 1, the property will feature 135 guest rooms and suites throughout the 40-story mixed-use complex, as well as a rooftop swimming pool, a state-of-the-art fitness facility and the renowned Nobu restaurant. The hotel is set to open in 2026.

www.nobuhotels.com



Fall for Japan: Wendy Wu adds departures

WENDY WU Tours has added extra autumn 2024 departures across its Japanese offering due to demand. Guests can take in the kaleidoscope of reds and oranges and the idyllic temperatures the destination boasts during October and November with more choice now added to the collection. Travellers can also now book 2026 Japan tours.

www.wendywutours.co.uk



Pandaw to dock in central Saigon

FROM SEPTEMBER 2024, all Pandaw Mekong sailings will dock in central Saigon rather than My Tho in order to cut the two-hour transfer and allow guests to experience the authentic side of the Mekong river in comfort.

Guests who are sailing upstream from Saigon to Siem Reap will be treated to an

on board lunch, while guests sailing downstream will enjoy a sunset dinner while meandering into central Saigon on the final evening. Pandaw will also introduce tea and coffee stations as well as a fully stocked minibar on all vessels from September.

www.pandaw.com



Banyan Group backs up eco credentials

REFLECTING ITS “continued dedication” to sustainable practices, the Banyan Group has launched its 18th Annual Sustainability Report.

Through solar panel projects across several properties among other shifts in power generation and consumption, the group reduced emissions intensity per occupied room by 22% last year, with 23% of total waste produced across the year diverted to recycling or repurposing initiatives. www.banyantree.com



Bringing Okinawa to the capital

A TASTE of Japan’s southernmost prefecture, Okinawa, is coming to London in June.

The 11th annual Okinawa Day will see workshops, entertainment, food, and craft stalls all hoping to channel the unique magic of the sub-tropical marvel. Okinawa Day 2024 takes place at Bermondsey’s Blue Market on June 22nd, 2024. www.sanshinkai.uk/okinawa-day

Centara brings COSI label to Laos

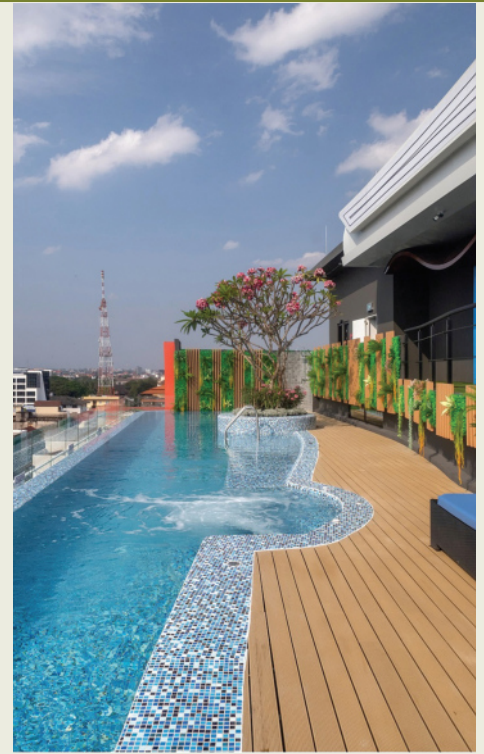
COSI HOTELS, the affordable lifestyle label of Centara Hotels & Resorts, has made its debut outside of Thailand with the COSI Vientiane Nam Phu, in Laos.

The 95-room property opened in March with three room categories: COSI Room, Plus and Family options all capped off by the property’s a rooftop pool.

Despite being founded in the late-13th century, the Laotian capital’s newest accommodation offering harvests a modern social buzz, eco-friendly room design, and modern facilities.

Pasin Nopsuwan, the property’s general manager, said: “We are thrilled to introduce COSI Vientiane Nam Phu to travellers seeking a dynamic and immersive experience in Vientiane.”

In celebration of the opening, COSI Hotels is offering a 30% discount on booking made by July 31st, 2024, along with US\$3 in daily



food and drink credit.

The COSI label spans properties across Thailand in Samui Chaweng Beach, Pattaya Wong Amat Beach, and Krabi Ao Nang Beach.

www.centarahotelsresorts.com

G Adventures’ birthday gift to Goodall offers Far Eastern fauna foray

IN CELEBRATION of iconic environmentalist Jane Goodall’s 90th birthday, G Adventures has expanded its ‘Jane Goodall Collection’ with five new trips.

The new options join several existing Far Eastern forays that promote responsible wildlife tourism and support worldwide conservation efforts.

The eight-day ‘Borneo – East Sabah Adventure’ roundtrip from Kota Kinabalu explores a coastal stretch of Borneo, home

to canopies of skyscraper height and awe-inspiring coastline. Prices lead in at £1,062 per person based on a September 2024 departure date.

Dr. Jane Goodall added: “The Jane Goodall Institute thanks G Adventures for their continued support.

“Connecting with nature and having respect for animals is important for the wellbeing of our human spirit. It also gives travellers an understanding of the urgent need to protect our beautiful planet before it’s too late.”

G Adventures’ founder Bruce Poon Tip added: “I am so proud of this partnership and can’t wait for even more of our travellers to step deeper into the animal kingdom to connect with nature, recognising the role we play in their wellbeing and preserving their habitats.” www.gadventures.com





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The flagship returns: Dusit Thani Bangkok to reopen this autumn

AN ICON is set to make a grand return this year as Dusit Hotels and Resorts has confirmed that its flagship property Dusit Thani Bangkok will reopen on September 27th following a huge transformation.

To celebrate the news, Dusit is launching an exclusive reopening offer for early-bird bookers. Starting from May 1st, early bookings made through the Dusit website will be rewarded with a nightly credit of US\$75 for dining and spa treatments, alongside other perks.

Under the special offer, rates lead in from £265 per night when booked by October 31st 2024 for stays between September 27th, 2024 to March 31st, 2025.

Adrian Rudin, managing director



for Dusit Thani Bangkok, stated that the refurbishment of the hotel is not just “a rebuild; it’s a rebirth” and the exclusive reopening offer “unlocks the door to being among the first to experience this reimagined icon.”

Alongside the hotel, the Dusit Central Park will include ultra-luxury residences, a state-of-the-art office tower, a high-end retail centre and a 11,200 sq m Roof Park, all scheduled to open in 2025.

www.dusit.com



Azamara to make maiden trip to Maizuru

AZAMARA CRUISES has unveiled its 2025 and 2026 winter sailing programme, featuring eight maiden port visits and journeys to lesser-known destinations across the globe. One of the new ports included in the winter itineraries is Maizuru, Japan, nestled along the Kyoto Prefecture’s scenic coast. Travellers will take a step into the past and visit a series of historical sites and museums while culinary enthusiasts can experience the myriad of traditional cuisine the region is known for against the backdrop of the Maizuru mountains.

www.azamara.com

What would be your
Come Dine With Me
dinner party menu?

Jeanette Ratcliffe Publisher

jeanette.ratcliffe@travelbulletin.co.uk
Starter: Chilli and garlic prawn
Main: Xapodi **Dessert:** Lemon posset



Simon Eddolls Sales Director

simon.eddolls@travelbulletin.co.uk
Starter: Scallops, prawn and black pudding salad **Main:** Lamb shank,
Dessert: Treacle tart and ice cream



Sarah Terry Senior Account Manager

sarah.terry@travelbulletin.co.uk
Starter: Tapas **Main:** Crab and tomato linguine **Dessert:** limoncello



Tim Podger Account Manager - Far East

tim@travelbulletin.co.uk
Pad thai, laab moo, mango with sticky rice, all washed down with a chilled Sancerre Rose



Matthew Hayhoe Acting Editor

matthew.hayhoe@travelbulletin.co.uk
Starter: Burrata salad **Main:** Veggie lasagna **Dessert:** Arctic roll



Melissa Paddock Events Coordinator

melissa.paddock@travelbulletin.co.uk
Starter: Arancini balls, **Main:** Spaghetti carbonara **Dessert:** Tiramisu



Holly Brown Events Coordinator

holly.brown@travelbulletin.co.uk
Starter: Mozzarella sticks
Main: Instant mac 'n cheese
Dessert: Chocolate chip cookies



Leah Kelly Acting Deputy Editor

leah.kelly@travelbulletin.co.uk
Starter: Bruschetta **Main:** Hasselback halloumi chicken **Pudding:** Apple pie



Areti Sarafidou Events Coordinator

aret.sarafidou@travelbulletin.co.uk
Starter: Beef and tomato salad
Main: Argentinian ribeye **Dessert:** NY cheesecake



EVENTS

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PRODUCTION

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CIRCULATION

circulation@travelbulletin.co.uk

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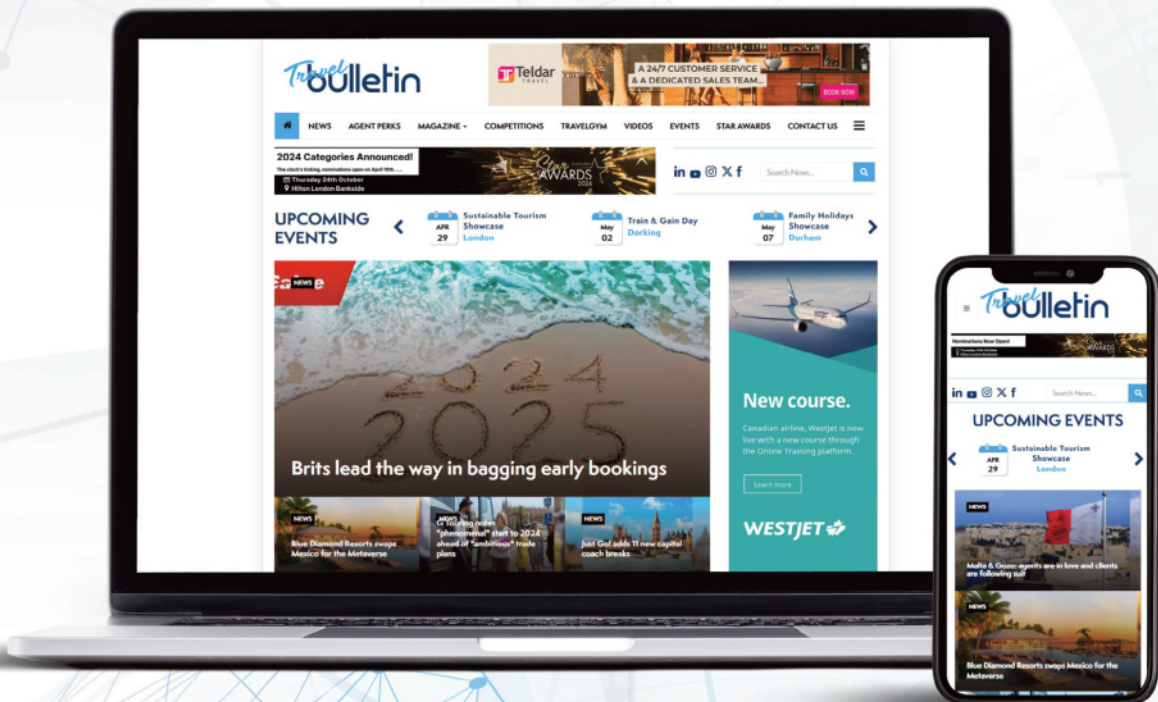
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or email jeanette@travelbulletin.co.uk

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