

Travelbulletin

Giving agents the edge

USA

Cosmopolitan coastlines,
stars-and-striped heartland,
and everything in between

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Winter Sun

Swap the cold shivers for the sun **Pg. 19**



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Jetset



Howdee Pardner!

Stay on the right side of the law...

Prospecting is safer on JETS*

The Magnificent 7 offers
Generosity, Flexibility and Immediacy

*and a whole lot more rewarding

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The coolest deals in the hottest destinations Brits are heading to this winter.

PACKAGING THE GENERATIONS

New data uncovered by easyJet Holidays has found that, while package holidays on are the up, there is a generational divide when it comes to booking tactics.

BRITAIN'S BOOKING habits have gone under the microscope to reveal that business is booming for package holidays across the generations.

Although Millennials and Gen X are leading the charge when it comes to package holiday bookings, 38% of Gen Z are now more likely to book a package compared to five years ago. Cost efficiency (60%), ease of booking (56%) and peace of mind (38%) were cited as the main motivations behind the rise of the package.

A clear generational gap is forming when it comes to how far in advance travellers plan their holidays. Overall, Gen Z prefers to lock in their plans less than 12 weeks before departure, while Gen X typically books up to five months ahead. The driving forces behind Gen Z's last-minute bookings were revealed to be cost-saving (36%), wanting a mental health break (31%) and revelling in spontaneity (26%). Meanwhile, Gen X like to lock in

trip earlier due to budgets (52%), availability of their travel companion (33%), and a preference for planning (24%).

However, a factor that unites holidaymakers across the generations is the desire to take more trips, with a third (32%) of Brits now embarking on three or more holidays per year. Almost a quarter of Gen Z and Millennials prefer shorter but more frequent getaways, with easyJet Holidays' data suggesting that the average holiday duration is 6.7 days.

Paul Bixby, chief commercial officer at easyJet Holidays, said, "More Brits than ever are opting for package holidays because of their convenience and reliability, but we're seeing generational habits vary more than ever – from early planners to spontaneous adventurers. At easyJet Holidays, we're committed to providing package holiday options that suit the needs of all our customers."




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bulletin

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CroisiEurope reveals 2027 Amazon season details

CROISIEUROPE HAS unveiled further details about its new trio of sailings, set to launch in the Amazon in 2027 aboard *RV Brazilian Dream*.

The purpose-built ship is set to debut in January 2027 with the 'Along the Amazon & the Rio Negro' itinerary, a 10-day roundtrip sailing. Prices start from Manaus from £4,756 per person.

From September to December 2027, the 10-night 'Gentle Amazon & the Tapajós River' itinerary will set sail between Santarém and Manaus, leading in from £4,756 per person.

In April and May, 'The Original Amazon' itinerary will round out the trio of sailings, operating from Manaus and Tabatinga. Fares start from £5,782 per person.



EVA bolsters Brisbane and Milan programmes

THE NEW Year will see EVA Air enhance its connectivity from Taipei to Milan and Brisbane.

Three extra flights a week will boost the Taipei-Milan programme to a daily service from January 16th, 2026. Additional flights will take

flight on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

Brisbane will host additional flights every Tuesday between December 2nd, 2025 and February 24th, 2026.

EVA Air's Boeing 787 Dreamliners will operate the additional services.

InsideJapan responds to small group demand with 2026 offering

ADDITIONAL DEPARTURES in the off-peak and shoulder seasons have made InsideJapan's 2026 small group programme the brand's largest-ever.

"Our 2025 tours sold at a pace we've never seen before, which not only reflects the popularity of Japan right now, but the demand for the 'Insider' escorted small group tour," said group tour programme operations manager Richard Farmer.

The enhanced options for 2026 promise agents greater flexibility and value, as Richard continued. "With our 7% shoulder and 15% off-peak reduced pricing now in place from the outset, there's a real opportunity for agents to present an affordable alternative to peak-season travel.

"The culture that makes Japan so special doesn't just stop outside of spring or autumn."

Conrad makes its German debut

HILTON HAS introduced its Conrad label to Germany, opening the Conrad Hamburg in an Art Nouveau building dating back to 1912.

283 rooms and suites have debuted in the property, decked out with works from up-and-coming and well-established contemporary German artists.

Simon Vincent, Hilton's president of EMEA, said, "With Conrad Hamburg, we're not just expanding our award-winning luxury brand,

we're making a statement about our commitment to Europe's most iconic destinations and to the German market."

Rates start from £261 a night.

"Hamburg's maritime heritage, vibrant cultural scene and thriving business hub make it a great destination for both business and leisure travellers, and the ideal setting for Conrad Hotels & Resorts' debut in Germany," Vincent concluded.



Cruise's share of Travel Counsellors' business up 5%

WITH OVERALL leisure cruise sales surpassing £8 million in August, Travel Counsellors has announced that cruise's share of its total business is up 5% against last year.

In 2024, 12% of Travel Counsellors' business was courtesy of cruise, a share that has now increased to 17% of the total leisure business in 2025 so far, with booking value surpassing £65 million. Premium (66%) and luxury (88%) cruises have reported notable growth this year against 2024.

Travel Counsellors' head of cruise, Janet Whittingham, celebrated the sector's impressive performance this year. "Cruising has always been a much-loved way for our customers to explore the world, whether at sea or on river sailings.

"What's exciting is that we're now seeing strong growth across all age groups, especially among younger travellers who are embracing the unique experiences cruising can offer."

Just You rolls out 20-guest limit on select tours

AFTER A trial run of 'Max 20', which puts a 20-guest limit on select departures, earlier this year, Just You has now rolled out the limit across 17 tours.

Select departures, beginning last month, are marked with the 'Max 20' label, promising a more intimate and personalised touring experience for solos.

Just You's marketing director, Charlotte Field, promised "a much more personal way to travel" from the tours.

"...with a smaller group there's a perfect



balance between social travel and closer connections, both to the incredible destinations and to the kindred spirits they'll meet."



New from Newmarket

A THIRD Japanese itinerary is joining Newmarket Holidays' Far East range next year, offering guests a scenic route through two do the region's lesser-travelled islands. The 16-day itinerary, 'Japan's Scenic South & the Golden Route', will take guests to a series of Japanese attractions, including Tokyo's buzzing neighbourhoods, Hiroshima and Mount Fuji, a bullet train ride to Kyoto's Geisha district, and visits to Nagasaki's post-war landmarks and Battleship Island.

Prices lead in at £6,079.

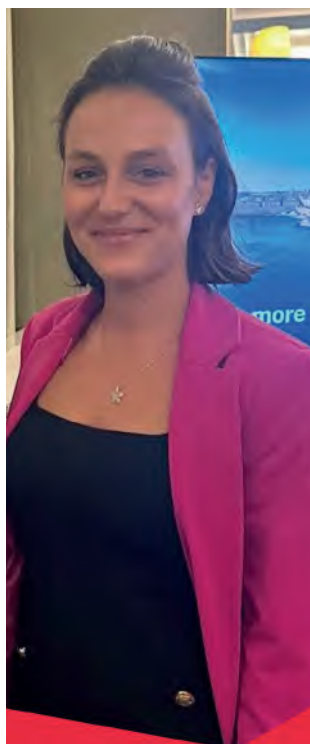


Save 25% on Expedia TAAP

EXPEDIA TAAP'S ongoing sale, running until October 20th, 2025, offers a range of discounts worth at least 25%, applicable on a wide range of hotels.

Icons like Park Lane New York and Viceroy Washington DC are included in the promotion.

Travel dates until March 31st, 2026, are eligible for the discount, which applies to a limited number of properties on the agent-exclusive platform.



Explore more *possibilities*

We hope you've enjoyed a wonderful summer and are ready for an exciting autumn ahead! I can't wait to connect with those of you attending the Travel Bulletin Star Awards on 27th October. Autumn is the ideal season to book Malta, offering unbeatable value, comfortable warm weather and unique seasonal experiences that make every visit unforgettable. With WTM fast approaching, we'll be bringing a taste of Malta's sunshine, hospitality, and culture to our stand on 4th and 5th November. Join us for training, a presentation, delicious Maltese treats and wine – email me to save your spot!

Gabriela Milkova
gabriela-ruseva.milkova
@visitmalta.com



ICELANDAIR WILL offer between three and four flights per week to Edinburgh, after extending its programme to the Scottish capital from seasonal to year-round due to strong demand. The route launches following the 80th anniversary of Icelandair's operations in Scotland, with Edinburgh becoming the airline's second Scottish route to Reykjavik.

Azamara forms panel to recognise "fundamental" role of trade

AGENTS WILL be central to Azamara Cruises' UK Partner Advisory Panel, which invites industry contacts to share thoughts and feedback openly with the cruise line's leadership.

Representatives from the Advantage Travel Partnership, Hays Travel, Iglu and Fred. Olsen Travel are among those comprising the inaugural agent panel.

David Siewers, the cruise line's international

chief sales officer, announced the new panel.

"We're delighted to launch our Partner Advisory Panel... our agent partners are fundamental to our future success, so this collaborative forum will allow us to share ideas and initiatives with the travel professionals who know our business best."

A celebratory launch event took place last month. Two annual meetings will now take place moving forward.

TTC has high hopes for agents

TTC TOUR Brands' partnership with TProfile will allow agents to quickly generate content-driven itineraries and, according to managing director EMEA Kelly Jackson, "make it as simple and effective as possible for our trade partners to sell our tours with confidence."

Along with the itinerary builder, TProfile also streamlines quoting, CRM and document processes. Last year alone, over £8 billion in quotes were generated via TProfile from existing partnerships with the likes of Wendy Wu and Travelsphere.

Itineraries from Contiki, Trafalgar, Insight Vacations, Costsaver and Luxury Gold can all now be brought to life via the TProfile platform.



Riviera goes regional

NEW REGIONAL departures from Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Edinburgh hope to make it easier for UK travellers to experience Riviera Travel's long-haul escorted offering. Flights can be combined with select departures in 2026 and 2027.

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **AGENTS CAN** earn a £100 bonus commission and an additional £50 voucher per guest while rewarding their guests with US\$250 onboard credit each when booking with Swan Hellenic before October 15th, 2025. The incentive, part of a wider 'Luxury Unlocked' promotion, applies to a range of departures across Africa, Arctic, Antarctica, Central America, Europe and Latin American programmes departing between March and October 2026.
- **JETSET HAS** announced this month's HighFliers guest stars: Air Canada & Destination Canada! All package bookings with Air Canada will see a £75 bonus incentive awarded.
- **JOURNEY BEYOND** has confirmed the return of its mega fam trip for 2026. A 'Become a Beyonder' campaign will decide who joins the operator on the 10-day trip, worth almost £10,000. There are five ways to win: booking the most guests on Journey Beyond Rail and Outback Spirit excursions, reporting the highest revenue on either Journey Beyond Rail or Outback Spirit, telling the best Journey Beyond agent success story, conducting the most creative agency campaign, and attending five Beyonder webinars.
- **BOOK AND** spin your Select Price bookings with P&O Cruises before October 9th, 2025 to win up to 500 Shine points. All agents who partake will be entered into a draw to win a seven-night Mediterranean fly/cruise holiday for two.
- **ANY AGENTS** who make a Cosmos Tours booking this month could win a spot on a Canada fam trip in 2026. A winner is selected each week until mid-November.

AGENT BULLETIN



OUR 2026 Event Calendar is out now! Registration is open for events throughout the year, which include the return of our ever-popular Showcases, Train & Gain Days, and Around the World Party—returning to the Hurlingham Club in July! Find out more and register now at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents

Travelbulletin

COMPETITION

Win a place on a Sun Siyam Resorts fam trip!

Find out more at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/sun-siyam-competition-sept-2025

AGENT TRAINING

- **APPRENTICES AND** 'new to travel' agents are invited to register for one of 20 places on a Contiki fam trip to South Africa; applicants must complete a Contiki e-learning session and explain why they deserve a space, what makes them outstanding in their role, and why they represent the future of travel; showcase their Contiki and touring sector expertise; and how they plan to drive Contiki sales post-fam. The eight-day 'Garden Route and Addo' tour will showcase Cape Town and its surrounding areas' diverse safari, city and coastal attractions to 20 18- to 25-year-olds—or "rising stars" to travel.
- **NYC TOURISM + Conventions** has bolstered its NYC Travel Trade Academy with a luxury module and committed to updating its B2B NYC Luxury Guide regularly. President and CEO of New York City Tourism + Conventions, Julie Coker, iterated that the board is "focused on fostering strong trade relationships."
- **BRAZIL TRAVEL Specialist** hopes to showcase the destination's authentic and sustainable experiences, with personalised training modules and marketing materials exclusively designed for agents.
- **COMPLETING THE Canyon Spirit TRACKS** online training before the end of October and confirming a booking on the 'Rockies to Red Rocks' route could win you a free rail journey of your own. The training programme promises in-depth insight into the recently rebranded luxury rail journey operator. Completion not only enters you into the prize draw for a holiday of your own but certifies Specialist status and earns you access to rewards, giveaways and agent rates.
- **MONACO EXPERT** has recently welcomed a new module centred around 'Incredible Itineraries'. The module covers just some of the various travel styles on offer across the destination.



REMEMBERING SANDY

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to our dear friend and colleague, Sandy Murray, who passed away on September 20th, 2025, at the age of 78.

Sandy was a regular columnist for Travel Bulletin magazine for over 30 years, and she loved sharing her travel experiences with our readers in her 'Notes From Normanton' column.

Everyone who met her embraced her joie de vivre; she was always great fun, and, without doubt, she loved the travel industry. She regularly attended training events, experienced many fam trips and also organised the highly popular 'Yorkshire Ball' for over 20 years. Through these events, she also helped support her other great love, which was animals, especially cats. She truly made a massive difference by raising thousands of pounds for animal charities around the world.

Our condolences go to Sandy's family and friends. She touched the hearts of so many people.

We will miss you, Sandy. Rest in peace, dear friend.

TRIBUTES



"I will always remember Sandy as being a very kind and considerate lady, loved by all.
"She was also always up for a laugh.....this photo says it all for me.
"We will miss you so much Sandy."
Jeanette Ratcliffe, publisher



"When I first started out on the road 25 years ago, Sandy was a great supporter—always ready with a brew, quick to recommend other agents to go and visit, and always with a funny & interesting tale to tell.
"Over the years, as I continued out on the road with different companies, she always continued that support with an encouraging mention in her Travel Bulletin column.
"Her Yorkshire Balls were legendary....as is she. It was a joy and an honour to know her.
"Rest easy, lovely lady."
Stephanie Robertson, travel trade executive at Canadian Affair



"You are the ONLY human charity I support" you shared proudly with me numerous times...
"I know it meant a lot to you, and I hope when you arrive at your next destination, you're greeted by Reuben with lots of beautiful animals surrounding him, all making their way to welcome you with their love and gratitude. I promise we invested every penny with integrity, Sandy, and with immense gratitude.
"Your beautiful Yorkshire Travel Ball is woven into our story, and your beautiful thread and sequins shine brightly today on that tapestry of our journey.
"Bless you, Sandy Murray, you were and always will be one in a million."
Nicola Graham, founder of Reuben's Retreat

"Sandy and I have been acquainted for years and kept in touch over the years. She loved her cats dearly and was very passionate about animal welfare.
"She was the life and soul of the party and one of life's treasures. She will be very sadly missed.
"RIP my wonderful friend."
Lauretta Wright, former editor

"Such sad news. Sandy was such a warm, funny and vivacious lady.
"We went on a Holiday Options fam trip to Corsica together, and we kept sneaking off for a bottle of Prosecco in the sun! What a wonderful lady who will be remembered by so many in this industry."
Edwina Coppock, sales & administrations executive at Beachcomber Tours

"Sandy was such a lovely kind-hearted lady, we got on really well and she came and supported many of my coffee mornings over the years!
"We were also on the same Dubai educational with If Only and had great fun. And, of course, the High Ridings Travel team and I attended many of Sandy's Yorkshire Balls over the years!"
Helen North, High Ridings Travel



"Sandy Murray was a dear friend of mine over many years. We used to refer to each other when on the phone as 'the Other One,' depending who was calling who.
"We were in touch up until a week before she passed. She was a beautiful soul and will be greatly missed by so many industry colleagues whose lives she touched."
Sandra Bruce, SandyBeach International



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

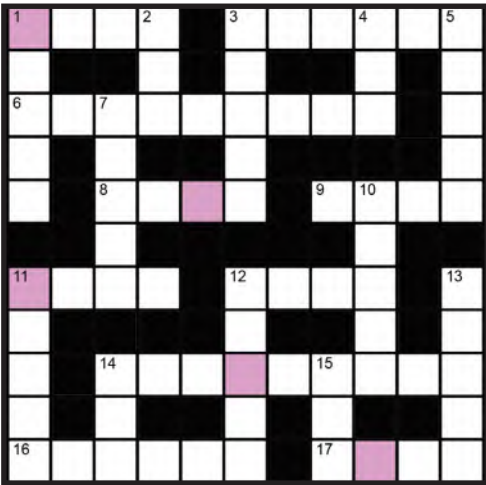
Closing date for entries is Thursday, October 16th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

September 19th Solution: A=2 B=7 C=1 D=5

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



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



- Across
- Down
- 1 P&O cruise ship (4)

3 Richard Branson's private island (6)

6 State capital of Iowa (3,6)

8 Airline trade association, initially (4)

9 Muscat is the capital (4)

11 This fare has a point, book ahead and save money (4)

12 Qatar Airways main hub and HQ are based here (4)

14 Famous London theatre (9)

16 The largest of the US states (6)

17 Wightlink's passenger ferry operates from Portsmouth to this IOW port (4)
- 1 Recent BBC series, Passage to ____ features Rob Rinder and 5 Down (5)

2 Code for Amman, Queen Alia International Airport (3)

3 Currency of Nigeria (5)

4 Greek island, known for its ancient ruins and the famous plane tree of Hippocrates (3)

5 TV personality recognised by his dark hair and dazzling white teeth (5)

7 Flows through Paris (5)

10 Florida city and major cruise port (5)

11 Oranjestad is the capital (5)

12 US airline and letter of the Greek alphabet (5)

13 One of the battlefields included in tours offered by Leger (5)

14 Flag carrier of Pakistan (3)

15 Driverless train network, initially, covering the tourist areas of Greenwich and Canary Wharf (3)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word: ITALY
Down: 1 INDIA, 2 AMM, 3 NAIRA, 4 KOS, 5 RYLAN, 7 SEINE, 10 MIAMI, 11 ARUBA, 12 DELTA, 13 SOMME, 14 PIA, 15 DLR.
Across: 1 IONA, 3 NECKER, 6 DES MOINES, 8 IATA, 9 OMAN, 11 APEX, 12 DOHA, 14 PALLADIUM, 16 ALASKA, 17 RYDE.

Course is set for 2026 & 2027

HAVILA VOYAGES' earlybird promotion sees discounts worth up to £290 per cabin on offer across departures in 2026 and beyond.

Discounts apply to Norwegian coastal voyages: £290 can be saved on any Round Voyage bookings, with £140 off both Voyage North and Voyage South departures.



Both discounts are matched in onboard credit—Round Voyages booked during the promotion period include £290 to spend on board, while the North and South departures include £140.

For solo travellers, the discount and onboard spend are reduced to £140 and £70 on the round-trip and North/South voyages, respectively.

Agents can apply the savings on voyages between January 1st, 2026 and March 31st, 2027 when booking before November 15th, 2025.

Matthew Valentine, global head of sales, launched the offer. "This campaign gives agents a timely, value-driven offer to present to their clients.

"It applies across all seasons, giving travellers the chance to choose their favourite time of year to sail."



JUST GO! Holidays' 2026 Britain and Ireland brochure is out. 'Britain and Ireland Holiday Collection' stars 23 new itineraries, with greater emphasis on Scotland and vintage railway tours after impressive demand for both in 2025. Bookings for UK bookings made by October 14th, 2025 include a £10 voucher, doubled for European bookings.

Titan Travel's tithe: 10% discount on tours through 2027

TITAN TRAVEL tours departing between November 1st, 2025 and January 31st, 2027, which spans over 130 worldwide itineraries, can qualify for a 10% discount. Director of trade distribution Shane Lewis-Riley, announced the offer, iterating that Titan "want[s] to give agents every chance to turn every enquiry they get in to a booking."

Shane continued, "To help [agents secure bookings] by offering their customers even

more great value, we're delighted to announce this discount on all departures and every destination from the November 1st this year right through to January 31st, 2027.

"But the special offer won't be available for long, and so our team will be working hard with their agent partners in the coming weeks to ensure they really make the most of it."

Titan flagships like the 16-day 'Grand Tour of Italy' start from £3,146 with the discount.

Secret Atlas unveils expedition micro cruises

SECRET ATLAS is breaking boundaries by offering the smallest group sizes on the market for micro expeditions to Antarctica and South Georgia. With a maximum capacity of 42 guests, the new voyages offer a new era of intimate exploration in some the most remote wildernesses left in the world.

Highlighted itineraries include the 10-day 'Antarctica Spring Micro Fly Cruise' offering four departures in December 2026 from £14,995 per person and the 16-day 'South Georgia & Antarctica Spring Micro Fly Cruise' offering two departures in November 2026 from £19,495 per person.



Full steam ahead for Original Travel

AFTER REPORTING a booking increase of 37% for rail journeys, Original Travel is capitalising on this surge of demand by introducing its first-ever rail brochure for the trade, featuring an overview of Europe's new sleeper services and useful planning tools.



Book. Travel. Enjoy.

The Bernina Express is one of Europe's most breathtaking rail journeys. In just four and a half hours, this UNESCO-listed route links Chur or St. Moritz with Tirano. Panoramic windows reveal glaciers, turquoise lakes, spiralling viaducts and, finally, Mediterranean scenery with palms – few journeys offer such dramatic contrasts in so little time.

Switzerland Travel Centre presents the

Bernina Express



Albula Line

The northern section of the journey follows the Albula Line, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Landscapes. This masterpiece of railway engineering is a highlight in itself, featuring dramatic tunnels, spirals, and soaring bridges such as the graceful Solis Viaduct, which spans a deep gorge in a single elegant sweep.



Alp Grüm

High above the Palü Glacier, the train stops at Alp Grüm for around 15 minutes – a panoramic station with no road access, perched at 2,091 metres. From here, passengers enjoy views of the Palü Glacier and the vast Poschiavo Valley stretching toward Italy. It's almost as if the Alpine world is opening up at your feet.



more info

Contact us to book,
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or talk anything Switzerland

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Tuesday 9th September - DoubleTree by Hilton Bath City

SUPPLIER PARTNERS



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just you

THE FIRST
COLLECTION



Train & Gain Bath

WE WERE delighted to bring the Catalan Tourist Board, Sandals Resorts, Tampa Bay, First Collection Dubai, Simpson Travel and Travelsphere & Just You to Bath last month.

The return of our daytime Train & Gain events has been a roaring success—just ask some of our lucky prize-winning agents in attendance, who left the DoubleTree with Fortnum & Mason champagne, return flights and themed goodies!



The #TBGainAndGain days return in 2026! Our first Train & Gain will take place in Hampton Court on January 26th. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

A DESTINATION REVITALISED

Hurricane Ian left its mark across Florida in 2022; Charm Evans, Fort Myers' global sales manager, told *Travel Bulletin* about her destination's post-hurricane revitalisation



FORT MYERS is one of Florida's most historic and iconic resort destinations, with its first hotel opening in the late 19th century. The destination, since then, has become an icon of 'Old Florida', as global sales manager Charm Evans acknowledges. "We're totally seen as 'Old Florida'—laidback and natural—which is great, but to have something

new for the destination and guests to discover is very exciting."

In 2022, the destination was struck by Florida's costliest natural disaster (both in terms of lives and recovery cost), Hurricane Ian. Since then, the narrative has shifted, with many of Fort Myers' most exciting developments emerging as a result of Ian recovery efforts. "Immediately after the hurricane, the focus was understandably on the rebuilding of our infrastructure and restoring our beaches and islands that make the destination so iconic. Today, we are seeing a forward-looking shift; we highlight not only what has been restored, but we are also talking about what has been reimaged."

Shalimar Beach Resort perhaps stands as the most impressive landmark of Fort Myers' restoration and reimagination, becoming the destination's first hotel built from the ground-up to open when it did so last month, on the third anniversary of Hurricane Ian's landfall. Rates start from around £289 per night for the hotel, which houses a range of one- and two-bedroom waterfront villas.

As the narrative shifts, Charm iterated that agents remain key to ongoing revitalisation efforts; Fort Myers continues to update its agent portal with the latest digital resources to help agents sell the destination and hosts a range of regular training opportunities.

Key West unlocked

AFTER INTRODUCING non-stop services from Tampa and Orlando into Key West, Breeze Airways has expanded options into the resort city from Canton, Ohio and Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. Allegiant Air is also expanding connectivity with routes from Knoxville, Tennessee.

The connectivity comes shortly after a \$100 million-plus renovation to Key West International Airport, which was unveiled in May. A new concourse, eight jet bridges, upgraded baggage claim, and new restaurants are all on offer as a result of the project.

Dreamy barefoot luxury in Florida

FLORIDA'S NORTHEAST coast hides one of the state's dreamiest hidden gems: Amelia Island. The destination's 13-mile coastline is home to levels of unmatched luxury and uncrowded beaches rarely associated with the sunshine state.

North America Travel Service offers a host of bespoke itineraries to Amelia Island, which is less than an hour from Jacksonville International Airport.





Oregon makes accessibility first

OREGON HAS become the first state to earn 'Accessibility Verified' status from Wheel the World, an accessible travel organisation. The certification followed an assessment of over 750 hotels and hospitality businesses across the state, verifying their accessibility for travellers of all needs.

Punta Gorda icon begins next phase

SUNSEEKER RESORT, the largest hotel of its kind in Southwest Florida, has joined Hilton's Curio Collection brand.

The property, which is situated across the Peace River from Punta Gorda in Charlotte Harbour and is accessible within a two-hour drive of Tampa International, boasts 785 rooms and 189 signature 'Sunsuites'.

On-site, a championship-level, 18-hole golf course; full-service spa; two pools (including rooftop infinity pool); and over a dozen dining venues certify the property as the jewel in Southwest Florida's accommodation crown.

Sunseeker's admission into the Curio Collection will see it embedded into Hilton's wider travel agent rewards and incentives programmes, with up to 10% commission; 50% off newly opened hotels and up to



25% off existing properties for stays of their own; early booking and breakfast included offers; and up to double Hilton Honors points when booking.

Image Credits: Left: Travel Oregon, Right: Hilton Sunseeker Resort

THE GATEWAY TO UNEXPECTED ADVENTURE

CINCY IS BOURBON, BEER, SPORTS, STREET ART AND ALL THINGS QUIRKY



CINCINNATI BENGALS FOOTBALL



CINCINNATI CHILI



BOURBON



STREET ART



Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) offers direct flights from London, Paris, Toronto, Montreal, and 55+ other destinations.



VISITCINCY.COM

CINCY REGION

Visit **CINCY**

mad **nky**

The Motor City revs up its accommodation roster

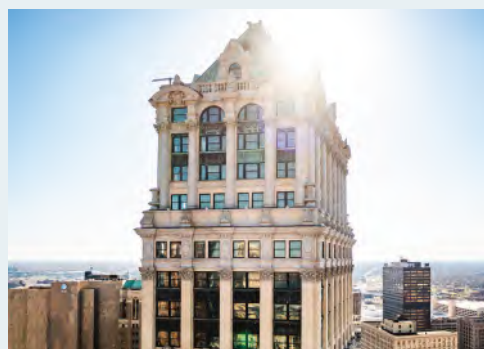
THE RENAISSANCE of Motor City has seen a flood of accommodation come online over recent years, with several in the pipeline.

One icon of the skyline, Book Tower, has recently welcomed the ROOST Hotel, a luxury property boasting 117 apart-suites alongside residential units. The building, celebrating a century on the skyline next year, features several high-end dining options alongside gorgeous Renaissance-style interiors to boot.

AC Hotels made its Motor City debut earlier this year, with the opening of 154 rooms as the AC Hotel at the Bonstelle in the city's midtown. Well positioned for access to the city's entertainment district, the on-site bar, which boasts a unique connection to the 1903 Bonstelle Theatre, is set to be joined by a rooftop bar.

The Autograph Collection is another household name making waves in the city: The Dearborn Inn has been fully renovated and reopened this year. The building, on the doorstep of the Henry Ford Museum, dates back to 1931.

Projects in development include a 600-room, 25-storey JW Marriott opening next year.



Brand USA's seasonal schedule

BRAND USA has celebrated the continued role of America as one of travel's most iconic festive destinations; president and CEO Fred Dixon declared that "...the range of experiences available—often just a short journey apart—is something few destinations can offer."

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Spooky season for one and all in Orlando

THRILLSEEKERS OF all ages—from scare maze veterans to hide-behind-the-sofa-scaredy-cats—are all catered for at Orlando's ongoing Halloween celebrations. Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party at Walt Disney World Resort runs until the end of the month, while Disney's more mature neighbour, Universal Orlando Resort, hosts Halloween Horror Nights until November 2nd, 2025. Other parks, including LEGOLAND and SeaWorld, are hosting their own celebrations too.



Missouri: the heart of Route 66

PURELY TRAVEL'S new seven-day self-drive tour begins in St Louis and draws to a close in Kansas City, with miles of Route 66 heartland along the way: diners straight out of a teen movie, a hideout which once kept outlaw Jesse James from trouble, and the spot of the nation's first Wild West gunfight. Prices lead in from £1,399 per person, including flights, accommodation and car hire.

Ocean Beds revamps tech ahead of peaks inventory boost

OCEAN HOLIDAYS' trade-only villa wholesale arm, Ocean Beds, has revamped its API and promised a 50% inventory boost just in time for January peaks.

After revealing a bookable site and tripling its accommodation roster last August, phase two of the brand's tech overhaul has now gone live, hoping to make the platform more seamless for agents to integrate into their selling.

4,000 new properties will join the Ocean portfolio over the next several months, most of which are focussed outside of the brand's traditional foothold in Florida.

Anna-Maria Janssen, Ocean Beds' MD, celebrated phase two of the overhaul. "Villa holidays are no longer niche; they're at the heart of how people want to travel. Our mission is to make them as easy to book as a hotel room. With Phase Two of our technology upgrade, we're giving the travel



trade the tools to offer customers unrivalled choice and seamless access to villa stays worldwide."

The platform will also launch in markets across Latin America and Europe in the coming months as part of the wider Ocean brand's ongoing expansion.

Festive bucket list bundle

ATTRACTION WORLD has collated five of the most iconic festive bucket list attractions in New York City into one trade-friendly package. 'New York Christmas Bucket List Bundle' includes tickets to see the Rockettes at the iconic Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show, a night cruise to soak in the seasonal sights of the Manhattan skyline and Statue of Liberty, a tour of 5th Avenue's iconic window displays in their festive glory, and a tour of St. Patrick's Cathedral.



Kelly Hayre, Attraction World's retail director, described the package as "a great new addition for us. New York during the festive period is bucket-list material.

"We've created this bundle to make it simple, inspiring, and great value for agents to sell to their customers. It's about creating those memorable moments."

The packages are now on sale via the Attraction World agent portal, and are currently available to book for festive travel dates between November 22nd, 2025 and January 1st, 2026.

Kelly continued, "For agents, bundles not only simplify the sales process but also increase their average booking value, boosting overall earnings and maximising commission potential.

"For customers, they represent the best experiences, best value, and best memories, all wrapped up in one."

HAL heads to New England

HOLLAND AMERICA Line's *Volendam* and *Zuiderdam* vessels will operate 20 voyages across 13 itineraries throughout the US' East Coast between May and October 2027.

The New England and Canada season will highlight each destination's rich heritage, with vice president of deployment and itinerary planning Paul Gigsby hoping the voyages showcase the "wonders of the region".

Sample itineraries include the new nine-day 'Lighthouses & Harbours of Canada and New England', from Montreal to New York City with up to 22 shore excursions along the way, departing on October 2nd, 2027. Prices lead in from £2,469 per person.

Other itineraries available include the 10-day 'Canada & New England Circle: New France and Montreal' cruise from £2,589 per

person; and the 11-day 'Canada & New England Circle: Maritimes and New France' sailing from Montreal to Boston from £2,999 per person.

For a limited time, as part of the cruise line's 'Have It All' early booking bonus offer, guests will receive shore excursion credit, speciality dining credit, the Elite Beverage package, premium Wi-Fi and up to \$300 onboard credit per person.



New adventures stateside

COSMOS & Globus' new 2026 USA & Canada tours are now live, with exclusive itineraries across the States, including the nine-day 'The Grand Canyon & Utah's Mighty Five' and 10-day 'Coastal California, Napa & the Central Valley', available to book.

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Monday 15th September,
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TIMINGS

- 5.45PM - Registration & Drinks
- 6.15PM - Travel & Britain Presentation
- 6.45PM - Supplier Presentations
- 7.15PM - Video Dinner
- 8.00PM - Supplier Presentations
- 9.15PM - Prizes Draw & Presentation
- 9.30PM - Event Ends

FEATURING

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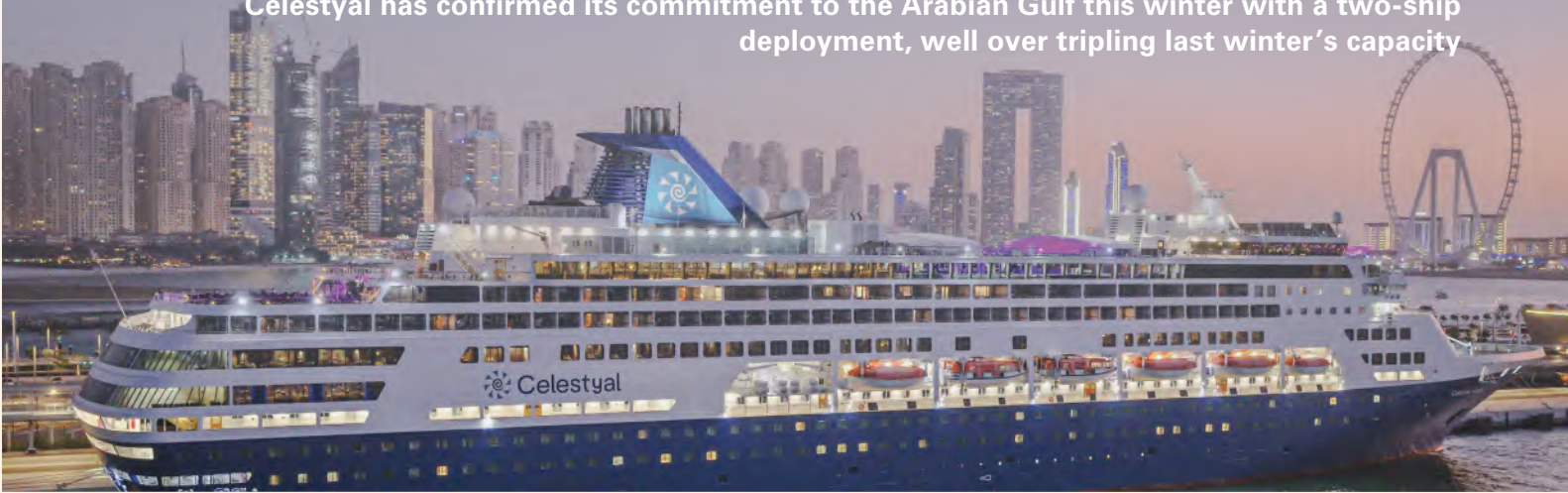
Tunisia

We are set for an equally adventurous lineup of #TBSHOWCASES in 2026! Our full event schedule for next year is already out, and registration is open at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents.

WINTER SUN

DOUBLING DOWN IN ARABIA

Celestyal has confirmed its commitment to the Arabian Gulf this winter with a two-ship deployment, well over tripling last winter's capacity



CELESTYAL CRUISES has confirmed that both *Celestyal Journey* and *Celestyal Discovery* will be deployed to the Arabian Gulf this winter season, delivering a 211% capacity boost compared to its inaugural season in the region last year.

Celestyal Journey will open the season on December 5th, 2025, with an Abu Dhabi Grand Prix celebratory

cruise, before embarking on the seven-night 'Desert Days' itinerary for the rest of the season. The ship will sail roundtrip from Doha each week, with calls to Sir Bani Yas Island, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain, including two days in Dubai along the way.

Celestyal Discovery will join her fleet mate from December 12th, 2025. The ship will debut the line's new three-, four- and seven-night 'Iconic Arabia' voyages, sailing roundtrip from Abu Dhabi with calls in Qatar, Oman, Dubai, Sir Bani Yas Island and a maiden port call to Ras Al Khaimah.

Following the updated deployment plans, Celestyal has amended its two

14-night repositioning cruises, departing November 22nd, 2025 aboard *Celestyal Journey* and November 28th, 2025 on *Celestyal Discovery*.

For the first time, both vessels will offer new seven-night Athens-Jeddah itineraries. Both *Journey* and *Discovery* will depart from Athens on the same departure date; *Celestyal Journey* will call at Marmaris, Port Said, Sharm El Sheikh and Safaga en route to the Gulf, while *Celestyal Discovery* calls to Kusadasi, Sharm El Sheikh and Safaga. Following these departures, both ships will continue their voyage from Jeddah to Abu Dhabi to kickstart Celestyal's largest-ever Gulf programme.

Tranquility awaits along the Vietnamese coast

FOR THOSE seeking either a tranquil end to the year or a luxurious start to the next, Inspiring Travel's seven-night package to the Fusion Cam Ranh spa resort in Vietnam could be the pick.

The package includes return flights and bed and breakfast, as well as daily spa treatments in the idyllic surroundings of the central Vietnam coastline. Prices lead in from £1,765 per person, with a 15% discount available for stays of five nights or longer. Bookings must be made by October 15th, 2025, for travel between November 1st, 2025 and May 31st, 2026.

Christmas in Mauritian paradise

CHRISTMAS ON the white sandy beaches of Mauritius calls for less this year, with up to 40% off when staying at either Dinarobin Beachcomber, Paradis Beachcomber or Trou aux Biches Beachcomber between December 20th and 26th, 2025. Guests will enjoy festive dinners and beachside celebrations for an unforgettable Christmas away from the cold.





Southern Africa's winter sun surge

AS DESTINATIONS in southern Africa continue to score high on Brits' travel wishlists ahead of the winter season, Acacia Africa has curated several itineraries, including adventurous excursions and bucket-list safari explorations, almost tailor made for those Brits yearning for the seasonal savanna spirit. The seven-day 'Kruger, Eswatini & Durban Adventure Camping' tour includes cycling and horse-riding safaris from £875 per person including in-destination transport and accommodation.



Four Seasons Mauritius readies for reopening

ON NOVEMBER 1st, 2025, Four Seasons Resort Mauritius at Anahita will open its doors, boasting a new look that oozes Indian Ocean charm inside and out. The reopening, which follows an extensive seven-month enhancement project, will see the addition of new villas, an idyllic overwater spa, a suite of reimagined and revitalised dining experiences, and strengthened sustainability initiatives.

A Christmas through the decades

FOR THIS festive season, Kandima Maldives is encouraging guests to firmly step into Christmas and celebrate like never before with the resort's new 'Rhythms of the Eras – A Festive Journey Through Time' experiential programme. The island-wide celebration will run from December 21st, 2025 to January 7th, 2026, capturing the festive spirit whilst showcasing the most iconic music through the decades.

Live music, pool parties and karaoke showdowns will provide the soundtrack to the festive season, with each and every night starring a different musical theme, including the Retro Christmas Party.

Future stars can also get involved with daily creative sessions at Kandiland, with Elf workshops and glow parties, before the main man himself makes his Christmas arrival on the beach.

Some of the festival highlights include curated gastronomy events such as the



'Smokin' Blues and BBQ Groves' and the Hip-Hop & Grunge Street Food Cart, along with Christmas Day Brunch and New Year's Eve Gala Dinner.

Prices during the festive period lead in from £474 per night for a Studio and £683 per night for a Beach Villa.

PATA reveals the region's hottest trends and experiences

THE PACIFIC Asia Travel Association (PATA) has shone a spotlight on the region's must-do experiences and emerging trends.

Helen Wheat, PATA's tour operator spokesperson, shared her thoughts on the trends shaping the future of Asia-Pacific travel, "Australia is pacing ahead in terms of late 2025/26 bookings, with October and December 2025 and January and February 2026 being the most popular months.

"New Zealand is slightly slower off the mark for 2026, although the Christmas period is performing well. We have seen the lead time for New Zealand shorten slightly

so expect to see movement on those peak 2026 months very soon."

Helen also shared her top selling tips for agents when it comes to booking those dream getaways: "Book in early to avoid disappointment. Experiences like those on the Great Barrier Reef and heli hikes in New Zealand will get booked up during peak seasons so you don't want your clients asking to add on further down the line and nothing to be available."

Sam Collins, PATA Committee member, highlighted the top bucket-list experiences travellers are drawn to during the peak months, including hot air ballooning in the lesser-travelled Chiang Mai city; visits to the historic Long Bar at Raffles Singapore; two-night cruises around Halong Bay to explore less visited bays; and the Cherry Blossom season in Japan.



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Red hot deals to beat the cold

WENDY WU Tours is offering a series of 'Red Hot' offers for travellers still wishing to leave the UK weather behind this winter. The limited time offer sees select tours across Japan, China, Vietnam, Central Asia, Latin America and more discounted by up to £1,000 per person.

Tours featured in the sale include the 14-day 'Philippines Discovery' departing on November 21st, 2025, from £4,490 per person; the 18-day 'Highlights of India' departing on February 13th, 2026, from £4,290 per person; the 17-day 'Moroccan Odyssey' departing on November 22nd, 2025, from £3,090 per person; and the 16-day 'Thailand and Laos Adventure' departing on January 6th,

2026, from £3,990 per person. All itineraries on offer include return flights, all accommodation, excursions and the services of an expert guide as standard. Tour departure dates range from October 2025 to February 2026, with spaces limited per tour. The full list of available 'Red Hot' offers can be found and booked via the operator's website and trade portal.



Year-round treasure hunts await

TRAVELLERS drawn to the mysteries that lie underneath the ocean will revel in the news that Baros Maldives has launched the Baros Treasure Hunt, offering guests a snorkelling experience in the heart of the resort's world-renowned house reef. Guests will be challenged to find 10 'Baros Treasures' (green orbs nestled amongst the coral), with each participant entered into a draw to win a seven-night stay for two and could see them win a range of experiences and upgrades. The treasure hunt will take place year-round until June 26th, 2026.

Do you prefer winters spent at home or abroad?

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