

Travelbulletin

Giving agents the edge

Caribbean

From sun-drenched shores to vibrant traditions.

MORE IN...

Spain & Her Islands

Help your clients discover the lesser-known side of the popular British getaway. (Pg. 17)

Cruising

All the latest headlines from the high seas. (Pg. 20)



How years of cruising helped this agent perfect his clients' wishes (Pg. 10)



*Book your seats and attend the
party of the year !*

TUESDAY, 27TH OCTOBER 2026

**Sheraton Grand London
Park Lane, Piccadilly,
London W1J 7BX**

To book your tickets call Jeanette on T: +44 20 7973 0136
or email: jeanette@travelbulletin.co.uk

THIS
WEEK

04



NEWS

The latest news to hit the headlines as summer comes to an end.

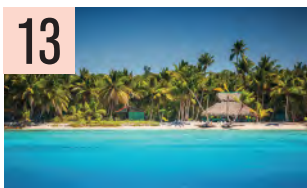
09



PUZZLE BULLETIN

Enter our Sudoku and be in with a chance of winning a £20 M&S voucher!

13



CARIBBEAN

The rhythms of the islands are ready for peak season.

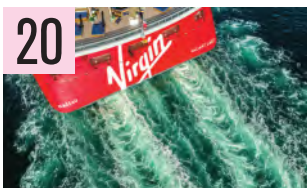
17



SPAIN & HER ISLANDS

Vibrant cultures, exceptional food and unforgettable experiences await.

20



CRUISING

An industry that continues to make waves with exciting itineraries and new destinations.

SLOW DOWN TO SEE MORE

DERTOUR Group has released its Travel Trend Report, highlighting how slow travel is redefining the holiday experience.

BRITISH TRAVELLERS are embracing slower, more meaningful experiences while on holiday according to new research by DERTOUR Group.

According to the latest DERTOUR Group Travel Trend Report, 53% of those surveyed are interested in slow travel. For many, the appeal lies in having time to enjoy a destination without feeling rushed, with 58.5% of those interested in slow travel citing this as their key motivation. More than half also associate a slower pace with improved wellbeing and reduced stress.

The trend reflects the growing appeal of the 'JOMO' traveller – someone who finds joy in missing out on the unnecessary. Instead of trying to see everything, these travellers are prioritising a smaller number of memorable experiences and spending more time engaging with local people, nature and culture.

Digital detox is also becoming part of the

holiday experience. Almost half of respondents (48.9%) see travel as an opportunity to disconnect from social media and digital distractions, creating space to switch off from everyday routines.

At the same time, solo travel is moving firmly into the mainstream, with almost 30% of respondents expecting to take a solo trip in the next 12 months. Germany, Sweden, France and the UK are among the top markets showing particularly strong interest. Solo travellers also tend to stay longer, averaging 10.4 days compared with 8.9 days overall.

CEO Christoph Debus said, "Travel has always been about discovery, but today we see travellers placing even greater value on experiences that feel more meaningful. Whether through slow travel, digital detox breaks or solo adventures, Europeans are embracing new ways of travelling that reflect their individual needs, interests and aspirations."

Travel
bulletin

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September 14th

Touring & Adventure
Holidays Showcase
Swansea



September 28th

Luxury Holidays
Showcase
Chester



September 29th

Luxury Holidays
Showcase
Kidderminster



September 15th

Touring & Adventure
Holidays Showcase
Stratford Upon
Avon



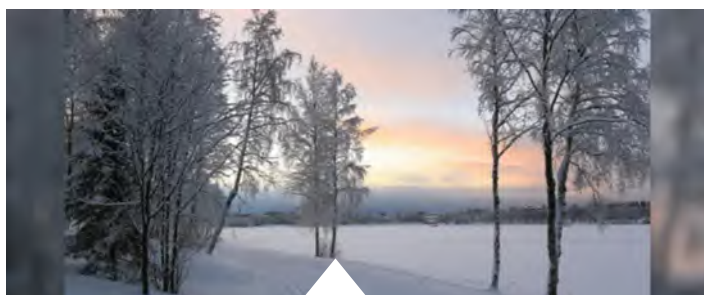
Hebridean launches 2027 brochure

HEBRIDEAN ISLAND Cruises has launched its 2027 *Lord of the Glens* brochure, featuring four six- and seven-night itineraries sailing through the Caledonian Canal, the Great Glen, and the west coast islands. Three new guest speakers and a dedicated music cruise are also featured.

New for 2027, an expanded August programme has increased to five

departures, running as a continuous weekly sailing between Inverness and Kyle of Lochalsh, with prices leading in from £3,075 per person.

For the first time, *Lord of the Glens* will feature three guest speakers – James Naughtie, Kay Burley and Michael Buerk – who will give informal talks about their careers.



New UK services to Kuusamo

AS THE weather turns to an autumnal chill, now is the perfect time to help your clients get into the winter spirit with airBaltics' new services to Kuusamo, Finland.

The airline is now offering flights to the Finnish winter wonderland from London

Gatwick and Manchester, taking to the skies from December 13th, 2026, until March 21st, 2027.

Holidaymakers can also fly to the destination via Riga, Latvia, with flights from December 11th, 2026, until March 26th, 2027.

Taste of PATA returns this September

PATA UK & Ireland's flagship event will return to London on September 10th, giving agents the chance to discover the latest products and news from across the Pacific Asia region. Tokyo Tourism will be making its debut this year, joining a strong line-up of tourism boards, airlines and hotels, including Tourism Authority of Thailand, Minor Hotels, Air New Zealand, Journey Beyond, and many more.

Mako Murakami from Tokyo Tourism said, "We're delighted to be joining Taste of PATA for the first time and are really looking forward to meeting travel professionals from across the UK."

This year's event will see bigger prizes up for grabs, including a star prize of a 16-night holiday to Thailand, plus other hotel stays, and a series of spot prizes.

Newmarket expands its Premier Collection

NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS has strategically expanded its luxury Premier Collection with three exclusive new tours, empowering agents to deliver enhanced high-end travel experiences globally. The destinations span across Europe, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

The new itineraries feature 'Positano, Ischia & the Amalfi Coast' and the 'Malaysia, Singapore & Desaru Beach Escape.'

Furthermore, the upgraded 'Rajasthan – Forts & Maharajas' tour now provides stays in Premier-grade heritage properties across classic cities like Delhi and Jaipur.

"These three launches show where our Premier Collection is heading, and there's a different conversation for travel agents to have with each one as they engage with luxury clients," said Hayley Morris, head of trade sales and partnerships.



The Gambia Experience drives winter sun bookings

THE GAMBIA Experience has launched an exclusive dining offer at Ngala Lodge, elevating luxury winter sun escapes for couples.

Bookings made by September 15th, 2026, for travel to Fajara in November and December, 2026, include complimentary dinner and wine.

Product manager Karen Durham notes the property's "intimate setting and genuinely personal service makes it a perfect choice." Secure this romantic getaway before the September 15th booking window closes.



Accor marks strategic UK expansion

ACCOR LAUNCHES its UK Handwritten Collection with The Queen at Chester Hotel, elevating heritage hospitality.

The historic 218-room Chester property features premium dining steps from ancient Roman walls. "This debut expands our footprint, offering authentic experiences," states Accor's Managing Director. "We remain committed to bespoke global traveler journeys."



Riviera Travel unveils 2028 long-haul collection

RIVIERA TRAVEL has launched six premium itineraries for its 2028 long-haul collection, empowering agents with an unprecedented early advantage to secure worldwide bookings.

The strategic expansion features immersive new tours across Patagonia, Indonesia, and Eastern Canada, alongside three solo-exclusive routes, with prices leading in from £3,949pp.

Vicky Billing, Director of Trade, noted, "Launching our 2028 programme earlier gives agent partners more time to engage guests and confidently grow their long-haul sales."

Agents can book these 2028 itineraries today.

Brazil records historic surge in British tourism

BRAZIL HAS shattered recent tourism records by welcoming 121,990 British travellers between January and July 2026, its highest UK visitor volume since the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

This 11.61% year-on-year surge is driving strategic expansions far beyond tourist circuits, with Northeast Brazil alone



capturing 43.9% of these arrivals and individual states like Pernambuco, Rio Grande do Sul, and Pará seeing British visitor growth.

KOREAN AIR is expanding its Australian footprint with a new non-stop service to Melbourne, offering seamless connectivity during the peak winter travel season. Operating three times weekly on a Boeing 787-9 aircraft, the flights run from December 18th, 2026, through March 14th, 2027. This route complements existing operations to Sydney and Brisbane, supporting steady growth between the two nations.



Park Hyatt sets its sights on Portugal

PARK HYATT is preparing to make its debut in Portugal with a new luxury hotel and branded residences planned for Comporta.

Expected to open in 2029, the hotel will provide 58 guestrooms and suites, six private villas and 22 fully serviced residences, alongside a range of wellness, dining and recreational amenities. The hotel will be adjacent to the Troia Golf Course.



INTREPID TRAVEL has introduced two new tourism experiences to aid in achieving Intrepid's goal of including an Indigenous-led experience on 75% of its Canadian tours by the end of 2026. The new experiences come through Intrepid's new partnership with Talaysay Tours, an Indigenous-owned tourism company that offers land-based experiences across British Columbia.

How agents can boost their AI visibility

ADIDO CEO Andy Headington offers advice to travel businesses in how to improve their listings in AI recommendations.

"Consistency is paramount. If a website says you're a tailor-made luxury travel specialist, your Google Business Profile says you're a tour operator, your social bio talks mainly about honeymoons and your third-party listings describe you as a general travel agency, the picture can become blurred.

If you're a specialist in tailor-made Latin America holidays, for example, or strongest on cruises in the Med, say that clearly and consistently. AI systems won't recommend you confidently if they can't figure out what you are. Brands that are clear about who they are, what they offer and why travellers should trust them have always performed well in search."

Read the full piece on the Travel Bulletin website.

Stay Flexy with G Adventures

G ADVENTURES has officially launched its new Stay Flexy Adventure Plans, introducing a three-tier flexible booking system designed to give travellers peace of mind.

The programme features three distinct tiers: Flexy, Flexier, and Flexiest. These tiers offer escalating cancellation flexibility and convert penalties into Future Travel Credits when customers cancel as close as five days before departure. The elevated tiers also bundle valuable pre-departure logistics for the modern explorer. They provide up to 3GB travel eSIMs, guarantee maximum lost luggage protection of \$1,000, deliver priority customer service, and plant double the trees on the traveller's behalf during their trip.



Wild Frontiers expands Eclipse collection

THE ADVENTURE travel company has launched two new small-group Eclipse tours to Ecuador and The Three Guianas as interest in astrotourism continues to rise. The new itineraries complement Wild Frontiers existing Eclipse collection.

MOVERS & SHAKERS



RIVIERA TRAVEL has expanded Vicky Billing's responsibilities, adding Loyalty in addition to her existing remit as she adopts the new title 'Director of Trade,

Partnerships and Loyalty'. Amanda Docherty has also had her role broadened to become 'Head of Trade UK & Ireland.



CLUB MED has appointed Jérémie Hoss as Managing Director for Northern Europe and South Africa, marking a new chapter in the brand's growth across

these key markets. Jérémie will help drive greater collaboration, efficiency and commercial growth.

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **SPRING HOTELS** has partnered with the internationally renowned Starmus festival to launch 'SPRING FOR THE STARS'. The incentive presents a huge opportunity to reward top-performing trade partners with an exclusive, once-in-a-lifetime astronomy and music experience in Tenerife. Running until September 30th, 2026, the campaign rewards the agent who secures the highest number of eligible Spring Hotels bookings with a seven-night, half-board stay for two at the five-star Mediterranean Palace. The winning agent will find themselves at the heart of the destination's cultural calendar, featuring exclusive tickets to the stargazing Starmus Star Party and the Spring Hotels Annual Music Celebration.
- **UK TRAVEL** agents can now earn £5 cash bonuses on every logged booking, alongside fam trip places and exclusive discounts, through the newly launched Saint Lucia Expert portal. Created in association with My Booking Rewards, the new dedicated platform aims to boost agent earning potential. Agents can secure a £5 cash bonus per booking, with additional incentives including regular prize draw entry, invitations to exclusive webinars, and special rates for personal stays on the island. Agents can register now at www.saintluciaexpert.com to begin logging their bookings and accessing these cash rewards.
- **THERE IS** still time to take part in Crystal's 'Sell three, Sail Free' UK booking incentive. Agents must make three qualifying bookings before September 30th to receive a complimentary cruise.

AGENT BULLETIN



LAST MONTH, EXPLORA III made her debut in Southampton, welcoming 30 agents from across the UK aboard the experience the luxury yacht for themselves. The visit has given travel advisors the opportunity to experience everything the ship has to offer first-hand, including the vast amount of public space. The experience was designed to help agents gain a deeper understanding of the ship, and Explora Journeys as a brand, to help them sell to their clients.

Travelbulletin

COMPETITION

Win a five-star escape to Cyprus at the new Imperial Island Resort in Paphos, courtesy of Louis Hotels!

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

AGENT TRAINING

- **UPSKILL IN** selling Australia with the Aussie Specialist Program, designed to help you attract more clients and sell higher value holidays. The Program has enabled agents to sell 35% higher value bookings to Australia, with 62% of leisure travellers returning to the destination within five years, making it easier for a double sale. The Program is easy to complete, with one 90-minute introduction session. Once qualified, the programme offers several ways to continue your learning, from self-paced learning resources to instructor-led face-to-face sessions and short product training videos.
- **JOIN THE** Rocky Mountaineer team to learn more about the inspiring rail journeys through the picturesque scenery of the Rocky Mountains and America Southwest. Learn more about how you can become an Expert and gain access to discounted agent rates.
- **A NEW** video-led training platform can be found on VIVA Cruises' travel agent portal. The programme will comprise five modules covering an introduction to the operator, the ship fleet, the onboard experiences and shore excursions, and two destination sessions. Each module includes a quiz to help grow agents' knowledge of the river cruise line, with more modules to be added in due course. Agents who complete the course will become a 'VIVA Cruises Specialist' and will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win a cruise for two.
- **LOCATED AN** hour's drive from Orlando, yet a world away, New Smyrna Beach offers holidaymakers a lush tropical landscape, 17 miles of white sandy beaches, activities, amazing eateries and a friendly welcome. Agents can access an online course to learn more about the destination.

CV Villas expands into Ireland with luxury holidays

CV VILLAS has officially expanded its operations into Ireland, introducing fully financially protected travel packages that provide a much-needed premium, secure booking solution for the Irish travel trade and consumers alike.



Bookings are now open for the new flexible flight offerings via Aer Lingus and Ryanair. Building on strategic market engagement since June 2025, passengers can fly directly from Dublin, Shannon, and Cork to prime destinations like Spain, Portugal, Greece, and Barbados.

To further support the launch, key commercial agreements are now in place with premier Irish consortia such as Travel Centres, Worldchoice Ireland, Travel Counsellors, and Frosch Ireland.

Supported by full service from flights to bespoke concierge offerings, this strategic launch further cements CV Villas' broader commitment to delivering safe, seamless, and exceptional luxury holiday experiences for global travellers.



THE BELIZE Tourist Board has announced the return of its same-day service connection between major European cities, thanks to Air Canada. The service connects European hotspots with Philip Goldson International Airport via Montreal-Trudeau International Airport.

AAT Kings launches new tours for 2027/2028

THE NEW programme will feature 10 new tours designed to complement travellers' broader itineraries.

The programme will continue to offer Small Group and Classic Tours, both of which blend exploration and unique adventures with expert guides.

Some of the new Small Group options include the nine-day 'Outback New South Wales Adventurer' leading in from £3,444

per person; the five-day 'New Zealand South Island Splendour' from £1,596 per person; and the 13-day 'Icons of Australia' from £6,635 per person.

Under the Classic Tours bracket, some of the new tours on offer include the four-day 'Sydney, Blue Mountains & Hunter Valley Escape' from £984 per person; and the four-day 'New Zealand South Island Queenstown Wonders' priced from £1,150 per person.

Winged Boots launches dedicated trade brand

THE LUXURY travel concierge is bringing its expertise to the trade with the launch of Winged Boots for Agents. The brand has been designed to be for the enquiries that matter, from complicated itineraries to budgets with no limit and high client expectations. Winged Boots for Agents will offer end-to-end journey management as well as 24/7 support via phone, WhatsApp or email.

Launching for the trade was the natural next step for the company, after its sister brand Ocean Florida launched its trade platform five years ago, with the trade now accounting for a third of the group's overall revenue.



Explore marks golden milestone

THE OPERATOR has reached more than 50 Positive Impact Experiences across its global portfolio as demand for more meaningful experiences continues to rise. The next stage in Explore's strategy puts greater focus into developing these experiences.

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, September 17th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

August 21st Solution: A=2 B=4 C=3 D=8

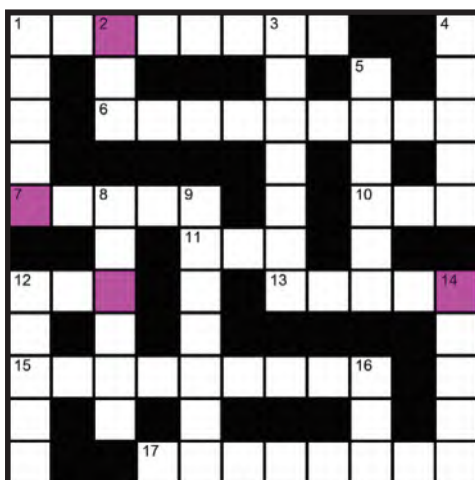
A	3			5		6	2	1
		9		7	4	8		
	2		6				4	
B			5					9
		6	1		2	4		
C	4					3		
	6				7		9	
		1	9	2		7		
D	9	4	7		1			2



WHERE AM I?

KNOWN AS 'Europe's Orchard', this city boasts over 3,000 years of documented history, and is the only Spanish community made up of a single province, which shares the same name.

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



Across

- Hotel Brand part of the Fattal group (8)
- Tour operator, sounds like a famous London Square (9)
- Apia is the capital (5)
- American cruise line originally founded in Norway, initially (3)
- Flag carrier of Portugal (3)
- Helsinki international airport code (3)
- Rent A Car company part of Enterprise Holdings (5)
- Buenos Aires is the capital (9)
- Welsh town and castle, sounds like a type of sweater (8)

Down

- Martin, known as the Money Saving Expert (5)
- Ostend-Bruges international airport code (3)
- She is known for Levitating and singing Cold Heart with Elton (3,4)
- Kitzbühel is a popular resort in this Austrian province (5)
- Kampala is the capital (6)
- Spanish city on the Costa del Sol and birthplace of Pablo Picasso (6)
- State capital of Georgia (7)
- Hotels & Resorts company with HQ in Chicago (5)
- Cruise company founded by Fred (5)
- Month of the year, in short (3)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word : OSLO

Across: 1 LEONARDO, 6 TRAFALGAR, 7 SAMOA, 10 NCL, 11 TAP, 12 HEL, 13 ALAMO, 15 ARGENTINA, 17 CARDIGAN.
Down: 1 LEWIS, 2 OST, 3 DUA LIPA, 4 TYROL, 5 UGANDA, 8 MALAGA, 9 ATLANTA, 12 HYATT, 14 OLSEN, 16 AUG.



AGENT INSIGHT

KEVIN AKERS

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS

BEFORE JOINING Travel Counsellors, I was lucky enough to have cruised extensively. Arguably maybe going overboard with over 50 different trips to my name around the world. At the time, I never really thought of that experience as anything other than a love of travel and cruising but, when I became a Travel Counsellor, I quickly realised that all those years at sea had given me knowledge I could actually use to help customers and build a business.

I already knew that when booking cruises, it's not simply about finding a ship that sails a certain itinerary at the best price. The ship, cruise line, cabin type, dining, inclusions, entertainment, excursions and overall atmosphere can make an enormous difference. Being able to talk about cruising from personal experience gave me the confidence to start selling it.

Travel Counsellors has enabled me to take that much further. The support from the cruise team and our Cruise Ambassadors is fantastic, while the TC Teams setup has allowed me to work alongside other Travel Counsellors, share knowledge, learn even more and ultimately offer customers an even better service.

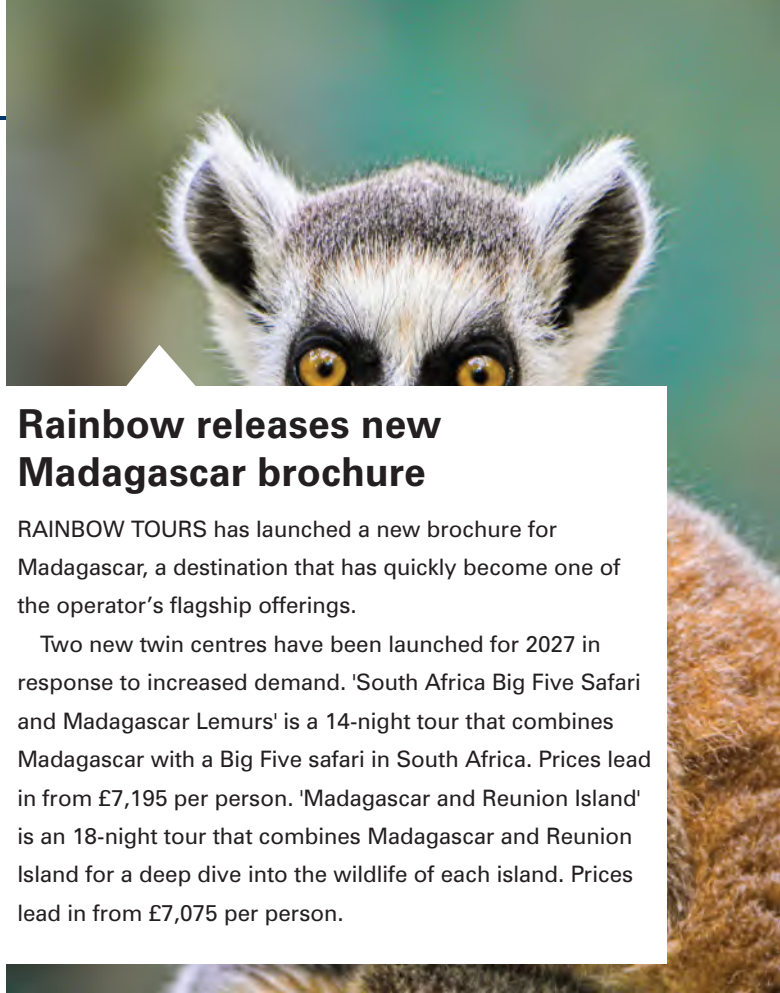
Now I'm taking that experience in a new direction, from ocean to river. Together with my business partner, Fiona Dinnis, we've created The River Experience, a specialist brand focused entirely on river cruising. Still sitting under the Travel Counsellors umbrella, it's a very different product to ocean cruising and there has been plenty for us to learn, but that is part of what makes it so exciting. For me, it feels like a natural progression. Personal experience gave me the confidence to start selling ocean cruises, Travel Counsellors gave me the tools and support to turn that knowledge into a business, and now The River Experience is taking that journey from ocean to river.

News Bites

- AUDLEY TRAVEL has added Finnish Lapland to its destination portfolio, allowing agents to now book their clients into a magical winter getaway.
- JUST GO! Holidays is encouraging agents to capitalise on the eclipse fever that gripped the nation last month after reporting strong interest from customers for 2027 solar eclipse itineraries.



WENDY WU Tours has unveiled its brand-new Indian Subcontinent brochure, with its new Nepal & Bhutan adventure now available to book. For an intimate travel experience, the brand-new 'Wonders of Nepal & Bhutan' tour is perfect for those seeking a bespoke holiday through the valleys of the Himalayas. Prices lead in from £5,140 per person, with departures from May 2027, through to November 2028.



Rainbow releases new Madagascar brochure

RAINBOW TOURS has launched a new brochure for Madagascar, a destination that has quickly become one of the operator's flagship offerings.

Two new twin centres have been launched for 2027 in response to increased demand. 'South Africa Big Five Safari and Madagascar Lemurs' is a 14-night tour that combines Madagascar with a Big Five safari in South Africa. Prices lead in from £7,195 per person. 'Madagascar and Reunion Island' is an 18-night tour that combines Madagascar and Reunion Island for a deep dive into the wildlife of each island. Prices lead in from £7,075 per person.

Don't miss Canada at its most beautiful.

If UK travellers wish to experience the extraordinary way Canada comes alive with autumnal colours, you'll need to act fast.

Seats are filling quickly, with the window to book these direct seasonal connections closing soon. Flights from London (Gatwick) end October 18, from Glasgow on September 20 and direct routes from Edinburgh wrap up October 25.

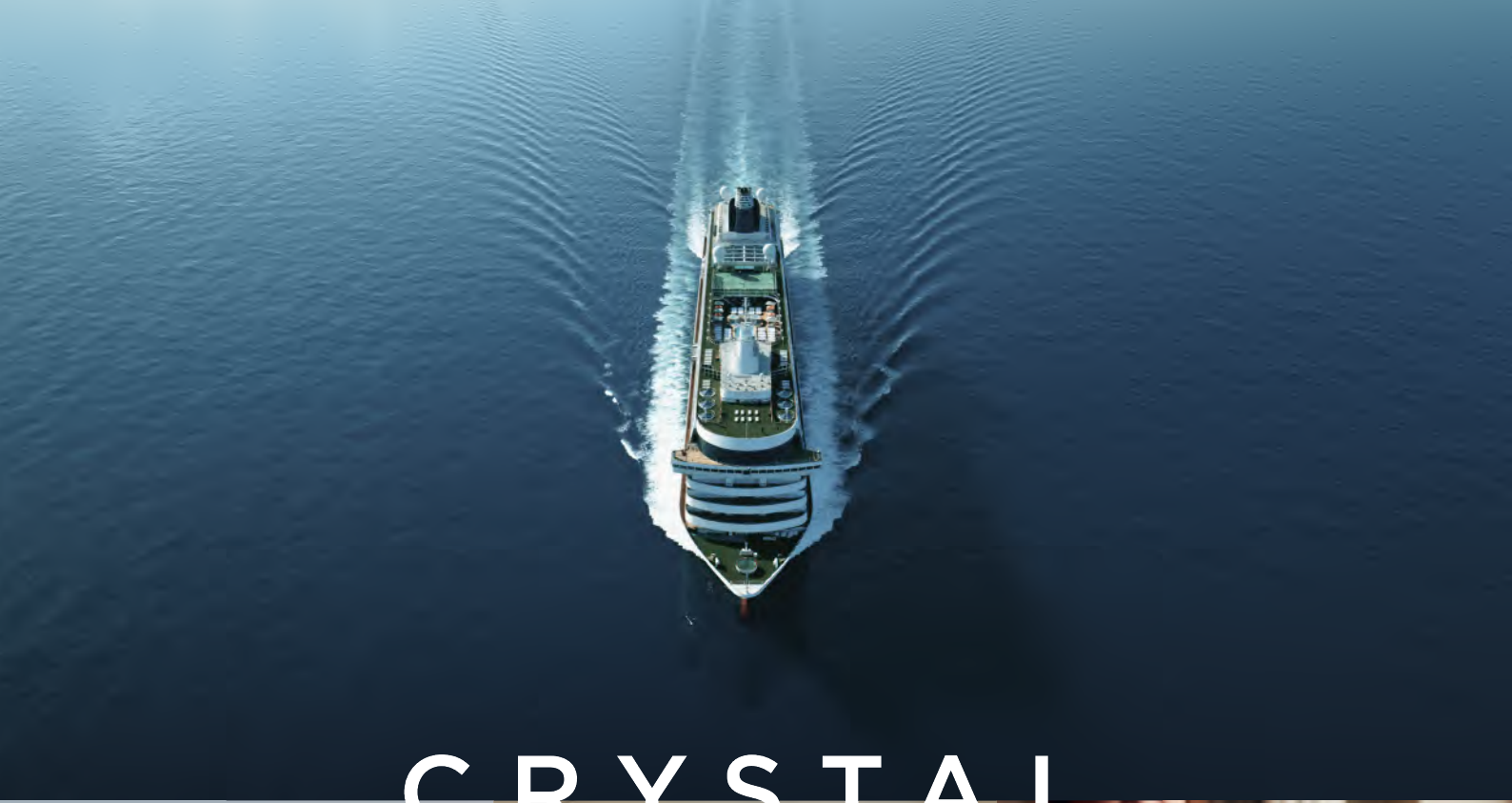
Touch down in St. John's for dramatic Atlantic coastlines framed by spectacular fall foliage. Fly straight to Toronto for the electric energy of the country's biggest city, set along majestic Lake Ontario. Or land in Calgary to explore the breathtaking Canadian Rockies as golden larch trees glow against snowcapped peaks.

If your clients miss booking this year, these seasonal routes will restart in April 2027. Or they can depart from London (Heathrow) daily with our year-round service to Calgary.

Visit westjettravelagents.com
for more information:



WESTJET 



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DOUBLE THE DELIGHT

Two new destinations join Audley Travel's Caribbean portfolio.



THE TAILOR-MADE tour specialist has expanded its destination portfolio within the Caribbean, adding the British Virgin Islands and Dominica to its offering.

Travel agents now have a wider choice of Caribbean getaways to recommend to their clients. Dominica offers travellers the chance to explore the dense rainforests, rugged cliffs and

mystical jungle settings, while the British Virgin Islands deliver white sand beaches and elevated private island stays.

Dominica, known as 'Nature's Island' thanks to its dramatic landscapes, is one of the Caribbean's most wild and under-the-radar destinations. Travellers can enjoy hiking, kayaking or scuba diving excursions before unwinding in luxury in some of the best relaxation spots on the island. A 14-day 'Wild Caribbean' itinerary, with stays in Barbados, Dominica and St Lucia, leads in from £14,445 per person.

Audley Travel's specialists can

arrange itineraries to the British Virgin Islands archipelago that invite travellers to join the festivities, complete with Caribbean music and food, the chance to unwind in their own bubble of peace, or opt for a mix of the two.

Virgin Gorda delivers active water sports adventures, paired with the chance to explore the Baths' maze of giant boulders. Privately owned Peter Island is ideal for travellers seeking natural beauty, but still be within boating distance from the beach bars. A 12-day 'Highlights of Antigua & the British Virgin Islands' itinerary leads in from £7,785 per person.

Antigua: the home of pickleball

ELITE ISLAND Resorts is offering 16 lucky guests the chance to spend a week training with Team England pickleball stars at The Verandah Antigua this October.

The getaways forms a key part of Elite's growing partnership with Pickleball England, and an expanding programme of holidays dedicated to the sport. The resort brand is firmly establishing itself as the home of Caribbean pickleball, as its Antigua resorts currently house 19 courts between them, with four more purpose-built courts due to open this autumn.

Enhanced service in Barbados

EARLIER THIS year, Royalton Hotels & Resorts introduced its exclusive accommodation offering: the Diamond Club Luxury Chairman Suite at the recently-opened Royalton Vessence Barbados Resort. The Diamond Club Luxury Chairman Suite offers an enhanced level of inclusions and personalised services, alongside a private balcony and a spacious layout designed around longer stays and shared experiences.





Preferred adds new global members

PREFERRED HOTELS and Resorts has expanded its global portfolio with 10 new member properties, significantly enhancing luxury travel experiences across the world.

One of the new highlights is The Botany in Saint Thomas, the US Virgin Islands, offering guests an intimate retreat within the Preserve at Botany Bay. The resort blends Caribbean charm with an immersive connection with nature. Book eligible stays by September 30th, 2026, to earn 2,500 bonus reward points.



MSC unveils Catalina Sugar Beach

MSC GROUP has unveiled Catalina Sugar Beach, a premier island destination in the Dominican Republic designed to significantly elevate the Caribbean leisure experience. Opening in November 2026, the upgraded destination will welcome weekly *MSC Opera* sailings.

Seven-night itineraries visiting the island are priced from £575 per person.

Sandals offers complimentary wedding package

SANDALS RESORTS is empowering travel agents to drive 2027 Caribbean bookings with the launch of an upgraded, complimentary 'Sweetheart' destination wedding package that eliminates planning stress for couples.

To qualify, agents must book a minimum five-night stay in a club or butler-level suite at the newly renovated Sandals South Coast, Sandals Montego Bay, or Sandals Caribbean Cay for travel between January 2nd and December 20th, 2027. The comprehensive package covers the £183 Jamaican marriage license fees, ceremony styling, and a private cocktail reception, with seven-night, all-inclusive stays leading in from £2,735 per person.

"The revitalisation of these three iconic Jamaican properties marks a significant milestone in our regional evolution, and we are celebrating by delivering unprecedented



value directly to our trade partners," said the managing director of Unique Caribbean Holidays Ltd.

Travel professionals must use the promo code 'J3FREEWEDDING' and secure client bookings before the December 31st, 2026, deadline to capitalise on this exclusive incentive.

Antigua elevates island luxury

CARLISLE BAY Antigua is elevating luxury Caribbean hospitality with the launch of the second phase of its multi-million-dollar transformation, introducing redesigned Carlisle Suites and Signature Beach Suites that set a new benchmark for residential-style island living.

Set to debut in October 2026 at the five-star property in Antigua, this next development phase builds upon the October 2025 renovation. The project

introduces two-bedroom Signature Beach Suites equipped with an additional second bathroom to cater to multigenerational luxury travel, as well as three-bedroom Carlisle Suites individually created and named after iconic Antiguan destinations—Rendezvous Bay, Signal Hill, Fig Tree Drive, and Great Bird Island—featuring bespoke furnishings and commissioned artwork by local artist Sallie Harker.

"World-class luxury is defined by quality, attention to detail and a genuine sense of place," stated Cara Doherty of Carlisle Bay's ownership group.

Delivered strategically during scheduled annual closure periods to protect the guest experience, the resort-wide evolution will culminate in November 2027 with the complete enhancement of all guest suites, the Entrance Pavilion and Bar, and Indigo on the Beach.



Seabourn unveils 2028/2029 Caribbean sailings

LUXURY CRUISING brand Seabourn has opened bookings for its 2028/2029 Caribbean season, featuring 10 new unique itineraries offering access to hidden yacht harbours and intimate ports.

The programme will include 21 port stops across 20 countries, including late departures in St. Maarten, Antigua, Barbados, Aruba and Curaçao, among others. Guests will also access small ports in St. Barts, and Bequia and Little Bay in Montserrat.

Mark Tamis, president of Seabourn, said, "The Caribbean remains one of our most sought-after regions and we are delighted to return with a collection of thoughtfully designed voyages that showcase both iconic islands and lesser-known gems. Whether guests are joining us for a week or combining

itineraries for a longer escape, they'll experience the personalised service, extraordinary cuisine and immersive destination experiences that define Seabourn."

Seabourn Ovation and *Seabourn Quest* will sail in the region between December 28th, 2028, until March 29th, 2029. The itineraries will range from seven to 12 days.



UNICO announces first Jamaica resort

SCHEDULED TO open March 1st, 2027, UNICO Hotel Collection has released details for its first foray outside of Mexico, UNICO 18°77° Montego Bay. The luxury adults-only, all-inclusive resort invites guests to experience unparalleled service while immersing in local culture.

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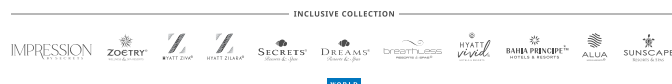
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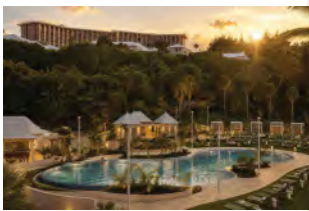
*Coming soon to World of Hyatt.



The best-kept Carnival in Dominica

IT IS not long until the streets of Dominica are filled with drums, masqueraders and parades as the 'Real Mas' Carnival is scheduled to take place on February 8th and 9th, 2027. From J'ouvert—the pre-dawn opening ceremony—to Bouyon-fuelled parties and the kaleidoscopic costume parade, the festival has it all.

Visitors can stay at the Mango Island Lodges, featuring six individually styled rooms, with five-nights leading in from £702 per person.



Bermuda marks return of iconic resort

FAIRMONT SOUTHAMPTON has opened Palmetto Beach Club, marking the first major milestone in the highly-anticipated return of one of Bermuda's most renowned resorts. Set on the South Shore, the new beachfront destination brings together an oceanfront infinity pool, a pink-sand beach, private cabanas, all-day dining, live entertainment, wellness experiences, and dedicated beach service.

Sugar Beach reveals room renovations

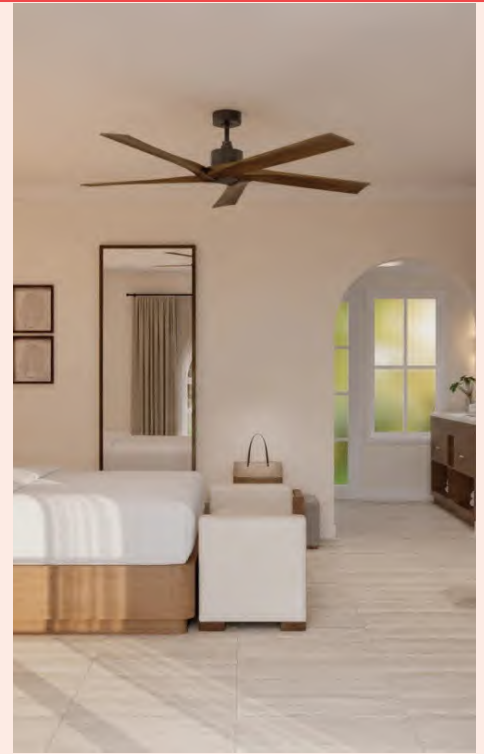
OPENING IN November of this year, Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort, has redesigned its Luxury Sugar Mill & Superior Luxury Sugar Mill room types ahead of Saint Lucia's high season.

The refreshed rooms unite Caribbean style with warm, natural materials, with each room providing a relaxing hub for guests who wish to be steeped in opulence.

Some of the amenities include a freestanding tub, private plunge pools, and private rooftop terraces with endless views of Gros Piton. Butler service and complimentary resort transportation are also included in the room fare, which lead in from \$1,169 (around £856) per night.

The new rooms make up 11 of the resort's 130 guestrooms, offering ultimate privacy nestled in the palm trees between the UNESCO-listed Pitons.

Outside the rooms, all guests will have access to the resort's expansive pool,



world-class fitness centre, the Rainforest Spa, the Sugar Beach Racquet Club, countless land and water activities, and a kids club. The room renovations mark the latest milestone in Sugar Beach, following last year's debut of the Spice of Life ultra-luxury estate.

A Caribbean resort for every traveller

FOR AGENTS looking to offer their clients a little more choice when it comes to their Caribbean getaway, Hyatt's resort portfolio showcases a wide range of options, from adults-only escapes and luxury retreats to family-friendly stays.

Currently, Hyatt's Caribbean collection features 26 locations, with resorts across popular destinations including Jamaica, Aruba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas.

For couples seeking an adults-only

retreat, Hyatt Zilara Cap Cana offers all-inclusive luxury in one of the most exclusive areas in the Dominican Republic. The sophisticated resort offers ocean views, swim-up suites and an underground spa that makes every guest feel luxurious.

Breathless Montego Bay Resort & Spa offers an adults-only tropical oasis, complete with a rooftop pool with stunning mountain views and a world-class spa ready to rejuvenate guests so they can party the night away.

For families, Hyatt Ziva Cap Cana offers a tropical paradise complete with infinity pools, a water park, a lazy river, floating swim-up suites, seven unique restaurants, and a world-class fitness centre.

With such a diverse range of Caribbean resorts, Hyatt gives agents plenty of flexibility when matching the right holiday with the right client.



BEYOND THE GUIDEBOOK

TTC travel director Kassie Jones states it is the stories behind the destination that leave the biggest impression.



KASSIE JONES, a travel director for TTC Tour Brands, sat down with *Travel Bulletin* to discuss how her childhood fascination with travel turned into a 15-year career filled with unforgettable journeys, authentic local encounters and a deep passion for helping guests discover the stories, people and places that make Spain so special.

A taste of Spain

SPECIALIST OPERATOR Kirker Holidays has launched its 2027 Cultural Tours and Music Holidays, featuring an array of carefully curated itineraries for guests looking to dive head-first into a destination.

New for 2027 is the five-night 'Cuisine of Extremadura' tour, in which guests will have the opportunity to visit one of Spain's least-visited regions. Led by Spanish chef and culinary expert, Omar Allibhoy, the itinerary will take guests on a journey through the rich flavours and traditions of Extremadura. Prices lead in from £2,958 per person, including return flights and accommodation.

What has been the most memorable moment for you in this role?

"There have been countless memorable moments – from surprise proposals and milestone birthdays, to lifelong friendships forming between complete strangers. I've seen guests overcome fears, whether that's travelling solo for the first time or stepping outside their comfort zone in a new country. But when I think about what has stayed with me most, it isn't a particular destination – it's the people and the connections that are made along the way.

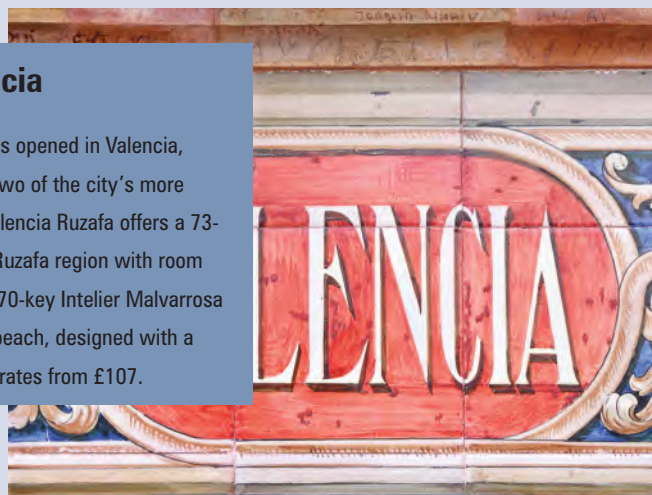
That's why some of my favourite moments come from our Be My Guest

experiences. Whether it's visiting the family at Basilippo Olive Farm outside Seville, spending time at Monte Negro Stud Farm in Portugal, or an impromptu stop to meet Paco at his cave home in Purullena, these are the experiences that guests remember most. One of the greatest rewards is watching guests fall in love with a country through those authentic local connections. When guests leave talking about the people they met rather than just the places they saw, I know we've done our job."

Read the full interview over on the Travel Bulletin website.

A new duo enters Valencia

EARLIER THIS summer, two new hotels opened in Valencia, offering travellers new options in the two of the city's more desirable neighbourhoods. Sercotel Valencia Ruzafa offers a 73-room contemporary stay in the lively Ruzafa region with room rates from £116 per night, while the 170-key Intelier Malvarrosa Plaza is located steps away from the beach, designed with a more calmer atmosphere with nightly rates from £107.





Travellers' Tales partners with Tagomago

TRAVELLERS' TALES London has launched an exclusive partnership with Tagomago Private Island, offering unprecedented access to one of the Mediterranean's rarest, most private retreats. Located 900 metres off Ibiza's coast, the 148-acre protected wilderness features a single five-bedroom luxury villa accessible via a five-minute tender crossing. This partnership bolsters the brand's broader aim to curating exceptional journeys for global travellers.



Palladium pioneers Ibiza conservation hub

PALLADIUM HOTEL Group has launched the Palladium Blue Life HUB, creating a pioneering regenerative tourism model that connects travellers with Mediterranean marine conservation. Having opened this August at Grand Palladium Select Palace Ibiza, the interactive centre features a Posidonia nursery, research lab, and guided conservation dives.

Marriott's independent spirit in Formentera

LAST MONTH, Marriott International unveiled a host of new openings, unique guest experiences, and brand developments across the world.

One of the new developments is the opening of Sabàtic Formentera, An Autograph Collection, on the Balearic island, marking the brand's debut in the destination.

Located on the island's northern coast, the resort lies 15-minutes from Puerto Formenter, offering easy access to beaches, laid-back restaurants, bars and boutiques. The property itself features 34 rooms, including 27 studios and seven suites, each inspired by the island's natural beauty.

The hotel also offers guests a rooftop swimming pool with panoramic views, a relaxed wellness area with full spa facilities, and a 24-hour fitness centre.

At the heart of the property, a lounge is centred around a tranquil indoor garden,



creating a relaxing space for guests to gather throughout the day. For the more active guests, the hotel offers sunrise yoga, creative workshops, electric bike rides, paddleboarding, and island exploration excursions.

Ambassador adds Solar Eclipse sailing for 2027

AMBASSADOR CRUISE Line has significantly expanded its experiential travel portfolio by launching a 2027 Solar Eclipse voyage from Dundee, delivering UK travellers an affordable, no-fly route to witness the rare astronomical phenomenon next year.

The 19-night 'Mediterranean Moments & Solar Eclipse' itinerary will depart on July 27th, 2027 aboard *Ambition*. The ship will sail south toward Portugal and position

guests in Gibraltar on August 2nd to experience nearly four and a half minutes of totality.

Travellers will then have the chance to explore Almeria, Alicante, Valencia, Ibiza, Cadiz, and Vigo, securing fares priced from £2,969 per person.

"This dedicated 2027 itinerary combines the incredible convenience of a regional departure with a truly unforgettable bucket-list experience," notes Bob McGowan, Chief Experience Officer at Ambassador Cruise Line.

"We anticipate this voyage eagerly, as it delivers extraordinary value to our guests and significantly strengthens our presence in the booming experiential travel market."

Travel agents and guests can secure reservations today as the brand continually champions accessible, premium destination cruising for the regional UK market.



An oasis by the Atlantic

AT HYATT ZIVA JARDIN TROPICAL TENERIFE

There is something about Tenerife that makes it easy to slow down. The warmth of the sun, the fresh Atlantic breeze and the relaxed rhythm of island life create a destination where every day feels lighter. Set on the seafront in Costa Adeje, this resort captures that feeling perfectly.



Surrounded by subtropical gardens, cascading waterfalls and ocean views, the resort offers a peaceful escape from the everyday and is more than a place to stay. It is where year-round sunshine and genuine hospitality come together, inviting guests to experience the feeling of endless summer.

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A RECORD-BREAKING AUGUST

Demand for its new Northern Europe product offering has seen Virgin Voyages break its all-time revenue record.



VIRGIN VOYAGES has shattered its all-time single-day revenue record following the launch of its inaugural Scandinavia and Baltics programme earlier this summer.

Setting sail from Amsterdam in the summer of 2028, the newly refitted *Valiant Lady* will offer five new itineraries exploring the Scandinavian capitals, the Norwegian Fjords, and the Arctic Circle.

The unprecedented early interest, particularly for the 11-night 'Arctic Circle' journey, drove August booking rates to surge more than 45% ahead of last year's figures, generating more

than half of the cruise line's total revenue on its record-breaking launch day.

Reflecting on this strategic milestone and the brand's deepening market penetration, chief executive officer Nirmal Saverimuttu shared, "Breaking a record on a random Thursday in August seems odd until you realise all of the momentum we've built over the last eight months.

"It's pretty incredible, but what excites me most is knowing we're now the go-to brand for anyone travelling without kids, and we remain dedicated to creating unparalleled joy for our

Sailors and First Mates alike."

As the cruise line continues to expand its global footprint and elevate the customer experience with new onboard offerings like the Ariya restaurant, it is also reinforcing its commitment to trade partners by offering advanced marketing tools and training via Seacademy.

A star-studded speaker line-up for Cunard

CUNARD'S AUGUST-December 2026 programme features more than 800 Insights speakers, including 200 high-profile names across the full fleet.

Highlights of the programme include exclusive insights from broadcaster and author Clare Balding CBE, actress Celia Imrie CBE, comedian and author Ruby Wax OBE, and bestselling crime author Peter James. President of Cunard, Katie McAlister, said, "Our Insights programme has always been about bringing extraordinary stories to life at sea, and this latest line-up reflects the breadth, quality and curiosity our guests value so highly."

Spooks and scares at sea

MSC CRUISES is bringing Halloween to life across its fleet this October, offering guests a full programme of spooks and surprises. If they dare, young children can explore a haunted house with staff dressed for the occasion, or attend a halloween-themed Wicked Wiggle Dance session. An adults-only costume party and a Haunted Hallway challenge also await.



Celebrity Beyond returns to Europe

CELEBRITY CRUISES has announced that *Celebrity Beyond* will sail from Southampton in summer 2028, marking the award-winning Edge Series ship's return to Europe for the first time since 2023.

The vessel offers seven-to-14 night sailings, in which guests can explore some of Europe's most spectacular destinations across Norway, Iceland, the British Isles and Scandinavia.

As part of its 2028 deployment, *Celebrity Apex* will also homeport in Amsterdam, providing more guests across Northern Europe with the opportunity to sail aboard the Edge Series ships.

Beginning in November 2026, *Celebrity Beyond* will also offer an elevated onboard experience with new venues, including Orange Peele Bar and Grille, Bora and Celebrity Pool Club.

Guests departing Southampton will be able to experience Le Voyage by Daniel Boulud: Celebrity's global culinary ambassador and world-renowned chef and visit the World Class Bar which offers handcrafted cocktails and premium spirits made by expert mixologists.

Agents are now able to book a 2028 Celebrity Cruises holiday for their clients direct from Southampton onboard *Celebrity Beyond*.



Silversea sets sail on Grand Voyage

SILVER CLOUD has departed on its Grand South Pacific Expedition 2026, where she will visit 57 destinations in 11 countries over the 77-day voyage.

Now the itinerary is underway, Silversea is looking ahead to its next Grand Voyage, the Grand Mediterranean 2026, a 50-day voyage from Lisbon to Athens departing on September 18th. Additional upcoming sailings include the Grand Voyage South America 2028 and the Grand Voyage Asia 2028.



Inaugural European expeditions set sail

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC-Lindblad Expeditions officially launched its inaugural European river cruise last month, where guests departed on the 'Holland & Belgium: Medieval History & Scenic Waterways' itinerary.

The 'Rhine Rivers: Castles, Culture & Culinary Delights' will debut this month aboard *Connect*, and in 2027, sister ship *Evolve* will operate a series of Christmas market sailings.



Meet the stars of Disney's new ship

LAST MONTH, D23: The Ultimate Disney Fan Event revealed details around Disney Cruise Line's new wish-class ship, *Disney Believe*.

The ship, which is penned to set sail next year, has revealed which cast of characters will be sailing aboard. Moana

will see how far she'll go as the Grand Hall icon, with Tinkerbell ready to sprinkle her pixie dust on the bow, while double act Woody and Buzz entertain guests on the stern.

The event also teased a new Disney ship will join the fleet in 2029.

That’s amore: VIVA Cruises launches Italian shore programme

UNDER THE VIVA Boutique brand, the operator has unveiled the shore excursion programme for its 2027 Italy sailings, ranging from short options to full-day experiences.

The operator will begin sailing on the Venetian Lagoon and the Po River in May next year aboard the new *VIVA Unique*. The 104-guest vessel will operate three seven-night themed itineraries, focusing on cuisine, culture and art.

‘The Flavours of Italy’ is a roundtrip sailing from Venice, with calls at Mazzorbo, Taglio di Po, Polesella, and Chioggia. ‘Timeless Journey Through the Lagoon’ also takes guests roundtrip from Venice, with stops at Mazzorbo and Chioggia. Finally, ‘Discovering the Legacy of Italian

Masters’ will depart from Venice and call to Mazzorbo, Taglio di Po, Polesella, Revere, Boretto, and Cremona. Some of the shore excursions available for the above itineraries include a 2.5-hour bike tour to Sotto Marina in Chioggia; a full-day gastronomy tour in Bologna; and a half-day guided walking tour in Padua.



A-ROSA releases 20 new tours in 2027 brochure

THE RIVER cruise line has released its brochure for 2027 ahead of its anniversary season. Under its new slogan, ‘Cruise Your Way’, the digital brochure includes 20 new itineraries along the Rhine and Danube rivers, including *A-ROSA SENA*’s debut sailing southwards on the Rhine, alongside fan-favourite sailings.

To mark its 25th anniversary, the company has revamped its brand identity to reflect its positioning as a modern, premium river cruise provider.

What is your favourite thing about autumn?

Jeanette Ratcliffe
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Autumn leaves, conkers and the run up to Christmas!



Simon Eddolls
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The colours.



Sarah Terry
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Autumn walks with all the different colour leaves.



Tim Podger
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My birthday!



Leah Kelly
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The colours, the chill in the air, and overall vibes of the -ber months!



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Pumpkin spice lattes.



Holly Brown
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Iced pumpkin spice lattes.



Oliver Terrell
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Sweater weather and the first frost.



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CIRCULATION

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INVITES YOU TO A TOURING AND ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE AGENT NETWORKING EVENING

**Monday 14th September,
Morgans Hotel, Swansea**

**Tuesday 15th September,
Macdonald Alveston Manor Hotel,
Stratford Upon Avon**

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to an inspiring and informative evening, designed to showcase the very best suppliers in touring and adventure holidays. Join us for a memorable event featuring insightful presentations, excellent networking opportunities, and a chance to discover exciting new travel experiences. The evening will also include a delicious dinner and drinks, and to top it all off, don't miss our free prize draw, with a fantastic selection of prizes up for grabs!

TIMINGS

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



FEATURING:

travelsphere

Jules Verne

INGHAMS

**RIVIERA
TRAVEL**

SCENIC°
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS


Wendy Wu Tours


TRANSUN

 **just you**

 **IOWA**

To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Thursday 10th September 2026 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.

Invites you to a

LUXURY HOLIDAYS SHOWCASE

Monday **28th** September
Chester

Tuesday **29th** September
Kidderminster

Wednesday **30th** September
Reading

Agent networking evening

Travel Bulletin is delighted to invite you to an exclusive and engaging evening, offering a unique insight into the luxury holidays industry from leading suppliers, and the opportunity to connect with industry experts and like-minded professionals. The evening will feature informative presentations and valuable networking opportunities, complemented by a delicious dinner and drinks. To round off the evening, enjoy our free prize draw, with an array of fantastic prizes to be won.

TIMINGS:

5:45pm
Registration

6:10pm
Travel Bulletin
Welcome

6:15pm
Supplier
Presentations

7:30pm
Hot Dinner

8:30pm
Supplier
Presentations

9:10pm
Product Quiz &
Prizes

9:30pm
Event Ends

FEATURING:



Abercrombie & Kent



LOUIS HOTELS

MAYOR

Expedia TAAP

Sandals

SCENIC

Seabellies

SIMPSON

THANOS

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